

# Optimal Learning for Drug Discovery in Ewing's Sarcoma

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# Outline

- I. Ewing Sarcoma and Our Problem
- II. Modeling Structure-Value Relationships
- III. Correlated Knowledge Gradient Algorithm
- IV. A First Improvement
- V. A Further Improvement
- VI. Results

# Ewing's Sarcoma

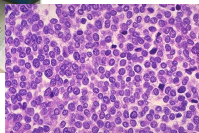


It is a tumor typically arising in the bones, and rarely in soft tissues, of children and adolescents.

The tumor has retained the most unfavorable prognosis of all primary musculoskeletal tumors ([Iwa07])

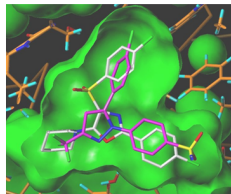
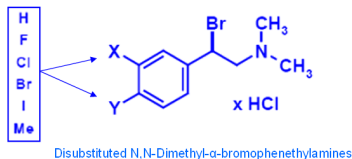


Ewing's Sarcoma cells



# Our Problem

We have a molecule to which *substituents* can be attached at various sites  $\Rightarrow$  many combinations.



Given

- measurements made so far
- possible correlations between molecules with similar structure

**Can we systematically tell which compound to test next?**

# Modeling Structure-Value Relationships (I)

Start with a linearly additive model - Free Wilson Model.

Represent a compound as a row vector  $s$  of 0 and 1's.

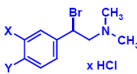
Value of a compound is

$$v = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i s_i + \zeta$$

Hugo Kubinyi, [www.kubinyi.de](http://www.kubinyi.de)

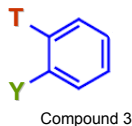
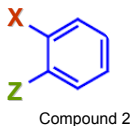
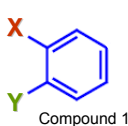
| meta<br>(X) | para<br>(Y) | log 1/C<br>obs. | meta-<br>F | Cl | Br | I | Me | para-<br>F | Cl | Br | I | Me | log 1/C<br>calc. |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|------------|----|----|---|----|------------|----|----|---|----|------------------|
| H           | H           | 7.46            |            |    |    |   |    |            |    |    |   |    | 7.82             |
| H           | F           | 8.16            |            |    |    |   |    | 1          |    |    |   |    | 8.16             |
| H           | Cl          | 8.68            |            |    |    |   |    |            | 1  |    |   |    | 8.59             |
| H           | Br          | 8.89            |            |    |    |   |    |            |    | 1  |   |    | 8.84             |
| H           | I           | 9.25            |            |    |    |   |    |            |    |    | 1 |    | 9.25             |
| H           | Me          | 9.30            |            |    |    |   |    |            |    |    |   | 1  | 9.08             |
| F           | H           | 7.52            | 1          |    |    |   |    |            |    |    |   |    | 7.52             |
| Cl          | H           | 8.16            |            | 1  |    |   |    |            |    |    |   |    | 8.03             |
| Br          | H           | 8.30            |            |    | 1  |   |    |            |    |    |   |    | 8.26             |
| I           | H           | 8.40            |            |    |    | 1 |    |            |    |    |   |    | 8.40             |
| Me          | H           | 8.46            |            |    |    |   | 1  |            |    |    |   |    | 8.28             |
| Cl          | F           | 8.19            |            | 1  |    |   |    | 1          |    |    |   |    | 8.37             |
| Br          | F           | 8.57            |            |    | 1  |   |    |            | 1  |    |   |    | 8.60             |
| Me          | F           | 8.82            |            |    |    |   | 1  | 1          |    |    |   |    | 8.62             |
| Cl          | Cl          | 8.89            |            | 1  |    |   |    |            | 1  |    |   |    | 8.80             |
| Br          | Cl          | 8.92            |            |    | 1  |   |    |            |    | 1  |   |    | 9.02             |
| Me          | Cl          | 8.96            |            |    |    |   | 1  | 1          |    |    |   |    | 9.04             |
| Cl          | Br          | 9.00            |            |    | 1  |   |    |            |    | 1  |   |    | 9.05             |
| Br          | Br          | 9.35            |            |    |    | 1 |    |            |    |    | 1 |    | 9.28             |
| Me          | Br          | 9.22            |            |    |    |   | 1  |            |    |    |   | 1  | 9.30             |

**Matrix for Free Wilson Analysis**



x HCl

# Modeling Covariance (I)



Model the covariance between compounds  $i$  and  $j$  as

$$\text{Cov}(i, j) = \text{Var}(\zeta) + \sum_{m \in \mathcal{L}_{ij}} \text{Var}(a_m)$$

where  $\mathcal{L}_{ij} = \{l \in \{1, \dots, k\} | s_l^i = s_l^j = 1\}$ .

