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assignment 1/2

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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SUMMARY

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1 INTRODUCTION

Most of the newly discovered active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) are poorly water soluble in crystalline forms, which limit their bioavailability, dissolution, and then their distribution through the organism. This fact limits its wider oral use as a solid drug in medical treatment. Today, combinatorial chemistry techniques and high-throughput screening have led to a sharp increase in the quantity of nonsoluble API molecules, so the oral administration of poorly soluble drugs has become the biggest challenge for formulation scientists in the pharmaceutical industry. [1] There are different strategies to overcome this issue, such as cocrystal formation [2], conversion of API to its salt [3] or using solid dispersion. [4]

In 1961, Sekiguchi and Obi provided the earliest account of the so-called first-generation solid dispersion, when they discovered that the creation of eutectic mixtures enhances the rate of drug release and bioavailability. First-generation solid dispersions were built from crystalline carriers such as urea or sugars, forming crystalline solid dispersions. The second generation solid dispersion was replacing crystalline carriers by amorphous carriers such as polymers, forming an amorphous product in which crystalline API is dissolved. There exist also a third generation of solid dispersion using a surfactant carrier or a combination of amorphous polymers and surfactants. [5]

Our aim is to overcome the poor solubility by using amorphous solid phases of APIs and to avert the rearrangement of molecules into a crystal lattice. However, crystalline forms of APIs are advantageous because of their better stability during long-term storage and better predictions of changes at the molecular level under defined conditions, so the use of crystalline forms limits the bioavailability. [6] The better solubility of APIs in amorphous forms comes from a higher Gibbs energy in the amorphous form compared to the crystalline forms. During processing, storage, and after contact with water or humidity, the thermodynamically metastable amorphous forms tend to crystallise. Solid mixtures of API and excipients (e.g. polymeric excipients) create amorphous solid dispersions (ASD) and offer a way to inhibit crystallisation of the API before and after oral administration of the dose. [7]

The addition of an excipient to an amorphous API can generally have a twofold effect on the rate of solid-state crystallisation, affecting both thermodynamic and kinetic aspects. Thermodynamically, it reduces the Gibbs energy due to strong intermolecular interactions between API and its excipient, as well as it increases kinetic barriers to recrystallisation. On the atomic scale of individual interactions, hydrogen bonding makes the most contribution. [8]

1.1 Studied compounds

1.1.1 Polylactic acid

Polylactic acid (PLA) was chosen as a biocompatible polymer excipient. PLA is a biodegradable polymer formed by the polymerisation of lactic acid. The formula of the PLA monomer unit is shown in Figure 1. In this work, two condensed units of D-PLA were considered as the simplest building block for creating all of the other longer polymer chains. Polymer samples of a length of 100 dimer units were created by replicating these dimer units. The molar weight of our dimer unit considered in the investigation (two polymerised lactic acid chains) is $M_w = 162.14 \text{ g} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$, which means that the polymer chain used in the simulations has a molar weight equal to $M_w = 14\,431 \text{ g} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$. Other suitable biocompatible and biodegradable polymers for ASD could be polyethylene glycol (PEG) and polyvinylpyrrolidone (PVP). [9]

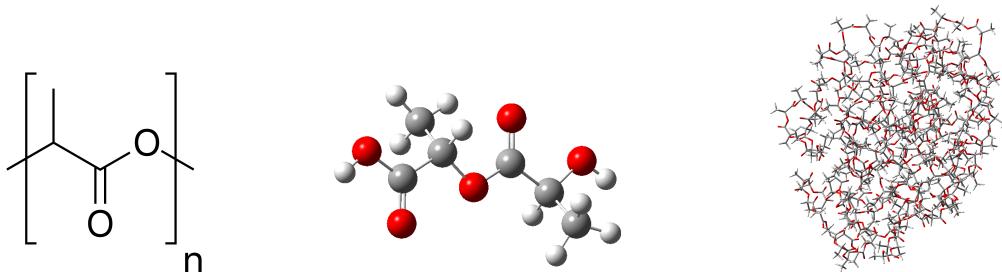


Figure 1: PLA formula on the left, PLA dimer block representing the chain unit used to build up polymer chain in the middle and a PLA chain containing 100 dimer block used to create mixtures with APIs on the right.

1.1.2 Active pharmaceutical ingredients

The first selected API is **ibuprofen**, systematically 2-(4-Isobutylphenyl)propanoic acid ($C_{13}H_{18}O_2$) as an example of a widely used analgesic-antipyretic-antiflammator drug. The racemic mixture is commonly used in medical treatment, whereas the S- enantiomer has stronger pharmaceutical activity than the R- enantiomer, which is metabolically transformed to S- in the organism. [10] In this work the S- form, which is visualised in Figure 2, is used. The molar weight is $M_w = 206.28 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ and the melting point is 324.4 K. [11]

The second selected API is **naproxen**, systematically 2-(6-Methoxynaphthalen-2-yl)propanoic acid ($C_{14}H_{14}O_3$), a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug, used as a painkiller. Naproxen contains three oxygen atoms (one carboxyl group and one ether bond), the structure is shown in Figure 2 in the upper right corner. On the basis of its structure, naproxen can donate one hydrogen bond and accept up to three

hydrogen bonds. Naproxen is a white crystalline powder, with a molar weight of $M_w = 230.263 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ and melting point 429.3 K. [11]

Carbamazepine, alternatively 5-Carbamoyl-5H-dibenzo(b,f)azepine ($C_{15}H_{12}N_2O$) is a representative anticonvulsant, which is used for the treatment of seizures and neuropathic pain. Carbamazepine contains two nitrogen atoms (amide group) and one oxygen in the carboxyl group; its structure is shown in Figure 2 on the left side. According to its structure, carbamazepine can accept and donate one hydrogen bond. Carbamazepine is a white crystalline powder, with a molar weight of $M_w = 236.273 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ and melting temperature of 463.6 K. [11]

