

# Inferring missing molecules in incomplete chemical equations

—  
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*IBM Research Europe – Zurich, Switzerland*



@acvaucher

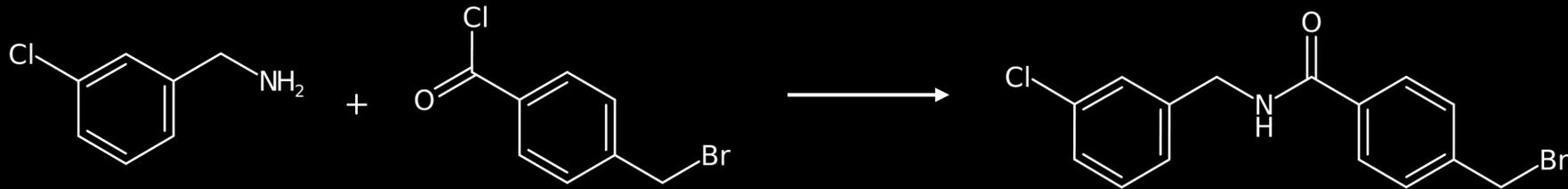
*ACS Fall 2021  
August 22, 2021*



# Background – IBM RXN

# Reaction prediction

Background: 1/6



## Textual representation (SMILES)

NCc1cccc(Cl)c1

O=C(Cl)c1ccc(CBr)cc1

O=C(NCc1cccc(Cl)c1)c1ccc(CBr)cc1

## “Sentence of atoms”

NCc1cccc(Cl)c1.O=C(Cl)c1ccc(CBr)cc1

“Translation”

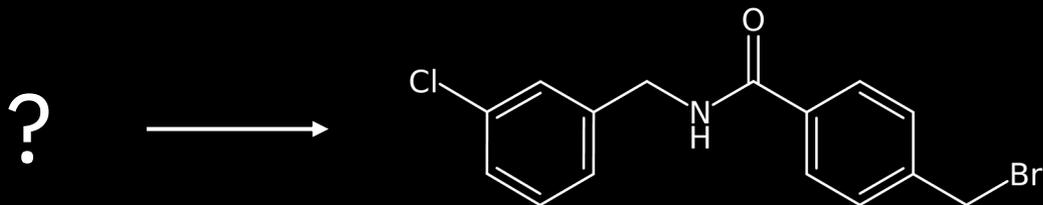
O=C(NCc1cccc(Cl)c1)c1ccc(CBr)cc1

Molecular Transformer

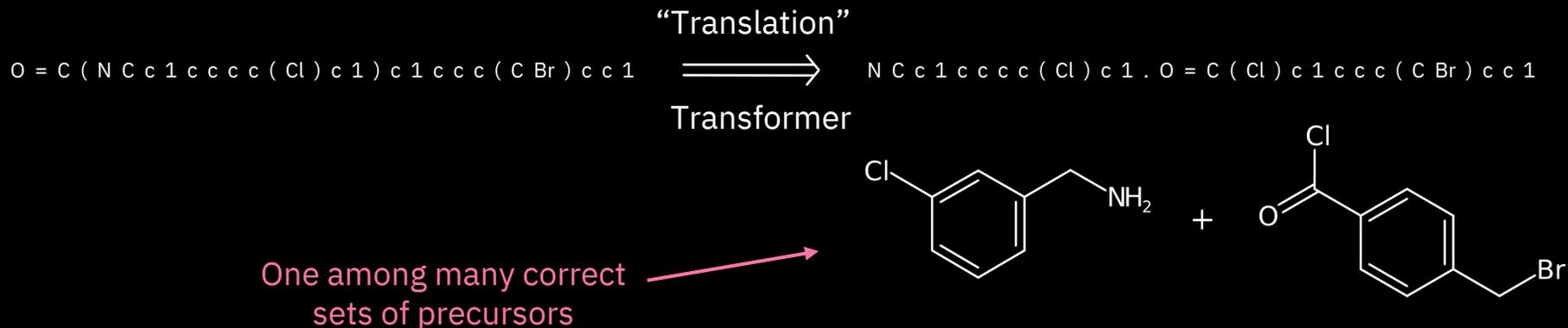
Schwaller, P.; Laino, T.; Gaudin, T.; Bolgar, P.; Hunter, C. A.; Bekas, C. & Lee, A. A., *ACS Cent. Sci.*, **2019**, 5, 1572-1583.

# Retrosynthetic analysis

Background: 2/6



Similar approach, both sides switched



Schwaller, P.; Petraglia, R.; Zullo, V.; Nair, V. H.; Haeuselmann, R. A.; Pisoni, R.; Bekas, C.; Iuliano, A. & Laino, T., *Chem. Sci.*, **2020**, *11*, 3316-3325.

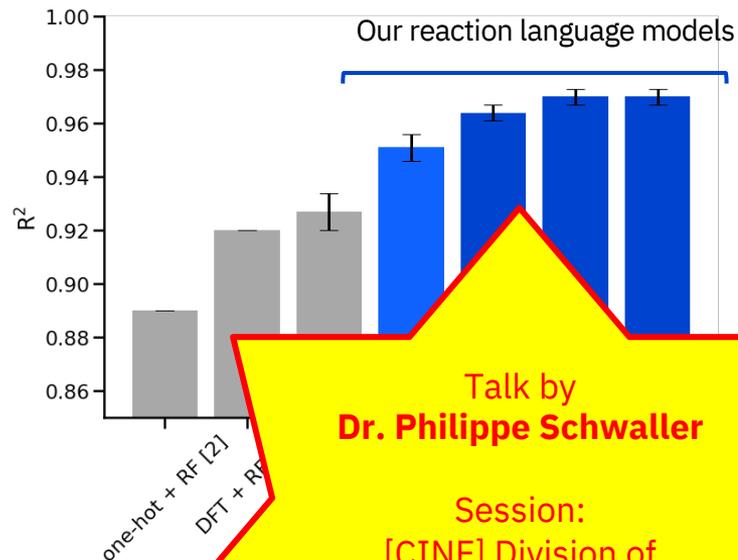
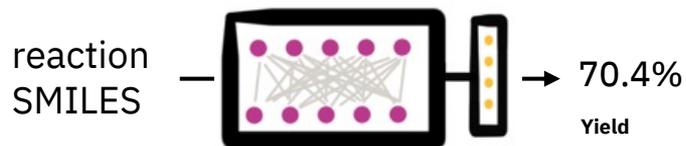
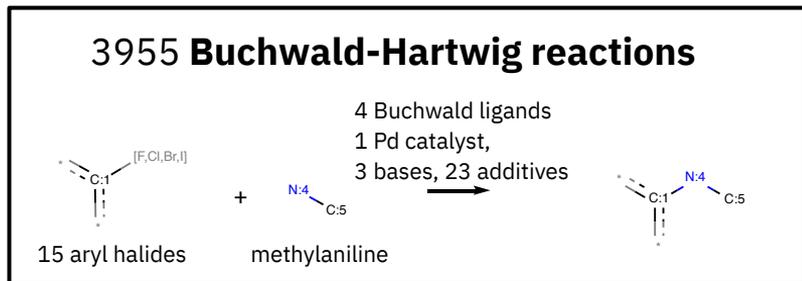
# Classifying and mapping reactions

