

Molecular Complexity

Literature Seminar

2024/06/15

Yuuki Watanabe

Contents

1. Development of indexes

JOC *The Journal of Organic Chemistry*

Molecular Complexity and Retrosynthesis

John R. Proudfoot*

2. Application

Contents

1. Development of indexes

JOC *The Journal of Organic Chemistry*

Molecular Complexity and Retrosynthesis

John R. Proudfoot*

2. Application

John R. Proudfoot



John Proudfoot, Ph. D.

Education

1984?~1987: Ph. D @Stanford University (Prof. Carl Djerassi)

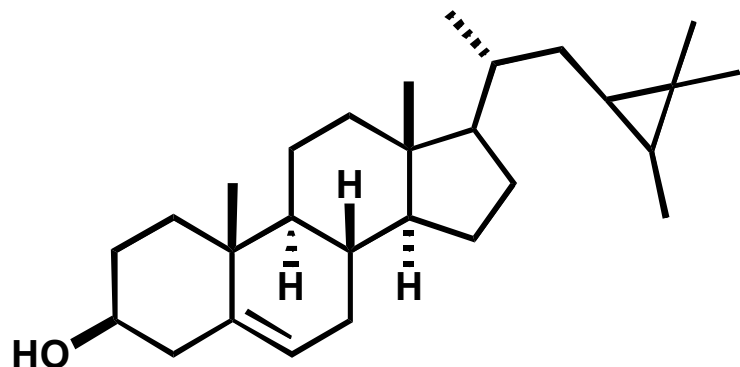
1987~2017: Director of medicinal chemistry

@ Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc: Ridgefield, CT, US

2017~: Consultant @Discoverybytes LLC: Newtown, CT, US

Research Area in Stanford University

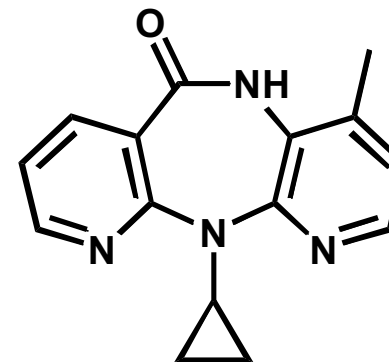
1. Structure determination of steroids
2. (Bio)synthesis of new steroids



Prof. Carl Djerassi

Research Area in Pharmaceutical Company

1. Medicinal Chemistry
2. Drug Design
3. Data processing



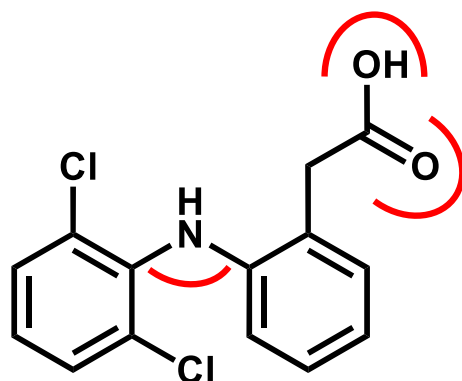
nevirapine
(anti-HIV-1 drug)

Index for Drug Discovery

In the drug discovery, the ① **polarity**, ② **specificity**, and ③ **greenness of synthetic route** are important.
→The indexes corresponding to these factors are developed.

① polarity

- Lipinski's rule of 5
- tPSA (topological Polar Surface Area)



Fragment	PSA	Frequency
NR ₃	3.24	0
NHR ₂	12.03	1
NH ₂ R	26.02	0
R-O-H	20.23	1
C=O	17.07	1

Σ = 49.3 Å²
Topological PSA

② specificity

- F_{sp^3} , $F_{C_{stereo}}$

$$F_{sp^3} = \frac{\text{the number of } sp^3 \text{ carbon atom}}{\text{total number of carbon atom}}$$

$$F_{C_{stereo}} = \frac{\text{the number of stereocenters}}{\text{total number of carbon atom}}$$

③ greenness of synthetic route

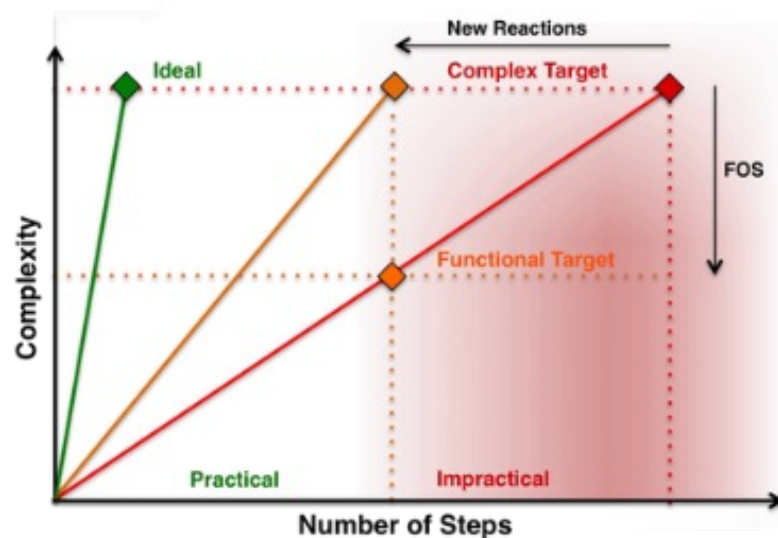
- PMI (Process Mass Intensity)

$$PMI = \frac{\text{total amounts of materials (reagents, solvents...)}}{\text{amounts of product}}$$

