

Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy with language transformers

R. ANDREEV

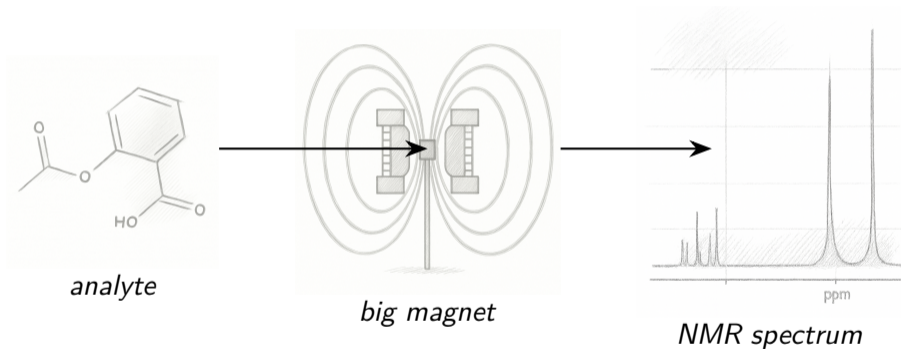
Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy with language transformers

R. ANDREEV

Thanks to

- E. Konukoglu Computational Vision and Learning (D-ITET, ETHZ)
- N. Schmid Applied Mathematics and Physics (ZHAW)
- M.-O. Ebert & S. Papalo Organic Chemistry (D-CHAB, ETHZ)
- A. Hove Lambda GPU Cloud, who provided most of the compute

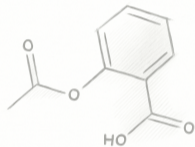
Nuclear magnetic resonance



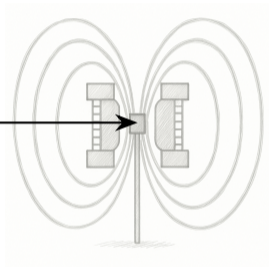
Nuclear magnetic resonance

structure inference

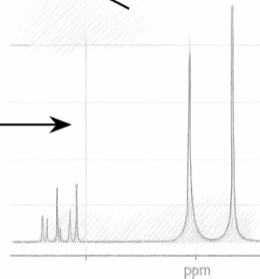
spectroscopy



analyte



big magnet

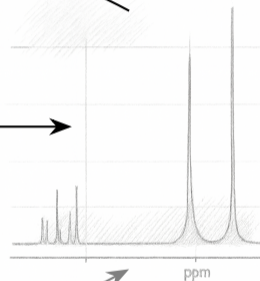
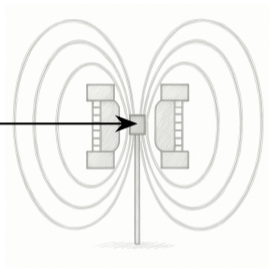
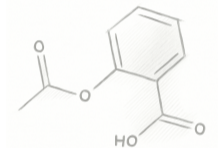


NMR spectrum

Nuclear magnetic resonance

structure inference

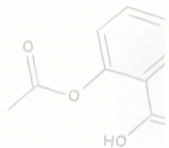
spectroscopy



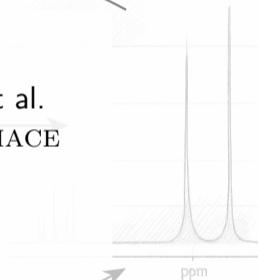
forward simulation

structure inference

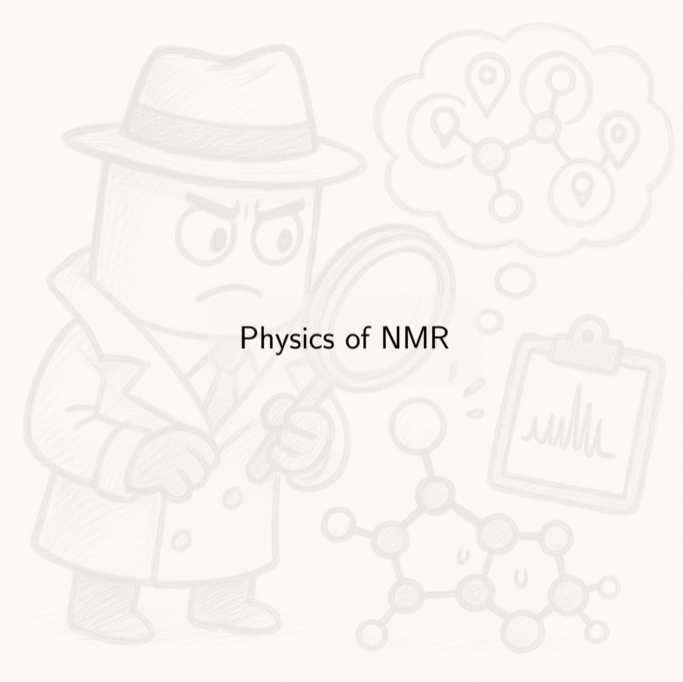
spectroscopy



- 👉 Physics of NMR & examples
- ✌️ Dataset & model by Alberts et al.
- 👉 Teaching molecules with GRIMACE
- 👋 Training & results
- 👋 Recap & outlook



forward simulation



- The spin of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin particle (^1H , ^{13}C) is a normed vector $\psi \in \mathbb{C}^2$. Its observables are combinations of \mathbb{I} and the Pauli matrices

$$\sigma_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \sigma_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \sigma_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- The operator $I_z = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_z$ has eigenvalues $\pm\frac{1}{2}$ and eigenvectors
- The Hamiltonian of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin s in a z -magnetic field \vec{B}_0 is
- In NMR, we measure ω , and infer/interpret **shielding** and **J-coupling**
- Schrödinger eqn. $\partial_t \psi = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{H} \psi$ gives the spin evolution operator
- At thermal equilibrium, \vec{B}_0 causes a small excess of up spins ψ^{up}
- A radiofrequency pulse knocks those spins onto the x -axis
- Ignoring the relaxation, the spin state is $\psi(t) = \hat{E}_t \hat{P} \psi^{up}$
- The macroscopic xy -magnetization $\hat{M} = \sigma_x + i\sigma_y$ of s is observed as

$$\langle \hat{M}(t) \rangle = \langle \psi(t) | \hat{M} | \psi(t) \rangle = \langle \psi^{up} | (\hat{E}_t^\dagger \hat{P}^\dagger \hat{M} \hat{E}_t \hat{P}) | \psi^{up} \rangle = \langle \hat{M}(0) \rangle e^{-i\omega t}$$

- The spin of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin particle (^1H , ^{13}C) is a normed vector $\psi \in \mathbb{C}^2$. Its observables are combinations of \mathbb{I} and the Pauli matrices

$$\sigma_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \sigma_y = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \sigma_z = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- The operator $I_z = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_z$ has eigenvalues $\pm\frac{1}{2}$ and eigenvectors

$$\psi^{\text{up}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \psi_{\text{down}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

- The Hamiltonian of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin s in a z -magnetic field \vec{B}_0 is
- In NMR, we measure ω , and infer/interpret **shielding** and **J-coupling**
- Schrödinger eqn. $\partial_t \psi = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{H} \psi$ gives the spin evolution operator
- At thermal equilibrium, \vec{B}_0 causes a small excess of up spins ψ^{up}
- A radiofrequency pulse knocks those spins onto the x -axis

- The spin of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin particle (^1H , ^{13}C) is a normed vector $\psi \in \mathbb{C}^2$
- The operator $I_z = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_z$ has eigenvalues $\pm\frac{1}{2}$ and eigenvectors *up/down*
- The Hamiltonian of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin s in a z -magnetic field \vec{B}_0 is
- In NMR, we measure ω , and infer/interpret **shielding** and **J-coupling**
- Schrödinger eqn. $\partial_t \psi = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{H} \psi$ gives the spin evolution operator
- At thermal equilibrium, \vec{B}_0 causes a small excess of *up* spins ψ^{up}
- A radiofrequency pulse knocks those spins onto the x -axis
- Ignoring the relaxation, the spin state is $\psi(t) = \hat{E}_t \hat{P} \psi^{\text{up}}$
- The macroscopic xy -magnetization $\hat{M} = \sigma_x + i\sigma_y$ of s is observed as

$$m(t) = \psi(t)^\dagger \hat{M} \psi(t) = (\psi^{\text{up}})^\dagger (\hat{P}^\dagger \hat{E}_t^\dagger \hat{M} \hat{E}_t \hat{P}) \psi^{\text{up}} = e^{-i\omega t}$$

- Package the superposition of *all spins* in the *free induction decay*
- Fourier-transform, then shift and scale w.r.t. a reference compound

- The spin of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin particle (^1H , ^{13}C) is a normed vector $\psi \in \mathbb{C}^2$
- The operator $I_z = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_z$ has eigenvalues $\pm\frac{1}{2}$ and eigenvectors *up/down*
- The Hamiltonian of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin s in a z -magnetic field \vec{B}_0 is

$$\hat{H} = \hbar \omega I_z + \dots$$

with Larmor frequency

$$\omega \approx -\gamma_{\text{isotope}} B_0 (1 - \text{shielding}) + 2\pi \sum_{s'} J_{ss'} \times (\pm\frac{1}{2})_{s'}$$

- In NMR, we measure ω , and infer/interpret **shielding** and **J-coupling**
- Schrödinger eqn. $\partial_t \psi = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{H} \psi$ gives the spin evolution operator
- At thermal equilibrium, \vec{B}_0 causes a small excess of *up* spins ψ^{up}
- A radiofrequency pulse knocks those spins onto the x -axis
- Ignoring the relaxation, the spin state is $\psi(t) = \hat{E}_t \hat{P} \psi^{\text{up}}$
- The macroscopic xy magnetization $\hat{M} = \sigma_x$ is observed as

- The spin of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin particle (^1H , ^{13}C) is a normed vector $\psi \in \mathbb{C}^2$
- The operator $I_z = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_z$ has eigenvalues $\pm\frac{1}{2}$ and eigenvectors *up/down*
- The Hamiltonian of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin s in a z -magnetic field \vec{B}_0 is

$$\hat{H} = \hbar \omega I_z + \dots$$

with Larmor frequency

$$\omega \approx -\gamma_{\text{isotope}} B_0 (1 - \text{shielding}) + 2\pi \sum_{s'} J_{ss'} \times (\pm\frac{1}{2})_{s'}$$

- In NMR, we measure ω , and infer/interpret **shielding** and **J-coupling**

• Schrödinger eqn. $\partial_t \psi = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{H} \psi$ gives the spin evolution operator

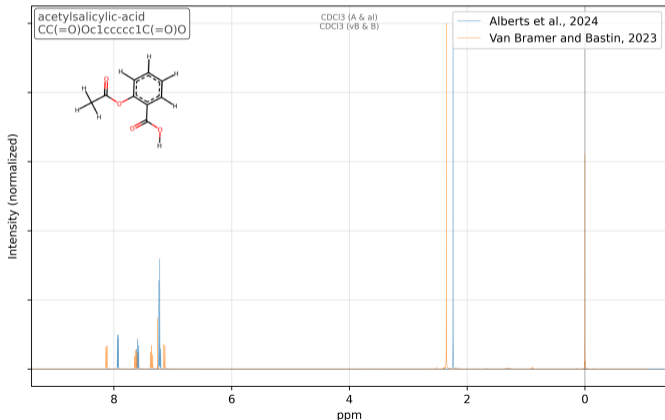
• At thermal equilibrium, \vec{B}_0 causes a small excess of *up* spins ψ^{up}

• A radiofrequency pulse knocks those spins onto the x -axis

• Ignoring the relaxation, the spin state is $\psi(t) = \hat{E}_t \hat{P} \psi^{\text{up}}$

• The macroscopic xy magnetization $\hat{M} = \sigma_x$ is of σ is observed as

- The spin of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin particle (^1H , ^{13}C) is a normed vector $\psi \in \mathbb{C}^2$
- The operator $I_z = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_z$ has eigenvalues $\pm\frac{1}{2}$ and eigenvectors *up/down*
- The Hamiltonian of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin s in a z -magnetic field \vec{B}_0 is $\hat{H} \approx \hbar\omega I_z$
- In NMR, we measure ω , and infer/interpret **shielding** and **J-coupling** \rightarrow



- The spin of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin particle (^1H , ^{13}C) is a normed vector $\psi \in \mathbb{C}^2$
- The operator $I_z = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_z$ has eigenvalues $\pm\frac{1}{2}$ and eigenvectors *up/down*
- The Hamiltonian of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin s in a z -magnetic field \vec{B}_0 is $\hat{H} \approx \hbar\omega I_z$
- In NMR, we measure ω , and infer/interpret **shielding** and **J-coupling**
- Schrödinger eqn. $\partial_t \psi = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{H} \psi$ gives the spin evolution operator

$$\hat{E}_t = \begin{pmatrix} e^{+\frac{1}{2}i\omega t} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-\frac{1}{2}i\omega t} \end{pmatrix}$$

assuming $\hat{H} = \hbar\omega I_z$ (notably, ignoring relaxation)

- At thermal equilibrium, \vec{B}_0 causes a small excess of *up* spins ψ^{up}
- A radiofrequency pulse knocks those spins onto the x -axis
- Ignoring the relaxation, the spin state is $\psi(t) = \hat{E}_t \hat{P} \psi^{\text{up}}$
- The macroscopic xy -magnetization $\hat{M} = \sigma_x + i\sigma_y$ of s is observed as

- The spin of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin particle (^1H , ^{13}C) is a normed vector $\psi \in \mathbb{C}^2$
- The operator $I_z = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_z$ has eigenvalues $\pm\frac{1}{2}$ and eigenvectors *up/down*
- The Hamiltonian of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin s in a z -magnetic field \vec{B}_0 is $\hat{H} \approx \hbar\omega I_z$
- In NMR, we measure ω , and infer/interpret **shielding** and **J-coupling**
- Schrödinger eqn. $\partial_t \psi = -\frac{i}{\hbar}\hat{H}\psi$ gives the spin evolution operator \hat{E}_t
- At thermal equilibrium, \vec{B}_0 causes a small excess of *up* spins ψ^{up}
- A radiofrequency pulse knocks those spins onto the x -axis
- Ignoring the relaxation, the spin state is $\psi(t) = \hat{E}_t \hat{P} \psi^{\text{up}}$
- The macroscopic xy -magnetization $\hat{M} = \sigma_x + i\sigma_y$ of s is observed as

$$m(t) = \psi(t)^\dagger \hat{M} \psi(t) = (\psi^{\text{up}})^\dagger (\hat{P}^\dagger \hat{E}_t^\dagger \hat{M} \hat{E}_t \hat{P}) \psi^{\text{up}} = e^{-i\omega t}$$

- Package the superposition of *all spins* in the *free induction decay*
- Fourier-transform, then shift and scale w.r.t. a reference compound

- The spin of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin particle (^1H , ^{13}C) is a normed vector $\psi \in \mathbb{C}^2$
- The operator $I_z = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_z$ has eigenvalues $\pm\frac{1}{2}$ and eigenvectors *up/down*
- The Hamiltonian of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin s in a z -magnetic field \vec{B}_0 is $\hat{H} \approx \hbar\omega I_z$
- In NMR, we measure ω , and infer/interpret **shielding** and **J-coupling**
- Schrödinger eqn. $\partial_t \psi = -\frac{i}{\hbar}\hat{H}\psi$ gives the spin evolution operator \hat{E}_t
- At thermal equilibrium, \vec{B}_0 causes a small excess of *up* spins ψ^{up}
- A radiofrequency pulse knocks those spins onto the x -axis

$$\psi^{\text{up}} \rightarrow \hat{P}\psi^{\text{up}} \quad \text{where} \quad \hat{P} = \exp(-i\frac{\pi}{4}\sigma_y)$$

- Ignoring the relaxation, the spin state is $\psi(t) = \hat{E}_t\hat{P}\psi^{\text{up}}$
- The macroscopic xy -magnetization $\hat{M} = \sigma_x + i\sigma_y$ of s is observed as

$$m(t) = \psi(t)^\dagger \hat{M} \psi(t) = (\psi^{\text{up}})^\dagger (\hat{P}^\dagger \hat{E}_t^\dagger \hat{M} \hat{E}_t \hat{P}) \psi^{\text{up}} = e^{-i\omega t}$$

- The spin of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin particle (^1H , ^{13}C) is a normed vector $\psi \in \mathbb{C}^2$
- The operator $I_z = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_z$ has eigenvalues $\pm\frac{1}{2}$ and eigenvectors *up/down*
- The Hamiltonian of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin s in a z -magnetic field \vec{B}_0 is $\hat{H} \approx \hbar\omega I_z$
- In NMR, we measure ω , and infer/interpret **shielding** and **J-coupling**
- Schrödinger eqn. $\partial_t \psi = -\frac{i}{\hbar}\hat{H}\psi$ gives the spin evolution operator \hat{E}_t
- At thermal equilibrium, \vec{B}_0 causes a small excess of *up* spins ψ^{up}
- A radiofrequency pulse knocks those spins onto the x -axis
- Ignoring the relaxation, the spin state is $\psi(t) = \hat{E}_t \hat{P} \psi^{\text{up}}$
- The macroscopic xy -magnetization $\hat{M} = \sigma_x + i\sigma_y$ of s is observed as

$$m(t) = \psi(t)^\dagger \hat{M} \psi(t) = (\psi^{\text{up}})^\dagger (\hat{P}^\dagger \hat{E}_t^\dagger \hat{M} \hat{E}_t \hat{P}) \psi^{\text{up}} = e^{-i\omega t}$$

- Package the superposition of *all spins* in the *free induction decay*
- Fourier-transform, then shift and scale w.r.t. a reference compound

