

# Sonocrystallisation

## Effect of ultrasound frequency & power on induction time & crystal properties

Judy Lee<sup>1</sup>, Lian X. Liu<sup>1</sup>, Dom Falconer<sup>1</sup>, Kevin P. Girard<sup>2a</sup>,  
Clarissa Forbes<sup>2b</sup>, Alpana A. Thorat<sup>2a</sup>, Ivan Marziano<sup>2b</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Chemical and Process Engineering, University of Surrey, GU2 7XH, UK

<sup>2a</sup> Chemical Research and Development, Worldwide Research and Development, Pfizer, Groton, Connecticut 06340, United States

<sup>2b</sup> Pfizer Worldwide Research and Development, Sandwich CT13 9NJ, U.K

# Contents

- Sonocrysalisation overview
- Acoustic Cavitation-Sonoluminescence
- Example of inorganic compounds
- Example of organic compounds
- Summary and Challenges

# Sonocrystallisation

Ultrasound Applications: Crystal Production, Separation and Purification



Food



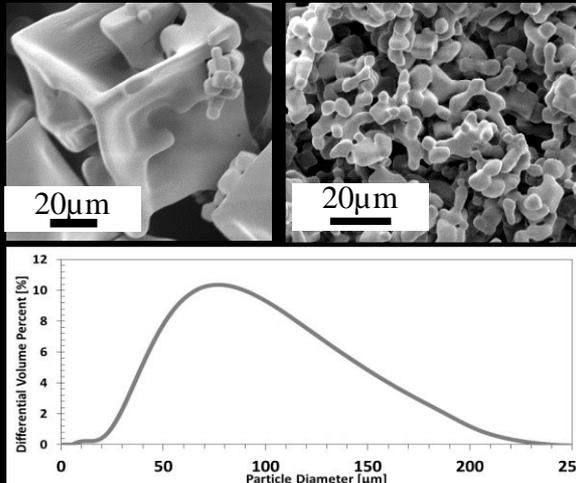
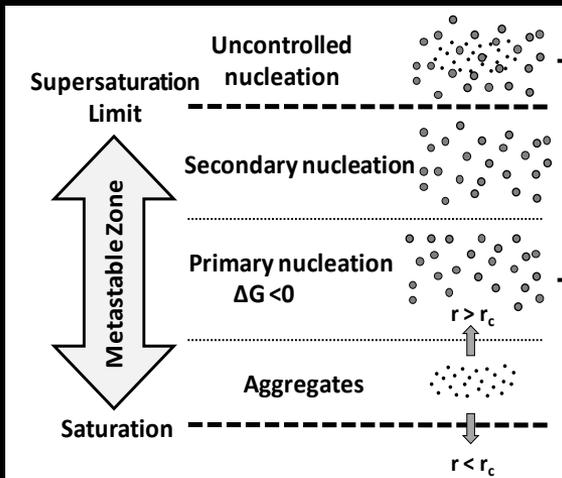
Pharmaceutical



Waste

## Ultrasound can help!

Crystallisation challenges



## Paracetamol

**Monoclinic Form I (stable)**  
Poor technological and biopharmaceutical properties

**Orthorhombic Form II (unstable)**  
Better tableting properties and does not require binding agents

Polymorphism<sup>3</sup>

Nucleation rates & Seeding

Crystal Shape & Size

# Sonocrystallisation

## Crystallisation

### Primary Nucleation

Homogeneous



Heterogeneous

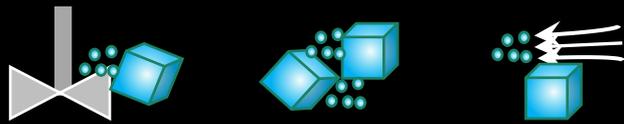


*solid interface (dust, bubbles etc)*

### Secondary Nucleation

*parent crystal* *seed*

### Attrition, abrasion, erosion



Crystal growth & breakages

Nucleation

Rate

$T, S, \gamma, P$

Solvent & Solute type

$S$  generation  
( $T$ , antisolvent)

Impurities

Cooling/heating rate

Mixing rate

Spatial/Time variation

Reactor/Geometry

## Ultrasound

### Acoustic cavitation

Formation of cloud of bubbles in liquid, which grow, oscillate and then implode with great intensity

