

Supporting Information

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SI Text

SI Methods. Cloning. TwcKR (residues 6108–6685; UniProtKB Q23551) and its sub-fragments (except kin-CRD, see below) were cloned into the expression vector pETM-11 (EMBL collection) using KpnI and NcoI restriction sites. This vector incorporates a His₆-tag and a TEV protease cleavage site N-terminal to the target construct. Because the DNA of TwcKR contains an internal recognition sequence for NcoI, the primers were designed to use BsmBI and KpnI for restriction digestion. These sites yielded overhangs compatible with the pETM-11 vector that had been digested with NcoI and KpnI. (To ease structural annotation, residue 6,108 is considered here as residue 1).

The construct Kin-CRD was amplified from the TwcKR plasmid and cloned through NcoI/Acc65I sites into the pETM-13 vector that incorporates a C-terminal His₆-tag into the protein. To overcome problems derived from the internal NcoI site, a PciI restriction site was introduced in position 5' of the construct and the digested fragment ligated into the NcoI site of the plasmid.

Protein production. TwcKR was expressed in *Escherichia coli* BL21 (DE3) Rosetta2 (Novagen). Cultures were grown at 30 °C up to an OD₆₀₀ of 0.6 in Luria Bertani medium supplemented with 25 µg/mL kanamycin and 34 µg/mL chloramphenicol. Expression was induced with 0.5 mM IPTG and cultures grown for further 18 h at 20 °C. Cells were harvested by centrifugation. Bacterial pellet was resuspended in lysis buffer (50 mM Tris pH 7.9, 500 mM NaCl, 2 mM β-ME) containing protease inhibitors (Roche). Lysis used French pressing in the presence of DNase I. The homogenate was clarified by centrifugation and affinity purified using a Ni²⁺-chelating HisTrapHP column (GE Healthcare) equilibrated in lysis buffer. Elution used 200 mM imidazole. Tag removal was by incubation with TEV protease overnight at 4 °C during dialysis against 50 mM Tris pH 7.9, 200 mM NaCl, 2 mM β-ME. A final purification step used subtractive metal affinity. The protein, approximately 98% pure as judged by SDS-PAGE, was concentrated by ultrafiltration while the buffer exchanged to 50 mM Tris pH 7.9, 50 mM NaCl, 2 mM DTT. The protein was stored at 4 °C until further use. The yield of pure protein was approx. 60 mg/L culture.

Crystal structure determination. Crystals of TwcKR were grown at 20 °C in sitting-drops using 96-well plates. Drops consisted of 1 µL protein solution at 24 mg/mL and 1 µL mother liquor containing 20% PEG 600, 100 mM sodium citrate pH 5.5, 50 mM MgCl₂. Crystals exhibited a thin-plate morphology with approximately dimensions of 0.3 × 0.15 × 0.05 mm³ and formed clusters from which single crystals were excised. For X-ray data collection, crystals were cryoprotected in mother liquor supplemented with 20% PEG 400 and shock frozen in liquid nitrogen.

X-ray diffraction data were collected at 100 K on beamline I02 at Diamond (Didcot, United Kingdom). Data were processed in XDS/XSCALE (1). Processing statistics and crystal parameters are given in Table 1 in the main text. Phasing was by molecular replacement (MR) in Phaser (2) using PDB entry 1KOA (3) as search model for the kinase and Ig²⁶ domains that were treated independently. Domain Fn⁴¹⁷⁰ from titin [2NZI; (4)] was used as search model for Fn³¹ (43% sequence identity). The MR composite model was initially improved in ARP/wARP (5) using free dummy atoms. Subsequent rebuilding used cycles of manual building in COOT (6) and TLS refinement in Phenix (7). Solvent building was in Phenix and ordered components of the crystallization buffer were modeled in COOT. The completed model was

optimized with PDB_REDO (8), using Refmac with local NCS restraints (9). The final models of the two molecular copies in the asymmetric unit were virtually identical [0.56 Å rmsd for 556 C α -atoms calculated with SPDBV; (10)]. Refinement and model statistics are given in Table 1 in the main text. The final model contains all protein residues at exception of the 104-RKRRR-108 motif in copy A and 4 and 10 residues at the N and C terminus, respectively, that were disordered. Model coordinates and diffraction data have been deposited with the Protein Data Bank (accession code 3UTO).

Phosphorylation assays. In vitro phosphorylation was assayed in 20 µL of assay buffer (20 mM Tris pH 7.4, 10 mM Mg²⁺-acetate, 0.05% Tergitol-type NP40, 0.1 mM DTT, 0.2 mg/mL BSA) containing 0.4 mM ATP (0.2 µCi/reaction of [γ -³³P]ATP), 30 ng/mL recombinant kinase and 0.2 mg/mL peptide substrate at room temperature. The peptide substrate had sequence KKRRARAATSNVFS and derived from chicken smooth muscle regulatory myosin light chain (kMLC 11–23) (11). At indicated time points, 5 µL of reaction mixture was withdrawn and spotted on P81 phosphocellulose paper (Whatman). The paper was washed (5 × 10 min) with 75 mM orthophosphoric acid and finally once with ethanol, air dried and exposed to phosphor-screen. The screen was imaged with Fujifilm BAS 2500 phosphor-imager. Background subtraction and spot intensity quantification used AIDA software. Control measurements in the absence of peptide substrate showed no counts and, thus, that measurements were not the result of autophosphorylation.

