



université  
PARIS-SACLAY

FACULTÉ DE  
PHARMACIE

D2HP – OTU 05

# Pharmaceutical engineering : practical works

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Team. Improvement of the transport of biologically active drugs  
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**FOCUS ON TABLETS FOR  
CONTROLLED RELEASE**



# PLANNING

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## Timetable D2HP– 2024/2025

		Room	
08 nov. 2024	13h30 – 16h45	1402a	Intro + Matrix class (EBM)
14 nov. 2024	13h30 – 16h45	4208 a et 4208b	Tutorial: Preparation to Practical (EBM)
18 nov. 2024	9h30 – 12h45	4208 a et 4208b	PW Matrix group 1 (EBM)
22 nov. 2024	13h30 – 17h45	4208 a et 4208b	PW Matrix group 1 (EBM)
29 nov. 2024	9h00 – 12h15	4208 a et 4208b	PW Matrix group 1 (JPM)
29 nov. 2024	13h30 – 17h45	4208 a et 4208b	PW Matrix group 2 (EBM)
03 dec. 2024	13h30 – 17h45	4208 a et 4208b	PW Matrix group 2 (EBM)
04 dec. 2024	9h30 – 12h45	4208 a et 4208b	PW Matrix group 2 (EBM)

*EBM : Eloisa Berbel Manaia*

*JPM : Jean Philippe Michel*

*Note: Groups will be formed during the first class.*

### Evaluation:

- report of Practical classes
- participation at the tutorial and PW



# GROUPES

1	AWAD SALMAN	Diana
2	AZEEM	Muhammad
3	Batool	Farwa
4	Bharwani	Ziyana
5	BRIKA	Eleanna
6	CHAIB	Kinda
7	EL HAJJ	Liana
8	Eze	Chinwendu
9	Habinger	Leila
10	Iusupova	Madina
11	KAZMA	Marwa
12	Khan	Insharah
13	KHANGTRAGOOL	Waristha
14	LE	Hoang Linh
15	Mourad	Reem
16	NGUYEN	Lucie
17	NOOH	Mdrmah
18	REZA Md.	Sakib
19	RODRIGUEZ LUA	Karen
20	TEOVA GONZALEZ	Veneta
21	Toshtemirov	Shuhtrat
22	TULEGENOVA	Alina
23	WONG	Zhi Chin
24	ZELMANOVICH	Maya

Groupe 1



Groupe 2



- Respect your groupe Practical classes
- Practical classes are mandatory



# AGENDA

1. **Introduction**
2. **Matrix tablets: overview**
3. **Inert matrix tablets**
4. **Swellable matrix tablets**
5. **Erodible matrix tablets**
6. **Other excipients / some reminders on tablets**
7. **Controls**
8. **Conclusion**



# CONVENTIONNAL DDS\*

\* DDS = Drug Delivery Systems

## Oral route (ex: solutions, tablets, capsules)

- Easy to use
- Good compliance
- Exposure to digestive fluids
- Low absorption of some API (Mw, low water solubility))



## Parenteral (ex: solution for IV injection)

- Rapid action
- No absorption step
- Lower compliance
- Rapid clearance

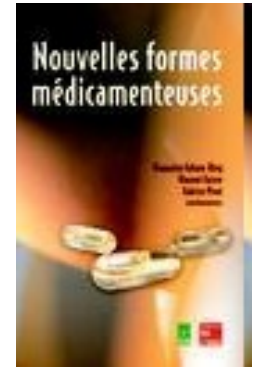


 Absorption and distribution depend essentially on the API physico-chemical properties.

# NOVEL DDS



**The DDS  
(shape, size, excipients...)  
controls API release and/or  
distribution into body**



1985.....2004



## Monolithic DDS

- Matrix tablets
- Reservoirs
- Inserts, implants
- Adhesive systems

## Divided DDS

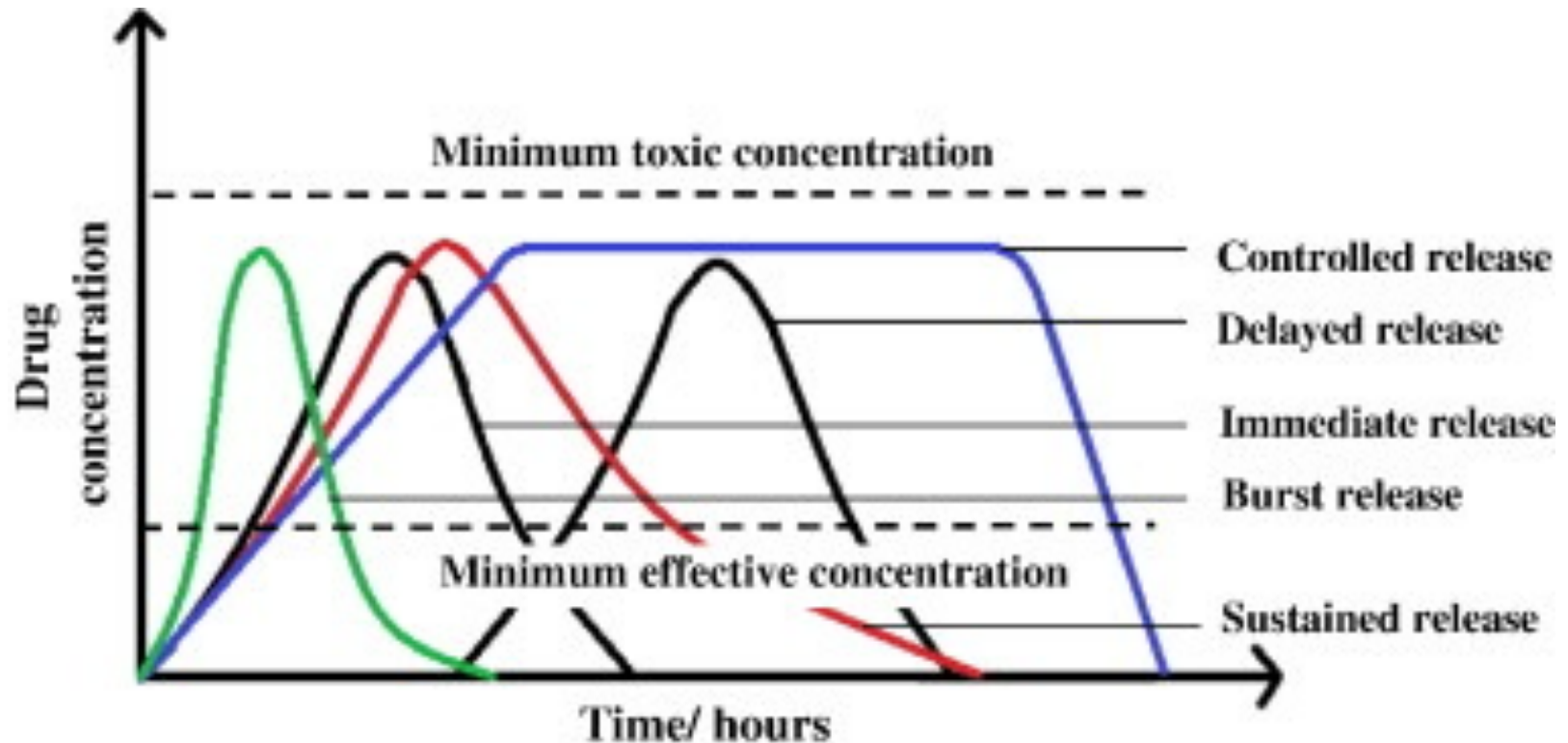
- Microparticles (“simples”, bioadhesives, implantables)

## Colloïdal drug carriers

- Nanoparticles
- Liposomes



# MODIFIED RELEASE DDS

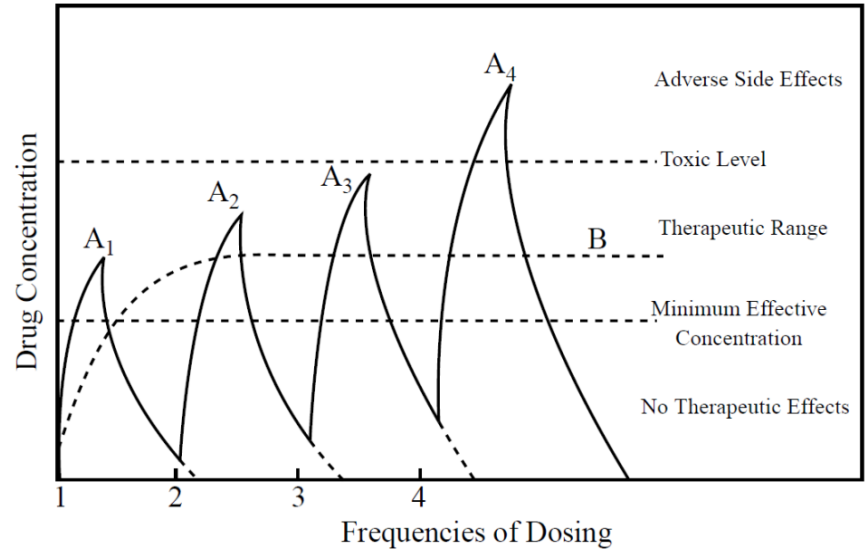
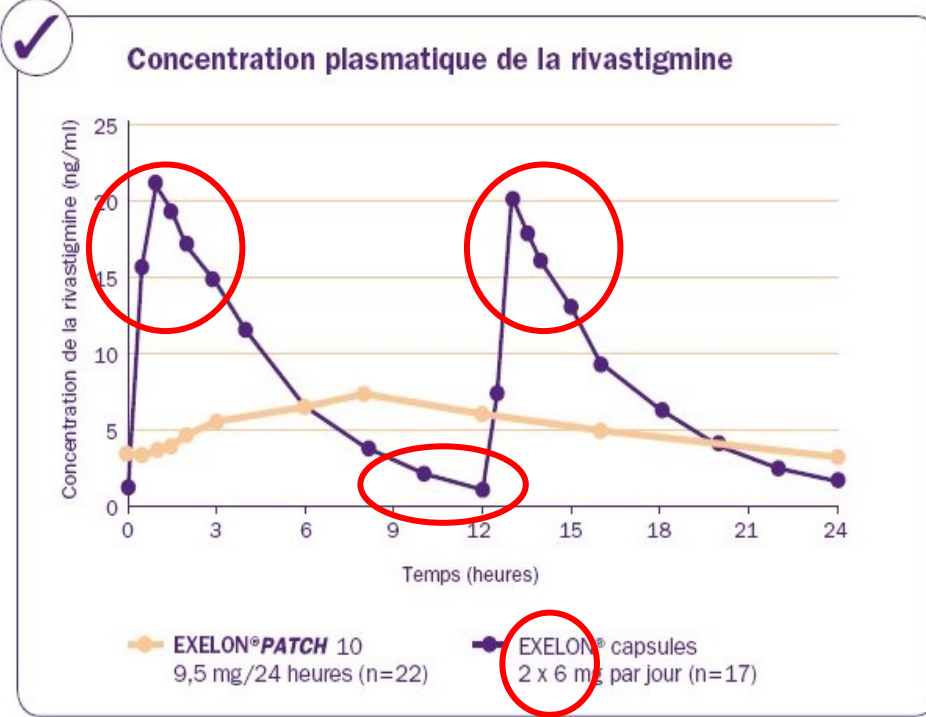


In Eur. Ph. « modified release » because of modification of...

- release rate
- release site
- release moment



# MODIFIED RELEASE DDS



D'après Cummings et al.<sup>4</sup>

Therapy for Alzheimer's disease



**A lot of commercial products**

LP,  
Chrono,  
CR,  
Retard,

...





# MODIFIED RELEASE DDS

## Advantages

- Compliance
- Lower amount of API delivered per unit of time
- Reduction in the incidence and severity of both local and systemic side effects
- Reduced blood level oscillation (night)
- Economy
- ...

## Limitations

- Accumulation (in case of slow elimination)
- Overdosage (default, bad use)
- Problem in case of intolerance or « poisoning »
- Size of the dosage form
- Complex formulation development
- ...



