Intro to Chemical Data Science

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SCS Spring School on Digital Chemistry
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What is "Chemical Data Science"?

First: what is Data Science?

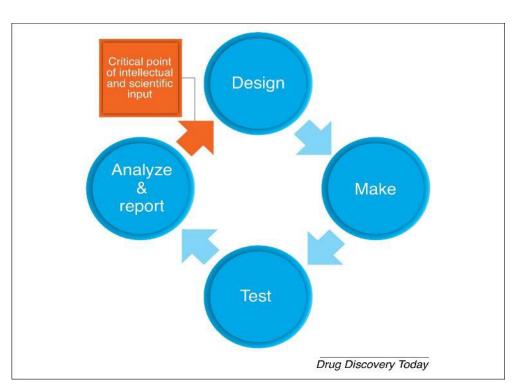
Data science is an interdisciplinary academic field that uses statistics, scientific computing, scientific methods, processes, algorithms and systems to extract or extrapolate knowledge and insights from noisy, structured, and unstructured data.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_science

Chemical Data science is that, but with the added complication of needing to work with molecules as part of the data

How does this fit into drug discovery?

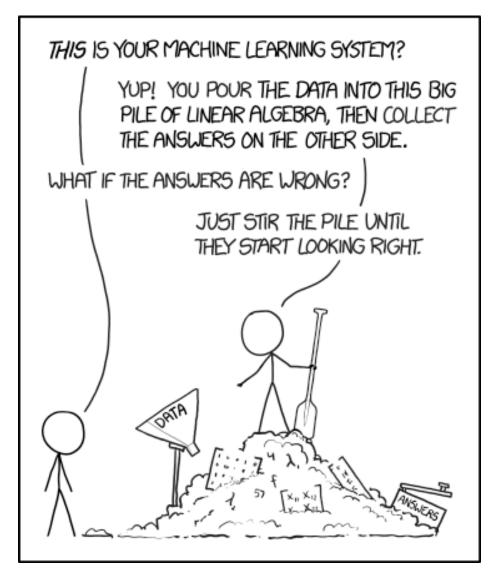
- Drug discovery teams typically follow an iterative approach as they try to discover and optimize drug candidates
- A useful way of thinking about these iterations is the "Design-Make-Test-Analyze" cycle.
- Computer-aided drug design (CADD) is primarily focused on the Design and Analyze stages
- Chemical Data Science runs throughout



https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drudis.2018.09.016

More on data science

More on data science



https://xkcd.com/1838/

More on data science

The New York Times

For Big-Data Scientists, 'Janitor Work' Is Key Hurdle to Insights From 2014!

This hasn't changed... there's still a lot of plumbing that needs to be done.

So we're going to talk about the plumbing today

Overview

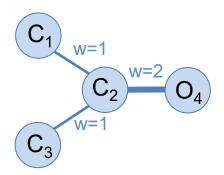
- Representing molecules in the computer
- Substructure search
- Molecular fingerprints
- Molecular descriptors
- Standardization
- Public resources

Representation

• How to represent molecules in computers?

Matrix Representation

- Molecule can be drawn as undirected, weighted graph
 - Node = atom:
 - Contains the atom number and information about the element, number of hydrogens (if not explicitly in the graph), isotope, charge, stereochemistry, aromaticity
 - > Edge = bond:
 - Contains information about bond type (= weight)
- Example: Acetone



	1	2	3	4
1	0	1	0	0
2 3 4	0 1 0	0	1	1
3	0	1	0	0
4	0	1	0	0

	1	2	3	4
1	0	1	0	0
2 3 4	1 0	0	1	2
3	0	1	0	0
4	0	2	0	0

Graph

Adjacency matrix

Connection table

- Problem:
 - Not efficient for storing, retrieving and comparing molecules

Structure Data Format (SDF)

