

# Chemography applications to drug design: from (ultra)large libraries analysis to de novo design of molecules and reactions

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*Novartis, 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2023*



# Chemography

- $\sim 10^9$  compounds are physically available
- $< 10^{26}$  structures are stored in proprietary DBs
- $\sim 10^{33}$  drug-like molecules could be synthesized \*



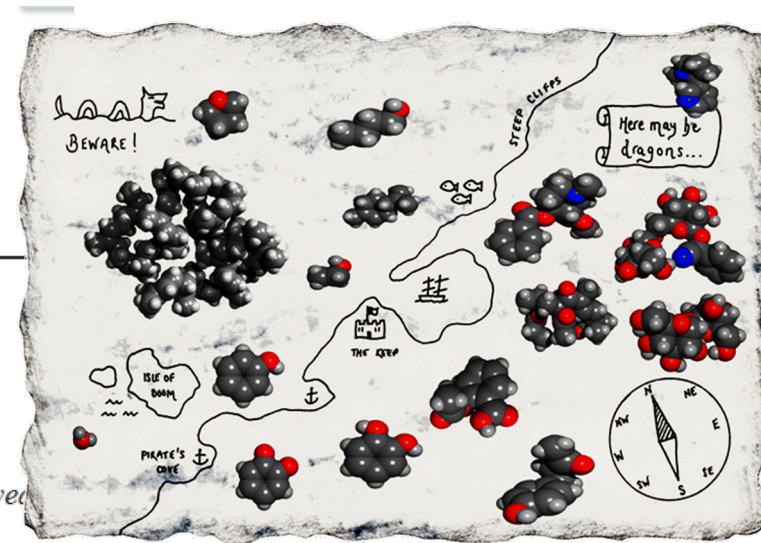
*J. Comb. Chem.* 2001, 3, 157–166

## Articles

### Chemography: The Art of Navigating in Chemical Space

Tudor I. Oprea<sup>\*,†</sup> and Johan Gottfries<sup>‡</sup>

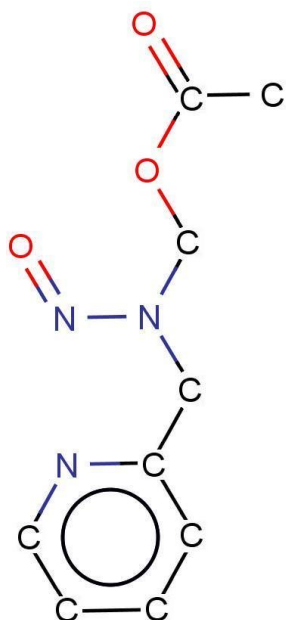
*EST Lead Informatics and Medicinal Chemistry, AstraZeneca R&D Mölndal, S-43183 Mölndal, Sweden*



\* P. Polischuk, T. Madzidov, A. Varnek, *J. Comp. Aided Mol. Des.* 2013, 27, p. 675-679

# Encoding chemical structures by molecular descriptors

Molecular graph



Descriptors

Constitutional descriptors  
Ring descriptors  
Topological indices  
Walk and path counts  
Connectivity indices  
Information indices  
2D matrix-based descriptors  
2D autocorrelations  
Burden eigenvalues  
P\_VSA-like descriptors  
ETA indices  
Edge adjacency indices  
Geometrical descriptors  
3D matrix-based descriptors  
3D autocorrelations

.....

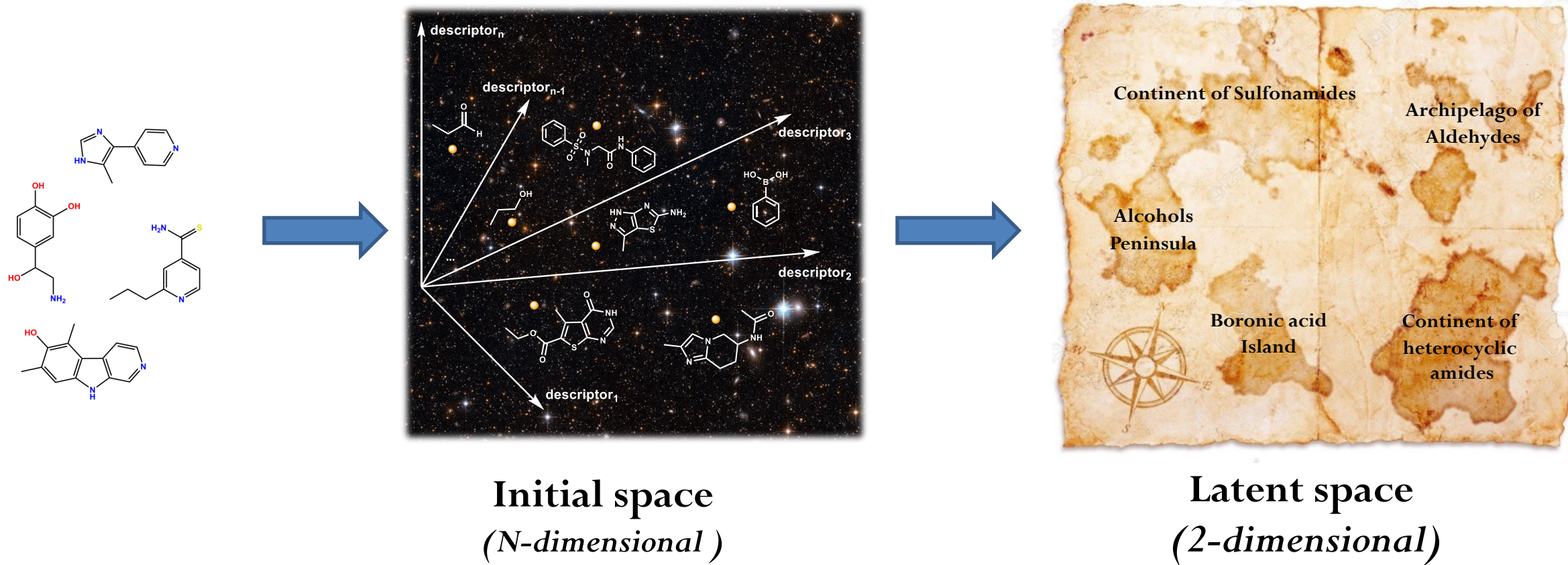
Descriptor vector

Descriptor	Value
$D_1$	$a_1$
$D_2$	$a_2$
....	...
$D_i$	$a_i$
....	...



> 5000 types of descriptors are used

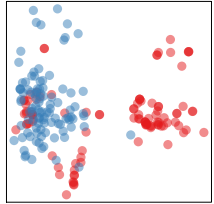
# Data visualization: dimensionality reduction problem



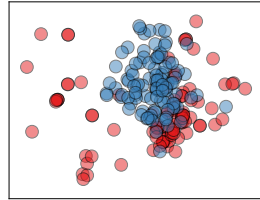


# Dimensionality reduction methods

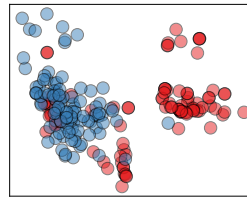
Acetylcholinesterase dataset (DUD) : 100 actives and 100 inactives



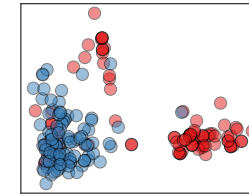
Multi-Dimensional  
Scaling



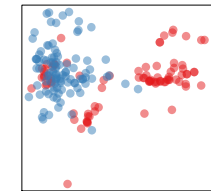
Canonical Correlation Analysis



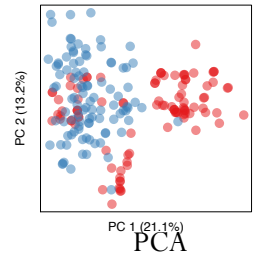
Independent Component Analysis



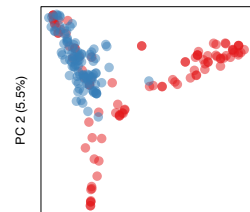
Exploratory Factor Analysis



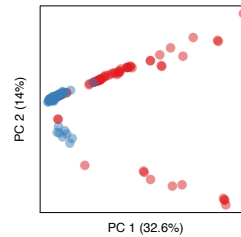
Sammon map



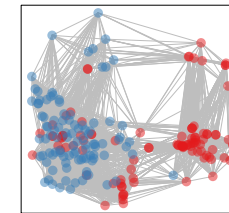
PCA



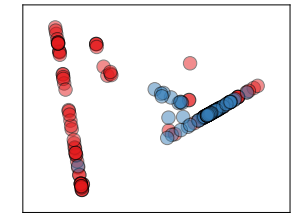
Kernel PCA (RBF kernel)



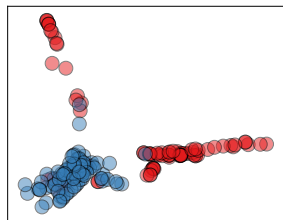
Kernel PCA (polynomial kernel)



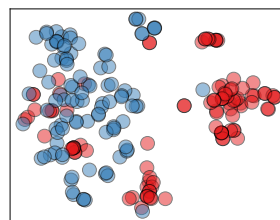
Isomap



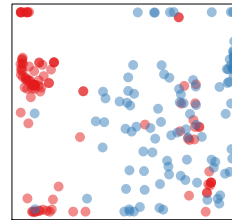
Locally Linear Embedding



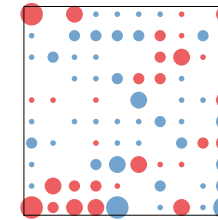
Laplacian Eigenmaps



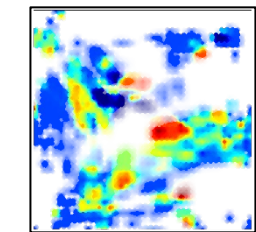
t-SNE



Autoencoder dimensionality reduction



SOM



GTM

# Generative Topographic Mapping : areas of application

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Conformational space analysis

Data visualisation and analysis

Ligand to Protein docking

Library comparison

Sequence space analysis

Structure-Activity modeling

Drugs repurposing

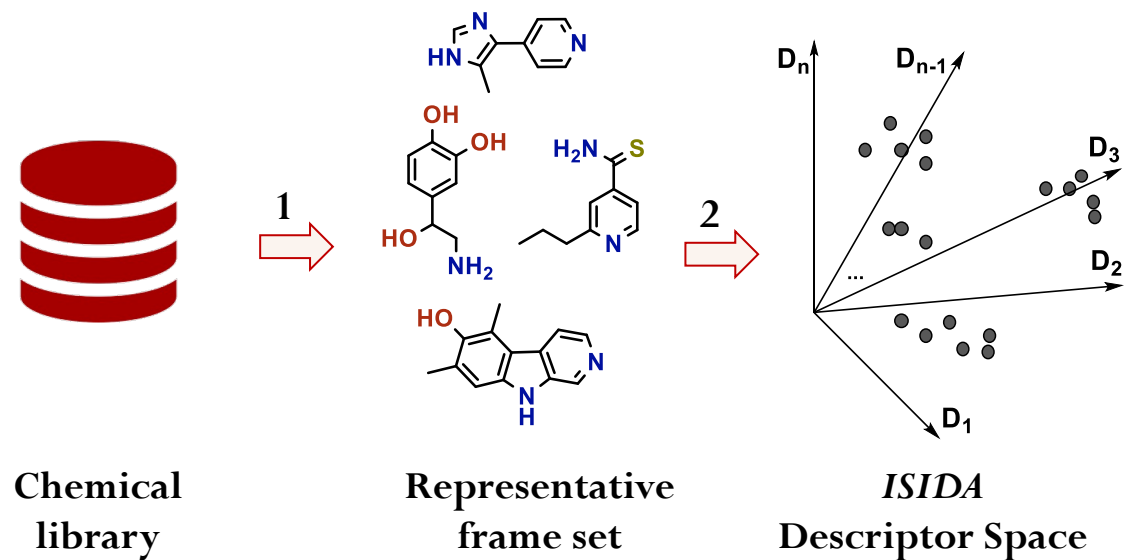
Virtual screening

Library design

*de novo* design

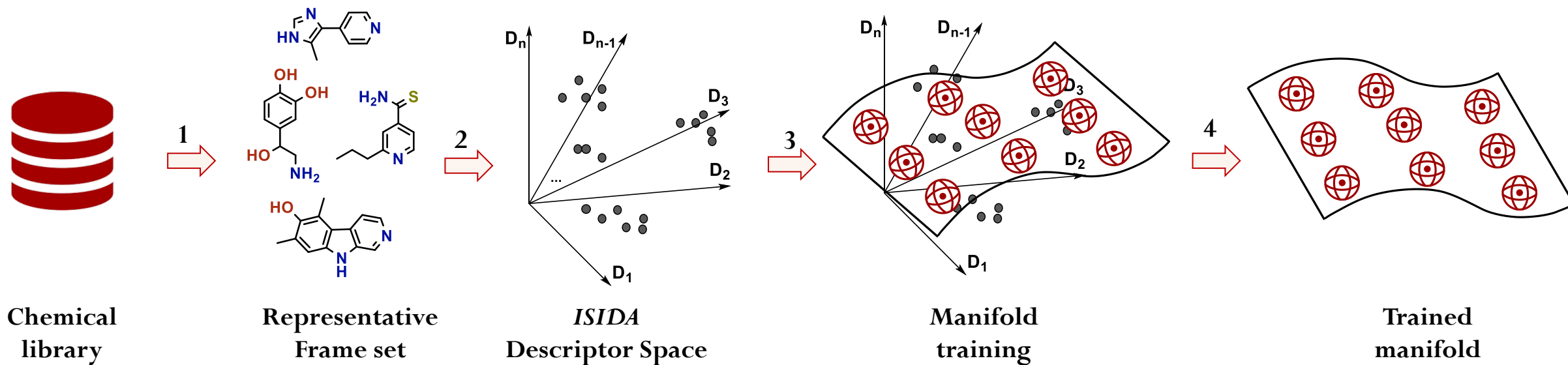


# Generative Topographic Mapping (GTM)



1. Frame set selection
2. Molecules are represented in  $n$ -dimensional descriptor space

# Generative Topographic Mapping (GTM)



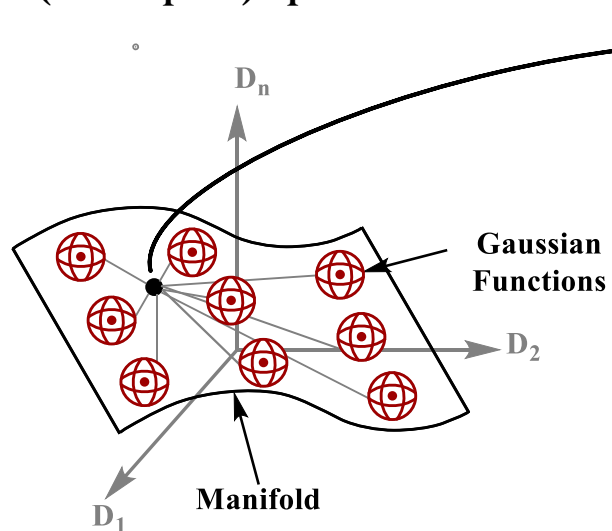
1. Frame set selection
2. Molecules are represented in  $n$ -dimensional descriptor space
3. A flexible 2D *manifold* is fitted to the data
4. Coordinates of the manifold are saved



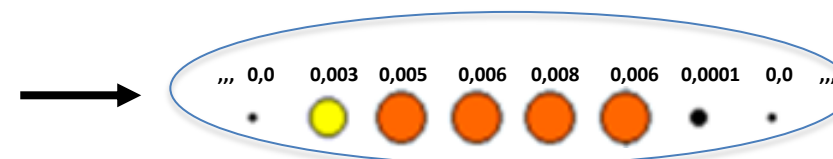
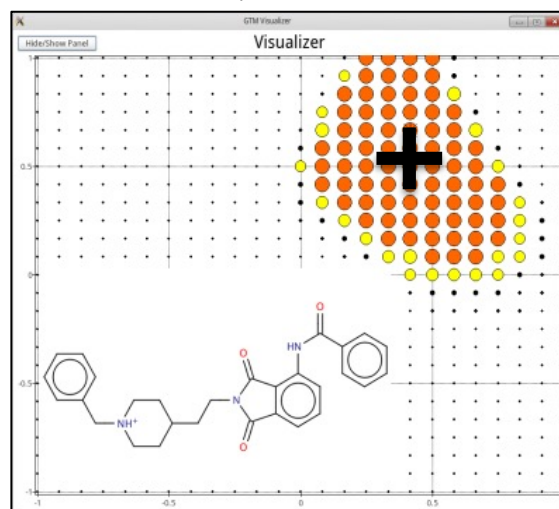
# Fuzzy nature of GTM

- GTM generates a data “probability” distribution in both initial and latent data spaces.
- *Initial space* : ensemble of Gaussian functions situated in the nodes of a grid superposed with the manifold
- *Latent space*: fuzzy projection on the nodes of flattened grid

Initial (descriptor) Space



Latent space



*Molecule*  $\rightarrow$  Responsibility (node residence « time ») vector of dimension  $N_{nodes}$

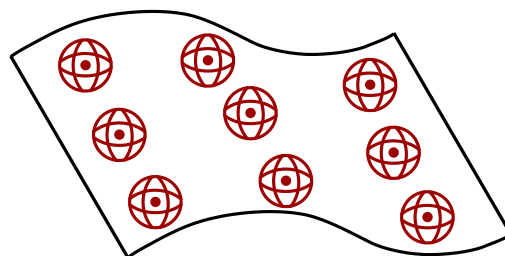
# Density landscapes

- display the compounds distribution in the chemical space
- spotting the regions that are under or overpopulated

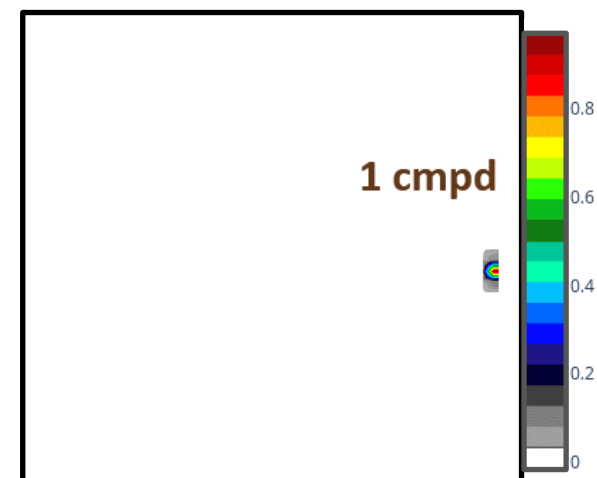
New data



Trained manifold



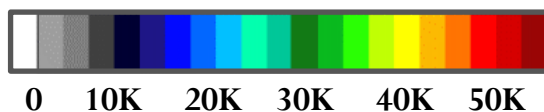
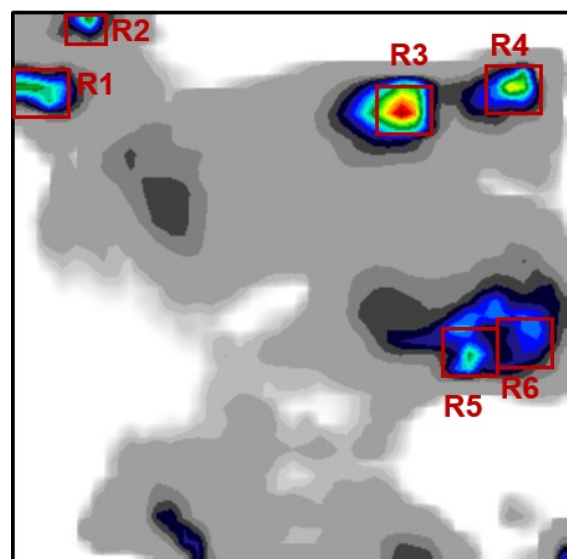
Density landscape



*Library* → Cumulated Responsibility vector

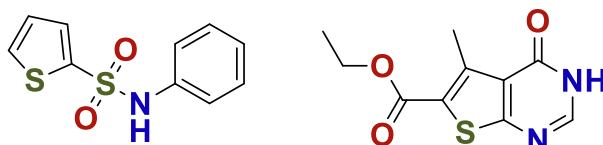
# Chemical analysis with density maps

Every populated zone can be associated with some “chemotype”.

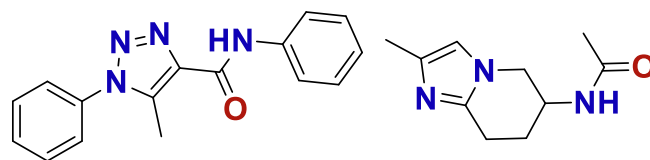


Lead-Like ZINC-In-Stock  
(3.2M cmpds)

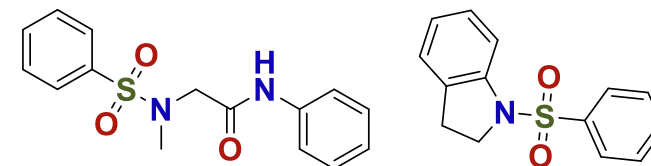
**R1: Thiophenes**



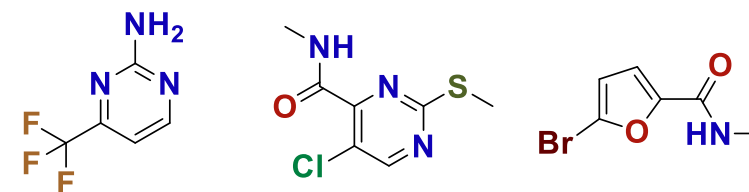
**R3: Heterocyclic amides**



**R4: Benzensulphonamides**

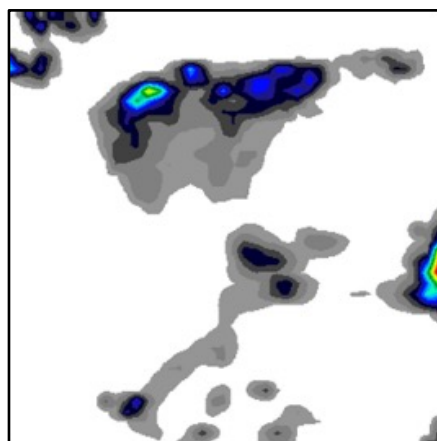


**R6: Halloginated heterocycles**



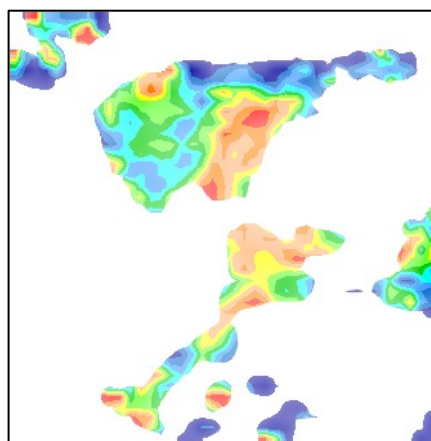
# GTM Landscapes

Density landscape



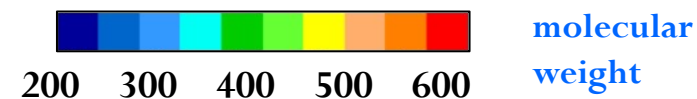
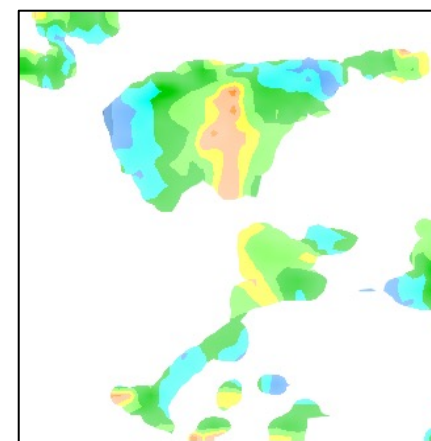
Colored according to the cumulated responsibilities in each node

Class landscape



Colored according to the resident class ratio weighted by responsibility

Property (activity) landscape

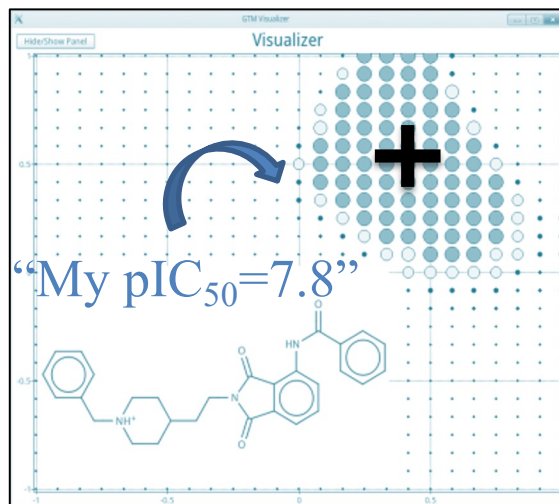
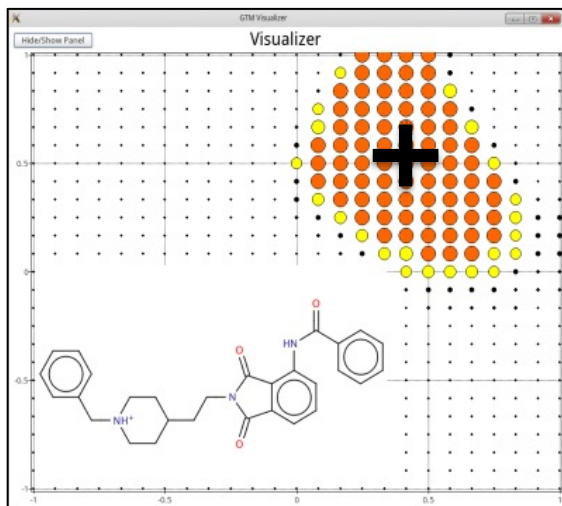


Colored according to the weighted average of selected activity (property)



# GTM Nodes act as Knowledge Repositories...

Increment “node  $pIC_{50}$ ” by  $R_n \times 7.8$



... and, after all “training” compounds contributed their increments, **normalize** node values by the total cumulated responsibility in there!

$$\langle P \rangle_n = \frac{\sum_m P_m R_n(m)}{\sum_m R_n(m)}$$

May want to weigh by node trustworthiness!

