

Have Fun with AI Before We Begin!



Quick, Draw!



Blob Opera



Say What You See



Emoji Scavenger Hunt





Atoms and Algorithms

Exploring Artificial
Intelligence for
Chemistry

Sarah Clapham
Peter Hotchkiss
Office of Strategy and Policy

Günter Povoden
Scientific Advisory Board

OPCW

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

AGENDA



01

Introduction
to AI



02

AI in
chemistry



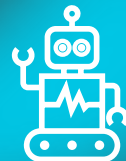
04

AI and the
OPCW



03

Skills test



01

Introduction to AI



Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Machines or systems that mimic human intelligence

- Visual perception
- Speech recognition
- Problem solving
- Decision making

Data is the foundation of AI



1956 – term first used



Categories of AI

Narrow (weak) AI



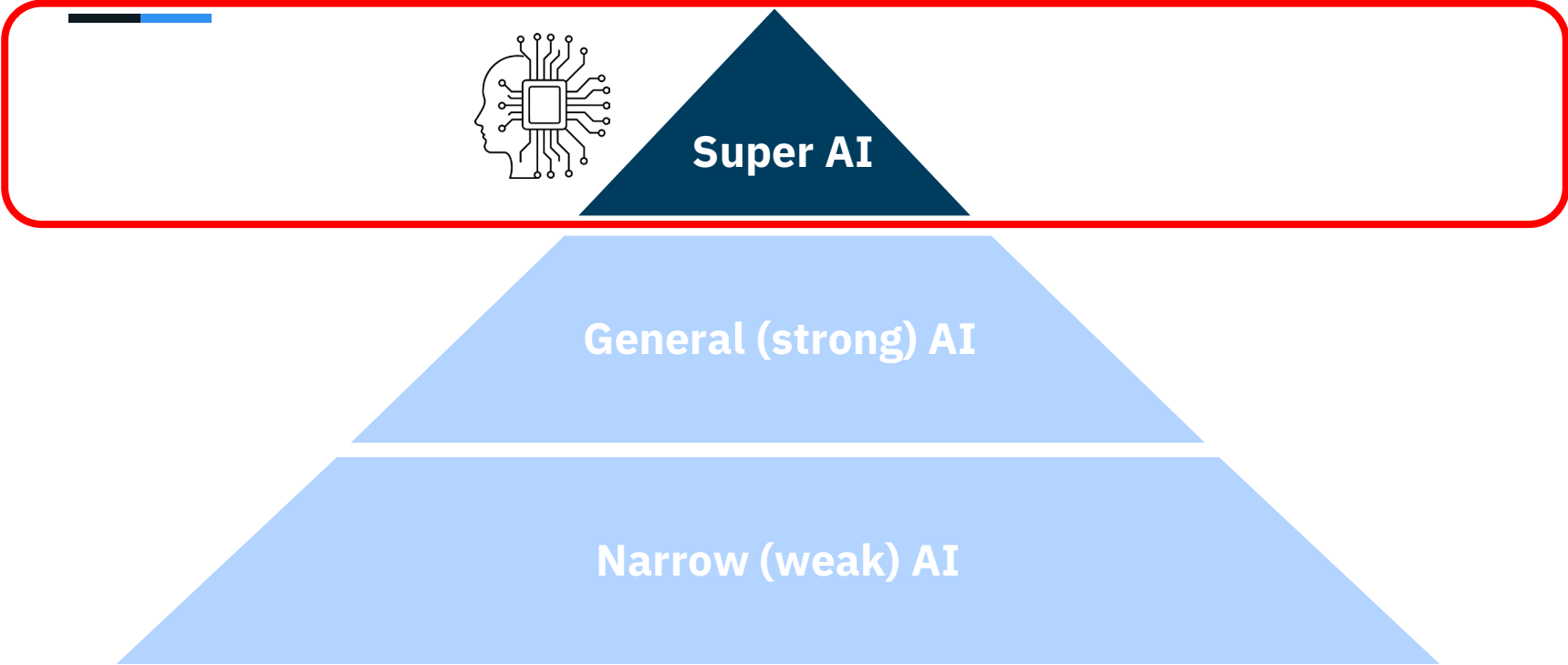
Categories of AI



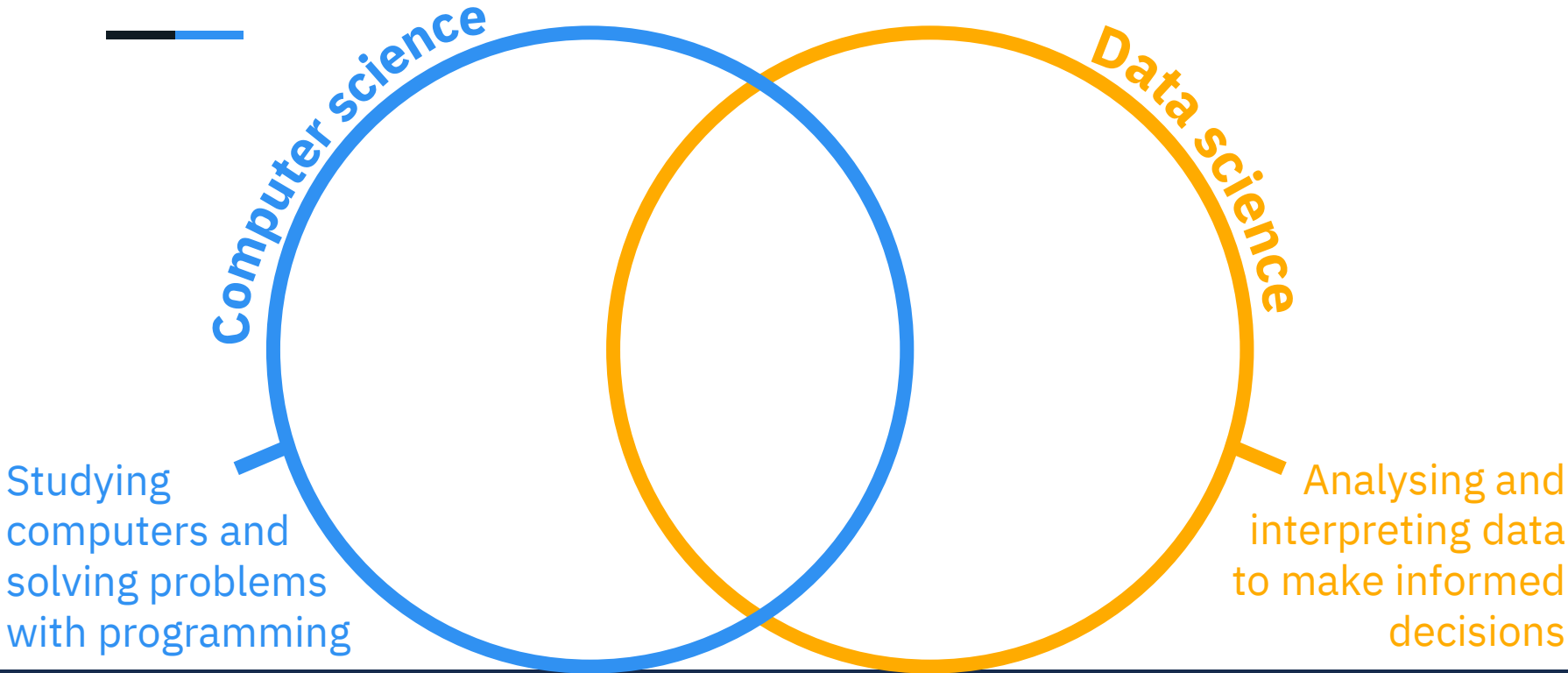
General (strong) AI

Narrow (weak) AI

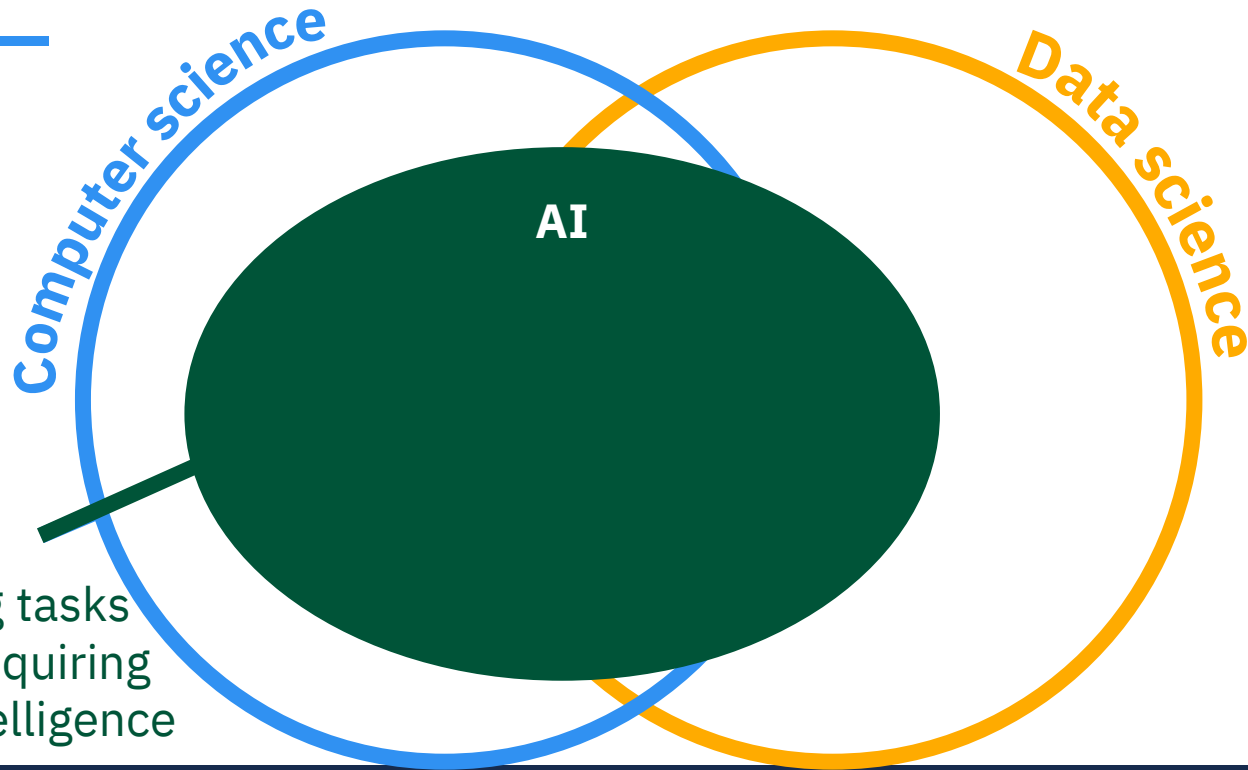
Categories of AI



AI Ecosystem



