

# **Automated Measurements of Precipitation, Supersaturation and Biphasic Dissolution**

**John Comer**  
Chief Scientific Officer

# Two aspects of precipitation

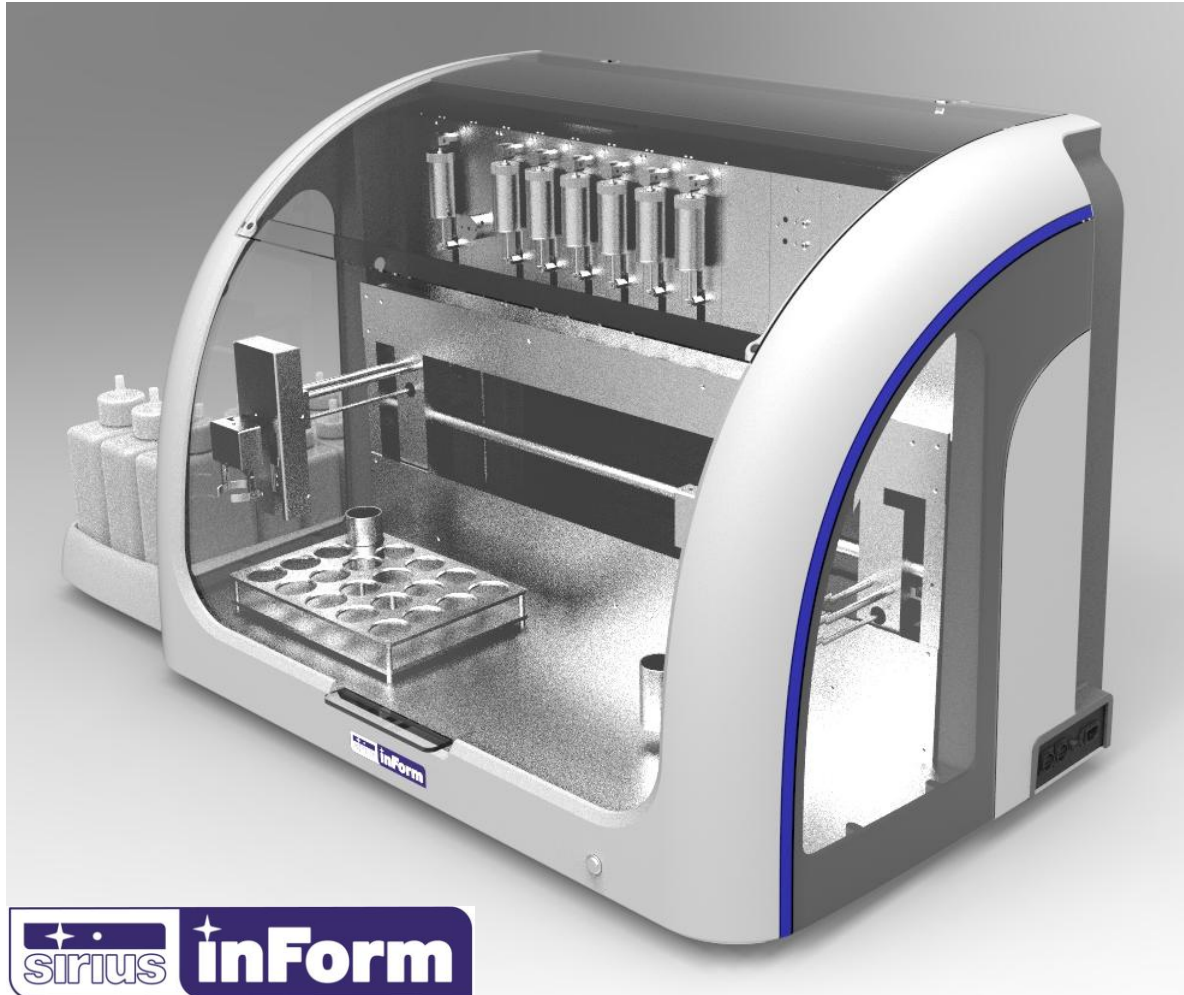
## UNDERSTANDING PRECIPITATION

- Drugs may fall out of solution
- Other stuff may fall out of solution

## DEALING WITH PRECIPITATION

- Can we measure concentration in the presence of suspended solids?

1. Controlled supersaturation experiments
  - Concentration by pH. Concentration by UV.
2. Dealing with suspended solids
  - Baseline correction
3. Supersaturation examples: felodipine, ketoconazole
  - A clear understanding revealed
4. Biorelevant and Biphasic dissolution
  - Precipitation under aqueous conditions
  - No precipitation in presence of SIFs or lipid



**Sirius inForm**  
**- new instrument for use in Formulation studies**

# Controlled supersaturation by pH

Inert gas

Temperature probe

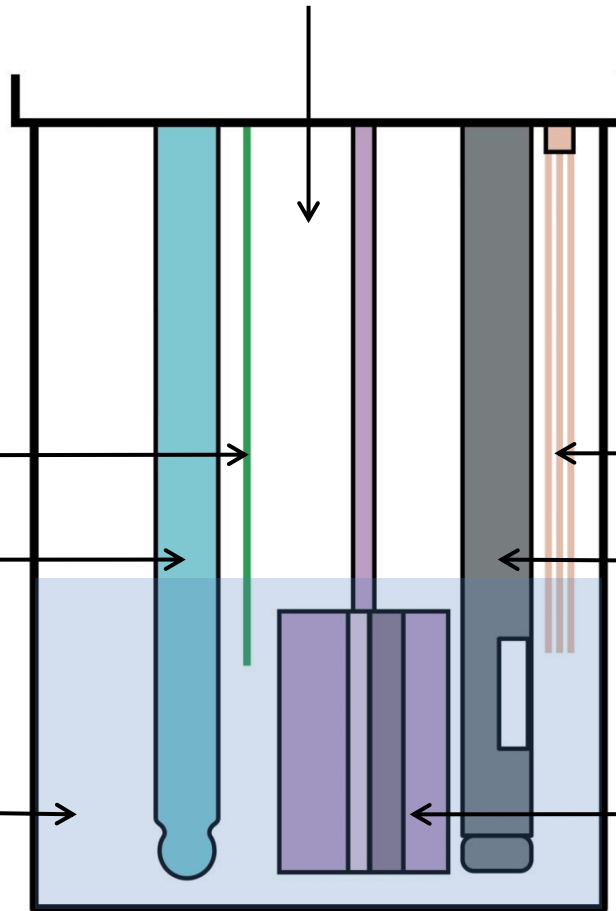
pH electrode

Sample solution

Reagent capillaries

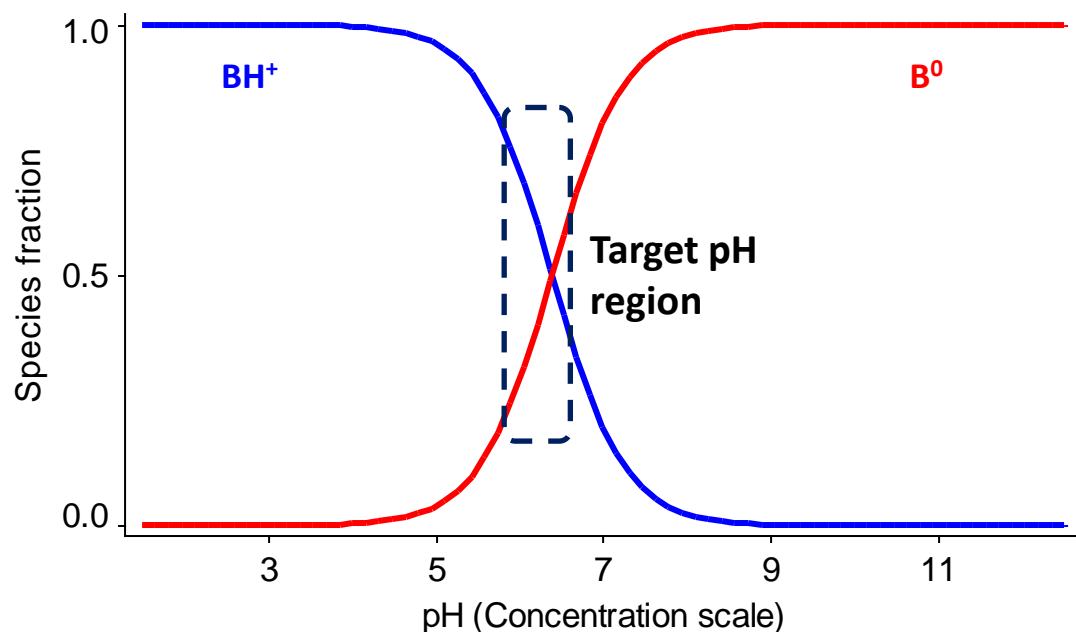
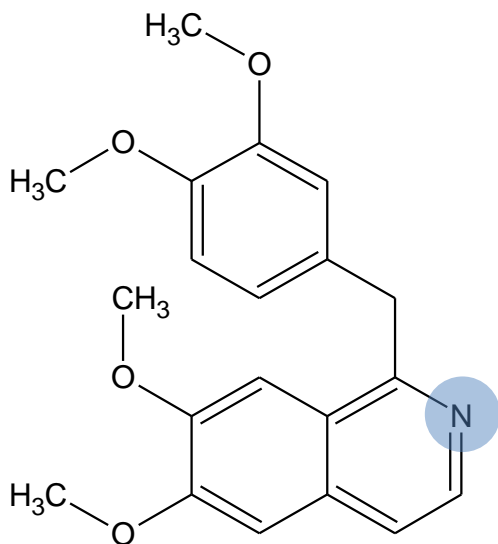
UV probe

Stirrer

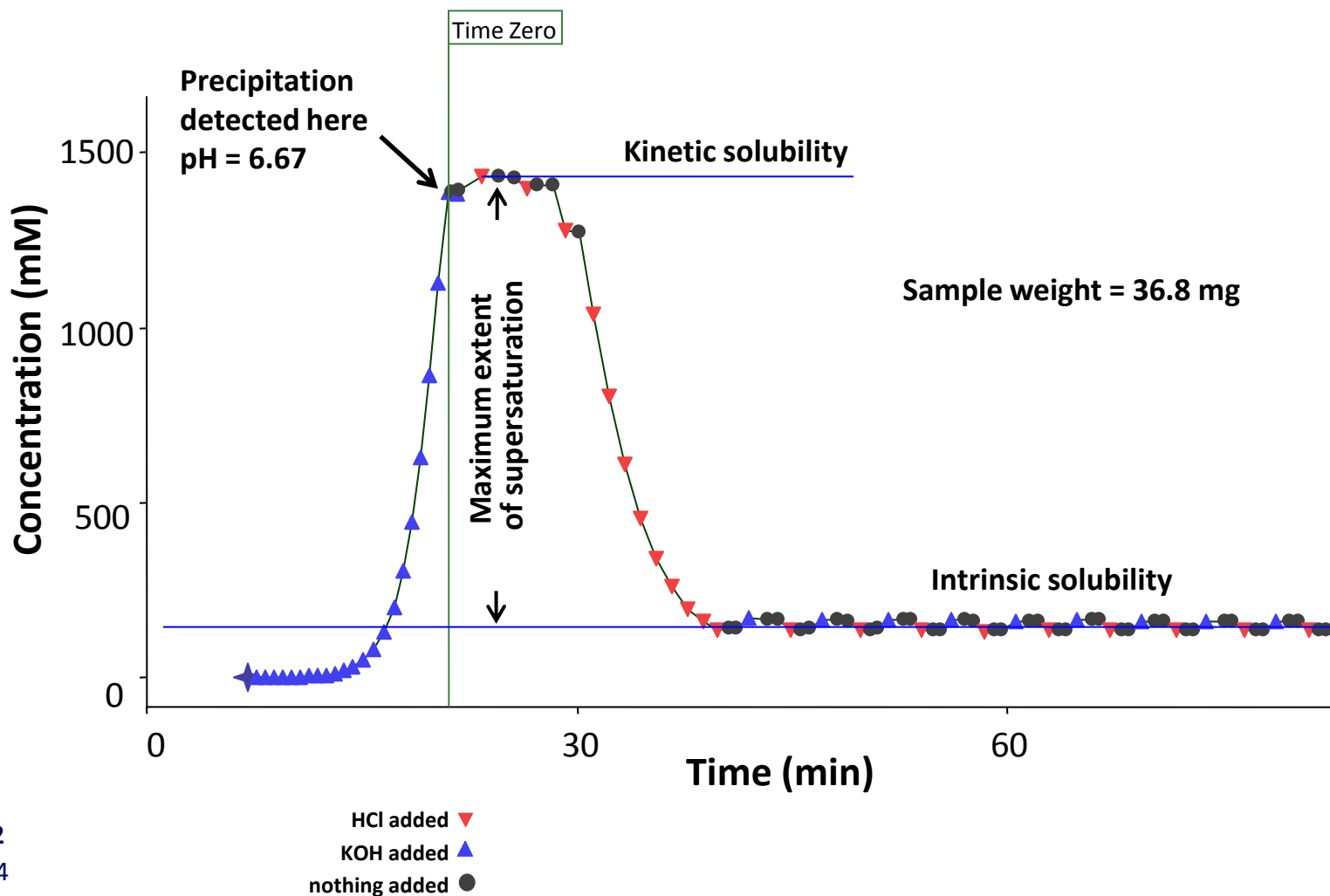


# Controlled supersaturation by pH

- Papaverine:  $pK_a = 6.39$ . 17 – 37 mg of solid sample
- Sample dissolves at low pH
- Investigated by CheqSol