High Temp  
 $T > 5000 \text{ K}$   
High Pressure  
 $P > 1000 \text{ bar}$

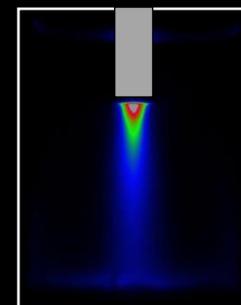
*Fluid shear*

*Jetting & Shockwaves*

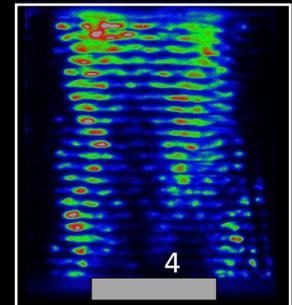
Transducer type

Frequency/Power

20 kHz horn

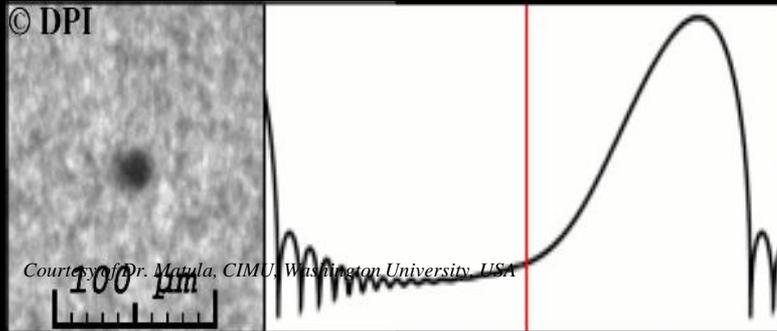


168 kHz -SL

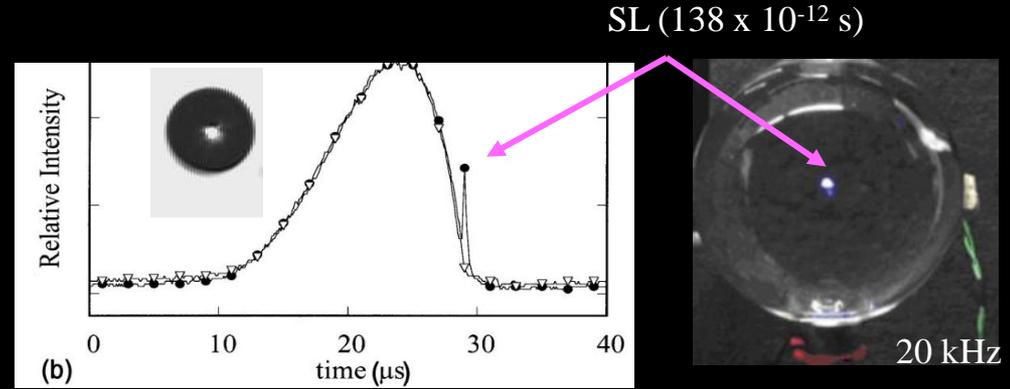


# Acoustic Cavitation

## Single bubble dynamics



## Sonoluminescence (SL)



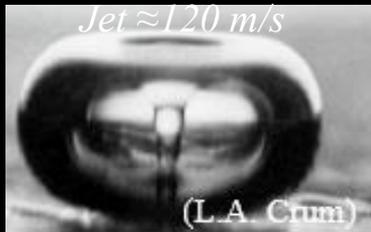
## Extreme Bubble Core Conditions

Temperatures  $> 5000$  K



Pressures  $> 1000$  bar

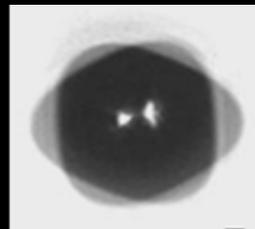
## Localised fluid shear and Mixing



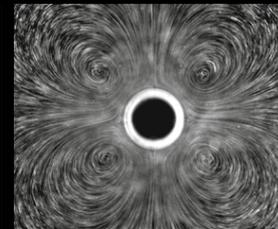
surface pitting



shockwaves



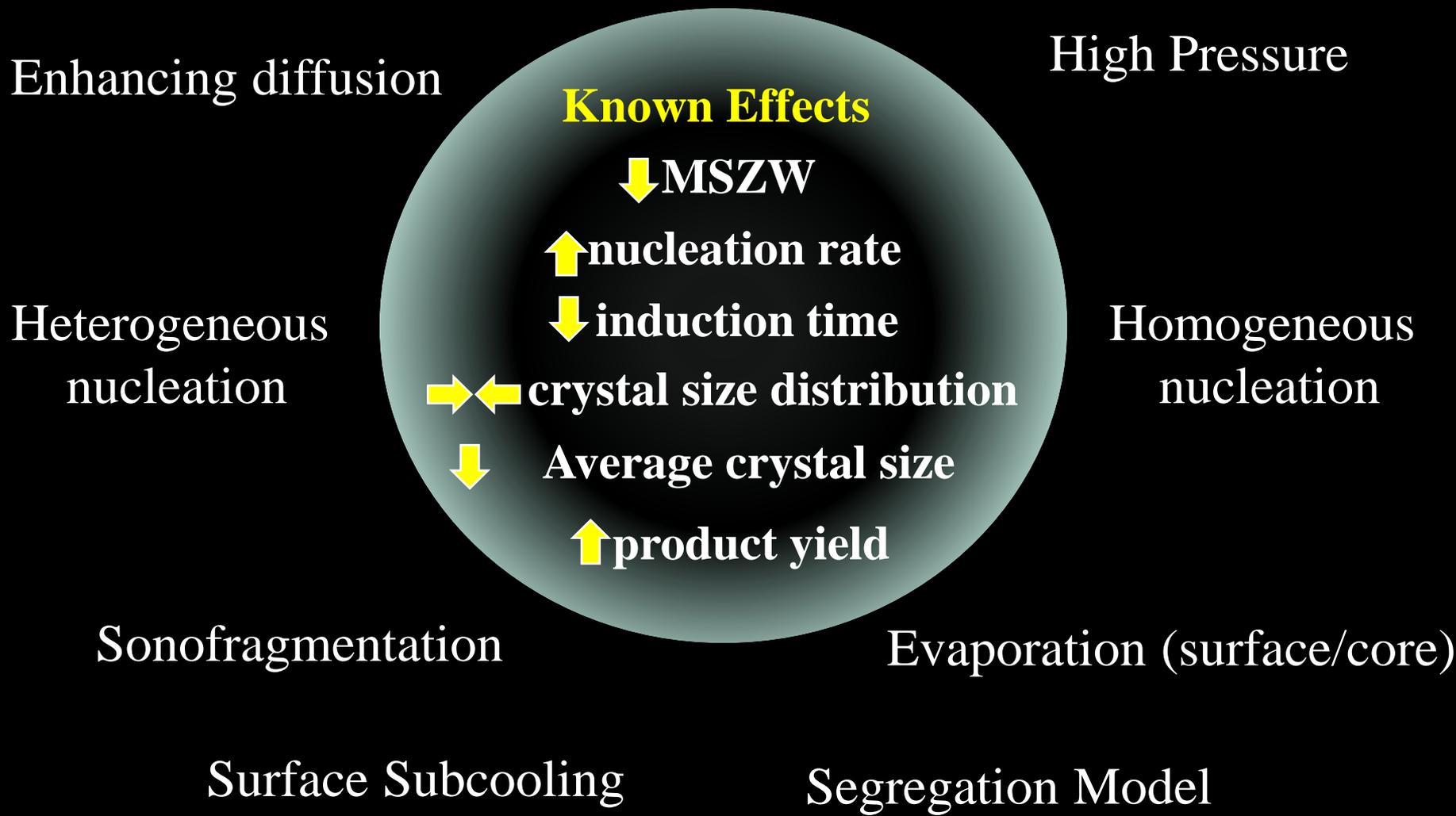
oscillation modes



bubble streaming

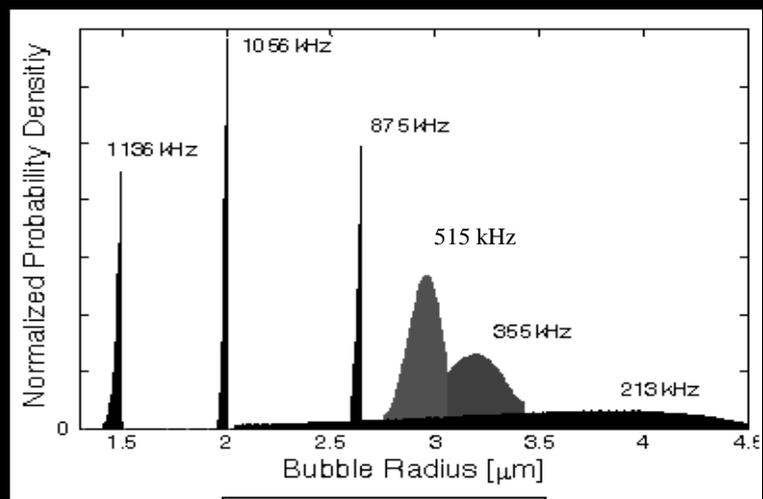
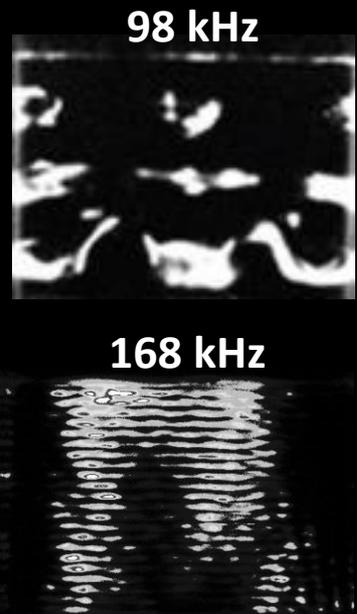
# Sonocrystallisation: Possible Mechanisms

High pressure/temperature melt crystallisation

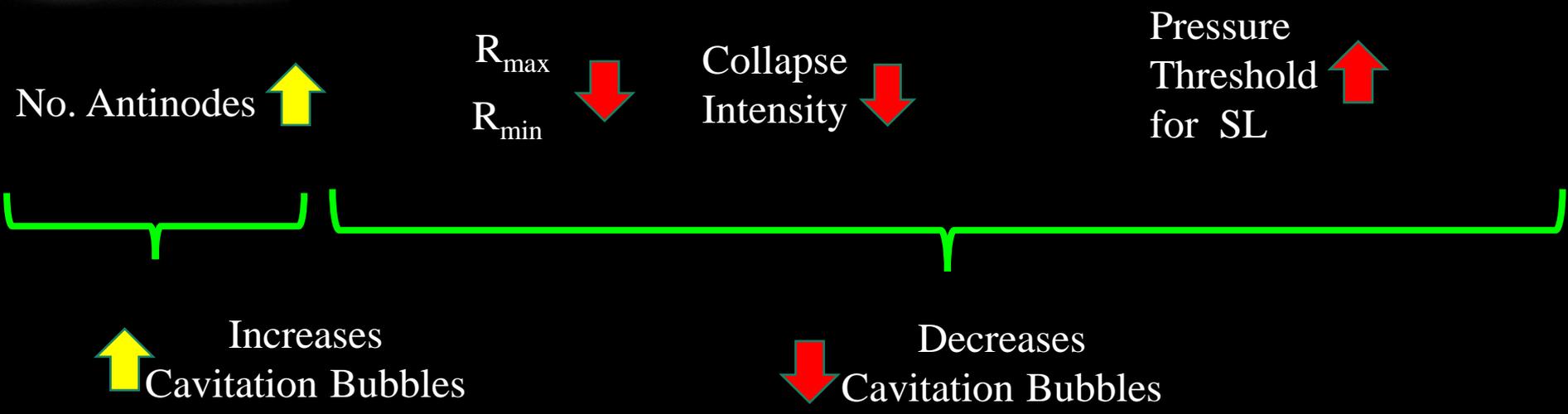
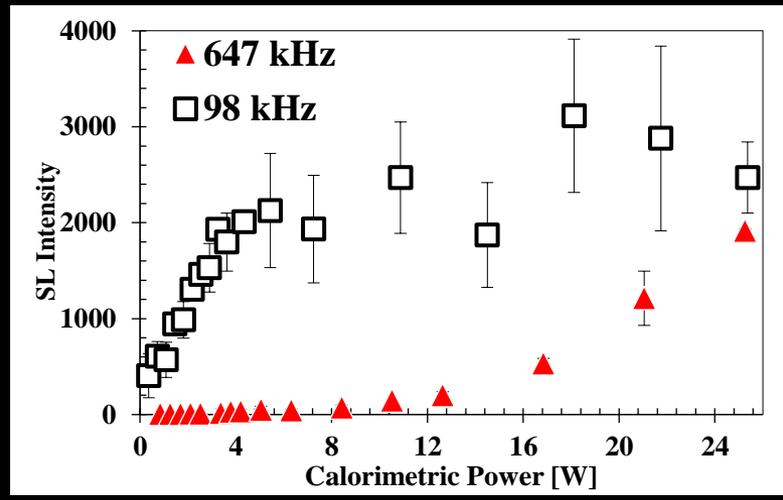


