

# **Develop Externally Validated QNAR Models That Can be Reliably Used to Prioritize Nanoparticles for Biological and Safety Studies** (425.045)

## ***Development of Novel Descriptors***

### **PIs:**

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- **Denis Fourches, PhD (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)**

# Research Objectives

- **Develop predictive QNAR models that correlate the compositional/physical/chemical/geometrical and biological descriptors of MNPs with known toxicological endpoints.**
- **Employ QNAR models for virtual screening of libraries of compound considered attachable to CNT surfaces to prioritize compounds for the experimental validation of predicted cellular toxicity and protein binding.**
- **In joint studies with experimental collaborators, evaluate the accuracy of QNAR models by testing the selected MNPs in biological experiments.**

# ESH Metrics and Impact

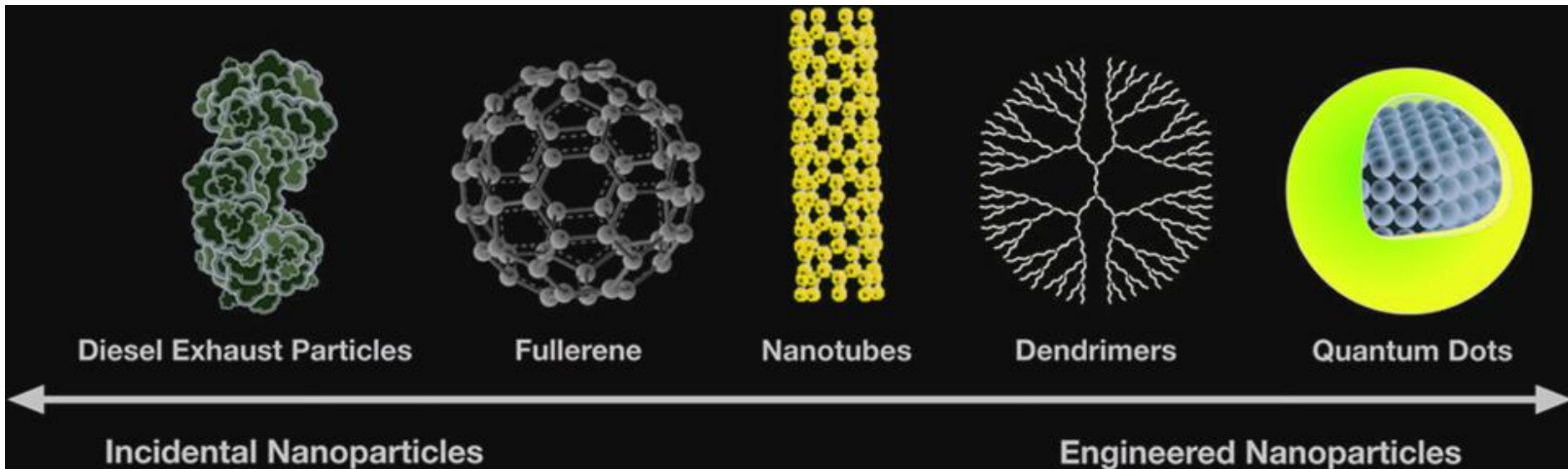
1. Obtain reliable descriptors of the physical and chemical properties of manufactured nanoparticles.
2. Develop predictive computational models that correlate physical-chemical descriptors of MNPs with their toxic effects.

**Impact:** Utilize the knowledge gained through above metrics for improved MNP experimental design and prioritized toxicity testing toward the manufacturing of safe nanomaterials.

# Research Hypothesis

- **The biological/toxicological properties of MNPs (exemplified by carbon nanotubes, CNTs) depend on the compositional/physical/chemical/ geometrical properties of the CNTs.**
- **Using physical/chemical characterization and toxicological screens for an ensemble of MNPs, it will be possible to develop and experimentally validate predictive Quantitative Nanostructure – Activity (QNAR) models.**

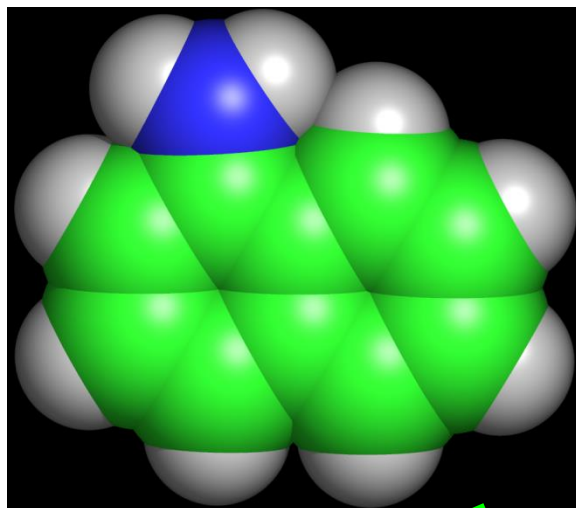
# Challenges in Modeling of Nanomaterials



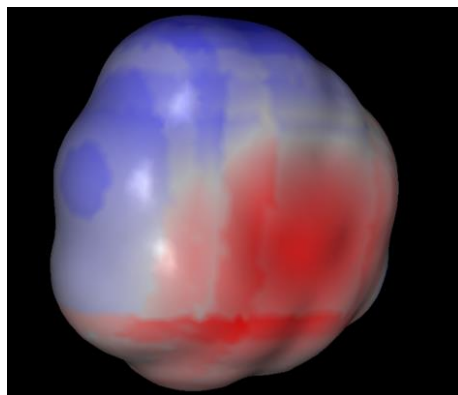
S. Stern and S. McNeil, *Toxicological Sciences*, 101(1), 4-21, 2008.

