

1 **Fine-tuning Large Language Models for Chemical Text Mining**

2 Wei Zhang^{1,2,#}, Qinggong Wang^{3,#}, Xiangtai Kong^{1,2}, Jiacheng Xiong^{1,2}, Shengkun Ni^{1,2}, Duanhua
3 Cao^{1,4}, Buying Niu^{1,2}, Mingan Chen^{1,5,6}, Runze Zhang^{1,2}, Yitian Wang^{1,2}, Lehan Zhang^{1,2}, Xutong
4 Li^{1,2}, Zhaoping Xiong⁷, Qian Shi⁶, Ziming Huang⁸, Zunyun Fu^{1,*}, Mingyue Zheng^{1,2,3,*}

5 ¹Drug Discovery and Design Canter, State Key Laboratory of Drug Research, Shanghai Institute of Materia
6 Medica, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 555 Zuchongzhi Road, Shanghai 201203, China

7 ²University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, No. 19A Yuquan Road, Beijing 100049, China

8 ³Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine, 138 Xianlin Road, Nanjing 210023, China

9 ⁴Innovation Institute for Artificial Intelligence in Medicine of Zhejiang University, College of
10 Pharmaceutical Sciences, Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, Zhejiang 310058, China

11 ⁵School of Physical Science and Technology, ShanghaiTech University, Shanghai 201210, China

12 ⁶Lingang Laboratory, Shanghai 200031, China

13 ⁷ProtonUnfold Technology Co., Ltd, Suzhou, China

14 ⁸Medizinische Klinik und Poliklinik I, Klinikum der Universität München, Ludwig-Maximilians-
15 Universität, Munich, Germany

16
17 #Wei Zhang and Qinggong Wang contributed equally to this study.

18 *Correspondence should be addressed to:

19 Mingyue Zheng: myzheng@simm.ac.cn

20 Zunyun Fu: fuzunyun@simm.ac.cn

21 **Abstract**

22 Extracting knowledge from complex and diverse chemical texts is a pivotal task for both
23 experimental and computational chemists. The task is still considered to be extremely challenging
24 due to the complexity of the chemical language and scientific literature. This study explored the
25 power of fine-tuned large language models (LLMs) on five intricate chemical text mining tasks:
26 compound entity recognition, reaction role labelling, metal-organic framework (MOF) synthesis
27 information extraction, nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR) data extraction, and the
28 conversion of reaction paragraph to action sequence. The fine-tuned LLMs models demonstrated
29 impressive performance, significantly reducing the need for repetitive and extensive prompt
30 engineering experiments. For comparison, we guided GPT-3.5 and GPT-4 with prompt
31 engineering and fine-tuned GPT-3.5 as well as other open-source LLMs such as Llama2, T5, and
32 BART. The results showed that the fine-tuned GPT models excelled in all tasks. It achieved exact
33 accuracy levels ranging from 69% to 95% on these tasks with minimal annotated data. It even
34 outperformed those task-adaptive pre-training and fine-tuning models that were based on a
35 significantly larger amount of in-domain data. Given its versatility, robustness, and low-code
36 capability, leveraging fine-tuned LLMs as flexible and effective toolkits for automated data
37 acquisition could revolutionize chemical knowledge extraction.

38 **Introduction**

39 Chemical text mining is a crucial foundation in chemical research. It creates extensive
40 databases that provide access to physicochemical properties and synthetic routes for experimental
41 chemists. Additionally, it accumulates rich data and insights for computational chemists to use for
42 modelling and predicting. More than just extracting information from chemical texts, the rule-
43 based transformation of chemical text is particularly interesting. For instance, synthetic procedures

44 can be converted into action sequences^{1,2} or programming languages³⁻⁵. This allows them to be
45 understood and executed by robotic systems for automated syntheses.

46 However, converting structured data from intricate scientific literature is a challenging task,
47 especially due to the complexity and heterogeneity of chemical language. As a result, a number of
48 text-mining tools have been developed. For instance, ChemDataExtractor^{6,7} was created to extract
49 chemical entities and their associated properties, measurements and relationships from chemical
50 documents, using unsupervised word clustering, conditional random fields, rule-based grammars
51 and dictionary matching. ChemRxnExtractor⁸, a BERT-like model, was designed to extract the
52 product and label associated reaction roles such as reactant, catalyst, solvent, and temperature from
53 paragraphs of synthesis experiments. Vaucher et. al.^{1,2} developed task-adaptive pre-trained
54 transformers to convert the synthesis protocol paragraphs into action sequences. SynthReader³ was
55 built to convert literature syntheses to executable XDL formats, containing a series of domain-
56 specific algorithms with predefined rules. Historically, the focus has been on designing models
57 and algorithms specific to certain tasks, requiring extensive domain knowledge and sophisticated
58 data processing. These tools, challenging to adapt for diverse extraction tasks, often require
59 complementary collaboration to manage complex information extraction tasks, thus limiting their
60 versatility and practicality.

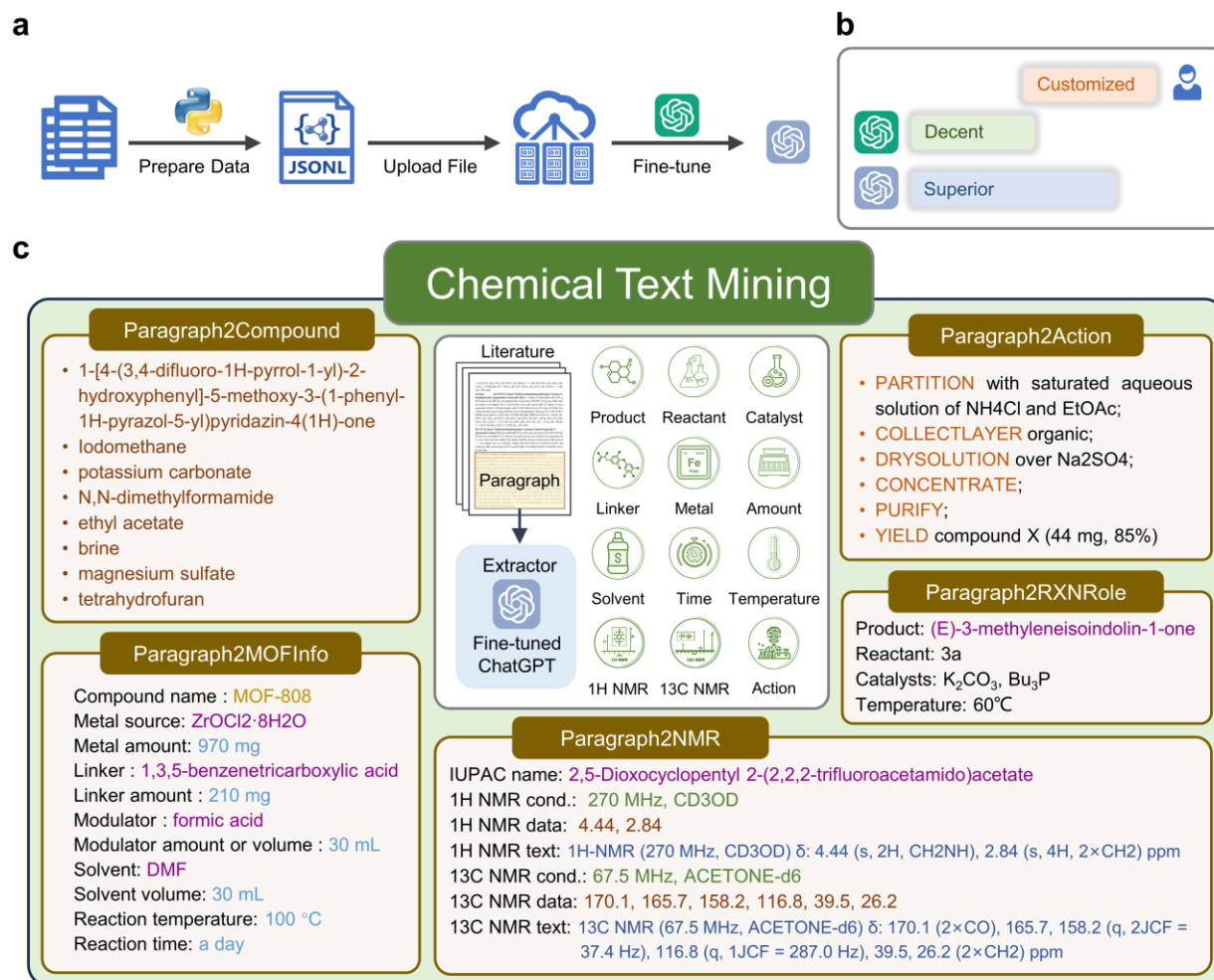
61 Recently, large language models (LLMs), represented by ChatGPT released in November
62 2022, have shown the potential of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI). LLMs, such as GPT-3.5
63 and GPT-4, can generate logical insights or content that meets requirements based on human
64 instructions. We are entering a new era where AGI and medicinal chemists might work together.
65 There have been some assessments of ChatGPT's chemistry capabilities, including tasks like
66 synonym transformation, property prediction, retrosynthesis, and molecule design⁹⁻¹¹. However,

