

# Fueling the Digital Chemistry Revolution with Language and Multimodal Foundation Models

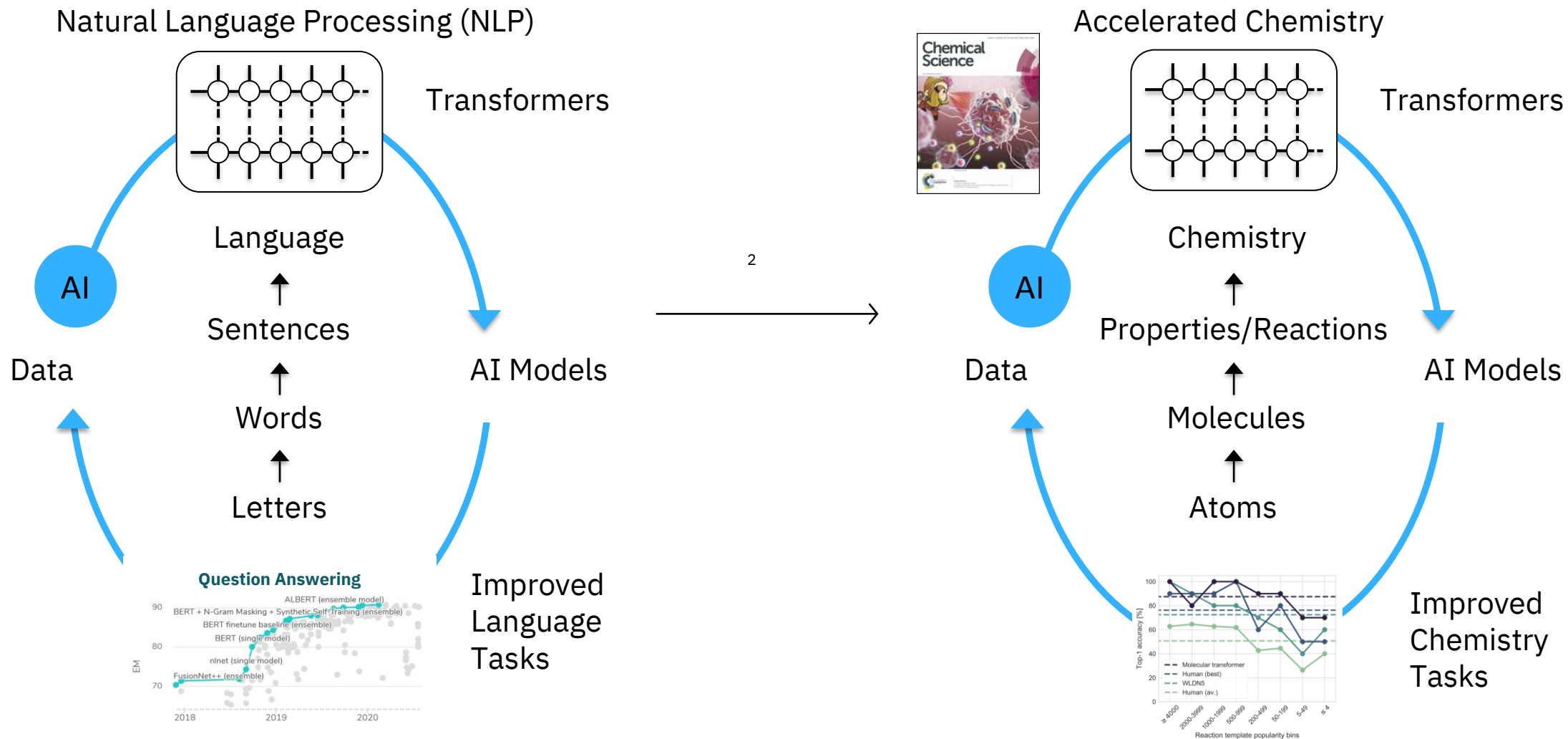
Teodoro Laino  
IBM Research Europe – Zurich

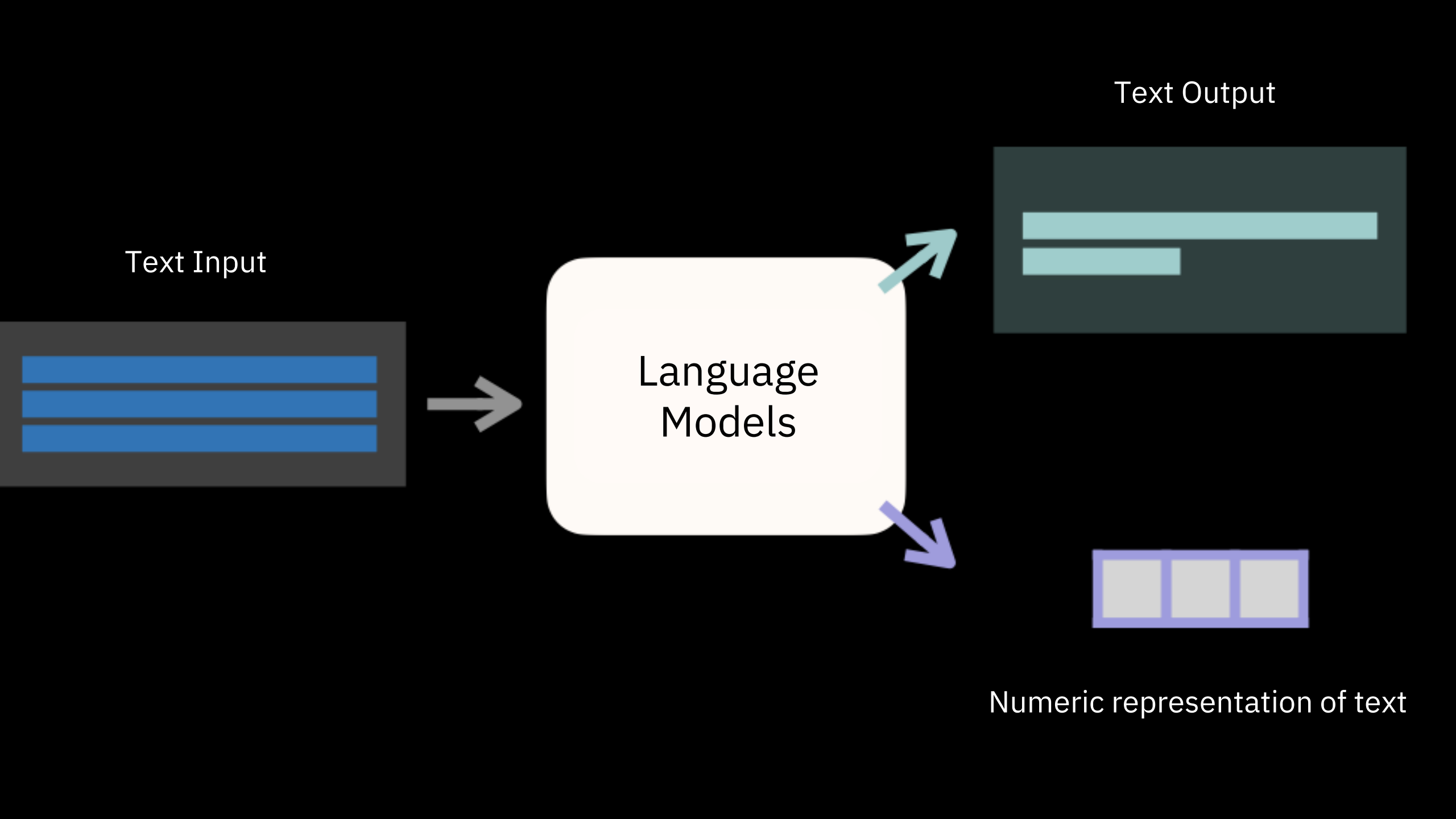


@teodorolaino

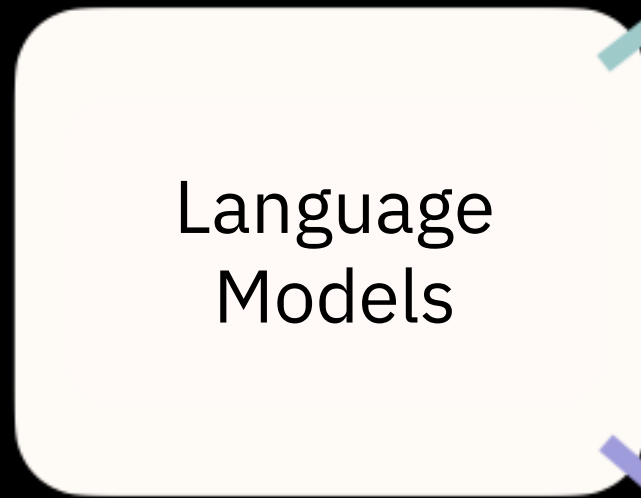
# AI breakthroughs for language are changing scientific discovery

Generative modeling and transformers are achieving new breakthroughs in chemistry





