

A CRISPR-based genetic interaction map identifies synergistic drug combinations for cancer

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SUPPLEMENTARY TEXT

Analysis of the effect of two sgRNAs targeting the same gene on knockout efficiency

The CRISPR/Cas9 system has been shown to induce a spectrum of knockout alleles¹, which could complicate interpretation of genetic interactions. In addition, though it has been suggested that two sgRNAs targeting different locations within the same gene would synergistically enhance knockout efficiency², this has not been tested systematically. Since our system enables systematic analysis of genetic interactions between two sgRNAs, we looked closely at genetic interactions among double-sgRNAs targeting the same gene. As shown in supplementary figure 4, most of the pairs comprised of two sgRNAs targeting the same gene had buffering GIs. Interestingly, however, one of the top synergistic gene pairs predicted by GI_T score was TK1_TK1, a pair of the same genes (**Fig. 3d**). Therefore, when we systematically compared GIs of pairs of different sgRNAs targeting the same gene to those of the identical sgRNAs (**Supplementary Fig. 4a,b**), we observed more synergistic interactions from the pairs of the different sgRNAs. Although we observed buffering on average for most sgRNAs targeting the same gene, the pairs of the different sgRNAs showed less buffering - about half of the pairs of the identical sgRNAs (**Supplementary Fig. 4c**). Even for examples where a gene appeared to be synergistic with itself (**Supplementary Fig. 4d**), double-sgRNAs comprised of different sgRNAs were synergistic whereas double-sgRNAs comprised of identical sgRNAs were buffering. Overall, these data suggested that while most sgRNA pairs targeting the same gene show expected buffering, using two different sgRNAs to target different positions within the same gene could enhance the knockout efficiency. It has previously been shown that CRISPR-Cas9 system often produces functional in-frame variants¹. The synergies we observed from some double-sgRNAs targeting the same genes might be explained by these in-frame variants: for example, each sgRNA might produce functional in-frame mutants with negligible single phenotypes, however, the double-sgRNA combined together could remove a large portion of the gene and cause synergistic phenotypic defect^{3,4}.

Comparison of the GI frequency of the DrugTarget CDKO map to GI frequencies measured in previously published GI maps

Many previous GI map studies support that genetic interactions are rare unless they are measured in a gene set enriched for related protein complexes or signaling pathways. For

example, one of the early yeast GI map studies from the Boone group⁵ reported that the estimated frequency of synthetic lethal pairs was about 1 out of 200 (~0.5%). The most recent genome-by-genome yeast GI map from the same group⁶ reported average GI frequency (considering both buffering and synergistic interactions) at 4.3%. A large 1376 x 72 gene *Drosophila* GI map by the Boutros group⁷ reported a GI frequency of ~2.4% when using a growth phenotype. Finally, a 7 x genome-wide insertional mutagenesis screen in haploid human cells by the Brummelkamp group⁸ found a total of 139 synthetic lethal interactions (~0.1%). To estimate GI frequency in our DrugTarget CDKO map, we calculated q-values (statistical significance in terms of false discovery rate) of genetic interactions based on the distribution of p-values⁹ determined by the Mann-Whitney U test we used for GI_M scores (see **Supplementary Table 4 and 7**). When we used a q-value threshold of 0.05, the estimated GI frequency of the DrugTarget CDKO map is about 3.3%, which is comparable to previously reported GI frequencies.

SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

Supplementary Table 1. Selected 207 genes for DrugTarget-CDKO library

Supplementary Table 2. 700 sgRNAs for DrugTarget-CDKO library

Supplementary Table 3. Distribution of double-sgRNAs per gene pair after filtering

Supplementary Table 4. GI scores of DrugTarget-CDKO screen

Supplementary Table 5. Selected 79 genes for Ricin-CDKO library

Supplementary Table 6. 284 sgRNAs for Ricin-CDKO library

Supplementary Table 7. GI scores of Ricin-CDKO screen

Supplementary Table 8. 246 STRING interactions between 79 Ricin hits

Supplementary Table 9. STRING interactions in the 66 most correlated gene pairs

Supplementary Table 10. Selected 79 genes for DrugTarget Batch-retest

Supplementary Table 11. 287 sgRNAs for DrugTarget Batch-retest

Supplementary Table 12. sgRNAs used for the validation of individual sgRNA pairs

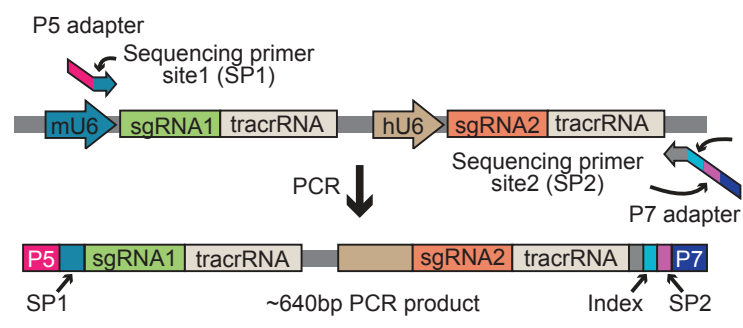
Supplementary Table 13. Summary of sgRNA and drug validations

Supplementary Table 14. 30 most synergistic DrugTarget pairs

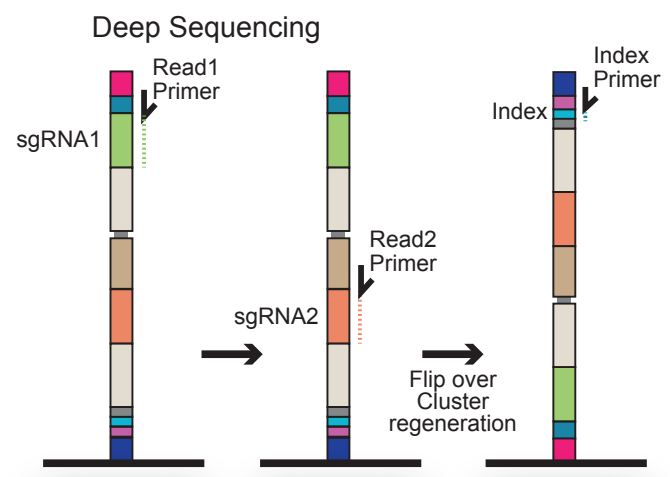
Figure S1.

a

Amplification of CDKO cassette from genomic DNA

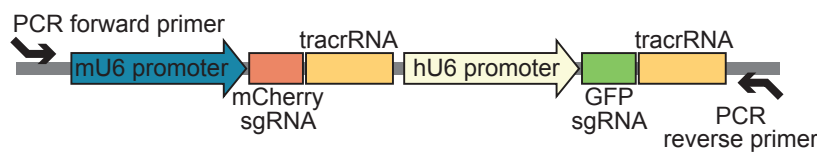


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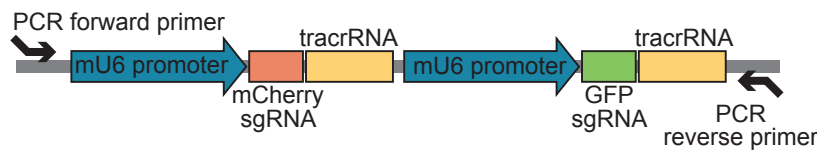


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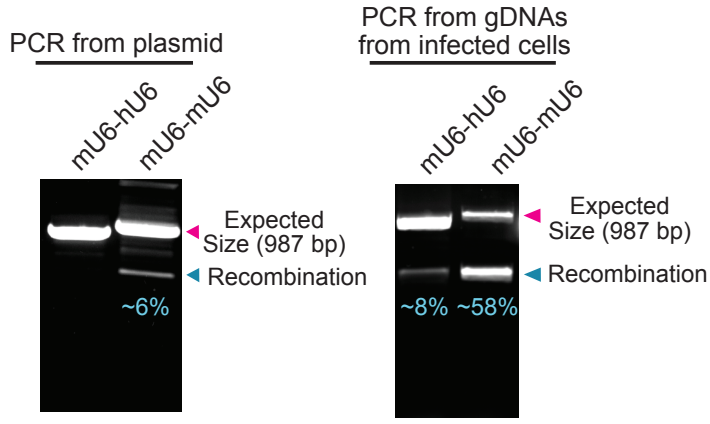
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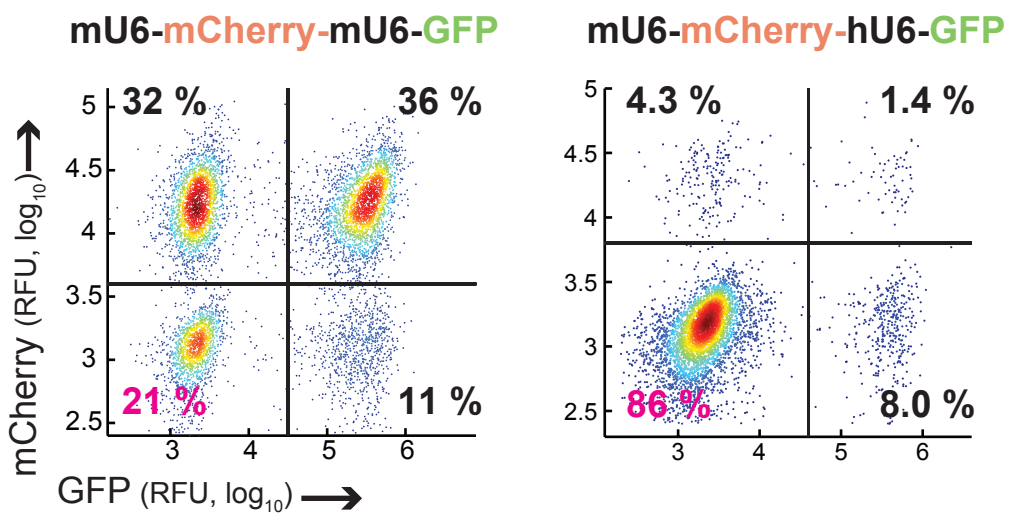
2) mU6-mU6



d



e



f

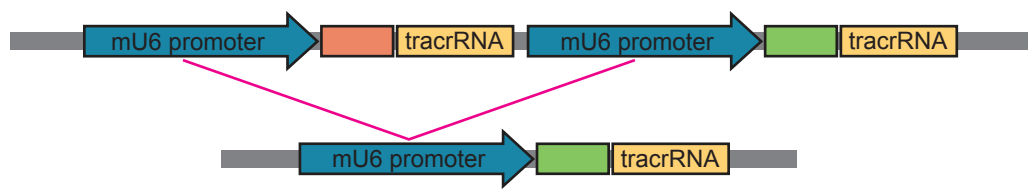


Figure S1. A scalable CDKO system with minimized recombination compatible with deep sequencing

(a) Generation of PCR amplicons for deep sequencing (**see methods**). Double-sgRNA cassettes were directly amplified from genomic DNA and adapters were added during two rounds of PCRs. (b) Paired-end sequencing to directly read double-sgRNAs. PCR amplicons (around 640 bp) were clustered efficiently in flow cells and three custom sequencing primers used to read a front sgRNA, a rear sgRNA, and an index in order. (c) Double-sgRNA vectors with either two identical mU6 promoters, or mU6 and hU6 promoters driving expression of mCherry and GFP-targeting sgRNAs, were PCR-amplified using the primer pairs indicated. (d) The double-sgRNA cassettes in panel c were PCR-amplified from either purified plasmids or genomic DNA isolated from K562 cells infected with the corresponding double-sgRNA vectors. Expected size of the PCR amplicons are marked with red arrows and PCR amplicons from recombination-affected vectors are marked with blue arrows. (e) Flow cytometry analysis of GFP and mCherry knockout efficiency in cells infected with the vectors in panel. (f) Sequencing of the recombination-affected PCR amplicon from the double-sgRNA vector with two identical mU6 promoters shows that the recombination happens between two mU6 promoters.

