



Computer Applications in Chemistry



An overview of the applications of computers in chemistry

Ahmad Agel Ifseisi

Associate professor of Analytical Chemistry College of Science, Department of Chemistry King Saud University

P.O. Box 2455 Riyadh 11451 Saudi Arabia Building: 05, Office: 2A/149 & AA/53

Tel. 014674198, Fax: 014675992

Web site: http://fac.ksu.edu.sa/aifseisi

E-mail: ahmad3qel@yahoo.com aifseisi@ksu.edu.sa



Applications of Computers



Computer plays a very important role in every aspects of our lives, including chemistry.

Applications of Computers in Chemistry

Two types of applications:

Interfacing:

A computer is connected to an instrument for data collection and control the system.

Software applications:

Data analysis, simulation, structural searching, modelling, drug design, etc.

General Features of Computer

Able to perform operations very fast.

- Very low error rate.
- Ability to process various types of information not only numerical quantities.

Ability to store programs and data.

Fields of Application

Computational Chemistry

Chemometrics

Chemoinformatics

Computational Chemistry

- A branch of chemistry that uses the results of theoretical chemistry incorporated into efficient computer programs to calculate the structures and properties of molecules and solids, applying these programs to real chemical problems.
- Computational Chemistry when a mathematical method is well developed and can be implemented on a computer.

• Examples:

- -Quantum mechanics,
- -Molecular mechanics,
- -Simulation,
- -Minimisation,
- -Conformational analysis.

Chemometrics

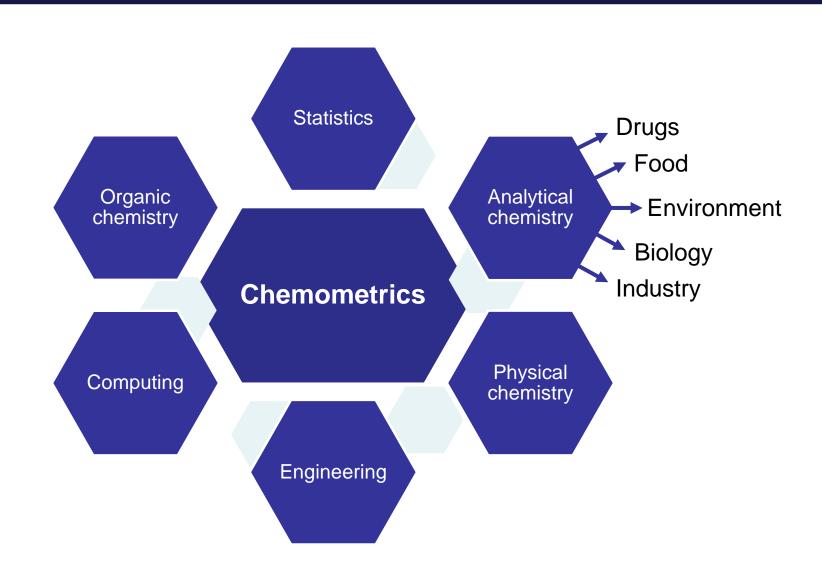
• The science of relating measurements made on a chemical system or process to the state of the system via application of mathematical or statistical methods.

• The chemical discipline that uses mathematical and statistical methods to design or select optimal measurement procedures and experiments, and to provide maximum relevant chemical information by analyzing chemical data.

Examples:

- -Experimental design,
- -Calibration,
- -Signal processing,
- -Pattern recognition.

Chemometrics and other disciplines



Chemoinformatics

- The application of informatics methods to solve chemical problems.
- The application of informatics to the management and processing of data, information and knowledge in chemistry.

• Examples:

- -Storage and searching of chemical structures,
- -Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationships (QSAR),
- -Structure elucidation,
- -Drug design.



Informatics



Statistics

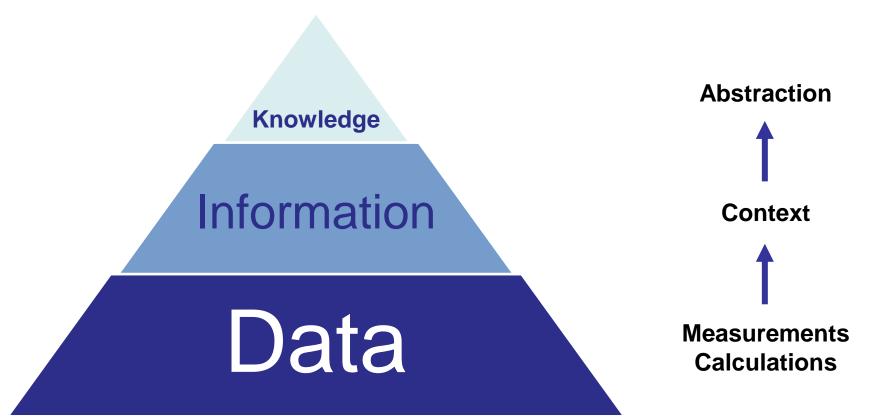
Mathematics



Chemistry



From Data to Knowledge



Types of Computer

Classes by purpose

- -Microcomputers (personal computers)
- -Minicomputers (mid-range computers)
- -Mainframe computers
- -Supercomputers

Classes by function

- -Servers
- -Workstations
- -Information appliances
- -Embedded computers

Classes by usage

- -Public computer
- -Personal computer
- -Shared computer
- -Display computer







Classes by generation of technology

- -1st generation computers (1940-1955): Vacuum Tubes
- -2nd generation computers (1956-1963): Discrete Transistors
- -3rd generation computers (1964-1970): Integrated Circuits (ICs)
- -4th generation computers(1971-present): Microprocessors

Operating Systems

Windows

- Operating system based on graphical user interface GUI on PC.
- Windows 95, Win 98, Win 2000, Windows XP, Vista, Windows 7, Windows 10.

Unix

- A multiuser, multi-tasking operating system.
- Developed in Bell Labs in early 1970s.
- Used in workstations, e.g., Solaris, AIX.
- Can also be used in PC.

Linux

- Free UNIX.
- Originally developed by Linus Torvalds, 1991.
- Red Hat, Fedora, Slackware, Debian, Ubuntu.

Mac-OS

- Operating system on a macintosh.
- Easy to use, very user friendly.







Programming Languages

Allows a user to communicate (give instructions) to the computer

A person who wants to develop a computer application must know at least one programming language.

Example programming languages:

BASIC, Visual Basic, Fortran, Pascal, C, C#, C++, Java, PHP, Python.

Chemistry in Computers

Basically, chemistry and chemical compounds and elements are used in hardware.



