

# An internal standard for pharmaceuticals

*The Art of dealing with compromise*

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# This document was presented at PPXRD - Pharmaceutical Powder X-ray Diffraction Symposium

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## MOTIVATION

### Why small traces?

(Early detection contaminants/degradation products/ crystalline seed/highly potent)

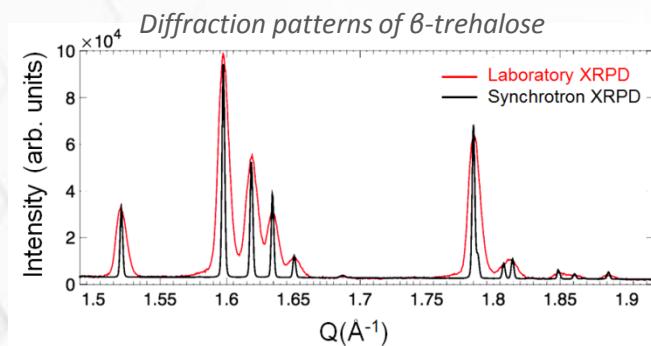
### Actual status of QPA of pharmaceuticals?

### Why quantifying on an **absolute** scale?



## CHALLENGES

### Pushing **instrumentation** limits



### Tailoring methodology to characteristics of pharmaceuticals

### Choice of quantification method

## MOTIVATION

Why **small** traces?

Actual status of QPA of  
**pharmaceuticals?**

(Tailored properties, Alumina?,  
unique vs. set of standards, PONKCS)

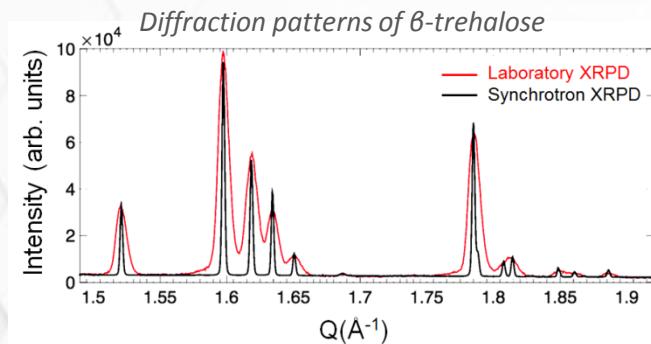
Why quantifying on  
an **absolute** scale?



N. V. Y. Scarlett & I. C. Madsen,  
Powder Diffraction, **21**, 4, 278-284 (2006). PONKCS method

## CHALLENGES

Pushing **instrumentation** limits



Tailoring **methodology** to  
characteristics of pharmaceuticals

Choice of quantification method

## MOTIVATION

Why **small** traces?

Actual status of QPA of  
**pharmaceuticals?**

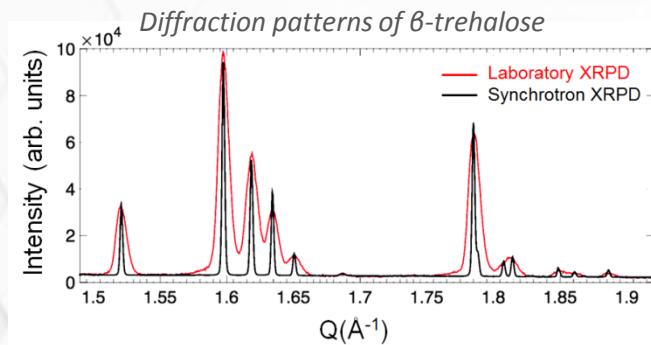
**Why quantifying on  
an **absolute** scale?**

(relative scale: invisible amorphous/unknown, ex:  
interconversion to amorphous)



## CHALLENGES

Pushing **instrumentation** limits



**Tailoring methodology** to  
characteristics of pharmaceuticals

**Choice of quantification method**

## MOTIVATION

Why **small** traces?

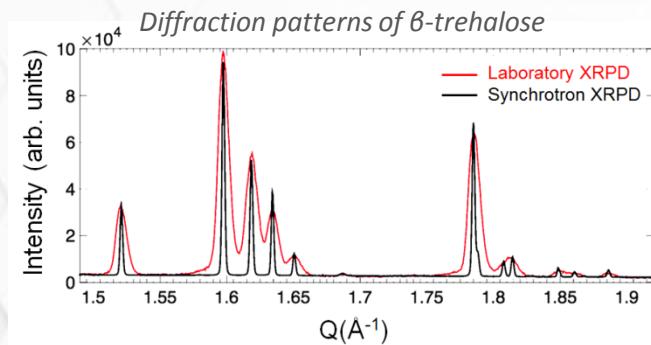
Actual status of QPA of  
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## CHALLENGES

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Tailoring methodology to  
characteristics of pharmaceuticals

Choice of quantification method

## CHALLENGES

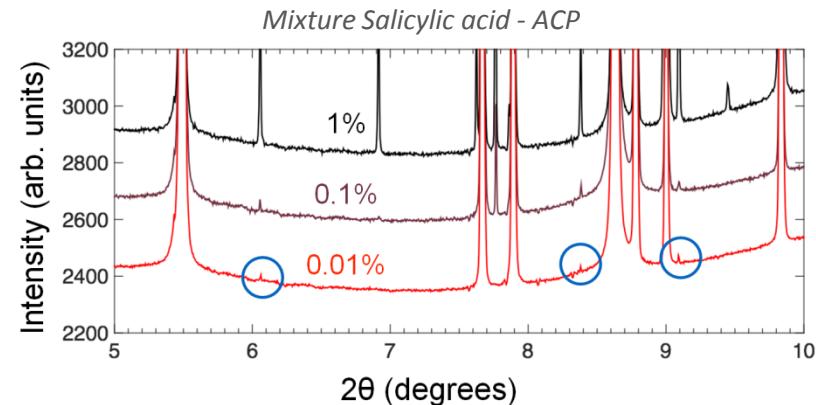
## Pushing instrument limits

Synchrotron radiation +  
Position sensitive detector +  
capillary geometry

LoQ<0.05 wt%, LoD<0.01 wt%  
High angular (FWHM) resolution  
Data collection efficiency  
Data modelling  
No transparency effect  
Tunable wavelength