# Optimum Frequency

↑ Increasing Frequency

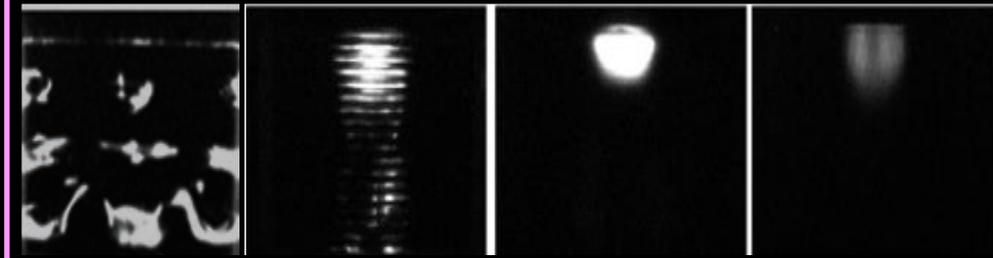


*Brotchie et al., PRL, 2009*



# Acoustic Cavitation – Complex System

## Ultrasound frequency



37 kHz

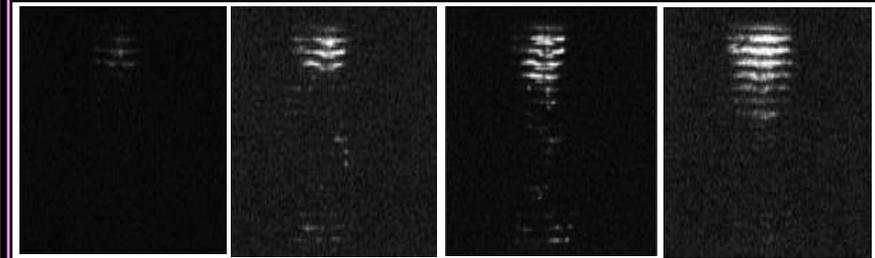
168 kHz

448 kHz

726 kHz

Lee et al., *J. Ultrason. Sonochem.* 18, (2011), 92

## Power



8 W

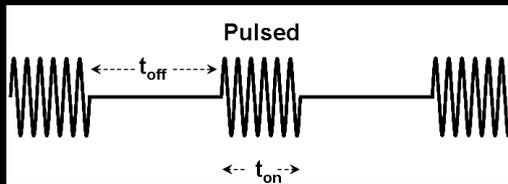
12 W

15 W

20 W

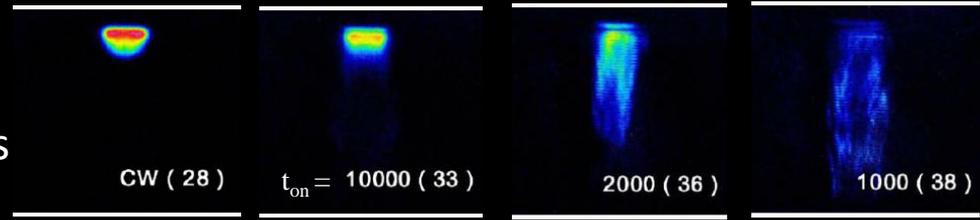
Ashokkumar et al, *ChemPhysChem*, 11, (2010), 1680

## Pulsing



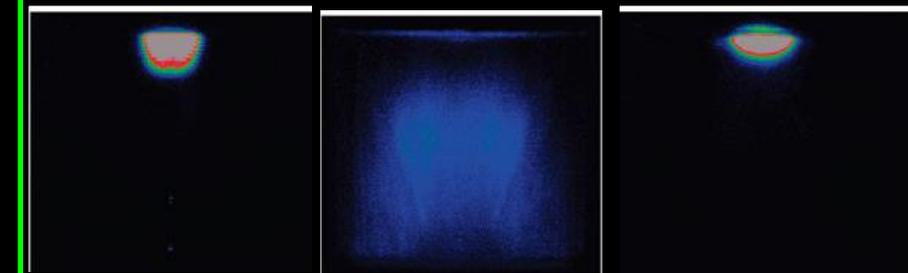
443 kHz

$t_{\text{off}} = 20000$  cycles



Iida, Y. et al., *Ultrason. Sonochem.* 2010, 17, 473

## Surfactants



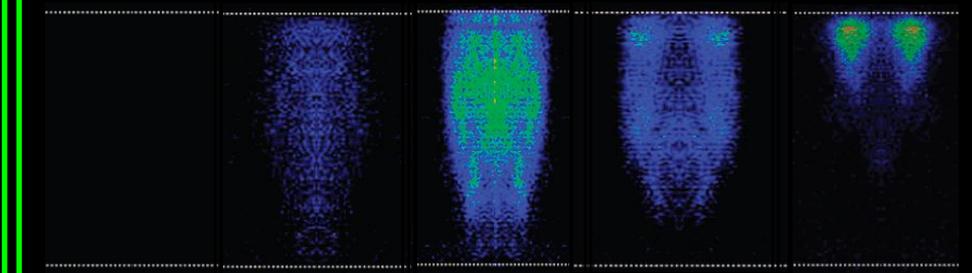
Water

1 mM SDS

10 mM SDS

Lee et al., *J. Ultrason. Sonochem.* 18, (2011), 92

## Gas Concentrations



34%

40%

50%

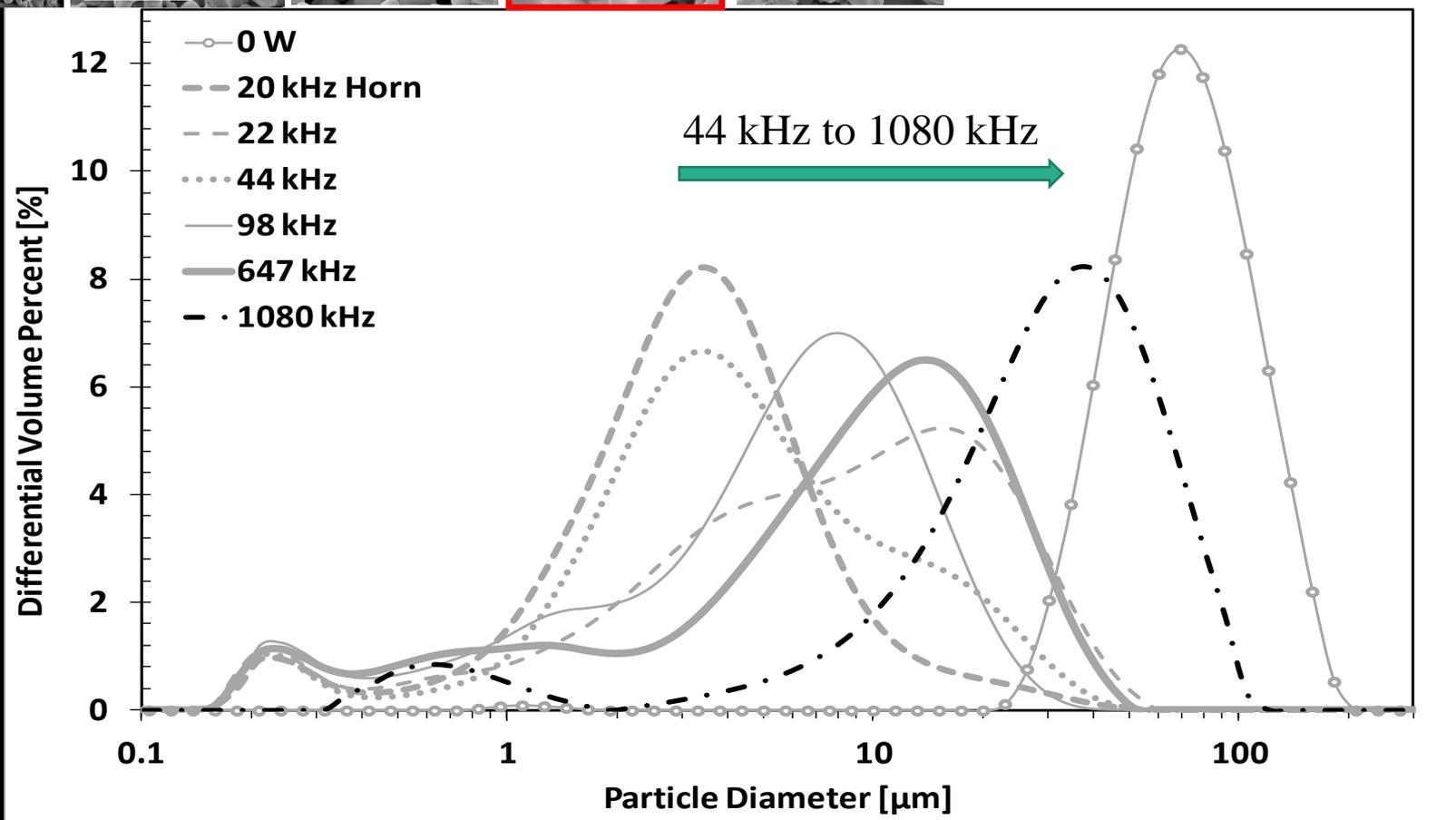
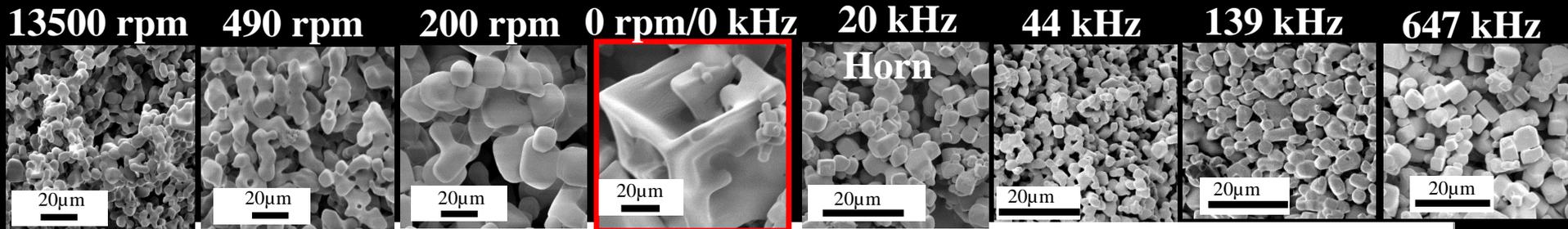
66%