If the variance of the disubstituted molecule,  $\text{Var}(\zeta)$ , is  $\sigma^2$ , then

$$\text{Cov}(1, 2) = \text{Var}(a_X) + \sigma^2;$$

$$\text{Cov}(2, 3) = \sigma^2.$$

# Modeling Structure-Value Relationships (II)

A more general model - allow for deviations from linearity.

Value of a compound  $x$  is

$$\vartheta_x = \sum_{i=1}^k a_i s_i + \zeta + b_x.$$

where  $b_1, \dots, b_M \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_b)$ .

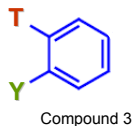
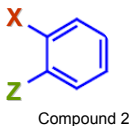
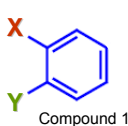
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| meta<br>(X) | para<br>(Y) | log 1/C<br>obs. | meta- |    |    |   |    | para- |    |    |   |    | log 1/C<br>calc. |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------|----|----|---|----|-------|----|----|---|----|------------------|
|             |             |                 | F     | Cl | Br | I | Me | F     | Cl | Br | I | Me |                  |
| H           | H           | 7.46            |       |    |    |   |    |       |    |    |   |    | 7.82             |
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**Matrix for Free Wilson Analysis**

CN(C)CC(Br)c1ccc(X)c(Y)c1  
x HCl

# Modeling Covariance (II)



Model the covariance between compounds  $i$  and  $j$  as

$$\text{Cov}(i, j) = \text{Var}(\zeta) + \sum_{m \in \mathcal{L}_{ij}} \text{Var}(a_m) + \sigma_b^2 \mathbf{1}_{\{i=j\}}$$

where  $\mathcal{L}_{ij} = \{l \in \{1, \dots, k\} | s_l^i = s_l^j = 1\}$ .

If the variance of the disubstituted molecule,  $\text{Var}(\zeta)$ , is  $\sigma^2$ , then

$$\text{Cov}(1, 2) = \text{Var}(a_X) + \sigma^2;$$

$$\text{Cov}(2, 3) = \sigma^2;$$

$$\text{Cov}(1, 1) = \text{Var}(a_X) + \text{Var}(a_Y) + \sigma^2 + \sigma_b^2.$$



# Propose: Knowledge Gradient with Correlated Beliefs (KGCB)

Make each decision so as to maximize the increase in knowledge (the gradient) from measuring a specific compound.

$$\nu^{n,KG} = \max_x \mathbb{E}_n \left[ \max_i \mu_i^{n+1} | S^n = s, x^n = x \right] - \max_i \mu_i^n$$

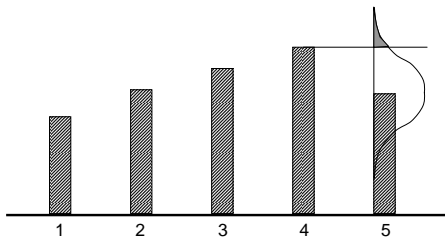
where  $S^n$  represents the belief state at measurement  $n$ , and  $x$  is a compound.

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# Knowledge Gradient with Correlated Beliefs (KGCB) Algorithm [FPD09]

Bayesian approach:

- Start with a belief on the values of the compounds, given by a mean vector  $\mu^0$  and a covariance matrix  $\Sigma^0$ ;

# Knowledge Gradient with Correlated Beliefs (KGCB) Algorithm [FPD09]

Bayesian approach:

- Start with a belief on the values of the compounds, given by a mean vector  $\mu^0$  and a covariance matrix  $\Sigma^0$ ;
- 1 Decide what to measure and make the measurement;
- 2 Update the mean vector  $\mu$  and the covariance matrix  $\Sigma$ :

$$\begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ \mu^{n+1} \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ \mu^n \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} + \alpha \begin{bmatrix} \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & \Sigma^n & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

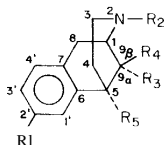
Vector of 0's with a 1 at the position of the compound that was just measured

$$\begin{bmatrix} \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & \Sigma^{n+1} & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & \Sigma^n & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} + \beta \begin{bmatrix} \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & \Sigma^n & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & \Sigma^n & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix}$$

- Repeat steps 1 and 2 until all measurements have been made.