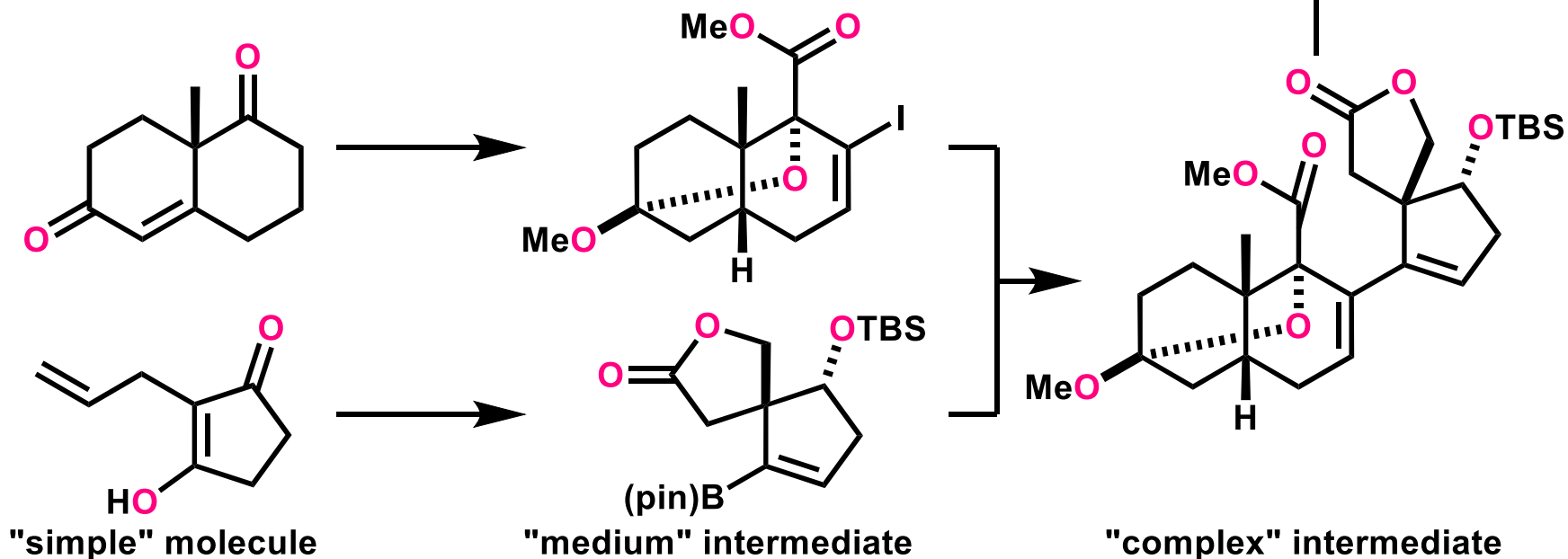
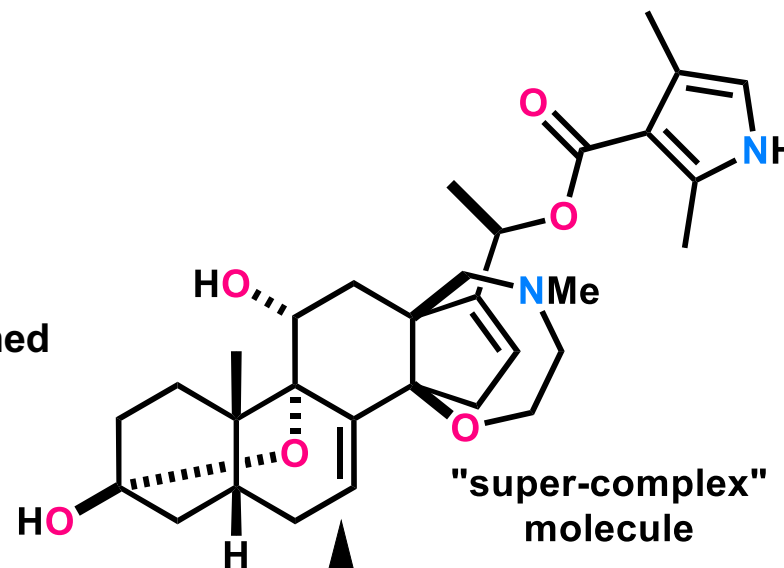
- The key, high-level metric for evaluating and benchmarking progress towards more sustainable manufacturing.

1. Ertl, P.; Rohde, B.; Selzer, P. *J. Med. Chem.* **2000**, *43*, 3714.
2. Lovering, F.; Bikker, J.; Humblet, C. *J. Med. Chem.* **2009**, *52*, 6752.
3. Jimenez-Gonzalez, C.; Ponder, C. S.; Broxterman, Q. B.; *Angew. Chem., Int. Ed.* **2021**, *60*, 12819.

Indexes for chemists



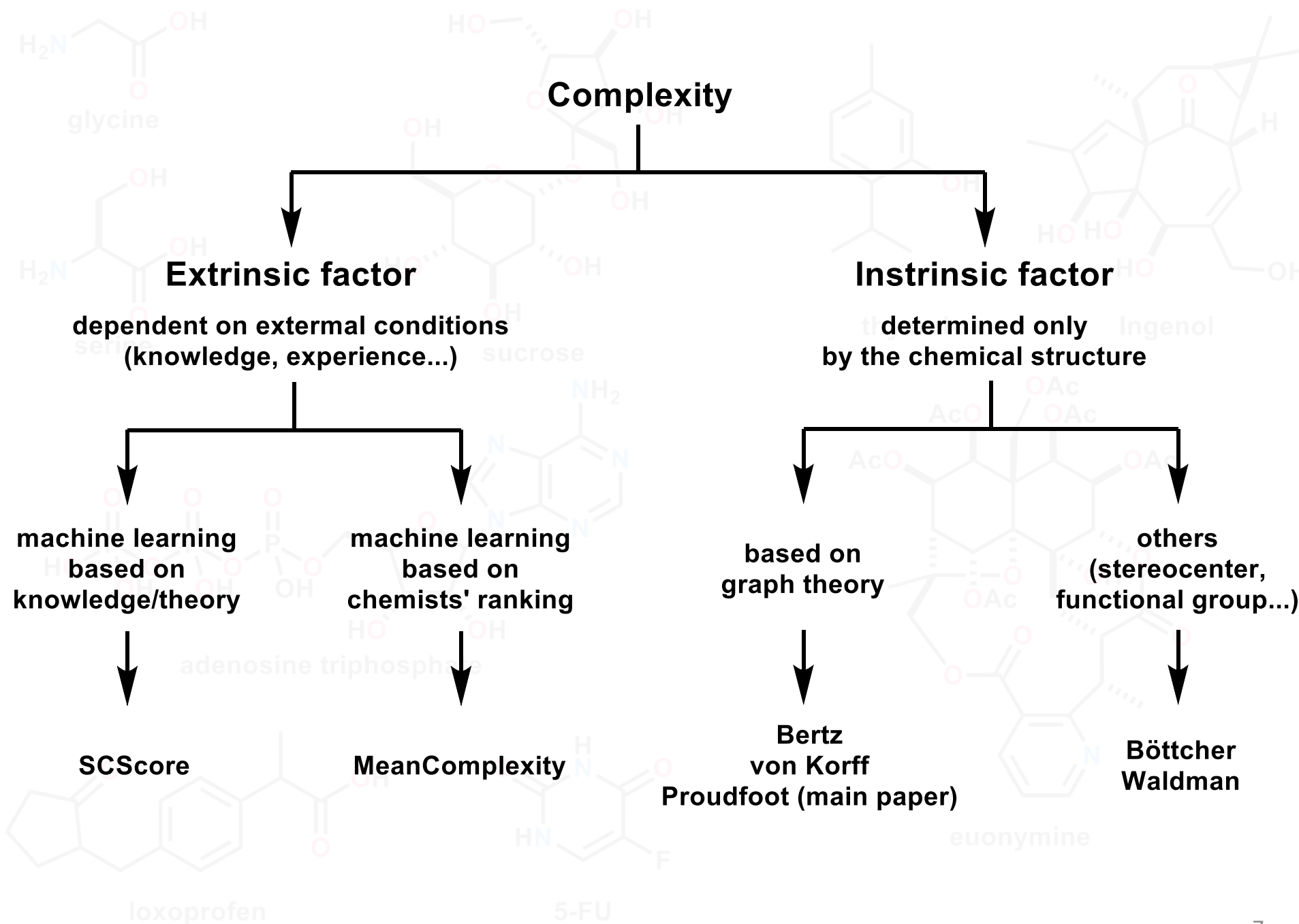
For chemists,
complexity was
obscurely mentioned



1. <https://web.stanford.edu/group/pawender/function-oriented-synthesis.html>

2. Watanabe, Y.; Morozumi, H.; Mutoh, K.; Hagiwara, K.; Inoue, M. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2023**, 62, e202309688.