Figure S2.

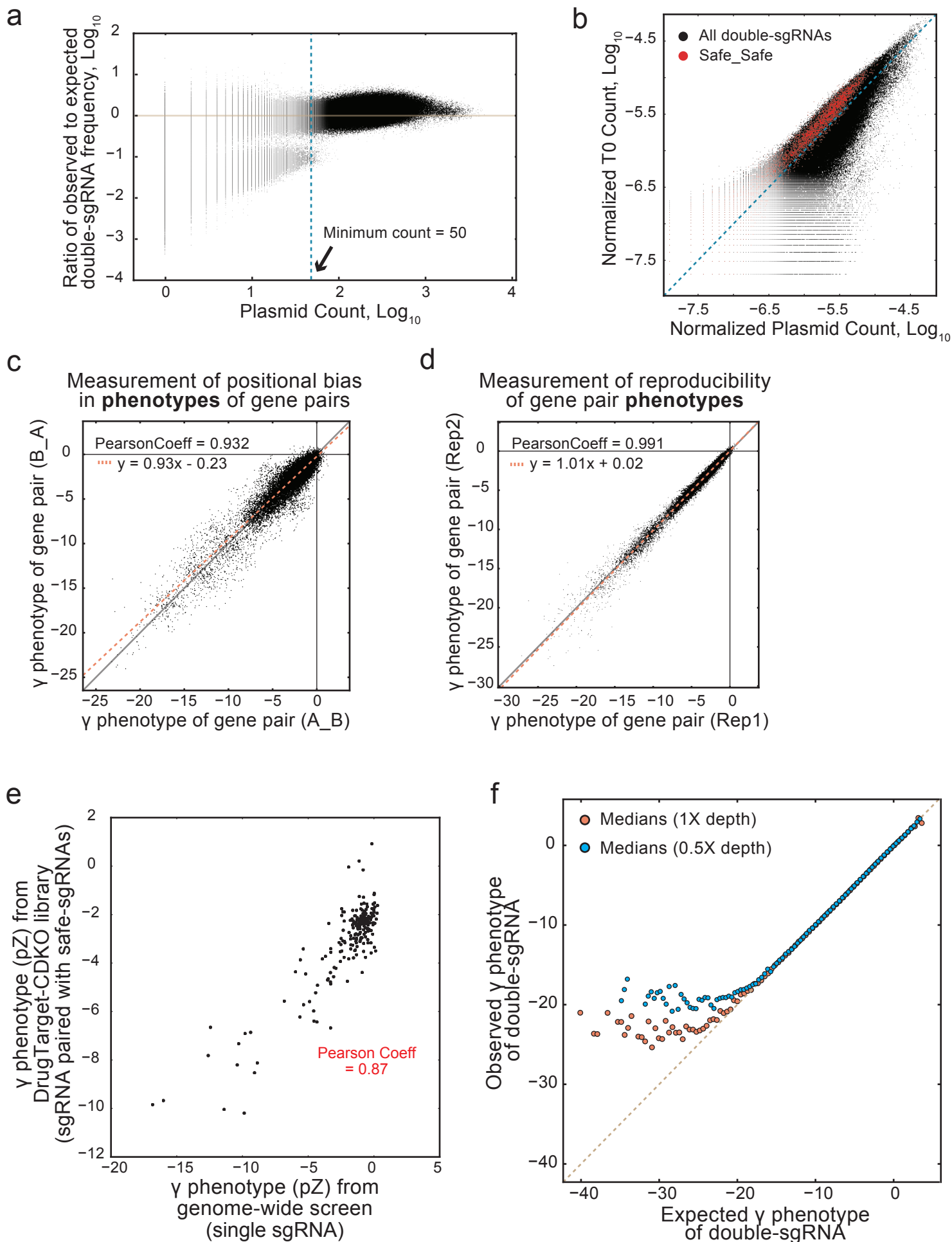


Figure S2. Assessment of the DrugTarget-CDKO library quality

(a) Estimating the minimally required read count for a double-sgRNA. From the representation of single-sgRNAs in the hU6 and mU6 single-sgRNA library, the expected frequency of double-sgRNAs were calculated and compared to the observed frequency of double-sgRNAs in the DrugTarget-CDKO library. Ratios of the two frequencies showed that under ~50 read counts, the observed frequencies markedly fell below the expected. Based on this data, double-sgRNAs with less than 50 read counts were removed from further analyses. (b) Frequencies of double-sgRNAs were compared between the Plasmid library and the T0 sample. Frequencies of Safe_Safe sgRNAs were slightly enriched in the T0 sample since most double-sgRNAs have negative γ phenotypes. (c) Minimal positional bias in DrugTarget-CDKO library. γ phenotypes of gene pairs were compared between both orientations. (d) High reproducibility of measured γ phenotypes of gene pairs between two experimental replicates. (e) Single knockout phenotypes of genes are highly correlated between the DrugTarget-CDKO screen and a previous genome-wide single-sgRNA screen¹⁰. (f) Sequencing depth affects the phenotypic plateau observed in **Fig. 3a**.

Figure S3.

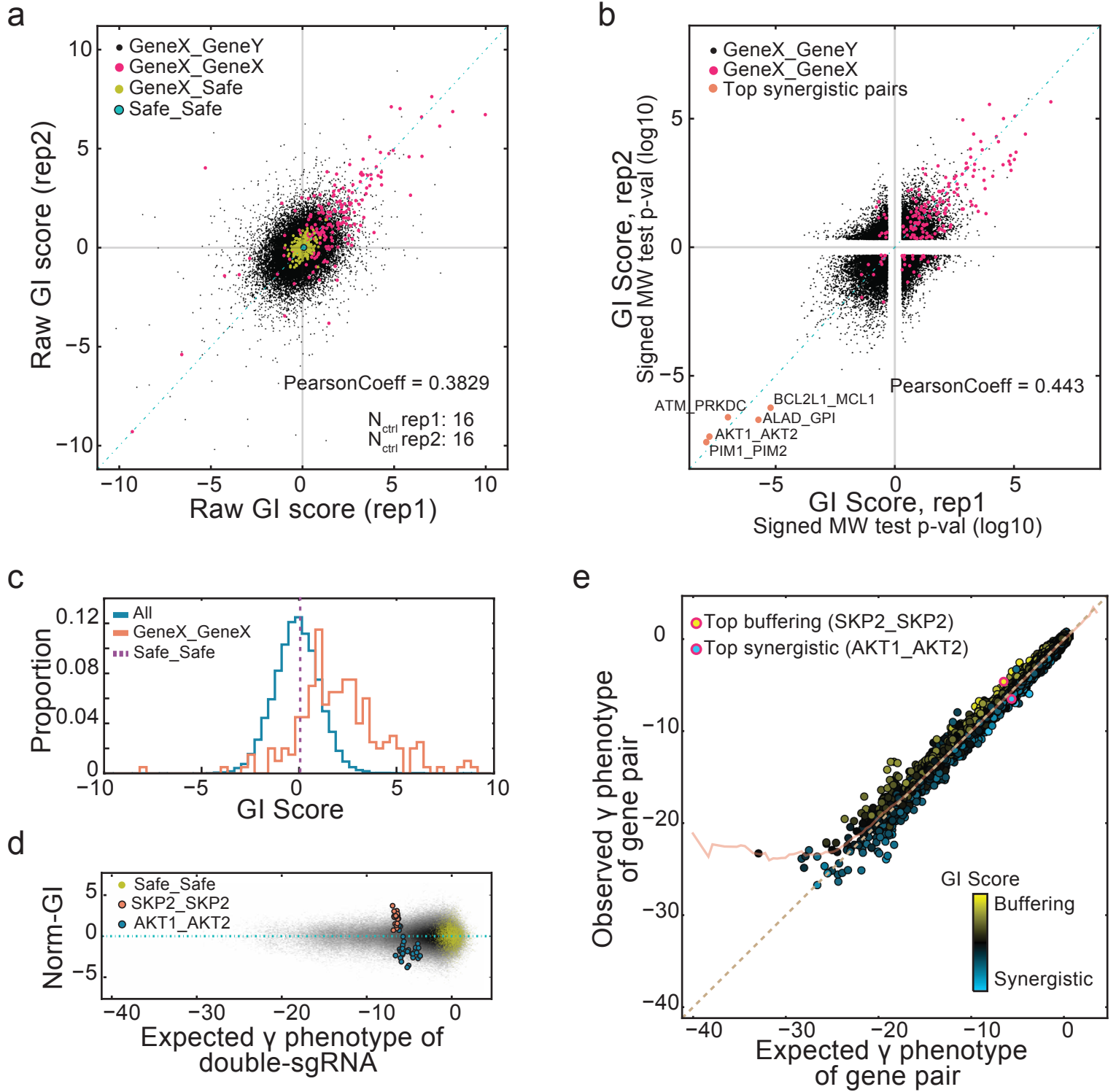


Figure S3. Comparison of GI scores

(a) GI_T scores were calculated based on Raw-GIs and compared between two experimental replicates. (b) GI_M scores were calculated and compared between two experimental replicates (see methods). GI_M scores of gene pairs comprised of two same genes are marked in pink. The 5 most synergistic gene pairs are marked in orange. (c) Histograms of GI_T scores showed that most gene pairs comprised of two same genes are buffering (red solid line). GI_T score of Safe_Safe pair (purple dotted line). (d) Norm GIs of double-sgRNA combinations targeting the most synergistic (AKT1_AKT2) and most buffering (SKP2_SKP2) gene pairs by GI_T score were plotted against the expected γ phenotypes. These two pairs showed distinct GI distributions that were well-separated in opposite directions from 0. Safe_Safe double-sgRNAs are marked as yellow dots and all other double-sgRNAs are marked as grey dots. (e) Expected and observed γ phenotypes of gene pairs were plotted and color-coded by their GI_T score. The most synergistic (AKT1_AKT2) and buffering (SKP2_SKP2) pairs are highlighted.

Figure S4.

