



Investigating the effect of Paracetamol crystal properties on quality of tablets using continuous manufacturing



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GOALS

Research objective

Create an integrated model to predict the required properties of the API based on the desired behavior of the drug Product

Research

Flow-sheet models is developed to produce batches of API with different crystal variables eg. **size, agglomeration and shape**. This research will investigate the influence of changing these variables on the properties of final drug products.

Phase 1: : exploring the effect of API's **crystal size** on secondary manufacturing and final product

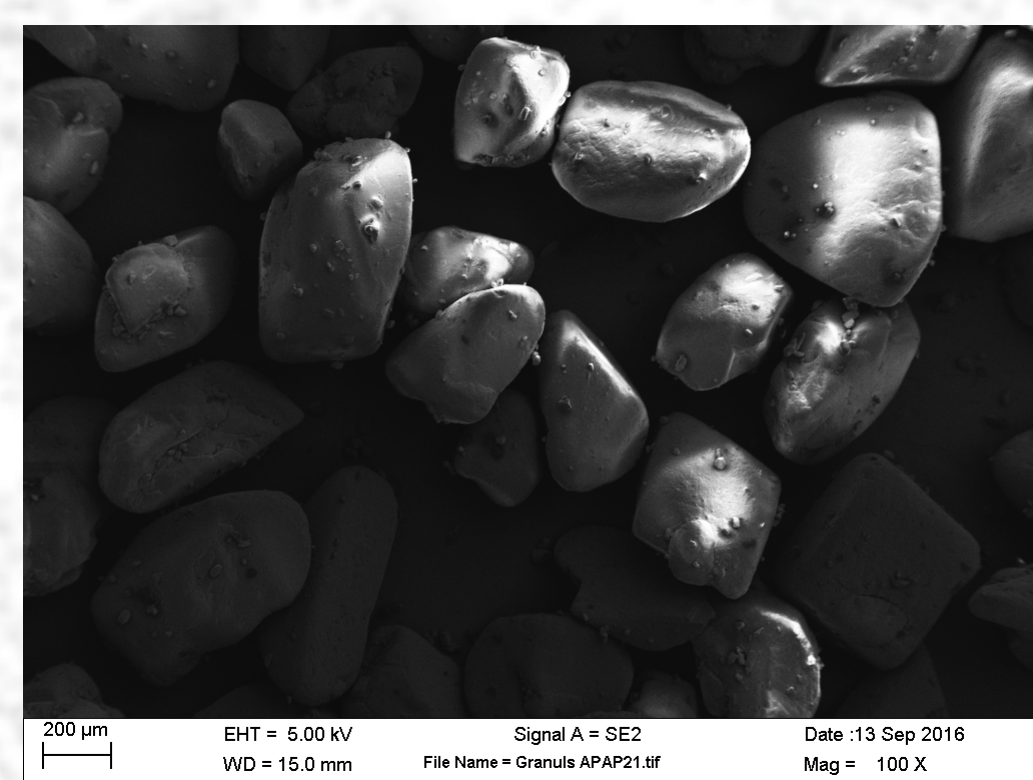
A: 100% API tablet

B: 70% API+30% MCC tablets

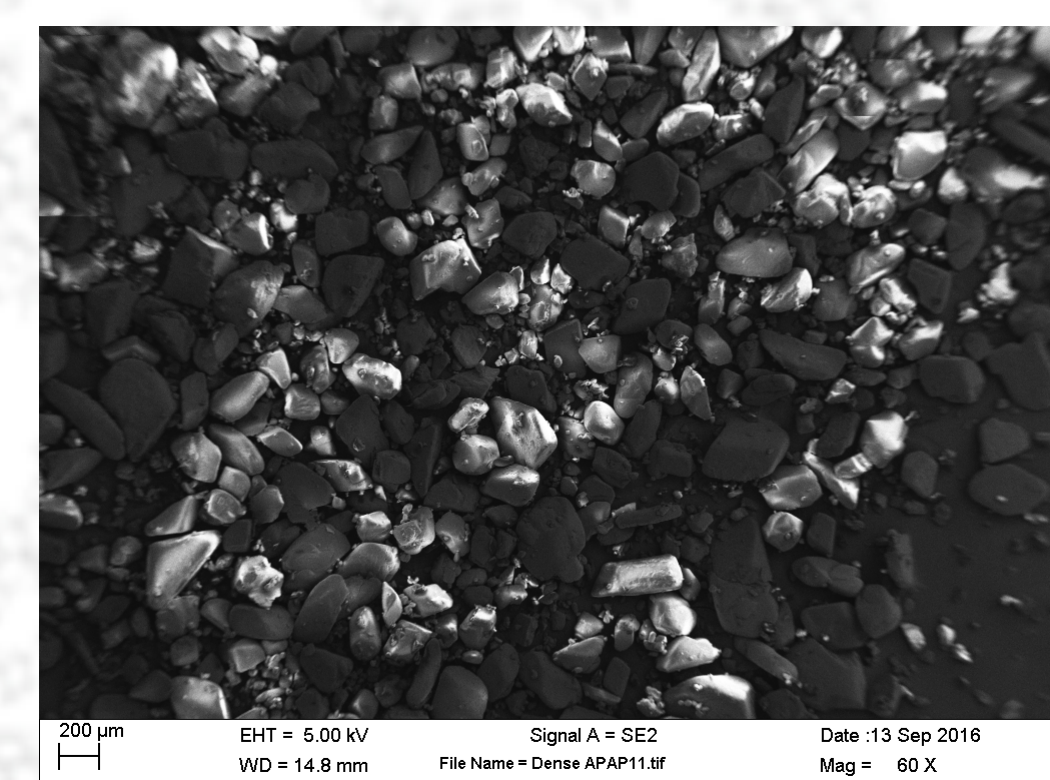
C: Complete formulation

Phase 2: In this phase we plan to look at more complex crystal types: surface modification and then co-crystals (FUTURE WORK)

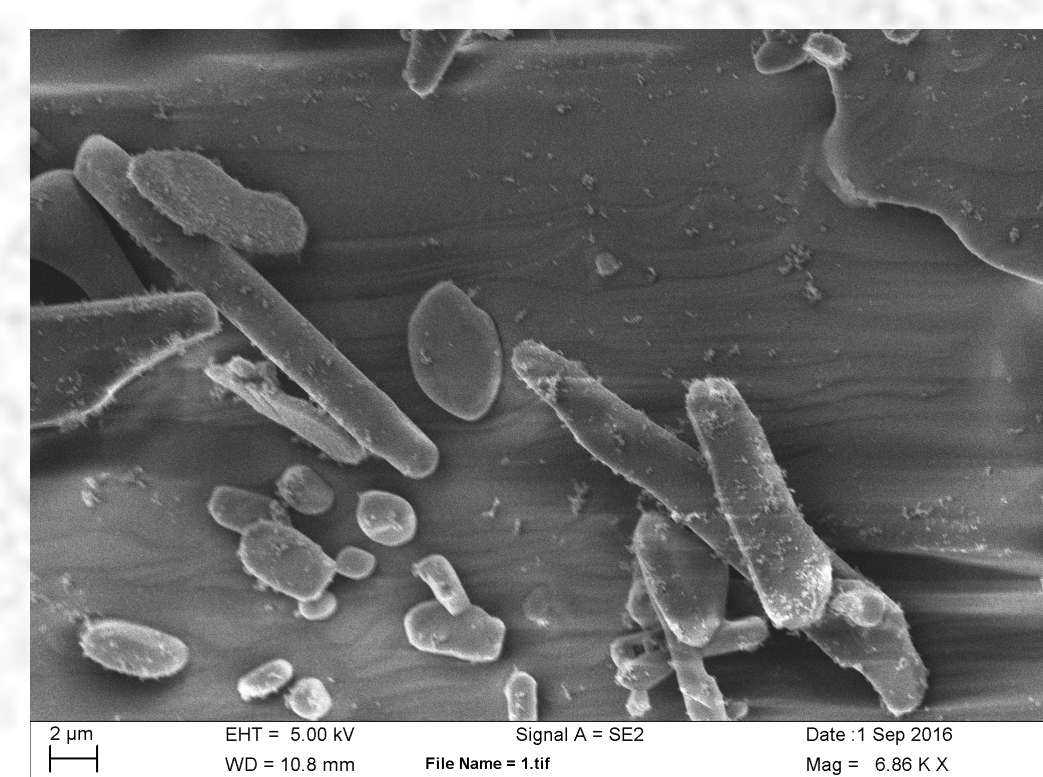
SEM images of the Paracetamol crystals used in Phase 1



Paracetamol Granular
(mean 450 μm)



Paracetamol Dense Powder
(mean 175 μm)



Paracetamol Powder + Sio (mean 45 μm)

