



## Chemoinformatics as a theoretical chemistry discipline

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*University of Strasbourg*

*BigChem lecture, 26 October 2016*

## Chemoinformatics: a new discipline ...

*Chemoinformatics* is the mixing of those information resources **to transform data into information and information into knowledge** for the intended purpose of making better decisions faster in the area of drug lead identification and optimization"

*Frank Brown, 1998*

## Chemoinformatics: definition

*Chemoinformatics* is a generic term that encompasses the design, creation, organization, management, retrieval, analysis, dissemination, visualization, and use of chemical information

*G. Paris, 1998*

*Chemoinformatics* is the mixing of those information resources to transform data into information and information into knowledge for the intended purpose of making better decisions faster in the area of drug lead identification and optimization"

*F.K. Brown, 1998*

- *Chemoinformatics* is the application of informatics methods to solve chemical problems  
*J. Gasteiger, 2004*

*Chemoinformatics* is a field based on the representation of molecules as objects (graphs or vectors) in a chemical space

*A. Varnek & I. Baskin, 2011*

## Chemoinformatics: new discipline combining several „old“ fields

- Chemical databases
- Structure-Activity modeling (QSAR)
- Structure-based drug design
- Computer-aided synthesis design



Michael Lynch



Peter Willett



Corwin Hansch



Johann Gasteiger



Irwin D. Kuntz



Hans-Joachim Böhm



Elias Corey



Ivar Ugi

## Selected books in chemoinformatics



### *Chemoinformatics:*

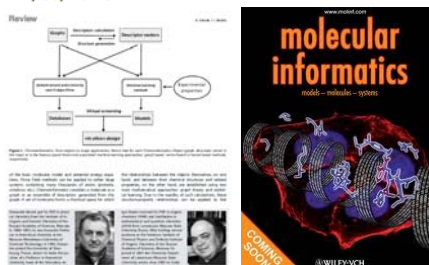
intersection of chemistry, computer science, mathematics,  
biology, material science, ...

*Is Chemoinformatics* an individual scientific  
discipline or just a mixture of methods and  
concepts imported from different fields ?

## Review

DOI: 10.1002/minf.201000100

### Chemoinformatics as a Theoretical Chemistry Discipline

Alexandre Varnek<sup>\*†‡</sup> and Igor I. Baskin<sup>§¶</sup>*Mol. Inf.* 2011, 30, 20 – 32

**Chemoinformatics is defined as individual discipline characterized by its own molecular model, basic concepts, major applications and learning approach**

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## OUTLOOK

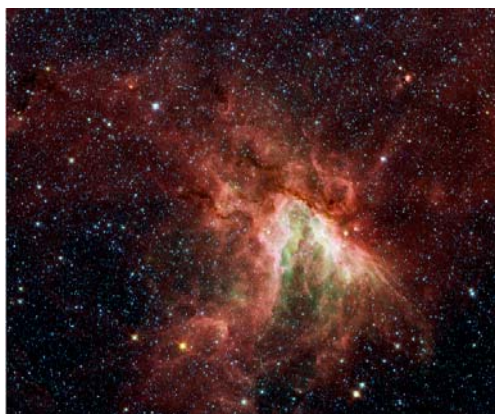
- **Needs in chemoinformatics**
- **3 complementary modeling disciplines**
  - Quantum Chemistry, FF modeling and Chemoinformatics —
- **Fundamentals of Chemoinformatics**
  - Chemical Space paradigm: graphs-based and descriptors based CS
  - Modeling background: *Machine learning methods*.
- **Chemoinformatics and "Sister" Disciplines**
  - Machine Learning, Chemometrics and Bioinformatics

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## Needs in Chemoinformatics

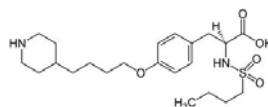
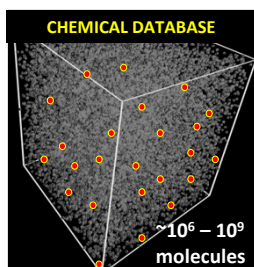
### Big Data Challenge

- $> 10^8$  compounds are currently available
  - $10^{33}$  drug-like molecules could be synthesized
- (see P. Polischuk, T. Madzidov, A. Varnek., JCAMD, 2013)

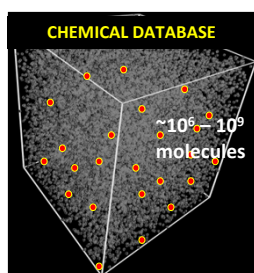


***Goal: to select few useful compounds from huge chemical database***

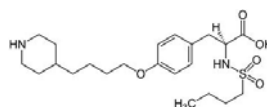
## Screening: finding the needle in the haystack



## Cheminformatics: pattern recognition in chemistry

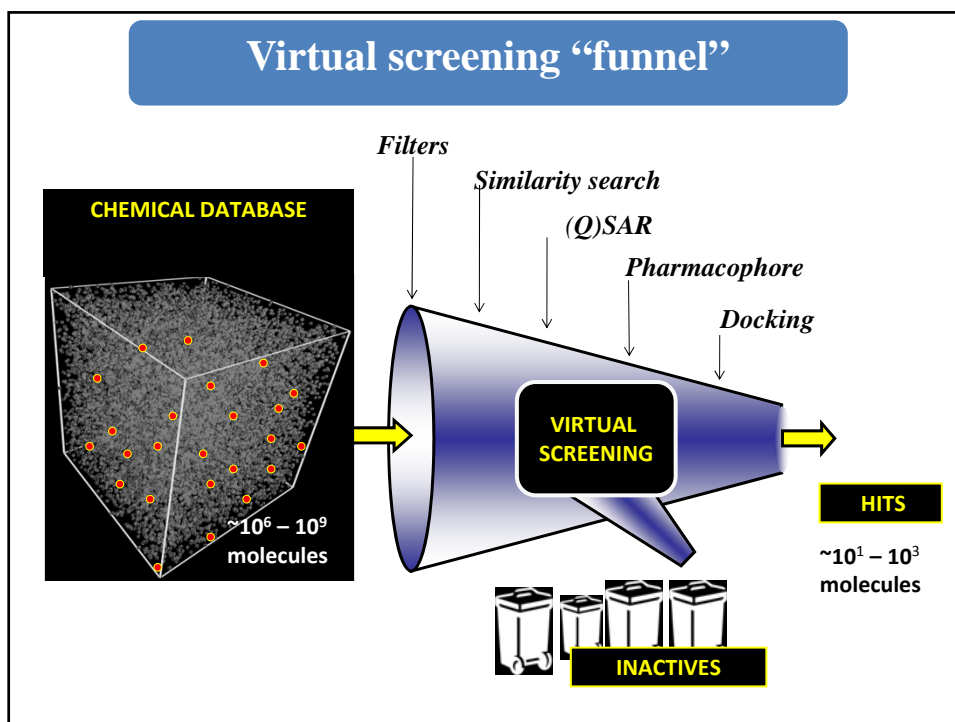


model



- Specific structural motifs,
- Selected molecular properties (shape, fields, ...),
- Interaction patterns,
- Mathematical equations