- The spin of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin particle (^1H , ^{13}C) is a normed vector $\psi \in \mathbb{C}^2$
- The operator $I_z = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_z$ has eigenvalues $\pm\frac{1}{2}$ and eigenvectors *up/down*
- The Hamiltonian of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin s in a z -magnetic field \vec{B}_0 is $\hat{H} \approx \hbar\omega I_z$
- In NMR, we measure ω , and infer/interpret **shielding** and **J-coupling**
- Schrödinger eqn. $\partial_t \psi = -\frac{i}{\hbar}\hat{H}\psi$ gives the spin evolution operator \hat{E}_t
- At thermal equilibrium, \vec{B}_0 causes a small excess of *up* spins ψ^{up}
- A radiofrequency pulse knocks those spins onto the x -axis
- Ignoring the relaxation, the spin state is $\psi(t) = \hat{E}_t \hat{P} \psi^{\text{up}}$
- The macroscopic xy -magnetization $\hat{M} = \sigma_x + i\sigma_y$ of s is observed as

$$m(t) = \psi(t)^\dagger \hat{M} \psi(t) = (\psi^{\text{up}})^\dagger (\hat{P}^\dagger \hat{E}_t^\dagger \hat{M} \hat{E}_t \hat{P}) \psi^{\text{up}} = e^{-i\omega t}$$

- Package the superposition of *all spins* in the *free induction decay*
- Fourier-transform, then shift and scale w.r.t. a reference compound

- The spin of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin particle (^1H , ^{13}C) is a normed vector $\psi \in \mathbb{C}^2$
- The operator $I_z = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_z$ has eigenvalues $\pm\frac{1}{2}$ and eigenvectors *up/down*
- The Hamiltonian of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin s in a z -magnetic field \vec{B}_0 is $\hat{H} \approx \hbar\omega I_z$
- In NMR, we measure ω , and infer/interpret **shielding** and **J-coupling**
- Schrödinger eqn. $\partial_t \psi = -\frac{i}{\hbar}\hat{H}\psi$ gives the spin evolution operator \hat{E}_t
- At thermal equilibrium, \vec{B}_0 causes a small excess of *up* spins ψ^{up}
- A radiofrequency pulse knocks those spins onto the x -axis
- Ignoring the relaxation, the spin state is $\psi(t) = \hat{E}_t \hat{P} \psi^{\text{up}}$
- The macroscopic xy -magnetization $\hat{M} = \sigma_x + i\sigma_y$ of s is observed as

$$m(t) = \psi(t)^\dagger \hat{M} \psi(t) = (\psi^{\text{up}})^\dagger (\hat{P}^\dagger \hat{E}_t^\dagger \hat{M} \hat{E}_t \hat{P}) \psi^{\text{up}} = e^{-i\omega t}$$

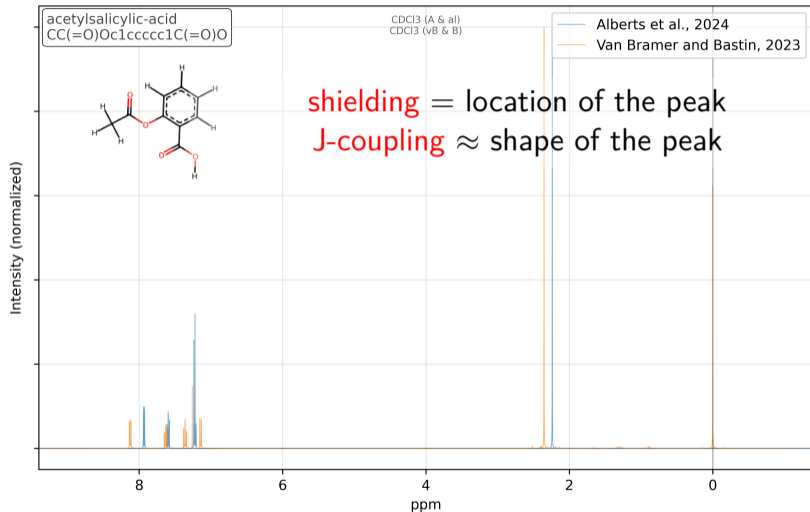
- Package the superposition of *all spins* in the *free induction decay*
- Fourier-transform, then shift and scale w.r.t. a reference compound

- The spin of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin particle (^1H , ^{13}C) is a normed vector $\psi \in \mathbb{C}^2$
- The operator $I_z = \frac{1}{2}\sigma_z$ has eigenvalues $\pm\frac{1}{2}$ and eigenvectors *up/down*
- The Hamiltonian of a $\frac{1}{2}$ -spin s in a z -magnetic field \vec{B}_0 is $\hat{H} \approx \hbar\omega I_z$
- In NMR, we measure ω , and infer/interpret **shielding** and **J-coupling**
- Schrödinger eqn. $\partial_t \psi = -\frac{i}{\hbar} \hat{H} \psi$ gives the spin evolution operator \hat{E}_t
- At thermal equilibrium, \vec{B}_0 causes a small excess of *up* spins ψ^{up}
- A radiofrequency pulse knocks those spins onto the x -axis
- Ignoring the relaxation, the spin state is $\psi(t) = \hat{E}_t \hat{P} \psi^{\text{up}}$
- The macroscopic xy -magnetization $\hat{M} = \sigma_x + i\sigma_y$ of s is observed as

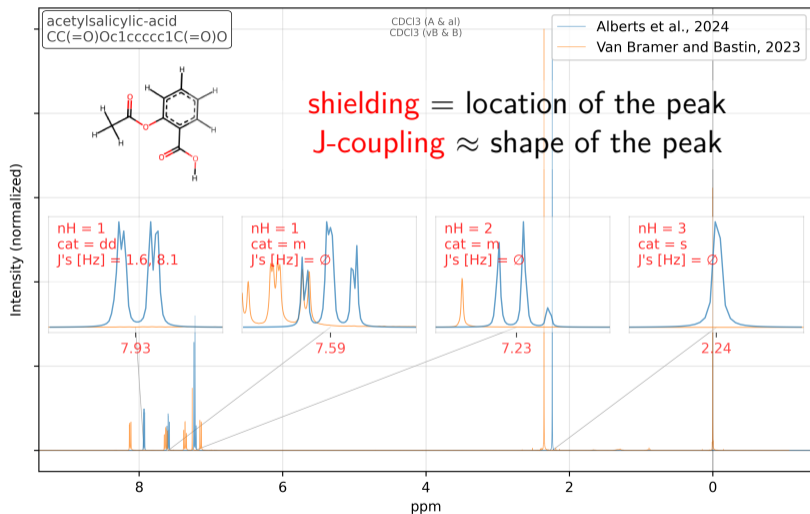
$$m(t) = \psi(t)^\dagger \hat{M} \psi(t) = (\psi^{\text{up}})^\dagger (\hat{P}^\dagger \hat{E}_t^\dagger \hat{M} \hat{E}_t \hat{P}) \psi^{\text{up}} = e^{-i\omega t}$$

- Package the superposition of *all spins* in the *free induction decay*
- Fourier-transform, then shift and scale w.r.t. a reference compound

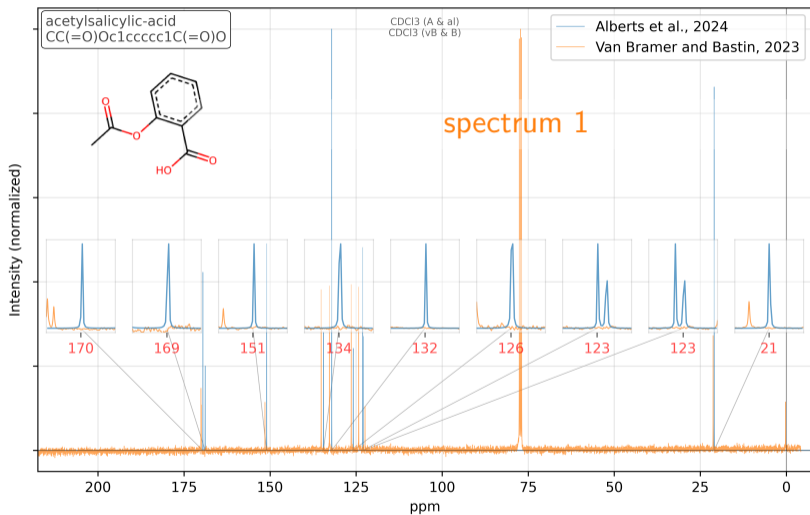
^1H -NMR spectrum of acetylsalicylic acid (*aspirin*)



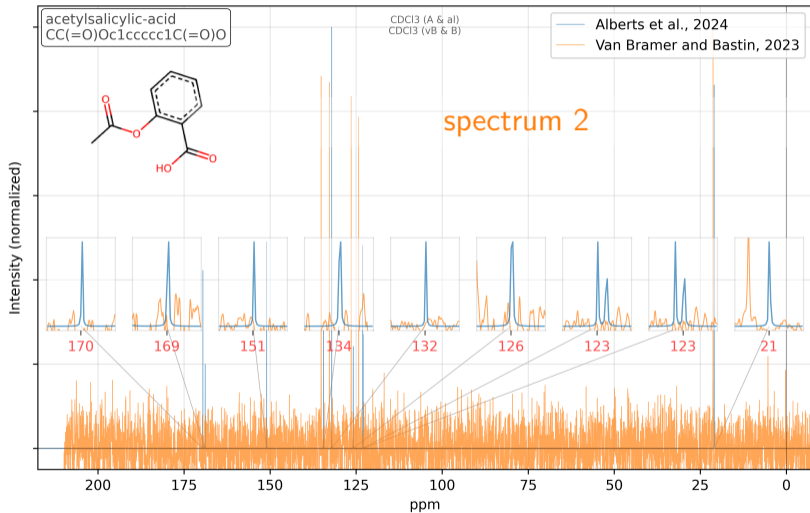
^1H -NMR spectrum of acetylsalicylic acid (*aspirin*)



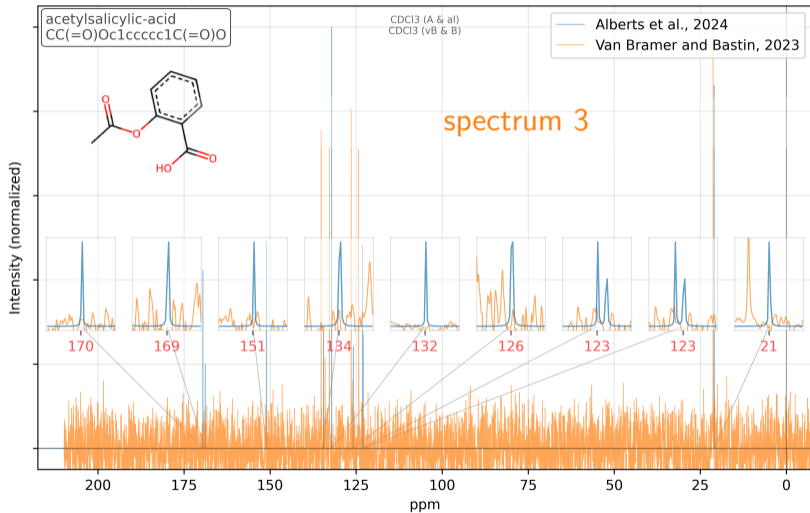
^{13}C -NMR spectrum of acetylsalicylic acid (*aspirin*)



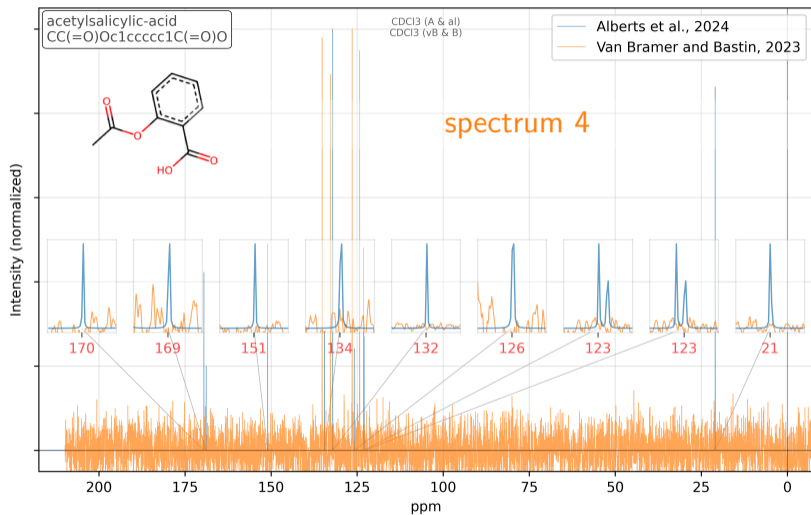
^{13}C -NMR spectrum of acetylsalicylic acid (*aspirin*)



^{13}C -NMR spectrum of acetylsalicylic acid (*aspirin*)



^{13}C -NMR spectrum of acetylsalicylic acid (*aspirin*)



Strychnine

- /'stri:kni:n, -nin/; US chiefly: /-nam/ [wiki]
- Strychnine is chiral, with fused rings and quite rigid
- Hong et al., “Biosynthesis of strychnine”, Nature (2022) [2]
- Let's see the ^1H -NMR spectrum, both **measured** and **simulated**...

Many thanks to S. Papalo and M.-O. Ebert of **LOC, ETH Zurich!**

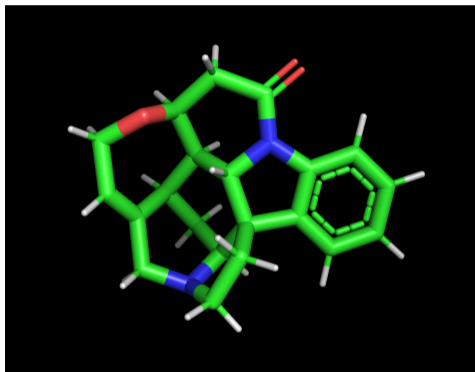
MestReNova v15.1.0-38027 with **NMRPredict** v1.11

OpenMM[†] 8.4.0 + **ORCA**[†] 6.1.0 / **GNN predictor**

[†] – responsible vibe coding involved

Strychnine

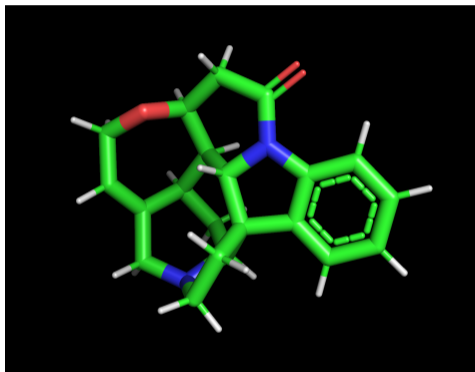
- /'stri:kni:n, -nin/; US chiefly: /-nam/ [wiki]
- Strychnine is chiral, with fused rings and quite rigid



- Hong et al., “Biosynthesis of strychnine”, Nature (2022) [2]
- Let's see the ^1H -NMR spectrum, both measured and simulated...

Strychnine

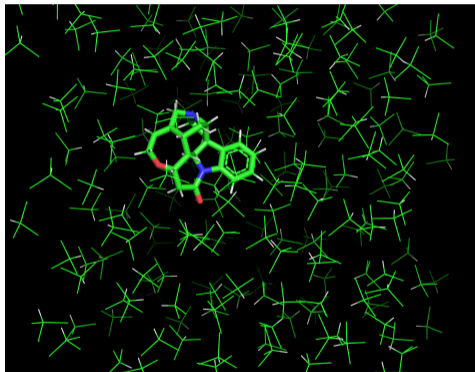
- /'stri:kni:n, -nin/; US chiefly: /-nam/ [wiki]
- Strychnine is chiral, with fused rings and quite rigid



- Hong et al., “Biosynthesis of strychnine”, Nature (2022) [2]
- Let's see the ^1H -NMR spectrum, both **measured** and **simulated**...

Strychnine

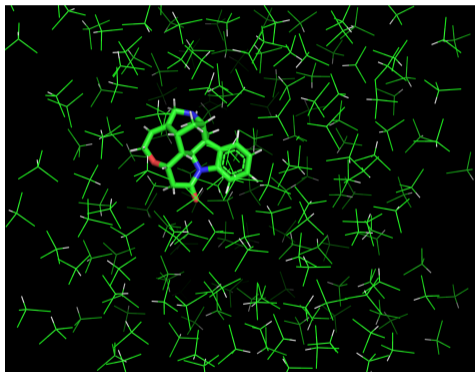
- /'stri:kni:n, -ni:n/; US chiefly: /-nam/ [wiki]
- Strychnine in chloroform-d, computed with OpenMM



- Hong et al., “Biosynthesis of strychnine”, Nature (2022) [2]
- Let’s see the ^1H -NMR spectrum, both measured and simulated...

Strychnine

- /'stri:kni:n, -nin/; US chiefly: /-nam/ [wiki]
- Strychnine in chloroform-d, computed with OpenMM



- Hong et al., “Biosynthesis of strychnine”, Nature (2022) [2]
- Let’s see the ^1H -NMR spectrum, both measured and simulated...

Strychnine

- /'stri:kni:n, -nin/; US chiefly: /-nam/ [wiki]
- Strychnine in chloroform-d, computed with **OpenMM**
- Hong et al., “Biosynthesis of strychnine”, Nature (2022) [2]:

Strychnine is a natural product that, through isolation, structural elucidation and synthetic efforts, shaped the field of organic chemistry.

Currently, strychnine is used as a pesticide to control rodents because of its potent neurotoxicity.

The polycyclic architecture of strychnine has inspired chemists [..].

Here we report the biosynthetic pathway of strychnine, along with the related molecules brucine and diaboline.

- Let's see the ^1H -NMR spectrum, both **measured** and **simulated**...

Many thanks to S. Papalo and M.-O. Ebert of **LOC, ETH Zurich!**

Strychnine

- /¹stri:kni:n, -nin/; US chiefly: /-nam/ [wiki]
- Strychnine in chloroform-d, computed with **OpenMM**
- Hong et al., “Biosynthesis of strychnine”, Nature (2022) [2]
- Let's see the ¹H-NMR spectrum, both **measured** and **simulated**...