Particle statistics/homogeneity of distribution  
Low scattered intensity  
Reproducibility cap. patterns



VS

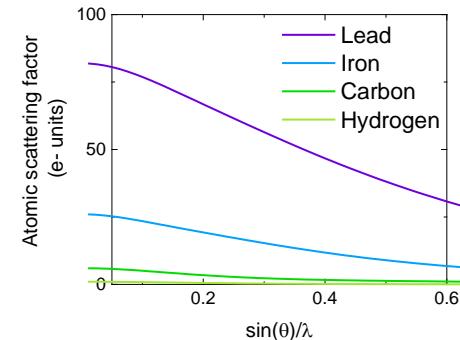
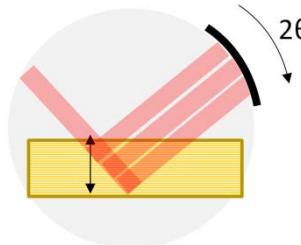


## CHALLENGES

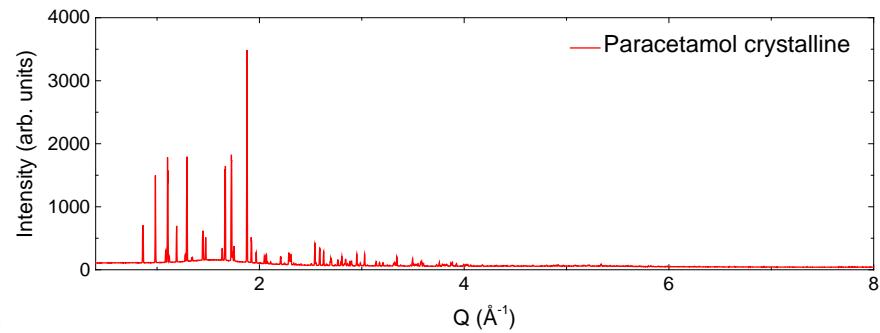
## Tailoring methodology

Know your sample: **organics**

*Light molecules, poor scattering power, large unit cells, low symmetry, peak overlapping, radiation sensitive, low absorption...*

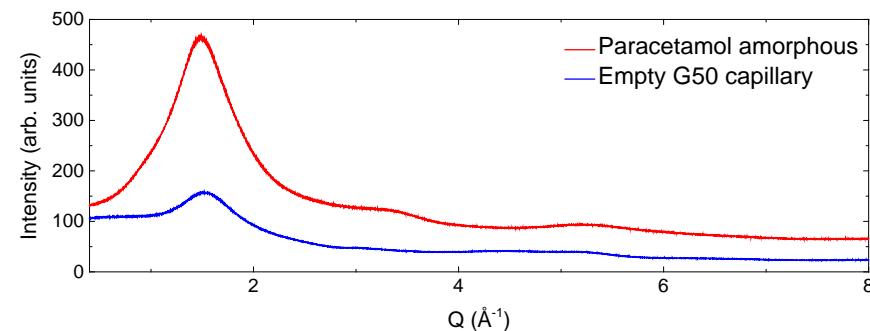


Spatial inhomogeneities  
⇒ sample more powder volumes



Semi-crystalline materials  
**Degree of Crystallinity (DoC)**

Correlation amorphous contributions sample vs container



## Choice of quantification method

Internal standard method

Calibration curve: Y/N

- Direct correction for instrumental effects
- Comparable matrix effects
- Unknown compounds
- Amorphous quantification, Absolute scale
- Universal



- Internal standard tailored to analyte
- Time consuming powder processing
- Powder samples only
- Analyte mixture contamination

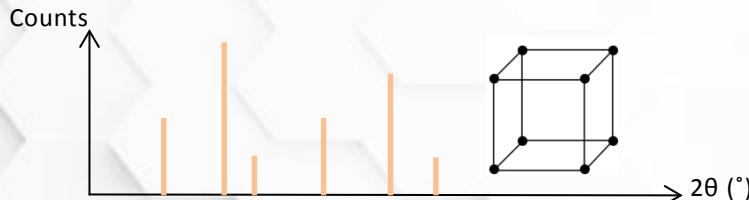


## Which internal standard?

```

?
Structure of Sucrose
?
_journal_name_full      'Personal communication to COD'
_journal_year            2013
_chemical_formula_moiety 'C12 H22 O11'
_chemical_formula_sum    'C12 H22 O11'
_chemical_formula_weight 342.30
_space_group_IT_number   4
_symmetry_cell_setting monoclinic
_symmetry_Int_Tables_number 4
_symmetry_space_group_name_Hall 'P 2yb'
_symmetry_space_group_name_H-M 'P 1 21 1'
_atom_sites_solution_hydrogens geom
_atom_sites_solution_primary direct

```



Crystallite diameter ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	40	10	1
Crystallites ( $20 \text{ mm}^3$ )	$5.97 \times 10^5$	$3.82 \times 10^7$	$3.82 \times 10^{10}$
Number diffracting	12	760	38 000
$\sigma_{PS}$	0.289	0.036	0.005