X-Ray solution scattering. SAXS data were collected on the EMBL beamline X33 (DESY, Hamburg) using a photon counting Pilatus 1 M detector (DECTRIS, Switzerland). Samples were measured at solute concentrations of 1.4, 2.5, 4.1, and 6.1 mg/mL. The scattering intensity I in the range of momentum transfer $0.01 < s < 0.45 \text{ \AA}^{-1}$ was recorded ($s = 4\pi \sin \theta / \lambda$, where $\lambda = 1.5 \text{ \AA}$ is the X-ray wavelength and 2θ is the scattering angle) at a sample-detector distance of 2.7 m. Radiation damage, monitored by repetitive 15 s exposures, was negligible. Background scattering was subtracted and data reduced, normalized, and extrapolated to infinite dilution using PRIMUS (12). Also in PRIMUS, the forward scattering $I(0)$ and the radius of gyration R_g were evaluated using the Guinier approximation. These parameters were also computed from the entire scattering patterns using the indirect transform package GNOM (13), providing also the pair distribution function of the particle $p(r)$ and the maximum size D_{max} . The molecular mass (MM) was estimated from $I(0)$ by normalization against reference solutions of bovine serum albumin and it indicated that TwcKR is mostly monomeric in solution in this concentration range.

Ab initio models were created in GASBOR (14), where a simulated annealing algorithm is employed to construct a model with a “chain”-like distribution of beads that provides the best fit to the experimental data. The results of multiple GASBOR runs (20 runs) were averaged to determine common structural features using the programs DAMAVER (15) and SUPCOMB (16). The scattering pattern of the crystallographic model of TwcKR was calculated using CRY SOL (17). SASREF (18) was employed to calculate a model of TwcKR by rigid body refinement of individual domain components against SAXS data. For this calculation, the crystal structure was fragmented into Fn³¹, β-hairpin, Nlinker crown, kinase, and Ig²⁶ as well as groups of these. The flexibility of the N-terminal region was assessed by an ensemble

optimization method (EOM) (19). Coexisting conformers were selected using a genetic algorithm from a pool containing a large number of randomly generated models. An ensemble pool of 10^5 structures (where Fn^{31} was connected by a flexible loop of eight residues to the NL-kinase-CRD-Ig²⁶ fraction of TwcKR) was generated to find the mixture of conformer models that fitted the experimental data. Multiple runs of EOM and the obtained subsets were analyzed to yield the R_g distributions in the optimum ensembles.

Molecular dynamic simulations. The atomic coordinates of TwcKR (or its kinase core fraction) were placed in ionized water boxes containing Na^+ and Cl^- ions at a concentration of 0.3 mol/l. The water boxes had sizes that accommodated the stretched molecular conformations. Each system was initially equilibrated for 10 ns, holding the $\text{C}\alpha$ -atoms of the N- and C-terminal residues fixed to preserve protein orientation. Altogether, the TwcKR system included 510'000 atoms (box size $605 \times 96 \times 88 \text{ \AA}^3$) and was simulated for a total time of 100 ns (including equilibration time).

The kinase-CRD system contained 553'000 atoms in a solvation box of $865 \times 87 \times 74 \text{ \AA}^3$ and was simulated for a total of 74 ns.

All MDS were performed using NAMD 2.7 (20) and analyzed with VMD 1.9 (21). The CHARMM22 (22) force field with CMAP corrections (23) was employed and the TIP3P (24) model used for water molecules. Van der Waals interaction cutoff distances were set at 12 \AA (smooth switching function beginning at 10 \AA) and long-range electrostatic forces were computed using the particle-mesh Ewald (PME) summation method (25) with a grid size of 1 \AA . For equilibrium simulations, constant temperature ($T = 300 \text{ K}$) was enforced using Langevin dynamics with a damping coefficient of 1 ps^{-1} , and constant pressure ($p = 1 \text{ atm}$) enforced through the Nosé-Hoover Langevin piston method with a decay period of 100 fs and a damping time constant of 50 fs. Force-responses were probed by SMD simulations (26), which fixed the $\text{C}\alpha$ -atom at the molecular N terminus and applied a spring force to that at the C terminus. The constant velocity stretching protocol (as described in refs. 27, 28) was used with a constant velocity of 5 $\text{\AA}/\text{ns}$ and a spring constant of $3k_B T/\text{\AA}^2$. Iterative truncation procedures were not applied.

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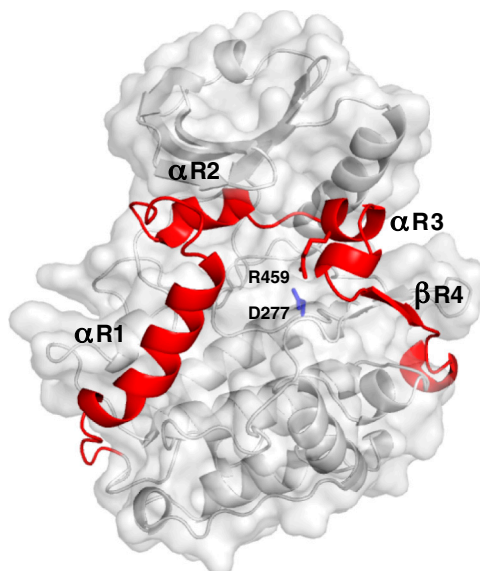


Fig. S1. Structure of the C-terminal regulatory tail domain of twitchin kinase. Secondary structure elements are labeled. The inhibitory salt bridge between the tail residue R459 and the catalytic aspartate D277 is shown. The C-terminal regulatory segment (CRD) folds into three helical segments (α R1, α R2, α R3) and a short terminal β -strand (β R4) (nomenclature as in ref. 1). Helix α R2 is of the 3_{10} type and is wedged between both kinase lobes, blocking the ATP binding site. Helix α R3, that is interrupted by a proline residue in its mid point (splitting in α R3 and α R3'), blocks the binding site of the phosphorylatable substrate and inactivates the catalytic base D277 by forming a salt bridge to its residue R459 (residue numbering defined in *Methods*). The C-terminal β -strand β R4 packs against strand β C10 from the activation loop of the kinase, forming a two-stranded antiparallel β -sheet. The CRD is followed by domain Ig²⁶ that makes contact with the kinase domain. The relative position of Ig²⁶ coincides with that observed previously (2) [0.74 Å rmsd for 441 shared C α atoms in the kin-CRD-Ig²⁶ fraction calculated with SPDBV; (3)], indicating that the arrangement is not merely caused by crystal packing.

