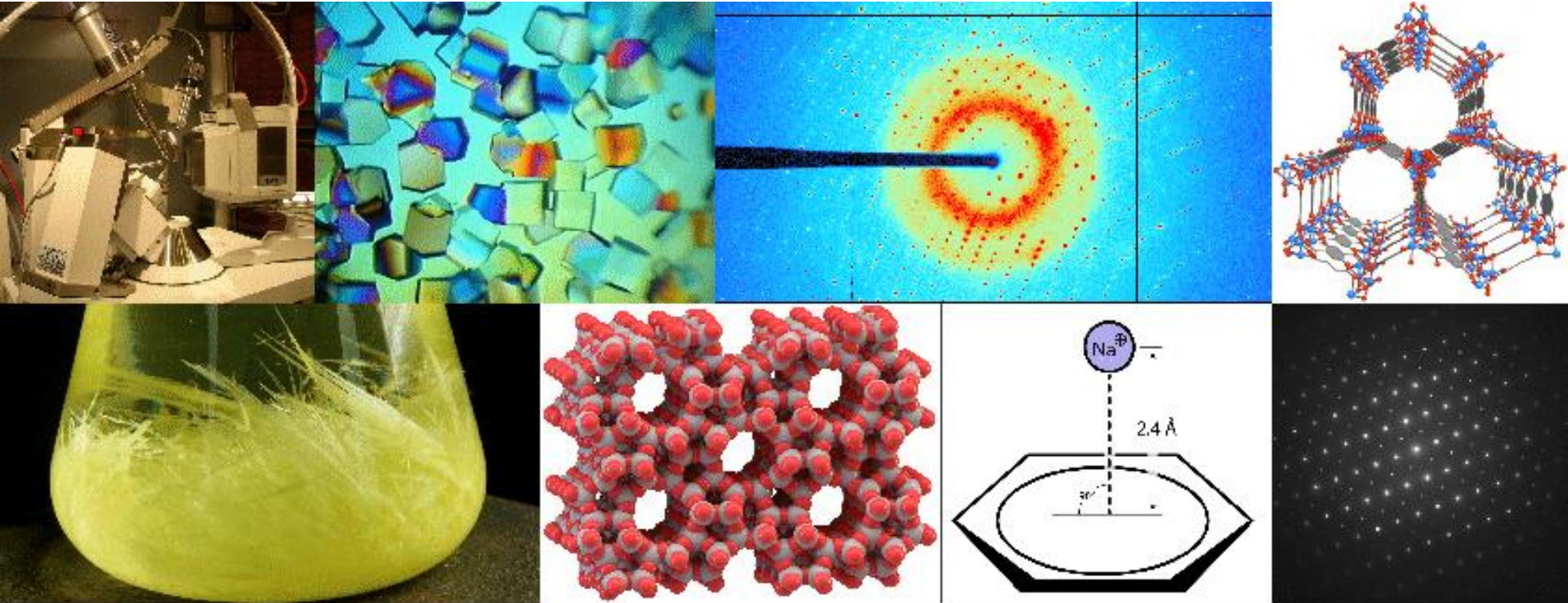


Programa de Actualización | ANUAL | 2018

# CARACTERIZACIÓN ESTRUCTURAL Y ANÁLISIS DE PROPIEDADES DE SÓLIDOS CRISTALINOS: POLIMORFOS, SOLVATOS, COCRISTALES Y SALES

Florencia Di Salvo | Sebastián Suárez

Departamento de Química Inorgánica, Analítica y Química Física, FCEN, UBA



Programa de Actualización | Marzo - Abril | 2018

# **Módulo 1: Estructura molecular. Tipos de sólidos. Interacciones intermoleculares. Redes cristalinas, elementos y operaciones de simetría en sólidos cristalinos.**

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Departamento de Química Inorgánica, Analítica y Química Física, FCEN, UBA

## ■ **MOTIVATION**

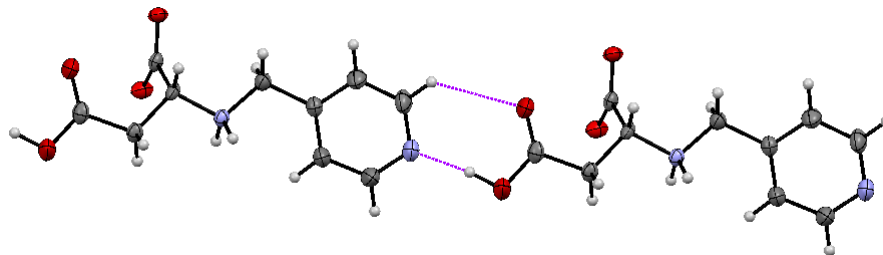
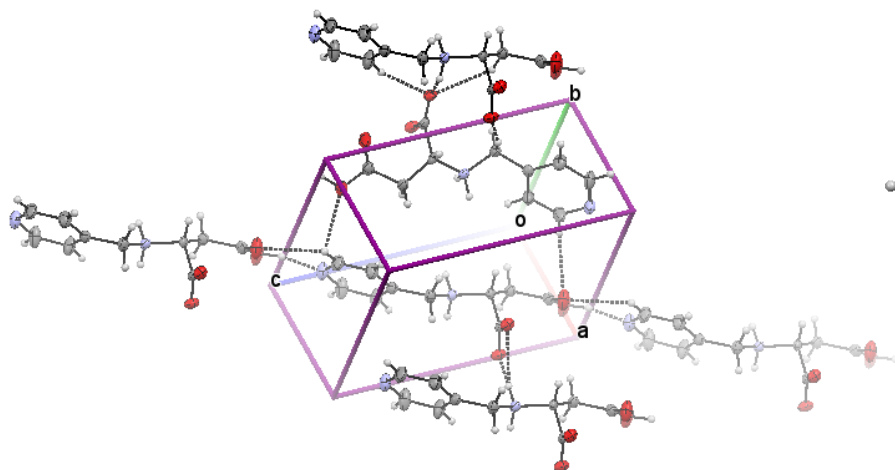
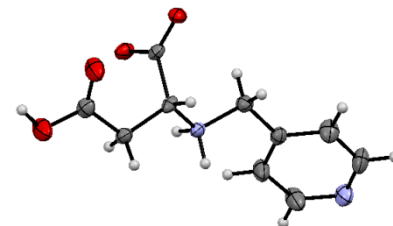
- To understand the concepts related to the process of crystallization and crystal growth and its practical application.
- To learn about crystallization strategies for obtaining crystalline material, especially single crystals.



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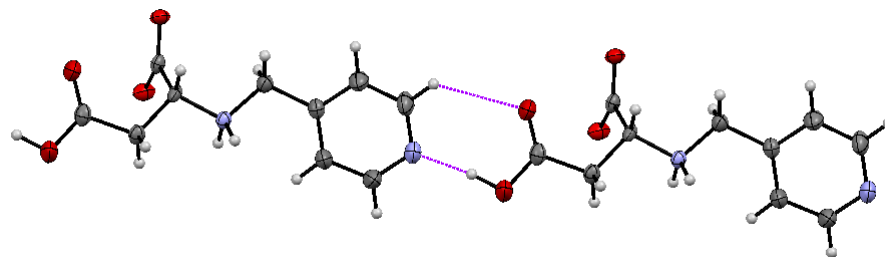
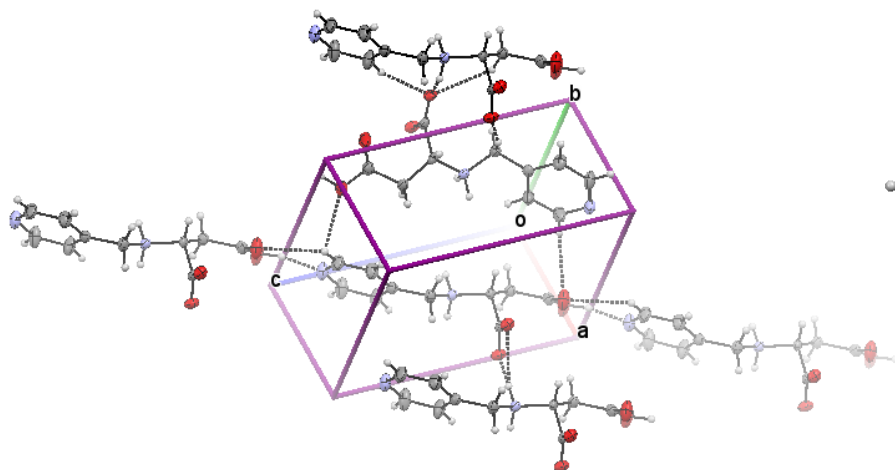
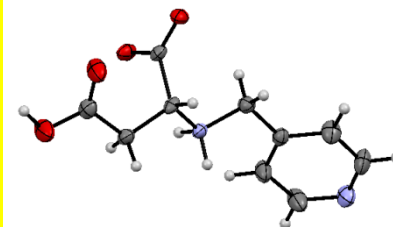
Single-crystal X-ray Diffraction is a methodology which provides detailed information about the internal lattice of crystalline substances, including unit cell dimensions, bond-lengths, bond-angles, and details of site-ordering and connectivity of the atoms thus, it gives the possibility to know unequivocally the molecular and supramolecular structure of our molecule.



## ■ MOTIVATION

- To understand the concepts related to the process of crystallization and crystal growth and its practical application.
- To learn about crystallization strategies for obtaining crystalline material, especially single crystals.

Single-crystal X-ray Diffraction is a methodology which provides detailed information about the internal lattice of crystalline substances, including unit cell dimensions, bond-lengths, bond-angles, and details of site-ordering and connectivity of the atoms thus, it gives the possibility to know unequivocally the molecular and supramolecular structure of our molecule.



So, far it is the technique that gives you the “PICTURE” of your molecule

# ■ How can we get a crystal?

## FROM SOLUTION

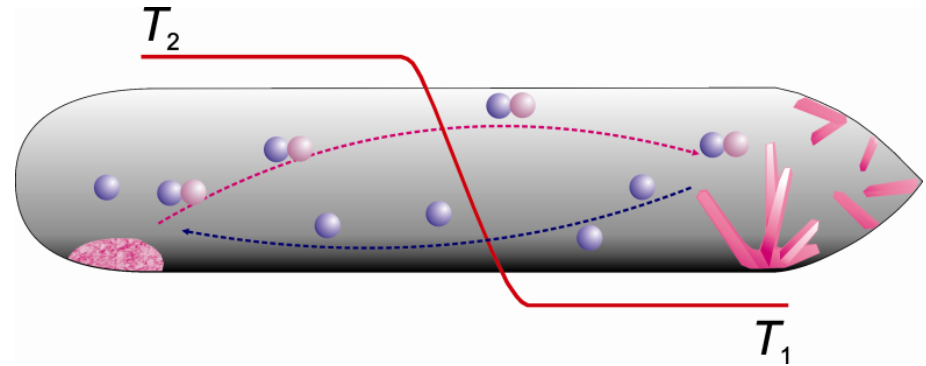


(a)

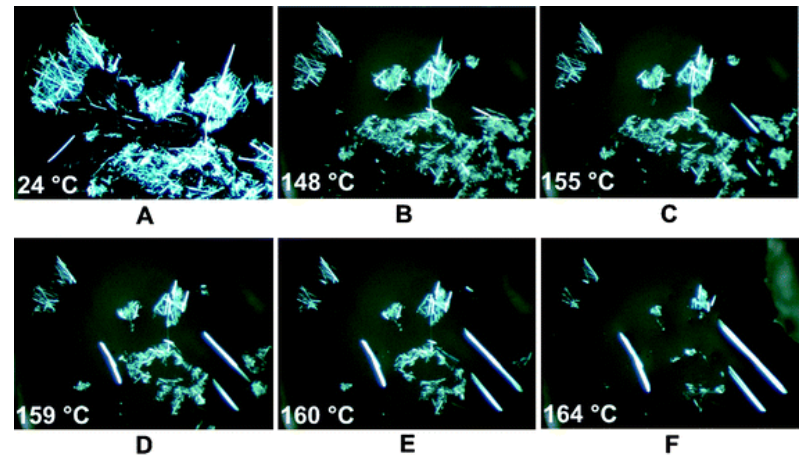


(b)

## FROM VAPOR



## FROM MELT



## ■ SOME BASIC DEFINITIONS

**SOLUTION.** Homogeneous liquid phase containing the solute dissolved in the solvent

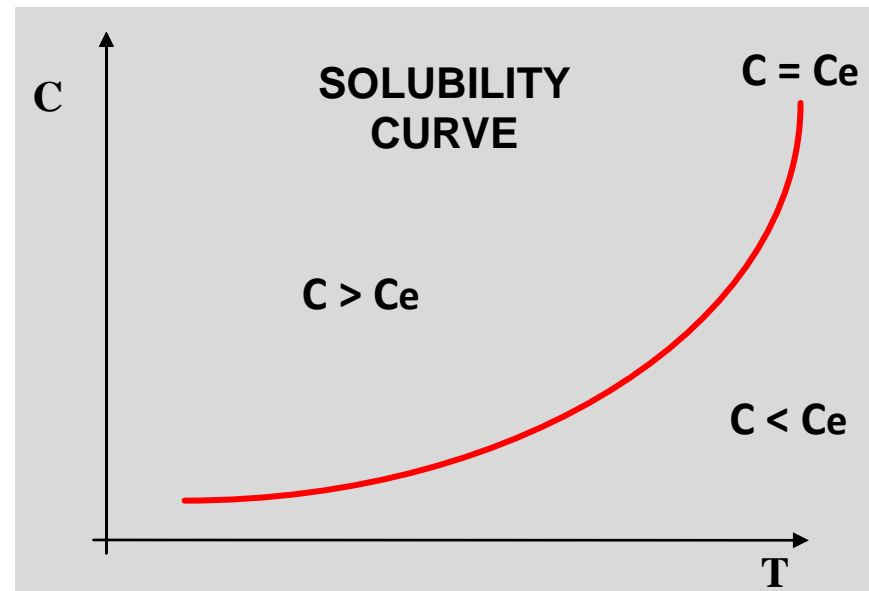
**SOLUBILITY.** It is the property of a solid, liquid, or gaseous substance called solute, to dissolve in a solid, liquid, or gaseous solvent. The solubility depends on the physical and chemical properties of the solute and solvent as well as, on temperature, pressure and the pH of the solution.

**SATURATION CONCENTRATION or EQUILIBRIUM CONCENTRATION ( $C_e$ ).**

The extent of the solubility of a substance in a specific solvent is measured as the saturation concentration, where adding more solute does not increase the concentration of the solution and begins to precipitate the excess amount of solute (maximum amount of solute that can be dissolved in certain solvent at a given  $T$  &  $p$ )

**CONDITION FOR CRYSTAL GROWTH:**

$C > C_e \Rightarrow$  "SUPERSATURATION CONDITION"

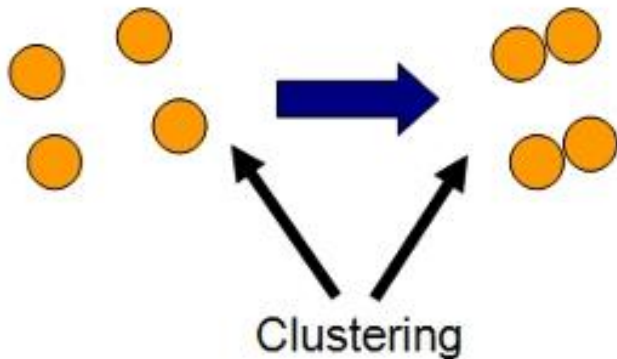


# ■ CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

1. Supersaturation

2. Nucleation

3. Crystal Growth



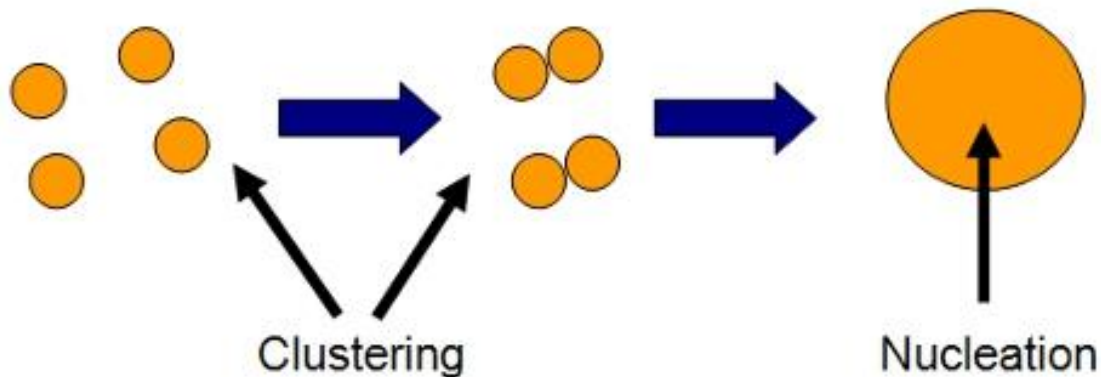


# ■ CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

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# ■ CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

## 1. Supersaturation

## 2. Nucleation

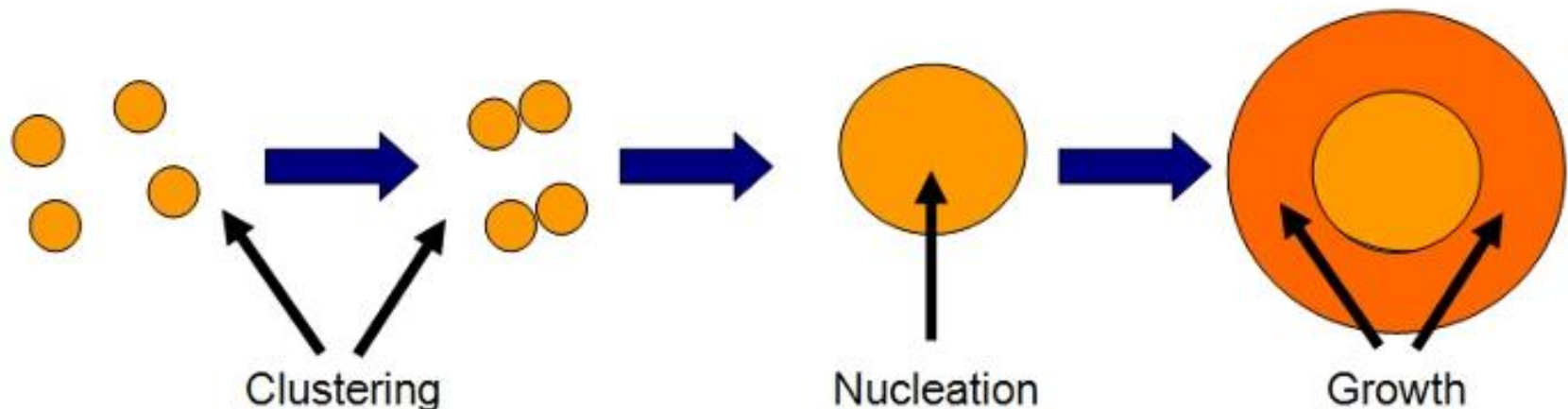
## 3. Crystal Growth

### SUMMARY

Supersaturation is critical because it is the driving force for crystal nucleation and growth.

Nucleation is the birth of new crystal nuclei.

Crystal growth is the increase in size of crystals as solute is deposited from solution.



# ■ CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

## 1. Supersaturation

**Definition:** is a state of a solution that contains more of the dissolved material (solute) than could be dissolved by the solvent under normal circumstances.

It is considered the “Driving Force” for Crystal Nucleation & Growth

- ⇒ It is a very important variable
- ⇒ The quality of the crystals depends on the supersaturation

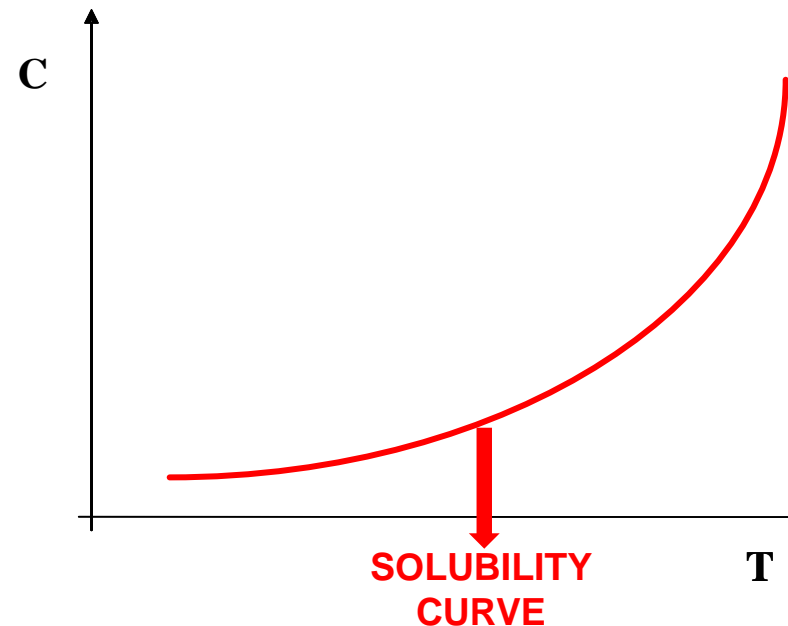
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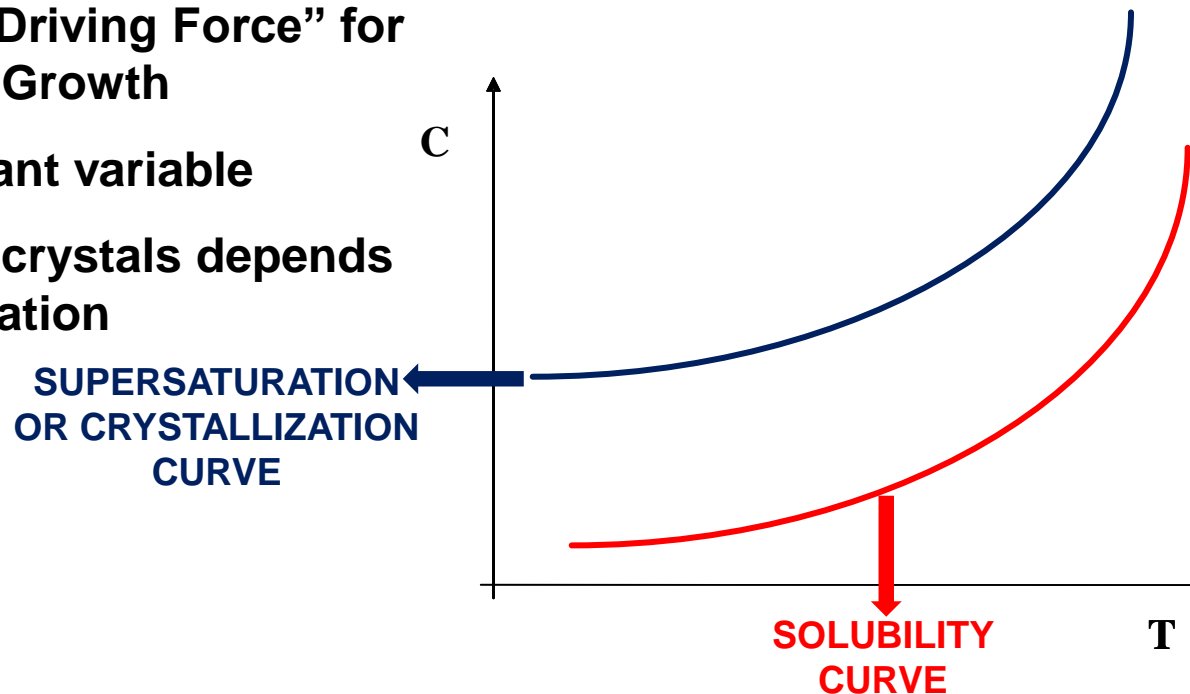
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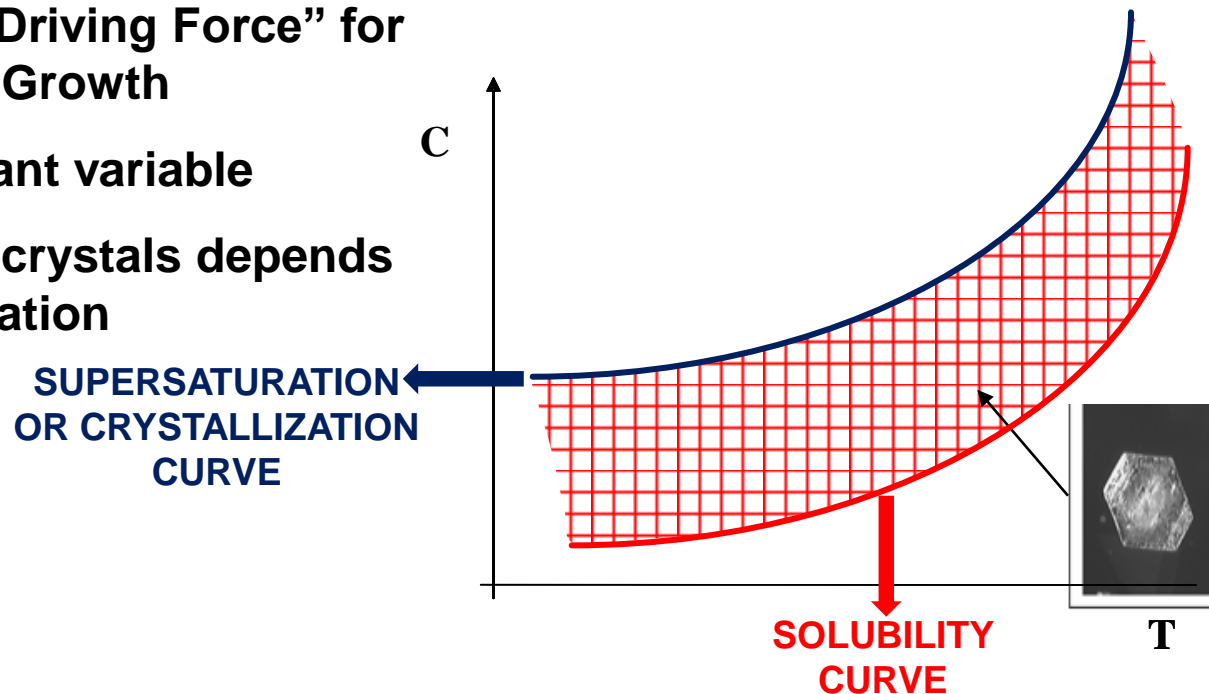
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- ⇒ The quality of the crystals depends on the supersaturation

