



## Exploration of a new method and a new tool for the characterization of in vitro combinations of two compounds for screening purpose in oncology

Fanny Windenberger

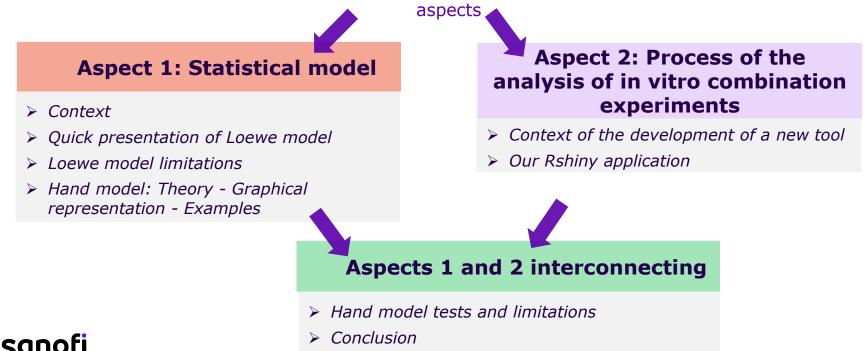


19. October. 2022

## Content

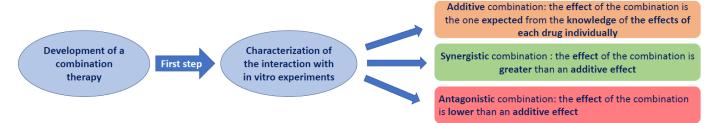
This presentation is the result of a work initiated during an internship and continued within an internal working group

 $\rightarrow$  Reflection on the statistical analysis of in vitro combination experiments on two different



## Context and definition

 In oncology, the development of drug combinations is widespread: they can increase efficacy or maintain it at lower doses with reduced adverse events.



- Very large literature on the "synergy/antagonism"
  - Concept of additivity/synergy/antagonism : definition well-accepted
  - BUT not consensus on the formal/mathematical definition of additivity
    - $\rightarrow$  Different reference models identified
    - ightarrow Huge variety of methodologies regularly published to demonstrate synergy
- One of the main historical models to express synergy: the Loewe additivity model (Loewe and Muischnek, 1926)
  - Thinking using concentrations needed to reach an effect: synergy if the same effect is reached with smaller concentrations

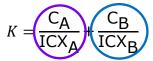
## Quick presentation of Loewe model

Equation for Loewe additivity model between compounds A and B:

 $\left(\frac{C_A}{ICX_A} + \frac{C_B}{ICX_B} = 1\right)$ 

With C<sub>A</sub>, C<sub>B</sub>: concentrations of each compound in the mixture necessary to obtain X% of effect ICX<sub>A</sub>, ICX<sub>B</sub>: concentrations of compounds A and B necessary to obtain X% of effect for each compound alone (often absolute IC50, but not mandatory)

From the additivity equation of Loewe, a combination index was developed

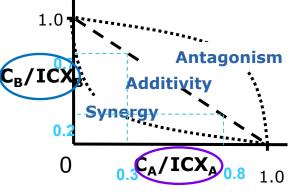


- K is then compared to 1 (additivity hypothesis)
  - K <1 => synergy (upper bound of K's CI <1)
  - K =1 => additivity

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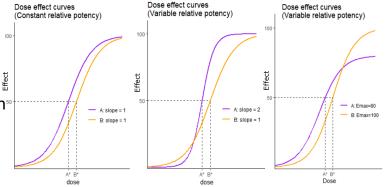
- K >1 => antagonism (lower bound of K's CI >1)
- What is needed to calculate K ?
  - the whole dose-effect curves of the single compounds and of the combination needed
    - $\rightarrow$  four-parameter logistic model used to fit these dose-effect curves

