

# Materials Discovery at Solvay

## Applying AI tools to 150 years of historical data

Jean Yves Delannoy - AI/ML/Simulation Manager - Research

07/12/2018





**SOLVAY**

asking more from chemistry®

# CORPORATE RESEARCH & INNOVATION

**WE ARE BUILDING A MODEL  
OF SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY  
TO MEET THE CHALLENGES  
OF SOCIETY**



**SOLVAY**

asking more from chemistry®

# WE ARE A MULTI-SPECIALTY CHEMICAL COMPANY



**24,500**  
employees<sup>1</sup>



**61**  
countries<sup>1</sup>



**124**  
industrial  
sites<sup>1</sup>



**21**  
major  
R&I centers<sup>1</sup>



**0.65**  
occupational accidents at  
Group sites per million  
hours worked<sup>2</sup>



**€ 10.1**  
billion of  
net sales<sup>1</sup>



**€ 2.2**  
billion of  
EBITDA<sup>1</sup>



**5.53**  
greenhouse gas  
intensity  
kg CO<sub>2</sub> eq. per € EBITDA

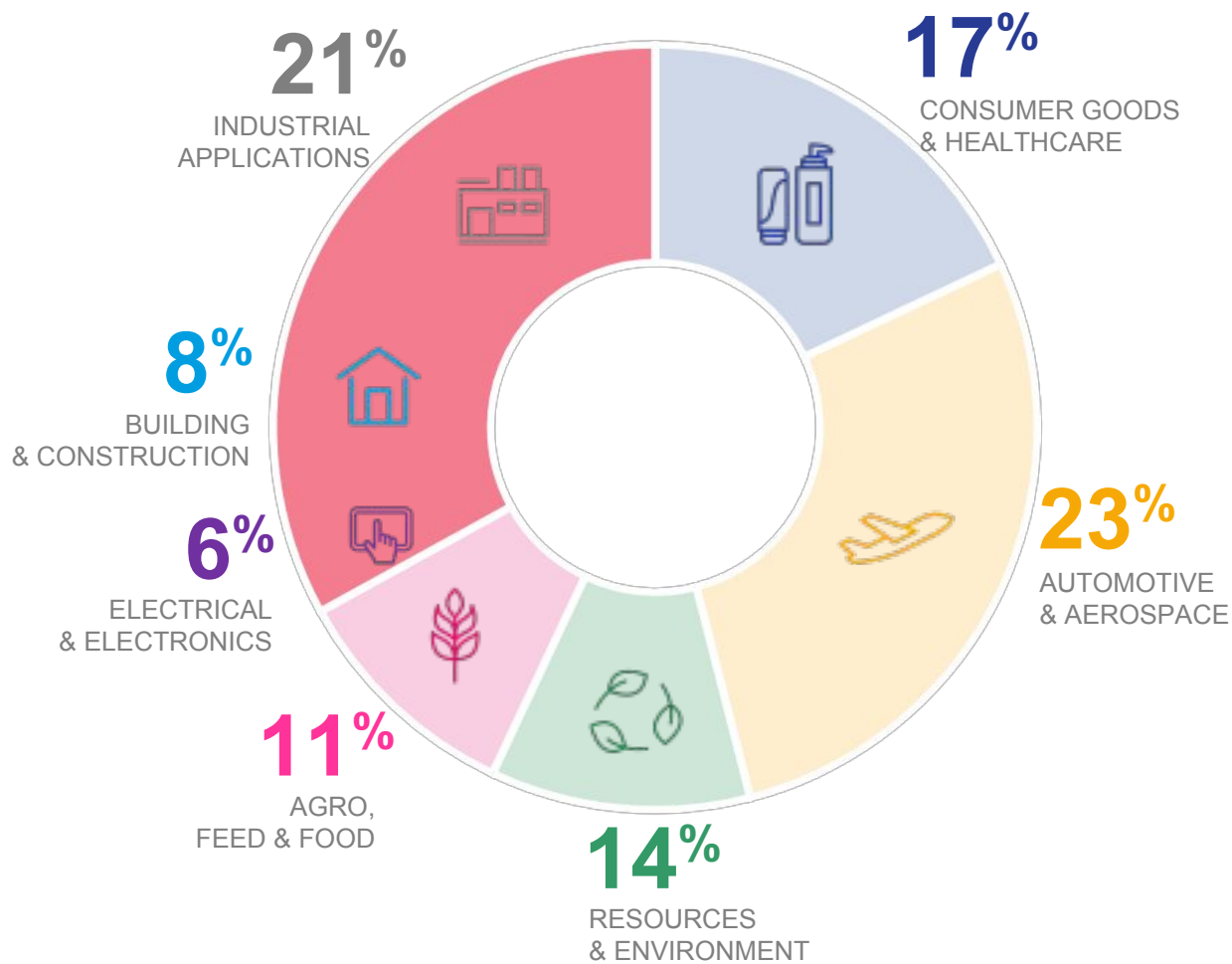


**49%**  
sustainable  
solutions  
Group net sales

1. 2017 underlying results
2. MTAR: Medical Treatment Accident Rate



# WE ADAPT OUR PRODUCT OFFERING TO FAST-EVOLVING MARKETS



Distribution of net sales

# SPIRIT OF INNOVATION

## Professor Ben Feringa

Laureate of the Chemistry for the Future in 2015, was awarded the 2016 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his groundbreaking work on molecular motors