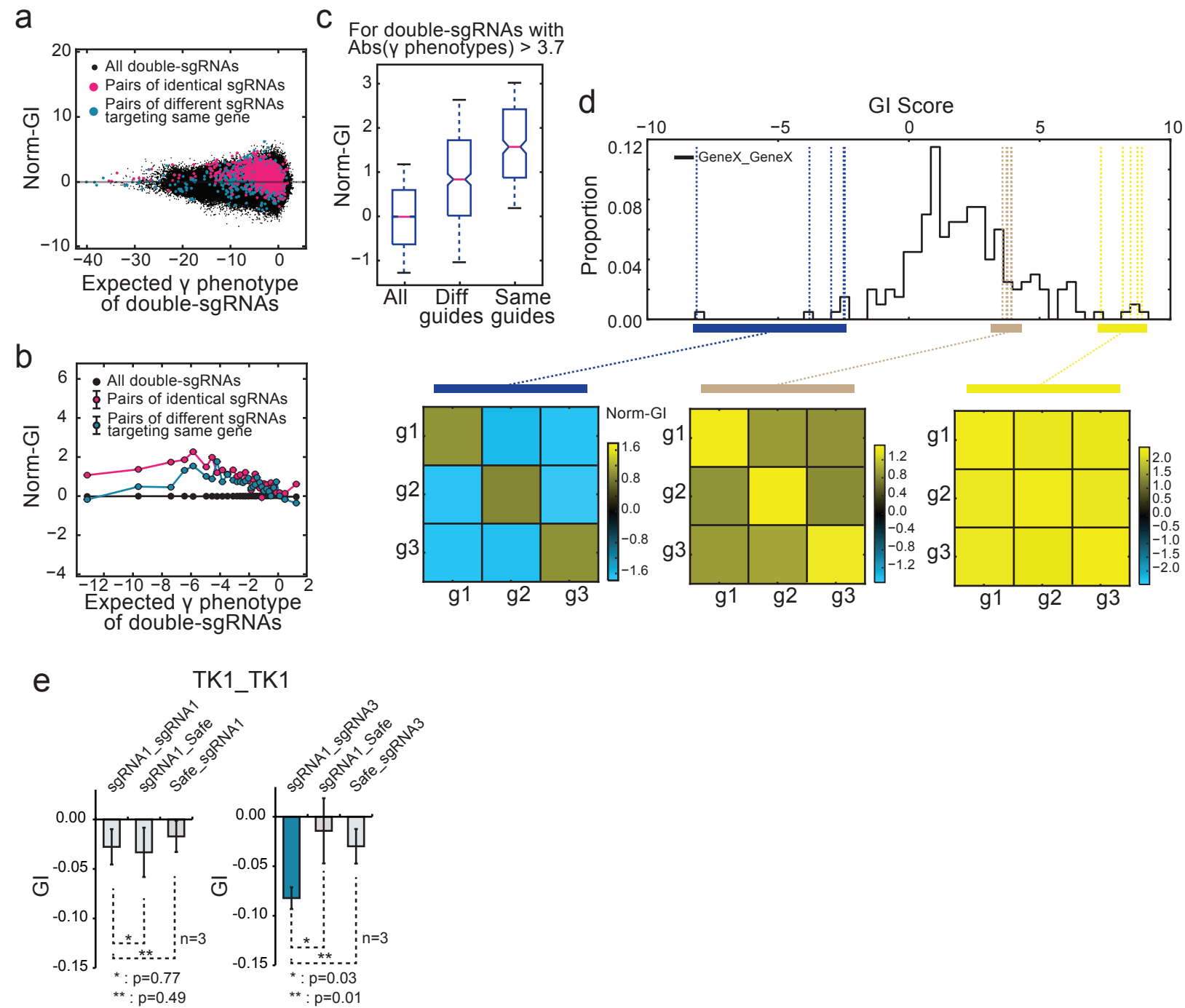


Figure S4. Two different sgRNAs targeting the same gene are more synergistic than identical sgRNAs

(a-c) Norm-GIs were measured for three groups - all double-sgRNAs, pairs of same guides, and pairs of two different sgRNAs targeting the same genes. Two sgRNAs targeting the same gene tend to be buffering. However, two different sgRNAs targeting the same gene tend to be less buffering than two identical sgRNAs. (a) Norm-GIs were plotted against the expected γ phenotypes for all three groups (black: all double-sgRNAs, pink: double-sgRNAs comprised of two same guides, blue: double-sgRNAs comprised of two different guides targeting the same gene) (b) Plots in a were binned against the expected phenotype of double-sgRNAs. Data represent mean \pm SEM. Data were binned in a way that each range includes at least 30 data points for any given group among the three. (c) Distribution of Norm-GIs for the three groups. Only double-sgRNAs with absolute γ phenotypes greater than 3.7 were analyzed. The pink line indicates the mean, the blue box represents the 25th-75th percentile, and the dotted bar indicates the 10th-90th percentile. (d) The Norm-GI patterns in 3 x 3 double-sgRNA combinations of pairs targeting the same gene. Top panel shows the distribution of GI scores for pairs targeting the same gene. The blue dotted lines mark the 5 most synergistic pairs in the distribution. The brown dotted lines represent the 35th-39th buffering pairs, and the yellow dotted lines mark the 5 most buffering pairs in the distribution. All double-sgRNA combinations for each group were averaged over the 3 x 3 grid and color-coded by their Norm-GIs. (e) In the dual sgRNA validation assay, two different sgRNAs targeting TK1 showed synergistic GI whereas two identical sgRNAs did not show significant GI. Data represent mean \pm SD (n=3) from replicate cultures.

Figure S5.

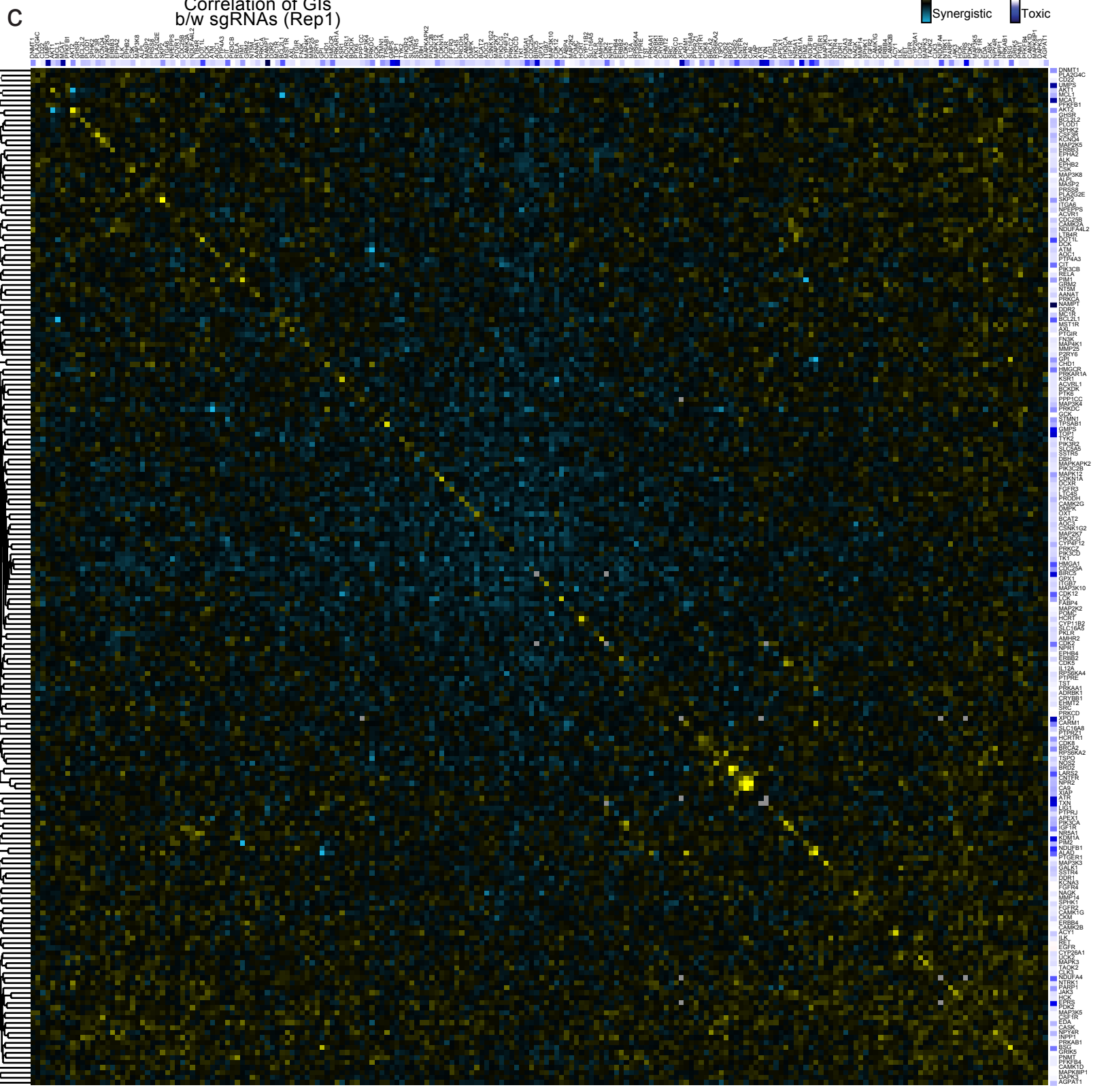
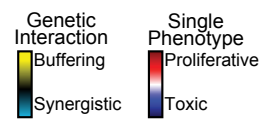
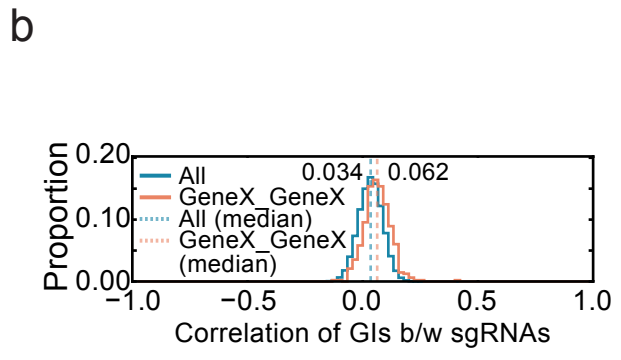
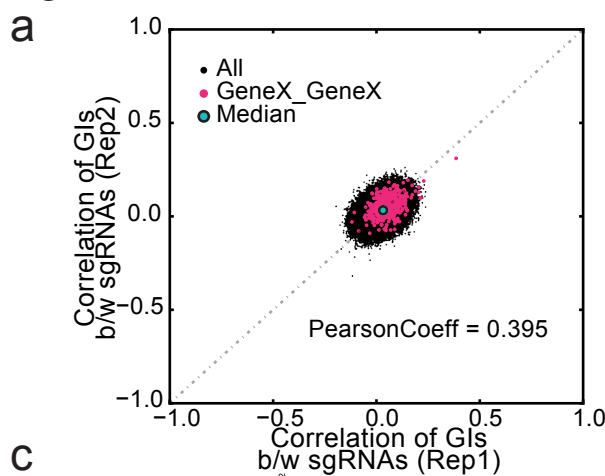


Figure S5. γ phenotype-based DrugTarget-CDKO GI map shows sparse genetic interactions

(a) Correlations of GI profiles between two sgRNAs were compared in two experimental replicates: sgRNAs targeting the same gene are marked in pink. Due to the low GI frequencies, correlations of GI profiles between sgRNA pairs were very low. (b) The distributions of correlations of GI profiles for all sgRNA pairs (blue) and for sgRNAs pairs targeting the same gene (orange). Medians of the distributions are marked by dotted lines. (c) Sparse genetic interactions in the DrugTarget-CDKO GI map. GI_M scores of all gene pairs were calculated and color-coded by a yellow-cyan heatmap. Genes were hierarchically clustered by their correlation of GI profiles. γ phenotypes of individual genes are marked in sidebars with a red-blue heatmap.

Figure S6.

