

Figure 1. The pie charts represent the proportion of active versus inactive molecule for molecules with either a SMC <= 15 (n=815) or a SMC > 15 (n=125)



igure 2. Membership trapezoidal scoring function, Substructure match count on the x axis and score on the y axis, a = 0 and b = 15



Figure 3. The figure was obtained from the Knime Binary Classification Inspector node. The view display performance of the RF-FPs, XGBoost-FPs and GCNN model ensemble on the validation set. On the top left the model's statistic bar chart: AUC and overall accuracy. On the top right the ROC curve. The confusion matrix on the bottom left and the distribution of positive class probabilities on the bottom right. The statistical metrics adapt according to the threshold value.



Figure 4. The figure was obtained from the Knime Binary Classification Inspector node. The view display performance of the RF-FPs, XGBoost-FPs and GCNN model ensemble on the test set. The view display performance of ML model predictions. On the top left the model's statistic bar chart: AUC and overall accuracy. On the top right the ROC curve. The confusion matrix on the bottom left and the distribution of positive class probabilities on the bottom right. The statistical metrics adapt according to the threshold value.



Figure 5. The view display performance of the RF-E3FP, XGBoost-E3FP model ensemble on the validation set. The view display performance of ML model predictions. On the top left the model's statistic bar chart: AUC and overall accuracy. On the top right the ROC curve. The confusion matrix on the bottom left and the distribution of positive class probabilities on the bottom right. The statistical metrics adapt according to the threshold value.



Figure 6. The view display performance of the RF-E3FP, XGBoost-E3FP model ensemble on the test set. The view display performance of ML model predictions. On the top left the model's statistic bar chart: AUC and overall accuracy. On the top right the ROC curve. The confusion matrix on the bottom left and the distribution of positive class probabilities on the bottom right. The statistical metrics adapt according to the threshold value.



Figure 7. Tensorboard shows how the scores change over every epoch for the exploitation mode



Figure 8. Tensorboard shows how the scores change over every epoch for the exploration mode

Fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET)-based Mpro proteolytic activity assay

The enzymatic activity of the recombinant SARS-CoV-2 main protease Mpro was determined by a fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) assay using a custom synthesized peptide substrate with (7-Methoxycoumarin-4-yl)acetyl [MCA] as fluorophore and 2,4-Dinitrophenyl [DNP] as fluorescence quencher: MCA-Ala-Val-Leu-Gln-Ser-Gly-Phe-Arg-Lys(Dnp)-Lsy-NH2-trifluoroacetate salt (Bachem AG, Bubendorf CH). This peptide substrate amino acid sequence corresponds to the nsp4/nsp5 (Mpro) cleavage site. A substrate stock solution (10 mM) was prepared in 100 % DMSO. 40 μ L of a 4 μ M substrate solution prepared in H2O/TWEEN-20 0.01%) was added to a solution (40 µL) containing Mpro to start the enzymatic reaction. The final concentrations of the assay reaction ingredients (80 $\mu l)$ are 5 nM [E] Mpro, 2 μM [S] peptide substrate (Km 3.17 µM), 1 mM DTT, 0.5 mM EDTA, 1.2 % DMSO, 0.01 % TWEEN-20, 25 mM TRIS pH 7.4. Mpro was diluted (10 nM) from aliquotes stored as stock solution (512 μ M, -80 °C, storage buffer) in Mpro assay buffer (50 mM TRIS pH 7.4, 1 mM EDTA, 2 mM DTT, 0.01 % TWEEN-20). The rate of Mpro enzymatic activity (v) was determined by monitoring the increase in fluorescence intensity of reactions at room temperature in black microplates (NUNc 384-well F-bottom) with an Infinite M-1000 plate reader (Tecan) using 325 nm and 400 nm as wavelengths for excitation and emission, respectively. Test compounds were dissolved in DMSO and screened first at a 25 μ M. 3-fold serial dilutions (125 μ M – 6.35 nM) of small molecule test compounds are added to determine inhibitory potency. IC50 is determined by an in-house evaluation tool (IC50 Studio with 4-parametric fitting, Hillequation).