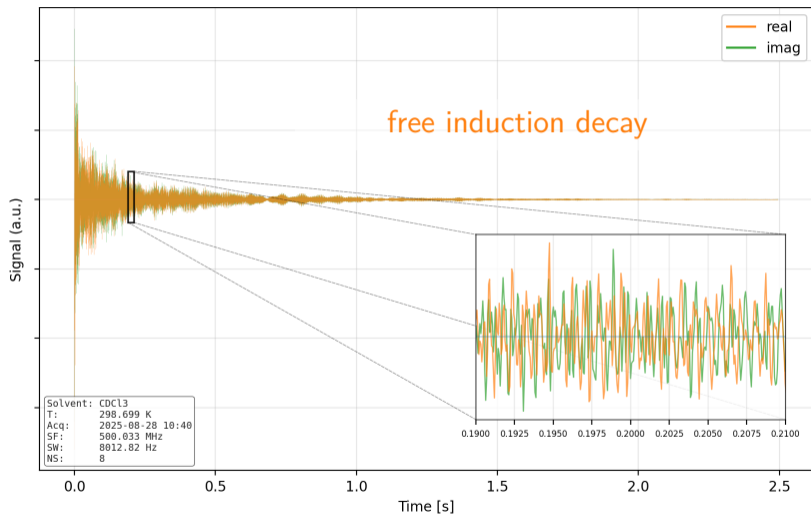
Many thanks to S. Papalo and M.-O. Ebert of **LOC, ETH Zurich!**

MestReNova v15.1.0-38027 with NMRPredict v1.11

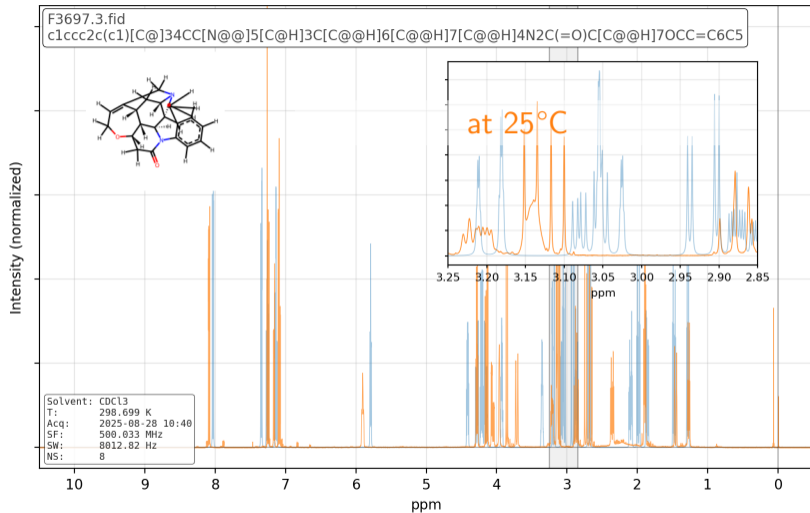
OpenMM[†] 8.4.0 + **ORCA**[†] 6.1.0 / **GNN predictor**