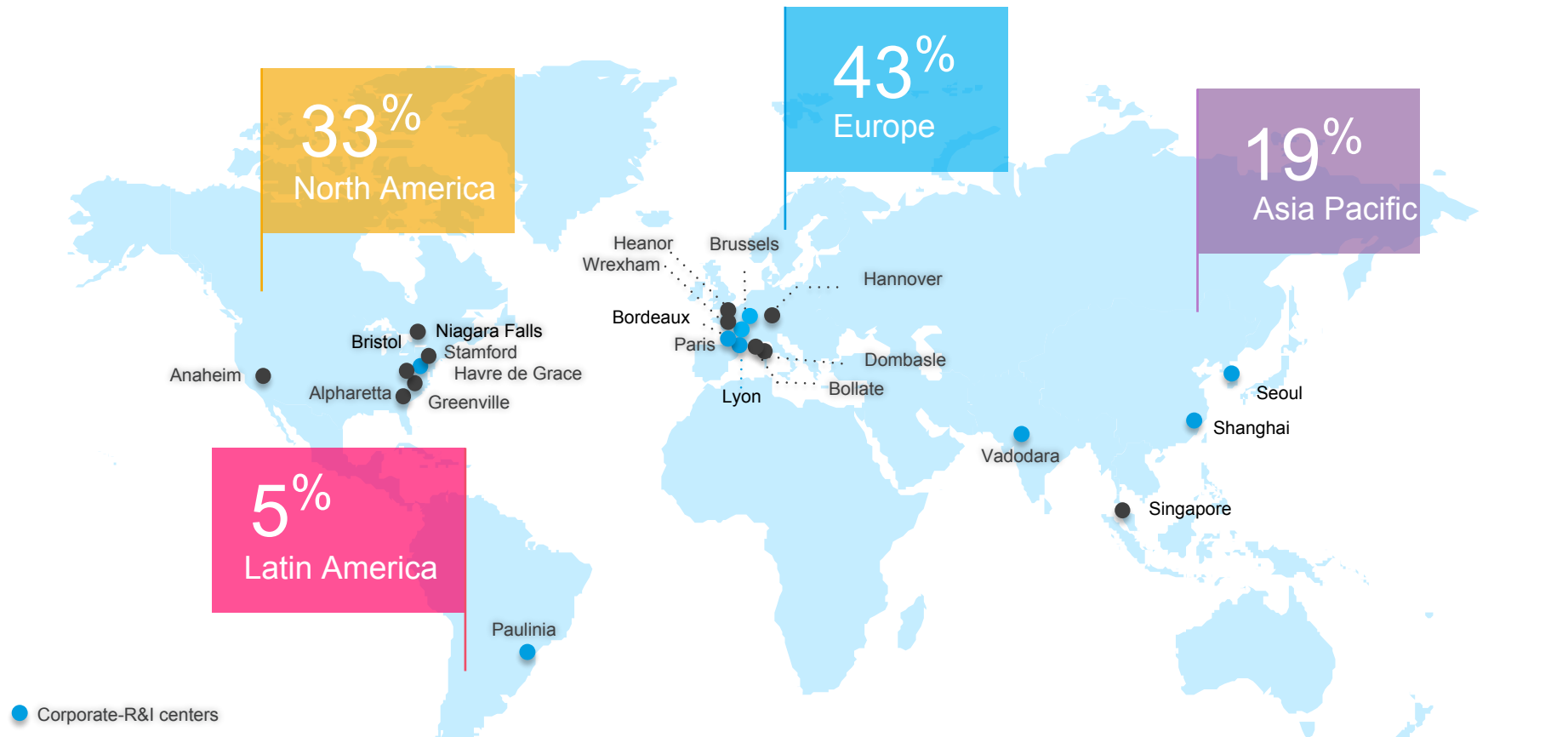
1911

Ernest Solvay established first prestigious meetings of top scientist as the Council of Physics

**First round-the-world solar flight**  
Solar Impulse 2 accomplished the first trip around the world without a single drop of fuel



# OUR GLOBAL R&I FOOTPRINT & EXPERTISES



## Fields of expertise

### Chemistry

Organic & inorganic chemistry, catalysis, nano-material synthesis, polymer synthesis

### Process

Chemicals engineering, environment, science, process safety, pilots

### Enabling technologies

Analysis, characterization simulation, digital, high throughput technologies & microfluidics

### Material science

Material processing

Soft matter & formulation

Biotechnology

# AUTOMOTIVE AND AEROSPACE

Cleaner  
mobility



## LIGHTWEIGHTING

Lightweight materials (high-performance polymers, advanced composite materials, etc.) for lighter vehicles (*SolvaLite™*, *Tegracore™*).

## POWERTRAIN EFFICIENCY

Products (fluorinated elastomers, polymers, etc.) improve the motor longevity (*Nocolok® Flux*, *Tecnoflon®*).

## ELECTRIFICATION

Flame-retardant materials and heat-resistant engineering plastics improve the lifespans of hybrid and electric vehicles (*Solef® PVDF*, *LiTFSI salts*, *Amodel® PPA*).

## GREEN TECHNOLOGIES

Catalytic materials and highly dispersible silica, limit polluting emissions and fuel consumption (*Premium SW*, *Optalys®*).



We help manufacturers meet the challenges of sustainable mobility.



# RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

*Affordable resources  
and environment protection*



Our proven expertise in the oil & gas, mining and energy sectors enables us to develop eco-friendly solutions.

## OIL AND GAS

- Solutions based on guar and on surfactants increase yields and limit the environmental impact of drilling.
- High-performance polymers (**Solef<sup>®</sup> PVDF**) for improved operating efficiency.

