



National Institute for Public Health  
and the Environment  
*Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport*



# Screening and prioritising PMT substances: development of a robust T-score

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## Wrap-up PMT workshop 2020: continuous P and M scores, initial T score

- Continuous P and M-score 0 to 1, based on QSAR estimates

- 0.33 is P or M, 0.5 is vP, vM
- P score based on BIOWIN 3:
  - › Half-life in surface water:
  - › P-score centered at 60 d:

$$t_{0.5} = 5377 * e^{-1.95 * BIOWIN3}$$

$$P - score = \frac{1}{1 + 10^{\log 2 \left( \frac{\log 60 - \log t_{0.5}}{\log 60 - \log 40} \right)}}$$

- M score based on KOCWIN (Kow Method):
  - › M-score centered at log Koc 3:

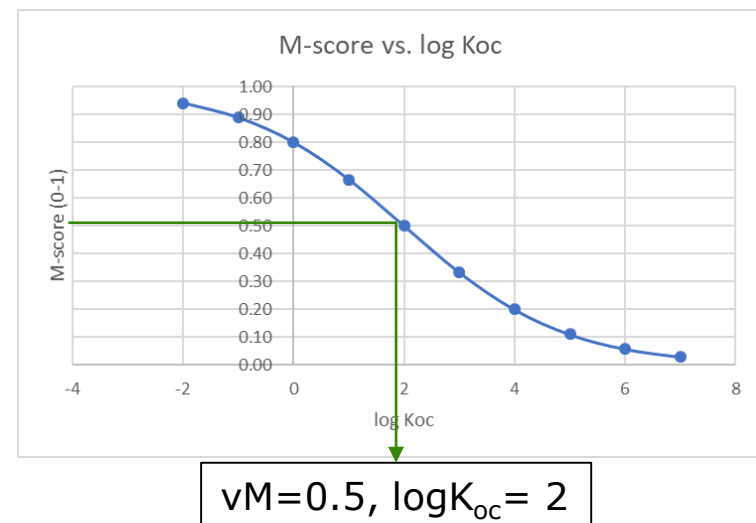
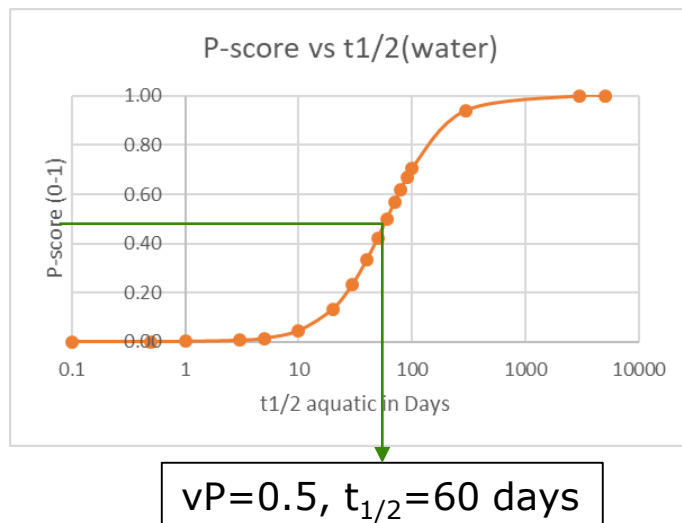
$$M - score = \frac{1}{1 + 10^{\log 2 \left( \frac{3 - \log K_{oc}}{3 - 2} \right)}}$$

- T score preliminary based on Cramers classes
  - › Five distinctive classes
  - › Risk-based rather than hazard-based
  - › Low discriminative power



## A robust T-score?

- Using different profilers for the same endpoint increases robustness
- A continuous T-score (0-1) increases distinctive power
  - Similar to P and M-scores





## Continuous T-score: the components

Endpoints	QSAR profilers	SVHC Similarity <sup>1</sup>
Carcinogenicity	ISS Carcinogenicity	Similarity to Carc (cat.1a/b) SVHC
Mutagenicity	ISS or OASIS Mut.	Similarity to Mut (cat.1a/b) SVHC
Reprotoxicity	DART scheme	Similarity to Repro (cat.1/2) SVHC
Endocrine Disruption	ER binding	
General tox	Cramer classification, OP-esters, carbamates	

<sup>1</sup> Wassenaar PN, Rorije E, Janssen NM, Peijnenburg WJ, Vijver MG. Chemical similarity to identify potential Substances of Very High Concern—An effective screening method. Journal of Computational Toxicology. 2019;12:100110.