[†] – responsible vibe coding involved

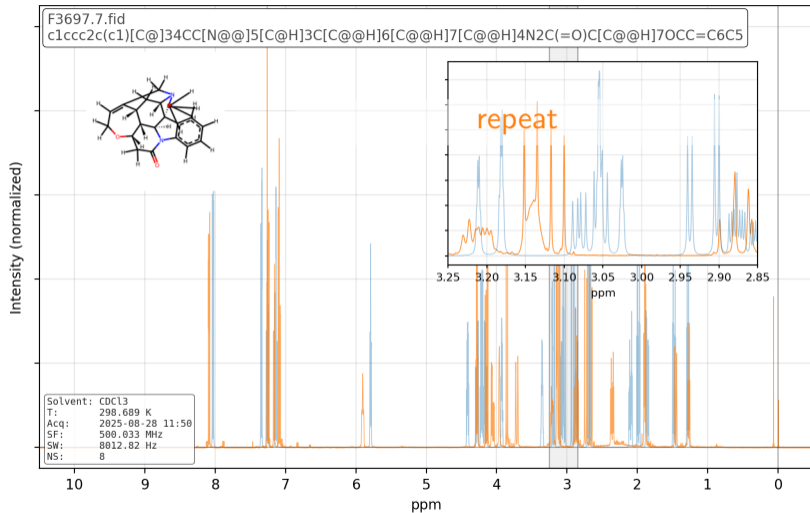
^1H -NMR spectrum of strychnine



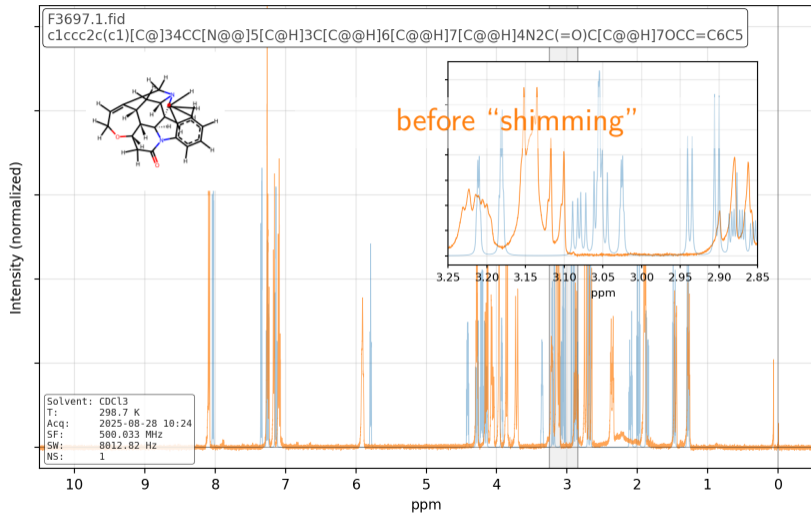
^1H -NMR spectrum of strychnine



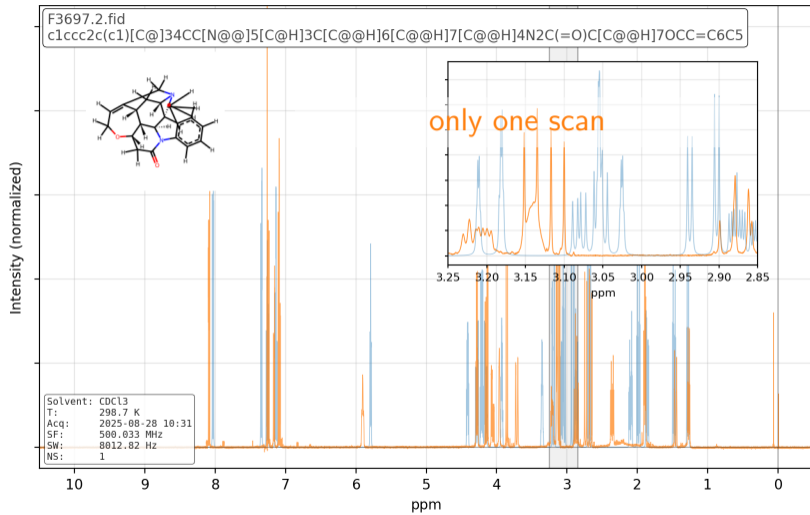
^1H -NMR spectrum of strychnine



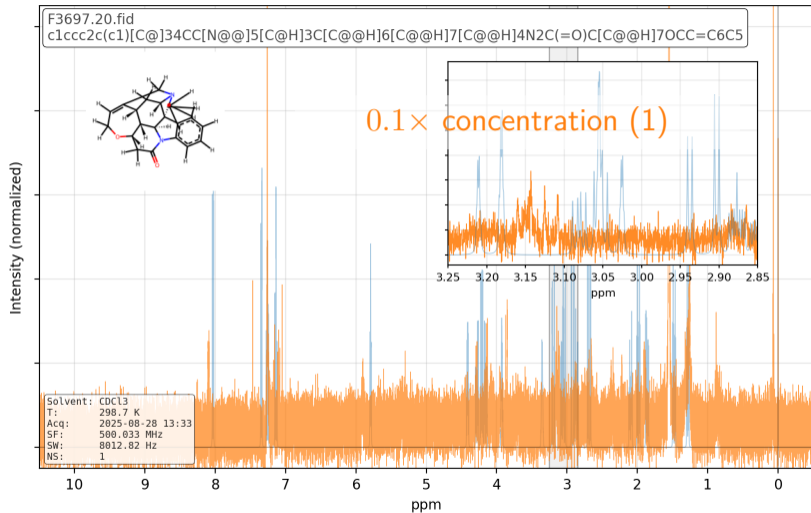
^1H -NMR spectrum of strychnine



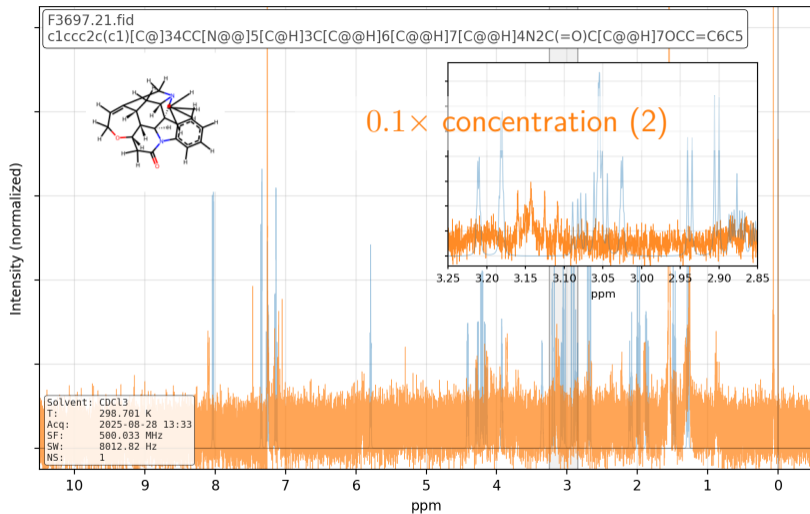
^1H -NMR spectrum of strychnine



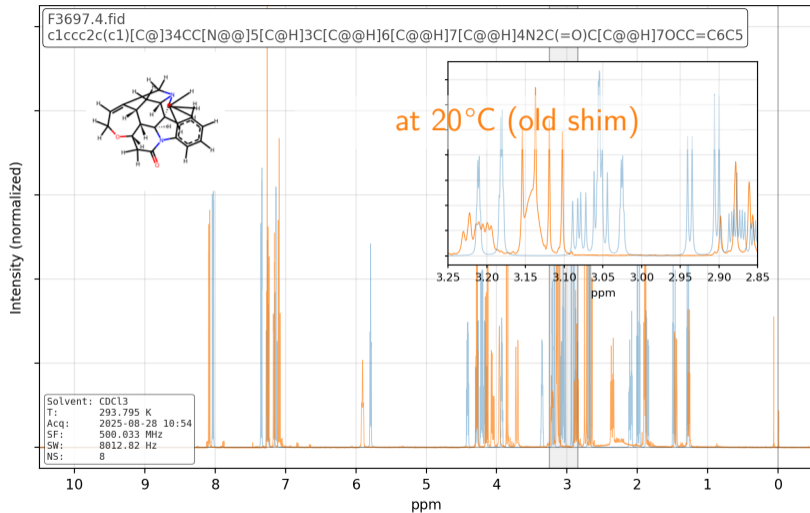
^1H -NMR spectrum of strychnine



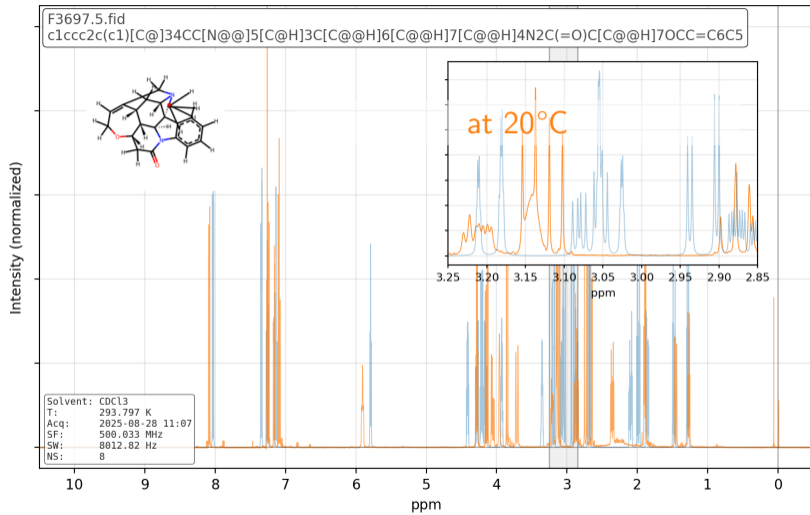
^1H -NMR spectrum of strychnine



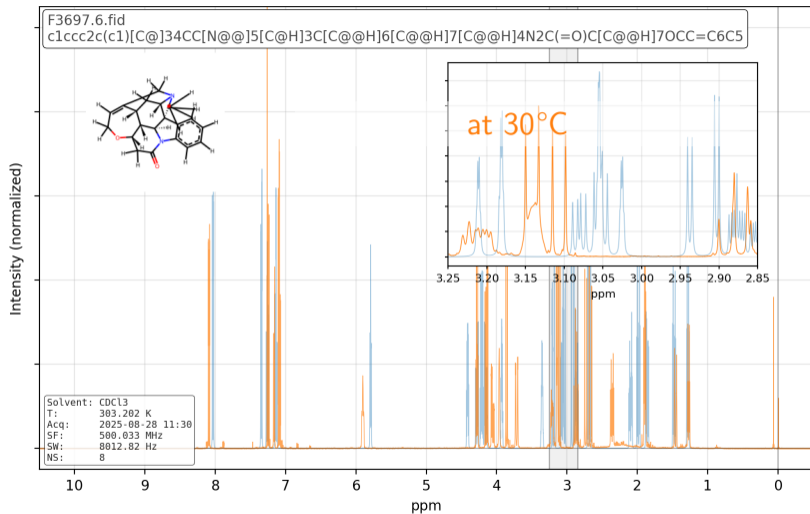
^1H -NMR spectrum of strychnine



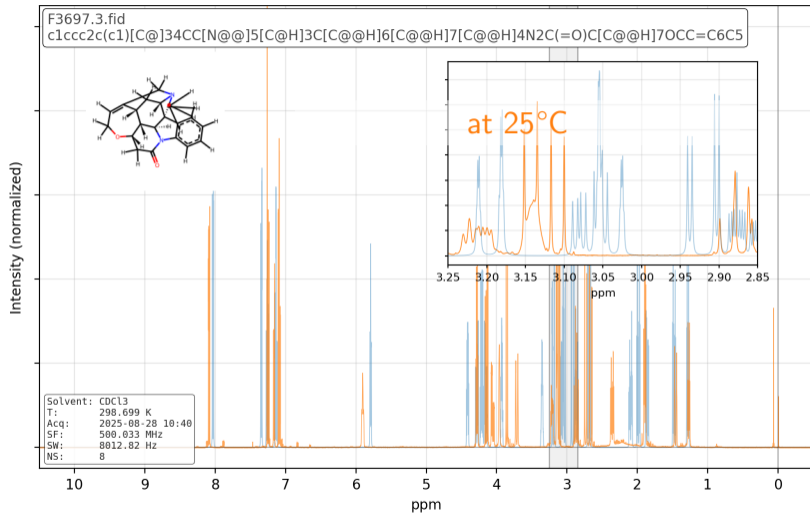
^1H -NMR spectrum of strychnine



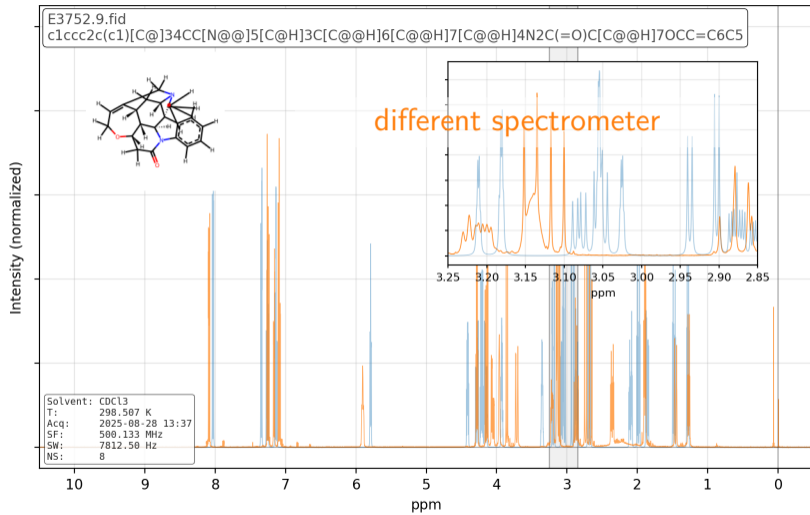
^1H -NMR spectrum of strychnine



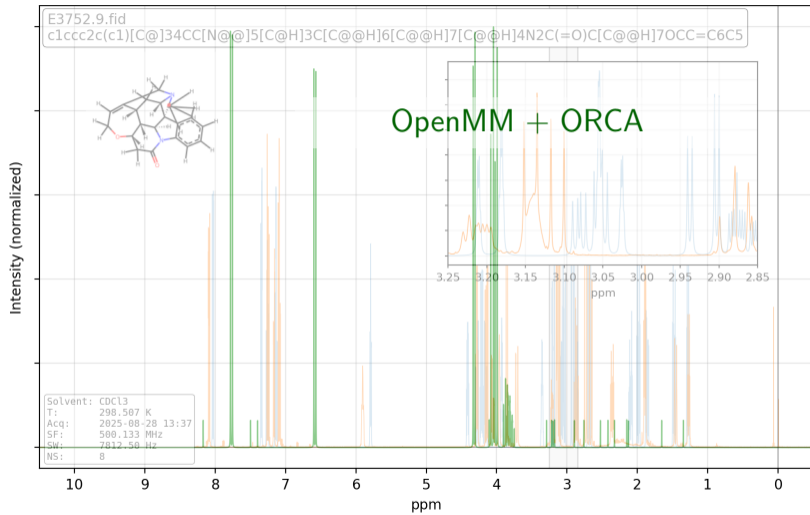
^1H -NMR spectrum of strychnine



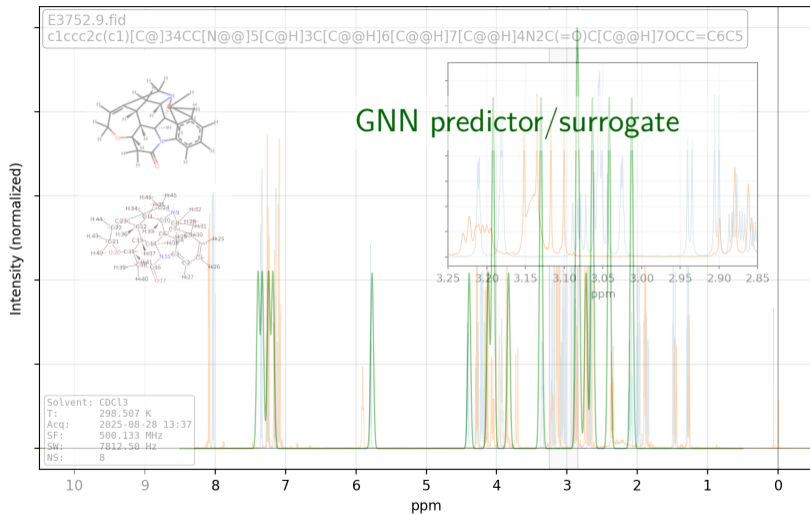
^1H -NMR spectrum of strychnine



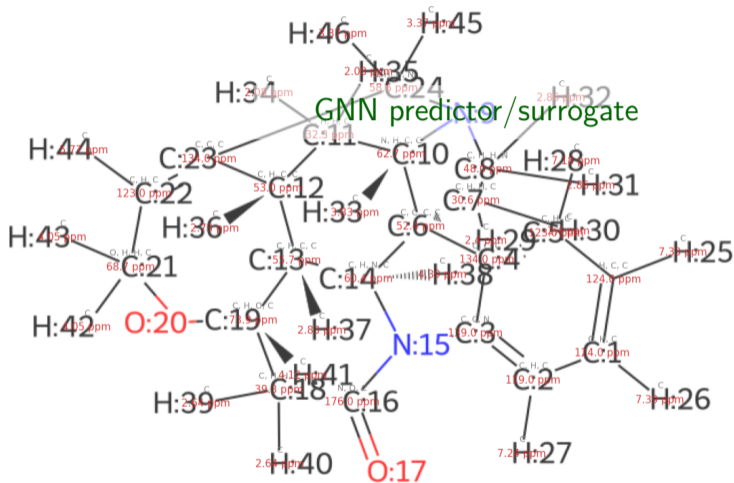
^1H -NMR spectrum of strychnine



^1H -NMR spectrum of strychnine



^1H -NMR spectrum of strychnine



Annotations by [MestReNova](#) (via Alberts et al. [1]):

^1H peaks:

```
...
{
  "category": "ddt",
  "centroid": 6.992,
  "delta": 6.993,
  "j_values": "0.88_2.02_8.79_",
  "nH": 1,
  "rangeMax": 7.021,
  "rangeMin": 6.965
},
...
```

^{13}C peaks:

```
...
{
  "delta (ppm)": 130.27,
  "integral": 0.00096,
  "intensity": 0.0512,
  "width (ppm)": 0.0119
},
...
```

HSQC peaks:

```
...
{
  "13C_centroid": 56.18,
  "13C_max": 56.91,
  "13C_min": 55.45,
  "1H_centroid": 3.813,
  "1H_max": 3.866,
  "1H_min": 3.759,
  "nH": 3.0 # !!!
},
...
```

Repackage as NMR text data **for language transformers**:

F|C16H23BrO4

Q|6.0:1.11-1.25@23|3.0:3.76-3.87@56.2|3.0:1.01-1.12@14.2|...|1.0:3.03-3.14@37.6

C|3.1@172|3.1@157|5.4@130|3.2@130|3.1@129|5.3@128|5.3@112|...|9.7@14.2

H|1:7.09-7.13:dp:0.86,1.8|1:6.96-7.02:ddt:0.88,2,8.8|...|3:1.04-1.09:t:6.4

– we use this as the de facto NMR spectrum

Problem statement:





Dataset & model by Alberts et al.

- No large-scale open experimental dataset
- Alberts et al. [1] simulated spectra for ~795k molecules from USPTO [3]
- Alberts et al. [4, 5] trained transformers on simulated spectra
 - [4] M Alberts et al. "Learning the language of NMR: Structure elucidation from NMR spectra using transformer models". *ChemRxiv* (2023)
 - [5] M Alberts et al. "Automated structure elucidation at human-level accuracy via a multimodal multitask language model". *ChemRxiv* (2025)

- No large-scale open experimental dataset
- Alberts et al. [1] simulated spectra for ~795k molecules from USPTO [3]

[1] M Alberts et al. “Unraveling molecular structure: A multimodal spectroscopic dataset for chemistry”. *NeurIPS 2024 Datasets and Benchmarks Track*. 2024

[3] D Lowe. *Chemical reactions from US patents (1976–Sep2016)*. figshare, 2017

using [MestReNova](#), similarly to

[6] F Hu et al. “Accurate and efficient structure elucidation from routine one-dimensional NMR spectra using multitask machine learning”. *ACS Central Science* 10.11 (2024), pp. 2162–2170

Is it “representative”?

- Alberts et al. [4, 5] trained transformers on simulated spectra

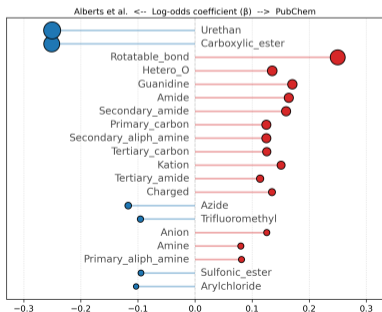
[4] M Alberts et al. “Learning the language of NMR: Structure elucidation from NMR spectra using transformer models”. *ChemRxiv* (2023)

[5] M Alberts et al. “Automated structure elucidation at human level accuracy

- No large-scale open experimental dataset
- Alberts et al. [1] simulated spectra for ~795k molecules from USPTO [3]

[1] M Alberts et al. “Unraveling molecular structure: A multimodal spectroscopic dataset for chemistry”. *NeurIPS 2024 Datasets and Benchmarks Track*. 2024

[3] D Lowe. *Chemical reactions from US patents (1976–Sep2016)*. figshare, 2017



Molecule provenance,

Alberts et al. [1] vs PubChem [7]

is detected by logistic regression based on functional groups with AUC-ROC ~75%

Circle area = permutation importance \lesssim 2%

- No large-scale open experimental dataset
- Alberts et al. [1] simulated spectra for ~795k molecules from USPTO [3]

[1] M Alberts et al. “Unraveling molecular structure: A multimodal spectroscopic dataset for chemistry”. *NeurIPS 2024 Datasets and Benchmarks Track*. 2024

[3] D Lowe. *Chemical reactions from US patents (1976–Sep2016)*. figshare, 2017

This is the dataset we use.

- Alberts et al. [4, 5] trained transformers on simulated spectra
- [4] M Alberts et al. “Learning the language of NMR: Structure elucidation from NMR spectra using transformer models”. *ChemRxiv* (2023)
- [5] M Alberts et al. “Automated structure elucidation at human-level accuracy via a multimodal multitask language model”. *ChemRxiv* (2025)

- No large-scale open experimental dataset
- Alberts et al. [1] simulated spectra for ~795k molecules from USPTO [3]
 - [1] M Alberts et al. “Unraveling molecular structure: A multimodal spectroscopic dataset for chemistry”. *NeurIPS 2024 Datasets and Benchmarks Track*. 2024
 - [3] D Lowe. *Chemical reactions from US patents (1976–Sep2016)*. figshare, 2017
- Alberts et al. [4, 5] trained transformers on simulated spectra
 - [4] M Alberts et al. “Learning the language of NMR: Structure elucidation from NMR spectra using transformer models”. *ChemRxiv* (2023)
 - [5] M Alberts et al. “Automated structure elucidation at human-level accuracy via a multimodal multitask language model”. *ChemRxiv* (2025)

- Alberts et al. [4] trained a $\sim 30M^\circ$ transformer to read a string like

C 9 H 8 O 4 1HNMR | 7.97 7.90 dd 1H J 1.60 8.10 | 7.64
7.55 m 1H | 7.26 7.18 m 2H | 2.26 2.22 s 3H

- ...and infer the molecule as a *canonical* SMILES like

CC(=O)Oc1ccccc1C(=O)O

- A SMILES is a (non-unique) serialization of the molecular graph
- At inference: **beam search** heuristic to generate the most likely SMILES
- **Accuracy**: Is the correct molecule among the top- N predictions?
- They reported accuracy of

$\sim 76\%$ top-10 on $F + H \rightarrow \text{SMILES}$

$\sim 85\%$ top-10 on $F + C + H \rightarrow \text{SMILES}$

- Alberts et al. [4] trained a $\sim 30M^{\circ}$ transformer to read a string like

C 9 H 8 O 4 1HNMR | 7.97 7.90 dd 1H J 1.60 8.10 | 7.64
7.55 m 1H | 7.26 7.18 m 2H | 2.26 2.22 s 3H

- ...and infer the molecule as a *canonical* SMILES like

CC(=O)Oc1ccccc1C(=O)O

– like in Hu et al. [6]

- A SMILES is a (non-unique) serialization of the molecular graph
- At inference: **beam search** heuristic to generate the most likely SMILES
- **Accuracy**: Is the correct molecule among the top- N predictions?
- They reported accuracy of

$\sim 76\%$ top-10 on $F + H \rightarrow \text{SMILES}$

$\sim 85\%$ top-10 on $F + C + H \rightarrow \text{SMILES}$

- Alberts et al. [4] trained a $\sim 30M^\circ$ transformer to read a string like

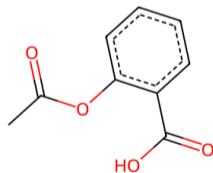
C 9 H 8 O 4 1HNMR | 7.97 7.90 dd 1H J 1.60 8.10 | 7.64
7.55 m 1H | 7.26 7.18 m 2H | 2.26 2.22 s 3H

- ...and infer the molecule as a *canonical* SMILES like

CC(=O)Oc1ccccc1C(=O)O

- A SMILES is a (non-unique) serialization of the molecular graph

c1ccc(C(=O)O)c(c1)OC(C)=O
CC(=O)Oc1c(cccc1)C(O)=O
CC(=O)Oc1c(C(O)=O)cccc1
c1cc(C(=O)O)c(OC(=O)C)cc1
 ...



The hydrogens H are implied by chemical valency!

- Alberts et al. [4] trained a $\sim 30M^{\circ}$ transformer to read a string like

C 9 H 8 O 4 1HNMR | 7.97 7.90 dd 1H J 1.60 8.10 | 7.64
7.55 m 1H | 7.26 7.18 m 2H | 2.26 2.22 s 3H

- ...and infer the molecule as a *canonical* SMILES like

CC(=O)Oc1ccccc1C(=O)O

- A SMILES is a (non-unique) serialization of the molecular graph
- At inference: **beam search** heuristic to generate the most likely SMILES ...called

- candidates
- hypotheses
- predictions

- **Accuracy**: Is the correct molecule among the top- N predictions?

- They reported accuracy of

$\sim 76\%$ top-10 on F + H \rightarrow SMILES

$\sim 85\%$ top-10 on F + C + H \rightarrow SMILES

- Alberts et al. [4] trained a $\sim 30M^\circ$ transformer to read a string like

C 9 H 8 O 4 1HNMR | 7.97 7.90 dd 1H J 1.60 8.10 | 7.64
7.55 m 1H | 7.26 7.18 m 2H | 2.26 2.22 s 3H

- ...and infer the molecule as a *canonical* SMILES like

CC(=O)Oc1cccc1C(=O)O

- A SMILES is a (non-unique) serialization of the molecular graph
- At inference: **beam search** heuristic to generate the most likely SMILES
- **Accuracy**: Is the correct molecule among the top- N predictions?
- They reported accuracy of

$\sim 76\%$ top-10 on F + H \rightarrow SMILES

$\sim 85\%$ top-10 on F + C + H \rightarrow SMILES

- Alberts et al. [4] trained a $\sim 30M^\circ$ transformer to read a string like

C 9 H 8 O 4 1HNMR | 7.97 7.90 dd 1H J 1.60 8.10 | 7.64
7.55 m 1H | 7.26 7.18 m 2H | 2.26 2.22 s 3H

- ...and infer the molecule as a *canonical* SMILES like

CC(=O)Oc1cccc1C(=O)O

- A SMILES is a (non-unique) serialization of the molecular graph
- At inference: **beam search** heuristic to generate the most likely SMILES
- **Accuracy**: Is the correct molecule among the top- N predictions?
- They reported accuracy of

$\sim 76\%$ top-10 on $F + H \rightarrow \text{SMILES}$

$\sim 85\%$ top-10 on $F + C + H \rightarrow \text{SMILES}$

- Alberts et al. [4] trained a $\sim 30M^{\circ}$ transformer to read a string like

C 9 H 8 O 4 1HNMR | 7.97 7.90 dd 1H J 1.60 8.10 | 7.64
7.55 m 1H | 7.26 7.18 m 2H | 2.26 2.22 s 3H

- ...and infer the molecule as a *canonical* SMILES like

CC(=O)Oc1cccc1C(=O)O

- A SMILES is a (non-unique) serialization of the molecular graph
- At inference: **beam search** heuristic to generate the most likely SMILES
- **Accuracy**: Is the correct molecule among the top- N predictions?
- They reported accuracy of

$\sim 76\%$ top-10 on F + H \rightarrow SMILES

$\sim 85\%$ top-10 on F + C + H \rightarrow SMILES

Similarly:

Similarly:

- We trained a $\sim 83\text{M}^\circ$ autoregressive transformer DistilGPT2
- ...to predict the *canonical* SMILES with accuracy
 $\sim 84\%$ top-10 on $\text{F} + \text{Q} + \text{C} + \text{H} \rightarrow \text{SMILES}$

Similarly:

- We trained a $\sim 83\text{M}^\circ$ autoregressive transformer DistilGPT2
- ...to predict the *canonical* SMILES with accuracy
 $\sim 84\%$ top-10 on $\text{F} + \text{Q} + \text{C} + \text{H} \rightarrow \text{SMILES}$

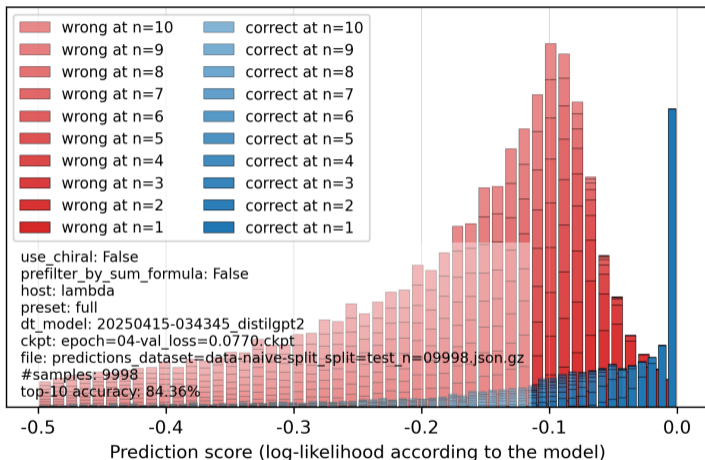
Similarly:

- We trained a $\sim 83\text{M}^\circ$ autoregressive transformer DistilGPT2
- ...to predict the *canonical* SMILES with accuracy
 $\sim 84\%$ top-10 on $F + Q + C + H \rightarrow \text{SMILES}$

Let's have a look at the structure of the predictions:

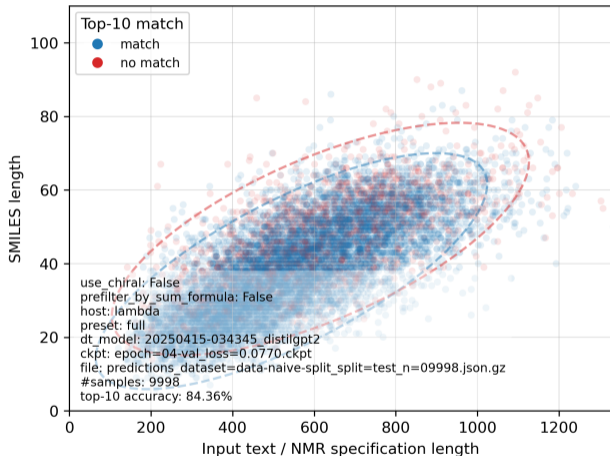
- Prediction confidence (log-likelihood of the sequence)
- Accuracy depending on SMILES length
- Diversity of predicted SMILES that serialize the correct structure
- Confidence mid-SMILES during inference
- Saliency maps: "attention" to SMILES syntax vs. molecular structure
- Dataset bias: in-patent SMILES similarity

Prediction confidence (log-likelihood of the sequence)



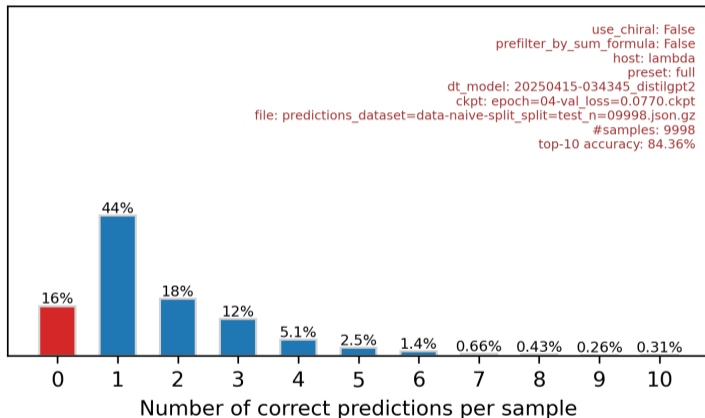
The model is more confident on correct predictions

