

WISJ Machine Learning Summer School 2025

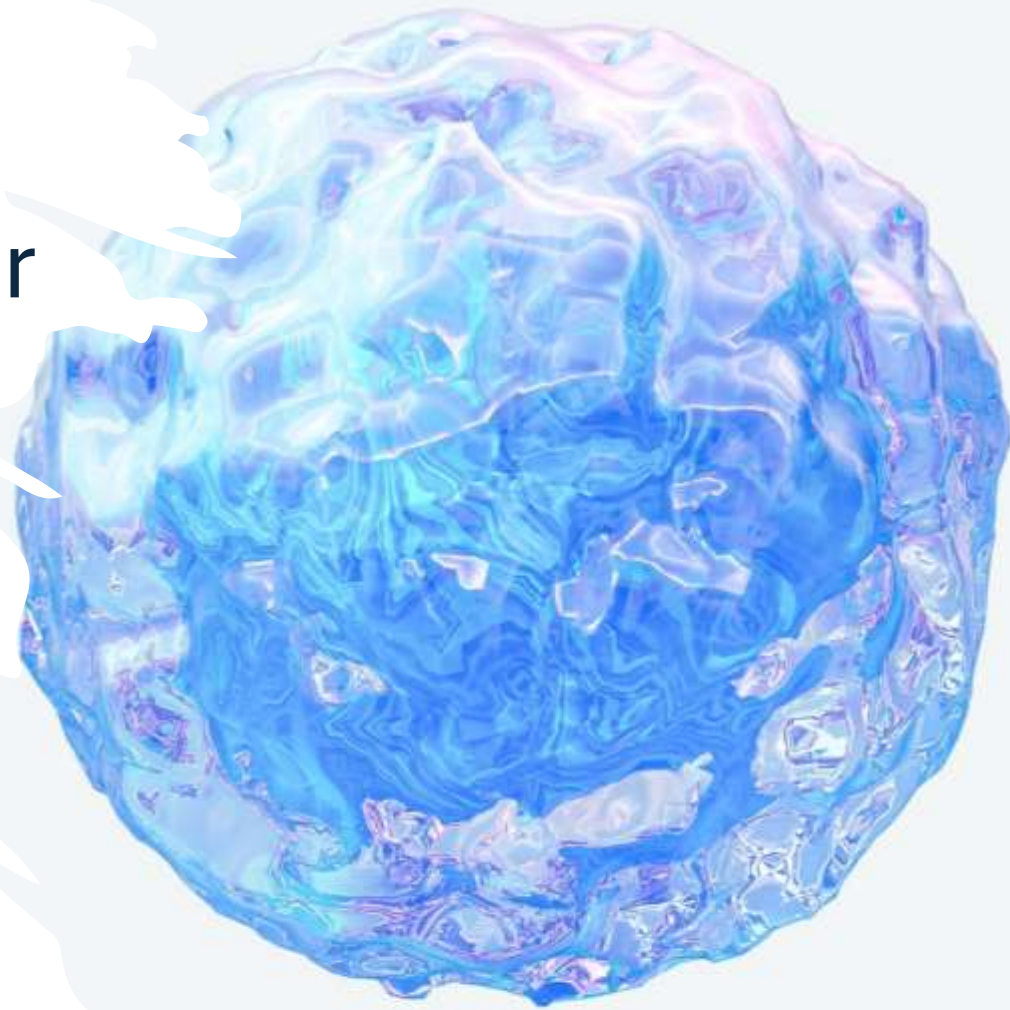
LLMs and Foundation Models for Material Science

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Lisa Hamada, Ph.D.

Research Scientist

IBM Research - Tokyo





New materials are potentially high impact

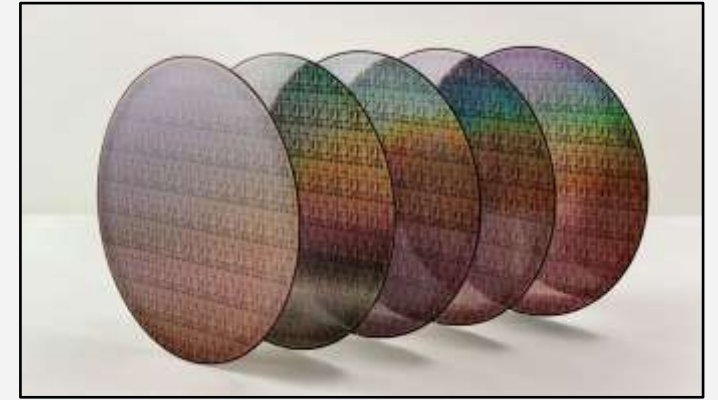
but discovery is very difficult ...



Energy and climate solutions



Greener feedstocks



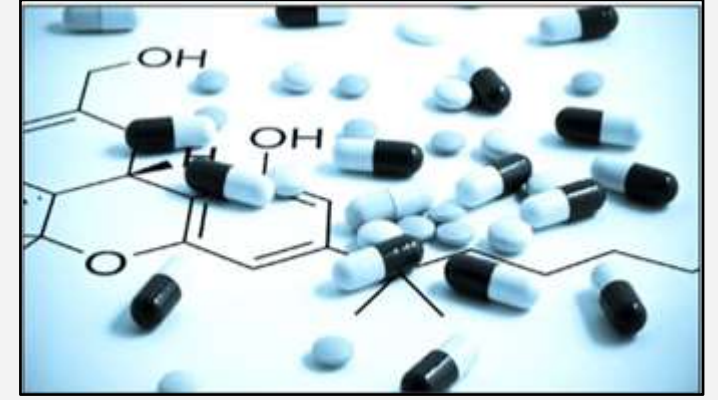
Sustainable semiconductor processing



Clean water & food supplies



Plastics recycling



Novel therapies

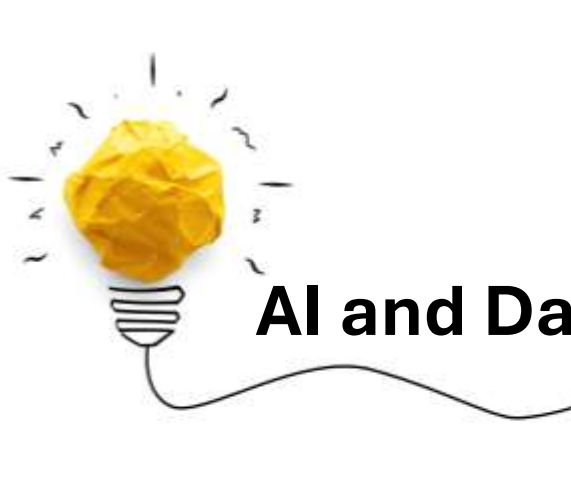
Finding a good suitable material is like finding a needle in a haystack



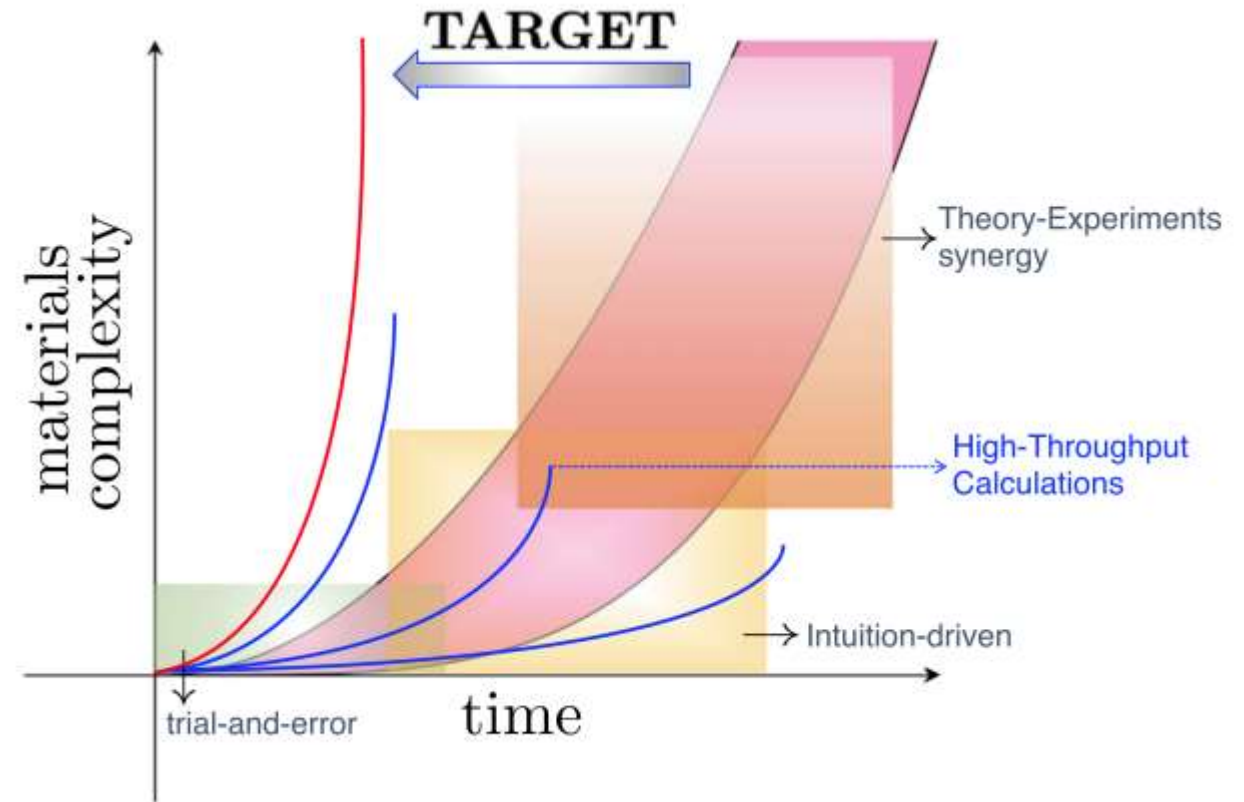
How do we guide experiments towards materials with desired properties?

Given desired material properties,

10^{60} possible candidates!



AI and Data-driven Modelling



T. Lookman, et al. *npj Computational Materials* 5.1 (2019): 21.

Accelerated Discovery – Discovery Technology Foundations

Accelerating scientific workflows with AI foundation models, toolkits and discovery platform services

Deep Search

Deep Search Toolkit for Scientific Discovery

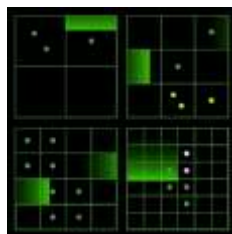


Collection and integration of knowledge

ds4sd.github.io

Simulation (ST4SD)

Simulation Toolkit for Scientific Discovery

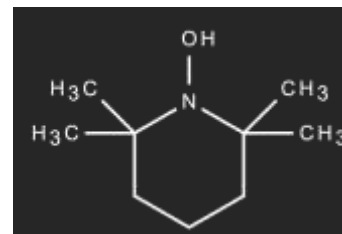


Acceleration of simulation

github.com/st4sd

Generative (GT4SD)

Generative Toolkit for Scientific Discovery



Generation of new chemicals

github.com/gt4sd

Lab Automation (RXN)

AI for Chemistry

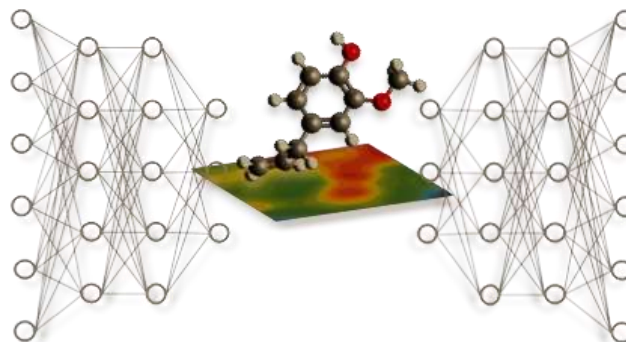


Automated synthesis

rxn.app.accelerate.science

Foundation Model for Materials

Foundation Model for materials, chemistry, biology



Global Presence

3000

Researchers

79

Years

18

Sites



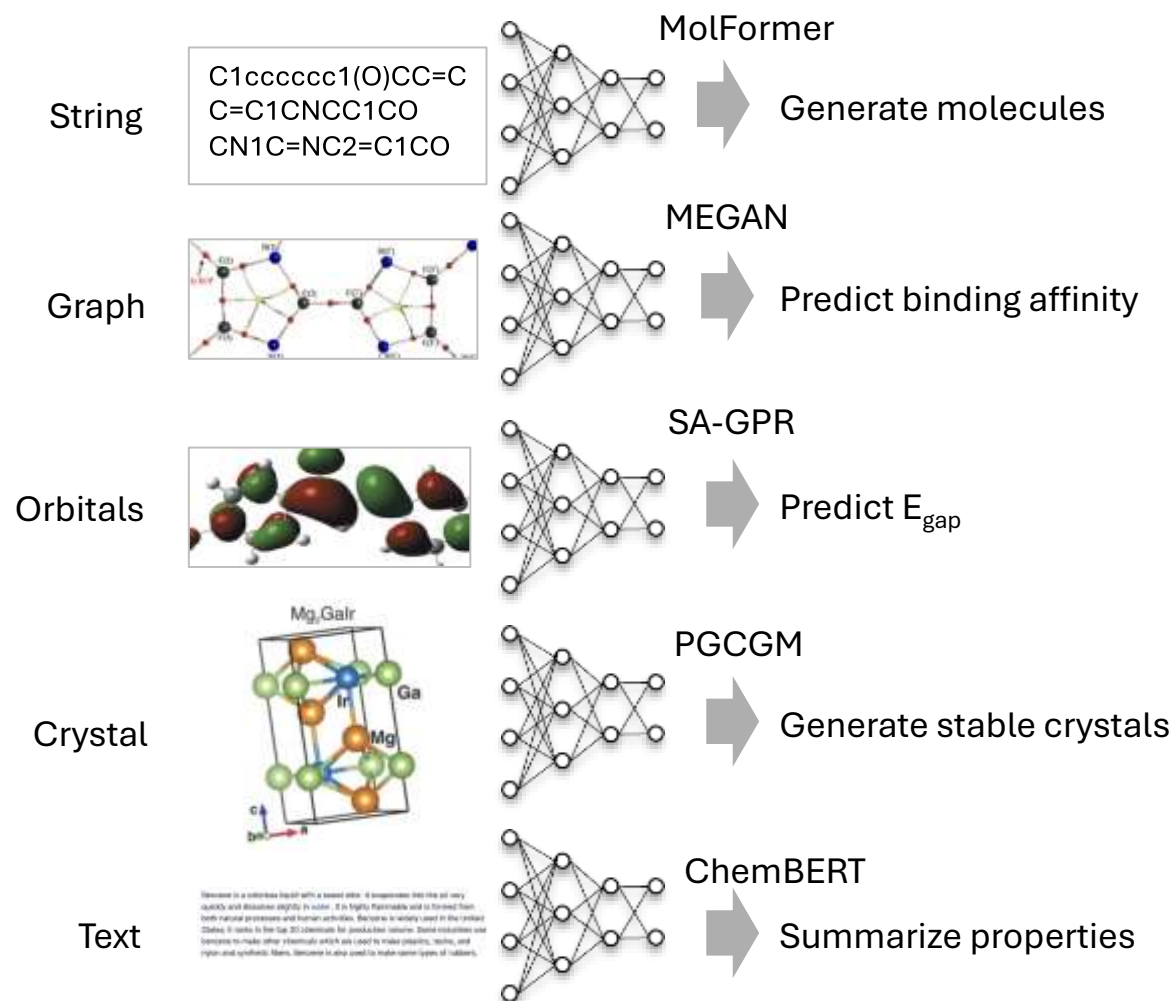
Members working on Foundation Model for Materials and Chemistry

AI is gaining focus in materials, but efforts are fragmented and limited

Uni-modal models for discrete chemical classes focus on limited tasks such as prediction of individual properties, de novo generation of molecules, or prediction of synthesis pathways, etc.