67 LLMs tend to "hallucinate", meaning they generate unintended text that misaligns with established
68 facts and real-world knowledge^{12,13}. Moreover, objectively evaluating the results of open-ended
69 questions remains a significant challenge.

70 At this juncture, LLMs may still find it difficult to accurately answer factual and knowledge-
71 based questions. However, using LLMs for knowledge extraction tasks should greatly alleviate
72 hallucination and fully leverage their powerful text comprehension and processing capabilities,
73 making them promising universal tools for chemical text mining. For instance, Zheng et al.¹⁴ used
74 prompt engineering to guide ChatGPT in extracting information about metal-organic framework
75 (MOF) synthesis. Patiny et al.¹⁵ tried to use ChatGPT to extract FAIR (Findable, Accessible,
76 Interoperable, Reusable) data from publications. However, their approach of using LLMs simply
77 based on prompt engineering tend to achieve poor performance in exact accuracy. According to
78 the biomedical benchmark study by Chen et al.¹⁶, ChatGPT performed significantly worse on
79 biomedical text mining compared to existing models. These findings seem contradicts the common
80 belief in the LLMs' superior comprehension abilities. Either way, LLMs have limitations due to
81 their model architecture and memory, including a maximum length of prompt tokens. Additionally,
82 human expressions can be ambiguous, incomplete, vague, and difficult to refine. Outputs may not
83 strictly adhere to formatting requirements, leading to misunderstanding and poor performance in
84 mining complex text, such as patents or scientific literature. Therefore, zero-shot or few-shot
85 prompts are often insufficient to address the diversity of scenarios and cannot guarantee the quality
86 of extracted data.

87 In this study, we explore the effectiveness of fine-tuning LLMs on five challenging tasks in
88 chemical text mining: compound entity recognition, reaction role annotation, metal-organic
89 framework (MOF) synthesis information extraction, nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy

90 (NMR) data extraction, and conversion reaction paragraphs into action sequences. We found that
91 fine-tuning GPT models significantly enhances performance in chemical text mining tasks,
92 compared to prompt-only version, while also reducing dependency on the repetitive and extensive
93 prompt engineering experiments. Meanwhile, we also evaluated other prevalent generative pre-
94 trained language models, such as Llama2¹⁷, T5¹⁸, and BART¹⁹. Among these, the fine-tuned
95 ChatGPT (gpt-3.5-turbo) models achieved state-of-the-art (SOTA) performance across all five
96 tasks. Remarkably, it even outperformed models that have been trained specifically for each task
97 and subsequently fine-tuned, based on a significantly larger amount of in-domain data. This study
98 highlights the potential of fine-tuning LLMs to revolutionize complex knowledge extraction with
99 their versatility, robustness, and low code capability. Fine-tuned LLMs can be easily generalizable
100 and can optimize the labor-intensive and time-consuming data collection workflow, even when
101 trained with few data. This will accelerate the discovery and creation of novel substances, making
102 them powerful tools for universal use.



103
 104 **Fig. 1. | Schematics of fine-tuning ChatGPT for chemical text mining.** **a**, The pipeline of fine-tuning ChatGPT on proprietary
 105 data. The green OpenAI logo symbolizes official gpt-3.5-turbo, while the blue one symbolizes fine-tuned gpt-3.5-turbo. **b**,
 106 Supervised fine-tuned LLMs outperforms prompt-only LLMs in some customized scenarios. **c**, Illustration of cheminformatics
 107 insights to be extracted from paragraph. And illustration of the five practical tasks in chemical text mining with respective example
 108 outputs, including Paragraph2Compound, Paragraph2RXNRole, Paragraph2MOFInfo, Paragraph2NMR, and Paragraph2Action.
 109

110 **Results & Discussion**

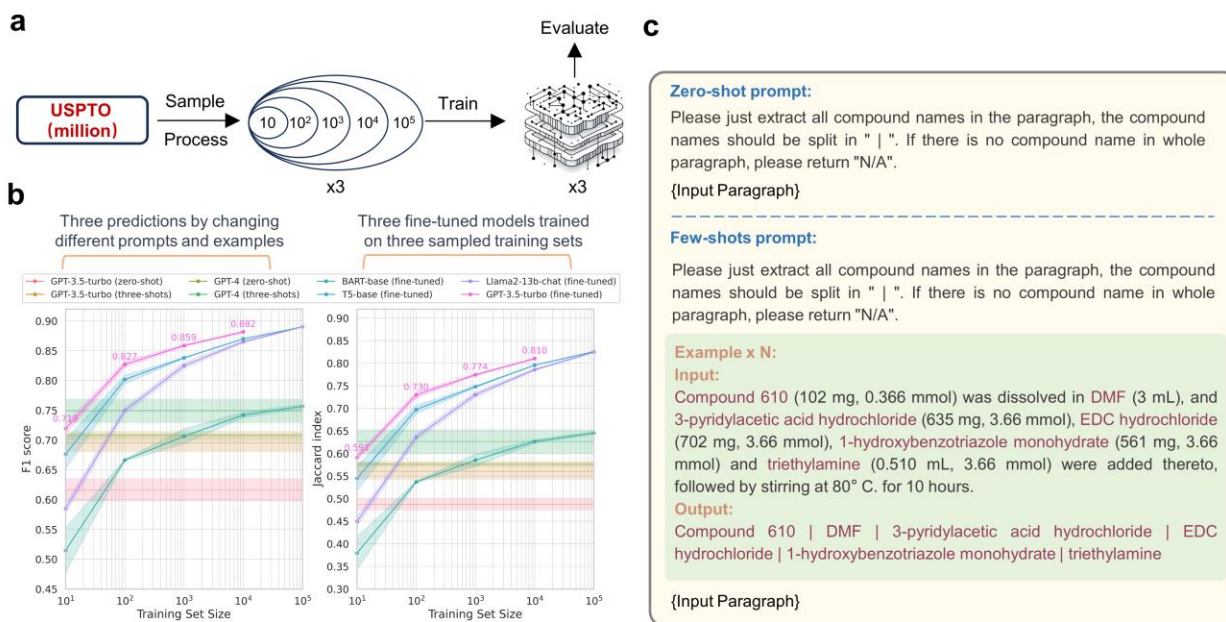
111 **Overview of Chemical Text Mining Tasks**