1 Hu SH, et al. (1994) Insights into autoregulation from the crystal structure of twitchin kinase. *Nature* 369:581–584.

2 Kobe B, et al. (1996) Giant protein kinases: Domain interactions and structural basis of autoregulation. *EMBO J* 15:6810–6821.

3 Guex N, Peitsch MC (1997) SWISS-MODEL and the Swiss-PdbViewer: An environment for comparative protein modeling. *Electrophoresis* 18:2714–2723.

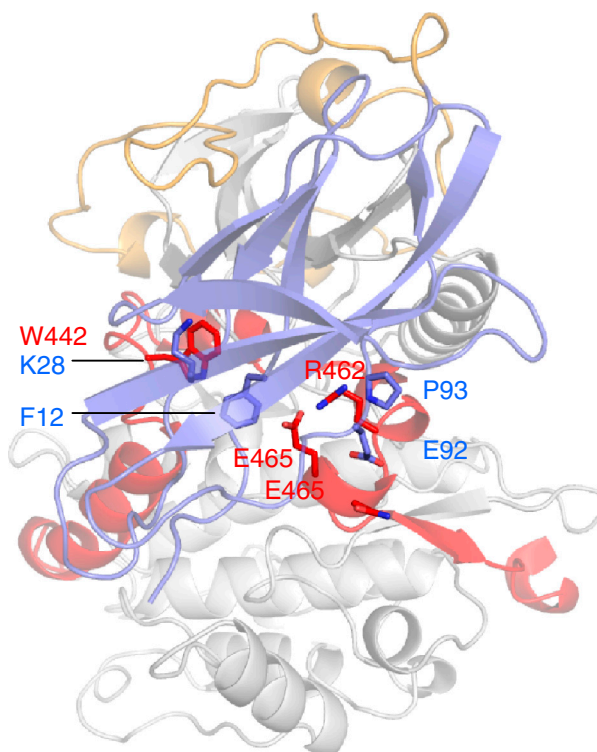


Fig. S2. Inter-modular contacts of Fn³¹ observed in the crystal structure. Crystal structure viewed from the N terminus. Structural regions are color-coded as in the main text. The residues involved in the interactions are shown amid a semi-transparent ribbon of the global fold. Direct interactions are listed below in Table S1. Two clusters of interacting residues can be identified that mediate the docking of Fn³¹ against the CRD tail: (i) one predominantly hydrophobic, consisting of W422, F12, and the aliphatic chain of K28; (ii) the other polar, where residue R462 from the CRD binds the main-chain of E92 and P83 in Fn³¹, and the lateral carbonyl group of E92 in Fn³¹ interacts with the main chain of Q464 and E465 in the CRD.

N-linker

Kinase

Junction β-hairpin Crown

β1 β2 129 160

Twitchins / Projectins

Table with columns: SP, protein name, percentage, taxonomic group, and coordinates. Lists proteins like UNC22, A8XON6, E3MSU4, etc.

Sequence alignment for Twitchins/Projectins. Shows conserved regions with red boxes highlighting specific motifs like 'KEDKTRAMNYDEEVDRE' and 'EEDDE'. Includes N-linker and Kinase domains.

Titins

Table with columns: SP, protein name, percentage, taxonomic group, and coordinates. Lists proteins like TITIN_HUMAN, G3QYH8, etc.

Sequence alignment for Titins. Shows conserved regions with red boxes highlighting motifs like 'KEDKTRAMNYDEEVDRE' and 'EEDDE'. Includes H3 and βC4-βC5 domains.

Table with columns: SP, protein name, percentage, taxonomic group, and coordinates. Lists proteins like UNC22, A8XON6, E3MSU4, etc.

Sequence alignment for H3 and βC4-βC5 domains. Shows conserved regions with red boxes highlighting motifs like 'EEDDE' and 'EEDDE'. Includes H3 and βC4-βC5 domains.