Limitations:

- Scale & data – **today's models are small & limited**
 - Small parameter size : ~100M
 - Small ground-truth data: ~1M
 - Single modality
 - Few chemical classes
 - Limited tasks
- Performance – **today's models perform poorly**
 - Insufficient accuracies
 - Heavy emphasis still on human-workflow
 - No synergies between models
- Many redundant efforts reinventing similar models



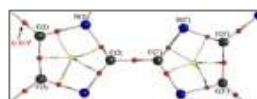
Greater impact can be achieved by centralizing global efforts to build a foundation model

A foundation model trained with multi-modal data sets can be applied to diverse classes of downstream application tasks.

- **Increase scale and grow data:**
 - Larger parameter models: 10B+
 - More diverse data
 - Multi-modality & multi-representation
- **Improve performance and impact:**
 - Richer representation by fusing data
 - Higher accuracy in predictions
 - Higher fidelity generation
 - Integrated knowledge

More modalities & representations

c1ccccc1(O)
C=C1CNCC1Oc2ccccc2
CN1C=NC2=C1C(=O)N(C(=

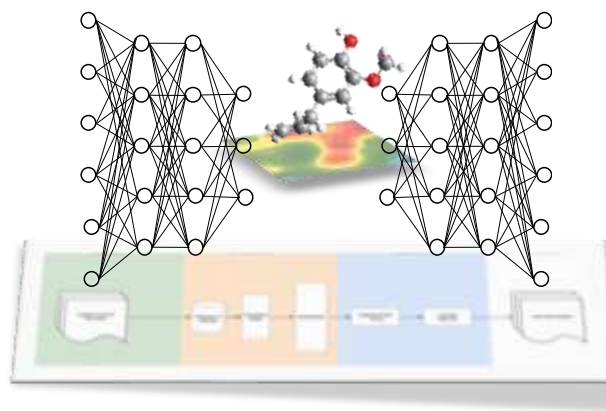


C	1.285000	-0.001000
N	-1.276000	-0.000000
O	-0.384000	0.000000
C	-2.629000	-0.000000
C	-1.099000	-0.000000



structurally related to adenosine
gestion, caffeine binds to adenosine
mediated downregulation of C
his agent also promotes neuro

Fused multi-modal FMs and framework



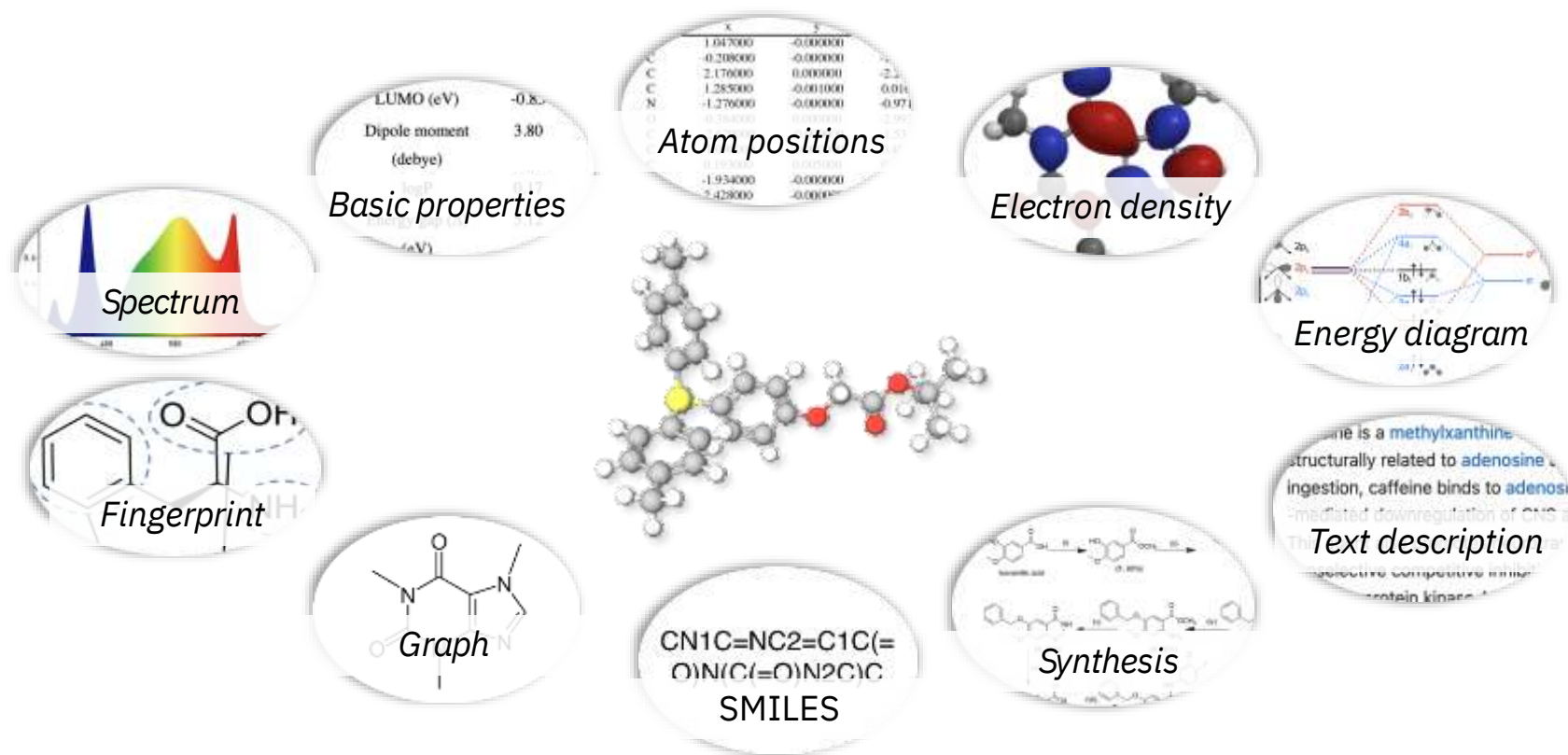
Downstream tasks

- ➔ Prediction of comprehensive properties
- ➔ Generation of molecules, reaction pathways, materials characterization
- ➔ Prediction of experimental outcomes

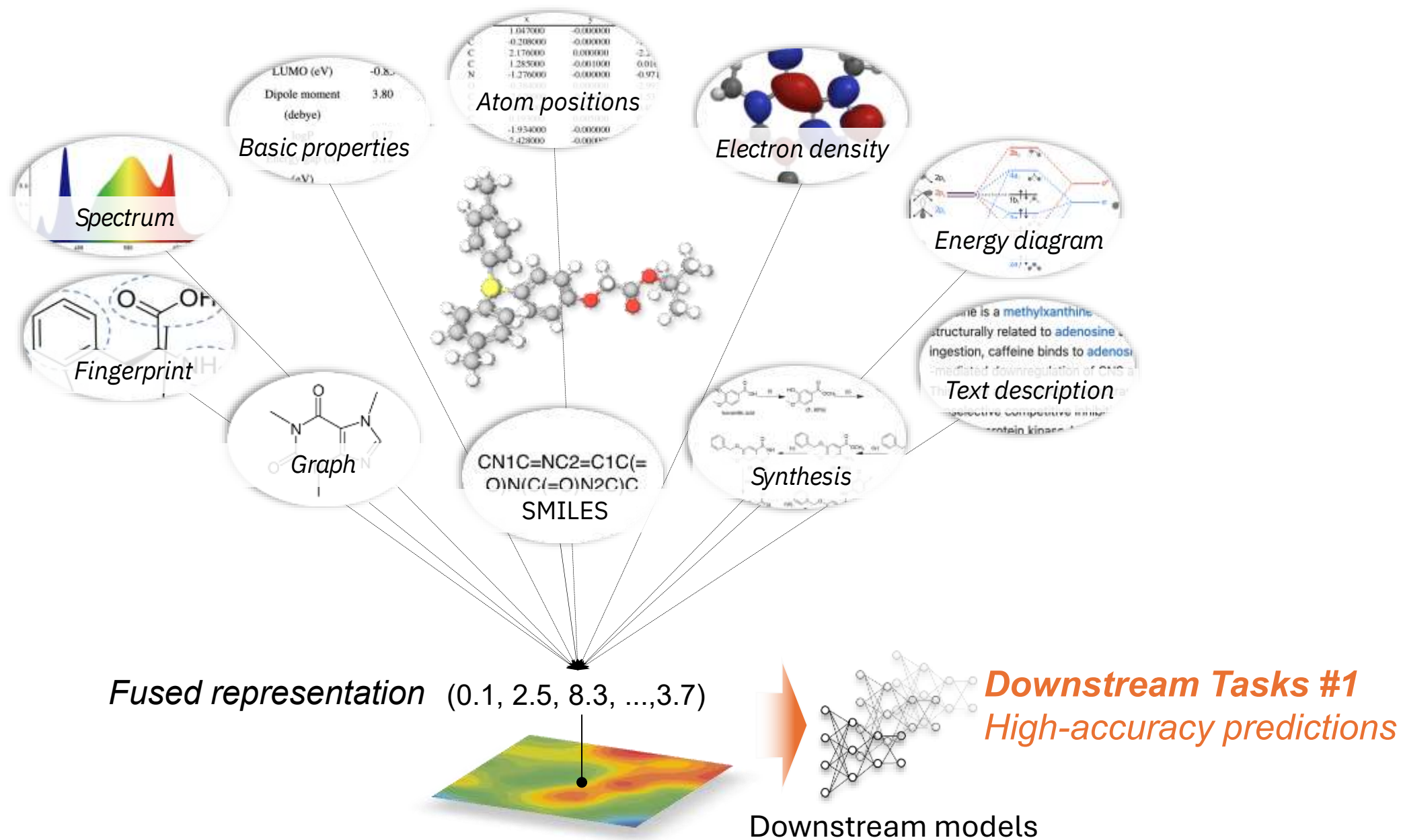
Conversational user interface



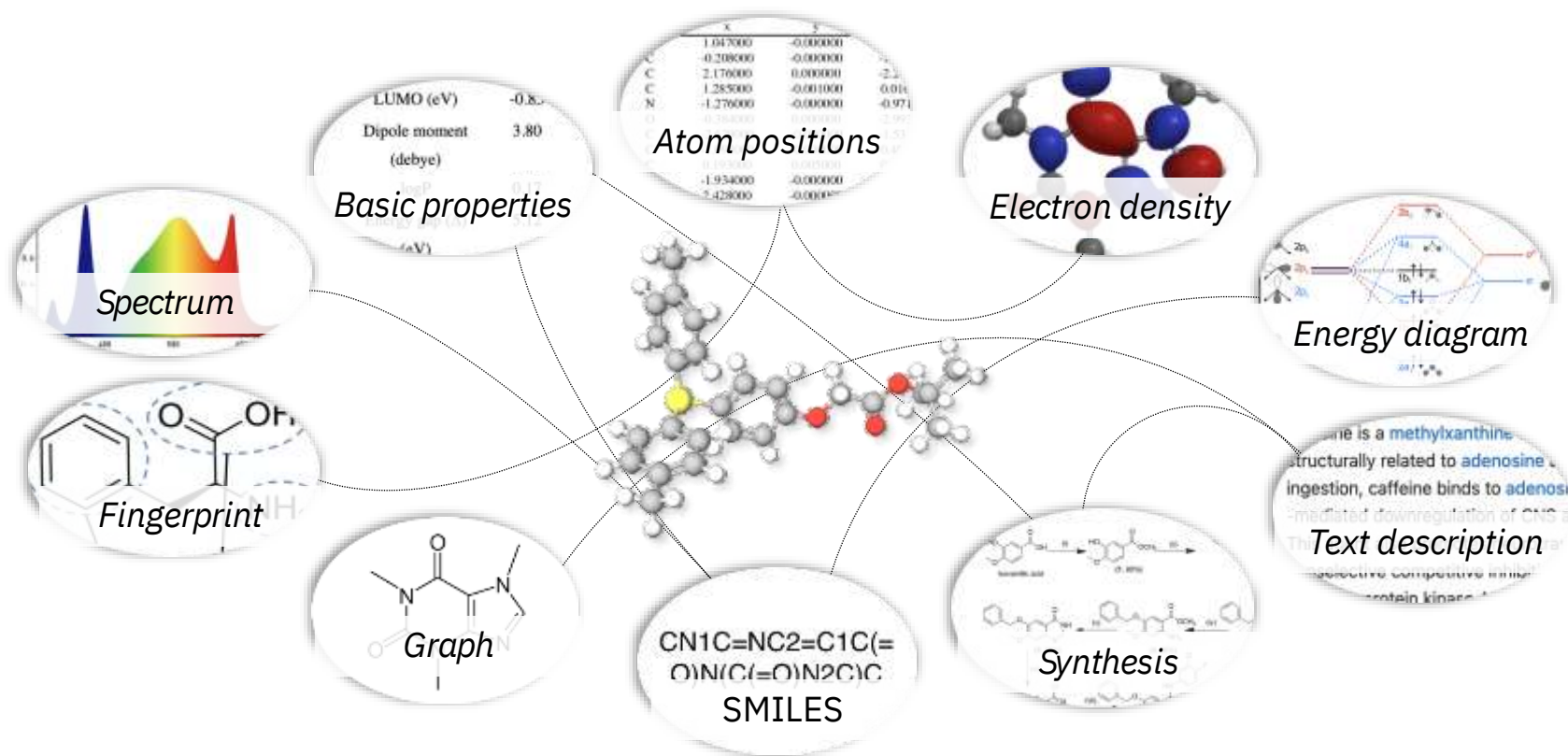
Multi-modal representations enhance modeling capabilities



