

Thomas Hartung & team

ToxAlcology

- AI is the future of toxicology -

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Thomas
Hartung
Field Chief
Editor

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frontiers

Frontiers in
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Journal Manager
katherine.dowsett@frontiersin.org

Publishing Development - Journal
ai@frontiersin.org

Publishing Development - Commissioning
ai.submissions@frontiersin.org

Review Operations | Research Integrity
ai.editorial.office@frontiersin.org

Editor Outreach
ai.editors@frontiersin.org

Production Office
ai.production.office@frontiersin.org

Publishing development



Journal Manager
Katherine Dowsett



Journal Specialist
Diana Nicutari



Journal Specialist
Chloe Munden



Journal Specialist
Maliaka Dotting

Editor Outreach



Editor Outreach Manager
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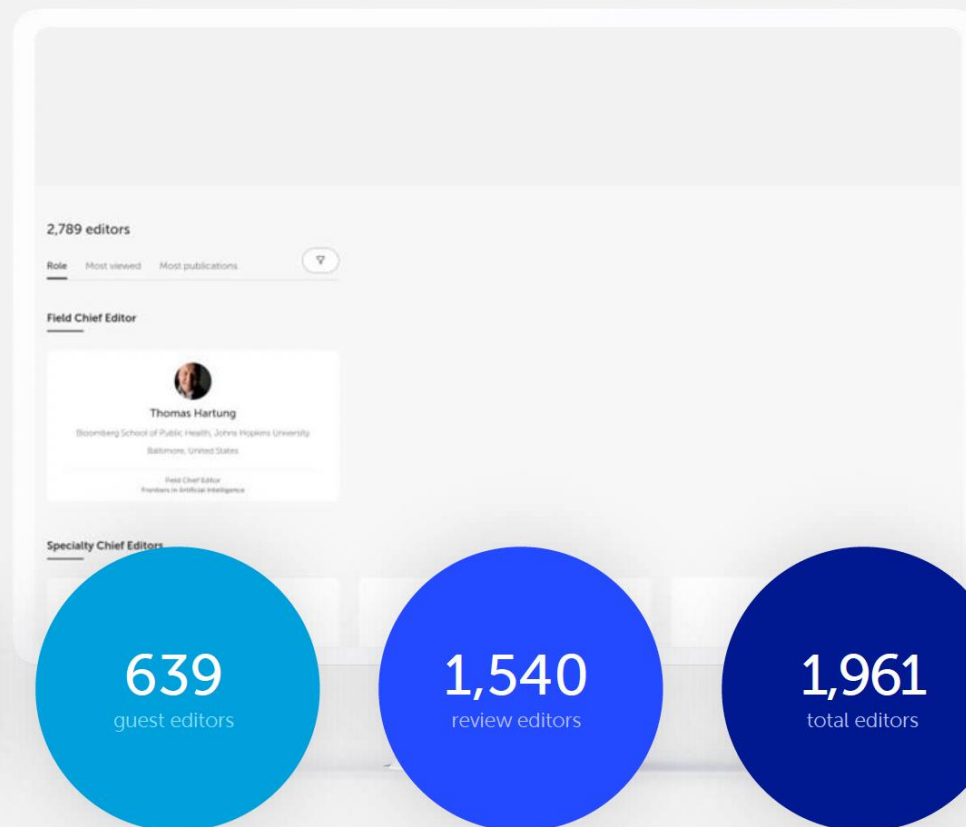
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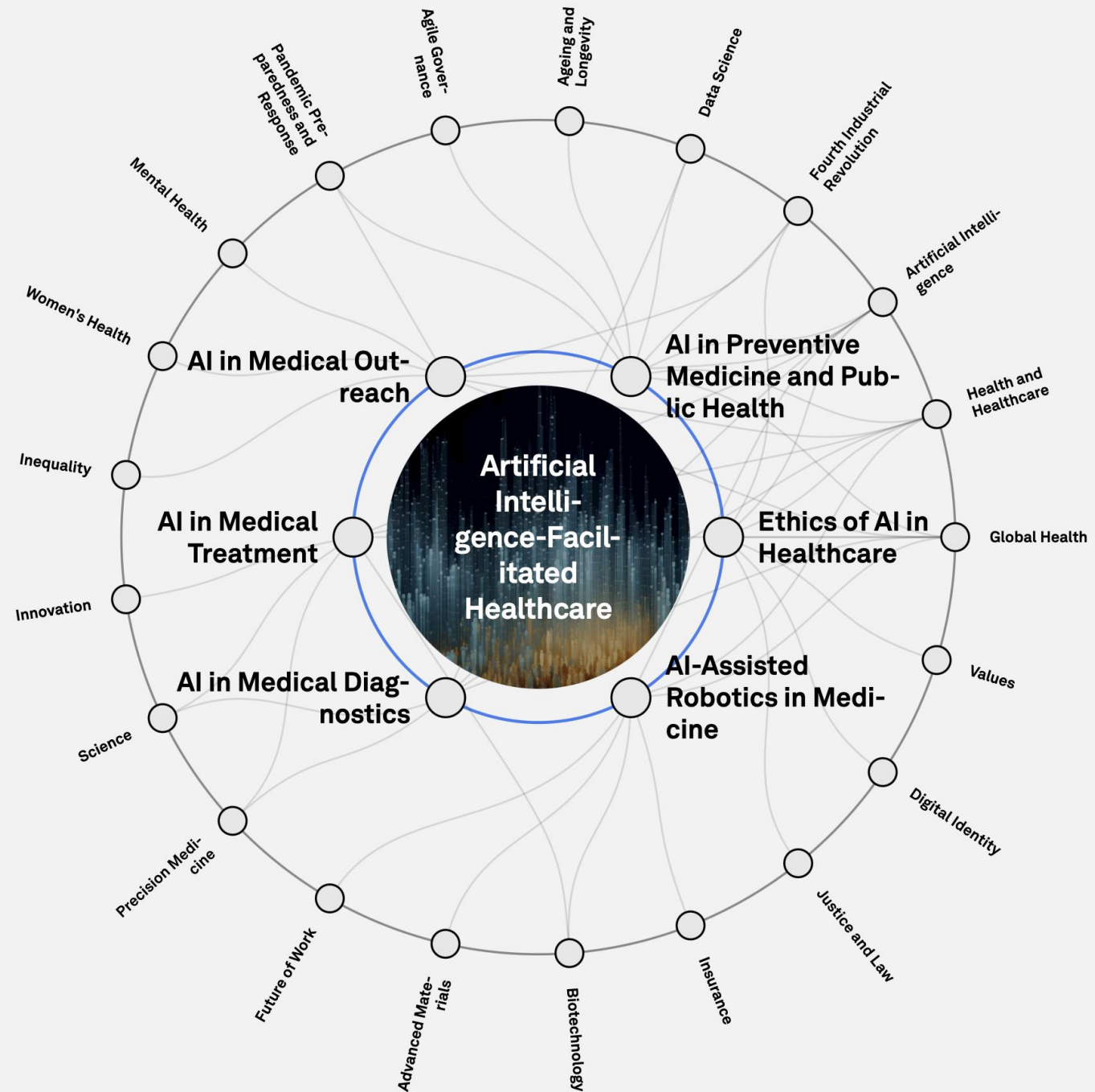
total editors



WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Artificial Intelligence-Facilitated Healthcare

Curation: Frontiers Media



In Preparation

AI in Healthcare

Planned 5-7 December 2023 (virtual)



Thomas Hartung

Bloomberg School of Public Health,
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, United States

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Medicine and Public Health



Weida Tong

National Center for Toxicological
Research (FDA)
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Medicine and Public Health



Yvonne Will

Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Titusville, United States

Associate Editor
Medicine and Public Health

Technological progress everywhere



↑
LD₅₀ test



↑
28d study



↑
Eye & skin test



↑
ReproTox



↑
Cancer bioassay

...except regulatory toxicology!



“Playing safe...”

180 million chemicals synthesized
350 thousand registered in 19 countries
>10 thousand substances in 1 biological
Metabolites and breakdown products?
Some chemicals in 50,000+ products
~3 thousand well tested substances

“Fun” facts

- 10,000+ articles BPA => ???
- 5,000+ articles glyphosate => ???
- ~45% of drug side effects predicted by rodents
- 20-80% false positive results



Animal test Cancer

18-24 months

\$1 million

4-600 animals

53% positive

~57% reproducible

(rat to rat, rat to mouse)



29 trichloroethylene
carcinogen risk
assessments

4x “carcinogen”
19x “equivocal”
6x “non-carcinogen”

Rudén C. *Regul. Toxicol Pharmacol* 2001; 34: 3-16.

AI retrieves information

- average reference coverage 18%
- average citation coverage of most relevant studies 80%
- interpretation differences of most relevant studies in 27%
- study/data quality: assessment not documented in 65%

The different way of evidence retrieval and integration ?



Deus ex machina



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

[Article](#) [Talk](#)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For other uses, see [Deus ex machina \(disambiguation\)](#).

Deus ex machina (/deɪəs ɛks ˈmækɪnə, ˈmɑːk-/ *DAY-əs ex-MA(H)K-in-ə*,^[1] Latin: [ˈdɛ.ʊs ɛks ˈmaːkʰɪnaː]; plural: *dei ex machina*; English "god from the machine")^{[2][3]} is a [plot device](#) whereby a seemingly unsolvable problem in a story is suddenly or abruptly resolved by an unexpected and unlikely occurrence.^{[4][5]} Its function is generally to resolve an otherwise irresolvable plot situation, to surprise the audience, to bring the tale to a [happy ending](#) or act as a comedic device.^[6]



<https://duiliogf.medium.com/how-to-correctly-use-a-deus-ex-machina-and-not-die-trying-85dd73166784>

dAlus ex machina for toxicology

DATA



COMPUTING POWER

AI MODELS

Together increase
>1 billion-fold
over last 60 years

Data: +60% per year
= 90% in last three years

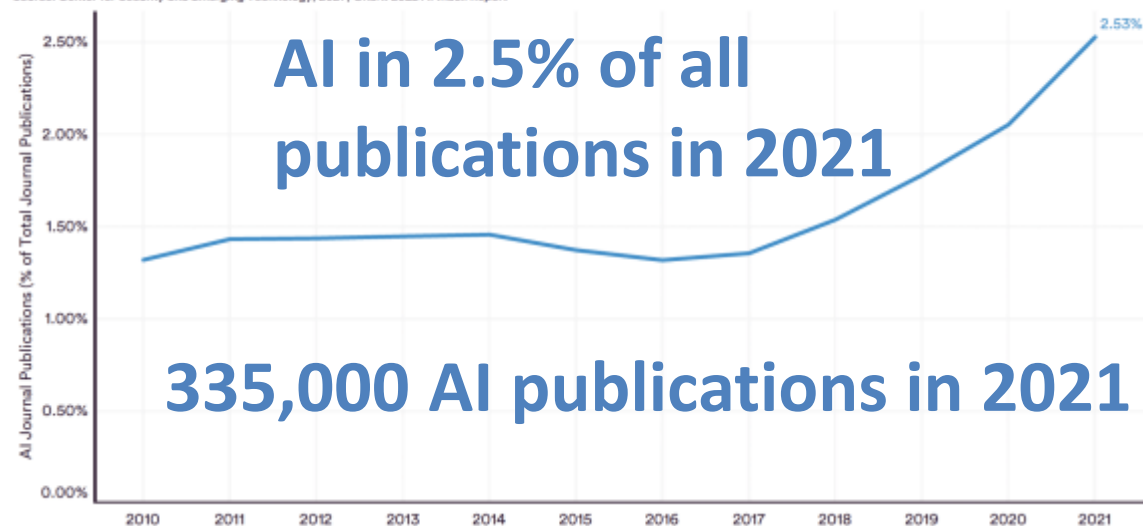
Computer: +40% per year
(Moore's law)

AI: +700% per year since 2010

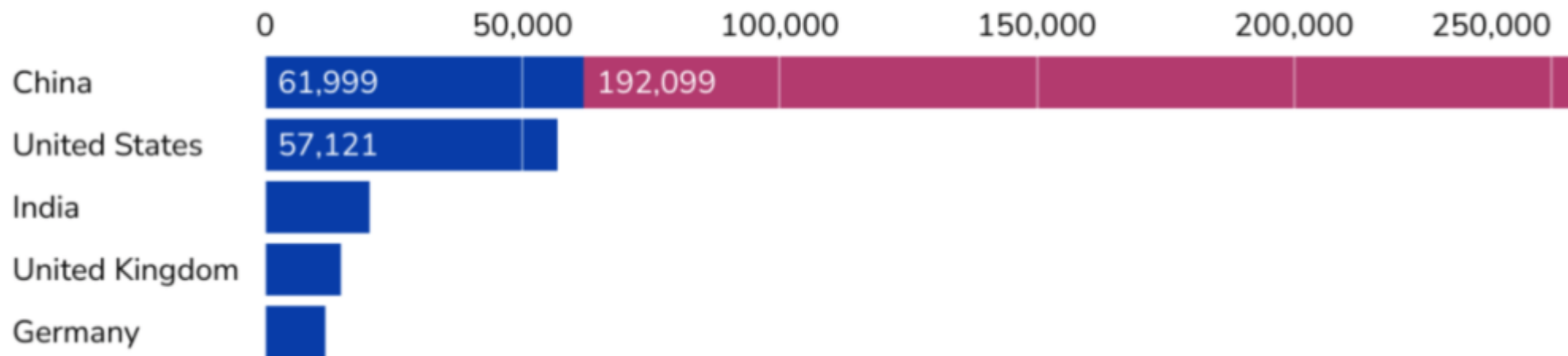
R.E.M.
**ITS THE END
OF THE WORLD
AS WE KNOW IT
(AND I FEEL FINE)**