Twitchins / Projectins

				α R1	α R2	α R3	α R3' β R4
1	SP:UNC22_CAEL	100.0%	6205:6580	QIPSSRYTKIRDSIKTKYDAWPEPLPPLGRISNYS	SSLRKHFPQEYS	IRDAFWDR	
6	TR:A8X0N6_CAEBR	96.3%	6486:6878	QIPSSRYTKIRDSIKSKYDAWPEPLPPLGRISNYS	SSLRKHFPQEYS	IRDAFWDR	
7	TR:E3MSU4_CAERE	96.5%	6393:6787	QIPSSRYTKIRDSIKSKYDAWPEPLPPLGRISNYS	SSLRKHFPQEYS	IRDAFWDR	
8	TR:F1KPE9_ASCSU	75.4%	5989:6360	QIPSERYHSIRDSIRHKYDAWPEPNPPLGRISNYS	SSLKKHFPGEYH	MHDAWFNR	
9	TR:A8Q0L6_BRUMA	71.1%	5797:6170	QIPNERYHSIRDSVRQRYDAWPEPNPPLGRISNYS	SSLKKHFPSEYH	IHDTWFSR	
10	TR:E1FLZ9_LOALO	71.4%	2127:2500	QIPNERYHSIRDSVRQRYDAWPEPNPPLGRISNYS	SSLKKHFPTEYH	IHDTWFSR	
11	TR:E5S3T6_TRISP	65.3%	4940:5284	RIPSDRYVKYRDSIRQKYVDWPEPNPPLGRIAQY	SSLKKLQPKKYH	IKDTFFDR	
12	TR:Q16980_APLCA	60.0%	5:365	RIPSSRYNKIRQKIKEYADWPAQPAIGRIANF	SSLRKHFPQEYQ	IYDSYFDR	
13	TR:D6W7B4_TRICA	58.1%	7877:8251	VISQSKYLKIRDKIRAKYDNDWDSFILPLGRLSEY	SSLRKLIDKYH	IHDTFFDR	
14	TR:E0VID6_PEDHC	56.6%	7826:8198	LIDTSRYRMRDKIRAKYSDWDSFILPLGRLAEY	SSLRKLIVKEYH	IYDSYFDR	
15	TR:Q86GD6_PROCL	56.6%	7628:8002	PIDMMRYIPIRDKIRAKYKEWAKFILPLGRLAEY	SSLRKLIDKYH	IHDTFFDR	
16	TR:E2BUG0_HARSA	57.6%	4926:5295	PIASSRYLSIRDRLRAKYENWDKYVPLIGRLAEY	SSLRKLIDKYH	IYDSYFDR	
17	TR:Q7YT99_MYTGA	56.1%	3826:4197	RIPSSRYDSIRSKMRKYADWPAIPNPAIGRIANF	SALRKHFPKDYH	IYDSYFDR	
18	TR:B4NHW1_DROWI	57.1%	8205:8577	KIARDRYLAYRDKLRKKYEDFEKYLPLIGRLSEY	SSLRKLMEKYH	IHDAVFDR	
19	TR:B5DRZ6_DROPS	56.6%	5199:5571	KIARDRYLAYREKLRKKYEDFEKYLPLMGRLSEY	SSLRKLMEKYH	IHDAVFDR	
20	TR:B4H896_DROPE	56.6%	7318:7690	KIARDRYLAYREKLRKKYEDFEKYLPLMGRLSEY	SSLRKLMEKYH	IHDAVFDR	
21	TR:B4JZU2_DROGR	56.0%	7845:8217	KIARDRYLAYREKLRKKYADFEKYLPLIGRLSEY	SALRKLMEKYH	IYDAVFDR	
22	TR:B3N0W9_DROAN	55.2%	7911:8283	AIIRDRYLAYREKIRKKFEDFEKYLPLIGRLSEY	SSLRKLMEKYH	IHDTVFDR	
23	TR:D0Z7E3_DROVI	55.7%	7962:8329	KIARDRYLAYREKLRKKYEDFGKYLPLIGRLAEY	SSLRKLMEKYH	MHDAVFDR	
25	TR:Q961U1_DROME	55.4%	728:1095	EINRDYRAYREKLRKKYEDFERFLPLIGRLSEY	SSLRKLMEKYH	IHDAVFDR	
30	TR:B4IYZ8_DROSE	55.4%	1444:1811	EINRDYRAYREKLRKKYEDFERYPLPLIGRLSEY	SSLRKLMEKYH	IHDAVFDR	
32	TR:B4PW26_DROYA	55.2%	7933:8300	IINRDYRAYREKLRKKYEDFERYPLPLIGRLSEY	SSLRKLMEKYH	IHDAVFDR	
34	TR:Q17HV9_AEDAE	53.1%	6150:6524	LISIERYKTIIRDHIRRKYDNDWASFVLPLGRLSEY	SALRKLIVTKYH	IHETSFDR	
35	TR:E3WIY5_ANODA	52.3%	6975:7348	VISIERYKQIRDLIRRKYENWASFVLPLGRLSEY	SALRKLIIQKYH	IITSVDR	
36	TR:Q7PXW9_ANOGA	52.0%	7186:7560	VISIERYKQIRDLIRRKYENWASFVLPLGRLSEY	SALRKLIIQKYH	IHETSVDR	
37	TR:B0W5W8_CULQU	51.7%	6148:6522	LISIERYKTIIRDHIRRKYDNDWASFVLPLGRLSEY	SALRKLIVTKYH	IHETSFDR	

Titins

				α R1	α R2	β R4
1	SP:TITIN_HUMAN	100.0%	32133:32500	IRTLKHRRYHTLIKDDL---NMVVS	AARISCGGAI	--SQKGVSVAKVVA
16	TR:G3QYH8_GORGO	99.7%	32963:33330	IRTLKHRRYHTLIKDDL---NMVVS	AARISCGGAI	--SQKGVSVAKVVA
20	TR:F1PV45_CANFA	98.1%	32114:32481	IRTLKHRRYHTLIKDDL---NMVVS	AARISCGGAI	--SQKGVSVAKVVA
21	TR:G1L1P3_AILME	97.0%	30066:30433	IRTLKHRRYHTLVKDDL---NMVVS	AARISCGGAI	--SQKGVSVAKVVA
23	TR:F1RZC8_PIG	97.6%	32167:32534	IRTLKHRRYHTLIKDDL---NMVVS	AARISCGGAI	--SQKGVSVAKVVA
24	TR:F1N757_BOVIN	96.5%	32151:32518	IRTLKHRRYHTLVKDDL---NMVVS	AARISCGGAI	--SQKGVSIKAVVVA
25	TR:G1U9S3_RABIT	96.5%	28909:29276	IRTLKHRRYHTLIKDDL---NMVVS	AARISCGGAI	--SQKGVSVAKVVA
27	TR:F6VG02_HORSE	96.2%	33007:33374	IRTLKHRRYHTLIKDDL---NMVVS	AARISCGGAI	--SQKGVSVAKVVA
29	SP:TITIN_MOUSE	95.1%	32995:33362	IRTLKHRRYHTLIKDDL---NMVVS	AARISCGGAI	--SQKGVSVAKVVA
39	TR:F7EAV6_XENTR	78.0%	29462:29828	IKTLRHHRYQTLIKKEW---NFAVS	VARICNGGAI	--SQKGVTVAKVVA
40	TR:Q7ZZ46_DANRE	65.5%	20008:20375	IKIIRHKRYQAMVKKKEW---NTVVS	SARVASGSIR	--SQKGVTVISKVVA