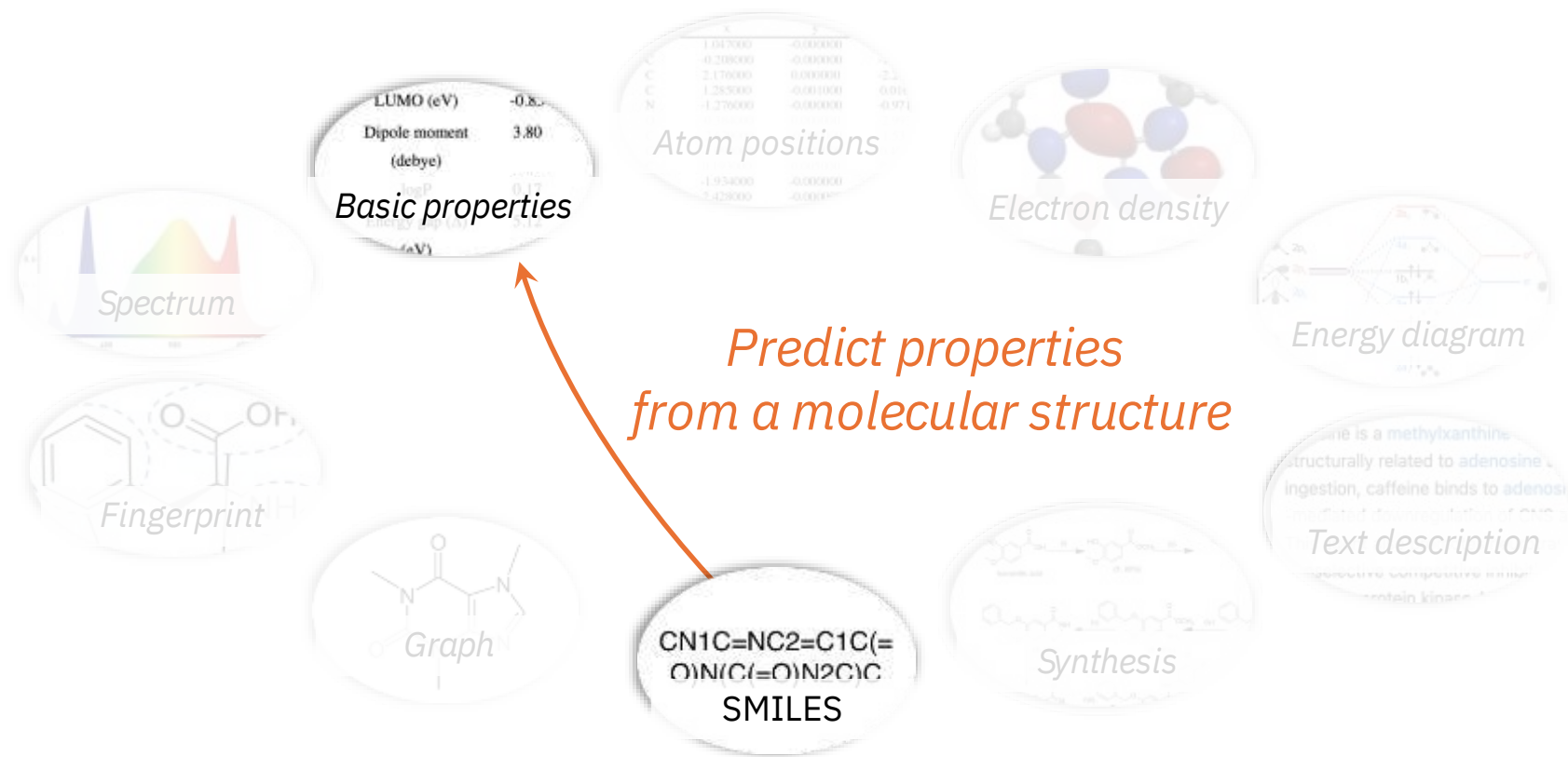
Multi-modal representations enhance modeling capabilities



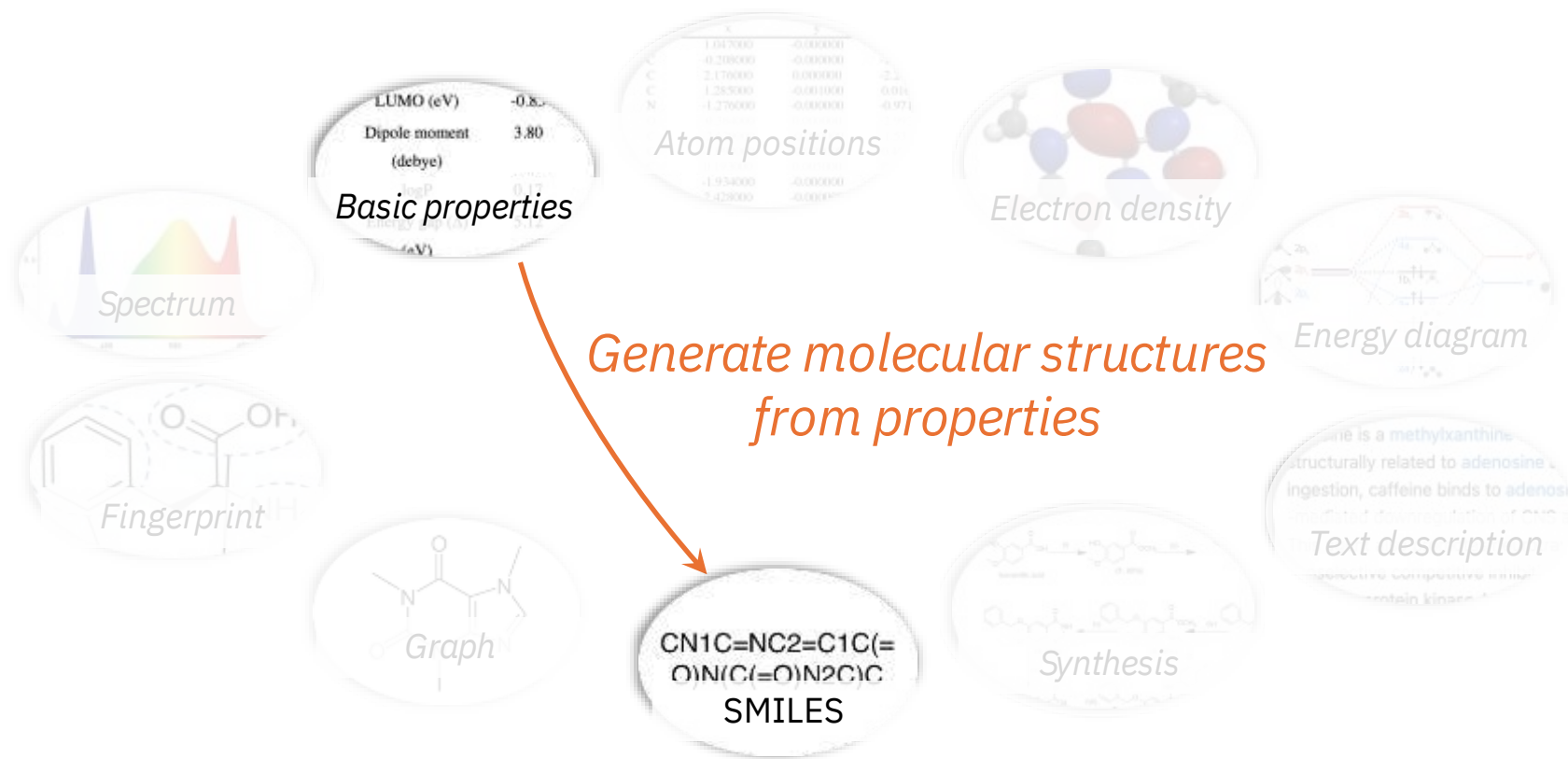
Multi-modal representations enhance modeling capabilities



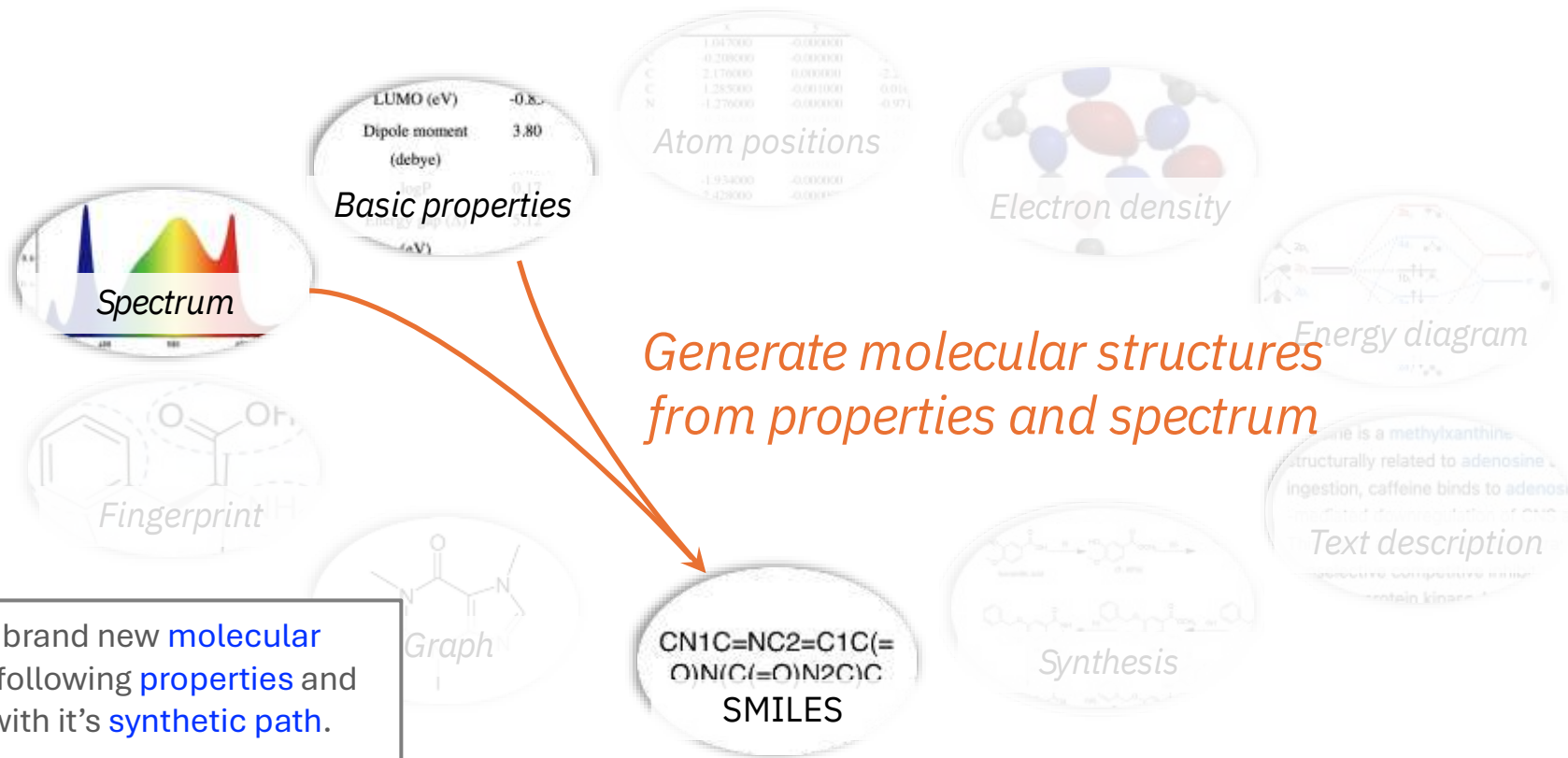
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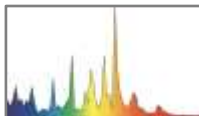


Multi-modal representations enhance modeling capabilities

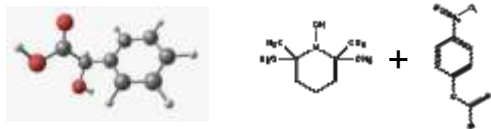


(Query) Generate a brand new **molecular structure** having the following **properties** and emission **spectrum** with it's **synthetic path**.

- $\Delta E = 2.3$ eV
- $T_{melt} = 150$ °C
- ...



(Answer) Here is the 1st candidate.