$$\text{Property} = F(\text{structure})$$



## Theoretical chemistry

Quantum Chemistry

Force Field  
Molecular Modelling

Chemoinformatics

## Theoretical chemistry

Quantum Chemistry

Force Field  
Molecular Modelling

Chemoinformatics

- Molecular model
- Basic concepts
- Major applications
- Learning approaches

## Molecular Model

Quantum Chemistry

*electrons and nuclei*

Force Field  
Molecular Modelling

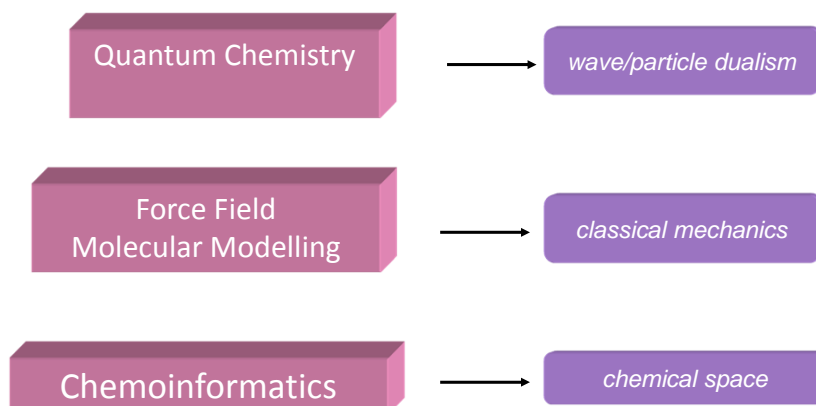
*atoms and bonds*

Chemoinformatics

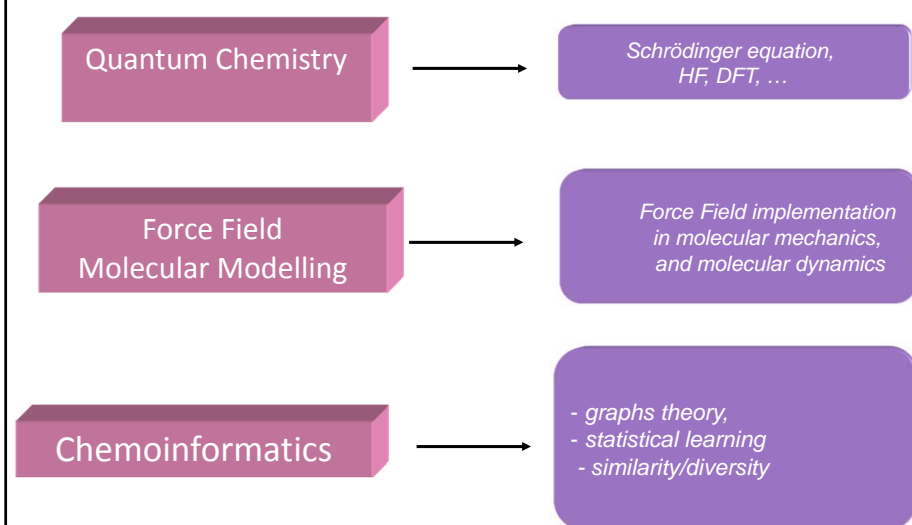
- *molecular graphs*
- *descriptor vectors*



## Basic concepts



## Basic approaches



## Major applications

Quantum Chemistry

-interpretation of known phenomena  
-property assessment in a very limited scale

Force Field  
Molecular Modelling

-property assessment in a limited scale  
-interpretation of known phenomena

Chemoinformatics

-storage, organisation and search of structures (chemical databases)  
-property / activity assessment

## Direct link with a given property

Quantum Chemistry

very limited number of properties

Force Field  
Molecular Modelling

limited number of properties

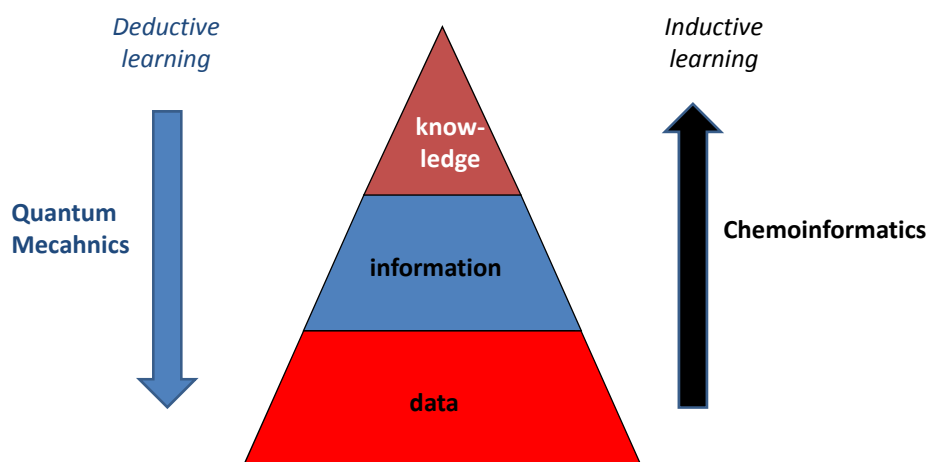
Chemoinformatics

any property

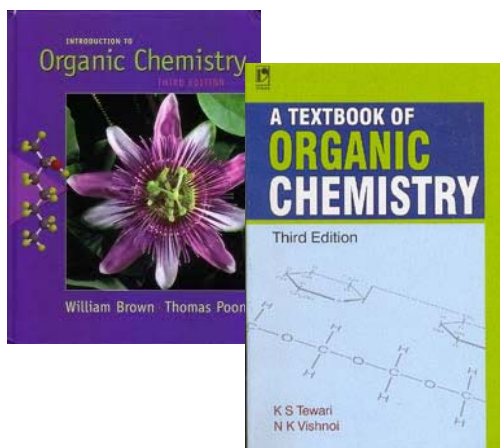
## Learning approach

- In chemoinformatics the logic of learning is not based on existing physical theories. **Chemoinformatics considers the world too complex to be *a priori* described by any set of rules.** Thus, the rules (models) in chemoinformatics are not explicitly taken from rigorous physical models, but learned inductively from the data.