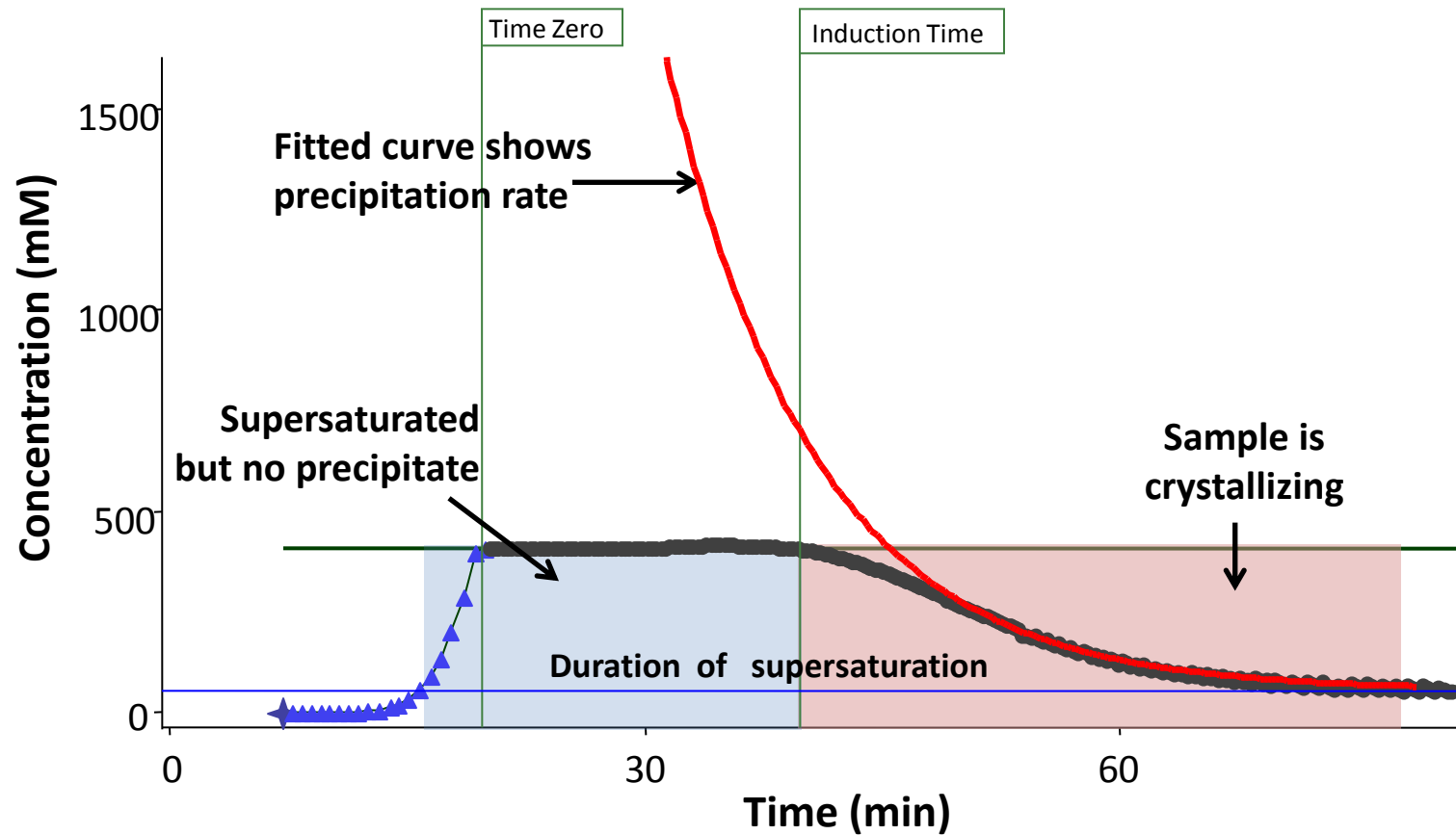


# Forced precipitation to find the Target pH

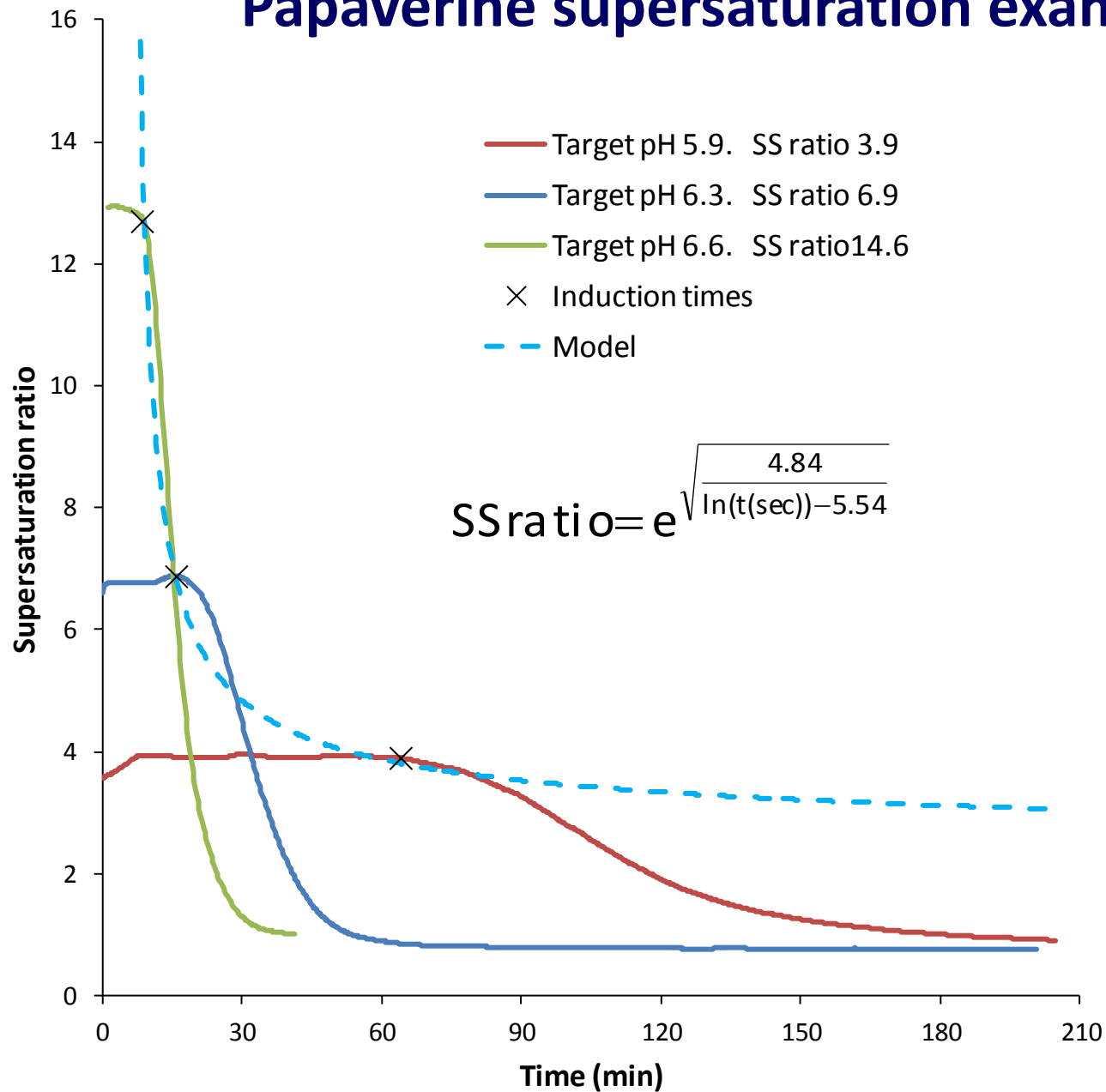




# Controlled supersaturation: Target pH 6.3



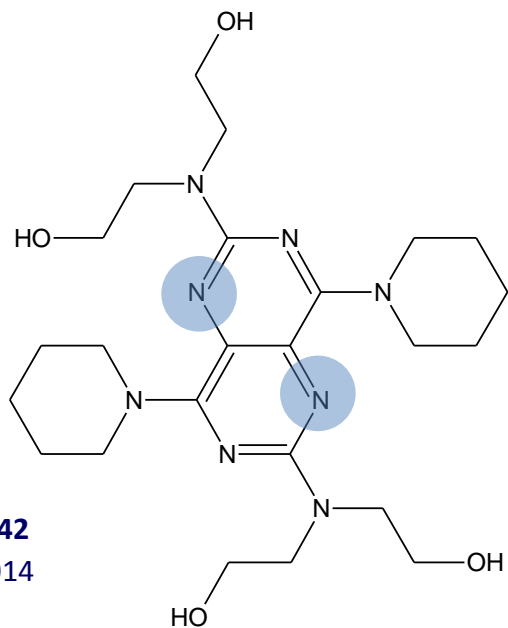
# Papaverine supersaturation examples



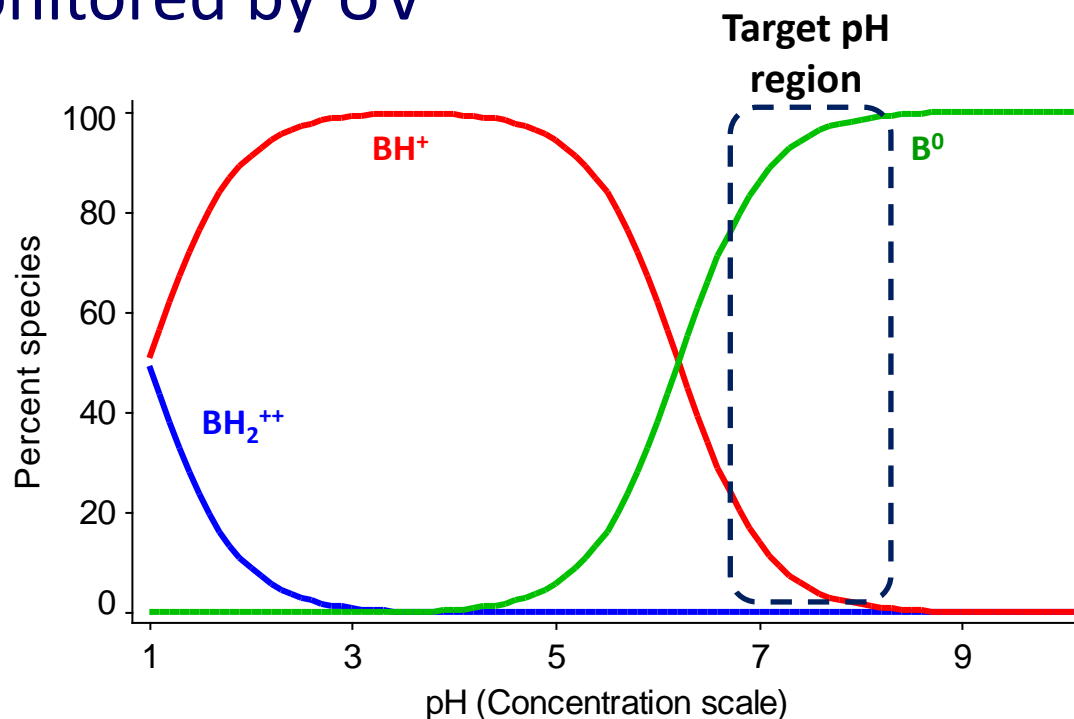
# Controlled supersaturation by UV

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- Dipyridamole:  $pK_a = 6.17$ . 10mM in DMSO
- Aqueous solution prepared at “Target pH”
- Aliquot of DMSO stock injected in solution to create supersaturated solution (“solvent shift method”)
- Concentration monitored by UV

