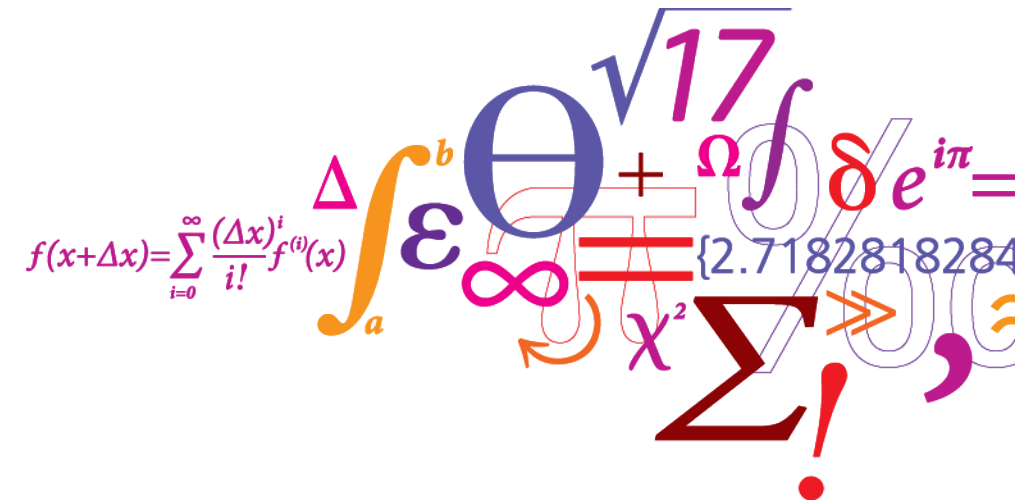


# Food contact paper & board chemicals: establishing priorities by “Exploration” strategies

**Eelco Nicolaas Pieke**

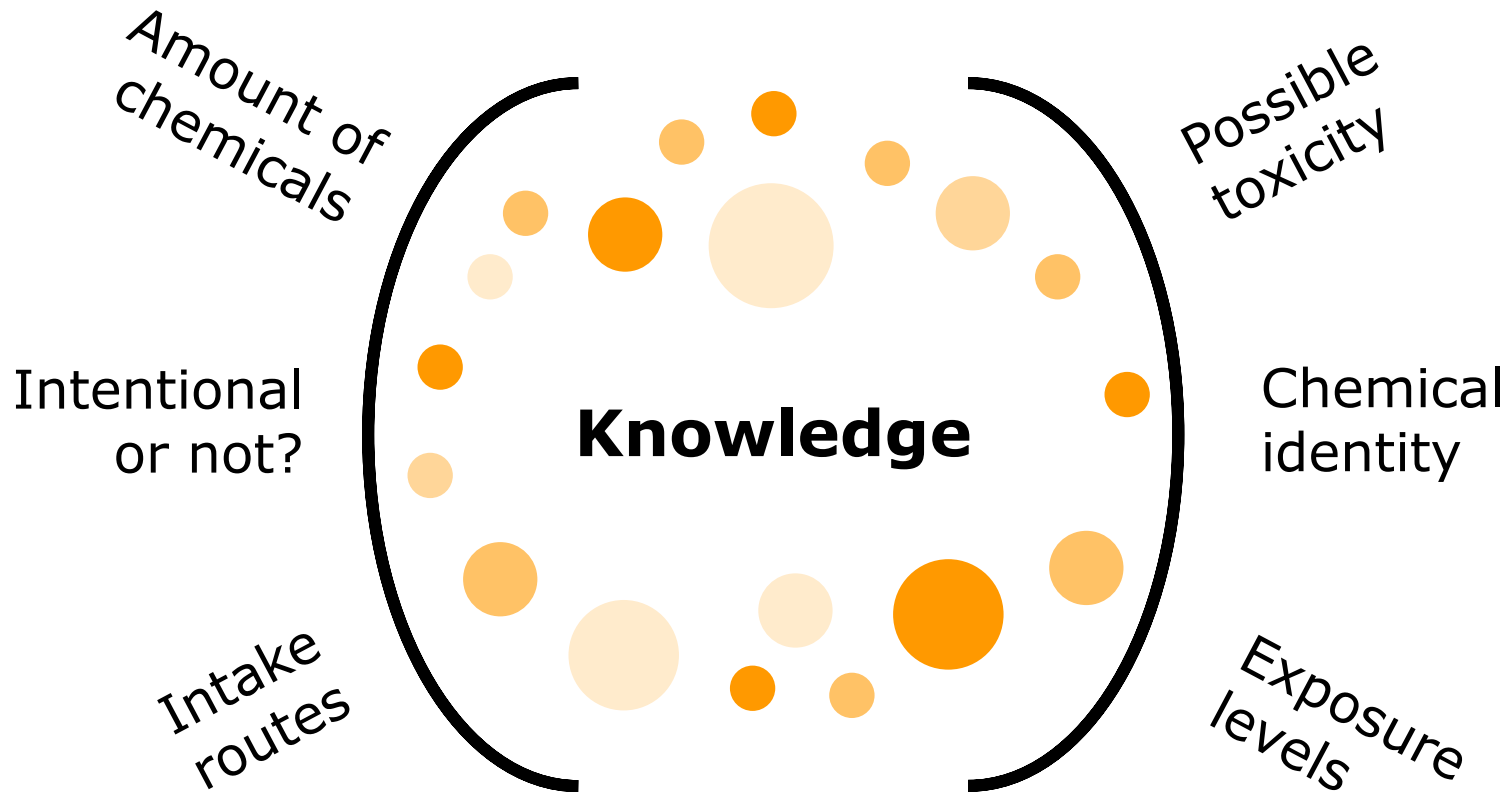
Research Group for Analytical Food Chemistry  
National Food Institute of Denmark



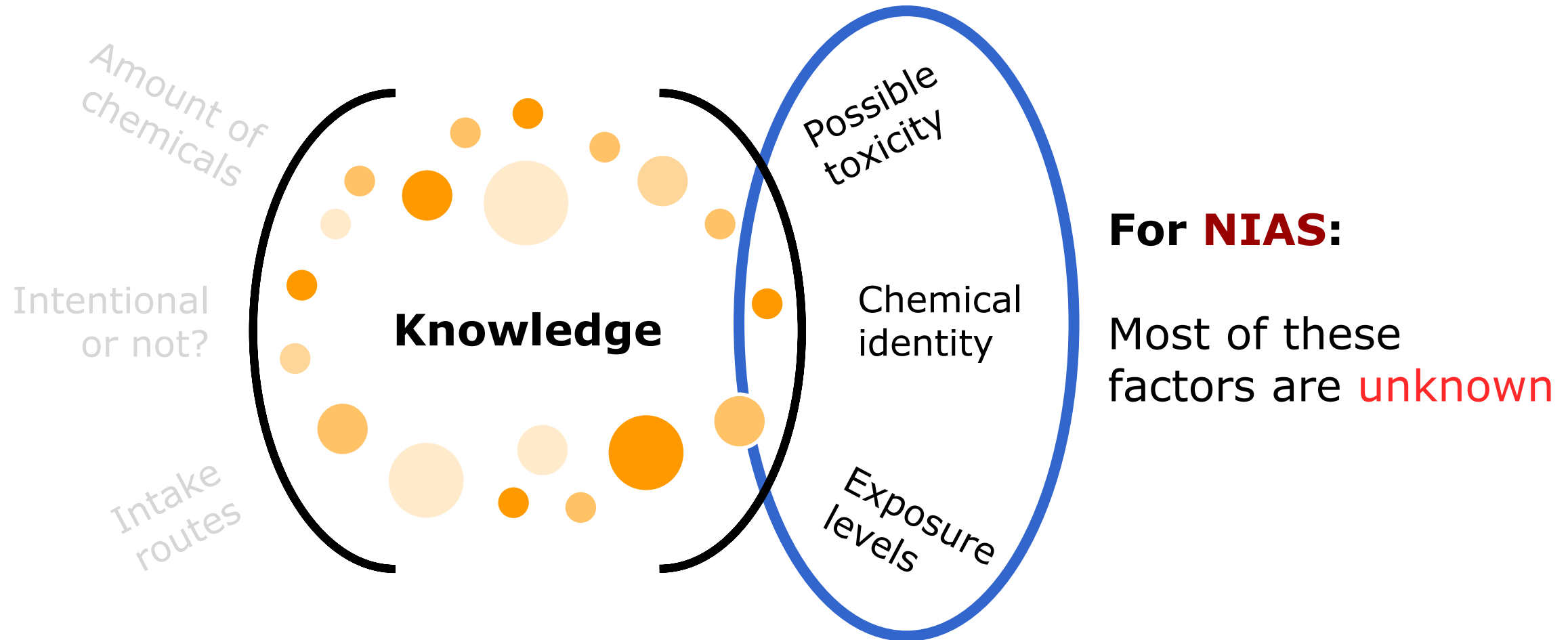
# Agenda

- Why are NIAS (potentially) a problem?
- What is “Exploration”?
- Determining how much is present: semi-quantification
- Investigating what is present: tentative identification
- Risk prioritization