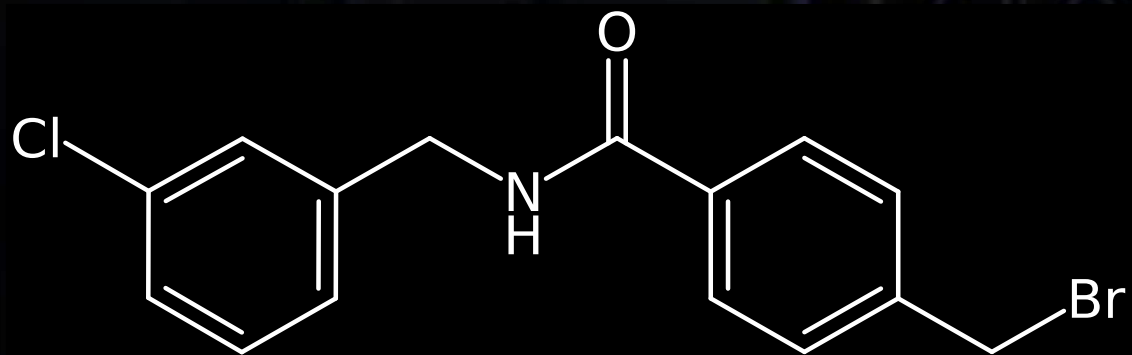
Text Input



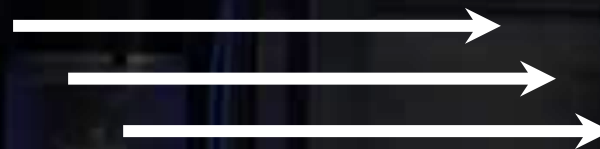
Text Output

Numeric representation of text

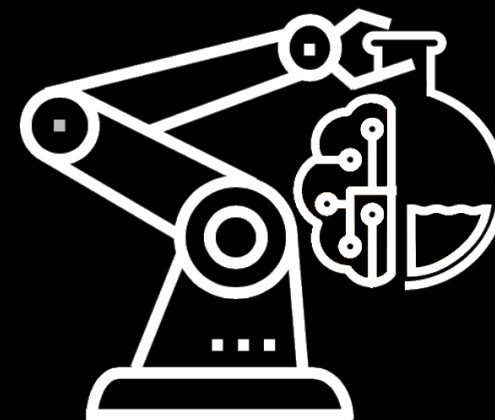
# Data and chemical reactions



Target molecule

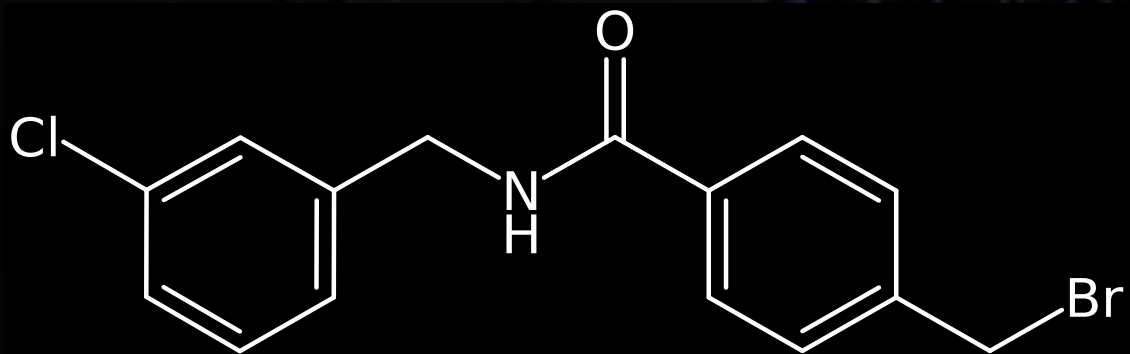


2.7 g (12.3 mmol) 4,4-Dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-2-oxo-7-quinolinecarboxylic acid were added to a solution of 3.8 g (18.5 mmol) N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide and 1.1 ml (12.3 mmol) aniline in 80 ml dichloromethane. The reaction mixture was stirred for 4 hours at ambient temperature and the precipitate was filtered off with suction and recrystallised from ethanol. There was obtained 1.2 g of the title compound; m.p. 249-251° C.

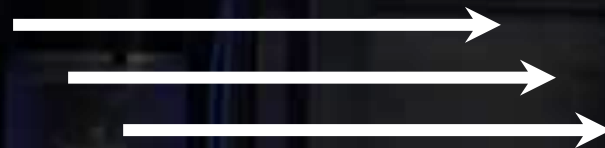
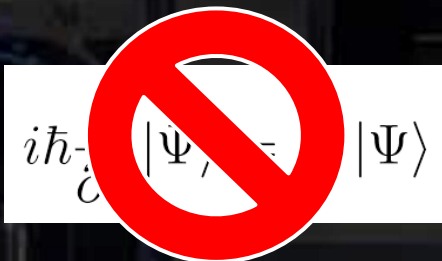


Synthesis execution

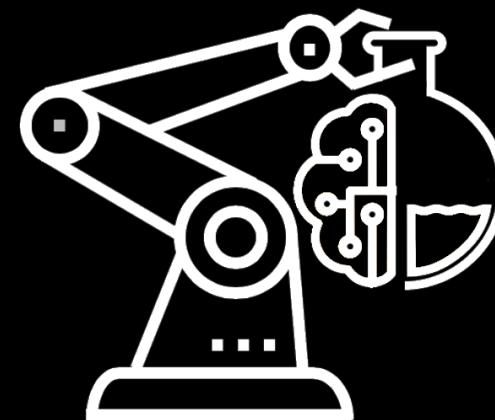
# Data and chemical reactions



Target molecule

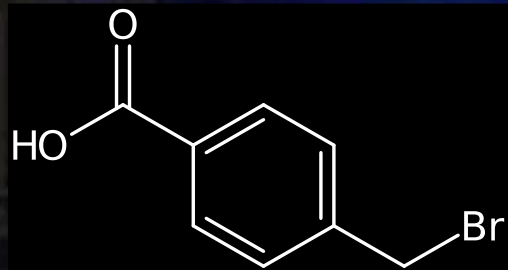
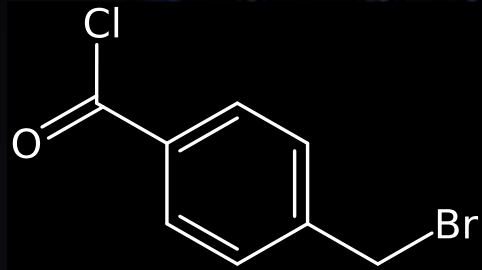
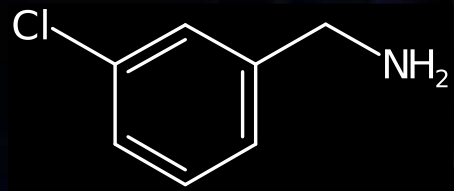
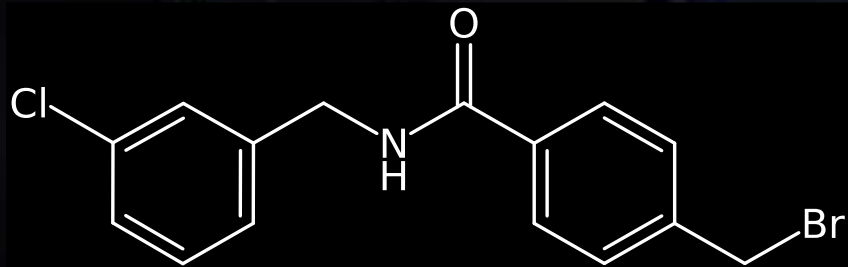


2.7 g (12.3 mmol) 4,4-Dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-2-oxo-7-quinolinecarboxylic acid were added to a solution of 3.8 g (18.5 mmol) N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide and 1.1 ml (12.3 mmol) aniline in 80 ml dichloromethane. The reaction mixture was stirred for 4 hours at ambient temperature and the precipitate was filtered off with suction and recrystallised from ethanol. There was obtained 1.2 g of the title compound; m.p. 249-251° C.