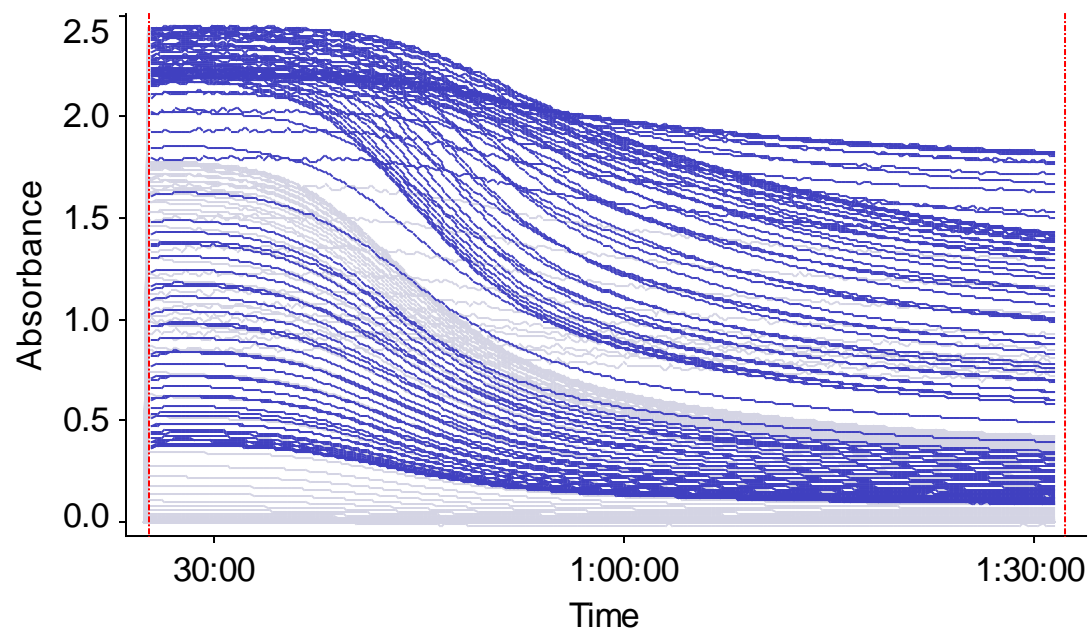


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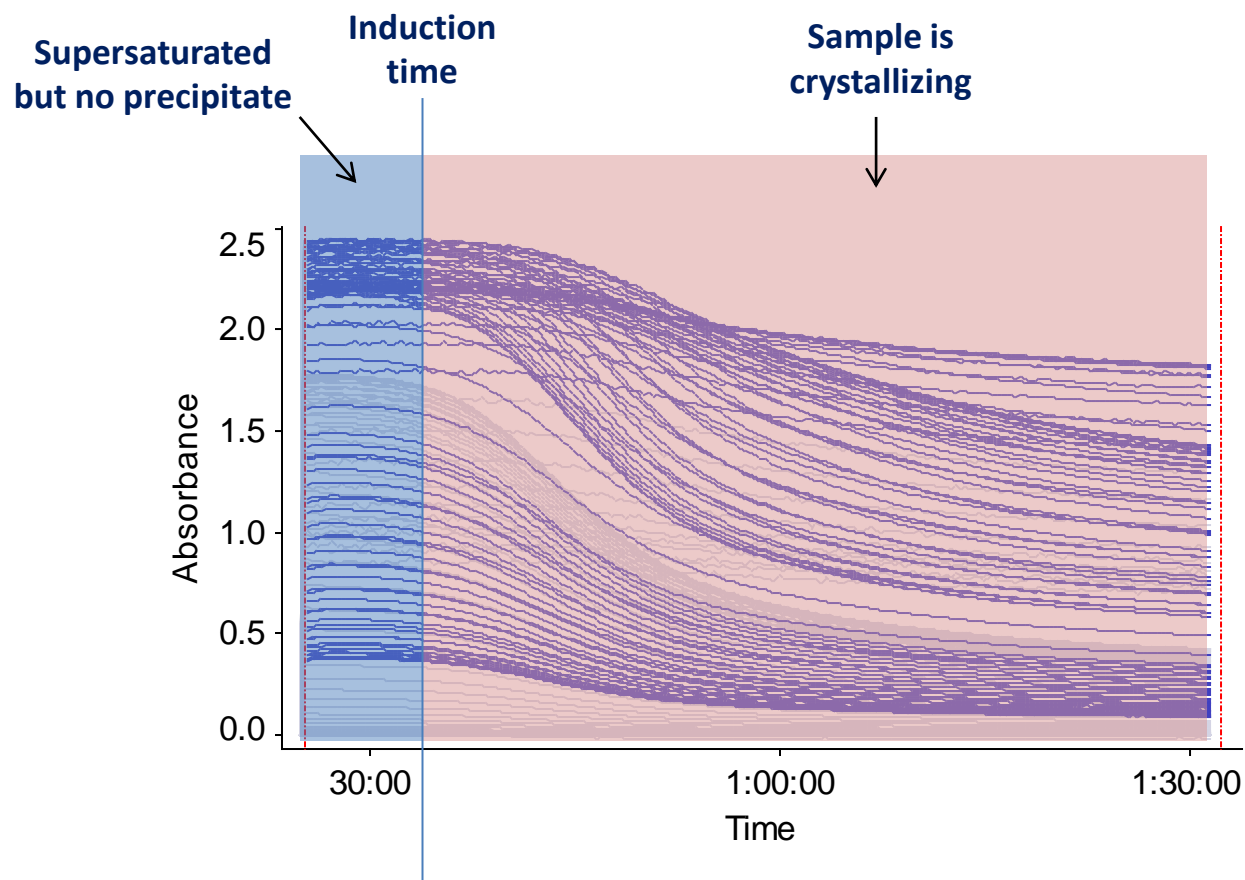
Target pH 6.89

0.515 mL of 10 mM stock injected into 40 mL of solution

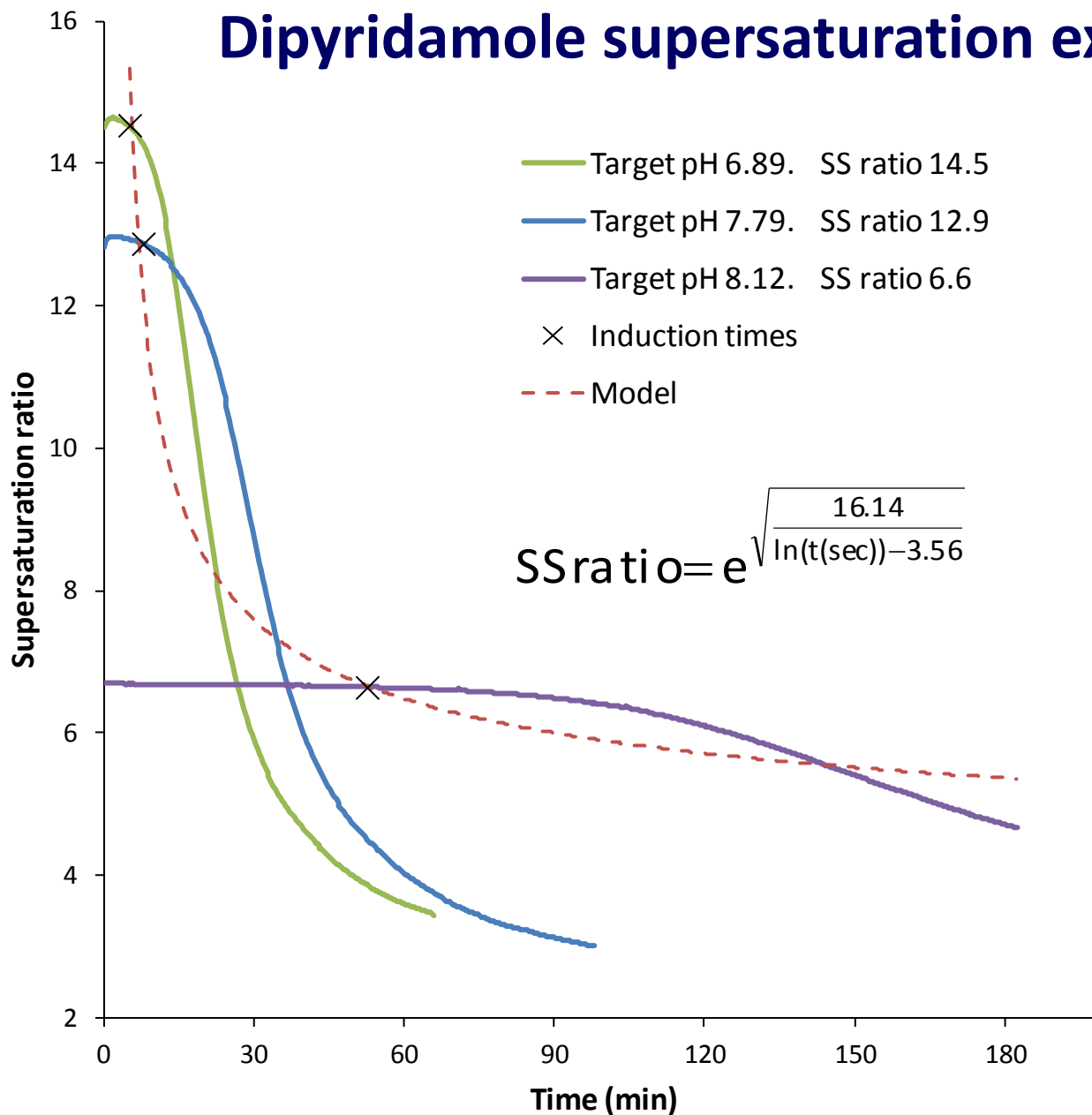


Target pH 6.89

0.515 mL of 10 mM stock injected into 40 mL of solution



# Dipyridamole supersaturation examples



# Measuring concentration in the presence of solid



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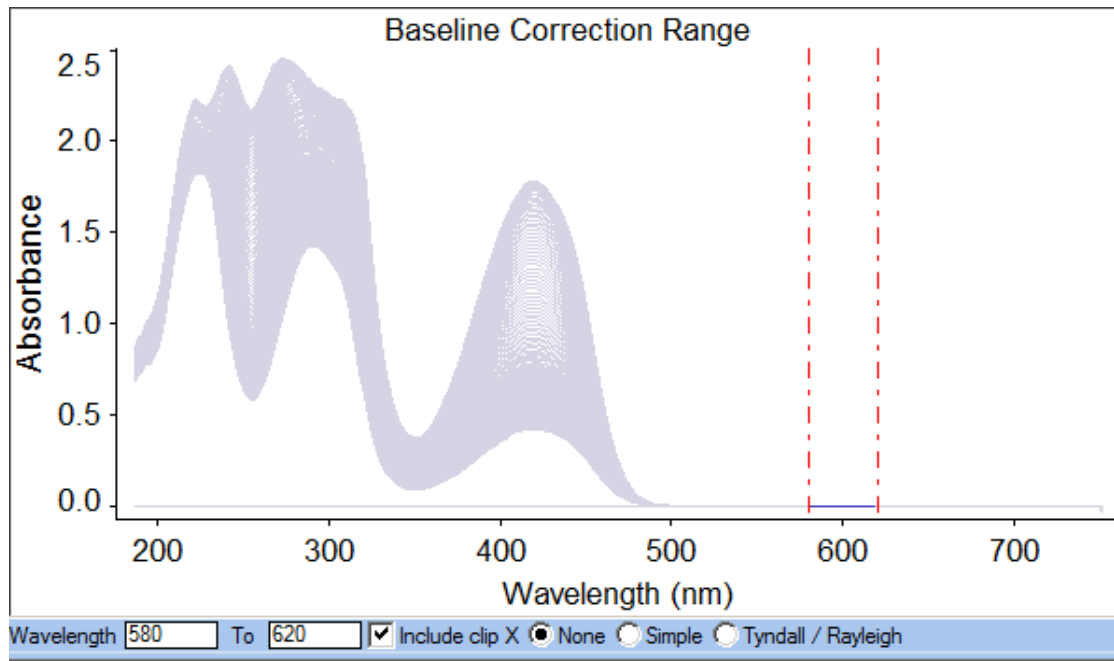
- By pH
  - Turbidity no problem.
  - Sample needs ionizable group
  - pH of solution must be  $pK_a \pm 2$
  - Tricky for very poorly soluble samples
- Taking aliquots, measuring off-line
  - Sounds easy, but there are problems
- Using in-situ UV
  - Sample needs chromophore
  - Need to deal with turbidity

## Problems with measuring off-line

- What we want: concentration vs. time while sample is precipitating
- Possible problems:
  - Sample may precipitate in needle
  - Sample is filtered but continues precipitating in filtrate
  - May need to dilute the filtrate to re-dissolve the precipitate
  - May need to evaporate the filtrate and then re-dissolve in solvent
  - Messy and a lot of work!