Accuracy depending on SMILES length



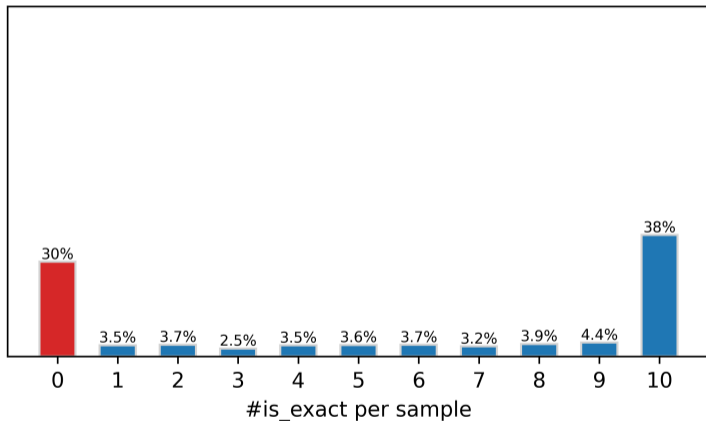
SMILES **without a top-10 match** are on average ~ 10 characters longer

Diversity of correctly predicted SMILES



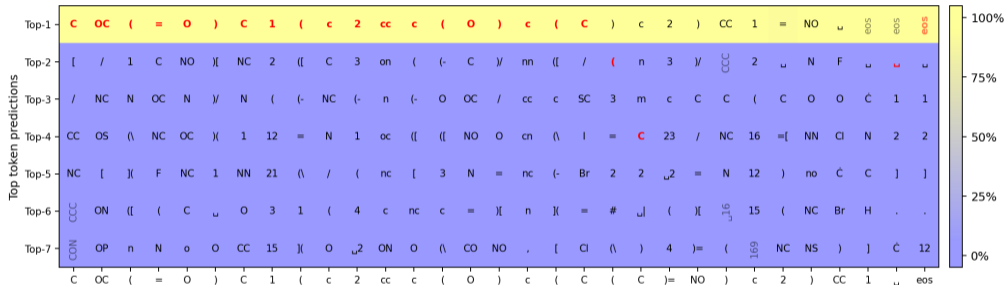
The model is unable to serialize molecules in alternate ways

Diversity of correctly predicted SMILES



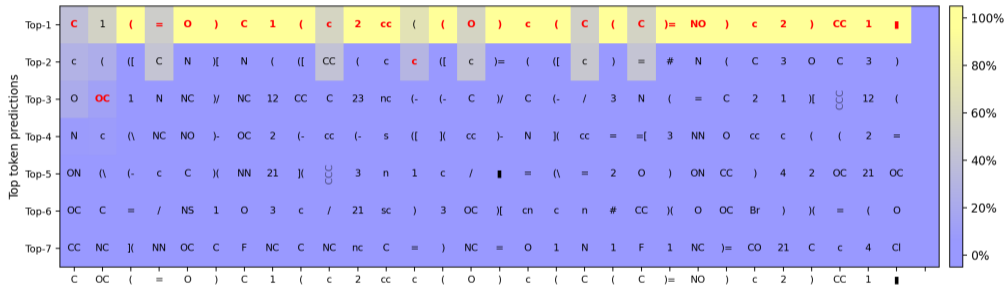
upcoming model...

Confidence mid-SMILES during inference



The model is confidently wrong — not a good prior for search

Confidence mid-SMILES during inference



upcoming model...

Saliency: SMILES syntax vs. molecular structure

F C13H15N04

O 3.0:2.37-2.49@15.2 | 3.0:3.64-3.75@52.8 | 1.0:7.34-7.45@126 | 1.0:7.09-7.2@130 | 1.0:1.56-1.67@17.1 | 1.0:6.84-6.95@116 | 1.0:1.32-1.43@17.1

C 4.5@175 | 4.5@158 | 4.5@157 | 7.7@131 | 4.5@129 | 7.7@126 | 4.5@121 | 7.7@116 | 14@52.8 | 4.5@29.9 | 22@16.6 | 14@15.1

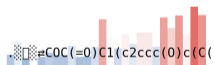
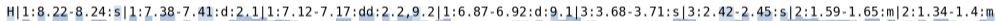
H 1:8.22-8.24:s | 1:7.38-7.41:d:2.1 | 1:7.12-7.17:dd:2.2,9.2 | 1:6.87-6.92:d:9.1 | 3:3.68-3.71:s | 3:2.42-2.45:s | 2:1.59-1.65:m | 2:1.34-1.4:m

S COC(=O)C1(c2ccc(O)c(C)

) (3 = 2 # (\)/)(

The model may be focused on syntax rather than molecular structure

Saliency: SMILES syntax vs. molecular structure



upcoming model...

In-patent SMILES similarity

- Alberts et al. [1] simulated spectra for ~795k molecules from USPTO [3]

[1] M Alberts et al. “Unraveling molecular structure: A multimodal spectroscopic dataset for chemistry”. *NeurIPS 2024 Datasets and Benchmarks Track*. 2024

[3] D Lowe. *Chemical reactions from US patents (1976–Sep2016)*. figshare, 2017

- US3956269 from 1976 has 26 compounds (~80% quantile), including
- The dataset is difficult to disentangle into a train/validation/test split, because of *similarity within* and *overlap between* patents
- In particular:
 - short SMILES are intrinsically easier to infer, while
 - long SMILES are made easier by in-patent association

In-patent SMILES similarity

- Alberts et al. [1] simulated spectra for ~795k molecules from USPTO [3]
for example:
- US3956269 from 1976 has 26 compounds (~80% quantile), including
- The dataset is difficult to disentangle into a train/validation/test split, because of *similarity within* and *overlap between* patents
- In particular:
 - short SMILES are intrinsically easier to infer, while
 - long SMILES are made easier by in-patent association

In-patent SMILES similarity

- Alberts et al. [1] simulated spectra for ~795k molecules from USPTO [3]
- US3956269 from 1976 has 26 compounds (~80% quantile), including
 - Cc1ccc(OC(=O)CCCC(=O)OOC(=O)CCCC(=O)Oc2ccc(C)cc2)cc1
 - Cc1ccc(OC(=O)CCCC(=O)OOC(C)(C)C)cc1
 - Cc1ccc(OC(=O)CCC(=O)OOC(=O)CCC(=O)Oc2ccc(C)cc2)cc1
 - Cc1ccc(OC(=O)CCC(=O)OOC(C)(C)C)cc1
- The dataset is difficult to disentangle into a train/validation/test split, because of *similarity within* and *overlap between* patents
- In particular:
 - short SMILES are intrinsically easier to infer, while
 - long SMILES are made easier by in-patent association

In-patent SMILES similarity

- Alberts et al. [1] simulated spectra for ~795k molecules from USPTO [3]
- US3956269 from 1976 has 26 compounds (~80% quantile), including
 - Cc1ccc(OC(=O)CCCC(=O)OOC(=O)CCCC(=O)Oc2ccc(C)cc2)cc1
 - Cc1ccc(OC(=O)CCCC(=O)OOC(.....C.....).....(C)..C)cc1
 - Cc1ccc(OC(=O)·CCC(=O)OOC(=O)·CCC(=O)Oc2ccc(C)cc2)cc1
 - Cc1ccc(OC(=O)·CCC(=O)OOC(.....C.....).....(C)..C)cc1
- The dataset is difficult to disentangle into a train/validation/test split, because of *similarity within* and *overlap between* patents
- In particular:
 - short SMILES are intrinsically easier to infer, while
 - long SMILES are made easier by in-patent association

In-patent SMILES similarity

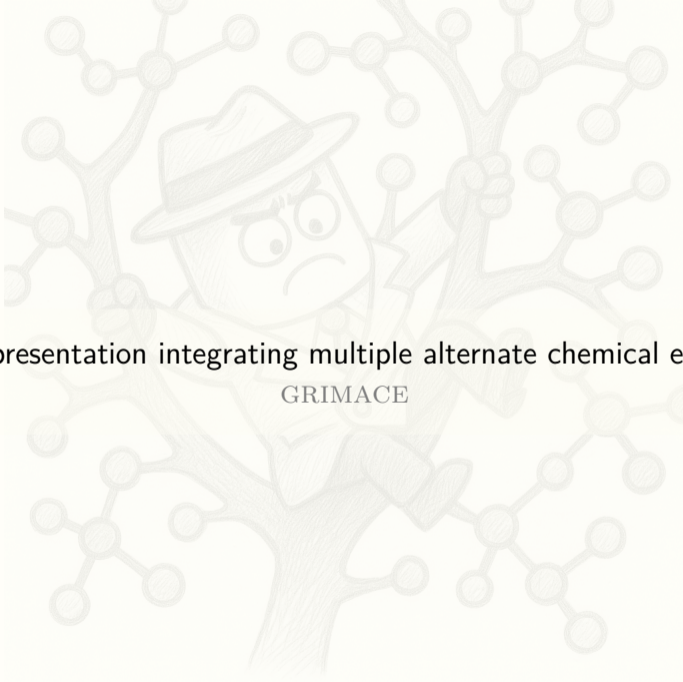
- Alberts et al. [1] simulated spectra for ~795k molecules from USPTO [3]
- US3956269 from 1976 has 26 compounds (~80% quantile), including
 - Cc1ccc(OC(=O)CCCC(=O)OOC(=O)CCCC(=O)Oc2ccc(C)cc2)cc1
 - Cc1ccc(OC(=O)CCCC(=O)OOC(.....C.....).....(C)..C)cc1
 - Cc1ccc(OC(=O)·CCC(=O)OOC(=O)·CCC(=O)Oc2ccc(C)cc2)cc1
 - Cc1ccc(OC(=O)·CCC(=O)OOC(.....C.....).....(C)..C)cc1
- The dataset is difficult to disentangle into a train/validation/test split, because of *similarity within* and *overlap between* patents
 - They didn't, as far as we can tell
 - We embedded SMILES and used k-means to split (→ appendix)
- In particular:
 - short SMILES are intrinsically easier to infer, while
 - long SMILES are made easier by in-patent association

In-patent SMILES similarity

- Alberts et al. [1] simulated spectra for ~795k molecules from USPTO [3]
- US3956269 from 1976 has 26 compounds (~80% quantile), including
 - Cc1ccc(OC(=O)CCCC(=O)OOC(=O)CCCC(=O)Oc2ccc(C)cc2)cc1
 - Cc1ccc(OC(=O)CCCC(=O)OOC(.....C.....).....(C)..C)cc1
 - Cc1ccc(OC(=O)·CCC(=O)OOC(=O)·CCC(=O)Oc2ccc(C)cc2)cc1
 - Cc1ccc(OC(=O)·CCC(=O)OOC(.....C.....).....(C)..C)cc1
- The dataset is difficult to disentangle into a train/validation/test split, because of *similarity within* and *overlap between* patents
- In particular:
 - short SMILES are intrinsically easier to infer, while
 - long SMILES are made easier by in-patent association

⚠ The ~85% top-10 accuracy is very scenario-specific

⚠ The model learns chunks of SMILES – not molecular structure



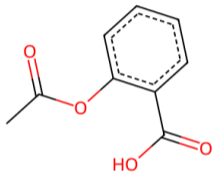
Graph representation integrating multiple alternate chemical equivalents

GRIMACE

c1ccc(C(=O)O)c(c1)OC(C)=O
CC(=O)Oc1c(cccc1)C(O)=O
CC(=O)Oc1c(C(O)=O)cccc1
c1cc(C(=O)O)c(OC(=O)C)cc1

...

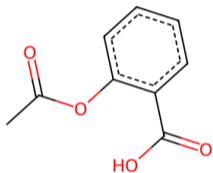
how many in total?



```

c1ccc(C(=O)O)c(c1)OC(C)=O
CC(=O)Oc1c(cccc1)C(O)=O
CC(=O)Oc1c(C(O)=O)cccc1
c1cc(C(=O)O)c(OC(=O)C)cc1
...

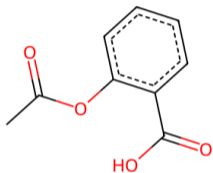
```



```
c1ccc(C(=O)O)c(c1)OC(C)=O
CC(=O)Oc1c(cccc1)C(O)=O
CC(=O)Oc1c(C(O)=O)cccc1
c1cc(C(=O)O)c(OC(=O)C)cc1
```

...

304 distinct serializations



“restricted” by rdkit to sensible variants

- It makes sense to train

random serialization → molecular properties
as data augmentation and regularization [8]

- Does it make sense to train

NMR data → **random serialization** – ?

- Consider two serializations, shown to the model at random:

c1(ccccc1OC(=O)C)C(O)=O and c1(ccccc1OC(C)=O)C(O)=O

- The model will eventually learn the next-token probabilities

$$\mathbb{P}(\boxed{=} \mid \text{prefix}) \approx 50\% \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{P}(\boxed{C} \mid \text{prefix}) \approx 50\%$$

- This training signal is weak, inconsistent and incomplete
- Key idea:

- It makes sense to train
 random serialization → molecular properties

- Does it make sense to train

NMR data → random serialization

where the serialization changes from epoch to epoch?

- Consider two serializations, shown to the model at random:

c1(ccccc1OC(=O)C)C(O)=O and c1(ccccc1OC(C)=O)C(O)=O

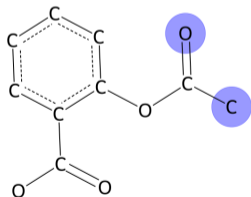
- The model will eventually learn the next-token probabilities

$$\mathbb{P}(\boxed{=} \mid \text{prefix}) \approx 50\% \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{P}(\boxed{C} \mid \text{prefix}) \approx 50\%$$

- This training signal is weak, inconsistent and incomplete
- Key idea:

- It makes sense to train
 random serialization → molecular properties
- Does it make sense to train
 NMR data → random serialization – ?
- Consider two serializations, shown to the model at random:

c1(ccccc1OC(=O)C)C(O)=O and c1(ccccc1OC(C)=O)C(O)=O



- The model will eventually learn the next-token probabilities

$P(\text{=} | \text{prefix}) \approx 50\%$ and $P(\text{C} | \text{prefix}) \approx 50\%$

- It makes sense to train
 random serialization → molecular properties
- Does it make sense to train
 NMR data → random serialization – ?
- Consider two serializations, shown to the model at random:

c1(ccccc1O(C)=O)C(O)=O and c1(ccccc1O(C)=O)C(O)=O

- The model will eventually learn the next-token probabilities

$$P(\boxed{=} \mid \text{prefix}) \approx 50\% \quad \text{and} \quad P(\boxed{C} \mid \text{prefix}) \approx 50\%$$

but:

- This training signal is weak, inconsistent and incomplete
- Key idea:

- It makes sense to train
 - `random serialization` → molecular properties
- Does it make sense to train
 - `NMR data` → `random serialization` – ?
- Consider two serializations, shown to the model at random:

`c1(ccccc1O(C)=O)C(O)=O` and `c1(ccccc1O(C)=O)C(O)=O`

- The model will eventually learn the next-token probabilities

$$\mathbb{P}(\boxed{=} \mid \text{prefix}) \approx 50\% \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{P}(\boxed{C} \mid \text{prefix}) \approx 50\%$$

- This training signal is weak, inconsistent and incomplete:
 - pulls one token at a time,
 - we can't cycle through many variants.

- Key idea:

- It makes sense to train
 random serialization → molecular properties
- Does it make sense to train
 NMR data → random serialization – ?
- Consider two serializations, shown to the model at random:

c1(ccccc1OC(=O)C)C(O)=O and c1(ccccc1OC(C)=O)C(O)=O

- The model will eventually learn the next-token probabilities

$$\mathbb{P}(= \mid \text{prefix}) \approx 50\% \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{P}(C \mid \text{prefix}) \approx 50\%$$

- This training signal is weak, inconsistent and incomplete
- Key idea: Let's supervise on the next-token distribution directly

Next-token supervision with GRIMACE

- Key idea: Let's supervise on the next-token distribution directly
- Sample serializations of the same molecule and tokenize them
- ...until a stopping criterion is met (\rightarrow appendix)
- Construct the word tree (merge common prefixes and suffixes)
- Count samples passing each out-edge and normalize to probabilities
- To train, pick one path per epoch, supervise on those probabilities

Next-token supervision with GRIMACE

- Key idea: Let's supervise on the next-token distribution directly
- Sample serializations of the same molecule and tokenize them

C	C	(=	0)	0	c	1	c	(C	(0)	=	0)	c	c	c	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

- ...until a stopping criterion is met (\rightarrow appendix)
- Construct the word tree (merge common prefixes and suffixes)
- Count samples passing each out-edge and normalize to probabilities
- To train, pick one path per epoch, supervise on those probabilities

Next-token supervision with GRIMACE

- Key idea: Let's supervise on the next-token distribution directly
- Sample serializations of the same molecule and tokenize them

C	C	(	=	0	)	0	c	1	c	(	C	(	0	)	=	0	)	c	c	c	1
C	C	(	=	0	)	0	c	1	c	(	c	c	c	1	)	C	(	0	)	=	0

- ...until a stopping criterion is met (→ appendix)
- Construct the word tree (merge common prefixes and suffixes)
- Count samples passing each out-edge and normalize to probabilities
- To train, pick one path per epoch, supervise on those probabilities

Next-token supervision with GRIMACE

- Key idea: Let's supervise on the next-token distribution directly
- Sample serializations of the same molecule and tokenize them

C	C	(	=	O	)	O	c	1	c	(	C	(	O	)	=	O	)	c	c	c	1
C	C	(	=	O	)	O	c	1	c	(	c	c	c	1	)	C	(	O	)	=	O
c	1	(	c	c	c	c	1	O	C	(	=	O	)	C	)	C	(	O	)	=	O

- ...until a stopping criterion is met (→ appendix)
- Construct the word tree (merge common prefixes and suffixes)
- Count samples passing each out-edge and normalize to probabilities
- To train, pick one path per epoch, supervise on those probabilities

Next-token supervision with GRIMACE

- Key idea: Let's supervise on the next-token distribution directly
- Sample serializations of the same molecule and tokenize them

C	C	(	=	0	)	0	c	1	c	(	C	(	0	)	=	0	)	cc	cc	1
C	C	(	=	0	)	0	c	1	c	(	cc	cc	1	)	C	(	0	)	=	0
c	1	(	cc	cc	c	1	0	C	(	=	0	)	C	)	C	(	0	)	=	0
c	1	(	cc	cc	c	1	0	C	(	C	)	=	0	)	C	(	0	)	=	0

- ...until a stopping criterion is met (→ appendix)
- Construct the word tree (merge common prefixes and suffixes)
- Count samples passing each out-edge and normalize to probabilities
- To train, pick one path per epoch, supervise on those probabilities

Next-token supervision with GRIMACE

- Key idea: Let's supervise on the next-token distribution directly
- Sample serializations of the same molecule and tokenize them

CC	(	=	0	)	0	c	1	c	(	C	(	0	)=	0	)	cc	cc	1
CC	(	=	0	)	0	c	1	c	(	cc	cc	1	)	C	(	0	)=	0
c	1	(	cc	cc	c	1	0C	(	=	0	)	C	)	C	(	0	)=	0
c	1	(	cc	cc	c	1	0C	(	C	)=	0	)	C	(	0	)=	0	

...