Synthesis execution

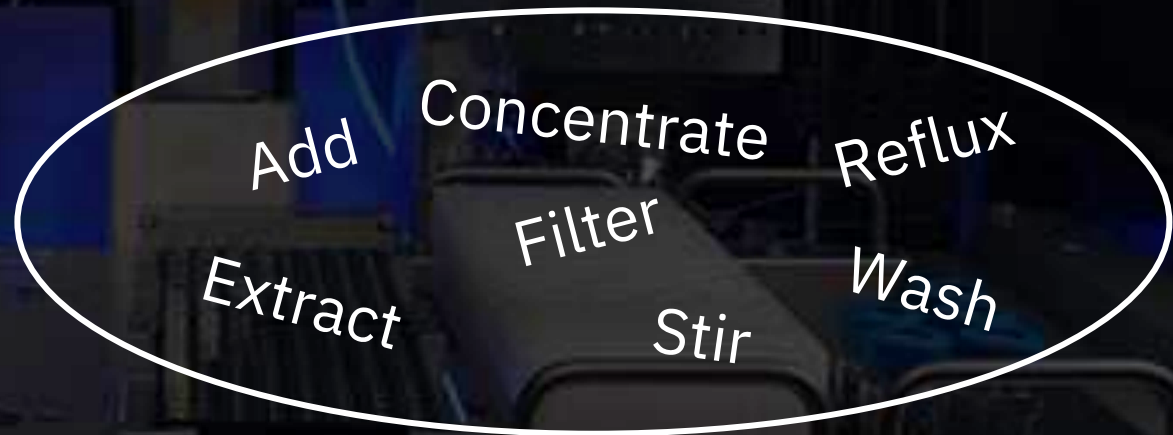
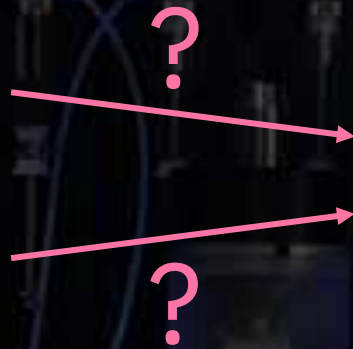
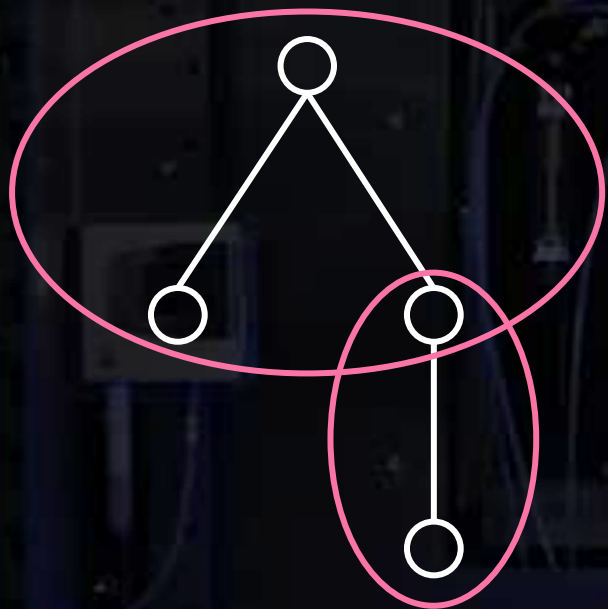
# Synthesis Design



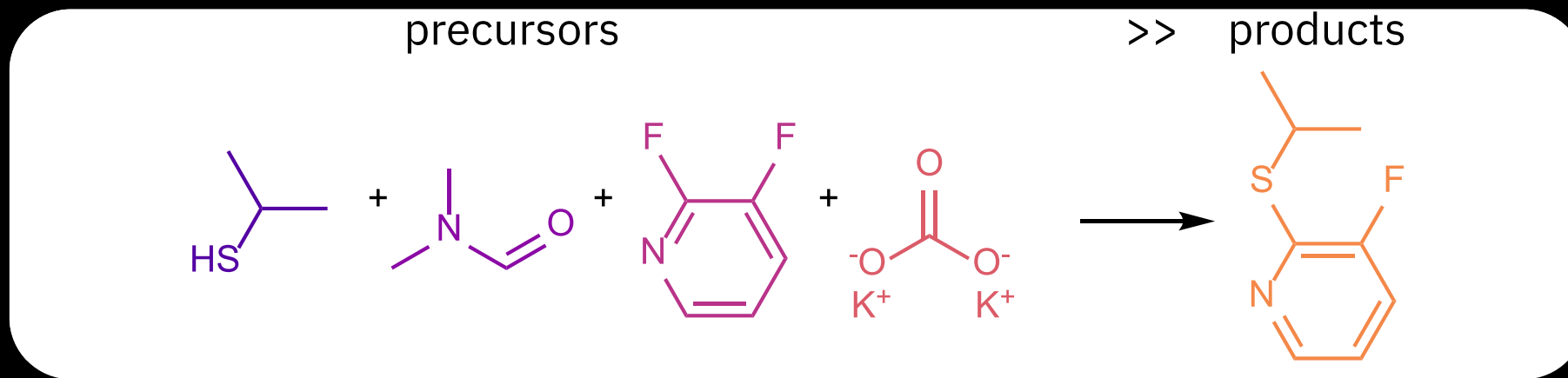
## Retrosynthetic tree



# Synthesis Execution



# Atoms as *letters*, molecules as *words*

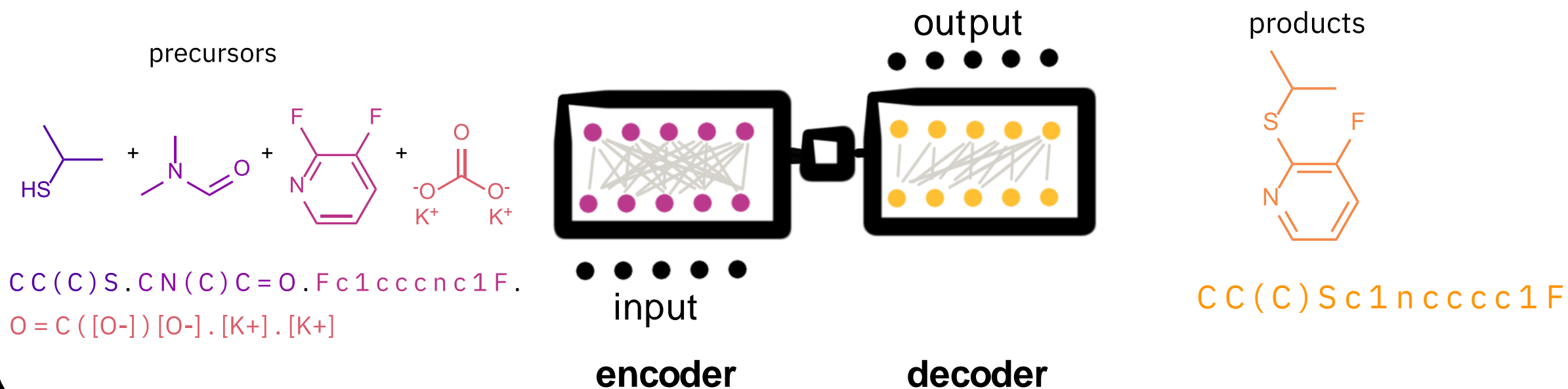


CC(C)S.CN(C)C=O.Fc1cccnc1F.O=C([O-])[O-].[K+].[K+]>>CC(C)Sc1ncccc1F

Cast reaction prediction as translation task

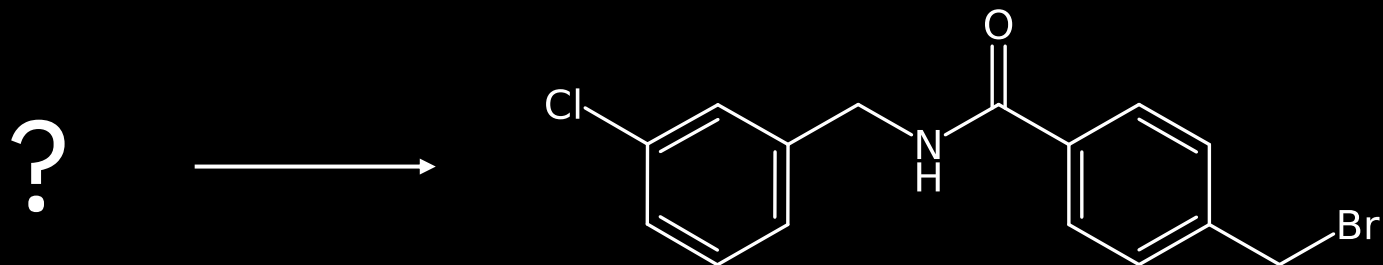
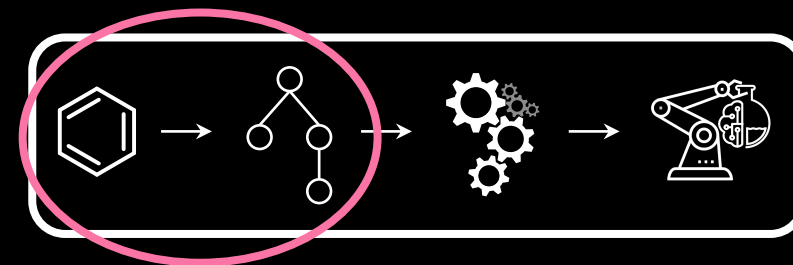


# Molecular Transformer



- **No rules** integrated / no chemical knowledge
- **Accurate predictions** on unseen reactions (>90% accuracy on benchmark)
- Better than rule and graph-based approaches

