



***FIRMENICH D-LAB***

# **AI FORMULA GENERATOR**

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# FIRMENICH TODAY

## FAST FACTS

**4.3**

Billion CHF  
Revenues

**+16.8%**

Including  
acquisitions at  
constant currency

**+4.7%**

On organic  
basis at constant  
currency

**#1**

Privately-owned  
Fragrance & Taste  
company

**#1**

Perfumery &  
Ingredients\*

**14**

Acquisitions  
Last 5 Years

**10%**

Invested on average  
in R&D  
(FY17-FY21)

**4,000+**

Patents

**Nobel**

Prize  
1939

**10,000**

Colleagues

**100+**

Markets

## Started in 1895 at Geneva

\*ranked #1 as co-leader



**PERFORMANCE**  
*Industry Leader in  
Fragrance & Taste*

# FIRMENICH

A LEGACY OF:



**RESPONSIBILITY**  
*Role Model Company  
in ESG Credentials*



**WORLD-CLASS  
SCIENCE:**  
*Leveraging Science  
Leadership for the  
Best of Society*





## PERFUMERY

*Fine Fragrance  
Consumer Fragrances*

# WHAT WE DO

POWERED BY WORLD-CLASS  
SCIENCE & INNOVATION



## INGREDIENTS

*Naturals  
Molecules*



## TASTE & BEYOND

*Beverages  
Sweet Goods  
Savory*

THE RIGHT MOMENT

# Revolutionizing the Industry, Together

**50+**  
YEARS

**11**  
YEARS

**7**  
YEARS

**4**  
YEARS



GENERATING  
DATA

DIGITAL  
DEVELOPMENT

ENHANCED  
CREATION  
TOOLS

**d-lab**  
**EPFL**



**24 YEARS**  
Chem. Eng.  
Norvatis  
Vienna

**22 YEARS**  
PhD  
Iminosugars  
synthesis  
Chaperone  
therapy  
Orléans

**19 YEARS**  
EPFL  
In vivo  
Fluorescent  
biomarkers  
Kai Johnsson  
Lausanne

**16 YEARS**  
Firmenich  
J-M Lehn  
A Herrmann  
Pro-perfumes  
Geneva

**14 YEARS**  
ELN by  
CAMBRIDGESOFT  
(ChemDraw...)  
Geneva

**11 YEARS**  
PM Optimization  
Reformulation Computer  
Assisted (ORCA)  
Geneva

# Few Open-source contributions

- All 3D Dragon like descriptors RDKit C++

<https://github.com/rdkit/rdkit>

- Smiles randomization RDKit C++

- Coulumb Matrix RDKit C++

- HOSE code invariant type in RDKit C++

- \* RDKit javascript (rebranded last year minimalLib)

<https://github.com/rdkit/RDKitjs>

- YEEHMOP + EEM atomic “Partial Charges” RDKit Fortran / C++

- GetAtomFeatures for graph (GIN version) RDKit C++

- Pytorch: Attentive FP, DimenetPP in PyG

[https://github.com/pyg-team/pytorch\\_geometric](https://github.com/pyg-team/pytorch_geometric)

- Keras: GIN, AttentiveFP, DimenetPP & PAiNNs Graphs

[https://github.com/aimat-lab/gcnn\\_keras](https://github.com/aimat-lab/gcnn_keras)

**\*From Static representation of vectors to Dynamic autoML vector generation**

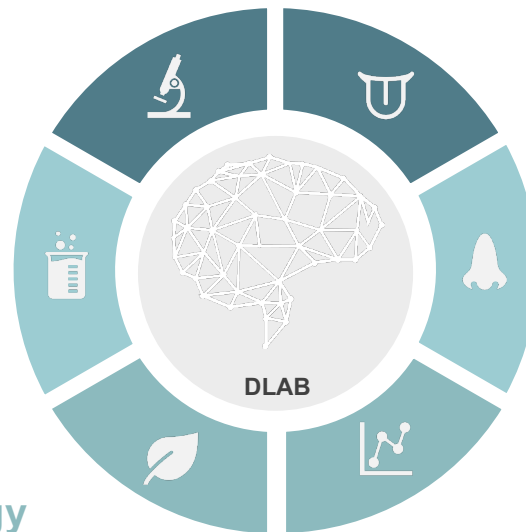
# Main digitalization research activities

Ingredient - Chemistry

Properties Predictions

Assisted Chemistry

Assisted Biotechnology



Taste Receptor

Olfactory Receptor

Analytical Chemistry

Formulation

# How to find missing/bad data means ?

Ruddigkeit et al. *Journal of Cheminformatics* 2014, **6**:27  
<http://www.jcheminf.com/content/6/1/27>



**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

**Open Access**

## Expanding the fragrance chemical space for virtual screening

Lars Ruddigkeit, Mahendra Awale and Jean-Louis Reymond\*

Q: Is list of authors complete ?

