

“Impact of Low-Level Hydrogen-Bonding Impurities on Nucleation Rates”



Crystallization Workshop: Nucleation, Applications and Process Optimization

Carlos Pons Siepermann, Ph.D
October 04, 2023



Personal Introduction – Carlos Pons Siepermann

- B.S.E Chemical Engineering – University of Michigan (2013)



- M.S. Chemical Engineering Practice – MIT (2016)
- PhD. Chemical Engineering – MIT (2018)
 - Allan S Myerson research group
- Senior Scientist - Bristol Myers Squibb (2018-2021)
 - Chemical Process Development
- Associate Principal Scientist – Merck (2021-Present)
 - Chemical Engineering Research & Development – X-labs



Control in Crystallization

- Batch/process conditions regulate product characteristics
- Solution chemistry impacts all aspects of crystallization: kinetics, yield, purity, form
- Solution complexation should be thought of as a parameter that regulates crystallization
 - Purification enhancement
 - Nucleation rate control

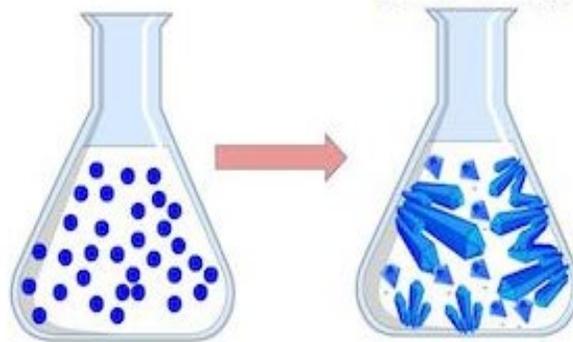
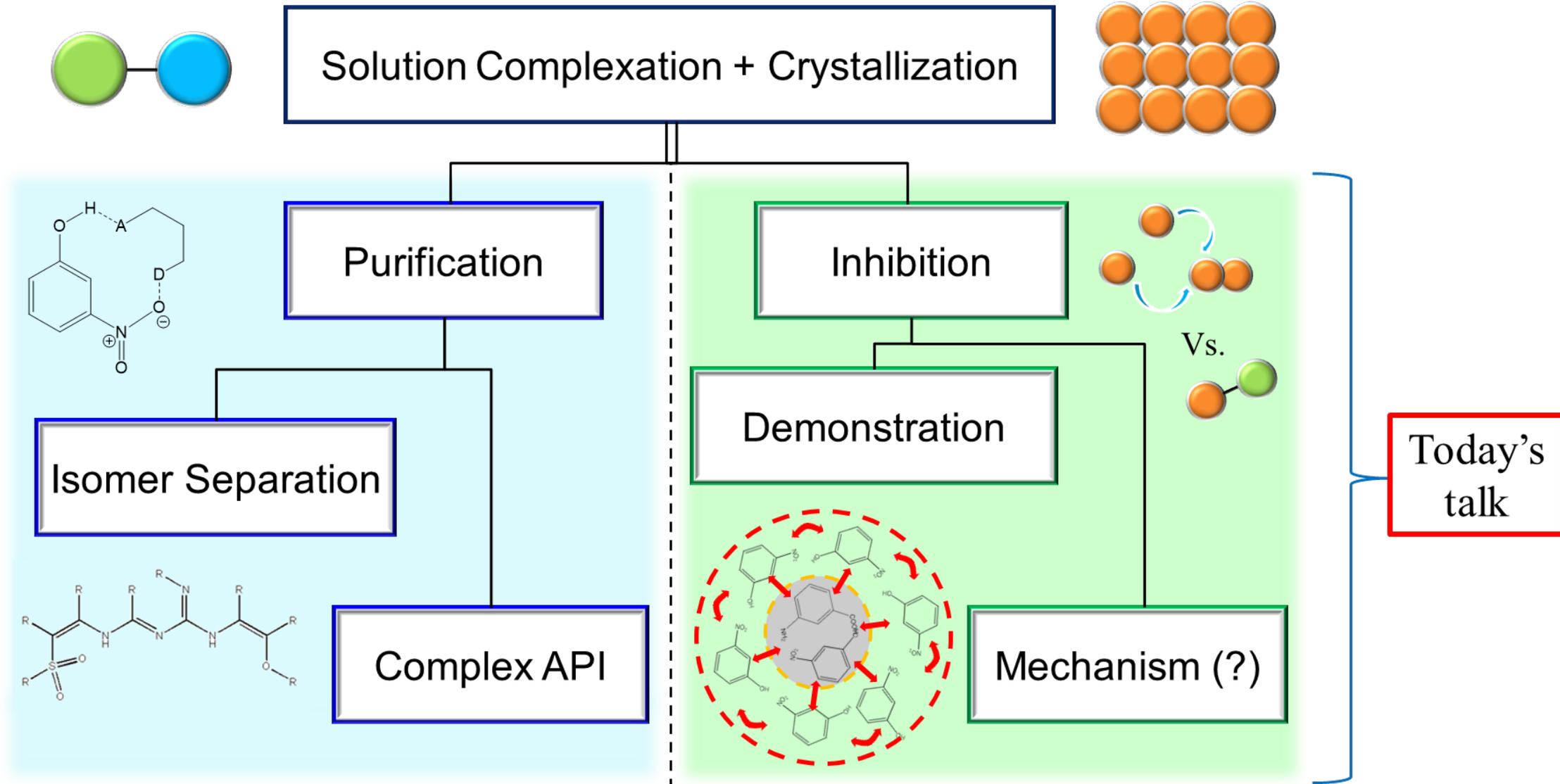
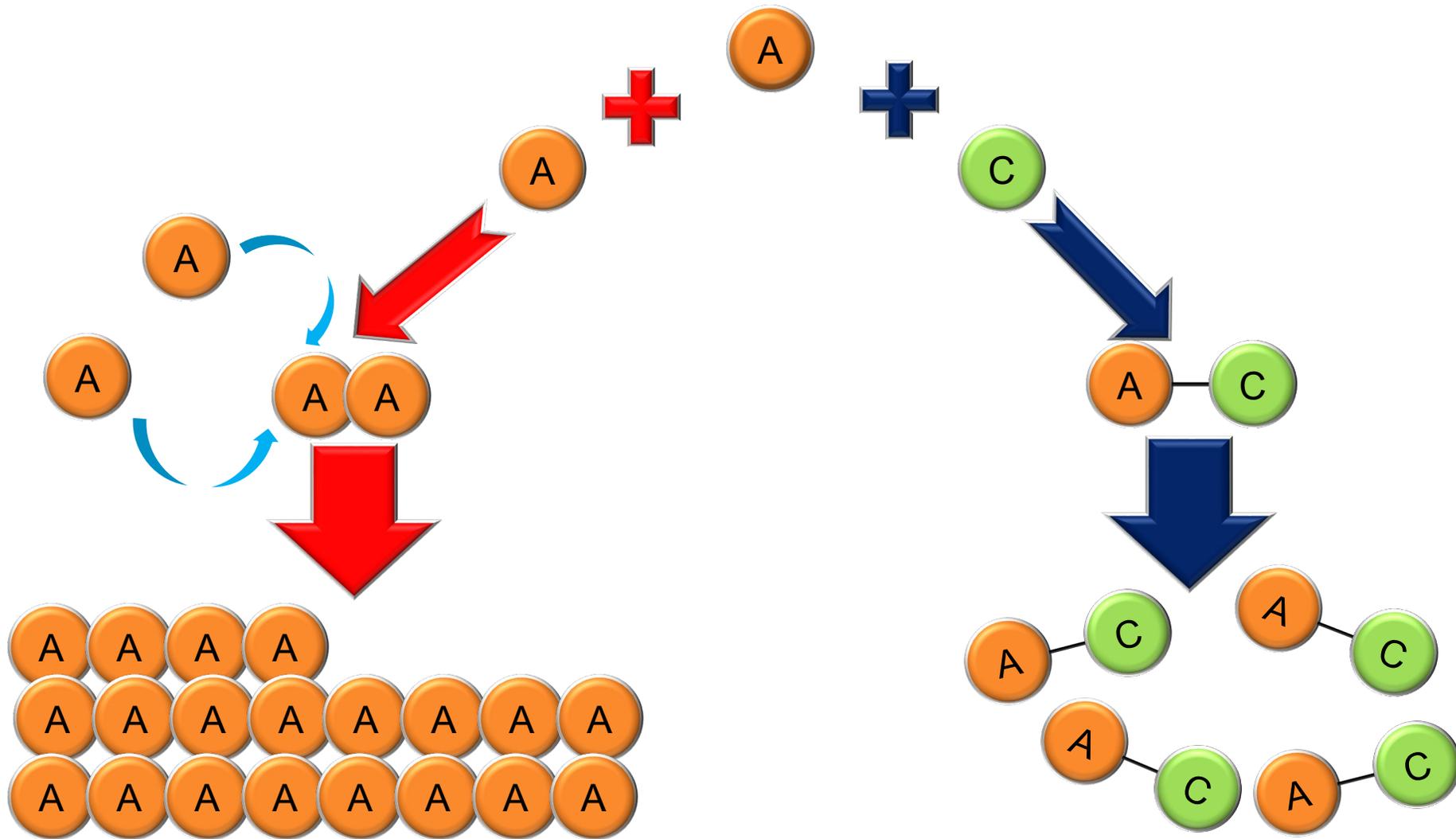


Image adapted from: study.com/academy/lesson/how-to-prepare-a-supersaturated-solution.html

PhD Thesis Work Distribution

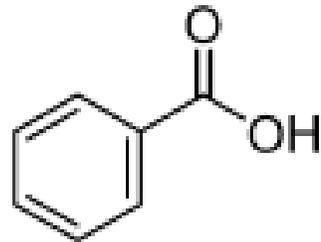


Review of Nucleation Inhibition using Complexation

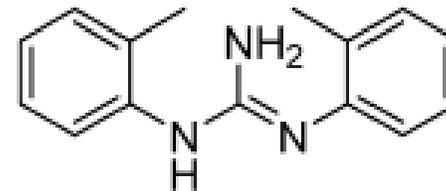


Part 1: Nucleation Inhibition of Benzoic Acid

- Systematically evaluate nucleation rates for a molecule in the presence of a well-known complexing additive
- Crystallization of benzoic acid (BA)
- Complexing agent: 1,3-di-*o*-tolylguanidine (DOTG)
- System is well-studied and proven to complex effectively^[a]



BA



DOTG

[a] Weber, C, G Wood, A Kunov-Kruse, D Nmagy, B Trout, and A Myerson. 2014. *Crystal Growth and Design* 14: 3649-3657.

Nucleation Theory

$$P_m = \frac{N^m}{m!} \exp(-N)$$



$$P_0 = \exp(-N)$$



$$P_{>1} = P^* = 1 - \exp(-N)$$

$$N = JVt$$



$$P^* = 1 - \exp(-JVt)$$



$$\ln(1 - P^*) = -JVt$$

Legend:

P_m = probability of m crystals to have formed after time t

P_0 = probability of 0 crystals to have formed after time t

P^* = probability of any crystals to have formed after time t

N = average number of crystals expected to form after time t

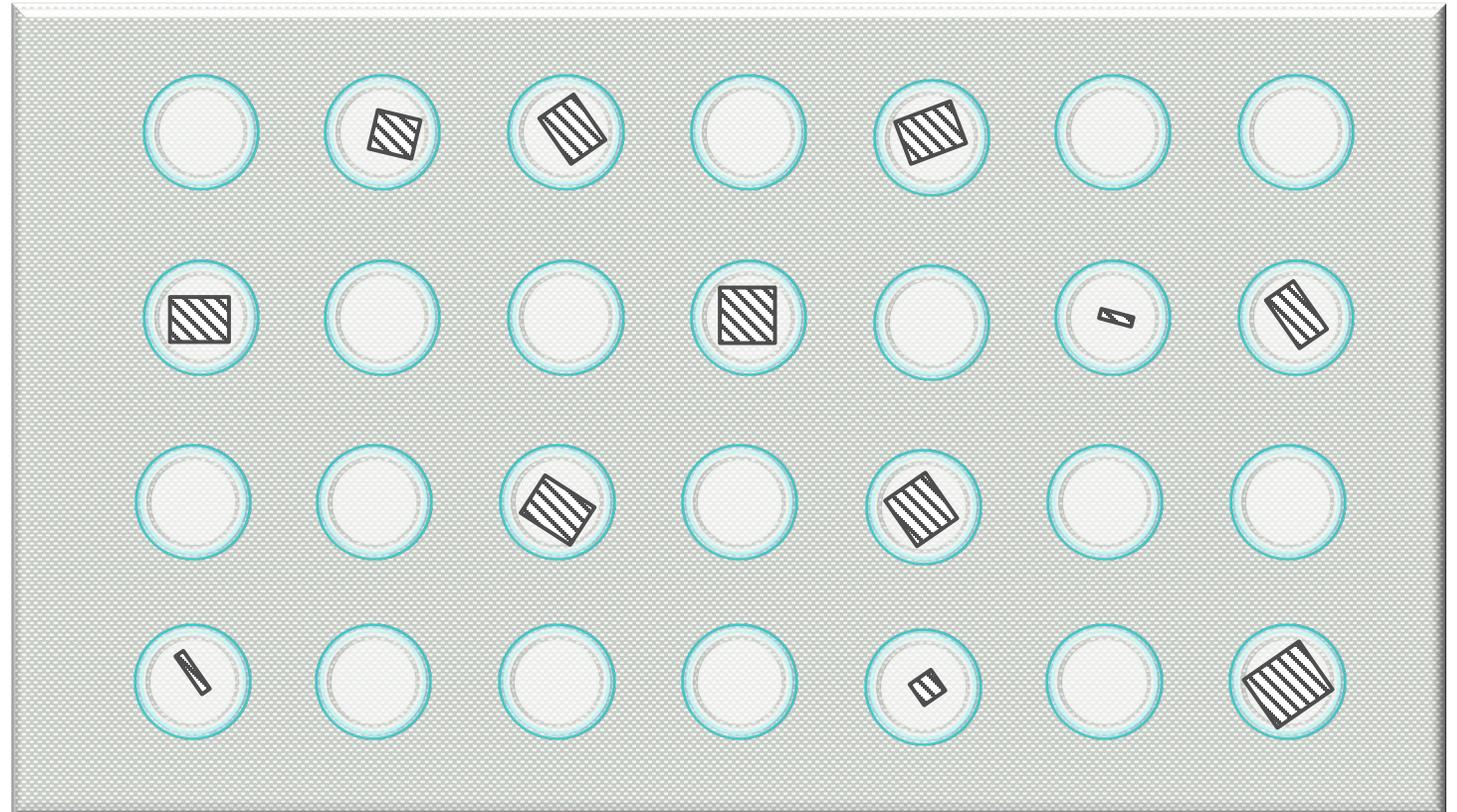
J = average nucleation rate

V = vessel volume

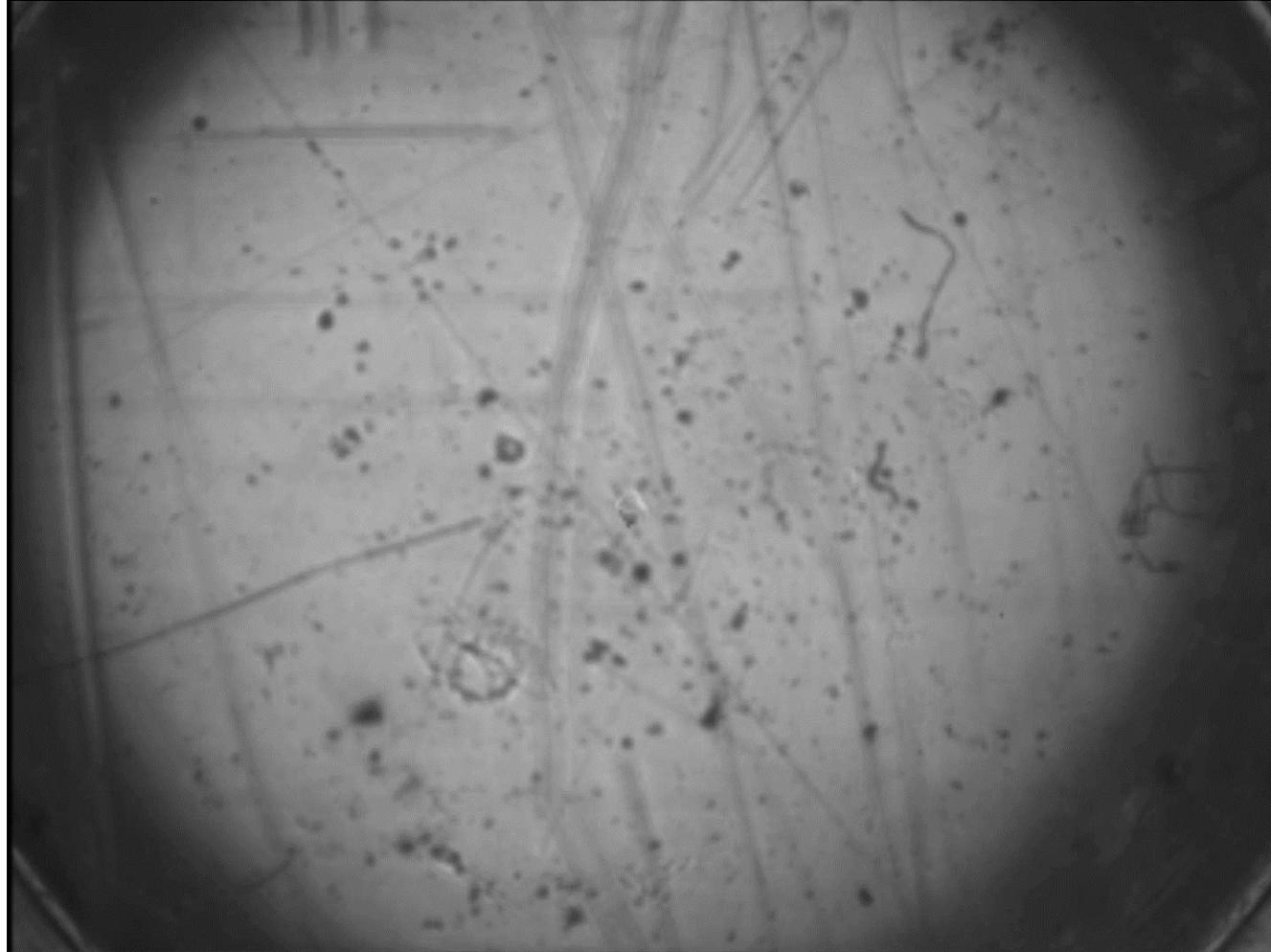
t = time

Experimental Setup

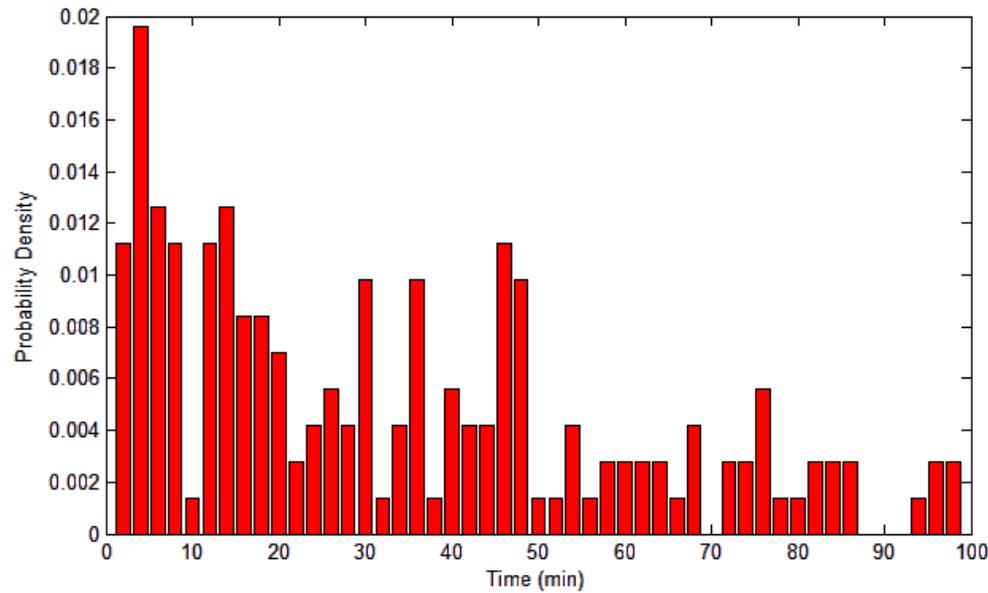
- Custom microscope with custom rotating stage with underside automated camera imaging
- Parallel imaging of 80 experiments at a time
- Enabled use of smooth, high quality glass vials (impact on heterogeneous nucleation rates)
- Expensive/complex but powerful alternative to cycling approaches for induction time measurements