Line 1: Name of compound (optional) Aspirin ChemDraw06050618212D Number of atoms -- 13 13 0999 V2000 **₹**1.7862 -0.2062 0.0000 C -1.7862-1.03130.0000 C Number of bonds -1.0717-1.44380.0000 C -1.0313 -0.35720.0000 C -0.2062 -0.3572 0.0000 C 0.2062 Atom coordinates -1.0717 0.0000 C -1.07171.0313 0.0000 C (here: 2D) -1.78621.4438 0.0000 O -0.35721.4438 0.0000 O 0.3572 0.2062 0.0000 O 1.0717 -0.20620.0000 C 1.7862 0.2063 0.0000 C 1.0717 -1.03120.0000 O 2 0 Connection table: First two numbers = atom number Third number = bond type 10 11 1 11 12 1

11 13

M END

2 0

Representation

- 1D (linear) representation of a molecule
 - Compact (less storage)
 - Easy interpretation and parseability (searching) by computers
- Requirements:
 - Includes stereoinformation and aromaticity
 - \triangleright Reversible (2D \rightarrow 1D as well as 1D \rightarrow 2D)
 - ➤ Optional: uniquely defined → for use as identifiers in databases
- Examples:
 - > IUPAC name
 - Wiswesser Line Notation (WLN)
 - Simplified Molecular Input Line Entry System (SMILES)
 - SYBYL Line Notation (SLN)
 - [International Chemical Identifier (InChi)]

Background:

- ➤ Idea:
 - o Encode chemical structure using characters based on a set of rules
- Introduced in 1988 (D. Weininger, J. Chem. Inf. Comput. Sci. 28, 31–36, 1988)
- Depending on which atom is taken as root, different valid SMILES are generated
 - Canonicalization needed to generate unique SMILES

> Example:

→ CCCc1nn(C)c2c1nc(-c1cc(S(=O)(=O)N3CCN(C)CC3)ccc1OCC)[nH]c2=O

Rules

Hydrogens as well as single and aromatic bonds are usually omitted, but can be specified explicitly if desired

> Atoms:

- General: Atomic symbol in square brackets
- o "Organic" subset (= B, C, N, O, P, S, F, Cl, Br, I) can be written without brackets if the number of attached Hs is "normal"

e.g.
$$H_3C-CH_3 \rightarrow CC$$

- Attached hydrogens and formal charges always specified inside brackets
 e.g. [OH-], [NH4+]
- o Atoms in aromatic rings are specified by lower case letters (i.e. c, n)
- Stereocentres are specified with @ (anti-clockwise writing of neighbors) and
 @@ (clockwise writing of neighbors) inside brackets

> Bonds:

- Single bond: "-", double bond: "=", triple bond: "#", aromatic bond: ":"
- Trans/cis double bonds: use of "/" and "\", e.g.

$$\rightarrow$$
 C/C=C/C \rightarrow C/C=C\C

Branches:

- Specified by parentheses
- Can be nested or stacked

Cyclic structures:

- Represented by breaking one bond (to get spanning tree) and numbering the ring-closure atoms
- Ring-closure digits can be reused

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
 & C & C^1 \\
 & C & C^1 \\
 & C & C^1
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 & C & C^1 \\
 & C & C^1
\end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 & C & C^1 \\
 & C & C^1
\end{array}$$

> Aromaticity:

- Aromaticity is a concept → different definitions/algorithms (discussed later)
- Aromatic bonds are usually omitted
- Atoms in an aromatic ring are specified by lower case letters

Four basic rules for organic compounds:

- Atoms are represented by atomic symbols
- Double and triple bonds are represented by = and #
- Branching is indicated by parentheses
- Ring closures are indicated by matching digits appended to the symbol

Back to sildenafil:

Canonicalization

Idea:

- Generate a unique (and reproducible) numbering of the atoms in a molecule
- Needed to generate a unique SMILES which can be used as identifier
- Identical molecules should have the same canonical SMILES.
- Details are dependent on the details of the algorithm: you can't compare canonical SMILES from two different toolkits (or possibly from different versions of the same toolkit)

