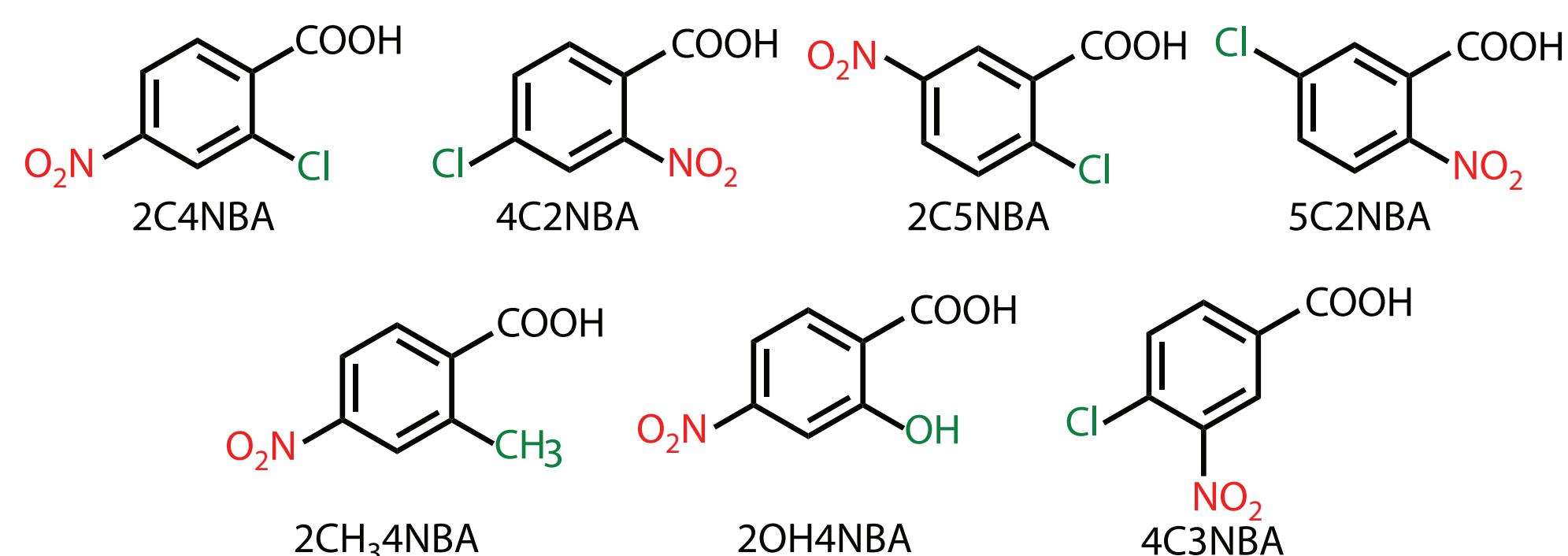


# EXPERIMENTAL AND COMPUTATIONAL INVESTIGATION OF SOLID FORM LANDSCAPES OF SEVERAL NITROBENZOIC ACID DERIVATIVES

## Introduction

Five different isomers of chloronitrobenzoic acid 2C4NBA, 4C2NBA, 2C5NBA, 5C2NBA, and 4C3NBA as well as 2-methyl-4-nitrobenzoic acid 2CH<sub>3</sub>4NBA and 2-hydroxy-4-nitrobenzoic acid 2OH4NBA, see below, were studied experimentally and computationally.



Molecular structure of the studied nitrobenzoic acid derivatives.