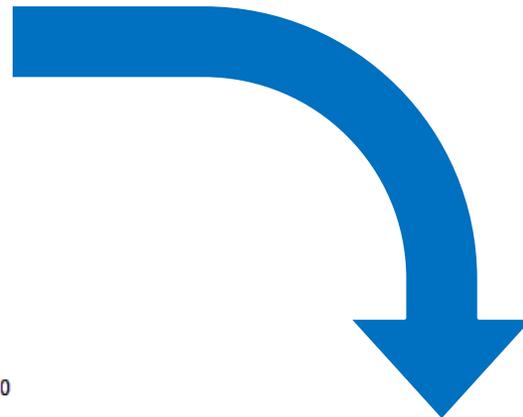
Crystal Growth in Microscope



Data Processing from Microscope Experiments

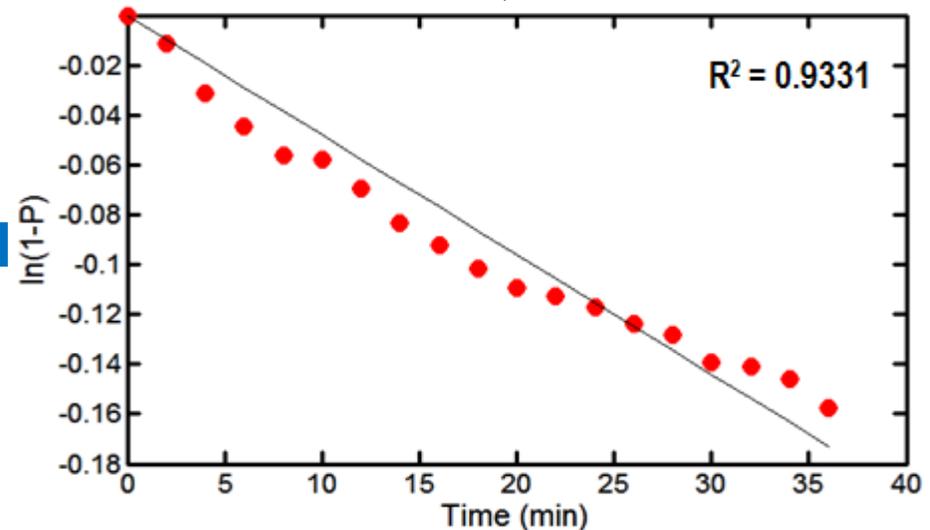


$$P^* = 1 - \exp(-JVt)$$

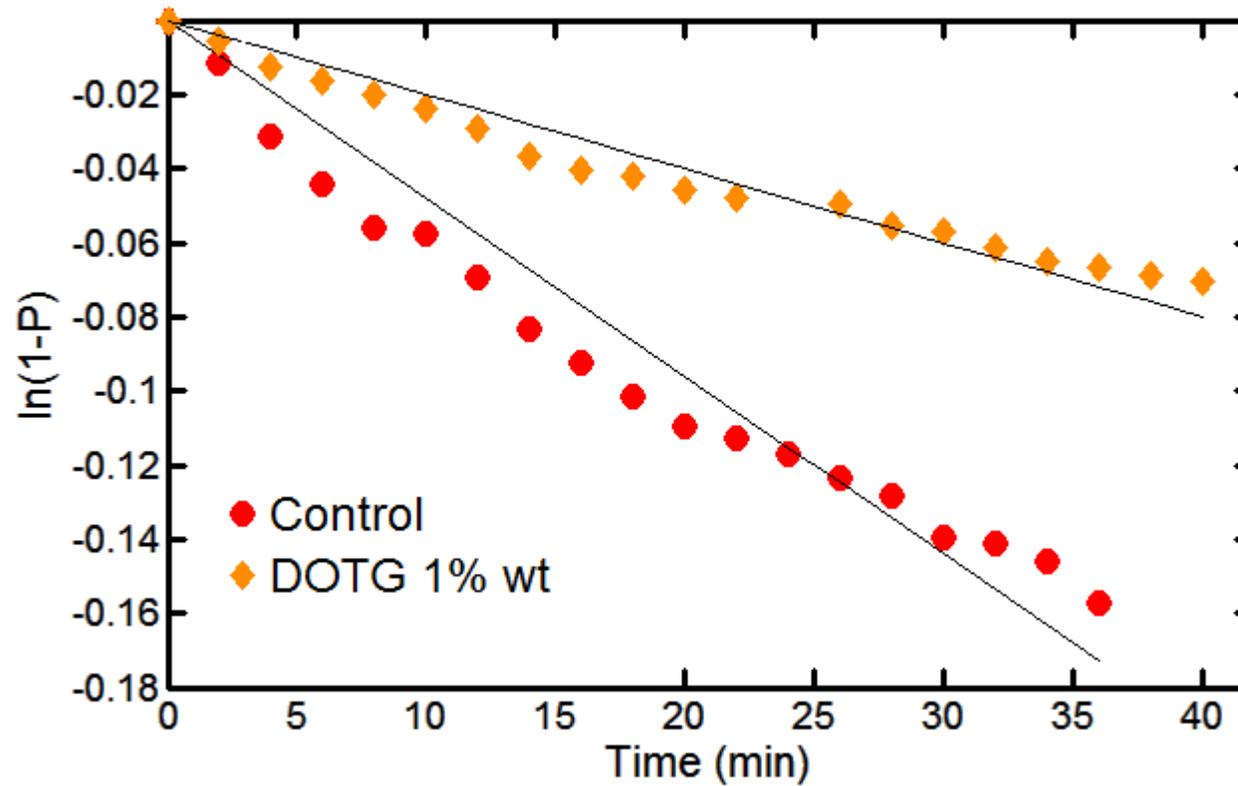


$$\ln(1 - P) \approx -0.0048t$$

$$\tau = \frac{1}{|-0.0048|} = 208 \text{ min}$$



Complexation Effect

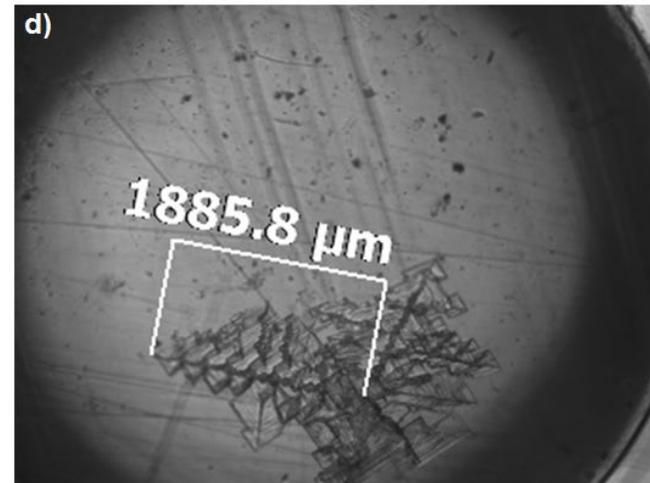
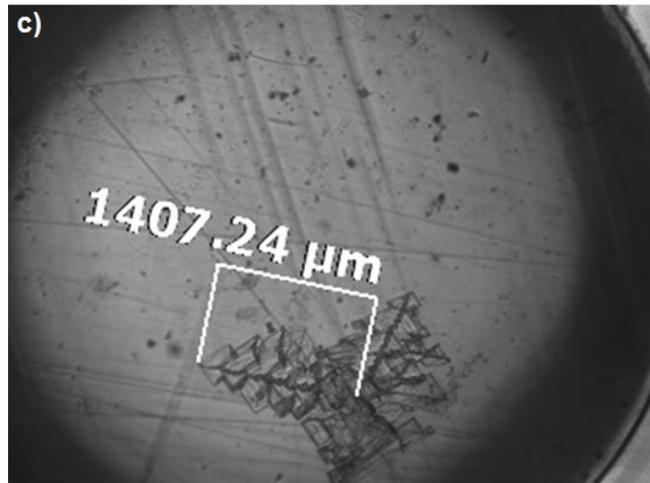
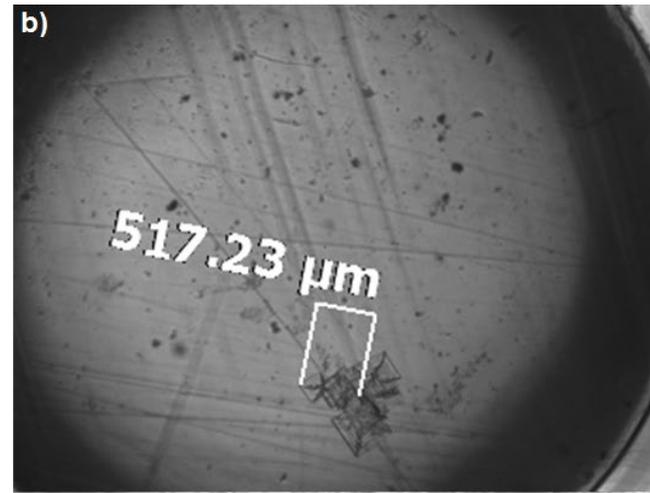
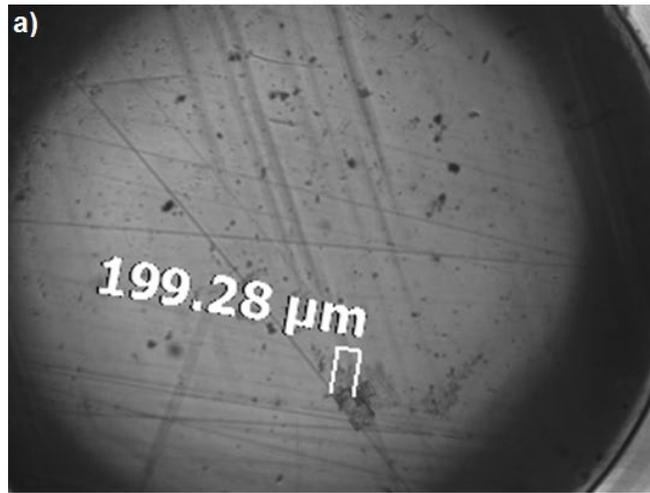


Control: 208 min

DOTG 1 %wt: 500 min

Image from: C. A Pons Siepermann; S. Huang; A. S. Myerson;, *Cryst. Growth. Des.*, 2017, 17 (5), 2646-2653

Growth Rate Measurement



Solubility Adjustment

- BA equilibrium solubility measured with HPLC at varying concentrations of DOTG

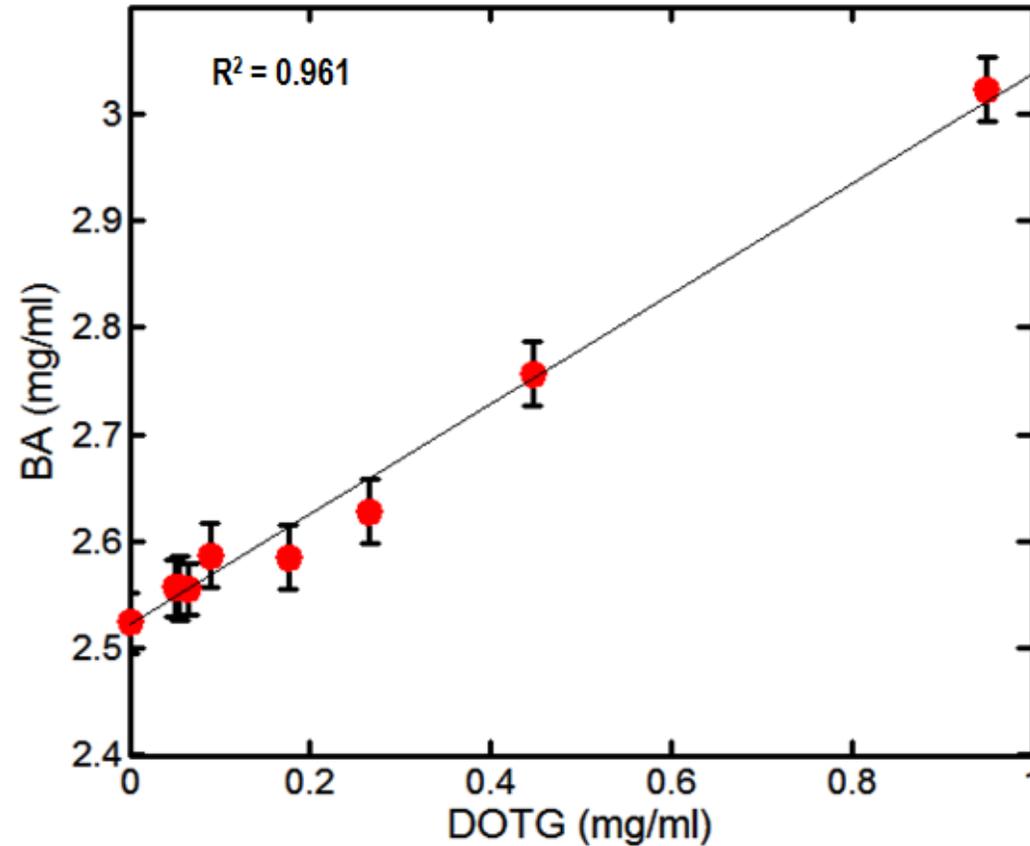


Image from: C. A Pons Siepermann; S. Huang; A. S. Myerson; *Cryst. Growth. Des.*, 2017, 17 (5), 2646-2653

Effect of Varying DOTG Amount at Constant S

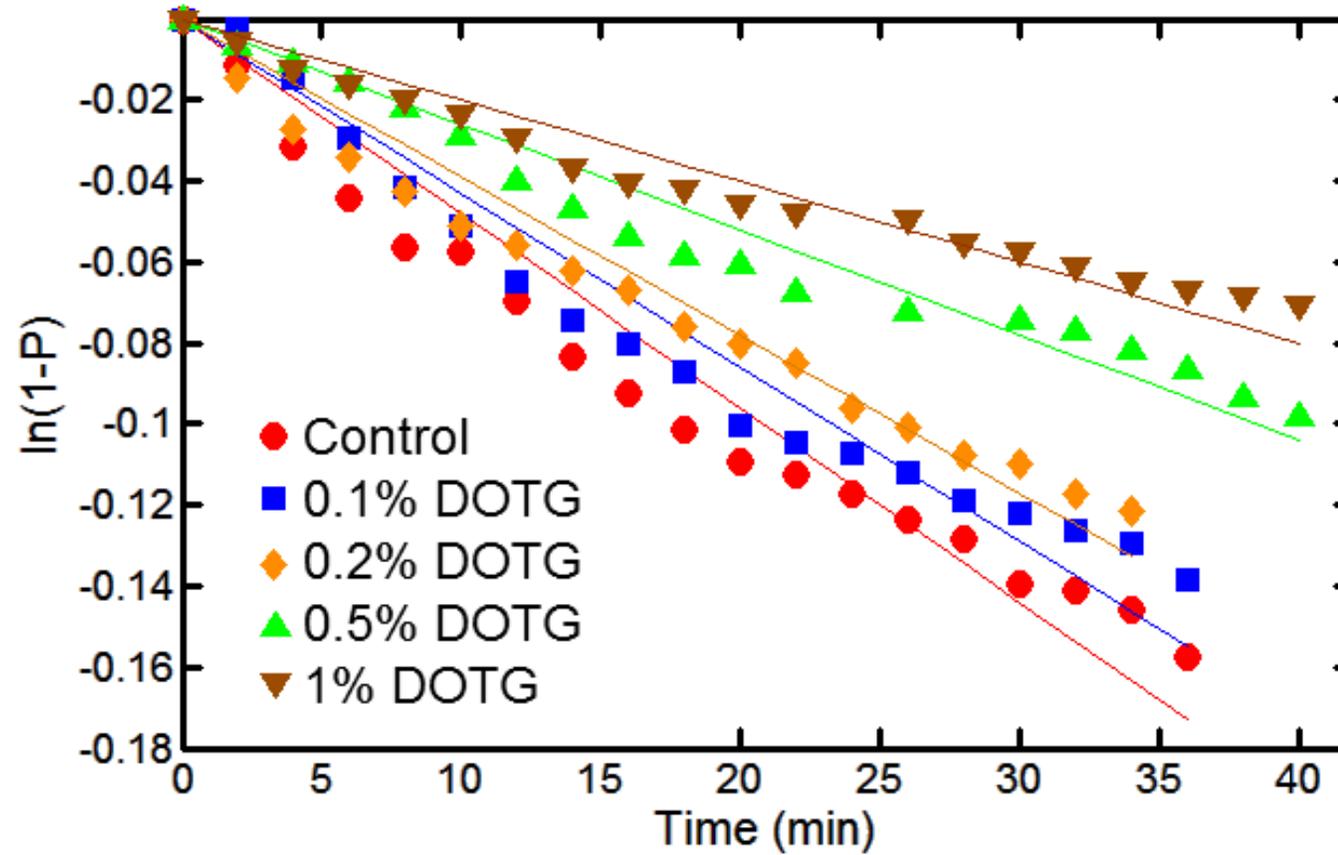
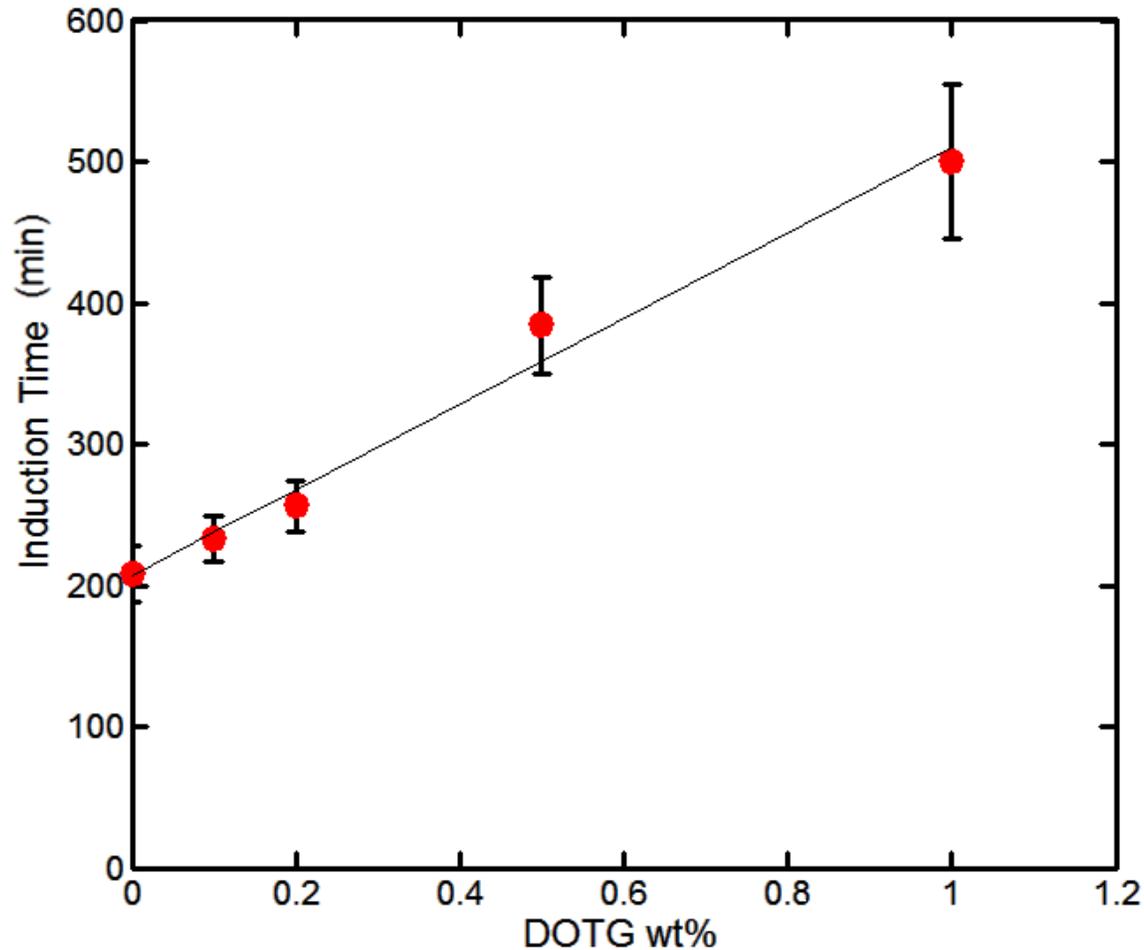