*In fact, do we know how good is our data ?*



# How to find missing/bad data means ?

CAS SciFinder®

References ▾ Edit Search Enter a query...

Return to Results

Prev (9 of 19) Next

## Reference Detail

Substances (0) Reactions (0) Citing (0) Citation Map

CONFERENCE

Source

Abstracts of Papers, 245th ACS National Meeting & Exposition, New Orleans, LA, United States, April 7-11, 2013  
Pages: CINF-44  
Conference: Meeting Abstract 2013

CODEN: 69QTVP

Database Information

AN: 2013:476619  
CAplus

Company/Organization

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry  
University of Berne  
Bern 3012  
Switzerland

Publisher

American Chemical Society

Exploring the chemical space of flavors and **fragrances** with the chemical universe database

By: **Reymond, Jean-Louis**; Ruddigkeit, Lars; Awale, Mahendra; Godin, Guillaume \*

The chem. space describes the ensemble of all organic mols. Recently we reported the Chem. Universe Database GDB-13 enumerating 977 million mols. of up to 13 atoms of C, N, O, S and Cl. Herein we report the anal. and visualization of analogs of typical flavors and **fragrance** compounds found in the database. Analog searching was performed using a searchable version of GDB-13 based on MQN-similarity. The anal. illuminates a vast yet well defined chem. space that offers many opportunities to broaden the range of flavors and **fragrances** to new structural types.

Full Text ▾

Short Answer: Yes & No

- **Expect** to have missing/incomplete/noisy data!
- **Find** them need very accurate tool link SciFinder
- **Few examples:**
  - Modeling value taken as measure value / rounded reaction yield (40% instead of 43% /
  - Melting Point lower than 0°C assigned to 0°C / unit issues / Boiling point bellow Melting Point / Biological measurement reproducibility

# Short review of AI / ML fundamentals : Don't read it, just do it !

## Recent Fast Model Architectures revolution

### From Mathematical concepts:

1967: K-Nearest Neighbour (**KNN**) averaging similar points  
1963/1986: Multilayer perceptron (**MLP**)  
1995: Support Vector Machine (**SVM**)  
2001: Random forest (**RF**) based on random tree (1996)  
2016: Extreme gradient boost (**XGBoost**)

### To GAFA + Universities + Companies needs:

Mainly due to hardware accessibility (**GPU/TPU**):  
2016: Graph Neural Network (**GCN**) (>100 architectures in 6 years)  
2019: Transformers & Natural Language Processing (**NLP**)

## Strong methodology == Systematic validation

### A good model process:

- Prepare data (inputs, targets) & remove duplicates to avoid data "leaks"
- Always think data can be **noisy**
- **Split Data**: Train / validation / test
- Compare multiple models (hyperparameters, variation, architecture, etc...)

## Pick the correct metric\*

- *Classification Metrics* (accuracy, precision, recall, F1-score, ROC, AUC, ...)
- *Regression Metrics* (MSE, MAE)
- *Ranking Metrics* (MRR, DCG, NDCG)
- *Statistical Metrics* (Correlation)
- *Computer Vision Metrics* (PSNR, SSIM, IoU)
- *NLP Metrics* (Perplexity, BLEU score)
- *Deep Learning Related Metrics* (Inception score, Frechet Inception distance)

## Main issues of AI / ML

### Applicability Domain limits:

- Difficult to control, model & database dependent
- Overfitting & non-generalization are strongly correlated
- RF can slightly overfit, while it is a general case of Neural Network (high # of parameters)

### User Acceptance:

- RF "explained"
- while NN are generally considered to be black box (recent trend Explainable AI)

### Single model stability:

- Ensemble models improve generalization

10 | for  
good,  
naturally

\*\*<https://towardsdatascience.com/20-popular-machine-learning-metrics-part-1-classification-regression-evaluation-metrics-1ca3e282a2ce>