## T-score calculation: overview

	Weights	CRITERIA	Weights	SUB-CRITERIA	INDICATORS	Range
T-score	0.67	Carcinogenic	0.5	Carcinogenicity ISS	Carcinogenicity ISS	categorical
			0.5	C, similarity tool	C, similarity tool	0 to 1
			0.5	QSAR toolbox mutation	Ames ISS & Micronucleus ISS	binary
	0.67	Mutagenic			Ames Oasis & CA_MNT_Oasis	binary
			0.5	M, similarity tool	M, similarity tool	0 to 1
			0.5	DART	DART	binary
	0.67	Reprotoxic	0.5	R, similarity tool	R, similarity tool	0 to 1
	0.53	Endocrine disruptor		ER binding	ER binding	categorical
	0.33	Cramer		Cramer	Cramer QSAR extended	categorical
					Cramer ToxTree extended	categorical
	0.33	OP-esters/carbamates		LICSS	LICSS ToxTree	binary



## Categorical & continuous indicators: nonlinear scoring

Weights	CRITERIA	Weights	SUB-CRITERIA	INDICATORS	Range
T-score	0.67	0.5	Carcinogenicity ISS	Carcinogenicity ISS	categorical
	0.67	0.5	C, similarity tool	C, similarity tool	0 to 1
		0.5	QSAR toolbox mutation	Ames ISS & Micronucleus ISS	binary
				Ames Oasis & CA MNT Oasis	binary
		0.5	M, similarity tool	M, similarity tool	0 to 1
	0.67	0.5	DART	DART	binary
		0.5	R, similarity tool	R, similarity tool	0 to 1
	0.53		ER binding	ER binding	categorical
	0.33		Cramer	Cramer QSAR extended	categorical
				Cramer ToxTree extended	categorical
	0.33		LICSS	LICSS ToxTree	binary



Based on pairwise comparisons using  
<https://www.1000minds.com/about/paprika>

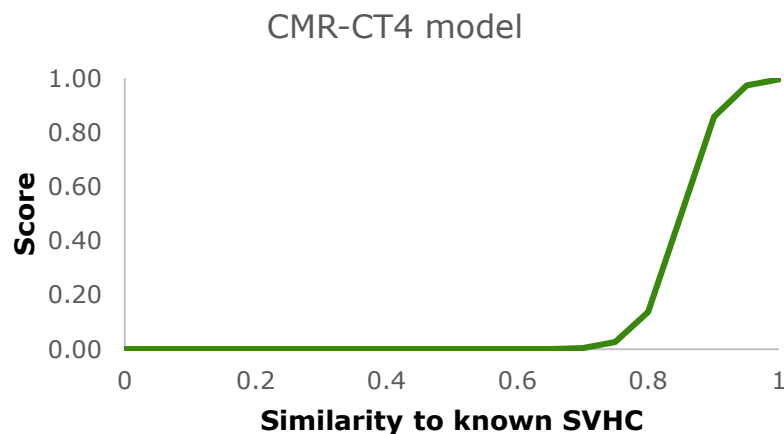
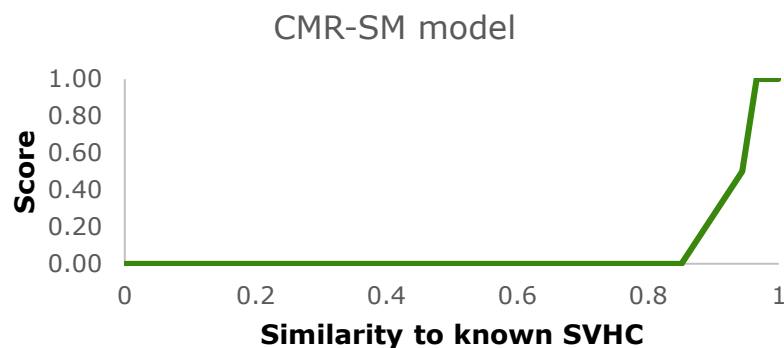
## Transform functions used for QSAR toolbox profilers