Indomethacin, 2-1-[(4-Chlorophenyl)carbonyl]-5-methoxy-2-methyl-1H-indol-3-ylacetic acid ($C_{19}H_{16}ClNO_4$), which structure is in Figure 2, is used in the treatment of musculoskeletal and joint disorders. The molar weight is $M_w = 357.8 \text{ g mol}^{-1}$ and the melting temperature is 433.3 K. [11]

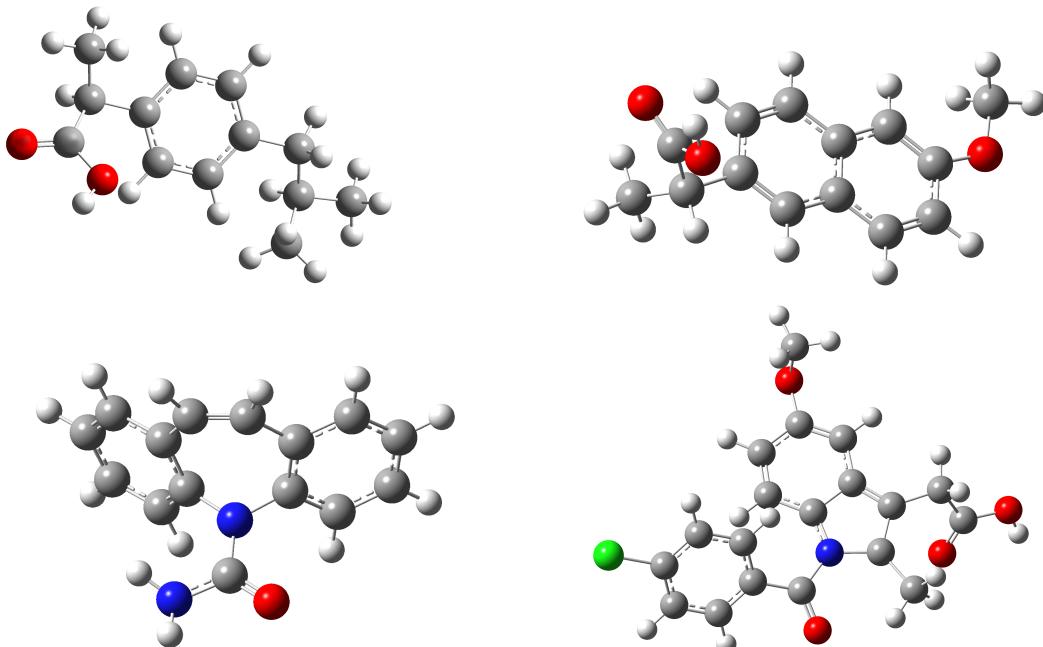


Figure 2: Molecular structures of ibuprofen (**top left**), naproxen (**top right**), carbamazepine (**bottom left**) and indomethacin (**bottom right**).

The last selected API was **sulfathiazole** with systematic name 4-amino-N-thiazol-2-ylidenebenzene-sulfonamide as a representative antibiotic drug from the sulfonamides group, which is used in the treatment of pyogenic cutaneous infections. Sulfathiazole is a white crystalline powder, with a molar weight ($M_w = 255.3 \text{ gmol}^{-1}$), which is highly polymorphic, five polymorphs have been discovered so far [6]. All known polymorphs of sulfathiazole crystallise in the $P2_1/c$ space group, but there are differences in intermolecular bonding and structural properties [12]. The

II polymorph structure, shown in Figure 3, is used in this work. There are four molecules of sulfathiazole in the crystal monoclinic unit cell.

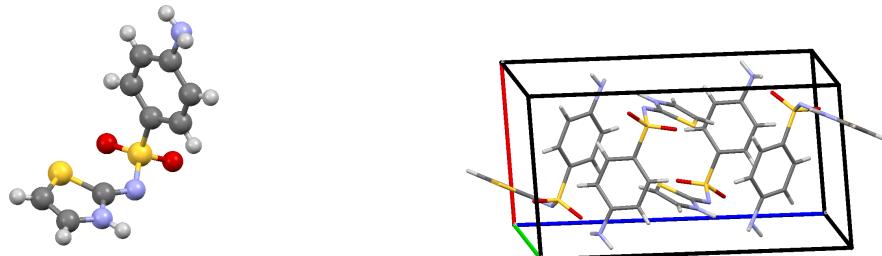


Figure 3: Sulfathiazole - molecular structure on the left and a unit cell of its II polymorph on the right.

1.2 Objective

2 THEORETICAL PART

2.1 Molecular dynamics

The molecular dynamics method is based on solving the equations of motion of classical Newtonian mechanics for atoms. Let us choose the assumption that the interaction potential U is continuous and differentiable. The force acting on the i particle can thus be written as an equation 2.1

$$f_i = -\frac{\partial U(r^N)}{\partial r_i}, \quad i = 1, \dots, N. \quad (2.1)$$

In molecular dynamics, we are focused on the time development of the model. In the other words, we are looking for the trajectory of the solution of the respective systems of differential equations. In Newtonian mechanics, acceleration is directly related to forces through the equations of motion. Formally, we can write the equation 2.2

$$\ddot{r}_i = \frac{f_i}{m_i}, \quad i = 1, \dots, N, \quad (2.2)$$

where the second time derivative of the positions appears on the left side. The equation 2.2 is a system of $3N$ ordinary differential equations for a set of N atoms. As initial conditions, we usually choose knowledge of all positions r_i and velocities \dot{r}_i at the initial time $t = t_0$.

We solve equation 2.2 using the finite difference method when we track the desired solution in the form of the function $r_i(t), i = 1, \dots, N$, in the time interval $[t_0, t_{max}]$ at discrete points of the form $t = t_0 + kh$, where h is the integration step and k is a non-negative integer.

To find a solution, it is necessary to calculate the forces acting on individual particles at each step of the simulation. One of the methods that is applied in this area is the Verlet integration method. It is a simple and very effective method that provides sufficiently accurate results. Its great advantage is the reversibility of time and the conservation of the total energy of the system [13].