Background: 3/6

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing the URL `rxn4chemistry.github.io/rxnfp/tmaps/tmap_ft_10k.html`. The main content area is mostly blank, with a cursor visible. In the bottom right corner, there is a legend panel titled "Legend" with a "Superclass" dropdown menu. The legend lists 10 reaction classes, each with a colored square next to its name:

- 1 - Heteroatom alkylation and arylation (purple)
- 2 - Acylation and related processes (blue)
- 3 - C-C bond formation (cyan)
- 5 - Protections (teal)
- 6 - Deprotections (light green)
- 7 - Reductions (green)
- 8 - Oxidations (yellow)
- 9 - Functional group interconversion (FGI) (orange)
- 10 - Functional group addition (FGA) (red)

Schwaller, P.; Probst, D.; Vaucher, A. C.; Nair, V. H.; Kreutter, D.; Laino, T. & Reymond, J.-L., *Nat. Mach. Intell.*, **2021**, 3, 144-152.



Talk by  
**Dr. Philippe Schwaller**

Session:  
[CINF] Division of  
Chemical Information

**Sunday, August 22,  
5.15 pm (ET)**

[1] Ahneman, D. T., Estrada, J. G., Lin, S., Dreher, S. D. & Doyle, A. G. Predicting reaction performance in C–N cross-coupling using machine learning. *Science* **360**, 186–190 (2018).

[2] Chuang, K. V. & Keiser, M. J. Comment on “Predicting reaction performance in C–N cross-coupling using machine learning”. *Science* **362** (2018).

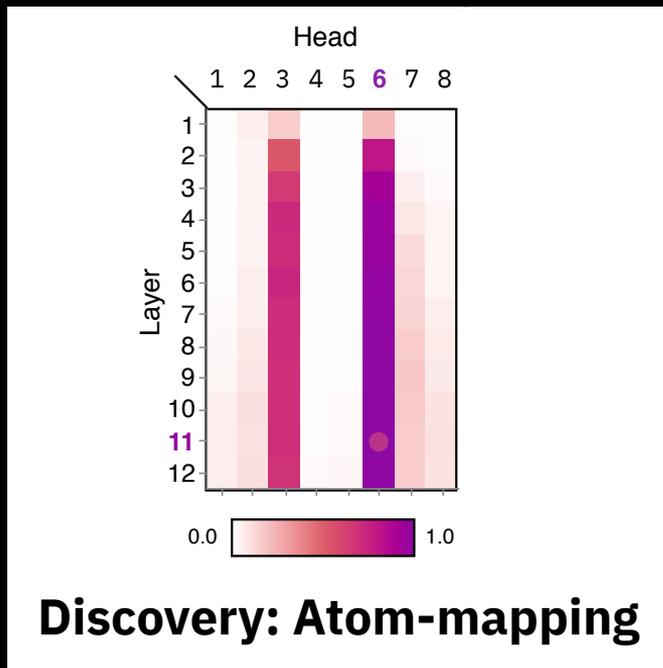
[3] Sandfort, F., Strieth-Kalthoff, S. & Schwaller, P. A platform for predicting chemical reaction yields using deep learning.

[4] Schwaller, P., Vaucher, A. C., Laino, T. & Reymond, J.-L. Predicting chemical reaction yields using deep learning. *ChemRxiv preprint* (2021).

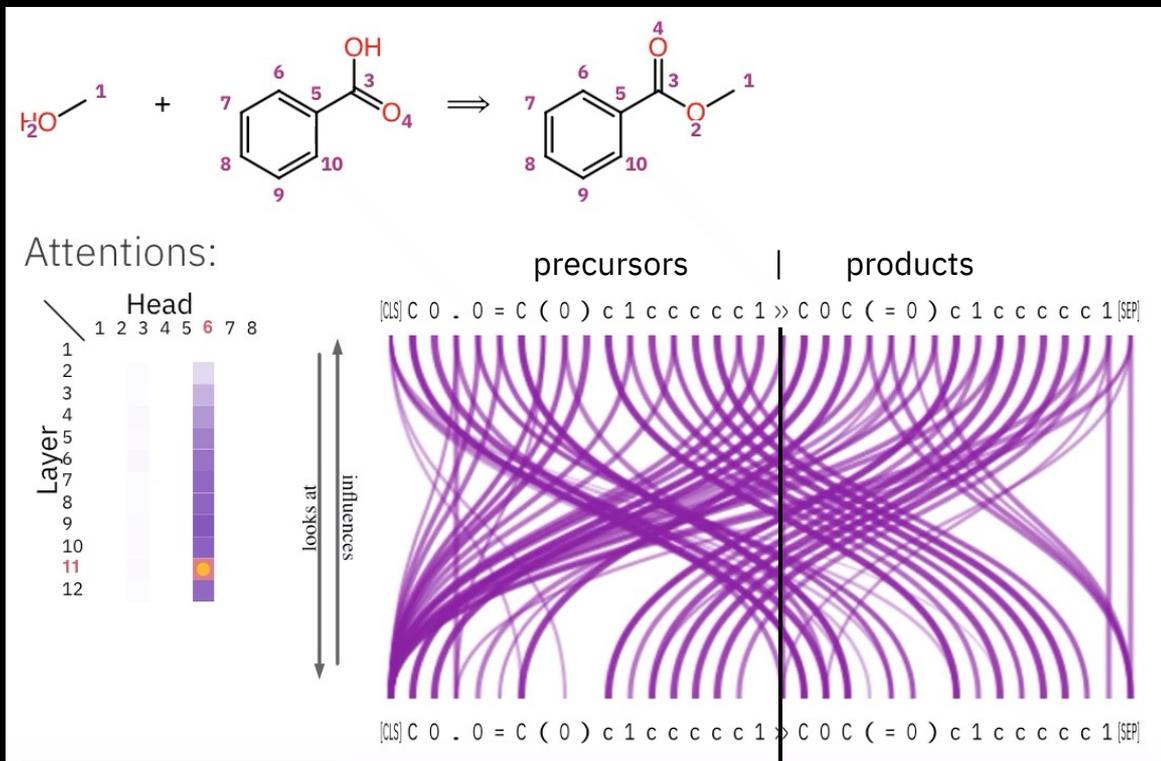
Schwaller, P.; Vaucher, A. C.; Laino, T. & Reymond, J.-L., *Mach. Learn.: Sci. Technol.*, **2021**, 2, 015016.