- ...until a stopping criterion is met (→ appendix)
- Construct the word tree (merge common prefixes and suffixes)
- Count samples passing each out-edge and normalize to probabilities
- To train, pick one path per epoch, supervise on those probabilities

Next-token supervision with GRIMACE

- Key idea: Let's supervise on the next-token distribution directly
- Sample serializations of the same molecule and tokenize them

C	C	(	=	0	)	0	c	1	c	(	C	(	0	)=	0	)	cc	cc	1
C	C	(	=	0	)	0	c	1	c	(	cc	cc	1	)	C	(	0	)=	0
c	1	(	cc	cc	c	1	0	C	(	=	0	)	C	)	C	(	0	)=	0
c	1	(	cc	cc	c	1	0	C	(	C	)=	0	)	C	(	0	)=	0	

...

- ...until a stopping criterion is met (\rightarrow appendix)
- Construct the word tree (merge common prefixes and suffixes)
- Count samples passing each out-edge and normalize to probabilities
- To train, pick one path per epoch, supervise on those probabilities

Next-token supervision with GRIMACE

- Key idea: Let's supervise on the next-token distribution directly
- Sample serializations of the same molecule and tokenize them

C	C	(	=	0	)	0	c	1	c	(	C	(	0	)	=	0	)	cc	cc	1
C	C	(	=	0	)	0	c	1	c	(	cc	cc	1	)	C	(	0	)	=	0
c	1	(	cc	cc	c	1	0	C	(	=	0	)	C	)	C	(	0	)	=	0
c	1	(	cc	cc	c	1	0	C	(	C	)	=	0	)	C	(	0	)	=	0

...

- ...until a stopping criterion is met (\rightarrow appendix)
- Construct the word tree (merge common prefixes and suffixes)
- Count samples passing each out-edge and normalize to probabilities
- To train, pick one path per epoch, supervise on those probabilities

Next-token supervision with GRIMACE

- Key idea: Let's supervise on the next-token distribution directly
- Sample serializations of the same molecule and tokenize them

CC	(	=	0	)	0	c	1	c	(	C	(	0	)=	0	)	cc	cc	1
CC	(	=	0	)	0	c	1	c	(	cc	cc	1	)	C	(	0	)=	0
c	1	(	cc	cc	c	1	0C	(	=	0	)	C	)	C	(	0	)=	0
c	1	(	cc	cc	c	1	0C	(	C	)=	0	)	C	(	0	)=	0	

...

- ...until a stopping criterion is met (\rightarrow appendix)
- Construct the word tree (merge common prefixes and suffixes)
- Count samples passing each out-edge and normalize to probabilities
- To train, pick one path per epoch, supervise on those probabilities

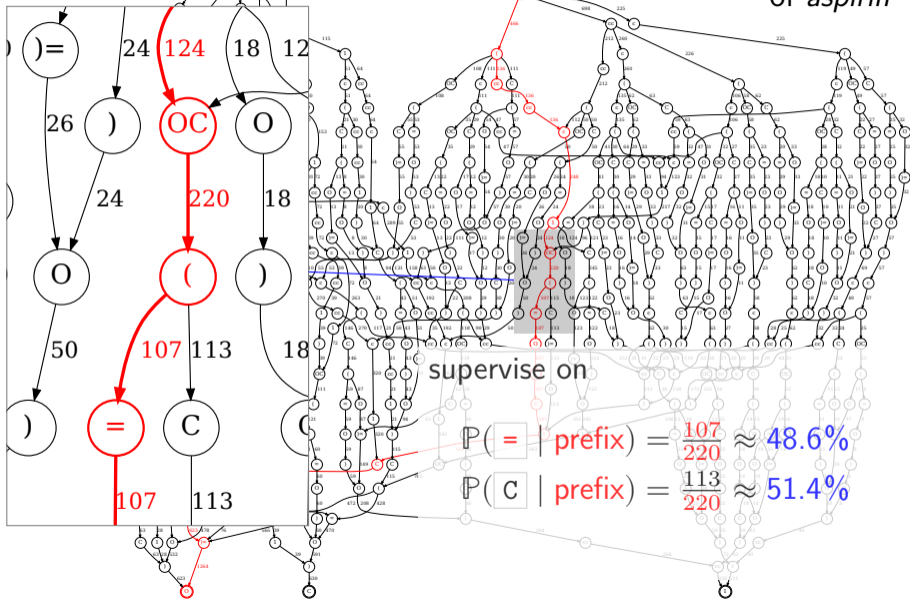
Next-token supervision with GRIMACE

- Key idea: Let's supervise on the next-token distribution directly
- Sample serializations of the same molecule and tokenize them

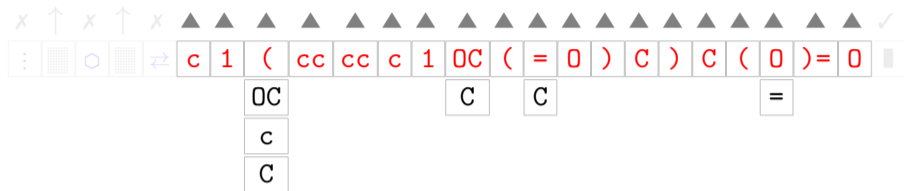
CC	(	=	0	)	0	c	1	c	(	C	(	0	)=	0	)	cc	cc	1
CC	(	=	0	)	0	c	1	c	(	cc	cc	1	)	C	(	0	)=	0
→	c	1	(cc	cc	c	1	OC	(=	0)	C)	C	(0)=	0
	c	1	(	cc	cc	c	1	OC	(	C	)=	0	)	C	(	0	)=	0
	...																		

- ...until a stopping criterion is met (→ appendix)
- Construct the word tree (merge common prefixes and suffixes)
- Count samples passing each out-edge and normalize to probabilities
- To train, pick **one path** per epoch, **supervise on those probabilities**

GRIMACE of *aspirin*



We supervise the output with “teacher forcing” on sequences like



where

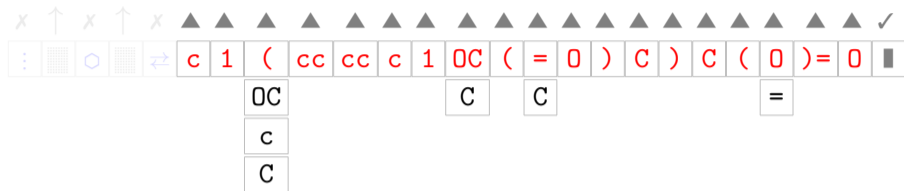
trigger tokens:

- \vdots – vector embedding [9]
- \circ – functional group counts
- \rightleftharpoons – GRIMACE
- \square – not-a-token

supervision:

- \blacktriangle – KL divergence $\times (1 + q)^n$
- \checkmark – cross-entropy
- \times – none
- \uparrow – auxiliary head

We supervise the output with “teacher forcing” on sequences like



where

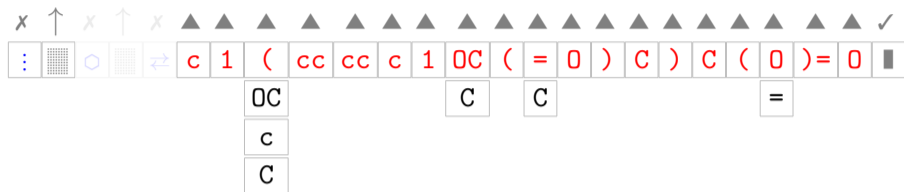
trigger tokens:

- \vdots – vector embedding [9]
- \circ – functional group counts
- \rightleftharpoons – GRIMACE
- \square – not-a-token

supervision:





- \blacktriangle – KL divergence $\times (1 + q)^n$
- \checkmark – cross-entropy
- \times – none
- \uparrow – auxiliary head

We supervise the output with “teacher forcing” on sequences like







where

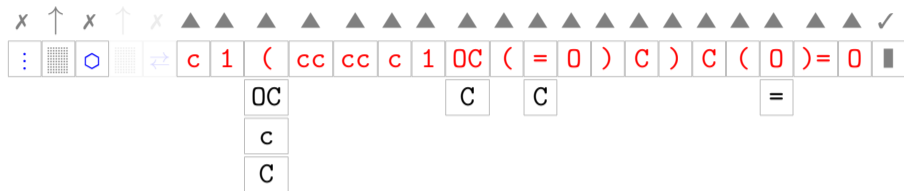
trigger tokens:

-  – vector embedding [9]
-  – functional group counts
-  – GRIMACE
-  – not-a-token

supervision:





-  – KL divergence $\times (1 + q)^n$
-  – cross-entropy
-  – none
-  – auxiliary head

We supervise the output with “teacher forcing” on sequences like







where

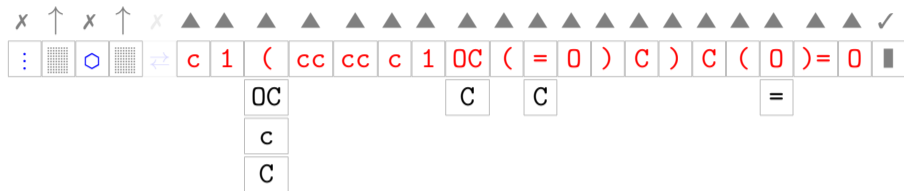
trigger tokens:

-  – vector embedding [9]
-  – functional group counts
-  – GRIMACE
-  – not-a-token

supervision:





-  – KL divergence $\times (1 + q)^n$
-  – cross-entropy
-  – none
-  – auxiliary head

We supervise the output with “teacher forcing” on sequences like







where

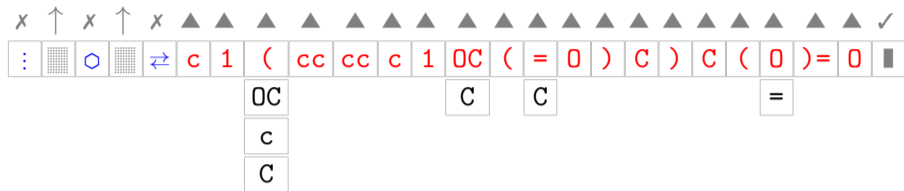
trigger tokens:

-  – vector embedding [9]
-  – functional group counts
-  – GRIMACE
-  – not-a-token

supervision:





-  – KL divergence $\times (1 + q)^n$
-  – cross-entropy
-  – none
-  – auxiliary head

We supervise the output with “teacher forcing” on sequences like



where

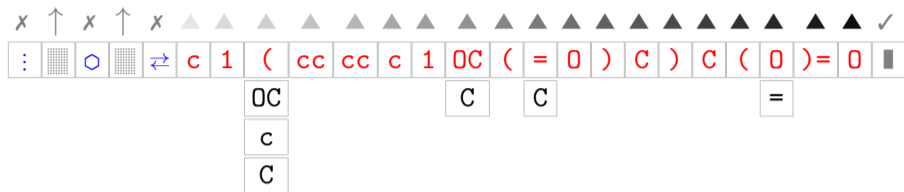
trigger tokens:

-  – vector embedding [9]
-  – functional group counts
-  – GRIMACE
-  – not-a-token

supervision:





- \blacktriangle – KL divergence $\times (1 + q)^n$
- \checkmark – cross-entropy
- x – none
- \uparrow – auxiliary head

We supervise the output with “teacher forcing” on sequences like







where

trigger tokens:

-  – vector embedding [9]
-  – functional group counts
-  – GRIMACE
-  – not-a-token

supervision:

-  – KL divergence $\times (1 + q)^n$
-  – cross-entropy
-  – none
-  – auxiliary head



Training & results

We trained

- the $\sim 83\text{M}^\circ$ DistilGPT2 decoder-only transformer
- on the Alberts et al. [1] dataset
- on an NVIDIA GH200
- to infer

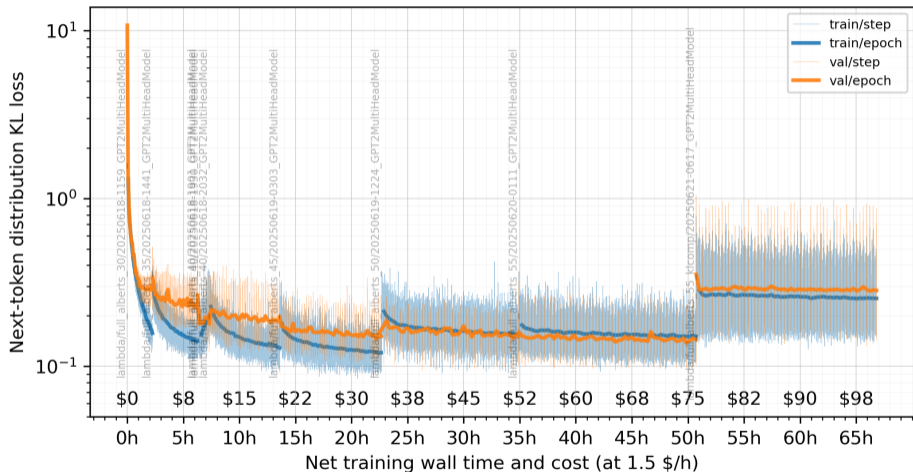
– up to $\sim 560\text{k}$ training samples

– ARM64 + H100: 96 GB VRAM, 64 vCPUs, 432 GiB RAM

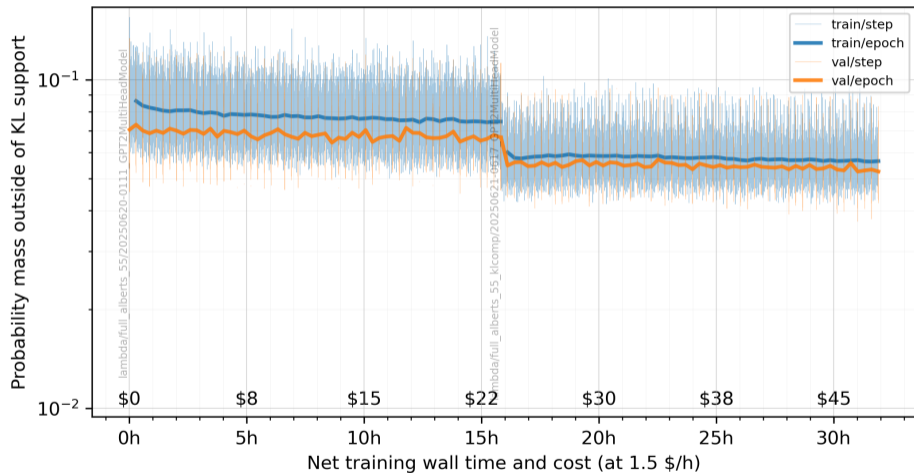
F + Q + C + H \rightarrow  GRIMACE 

- through a curriculum of increasing SMILES length:
 1. 30 epochs on $|\text{SMILES}| \leq 30$ from the pre-trained state
 2. 35 epochs on $|\text{SMILES}| \leq 35$
 3. 40 epochs on $|\text{SMILES}| \leq 40$
 4. 45 epochs on $|\text{SMILES}| \leq 45$
 5. 50 epochs on $|\text{SMILES}| \leq 50$
 6. 55 epochs on $|\text{SMILES}| \leq 55$
 7. 55 epochs on $|\text{SMILES}| \leq 55$ with KL geometric weight 5%

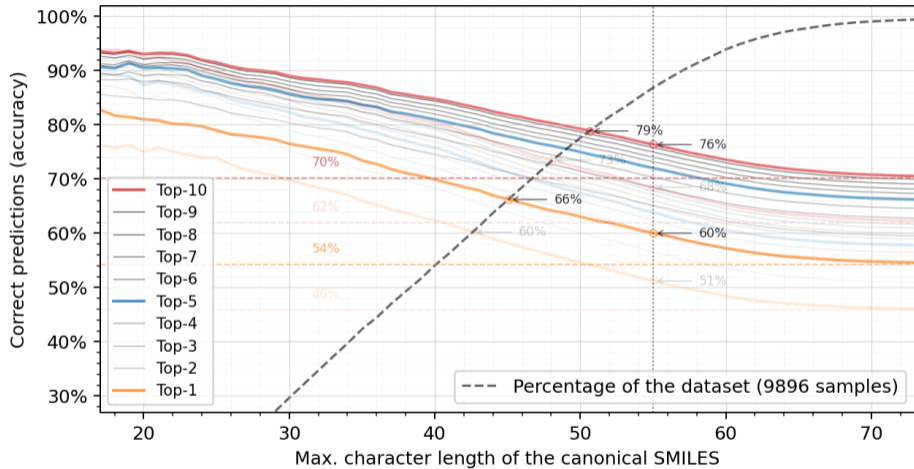
KL loss during training runs 1 to 6 (no KL weight) and 7 (with KL weight)