- Low-density nodes are not trustworthy!
- Mixed nodes (harboring residents with widely diverging properties) are not trustworthy!

for prediction, copy from node back to molecule:

$$P_{pred}(m') = \frac{\sum_n \langle P \rangle_n R_n(m')}{\sum_n R_n(m')} = \sum_n \langle P \rangle_n R_n(m')$$


# Trustworthiness, the Key to Grid-Based Map-Driven Predictive Model Enhancement and Applicability Domain Control

Dragos Horvath,\* Gilles Marcou, and Alexandre Varnek

 Cite This: <https://dx.doi.org/10.1021/acs.jcim.0c00998>

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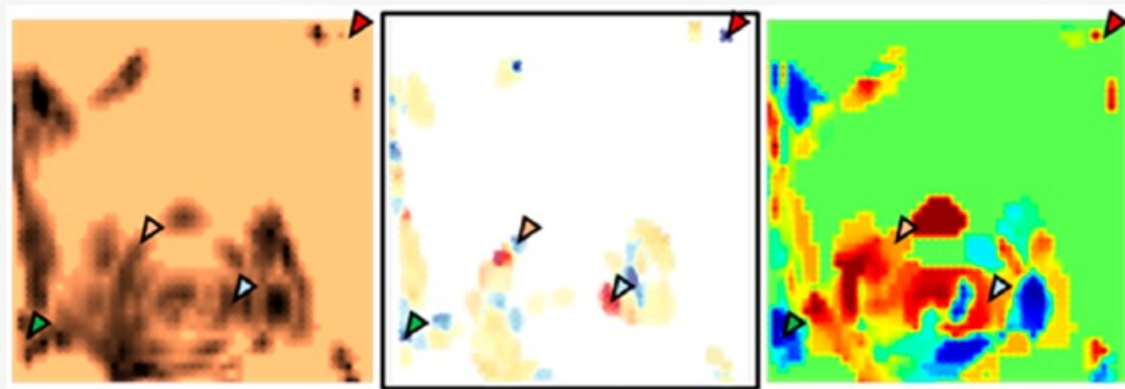
ACCESS |

 Metrics & More

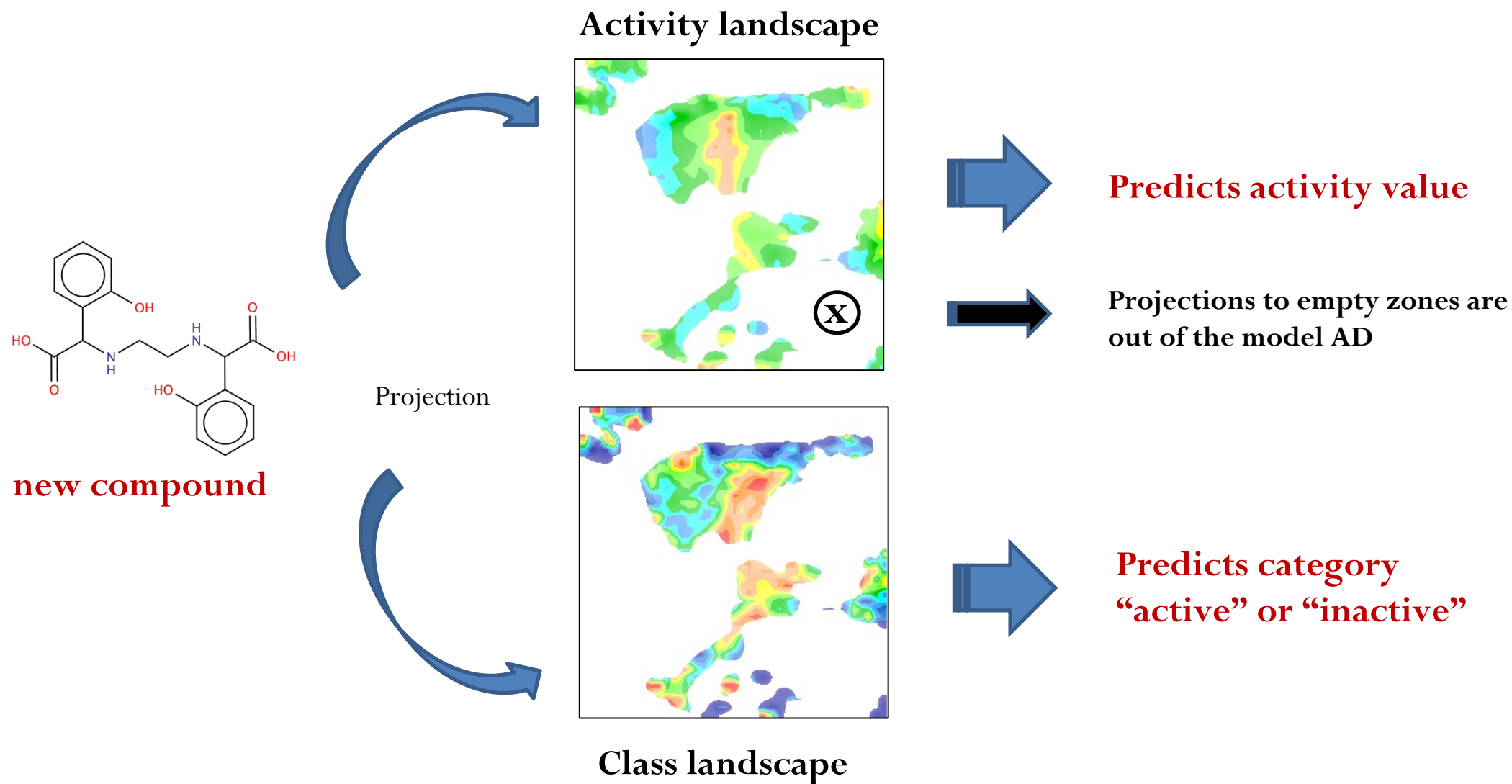
 Article Recommendations

 Supporting Information

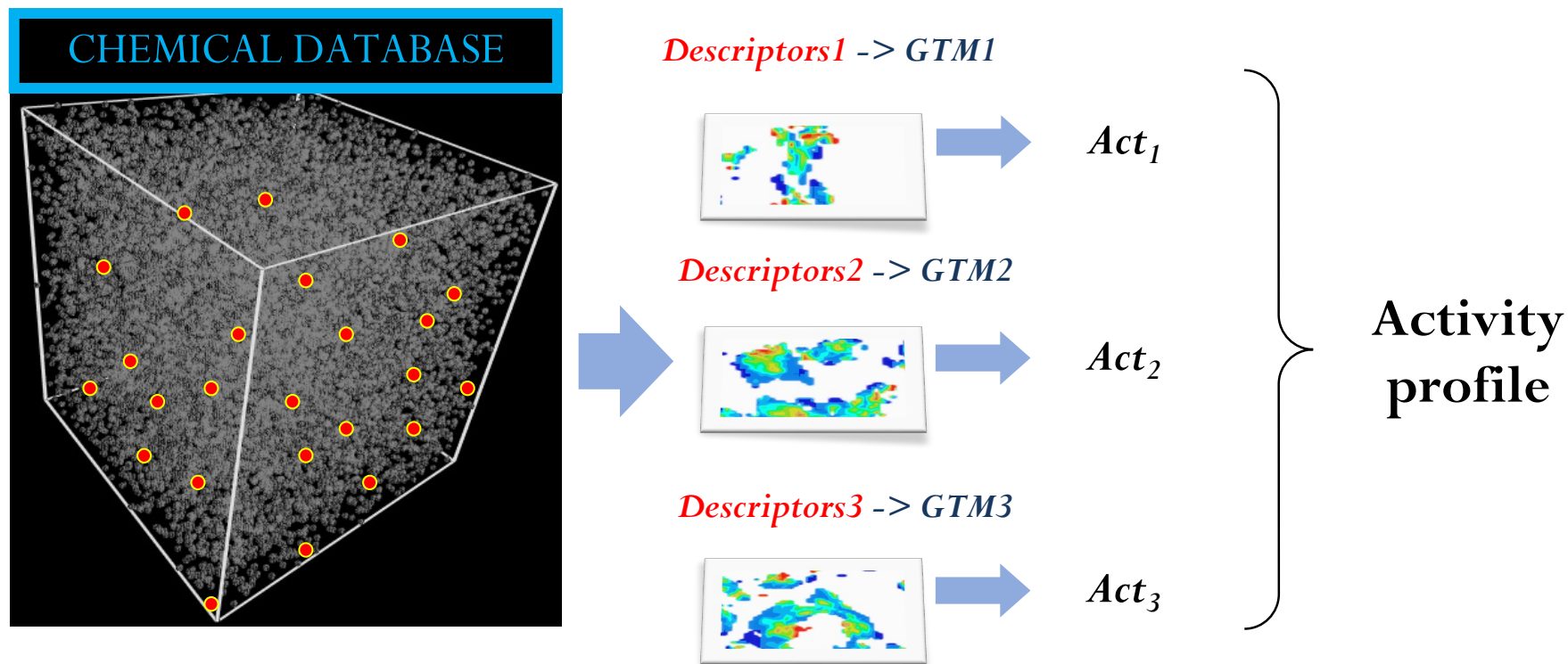
**ABSTRACT:** In chemography, grid-based maps sample molecular descriptor space by injecting a set of nodes, and then linking them to some regular 2D grid representing the map. They include self-organizing maps (SOMs) and generative topographic maps (GTM). Grid-based maps are predictive because any compound thereupon projected can “inherit” the properties of its residence node(s)—node properties themselves “inherited” from node-neighboring training set compounds. This Article proposes a formalism to define the trustworthiness of these nodes as



# GTM Landscapes as predictive models



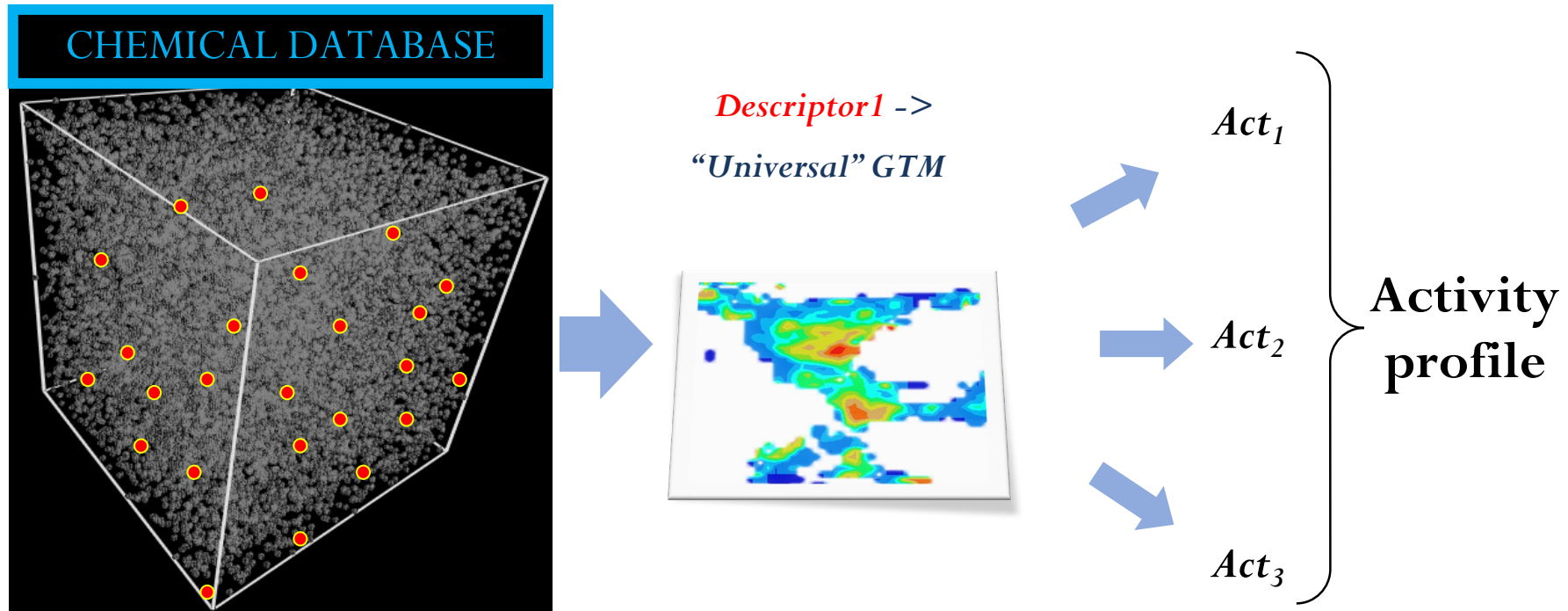
# GTM-based pharmacological profiling: single-task mode



Each  $GTM_i$  predicts only one activity ( $Act_i$ )



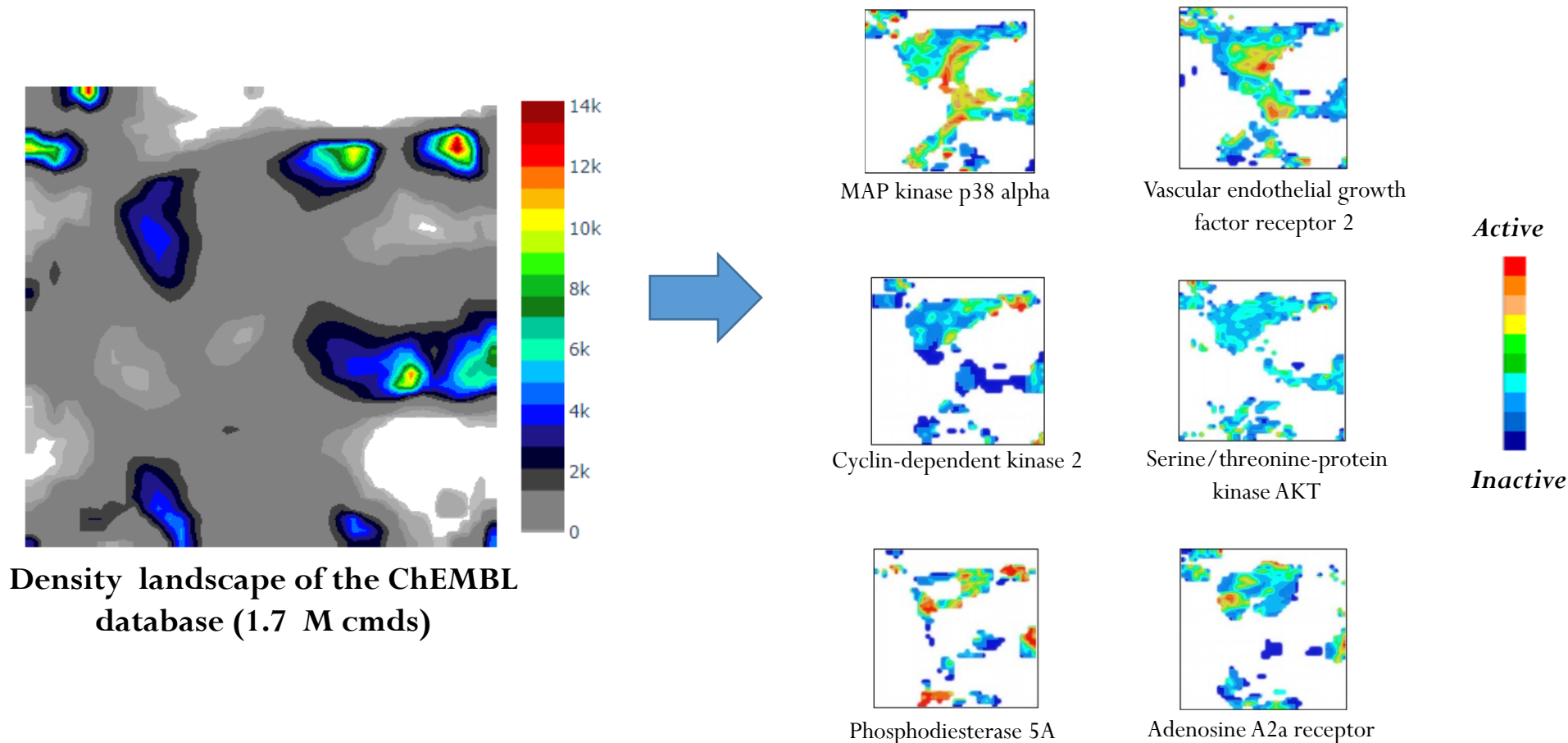
# GTM-based pharmacological profiling: multi-task mode



Universal GTM able to predict simultaneously several  $Act_i$

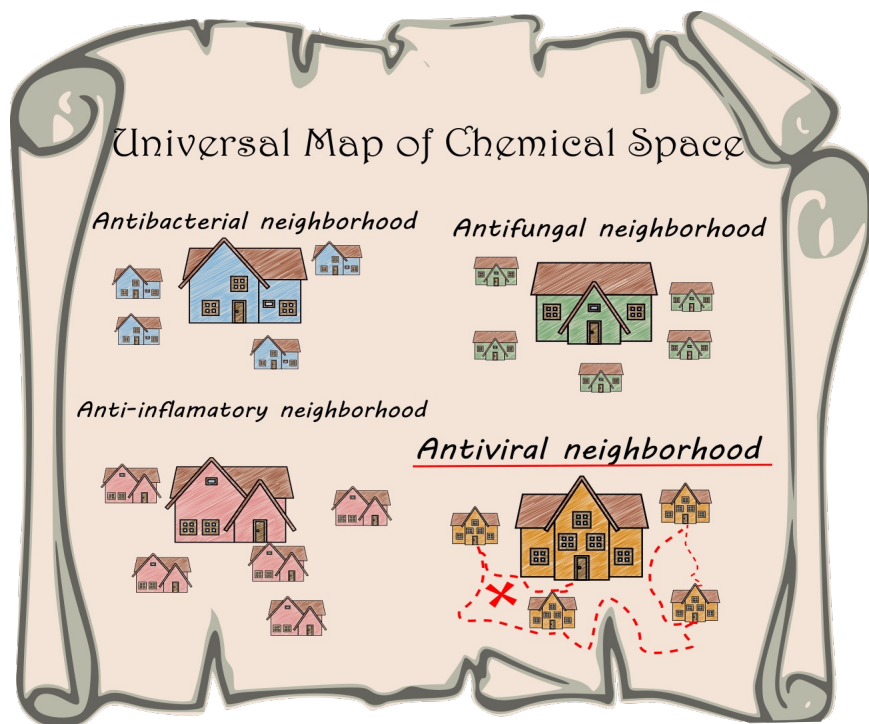
# « Universal » map

- Defines a frame of biological relevant chemical space (ChEMBL database)
- Based on ISIDA descriptors tuned with respect to the modelled activities
- Predicts of > 700 biological activities



# « Universal » map of Chemical Space

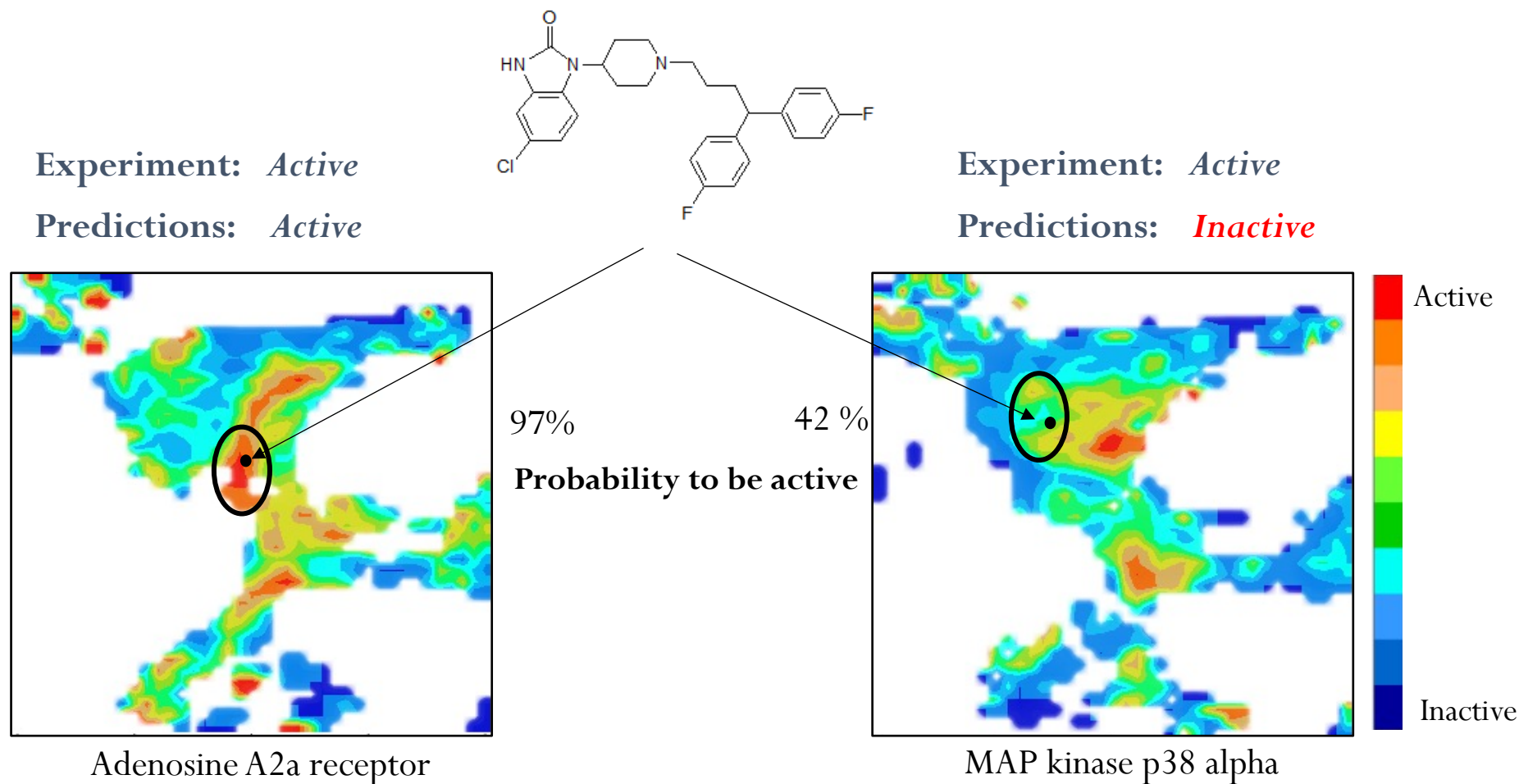
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**A map of a chemical space is expected:**

- to accommodate the variety of known chemotypes;
- to distinguish between different activity classes;
- to separate actives and inactives within a given activity class
- to be *neighborhood behaviour (NB)* compliant, e.g., molecules grouped together are expected to display similar activities

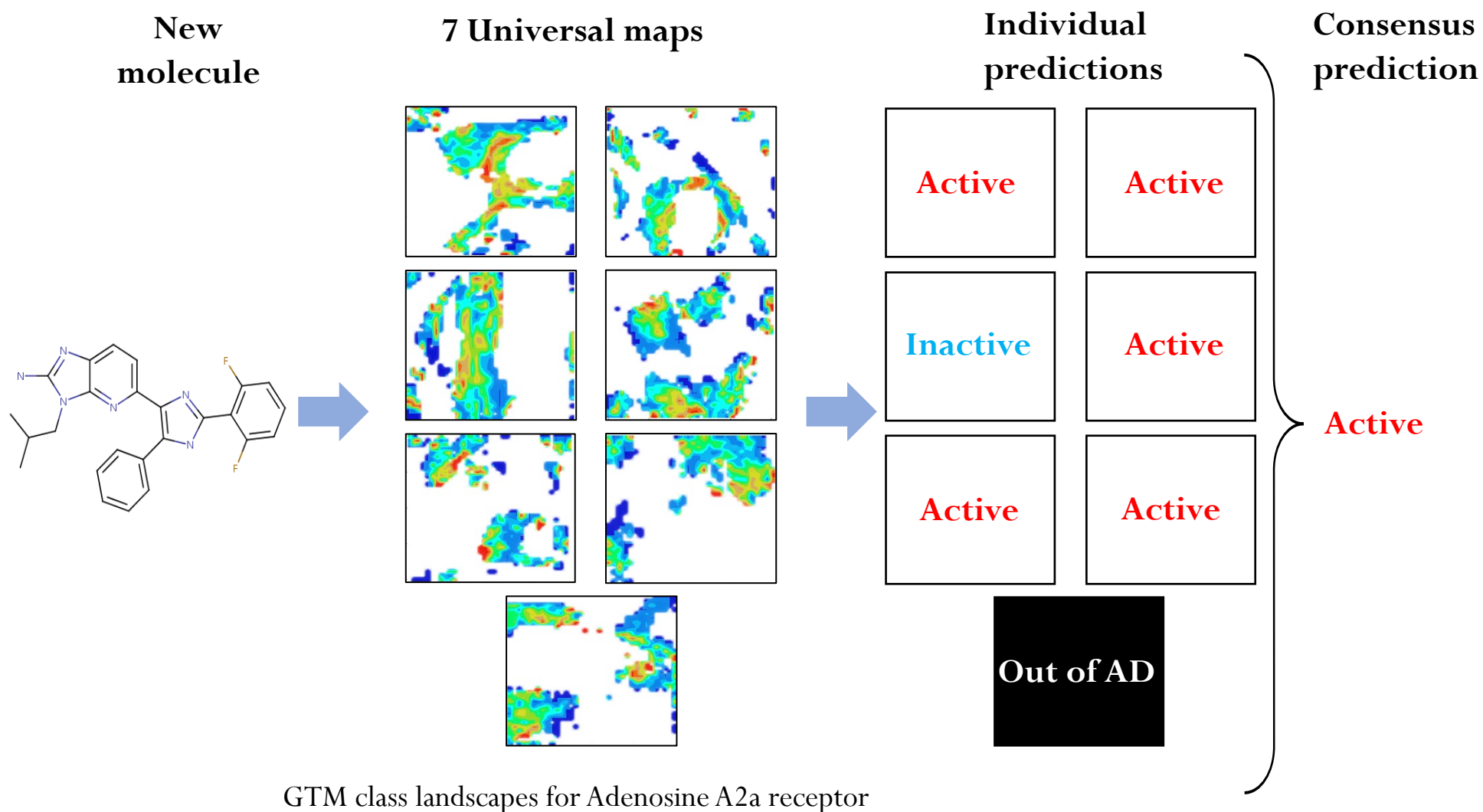
# One single descriptors space may not be sufficient !