2.1.1 Verlet integration

Verlet integration method is a numerical method for integrating the equation 2.1. We express the second derivative using finite differences. From the second-order Taylor expansion $r_i(t \pm h)$ centred at t , we obtain the formula

$$\ddot{r}_i = \frac{r_i(t-h) - 2r_i(t) + r_i(t+h)}{h^2}, \quad (2.3)$$

binding values at three points in a row ($t - h$, t and $t + h$). We will use this characteristic to calculate $r_i(t + h)$. By substituting 2.3 into 2.1 we get

$$r_i(t + h) = 2r_i(t) - r_i(t - h) + h^2 \frac{f_i(t)}{m_i}. \quad (2.4)$$

In this formulation, we are able to calculate the new positions at time $t + h$ from knowledge of the forces at time t , the positions of the particles at time t and the previous time $t - h$. The time reversibility of the method is clearly visible here. The advantage is that the force is calculated only once in each step of the simulation. For the position preceding the initial position ($r_i(t_0 - h)$), we can use the expansion 2.5

$$r_i(t_0 - h) = r_i(t) - hr_i(t_0) + h^2 \frac{f_i(t_0)}{2m_i}. \quad (2.5)$$

2.1.2 Velocity Verlet

2.2 title

2.3 Silová pole

2.4 Polarizovaná silová pole

3 COMPUTATIONAL METHODS

LAMMPS software [14] (version 5 May 2020) was used for all molecular dynamics calculations. The placement of molecular chains in the simulation boxes was done by Packmol [15], the chains were randomly distributed in the space of a cubic box. The input files for the LAMMPS software were generated using the fftool [16] script written in the Python programming language.

We also used periodic boundary conditions in the directions of all axes and velocity Verlet integrator. Contributions of long-range charge interactions of distant atoms were calculated using the long-range solver using the particle-particle-particle mesh (PPPM) algorithm [17]. The bonds and angles were considered as harmonic oscillators, and for dihedral angles, OPLS (Optimised Potentials for Liquid Simulations) was used for every atom. Coulombic point charges and the Lennard-Jones potential were used, the cut-off distance for dispersion and Coulombic interactions was set to 12 Å. A SHAKE atom algorithm [18] was applied to constrain the lengths of covalent bonds that terminate in hydrogen atoms. The simulations were run under *NPT* conditions using the Nose-Hoover thermostat and barostat [19], with relaxation times for temperature control as 100 fs and pressure control as 1000 fs. The simulations contained around 25 000 atoms in a simulation box. From previous research, this was considered to be a suitable setting. [9]

All-atom non-polarisable force fields were used during MD simulations, the parameterisation of the PLA force field was obtained from the literature [20], the parameterizations of APIs were also taken from the literature. [21]

We started all simulations with an equilibration simulation run from randomly packed simulation boxes under the temperature of 500 K and pressure of 1 bar in three blocks with a gradually increasing time-integration step. The simulation began with a step of 0.25 fs, followed by steps 0.5 and 0.75 each for a simulation time of 0.5 ns, then 1 ns of simulation with a step of 1 fs. From this point, we cooled the system, down to 300 K for 2 ns with a step of 1 fs. After this cooling, we continued with a 10 ns long production run with a temperature of 300 K and pressure equal to 1 bar.

From these production runs, we evaluated the MSD (Mean Squared Displacement) of API and PLA molecules in the mixture and the RDF (radial distribution function) of atom interactions. We also performed a production run under the higher temperature of 500 K and the same pressure of 1 bar starting from conformations after the first equilibration under 500 K. We also sampled RDFs and MSDs. Those simulations were performed for neat APIs, PLA polymer, and mixtures with differ-

ent concentrations of API. For each API, the concentration ratio API:PLA in the number of molecules was 100:17 ($x_{\text{API}} = 0.85$), 200:17 ($x_{\text{API}} = 0.92$), and 300:17 ($x_{\text{API}} = 0.95$).

To determine the glass transition temperature (T_g) of the mixtures, we performed simulated annealing simulations with a gradually decreasing temperature (30 K·ns⁻¹) starting at 800 K and ending at 200 K. Systems containing a mixture of API and PLA were first warmed from 500 K to 800 K for 2 ns. To have statistically more reliable data, simulated annealing simulations were performed from 5 different initial conformations. The 4 ns long run was done to obtain those conformations sampling the image of the box every 1 ns.

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Simulations of API

The box of neat carbamazepine contained 800 molecules (24 000 atoms), after equilibration run ($T=500$ K), the size of the box was 66 Å. In the naproxen simulation box 800 molecules were presented (24 800 atoms), balanced box size was 66 Å. For ibuprofen the balanced box size with 800 molecules (26 400 atoms) was 67 Å. The simulation box containing 600 molecules (24 600 atoms) of indomethacine had size of 66 Å.

COMPARISON OF DENSITIES WITH EXPERIMENTS?

4.2 Simulations of mixtures of APIs and PLA

4.2.1 Diffusion coefficients

RDFs and MSDs were sampled from the 10 ns long run simulations every 1000 fs (integration step 1 fs). For each time step, obtained MSD data were averaged for all API molecules and then plotted as a function of simulation time. The MSD dependencies were then fitted by linear fit and the self-diffusivities of the API in the mixtures were evaluated from the slope of the linear curve using the following Equation 4.1:

$$D_{\text{API}} = \frac{a}{2d}, \quad (4.1)$$

where D is the diffusion coefficient, a is the slope of the linear fit curve and d is the dimensionality of the track (3 in our case).