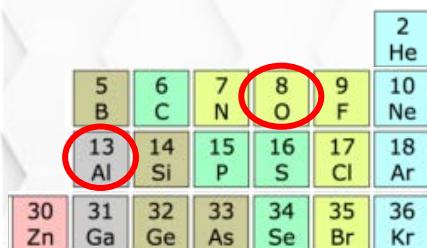
C Madsen and N. V. Y. Scarlett in *Powder Diffraction: Theory and Practice*, 2008  
 Robert E. Dinnebier and Simon J. L. Billinge, Print ISBN: 978-0-85404-231-9, DOI:10.1039/978184755823  
 Deane K. Smith Powder Diffraction, 16, pp 186-191, (2001), doi:10.1154/1.1423285

## CHALLENGES

## Compromises ...

Alumina

Nice peak shape

Known DoC (NIST standard  
SRM676 series)

A periodic table showing the first two rows of elements. The elements are color-coded by group: B, C, N, O, F, Ne are in green; Al is circled in red; Si, P, S, Cl, Ar are in yellow; Zn, Ga, Ge, As, Se, Br, Kr are in pink. The atomic number and element symbol are listed for each element.

						2 He
5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne	
13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar	
30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr

Density ca. 3.9 g.cm<sup>-3</sup>LAC (12.4 keV) = 37.3 cm<sup>-1</sup>Small wt%  $\Rightarrow$  weighting errors

## CHALLENGES

## Compromises ...

## Alumina

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Density ca. 3.9 g.cm<sup>-3</sup>

LAC (12.4 keV) = 37.3 cm<sup>-1</sup>

Small wt%  $\Rightarrow$  weighting errors

## Beyond Alumina

## Diamond

LAC (12.4 keV) = 3.2 cm<sup>-1</sup>

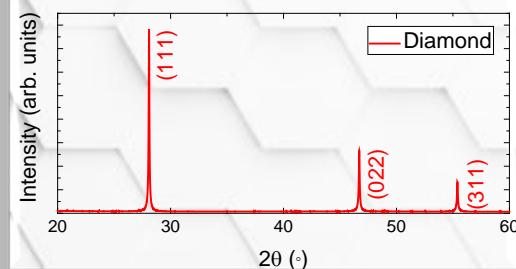
Density ca. 3.5 g.cm<sup>-3</sup>

Small wt%  $\Rightarrow$  weighting errors

Very few peaks  $<60^\circ 2\theta$

$\Rightarrow$  limited redundancy for peak overlap

Purity of grinding media

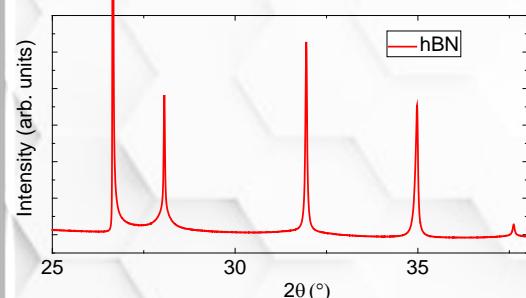


## hBN

Density ca. 2.1 g.cm<sup>-3</sup>

LAC (12.4 keV) = 2.9 cm<sup>-1</sup>

Helps to homogenize blends

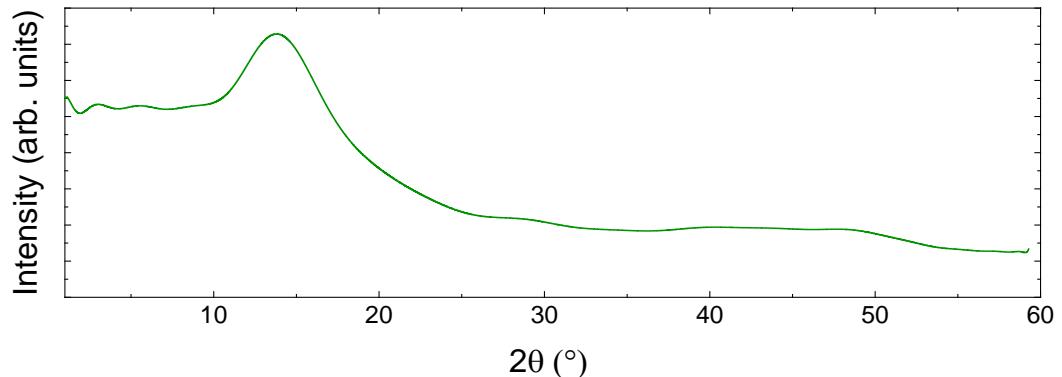


Flakes  $\Rightarrow$  difficult peak shape

Standard Rietveld refinement  
won't work

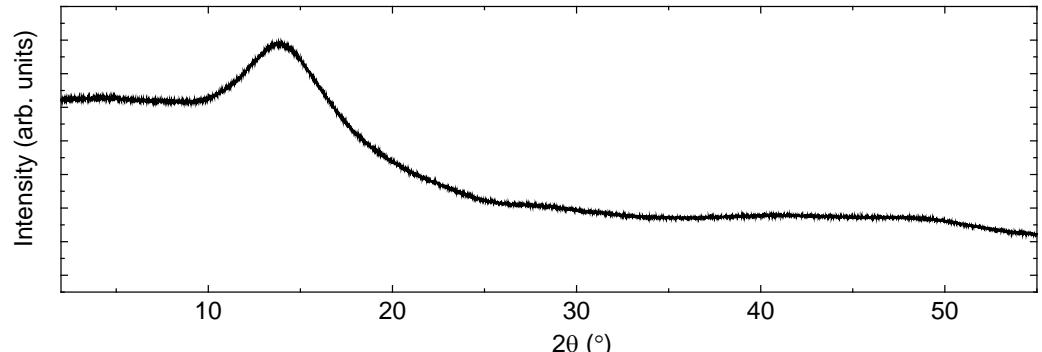
Alternative analysis strategy

- High order polynomial:



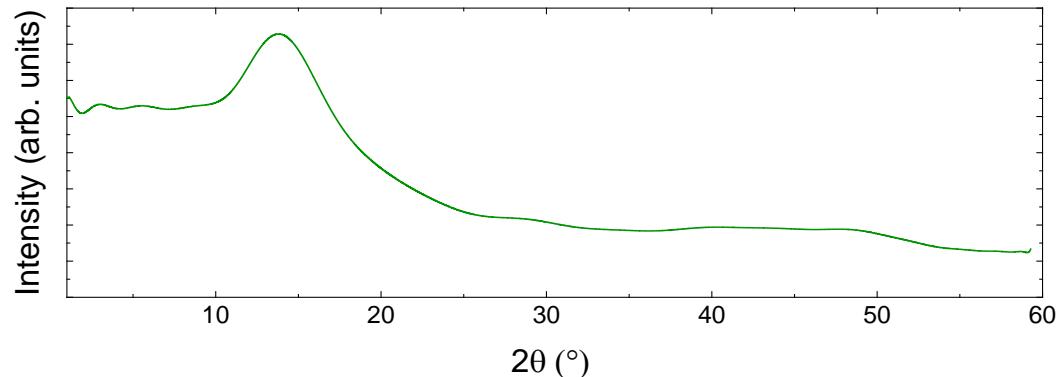
- Main separate contributions (physically-based background):

Empty



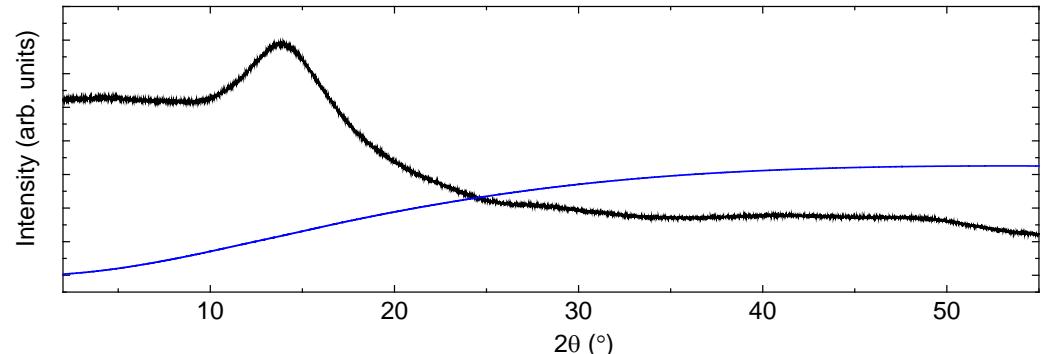
- Modelling or subtracting?
- REAL samples: Amorphous pattern **not always** available  
(i.e. calibration curve amorphous/crystalline not an option)

- High order polynomial:



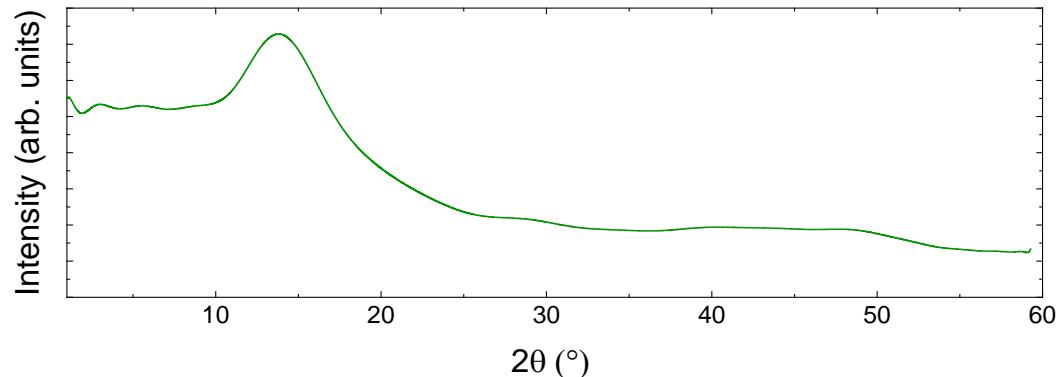
- Main separate contributions (physically-based background):