One descriptor space may not be sufficient to correctly separate actives/inactives for all targets



# Chemical multiverse: ensemble of several optimal descriptor spaces

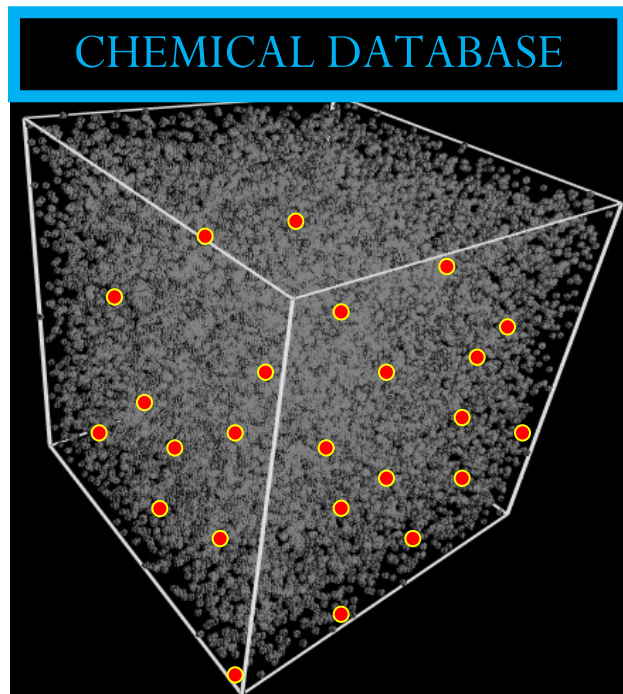


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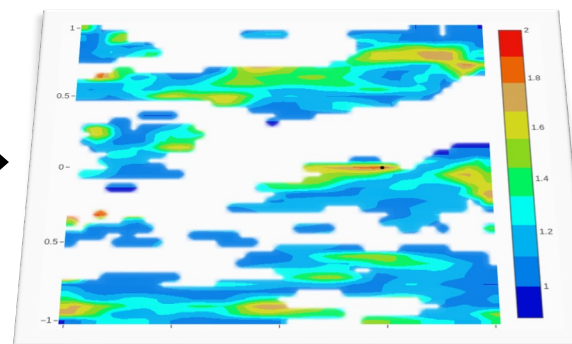
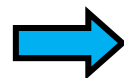
# GTM: applications

- Virtual screening
- Analysis of large chemical collections
- Drug resistance analysis
- AI-driven design of new molecules and reactions

# Universal maps: application to virtual screening



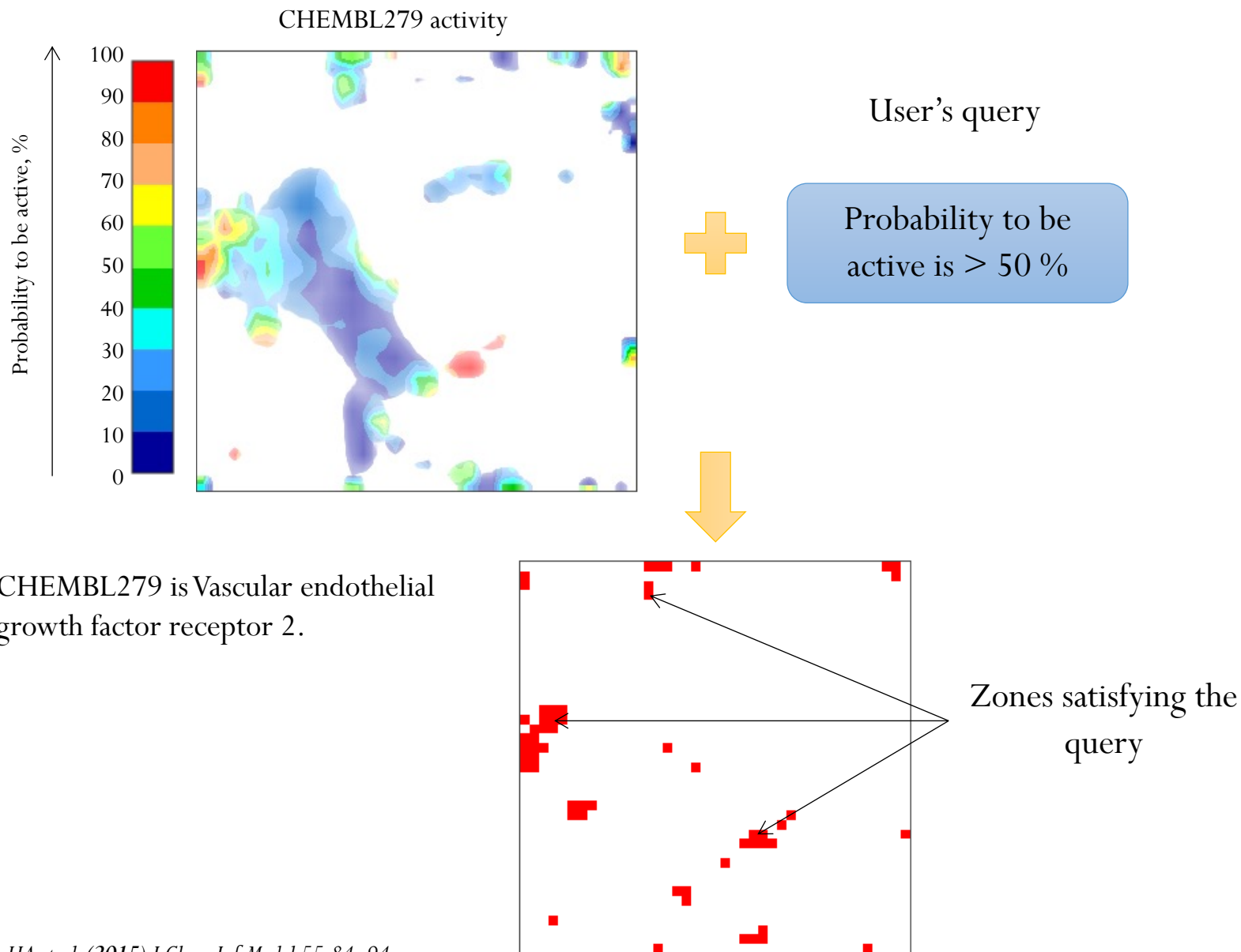
*GTM activity or class landscape*



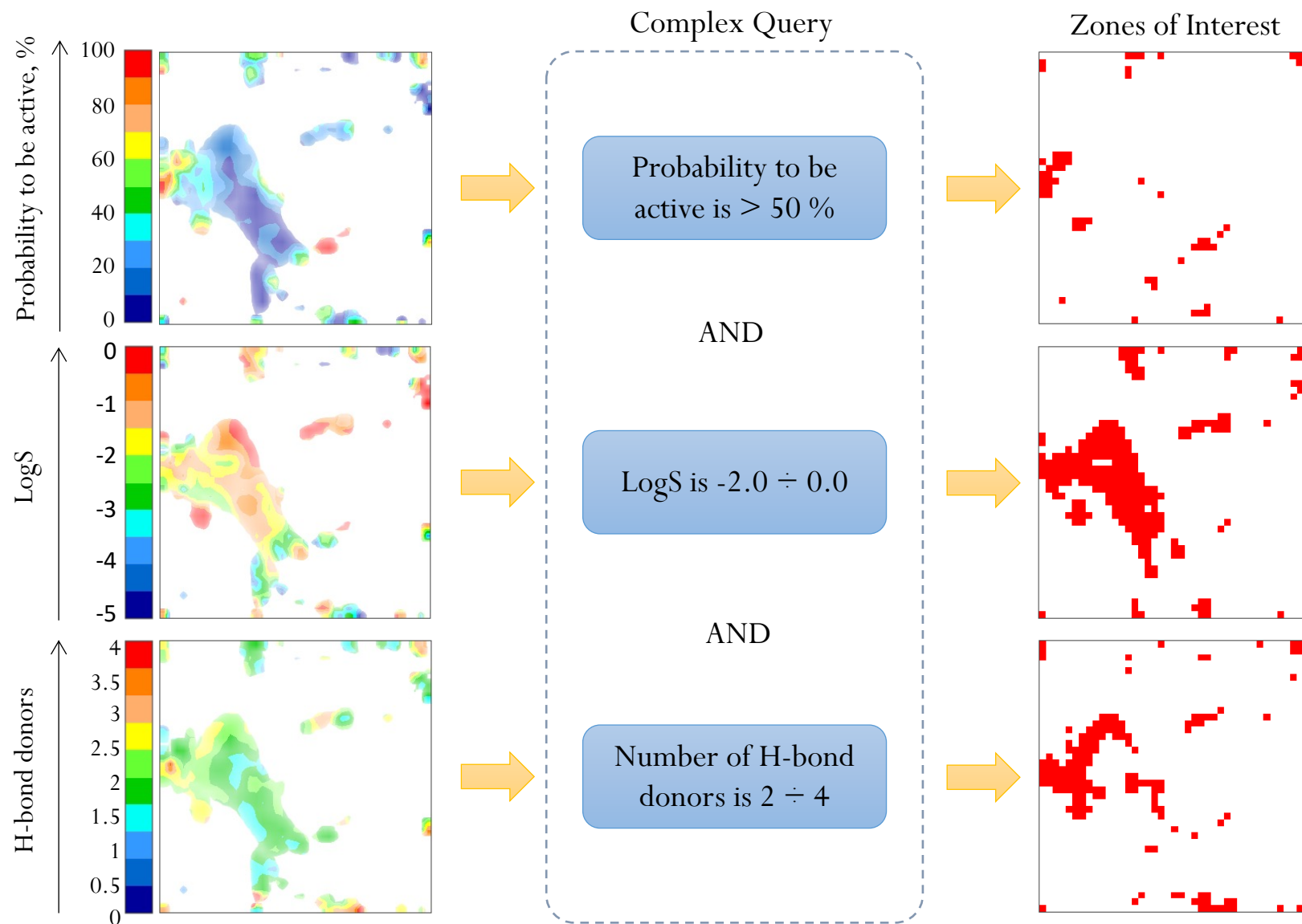
*Hits*



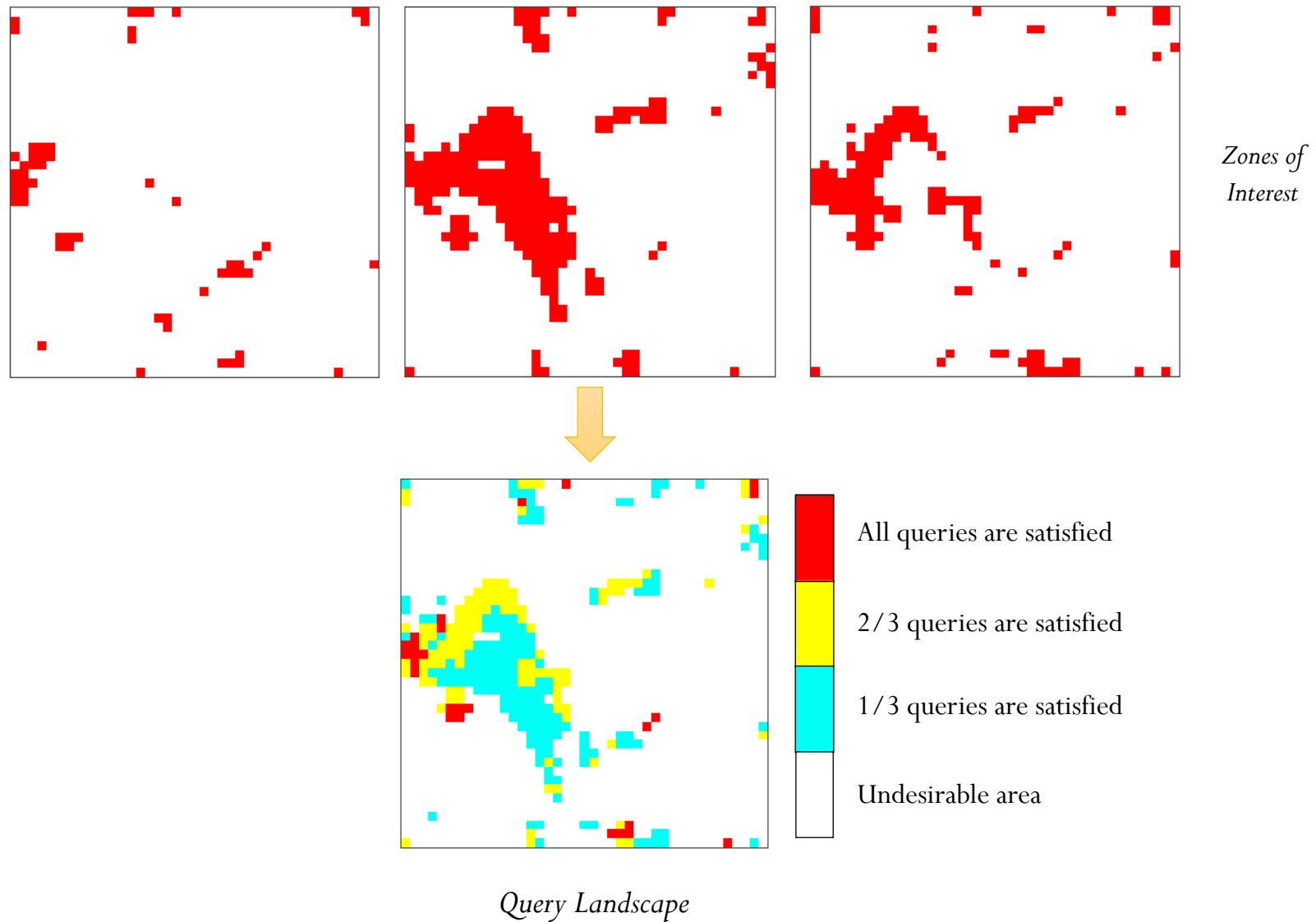
# Constrained Screening: Zones of Interest



# Constrained Screening



# Constrained Screening



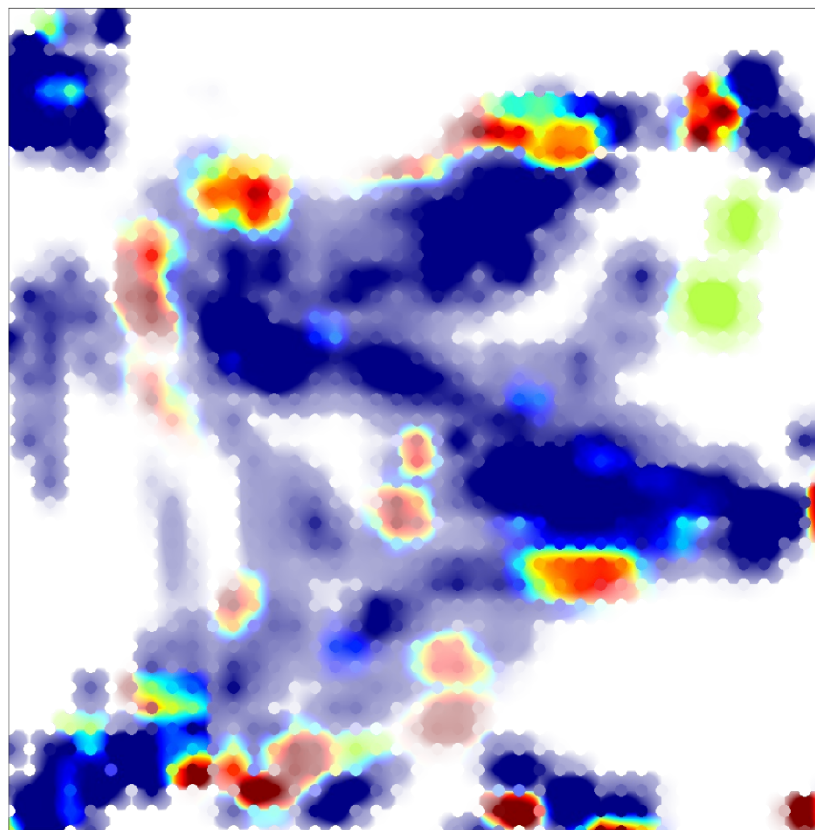
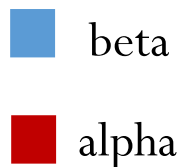


# Discovery of new SARS-Cov2 agents

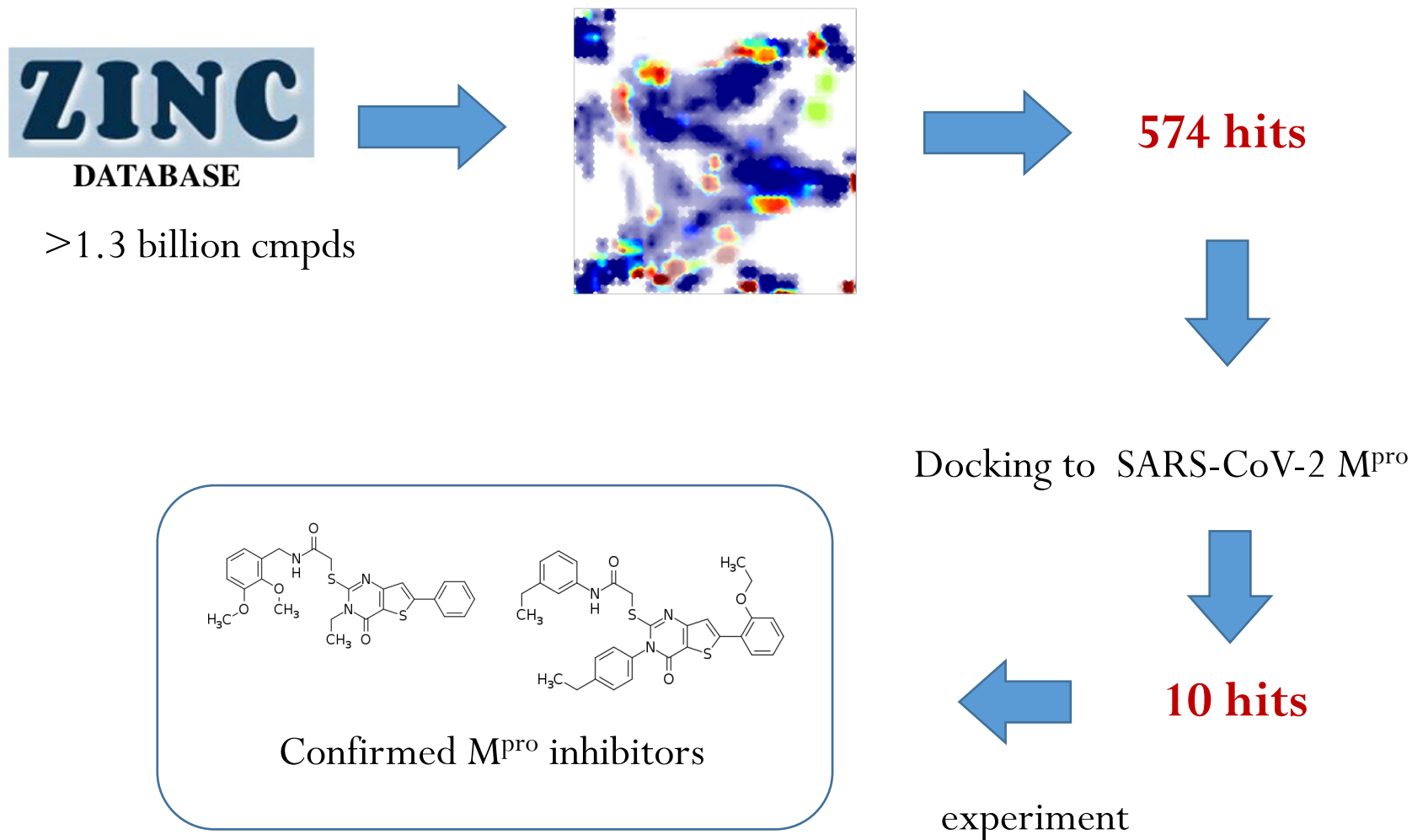
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- **SARS-COV Relevant Antiviral Space** covers *alpha* (269 molecules) and *beta* (1308) genus of CoVs
- The data for SARS-COV2 was not available at the very beginning of the COVID19 pandemic.

SARS and MERS



# Discovery of new SARS-CoV-2 M<sup>pro</sup> inhibitors Space



# Comparative analysis of (ultra)large chemical libraries

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Case studies:

- ChEMBL / ZINC ( 1B structures)
- Proprietary collection reshaping
- Selection of optimal DELs

# Commercial vs Biologically relevant data

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**ZINC**  
DATABASE

**Commercially  
available  
chemotypes**

>1.3 billion cmpds

ChEMBL 

**Biologically  
relevant  
chemotypes**

>1.8 M cmpds

# Commercial vs Biologically relevant data

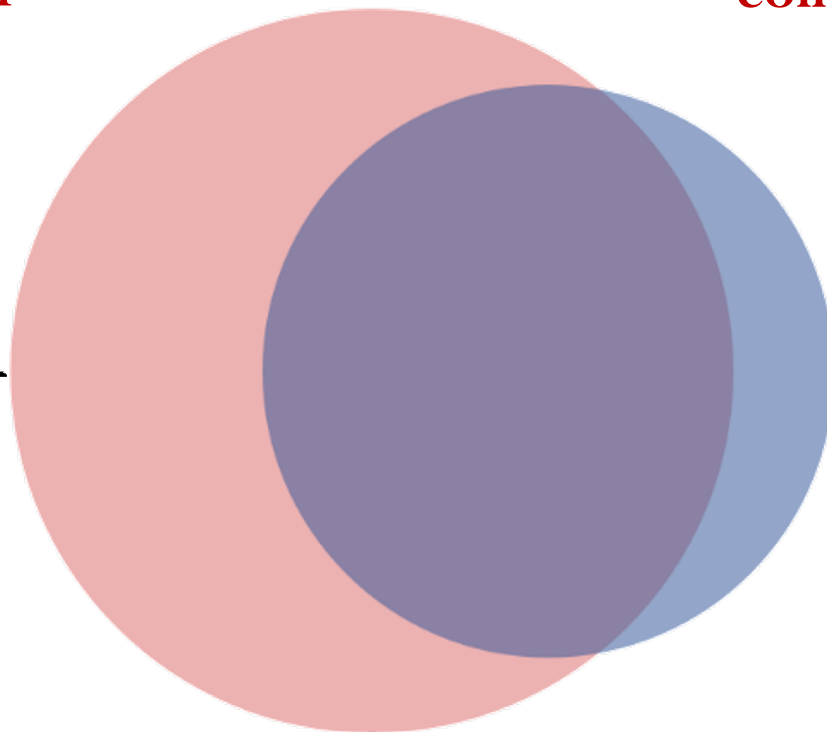
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**Chemotypes never been  
biologically tested**

**Chemotypes missing in the  
commercial chemical space**

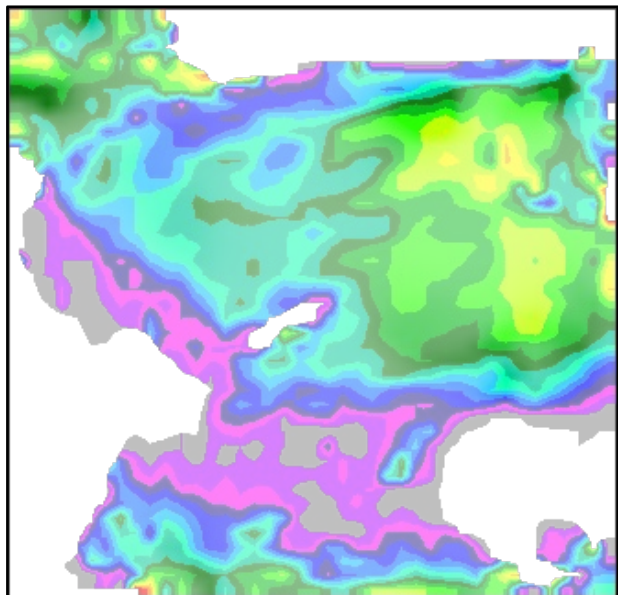
**Enhancement of  
screening libraries**