**GOAL:** to obtain single crystals



# ■ CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

## 1. Supersaturation

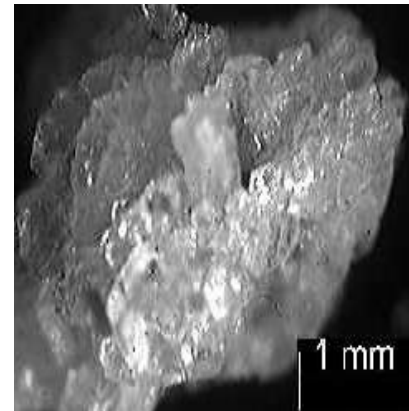
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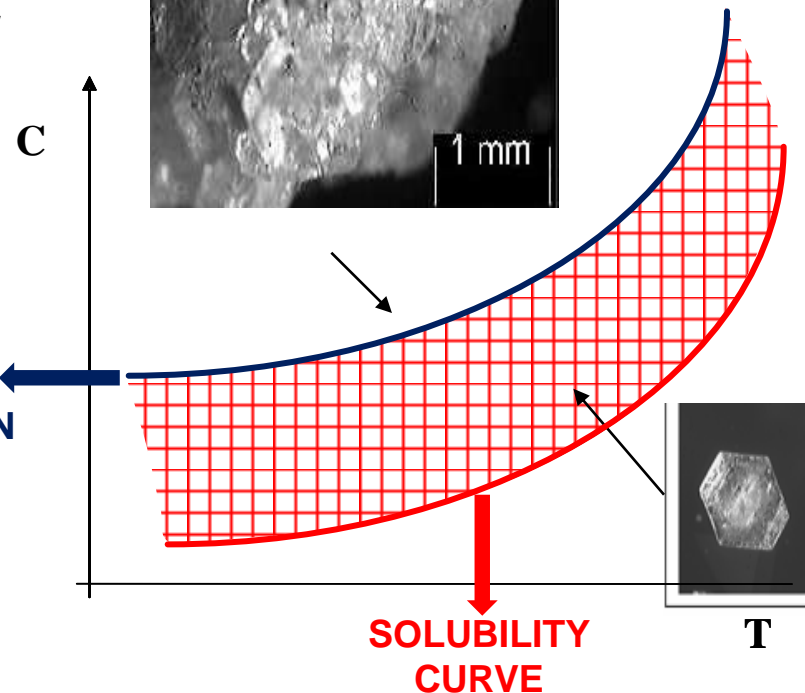
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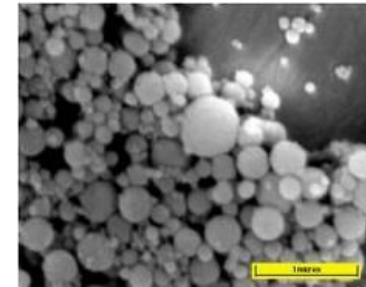
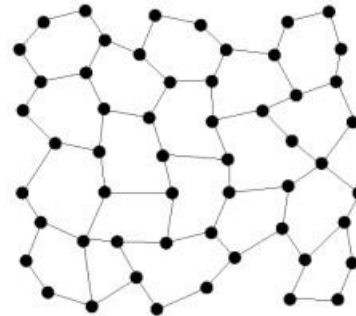
⇒ Avoid this area

SUPERSATURATION  
OR CRYSTALLIZATION  
CURVE

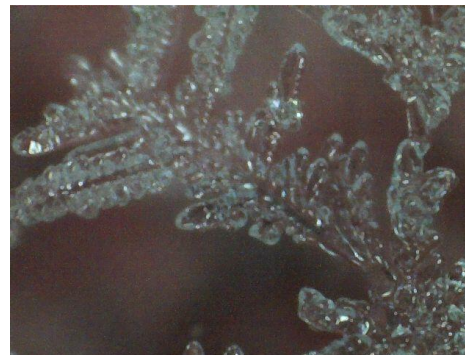


# Effect of the degree of supersaturation on the crystal quality/form

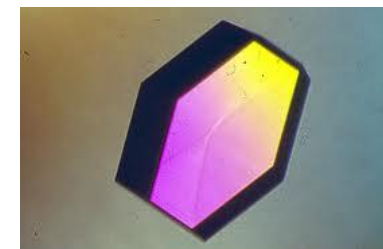
- Very high supersaturation  
**AMORPHOUS MATERIAL**



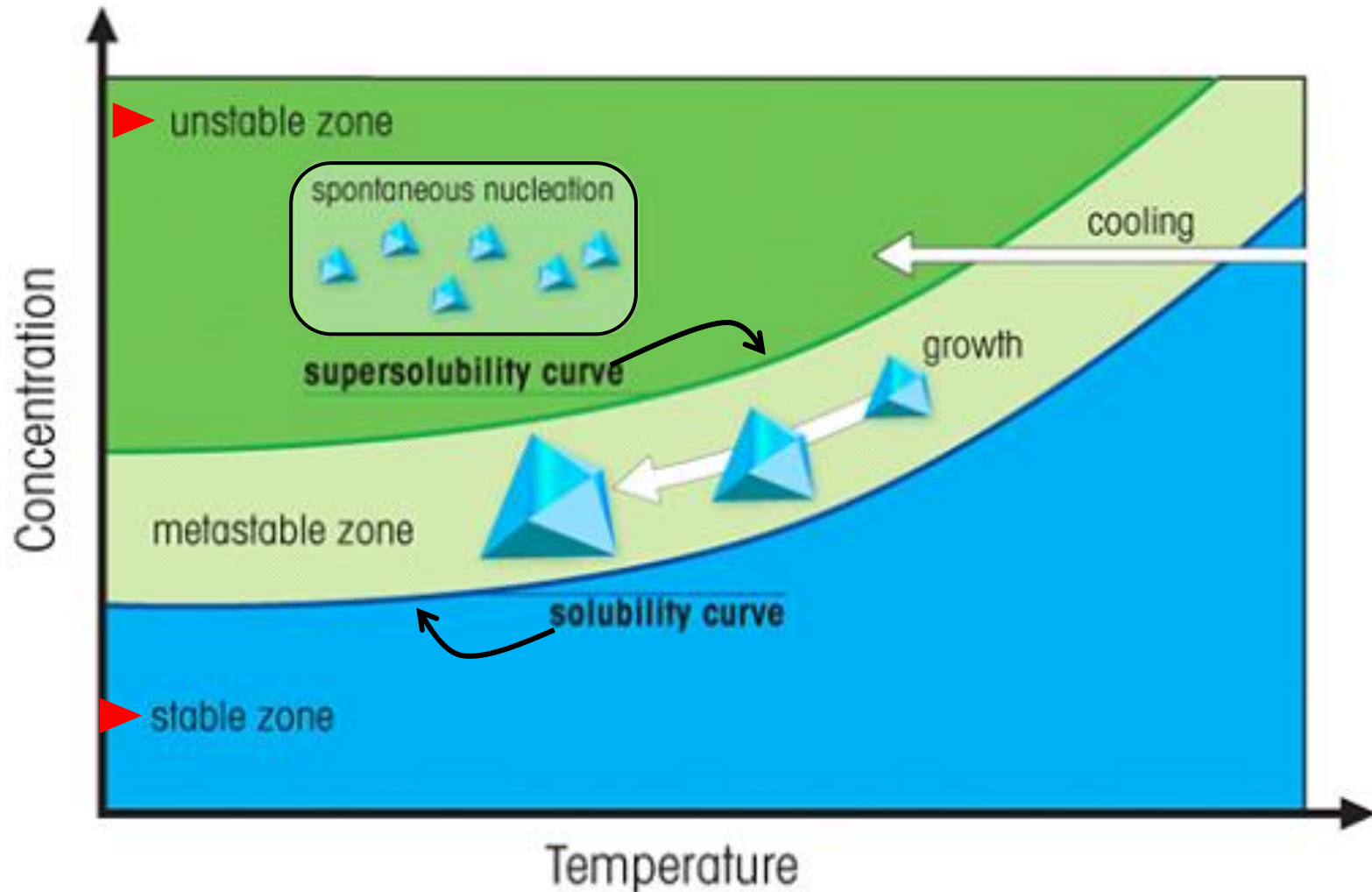
- High supersaturation  
**DENDRITIC CRYSTALS**  
Aggregates of small crystals



- Low or intermediate supersaturation  
**SINGLE CRYSTALS**

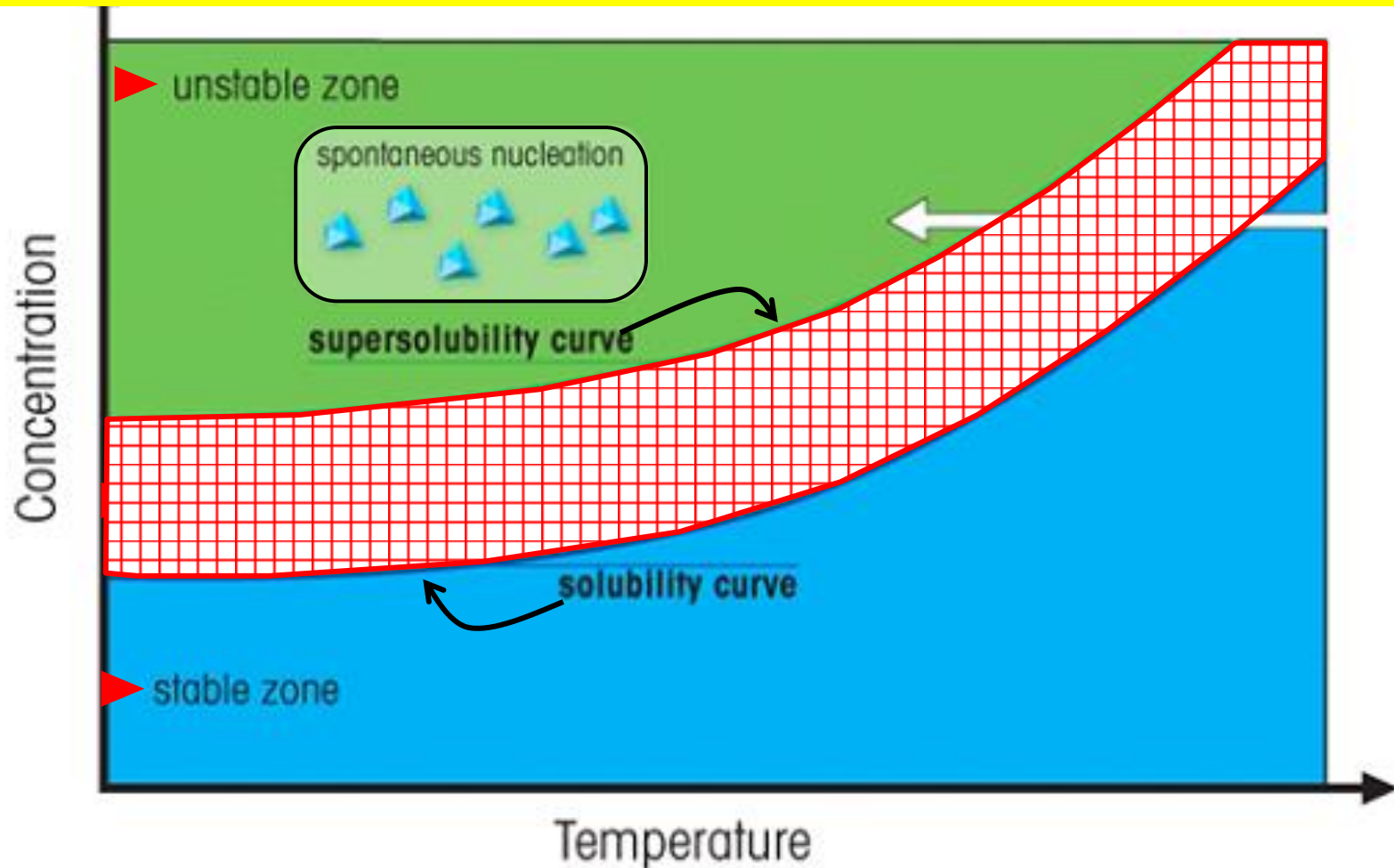


## Effect of the degree of supersaturation on the crystal quality/form



## Effect of the degree of supersaturation on the crystal quality/form

**CONCLUSION:** Stay in the area between the solubility curve and crystallization curve in order to get a **GOOD SINGLE CRYSTAL**

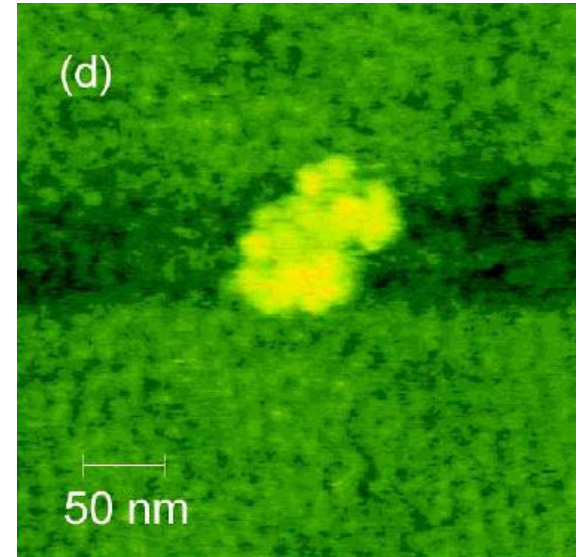




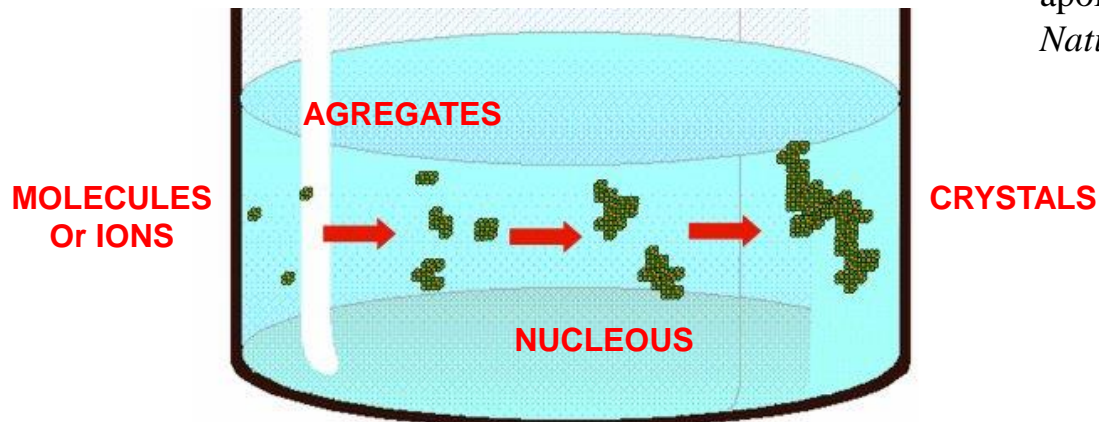
# ■ CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

## 2. Nucleation

**Definition.** Nucleation is the first step in the formation of either a new thermodynamic phase via self-assembly or self-organization. The previous phase is metastable, and thus nucleation is the initial step of this new stable phase. Nucleation is the then, the first step in the formation of a crystal.



Cluster of about 20 molecules of apoferrin (Yau and Vekilov, *Nature*, 2000).



# ■ CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

## 2. Nucleation

### PRIMARY

The nuclei is generated spontaneously from solution

### SECONDARY

The nuclei is generated in the presence of crystals of the same substance

### HOMOGENEOUS

Spontaneous. It takes place in the absence of foreign particles or crystals

**Relative higher supersaturation**

### HETEROGENEOUS

Induced. It takes place in the presence of foreign particles

**Relative lower supersaturation**

# ■ CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

## 2. Nucleation

### PRIMARY

The nuclei is generated spontaneously from solution

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Relative higher supersaturation

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The nuclei is generated in the presence of crystals of the same substance

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Induced. It takes place in the presence of foreign particles

### VERY IMPORTANT FOR INDUSTRIAL CRYSTAL GROWTH (e.g. Pharmaceutical companies)

The addition of germs, surfaces, interfaces intentionally, etc. allows:

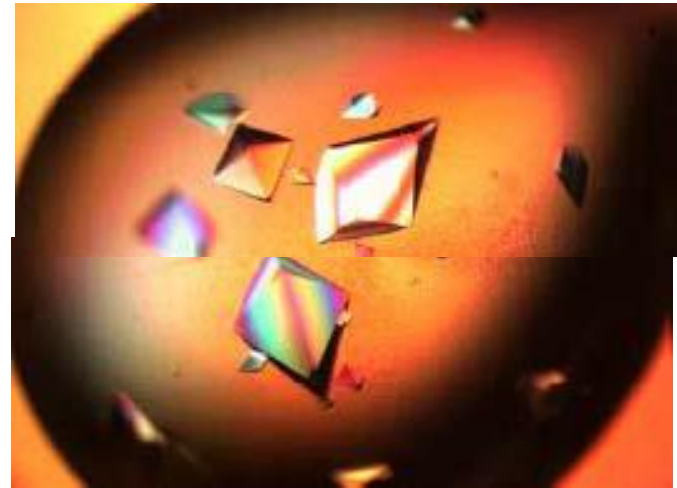
- The growth and isolation of a specific crystal form/phase
- Phase conversion control
- Avoid heterogeneous nucleation due to unknown contaminates, particles & impurities
- Larger crystals

# ■ CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

## 3. Crystal Growth

**Definition.** Crystal growth is the increase in size of crystals as solute is deposited from solution.

It depends on the interaction between the solute and solvent and other factors related with the processes developed in the “growing crystal”.



# ■ CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

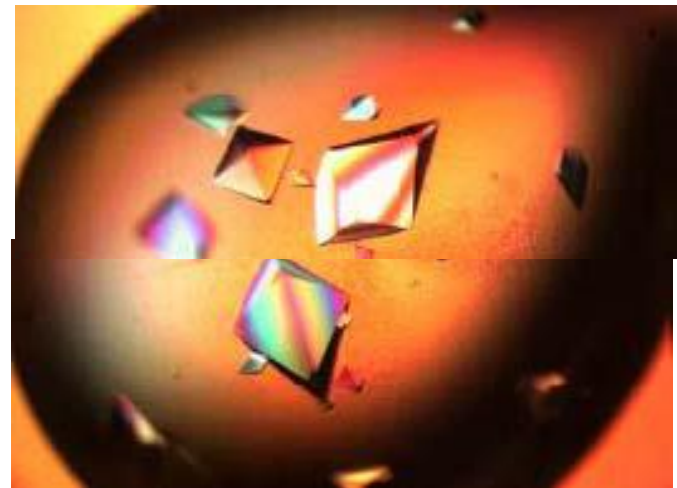
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**Definition.** Crystal growth is the increase in size of crystals as solute is deposited from solution.

It depends on the interaction between the solute and solvent and other factors related with the processes developed in the “growing crystal”.