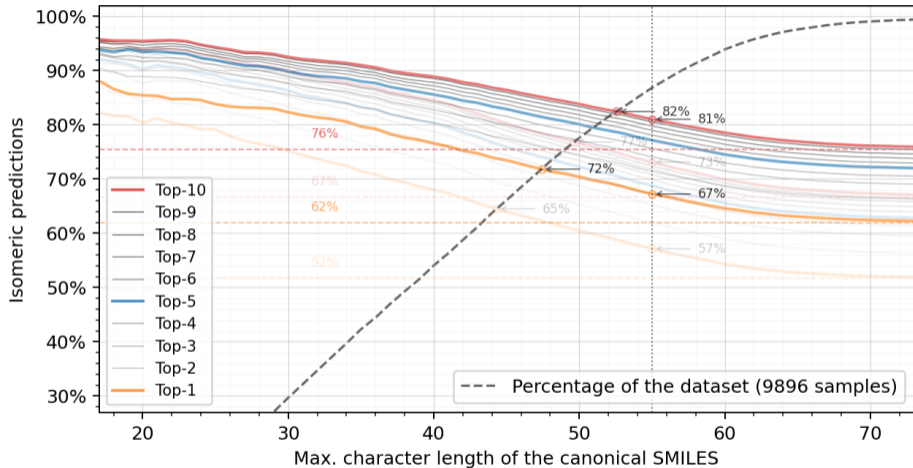
Off-support loss during training (last two runs: effect of KL weight)



Accuracy on the test set (exact match)

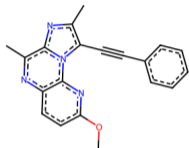


Accuracy on the test set (stereo-isomer match – ignoring stereochemistry)

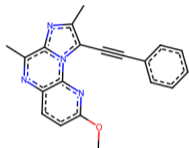


Example: the top-10 predictions for a test sample

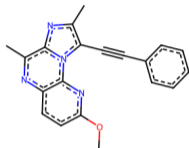
c1(C)c2n(c(C#Cc3ccccc3)(C)n2)c2c(ccc(n2)OC)n1



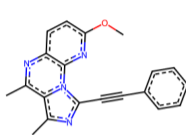
c1(C)c2n(c(C#Cc3ccccc3)(C)n2)c2c(ccc(OC)n2)n1



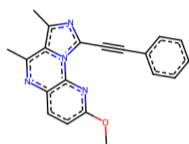
c1(C)c2n(c(C#Cc3ccccc3)(n2)C)c2c(ccc(n2)OC)n1



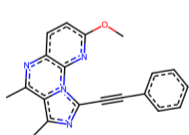
C#Cc1ccccc1c1n2c(c(C)nc3c2nc(cc3)OC)c(C)n1



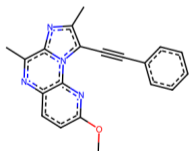
C#Cc1ccccc1c1n2c3c(cccn3)OC)nc(c2c(C)n1)C



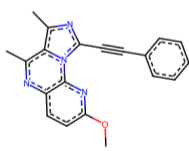
c1ccccc1C#Cc1n2c(c(C)nc3c2nc(cc3)OC)c(C)n1



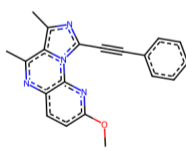
c1(C)c2n(c(C#Cc3ccccc3)(n2)C)c2c(ccc(OC)n2)n1



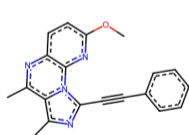
C#Cc1ccccc1c1n2c(c(C)nc3ccc(nc32)OC)c(C)n1



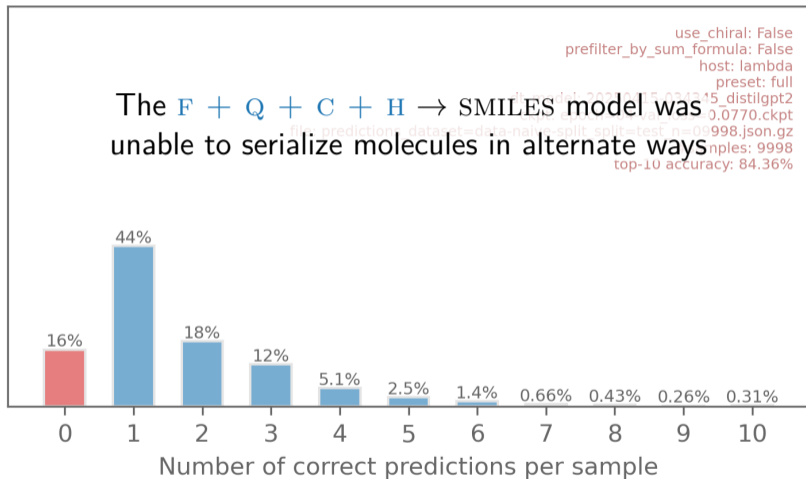
C#Cc1ccccc1c1n2c(c(C)nc3ccc(nc23)OC)c(C)n1



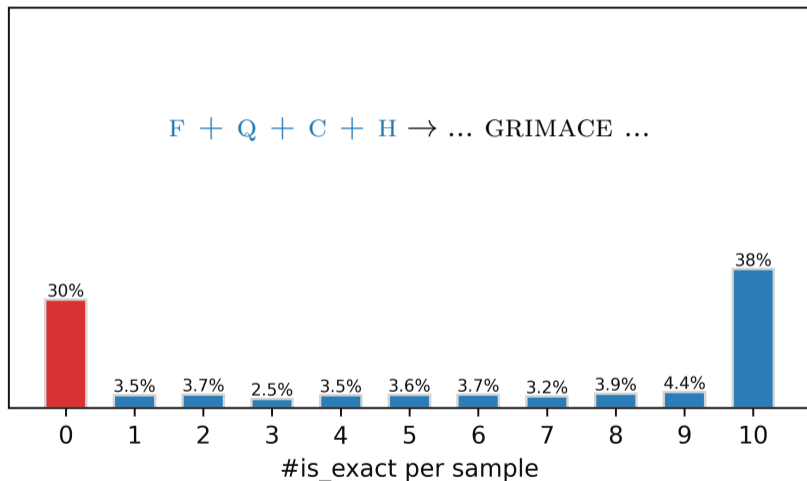
c1cc(ccc1)C#Cc1n2c(c(C)nc3c2nc(cc3)OC)c(C)n1



Diversity of predictions

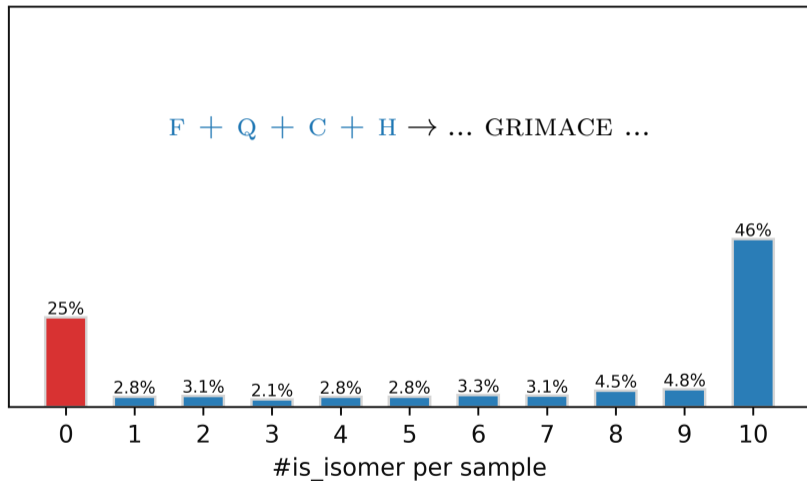


Diversity of predictions



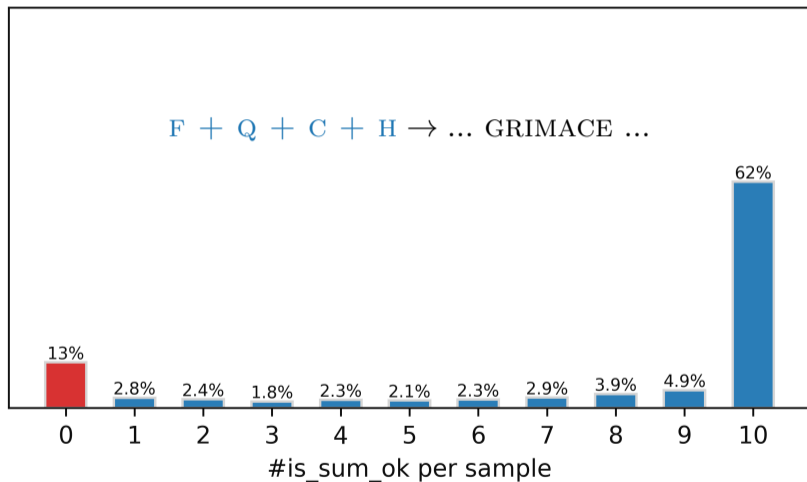
In 38% of test samples, all 10 predictions are exact

Diversity of predictions



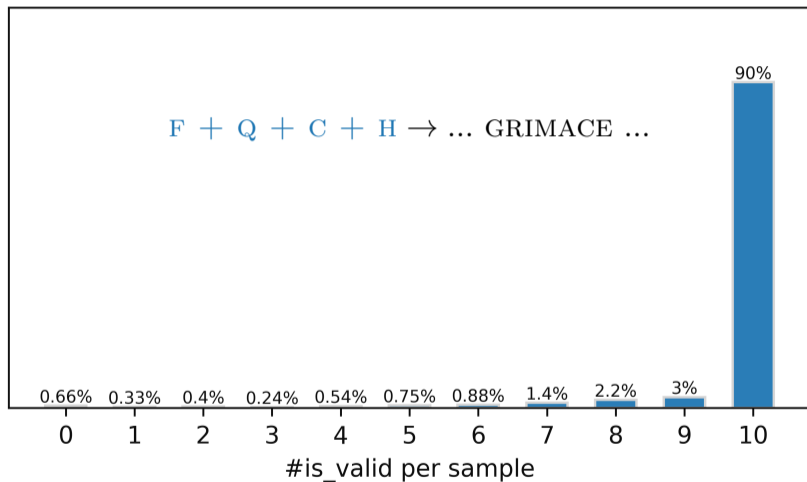
Stereo-isomer = equal connectivity (modulo 3d flags)

Diversity of predictions



How often is the chemical sum formula correct?

Diversity of predictions



How often is the generated SMILES valid?

Cf. Fig. 9 from the SI to Hu et al. [6]:

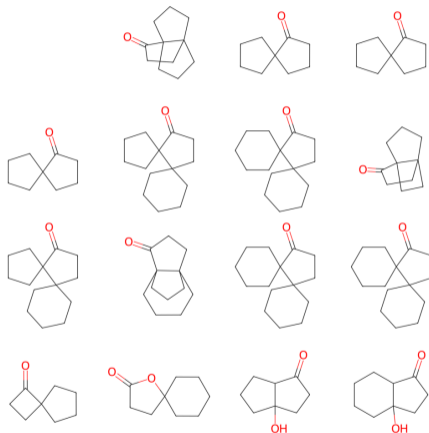


Figure 9: An example of one of the molecules correctly predicted by the substructure-to-structure transformer model (top left, black box) and all 15 structures generated by the model.

Cf. Fig. 9 from the SI to Hu et al. [6]:

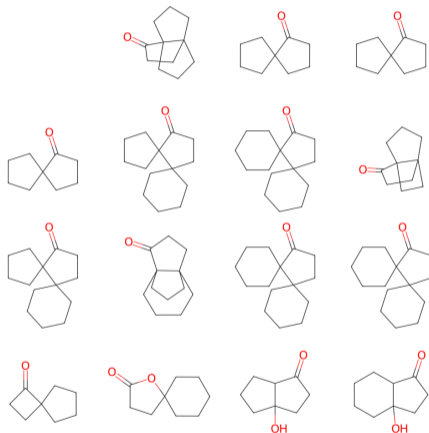


Figure 9: An example of one of the molecules correctly predicted by the substructure-to-structure transformer model (top left, black box) and all 15 structures generated by the model.

Cf. Fig. 9 from the SI to Hu et al. [6]:

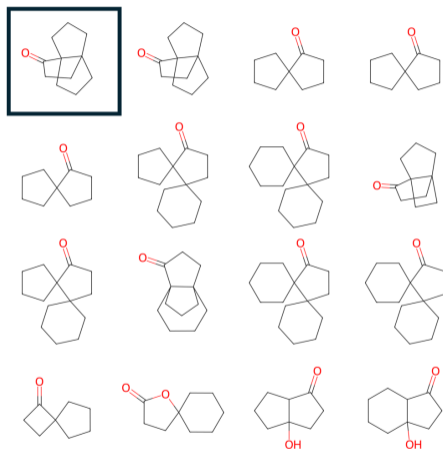
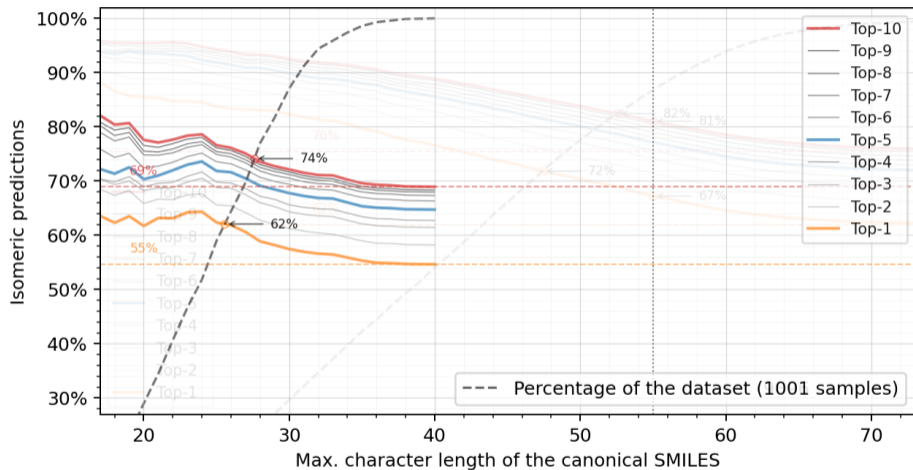
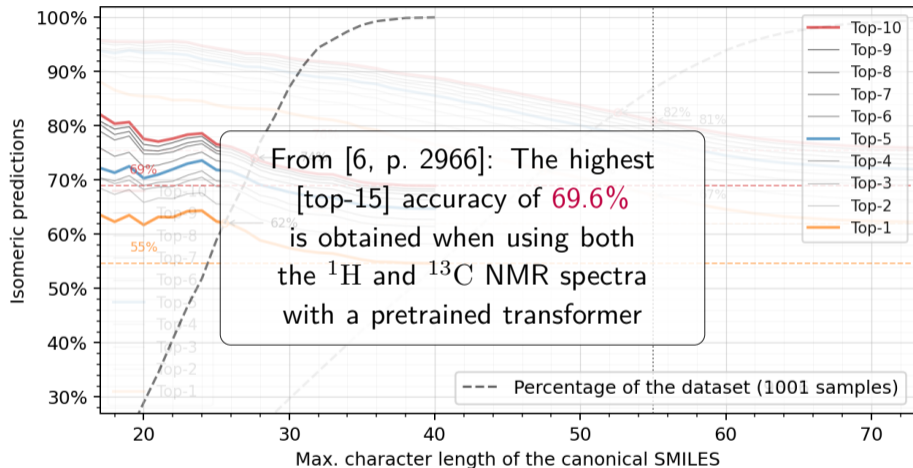


Figure 9: An example of one of the molecules correctly predicted by the substructure-to-structure transformer model (top left, black box) and all 15 structures generated by the model.