TUTO ČÁST MUSÍM JEŠTĚ ZNAČNĚ VYLEPŠIT, KOUKAL JSEM SE NA DATA, NENAŠEL JSEM CHYBU, ZKUSÍM PŘEPOČÍTAT PRŮMĚRY JEŠTĚ JEDNOU: The MSD data for APIs in mixtures with PLA for $T=500$ K are plotted in Figure 4. For ibuprofen, there is a significant difference between mobility of neat API and API mixed within the polymer. This could be result of very strong API-PLA interaction forming in the mixture. The data of carbamazepine shows that with increasing API concentration, mobility also increases. There is also not that enormous difference between neat API. For naproxen, it seems that there is no change for different concentrations of mixtures, also in neat API the mobility is higher. The situation for indometacine is completely different. For neat API the mobility is really low compared to mixtures with PLA. This behaviour seems strange, the reason could be, that in pure API, there are really strong API-API

interactions that decrease the mobility. Also the MSD values are much lower.

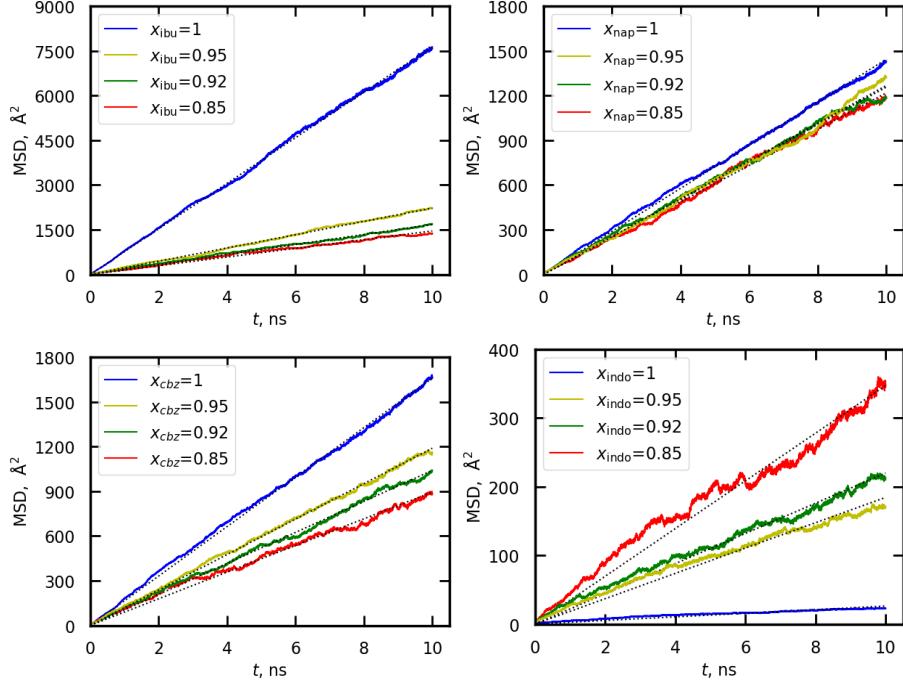


Figure 4: MSD from simulations under 500 K, ibuprofen (**top left**), naproxen (**top right**), carbamazepine (**bottom left**) and indomethacin (**bottom right**).

Self-diffusivities were evaluated from the above data and plotted in Figure 5. The data reveal that in pure liquid carbamazepine the diffusion is faster than in naproxen. For higher temperatures, the main factor affecting diffusion is the shape of the molecules, not the strength of the intermolecular interactions. This is caused because the kinetic energy is higher than the potential for higher temperatures.

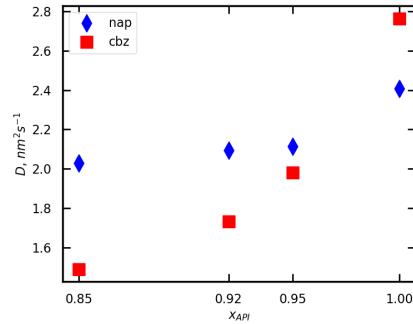


Figure 5: Self-diffusivities for carbamazepine and naproxen as a function of their concentration in the mixtures, temperature 500 K.

MSD was also evaluated at a lower temperature of 300 K, Figure 6. There is the opposite trend. From these data sets, we can assume that carbamazepine has lower

interactions with polymer because the mobility in the mixtures is higher than that in the pure state. The mobility of naproxen is always lower in mixtures, which is related to its stronger interactions with the polymer. The strength of the intermolecular interactions has a greater impact, meaning that paired molecules NAP-API slow the diffusion of other particles.

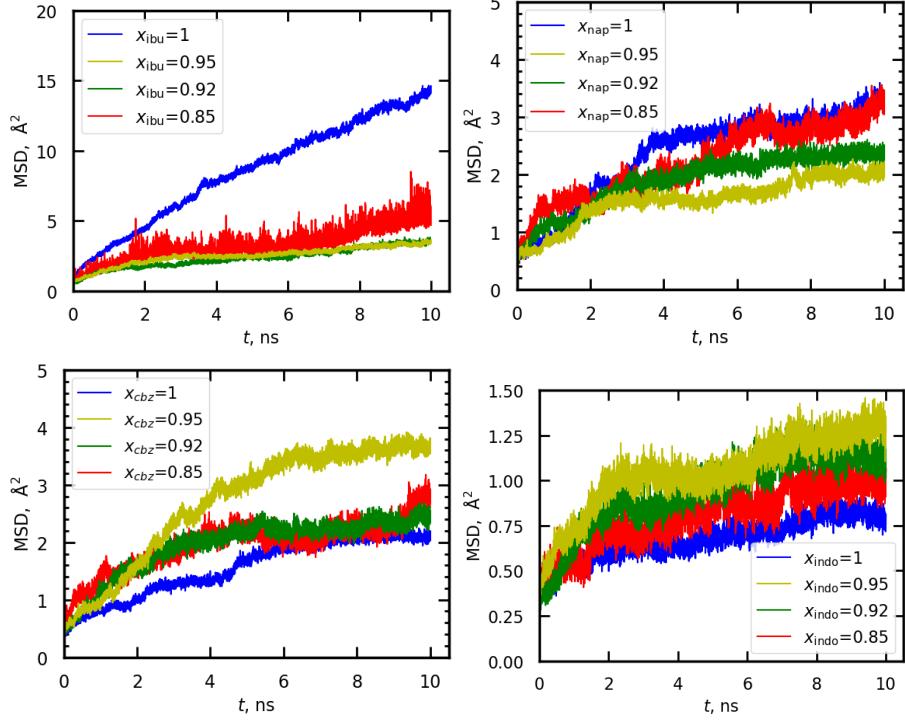


Figure 6: MSD from simulations under 300 K, ibuprofen (**top left**), naproxen (**top right**), carbamazepine (**bottom left**) and indomethacin (**bottom right**).