Small molecule compounds showing putative inhibitory activity were tested in a separate assay for quenching potential of fluorescence emitted by the MCA fluorophore (Bioquest) to identify possible false positives.

Fluorimetric human liver Cathepsin L (hCatL) activity assay

To determine the effect of small molecule test compounds on the enzymatic activity of human Cathepsin L a fluorescencebased assay has been implemented according to a published protocol.^[40]

Cathepsin L from human liver and the fluorogenic peptidomimetic Z-Phe-Arg7-amido-4substrate methylcoumarin hydrochloride (Z-FR-AMC) were purchased from SIGMA (#219402, #C9521). The Cathepsin L enzyme buffer consisted of 50 mM Tris pH 6.5, 5 mM EDTA, 200 mM NaCl, 2 mM DTT. The hCatL enzymatic reaction was initiated by adding 40 μ L of a solution containing the substrate at 4 μ M (50 mM Tris pH 6.5, 5 mM EDTA, 200 mM NaCl, 0.005 % triton-X-100) to 40 µL solution consisting of enzyme in assay buffer (50 mM Tris pH 6.5, 5 mM EDTA, 200 mM NaCl , 2 mM DTT, 1 nM Ca). Test compounds dissolved in DMSO were dispensed as 2-fold serial dilutions (125 µM - 244 nM) to black well assay plates (384 well, NUNC).

Final assay reaction mixtures consisted of Cathepsin L 0.5 nM [E], Z-Phe-Arg7-amido-4-methylcoumarin [S], [cpds] 125 – 0.214 μ M or 50 – 0.0977 μ M, 50 mM Tris-HCL pH 6.5, 200 mM NaCl, DTT 1 mM, 2.5 mM EDTA, Triton-X100 0.0005%, DMS0 1.27 %.

Fluorescence emitted by AMC fluorophore liberated by hCatL cleavage of the substrate was measured with a Tecan infinite M-1000 plate reader with filters for excitation at 360/40 nm and emission at 460/40 nm at RT immediately after initiating the reaction t0 and 35 min incubation at RT.

Leupeptin (SIGMA L5793) a validated natural protease inhibitor shows the expected biochemical potency in this assay with an IC50 value of around 2 nM.

Cloning, protein expression and purification of SARS-CoV-2 Mpro

DNA encoding a recombinant fusion protein composed of SUMO with a N-terminal hexa-histidine tag and Mpro (NC_045512.2, Nsp5, YP_009742612, Wuhan-Hu-1) was codon optimized for expression in E. coli and synthesized at Genscript. The synthetic DNA was cloned into pET29a(+)::[NdeI, BamHI] (Genscript) and transformed into BL21(DE3) cells. The fusion protein was expressed overnight (Luria broth medium, 25 µg/ml Kanamycin) at 18 °C after induction with 0.5 mM isopropyl-b-dthiogalactoside IPTG at OD600~0.7. Overnight cultures were spun down and recovered cell paste was stored at -70 ºC. 12 g cell paste was resuspended in buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl, pH 7.8; 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM imidazole) and treated with lysozyme (0.1mg/ml; 30 min) and benzonase (2500 Units, 10 mM MgCl2; 15 min, RT). Bacterial cells were lysed by high pressure homogenization (29008 psi, Microfluidics MP110P, DIXC H10Z) and centrifuged 30 min at 16000 rpm (Fiberlite F21-8x50y). The hexa-histidine SUMO-Mpro fusion protein was purified by immobilized metal affinity chromatography (IMAC) with a HisTrap column (5 ml, Cytiva) connected to a FPLC Äkta purifier 100 system. His-tagged SUMO Mpro fusion protein was eluted with a linear gradient of increasing imidazole concentration (elution buffer, 0-100 %, 20 column volumes, 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 7.8, 150 mM NaCl, 500 mM imidazole). Eluate fractions containing the target protein were combined and concentrated (Amicon, 10 kDa). The fusion protein was treated with SUMO protease (Sigma SAE0067, 5 U/ mg target protein) to liberate Mpro with authentic N-(Ser1) and C- termini (Q306)-C. The mixture of SUMO protease cleavage products was dialyzed overnight (4 ºC, 4 L, 20 mM Tris-HCl, 150 mM NaCl, Slide-A-Lyzer® cassette, 10 kDa, Thermo Scientific). The hexa-histidine tagged SUMO protein was separated from non-tagged authentic Mpro present in the dialysate by IMAC and collecting Mpro in the flow through. Mpro was further purified by size exclusion chromatography (SEC, Hiload 26/60 Superdex 200) with storage buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM TCEP, 1 mM EDTA). The SEC elution volume for Mpro indicated a dimer as the oligomeric state. Pure (97 %, LC MS) Mpro was concentrated (Amicon, 10 kDa) to a concentration of 17 mg/ml (512 µM) Mpro and stored at -70 °C.