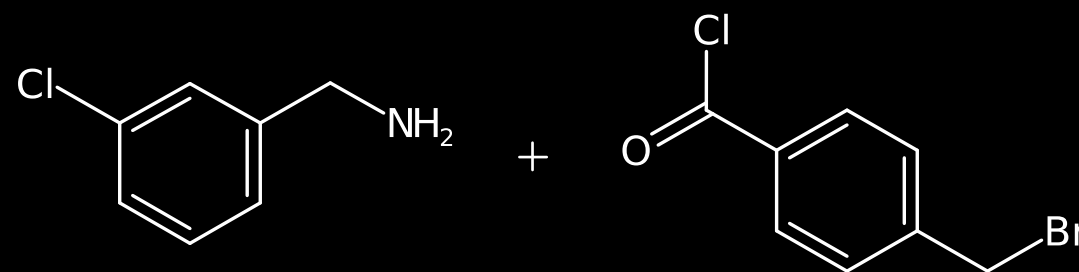
# Synthesis Design



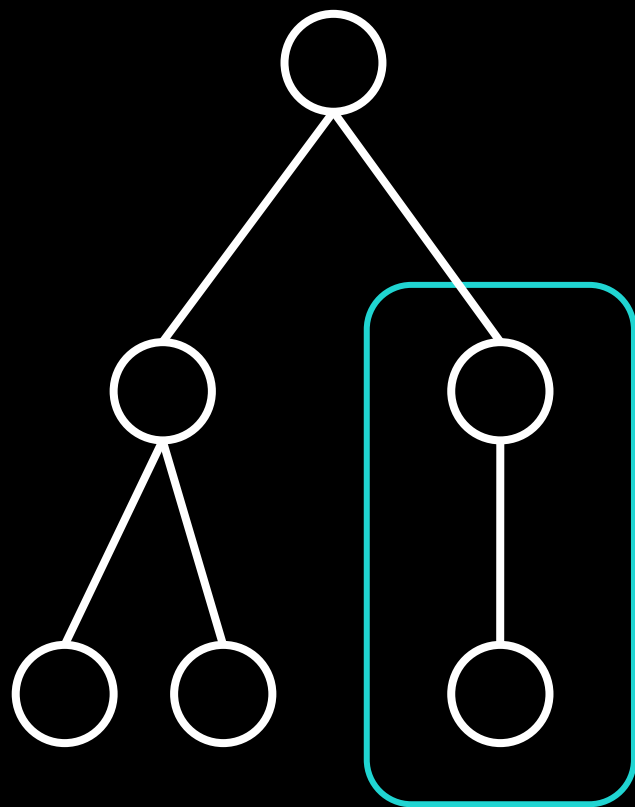
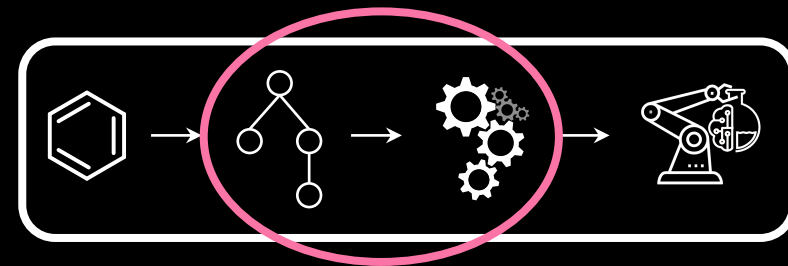
Similar approach, both sides switched



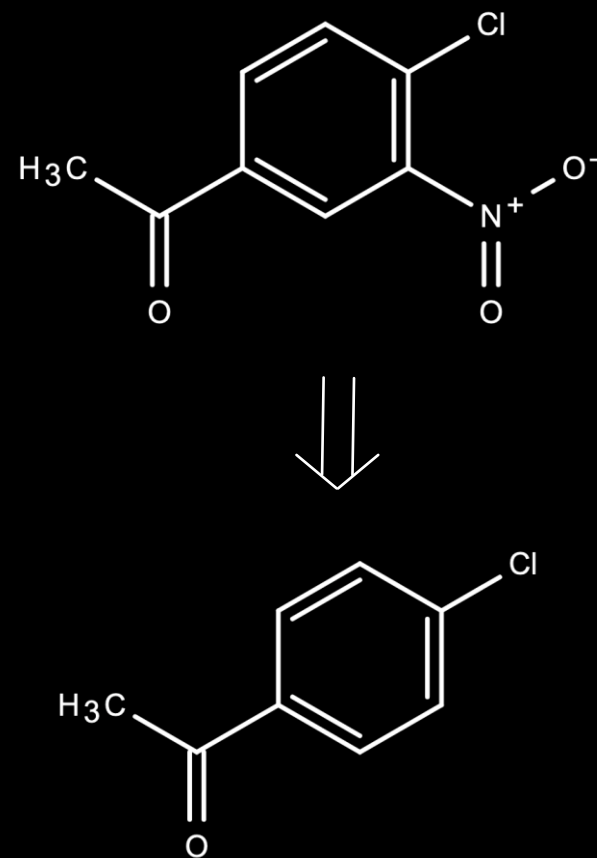
Transformer



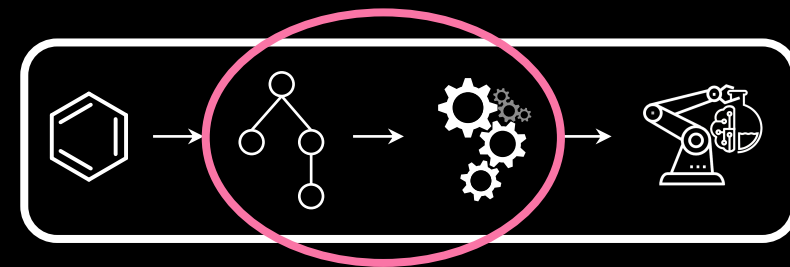
# Synthesis actions



One reaction step



# Building a dataset for ML model

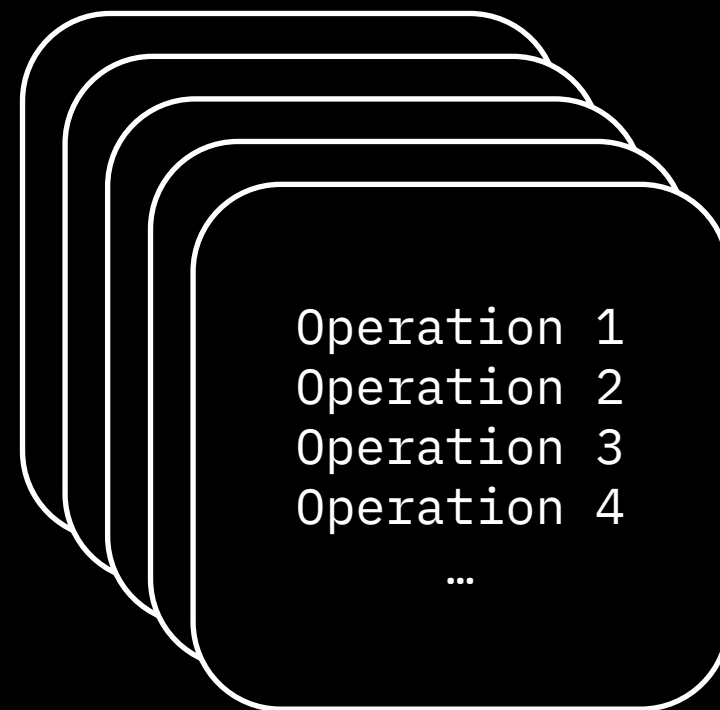
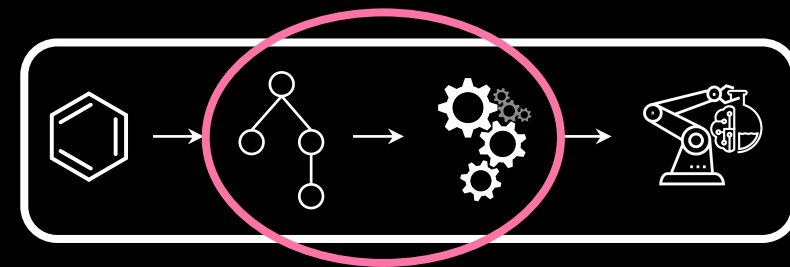
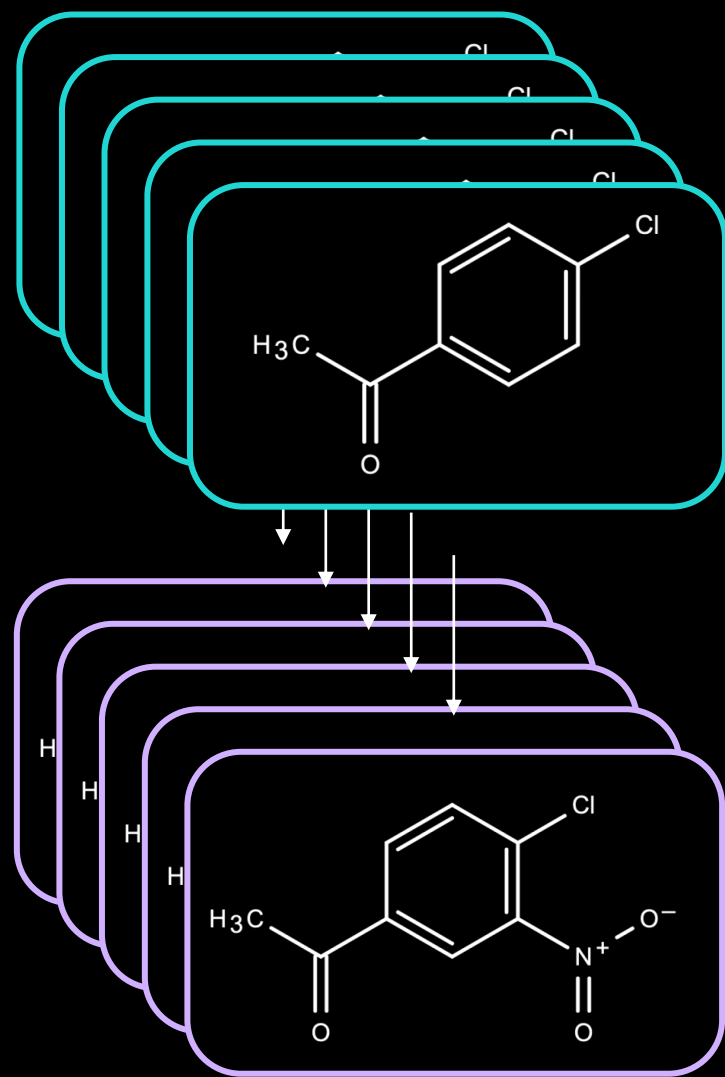


The TFA was removed in vacuo and a saturated solution of NaHCO<sub>3</sub> was added.