# Assessment of chemicals is knowledge-based



# Assessment of chemicals is knowledge-based

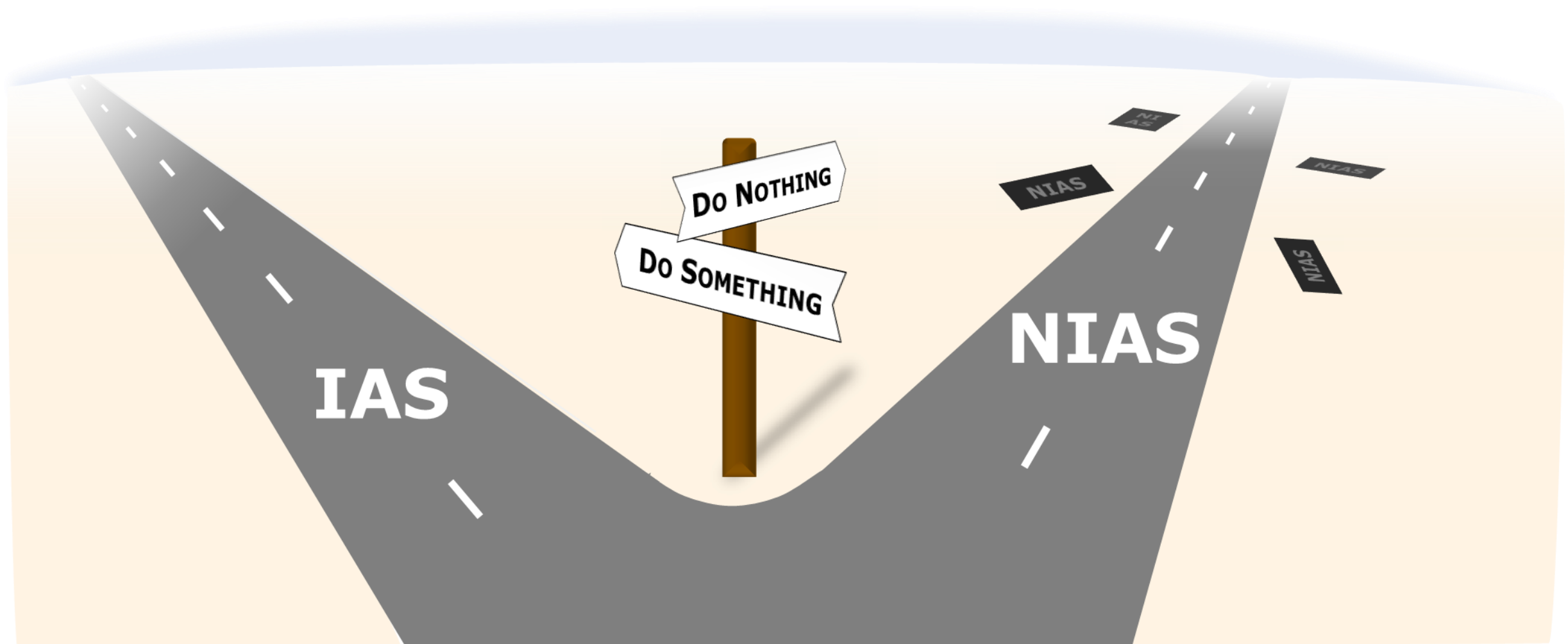


# Why NIAS are (potentially) a problem

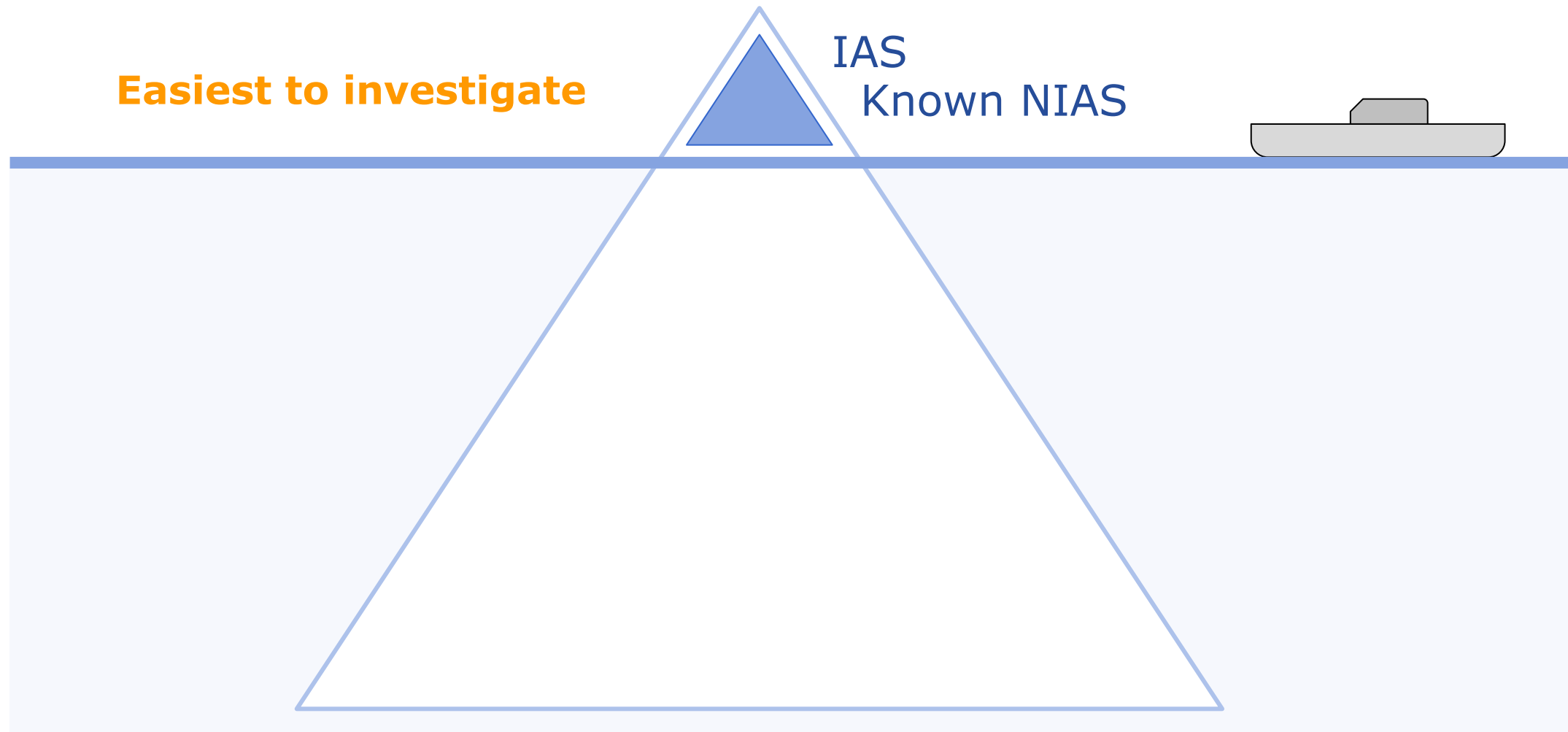
- A. Ensuring safety is **knowledge-based**
  - B. We have **very little knowledge** of NIAS
  - C. We **do not have tools** to improve knowledge
- 