InChl

- InChI = international chemical identifier
 - Developed by NIST and IUPAC in 2000-2005
- Structure: Series of layers (specified by a prefix) separated by a "/"
 - Start: InChl=1S
 - 1 → version; S → standard
 - > Layers:
 - Main layers:
 - Chemical formula (no prefix)
 - Atom connections (prefix "c") → hydrogens excluded
 - Hydrogen atoms (prefix "h")
 - Charge layers:
 - Protons (prefix "p")
 - Charges ("q")
 - Stereochemical layers:
 - Bonds (prefix "b") → double and triple bonds
 - Tetrahedral stereoinfo (prefix "t", "m")
 - Type of stereoinfo (prefix "s")
 - Isotopic layer (prefix "i", "h")

InChl

Examples:

- \rightarrow CH₃CH₂OH (ethanol) \rightarrow InChI=1S/C2H6O/c1-2-3/h3H,2H2,1H3
- ➤ CH₃CHO (acetaldehyde) → InChI=1S/C2H4O/c1-2-3/h2H,1H3

Algorithm:

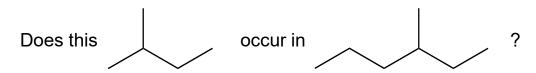
- ➤ Normalization → remove redundant information, pick canonical tautomer, etc.
- Canonicalization > unique numbering
- ➤ Serialization → generating the string of characters

Standard InChlKey:

- ➤ Condensed digital representation → not human-readable
- Hashed to 27 characters:
 - o 14 characters from a hash of the connectivity information + Hyphen
 - + 9 characters from a hash of the remaining layers
 - + Version + Hyphen
 - + Checksum (hash sum) character
- ➤ No reversal possible → InChI cannot be restored from its InChIKey
- > Example:
 - Ethanol → InChIKey = LFQSCWFLJHTTHZ-UHFFFAOYSA-N

Substructure Search

- Substructure search:
 - Question: Does this substructure exist in any molecule of my database?



- Input: query pattern of atoms and bonds (e.g. SMARTS)
- Mathematical problem is very complex (subgraph isomorphism), but molecules have special properties that allow us to use heuristics to solve the problem
 - o Elements of the "organic set" form maximum 4 bonds
 - Hydrogens can be omitted
 - Some elements / bond types are more rare than others (can be searched for first to quit search fast)

SMARTS

- SMILES arbitrary target specification (SMARTS)
 - Extension of SMILES to describe molecular patterns (substructures)
 - Wildcards for atoms and bonds, logical operators
 - Every valid SMILES is also a valid SMARTS, but they may mean something different

Additional labels:

- > Atoms:
 - Specified by either element symbol or number: e.g. [#6] → any carbon
 - o "*": wild card
 - o "A": any aliphatic atom
 - o "a" : any aromatic atom
 - o "D" followed by a number : degree (number of explicit connections)
 - o "R" followed by a number *n*: in *n* smallest rings
 - o "r" followed by a number *n*: in a smallest ring of size *n*
 - "H" followed by a number : number of adjacent hydrogens
 - H has now two meanings:
 e.g. [H] → hydrogen atom, e.g. [*2H] → any atom with two hydrogens
 - Multiple possible matches are separated by a comma: e.g. [C,N] → either aliphatic C or N

SMARTS

> Bonds:

○ "~" : any bond

o "@": any ring bond

SMARTS viewer:

http://smartsview.zbh.uni-hamburg.de

Logical operators: combinations of atom and bond specifications

∘ "!" : NOT, e.g. [!C] → not aliphatic carbon

o "&" : AND (high priority)

o "," : OR

o ";" : AND (low priority)

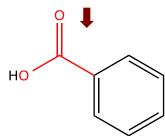
Operator priority: "!" > "&" > "," > ";"

> Aromaticity:

O Note: a double bond is not matched to an aromatic bond!

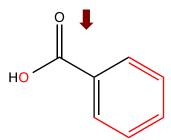
Examples: *C(=0)0

carboxylic acid connected to anything



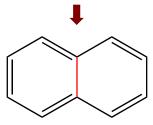
[c,O;H1]

aromatic C or aliphatic O AND connected to a hydrogen



[R2]

any atom in two smallest rings



Molecular Fingerprints

- Abstract representation of 2D topological structure:
 - Idea: Convert chemical structure into a 1D bit string
 - Each bit represents a specific fragment
 - 1 : Structure contains the fragment
 - 0 : Structure does not contain the fragment
 - Typically hundreds or thousands of fragments considered
 - > Advantages:
 - Very compact (less storage) and rapid comparison possible
 - Disadvantages:
 - Different structures can have the same fingerprint!