- NP structures are very diverse → a real challenge to develop quantitative parameters (descriptors) of MNPs.
- Systematic physico-chemical, geometrical, structural and biological studies of NPs are nearly absent.
- Computational modeling of nanoparticles is only beginning to emerge; best if done in collaboration with experimental scientists.

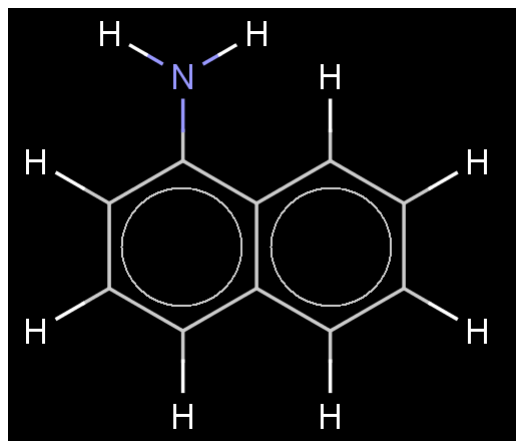
# Structure Representation in Cheminformatics



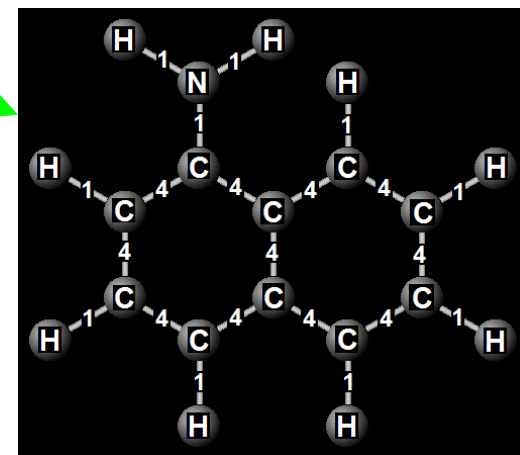
naphthalen-1-amine



Viewed by  
another molecule



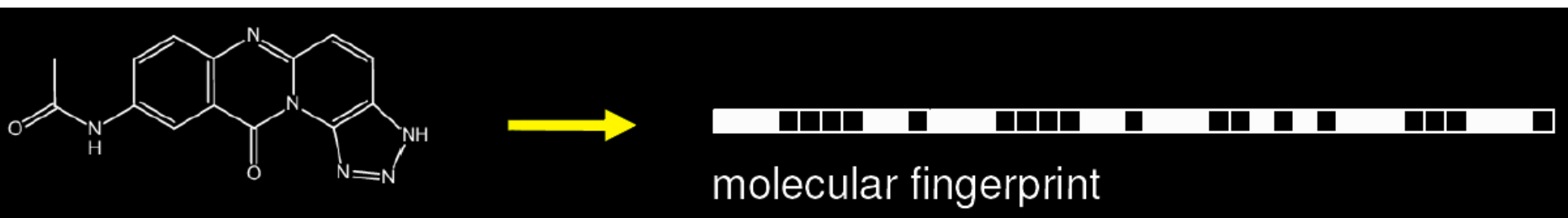
Viewed by chemists



Viewed by  
computers

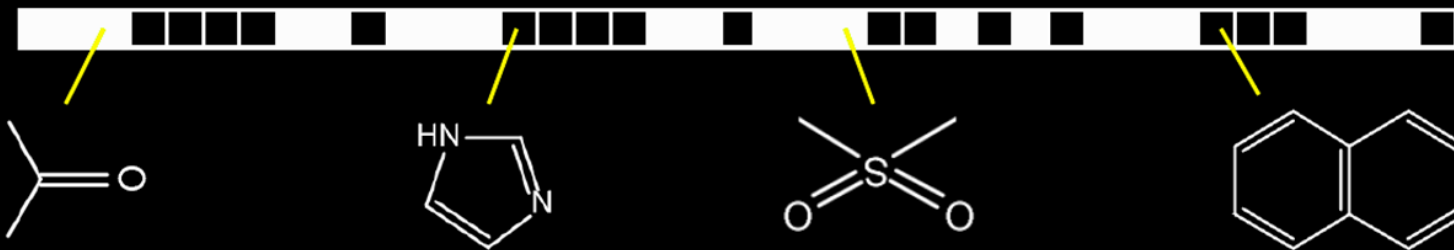
# Molecular Fingerprints

bit string encodings of  
structural features and/or calculated molecular properties.

