



# UNDERSTANDING DEGRADATION BEHAVIOUR OF DISORDERED PHARMACEUTICAL SOLIDS

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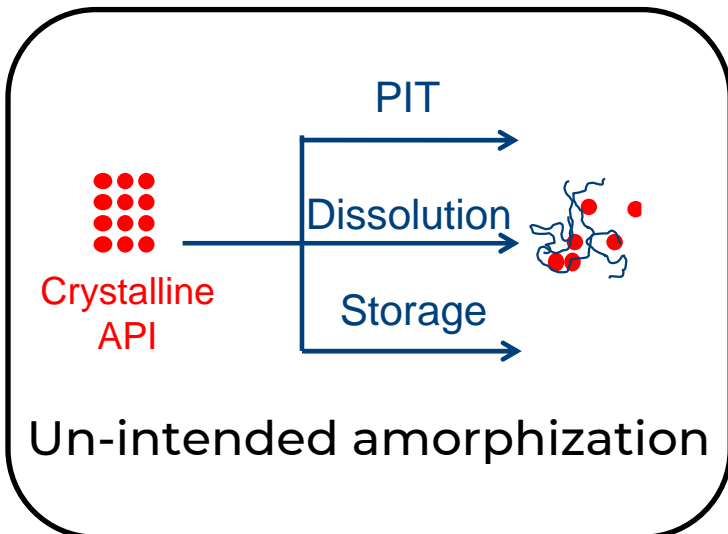
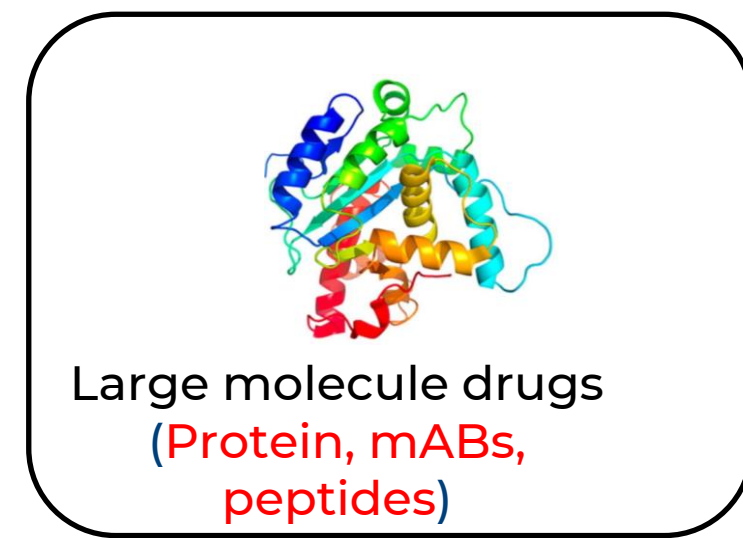
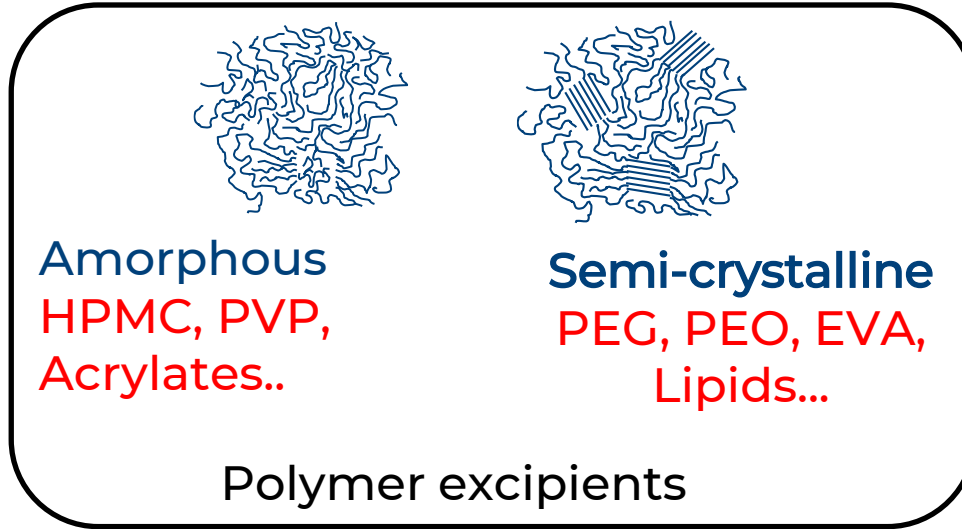
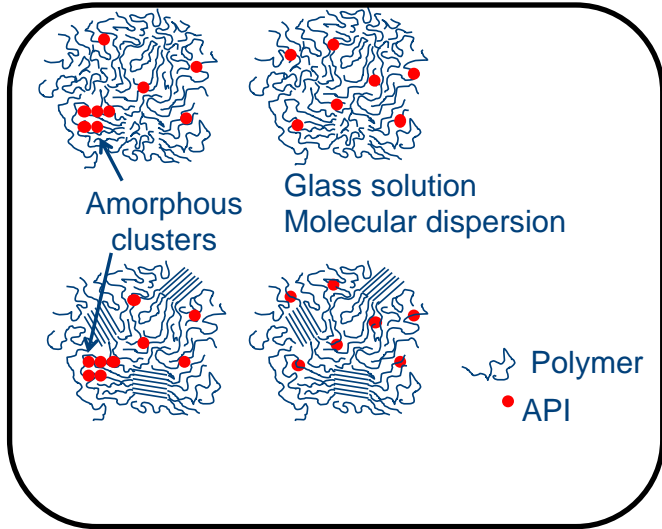
Inferences

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# Background

# Disordered Pharmaceutical Solids

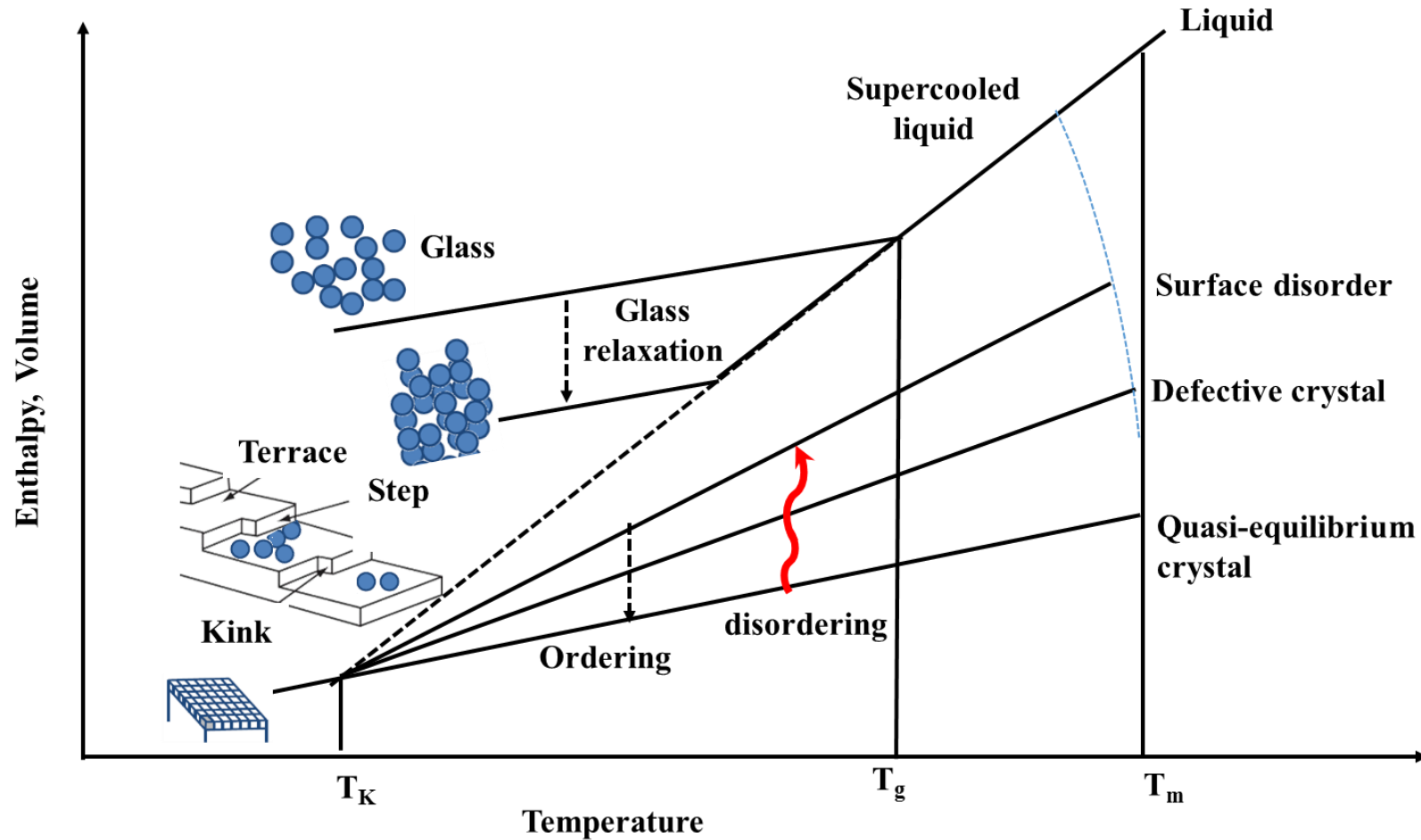
SOS 2022, PHILADELPHIA



## Key features:

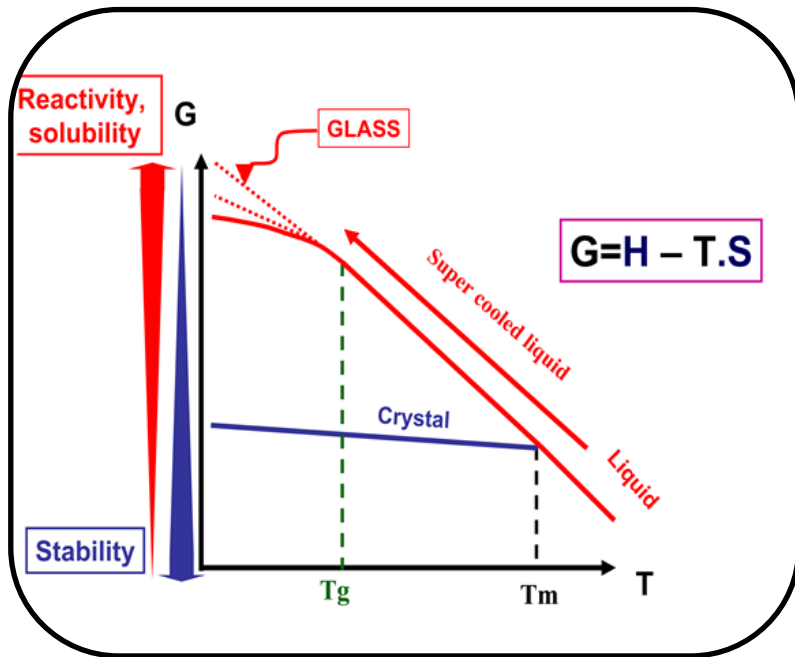
- Higher solubility/ dissolution
- Higher physical & chemical reactivity
- Higher bulk and surface energy
- Higher hygroscopicity
- Coalescence, aggregation, poor powder flow