INDICATORS	Range
Carcinogenicity ISS	categorical
C <sub>s</sub> similarity tool	0 to 1
Ames ISS & Micronucleus ISS	binary
Ames Oasis & CA_MNT_Oasis	binary
M <sub>s</sub> similarity tool	0 to 1
DART	binary
R <sub>s</sub> similarity tool	0 to 1
ER binding	categorical
Cramer QSAR extended	categorical
Cramer ToxTree extended	categorical
LICSS ToxTree	binary



# Transform functions: SVHC similarity based on optimized cut-off points by Wassenaar et al. (2019)



INDICATORS	Range
Carcinogenicity ISS	categorical
<i>C<sub>i</sub> similarity tool</i>	0 to 1
Ames ISS & Micronucleus ISS	binary
Ames Oasis & CA_MNT_Oasis	binary
<i>M<sub>i</sub> similarity tool</i>	0 to 1
DART	binary
<i>R<sub>i</sub> similarity tool</i>	0 to 1
ER binding	categorical
Cramer QSAR extended	categorical
Cramer ToxTree extended	categorical
LICSS ToxTree	binary

<sup>1</sup> Wassenaar PN, Rorije E, Janssen NM, Peijnenburg WJ, Vijver MG. Chemical similarity to identify potential Substances of Very High Concern—An effective screening method. Journal of Computational Toxicology. 2019;12:100110.





## Calculating scores on each endpoint: C, M, R, ED or general tox

Endpoint	Score
Carcinogenicity	$C - score = \sum_{\text{carcinogenicity ISS, C-similarity}} 0.5score$
Mutagenicity	$M - score = \sum_{\text{QSAR profilers mutagenicity, M-similarity}} 0.5score$
Reprotoxicity	$R - score = \sum_{\text{DART, R-similarity}} 0.5score$
Endocrine Disruption	$ED - score = score_{ER \text{ binding}}$
General tox	$Cramer - score = score_{Cramer \text{ classes}}$ $OPester - score = score_{LICSS \text{ ToxTree}}$



## T-score calculation: summing different endpoints

- Starting points
  - Either one of the endpoints C, M, R, ED or general tox sufficient for T
    - › T-score 0.33 or higher
  - Two endpoints fulfilled is worse than one
- Solution: Response addition equation
  - › Score not filled by one endpoint can be filled proportionally by second

$$T - score = 1 - \prod (1 - weight * score_{C,M,R,ED,Cramer,OP-esters,carbamates})$$



## Weights for combining all endpoints to one score

Weights	CRITERIA	Weights	SUB-CRITERIA	INDICATORS	Range
T-score	0.67 Carcinogenic	0.5	Carcinogenicity ISS	Carcinogenicity ISS	categorical
		0.5	C, similarity tool	C, similarity tool	0 to 1
		0.5	QSAR toolbox mutation	Ames ISS & Micronucleus ISS Ames Oasis & CA MNT Oasis	binary binary
	0.67 Mutagenic	0.5	M, similarity tool	M, similarity tool	0 to 1
		0.5	DART	DART	binary
	0.67 Reprotoxic	0.5	R, similarity tool	R, similarity tool	0 to 1
		0.53	Endocrine disruptor	ER binding	categorical
	0.33 Cramer	0.33	Cramer	Cramer QSAR extended Cramer ToxTree extended	categorical categorical
	0.33 OP-esters/carbamates	0.33	LICSS	LICSS ToxTree	binary



## Combining continuous P, M and T-scores

$$PMT - score = P - score^a * M - score^b * T - score^c$$

- Sum of weights a, b, and c should be one
  - For now: a & b = 0.4, c = 0.2
  - Weights can be adjusted, for example more weight to P
- PMT-score of PMT substances should be at least 0.33
- Score not filled by one endpoint can be filled by another
  - Comparable to way of thinking in GUS score



## Illustrating PMT-criteria

Association of river water works (RIWA) database:

→ 1161 compounds, target screening by drinking water companies

- › 628 compounds detected above LOD, including:
  - 248 industrial chemicals
  - 206 ppp and biocides
  - 108 pharmaceuticals (both human & veterinary)





## Results T scoring RIWA database

- 414 substances:  $T > 0.67$
- 550 substances:  $0.66 > T > 0.33$
- 136 substances:  $T = 0.33$  (C,M,R,ED or general tox)
- 61 substances:  $0.33 > T$

- Highest T-scores  
(59 subst.  $> 0.9$ )

- Lowest T-scores  
(31 subst.  $< 0.1$ )

5-chloor-2-nitro-toluene  
4-methyl-3-nitro-aniline  
1,2-dichloro-propane  
1,2 dibromo-3-chloro-propane (DBCP)  
dibenzo(a,h)anthracene + other PAHs  
.....

