



# Modelling the structural and reactivity landscapes of tucatinib with special reference to its wavefunction-dependent properties and screening for potential antiviral activity

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## Abstract

HER-2 type breast cancer is one of the most aggressive malignancies found in women. Tucatinib is recently developed and approved as a potential medicine to fight this disease. In this manuscript, we present the gross structural features of this compound and its reactivity and wave function properties using computational simulations. Density functional theory was used to optimise the ground state geometry of the molecule and molecular docking was used to predict biological activity. As the electrons interact with electromagnetic radiations, electronic excitations between different energy levels are analysed in detail using time-dependent density functional theory. Various intermolecular and intramolecular interactions are analysed and reaction sites for attacking electrophiles and nucleophiles identified. Information entropy calculations show that the compound is inherently stable. Docking with COVID-19 proteins show docking score of  $-9.42$ ,  $-8.93$ ,  $-8.45$  and  $-8.32$  kcal/mol respectively indicating high interaction between the drug and proteins. Hence, this is an ideal candidate to study repurposing of existing drugs to combat the pandemic.

**Keywords** DFT · Tucatinib · Docking · NCI · LIE

## Introduction

Breast cancer is one of the most common type of neoplasm found in women and it is divided basically into different subtypes, viz., Luminal A, Luminal B, HER2-enriched, Basal-like and the human epidermal growth factor receptor-2-enriched (HER2-E) is indicated by the overexpression of growth factor receptor-related genes and cell cycle-related genes along with low presence of oestrogen-related and basal-related genes [1–3]. Always, there is a risk of metastatic spread to other interorgans like lungs, brain and bone [4, 5].

HER2 tyrosine kinase inhibitor Lapatinib is widely used for the management of this disease [6]. Tucatinib is recently developed as a promising drug for the management of HER2-positive breast cancer [7]. It is also used along with trastuzumab in patients with HER2-positive colorectal cancer [8]. Tucatinib even showed extensive anti-tumour activity and tumour regression in N87 gastric cancer cell line and HER2-amplified colorectal, oesophageal and gastric cancers [9, 10]. The drug is also well tolerated in patients also along with trastuzumab [11].

Recently, the new strain of coronavirus, n-CoV-2, is devastating human life in entire globe which now emerged to the dimensions of a pandemic and had impacted the life style and health of almost all the people [12]. Scientists through the globe are tirelessly working for establishing the pathology [13], epidemiology [13] and many are try to develop novel molecules, antibodies and vaccines [14]. As it is difficult to come with a new magic molecule which could cure this disease in a short period of time, scientists are looking to reroute the existing drugs with known pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics for the management of COVID [15–17]. Chloroquine was once highlighted as a wonder medicine for the management of COVID, in spite of several differences in

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opinions about its effectiveness and now discontinued [18]. Remdesivir is now presently used widely to get rid of the pneumonia associated with COVID [19]. Lopinavir, umifenovir, favipiravir and oseltamivir molecules are also used now as a potentially active compound against the virus [15]. Thomas and coworkers recently reported that the sleep hormonemelatonin has preferential binding over the COVID proteins [20]. As it is time consuming to design and develop a drug for the treatment, it will be a wise decision to do research to reroute the existing drugs as a molecular target against the virus. We also thought in this direction and decided to screen tucatinib as a potential candidate for the management of COVID.

Understanding the electronic structure of a compound is very important for analysing the potential applications of a compound. Literature analysis showed that no studies have been reported in this direction. This manuscript attempts to study the detailed geometry, electronic structure, physical and chemical properties, orbital characteristics, surface topology, non-covalent interactions, electronic excitations, intermolecular stabilisations and information entropy analysis. It is followed by molecular modelling studies of the interaction of the molecule with four prominent n-CoV-19 proteins. We believe that this manuscript will be an addition to the scientific data.

## Methods

We report the detailed study of the molecule using molecular simulations. Tucatinib molecule was optimised using Gaussian-09 [21] software, a package using DFT methodology with  $\omega$ B97XD [22–24] functional and cc-pVDZ basis set [25]. We performed the frequency calculations to ensure that there exists no imaginary frequency such that the obtained geometry corresponds to a global minimum for reaching the optimised geometry. We used the same geometry for calculating frontier molecular analysis, natural bonding orbitals and non-linear optical studies. For UV-visible spectrum simulation, we used time-dependent density functional theory (TD-DFT) with long-range corrected CAM-B3LYP functional [26, 27] and aug-cc-pVDZ basis set as the electronic transitions are time-dependent phenomena with GaussSum [28]. Reaction sites of tucatinib calculated using Multiwavefunction [29] software for calculating total electrostatic, average localised ionisation energy, electron localisation functions, localised orbital locator, reduced density gradient, localised entropy interaction, electron delocalisation functions, local electron locator, reduced density gradient and non-covalent interactions for tucatinib's anti-coronavirus2 biological activity were analysed by using suitable proteins in the PDB format downloaded from RCSB [30] site, the energy received from SwissDock and the score values received from PatchDock

[31] after docking and the docked results analysed using bio-discovery studio.

## Results and discussion

### Geometry structure for tucatinib

Tucatinib molecular structure was optimised by using density functional theory method for structural confirmation, DFT- $\omega$ B97XD as a method, and cc-pVDZ as a basis set. The optimised structure for tucatinib is shown in Fig. 1 and Table 1 shows important bond distances and angles for

**Table 1** Structural parameters of tucatinib

Definition	Value (in Å)	Definition	Value (in °)
R(1O–12C)	1.44	A(12C–1O–15C)	105.18
R(1O–15C)	1.36	A(26C–2O–31C)	118.20
R(2O–26C)	1.39	A(11C–3N–15C)	106.35
R(2O–31C)	1.36	A(15C–4N–16C)	127.74
R(3N–11C)	1.48	A(15C–4N–45H)	114.54
R(3N–15C)	1.28	A(16C–4N–45H)	117.67
R(4N–15C)	1.36	A(21C–5N–23C)	131.47
R(4N–16C)	1.39	A(21C–5N–49H)	114.73
R(4N–45H)	1.01	A(23C–5N–49H)	113.77
R(5N–21C)	1.37	A(20C–6N–29C)	115.19
R(5N–23C)	1.40	A(21C–7N–29C)	117.13
R(5N–49C)	1.01	A(10N–8N–33C)	110.27
R(6N–20C)	1.37	A(10N–8N–35C)	126.30
R(6N–29C)	1.31	A(33C–8N–35C)	123.43
R(7N–21C)	1.32	A(33C–9N–36C)	102.33
R(7N–29C)	1.36	A(8N–10N–36C)	101.28
R(8N–10C)	1.35	A(1O–15C–3N)	119.22
R(8N–33C)	1.38	A(1O–15C–4N)	112.02
R(8N–35C)	1.36	A(3N–15C–4N)	128.77
R(9N–33C)	1.33	A(18C–17C–20C)	120.68
R(9N–36C)	1.35	A(18C–17C–21C)	124.02
R(10N–36C)	1.33	A(20C–17C–21C)	115.29
R(24C–30C)	1.50	A(5N–21C–7N)	120.56
R(26C–28C)	1.39	A(5N–21C–17C)	118.20
R(28C–52H)	1.09	A(7N–21C–17C)	121.24
R(31C–32C)	1.37	A(5N–23C–25C)	124.34
		A(5N–23C–27C)	116.38
		A(25C–23C–27C)	119.28
		A(31C–32C–33C)	117.93
		A(31C–32C–57H)	122.84
		A(33C–32C–57H)	119.23
		A(8N–33C–9N)	109.08
		A(8N–33C–32C)	118.91
		A(9N–33C–32C)	132.01

tucatinib. The molecule possesses three heterocyclic rings, ether and secondary amine linkages connecting the rings.