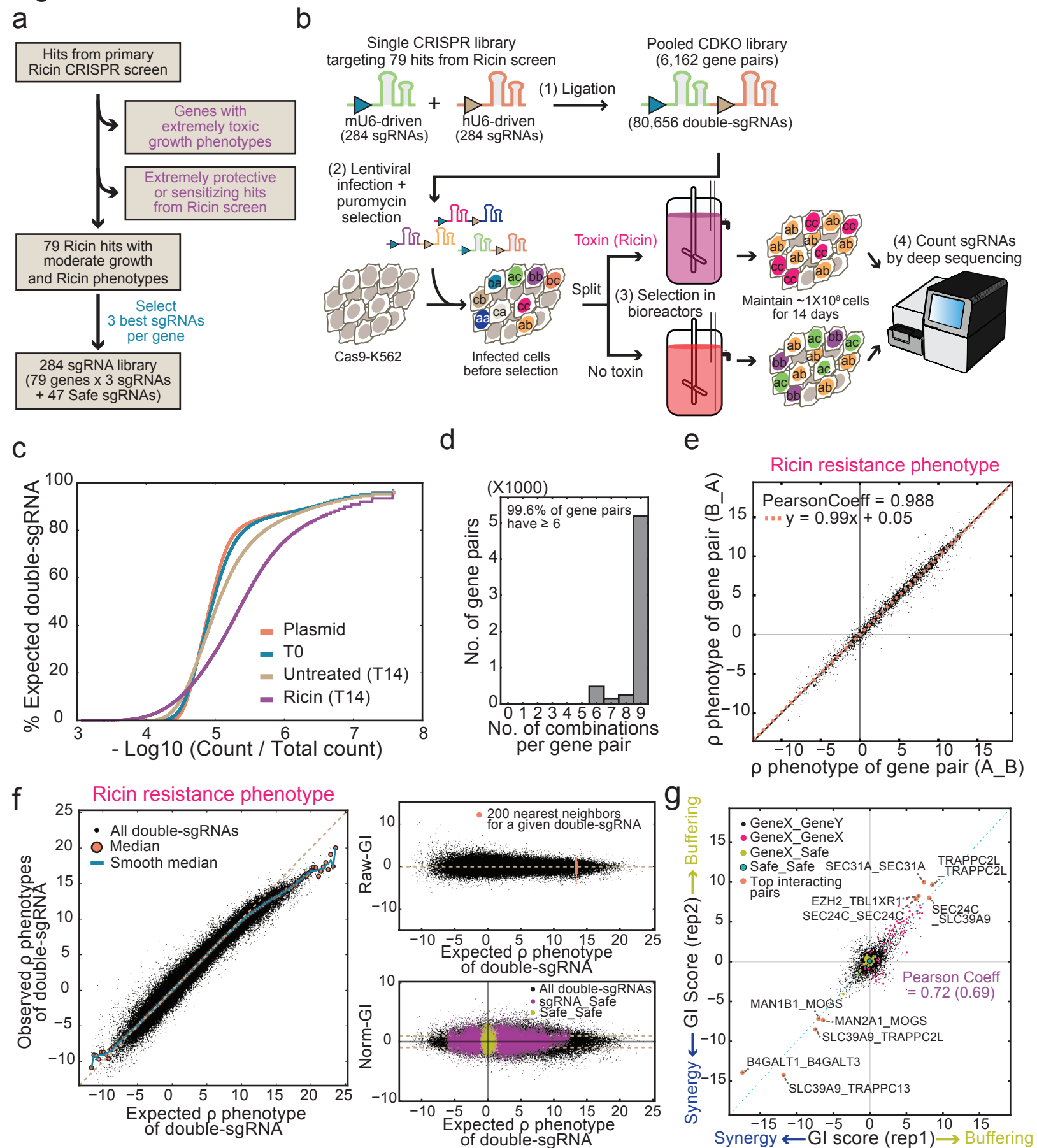


Figure S6. Ricin-CDKO screen

(a) Selection of genes modulating ricin-sensitivity and resulting Ricin-CDKO library. (b) Schematic of the Ricin-CDKO screen. Infected cells were split into two and one group was treated with 4 pulses of ricin for 14 days, while the other was cultured for 14 days without ricin treatment. (c) Cumulative distribution of sequencing reads for double-sgRNAs. (d) Histogram plotting the number of double-sgRNAs per gene pair. 99.6% of the 6,063 detected gene pairs have more than 6 double-sgRNA combinations. (e) Minimal positional bias in Ricin-CDKO library for ρ phenotype. (f) Measuring Norm-GIs of double-sgRNAs. Expected and observed ρ phenotypes of double-sgRNAs were plotted and deviations from the median line (blue) were processed from Raw-GIs into Norm-GIs as previously done for DrugTarget-CDKO screen. (g) t-value-based GI_T scores calculated for ρ phenotypes were plotted between two experimental replicates. The 5 most synergistic and buffering pairs by rank-sum of GI_T scores of two replicates are marked in orange dots. The Pearson correlation after same-gene targeting pairs were removed is reported in parentheses.

Figure S7.

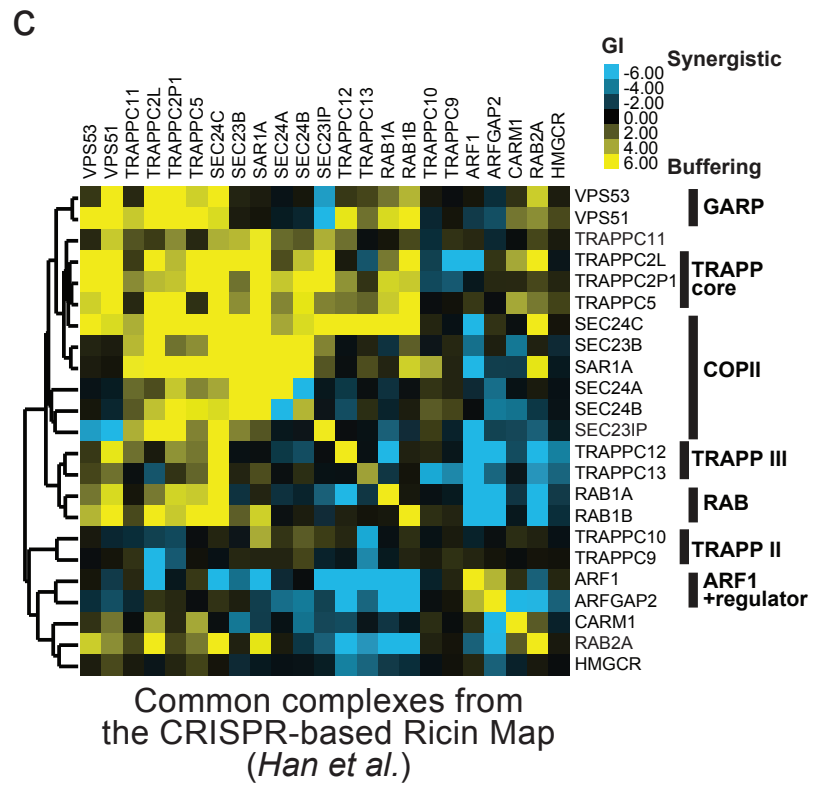
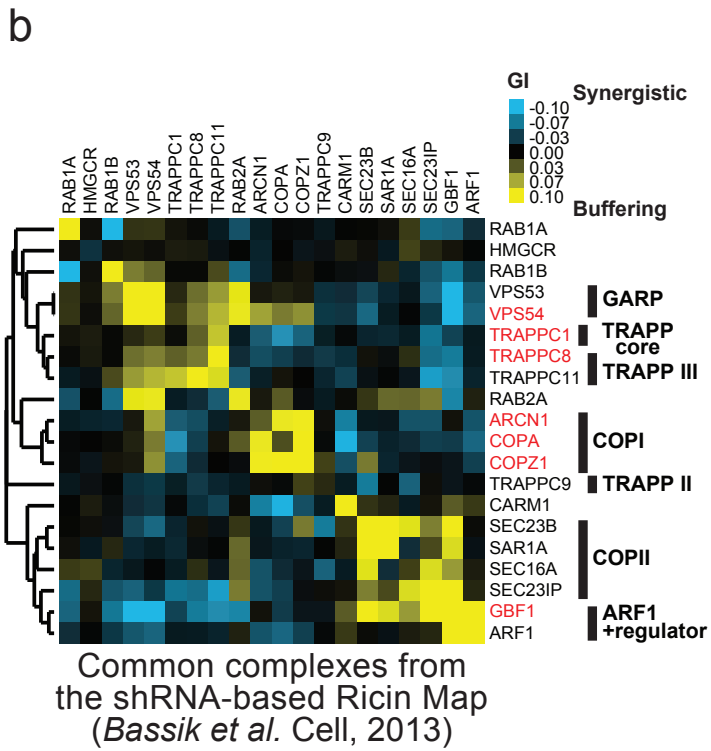
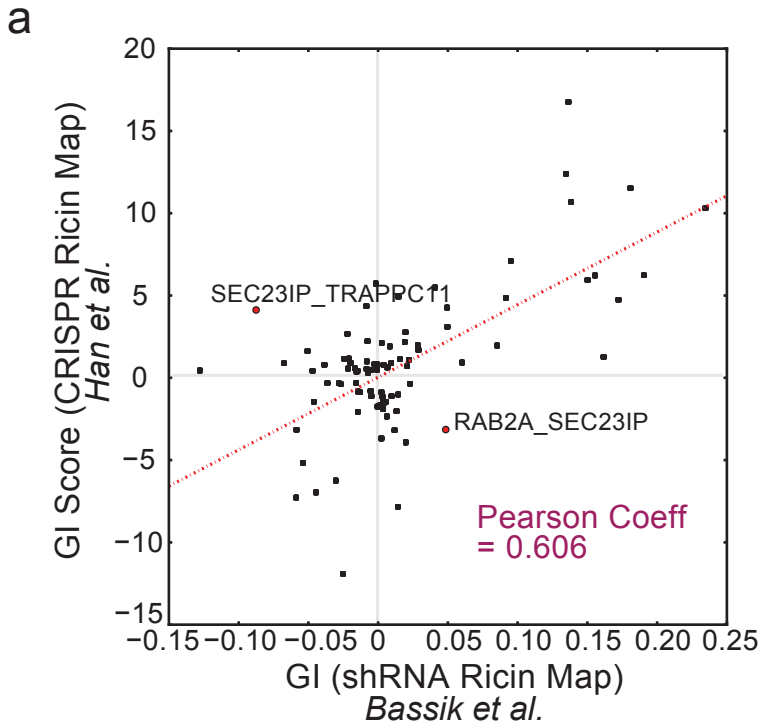


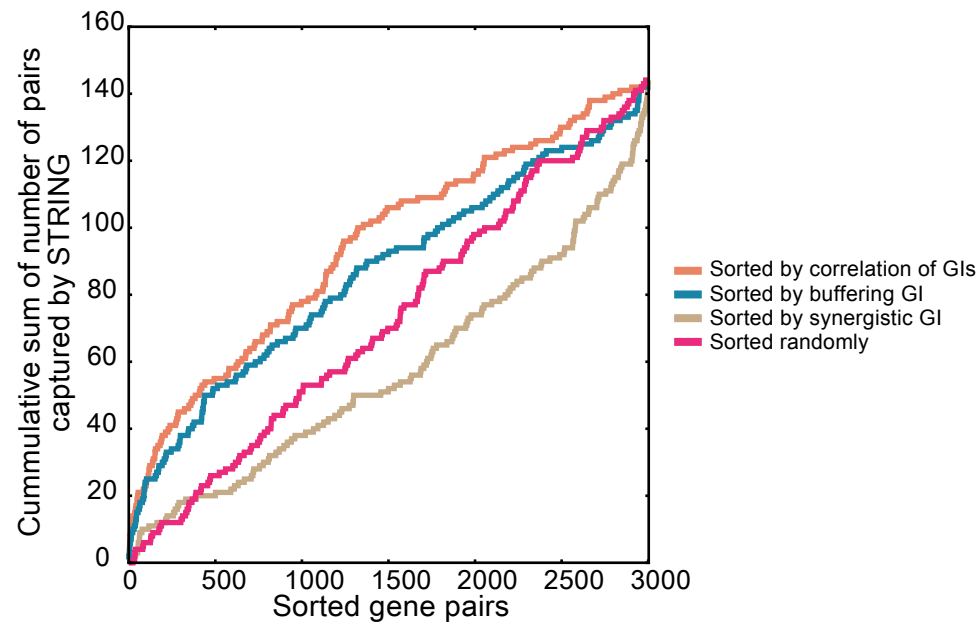
Figure S7. Comparison of a previous shRNA-based ricin GI map with the Ricin-CDKO GI map

(a) Measurement of correlation of genetic interactions between the previously published shRNA-based Ricin GI map¹¹ and the Ricin-CDKO map for the 91 common interactions present in both maps. GIs are scaled according to the system described in the corresponding manuscript. Two cases of genetic interactions which have opposite signs in the two maps are labeled in the plot.