## MINING

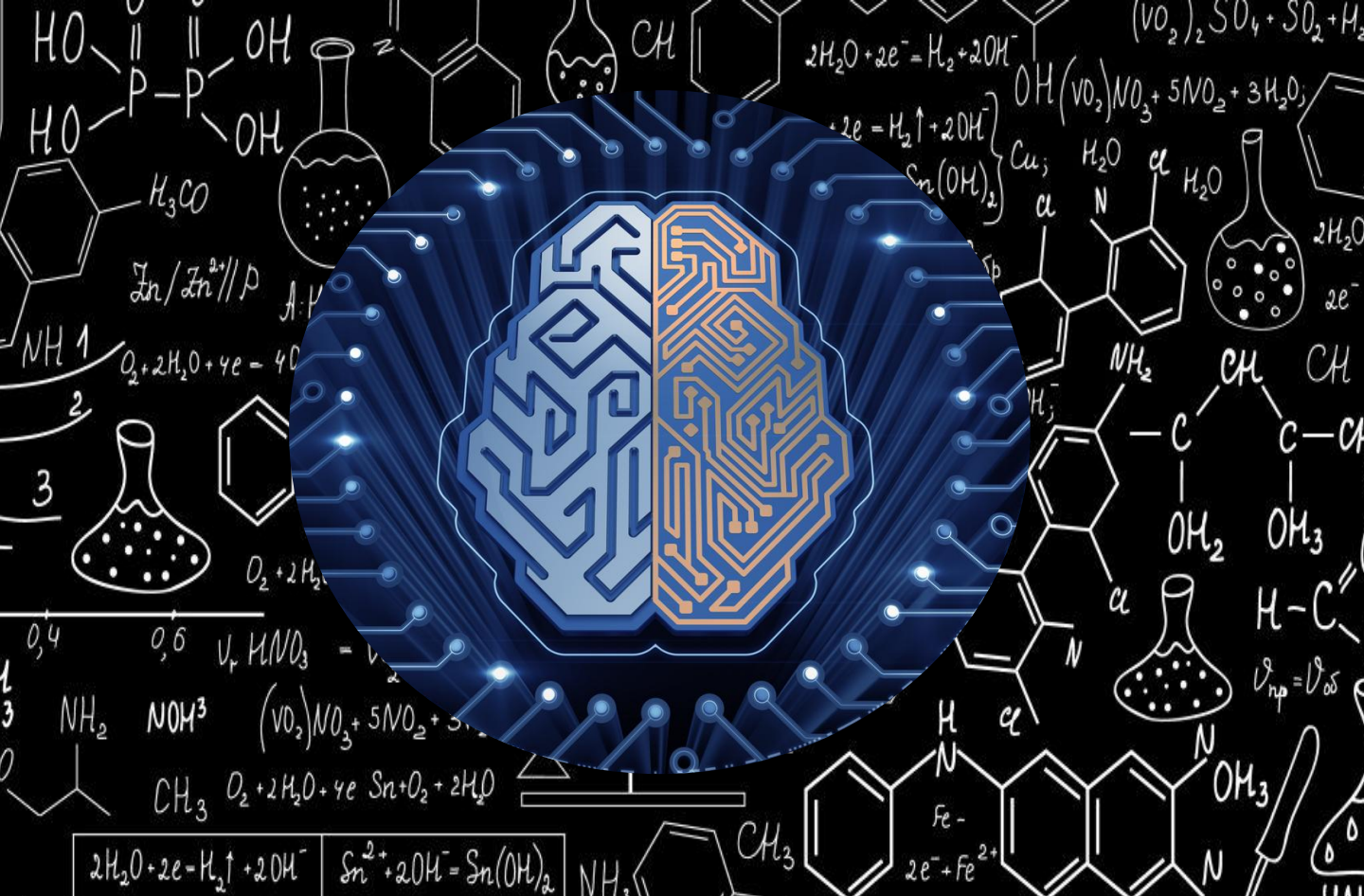
Chemical reagents improve customers' productivity and operating costs of the recovery of metals and minerals (**Interox<sup>®</sup>**).

## ENERGY SOLUTIONS

Products and technologies for producing and storing renewable energies, and improving energy efficiency (**Halar<sup>®</sup> ECTFE**, **LiTFSI salts**).

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Solutions for air and water treatment using filtration, gas separation, absorption, and chemical reactions (**Udel<sup>®</sup> PSU**, **Interox<sup>®</sup>**).
- Range of products and systems for controlling air emission and managing associated waste (**SOLVAIR Solutions<sup>®</sup>**).



# Materials Discovery at Solvay

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# Why is digital key for Solvay's innovation and what is our ambition?

## Why Digital?

Digital can affect or change drastically:

- Market analysis
- Competitive intelligence
- Data acquisition
- Data analysis
- Creation of knowledge
- Creation of new business models