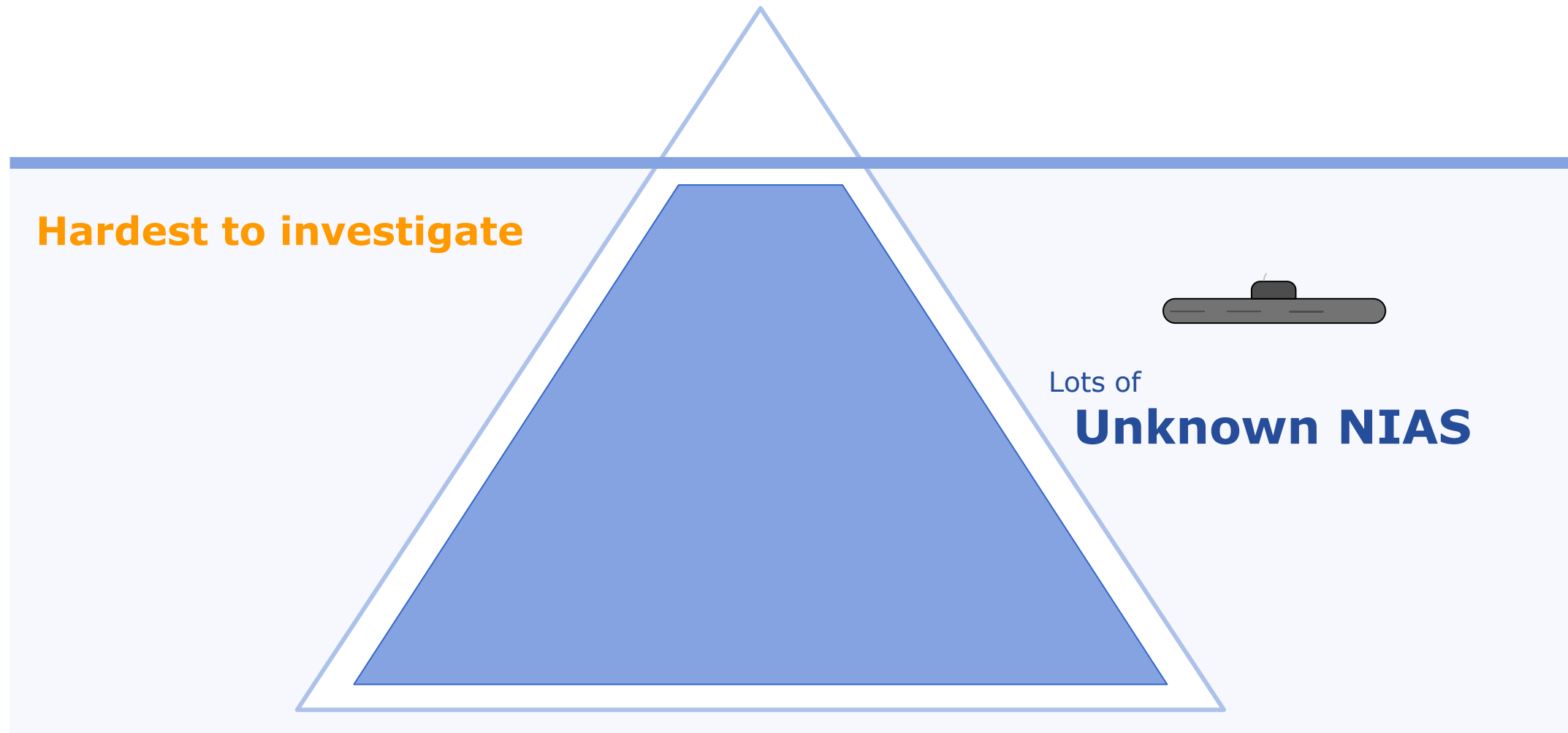
# How the knowledge gap affects NIAS



# The tip of the iceberg



# The bottom of the iceberg

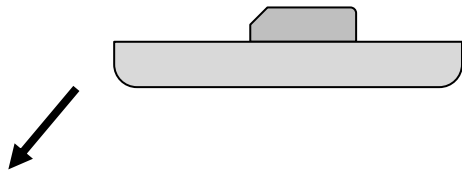


# What is chemical exploration?

- Exploration is a type of **untargeted discovery** in complex samples

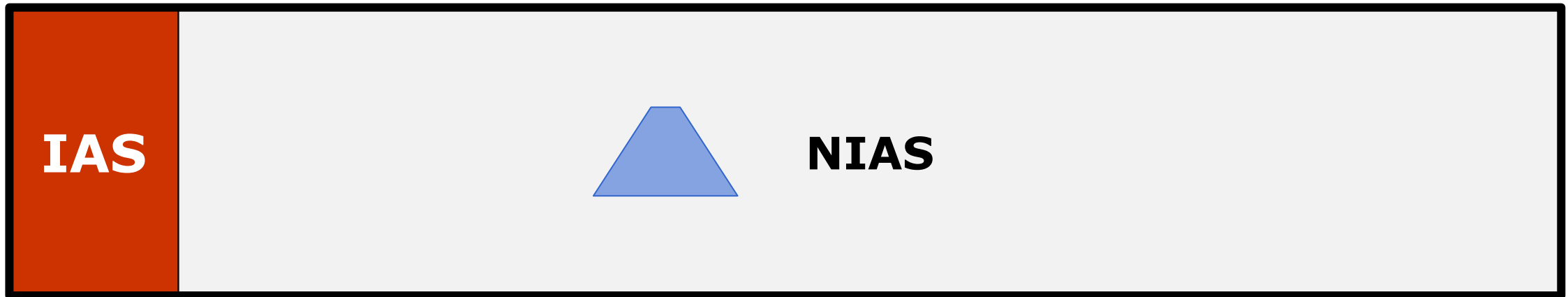
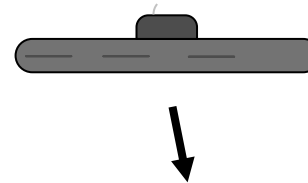
## Targeted methods

