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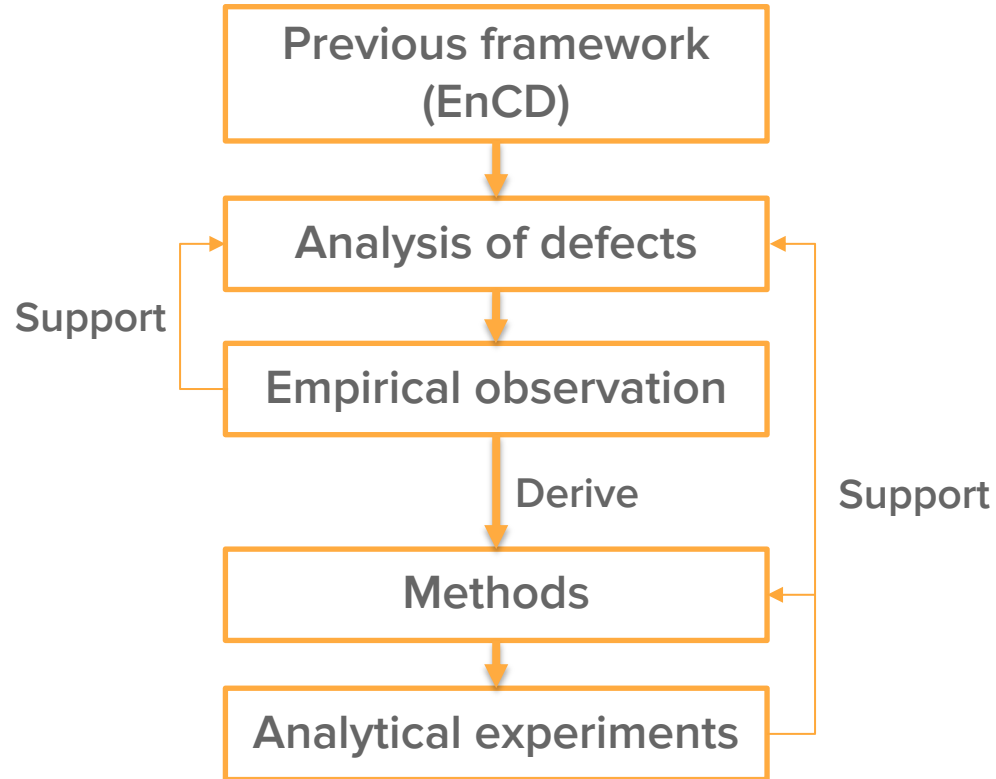
# MOL-AE: Auto-Encoder Based Molecular Representation Learning With 3D Cloze Test Objective

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Junwei Yang<sup>\*1</sup> Kangjie Zheng<sup>\*1</sup> Siyu Long<sup>2</sup>  
Zaiqing Nie<sup>3,4</sup> Ming Zhang<sup>#1</sup> Xinyu Dai<sup>2</sup> Wei-Ying Ma<sup>3</sup> Hao Zhou<sup>#3</sup>

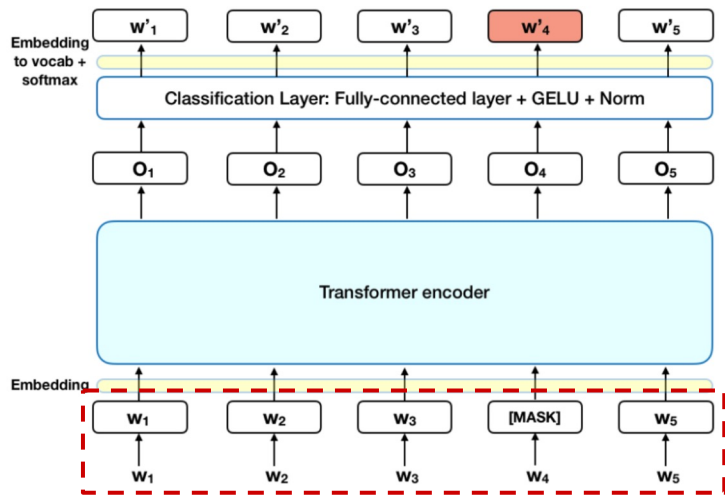
yjwtheonly@pku.edu.cn, kangjie.zheng@gmail.com

# Outline



# Representation Learning

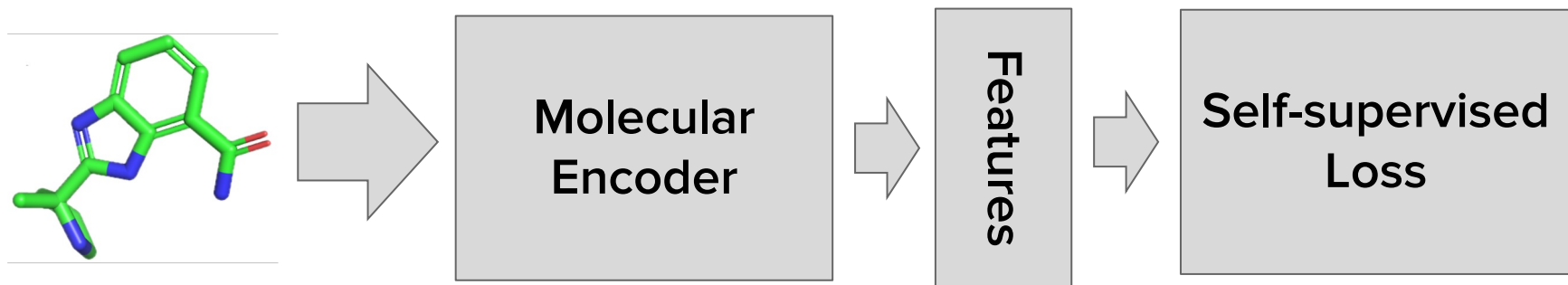
- Representation Learning in NLP
  - Transformer Encoder + Self-supervised Training: BERT



Pretraining Objective: 
$$\mathcal{L}_{MLM} = - \sum_{\hat{x} \in m(\mathbf{x})} \log p(\hat{x} | \mathbf{x}_{\setminus m(\mathbf{x})})$$

# 3D Molecular Representation Learning

- What's 3D Molecular Representation Learning



- **3D Molecular Information**

- **Atom Coordinates**
- Distance between atoms
- Dihedral Angel
- .....

