



Descriptor-based Fitting of Lysophosphatidic Acid Receptor 3 Antagonists into a Single Predictive Mathematical Model

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Abstract—Sixty six diverse compounds previously reported as Lysophosphatidic Acid Receptor (LPA_3) inhibitors have been used to derive a mathematical model based on partial least square (PLS) clustering of 41 molecular descriptors and pIC_{50} values. The pre- and post- cross-validated correlation coefficient (R^2) is 0.94462 (RMSE=0.21390) and 0.74745 (RMSE=0.49055) respectively. Bivariate contingency analysis tools implemented in MOE was used to prune the descriptors and refit the equations at a descriptor- pIC_{50} correlation coefficient of 0.8 cut-off. A new equation was derived with R^2 and RMSE values estimated at 0.88074 and 0.31388 respectively. Both equations correctly predicted the 95% of the pIC_{50} values of the test dataset. Principal component analysis (PCA) was also used to reduce the dimension and linearly transform the raw data; 8 principal components sufficiently account for more than 98% of the variance of the dataset. The numerical model derived here may be adapted for screening chemical database for LPA_3 antagonism.

Keywords-upscaling; LPA_3 ; LPA_3 antagonists; Mathematical Model; PCA; Molecular descriptors

I. INTRODUCTION

Quantitative structure activity relationship (QSAR) allows statistical analysis of experimental data and building of predictive mathematical models from the dataset. The numerical models built using this approach has been successfully implemented in screening of large database of chemical compounds for hit-compound detection [1]. In the presence of experimental dataset [2], the success of QSAR depends on two key factors: array of descriptors that optimally represent the structural parameters required for molecular interaction or reactions [3] and an appropriate statistical learning and validation algorithms [4]. In practice, physical properties descriptors (1D-descriptor), pharmacophore descriptors (2D-descriptors) and geometrical descriptors (3D-descriptors, often requires prior knowledge of target protein binding-pocket) are the most commonly used descriptor types for QSAR modeling [5,6,7]. We seek to answer a single question here, what combination of

molecular predictors would numerically and accurately predict the experimental antagonist activities of LPA₃ inhibitors? When answered, the mathematical relationship derived from the descriptors will enable screening of chemical databases for compounds exhibiting LPA₃ antagonism required for the treatment of diseased conditions such as ovarian cancer [8] and neuropathic pain [9] with LPA₃ etiology.

II. STATISTICAL BASIS OF QSAR MODELING USING PARTIAL LEAST SQUARE METHOD

The QSAR/PLS modeling equations and algorithms have been well described in MOE documentations [10]. Given m molecules of a training dataset, suppose that each of the molecules is described by an n -vector of descriptors $x_i = (x_{i1}, \dots, x_{in})$, for one of the molecules denoted as i . Let y_i be a representation of the experimental result (pIC_{50}) for a molecule i . A linear model for y (the experimental result) is given by Eq. (1) [11].

$$y = a_0 + a^T X, \quad (1)$$

where a_0 is a scalar, and a^T is a n -vector. If each molecule has an importance weight (non-negative) w representing the relative probability that the associated molecule will be encountered, and that the sum of all the weights are designated as W . The mean square error is given as Eq. (2) [12].

$$MSE_{a_0, a} = \frac{1}{w} \sum_{i=1}^m [y_i - (y = a_0 + a^T X_i)]^2. \quad (2)$$

Differentiating MSE with respect to the parameters satisfying the normal Eqs (3,4,5,6 &7) solvable by matrix diagonalization:

$$a_0 = y_0 - a^T X_i, \quad (3)$$

$$y_0 = \frac{1}{w} \sum_{i=1}^m [w_i y_i], \quad (4)$$

$$x_0 = \frac{1}{w} \sum_{i=1}^m [w_i x_i], \quad (5)$$

$$Sa = b = \frac{1}{W} \sum_{i=1}^m [w_i y_i (x_i - x_0)], \quad (6)$$

$$S = \frac{1}{w} \sum_{i=1}^m [w_i (x_i - x_0)(x_i - x_0)^T]. \quad (7)$$

Starting from the normal equations above, an estimate of a can be computed if columns of the weight matrix (G_A) (Eq. (8)) is obtained through Gram-Schmidt orthogonalization [13] of the vectors generated by Krylov sequence $b, Sb, S^2b, \dots, S^{A-1}b$ [14]. The A^{th} PLS coefficient vector is then estimated using Eq. (9).

