

# Towards Scalable Schema Mapping using Large Language Models

Christopher Buss\*, Mahdis Safari\*,  
Arash Termehchy, David Maier, Stefan Lee

\*Equal Contributors



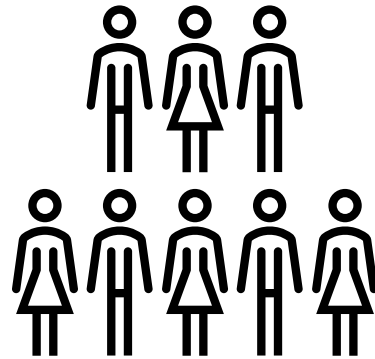
Portland  
State  
UNIVERSITY



Oregon State  
University



# Based on True Events: Drug Repositioning Saves Lives



Patients with Castleman's disease (**Rare disease**)

- Potentially fatal: causes severe inflammation
  - Shuts down major organs
- No effective treatments currently exist



Must do something!

*Unfortunate reality:*



**Too rare:** no financial incentive for companies to develop treatments

*Alternative:*




Find an existing drug to treat Castleman's disease



# Consult a Reference Datasource

[www.FDA Drugs.gov/approved](http://www.FDA Drugs.gov/approved)

FDA_Drugs	
brand_name	known_uses
Humira	rheumatoid arthritis ...
Enbrel	plaque psoriasis ...

A black silhouette of a person wearing a white face mask. The word "Clinician" is written in white text on a black rectangular background at the bottom of the icon.


Clinician



# Identify a Candidate Drug

[www.FDA Drugs.gov/approved](http://www.FDA Drugs.gov/approved)

FDA_Drugs	
brand_name	known_uses
Humira	rheumatoid arthritis ...
Enbrel	plaque psoriasis

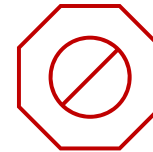


Clinician

Castleman's causes severe inflammation...

**Humira** is used to treat conditions involving severe inflammation

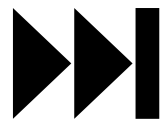
**Candidate drug:** Humira



**STOP:** can't just give Humira to patients!  
*Will it help or hurt?*

**Next step:** gather more information about Humira

- Without making patients wait too long!



Need to connect data from many sources as quickly as possible

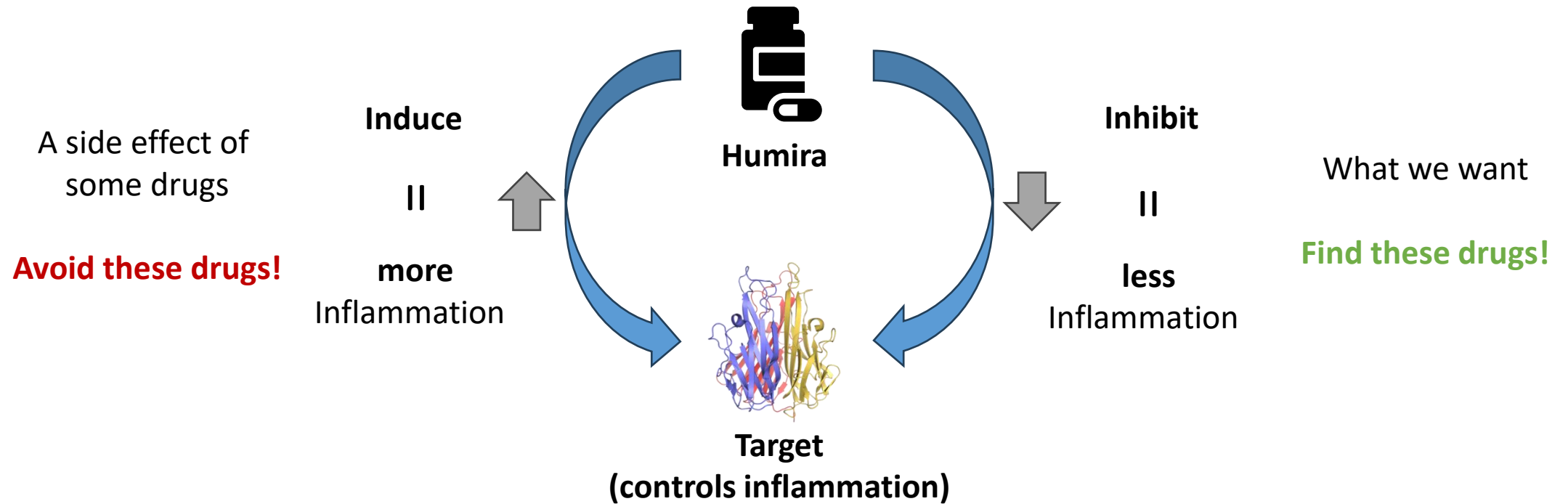
- A lot of important things we need to know about Humira



# Example: Humira's Effects on Proteins?

**Proteins:** fundamental to core mechanisms of body

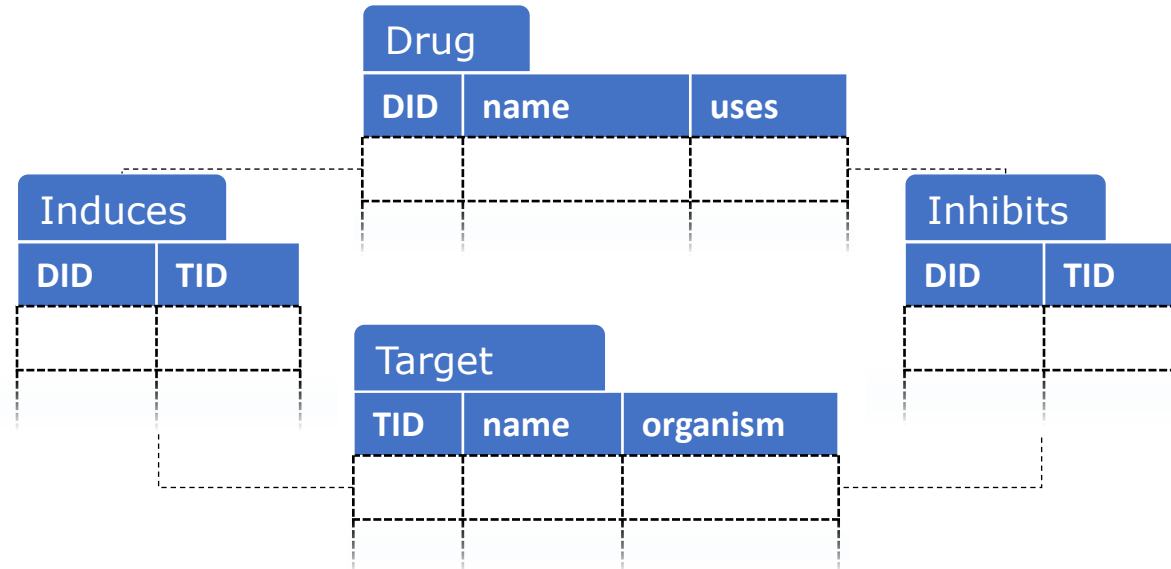
- Make sure Humira affects *correct* proteins in *correct* way



Create a database to capture this information



# A Database for Drug-Protein Interaction



Populate **database** with information



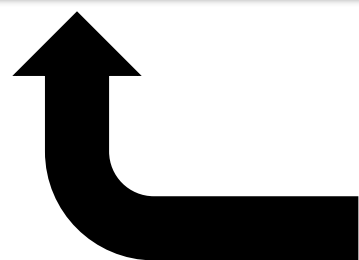
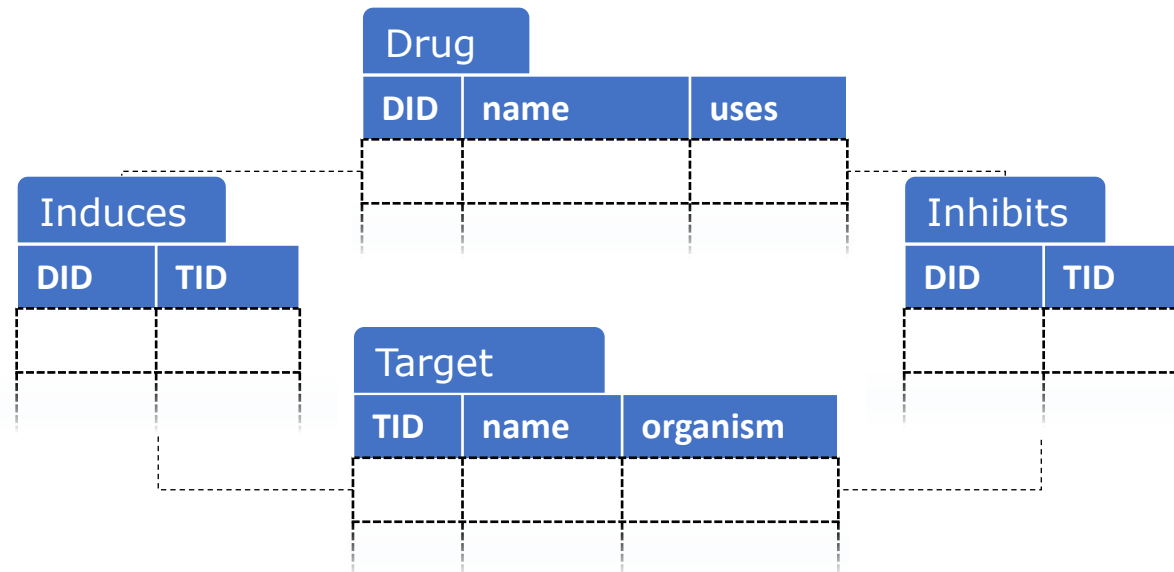
# Add Drug-Target Information

[www.ProteinHub.com/access\\_data](http://www.ProteinHub.com/access_data)

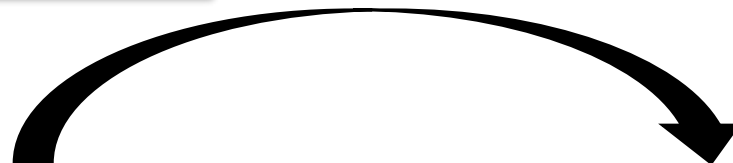
meds			
mid	brand_med	type	
241	Humira	Biotech	
5		Biotech	

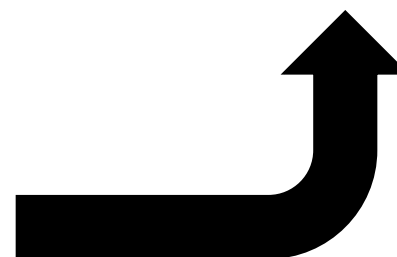
bio_entity			
mid	bid	med_role	entity_name
264		Inhibits	Tumor necrosis factor
329		Anitibody	Lymphotoxin-alpha



Source for  
drug Interactions



Our database



Write **mapping** to move data from **source** to our **database**



# Map Drug Information

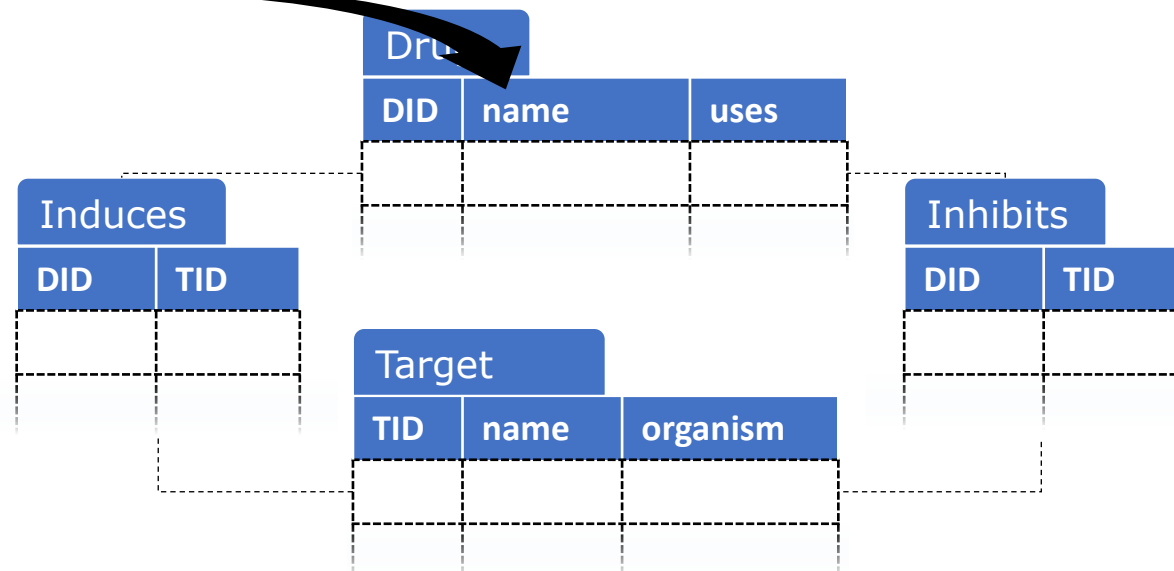
[www.ProteinHub.com/access\\_data](http://www.ProteinHub.com/access_data)

*meds*

mid	brand_med	type
241	Humira	Biotech
5		Biotech

*bio\_entity*

mid	bid	med_role	entity_name
264	Inhibits	Tumor necrosis factor	
329	Anitibody	Lymphotoxin-alpha	



Mapping:

|





# Map Drug Information

[www.ProteinHub.com/access\\_data](http://www.ProteinHub.com/access_data)