Fig. S3. Sequence alignment of the kinase regions of twitchins and projectins from nematodes, mollusks and insects. The alignment is annotated as to highlight the conservation of N- and C-terminal regulatory segments in twitchins and projectins. In the N-terminal linker region (NL), positively charged residues are colored blue, conservation in the β -strands of the β -hairpin loop is indicated in grey and defining features of the crown segment are in yellow. Tyrosine residues in the NL (or the structurally complementary region in sequences from mollusks) are marked in green as putative phosphorylation targets. The catalytic residue E201 in helix H3 of the kinase domain is shown in magenta. The motif of negatively charged residues in the β C4- β C5 loop is in red. In the CRD region, sequence conservation is shown in grey. Here, conserved groups are primarily located in secondary structure elements as well as in a final capping motif (with sequence FDR). Notably, the most C-terminal elements (i.e., the short α R3' helix and strand β R4)—proposed in this study as the most mechanically labile parts of the CRD—exhibit little conservation. The loop joining α R1 and α R2 in twitchins/projectins is markedly hydrophobic (colored green). For comparison, NL and CRD sequences for several representatives of vertebrate titins are included. The sequence displayed starts right after the termination of the preceding Fn3 domain, A170, and a vertical line indicates the beginning of the kinase domain (domain boundaries as revealed by the crystal structures of human TK [PDB entry 1TKI] and the tandem A168-A170 [2NZI]). The absence of the positively charged motif and the β -hairpin loop in the NL region is prominent. The crown region lacks the aromatic motif and is highly charged, being rich in negative groups (red). In the CRD, helix α R3 is missing, loops are shorter and helix α R2 is rich in small Gly and Ala residues. (Given that the sequence conservation across vertebrate titins is noticeably high, this has not been highlighted).

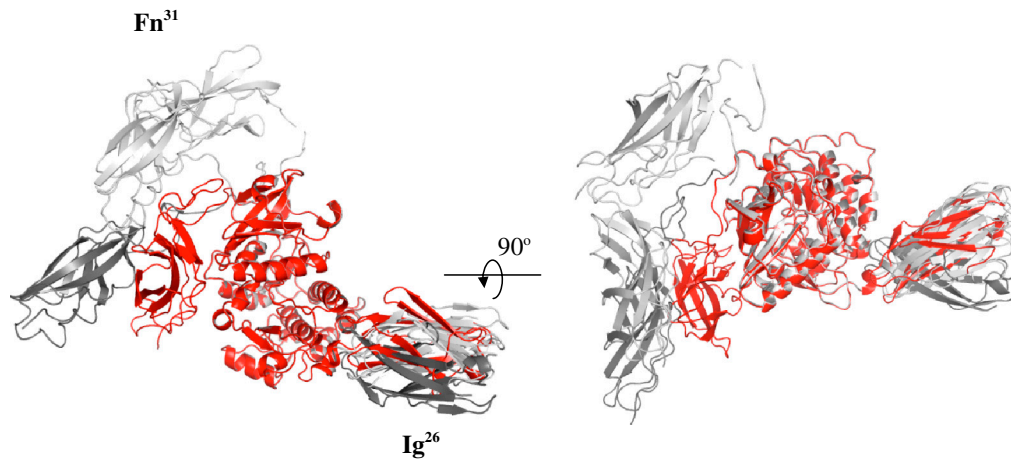


Fig. 54. Representative SAXS models calculated by rigid-body refinement. Orthogonal views are provided of a set of representative SAXS models (grey) calculated using rigid-body refinement in SASREF and superimposed on the crystal structure of twitchin comprising the domains Fn³¹-Nlinker-kinase-CRD-Ig²⁶ (TwcKR) (red). The SAXS models consisted of four rigid-body fragments—Fn³¹, NL front region, kinase-CRD, and Ig²⁶—that had been allowed to migrate independently and unrestrained, with the proviso that the corresponding C and N termini of consecutive fragments should not drift further apart than 5 Å distance and that no steric overlap should occur between rigid-bodies. Models resulting from refinements with this high degree of freedom showed large variations in the positioning of domain Fn³¹, while the arrangement of Ig²⁶ was typically in good agreement with the crystallographic model (light grey). Even those models differing in the position of Ig²⁶ (example shown in dark grey) did not deviate significantly. This result is probably due to the short linker sequence connecting the kinase-CRD module and Ig²⁶, which must limit the permitted relative arrangements of these domains. The variations affecting Ig²⁶ were mostly in the form of rotations around its primary molecular axis. It should be borne in mind that the Ig fold has the overall shape of a prolate ellipsoid of rotation, with a long primary axis but an isometric cross-section. As a result, rotations around the primary axis yield little change in overall molecular shape and are poorly distinguishable by SAXS. Thus, the position of Ig²⁶ in the resulting models is defined in the direction of the main axis, but poorly resolved in azimuthal orientations. Given (i) the good agreement of SASREF and crystallographic models in this region at the low resolution of the SAXS technique; and (ii) the good agreement of the Ig²⁶ position between current and previous crystallographic models (3), we saw no impediment in fixing the position of Ig²⁶ in subsequent cycles of SASREF studies. We then tested models in SASREF where the crystallographic kinase-CRD-Ig²⁶ fraction had been kept as a single rigid-body. This restraint helped the scoring of Fn³¹ positions.

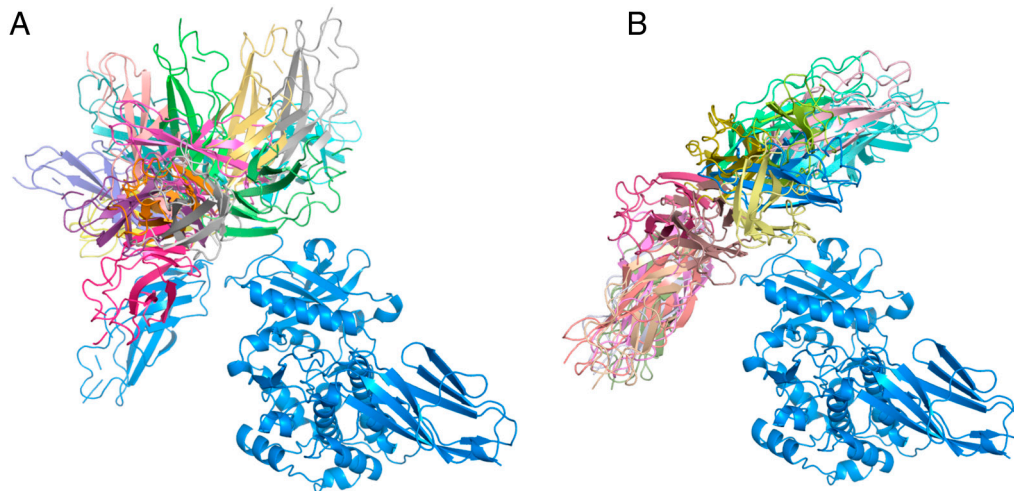


Fig. 55. EOM analysis of SAXS models. Structural diversity in SAXS models of TwcKR; (A) a set of representative models from a pool generated by randomly varying the junction between Fn³¹ and the N-linker; (B) a typical ensemble selected by EOM from the random pool. It should be noted that global molecular shapes where Fn³¹ is oriented at opposite rotational angles but with equivalent aperture angle are similar at low resolution and difficult to distinguish by SAXS.