112 Given the complex and diverse information embedded in chemical literature, we designed
113 five extraction tasks to demonstrate the potential and practicality of LLMs in chemical text mining
114 (Fig. 1). Paragraph2Compound task is a relatively simple name entity recognition task, to extract
115 all chemical compound entities from the given paragraph. Paragraph2RXNRole task is to label the
116 reaction roles including product, reactant, catalyst, temperature, solvent, time, and yield in the
117 paragraph. Paragraph2MOFInfo task is to extract all MOF synthesis conditions including
118 compound name, metal source, metal amount, linker, linker amount, modulator, modulator amount
119 or volume, solvent, solvent volume, reaction temperature and reaction time. Paragraph2NMR task
120 is to extract the IUPAC name, experimental condition including frequency and solvent as well as
121 chemical shift data for both ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra. Paragraph2Action task is to convert
122 experimental procedures to structured synthetic steps (action sequences). All tasks are unified to
123 sequence-to-sequence formats to facilitate the uses of LLMs. More details can be found in the
124 Methods section.

125 **Paragraph2Compound—Extract All Chemical Compound Entities.**

126 Fig. 2a illustrates the process of random sampling from millions of paragraph-entities pairs,
127 which refer to UPSTO annotations. It starts by randomly selecting 100,000 samples, then choosing
128 10,000 from them, followed by randomly picking 1,000, then 100, and finally 10. This sampling
129 process ensures each smaller subset is included in the larger one, with each subset used for
130 individual training. Fig. 2b demonstrates the performance of prompt-only models and fine-tuned
131 models, which are evaluated on a consistent evaluation set of 1,000 samples across varying training
132 data sizes. These results are obtained from three independent trials. In the case of prompt-only

133 models, randomness is intentionally introduced by altering the prompt and examples (Fig. 2c,
134 Supplementary Fig. 2). Given the task's straightforward nature and clear instructions, even the
135 prompt-only language models achieved decent F1 scores over 0.6. For fine-tuned models, the
136 sampling and training process for the training set is repeated three times, as depicted in Fig. 2a. As
137 shown in Fig. 2b, all fine-tuned models demonstrate a performance improvement, especially in
138 terms of the F1 score and Jaccard index, proportional to the increase in dataset size. These models
139 outperform the prompt-only models designed for this task. When the training data size is
140 substantial enough, the F1 scores of GPT-3.5-turbo, Llama2, and T5 can reach close to 0.9, and
141 the Jaccard index can approach 0.8. Notably, gpt-3.5-turbo, when fine-tuned, showed minimal
142 fluctuations and superior performance. However, it is essential to emphasize that the cost of fine-
143 tuning gpt-3.5-turbo increased tenfold with each tenfold increase in data volume. Our
144 experimentation with gpt-3.5-turbo were capped at 10,000 training samples for 3 epochs due to
145 OpenAI's limitations, resulting in a nearly 90-dollar expense—a low cost-effective investment in
146 computational resources. In contrast, other fine-tuned language models have displayed notable
147 cost advantages in this simple task.