**GOAL:** to obtain single crystals

So, take in mind the idea of a ordered crystal with certain periodicity to analyze the steps related with the crystal growth

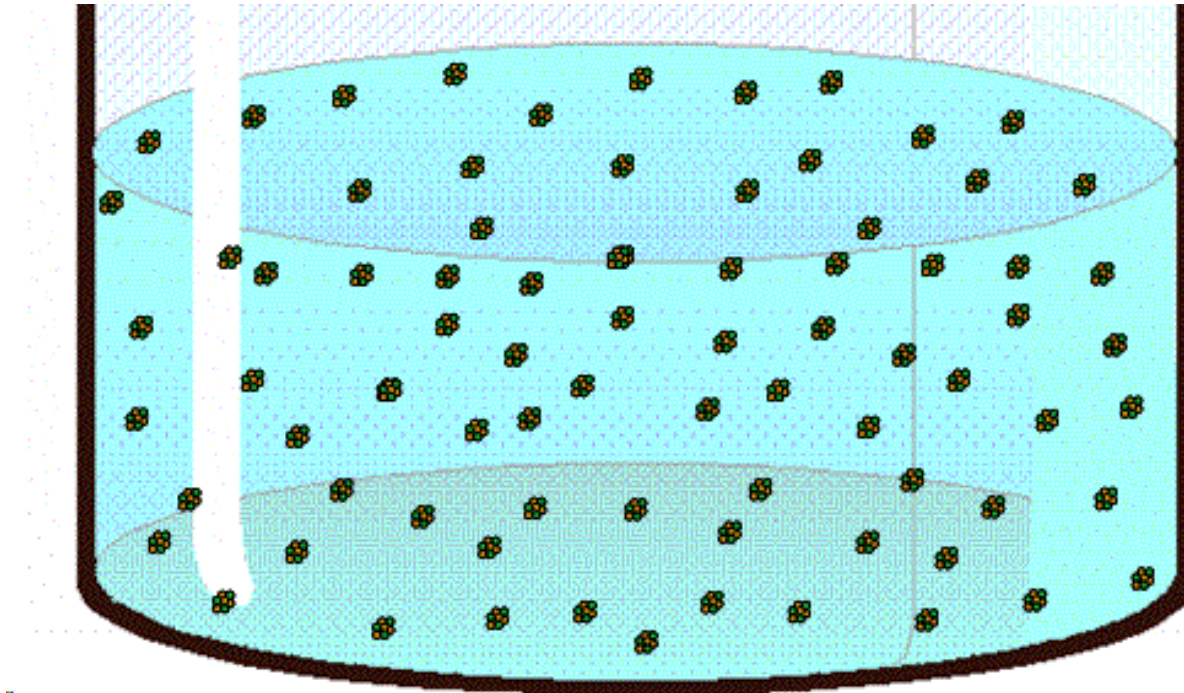




# ■ CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

## 3. Crystal Growth

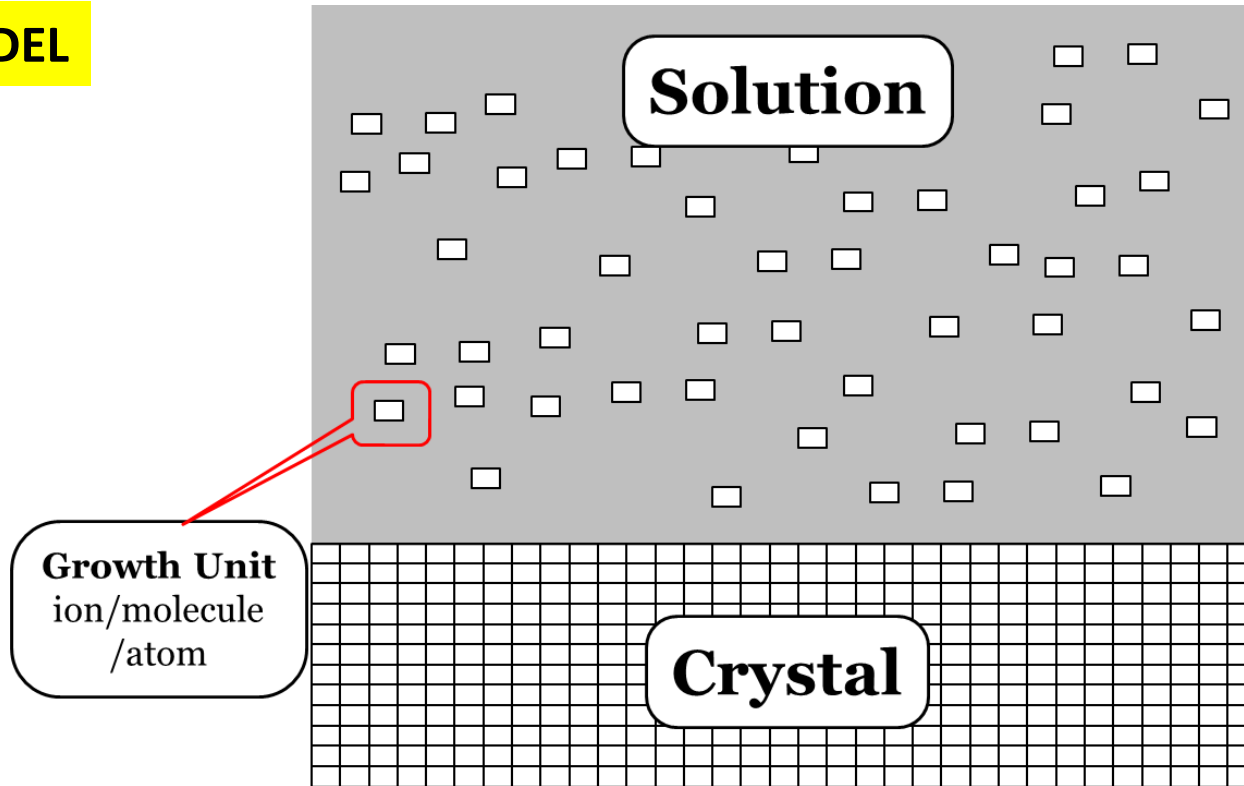
(Animación)



# ■ CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

## 3. Crystal Growth: *How does the crystal growth?*

MODEL

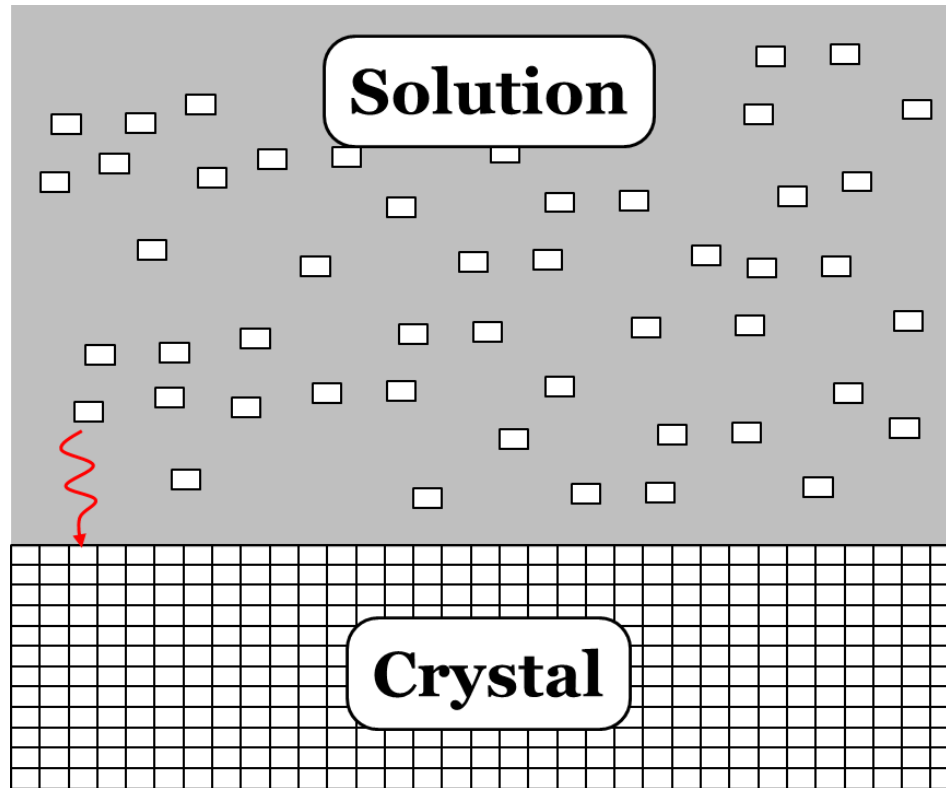


# CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

## 3. Crystal Growth: *How does the crystal growth?*

### MODEL

Process that involves several steps that can be reduced to two main ones:

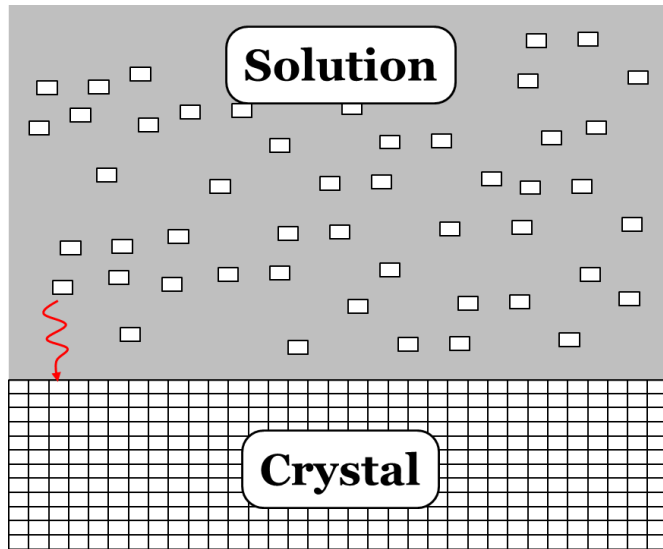


1. The transport of **growth units** from the bulk solution towards the **crystal face**;
2. The **interactions taking place at the crystal** interface until the **growth units move themselves into a lattice position** minimizing the reticular energy and contributing to forming a perfect crystal.

# CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

## 3. Crystal Growth: *How does the crystal growth?*

### MODEL

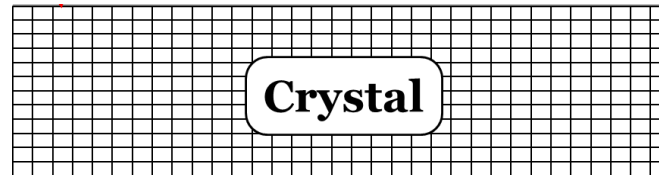


$N$  : number of growth units

$J$  : rate (number of growth units per unit time)

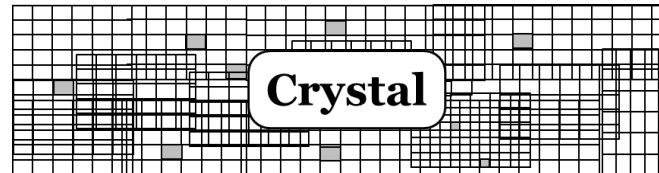
### Possible scenarios

#### A) Small value for $J$



Perfectly ordered crystal  
(single crystal)

#### B) Higher value for $J$



Crystal with a clear degree of  
disorder (presence  
Vacancies, dislocations, and  
boundary grains will appear)

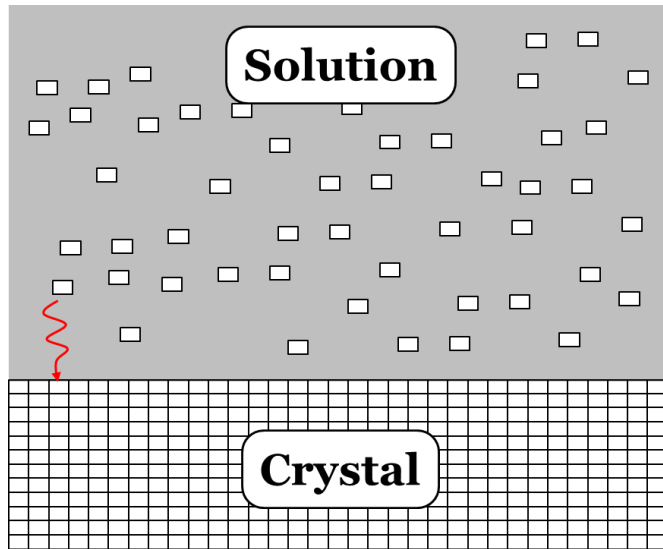
#### C) Very large value of $J$

Amorphous material

# CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

## 3. Crystal Growth: *How does the crystal growth?*

### MODEL



### Comment

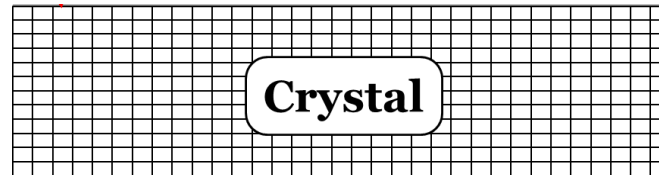
Material in **B)** might be divided into a number of regions,  $M$ , made up of growth units that are perfectly arranged as regards the pattern, but slightly disoriented with respect to the neighboring regions. This number  $M$  is related to the term mosaicity and increases with  $J$

$N$  : number of growth units

$J$  : rate (number of growth units per unit time)

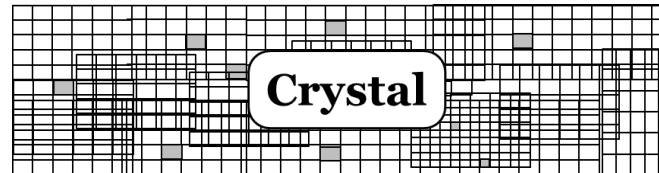
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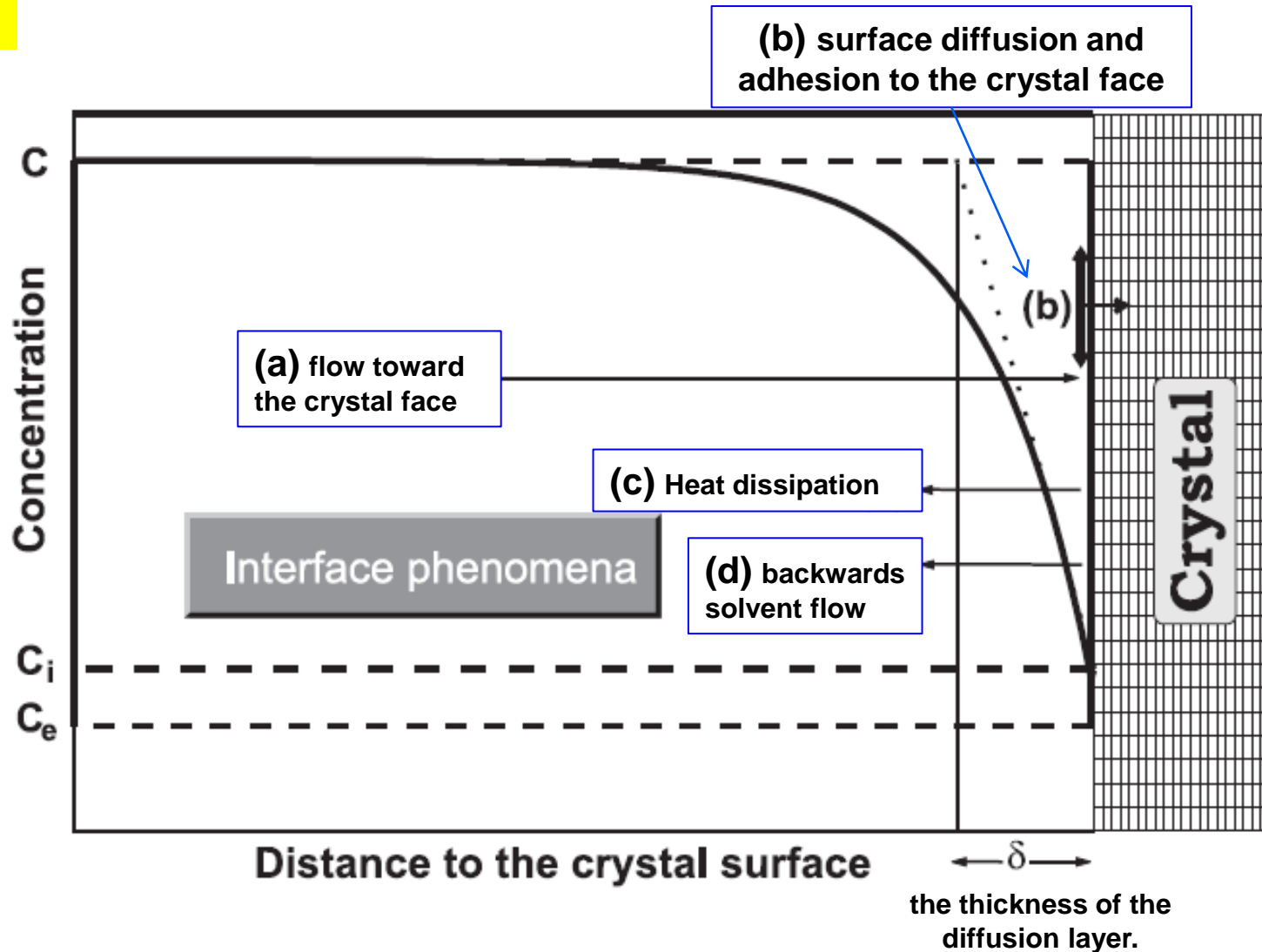
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**Amorphous material**



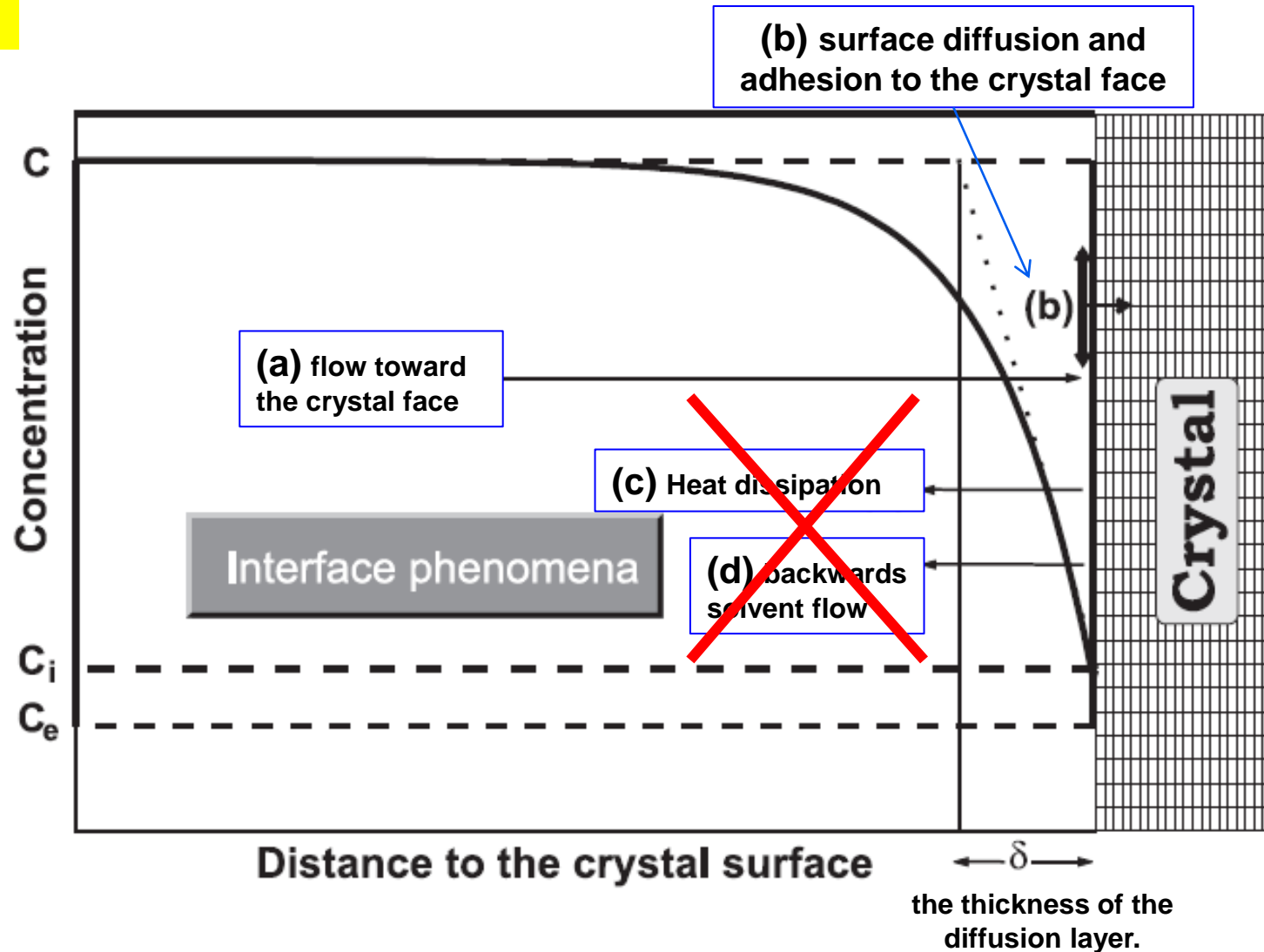
### 3. Crystal Growth

#### STEP 1



### 3. Crystal Growth

#### STEP 1



### 3. Crystal Growth

#### STEP 1

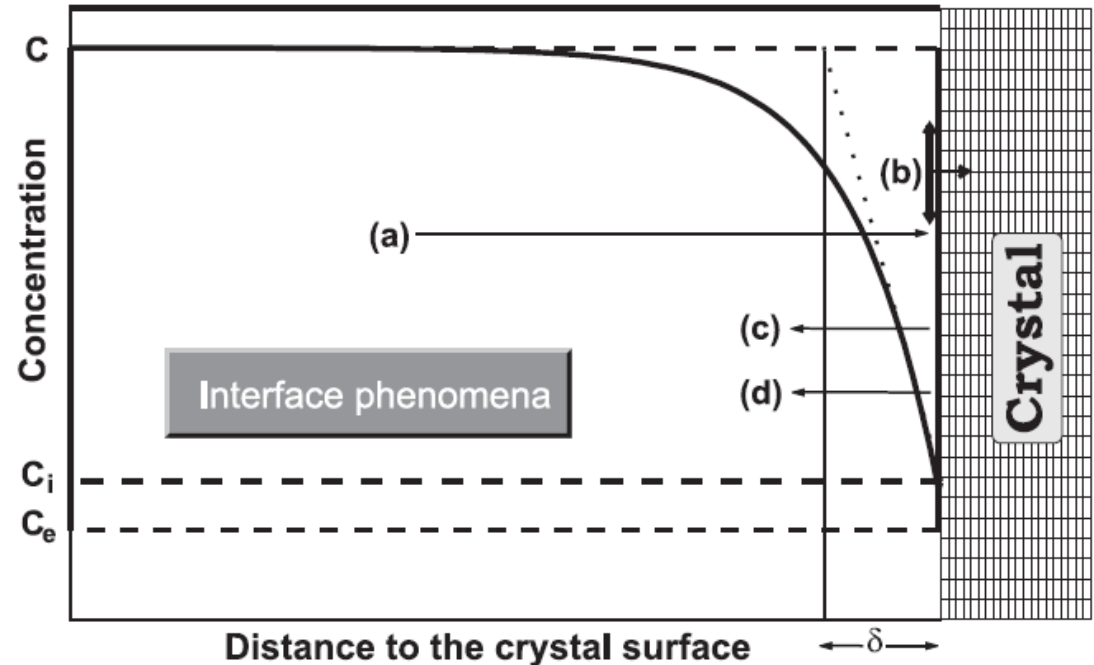
##### Analysis

- $C = C$  at the bulk
- Volume of the crystal  $\uparrow$
- $C$  at the neighboring  $\downarrow (= C_i)$
- $\Rightarrow$  a  $C$  difference is formed ( $\Delta C = C - C_i$ ) and thus, a  $C$  gradient ( $\Delta C / \Delta x$ )
- Flow of the particles follows Fick's first law of diffusion:

$$J_D = -D \frac{\Delta C}{\Delta x}$$

$D$  = diffusion constant (for small molecules  $\sim 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ , macromolecules  $\sim 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ )

$J_D$  = flow of the particules ("rate")



### 3. Crystal Growth

#### STEP 1

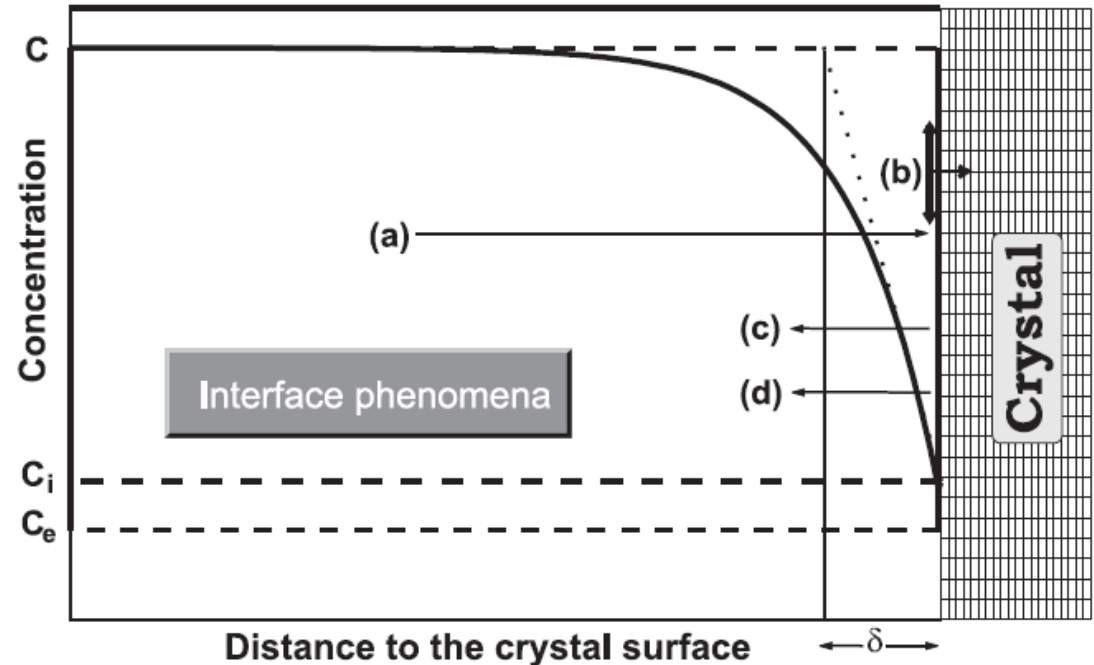
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**OBJECTIVE:**  $J$  small enough to have good crystals

$\Rightarrow$  To ensure that diffusion takes control of the mass transport, other mechanisms such as, convection must be prevented

$\Rightarrow$  **IN THE LAB:** porous media, high viscosity fluids, thin capillary volumes, low gravity, crystal growth in gels... (We will see crystal growing methods in a few slides)