## Aim

To explore the experimental polymorph and solvate landscape, and try to rationalize:

- ➔ The observed differences in appearance of several different polymorphic forms
- ➔ The observed differences in propensity to form solvates
- ➔ The formation of solvates with particularly the observed solvents

## Solid form screening

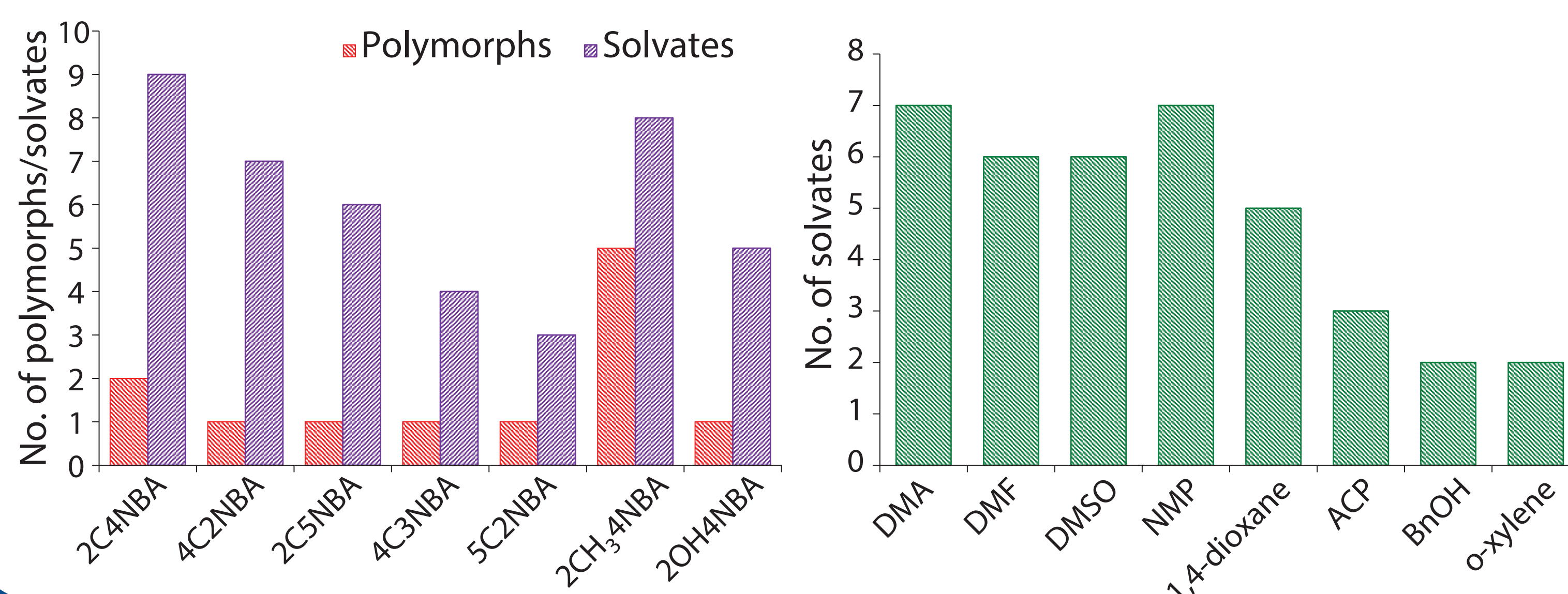
Solid form screening was carried out by crystallizing the selected compounds from multiple solvents having different physicochemical properties (37 for 2C4NBA, 32 for other CNBA isomers and 31 for 2CH<sub>3</sub>4NBA and 2OH4NBA).

Crystal forms obtained in crystallization of the studied compounds from selected solvents

