### Unsupervised Machine Learning for Unbiased Chemical Classification in Xray Absorption and Emission Spectroscopies

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#### **Question:**

What is the chemically-relevant information in two related X-ray spectroscopy methods – VtC-XES (emission) and XANES (absorption)?

#### **Technique:**

We can use unsupervised machine learning (ML) to allow spectral fingerprints emerge from the data and use it to generate unbiased chemical classes



# Outline

- Background on spectroscopy methods: Absorption (XAS) vs Emission/ Fluorescence (XES)
- 2. Background on dimensionality reduction (DR) algorithms
- 3. Interpreting the reduced space via cluster similarities
  - a. Expected & unexpected fingerprints
- 4. Comparing DR algorithms using supervised ML on identifying the fingerprints found above





# **VtC-XES versus XANES**

Are they indeed complementary?

#### Valence to Core X-ray **Emission** Spectroscopy



#### X-ray Absorption Near-Edge Fine Structure



# **VtC-XES versus XANES**

Are they indeed complementary?



Hypothesis: The properties encoded in VtC-XES and XANES will be similar, but their sensitivities will be different.



#### Sulforganic classes from the literature



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#### Unsupervised ML extracts features by grouping similar data



Clustering  $\rightarrow$  spectral similarities  $\rightarrow$  important chemical properties



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#### What do the clusters indicate about encoded information?

#### t-SNE reduced space

VtC-XES





### Oxidation state is the best distinguishing property



# "Type" is also a good distinguishing property



# "Type" is also a good distinguishing property

















A closer look at the sub-clusters in the t-SNE of the XANES spectra...



(a) Type 1: aromatic

Separated based on inclusion of CI or Br vs N







# (b) Type 5: aliphatic

Separated based on chain vs ring







Separated by one R group aromatic and the other aliphatic → form bridge





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# Quantitative comparison PCA, VAE, & t-SNE using supervised ML

# 1. Neural network trained directly on spectra



2. K-nearest neighbors (KNN) on reduced spaces



Aromaticity



Туре

Oxidation

### Quantitative comparison: PCA, VAE, vs t-SNE



### Quantitative comparison: PCA, VAE, vs t-SNE



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### Conclusions

- 1. Representing spectra in just **two dimensions** captured chemical properties like oxidation, bonding environment, and the aromaticity of R groups
- 1. VtC-XES and XANES encoded similar information, but VtC-XES had surprising sensitivity to aromaticity
- 1. Reducing the constraints on the DR algorithm allowed for better clustering and thus easier interpretation and identification of chemical classes

# Other applications where UML seeds SML