.....  
Octacosane  
Hexacosane  
Tetracosane  
Acetylsalicylic acid (Aspirine)  
Aspartame



## T-scores for some “marker substances”

● 1,2-diBr-3-Cl-propane (DBCP)	- 0.96	(C, M, R + SVHC similarity)
● Dibenz(a,h)anthracene	- 0.96	(C, M, R + SVHC similarity)
● Bisphenol A	- 0.90	(ED, Repro)
● 1,4-dioxane	- 0.84	(C, M, R)
● 17- $\beta$ -Estradiol	- 0.77	(ED, C, M)
● Warfarin	- 0.75	(C, M, R, Cramer III)
● Morphine	- 0.69	(ED, Cramer Class III)
● Melamine	- 0.61	(C, Cramer Class III)
● Tetrabromo Bisphenol A	- 0.56	(not ED, Repro)
● Butyl Benzyl Phthalate (BBP)	- 0.42	(Repro, Carc.)
● Nitrilo Tri Acetic Acid (NTA)	- 0.18	(Repro, Carc.)
● Salicylic acid	- 0.07	(weak ER binder)
● Acetyl salicylic acid	- 0.00	(no alerts)
● Aspartame	- 0.00	(no alerts)



## Results PMT-scoring RIWA database

- 258 / 1161 (P, M and T > 0.33)
- 221 / 1161 (P, M > 0.33, T>0.5)
- **48 / 1161 (P, M, T > 0.5)**
  - Most of the pharmaceuticals (tetracycline, etoposide, cortison, doxycycline, ...), and Melamine also scores high
- NOT PMT → low persistence
  - pyrazole      **not P** (0.07), M (0.59), T (0.33), PMT (0.23)
  - glyphosate    **not P** (0.05), M (0.96), T (0.34), PMT (0.23)
  - glufosinate   **not P** (0.05), M (0.95), T (0.67), PMT (0.27)
  - 1,4-dioxane   **not P** (0.09), M (0.73), T (0.84), **PMT (0.33)**







## Discussion (1): extension database needed

- High T is overrepresented (?) in the RIWA database → target screening
  - RIWA dataset contains **125 (11%)** CMR SVHC substances!
    - › Known carcinogen, mutagen and/or reprotoxic
  - Almost all subst. (96.5%) have at least 1 alert OR Cramer Class III
  - Most (82%) are Cramer Class III
    - › This already gives a  $T \geq 0.33$  score
- A 'proper' distribution of T-scores should come from an unbiased dataset (e.g., 65.000 structures EINECS + PPP + Pharma)



## Discussion (2)

- Is the T-score intrinsically too 'conservative'?
  - Cramer class III (highly toxic, TTC = 90 µg/person/day) → T?
    - › Weight of Cramer Class too high?
  - Strong estrogen receptor binder → T?
    - › Weight of Endocrine disruption too high?



Weights	CRITERIA
0.67	Carcinogenic
0.67	Mutagenic
0.67	Reprotoxic
0.53	Endocrine disruptor
0.33	Cramer
0.33	OP-esters/carbamates



## Discussion (3)

- Is the T-score intrinsically too 'conservative'?
- Not all compounds with PMT-score > 0.33 fulfill individual P, M and T criteria
  - Filtering or adjusting weights

$$PMT - score = P - score^{0.4} * M - score^{0.4} * T - score^{0.2}$$



## Discussion (4)

- Is the T-score intrinsically too 'conservative'?
- Not all compounds with  $PMT > 0.33$  are PMT
  - Filtering or adjusting weights
- Semi-continuous, more robust T-score
  - Additional endpoints needed?
    - > E.g. ecotox

$$T - score = 1 - \prod (1 - weight * score_{C,M,R,ED,Cramer,OP-esters,carbamates})$$



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A high-speed photograph of a glass of water with a dynamic splash. The water is captured mid-air, creating a complex, crystalline shape above the glass. Numerous small droplets are suspended in the air around the main splash. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue gradient. The glass itself is clear and cylindrical, sitting on a surface that has some water spilled on it.