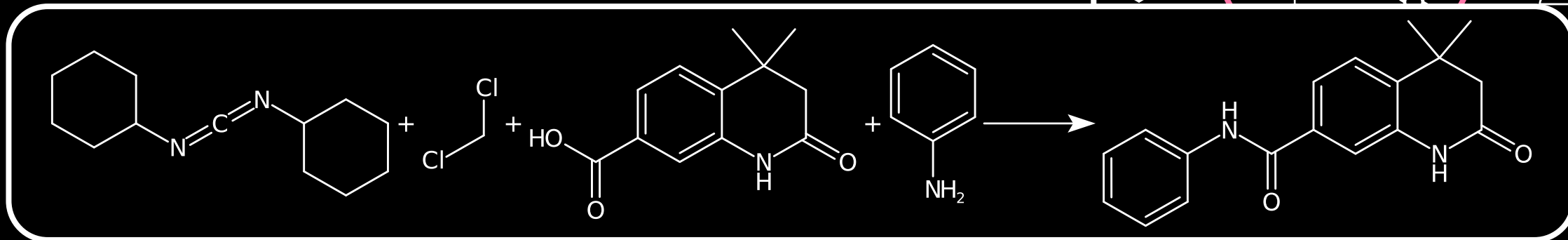
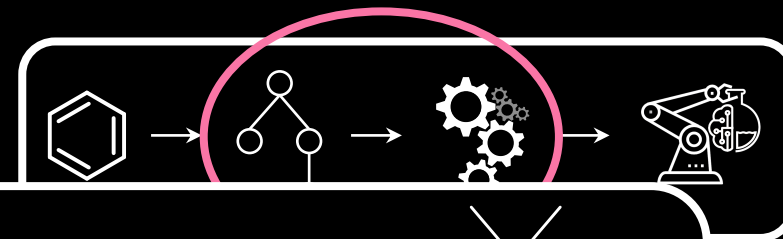
Translation

`Concentrate(),`  
`Add(name='saturated solution of NaHCO3')`

# SMILES-to-actions dataset



# SMILES-to-actions



C(=NC1CCCCC1)=NC1CCCCC1 . ClCCl . CC1(C)CC(=O)Nc2cc(C(=O)O)ccc21 . Nc1ccccc1 >> CC1(C)CC(=O)Nc2cc(C(=O)Nc3ccccc3)ccc21

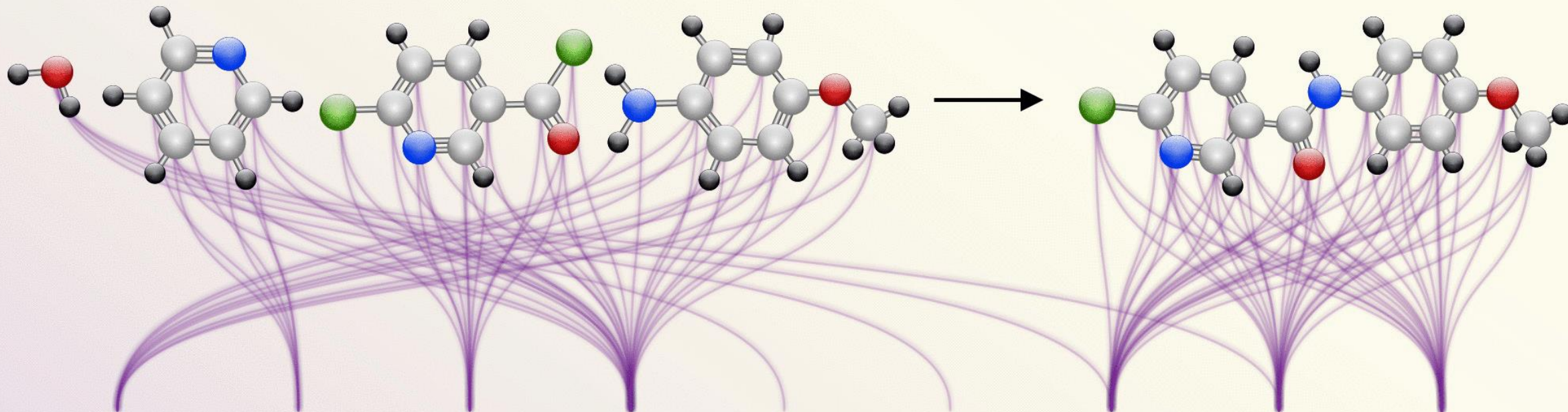
2.7 g (12.3 mmol) 4,4-Dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-2-oxo-7-quinolinecarboxylic acid were added to a solution of 3.8 g (18.5 mmol) N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide and 1.1 ml (12.3 mmol) aniline in 80 ml dichloromethane. The reaction mixture was stirred for 4 hours at ambient temperature and the precipitate was filtered off with suction and recrystallised from ethanol. There was obtained 1.2 g of the title compound; m.p. 249-251° C.

ML model

1. MAKESOLUTION with N,N'-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (3.8 g, 18.5 mmol) and aniline (1.1 ml, 12.3 mmol) and dichloromethane (80 ml)
2. ADD \$1\$
3. ADD 4,4-Dimethyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-2-oxo-7-quinolinecarboxylic acid (2.7 g, 12.3 mmol)
4. STIR for 4 hours at ambient temperature
5. FILTER keep precipitate
6. RECRYSTALLIZE from ethanol
7. YIELD title compound (1.2 g)

1. ADD \$1\$
2. ADD \$4\$
3. ADD \$2\$
4. ADD \$3\$
5. STIR for @3@ at #4#
6. FILTER keep precipitate
7. RECRYSTALLIZE from ethanol
8. YIELD \$-1\$

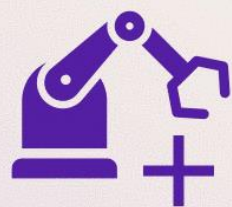
O . c1ccncc1 . O=C(Cl)c1ccc(Cl)nc1 . COc1ccc(N)cc1 >> COc1ccc(NC(=O)c2ccc(Cl)nc2)cc1