Define Molecular Complexity



SCScore

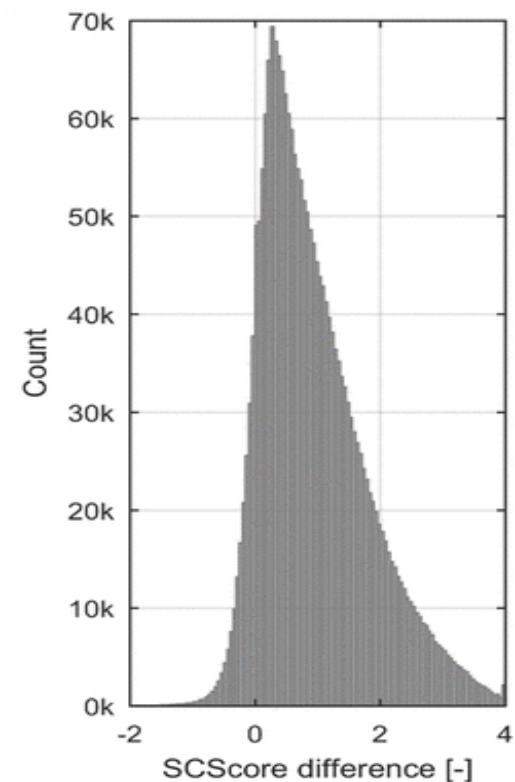
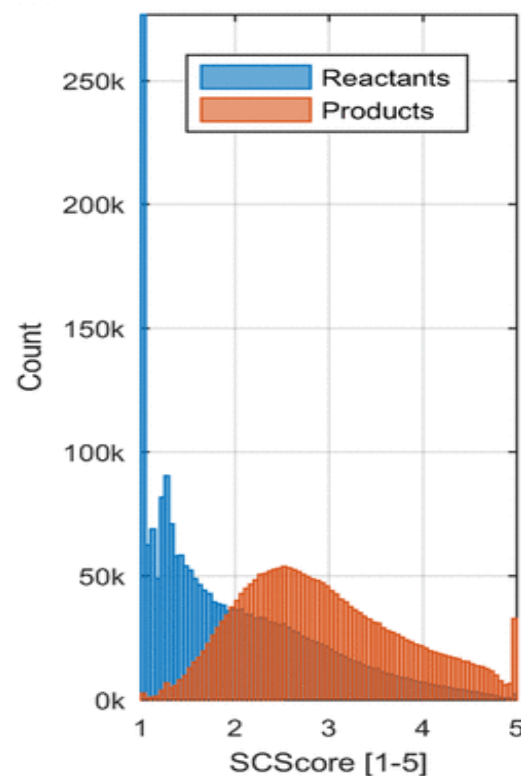
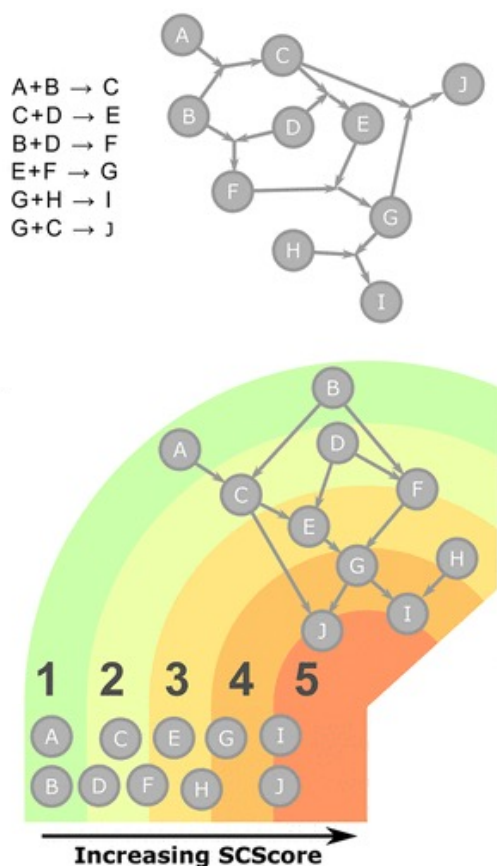
SCScore: Based on precedent reaction knowledge (12 million reactions in Reaxys)
Assuming that **the complexity of products** should not be less than **the complexity of reactants**.

$$\text{SCScore}(m) \equiv f(m, \theta)$$

$$f(P, \theta) \geq \max\{f(R_i, \theta)\}_i \quad \forall (R_1 + R_2 + \dots + R_n \rightarrow P)$$

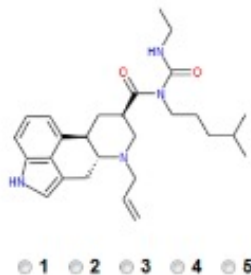
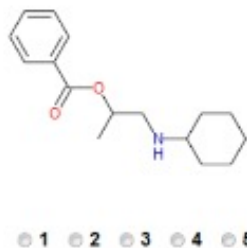
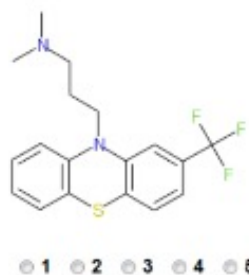
P: Product

R: Reactant



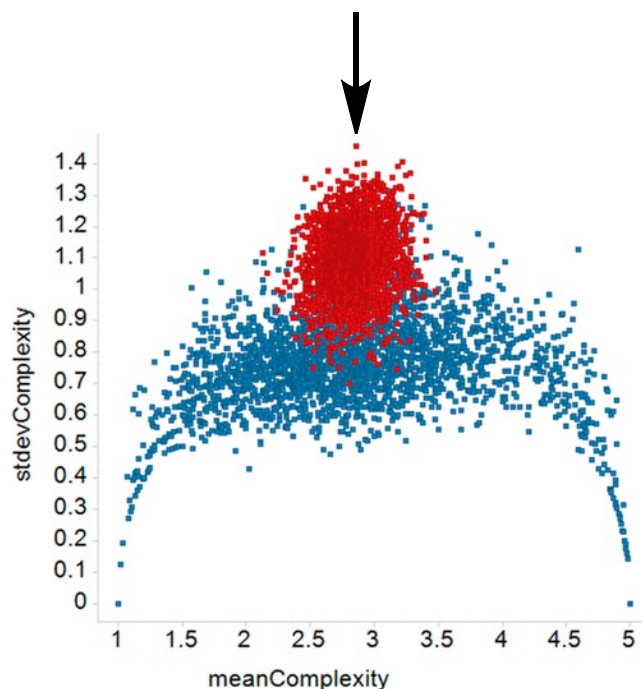
MeanComplexity

Complexity scoring tool: Give a score to each compound



Chemists voted

108000 votes from
386 chemists for 2681 molecules



Blue: meanComplexity

Red: randomly voted results

MeanComplexity: Developed by Merck
- Based on the knowledge of chemists
- Comparing complexity
(not synthesizability)

Merck developed a system for predicting
PMI based on the MW and MeanComplexity
to judge the efficiency of synthetic routes.

