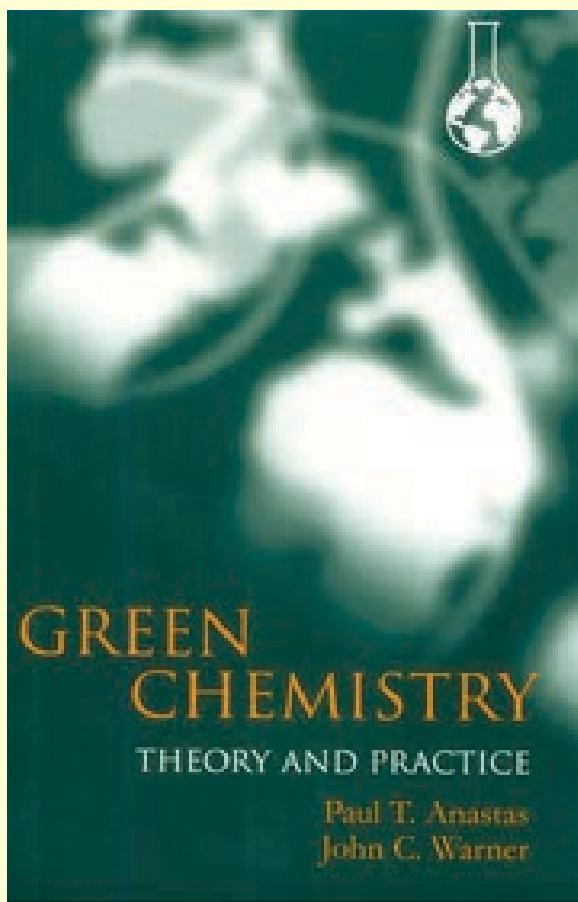


# Green Chemistry: Possibilities for the Next Generation

Eric Beckman

Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation  
Chemical Engineering Dept.  
University of Pittsburgh

# Green Chemistry: 20 Years and counting..



1998

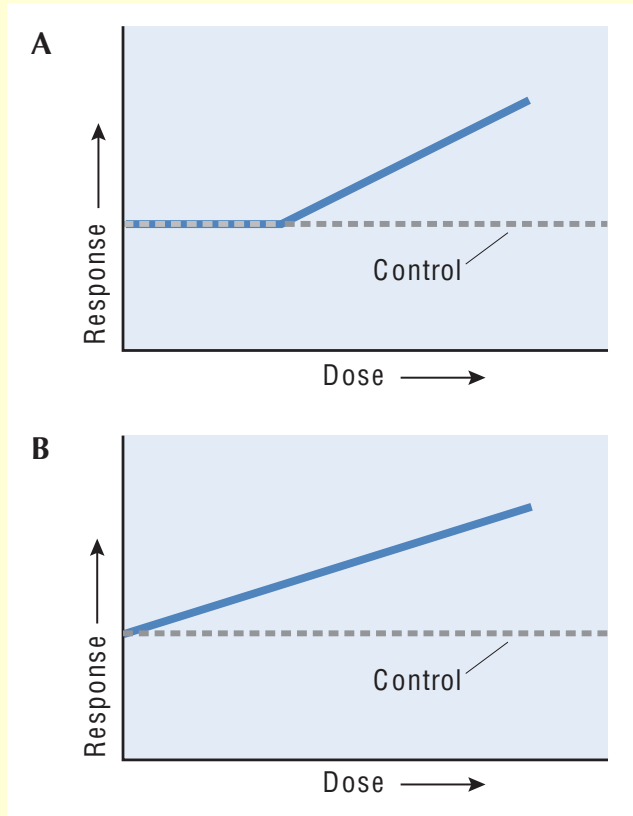


Presidential Green  
Chemistry Awards (1996)

# Green Chemistry: 20 Years on...

- A new way to look at chemistry & engineering
- From cleanup to pollution prevention to hazard reduction
- Along the way,
  - new ways to look at toxicity,
  - tractable tools for life cycle analysis,
  - New technology,
  - profound changes within the business & *investment* community.

# New Ways to Look at Toxicity [from *E.J. Calabrese*, *EMBO Rep.* (2004), 5 (special issue), s37-s40]



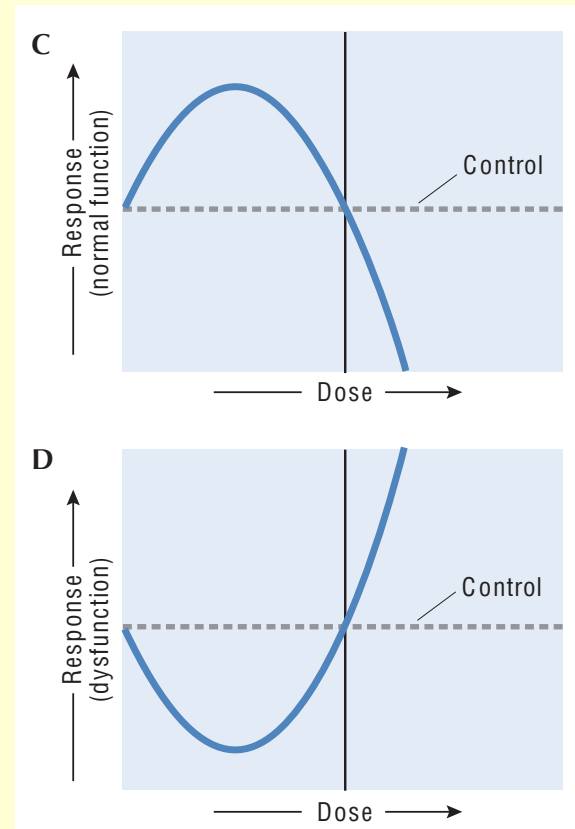
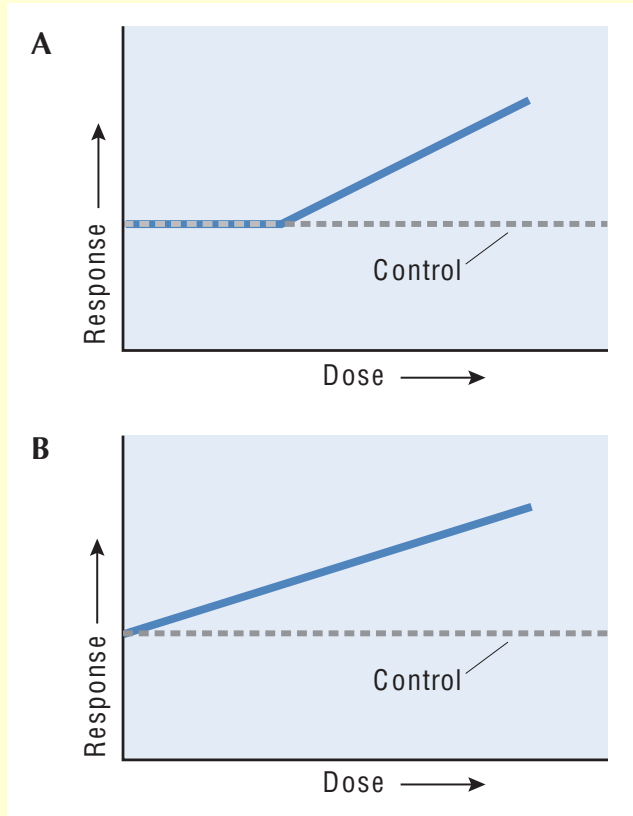
Traditional view, the dose makes the poison, with and without a threshold value...

...carcinogens and radiation assumed to have no threshold

## Endocrine disruption, Epigenetics



# New Ways to Look at Toxicity [from *E.J. Calabrese*, *EMBO Rep.* (2004), 5 (special issue), s37-s40]



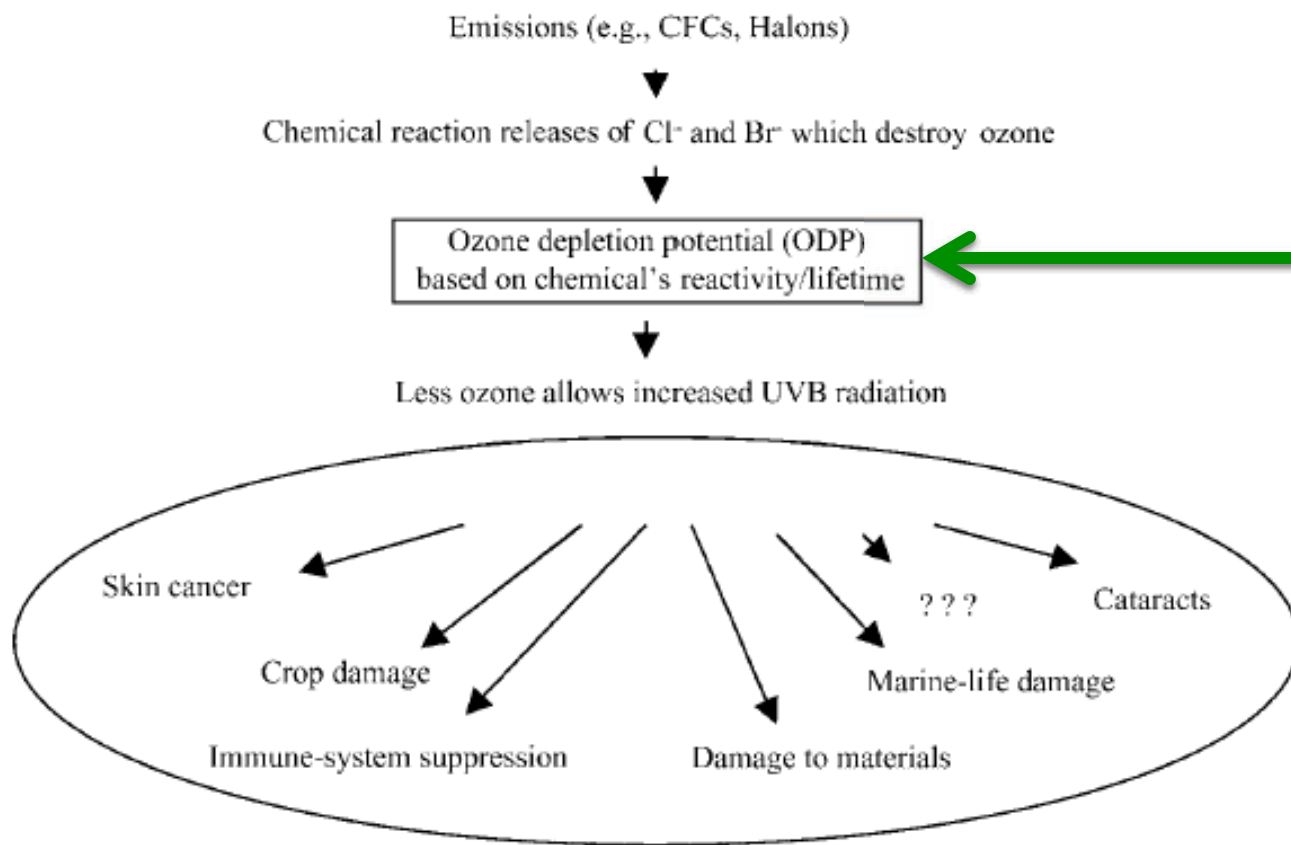
Newer ways to look at toxicity; U and J curves

## Endocrine disruption, Epigenetics

# Life Cycle Analysis Becomes a Viable Tool



# TRACI: Tool for the Reduction and Assessment of Chemical and other Environmental Impacts



See Jane Bare, et al., *J. Industr. Ecol.* 2003, 6, 49

# TRACI: Tool for the Reduction and Assessment of Chemical and other Environmental Impacts

- Ozone depletion
- Global warming
- Smog formation
- Acidification
- Eutrophication
- Human health-cancer
- Human health non-cancer
- Human health criteria pollutants
- Eco-toxicity
- Fossil fuel depletion
- Land use
- Water use