### 3. Crystal Growth

#### STEP 1

##### Analysis

- Flow of the particles follows Fick's first law of diffusion:

$$J_D = -D \frac{\Delta C}{\Delta x}$$

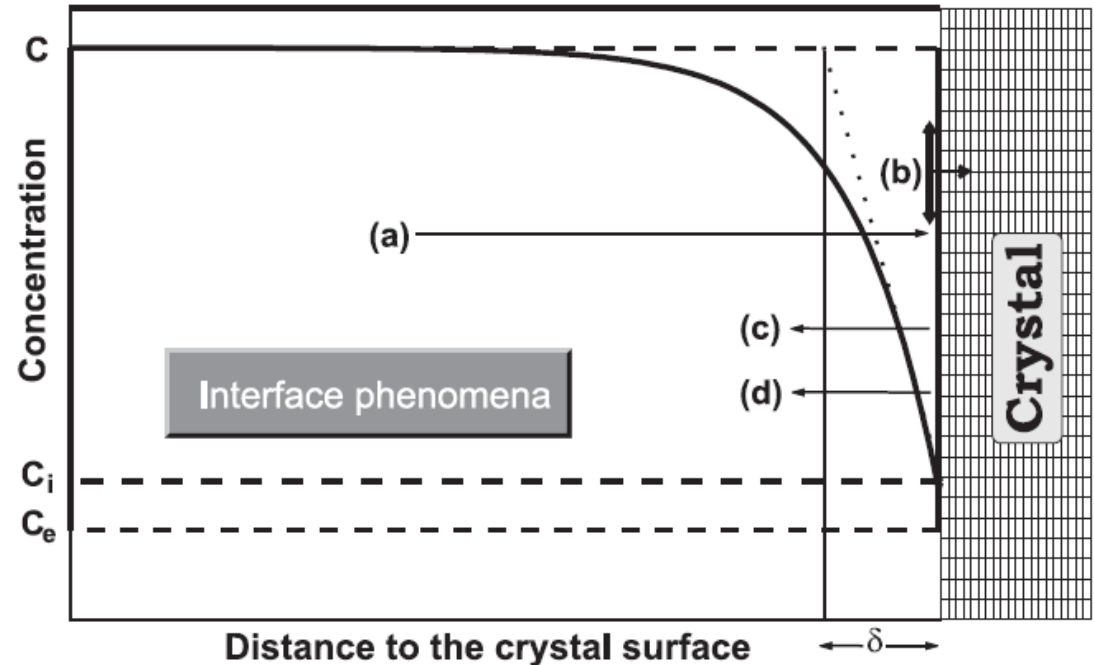
$D$  = diffusion constant

$J_D$  = flow of the particules ("rate")

- Approximation of the mass transfer rate  $dm/dt$  from the bulk (at  $C_i$ ) to the crystal surface (at  $C_i$ ):

$$\frac{dm}{dt} = k_D (C - C_i)^d$$

$k_D = D/\delta$   $d$  = kinetic order



### 3. Crystal Growth

#### STEP 1

##### Analysis

- Flow of the particles follows Fick's first law of diffusion:

$$J_D = -D \frac{\Delta C}{\Delta x}$$

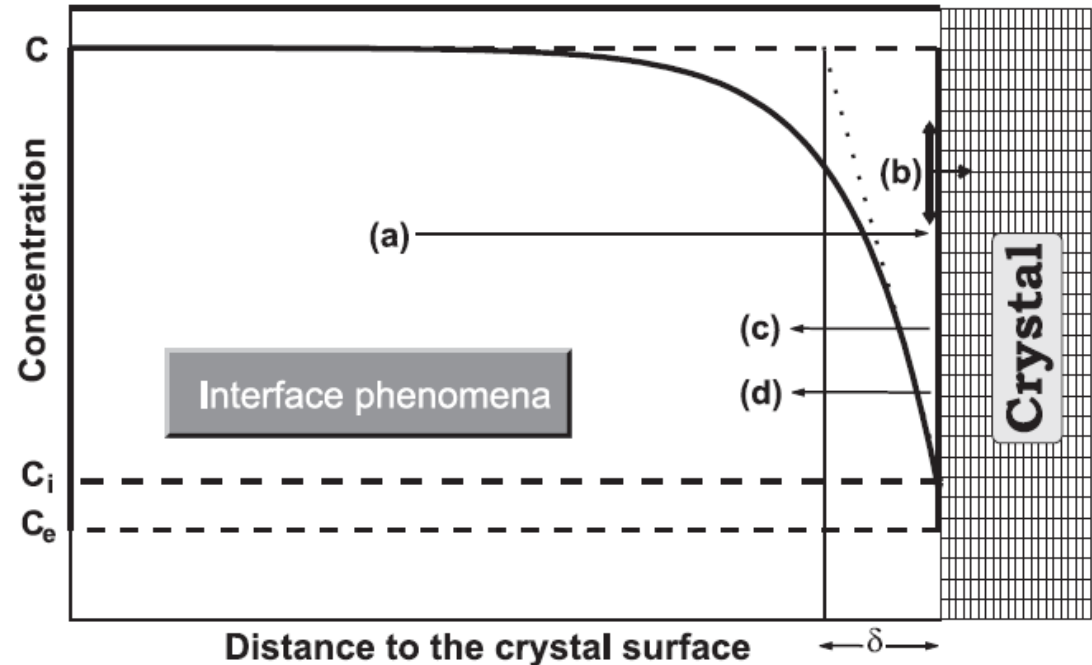
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#### QUESTIONS

*how slow should the mass transfer be in order to grow a perfect crystal?*

*What happen when the growth units arrives the surface?*

*Does the crystal growth depends on the growth unit identity?*



### 3. Crystal Growth

#### STEP 1

##### Analysis

- Approximation of the mass transfer rate  $dm/dt$  from the bulk to the crystal surface :

$$\frac{dm}{dt} = k_D(C - C_i)^d$$

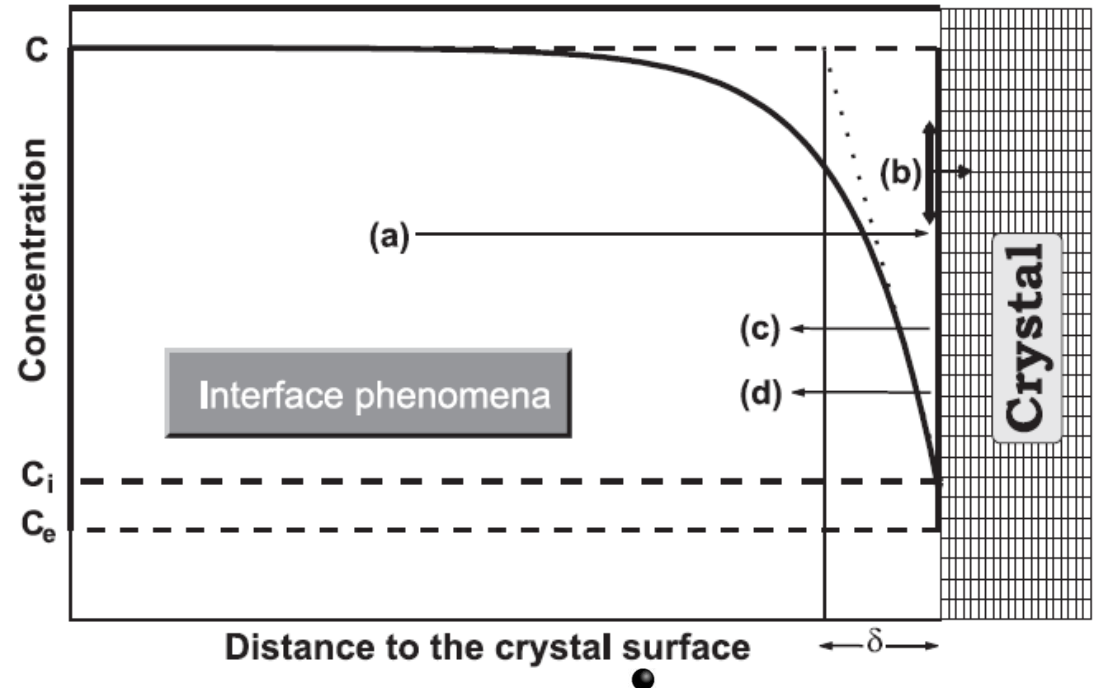
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#### STEP 2

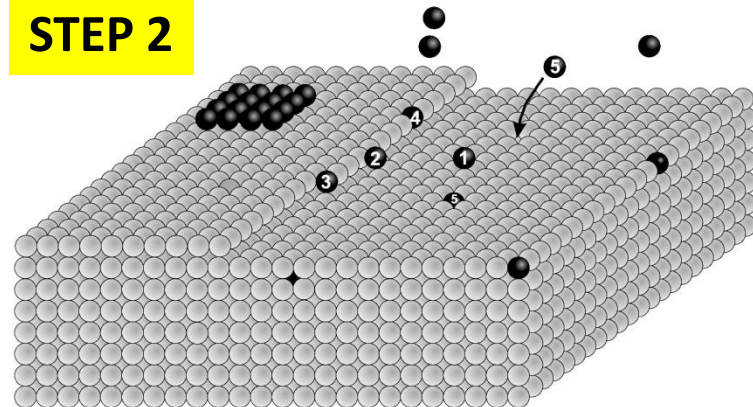
- The rate of transport of the growth units onto the crystal surfaces depends on considerations of energetics. The mass deposition is controlled by:

$$\frac{dm}{dt} = k_r(C_i - C_e)^r$$

$k_r$  = kinetic coef. That depends on the surface roughness  $r$  = kinetic order  $C_e$  = equilibrium C



#### STEP 2



## 3. Crystal Growth

### STEP 1

#### Analysis

- Approximation of the mass transfer rate  $dm/dt$  from the bulk to the crystal surface :

$$\frac{dm}{dt} = k_D(C - C_i)^d$$

$k_D = D/\delta$   $d$  = kinetic order

### STEP 2

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### CONCLUSION 1

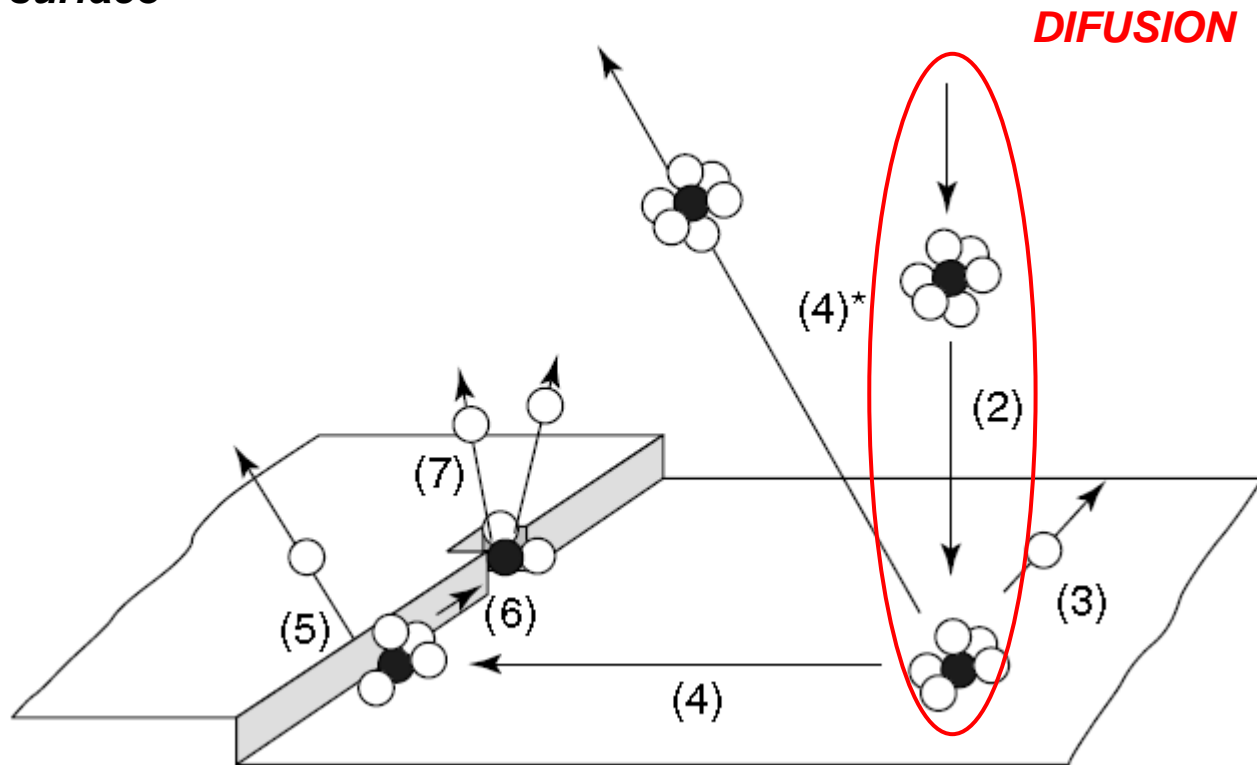
The compromise between the kinetics of the **processes taking place on the crystal surface** and those of the **transport of growth units toward this surface** determines the quality of the growing crystal. Thus, **crystals growing at a rate controlled by mass diffusion will contain a low density of defects, have reduced mosaicity, and presumably will diffract X-rays with better resolution.**

To ensure that **diffusion takes control of the mass transport**, other mechanisms such as, convection must be prevented.

### 3. Crystal Growth

All the involved mechanisms at glance

**DIFUSION** of the growing unit to the crystal surface

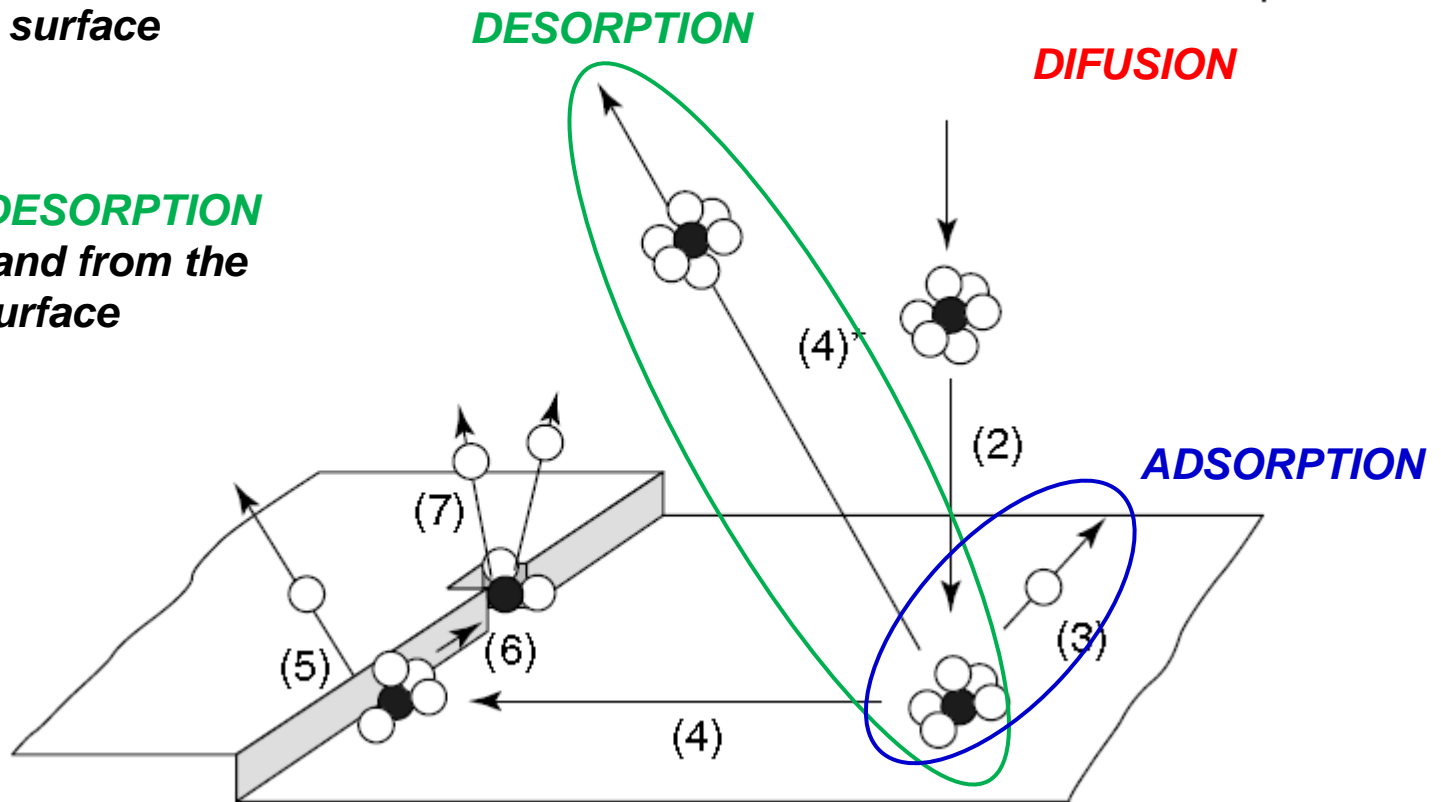


### 3. Crystal Growth

All the involved mechanisms at glance

**DIFUSION** of the growing unit to the crystal surface

**ADSORPTION & DESORPTION** of the species to and from the crystal growing surface



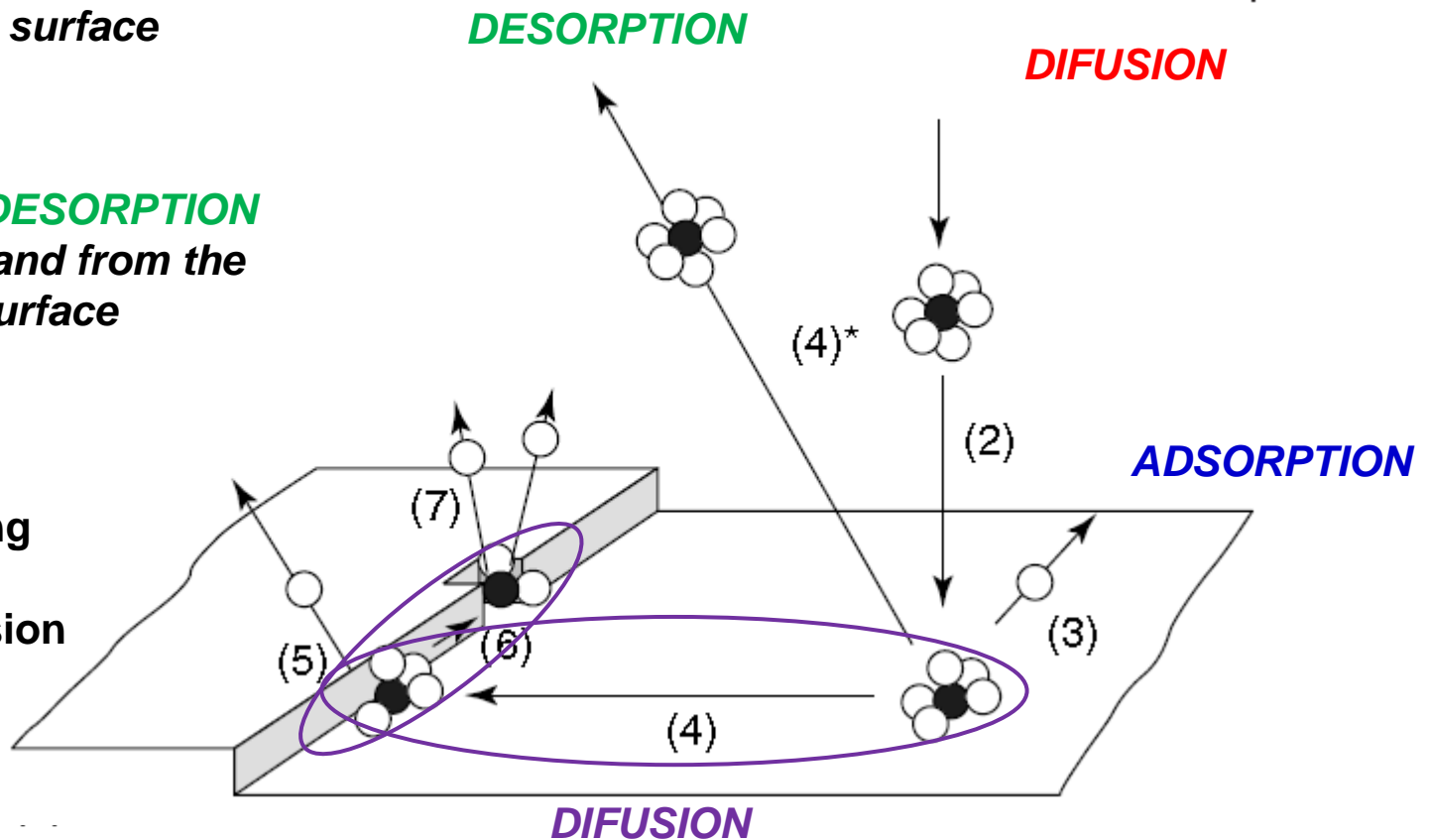
### 3. Crystal Growth

All the involved mechanisms at glance

**DIFUSION** of the growing unit to the crystal surface

**ADSORPTION & DESORPTION** of the species to and from the crystal growing surface

**DIFUSION IN THE SURFACE**: growing due to the irreversible inclusion of the specie



### 3. Crystal Growth

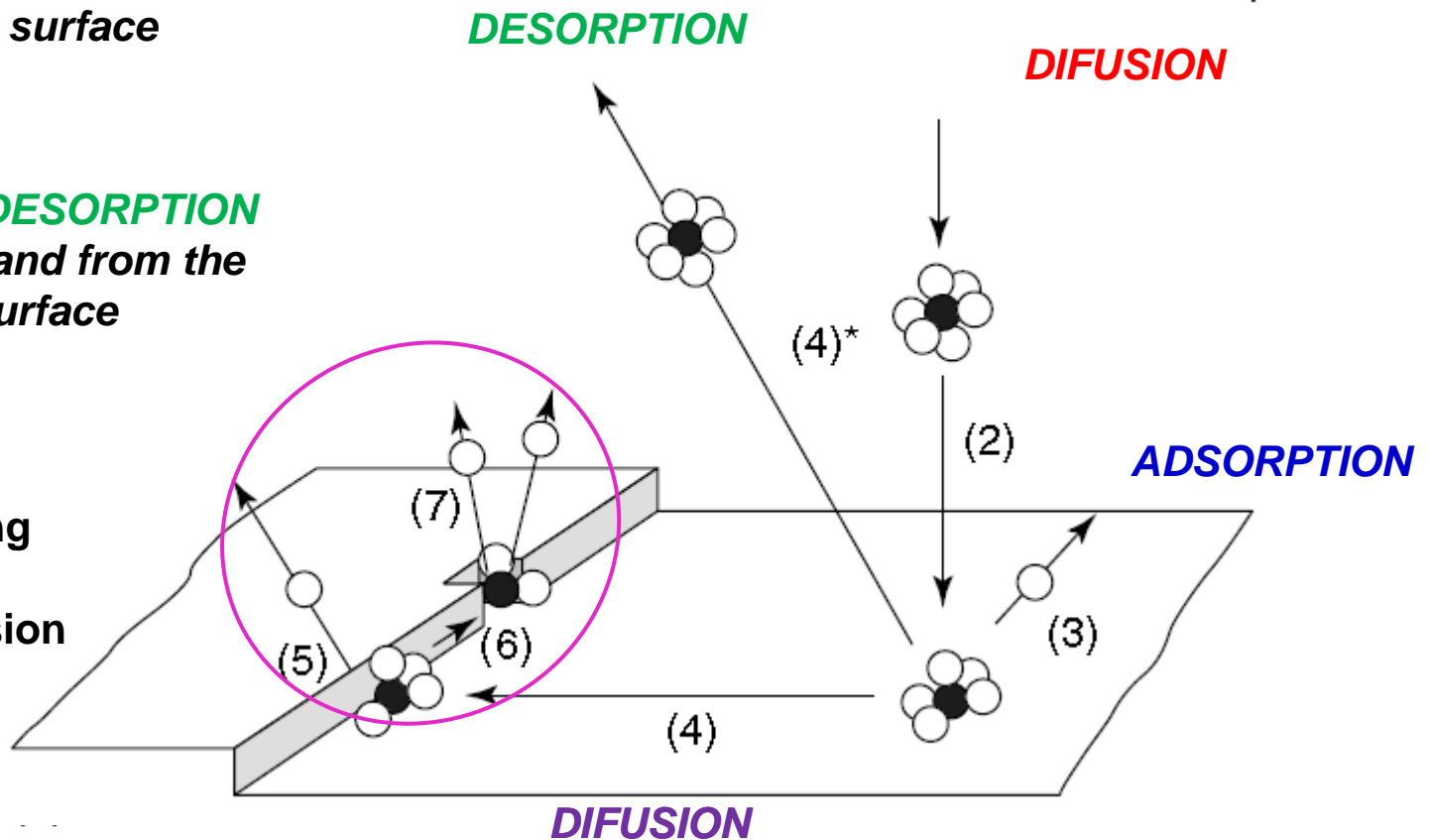
All the involved mechanisms at glance

**DIFUSION** of the growing unit to the crystal surface

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**DIFUSION IN THE SURFACE**: growing due to the irreversible inclusion of the specie

