





Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci

Artificial intelligence in drug discovery

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Quote of the day

"An amount of intelligence in a typical drug discovery project is so low that the some artificial intelligence would not harm"

Founders of Receptor.Al in 2021 ©

Expectations:



Reality:



Plan of the talk

- 1. Why modern drug discovery struggles
 - A crash course of upsetting the investors
- 2. Can AI make it struggle a bit less?
 - A short guide for giving hope to upset investors
- 3. Some shameless self-promotion
 - Investors don't trust this anyway



Modern drug discovery struggles badly



Traditional methods stagnate

- The cost per drug increases
- Development time doesn't improve
- Failure rate is persistently >90%
- Only 6.3% composite success rate in 2022

Are we cursed? (Let's upset the investors...)



Eroom's Law: Drug discovery is becoming slower and more expensive over time
 Moore's Law: Computing power becomes faster and less expensive over time

Computational resources become cheaper but this doesn't help much...

Eroom's law explained (kind of)

- **The 'better than the Beatles' problem**: very hard to beat established treatments to the extent that it's economically viable.
- **The 'cautious regulator' problem**: level of required evidence in trials become a burden.
- **The 'throw money at it' tendency**: The tendency to add excessive resources to R&D. One woman gives birth in 9 month. Let hire 9 women to give a birth in 1 month!
- The 'basic research-brute force' bias: The tendency to overestimate the ability of advances in basic research and brute force screening methods. Late stages continue to fail despite huge amounts of obtained data.

Cat AI beat the Eroom's law?

• AI is generally considered as a rescue

- Breaking the Eroom's law
- 60% more drugs per \$1B by 2030
- General paradigm change

• The 'better than the Beatles' problem:

- Cutting the R&D cost to the extent that even moderate improvement will pay for itself.
- Finding fundamentally different modalities and targets.

• The 'cautious regulator' problem:

- Predicting the unfavourable clinical outcomes *very early* to cut futile projects.
- Automate and streamline the trials.

• The 'throw money at it' tendency:

• Better throw money at us :)

• The 'basic research-brute force' bias:

 Making multi-domain predictive models including all available big data and hope that this will reduce the % of late stage failures

Can Al save us? (Let's give some hope to upset investors...)

THE INFLUENCE OF AI



Problems AI can solve

The problem of the context gaps:

Multiple knowledge domains don't play together well

- Chemistry
- Biology
- Simulations
- Bioinformatics
- Population omics
- Patient data

Intractable amount of data:

- 50+B chemical spaces
- 40+ ADMET endpoints
- High-throughput readouts (HTS, DEL, RNA display, Phage display,...)
- Trials outcomes

Workflow construction:

- Which in silico methods to use?
- Which experiments to employ?
- Which cellular and animal models?
- What is the signal to stop?

Traditional approach: We need to develop drugs *quickly*, *reliably* and *cheaply*. Choose *any two* of these.

Al approach: Why not all at once?

Applications of AI in drug discovery

- Target identification
 - Population omics
 - Knowledge graphs
 - Unstructured data scraping
- Early discovery
 - Hit discovery to lead optimization: Al virtual screening, ADMET prediction, QSAR.

• Late discovery

- Formulation optimization,
- IND and clinical studies outcome prediction
- Clinical study planning and monitoring
- Drug repurposing
 - Off-target search

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Target Identification: AI-curated knowledge graphs



- Multiparametric graph databases relating diseases, pathways, omics, proteins, drugs, modalities, indications, etc...
- Scraped automatically from all structured databases + LLM-based scraping of papers, patents, clinical study reports.
- Example questions to ask: Find all protein targets associated with immuno oncology that has approved MABs but lack small molecules approved or on clinical trials 2+.

Al-curated knowledge graphs

- Usage of AI:
 - Creation and continuous updating of the graph
 - Generation of queries and NLP transformation of responses
- Open questions:
 - Latest LLMs often provide similar performance *directly* in human language (they already contain most of information + can do the search)
 - Limited amount of public data
 →absence of competitive advantage.
 - Closed databases of big pharma are "new oil" for them.