# Energetics of disorder-order continuum



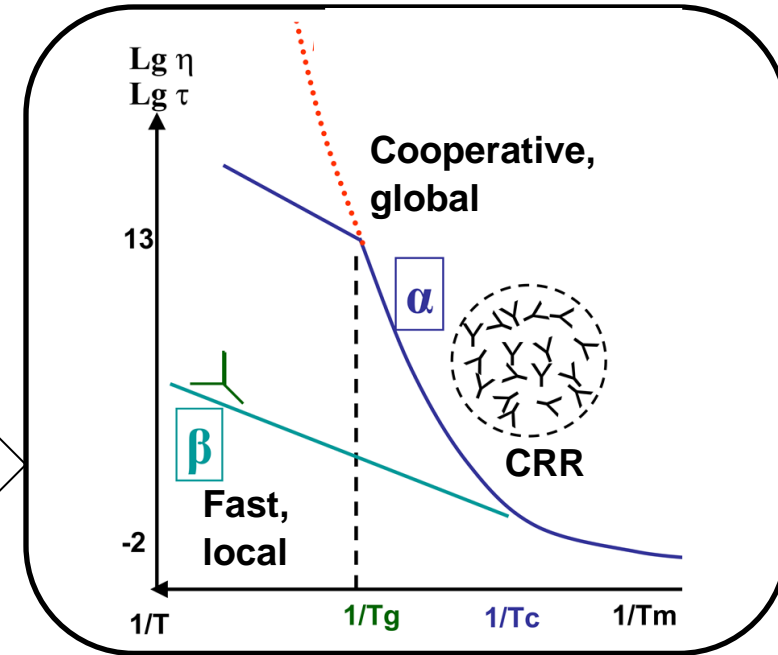
# Basic physics of an disordered/ amorphous state

SOS 2022, PHILADELPHIA



Energy landscape

Unique local structure  
(inter-atomic & inter-molecular arrangement)

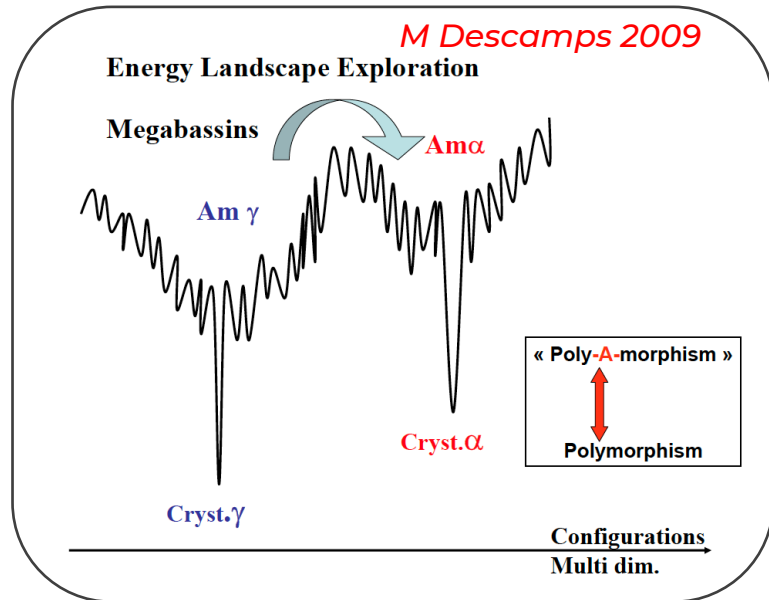


Mobility landscape

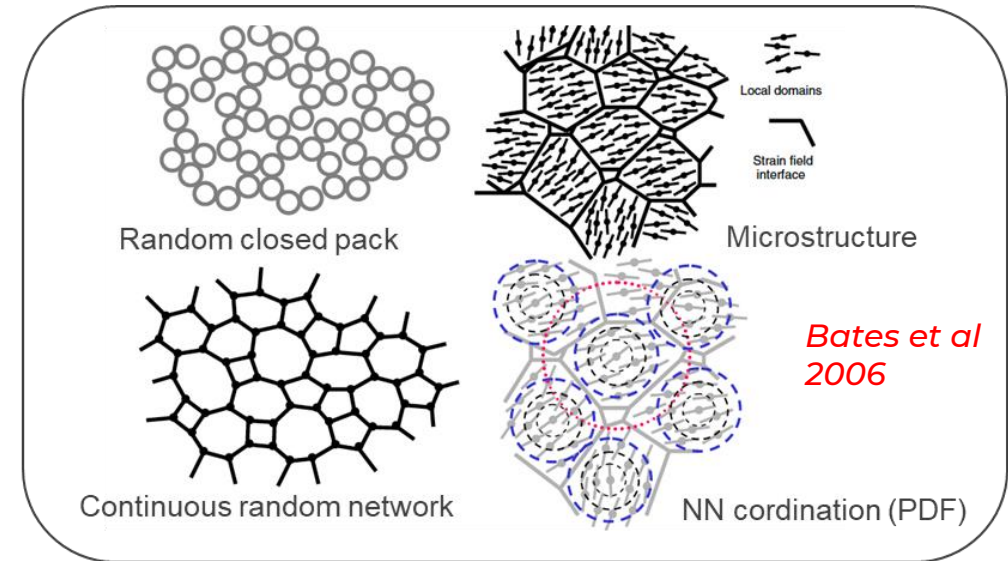
M Descamps 2009



# Local Structure of Disordered Solids



Poly-amorphism



Local structures of disordered solids

Chemically identical, but physically distinct:

- Heterogeneity at nano-/meso-structures
- Glass temperature & poly-amorphism
- Molecular motions & interactions

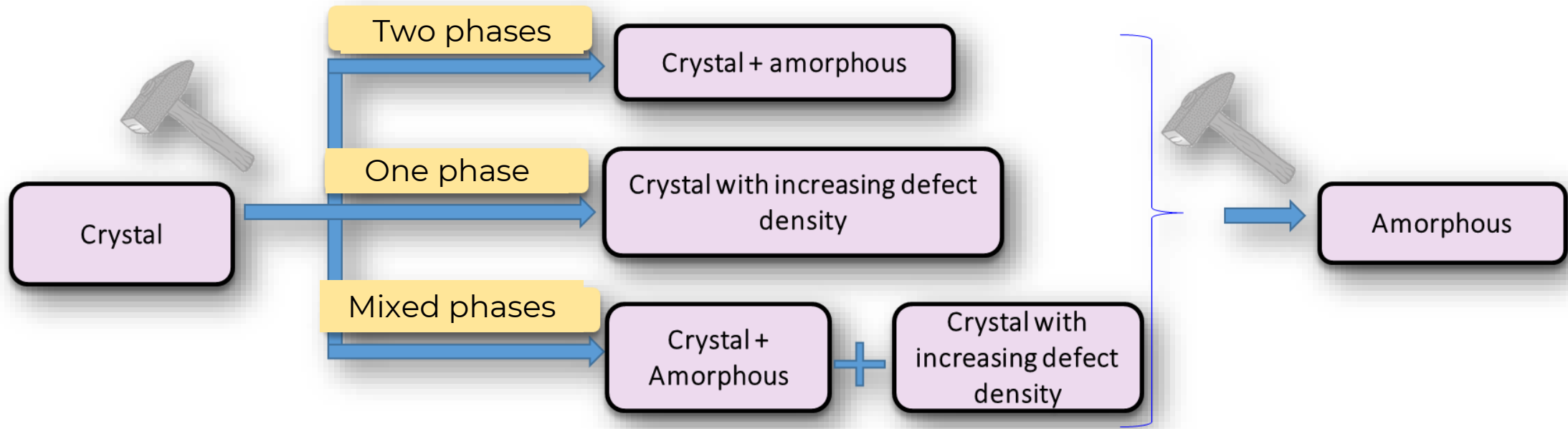
*“Understanding the disordered state of raw materials, intermediates and dosage forms”*  
Can enable prediction & control of **processing, performance & stability**

# Disordered APIs and degradation





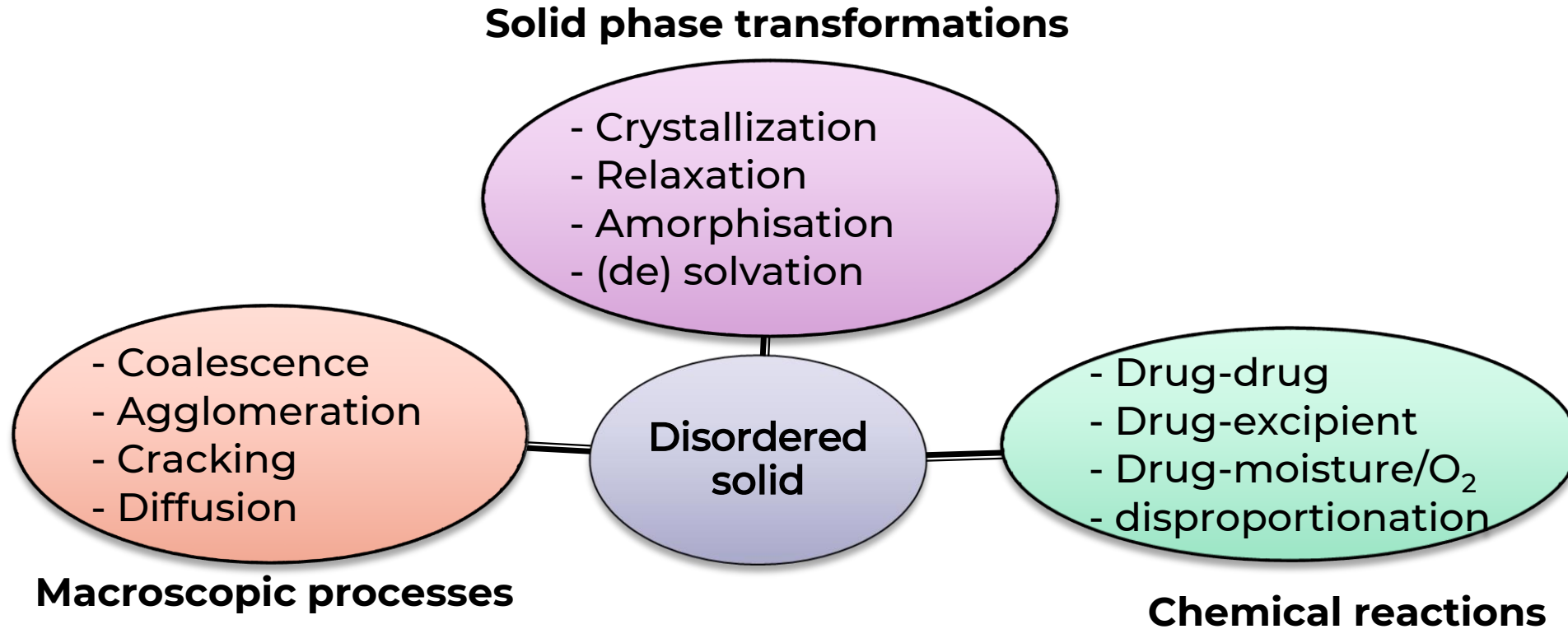
# En route to solid state disordering



## Disordering processes:

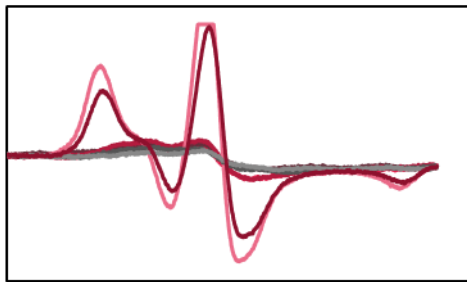
- Milling, Sieving, Blending, Granulation, Compaction
- Crystallization, Drying, Solidification