See Jane Bare, et al., *J. Industr. Ecol.* 2003, 6, 49

# New Technology: Bio-based materials



Ecovative Design;  
materials from mushrooms

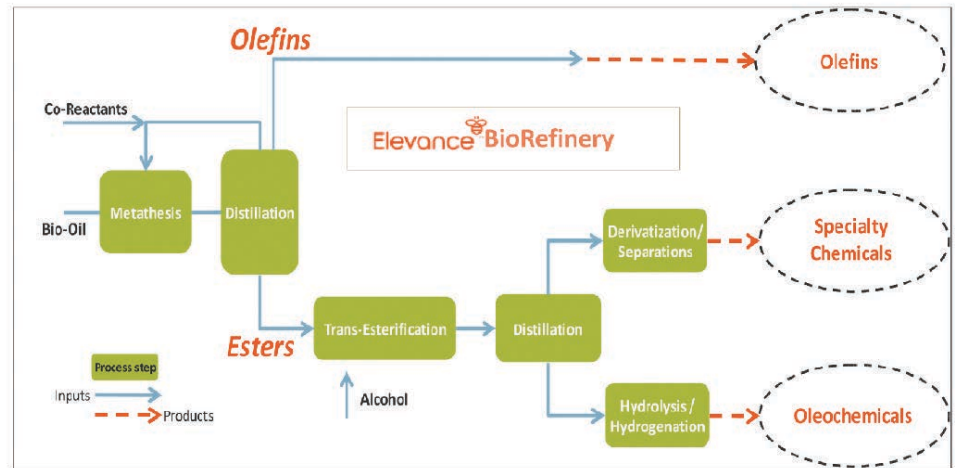


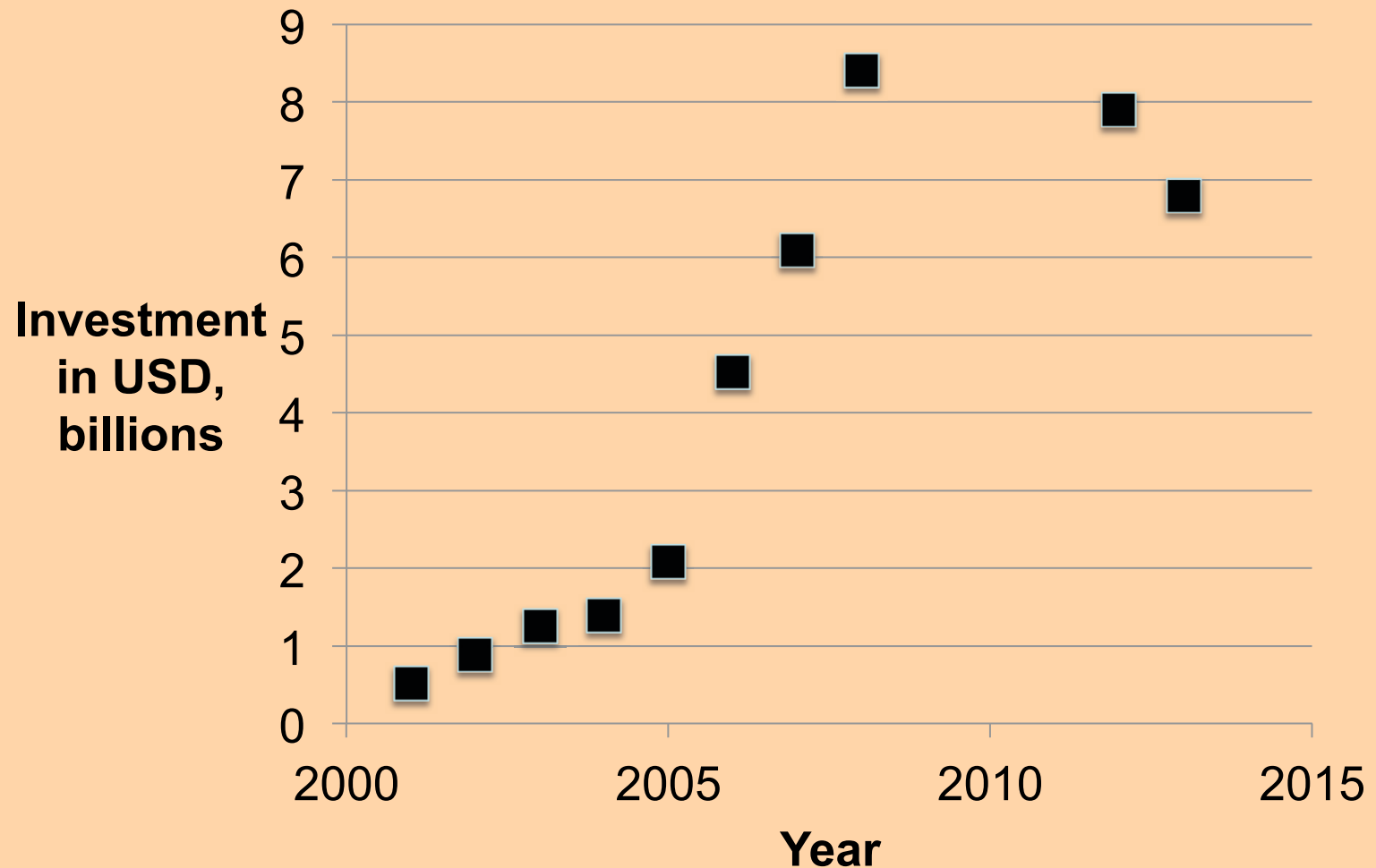
FIG. 7. Elevance biorefinery.

## BREAKTHROUGH BIOTECHNOLOGY PLATFORM



Solazyme's  
Bio-oils

# The Cleantech Sector Didn't Really Exist Prior to 2000



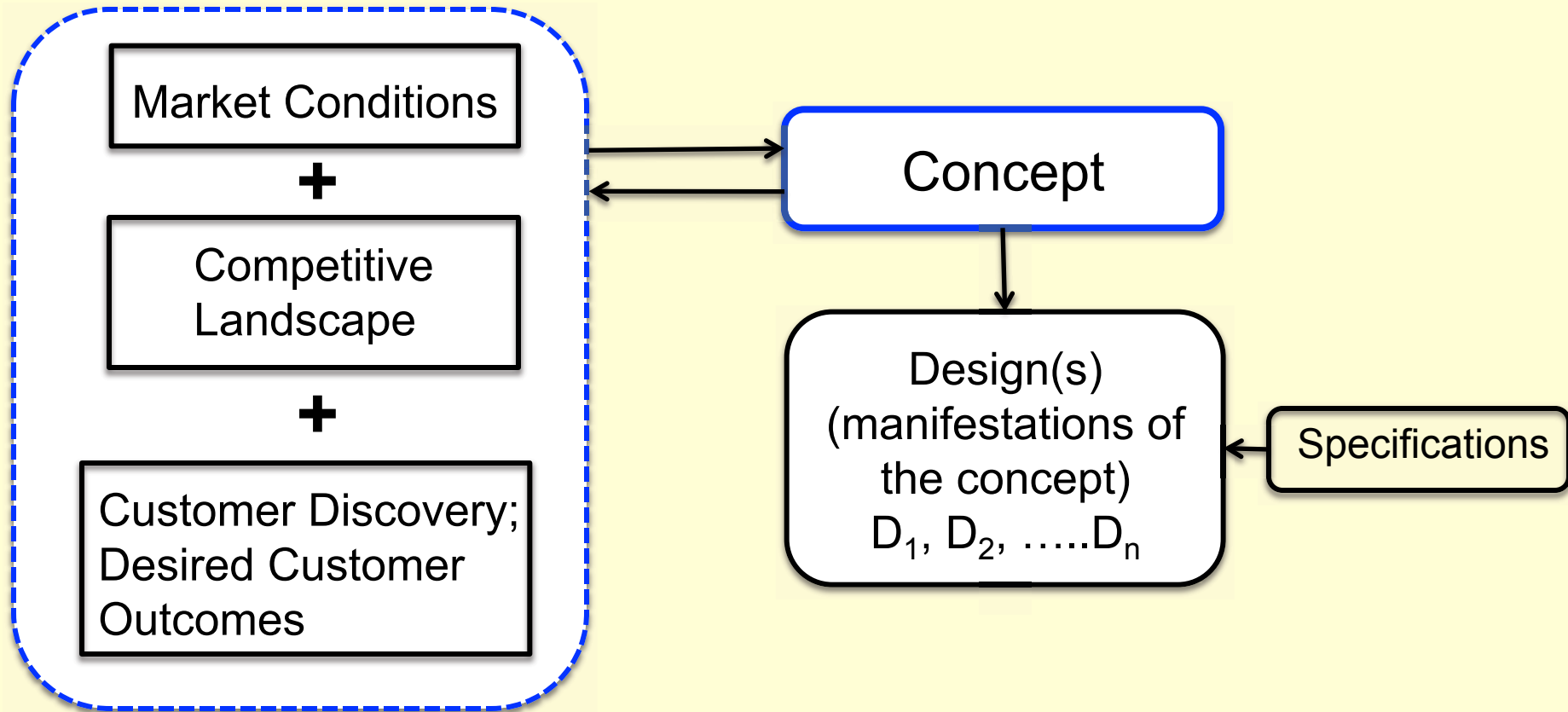
# Themes for Today

- Eco-Innovation via Customer-Centered Design
- Possible Future Trends (i.e., WAG's)
  - Completely integrated molecular design for chemical products
  - Resilient chemical generation via distributed synthesis
  - Molecular “services”
  - CO<sub>2</sub>-based chemical systems



# Opportunity, Concept Creation & Design

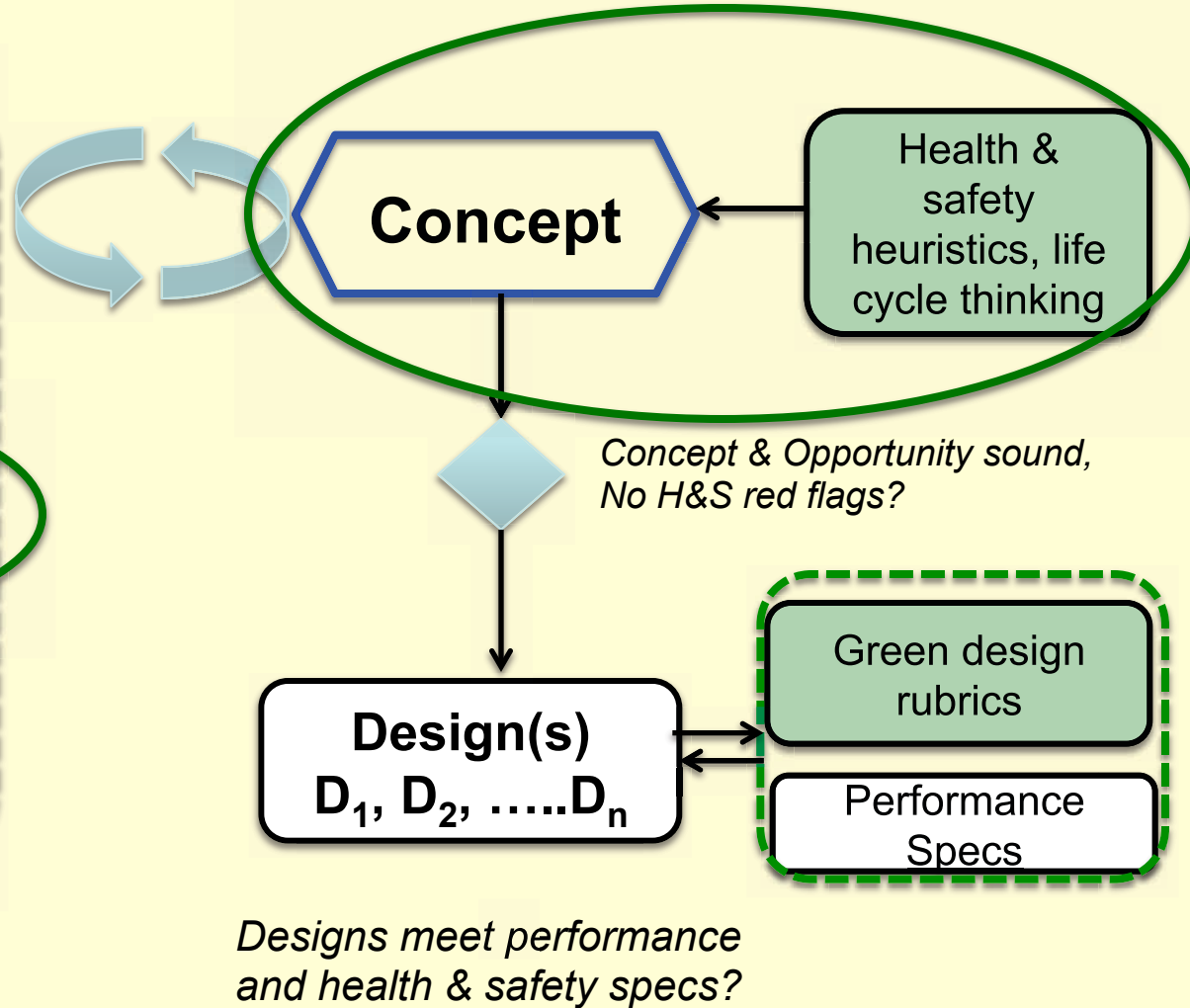
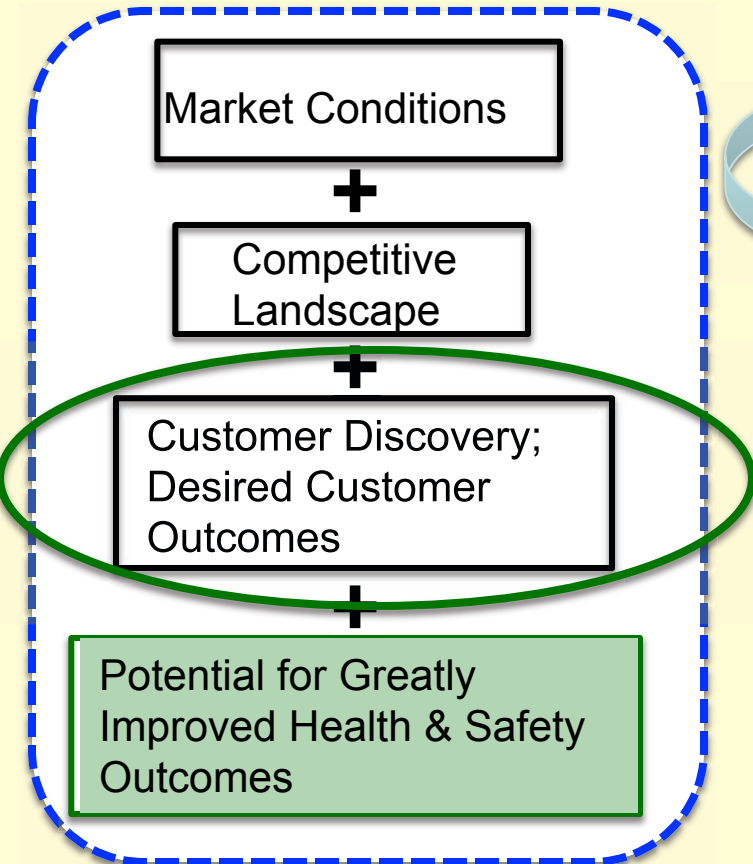
## Opportunity