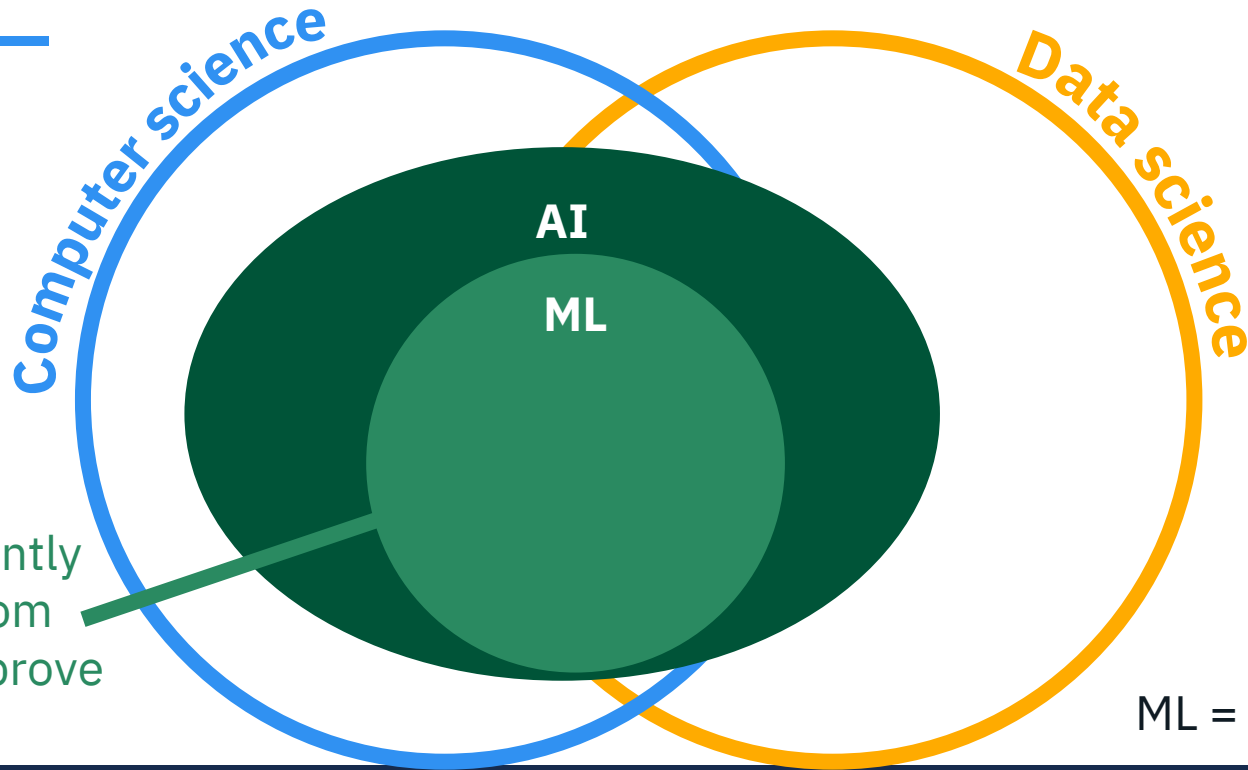
AI Ecosystem



Systems performing tasks typically requiring human intelligence



AI Ecosystem

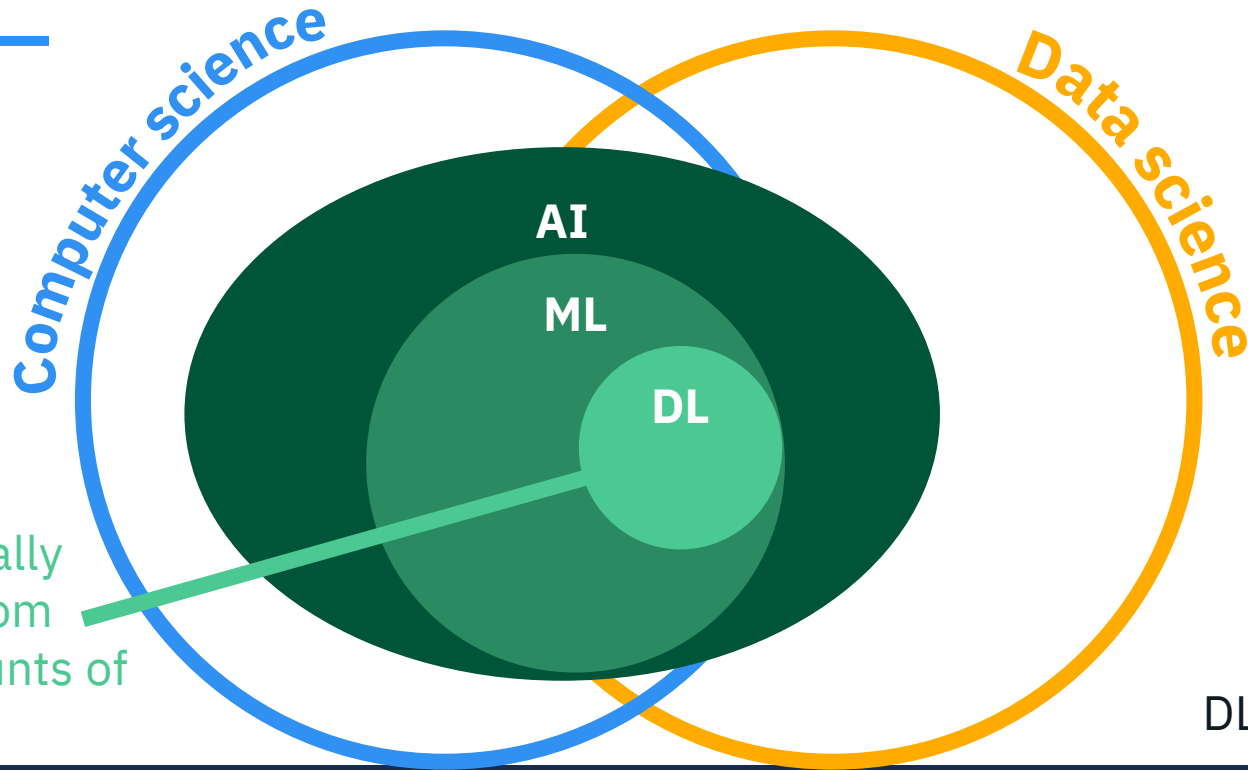


Independently learning from data to improve over time

ML = machine learning



AI Ecosystem

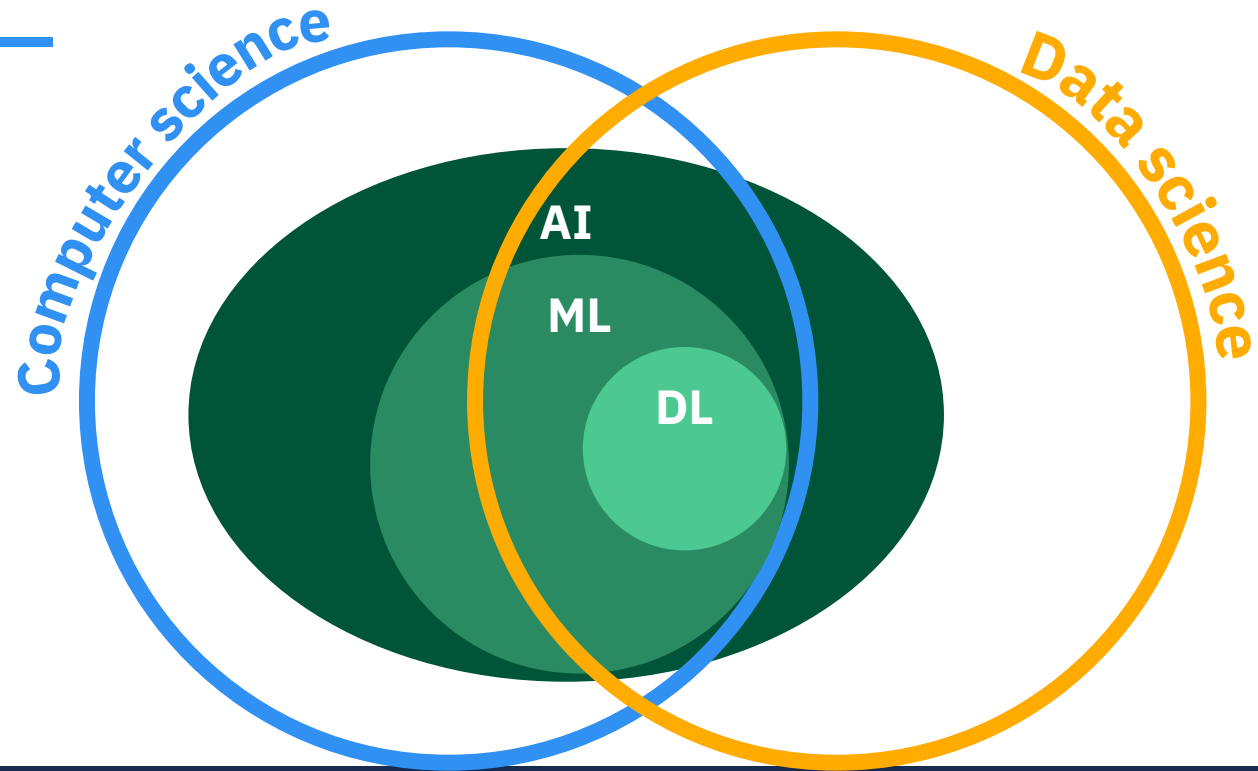


Automatically learning from large amounts of data

DL = deep learning



AI Ecosystem



Machine Learning

Learning patterns from data and **improving performance** without being explicitly programmed