NSF Engineering Research

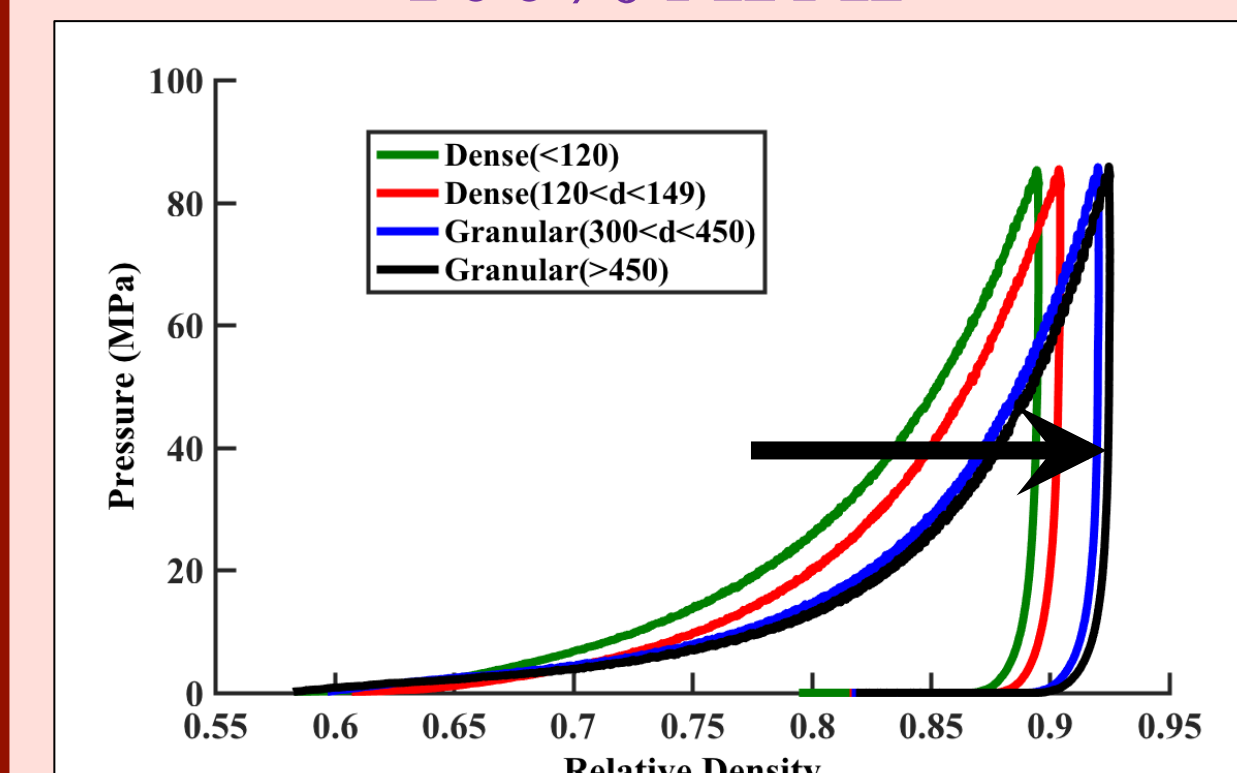
Center for Structured Organic Particulate Systems (C-SOPS)

RESULT

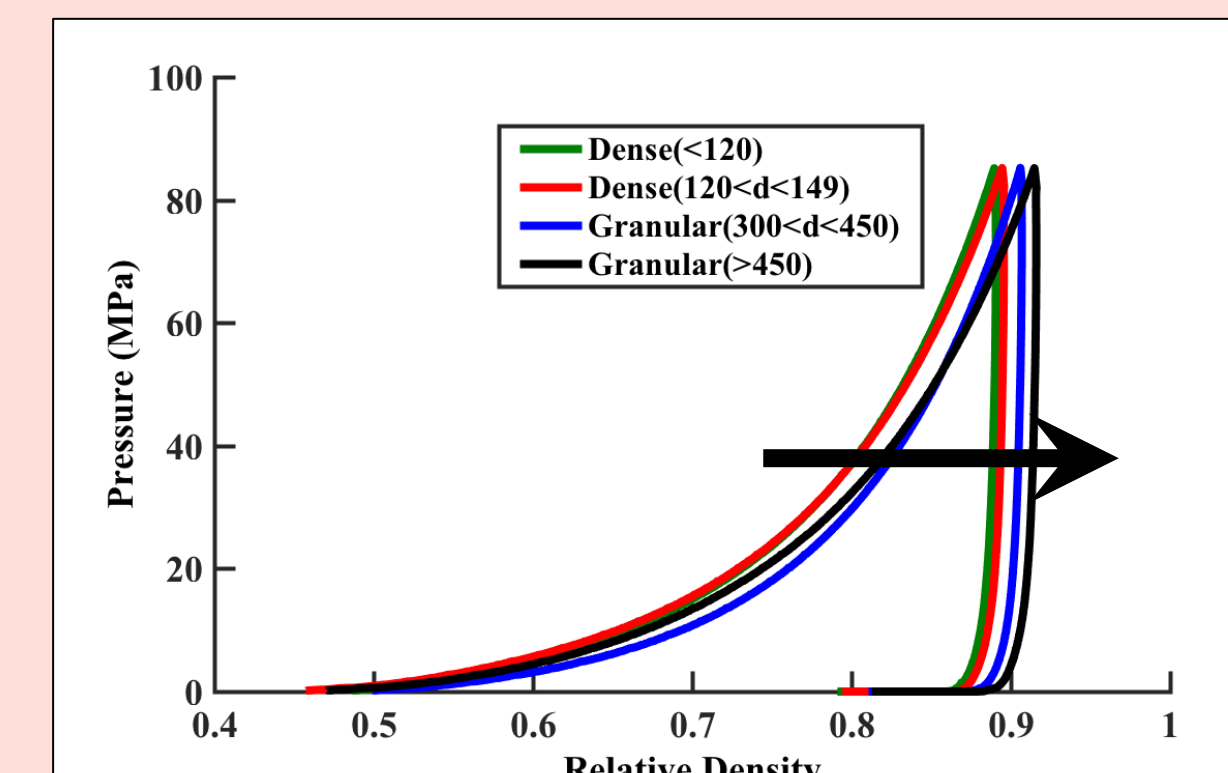
Phase 1:A&B exploring the effect of API's **crystal size** on secondary manufacturing and final product