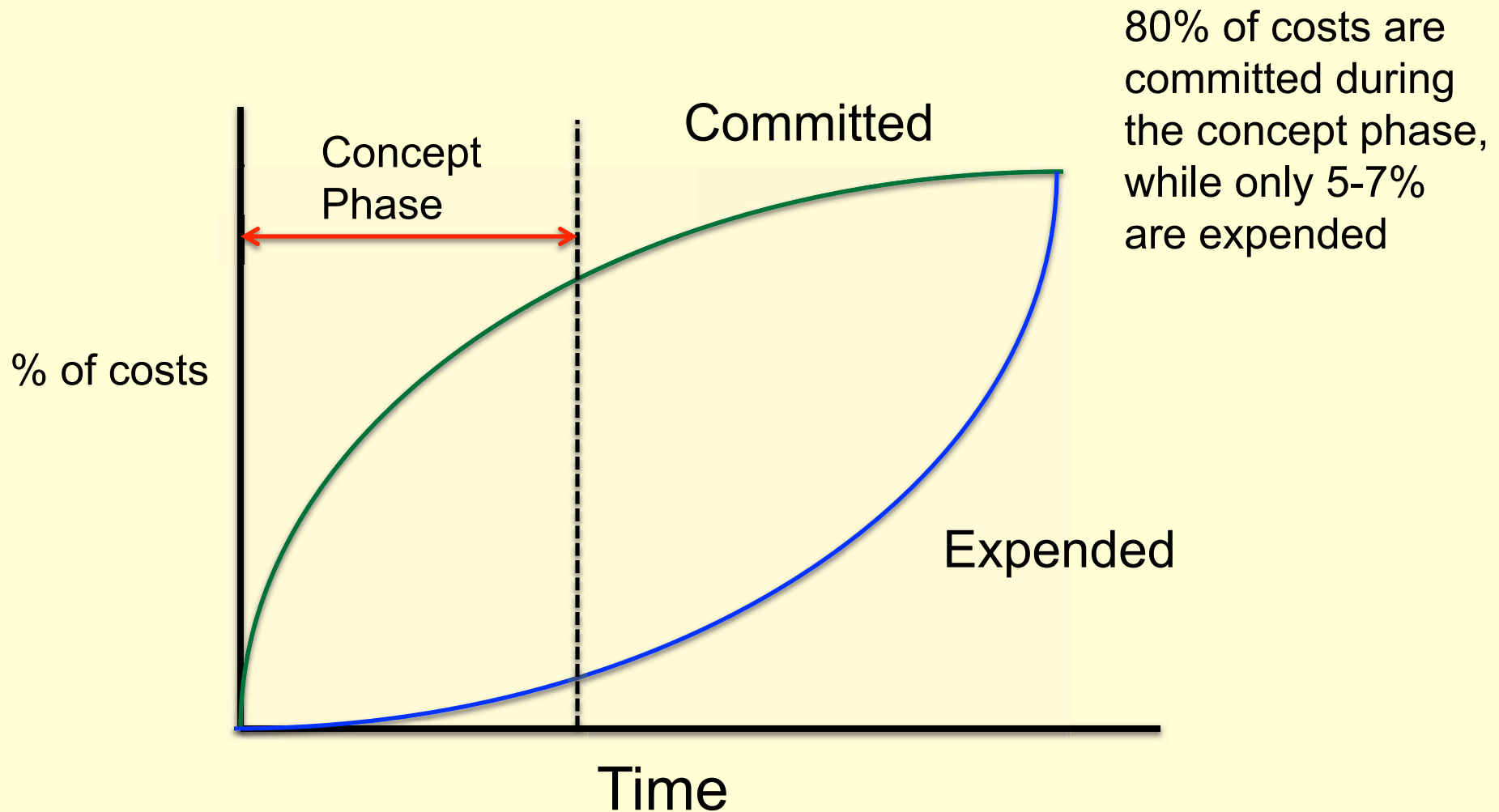


# Adding “Green” Thinking to the Process

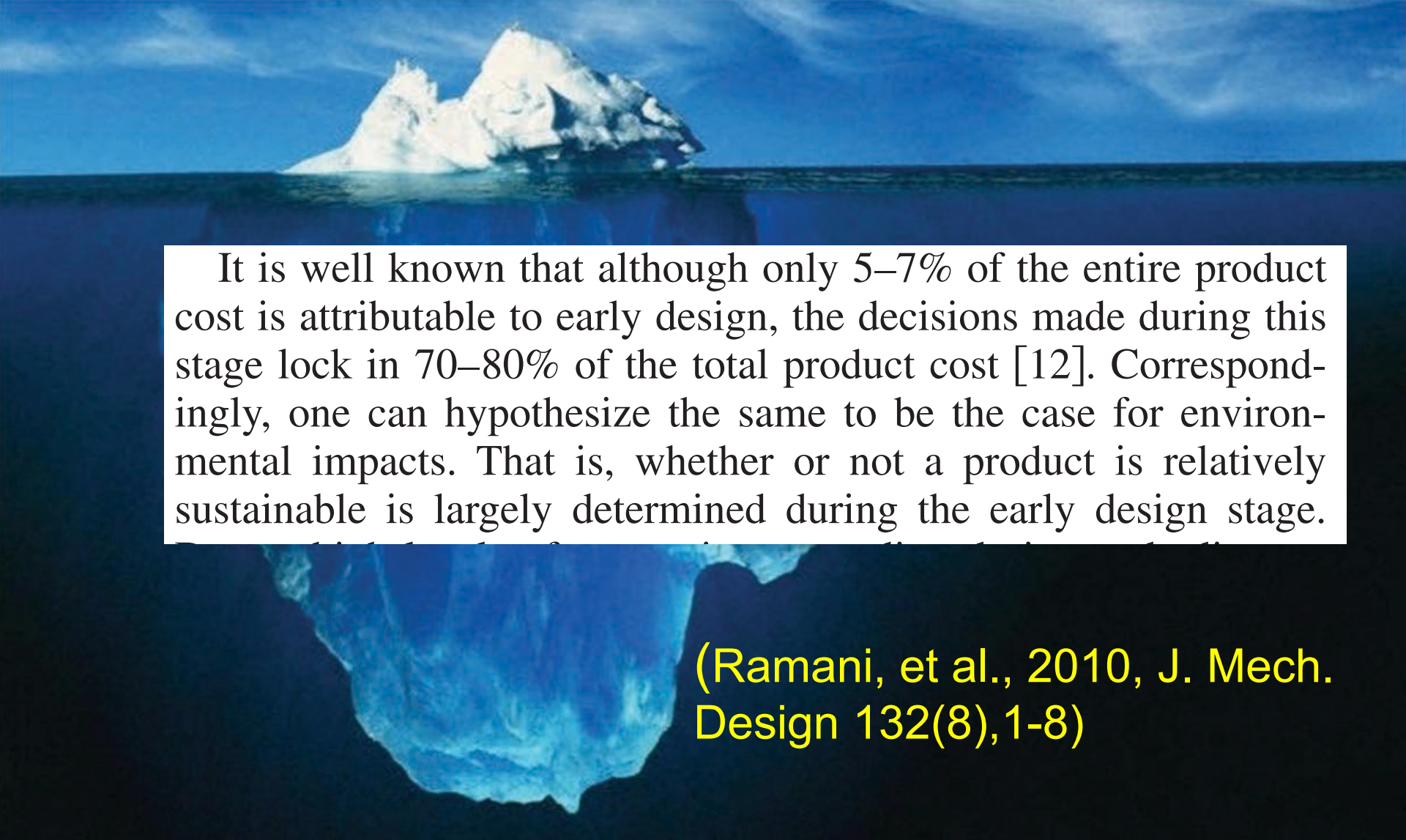
## Opportunity



(from Ullman, *The Mechanical Design Process*, 2010).



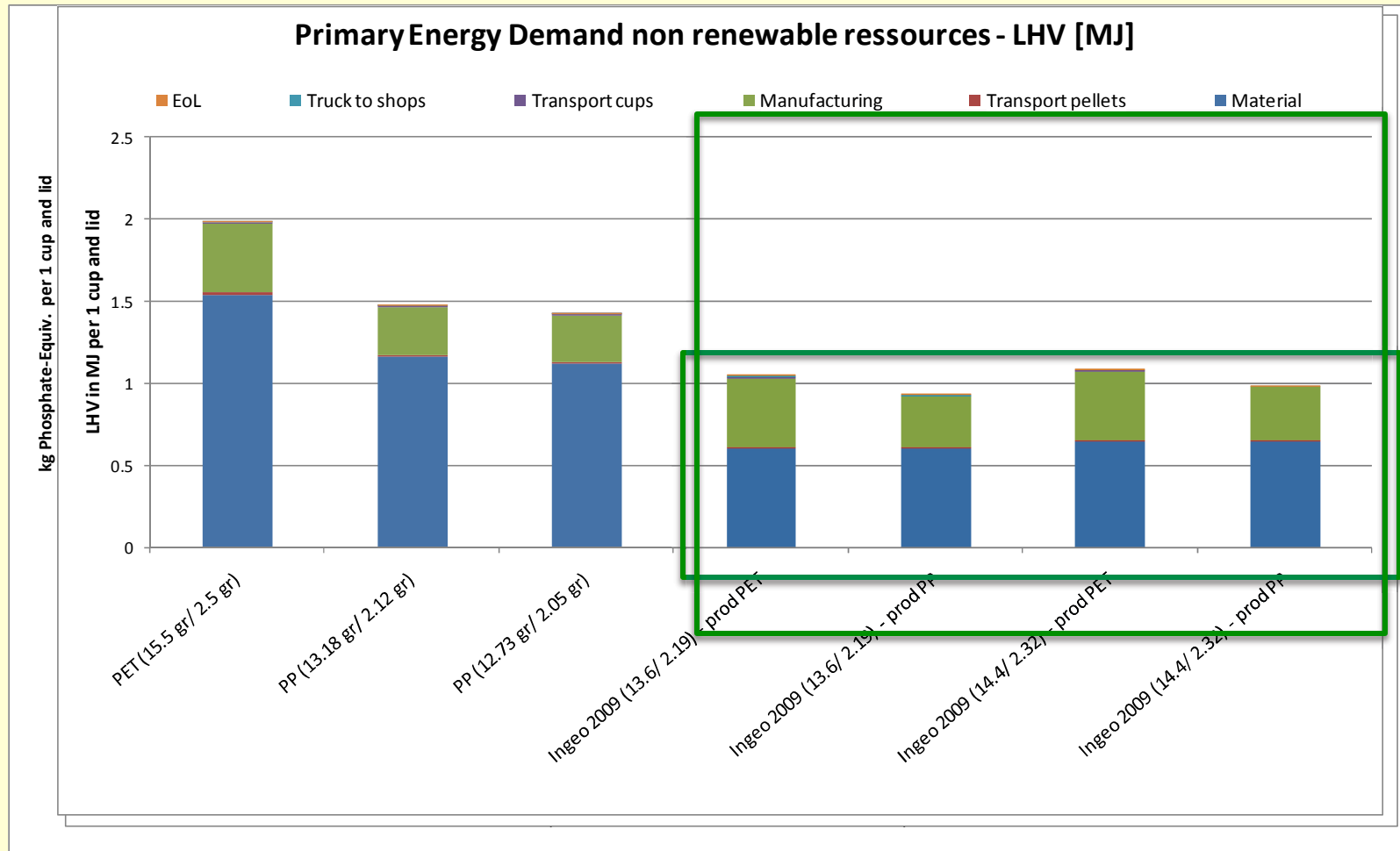
# Embedded Impacts Take Shape During the Concept Formation Stage



It is well known that although only 5–7% of the entire product cost is attributable to early design, the decisions made during this stage lock in 70–80% of the total product cost [12]. Correspondingly, one can hypothesize the same to be the case for environmental impacts. That is, whether or not a product is relatively sustainable is largely determined during the early design stage.

(Ramani, et al., 2010, *J. Mech. Design* 132(8),1-8)

# Why Innovation: Dealing with Trade-offs



Comparative LCA: Ingeo biopolymer, PET, and PP Drinking Cups, PE Americas (2009)

# Innovating



Work at the Concept  
Formation Stage

Let Their Wants  
& Needs Drive  
Brainstorming



# Customers!

- They don't sort products neatly into "bins";
  - Products and services are solutions
  - Tangible, emotional, social
- Oftentimes its hard to tell what they want, but they don't want hazard.
- True green innovation needs their perspective.
- Its easy to fall into the trap of becoming what we've always made.