100%

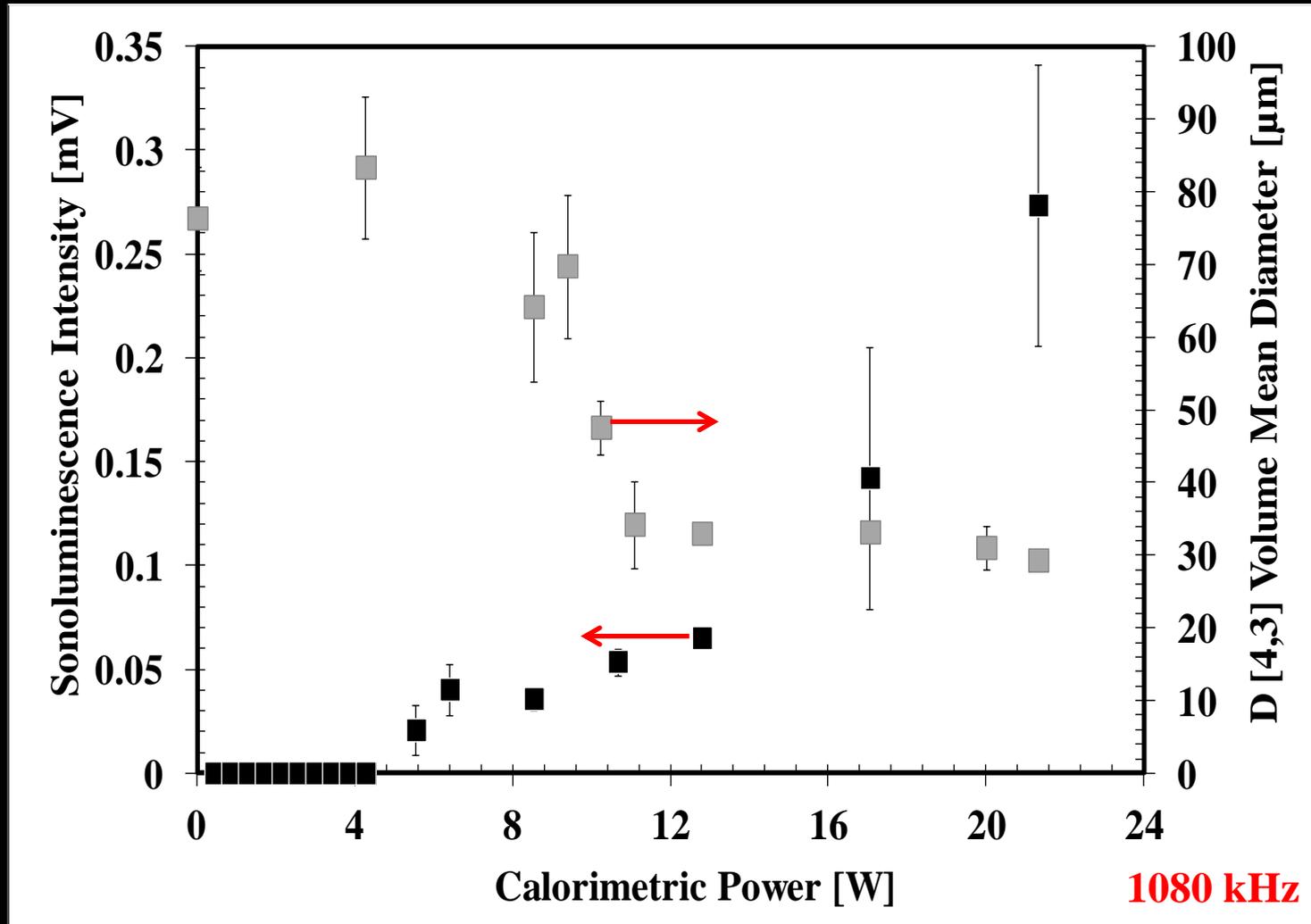
Lee et al., *J. Phys. Chem. B.* 112, (2008), 15333

Example of Inorganic  
compounds (NaCl and  
anti-solvent)

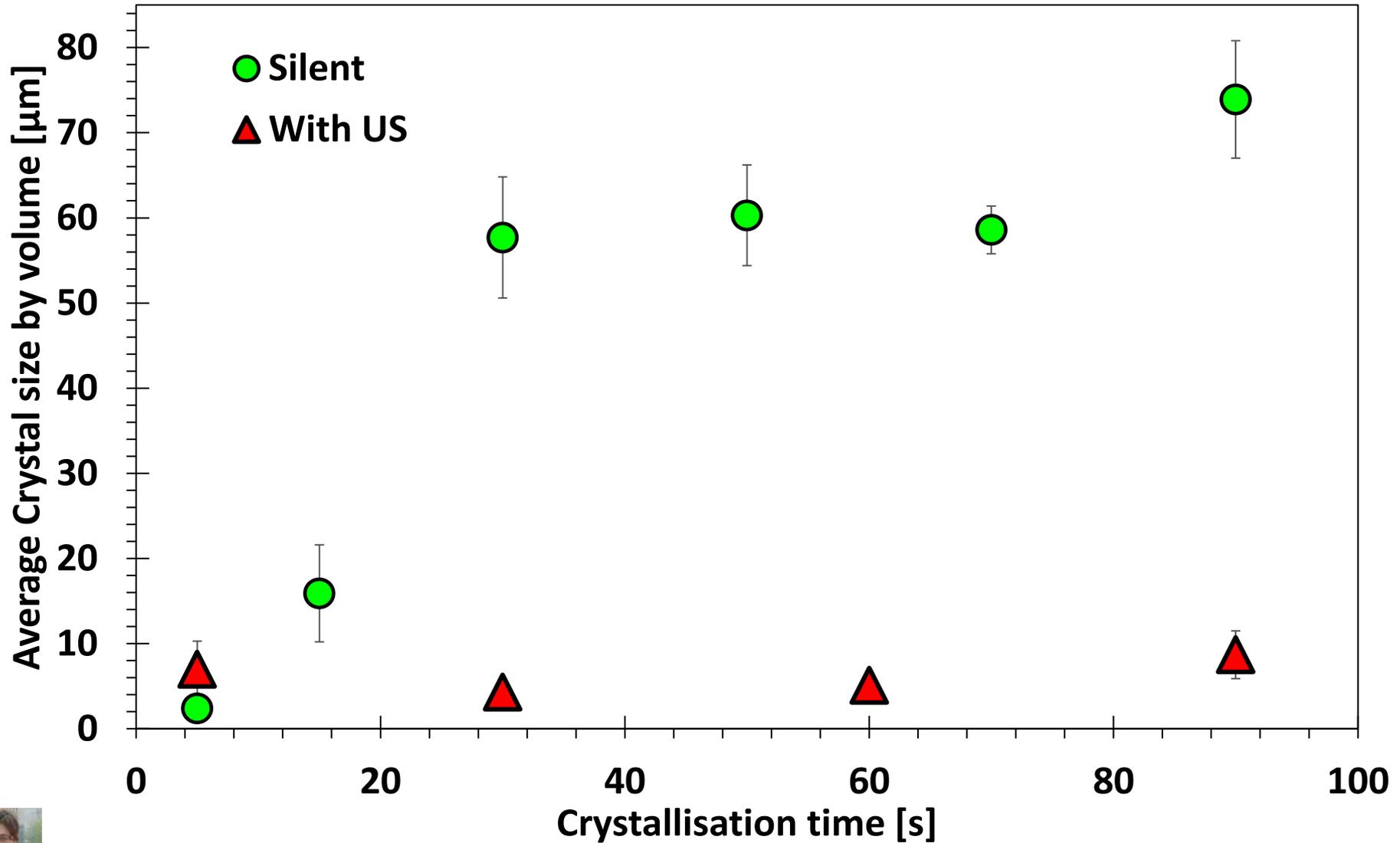
# Crystal size and size distribution (NaCl)



# SL Intensity vs NaCl Crystal size



# Sonication time (NaCl)



# Example of Organic compounds (Paracetamol and Antisolvent)

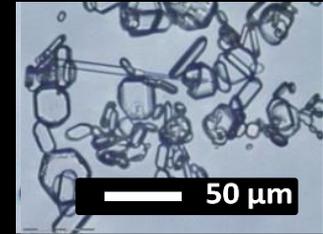
# Polymorphism (Paracetamol)