Based on existing knowledge



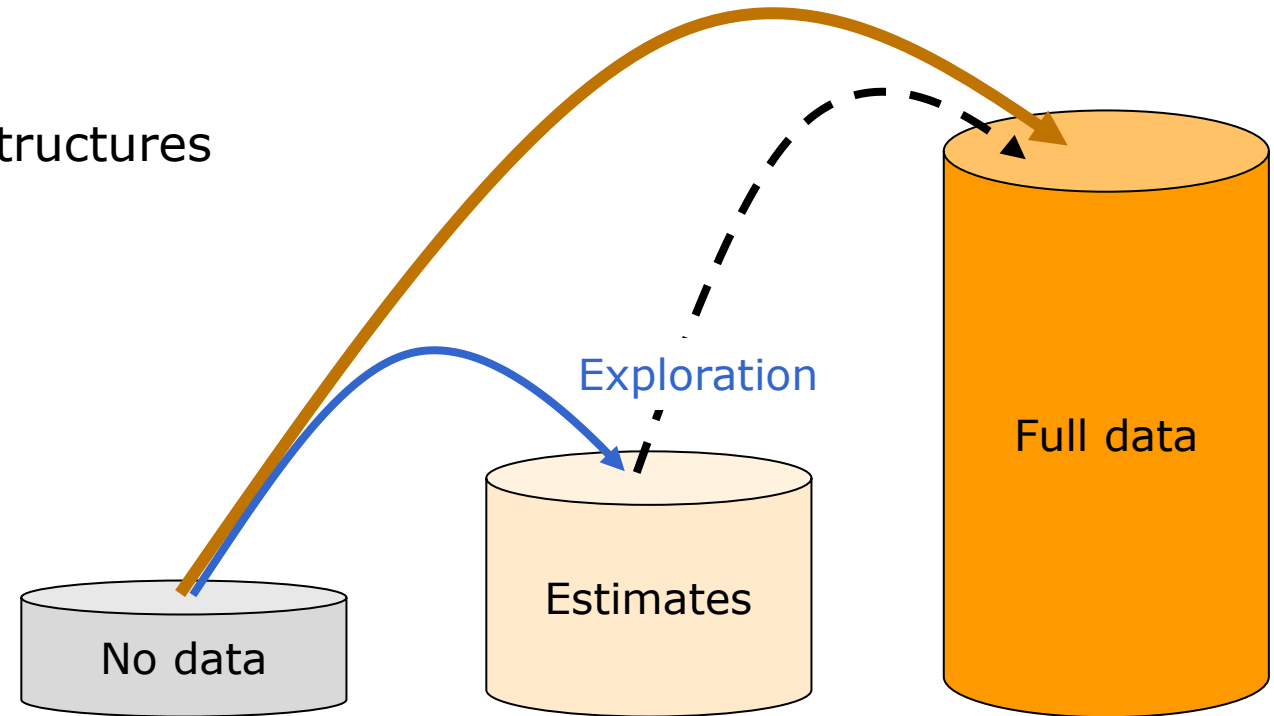
## Exploration

Building knowledge



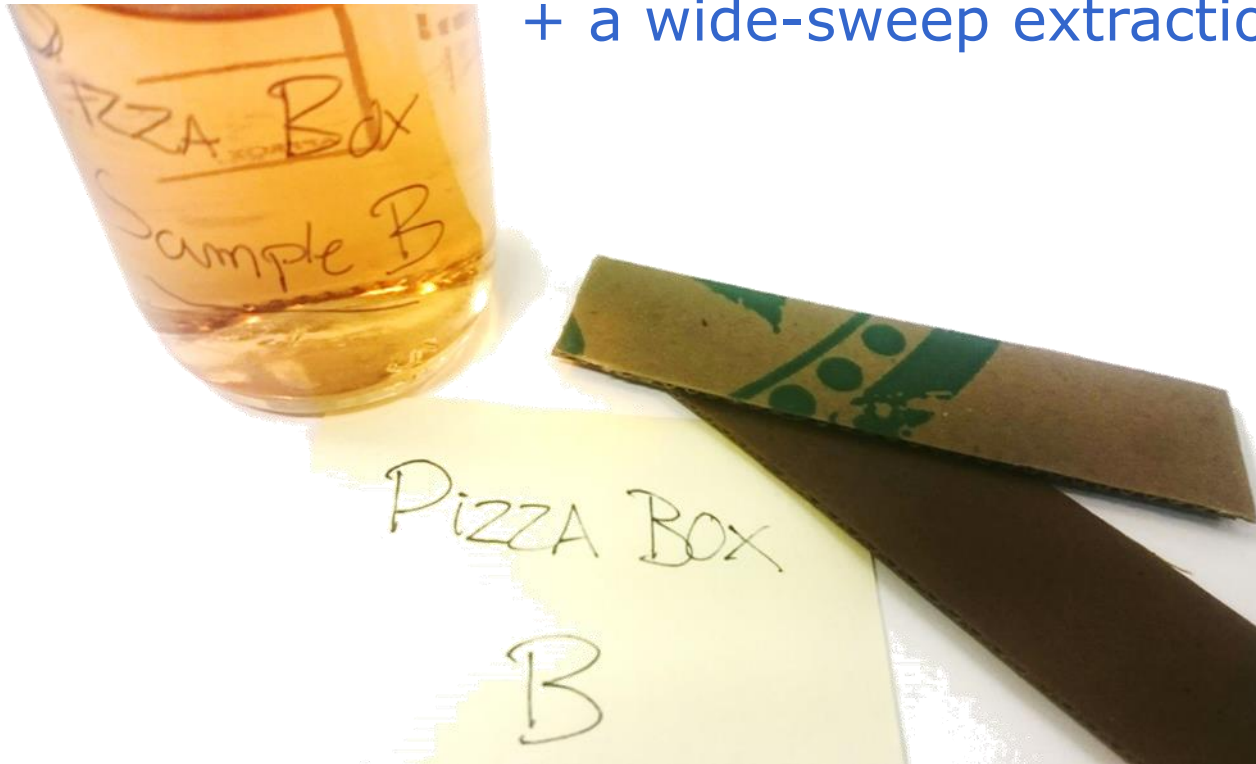
# Where does chemical exploration work?

- Exploration is the first step in **filling information gaps** in early-stage assessments
- It seeks to provide:
  - A rough concentration estimate
  - Suggestions for possible chemical structures
  - *Assist in risk prioritization*



# Performing exploration

Exploration is a unbiased analysis  
+ a wide-sweep extraction



## LC-QTOF-MS

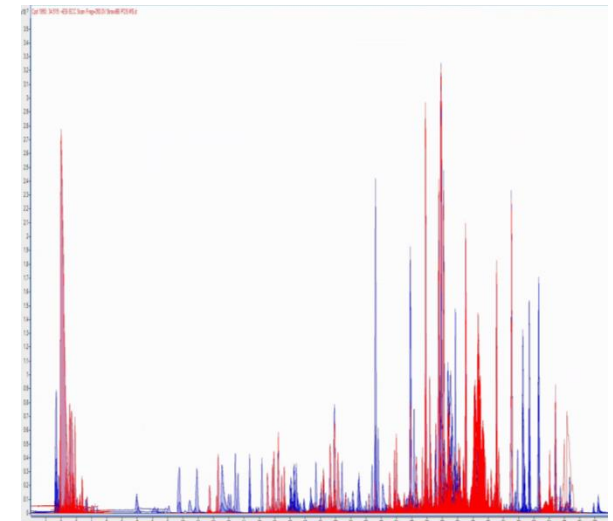
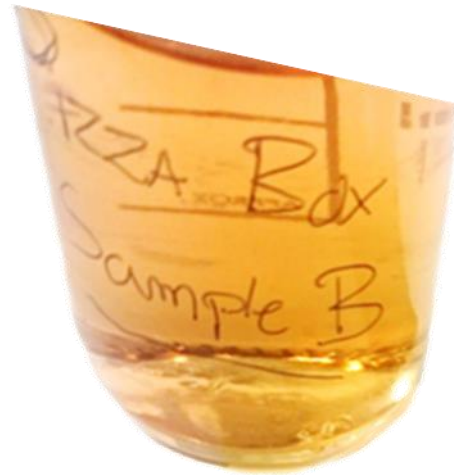
**LC**    *Liquid Chromatography*  
**QTOF**    *Quadrupole x Time of Flight*  
**MS**    *Mass Spectrometry*

## TCM

*Total Migratable Content: The chemical portion of a sample that has potential to migrate to food.*

# Exploring the world of chemicals

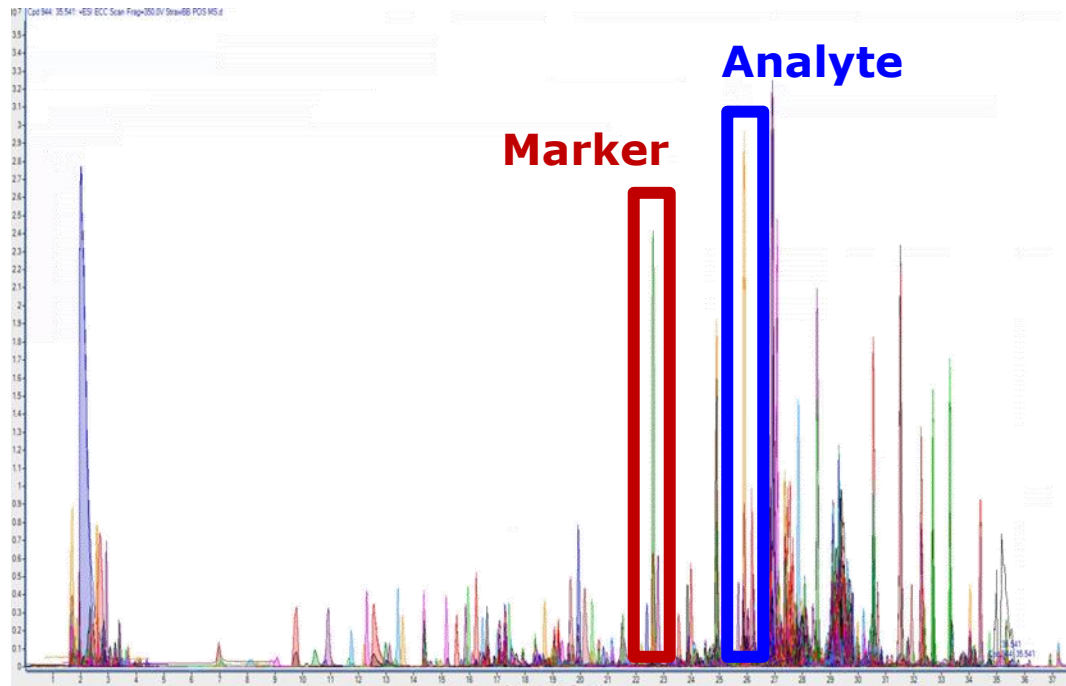
## Quantitative data



How **much** is there?