Al in early drug discovery

- Protein structure prediction
 - AlphaFold, Rosetta
- Chemical space generation
 - Molecular generators (Chemistry42, Iktos)
 - Scaffold hopping
 - Substituents generation
- Ligand pose prediction
 - DiffDock, UniMol, ArtiDock

- Non-Al generative techniques
 - MD for protein conformational ensembles generation
 - Artificial binding pockets for AI data augmentation





Sequence-residue edges

MSA embedding

Al virtual screening



Al virtual screening

- Very fast (2-3 order of magnitude faster) initial filtration of the chemical space
- Self-balancing: many known compounds →ligand-based approach; few compounds →structure based approach.
- Separate models for protein tier lists (depending on the number of known structures and ligands).
- 70+% accuracy on "favourable" targets.
- Early assessment of ADMET \rightarrow fewer toxicity failures

ADMET prediction

MULTI-PARAMETRIC OPTIMISATION OF 80+ PK/ADME-TOX AND PHYSCHEM PROPERTIES

ADME (HUMAN)

Absorption:

- HIA
- P-Glycoprotein Substrate-like Binding
- P-glycoprotein Inhibition
- P-alvcoprotein Substrate-like Binding Permeability
- Lipid bilaver permeability coefficient (logPerm)
- · Partitioning into the lipid bilayers (LopK)
- CACO-2 cell permeability
- PAMPA (Parallel Artificial Membrane) Permeability Assav)

Distribution:

- Plasma Protein Binding
- Blood-Brain Barrier
- Volume Distribution

Metabolism:

- Metabolic stability
- CYPIA2 inhibition
- CYP3A4 inhibition
- CYP2C19 inhibition
- CYP2C9 inhibition
- CYP2D6 inhibition
- CYP1A2 Substrate-like binding
- CYP2D6 Substrate-like binding
- CYP3A4 Substrate-like binding
- CYP2C19 Substrate-like binding
- CYP2C9 Substrate-like binding

Excretion:

- Plasma clearance
- Renal clearance

TOXICITY (HUMAN)

Specific toxicity:

- Carcinogenecity (OSF)
- Carcinogenecity (ISF)
- Mutagenicity (AMES test)
- Hepatotoxicity (DILI)
- Cardiotoxicity (hERG blocking)
- Aromatase Inhibition
- Androgen Receptor Binding
- Androgen Receptor Antagonism
- Androgen Receptor Agonism
- Estrogen Receptor Binding
- Estrogen Receptor Antagonism
- Estrogen Receptor Agonism
- Skin irritancy

Acute toxicity:

Acute oral toxicity prediction

Cytotoxicity:

- · HEK293 (Embryonic kidney fibroblasts)
- A549 (Lung carcinoma cells)
- MCF7 (Breast carcinoma cells)

We possess proprietary datasets allowing us to expand the set of desirable ADME-Tox properties to more than 60 endpoints based on rat, mouse and dog models.





Drug-like Filters:

- · Lipinski Rule of 5
- Ghose
- Veber
- REOS
- Rule of 3

PhysChem Parameters:

- Molecular Weight
- Hydrogen Bond Donors
- Hydrogen Bond Acceptors
- Number of Rotatable Bonds
- Number of Rings
- Number of Aromatic Rings
- · Number of Atoms
- Number of Heavy Atoms
- Formal Charge
- FCsp3
- LogP
- LogS
- LogD
- Stability in aqueous solution
- Molar Refractivity
- Topological Polar Surface Area
- pKa
- · CNS MPO
- CNS MPO v2
- Synthesisability Score
- Substructure Filters:
- · Glaxo
- · Dundee
- BMS
- PAINS
- SureChEMBI
- MLSMR
- Inpharmatica
- LINT





