

2020  
NOVEMBER  
**19**  
Thursday  
*seminar*



# WE HAVE A NEW LIQUID CRYSTAL THAT FORMS HELICAL STRUCTURES ... AND WHAT NEXT ?



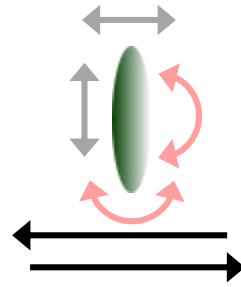
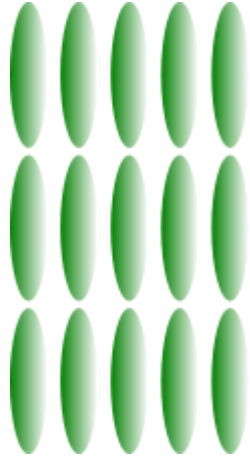
**Anna DRZEWICZ**

Department of Soft Matter Research  
Division of Condensed Matter Physics

The Henryk Niewodniczański Institute of Nuclear Physics Polish Academy of Sciences

# What are liquid crystals?

crystal



isotropic  
liquid



F. Reinitzer

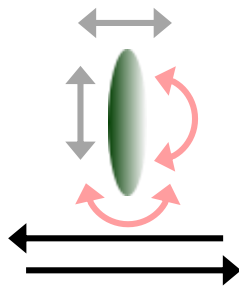
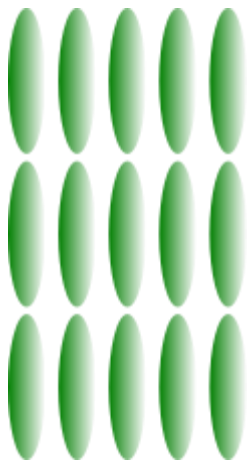


O. Lehmann

increase of temperature →

# What are liquid crystals?

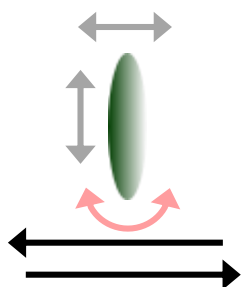
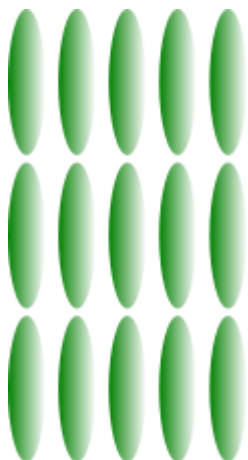
crystal



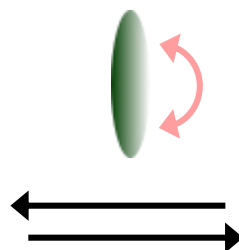
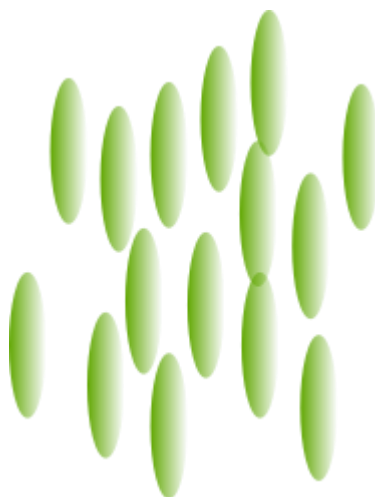
isotropic  
liquid



crystal



liquid crystal

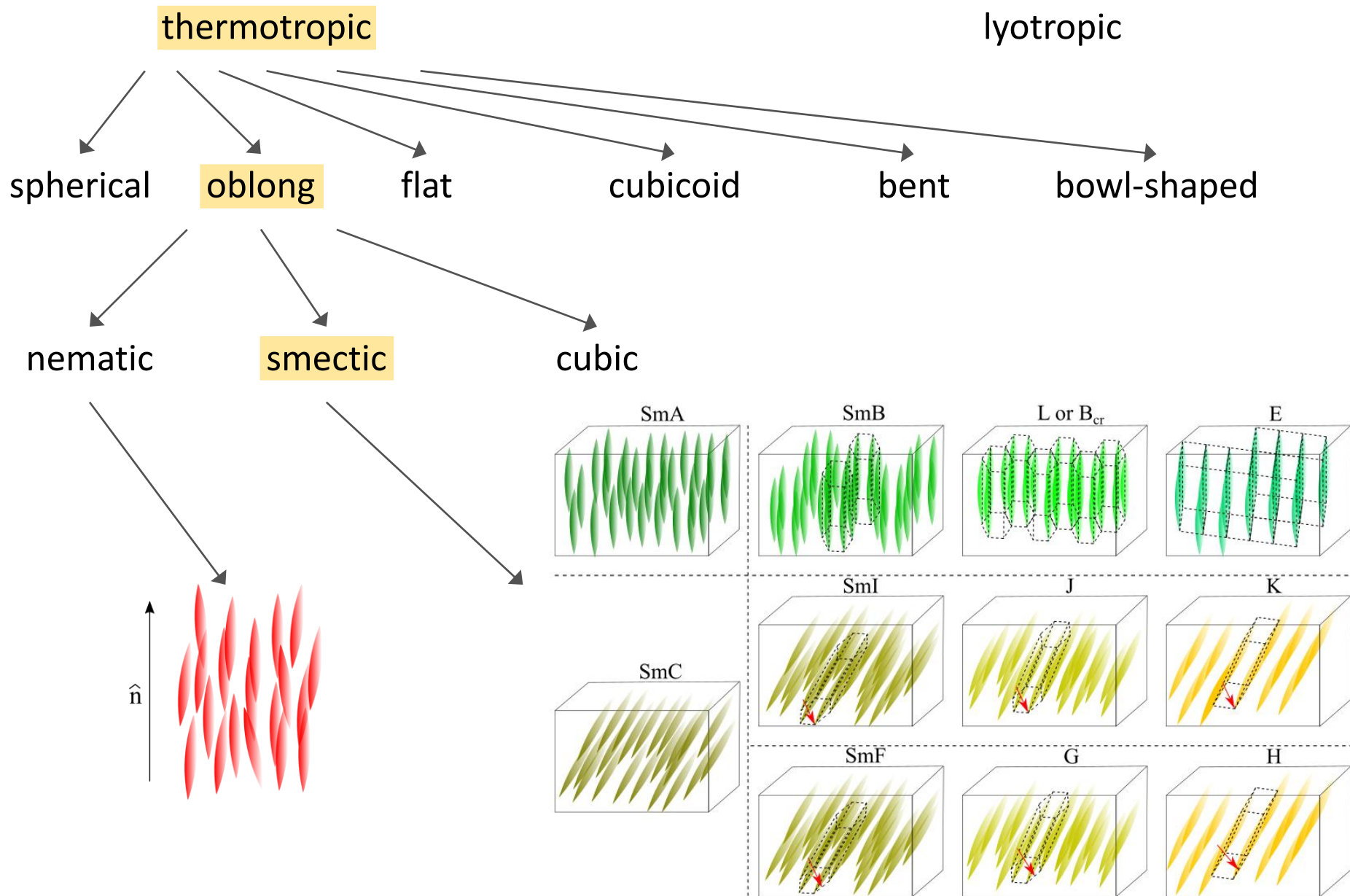


isotropic  
liquid



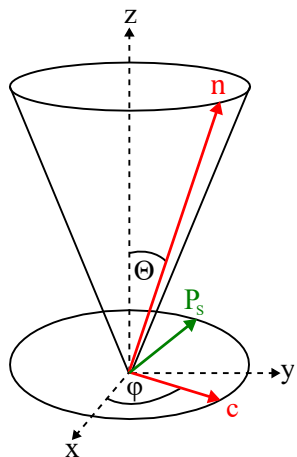
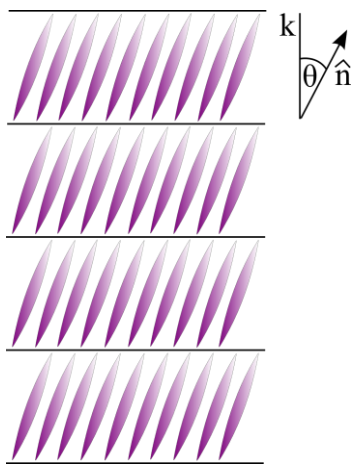
increase of temperature →

# Today we know tens of thousands of liquid crystal compounds

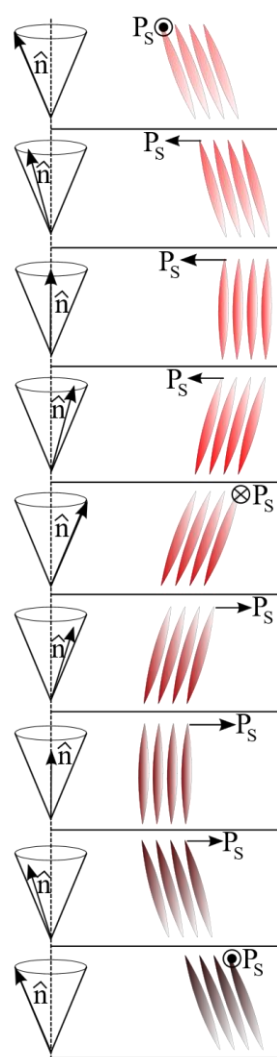


# Chiral smectic phases

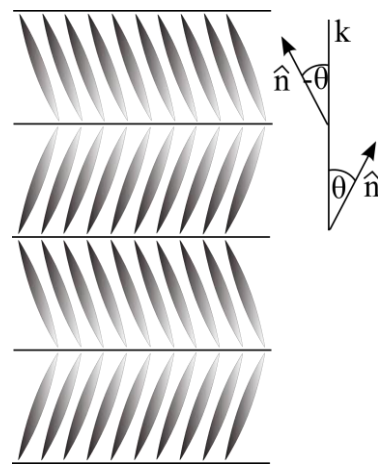
SmC phase



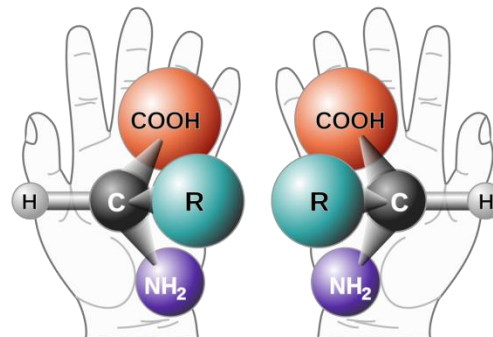
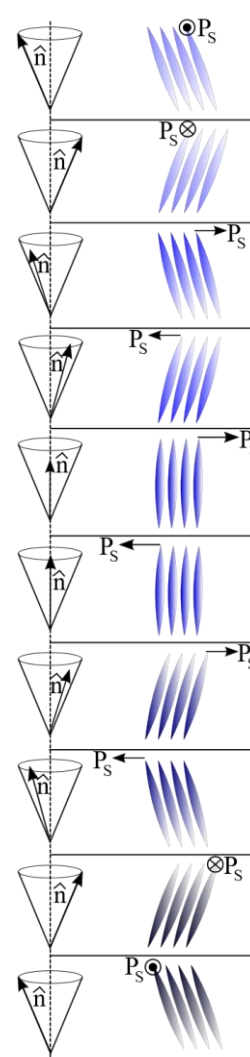
SmC\* phase



SmC<sub>A</sub> phase



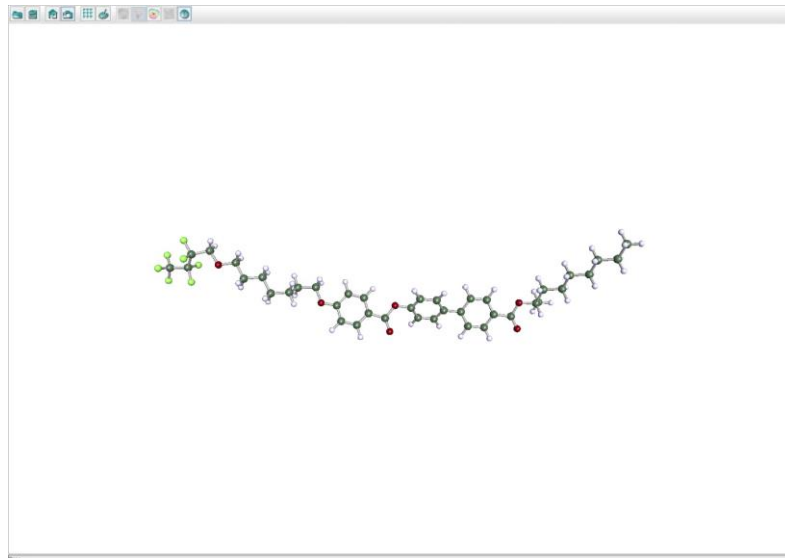
SmC<sub>A</sub>\* phase



# Material

## 3F7HPhH7

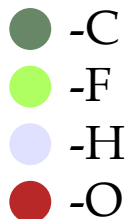
(S)- 4'-(1-methyloctyloxycarbonyl)biphenyl-4-yl  
4-[7-(2,2,3,3,4,4,4-heptafluorobutoxy)-  
heptyl1-oxy]-benzoate



perfluorinated chain

C=O groups

chiral centre



Molecule optimized by DFT method (def2-TZVPPD basis and B3-LYP).

Dipole moment components, determined by AIM method, are:  $\mu_x = 0.073$ ,  $\mu_y = 0.43$ ,  $\mu_z = -2.30$ .

Dipole moment  $\mu$  equals 5.9 D (OZ axis is perpendicular to the long molecular axis).



# Why this compound?



Fluorinated compounds are very good stabilizers for liquid crystal mixtures for applications.



The presence of carbonyl groups has an influence on the dielectric anisotropy, a key feature making a particular liquid crystal material suitable for use in display devices.



The long conjugated electronic system of  $\pi$ -bonds causes a high value of birefringence of molecules.



The presence of chiral centre favours the formation of a helical structure in some liquid crystal phases and such substances can be used e.g. in human body temperature sensors.



It undergoes vitrification and cold crystallization processes.



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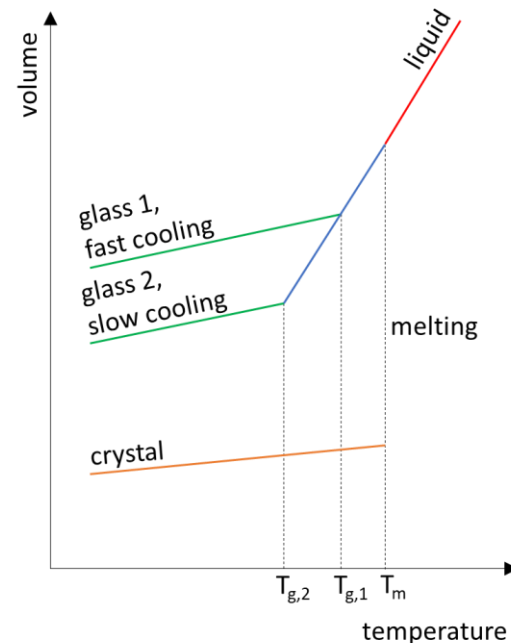
The presence of chiral centre favours the formation of a helical structure in some liquid crystal phases and such substances can be used e.g. in human body temperature sensors.