# Obtaining non-target semi-quantitative data

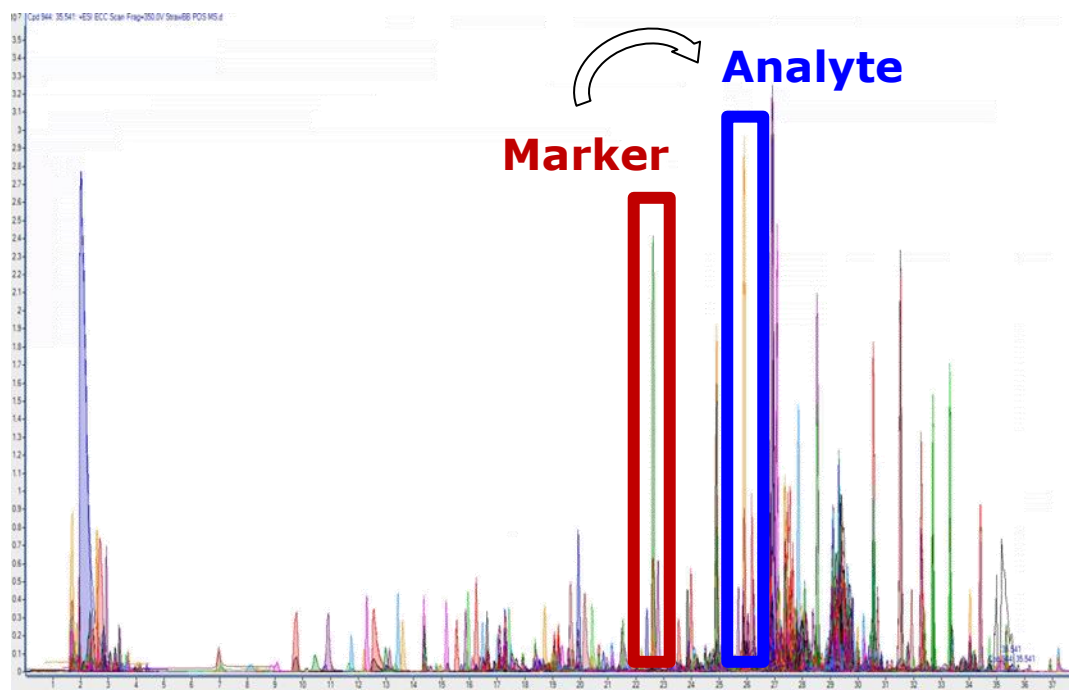
## Untargeted quantification



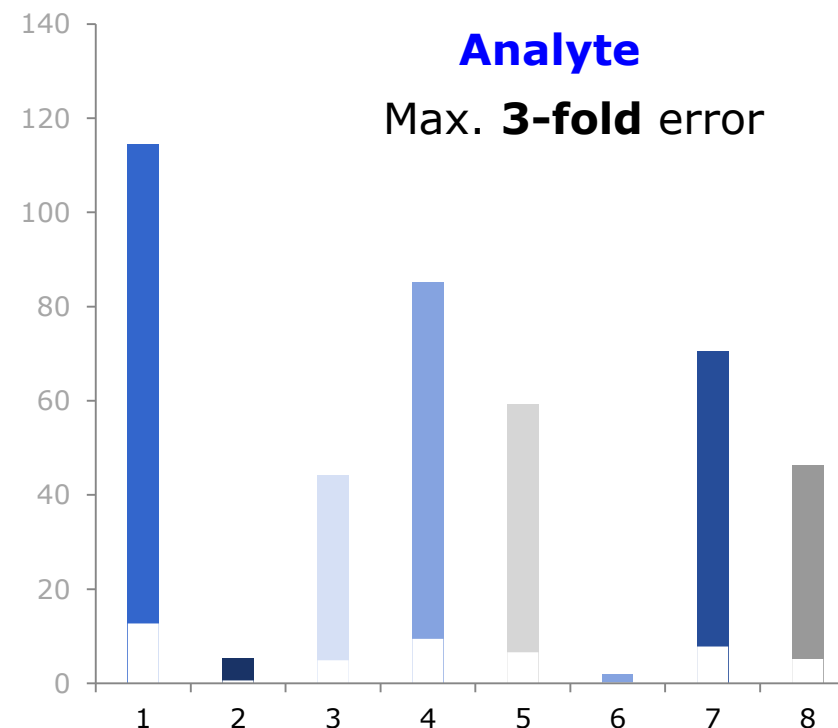
Pieke, E.N. et al., 2017. *Analytica Chimica Acta*, 975, pp.30–41.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.aca.2017.03.054>

# Obtaining non-target semi-quantitative data

## Untargeted quantification

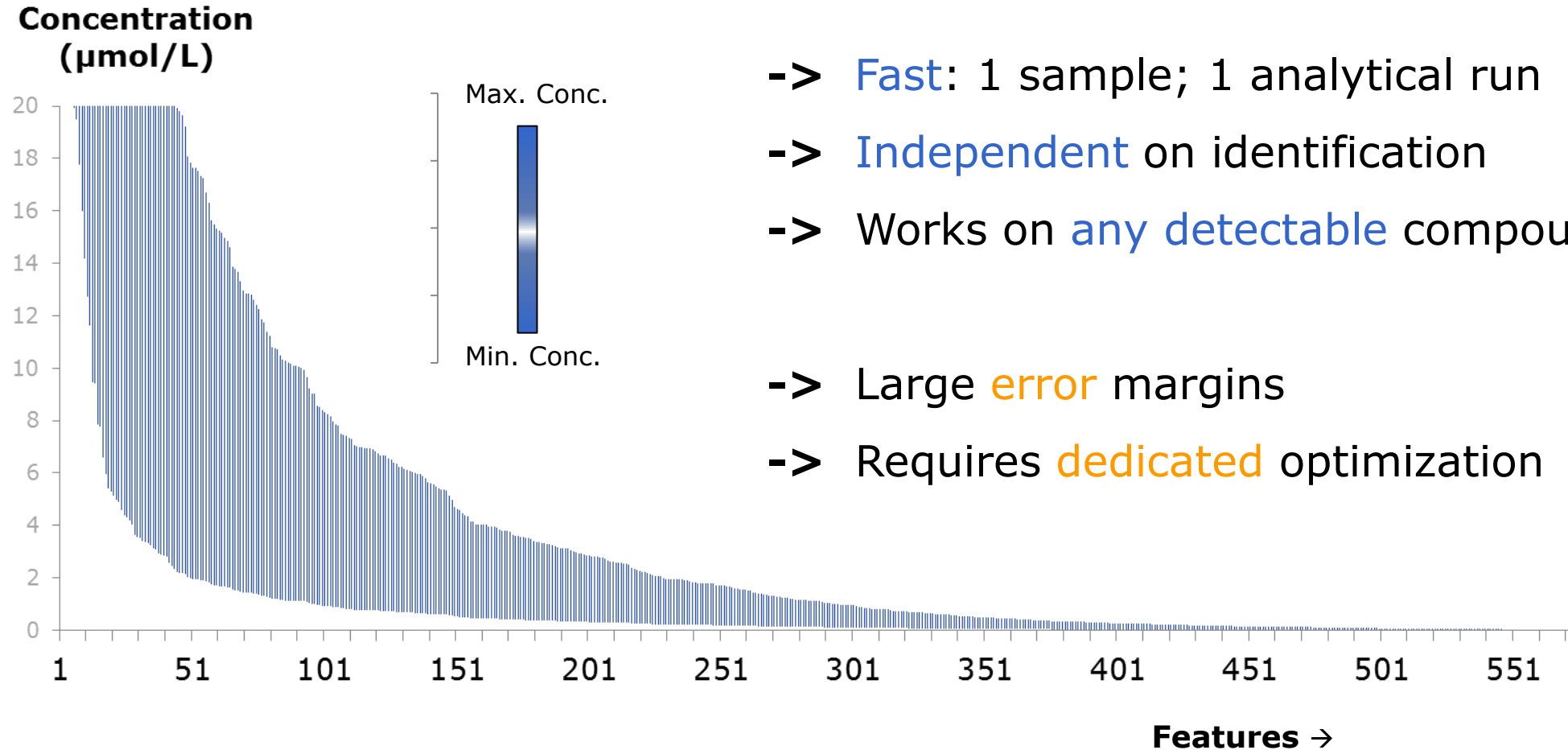


Semi-quantify



Pieke, E.N. et al., 2017. *Analytica Chimica Acta*, 975, pp.30–41.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.aca.2017.03.054>