II

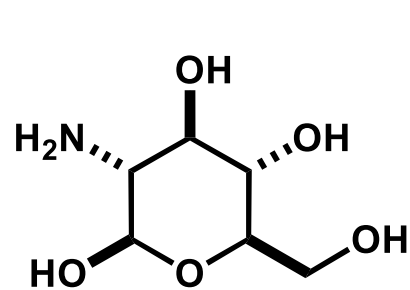
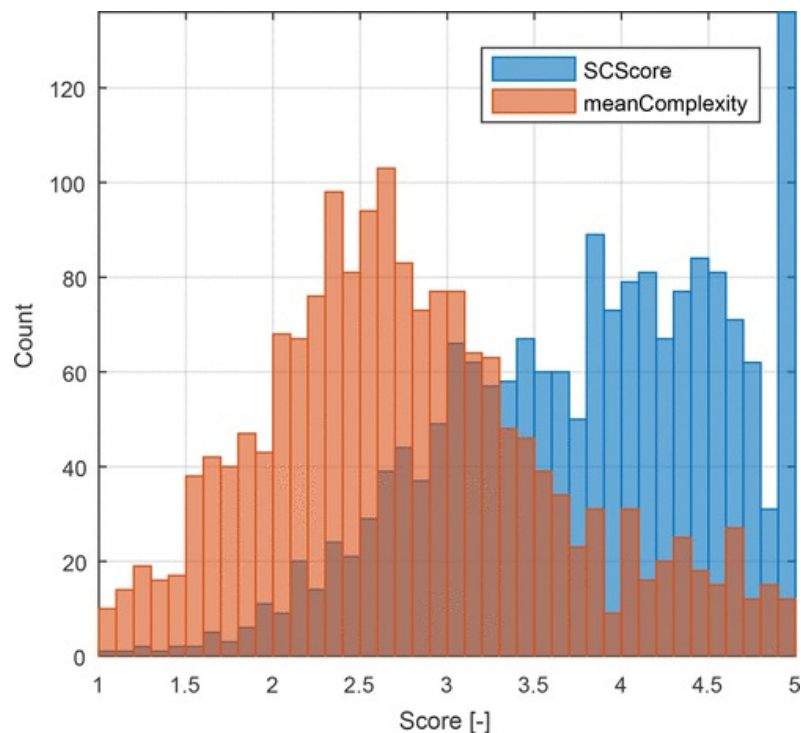
SMART-PMI

$$\text{SMART - PMI} = 0.13 \cdot \text{MW} + 177 \cdot \text{MeanComplexity} - 252$$

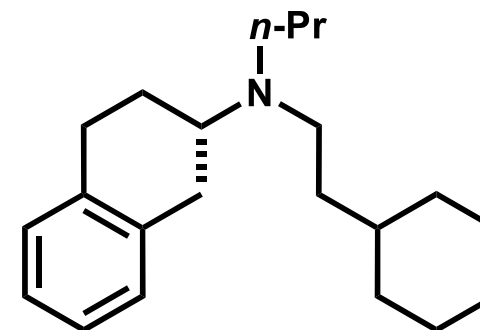
Problem: For the complex molecules,

$$\text{SMART-PMI} \cong 0.13 \cdot \text{MW} + 633$$

SCScore v.s. MeanComplexity



SCScore: 1.249
meanComplexity: 3.105

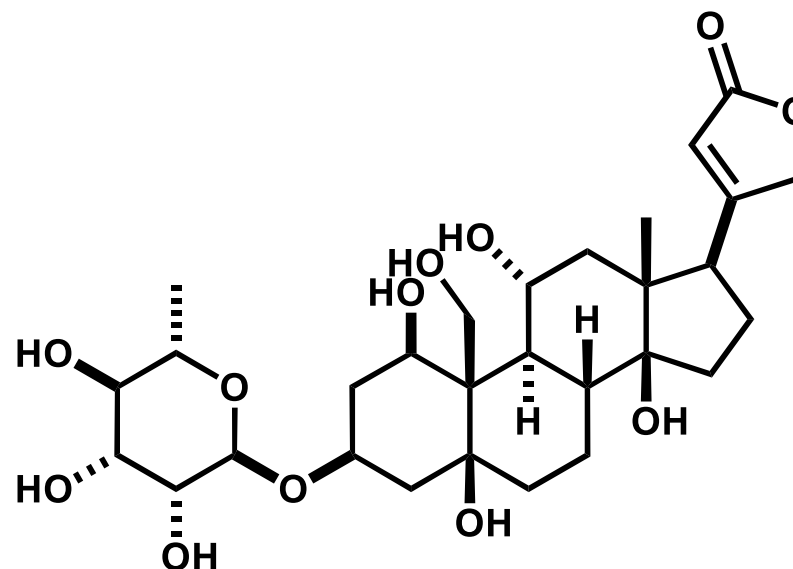


SCScore: 4.262
meanComplexity: 1.413

SCScore: the complex natural products might be very low score because they are isolated and used for the manipulation as **starting material.**

On the other hand, drugs are usually final target molecules, so they have **high score.**

→ MeanComplexity is more suitable for the organic synthesis/chemistry.

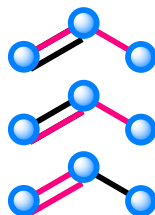
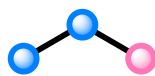
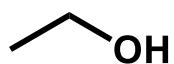


SCScore: 1.794
meanComplexity: 4.778

1. Coley, C. W.; Rpgers, L.; Green, W. H.; Jensen, K. F. *J. Chem. Inf. Model.* **2018**, *58*, 252.
2. Sheridan, R. P.; Zorn, N.; Sherer, E. C.; Campeau, L.-C.; Chang, C.; Cumming, J.; Maddess, M. L.; Nantermet, P. G.; Sinz, C. J.; O'shea, P. D. *J. Chem. Inf. Model.* **2014**, *54*, 1604.