Inputs

(Semi-) Structured data

Processing

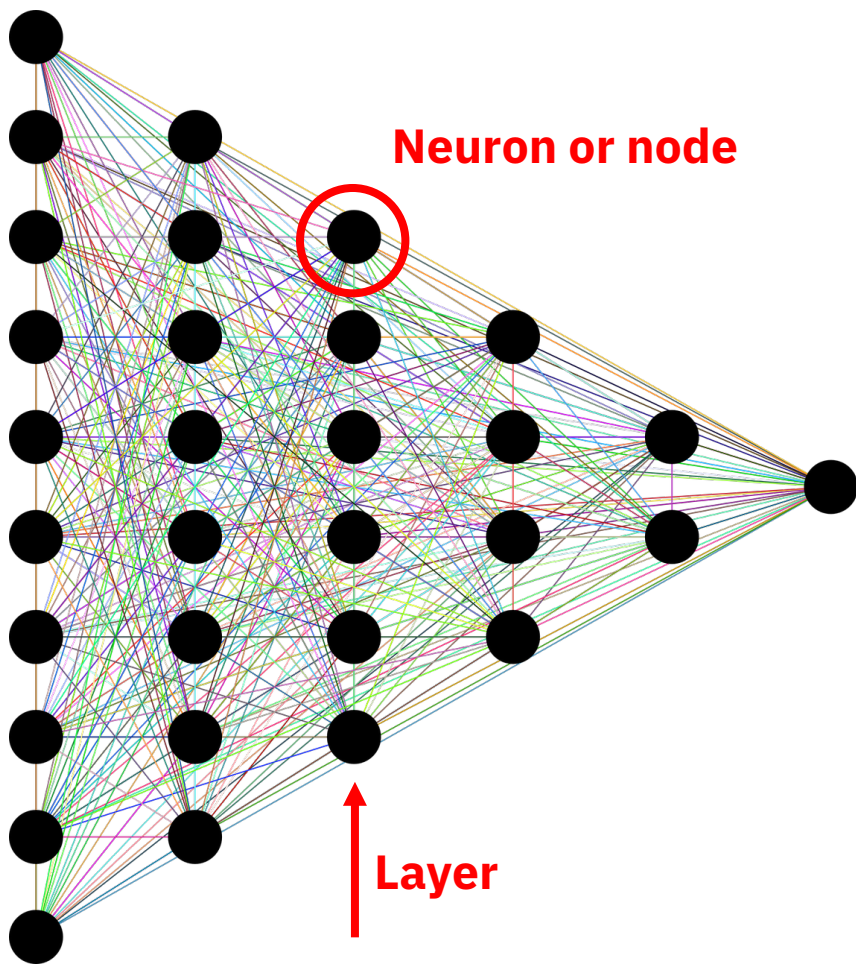
Algorithmic model

Outputs

Predictions, classifications, suggestions

```
def sort_chemicals(chemicals):  
    """  
    Sort chemicals into CWC Schedules based on their properties.  
  
    :param chemicals: List of dictionaries, each containing the name and properties of a  
        Example: [{"name": "Sarin", "toxicity": "High", "legitimate_use": "High"}]  
    :return: A dictionary categorizing chemicals into Schedules 1, 2, and 3.  
    """  
  
    # Create empty Lists for each schedule  
    schedules = {"Schedule 1": [], "Schedule 2": [], "Schedule 3": []}  
  
    for chemical in chemicals:  
        name = chemical["name"]  
        toxicity = chemical["toxicity"] # e.g., "High", "Medium", "Low"  
        legitimate_use = chemical["legitimate_use"] # e.g., "High", "Medium", "Low"  
  
        # Classify chemicals into schedules  
        if toxicity == "High" and legitimate_use == "Low":  
            schedules["Schedule 1"].append(name)  
        elif toxicity in ["High", "Medium"] and legitimate_use in ["Medium", "Low"]:  
            schedules["Schedule 2"].append(name)  
        else: # Default to Schedule 3  
            schedules["Schedule 3"].append(name)  
  
    return schedules
```





Deep Learning

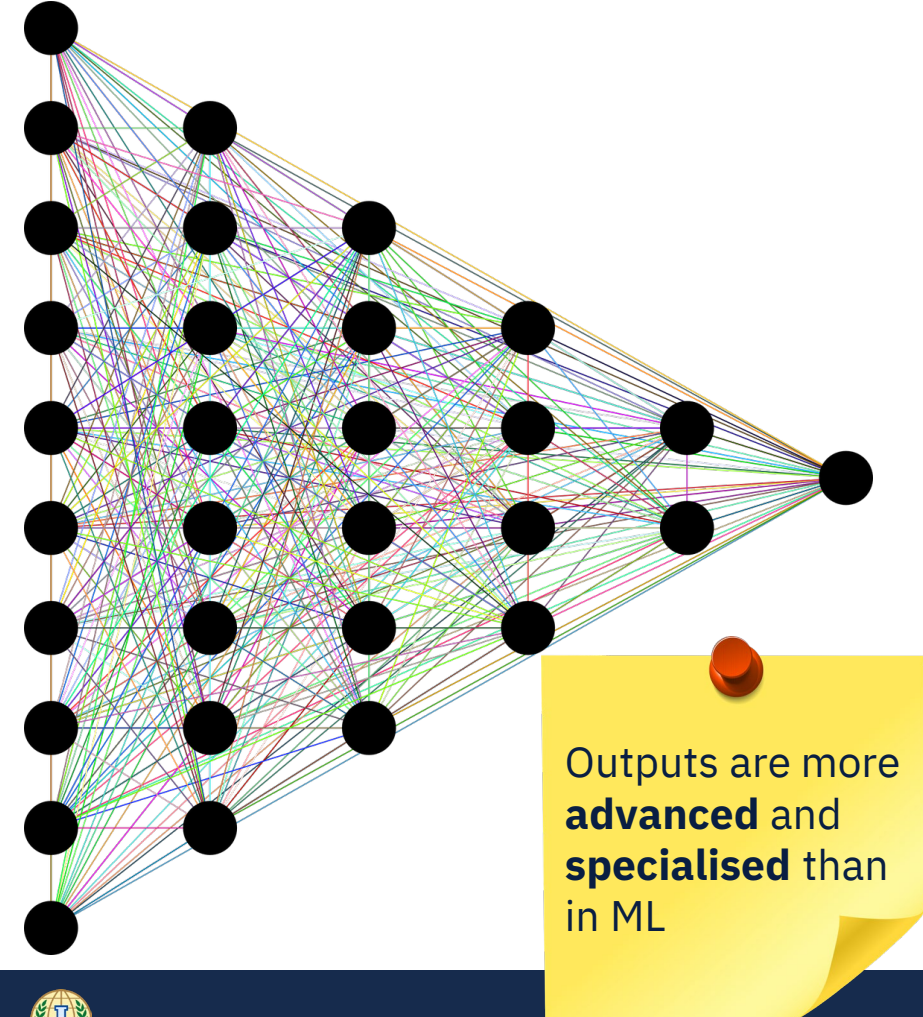
Automatically learning patterns from **large amounts of data**, especially for **complex tasks**, using multi-layered neural networks

Inputs	Unstructured data
Processing	Neural network model
Outputs	Predictions, classifications, generative output

Deep Learning

Automatically learning patterns from **large amounts of data**, especially for **complex tasks**, using multi-layered neural networks

Inputs	Unstructured data
Processing	Neural network model
Outputs	Predictions, classifications, generative output