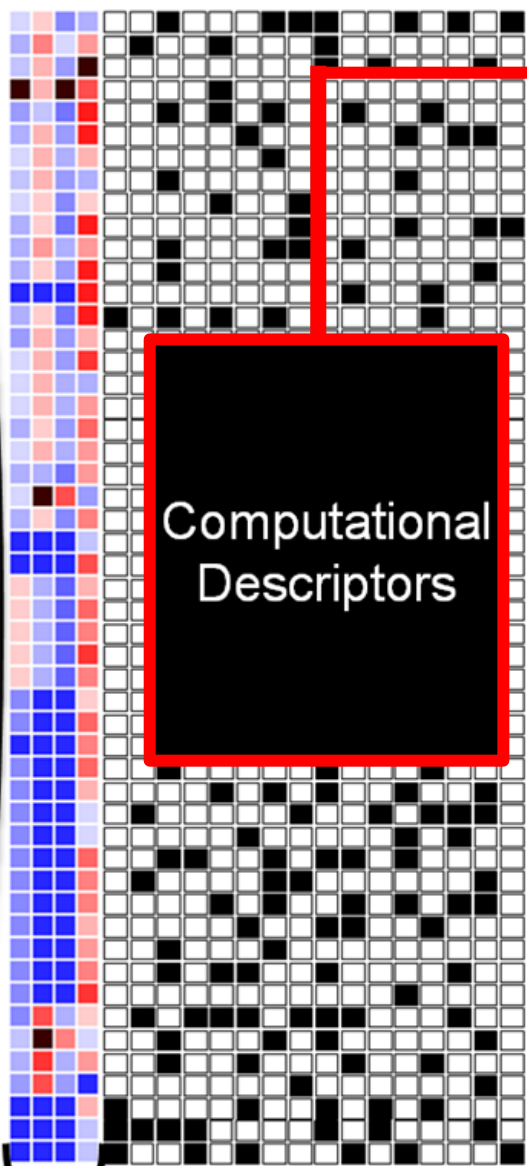


**2D Fragment-based**, keyed fingerprints: each bit position monitors  
the presence or absence of structural fragments

**MACCS** (166 bits), **BCI** (e.g. 1,052 bits)



# NANOPARTICLES



Computational Descriptors

DESCRIPTORS

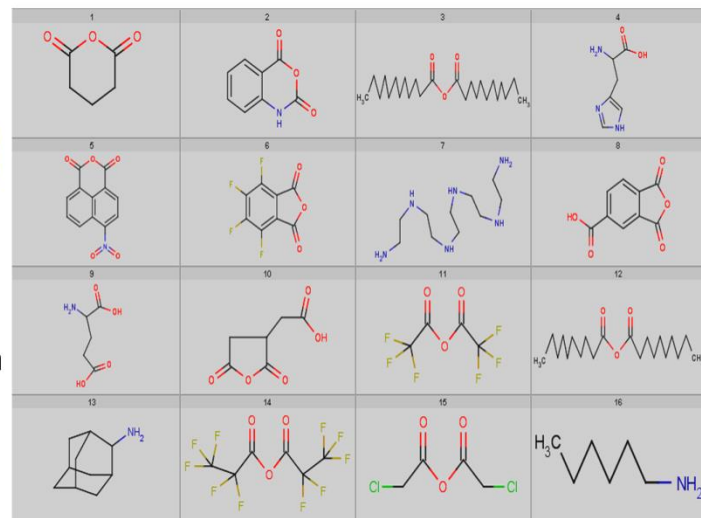
Experimental properties

**ALL PARTICLES HAVE THE SAME CORE BUT DIFFERENT SURFACE MODIFIERS**



▶ FITC (fluorescein isothiocyanate)

▶ Small organic compounds

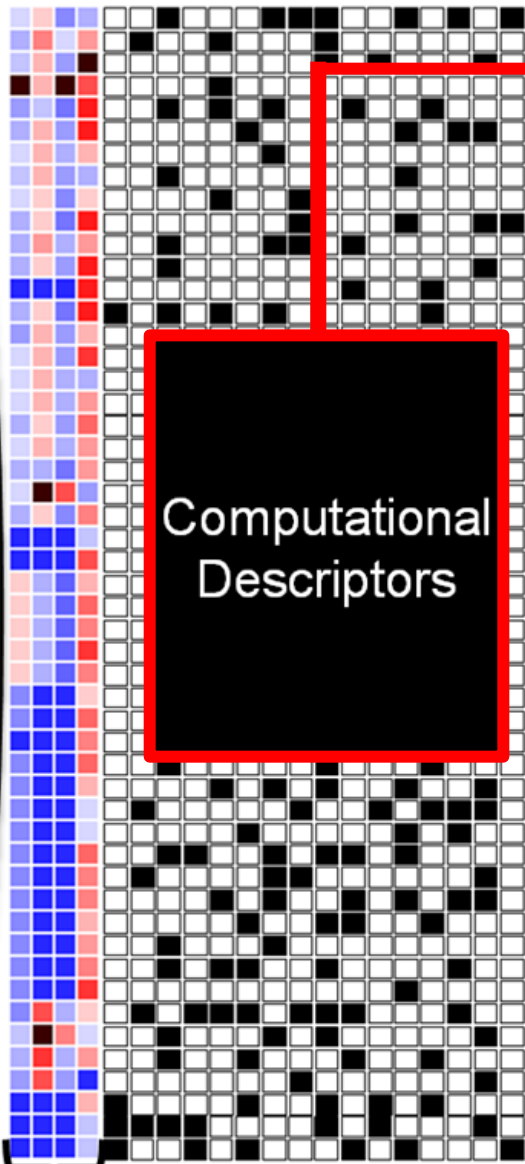


**Classical molecular descriptors (e.g., Dragon, MOE, SiRMS) can be computed for a single molecule that represents the surface of a particular nanoparticle.**





# NANOPARTICLES



Computational Descriptors

Experimental properties

DESCRIPTORS

## ALL PARTICLES HAVE DIFFERENT CORES/ARCHITECTURES

MNP	CLIO	PNP	MION	QD	Feridex IV	Ferrum Hausmann
#. particle	23	19	4	3	1	1

*Shaw et al., PNAS, 2008, 105, 7387-7392*

If no available three-dimensional structures, only constitutional descriptors (e.g., number of metal atoms, presence/absence of coated dextran) are computationally accessible.