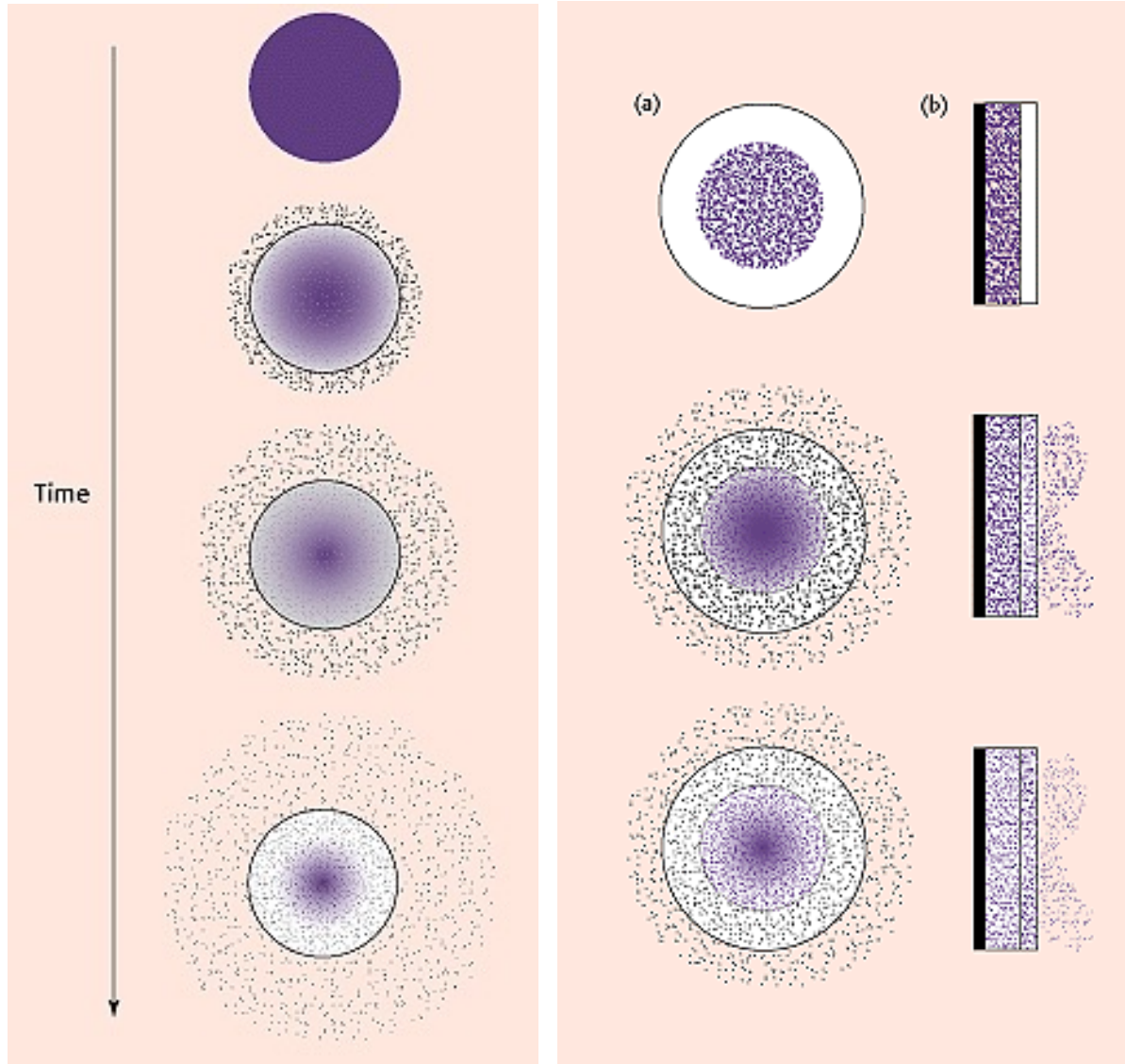
# TWO DESIGNS

*In case of tablets:  
obtained by compression*

**Matrix**

**Reservoir**

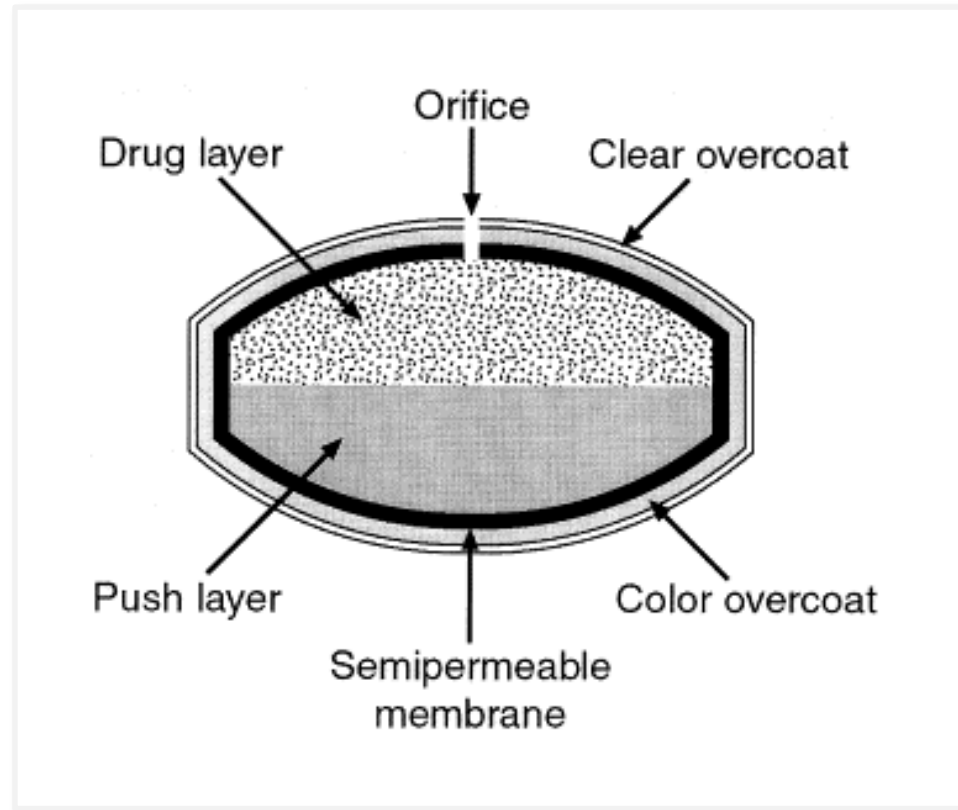
*In case of tablets:  
obtained by coating*



# OTHER CR TABLETS

More original systems

Ex: - **Osmotic-controlled Release Oral delivery Systems**



- **Prolonged gastric residence time**

...



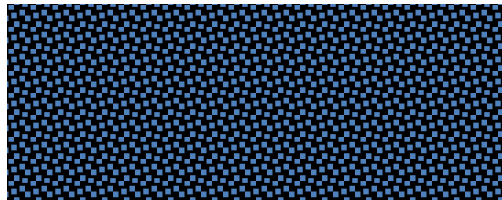
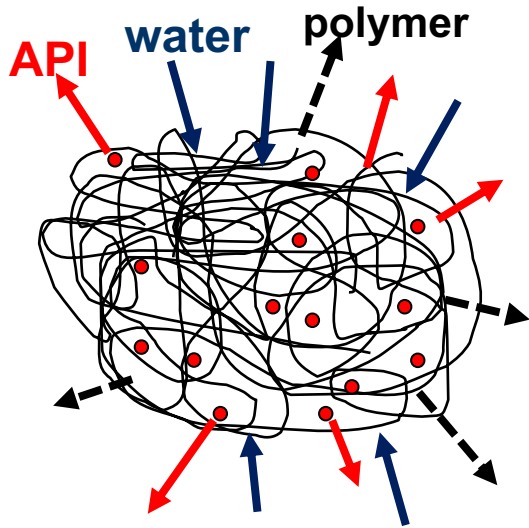
# AGENDA

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2. Matrix tablets: overview
3. Inert matrix tablets
4. Swellable matrix tablets
5. Erodible matrix tablets
6. Other excipients / some reminders on tablets
7. Controls
8. Conclusion

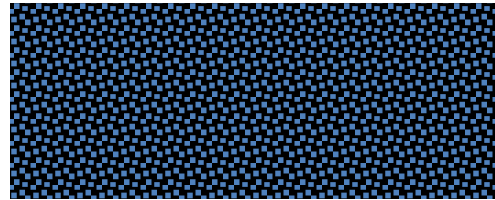
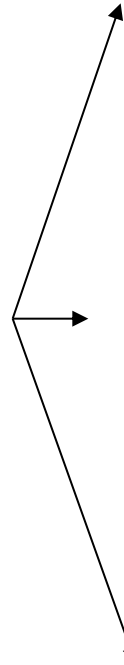


# MATRIX TABLETS

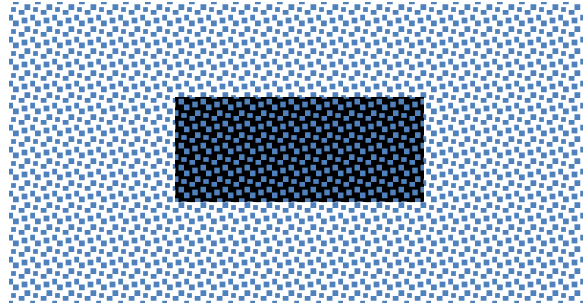
Release controlled by diffusion mechanism into polymer network



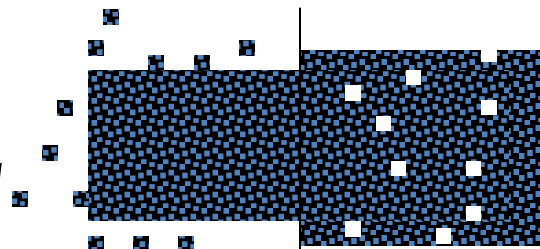
+ dissolution medium



Inert Matrix tablet



Matrix tablet with swelling



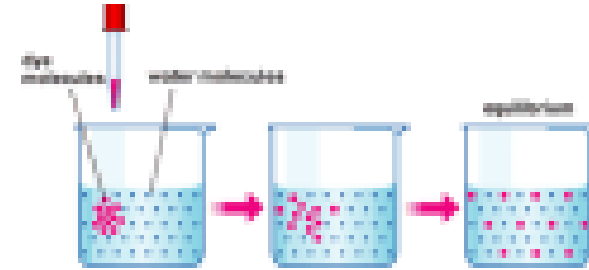
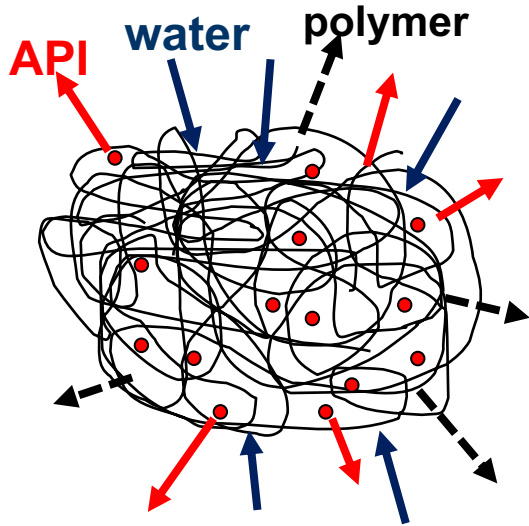
Matrix tablet with erosion

Surface

Bulk



# CRITICAL POINT: DIFFUSION PROCESSES



For all the diffusing species, the diffusion rate follows the Fick law:

$$\frac{dQ}{dt} = -S \cdot D \cdot \frac{dc}{dx}$$

$S$  = Diffusion surface

$D$  = Diffusion coefficient

$dc/dx$  = Concentration gradient

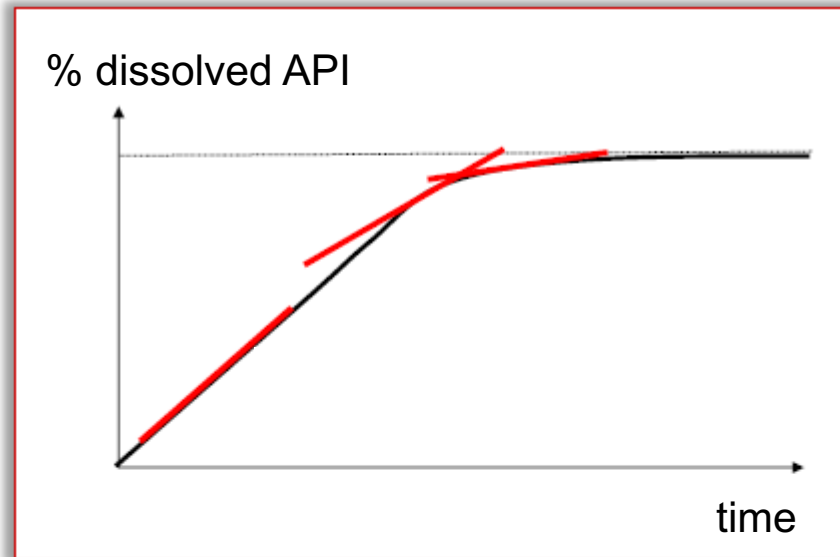
**Into matrices, modulation of the diffusion coefficient  $D$**



# RELEASE KINETICS ORDERS

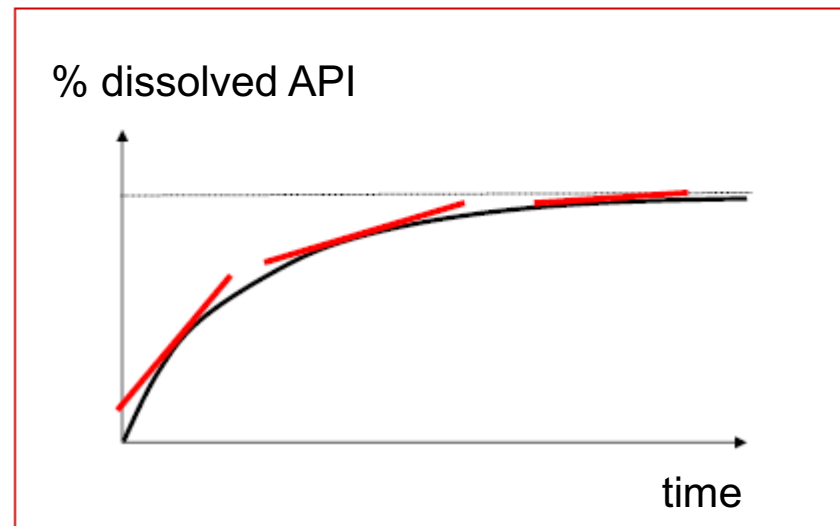
## Zero-order

Release rate is constant  
(except at the end)



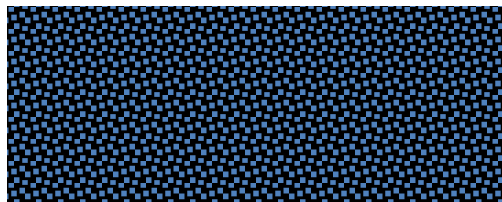
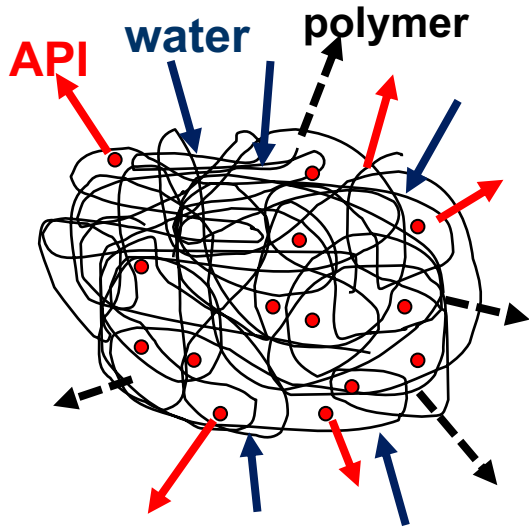
## First-order

Release rate decreases with  
time

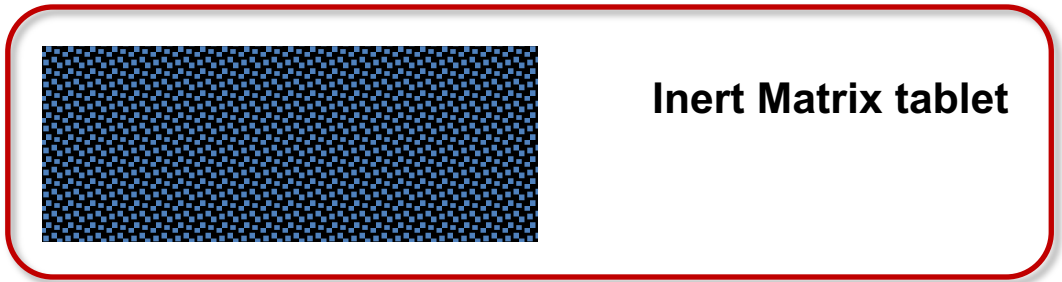


# MATRIX TABLETS

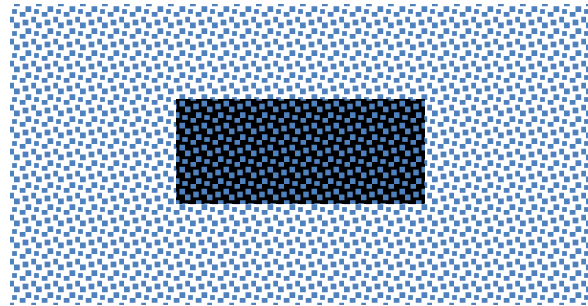
Release controlled by diffusion mechanism into polymer network