## Chemoinformatics: From Data to Knowledge



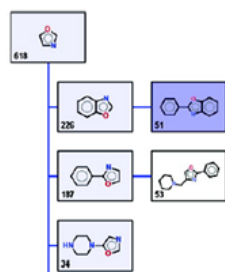
## Organic chemistry: exercise of « intuitive » chemoinformatics



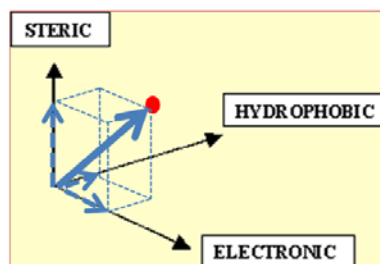
## Chemical Space paradigm

***Chemoinformatics* is a field dealing with molecular objects (graphs, vectors) in chemical space**

## Chemical Space paradigm



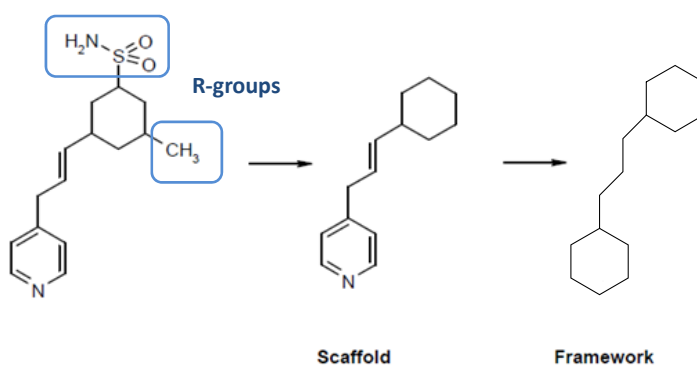
graphs-based



descriptors -based

**SPACE = objects + relations between them**

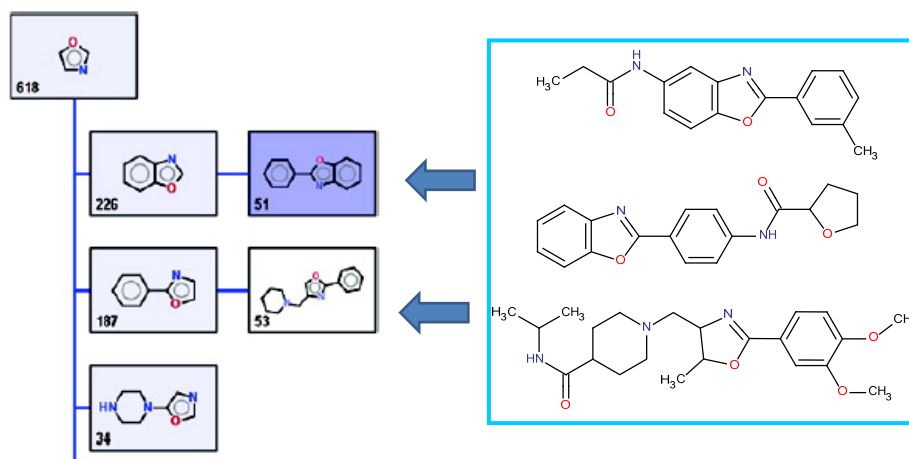
## Scaffolds and Frameworks



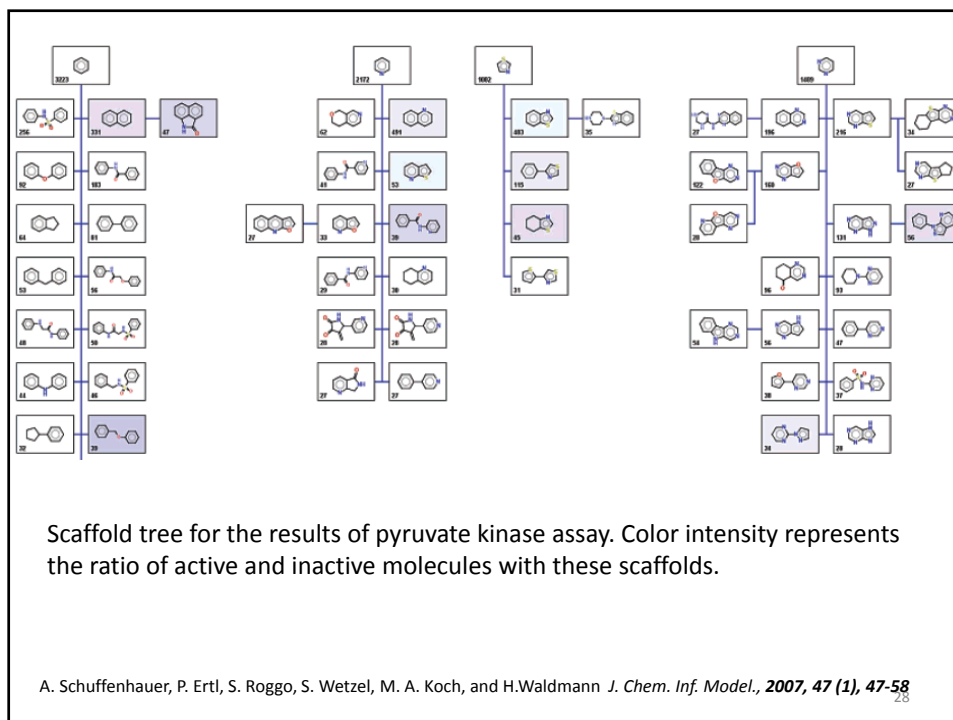
Bemis, G.W.; Murcko, M.A. *J. Med. Chem.* **1996**, 39, 2887-2893

### The Scaffold Tree – Visualization of the Scaffold Universe by Hierarchical Scaffold Classification

A. Schuffenhauer, P. Ertl, et al. *J. Chem. Inf. Model.*, **2007**, *47* (1), 47-58

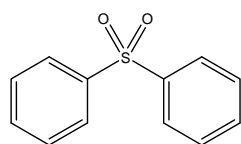


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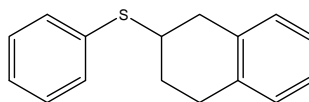