Graphical representation associated to the combination index: Isobologram



## Loewe model limitations and alternatives

- The equation of Loewe additivity is based on the hypothesis of a constant relative potency  $\rightarrow R = \frac{ICX_A}{ICX_B} = \frac{ICY_A}{ICY_B} = \frac{I$
- The relative potency is often not constant
   The slopes of single compounds curves are not equal
   Maximum effects of single compounds differ
   → In this case, the additivity line of the isobologram becomes a curvilinear additive isobole and the calculation of the combination



- Alternatives
  - In the literature, a lot of models are regularly developed: some very complicated, some not very rigorous
  - A model was explored
    - Hand model → developed by David J. Hand in 2000, and rediscovered and described by Sinzger and al, in 2019

## Hand model

• Hand model: formulation of the additivity in terms of instantaneous effect gains rather than effect level

• Dose-effect curve: 
$$f(x) = E_{\min} + \frac{E_{\max} - E_{\min}}{1 + (\frac{IC50}{x})^m}$$
   
• Equation for Hand additivity model :  $S_{AB,\lambda}(x) = \lambda S_A(x) + (1-\lambda)S_B(x)$ ,  $\lambda$ : proportion of compound A in the mixture

- $\rightarrow$  At each effect level both compounds contribute linearly to the instantaneous gain in effect of the combined curve
- $\rightarrow$  The effect-sensitivity curve of the combination is a weighted average of the single effect-sensitivity curves

→ From the inverse derivative formula: 
$$S_{AB,\lambda}(x) = f'_{AB,\lambda}(f_{AB,\lambda}^{-1}(x)) = \frac{1}{f_{AB,\lambda}^{-1'}(x)} = \frac{\lambda}{f_A^{-1'}(x)} + \frac{1-\lambda}{f_B^{-1'}(x)}$$

Estimation of the dose-effect curve for the expected additive combination

→ The inverse dose-effect curve for the expected additive combination:  $f^{-1}_{AB,\lambda}(x) = \int_0^x \left(\frac{\lambda}{f_{\Lambda}^{-1'}(y)} + \frac{1-\lambda}{f_{P}^{-1'}(y)}\right)^{-1}$ 

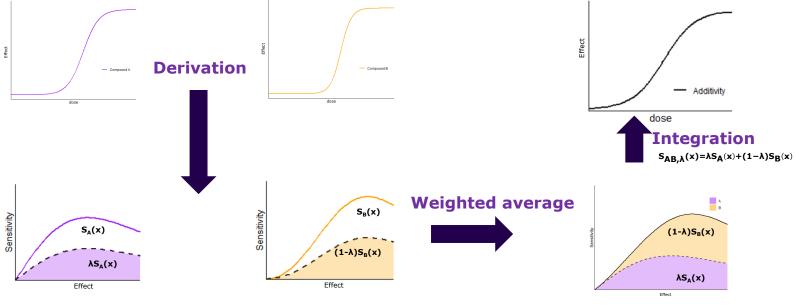
The dose-effect curve for the expected additive combination can be obtained !

Integration

## Hand model – Graphical representation

Dose-effect curves of single compounds

Dose-effect curve of the expected additive combination

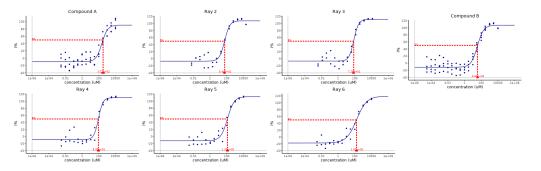


Effect-sensitivity curves of single compounds

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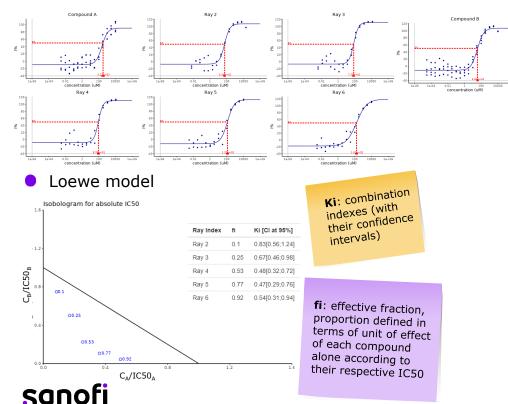
Effect-sensitivity curve of the expected additive combination