# Atom mapping: RXNMapper

Background: 5/6



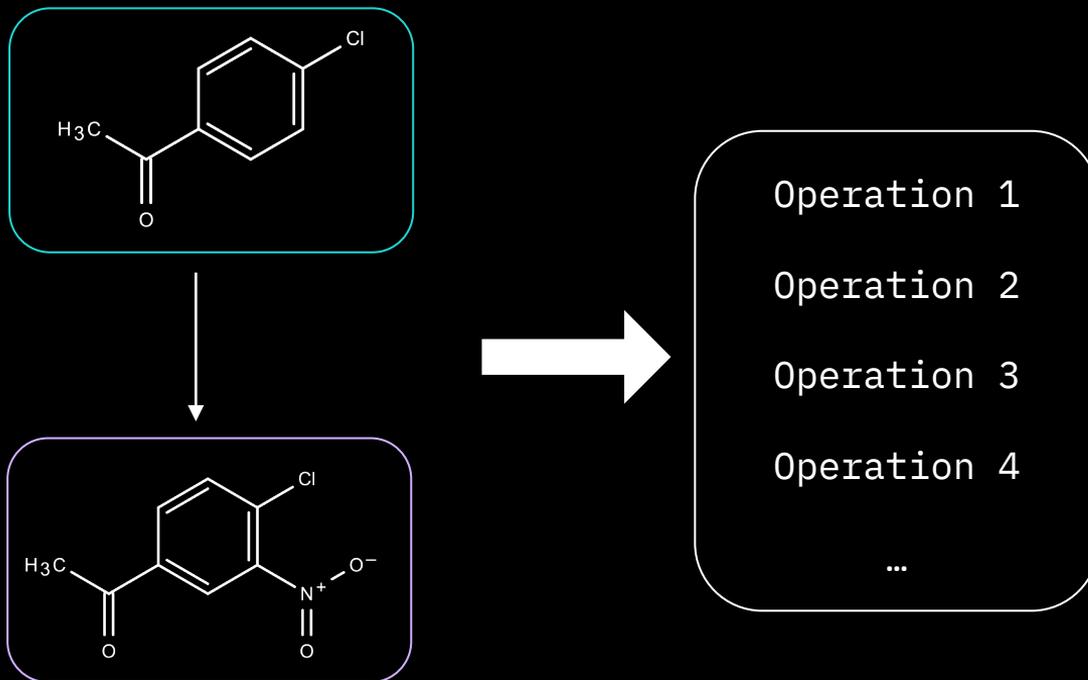
## Discovery: Atom-mapping



Schwaller, P.; Hoover, B.; Reymond, J.-L.; Strobel, H. & Laino, T., *Sci. Adv.*, **2021**, *7*, eabe4166.

# Synthesis actions & synthesis automation

Background: 6/6



```
C1=CC(C(=O)C)=CC=C1Cl1>>C1=CC(C(=O)C)=CC([N+]( [O-] )=O)=C1Cl1
```

Vaucher, A. C.; Schwaller, P.; Gelykens, J.; Nair, V. H.; Iuliano, A.; Laino, T., *Nat. Commun.*, **2021**, *12*, 2573.

# Synthesis actions & synthesis automation

Background: 6/6



Talk by  
**Dr. Teodoro Laino**

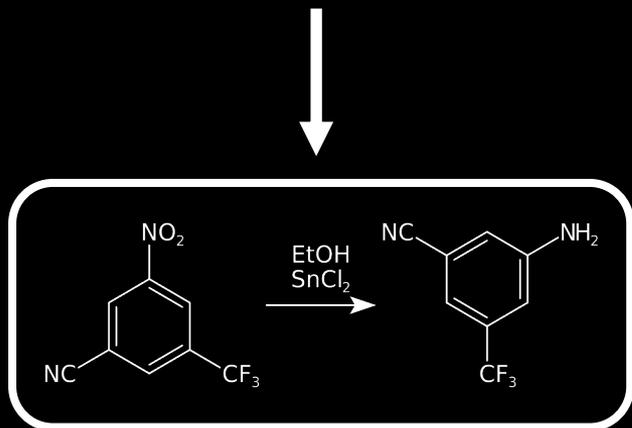
Session:  
[ENFL] Division of  
Energy and Fuels

**Monday, August 23,  
10.30 am (ET)**

# Completion of partial chemical equations

# Motivation: predictions on reactions

Forward reaction prediction,  
retrosynthetic analysis, ...



## Reaction class

Nitro to amino

*Schwaller et al., Nat. Mach. Intell., 2021, 3, 144-152.*

## Reaction yield

87.1% yield

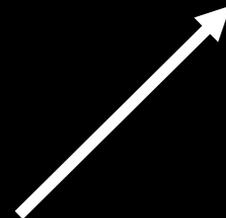
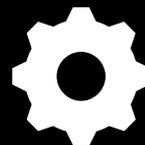
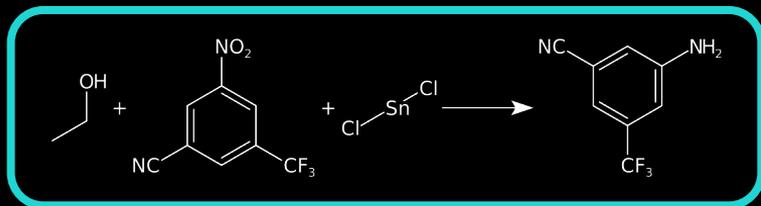
*Schwaller et al., Mach. Learn.: Sci. Technol., 2021, 2, 015016.*

## Synthesis actions

1. Add 3-nitro-5-(trifluoromethyl)benzonitrile
2. Add SnCl<sub>2</sub>
3. Add ethanol
4. Reflux for 1 hour
5. Concentrate
6. Add ethyl acetate
7. Add NaHCO<sub>3</sub>
8. Filter
9. Collect organic layer
10. Wash with brine
11. Dry with MgSO<sub>4</sub>
12. Concentrate