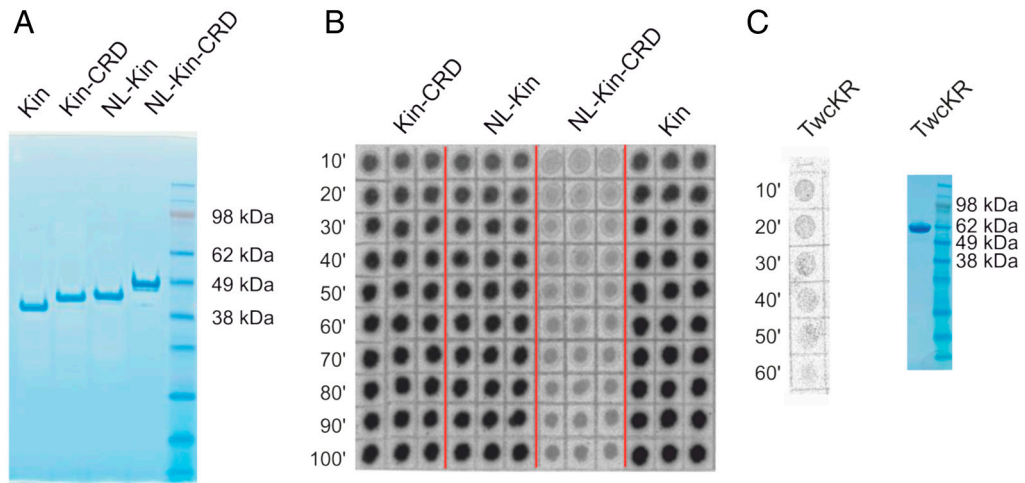


Fig. S6. Catalytic assays. (A) SDS-PAGE of purified kinase samples used in catalysis tests; (B) Spotted paper showing catalytic measurements (in triplicate) of TwcKR and subfragments on a MLCK-derived peptide substrate (see *Methods*). Sampling was at 10 min intervals; (C) Spot blots and SDS-PAGE of full-length TwcKR. Catalytic measurements of TwcKR were carried out in an independent experiment. The activity of both TwcKR and NL-kinase-CRD constructs was barely detectable and non-quantifiable.