The effect of size on compaction behavior

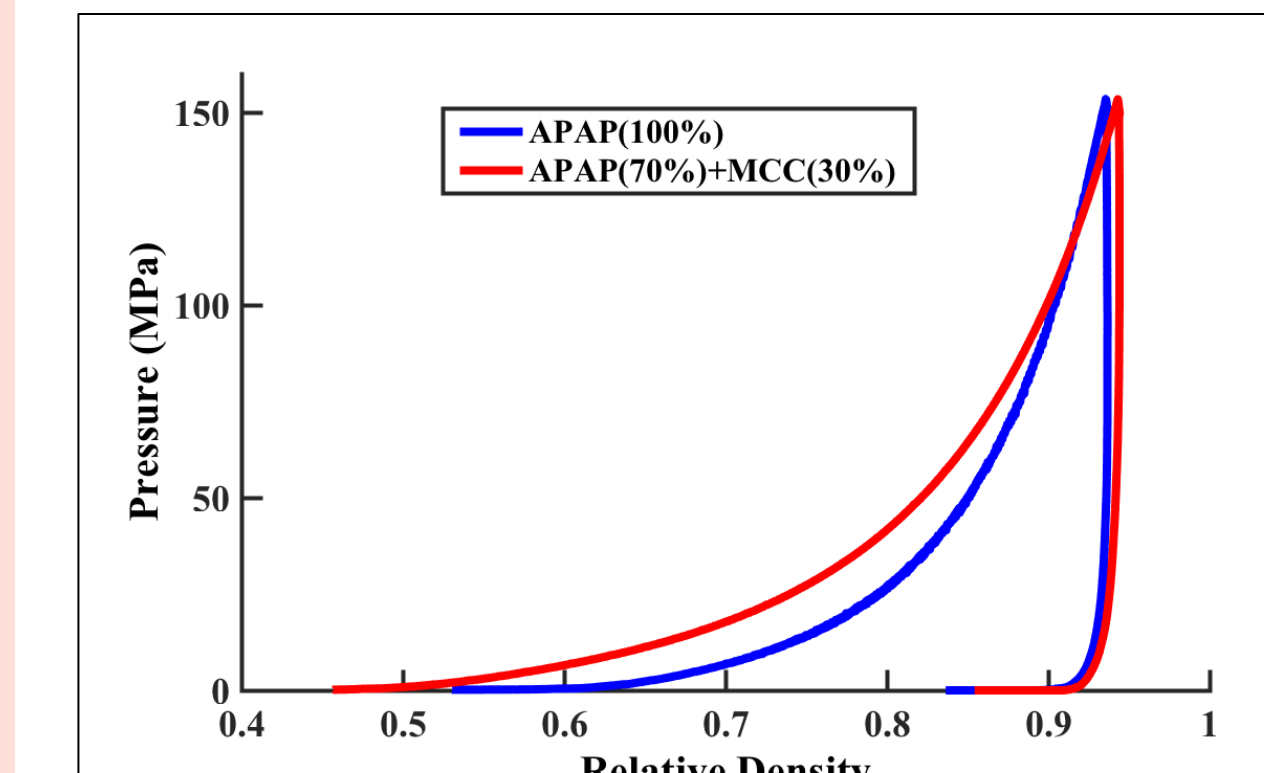
