1. QSAR identifier

1.1. QSAR identifier (title):
OPERA-model for abiotic degredation in air

1.2. Other related models:
No related models

1.3. Software coding the model:
OPERA V1.5
OPERA (OPEn (quantitative) structure-activity Relationship Application) is a standalone free and open source command line application. It provides a suite of QSAR models to predict physicochemical properties and environmental fate of organic chemicals based on PaDEL descriptors. It is available for download in Matlab, C and C++ languages from github under MIT license.
Kamel Mansouri (mansourikamel@gmail.com)
https://github.com/kmansouri/OPERA.git
PaDEL descriptors V2.21
Open source software to calculate molecular descriptors and fingerprints.
Chun Wei Yap (phayapc@nus.edu.sg)
http://padel.nus.edu.sg/software/padeldescriptor
MATLAB V8.2
MATrix LABoratory is a multi-paradigm numerical computing environment and fourth-generation programming language
http://www.mathworks.com/company/aboutus/contact_us/?s_tid=gn_cntus
http://www.mathworks.com/products/matlab/

2. General information

2.1. Date of QMRF:
1 November 2016

2.2. QMRF author(s) and contact details:
[1] Kamel Mansouri, ORISE research fellow at National Center for Computational Toxicology (NCCT), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, mansourikamel@gmail.com
[2] Antony Williams, National Center for Computational Toxicology (NCCT), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Williams.Antony@epa.gov

2.3. Date of QMRF update(s):

2.4. QMRF update(s):

2.5. Model developer(s) and contact details:
2.6. Date of model development and/or publication:
2016

2.7. Reference(s) to main scientific papers and/or software package:


2.8. Availability of information about the model:
Non-proprietary suite of QSAR models freely available as a command line standalone application (OPERA: OPEn saR App) from github under MIT license: https://github.com/kmansouri/OPERA.git. Its predictions for the full DSSTox 720k chemicals are published on the EPA CompTox Chemistry Dashboard (https://comptox.epa.gov/dashboard). Training and validation sets are available for visualization on the dashboard and as SDF files provided in supporting information Section 9.3 and from the paper [ref 1-2, Section 2.7]. (ftp://newftp.epa.gov/COMPTOX/Sustainable_Chemistry_Data/Chemistry_Dashboard/PHYSPROP_Analysis)
2.9. Availability of another QMRF for exactly the same model:
Not to date

3. Defining the endpoint - OECD Principle 1

3.1. Species:
Not applicable

3.2. Endpoint:
2. Environmental fate parameters 2.2.b. Persistence: Abiotic degradation in air (Phototransformation).
Indirect photolysis (OH-radical reaction, ozone-radical reaction, other)

3.3. Comment on endpoint:
The atmospheric hydroxylation rate is the OH rate constant for the atmospheric, gas-phase reaction between photochemically produced hydroxyl radicals and organic chemicals expressed in logarithm values.

3.4. Endpoint units:
cm³/molecule-sec

3.5. Dependent variable:
LogOH

3.6. Experimental protocol:
The experimental data were downloaded from the EPI Suite data webpage (http://esc.syrres.com/interkow/EpiSuiteData.htm). These data are from PHYSPROP (The Physical Properties Database) which is a collection of a wide variety of sources built by Syracuse Research Corporation (SRC). Experimental protocols of the different parts of data can be traced back to the original referenced literature from the database.

3.7. Endpoint data quality and variability:
The original data collected from the PhysProp database (818 chemicals) have undergone a series of processes to curate the chemical structures and remove duplicates, obvious outliers and erroneous entries. This procedure also included a consistency check to ensure only good quality data is used for the development of the QSAR model (765 chemicals).
Then, QSAR-ready structures were generated by standardizing all chemical structures and removing duplicates, inorganic and metallo-organic chemicals (745 chemicals). The descriptions of KNIME workflows that were developed for the purpose of the cleaning and standardization of the data are available in the papers [ref 1 and ref 4 Section 2.7].
The curated outlier-free experimental data (692 chemicals) were divided into training and validation sets before the machine learning and modeling steps.

4. Defining the algorithm - OECD Principle 2

4.1. Type of model:
QSAR/QSPR model derived from weighted nearest neighbor algorithm (kNN) based on PaDEL descriptors [ref2 Sect 1.3].
4.2. Explicit algorithm:
Distance weighted k-nearest neighbors (kNN). k=5.
This is a refinement of the classical k-NN classification algorithm where the contribution of each of the k neighbors is weighted according to their distance to the query point, giving greater weight to closer neighbors. The used distance is the Euclidean distance. kNN is an unambiguous algorithm that fulfills the transparency requirements of OECD principle 2 with an optimal compromise between model complexity and performance.