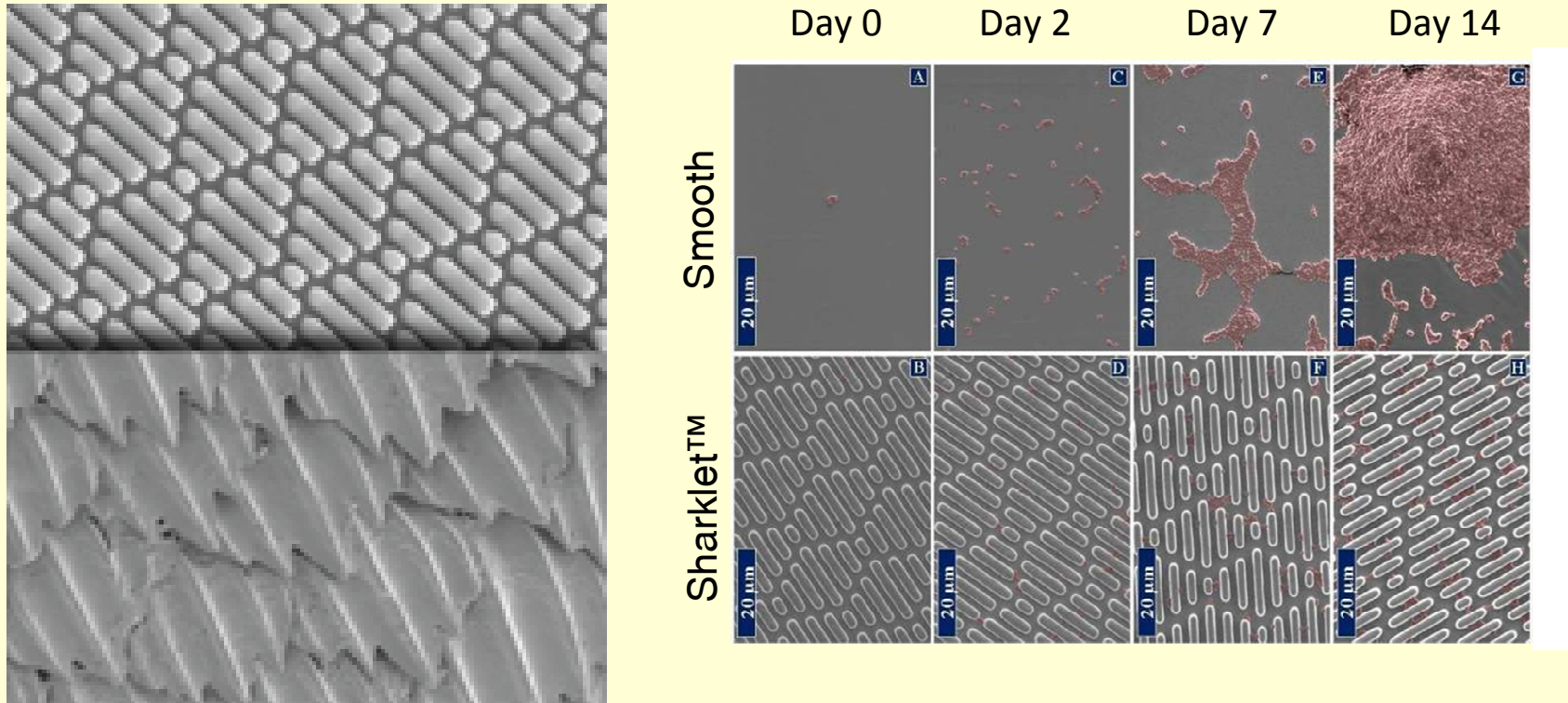


# Customer desired outcome is *no bacteria on surfaces*



# Desired outcome is no bacteria

## Sharklet Technologies (Aurora, CO) patterned surface

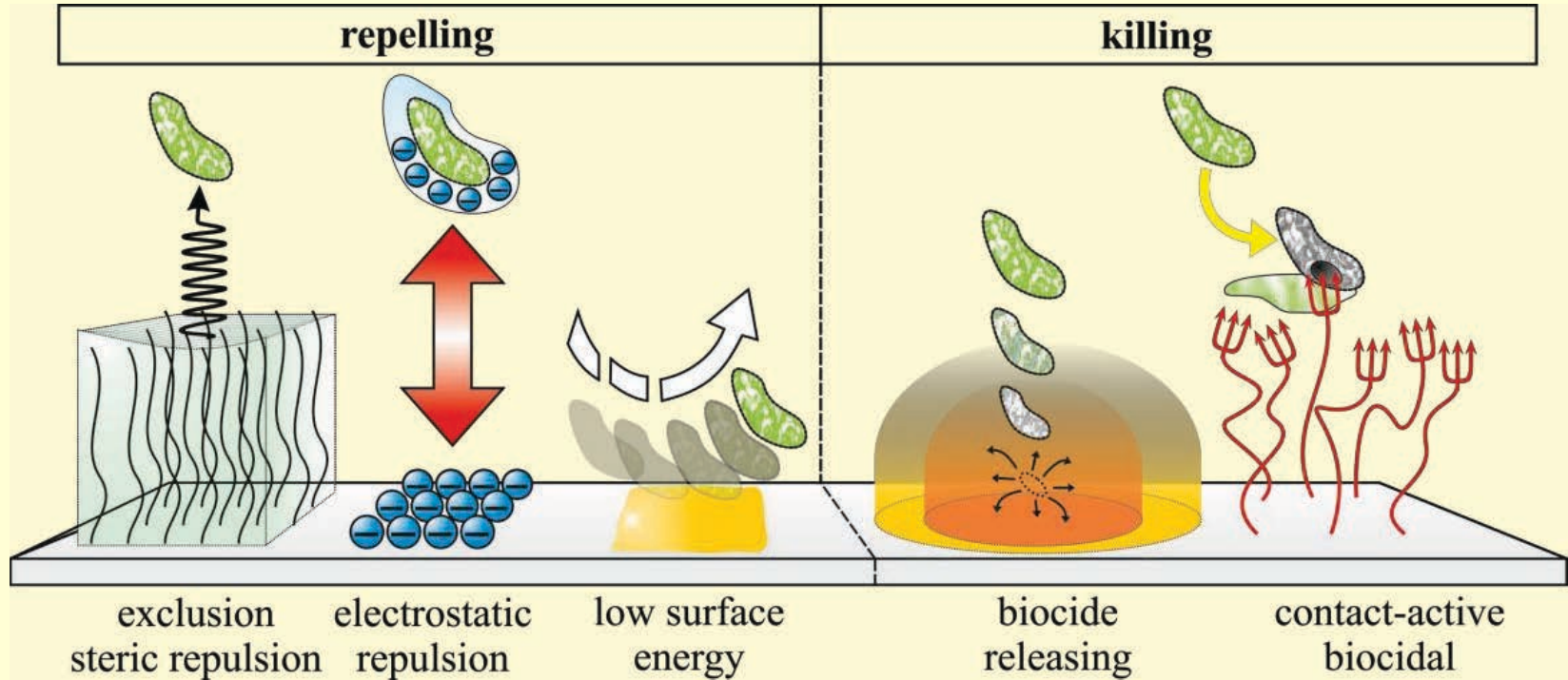


Shark skin: Very low surface frictional drag;

B. Dean & B. Bhushan, *Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc. A* (2010); 368, 4775-4806



# Numerous Surface Concepts



Siedenbiedel & Teller, Polymers (2012)

# Concepts can be chemical or “non-chemical”



Xenex's  
“Violet”  
robot in  
an OR at  
UPMC

# Concept versus Design

**Example:** Desired customer outcome = “no bacteria on surfaces”

**Concept 1:** = “anti-bacterial spray”

Design 1A = spray of triclosan + ethanol

Design 1B = spray of lactic acid/water

**Concept 2:** “Anti-bacterial surface”

Design 2A = ammonium *chloride-functional acrylic coating*

Design 2B = *Coating impregnated with silver nanoparticles*

Design 2C = *shark scale mimic (Sharklet, Aurora, CO)*

**Concept 3:** “Radiation”

Design 3A = UV emitting robot

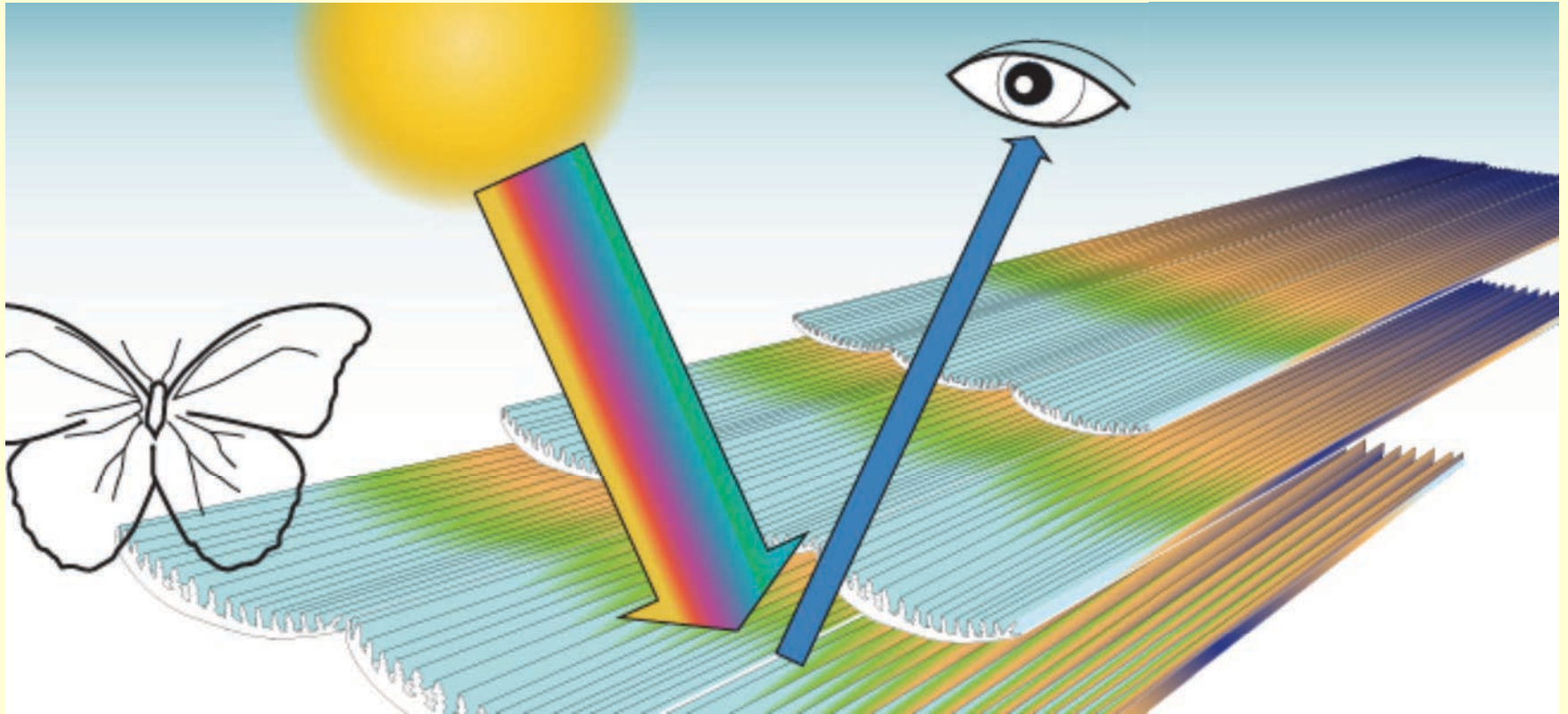


# Desired outcome is “color”

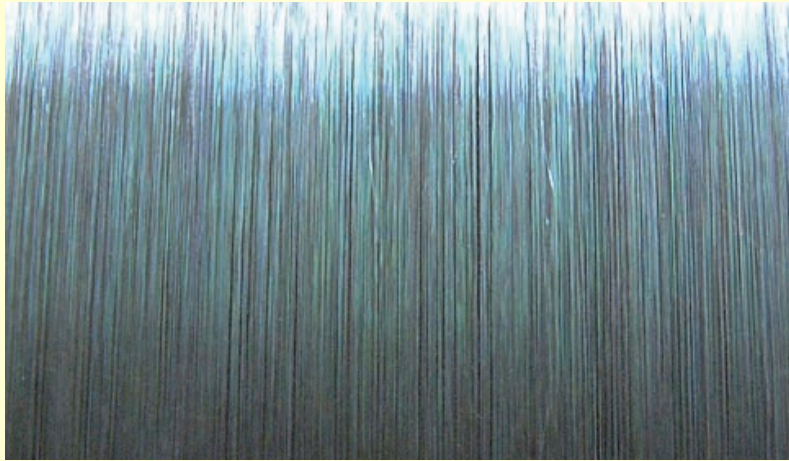


The current method is to employ synthetic organic dyes, mixed-metal pigments (Fe, Cr, Ni, Sb, Ti, Co, Zn)

# The Morpho Butterfly

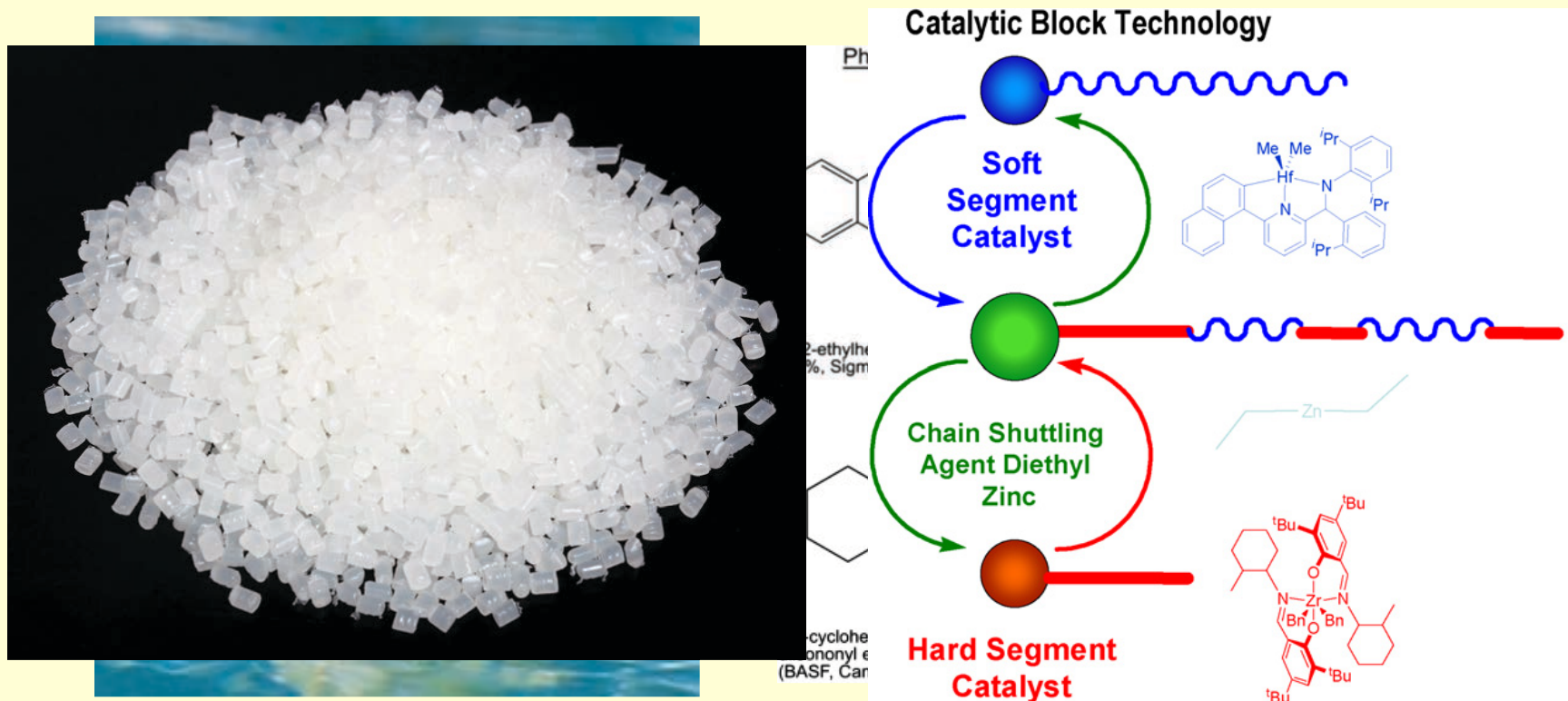


# MorphoTex (Teijin Fibers)





# Desired Outcome: A soft pliable material safe for use in toys



Dow INFUSE™ Olefin Block Copolymers; bulk density (0.87 g/cm<sup>3</sup>) 30% lower than that for plasticized PVC

P.S. Chum & K.W. Swogger, *Progr. Polym. Sci.* (2008), 33, 797-819

# Desired Outcome = Clean Clothes

Detergent



Cold-water  
Detergent



Degradable  
Detergent





# Perhaps No Detergent: Cleaning with Beads

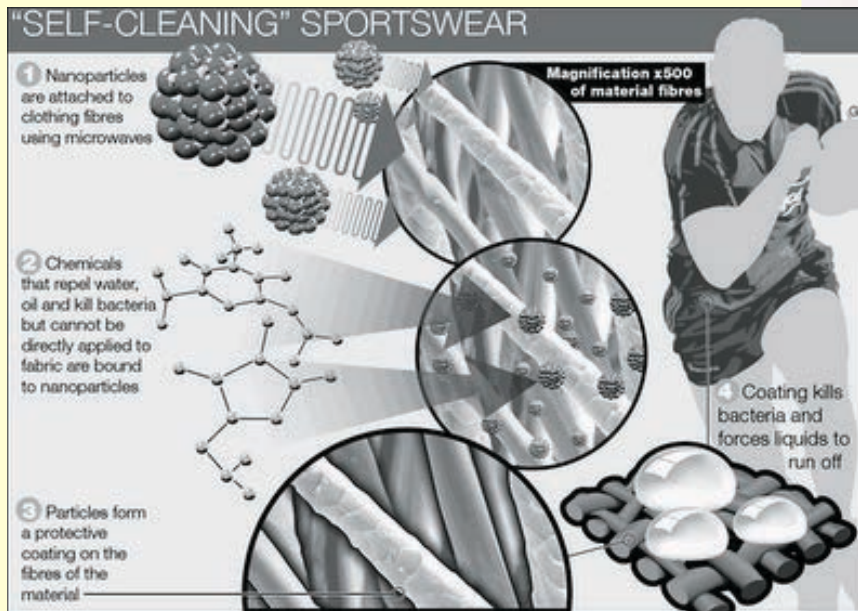


# Perhaps No Cleaning?

Stain-resistant clothing



Disposable Clothing?



