

Curiosity: What does a recovery percentage actually describe?

Curiosity Reading | CheAI Research Inc.

A percentage is only as broad as its denominator and conditions. “80% recovered from sorted input in Program X” is a useful data point, but it describes a particular stream that has already been sorted and a particular recovery process. It says much less about mixed collection, a different location, a different technology, or a complete environmental impact.

Polymer models have a similar boundary. A repeat unit and cross-link markers are powerful ways to represent a chain pattern, but they are not a full product specification. The scientific habit is to use the model for the question it answers, then name the additional context needed for broader claims.