# OCHEM: Our dedicated solution for easy & robust AI / ML models

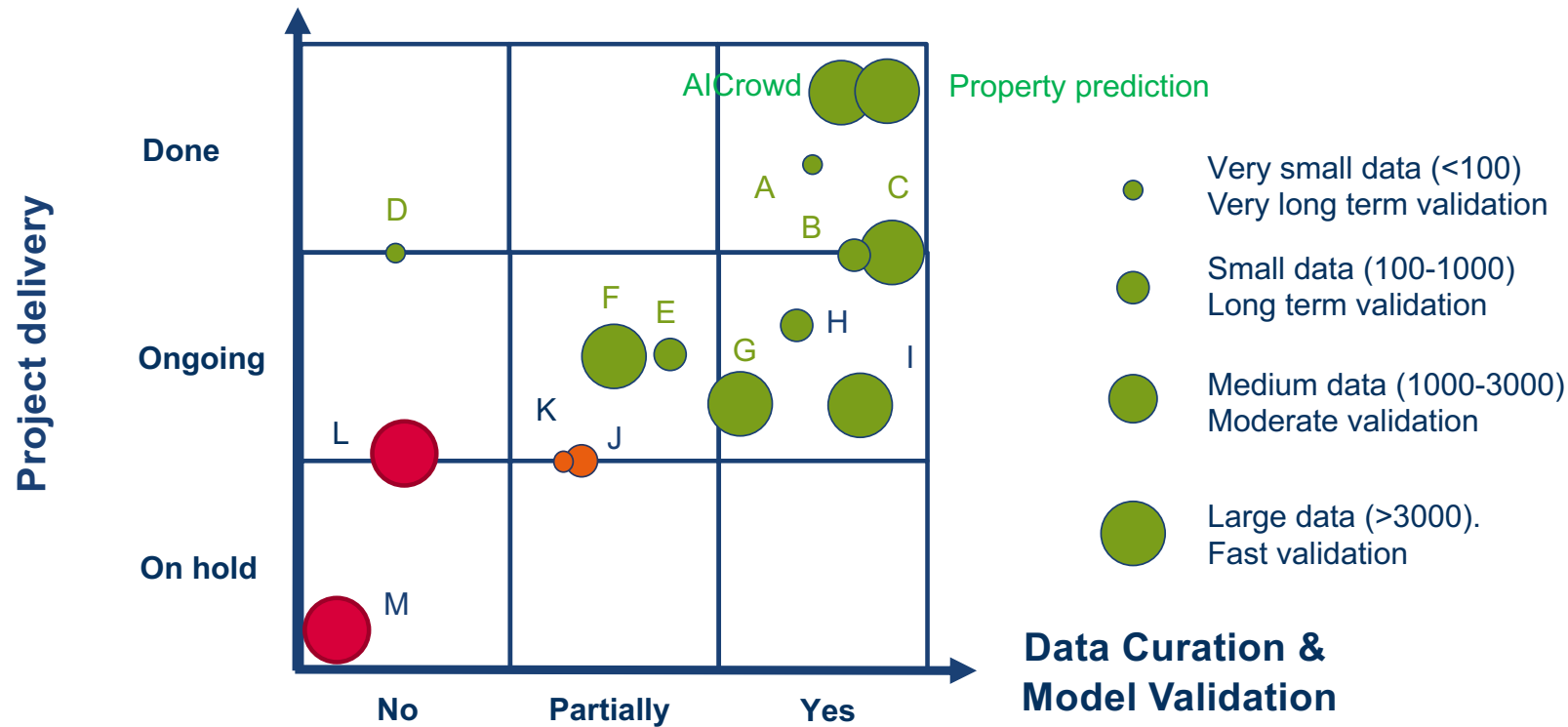
We use open OCHEM\* to benchmark models & features

**It gives access to**

- lot of architecture
- lot of metric
- a robust validation protocol

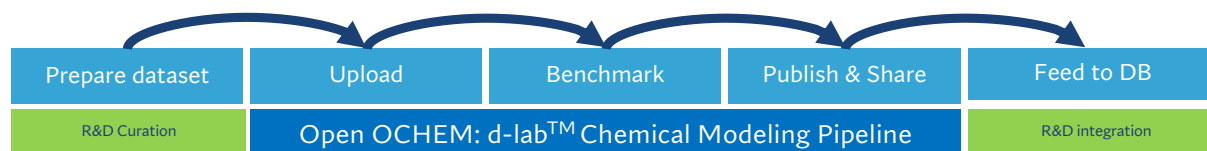
\*<https://ochem.eu>

# Relation between quality/curation vs project delivery



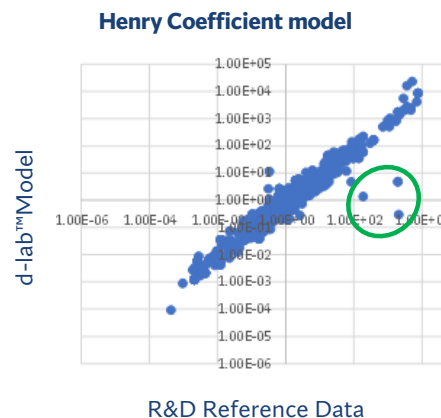


# Open OCHEM integration at Firmenich



## OCHEM advantages:

- **All in one:**
  - State of the art Firmenich AI architectures
  - Open-source AI architectures
  - Classical ML methods for comparison
- **Trust:**
  - **Fair** performance evaluation using standardized cross validation
- **Robust:**
  - Version control for models & datasets
  - Future data collection can be targeted to improve model performance where it is weak, improving experimental efficiency.