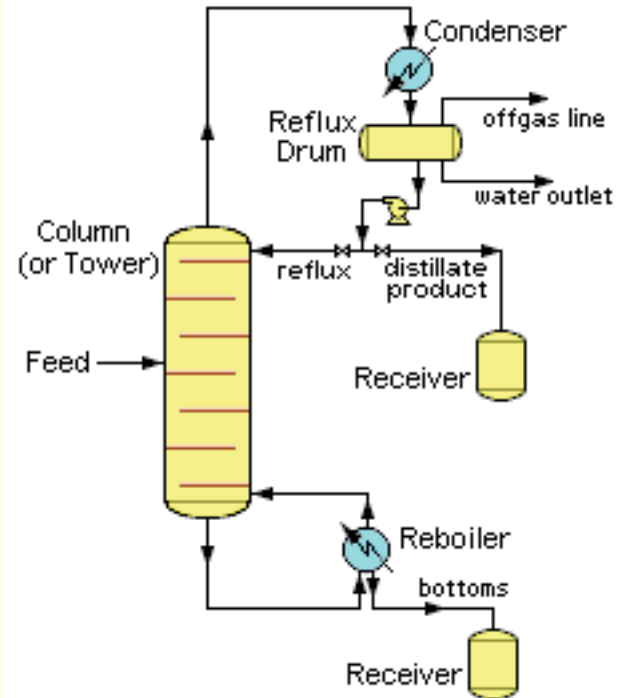
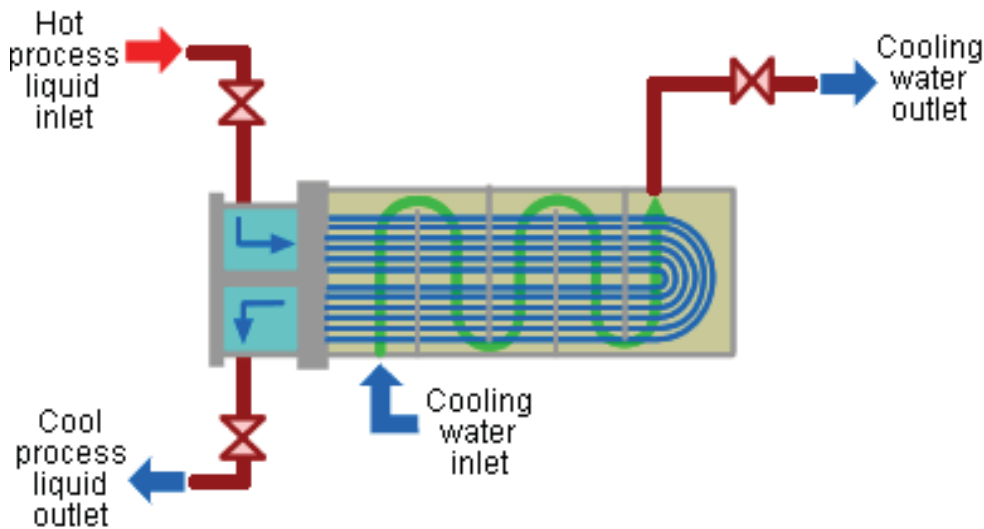
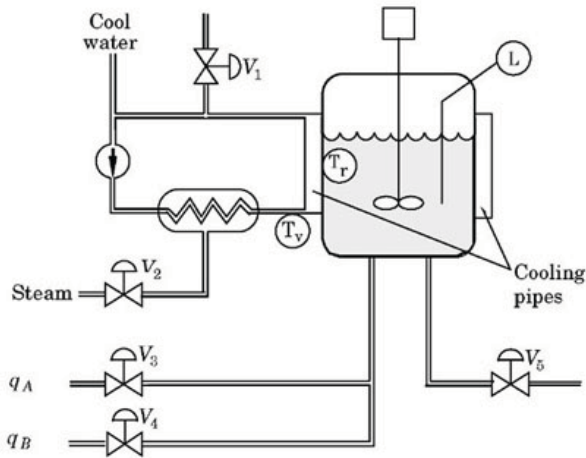
Self-Cleaning Clothing

# Next Gen?

- > Completely integrated molecular design for chemical products
- > Resilient chemical generation via distributed synthesis

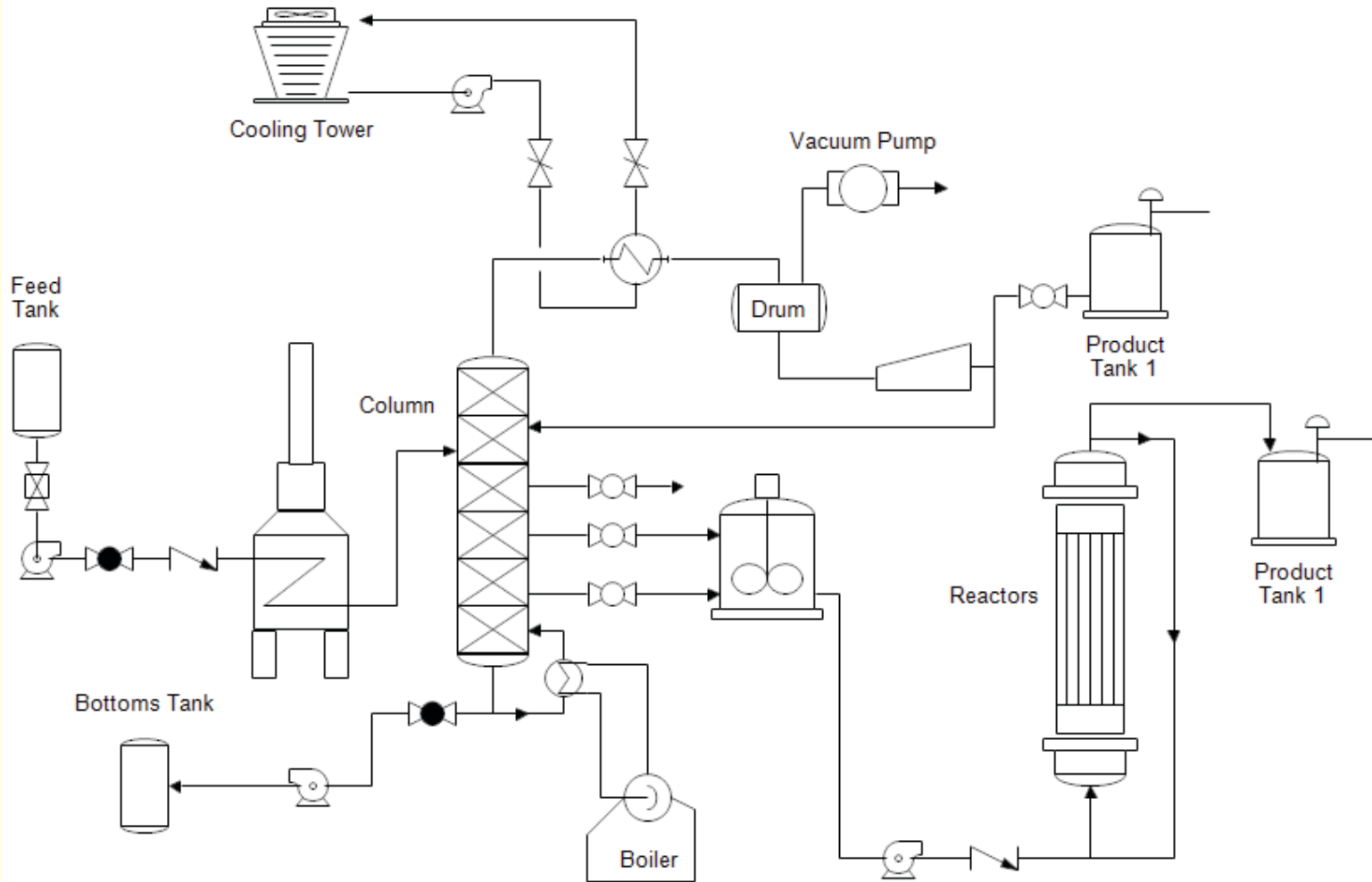
# Traditional plant engineering: integration of various unit operations

Reactors, Columns, Heat Exchangers, Pumps, etc.



# Ultimately an optimized plant is designed

Process Flow Diagram or PFD





# Now, with advances in computing power, undergraduate engineering students can design plants



+



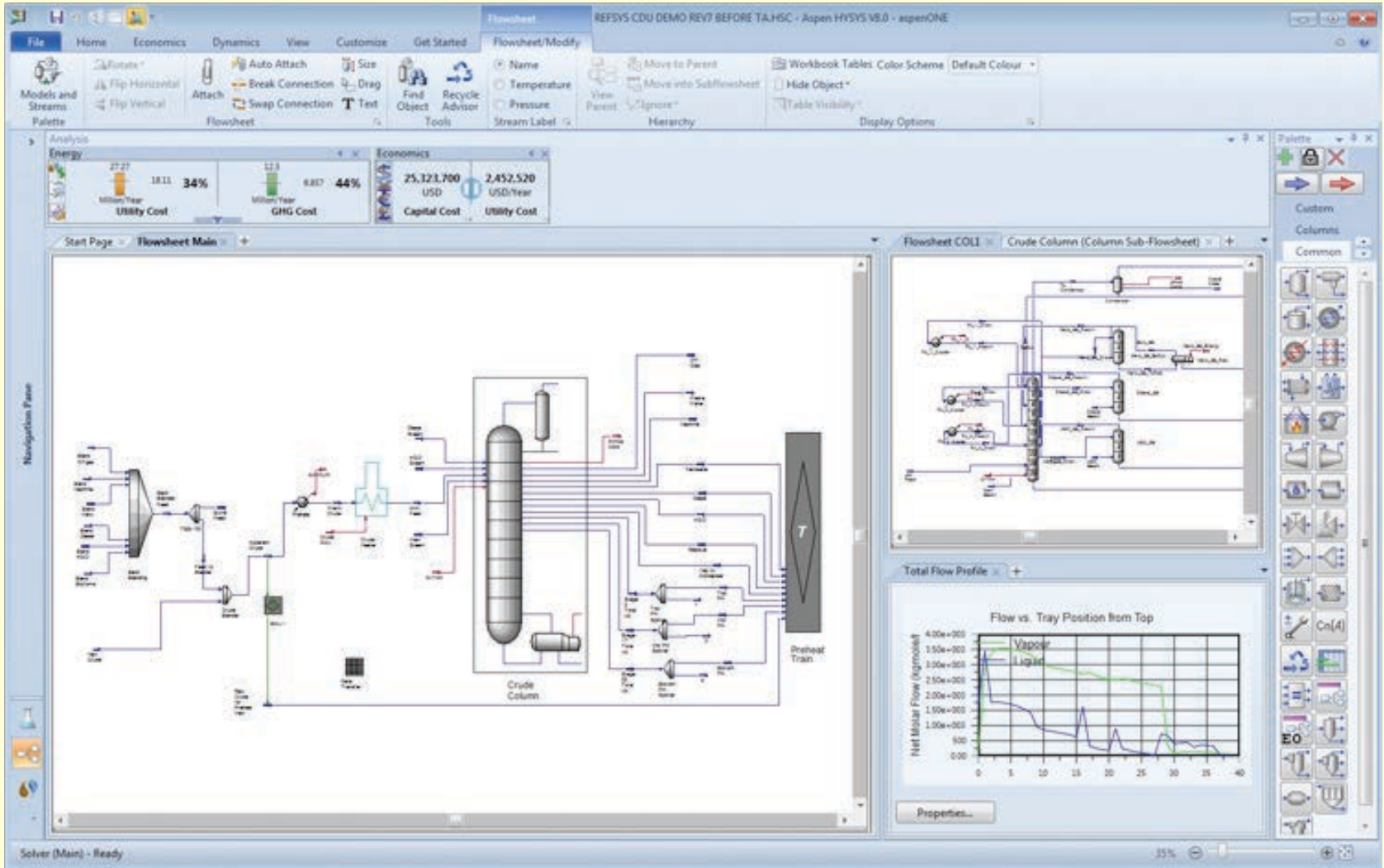
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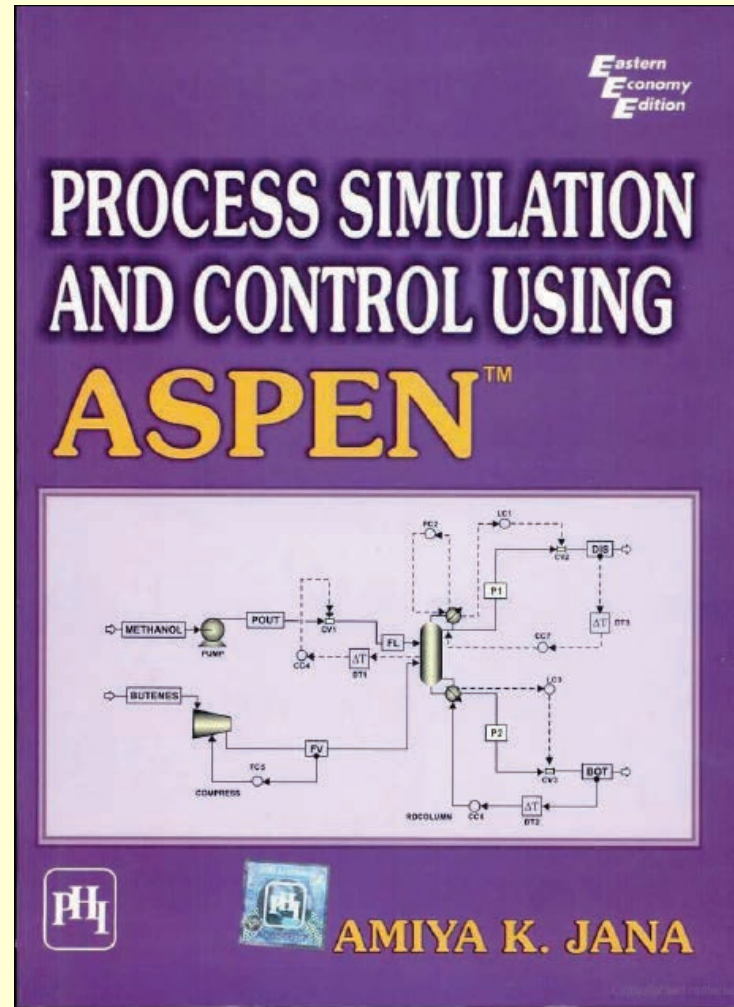
=