- 4 types of fingerprints based on 2D structure:
 - Dictionary-based
 - Path-based
 - Circular fingerprints
 - 2D pharmacophores
- Provide a description of molecules in terms of bit- or count-vectors
- Commonly used for molecular similarity and machine learning

- Dictionary-based fingerprints:
 - Predefined set of substructures (keys)
 - Bit position directly connected to a certain pattern
 - ➤ Example: Molecular ACCess System (MACCS) from MDL → 166 structural keys (as SMARTS)

Bit 13: "[#8]~[#7](~[#6])~[#6]"

➤ Example: PubChem fingerprint ¹ → 881 structural keys

Bit 29 >= 2 Si

Bit 123 >= 2 saturated or aromatic carbon-only ring size 3

¹ https://ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubchem/specifications/pubchem_fingerprints.pdf

Hashing:

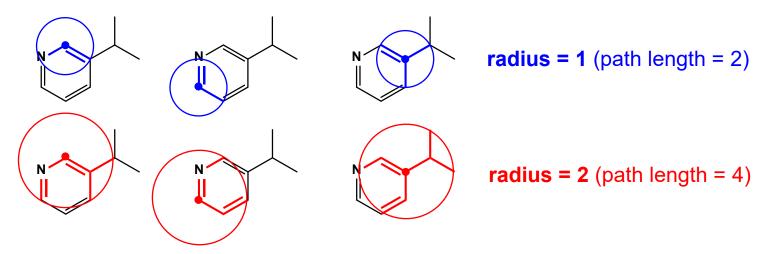
- In path-based, circular and pharmacophore fingerprints patterns are normally hashed to bit positions
- No direct connection bit position → pattern (except if stored during hashing)
- Collisions can occur (different patterns hashed to the same bit position)

Path-based fingerprints:

- Search for all occurrences of a set of generic substructure patterns in the molecule
- Example: RDKit fingerprint
 - Patterns: subgraphs with 1-7 bonds
 - Hashing (to get bit positions):
 - The specific atoms and bonds in a given occurrence
- ➤ Example: Atom-pairs fingerprint
 - \circ Atom type: (element) (# heavy neighbors) (# π -electrons)
 - o Atom pairs: (atom type) (topological distance) (atom type)

$$N_{2_1} = 0$$
 $N_{2_1} = 0$
 $N_{2_1} = 0$

- Circular fingerprints (Morgan fingerprints):
 - Fragments = circular environments around the atoms with different radii
 - Circular environments hashed to bit positions
 - Example: Extended connectivity fingerprints (ECFP)
 - Atom type: (element, #heavy neighbors, # Hs, isotope, in-ring flag)
 - Size of max. radius is user-defined (0, 1, 2, ...)



- Example: Feature connectivity fingerprints (FCFP)
 - Atom type: pharmacophoric features

2D pharmacophores:

- Definition [1]: "Ensemble of steric and electronic features that is necessary to ensure the optimal supramolecular interactions with a specific biological target structure and to trigger (or to block) its biological response"
- Pharmacophoric features:
 - H-bond donors/acceptors, hydrophobic, pos./neg. charged
 - Aromatic and/or hydrophobic groups: usually a group of atoms mapped to a virtual point
- 2D pharmacophore fingerprints: Combination of pharmacophoric features and the topological distance between them

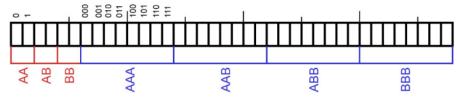
In the RDKit [2]: Distances are binned and each combination is mapped

to a certain bit

Example: Signature from: Combos: AA, AB, BB 2 Patterns 2 bits/pharmacophore (1 distance with 2 bins) 2 - 3 point pharmacophores Total: 6 bits 2 distance bins (1,3),(3,8) 3 point pharmacophores: Combos: AAA, AAB, ABB, BBB Total Signature Size: 38 bits 8 bits/pharmacophore (3 distances with 2 bins)