Solvent	2C4NBA	4C2NBA	2C5NBA	4C3NBA	5C2NBA	2CH <sub>3</sub> 4NBA	2OH4NBA
toluene	I	I	I	I	I	I / S <sub>TOL</sub>	I
o-xylene	S <sub>XYL</sub>	I	I	I	I	S <sub>XYL</sub>	I
Acetophenone	S <sub>ACP</sub>	S <sub>ACP</sub>	S <sub>ACP</sub>	I	I	I	I
DMF	S <sub>DMF</sub>	S <sub>DMF</sub>	S <sub>DMF</sub>	S <sub>DMF</sub>	I	S <sub>DMF</sub>	S <sub>DMF</sub>
DMA	S <sub>DMA</sub>	S <sub>DMA</sub>	S <sub>DMA</sub>	S <sub>DMA</sub>	S <sub>DMA</sub>	S <sub>DMA</sub>	S <sub>DMA</sub>
DMSO	S <sub>DMSO</sub>	S <sub>DMSO</sub>	S <sub>DMSO</sub>	S <sub>DMSO</sub>	I	S <sub>DMSO</sub>	S <sub>DMSO</sub>
NMP	S <sub>NMP</sub>	S <sub>NMP</sub>	S <sub>NMP</sub>	S <sub>NMP</sub>	S <sub>NMP</sub>	S <sub>NMP</sub>	S <sub>NMP</sub>
chloroform	I	I	I	I	I	S <sub>CLF</sub>	I
benzyl alcohol	S <sub>BA</sub>	I / S <sub>BA</sub>	I	I	I	I	I
1,4-dioxane	S <sub>DIOX</sub>	S <sub>DIOX</sub>	S <sub>DIOX</sub>	I	S <sub>DIOX</sub>	I	S <sub>DIOX</sub>
1,3-dioxolane	I	I	I	I	I	S <sub>DXLN</sub>	I
water	MH	I	I	I	I	I / II	I
Other solvents	I / II	I	I	I	I	I / II / III / V	I

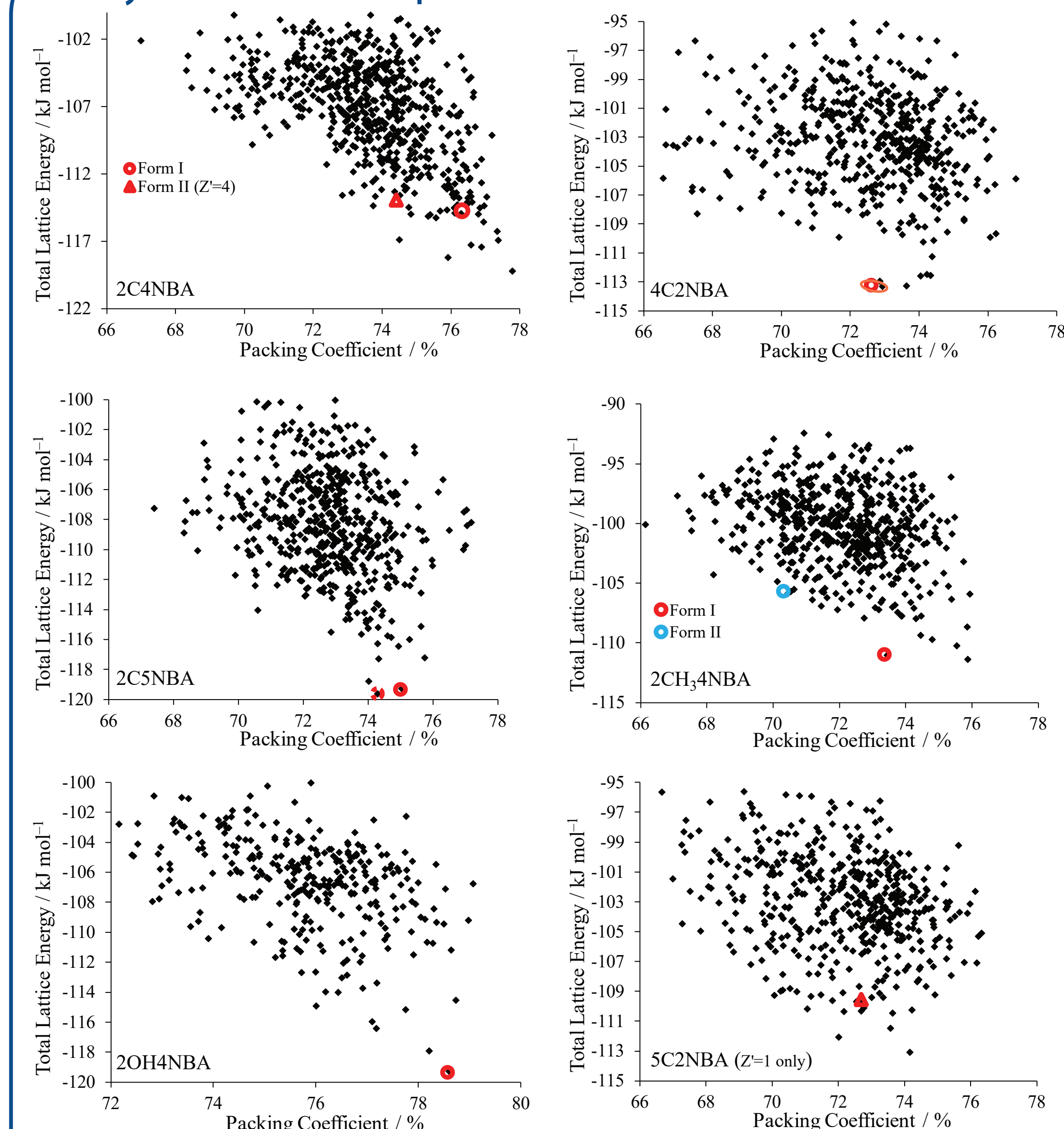
➔ All previously described polymorphs and solvates of 2C4NBA as well as structurally characterized ansolvates of 4C2NBA, 2C5NBA and 4C3NBA were obtained.