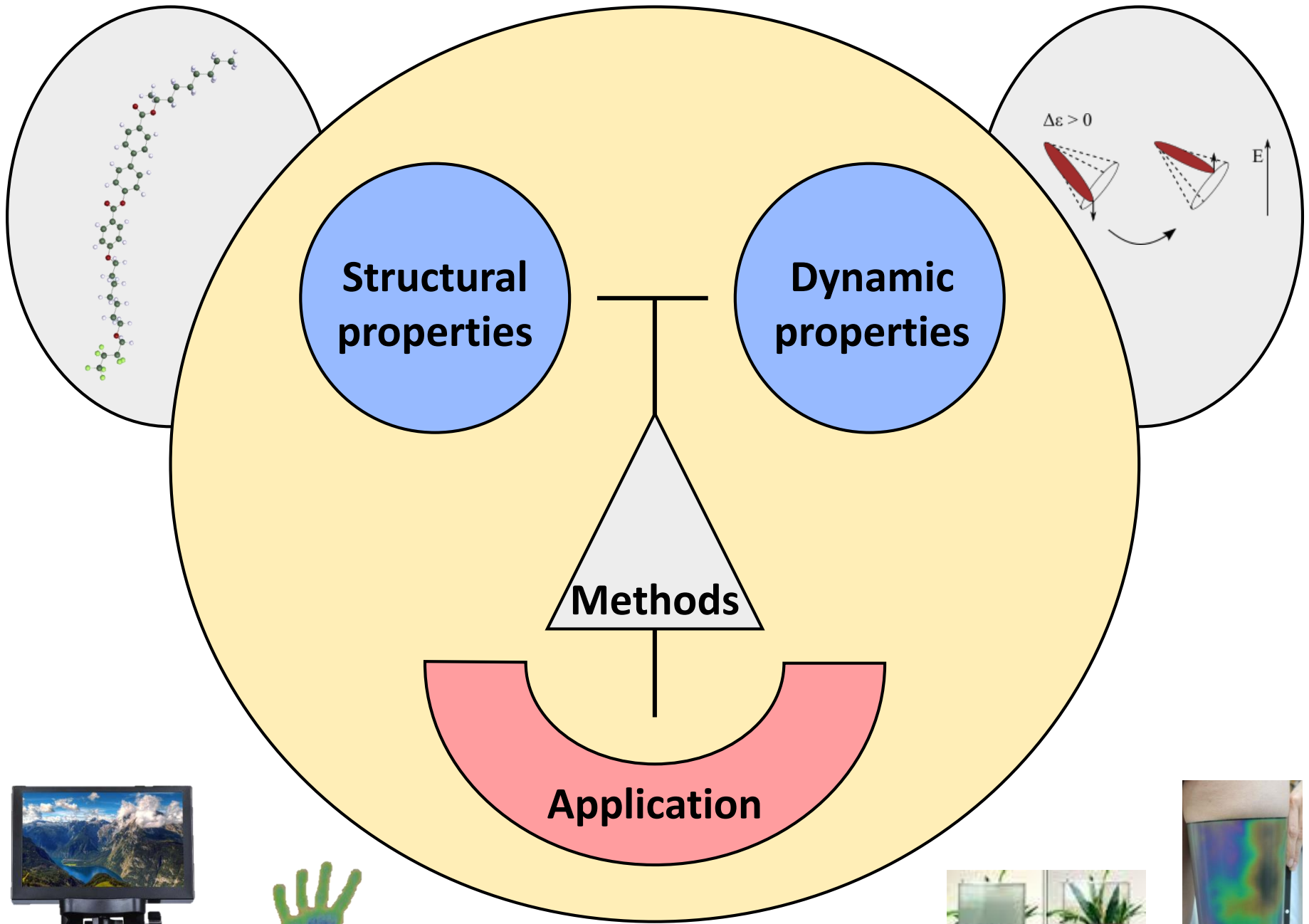
It undergoes vitrification and cold crystallization processes.

Glass of liquid crystals:

- ✓ electro-optical devices for selective reflection of light;
- ✓ manufacturing amorphous pharmaceuticals or drug carriers, assuring a better bioavailability of active substances.

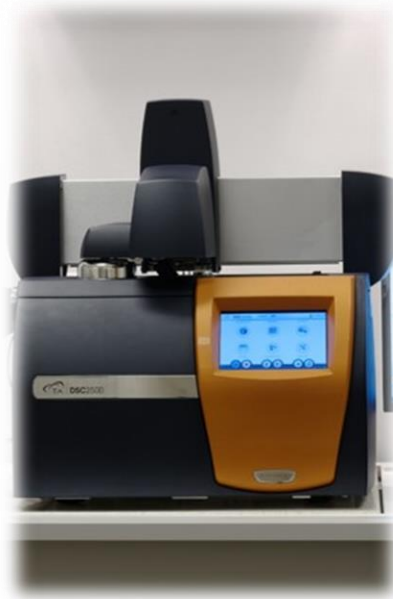






# Methods

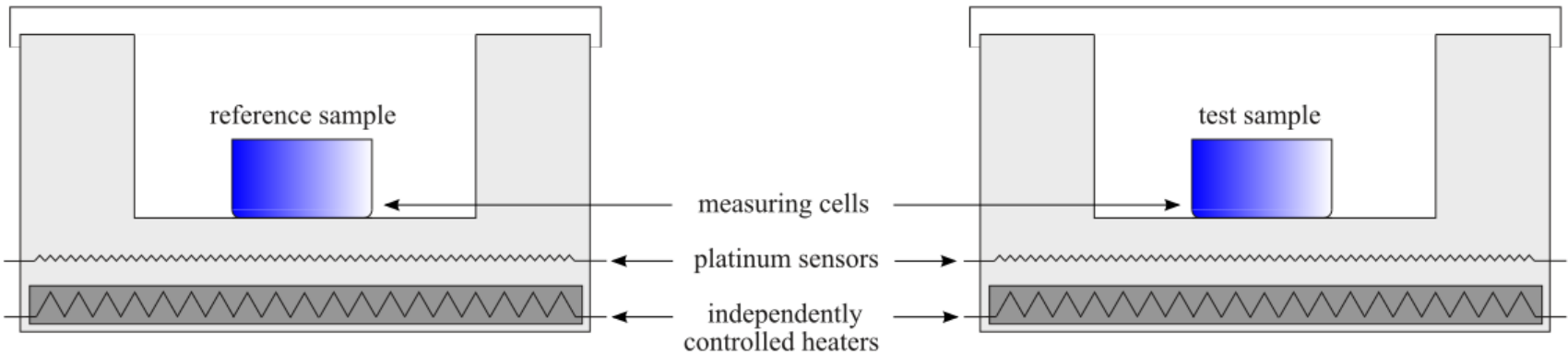
Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC)



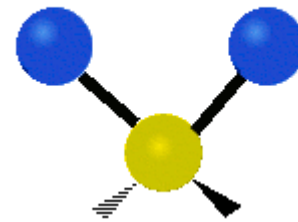
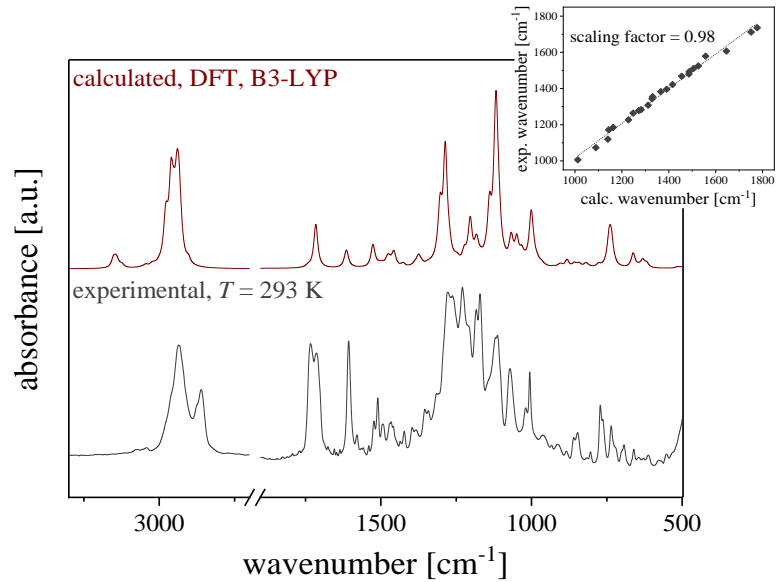
Polarized Optical Microscopy (POM)



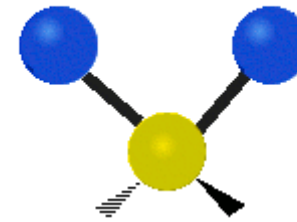
Thermooptic Analysis (TOA)



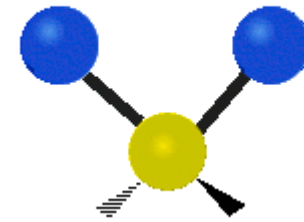
# Methods



symmetric stretching



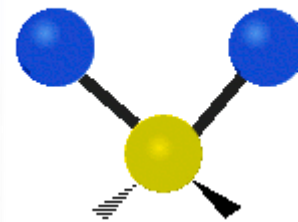
asymmetric stretching



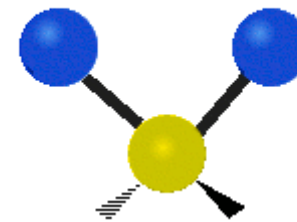
scissoring



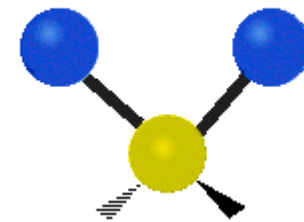
Fourier Transform  
Infrared Spectroscopy  
(FTIR)



rocking



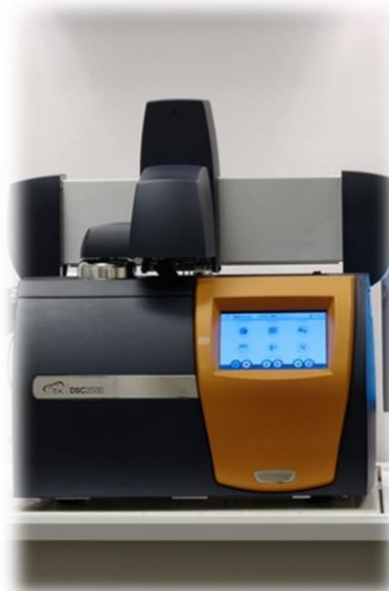
wagging



twisting

# Methods

Differential Scanning  
Calorimetry (DSC)



Polarized Optical  
Microscopy (POM)



Thermooptic Analysis  
(TOA)

Fourier Transform  
Infrared Spectroscopy  
(FTIR)



Broadband Dielectric  
Spectroscopy (BDS)



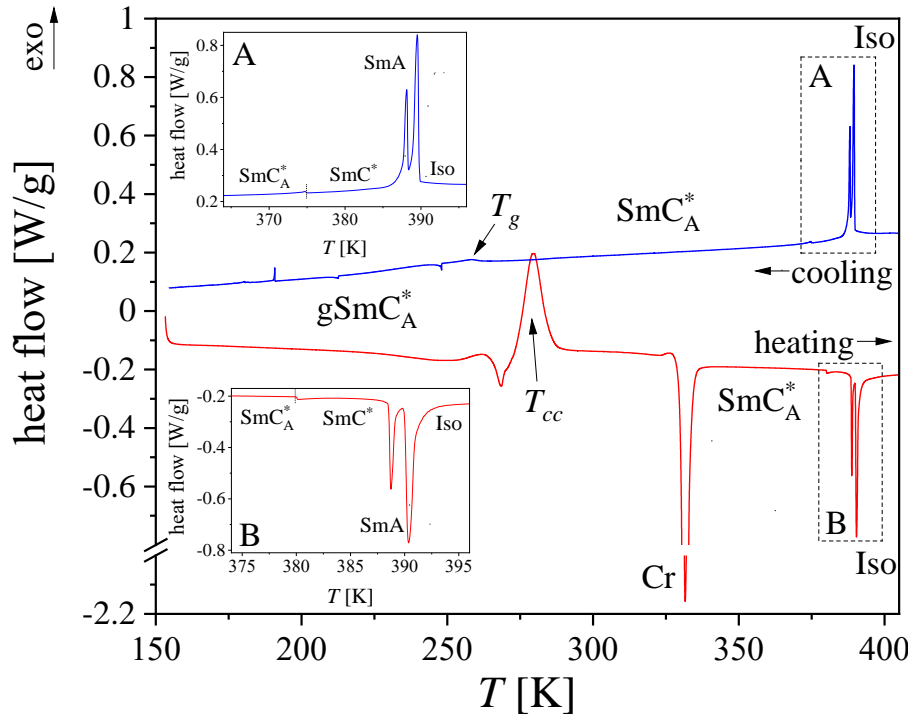
# WHAT IS THE PHASE BEHAVIOUR?