• 7 dose-effect curves (2 with single compounds + 5 with mixtures with constant proportion of both compounds)



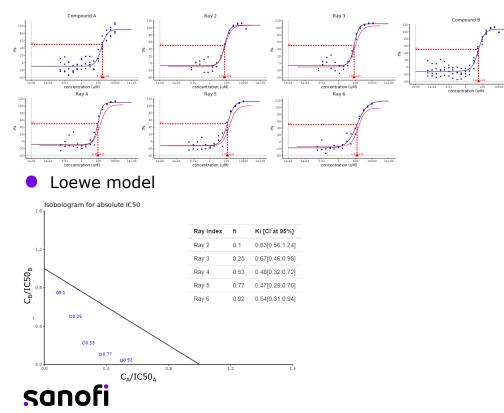
Ray Index	slope	IC50 rel	CV%	IC50 abs	IC50 abs (LCB95%)	IC50 abs(UCB95%)	Тор	Bottom	
Compound A	1.24	2.35e+02	26.82%	3.22e+02	2.05e+02	5.07e+02	90.4	-9.62	
Ray 2	1.39	5.48e+01	18.34%	5.44e+01	3.94e+01	7.52e+01	107.49	-6.89	
Ray 3	1.54	7.69e+01	18%	7.28e+01	5.31e+01	9.99e+01	111.48	-6.62	
Ray 4	1.62	9.12e+01	18.34%	8.99e+01	6.51e+01	1.24e+02	110.01	-8.58	
Ray 5	1.09	1.22e+02	21.43%	1.20e+02	8.57e+01	1.69e+02	112.79	-12.13	
Ray 6	0.71	1.66e+02	32.36%	1.61e+02	1.11e+02	2.35e+02	119.18	-17.77	
Compound B	1.15	3.42e+01	16.07%	3.64e+01	2.78e+01	4.75e+01	107.23	-11.34	

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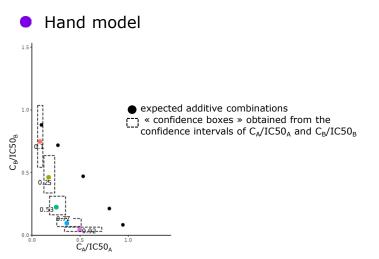


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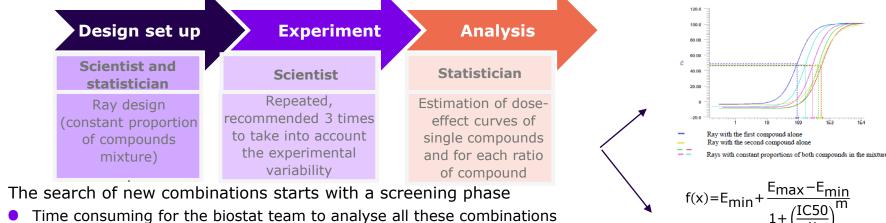


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Compound B	1.15	3.42e+01	16.07%	3.64e+01	2.78e+01	4.75e+01	107.23	-11.34



## Why a new tool ?

Process of in vitro combination experiments



- Time consuming for the biostat team to analyse all these combinations
- Delay for the scientists to have the results

 $\rightarrow$  Need to develop a tool to characterize the in vitro combinations of two compounds for screening purpose

 $\rightarrow$  Speed increase

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 $\rightarrow$  Autonomy of scientists

 $\rightarrow$  Opportunity to explore and test the Hand model as an alternative to the Loewe model and