Total: 32 bits

2 point pharmacophores:



- [1] IUPAC recommendations: Pure & Appl. Chem., 70, 1129 (1998).
- [2] https://rdkit.org/docs/RDKit Book.html#representation-of-pharmacophore-fingerprints

Technical problem:

- A huge number of fragments is possible, but a single molecule contains usually only a few
- ➤ Fingerprints are sparsely populated → most of the space is wasted on "zero bits"

Two solutions:

- Sparse integer vectors: dictionary where keys = bit position
 - Only on-bits are stored
- Folding (second hashing):
 - o Bit positions are hashed to a user-defined size (e.g. 2048 bits)
 - On- and off-bits are stored
 - Disadvantage: Additional source for collisions
 - Chosen size has to be large enough to avoid too many collisions

- Similarity metrics: Comparison of fingerprints
 - Resulting values: 1 = all bits in common, 0 = no bits in common
 - Example of a popular similarity metric:
 - Tanimoto coefficient (or Jaccard coefficient):

$$sim_{Tanimoto} = \frac{N_{A\&B}}{N_A + N_B - N_{A\&B}}$$

 N_X : number of *on*-bits in fingerprint X (X = A,B) $N_{A&B}$: number of common *on*-bits in A and B

Efficient implementation: Binary logic (boolean algebra)

AND

Bit2

1

Bit1

0

0

Bit1&Bit2
0

	Ц
	_

OR

Bit1	Bit2	Bit1 Bit2
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	1

XOR

Bit1	Bit2	Bit1^Bit2
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

0

NOT:	e.g. ~(1001101)	→ 011001
	• • •	

Left shift: e.g.
$$(0001100) << 1 \rightarrow 0011000$$

Right shift: e.g.
$$(0001100) > 2 \rightarrow 0000011$$

Bit operator (C++)	Meaning
&	bitwise AND
	bitwise OR
۸	bitwise excl. OR (XOR)
<<	left shift
>>	right shift
~	NOT

Molecular Property Descriptors

- Interpretable properties:
 - Can be used to try and find simple rules for biological endpoints
- Examples:
 - Molecular weight
 - Calculated octanol/water partition coefficient (ClogP)
 - Topological polar surface area (TPSA)
 - Number of hydrogen-bond acceptors and donors
 - Lipinski's rule-of-five (Ro5)

Molecular Property Descriptors

- Calculated octanol/water partition coefficient (ClogP):
 - Definition:

$$\log P_{octanol/water} = \log \left(\frac{[\text{solute}]_{octanol}}{[\text{solute}]_{water}} \right)$$

- Used as a metric for lipophilicity
- One of the most (over-)used descriptors
- Calculation: Atom/group contribution models
 - Simple, based on 2D topological structure alone
 - o Wildman-Crippen ClogP model
 - (J. Chem. Inf. Comput. Sci., 39, 868, 1999)
 - → 68 atom contributions derived from training set of 9920 organic molecules

$$\log P_{octanol/water} = \sum_{i} n_i a_i$$

AlogP model
 (J. Phys. Chem. A, 102, 3762, 1998)

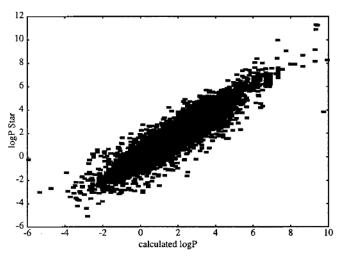


Figure 1. Correlation plot for the fit of 9920 log *P* Star values: $r^2 = 0.918$; $\sigma = 0.677$.