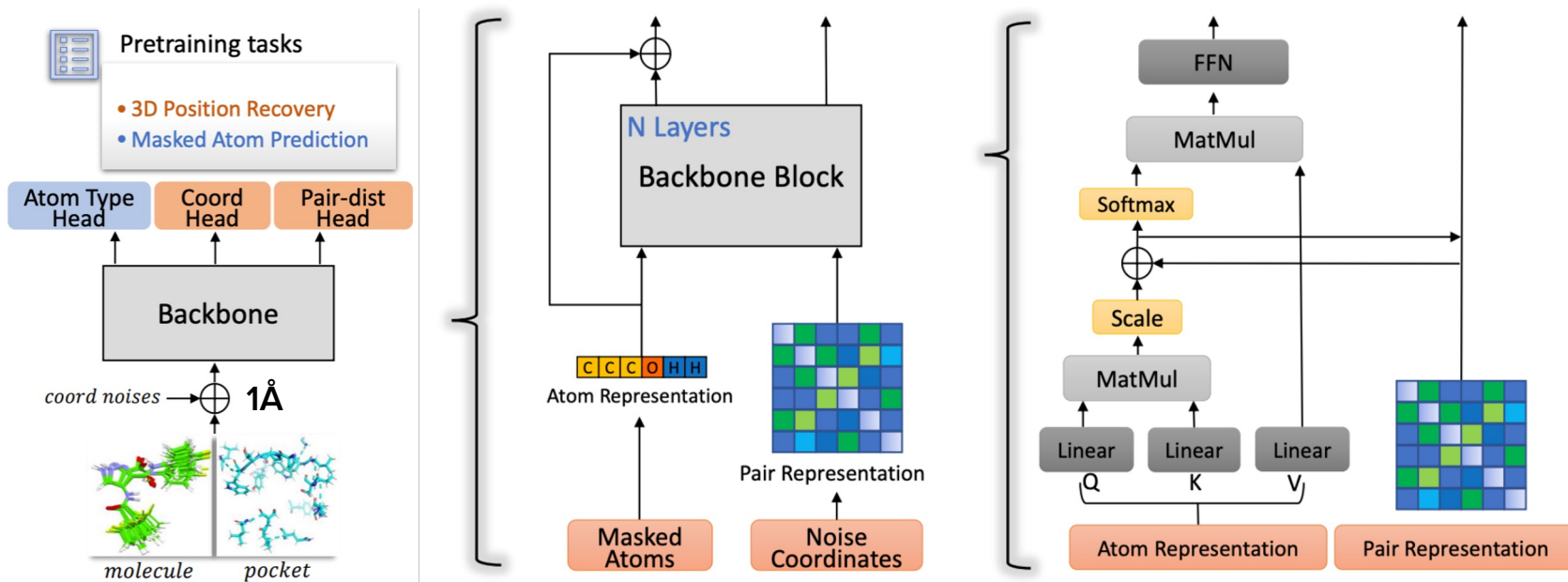
Transformer or GNN

- **Coordinates Denosing**

- Distance Prediction
- Dihedral Angel Prediction
- .....