Thank you for your  
attention!

Questions or remarks?

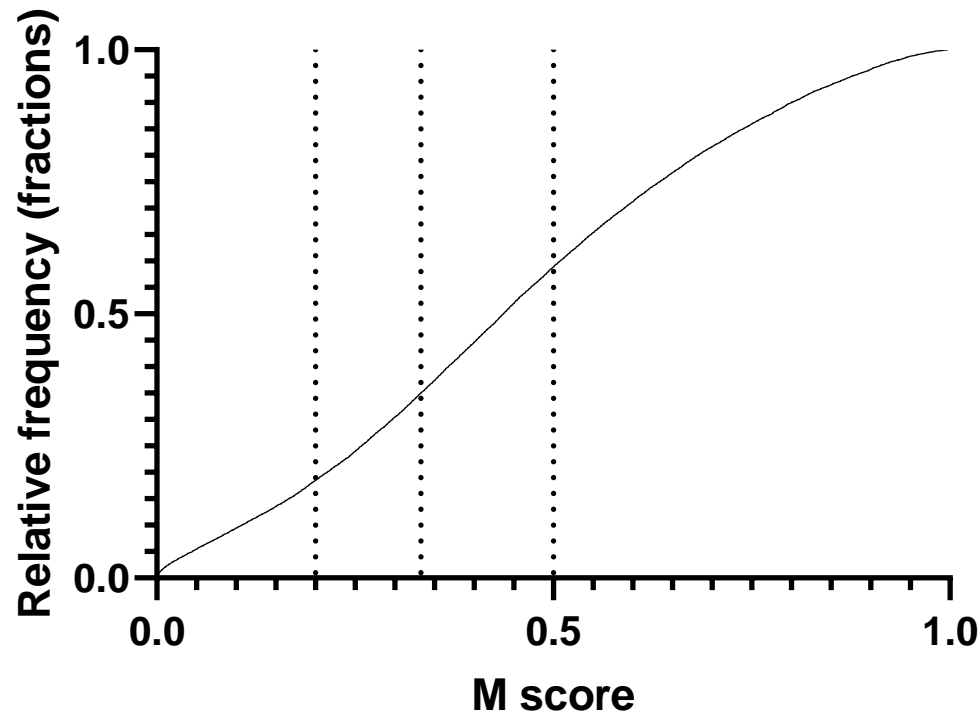
✉ [julia.hartmann@rivm.nl](mailto:julia.hartmann@rivm.nl)



## Extra slides



## Histogram for Mobility (based on 65,000 compounds)



- Drawn lines represent  $\log K_{oc}$  4, 3 and 2
- $\log K_{oc} < 4$ : 81%;  $\log K_{oc} < 3$ : 65%;  $\log K_{oc} < 2$ : 41%
- For more distinctive power  $\log K_{oc}$  3 and 2 used as M and vM criteria
  - Centered around  $\log K_{oc}$  2



## Combination of Persistence and Mobility (65,000)

- All combinations possible
  - P 25405
  - vP 17350
  - M 42324
  - vM 26627
  - PM 12949
  - vPM 7680
  - PvM 6334
  - vPvM 3566





## CMR substances:

CMR substances are substances that are **carcinogenic, mutagenic** or **toxic to reproduction (CMR)**. They are of specific concern due to the long term and serious effects that they may exert on human health. Under [GHS](#), CMR substances can be classified into 3 categories depending on the severity of hazards:

- **Category 1A:** Known human carcinogen (H340), mutagen (H350) or reproductive toxicant (H360) based on human evidence ;
- **Category 1B:** Presumed human carcinogen (H340), mutagen (H350) or reproductive toxicant (H360) based on animal studies;
- **Category 2:** Suspected carcinogen (H341), mutagen (H351) or reproductive toxicant (H361) based on limited evidence from animal studies or/and human.