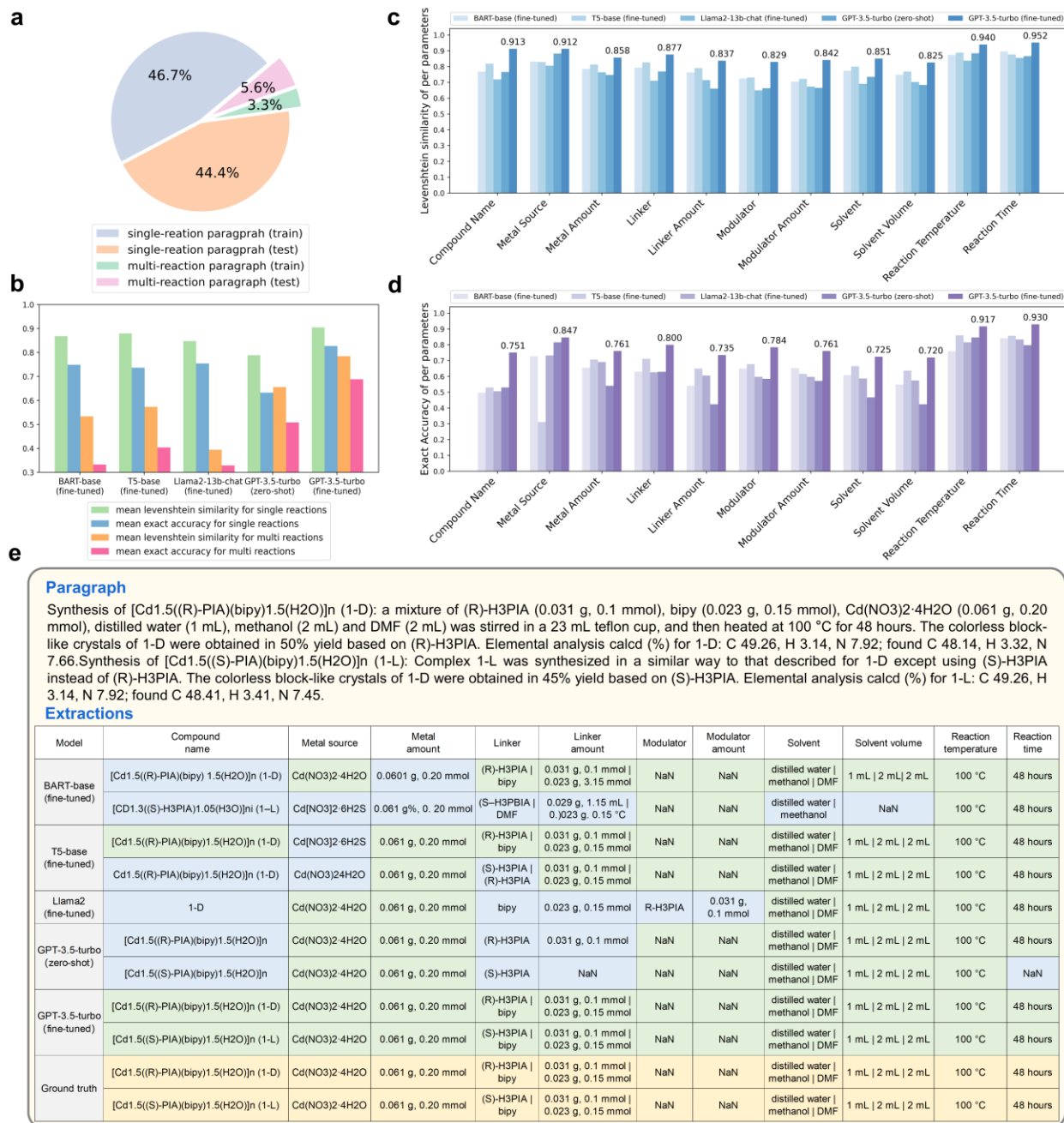
148

149 **Fig. 2. | Design and Performance for Paragraph2Compound task.** **a**, The workflow of sampling and training based on USPTO
 150 dataset for Paragraph2Compound task. **b**, The performance of different models across varying size of training set. The data point
 151 and the shaded areas represent respectively the mean values and standard deviations derived from three independent trials. **c**,
 152 Example of the zero-shot and three-shots prompts utilized for Paragraph2Compound task.

153 **Paragraph2RXNRole—Product Extraction and Reaction Role Labelling.**

154 According to Guo et al.⁸, the Paragraph2RXNRole task comprises two subtasks. The first is
155 to extract the central product, and the second is to label the associated reaction roles within
156 specified paragraphs (Fig. 3a). For these tasks, Guo et al. developed two-stage BERT-like token-
157 multi-classification models. To enable a fair comparison with generative language models, we
158 converted the data into sequence-to-sequence formats by adding <Role*Compound*Role>
159 annotations to the input paragraphs. We then converted the language models' outputs back into
160 lists of BIO-tags, followed by post-processing to align with the original BIO-tags labels for
161 assessment. Notably, even though utilizing prompt engineering with 20-shots examples
162 (Supplementary Fig. 3, 4), GPT-3.5 and GPT-4 perform poor on two Paragraph2RXNRole tasks,
163 which may result from the complicated syntax cases and limited context length (Fig. 3b, 3c).
164 However, the fine-tuned GPT models perform well. For product extraction, the fine-tuned gpt-3.5-
165 turbo (best over one epoch) achieved a F1 score of 77.1%, slightly surpassing the previous SOTA
166 approach, ChemBERT, which scored 76.2% (Fig. 3b). For reaction role labelling, the fine-tuned
167 gpt-3.5-turbo (best over five epochs) achieved a F1 score of 83.0%, significantly outperforming
168 the previous SOTA approach, ChemRxnBERT, which scored 78.7% (Fig. 3c). It's notable that the
169 fine-tuned gpt-3.5-turbo models, which cost only \$1 and \$5 respectively, demonstrated extremely
170 high cost-effectiveness with small training datasets. In contrast, ChemBERT was domain-adaptive
171 pre-trained on 9,478,043 sentences from 200,000 journal articles, and ChemRxnBERT was further
172 task-adaptive trained on 944,733 reaction-inclusive sentences. We should also mention that the
173 outputs of fine-tuned GPTs and Llama2 align almost perfectly with the input text, with 100% and
174 99% post-processing-free ratios respectively. On the other hand, most outputs of fine-tuned T5
175 and BART require additional alignment due to their tokenization and vocabulary limitations, with

190 3.5-turbo with prompt engineering, improving exact accuracy by over 20% for both single and
191 multiple reactions (Fig. 4b, Supplementary Fig. 5). It also surpasses other fine-tuned models,
192 especially when handling complex multi-reaction paragraphs. Exact accuracy rates for single and
193 multiple reactions are 82.7% and 68.8%, respectively (Fig. 4b). As depicted in Fig. 4c and Fig. 4d,
194 while most models achieve high Levenshtein similarity across the 11 parameters, only a few
195 maintain high exact accuracy, which is the golden metric that we mainly focus on. Considering
196 that some MOF synthesis paragraphs may include multiple reactions, we provide an example of
197 multi-reaction extraction by various models in Fig. 4e. The paragraph includes two reactions, the
198 first with (R)-H3PIA and bipy as linkers, providing all reaction conditions explicitly, and the
199 second with the substitution of (R)-H3PIA with (S)-H3PIA, keeping all other conditions
200 unchanged. Most models successfully interpreted the semantics and extracted two reactions from
201 the MOF synthesis paragraph. However, only the fine-tuned ChatGPT perfectly extracted
202 information that matched our annotated ground truth. Other models showed varying degrees of
203 incompleteness, particularly with items involving multiple components and their quantities.