## Maximal Common Substructure (MCS) similarity index

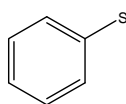
$$\text{Graph Similarity} = \frac{N_{\text{MCS}}}{\min(N_1, N_2)}$$



**Mol 1**  
 $N_1 = 16$



**Mol 2**  
 $N_2 = 18$



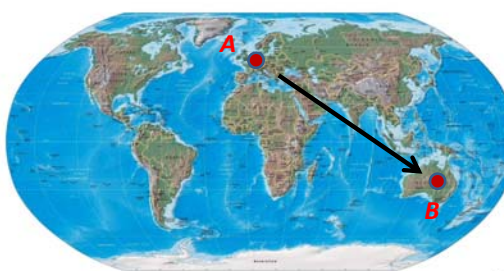
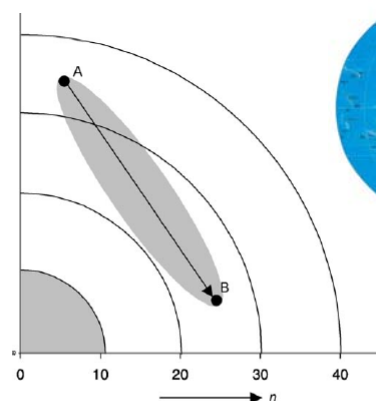
**MCS**  
 $N_{\text{MCS}} = 7$

$$\text{Graph Similarity} = \frac{7}{16}$$

T. R. Hagadone *J. Chem. Inf. Comput. Sci.* 1992, **32**, 515-521

## Chemical Space Travel

Ruud van Deursen and Jean-Louis Reymond<sup>1</sup>  
*ChemMedChem* 2007, 2, 636 – 640

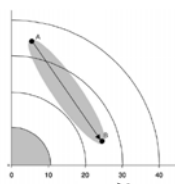





**Figure 1.** Travelling between A and B for targeted exploration of unknown chemical space (shaded area). The shaded area under  $n \leq 11$  has been explored by extensive enumeration.<sup>[3b]</sup>  $n$  is the number of non-hydrogen atoms in a molecule. The area is proportional to  $\log N$  for  $N$  = the total number of molecules in chemical space up to  $n$  atoms per molecule.<sup>[3b]</sup>

## Chemical Space Travel

Ruud van Deursen and Jean-Louis Reymond<sup>l</sup>

*ChemMedChem* 2007, 2, 636–640

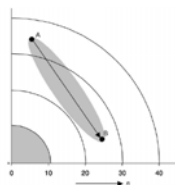


Nearest neighbour mutations <sup>[a]</sup>	
Atom type exchange <sup>[b,c]</sup>	Replaces any atom by another atom type
Atom inversion <sup>[c]</sup>	Inverts two neighbouring atoms
Atom removal <sup>[c]</sup>	Primary: $A-X \rightarrow A$ Secondary: $A-X-A \rightarrow A-A$ Tertiary: $XA_3 \rightarrow A-A-A$ (max. 6 combinations if 3 different A's) $A_2CH-CHA_2$ or $A_2C=CA_2 \rightarrow CA_4$ Quaternary: $XA_4 \rightarrow A-A-A-A$ or $A(A)_3$ (max. 16 combinations if 4 different A's)
Atom addition <sup>[b,c]</sup>	On terminal atoms: $A \rightarrow A-X$ In any bond: $A-A \rightarrow A-X-A$ In chains: $A-A-A \rightarrow XA_3$ ; $A-A-A \rightarrow A-XA_4$ Quaternary centres: $CA_4 \rightarrow A_2CH-CHA_2$ and $A_2C=CA_2$ (max. 6 combinations if 4 different A's)
Bond saturation <sup>[c]</sup>	Breaks a cyclic $\sigma$ - or any $\pi$ -bond
Bond unsaturation	Makes a cyclic $\sigma$ - or $\pi$ -bond
Bond rearrangement <sup>[c]</sup>	Breaks a $\sigma$ - or $\pi$ -bond and inserts it anywhere else in the molecule
Non-nearest neighbour mutations	
Aromatic ring addition <sup>[c,d]</sup>	$A-CH_3 \rightarrow$  $A-NH_2 \rightarrow$  $H_2O \rightarrow$ 

## Chemical Space Travel

Ruud van Deursen and Jean-Louis Reymond<sup>l</sup>

*ChemMedChem* 2007, 2, 636–640



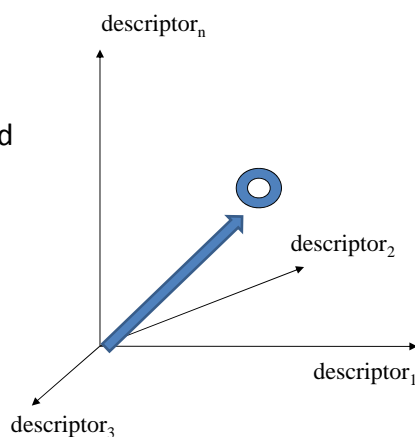
**Table 3.** Examples of chemical space travel between different molecules.<sup>[a]</sup>

From:	To:	Cubane	Aspirine	VX	Adenosine	Sucrose
Cubane	–	10	18	23 (1)	19	
Aspirine	10*	–	14	21	15	
VX	13	17 (1)	–	31 (1)	18	
Adenosine	17*	27	18*	–	14	
Sucrose	18*	22 (1)	22*	29 (1)	–	
Penicillin G	19*	13*	14*	23	19*	
Strychnine	21*	17*	20	26	22	
Colchicine	27	22*	21	26	18	
Tetracycline	28*	20	25*	49	19	
Vitamin K	30*	24*	30*	34*	28*	



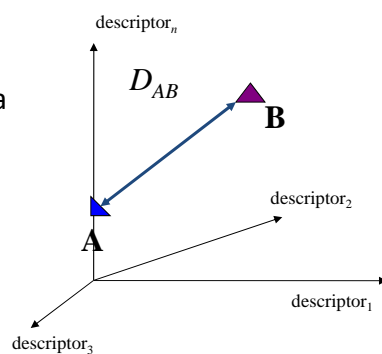
## Descriptors-based chemical space

**Each object** (molecule, reaction, interaction pattern) is represented by a vector whereas the metrics is defined by distance or similarity measures