....

# Provided they have access to ASPEN or HYSIS or another process simulator

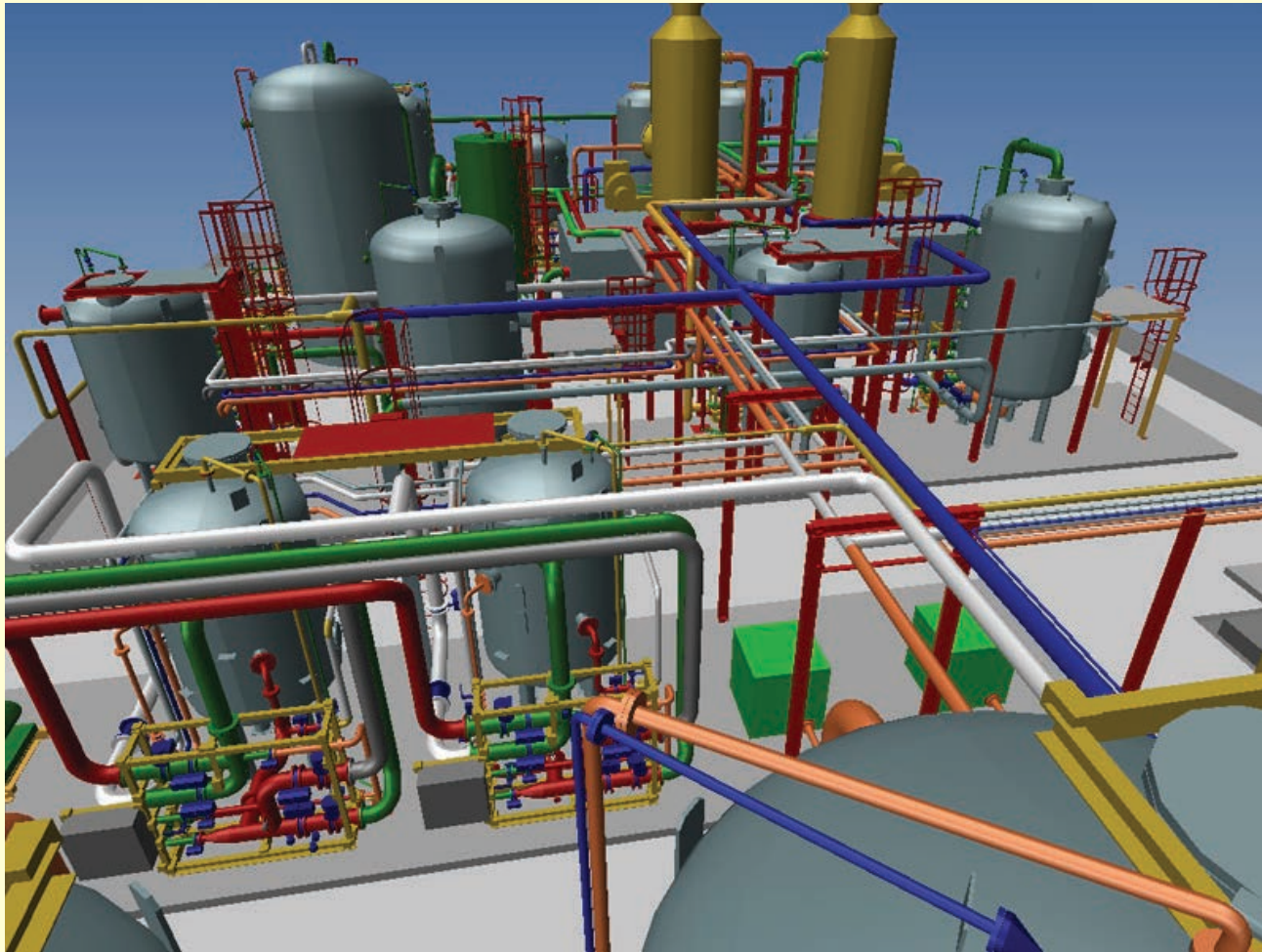


Provided they have access to ASPEN or HYSIS or another process simulator



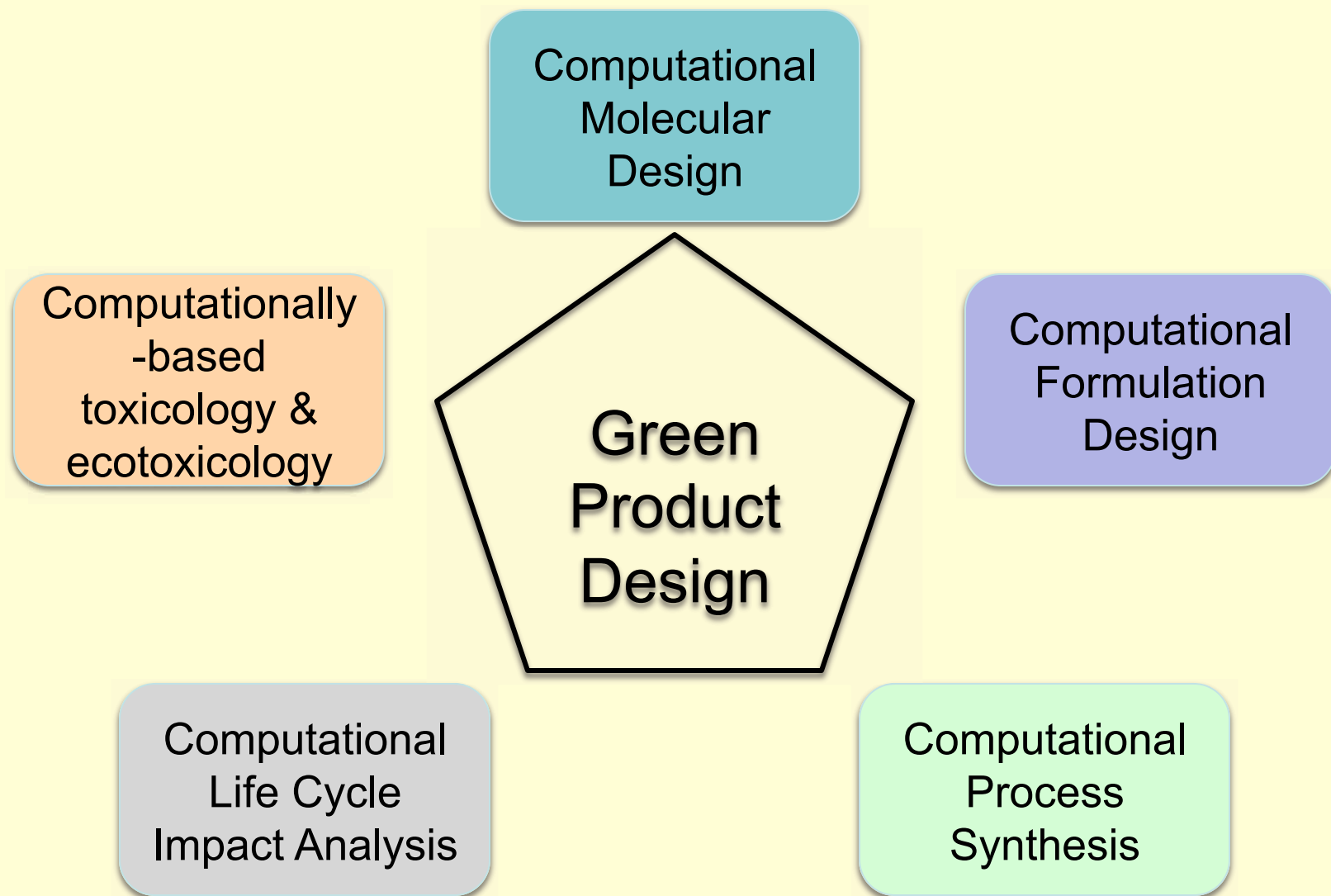


Plants can be designed, costed, and visualized if the fundamentals are available *or even if they're not*

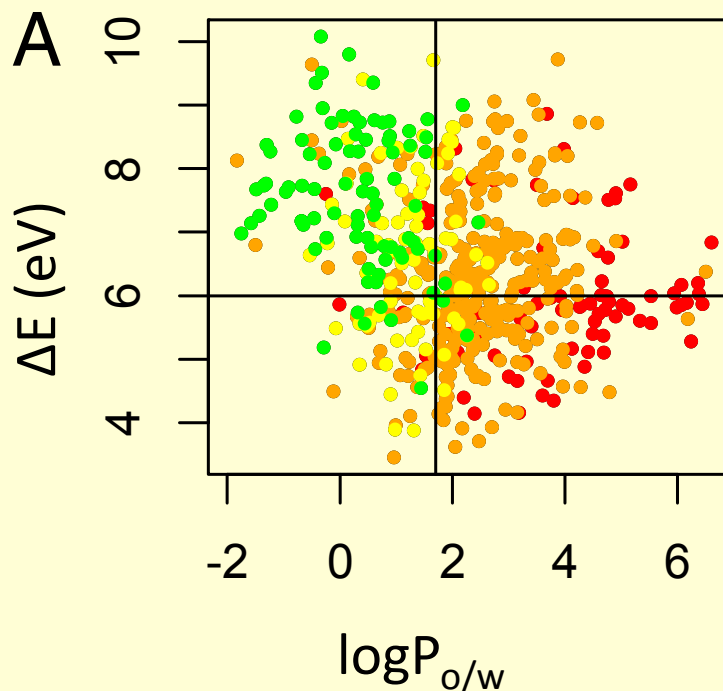


With capital and operating costs, energy use, raw material needs and waste.

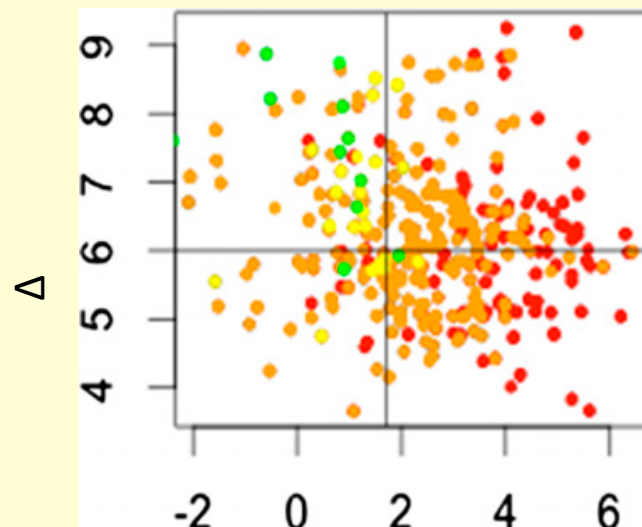
# Computationally-Supported Product Design



# Computational Toxicology: Voutchkova, et al., PNAS (2014)



555 chemicals arranged by HOMO-LUMO difference versus LogP; colors represent degree of toxicity towards the fathead minnow

