



tionsgesellschaft für Chemie uses topological methods as well as a fragment code known as GREMAS. The previously mentioned Dokumentationsring has a huge file of literature encoded in its "Ring" code. ISI's magnetic tape files contain almost one million compounds in the Wiswesser Line Notation. Most drug and chemical companies have large internal files, many in WLN, and numerous files exist at various academic and governmental organizations.

Most of these files are publicly available. The very availability of these large manipulable data banks makes the problem of compatibility critical. Acquiring necessary expertise in two or three systems can be enervating and expensive. Further, it is frequently desirable to maintain uniformity in formulating search strategies.

The obvious answer is the ability to convert one file into the language and format of any other, which is what CHEMTRAN is designed to do. Many organizations have studied the interconversion problem, but none has produced a universally acceptable intermediary language. Since every system seems to have some decided advantages, the only practical solution is to provide interconversion so that the user can choose the system that best satisfies his needs.

CHEMTRAN's capabilities were recently described to the representatives of over 25 European and American drug companies in meetings held in Paris and Washington. The outcome of these meetings will be a major modification in our *Index Chemicus Registry System* tapes, and the availability of them to both industrial and academic groups. In addition, licenses for CHEMTRAN will be made available. If you are interested in any of these developments, please let us know.

1. Garfield, E. *An algorithm for translating chemical names to molecular formulas*. (Philadelphia: Institute for Scientific Information, 1961. Originally presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences of the University of Pennsylvania in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.)
2. ----- . An algorithm for translating chemical names to molecular formulas. *J. Chem. Doc.* 2:177-179, 1962.
3. Steidle, W. Possibilities of mechanical documentation in organic chemistry. *Pharm. Ind.* 19:88-93, 1957.
4. Granito, C.E. CHEMTRAN and the interconversion of chemical substructure systems. Paper presented at the 164th Annual Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Division of Chemical Literature, New York City, August 1972.
5. Rasmussen, L.E. & Van Oot, J.G. Operation of DuPont's Central Patent Index. *J. Chem. Doc.* 9(4): 201-206, 1969.
6. Garfield, E. The retrieval and dissemination of chemical information. I. *Current Contents* No. 28, July 15, 1970, p. 4-5.
7. ----- . The retrieval and dissemination of chemical information. II. The Wiswesser Line Notation. *Current Contents* No. 29, July 22, 1970, p. M1-2.
8. ----- . The retrieval and dissemination of chemical information. III. *ICRS*. *Current Contents* No. 30, July 29, 1970, p. M1-2.
9. ----- . The retrieval and dissemination of chemical information. IV. *ICRS*® *Radiical*™ software. *Current Contents* No. 31, August 5, 1970, p. M1-2.