The bond distances for 1O–12C, 1O–15C, 2O–26C, 2O–31C, 3N–11C, 3N–15C, 4N–15C, 4N–16C, 4N–45H, 5N–21C, 5N–23C, 5N–49C, 6N–20C, 6N–29C, 7N–21C, 7N–29C, 8N–10C, 8N–33C, 8N–35C, 9N–33C, 9N–36C, 10N–36C, 24C–30C, 26C–28C, 28C–52H and 31C–32C having 1.44, 1.36, 1.39, 1.36, 1.48, 1.28, 1.36, 1.39, 1.01, 1.37, 1.40, 1.01, 1.37, 1.31, 1.32, 1.36, 1.35, 1.38, 1.36, 1.33, 1.35, 1.33, 1.50, 1.39, 1.09 and 1.37 Å respectively. The bond angles for 12C–1O–15C, 26C–2O–31C, 11C–3N–15C, 15C–4N–16C, 15C–4N–45H, 16C–4N–45H, 21C–5N–23C, 21C–5N–49H, 23C–5N–49H, 20C–6N–29C, 21C–7N–29C, 10N–8N–33C, 10N–8N–35C, 33C–8N–35C, 33C–9N–36C, 8N–10N–36C, 1O–15C–3N, 1O–15C–4N, 3N–15C–4N, 18C–17C–20C, 18C–17C–21C, 20C–17C–21C, 5N–21C–7N, 5N–21C–17C, 7N–21C–17C, 5N–23C–25C, 5N–23C–27C, 25C–23C–27C, 31C–32C–33C, 31C–32C–57H, 33C–32C–57H, 8N–33C–9N, 8N–33C–32C and 9N–33C–32C, having 105.18, 118.20, 106.35, 127.74, 114.54, 117.67, 131.47, 114.73, 113.77, 115.19, 117.13, 110.27, 126.30, 123.43, 102.33, 101.28, 119.22, 112.02, 128.77, 120.68, 124.02, 115.29, 120.56, 118.20, 121.24, 124.34, 116.38, 119.28, 117.93, 122.84, 119.23, 109.08, 118.91 and 132.01° respectively.

### Frontier molecular orbital (FMO) properties for tucatinib

Frontier molecular orbitals can provide valuable information the energy band gap and using the HOMO and LUMO energy, one can predict various physical and chemical descriptors of the molecule, which enables us to comment on the reactivity, stability and biological activity [32]. The energies are calculated in the DFT- $\omega$ B97XD/cc-pVDZ basis set and the related data is presented in Table 2. HOMO is the molecule is found to have energy  $-5.59$  eV and LUMO  $-1.50$  eV. The energy gap is only 4 eV. The ionisation energy [33, 34] is 5.50 eV and electron affinity 1.59 eV [35–38]. Global hardness [39, 40] and softness [41] are widely regarded as an indicator of the reactivity of compounds, whose values are 2.00 eV and 0.50 eV respectively. The softness value is high such that the compound is polarisable and hence more chance to be biologically active. The chemical potential, which is the average of ionisation energy and electron affinity is found to  $-3.59$  eV, which indicates that the molecule is reactive [42]. The electronegativity [43] was 3.59 eV. The compound is electrophilic (see the [44, 45] and nucleophilicity index [46–49] values) in nature with a negative electron donating power. This is in agreement with the high electron affinity values. Hence, it can be concluded that the compound is

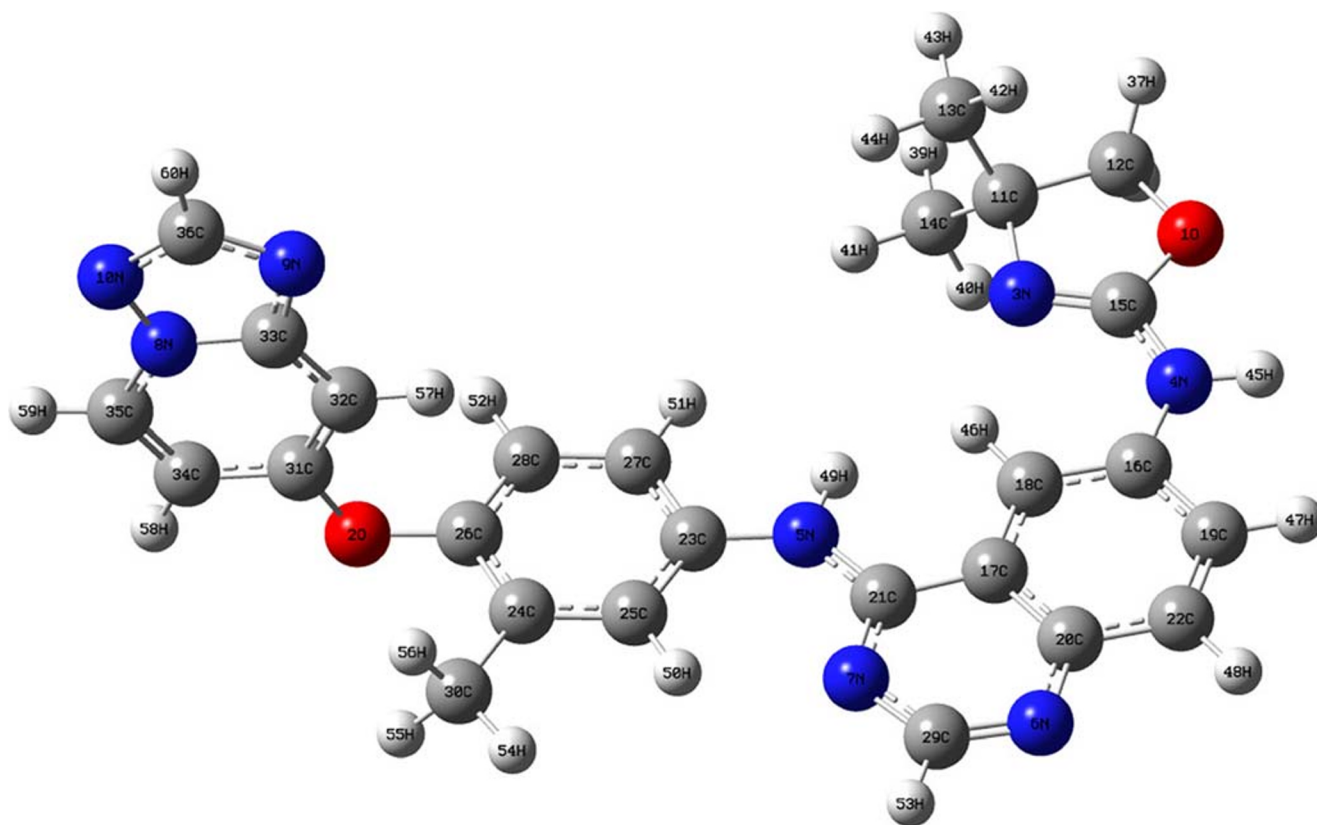


Fig. 1 Geometry structure for tucatinib

**Table 2** Frontier molecular orbitals properties for tucatinib

Property	Values
HOMO (eV)	-5.59
LUMO (eV)	-1.59
Energy gap $\Delta E$ (eV)	4.00
Ionisation energy ( $I = \epsilon_{\text{HOMO}} = -\text{HOMO}$ ) (eV)	5.59
Electron affinity ( $A = \epsilon_{\text{LUMO}} = -\text{LUMO}$ ) (eV)	1.59
Global hardness ( $\eta = (I - A)/2$ ) (eV)	2.00
Global softness ( $S = 1/\eta$ )	0.50
Chemical potential ( $\mu = -(I + A)/2$ ) (eV)	-3.59
Electronegativity ( $\chi = -\mu$ ) (eV)	3.59
Electrophilicity index ( $\omega = \mu^2/2\eta$ )	3.22
Nucleophilicity index ( $N = 1/\omega$ )	0.31
$\Delta N_{\text{max}}$	1.79
Electroaccepting power $\omega^+ = A^2/2(I - A)$	0.31
Electrodonating power $\omega^- = I^2/2(I - A)$	-37.63

inherently reactive and this feature is responsible for various biological activities.

### Time-dependent density functional theory study for tucatinib

Being a time-dependent phenomenon, the electronic transitions and consequently the electronic spectra of compounds cannot be modelled by DFT simulations, instead has to use time-dependent (TD-DFT) simulations which employs Tamm-Dancoff approximations [50, 51]. We used TD-DFT simulations with CAMB3LYP functional and cc-pVDZ as a basis set using IEFPCM [52] solvation model with methanol as solvent. The ultraviolet-visible spectrum and the different orbitals involved in the transition are given in Figs. 2 and 3 and Table 3.

Simulation shows that there are three electronic transitions possible and among them, only two are significant. The first peak was observed at wavelength is 309.24 nm with oscillator strength is 0.44. It is with singlet asymmetry and the major reasons of this peak is the transition from higher occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) to lower unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) with 90 percentage contribution. The second significant peak was at 267.56 nm with oscillator strength of 0.26, and singlet asymmetry. This peak is due to electronic transitions from second last higher occupied molecular orbital

(HOMO-2) to lower unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO) with contribution 12 percentage, and from higher occupied molecular orbital (HOMO) to second lower unoccupied molecular orbital (LUMO+2) with 60 percentage contribution. For the first transition, oscillator strength ( $f$ ) is 0.4431, which means, the molecule is having good light-harvesting efficiency (LHE), which is expressed as a function of the oscillator strength related as  $\text{LHE} = 1 - 10^{-f}$  [53–56]. The value is 0.6395 for the first transition, which indicate that the compound can absorb 63.95% of the incident light energy for electronic excitation at that particular wavelength [57, 58].