Need of developing new descriptors



Development of Quantum-Mechanics based fingerprints in collaboration with Dr. Stefano Curtarolo (*Duke University*)

# New theoretical MNP descriptors: Computed characteristics of materials\*

Index	▲ Name	Atom Number	Fit Band					Mass ratio	Valence	Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	
			Gap (eV)	me(m0)	mmine(m0)	mh(m0)	mminh(m0)		Band Width (eV)		Core Valence Gap (eV)
1	Al1La1O3	5	5.13	0.45	0.36	1.81	0.56	4.06	7.46	6.06	6.42
2	As1Ca3Cl3	7	3.39	0.64	0.34	0.52	0.24	1.24	1.36	1.62	2.63
3	As1Cl1Hg3O4	9	3.67	1.21	1.21	2.6	2.42	2.15	6.21	0.18	8.76
4	Ba1Ce1O3	5	4.9	2.54	1.81	3.69	0.3	1.45	3.15	8.17	6.44
5	Ba1F3Li1	5	9.68	0.63	0.51	12.87	0.8	20.52	2.31	6.27	5.25
6	Ba1O3Pr1	5	3.63	2.9	1.9	4.75	0.3	1.63	3.07	8.07	6.52
7	Ba1O3Zr1	5	5.01	0.69	0.37	2.92	0.9	4.2	3.64	6.75	6.28
8	Ba1Se1	2	2.55	0.55	0.23	0.67	0.19	1.23	3.06	7.49	6.57
9	Be1H3Na1	5	2.15	0.51	0.49	0.41	0.23	1.25	9.63	14.17	1.67
10	Bi1In1O3	5	1.22	0.26	0.22	11.71	0.35	44.78	7.13	2.87	8.37
11	Br1K3O1	5	2.11	0.38	0.37	2.35	0.55	6.27	0.92	2.62	2.5
12	Br1O1Rb3	5	1.46	0.34	0.33	2.13	0.41	6.35	1.07	2.66	3.58
13	Br3Cd1Cs1	5	2.35	0.19	0.18	6.39	0.28	34.39	5.55	0.78	5.32
14	C1K4O4	9	3.96	0.5	0.5	8.74	6.45	17.55	0.13	0.69	2.65
15	C1Li4O4	9	6.53	0.8	0.79	3.45	1.84	4.28	4.28	1.66	2.63
16	C1Na4O4	9	3.67	0.48	0.48	5.38	3.89	11.21	0.68	0.33	2.97

\*data from [afloplib.org](http://afloplib.org) (collaboration with Prof. Stefano Curtarolo, Duke University)

# New theoretical MNP descriptors: Materials fingerprints

Index	▲ Name	Atom		Fit Band				Mass ratio	Valence Band		Core Valence	Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	Etc.
		Number	Gap (eV)	me(m0)	mmine(m0)	mh(m0)	mminh(m0)		Width (eV)	Gap (eV)			
1	Al1La1O3	5	5.13	0.45	0.36	1.81	0.56	4.06	7.46	6.06	6.42		
2	As1Ca3C1B3	7	3.39	0.64	0.34	0.52	0.24	1.24	1.36	1.62	2.63		
3	As1C1B3O4	9	3.67	1.21	1.21	2.6	2.42	2.15	6.21	0.18	8.76		
4	Ba1La1O3	5	4.9	2.54	1.81	3.69	0.3	1.45	3.15	8.17	6.44		
5	Ba1Pr1Li1												
6	Ba1C1Pr1												
7	Ba1O3Zr1												
8	Ba1Se1												
9	Be1H3Na1	5	2.15	0.51	0.49	0.41	0.23	1.25	9.63	14.17	1.67		
10	Bi1In1O3	5	1.22	0.26	0.22	11.71	0.35	44.78	7.13	2.87	8.37		
11	Br1K3O1	5	2.11	0.38	0.37	2.35	0.55	6.27	0.92	2.62	2.5		
12	Br1O1Rb3	5	1.46	0.34	0.33	2.13	0.41	6.35	1.07	2.66	3.58		
13	Br3Cd1Cs1	5	2.35	0.19	0.18	6.39	0.28	34.39	5.55	0.78	5.32		
14	C1K4O4	9	3.96	0.5	0.5	8.74	6.45	17.55	0.13	0.69	2.65		
15	C1Li4O4	9	6.53	0.8	0.79	3.45	1.84	4.28	4.28	1.66	2.63		
16	C1Na4O4	9	3.67	0.48	0.48	5.38	3.89	11.21	0.68	0.33	2.97		
17	C2Ca1	3	3.28	1.33	0.33	1.56	0.59	1.17	1.81	0.49	2.25		
18	Ca1O3Ti1	5	4.1	1	0.45	2.66	0.82	2.65					
19	Ca1O3Zr1	5	5.25	0.7	0.39	3.09	0.93	4.39					
20	Ca3Cl3P1	7	3.4	0.63	0.34	0.56	0.27	1.13					
21	Cd1F3Rb1	5	5.58	0.44	0.44	40.03	0.52						
22	Cl1Rb1	2	7.33	0.39	0.39	3.31	0.7						
23	Cl3Cs1Sn1	5	1.75	0.47	0.08	0.11	0.1						
24	Cr1La1O3	5	3.33	0.72	0.36	1.69	1.45						
25	Cs1F3Hg1	5	1.89	0.34	0.33	325.67	0.43	968.99					
26	Cs1F3Mg1	5	9.98	0.45	0.44	7.73	0.54	17.32					
27	Cs3O3Sb1	7	5.18	1.96	0.32	2.23	1.63	1.14					
28	Cs3Sb1Se3	7	4.05	5.49	1.76	3.68	0.9	1.49					
29	Cu2O1	3	1.79	0.82	0.82	1.87	0.22	2.28	6.84	11.98	6.14		
30	Cu3S4Ta1	8	3.84	1.31	0.97	1.24	0.62	1.06	5.3	6.82	4.93		
31	F3Mg1Na1	5	8.9	0.56	0.56	11.78	1.83	21.02	3.94	15.54	2.97		
32	F3Rb1V1	5	3.86	0.49	0.49	12.81	1.98	26.01	7.49	3.25	4.39		
33	F3Rb1Yb1	5	2.39	0.49	0.49	9.59	3.96	19.35	0.19	4.86	5.63		
34	F3Sc1	4	9.1	4.35	1.17	23.29	2.35	5.36	3.03	16.02	2.62		
35	Fe1La1O3	5	1.63	1.11	0.53	11.35	0.36	10.23	9.02	6.58	6.85		
36	Ge1I3Rb1	5	1.66	0.38	0.06	0.12	0.1	3.12	4.43	2.4	4.15		
37	I1K3O1	5											
38	Ir1S1Sb1	3											
39	N2O1	3											
40	O2S1	3											
41	O3Pb1Ti1	5											
42	O3Sn1Sr1	5											
43	O3Sr1Tc1	5											
44	O3Sr1Ti1	5											
45	O6Se2Sn1	9											
46	Os1Se2	3											