AI JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS (% of TOTAL JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS), 2010–21

Source: Center for Security and Emerging Technology, 2021 | Chart: 2022 AI Index Report



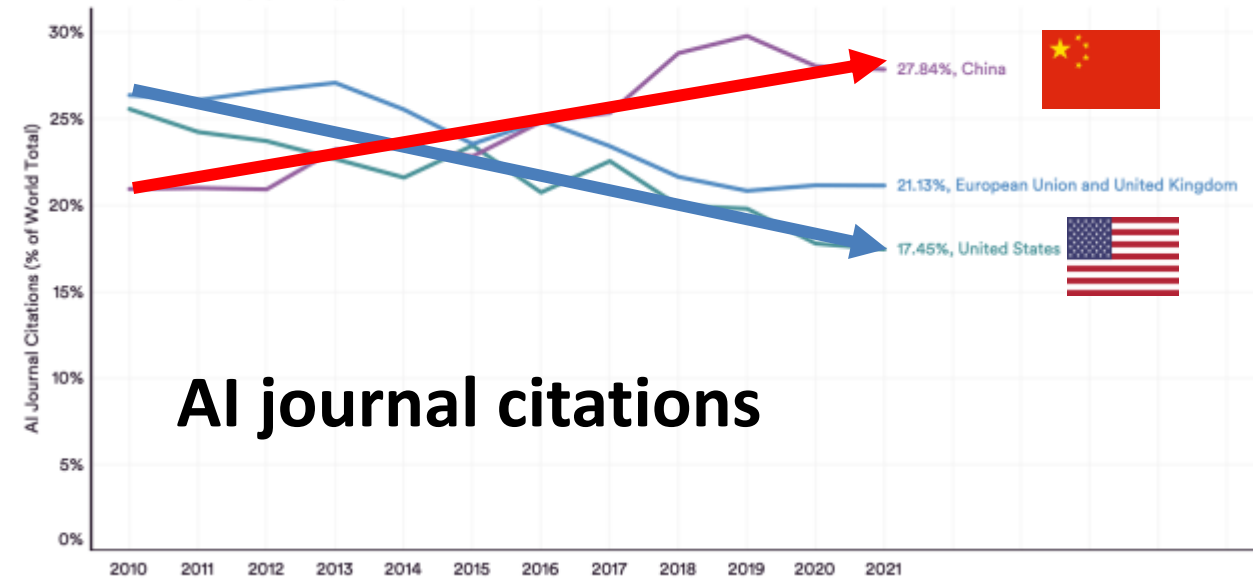
■ AI publications in merged corpus (without CNKI) ■ AI publications in CNKI





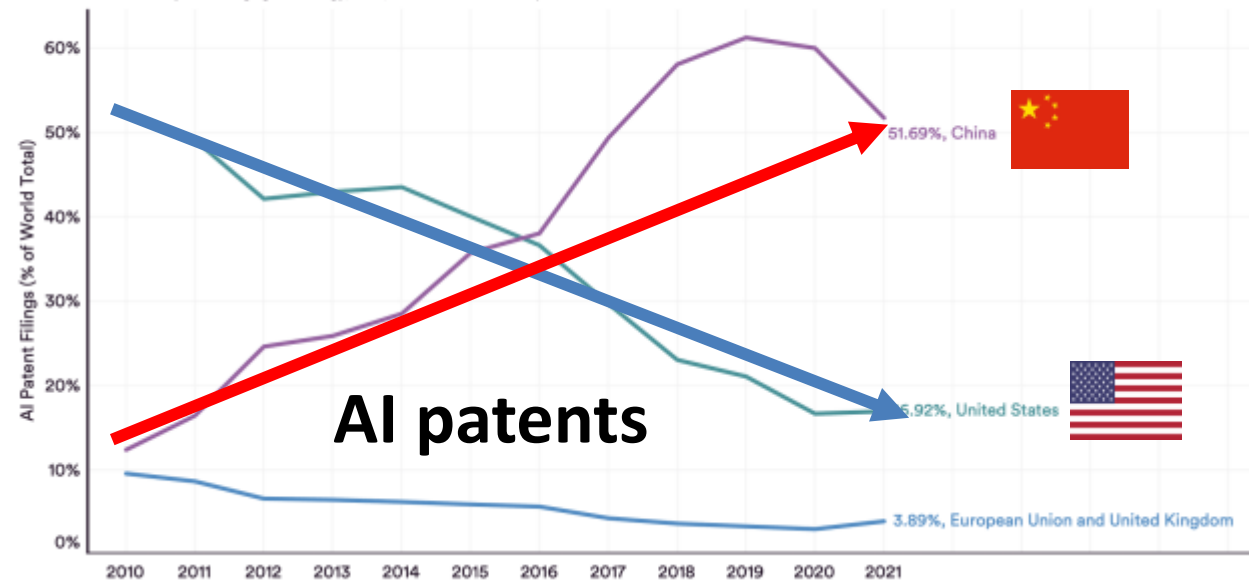
AI JOURNAL CITATIONS (% of WORLD TOTAL) by GEOGRAPHIC AREA, 2010–21

Source: Center for Security and Emerging Technology, 2021 | Chart: 2022 AI Index Report



AI PATENT FILINGS (% of WORLD TOTAL) by GEOGRAPHIC AREA, 2010–21

Source: Center for Security and Emerging Technology, 2021 | Chart: 2022 AI Index Report





15 March 2023 Launch of GPT-4 Instantly open

GPT-4 performed at the 90th percentile on a simulated bar exam, the 93rd percentile on an SAT reading exam, and the 89th percentile on the SAT Math exam, OpenAI claimed.

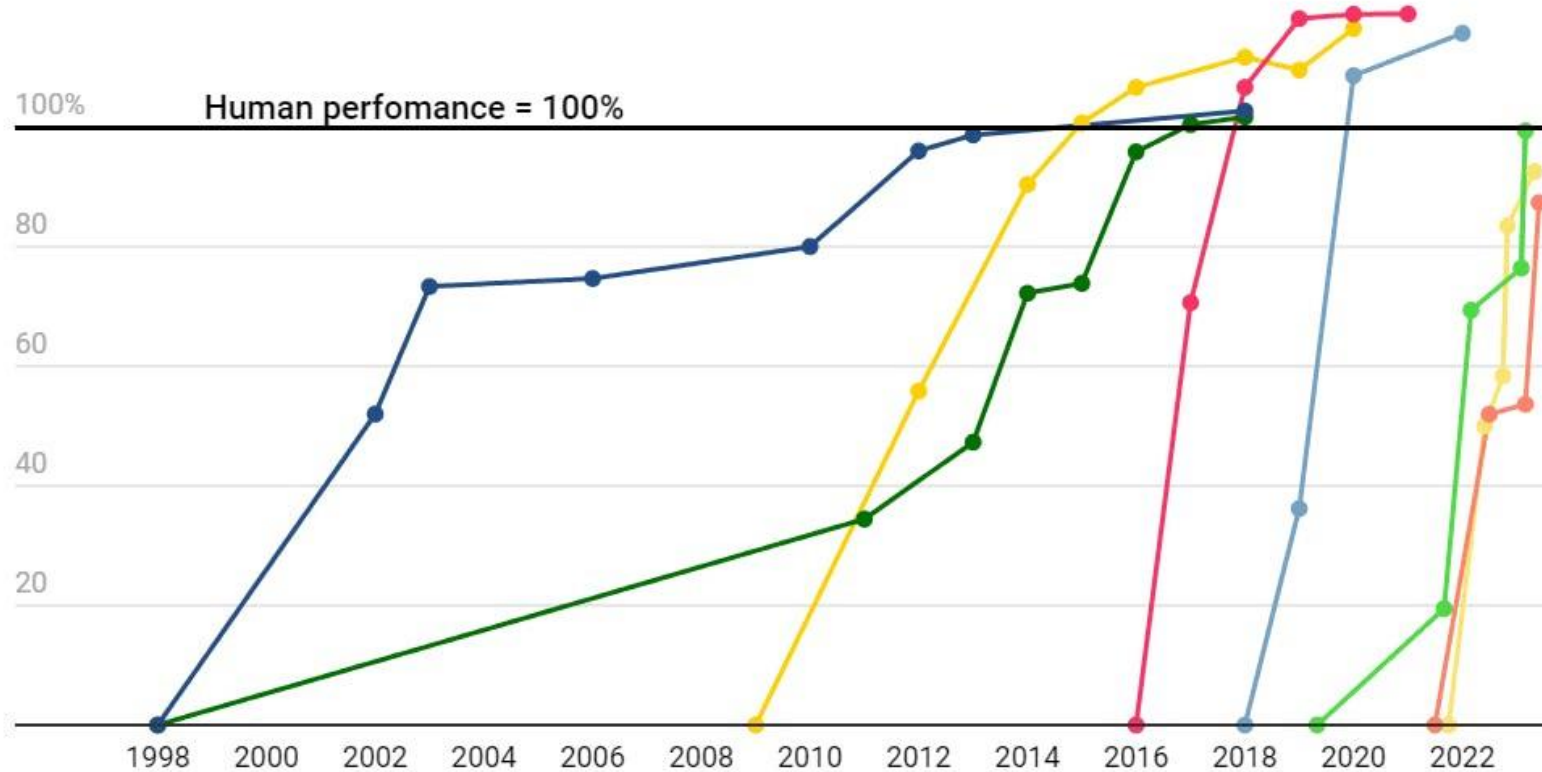


Variables trained on

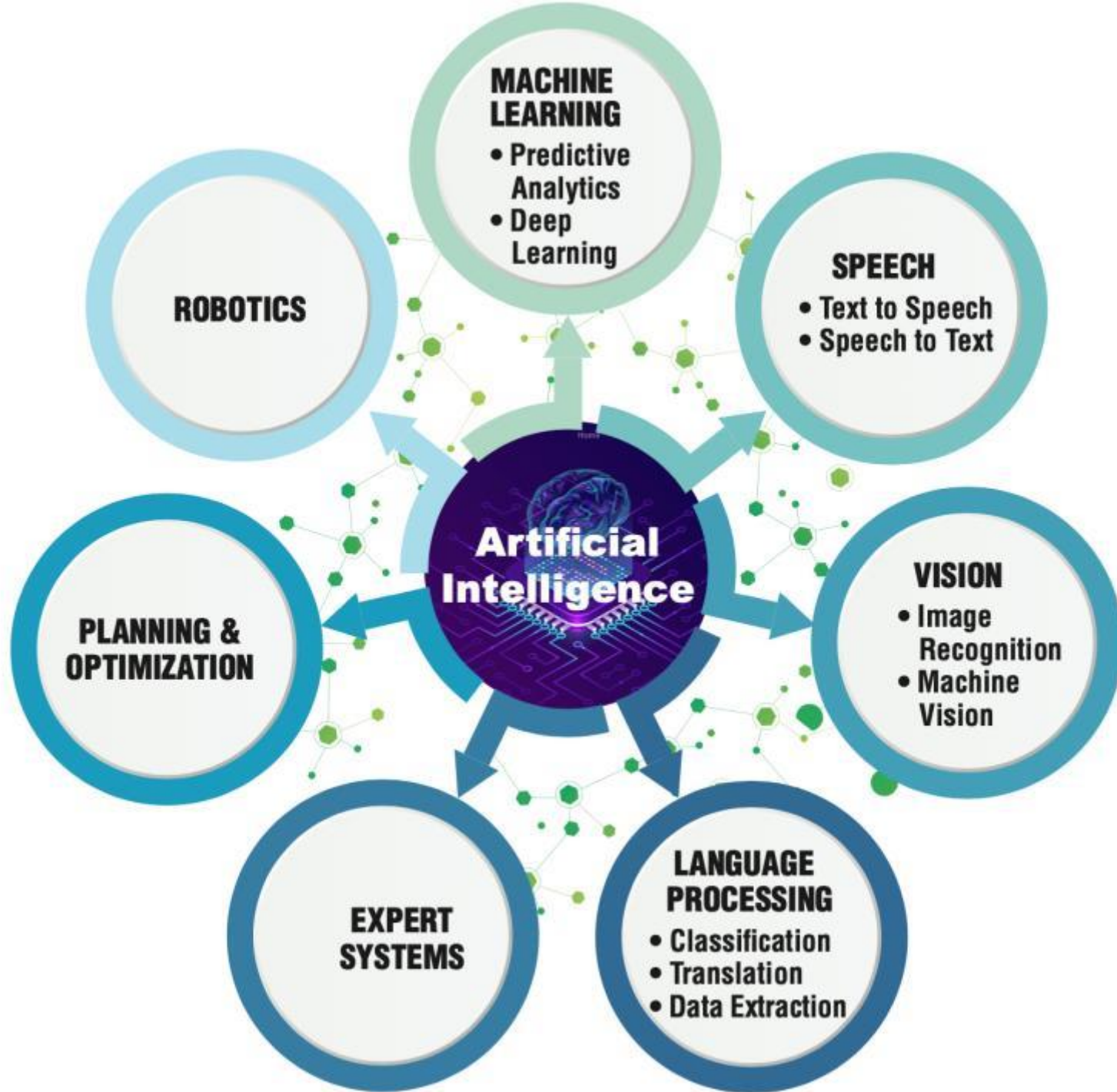
AI has surpassed humans at a number of tasks and the rate at which humans are being surpassed at new tasks is increasing

State-of-the-art AI performance on benchmarks, relative to human performance

● Handwriting recognition ● Speech recognition ● Image recognition ● Reading comprehension
● Language understanding ● Common sense completion ● Grade school math ● Code generation



For each benchmark, the maximally performing baseline reported in the benchmark paper is taken as the “starting point”, which is set at 0%. Human performance number is set at 100%. Handwriting recognition = MNIST, Language understanding = GLUE, Image recognition = ImageNet, Reading comprehension = SQuAD 1.1, Reading comprehension = SQuAD 2.0, Speech recognition = Switchboard, Grade school math = GSK8k, Common sense completion = HellaSwag, Code generation = HumanEval.