**Outliers really?**  
Human check 3 of 4 are  
database molecule error

# OCHEM model publication & comparison example

Predicted property: [logHenry](#)  
Training set: [studentmodelcosmo\\_csv](#)

Metrics [RMSE - Root Mean Square Error](#) for [Training set](#) Validation: [Cross-Validation \(11 models\)](#)

	ChemProp	GNN GIN	TRANSNNI (F) (3D)	CHEMNLP (3D)	CHEMNLP (3D) (2)	ATTFP	GINX	PAINNKERAS	CHEMPROPKERAS	ATTFPKERAS	SMILEX (3D)
SMILES	0.58 0.042 (0.311)	0.55 0.029 (0.29)	+	0.55 0.44 (0.495)	0.58 0.44 (0.51)	0.51 0.028 (0.269)	0.5 0.43 (0.465)	0.48 0.025 (0.253)	0.45 0.023 (0.237)	0.52 0.027 (0.274)	running
SMILES 10/10	+	+	0.57 0.03 (0.3)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Pytorch

Keras



Model training tasks [logHenry+deltaHenry](#) [\[Refresh\]](#) [\[Delete all matching tasks\]](#) ☐ See tasks of other users ☐ Refresh every minute

1 - 1 of 1

User	Task type / Time started	Model / Task name	Property / Set	Method	Status	Priority	Details
tgg!	Model training 2021-11-18 19:05:26	<a href="#">logHenry+deltaHenry_ATTFPKERAS - 1000007038</a>	<a href="#">logHenry studentmodelcosmo_csv</a>	ATTFPKERAS	ready	<a href="#">normal</a>	<a href="#">recalculate</a>

14 | for good, naturally

\*<https://ochem.eu>



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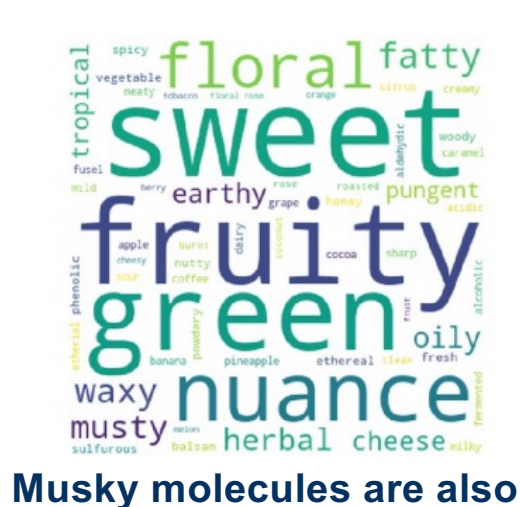
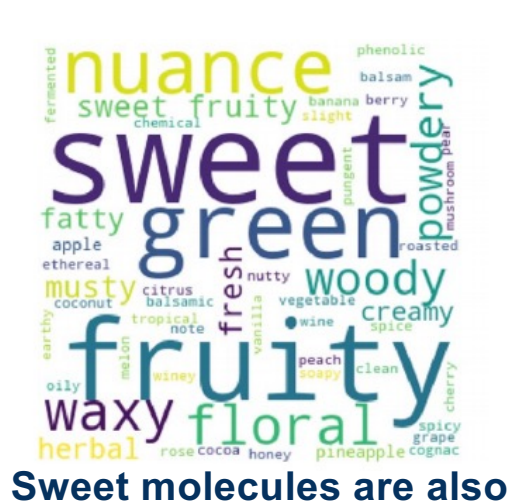
01

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# MOLECULE OLFACTION

## d-lab - Let start by molecule olfaction model project

Generally, olfactive a molecule has multiple descriptors:

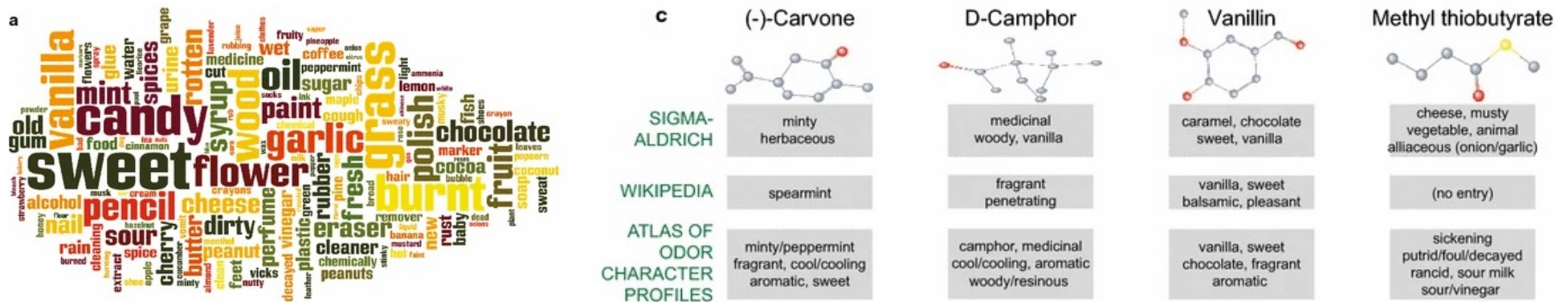


Task is a “multi label classification” you want to predict several weighted “descriptor”:

- **Labels are linked** (some are **orthogonal**, but **it's rarely the case**)
- Labels are **not always reproducible** (**Human's bias**)



100



- Cooling, Pleasant are not olfactive terms

- Small dataset: 480 molecules described/ not very structurally diverse
  - Applicability domain is very limited or sparse (weak)
  - Data quality & high variability observed

# Google\* GCN approach analysis (2019)

## What change in between ?

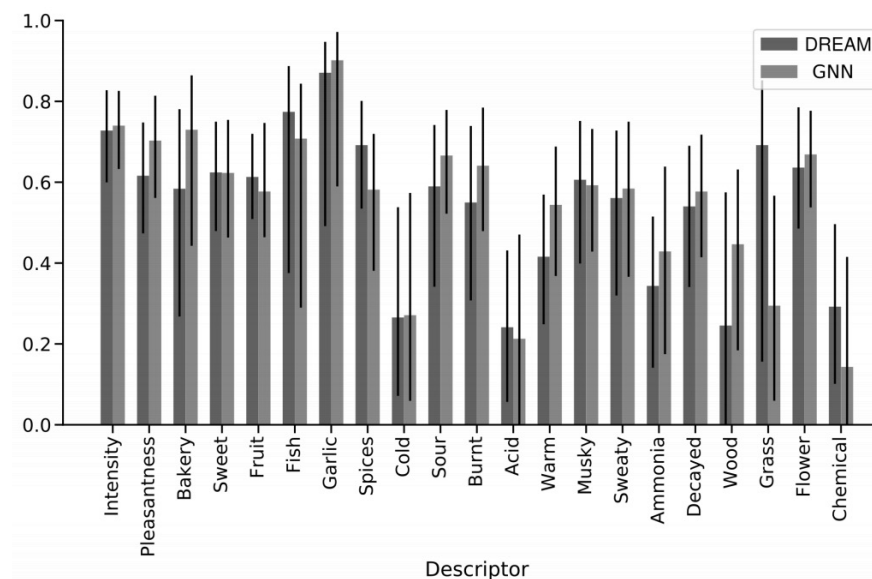
- Dataset increase:
  - 480 to 5000 molecules
- RF to Graph Neural Network

## What did not change in between ?

- Data quality  
SD highly instable from splits

## Conclusion:

- Very little improvement with 10x more data points



\*<https://ai.googleblog.com/2019/10/learning-to-smell-using-deep-learning.html>

# Our simple KNN Firmenich model (2018)



## To build it:

- Select a fingerprint aka “FP”
- Determine Olfaction terms based on closest neighbours using “FP” projection space





## Known Issues of such method:

- Applicability domain is strictly Firmenich centered and maybe not compatible with external descriptions
- KNN is not adapted for olfaction of isomers & mixtures\*

\*<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2010.01027.pdf> : not enough chirality in dataset (racemic mixture, unknow deviation), by removing chirality of our input molecule, we do not see prediction variation.

# Ask help for external open source community

## Status after round 2 on external dataset

$\Delta$	#	Participants	top5_tss(adjusted)	top2_tss(adjusted)	
• 01		Sleeper	0.503	0.389	Japan
• 02		rejuilien	0.492	0.382	France
• 03		alarilh	0.416	0.305	
• 04		zuklei	0.404	0.270	

### Learning to Smell\*





- **Dataset:** (5000 training + 1000 testing) of external molecules + internal curated process
- **Metric:** Top5 best score other the first 3 words describing a molecule

\*<https://www.aicrowd.com/challenges/learning-to-smell>



# What happens if we change the population that describe ?

Final Best solution proposed => Random Forest

Δ	#	Participants	top5_tss(adjusted)	top2_tss(adjusted)
▲	01	 rejulien	0.416	0.290
▼	02	 Sleeper	0.400	0.277
●	03	 alarih	0.317	0.214
▲	04	 hjuinj	0.305	0.219