Evaluation on SpectraBase (simulated; as in Hu et al. [6])



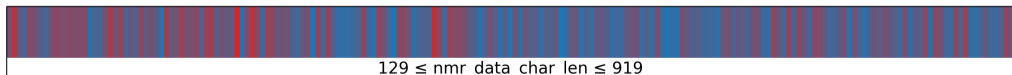
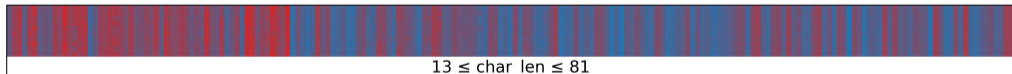
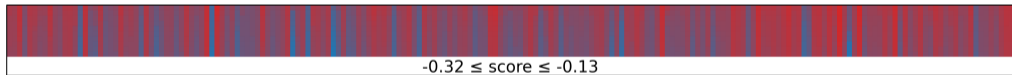
Evaluation on SpectraBase (simulated; as in Hu et al. [6])

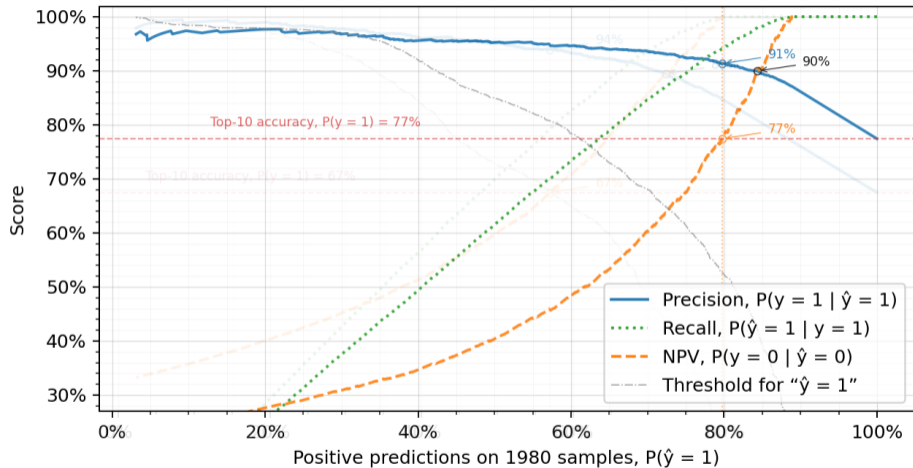


“Flag plot” of 10 hypotheses \times 200 test samples

low

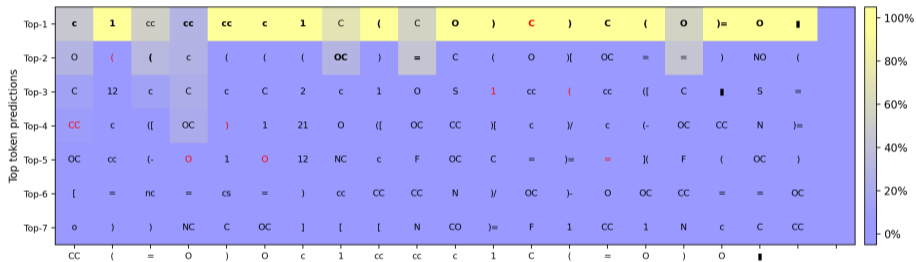
high



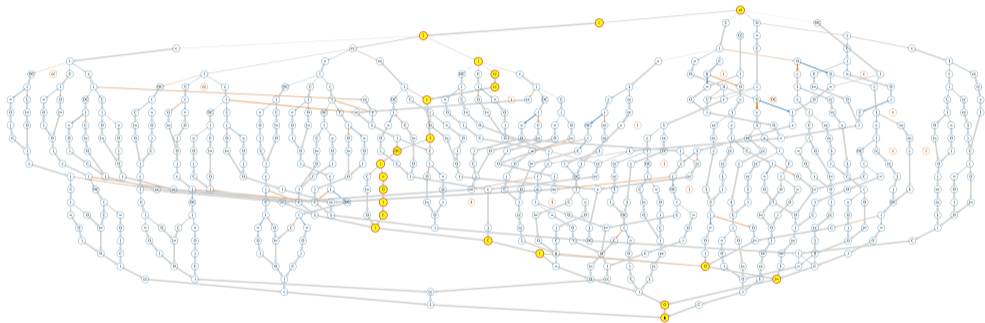


Meta-classifier for $y =$ "Is there a top-10 stereo-isomer match?" has $\mathbb{P}(\hat{y} = y) \approx 90\%$

Aspirin



Aspirin





Recap & outlook

Graph representation integrating multiple alternate chemical equivalents is a novel* way of teaching chemical structures to language transformers

It allows the model to express uncertainty

The multimodal NMR annotation → GRIMACE multi-task transformer achieves ~80% top-10 accuracy on ~80% of the synthetic dataset (and we can tell with ~90% confidence)

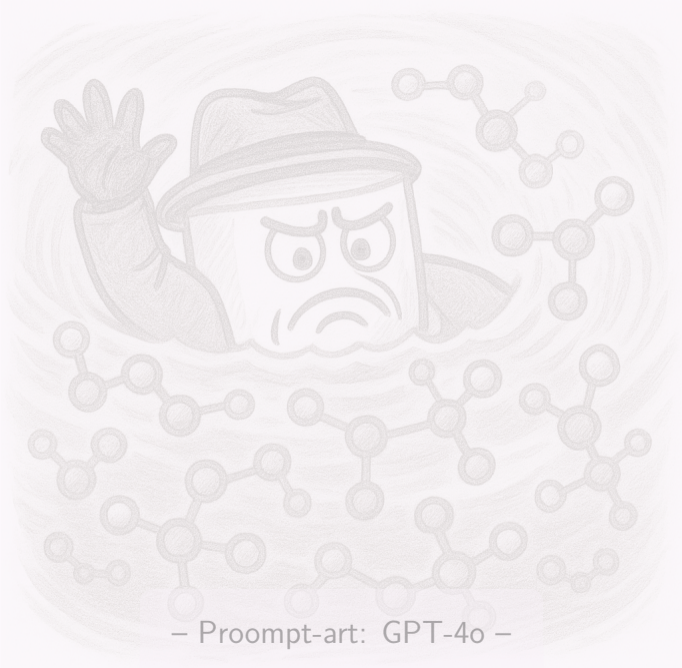
Outlook

Spectroscopy:

- A data-driven model of variability in experimental NMR spectra
- Cycle-consistent search with “NMR \rightarrow GRIMACE” as a prior

GRIMACE:

- Optical hand-written molecule recognition
- A spectrum-aware auto-encoder for molecules
- An efficient way to compute the reference GRIMACE



– Prompt-art: GPT-4o –



References I

- [1] M Alberts et al. “Unraveling molecular structure: A multimodal spectroscopic dataset for chemistry”. *NeurIPS 2024 Datasets and Benchmarks Track*. 2024.
- [2] B Hong et al. “Biosynthesis of strychnine”. *Nature* 607 (2022), pp. 617–622.
- [3] D Lowe. *Chemical reactions from US patents (1976–Sep2016)*. figshare, 2017.
- [4] M Alberts, F Zipoli, and AC Vaucher. “Learning the language of NMR: Structure elucidation from NMR spectra using transformer models”. *ChemRxiv* (2023).
- [5] M Alberts, N Hartrampf, and T Laino. “Automated structure elucidation at human-level accuracy via a multimodal multitask language model”. *ChemRxiv* (2025).
- [6] F Hu et al. “Accurate and efficient structure elucidation from routine one-dimensional NMR spectra using multitask machine learning”. *ACS Central Science* 10.11 (2024), pp. 2162–2170.



References II

- [7] S Kim et al. “PubChem 2025 update”. *Nucleic Acids Research* 53.D1 (2025), pp. D1516–D1525.
- [8] EJ Bjerrum. “SMILES enumeration as data augmentation for neural network modeling of molecules”. *arXiv 1703.07076* (2017).
- [9] W Ahmad et al. “ChemBERTa-2: Towards chemical foundation models”. *arXiv 2209.01712v1* (2022).
- [10] E Jonas. “Deep imitation learning for molecular inverse problems”. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*. Vol. 32. 2019.

Appendix

The multi-task objective

$$\text{minimize} \quad \sum_{\text{task}} (\sigma_{\text{task}}^{-2} \text{softplus}(\text{loss}_{\text{task}}) + \log \sigma_{\text{task}}^2)$$

with trainable σ_{task} , consists of the task-specific losses:

- for the “chembedding” head

$$\mathbf{e} \mapsto \frac{1}{n} \left(\frac{1}{2} \|T\mathbf{e}\|_2^2 - \log \det T + \frac{n}{2} \log 2\pi \right), \quad n = 384,$$

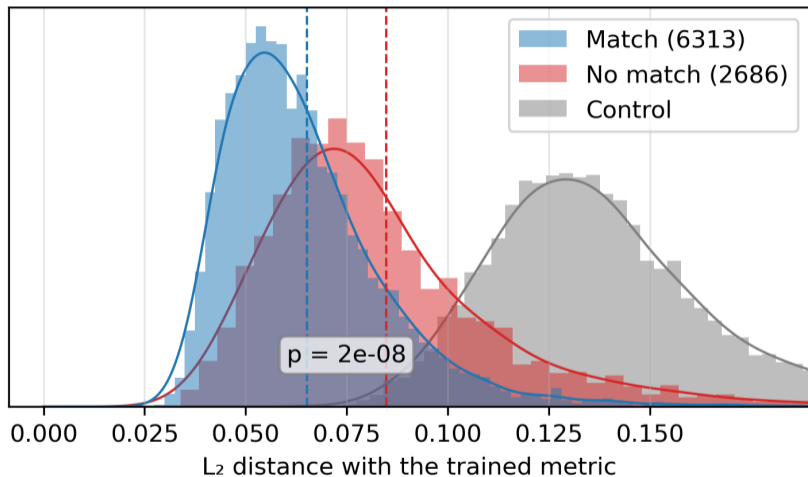
- for the “log(1 + functional group count)” head

$$\mathbf{f} \mapsto \frac{1}{m} (\|S\mathbf{f}\|_1 - \log \det S + m \log 2), \quad m = 289,$$

- average KL loss for the GRIMACE,
- cross-entropy loss for the end-of-sequence token,

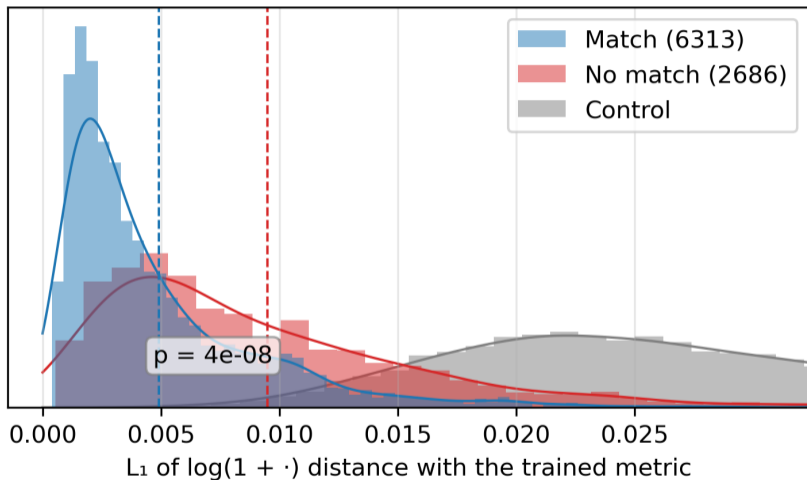
where T and S are trainable matrices.

“chembedding” head loss

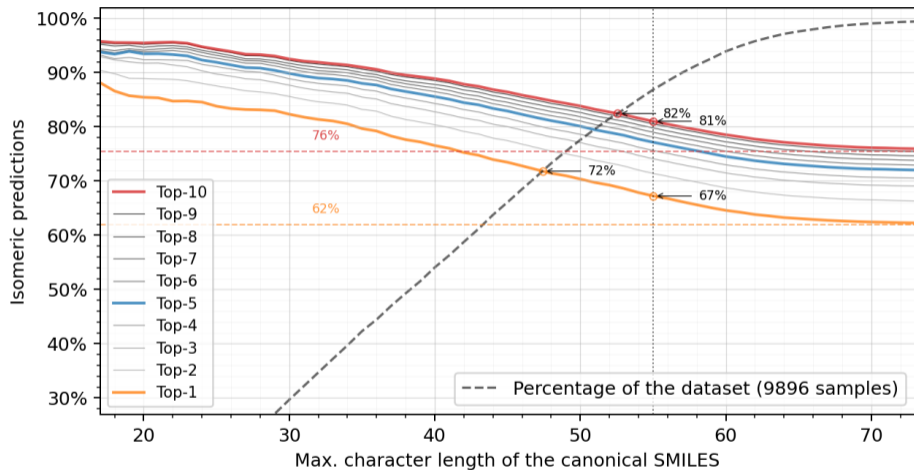


$\frac{1}{\sqrt{n}} \|T \cdot\|_2$ -norm, stratified by whether there is a top-10 match

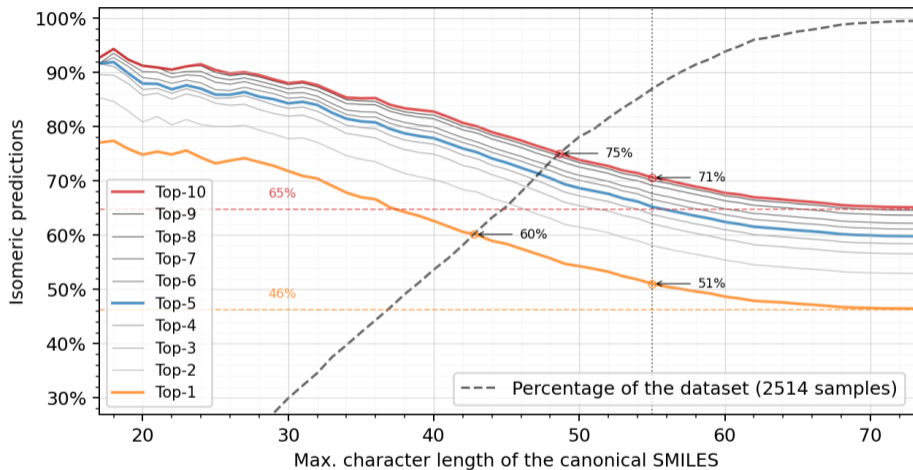
Functional group count loss



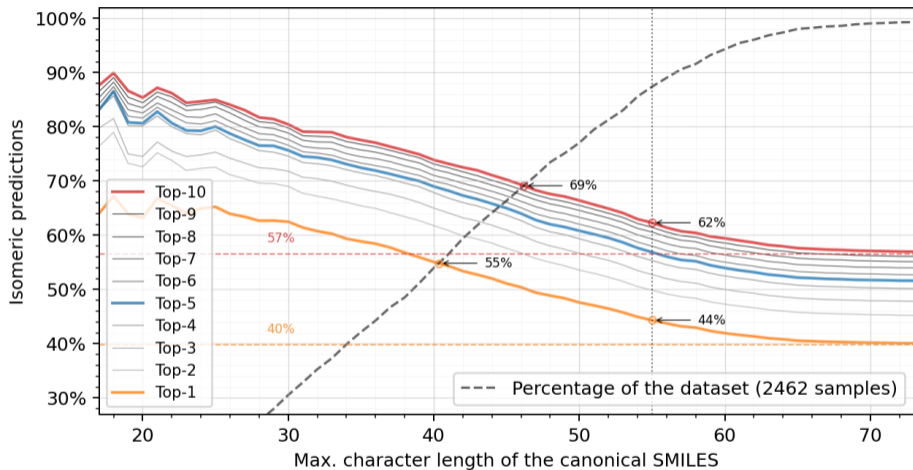
$\frac{1}{m} \|S \cdot\|_1$ -norm, stratified by whether there is a top-10 match



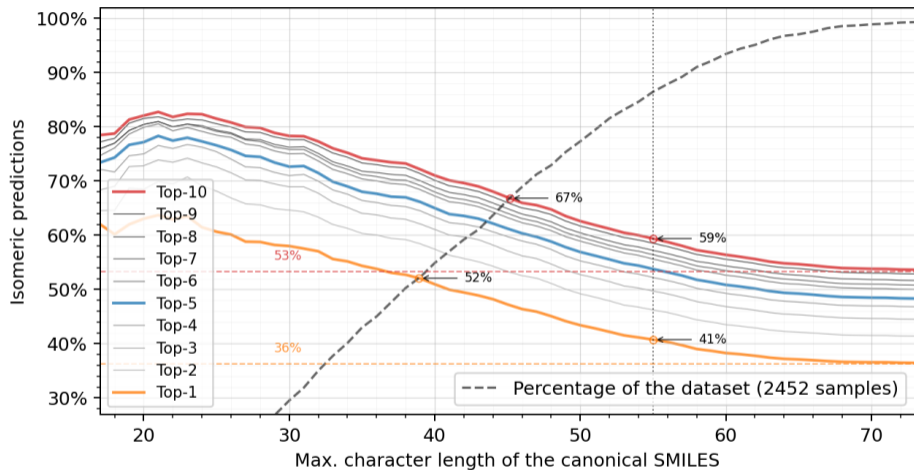
Original training



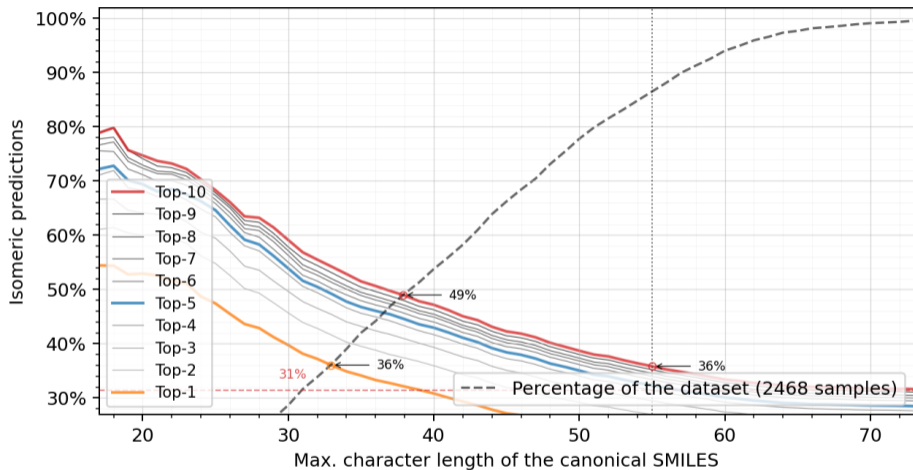
After fine-tuning on the validation set with HSQC / C-NMR dropout



After fine-tuning, evaluated on $F + Q + \otimes + H$ test set



After fine-tuning, evaluated on **F** + **X** + **C** + **H** test set



After fine-tuning, evaluated on $F + \text{Ⓚ} + \text{Ⓚ} + H$ test set

- Embed samples in euclidean space [9]
- Cluster with k-means
- Take the outer 10% of each cluster
- These become validation/test samples
- ...plus the same number from the inner
- The remaining samples are for training

- Embed samples in euclidean space [9]
- Cluster with k-means
- Take the outer 10% of each cluster
- These become validation/test samples plus the same number from the inner
- The remaining samples are for training

- Embed samples in euclidean space [9]
- Cluster with k-means
- Take the outer 10% of each cluster
- These become validation/test samples
 - ...plus the same number from the inner
- The remaining samples are for training

- Embed samples in euclidean space [9]
- Cluster with k-means
- Take the outer 10% of each cluster
- These become validation/test samples
- ...plus the same number from the inner
- The remaining samples are for training

- Embed samples in euclidean space [9]
- Cluster with k-means
- Take the outer 10% of each cluster
- These become validation/test samples
- ...plus the same number from the inner
- The remaining samples are for training

- Embed samples in euclidean space [9]
- Cluster with k-means
- Take the outer 10% of each cluster
- These become validation/test samples
- ...plus the same number from the inner
- The remaining samples are for training

- Embed samples in euclidean space [9]
- Cluster with k-means
- Take the outer 10% of each cluster
- These become validation/test samples
- ...plus the same number from the inner
- The remaining samples are for training

Collecting random serializations