100% APAP



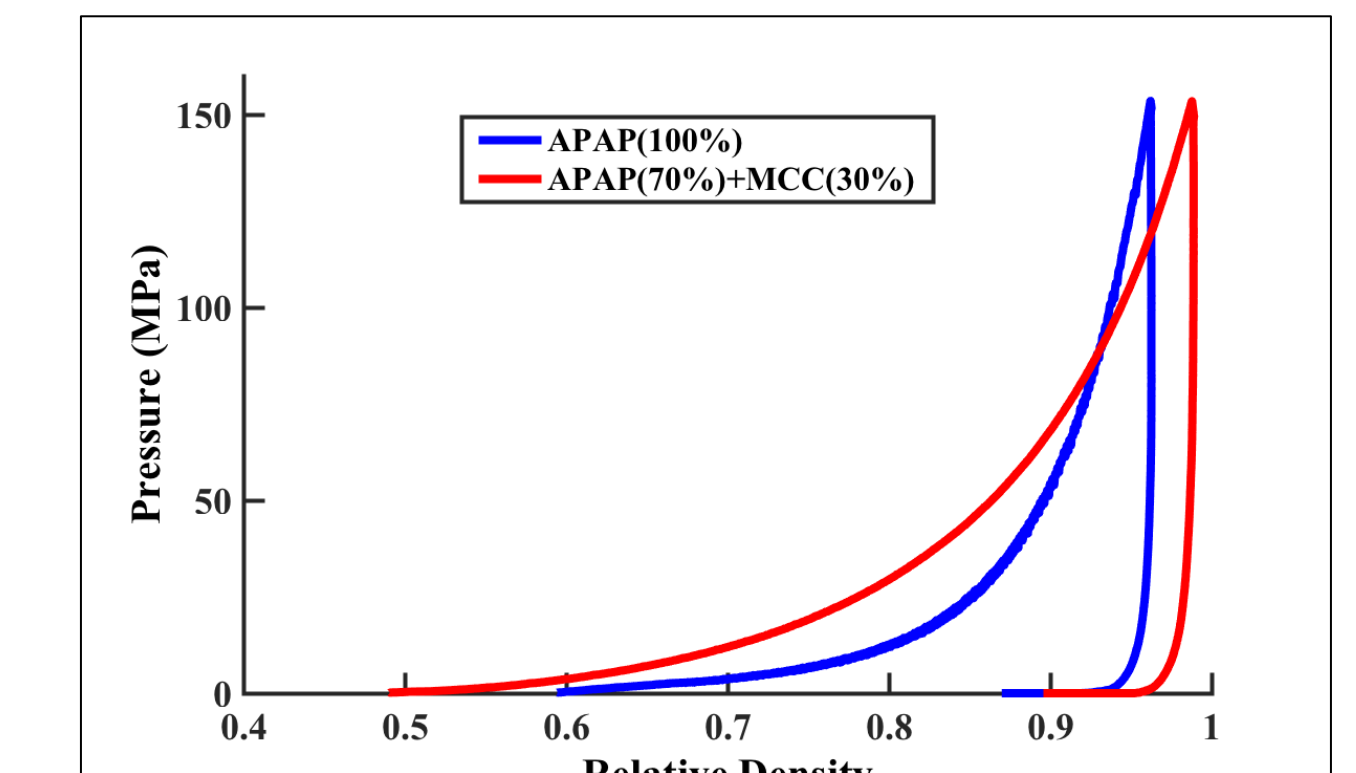
70% APAP+ 30% MCC



