



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Deuterium Exchange as a Route to New Polymorphs

New process isolates polymorphs of crystalline APIs

Scaling up production of new drugs typically encounters problems involving unforeseen and often troublesome new polymorphs. How much simpler it would be if all likely polymorphs of the API were known in advance.

Polymorphic forms often have very similar energies. Cases are known of polymorphs that have very small energy difference where the less stable form appears to persist indefinitely.

It has recently been shown that for hydrogen bonded crystals differences in the zero point energy are an appreciable and may be a dominant contribution to the enthalpy difference of polymorphs.

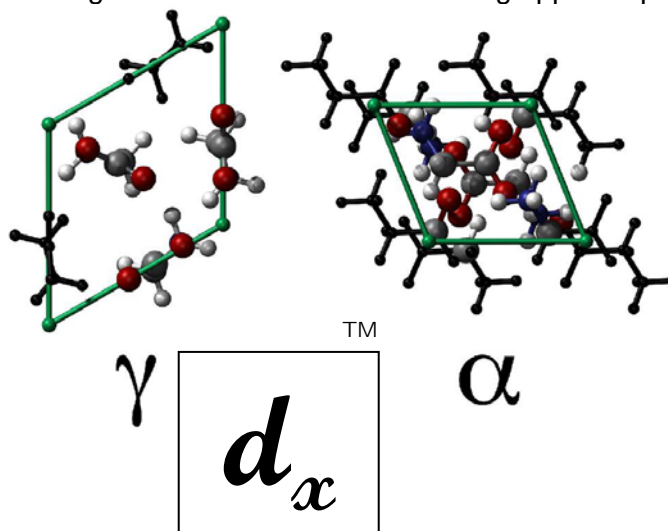
The new method uses deuterium exchange to reveal polymorphs that otherwise would not have been found under the conditions used. Some may be entirely new.

In some cases it may be appropriate to create seed crystals of the new polymorphs for use in making large amounts of the chosen form.

Computational methods can be used to assess whether the relative energies of known polymorphic forms will be changed by deuterium substitution.

It has been found experimentally that deuterium substitution has a large effect on the rates of interconversion of polymorphic forms.

The new method can be incorporated into any pharmaceutical screening program and can provide information of significant added value in the drug approval process.



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