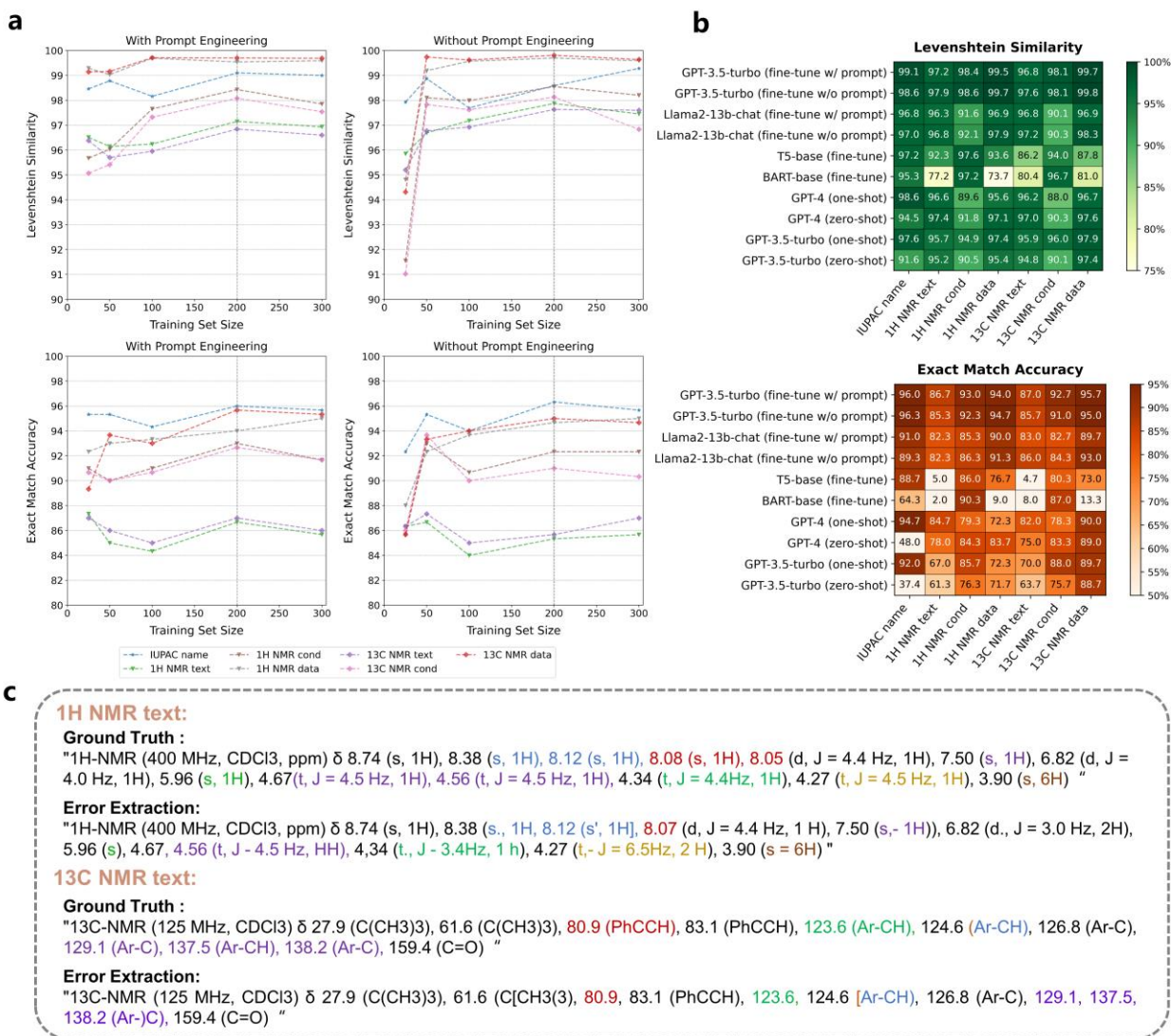


204

205 **Fig. 4. | Design and Performance for Paragraph2MOFInfo task.** **a**, A statistic of the dataset. **b**, Mean performance of
 206 Levenshtein similarity and exact match accuracy by different models. **c**, Levenshtein similarity for 11 parameters in the
 207 Paragraph2MOFInfo task. **d**, Exact match accuracy for 11 parameters in the Paragraph2MOFInfo task. **e**, An example of extractions
 208 by different models from a multi-reaction MOF synthesis paragraph. The cells in yellow represented the ground truth. The cells in
 209 green represented the exact match predictions. The cells in blue represented the incorrect predictions.

210 **Paragraph2NMR—Extraction of Experimental Conditions and NMR Chemical Shifts.**

211 The impact of training set sizes and the use of prompt engineering on the performance of fine-
212 tuning gpt-3.5-turbo in extracting NMR information is illustrated in Fig. 5a. Regardless of the
213 training data size for fine-tuning (ranging from 25 to 300), or the presence of prompt engineering,
214 there are hardly any significant fluctuations in performance. This holds true for metrics such as
215 Levenshtein similarity and exact match accuracy of the fine-tuned gpt-3.5-turbo when the numbers
216 of training samples exceed 50. This demonstrates the strong learning capability and robustness of
217 LLMs. Fig. 5b illustrates the performance of different generative language models using the same
218 200 training data. In terms of Levenshtein similarity, a metric based on edit distance, almost all
219 fine-tuned language models achieved impressive scores, outperforming GPT models that solely
220 rely on prompt engineering (Fig. 5b, Supplementary Fig. 6). However, when considering the exact
221 match accuracy metric, where each character must perfectly align with the ground truth count,
222 LLMs such as GPTs and Llama2 take the lead. While fine-tuned T5 and BART manage to extract
223 the majority of the text, they often miss or mistakenly copy several characters. This contributes to
224 a significant decrease in their exact match accuracy metric, as shown in Fig. 5c. In this context,
225 the extraction of long complex text by LLMs is more standardized and high-quality, aligning more
226 closely with human expectations. It is worth noting that fine-tuning Llama2 provides an alternative
227 approach for deploying text mining locally, given its exceptional exact match accuracy.



228
 229 **Fig. 5. | Performance for Paragraph2NMR task.** a, The performance of fine-tuning gpt-3.5-turbo with and without prompt
 230 engineering as it varies with training data size. b, Heat map illustrating Levenshtein similarity and exact match accuracy of various
 231 models in extracting each NMR information. c, Examples of error extractions by T5 and BART, compared with the ground truth.

232 Paragraph2Action—Action Sequence Extracted from an Experimental Procedure.

233 The above-mentioned extraction tasks simply require the model to replicate specific
 234 information from the paragraph. However, the Paragraph2Action task requires the model to
 235 understand and transform the paragraph. Clearly, GPT models with prompt engineering has
 236 difficulty with this task, especially when it involves multiple complex conversions and insufficient
 237 prompt descriptions (Table 1, Supplementary Fig. 7). To gauge the maximum potential of ChatGPT

238 using only prompts, we incrementally increased the number of transformation examples from 6 to
239 60. Despite encompassing all types of actions at least once and nearly reaching the token limit of
240 4,096 for GPT-3.5 and 8192 for GPT-4, their performance in the few-shot scenario remains
241 disappointingly poor. The currently best-performing LLM GPT-4 with 60 examples for in-context
242 learning, it achieved only 32.7% full sentence exact accuracy, a BLEU score of 65.0, and a
243 Levenshtein similarity of 72.8. However, fine-tuning pre-trained language models with a small
244 amount of data could yield decent results (Table 1). Remarkably, after 3 epochs of fine-tuning gpt-
245 3.5-turbo on 1,060 hand-annotated training data, we achieved 62.5% full sentence exact accuracy,
246 an 84.8 Modified BLEU score, and an 87.6 Levenshtein similarity. This process took only 1 hour
247 and cost \$3 for fine-tuning. These metrics surpass the SOTA results previously reported by
248 Vaucher et al.¹, which used an ensemble of three models, each task-adaptively pre-trained on 2
249 million rule-based data and refined on 14,168 augmented data. Interestingly, further improvement
250 was achieved by augmenting the training data size to 14,168. This resulted in 69.0% full sentence
251 exact accuracy, an 86.4 Modified BLEU score, and an 89.9 Levenshtein similarity (Table 1). For
252 autonomous robots, it is challenging to generate instructions that follow strict syntax rules. Fine-
253 tuning LLMs plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between fuzzy natural language and structured
254 machine-executable programming languages, significantly improving the accuracy of
255 customization with a small amount of annotated data. In similar tasks involving “fuzzy rules” or
256 hard-to-define extraction, fine-tuning LLMs might offer considerable advantages in tailoring the
257 transformation.

Tabel 1 | Performance on Paragraph2Action task.