$$G_A = (g_1, g_2, \dots, g_A). \quad (8)$$

$$a = G_A(G_A^T S G_A)^{-1} G_A^T b. \quad (9)$$

Noting that g_i is the column vectors of length n and A is the degree of the PLS fit; an integer less than or equals n . MOE [10] descriptor calculator was used to generate the numerical representations (a_aro, ASA, ASA_H, a_hyd, SlogP, SlogP_VSA0, SlogP_VSA1, SlogP_VSA2, SlogP_VSA3, SlogP_VSA4, SlogP_VSA5, SlogP_VSA6, SlogP_VSA7, SlogP_VSA8, SlogP_VSA9, SMR_VSA0, SMR_VSA1, SMR_VSA2, SMR_VSA3, SMR_VSA4, SMR_VSA5, SMR_VSA6, SMR_VSA7, a_acc, Kier1, Kier2, Kier3, KierA1, KierA2, KierA3, KierFlex, chi0, chi0v, chi0v_C, chi0_C, chi1, chi1v, chi1v_C, chi1_C, chiral, chiral_u) of the 66 (Supplementary fig. 1) randomly selected LPA₃ antagonists retrieved from the European Institute of Bioinformatics dataset (<https://www.ebi.ac.uk/chembl/>) representing our training dataset (ChEMBL3250). Using the PLS method as described above, Eq. (10) was generated relating the descriptors to the pIC_{50} with a correlation coefficient (R^2) 0.94462 ($RMSE = 0.21390$) (Fig. 1, blue

circles and line); when cross validated, R^2 was estimated as 0.74745 ($RMSE = 0.49055$).

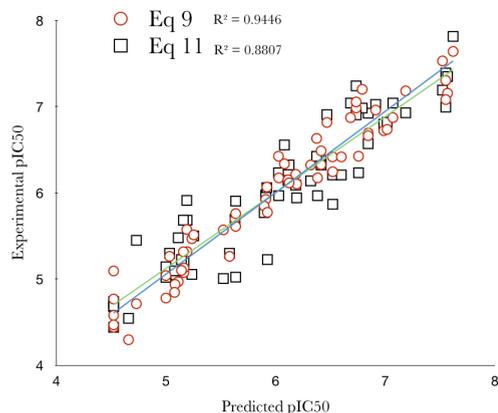


Fig. 1: Scatter plot of the experimental pIC_{50} vs. pIC_{50} -predictions of Eq. (10) (blue) and Eq. (12) (green).

$$\begin{aligned}
 pIC_{50} = & 3.57363 - 0.25353 \cdot a_{aro} - 0.00361 \cdot ASA \\
 & + 0.23510 \cdot a_{hyd} + 0.05890 \cdot SlogP \\
 & - 0.02287 \cdot SlogP_VSA0 \\
 & + 0.00032 \cdot SlogP_VSA1 + 0.03125 \cdot SlogP_VSA2 \\
 & - 0.02059 \cdot SlogP_VSA3 + 0.02954 \cdot SlogP_VSA4 \\
 & + 0.07226 \cdot SlogP_VSA5 + 0.02879 \cdot SlogP_VSA6 \\
 & + 0.04687 \cdot SlogP_VSA7 + 0.03836 \cdot SlogP_VSA8 \\
 & + 0.06880 \cdot SlogP_VSA9 + 0.04912 \cdot SMR_VSA0 \\
 & + 0.02536 \cdot SMR_VSA1 + 0.08743 \cdot SMR_VSA2 \\
 & + 0.00289 \cdot SMR_VSA3 - 0.01524 \cdot SMR_VSA4 \\
 & + 0.04694 \cdot SMR_VSA5 + 0.09067 \cdot SMR_VSA6 \\
 & - 0.01442 \cdot SMR_VSA7 + 0.18393 \cdot a_{acc} \\
 & - 0.77650 \cdot Kier1 - 0.43968 \cdot Kier2 \\
 & - 0.30735 \cdot Kier3 - 0.43752 \cdot KierA1 \\
 & - 0.03578 \cdot KierA2 + 0.76916 \cdot KierA3 \\
 & - 0.09573 \cdot KierFlex + 0.00332 \cdot chi0 \\
 & + 0.55223 \cdot chi0v + 0.13554 \cdot chi0v_C \\
 & - 0.16530 \cdot chi0_C + 0.59498 \cdot chi1 \\
 & + 0.05911 \cdot chi1v - 0.93262 \cdot chi1v_C \\
 & - 1.22808 \cdot chi1_C - 0.16986 \cdot chiral \\
 & - 0.56204 \cdot chiral_u.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{10}$$