*Score decreasing by 20% between round 2 to 3\**

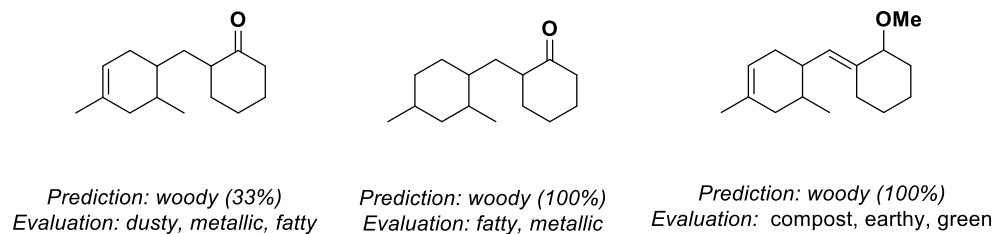
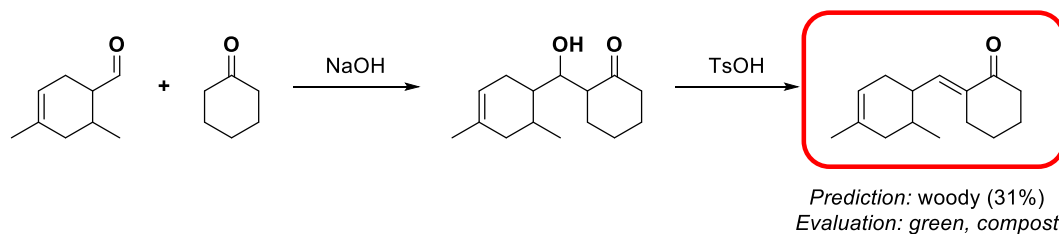
## Probable explanations:

- Overfitting
- AD sharing
- SD split variability
- data expertise

## Final challenge

- **Tweak** dataset by adding **anonymous** internal molecules in Test set only:
- +10% in training set
- + 200 data point in testing set

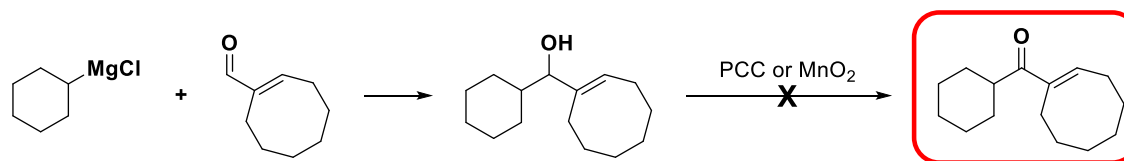
## Validation of the olfactive models: synthesis is not fast



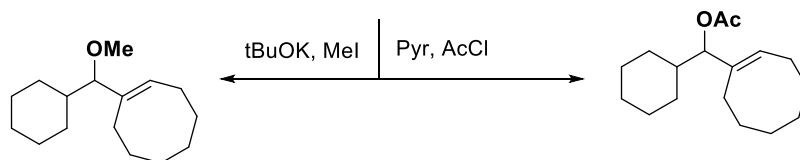
Main molecule &  
Derivatives

Expected to be woody but none of them are!

## Validation of the olfactive models: synthesis is may failed



Prediction: woody (57%),  
Evaluation: fatty, metallic

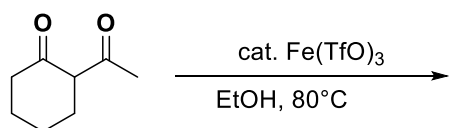


Prediction: woody (100%)  
Evaluation: terpenic, metallic, slightly anise

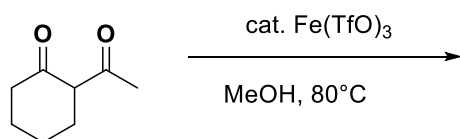
Prediction: woody (100%)  
Evaluation: slightly earthy-cellar

Expected to be Woody but got Terpenic, or Earthy-Moussy instead

## Validation of the olfactive models: esters are easy to do !



*Prediction:* Fruity (55%), Gourmand (44%)  
*Evaluation:* fatty, oily, green, vaguely fruity



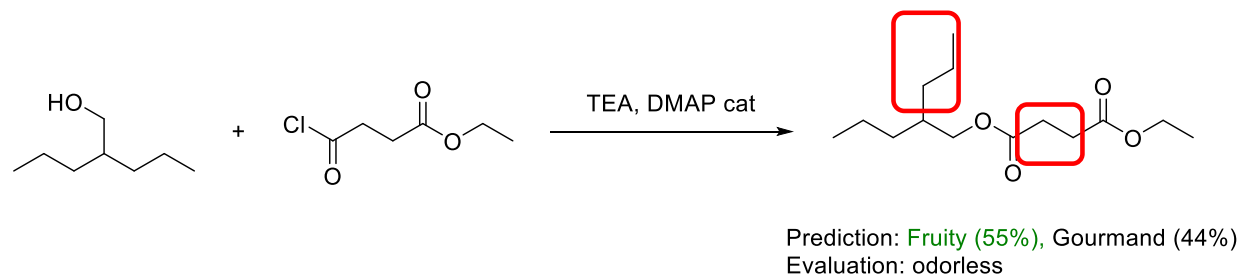
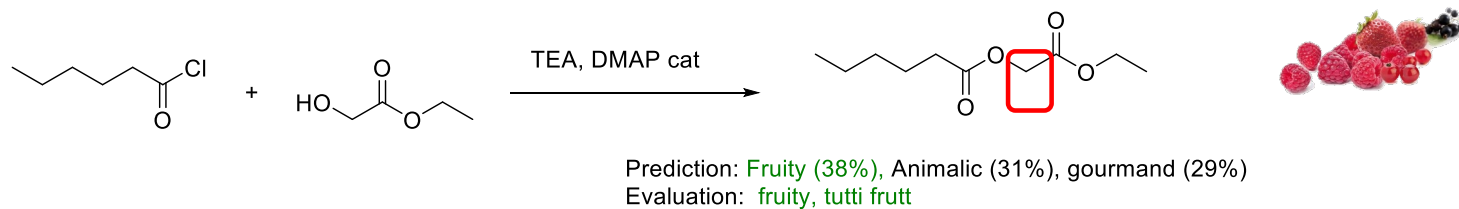
*Prediction:* Fruity (56%), Gourmand 43%)  
*Evaluation:* fruity, dusty, butyric,