### Non-linear optical properties for tucatinib

Study of light matter interactions is very important especially for organic molecules. Recently, a large number of organic non-linear optical (NLO) compounds have been extensively studied using various computational tools for their potential industrial use [59–61]. The ability of the molecule to bend the linear light can be done using the polarisability and hyperpolarisability values obtained from the Raman spectrum simulation. This type of non-linear optical activity is very important for using the compound in organic electronics industry [62–64]. The simulation is carried out in the same theoretical level as of the optimisation and is compared with a standard non-linear optically active substance urea and *p*-nitroacetanilide (PNA) [65, 66]. The non-linear optical property parameters for tucatinib are shown in Table 4. Tucatinib is found to have dipole moment ( $\mu$ ) of 2.74 D, which is 1.58 times greater than urea and 3.01 times greater than *p*-nitro acetanilide. Hyperpolarisability ( $\beta$ ) is  $51.60 \times 10^{-31}$  e.s.u., which is 6.79 times greater than urea and 0.21 times than *p*-nitro acetanilide. The high values of values are due to the highly non-symmetric structure of the compound ( $C_s$  point group).

### Nature bond orbital analysis for tucatinib

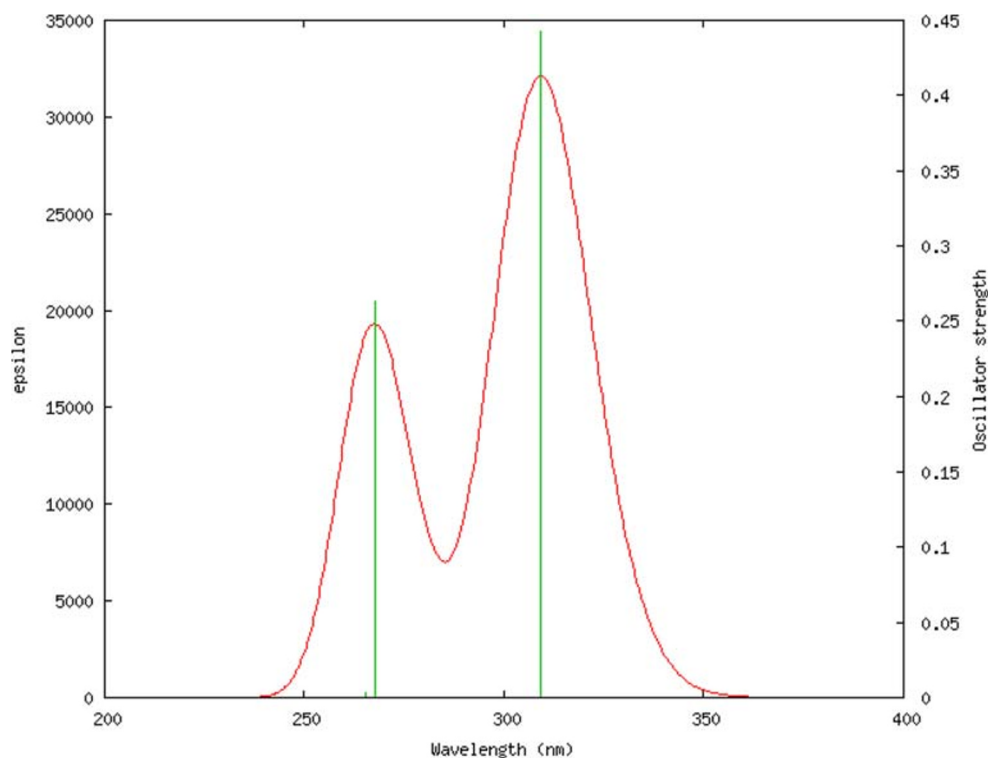
Intramolecular electron displacements are very important as they decide the inherent stability of a compound. Natural bond orbital analysis is an excellent tool to study such interactions via hyperconjugation [67–72]. The occupancy values of the natural bond orbitals and their delocalisation energy provide valuable information about the above-mentioned stabilisations. Nature bond orbital (NBO) calculations were

**Table 3** Electronic transitions in tucatinib

No.	Wavelength (nm)	Osc. Strength	Symmetry	Major contributions
1	309.24	0.44	Singlet-A	HOMO $\rightarrow$ LUMO (90%)
2	267.56	0.26	Singlet-A	H-2 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (12%), HOMO $\rightarrow$ L+2 (60%)
3	265.44	0.0032	Singlet-A	H-6 $\rightarrow$ LUMO (84%)



**Fig. 2** Simulated UV-Visible spectrum of tucatinib using TD-DFT CAM-B3LYP/cc-pVDZ

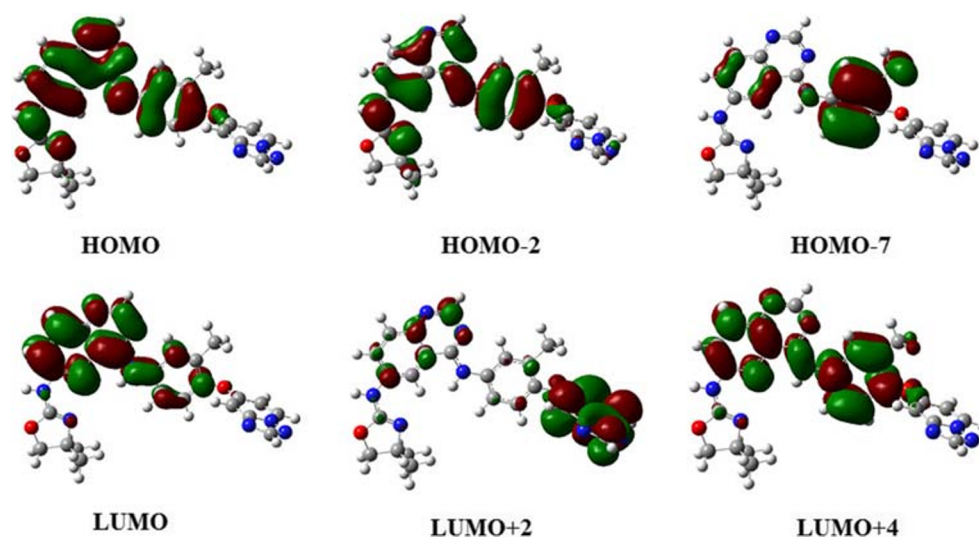


done using the NBO suite available within the Gaussian 09 software.

Table S1 shows the natural atomic orbital (NAO) occupancies for tucatinib. In general, the decreasing order of atomic orbitals by the occupancies are core orbital > valence orbital > Rydberg orbital. Table S1 shows the number of atomic orbitals, the symbol of atoms, number of atoms, angular momentum, type of atomic orbital, occupancies, and energy in a.u. unit Tucatinib having 624 nature atomic orbitals (NAOs), the oxygen atoms label numbers from 1 to 2 atoms nature atomic orbital numbers are 6, 18 having py, and px angular momentum with atomic orbital type is valence 2p,

occupancies are 1.40 and 1.11, and energies are  $-0.37$  and  $-0.37$  a.u. respectively, the nitrogen atoms label numbers from 3 to 10 are having atomic orbital numbers are 34, 46, 60, 78, 90, 102, 118 and 134 having py, px, px, pz, py, px, py and pz angular momentum with atomic orbital type is valence 2p, occupancies are 1.31, 1.41, 1.36, 1.24, 1.25, 1.28, 1.29 and 1.08, and energies are  $-0.20$ ,  $-0.29$ ,  $-0.28$ ,  $-0.19$ ,  $-0.20$ ,  $-0.30$ ,  $-0.18$  and  $-0.15$  a.u. respectively, the carbon atoms label numbers from 11 to 36 are having atomic orbital numbers are 146, 160, 174, 190, 198, 216, 230, 242, 258, 272, 284, 298, 312, 326, 340, 354, 370, 382, 398, 412, 428, 442, 456, 466, 484 and 498 having py, py, py, pz, S, py, py, px, py,