Add



Add



Add



Stir



Add



Filter



Wash

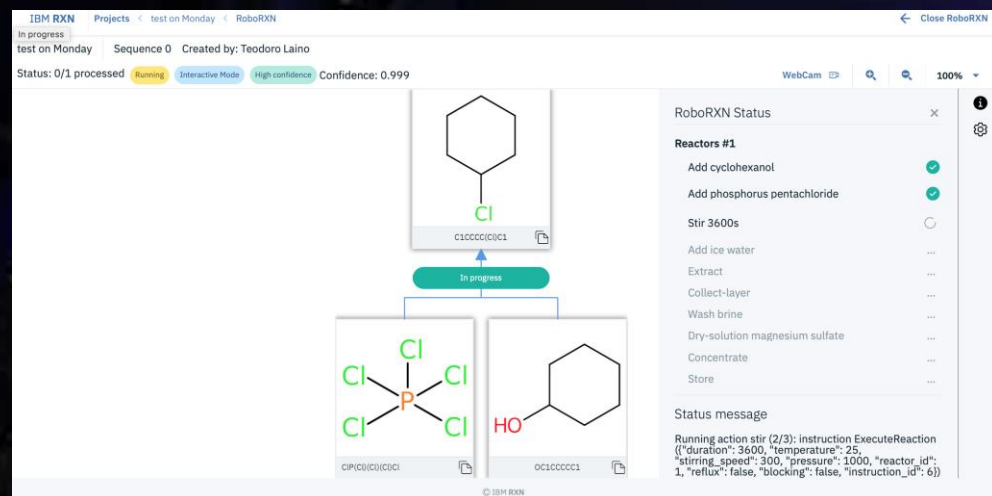
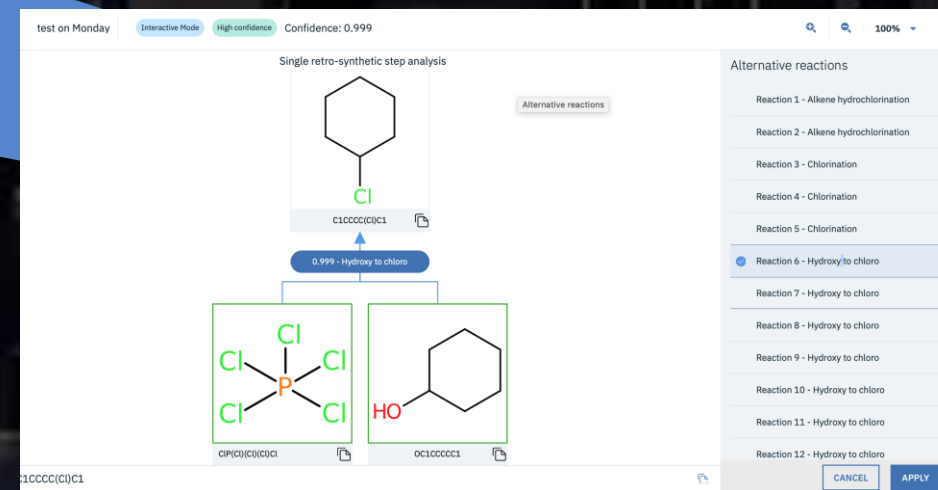
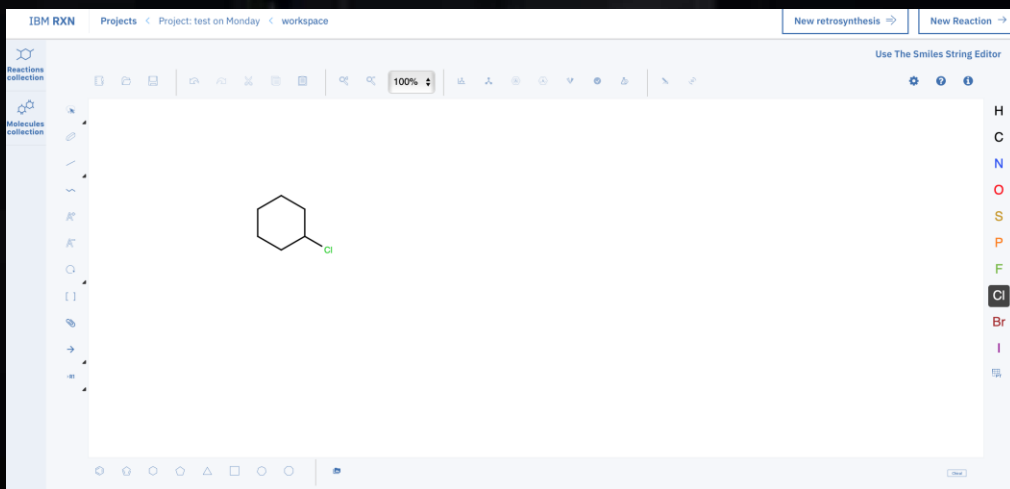


Dry



Yield

**SMILES-2-ACTIONS**



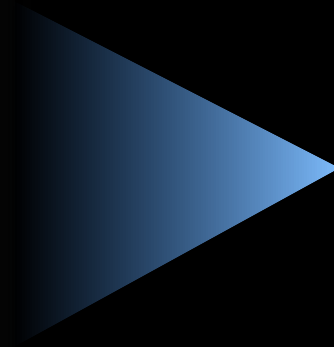
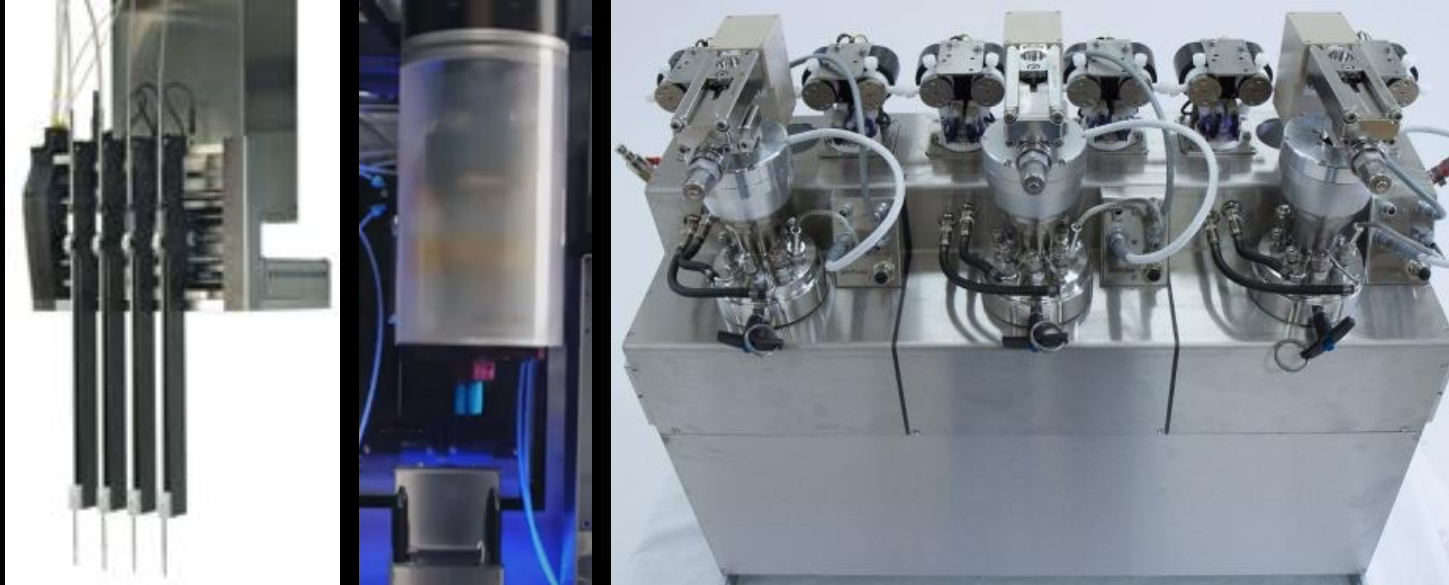
Reaction Settings

1. Action	Material	Quantity
Add	cyclohexanol	1 mmol
Dropwise: False		
Atmosphere: [dropdown]		
Temperature: [dropdown]		
Duration: [dropdown]		
2. Action	Material	Quantity
Add	phosphorus pentachloride	1 mmol
Dropwise: False		

CANCEL CONFIRM

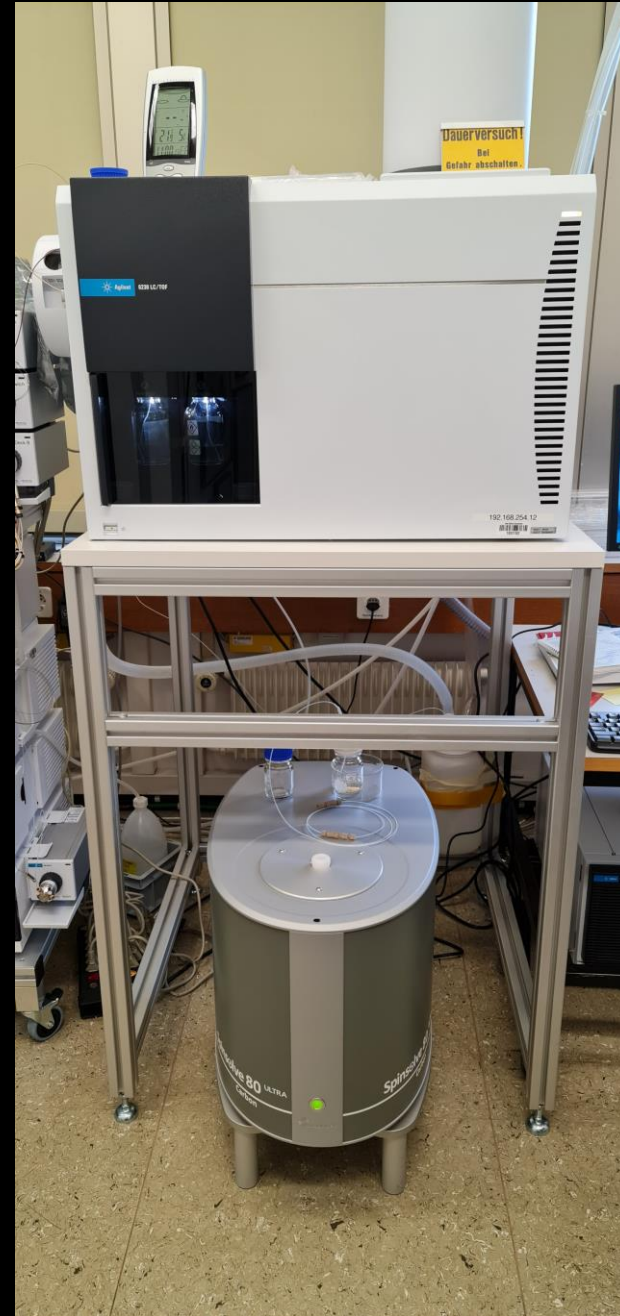


# Flex Autoplant

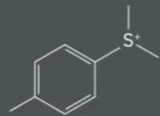


FLEX AUTOPLANT robotic platform

# Analytics



## Synthesizing new molecule



Started: Nov 30 2020, 6:49am PT

Live from IBM RoboRXN

Action 2

Overview

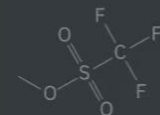
### Adding $C_2H_3F_3O_3S$ +

In this action, the molecule methyl trifluoromethane sulfonate is added to [Reactor 2](#).