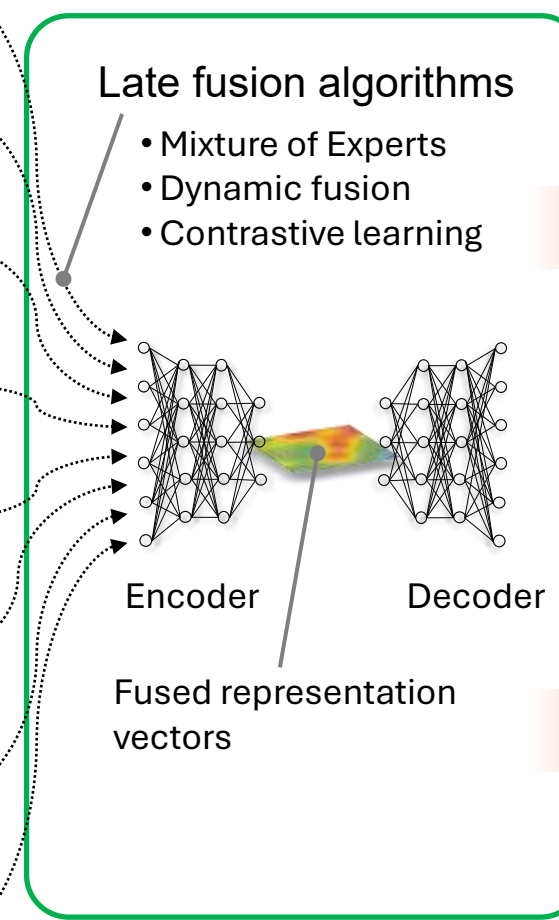
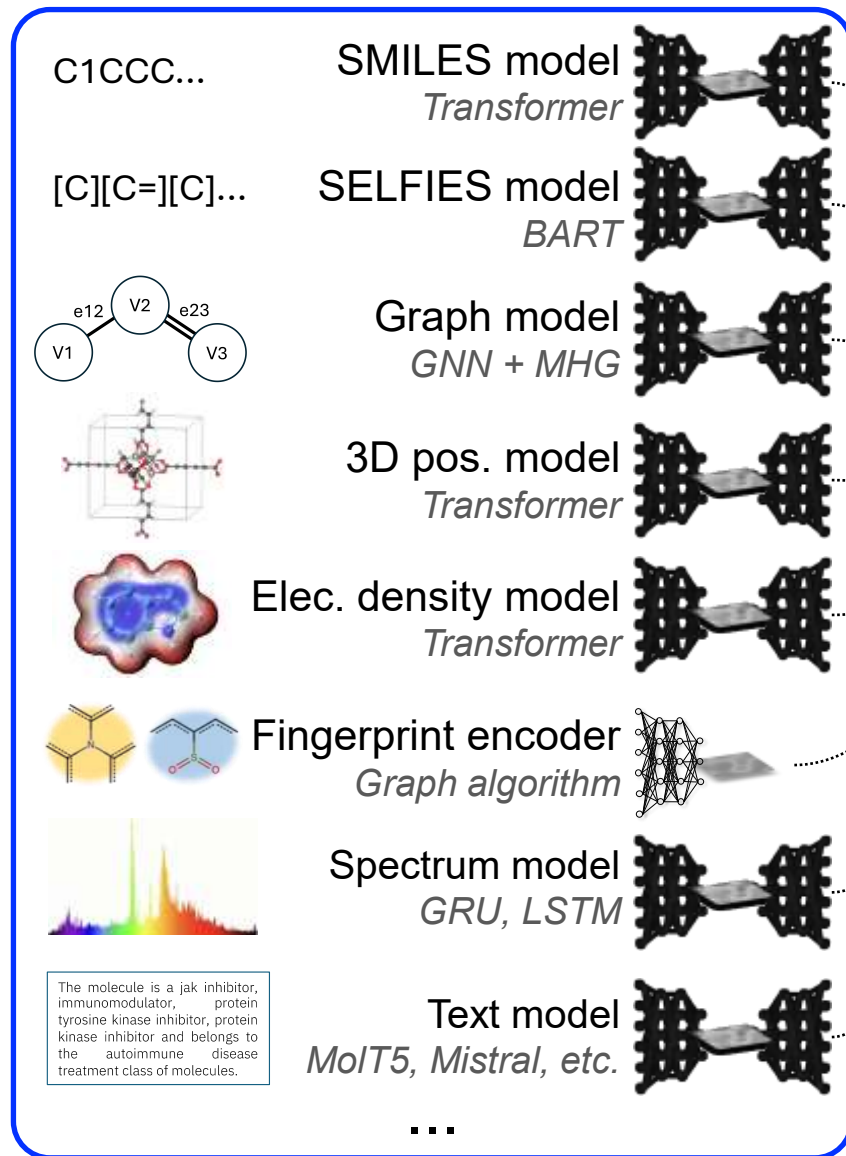


Overview of Model Architecture

Modality-specific Foundation Models

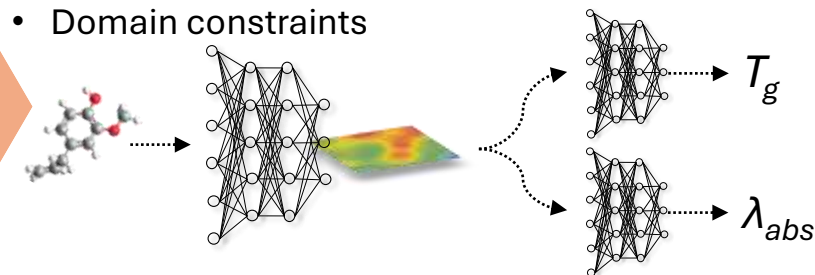
Fused Foundation Model(s)

Downstream tasks



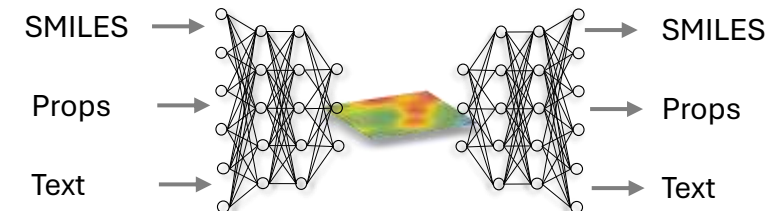
Powerful representation for predictions

- Feature selection
- Domain constraints



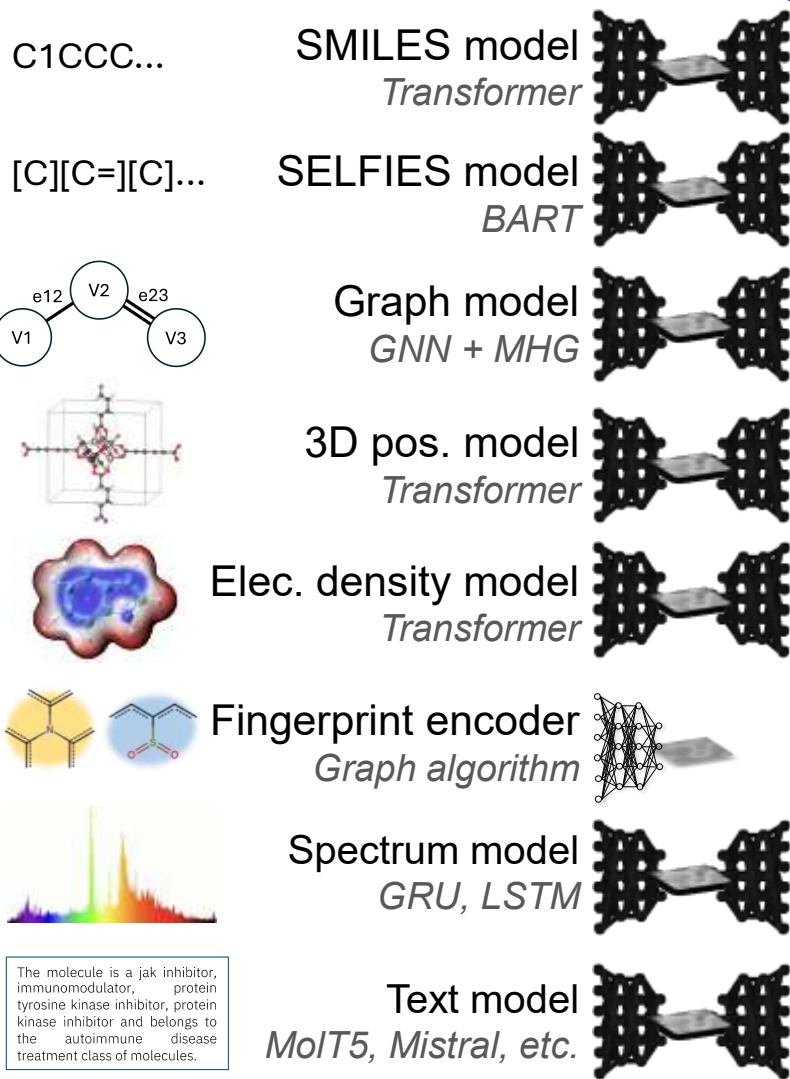
Cross-modal inferences

- GFlowNet
- Contrastive learning

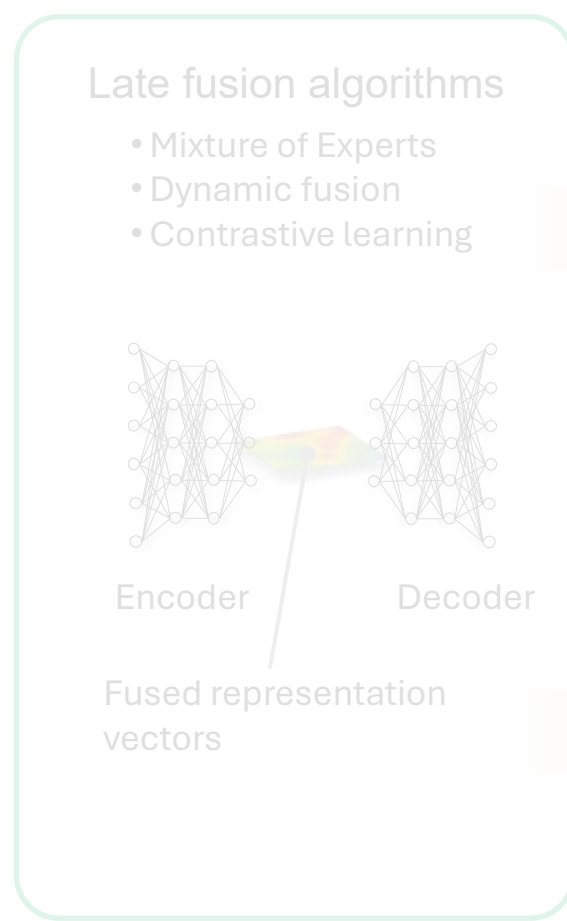


Overview of Model Architecture

Modality-specific Foundation Models



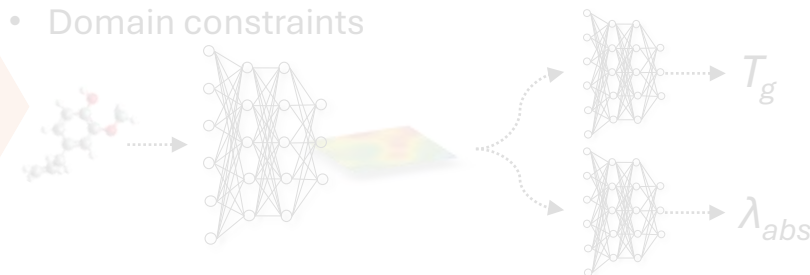
Fused Foundation Model(s)



Downstream tasks

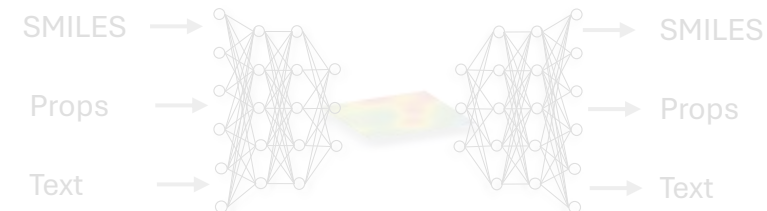
Powerful representation for predictions

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Cross-modal inferences

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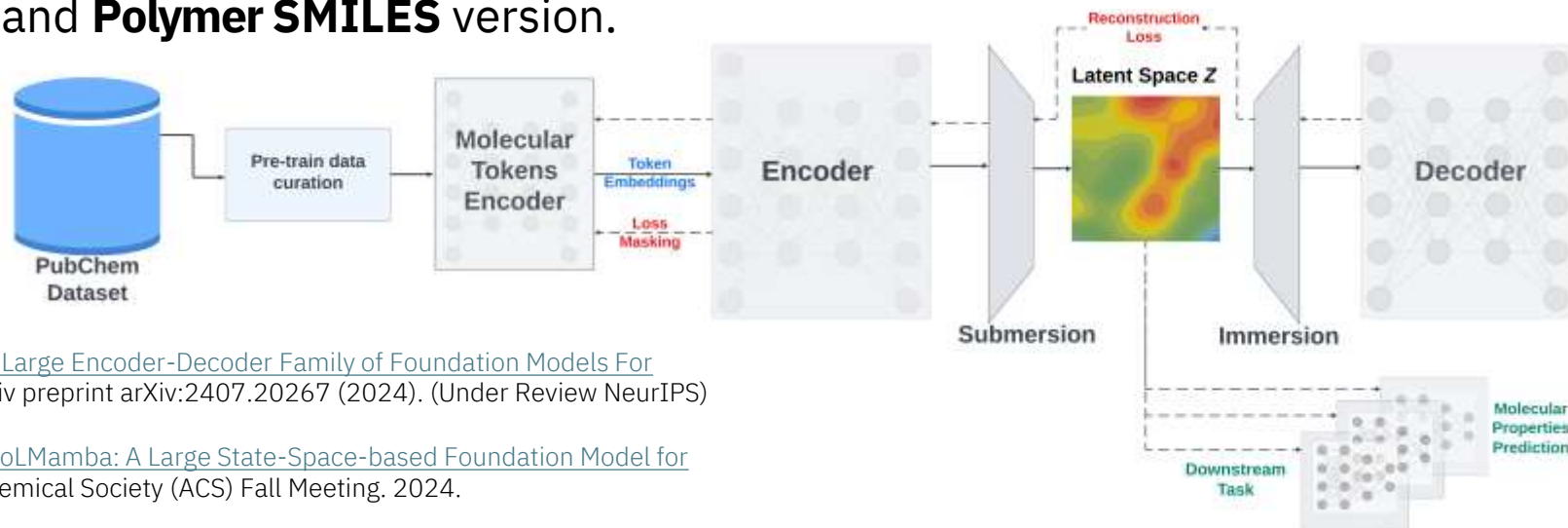


(1) SMILES Model

Transformers-based encoder-decoder model pre-trained on 91 M samples curated from PubChem (4 billion molecular tokens). We also include a **Mamba-based** variant for faster inference, and **Polymer SMILES** version.