**Fruity is simpler to predict (link to esters functions) than Woody**

- Small modification have huge impact
  - **ethyl** 7-oxooctanoate
  - **methyl** 7-oxooctanoate



## Validation of the olfactive models: esters are easy to do ?

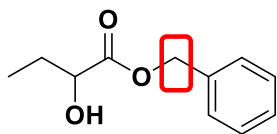
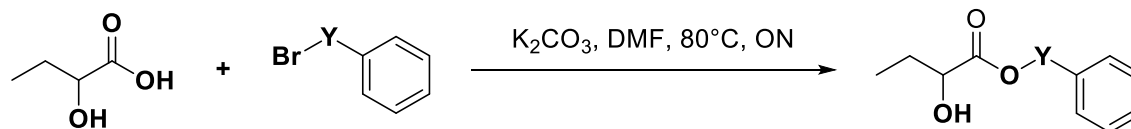


**Model cannot deal with odour cut-off of high MW (C10→C14):**

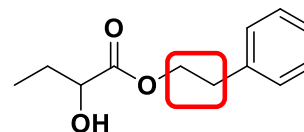
“Applicability Domain limit reached”

“Fruity to Odorless”

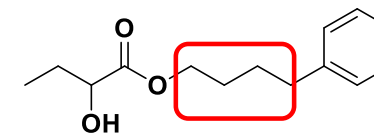
## Our solution for robust AI / ML experience



Prediction: Floral (28%), Gourmand (26%), Leathery (24%), **Animalic (20%)**  
 Evaluation: **animal-fecal**, metallic, dusty, almond-benzoic



Prediction: **Gourmand (45%)**, **Floral (54%)**  
 Evaluation: **rose**, **phenylacetic**, **honey**



Prediction: Floral (57%), Gourmand (42%)  
 Evaluation: almost odorless, slightly metallic

**Model cannot deal with odour cut-off of high MW (C<sub>10</sub>→C<sub>14</sub>):**

“Applicability Domain limit reached”

Evolution of the response with MW is very high even if the “fragments are similar”

## Final result using real validation

Expert vs Model Matching	No	One	Several	Perfect
Evaluated ratio	48%	37%	13%	1%

internal validation results was carried done by experts (Perfumery division)

Alignment with :

- Google\*: F1 score = 36%
- AICrowd\*\*: 40% Top5 best score

\*<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1910.10685.pdf>

\*\* <https://www.aicrowd.com/challenges/learning-to-smell>

**02**

# FORMULA GENERATION

## AI in art and sensory



**MACKMYR  
A WHISKY**

**AI-DA THE  
ROBOT**



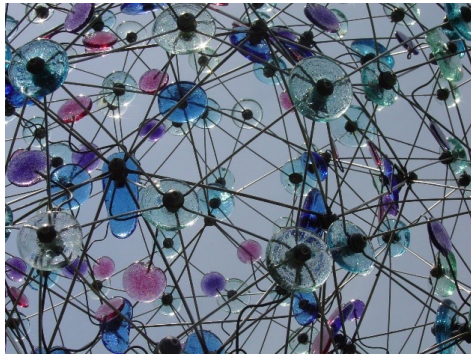
**SWISS  
BEER**



**THE  
UNFINISHED**



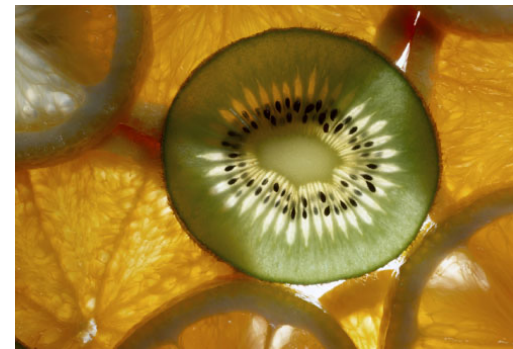
## What was the goals ?