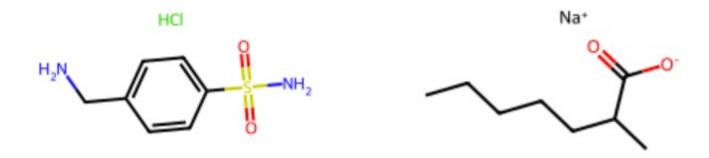
Molecular Property Descriptors

- Lipinski's rules-of-five (Ro5):
 - Original paper: (Adv. Drug Deliv. Rev., 23, 3, 1997)
 - Heuristic rules for druglikeness based on analysis of historical data on oral bioavailability of drugs (at Pfizer)
 - "Poor absorption or permeation is more likely when"
 - there are more than 5 hydrogen-bond donors
 - there are more than 10 hydrogen-bond acceptors
 - the molecular weight is greater than 500 g/mol
 - the ClogP is greater than 5
 - (the number of rotatable bonds is greater than 10)
 - Still used as a crude filter
 - Important to keep the limitations of such simple rules in mind!

Molecule standardization

- An important (and often forgotten) step when working with chemical data
- Includes things like:
 - Salt stripping
 - Neutralization
 - Charging to assay/physiological pH
 - Tautomer enumeration
- Which steps need to be done depend on the problem at hand.

Salt stripping



- Often compounds are synthesized/tested as salts.
- The salt/counterion is not normally involved in interaction with the protein, so we often remove them

Salts

	Mean. Density (g/cm3)	Mp (°C)	Aqueous Solubility (mol/L)	
Ibuprofen	1.11±0.001	76-79	3.45×10-4	
+ Butylamine	1.07±0.001	104-106	0.583	
+ Hexylamine	0.98±0.004	91-94	0.02	
+ Octylamine	0.75±0.001	80-82	4.93×10-3	
+ Benzylamine	1.08±0.001	107-109	7.99×10-4	
+ Cyclohexylamine	1.12±0.001	197-201	3.37x10-3	
+ Tert-butylamine	1.02±0.001	185-190	0.018	
+ AMP1	1.11±0.001	130-134	0.458	
+ AMP2	1.15±0.001	112-116	>0.643	
+ Tris	1.20±0.001	160-164	0.0274	

Data from: https://doi.org/10.3109/03639045.2011.592530

Neutralization

Salt stripping often results in charged species

We often store compounds in their neutral form

 Later, if necessary, we can adjust the protonation whatever is appropriate for our simulation

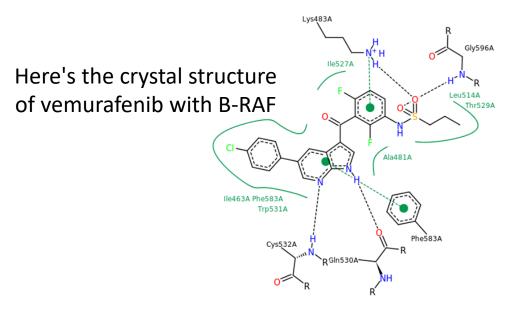
Why not just pick a tautomer?

If the tautomers can interconvert in solution why not just pick one and use that?

vemurafenib tautomers

Why not just pick a tautomer?

If the tautomers can interconvert in solution why not just pick one and use that?



https://www.rcsb.org/structure/4RZV

If we pick the structure which doesn't corresponds to what binds to the protein, we will have unreliable/incorrect input for whatever else we do with the molecule

Aside: does this actually matter for machine learning?

Fingerprint similarities between the two tautomers of vemurafenib:

- Morgan2: 0.79
- Feature Morgan2: 0.79
- RDKit fingerprint: 0.74
- Avalon fingerprint: 0.79
- Atom pairs: 1.0
- Topological torsions: 1.0

Descriptor values:

- MolLogP: 5.50, 5.54
- BCUT2D_CHGHI: 2.26, 2.27
- LabuteASA: 193.2, 193.6
- TPSA: 91.92, 91.92
- kappa3: 4.60, 4.60

More tautomer fun

https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/ci900501c

Name \(\Delta G \text{ (kcal mol^1) / medium / relevant form(s)} \)					Minor form in Water (m)			PDB with
		Structure/Name	CSD	PDB	Structure/Name	CSD	PDB	HB score
8. 2-pyridone	4.2/water/M; -0.65/gas (calc.)/m; ND/solid/m.	oxo NH	172	24	OH HYDROXY N 6	12	2	2
9. Uracil	4.9/water/M; ND/gas (exp.)/M; ND/solid/M.	DIOXO NH N 3	91	113	OH HYDROXY	0	3	9
10. Barbituric Acid (C5 disubstituted derivatives)	20/water/M.	HN NH	38	0	OH LACTIM NH NH 0 6 5	0	0	0
11. 2- aminopyrimi dine	8.2/water/M.	NH ₂ AMINO	120	6	NH IMINO	20	1	17
12	ND/water/M	н	19	4	N	0	n	n