#### to implement it in this new tool

#### Combo2Screen: in vitro combinations characterization

User guide and What's new here: Combo2Screen Teams link

This is a simple version of synetry analysis which can be used for screening purpose. For submission, the results should be computed by statisticians with specific analysis.								
This in vitro combinations characterization tool takes two formats of data: 384 well 16 ray design with 3 replicate for each dose concentration based on two plates- CTG 1 and CTG 2.								
Proceed on the second manufacture of the replicate (column 1– Ray, the number of the replicate), the concentration of the compound A (column 3– Compound A), the concentration of the compound B (column 1– Ray, the number of the replicate), the concentration of the compound A), the concentration of the compound B (column 1– Ray, the number of the replicate), the concentration of the compound A), the concentration of the compound B (column 1– Ray, the number of the replicate), the concentration of the compound A), the concentration of the compound B (column 1– Ray, the number of the replicate) (column 1– Ray, the number of the replicate), the concentration of the compound A), the concentration of the compound B) (column 1– Ray, the number of the replicate) (column 2– Replicate), the concentration of the compound A), the concentration of the compound B) (column 1– Ray, the number of the replicate) (column 2– Replicate), the concentration of the compound A), the concentration of the compound B) (column 2– Replicate), the concentration of the compound A) (column 2– Replicate) (column 2– Replicate), the concentration of the compound A), the concentration of the compound B) (column 2– Replicate) (column 2– Replicate), the concentration of the compound A), the concentration of the compound B) (column 2– Replicate) (column 2– Repl								
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First select data format	This in vitro combinations characterization tool takes two formats of data:									
Processed Data	384 well 16 ray design with 3 replicate for each dose concentration based on two plates- CTG 1 and CTG 2.									
<ul> <li>Raw 384 Well, 16 Ray Design on two plates</li> </ul>	Processed data has 5 column the inhibition (column 5– I).	s: the number of the ray (column 1- Ray), the num	per of the replicate (column	2- Replicate), the concentrate	ation of the compound A (colu	mn 3- Compound_A), the co	oncentration of the compound B (column 4- Compound_B) and			
Exemple of processed data	Average inhibition trend for in Summary statistics on model	creasing dose concentration is provided for all the r fitting is given in tab Summary Statistics. Individual	ays in tab Average inhibitaio dose response curves and o	n with increasing dose for r combined dose response cu	manually detecting any poten urves are given in Individual 0	ial outliers. Then 4-paramete curves and Combined Curves	r logistic regression model is used to fit the processed data. s respectively.			
Exemple of Raw 384 Well, 16 Ray Design on two plates	The combination indexes of the	If both compounds are active (i.e 'is compound B non-active' option unchecked) synergy measure combination index Ki and 95% confidence interval is given in tab Combination Index for all combination rays with effective fraction (f) between 0.05 and 0.95. The combination index of these rays are plotted on Isobologram in Isobologram. If the compound B is non-active (i.e. 'is compound B non-active' option checked) potentiation measure combination index Ki and 95% confidence interval is given in tab Combination index (no isobologram in this case).								
Enter Sheet number (e.g. 1,2,3)	Processed Data Set	Average Inhibition with increasing dose	Individual Curves	Combined Curves	Summary Statistics	Combination Index	Isobologram			
1										
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50		ion at different levels								
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All rays	1									
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Save constraints Document format   whTML O Word  Support Download the report	Creation report	of a Word or HTML								

#### Combo2Screen: in vitro combinations characterization

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First	select	data	format	
_				

Processed Data

O Raw 384 Well, 16 Ray Design on two plates

Exemple of processed data

Exemple of Raw 384 Well, 16 Ray Design on two plates

This is a simple version of synergy analysis which can be used for screening purpose. For submission, the results should be computed by statisticians with specific analysis.

This in vitro combinations characterization tool takes two formats of data:

384 well 16 ray design with 3 replicate for each dose concentration based on two plates- CTG 1 and CTG 2.

Processed data has 5 columns 4- number of the ray (column 1- Ray), the number of the repicate (column 2- Repicate), the concentration of the compound A (column 3- Compound\_A), the concentration of the compound B and the inhibition (column 5-1).