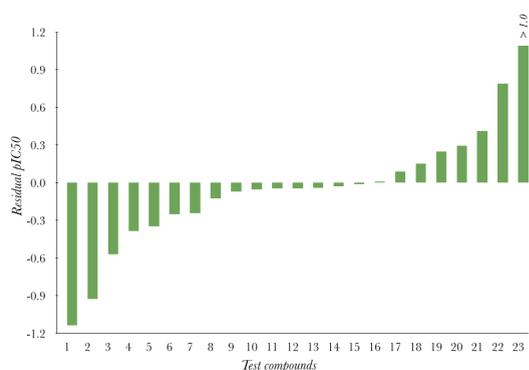


Fig. 2: Bar chart representations of the residual (Experimental pIC_{50} -Predicted pIC_{50}) values of the test dataset. Only 1 out of tested compounds (compound 23, see supplementary Fig. 2 for structural details) showed > 1.0 pIC_{50} unit (indication of wrong prediction).

Noting that root mean square error (RMSE) is the square root of MSE function (Eq. (2)) at a given parameter value and the correlation coefficient (R^2) is $1 - \text{MSE}/\text{YVAR}$ with values ranging between 0 and 1 (0= no fit, 1 is perfect fit and YVAR is the sample variance of the y_i values). The predictive suitability of our equation was tested on 23 compounds (Supplementary Fig. 2) with experimentally determined IC_{50} for LPA₃ antagonism. If we assume that residual value above 1.0 pIC_{50} unit represents poor fitting. Our data (Fig. 3) suggest that Eq. (10) accurately predicted 22 of the 23 test compounds.

III. DESCRIPTOR CONTINGENCY ANALYSIS

To determine the level of significance of each of the descriptors to the overall equation and we performed contingency analysis. The data presented here provides a window of decision on whether pruning of the descriptor set is required. In MOE [10], QSAR-contingency tool performs a bivariate contingency analysis for each descriptor and the experimental activity value and produces a table of correlation coefficients (Eq. (11)) for each descriptor given that X represents a randomly selected molecular descriptor and Y is a randomly selected activity value for a randomly selected sample m , $Var(X)$ and $Var(Y)$, then the covariance of

the random variables X and Y is defined to be $Cov(X, Y) = E(XY) - E(X)E(Y)$ [10, 15].

$$R^2 = \frac{[E(XY) - E(X)E(Y)]^2}{Var(X)Var(Y)}. \quad (11)$$

Given that the values of R^2 ranges from 0 to 1, and 1 represents a perfectly linear correlation, we therefore proposed that only descriptors R^2 values ≥ 0.8 are useful and that the descriptors outside this range can be pruned. Our data suggest that 31 out of the original 41 descriptors have R^2 values ≥ 0.8 (Fig. 3, Supplementary Table 1). With the exclusion of the descriptors with unsatisfactory coefficient, QSAR is re-calculated using the residual set of descriptors. New numerical relationship was generated (Eq. (12)) with R^2 (0.88074) and $RMSE$ values (0.31388). The scatter plot of the predicted pIC_{50} and the experimental values for the new Eq. (12) is given in Fig. 1 (green circles and line).