**Biologically biased commercial  
libraries enhancement**

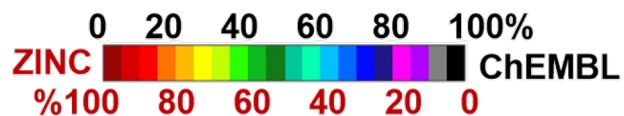


# GTM class landscape for library comparison

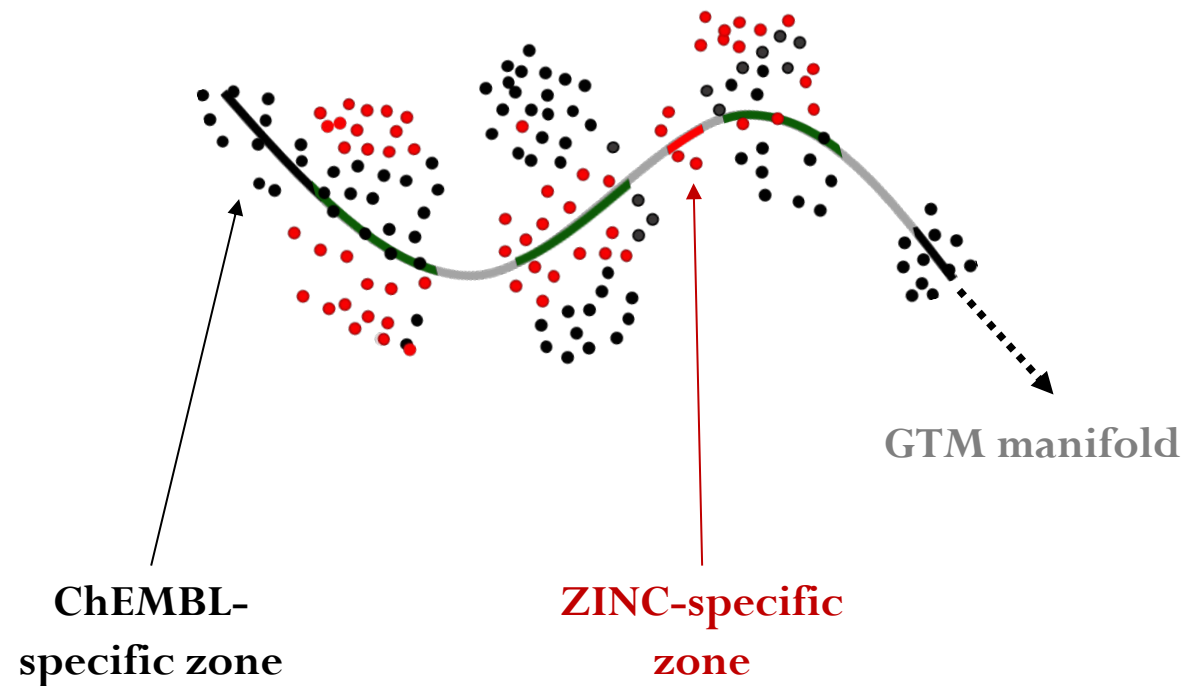
*Subset of Fragment-like cmpds*



#compounds 3 614 394



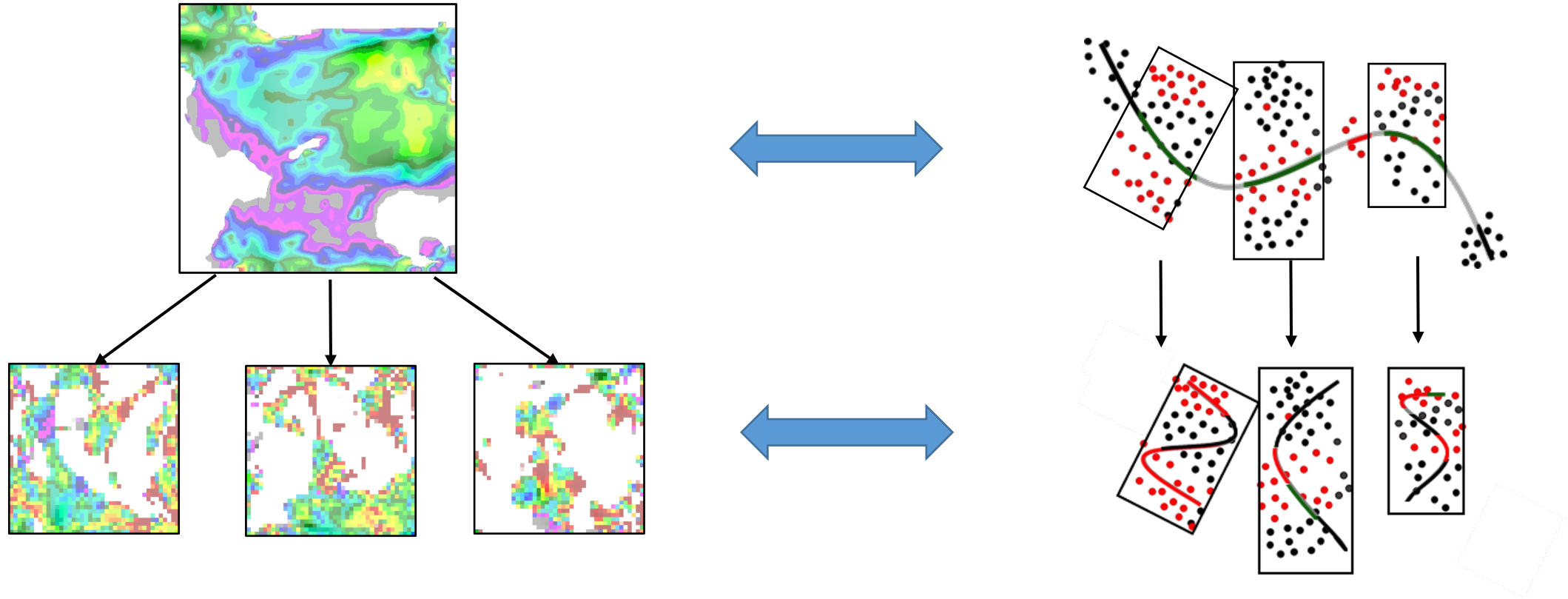
« Global » GTM manifold in low resolution map  
doesn't separate the classes



Low resolution of the map doesn't allow to identify the library-specific zones

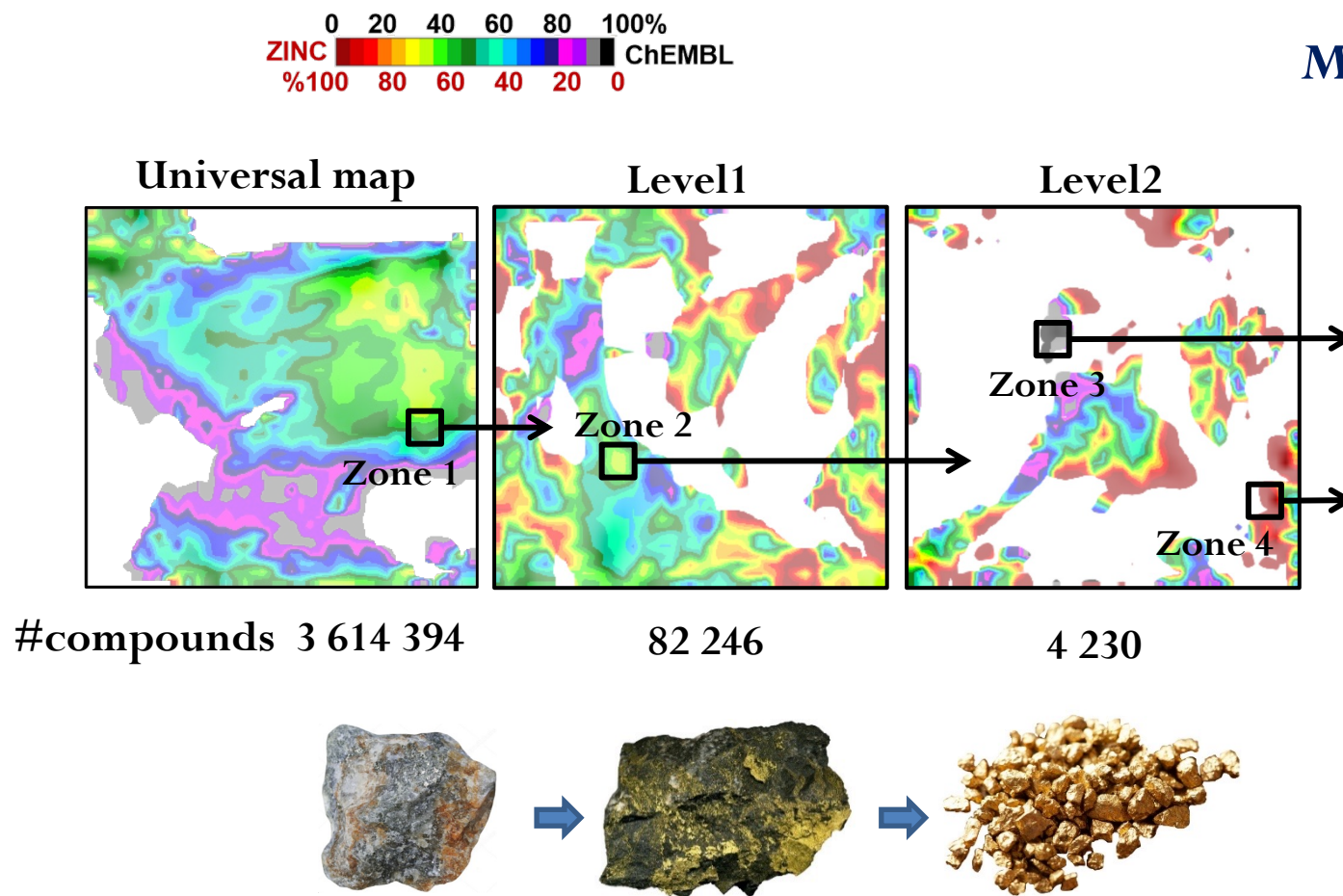


# Hierarchical GTM (Zooming)

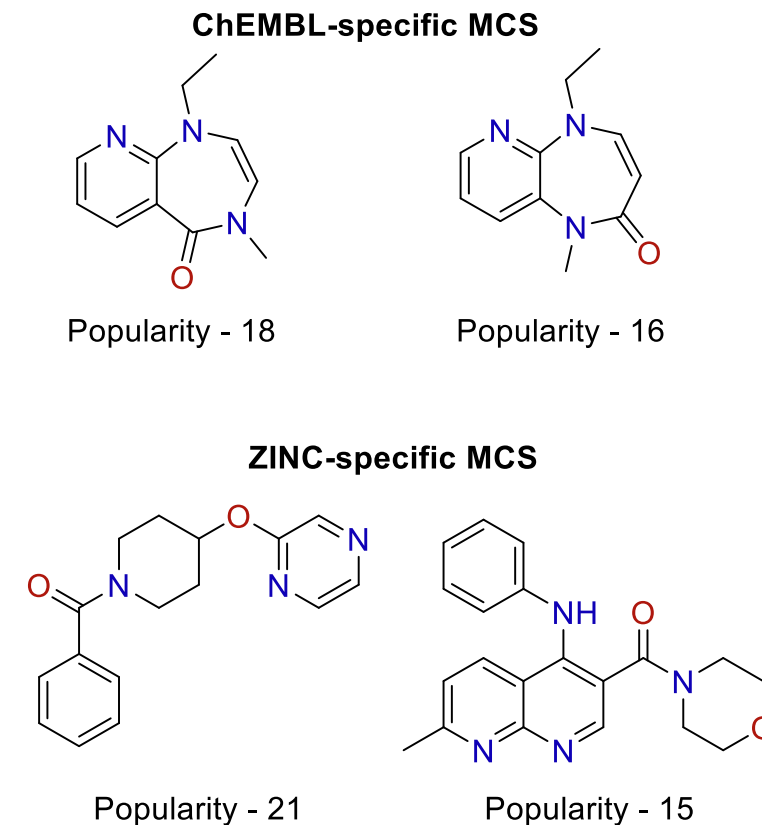


New higher resolution maps better separate the library members

# Hierarchical GTM navigation of the chemical space



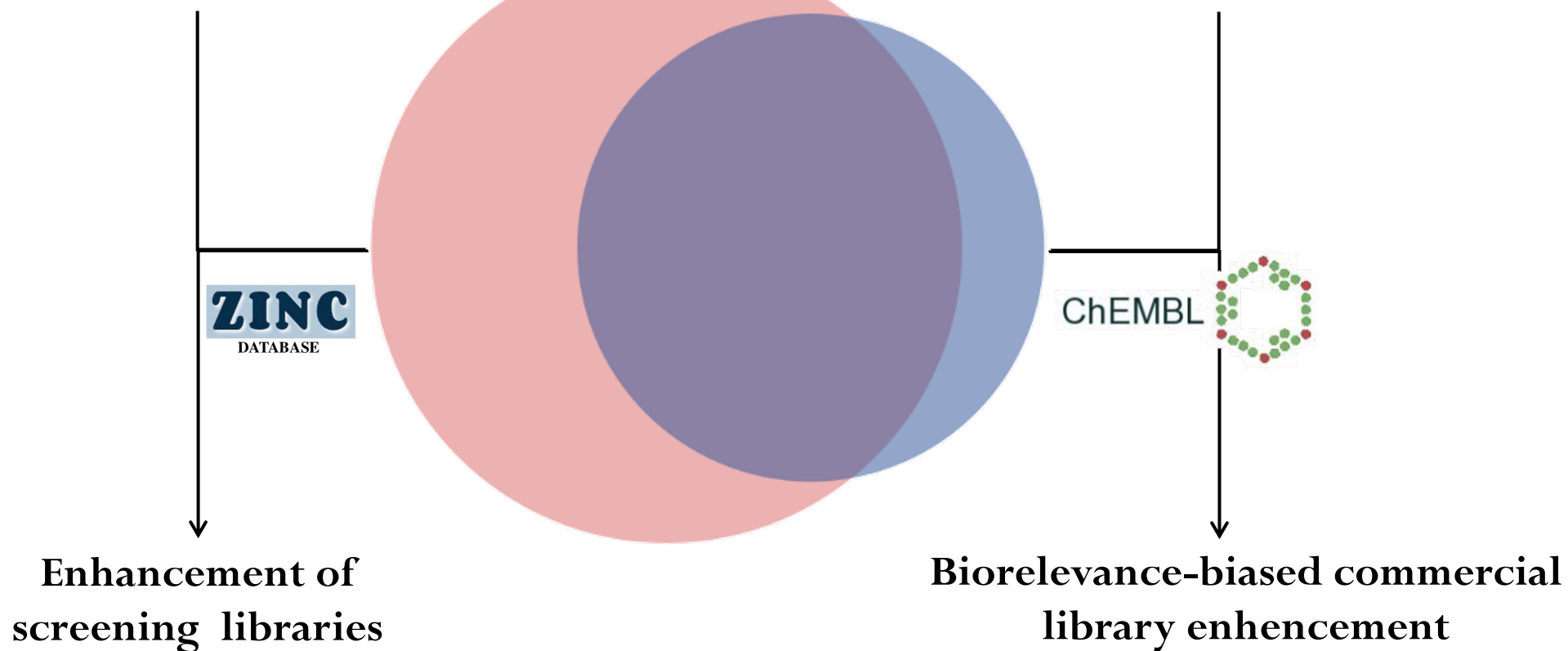
## Maximum Common Substructures (MCS)



# Commercial vs Biologically relevant data

> 100K chemotypes  
never been biologically tested

>20 K chemotypes missing from  
the commercial chemical space



# Chemical Library Enrichment



2.2 M cmps

BI intended to diversify its library by purchasing compounds from the Aldrich-Market Select (AMS) Database



8.3 M cmps

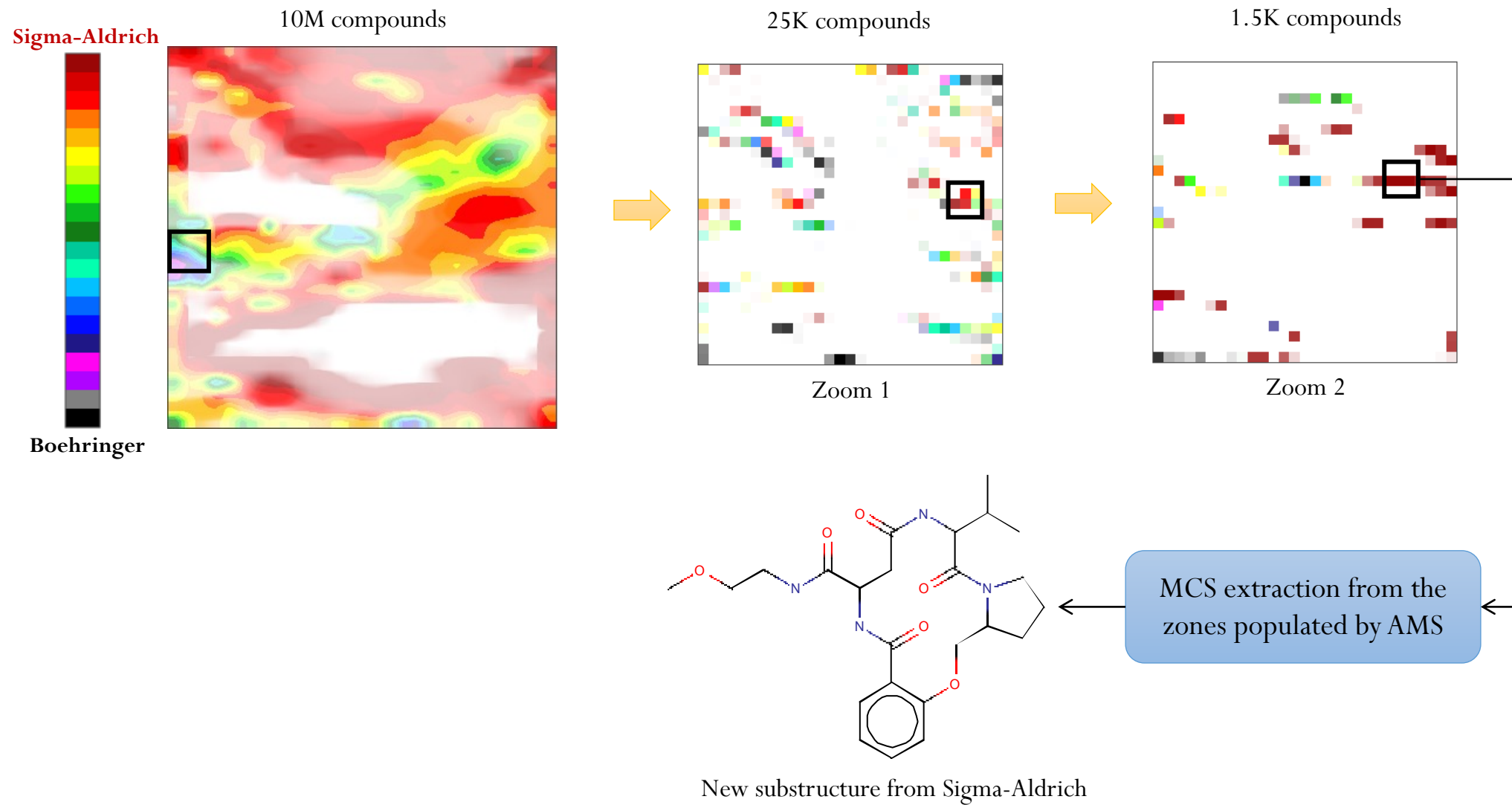


*Goal: selection of the AMS compounds with  
new scaffolds/substructures*

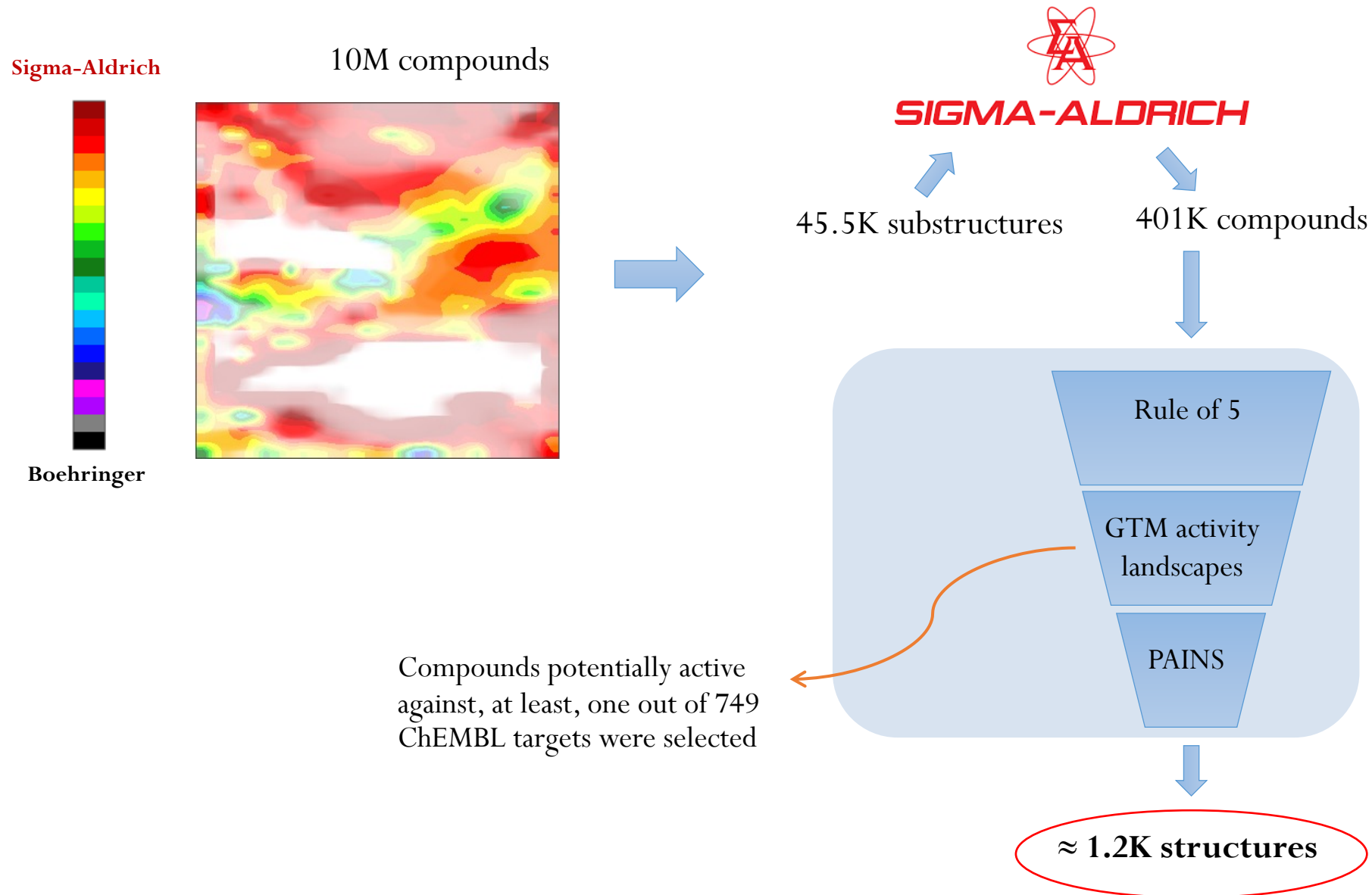


PhD project of Arkadii Lin

# Chemical Library Enrichment

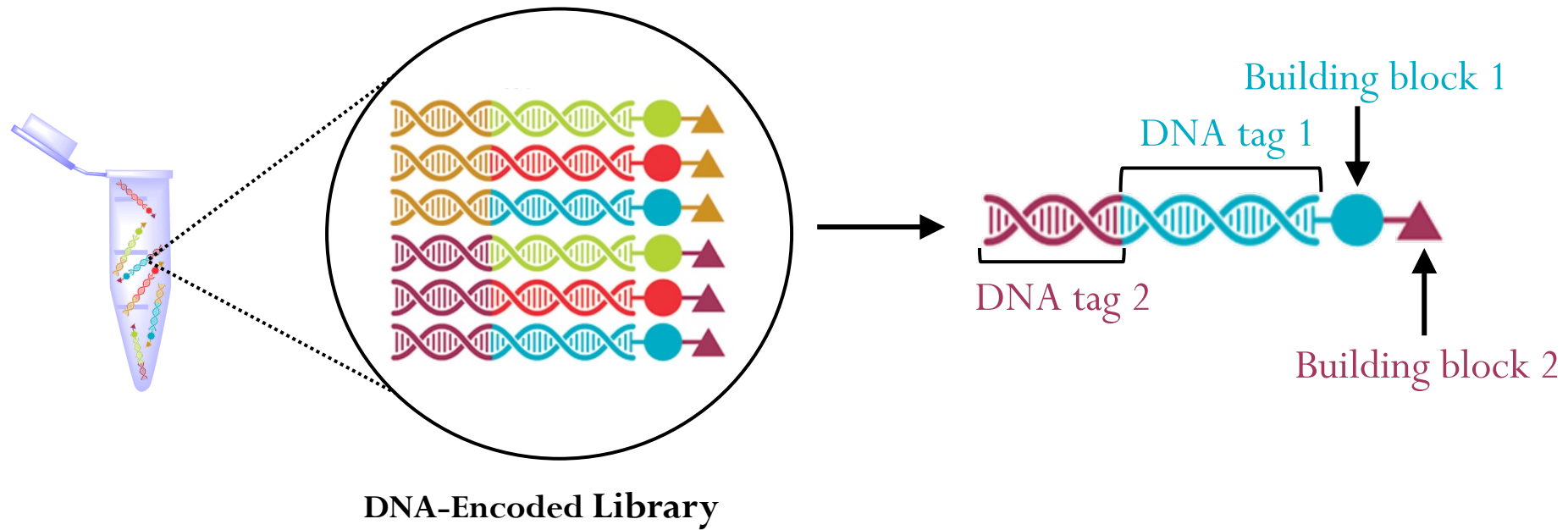


# Chemical Library Enrichment





# Generation and analysis of general-purpose DELs

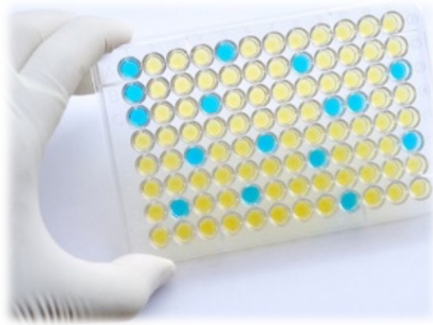


**DNA-Encoded Library:** combinatorial collection of small molecules covalently attached to the short DNA tag

# DEL challenge

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## Screening libraries

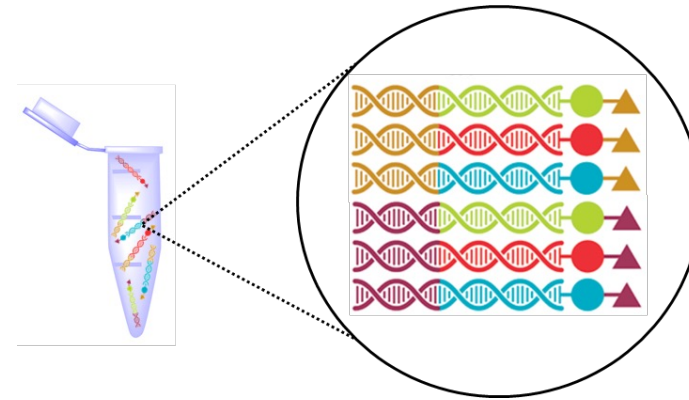


Parallel screening in separate "wells"