Empty  
Compton



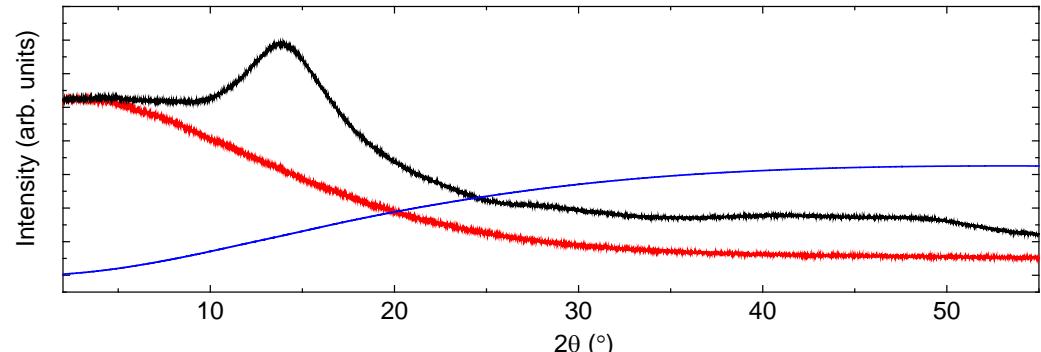
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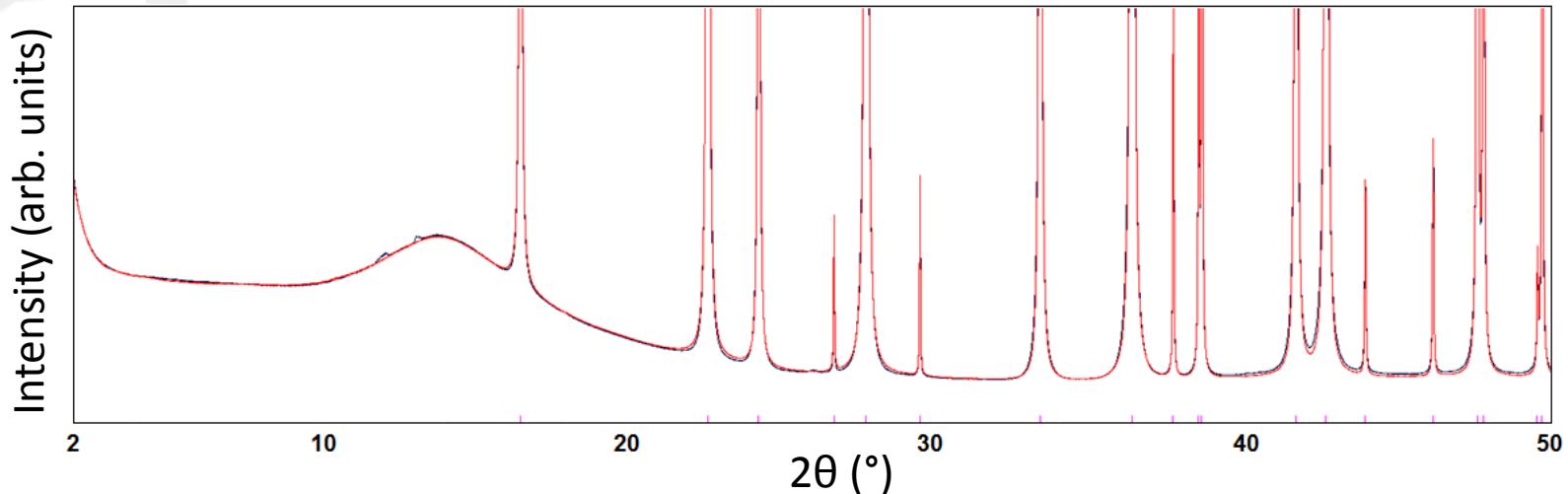


- Main separate contributions (physically-based background):

Empty  
Compton  
Air



- Modelling or subtracting?
- REAL samples: Amorphous pattern **not always** available  
(i.e. calibration curve amorphous/crystalline not an option)

 Alumina DoC

Background fits nicely with identified diffuse contributions

Expected DoC between 99 and 100 wt%:  
**we are NOT sensitive to <1 wt% amorphous content**

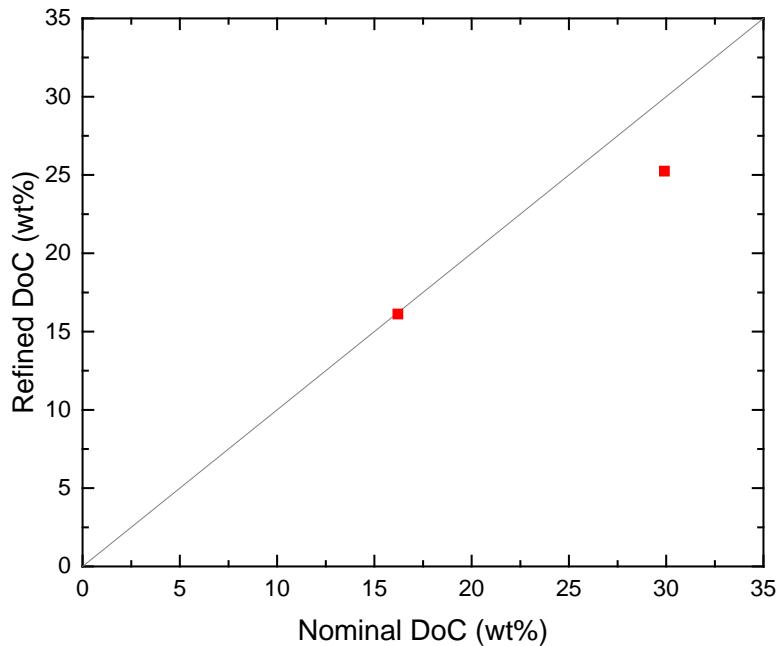
- Test method against ***ad-hoc physical mixtures*** of amorphous /crystalline lactose