ADMET multi-task learning

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cr bit bit< bit< bit<	AMES	0.006	1.0	0.046	0.007	0.006	0.005	0.009	0.004	0.043	0.043	0.043			0.092	0.086		0.035			0.029	0.038	0.015	0.007	0.026	0.062	0.062		0.055						
cm om om<	BBB	0.029		1.0	0.018	0.015	0.012	0.01	0.01		0.099	0.099			0.026	0.023	0.025	0.008	0.008	0.005			0.038					0.095							
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	_																																-	0.66	
	Half-life	0.101	0.098	0.325	0.074	0.062	0.043	0.035	0.033	0.265	0.265	0.265	0.143	0.143	0.029	0.028	0.03	0.004	0.007	0.002	0.325	0.282	0.081	0.067	0.263	0.009	0.009	0.138	0.252	0.131	0.975	0.999	0.401	1.0	

- Multi-task ADMET model: trained on multiple endpoints with "cross-dissemination" between them.
- There are groups of tasks sharing the data to more or less extent

MultiTask model training

	ADMET_param	Problem		Val		Test				
1			Classical ML	Multi-Task	Multi-Task_all	Classical ML	Multi-Task	Multi-Task_all		
2	AMES	binary	0.859	0.848	0.835	0.844	0.838	0.832		
3	Acute	regression	0.515	0.426	0.394	0.531	0.409	0.363		
4	Androgen_agon	binary	0.941	0.952	0.939	0.93	0.953	0.950		
5	Androgen_antag	binary	0.908	0.918	0.913	0.894	0.893	0.898		
6	Androgen_bind	binary	0.906	0.900	0.899	0.892	0.890	0.899		
7	BBB	binary	0.9	0.920	0.896	0.894	0.915	0.913		
8	Bioavailability	binary	0.773	0.736	0.715	0.69	0.659	0.681		
9	CYP_Inh_1A2	binary	0.851	0.890	0.843	0.84	0.831	0.786		
10	CYP_Inh_1A2	regression	0.559	0.498	0.396	0.584	0.495	0.416		
11	CYP_Inh_2C19	binary	0.828	0.876	0.797	0.808	0.842	0.779		
12	CYP_Inh_2C19	regression	0.443	0.427	0.298	0.39	0.461	0.269		
13	CYP_Inh_2C9	binary	0.808	0.825	0.820	0.82	0.800	0.765		
14	CYP_Inh_2C9	regression	0.477	0.465	0.357	0.495	0.335	0.200		
15	CYP_Inh_2D6	binary	0.836	0.844	0.816	0.843	0.830	0.806		
16	CYP Inh 2D6	regression	0.53	0.573	0.474	0.567	0.507	0.427		

Case study: membrane permeability



- MolMeDb data for
 - Membrane permeability
 - Membrane partitioning
- Receptor.Al MultiTask ADMET NN architecture
- AutoML automatic featurization

	Task	Samples	MSE (cv)	MSE (test)	MAE (cv)	MAE (test)	R2 (cv)	R2 (test)
1	logK DOPC	434661	0.100	0.114	0.238	0.259	0.950	0.943
2	logK octanol	449128	0.044	0.057	0.155	0.177	0.976	0.969
3	logP DOPC	434568	0.424	0.484	0.469	0.510	0.923	0.911
4	logP GENER	3717	2.137	2.770	0.851	0.882	0.759	0.682

Case study: membrane permeability



This is too good to be true...

	Task	Samples	MSE (cv)	MSE (test)	MAE (cv)	MAE (test)	R2 (cv)	R2 (test)
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FAIR data? Ha-ha! :)

- The LogK data collected in MolMeDb appeared to be *not* the raw data but the *predictions*
 - ALOGPS 2.1: an ancient (2002) Associative Neural Network (ASNN) approach.
- The raw data were from PHYSPROP database:
 - No longer publicly available from ~2020, all links are just broken.
 - Claimed to be moved to EPI Suite software from **US Environmental Protection Agency**.
 - \circ ~ EPI Suite docs mention the same broken links.
 - Binary .db files in the installation are not readable (undocumented proprietary format).
- Data archeology:
 - A paper from 2017 (<u>10.1021/acs.jcim.6b00625</u>) used PHYSPROP (still available back then) to make a curated subset of data and to retrain the models \rightarrow curated subset still public!
 - Initial PHYSPROP had *tons of issues* (erroneous structures, inconsistencies among the chemical names)
 - In *curated* set: 81 invalid SMILES, 236 too small, 93 mixtures, 42 organometallic, 22 bad valences, 1 duplicate.
 - Remaining 13732 compounds.