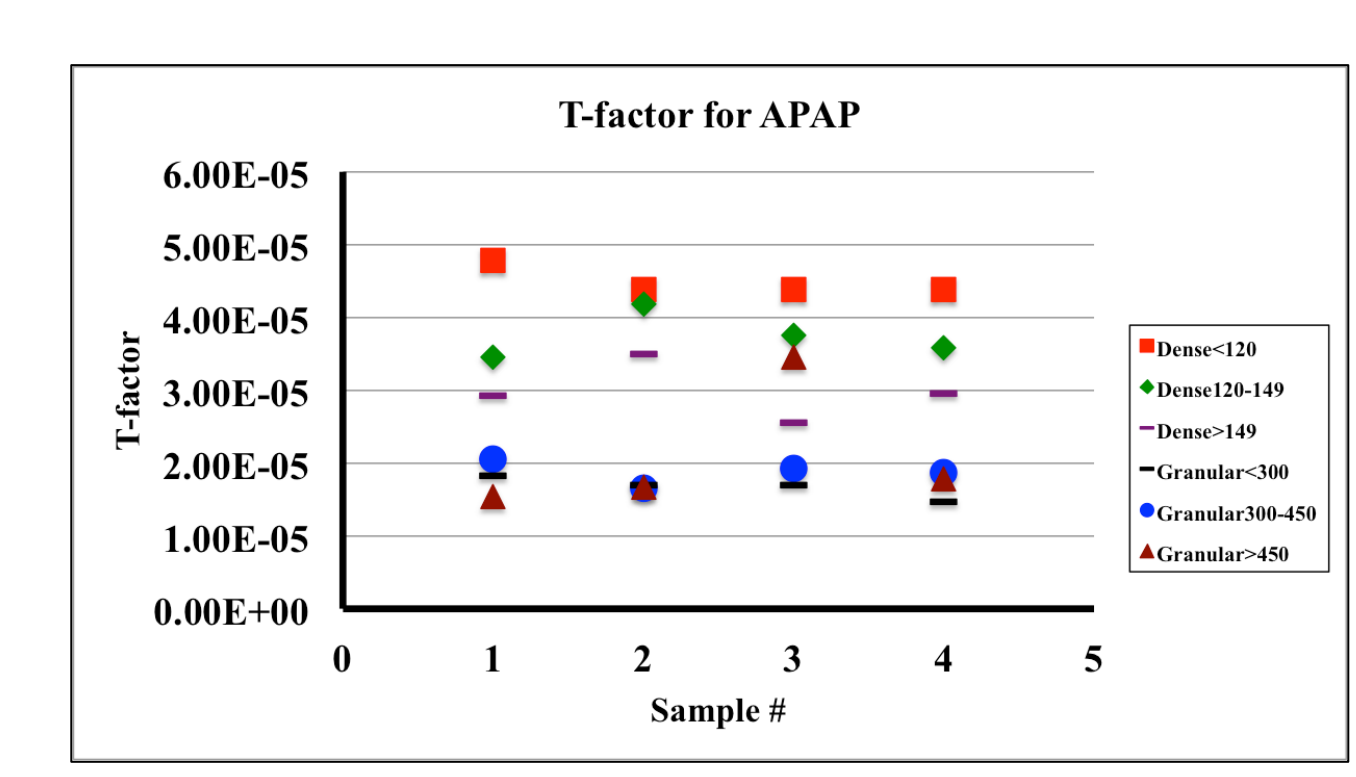
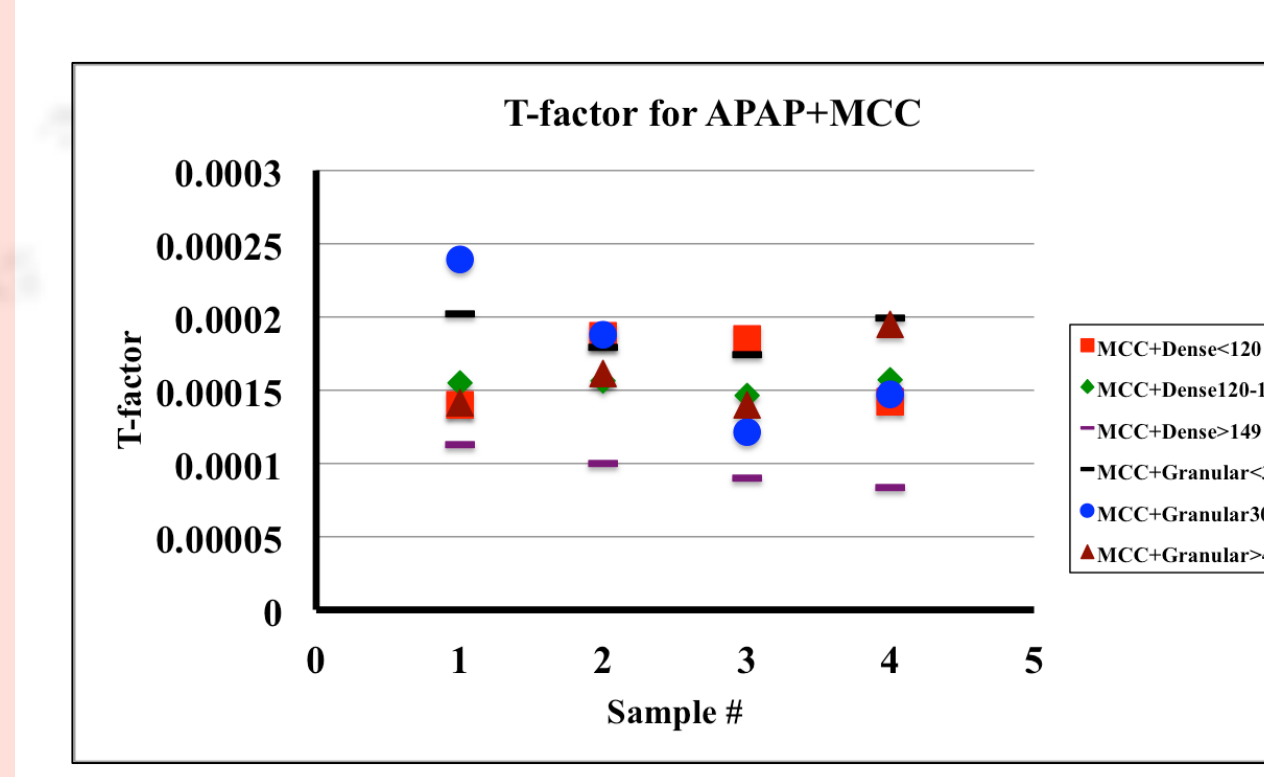
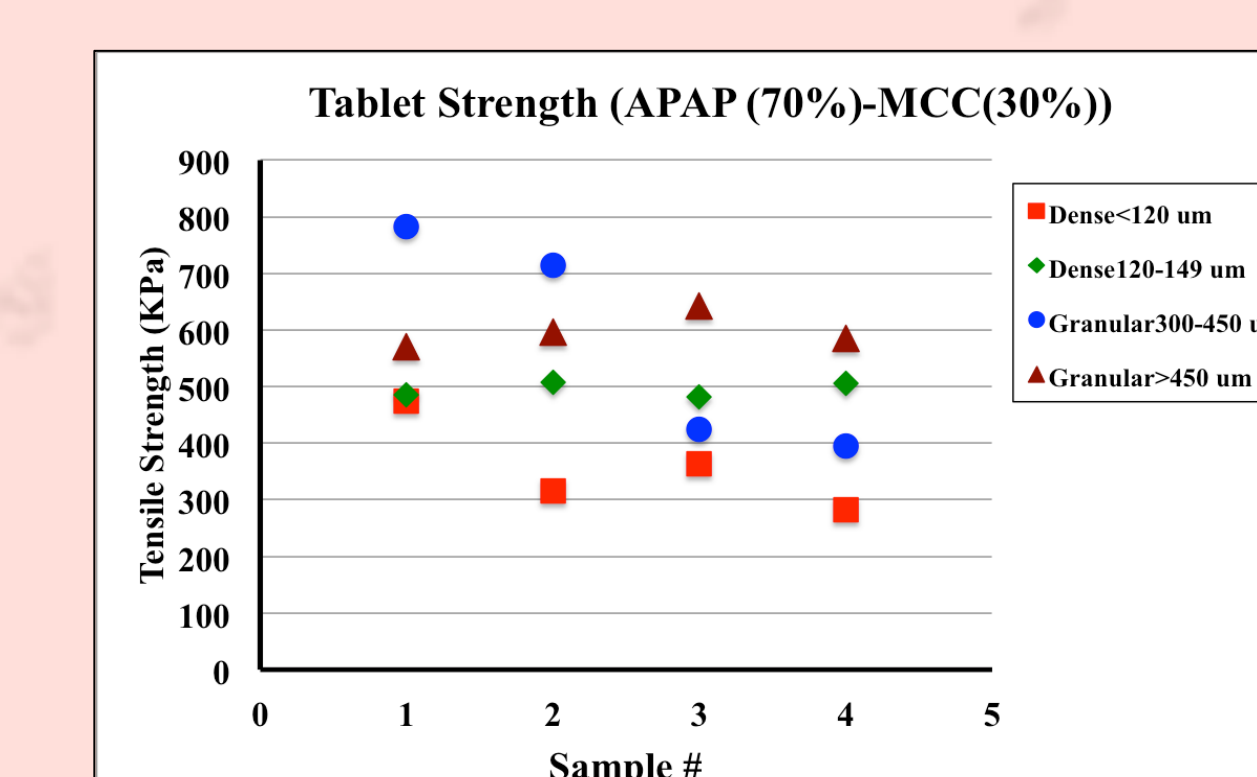