Image from: C. A Pons Siepermann; S. Huang; A. S. Myerson; *Cryst. Growth. Des.*, 2017, 17 (5), 2646-2653

Effect of Varying DOTG Amount



Control: 208 min

DOTG 0.1%: 233 min

DOTG 0.2%: 256 min

DOTG 0.5%: 384 min

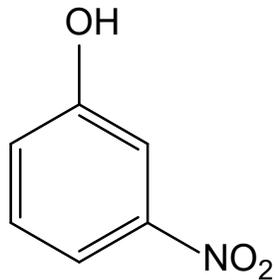
DOTG 1%: 500 min

Image from: C. A Pons Siepermann; S. Huang; A. S. Myerson, *Cryst. Growth. Des.*, 2017, 17 (5), 2646-2653

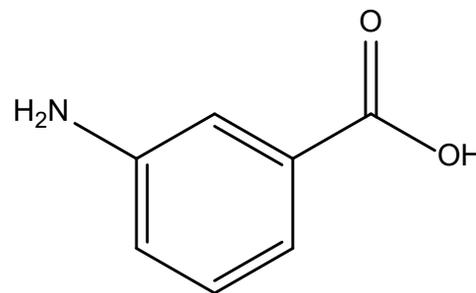
Part 2 – Nucleation Inhibition of 3-Nitrophenol

- Expand the findings for the BA inhibition project
 - New complexation motif, not reliant on ion exchange
 - Weaker interaction between molecules
- Further elucidate the mechanisms of inhibition

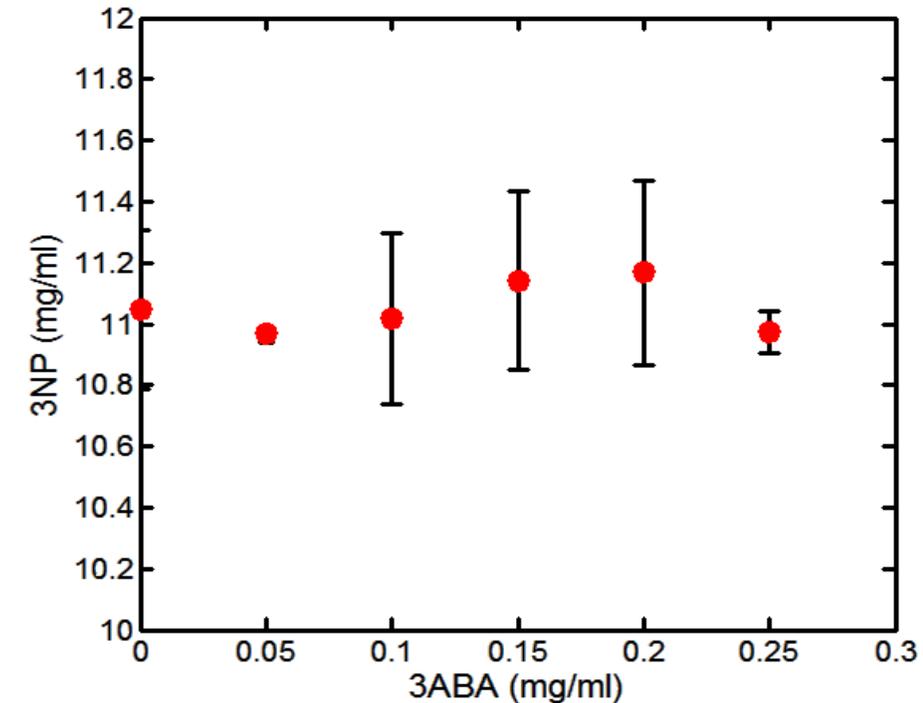
Temp. (K)	<i>K</i>	ΔG (kJ/mol)	ΔH (kJ/mol)	ΔS (kJ* mol^{-1} * K^{-1})
278	13.4 ± 0.7	-6.00 ± 0.1	-198 ± 5	-0.69 ± 0.02
298	6 ± 2	-4.3 ± 0.8	-224 ± 24	-0.74 ± 0.08



3-Nitrophenol



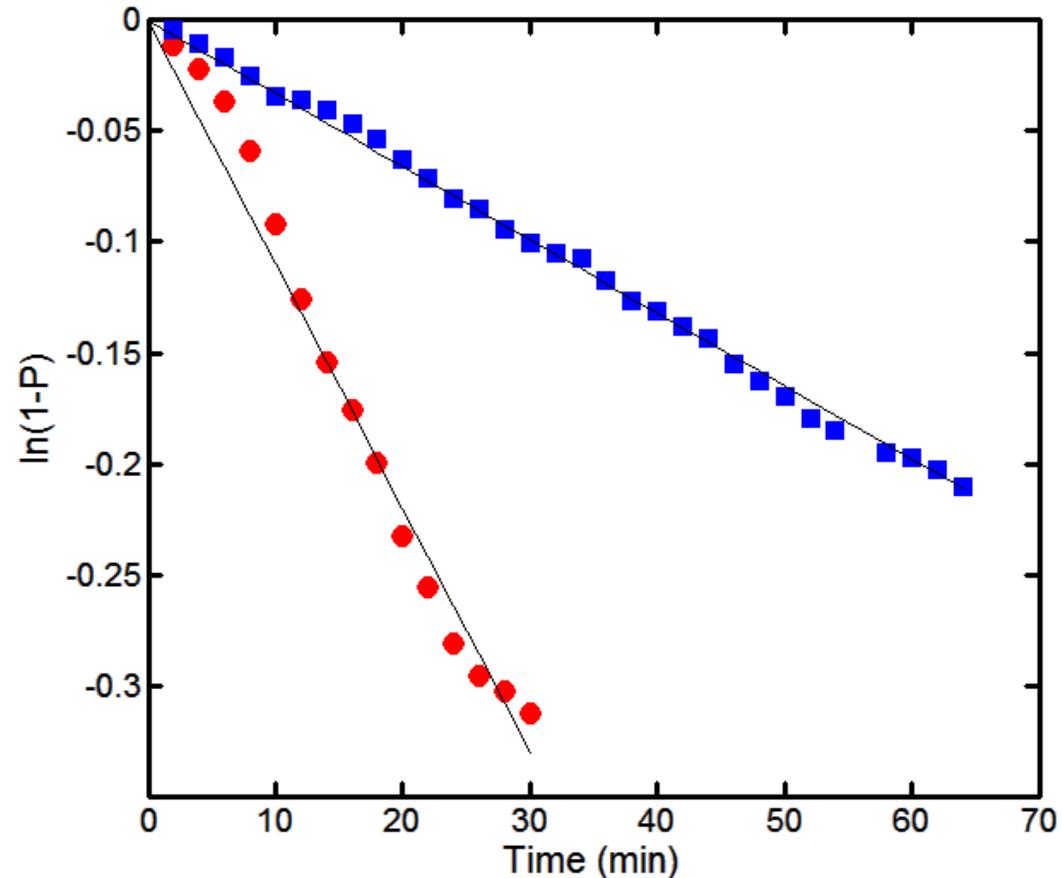
3-Aminobenzoic acid



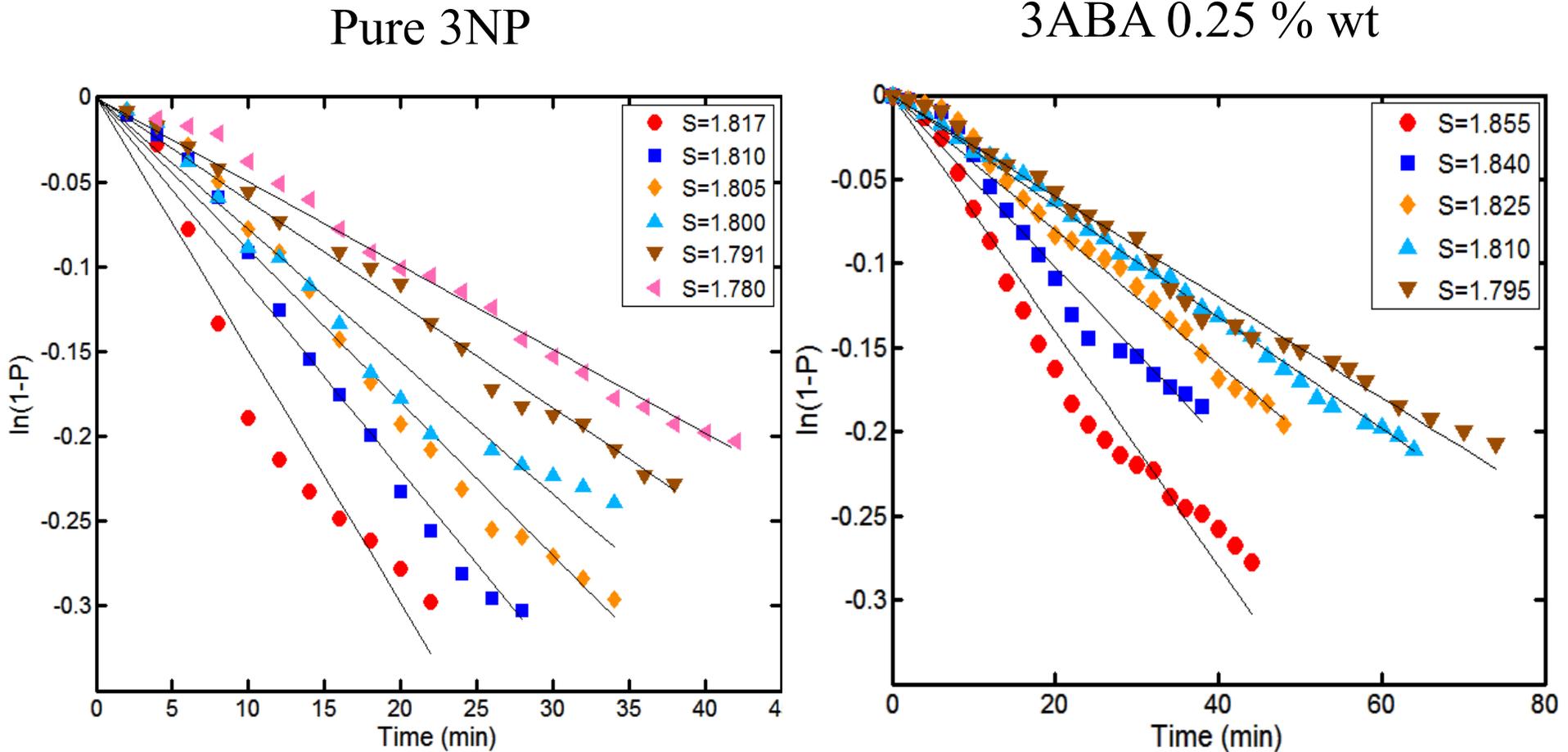
Induction Results for Control Groups

Sample	S	C_{3NP} (mg/ml)	J (# sec ⁻¹ m ⁻³)	τ (min)	n
Control	1.810	20.00	367 ± 15	91 ± 4	559
0.05 mg/ml 3ABA	1.810	20.00	110 ± 1	303 ± 3	480

- Control
- 3ABA 0.25 % wt



Effect of Changing Supersaturation on J



Images from: C. A Pons Siepermann; A. S. Myerson; *Cryst. Growth. Des.*, 2018, 18 (6), 3584–3595