*Vaucher et al., Nat. Commun., 2021, 12, 2573.*

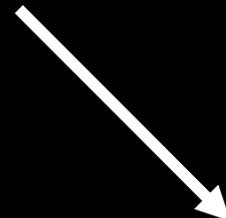
# Motivation: predictions on reactions



**Reaction class**

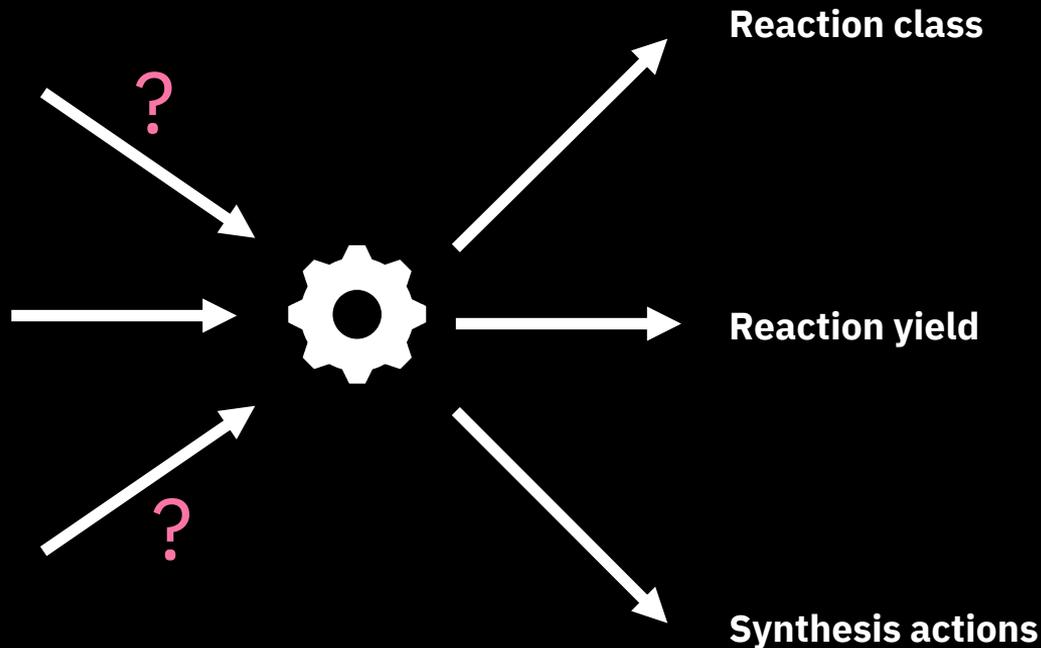
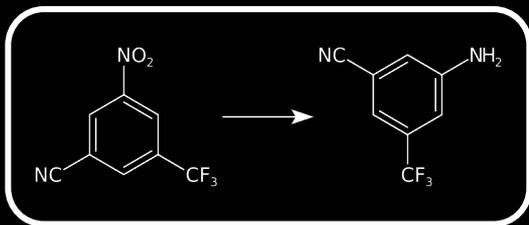
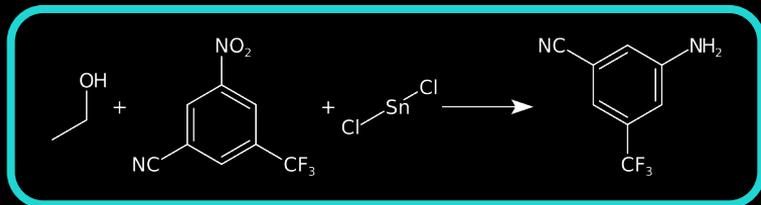
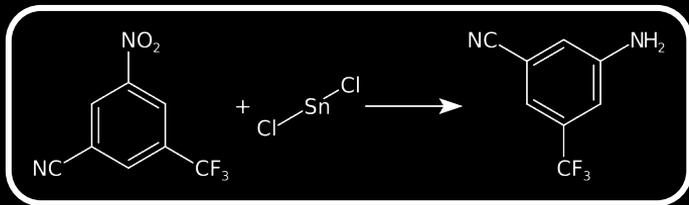


**Reaction yield**

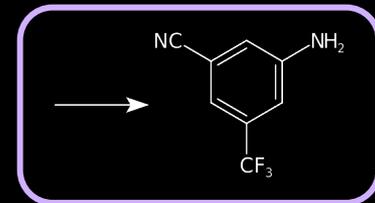
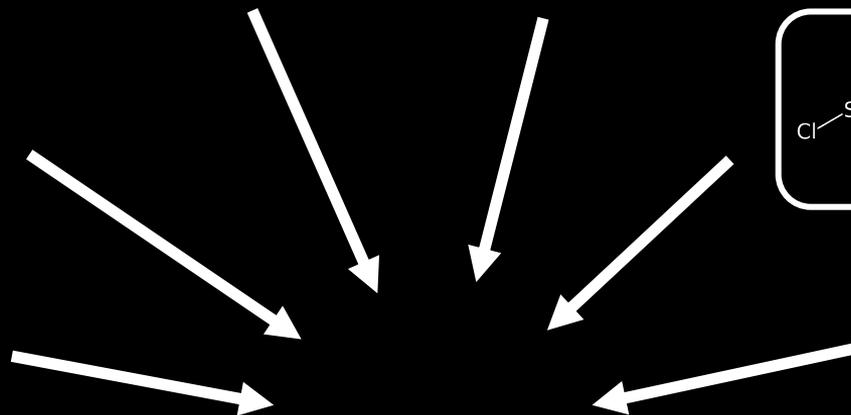
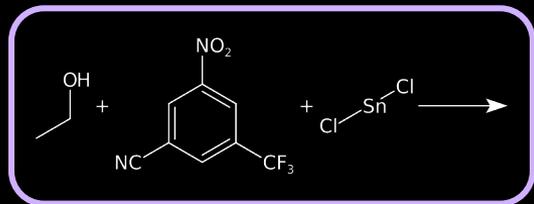
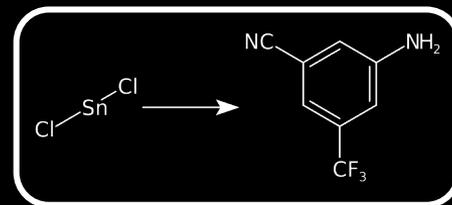
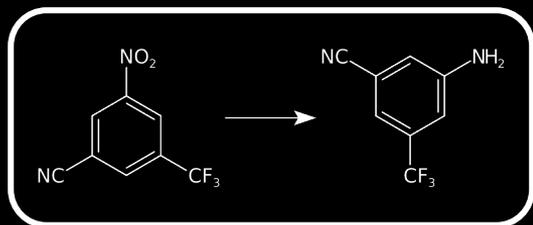
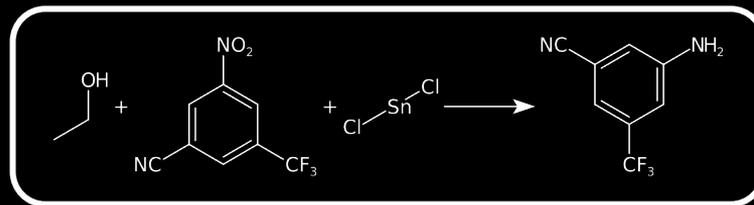
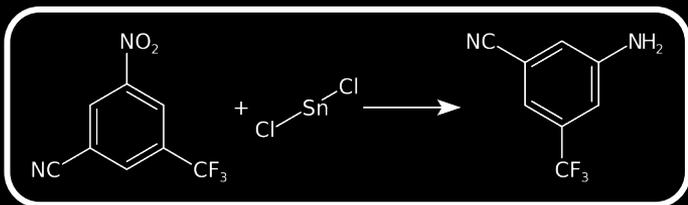