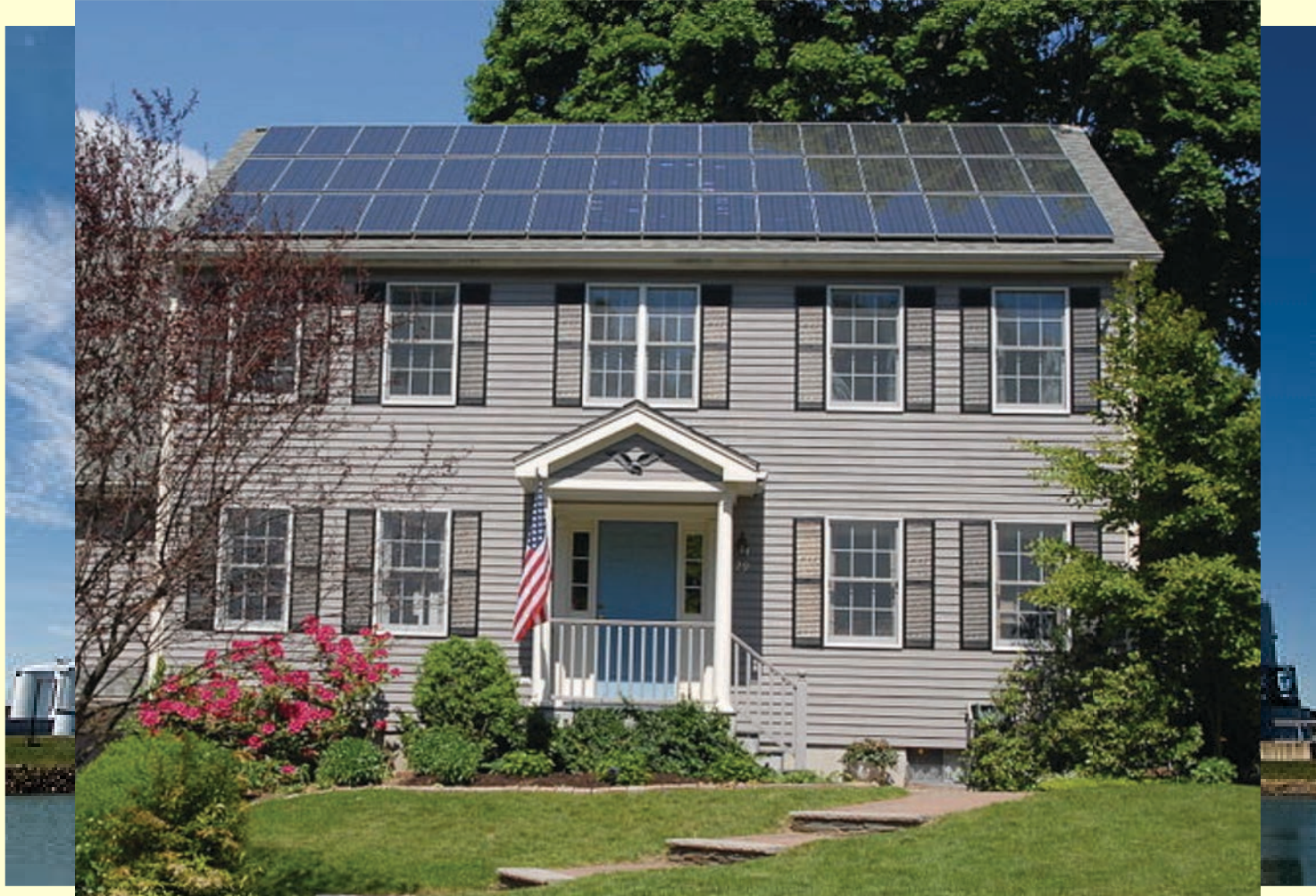


Similar plot for toxicity towards *Daphnia Magna*

# Distributed Manufacturing & Green Chemistry?



# Power Generation: Kids, don't try this at home

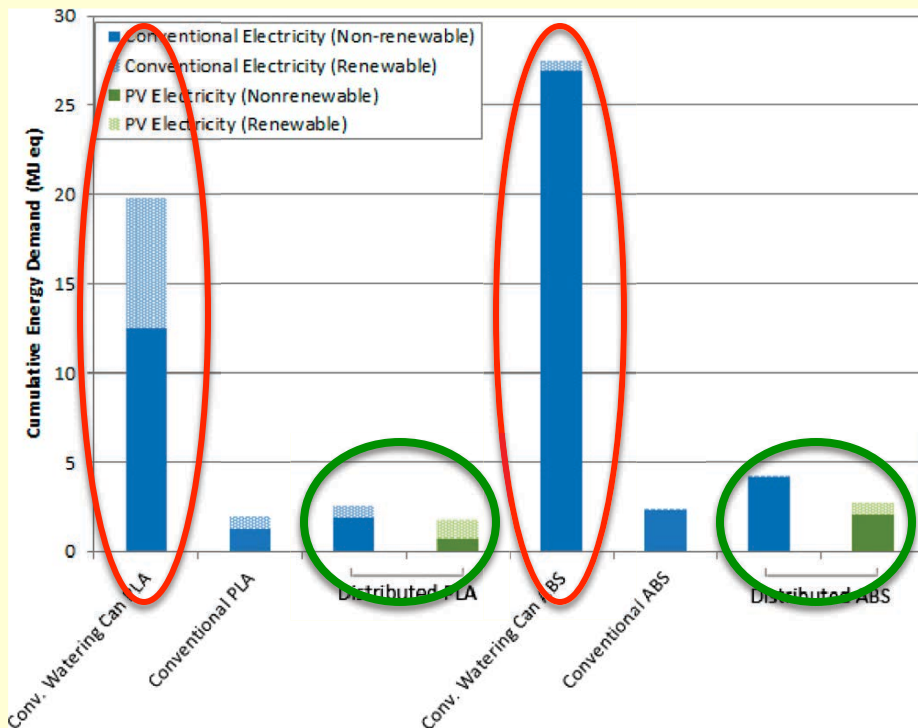


# 3D Printing – The Ultimate Distributed Manufacturing?





# 3D Printing (aka Additive Manufacturing): Distributed production – no shipping or packaging?



**Figure 6.** CED showing a typical watering can in PLA and ABS, and values for the spout in conventional PLA and ABS at 100% fill and distributed PLA and ABS at 100% fill, along with the effect of PV electricity.

M. Krieger & J.M. Pearce, *ACS Sust. Chem. & Eng.* (2013) [dx.doi.org/10.1021/sc400093k](https://doi.org/10.1021/sc400093k)

# Chemical Manufacturing: The Conventional Wisdom





# Reducing Risk Via Armoring





Sufficiently commonplace that we almost don't notice



Garland, Tx, 2012

Mitsui Chemicals (Japan), 2015



Louisiana, 2013



# Chlorine spill, Graniteville, SC (2005)

(Dunn & Oswalt, Northern Arizona University)



January 6, 2:40 AM

- Someone forgets to toggle a line switch
- Freight train leaves main line onto spur at 47 mph
- Freight train crashes into parked train on spur, 3 engines and 18 cars derail
- 60 tons of  $\text{Cl}_2$  released

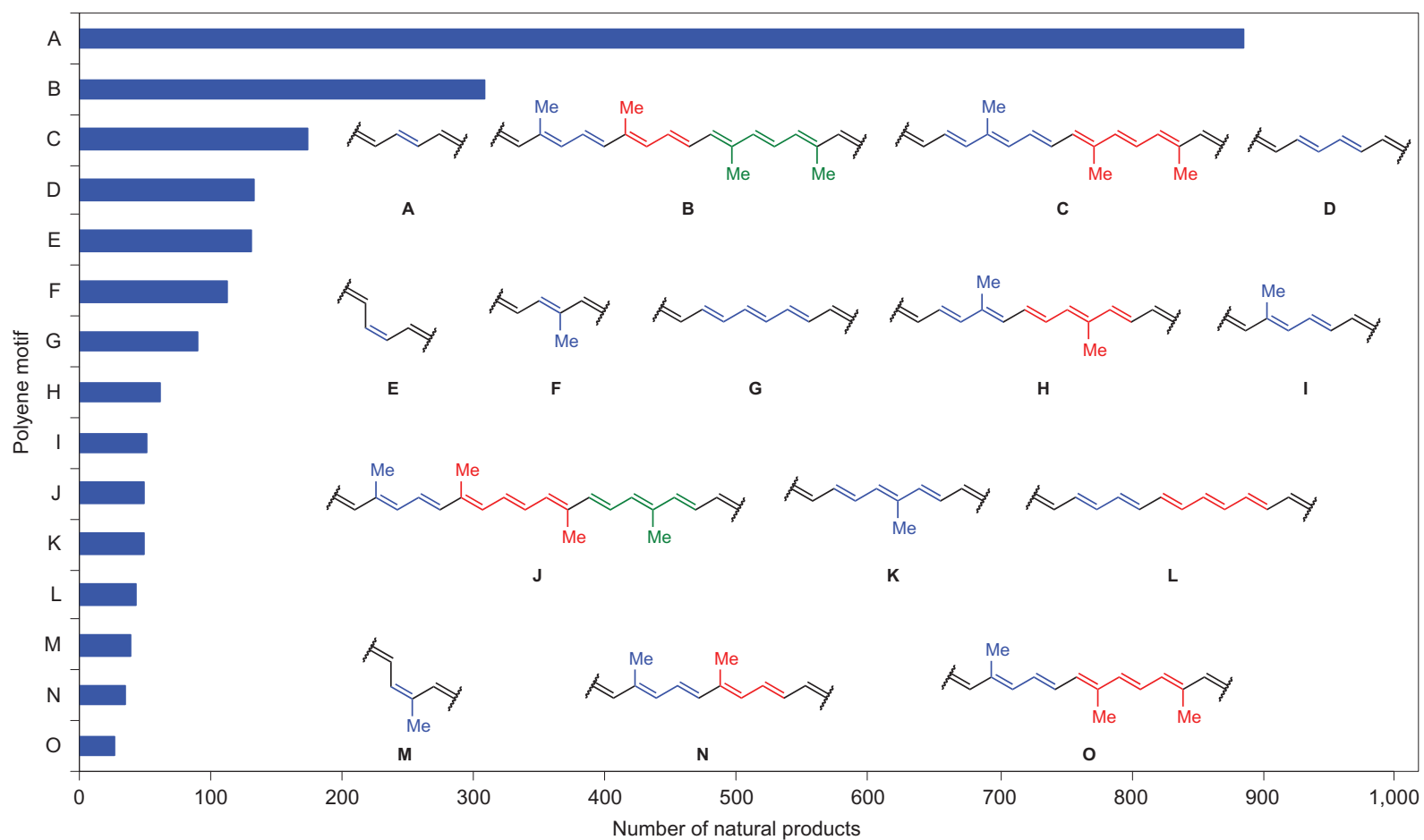
9 dead, 550 to hospitals

# Distributed Synthesis: Why & How

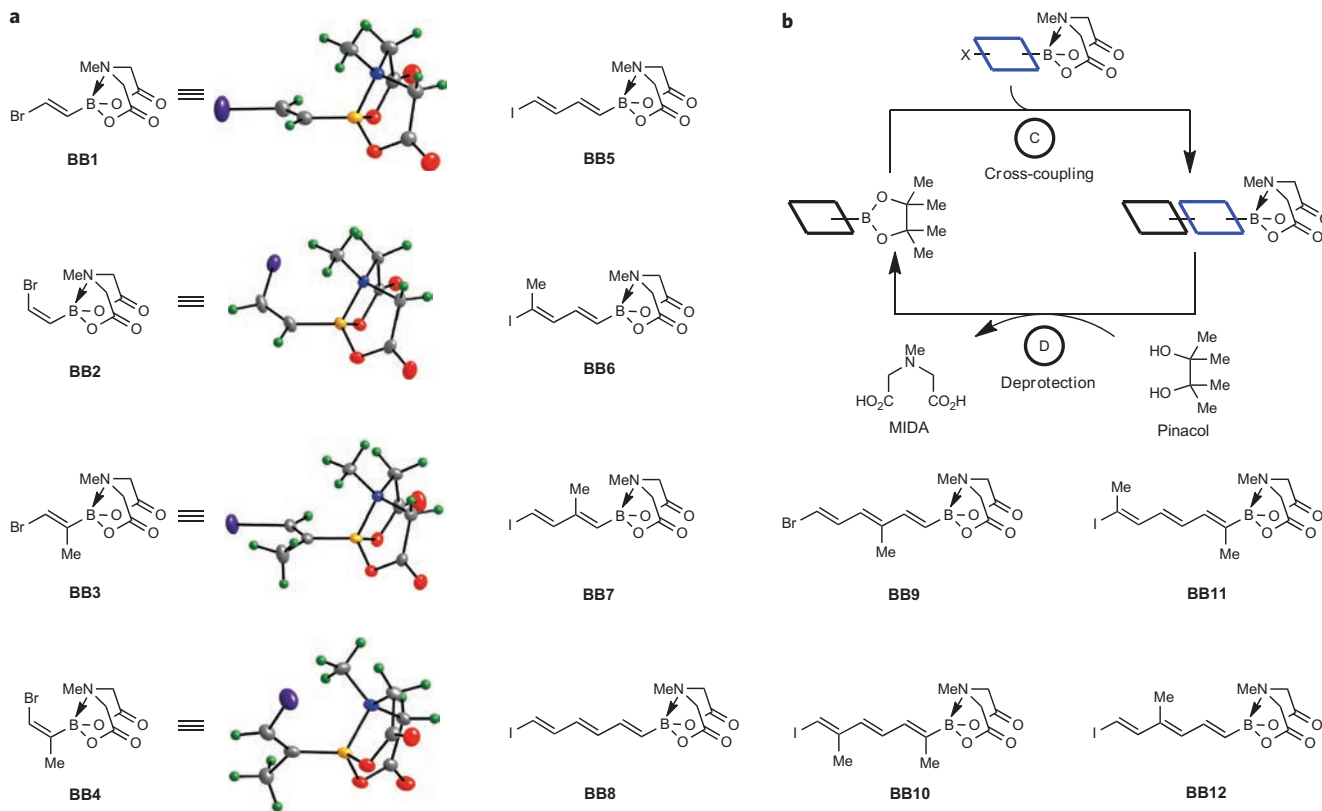
- Why distributed
  - Desire for personalization
  - Resilience/safety
- How to allow distributed synthesis?
  - Safe building blocks and products
  - Selective chemistry, high yield
  - Minimize separations (byproduct as benefit)
  - Programmable
  - No solvent or entirely benign solvent