*meds*

mid	brand_med	type
241	Humira	Biotech
512	Enbrel	Biotech

*bio\_entity*

mid	bid	med_role	entity_name
264	Inhibits	Tumor necrosis factor	
329	Anitibody	Lymphotoxin-alpha	

*Drug*

DID	name	uses
241	Humira	
512	Enbrel	

*Induces*

DID	TID

*Inhibits*

DID	TID

*Target*

TID	name	organism

Mapping: `Drug(mid, brand_med, _) :- meds(mid, brand_med, _).` |



# Map Target Information

[www.ProteinHub.com/access\\_data](http://www.ProteinHub.com/access_data)

*meds*

mid	brand_med	type
-----	-----------	------

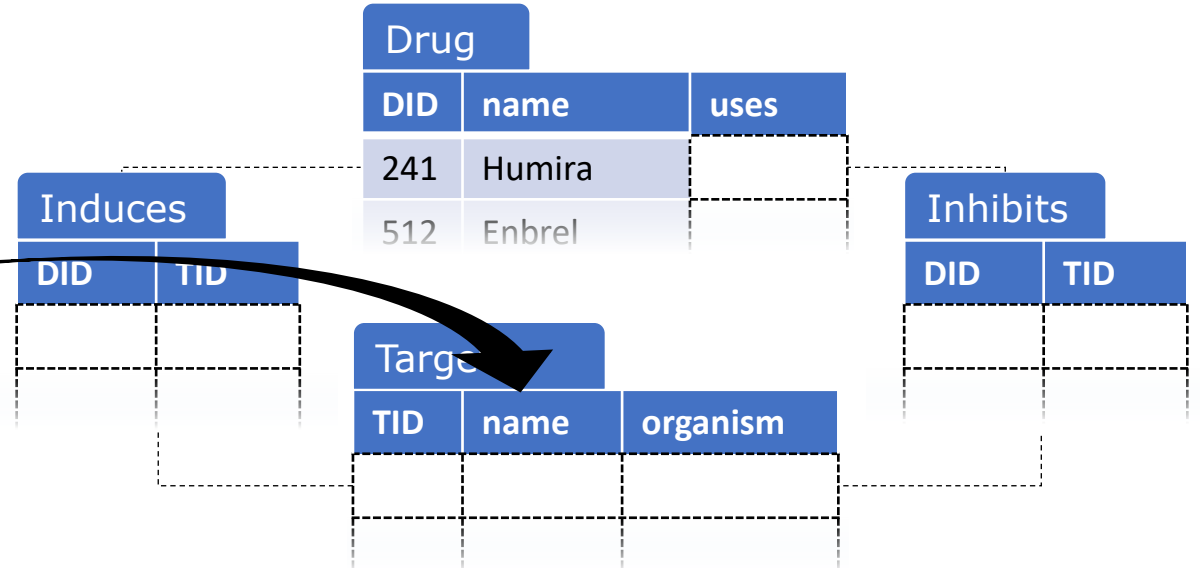
241	Humira	Biotech
-----	--------	---------

*bio\_entity*

mid	bid	med_role	entity_name
-----	-----	----------	-------------

264	Inhibits	Tumor necrosis factor
-----	----------	-----------------------

329	Anitibody	Lymphotoxin-alpha
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Mapping: `Drug(mid, brand_med, _) :- meds(mid, brand_med, _).` |



# Add Target Information

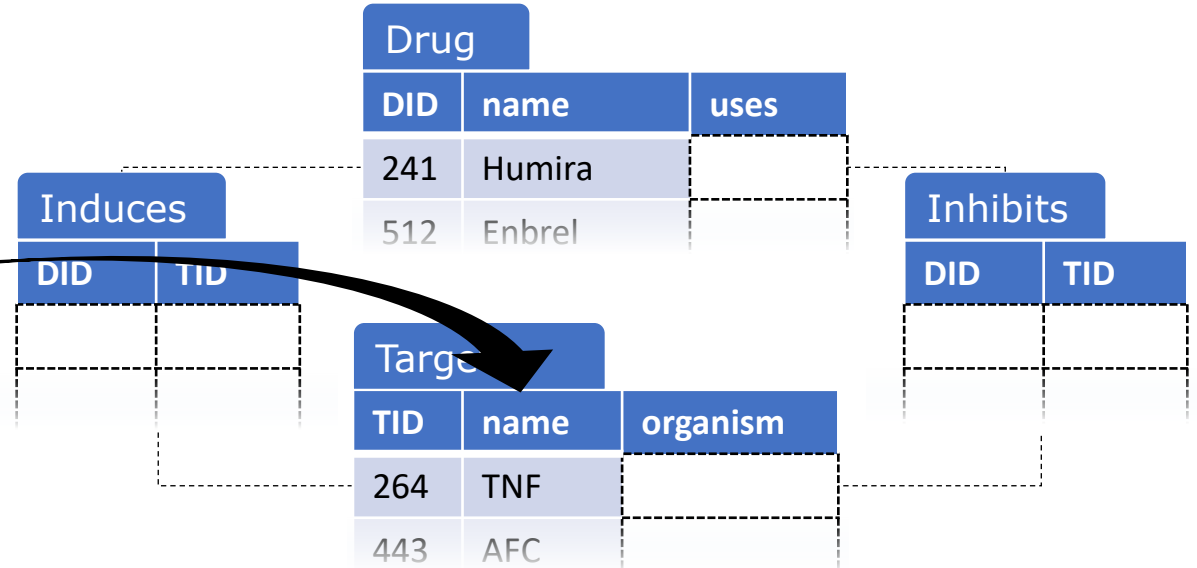
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241	Humira	Biotech
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*bio\_entity*

mid	bid	med_role	entity_name
264	Inhibits	Tumor necrosis factor	
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**Mapping:**

```
Drug(mid, brand_med, _) :- meds(mid, brand_med, _).  
Target(bid, entity_name, _) :- bio_entity(_, bid, _, entity_name).
```



# Finally, Connect Drugs and Targets

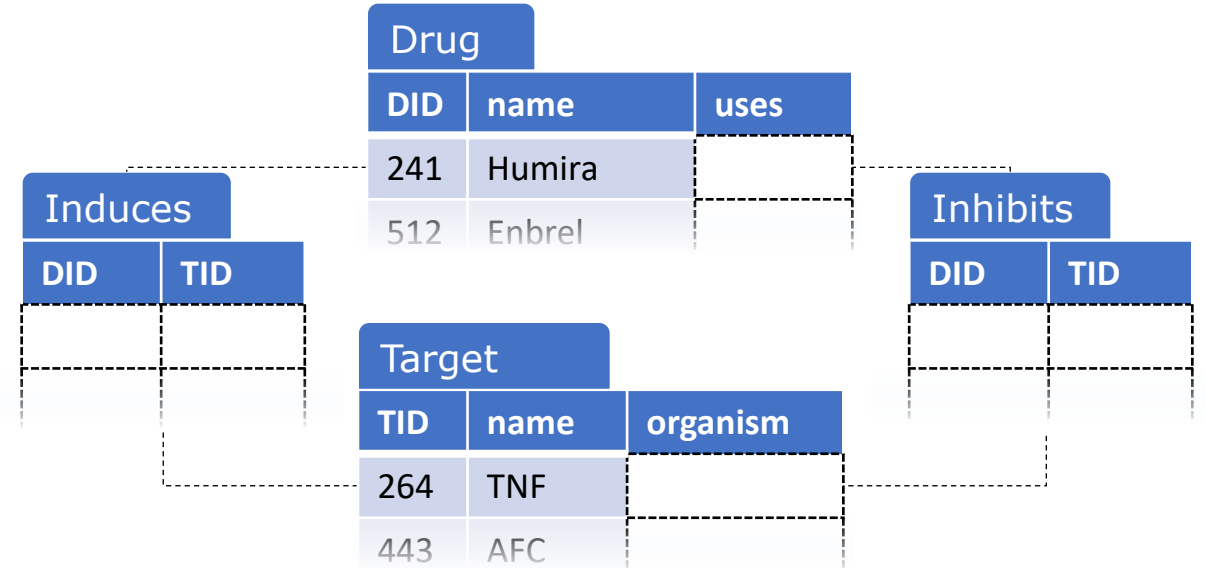
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mid	brand_med	type
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*bio\_entity*

mid	bid	med_role	entity_name
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**Mapping:**

```
Drug(mid, brand_med, _) :- meds(mid, brand_med, _).  
Target(bid, entity_name, _) :- bio_entity(_, bid, _, entity_name).
```



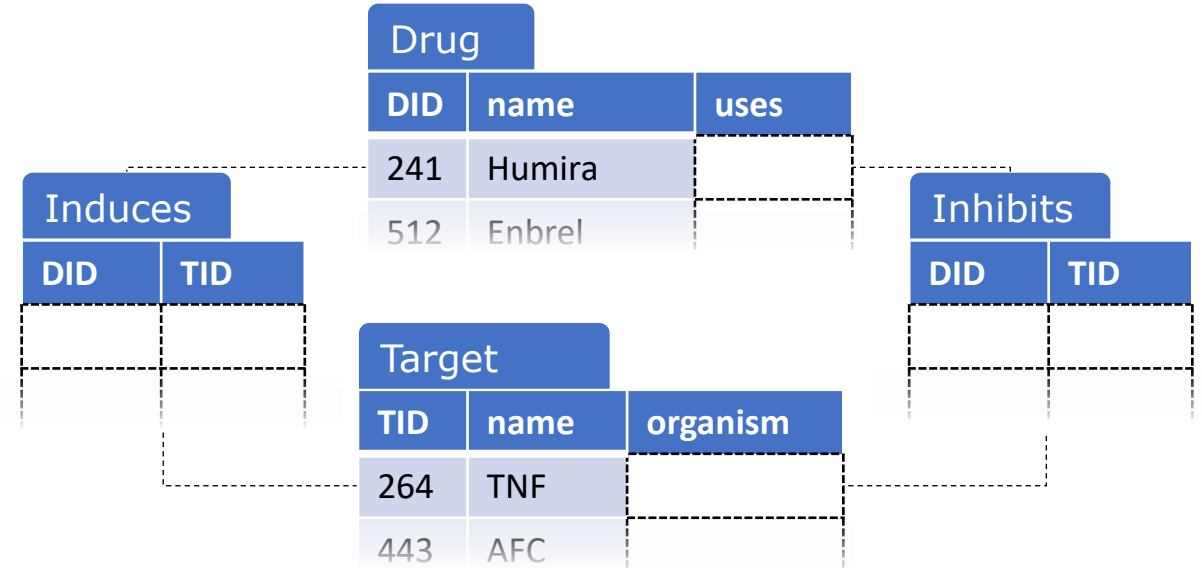
# Consider Value of *bio\_entity.med\_role*

[www.ProteinHub.com/access\\_data](http://www.ProteinHub.com/access_data)

meds		
mid	brand_med	type
241	Humira	Biotech
512	Enbrel	Biotech

bio_entity			
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241	264	Inhibits	Tumor necrosis factor
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**Mapping:**

```
Drug(mid, brand_med, _) :- meds(mid, brand_med, _).  
Target(bid, entity_name, _) :- bio_entity(_, bid, _, entity_name).
```



# Add Drug-Inhibits-Target Information

[www.ProteinHub.com/access\\_data](http://www.ProteinHub.com/access_data)

meds		
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512	Enbrel	Biotech

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Drug		
DID	name	uses
241	Humira	
512	Enbrel	

Induces	
DID	TID

Target		
TID	name	organism
264	TNF	
443	AFC	

Inhibits	
DID	TID

Mapping:

```
Drug(mid, brand_med, _) :- meds(mid, brand_med, _).  
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TID	name	organism
264	TNF	
443	AFC	

Inhibits	
DID	TID

**Mapping:**

```
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Target(bid, entity_name, _) :- bio_entity(_, bid, _, entity_name).  
Inhibits(mid, bid) :- bio_entity(mid, bid, "Inhibits", _). |
```



# Add Drug-Induces-Target Information

[www.ProteinHub.com/access\\_data](http://www.ProteinHub.com/access_data)

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443	AFC	

Induces	
DID	TID

Inhibits	
DID	TID

**Mapping:**

```
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```





# Add Drug-Induces-Target Information

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Drug		
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DID	TID

Target		
TID	name	organism
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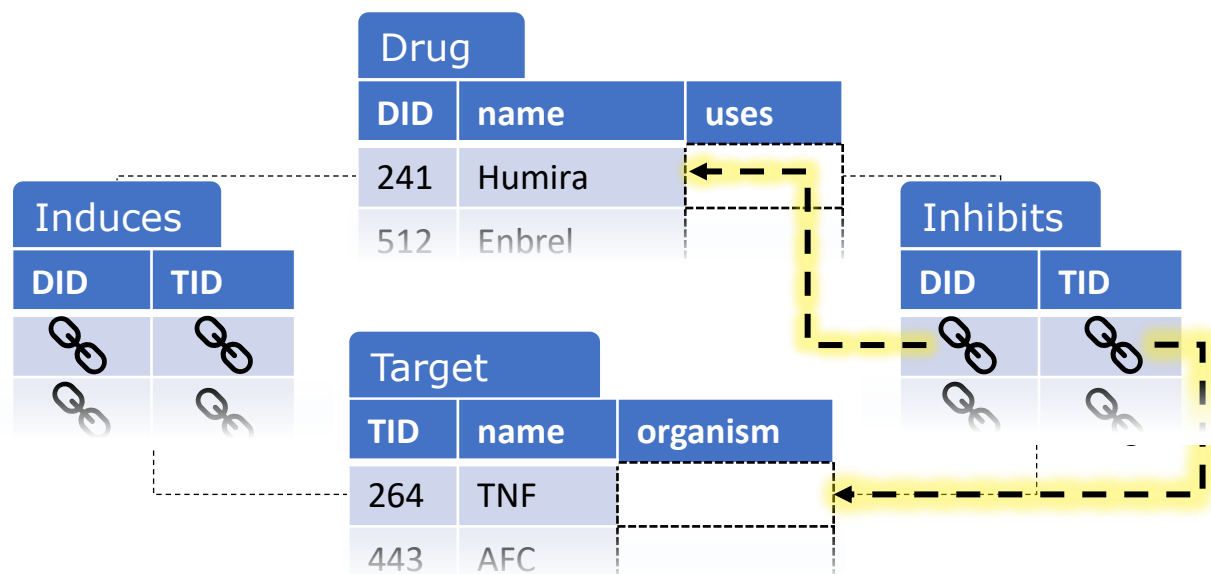
Inhibits	
DID	TID