**Fig. 3** Major and minor contributions for tucatinib



**Table 4** Non-linear optics property for tucatinib

Non-linear property	Tucatinib	Urea	<i>p</i> -nitro acetanilide	Comparison of tucatinib with urea and PNA
Dipole moment ( $\mu$ )	2.74 D	1.73 D	0.91 D	1.58 times urea and 3.01 times PNA
Hyperpolarisability ( $\beta$ ) (esu)	$51.6 \times 10^{-31}$	$7.60 \times 10^{-31}$	$237.67 \times 10^{-31}$	6.79 times urea and 0.21 times PNA
Mean polarisability ( $\alpha_0$ )	$373.08 \times 10^{-23}$	$24.30 \times 10^{-23}$	$113.86 \times 10^{-23}$	15.5 times greater than urea and 3.27 times PNA
Anisotropy of the polarisability ( $\Delta\alpha$ ) (esu)	$897.38 \times 10^{-23}$	$0.85 \times 10^{-23}$	$5.29 \times 10^{-23}$	1055 times greater than urea and 169 times PNA
Molar refractivity (MR) (esu)	9412.26	613.31	2873.74	15.34 times greater than urea and 3.2 times PNA

py, px, px, px, px, px, py, px, py, py, pz, pz, pz, px, pz and pz angular momentum with atomic orbital type is valence 2p, occupancies are 0.87, 0.79, 1.18, 1.09, 0.71, 0.93, 1.11, 1.09, 1.06, 0.95, 0.97, 1.08, 0.89, 1.08, 1.06, 0.78, 1.11, 1.07, 1.00, 1.16, 0.94, 1.09, 0.89, 1.06, 0.84 and 1.03, and energies are  $-0.15$ ,  $-0.06$ ,  $-0.06$ ,  $-0.09$ ,  $-0.08$ ,  $-0.08$ ,  $-0.03$ ,  $-0.07$ ,  $-0.06$ ,  $-0.06$ ,  $-0.01$ ,  $-0.03$ ,  $-0.05$ ,  $-0.01$ ,  $-0.05$ ,  $-0.03$ ,  $-0.01$ ,  $-0.06$ ,  $-0.05$ ,  $-0.02$ ,  $-0.08$ ,  $-0.03$ ,  $-0.07$ ,  $-0.01$ ,  $-0.07$ ,  $-0.01$  and  $-0.02$  respectively, and the hydrogen atoms label numbers from 37 to 60 are having atomic orbital numbers are 505, 510, 515, 520, 525, 530, 535, 540, 545, 550, 555, 560, 565, 570, 575, 580, 585, 590, 595, 600, 605, 610, 615 and 620 having S angular momentum with atomic orbital type is valence 1S, occupancies are 0.79, 0.78, 0.77, 0.77, 0.76, 0.77, 0.77, 0.76, 0.56, 0.74, 0.76, 0.74, 0.57, 0.72, 0.76, 0.75, 0.79, 0.76, 0.75, 0.75, 0.72, 0.73, 0.74 and 0.78, and energies are 0.07, 0.07, 0.08, 0.09, 0.09, 0.09, 0.08, 0.09, 0.11, 0.11, 0.07, 0.10, 0.12, 0.13, 0.08, 0.09, 0.09, 0.10, 0.09, 0.09, 0.11, 0.09, 0.08 and 0.09 a.u. respectively.

Table S2 provides the summary of natural population charge analysis for tucatinib. Each atom having particular natural charges and population charges is core, valence and Rydberg populations. Tucatinib molecule's total natural charge is zero, and total natural populations in the core is 71.97, valence is 179.24 and the Rydberg population is 0.79 and the total population is 252.00. Table S3 shows the natural populations between natural minimal basis and natural Rydberg basis for tucatinib. Total core population is 71.97 out of 72 basis, which is more than 99.50 percentage; valence population is 179.24 out of 180 basis, which is more than 99.50 percentage; the natural minimal basis (NMB) is 251.21 out of 252 basis, which is more than 99.50 percentage; and natural Rydberg basis (RYB) is 0.79 out of 252 basis, which is below 0.50 percentage. Table S4 shows the electronic configurations for all the elements in tucatinib. Table S5 explains natural bond analysis by occupancy threshold energy for in tucatinib. For the cycles 1 and 2, having the same occupancy threshold energy 1.9, Lewis occupancy is 238.24, non-Lewis occupancy is 13.76 and deviation is 0.63. Table S6 shows the total Lewis and non-Lewis contributions for tucatinib. The contributions for core orbital are 71.97 out of 72 basis, which is more than 99.50 percentage, valence Lewis orbital is 173.56 out of 180 basis, which is 96.42 percentage

and total Lewis contribution is 245.53 out of 252 basis, which is 97.43 percentage. The contribution of valence non-Lewis orbital is 5.92 out of 252 basis, which is 2.35 percentage, Rydberg non-Lewis orbital is 0.55 out of 252 basis, which is 0.22 percentage and total non-Lewis contribution is 6.47 out of 252 basis, which is 2.57 percentage.

Table S7 explains nature bond orbitals (NBOs) using second-order Perturbation theory analysis of Fock matrix in NBO Basis. This table explains various electrons transfers from donor natural atomic orbitals to acceptor natural atomic orbitals by labels and absorption energies. All these electron delocalisations lead to inherent stability of the molecule [73].

### Average localised ionisation energy for tucatinib

The local  $I(r)$  average energy of ionisation is the energy needed to remove an electron from point  $r$  the system. The lowest values show the positions of the least tightly held electrons and therefore the chosen reaction sites by electrophiles or radicals [74–77]. The 2D representation of average localised ionisation energy (ALIE) of tucatinib is given in Fig. 4.

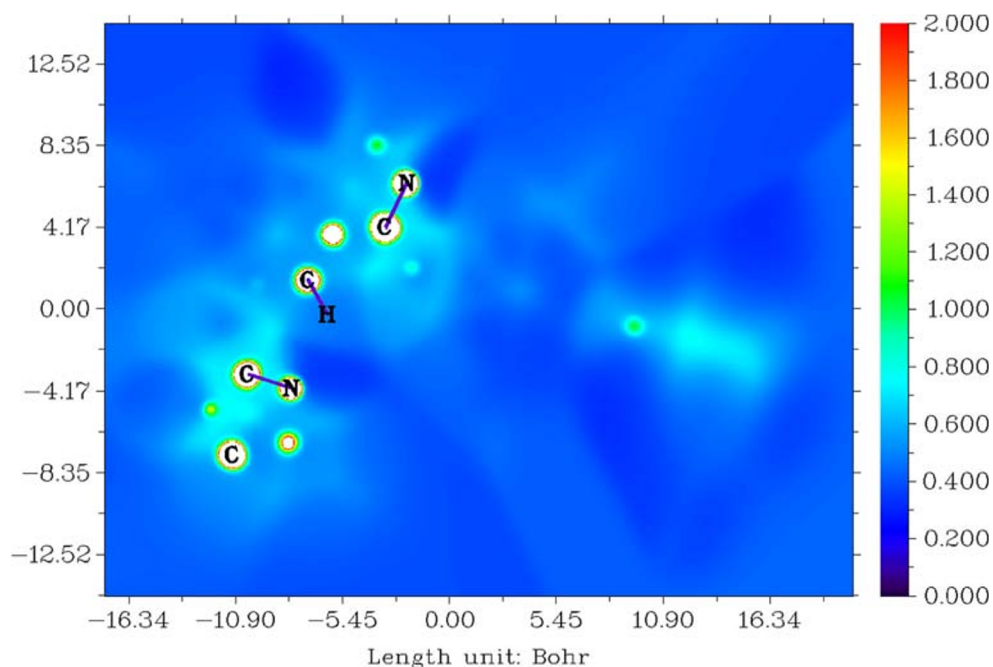
The colour greenish-blue is denoted delocalised electrons appearing in 4,4-dimethyloxazole, 4,4-dimethyloxazolamin, quinazolin, quinazolinamin and triazolepyridin groups; these are giving the number of resonance structure and explain stability of tucatinib. The colour blue is denoted sigma or stable bonds occur in all the carbons, which are having protons. The colour red indicates multiple bonds; fortunately, there are no multiple bonds present in the tucatinib.

### Electron localised function for tucatinib

This study explains the electronic structure for tucatinib. The higher value of electron localisation function is strongly localised and low value is strong delocalisation of electron in this molecule [78–80]. The electron localised function (ELF) for tucatinib is shown in Fig. 5. Tucatinib has the range between  $-16.34$  and  $16.34 \text{ Bohr}^3$ , the probability value between 0.000 and 1.000, and the colour blue to red shown in Fig. 5.

The red in colour shows that high probability to strong non-localised electrons occurs on the carbon, nitrogen and oxygen atoms core and lone-pair of electrons, and all the protons in the molecule. The blue in colour shows that high probability to

**Fig. 4** Average localised ionisation energy for tucatinib



strong  $\pi$ -delocalised electrons occurs on carbons and nitrogen atoms in 4,4-dimethyloxazolamin and quinolinamin rings, and 4,4-dimethyloxazolamin, quinolinamin and methylphenyl rings.