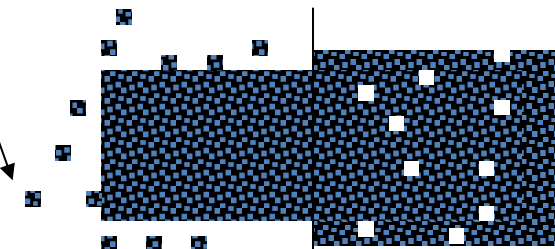
+ dissolution medium



Inert Matrix tablet



Matrix tablet with swelling



Matrix tablet with erosion

Surface

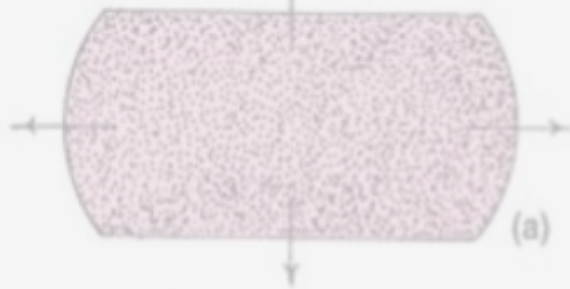
Bulk





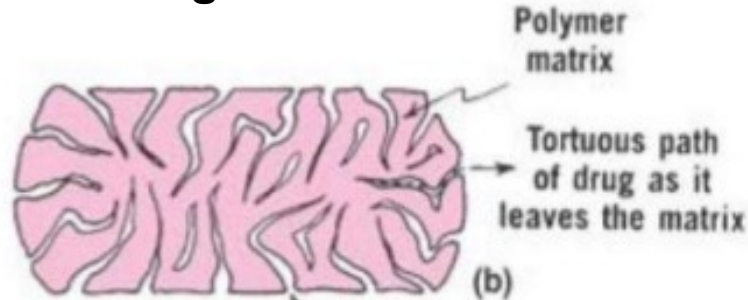
# INERT MATRIX TABLETS

Homogeneous matrix

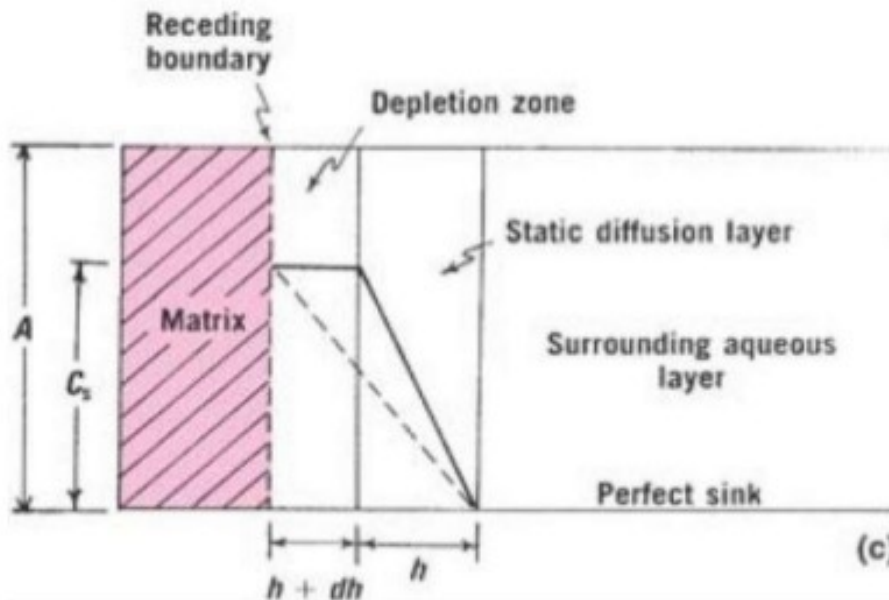


Drug eluted from homogeneous polymer matrix

Heterogeneous matrices



Liquid enters pores to leach out drug



**Noyes-Withney**

$$\frac{dC}{dt} = \frac{DS(C_s - C_t)}{h}$$

the **rate of dissolution** of a solid is dependent upon its **solubility**, the **concentration of solute in solution at a particular time**, diffusivity, and the **surface area of the solid**

Thickness of diffusion layer ( $h$ ) (i.e. rate of agitation or stirring). The saturation solubility of a drug is a key factor in the Noyes-Whitney equation. The driving force for dissolution is the concentration gradient across the boundary layer.

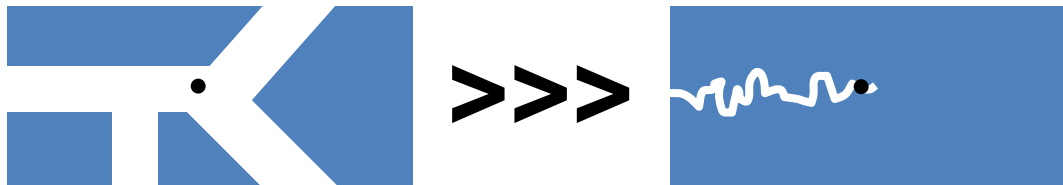


# HETEROGENEOUS INERT MATRIX

In heterogeneous inert matrices, dissolved API diffuse through the pore

The API diffusion coefficient depends on matrix porosity ( $\varepsilon$ ) and tortuosity ( $\tau$ )

$$D_{eff.} = \frac{\varepsilon}{\tau} D_{API \text{ into diss.med.}}$$



# HETEROGENEOUS INERT MATRIX

Higuchi simplified model for heterogeneous inert matrices:  
ex: Ethylcellulose

if  $Q$  is the released amount per surface ( $S$ ) at time ( $t$ ),

Then

$$Q / S = \left[ D_{PA} \cdot C_S \cdot (\varepsilon / \tau) \cdot (2 \cdot A - \varepsilon \cdot C_S) \cdot t \right]^{1/2}$$

with

$D_{PA}$  = diffusion coefficient of the API into the dissolution medium

$A$  = Initial concentration of the API into the matrix

$C_S$  = API solubility into the dissolution medium

$\varepsilon$  = matrix porosity

$\tau$  = matrix tortuosity

*Hypothesis:*

- one-direction release
- Sink conditions
- Instantaneous dissolution of the API
- ...



# INERT MATRIX - POROSITY

Épaisseur du lit de poudre

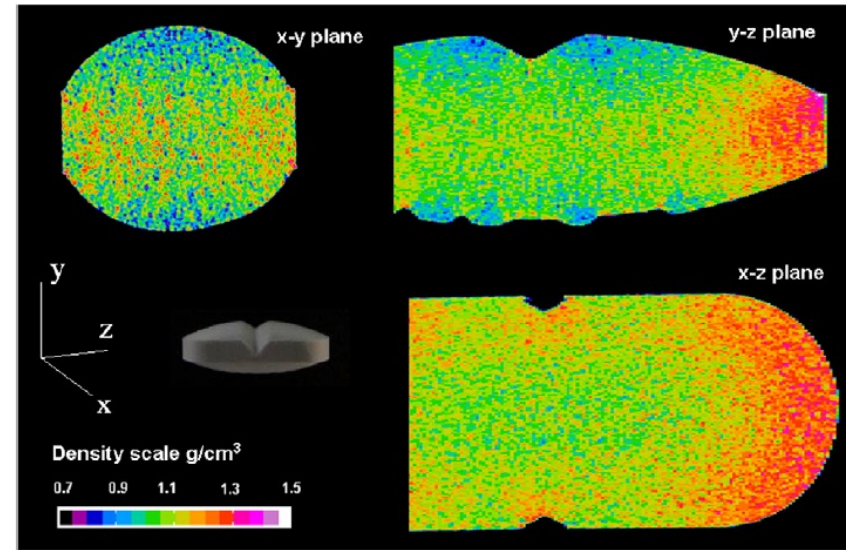
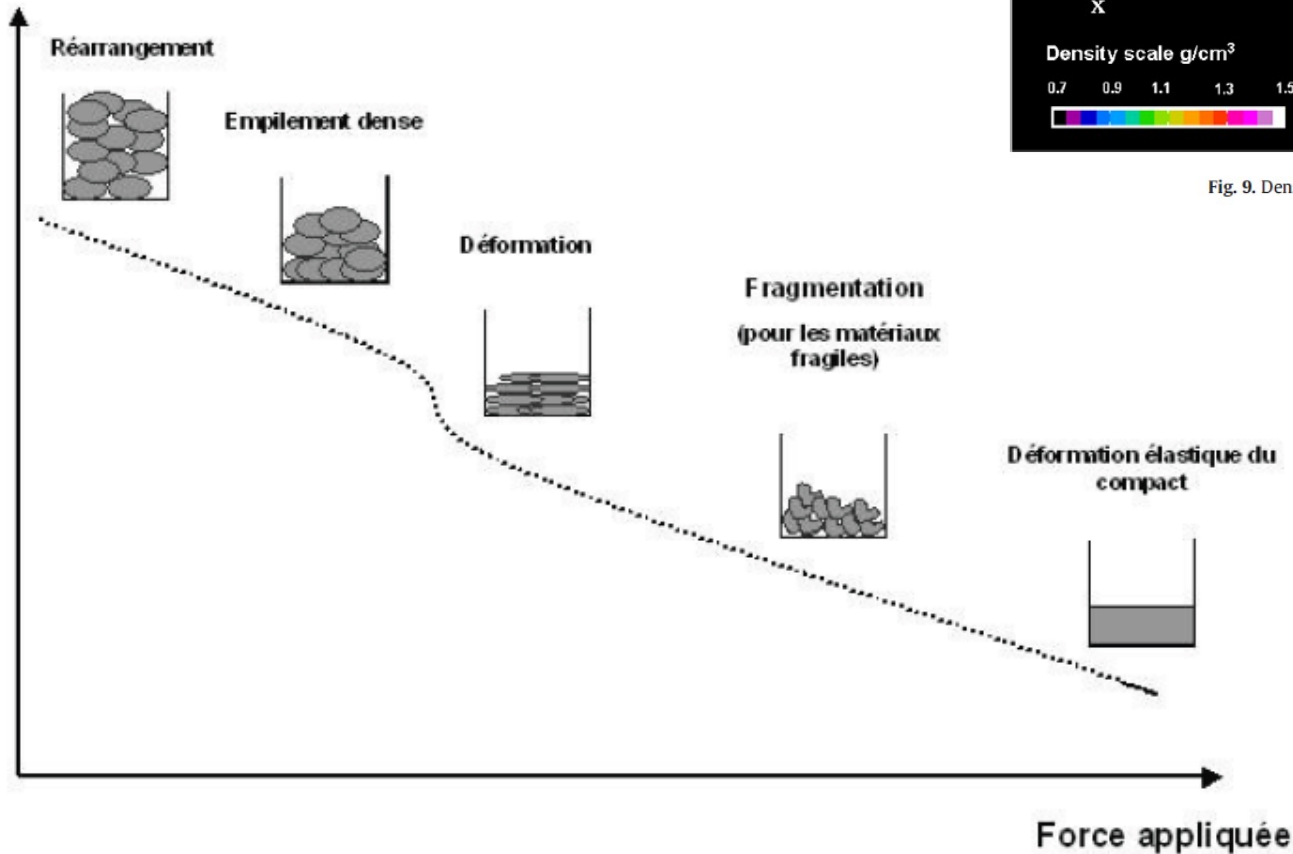
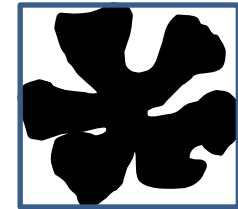
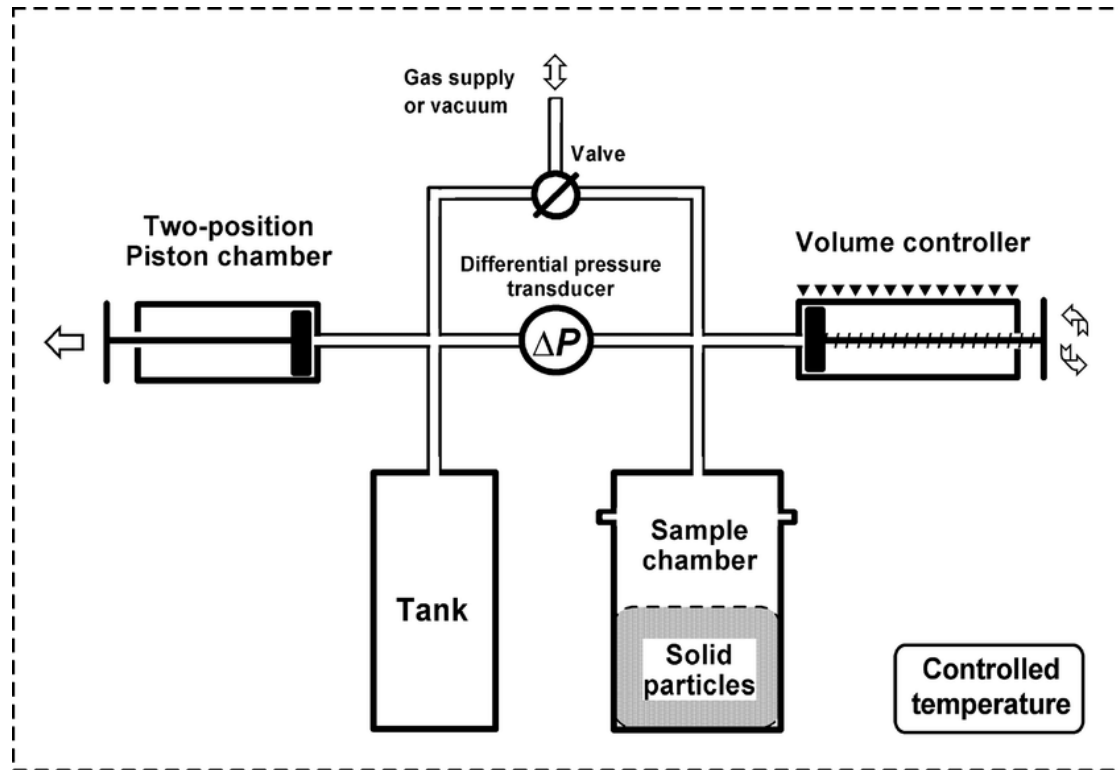


Fig. 9. Density distribution in tablets using X-ray CT [19].