**Synthesis actions**

# Motivation: predictions on reactions

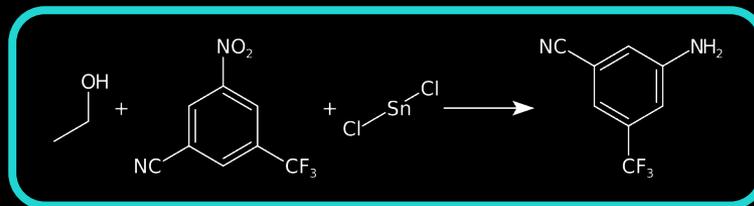


# Completing partial chemical equations



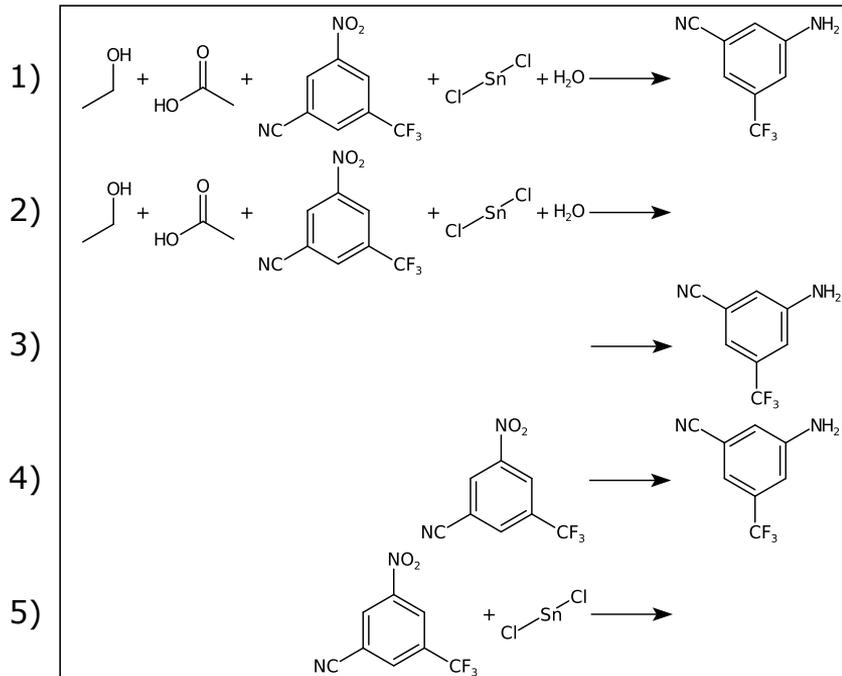
**Forward reaction prediction**

**Single-step retrosynthesis**

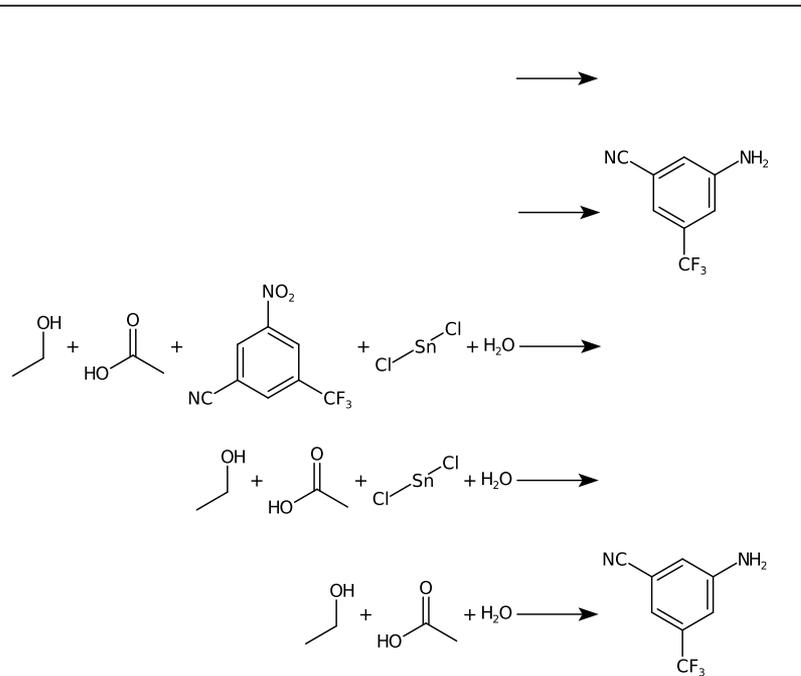


# Completing partial reaction equations

## Partial reaction equation



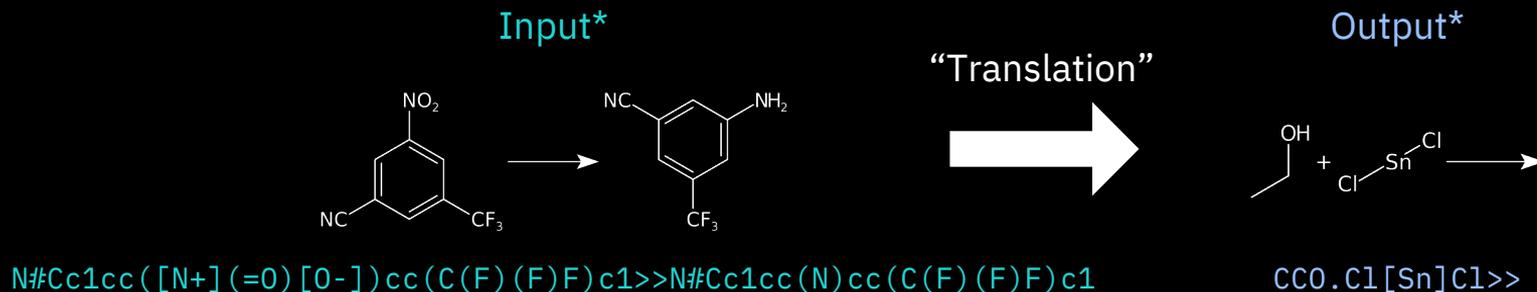
## Missing molecules



# Machine learning model

## Inspired by the **Molecular Transformer**

Schwaller, P.; Laino, T.; Gaudin, T.; Bolgar, P.; Hunter, C. A.; Bekas, C. & Lee, A. A., *ACS Cent. Sci.*, **2019**, 5, 1572-1583.