FAIR data? Ha-ha! :)

Findable
 Accessible
 Interoperable
 Reusable

Nice job, US Environmental Protection agency! 😉



Membrane permeability: corrected



TDC benchmarks: ADMET AI models open competition

	Task	Metric	TDC Best	RECEPTOR Best	SAAS Data (Test)	Place
1	Caco-2	MAE	0.285 ± 0.005	0.315 ± 0.017	0.293	4
2	HIA	ROC-AUC	0.988 ± 0.033	0.996 ± 0.001	0.944	1
3	Pgp-sub	ROC-AUC	0.935 ± 0.002	0.948 ± 0.004	0.897	1
4	Bioavailability	ROC-AUC	0.748 ± 0.006	0.776 ± 0.027	0.811	1
5	BBB	ROC-AUC	0.962 ± 0.003	0.930 ± 0.004	0.979	4
6	РРВ	MAE	7.811 ± 0.163	7.470 ± 0.192	9.714	1
7	VD	Spearman	0.627 ± 0.010	0.646 ± 0.026	0.750	1
8	CYP2D6-inh	PR-AUC	0.739 ± 0.005	0.726 ± 0.004	0.880	2
9	CYP3A4-inh	PR-AUC	0.904 ± 0.002	0.884 ± 0.001	0.869	3
10	CYP2C9-inh	PR-AUC	0.839 ± 0.003	0.800 ± 0.001	0.874	3
11	CYP2D6-sub	PR-AUC	0.736 ± 0.024	0.822 ± 0.004	0.835	1
12	CYP3A4-sub	ROC-AUC	0.662 ± 0.031	0.776 ± 0.015	0.920	1
13	CYP2C9-sub	PR-AUC	0.441 ± 0.033	0.556 ± 0.055	0.678	1
14	hERG	ROC-AUC	0.874 ± 0.014	0.897 ± 0.003	0.922	1
15	AMES	ROC-AUC	0.871 ± 0.002	0.876 ± 0.002	0.930	1
16	DILI	ROC-AUC	0.925 ± 0.005	0.964 ± 0.004	0.815	1

TDC open benchmarks set <u>https://tdcommons.ai</u>

 \circ 22 endpoints

- Public leaderboards
- Receptor.Al is not officially on TDC yet
- We are overall the best on TDC metrics
- Many endpoints are the absolute best
- Official participation planned in spring 2024

Al docking

- Al models trained on existing protein-ligand complexes.
 - ~10-20k high quality complexes only
 - Not physics-based, force field agnostic
- SMILE or 3D conformer + binding pocket as an input, binding pose as an output.
 - May produce distance matrix or point in dihedral space + post-processing to the pose
- Various representations of protein (AA, residue level, graph, distance matrix, etc.)
- Flexible balance between speed and accuracy

The problem of data with protein-ligand complexes

- There is a limited number of experimentally determined protein-ligand complexes
 - Number of all complexes (X-ray, Cryo-EM, NMR): < 20k
 - Hi-quality complexes with binding affinity annotations: ~10k
- Only 1655 ligands present in >1 complexes
- ~1500 protein bind to 80% of all ligands
- ~100 protein families represent 60% of all data
- Very limited and skewed dataset for ML!