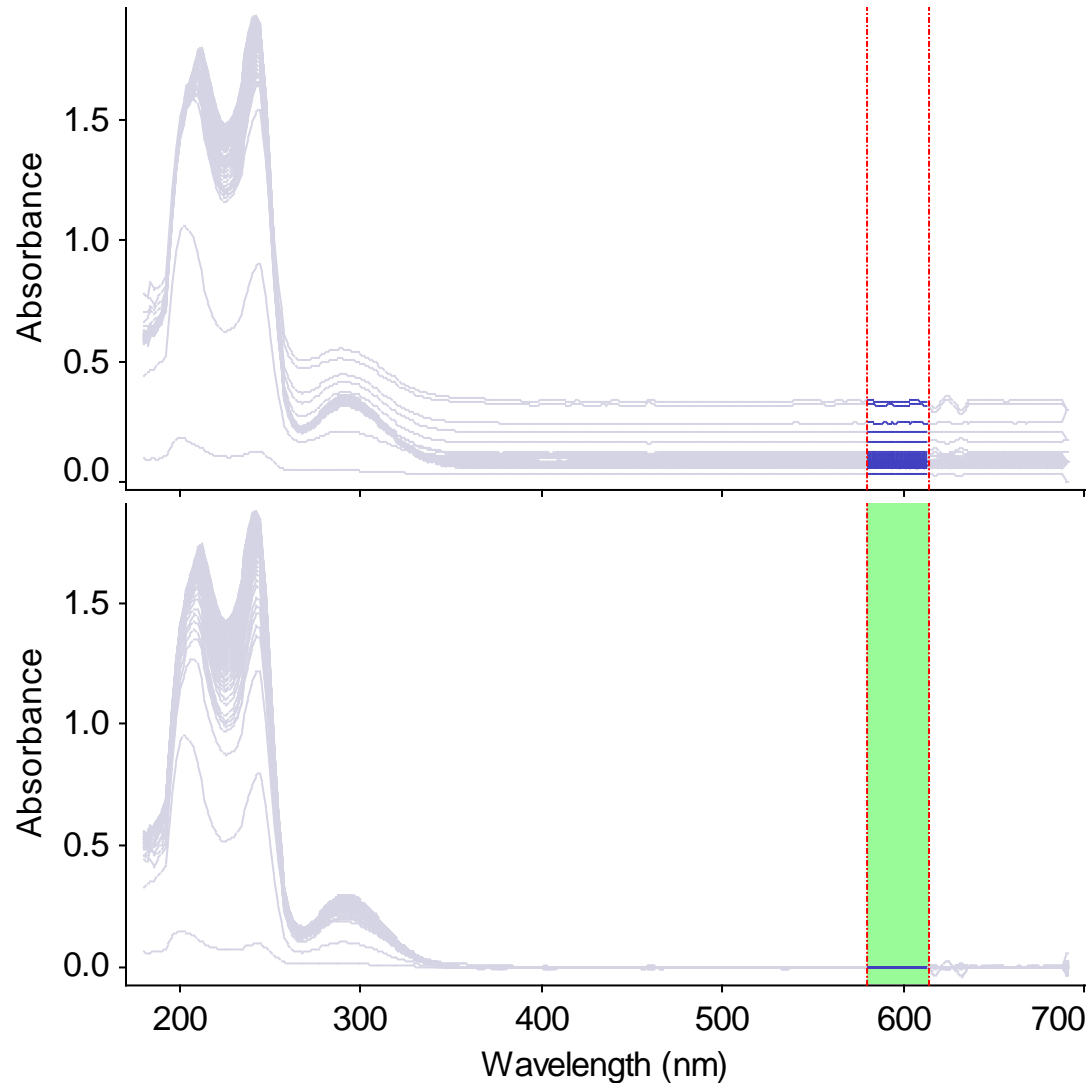
# In situ UV, no base line correction

Data from dipyrindamole controlled supersaturation  
 Sample was crystallizing



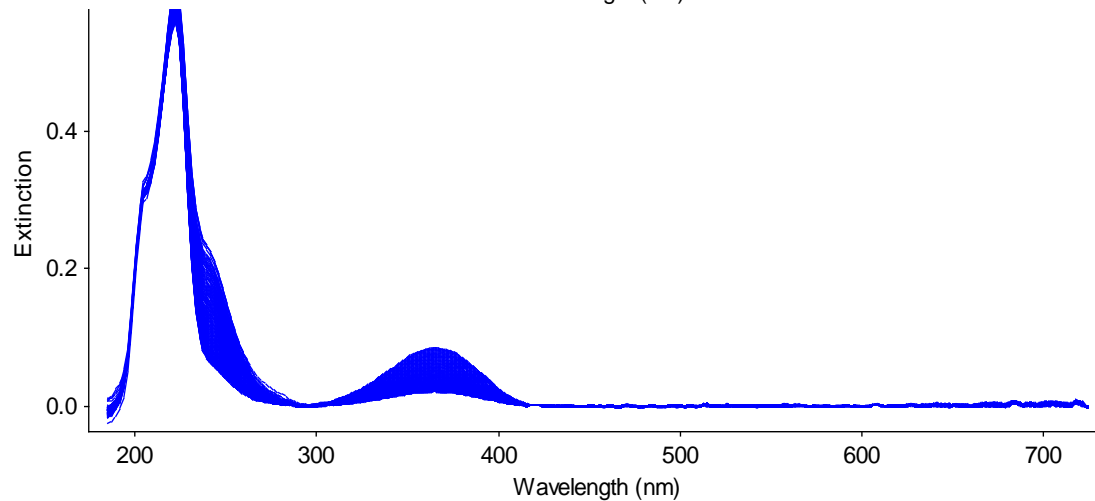
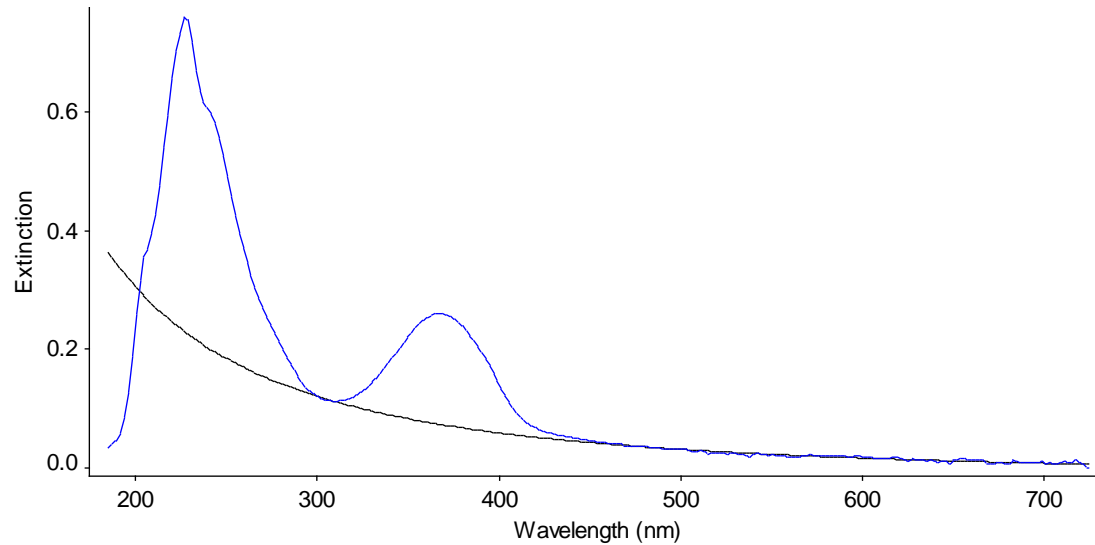
# In situ UV, simple base line correction

Dissolution of prochlorperazine tablet (5 mg) at pH 2.1: Excipient particles present



# In situ UV, Tyndall-Rayleigh baseline correction

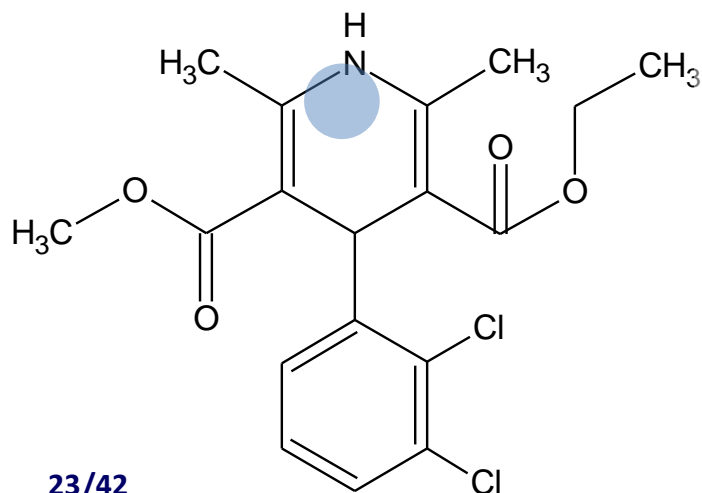
Data from felodipine supersaturation study: Amorphous suspension present



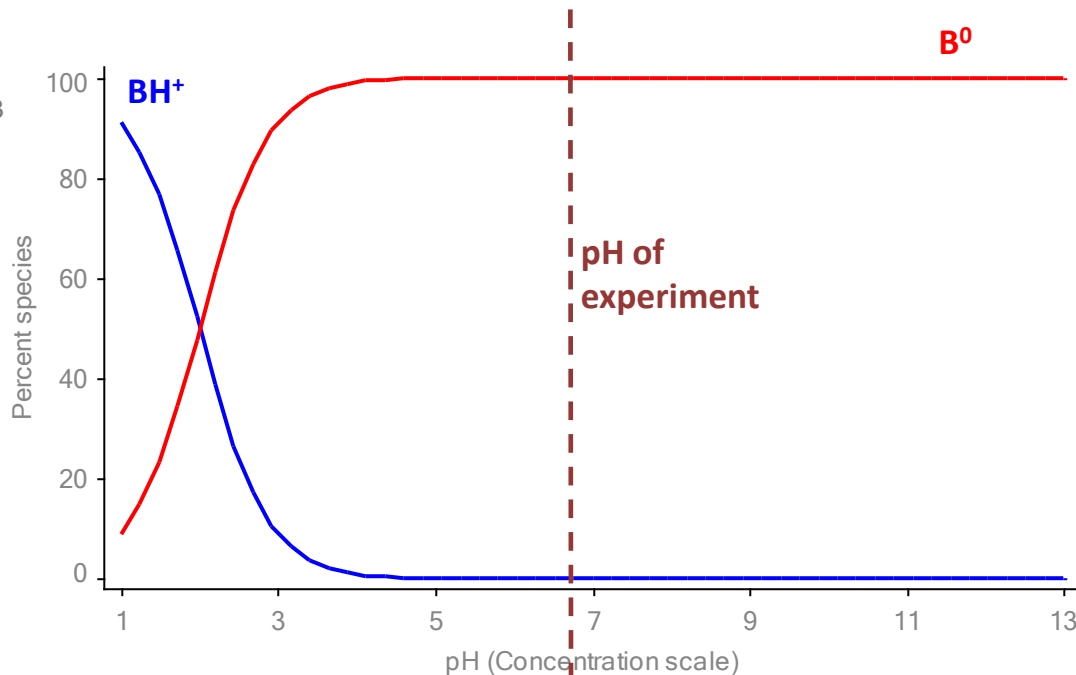
# Felodipine supersaturation study

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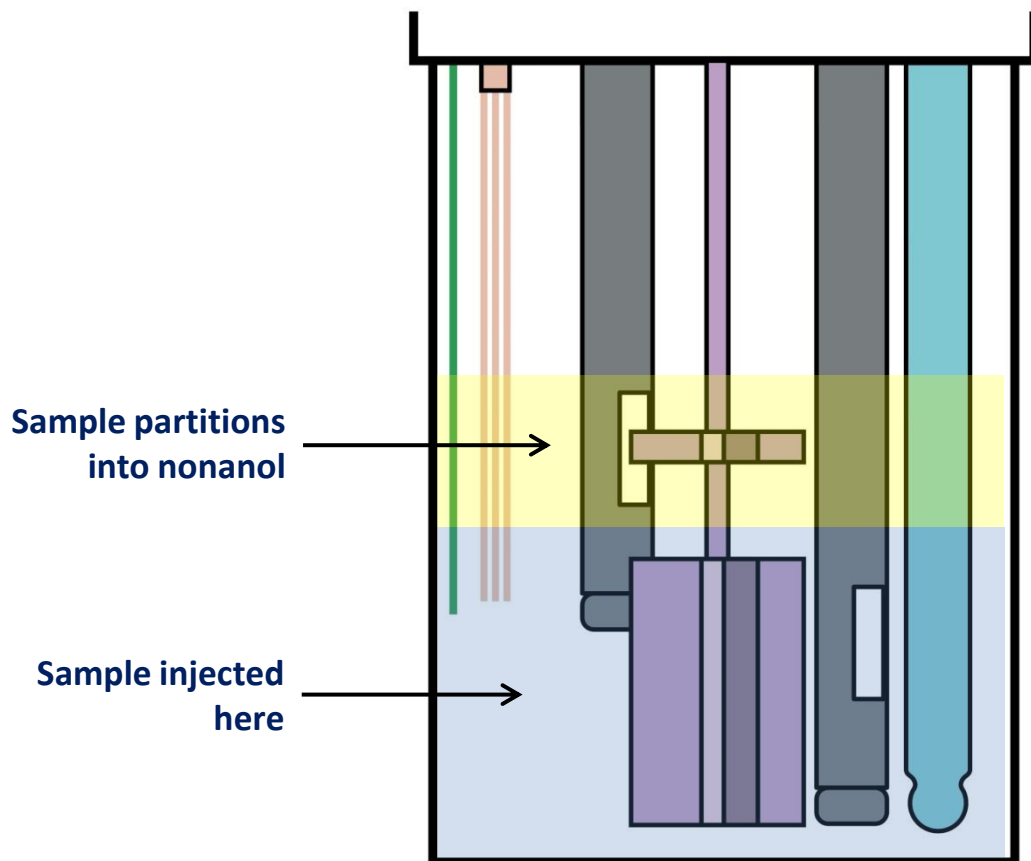
- Felodipine: very weak base ( $pK_a < 2$ ). 10mM in DMSO
- Aqueous solution prepared at pH 6.8
- Aliquot of DMSO stock injected in solution to create supersaturated solution (“solvent shift method”)
- We studied this in biphasic system