A.I. use cases



**WHY, SOMETIMES
I'VE BELIEVED
AS MANY AS
SIX IMPOSSIBLE
THINGS BEFORE
BREAKFAST.**

Lewis Carroll
Through the Looking-Glass

1. There is a better way to play chess
[2022 DeepMind: AlphaZero](#)
2. The structure of all proteins can be predicted from gene sequence
[2022 DeepMind: AlphaFold](#)
3. A computer is better than (most) lawyers
[2023 OpenAI: GPT-4](#)
4. A computer exceeds computational capacity of a human brain
[2022 Frontier Computer exceeds 1 exaflop](#)
5. AI can design drugs
[2022 – 18 AI-first drugs in clinical trials](#)
6. AI wins art contests
[2022 Midjourney](#)



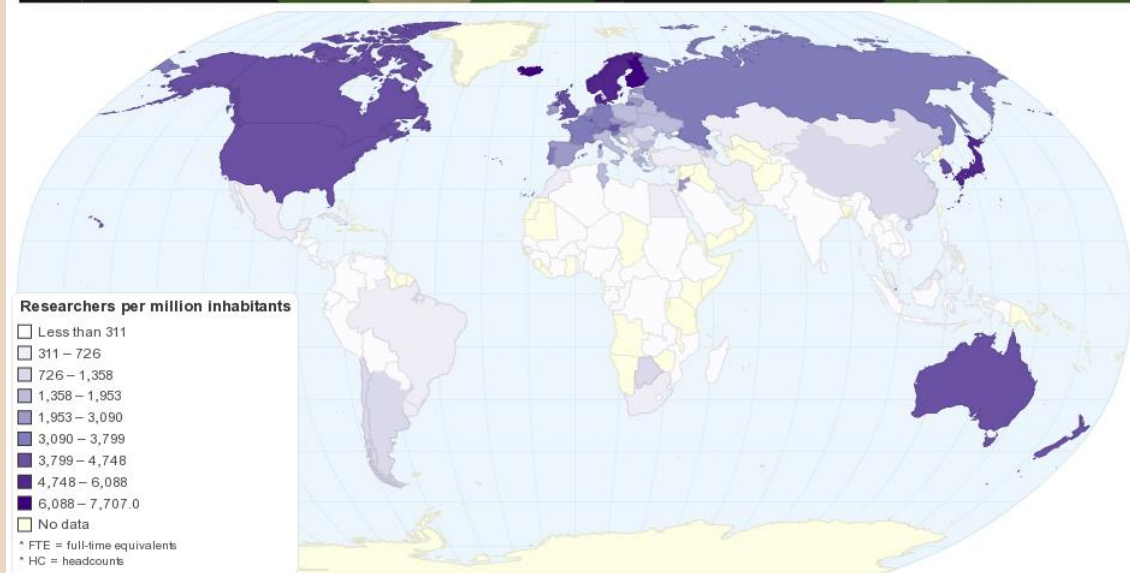
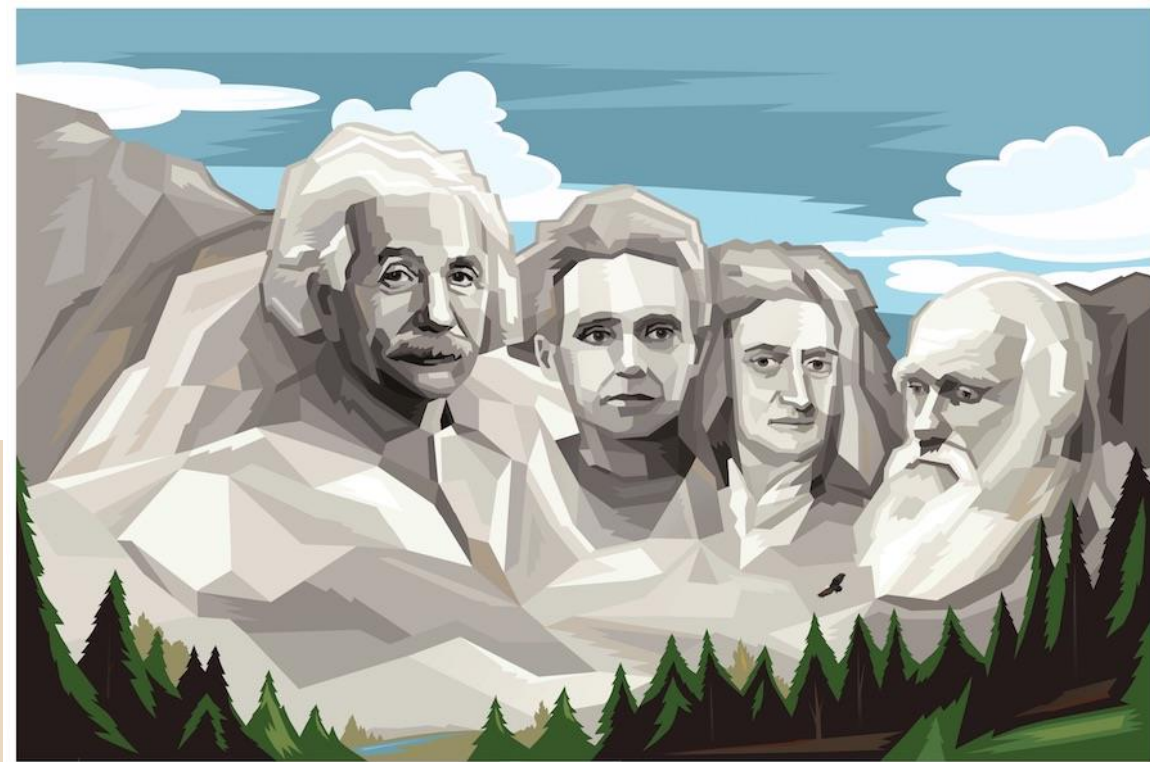
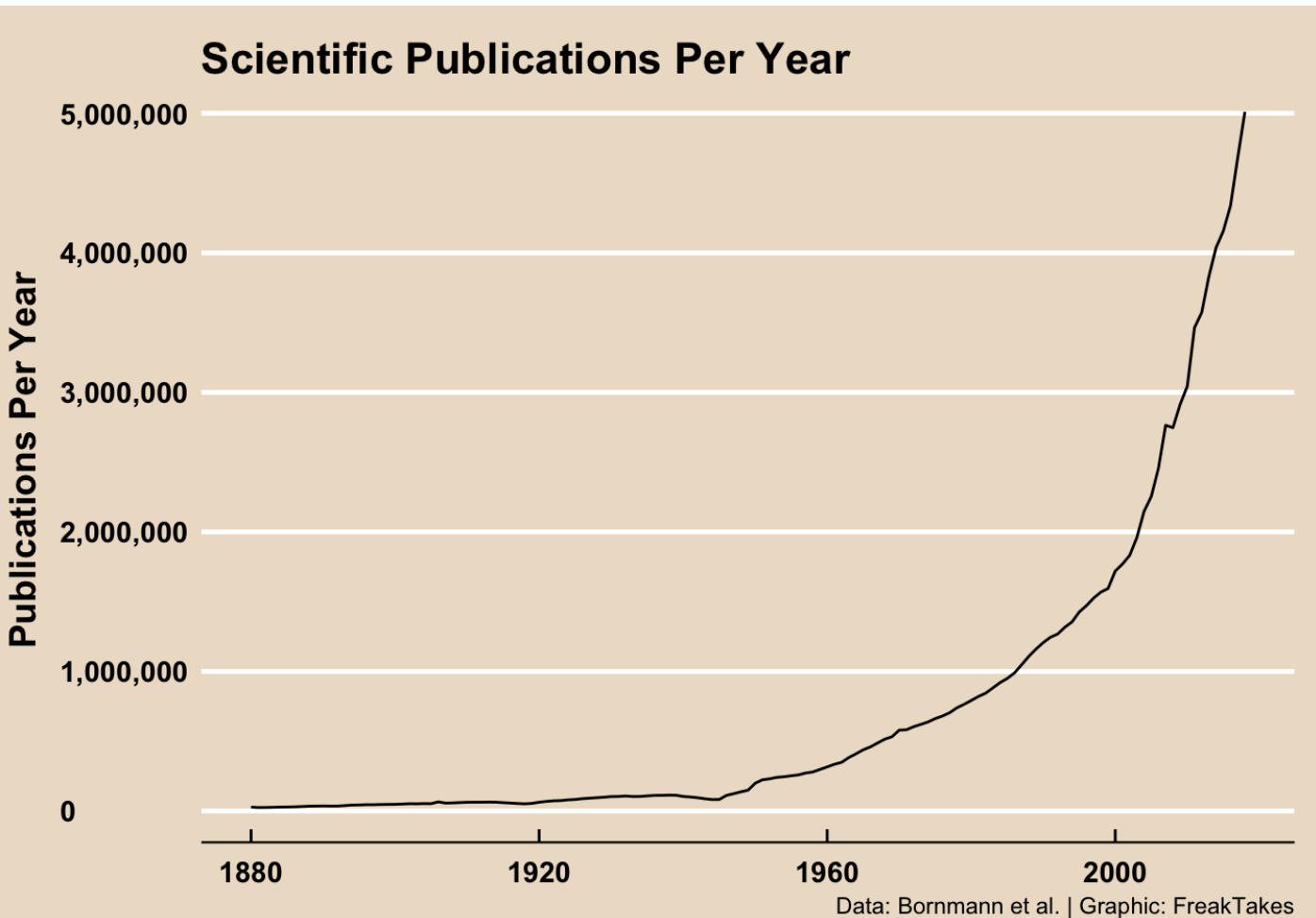


Volume
Variety
(multi-modal)
Velocity

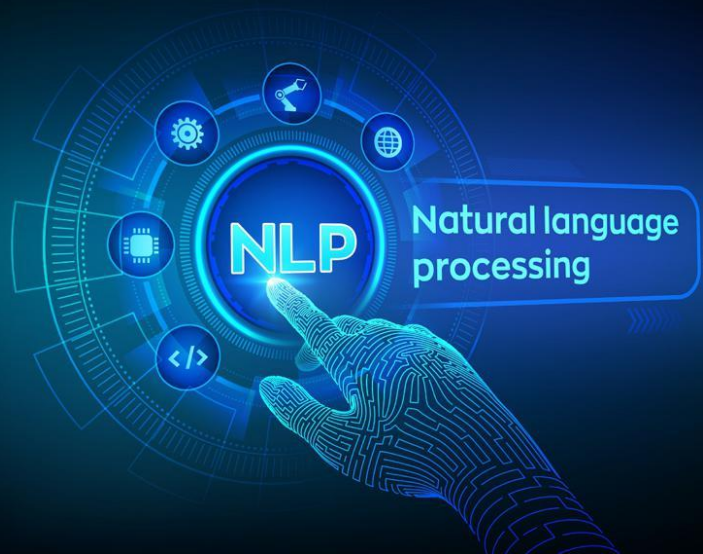
<https://www.e-marketing.fr/Thematique/data-1091/big-data-2223/Breves/Tout-faut-savoir-big-data-363012.htm>