Nucleation Kinetics

Condition	Average A (# sec ⁻¹ m ⁻³)	Range A (# sec ⁻¹ m ⁻³)	B
No Additive	$4.79 \cdot 10^8$	$1.06 \cdot 10^7 - 2.18 \cdot 10^{10}$	5.1 ± 1.3
3ABA 0.25 % wt	$1.26 \cdot 10^5$	$7.67 \cdot 10^3 - 2.07 \cdot 10^6$	2.7 ± 1.0

$$J = AS \exp\left(-\frac{B}{\ln^2 S}\right)$$

$$S = \frac{C}{C^*}$$

■ Pure 3NP

● 3ABA 0.25 % wt

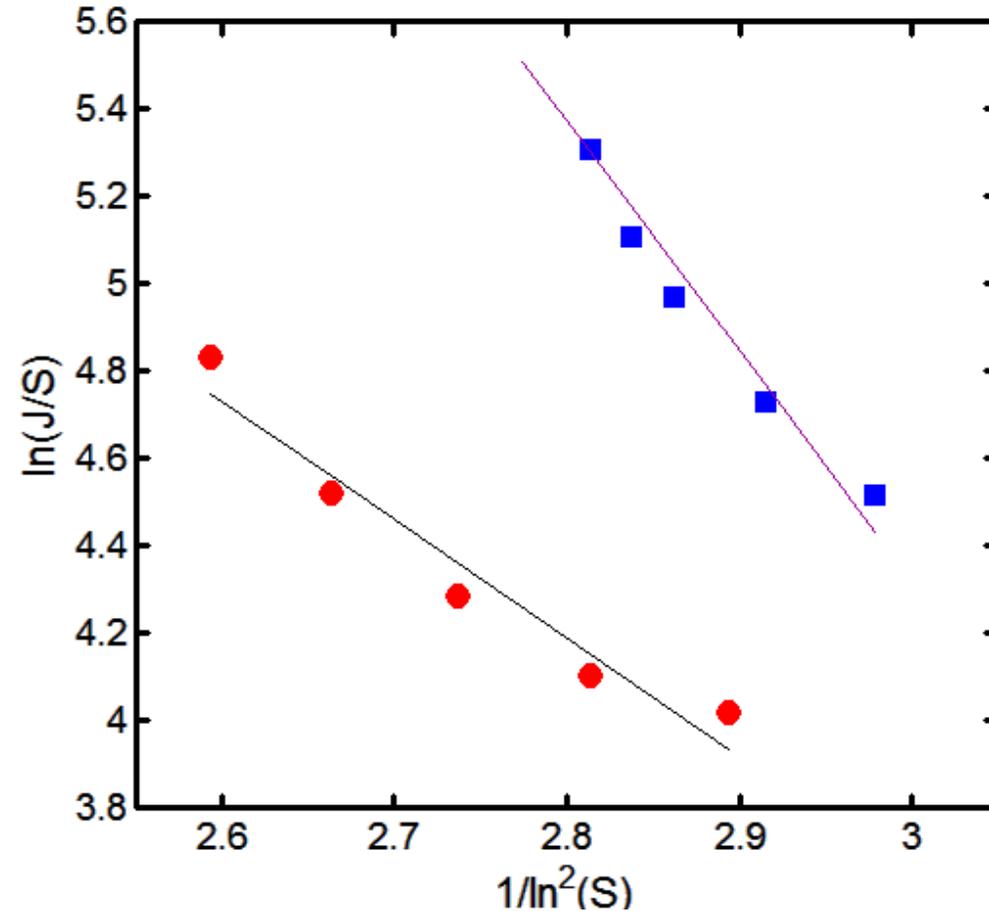


Image from: C. A Pons Siepermann; A. S. Myerson, *Cryst. Growth. Des.*, 2018, *Published online*

Nucleation Mechanisms

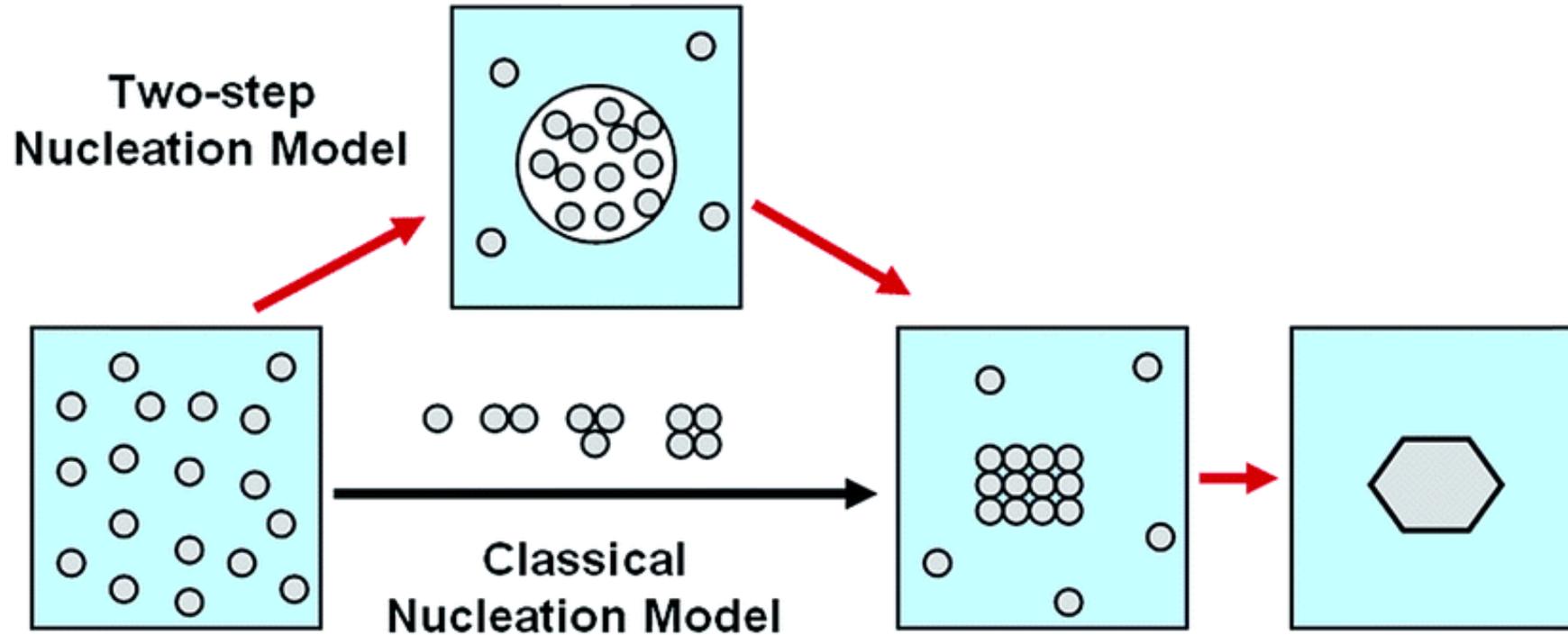


Image from: Myerson, A. S.; *Faraday Discuss.*, 2015, 179, 543-547

Theoretical Analysis

$$J = AS \exp\left(-\frac{B}{\ln^2 S}\right)$$

Classical Nucleation^[a]:

$$A = \left(\frac{4\pi}{3v_0}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \left(\frac{\gamma_e}{kT}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} DC^* \quad B = \frac{16\pi v_0^2 \gamma^3}{3 (k_B T)^3}$$

[a] Kashchiev, D.; Rosmalen, G.; *Cryst. Res. Technol.* **2003**, 38, 555-574

Vekilov's Two-Step Model^[b]:

$$J = \frac{k_2 C_1 T \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta G_2^*}{k_b T}\right)}{\eta_1(C_1, T) \left[1 + \frac{U_1}{U_0} \exp\left(\frac{\Delta G_C^0}{k_B T}\right)\right]} \longleftrightarrow J = \frac{\phi k_2 C_1 T}{\eta} \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta G_2^*}{k_b T}\right)$$

[b] Vekilov, P.; *Nanoscale*, **2010**, 2, 2346-2357

Two-Step Model Analysis

$$J = \frac{\phi k_2 C_1 T}{\eta} \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta G_2^*}{k_b T}\right)$$
$$\frac{\phi k_2 C_1 T}{\eta} \approx AS$$
$$\left(\frac{\partial J}{\partial S}\right)_T$$
$$-\frac{\Delta G_2^*}{k_b T} = -\frac{B}{\ln^2 S}$$
$$J = AS \exp\left(-\frac{B}{\ln^2 S}\right)$$

Two-Step Model – Activation Energy

$$J = \frac{Sk_2C_1T}{A''\eta} \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta G_2^*}{k_bT}\right)$$

$$\Delta G_2^* = \frac{16v_0^2\gamma^3}{3\Delta\mu^2} \quad \leftarrow \Delta\mu = k_B T \ln S$$

$$\Delta G_2^* = \frac{16v_0^2\gamma^3}{3(k_B T)^3 \ln^2 S} \quad \longleftrightarrow \text{Constants}$$

$$J = \frac{\phi k_2 C_1 T}{\eta} \exp\left(-\frac{B}{\ln^2 S}\right)$$

Two-Step Model Analysis – Pre Exponential

$$J = \frac{\phi k_2 C_1 T}{\eta} \exp\left(-\frac{B}{\ln^2 S}\right)$$

$$\frac{1}{\phi} = 1 + \frac{U_1}{U_0} \exp\left(\frac{\Delta G_C^0}{k_B T}\right) \quad \leftarrow \Delta G_C^0 > 0$$

$$\frac{1}{\phi} \approx \frac{U_1}{U_0} \exp\left(\frac{\Delta G_C^0}{k_B T}\right) \quad \leftarrow U_0 = \alpha C$$

$$\frac{1}{\phi} \approx \frac{U_1}{\alpha S C^*} \exp\left(\frac{\Delta G_C^0}{k_B T}\right) \approx \frac{A''}{S} \quad \leftarrow S = \frac{C}{C^*}$$

Two-Step Model Analysis – Pre Exponential

$$J = \frac{\phi k_2 C_1 T}{\eta} \exp\left(-\frac{B}{\ln^2 S}\right) \longleftrightarrow \frac{1}{\phi} \approx \frac{U_1}{\alpha S C^*} \exp\left(\frac{\Delta G_C^0}{k_B T}\right) \approx \frac{A''}{S}$$

$$J = \frac{S k_2 C_1 T}{A''} \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta G_2^*}{k_b T}\right)$$

Define: $A = \frac{k_2 C_1 T}{A''}$

$$J = AS \exp\left(-\frac{B}{\ln^2 S}\right)$$

Functional Form Equivalence

- S was changed at constant temperature for all experiments and data discussed
- Solid product purity and crystal form was unaffected by additives

$$J = AS \exp\left(-\frac{B}{\ln^2 S}\right)$$

Classical Nucleation

$$A = \left(\frac{4\pi}{3v_0}\right)^{\frac{1}{3}} \left(\frac{\gamma_e}{k_B T}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} DC^*$$

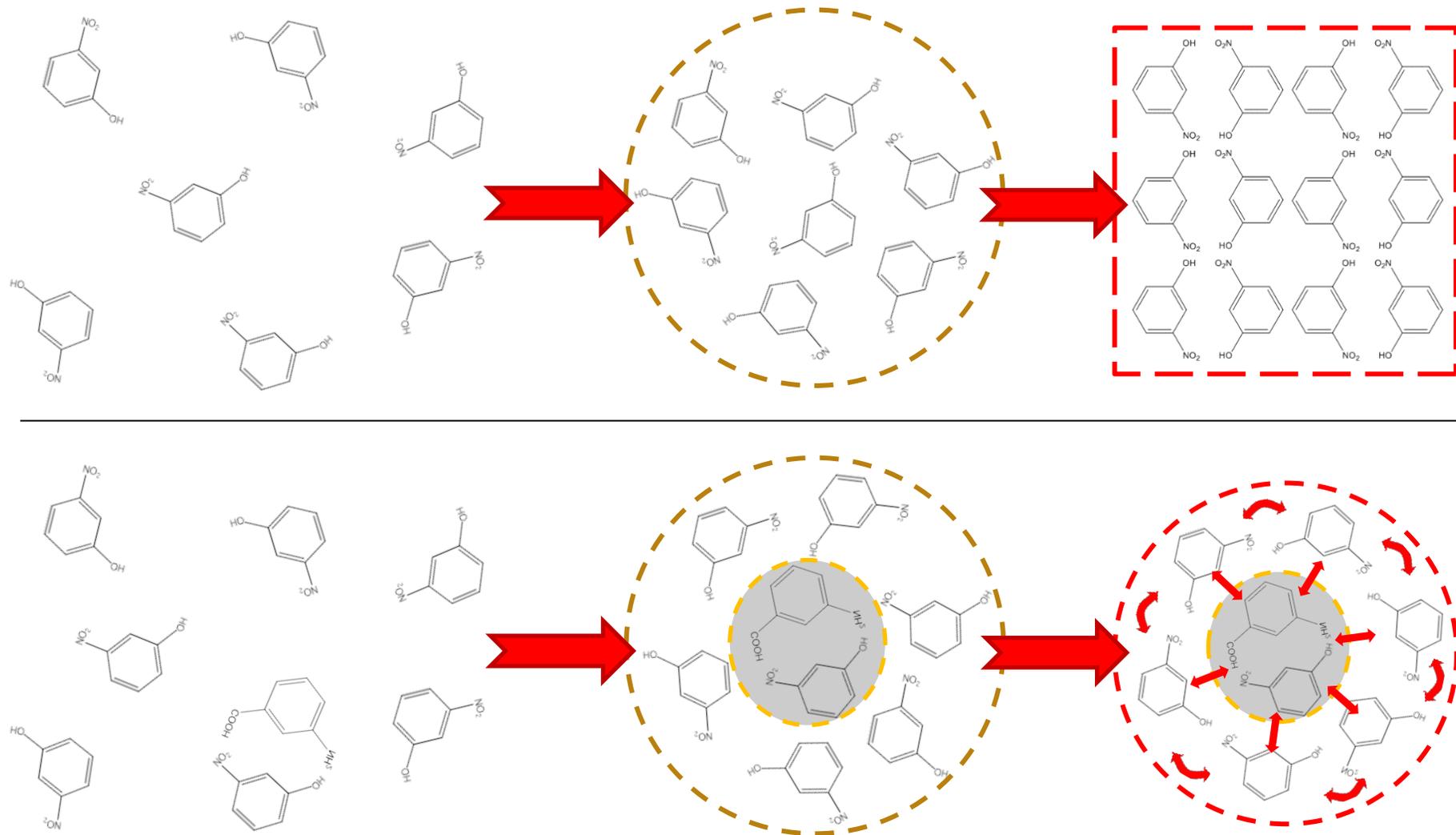
Vekilov's Two-Step Model

$$A = \frac{k_2 \alpha C_1 T}{U_1 C^* \eta_1 \exp\left(\frac{\Delta G_C^0}{k_B T}\right)}$$