Outputs are more **advanced** and **specialised** than in ML

Training Process

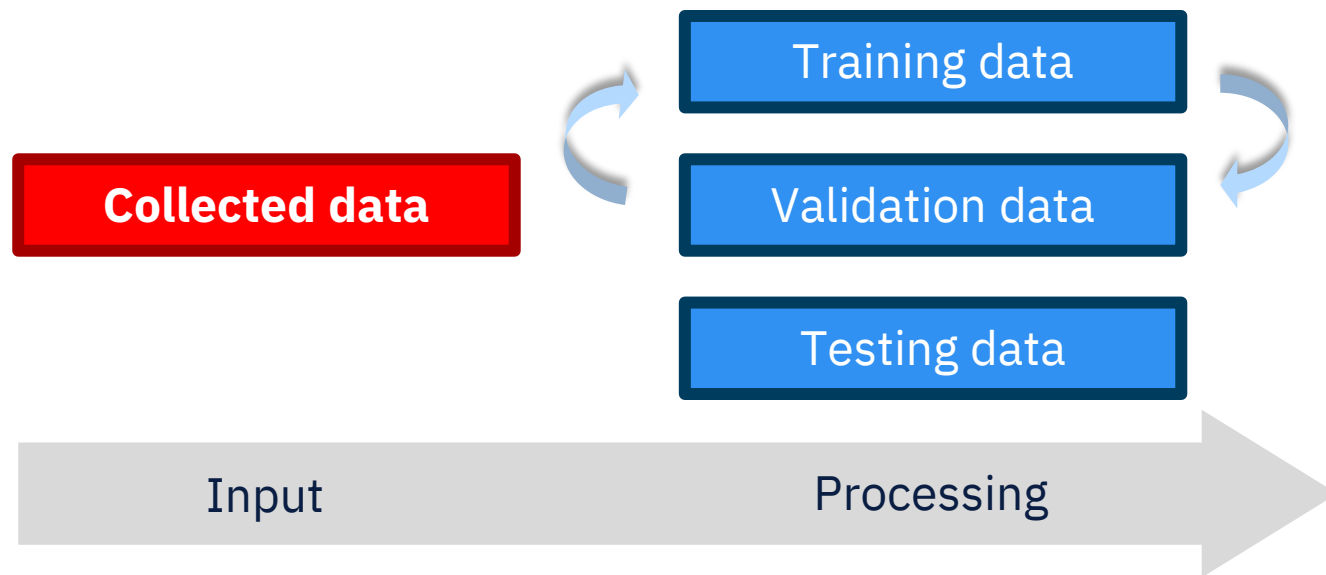
“Garbage in, garbage out”