**Mapping:**

```
Drug(mid, brand_med, _) :- meds(mid, brand_med, _).  
  
Target(bid, entity_name, _) :- bio_entity(_, bid, _, entity_name).  
  
Inhibits(mid, bid) :- bio_entity(mid, bid, "Inhibits", _).  
Induces(mid, bid) :- bio_entity(mid, bid, "Induces", _).
```



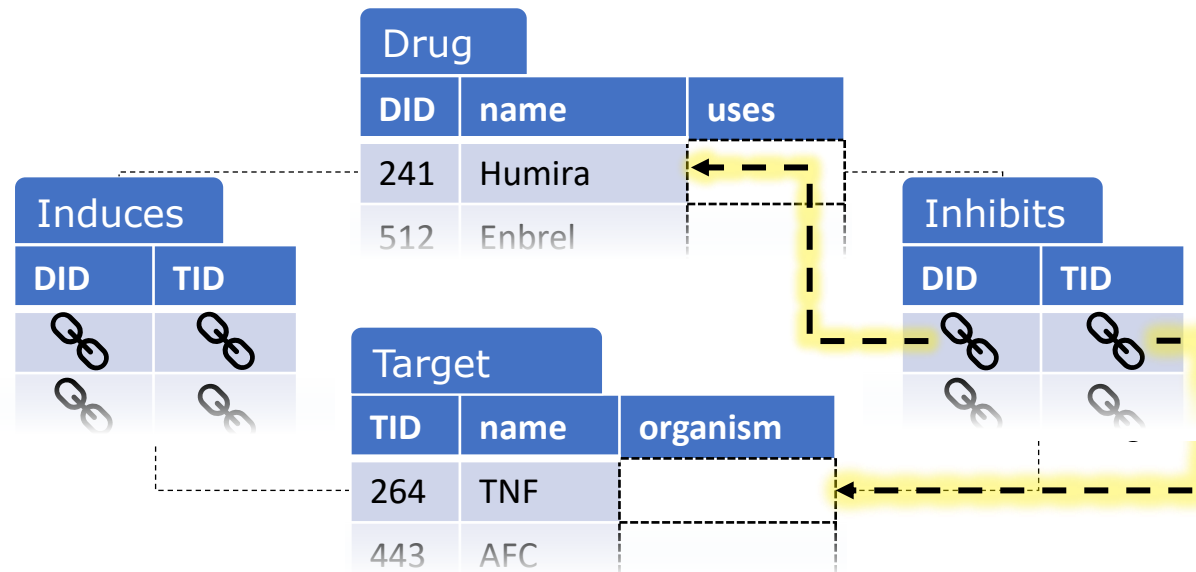
# A (Populated) Database for Drug-Protein Interaction





# ~~A (Populated) Database for Drug-Protein Interaction~~

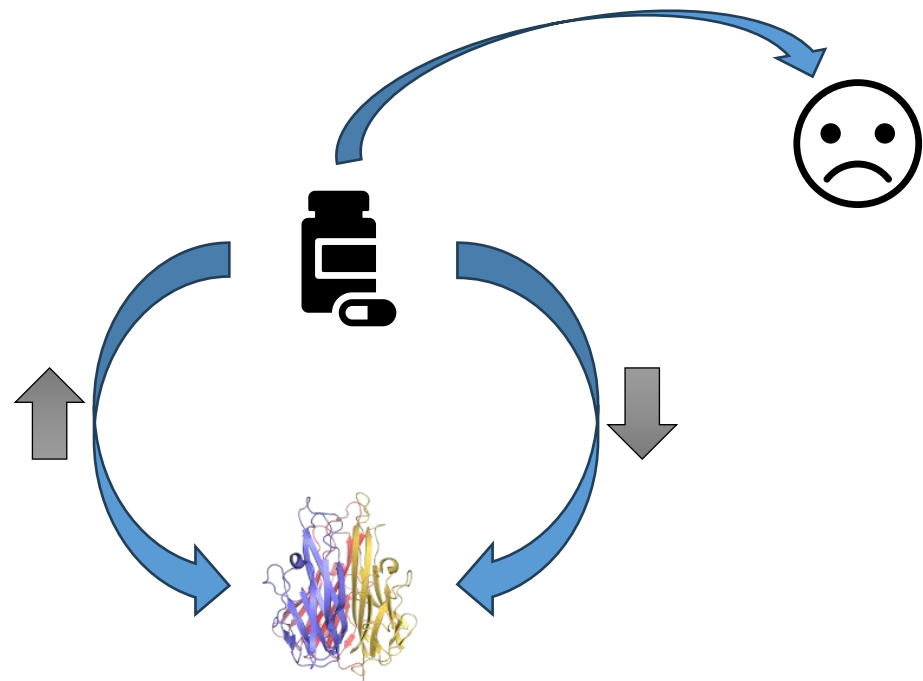
... Is not enough for drug repurposing!