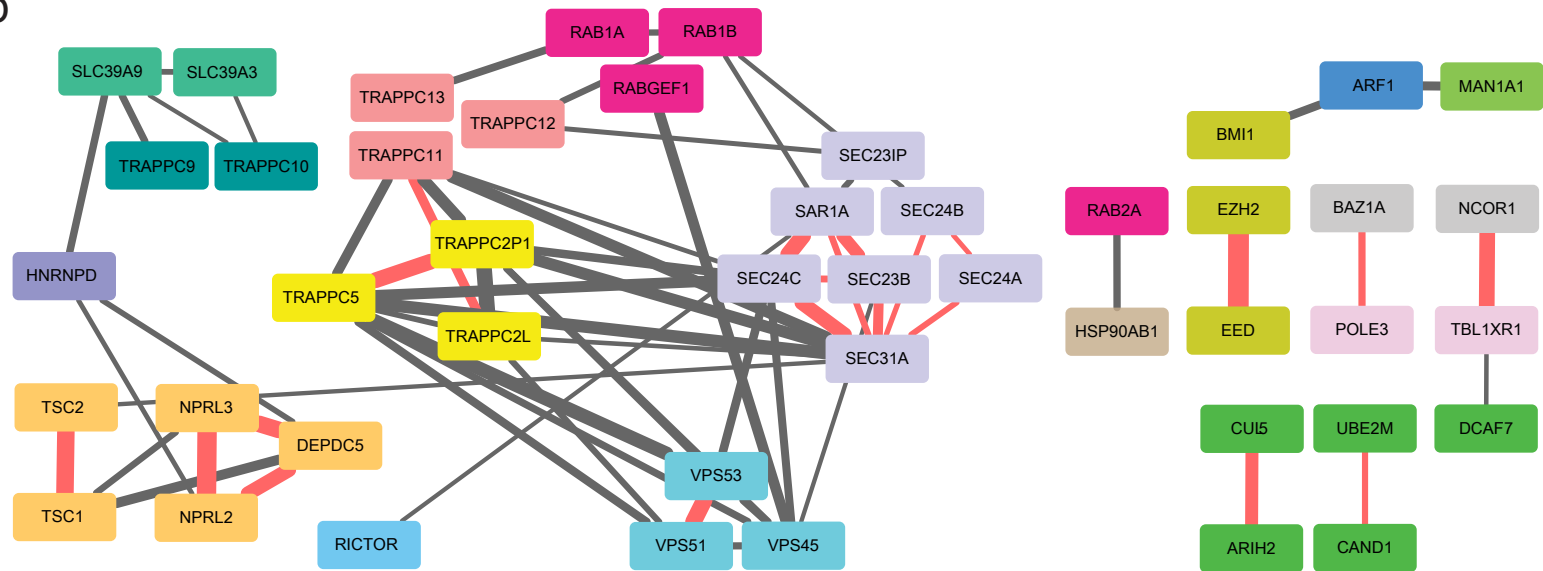
(b) Genetic interactions of the common protein complexes and genes between the two maps are used to generate two compact GI maps for comparison. Essential genes are marked in red.

Figure S8.

a



b



Types of Edges

- Correlation of GIs (Grey line)
 - Correlation of GIs captured in STRING (Red line)
- (Width of Edges is determined by GI correlation)

Categories of Nodes

- Mannose-related
- COPII
- Retrograde sorting
- TRAPPCIII
- TRAPPCII
- TRAPPC core
- RAB GTPase
- Endosome to Golgi
- PcG
- Chromatin accessibility complex
- Chromatin remodeling-related
- RNA binding, Splicing
- Solute carrier protein family (Plasma membrane)
- mTOR-related (Protective against Ricin)
- mTOR-related (Sensitizing against Ricin)
- Ubiquitin-related

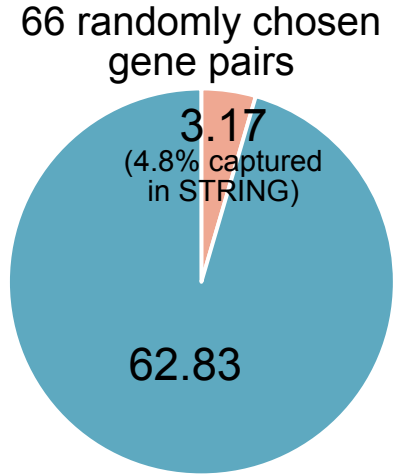
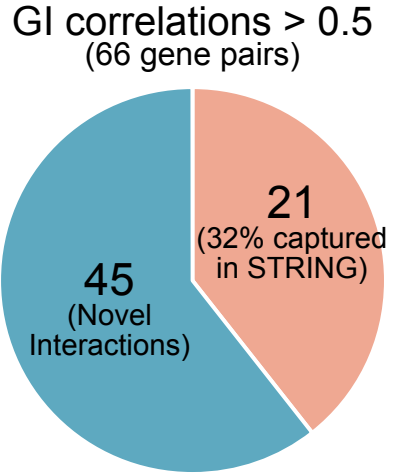
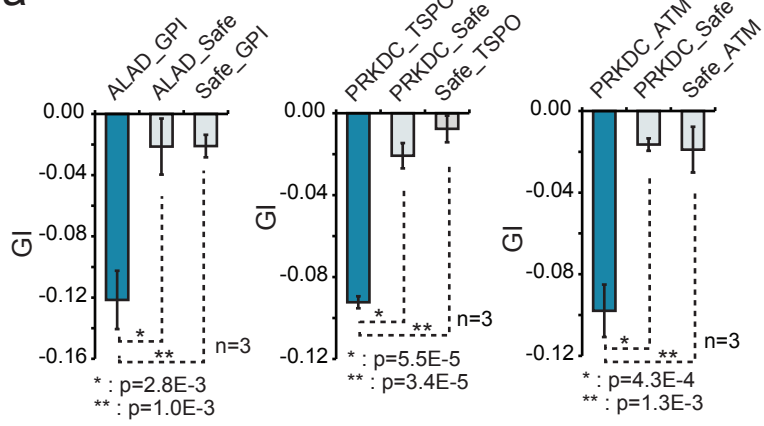


Figure S8. Gene pairs with similar GI profiles are enriched for known protein interactions (see methods)

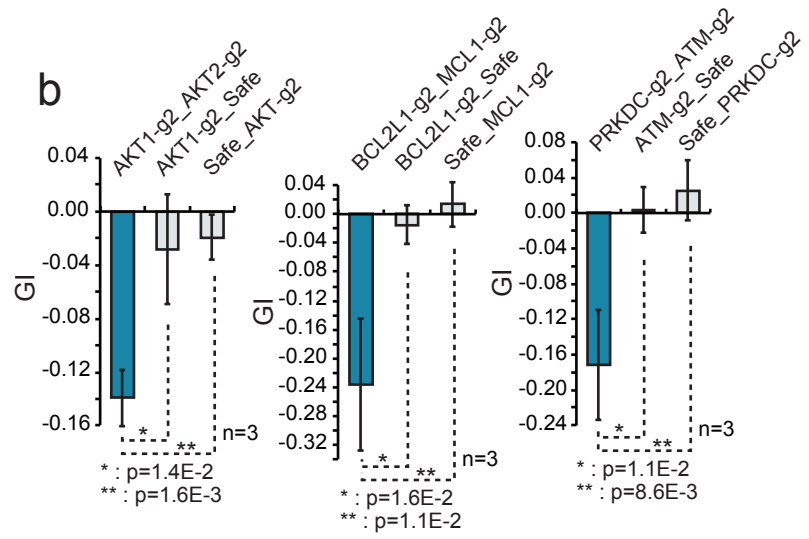
(a) Data in figure 4d were plotted as AUC (Area Under the Curve). Gene pairs were sorted by the different features of GI map and cumulative sums of the number of STRING interactions identified in the sorted gene pairs were plotted. **(b)** A genetic interaction network of the 66 most correlated gene pairs (GI correlation > 0.5) in terms of GI patterns was generated. Genes are grouped and colored by their biological functions and their known PPIs. Each edge between two genes indicates that they have a correlation of GI patterns over 0.5. A red edge indicates that this gene pair also has known protein interactions reported in STRING. 40% of the 66 gene pairs have reported protein interactions whereas on average, only 5% of 66 randomly selected gene pairs from the Ricin-CDKO map have reported protein interactions in STRING.

Figure S9.