## Descriptors-based chemical space

Distance in chemical space is used as a measure of molecular “similarity” and “dissimilarity”



### Popular Similarity / Distance measures

- **Similarity :**
  - Tanimoto coefficient
  - Dice coefficient
  - Cosine coefficient
- **Distance :**
  - Euclidean
  - Manhattan
  - Soergel

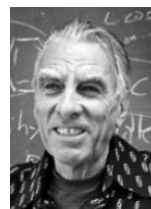
### Descriptors-based chemical space

Biological Activity =  $f(\text{Physicochemical properties})$

$$\log 1/C = a \cdot (\log P)^2 + b \cdot \log P + c \cdot \sigma + d \cdot E_s + \text{const}$$

Physicochemical properties can be broadly classied into three general types:

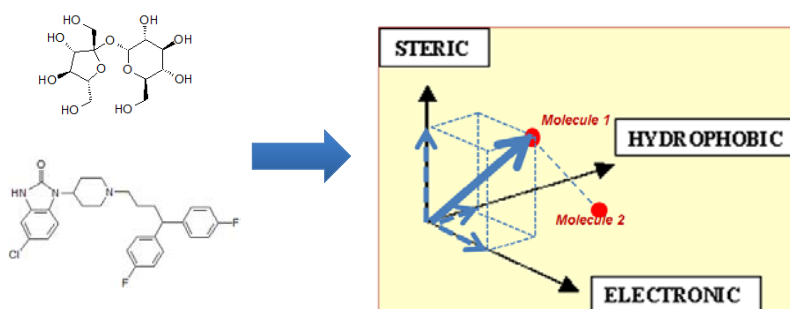
- Electronic ( $\sigma$ )
- Steric ( $E_s$ )
- Hydrophobic ( $\log P$ )



Corwin Hansch

## Descriptors-based chemical space

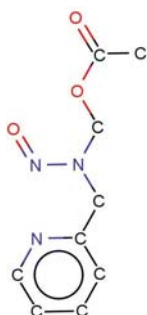
$$\log 1/C = a (\log P)^2 + b \log P + \rho \sigma + \delta E_s + \text{const}$$



## Molecular Descriptors :

ensemble of topological, electronic, geometry parameters calculated directly from molecular structure

Molecular graph



- Topological indices,
- Atomic charges,
- Inductive descriptors,
- Substructural fragments,
- Molecular volume and surface, ...

Descriptor vector

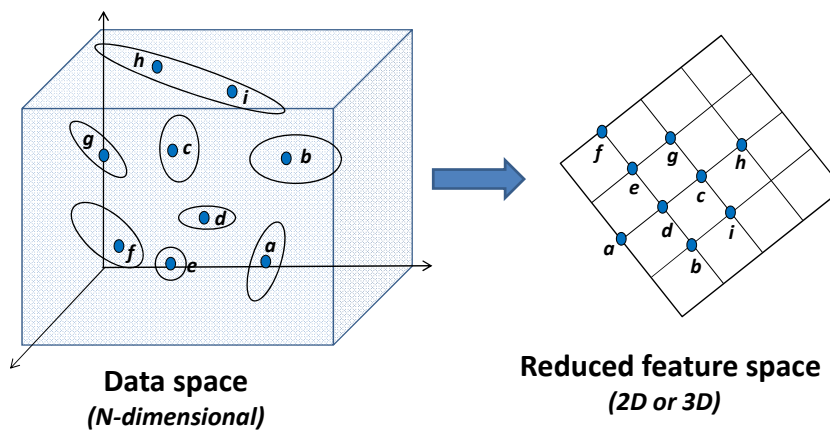
Descriptors
$D_1$
$D_2$
...
$D_i$
...



> 5000 types of descriptors are reported

## Data visualization of descriptors-based chemical space

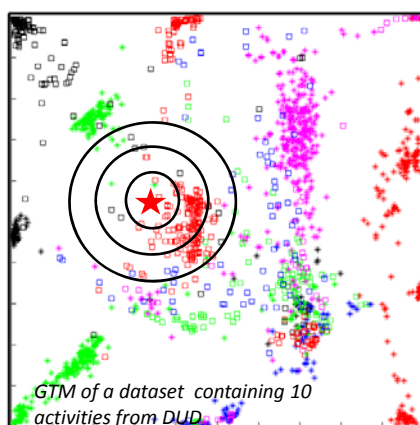
Data visualization =>  
dimensionality reduction problem



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## Chemography:

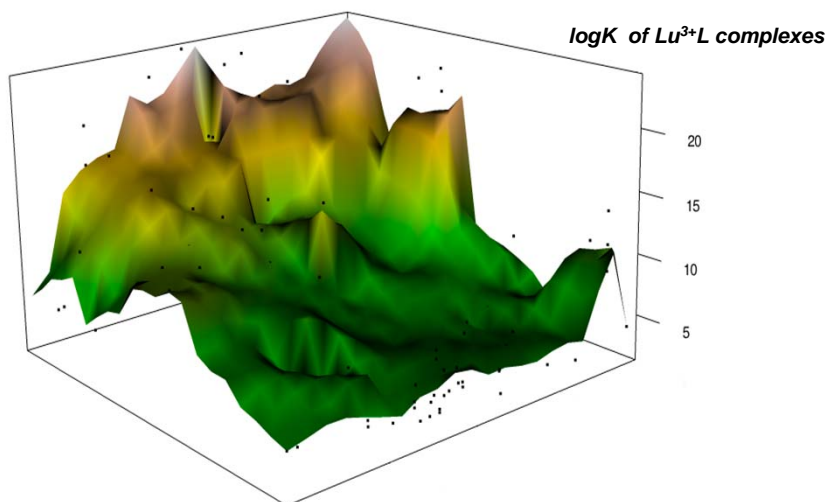
Design and visualization of chemical space