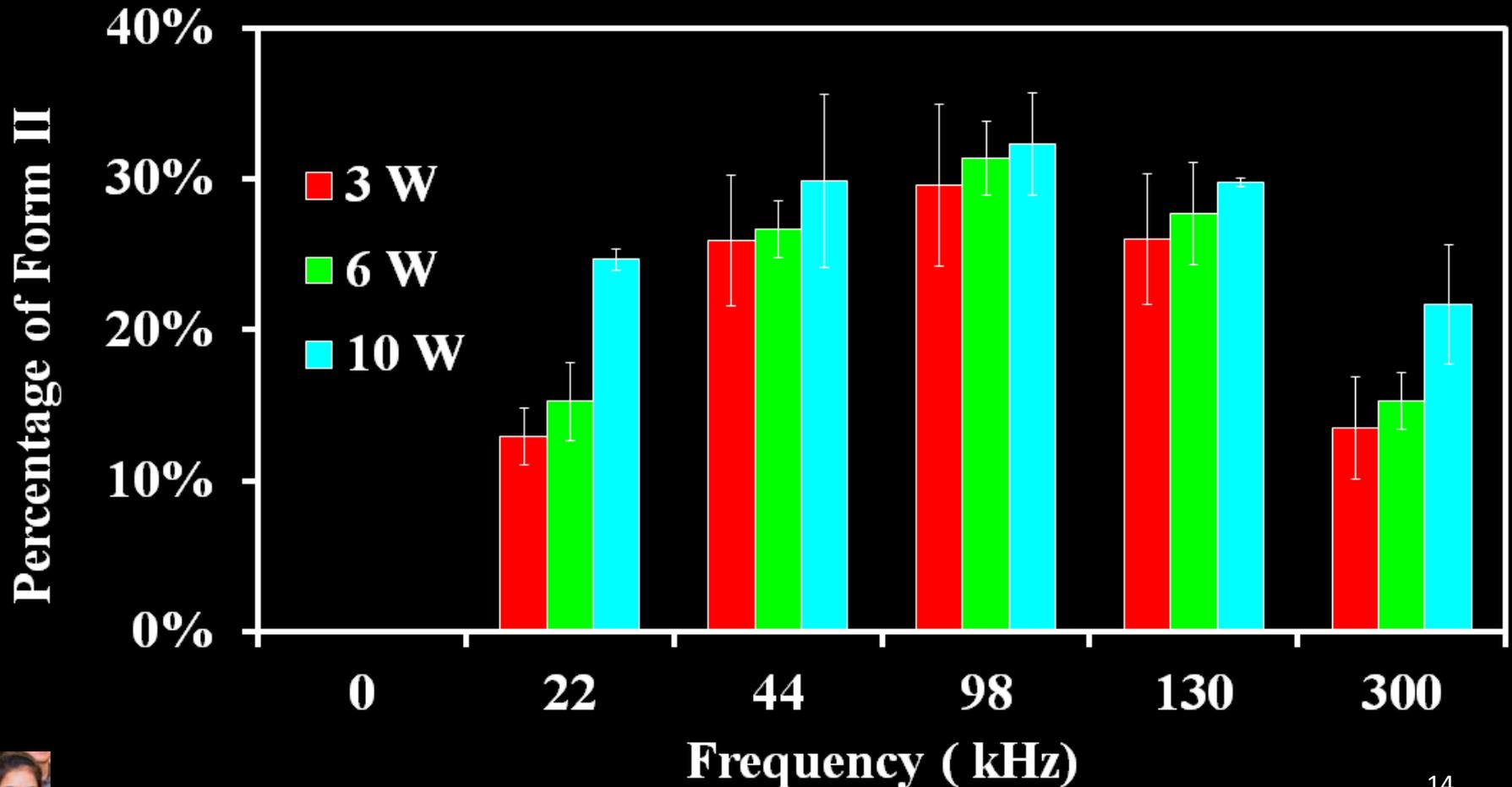
**Monoclinic Form I (stable)**  
Poor technological and biopharmaceutical properties