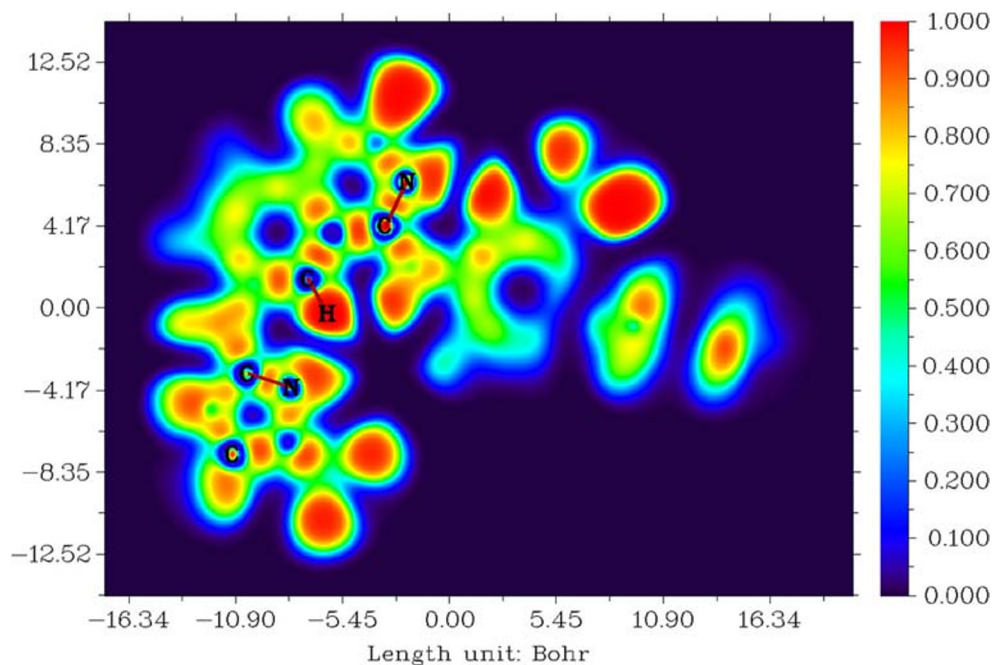
#### Localised orbital locator for tucatinib

Localised orbital locator (LOL) study explains the orbital locations for tucatinib [81, 82] and is represented in Fig. 6. The value ranges between  $-16.34$  and  $16.34$  Bohr<sup>3</sup>, values

between 0.000 and 0.800, and colour from blue to red shown in Fig. 6.

The colour red denotes strongly localised  $\pi$ -orbitals which occur between carbons and oxygens, carbons and nitrogens, and carbons and carbons in 4,4-dimethyloxazolamin, quinolinamin, methylphenyl and triazoxypyridin groups. The colour blue denotes strong delocalised  $\pi$ -orbitals which occurs in 4,4-dimethyloxazolamin, quinolinamin, methylphenyl, triazoxypyridin rings and all the hydrogens in the whole molecule.

**Fig. 5** Electron localised functions for tucatinib



### Molecular electrostatic potentials (MESP) from electronic charges for tucatinib

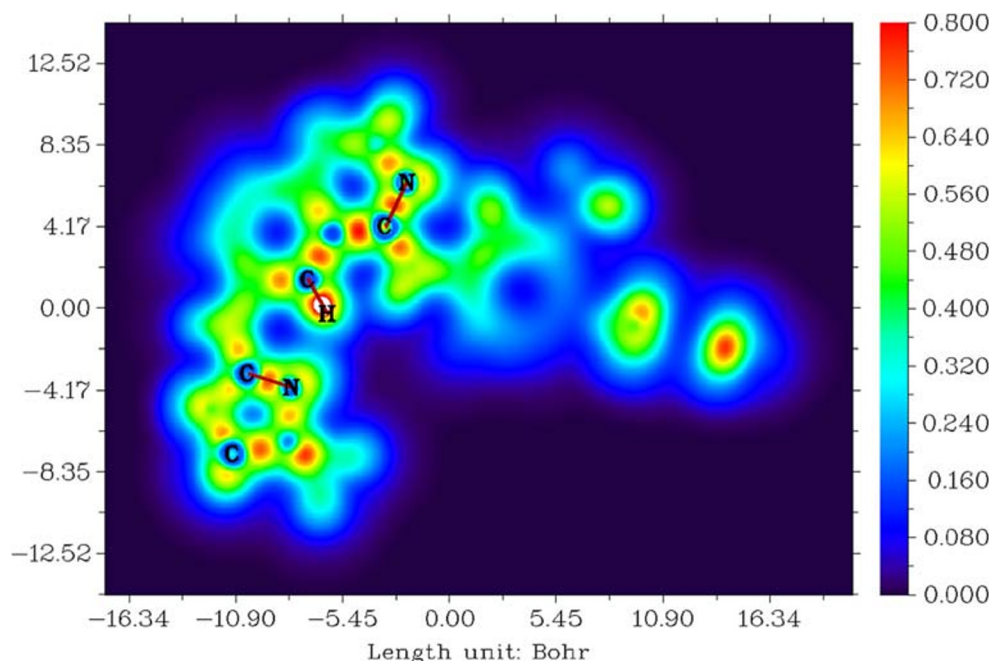
The electrostatic potential  $V(r)$  generated around a molecule by its nuclei and electrons which are treated as static charge distribution is a very useful property for studying and predicting molecular reactive actions [83–87]. The capacity has been especially useful as an indication of the positions or regions of the molecule to which the advancing electrophile is initially drawn, and has also been effectively extended to the analysis of associations requiring a certain optimal relative orientation of the reactants, such as between the product and its cellular receptor. Tucatinib molecule's MESP was generated using the data obtained in the previous calculation and is represented in Fig. 7. Figure 7 shows those sites within the range between  $-16.26$  and  $16.26$  Bohr<sup>3</sup>, the numerical value from  $-0.100$  to  $0.100$  and the colour from blue to red.

The colour blue on all the nitrogen atoms in amin-oxazole and amin-quinazolin groups is electron-rich sites, and therefore electrophiles can easily attack these sites. The colour red on all the carbons which are having protons in 4,4-dimethyl-oxazolol, quinazolin, 2-methylphenolat and triazolepyridine groups is electron-poor sites, and therefore nucleophiles can easily attack these sites.

### Molecular electrostatic potentials (MESP) from nuclear charges for tucatinib

The electrostatic potentials from nuclear charges [85, 87] for tucatinib are shown in Fig. 8. Tucatinib has the range between  $-15.88$  and  $17.67$  Bohr<sup>3</sup>, values between  $0.000$  and  $0.800$ , and colour from blue to red shown in Fig. 8.

**Fig. 6** Localised orbital location for tucatinib



The colour red denotes negative electrostatic potentials between the range  $47.000$  and  $50.000$  and shows strong attraction between protons and nuclei core and lone-pair of electrons in carbons, nitrogens and oxygens in 4,4-dimethyloxazolamin, quinazolinamin and triazolopyridin groups. The colour blue denotes positive electrostatic potentials between the range  $15.000$  and  $23.000$  and shows strong repulsions between protons and nuclei in all the hydrogens in the whole molecule.

### Reduced density gradients (RDG) for tucatinib

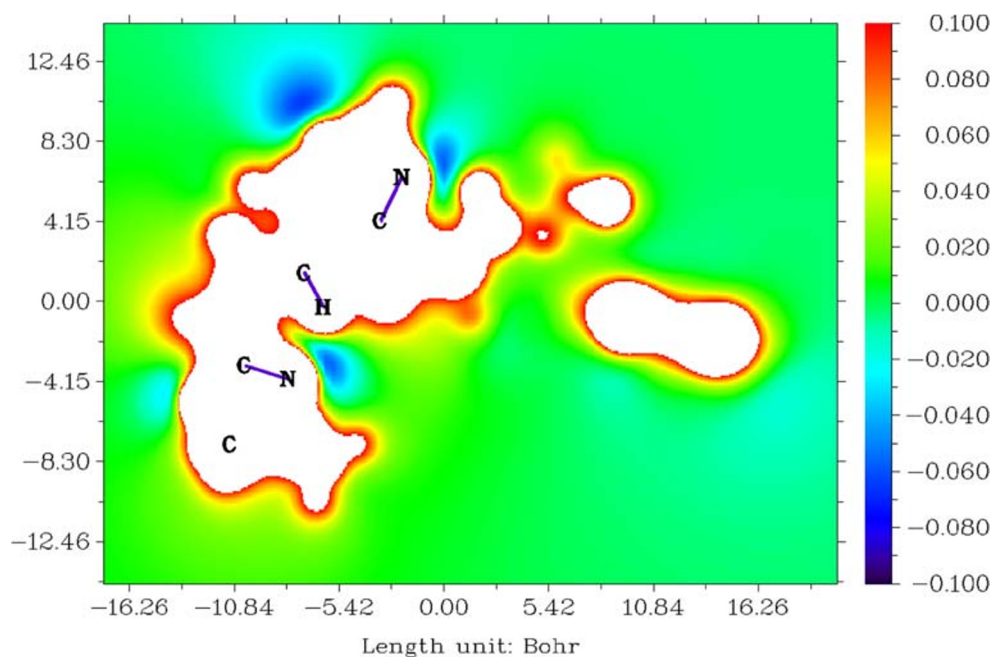
The reduced density gradient is directly proportional to the electronic density of the molecule. Which means a small reduced density gradient is low electronic density [88–92]. Figure 9 shows the reduced density gradient for tucatinib. Tucatinib has the range between  $-14.88$  and  $16.34$  Bohr<sup>3</sup>, values between  $0.000$  and  $1.000$ , and colour from blue to red shown in Fig. 9.