# Disordered state: a common prey

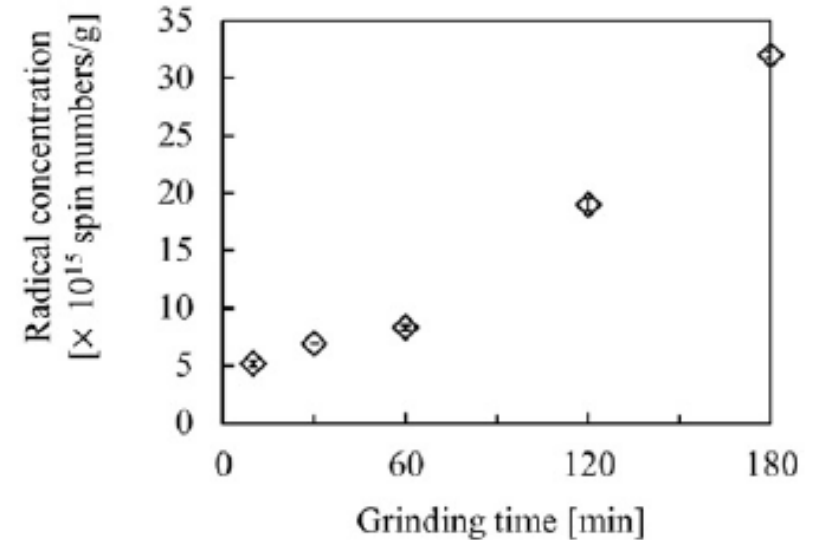


# Disordered solid state: Oxidative liability

- The reaction does not explicitly require water, can be specific and auto-catalytic
- Solution and solid-state can undergo different oxidation reactions
- **Disordering can generate or enhance free radicals** (reported for sugars, amino acids, polymers, etc.), that can be reactive when subjected to accelerated storage



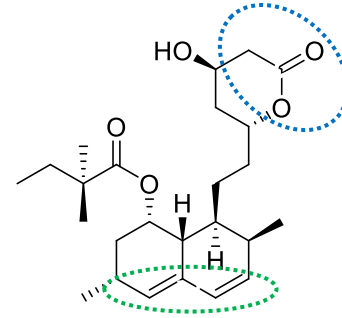
ESR of PVP



*Konishi et al 2016*

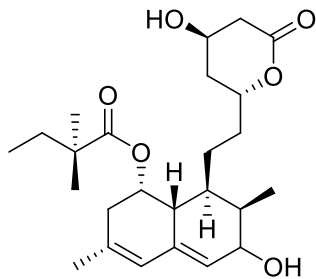
# Case 1: Simvastatin (SIM)

## Solid-state degradation



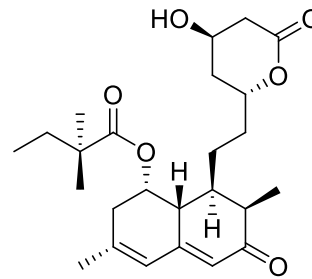
Simvastatin

Oxidation



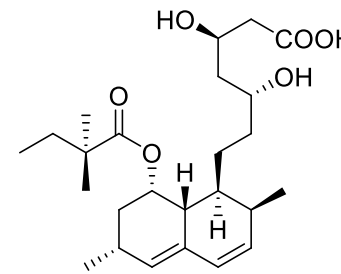
Enol-Simvastatin

Oxidation



Keto-Simvastatin

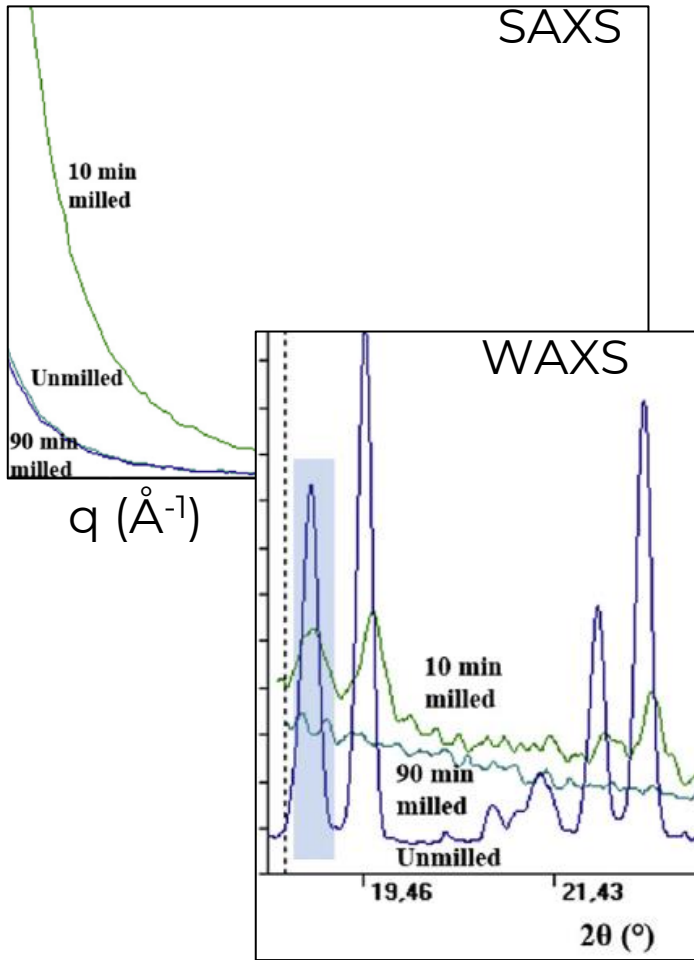
Hydrolysis



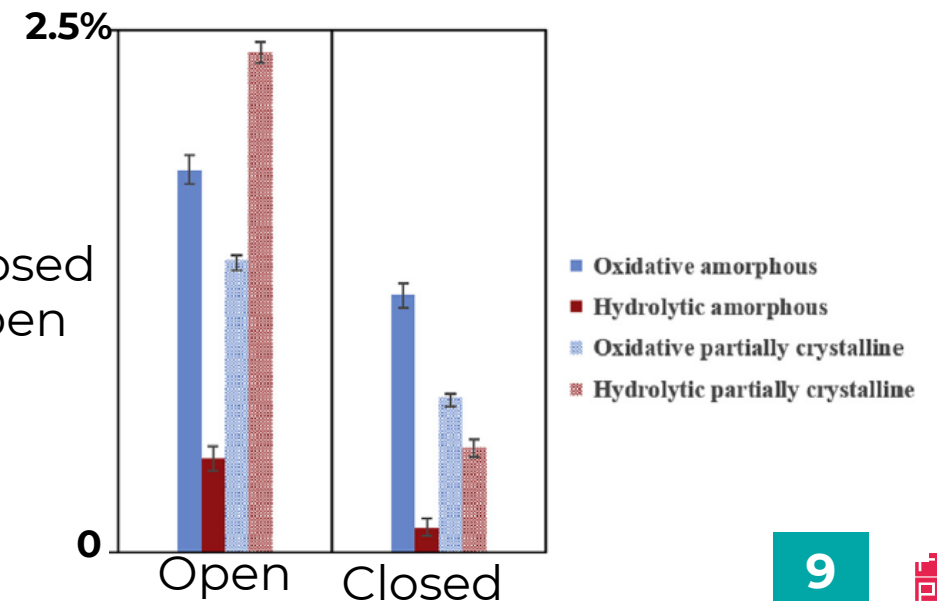
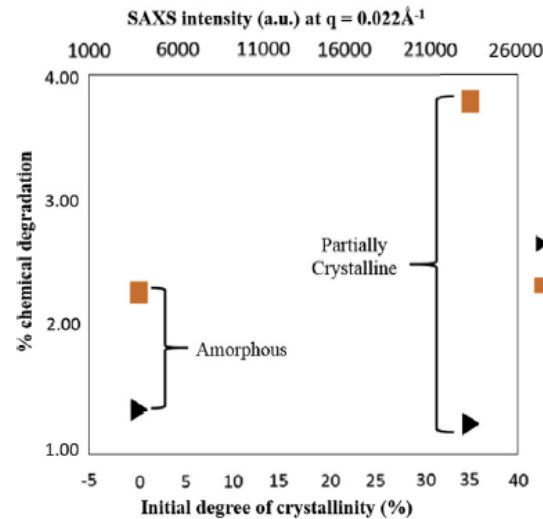
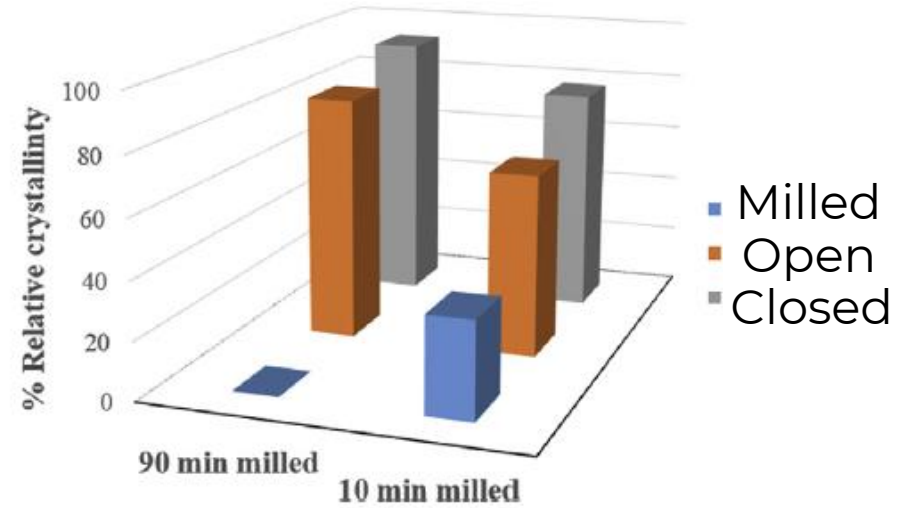
Simvastatin acid