**Individual compounds may be cherry-picked**

## DNA-encoded libraries

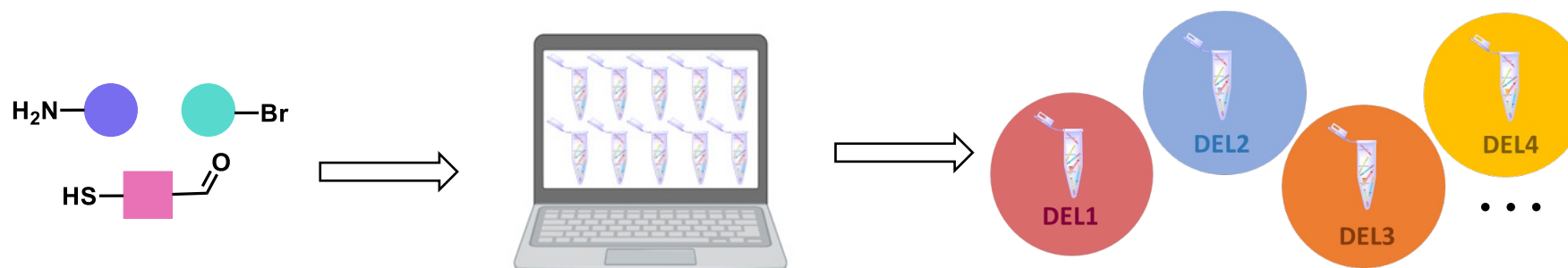
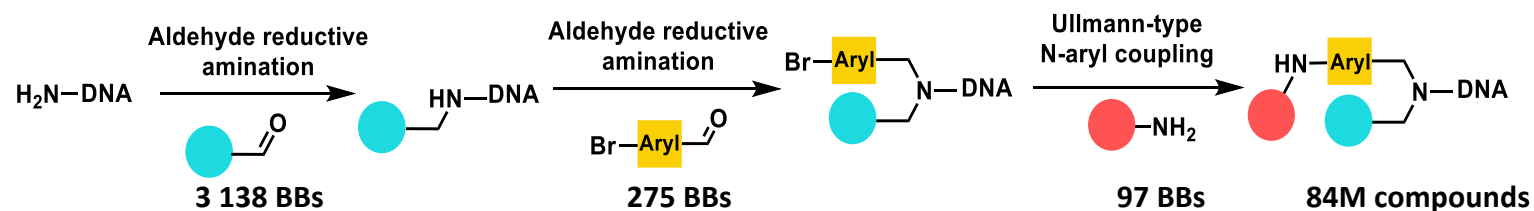


Simultaneous screening in a single tube



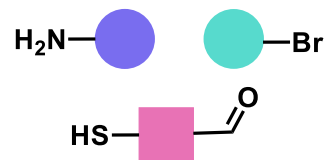
**Entire library as an object must be considered**

# Selection of an “optimal” DEL

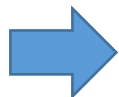


How to select an “optimal” DEL for a given task (e.g., primary screening) ?

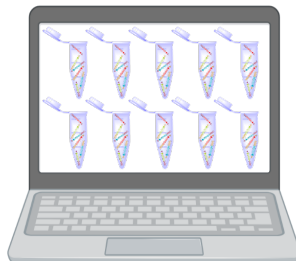
# Selection of DEL the best covering a reference library (ChEMBL) chemical space



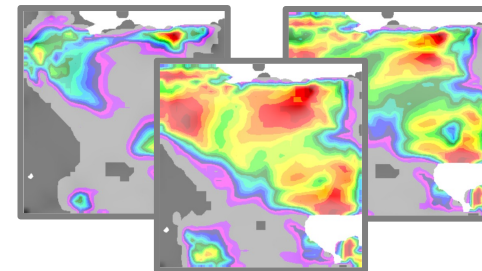
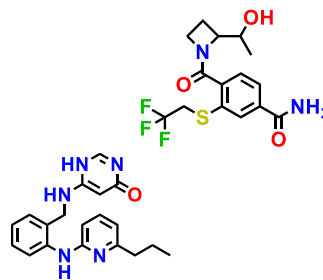
**79.000** Building blocks from  
eMolecules



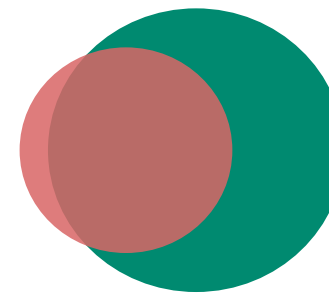
*eDesigner tool*



**2500** DELs designed (size: 1M-1B)  
**2.5B** compounds generated  
(1M compounds per DEL)



**2500** comparative landscapes  
DEL<sub>i</sub> / ChEMBL



DEL<sub>i</sub> / ChEMBL coverage score  
calculation for each map

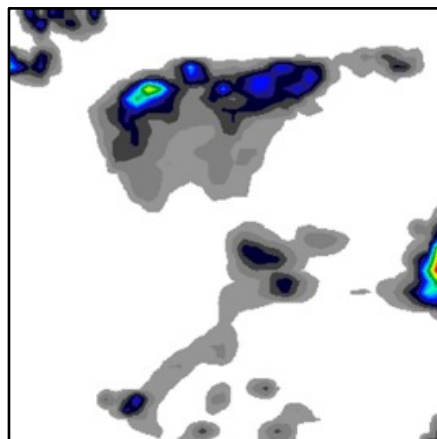


Selection of highly scoring DELs

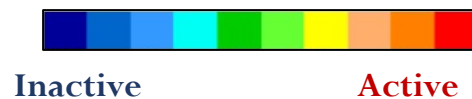
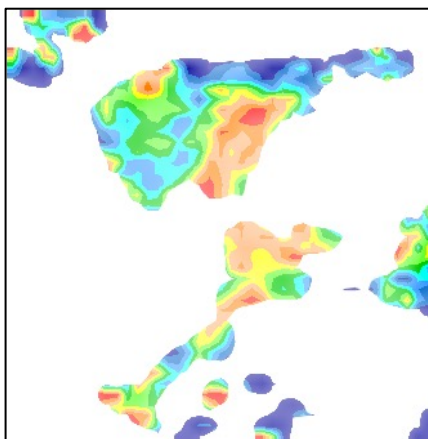
# Encoding a library by a vector using GTM landscapes

---

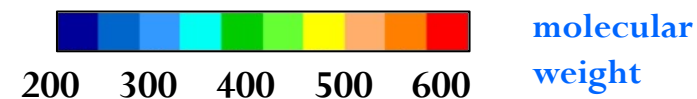
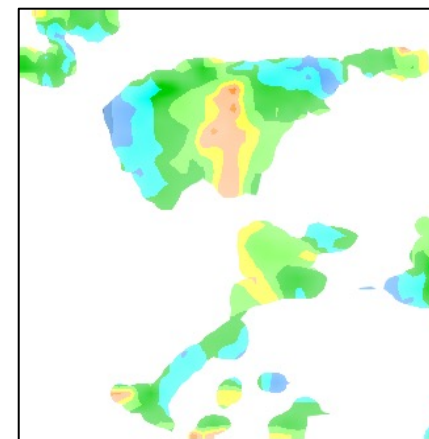
Density landscape



Class landscape

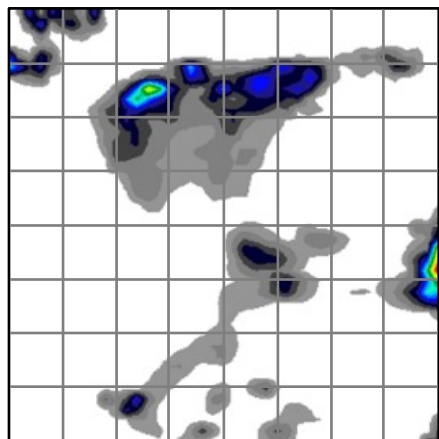


Property (activity) landscape

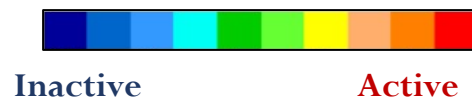
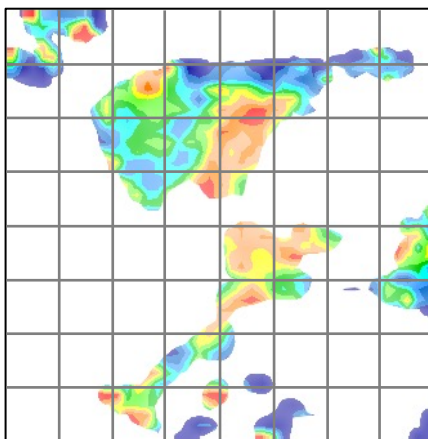


# Encoding a library by a vector using GTM landscapes

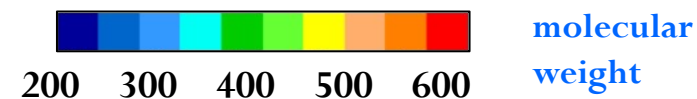
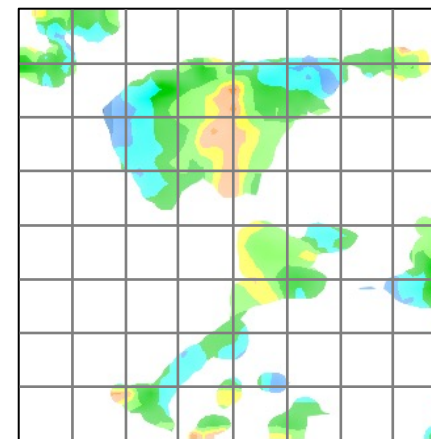
Density landscape



Class landscape



Property (activity) landscape



Cumulated Responsibility Vector (**CRV**)

Class Modulated Responsibility Vector (**cCRV**)

Property Modulated Responsibility Vector (**pCRV**)



# GTM-based metrics of chemical libraries similarity

## Library encoding

1. **Responsibility Patterns (RP)**, e.g. GTM “address labels”  
obtained from a discretized, coarse responsibility vector  
 $\vec{R}=(12:0.003\ 36:0.51\ 37:0.48\ 77:0.007) \rightarrow \mathbf{RP}=/36:5/37:5/$
2. **Cumulated Responsibility vectors**
3. **Property-modulated vectors**
4. **Library (class)-modulated vectors**

## Metric

### Coverage of $Lib_1$ by $Lib_2$

$$RPcov(Lib1, Lib2) = \frac{N_{common}(RP_1 \cap RP_2)}{N_{total}(RP_1)}$$

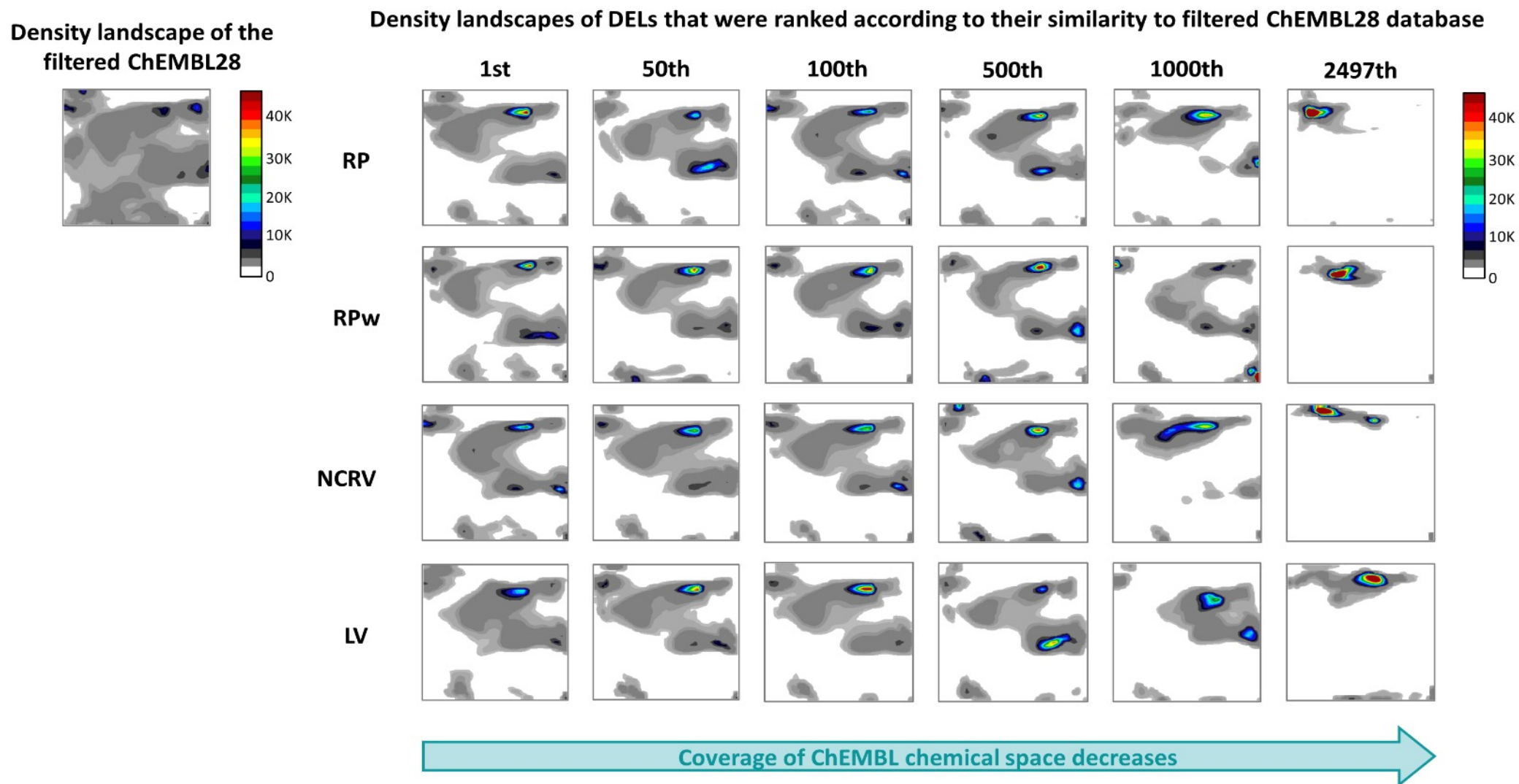
### Pairwise $Lib1 / Lib2$ :

- Tanimoto coefficient ( $Vect_1 / Vect_2$ )

### Ensemble of libraries:

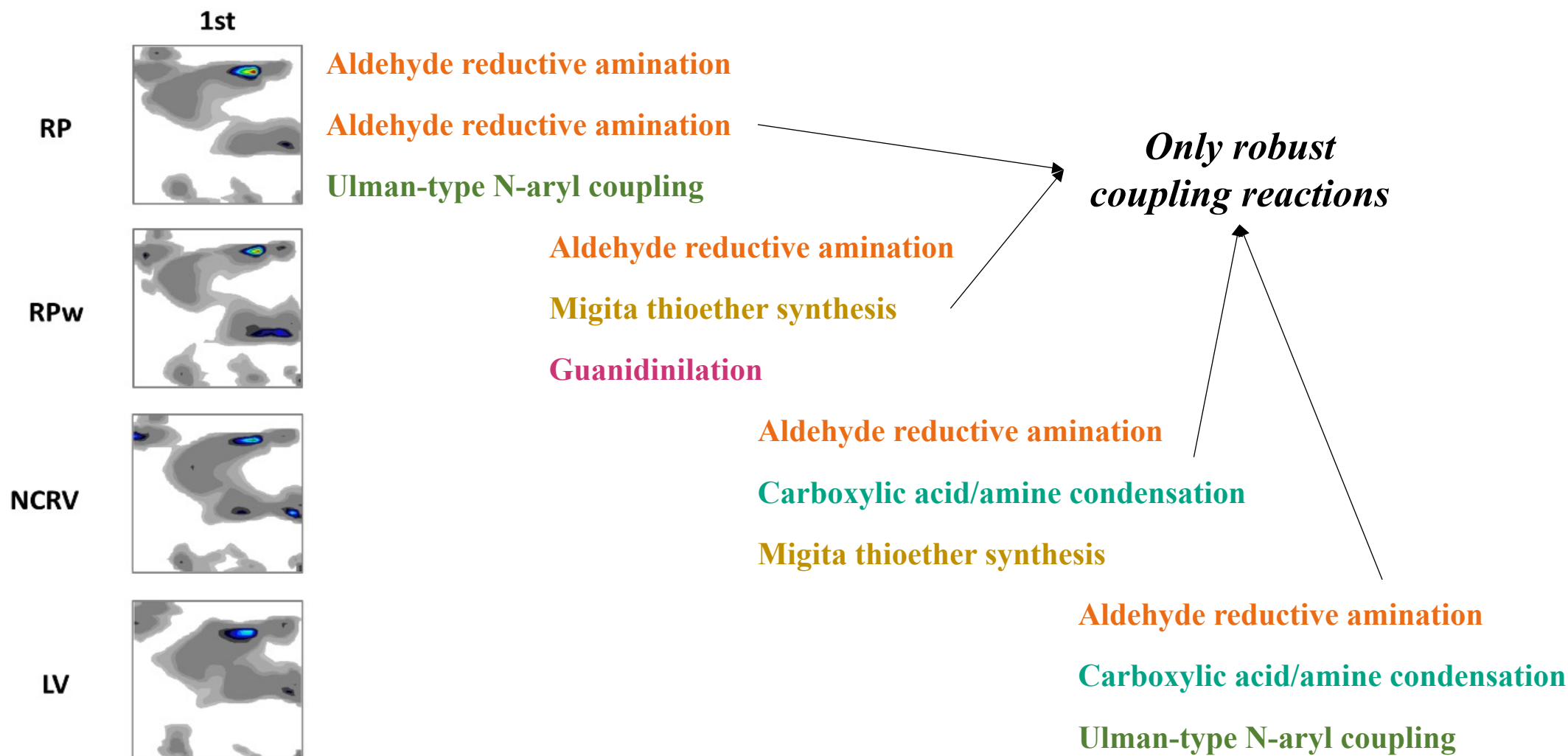
- meta-GTM built on  $\{Vect_i\}$

# ChEMBL28 / DEL similarity

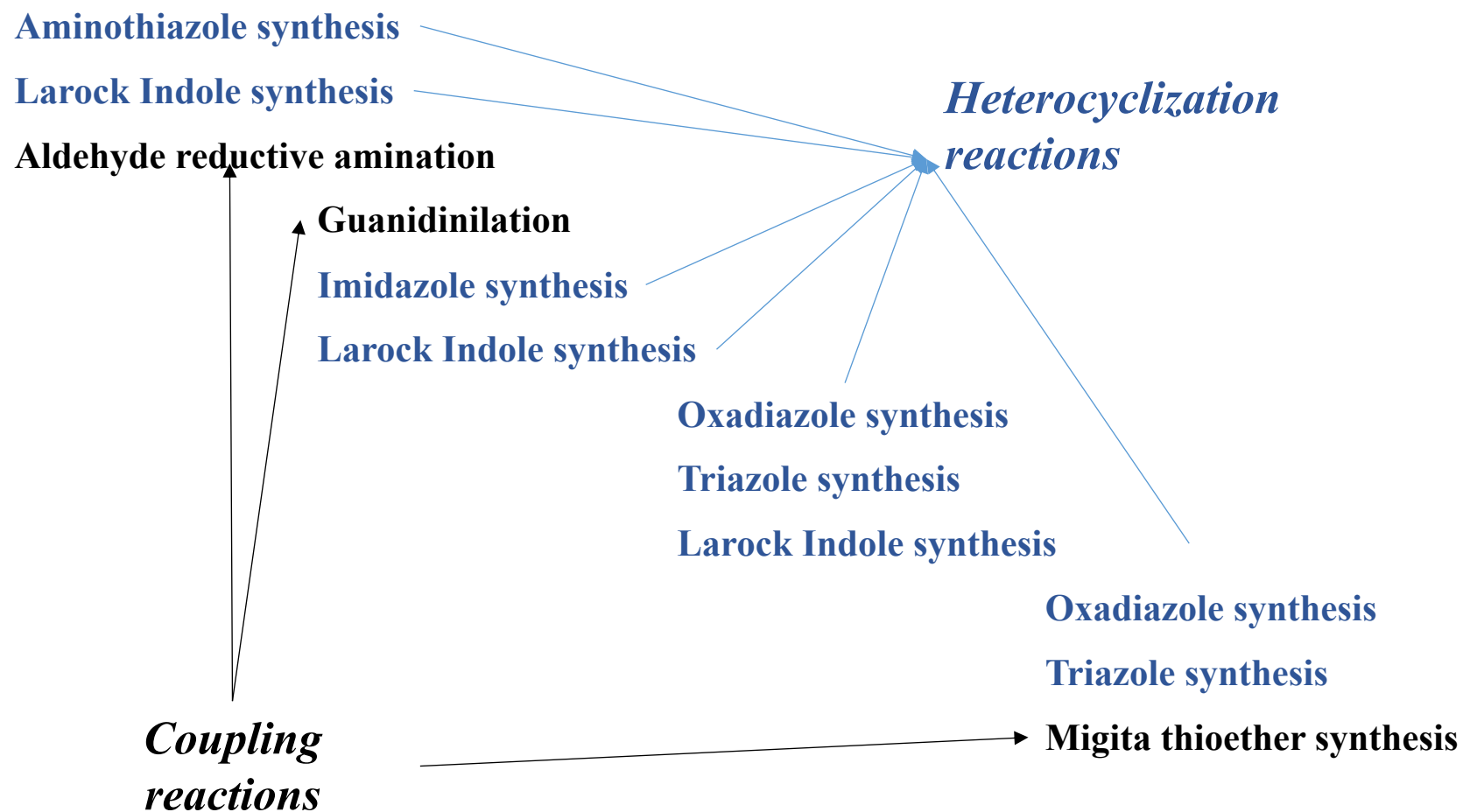


Irrespective of the metric, common density (overlap) is a key factor defining inter-library similarity

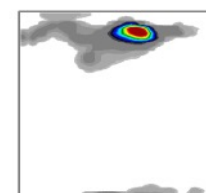
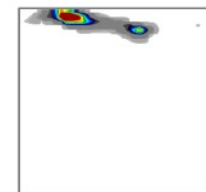
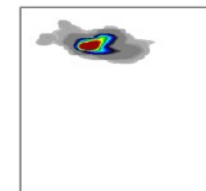
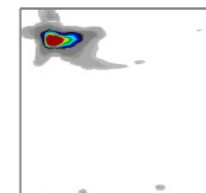
# DELs with the highest similarity to ChEMBL



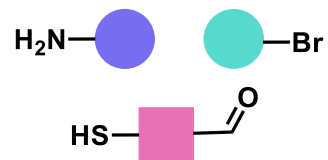
# DELs with the lowest similarity to ChEMBL



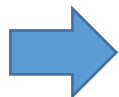
2497th



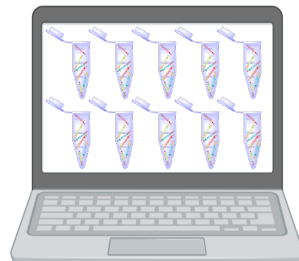
# Selection of DEL the best covering a reference library (ChEMBL) chemical space