Average inhibitor trend for increasing does concentration is provided for all the rays in tab Average inhibition with increasing does for manually detecting any optential outliers. Then 4-parameter logistic regression model is used to fit the processed data. Summary statistics on model fitting is given in tab Summary Statistics, individual does response curves are given in individual. Curves and Combined Curves are spectively.

If both compounds are active (ie 'is compound B non-active' option unchecked) synergy measure combination index KI and 95% confidence interval is given in tab Combination i dex for all combination args with effective fraction (f) between 0.05 and 0.95. The combination indexes of these rays are plotted on loobologram in isobologram. If the compound B non-active (ie 'is compound B non-active' option checked) potentiatior in resure combination index. KI and 95% confidence interval is given in tab Combination index (in bis cose).

Enter Sheet number (e.g. 1,2,3...)

1

Ray	Replicate	Compound A(uM)	Compound B(uM)	Inhibition%

Processed Data Set Average Inhibition with increasing dose Individual Curves Combined Curves Summary Statistics Combination Index Isobologram

Choose XLSX file		1	1	1.00e+00	0.00e+00	45.31
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Upload complete		1	1	1.11e-01	0.00e+00	45.71
		1	1	3.70e-02	0.00e+00	45.2!
nter compound A label		1	1	1.23e-02	0.00e+00	37.22
Compound A		1	1	4.12e-03	0.00e+00	17.48
inter compound B label		1	1	1.37e-03	0.00e+00	2.71
Compound B		1	1	4.57e-04	0.00e+00	-1.81
inter unit for dose concentration		1	1	1.52e-04	0.00e+00	-8.95
		1	2	1.00e+00	0.00e+00	49.61
uM		1	2	3.33e-01	0.00e+00	49.85
		1	2	1.11e-01	0.00e+00	50.09
ndividual Curves		1	2	3.70e-02	0.00e+00	48.8
Add Hand curves under additivity hypothesis		1	2	1.23e-02	0.00e+00	39.15
ype of drug-drug interaction:		1	2	4.12e-03	0.00e+00	25.02
Synergy Potentiation		1	2	1.37e-03	0.00e+00	4.73
		1	2	4.57e-04	0.00e+00	3.27
specify model options		1	2	1.52e-04	0.00e+00	-2.8
Absolute IC percentage		1	3	1.00e+00	0.00e+00	48.18
50		1	3	3.33e-01	0.00e+00	54.08
Choose which ray to be modified		1	3	1.11e-01	0.00e+00	47.81
All rays		1	3	3.70e-02	0.00e+00	54.21
All rays	•	1	3	1.23e-02	0.00e+00	42.23