4.2.2 Radial distribution functions

Then, all RDFs of mixtures containing the API-API interaction were scaled onto the pure API RDF signal for better visualisation using the following Equation 4.2:

$$\text{RDF}_{\text{scaled}} = \text{RDF} \cdot \frac{\frac{V_{\text{API}}}{N_{\text{API}}}}{\frac{V_{\text{mix}}}{N_{\text{mix}}}}, \quad (4.2)$$

where V_{API} is the average volume of the pure API simulation box, N_{API} is the number of molecules in the pure API simulation box and, respectively, for mixtures.

Sampling the radial distribution function from the simulations was done to explore the interactions that are having the highest impact. The hydrogen bonds were mostly studied. All RDF data containing the API-API interaction in the mix-

tures were scaled for the intensities of the pure API signal. The strongest API-API interaction was chosen and plotted to study the change between simulations with different concentrations of PLA.

For ibuprofen, the interaction between hydrogen from OH group and oxygen from OC was studied. For naproxen, the hydrogen bonding between two carboxyl groups was studied, for carbamazepine, hydrogen bonding was studied between the NH₂ and OC group and for indomethacin the interaction of oxygen from OC and hydrogen from OH was studied. The selected atom types involved in interactions are visualised in Figure 7 .

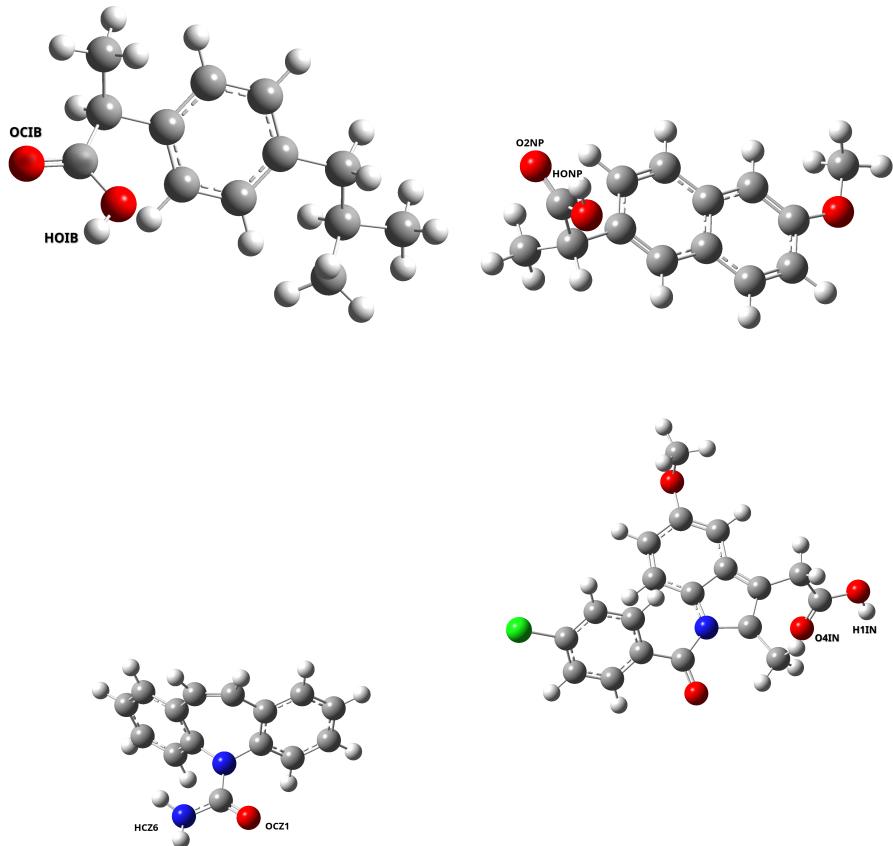


Figure 7: Visualization of studied interactions, ibuprofen (**top left**), naproxen (**top right**), carbamazepine (**bottom left**) and indomethacin (**bottom right**).

The RDF of the selected interaction of naproxen is shown in Figure 11. Here is the situation very different, the height of the first peak changes for different concentrations of PLA. For the higher concentration of PLA, the occurrence of the two hydrogen bonds carboxyl group contact is less important, and the contact of the groups is made only by one hydrogen bond.

The RDF of the hydrogen bonding interaction of carbamazepine is shown in Figure 10. The shape and signal response of the peaks for the mixtures are similar

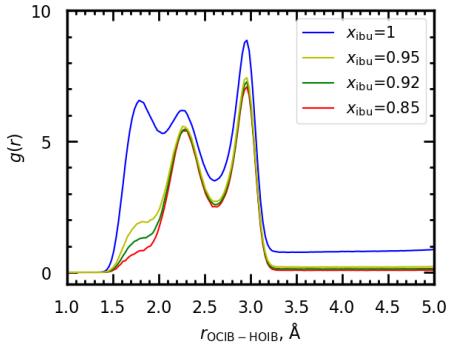


Figure 8: Radial distribution function of the API-API interaction between HOIB hydrogen atom bonded on oxygen and OCIB oxygen atom in a mixture of ibuprofen and PLA for different concentration normalized on values for pure ibuprofen, temperature of 300 K in the left upper corner and 500 K bottom left, coordination numbers on the right.