**INCLUSION TO A VACANCY OR STEP**



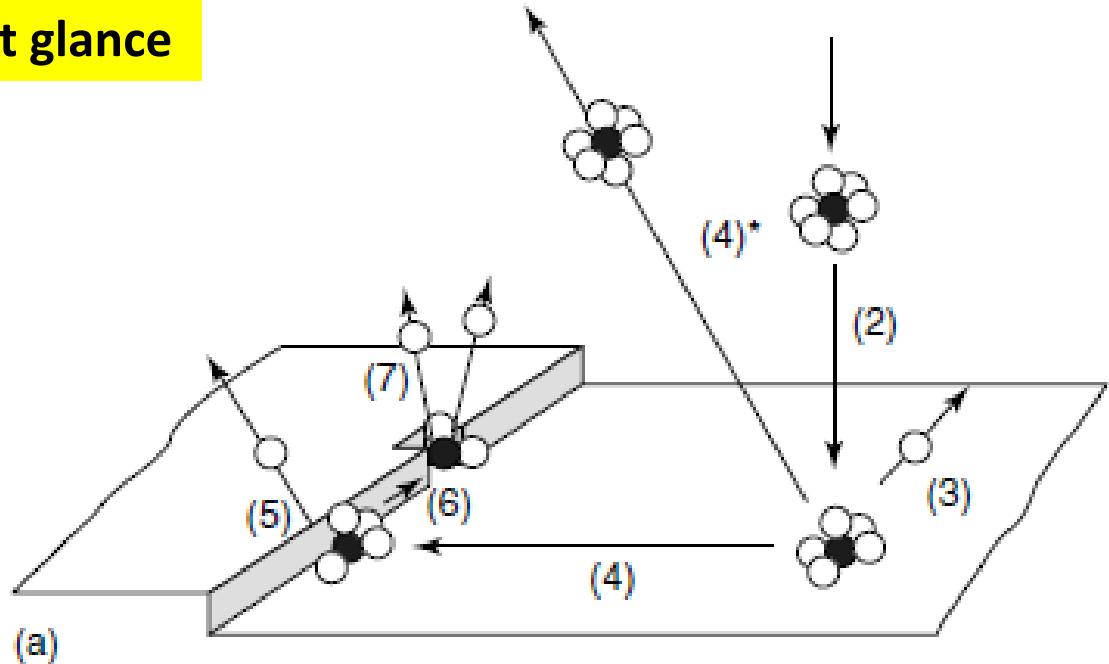


### 3. Crystal Growth

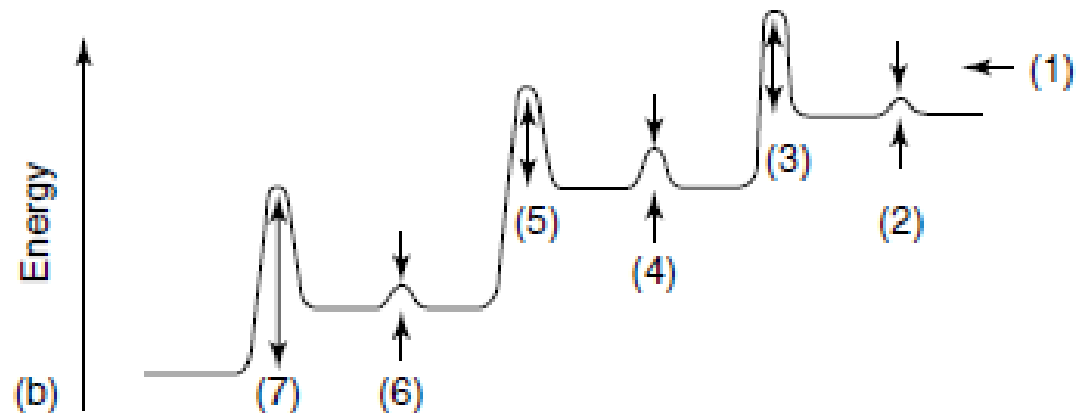
#### All the involved mechanisms at glance

#### Processes involved in the crystal growth:

(1) Transport of solute to a position near the crystal surface; (2) diffusion through boundary layer; (3) adsorption onto crystal surface; (4) diffusion over the surface; (4\*) desorption from the surface; (5) attachment to a step or edge; (6) diffusion along the step or edge; (7) Incorporation into kink site or step vacancy



#### Associated energy changes for the processes depicted above



### 3. Crystal Growth

#### **CONCLUSION 1. The importance of the diffusion control**

The compromise between the kinetics of the **processes taking place on the crystal surface** and those of the **transport of growth units toward this surface** determines the quality of the growing crystal. Thus, **crystals growing at a rate controlled by mass diffusion will contain a low density of defects, have reduced mosaicity, and presumably will diffract X-rays with better resolution.**

To ensure that **diffusion takes control of the mass transport**, other mechanisms such as, convection must be prevented.

#### **CONCLUSION 2. The relationship between SUPERSATURATION, NUCLEATION AND CRYSTAL GROWTH**

**Supersaturation** is critical because it is the **driving force for crystal nucleation and growth**. **Nucleation** is the birth of new crystal nuclei – either spontaneously from solution (primary nucleation) or in the presence of existing crystals (secondary nucleation). **Crystal growth is the increase in size** of crystals as solute is deposited from solution. **These often competing mechanisms ultimately determine the final crystal size distribution and quality.**

### 3. Crystal Growth

#### CONCLUSION 2. The relationship between SUPERSATURATION, NUCLEATION AND CRYSTAL GROWTH

**Supersaturation** is critical because it is the **driving force for crystal nucleation and growth**. **Nucleation** is the birth of new crystal nuclei – either spontaneously from solution (primary nucleation) or in the presence of existing crystals (secondary nucleation). **Crystal growth is the increase in size** of crystals as solute is deposited from solution. **These often competing mechanisms ultimately determine the final crystal size distribution and quality.**

- Simple kinetic equations to represent the nucleation (not considered before) and the crystal growth (already analyzed). Both equations depends on the concentration, thus on the degree of supersaturation.

$$v_n = k_n \Delta C^n$$

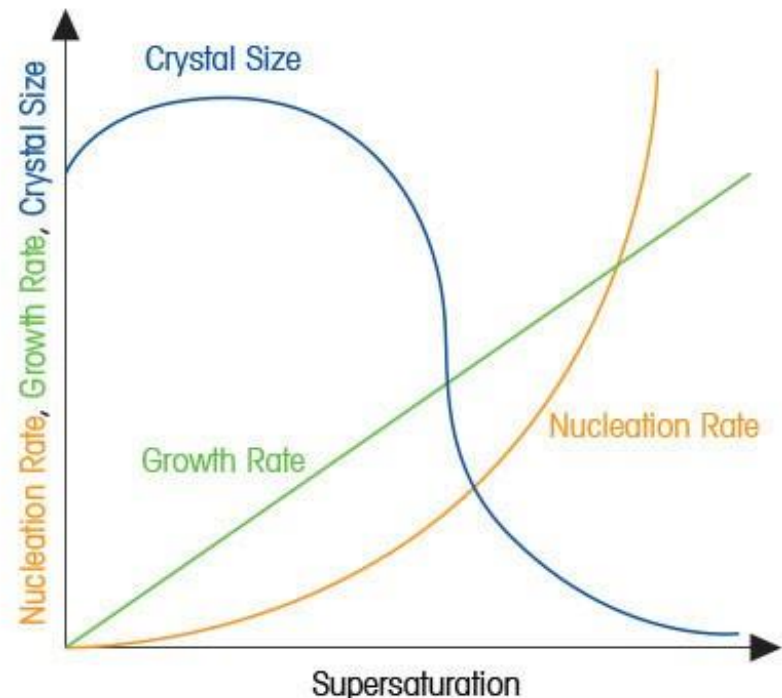
$v_n$  = nucleation rate       $k_n$  = growth constant

$n$  = nucleation order       $\Delta C$  = supersaturation

$$v_g = k_g \Delta C^g$$

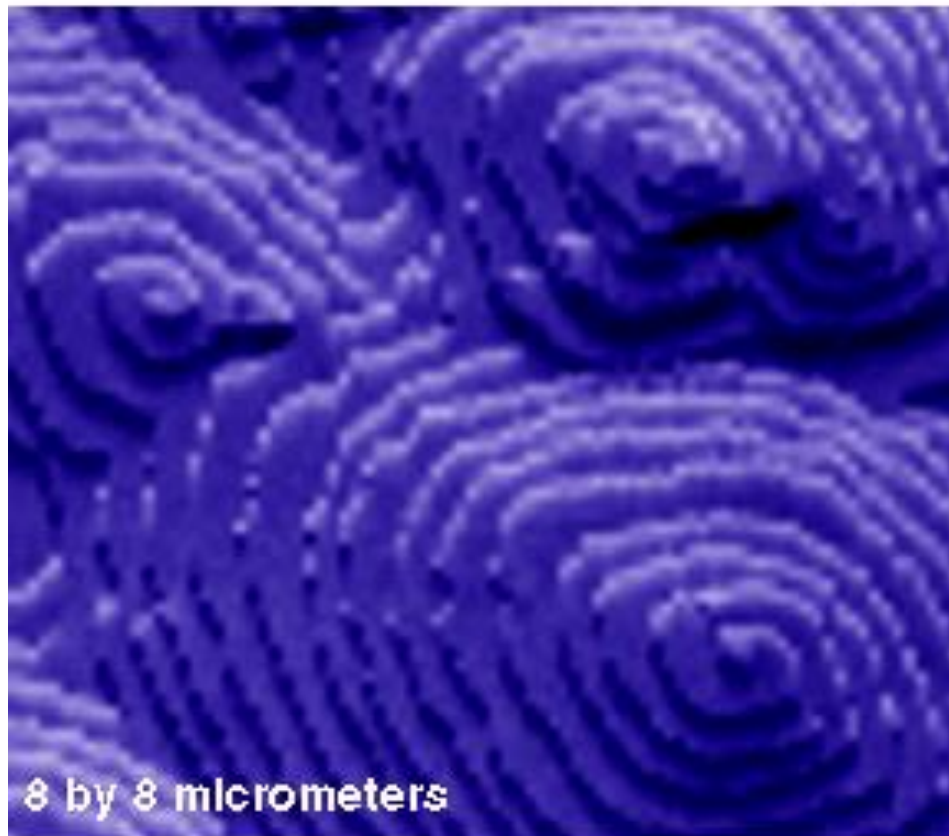
$v_g$  = growth rate       $k_g$  = growth constant

$g$  = growth order       $\Delta C$  = supersaturation

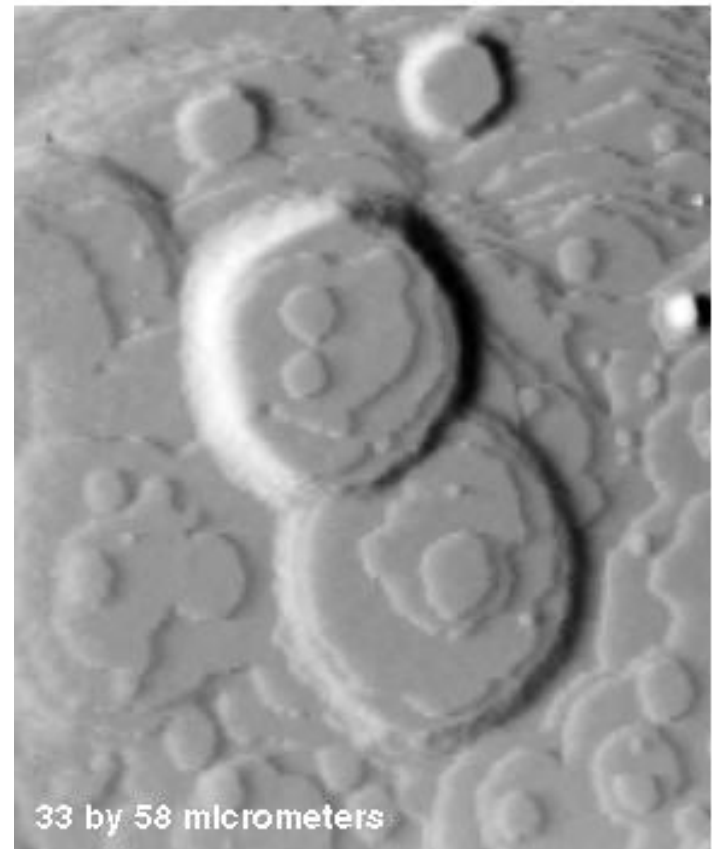


### 3. Crystal Growth

Examples of crystal growing analyzed by AFM microscopy



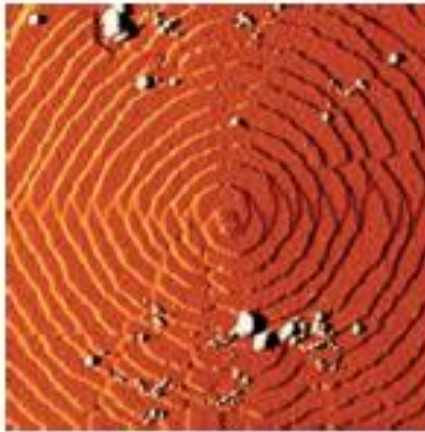
**LOW SUPERSATURATION**



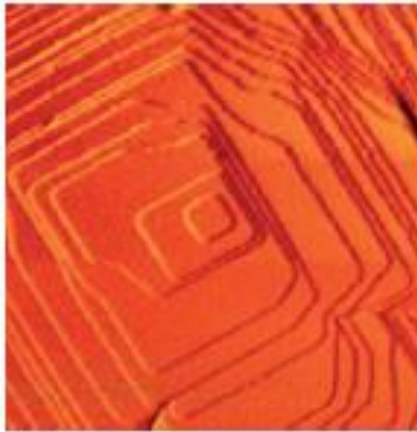
**MIDIUM-HIGH SUPERSATURATION**

### 3. Crystal Growth

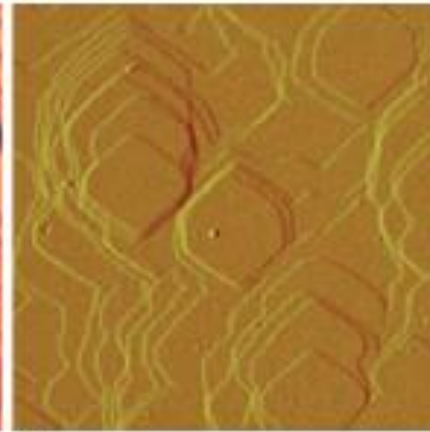
Examples of crystal growing analyzed by AFM microscopy



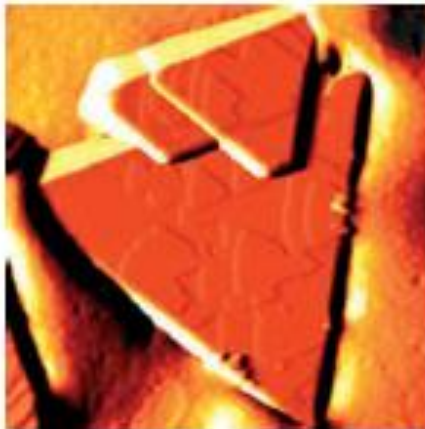
(a) Aluminium Phosphate



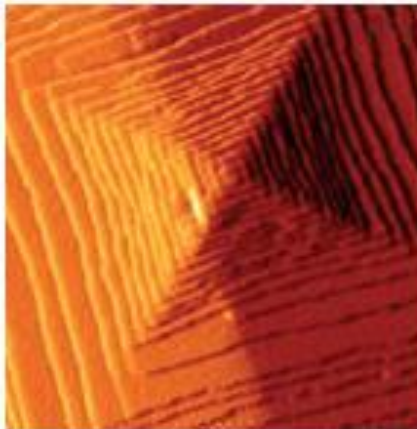
(b) Zeolite



(c) MOF: ZIF-8



(d) ZnPO<sub>4</sub>



(e) Crystal growing of ZnPO<sub>4</sub>



(f) Disolution of a zeolite

# ■ **STUDY OF THE CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS**

## **Summary of the variables to take into account**

- **Growing unit = compound** (identity of the specie: size, M, kind of possible intermolecular interactions...)
- **Solvent**
- **Supersaturation (& its relationship with nucleation and growing rates)**
- **Diffusional control**
- **Convection**
- **Thermal instability**
- **Temperature**
- **Presence of impurities**
- **Time**

# ■ **STUDY OF THE CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS**

**VARIABLE: compound (“crystal unit”)**

1. **Combine knowledge of solubility profile with crystal growing techniques**
2. **Purify your compound** (using conventional crystallization and/or other purification steps)
3. **Consider the empirically established physical properties of your compound – sensitivities, thermal stability, etc.**
4. **Develop a solubility profile of your compound**
5. **Impure samples do not recrystallize as well as pure samples**
6. **Recrystallization minimizes the presence of foreign insoluble material which increases the number of nucleating sites**
7. **Successive crystallizations purify the compound**
8. **Always use recrystallized material when setting up a crystal growing attempt**



# ■ STUDY OF THE CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

## VARIABLE: Solvent

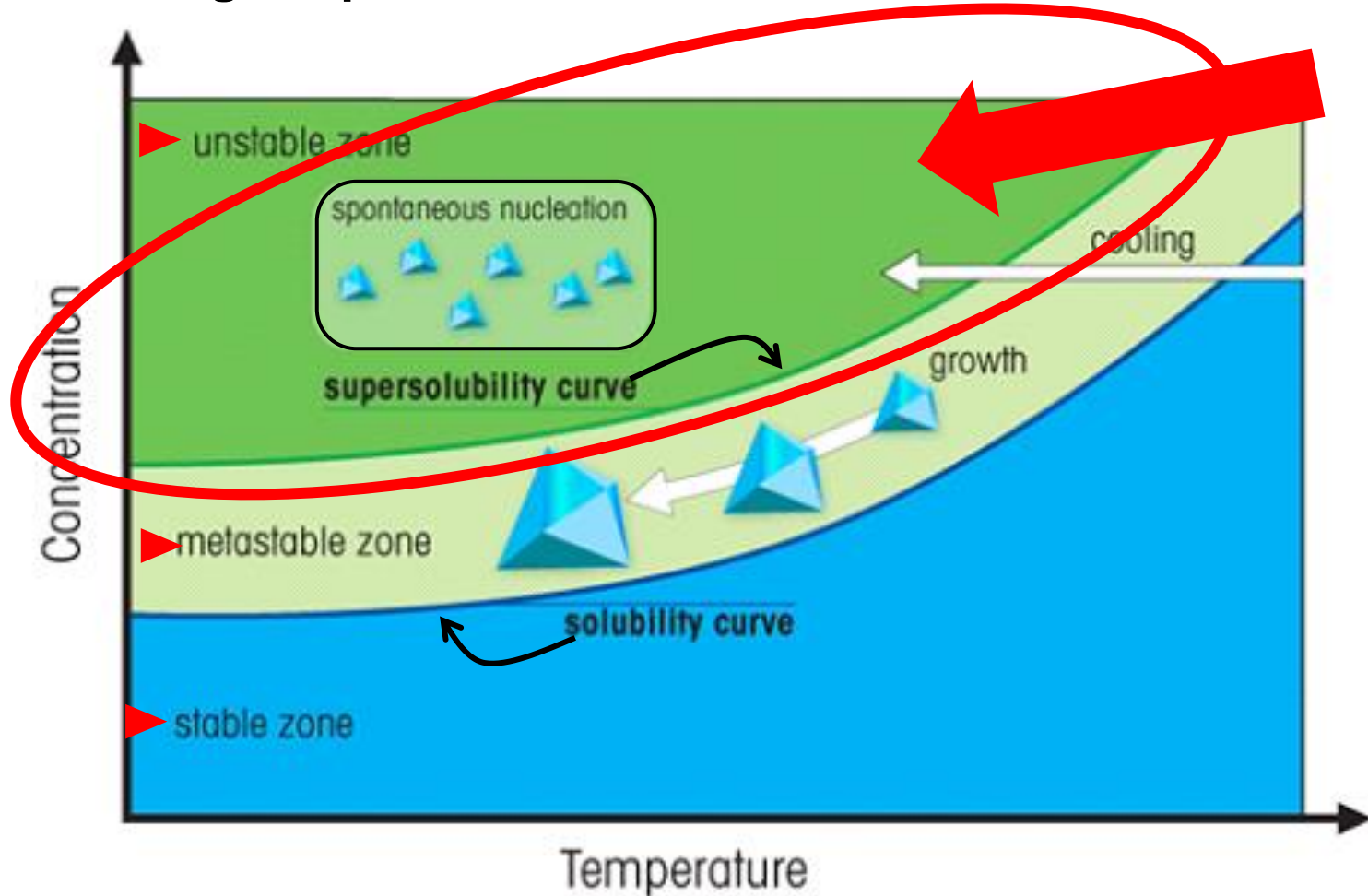
1. Solvent influences in the crystal growth
2. It can be incorporated into the crystalline network
3. Useful rule: use the least amount of solvent in the experiments
4. Golden Rule: "similar dissolves similar"
5. Explore several solvents and mixtures
6. Moderate solubility is best (avoid supersaturation)
7. Hydrogen bonding can help or hinder crystallization.
8. Avoid highly volatile solvents
9. Avoid long chain alkyl solvents, they can be significantly disordered in crystals. Choose solvents with "rigid geometries" (e.g. toluene)



# ■ STUDY OF THE CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

**VARIABLE: supersaturation**

**EXAMPLE: High supersaturation => Unstable Zone**



# ■ STUDY OF THE CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

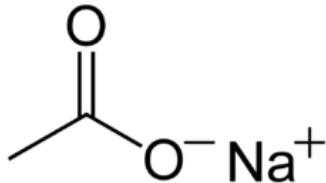
**VARIABLE: supersaturation**

**EXAMPLE: High supersaturation => Unstable Zone**

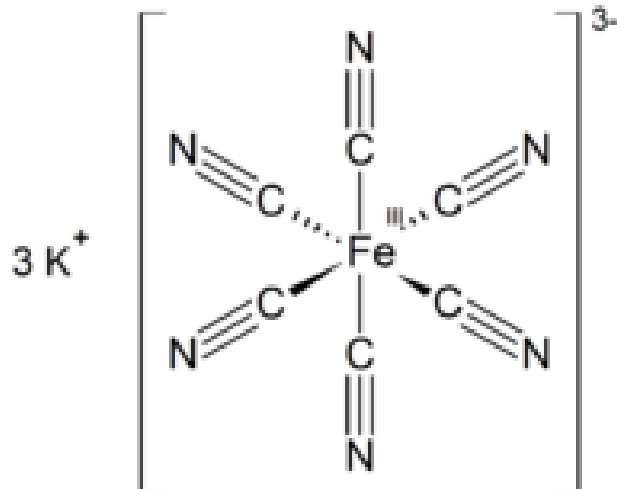
**Characteristic of the crystals: Dendrites (aggregates)**