Bertz Complexity C_T (1)

<Graph theory-based complexity>



η : the total number of “connectivity”
= the number of propane substructure

$$\eta = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (4 - i)(3 - i) - \underline{D} - \underline{3T}$$

Double bond Triple bond

$$C_T = C_\eta + C_E$$

$$C_\eta = 2\eta \log_2 \eta - \sum_i \eta_i \log_2 \eta_i$$

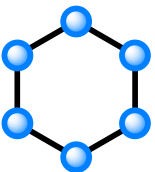
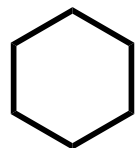
$$C_E = E \log_2 E - \sum_i E_i \log_2 E_i$$

η_i : each number of “same” substructure

E : the total number of non-hydrogen atom

E_i : each number of “same” non-hydrogen atom

<Examples>



$$\eta = 6, E = 6$$

$$C_\eta = 2 \cdot 6 \cdot \log_2 6 - 6 \cdot \log_2 6 = 15.5$$

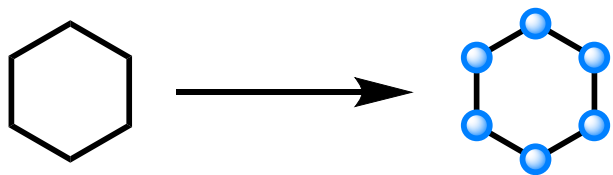
$$C_E = 6 \cdot \log_2 6 - 6 \cdot \log_2 6 = 0$$

$$C_T = 15.5 + 0 = 15.5$$

1. Bertz, S. H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1981**, 103, 3599.

2. Hendrickson, J. B.; Huang, P.; Toczko, A. G. *J. Chem. Inf. Comput. Sci.* **1987**, 27, 63.

Bertz Complexity C_T (2)

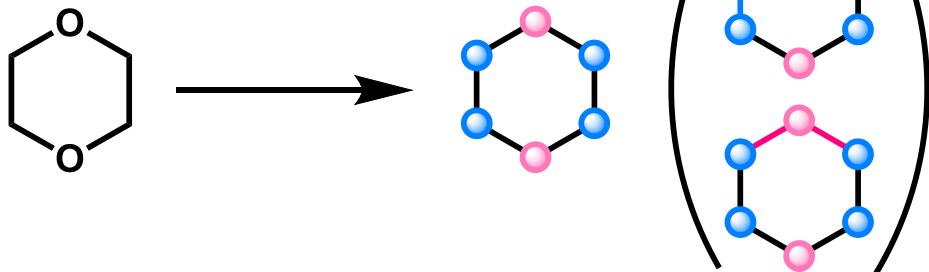


$$\eta = 6, E = 6$$

$$C_\eta = 2 \cdot 6 \cdot \log_2 6 - 6 \cdot \log_2 6 = 15.5$$

$$C_E = 6 \cdot \log_2 6 - 6 \cdot \log_2 6 = 0$$

$$C_T = 15.5 + 0 = 15.5$$



$$\eta = 4 + 2 = 6, E = 4 + 2 = 6$$

$$C_\eta = 2 \cdot 6 \cdot \log_2 6 - 4 \cdot \log_2 4 - 2 \cdot \log_2 2 = 21.0$$

$$C_E = 6 \cdot \log_2 6 - 4 \cdot \log_2 4 - 2 \cdot \log_2 2 = 5.51$$

$$C_T = 21.0 + 5.51 = 26.5$$

PubChem Batrachotoxin (Compound)

Property Name	Property Value
Molecular Weight	538.7 g/mol
XLogP3-AA	1.6
Hydrogen Bond Donor Count	3
Hydrogen Bond Acceptor Count	7
Rotatable Bond Count	4
Exact Mass	538.30428706 g/mol
Monoisotopic Mass	538.30428706 g/mol
Topological Polar Surface Area	104 Å ²
Heavy Atom Count	39
Formal Charge	0
Complexity	1140

1. Bertz, S. H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1981**, *103*, 3599.
2. Hendrickson, J. B.; Huang, P.; Toczko, A. G.. *J. Chem. Inf. Comput. Sci.* **1987**, *27*, 63.
3. <https://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>

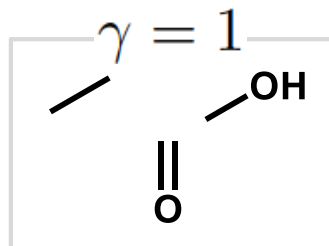
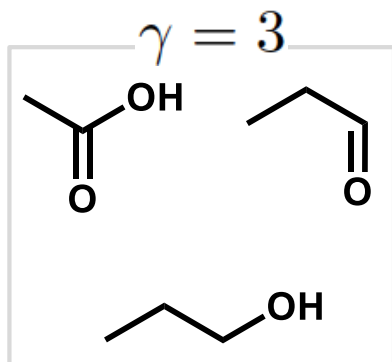
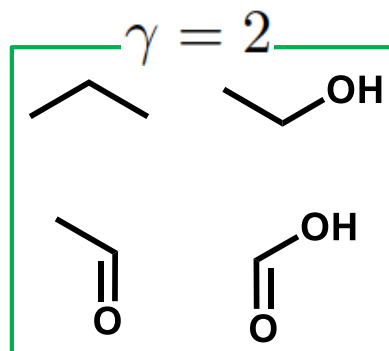
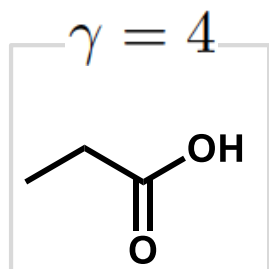
Von Korff Complexity

γ : the length of substructure

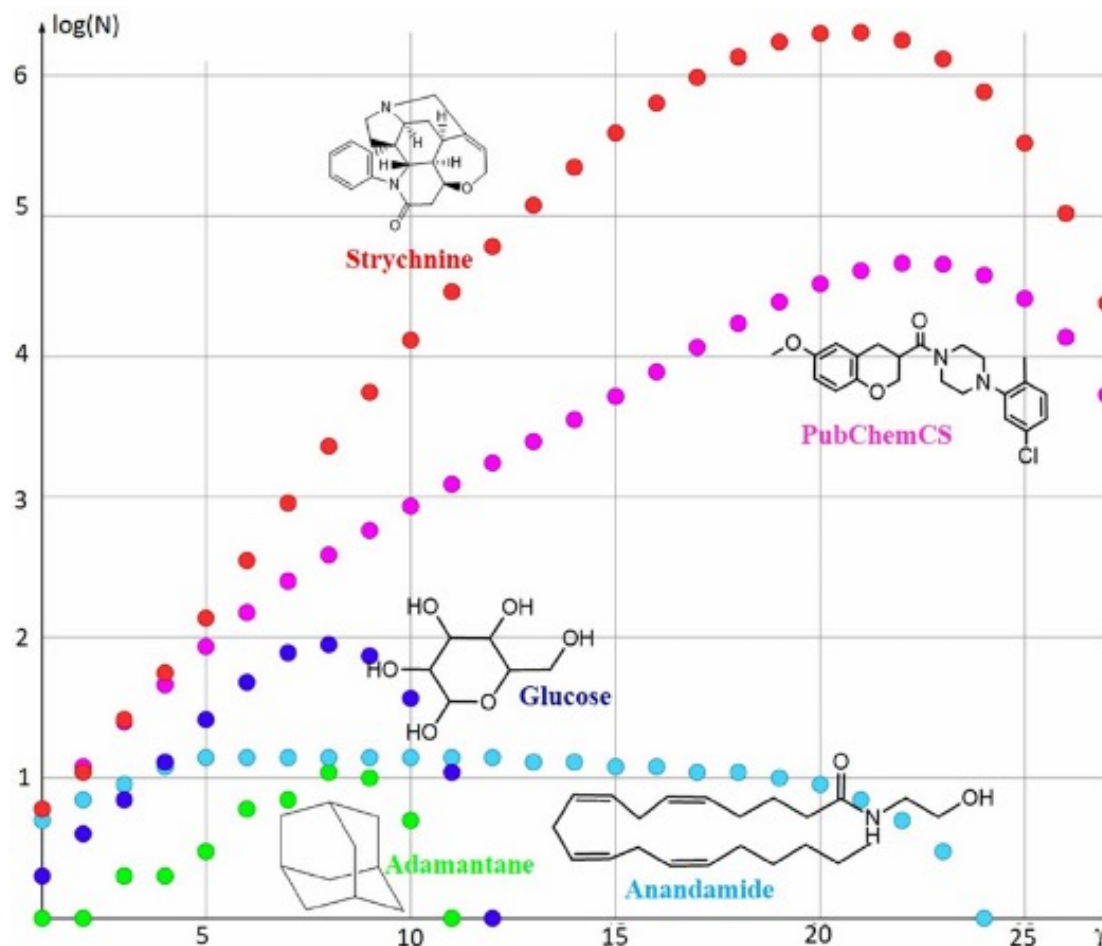
$N(\gamma)$: the number of substructures whose length is γ .