## What is our ambition for R&I

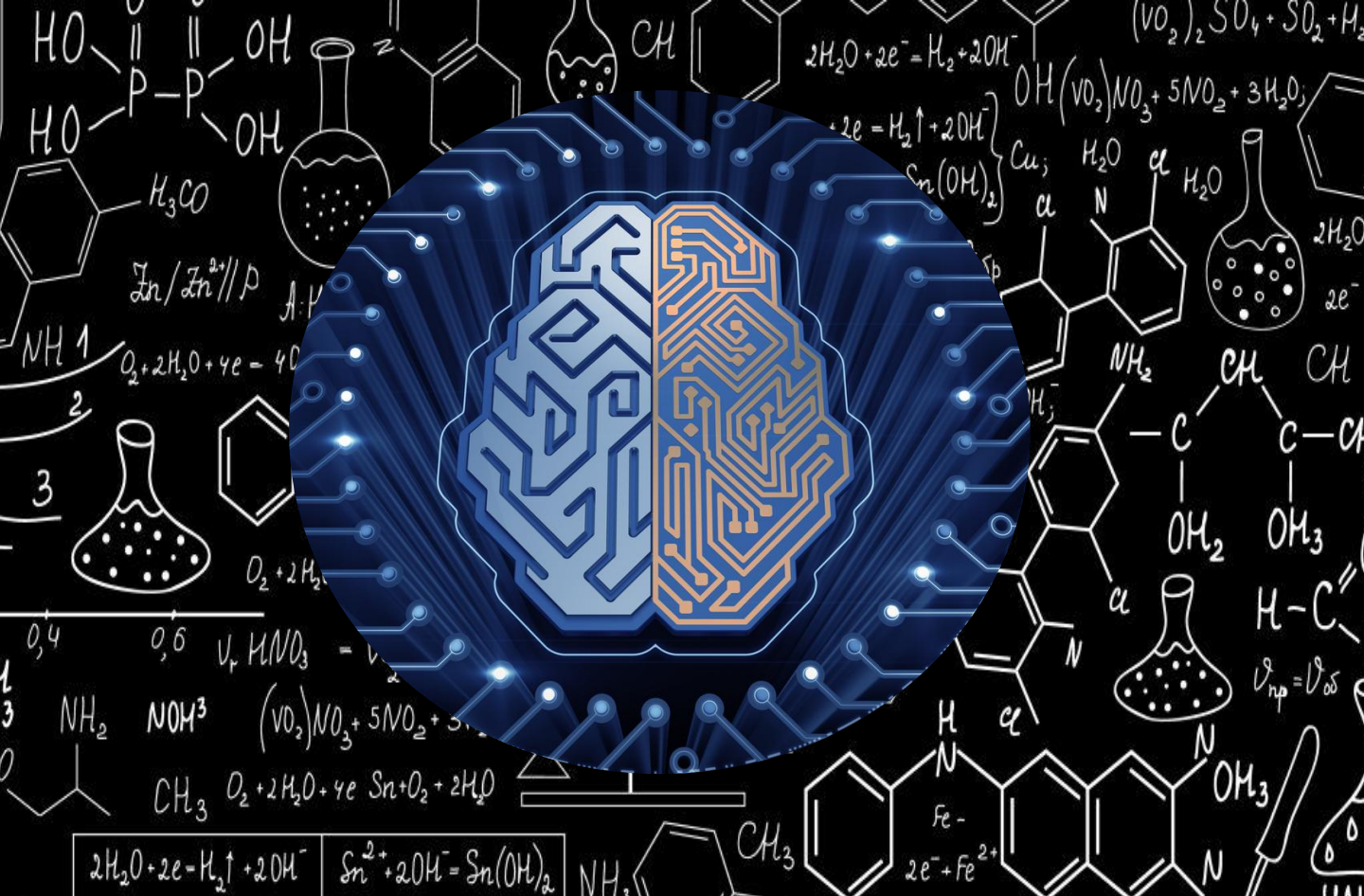
We want to:

- Create a step-change in our labs efficiency (more focused experiments, more simulations upfront, more productivity...)
- Transform the way we get information on literature and competitive intelligence
- Transform the way we interact with customers and create new business models
- Create knowledge by pulling more value through data analysis and AI

**Digital is a game changer in the way chemical companies can conduct their innovation.**

- ➡ We want to create a step change in the efficiency of our lab operations
- ➡ We want to transform the way we access and create information.
- ➡ We want to transform the way we generate value from data





# Avenues for Collaboration and developments



# What do we need to do ?

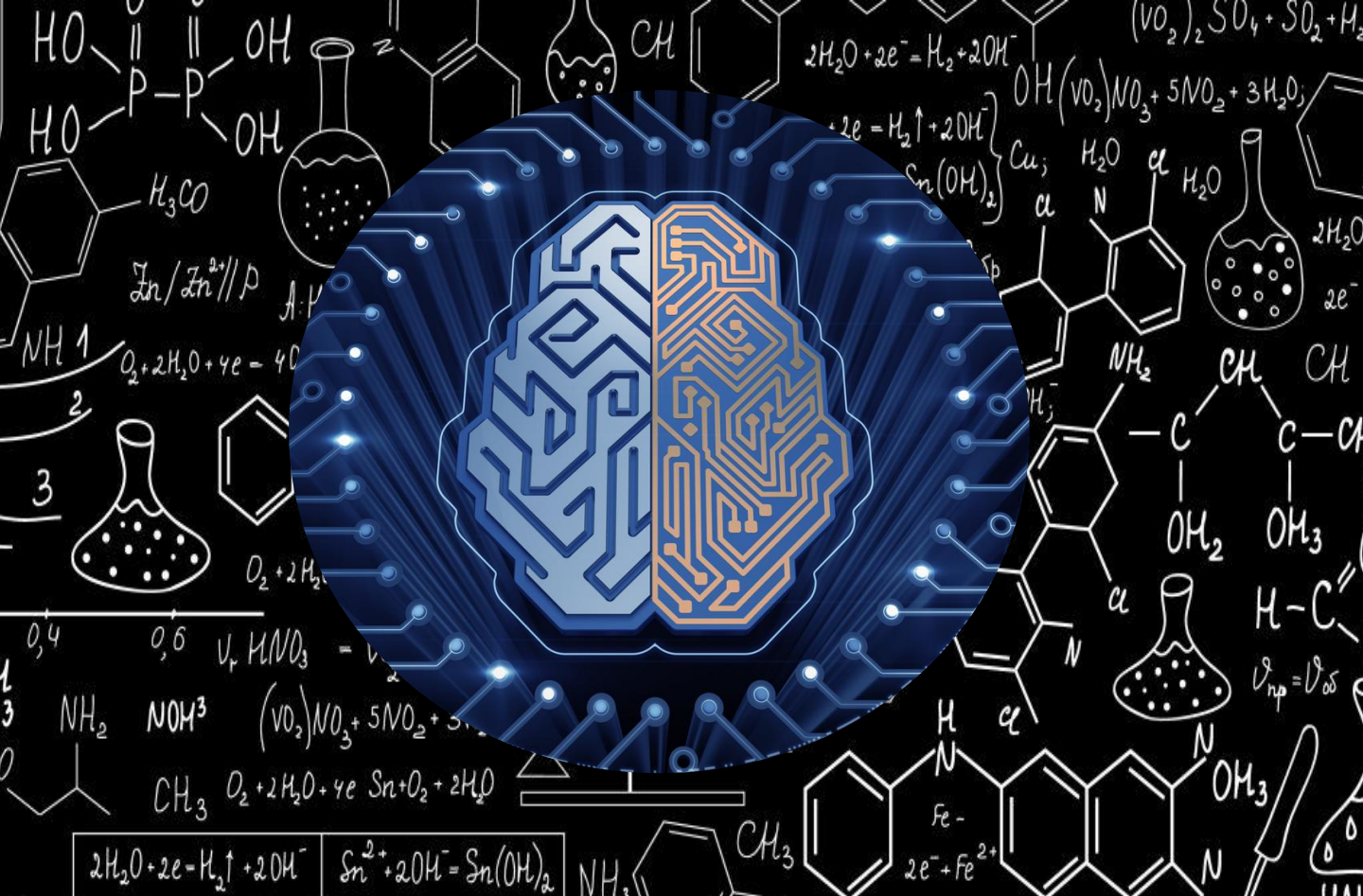
**In 5 years, every chemists will have on their bench a chatbot to suggest the next experiment**