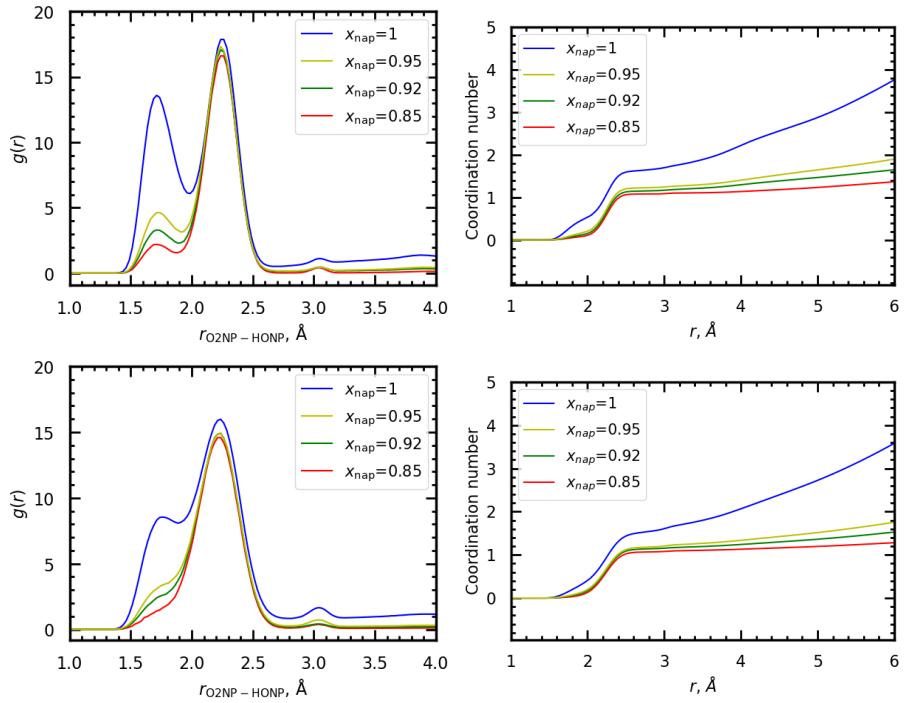


Figure 9: Radial distribution function of the API-API interaction between HONP hydrogen atom and O2NP oxygen atom from COOH group in a mixture of naproxen and PLA for different concentration normalized on values for pure naproxen, temperature of 300 K in the left upper corner and 500 K bottom left, coordination numbers on the right.

for both temperatures, meaning that the impact of the concentration of PLA on the cohesion of carbamazepine in the mixture is very low.

The hydrogen bonding between API and PLA was also studied. The contact visualization is available in Figure 12.

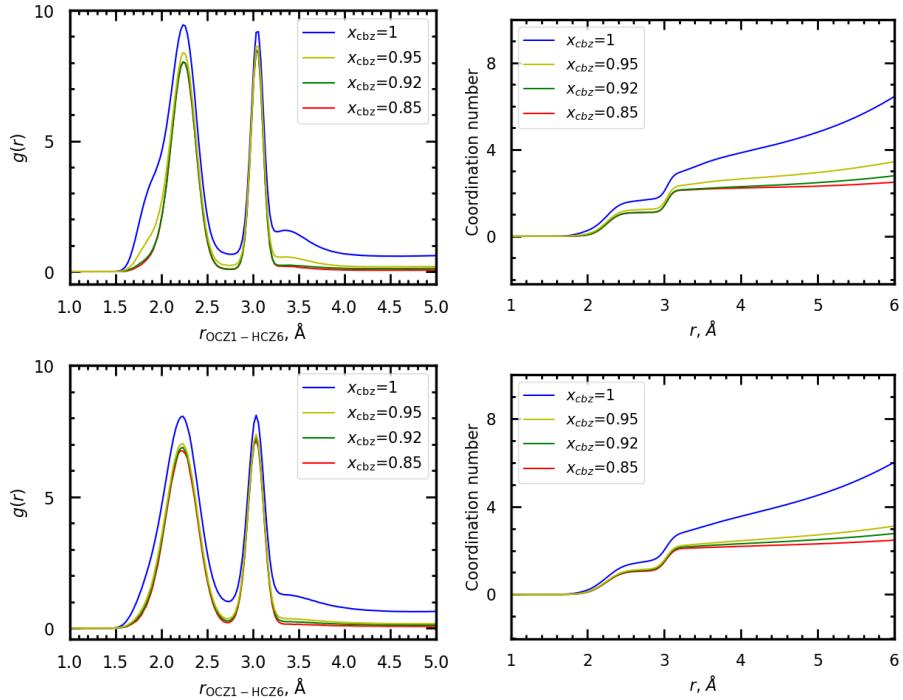


Figure 10: Radial distribution function of the API-API interaction between HCZ6 hydrogen atom bonded on nitrogen and OCZ1 oxygen atom in a mixture of carbamazepine and PLA for different concentration normalized on values for pure carbamazepine, temperature of 300 K in the left upper corner and 500 K bottom left, coordination numbers on the right.

The RDF of hydrogen bonding with the carbonyl group is shown in Figure 13. For carbamazepine, those interactions are weak, we can see that the intensity of the first peak is really low. Under temperature 300 K slightly above one, but for 500 K the peak is below one, meaning that this interaction occurs less at a small distance than in the rest of the system. The value converges to one in a long distance. For naproxen, the interaction is more relevant, and the intensity of the peak is much higher but still less than in the NAP-NAP interactions.