4.3. Descriptors in the model:
[1] nBondsD2, Unitless, Bond count: Total number of double bonds (excluding bonds to aromatic bonds).
[2] C1SP2, Unitless, Carbon types: Doubly bound carbon bound to one other carbon
4.4. Descriptor selection:

PaDEL software was used to calculate 1440 molecular descriptors. A first filter was applied in order to remove descriptors with missing values, constant and near constant (standard deviation of 0.25 as a threshold) and highly correlated descriptors (96% as a threshold). The remaining 749 descriptors were used in a feature selection procedure to select a minimum number of variables encoding the most relevant structural information to the modeled endpoint. This step consisted of coupling Genetic Algorithms (GA) with the weighted kNN algorithm and was applied in 5-fold cross-validation on the training set (516 chemicals). This procedure was run for 200 consecutive independent runs maximizing \( Q^2 \) in cross-validation and minimizing the number of descriptors. The number of \( k \) neighbors is optimized within the range of 3 to 7. The descriptors were then ranked based on their frequency of selection during the GA runs. The best model showed an optimal compromise between the simplicity (minimum number of descriptors) and performance \( (Q^2 \) in cross-validation) to ensure transparency and facilitate the mechanistic interpretation as required by OECD principles 2 and 5. More details in paper [ref2 Section 2.7].

4.5. Algorithm and descriptor generation:

PaDEL descriptors were calculated based on two-dimensional (2D) chemical structures generated by the Indigo
cheminformatics suite of tools implemented in KNIME. 2D descriptors were
selected over 3D to avoid complicated and usually irreproducible
geometrical optimizations. The calculated descriptors fall into
different groups such as constitutional indices, ring descriptors,
topological indices, 2D matrix based descriptors, functional group
counts and atom counts. Details and references provided in Section 4.3.

4.6.Software name and version for descriptor generation:
PaDEL-Descriptors V2.21
An open source software to calculate molecular descriptors and fingerprints.
Chun Wei Yap (phayapc@nus.edu.sg)
http://padel.nus.edu.sg/software/padeldescriptor

4.7.Chemicals/Descriptors ratio:
516 chemicals (trainingset)/13 descriptors= 39.69

5.1.Description of the applicability domain of the model:
The model is applicable to heterogeneous organic chemicals. In the
implementation of the model several pieces of information are given to
help the user in evaluating the reliability of a prediction. The
chemical structure is first assessed to see if it is falling within the
Applicability Domain of the model or not. Then the accuracy of the
predicted value is reported based on the similarity of the query
chemical to its neighboring chemicals in the training set of the model.
This fulfills the requirements of the 3rd OECD principle by defining
the limitations in terms of the types of chemical structures,
physicochemical properties and mechanisms of action for which the model
can generate reliable predictions.

5.2.Method used to assess the applicability domain:
The applicability domain of the model is assessed
in two independent levels using two different distance-based methods.
First, a global applicability domain is determined by means of the
leverage approach that checks whether the query structure falls within
the multidimensional chemical space of the whole training set.
The leverage of a query chemical is proportional
to its Mahalanobis distance measure from the centroid of the training
set. The leverages of a given dataset are obtained from the diagonal
values of the hat matrix. This approach is associated with a threshold
leverage that corresponds to 3*p/n where p is the number of model
variables while n is the number of training compounds. A query chemical
with leverage higher than the threshold is considered outside the AD and
can be associated with unreliable prediction.
The leverage approach has specific limitations, in
particular with respects to gaps within the descriptor space of the
model or at the boundaries of the training set. To obviate such
limitations, a second tier of applicability domain assessment was
added. This comprised a local approach which only investigated the
vicinity of the query chemical. This local approach provides a continuous index ranging from 0 to 1 which is different from the first approach which only provides Boolean answers (yes/no). This local AD-index is relative to the similarity of the query chemical to its 5 nearest neighbors in the p dimensional space of the model. The higher this index, the more the prediction is likely to be reliable.