$$\begin{aligned} lpIC_{50} = & 2.23199 - 0.00516xASA - 0.00516xASA_H \\ & - 0.48596xa_hyd - 0.33917xSlogP \\ & - 0.05298xSlogP_VSA0 - 0.03967xSlogP_VSA1 \\ & - 0.02243xSlogP_VSA2 + 0.01681xSlogP_VSA7 \\ & + 0.02107xSlogP_VSA9 \\ & - 0.00757xSMR_VSA0 - 0.00087xSMR_VSA1 \\ & - 0.00089xSMR_VSA3 \\ & - 0.01173xSMR_VSA4 + 0.00955xSMR_VSA5 \\ & - 0.01412xSMR_VSA6 \\ & - 0.02508xSMR_VSA7 - 0.26771xKier1 \\ & + 0.15306xKier20.56650xKier3 \\ & - 0.30504xKierA2 + 0.98837xKierA3 \\ & - 0.28849xKierFlex + 0.48535xchi0 \\ & + 0.90693xchi0v + 0.10234xchi0v_C \\ & + 0.24407xchi0_C + 0.66154xchi1 \\ & + 0.36006xchi1v - 1.03589xchi1v_C \\ & - 0.62474xchi1_C - 0.36725xaaro. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

When this equation was used for predicting the

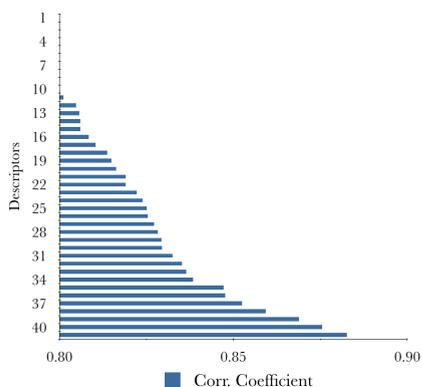


Fig. 3: Bar chart represents of Descriptor-experimental pIC_{50} correlation coefficient. Only 31 out of 41 descriptors lie above 0.8 coefficient cutoff.

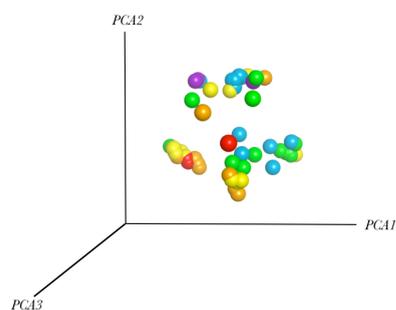


Fig. 4: The 3D plot of the first three principal components. Each point represents a compound in the training dataset and each colour represents a distinct cluster of pIC_{50} values.

pIC_{50} values of the test set, only one compound lies above the 1.0 pIC_{50} unit cutoff (data not shown). Thus, Eq. (12) is less bulky and as accurate as Eq. (10) in predicting LPA_3 antagonism.

IV. PRINCIPAL COMPONENT ANALYSIS OF EQUATION

We sought to further study the dataset descriptors along the principle components through the reduction of the dimensionality and linear transformation of the raw data [13]. Given the initial 66 training dataset compounds (represented as m) and for one of the compounds say i its descriptors are represented by n -vector of real numbers $x_i =$

(x_{i1}, \dots, x_{im}) , where $n = 1 - 31$, new Eq. (12). Assuming that each molecule i has an associated importance weight w_i , (non-negative, real number) and that the weights is relative probability that the associated molecule x_i will be encountered (adding up to 1); If W denotes the sum of all the weights then, the eigenvalues and eigenvectors for the final data are estimable from the raw data using Eq. (1). If S is a symmetric, semi-definite sample covariance matrix, S can be diagonalized such that $S = Q^T D D Q$ (Q is orthogonal, D is diagonal-sorted in descending order from top left to bottom right) [13, 14].

$$E(x) \approx \bar{x} = x_0 = \frac{1}{w} \sum_{i=1}^m [w_i x_i] \quad (13)$$

$$Cov(x) \approx S = \frac{1}{w} \sum_{i=1}^m [w_i x_i x_i^T - \bar{x} \bar{x}^T]. \quad (14)$$

The effect of the each of the principal components (eigenvectors) on the condition and the variance shows that nine (8) principal components sufficiently accounts for more than 98% of the variance in the dataset [15]. The 3D-scatter plot of the first three principal components (PCA1, PCA2 and PCA3) with respect to pIC_{50} values is shown in Fig. (4); each point in the plot corresponds to a dataset molecule colored according to clustered pIC_{50} values.