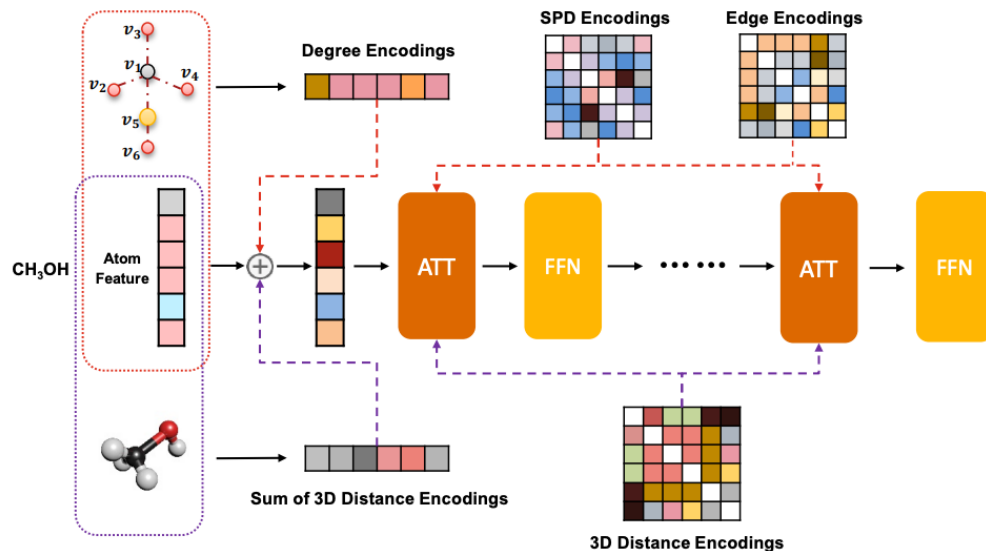
# 3D Molecular Representation Learning

## ● Uni-Mol



# 3D Molecular Representation Learning

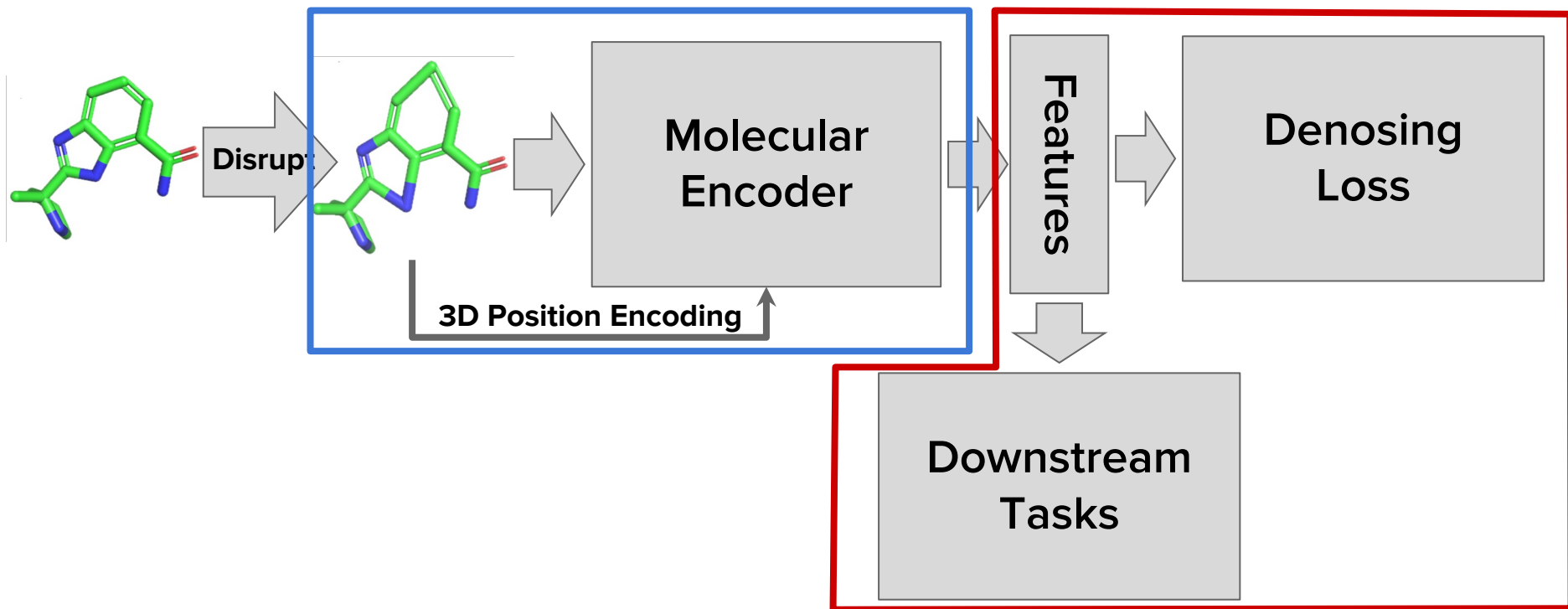
- Transformer-M



Shengjie Luo, et al. "One Transformer Can Understand Both 2D & 3D Molecular Data." ICLR (2023).

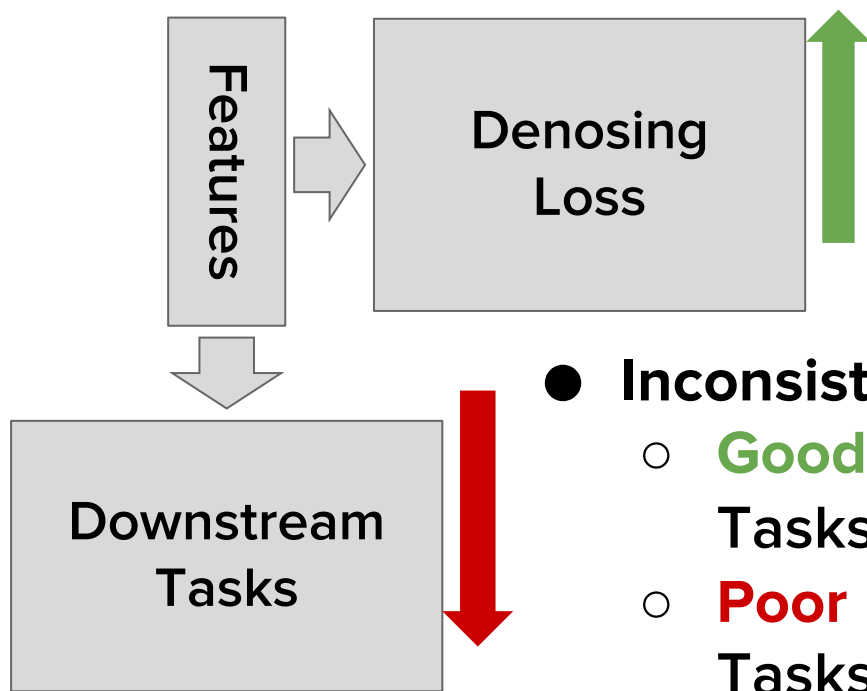
# 3D Molecular Representation Learning

- What's 3D Molecular Representation Learning
  - EnCD Framework: Encoder-only model with Coordinate Denoising objective



# Analysis: Inconsistencies between Objectives

- Inconsistencies Between Pre-Training and Downstream Objectives



- **Inconsistencies:**

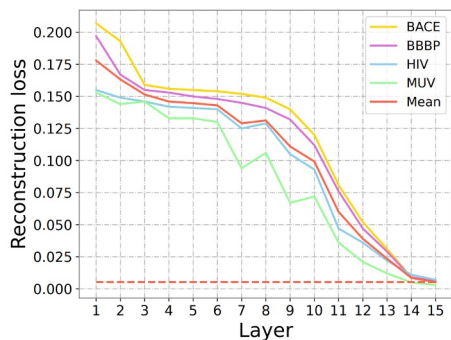
- **Good** Performance on Pre-training Tasks
- **Poor** Performance on Downstream Tasks



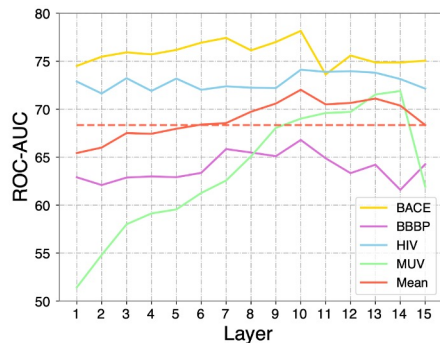
# Analysis: Inconsistencies between Objectives

## ● Inconsistencies Between Pre-Training and Downstream Objectives

- Good Performance on Pre-training Tasks
- Poor Performance on Downstream Tasks

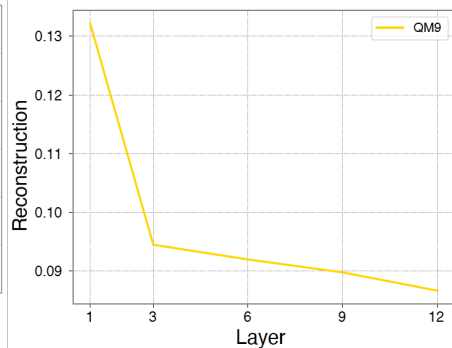


(a) Reconstruction probing.

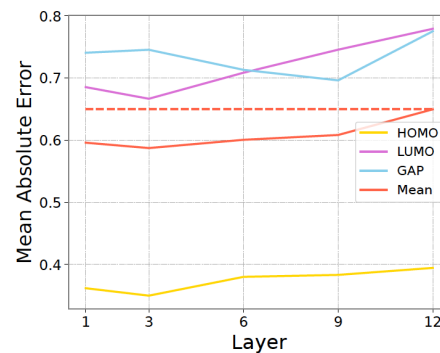


(b) Downstream task probing.