46 materials (e.g., CaO<sub>3</sub>Zr, BaSe, etc.)

Data Curation Normalization and Selection of Descriptors

Descriptors derived from quantum mechanics calculations (DFT)  
*In collaboration with Dr. Curtarolo (Duke University)*

## Materials Fingerprints

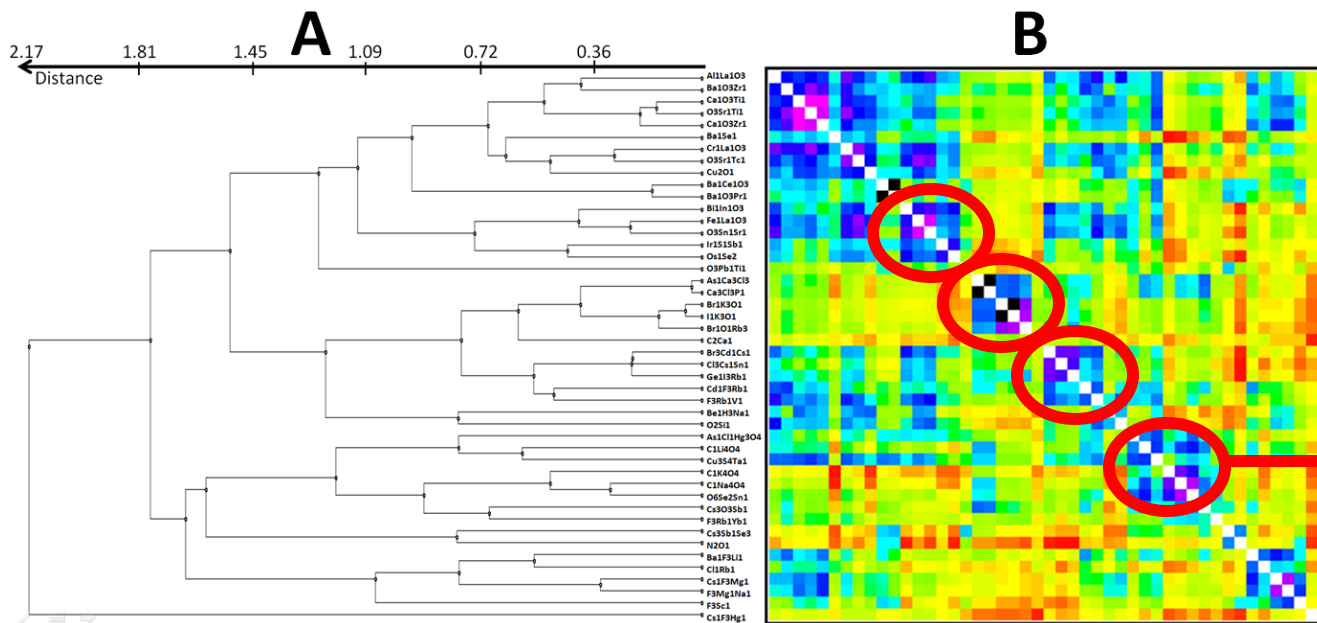
0.429	0.456	0.044	0.129	0.005	0.072	0.003	0.732	0.376	0.515
0.714	0.260	0.076	0.121	0.001	0.022	0.000	0.123	0.098	0.113
1.000	0.292	0.173	0.496	0.008	0.365	0.001	0.607	0.008	0.763
0.429	0.430	0.398	0.754	0.011	0.032	0.000	0.301	0.508	0.517
0.429	0.966	0.075	0.194	0.039	0.110	0.020	0.218	0.389	0.391
0.429	0.287	0.459	0.793	0.014	0.032	0.001	0.293	0.502	0.525
0.429	0.442	0.085	0.134	0.009	0.126	0.003	0.350	0.419	0.500
0.000	0.166	0.061	0.073	0.002	0.014	0.000	0.292	0.466	0.531
0.429	0.121	0.054	0.185	0.001	0.021	0.000	0.948	0.884	0.012
0.429	0.017	0.012	0.069	0.036	0.039	0.045	0.699	0.176	0.721
0.429	0.117	0.032	0.134	0.007	0.071	0.005	0.079	0.160	0.100
0.429	0.044	0.025	0.116	0.006	0.049	0.006	0.094	0.163	0.214
0.429	0.144	0.000	0.052	0.019	0.028	0.034	0.541	0.045	0.398
1.000	0.324	0.053	0.190	0.027	1.000	0.017	0.000	0.040	0.116
1.000	0.613	0.103	0.315	0.010	0.274	0.003	0.414	0.100	0.113
1.000	0.292	0.049	0.181	0.016	0.597	0.011	0.055	0.017	0.149
0.143	0.248	0.193	0.116	0.005	0.077	0.000	0.168	0.027	0.073
0.429	0.340	0.137	0.168	0.008	0.113	0.002	0.468	0.702	0.272
0.429	0.469	0.086	0.142	0.009	0.131	0.003	0.395	0.689	0.320
0.714	0.262	0.075	0.121	0.001	0.027	0.000	0.117	0.103	0.082
0.429	0.084	0.090	0.129	0.005	0.213	0.001	0.604	0.540	0.543
0.429	0.092	0.025	0.116	1.000	0.052	1.000	0.606	0.788	0.554