# Phase behaviour of 3F7HPhH7

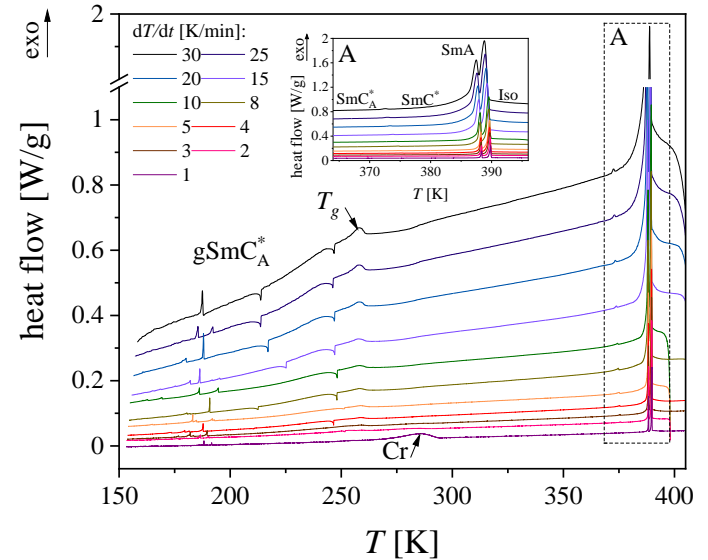
DSC recorded for a cooling/heating rate of 8 K/min

cooling	phase transition	$T_{p.t.}$ [K]	$\Delta H_{p.t.}$ [kJ/mol]	$\Delta S_{p.t.}$ [Jmol <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup> ]
	Iso – SmA	389.5	1.9	4.9
	SmA – SmC*	388.1	0.7	1.8
	SmC* – SmC <sub>A</sub> *	374.7	0.02	0.1
	SmC <sub>A</sub> * – gSmC <sub>A</sub> *	257.8	-	-

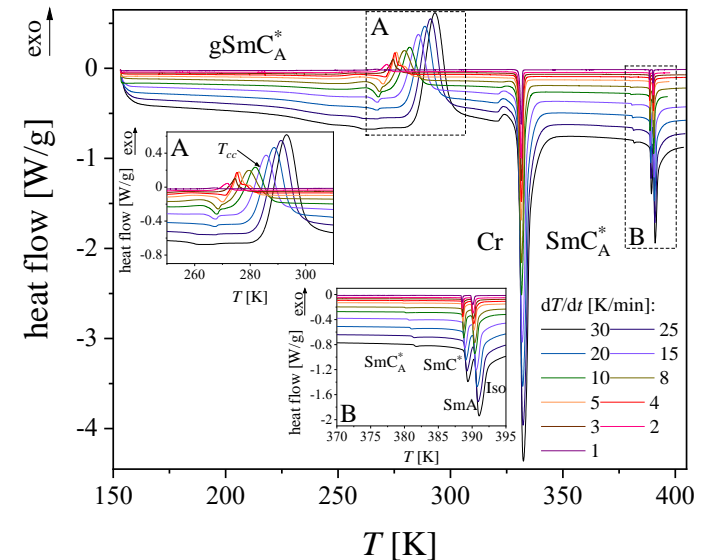


heating	phase transition	$T_{p.t.}$ [K]	$\Delta H_{p.t.}$ [kJ/mol]	$\Delta S_{p.t.}$ [Jmol <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup> ]
	gSmC <sub>A</sub> * – Cr	279.4	15.2	54.5
	Cr – SmC <sub>A</sub> *	331.6	27.3	82.5
	SmC <sub>A</sub> * – SmC*	380.2	0.1	0.2
	SmC* – SmA	388.7	0.7	1.8
SmA – Iso	390.4	2.5	6.5	

DSC (cooling)



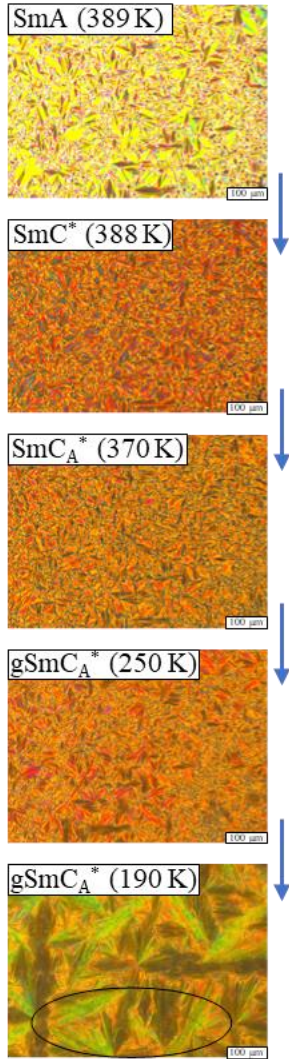
DSC (heating)



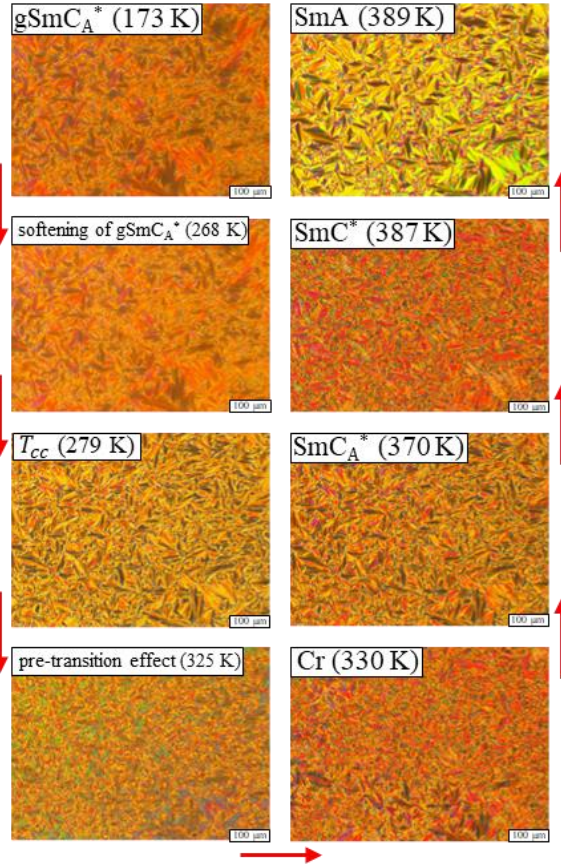


# Phase behaviour of 3F7HPhH7

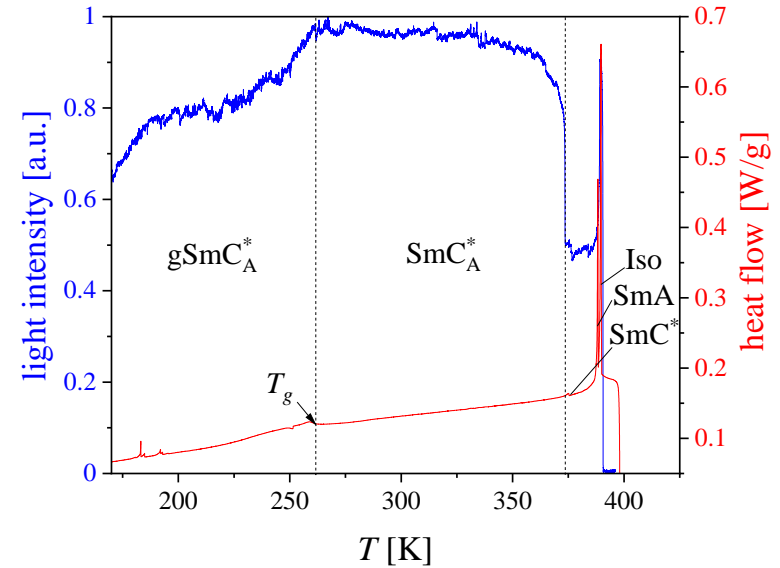
**POM textures** observed during  
cooling



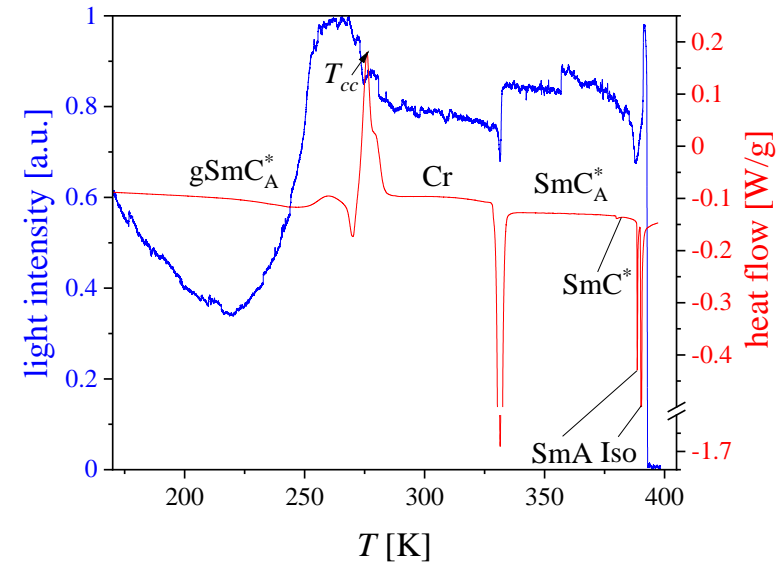
heating



**TOA and DSC (cooling)**



**TOA and DSC (heating)**

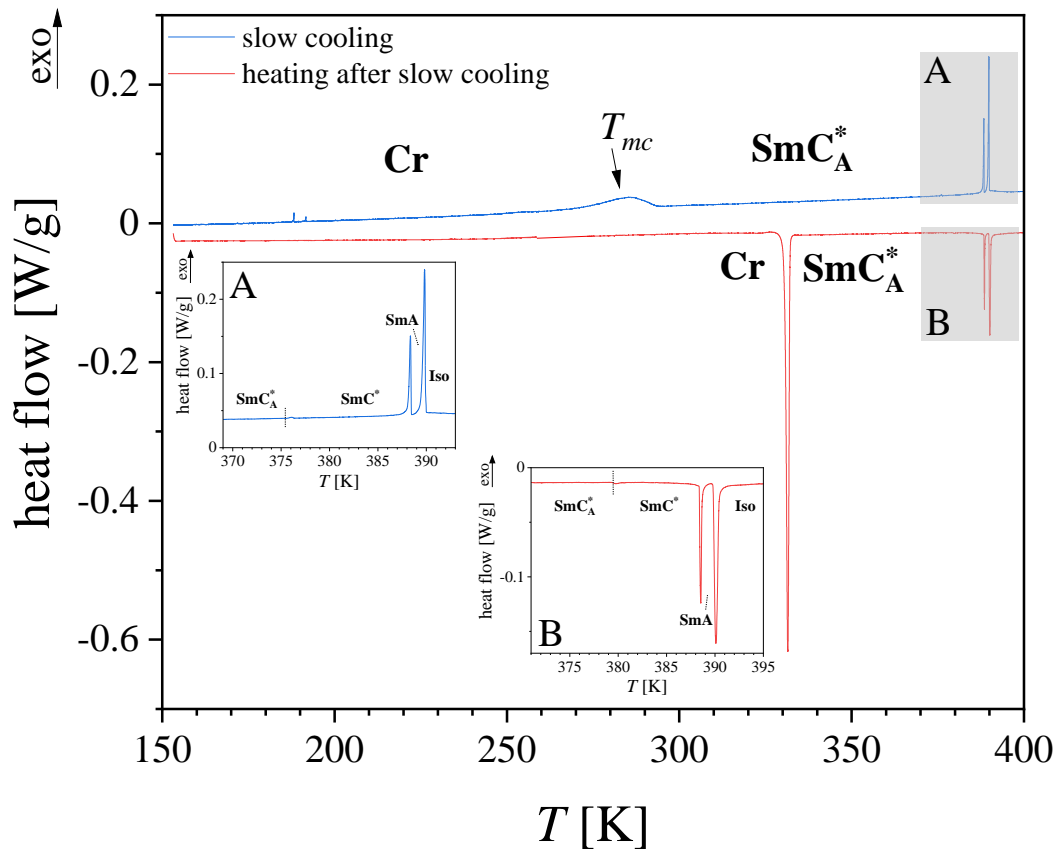


WHAT HAPPENS DURING SLOW  
COOLING AND NEXT HEATING?

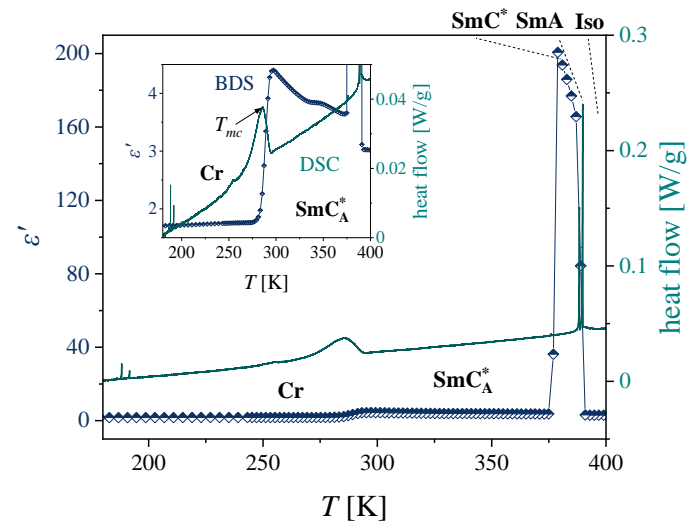


# Slow cooling and next heating of 3F7HPPhH7

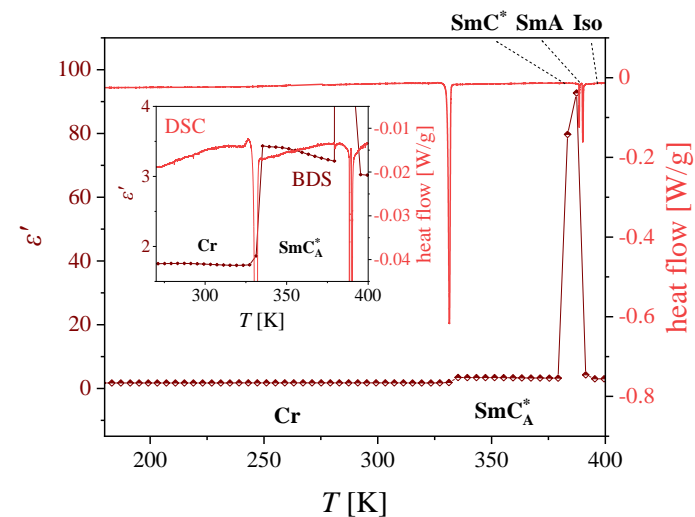
## DSC thermograms



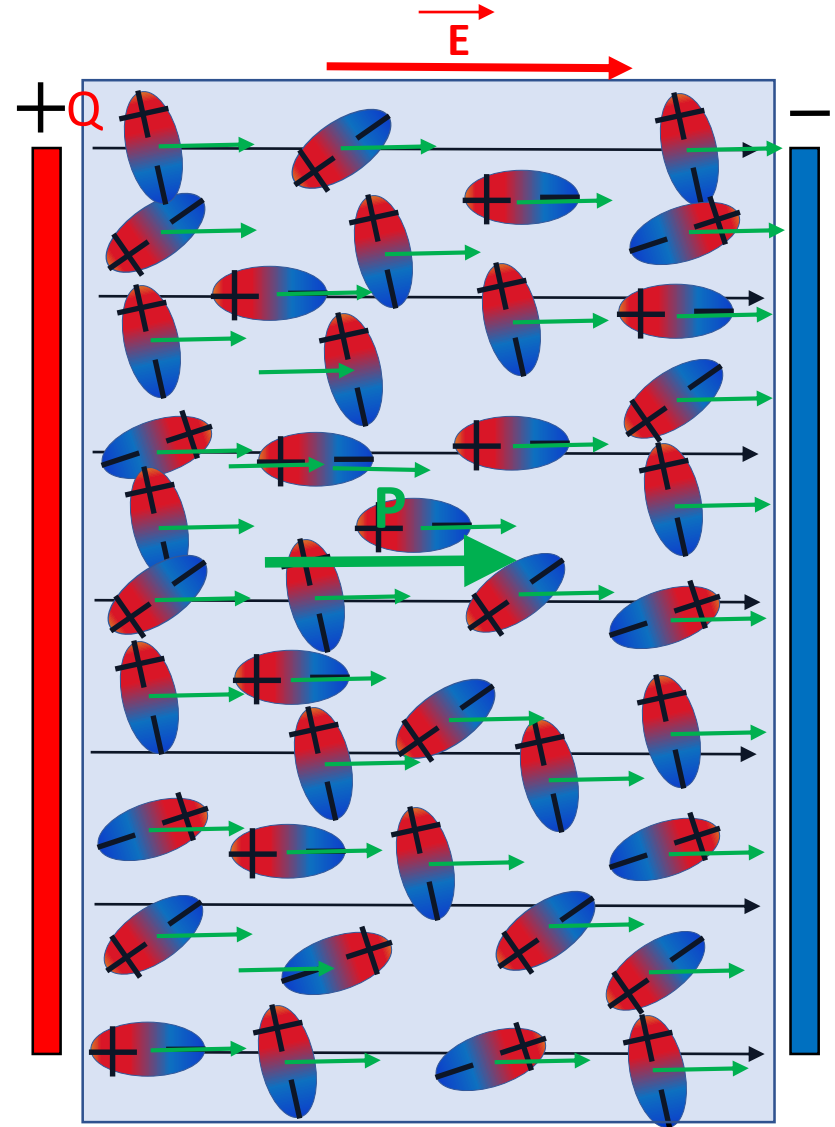
## DSC and BDS (cooling)