Constants: $T, C^*, k_B, U_1, \Delta G_C^0, \alpha, C_1, v_0$

Variables: γ_e, D, η_1, k_2

Kinetic Inhibition Hypothesis



Acknowledgements

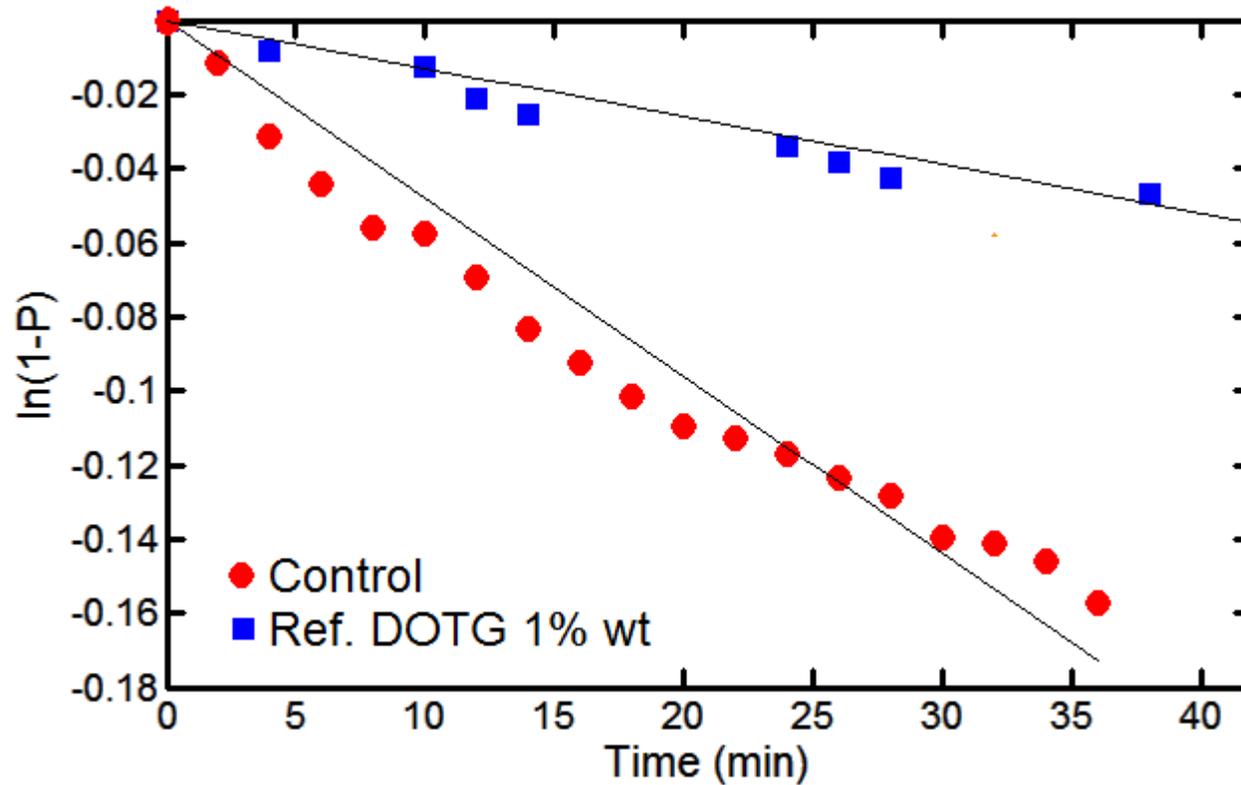
- Allan Myerson research group
- Merck CERD/X-Lab
- Gerard Capellades
- Fernando Ferreira



Thank You for Your Time

Questions

“Complete Picture” of Complexation Effect



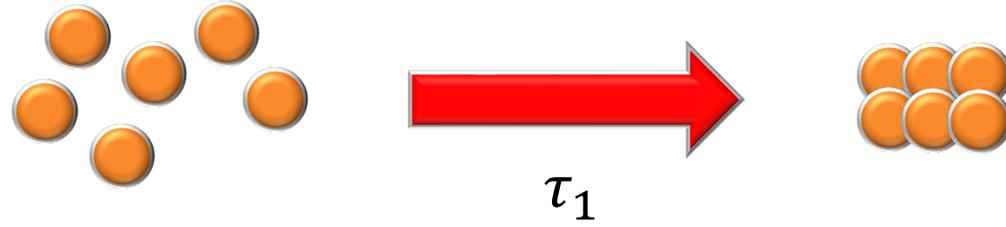
Control: 208 min

Reference: 769 min

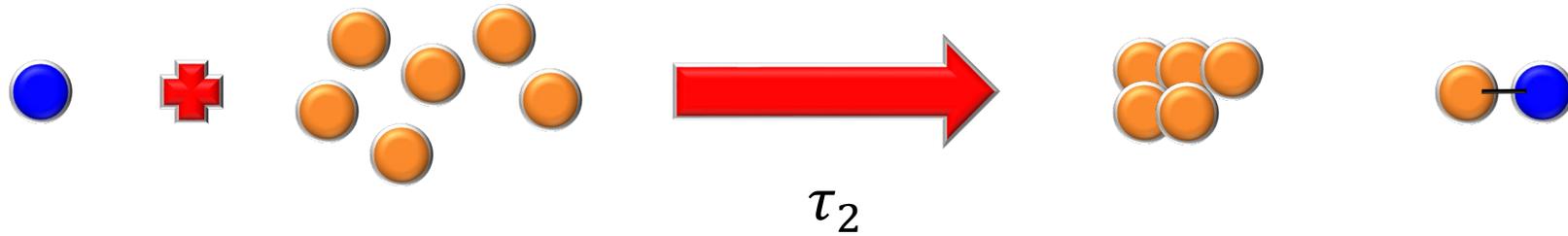
Image modified from: C. A Pons Siepermann; S. Huang; A. S. Myerson; *Cryst. Growth. Des.*, 2017, 17 (5), 2646-2653

Speciation Theory of Inhibition

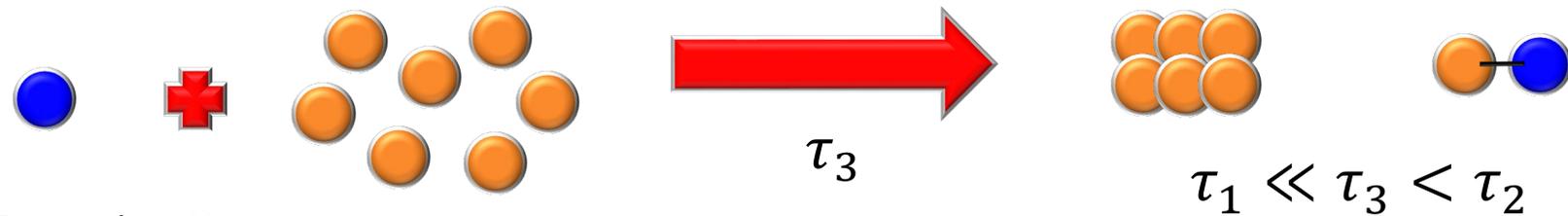
Control:



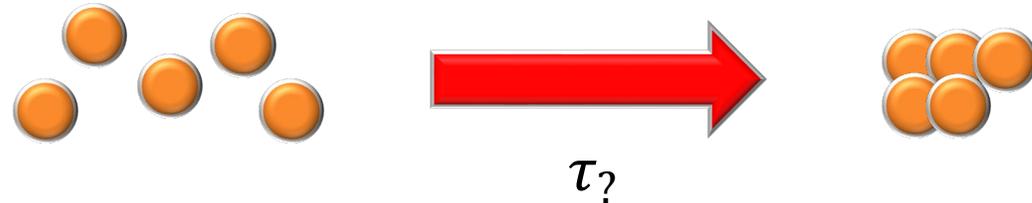
Reference:



“Adjusted”:



“Negative”:



$$\tau_1 \ll \tau_3 < \tau_2$$

“Negatives” to Test Magnitude of Inhibition

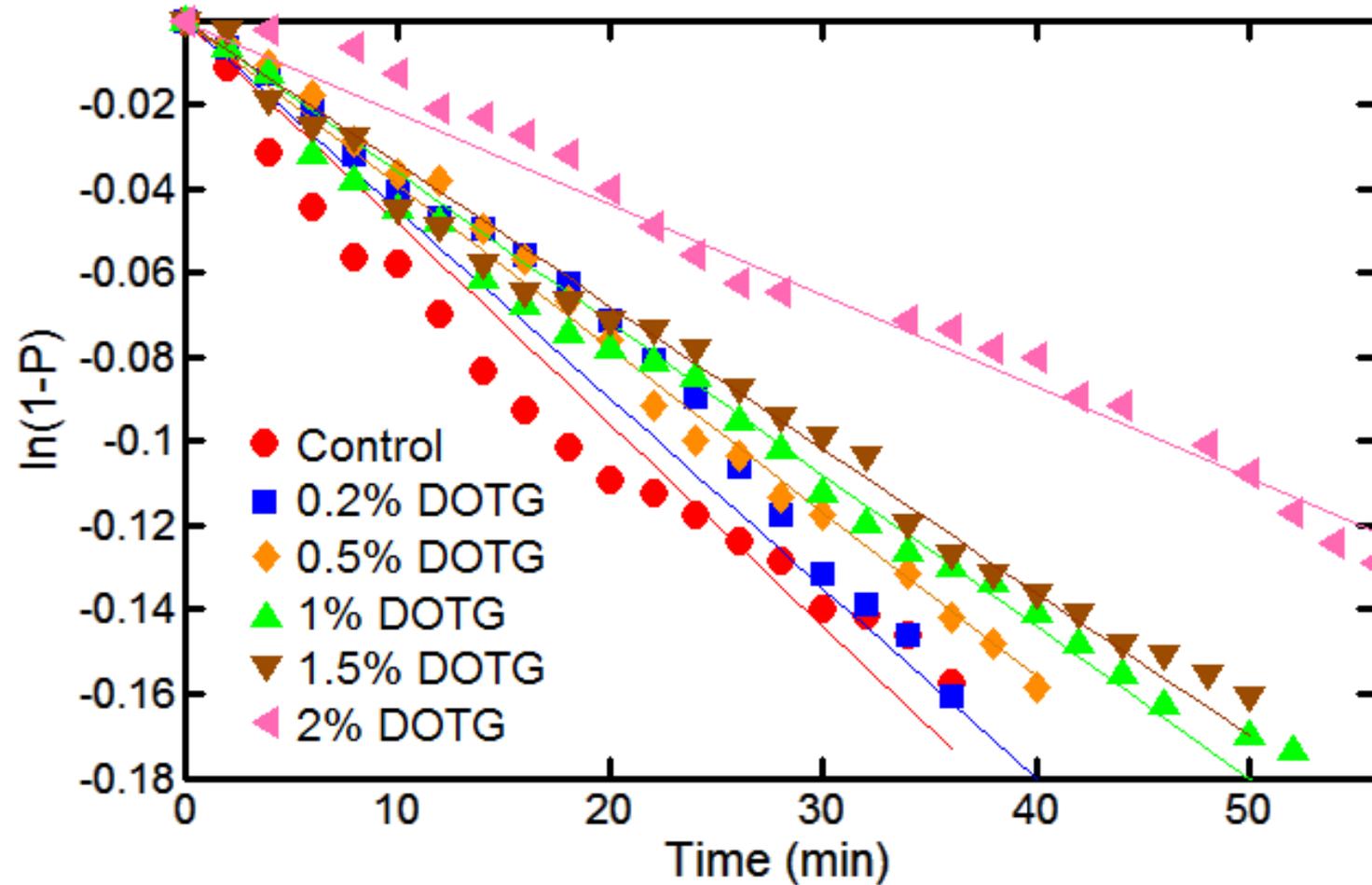
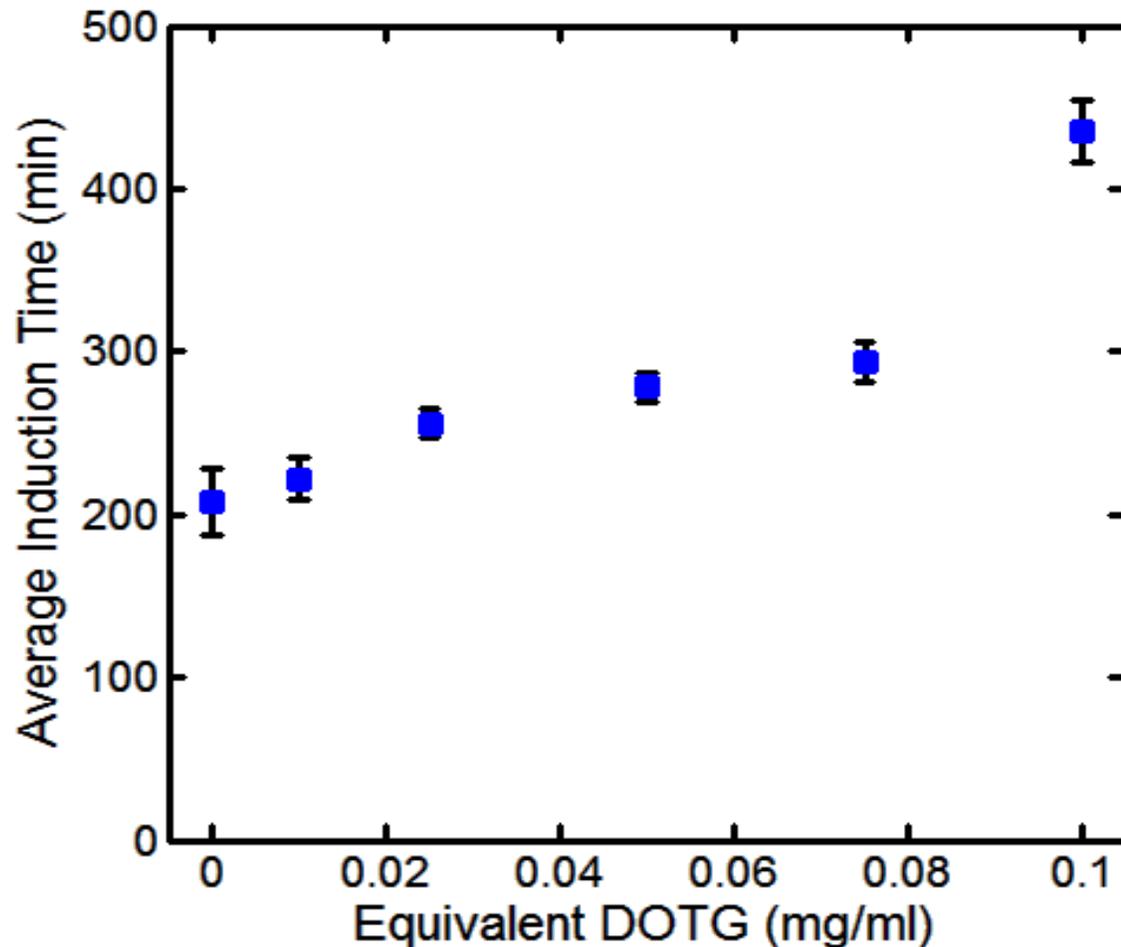