AI is making Big Sense of Big Data

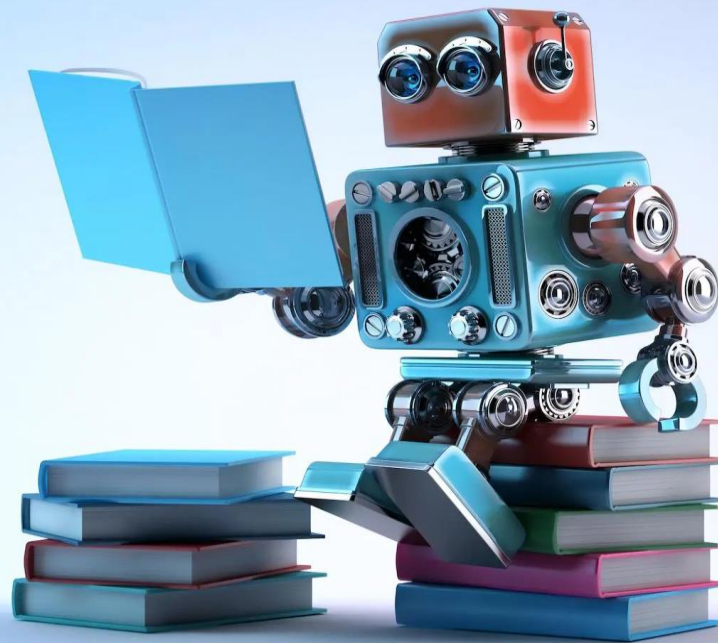
8.8 million researchers world-wide



Researchers per million inhabitants



**Data extraction from
literature, reports &
databases**



Multi-modal

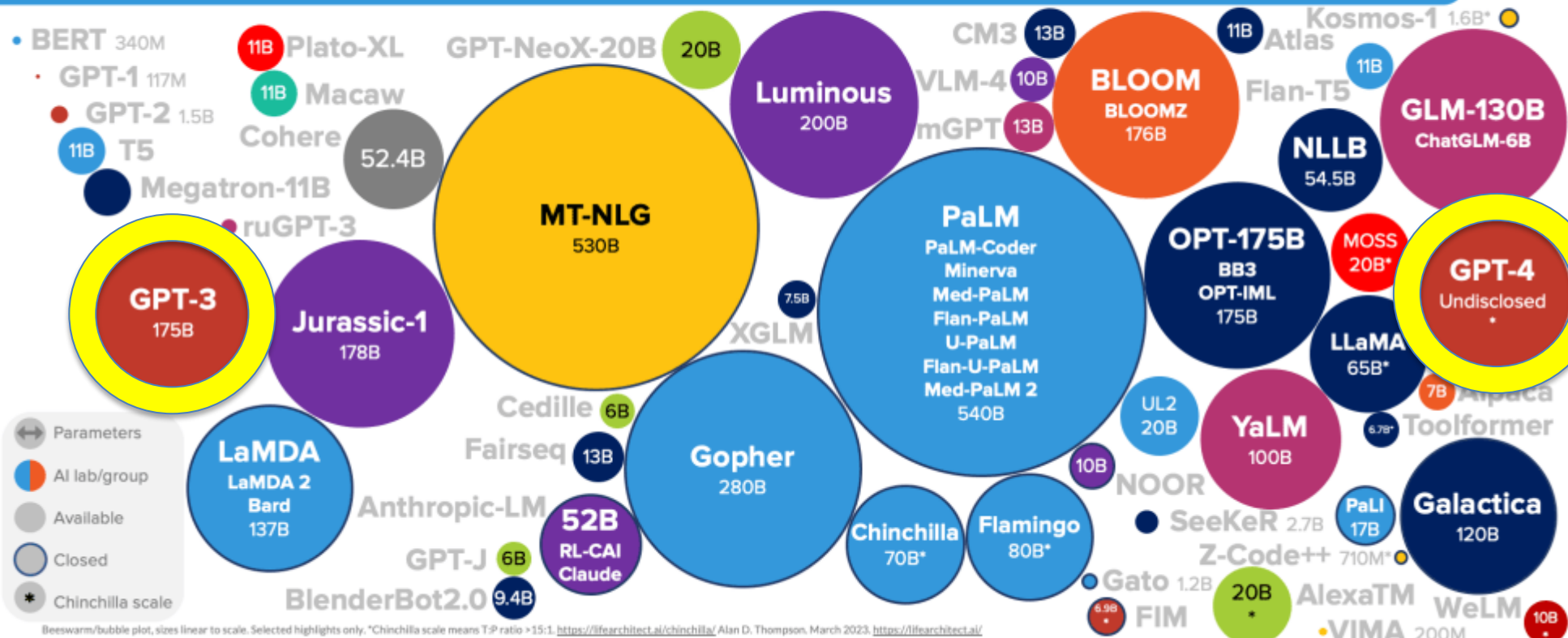
Science & Health 9%

Includes: Medical Resources, Science,
Health Care Services, Nutrition & Dieting

TOP SITES

1. journals.plos.org
2. frontiersin.org
3. link.springer.com
4. ncbi.nlm.nih.gov
5. nature.com

LANGUAGE MODEL SIZES TO MAR/2023



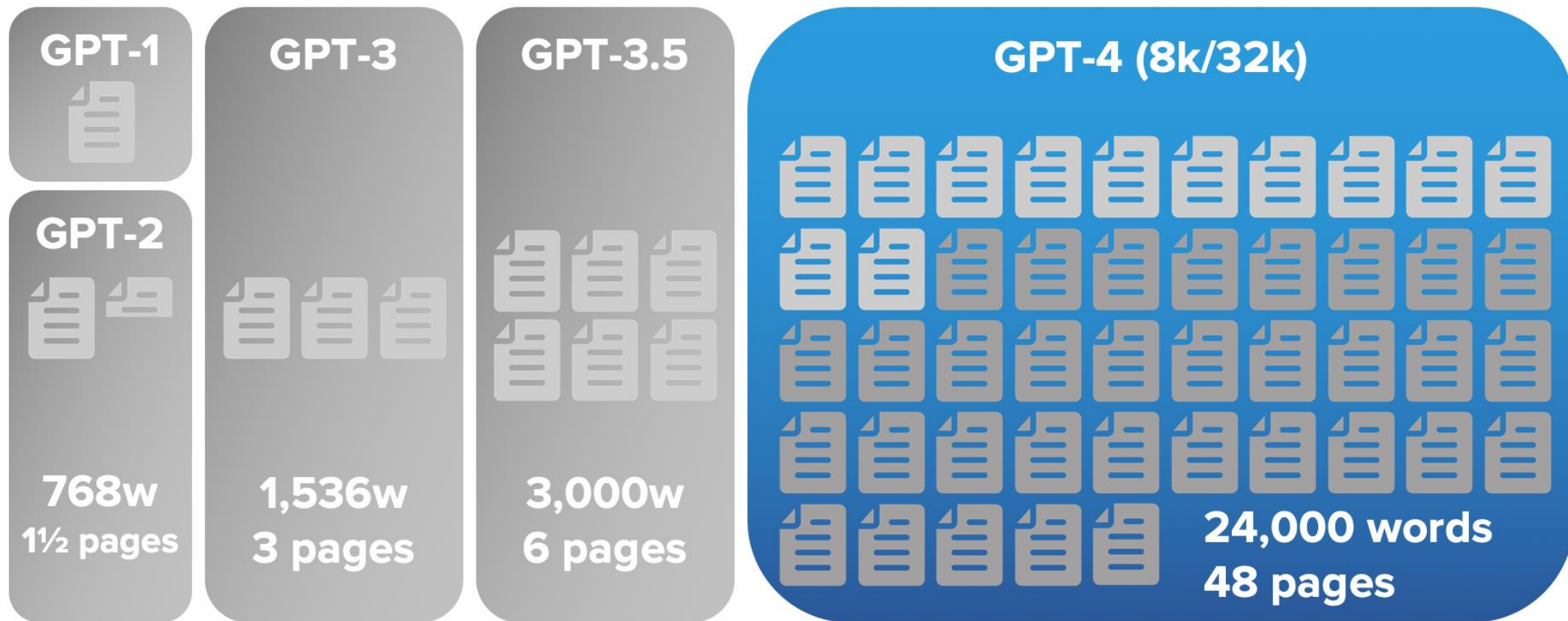
Variables
trained on

[LifeArchitect.ai/models](https://lifearchitect.ai/models)

14 March 2023 Launch of GPT-4

<https://lifearchitect.ai/gpt-4/>

GPT-4 CONTEXT WINDOW (MAX IN/OUT LENGTH)

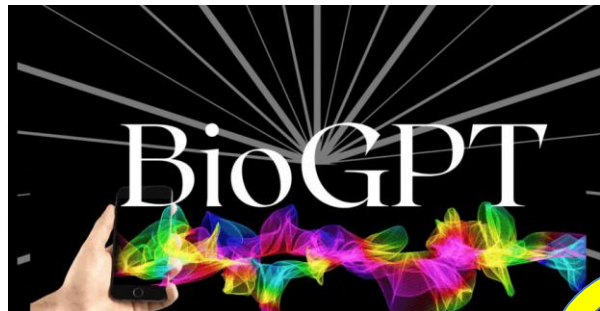


Not to scale. Using rounded figures of 1 token = 0.75 words (e.g. 32,000 tokens = 24,000 words), 500 words = 1 page. Paper icons created by Anggara - Flaticon. Alan D. Thompson. March 2023. <https://life architect.ai/gpt-4/>



LifeArchitect.ai/gpt-4

<https://life architect.ai/gpt-4/>

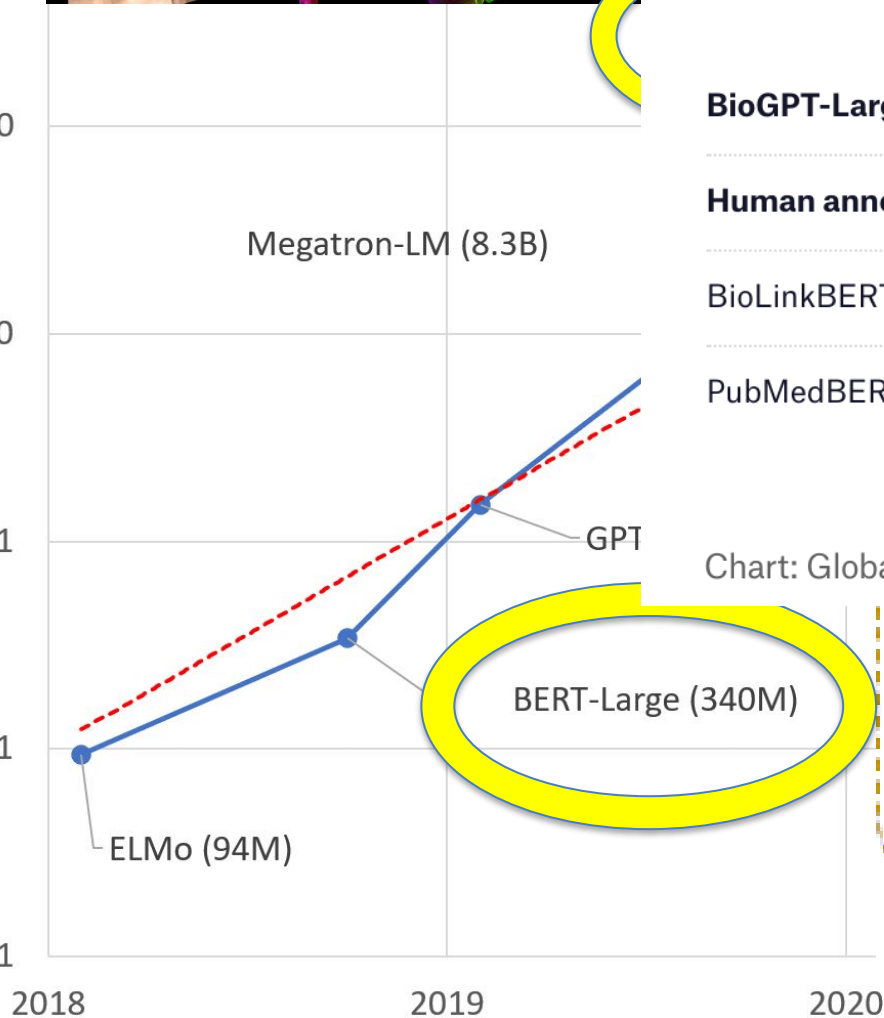


BioGPT and human annotator have comparable performance in biomedical research test

Selected performances on PubMedQA, which tests biomedical language processing

Model Size (in billions of parameters)

1000
100
10
1
0.1
0.01



BioGPT-Large (Luo et al. 2023)

Human annotator (Jin et al. 2019)

BioLinkBERT (Yasunaga et al. 2022)

PubMedBERT (Gu et al. 2021)