# INERT MATRIX - POROSITY

- Pycnometry (gaz or liquid)



$$\text{Compacity (\%)} = (D_{\text{compact after ejection}} / D_{\text{pycnometry}}) \times 100$$

$$\text{Porosity (\%)} = \varepsilon = 100 - \text{compacity}$$



# INERT MATRIX - POROSITY

Effect of compression force on starch tablets

Porosity

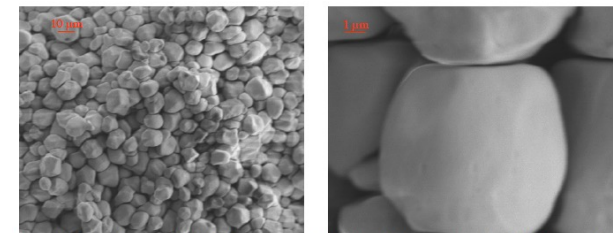
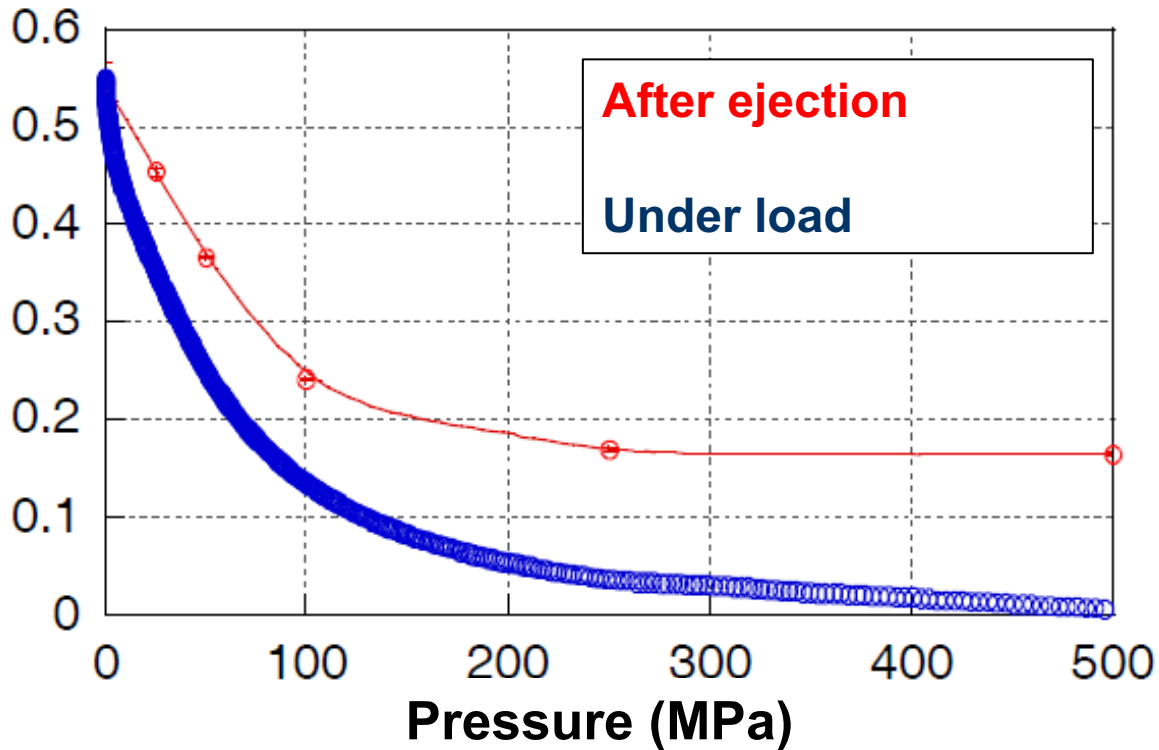


figure B.15a : photographie MEB d'un comprimé d'amidon CS de porosité relaxée 24 % (à gauche) avec un zoom sur un grain d'amidon (à droite)

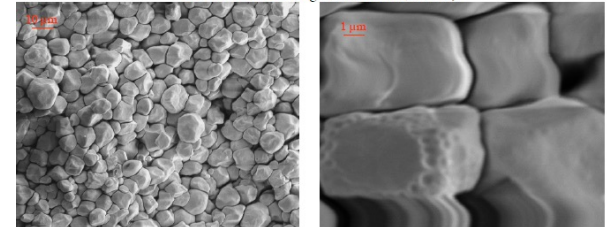


figure B.15b : photographie MEB d'un comprimé d'amidon CS de porosité relaxée 17 % (à gauche) avec un zoom sur un grain d'amidon (à droite)



# INERT MATRICES - POROSITY

## - Porosity: Mercury porosimetry

The relation between the applied pressure and the smallest filled pores is:

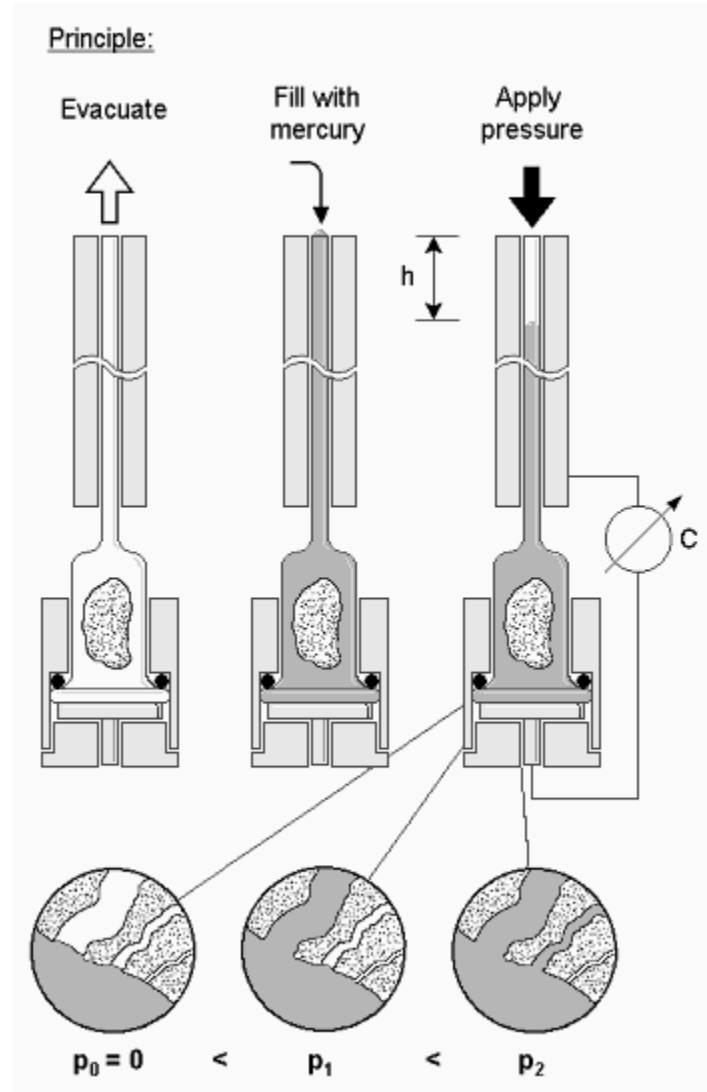
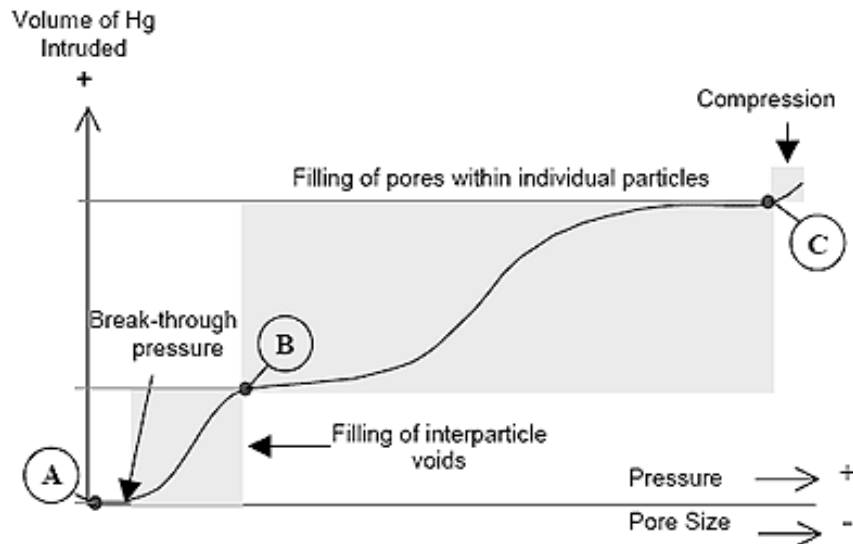
$$p = \frac{2 \sigma \cos \theta}{r} \quad (\text{Washburn})$$

$\sigma$  = Surface tension (0.48 N/m)

$\theta$  = Wetting angle ( $140^\circ$ )

$p$  = Pressure

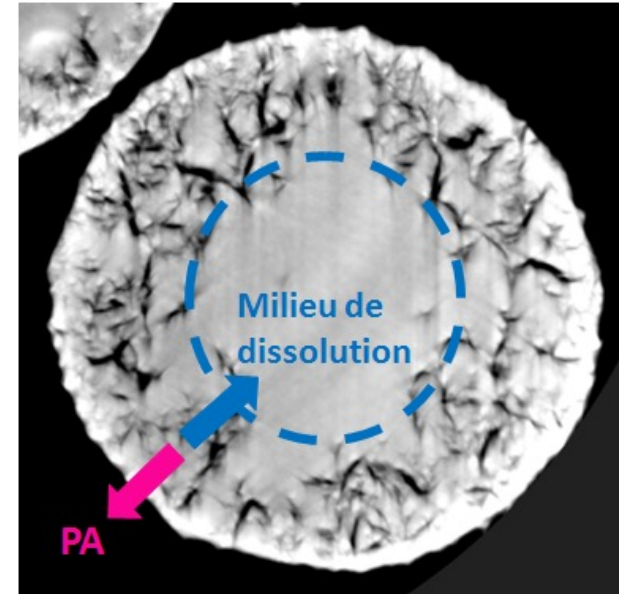
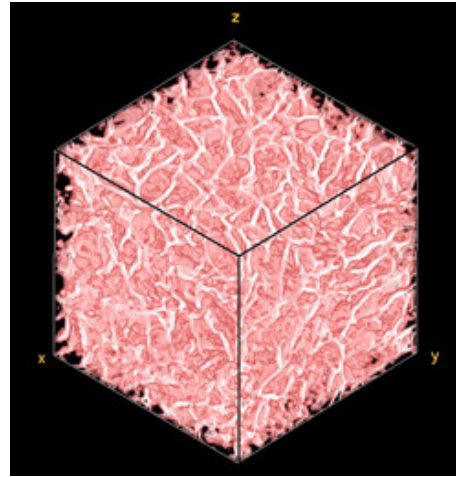
$r$  = Pore radius



# INERT MATRICES - TORTUOSITY

## Experimental quantification

Ex: microtomography X



## Theoretical quantification

$$\frac{1}{\tau} = 1 - \frac{2}{3} (1 + \varepsilon)(1 - \varepsilon)^{2/3}$$

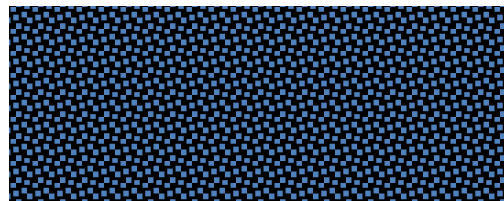
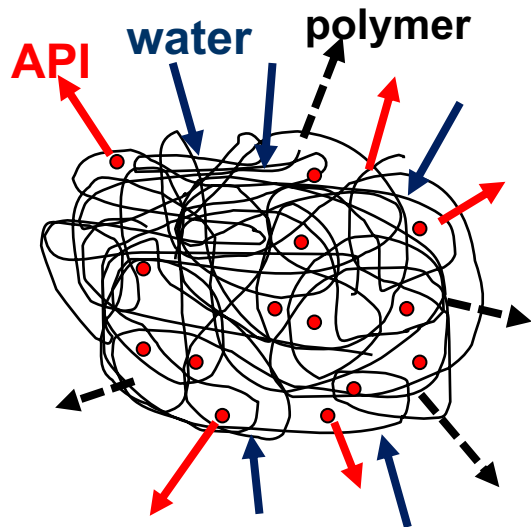
In general between 1 and 3



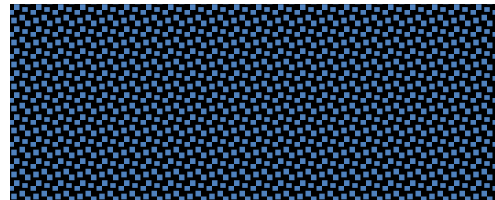


# MATRIX TABLETS

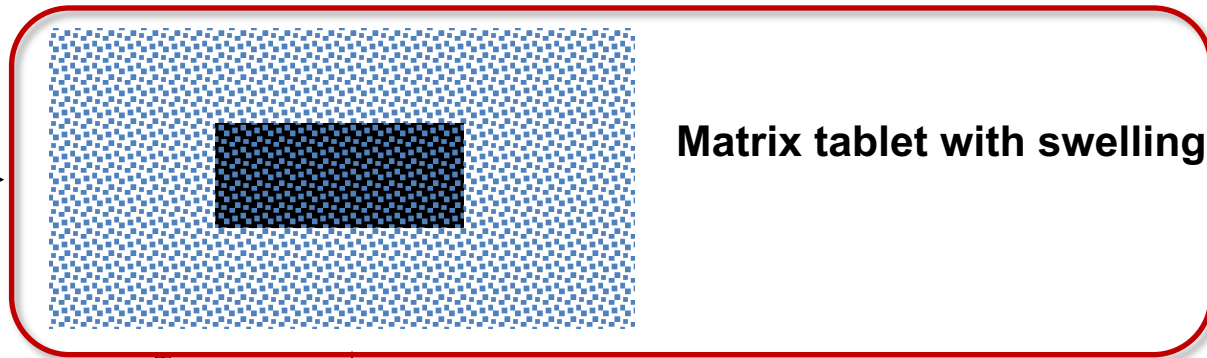
Release controlled by diffusion mechanism into polymer network



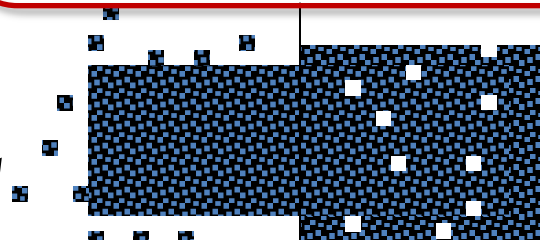
+ dissolution medium



Inert Matrix tablet



Matrix tablet with swelling



Matrix tablet with erosion

Surface

Bulk



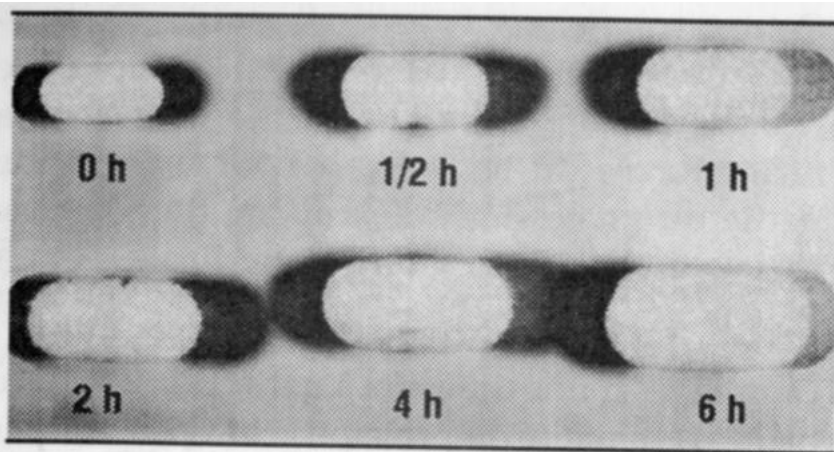
# MATRIX WITH SWELLING

Creation of a gel layer (hydrated polymer with high-molecular weight) at tablet surface.