Drugs are complicated... Drug Repurposing is complicated...  
Need to know more

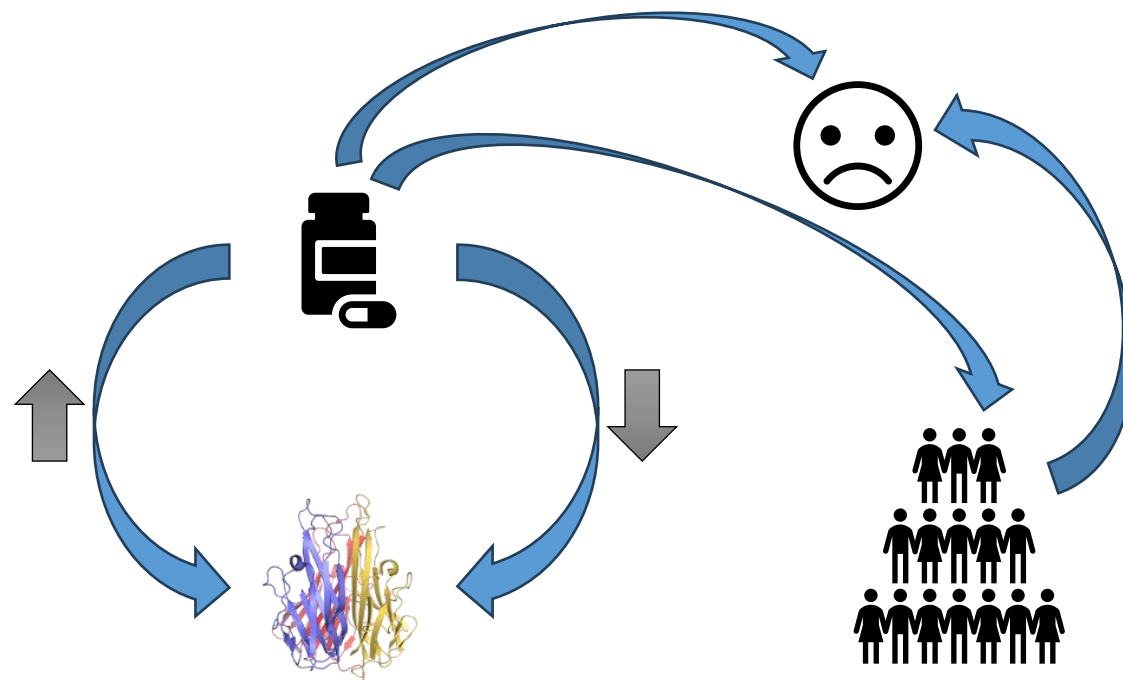


## Like Reported Adverse Effects of Drugs



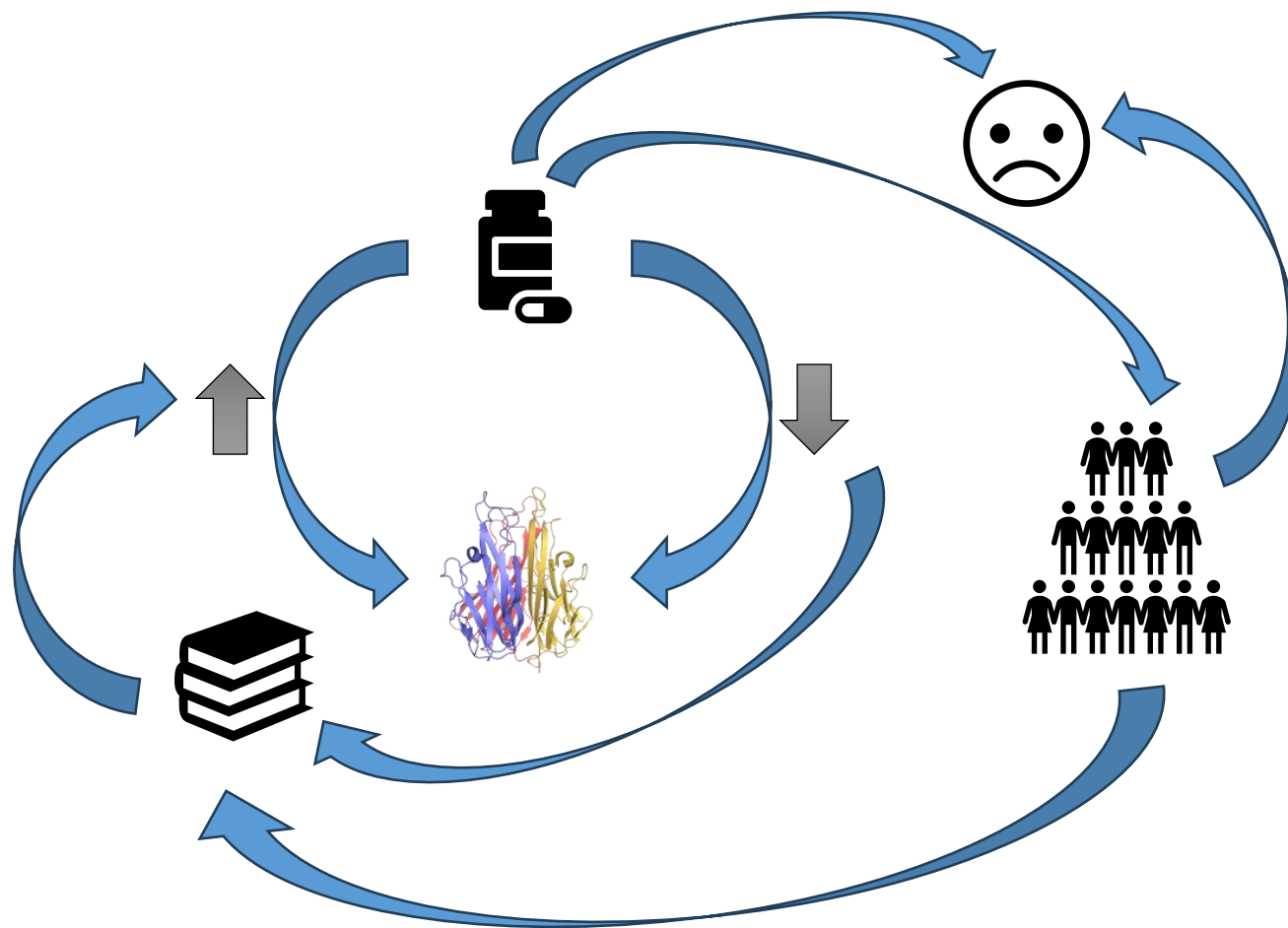


## And the Newest Clinical Trial Data



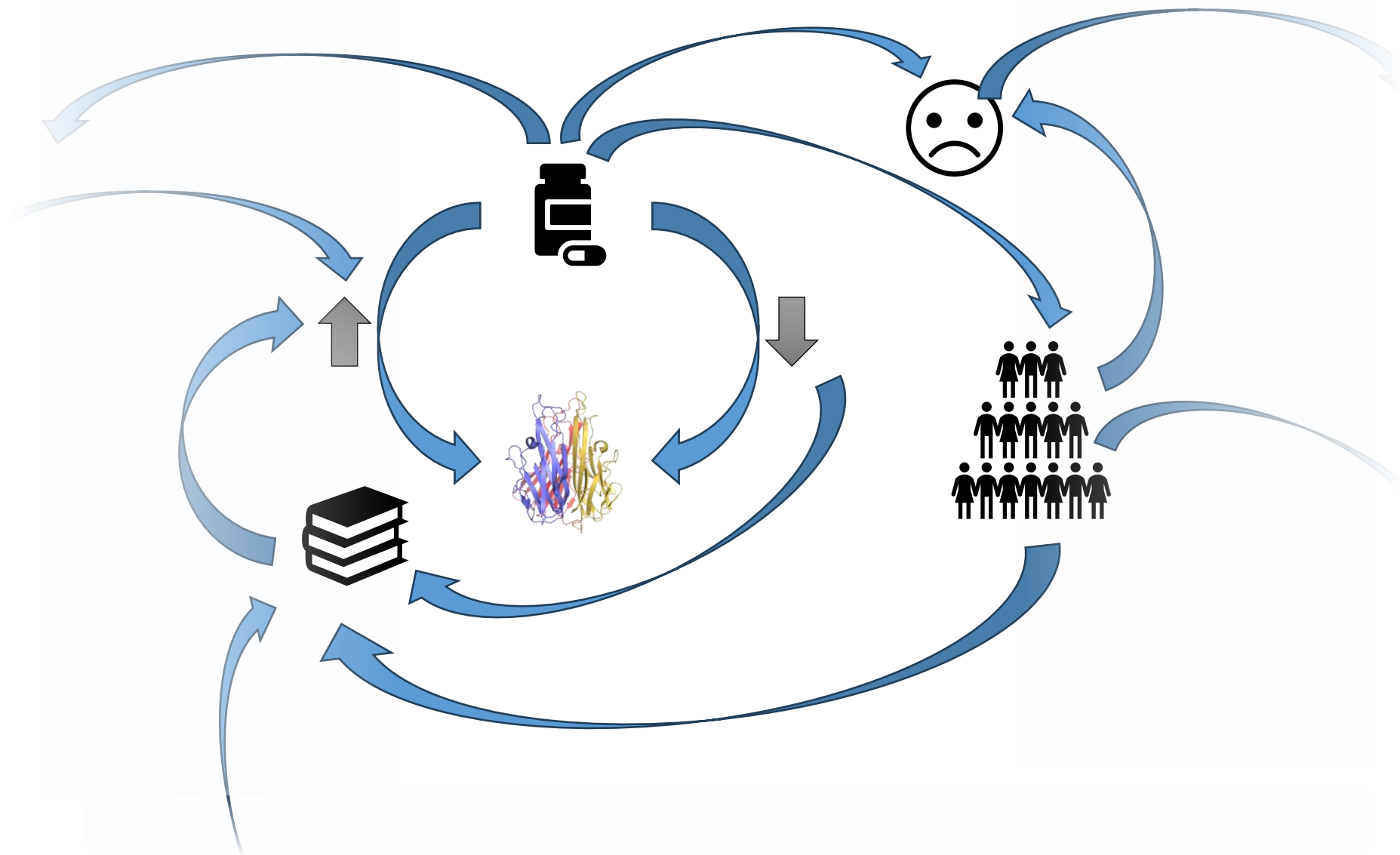


## And The Research Behind all these Facts



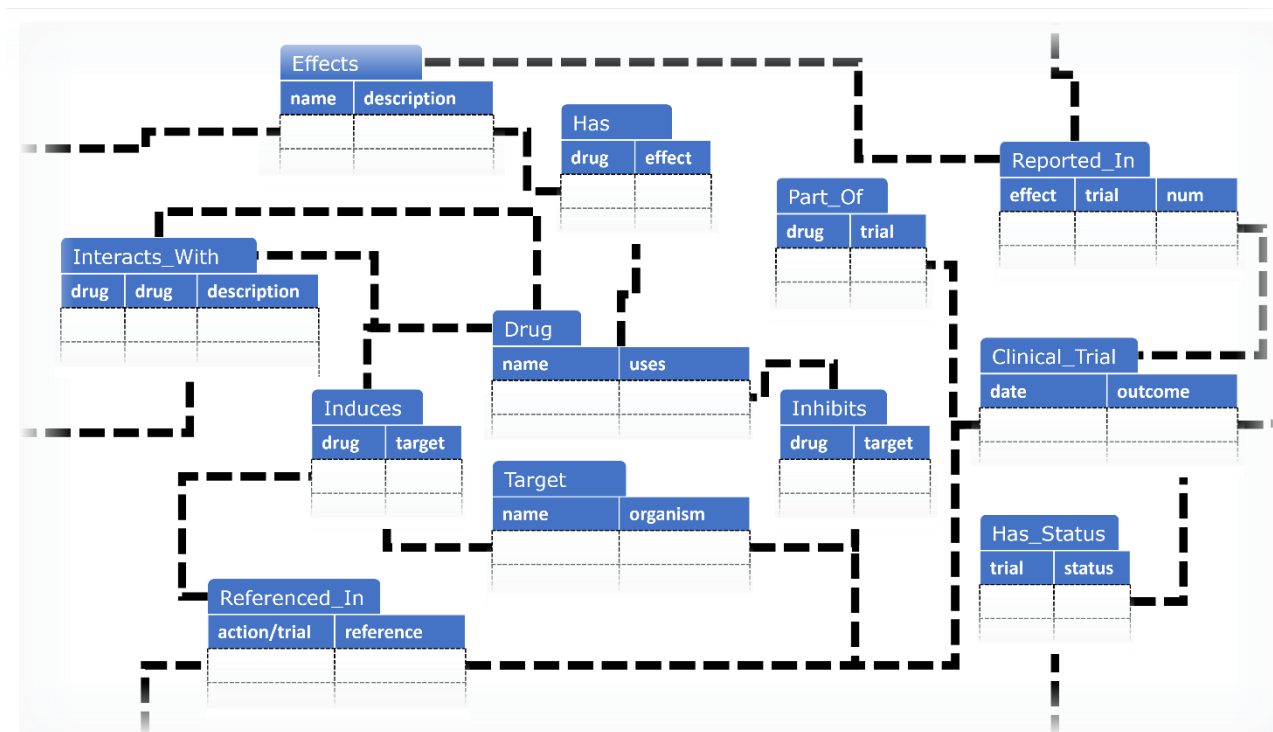


# Keep Going and Eventually, We Have ...





# A Database for Drug Repositioning



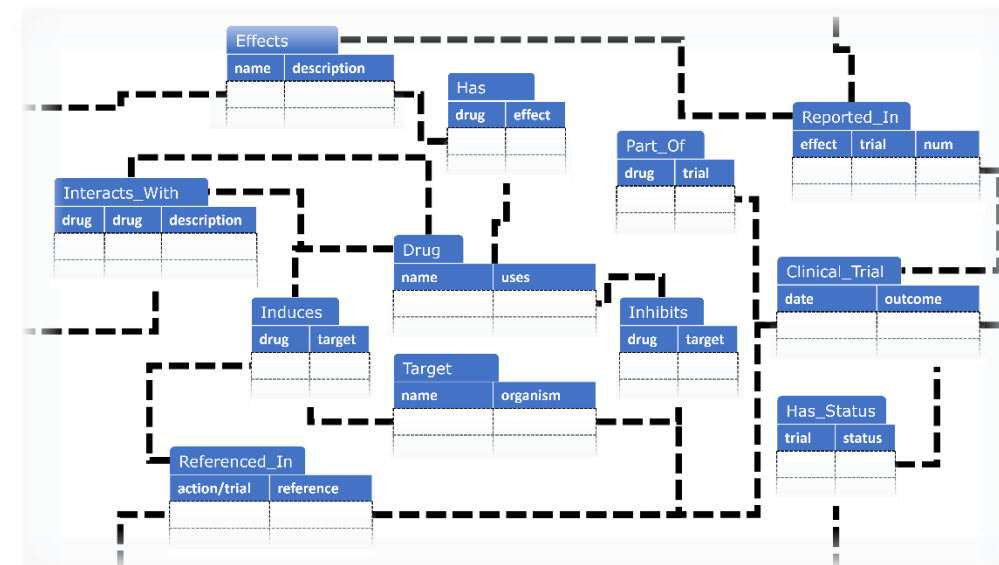
Populate THIS **database** with information





# More Difficult: Requires Many More Sources...

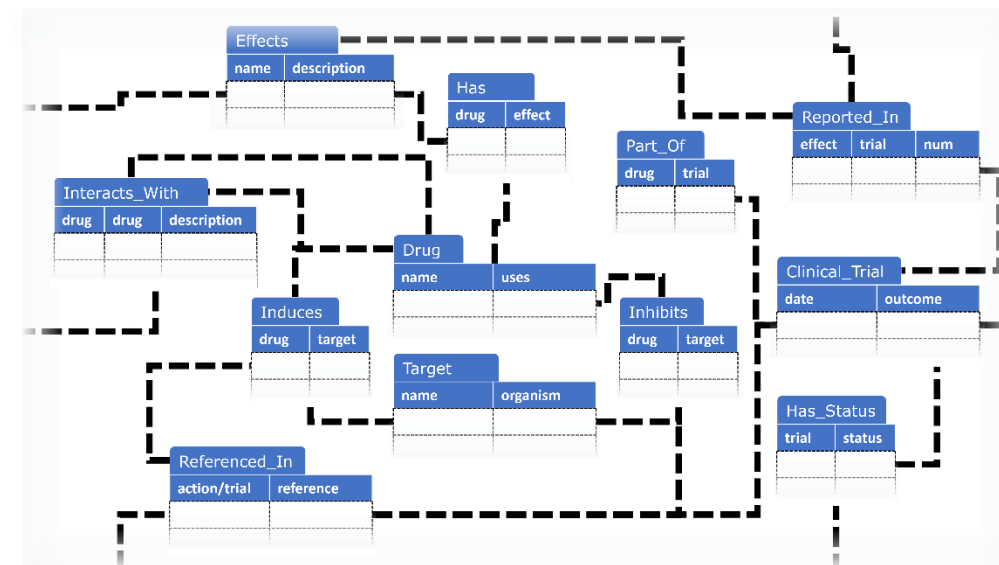
Generic Drugs			
generic_name	adverse_effects	meds	
Adalimumab	After treatment with ada	generic_med	type
Etanercept	Etanercept	Adalimumab	Biotech
FDA_Drugs		bio_entity	
brand_name	approval	med	med_role
Humira	rheumatoid arthritis	Inhibits	Tumor necrosis factor
		Anitibody	Lymphotoxin-alpha
Bio Compounds		Drugs	
formula	mechanisms	brand_name	class
C <sub>6428</sub> H <sub>9912</sub> N <sub>1694</sub> O <sub>1987</sub> S <sub>46</sub>	Binds with specificity to tumor ...	Humira	TNF inhibitor
C <sub>2224</sub> H <sub>3475</sub> N <sub>621</sub> O <sub>698</sub> S <sub>36</sub>	There are two distinct receptors ...	Enbrel	TNF inhibitor





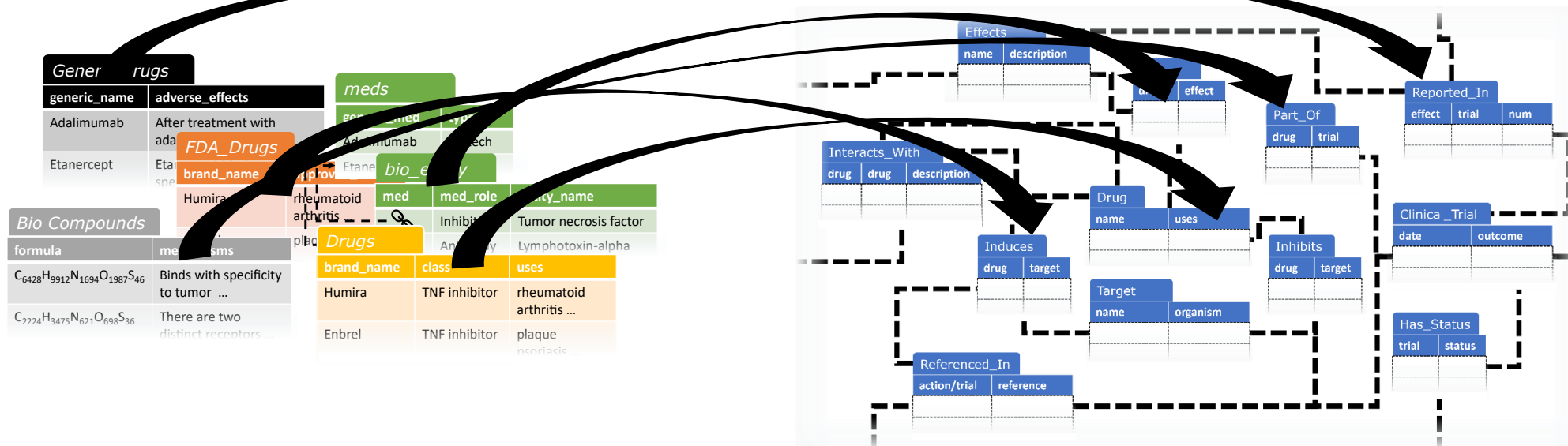
## ...and Many More Mappings

Generic Drugs			
generic_name	adverse_effects	meds	
Adalimumab	After treatment with ada	generic_med	type
Etanercept	Etanercept	Adalimumab	Biotech
FDA_Drugs		bio_entity	
brand_name	approval	med	med_role
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formula	mechanisms	brand_name	class
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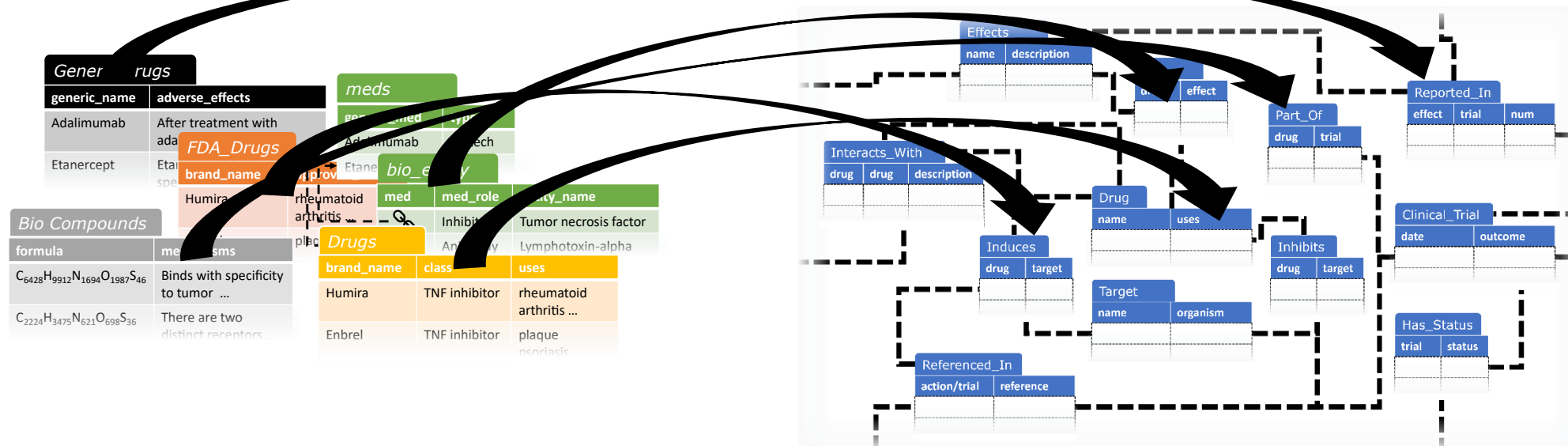