$N(\gamma_{\max})$: the max of $N(\gamma)$.

$$\dim(M) = \frac{\log N(\gamma_{\max})}{\log \gamma_{\max}}$$



$$\frac{\log 4}{\log 2} = 2$$



Name	γ_{\max}	$N(\gamma_{\max})$	dim
Adamantane	8	11	1.2
PubChemCS	22	45973	3.5
Strychnine	21	2022462	4.8

Proudfoot's Complexity (1)

Proudfoot's approach: **Hydrogen including** path-based complexity for each atom

→ Complexity = the expected value of passing through a certain path

Atom		Connectivity		non-hydrogen Connectivity	
#1	H	X1	1 any type	D1	1 non-H
#6	C	X2	2 any type	D2	2 non-H
#7	N	X3	3 any type	D3	3 non-H
#8	O	X4	4 any type	D4	4 non-H
#9	F	X5	5 any type	D5	5 non-H
#14	Si	X6	6 any type	D6	6 non-H
#15	P				
#16	S				
#17	Cl				
#35	Br				
#53	I				

For each Atom

$$C_A = - \sum_i p_i \log_2 p_i + \log_2 N$$

For one molecule

$$C_M = \sum C_A$$

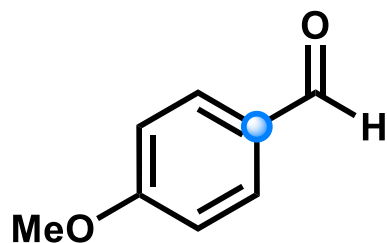
p_i : the fractional occurrence of each path type

N : the total number of paths

Paths: length 2 (in case of terminal elements, length 1)

1. Proudfoot, J. R. *J. Org. Chem.* **2017**, 82, 6968.
2. Proudfoot, J. R. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2017**, 82, 6968.

Proudfoot Complexity (2)



Paths:

[#06&X3&D3]~[#06&X3&D2]~[#01&X1&D1]

[#06&X3&D3]~[#06&X3&D2]~[#01&X1&D1]

[#06&X3&D3]~[#06&X3&D2]~[#06&X3&D2]

[#06&X3&D3]~[#06&X3&D2]~[#06&X3&D2]

[#06&X3&D3]~[#06&X3&D3]~[#06&X4&D1]

[#06&X3&D3]~[#06&X3&D3]~[#08&X1&D1]

$$C_A = - \left\{ \frac{2}{6} \log_2 \left(\frac{2}{6} \right) + \frac{2}{6} \log_2 \left(\frac{2}{6} \right) + \frac{1}{6} \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{6} \right) + \frac{1}{6} \log_2 \left(\frac{1}{6} \right) \right\} + \log_2 6$$

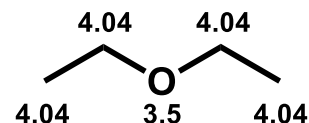
$$= -(-0.53 - 0.53 - 0.43 - 0.43) + 2.58$$

$$= 4.5$$

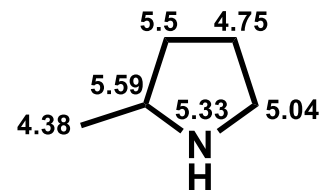
Min = 0, Max = 7.168

<Examples of C_A >

- Compounds

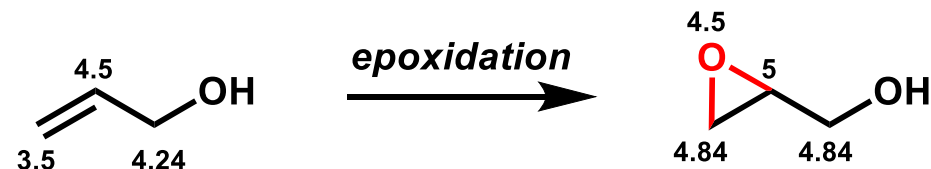
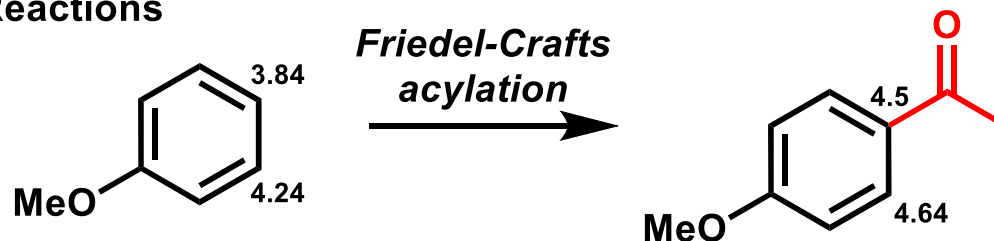


$$C_M = 19.7$$



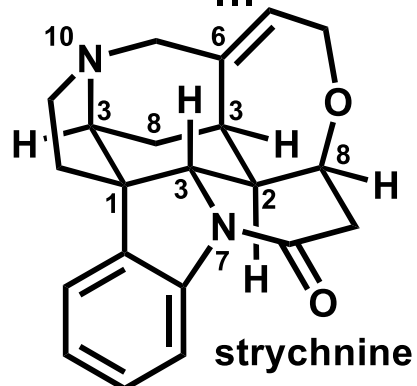
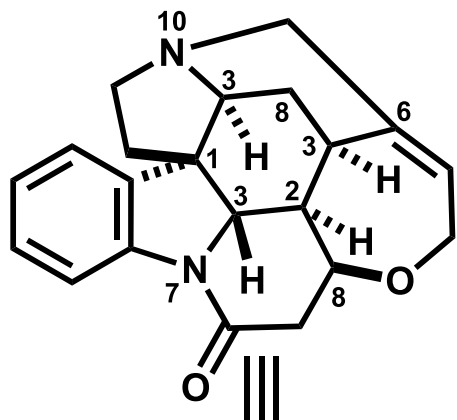
$$C_M = 30.6$$