### Step 1:

DoC of pure ‘crystalline’  
lactose: 97% DoC

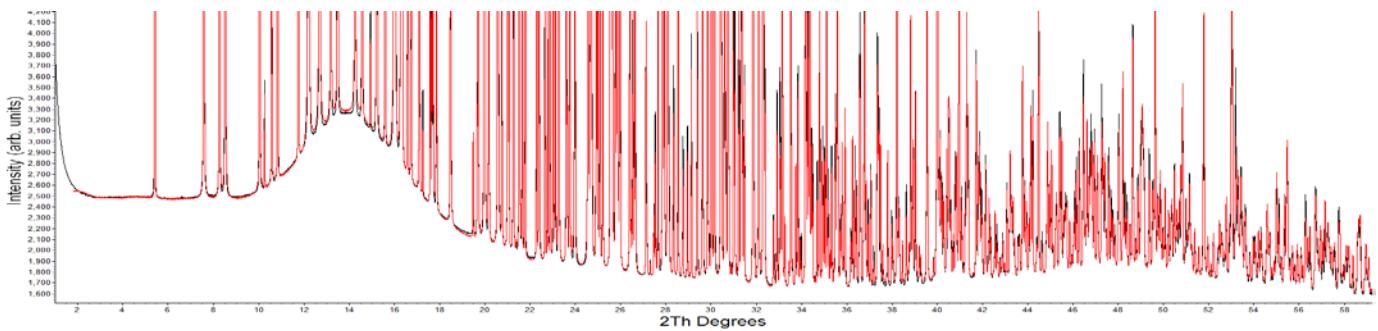
### Step 2:

Refinement of the amorphous phase ‘by difference’  
*Ad-hoc* mixtures of lactose: relative error between weighted and  
refined ratio in the range 0.5 – 16 %