# We Write the Mappings (Time-Consuming)



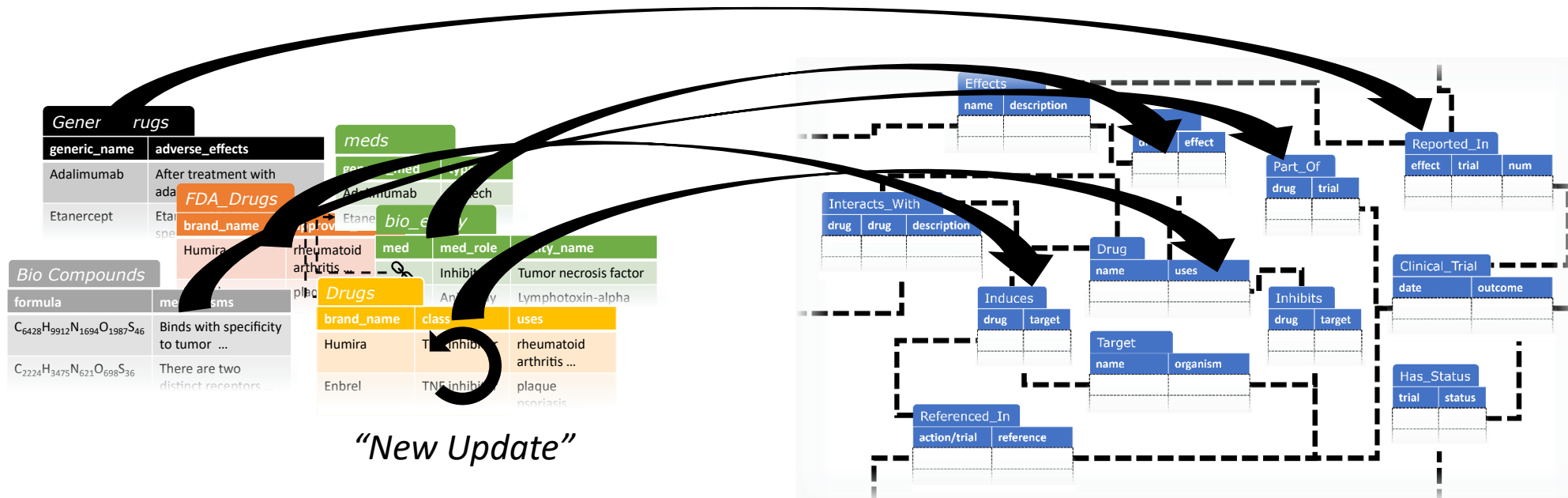


# "Are we Finally Done?"





# “Are we Finally Done?” No! Schema Evolution



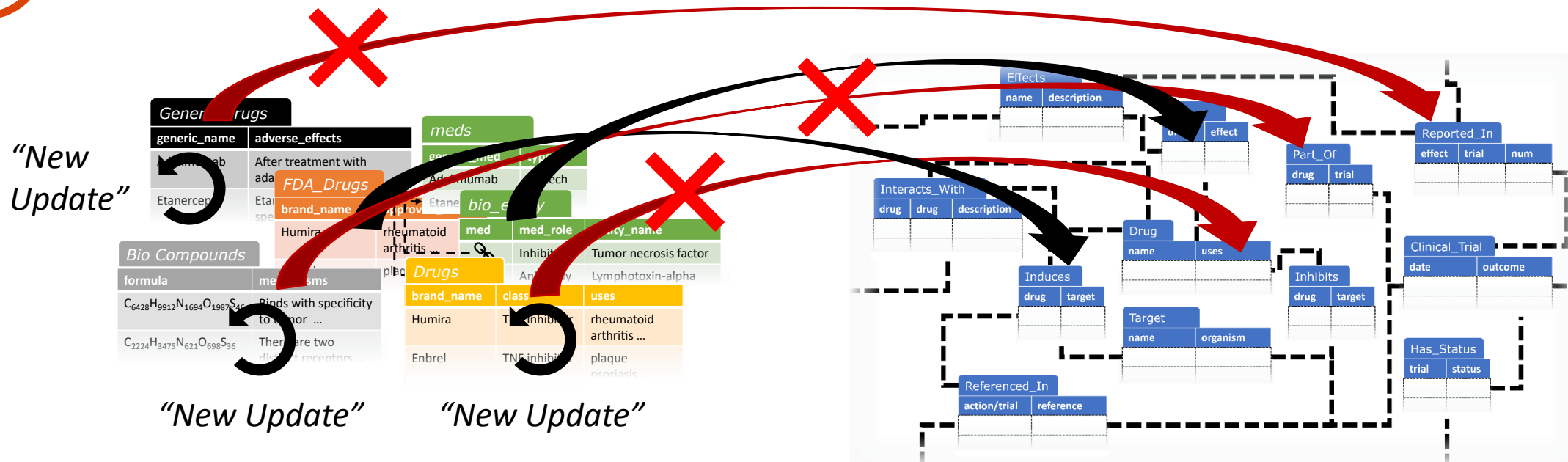
Sources change over time



- 30



# “Are we Finally Done?” No! Schema Evolution

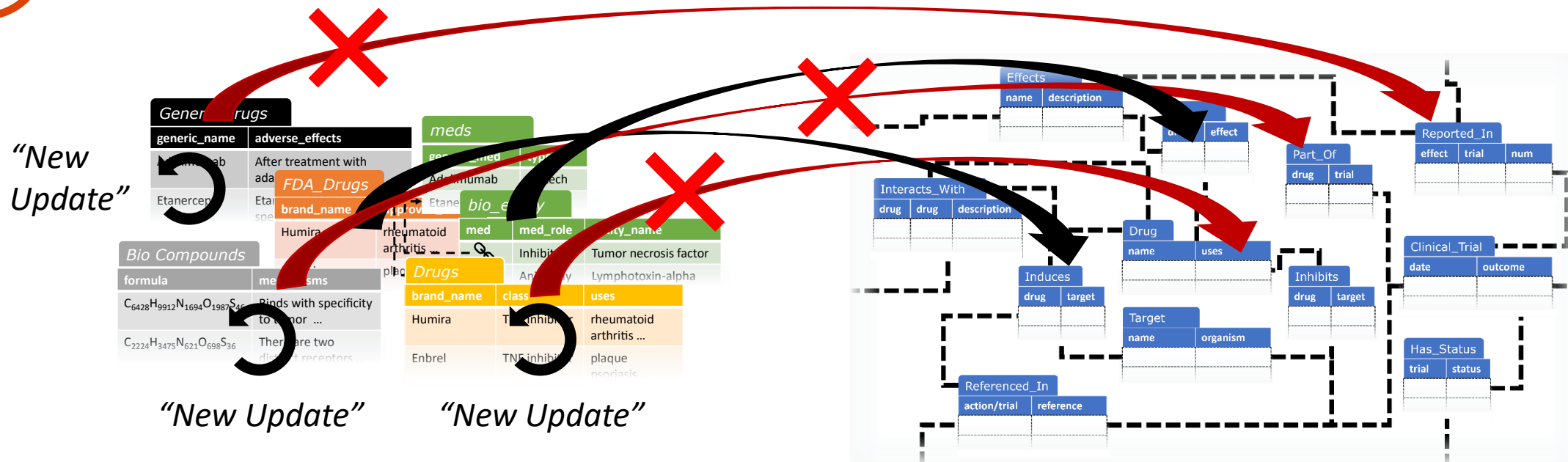


Sources change over time

- Must repair mapping
- More sources = more repairs



# Writing + Maintenance = Effort + Delays!



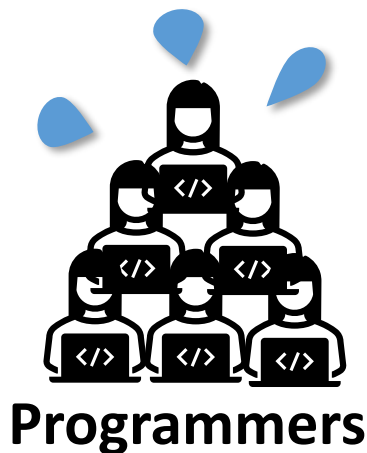
We have first-hand experience...





# Real Story: NIH Translator Consortium

- **Far-reaching:** ~30 teams each managing own domain-specific data integration project (database)
- **Our first-hand experience:** we've worked on one of these projects: drug repurposing for rare diseases
  - Uses ~73 sources
  - Need to integrate more, but hard to keep up with current sources!



**High maintenance cost:**

Full consortium = **US\$13.5 million per year!\***

**Time-consuming:**

**Long-running:** Ongoing project (10+ years and going)



Not scalable! ... Now more than ever ...



Reduce Effort!  
Build Mappings Faster!

\*<https://ncats.nih.gov/research/research-activities/translator/about>



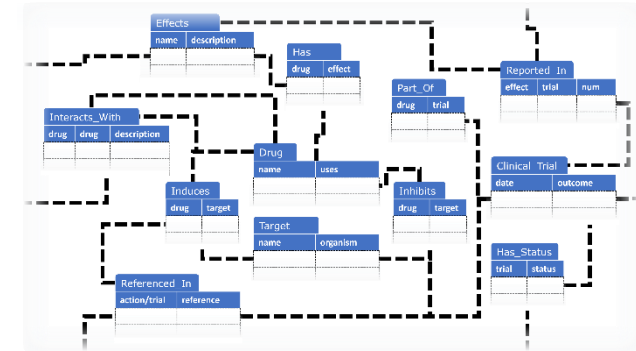
# Idea: Given a Source and Our Database...

## A Source:

[www.ProteinHub.com/access\\_data](http://www.ProteinHub.com/access_data)

meds		
generic_med	type	
Adalimumab	Biotech	
Etanercept	Antibody	
bio_entity		
med	med_role	entity_name
Etanercept	Inhibits	Tumor necrosis factor
Adalimumab	Inhibits	Lymphotoxin-alpha

## Our Database:





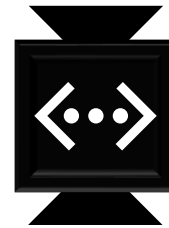
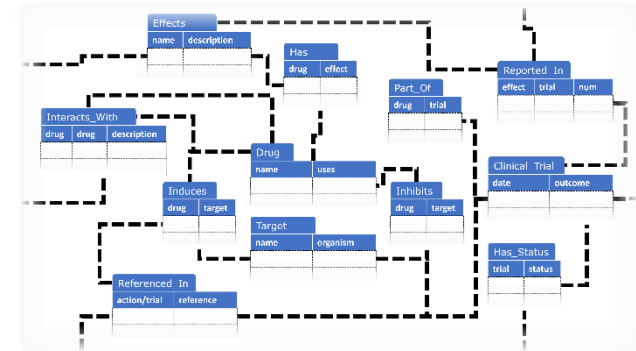
# Build a System that Takes Both...

A Source:

[www.ProteinHub.com/access\\_data](http://www.ProteinHub.com/access_data)

meds		
generic_med	type	
Adalimumab	Biotech	
Etanercept	bio_entity	
med	med_role	entity_name
Inhibits		Tumor necrosis factor
Anitibody		Lymphotoxin-alpha

Our Database:



Some system



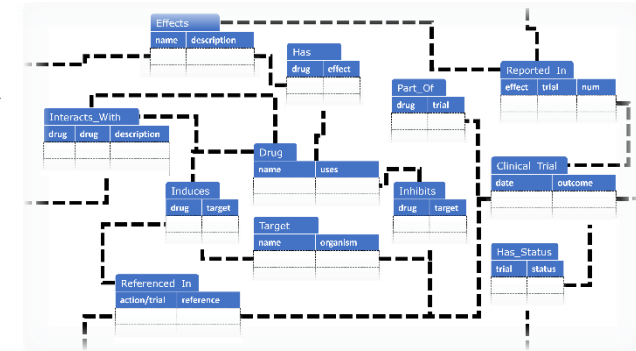
# ...and Produces Most Promising Mappings...

## A Source:

[www.ProteinHub.com/access\\_data](http://www.ProteinHub.com/access_data)

meds		
generic_med	type	
Adalimumab	Biotech	
Etanercept	Antibody	
bio_entity		
med	med_role	entity_name
Inhibits		Tumor necrosis factor
Anitibody		Lymphotoxin-alpha

## Our Database:



Some system

## Promising Mappings:

```
Drug(did, generic_med, _) :- meds(did, generic_med, _).
Target(bid, entity_name) :- bio_entity(bid, _, entity_name, _).
Inhibits(did, bid) :- bio_entity(bid, did, _, "Inhibits").

Target(did, entity_name) :- meds(did, _, generic_med, _).
```

...