## Materials and Energy using data analytics

- **Saving energy by reducing experiments.**
  - Leveraging from the Past
  - Preparing the future
  - Facilitating the use of data.
- **Saving energy by improving manufacturing efficiency**
- **Saving energy by improving materials**
  - Lightweighting
  - Improving Efficiency
  - Electrification & Batteries
  - Green Technologies

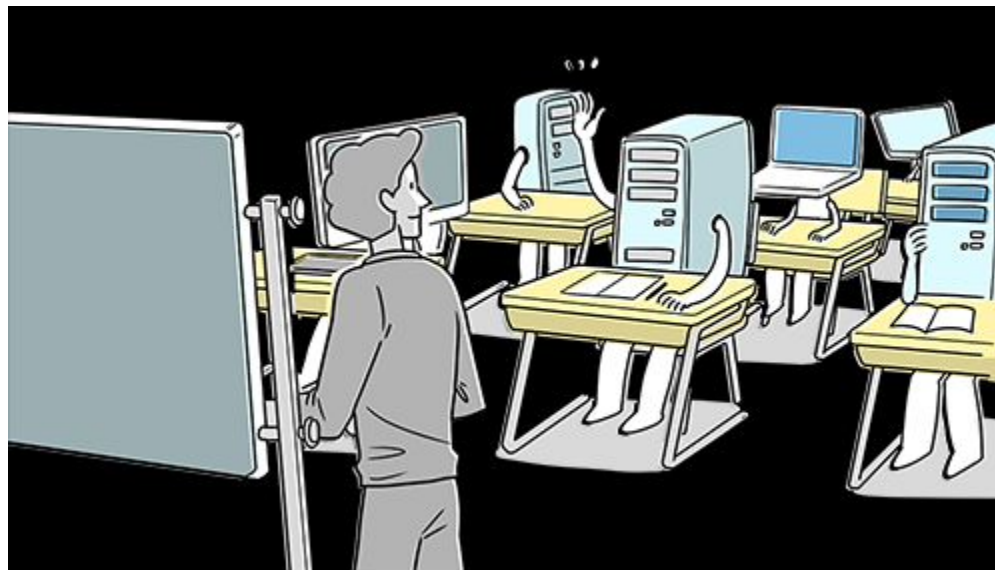
## Data Analytics and Data Management needs

- **Data Platform for democratization of data analytics**
- **Semantic Approach : Speaking Chemistry and Materials**
- **Development of new materials with more efficient properties.**
- **Development of Green/biodegradable materials**
- **Market Analysis (not discussed today)**
- **Manufacturing excellence (not discussed today)**



## Some realizations & some needs

# Machine Learning ?



# Data Platform for democratization of data analytics



# Data Platform for democratization of data analytics



The **technological bricks** necessary to get a democratic platform are :

- **Data Ingestion** : different data formats and recognition of chemical entities in different contexts  
⇒ Uniformization of experimental machine data format ?
- **Data Inspection & Cleaning (curation)**
- **Feature creation** : Automatic feature extraction and processing. This is where chemistry, material science or formulation expertise are involved. The platform should “understand” Chemistry and Materials.
- **Build & Evaluate Models** : Auto machine learning will be an option to speed up the work of non-data scientists when the previous steps are already known
- **Model Deployment** : it should be easy, when a model has been created, to transfer it onto an interface

⇒ This is a non competitive issue. help is welcomed

# Data Platform for democratization of data analytics



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following content:

- Address bar: C:/Projects/TDSP/Azure-TDSP-Utilities-master/DataScienceUtilities/Modeling/Regression/RegressionModelSelection.html
- Page title: RegressionModelSelection.html
- Navigation: Open in Browser, Find, Publish
- Table of Contents (left sidebar):
  - 0.1 Introduction (highlighted)
  - 0.2 Specify YAML parameter file for input data and modeling
  - 0.3 Input data, and splitting data into train/test
  - 0.4 Model training
  - 0.5 Model evaluation: Compare model accuracies of different algorithms, and examine variable importance
  - 0.6 Summary
- Main Content:
  - Section Header: **Automated Model training: Regression**
  - Author: SMART: R&I Centre Bristol
  - Date: June 26, 2018
  - Section Header: **0.1 Introduction**
  - Text: This R Markdown performs **exploratory** model training and evaluation for **regression** tasks using the **Caret package**, which has convenient functions for resampling, hyper-parameter sweeping, and model accuracy comparison. The user can use Caret with R machine learning packages (such as, **glmnet**, **RandomForest**, **xgboost**, etc.). We use these three algorithms with limited paraUsers can customize this template to create their own model training and evaluation process for linear regression tasks.