## ■ *Sodium Acetate*

**VIDEO 1**



## ■ *Potassium Ferricyanide*

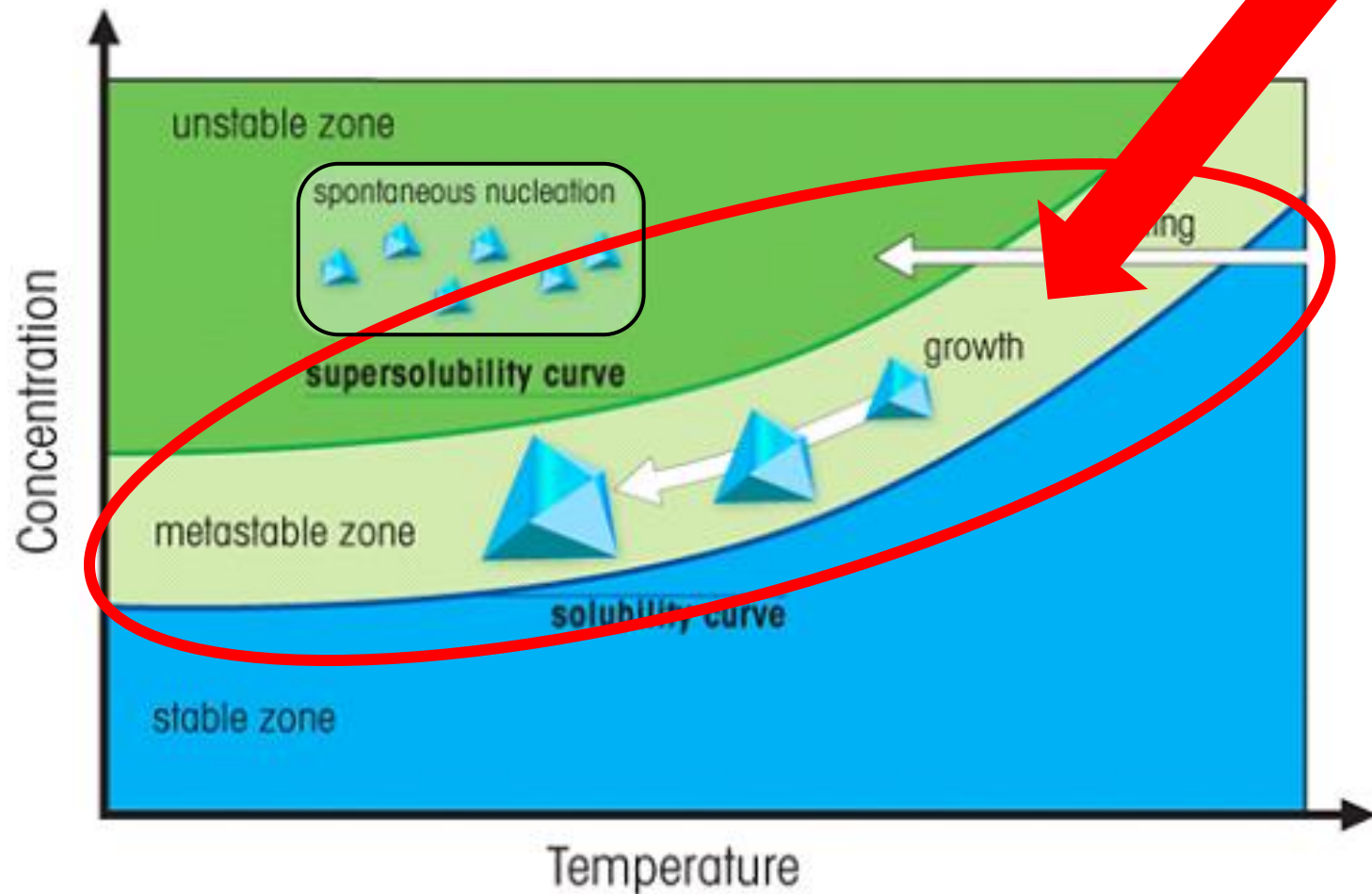


**VIDEO 2**

# ■ STUDY OF THE CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

**VARIABLE: supersaturation**

**EXAMPLE: Optimal supersaturation => Metastable Zone**

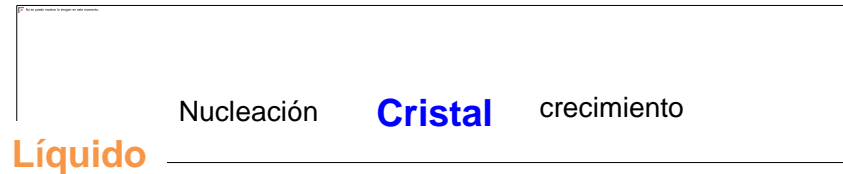


# ■ STUDY OF THE CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

**VARIABLE: supersaturation**

**EXAMPLE: Optimal supersaturation => Metastable Zone**

**Characteristic of the crystals: Single crystals** (superficial or bidimensional growing)



■ **Protein**

**VIDEO 3**

■ **Perovskites** (*hybrid organic-inorganic material*)



<http://www.nature.com/ncomms/2015/150706/ncomms8586/full/ncomms8586.html>

**VIDEO 4**

# ■ STUDY OF THE CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS

## VARIABLE: diffusional control / convection

1. **Do not perturb the system** (keep crystal growth vessels away from sources of mechanical agitation )
2. **Avoid areas with vibrations , mechanical disturbances are bad** (Set-up away from vacuum pumps, rotovaps, hoods, doors, drawers, and so on)
3. **Use small diameter vials and tubes**
4. **Explore gel crystallization** (see next slides)

## VARIABLE: temperature

1. **Take into account that usually solubility is highly influenced by T. So, the stent of supersaturation (and thus the nucleation and growing rate) is influenced by T**
2. **Study the thermal stability of your system before study the crystallization process. Take into account your system could exhibit different crystalline phases.**

# ■ **STUDY OF THE CRYSTALLIZATION PROCESS**

## **VARIABLE: impurities**

1. Unless desired, avoid the presence of impurities. They will favor nucleation
2. Avoid ambient dust, filter paper fibers, hair, broken off pipette tips all provide opportunities for nucleation – take steps to remove them.
3. Use CLEAN glassware as crystal growing vessels
4. Before setting up a crystal growing attempt think about how the crystals will be handled
5. Crystals will need to be extracted from the vessel without damage
6. Therefore, pick a suitable crystal growing vessel

## **VARIABLE: time**

1. Quality crystals grow best over time in near equilibrium conditions
2. The longer the time, the better the crystals
3. Larger crystals tend to grow at the expense of smaller crystals
4. Patience, patience, patience!!



# ■ CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

## 1. Crystal growing in solution

- Slow evaporation
- Slow cooling
- Vapor diffusion
- Solvent diffusion
- convection
- Addition of additives, pH
- Solvothermal/hydrothermal (p, T, sv)
- Chemical modification

## 2. Crystal growing without solvent

- From melt
- Sublimation

## 3. Seeding

## 4. Gel Crystallization

## 5. Chemical Modification (change of counterion, formation of salt)

# ■ CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

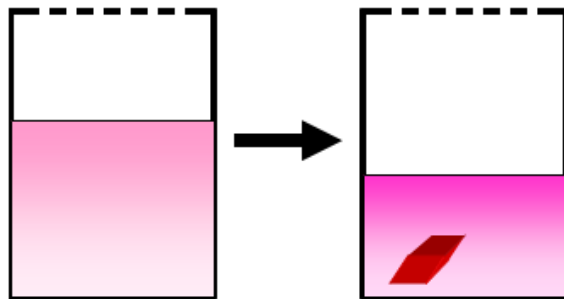
## 1. Crystal growing in solution

### ✓ Solvent

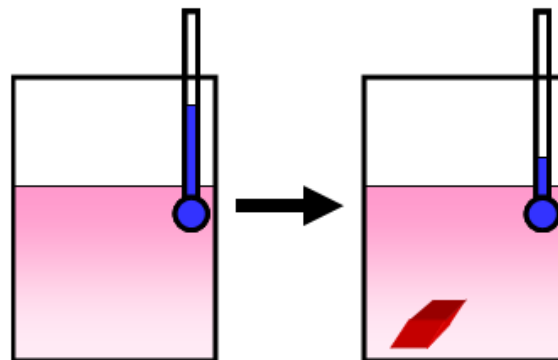
Pure, mixtures, polarity, volatility

### ✓ Techniques

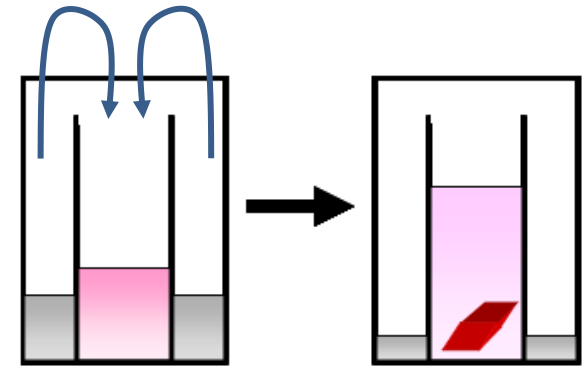
- Slow evaporation



- Slow cooling



- Vapor diffusion



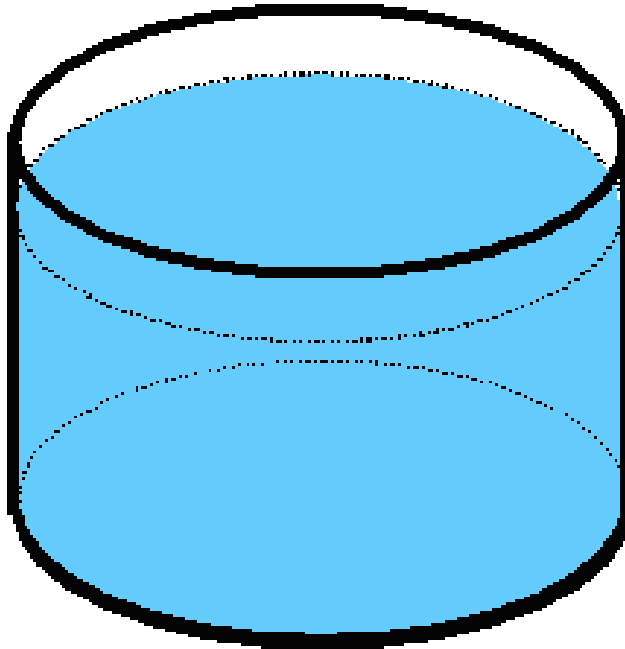
# ■ CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

## 1. Crystal growing in solution

### ✓ Techniques

- Slow evaporation

(animación)



# ■ CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

## 1. Crystal growing in solution

- Slow evaporation systems



- Vapor diffusion

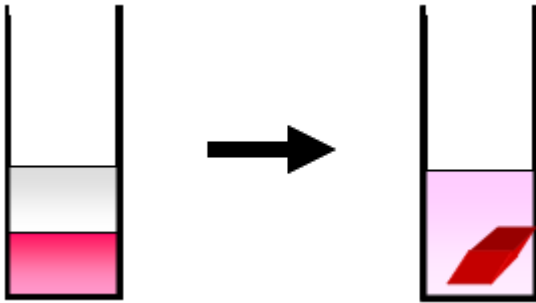


# ■ CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

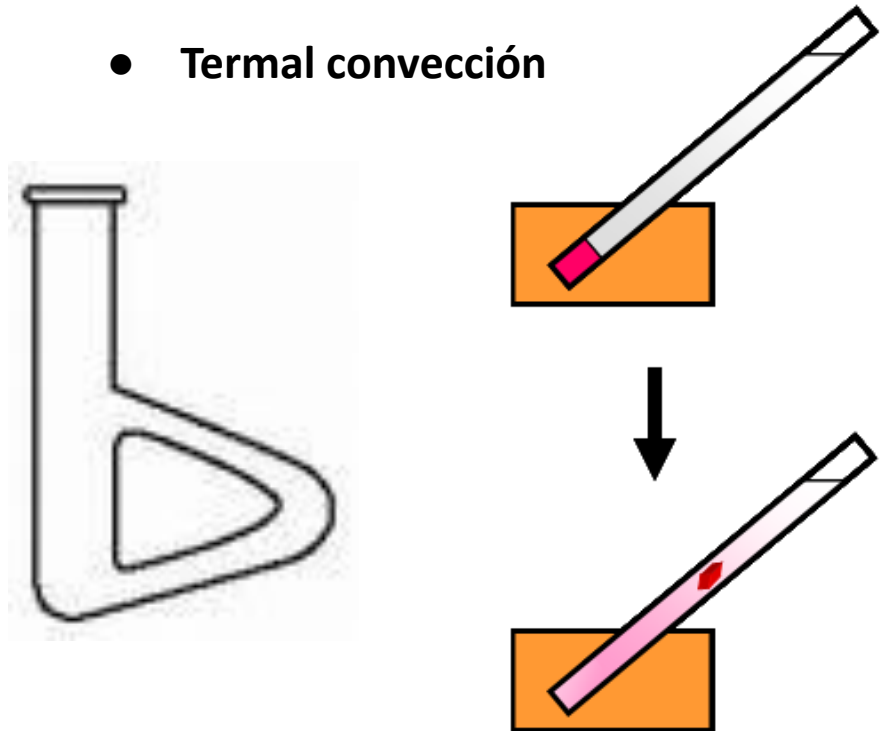
## 1. Crystal growing in solution

### ✓ Techniques

- Solvent diffusion



- Termal convección

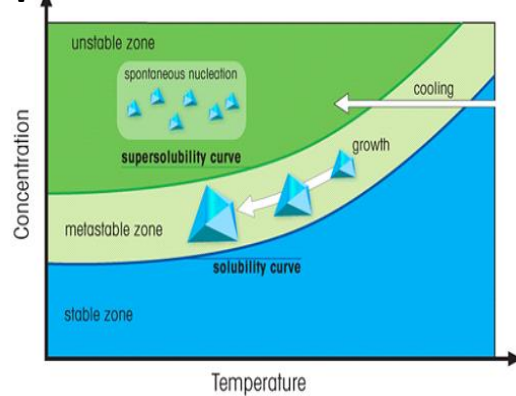


# CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

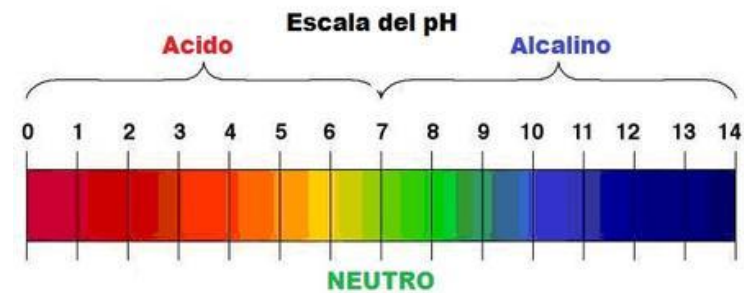
## 1. Crystal growing in solution

### ✓ Other methods and strategies

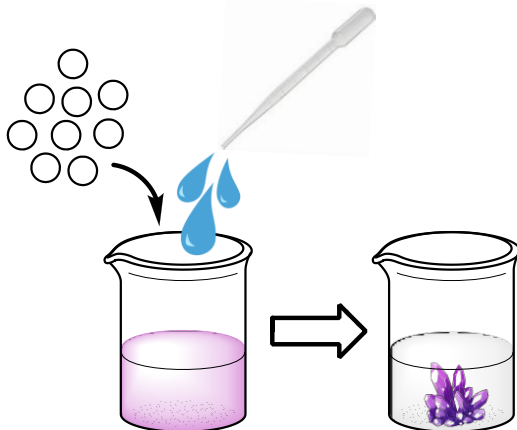
- Supersaturation control



- pH variation



- Addition of anti-solvent / additives ("salting out")



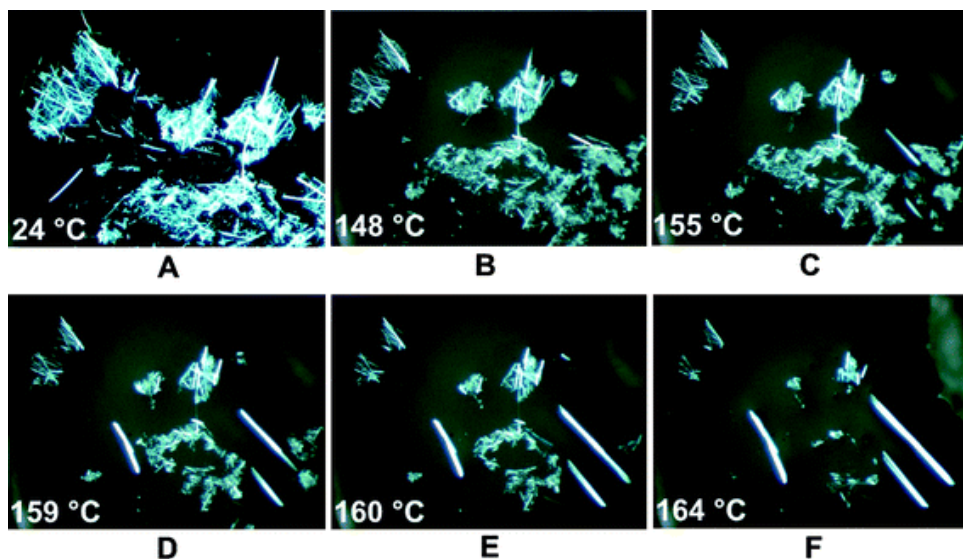
- Hydrothermal/solvothermal



# ■ CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

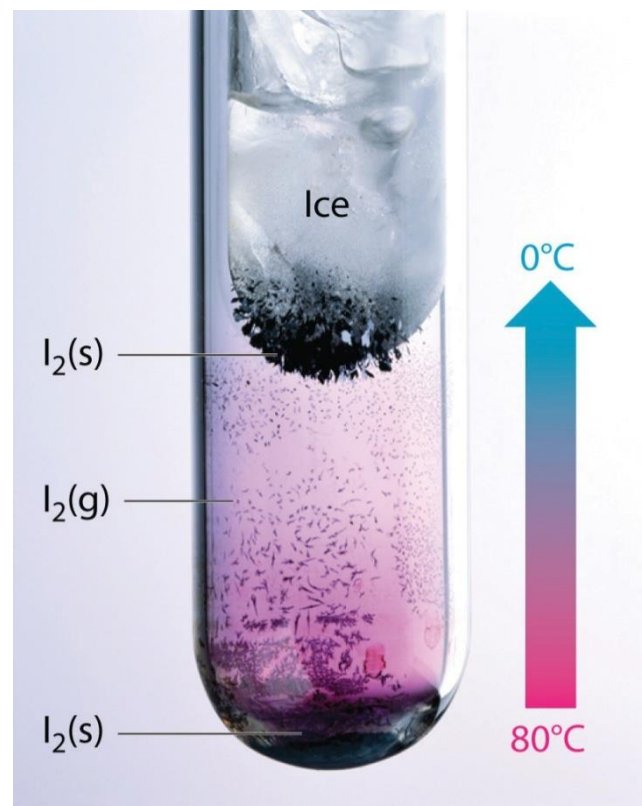
## 2. Crystal growing without solvent

- From melt



- Sublimation

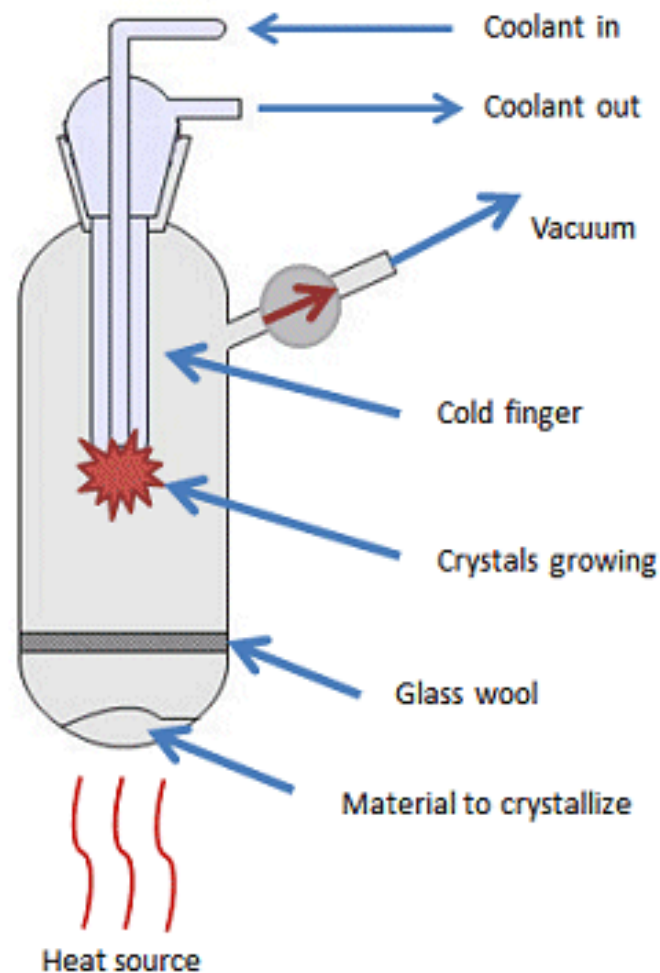
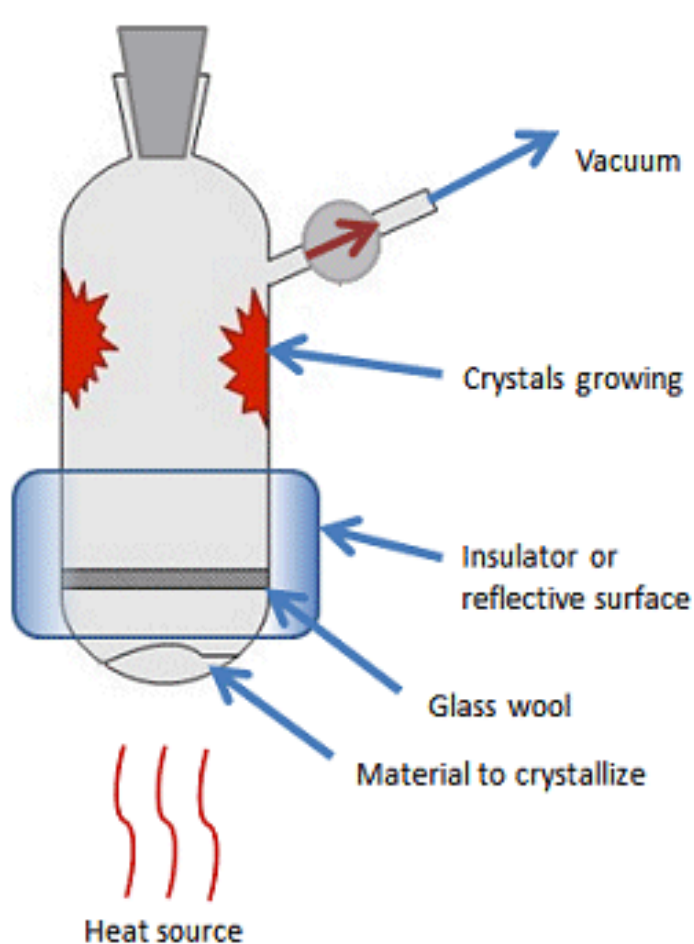
*Ej. caffeine, Sulphur, iodine, salicylic acid*