0.429	1.000	0.044	0.164	0.023	0.069	0.017	0.476	0.898	0.333
0.714	0.461	0.300	0.112	0.007	0.241	0.000	0.021	0.013	0.359
0.714	0.335	0.897	0.733	0.011	0.126	0.000	0.001	0.002	0.283
0.143	0.081	0.107	0.328	0.005	0.019	0.001	0.670	0.747	0.485
0.857	0.311	0.190	0.392	0.004	0.082	0.000	0.516	0.424	0.357
0.429	0.879	0.063	0.216	0.036	0.272	0.021	0.380	0.970	0.149
0.429	0.313	0.051	0.185	0.039	0.296	0.026	0.735	0.200	0.300
0.429	0.148	0.051	0.185	0.029	0.608	0.019	0.006	0.301	0.431
0.286	0.901	0.704	0.478	0.071	0.354	0.004	0.289	1.000	0.112
0.429	0.063	0.156	0.203	0.035	0.041	0.010	0.887	0.409	0.560
0.429	0.066	0.032	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.002	0.429	0.147	0.274
0.429	0.137	0.025	0.121	0.007	0.074	0.006	0.072	0.150	0.145
0.143	0.199	0.164	0.392	0.001	0.057	0.002	0.594	0.149	0.951
0.143	0.487	0.880	1.000	0.013	0.370	0.000	0.067	0.246	0.000
0.143	0.589	0.029	0.125	0.009	0.088	0.008	1.000	0.424	0.321
0.429	0.312	1.000	0.207	0.002	0.025	0.007	0.487	0.035	0.686
0.429	0.125	0.007	0.060	0.009	0.098	0.012	0.877	0.367	0.520
0.429	0.000	0.117	0.108	0.004	0.145	0.001	0.691	0.558	0.504
0.429	0.329	0.149	0.172	0.008	0.112	0.002	0.460	0.602	0.377
1.000	0.370	0.036	0.147	0.018	0.652	0.014	0.271	0.071	0.315
0.143	0.019	0.014	0.086	0.003	0.153	0.003	0.622	0.313	1.000

# Materials similarity based on their fingerprints

Tanimoto similarity coefficient  $S$  between materials A and B is calculated as follows:

$$S_{A,B} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^{j=n} x_{jA}x_{jB}}{[\sum_{j=1}^{j=n} (x_{jA})^2 + \sum_{j=1}^{j=n} (x_{jB})^2 - \sum_{j=1}^{j=n} x_{jA}x_{jB}]}$$