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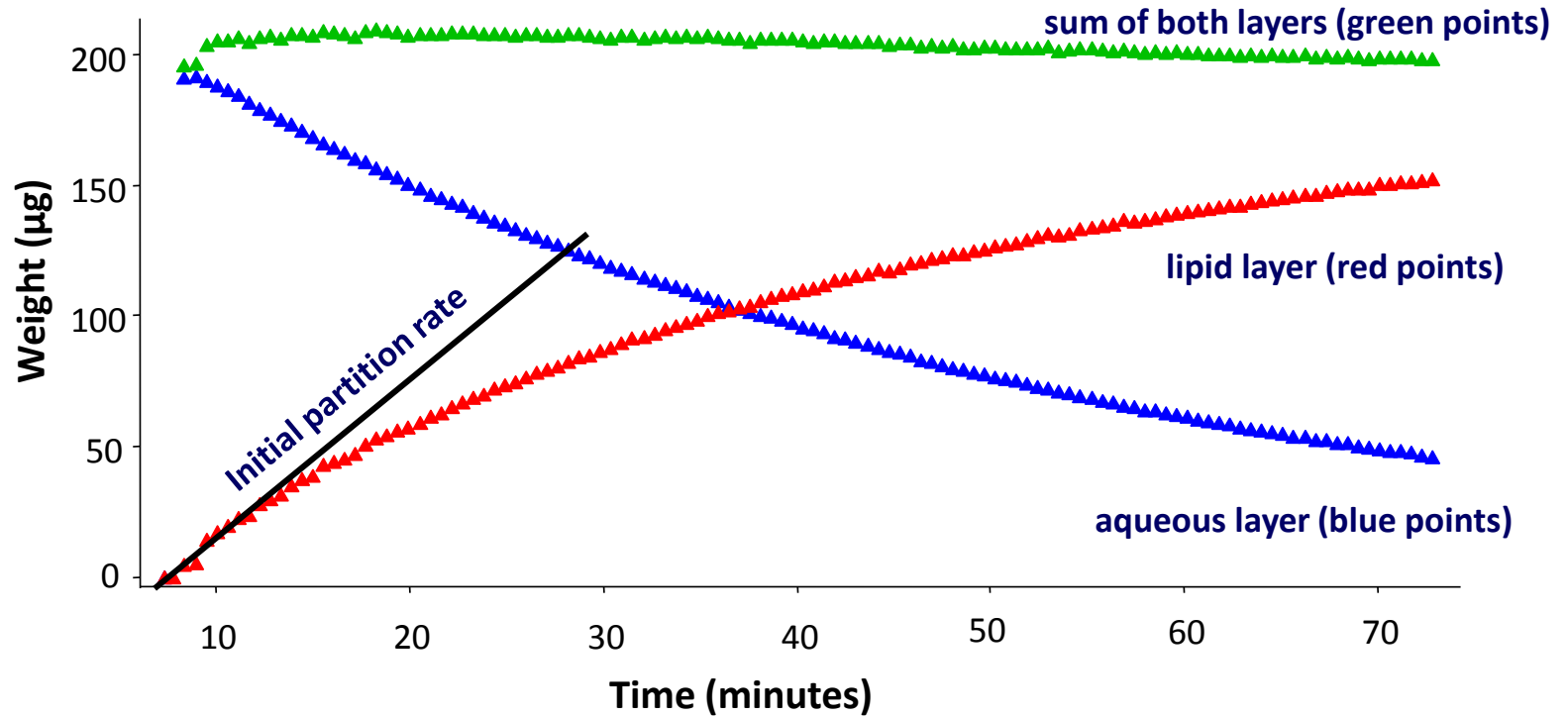


# Cell used for biphasic solvent shift experiments





# Felodipine - dissolved mass versus time

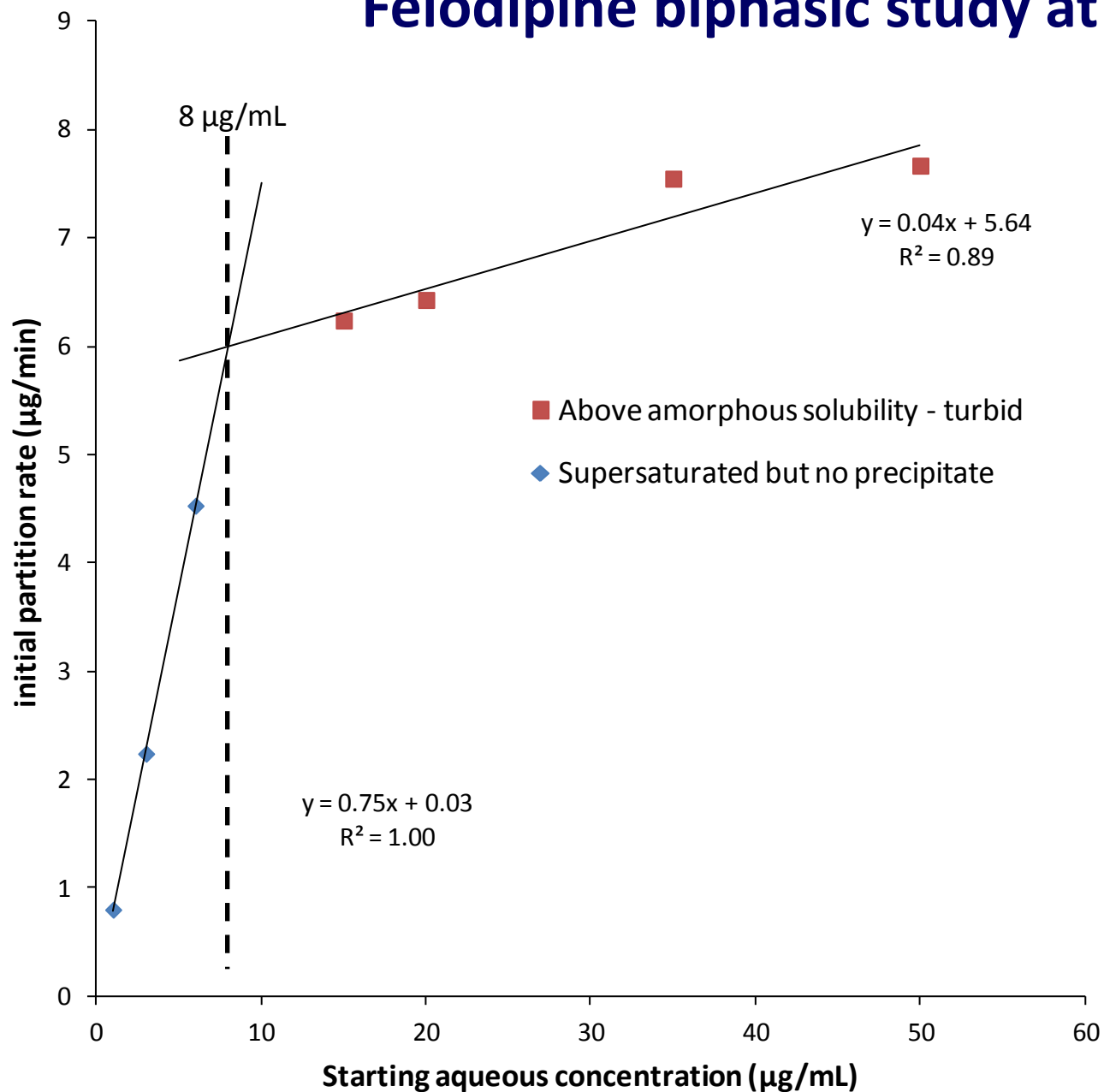


Box, K. et al.

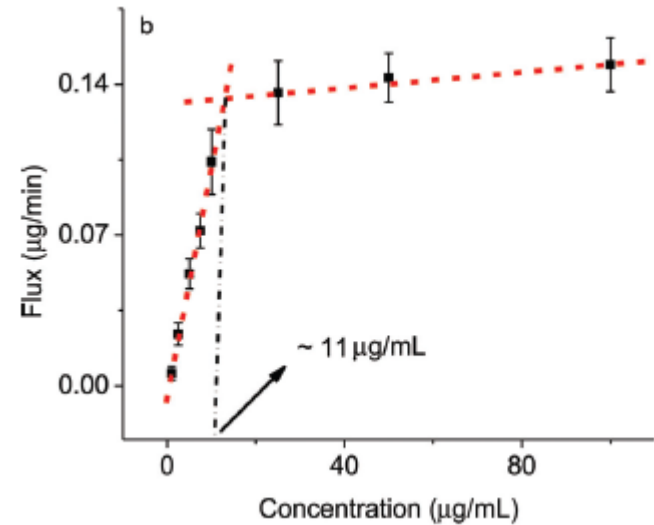
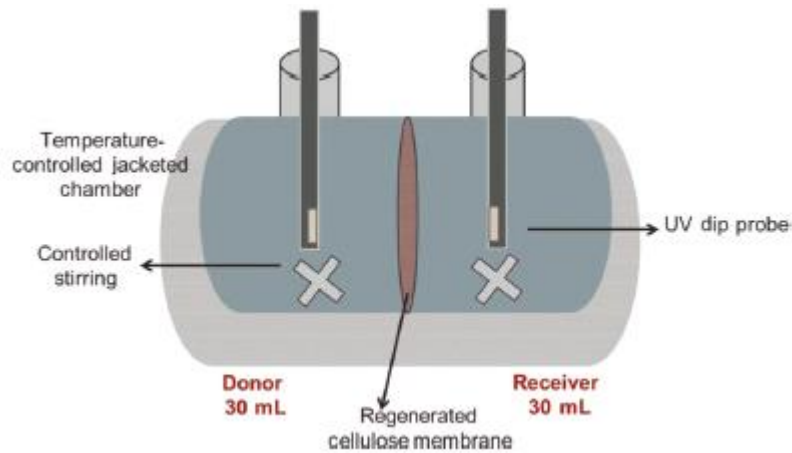
Biphasic dissolution studies of Felodipine: understanding the effect of amorphous solubility on the rate of partition.

Poster, AAPS Annual Meeting 2013. Download from [www.sirius-analytical.com](http://www.sirius-analytical.com)

# Felodipine biphasic study at 25°C



# Felodipine permeation study at 37°C

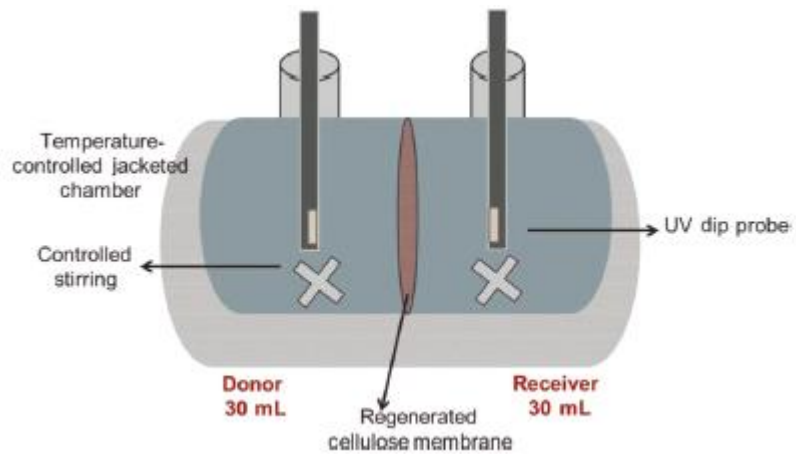


“Side-by-side diffusion cell”

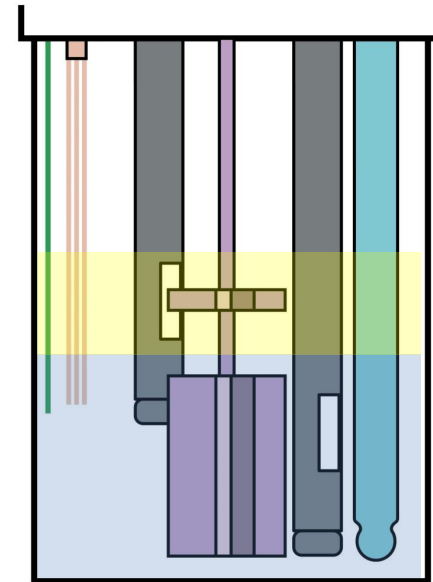
Raina, S.A. et al.