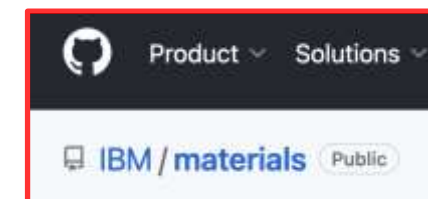


Eduardo Almeida Soares



Eduardo Soares, et al. "A Large Encoder-Decoder Family of Foundation Models For Chemical Language." arXiv preprint arXiv:2407.20267 (2024). (Under Review NeurIPS)

Eduardo Soares, et al. "MoLMamba: A Large State-Space-based Foundation Model for Chemistry." American Chemical Society (ACS) Fall Meeting. 2024.



Open-released in July '24

Variety of models

Model	Num Parameters	Architecture	Input	Open- Source
Base	289M	Transformers	SMILES	Yes
Large	738M	Transformers	SMILES	No
XL	2.5B	Transformers	SMILES	No
MoE	8 X 289M	Transformers	SMILES	Yes
SSM	336M	SSM - Mamba	SMILES	In process
PSMILES	289M	Transformers	Polymers	No

Key Performance example (MoleculeNet and QM9)

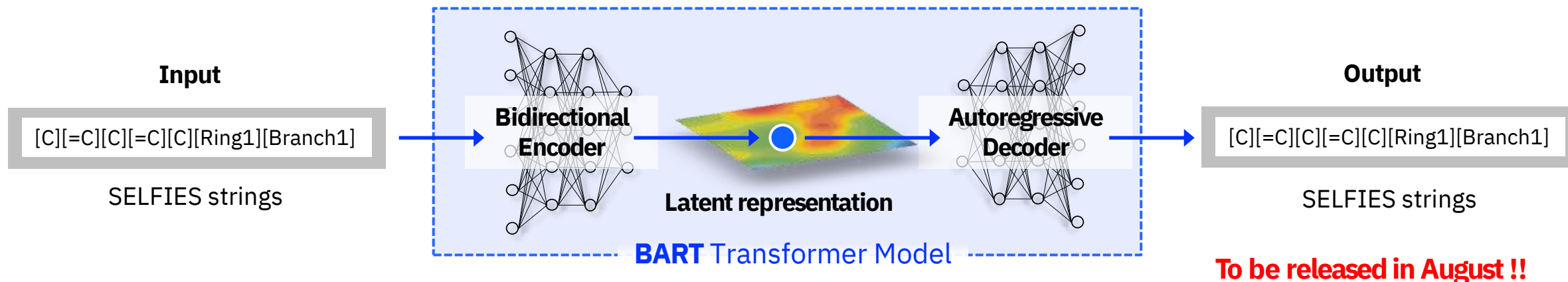
Methods	BBBP	HIV	BACE	ClinTox	SIDER	TOX21	QM9
MolFM	72.9	78.8	78.8	79.7	64.2	77.2	-
MolFormer	90.9	80.5	86.3	91.2	65.5	80.4	1.59
IBM.materials.smi-TED289M (Frozen)	91.4	80.5	85.6	93.5	66.01	81.5	7.49
IBM.materials.smi-TED289M (Fine-Tuned)	92.2	76.8	88.2	94.3	65.6	81.9	1.32

(2) SELFIES Model

BART model is trained with SELFIES strings in a self-supervised manner with/without masking tokens.
1 billion training samples extracted from ZINC22 and PubChem are used.



Indra Priyadarsini



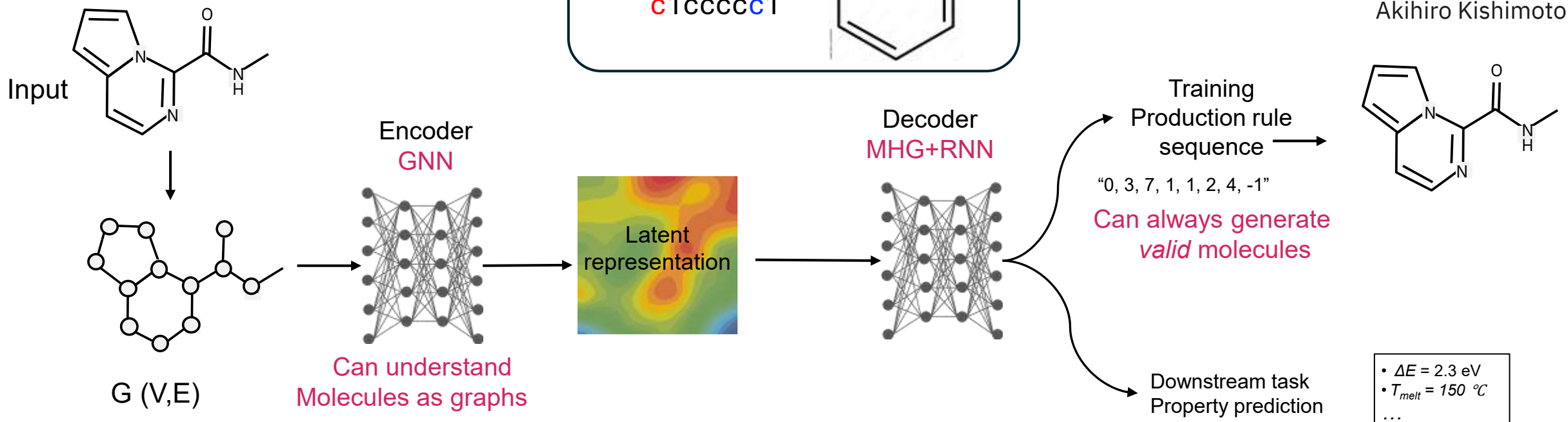
Variety of models

Model	Num Parameters	Dataset	Tokens	Samples Trained
Mini	2.2 M	ZINC 22	173	8 B
Base	354M	ZINC 22	173	1B
Base-mix	354M	ZINC + PubChem	3160	1B
Large	1 B	ZINC + PubChem	3160	100 M

Key Performance example

Model	BBBP	HIV	BACE	ClinTox	Sider	Tox21
ChemBERTa	64.3	62.2	79.9	73.3	-	72.8
MolFormer-ZINC	89.9	78.4	87.7	82.2	66.8	83.2
MolFormer-XL	93.7	82.2	88.2	94.8	69	84.7
SElFormer	90.2	68.1	83.2	-	74.5	65.3
SELF-BART (mini)	92.6	74.2	87	88.3	62.4	75.1
SELF-BART (base)	95.2	83	88.8	96.9	65	76.5

(3) Molecular Graph



Akihiro Kishimoto

Example of MHG-GNN performance evaluation (R2 score \uparrow)

	Polymer			Photoresist		Chromophore
Method	Density	Bulk Modulus	Refractive Index	Homo	Lumo	Λ_{max} on NIR
MHG-GNN	0.578	0.516	0.865	0.896	0.845	0.845
ECFP6	0.523	0.482	0.823	0.791	0.782	0.708
Modred	0.567	0.505	0.859	0.894	0.830	0.842



Kishimoto, Akihiro, et al. "Autoencoder based on Graph and Recurrent Neural Networks and Application to Property Prediction." *Materials Research Society (MRS) Fall Meeting*. 2023.

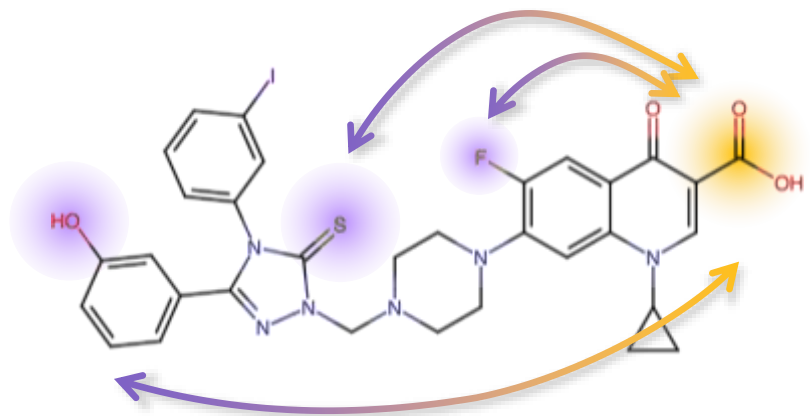
Kishimoto, Akihiro, et al. "MHG-GNN: Combination of Molecular Hypergraph Grammar with Graph Neural Network." *AI4Mat Workshop @ NeurIPS* (2023).

(4) Topological distance descriptor

Algorithm based model for extracting **topological distance between substructures pairs** considering intramolecular interaction.



Lisa Hamada



- Can target any substructure without size limitations
- Can handle distances of more than five bonds (a limitation in GNN)
- Consider multiple exception handling scenarios

L. Hamada, *et al.* "Molecular Descriptors Accounting for Intramolecular Interactions and Application to Chemical Property Prediction." *American Chemical Society (ACS) Fall Meeting*. 2022.

Key Performance example (R² score)

Dataset	Cmp. (CHCl ₃)		Cmp. (CH ₃ OH)	
Structure	Large		Large - Medium	
property	λ_{abs}^{max}	$\Delta\lambda$	λ_{abs}^{max}	$\Delta\lambda$
MolFormer	0.83	0.56	0.87	0.45
MolCLR	0.73	0.43	0.78	0.40
Mordred	0.84	0.51	0.86	0.46
Atom Pair	0.84	0.58	0.84	0.50
Our method	0.94	0.77	0.93	0.72

High explainability of Chemical Insight

Cmp. (CH ₃ OH) λ_{abs}^{max}				Cmp. (CH ₃ OH) $\Delta\lambda$			
Rank	Sub1	Sub2	Rep. Mol.	Rank	Sub1	Sub2	Rep. Mol.
1 st			 Squarium	2 nd			 Donor Acceptor
3 rd			 DP	4 th			

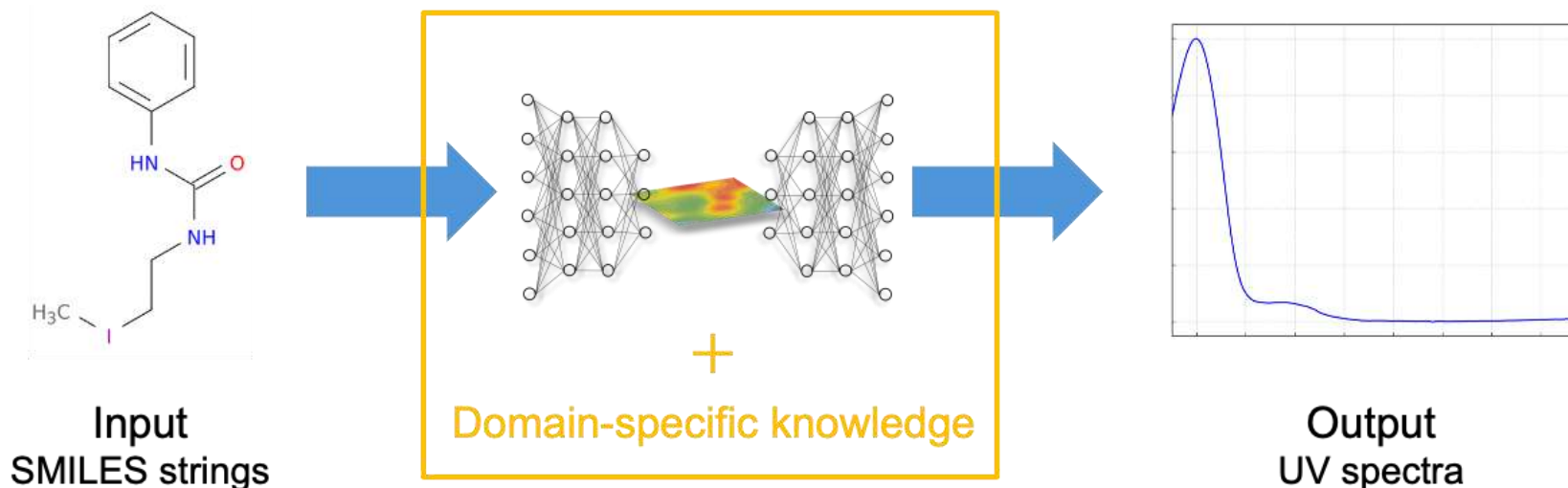
(5) Spectrum

UV spectrum is limited data availability due to the experimental setting.

By implementing domain-specific knowledge into the model, the prediction performance has been increased.



Hajime Shinohara



Shinohara, Hajime, et al. "[Pre-Treatment Methods for Machine Learning in Finer UV Spectrum Inference.](#)" *Materials Research Society (MRS) Fall Meeting*. 2023.