## DSC and BDS (heating)



# Idea of BDS

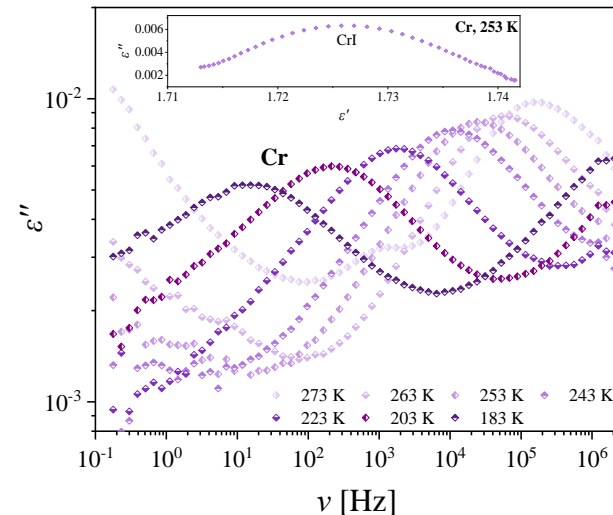
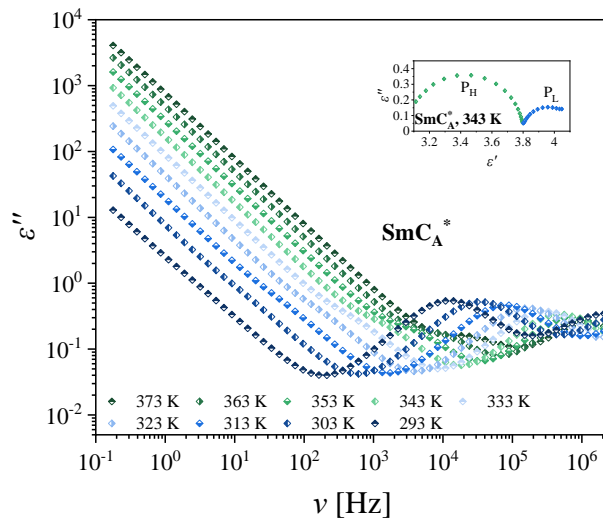
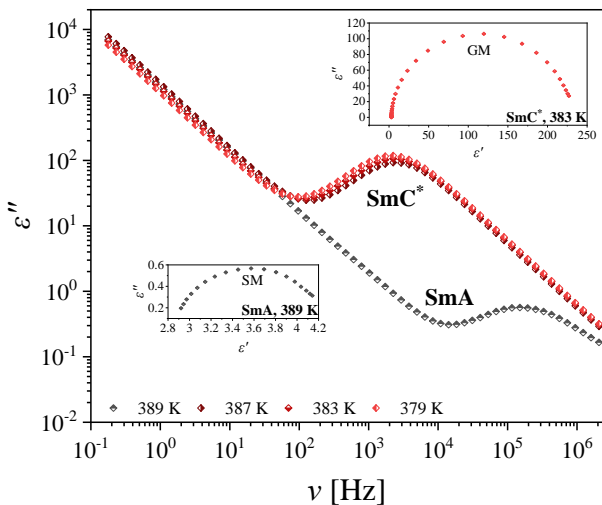


The scheme of parallel-plate capacitor with a dielectric material



# Relaxation dynamics of 3F7HPhH7 during slow cooling

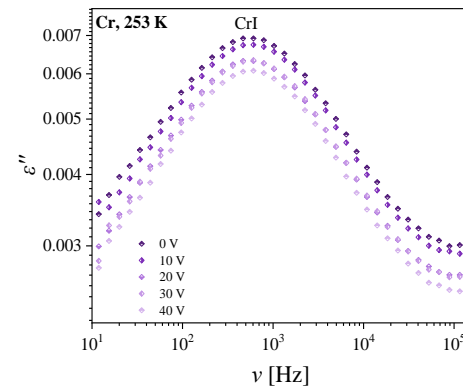
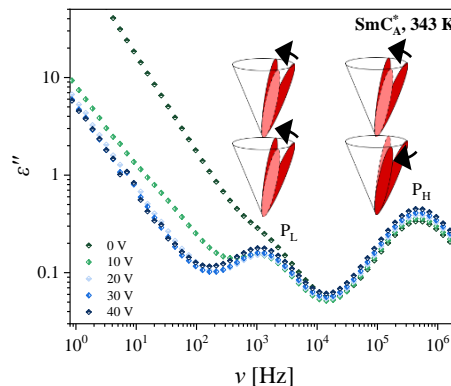
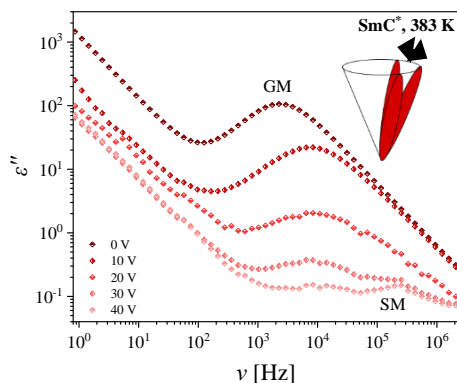
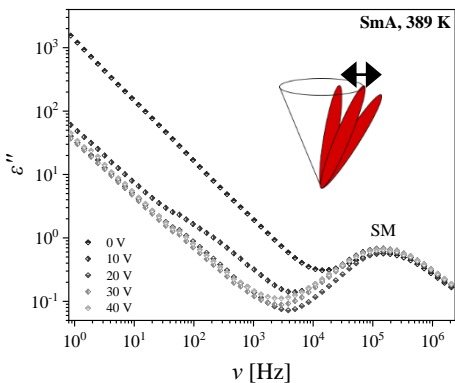
Dielectric loss  $\epsilon''$  vs. frequency  $\nu$  observed during slow cooling (BDS)



Dielectric loss  $\epsilon''$  vs. frequency  $\nu$  observed with the bias field applied (BDS)

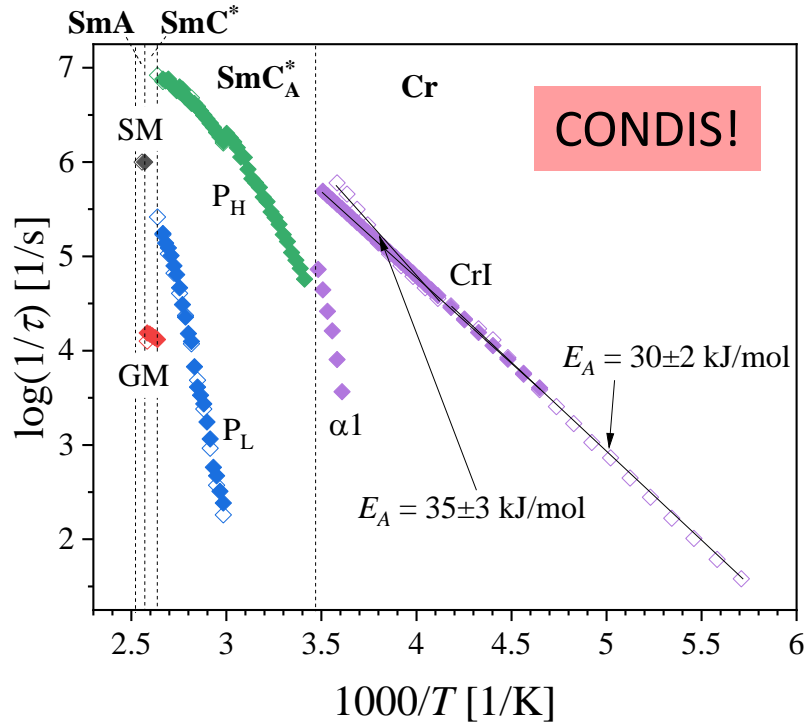
amplitudon

phasons



# Relaxation dynamics of 3F7HPhH7 during slow cooling and heating

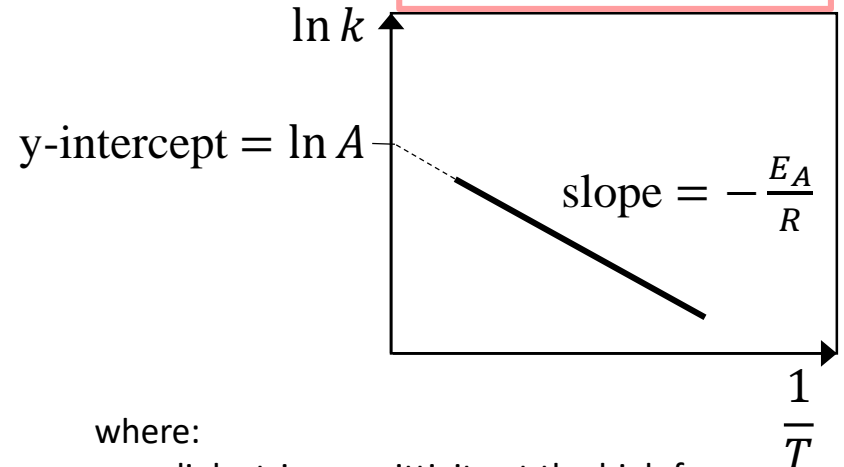
Activation plots during slow cooling (full points) and heating (open points)



$$\Delta S_{Cr \rightarrow SmC_A^*} = 34 \pm 1 \text{ Jmol}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$$

Arrhenius equation:

$$\ln k = -\frac{E_A}{RT} + \ln A$$



where:

$\epsilon_\infty$  - dielectric permittivity at the high frequency,

$\Delta\epsilon_k$  - dielectric strength of  $k$ -process,

$\tau_{HN_k}$  - relaxation time of  $k$ -process,

$\sigma_0$  - dc electrical conductivity,

$\epsilon_0$  - dielectric permittivity of the vacuum,

$\alpha_{HN_k}, \beta_{HN_k}$  - shape parameters describe symmetric and asymmetric broadening of loss spectra.

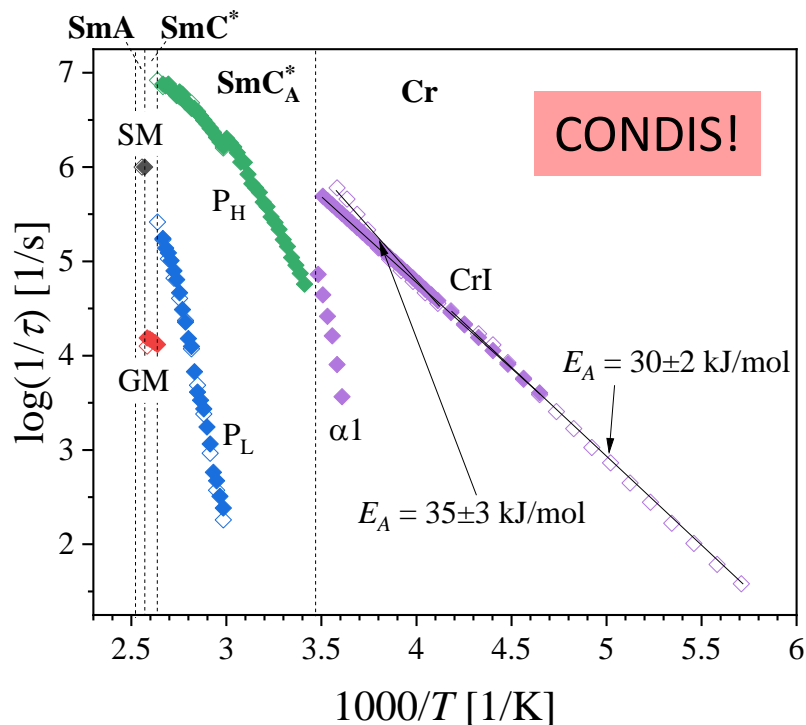
Havriliak-Negami equation (HN):

$$\epsilon^*(\omega) = \epsilon_\infty + \sum_k \frac{\Delta\epsilon_k}{\left[1 + (i\omega\tau_{HN_k})^{\alpha_{HN_k}}\right]^{\beta_{HN_k}}} + \frac{\sigma_0}{\omega\epsilon_0}$$

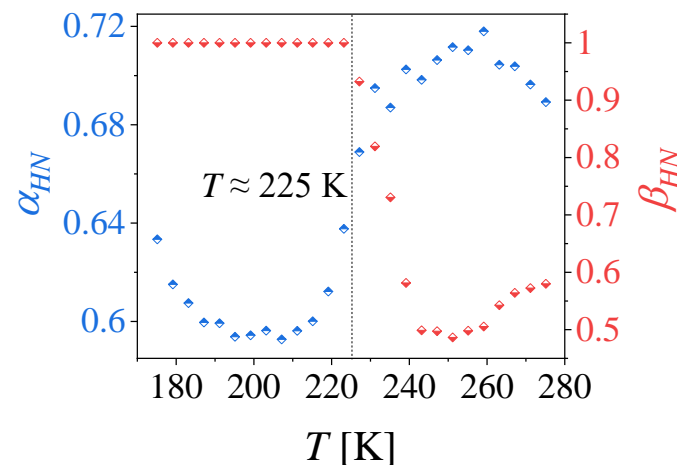


# Relaxation dynamics of 3F7HPhH7 during slow cooling and heating

Activation plots during slow cooling (full points) and heating (open points)



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- $\tau_{HN_k}$  - relaxation time of  $k$ -process,
- $\sigma_0$  - dc electrical conductivity,
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# WHAT HAPPENS UPON PRESSURE?