Enhancements and Limits in Drug Membrane Transport Using Supersaturated Solutions of Poorly Water-Soluble Drugs.

J Pharm Sci 2014, DOI 10.1002/jps.23826



**“Side-by-side diffusion cell”**

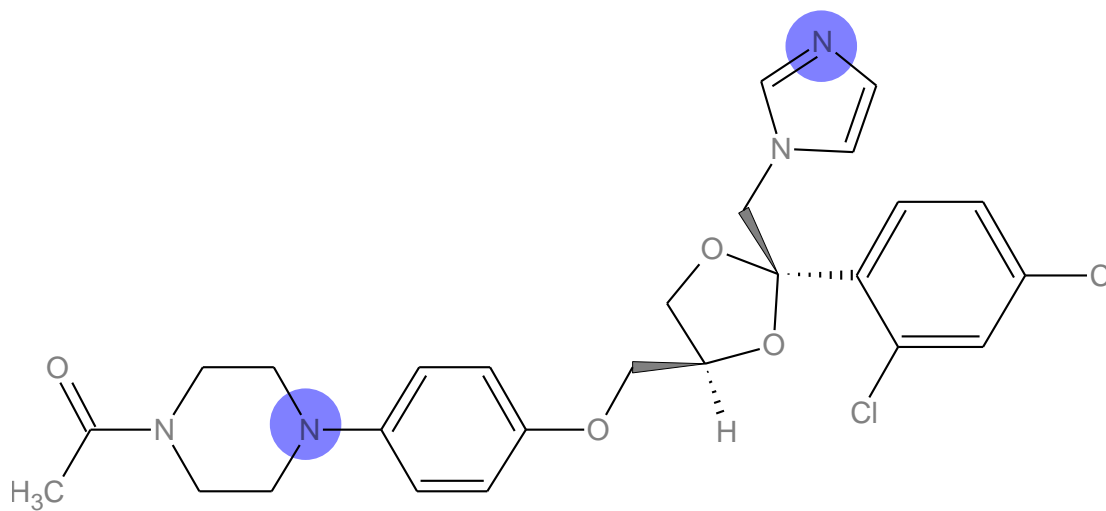


**Biphasic cell**

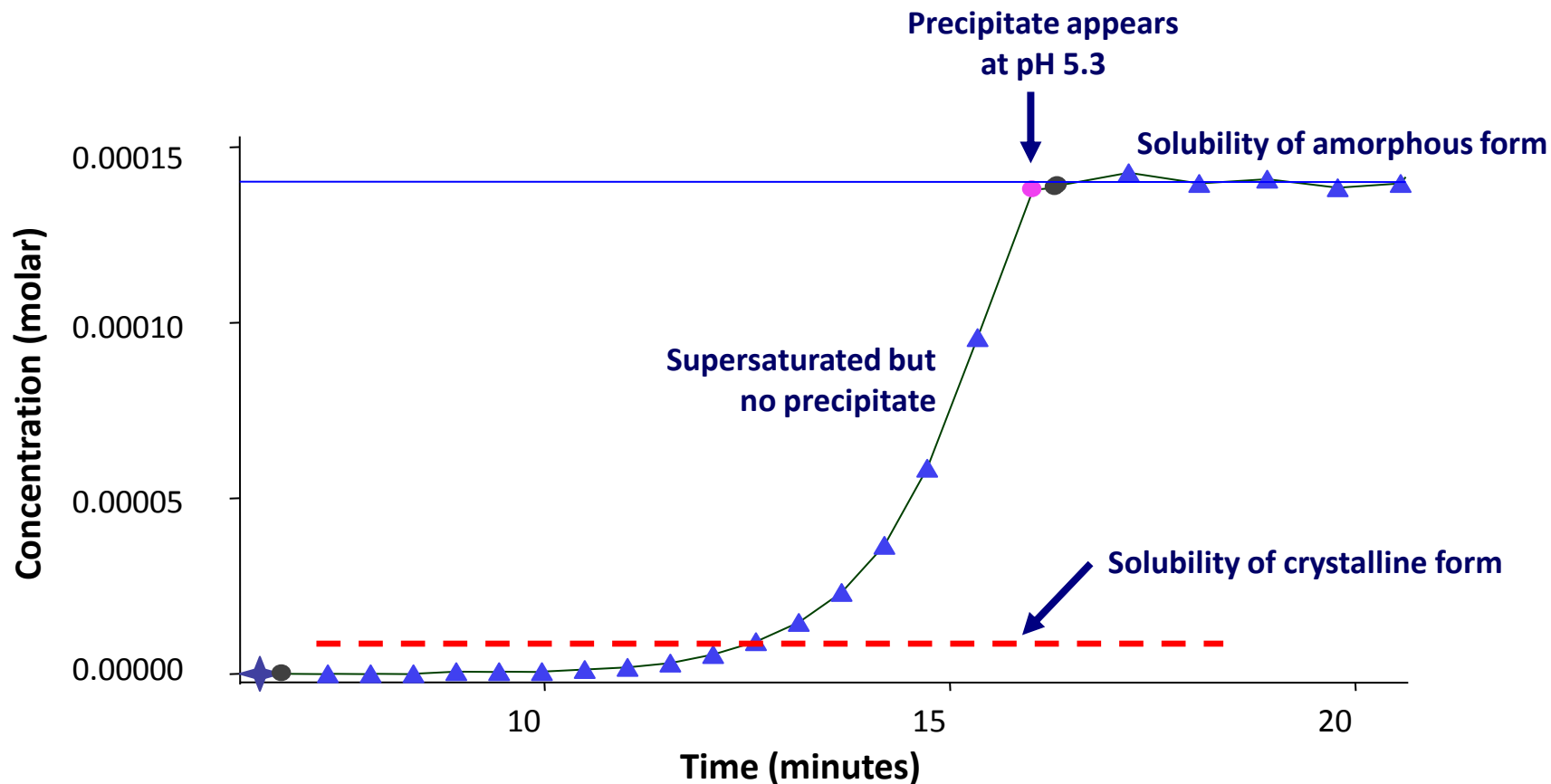
**Robust, easy to automate**

**Active pH control**

# Ketoconazole supersaturation study



$pK_a$ s = 3.3, 6.3



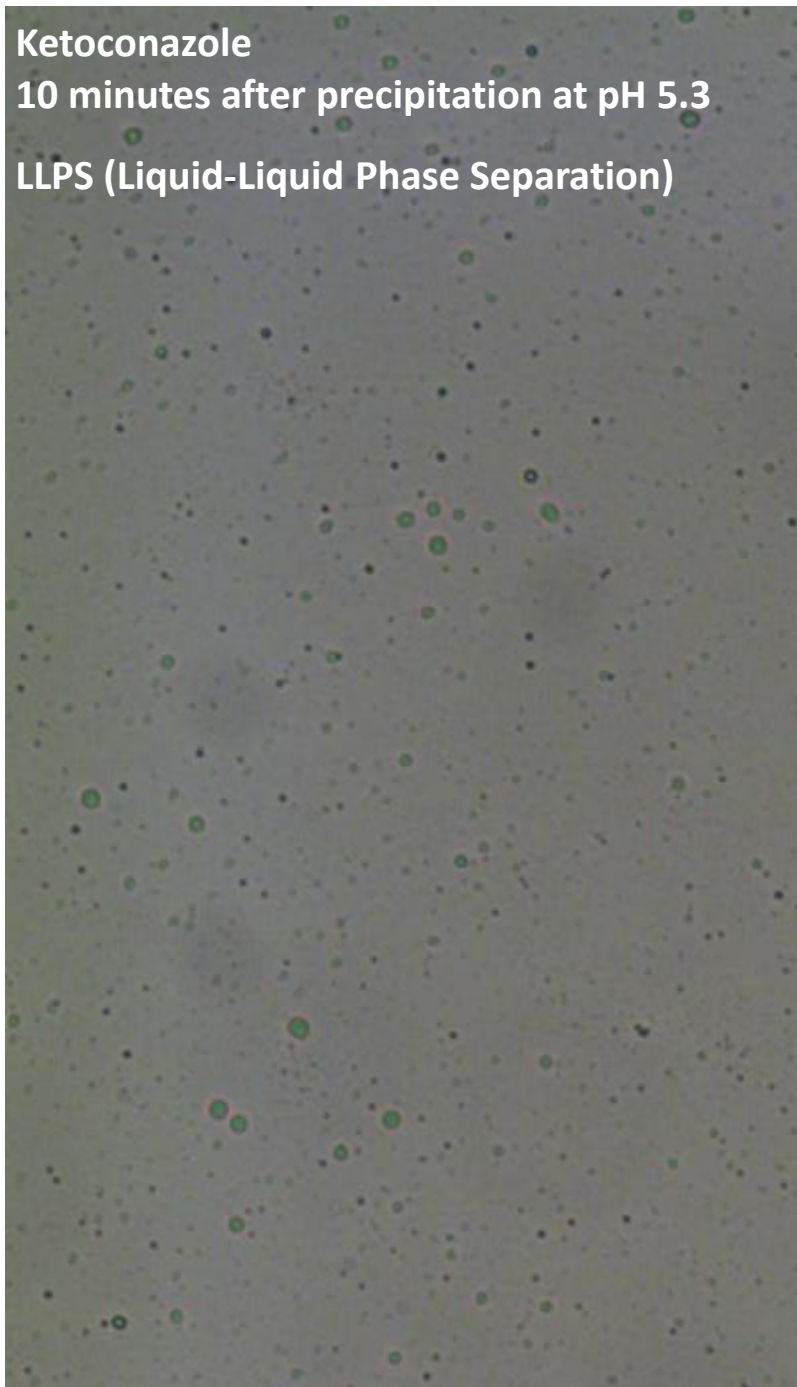
Hsieh, Y. L. et al.

pH-Induced Precipitation Behavior of Weakly Basic Compounds: Determination of Extent and Duration of Supersaturation Using Potentiometric Titration and Correlation to Solid State Properties. Pharm Res 2012, 29 (10), 2738-2753.

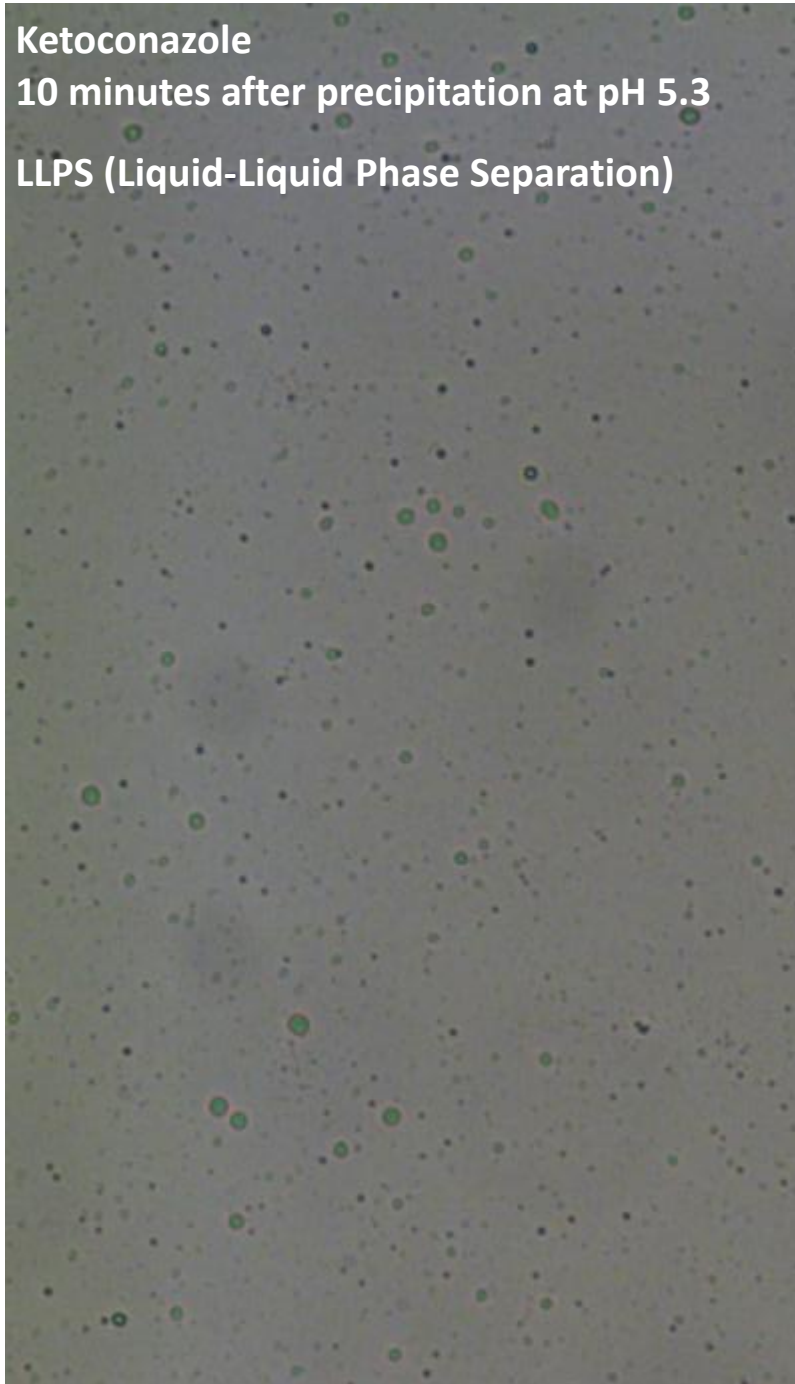
Ketoconazole

10 minutes after precipitation at pH 5.3

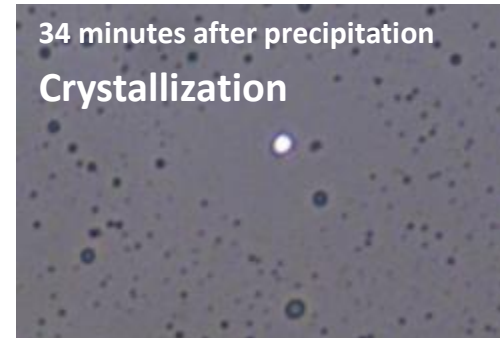
LLPS (Liquid-Liquid Phase Separation)