**Orthorhombic Form II (unstable)**  
Better tableting properties and does not require binding agents

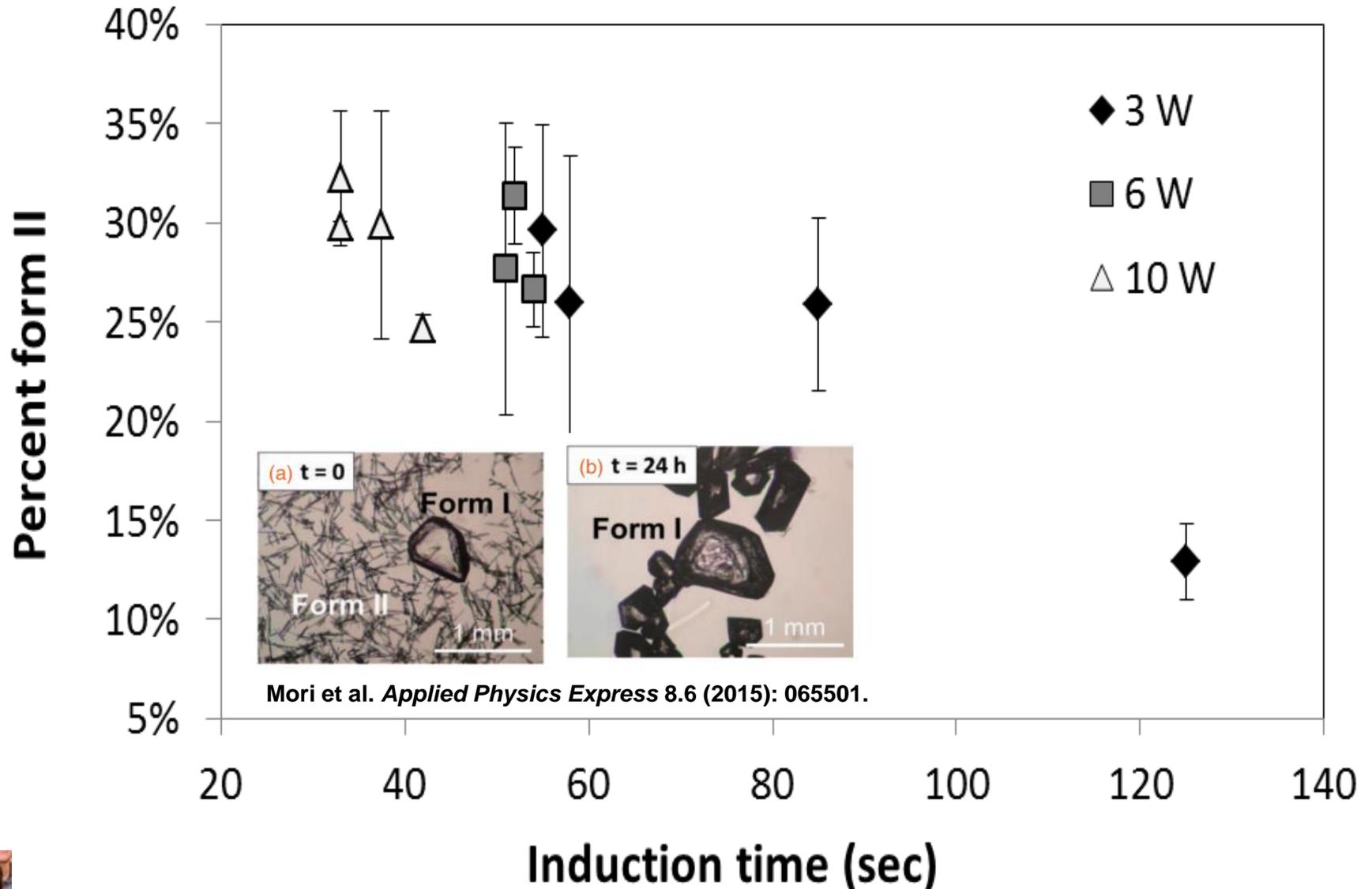


Paracetamol, Plate US, Antisolvent



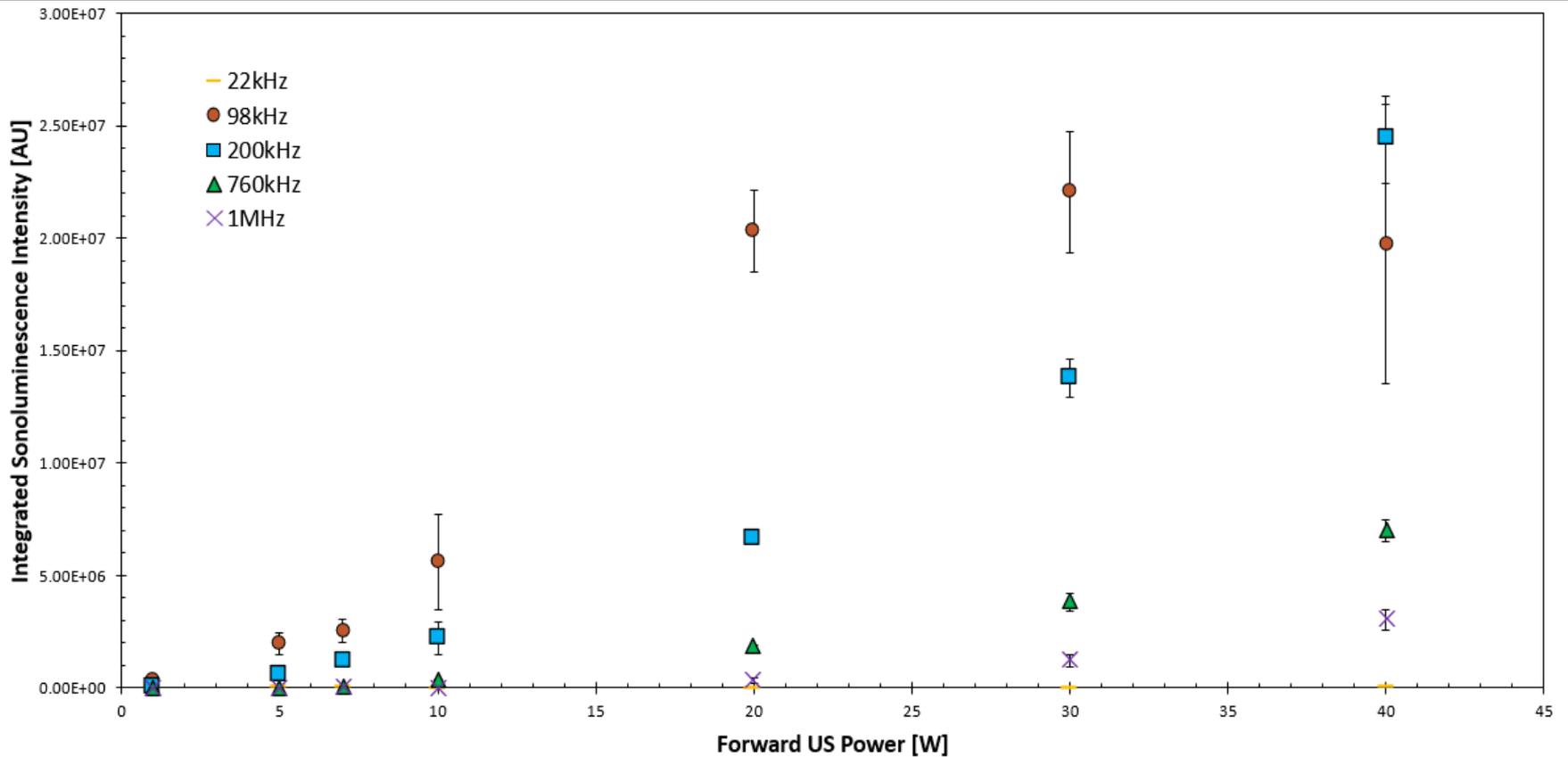
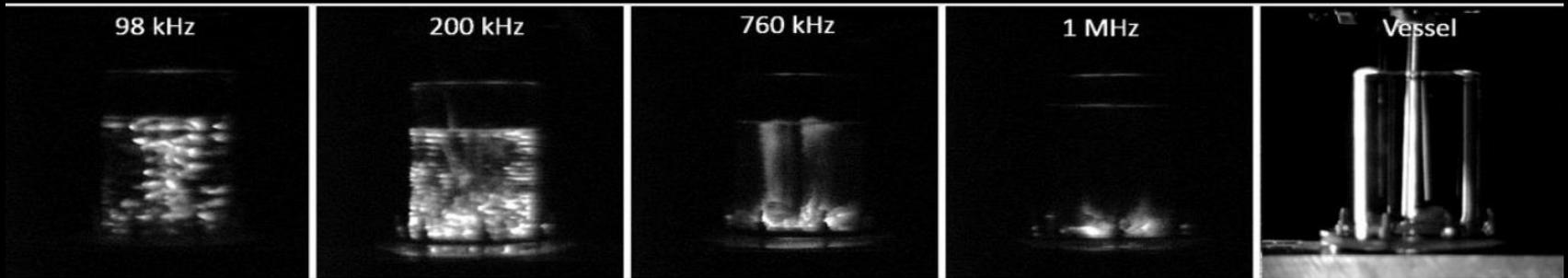
# Polymorphism vs Induction time

Paracetamol, Plate US, Antisolvent

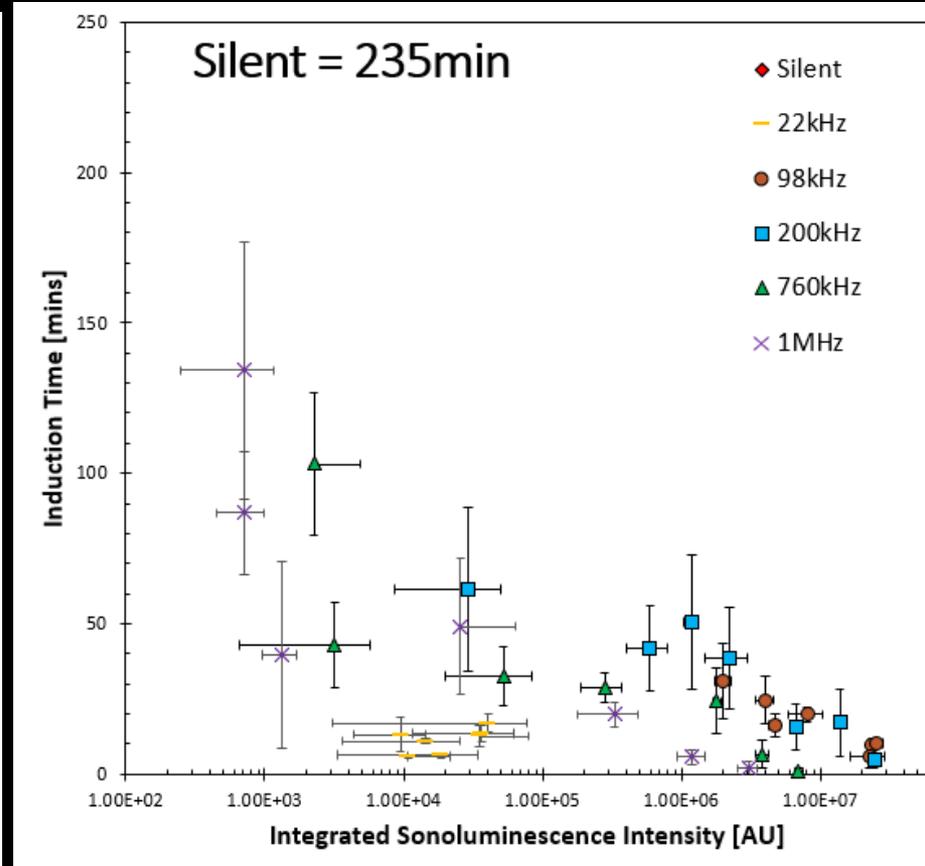
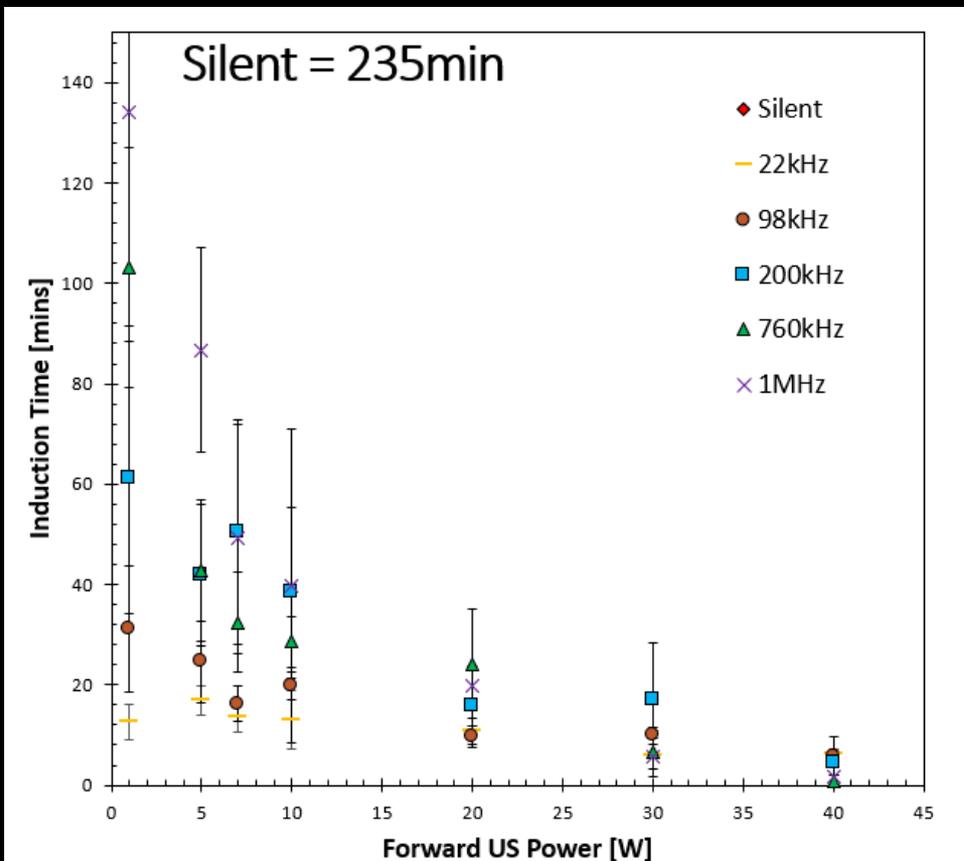