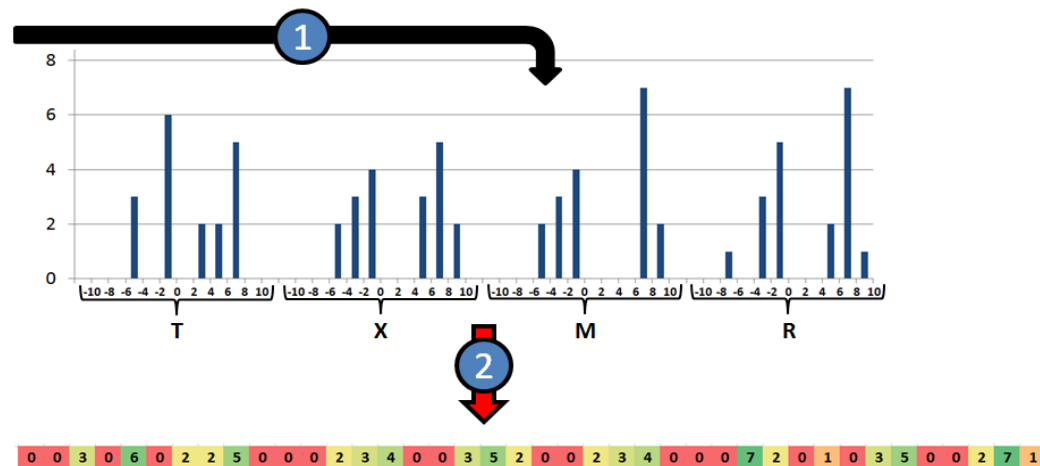
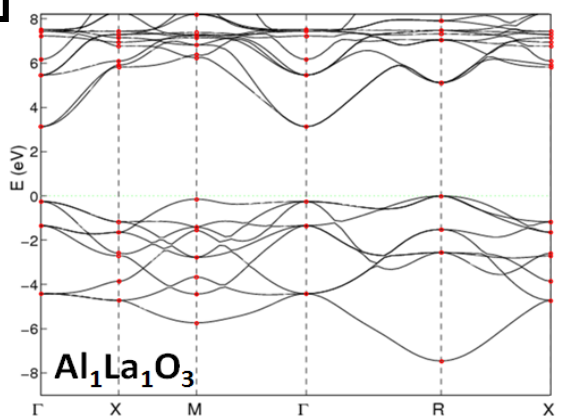
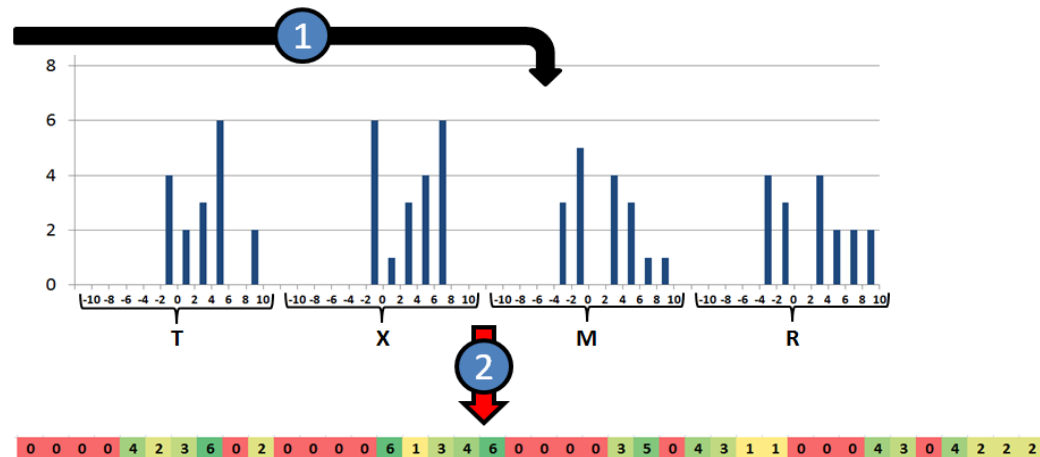
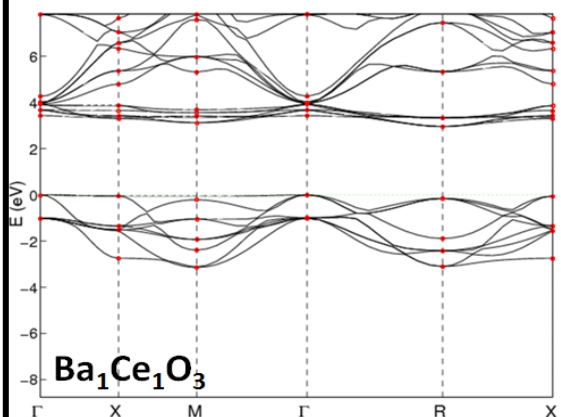
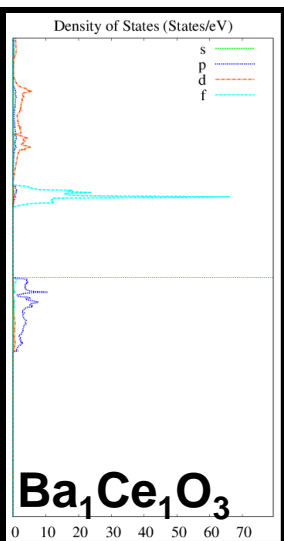
with  $x_j$  is the value of the  $j^{\text{th}}$  descriptor and  $n$  the total number of descriptors in the fingerprints. Tanimoto similarities are ranging from 0 (no similarity between materials A and B) to 1 (A and B are identical).



**Hierarchical clustering of 46 materials according to their fingerprints.**

**Cluster Analysis:** within a given cluster, analysis of physical/chemical/biological properties of materials

# Material Fingerprints



Materials fingerprints generated from electronic band structures computed with DFT. Band structures are transformed into band distribution plots (1) and then converted into materials fingerprints (2).