# A More Scalable Implementation

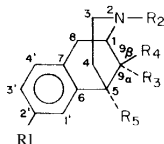
Consider a molecule with 5 sites, at each of which 10 substituents can be attached.



This implies  $10^5 = 100,000$  compounds.  $\Sigma$  is too big!

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$$\begin{aligned}
 & \begin{matrix} \text{100,000} \\ \updownarrow \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ \mu^{n+1} \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ \mu^n \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} + \alpha \begin{bmatrix} \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & \Sigma^n & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\
 & \begin{matrix} \text{100,000} \\ \updownarrow \end{matrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & \Sigma^{n+1} & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & \Sigma^n & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} + \beta \begin{bmatrix} \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & \Sigma^n & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \dots & \dots & \dots \\ \dots & \Sigma^n & \dots \\ \dots & \dots & \dots \end{bmatrix} \\
 & \begin{matrix} \text{100,000} \\ \updownarrow \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} \text{100,000} \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{100,000} \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{100,000} \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{100,000} \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{100,000} \end{matrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

Vector of 0's with a 1 at the position of the compound that was just measured

# A More Scalable Implementation

**New approach:** keep a belief on the *substituents*  $a_i$ .

Assume  $a \sim \mathcal{N}(\theta^n, \Sigma_\theta^n)$ .

For the Free-Wilson model, since  $V = \Sigma a_i s_i + \zeta$ ,

$$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \updownarrow 100,000 \\ \left[ \begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ \mu^n \\ \vdots \end{array} \right] \\ \downarrow \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \updownarrow 100,000 \\ \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ \cdots & \Sigma^n & \cdots \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \end{array} \right] \\ \leftarrow 100,000 \end{array} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} \leftarrow 50 \\ \left[ \begin{array}{cccc} 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \end{array} \right] \\ \downarrow \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} \left[ \theta^n \right] \\ \uparrow \\ \left[ \Sigma_\theta^n \right] \\ \uparrow \\ 50 \text{ by } 50 \end{array} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \leftarrow 50 \text{ by } 1 \\ \left[ \begin{array}{cccc} 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \\ \cdots & \cdots & \cdots & \cdots \end{array} \right]^T \end{array} \end{array}$$

# A More Scalable Implementation

Similarly to the updates for compounds, the updates for substituents are recursive:

$$\begin{aligned} [\theta^{n+1}] &= [\theta^n] - \alpha [\Sigma_\theta^n] \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ x^n \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix}; \\ [\Sigma_\theta^{n+1}] &= [\Sigma_\theta^n] - \beta [\Sigma_\theta^n] \begin{bmatrix} \vdots \\ x^n \\ \vdots \end{bmatrix} [\dots (x^n)^T \dots] [\Sigma_\theta^n]. \end{aligned}$$

This improvement can also be implemented for the general model.



# A further improvement for the Free-Wilson model

Assume an additive linear model.

Let  $A(l)$  be the set of substituents that can be attached at location  $l$ , and let

$$\nu_{l,x}^{n,KG} = \max_{i \in A(l)} \mathbb{E}_n \left[ \max_{k \in A(l)} a_k^{n+1} \mid S^n = s, x^n = x \right] - \max_{k \in A(l)} a_k^n$$

Then,

$$\nu_x^{n,KG} = \sum_l \nu_{l,x}^{n,KG}$$

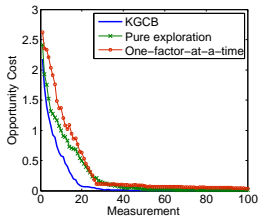
# Computational Improvement

Assume there are  $I$  dimensions with  $M$  substituents at each dimension.

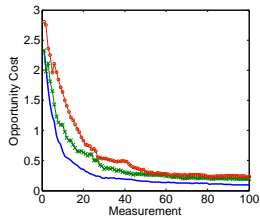
First implementations have computational complexity  $O(IM^{2I} \ln M)$ .

Last implementation has computational complexity  $O(IM^{I+1} \ln M)$ .