# Semantic Approach : Speaking Chemistry and Materials

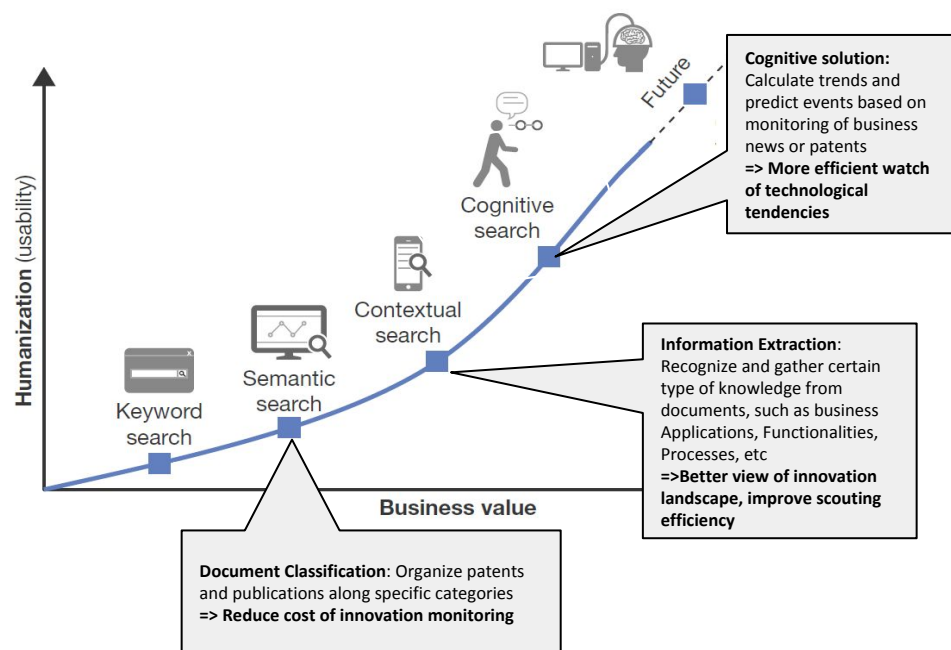
# Semantic Approach : Speaking Chemistry and Materials

- **The basics is not there :**

- How do we identify in a document
  - What is an Table
  - What is a graph.
  - What is a chemical formula ?
  - What is a picture ?
- How do we pre organize and structure unstructured data ?

- **Technological Bricks :** Building a cognitive tool requires

- choosing a Search Engine,
- adding concept Extractors
- Recognizing specific knowledge inside documents (locations, companies, people, compounds...).
- .... => We need to leverage on our history



- Internal documents
- Patents
- Publications
- ....

## Help is welcomed :

- ★ Systematically structure unstructured data
- ★ Digest large corpus and extract the key elements.
- ★ .....



**Development of new materials with more  
efficient properties.**

# Approach

literature,  
patents,  
websites, ...



## Text Mining Metal–Organic Framework Papers

Sanghoon Park,<sup>1</sup> Baekjun Kim,<sup>1</sup> Sihoon Choi,<sup>1</sup> Peter G. Boyd,<sup>2,3</sup> Berend Smit,<sup>2,3</sup> and Jihan Kim<sup>1,†</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), 291 Daehak-ro, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon 34141, Republic of Korea

<sup>2</sup>Laboratory of Molecular Simulation, Institut des Sciences et Ingénierie Chimiques, Valais, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Rue de l'Industrie 17, CH-1951 Sion, Switzerland

### Supporting Information

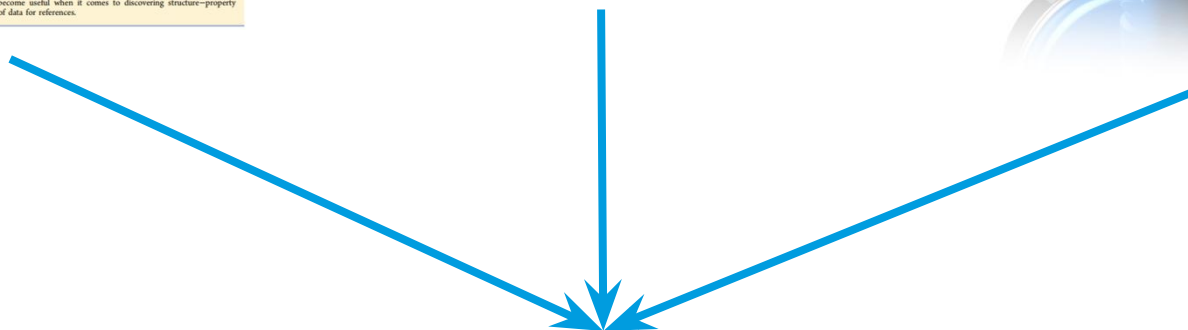
**ABSTRACT:** We have developed a simple text mining algorithm that allows us to identify surface area and pore volumes of metal–organic frameworks (MOFs) using manuscript html files as inputs. The algorithm searches for common units (e.g., m<sup>2</sup>/g, cm<sup>3</sup>/g) associated with these two quantities to facilitate the search. From the sample set data of over 200 MOFs, the algorithm managed to identify 90% and 88.8% of the correct surface area and pore volume values. Further application to a test set of randomly chosen MOF html files yielded 73.2% and 85.1% accuracies for the two respective quantities. Most of the errors stem from unorthodox sentence structures that made it difficult to identify the correct data as well as bolded notations of MOFs (e.g., 1a) that made it difficult to identify its real name. These types of tools will become useful when it comes to discovering structure–property relationships among MOFs as well as collecting a large set of data for references.