# ■ CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

## 2. Crystal growing without solvent

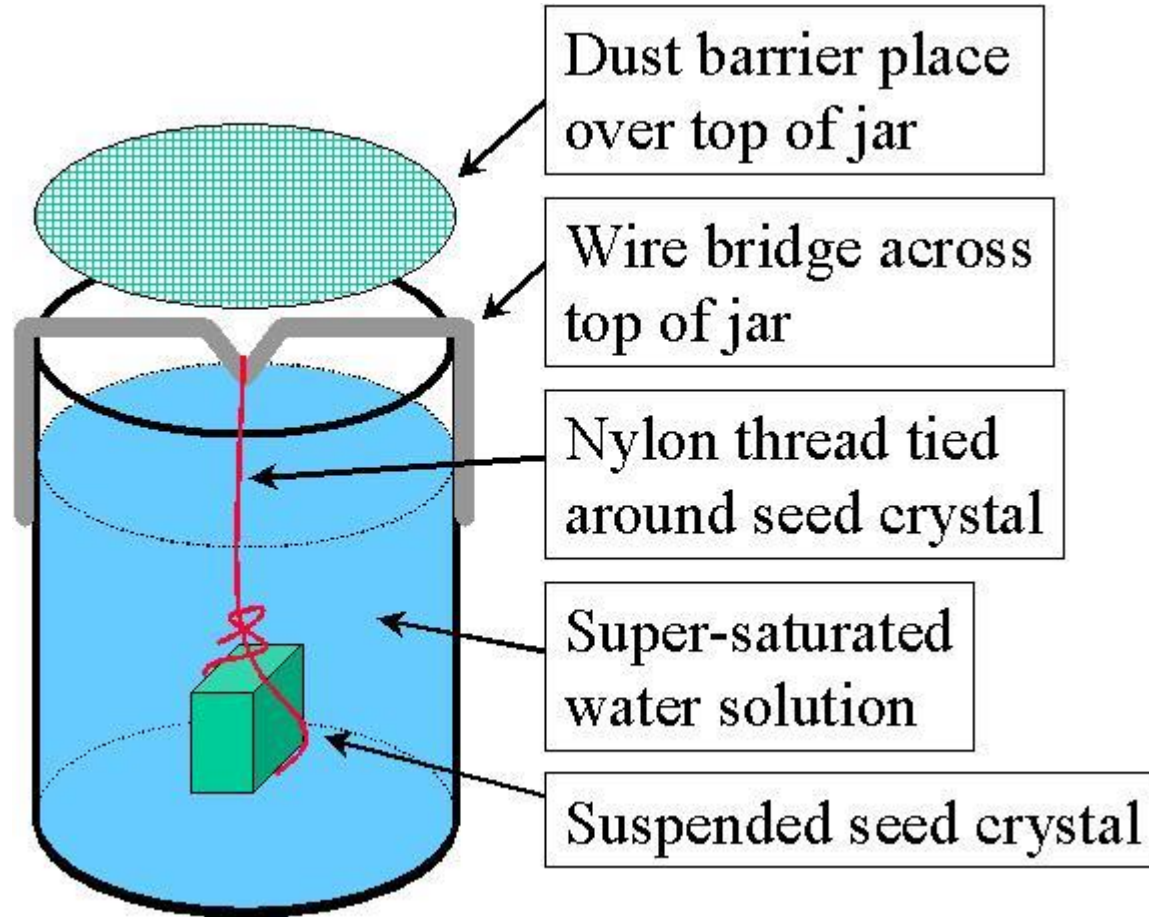
- Laboratory sublimation system





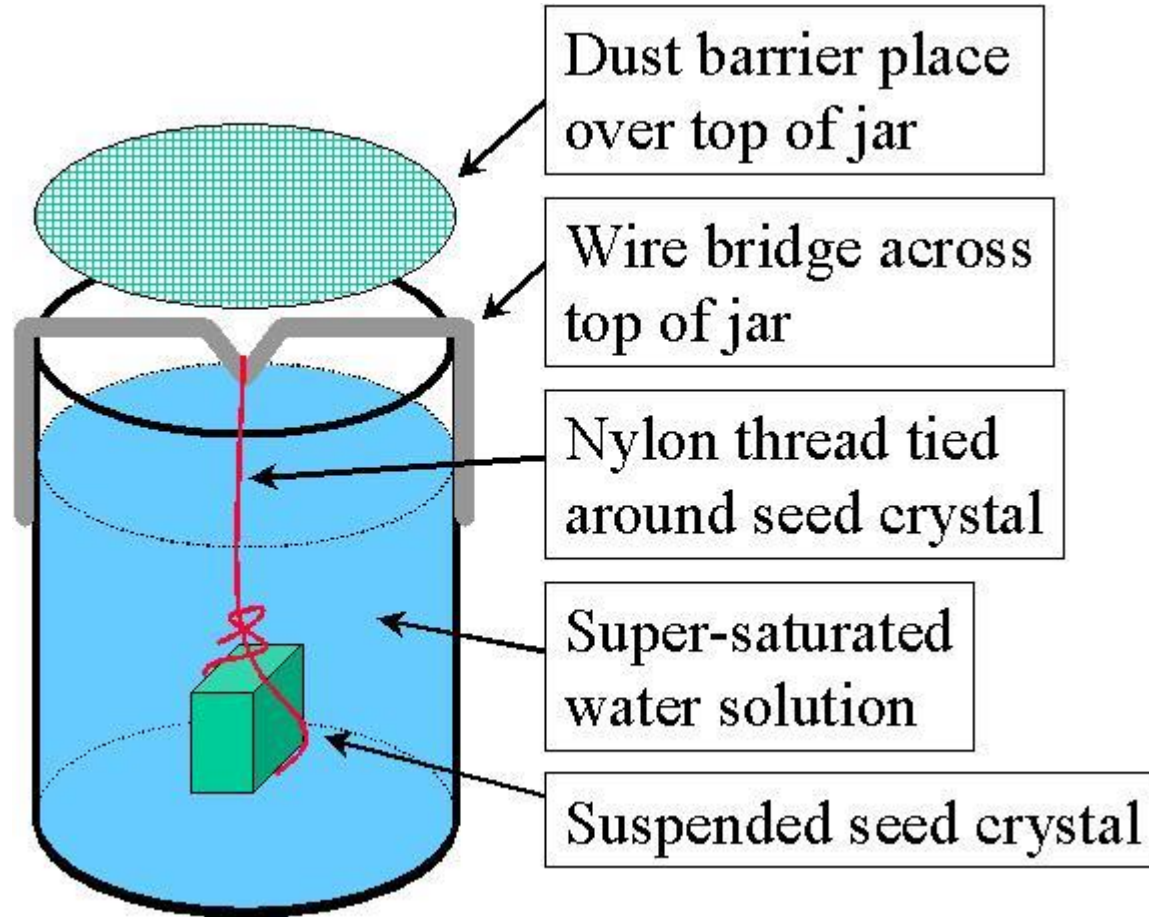
# ■ CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

## 3. Seeding

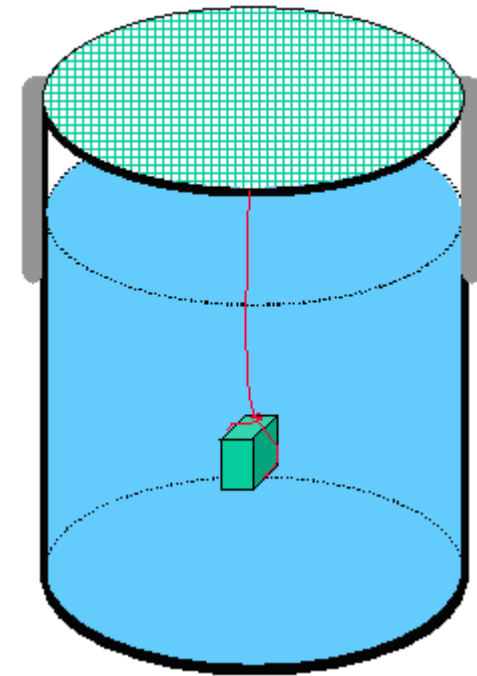


# CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

## 3. Seeding



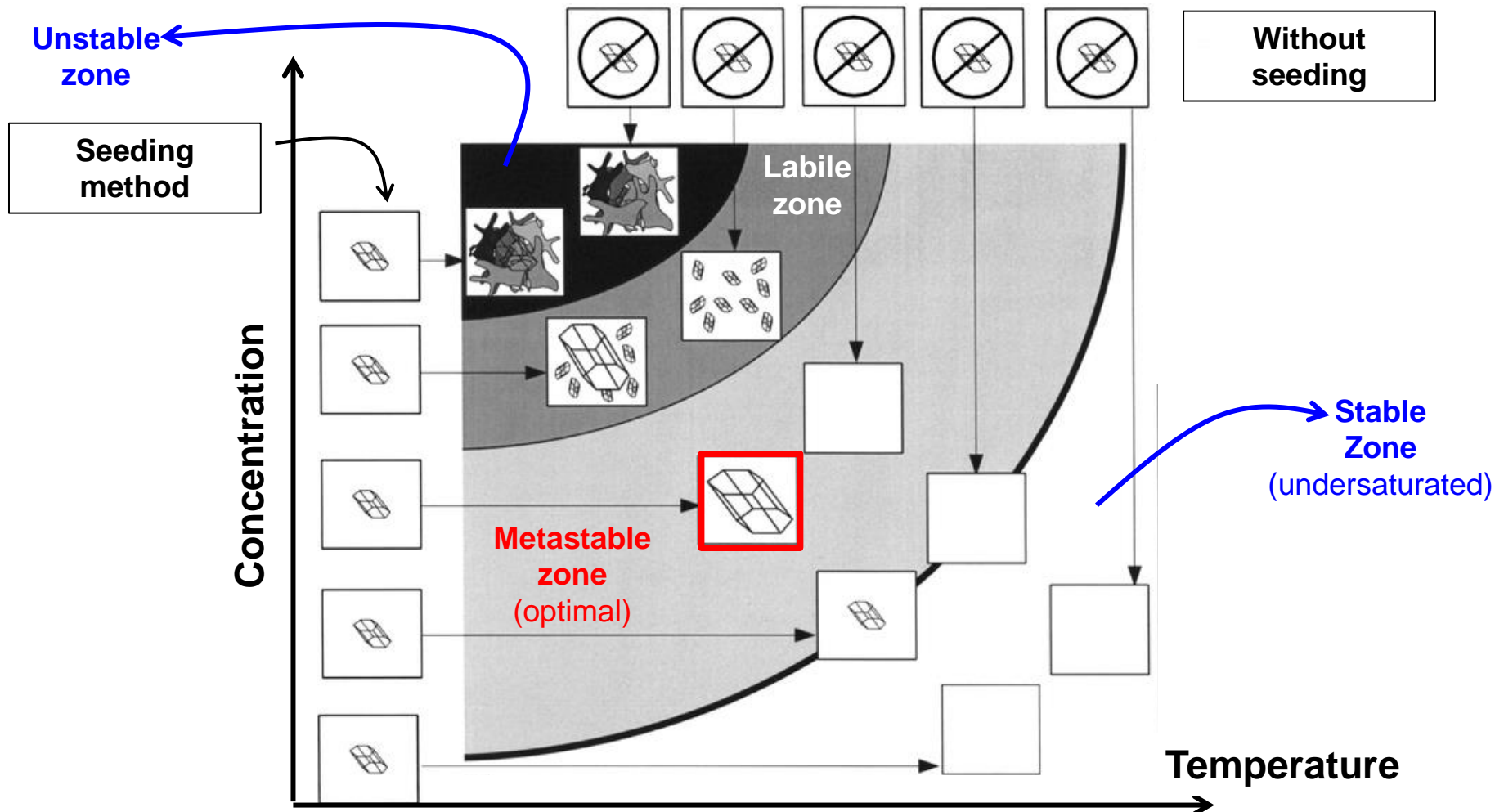
animación



# CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

## 3. Seeding

- Solubility and crystallization curves to analyze the optimal conditions



# ■ CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

## 3. Streak Seeding

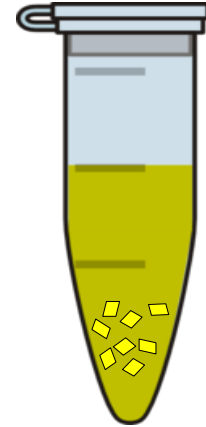


**Cristal tipo macla de  
Riboflavina sintasa**

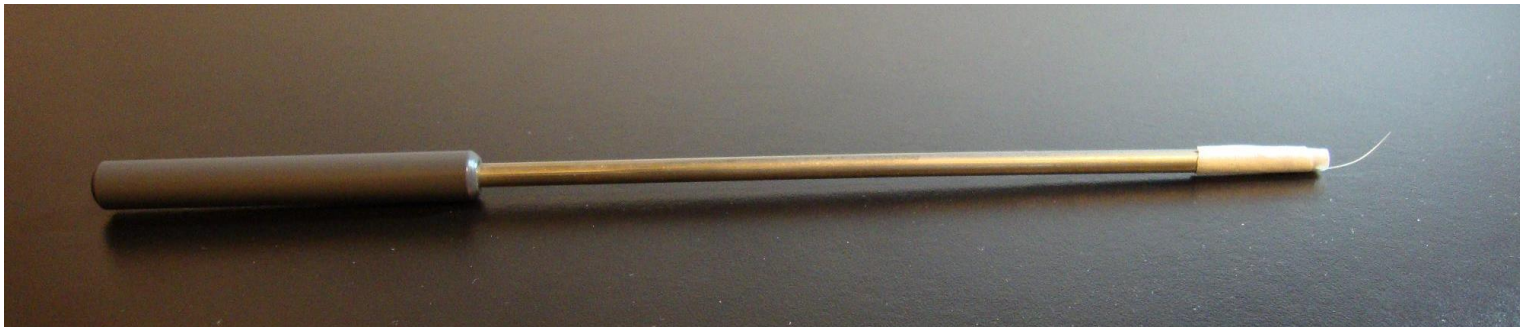
+



**Aguja de acupuntura**



**Stock de  
semillas**



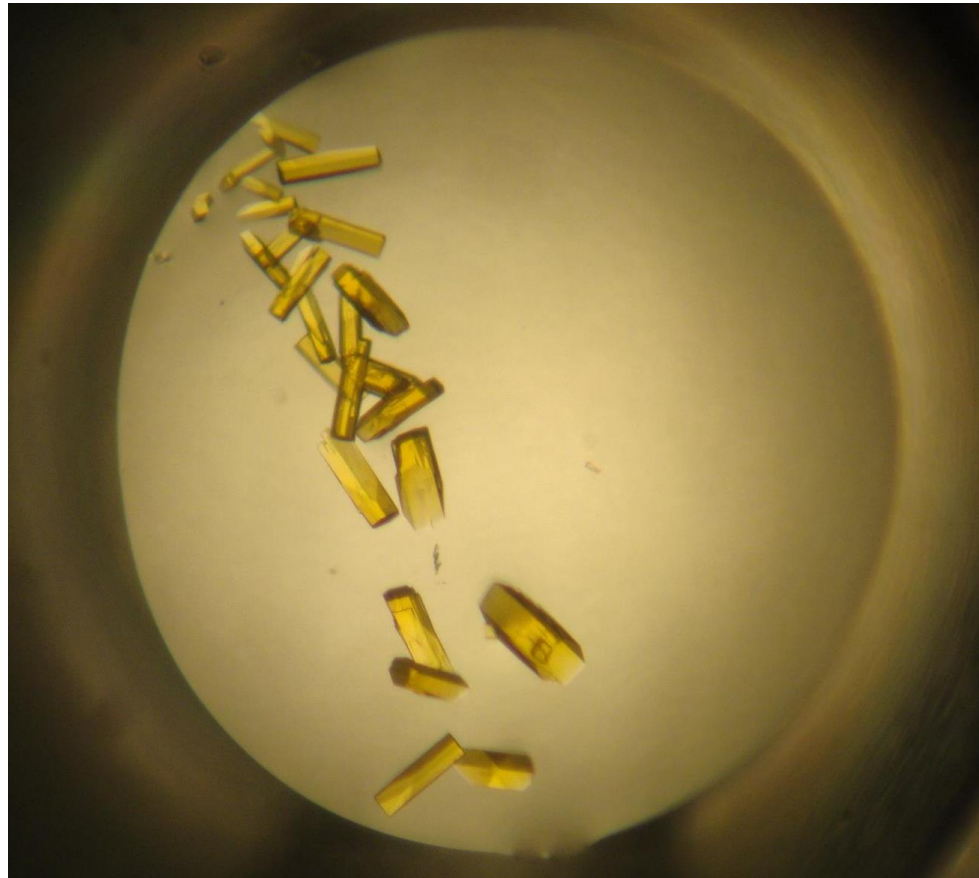
**“Seeding tool” casera con pelo de pony**

Cortesía: Dr. Sebastián Klinke, Instituto Leloir-CONICET, Buenos Aires Argentina

# ■ CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

## 3. Streak Seeding

- Streak seeding de Riboflavina sintasa



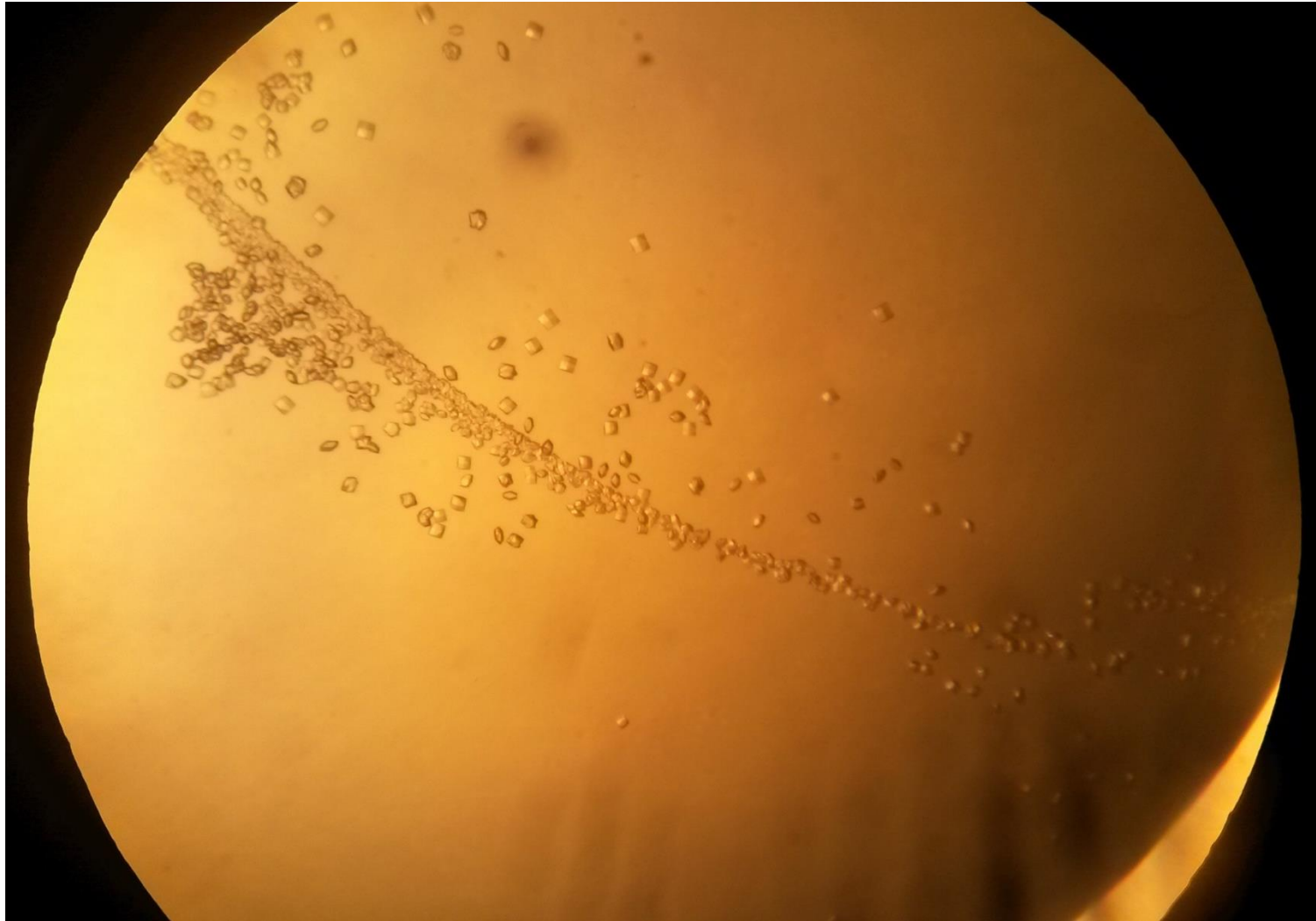
**Menor tiempo**  
**Mejor forma**  
**Mayor tamaño**

**Crecimiento a lo largo de la línea de siembra**



# ■ CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

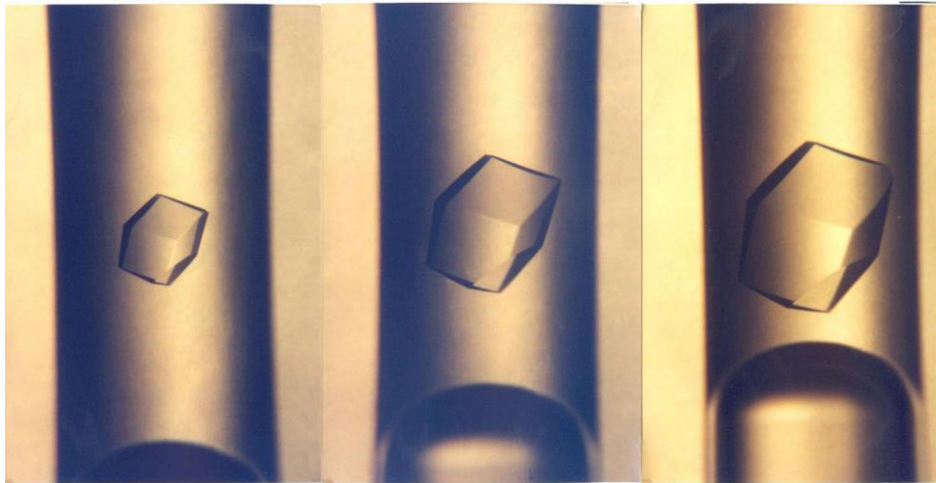
## 3. Streak Seeding



Cortesía: Dr. Sebastián Klinke, Instituto Leloir-CONICET, Buenos Aires Argentina

# ■ CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

## 4. Crystallization in Gel



### ✓ Characteristics of the compound to crystallize

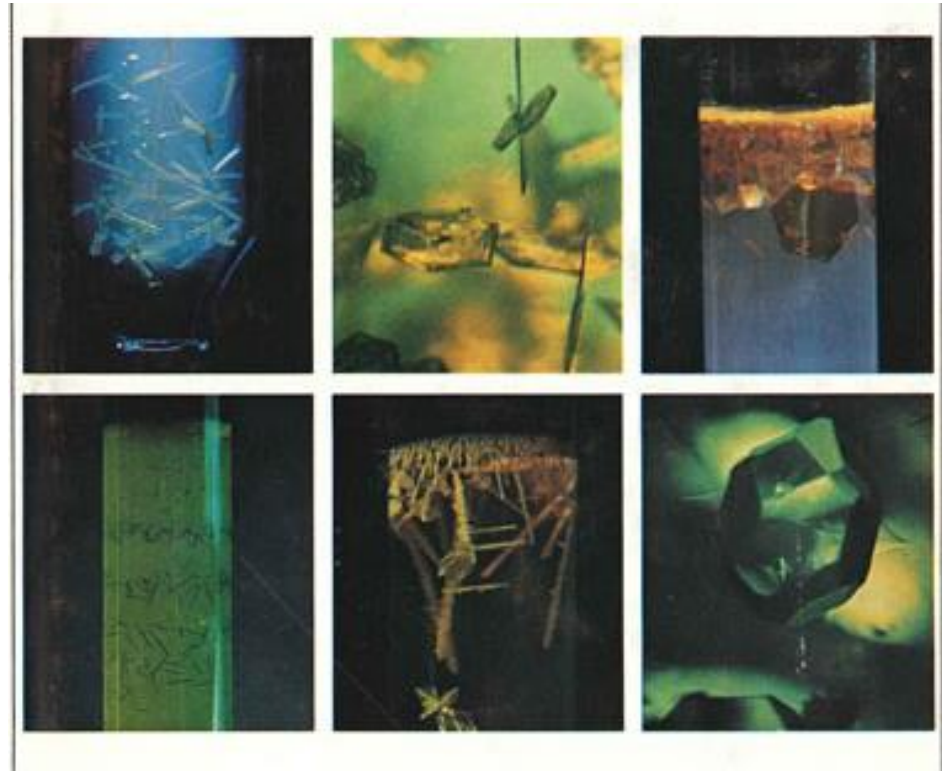
- Low solubility
- Solubility highly dependent with T
- Soluble in water but very insoluble in other solvents