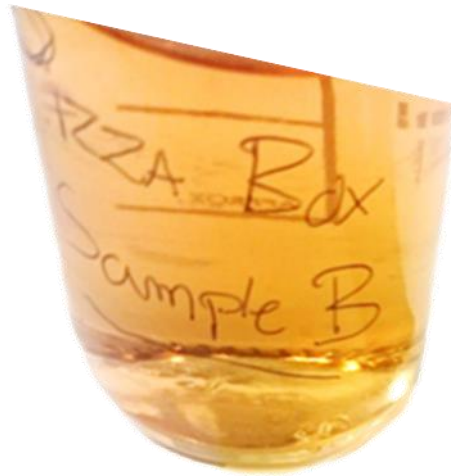
# Obtaining non-target semi-quantitative data



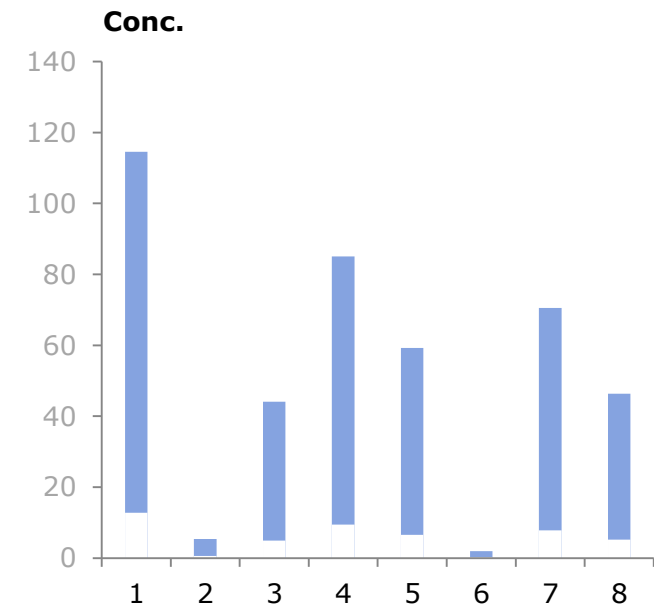
- > **Fast**: 1 sample; 1 analytical run
- > **Independent** on identification
- > Works on **any detectable** compound
- > Large **error** margins
- > Requires **dedicated** optimization

*Pieke, E.N. et al., 2017. Analytica Chimica Acta, 975, pp.30–41.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.aca.2017.03.054>*

# Exploring the world of chemicals



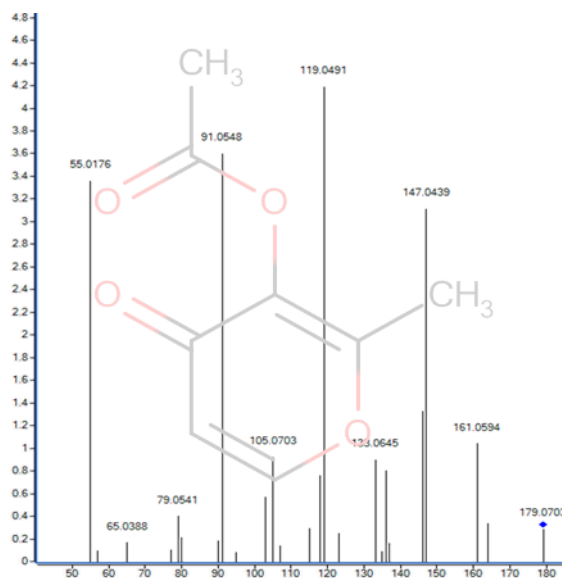
## Semi-quantitative data



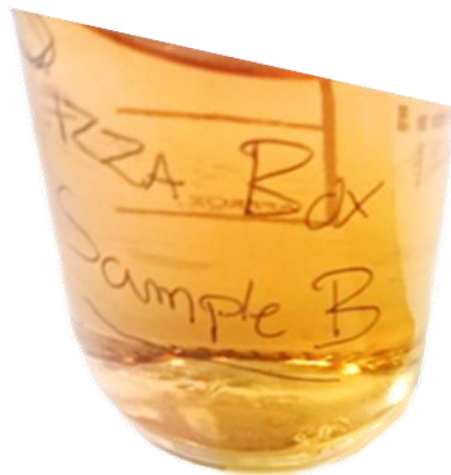
How **much** is there?

# Exploring the world of chemicals

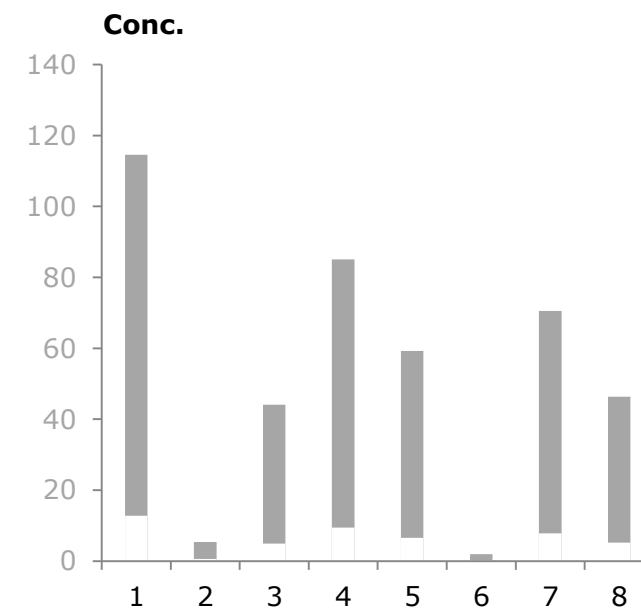
## Chemical structure data



**What** is there?



## Semi-quantitative data

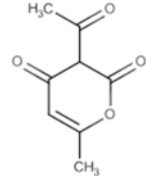
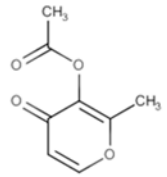
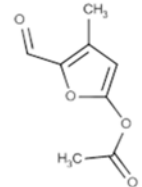
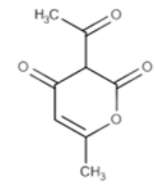


How **much** is there?



# Using multiple database correlations

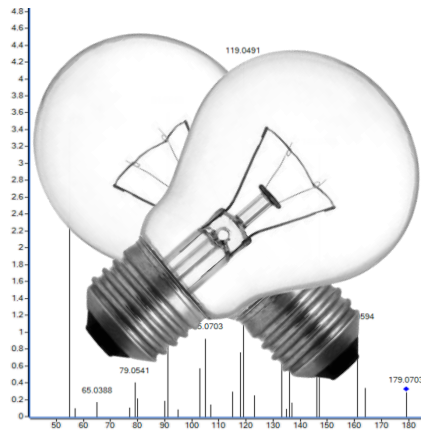
- Reports the **best-matching** structure from a database
- Database are **easy** to generate
- **Independent** from reference standards
- Predictions are **limited to database scope**
- Predictions are *in silico*, hence **error prone**

DB#1			DB#2		
Formula	Structure	Score	Formula	Structure	Score
C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub>		75.5	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub>		76.1
DB#3			DB#4		
Formula	Structure	Score	Formula	Structure	Score
C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub>		78.6	C <sub>8</sub> H <sub>8</sub> O <sub>4</sub>		75.5

Pieke, E.N., Smedsgaard, J. & Granby, K., 2017. *Journal of Mass Spectrometry*.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jms.4052>

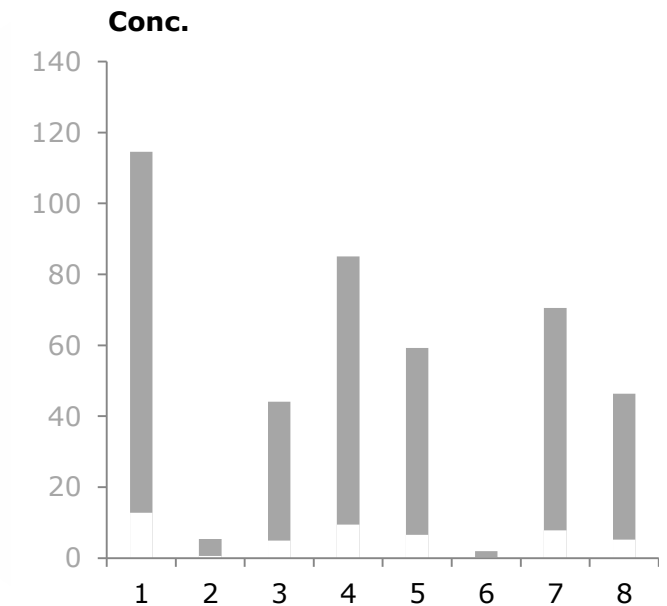
# Exploration as an investigative tool

## Suggested structures



**What** is there?

## Semi-quantitative data



How **much** is there?