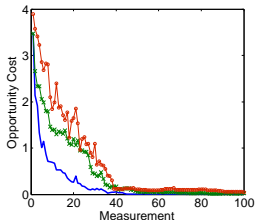
# Results using various data set sizes and measurement noise values



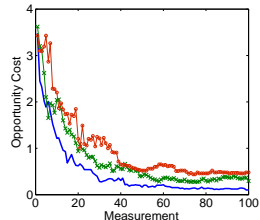
Average over 100 runs - 2640 compounds;  
 $\sigma_{noise} = 0.1$ .



Average over 100 runs - 2640 compounds;  
 $\sigma_{noise} = 0.5$ .

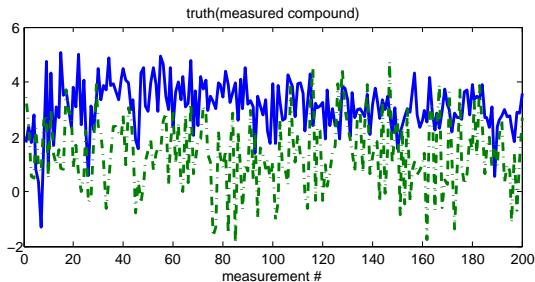
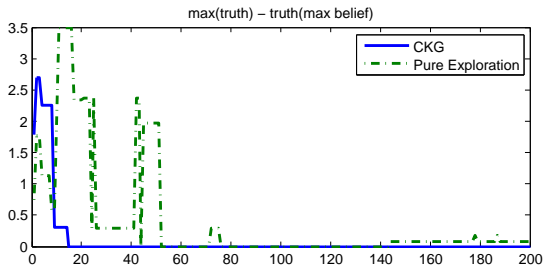


Average over 10 runs - 87120 compounds;  
 $\sigma_{noise} = 0.1$ .

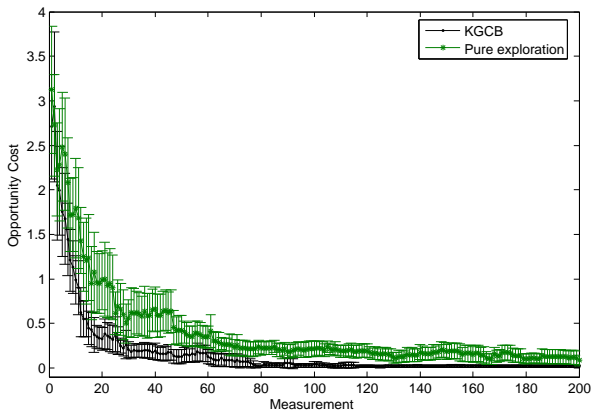


Average over 10 runs - 87120 compounds;  
 $\sigma_{noise} = 0.5$ .

# Results on data sets of 1,000 compounds

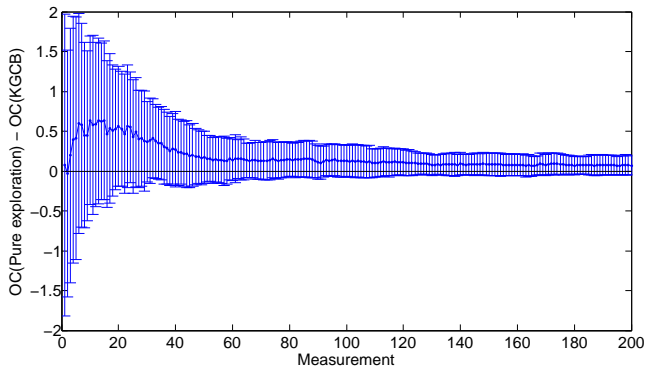


# Results on data sets of 10,000 compounds



**Figure:** Mean and standard deviation of the mean using 15 sample paths of 10000 compounds each.  $\sigma_{noise} = 0.38$ .

# Average performance



**Figure:** Mean and standard deviation using 75 sample paths of 10000 compounds each.  $\sigma_{noise} = 0.38$ .

# Conclusions

- Our simulation results show that the KGCB policy reduces the number of molecules that need to be tested;
- Previous implementations of the KGCB policy require too much computational effort, but the new implementations overcome this barrier;
- The algorithm assigns a value to each compound, which researchers can use to prioritize their experiments;
- The Georgetown University team has just started to test a long sequence of compounds, and are planning to use the KGCB policy to decide which compounds to test;
- As a starting point, they have decided to use the Free-Wilson model, but further improvement might involve using a more advanced model.