Model	Training data strategy	100% accuracy	90% accuracy	75% accuracy	Modified BLEU score	Levenshtein similarity	Cost
GPT-3.5-turbo (6-shots)	No training	8.2	16.8	34.7	38.6	59.4	905 mean tokens
GPT-3.5-turbo (12-shots)	No training	8.8	19.3	42.3	43.1	62.3	1,374 mean tokens
GPT-3.5-turbo (18-shots)	No training	13.1	23.3	42.6	44.4	64.3	1,670 mean tokens
GPT-3.5-turbo (24-shots)	No training	14.8	25.9	45.5	47.0	65.8	2,598 mean tokens
GPT-3.5-turbo (30-shots)	No training	13.9	26.4	47.2	49.5	66.0	3,610 mean tokens
GPT-4 (6-shots)	No training	13.4	23.3	44.9	44.7	54.5	861 mean tokens
GPT-4 (12-shots)	No training	20.7	30.7	51.1	51.4	69.2	1,357 mean tokens
GPT-4 (18-shots)	No training	21.9	33.0	56.5	53.8	63.0	1,631 mean tokens
GPT-4 (24-shots)	No training	22.7	35.8	58.2	56.7	65.1	2,546 mean tokens
GPT-4 (30-shots)	No training	26.1	40.0	61.6	59.8	67.7	3,611 mean tokens
GPT-4 (60-shots)	No training	32.7	43.8	63.3	65.0	72.8	7,010 mean tokens, \$ 41
Transformer (single model) *	No task-adaptive pretraining, hand-annotated data (1,060)	13.1	15.1	21.9	22.5	45.9	-
BART-base (fine-tuned)	No task-adaptive pretraining, hand-annotated data (1,060)	51.1	65.9	77.6	73.2	83.9	-
T5-base (fine-tuned)	No task-adaptive pretraining, hand-annotated data (1,060)	57.7	71.6	83.2	81.8	86.8	-
Llama2-13b-chat (fine-tuned)	No task-adaptive pretraining, hand-annotated data (1,060)	56.8	66.8	80.7	80.3	86.0	40 min for training
GPT-3.5-turbo (fine-tuned)	No task-adaptive pretraining, hand-annotated data (1,060)	62.5	72.7	82.9	84.8	87.6	3 epochs, 1h, \$ 3
Transformer (single model) *	No task-adaptive pretraining, augmented data (14,168)	37.8	47.7	62.8	64.7	76.4	-
BART-base (fine-tuned)	No task-adaptive pretraining, augmented data (14,168)	52.0	68.5	80.1	74.4	84.8	-
T5-base (fine-tuned)	No task-adaptive pretraining, augmented data (14,168)	59.7	74.1	82.4	84.1	87.1	-
Llama2-13b-chat (fine-tuned)	No task-adaptive pretraining, augmented data (14,168)	60.2	70.4	83.5	81.6	87.9	9 hours for training
GPT-3.5-turbo (fine-tuned)	No task-adaptive pretraining, augmented data (14,168)	69.0	78.1	86.9	86.4	89.9	5 epochs, 1.5 h, \$ 92
Transformer (single model) *	Task-adaptive pretraining (2 million), hand-annotate (1,060)	56.8	67.3	80.4	81.5	85.7	-
Transformer (single model) *	Task-adaptive pretraining (2 million), augmented data (14,168)	59.4	70.5	81.8	84.3	86.7	-
Transformer (ensemble models) *	Task-adaptive pretraining (2 million), augmented data (14,168)	60.8	71.3	82.4	85.0	86.6	-

259 The symbol “**” represented the result reported by Vaucher et al.¹ The result in black bold is the best previous
 260 performance. The result in red bold is the best new performance.

261 Promising Performance and Potentials of Fine-tuning LLMs on Chemical Text Mining.

262 Chemical text mining expedites scientific discovery in chemistry. Previously, tasks involving
 263 complex chemical language and sophisticated processing required the development of specific
 264 domain-focused models. Now, the fine-tuning of universal LLMs offers a highly generalized and
 265 cost-effective solution. We have demonstrated the impressive efficacy, flexibility, and high exact
 266 accuracy of fine-tuning LLMs, regarding all kinds of text mining tasks as generative problems. An
 267 examination of incorrect predictions revealed that only a small proportion were entirely incorrect,
 268 while most were acceptable alternatives to the ground truth or even pointed out the incorrect labels

269 (Supplementary Fig. 10-14). These errors can be attributed to inconsistent annotation standards
270 and the inherent ambiguity of terms with multiple interpretations or functions. Therefore,
271 improving the formatted data extraction requires continuous efforts, including the refinement of
272 specific rules and the enrichment of annotations prone to misinterpretation during training and
273 inference. With detailed specifications and high-quality formatted data, the fine-tuning method
274 based on LLMs is highly reliable. It can be easily extended to tasks related to extracting
275 information from scientific literature and transforming data into simple user-friendly reaction
276 format²⁰ that is both human- and machine-readable. This approach will significantly contribute to
277 the development of extensive databases like Open Reaction Database^{21,22}, SciFinder²³ and
278 Reaxys²⁴, which gather comprehensive synthesis data through automated curation and expert
279 verification, to make data more findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable (FAIR).

280 Nevertheless, leveraging fine-tuned LLMs is still insufficient to extract all synthesis
281 information from chemical literature, which contains extensive complex figure and form contents.
282 Recently, some tools have been developed to recognize molecular images^{25,26} and reaction
283 diagrams^{27,28} from the literature. Integrating LLMs with these image recognition tools or
284 developing advanced large multimodal models (LMMs) may be a promising unified solution for
285 further chemical data mining. Notably, when extracting large amounts of data from copyrighted
286 literature, it's essential to access the necessary permissions from scientific publications.

287 In this work, we have scratched the surface of the vast potential of LLMs in chemistry and
288 materials science by fine-tuning LLMs for chemical text mining. We can see that there is still a
289 gap between open-source language models and GPT models, but considering GPTs' closed-source
290 nature, it becomes imperative for researchers and communities to focus efforts on this direction.
291 Technically, advancements like more effective fine-tuning strategies, improved open-source

292 model architectures, faster inference approaches, wider context windows, and lower computational
293 costs in the era of LLMs are anticipated to further enhance text mining. Meanwhile, it's more
294 essential to consider what else can be achieved with LLMs and how we can develop more effective
295 LLMs for chemistry and materials science. For instance, LLMs have the potential to revolutionize
296 predictive modelling by incorporating the extensive "fuzzy knowledge" encapsulated within
297 scientific literature, especially in chemistry and drug discovery. By combining empirical results
298 with documented knowledge, LLMs could assist chemists identify patterns in experiments that
299 might otherwise be missed, predict properties of compounds and outcomes of reactions, and even
300 generate new chemical hypotheses and theories. Furthermore, the integration of LLMs'
301 comprehension with specialized tools could substantially lower the barrier of chemists to use these
302 tools throughout the entire workflow, thanks to interactive interfaces in natural language. Future
303 research could investigate how to merge formatted laboratory data with wealth of information in
304 scientific literature and develop the multimodal capability to enrich specific domain knowledge
305 for LLMs. This endeavor will require a sustained, long-term effort.