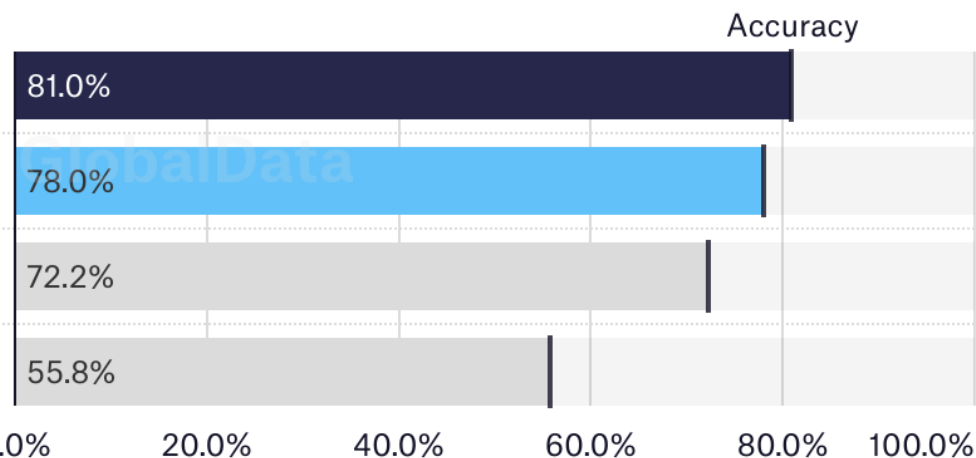
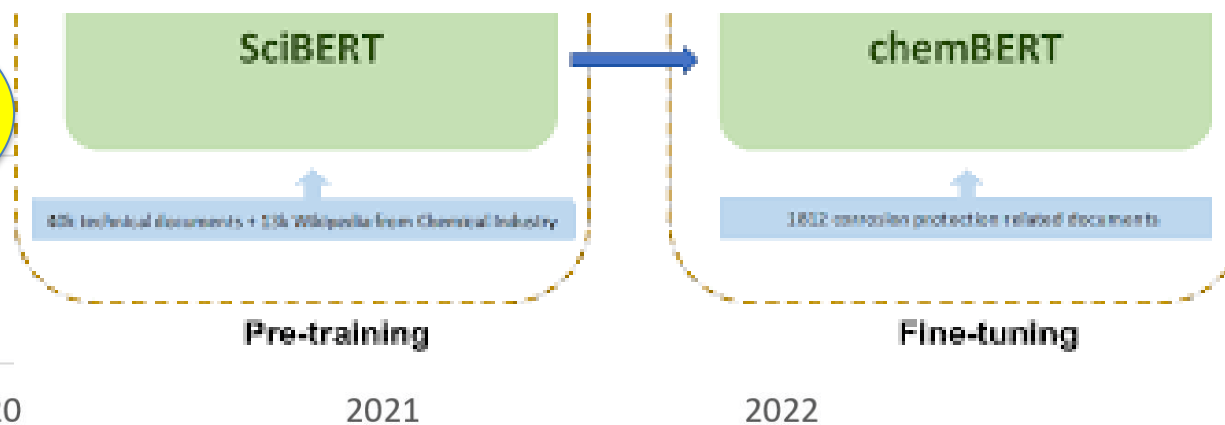


Chart: GlobalData • Source: PubMedQA



	PRE - 2020	2020	2022	2023?	2025?	2030?
TEXT	Spam detection Translation Basic Q&A	Basic copy writing First drafts	Longer form Second drafts	Vertical fine tuning gets good (scientific papers, etc)	Final drafts better than the human average	Final drafts better than professional writers
CODE	1-line auto-complete	Multi-line generation	Longer form Better accuracy	More languages More verticals	Text to product (draft)	Text to product (final), better than full-time developers
IMAGES			Art Logos	Mock-ups (product design, architecture,	Final drafts (product design, architecture, etc.)	Final drafts better than professional artists, designers, photographers)
					Second drafts	AI Roblox Video games and movies are personalized dreams

Almost there
Ready for prime time

A personal take on science and society

Nature 20 Apr 2023

World view

Open generative AI models are a way forward for science



By Arthur Spirling

Researchers should stop using proprietary large language models and develop transparent ones to ensure reproducibility.



be the same, or even whether the technology will still be supported? GPT-3, released last November by OpenAI in San Francisco, California, has already been supplanted by GPT-4, and presumably supporting the older LLM will soon



"Can you take AI out of the wild and should you?"



Thomas Hartung

Johns Hopkins University

Field Chief Editor Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence

Test case: GPT-4 written response (included as supplement)

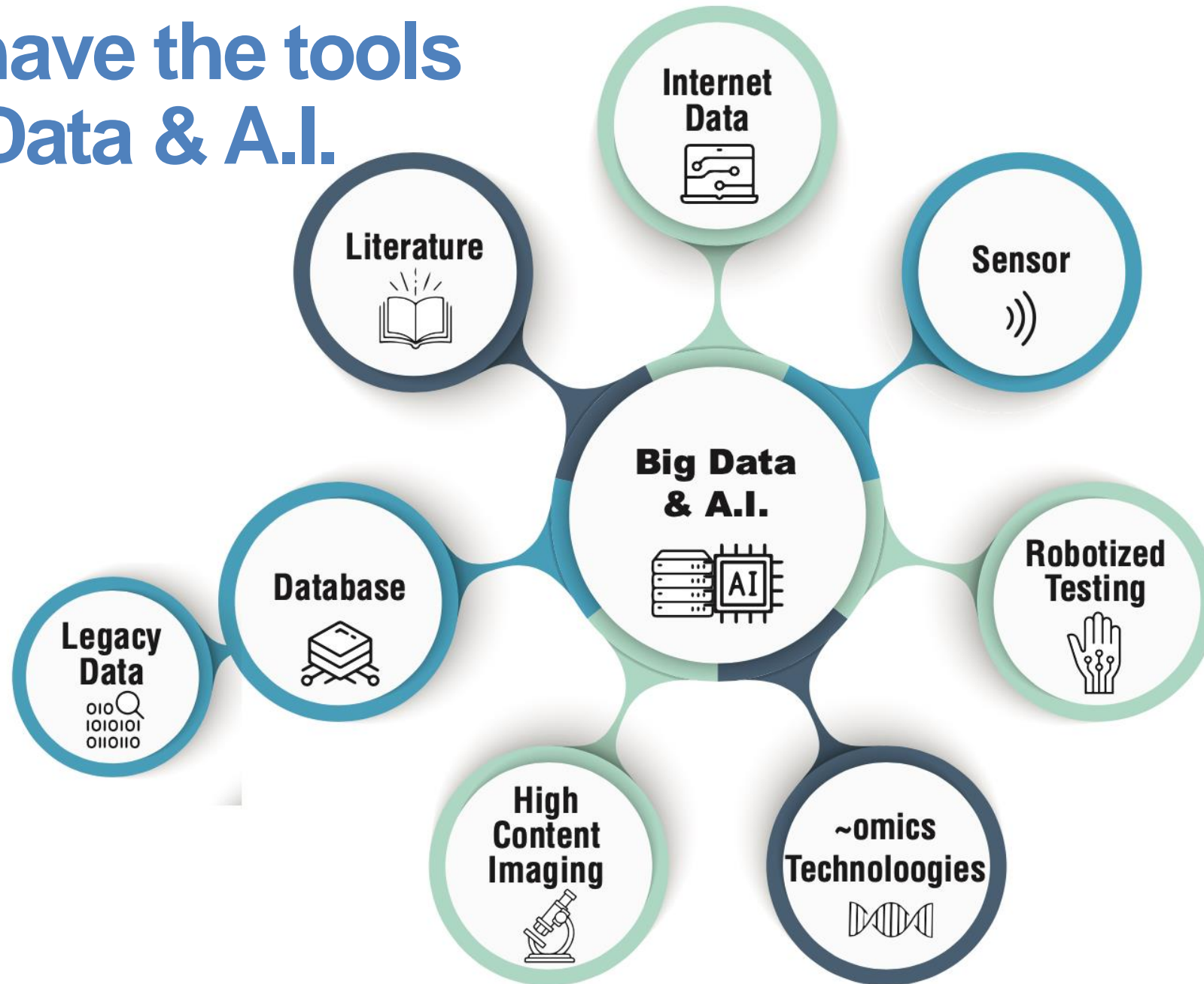
"summarize, praise, criticize" – very solid result

Trend "to the middle", the most probable!

Forces us to focus on ideas, inspiration, experience, opinion...

"Food for thought"

We have the tools Big Data & A.I.





9 most common toxicity tests
190,000 chemical's hazard
cross-validation:
87% correct

<https://sfmagazine.com/technotes/february-2019-wipo-u-s-and-china-lead-the-world-in-ai-innovation/>

ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Machine learning of toxicological big data enables read-across structure activity relationships (RASAR) outperforming animal test reproducibility



Thomas Luechtefeld, Dan Marsh, Craig Rowlands, Thomas Hartung

Toxicological Sciences, kfy152, <https://doi.org/10.1093/toxsci/kfy152>

Published: 11 July 2018

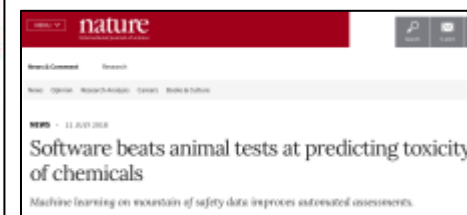


TOXICOLOGY

Science, 12 Feb 2016

A crystal ball for chemical safety

By comparing new chemicals to known compounds, toxicologists seek early hazard warnings



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An estimated 3 million to 4 million rabbits, rats, and other animals are used annually around the world for chemical safety tests. CARMEN DOWNER/JAN STOCK PHOTO

New digital chemical screening tool could help eliminate animal testing

By Vanessa Zainzinger | Jul 11, 2018 | 11:00 AM

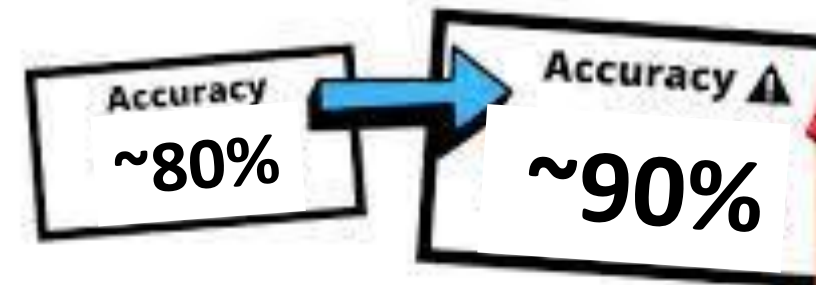
Data Fusion

The power of transfer learning

When looking for eye irritants, look also for neighbors' information on skin irritation, chemical reactivity etc.



TRANSFER LEARNING



Animal Replacement

2018: Nine most used animal tests

AI predicted 190,000 chemicals 87% correctly

Animal reproducibility 81%

2020: Human Skin Sensitization

AI predicted 506 chemicals 80% correctly

Animal 74% correct

2022: Nine most used animal tests predicted by AI

AI predicted 4700+ food chemicals 83% correctly in 1h
= 38,000 animal studies at \$250+ million

2023: Systemic toxicities

AI predicted 75% cancer risk of 950 chemicals and 82% reproductive tox of 1152 chemicals correctly

Read-Across-based Structure-Activity Relationship Predictions for Reproductive Toxicity and Carcinogenicity with Deep Learning and Domain of Applicability Definition



#3704
Tue CompTox II

Thomas Luechtefeld, Craig Rowlands and Thomas Hartung

Frontiers in AI, Research Topic “Leveraging Artificial Intelligence and Open Science for Toxicological Risk Assessment”

Poster Board Number P189
Read-Across–Based Structure-Activity Relationship Predictions for Reproductive Toxicity and Carcinogenicity with Deep Learning and Domain of Applicability Definition. C. Rowlands. UL Solutions, Northbrook, IL.

In preparation

Source	Descriptive Name	Sensitivity %	Specificity %	BAC %	ACC %	Coverage %
ECHA	Reproductive Toxicity 1152	82	82	82	82	81
ECHA	Carcinogenicity 950	75	80	77	78	76
OPERA	Androgen Receptor Binding 8606	100	98	99	98	99
OPERA	Androgen Receptor Agonist 8492	98	98	98	98	95
OPERA	Androgen Receptor Antagonist 8771	97	97	97	97	99

Astonishingly good
prediction of
complex systemic
hazards

Excellent prediction
of Tox21c assays

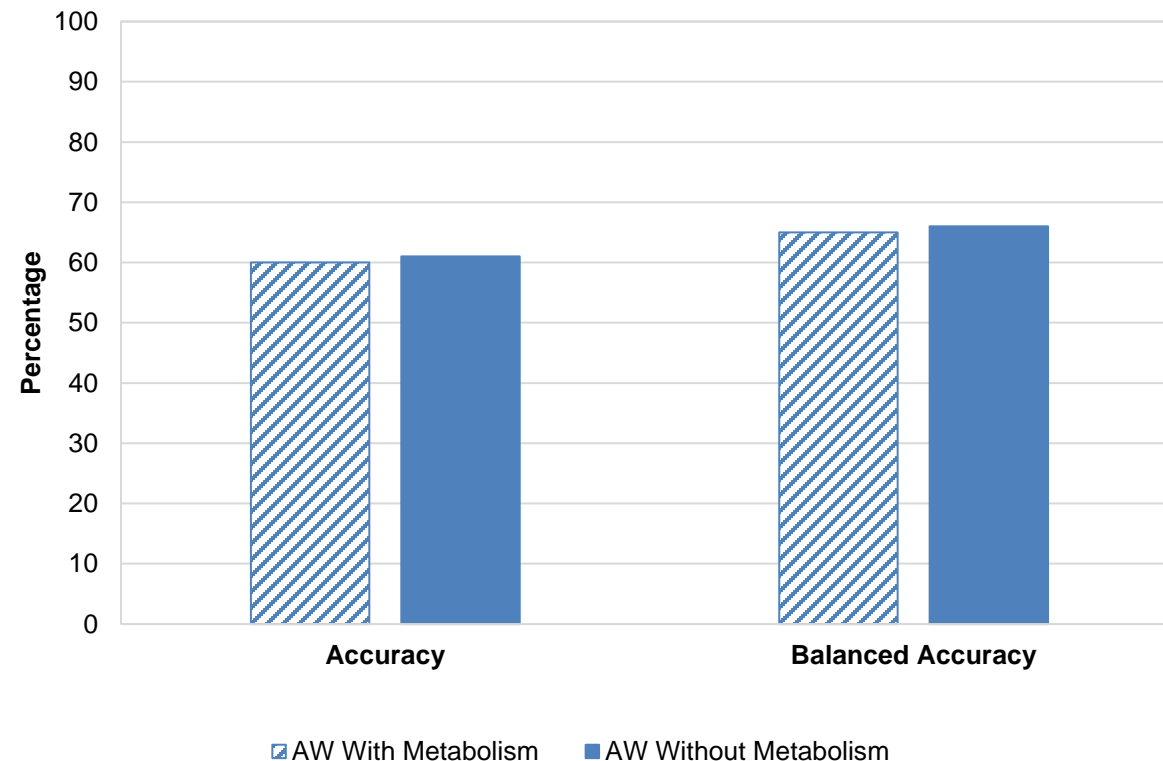


The Good, The Bad, and The Perplexing: Structural Alerts and Read-Across for Predicting Skin Sensitization Using Human Data