Statistics of PDBbind database

Data augmentation technique

- Take the statistical distributions of interactions in real complexes.
- Generate artificial "binding pockets" around real ligands following these distributions.
- Mix artificial pockets to real ones for model training at different proportions.
- Assumed that all major non-bond interactions are present in experimental data but their *combinations* are not adequately sampled.
- Augmented data teaches the model to recognize corner cases and combinatorial variety of interactions that are absent in the experimental training set.

Data augmentation: the details

#	Pocket feature	Ligand feature	Interaction type
1	Aromatic ring	Aromatic ring	Pi stacking
2	Amide group	Aromatic ring	Amide-pi
3	Aromatic ring	Amide group	Amide-pi
4	Aromatic ring	Cationic atom	Cation-pi
5	Hydrogen bond donor	Hydrogen bond acceptor	Hydrogen bond
6	Hydrogen bond acceptor	Hydrogen bond donor	Hydrogen bond
7	Hydrogen bond acceptor	Halogen atom	Halogen bond
8	Cationic atom	Anionic atom	Electrostatic
9	Anionic atom	Cationic atom	Electrostatic
10	Cationic atom	Aromatic ring	Cation-pi
11	C or S atom	F atom	Hydrophobic
12	C or S atom	Cl, Br or I atom	Hydrophobic
13	C or S atom	C or S atom	Hydrophobic

Hydrophobic



H-bonds

Α

0.0

0.03

0.02

В

0.05

0.04

0.03

0.02



- Reasonable correspondence of distributions
- Potential of improvement at the cost of model training time
- Potential to add explicit ions and cofactors

DOI: 10.1039/D3RA08147H



ArtiDock: next gen ligand binding pose prediction

- Small model based on proprietary lightweight GNN architecture
 - Fast training and inference.
- Includes only the binding pocket
 - Less structural noise.
 - Much smaller model.
- Augmenting limited data on protein-ligand complexes with artificial pockets
 - Algorithmic technique for generating "fake" pockets around diverse real ligands.
 - Mimics statistical distributions of various non-bond interactions from experimental pockets.
 - Provides much more combinations of interactions than available in experimental pockets.
- Ability to integrate the protein dynamics
 - Incorporation of processed MD trajectories

ArtiDock performance: Astex dataset



- Astex is a standard dataset for docking benchmarks
- An older set created before the Al hype
- Considered not particularly challenging for Al methods

ArtiDock performance: PoseBusters dataset



PoseBusters dataset

- DOI: <u>10.1039/D3SC04185A</u>
- Includes multiple structure quality metrics beyond RMSD
- Designed to ashame AI docking
- Ashamed by the next-gen AI docking 🙂

PoseBusters versions

- V1 was made public in 2023 in the preprint
- V3 published and peer reviewed
- V3 is adjusted in favor of conventional docking and against AI even more (artificial bias)
- Al method still pass it 🙂

ArtiDock performance

- Outperforms all ML methods
- Comparable to conventional docking

Approximate Runtime Per Sample for

Docking Methods

>15 min

3.3 min

Vina

1.6 min

Go/d

DiffDock

1.5 min

20 s

Uni-Mol docking

Faster than all of them

1.5 s

ArtiDock

TankBind

0.05 s

EquiBind

0.3 s

1 s

DeepDock

2 s



Detailed comparison with Glide and UniMol

RMSD Thesholds, PoseBusters v3



- PB-Valid scores dependence on RMSD
 - cutoffo ArtiDock and Glide:
 - Antibock and Glide.
 increase
 - Uni-Mol: constant
 - Absolute PB-Valid scores:
 - ArtiDock and Glide: *comparable*
 - Uni-Mol: *low*
 - Scores: ArtiDock ~ Glide
 - Speed: ArtiDock >> Glide
 - Uni-Mol prioritizes RMSD but fails miserably on PB-Valid

Conclusions

- Al drug discovery techniques are here to stay
- Pharma companies adoption increases
- Data mining and analysis seems to be dominated by LLMs
- Progressive substitution of the "physics-based techniques" by "data driven" ones (will docking finally die for good?)
- Data is a new oil (but nobody wants to collect and curate it)