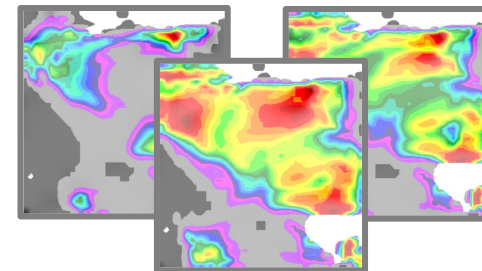
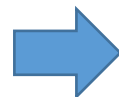
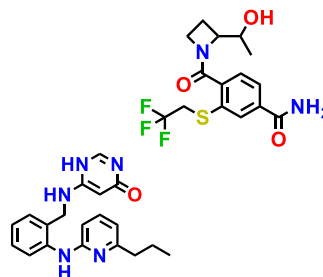
**79.000** Building blocks from  
eMolecules



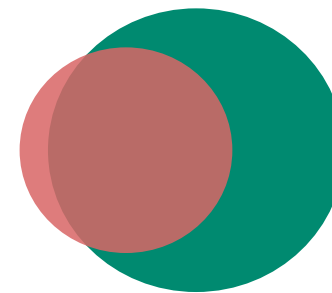
*eDesigner tool*



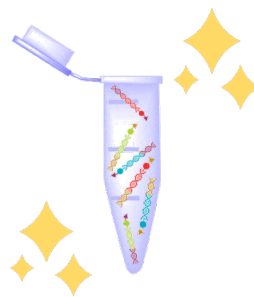
**2500** DELs designed (size: 1M-1B)  
**2.5B** compounds generated  
(1M compounds per DEL)



**2500** comparative landscapes  
DEL<sub>i</sub>/ChEMBL

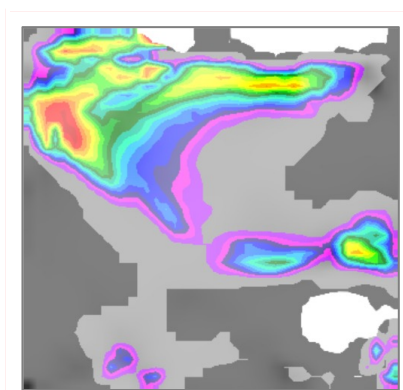
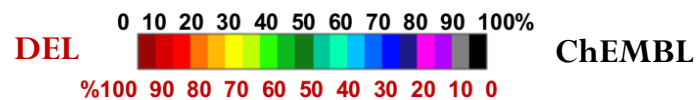


DEL<sub>i</sub> / ChEMBL coverage score  
calculation for each map

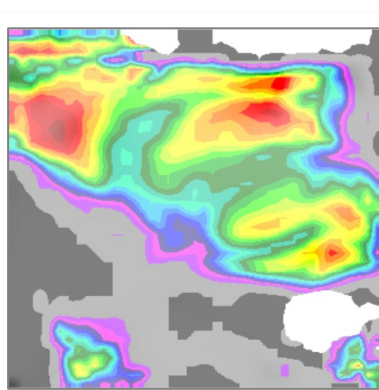


Selection of highly scored DELs

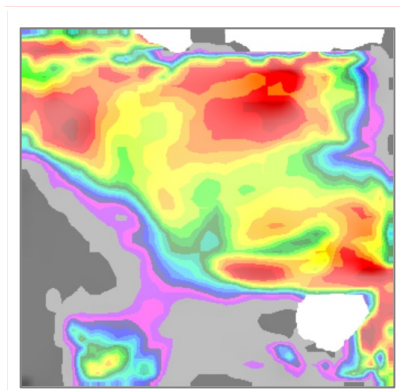
# Selected DELs vs ChEMBL



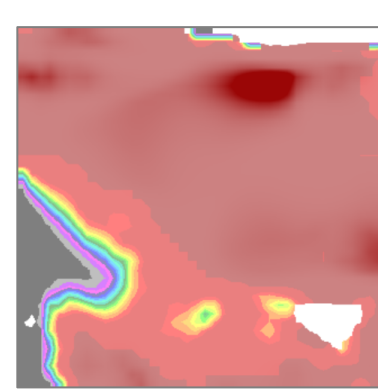
the best DEL



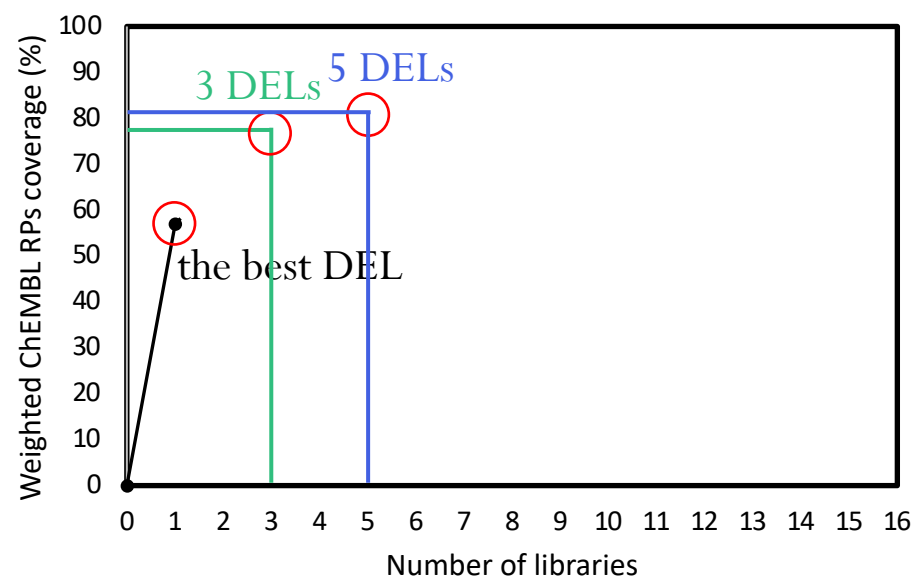
3 DELs



5 DELs



2500 DELs

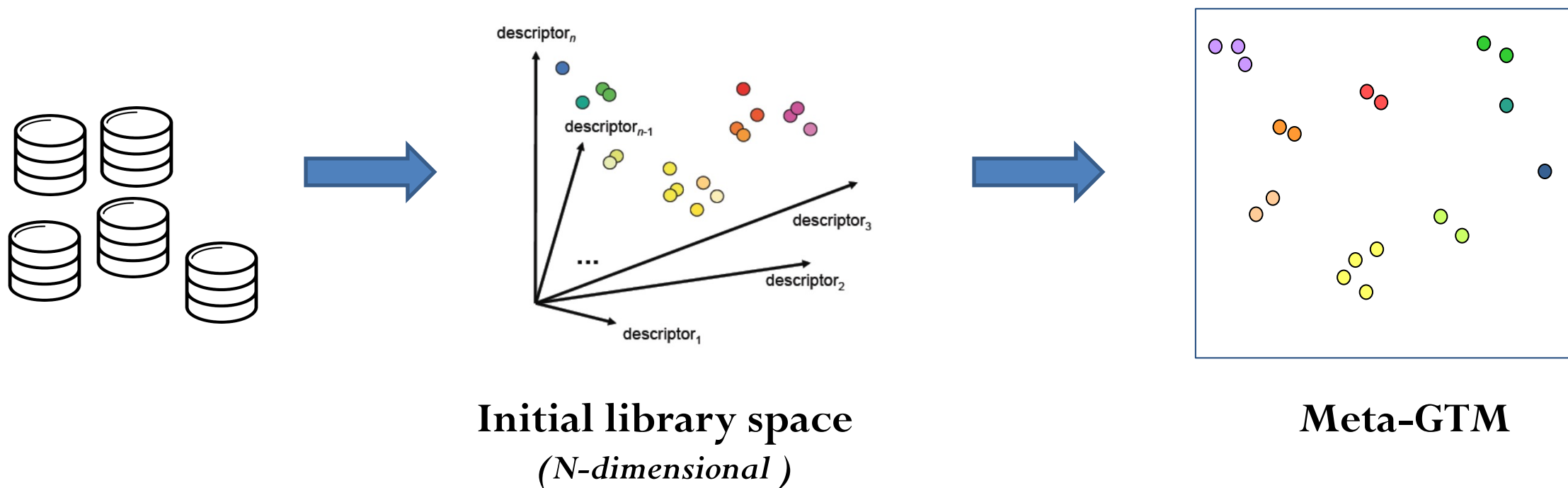


3 “platinum” DELs cover >80% of ChEMBL chemical space

R. Pikalyova et al. Mol. Inf. 2022, 41, 2100289.

# Meta-GTM: a compact visualization of library space

- GTM encodes a chemical library as a vector of descriptors (cumulated responsibilities, property or class modulated responsibilities) calculated from related landscapes
- These vectors can be used to build a meta-GTM where each data point represents a library

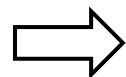
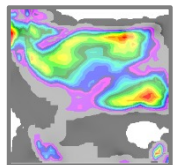




# Meta-GTM built on reference library-modulated descriptors

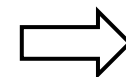
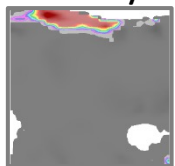
*Vectors calculated for DEL/ChEMBL class landscapes*

DEL1/ChEMBL



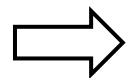
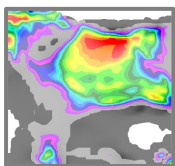
Vector 1

DEL2/



Vector 2

DEL3/

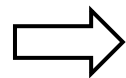
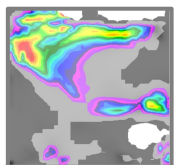


Vector 3

.....

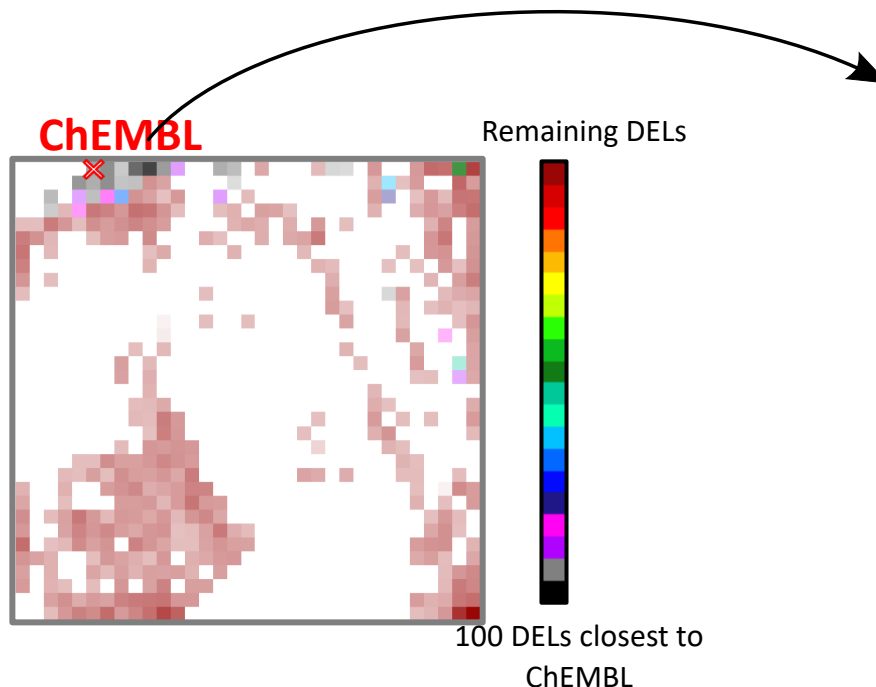
.....

DEL2497

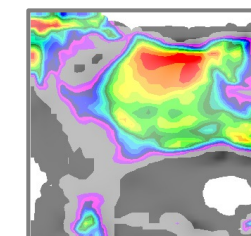


Vector 2497

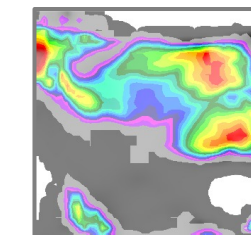
**Meta-GTM**



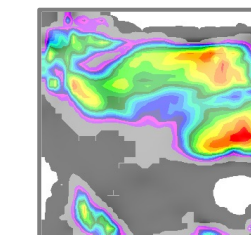
ChEMBL



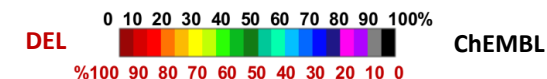
DEL845



DEL309

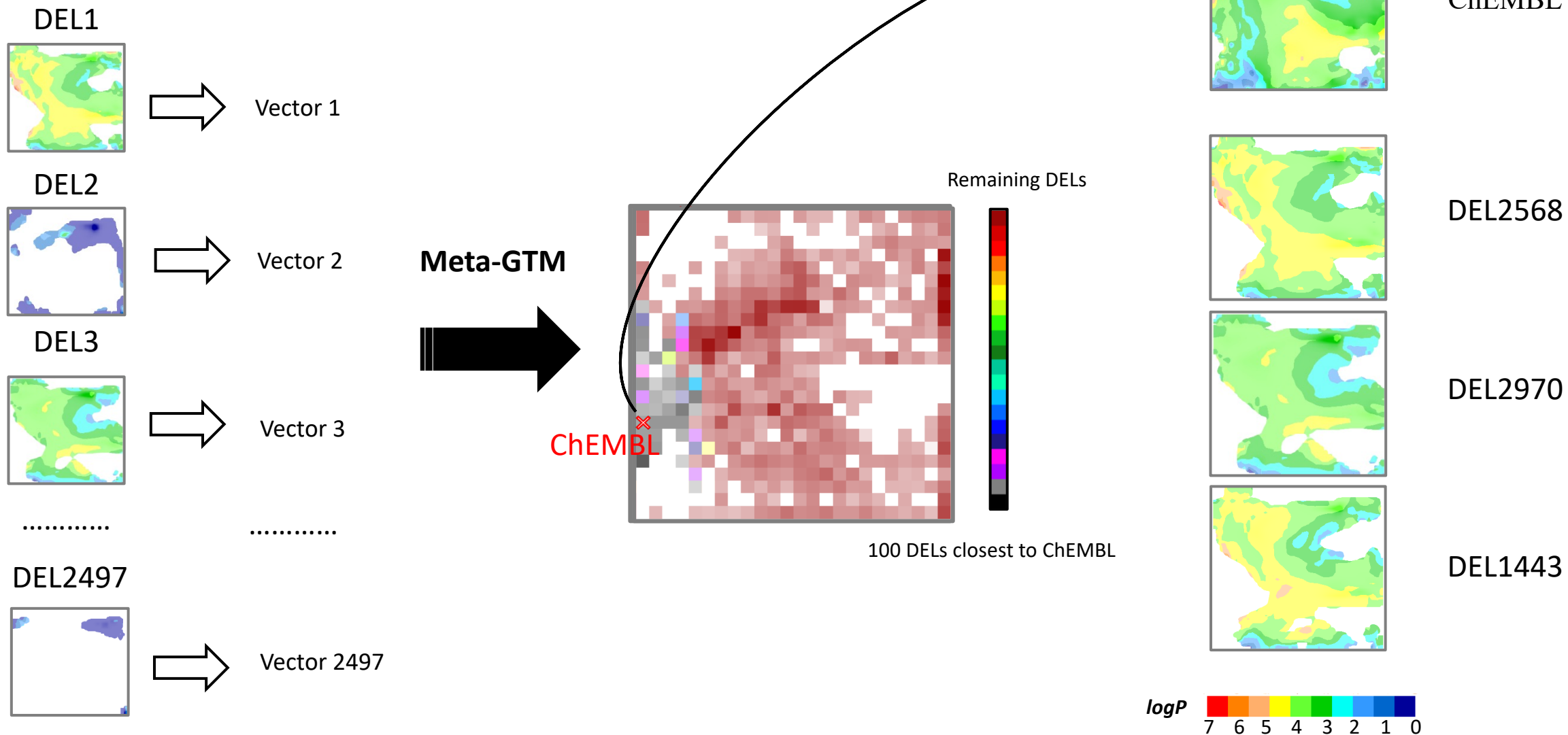


DEL1108



# Meta-GTM built on property-modulated descriptors

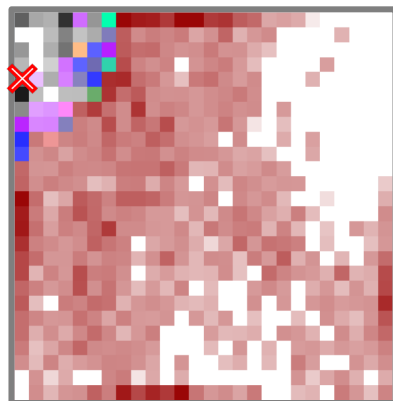
*Vectors calculated for logP landscapes*



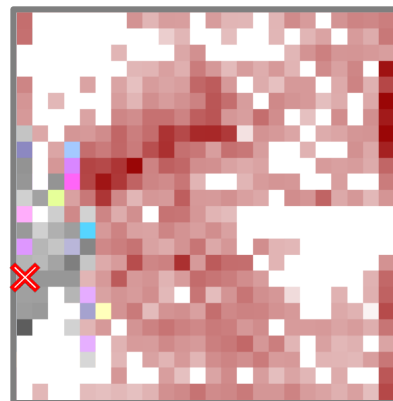
# Meta-GTM built on property-modulated descriptors

ChEMBL ✕

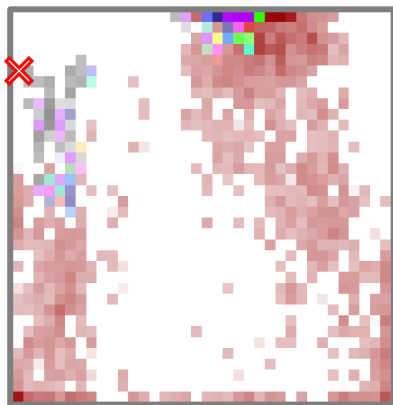
MolWeight



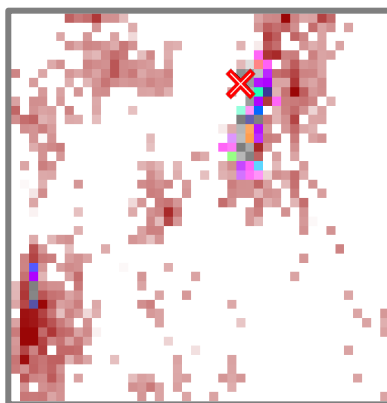
logP



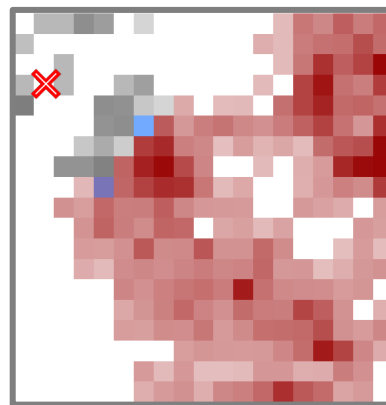
H-acceptors



H-donors



QED

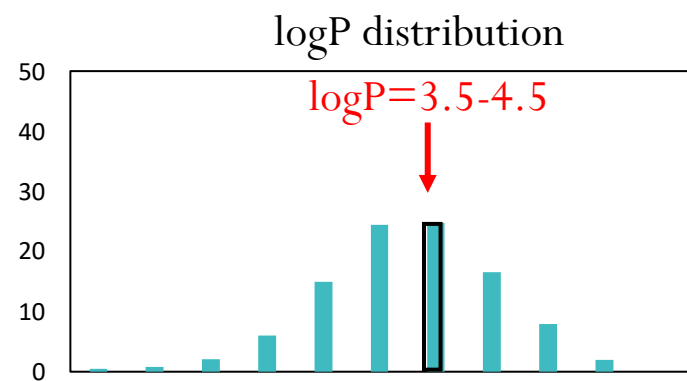


Remaining DELs

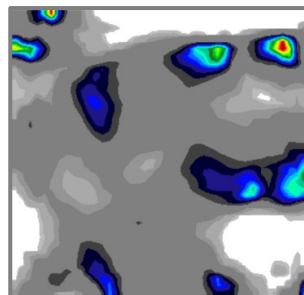


100 DELs closest to ChEMBL

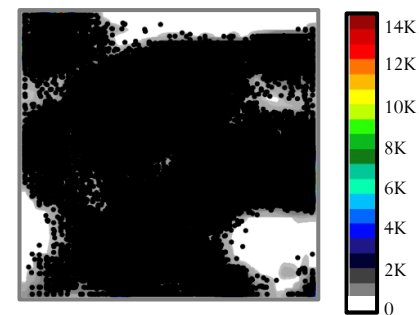
# Linear vs chemographic property distribution



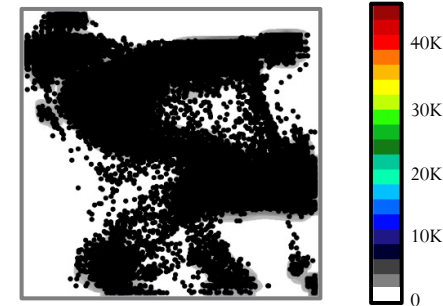
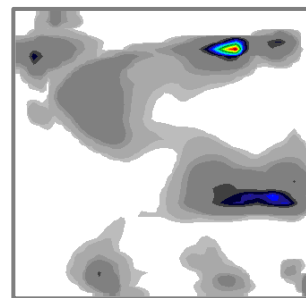
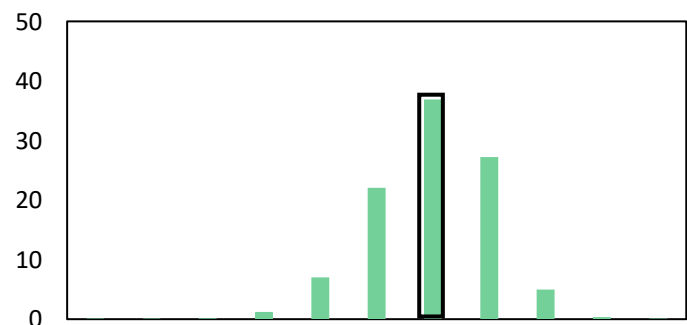
Density landscape



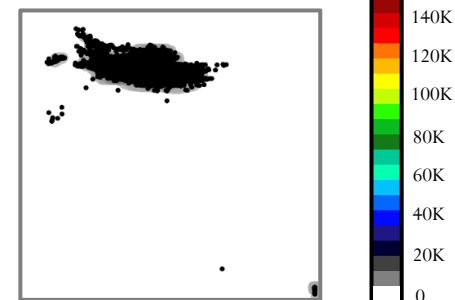
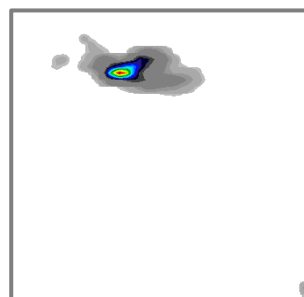
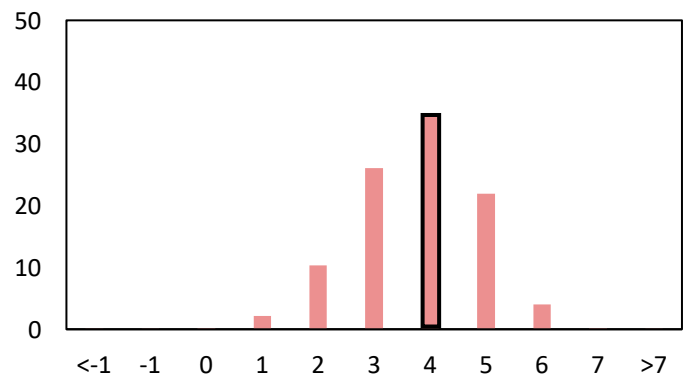
Projected molecules with logP=3.5-4.5