UniMol



(a) Reconstruction probing.

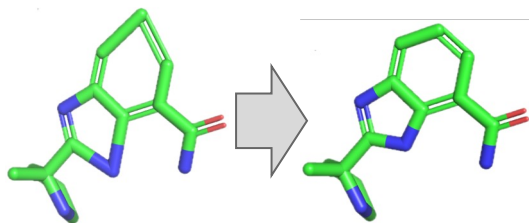


(b) Downstream task probing.

Transformer-M

# Analysis: Inconsistencies between Objectives

- Inconsistencies Between Pre-Training and Downstream Objectives
  - Good Performance on Pre-training Tasks
  - Poor Performance on Downstream Tasks
- Differences between Molecules and Languages



## Molecules

- Low-level Semantic
- Unordered information

I am very [MASK] → I am very happy

## Language

- High-level Semantic
- Ordered information

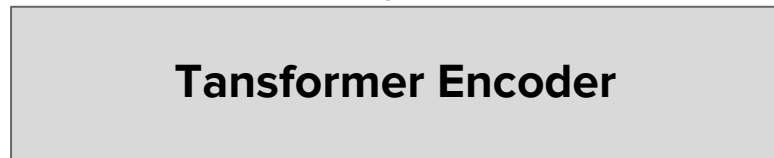
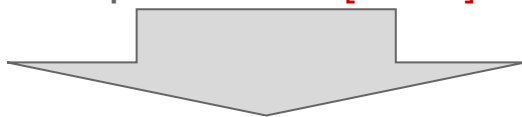
# Analysis: Twisted Optimization of *Content* and *Identifier*

- Differences between Molecules and Languages

Mol-AE consistently outperforms various molecular representation learning methods.



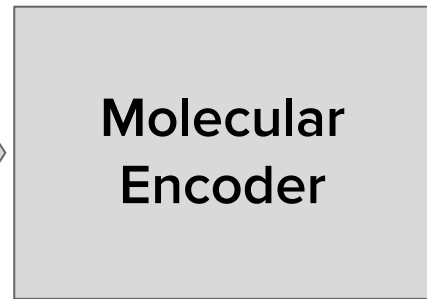
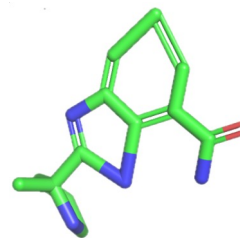
Mol-AE consistently [MASK] various molecular representation [MASK] methods.



outperforms

learning

Position Encoding



3D Position Encoding

Disrupted Conformations → Wrong 3D PE

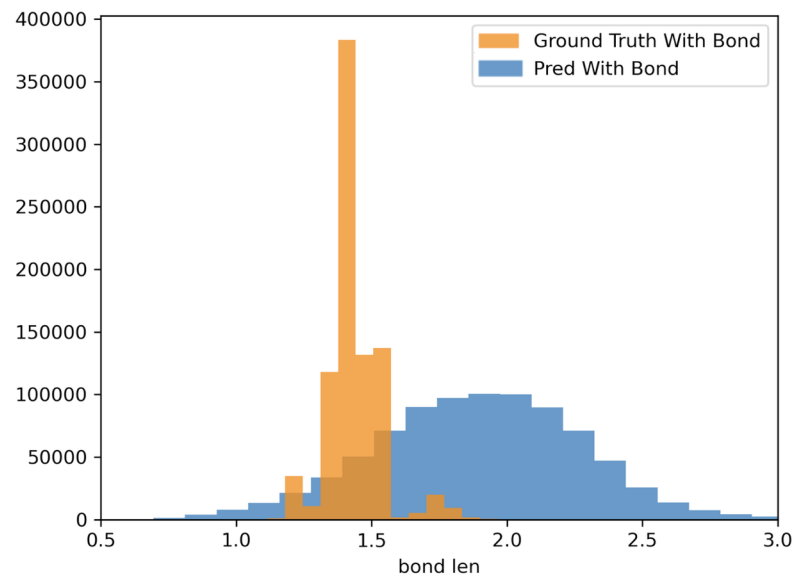
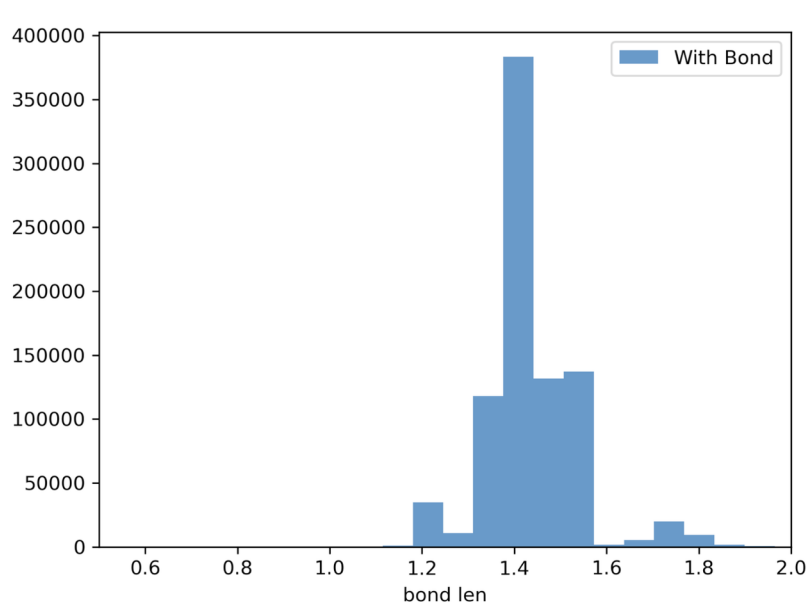
Mol-AE consistently outperforms various molecular representation learning methods.



molecular various representation [MASK]  
Mol-AE methods [MASK] consistently.