# BDS measurements upon pressure

Range of pressure: up to **600 Mpa**

Range of temperature: **253 K – 393 K**

Average temperature increment upon heating and cooling: **2 K/min**

Pressure medium: nonpolar **silicon oil**

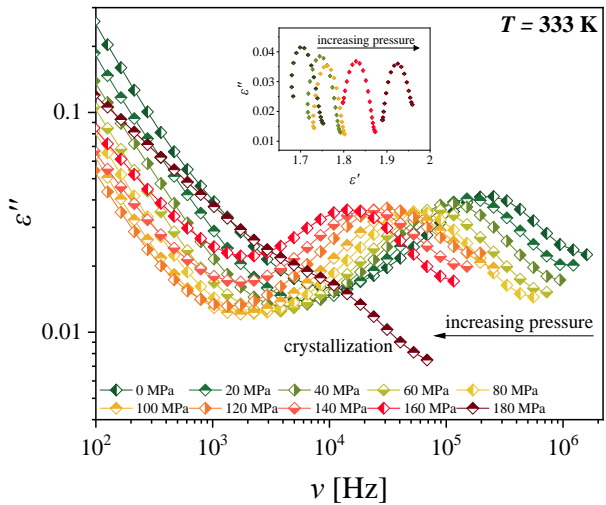


$p$  is approx. 6 times greater than  $p$  in the deepest point of the Marian Trench (110 MPa there)!!!



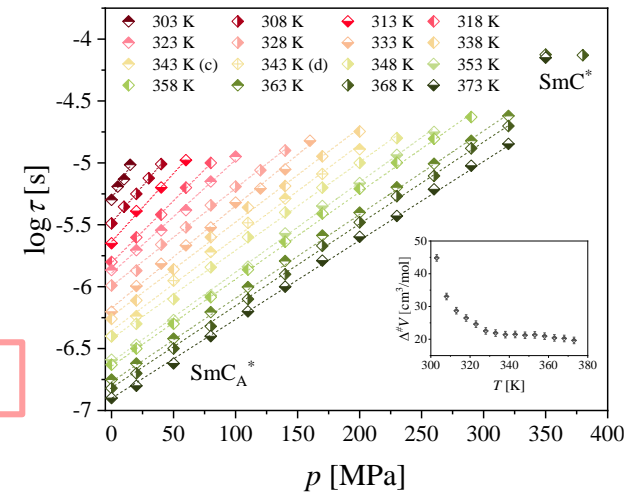
# Relaxation dynamics in $\text{SmC}_A^*$ phase at ambient and elevated pressure

Dielectric loss  $\epsilon''$  vs. frequency  $\nu$  measured at one isotherm at 333 K (BDS)

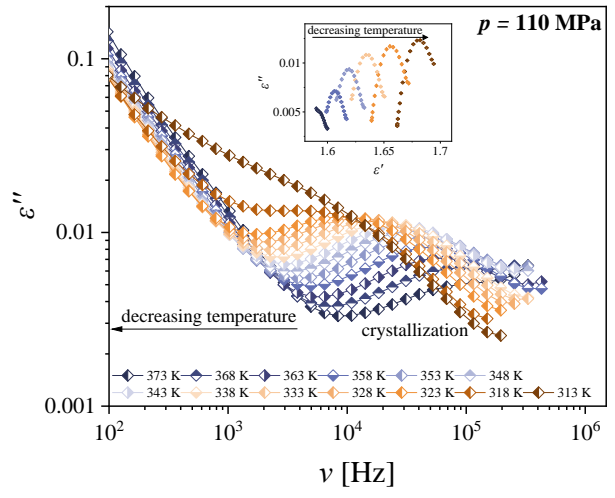


Activation volume

$$\Delta^{\#}V = RT(\partial \ln \tau / \partial p)_T$$

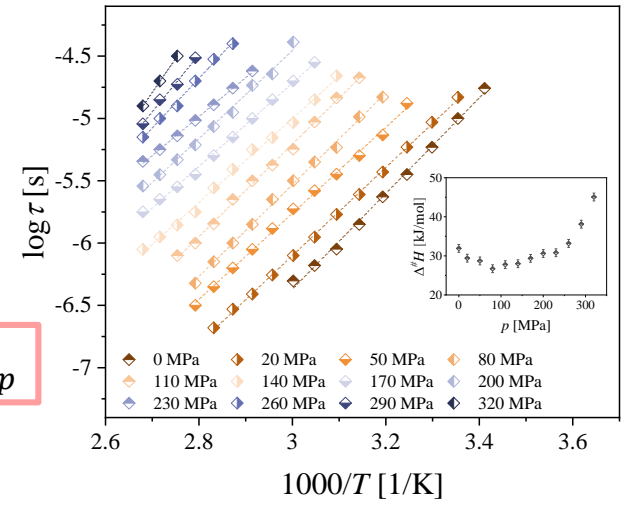


Dielectric loss  $\epsilon''$  vs. frequency  $\nu$  measured at one isobar at 110 MPa (BDS)



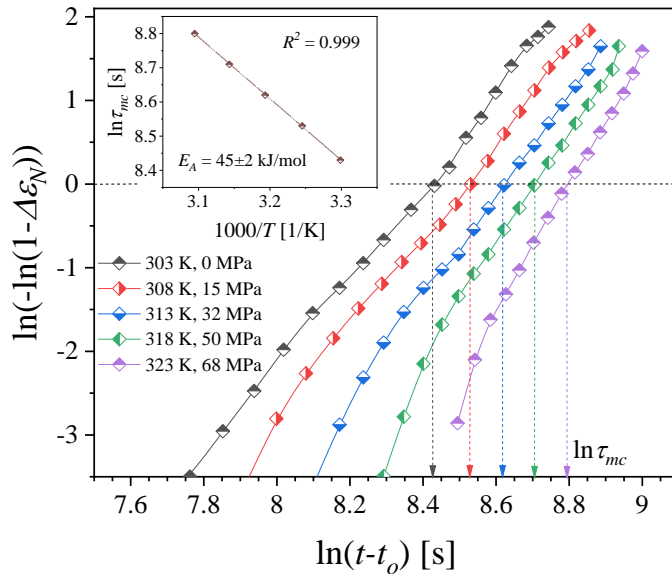
Activation enthalpy  $\Delta^{\#}H$ :

$$\Delta^{\#}H = RT(\partial \ln \tau / \partial T^{-1})_p$$



# Pressure-induced melt crystallization (mc) kinetics of 3F7HPhH7

Avrami plots under various  $(T, p)$  conditions for pressure-induced mc (**BDS**). Inset presents temperature dependence of the characteristic time of mc.

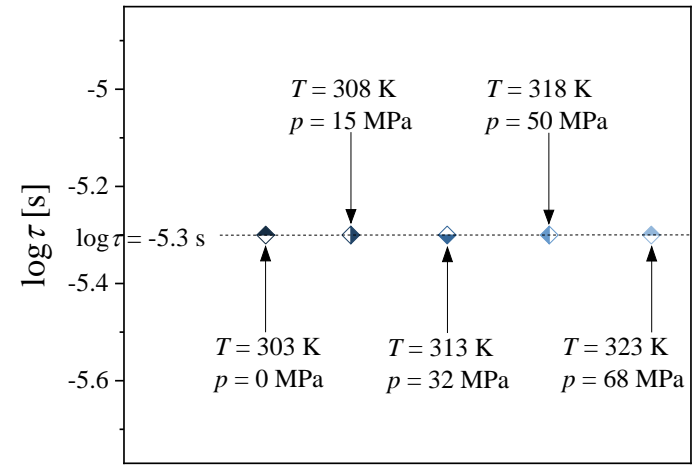


Avrami model:

$$\Delta \varepsilon_N(t) = 1 - \exp(-K(t - t_0)^{n_A})$$

Logarithmic form:

$$\log(-\ln(1 - \Delta \varepsilon_N(t))) = \log K + n_A \log(t - t_0)$$



$n_A \sim 4$   
 $\nearrow \tau_{mc}$  and  $\searrow \ln K$  with  $\nearrow (T, p)$   
 kinetics of pressure-induced mc of 3F7HPhH7 depends primarily on **nucleation**



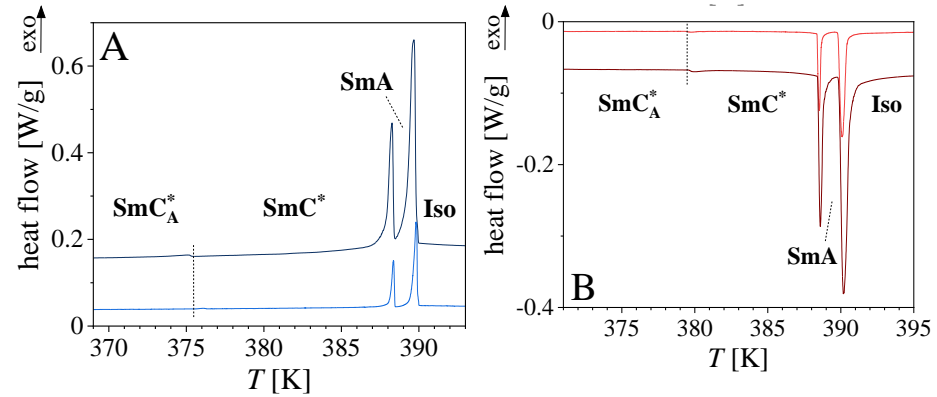
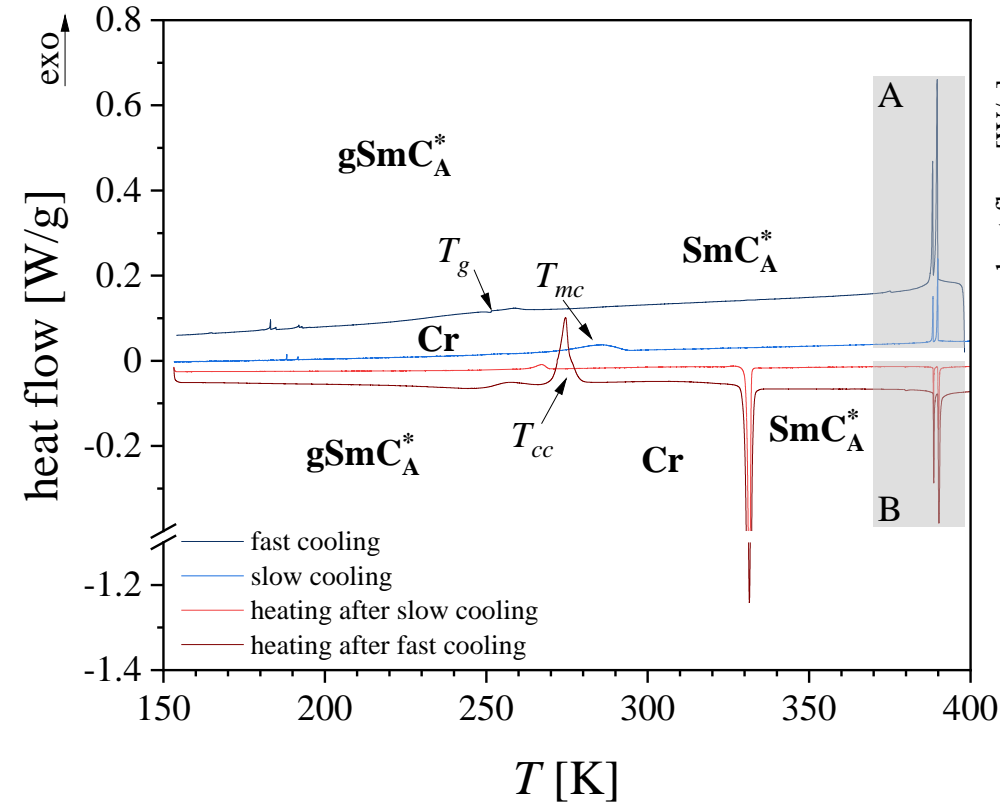
WHAT HAPPENS DURING FAST  
COOLING AND NEXT HEATING?