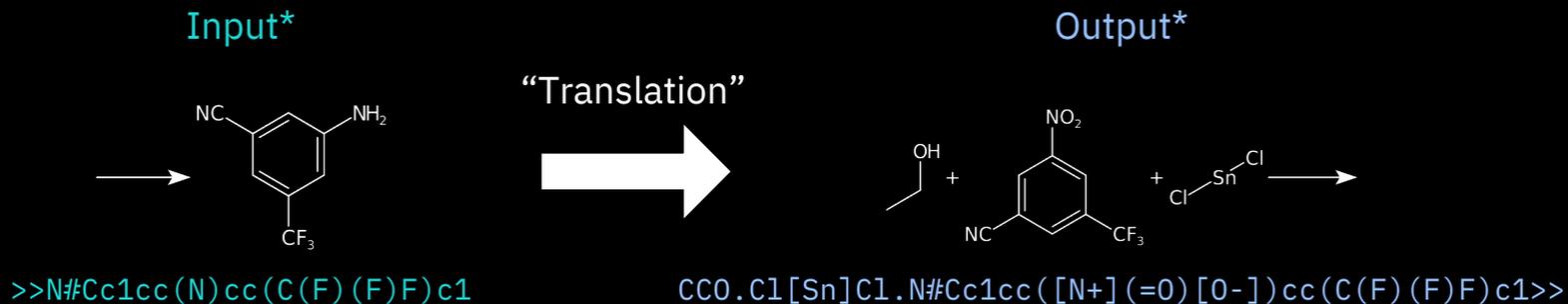


\*Not shown here for readability: the Model uses tokenized SMILES strings: “CCO.Cl[Sn]Cl>>” → “C C O . Cl [Sn] Cl >>”

# Machine learning model

## Inspired by the **Molecular Transformer**

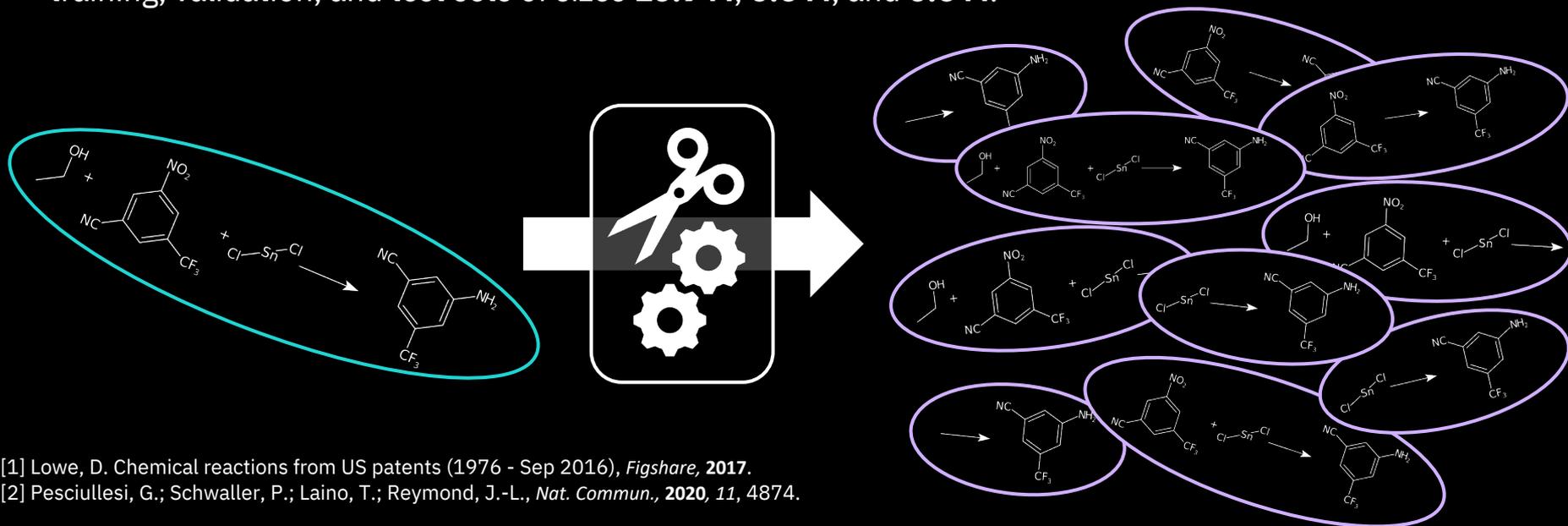
Schwaller, P.; Laino, T.; Gaudin, T.; Bolgar, P.; Hunter, C. A.; Bekas, C. & Lee, A. A., *ACS Cent. Sci.*, **2019**, 5, 1572-1583.



\*Not shown here for readability: the Model uses tokenized SMILES strings: “CCO.Cl[Sn]Cl>>” → “C C O . Cl [Sn] Cl >>”

# Data

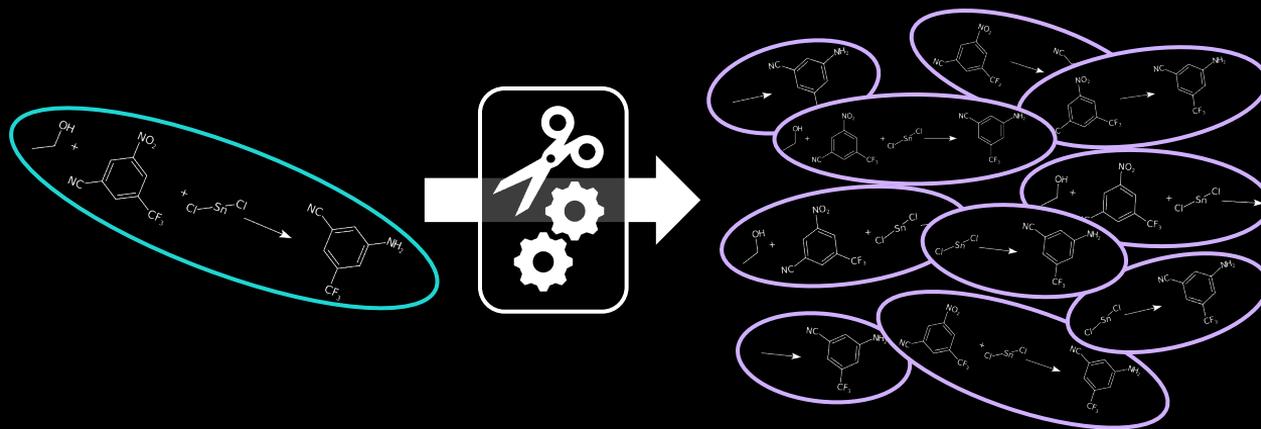
- US patent reactions (from Ref. [1]), as post-processed by Ref. [2].
- 10** partial reaction SMILES per reaction.
- training, validation, and test sets of sizes **10.9 M**, **0.6 M**, and **0.6 M**.