API release depends on gel layer properties.

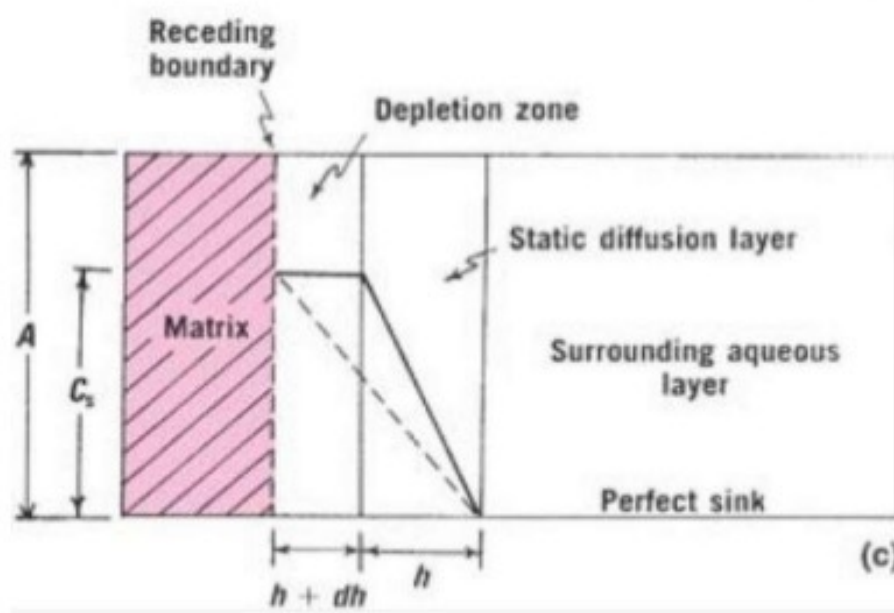
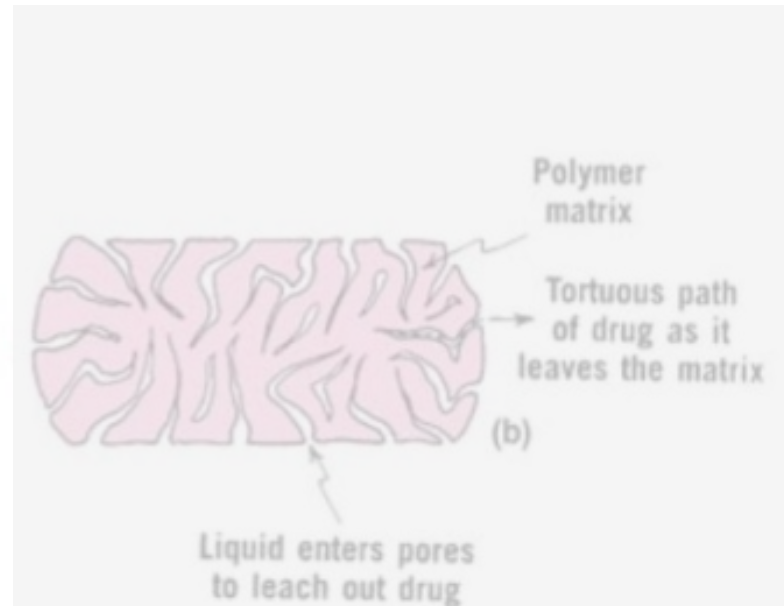
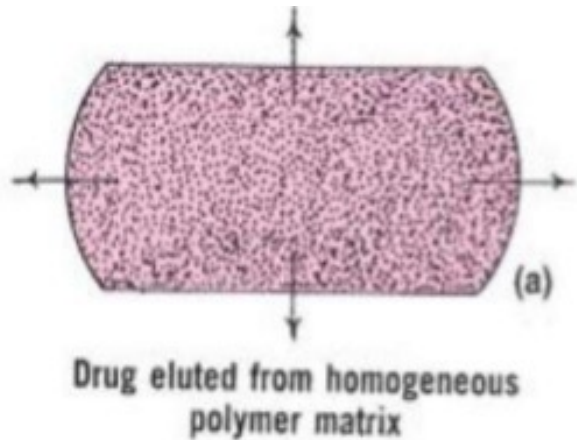
Strong effect of hydrated polymer viscosity on the stability and thickness of this layer or on API diffusion.

Ex: *Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC)*, *hydroxypropylcellulose (HPC)*, ...



# Special case: **HOMOGENEOUS MATRIX**

## Homogeneous matrix



## Noyes-Withney

$$\frac{dC}{dt} = \frac{DS(C_s - C_t)}{h}$$



# Special case: **HOMOGENEOUS MATRIX**

## Higuchi simplified model for homogeneous matrix

if  $Q$  is the released amount per surface ( $S$ ) at time ( $t$ ),

Then

$$Q / S = \left[ D_{PA} \cdot C_S (2 \cdot A - C_S) \cdot t \right]^{1/2}$$

With

$D_{PA}$  = **diffusion coefficient of the API into hydrated polymer**

$A$  = Initial concentration of the API into the matrix

$C_S$  = API solubility into the dissolution medium

*Hypothesis:*

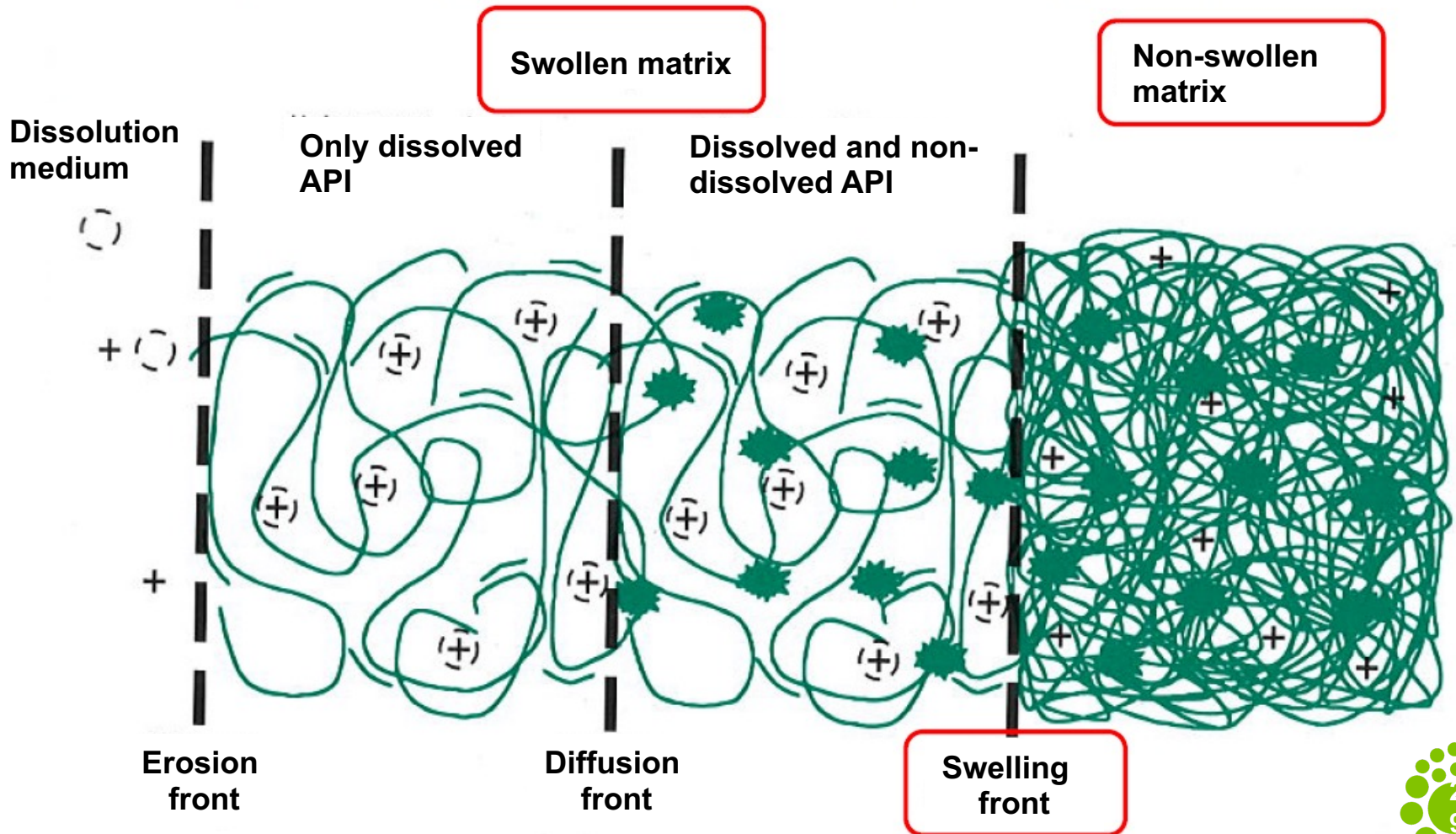
- *one-direction release*
- *Sink conditions*
- ***Instantaneous dissolution of the API***
- ***Instantaneous fully hydration of the polymer***



# MATRIX WITH SWELLING

API

Dissolution medium



# MATRIX WITH SWELLING

## Principal consequences of swelling:

- increase of the diffusion path length for API  
= decrease of the release rate
- increase of polymer chain mobility (and then also for API)  
= increase of the release rate

**Modelisation is complex because of simultaneous phenomena.**

**Simple model: Peppas-Korsmeyer model**

$$M_t/M_\infty = kt^n$$

with  $n = 0,5$  essentially diffusion\* (\* cf. previous slides)

$0,5 < n < 1$  diffusion + polymer relaxation + erosion

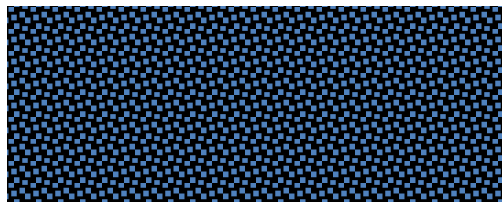
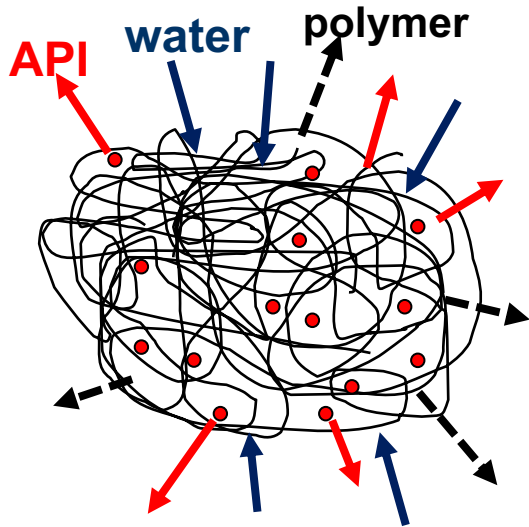
**More complex models exist:**

$$\frac{M_t}{M_\infty} = 4 \left[ \frac{Dt}{\ell^2} \right]^{1/2} \left[ \frac{1}{\pi^{1/2}} + 2 \sum_{n=1}^x (-1)^n \operatorname{ierfc} \left( \frac{n\ell}{2\sqrt{Dt}} \right) \right]$$

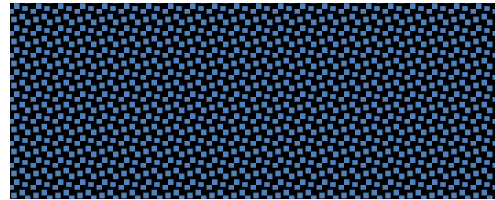


# MATRIX TABLETS

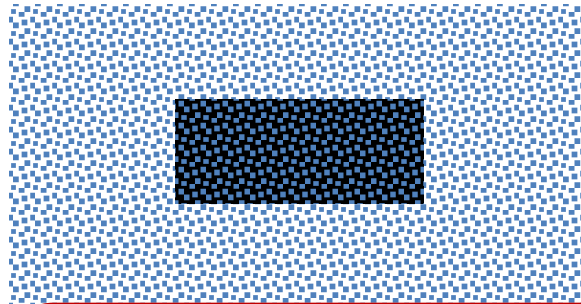
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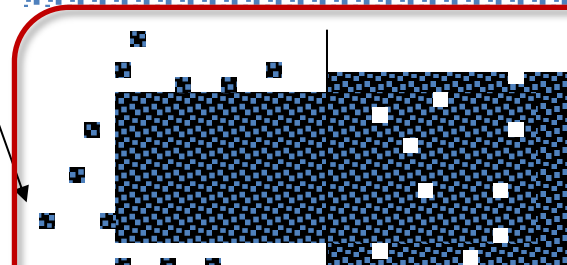
+ dissolution medium



Inert Matrix tablet



Matrix tablet with swelling



Matrix tablet with erosion

Surface

Bulk



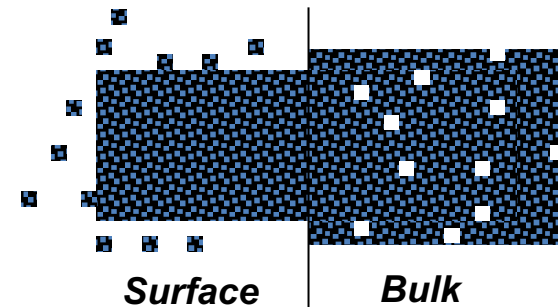
# MATRIX WITH DEGRADATION

- **Erosion** = polymer chain lysis  
Ex.: Poly(lactic-co-glycolic) acids
- **Dissolution** = polymer chain solubilization  
Exemple: Polymethacrylates