Domain-specific knowledge implementation of UV spectrum from organic molecules

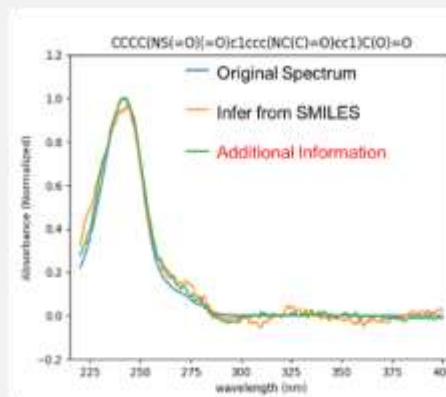
Ex)

Peak position addition

Curvature limitation

Curriculum learning method

Key results example



By implementing domain-specific knowledge of UV spectrum from organic molecules, the prediction performance of the spectrum has increased in various models even with small dataset (~3k)

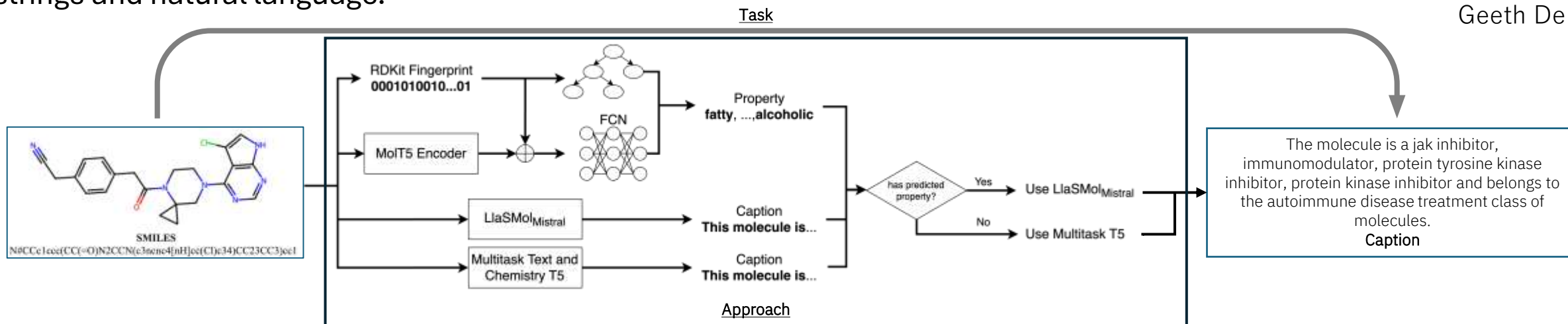
Model	FCN	LSTM	GRU	RNN
Baseline	0.1513	0.1712	0.1597	0.1733
Our model	0.1377	0.1451	0.1445	0.1716

(6) Text description - Molecule Captioning from SMILES

“**Translating**” between molecules encoded in SMILES strings and natural language.



Geeth De Mel



Data Sources

- PubChem
- Chemical Function (CheF)
- ChemFont

Models

- MolT5 Small/Base/Large - 60M ~ 770M
- Multitask text and Chemistry Small/Base augm - 60M ~ 223M
- Meditron - 7B
- Mistral - 7B
- XGBoost-based molecule property predictor

Results

Molecule Type	Model	BLEU-2	ROUGE-L	METEOR
Has Predicted Props.	Multitask T5	82.15	60.20	87.05
	LLaSMolMistral	82.66	60.54	87.70
No Props. Predicted	Multitask T5	43.12	50.67	51.87
	LLaSMolMistral	35.24	47.95	45.50

Translation metrics by molecular type on dev. set

Model	Overall Increase	Translation Metric Increase	Prop. Metric Increase	BLEU-2	BLEU-4	ROUGE-L	METOR	Overall Prop. F1
baselines								
MolT5-Small	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.90	51.20	54.40	70.10	7.88
Meditron-7b	13.15	5.50	15.70	79.20	57.60	57.50	75.70	8.93
ours								
Multitask T5	15.31	5.23	18.67	78.22	56.73	57.28	76.27	19.10
LLaSMolMistral	10.59	4.68	12.56	78.84	57.17	56.50	74.87	15.35
Ensembled	15.21	5.52	18.44	78.70	57.04	57.51	76.72	19.09

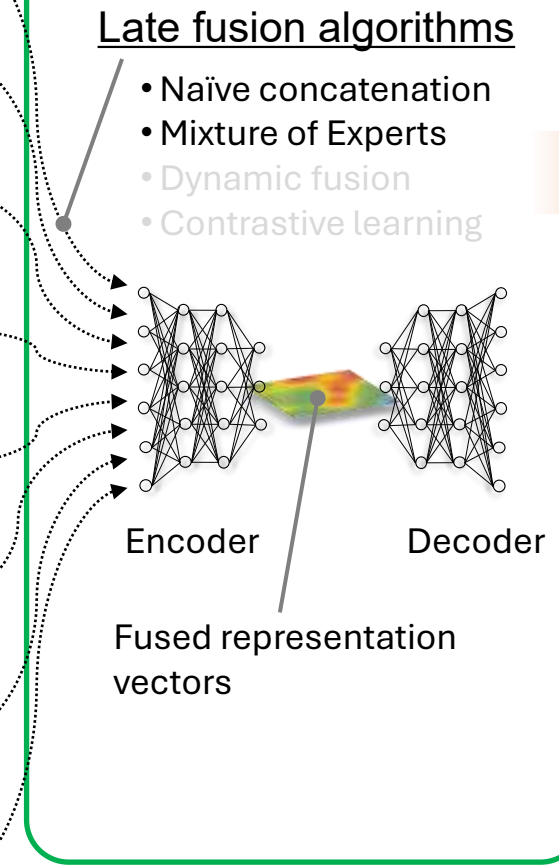
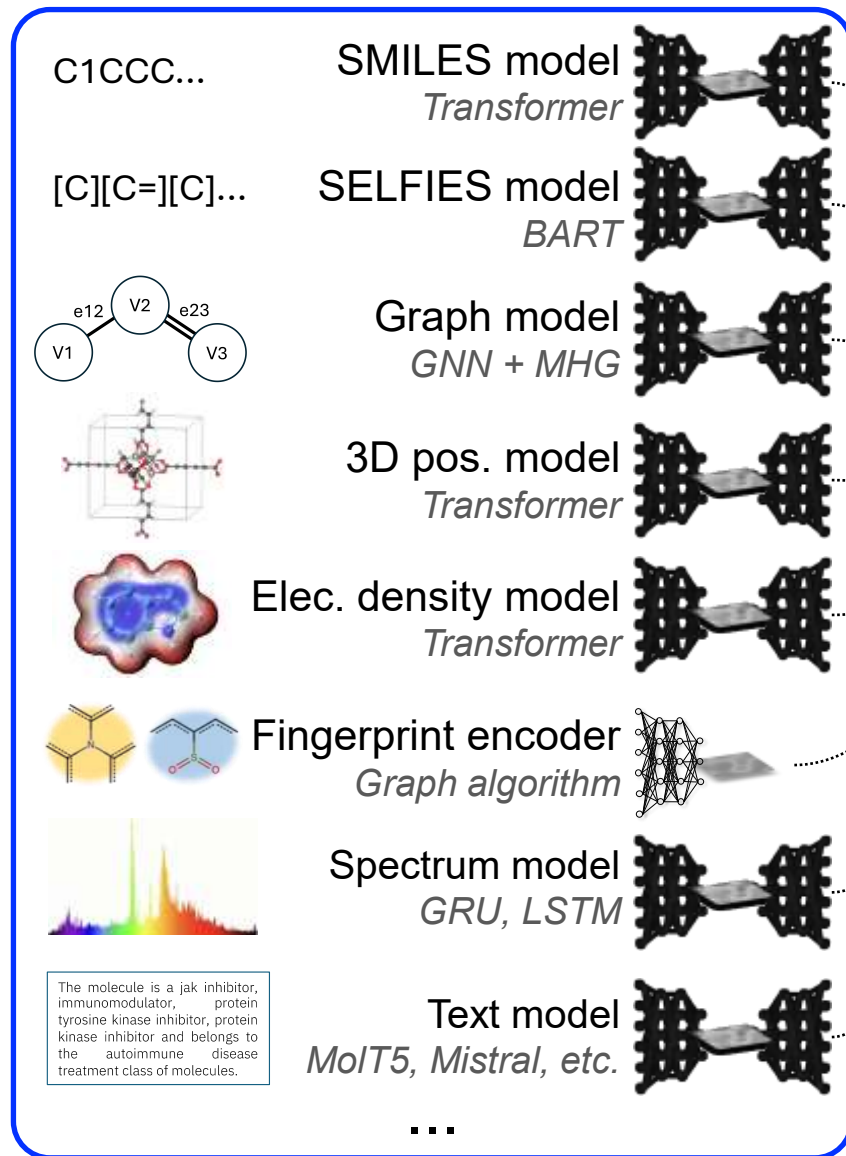
Overall increase from MolT5-Small baseline and translation metrics results on dev. set

Overview of Model Architecture

Modality-specific Foundation Models

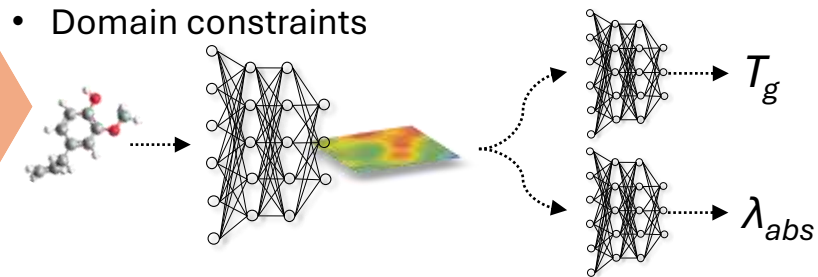
Fused Foundation Model(s)

Downstream tasks



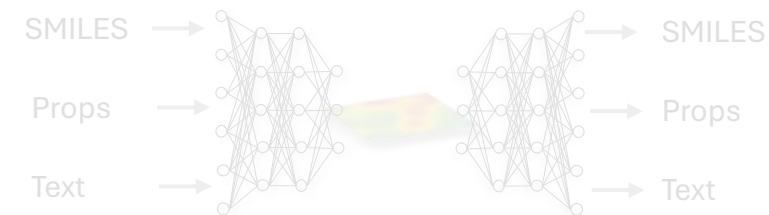
Powerful representation for predictions

- Feature selection
- Domain constraints

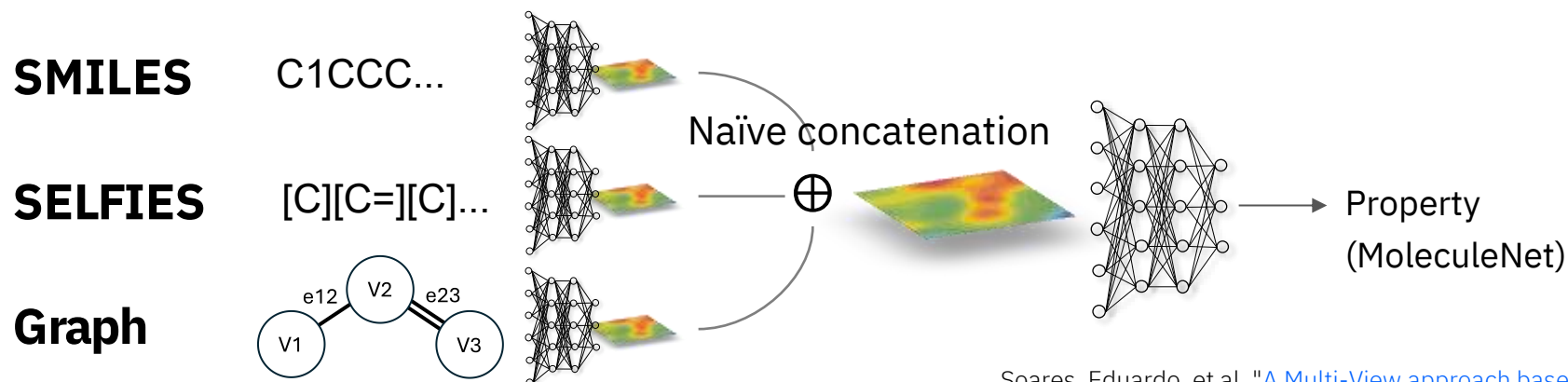


Cross-modal inferences

- GFlowNet
- Contrastive learning



Multi-modal feature representations improve downstream prediction accuracy



Soares, Eduardo, et al. "A Multi-View approach based on Graphs and Chemical Language Foundation Model for Molecular Properties Prediction." AAAI 2024.