# Case 1: Simvastatin (SIM)

## Physical & chemical reactivity following milling

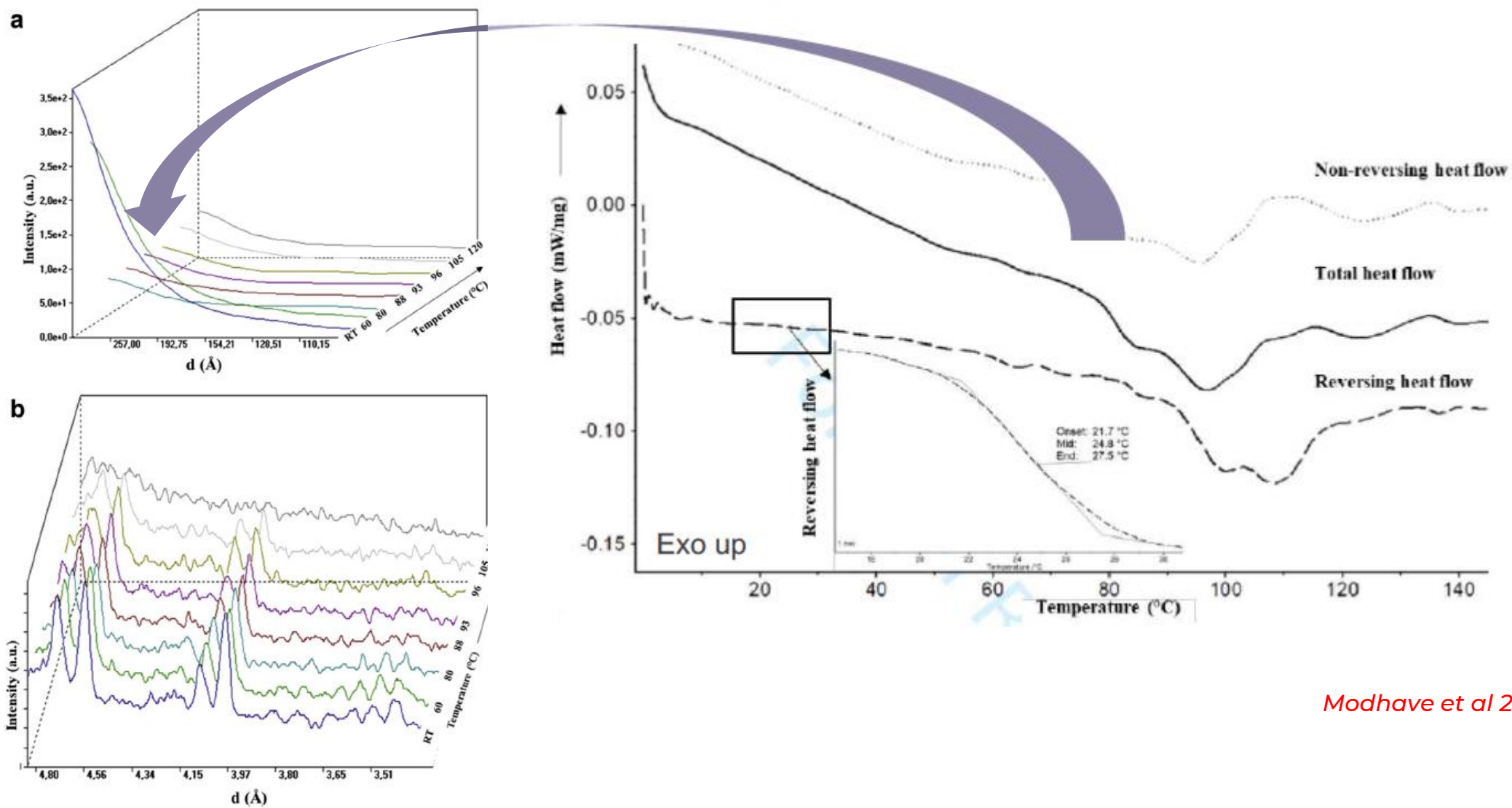


40°C/75%RH, 2w  
Open & closed (Tg+10)



# Case 1: Simvastatin (SIM)

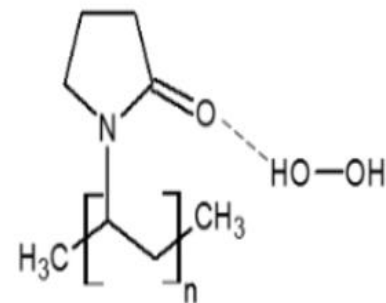
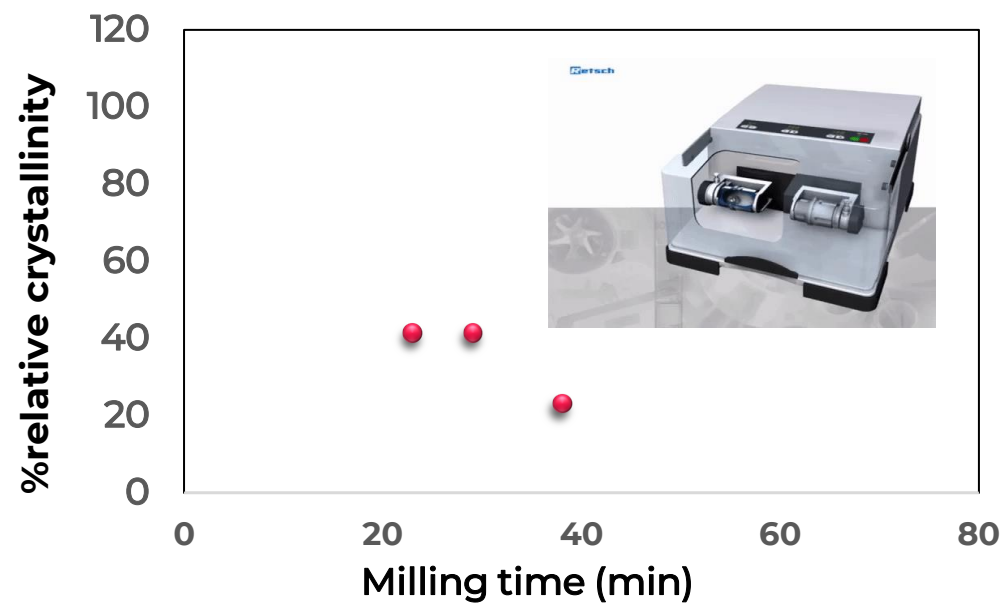
## Physically rigid disordered state in the partially crystalline state



Modhave et al 2019

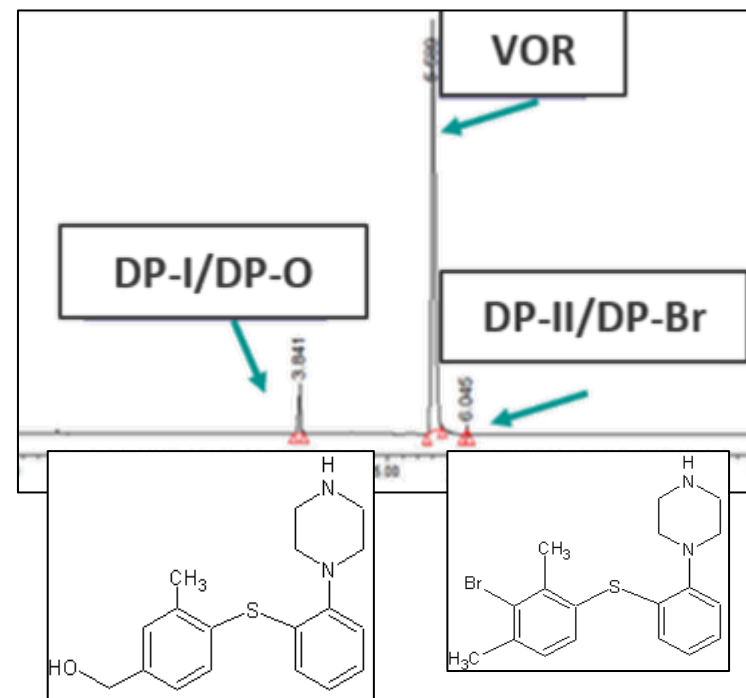
# Case 2: Vortioxetine.HBr

- No marked change in crystallinity upon storage

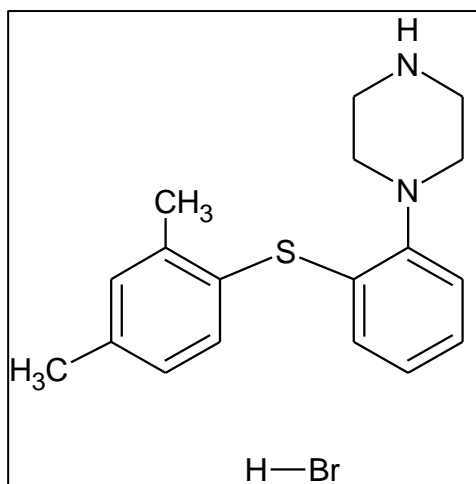


Compact with PVP-H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> complex powder

40°C/75%RH



- Milling led to progressive amorphization & salt disp.