The colour red range between  $0.800$  and  $1.000$  shows the most probability of the reduced density gradients which occur in higher molecular weight elements which are oxygens, nitrogens and carbons in 4,4-dimethyloxazolamin, quinolinamin, methylphenyl and triazolopyridin groups.

### Local information entropy (LIE) for tucatinib

This study explains the stability of the molecule. Entropy is a feature of probability distributions and can take to be a qualification of uncertainty. The high value of local information entropy is directionally proportional to the uncertainty of electrons in spatial distribution [93, 94]. Figure 10 shows local



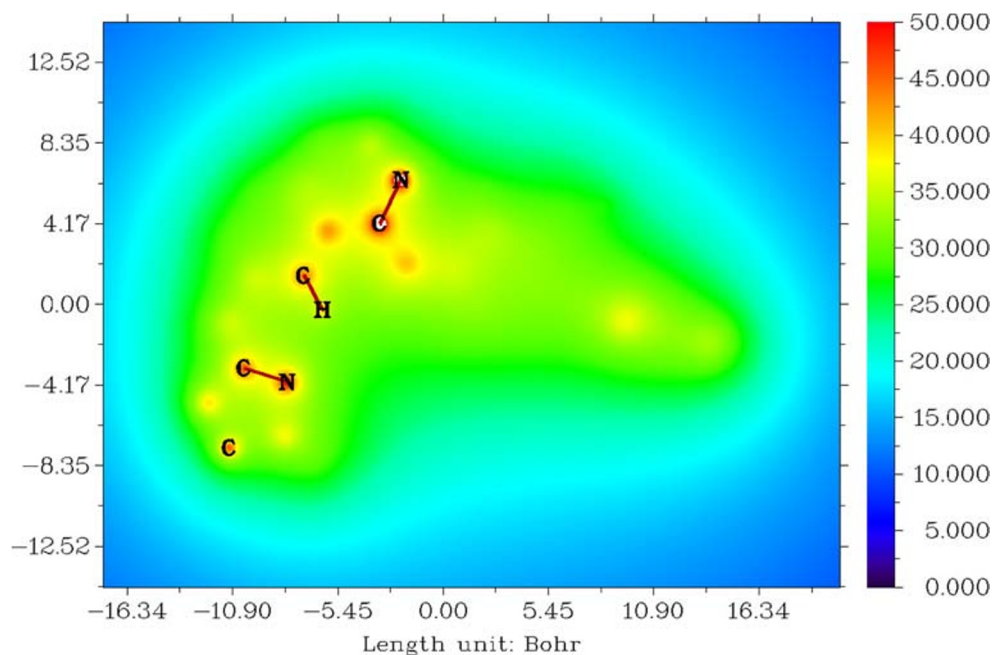
**Fig. 7** Molecular electrostatic potentials for tucatinib

information entropy for tucatinib. Tucatinib has the range between  $-16.34$  and  $16.34$  Bohr<sup>3</sup>, values between 0.000 and 0.100, and colour from blue to red shown in Fig. 10.

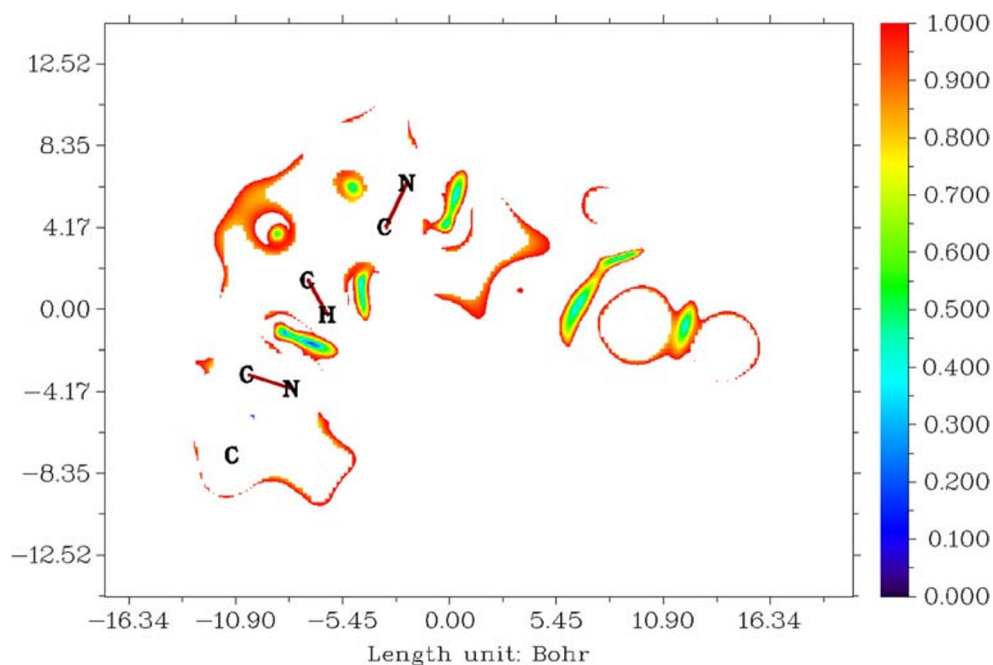
The colour blue shows the entropy value between 0.000 and 0.015 which denotes low uncertainty regions in 4,4-dimethyloxazolamin, quinolinamin, methylphenyl and triazoxypyridin groups. The colour bluish-green shows the moderated entropy values between 0.035 and 0.045 which denotes moderated uncertainty of the elements which are carbons, nitrogens and oxygens in 4,4-dimethyloxazolamin and quinolinamin groups.

### Non-covalent interactions (NCI) for tucatinib

A non-covalent interaction differs from a covalent bond by not involving the sharing of electrons but involving more dispersed variations of electromagnetic interactions between molecules or within a molecule. The three-dimensional arrangement of large molecules, such as protein and nucleic acids, is important to non-covalent interactions. Additionally, they are also involved in many biological processes where large molecules bind to each other specifically but transiently. These

**Fig. 8** Molecular electrostatic potentials from nuclear charges for tucatinib

**Fig. 9** Reduced density gradient for tucatinib

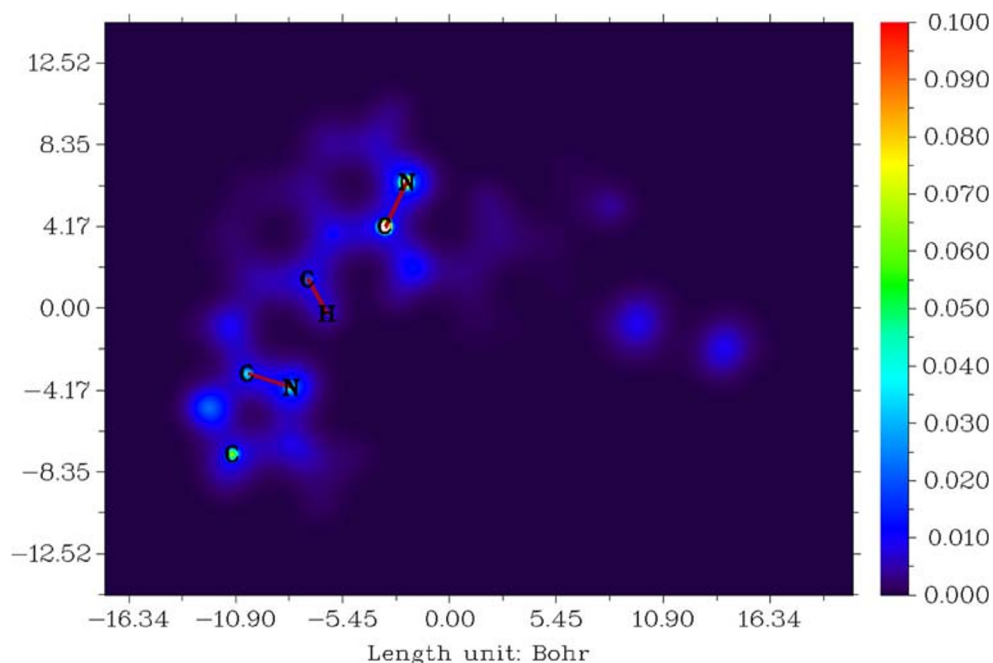


interactions also have a strong impact on drug design, crystallinity and material design, self-assembly and the design of synthesis of tailor-made organic molecules [89, 95]. The non-covalent interactions for tucatinib are shown in Fig. 11.