Collected data

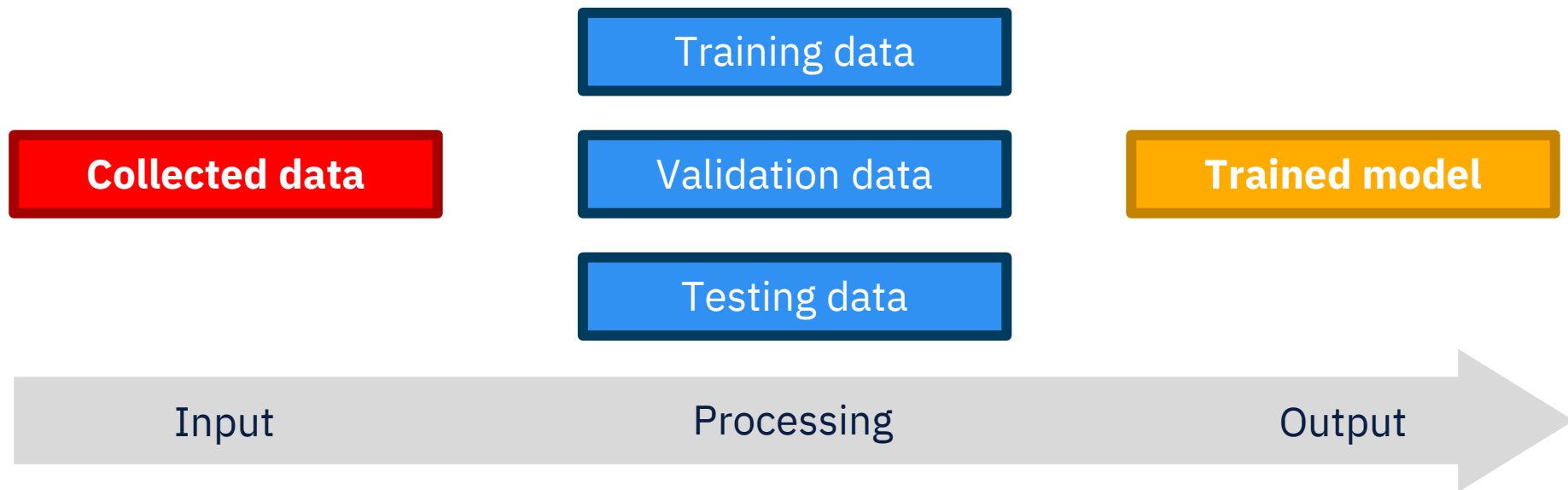
Input



Training Process



Training Process



Deployment Process

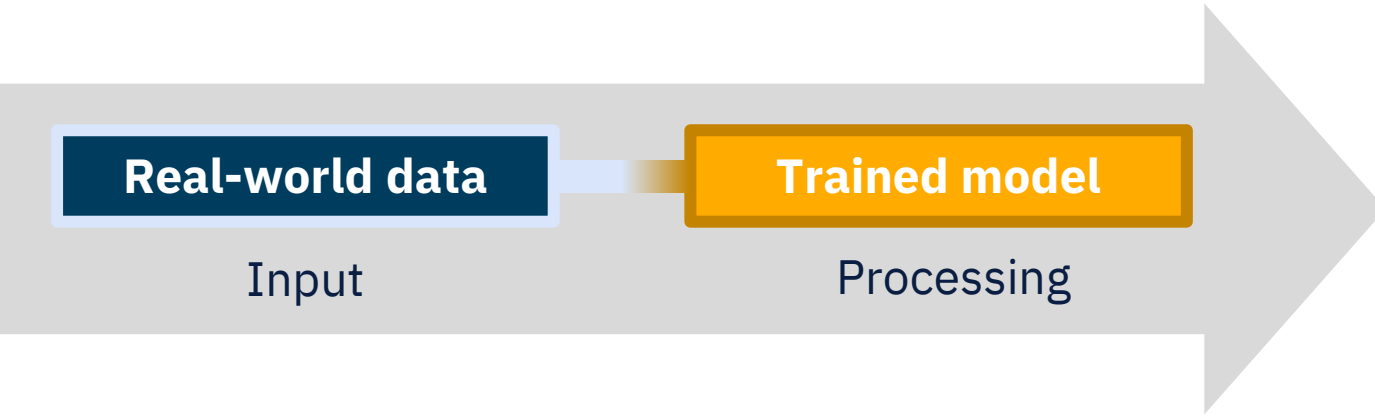


Real-world data

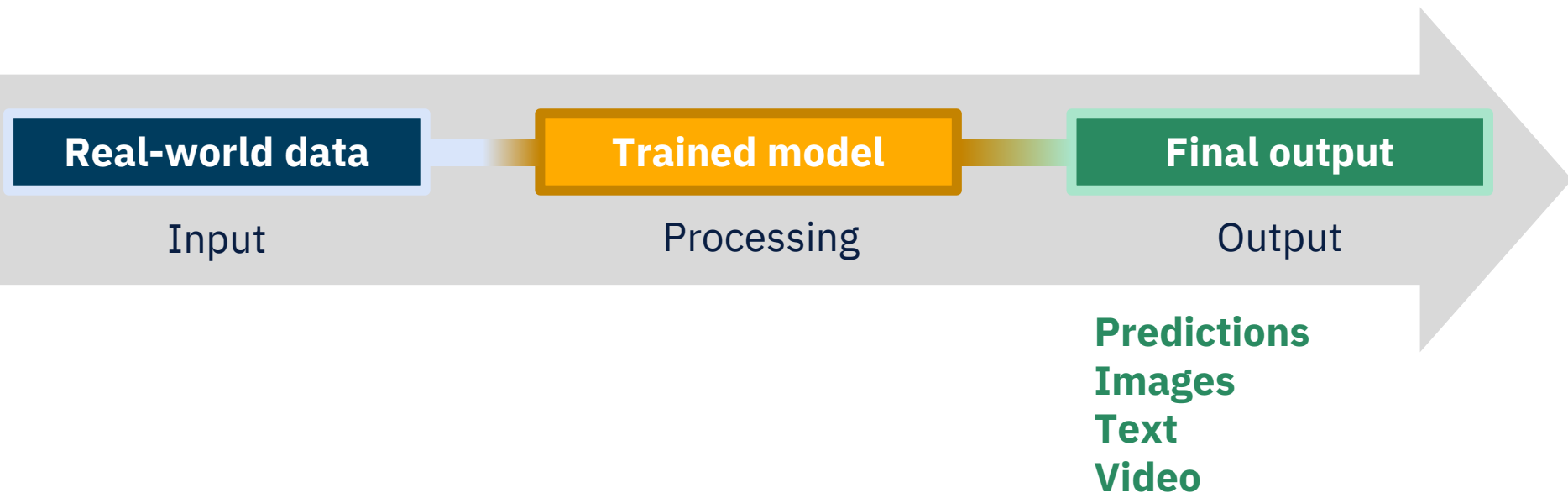
Input



Deployment Process



Deployment Process





Applications of AI

Autocorrect

Email filtering

Virtual assistants

Social media feeds

Search engines

Shopping recommendations

Navigation apps

Smart home devices





02

AI in Chemistry



Chemical Discovery

Addressing global challenges and
improving quality of life



Chemical Discovery

Approximately

**1,000,000,000,000,000,000,
000,000,000,000,000,000,000,
000,000,000,000,000,000,000**

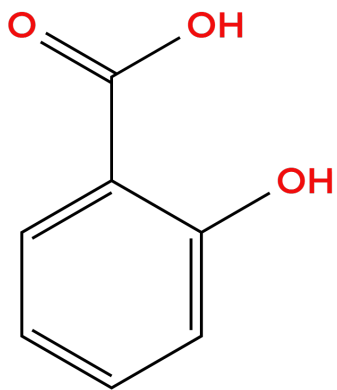
small organic molecules
in chemical space



Synthesis Planning

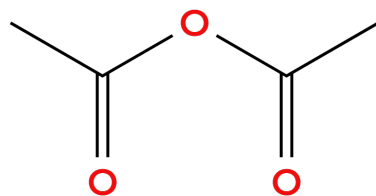


Reagents



Salicylic acid

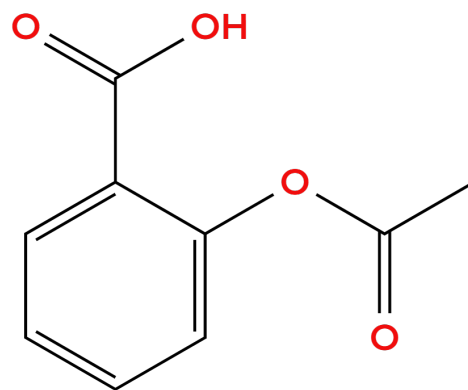
+



Acetic anhydride

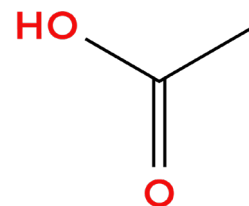


Products



Aspirin

+



Acetic acid

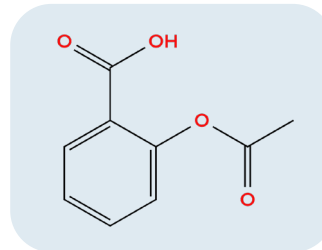


Retrosynthesis

Forward prediction

Synthesis
Planning

? + ?

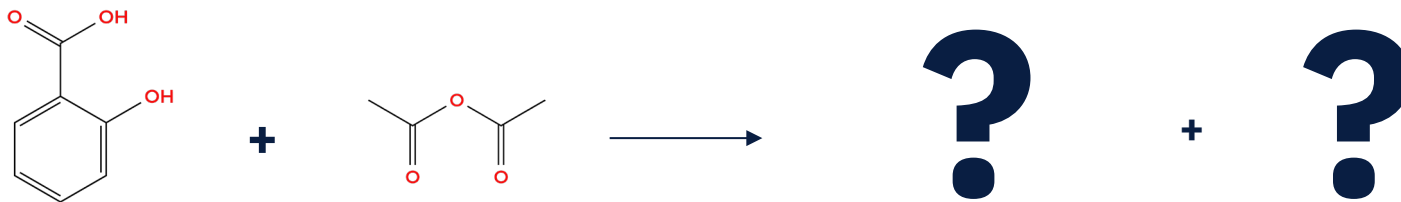


Retrosynthesis

- ← Working **backwards from a target molecule** to identify possible reagents
- ← Deconstructs target into simpler components
- ← AI predicts feasible disconnections

Synthesis
Planning

Forward prediction



Retrosynthesis

Synthesis
Planning

Forward prediction

- ➔ Working **forwards from the reagents** to identify reaction outcomes
- ➔ Constructs target from available reagents
- ➔ AI predicts possible products and optimise reaction conditions

Synthesis Planning Tools

The screenshot displays the IBM RXN for Chemistry web application interface. The top navigation bar includes a close button, the text "IBM RXN for Chemistry", an "Add new project" button, and a user profile icon. A left sidebar menu lists various tools: Home, Projects, Collaborators, Predict retrosynthesis, Predict product, Predict reagents, Plan a synthesis, Atom mapping, Text to procedure, Reaction digitization, and Learn. The main content area features four tool cards:

- Predict retrosynthesis:** "Predict possible retrosynthetic routes given a target molecule." Includes a diagram of a target molecule (blue circle) being broken down into two starting materials (blue circles with question marks) and a reagent (blue circle with a question mark). Link: [API Docs →](#)
- Predict product:** "Predict the product of a chemical reaction given the starting materials." Includes a diagram of two starting materials (blue circles) reacting with a reagent (blue circle) to form a product (blue circle with a question mark). Link: [API Docs →](#)
- Predict reagents:** "Predict the reagents needed to convert a given starting material to a given product." Includes a diagram of a starting material (blue circle) reacting with a reagent (blue circle with a question mark) to form a product (blue circle). Link: [API Docs →](#)
- Plan a synthesis:** "Plan a synthesis starting from a target molecule, a retrosynthetic route, or an experimental procedure in text format." Includes a diagram of a flask containing a blue liquid. Link: [API Docs →](#)

At the bottom of the sidebar, there are links for [Cookie](#), [Terms](#), [Privacy](#), and [Support](#).