Surface plasmon resonance (SPR) binding analysis

The SPR experiments were performed using a Biacore T200 equipped with a Series S Sensor Chip SA (GE Healthcare #BR-1005-31). Biotinylated COVID-19 Mpro C145A Q306E.AVI (35731 Da, >85% pure, only 21% biotinylated based on MS, DNA sequence available in the SI) was immobilized to the streptavidin covalently attached to a carboxymethyldextran matrix. The initial conditioning of the surfaces on flow cell 1 and 2 was performed by three 1-minute pulses of 1 M NaCl, 50 mM NaOH solution. The ligand at a concentration of 0.27mg/ml in immobilization buffer (10 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 1mM TCEP, 0.05% P20, pH 7.4) was immobilized at a density of 4300 RU on flow cell 2 at a flow rate of 5 μ l/min and flow cell 1 was left blank to serve as a reference surface. Surfaces were stabilized with 3 hours injection at a flow rate of 40 µL/min of running buffer (10 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 1mM TCEP, 0.05% P20, 5% DMSO, pH 7.4).

To collect kinetic binding data, sample in 10 mM HEPES, 150 mM NaCl, 0.05% P20, 5%DMSO, pH 7.4, was injected over the two flow cells at ascending concentrations (0, 0.27, 0.82, 2.5, 7.5, 22.2, 66.6 and 200 μ M) at a flow rate of 40 μ l/min and at a temperature of 25°C. The complex was allowed to associate and dissociate for 40 and 100 s, respectively for each sample concentration.

A DMSO correction curve was performed before/after every 104 cycles.

Data were collected at a rate of 10 Hz and fitted to a simple 1:1 interaction model using the global data analysis option available within Biacore T200 Evaluation software.

Crystallization and crystallography

Sitting drop co-crystallization was carried out by adding 0.3 μ l each of Mpro (17 mg/ml, buffer as described above) and crystallization solution in 96-well plates (Intelliplate, Art Robbins). The inhibitors were added to the protein approximately one hour before crystallization. Compound 9 and compound 7 were added to Mpro at a final concentration of 1 mM from a 10 mM stock solution in DMSO, while compound 11 was added at a final concentration of 10 mM from a 100 mM stock solution in DMSO.

The inhibitors compound 11 and compound 7 were cocrystallized using 10% (w/v) polyethylene glycol (PEG) 4000, 20% (w/v) glycerol, 0.03 M each of sodium fluoride, sodium bromide and sodium iodide, 0.1 M MES/imidazole pH 6.5 (condition B3 of "Morpheus I" screen, Molecular Dimensions Ltd.). Compound 9 was co-crystallized using 0.1 M MES/imidazole pH 6.5, 10% (w/v) polyethylene glycol 4000, 20% (w/v) glycerol, 0.03 M each of magnesium chloride and calcium chloride (condition A3 of Morpheus I screen, Molecular Dimensions Ltd).

X-ray diffraction experiments were carried out at 100 K at beamline X06SA-PXI of the Swiss Light Source (SLS), Villigen, Switzerland. Measurements were made at the SLS with crystal rotation steps of 0.2 ^o using an EIGER 16M detector (Dectris).