Methyl trifluoromethane

$C_2H_3F_3O_3S$

2D 3D

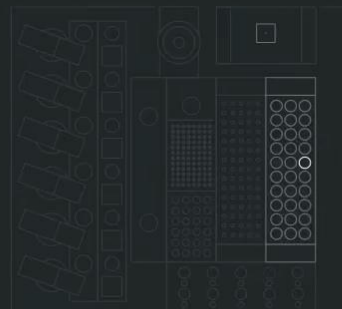


Methyl trifluoromethane sulfonate is a brown liquid. Insoluble in water. This material is a very reactive methylating agent, also known as methyl triflate.

**NOW**

10 ml of [reagent](#) containing methyl trifluoromethane sulfonate is being moved from [Vial 61](#) and added to [Reactor 2](#).

Position of the robot arm  
Moving to Vial 61



Live view module

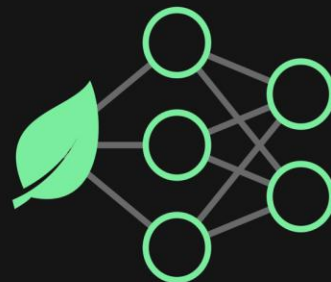
2 Adding  $C_2H_3F_3O_3S$

00:06:00

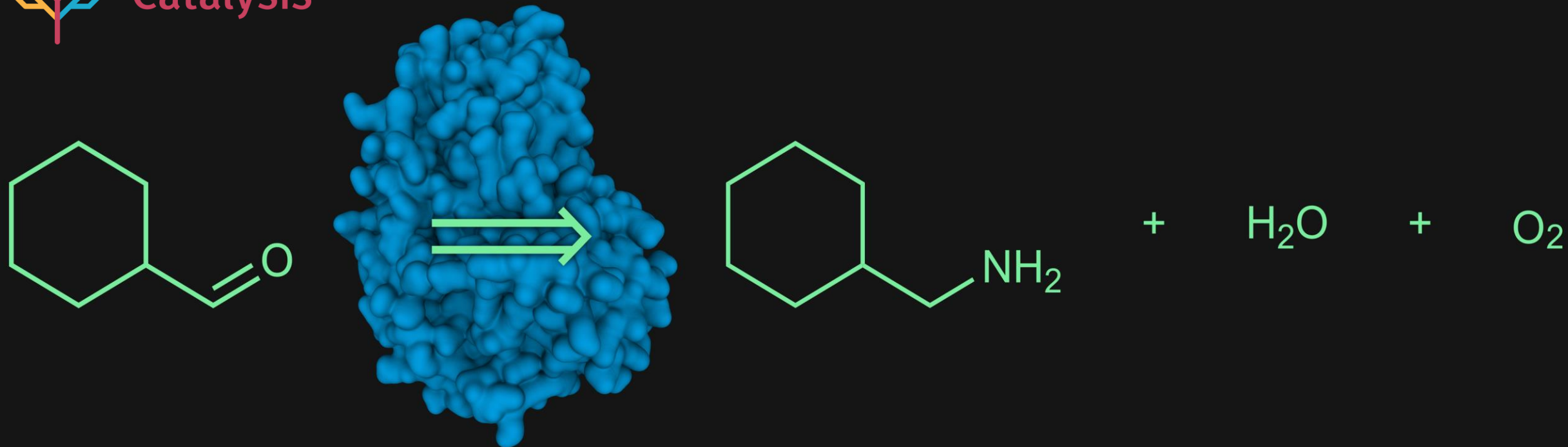


LIVE

# Enzymatic catalysis



## GreenCatRXN



EC 1.4.3.-

~~TEMPO~~

~~NaClO~~

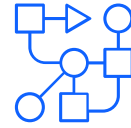
~~DCM~~

The research lab is the central element in scientific discovery





Up to 70% of experimentation is not reproducible because of flawed experimental data or metadata<sup>1</sup>



Only one-third to one-half of original findings are confirmed in replication studies<sup>2</sup>



Studies can last years instead of months due to small differences in protocols<sup>3</sup>

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More than half of researchers report being unable to reproduce their own experiments<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [Goncalves, R.S., Musen M.A., \*Scientific Data\* 6, 190021 \(2019\)](#)

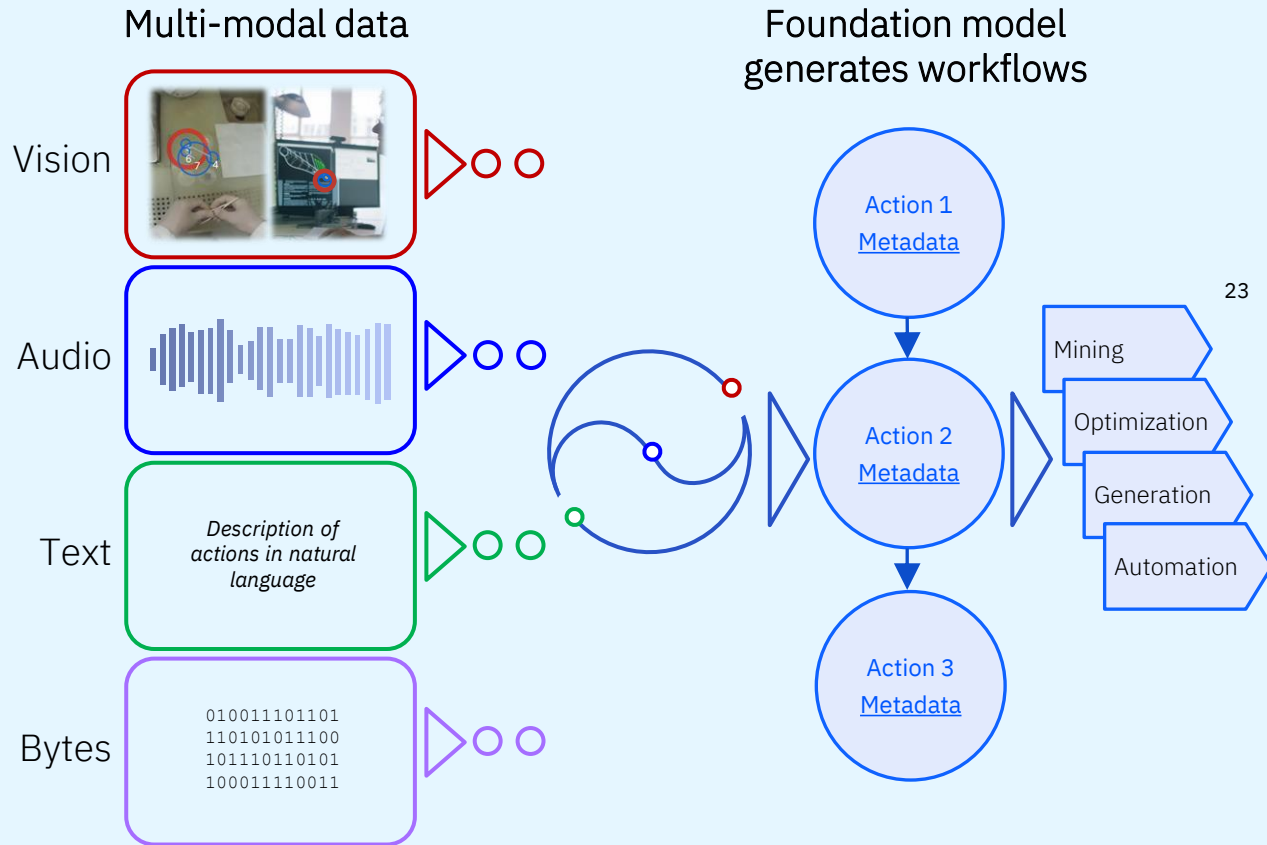
<sup>2</sup> [Aarts, A. A. \*et al.\*, \*Science\* 349, 943 \(2015\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Hines, W. C. \*et al.\*, \*Cell Rep.\* 6, 779–781 \(2014\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Baker, M., \*Nature\* 533, 452-454 \(2016\)](#)

# Multi-modal foundation models

Capturing end-to-end business workflows for mining, optimization, generation, and automation



## Key innovations

- **AI foundation models** for automatic documentation of manual procedures and validation of outcomes
- **Hybrid and multi-cloud computing** to automatically integrate all data and metadata of any experiment

## Benefits for the lab

- Capture all details needed to fully capture and describe an experiment
- Minimize the time wasted using different tools to organize data
- Reproduce any version of an experiment at any point in time
- Discover patterns by continuously learning over all experimental data