**Similarity principle:**  
similar molecules possess similar properties

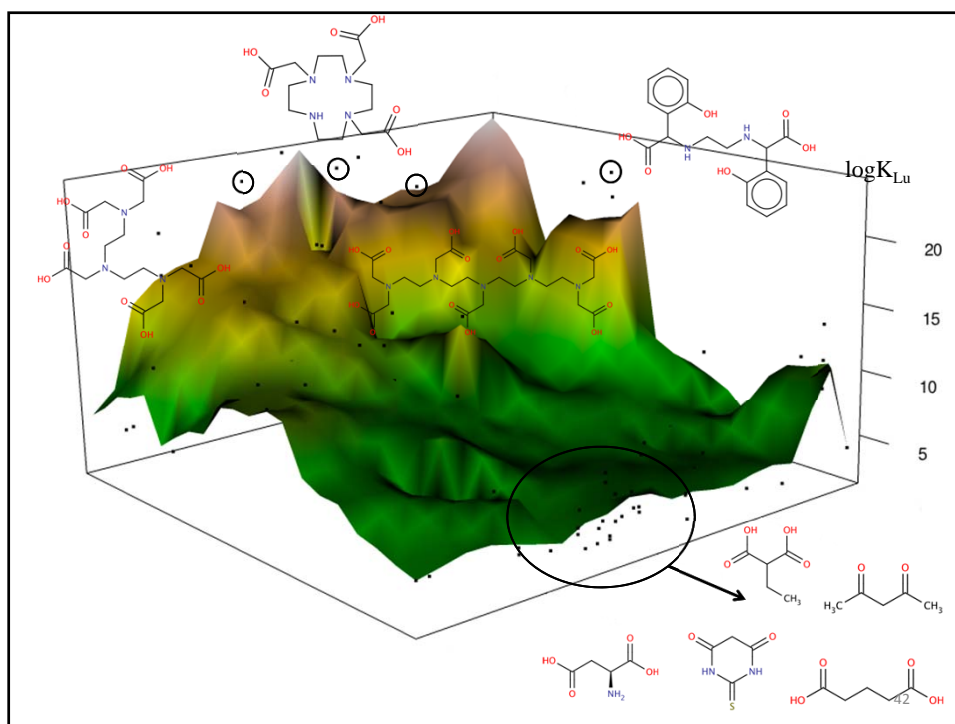
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### Chemical space representation: *Activity Landscapes*

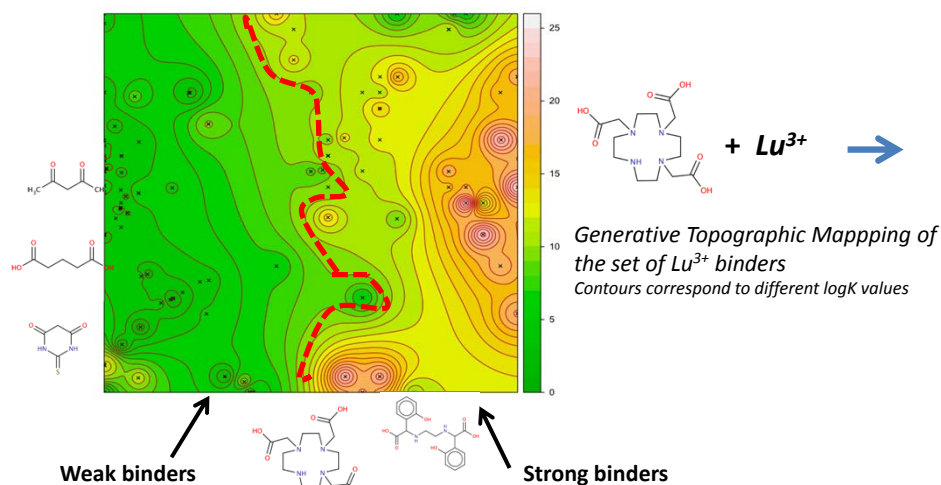


H. A. Gaspar, I. I. Baskin, G. Marcou, D. Horvath, A. Varnek *Mol. Informatics*, 2015, **34** (6-7), 348-356

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## Chemical space visualization

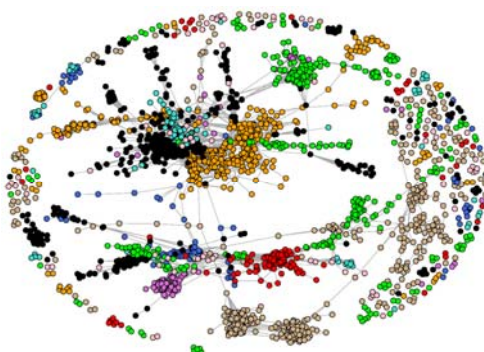


H. A. Gaspar, I. I. Baskin, G. Marcou, D. Horvath, A. Varnek *Mol. Informatics*, 2015, **34** (6-7), 348-356

## Network-like Similarity Graphs

### Representation of the database as a graph

- each molecule is presented as a node,
- two nodes are connected if they are similar enough ( $T > T_0$ )



Database containing > 2700 ligands against 10 different targets extracted from DUD

Wasserman et al. *J. Med. Chem.*, 2010, Vol. 53, No. 23

## Chemical Space: how large is it ?

J Comput Aided Mol Des (2013) 27:675–679  
DOI 10.1007/s10822-013-9672-4

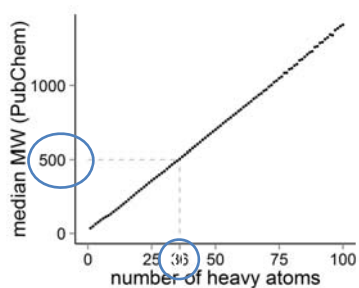
### Estimation of the size of drug-like chemical space based on GDB-17 data

P. G. Polishchuk · T. I. Madzhidov ·  
A. Varnek

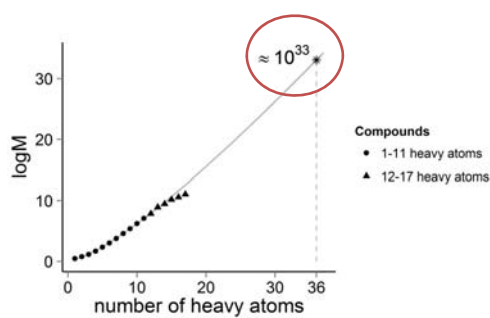
- **GDB-17** – computer-generated set of  $1.66 \times 10^{11}$  structures containing up to  $N = 17$  heavy atoms (L. Ruddigkeit et al. J Chem Inf Model 2012, **52**, 2864–2875)
- The number of structures corresponding to  $N = 1, 2, 3, \dots, 17$  is available. This allows one to establish relationships between the number of structures ( $M$ ) and  $N$
- What is a limited value of  $N$  ?

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## Chemical Space: how large is it ?