Matrix degradation depends on balance between two rates:  
**water penetration vs. polymer dissolution/degradation rates.**

Surface degradation  
Volume degradation

**Erosion kinetics** control the API release



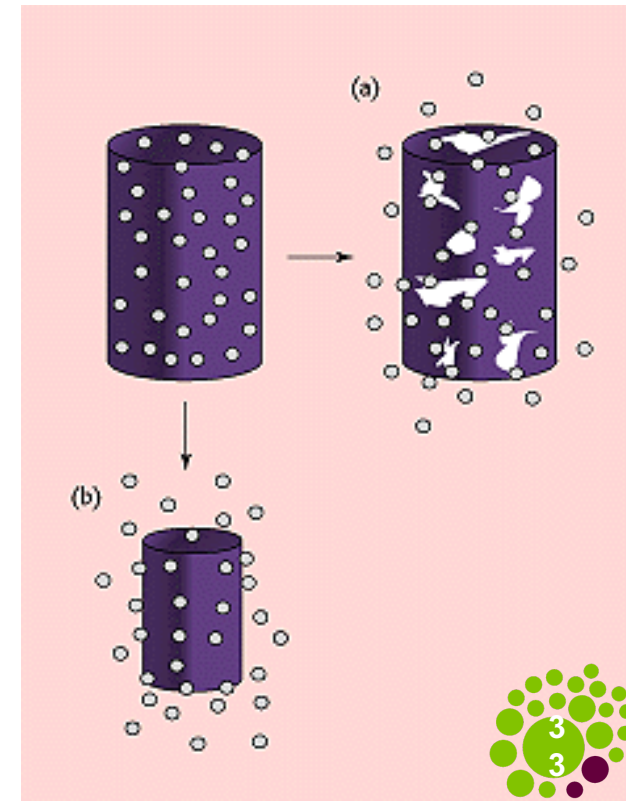
Ex: *Poly(lactic-co-glycolic) acids (PLGA), polymethacrylates, HPMC and HPC with low viscosity, ...*





# MATRIX WITH DEGRADATION

- **HETEROGENEOUS EROSION = Surface erosion**
  - Hydrophobic polymers
  - Physical integrity of the matrix is maintained
  - Zero-order kinetics are possible (erosion  $\gg$  diffusion)
  
- **HOMOGENEOUS EROSION = Volume erosion**
  - More hydrophilic polymer
  - Physical integrity of the matrix is lost
  - Erosion + diffusion
  - Kinetics less related to the time



# PARAMETERS RELATED TO API

## **Solubility**

Only solubilized fraction can diffuse

Dissolution rate increases with solubility

Si solubilité < 0,01 mg/ml, libération souvent incomplète

Influence du pKa

## **Dosage**

If more than 500 mg, hard to formulate matrix

## **Molecular weight**

If > 500 Da, diffusion coefficient into polymer network could be low

## **Granulometry**

Influence intrinsic dissolution of the API



# PARAMETERS RELATED TO POLYMER

**Viscosity**

**Granulometry**

**Crystallinity**

**Glass transition temperature**

**Polymer proportion**

**Interactions with API**

- Cationic polymers (NaCMC, chitosan) + Anionic API
- Carbopol-based matrices + Basic API



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8. Conclusion



# DILUENTS

**Function :** to act as a bulking agent or filling material

**Ideal diluent:** Chemically and physiologically inert  
Easy tabletted  
Inexpensive  
Non-hygroscopic  
Soluble or not, taste, acid or alcalin,...

**Examples:** Starch, Lactose, Sucrose, Glucose, Mannitol, Sorbitol, Calcium Phosphate, Calcium Carbonate, Cellulose...



# DILUENTS

**True density** : The mass of a particle divided by its volume, excluding open and closed pores

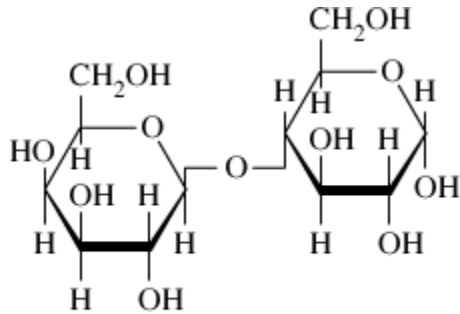
**Bulk density**: The bulk density of a material. It is the ratio of the mass to the volume (including the inter-particle void volume) of an untapped powder sample

**Tapped density** : The tapped density of powders or granulates is an increased bulk density attained after mechanically tapping a cylinder containing the sample.

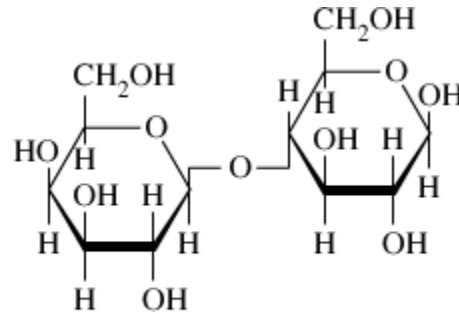


# DILUENTS

## LACTOSE



$\alpha$  - lactose



$\beta$  - lactose

### ***True density***

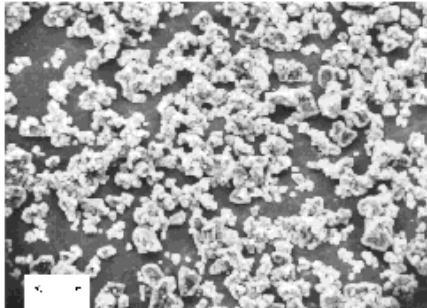
1.540 for  $\alpha$ -lactose monohydrate;  
1.589 for anhydrous  $\beta$ -lactose.

***Bulk density:*** 0.619 g/cm<sup>3</sup> .  
***Tapped density:*** 0.935 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

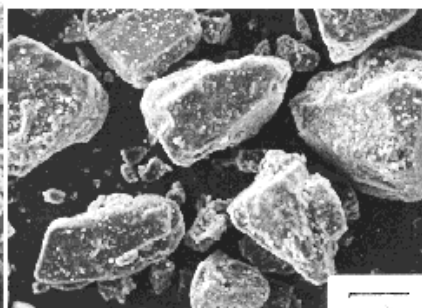
Different kind of lactoses: anhydrous  $\alpha$ -lactose, monohydrate  $\alpha$ -lactose, anhydrous  $\beta$ -lactose (in general 70/30  $\beta/\alpha$  mixtures),...

### Examples of commercial monohydrate lactoses

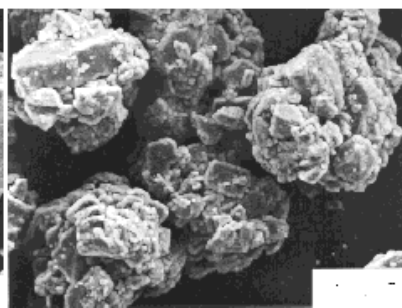
80M



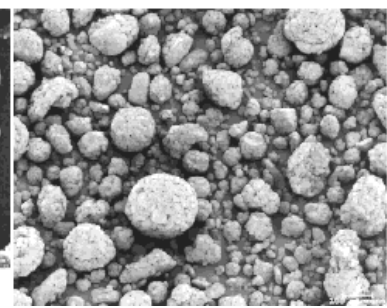
D30



tablettose



Fast-flo

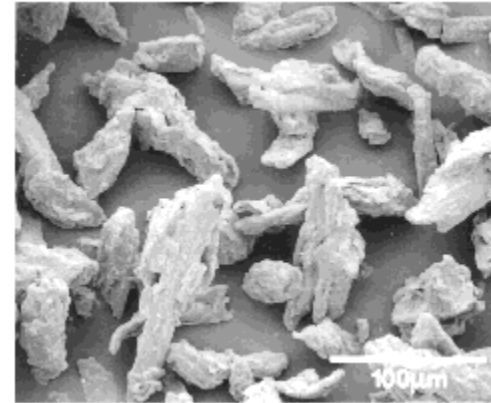
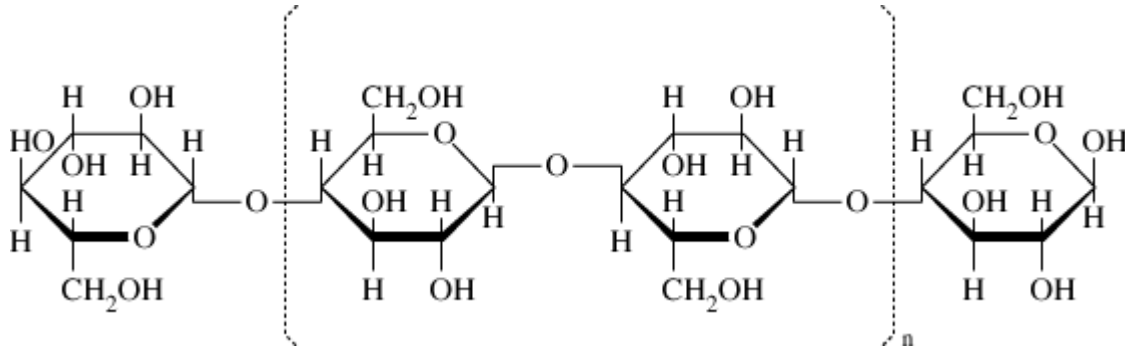


x ~120



# DILUENTS

## MICROCRYSTALLINE CELLULOSE



**Angle of repose:** 34.4° for Emcocel 90M

**Bulk density:**

0.337 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

0.32 g/cm<sup>3</sup> for Avicel PH-101

0.29 g/cm<sup>3</sup> for Emcocel 90M

**Tapped density:**

0.478 g/cm<sup>3</sup>

0.45 g/cm<sup>3</sup> for Avicel PH-101

0.35 g/cm<sup>3</sup> for Emcocel 90M

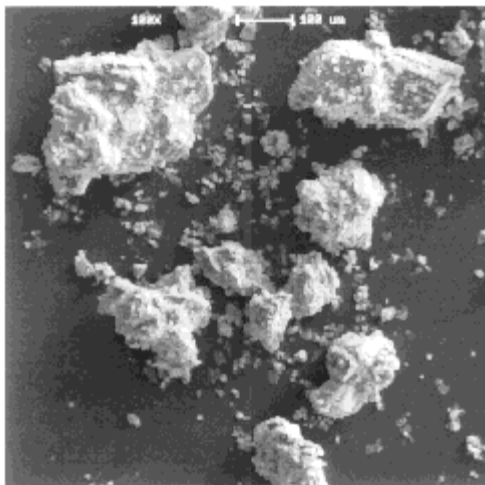
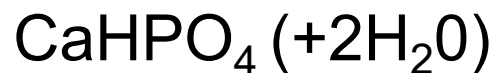
**True density:** 1.512-1.668 g/cm<sup>3</sup>



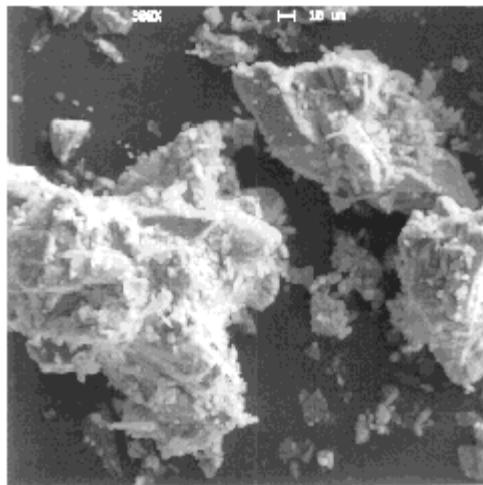


# DILUENTS

## CALCIUM PHOSPHATE (DIHYDRATE)



x 100



x 300

**True density:** 2.89 g/cm<sup>3</sup> for A-TAB  
2.39 g/cm<sup>3</sup> for DI-TAB

**Bulk density:** 0.78 g/cm<sup>3</sup> for A-TAB

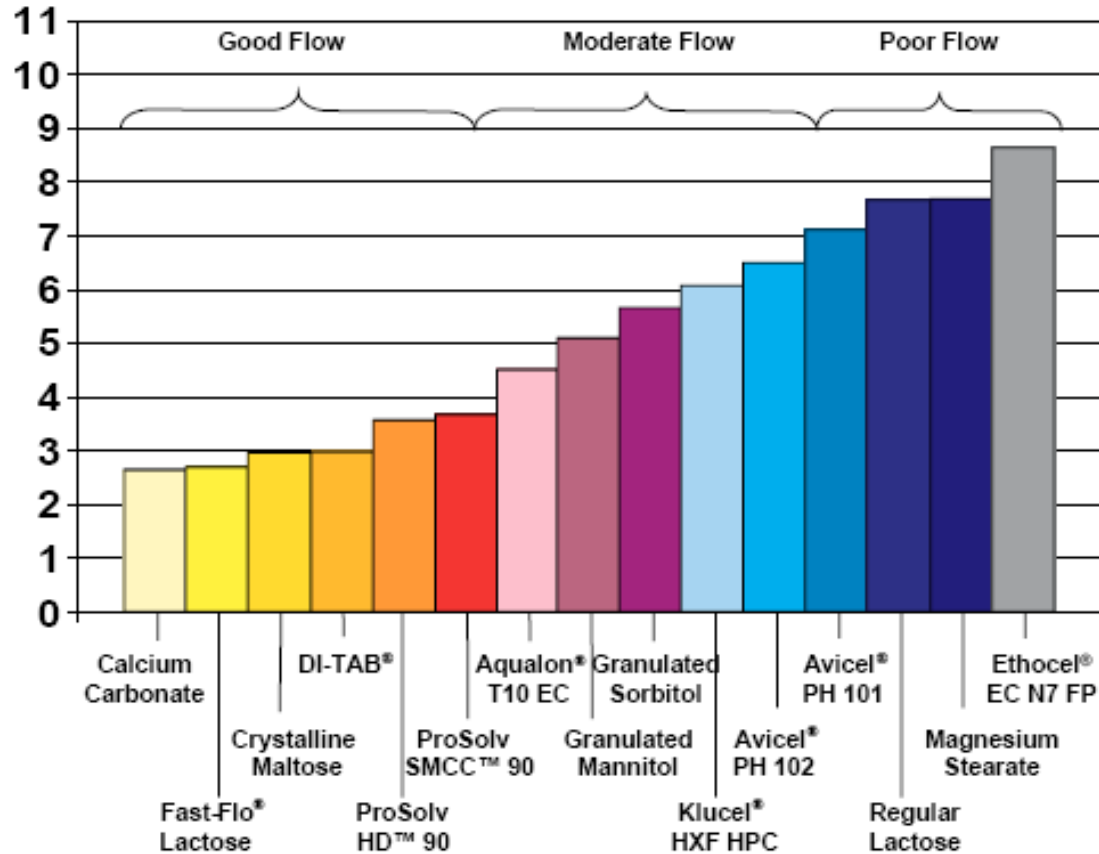
**Tapped density:** 0.82 g/cm<sup>3</sup> for A-TAB