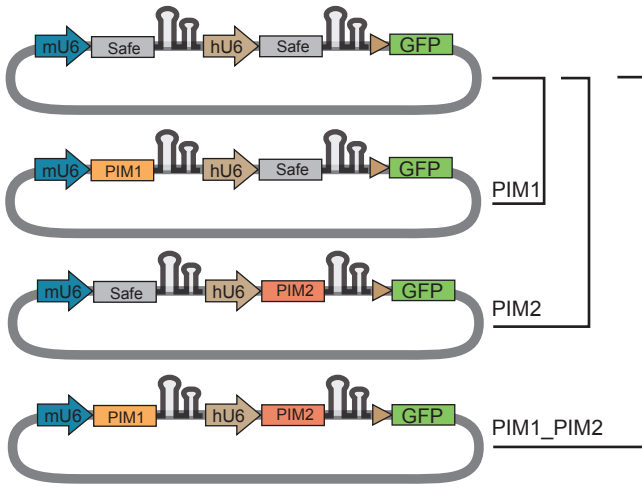
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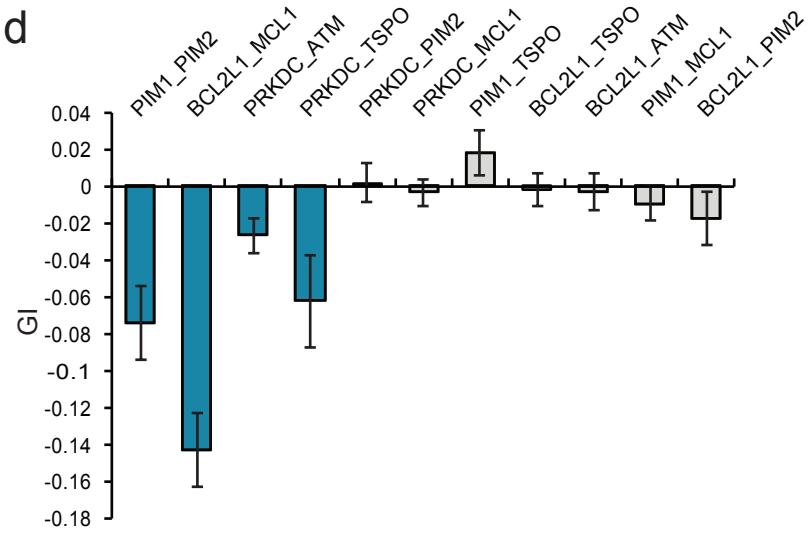
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c



d



e

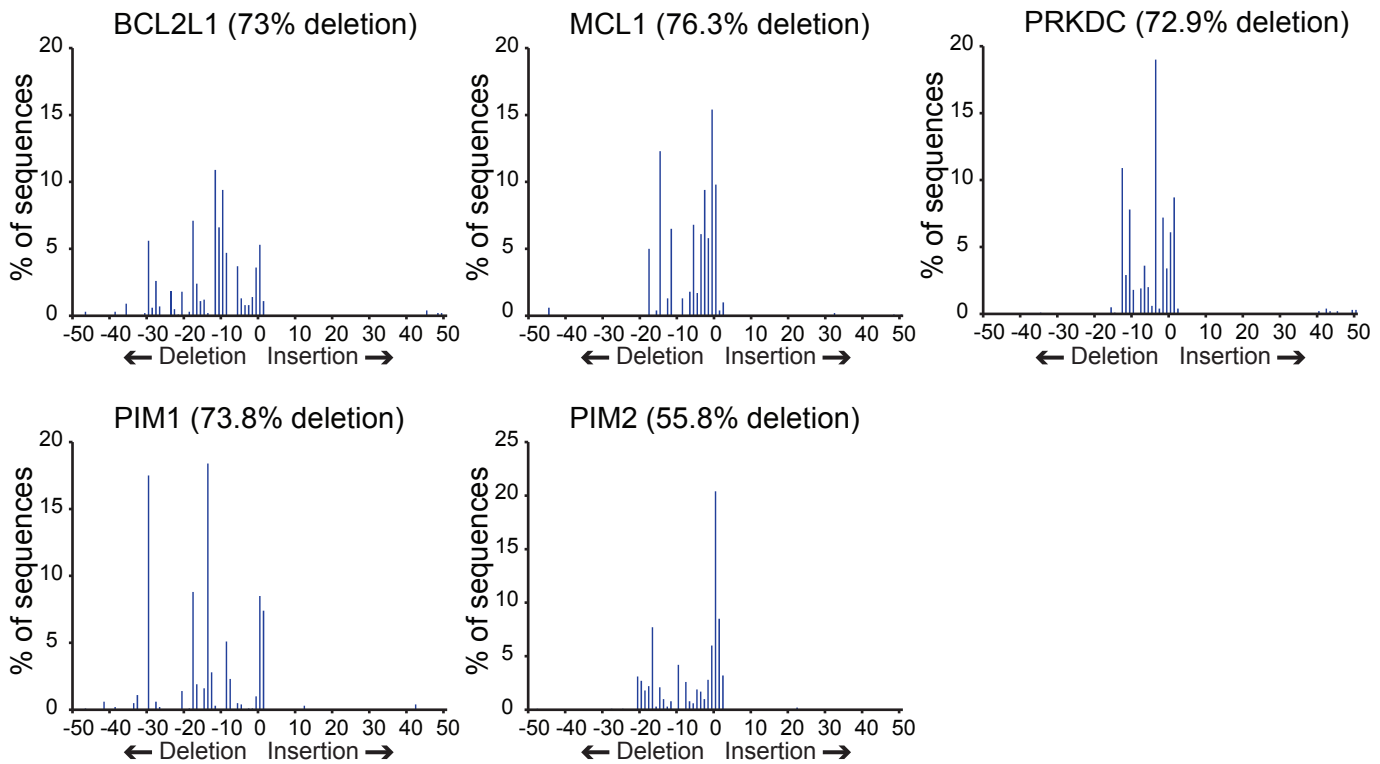


Figure S9. Validation of synergistic gene pairs with individual sgRNAs

(a) Predicted synergistic gene pairs were validated using individual sgRNAs (using two separate vectors). (b) 3 of the synergistic gene pairs were validated using a second pair of sgRNAs. (c) Example of GI calculation for individual sgRNA validations using double-sgRNA vector. Double-sgRNA vectors were cloned containing two safe-sgRNAs, one safe-sgRNA and one gene-targeting sgRNA (PIM1_Safe and Safe_PIM2), or two gene-targeting sgRNAs (PIM1_PIM2) and infected into Cas9-expressing K562 cells. Growth phenotypes of single and double gene knockouts are calculated by measuring the depletion of GFP+ cells relative to uninfected cells (PIM1_Safe and Safe_PIM2 for single knockout phenotypes and PIM1_PIM2 for double knockout) from T0 to T7, normalized to Safe_Safe cells. GIs are determined by comparing the observed double knockout phenotype to the expected from the single knockout phenotypes. (d) Using the double-sgRNA vector system, synergy was validated for sgRNA pairs predicted to be synergistic (PIM1_PIM2, BCL2L1_MCL1, PRKDC_ATM, PRKDC_TSPO) while sgRNA pairs not predicted to be synergistic did not show synergy in dual-sgRNA retests (PRKDC_PIM2, PRKDC_MCL1, PIM1_TSPO, BCL2L1_TSPO, BCL2L1_ATM, PIM1_MCL1, BCL2L1_PIM2). (e) TIDE indel analysis for sgRNAs against indicated genes.

Figure S10.

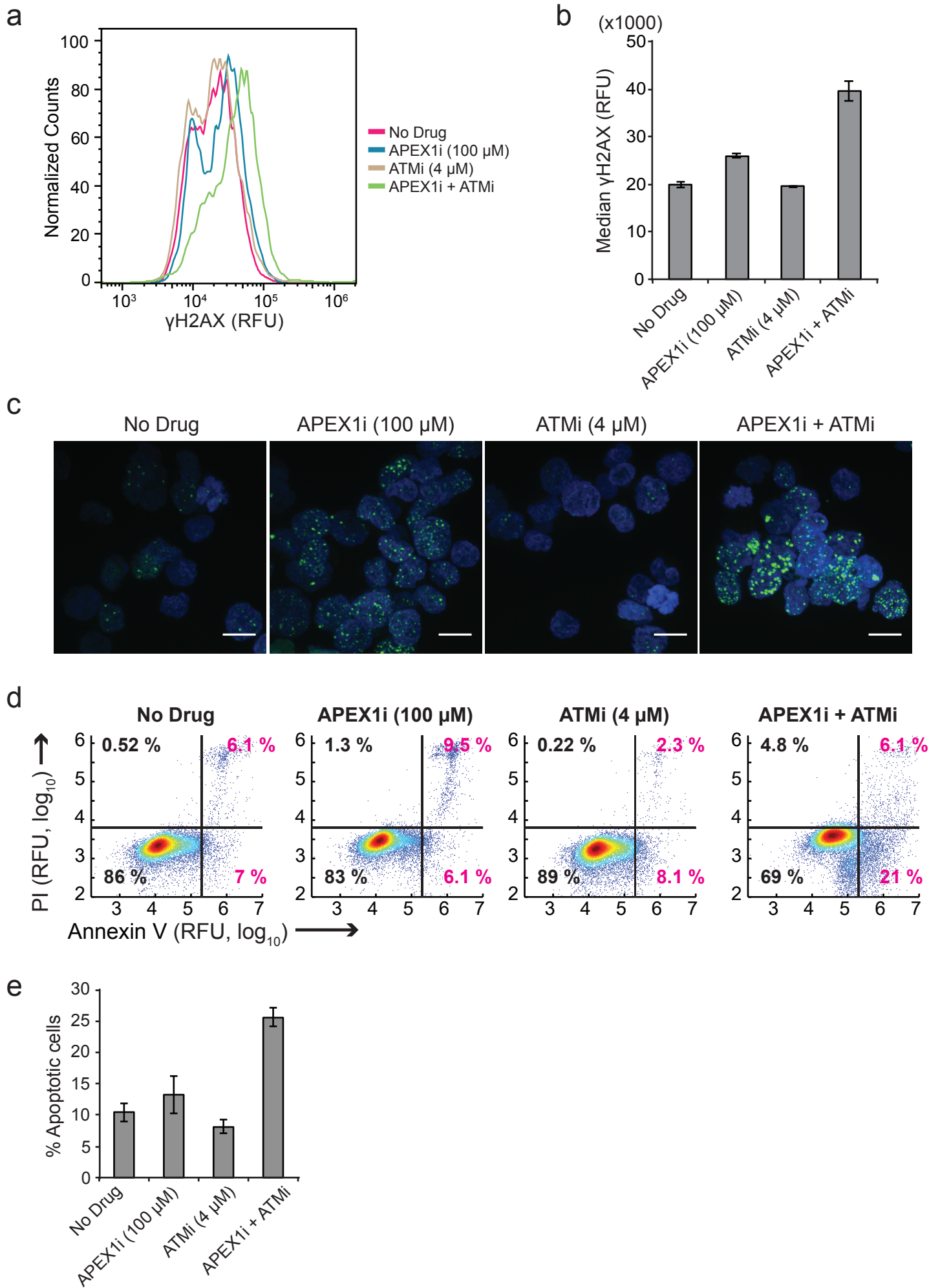
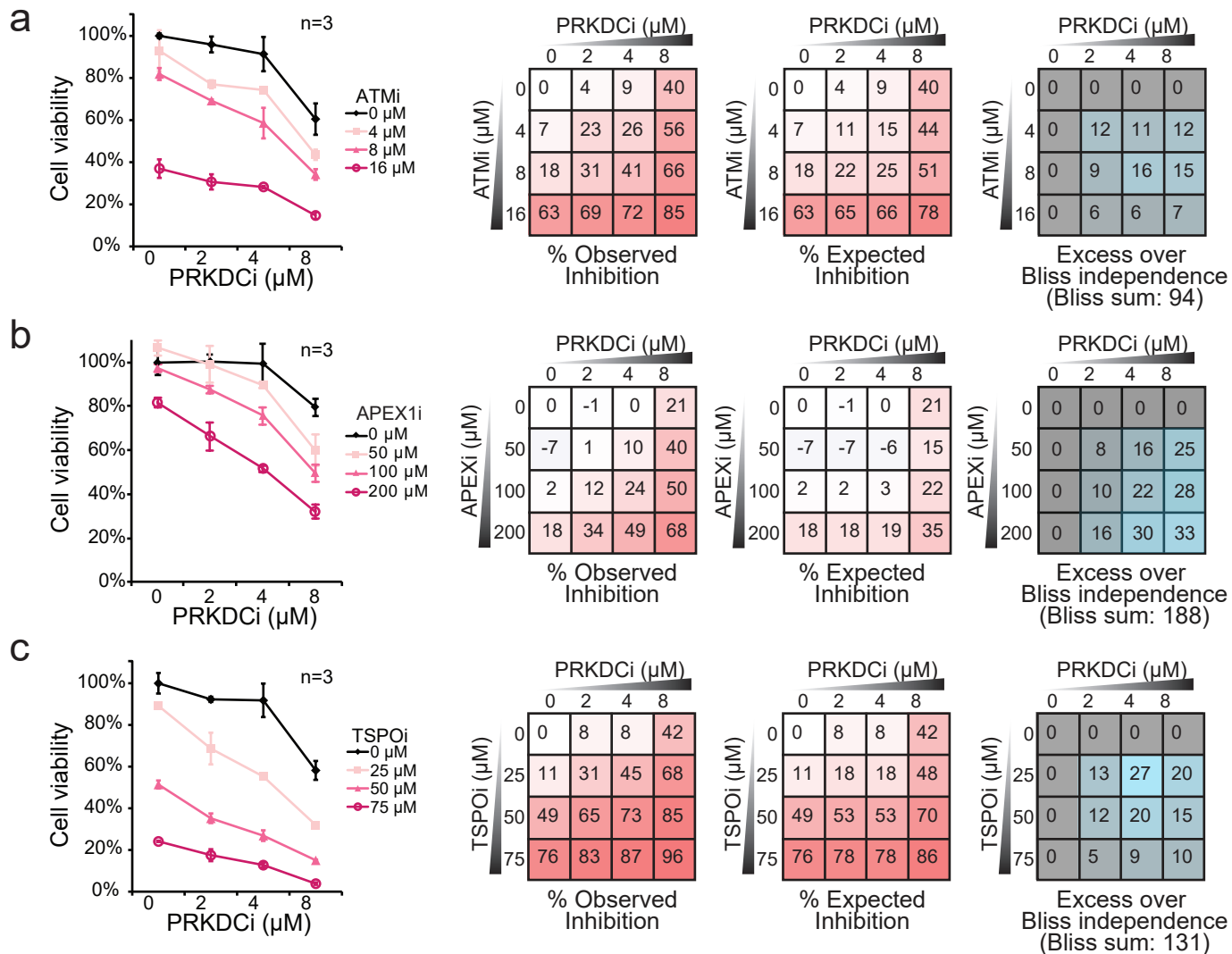