Synthesis Planning Tools

IBM RXN for Chemistry OPCW 1
Retrosynthesis name: OPCW_1_20241117_13:00:56.061 #2

Sequence 2 High confidence Confidence: 0.869 Editing

Predict experimental procedure →

2-acetoxybenzoic acid

0.87 - Hydroxy to ...

acetic anhydride salicylic acid pyridine

- Common molecule available by default
- Molecule available using a model-specific ...
- Molecule commercially available on eMole...
- Molecule commercially available from a d...
- Not able to find a synthetic path
- Molecule from file

Legend

100%

OPCW OFFICIAL



Synthesis Planning Tools

Retrosynthesis sequences ✕

The Retrosynthesis "OPCW 1_20241117_13:00:56.061" has the following sequences

Name	Sequence	Confidence	N° of steps		
OPCW 1_20241117_13:00:56.061	0	0.963	1	☆	🔗
OPCW 1_20241117_13:00:56.141	1	0.924	2	☆	🔗
OPCW 1_20241117_13:00:56.208	2	0.869	1	☆	🔗
OPCW 1_20241117_13:00:56.256	3	0.863	2	☆	🔗
OPCW 1_20241117_13:00:56.324	4	0.815	1	☆	🔗
OPCW 1_20241117_13:00:56.365	5	0.639	2	☆	🔗





Robotics and Automation

Laboratory robots and “cobots”

From automated equipment
and robotic arms...



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This photo by Anthony O'Neil is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0



Laboratory robots and “cobots”

...to self-driving labs



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srC3c6lQL2w>



Cloud labs



Emerald Cloud Lab

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SJ0ZP-xEkBM>





Chemical Safety

- Mixed reality training
- Predictive maintenance
- Real-time monitoring
- Toxicity prediction
- Improved risk assessment models
- Hazardous chemical substitution

Chemical Detection, Identification, and Forensics

AI is improving:

- speed
- accuracy
- reliability



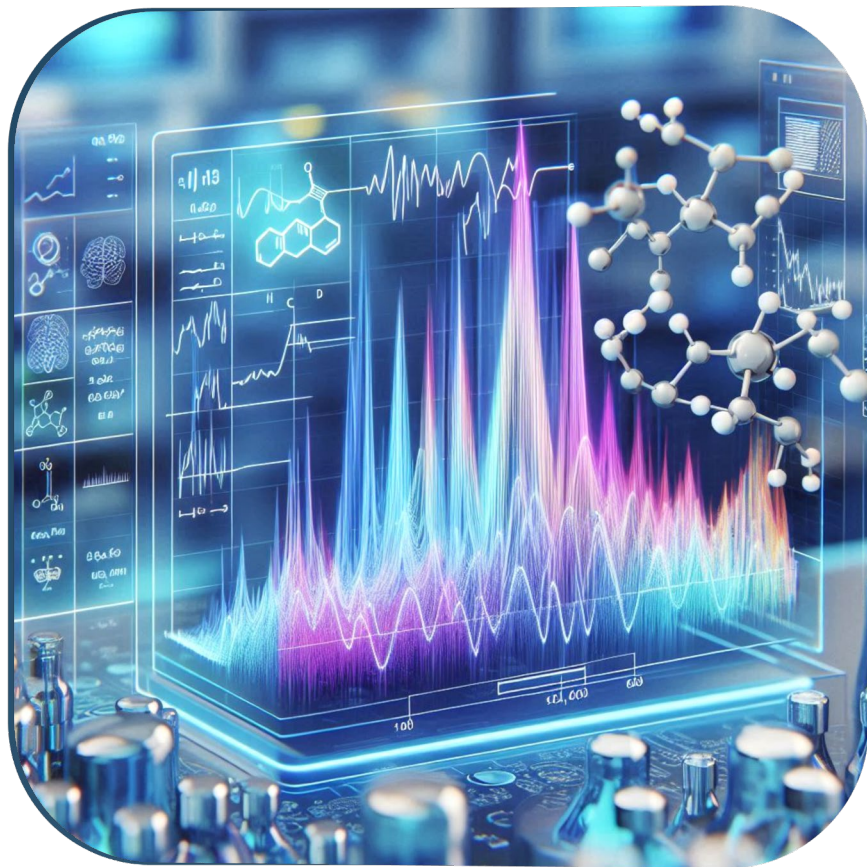
Data analysis and pattern recognition

- Analyse vast datasets rapidly
- Discern patterns, correlations, and anomalies
- Identify compounds or trace substances with high accuracy and speed



Time needed
for analysis and
interpretation





Real-time monitoring and detection

- Analysis of sensor data and make immediate decisions
- Predictive alerts of chemical threats
- Identification of exposure risks in a chemical plant



Personnel safety

04

AI and the OPCW





Scientific Advisory Board 2024

S&T under review



- **Independent** advisory board
- 25 experts
- Report on developments to Review Conferences

- Increase safety
- Optimise resources
- Streamline processes
- Enhance risk assessment
- Generate training scenarios
- Strengthen capacity building
- Improve detection capabilities
- Reinvigorate MedCM research
- Leverage open-source data
- Identify emerging threats
- Monitor advances in S&T
- Design new materials
- Predict spectral data
- Fuse spectral data



(POTENTIAL) OPPORTUNITIES

(POTENTIAL) RISKS

- Predict toxicity
- Optimise production
- Disguise illicit purchases
- Spread misinformation
- Identify novel syntheses
- Design hazardous chemicals
- Proliferate sensitive knowledge
- Hack chemical control systems
- Provide fast access to info
 - Reduce technical barriers
 - Optimise dissemination
 - Identify vulnerabilities
 - Circumvent controls
 - Evade detection