Image from: C. A Pons Siepermann; S. Huang; A. S. Myerson; *Cryst. Growth. Des.*, 2017, 17 (5), 2646-2653

Effect of “Negatives” on Induction Time



Control: 208 min

DOTG 0.2%: 222 min

DOTG 0.4%: 244 min

DOTG 0.5%: 256 min

DOTG 1%: 278 min

DOTG 1.5%: 294 min

DOTG 2%: 435 min

Image from: C. A Pons Siepermann; S. Huang; A. S. Myerson; *Cryst. Growth. Des.*, 2017, 17 (5), 2646-2653

Comparison of DOTG and “Negative” Inhibition

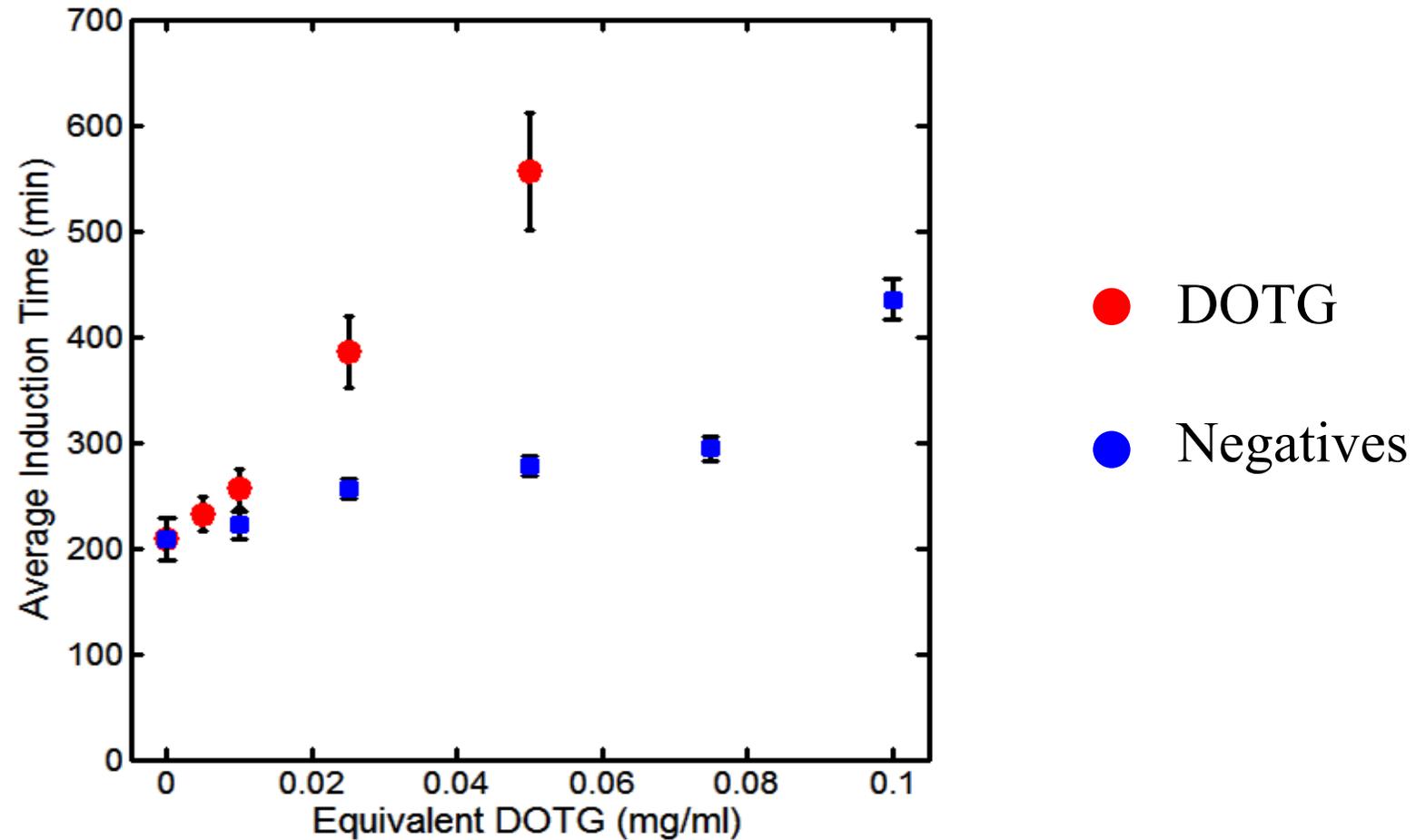


Image from: C. A Pons Siepermann; S. Huang; A. S. Myerson;, *Cryst. Growth. Des.*, 2017, 17 (5), 2646-2653

Summary of Negative Results

Sample	DOTG (min)	Negative (min)	Negative 2X (min)
Control	204	N/A	N/A
DOTG 0.2%	256	222	244
DOTG 0.5%	384	256	278
DOTG 1%	550	278	435

Inhibition effect is greater than a 2:1 stoichiometry of interaction between BA and DOTG

Benzoic Acid Polymorphism

- BA has only one known polymorph
- Data shows that even at largest concentration of additive, no additional or unexpected peaks are observed

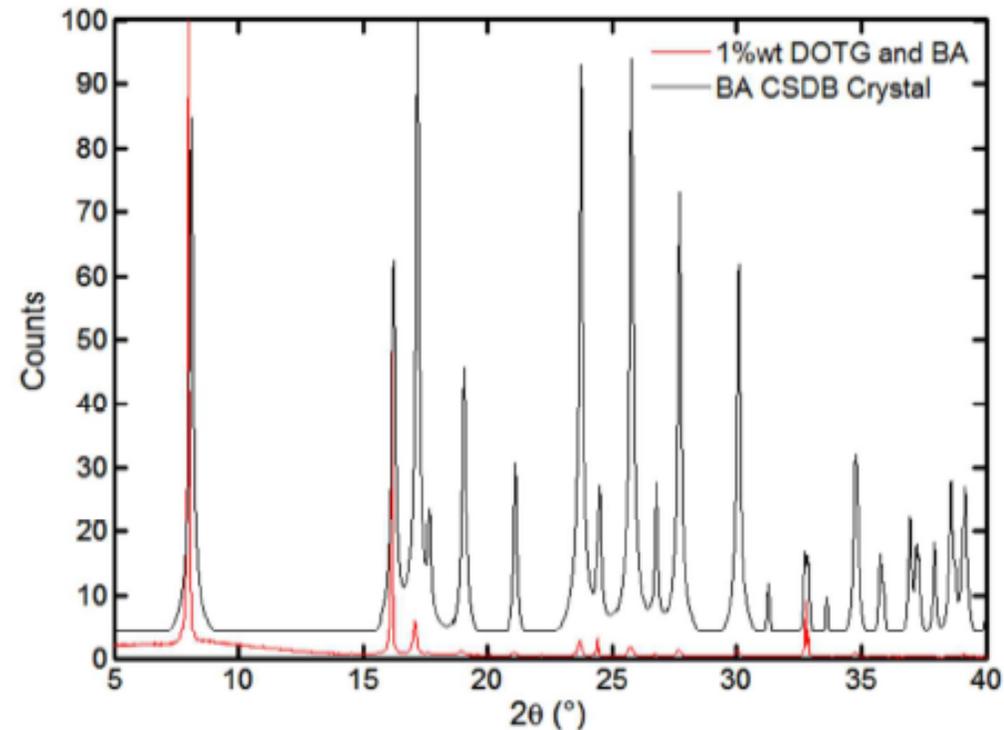
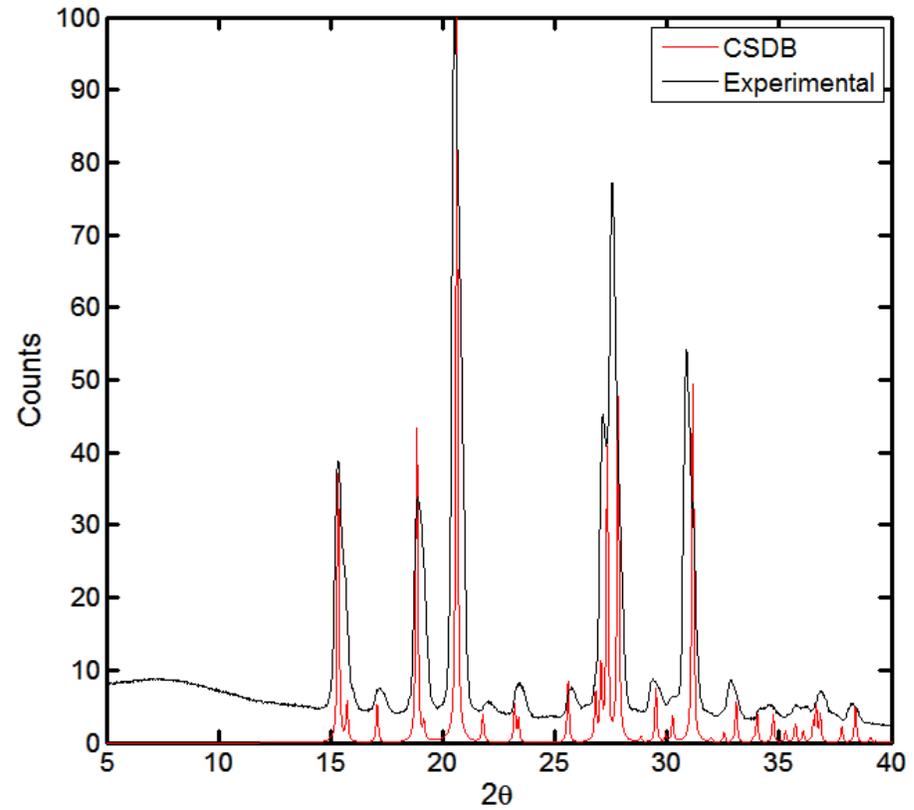
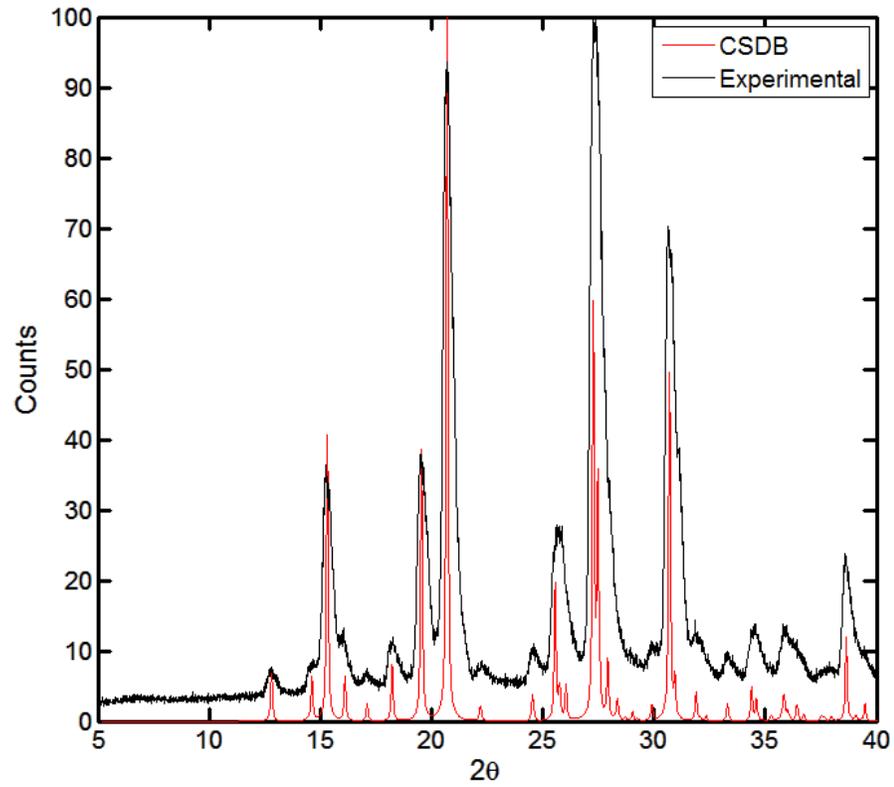
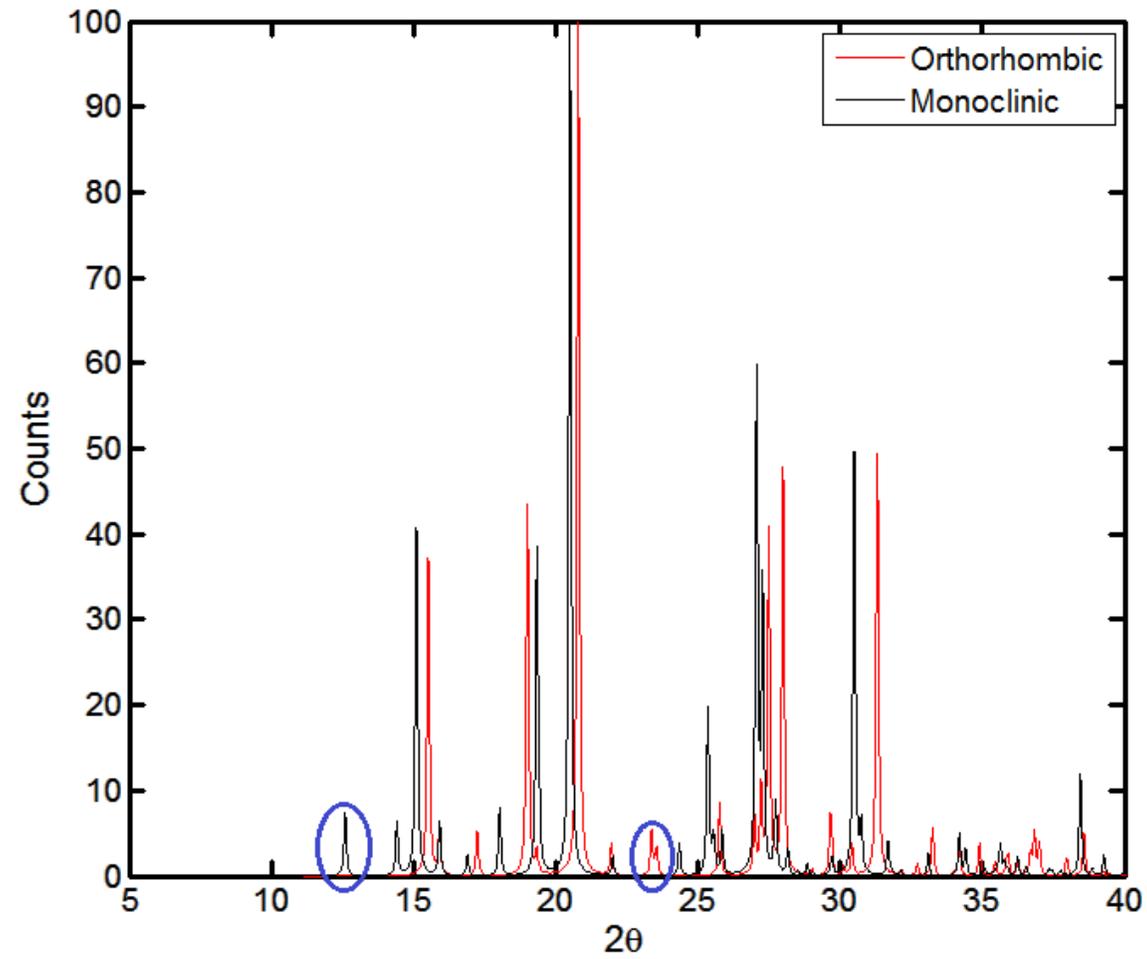