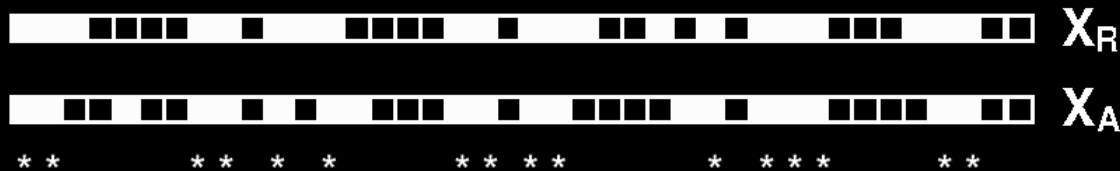
***Our fingerprints can also be computed from material's Density of State.***

# Similarity Search

Similarity searching using fingerprint representations of chemicals is one of the most widely used approaches for chemical database mining: it assumes that similar compounds possess similar biological activities.

reference material(s)  with known activity/toxicity

$R$



$A$

similarity assessment

Tanimoto Coefficient

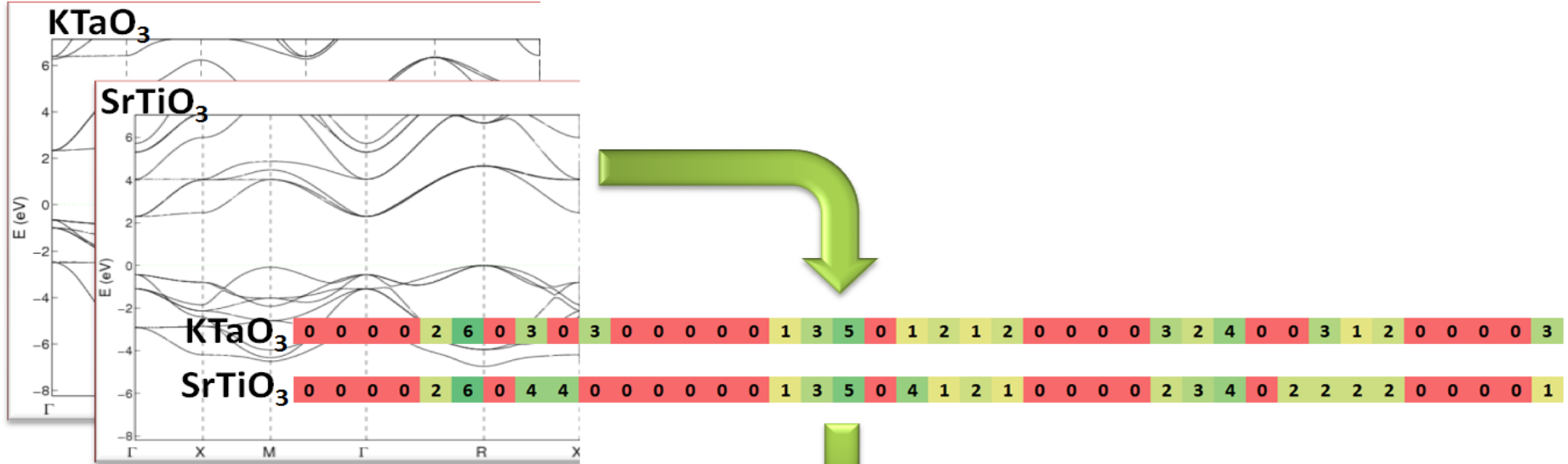
$$T_C(X_A, X_R) = \frac{c}{a + r - c}$$

Ranked list of materials

screening database of materials with unknown activity/toxicity



# Reprofiling materials with desired properties



TANIMOTO\_SIMILARITY ( $\text{KTaO}_3$ ,  $\text{SrTiO}_3$ ) = 0.74

BOTH COMPOUNDS ARE SIMILAR BASED ON THEIR BAND STRUCTURES

*“ $\text{KTaO}_3$  is a promising candidate for superconductivity induced by electrostatic doping because it is similar to the superconductor  $\text{SrTiO}_3$ : [...] have similar band structures, and both exhibit quantum para-electricity”*

**Ueno et al. Nature Nanotechnology, May 2011, Online Epub.**



# Future Plans

## Next Year Plans

- ***DONE*** - Calculate Fingerprints for all metal alloys (~17,000 different materials) stored in AFLOWLIB data base;
- Rank materials based on their similarity to the most toxic ones based on *in vitro* and *in vivo* experimental tests;
- New iteration of design/screening/test of carbon nanotubes with selective protein binding and low acute toxicity.

## Long-Term Plans

- Assemble a standard set of MNPs fingerprints to build predictive QNAR models;
- Collect all QNAR models and make them freely accessible on our Chembench webportal.

# Industrial Interactions and Technology Transfer

- **Duke University – Dr. Curtarolo**  
**DFT calculations for metal alloys**
- **Office of Naval Research – Development of Predictive Materials Fingerprints for designing materials with desired properties**
- ***In Progress* – NSF grant proposal for nanomaterials design (our group is looking for industrial partners)**

# Publications, Presentations, and Recognitions/Awards

- Grant awarded by Office of Naval Research (\$125k /year for 3 years)
- Fourches et al. Computer-Aided Design of Carbon Nanotubes with the Desired Bioactivity and Safety Profiles. *Nature Nanotechnology. Under Review.*
- SOT 2013 – Presentation entitled “Quantitative Nanostructure-Activity Relationships”
- MRS 2012 – Presentation entitled “Rational Design of (Nano)materials with the Desired Biological Properties Using Quantitative Structure-property Relationships (QSPR) Modeling”