global  
(distributed)  
databases



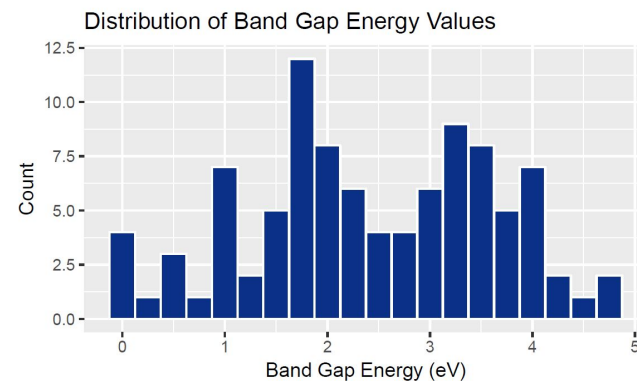
local  
data  
repositories



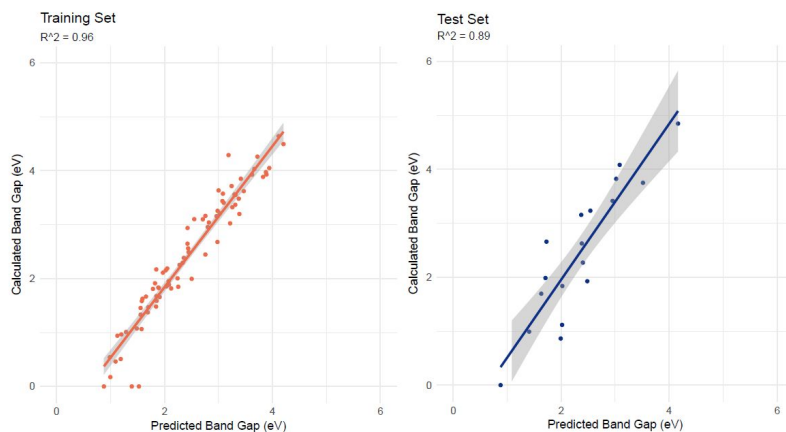
	composition	band_gap_energy	NComp	Comp_L2Norm	Comp_L3Norm	Comp_L5Norm	Comp_L7Norm	Comp_L10Norm
1	Ba4Ge8S20	0.462	3	0.65465367	0.59427569	0.57434918	0.57206915	0.50009757
2	Al4S8Sr2	1.951	3	0.6332496	0.55032121	0.4072336	0.50110867	0.5714844
3	Al8Ba2S14	2.17	3	0.65465367	0.59704846	0.57506503	0.55204476	0.5714844
4	Ag2Ga2S4	2.561	3	0.65465367	0.55032121	0.57506503	0.50411043	0.5714844
5	Cu4S8Y4	0	3	0.65465367	0.53860867	0.57506503	0.57206915	0.50009757

# QDots: Band Gap Energy

- **Problem** : Modeling DFT Calculations using Random Forests
- **Approach**
  - Data
    - Wein2k dataset
    - DFT calculation results for 97 compounds
    - endpoint of interest = band gap energy
  - Features
    - 145 features calculated / molecule using *Magpie* (Materials Agnostic Platform for Informatics and Exploration)
    - 37 features / molecule retained following feature curation
  - Model = Random Forest



- **Results**



Very Predictive Models that can be combined with DFT to understand the microscopic origin  
=> Approach to generalize

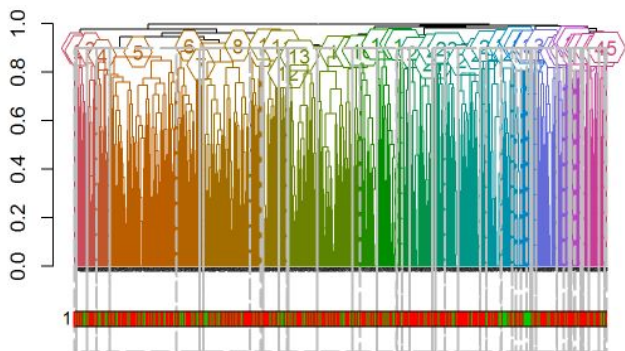
# Development of Green/biodegradable materials

# Development of Green/biodegradable materials

- **Question** : How can predict if a new molecule is gonna be biodegradable ?

- **Approach**

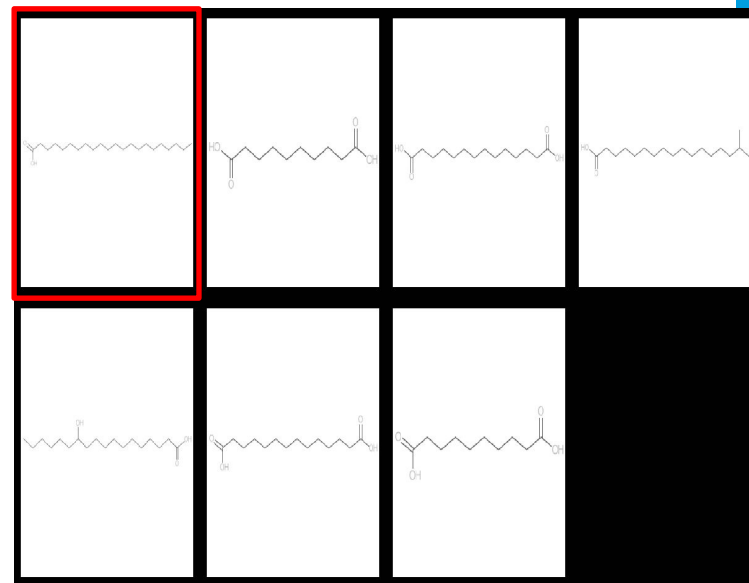
- Internal developments.
- Data collection combined public and internal databases
- Use of **Similarities** and **clustering**



- **Results**

- Simple connection/correlation established
- Recommendations to researchers when dealing with new, or untested molecules.