#### Combo2Screen: in vitro combinations characterization

#### User guide and What's new here: Combo2Screen Teams link

Rav 2 0.27 1.05[0.81:1.37] 3.31e-03 3.31e-04 No decision This is a simple version of synergy analysis which can be used for screening purpose. For submission, the results should be computed by statisticians with specific analysis First select data format This in vitro combinations characterization tool takes two formats of data: Ray 3 0.52 1.21[0.91;1.6] 7.40e-03 2.47e-04 No decision Processed Data 384 well 16 ray design with 3 replicate for each dose concentration based on two plates- CTG 1 and CTG 2. 1.14e-04 Ray 4 0.77 1.13[0.81:1.58] 1.02e-02 No decision Processed data has 5 columns: the number of the ray (column 1- Ray), the number of the replicate (column 2- Replicate), the concentration of the compound A (column O Raw 384 Well, 16 Ray Design on two plates the inhibition (column 5-1) 4.89e-05 Ray 5 0.91 1.24[0.77;1.98] 1.32e-02 No decision Exemple of processed data Average inhibition trend for increasing dose concentration is provided for all the rays in tab Average inhibitaion with increasing dose for manually detecting any potential of Summary statistics on model fitting is given in tab Summary Statistics, Individual dose response curves and combined dose response curves are given in Individual Curv Exemple of Raw 384 Well, 16 Ray Design on two plates If both compounds are active (i.e. "is compound B non-active" option unchecked) synergy measure combination index Ki and 95% confidence interval is given in tab Com The combination indexes of these rays are plotted on Isobologram in Isobologram. If the compound B is non-active (i.e. "is compound B non-active" option checked) pote Combination Index (no isobologram in this case) Enter Sheet number (e.g. 1.2.3...) Processed Data Set Average Inhibition with increasing dose Individual Curves Combined Curves Summary Statistics Combination Index Isobologram 1 Rav Replicate Compound A(uM) Compound B(uM) Inhibition<sup>9</sup> Choose XLSX file 1.00e+00 0.00e+00 1 1 45.31 Browse... data10.xlsx 1 1 3.33e-01 0.00e+00 42.7 Upload complete 1 1 1 11e-01 0.00e+00 45 71 Loewe model 1 1 3.70e-02 0.00e+00 Isobologram for absolute IC40 Enter compound A label Compound A Enter compound B label Compound B Rav(absolute (C40) Compound A (1.18 Nay 2 (3.64e-03) Nay 3 (7.65e-03) Enter unit for dose concentration Ray 4 (3.03e-82) oncentration (uM 09.52 Dave 4 Ray 5 Compound B uM sin. Individual Curves IC40[Mixed\_Compound A]/IC40[Compound A] Add Hand curves under additivity hypothesis o às concentration (uMi Hand model Type of drug-drug interaction: Synergy 6 Potentiation 1 2 4.57e-04 0.00e+00 3.27 2 1.52e-04 0.00e+00 -28 Ray Index slope IC50 rel CV% IC40 abs IC40 abs (LCB95%) IC40 abs(UCB95%) Тор Bottom Specify model options 1.55 4.45e-03 14.84% 1.18e-02 7.92e-03 1.75e-02 49.91 .0.09 1 3 1.00e+00 0.00e+00 48.18 Lambda (% of Compound A in the mixture) Absolute IC percentage p.2 0.909 Day 2 1.62 2 82e.03 11 58% 3 64e.03 3 02e.03 4 386-03 65.6 1.27 0.968 1 3 3.33e-01 0.00e+00 54.08 50 67.25 6.48 Ray 3 1.51 6.67e.03 10.66% 7.65e.03 6.39e.03 9.166-03 0.989 0.000 1 3 1.11e-01 0.00e+00 47 81 1.36 8 55e-03 9 12% 1 03e-02 8 86e-03 1216-02 66.6 5.6 Choose which ray to be modified 8.08e-03 27.02% 1.33e-02 9.52e-03 1.85e-02 66.2 -0.7 Ray 5 0.89 3 3.70e-02 0.00e+00 54.21 Compound B 1.84 2.58e-04 11.33% 4.28e-04 3.43e-04 5.33e-04 55.82 -0.05 All rays -3 3 1.23e-02 0.00e+00 42.23 Sanori

Ray Index

fi

Ki [C] at 95%1

ConcenCompound A ConcenCompound B

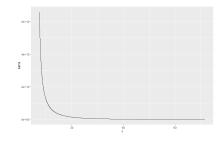
Dose\_Compound\_A/IC40ab

interaction Characterization

## The Hand model: attractive but limited usage in practice

- With tests on real cases, a HUGE limitation appears: the integration of the sensitivity functions is not feasible when the slope is ≤ 1 for at least one single compound
  - In this case, the sensitivity has the following form

а



nd the integral 
$$f^{-1}_{AB,\lambda}(x) = \int_0^x \left(\frac{\lambda}{f_A^{-1'}(y)} + \frac{1-\lambda}{f_B^{-1'}(y)}\right)^{-1} dy$$
 does not converge

- **Big deception**  $\rightarrow$  in a lot of cases in our experiments, the slope is lower or equal to 1
- In our Rshiny application, for the moment we limit the use of Hand model to the case with a slope >1