# Example of Organic compounds (Compound A and Cooling crystallisation)

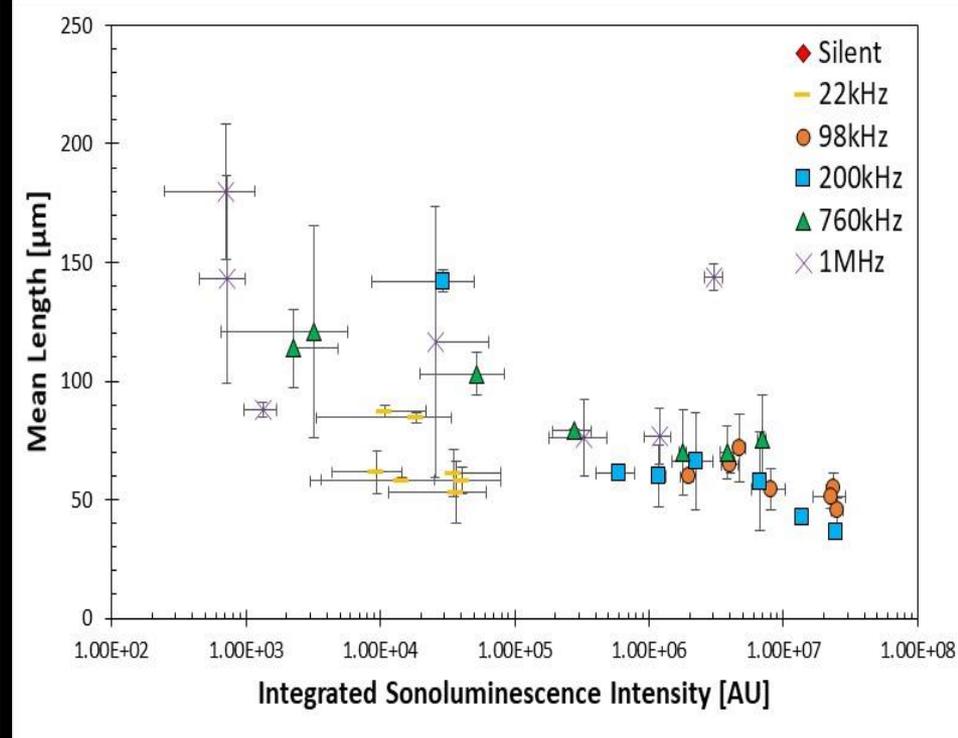
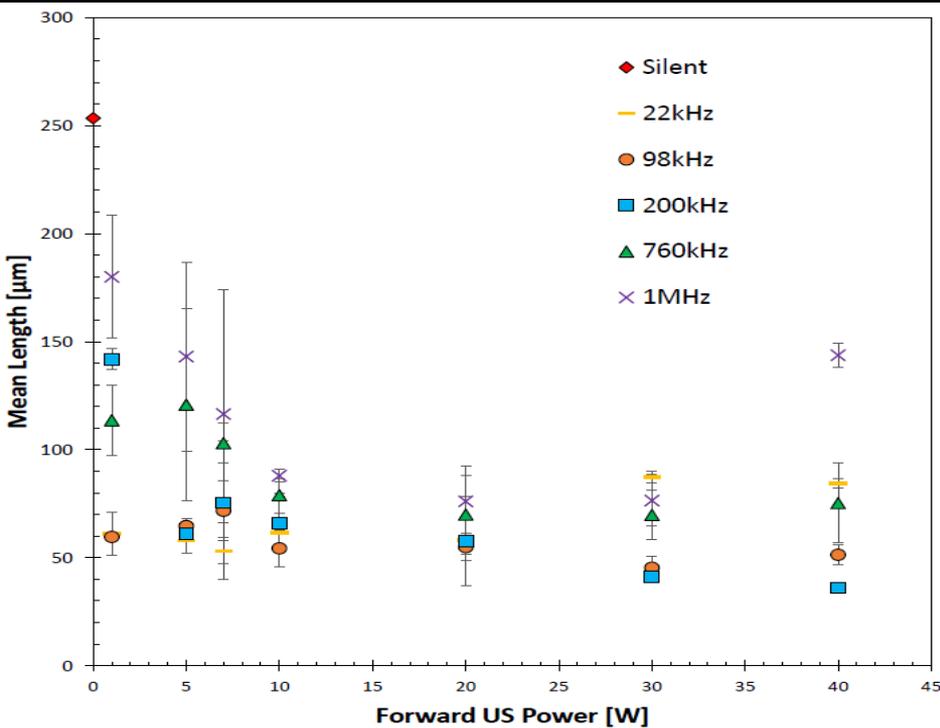
# Sonoluminescence vs Power



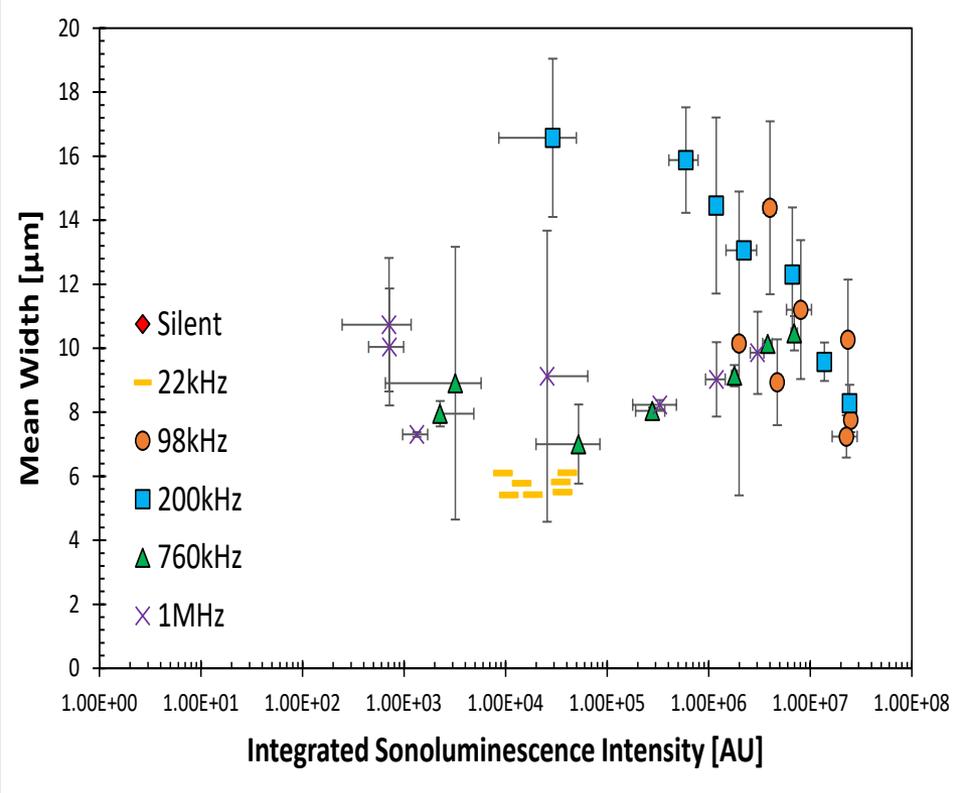
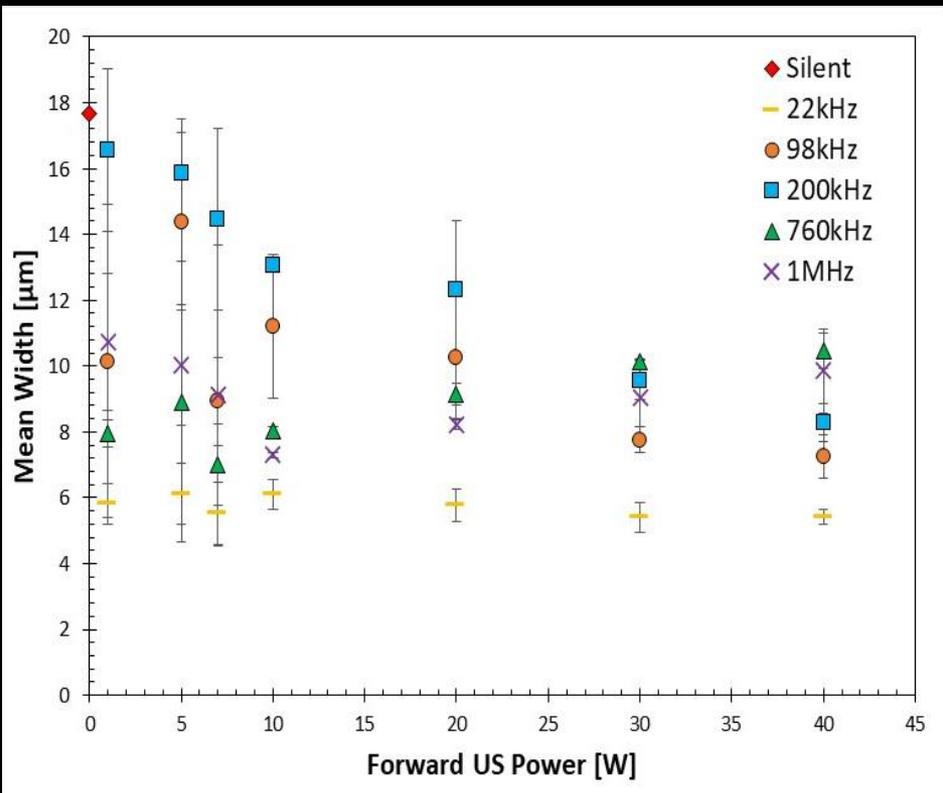
# Induction Time