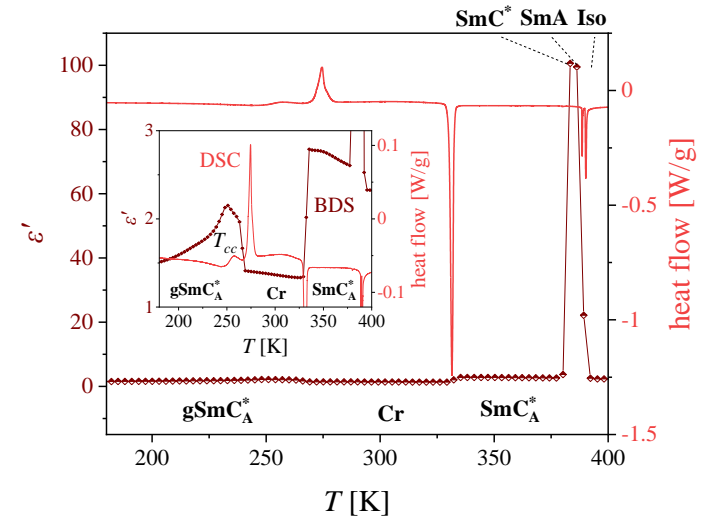


# Fast cooling and next heating of 3F7HPhH7

## DSC thermograms

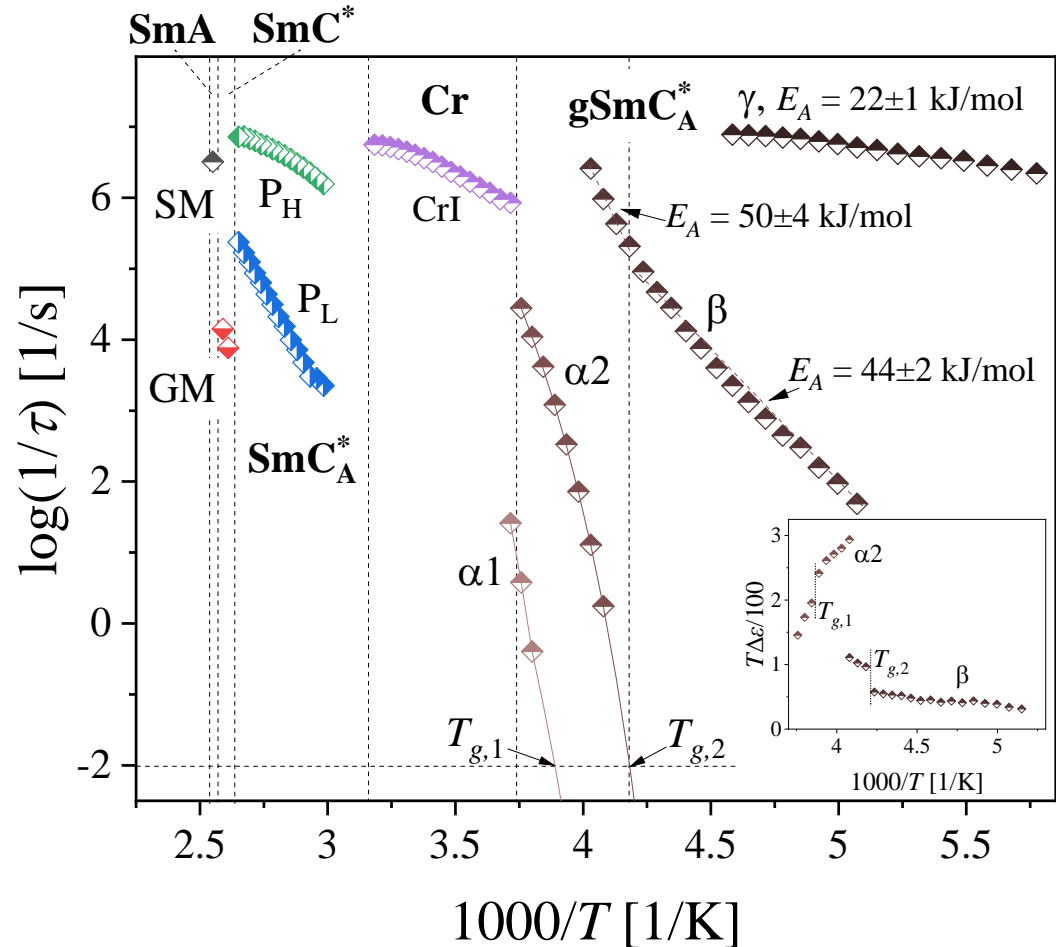
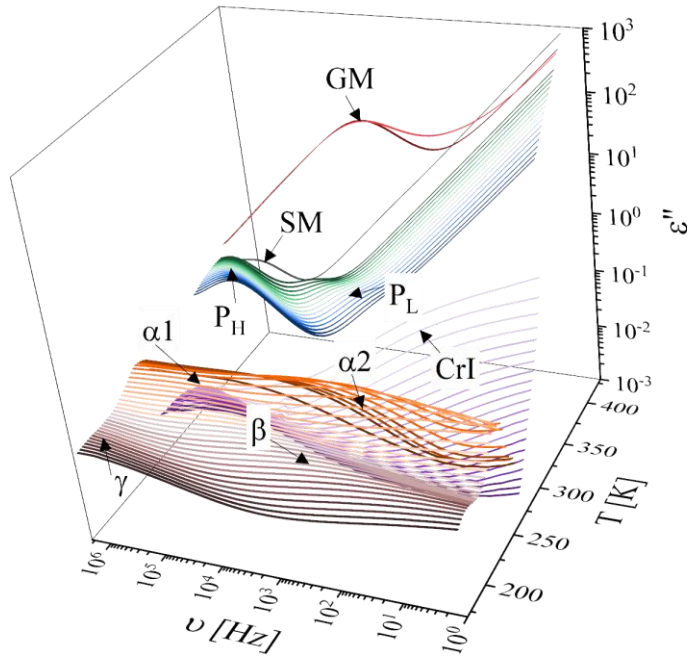


## DSC and BDS (heating)



# Relaxation dynamics of 3F7HPH7 during heating after fast cooling

## Activation plots during heating after fast cooling



Vogel-Fulcher-Tammann equation (VFT):

$$\tau_{\alpha} = \tau_{\infty} \exp\left(\frac{D_f T_0}{T - T_0}\right)$$

where:

$\tau_{\alpha}$  - structural  $\alpha$ -relaxation time,  $\tau_{\infty}$  - pre-exponential factor,  
 $D_f$  - constant parameter,  $T_0$  - Vogel temperature.

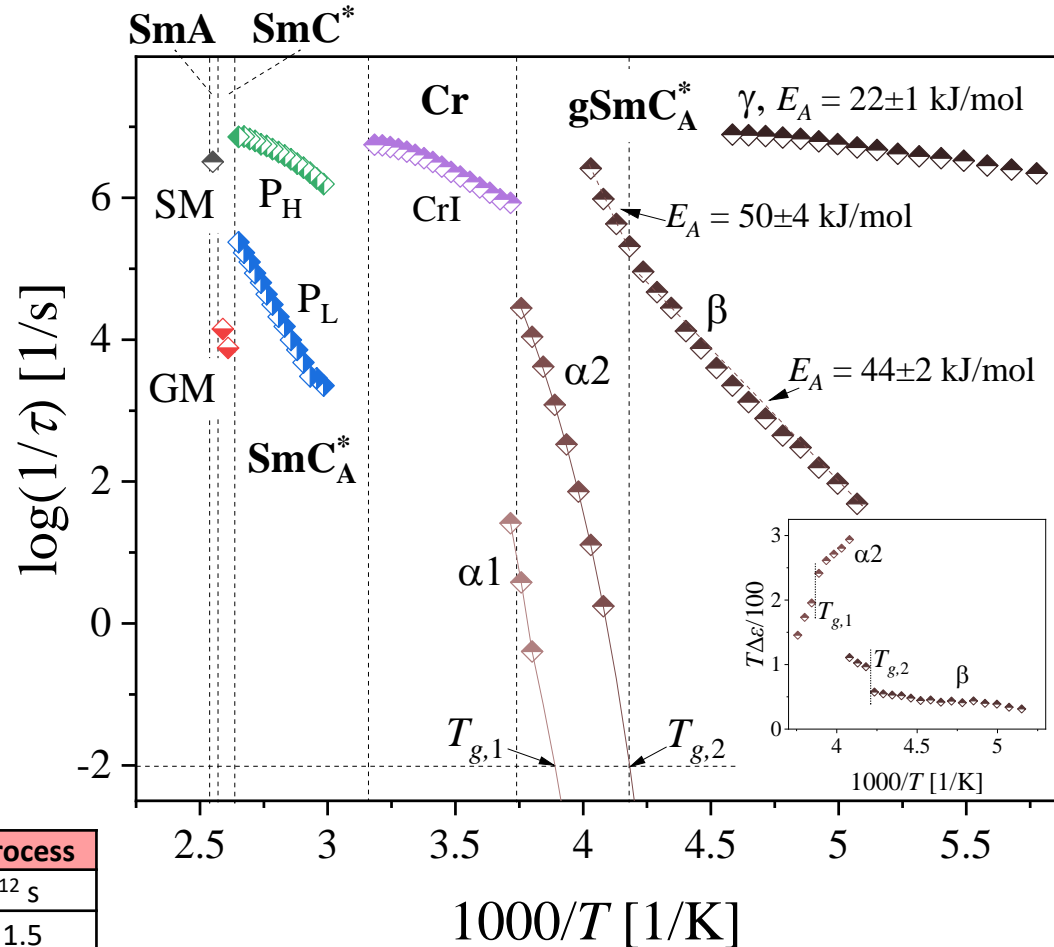
# Relaxation dynamics of 3F7HPH7 during heating after fast cooling

## Activation plots during heating after fast cooling

Fragility index  $m_f$ :

$$m_f = \left. \frac{d \log \tau_\alpha}{d(T_g/T)} \right|_{T=T_g}$$

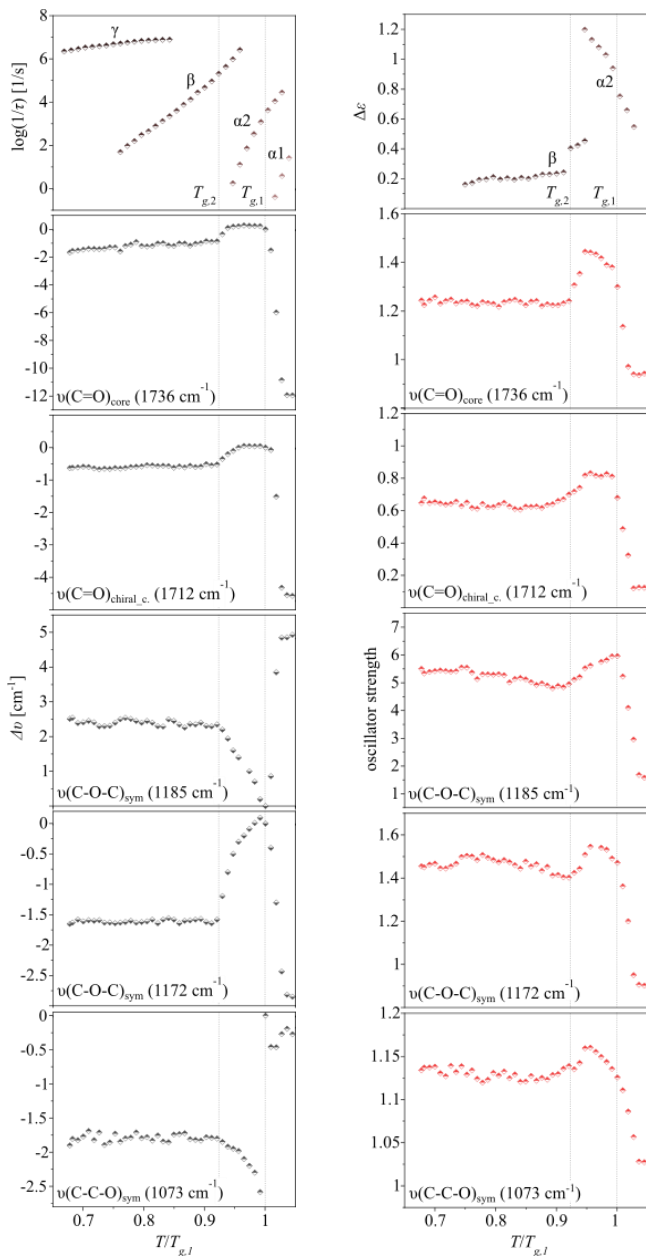
$m_f \sim 16$  – strong glasses,  
 $m_f$  up to 200 – fragile glasses.



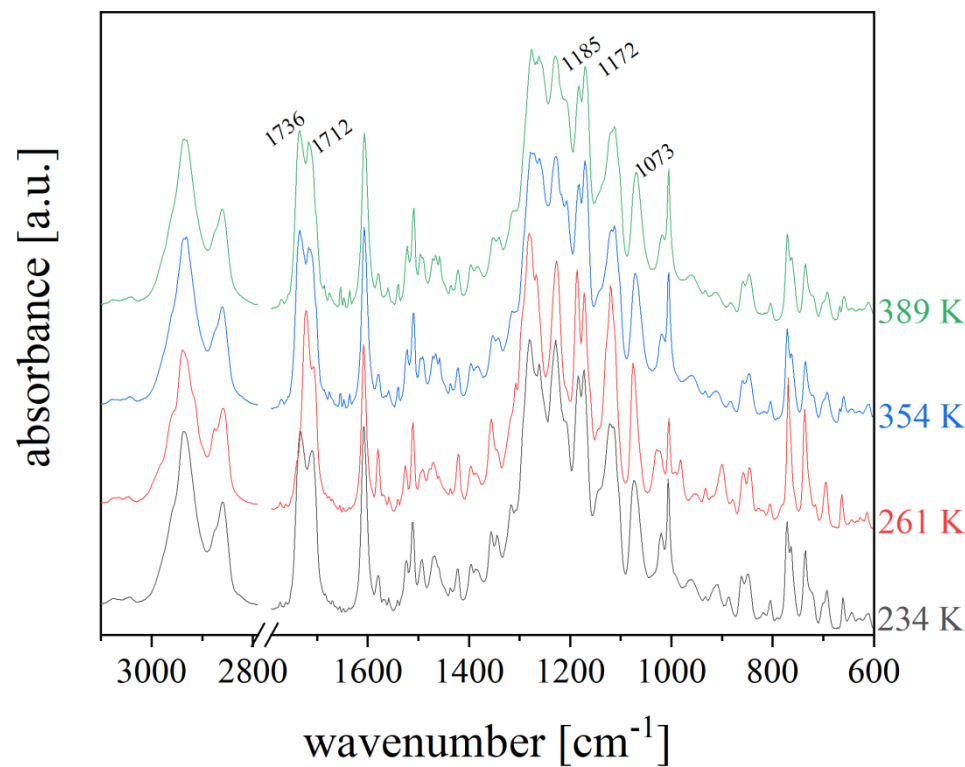
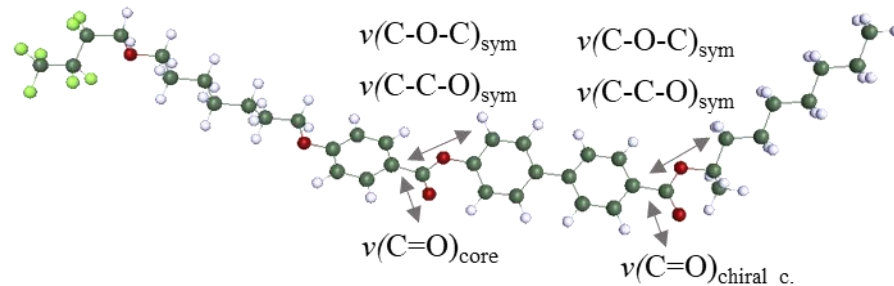
VFT parameters of $\alpha_1$ -process		VFT parameters of $\alpha_2$ -process	
$\tau_\infty$	$1 \cdot 10^{-12}$ s	$\tau_\infty$	$1 \cdot 10^{-12}$ s
$D_f$	$4.4 \pm 1.1$	$D_f$	$4.9 \pm 1.5$
$T_0$	$228 \pm 2$ K	$T_0$	$207 \pm 3$ K
$T_{g,1}$	$259 \pm 4$ K	$T_{g,2}$	$239 \pm 5$ K
$m_f$	$150 \pm 5$	$m_f$	$136 \pm 6$

# Vibrational dynamics of 3F7HPhH7 during heating after fast cooling

$$\Delta\nu = \nu_T - \nu_{259\text{K}}$$



Comparison of dynamics (from **BDS**) and IR vibrational properties as a function of  $T/T_{g,1}$