V. CONCLUSION

Given the good mathematical correlation between the set of descriptors and LPA₃ antagonism, it is not unusual to propose that the equation is prejudiced for those set of compounds with highly related descriptor properties and therefore may not be a universal formula for LPA₃ antagonist screening. That said, it will however capture the compounds with structural properties found within the dataset accurately and therefore may be piped as into ligand-based screening protocol for more successful hit-compound identification.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

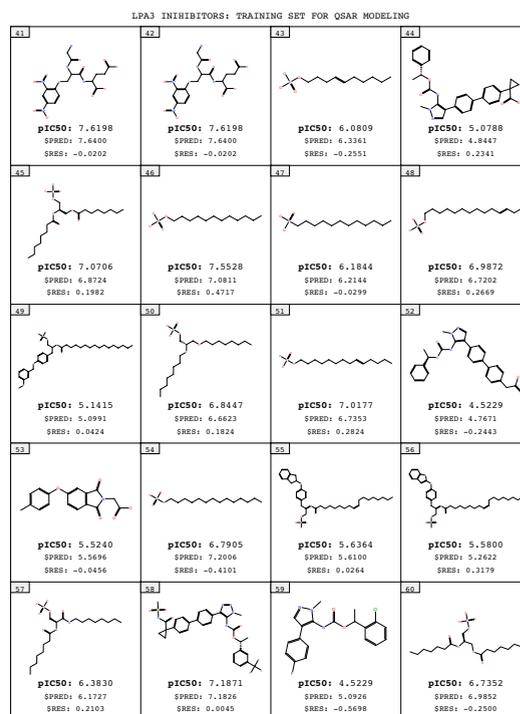
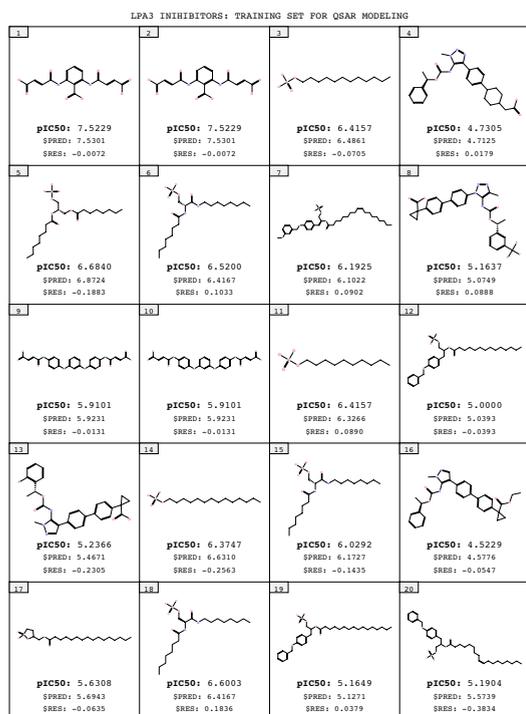
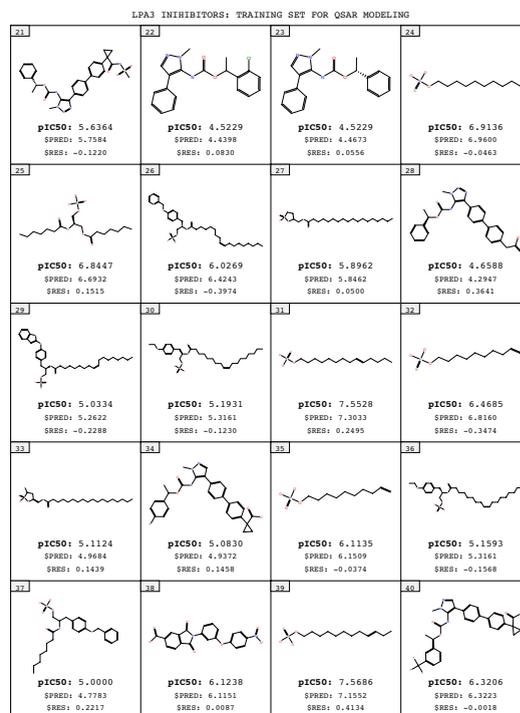
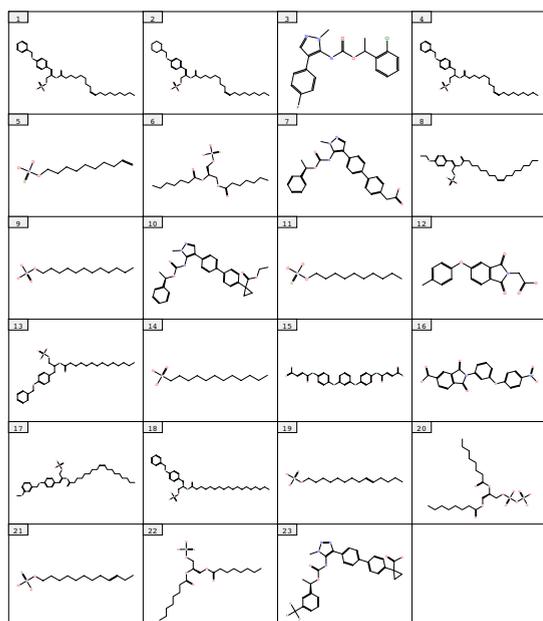
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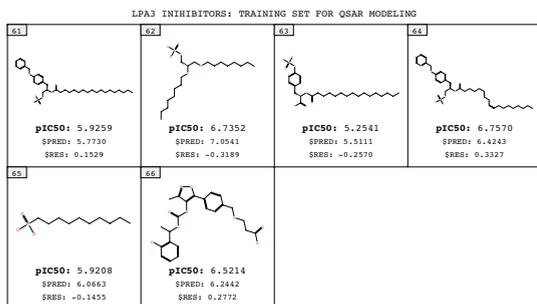
APPENDIX