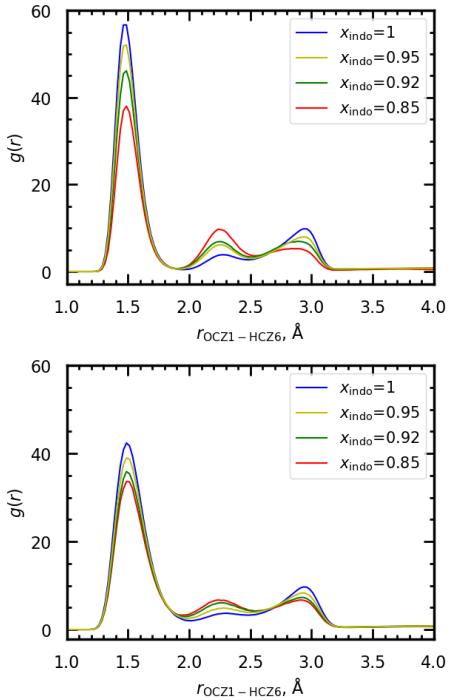


Figure 11: Radial distribution function of the API-API interaction between HCZ6 hydrogen atom and OCZ1 oxygen atom from COOH group in a mixture of indomethacine and PLA for different concentration normalized on values for pure indomethacine, temperature of 300 K in the left upper corner and 500 K bottom left, coordination numbers on the right.

The hydrogen bonds with the oxygen bonded by ether bond in PLA are shown in Figure 14. Here is the same situation as in the previous contact with carbonyl oxygen, but for naproxen, the interaction is less relevant. Both values also converge to 1 in a long distance.

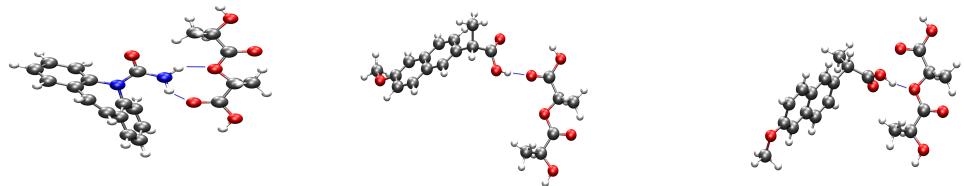


Figure 12: Visualization of studied interactions of PLA-API, for carbamazepine on the left and for naproxen on the right.

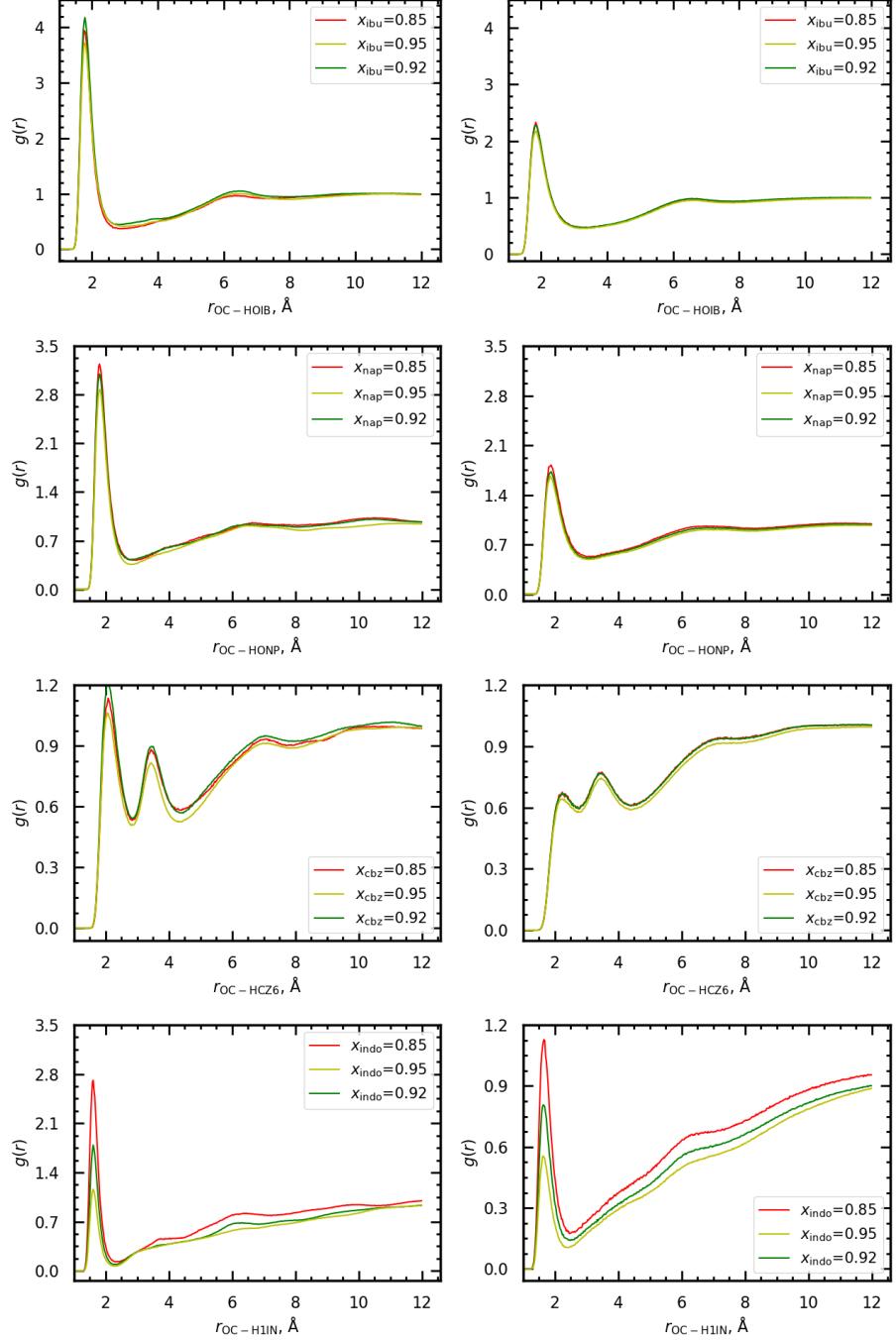


Figure 13: Radial distribution function of the interaction between hydrogen atoms and oxygen atom from carbonyl group in PLA, first ibuprofen on top, second naproxen, third carbamazepine and indomethacine in the bottom, temperature 300 K on the left and 500 K on the right.