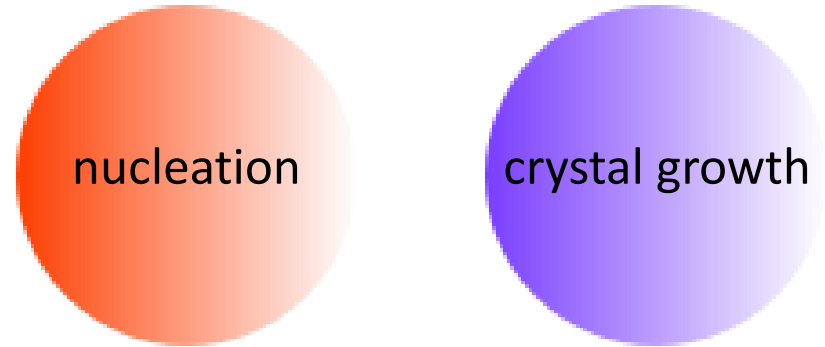


# ISOTHERMAL AND NON-ISOTHERMAL COLD CRYSTALLIZATION

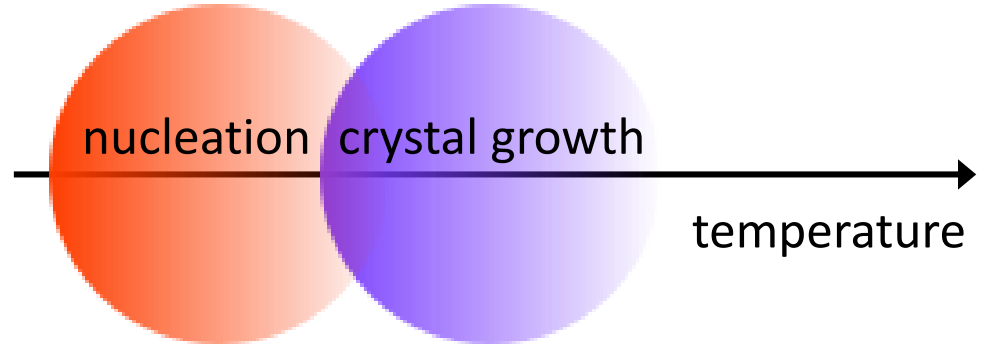


# Crystallization vs. cold crystallization

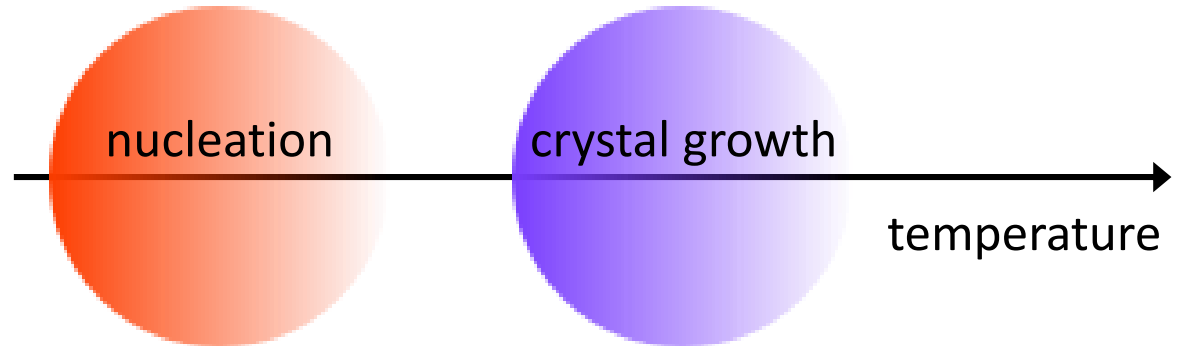
Two steps of crystallization:



Crystallization during cooling:



Cold crystallization during heating:



or cooling fast enough to avoid crystallization



# Isothermal cold crystallization (cc) of 3F7HPhH7

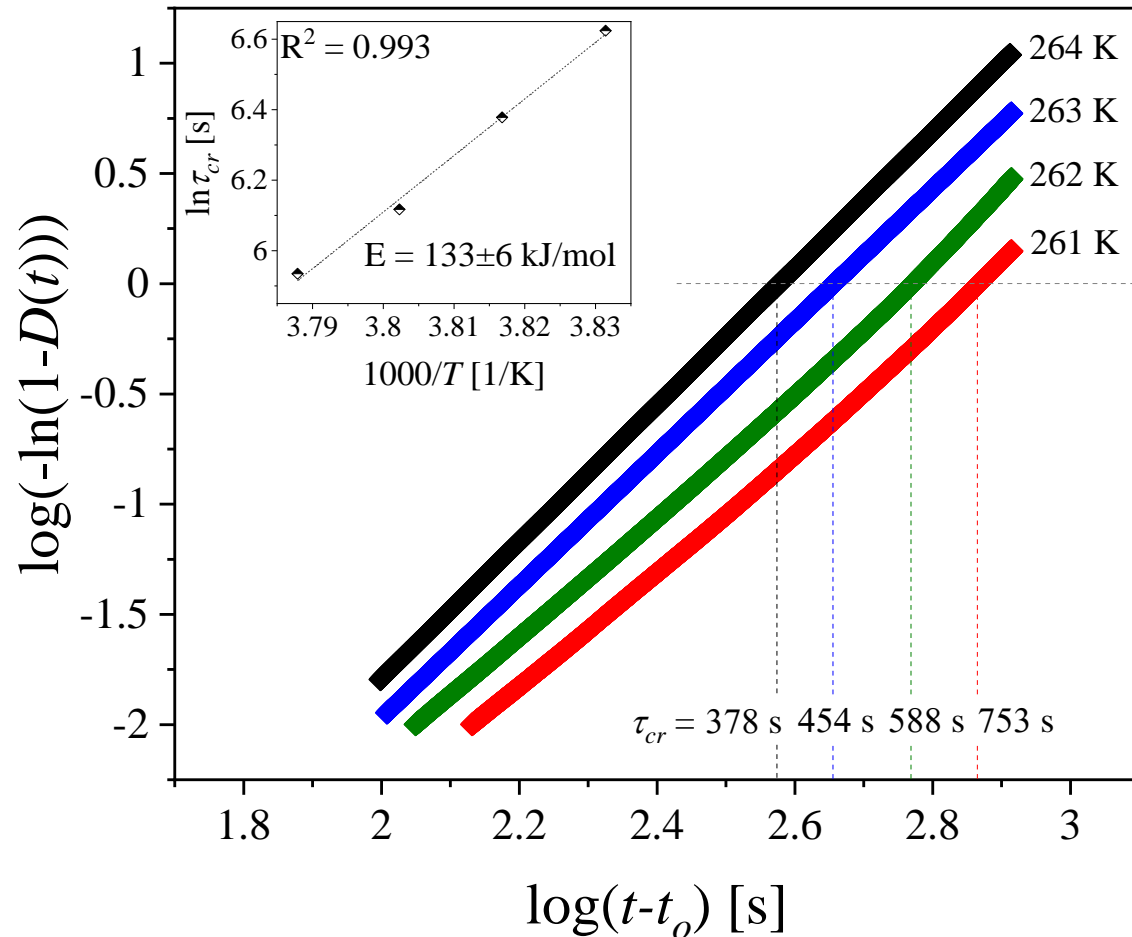
Avrami plots at  $T_{cc}$  for isothermal cc (DSC).

The inset presents temperature dependence of the characteristic time of cc.

$$n_A \sim 3$$

↘  $\tau_{cr}$  and ↗  $\ln k$  with ↗  $T$

kinetics of isothermal cc of 3F7HPhH7 depends primarily on **diffusion rates**



Avrami model:

$$D(t) = 1 - \exp(-k(t - t_0)^{n_A})$$

Logarithmic form:

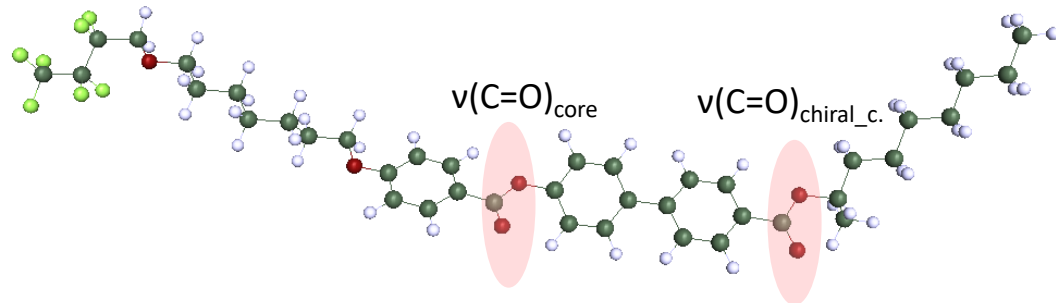
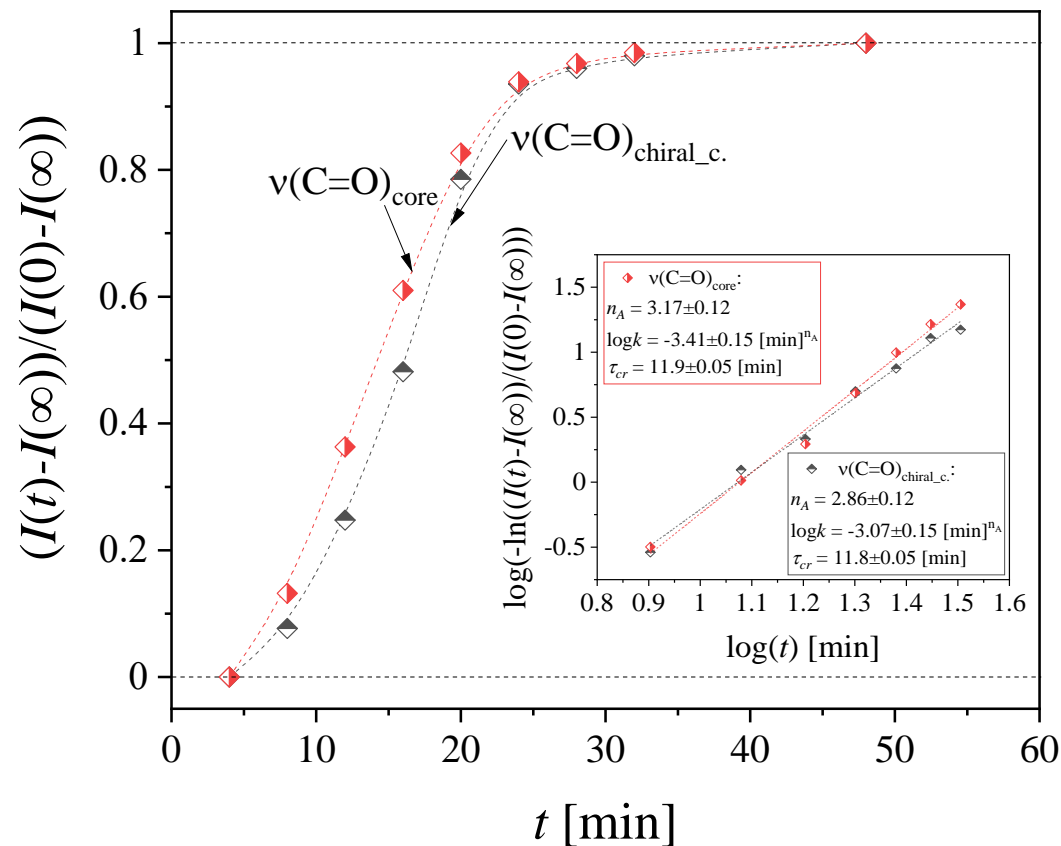
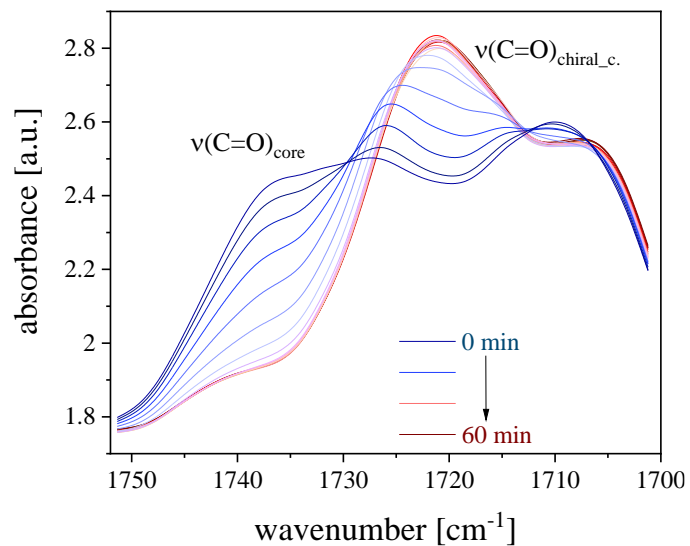
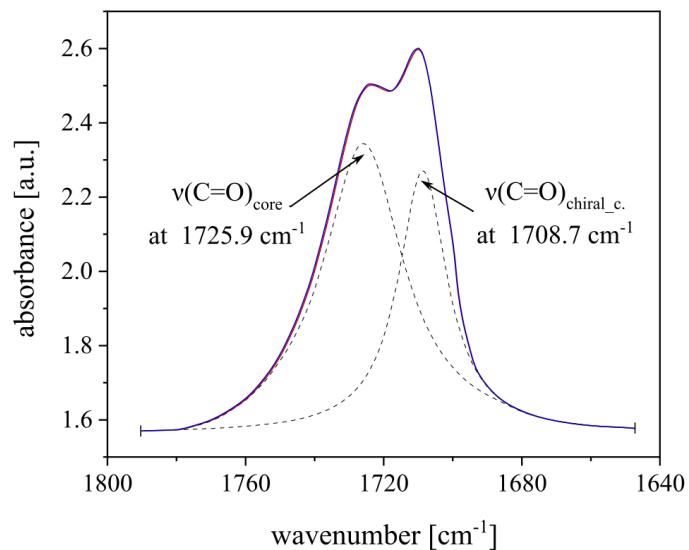
$$\log(-\ln(1 - D(t))) = \log k + n_A \log(t - t_0)$$

where:

$k$  – depends on nucleation and crystal growth,  
 $t_0$  - the induction time of crystallization,  
 $n_A$  - Avrami exponent.

# Isothermal cold crystallization (cc) of 3F7HPhH7

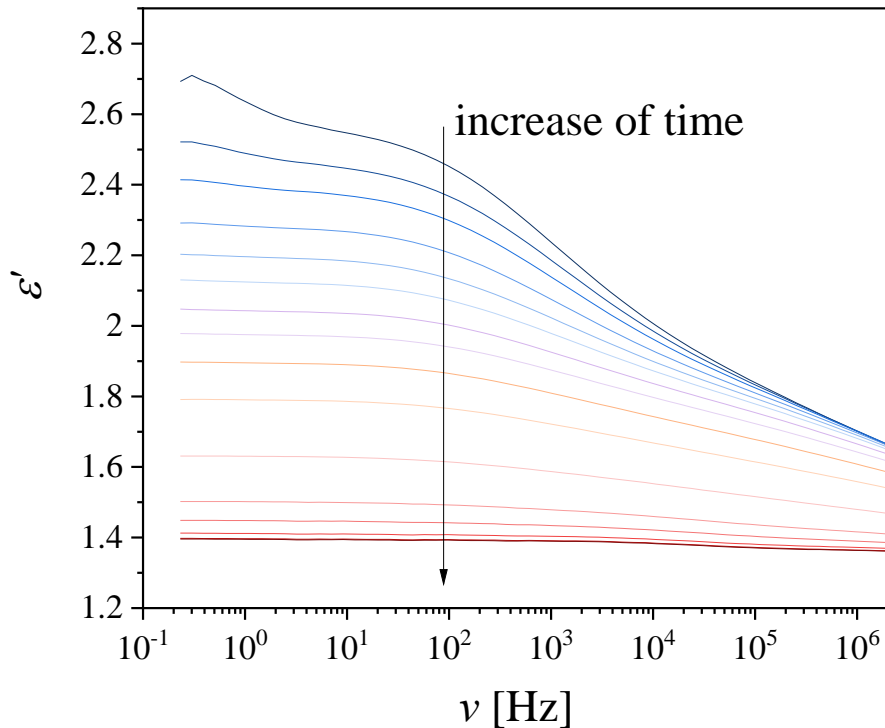
Avrami plots for isothermal cc at 261 K (FTIR).