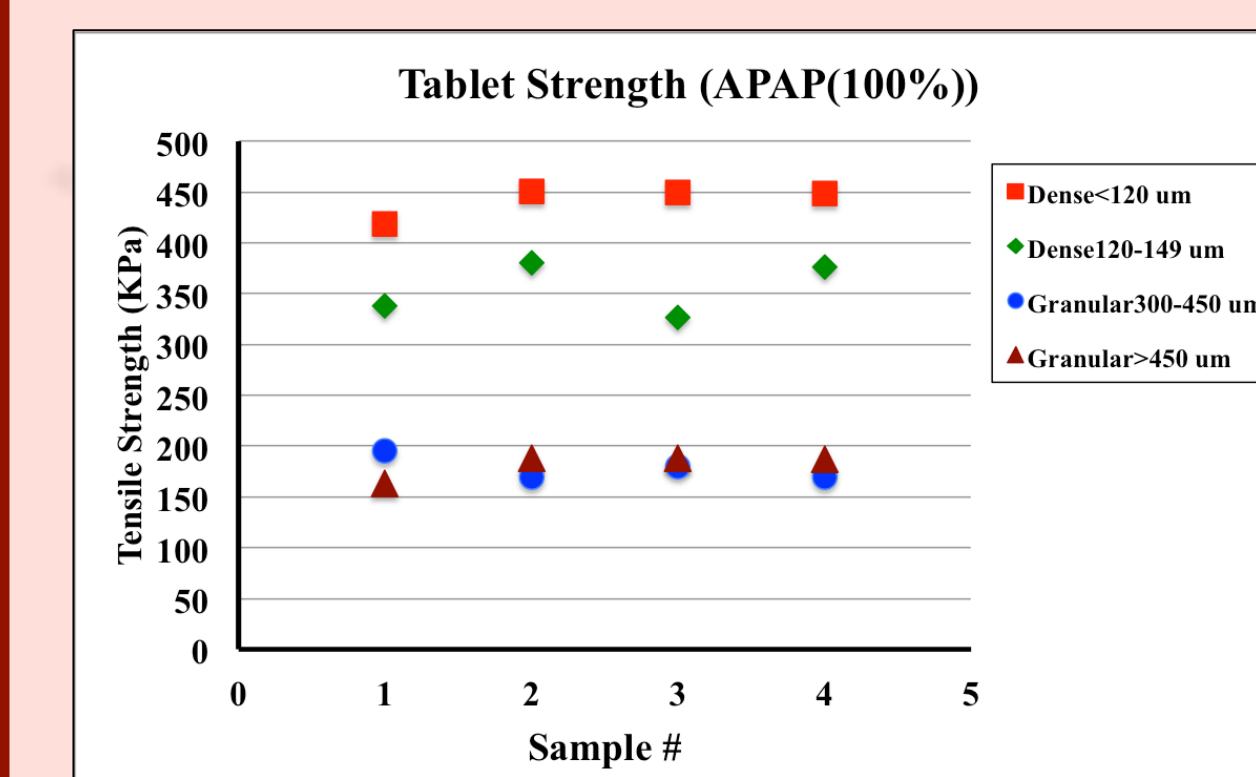
APAP crystal size <120 μm