## Conclusion

- Lessons learned of this work
  - Not easy to evaluate the Hand model (no mathematical definition of additivity)  $\rightarrow$  What is the reference ?
  - A nice and attractive mathematical model can not be selected if it is not in adequation with the biological reality
- Next steps
  - Find a mathematical solution to the limitation of slope >1
  - Explore a new model
- Special thank
  - $\rightarrow$  Jiyoung OH, the trainee who initiated the work on the Hand model
  - $\rightarrow$  Maxime BELLAMI (IT&M stat) who strongly contributed to the development of the Rshiny app
  - → Jakob VANHOEFER and Jan HASENAUER, two of the authors of the Sinzger M. et al., 2019 publication who kindly answered to our questions

## References for the Hand model

- Hand, D. J. Synergy in drug combinations. In Gaul, W., Opitz, O. & Schader, M. (eds) Data Analysis: Scientific Modeling and Practical Application, 471–475, 10.1007/978-3-642-58250-9\_38 (Springer Berlin Heidelberg, 2000).
- Sinzger M. et al. (2019) Comparison of null models for combination drug therapy reveals Hand model as biochemically most plausible. Sci. Rep 9, 3002.



# Thank you for your attention

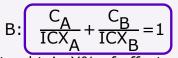


# Back-up slides



## Details on Loewe model

Equation for Loewe additivity model between compounds A and B:



With  $C_{Ar}$ ,  $C_{B}$ : concentrations of each compound in the mixture necessary to obtain X% of effect

 $ICX_A$ ,  $ICX_B$ : concentrations of compounds A and B necessary to obtain X% of effect for each compound alone (often absolute IC50, but not mandatory)

- This equation is based on the dose equivalence principle
  - There are one concentration  $D_A$  of A alone and one concentration  $D_B$  of B alone such as  $Effect_A(C_A) = Effect_B(D_B)$  and  $Effect_B(C_B) = Effect_A(D_A)$

• Hypothesis : constant relative potency 
$$\rightarrow R = \frac{ICX_A}{ICX_B} = \frac{C_A}{D_B} = \frac{D_A}{C_B}$$

• There is additivity if the same effect is obtained with the combination and with single compounds at equipotent concentration i.e if  $Effect_{AB}(C_A + C_B) = Effect_A(C_A + D_A) = Effect_B(C_B + D_B)$ 

$$\mathsf{Effect}_{\mathsf{A}\mathsf{B}}(\mathsf{C}_{\mathsf{A}}+\mathsf{C}_{\mathsf{B}})=\mathsf{X}\%\to\mathsf{C}_{\mathsf{A}}+\mathsf{D}_{\mathsf{A}}=\mathsf{I}\mathsf{C}\mathsf{X}_{\mathsf{A}}\leftrightarrow\mathsf{C}_{\mathsf{A}}+\mathsf{R}\cdot\mathsf{C}_{\mathsf{B}}=\mathsf{I}\mathsf{C}\mathsf{X}_{\mathsf{A}}\leftrightarrow\frac{\mathsf{C}_{\mathsf{A}}}{\mathsf{I}\mathsf{C}\mathsf{X}_{\mathsf{A}}}+\frac{\mathsf{C}_{\mathsf{B}}}{\mathsf{I}\mathsf{C}\mathsf{X}_{\mathsf{B}}}=\mathsf{1}$$

## Details on Hand model (1/2)

- Hand model: formulation of the additivity in terms of instantaneous effect gains rather than effect level
- Prerequisites • Dose-effect curve:  $f(x) = E_{min} + \frac{E_{max} - E_{min}}{1 + (\frac{IC50}{x})^{m}}$  with its inverse  $f^{-1}(y) = IC50 \left(\frac{E_{max} - y}{y - E_{min}}\right)^{\frac{-1}{m}}$ •  $f^{-1}(y)$ : dose giving the effect y • f'(x) measures the variation of the effect per dose

Sensitivity

•  $f'(f^{-1}(x))$  noted S(x) : instantaneous gain in effect per dose giving the effect x