Supplementary Table 1.0 Showing Correlation coefficient of each Descriptor

S/N	Descriptors	Corr. Coefficient
1	SlogP_VSA6	0.57823
2	chiral_u	0.65734
3	SlogP_VSA4	0.66609
4	SlogP_VSA5	0.6996
5	chiral	0.72218
6	SMR_VSA2	0.78566
7	SlogP_VSA8	0.78621
8	a_jacc	0.78922
9	SlogP_VSA3	0.79094
10	KierA1	0.79264
11	a_aro	0.80122
12	SlogP_VSA9	0.80481
13	SlogP_VSA1	0.80575
14	ch0_C	0.806
15	ch1v	0.80603
16	KierFlex	0.80836
17	ch1v_C	0.81041
18	KierA3	0.81376
19	SlogP_VSA2	0.81493
20	SMR_VSA7	0.81623
21	ASA	0.81908
22	ASA_H	0.81908
23	ch0v	0.82223
24	ch0v_C	0.82394
25	SMR_VSA4	0.82512
26	ch1_C	0.82535
27	KierA2	0.82725
28	ch0	0.82827
29	SlogP_VSA7	0.82933
30	SMR_VSA5	0.82941
31	KierC	0.83257
32	SlogP_VSA0	0.83519
33	Kier1	0.83844
34	SMR_VSA1	0.83859
35	ch1	0.84721
36	SMR_VSA6	0.84762
37	SMR_VSA3	0.8525
38	Kier3	0.85924
39	SlogP	0.86886
40	SMR_VSA0	0.87545
41	a_hyd	0.88264

Scatter plot of the experimental pIC_{50} vs. pIC_{50} -predictions of Eq.(10) (blue) and Eq. (12).





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