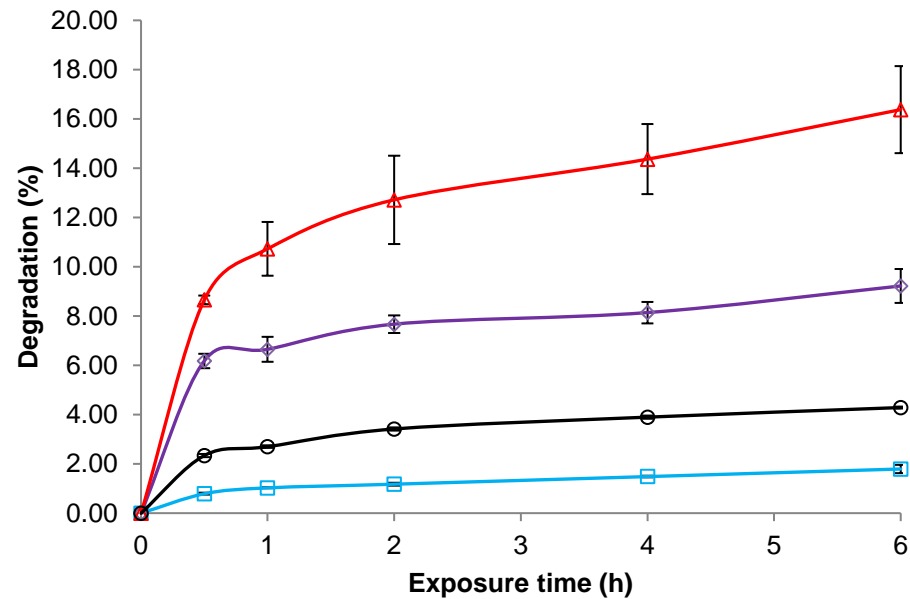


Modhave et al 2019

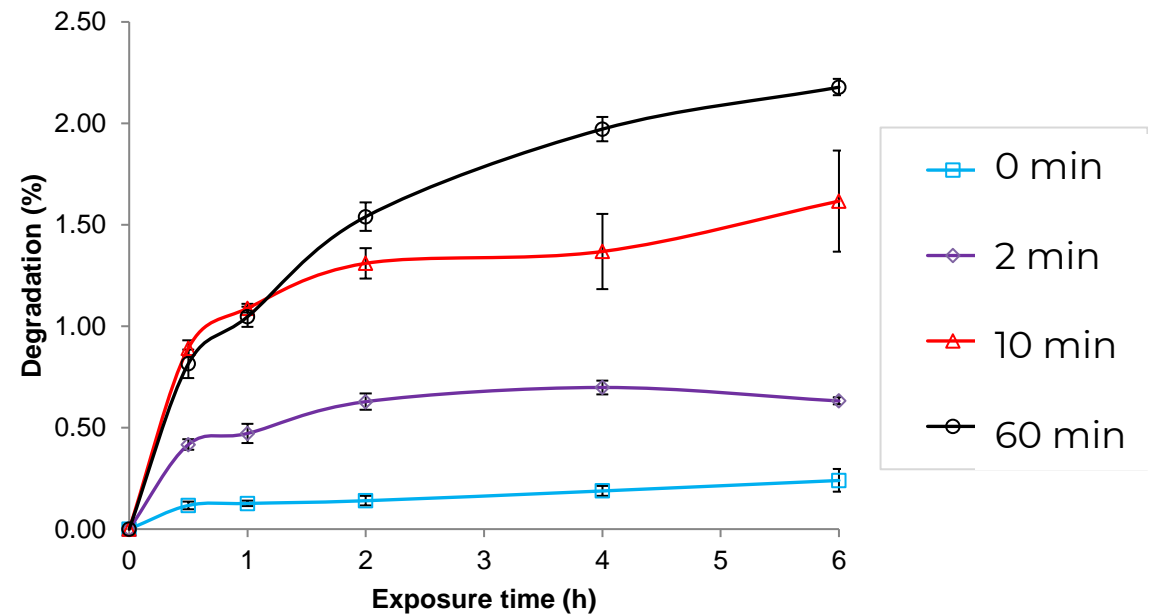
# Case 2: Vortioxetine.HBr

## Degradation kinetics and initial degree of disorder

### Major product



### Minor product

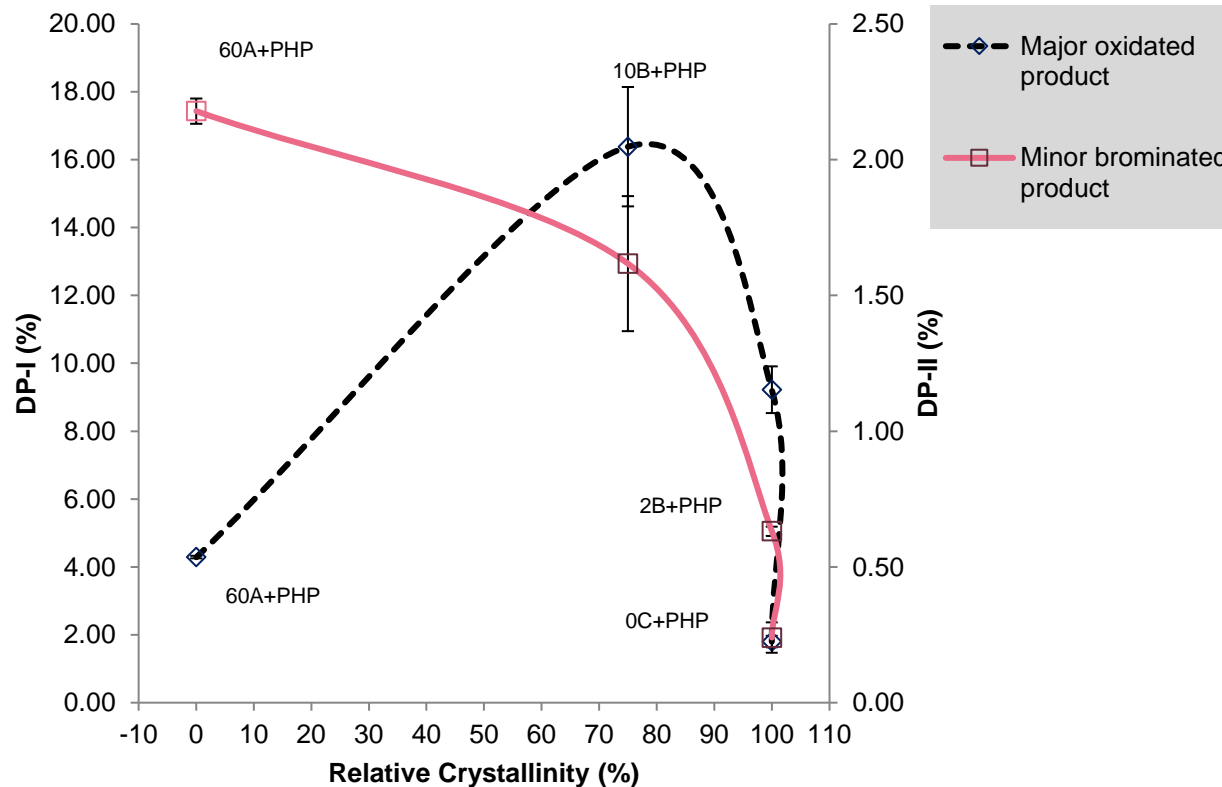




# Case 2: Vortioxetine.HBr

## Degradation kinetics and initial degree of disorder

### Fraction DP at final time point

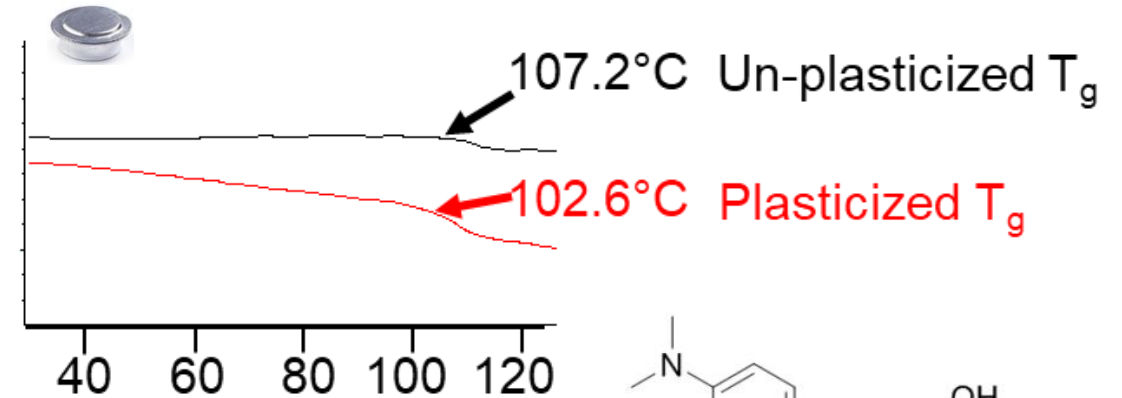


- The major oxidative product formed less in the fully amorphous sample, due to agglomeration (?)
- The minor product formation would need free HBr from disp, thus increases with increasing milling time

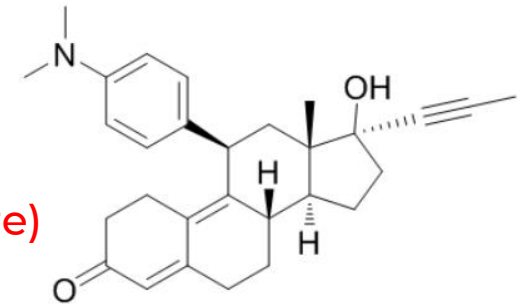
# Case 3: Mifepristone

## Autoxidation of a high T<sub>g</sub> steroid

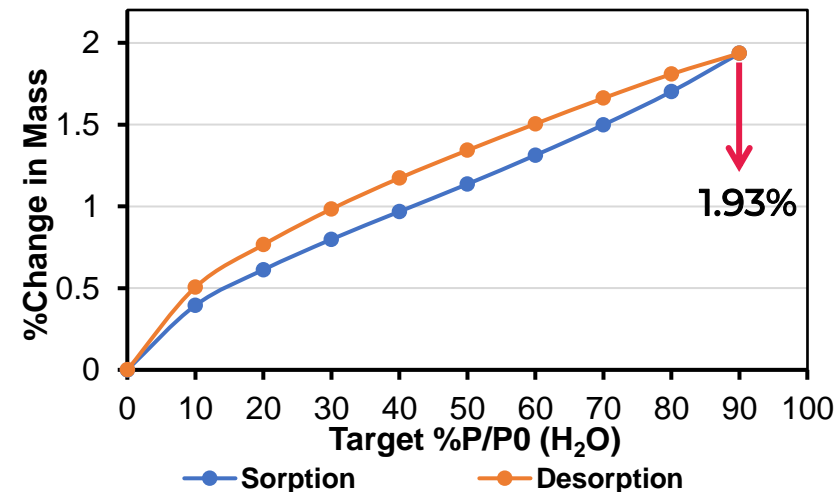
- The moisture reaches a maximum of less than 2% within 3d and remains unchanged
- The moisture plasticized-T<sub>g</sub> is still far higher than the storage conditions used, therefore degradation happens in the GLASSY STATE OF mif



180min BM MFP-30d;  
40°C/75 %RH (1.9% moisture)

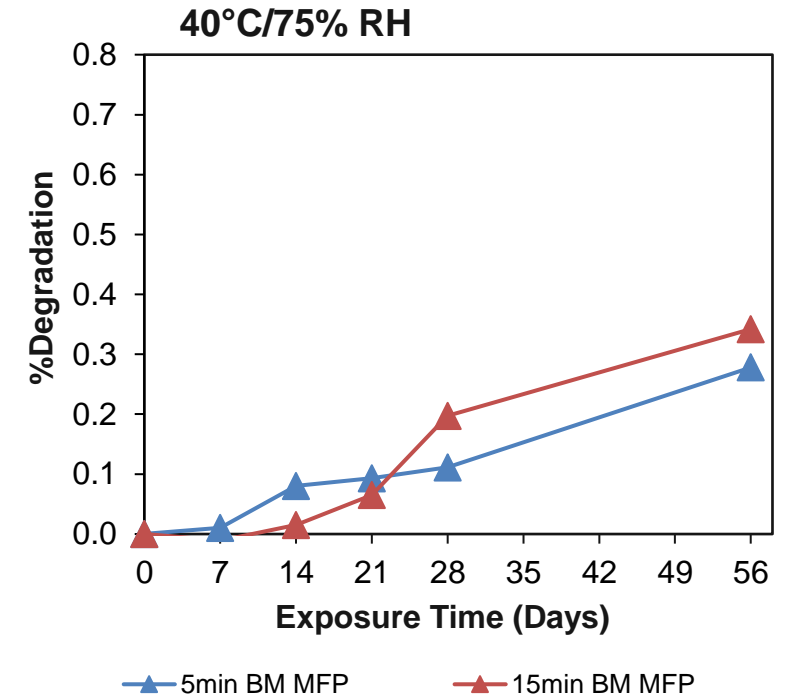
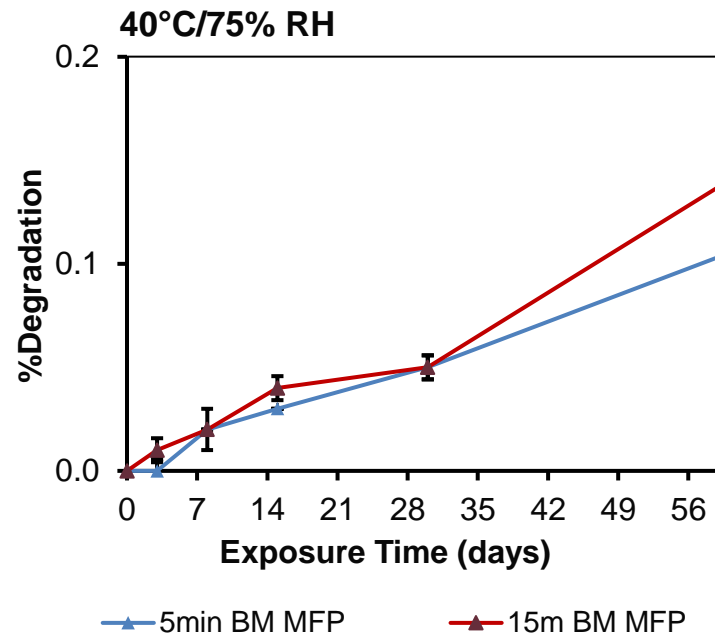
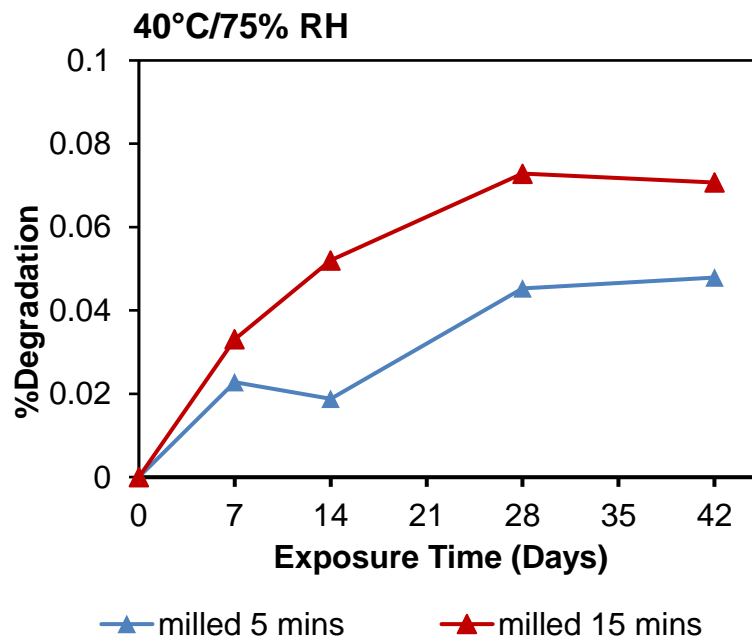