[1] Lowe, D. Chemical reactions from US patents (1976 - Sep 2016), *Figshare*, **2017**.

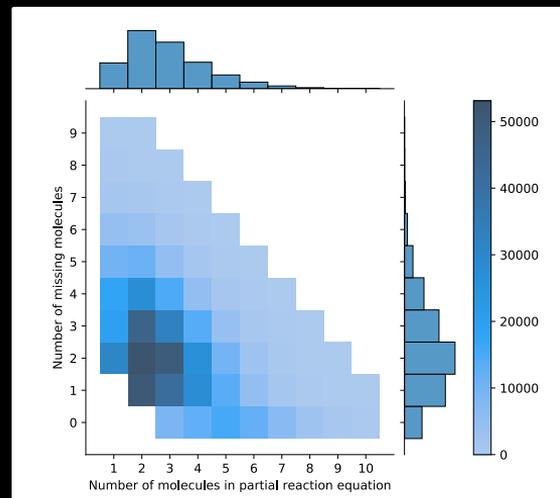
[2] Pesciullesi, G.; Schwaller, P.; Laino, T.; Reymond, J.-L., *Nat. Commun.*, **2020**, *11*, 4874.

# Data

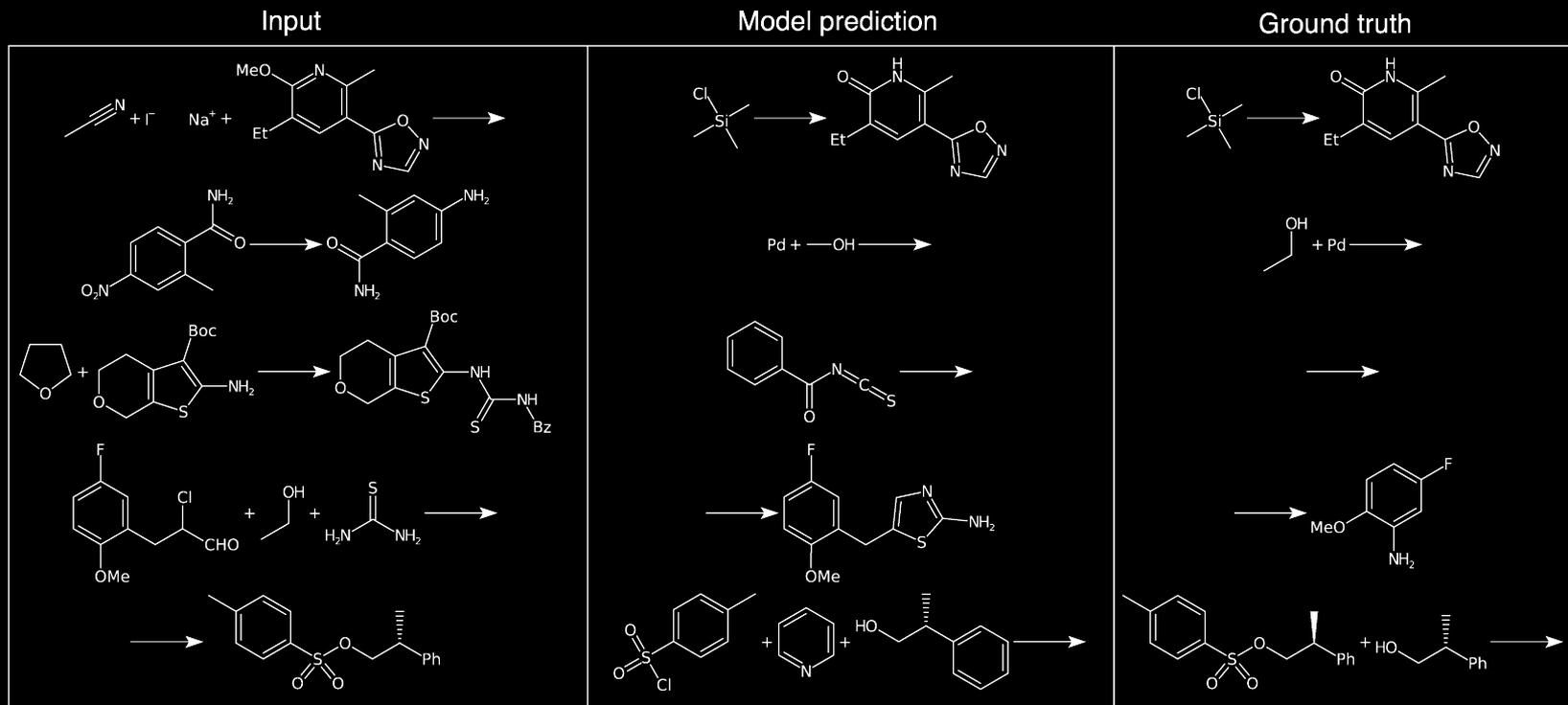


## Challenges:

- Adequate **balance** between sub-tasks
- **How many** compounds to remove
- **Ambiguity** (many correct answers)
- Etc.

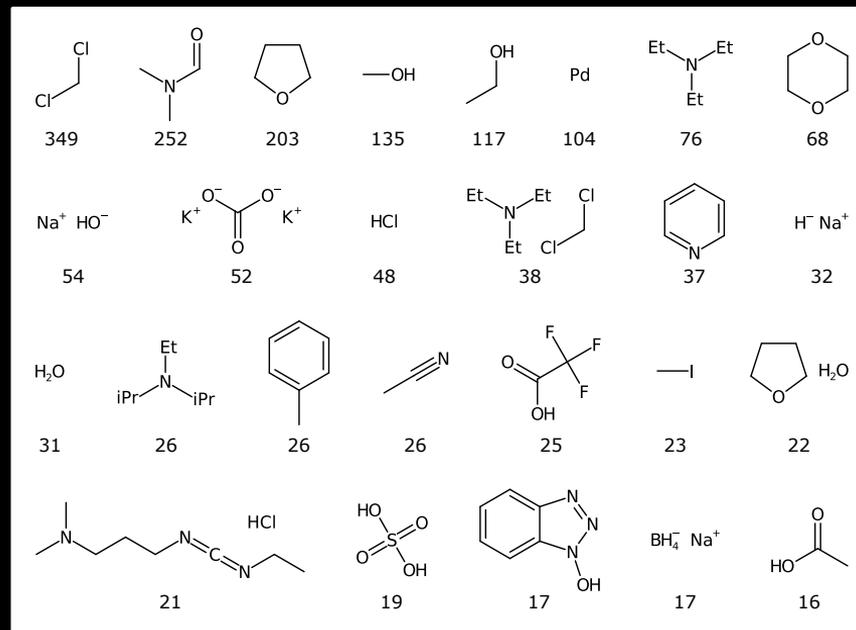


# Initial results



# Initial results

- **Partial reaction completion:**
  - Accuracy (on ground truth): **30.4%**
  - Validity of resulting reactions: **77.6%**
- **Forward reaction prediction:**
  - Accuracy: **68.1%**
  - Reference [1]: 77.6%
- **Single-step retrosynthesis:**
  - Round-trip accuracy: **81.5%**
  - Reference [2]: 81.2%
- **Application on ground truth data:**
  - 2.7k (out of 60.5k in the test set) reactions considered to be incomplete