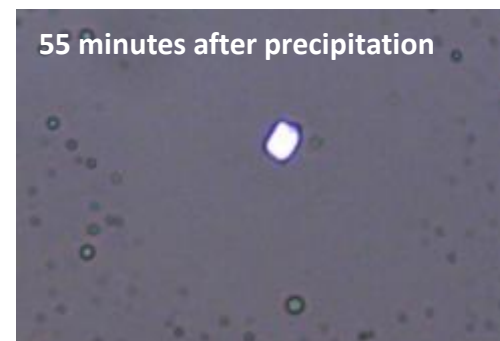
**Ketoconazole**  
**10 minutes after precipitation at pH 5.3**  
**LLPS (Liquid-Liquid Phase Separation)**



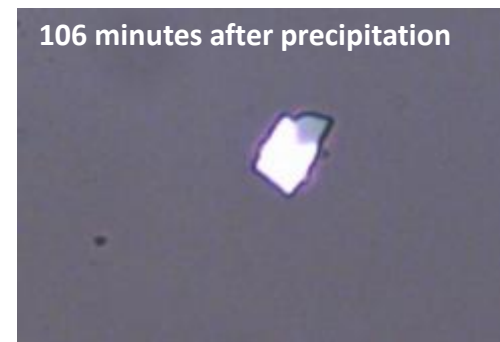
**34 minutes after precipitation**  
**Crystallization**



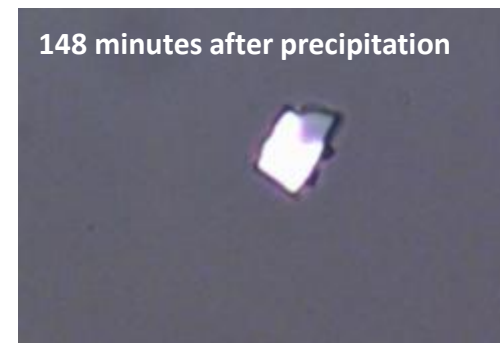
**55 minutes after precipitation**



**106 minutes after precipitation**



**148 minutes after precipitation**





# Supersaturation – what can happen

## Supersaturated but no precipitate

Supersaturation < amorphous solubility

It may crystallize (e.g. second papaverine example)

*Dispersed in another phase, e.g. in lipid*

*Not crystalline*

*Initially dissolves at amorphous conc.*

## Excess of LLPS\*

Supersaturation = amorphous solubility

Reservoir of LLPS, may help absorption

## Crystallizes from LLPS

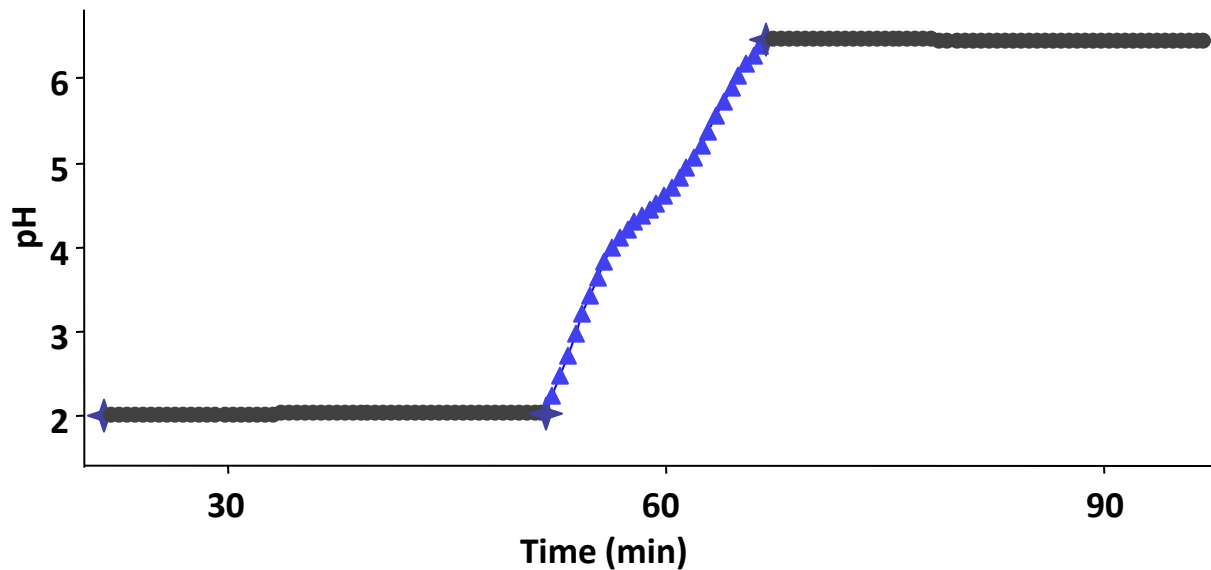
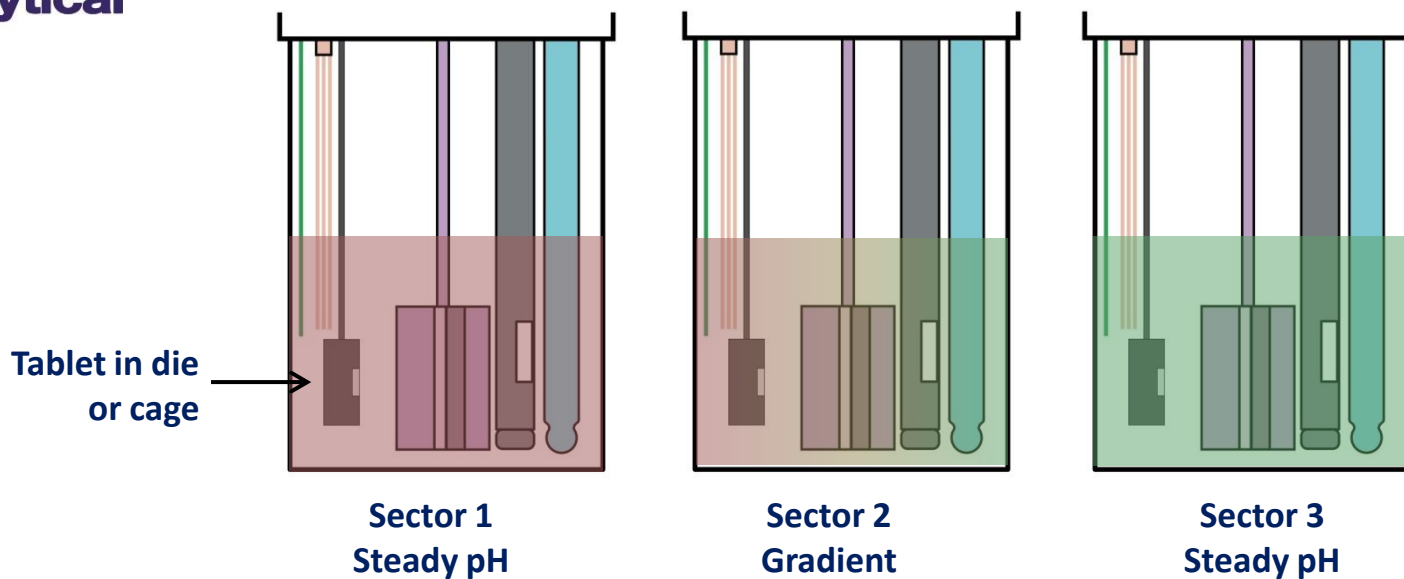
Quickly (e.g. first papaverine example)

Eventually (e.g. ketoconazole)

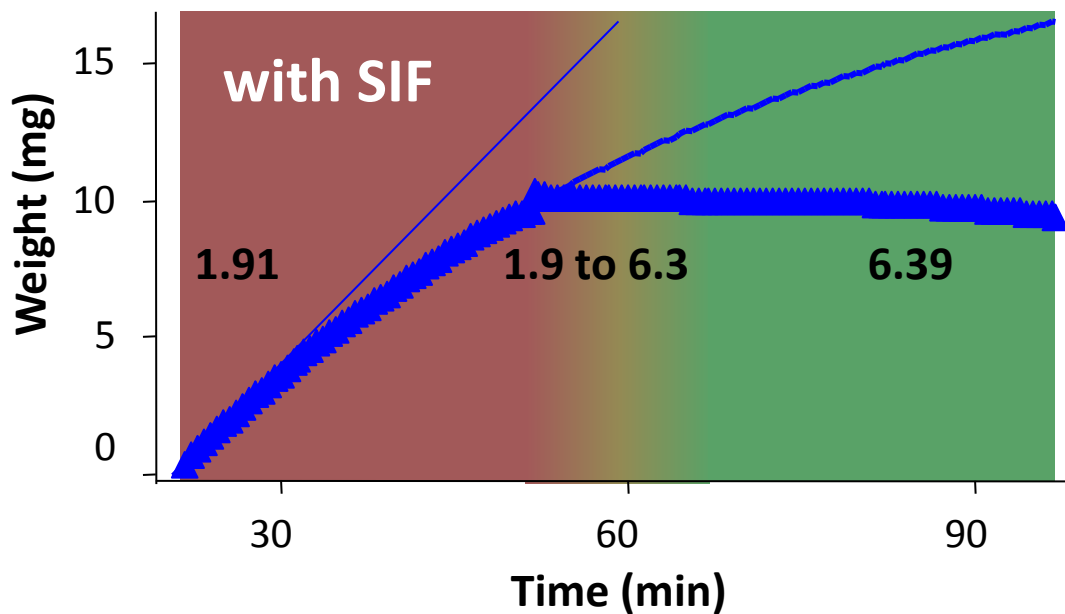
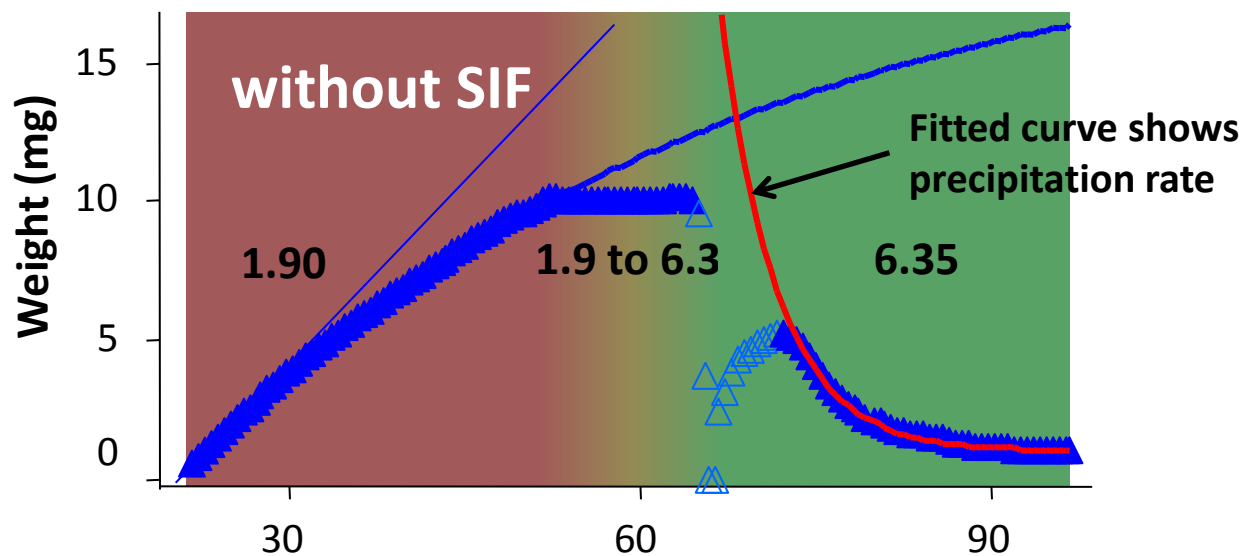
*Inhibited (e.g. using HPMCAS)*