# Converting semi-quantification to exposure

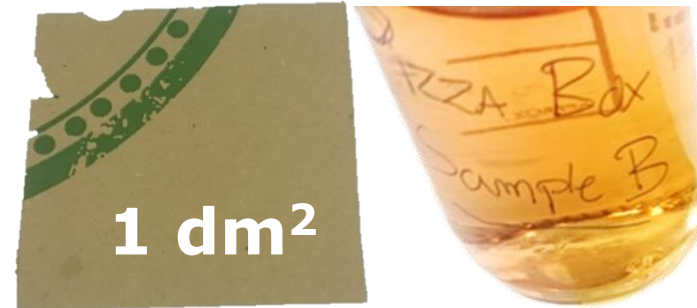
## *Worst case*

*(used by the European Food Safety Authority)*




## *Example case*

*(used in our research studies)*




# Estimating the intake

Assume:



Extraction

=



1 dm<sup>2</sup>

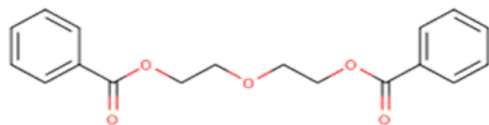
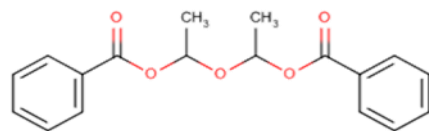
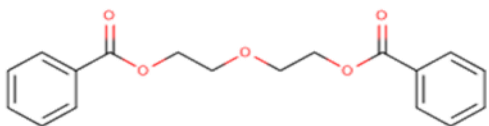
**Total migratable content**  
for 1 dm<sup>2</sup> of contact

$$[C]_{\text{total}} = \sum_{i=1}^n [C]_i \xrightarrow{\text{Extraction}} \text{intake} = f([C]_{\text{total}})$$

- Gives an **estimated daily intake** per person per day (µg/person/day)



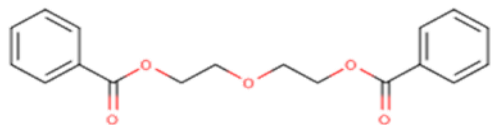
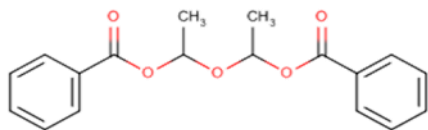
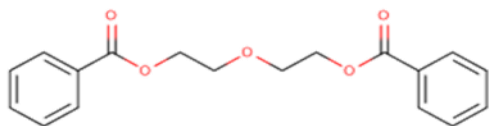
# Converting structure to hazard



1. Tentative identification gives **multiple structure** suggestions per discovered chemical
2. Significant probability that toxicological information **does not exist** for most tentative identifications

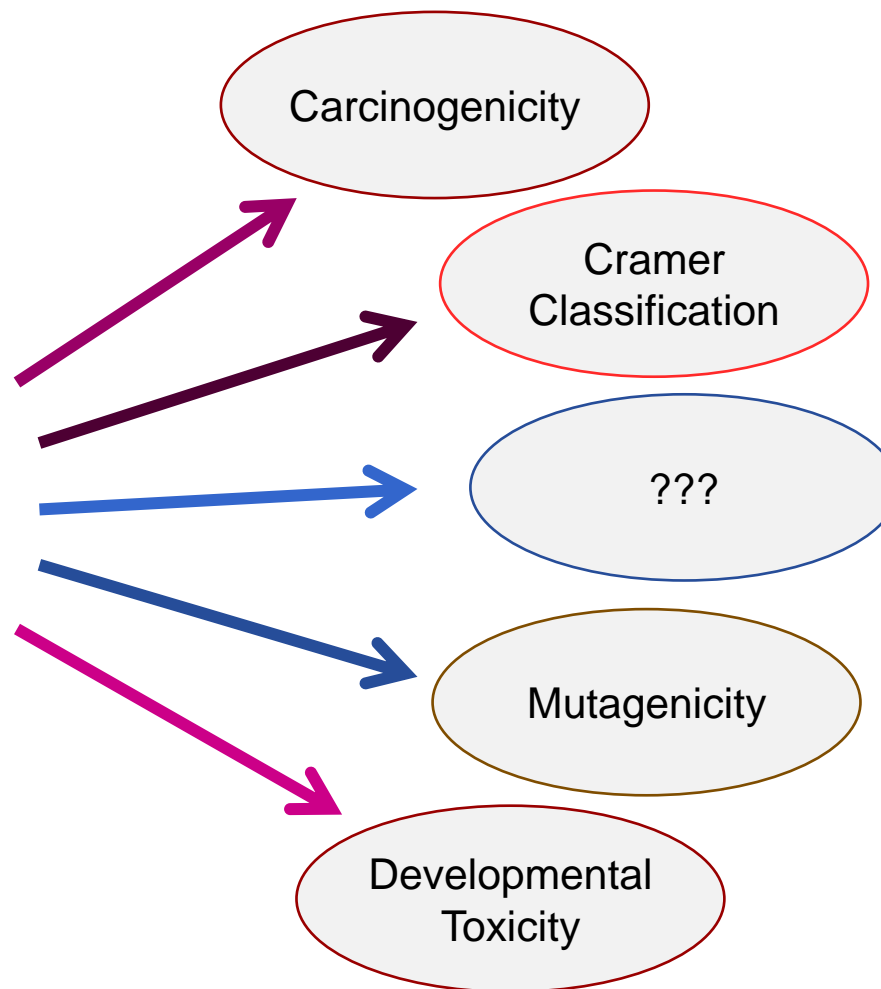
# Using QSAR for predicting effects

*Computer-based toxicity predictions*



**Q-SAR**

Model evaluation

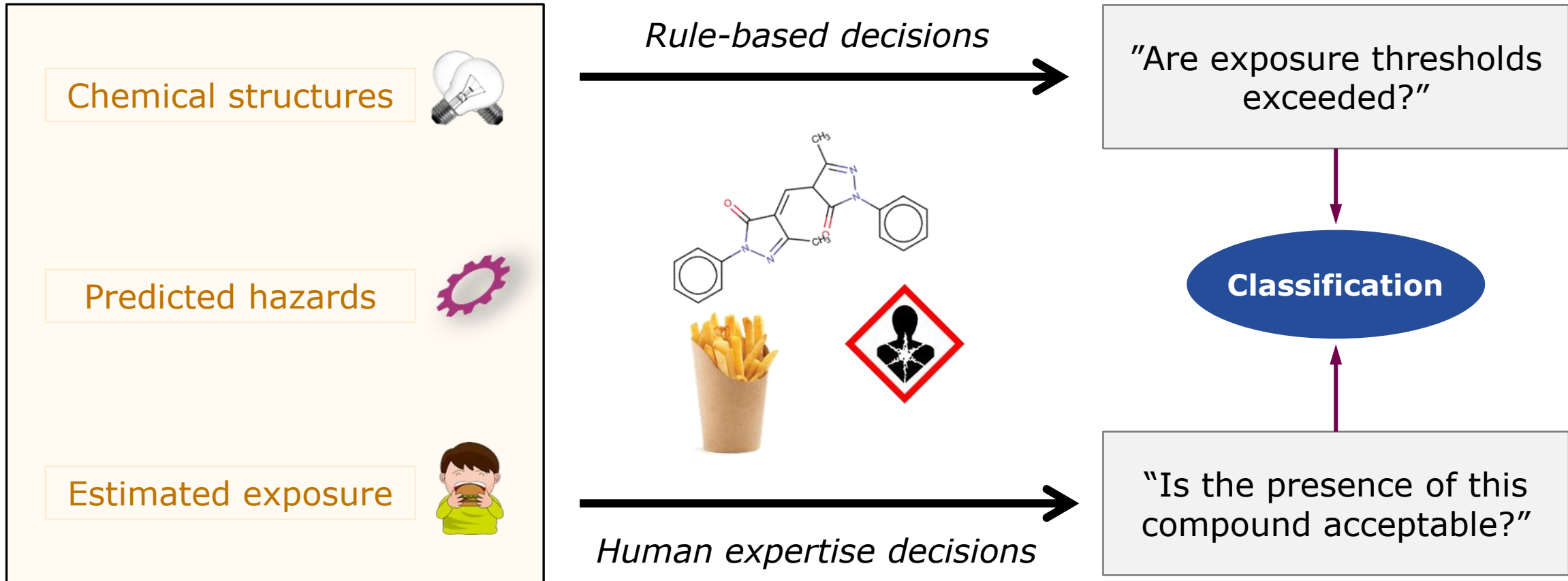


# Evaluating risk based on approximated data

- We may not be able to calculate the true **risk** from approximated data, but ...
- We can still get a nonconclusive **perception of risk** useful for risk priority