ChEMBL

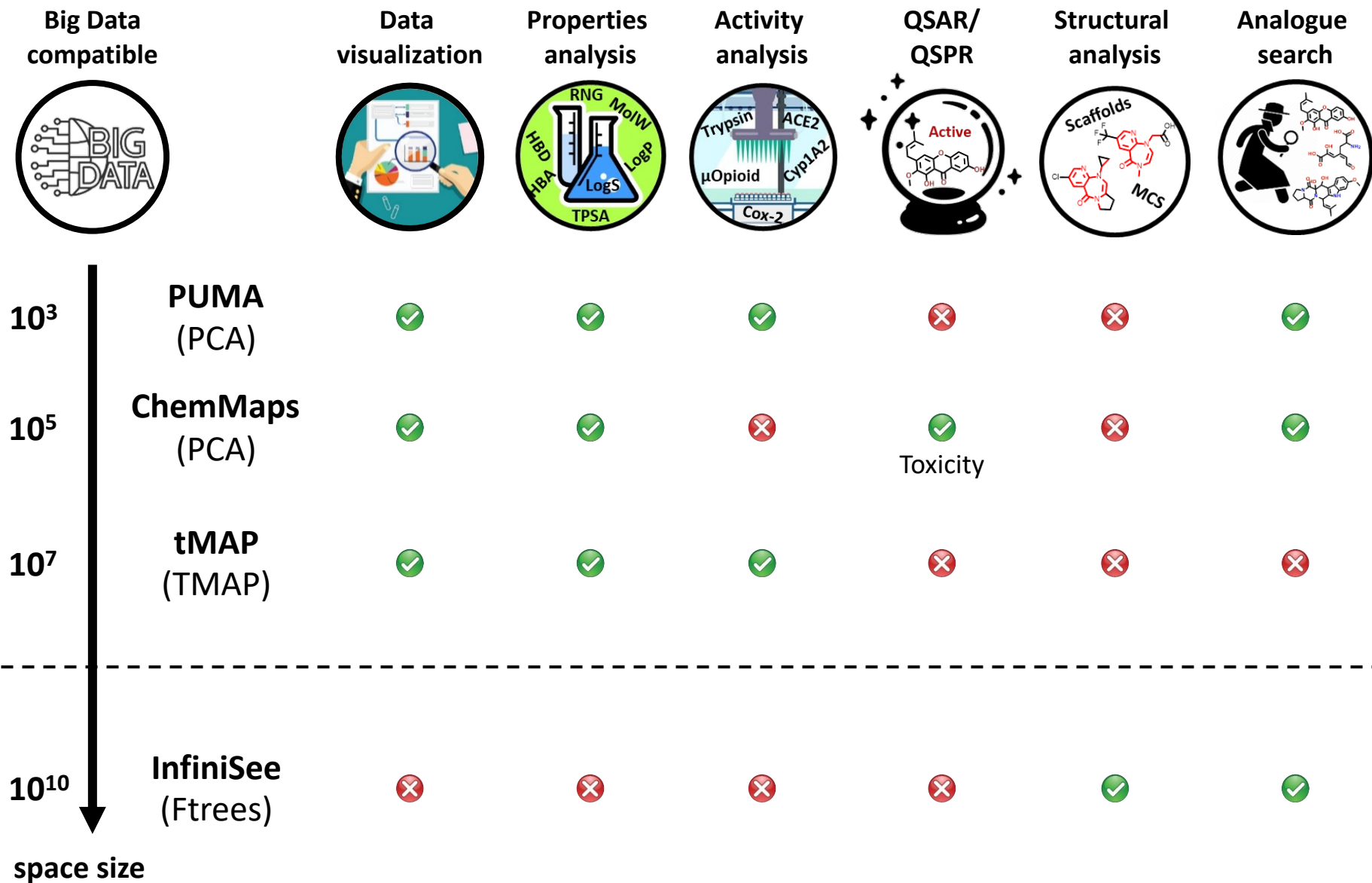


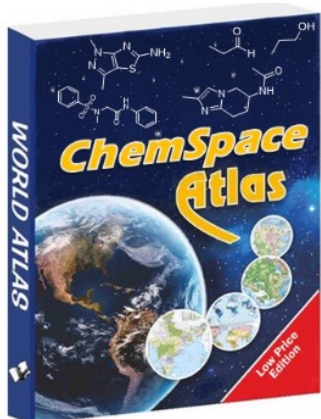
DEL1



DEL2

# Online tools for Big Data analysis





# Chemspace Atlas: Multiscale Chemography of Ultralarge Libraries for Drug Discovery

Yuliana Zabolotna, Fanny Bonachera, Dragos Horvath, Arkadii Lin, Gilles Marcou, Olga Klimchuk, and Alexandre Varnek\*

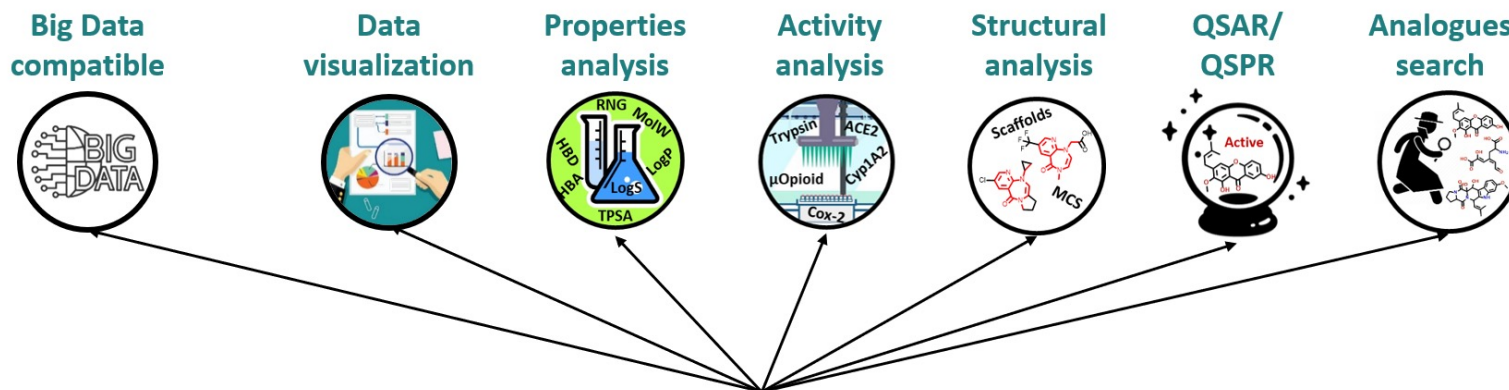


Cite This: <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jcim.2c00509>

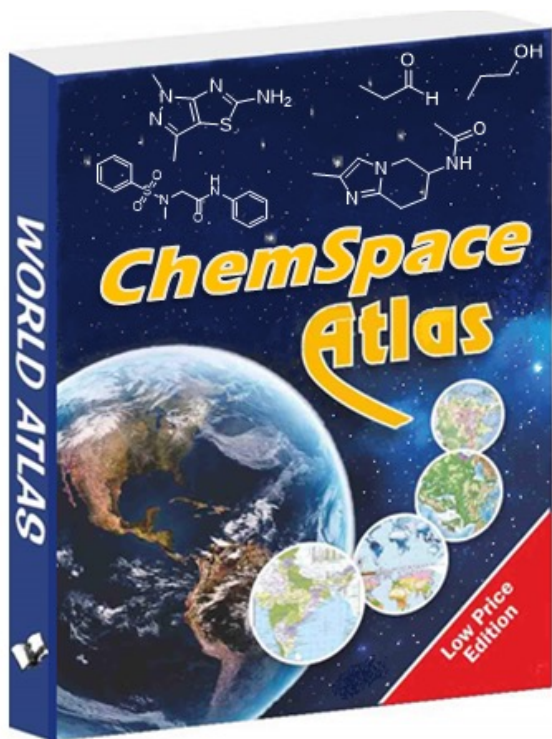


Read Online

J. Chem. Inf. Mod., 2022, 62, 4537–4548



# ChemSpace Atlas tool



## Main features

- polyvalent tool based on the GTM Universal Maps
- accommodates  $> 1.5$  billion compounds
- assembles  $> 40.000$  hierarchically related maps of different scale

## Main options

- Data visualization, search, subsets selection
- Automated extraction of Maximal Common Substructures
- Scaffold analysis
- Projection of new compounds
- Pharmacological profiling with respect to  $>700$  biological targets

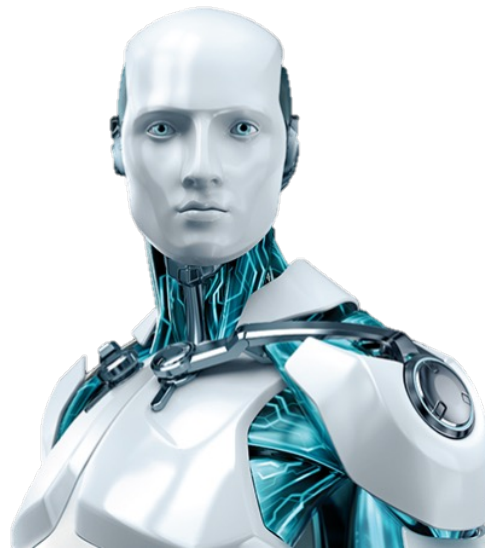
## Libraries

- Screening Compounds
- Natural products and their analogues

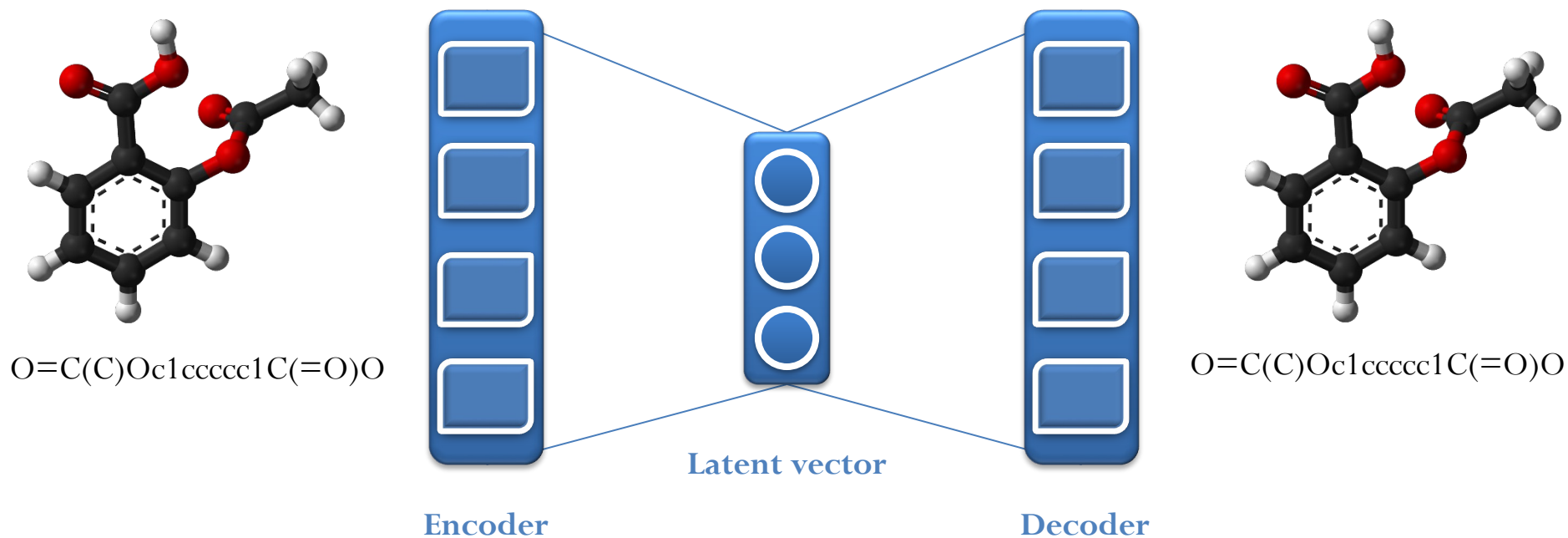


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*De novo* design of biological  
active molecules using Artificial  
Intelligence tools



# Autoencoder performing SMILES reconstruction



Chemical  
structure

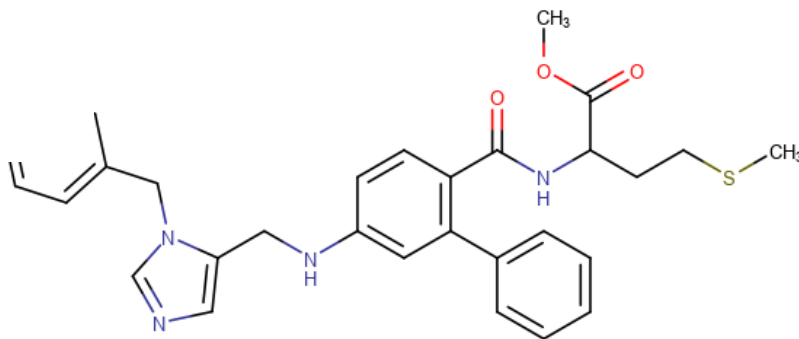
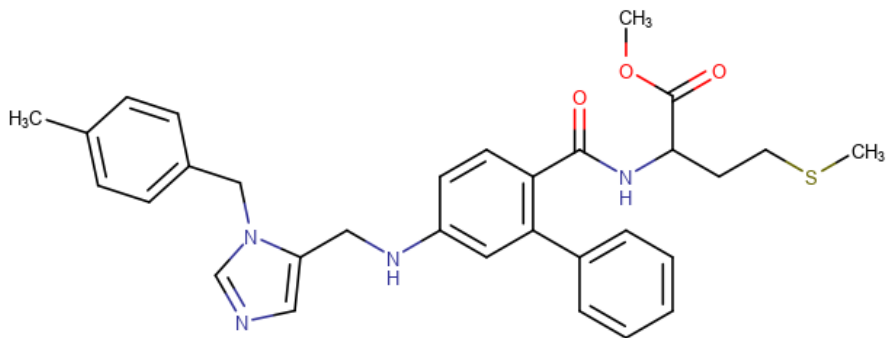


**Real numbers**



Chemical  
structure

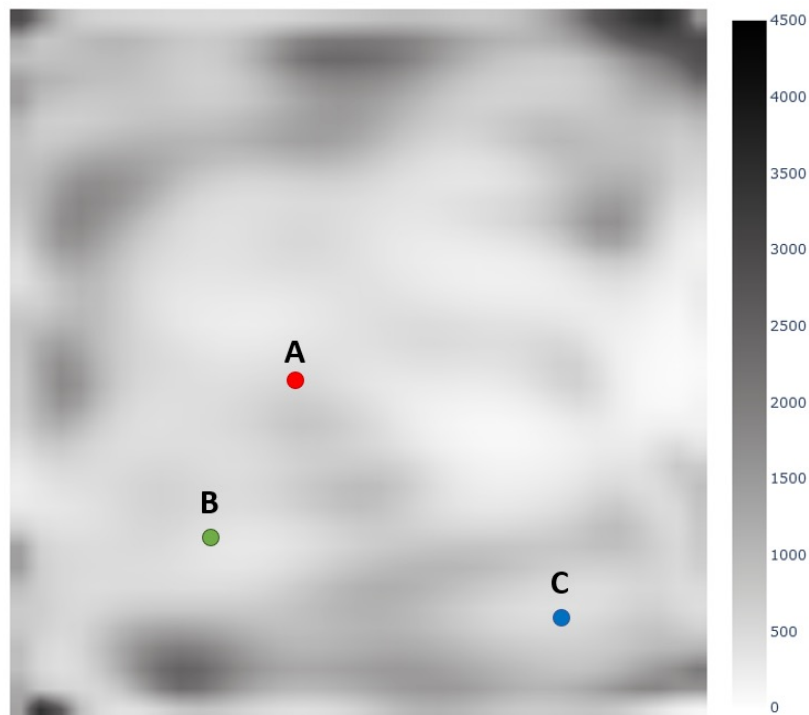
# dependence is a problem!



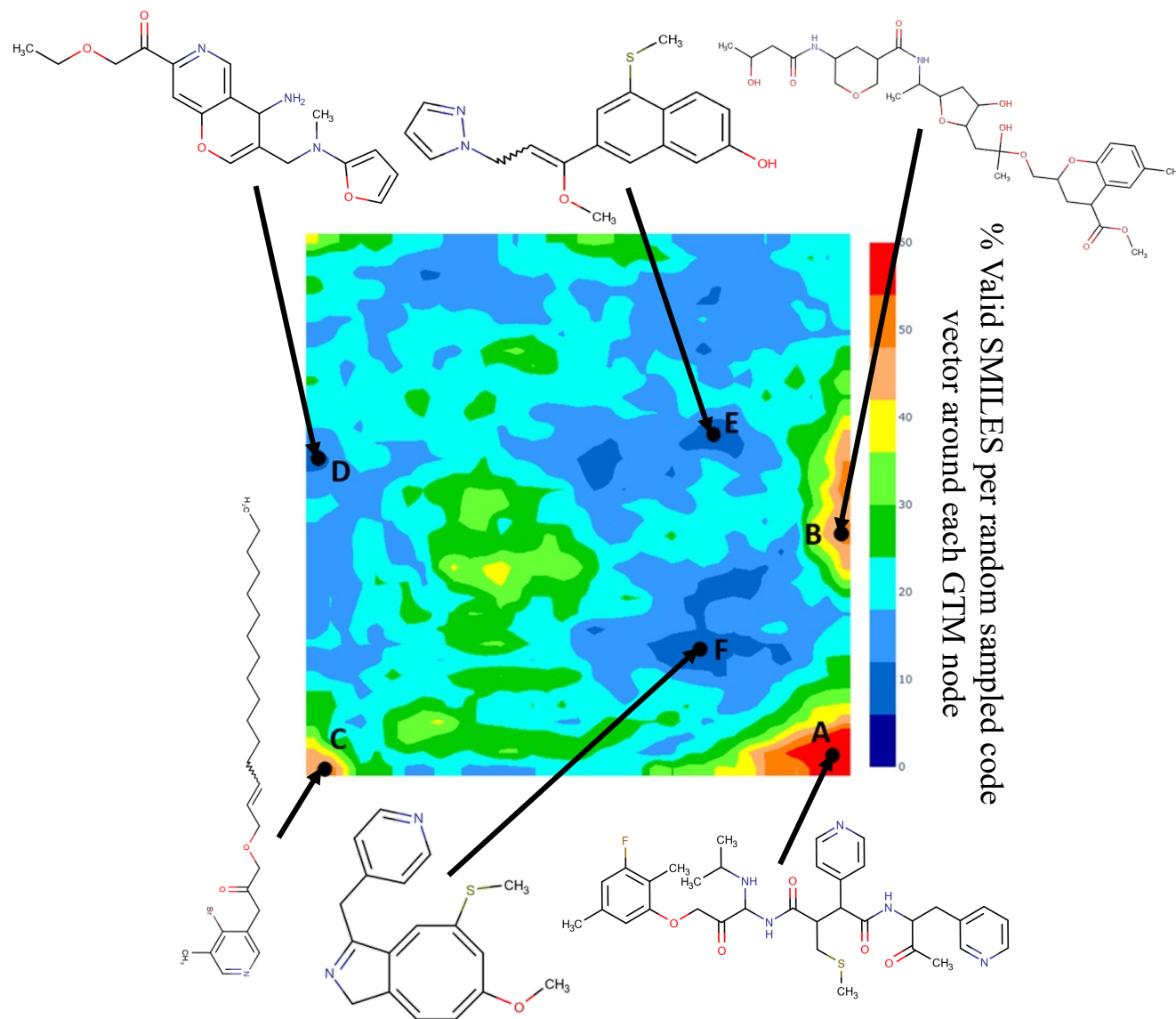
**A:** c1cc(C(NC(C(OC)=O)CCSC)=O)c(-c2ccccc2)cc1NCc1cncn1Cc1ccc(C)cc1

**B:** N(Cc1cncn1Cc1ccc(C)cc1)c1cc(-c2ccccc2)c(C(=O)NC(C(OC)=O)CCSC)cc1

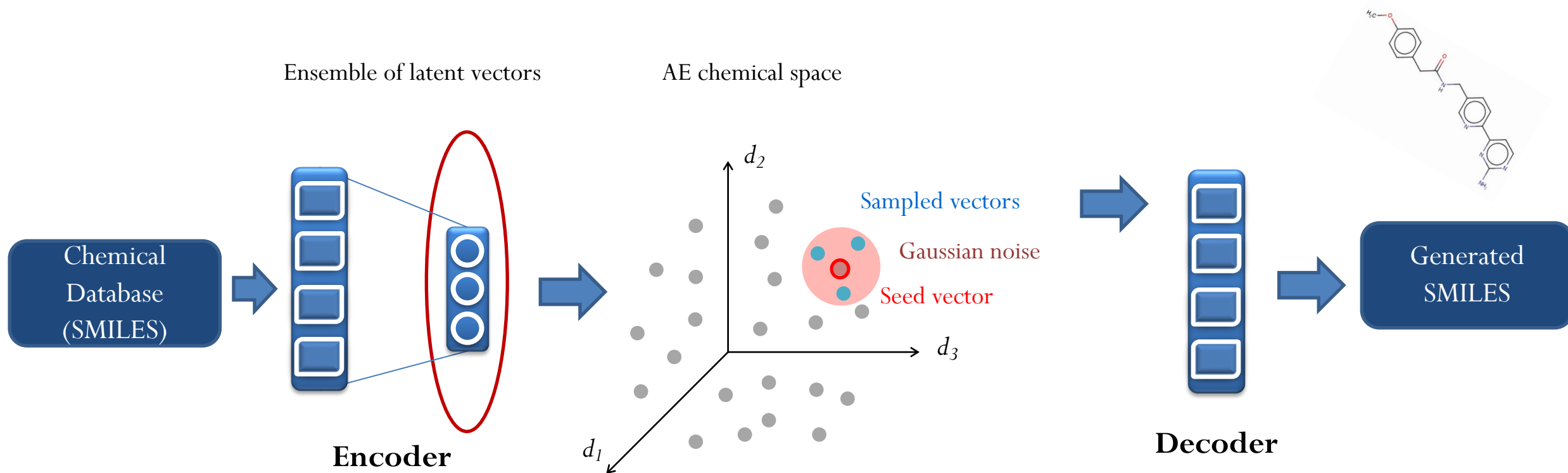
**C:** c1cc(C)ccc1Cn1cnc1CNc1ccc(C(=O)NC(CCSC)C(OC)=O)c(-c2ccccc2)c1



# Latent Vector Reversibility is a Regional Property!

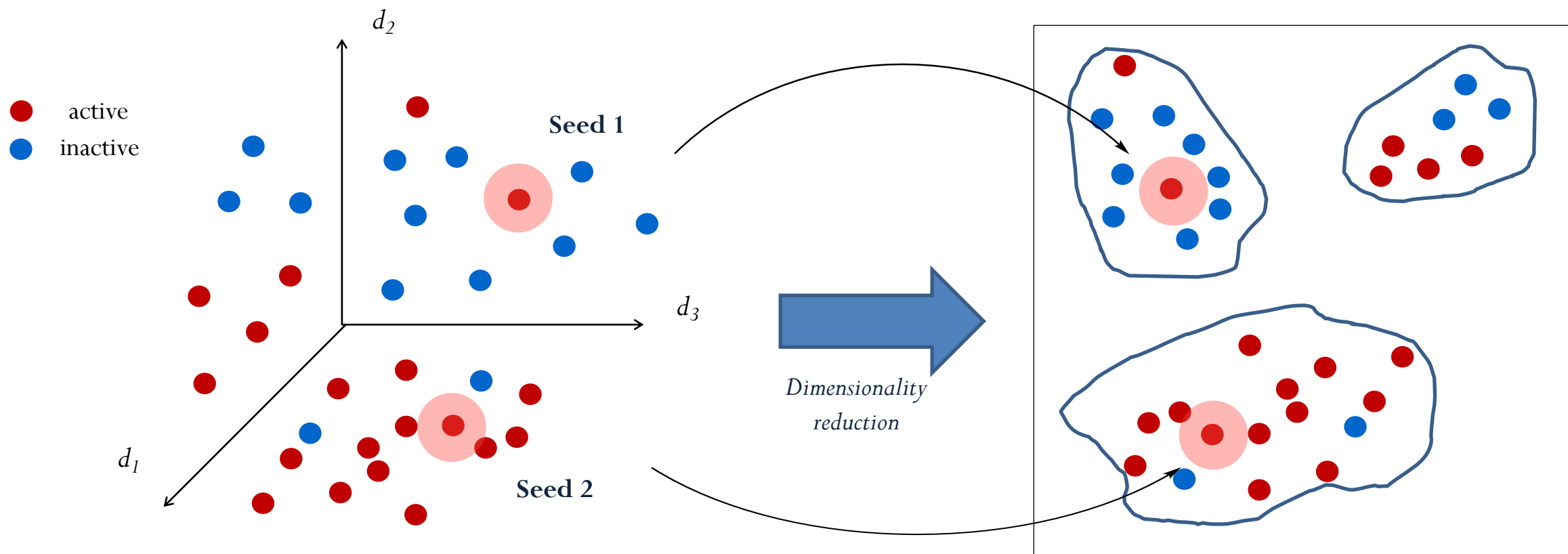


# AutoEncoder: sampling using a seed vector

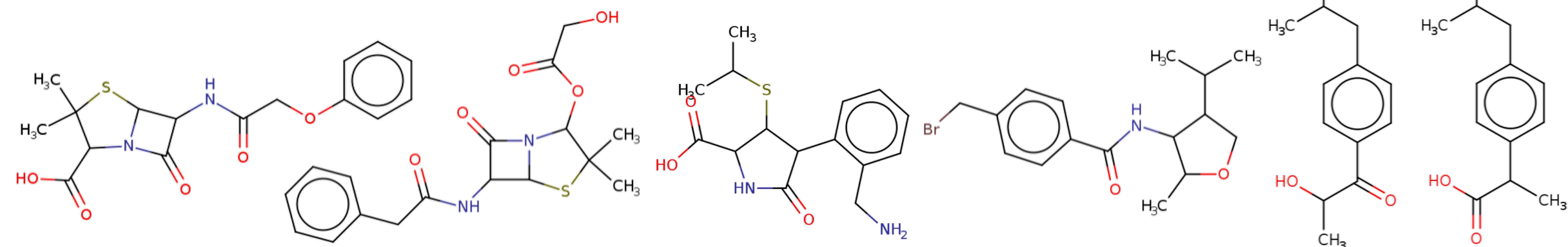
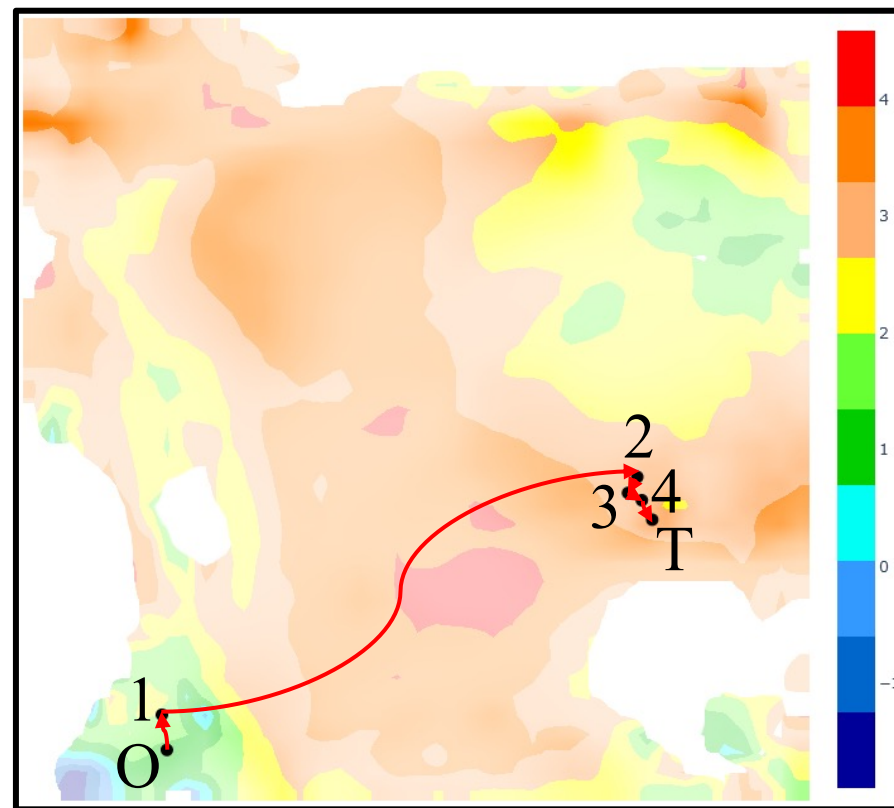
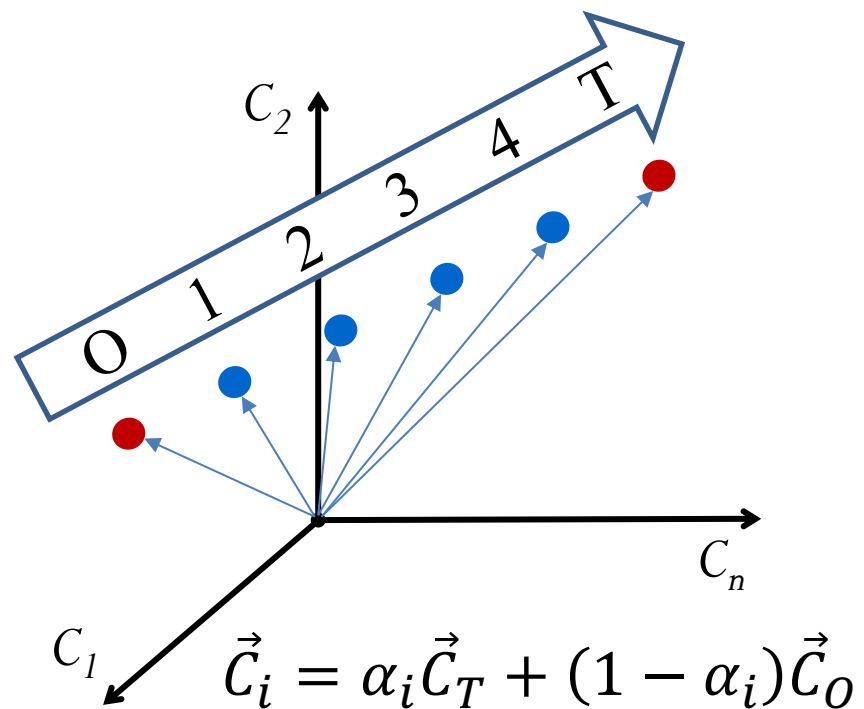