The data were processed and scaled using $AutoProc^{[41]}$ and $XSCALE^{[42]}$, respectively. Automated molecular replacement

was carried out using Dimple^[43] (Collaborative Computational Project 1994) with the 3CLpro structure as template. $COOT^{[44]}$ was used for model building. Phenix.refine^[45], Buster^[45] and Refmac^[46] were used for refinement of the structures. Data

collection and refinement statistics are reported in Table 3 and Figures of molecular structures were generated with PyMOL(Schrodinger 2015)

Table1. Delivered AI molecules and their biological data

Structure	Compound #	Mpro_FRET_DTT_IC50 [umol/l]	Mpro_Biacore_KD [uM]	CathL_FRET_IC50 [umol/I]	Mpro_MCA_IC50[umol/I]
	1	3.27		>125	>125
tit.	2	63.0		>125	>125
	3	63.5		>125	>125
And a contraction of the second secon	4	NA	185	>125	>125
N - N - CI	5	NA	368	>125	>125
the second se	6	22.6	32.8	103	>125
	13	>125		>125	>125
at of	14	>125	>400	>125	
	15	>125	>400	>125	
	16	>125		>125	>125
	17	>125		>125	>125
	18	>125		>125	>125
	19	>125		>125	>125
	20	>125		>125	>125
	21	66.9		>125	>125
N H CL	22	>125		>125	>125

Table 2. Compounds identified in the frame of the hit expansion and follow-up optimized compounds

Structure	Compound #	Mpro_FRET_DTT_IC50 [umol/I]	Mpro_Biacore_KD [uM]	CathL_FRET_IC50 [umol/I]	Mpro_MCA_IC50 [umol/I]
	7	2.10		>125	>125
	8	24.228 (mean, n=4)	49.8	>124.8 (mean, n=5)	>96.625 (mean, n=4)
de la compañía de la comp	9	26.2	37.8	>125	>125
	10	62.6	324	>125	>125
	11	1.26		>125	
₹¢.	12	2.31 (mean, n=2)		>125 (mean, n=2)	>125 (mean, n=2)





Scheme 1 Synthetic route to compound 7. Reagents and conditions: HATU, DIPEA, DMF, RT



Scheme 2 Synthetic route to compound 8. Reagents and conditions: (a) HATU, DIPEA, DMF, RT; (b) HCl, MeOH, RT; (c) NaBH(OAc)₃, DIPEA, DCM, RT



Scheme 3 Synthetic route to compound 11. Reagents and conditions: (a) HATU, DIPEA, DMF, RT; (b) HCI, MeOH, RT; (c) NaBH(OAc)₃, DIPEA, DCM, RT



Scheme 4 Synthetic route to compound 12. Reagents and conditions: HATU, DIPEA, DMF, RT

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Table	3. X-ray	data	collection	and	processing	for	compounds	7,	8,	11	and	12
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Compound	Cpd 7	Cpd 8	Cpd 11	Cpd 12
Diffraction source	Swiss Light Source, X06DA (PXIII)	Swiss Light Source, X06SA (PXI)	Swiss Light Source, X06DA (PXII)	Swiss Light Source, X06DA (PXIII)
Wavelength (Å)	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Temperature (K)	100	100	100	100
Detector	Eiger 16M	Eiger 16M	Eiger 16M	Eiger 16M
Crystal to detector distance (mm)	135	135	150	135
Total rotation range (°)	180	360	180	360
Rotation per image (°)	0.25	0.20	0.25	0.20
Exposure time per image (s)	0.120	0.015	0.250	0.125
Space group	P 21 21 21	P 21 21 21	P 21 21 21	P 21 21 21
a, b, c (Å)	68.1 102.0 104.7	68.0 100.3 104.6	67.8 101.2 103.8	68.0 101.8 105.0
α β, γ (°)	90 90 90	90 90 90	90 90 90	90 90 90
Mosaicity (°)	0.19	0.16	0.12	0.08
Resolution range (Å)	51.0-1.31	56.76-1.59	72.47-1.34	49.80-1.30
(highest shell)	(1.40-1-31)	(1.76-1.59)	(1.42-1.34)	(1.33-1.30)
Total no. of reflections	777335 (34443)	538998 (26606)	897063 (36301)	1190708 (84732)
No. of unique reflections	142995 (7149)	81101 (4055)	136333 (6816)	179022 (13124)
Completeness (%) (spherical)	81.8 (21.9)	73.2 (15.9)	84.3 (25.4)	99.8 (99.7)
Completeness (%) (ellipsoidal)	93.7 (52.1)	94.8 (61.4)	96.1 (66.4)	Not calculated
Multiplicity	5.4 (4.8)	6.6 (6.6)	6.6 (5.3)	3.4 (3.3)
/σ(I) from merged data	7.6 (1.6)	13.9 (1.8)	15.4 (1.7)	10.3 (1.1)
CC _{1/2} (highest shell)	(50.2)	(54.4)	(69.0)	(36.5)