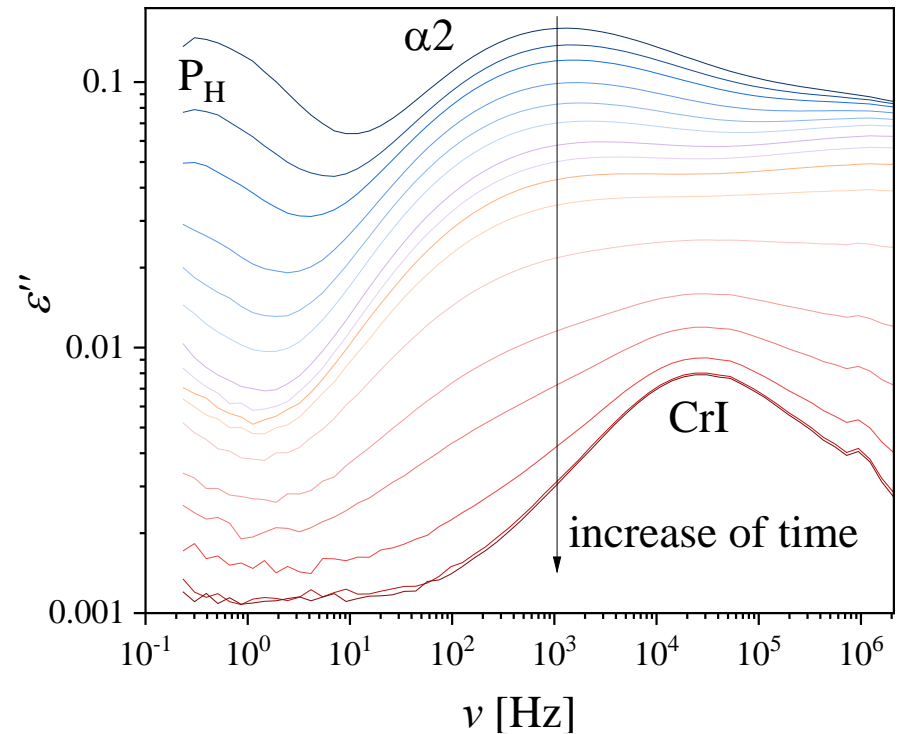
# Isothermal cold crystallization (cc) of 3F7HPhH7

Time evolution of **BDS** parameters during isothermal cc at 261 K:

dielectric permittivity  $\epsilon'$



dielectric loss  $\epsilon''$  spectra



# Non-isothermal cold crystallization (cc) of 3F7HPhH7

Ozawa plots for non-isothermal cc (DSC).

$$n_o \sim 3$$

slow heating:  $\nearrow \log Z$  with  $\nearrow T$

depends on **diffusion rates**

fast heating:  $\searrow \log Z$  with  $\nearrow T$

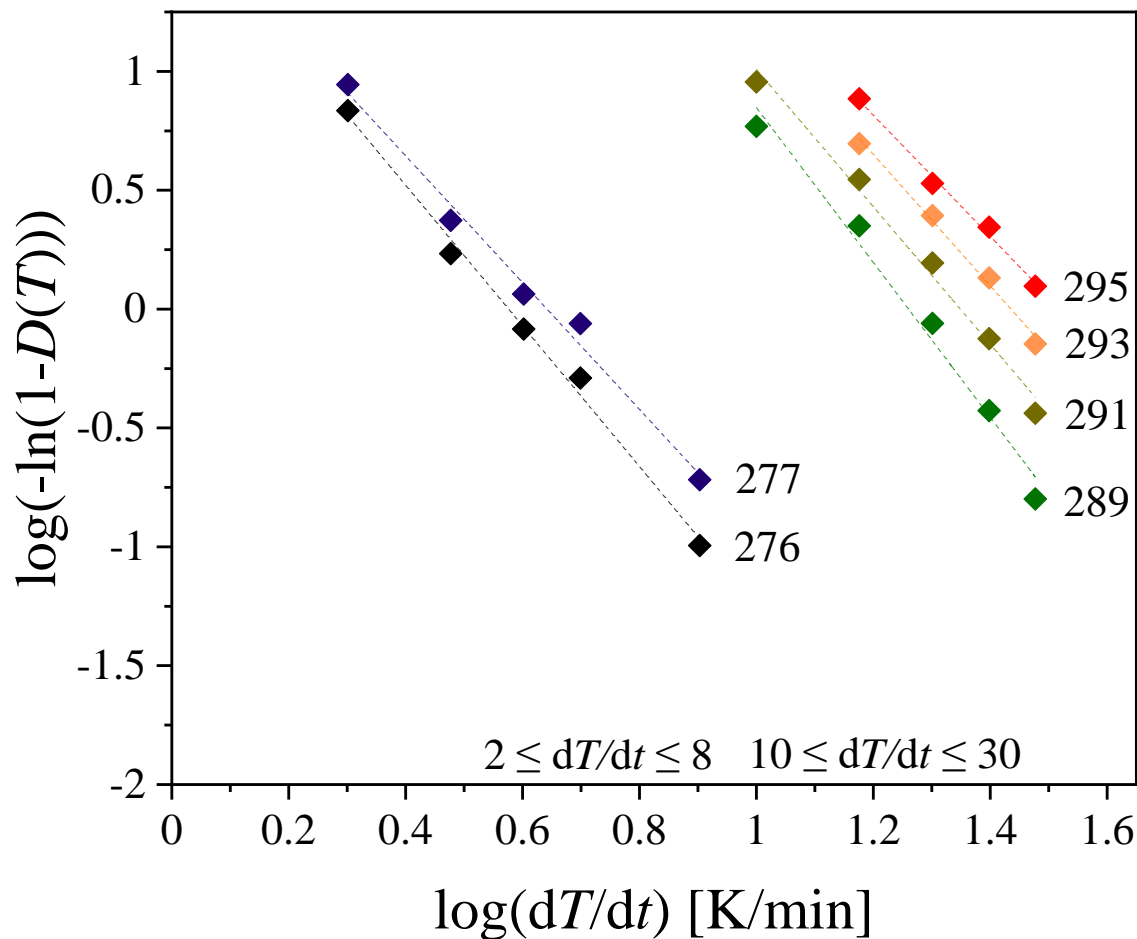
depends on **nucleation**

Ozawa model:

$$D(T) = 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{Z}{(dT/dt)^{n_o}}\right)$$

Logarithmic form:

$$\log(-\ln(1 - D(T))) = \log Z - n_o \log(dT/dt)$$



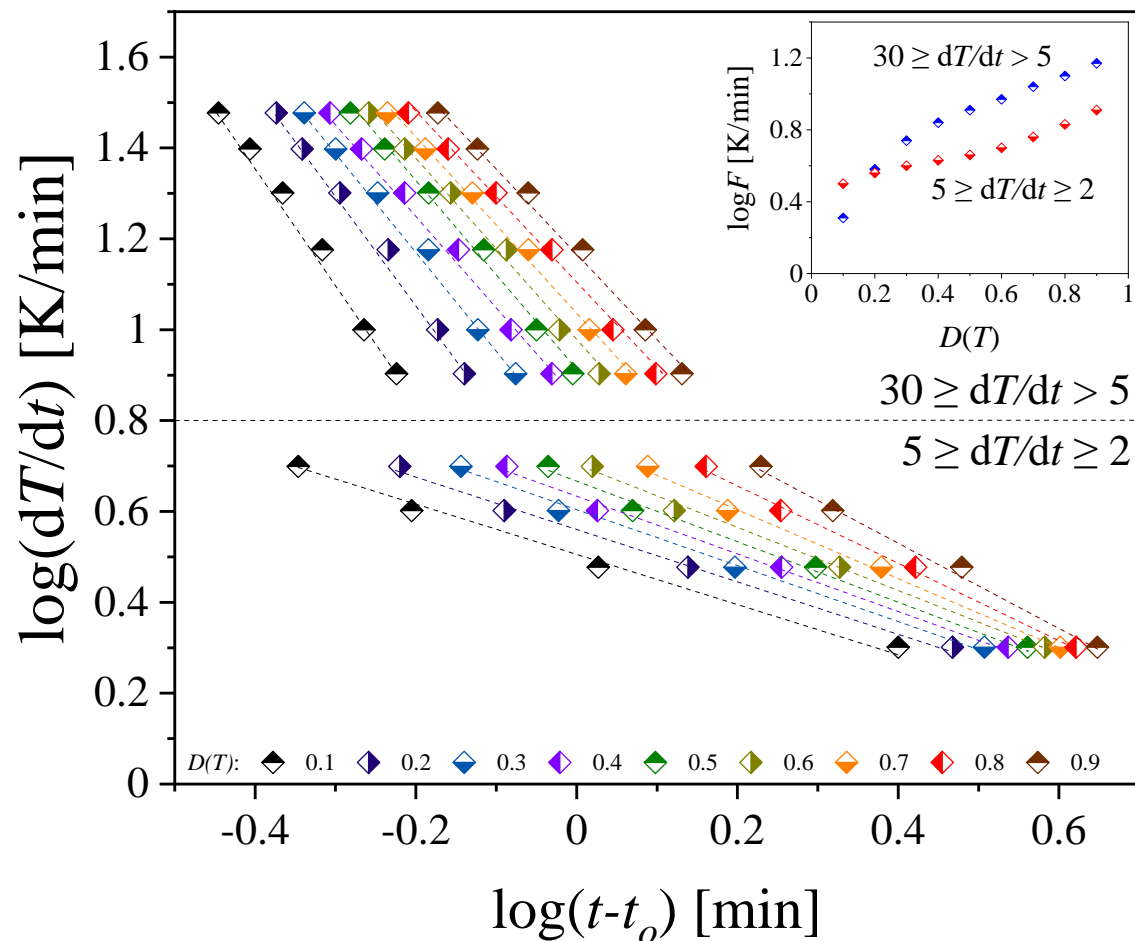
where:

$Z$  – the Ozawa crystallization rate,  
 $n_o$  - Ozawa exponent.

# Non-isothermal cold crystallization (cc) of 3F7HPhH7

Mo plots for non-isothermal cc (**DSC**).

Two different mechanisms of non-isothermal cc, depending on the range of heating rates



Mo model:

$$\log k + n_A \log(t - t_0) = \log Z - n_O \log\left(\frac{dT}{dt}\right)$$

$$\log(dT/dt) = \log F - a \cdot \log(t - t_0)$$

where:

$F$  - related to the cooling/heating rate,

$a$  - the ratio of Avrami  $n_A$  exponent to Ozawa  $n_O$  exponent.



# Non-isothermal cold crystallization (cc) of 3F7HPhH7

Kissinger and Augis-Bennett plots for non-isothermal cc (DSC).

Two distinct regions of different linear dependences, corresponding to heating rates

Kissinger model:

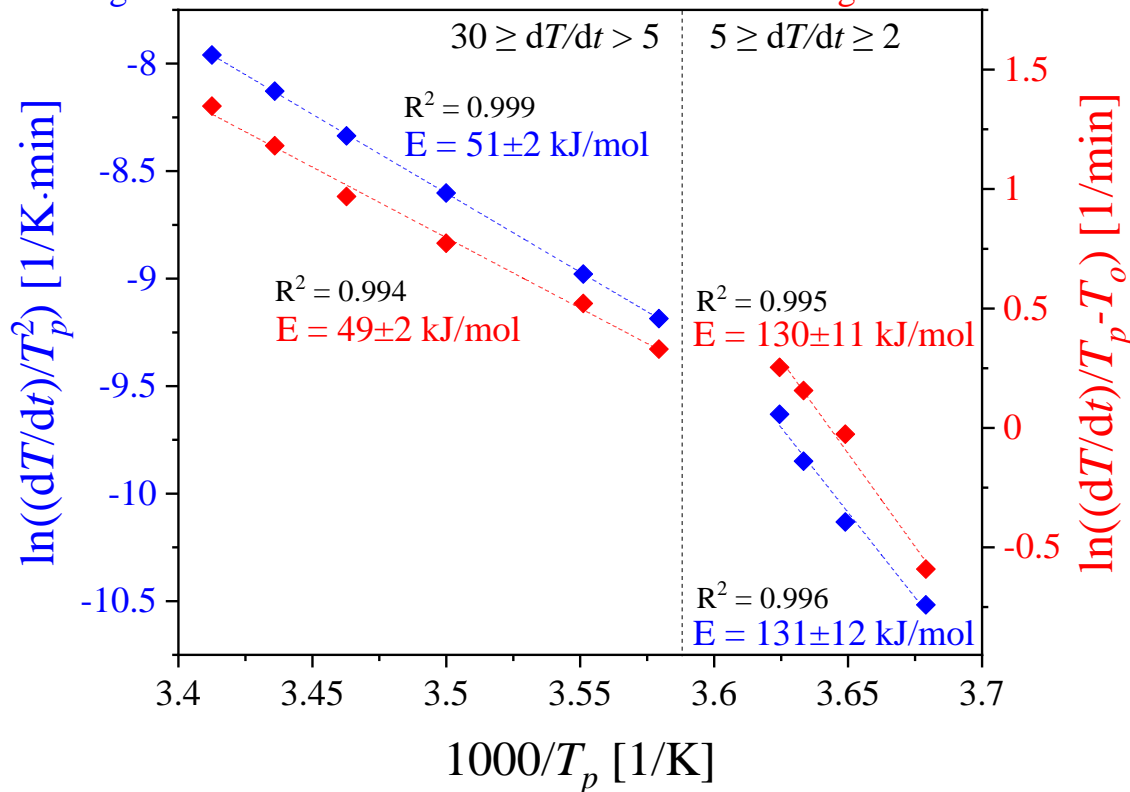
$$\ln\left(\frac{dT/dt}{T_p^2}\right) = -\frac{E}{RT_p} + const$$

Augis-Bennett model:

$$\ln\left(\frac{dT/dt}{T_p - T_o}\right) = -\frac{E}{RT_p} + const$$

Kissinger method

Augis-Bennett method



where:

$T_p$  - the maximum of the crystallization peak,  
 $T_o$  - the initial crystallization temperature,  
 $R$  - the gas constant,  
 $E$  - the activation energy.

# Conclusions



Slow cooling of 3F7HPhH7 causes its crystallization, while fast cooling results in its vitrification.



BDS spectra show the weak CrI mode in the Cr phase of 3F7HPhH7, so it suggests that the observed Cr phase is conformationally disordered (CONDIS) crystal type.



Pressure-induced melt crystallization of 3F7HPhH7 studied under isochronal conditions depends primarily on the formation of nuclei.



Two glass transitions of 3F7HPhH7 were found at  $T_{g,1} = 239$  K and  $T_{g,2} = 259$  K which are associated with freezing of anti-phase motions and reorientation around long molecular axis in the  $\text{SmC}_A^*$  phase, respectively.



Non-isothermal cold crystallization in 3F7HPhH7 occurs via diffusion when the sample is heated slowly (as under isothermal conditions), while during fast heating, nucleation phenomena dominate the process.

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