Median MW vs number of heavy atoms for the PubChem database



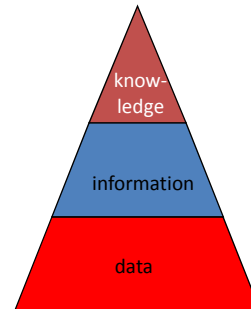
Extrapolation of the compounds number ( $M$ ) as a function of the number of heavy atoms ( $N$ ) based on data taken from GDB-17

$$\log M = 0.584 \times N \times \log N + 0.356$$

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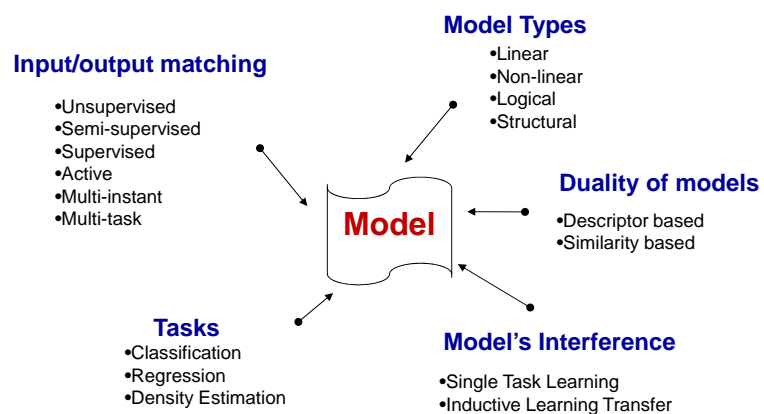
## Modeling background: Machine Learning

**Activity** = **F** (structure)  
= **F** (descriptors)



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## Machine Learning: different approaches to model description



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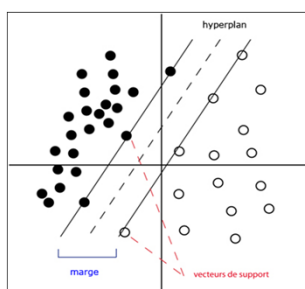


## Machine learning methods

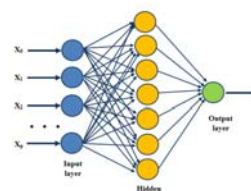
### Multiple Linear Regression (MLR)

$$\text{Property} = a_0 + \sum_{i=1}^k a_i \cdot X_i$$

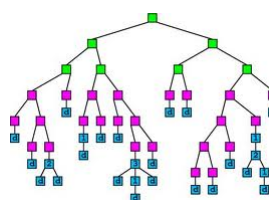
### Support Vector Machine



### Neural Networks



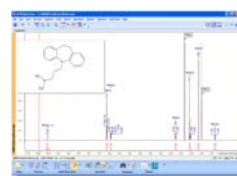
### Decision Trees



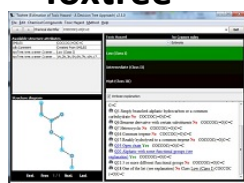
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## Predictors: Commercial and Public Software

**simulationsplus, inc.**  
integrating science and software



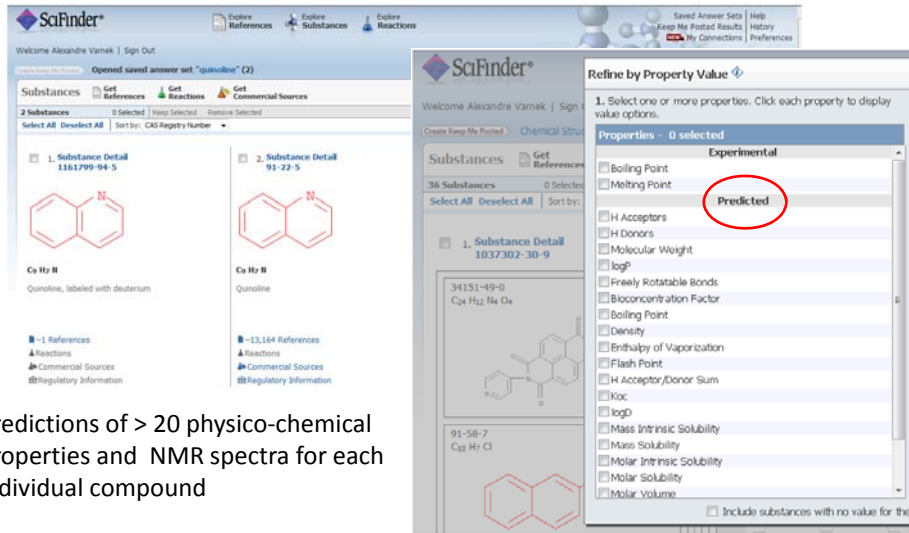
### Toxtree



### PA SS



## Predictive tools in SciFinder



predictions of > 20 physico-chemical properties and NMR spectra for each individual compound

## ISIDA virtual screening server

[infochim.u-strasbg.fr/webserv/VSEngine.html](http://infochim.u-strasbg.fr/webserv/VSEngine.html)

Prediction of property logP - Page nr. 3 - Mozilla Firefox

http://infochim.u-strasbg.fr/userdata/drugs/logP/93.html

Courrier : Boite de réception Virtual Screening Engine - Laboratoire d... Prediction of property logP - Pag...

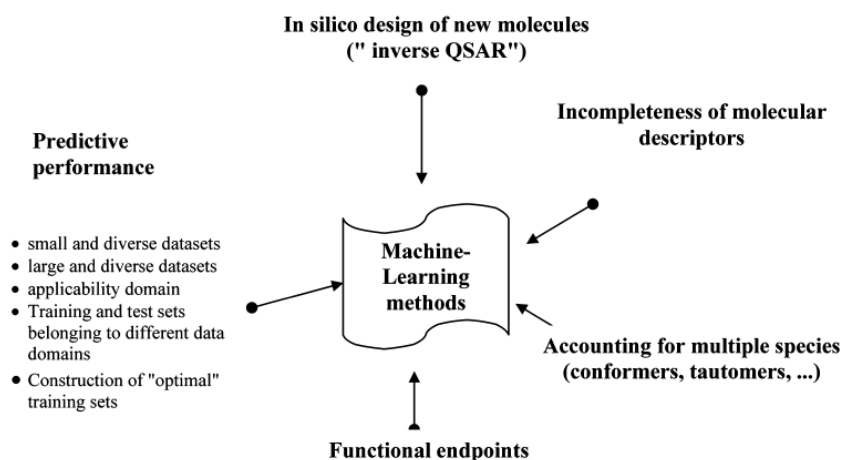
Predicted property logP for 9677 compounds AS A CONSENSUS OF APPLICABLE LOCAL MODELS

logP	VAR	TRUST	REASON
1.59	0.546	NONE	- None of the local models have applicability domains covering this compound - Individual models failed to reach unanimity - prediction variance exceeds 1.0% of the property range width
3.13	0.127	POOR	- There are too few (less than 5) local models containing molecule within applicability domain - global consensus is preferred - Furthermore, the other local models disagree with the prediction of the minority containing compound inside their applicability domain - Individual models failed to reach unanimity - prediction variance exceeds 1.0% of the property range width
2.60	0.105	OPTIMAL	-