Emily Golden, Daniel C. Ukaegbu, Peter Ranslow, Robert H. Brown, Thomas Hartung, and Alexandra Maertens*

- The metabolism feature for OECD QSAR Toolbox offered no improvement in accuracy for this data set
- Suggests there are specific areas of chemical space where metabolism is more useful than others

Metabolism Did Not Improve Model Accuracy



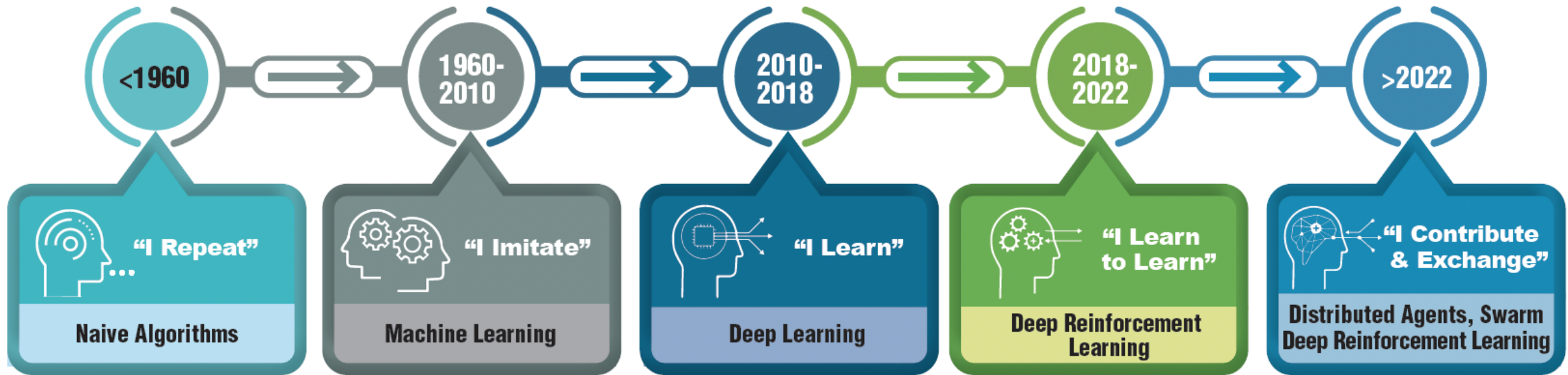
The vast majority of flame retardants (95%) and their metabolites (99%) are not present in spectral databases.

When exposures are more than the sum of their parts: using in silico tools to predict flame retardant metabolites for more informative exposomics-based approaches

Breanne Kincaid¹, Przemyslaw Piechota¹, Emily Golden¹, Mikhail Maertens¹, Thomas Hartung^{1, 2}, Alexandra Maertens^{1*}

In silico tools such as metabolite prediction software, QSAR- ready structural conversion workflows, and molecular standards databases can aid in identifying novel compounds in untargeted mass spectral investigations, permitting the assessment of a more expansive pool of compounds for human health hazard.

History of Machine Learning / A.I.



Emergence of...
Homogenization of...

Machine Learning

"how"
learning algorithms

Deep Learning

features
architectures

Foundation Models

functionalities
models

- Unsupervised or self-supervised learning
- Large (deep) neural networks
- Not intended for any particular end-goal
- Intended to serve as "foundation", then fine-tune
- Trained on multimodal data

Watershed moment

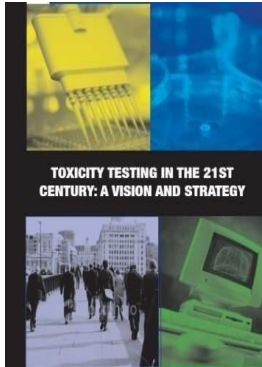
2007 NRC report



Toxicity testing in the 21st century: progress in the past decade
and future perspectives

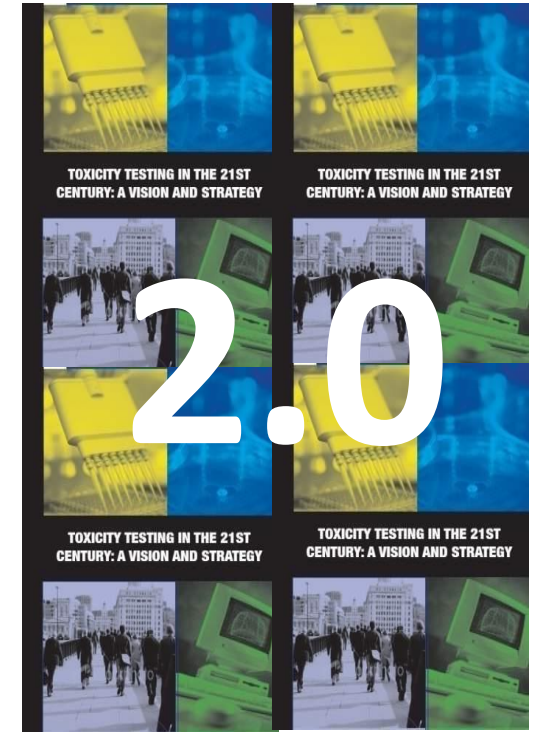
Arch Toxicol 2019

D. Krewski^{1,2,4} · M. E. Andersen³ · M. G. Tyshenko^{2,4} · K. Krishnan^{2,5} · T. Hartung^{6,13} · K. Boekelheide⁷ ·
J. F. Wambaugh⁸ · D. Jones⁹ · M. Whelan¹⁰ · R. Thomas⁸ · C. Yauk¹¹ · T. Barton-Maclaren¹¹ · I. Cote¹²



KNOWLEDGE

Doubling every
seven years





Future Directions
Workshop: Advancing
the Next Scientific
Revolution in
Toxicology

April 28-29, 2022

Thomas Hartung, Johns Hopkins University, University of Konstanz,
and Georgetown University

Ana Navas-Acien, Columbia University

Weihua Chiu, Texas A&M University

Prepared by:
Kate Klemic, Virginia Tech Applied Research Corporation
Matthew Peters, Virginia Tech Applied Research Corporation
Shawn Silberberg, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense
(Research & Engineering), Basic Research Office

Future Directions Workshop series
Workshop sponsored by the Basic Research Office, Office of
the Under Secretary of Defense for Research & Engineering

VT-ARC
Virginia Tech
Applied Research Corporation

Releasable to the US Government Only and its Contractors | Unclassified

Call for a Human Exposome Project



1. Exposure-driven
2. Technology-enabled
3. Evidence-integrated

Future Directions Workshop: Advancing the Next Scientific Revolution in Toxicology

Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering OUSD(R&E)

April 28–29, 2022

Arlington, VA

Food for Thought ...

ALTEX 2023

A Call for a Human Exposome Project



Thomas Hartung^{1,2}



Fenna Sillé

AI & exposure



ALTEX 2020, 37, 3-23

"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950)

"If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change."

Wayne Dyer (1940-2015)



**Exposome
& AI
= EI
(Exposome
Intelligence)**

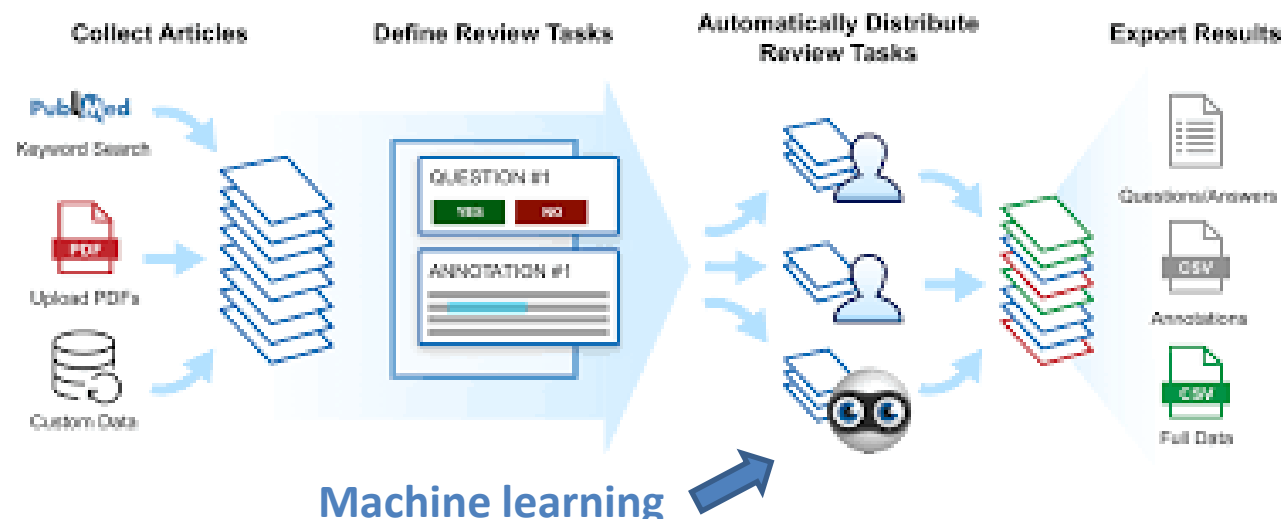
Food for Thought ...

The Exposome – a New Approach for Risk Assessment

Fenna Sillé¹, Spyros Karakitsios², Andre Kleensang¹, Kirsten Koehler¹, Alexandra Maertens¹, Gary W. Miller³, Carsten Prasse¹, Lesliam Quiros-Alcala¹, Gurumurthy Ramachandran¹, Stephen M. Rappaport⁴, Ana M. Rule¹, Denis Sarigiannis^{2,5}, Lena Smirnova¹ and Thomas Hartung^{1,6}

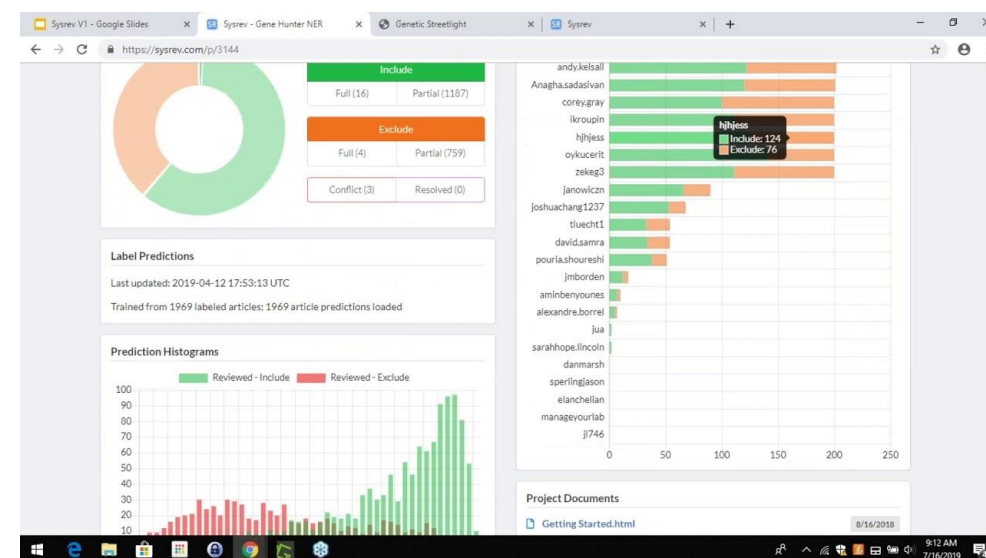


EU ONTOX project (\$20 million, 2021-2026) to address liver, kidney and developing brain



Semi-automated systematic review:

- Auto-extract /annotate papers
- Auto-analyze clustering of papers
- Learn from manual inclusion / exclusion
- Automated inclusion / exclusion suggestions
- Natural Entity Recognition & Causal Relationship Extraction
- Feed into ontologies and AI
- chatGPT -> bioGPT -> toxGPT (?)