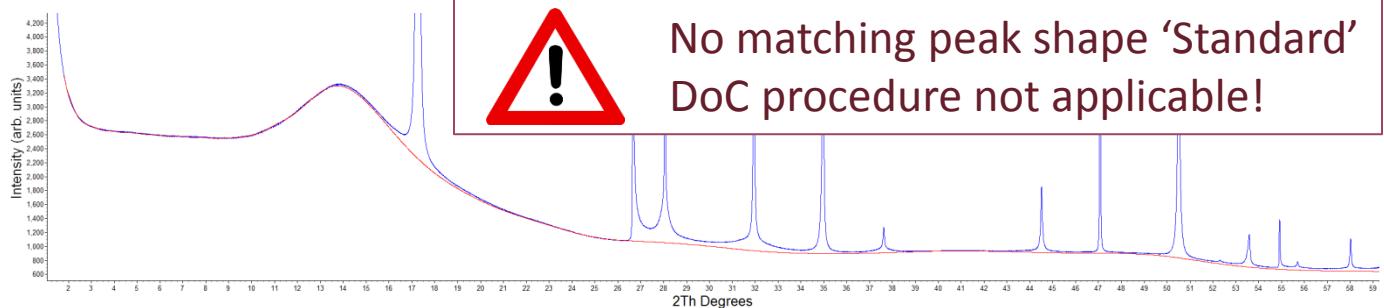
 Sucrose

DoC ca. 96.4 wt%



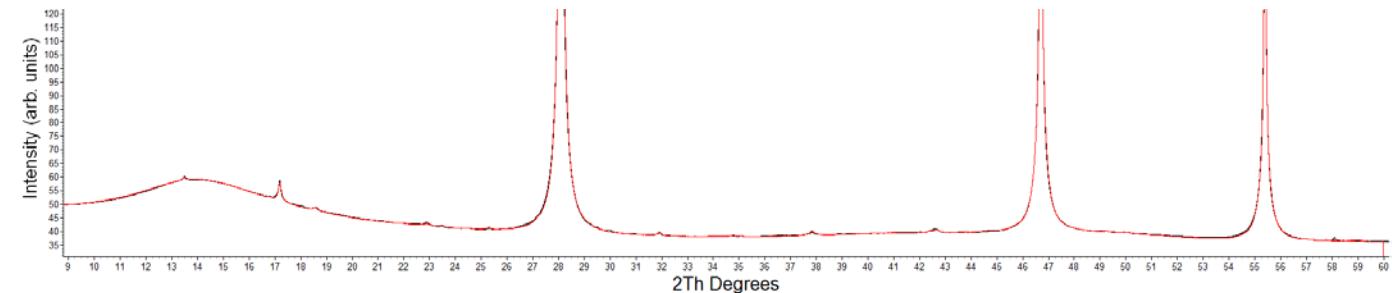
 hBN

DoC ca. 99 wt%

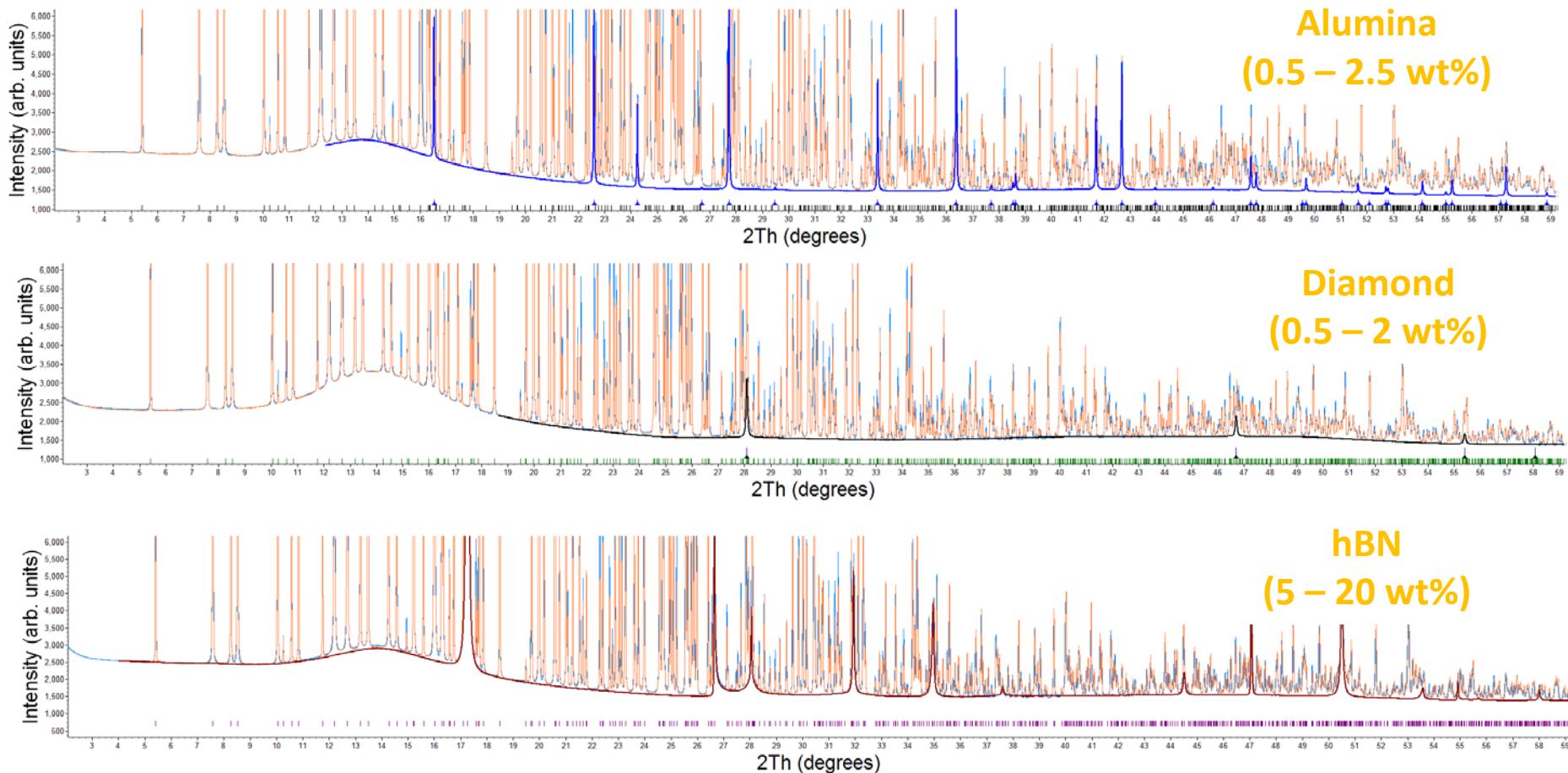


 Diamond

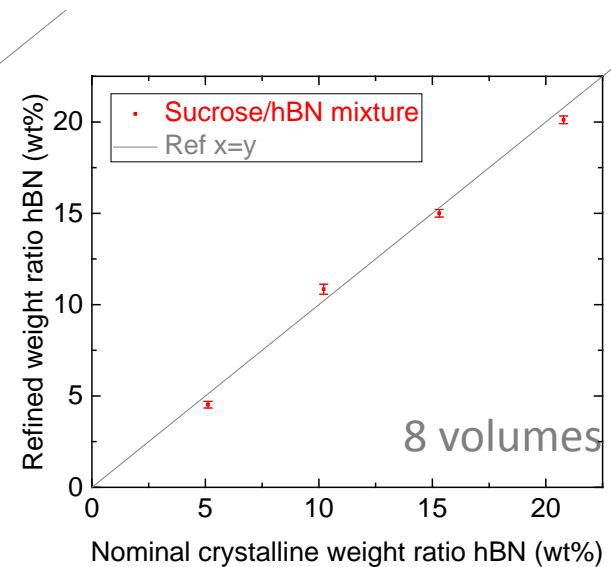
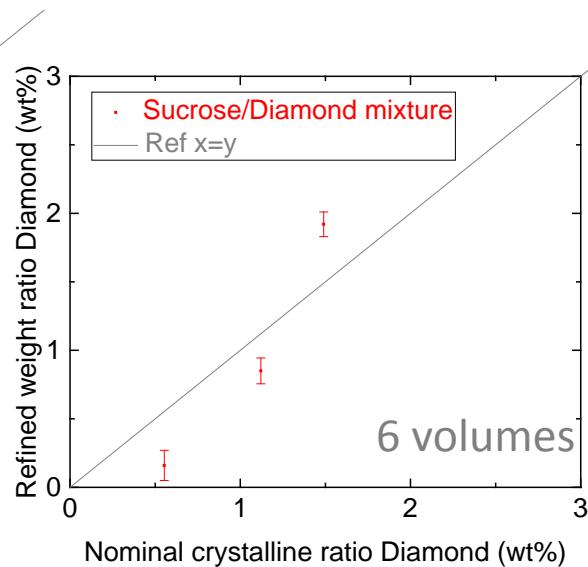
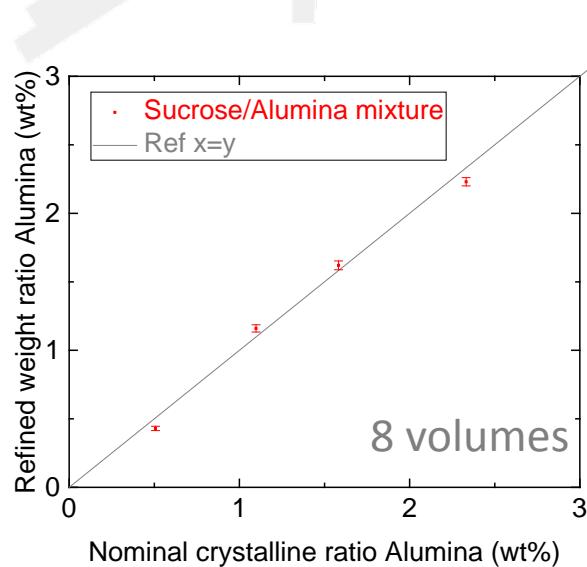
DoC ca. 95.8 wt%