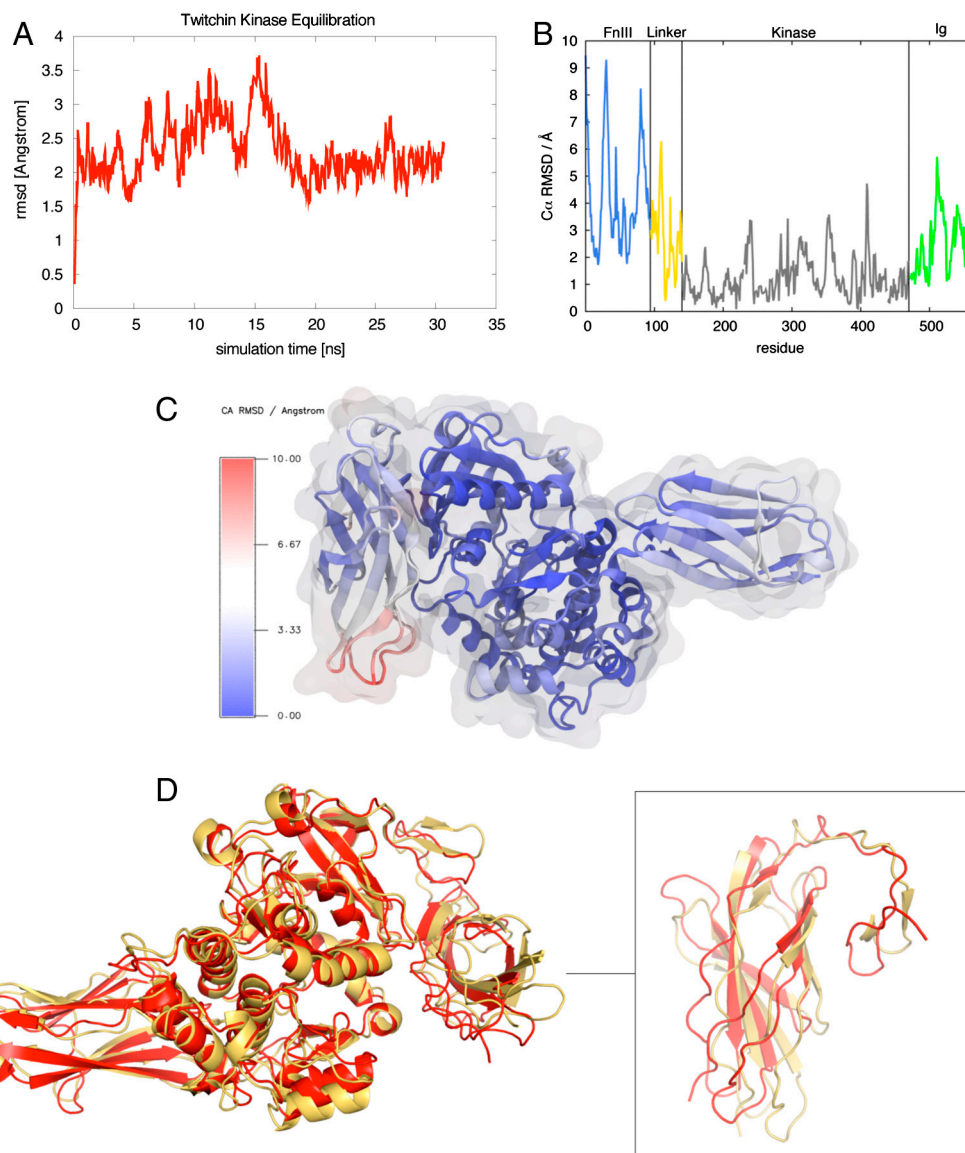


Fig. S7. Stability of the Fn^{31} /CRD interactions in Molecular Dynamics Simulations. (A) Variation of the overall rmsd between MD and crystallographic models over the equilibration simulation (30 ns). The trace suggests that equilibrium is reached after 20 ns; (B) rmsd per residue resulting from the comparison of the equilibrated MD model and the crystal structure of TwcKR when superimposed on the kinase domain alone. The trace shows that domain Fn^{31} and the NL front undergo the largest variation, while shifts in domain Ig^{26} are only small; (C) rmsd per residue mapped onto the crystal structure of TwcKR. This plot shows that the biggest displacements in the structure occur at the apex of Fn^{31} ; (D) Superimposition of the crystallographic (red) and MD (tawny) models. The comparison shows that the shift in domain Ig^{26} is limited to a small pivot motion around its single linker point to the kinase-CRD. Fn^{31} undergoes a more noticeable rocking motion. Positional variations in the domain are better appreciated in the *inset (Right)* that shows this region in isolation. As a result, the cluster of polar interactions (group *ii* in Fig. S2) is disrupted and no longer present in the MD equilibrated model, supporting the view that these are weak interactions and that the interaction of Fn^{31} with the kinase core is flexible. (It must be noted that the equilibrated MD state is unlikely to capture the full dynamics of this part of the molecule, which is probably far greater as indicated by SAXS).

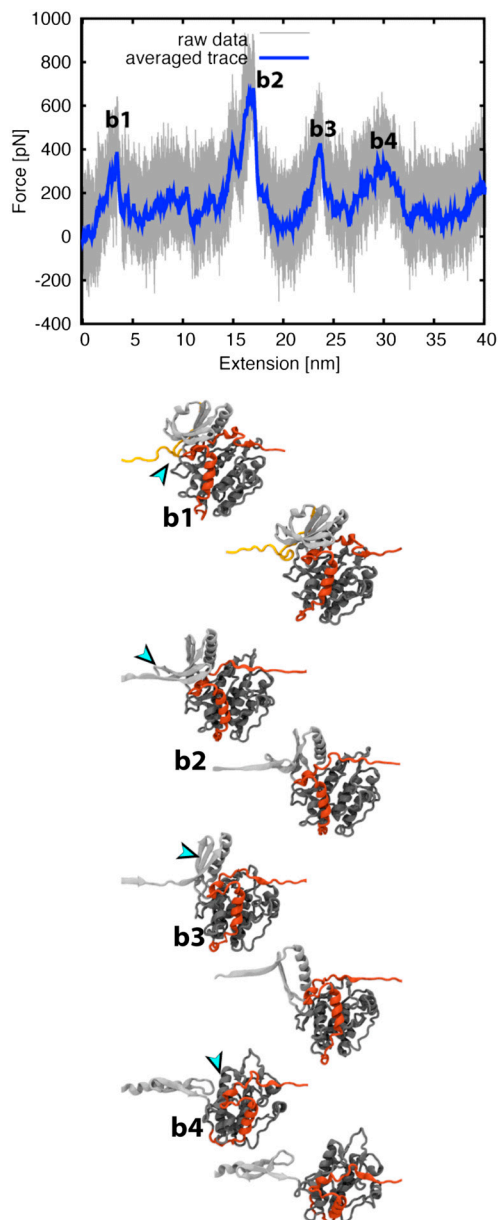


Fig. S8. Stretch response MD simulation on the isolated kinase core. Force extension curves (*Upper*) and stretch-induced conformational states corresponding to main mechanical events (*Lower*) in simulations of the NL-kinase-CRD fraction. The force peaks from primary unfolding events are labeled. Simulations were carried out until a molecular extension of approximately 30% contour length was reached. As in full-length TwcKR, also here the force extension curve showed that the NL and the C-terminal elements of the CRD (strand β R4 and α R3') unraveled first and at low force. As before, the further application of force caused the collapse of the N-terminal kinase lobe. The rest of the CRD, including helix α R2, remained firmly in place via interactions to the C-terminal kinase lobe and only unraveled after the N-terminal lobe had completely unfolded at 28 nm extension. The unfolding of the N-terminal kinase lobe occurred in three steps (FPb2-b4), where the two initial events (FPb2-b3) arise from the rupture of salt bridges and the third event (FPb4) results from the breaking of hydrogen bonds between strands β C3 and β C4. (Trajectory illustrated in Movie S3).