Image from: C. A Pons Siepermann; S. Huang; A. S. Myerson, *Cryst. Growth. Des.*, 2017, 17 (5), 2646-2653

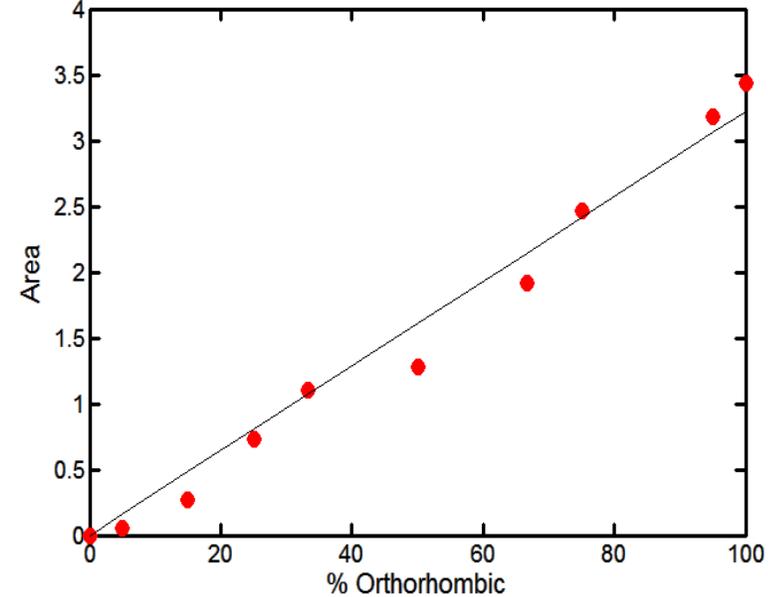
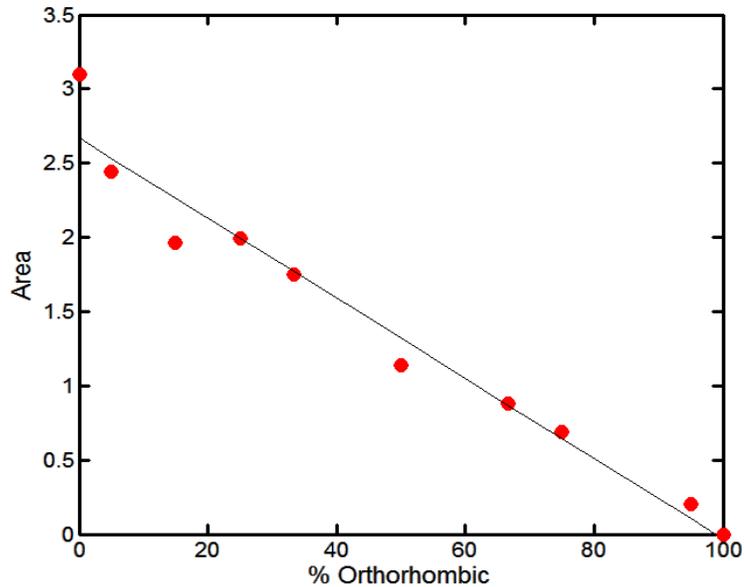
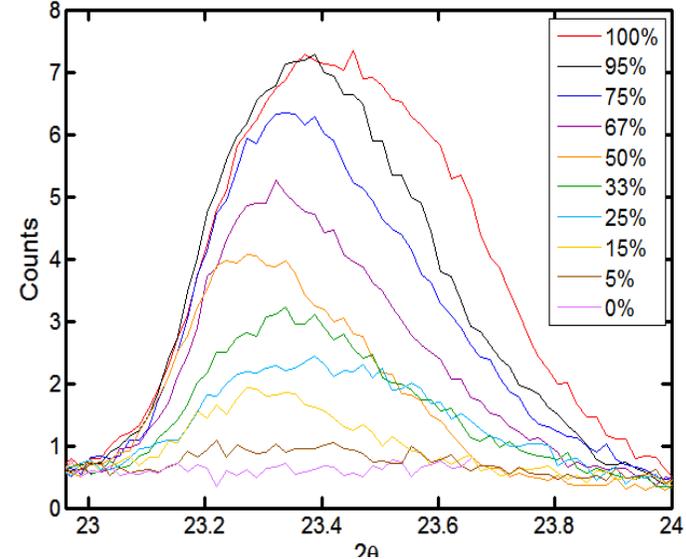
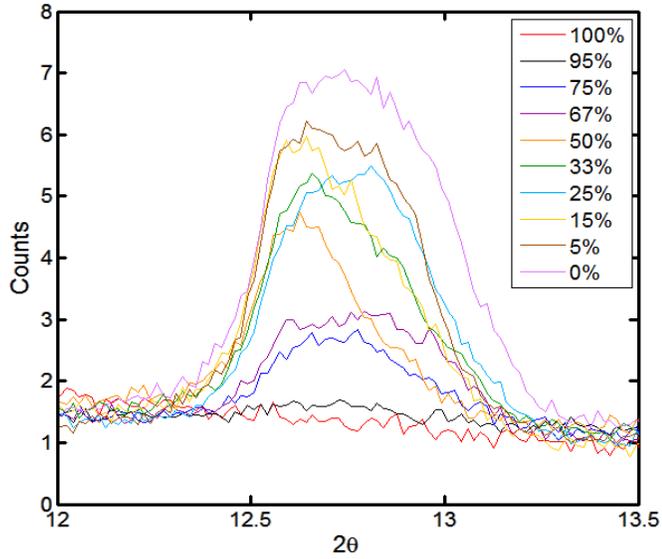
3NP Polymorphs



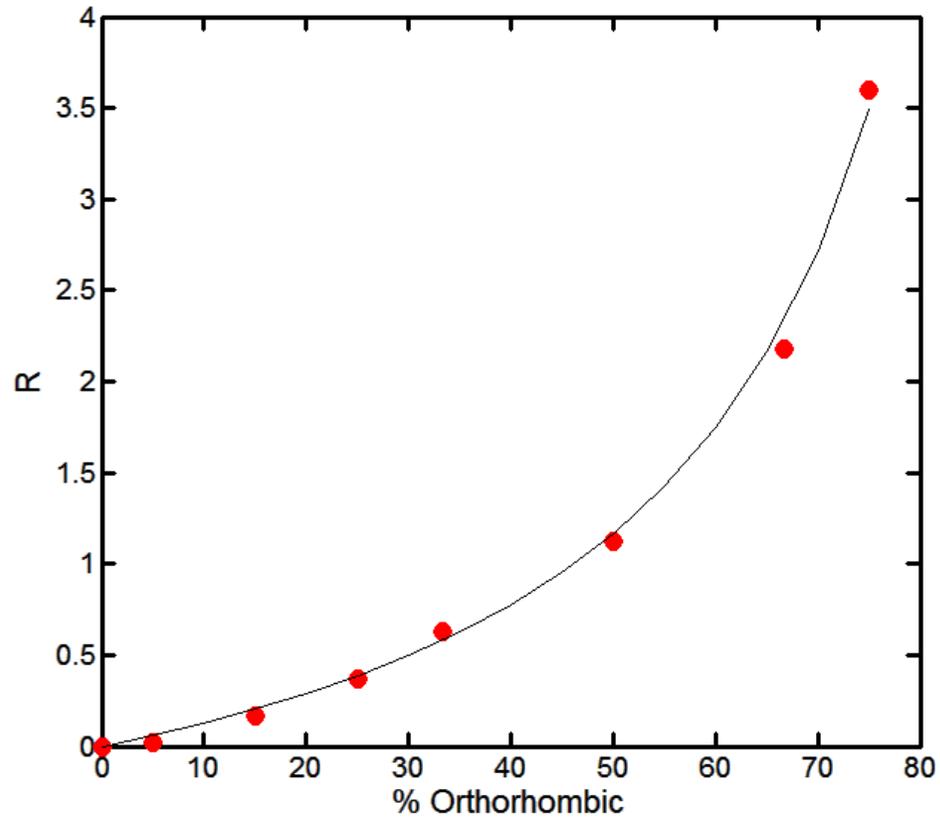
Unique Peaks



Unique Peak Integration



Calibration



$$R = \frac{A_{23\theta}}{A_{12\theta}}$$

$$R = a \frac{O_{\%}}{(100 - O_{\%})}$$

Polymorphism Remained Consistent

Condition	% Orthorhombic
No Additive	17 ± 3
0.05 mg/ml 3ABA	22 ± 5