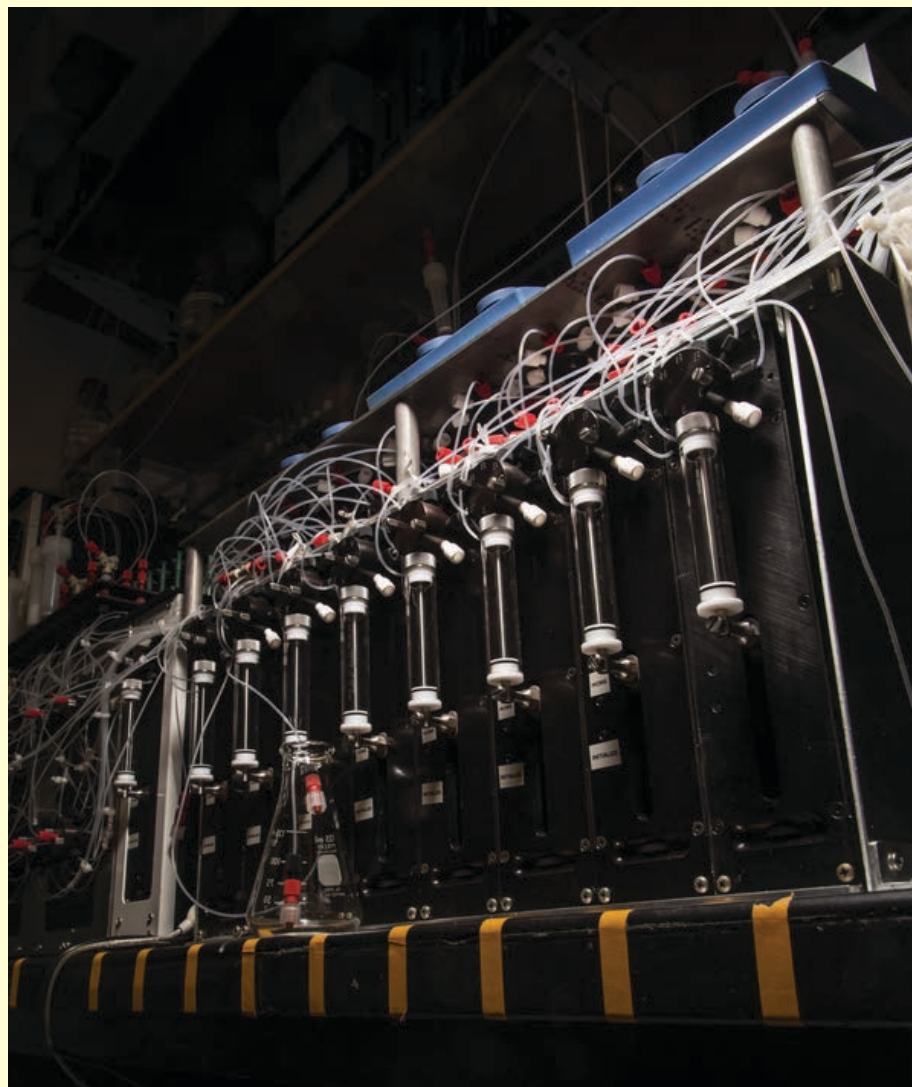
# Burke & colleagues, *Nature Chem* 2014



# Burke & colleagues, *Nature Chem* 2014



# Burke & colleagues, *Nature Chem* 2014



# Cronin and colleagues, 2013

Chemical Science

RSC Publishing

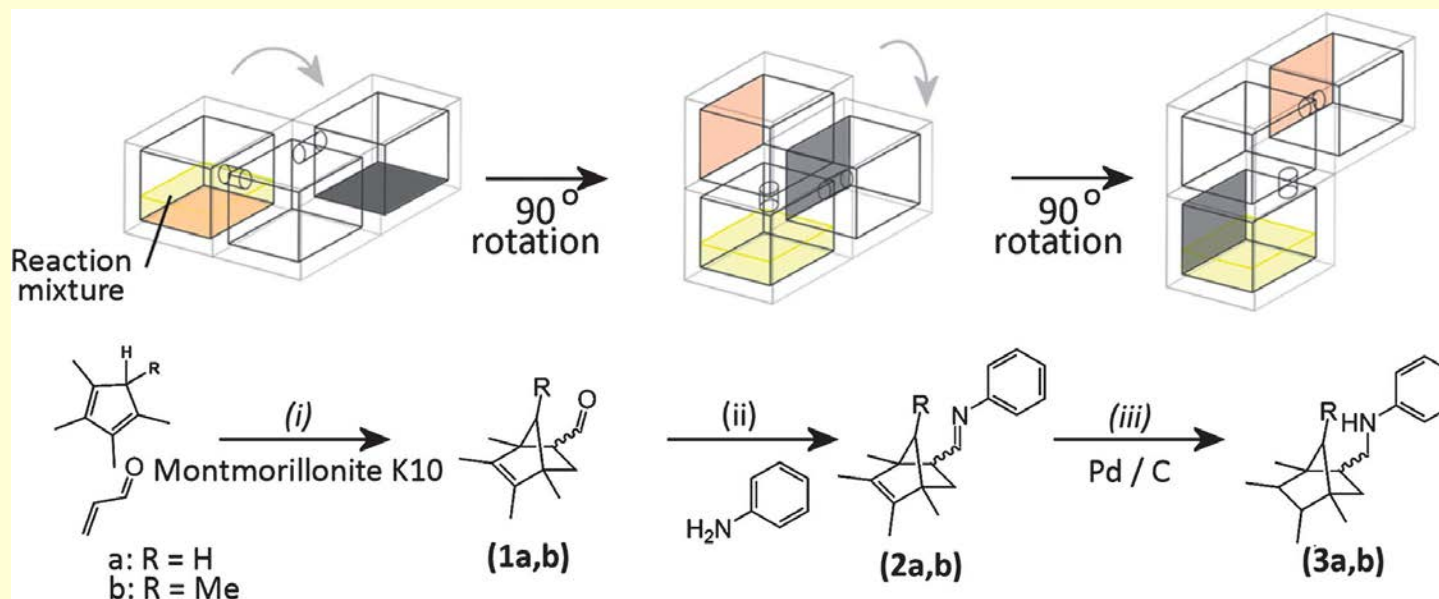
EDGE ARTICLE

[View Article Online](#)  
[View Journal](#) | [View Issue](#)

## Combining 3D printing and liquid handling to produce user-friendly reactionware for chemical synthesis and purification†

Cite this: *Chem. Sci.*, 2013, 4, 3099

Philip J. Kitson, Mark D. Symes, Vincenza Dragone and Leroy Cronin\*



# Future Chemistry? Chemicals for personal care a possible target?



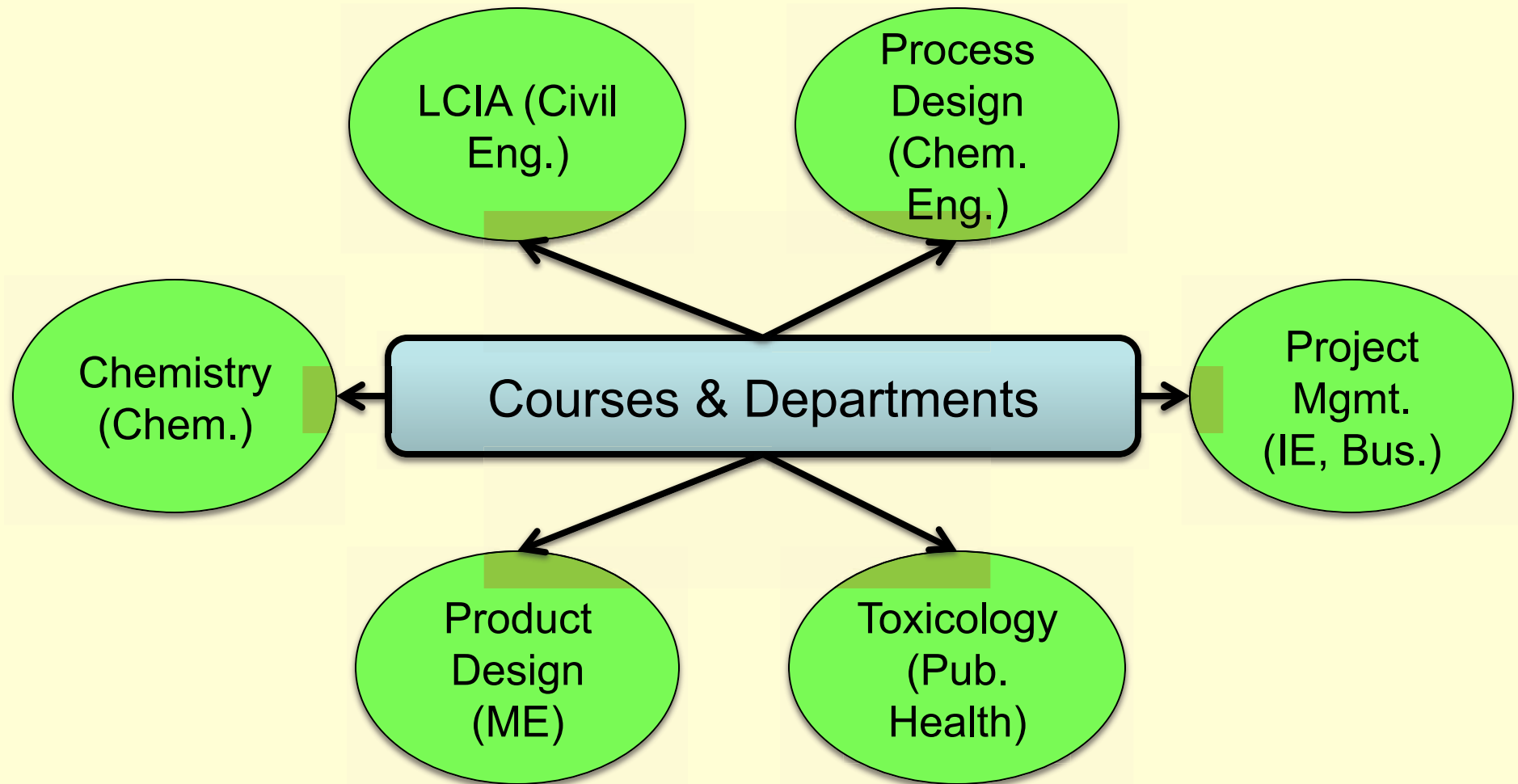
Programmable, personalized,  
and safe



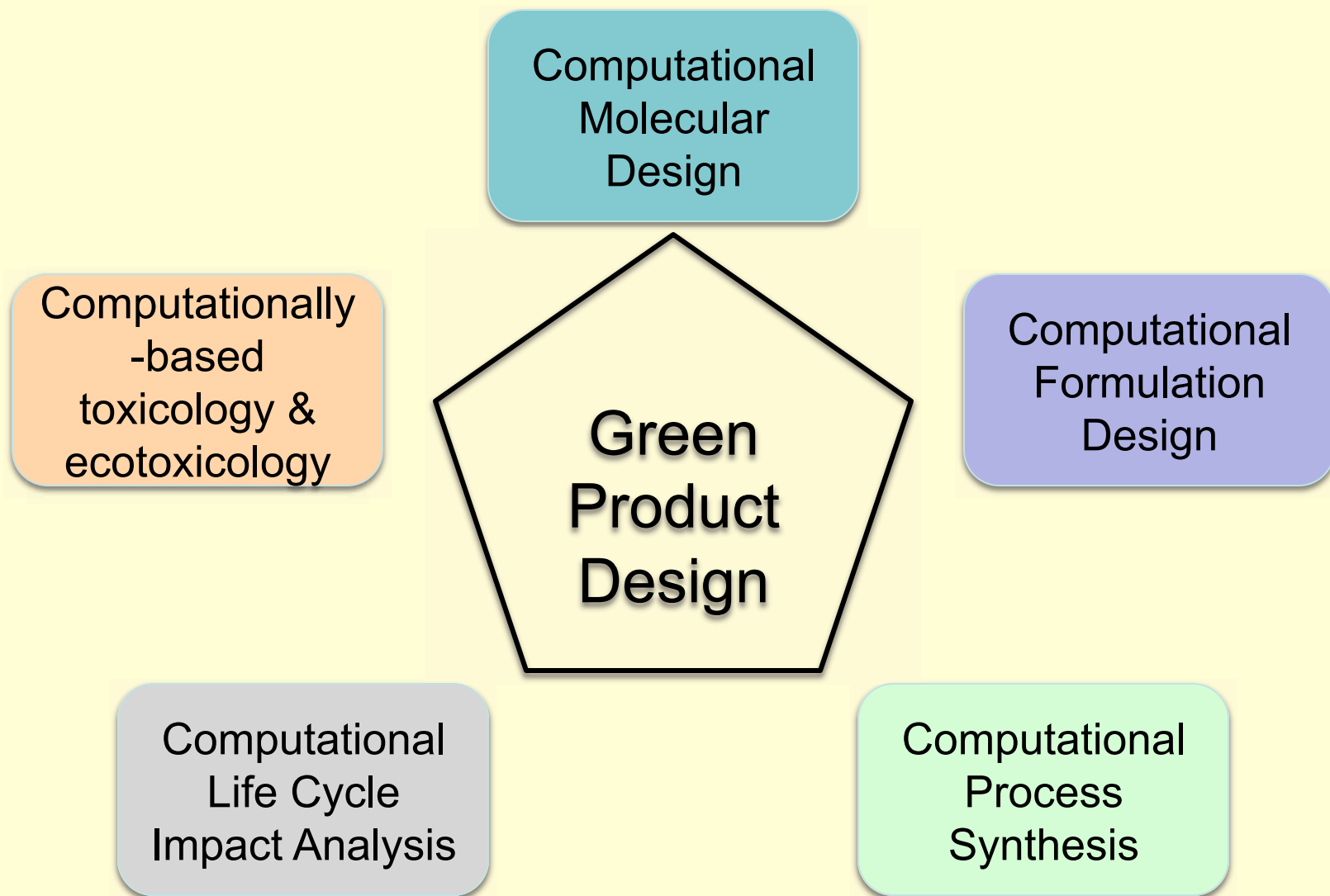
# Next Gen for Academia?



Academia: Let's say you're a student who wants to learn about green chemical product design.



# Computationally-Supported Product Design



# What academia can do

- The option to explore integrated product design
- Options for chemistry & chemical engineering UG's to explore entrepreneurial opportunities (entrepreneurs tend to drop out).
- Options for graduate students to more easily work across silos.

# Summary

- The first 20 years (or so) of green chemistry have seen a sea change in the way the chemical enterprise operates.
- It's not just about chemistry anymore – we're overlapping other disciplines whether we like it or not.
- Just as radical & disruptive innovation has driven changes in our digital & home lives, the same should hold true for green chemistry in the next 20 years.
- The educational enterprise needs to keep pace with the chemical (business) enterprise.

“It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future.”

Yogi Berra

Thank you!