**Goal:** to identify a seed vector from which valid structures possessing a given activity can be generated

# AutoEncoder chemical space: choice of a seed vector



Sampling from the **Seed 2** (belonging to a cluster of actives) has more chance to generate active molecules than from the **Seed 1** (singleton)



Origin:

1

2

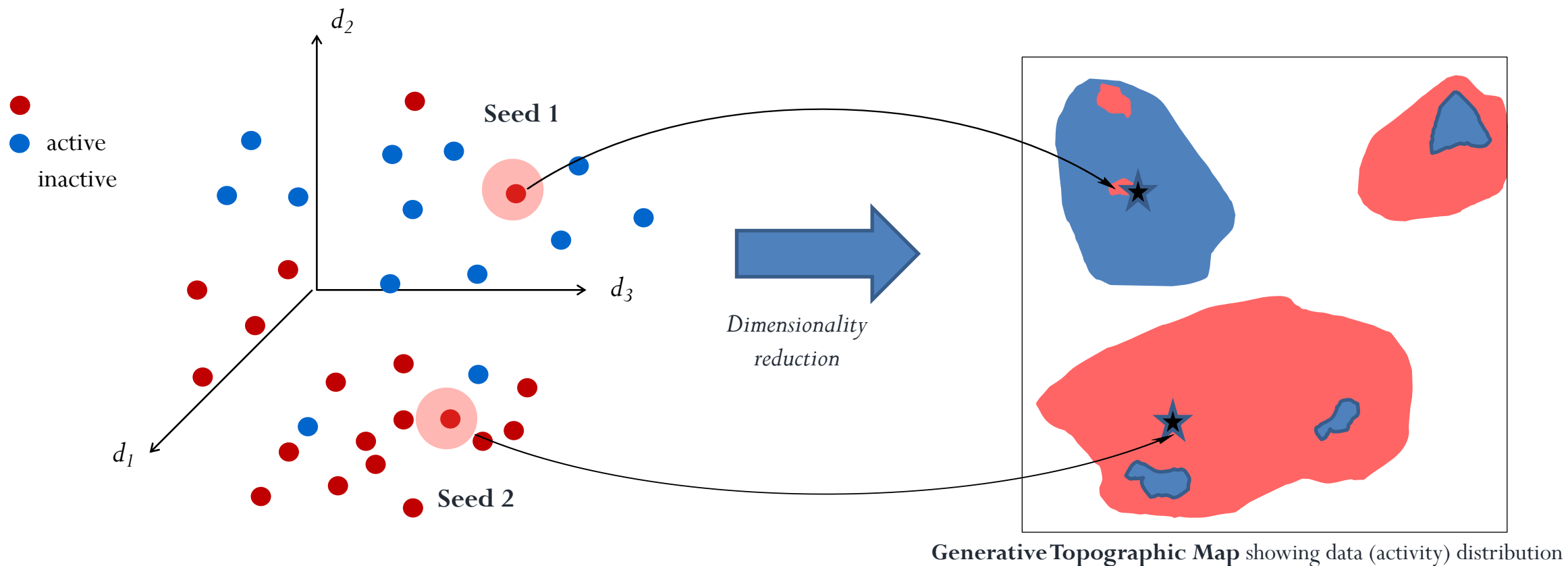
3

4

Target:

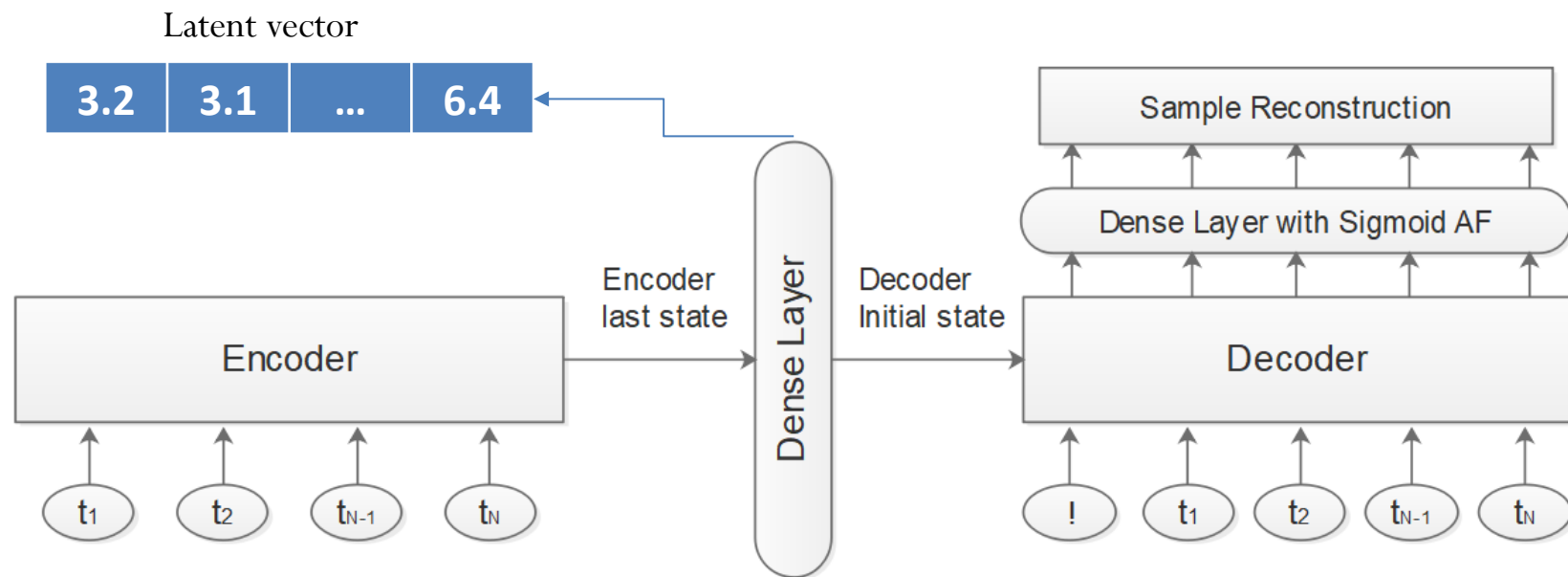
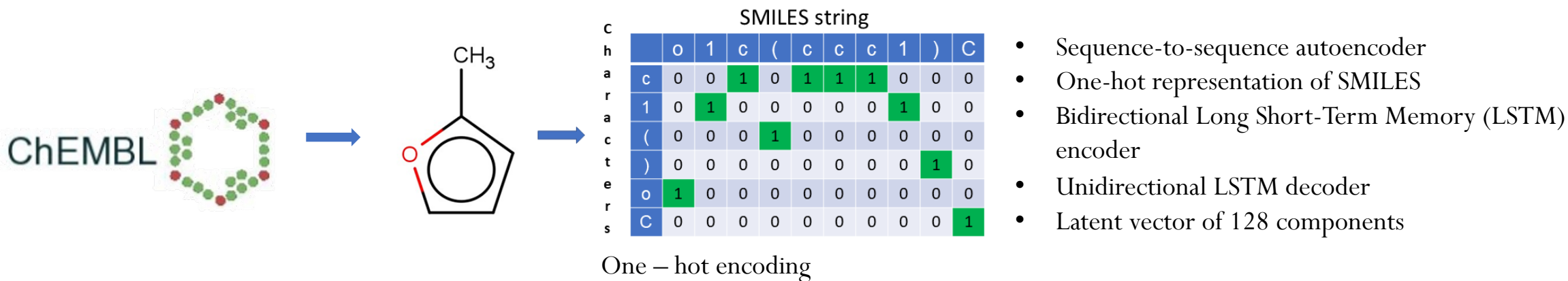


# AutoEncoder chemical space analysis with GTM

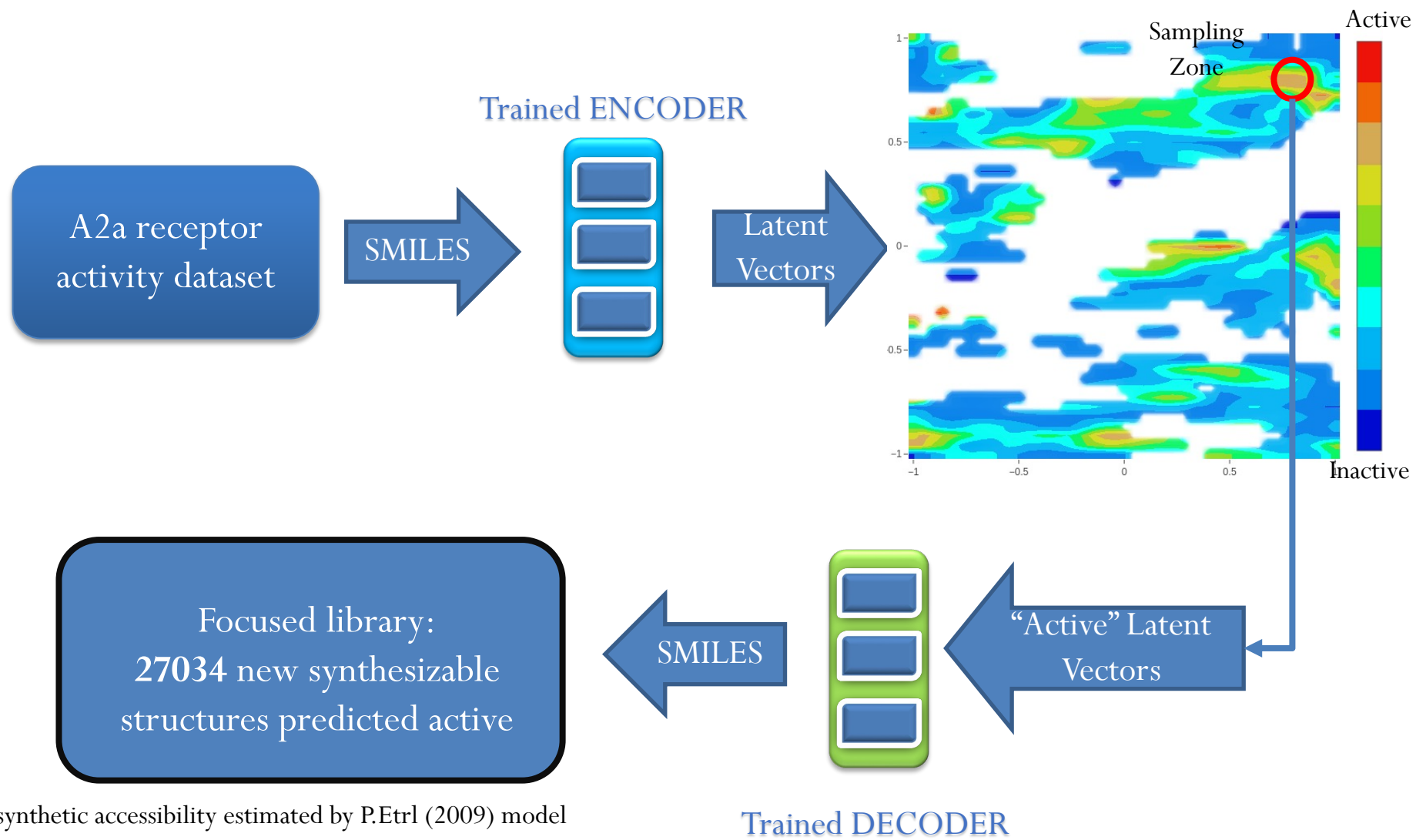


**Generative Topographic Map (GTM)** can be used for seed selection, chemical space exploration and activity prediction

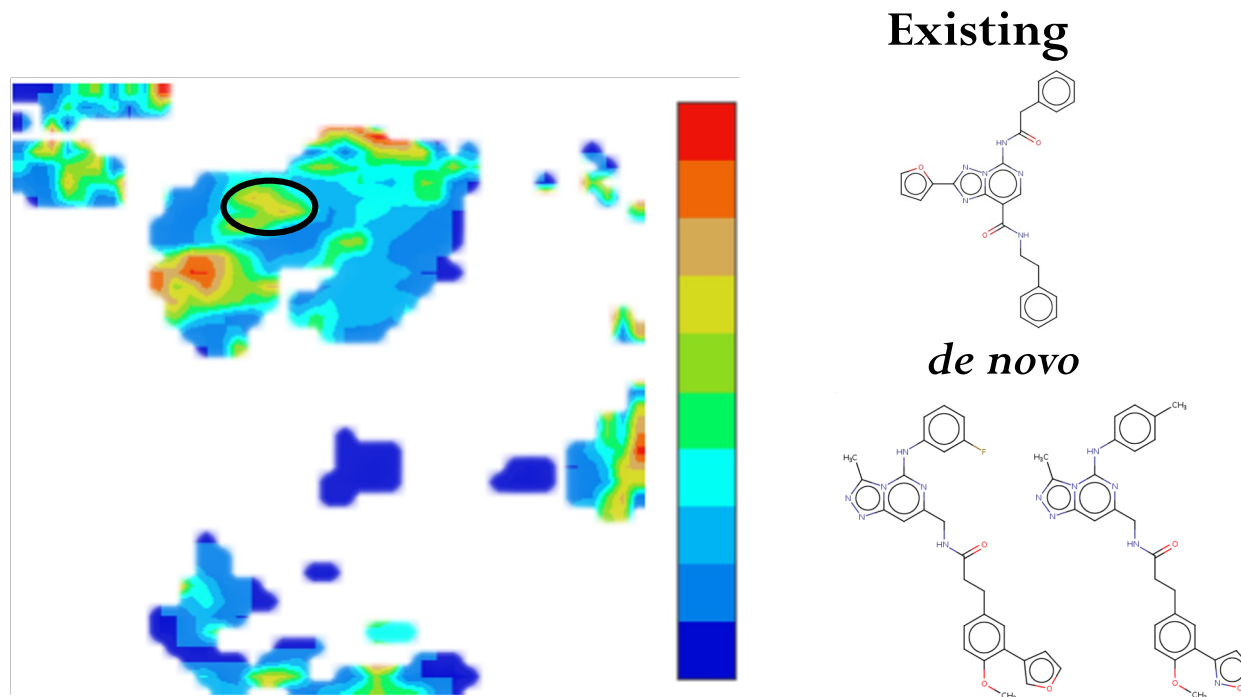
# AutoEncoder: Sequence-to-sequence Architecture



# Generation of the focused library for Adenosine A2a receptor



# Case study: Generation of inhibitors of A2a receptor

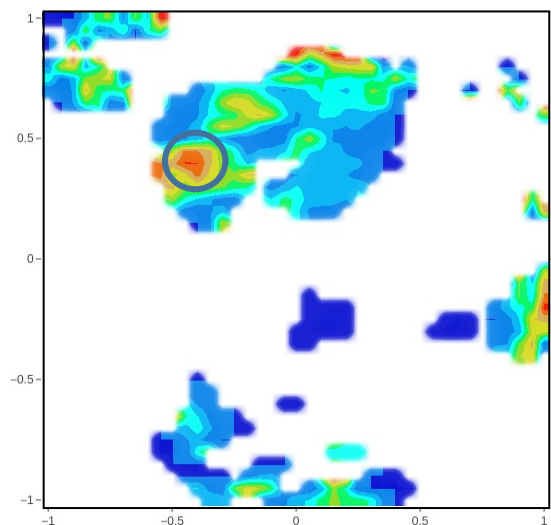


- *Generated structures are enriched with new scaffolds*
- *According to docking experiments they are efficiently able to bind A2a*

# Solving the inverse-QSAR problem using a Conditional Variational Autoencoder

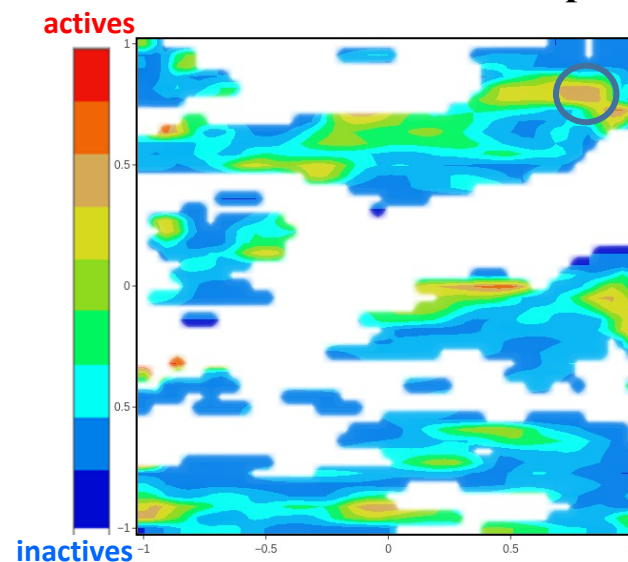
# AutoEncoder vs Molecular descriptors space

ISIDA molecular descriptors space



- activity prediction
- no structure generation

Autoencoder latent space

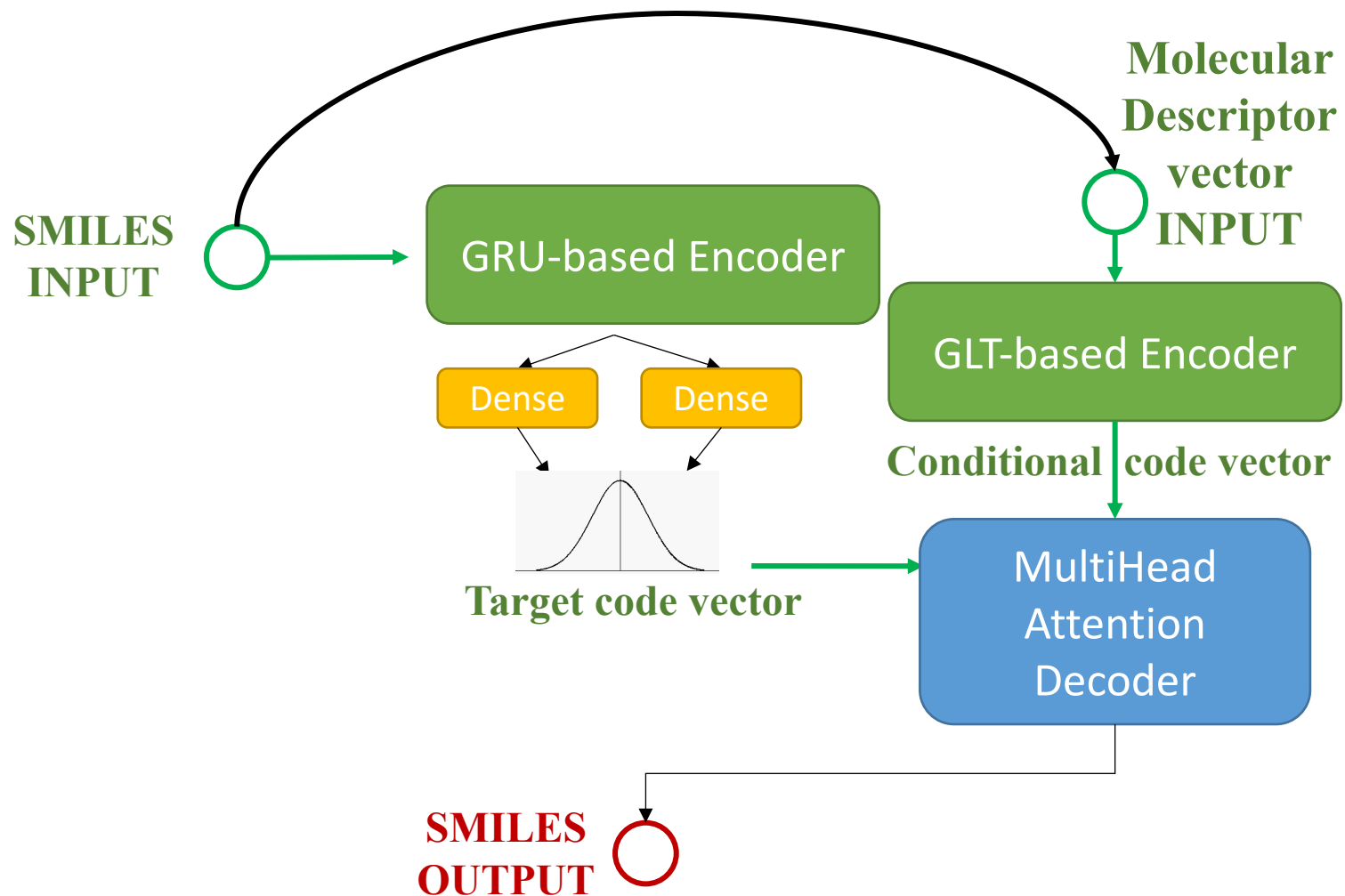


- activity prediction
- generation of new structures

GTM Class landscapes for A2a-receptors binders (1303 actives and 3618 inactives)

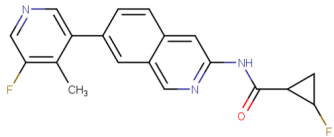
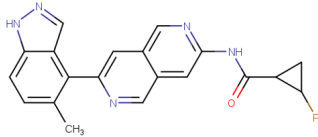
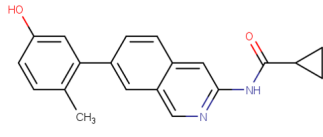
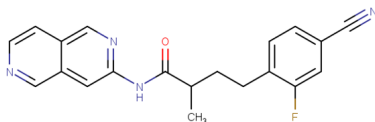
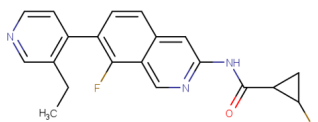
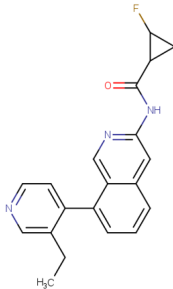
Goal: development of deep-learning architecture able to generate structures with desired activities using any descriptor space (*inverse-QSAR problem*)

# Attention-based Conditional Variational Autoencoder





# Inverse-QSAR with ACoVAE

ChEMBL compounds		
 <p>10.73</p>	 <p>10.70</p>	 <p>10.70</p>
inverse-QSAR compounds		
 <p>10.08</p>	 <p>9.45</p>	 <p>9.35</p>

Structures and related  $pK_i$  values of the most potent *ABL Tyrosine kinase 1* ligands from ChEMBL and their counterparts generated with the ACoVAE tool

# Collaboration

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- ITN Marie-Curie BigChem
- ITN Marie Curie TubInTrain
- Institute of Organic Chemistry, Kiev, Ukraine
- Chumakov Center, Moscow, Russia
- Eli Lilly
- SANOFI
- Enamine
- eMolecules
- Novalix
- Janssen  
Pharmaceutical
- TOTAL
- SOLVAY