306 **Conclusion**

307 Here, we have demonstrated the effectiveness of fine-tuning LLMs in chemical text mining.
308 We conducted five complex tasks: compound entity recognition, reaction role labelling, MOF
309 synthesis information extraction, NMR data extraction, and the transformation from reaction
310 procedures to action sequences. Chemical text mining remains a challenging professional domain
311 when leveraging language model mining, even with prompt engineering. However, LLMs that are
312 fine-tuned with appropriate annotations can produce structured outputs that perfectly fulfil human
313 requirements not easily expressed in natural language. This feature fully utilizes their natural
314 language understanding and formatting capability. Using chemical text mining as an example, this

315 study provides guidance on fine-tuning of LLMs to serve as universal knowledge extraction
316 toolkits. These toolkits can be easily extended for automated extraction from documents and rule-
317 based formatted transformations. Our work lays the groundwork for the applications of LLMs in
318 information extraction within the chemical domain, which will catalyze data-driven innovations
319 in chemical and materials science.

320 **Methods**

321 **Data Preparation**

322 For the Paragraph2Compound task, we compiled an automatically annotated dataset. This
323 dataset is based on the publicly accessed USPTO subset extracted by Lowe et al.^{29,30}, and includes
324 millions chemical reaction paragraphs from patents, each paired with compound tags. We used
325 regular expressions to identify compound labels within each paragraph, separating them with “|”
326 symbol based on their sequential occurrence in the paragraph. For the Paragraph2RXNRole task,
327 we used the manually annotated dataset by Guo et al.⁸, following the same data partitioning
328 strategy. We transformed the data from the BIO-token classification format to a sequence-to-
329 sequence format using the annotation scheme “<Role*compound*Role>”. We processed
330 paragraphs containing multiple central products and related reactions into several input and output
331 pairs. For the Paragraph2MOFInfo task, we manually checked and re-annotated the raw data of
332 Zheng et al.¹⁴, transforming them into a sequence-to-sequence format. This dataset comprises
333 MOF synthesis paragraphs, extraction by ChatGPT, and human-evaluated answers. For the
334 Paragraph2NMR task, we manually curated a dataset of 600 high-quality annotations. These were
335 mainly sourced from various literature on PubMed to ensure a wide diversity. The task aims to
336 extract information such as IUPAC name, experimental conditions, including frequency and
337 solvent, and chemical shifts data from both ¹H NMR and ¹³C NMR spectra. For the
338 Paragraph2Action task, we utilized the hand-annotated dataset by Vaucher et al., employing the
339 same data partitioning strategy. This dataset is derived from the Pistachio dataset by NextMove
340 software³¹. The details of datasets used for the five chemical text mining tasks are listed in
341 Supplementary Table 1.

342

343 **Prompt-only ChatGPT**

344 Prompt-only interaction enables users to efficiently communicate with large language models
345 through simple prompts. This guides the model to produce relevant responses without further
346 training. In a zero-shot scenario, the model generates responses using only a descriptive prompt
347 and its pre-trained knowledge. However, in a few-shot approach, the model uses a small number
348 of examples to improve its understandings and responses. To maximize the performance, we
349 selected diverse examples and ensured a large number of tokens. We interacted with ChatGPT
350 using API keys and employed model versions gpt-3.5-turbo-0613 and gpt-4-0613. The zero-shot
351 and few-shot prompts for chemical text mining tasks can be found in Supplementary Fig. 2-7.

352 **Fine-tuning ChatGPT**

353 Since late August 2023, supervised fine-tuning capabilities have been available for the gpt-
354 3.5-turbo model³². The aim is to enhance performance in specific scenarios customized based on
355 private data. In this study, we fine-tuned the gpt-3.5-turbo-0613 model for chemical text mining
356 sceneries. We formatted the data into jsonl and uploaded them to OpenAI's cloud servers, then
357 initiated fine-tuning jobs. Once the training was complete, the fine-tuned gpt-3.5-turbo model was
358 ready for inference. API keys were requisite throughout the training and inference procedures.
359 Fine-tuning for the gpt-4-turbo model is expected in the future.

360 **Open-Source Language Models**

361 We selected the most widely used and representative generative pre-trained language models
362 like Llama2,¹⁷ T5¹⁸ and BART¹⁹. These serve as baselines for a comprehensive comparison with
363 the fine-tuned ChatGPT across five chemical text mining tasks. Considering performance,
364 efficiency, and hardware resource constraints, we used full parameter fine-tuning for BART-base
365 and T5-base. We applied multitask-learning to BART and T5 in the Paragraph2MOFInfo task and

366 Paragraph2NMR task due to their limitations in generating multi-attribute long sentences
367 (Supplementary Fig. 8, 9), aiming to enhance their performance. This approach significantly
368 improved their performance. For Llama2, we used Q-LoRA³³ to efficiently fine-tune llama2-13b-
369 chat. This method maintains most performance of full parameter fine-tuning while significantly
370 reducing computational demands. We used vllm³⁴ to speed up the inference of llama2-13b-chat,
371 which is tens of times faster than Hugging Face's pipeline. To ensure optimal performance, we
372 adjusted hyperparameters such as learning rates, lora_r, and lora_alpha during the fine-tuning
373 process of baseline models (Supplementary Table 2). More details of training, pre-processing, and
374 post-processing can be found in the Supplementary Information.

375 **Metrics for Evaluation**

376 Since fine-tuning ChatGPT does not allow for early stopping based on optimal validation loss,
377 we report the performances of all models at the best epoch selected from the evaluation set for fair
378 comparison. Given the task specifics, we use metrics including precision, recall, and F1 score for
379 evaluating entity-level performance. For sentence-level performance assessment, we use
380 Levenshtein similarity, exact match accuracy, partial accuracy, and a modified BLEU score.

381 **Data Availability**

382 All datasets used in this work are available from the authors upon request.

383 **Code Availability**

384 All scripts for training and evaluating can be found on GitHub at [https://github.com/zw-](https://github.com/zw-SIMM/SFTChatGPT_for_chemtext_mining)
385 [SIMM/SFTChatGPT_for_chemtext_mining](https://github.com/zw-SIMM/SFTChatGPT_for_chemtext_mining).