Non-biodeg

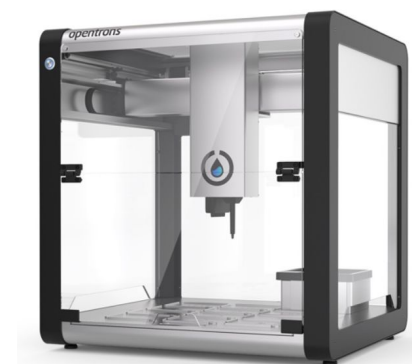


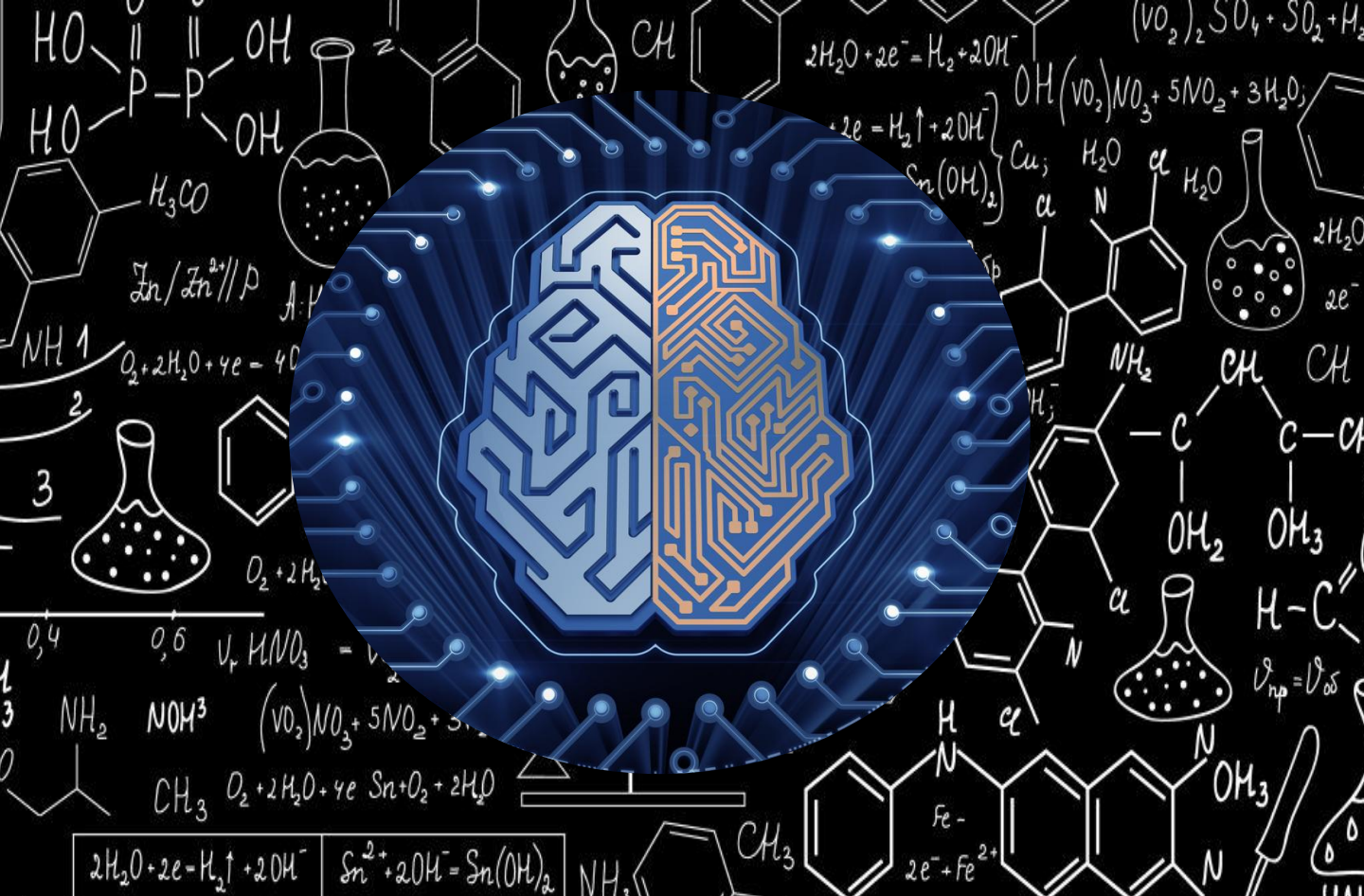


## Our Needs

# Needs

- **Needs of a Digital Platform that speaks Materials and Chemistry**
- **Needs in Data Sources**
  - Access to more literature data
  - Uniformization of Data sources (from experiments)
  - Trustable repository of public data.
  - Semantic developments
- **Needs to develop Iterative learning**
  - Connect experiments to Data analytics tools
  - Improve robotization and automatization.
  - Connect more molecular modeling with Data analytics to improve understanding.
- **Work on non competitive issues like sustainability**





## Conclusions

# Conclusions

- Data transformation is a **key enabler** for the future of Solvay
- Some projects are confidential and deal with IP protected Data but there is room for improvement in many aspects of **competences developments** :
  - Data Platform
  - Semantic Approach : Speaking Chemistry and Materials
  - Uniformization of Data format or Development of universal translators
- Our ambition is to use data to develop **better and more sustainable materials**.