# ...Which Someone Can Verify and Use

## A Source:

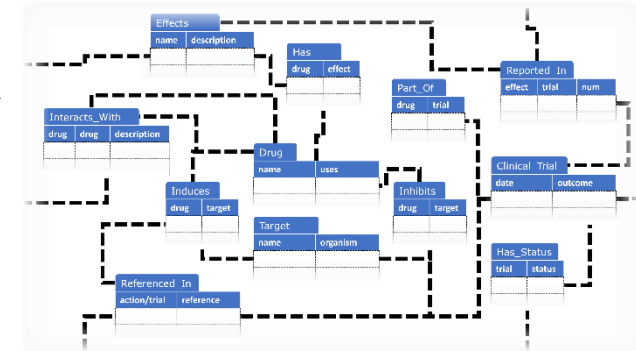
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bio_entity		
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Etanercept	Inhibits	Lymphotoxin-alpha

## Our Database:



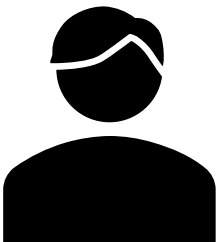
Some system

## Promising Mappings:

✓ `Drug(did, generic_med, _) :- meds(did, generic_med, _).`  
`Target(bid, entity_name) :- bio_entity(bid, _, entity_name, _).`  
`Inhibits(did, bid) :- bio_entity(bid, did, _, "Inhibits").`

✗ `Target(did, entity_name) :- meds(did, _, generic_med, _).`

...





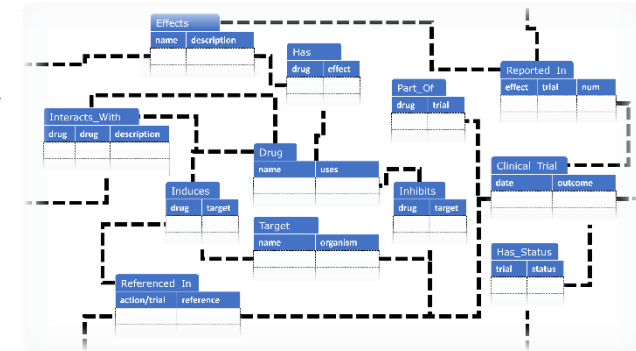
# How Can we Build this System?

## A Source:

[www.ProteinHub.com/access\\_data](http://www.ProteinHub.com/access_data)

meds		
generic_med	type	
Adalimumab	Biotech	
Etanercept	Antibody	
bio_entity		
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## Our Database:

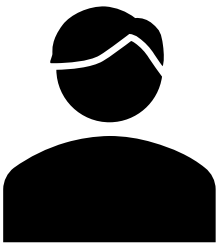


## Promising Mappings:

✓ `Drug(did, generic_med, _) :- meds(did, generic_med, _).`  
`Target(bid, entity_name) :- bio_entity(bid, _, entity_name, _).`  
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✗ `Target(did, entity_name) :- meds(did, _, generic_med, _).`

...



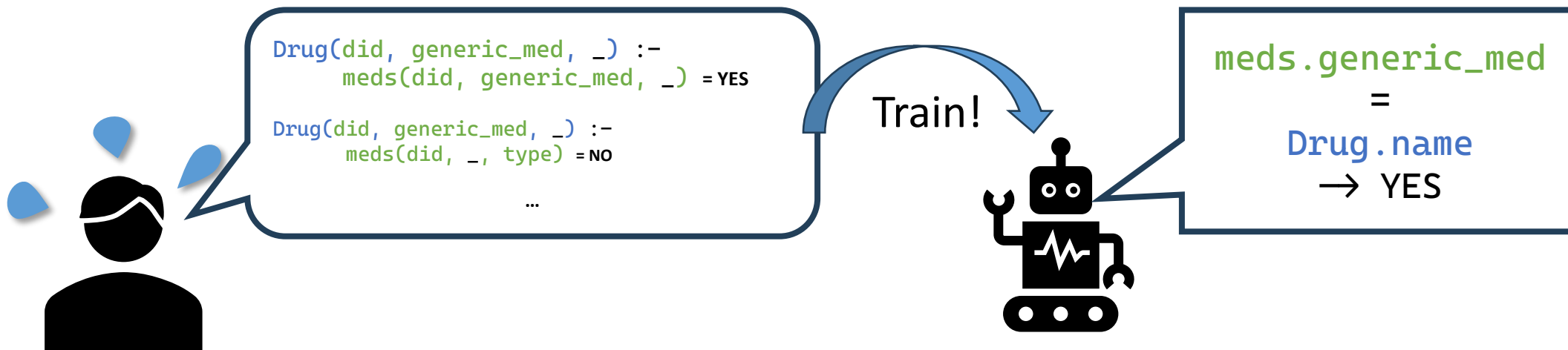


# Supervised Learning

1. Label training data

2. Feed to a model

3. Generate mappings



*Labeling data takes a lot of time and manual effort...  
...which needs to be repeated as sources evolve*



**Opportunity:**  
*LLMs for Schema Mapping*

## Some examples:

Zhang et al. "SMAT: An attention-based deep learning solution to the automation of schema matching." ADBIS. (2021)

Mudgal et al. "Deep learning for entity matching: A design space exploration." SIGMOD. (2018).



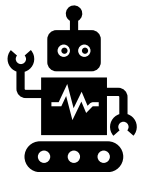
# Current State: Using LLMs Column Alignment

Input:

bio_entity			Drug		Including supporting info...
med	med_role	entity_name	name	uses	
⌘	Inhibits	Tumor necrosis factor	Humira	Rheumatoid ...	○ Column/Table descriptions
⌘	Antibody	Lymphotoxin-alpha	Enbrel	Plaque	○ Schematic (types, etc.,)
					○ Sample data values ...



Prompt



Response (column pairs):

(`meds.generic_med`, `Drug.name`)

...

Data from meds.generic\_med can be mapped to Drug.name

Some Examples:

Huang et al. "Transform Table to Database Using Large Language Models." TaDa @ VLDB. (2024)

Sheetrit et al. "ReMatch: Retrieval Enhanced Schema Matching with LLMs." arXiv (2024)





# Goal: Maximize Response Quality w/o Training

Input:

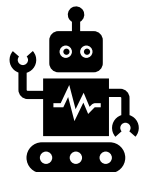
bio_entity			Drug		Including supporting info...
med	med_role	entity_name	name	uses	
	Inhibits	Tumor necrosis factor	Humira	Rheumatoid ...	○ Column/Table descriptions ○ Schematic (types, etc.,) ○ Sample data values ...
	Antibody	Lymphotoxin-alpha	Fabry	Plaque	



Prompt



Response (column pairs):



(`meds.generic_med`, `Drug.name`)  
...



LLMs are **sensitive to task phrasing!**  
... mitigate this sensitivity.

Research suggests\* that effective techniques for...

- sampling candidate responses, and
- combining those responses

Can rival fine-tuned performance\*\*



Us: develop sampling and combining techniques for column alignment

\*X. Wang et al., "Self-Consistency Improves Chain of Thought Reasoning in Language Models." arXiv (2023)