# FLOWABILITY

## Powder Flowability of Pharmaceutical Excipients

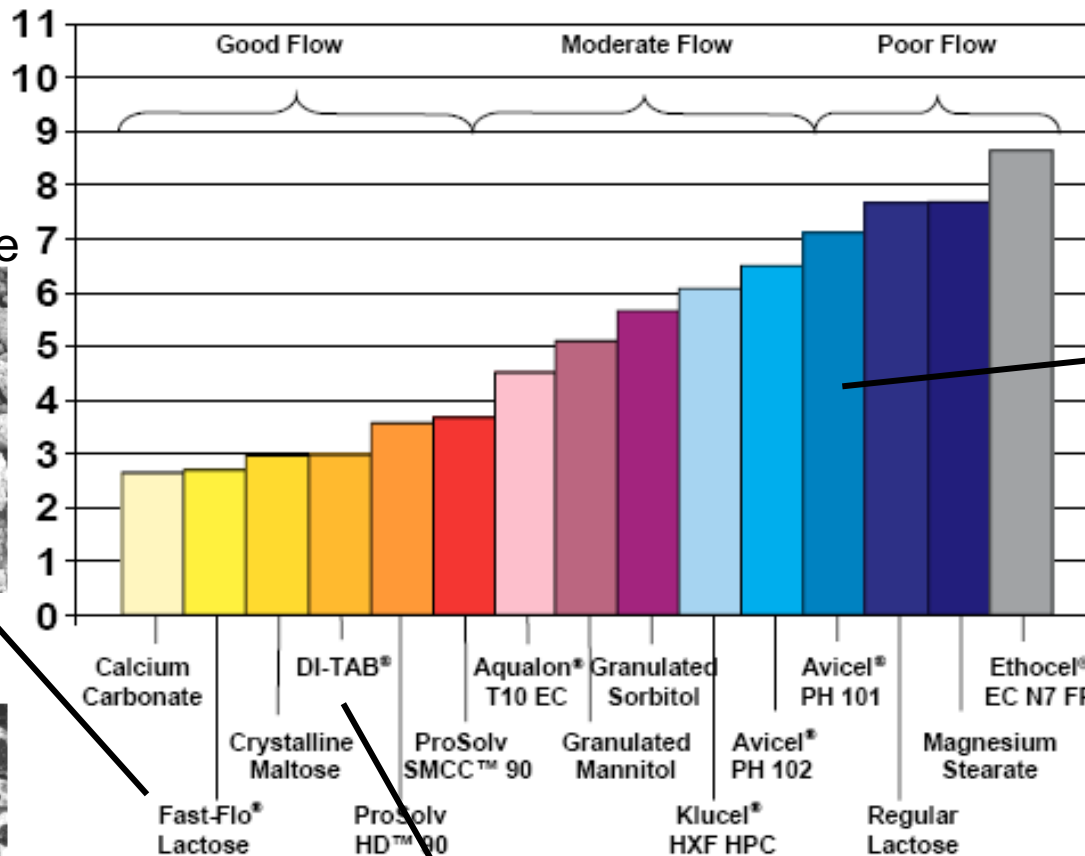
Mean Time to Avalanche (sec)



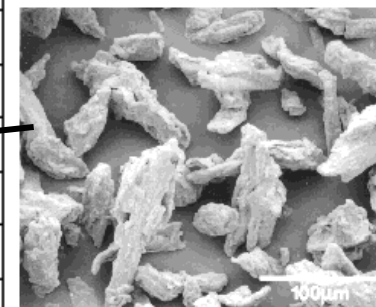
# FLOWABILITY

## Powder Flowability of Pharmaceutical Excipients

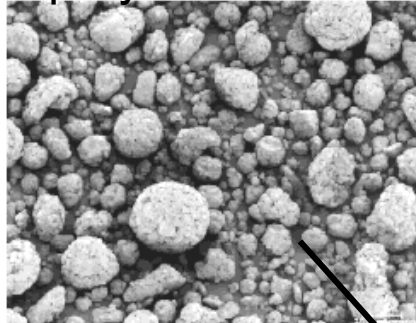
Mean Time to Avalanche (sec)



Avicel

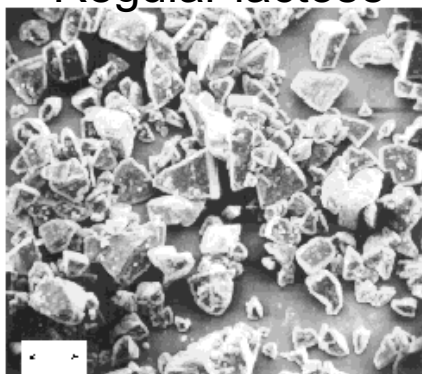


Spray-dried lactose



vs.

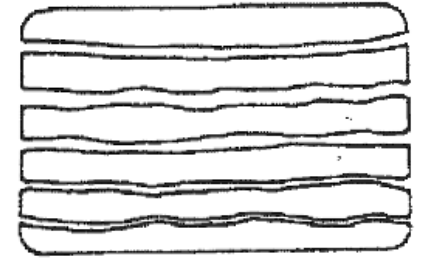
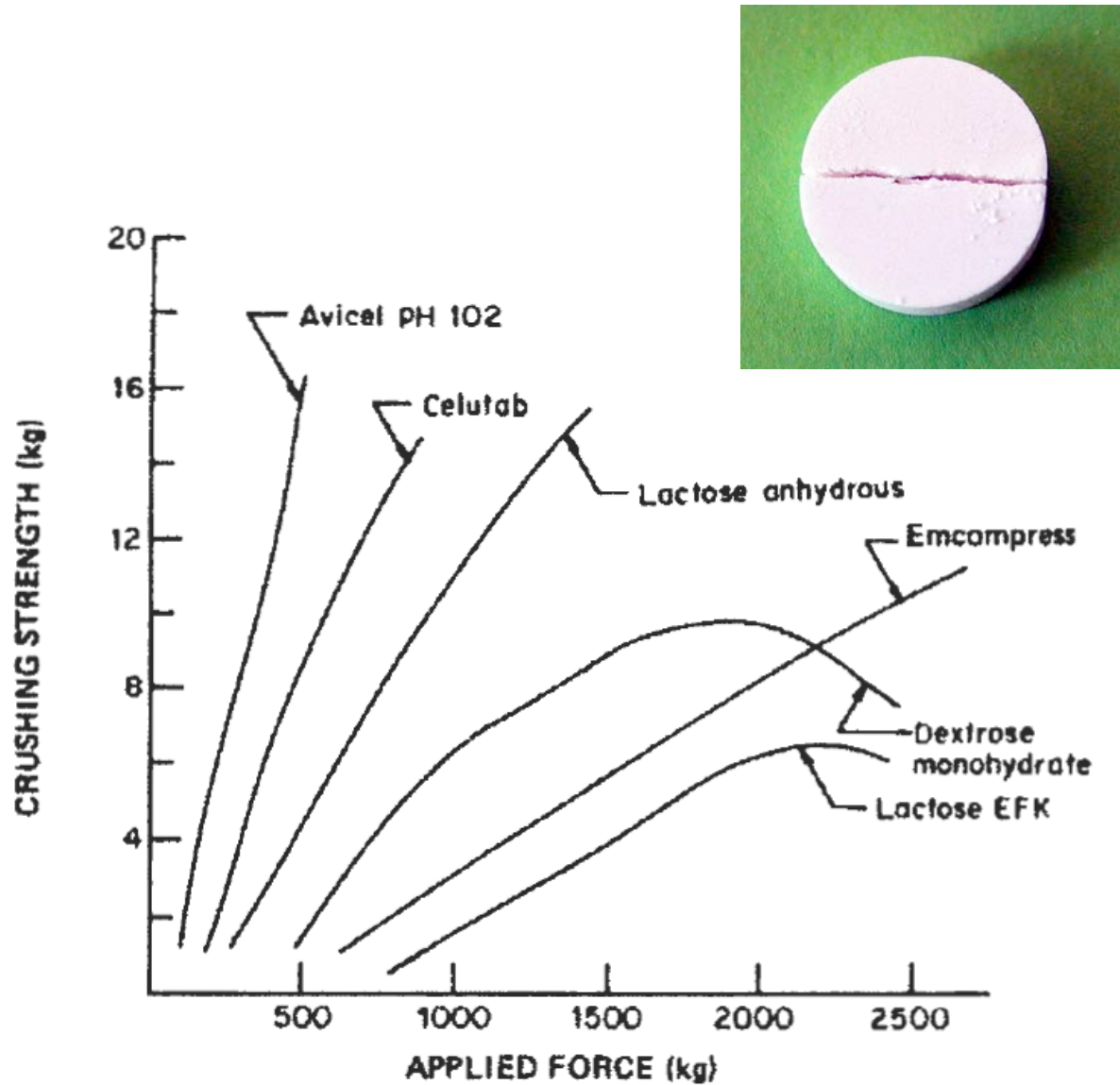
Regular lactose



Calcium phosphate  
Density: 2.89 g/cm<sup>3</sup>



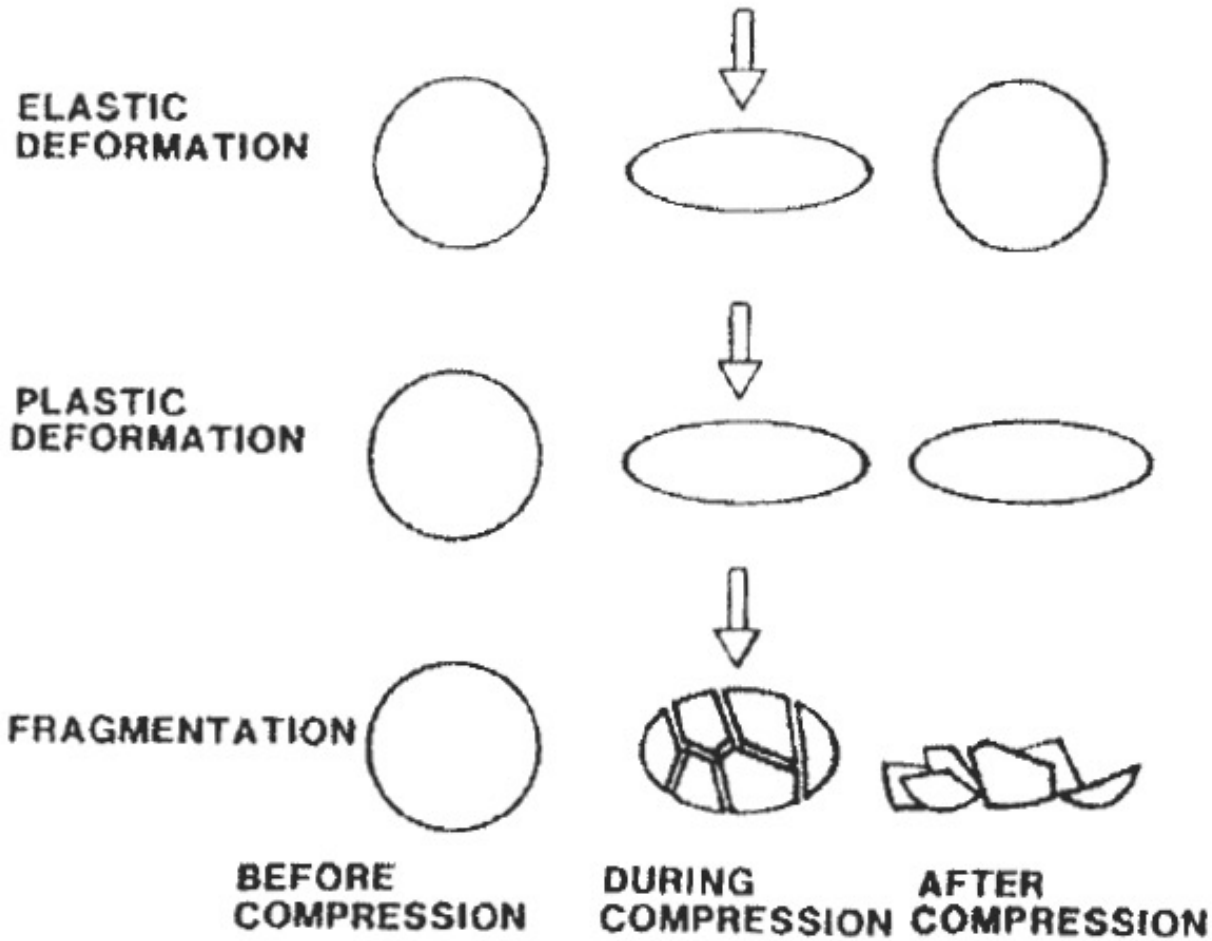
# COMPACTABILITY



Crushing strength vs. applied force for compacts of various materials.



# COMPACTABILITY



Schematical illustration of processes that take place during compression.