This study explains the non-covalent bonds which occur in the molecule. Figure 11 shows the non-covalent bonds which are hydrogen-bond, van der Waals and steric force type of bonds which occurs in the tucatinib; a graph plotted energy against reduced density gradient.

The hydrogen bonds appear between the range  $-0.020$  and  $-0.005$  a.u. from secondary amin-nitrogen attached in 4,4-dimethyloxazol to hydrogens in methyl in 4,4-dimethyloxazol and quinazolin groups, and from secondary amin-nitrogen attached in quinazolin to hydrogens in quinazolin and 2-methylphenoate groups, the van der Waals force between the range  $-0.005$  and  $0.003$  a.u. from oxygen in 2-methylphenolat to hydrogens in methyl in 2-methylphenoate and triazolepyridin groups, and steric force between the range  $0.004$  and  $0.050$  a.u. within the rings for 4,4-dimethyloxazol,

**Fig. 10** Local information entropy for tucatinib



quinazolin, 2-methylphenoate and triazolepyridin groups, and between 4,4-dimethyloxazol and quinazol, quinalolin and 2-methylphenolat, and 2-methylphenolat and triazolepyridin groups.

### Molecular docking study for tricatinib

Scientists around the globe are looking medicines for managing the COVID pandemic. It is always better to reroute the existing drugs for this pandemic as it could save lot of precious time for new drug discovery. We also thought in this direction and checked the activity of this drug against known COVID proteins. Molecular docking can be used as a tool to screen the biological activity of a compound [96, 97]. Molecular docking explains the structure relative activity of tucatinib against coronavirus2 proteins (PDB IDs: 6M03 [98], 6W63 [99], 6LZG [100] and 6LU7 [99]) deposited in the RSC database [30].

Table 5 shows the docking result from SwissDock server, tucatinib with coronavirus2 proteins are 6LU7, 6W63, 6M03 and 6LZG having full fitness values are  $-1276.22$ ,  $-1238.58$ ,  $-1243.04$  and  $-3497.47$  kcal/mol respectively, and estimated  $\Delta G$  are  $-9.42$ ,  $-8.94$ ,  $-8.45$  and  $-8.32$  kcal/mol respectively. The interactions tucatinib with 6LU7 having greater interfull fitness, intrafull fitness,  $\Delta G$  ligand solvent non-polar and  $\Delta G$  van der Waals force energies than other compared proteins, and protein 6LZG having greater energy, simple fitness, solvent full fitness, surface full fitness,  $\Delta G$  complex solvent polar,  $\Delta G$  complex solvent nonpolar,  $\Delta G$  protein

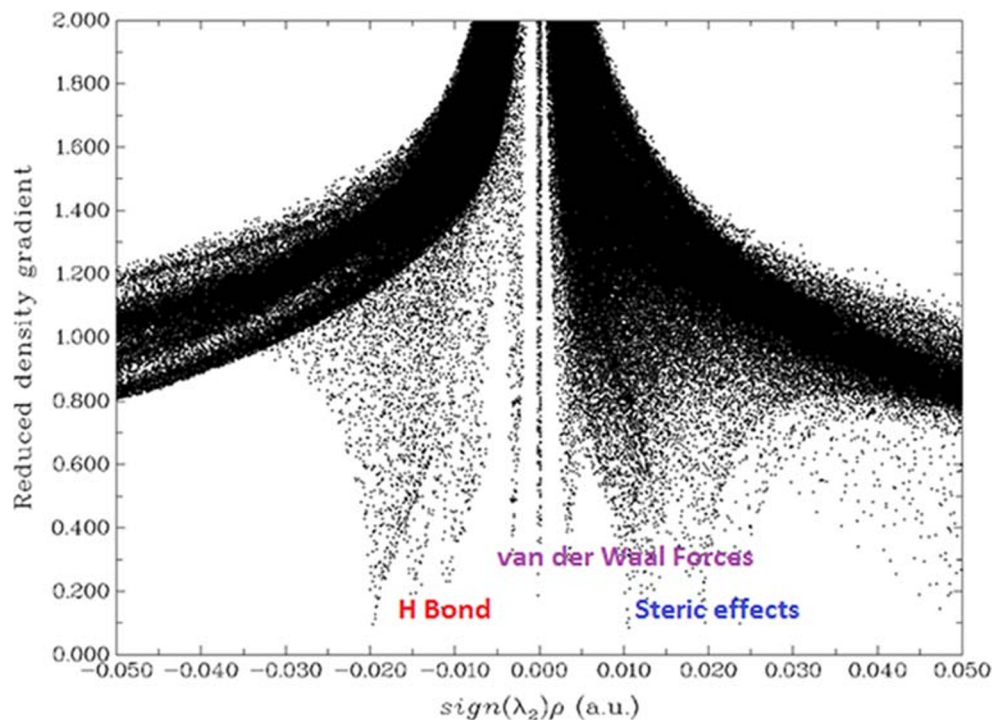
solvent polar,  $\Delta G$  protein solvent non-polar and  $\Delta G$  ligand solvent polar energies than other compared proteins.

The results from the docking of tucatinib and coronavirus2 proteins with PDB IDs: 6LU7, 6W63, 6M03 and 6LZG using PatchDock gives the docking score values as 5640, 5594, 5470 and 6182 respectively. The interacting areas are 706.70, 74,840, 573.90 and 716.40  $\text{\AA}^2$  respectively; minimum atomic contact energies are  $-348.62$ ,  $-416.91$ ,  $-151.45$  and  $-128.30$  kcal/mol respectively; and molecule solvent accessibilities are 3158.43, 2819.61, 2753.54 and 3748.54  $\text{\AA}^2$  respectively for different proteins used. Figure 12 shows the skeletal structure and residues with labels of interactions between tucatinib with coronavirus2 proteins, and Table S8 explains the coronavirus2 protein labels, name, hydrophobicity, pKa, average isotropic displacement, secondary structure, residue solvent accessibility, sidechain solvent accessibility, percent solvent accessibility and percent sidechain solvent accessibility values.

Table S9 explains the non-covalent bonds which occur between tucatinib with coronavirus2 proteins are favourable non-bond, unfavourable non-bond and unsatisfied bond within tucatinib interacting with coronavirus2 proteins. Table S8 explains the non-covalent bonds are hydrophobicity, hydrophilicity, neutral, acidic and basic group label interactions between tucatinib with coronavirus2 proteins.

Figure S1, Table S2 and Table 4 explain the water-resistant as well as called hydrophobic interactions between tucatinib with coronavirus2 proteins. Figure S2, Table S9 and Table 6 show water-loving groups of interactions between tucatinib with coronavirus2 proteins. Table S9 and Table 6 with