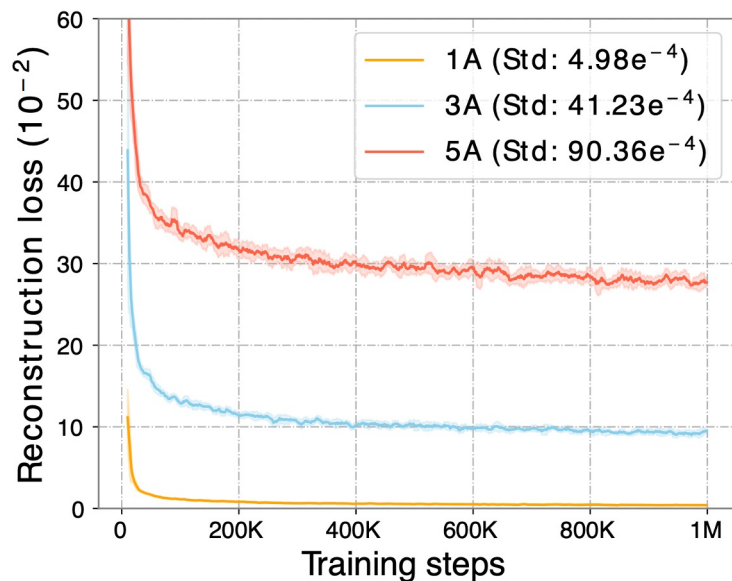
# Analysis: Twisted Optimization of *Content* and *Identifier*

- How much impact does noise have on PE
  - Chemical bond length distribution: 1Å Uniform Noise is a strong noise.



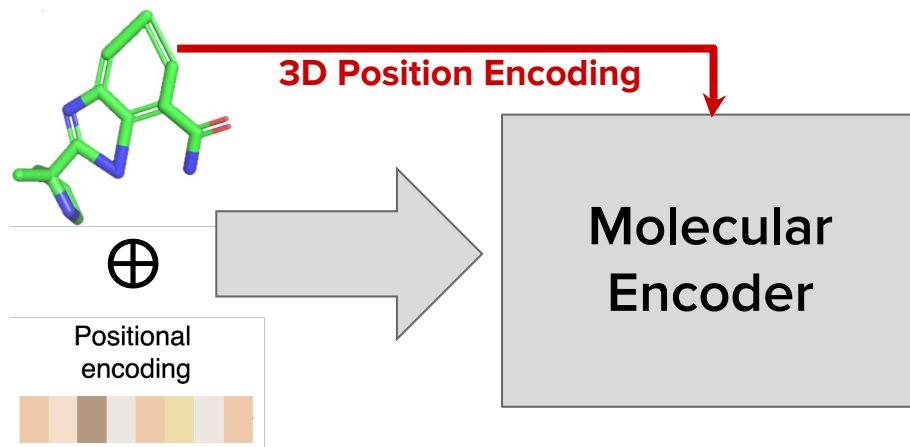
# Analysis: Twisted Optimization of *Content* and *Identifier*

- Training Curve



(a) Uni-Mol

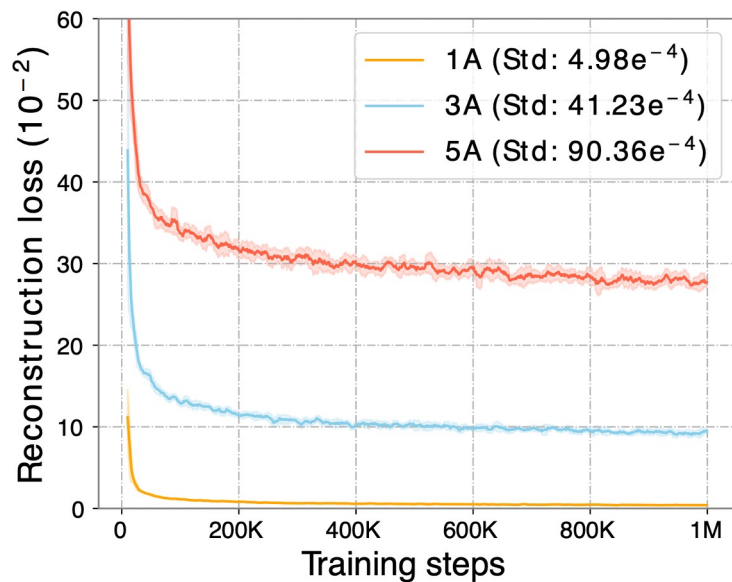
## A Simple Solution: Adding PE into Encoder