DVS isotherms of 180min BM MFP



# Case 3: Mifepristone

The importance of the disordered sample age, prior to the accelerated stability



Age of sample

1-2 months

4 months

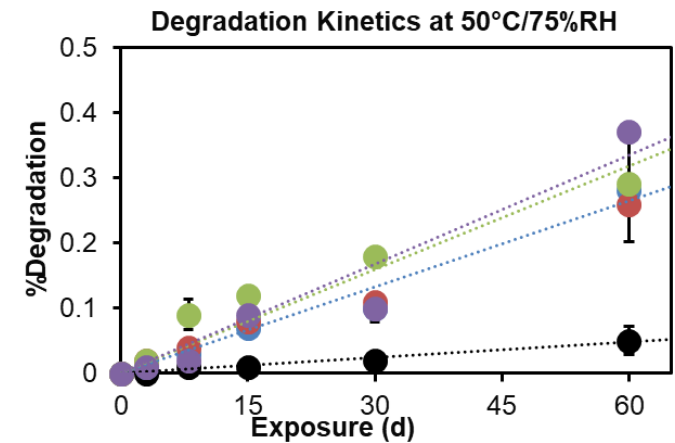
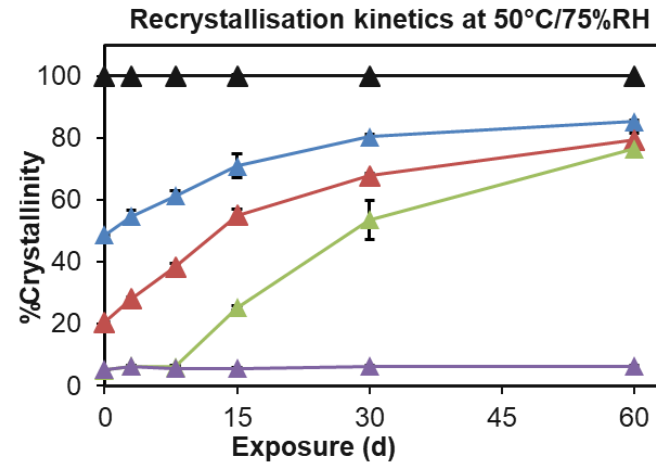
Above 6 months

- The longer the ambient aging, the lesser the crystallization under accel. condition
- Probably due to the relaxation and change in surface energy, microstructure, etc.

# Case 3: Mifepristone

## Competition between sub-T<sub>g</sub> recrystallization and autoxidation

- Degradation depends on the initial amorphous content and crystallization kinetics
- A recrystallization rate normalized degradation kinetics model under work

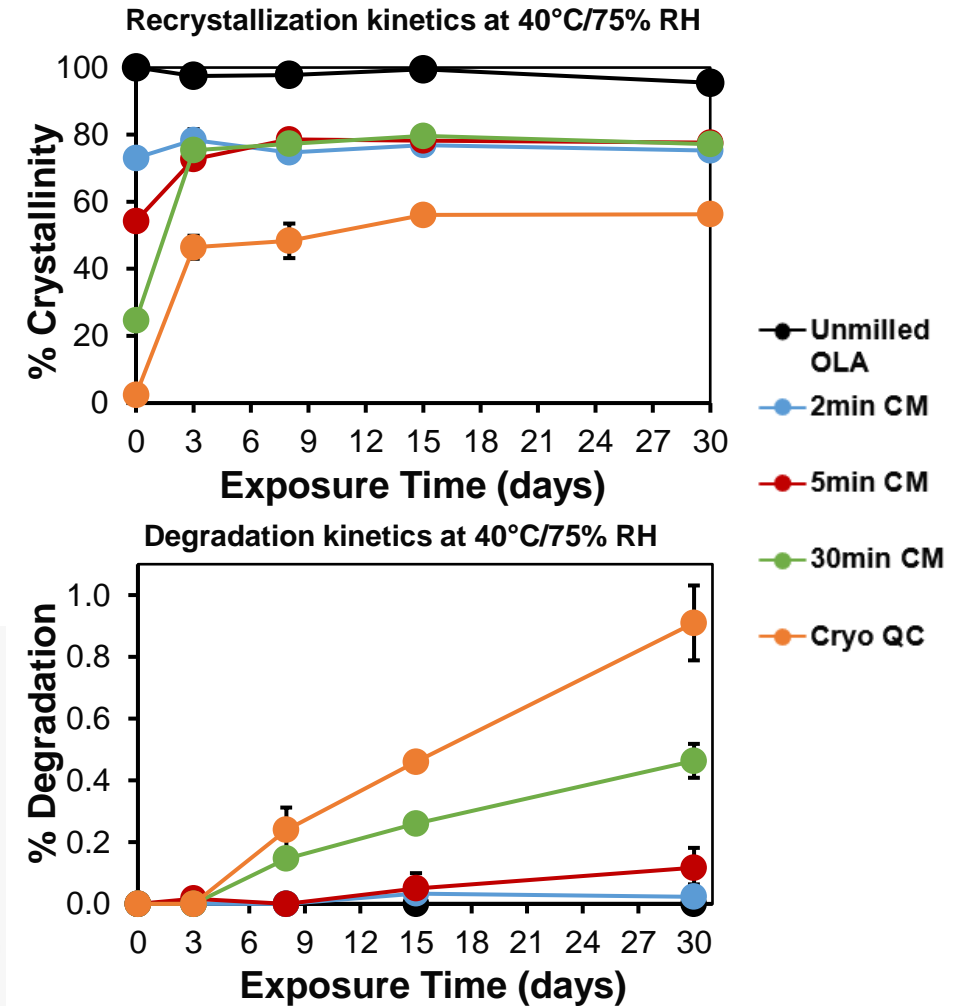
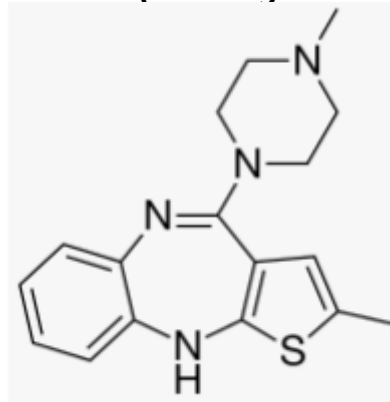


● Unmilled MFP    ● 5min BM MFP    ● 15m BM MFP  
● 180m BM MFP    ● Cryo QC MFP

# Case 4: Olanzapine

## Autoxidation of an intermediate Tg (60°C) disordered system

- Crystallinity reaches an equilibrium after 3d and to the same extent for intermediate disorders
- Degradation precedes crystallization and kinetics differ despite starting from similar content
- Varying degrees of plasticization is possible (study ongoing together with Janssens)

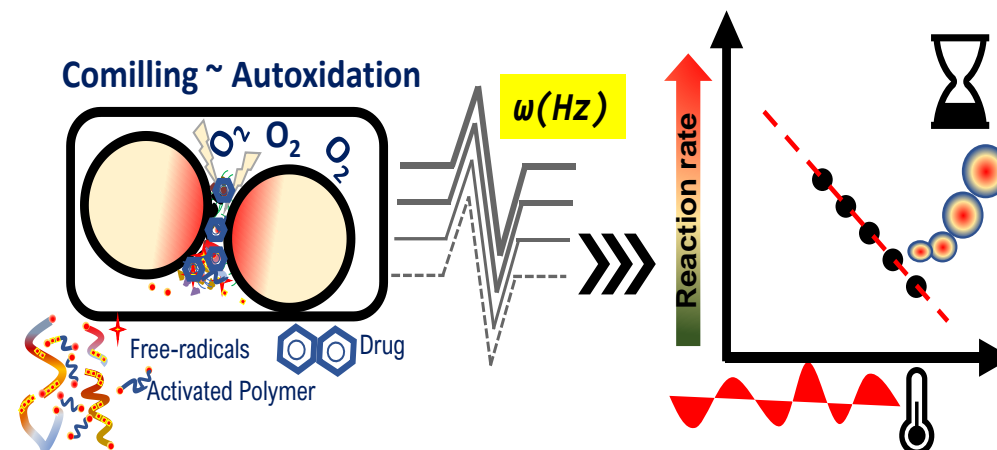


Mechano-  
degradation to  
assess the stability



# Mechanoactivation—a potential tool to assess stability

- A mature field of its own in solid-state synthesis
- Close to RT degradation reaction can be assessed
- Various parameters can be rationally optimized
- Options available for miniaturization, automation
- Possibility to co-mill drug with excipient(s) and/or with other modifiers/stressors



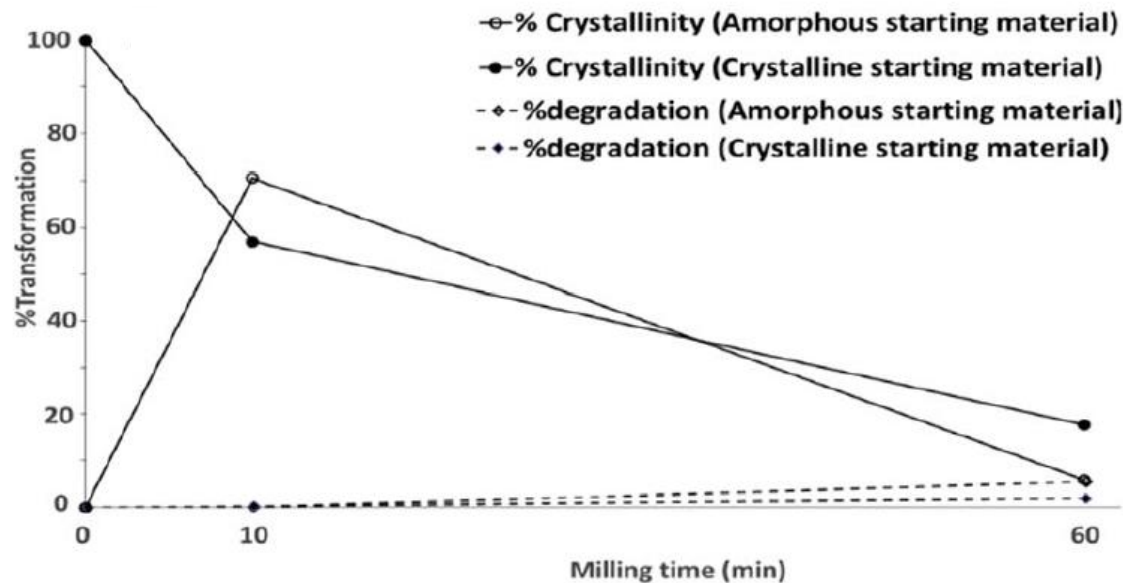
# Case 1: Simvastatin

## Assessing concomitant physical and chemical transition

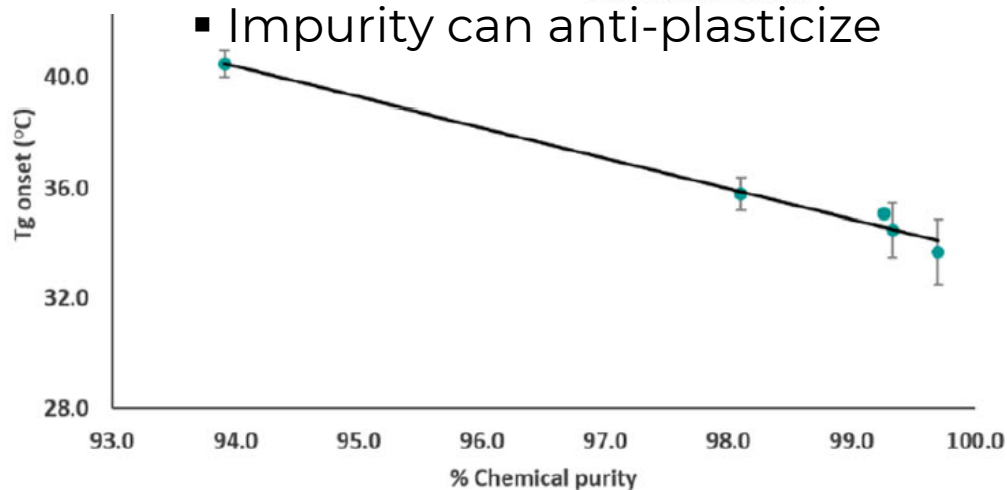
- Solid-state transitions precede degradation