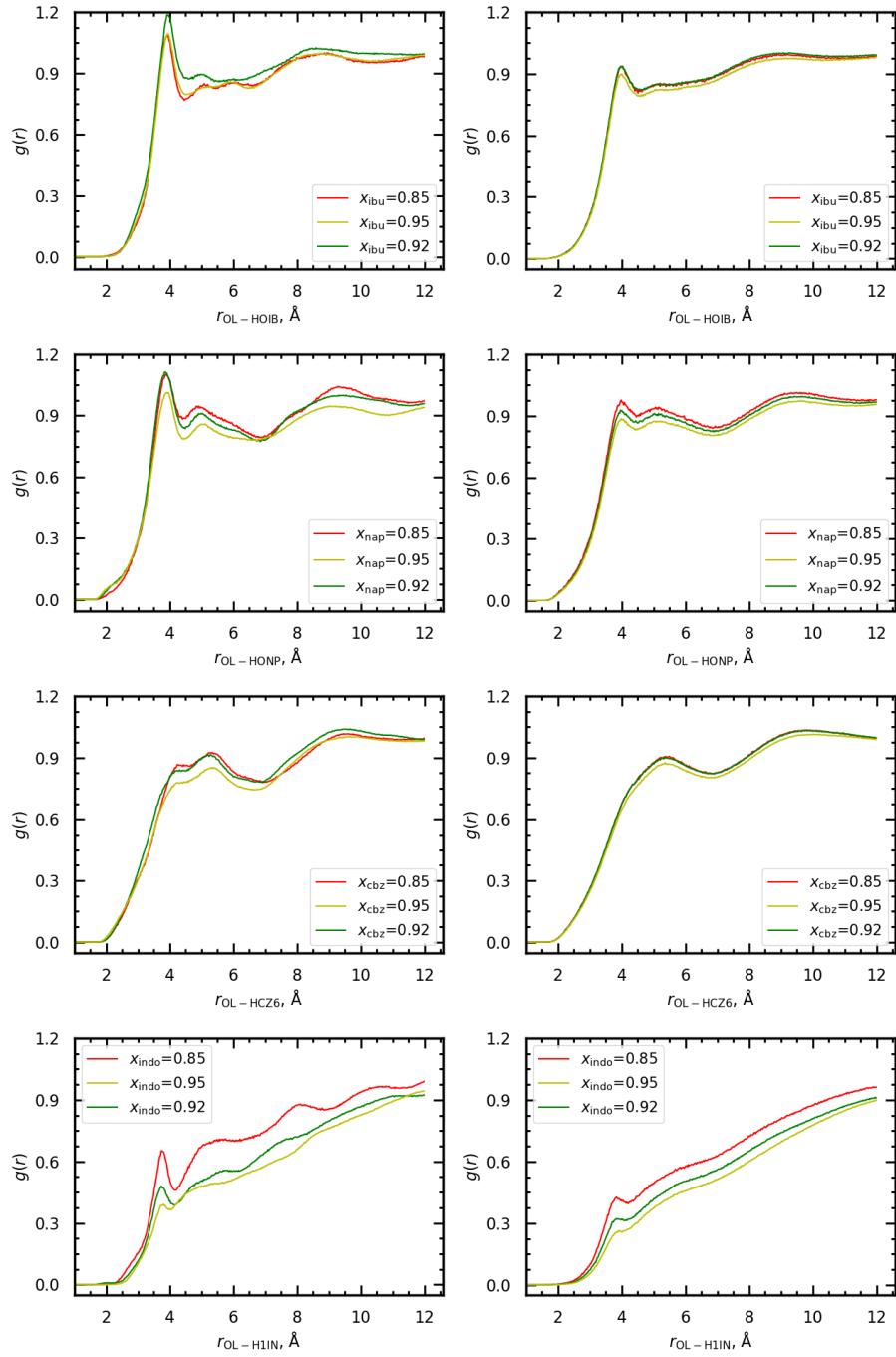


Figure 14: Radial distribution function of the interaction between hydrogen atoms and oxygen atom bonded by ether bond in PLA, first ibuprofen on top, second naproxen, third carbamazepine and indomethacine in the bottom, temperature 300 K on the left and 500 K on the right.

5 Calculated properties of mixtures

Mixing energies and volumes were calculated for both systems, and the comparison is shown in Table 1. The data show that a mixture of naproxen and PLA can create a more advantageous arrangement of molecules in space, meaning that the mixing volumes are negative. For carbamazepine the trend is the opposite; this could be caused by the shape of the carbamazepine molecule when the mixture needs more space. From the positive changes in energies, we can assume that mixing the APIs with PLA can reduce the interactions between API-API molecules, and also that new interactions between API and PLA are not developed in order to compensate for the API-API cohesion.

Table 1: Calculated mixing energies and volumes for API mixtures of different concentrations, simulations under 500 K.

API	x_{API}	$V_{\text{m, mixing}}, \text{cm}^3/\text{mol}$	$E_{\text{m, mixing}}, \text{kJ/mol}$
carbamazepine	0.85	0.97	4.79
	0.92	0.48	3.17
	0.95	0.21	2.68
naproxen	0.85	-7.07	7.50
	0.92	-8.50	6.24
	0.95	-9.85	4.75

5.0.1 dodatkove energie a objemy

5.0.2 Tg skelny prechod

The glass transition temperatures of the systems with the lowest API concentration were also calculated from simulated annealing simulation using the hyperbolic fit described in the methodology. The resulting value for carbamazepine is $T_{\text{g, cbz}} = 385 \pm 4$ (k = 2) and for naproxen is $T_{\text{g, nap}} = 365 \pm 2$ (k = 2). As I described above, the standard deviation is underestimated.

5.1 Smesi s polarizovanyem polem

6 CONCLUSION

text

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List of Abbreviations

x position

v velocity

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List of Symbols

x position

v velocity

...

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Appendix A Headline