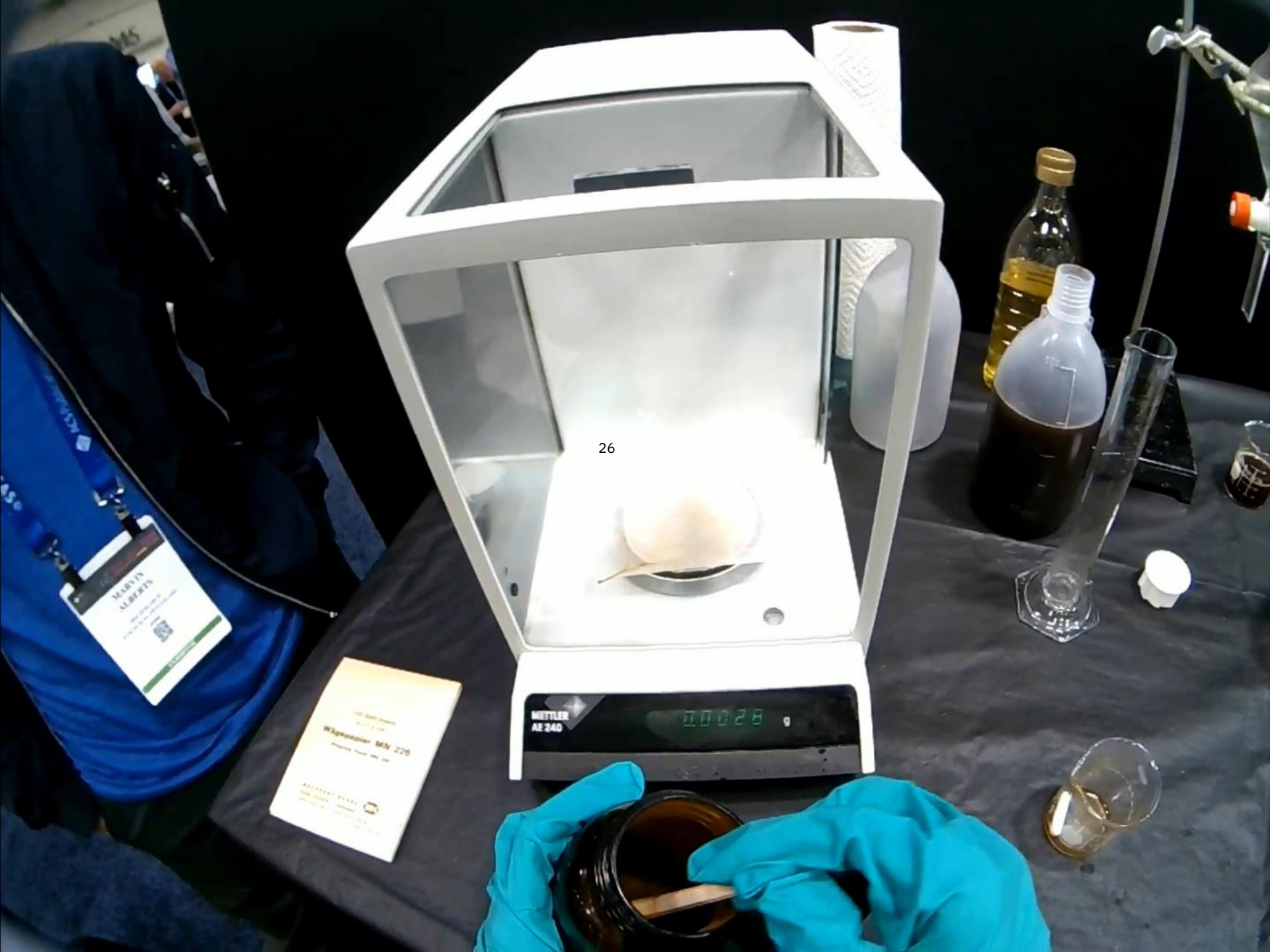
# ACS Fall 2023

San Francisco, CA, USA  
August 13-17, 2023

The tablet screen shows a 'Workflows' application with a table of workflow entries. Each entry includes a name, a 'Created' timestamp, and 'Actions' (delete and edit icons). The table is as follows:

Name	Created	Actions
Dan		
Xintest	2023-08-15 12:54 PM	
Lab Test	2023-08-15 12:37 PM	
Zeda	2023-08-15 12:17 PM	
Testytest	2023-08-15 12:03 PM	
Exp1	2023-08-15 11:47 AM	
Fatima	2023-08-15 11:22 AM	
Demo016	2023-08-15 11:05 AM	
Demo015	2023-08-15 10:32 AM	
Demo014	2023-08-15 10:25 AM	
Demo-081423	2023-08-15 10:16 AM	
Songyuan	2023-08-14 05:09 PM	
Song	2023-08-14 04:55	
Sophia	2023-08-14 04:21 PM	
IBM-Q	2023-08-14 03:16 PM	
Andres	2023-08-14 03:11 PM	
Phillpw	2023-08-14 01:41 PM	
gtried	2023-08-14 01:30 PM	





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MARVIN  
ALBERTS

Wägenwaage MN 220

MITTLER  
AS 240 0.0028 g

# Workflow captured in the Lab that Learns

IBM Lab that Learns | Workflows

Workflow: Chih | Lab: ACS Booth Lab

Documents | Start recording

Settings | **Data** | Notes

**Device data**

pH measurement

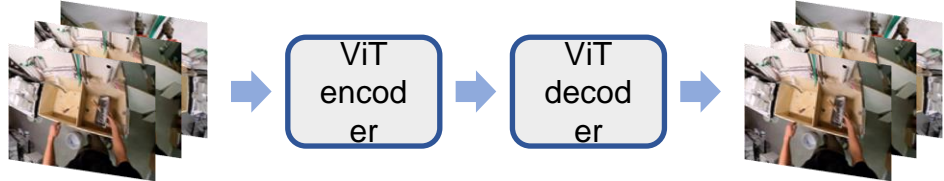
5.257

Close | Save

```
graph TD; A((MeasureSolid)) --> B((MeasureLiquid)); B --> C((Stir)); C --> D((AnalyticalMeasurement));
```

# Multimodal foundation models for the Lab that Learns

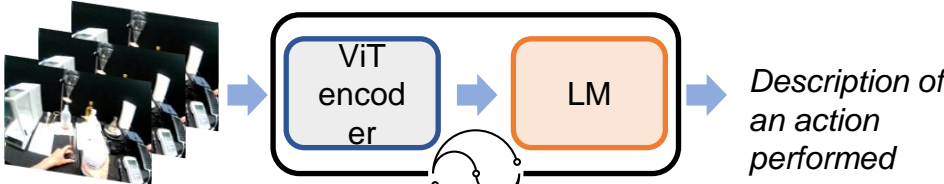
Pretraining Foundation Model for Egocentric Videos



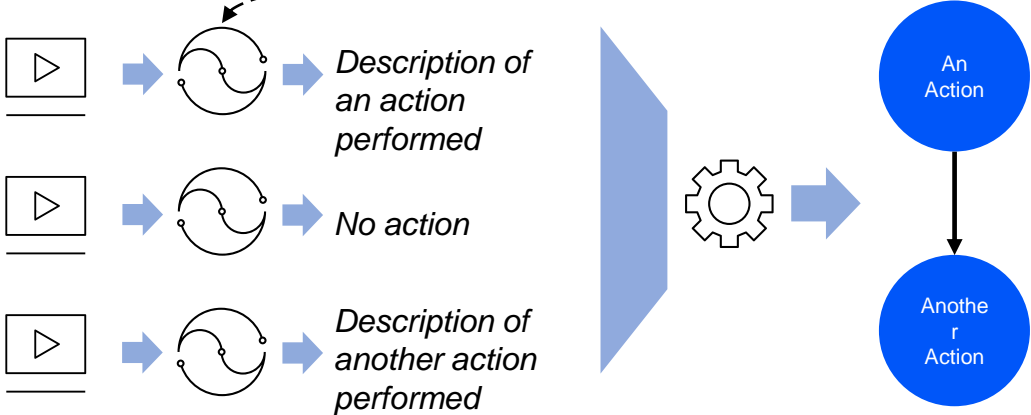
Pretrained Foundation Model for Language



Fine-tuning Vision-Language Foundation Model for Laboratory Procedures



Workflow Consolidation



# References

Chem. Sci., 2018, 9, 6091-6098  
ACS Cent. Sci. 2019, 5, 9, 1572-1583  
Chem. Sci., 2020, 11, 3316-3325  
Nat. Commun., 2020, 11, 3601  
Nat. Commun., 2020, 11, 4874  
Nat. Mach. Intell., 2021, 3, 144–152  
Nat. Mach. Intell. 2021, 3, 485–494  
Adv. Science, 2021, 7, 15, eabe4166  
Mach. Learn.: Sci. Technol., 2021, 2, 015016  
Nat. Commun., 2021, 12, 2573  
Nat. Commun. 2022, 13, 964

Watch the story of RoboRXN (short): <https://youtu.be/ewE1wh7sTUE>

Watch the story of RoboRXN (long): <https://youtu.be/i2-LgHjgDTs>

More information and access/test: <https://rxn.res.ibm.com>

Collaborators:



NCCR  
Catalysis

IBM