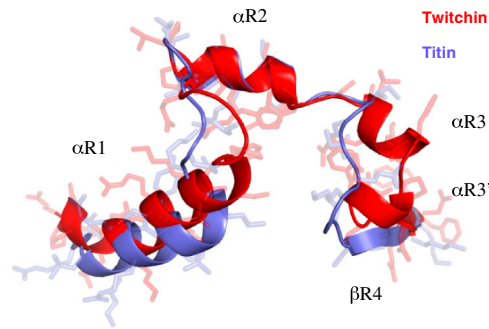
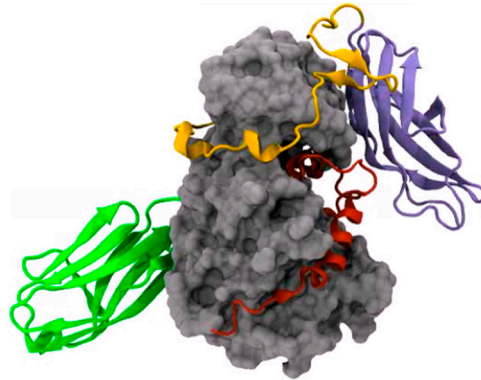
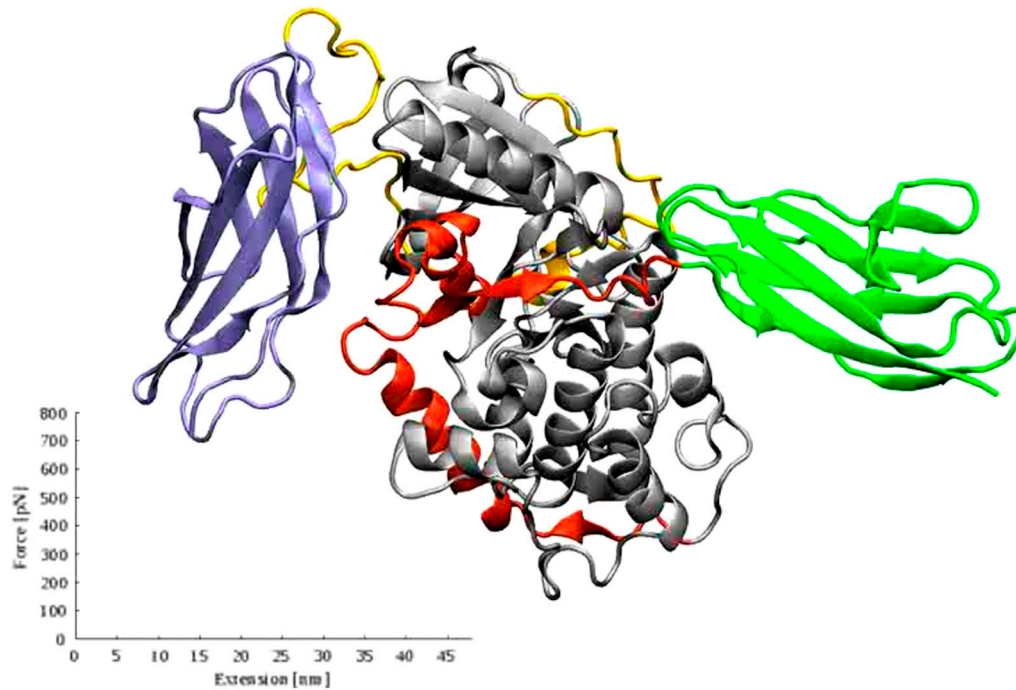


Fig. S9. Structural superimposition of the CRD regions of titin and twitchin kinases.



Movie S1. Crystal structure of TwcKR. (This video is an animation of Fig. 1B in the main text). Domains are color-coded as in Fig. 1 of the main text. Namely, domain Fn³¹ is shown in blue, the N-terminal linker is in yellow, the catalytic kinase domain is grey (surface representation), the C-terminal regulatory tail is red, and domain Ig²⁶ green.

[Movie S1 \(AVI\)](#)



Movie S2. Steered Molecular Dynamics of TwcKR. (This video is an animation of Fig. 5 in the main text). Trajectory of structural transitions and corresponding force extension curve. Protein domains are color-coded as in Fig. 1 of the main text.

[Movie S2 \(AVI\)](#)



Movie S3. Steered Molecular Dynamics of the core region of TwcKR. (This video is an animation of Fig. S8 in *SI Text*). Trajectory of structural transitions and corresponding force extension curve.

[Movie S3 \(MOV\)](#)

Table S1. Specific interactions of the N-terminal regulatory region

Fn ³¹	Ct-RD	Distance (Å)
F12 [N]	E465 [OE2]	2.8
E92 [O]	R462 [NH1]	2.9
E92 [O]	R462 [NH2]	3.1
E92 [OE1]	E465 [N]	3.0
E92 [OE2]	Q464 [N]	2.9
P93 [O]	R462 [NH1]	3.2
Fn ³¹	Nt-Linker	Distance (Å)
D17 [ND2]	G116 [O]	3.4
I18 [O]	R104 [NH1]	3.8
D20 [O]	G101 [N]	2.8
D20 [OD1]	R104 [NE]	2.7
P100 [O]	D102 [N]	3.0
P100 [O]	E103 [N]	3.0
G101 [O]	R104 [N]	3.5
D20 [OD1]	R104 [NH2]	3.4
Kinase	N-linker	Distance (Å)
S234 [OG]	D130 [OD1]	2.5
K288 [N]	D130 [OD1]	3.0
R289 [N]	D130 [OD2]	3.7
T178 [OG1]	Y140 [OH]	3.5
N180 [ND2]	Y140 [OH]	2.9
Q203 [NE2]	V145 [O]	3.4
E221 [N]	K148 [O]	3.1
Y156 [N]	V152 [O]	2.8
R176 [NH2]	L153 [O]	2.7
R176 [N]	H155 [O]	2.7
D222 [OD2]	R108 [NH1]	3.3
E225 [OE2]	R120 [NE]	3.0
E225 [OE1]	R120 [NH2]	2.8
H159 [O]	K122 [N]	3.6
E160 [OE2]	Y129 [OH]	2.5
E175 [OE1]	Y140 [OH]	2.6
S206 [OG]	V145 [N]	2.9
A219 [O]	K148 [N]	3.0
D222 [OD2]	H151 [ND1]	3.7
Y156 [N]	H155 [O]	2.2
E225 [OE1]	R108 [NH1]	3.7
D222 [OD2]	R108 [NH1]	3.3
E225 [OE1]	R120 [NE]	3.7
E225 [OE2]	R120 [NE]	3.0
E225 [OE1]	R120 [NH2]	2.8
E225 [OE2]	R120 [NH2]	3.6
D218 [OD1]	K148 [NZ]	3.2
D222 [OD1]	H151 [ND1]	3.9
D222 [OD2]	H151 [ND1]	3.7

Calculated using PISA (http://www.ebi.ac.uk/msd-srv/prot_int/pistart.html).