386

387 **References**

- 388 1 Vaucher, A. C. *et al.* Automated extraction of chemical synthesis actions from
389 experimental procedures. *Nat. Comm.* **11**, 3601 (2020).
- 390 2 Suvarna, M., Vaucher, A. C., Mitchell, S., Laino, T. & Pérez-Ramírez, J. Language models
391 and protocol standardization guidelines for accelerating synthesis planning in
392 heterogeneous catalysis. *Nat. Comm.* **14**, 7964 (2023).
- 393 3 Mehr, S. H. M., Craven, M., Leonov, A. I., Keenan, G. & Cronin, L. A universal system
394 for digitization and automatic execution of the chemical synthesis literature. *Science* **370**,
395 101-108 (2020).
- 396 4 Steiner, S. *et al.* Organic synthesis in a modular robotic system driven by a chemical
397 programming language. *Science* **363**, eaav2211 (2019).
- 398 5 Ha, T. *et al.* AI-driven robotic chemist for autonomous synthesis of organic molecules. *Sci.*
399 *Adv.* **9**, eadj0461 (2023).
- 400 6 Swain, M. C. & Cole, J. M. ChemDataExtractor: a toolkit for automated extraction of
401 chemical information from the scientific literature. *J. Chem. Inf. Model.* **56**, 1894-1904
402 (2016).
- 403 7 Mavracic, J., Court, C. J., Isazawa, T., Elliott, S. R. & Cole, J. M. ChemDataExtractor 2.0:
404 Autopopulated ontologies for materials science. *J. Chem. Inf. Model.* **61**, 4280-4289 (2021).
- 405 8 Guo, J. *et al.* Automated chemical reaction extraction from scientific literature. *J. Chem.*
406 *Inf. Model.* **62**, 2035-2045 (2021).
- 407 9 Castro Nascimento, C. M. & Pimentel, A. S. Do Large Language Models Understand
408 Chemistry? A Conversation with ChatGPT. *J. Chem. Inf. Model.* **63**, 1649-1655 (2023).
- 409 10 Clark, T. M., Anderson, E., Dickson-Karn, N. M., Soltanirad, C. & Tafini, N. Comparing
410 the Performance of College Chemistry Students with ChatGPT for Calculations Involving
411 Acids and Bases. *J. Chem. Educ.* **100**, 3934-3944 (2023).
- 412 11 Guo, T. *et al.* What indeed can GPT models do in chemistry? A comprehensive benchmark
413 on eight tasks. Preprint at *arXiv* <https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.18365> (2023).
- 414 12 Ji, Z. *et al.* Survey of hallucination in natural language generation. *ACM Computing*
415 *Surveys* **55**, 1-38 (2023).
- 416 13 Zhang, Y. *et al.* Siren's Song in the AI Ocean: A Survey on Hallucination in Large
417 Language Models. Preprint at *arXiv* <https://arxiv.org/abs/2309.01219> (2023).
- 418 14 Zheng, Z., Zhang, O., Borgs, C., Chayes, J. T. & Yaghi, O. M. ChatGPT Chemistry
419 Assistant for Text Mining and the Prediction of MOF Synthesis. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **145**,
420 18048-18062 (2023).
- 421 15 Patiny, L. & Godin, G. Automatic extraction of FAIR data from publications using LLM.
422 (2023).
- 423 16 Chen, Q. *et al.* An Extensive Benchmark Study on Biomedical Text Generation and Mining
424 with ChatGPT. *Bioinformatics*, btad557 (2023).
- 425 17 Touvron, H. *et al.* Llama 2: Open foundation and fine-tuned chat models. Preprint at *arXiv*
426 <https://arxiv.org/abs/2307.09288> (2023).
- 427 18 Raffel, C. *et al.* Exploring the limits of transfer learning with a unified text-to-text
428 transformer. *The Journal of Machine Learning Research* **21**, 5485-5551 (2020).
- 429 19 Lewis, M. *et al.* Bart: Denoising sequence-to-sequence pre-training for natural language
430 generation, translation, and comprehension. Preprint at *arXiv*
431 <https://arxiv.org/abs/1910.13461> (2019).

- 432 20 Nippa, D. F. *et al.* Simple User-Friendly Reaction Format. (2023).
433 21 Kearnes, S. M. *et al.* The open reaction database. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **143**, 18820-18826
434 (2021).
435 22 Mercado, R., Kearnes, S. M. & Coley, C. W. Data sharing in chemistry: lessons learned
436 and a case for mandating structured reaction data. *J. Chem. Inf. Model.* **63**, 4253-4265
437 (2023).
438 23 SciFinder. <https://scifinder-n.cas.org>. (accessed August 29, 2023).
439 24 Reaxys. <https://www.reaxys.com>. (accessed August 29, 2023).
440 25 Xiong, J. *et al.* α Extractor: a system for automatic extraction of chemical information from
441 biomedical literature. *Sci. China. Life. Sci.* (2023).
442 26 Qian, Y. *et al.* MolScribe: Robust Molecular Structure Recognition with Image-to-Graph
443 Generation. *J. Chem. Inf. Model.* **63**, 1925-1934 (2023).
444 27 Qian, Y., Guo, J., Tu, Z., Coley, C. W. & Barzilay, R. RxnScribe: A Sequence Generation
445 Model for Reaction Diagram Parsing. *J. Chem. Inf. Model.* **63**, 4030-4041 (2023).
446 <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jcim.3c00439>
447 28 Wilary, D. M. & Cole, J. M. ReactionDataExtractor 2.0: A deep learning approach for data
448 extraction from chemical reaction schemes. *J. Chem. Inf. Model.* **63**, 6053-6067 (2023).
449 29 Lowe, D. Chemical reactions from US patents (1976-Sep2016). figshare
450 [https://figshare.com/articles/dataset/Chemical_reactions_from_US_patents_1976-](https://figshare.com/articles/dataset/Chemical_reactions_from_US_patents_1976-Sep2016_/5104873)
451 [Sep2016_/5104873](https://figshare.com/articles/dataset/Chemical_reactions_from_US_patents_1976-Sep2016_/5104873). (accessed August 29, 2023).
452 30 Lowe, D. M. Extraction of chemical structures and reactions from the literature. Ph.D.
453 Thesis, University of Cambridge, (2012).
454 31 NextMoveSoftware. Pistachio. <https://www.nextmovesoftware.com/pistachio.html>.
455 (accessed August 22, 2023).
456 32 Peng, A., Wu, M., Allard, J., Kilpatrick, L. & Heidel, S. GPT-3.5 Turbo fine-tuning and
457 API updates. <https://openai.com/blog/gpt-3-5-turbo-fine-tuning-and-api-updates>.
458 (accessed August 22, 2023).
459 33 Dettmers, T., Pagnoni, A., Holtzman, A. & Zettlemoyer, L. Qlora: Efficient finetuning of
460 quantized LLMs. Preprint at *arXiv* <https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.14314> (2023).
461 34 Kwon, W. *et al.* in *Proceedings of the 29th Symposium on Operating Systems Principles*
462 611–626 (Association for Computing Machinery, Koblenz, Germany, 2023).

463 Acknowledgements

464 We thank all contributions of the open-source community on LLMs. We appreciate Yaghi's
465 group for guiding in ChatGPT prompt engineering for chemistry tasks.

466 This work was supported by National Natural Science Foundation of China (T2225002,
467 82273855 to M.Y.Z., and 82204278 to X.T.L.), the National Key Research and Development
468 Program of China (2022YFC3400504 to M.Y.Z.), SIMM-SHUTCM Traditional Chinese

469 Medicine Innovation Joint Research Program (E2G805H to M.Y.Z.), and Shanghai Municipal
470 Science and Technology Major Project.

471 **Contributions**

472 W.Z., J.C.X., Z.Y.F., and M.Y.Z. conceived the idea. M.Y.Z and Z.Y.F designed the research.
473 W.Z., Q.G.W., Z.M.H. implemented the codes. W.Z., Q.G.W., X.T.K, J.C.X, S.K.N., Z.Y.F.
474 collected, annotated, and processed training data. D.H.C., B.Y.N., Q.S., and X.T.L. checked the
475 data. M.A.C., R.Z.Z., Y.T.W., L.H.Z benchmarked the models. W.Z. wrote the initial draft. M.Y.Z.,
476 Z.Y.F. and Z.P.X. reviewed and refined the article. All authors contributed to the analysis of the
477 results. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

478 **Competing interests**

479 The authors declare no competing interests.