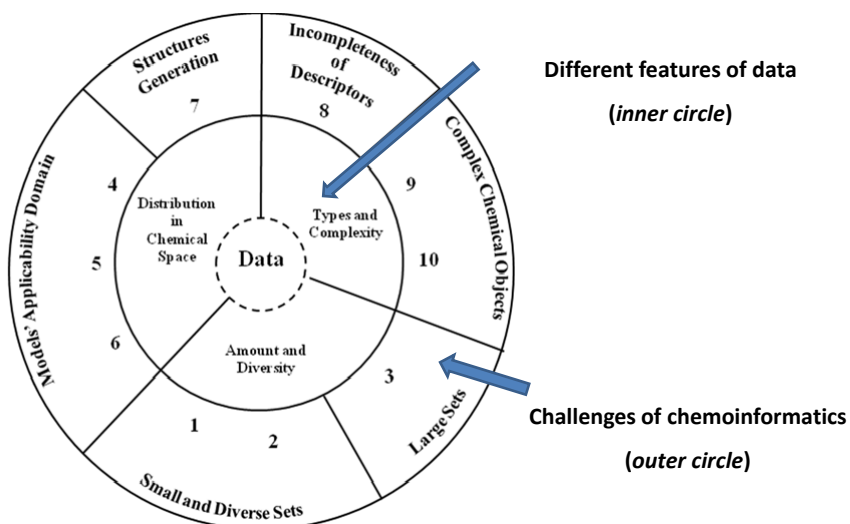
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**Machine Learning Methods for Property Prediction in Chemoinformatics: *Quo Vadis?***Alexandre Varnek<sup>\*,†</sup> and Igor Baskin<sup>†,‡</sup>

***Review of existing mathematical approaches potentially useful but rarely or never used in chemoinformatics***

**Main Challenges of Machine-Learning in Chemoinformatics**

## Guide to choose machine learning method to solve chemical problems



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## Chemoinformatics Tools and the Appropriate Machine Learning Concepts and Methods

Chemoinformatics task or problem	Machine Learning Concept	Machine Learning method	Implementation in freely available software
1 Increase of the predictive performance of models built on small and diverse data sets	Ensemble learning <sup>291</sup>	Different methods of combining classifiers <sup>292</sup>	meta/Vote ( <i>H</i> )
		Bagging <sup>293</sup>	meta/Bagging ( <i>H</i> ), adabag ( <i>R</i> )
		Boosting (classification) <sup>343</sup>	meta/AdaBoostM1 ( <i>H</i> ), ada, adabag ( <i>R</i> )
		Boosting (regression) <sup>341</sup>	meta/AdditiveRegression ( <i>H</i> )
		Stacking <sup>345</sup>	GAMBoost, mboost ( <i>R</i> )
		Random subspace <sup>343</sup>	meta/Stacking ( <i>H</i> )
		Random forest <sup>343</sup>	meta/RandomSubSpace ( <i>H</i> )
		Random forest <sup>343</sup>	meta/RandomSubSpace ( <i>H</i> )
	Semi-supervised and transductive learning <sup>294, 295</sup>	TSVM (transductive SVM) <sup>37, 294, 295</sup>	meta/RandomSubSpace ( <i>H</i> )
		SGT (Spectral Graph Transducer)	meta/RandomSubSpace ( <i>H</i> )
		SemiL (Semi-supervised Learning) <sup>350</sup>	meta/RandomSubSpace ( <i>H</i> )
		LapSVM (Laplacian SVM) <sup>350</sup> Semi-supervised learning based on one-class classification <sup>350</sup> and ensemble learning <sup>351</sup>	meta/RandomSubSpace ( <i>H</i> )

A. Varnek, I. Baskin. *J. Chem. Inf. Mod.* **2012**, 52 (6), 1413-1437

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## Chemoinformatics and "Sister" Disciplines:

Machine Learning, Chemometrics and Bioinformatics

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### Chemoinformatics vs Machine Learning

**Chemoinformatics is a very specific area of ML application. The specificity of chemoinformatics results from:**

- the nature of chemical objects (molecular graphs),
- the complexity of the chemical universe,  
chemical data result from an explorative process rather than from specially organized sampling. Hence, they cannot be considered as representative, independent and identically distributed sampling from a well defined distribution. Special approaches are needed: applicability domain, active learning, ...
- a possibility to account for an extra-knowledge, i.e., relationships between different properties issued from physicochemical theory.

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### Chemoinformatics vs Chemometrics

**Chemometrics** is the chemical discipline that uses mathematical, statistical and other methods

- to design or select optimal measurement procedures and experiments, and
- to provide maximum relevant chemical information by analysing chemical data.

*L. Massart, Chemometrics: a textbook, Elsevier, NY, 1988*

### Chemoinformatics vs Chemometrics

Generally, *chemometrics* **requires no information** about chemical structure and, therefore it overlaps with *chemoinformatics* only in the area of application of machine learning methods.

It is widely used in experiment design, chemical engineering, analytical chemistry and treatment of spectra – fields where an exhaustive treatment of multivariate data is needed.

## Chemoinformatics vs Bioinformatics

**Chemoinformatics** - small molecules (2D molecular graphs)

**Bioinformatics** - large biological molecules (1D and 3D representation)

### *Combination of bio- and chemo-informatics approaches*

- **Docking**: protein structures could be generated by bioinformatics tools, whereas some scoring functions involve vector representation of ligands
- **Protein-Ligand descriptors or fingerprints** based on available 3D information about protein-ligand complexes,

### *Chemoinformatics:*

intersection of chemistry, computer science, mathematics, biology, material science, ...

*Is Chemoinformatics* an individual scientific discipline or just a mixture of methods and concepts imported from different fields ?

**Chemoinformatics** is an individual scientific discipline characterizing by its own molecular representations and basic concept – chemical space paradigm. It interfaces with graphs theory, machine-learning, QM and FF approaches in its various applications.



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