- Selective autoxidation

*Modhave et al 2019*



- Impurity can anti-plasticize





# Case 2: Variable freq milling for degradation assessment

Generated Amorphous Forms  
180m BM MFP and Cryo-Quench cooled OLA

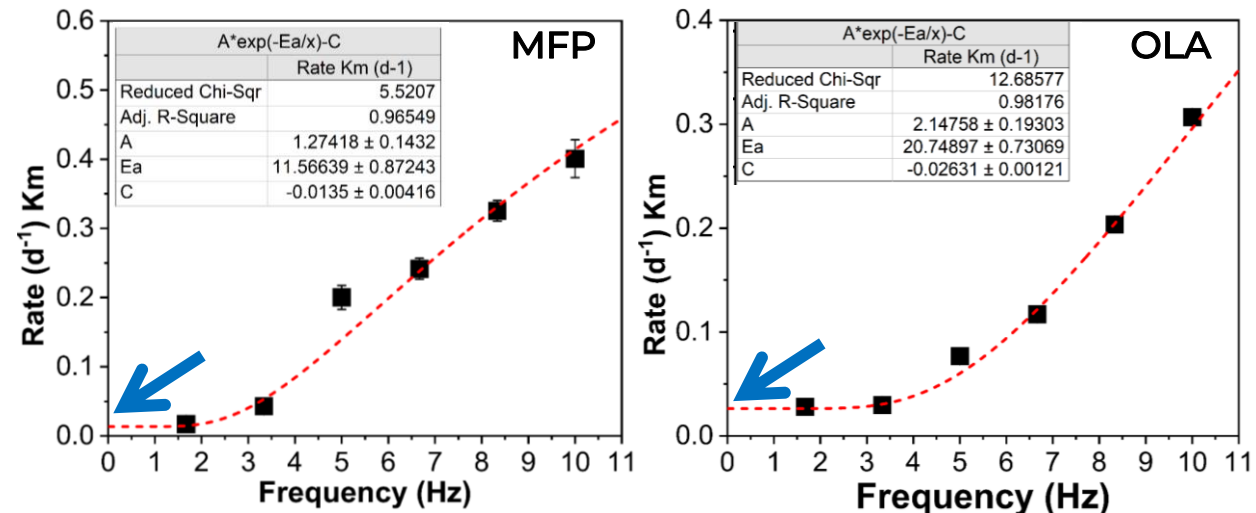
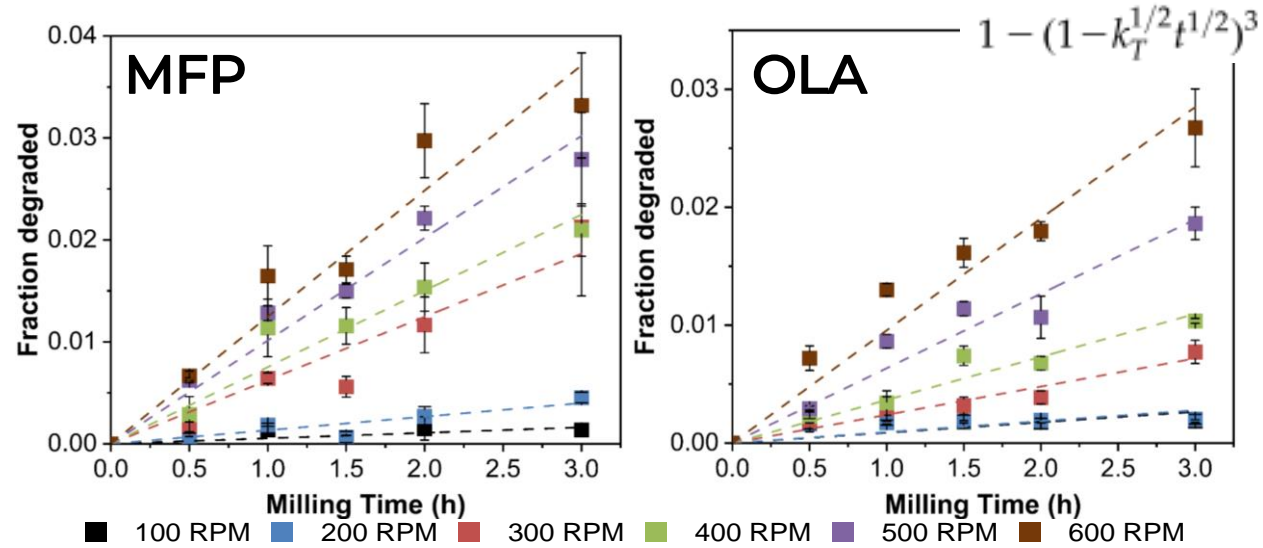
Co-mil kinetics of amo. Drugs with Copovidone Ultra S-630 (1:10)

Fitted to 3d Diffusion Model (Janders) to extract Km's

Fitting Extended Arrhenius model (Km vs Frequency)

Prediction at 0Hz?

$$A \cdot e^{(-E_a/\omega)} - C$$



- Ongoing work for further optimization and generation of conventional deg. data

# Drug degradation in amorphous solid dispersion



# Amorphous solid dispersion (ASD) and autoxidation

- While the physical stability of the ASDs has been a fertile area of research, the chemical instability is largely overlooked
- (auto) oxidative liability can be particularly high as
  - many ASD polymer carriers can contain reactive impurities of synthetic origin (eg peroxide, free radicals), etc.
  - Reactive/oxidative species/ environment generated during stressful ASD product processing like hot melt extrusion, spray drying, mechanical milling, etc.

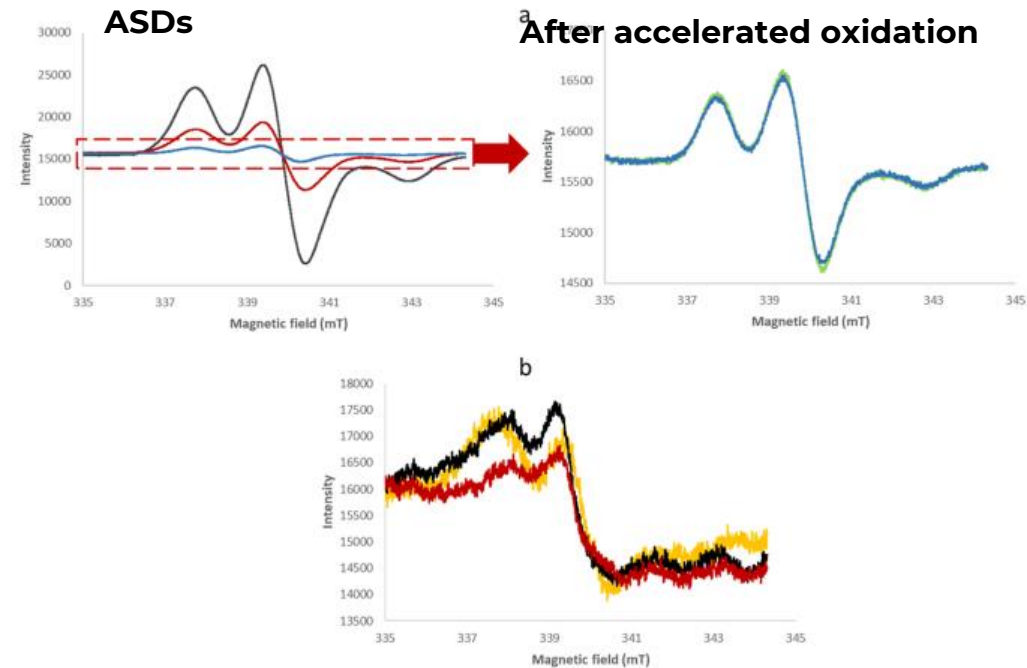
# Nifedipine (NIF) autoxidation in NIF-PVP ASDs

condition	RT		oven		RapidOxy
	25°C/55% RH, 3 years	120 °C, 2 days	90 °C, 12 days	60 °C, 42 days	120 °C, 1 day
%DP-O (NIF-PVP K30)	1.32	2.06	2.12	2.99	19.20
%DP-O (NIF-PVP K90)	0.72	0.34	0.39	0.65	13.70
DP-O ratio (NIF-PVP K30/NIF-PVP K90)	1.83	6.00	5.51	4.62	1.40

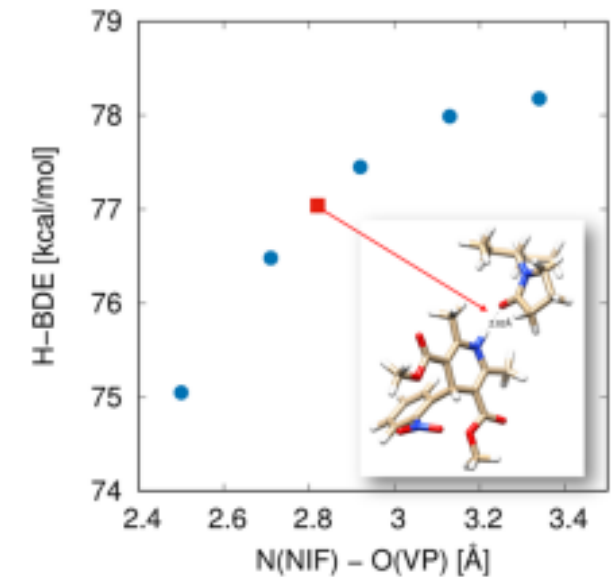
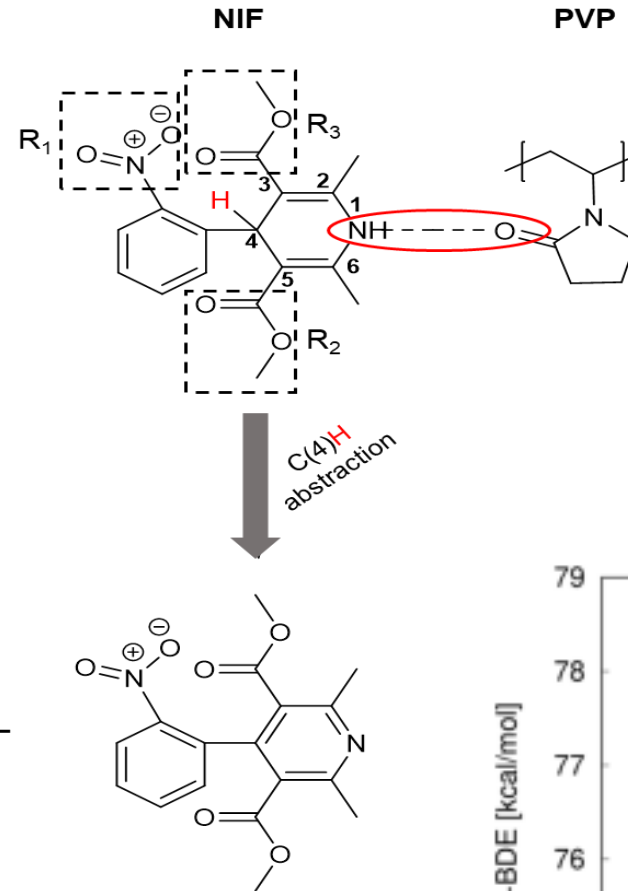
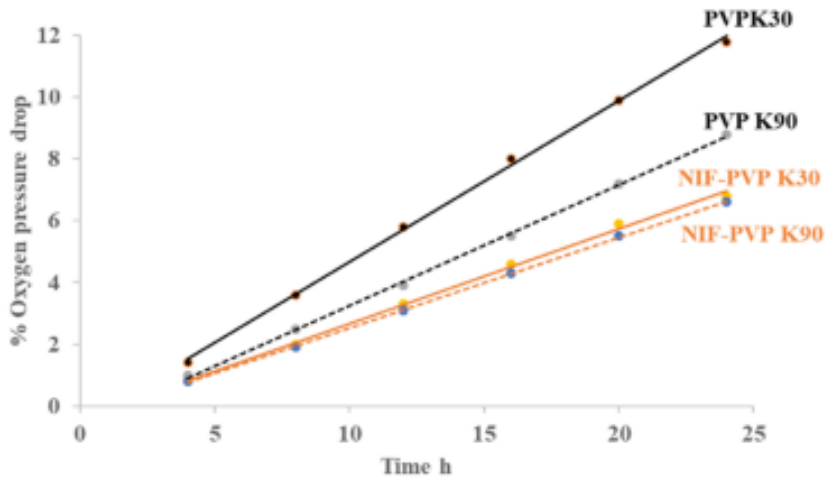