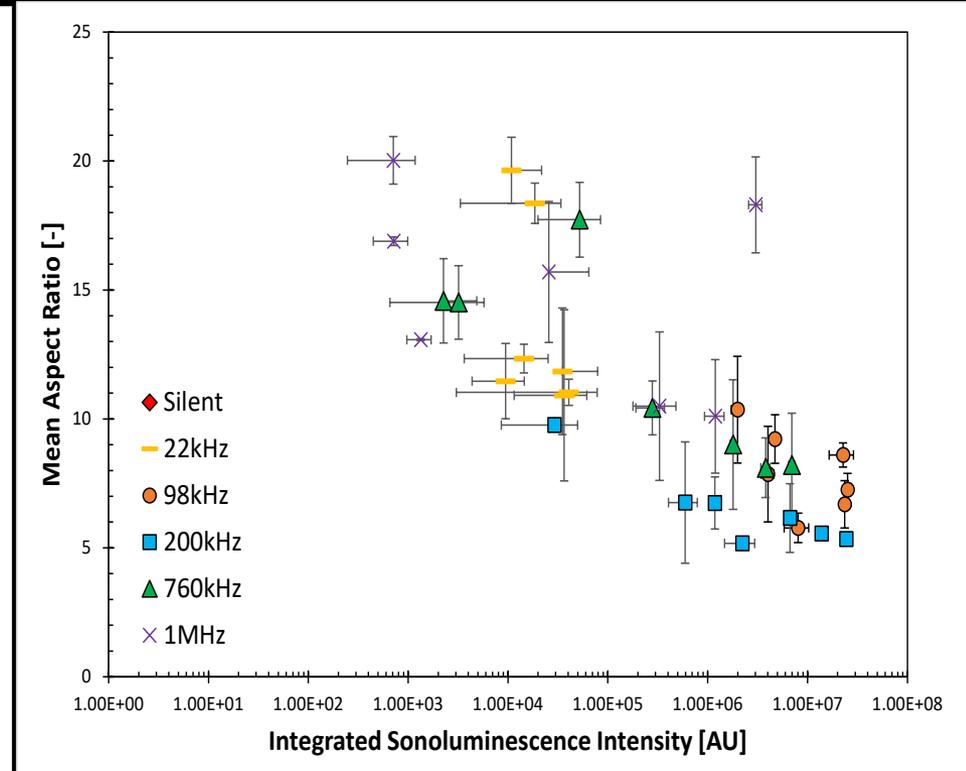
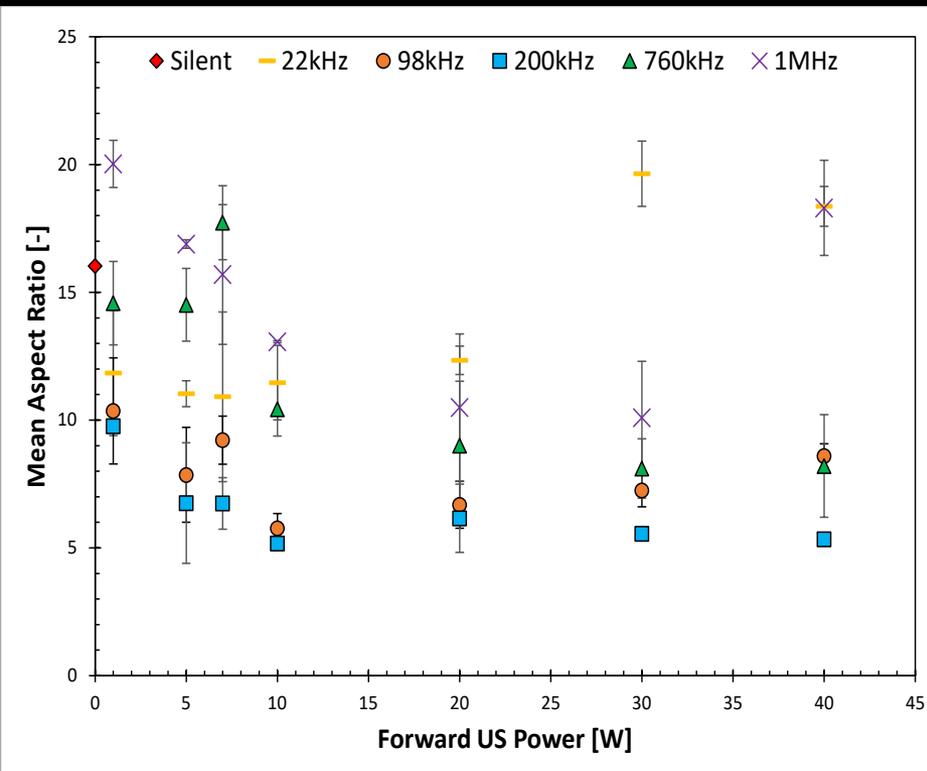
# Mean Length



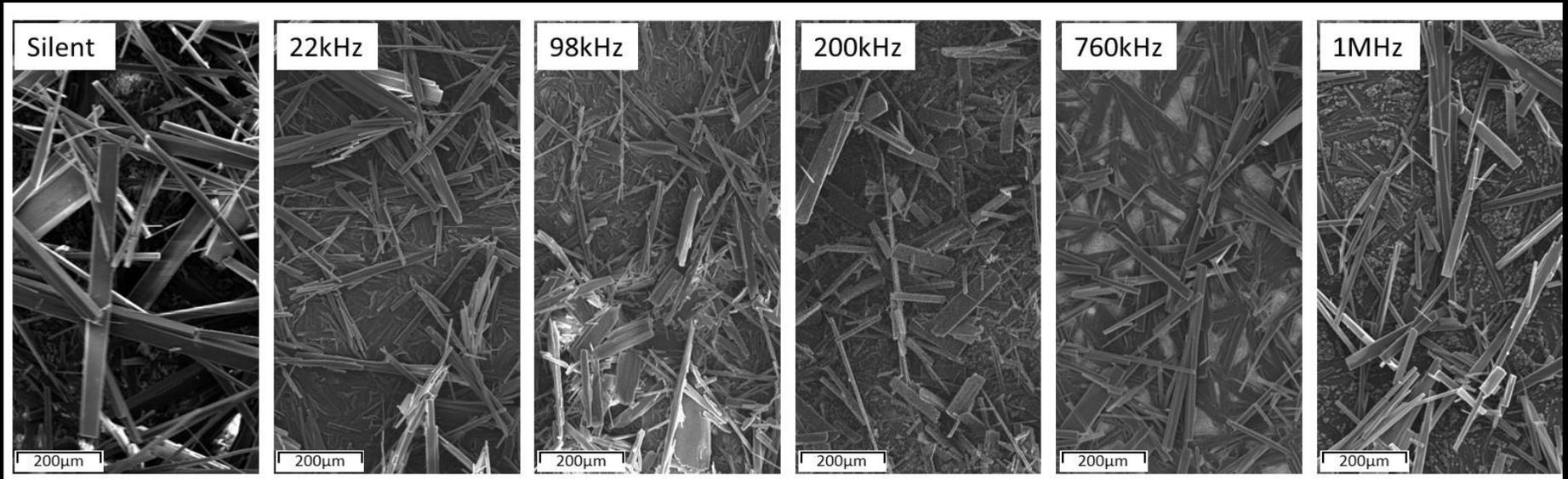
# Mean Width



# Mean Aspect Ratio



# Crystals from different frequency (20W)



# Summary and Challenges

- Sonocrystallisation - Complex Process.
- Induction time decreases with decreasing ultrasound frequency and increasing power. On crystal size -more complex
- Sonoluminescence (SL) is a better measure of cavitation activity and could provide an insight behind mechanism of sonocrystallisation. Both crystal size and induction time decrease with increasing SL
- Primary & Secondary Nucleation, fragmentation and growth are difficult to decouple, and mechanism may depend on crystallisation and sonication conditions. Therefore, understanding of ultrasound parameters on these mechanisms are important for future ultrasound applications and scale up.

# Acknowledgement



## PhD student

- Silvia Nalesso (Surrey)

## MEng/Master students

- Roop Bhangu (Melbourne University)
- Shanshan Yang (Melbourne University)
- Mahmoud Mukhtar (Surrey)
- Benjamin Parrish (Surrey)

## Collaborators

Dr. Madeleine Bussemaker

Dr. Mark Hodnett (NPL)

Prof. Muthupandian Ashokkumar (Melbourne University)

Prof. Sandra Kentish (Melbourne University)