# Acknowledgements

- Prof. Warren Powell
- Prof. Jeffrey Toretsky
- Prof. Sivanesan Dakshanamurthy
- Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center
- Go4TheGoal Foundation



# References



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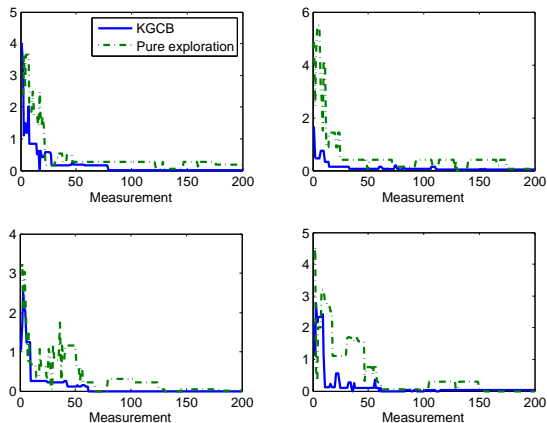


W.B. Powell and P. Frazier.

Optimal Learning.

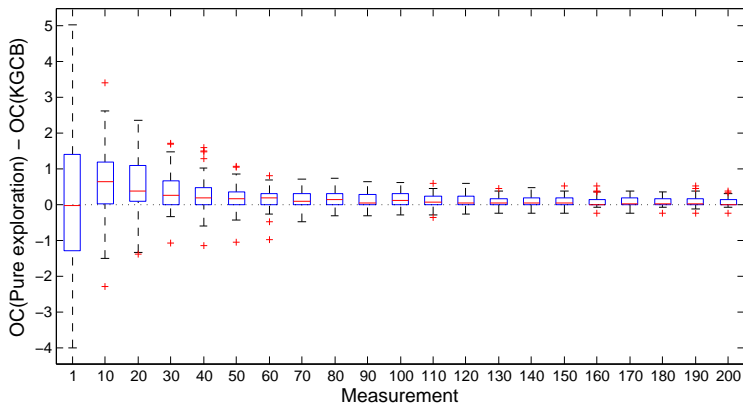
*TutORials in Operations Research, Inform, 10:213–246, 2008.*

# Results on data sets of 10,000 compounds



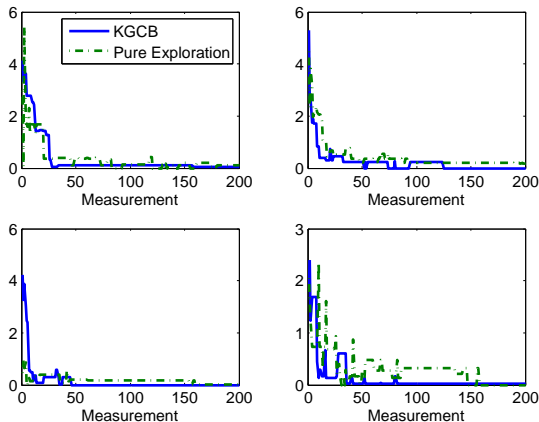
**Figure:** Four sample paths using data sets of 10000 compounds and a noise standard deviation of 0.38.

# Results



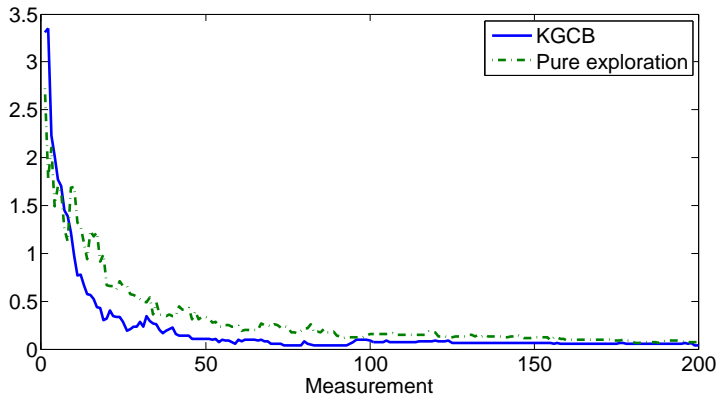
**Figure:** Distribution of difference between opportunity costs between pure exploration and KGCB using 75 sample paths of 10000 compounds each and a noise standard deviation of 0.38.

# Results



**Figure:** Four sample paths using data sets of 25000 compounds and a noise standard deviation of 0.38.

# Results



**Figure:** Average over nine runs of sample paths using data sets of 25000 compounds and a noise standard deviation of 0.38.