Single modality

Multi-modality

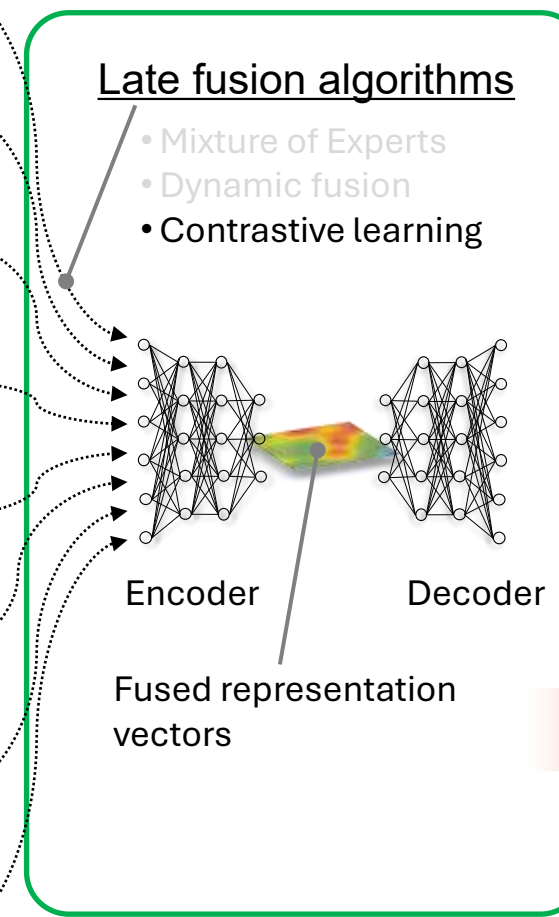
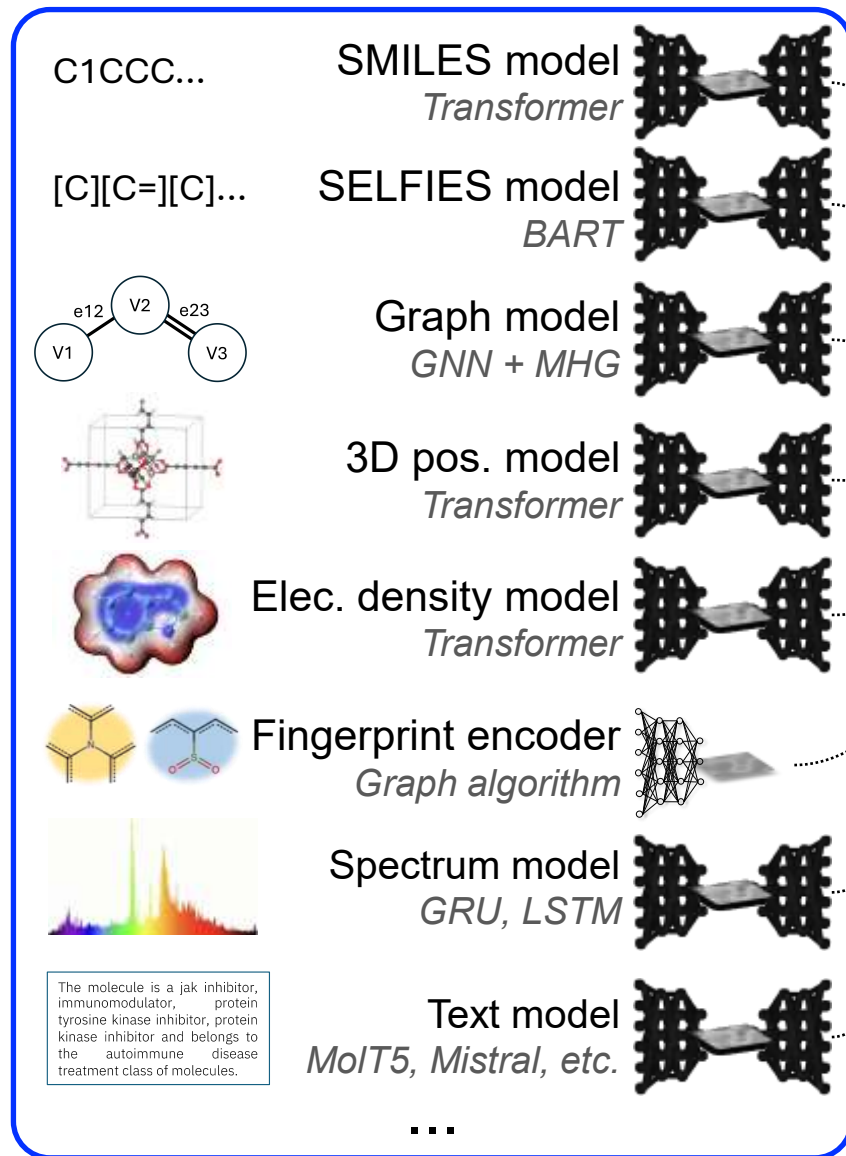
	BBBP	HIV	BACE	ClinTox	SIDER	Tox21
SELFIES (BART)	95.22	83.04	88.77	96.86	64.95	76.53
Graph (MHG)	93.54	82.89	89.53	87.46	66.93	79.32
SMILES (MolFormer-XL)	93.70	82.20	88.21	94.80	69.00	84.70
SELFIES + Graph	95.35	83.93	88.66	92.31	66.02	78.81
SELFIES + SMILES	96.42	83.99	89.80	99.82	64.41	80.48
SMILES + Graph	96.60	84.93	90.48	99.59	65.20	78.15
SELFIES + SMILES + Graph	96.06	85.28	90.00	99.94	65.65	79.19

Overview of Model Architecture

Modality-specific Foundation Models

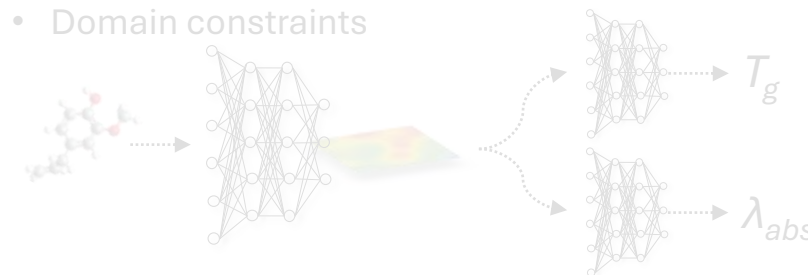
Fused Foundation Model(s)

Downstream tasks



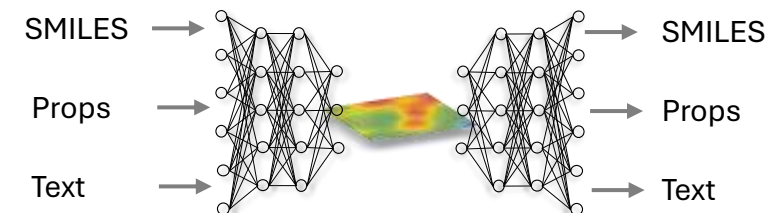
Powerful representation for predictions

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Cross-modal inferences

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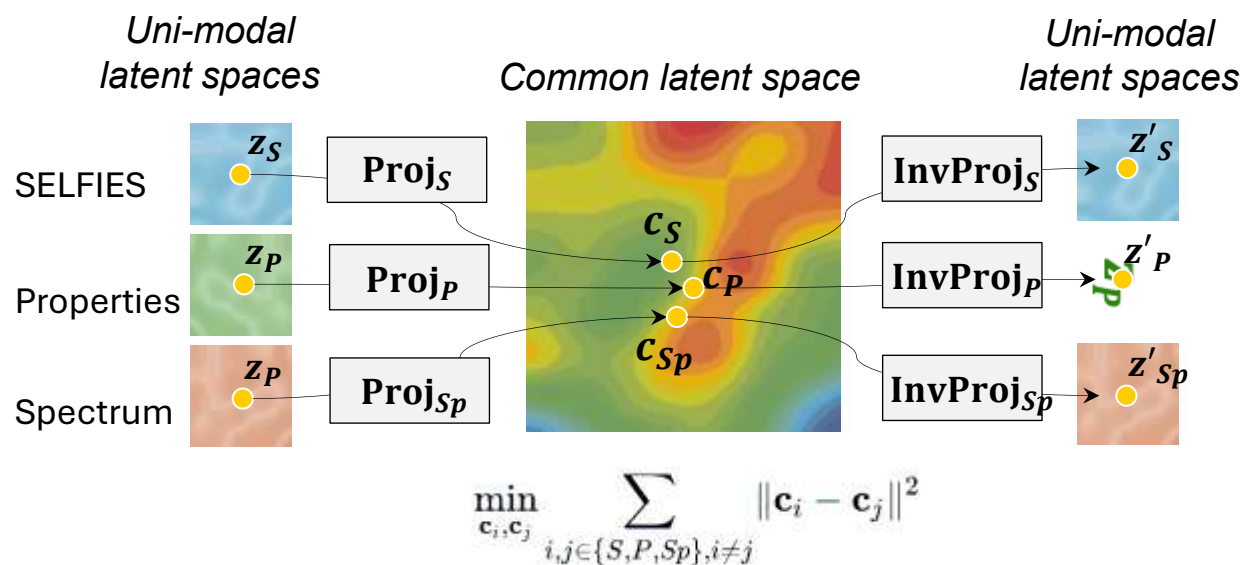
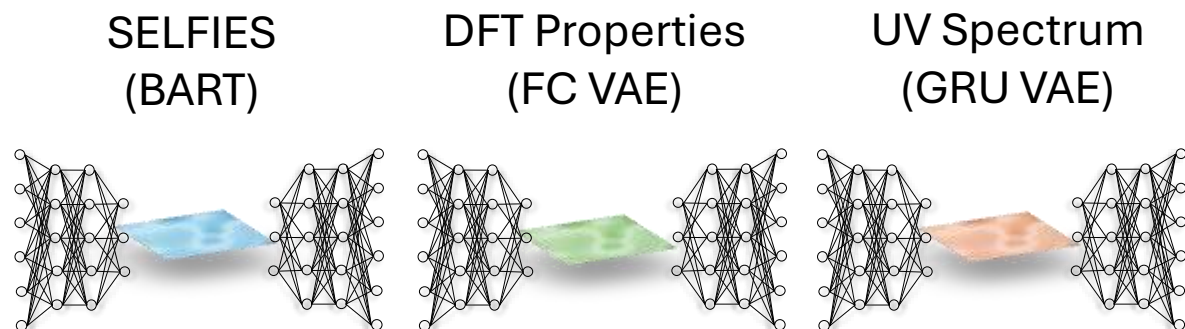


Cross-Modal Inferences

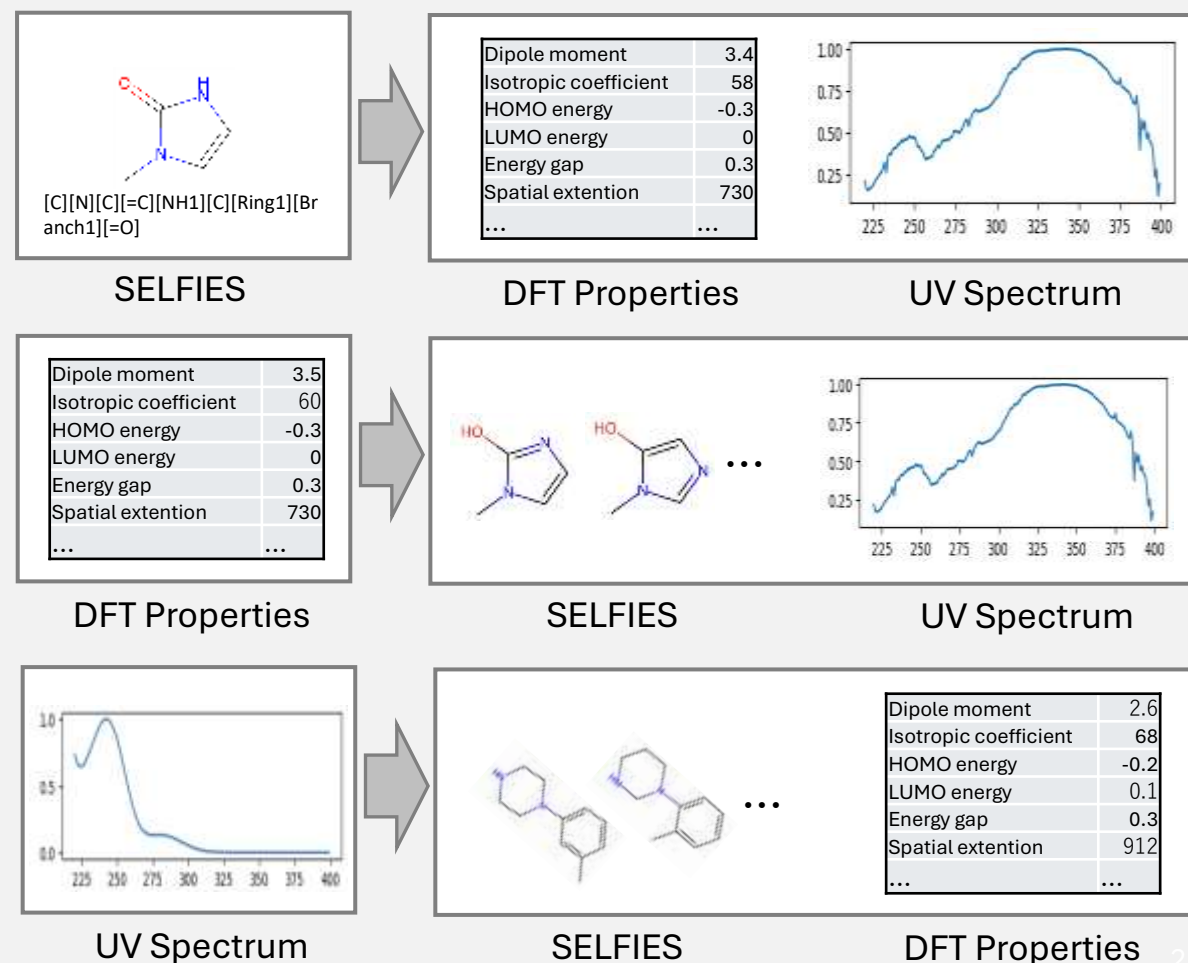
Projectors/inverse-projectors are trained to align different modal representations on a common latent space so that modality-to-modality (cross-modal) inferences are achieved.



Seiji Takeda



Example of cross-modal inferences



Battery Materials Discovery Empowered by AI and Foundation Models

Young-Hye Na

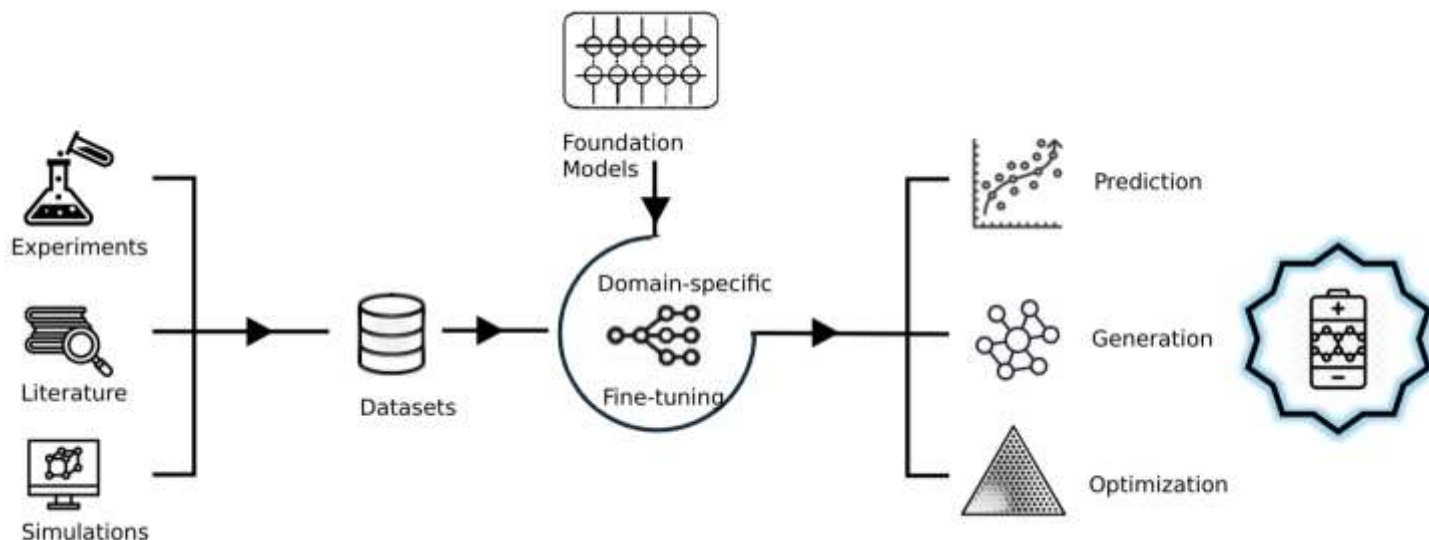


Battery Materials

- Large design space and multivariable relationships
- Complexities at multiple-length scale