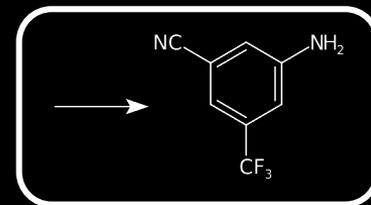
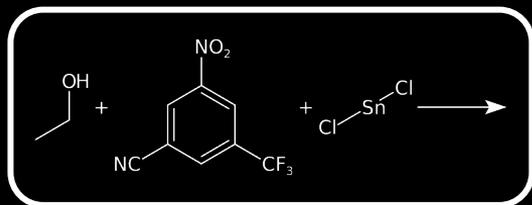
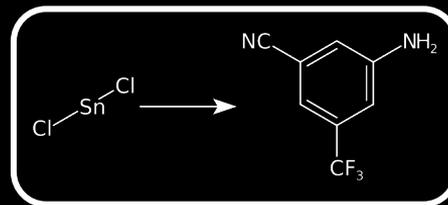
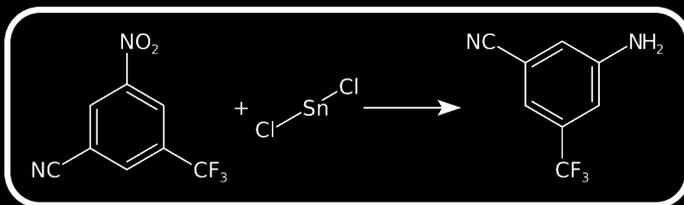
Common missing molecules in dataset

[1] Pesciullesi et al., *Nat. Commun.*, **2020**, *11*, 4874.

[2] Schwaller et al., T., *Chem. Sci.*, **2020**, *11*, 3316-3325.

# Ongoing work

# Sub-tasks

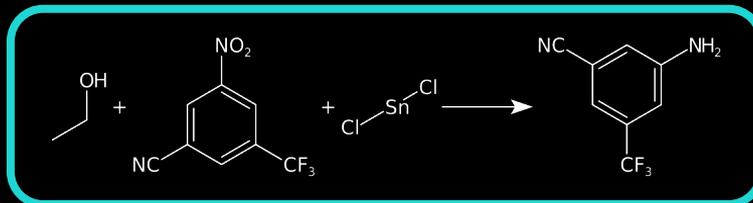


“Predict the solvent”

“Predict whatever is missing”

“Predict the product”

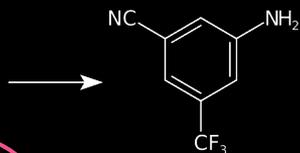
“Predict the precursors”



Still one single model!

# Sub-tasks with prefixes

Input\*



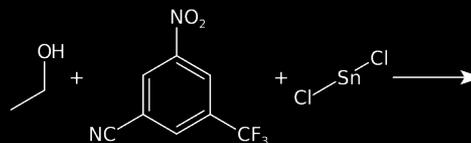
`[retro] >>N#Cc1cc(N)cc(C(F)(F)F)c1`

Prefix in input string,  
specifies the sub-task

“Translation”



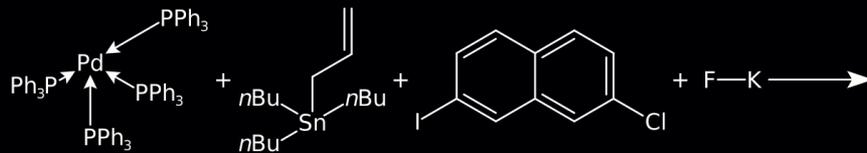
Output\*



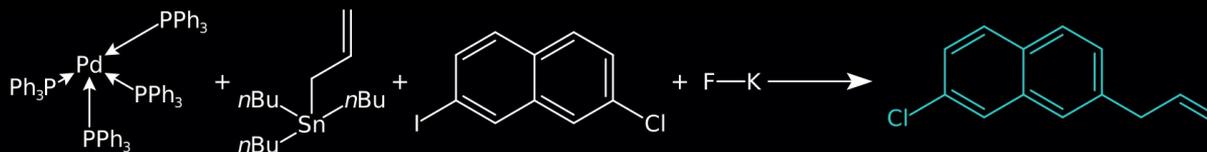
`CCO.Cl[Sn]Cl.N#Cc1cc([N+](=O)[O-])cc(C(F)(F)F)c1>>`

# Sub-tasks with prefixes

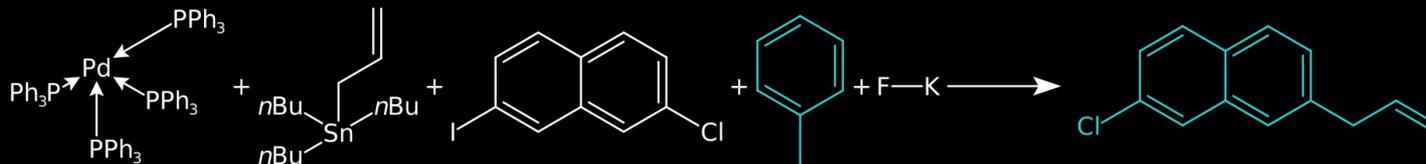
Incomplete reaction:



“forward” prefix:



“any” prefix:



# Conclusions and open questions

- AI model for determining missing molecules
- One single model for **multiple tasks**:
  - Forward reaction prediction
  - Single-step retrosynthesis
  - Solvent/catalyst prediction
  - ...
- **Better (?)** than models trained individually
- **Compatibility** of downstream AI models

# Thank you for your attention!

## Questions or comments

*E-mail:* [ava@zurich.ibm.com](mailto:ava@zurich.ibm.com)

*Twitter:* [@acvaucher](https://twitter.com/acvaucher)

Preprint with initial results: [ibm.biz/rxn-completion](https://ibm.biz/rxn-completion)