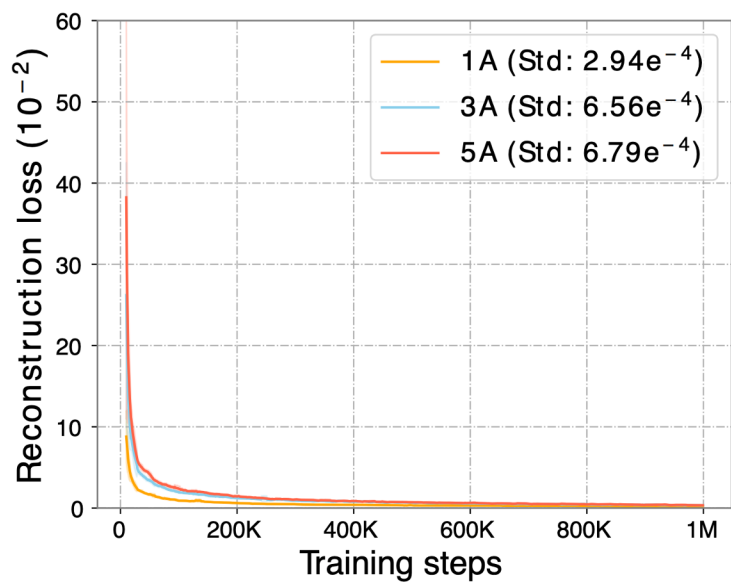
Order Information from SMILES

# Analysis: Twisted Optimization of *Content* and *Identifier*

- Training Curve



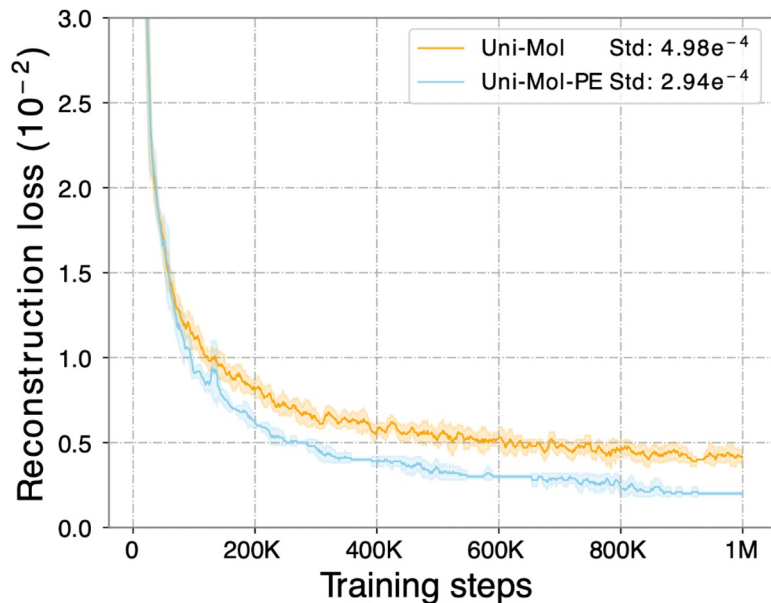
(a) Uni-Mol



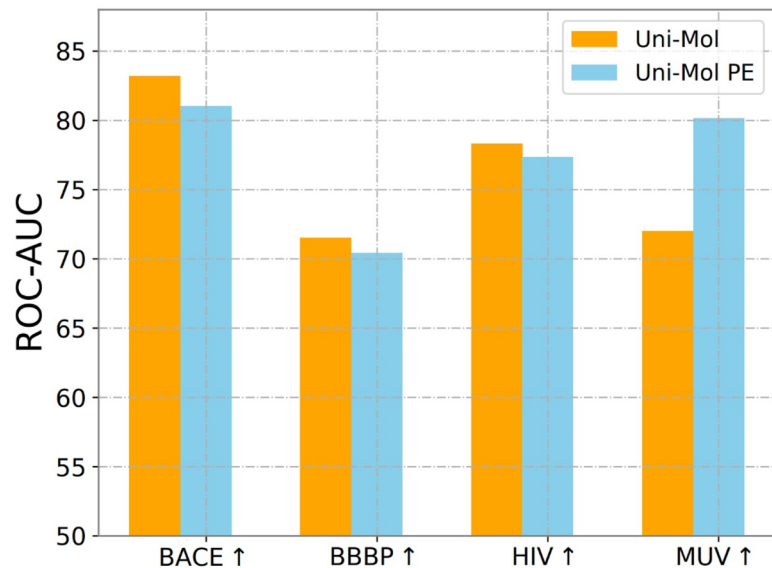
(b) Uni-Mol-PE

# Analysis: Twisted Optimization of *Content* and *Identifier*

- But Uni-Mol-PE can't consistently outperform Uni-Mol on downstream tasks



(a) Training process (Noise intensity:  $1\text{\AA}$ )



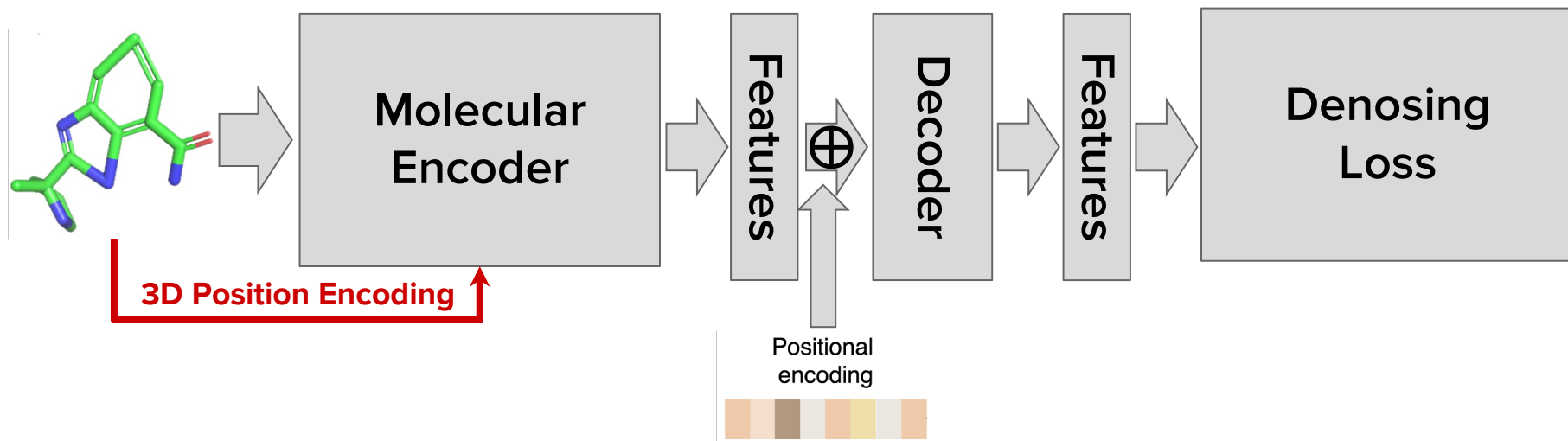
(b) Downstream performance

**Positional information does not help the encoder learn better representations.**

# Analysis: Twisted Optimization of *Content* and *Identifier*

- Positional information does not help the encoder learn better representations.
- But it can help the model distinguish from different atoms.

Separate the wheat from the chaff:

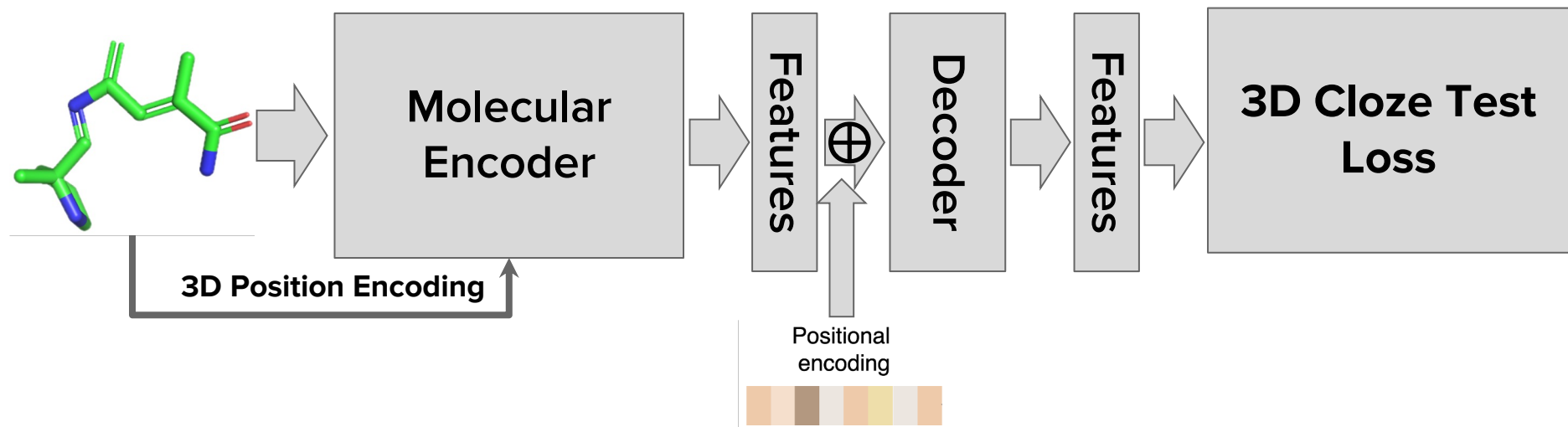




# Analysis: Twisted Optimization of *Content* and *Identifier*

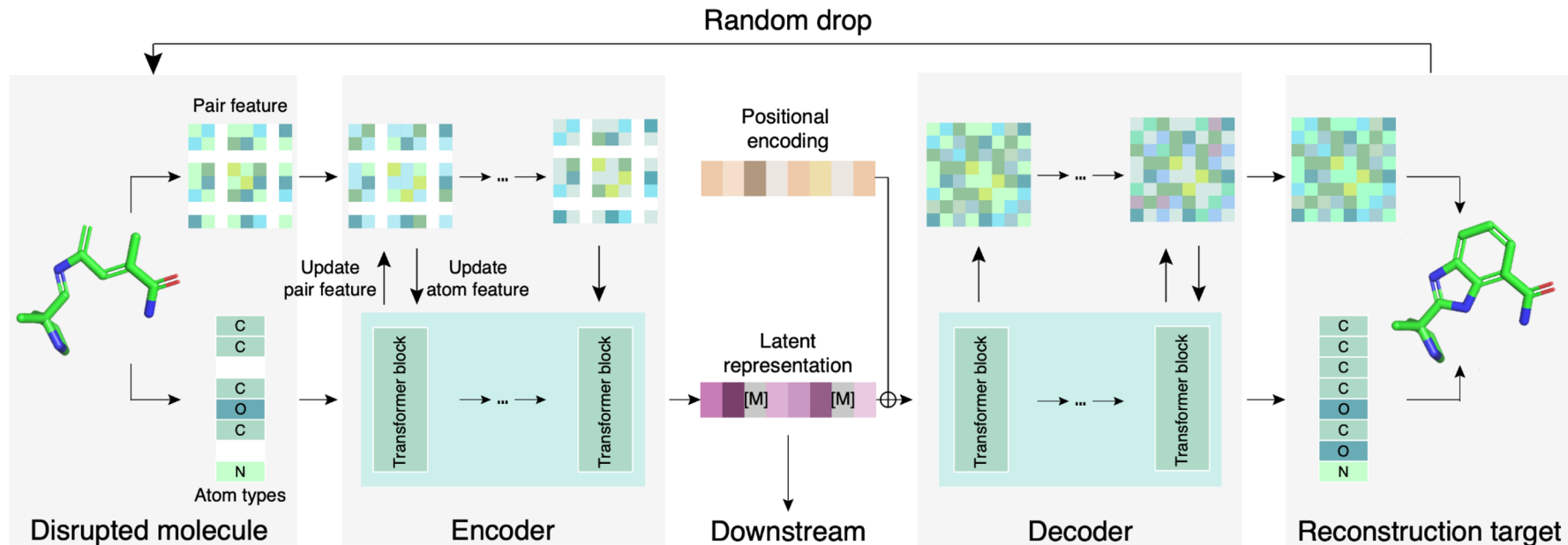
- Positional information does not help the encoder learn better representations.
- But it can help the model distinguish from different atoms.

Real but Partial Structure:



# Method

- Mol-AE: Auto-Encoder Based Molecular Representation Learning With 3D Cloze Test Objective



# Experiments

- The results on 9 molecule classification datasets.

Table 1. The overall results on 9 molecule classification datasets. We report ROC-AUC score (higher is better) under scaffold splitting. The best results are **bold**. The second-best results are underlined.

Datasets # Molecules	BACE $\uparrow$ 1531	BBBP $\uparrow$ 2039	Tox21 $\uparrow$ 7831	SIDER $\uparrow$ 1427	HIV $\uparrow$ 41127	MUV $\uparrow$ 93087	PCBA $\uparrow$ 437929	ClinTox $\uparrow$ 1478	ToxCast $\uparrow$ 8575	Mean $\uparrow$ -
D-MPNN	80.9	71.0	75.9	57.0	77.1	78.6	86.2	<u>90.6</u>	65.5	75.87
Attentive FP	78.4	64.3	76.1	60.6	75.7	76.6	80.1	84.7	63.7	73.36
N-Gram <sub>RF</sub>	77.9	69.7	74.3	<u>66.8</u>	75.7	76.9	-	77.5	-	-
PretrainGNN	<b>84.5</b>	<u>72.6</u>	78.1	62.7	<u>79.9</u>	<u>81.3</u>	86.0	72.6	65.7	75.93
GROVER	82.6	70.0	74.3	64.8	62.5	62.5	76.5	81.2	65.4	71.09
GraphMVP	81.2	72.4	75.9	63.9	77.0	77.7	-	79.1	63.1	-
MolCLR	82.4	72.2	75.0	58.9	78.1	79.6	-	<b>91.2</b>	<u>69.2</u>	-
MoleBLEND	83.7	<b>73.0</b>	77.8	64.9	79.0	77.2	-	87.6	66.1	-
Uni-Mol	83.2	71.5	<u>78.9</u>	57.7	78.6	72.6	<u>88.1</u>	84.1	69.1	75.98
MOL-AE	<u>84.1</u>	72.0	<b>80.0</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>80.6</b>	<b>81.6</b>	<b>88.9</b>	87.8	<b>69.6</b>	<b>79.04</b>

# Experiments

- The results on 6 molecule regression datasets.