APAP crystal size >450 μm



Tablet mechanical strength



T-factor: comparative factor calculated based on typical parts of the punch force/displacement-profile and properties of the resulting compact *N. Rasenack, B.W. Müller / International Journal of Pharmaceutics 244 (2002)*

$$T = \text{Plastic def} \times \text{energy}_{\text{total}} \times F_c / F_{\text{max}} \times s_{F_{\text{max}}(\text{up})} \times e$$

Plastic def : Percentage of the plastic energy

Crushing strength F_c (N) : Stability of the compact

$s_{F_{\text{max}}}$ (mm) : Displacement of upper punch in F_{max}

Total energy(Nm) : Plastic and elastic energy

F_{max} (kN) : Upper punch force (maximum)

e (cm³) : Volume (true) tableted

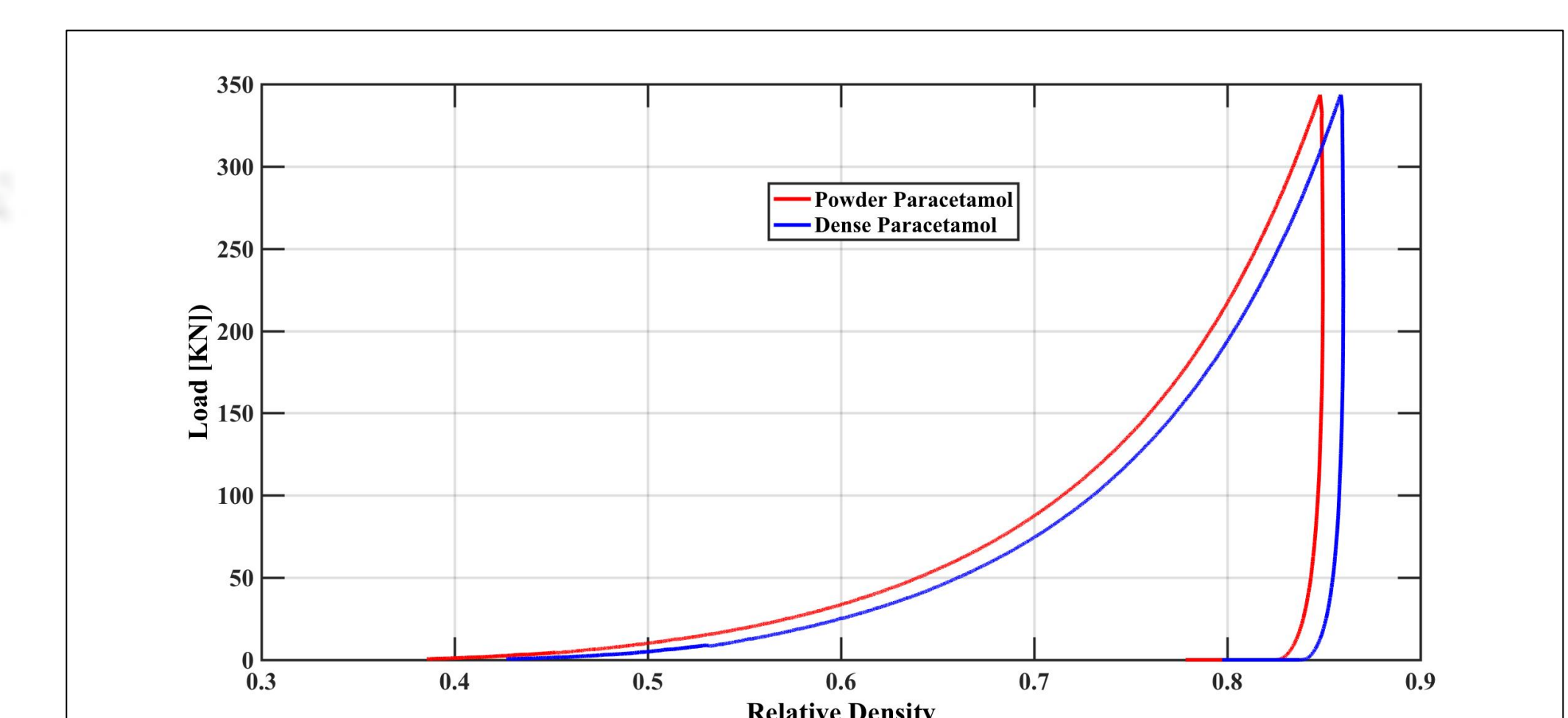
Phase 1: C

Optimized Formulation

Ingredient	mg/Tablet	purpose
Paracetamol	500	API
Avicel PH102	123.9	Exipeint
Kolidon VA 64	50	Dry binder
Kolliden CL 30	4	Disintegrant
Magnesium Stearate	1	Lubricant
Aerosil	4.7	coating
Polyethylene glyucose 4000 (PEG)	16.5	Binder

T. Martinello et al/International Journal of Pharmaceutics (2006)

The effect of size on compaction behavior of complete formulation



Future Work: By gathering and analysing all information from phase 1 and 2, we will develop libraries of raw materials with controlled properties that could be used for process characterization studies