- ✿ Sucrose/Alumina-hBN-Diamond mixtures
- ✿ Small wt% to improve distribution homogeneity and adapted to scattering power



## Comparison calibration curves internal standard/sucrose



**Alumina**  
**(0.5 – 2.5 wt%)**

Standard Rietveld  
refinement

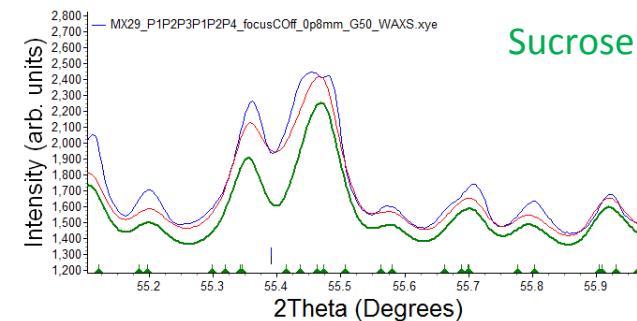
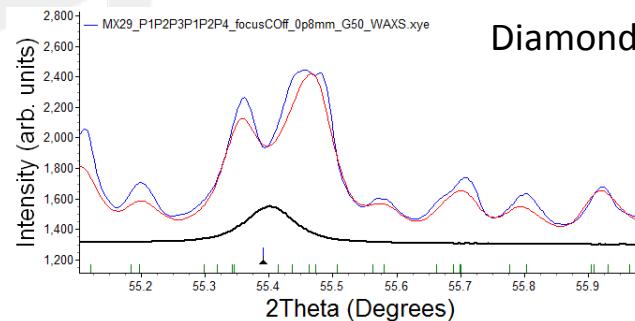
**Diamond**  
**(0.5 – 2 wt%)**

Standard Rietveld  
refinement

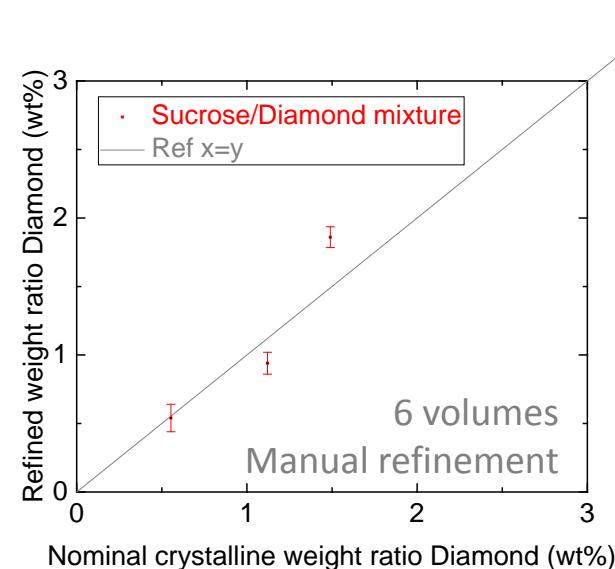
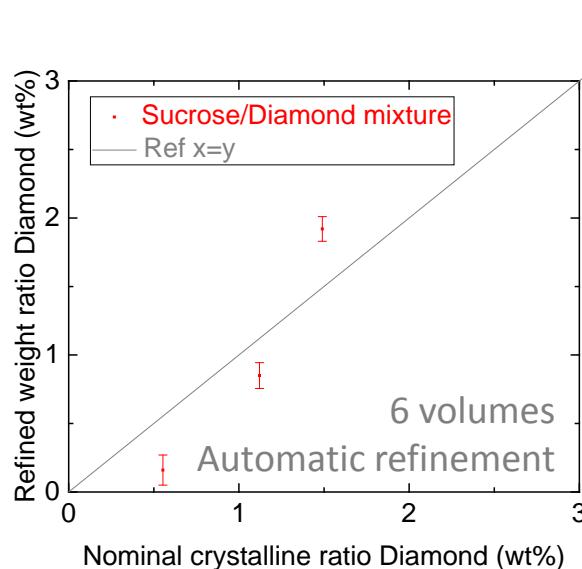
**hBN**  
**(5 – 20 wt%)**

hBN modelled using  
observed data and  
calibrated versus Alumina

## Strongly correlated Diamond/Sucrose reflections



## Limits of the least square optimization



The three candidates can be used under favorable circumstances:

Alumina: restrained wt%

Diamond: if peak overlapping allows

hBN: if peak overlapping allows and intensity (not more than 20wt%)

- ⌚ Validate DoC method
- ⌚ Try DoC using the scaled amorphous phase
- ⌚ Assess the lower limit of amorphous-QPA
  
- ⌚ Ternary mixtures with each of the standards (increased Diamond wt%)
- ⌚ Test of alternative analysis methods (PONKCS, ‘Siroquant’-like, proper model of hBN distortions, ‘Principal Component Analysis’-like)

### My thanks go to:

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Claire Villevieille & Cyril Marino  
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*Novartis Pharma AG, Basel, Switzerland*

Danysz Eustache & coworkers  
*Saint-Gobain, Saint-Gobain Advanced Ceramics LLC*

Ian Madsen  
*CSIRO, Australia*

### Useful references

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PPXRD15

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Thank you for your attention  
Questions?

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