# Biorelevant and Biphasic dissolution

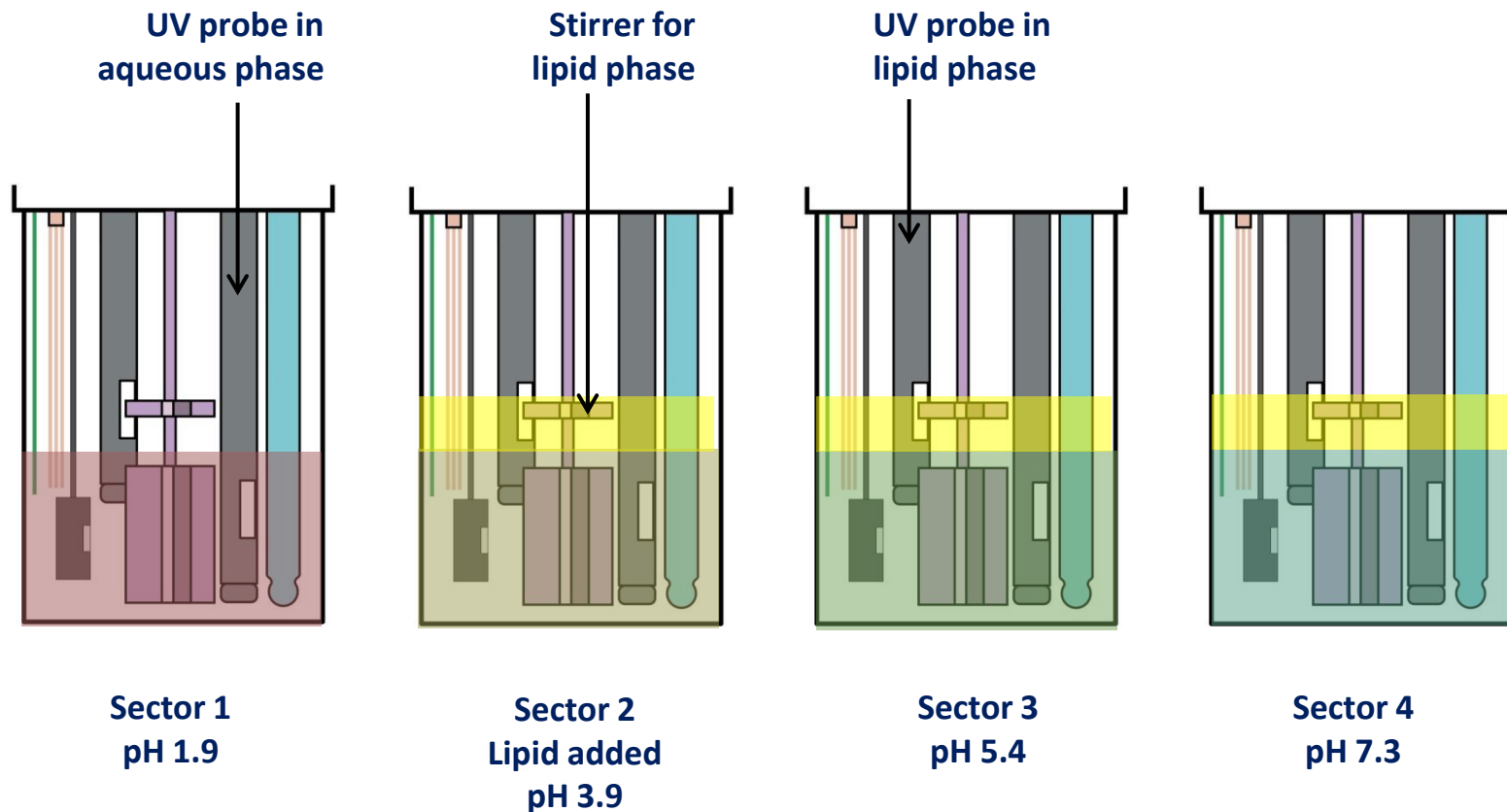
# Three-sector experiment with gradient pH



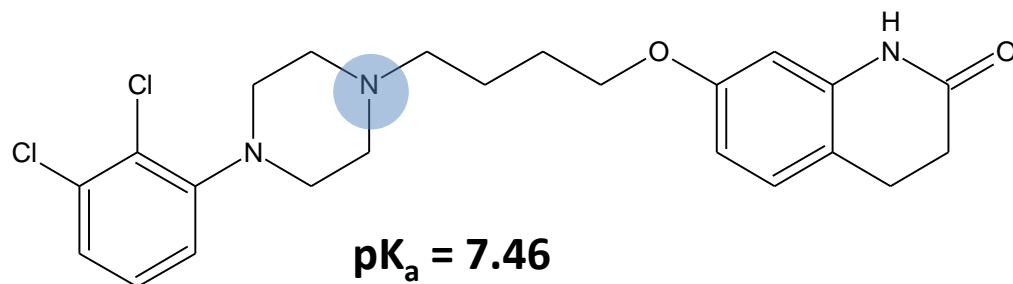
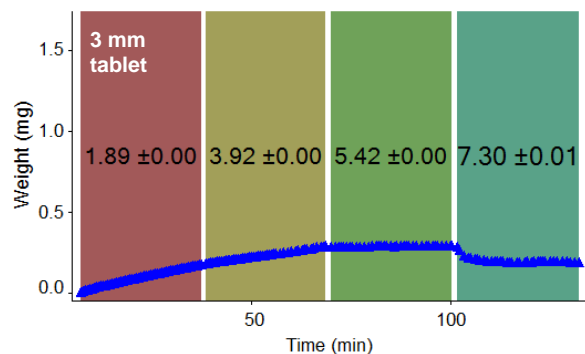
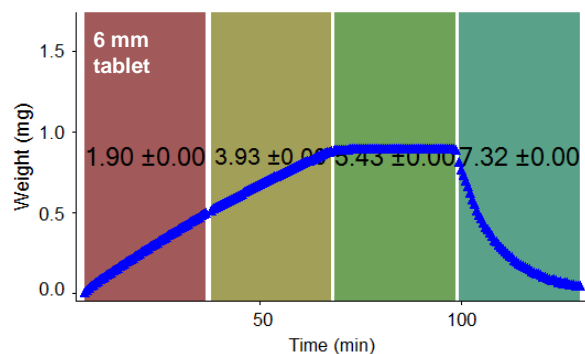
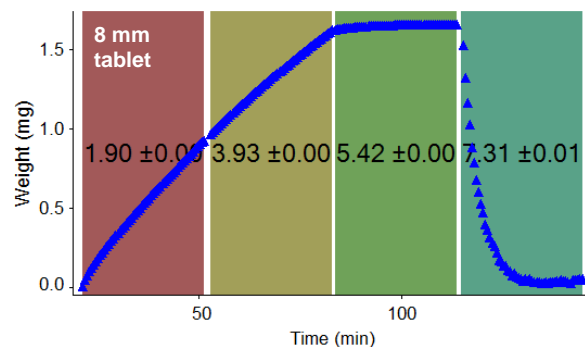
# Dipyridamole GI Dissolution



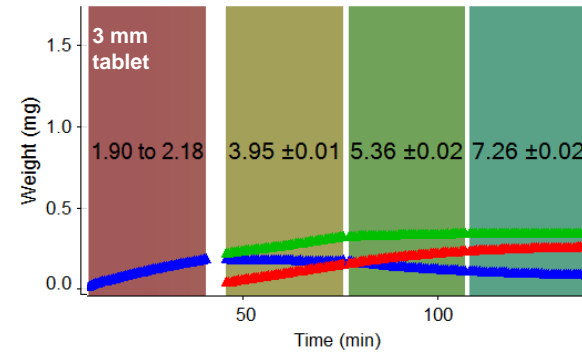
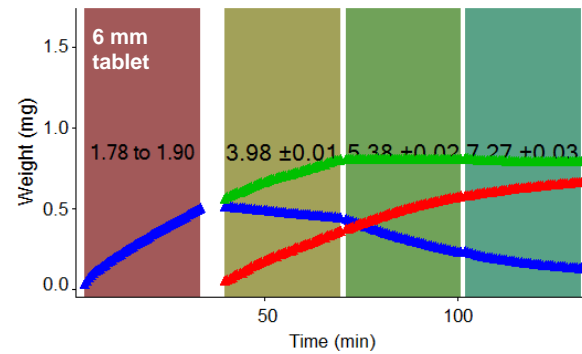
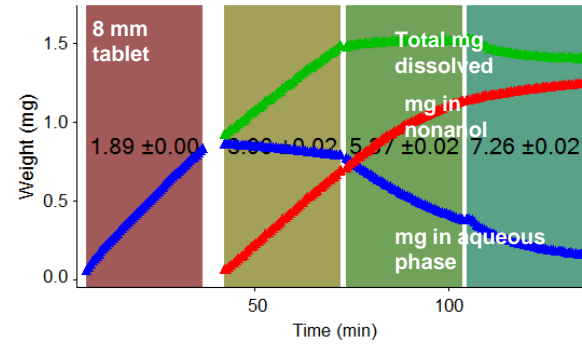
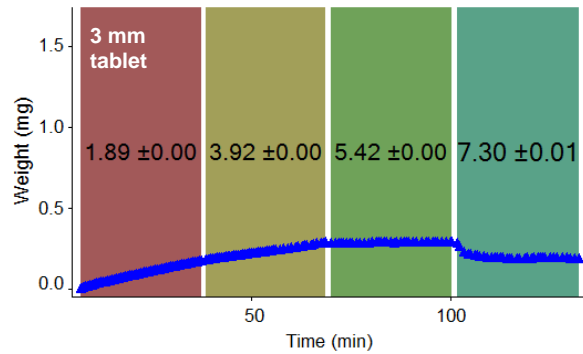
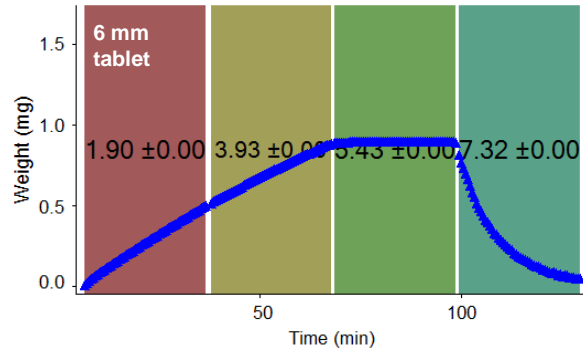
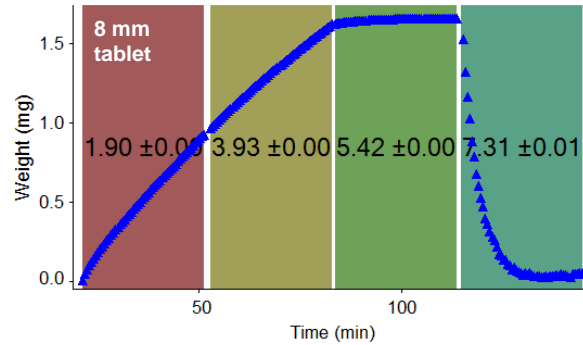
# Four-sector biphasic dissolution



# Aripiprazole aqueous Dissolution



# Aripiprazole Biphasic Dissolution



1. Controlled supersaturation experiments
2. Dealing with suspended solids
3. Supersaturation examples – the LLPS model
4. Biorelevant and Biphasic dissolution

Innovative tools for investigating drug behaviour  
to help develop better formulations



# 14<sup>th</sup> PhysChem Forum hosted by Sirius, 9-10 April

- **Richard Bickerton, University of Dundee.** Quantifying the Chemical Beauty of Drugs through informatics
- **Tim Potter, Cyprotex.** Compound Evaluation using Early Stage Screening Assays
- **Holger Fischer, Hoffman- La Roche.** Physical property screening and prediction in discovery
- **Richard Barker, Astra Zeneca.** Using the Tim-1 GI in-vitro model to understand drug absorption
- **James Butler, GSK.** The Developability Classification System (DCS); a tool for guiding drug development
- **Joachim Brouwers, University of Leuven.** Solubility in human gastric and intestinal fluids
- **Robert Taylor, Sirius Analytical.** Automated measurements of lipolysis, supersaturation and biphasic dissolution

## Thanks to our Development Team

### Chemists

Karl Box  
Robert Taylor  
Rebeca Ruiz  
Urszula Whorowska

### Engineers

Roger Allen  
Richard Woodward  
Norman Turrell  
Ivo Reis  
Craig Roberts

### Project managers

Andy Latham  
Rebecca Biloune

## Thanks to collaborators

Lynne Taylor and colleagues, Purdue University

## Sirius in the US

Office and lab in Beverly MA. Exhibiting here.