• 
$$S(x) = \frac{m}{IC50(E_{max}-E_{min})} (x-E_{min})^{1-\frac{1}{m}} (E_{max}-x)^{1+\frac{1}{m}}$$

## sanofi

Derivation

## Details on Hand model (2/2)

• Under the additivity assumption of Hand, the combination must satisfy the following equation:

$$S_{AB,\lambda}(x) = \lambda S_{A}(x) + (1-\lambda)S_{B}(x) \Rightarrow f'_{AB,\lambda}\left(f_{AB,\lambda}^{-1}(x)\right) = \lambda f'_{A}\left(f_{A}^{-1}(x)\right) + (1-\lambda)f'_{B}\left(f_{B}^{-1}(x)\right)$$

 $\lambda$ : proportion of compound A in the mixture (mixture ratio)

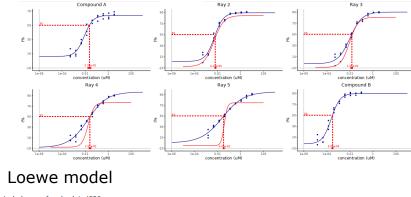
- $\rightarrow$  At each effect level both compounds contribute linearly to the instantaneous gain in effect of the combined curve
- → The effect-sensitivity curve of the combination is a weighted average of the single effect-sensitivity curves
- Dose effect curve for expected additive combination
  - From the inverse derivative formula

$$S_{AB,\lambda}(x) = f'_{AB,\lambda} \left( f_{AB,\lambda}^{-1}(x) \right) = \frac{1}{f_{AB,\lambda}^{-1'}(x)} = \frac{\lambda}{f_A^{-1'}(x)} + \frac{1-\lambda}{f_B^{-1'}(x)}$$

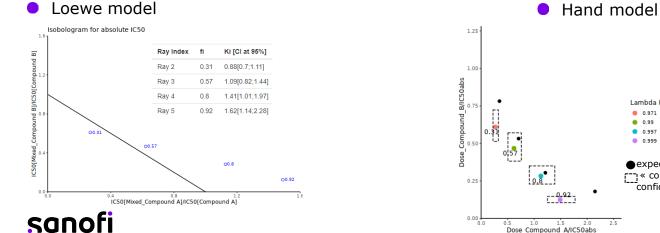
→ The inverse dose-effect curve for expected additive combination:

 $\int_{AB,\lambda}^{f^{-1}AB,\lambda}(x) = \int_{0}^{x} \left( \frac{\lambda}{f_{A}^{-1'}(y)} + \frac{1-\lambda}{f_{B}^{-1'}(y)} \right)^{-1} dy$ Solution for expected additive combination can be obtained

• 6 dose-effect curves (2 with single compounds + 4 with mixtures with constant proportion of both compounds)



Ray Index	slope	IC50 rel	CV%	IC50 abs	IC50 abs (LCB95%)	IC50 abs(UCB95%)	Тор	Bottom
Compound A	1.14	8.52e-03	17.32%	2.32e-02	1.65e-02	3.25e-02	64.03	6.05
Ray 2	1.12	5.38e-03	14.6%	6.44e-03	5.41e-03	7.66e-03	89.59	1.59
Ray 3	0.83	1.04e-02	18.93%	1.45e-02	1.19e-02	1.77e-02	89.95	-2.69
Ray 4	0.52	1.71e-02	29.94%	2.62e-02	2.12e-02	3.23e-02	96.91	-8.66
Ray 5	0.47	2.78e-02	16.83%	3.45e-02	2.91e-02	4.11e-02	95.1	0 *
Compound B	1.13	2.42e-04	13.65%	3.08e-04	2.55e-04	3.72e-04	89.65	-2.19







0.997

expected additive combinations 
 < confidence boxes > obtained from the confidence intervals of C<sub>A</sub>/IC50<sub>A</sub> and C<sub>B</sub>/IC50<sub>B</sub>