- **Assisting Perfumer and Flavorist**



- **Increasing Firmenich's signature**



- **Enhance creativity and authenticity**



# d-lab – Building the AI Advantage



Our vision:

“To augment human creativity using leading edge technologies, to accelerate innovation and create winning solutions for our customers, ethically.”

3 characteristics

- Safe and agile
- Ethical
- High tech

Winner of the Digital Innovation of the year 2021





# Final result using real validation

## AI formula generator

- A machine learning model able to generate formula integrating multiple constraints



*Database continuous integration*

# Generator for Flavors

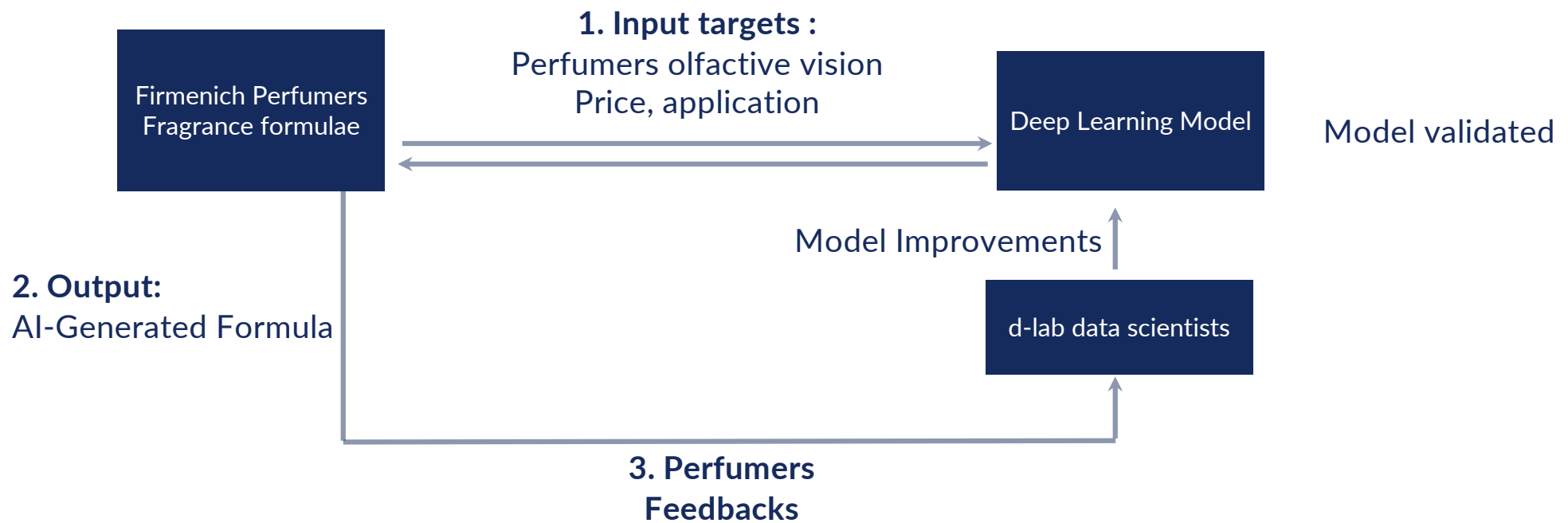


Today up to 19 Tonalities in Production



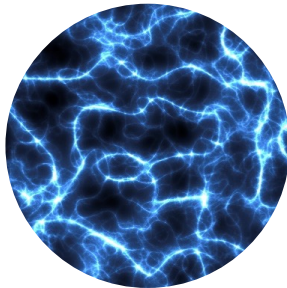
AI BEEF: lightly grilled

## How are we working ?



# How is it working ?

Leveraging data from Firmenich's databases and use advanced techniques of statistics, mathematical modelling, data mining and machine learning (AI)



Formula  
similarity



Ingredient  
Knowledge



Optimization



Evaluation and  
Continuous  
improvement

# Generator Interaction by Keywords

- Application: Shampoo, Soaps, Fine Fragrance, etc...
- Olfactive Descriptors: «Floral: 3», «Fruity: 4», «Vanilla: 2», etc
  - The weights in front of the descriptors correspond to the strength of a particular olfactive description.
- Target Price (CC)
- Sustainability: biodeg, carbon renewable
- ...

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03

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## FINDINGS

# Pillars of Success

## People & culture

*Open-mindedness, OK to fail, agile, owning*

## Interaction with business

*Building cross-disciplinary agile teams,  
involving business from day one*

## Skills

*Understanding fundamentals – it's not just  
about doing a train/test split*

## Tech

*This is at the core – but not an end in itself*





# Final thoughts

**You need both low-hanging fruit and moonshots**





INNOVATIVE CRAFTSMANSHIP IN FRAGRANCES, TASTE AND BEYOND

FAMILY OWNED, FOUNDED IN GENEVA, 1895