Figure S10. Combination APEX1_ATM drug treatment synergistically induces DSBs and apoptosis

(a-c) K562 cells were treated with APEX1 (CRT0044876) and ATM (KU-60019) inhibitors for 48 h, fixed, and stained for γ H2AX. Cells were analyzed by flow cytometry and representative histograms from each sample are plotted in **a**. Median FL-1 \pm SD from 3 replicate cultures are plotted in **b**. Cells were additionally stained with Hoescht and representative images are shown in **c**. Scale bars, 10 μ m. (d,e) K562 cells were treated with indicated drugs for 48 h and assessed by flow cytometry for Annexin V-FITC and propidium iodide (PI) staining. Plots in **d** are representative of three independent experiments and the percentages of Annexin V-positive cells are quantified in **e**.

Figure S11.

True Positives



True Negatives

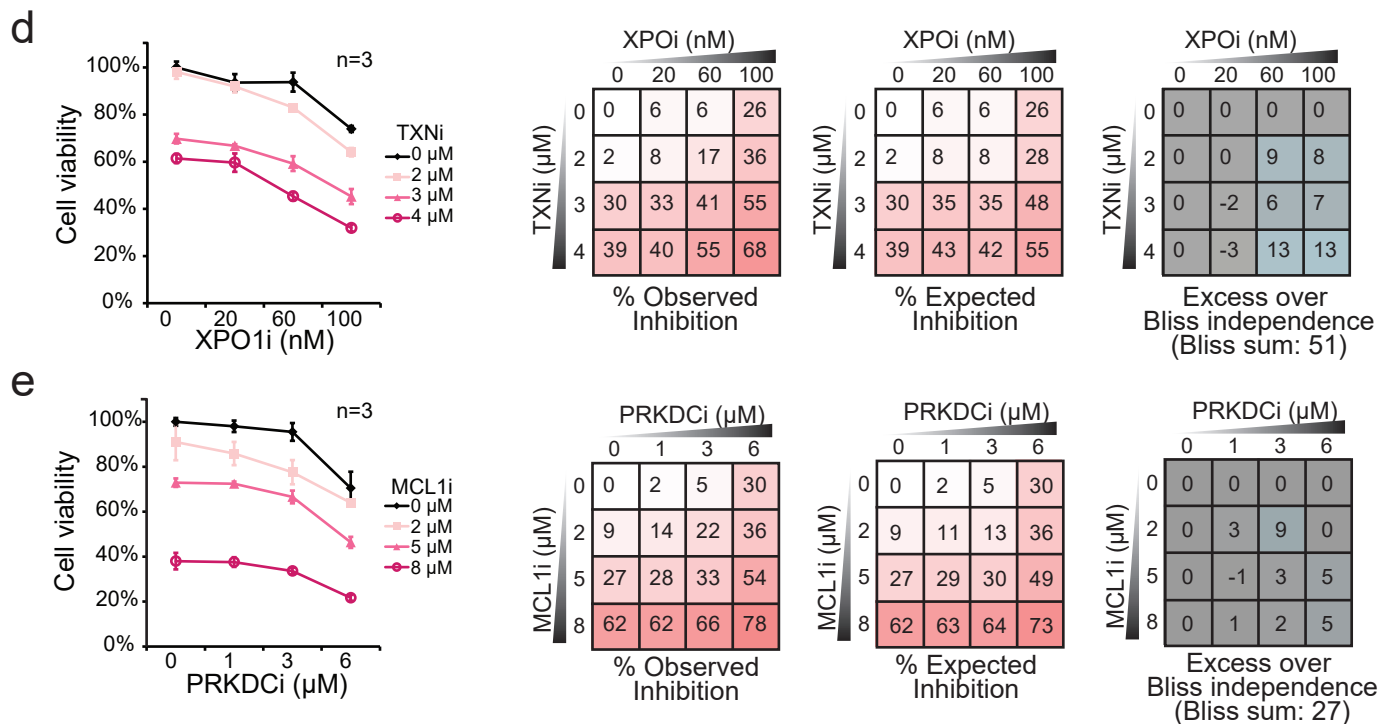


Figure S11 cont.

True negatives

False positive

False negative

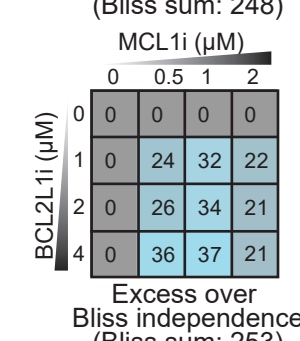
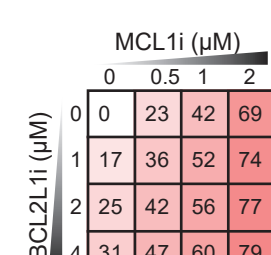
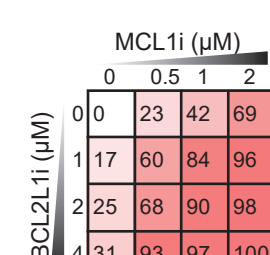
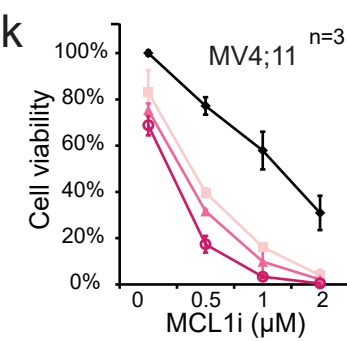
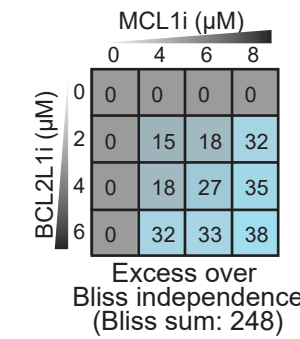
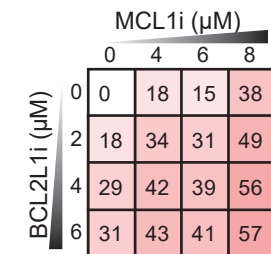
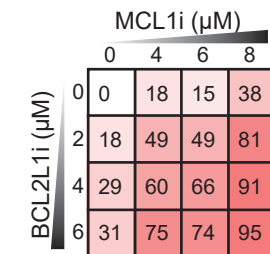
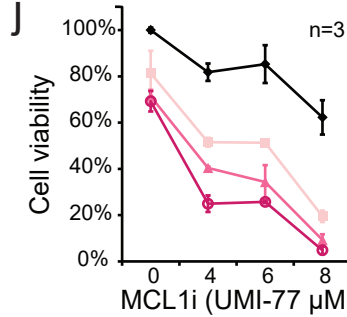
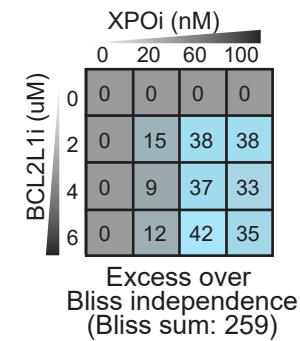
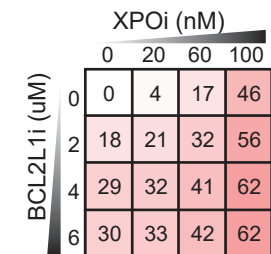
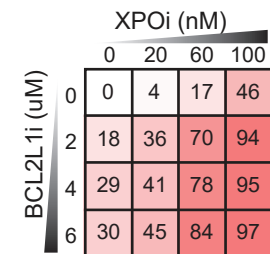
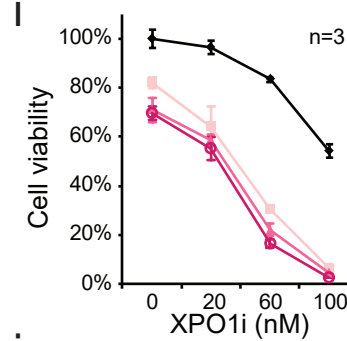
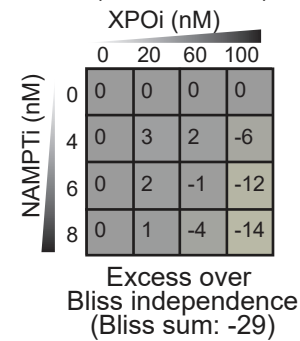
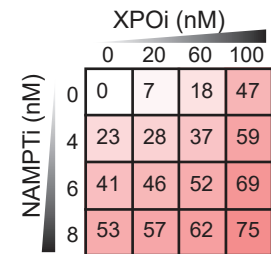
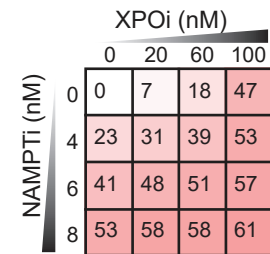
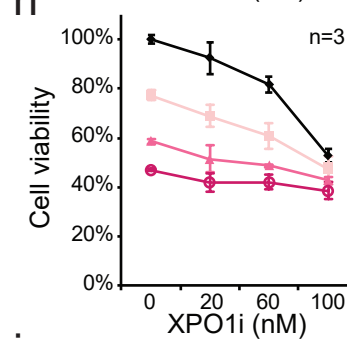
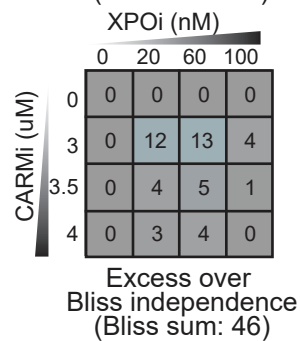
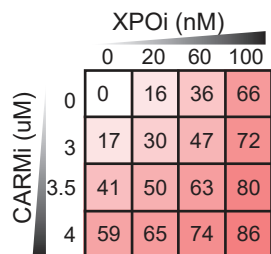
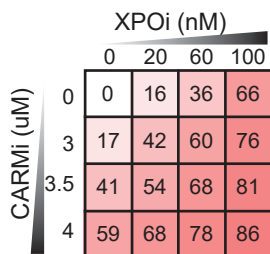
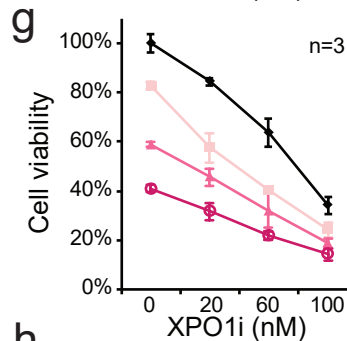
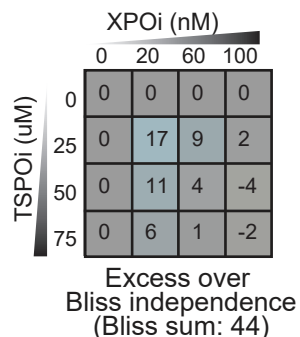
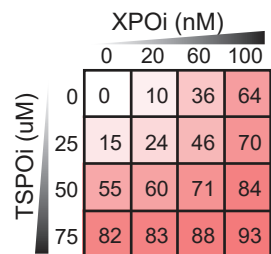
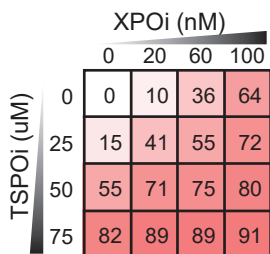
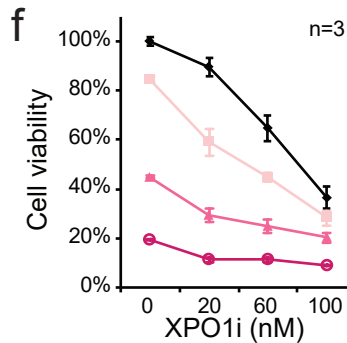