\*\* authors observe this trend over general reasoning benchmarks

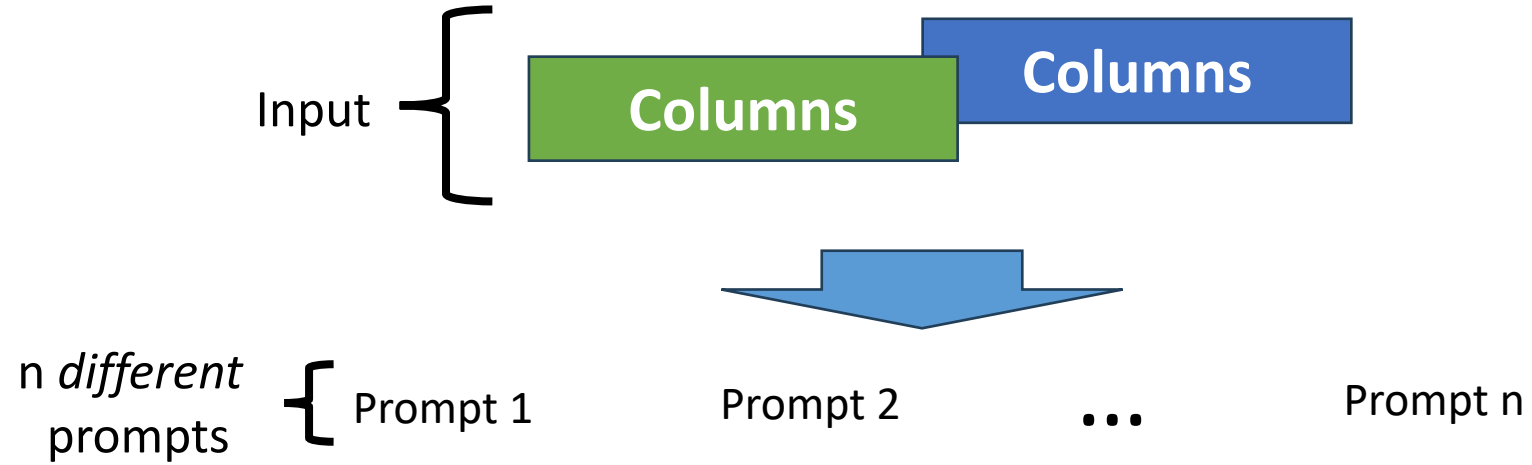


## **High-Level: Given a Column Alignment Task**



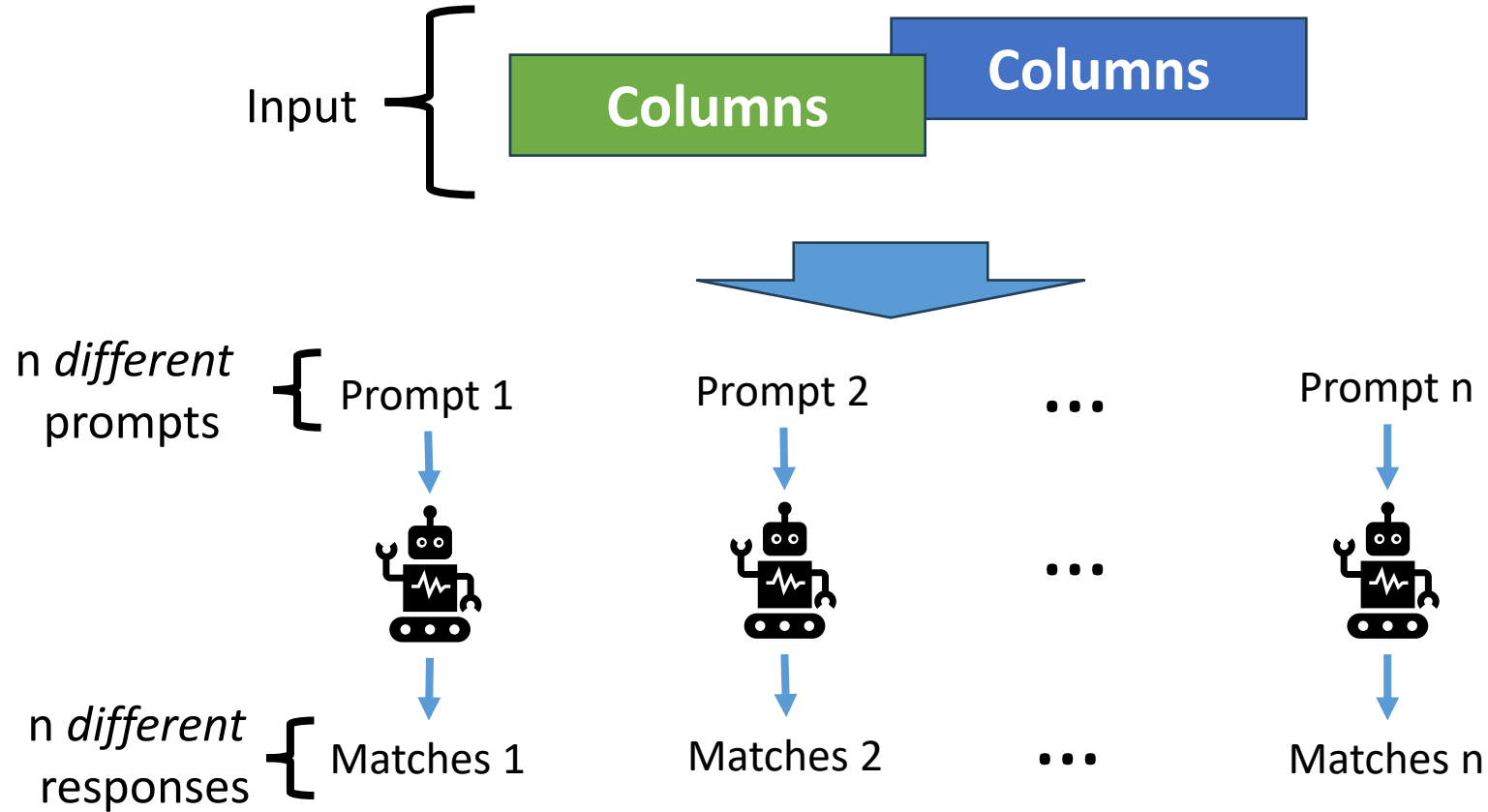


# Generate n Prompts



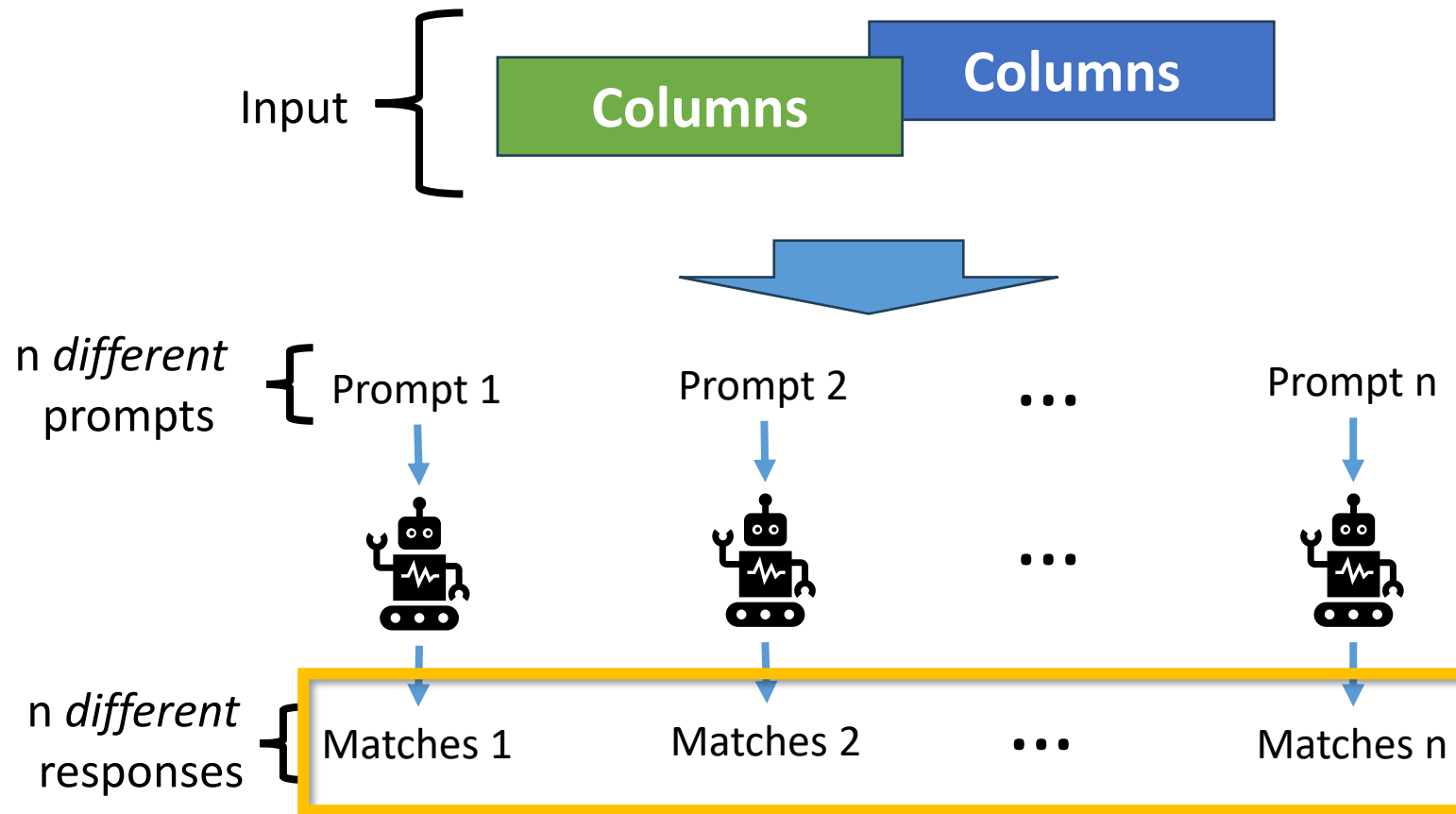


# Giving $n$ Different Responses



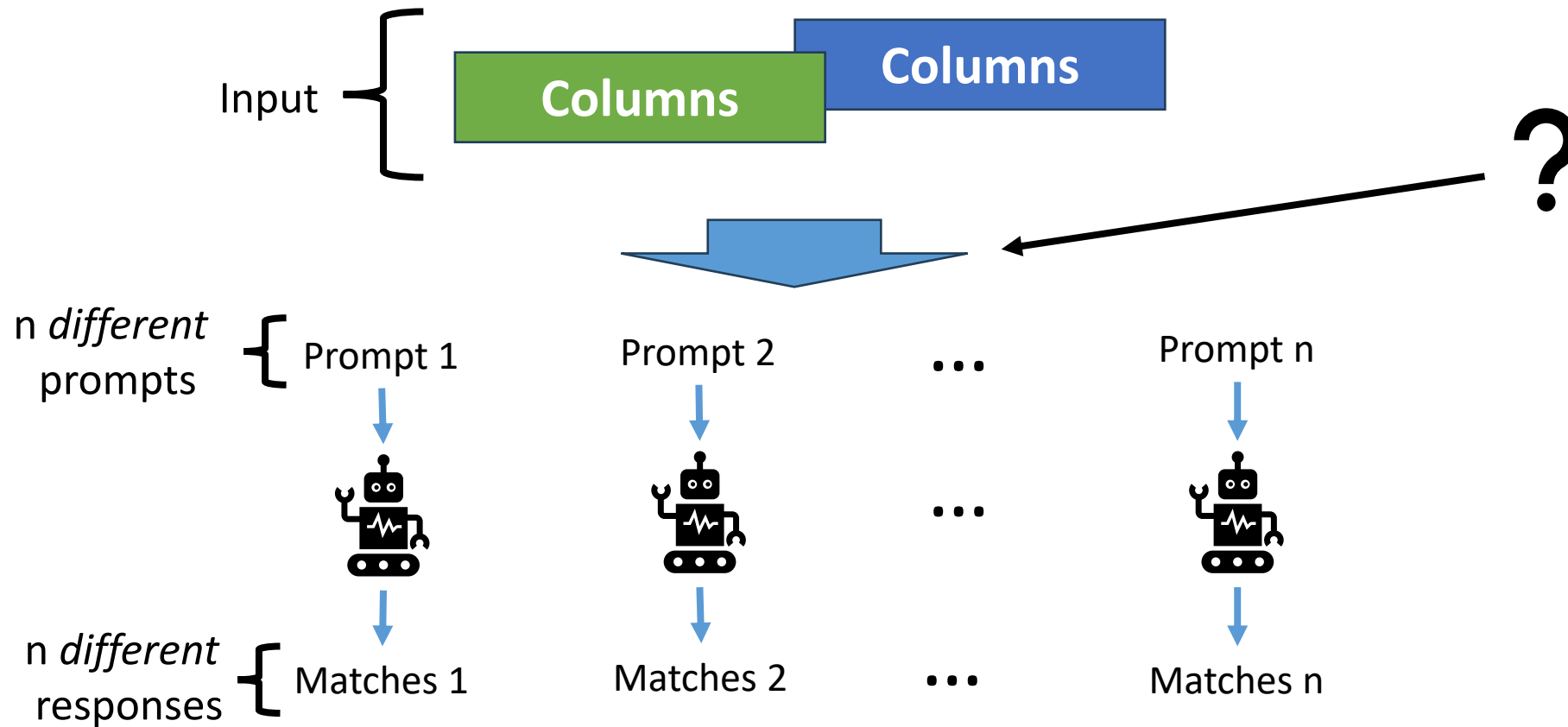


# Derive Most-Consistent Alignment Pairs





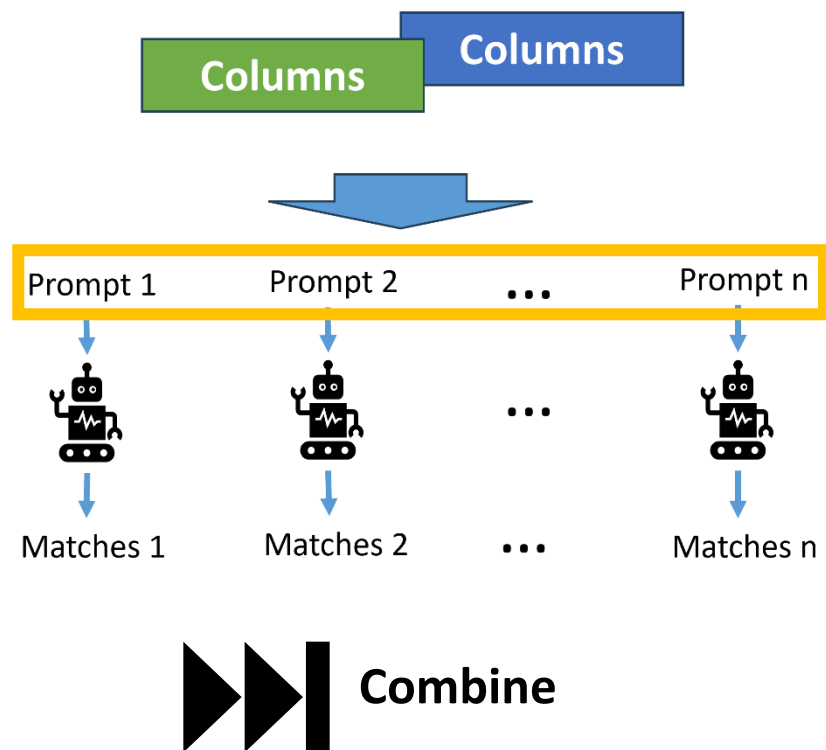
# Generate Prompts to Offset Phrasing Noise



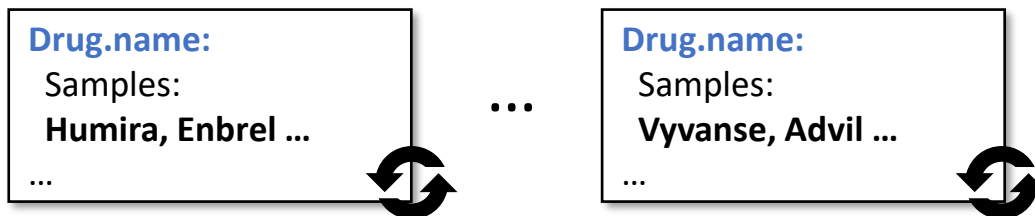


# Techniques for Generating Prompt Variations

**Want:** all prompts reflect same task  
w/ variations in phrasing

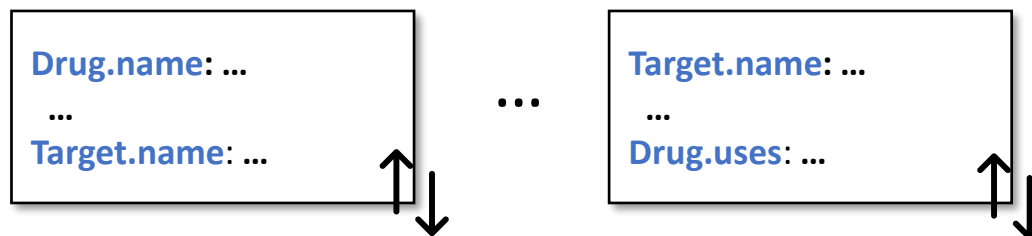


Resample data values for each column

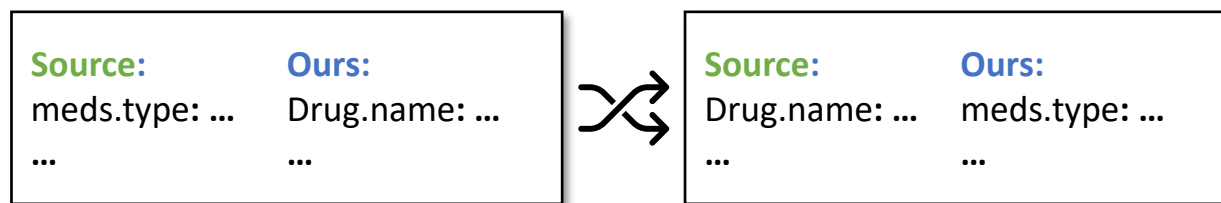


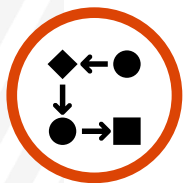
Take Advantage of Problem Symmetries:

- Randomly reorder columns



- Swap **source table** and **our table**

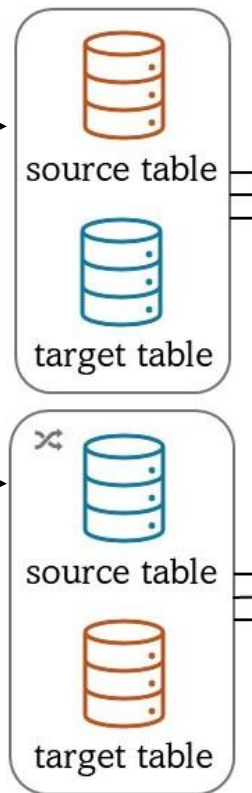




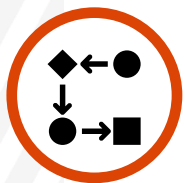
# Response Combination (Bidirectional Matching)