Examples of rings/groups which have been observed in multiple tautomers in crystal structures

Public resources for chemical data science

- Collections of available compounds
 - > ZINC
 - PubChem
- Compounds + bioactivity data
 - > ChEMBL
 - PubChem BioAssay
 - ToxCast/Tox21
- This is a partial list... there are many others

ZINC

- "Zinc Is Not Commercial": https://zinc20.docking.org/
- Free database of commercially-available compounds for virtual screening
- >2 billion molecules
- Many different subsets available: lead-like, drug-like, non-reactive, marketed drugs, etc.

Paper: https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.jcim.0c00675

PubChem

- https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/
- "PubChem is the world's largest collection of freely accessible chemical information. Search chemicals by name, molecular formula, structure, and other identifiers. Find chemical and physical properties, biological activities, safety and toxicity information, patents, literature citations and more."
- PubChem Substance: chemical structures submitted by contributors
- PubChem Compound: standardized (= cleaned up) versions of the structures in PubChem Substance
 - Each PubChem Compound (CID) corresponds to one or more PubChem Substance (SID)
- 2D and 3D structures available
- 110 million compounds, 272 million substances

PubChem BioAssay

- Part of the larger PubChem project
- Includes a large collection of assay data, including full highthroughput screens

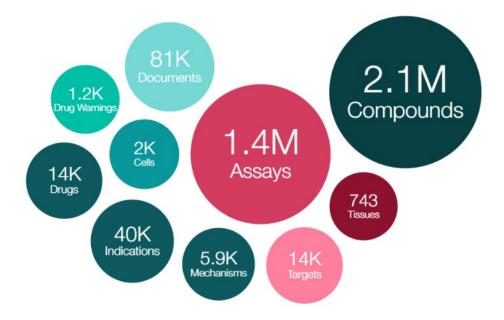
PubChem Data Counts

Data Collection	Live Count	Description
Compounds	110,604,099	Unique chemical structures extracted from contributed PubChem Substance records
Substances	272,680,287	Information about chemical entities provided by PubChem contributors
BioAssays	1,391,308	Biological experiments provided by PubChem contributors
Bioactivities	292,067,932	Biological activity data points reported in PubChem BioAssays
Genes	103,715	Gene targets tested in PubChem BioAssays and those involved in PubChem Pathways
Proteins	96,561	Protein targets tested in PubChem BioAssays and those involved in PubChem Pathways
Taxonomy	112,763	Organisms of targets tested in PubChem BioAssays and those involved in PubChem Pathways
Pathways	237,925	Interactions between chemicals, genes, and proteins
Literature	32,932,554	Scientific publications with links in PubChem
Patents	29,940,379	Patents with links in PubChem
Data Sources	809	Organizations contributing data to PubChem

ChEMBL

"ChEMBL is a manually curated database of bioactive molecules with drug-like properties. It brings together chemical, bioactivity and genomic data to aid the translation of genomic information into effective new drugs."

- Open data, freely accessible
- Web interface
- Database dumps
- Web services



ToxCast/Tox21

Tox21: https://tox21.gov/

Tox21 researchers aim to develop better toxicity assessment methods to quickly and efficiently test whether certain chemical compounds have the potential to disrupt processes in the human body that may lead to negative health effects

- ToxCast: https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/toxicity-forecasting
 - ToxCast has data for approximately 1,800 chemicals from a broad range of sources including industrial and consumer products, food additives, and potentially green chemicals that could be safer alternatives to existing chemicals.
 - ToxCast screens chemicals in more than 700 high-throughput assay endpoints that cover a range of high-level cell responses.

Acknowledgements

These slides are assembled from a set of lectures that Sereina Riniker originally created and that we've worked together on and expanded for the past couple of years.