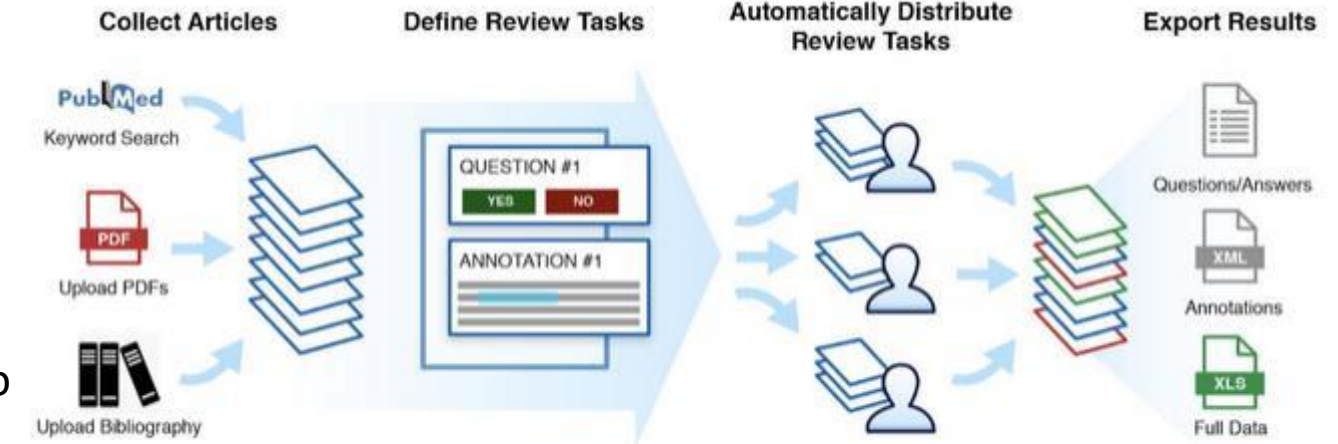
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoUbMAvxBSZpOlqKjOkxNzQ/videos>



Literature



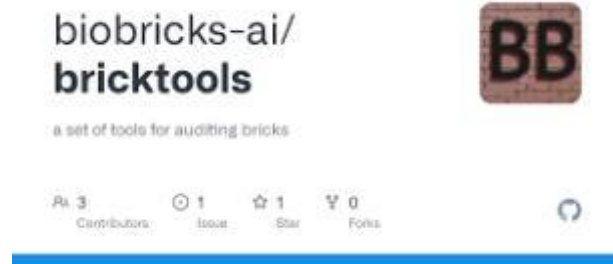
<https://www.youtube.com/c/SysRev?app=desktop>



Graphic showing the document review workflow on Sysrev.com



Databases



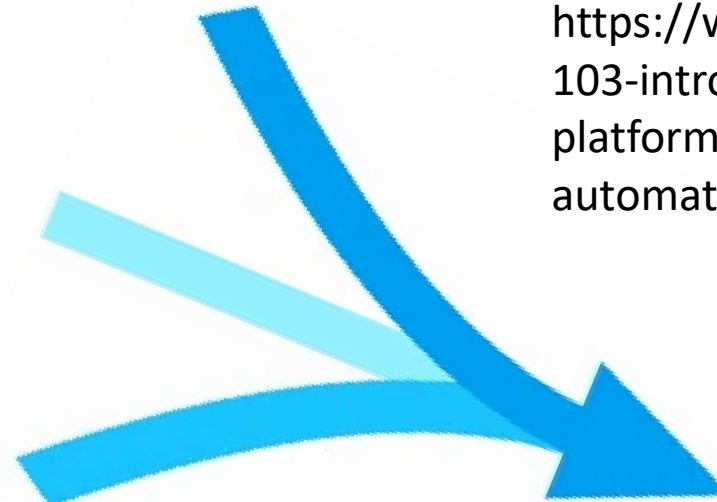
<https://www.biopharmatrend.com/post/103-introducing-sysrev-the-intelligent-platform-for-document-review-and-automated-data-extraction/>



Internet



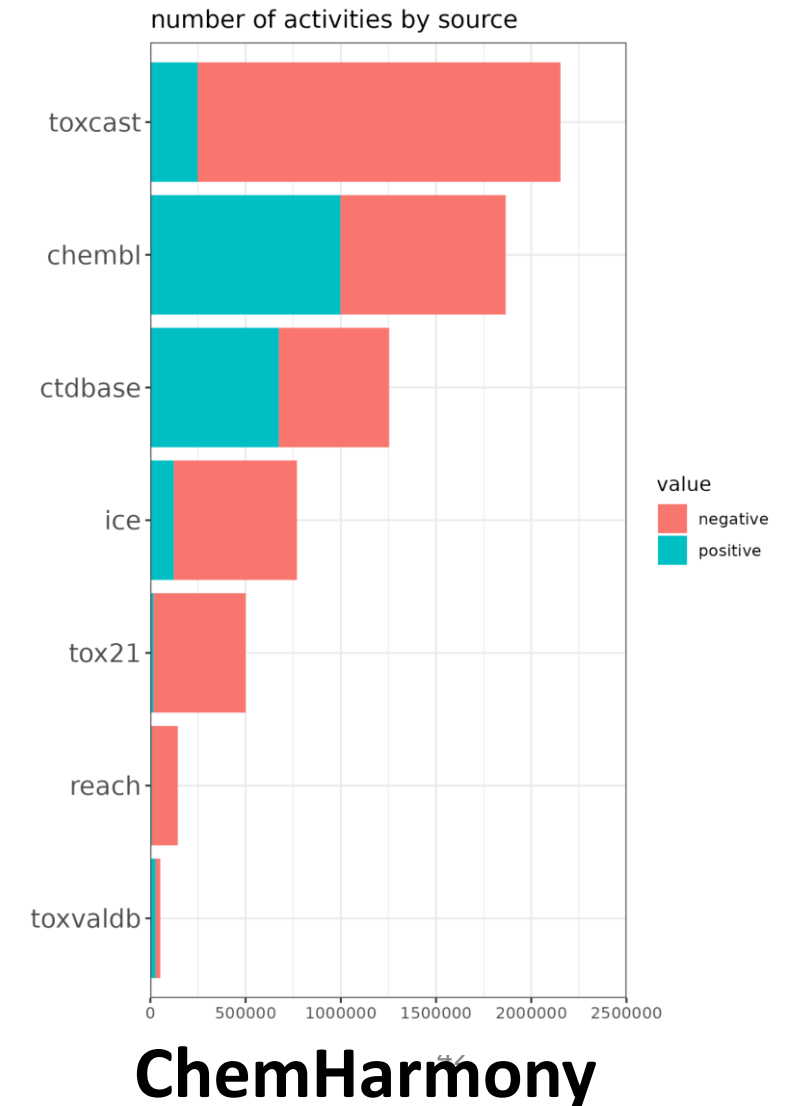
<http://chemchart.com>



DATA

Establishment of a big data platform and data gap filling for integration of collected data

- **Biobricks toolset for hosting, querying, and distributing big data for predictive tox**
- ~50 BioBricks constructed to date
- **ChemHarmony:**
integrates chembl, pubchem, ctdbase etc.:
200 million triplets of substance/property/result
- **Building querying functionality**
- **Public release of toxicology BioBricks upcoming**



Set-up and application of machine learning/deep learning approaches to predict probability of chemical hazard and potency

We can do 1 trillion comparisons per hour on a “normal” computer!

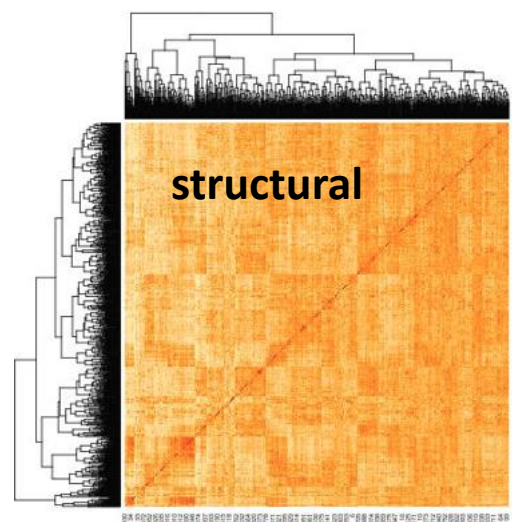


Figure 5.2A. Similarity heatmap for chemicalbert embeddings on 1k chembl compounds
Dark red = highly similar,
White = not similar

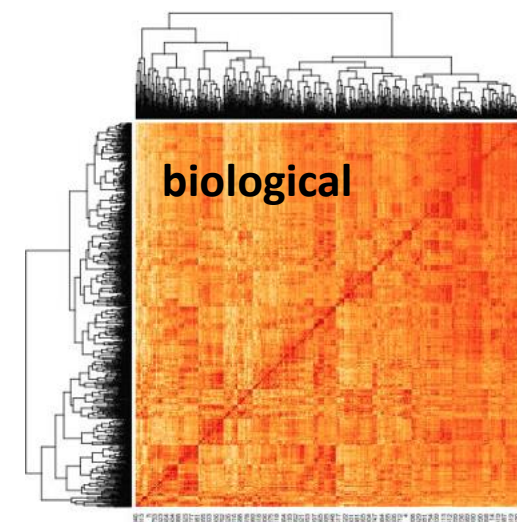


Figure 5.2B. Heatmap for inhibition assay supervised embedding
Dark red = highly similar,
White = not similar