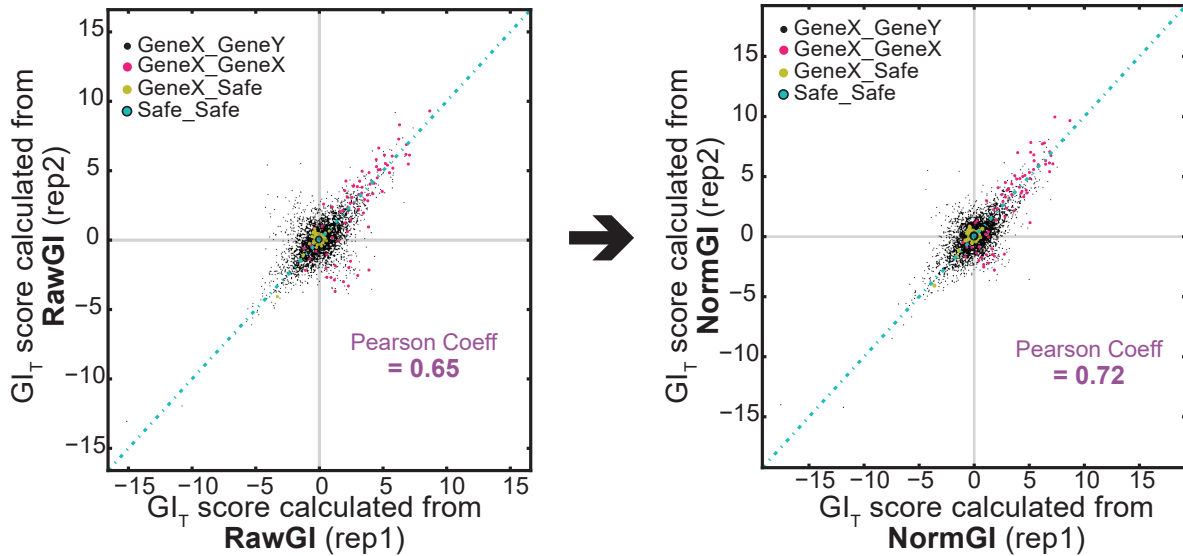
Figure S11. DrugTarget-CDKO genetic interactions predict drug synergy

(a-k) Cell viability and Bliss drug synergy plots for drug pairs in K562 cells **(a-j)** and MV4;11 cells **(k)**. Additional true positives are shown in **a-c**: **(a)** ATM (KU-60019) and PRKDC (NU7441), **(b)** APEX1 (CRT0044876) and PRKDC, **(c)** TSPO (PK-11195) and PRKDC. Examples of true negatives are shown in **d-g**: **(d)** TXN (PX-12) and XPO1 (KPT-330), **(e)** MCL1 (A-1210477) and PRKDC, **(f)** TSPO and XPO1, **(g)** CARM1 (1-benzyl-3,5-bis-(3-bromo-4-hydroxybenzylidene)piperidin-4-one) and XPO1. **(h)** NAMPT (FK866) and XPO1 (false positive). **(i)** BCL2L1 (A-1155463) and XPO1 (false negative). **(j)** The BCL2L1 and MCL1 pair was tested using a different MCL1 inhibitor (UMI-77) and **(k)** in the MV4;11 AML cell line (using A-1155463 and A-1210477).

Figure S12.

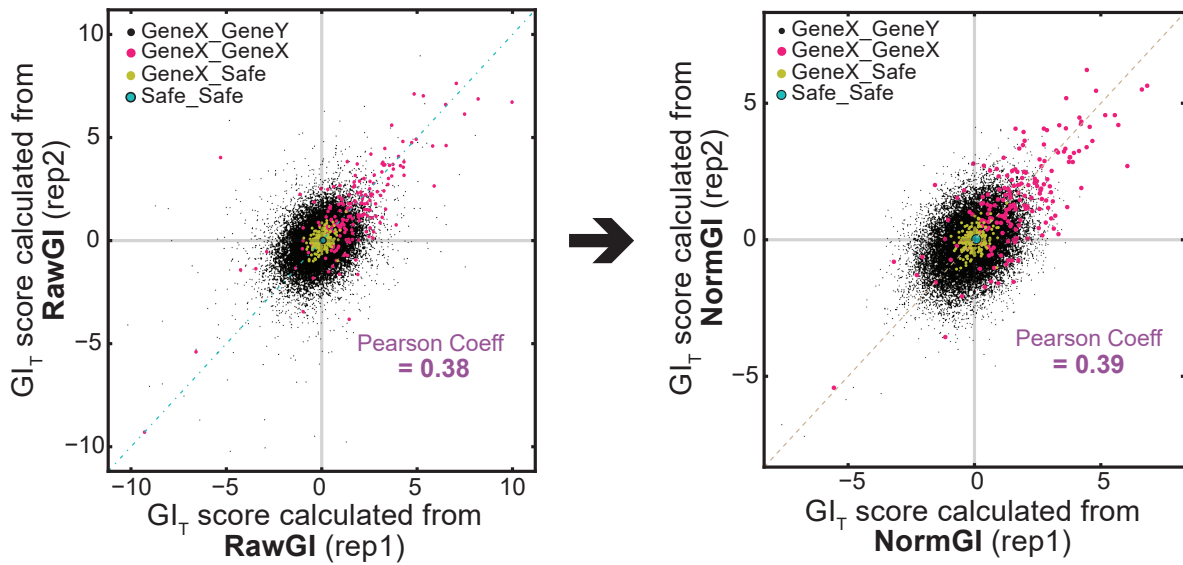
a

Ricin-CDKO map based on ρ phenotype



b

DrugTarget-CDKO map based on γ phenotype



c

Variance between two replicates in DrugTarget-CDKO map

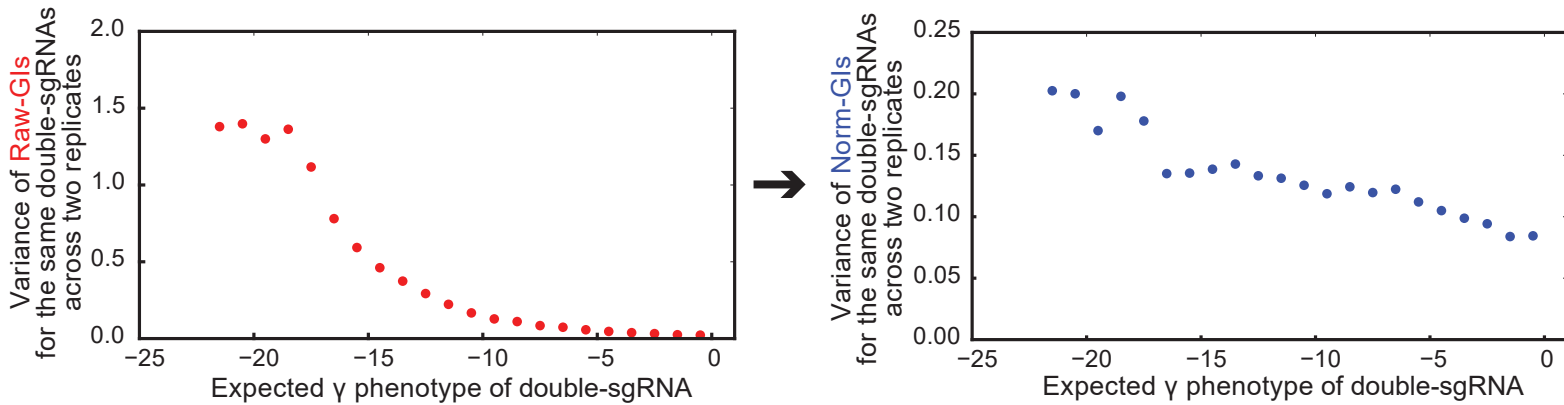


Figure S12. Normalized GI improves reproducibility of genetic interactions between replicates

(a) GI_T scores calculated from Raw-GI and Norm-GI are compared for the ρ phenotype-based Ricin-CDKO map. GI_T scores calculated from Norm-GI show higher correlation between replicates than those from Raw-GI. (b) GI_T scores calculated from Raw-GI and Norm-GI are compared for the γ phenotype-based DrugTarget-CDKO map. GI_T scores calculated from Norm-GI show slightly higher correlation between replicates than those from RawGI. (c) Normalization of GIs improves the uniformity of variance across the range of expected γ phenotypes. Variance of Raw-GIs and Norm-GIs for the same guide pairs across two experimental replicates in DrugTarget-CDKO map was measured with respect to the expected γ phenotype. Data are binned across the expected γ phenotypes (bin number = 22, bin size = 1 pZ) and average variance on each bin is calculated and plotted in the graphs.

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