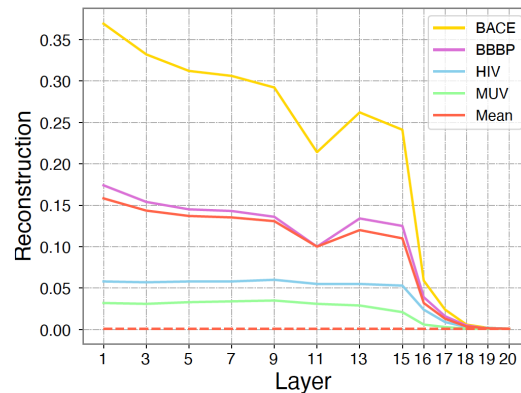
Datasets	QM9↓	QM8↓	QM7↓	ESOL↓	FreeSolv↓	Lipo↓
# Molecules	133885	21789	6830	1129	642	4200
# Tasks	3	12	1	1	1	1
D-MPNN	0.0081	0.0190	103.5	1.050	2.082	0.683
Attentive FP	0.0081	0.0179	72.0	0.877	2.073	0.721
N-Gram <sub>RF</sub>	0.0104	0.0236	92.8	1.074	2.688	0.812
PretrainGNN	0.0092	0.0200	113.2	1.100	2.764	0.739
GROVER	0.0099	0.0218	94.5	0.983	2.176	0.817
GraphMVP	-	-	-	1.029	-	0.681
MolCLR	-	0.0178	66.8	1.271	2.594	0.691
MoleBLEND	-	-	-	0.831	1.910	0.638
Uni-Mol	<u>0.0054</u>	<b>0.0160</b>	<u>58.9</u>	<u>0.844</u>	<u>1.879</u>	<u>0.610</u>
MOL-AE	<b>0.0053</b>	0.0161	<b>53.8</b>	<b>0.830</b>	<b>1.448</b>	<b>0.607</b>

# Analytical Experiments

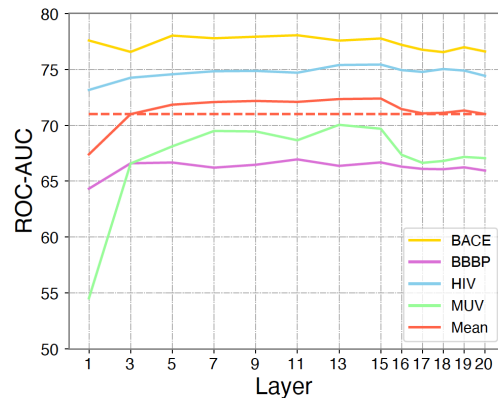
- **Why Auto-Encoder**
- **Why 3D cloze test**
  - Why PE is added to the decoder
  - Why dropping

# Analytical Experiments

- Why Auto-Encoder
  - Shallow decoder is harmful
  - Clearer division of labor
  - Better performance



(a) Reconstruction probing.



(b) Downstream task probing.

Table 3. **Decoder capacity.** Using an overly shallow decoder can harm the model’s performance.

$L^{\text{dec}}$	Tox21 $\uparrow$	HIV $\uparrow$	QM7 $\downarrow$	FreeSolv $\downarrow$
0	74.2	74.1	68.1	2.20
1	77.7	77.5	58.6	1.92
2	78.7	78.5	59.9	1.78
3	77.9	78.2	58.6	1.83
4	78.1	78.3	56.8	1.74
5	78.9	<b>79.4</b>	<b>55.3</b>	1.72
8	<b>79.5</b>	78.1	57.1	1.79
11	78.8	77.1	55.4	<b>1.71</b>

Table 9. Performance comparison of MOL-AE and MOL-AE-full on downstream tasks.

Method	Tox21 $\uparrow$	HIV $\uparrow$	QM7 $\downarrow$	FreeSolv $\downarrow$
MOL-AE	<b>80.0</b>	<b>80.6</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>1.45</b>
MOL-AE-full	79.1	78.9	56.2	1.67

# Analytical Experiments

- Why PE is added to the decoder
  - Better convergence
  - Sequential order may be harmful

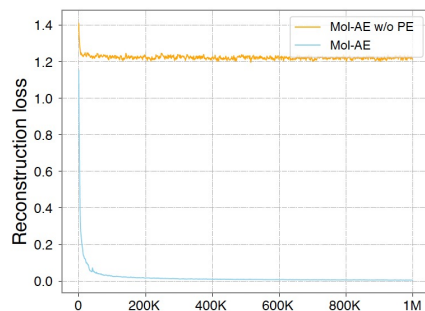


Table 4. **Sequential order information in PE.** Introducing PE in encoder will potentially harm the capacity for 3D molecular understanding.

Order	PE <sub>Enc</sub>	PE <sub>Dec</sub>	Tox21 ↑	HIV ↑	QM7 ↓	FreeSolv ↓
SMILES	✓	✓	78.2	78.4	57.3	2.12
SMILES		✓	<b>78.9</b>	<b>79.4</b>	<b>55.3</b>	1.72
Random	✓	✓	77.9	76.9	63.2	2.03
Random		✓	78.3	79.2	56.7	<b>1.64</b>
No PE			77.6	76.5	58.2	1.89

Table 10. Ablation study on adding PE to different layers.

Data	Layer 0	Layer 5	Layer 10	Layer 15	Layer 16	Layer 17	Layer 18	Layer 19	Layer 20
Tox21 ↑	78.2	77.9	77.4	<b>78.9</b>	78.6	<u>78.9</u>	77.6	77.1	77.3
HIV ↑	78.4	78.1	77.6	<u>79.4</u>	79.3	<b>79.7</b>	78.6	79.1	78.3
QM7 ↓	57.2	58.1	59.4	<b>55.3</b>	<u>55.4</u>	56.9	57.7	57.4	57.8
FreeSolve ↓	2.11	2.13	2.15	<u>1.72</u>	<b>1.69</b>	1.77	1.73	1.76	1.84

# Analytical Experiments

- Why dropping
  - Better performance

Table 5. **Disruption methods.** Using dropping to disrupt coordinates could achieve better performance.

Method	Tox21 $\uparrow$	HIV $\uparrow$	QM7 $\downarrow$	FreeSolv $\downarrow$
MOL-AE-noise 0.5Å	78.6	79.5	56.8	1.70
MOL-AE-noise 1Å	79.5	79.9	56.6	1.68
MOL-AE-noise 3Å	78.9	79.7	57.2	1.71
MOL-AE-noise 5Å	78.8	79.8	56.8	1.65
MOL-AE	<b>80.0</b>	<b>80.6</b>	<b>53.8</b>	<b>1.45</b>

For a more theoretical explanation, please refer to  
Yu Meng, et al. "Representation Deficiency in Masked Language Modeling" ICLR (2024).



# Thanks

Paper: <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2024.04.13.589331v1>

Project: <https://github.com/yjwtheonly/MoIAE>