## 1. Prompt 6 times

- 3x Unswapped
- 3x Swapped







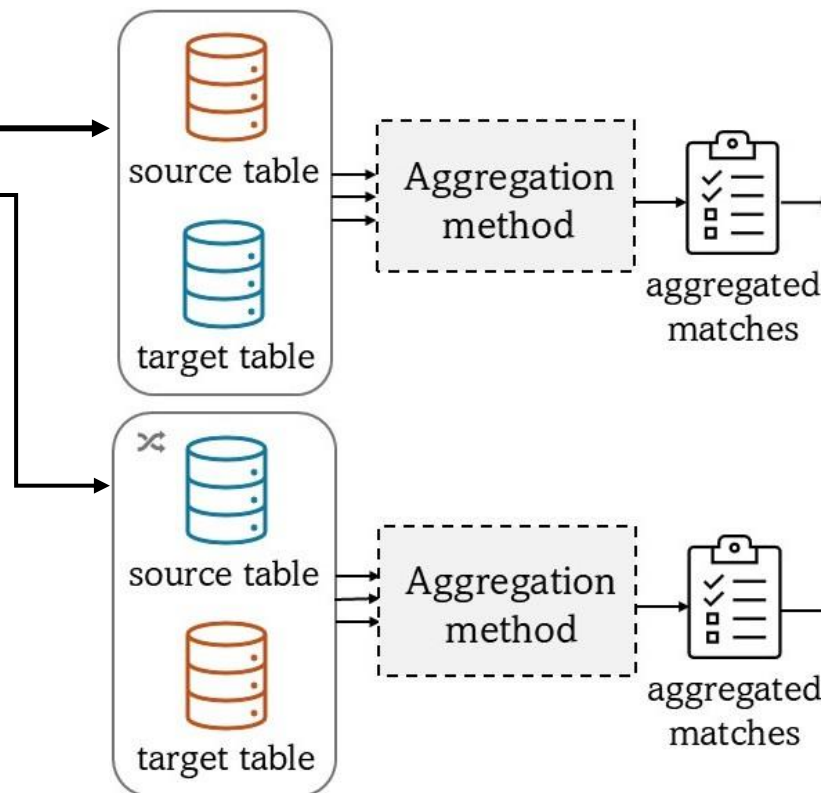
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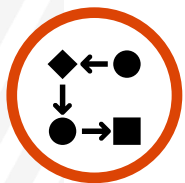
## 1. Prompt 6 times

- 3x Unswapped
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## 2. Aggregate

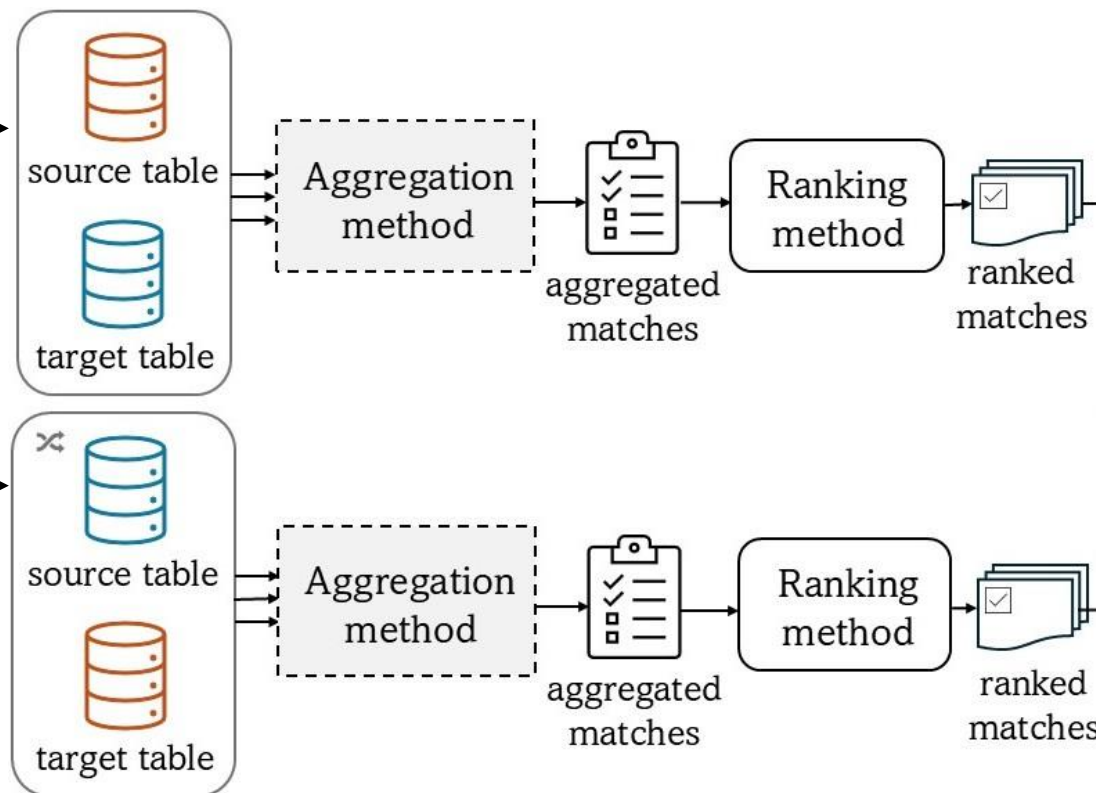
- Use majority vote over alignment pairs

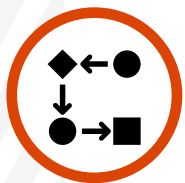




# Response Combination (Bidirectional Matching)

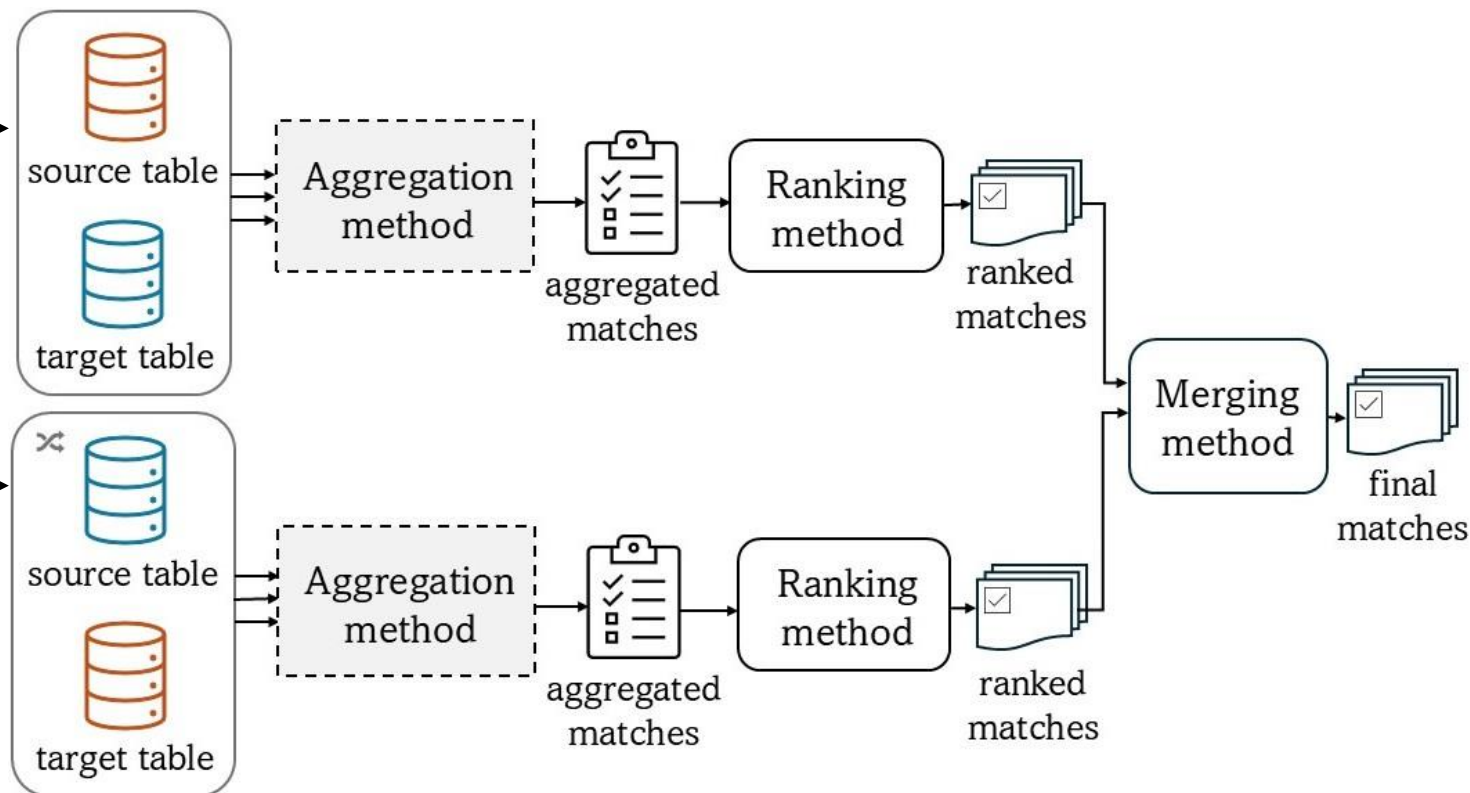
1. Prompt 6 times
  - 3x Unswapped
  - 3x Swapped
2. Aggregate
  - Use majority vote over alignment pairs
3. Rank Aggregated Pairs
  - Score pairs using probability from LLM (logits)





# Response Combination (Bidirectional Matching)

1. Prompt 6 times
  - 3x Unswapped
  - 3x Swapped
2. Aggregate
  - Use majority vote over alignment pairs
3. Rank Aggregated Pairs
  - Score pairs using probability from LLM (logits)
4. Merge Ranked Lists
  - Average **OR** Multiply scores
  - OR**
  - Find Stable Matching
    - See paper for more details





# Preliminary Experiments

**Dataset:** MIMIC and Synthea (clinical)

**Metric:** Accuracy@1

○ Lower in rank = User less likely to see

**LLM:** we use Llama-3.1 70B Parameter (quantized INT4) *[open-source]*



# Competitive with Methods that Use GPT-4

**Dataset:** MIMIC and Synthea (clinical)

**Metric:** Accuracy@1

○ Lower in rank = User less likely to see

**LLM:** we use Llama-3.1 70B Parameter (quantized INT4) [open-source]

Dataset	Method	Accuracy@1	
MIMIC	MatchMaker *	62.20 ± 2.40	Significantly better
	Bidirectional (Stable Matching)	0.78 ± 0.00	
	Bidirectional (Average)	0.49 ± 0.01	
	Bidirectional (Multiply)	0.77 ± 0.01	
Synthea	MatchMaker *	70.20 ± 1.70	Not significantly worse
	Bidirectional (Stable Matching)	0.69 ± 0.01	
	Bidirectional (Average)	0.64 ± 0.01	
	Bidirectional (Multiply)	0.70 ± 0.01	

\*As reported in,

Seedat and Schaar. Matchmaker: Self-Improving Compositional LLM Programs for Table Schema Matching. TRL @ NeurIPS. (2024)



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	Bidirectional (Average)		
	Bidirectional (Multiply)		

Great, but column alignments have limited usefulness

\*As reported in,

Seedat and Schaar. Matchmaker: Self-Improving Compositional LLM Programs for Table Schema Matching. TRL @ NeurIPS. (2024)



# Column Alignments = Too Simple

[www.ProteinHub.com/access\\_data](http://www.ProteinHub.com/access_data)

meds		
mid	brand_med	type
241	Humira	Biotech
512	Enbrel	Biotech

bio_entity			
med	bid	med_role	entity_name
86	Inhibits	Tumor necrosis factor	
329	Anitibody	Lymphotoxin-alpha	

Drug		
DID	name	uses
241	Humira	
512	Enbrel	

Induces	
DID	TID

Target		
TID	name	organism
264	TNF	
443	AFC	

Inhibits	
DID	TID

Can tell us...

- “Move data from this column to that one...”

Cannot tell us...

- Which **Drugs** induce (inhibit) which **Targets**



Not suitable for many common mapping scenarios



How do we extend these techniques to more expressive mappings?



# Moving Beyond Column Alignments (Complex!)

\*See paper for more detailed discussion

Set of column pairs



Set of multi-query programs



## How to Sample & Combine Responses?

- Swapping schemas = drastically change output
- Not clear how to combine outputs



## How to Divide & Conquer? Give LLM...

- too many relations = poor performance
- too few relations = incorrect mapping



## What Output Language?

- LLMs can generate SQL query given *question* and *schema* [Text-to-SQL]
- What about **Schema Mapping**?
  - Multiple queries; rigid requirements on output structure

Future Work

Preliminary Results





## Experiment: Effectiveness

**Dataset:** Amalgam (bibliography):

- 8 independent mappings programs (prompt for each, individually)

**Metric:** Table-Overlap (Avg. 20 runs)

- Average of metrics over **gold** vs. **predicted** table rows

(a) Metrics		
Prec.	Rec.	F1
$0.56 \pm 0.03$	$0.85 \pm 0.03$	$0.66 \pm 0.03$

\*See paper for more experiments and results

**Moves too much data**

SQL seems OK.

Focus on techniques for improving output.

# Thank you!

## Please share your questions



Portland  
State  
UNIVERSITY



**Oregon State**  
University



# Shortcomings: Existing Approaches

Provide supplemental information

- Group columns into semantic categories prior to matching
- Identify helpful knowledge sources, build locally or connect to API for querying



Still requires (potentially significant) human effort

Train over Synthetic Data

- LLM generates training data (in-context learning)



LLMs are **sensitive to phrasing**, and same phrasing can still give **conflicting answers!**

Find most consistent response -> rivals fine-tuned performance

## Some Examples:

Narayan et al. "Can Foundation Models Wrangle Your Data?." VLDB (2022)

Huang et al. "Transform Table to Database Using Large Language Models." TaDa @ VLDB. (2024)

Sheetrit et al. "ReMatch: Retrieval Enhanced Schema Matching with LLMs." arXiv (2024)