5.3. Software name and version for applicability domain assessment:
Implemented in OPERA V1.5
An implementation of a local similarity index and the leverage approach based on the work of Sahigara, F.; Mansouri, K.; Ballabio, D.; Mauri, A.; Consonni, V.; Todeschini, R. Comparison of Different Approaches to Define the Applicability Domain of QSAR Models. Molecules 2012, 17, 4791-4810.
Kamel Mansouri (mansourikamel@gmail.com);
https://github.com/kmansouri/OPERA.git

5.4. Limits of applicability:
These two AD methods described in Section 5.2 are complementary and can be interpreted in the following way:
- If a chemical is considered outside the global AD with a low local AD-index, the prediction can be unreliable
- If a chemical is considered outside the global AD but the local AD-index is average or relatively high, this means the query chemical is on the boundaries of the training set but has quite similar neighbors. The prediction can be trusted.
- If a chemical is considered inside the global AD but the local AD-index is average or relatively low, this means the query chemical fell in a "gap" of the chemical space of the model but still within the boundaries of the training set and surrounded with training chemicals. The prediction should be considered with caution.
- If a chemical is considered inside the global AD with a high local AD-index, the prediction should be considered reliable.

Even though the applicability domain is necessary to set the limits of the interpolation space of the model, it doesn't necessarily inform about the quality of the prediction especially in the empty spaces and around the edges of the descriptor space. In order to overcome this limitation and help the user decide about the reliability of a prediction, we added a confidence level index ranging from 0 to 1 relative to the accuracy of prediction of the 5 nearest neighbors to the query chemical. The higher this index, the more the prediction is likely to be reliable.

6. Internal validation - OECD Principle 4

6.1. Availability of the training set:
Yes

6.2. Available information for the training set:
6.3. Data for each descriptor variable for the training set:
All

6.4. Data for the dependent variable for the training set:
All

6.5. Other information about the training set:
The training set consists of 516 chemicals. The structures are randomly selected to represent 75% of the available data keeping a similar normal distribution of LogOH values in both training and test sets using the Venetian blinds method. The values are ranging from ~-16 to ~-9. A plot of the distribution of LogOH values is provided in the supporting information Section 9.3.

6.6. Pre-processing of data before modelling:
No preprocessing of the values.

6.7. Statistics for goodness-of-fit:
Performance in training:
R² = 0.85
RMSE = 1.12

6.8. Robustness - Statistics obtained by leave-one-out cross-validation:

6.9. Robustness - Statistics obtained by leave-many-out cross-validation:
Performance in 5-fold cross-validation:
Q² = 0.85
RMSE = 1.14

A plot of the experimental versus predicted values for the training set is provided in supporting information Section 9.3.

6.10. Robustness - Statistics obtained by Y-scrambling:

6.11. Robustness - Statistics obtained by bootstrap:

6.12. Robustness - Statistics obtained by other methods:

7. External validation - OECD Principle 4

7.1. Availability of the external validation set:
Yes

7.2. Available information for the external validation set:
Internal ID; CAS checksum; name validity; preferred name; IUPAC name; Original SMILES; QSAR-ready canonical smiles; InChI; Salt information; DSSTox GSID; Experimental reference; Consistency flag
7.3. Data for each descriptor variable for the external validation set:
   All

7.4. Data for the dependent variable for the external validation set:
   All

7.5. Other information about the external validation set:
   The validation set consists of 176 chemicals.
   The values are ranging from ~-16 to ~-9.

7.6. Experimental design of test set:
   The structures are randomly selected to represent
   25% of the available data keeping a similar normal distribution of LogOH
   values in both training and test sets using the Venetian blinds method.
   A plot of the distribution of LogOH values is provided in the supporting
   information Section 9.3.

7.7. Predictivity - Statistics obtained by external validation:
   Performance in test:
   $R^2=0.83$
   RMSE=1.23

7.8. Predictivity - Assessment of the external validation set:
   The validation set consisting of 176 chemicals
   which is equivalent to a third (1/3) of the training set is sufficient
   for the evaluation of the predictivity of the model and a good
   representation of the chemical space as shown in the multi-dimensional
   scaling plot provided in supporting information Section 9.3. A plot of
   the experimental versus predicted values for the validation set is
   provided in supporting information Section 9.3.

7.9. Comments on the external validation of the model:
   The choice of proportions between the training set and the validation
   set as well as the splitting method helped in accurately evaluating the
   model and covering most of the training set chemical space. This goal
   was accomplished without the need to do a structural sampling that
   usually shows over-optimistic evaluation of the predictivity or a
   complete random selection that risks biasing the evaluation towards a
   certain region of the chemical space.