**Fig. 11** Non-covalent interactions for tucatinib



**Table 5** Docking result for tucatinib with coronavirus2 proteins

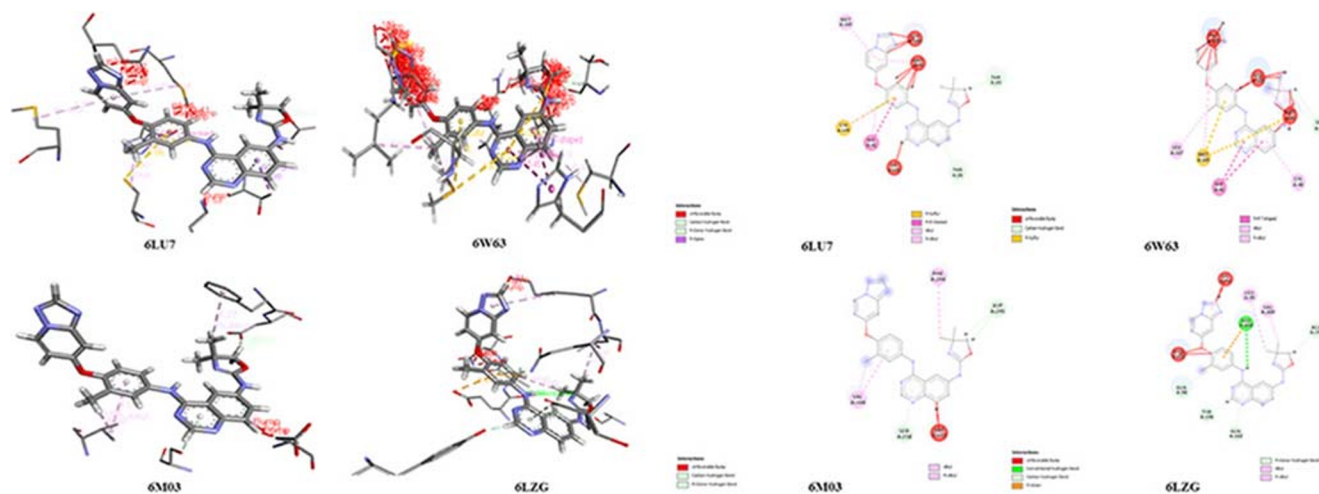
Parameters	6LU7	6W63	6M03	6LGZ
Energy	58.0421 kcal/mol	54.9743 kcal/mol	60.3017 kcal/mol	61.3409 kcal/mol
Simple fitness	58.0421 kcal/mol	54.9743 kcal/mol	60.3017 kcal/mol	61.3409 kcal/mol
Full fitness	-1276.2 kcal/mol	-1238.6 kcal/mol	-1243 kcal/mol	-3497.5 kcal/mol
Interfull fitness	-68.14 kcal/mol	-58.674 kcal/mol	-59.893 kcal/mol	-62.734 kcal/mol
Intrafull fitness	11.7314 kcal/mol	5.60706 kcal/mol	9.84711 kcal/mol	9.53814 kcal/mol
Solvent full fitness	-1439 kcal/mol	-1405.4 kcal/mol	-1413.6 kcal/mol	-3978 kcal/mol
Surface full fitness	219.201 kcal/mol	219.847 kcal/mol	220.597 kcal/mol	533.718 kcal/mol
Extra full fitness	0 kcal/mol	0 kcal/mol	0 kcal/mol	0 kcal/mol
$\Delta G$ complex solvent polar	-1439 kcal/mol	-1405.4 kcal/mol	-1413.6 kcal/mol	-3978 kcal/mol
$\Delta G$ complex solvent non-polar	219.201 kcal/mol	219.847 kcal/mol	220.597 kcal/mol	533.718 kcal/mol
$\Delta G$ protein solvent polar	-1411.4 kcal/mol	-1372.1 kcal/mol	-1385.7 kcal/mol	-3956.8 kcal/mol
$\Delta G$ protein solvent non-polar	221.095 kcal/mol	222.123 kcal/mol	221.3 kcal/mol	533.989 kcal/mol
$\Delta G$ ligand solvent polar	-62.539 kcal/mol	-61.961 kcal/mol	-64.017 kcal/mol	-63.078 kcal/mol
$\Delta G$ ligand solvent non-polar	10.0198 kcal/mol	9.94932 kcal/mol	9.90626 kcal/mol	9.90859 kcal/mol
$\Delta G$ van der Waals force	-68.14 kcal/mol	-58.674 kcal/mol	-59.893 kcal/mol	-62.734 kcal/mol
$\Delta G$ electric force	0 kcal/mol	0 kcal/mol	0 kcal/mol	0 kcal/mol
Total $\Delta G$	-9.4248 kcal/mol	-8.9381 kcal/mol	-8.4504 kcal/mol	-8.3247 kcal/mol

Fig. S3, S4 and S5 explain the neutral, acidic and basic groups of interactions between tucatinib with coronavirus2 proteins respectively.

## Conclusions

Tucatinib molecule having good HOMO-LUMO values, which show good chemical parameters energy gap, ionisation energy, electron affinity, global hardness, global softness, chemical potentials, electronegativity, electrophilicity index and nucleophilicity index. From the UV-Visible spectrum result, tucatinib has shown absorption peaks at 309.1468 and 267.5687 nm with 0.4431 and 0.2633 oscillator strengths.

From the NLO property of tucatinib, the dipole moment is 2.1797 times greater than urea and 7.9092 times greater than *p*-nitro acetanilide, hyperpolarisability is 10.9881 times greater than urea and 1.2032 times greater than *p*-nitro acetanilide, mean polarisability is 15.3529 times greater than urea and 3.0367 times greater than *p*-nitro acetanilide, the anisotropy of the polarisability is 16.9187 times greater than urea and 2.5999 times greater than *p*-nitro acetanilide, and molar refractivity (MR) is 15.3494 times greater than urea and 3.0360 times greater than *p*-nitro acetanilide. The NBO result explains the molecular bonding property of tucatinib having suitable occupancies with energies. The reaction site properties were electrostatic potentials, average localised ionisation energy and non-covalent interactions mostly occur on 4,4-



**Fig. 12** Skeletal structure of interactions between tucatinib and coronavirus2 proteins



**Table 6** Non-bond interactions label between coronavirus2 protein residues and tucatinib

Non-bond interactions	Name of the coronavirus2 proteins	Labels of the coronavirus2 proteins
Hydrophobicity	6LU7	THR A:24, THR A:26, HIS A:41, CYS A:44, MET A:49, GLY A:143, CYS A:145, MET A:165 and GLN A:189
	6W63	HIS A:41, CYS A:44, SER A:46, MET A:49, LEU A:50, MET A:165, LEU A:167, PRO A:168, GLN A:189 and ALA A:191
	6M03	PHE A:8, VAL A:104, ILE A:106, PHE A:112, ILE A:152, ASP A:153, SER A:158, PHE A:294, ASP A:295 and PHE A:305
	6LZG	LEU A:85, LYS A:94, LEU A:95, GLN A:98, GLN A:102, TYR A:196, GLU A:208, VAL A:209, ASN A:210 and ALA A:396
Hydrophilicity	6LU7	THR A:24, THR A:26, HIS A:41, ASN A:142, GLY A:143, HIS A:164, ASP A:187, ARG A:188 and GLN A:189
	6W63	HIS A:41, SER A:46, GLU A:166, PRO A:168, ASP A:187, ARG A:188, GLN A:189 and GLN A:192
	6M03	LYS A:102, ARG A:105, GLN A:107, GLN A:110, GLN A:127, ASN A:151, ASP A:153, SER A:158, ASP A:295 and ARG A:298
	6LZG	LYS A:94, GLN A:98, GLN A:102, TYR A:196, ASP A:206, GLU A:208, ASN A:210, ARG A:219, ASN A:397, LYS A:562 and GLU A:564
Neutral groups	6LU7	THR A:24, THR A:25, THR A:26, THR A:45, SER A:46, GLY A:143 and SER A:144
	6W63	THR A:45, SER A:46, PRO A:168, THR A:169, GLY A:170 and THR A:190
	6M03	THR A:111, SER A:158 and THR A:292
	6LZG	TYR A:196, GLY A:205, PRO A:565 and TRP A:566
Acidic groups	6LU7	ASP A:187
	6W63	GLU A:166 and ASP A:187
	6M03	ASP A:153 and ASP A:295
	6LZG	ASP A:206, GLU A:208 and GLU A:564
Basic groups	6LU7	HIS A:41, HIS A:164 and ARG A:188
	6W63	HIS A:41 and ARG A:188
	6M03	LYS A:102, ARG A:105 and ARG A:298
	6LZG	LYS A:94, ARG A:219 and LYS A:562

dimethylloxazol, amin- in 4,4-dimethylloxazole, quinazolin, amin- in quinazolin, 2-methylphenolat and triazolepyridin groups in tucatinib. From the molecular docking result, it explains types of interactions, hydrophilicity, and hydrophobicity, acidic, basic and neutral group residues of referred coronavirus2 proteins (6LU7, 6W63, 6M03 and 6LZG) with tucatinib.

**Supplementary Information** The online version contains supplementary material available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00894-020-04603-1>.

**Authors' contributions** Ali Alsalmeh: Problem selection, writing and data analysis.

T. Pooventhiran: Simulations, analysis, manuscript first draft.

Nabil Al-Zaqri: Methods, project management, result analysis, manuscript editing.

D. Jagadeeswara Rao: Result analysis, manuscript editing.

Siriki Srinivasa Rao: Data analysis, writing.

Renjith Thomas: Conceiving problem, project management, software, simulations, supervision.

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**Data availability** Related data are provided in the Supplementary materials.

## Compliance with ethical standards

**Conflict of interest** The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

**Ethics approval** NA.

**Consent to participate** NA.

**Consent for publication** NA.

**Code availability** NA.

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