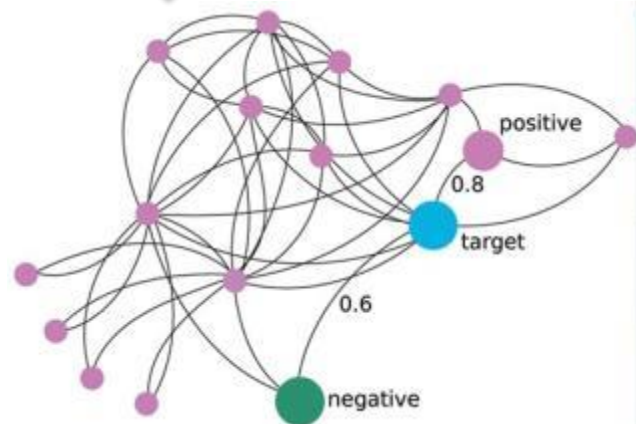
DATA

PMDEP App <https://youtu.be/YG0gjm&GD5K>



Systems Biology
Markup Language

CellDesigner™



RASAR
+ QSAR

From chemical structure and properties

From perturbation of physiology

Probability of hazard

The problem



toxic

non-toxic

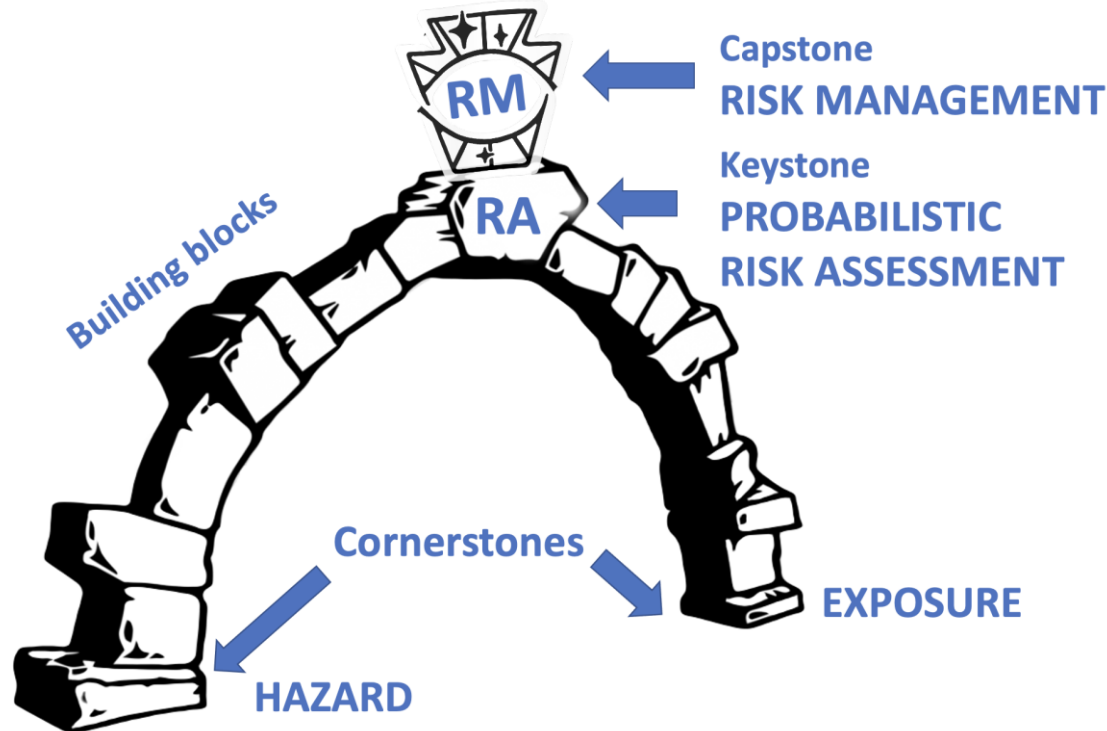


reality
= uncertainty

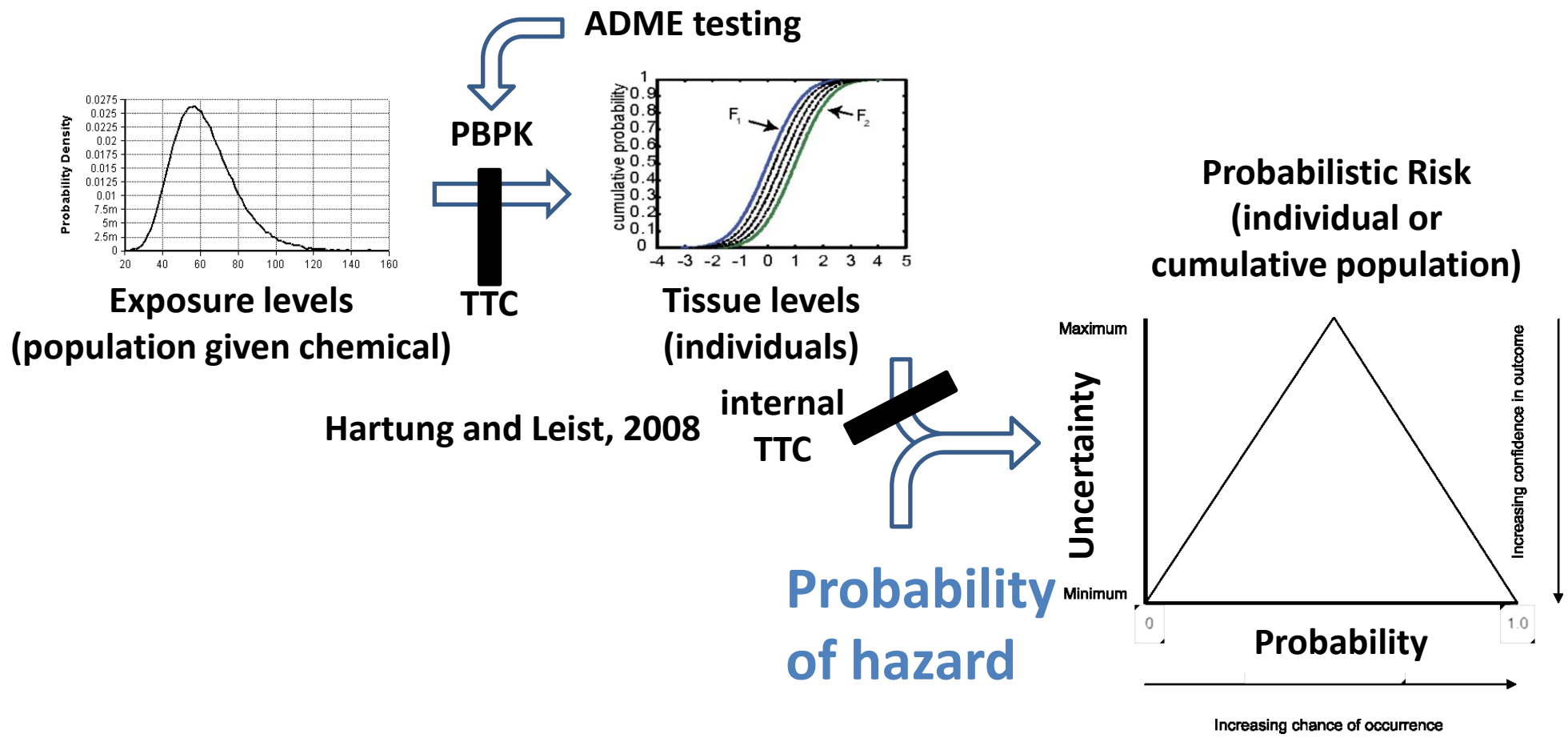
Food for Thought ...

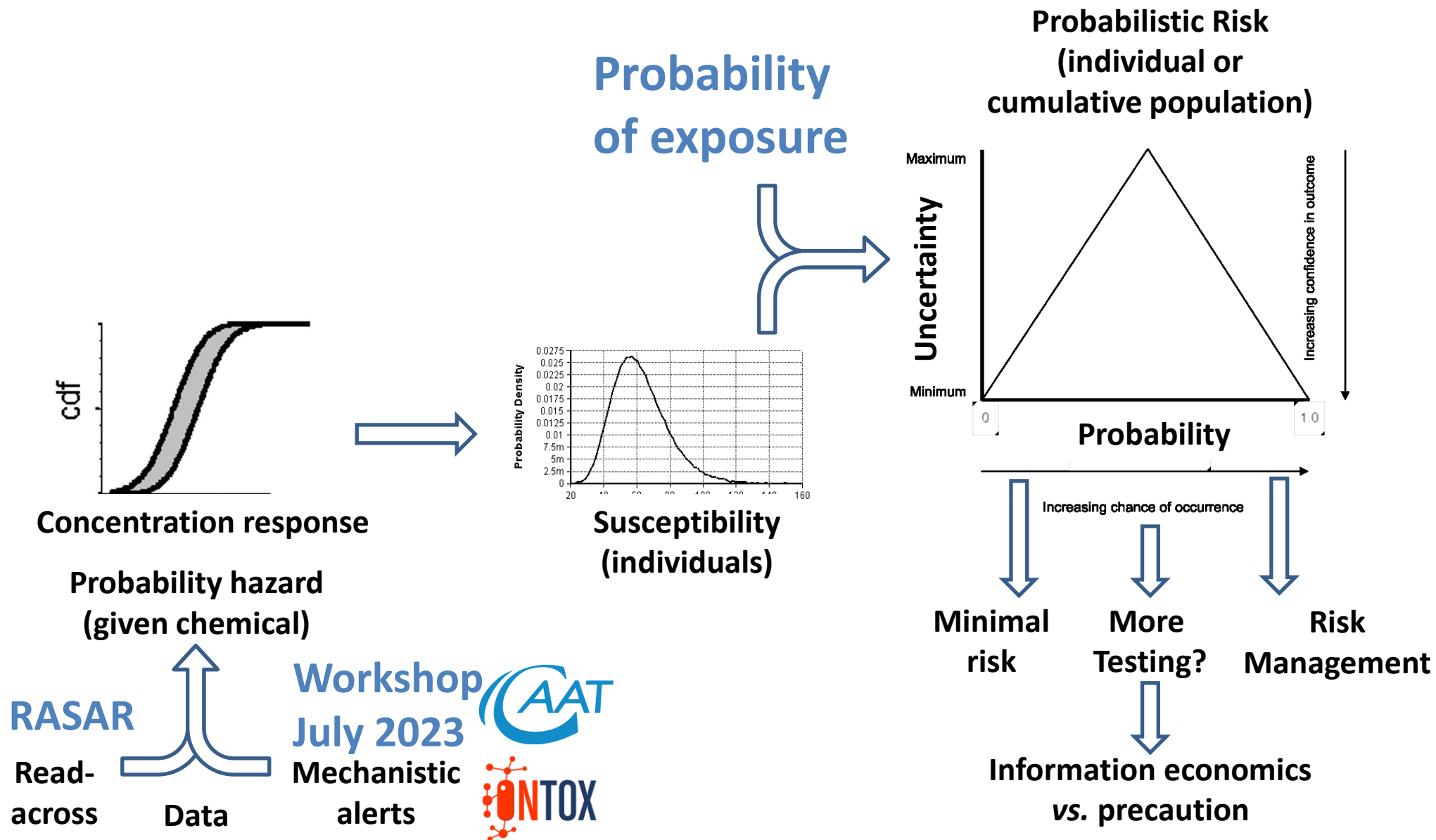
Probabilistic Risk Assessment – the Keystone for the Future of Toxicology

Alexandra Maertens¹, Emily Golden¹, Thomas H. Luechtefeld^{1,2}, Sebastian Hoffmann^{1,3},
Katya Tsaoun¹ and Thomas Hartung^{1,4}



2nd Workshop 4-6 July 2023
Ranco, Italy





Paul Anastas and John Warner, the Fathers of Green Chemistry



Includes
toxicology

Principles of Green Chemistry.

Nick Anastas, EPA, (2012): "Green Toxicology"

Concept from Pharma: Frontloading toxicology “fail early, fail cheap”

**FAIL FAST.
SUCCEED
FASTER.**

What Pharma and Biotech Companies
Stand to Gain from Early Drug
Development Failures.



Food for Thought ... Green Toxicology

Alexandra Maertens¹, Nicholas Anastas³, Pamela J. Spencer⁴, Martin Stephens¹,
Alan Goldberg¹ and Thomas Hartung^{1,2}

¹Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health, CAAT, Baltimore, MD, USA; ²CAAT-Europe, University of Konstanz, Germany; ³EPA Region 1, Boston, MA, USA; ⁴The Dow Chemical Company, Midland, MI, USA

ALTEX 2014, 31:243-249.



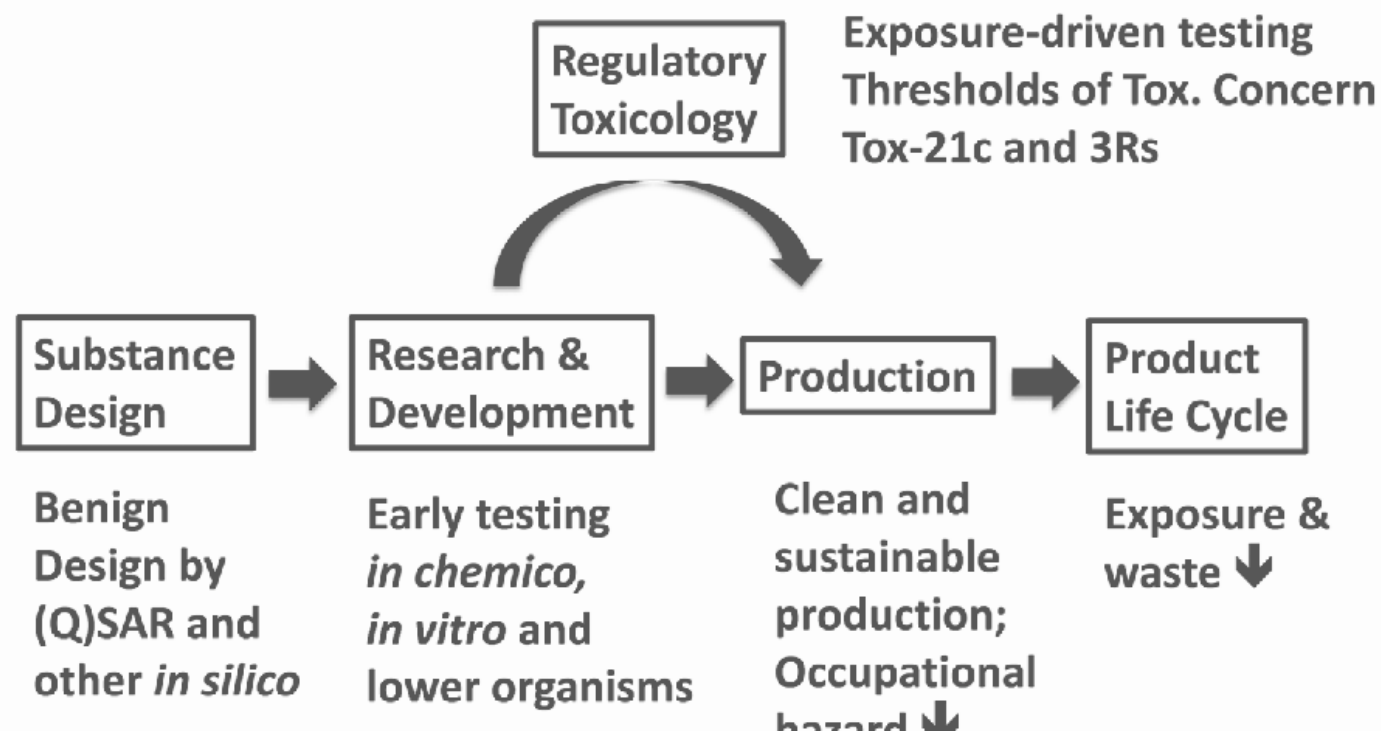
GREENTOXICOLOGY

Giving screening the green light

By working with toxicologists while they're designing new compounds, chemists can avoid problems further down the chain, as Emma Davies reports



Green Toxicology



Green toxicology

– the toxicology aspects of green chemistry



Alex Maertens

Another use of alternatives methods

TOXICOLOGICAL SCIENCES, 161(2), 2018, 285–289

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Editorial

ci
Years

Green Chemistry Series

Green Toxicology

Making Chemicals Benign by Design

Alexandra Maertens

ly About and Avoid Toxic

ng*,†,1



- Integrating Scientific Knowledge
- Accelerating Drug Development
- Optimizing Prevention
- Democratizing Healthcare Access

The Smart Path Forward

- Open access, machine readable
- Identify bias in data
- Explainable AI

***The difficulty lies not in the new ideas,
but in escaping from the old ones.***

John Maynard Keynes

(1883 - 1946)



Slides available:



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