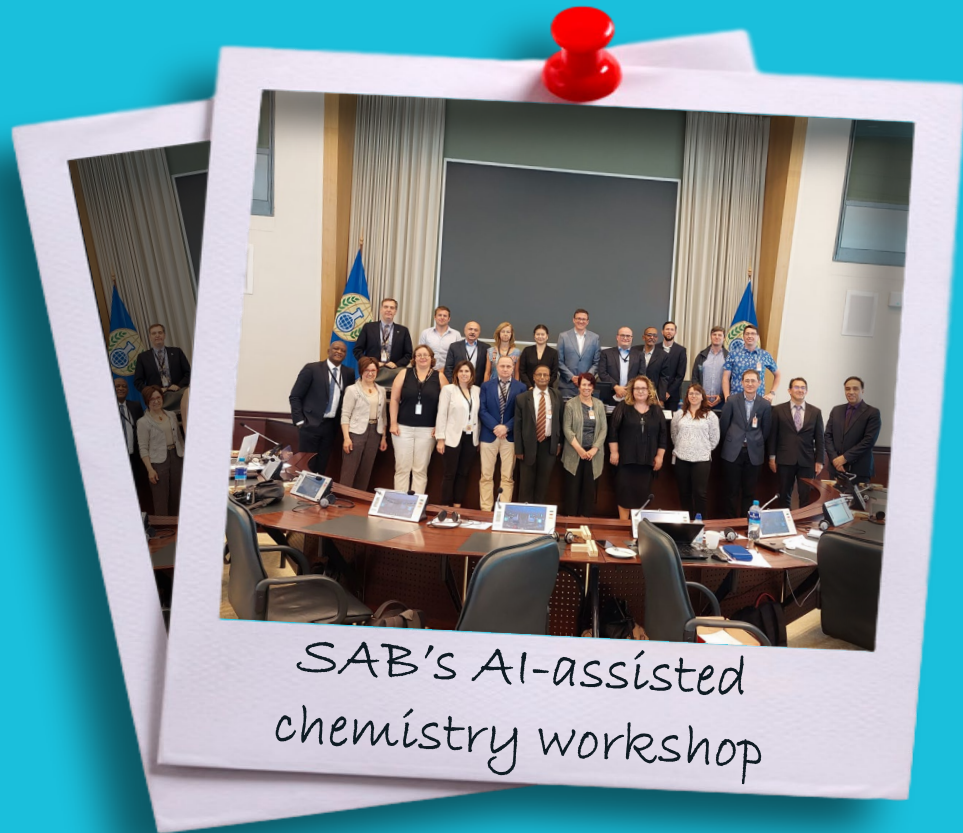
Artificial Intelligence



The OPCW should closely monitor the rapid development in AI-assisted chemistry and machine learning and consider not just the potential risks that it poses, but also the opportunities it presents

SAB recommendation





SAB's AI-assisted
chemistry workshop

2021

June

2022

2023

April



AI Meeting with Experts

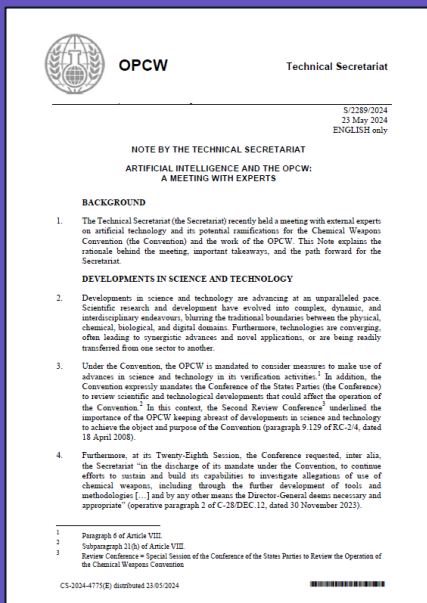
2023

April

2024

June

2024



S/2289/2024, dated 23 May 2024



Berlin, Germany

AI and WMD



Keynote address, rethinkingarmscontrol.org

April
2024

June
2024

October
2024



Rabat, Morocco

Global Conference

Role of Artificial Intelligence in Advancing the Implementation of the CWC

- Enhance understanding of AI
- Contextualise developments
- Inform future policy discussions

Topics included chemistry, policy, security, and opportunities and challenges to implementation of the CWC



Kingdom of Morocco

June
2024

October
2024

January
2025



Rabat, Morocco

Global Conference



190
delegates



46 States
Parties



Conference Proceedings

Global Conference on the Role of
Artificial Intelligence in Advancing
the Implementation of the Chemical
Weapons Convention

22 – 24 October 2024
Rabat, Morocco

Available on Catalyst

June
2024

October
2024

January
2025

Temporary Working Group on AI



Objectives

Understand the impact of AI on the CWC and identify the risks and opportunities for its implementation



Duration of **1 year**



Composition

Approximately 15 members

October
2024

January
2025

Temporary Working Group on AI



Data prediction and generation

Automated synthesis

Synthesis planning

Data curation

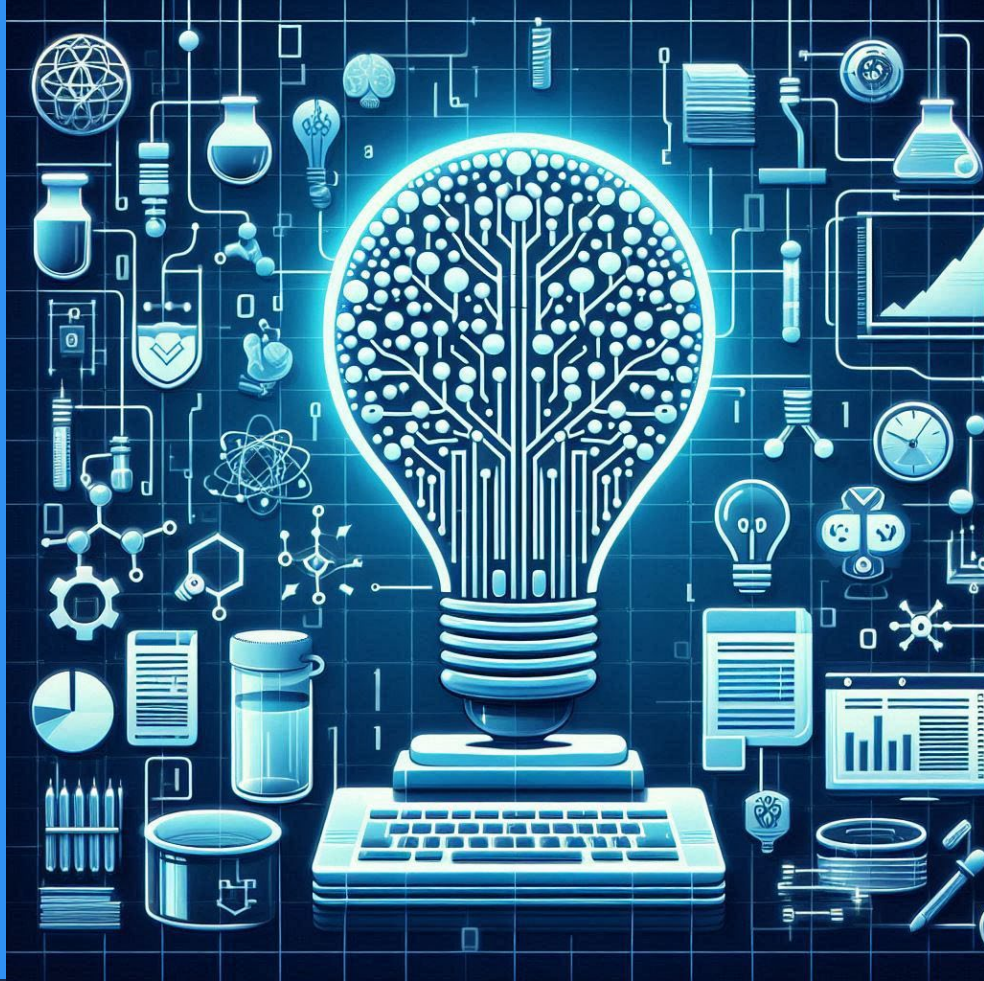
Data fusion

October
2024

January
2025

OPCW AI Research Challenge

Crowdsourcing innovative AI solutions to assist the OPCW





AI Challenge



Identify how AI can be used to **strengthen the OPCW's capabilities** and **increase its readiness** to address current and future challenges



22 proposals received



4 proposals, up to €65,000 each



Duration of 1 year





Next Steps



Summary

①

AI produces diverse outputs and has a broad range of applications

②

In chemistry, AI:

- accelerates progress
- increases accuracy
- improves process optimisation
- enhances safety

③

The OPCW is making progress in identifying the potential risks and opportunities AI poses to the Convention