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ាំ០កែមាន HTS QC Analysis Report Sample Name: LCMS384-20221005-1_G13 **Compound 18** Acquisition time: 10/6/2022 12:38 AM Instrument: ICHALW-DL00012-TQD Expression Result Auto-Comments Auto-Summary GOOD 97.9000 Purity Target Mass 354.2000 Target RT 0.5260 UV[212-216] UV214 [6.7E06] 100 -Peak# 1 Rt 0.526 Area Perc 97.9% ST1 % 50 0.8 1.2 1.4 0.2 0.4 0.6 1.6 1.8 2 cid=6 354.0888 (353.6888-354.4888) w=0.8000 T1-EIC(+)[M+H] [2.4E07] 100 Peak# 1 Rt 0.524 Area Perc 100.0% ST1 % 50 -0.2 0.4 0.8 1.2 1.4 1.6 1.8 2 min T1-EIC(-)[M-H] [1.0] cid=11 352.0732 (351.6732-352.4732) w=0.8000 100 % 50 0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1.2 1.6 1.4 1.8 2 min Peak 1@0.524 min MS(+) ES 1.6E07 cnts obs: 354.2300 [M+H]* [¹²C] exp: 354.0888 ST1 C15H17N5OCI2 % 100 356 2500 50 355. 159.0 161.1 196.2 500 357.2700 0-170 270 770 870 120 220 320 370 420 470 520 570 620 670 720 820 920 970 m/z Peak 2@0.737 min MS(+) ES 58913.9 cnts 159.1 100 131.3 376.5 354.3 % 50

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Protein sequence pCG 163: 442 aa excl. stop codon → Q306E mutation destroys occurring N-terminal selfcleavage site to maintain AVI-tag

H6.SUMO.Covid-19 Mpro C145A Q306E.AVI

(Thrombin cleavage site, SUMO cleavage site, residue Mpro autocleavage site)								
10	20	30	40	50	60			
MGSSHHHHHH	GSGLVPRGSA	SMSDSEVDQE	AKPEVKPEVK	PETHINLKVS	DGSSEIFFKI			
70	8 <u>0</u>	9 <u>0</u>	10 <u>0</u>	11 <u>0</u>	120			
KKTTPLRRLM	EAFAKRQGKE	MDSLRFLYDG	IRIQADQTPE	DLDMEDNDII	EAHREQIGG 1 S	ĺ		
130	140	150	160	170	180			
GFRKMAFPSG	KVEGCMVQVT	CGTTTLNGLW	LDDVVYCPRH	VICTSEDMLN	PNYEDLLIRK			
190	200	210	220	230	240			
SNHNFLVQAG	NVQLRVIGHS	MQNCVLKLKV	DTANPKTPKY	KFVRIQPGQT	FSVLACYNGS			
250	260	270	280	290	300			
PSGVYQCAMR	PNFTIKGSFL	NGSAGSVGFN	IDYDCVSFCY	MHHMELPTGV	HAGTDLEGNF			
31 <u>0</u>	320	33 <u>0</u>	340	350	360			
YGPFVDRQTA	QAAGTDTTIT	VNVLAWLYAA	VINGDRWFLN	RFTTTLNDFN	LVAMKYNYEP			
370	380	390	400	410	420			
LTQDHVDILG	PLSAQTGIAV	LDMCASLKEL	LQNGMNGRTI	LGSALLEDEF	TPFDVVRQCS			
43 <u>0</u>	44 <u>0</u>	442						
GVTFEGSGLN	DIFEAQKIEW	HE *						