8. Providing a mechanistic interpretation - OECD Principle 5

8.1. Mechanistic basis of the model:
   The model descriptors were selected statistically
   but they can also be mechanistically interpreted.
The degradation of organic chemicals in the troposphere is governed by several transformation processes including reactions with ozone or direct photolysis and mainly the daylight reaction with hydroxyl and other photochemically-produced radicals [ref 1 Section 9.3].

The selected descriptors for our model agree with the transformation procedure described by Atkinson [ref 3-5 Section 9.3]. The general approach is based on the observation that OH radical reactions with organic compounds follow four additive reaction pathways: H-atom abstraction from C-H and O-H bonds; OH radical addition to >C = C and -C 3 C- bonds; OH radical addition to aromatic rings; and OH radical interaction with N-, S-, and P- atoms. The information about these reactions is encoded in the following descriptors:

nBondsD2: Bond count: Total number of double bonds (excluding bonds to aromatic bonds).

C1SP2: Carbon types: Doubly bound carbon bound to one other carbon.

maxdCH2: Atom type electrotopological state: Maximum atom-type E-State: =CH2.

nHCsatu: Atom type electrotopological state; Count of atom-type H E-State: H on C sp3 bonded to unsaturated C.

SHdsCH: Atom type electrotopological state: Sum of atom-type H E-State: =CH-

TIC1: Total information content index (neighborhood symmetry of 1-order).

minwHBa: Atom type electrotopological state: Minimum E-States for weak Hydrogen Bond acceptors.

maxwHBa: Atom type electrotopological state: Maximum E-States for weak Hydrogen Bond acceptors.

The correlation between the OH radical addition rate constants and the ionization potential was demonstrated by Biermann et al. 1985 [ref 6 Section 9.3]. This information is encoded in:

AATS3i: Average Broto-Moreau autocorrelation - lag 3 / weighted by first ionization potential.
Zetsch, 1982 and Atkinson 1991 demonstrated that the rate constant addition of OH radicals to aromatic rings is correlated with the sum of the substituent groups electrophilic constants [ref 7,8 Section 9.3]. This information is encoded in the descriptors:

GATS1e: Geary autocorrelation - lag 1 / weighted by Sanderson electronegativities.
AATS0e: Average Broto-Moreau autocorrelation - lag 0 / weighted by Sanderson electronegativities.
AATS1e: Average Broto-Moreau autocorrelation - lag 1 / weighted by Sanderson electronegativities
AATS3e: Average Broto-Moreau autocorrelation - lag 3 / weighted by Sanderson electronegativities.

8.2. A priori or a posteriori mechanistic interpretation:
A posteriori mechanistic interpretation.

8.3. Other information about the mechanistic interpretation:
For more details and full reference, see references in Section 4.3 and Section 9.2.

9. Miscellaneous information

9.1. Comments:
This QSAR model for LogOH prediction is part of the NCCT_Models Suite that is a free and open-source standalone application for the prediction of physicochemical properties and environmental fate of chemicals. This application is available in the Supporting information Section 9.3 of this report and in the paper ref 2 Section 2.7. The detailed results of this suite of models applied on more than 700k DSSTox chemicals are available on the iCSS chemistry dashboard (https://comptox.epa.gov/dashboard). This current version of the model is mainly based on curated and standardized data collected from the Physprop database. All NCCT_Models are designed to fulfill the requirement of the 5 OECD principles to ensure transparency and reproducibility of the results. In order to predict new chemicals, the models only require 2D chemical structures that are used to calculate molecular descriptors by PaDEL 2.21 software. Then a simple weighted kNN algorithm is used to make the prediction based on the observed values of the k closest molecules. All models showed high robustness and statistics stability between training, 5-fold cross-validation and the external validation set.

Considering the full applicability domain of the 692 chemicals with available data and the same models parameters described earlier, the calibration statistics would be an $R^2$ of 0.84 and an RMSE of 1.16.
9.2. Bibliography:


9.3. Supporting information:

10. Summary (JRC QSAR Model Database)

10.1. QMRF number:
Q17-22b-0024

10.2. Publication date:
2017-09-21

10.3. Keywords:
Persistence; Abiotic degradation in air; PaDEL; OPERA;

10.4. Comments:
OPERA (OPEn saR App) model for the prediction of the atmospheric hydroxylation rate (LogOH) constant (for the atmospheric, gas-phase reaction between photochemically produced hydroxyl radicals and organic chemicals).