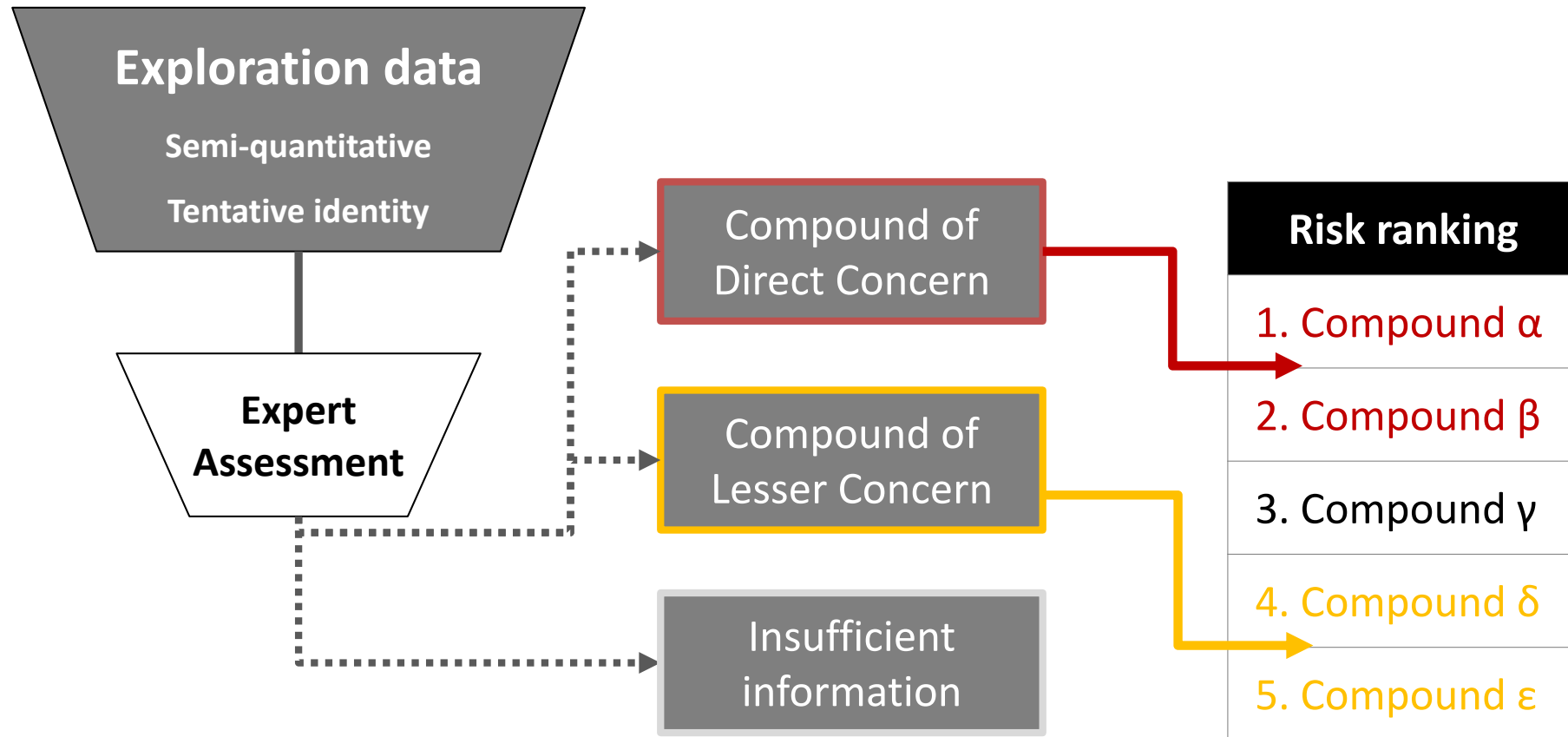


# The classification of chemical substances



Pieke, E.N., Granby, K., Teste, B., Smedsgaard, J. & Rivière, G., 2018.  
Article in preparation.

# The big picture of risk prioritization



*Pieke, E.N., Granby, K., Teste, B., Smedsgaard, J. & Rivière, G., 2018.  
Article in preparation.*

# What Exploration & Prioritization IS NOT

- It **is not** a replacement for or a way to avoid Risk Assessment
- It **is not** a complete representative image of chemicals in food
- It **is not** intended to replace hazard / exposure assessment or migration testing
- **It is not a definitive answer to an increasingly difficult question**  
... but is a step in the direction of comprehending this problem

# What Exploration & Prioritization IS

- It **is** a way to provide **early-stage knowledge** on undiscovered chemicals
- It **is** capable to obtain **preliminary assessments** for possible hazards and exposures
- It **is** a way to **identify possible risk** from poorly-studied or unexpected chemicals
  
- **It is a strategy to assist in knowledge-building and aiding Risk Assessment by providing a way to prioritize chemical compounds**

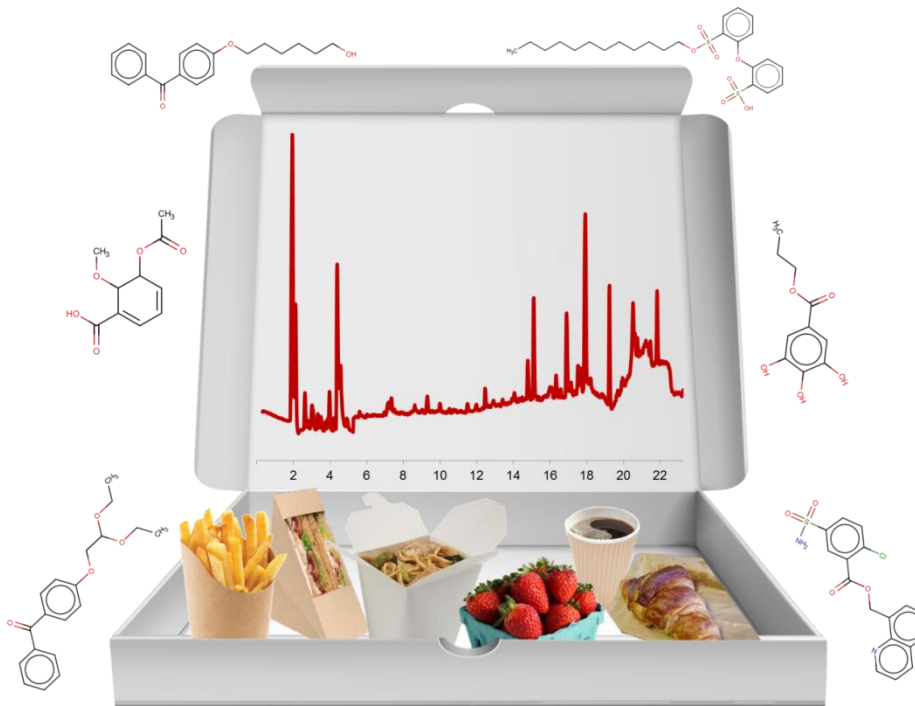
# Back at the intersection of choice



# Thank you for your attention

**Eelco Nicolaas Pieke**

✉ [enpi\(at\)food.dtu.dk](mailto:enpi(at)food.dtu.dk)



## Thanks to:

**DTU Food**  
National Food Institute

- Kit Granby
- Jørn Smedsgaard

**anses**  
French agency for food, environmental  
and occupational health safety

- Gilles Riviere
- Bruno Teste

**GDSI**  
Global Decision Support Initiative

- Elena Boriani