- ✓ **Foundation Models (FM) are fine-tuned for domain specific tasks** using labeled datasets derived from literature, simulations, or lab-experimentation
- ✓ **Our fine-tuned FM models effectively map material structures, compositions, and device performance**, predicting and optimizing the properties and performance of complex mixed materials (e.g., electrolyte formulations)
- ✓ **These models, along with our customized AI-workflows**, are currently being used to discover new electrolytes for our industrial partners

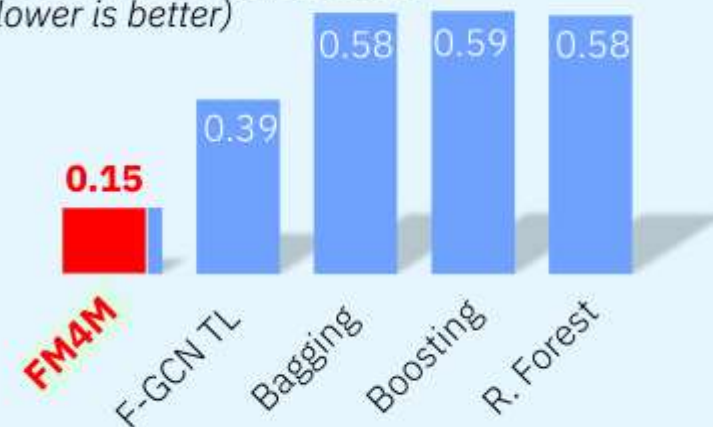
AI-assisted Electrolyte Discovery Workflow



Prediction of Battery Performance (LCE)

Indrapriyadarsini et.al, "[Improving Performance Prediction of Electrolyte Formulations with Transformer-based Molecular Representation Model](#)," ML4LMS @ ICML. 2024.

Prediction loss comparison
(lower is better)



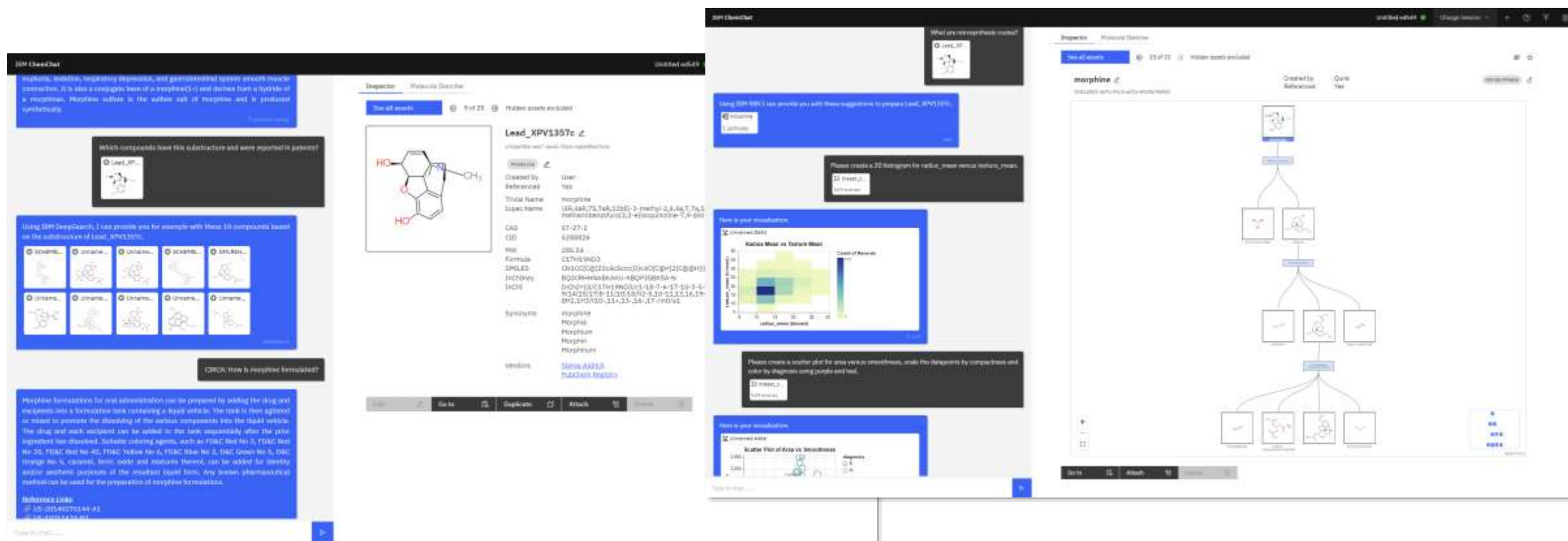
ChemChat Material Science and Data Visualization Assistant



Molecules: Identification & description, Vendor check, Property calculations & predictions by cheminformatics, conventional AI and FM models, PFAS determination after EPA & ECHA, Retrosynthesis prediction, Generation by target properties, Locating molecules and substructure matches in patents

Documents: Querying 30M material and chemistry-focused patents, Querying user-defined collection of pdfs

Visualizations: 11 chart types incl. request for aggregations and interactive elements



The AI Alliance & Open Innovation

Build and support open technologies across software, models and tools.

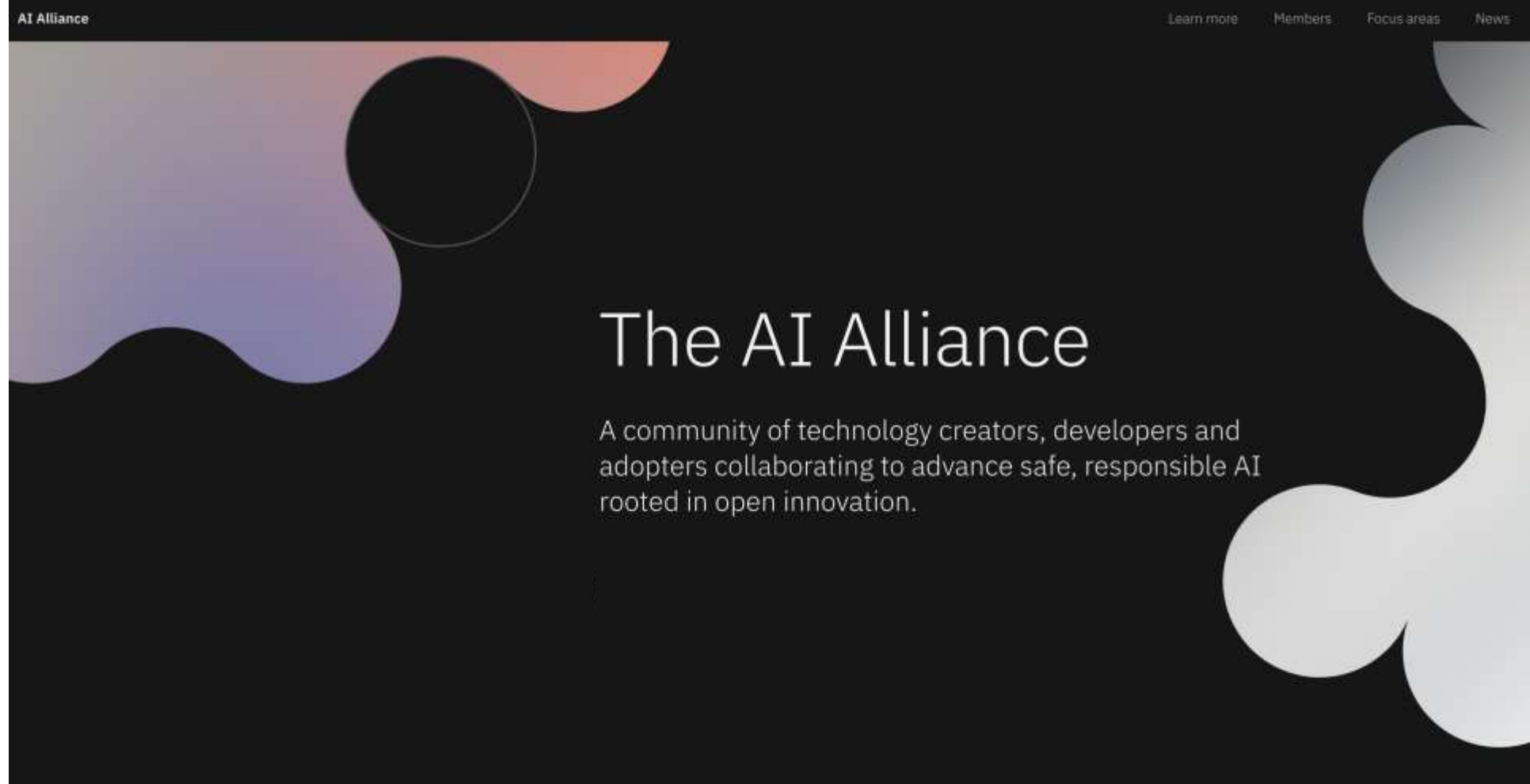
Enable developers and scientists to understand, experiment, and adopt open technologies.

Advocate for open innovation with organizational and societal leaders, policy and regulatory bodies, and the public.



<https://thealliance.ai/>

IBM Research



WG4M – Working group for Materials and Chemistry

- Community development of open-source code and models
 - Defining target domains/use-cases (PFAS, polymer etc)
 - Rich model family of modalities and architectures
- Open-source of base models at <https://github.com/IBM/materials> (one model released, more planned)
- Sharing: model architecture and contact points for members, and workstream-based engagement approach
- 20+ materials company and worldwide researchers involved

AI Alliance Working Group for Materials & Chemistry (WG4M)

(1) Kick-off Technical Workshop

(16th May 2024, Tokyo)

Keynote Talks & Lightning Pitches

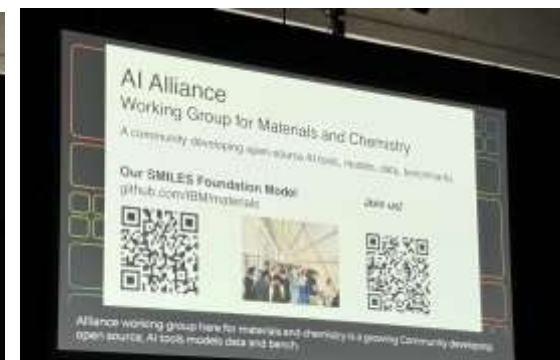


Group discussion & Readout



(2) Social Gathering @ ICML AI4Science

(25th July 2024, Vienna)



AI Alliance Working Group for Materials & Chemistry (WG4M)

Community Development

- 20+ materials companies
- Bi-weekly calls with material companies
- Seeking co-chairs, topic leads



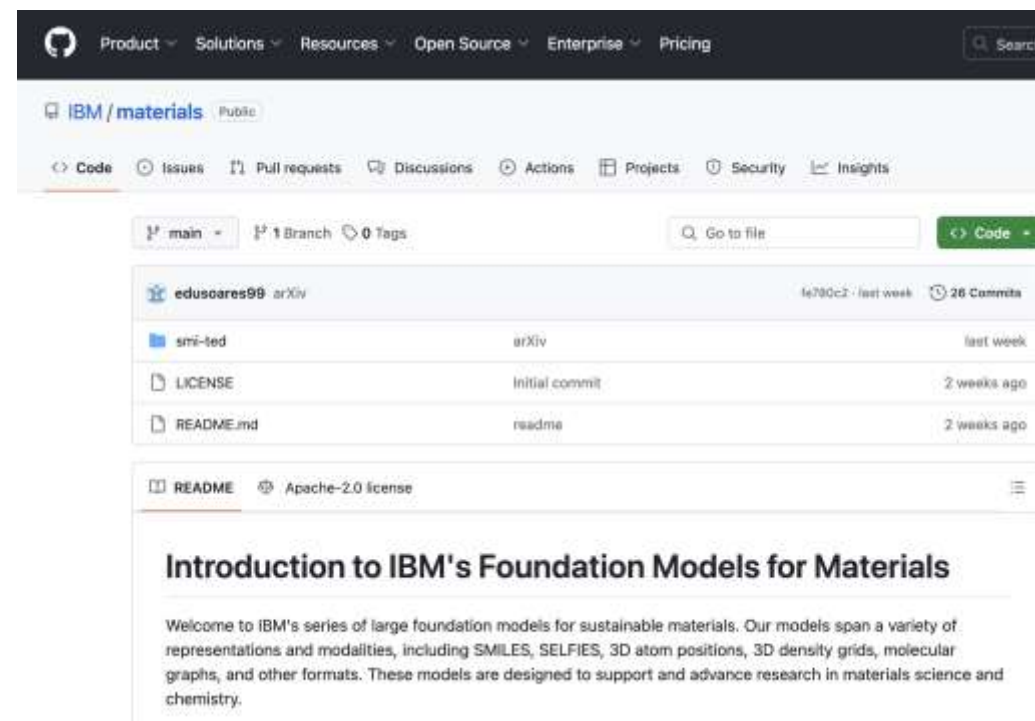
Model development

Open-source of base models at github.com/IBM/materials

- SMILES Transformer model was released on 25 July
- Other modalities models (SELFIES, Graph, etc.) will soon be released!



<https://thealliance.ai/>



Thank you

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/indra-ipd/>

Backup

Working Group for Materials (WG4M)

Vision

To build an open development community for Materials Informatics (MI) that transcends national and organizational boundaries, and to accelerate the speed of global materials development by creating a suite of MI tools and models that are accessible to everyone.

1. Open development and consumption of MI AI tools and models
2. Data sharing (to the extent possible)
3. Creation of benchmarks
4. Provision of platforms for information exchange and discussion
5. Development of talent in Materials x AI