## Solid form diversity



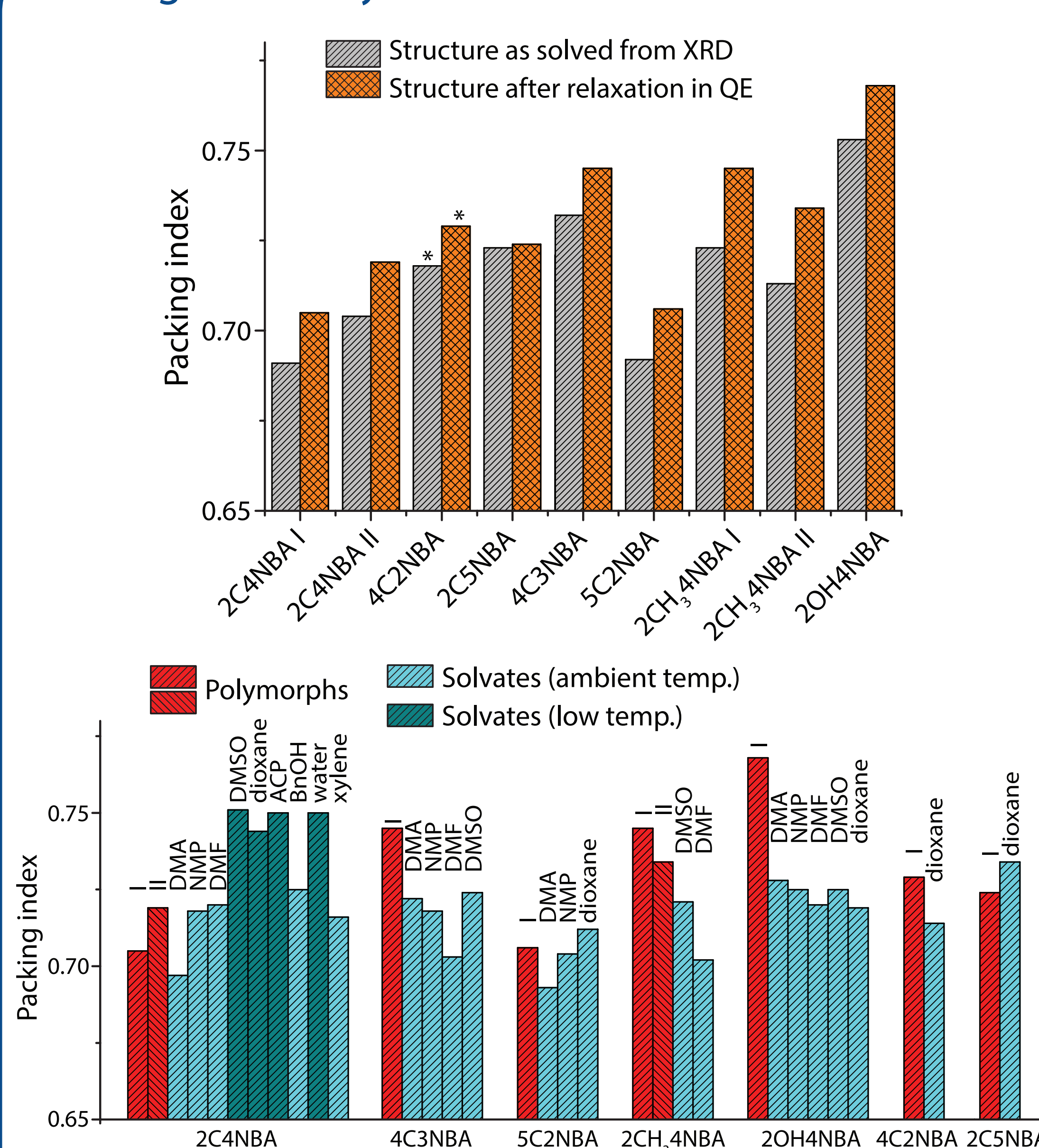
- ➔ Only 2C4NBA and 2CH<sub>3</sub>4NBA formed more than 1 polymorph (2 and >4 respectively)
- ➔ 2C4NBA and 2CH<sub>3</sub>4NBA also formed the most solvates (9 and 8)
- ➔ The least solvates were formed by 4C3NBA (4) and 5C2NBA (3).
- ➔ All compounds formed solvates with DMA and NMP, and all except 5C2NBA with DMF and DMSO.
- ➔ The next most frequent solvate formers were 1,4-dioxane (5) and acetophenone (3).
- ➔ Thus solvates of a) aprotic polar hydrogen bond acceptors and b) solvents able to form  $\pi \cdots \pi$  dispersion interactions were obtained
- ➔ 2CH<sub>3</sub>4NBA tend to form solvates with smaller solvents