- Reactions

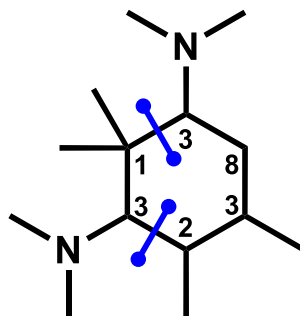
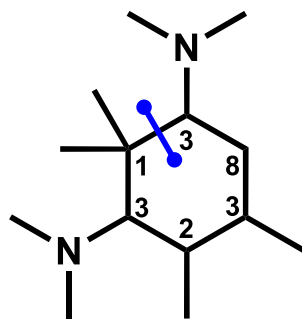


1. Proudfoot, J. R. *J. Org. Chem.* **2017**, *82*, 6968.
2. Proudfoot, J. R. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2017**, *82*, 6968.

Proudfoot's Complexity (3)



rank	C _A
1	6.37
2	5.97
3	5.9
6	5.75
7	5.61
8	5.5
10	5.45



Synthesis	Year	Ring step	Total steps
Magnus, (±)	1992	13	28
Overman, (-)	1993	18	24
Fukuyama, (-)	2004	20	25

Synthesis	Year	Ring step	Total steps
Bodwell, (±)	2002	5	12
Padwa, (±)	2007	4	16
Reissig, (±)	2010	2	9
Vanderwal, (±)	2011	3	6

Due to the path analysis, this score enables to analyze the retrosynthesis based on the complexity of each atom.

Böttcher Score C_m

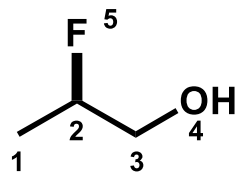
One variable is needed to identify the nature of the element by its **valence shell**, and four variables are required as descriptors of the bonding environment: **the number of bonds**, **the number of chemically different bonds**, **the element diversity**, and the stereochemistry.

$$C_m = \sum_i d_i e_i s_i \log_2(V_i b_i) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_j d_j e_j s_j \log_2(V_j b_j)$$

d_i : the number of chemically nonequivalent bonds e_i : the number of different non-hydrogen elements in the bond situation

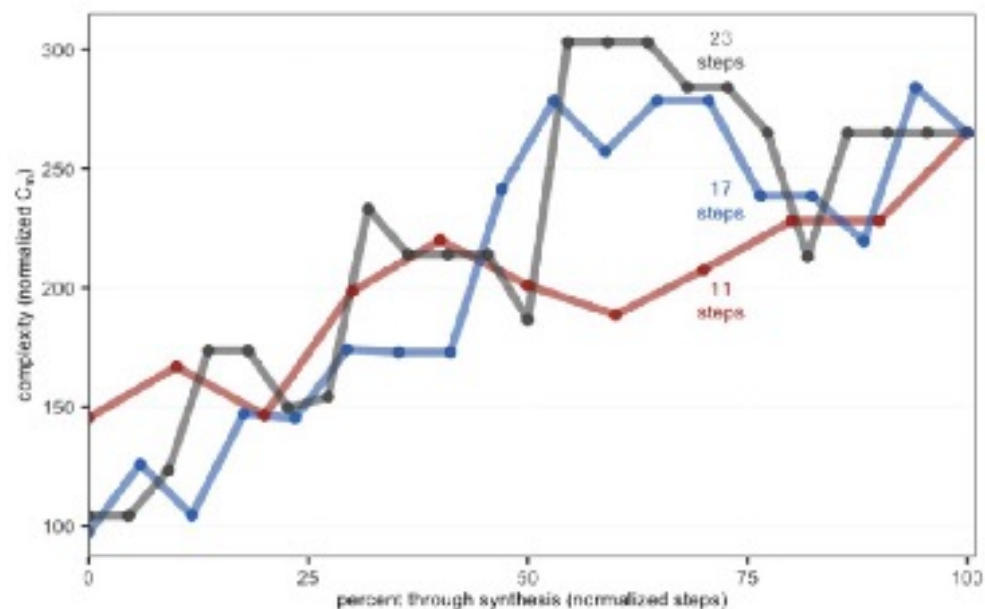
s_i : stereocenters = 2, others = 1 V_i : valence electrons b_i : total number of bonds

j : the corresponding atom positions of chemically equivalent sets of atoms



i	1	2	3	4	5
d_i	1	3	2	1	1
e_i	1	2	2	1	1
s_i	1	2	1	1	1
V_i	4	4	4	6	7
b_i	1	3	2	1	1
total	2	43.0	12	2.6	2.8

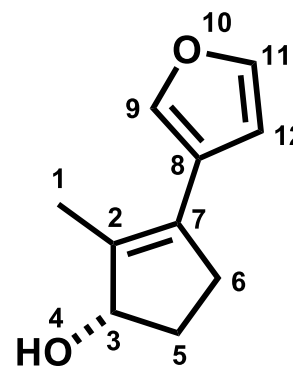
$$C_M = 62.4 \text{ mcbrit}$$



Waldmann SPS (1)

SPS: Aiming to consider the **biologically relevant** characteristics of compounds

→ The sp^3 richness and the ring system are mainly focused on the factors.