# ■ CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

## 4. Crystallization in Gel

### ✓ Function of the gel

- Inert media
- Diffusion control
- Avoid convection (T and mechanical)
- Homogeneous supersaturation
- Control over nucleation, crystal growth and quality of the crystal

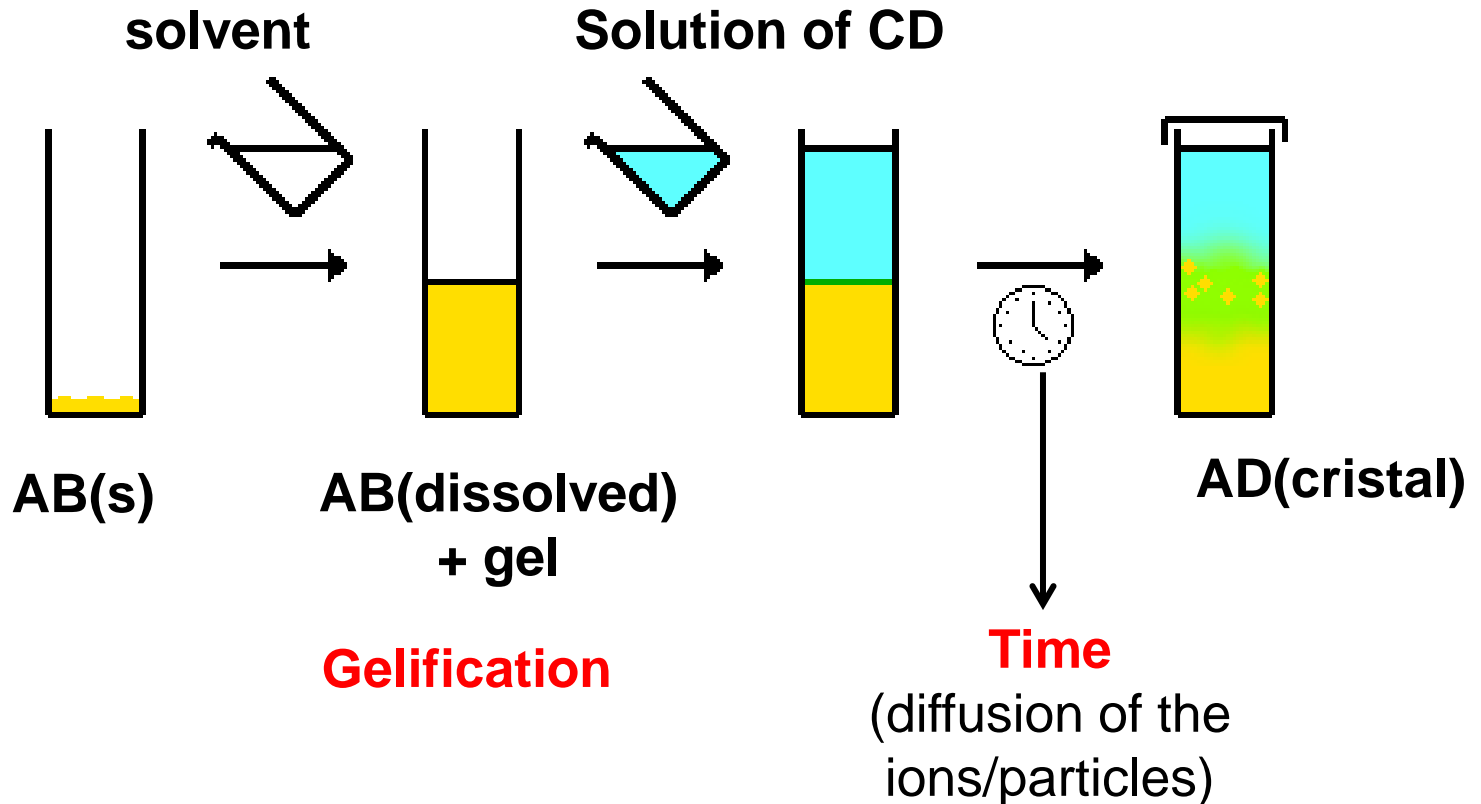




# CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

## 4. Crystallization in Gel

- Example



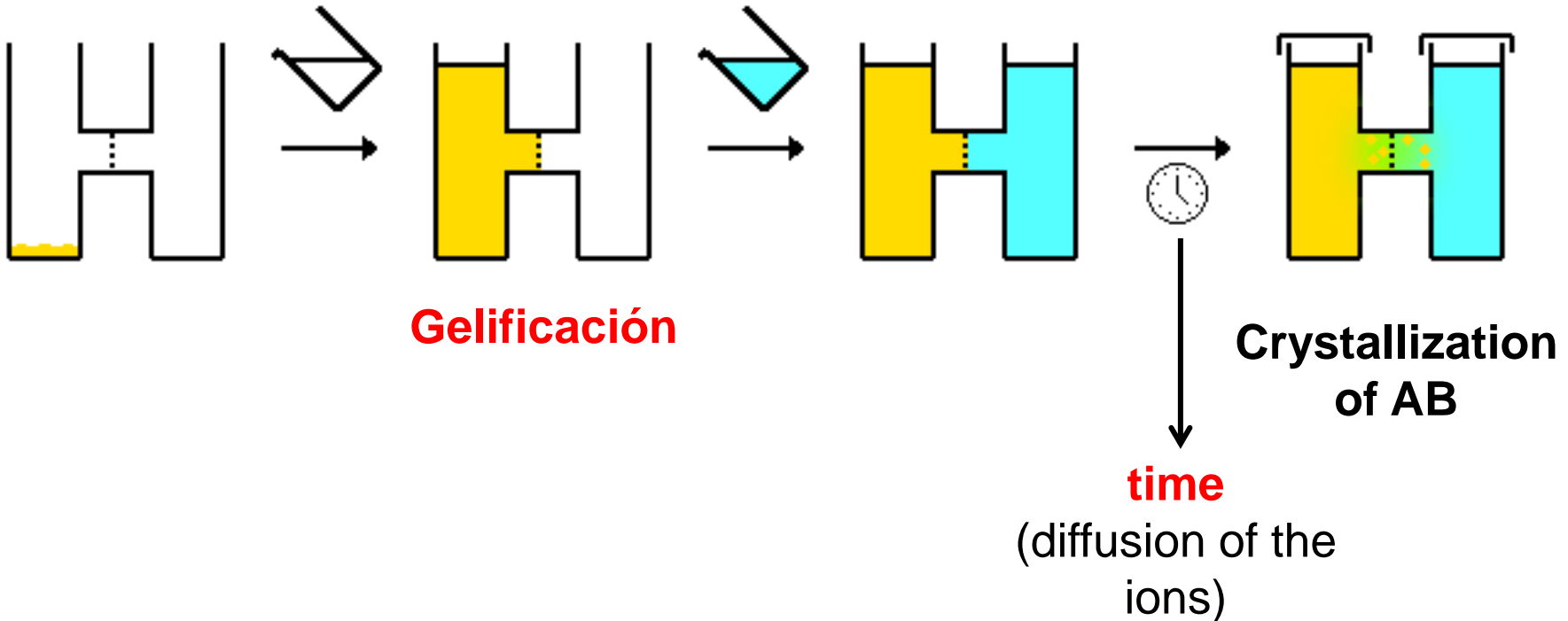
# CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

## 4. Crystallization in Gel

- Example

Gel in a solvent  
which AB is insoluble

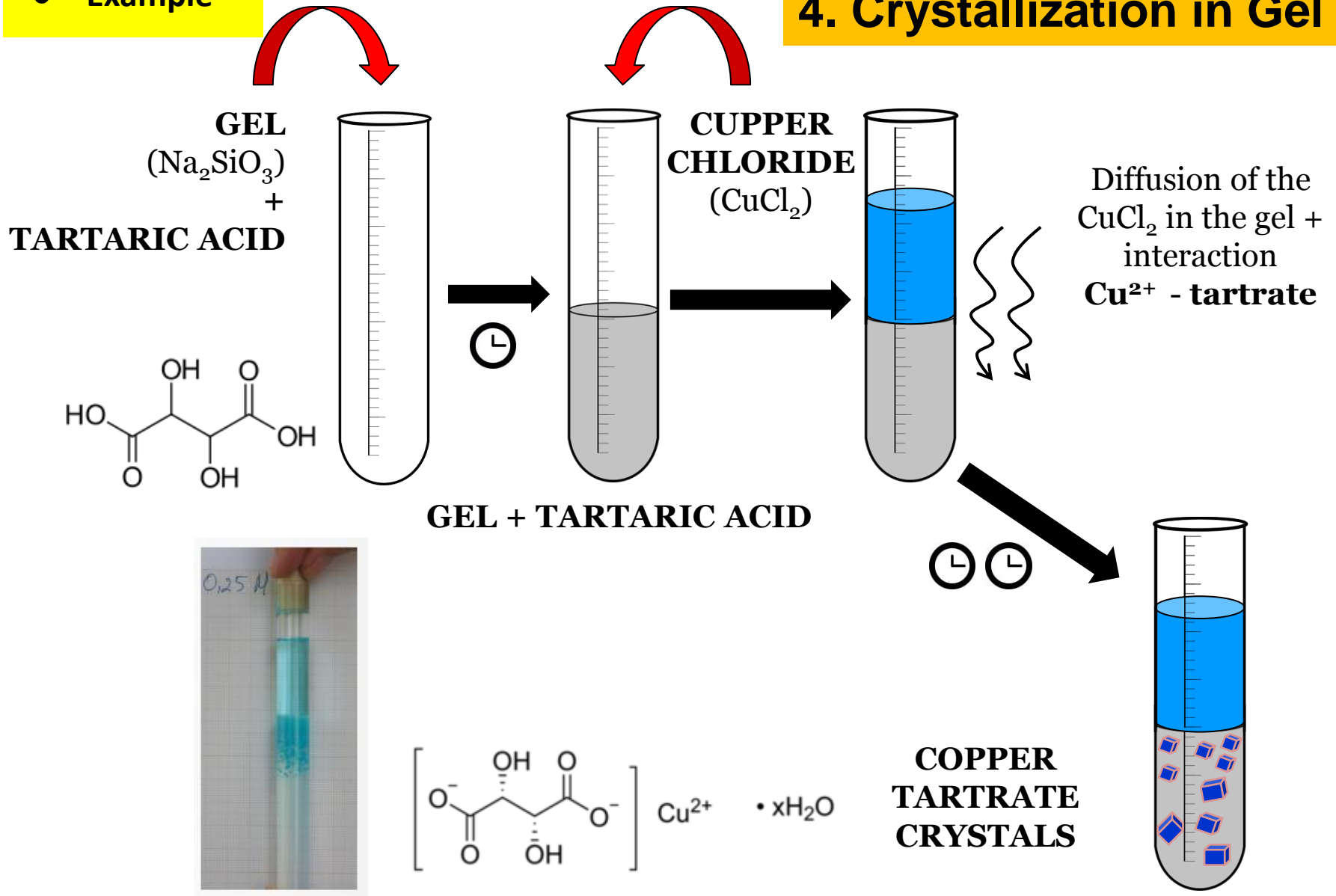
AB in solution



# CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

## Example

## 4. Crystallization in Gel

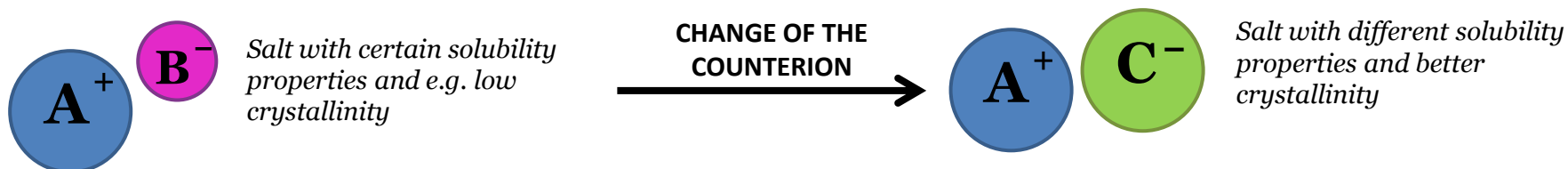


# CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

## 5. Chemical Modification

### ✓ Strategy for inorganic compounds typically

- Change of the counterion in order to change solubility and crystallinity.



- Counterions of similar volumen/size, usually give place to better crystals.



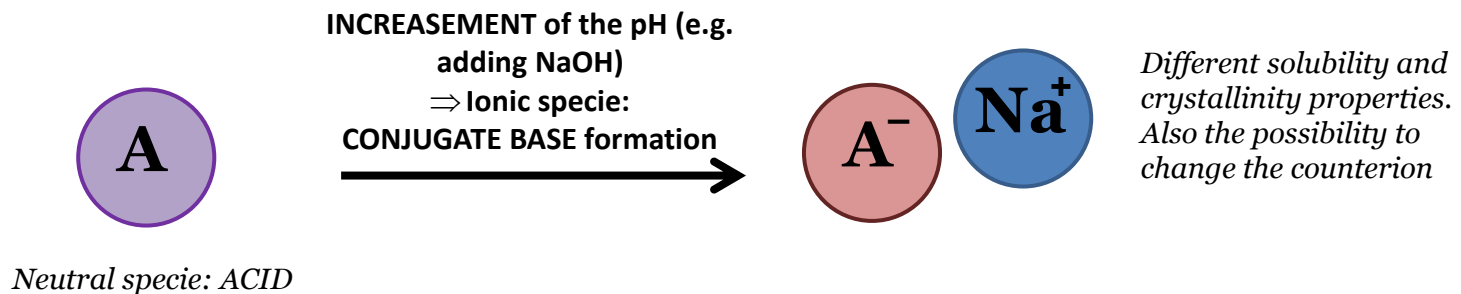
- Tip: use counterions of rigid geometries such as, triflate,  $BPh_4^-$ ,  $Me_4N^+$ ,  $(Ph_3P)_2N^+$ ,  $Ph_4P^+$
- Be sure that the counterions do not react with the sample.

# CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

## 5. Chemical Modification

✓ Strategy neutral compounds that are ionizable

- The ionic species could have better supramolecular properties than the neutral, e.g. stronger intermolecular interactions



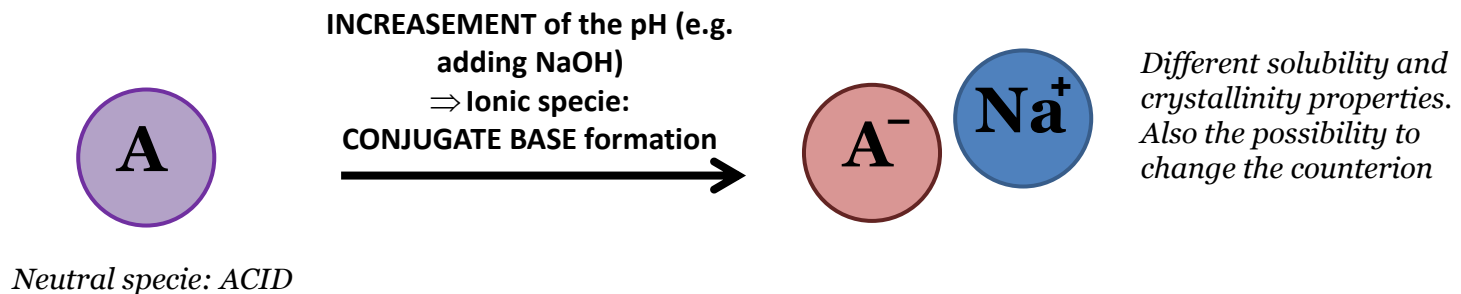
- Although the resultant system is not the same as the starting material, it could be the only way to get a crystal
- Once you have the ionic species, it is possible to change the counterion as it was illustrated in the previous slide.

# ■ CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

## 5. Chemical Modification

✓ Strategy neutral compounds that are ionizable

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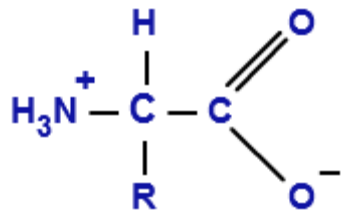


- Although the resultant system is not the same as the starting material, it could be the only way to get a crystal
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# CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

## 5. Chemical Modification

### • Example:

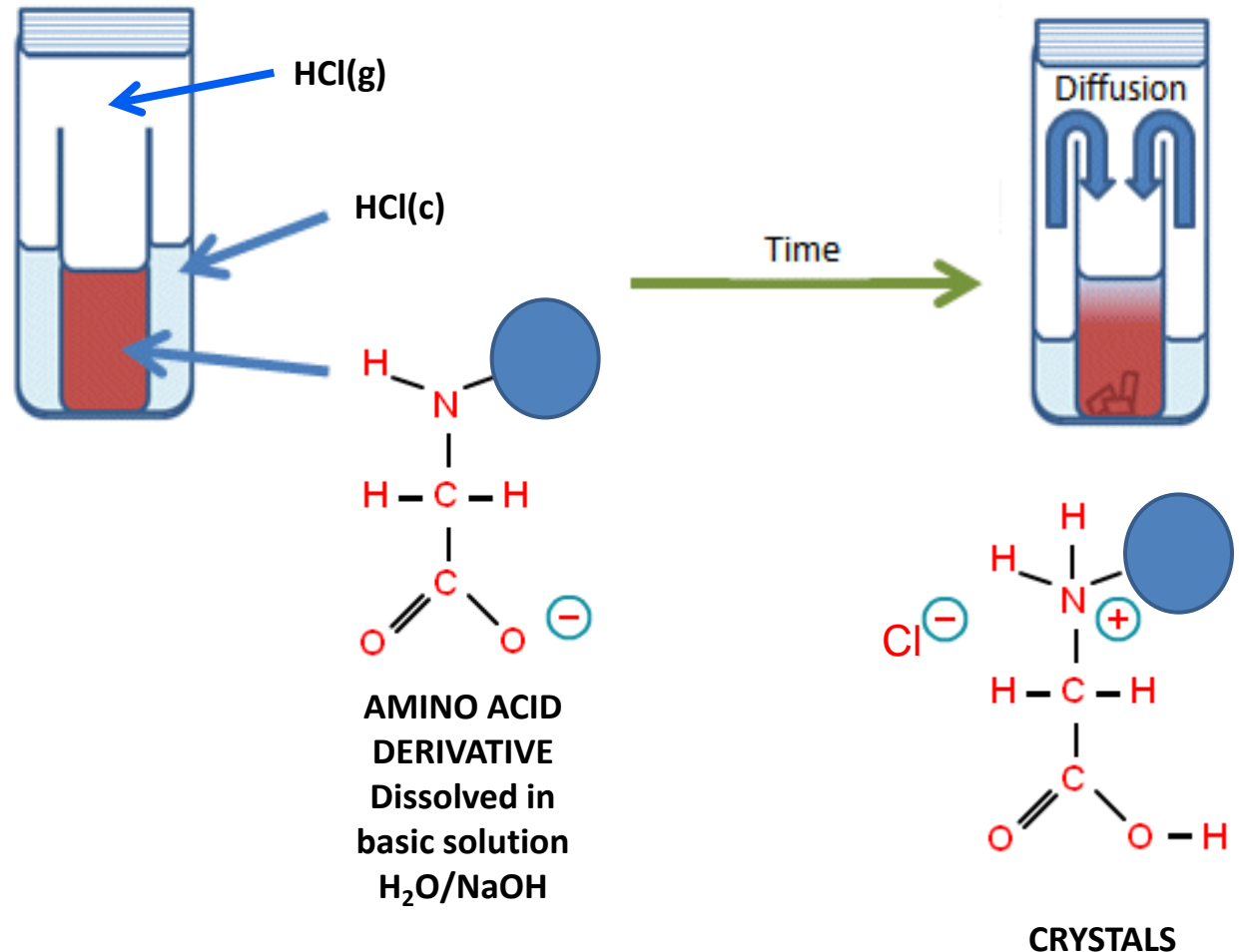


Zwitterion

**SOLID FORM**

AMINO ACID / AMINO ACID  
DERIVATIVE  
as zwitterion

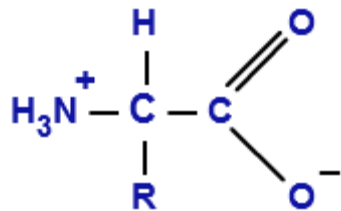
A-B properties



# CRYSTAL GROWING TECHNIQUES

## 5. Chemical Modification

### Example:

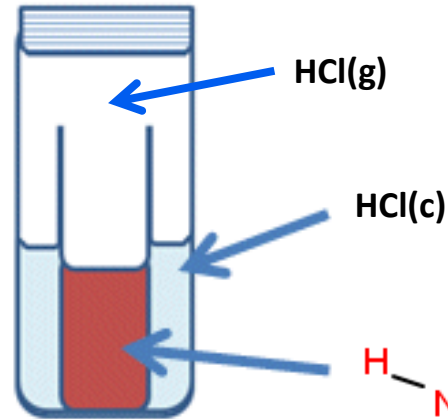


Zwitterion

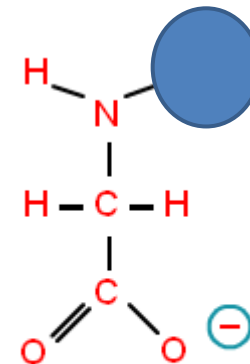
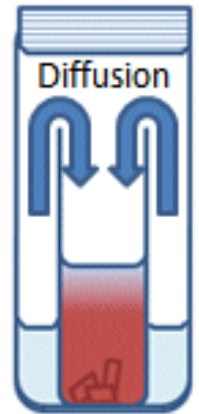
**SOLID FORM**

AMINO ACID / AMINO ACID  
DERIVATIVE  
as zwitterion

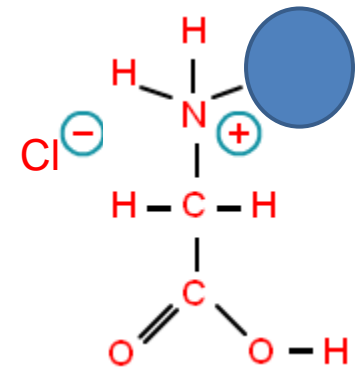
A-B properties



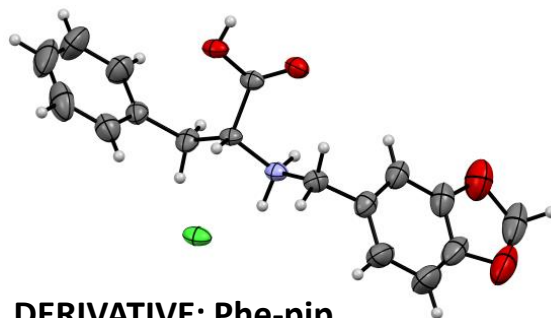
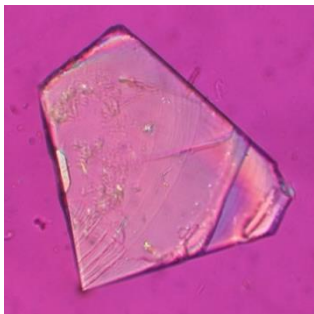
Time →



AMINO ACID  
DERIVATIVE  
Dissolved in  
basic solution  
H<sub>2</sub>O/NaOH



CRYSTALS



DERIVATIVE: Phe-pip



## ■ CONCLUSIONS AND COMMENTS

### ●● REGARDING THE COMPOUND TO BE CRYSTALLIZED ●●

- Purify the compound to be crystallized before the crystallization EXPERIMENT.
- Know the physical properties such as, thermal stability and solubility.
- Develop a solubility profile of the compound of interest.
- Use clean material
- Test different crystallization conditions in parallel.
- Use enough material (do not use low mass)

## ■ **CONCLUSIONS AND COMMENTS**

### ●● REGARDING YOUR ACTTITUD ●●

- Crystals growth of is a difficult art, unpredictable, takes a long time and without guarantee of success.
- The best crystallization conditions are not known in advance. Therefore, it is important to try different techniques and variables.
- The quality and precision of the results obtained from the crystals (crystal structure) depends directly on the quality of the crystals. Therefore, consider crystal growth strategies as research projects themselves.
- To be successful you need time, effort and a lot lot of patience!

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