Rapidoxy device

- ASDs prepared of NIF with PVP K30 and PVP K90 via ball milling
- Enhanced radical generation, yet no drug degradation, during ASD preparation
- C-centered radicals decreased after accelerated oxidation



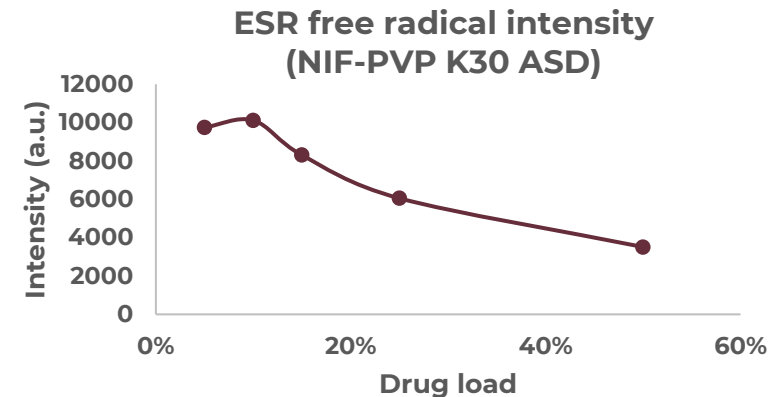
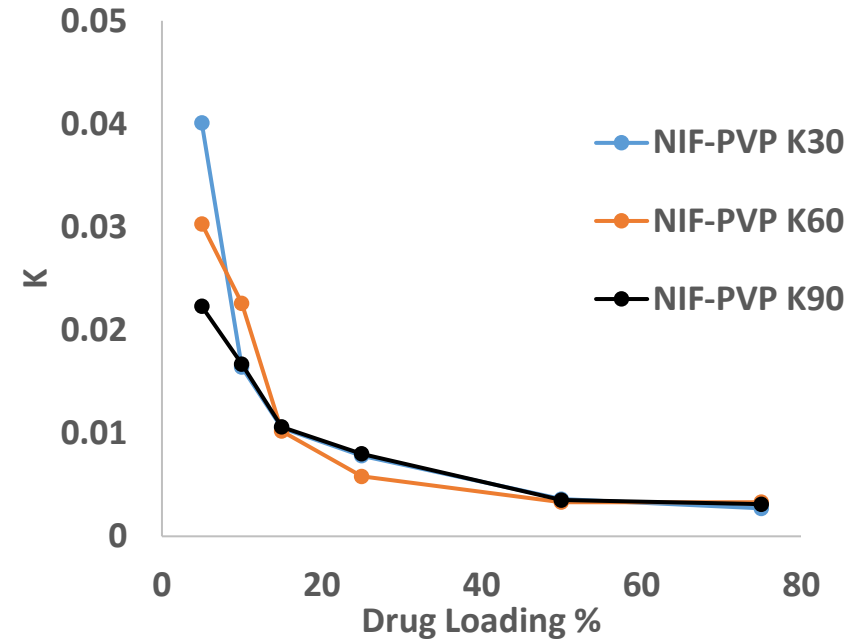
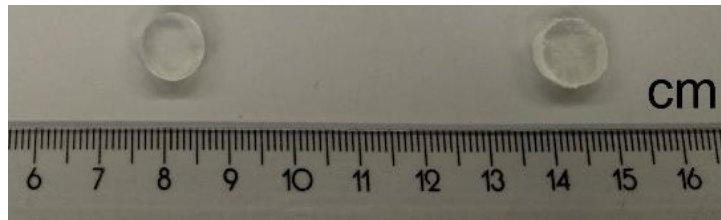
# Nifedipine (NIF) autoxidation in NIF-PVP ASDs



- Oxygen consumption /diffusion higher for NIF-PVP K30 ASDs
- NIF-PVP K30 with lower T<sub>g</sub> than NIF-PVP K90
- Initial radical content in ASD, higher mobility, and oxygen diffusion, stronger H-bond interactions in K30 based system

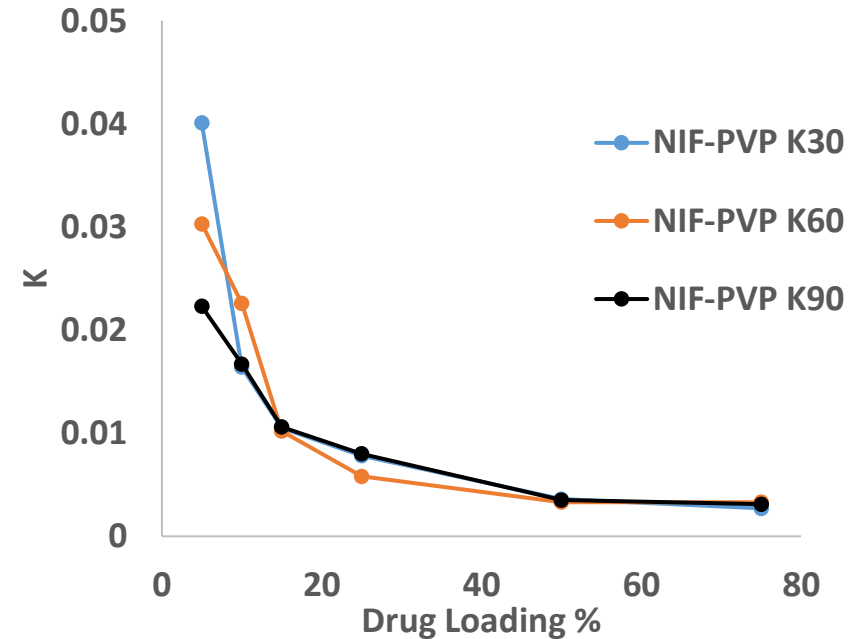
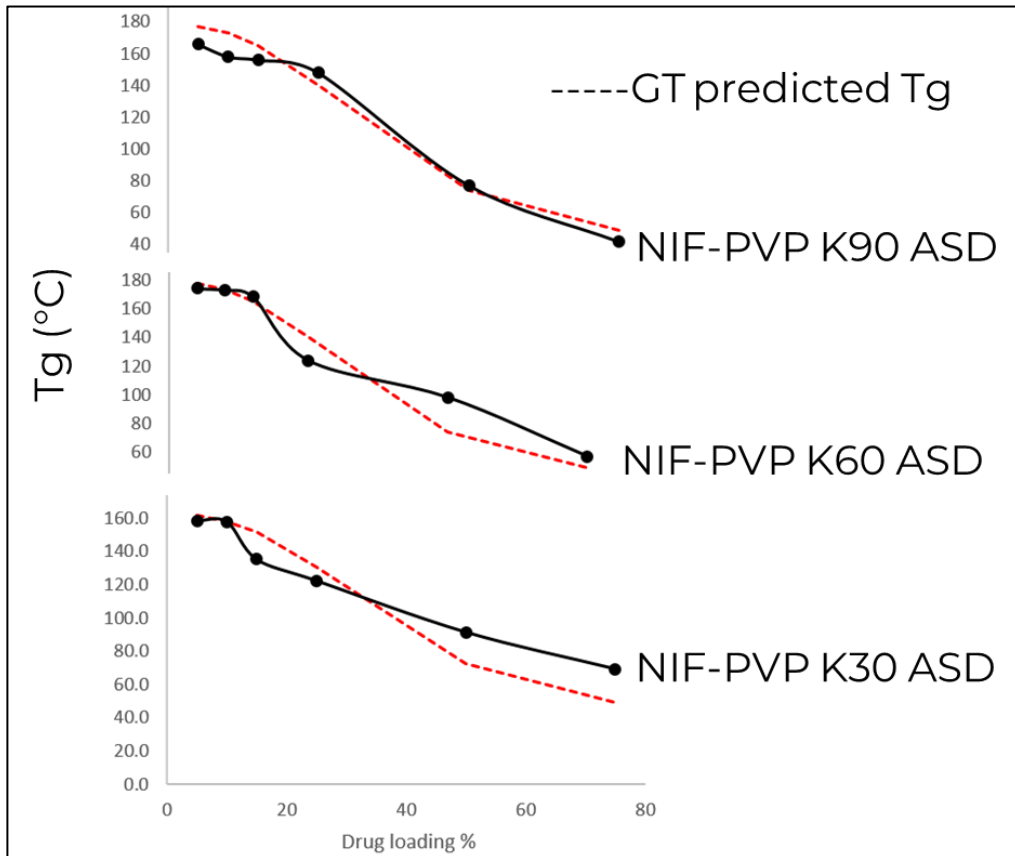
# Drug load and degradation in NIF- PVP ASD

- ASDs were prepared as monoliths by solidifying isotropic melt, so virtually no particulate level interfaces exist (BET SSA below LoD)
- Therefore, here the effect would be dilution effect, free radical to NIF available per unit mass, and possibly other physical molecular interactions
- So, we might be dealing with fractal percolation effect (eg. interface fractal)



# Drug load and degradation in NIF- PVP ASD

- Does molecular miscibility in ASD as a function of drug load contribute to the fractal?



# Inferences





- Disordered solid and degradation:
  - “Disordering increases degradation propensity” is not a myth, yet the relation between them may not always be proportional
  - Reverse effect: degradant’s effects on disorder stability need to be considered
  - The age of disordered solid can have a prominent impact on stability outcome
- Mechanoactivated degradation holds the potential to be further explored as an early risk assessment tool
- The chemical stability of the drug in ASD can be factored by excipient RI, and also physical interactions and drug load showed the resembling trait reported before for crystalline particle-based formulations

# THANKS TO !

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## Students

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Adrian Davis,  
Garry Scrivens  
Lucy Morgan..



Helen Williams  
Pamela Harrison  
Andrew Ray  
& team



Hana Prokopcova &  
team



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Kristina  
Kassner



Ferdinand Hofer, Stephan  
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Thank  
you!

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