$$SPS = \sum_i h_i s_i r_i n_i^2$$

$$nSPS = \frac{1}{a} \sum_i h_i s_i r_i n_i^2$$

h_i : equals 3, 2, and 1 for sp^3 -, sp^2 - and sp -hybridized atoms

s_i : stereocenters = 2, others = 1

r_i : non-aromatic ring = 2, others = 1

n_i : the number of non-hydrogen neighbors

: the number of non-hydrogen atoms

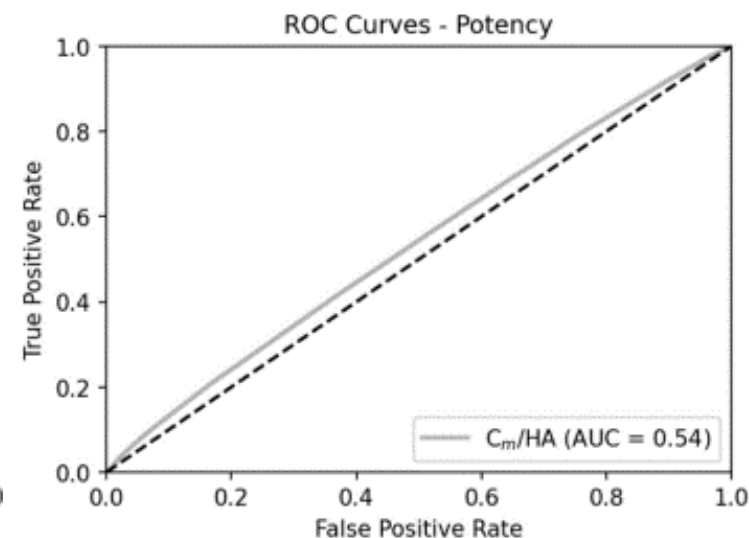
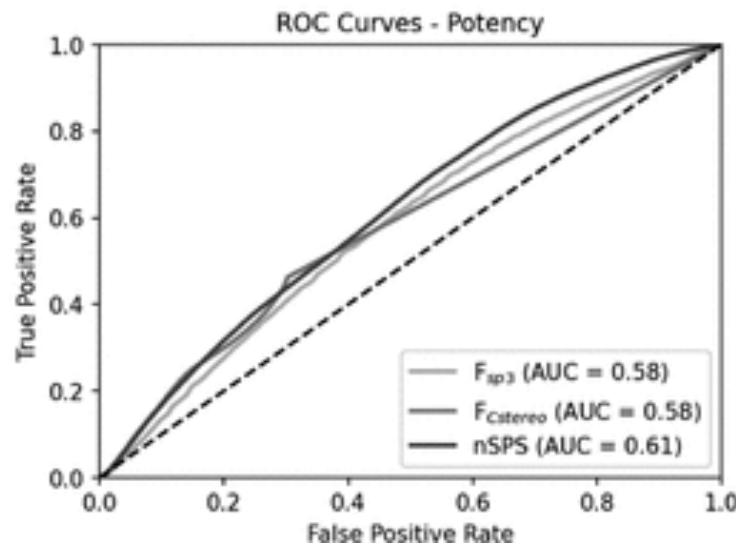
i	h_i	s_i	r_i	n_i	$h_i s_i r_i n_i^2$
1	3	1	1	1	3
2	2	1	2	3	36
3	3	2	2	3	108
4	3	1	1	1	3
5	3	1	2	2	24
6	3	1	2	2	24
7	2	1	2	3	36
8	2	1	1	3	18
9	2	1	1	2	8
10	2	1	1	2	8
11	2	1	1	2	8
12	2	1	1	2	8

SPS = 284
nSPS = 23.7

SPS (2)

Potency:
the biological activity

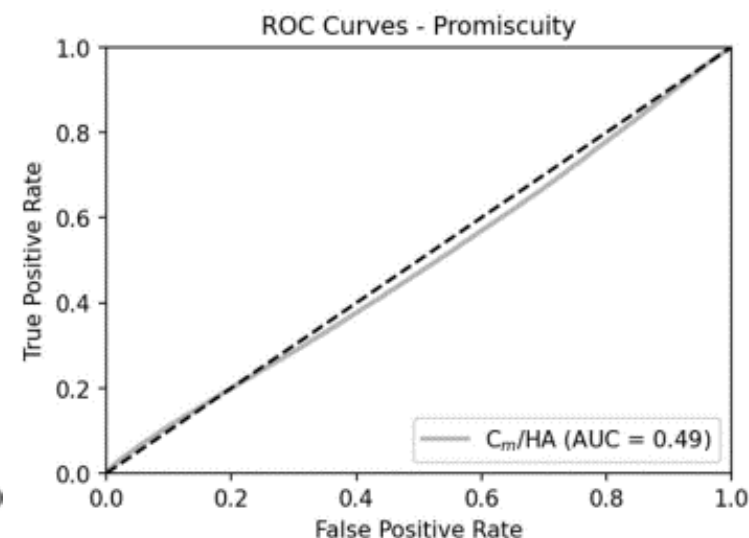
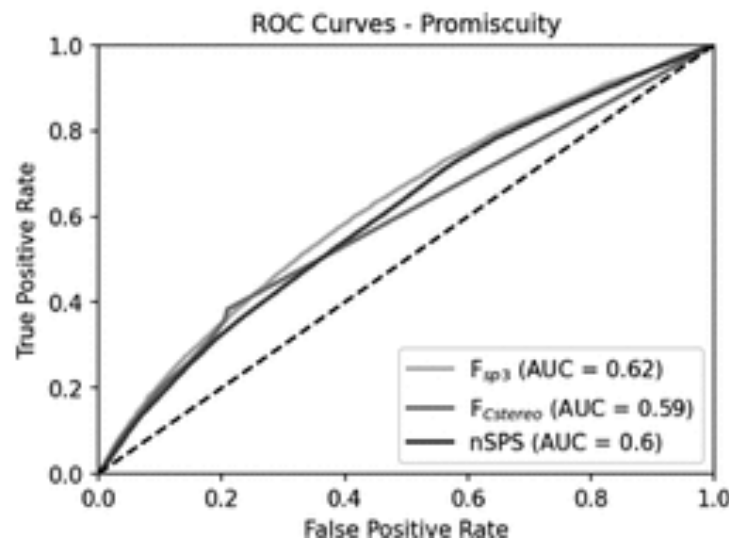
If the complexity is correlated to the activity,
AUC>0.5.



Promiscuity:
the specificity against
the target compounds

If the specificity is correlated to the activity,
AUC>0.5.

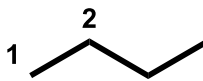
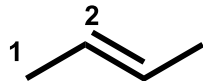
If AUC = 0.5, the index
was evaluated randomly.



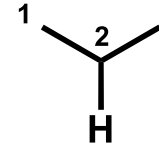
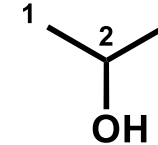
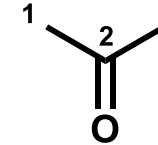
nSPS gave the good potency/promiscuity, while Böttcher score had almost no correlation.

Short Summary

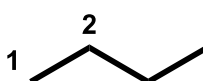
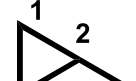

① unsaturation

			
Bertz	2.0	<<	15.2
Böttcher	8.0	<	9.17
SPS	30	>	22
CM (Proudfoot)	17.9	>	16.1
CA (Proudfoot)	C1: 4.04 C2: 4.91	>>	C1: 3.69 C2: 4.38

② oxidation/stereochemistry

					
Bertz	0.0	<<	10.8	<<	26.3
Böttcher	5.0	<<	21.5	<	25.2
SPS	18	<<	60	>	24
CM (Proudfoot)	11.9	<	15.6	>	11.8
CA (Proudfoot)	C1: 4.04 C2: 3.81	= <	C1: 4.04 C2: 4.06	> >	C1: 3.69 C2: 3.40

③ ring, ④ symmetry

					
Bertz	2.0	<<	19.2		8.0
Böttcher	8.0	<	15.2		6.0
SPS	30	<<	159		72
CM (Proudfoot)	17.9	<	20.6		18.0
CA (Proudfoot)	C1: 4.04 C2: 4.91	>>	C1: 5.50 C2: 5.57		C1: 4.50

Cyclobutane: highly symmetric ring
→ All scores are decreased.

	Gain	Loss
Bertz	①②	④
Böttcher	②	④
SPS	②③	①
CM (Proudfoot)	②	①

Contents

1. Development of indexes



Molecular Complexity and Retrosynthesis

John R. Proudfoot*

2. Application closed to the public