## Crystal structure prediction of ansolvates



- ➔ All experimental Z'=1 structures (and Z'=2 structure for 5C4NBA) were located
- ➔ In CSP landscapes of 2C4NBA and 5C2NBA no low energy structure ( $\Delta E_{GM} < 3 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ ) could be experimentally accessed.
- ➔ The packing efficiency among the predicted structures (analyzing packing coefficient and voids containing structures) are:  
2CH<sub>3</sub>4NBA < 5C2NBA < 2C4NBA  $\approx$  4C2NBA  $\approx$  2C5NBA < 2OH4NBA

## Packing efficiency and solvate formation



- ➔ Among CNBA packing index of ansolvates correlates with the solvate formation propensity (with an exception of 5C2NBA)
- ➔ Only for 2C4NBA solvate formation is associated with the increase of the packing efficiency.
- ➔ If solvates don't improve packing, for most compounds only solvates with solvents providing stable associates in solution could be obtained

## Associates in solution

Solvent	2C4NBA	4C2NBA	5C2NBA
	$\Delta G_{ass} / \text{kJ mol}^{-1}$		
DMA	-8.32	-10.49	-5.85
DMF	-4.15	-9.95	-7.13
DMSO	-10.24	-14.18	-15.35
NMP	-7.38	-4.59	-2.61
THF	+1.15		
1,4-dioxane	+1.27		
acetophenone	+5.04		
BnOH	+5.96		
Acetone	+6.54		
IPA	+8.38		
DMC	+8.49		
toluene	+9.98		

- ➔ The most stable associates were observed for the most probable solvate formers, thus stable associates in solution can lead to the solvate formation
- ➔ The association energy correlates with interaction energy in crystal structure
- ➔ Effect of solvent geometry is also involved in selection of stable solvates
- ➔ Other factors determine the absence of DMSO and DMF solvates of 5C2NBA.

## Acknowledgments

The crystal structure prediction work was carried out at UCL in the laboratory of Prof. Sally Price. The research was funded by the ERDF, within the Project activity 1.1.1.2 "Post-doctoral Research Aid" (project no. 1.1.1.2/VIAA/1/16/195) and the Latvian Council of Science, project Crystal engineering of pharmaceutical multicomponent phases for more efficient crystalline phase design, project No. lzp-2018/1-0312.