# BINDERS

**Functions:** - Bind particles into entangled networks  
- Produce tablets with sufficient hardness

## **Types of binders:**

**Powder** (direct compression, dry granulation)

**Solution** (wet granulation)

## **Examples:**

**Solution** : Gelatin, Cellulose and derivatives, PVP, starch, sucrose, PEG

**Dry**: Cellulose, Methyl cellulose, PVP, PEG



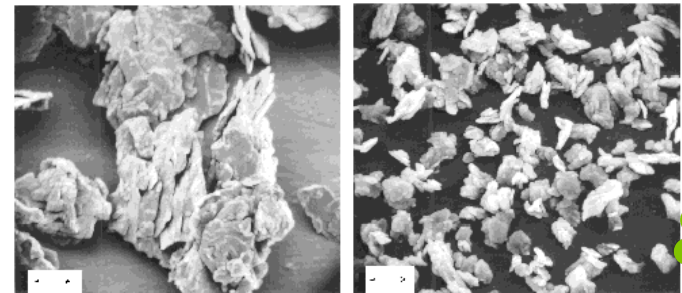
# LUBRICANTS

**Anti-friction:** reduction of the frictions between powder grains or between powder and die wall.

**Anti-adherent:** prevention of powder sticking on die or punches.

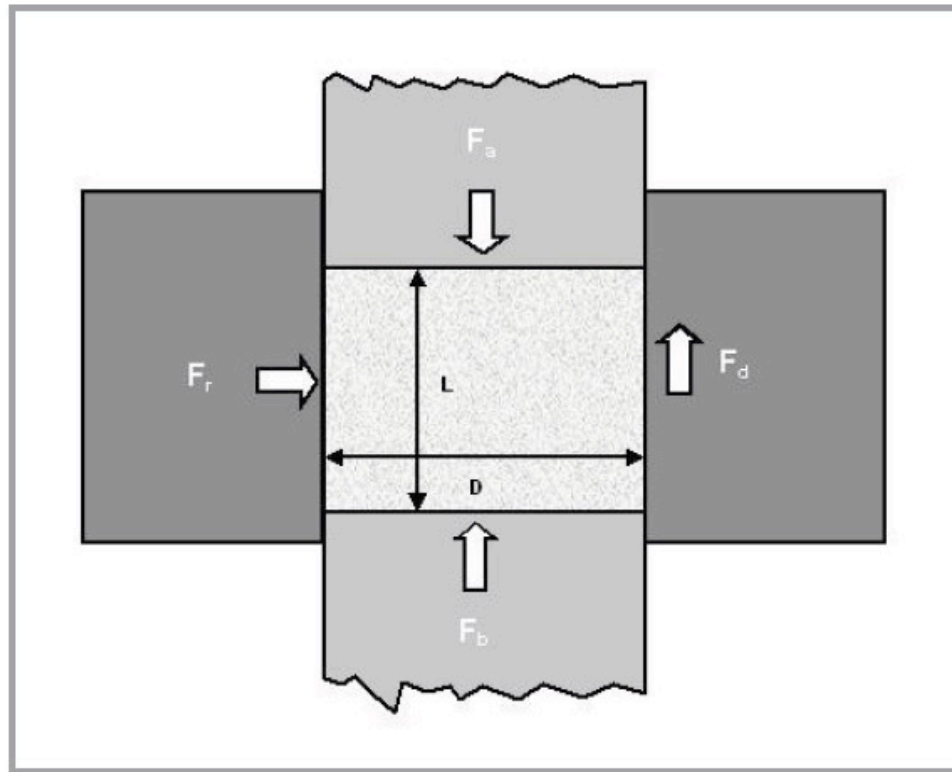
ex: Magnesium stearate, sodium laurylsulfate, stearic acid, talc..

+ nice appearance, shiny, dust free...



# TABLET COMPRESSION

**$F_a$** : force applied by the upper punch



**$F_r$** : radial force

*Correspond to force applied by the powder bed under compression*

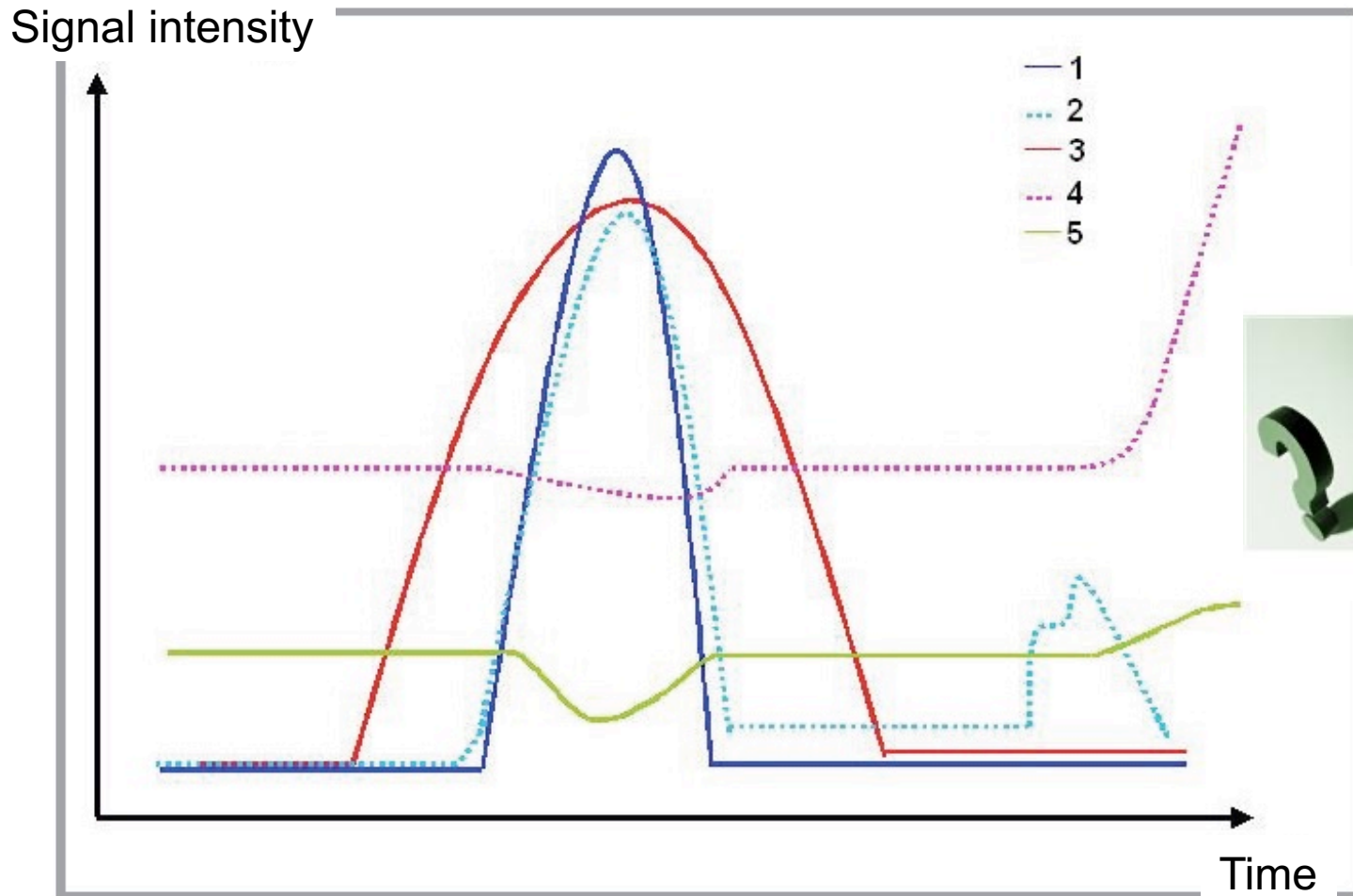
**$F_d$** : friction force

*Correspond to energy lost by friction during tablet ejection*

**$F_b$** : force felt by the lower punch



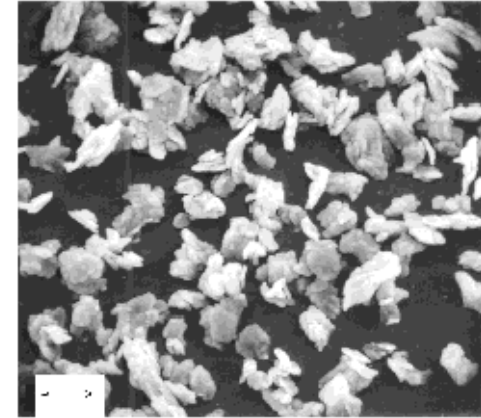
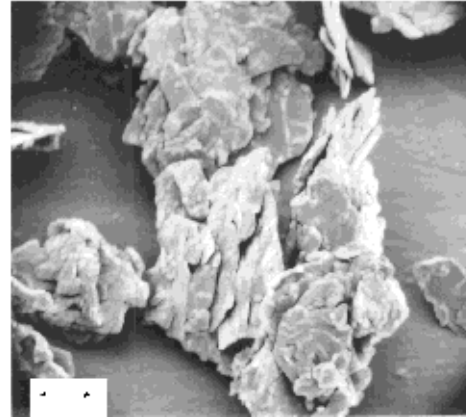
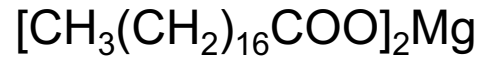
# TABLET COMPRESSION and LUBRICANTS



1. Force applied by the upper punch (full blue line)
2. Force felt by the lower punch (dotted blue line)
3. Upper punch displacement (full red line)
4. Lower punch displacement (dotted purple line)
5. Radial force (green line)

# LUBRICANTS

## MAGNESIUM STEARATE



# GLIDANTS

**Function:** Improve flow sufficiently for uniform die filling

ex: Colloidal silicon dioxide, talc, magnesium or calcium silicate...



**Compressibility / Carr Index  
Hausner Index**



# DISINTEGRATING AGENTS

**Function:** disrupt the tablet structure and lead to fragmentation facilitating API dissolution.

**Mode of action:**

Favor water uptake

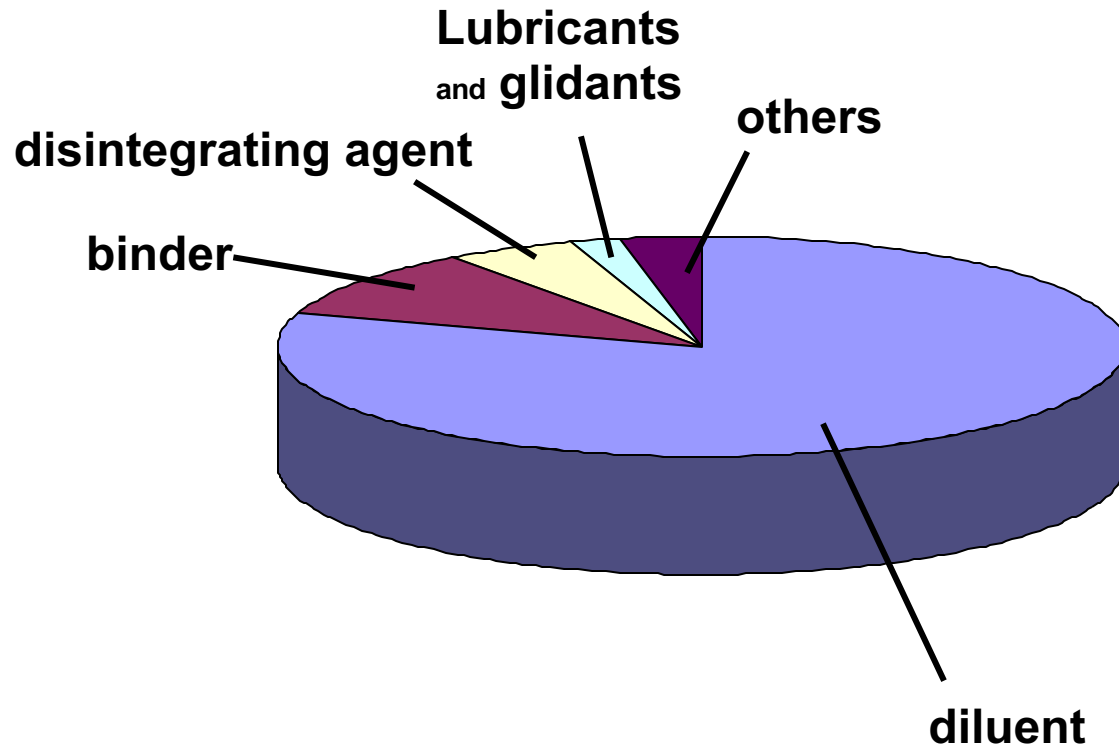
Disintegrating agent particles swell in presence of water

**Examples:** Starch, Reticulated Cellulose, PVP, Sodium starch glycolate, Sodium carboxymethylcellulose,...



# PROPORTION OF THE EXCIPIENTS

In general in tablets (not specific to matrix)



# CATEGORIES vs. GLOBAL PROPERTIES

**Beyond classes, it is important to consider all the properties of the different excipients !**

**Some examples:**

## ***Use of cellulose***

<b>Use</b>	<b>Concentration (%)</b>
Adsorbent	20-90
Anti-adherent	5-20
Capsule binder/diluent	20-90
Tablet disintegrant	5-15
Tablet binder/diluent	20-90

## ***Lubricants and release kinetics***

Magnesium stearate  
VS.  
Sodium laurylsulfate

## ***Solubility of diluents***

Calcium Phosphate  
VS  
Lactose

## ***Mixture of diluents***

Calcium Phosphate  
+  
Microcrystalline cellulose



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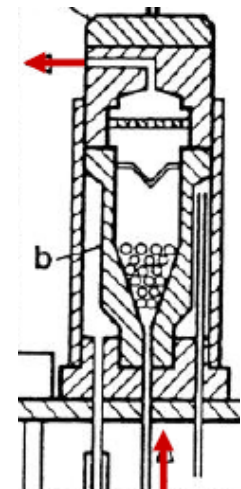
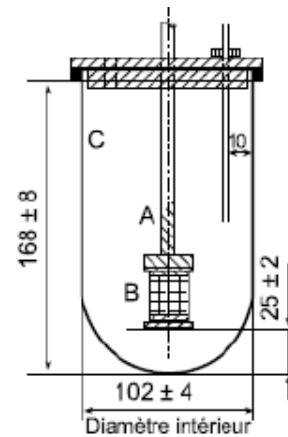
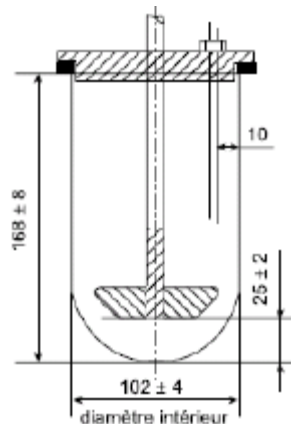
# CONTROLS

**Potentially dangerous forms because they contain large doses** (equivalent to several administration of conventional release dosage form)

**It is essential to validate the availability of the API**

**Drug dissolution testing, measuring the extent and rate of solution formation from a dosage form, is critical for its bioavailability and therapeutic effectiveness**

Paddle apparatus/ Basket apparatus / continuous flow-through cell  
Sink conditions



## + usual controls for tablets

- Uniformity (mass, dose)
- Mechanical properties
- Friability

...





# UNIFORMITY OF MASS

Weigh 20 tablets and calculate the average mass. When weighed singly, the deviation of individual masses from the average mass should exceed the limits given below

Table 2.9.5.-1

Dosage form	Average mass	Percentage deviation
Tablets (uncoated and film-coated)	Not more than 80 mg	10
	More than 80 mg and less than 250 mg	7.5
	250 mg or more	5
Powders for injections or infusions*	More than 40 mg	10
Suppositories and pessaries	All masses	5
Other dosage forms unless other limits are specified in the dosage form monograph, including but not limited to capsules, uncoated granules, powders, powders for eye drops and powders for eye lotions	Less than 300 mg	10
	300 mg or more	7.5

Max 2 out this range  
0 out the double of this range

\* When the average mass is not more than 40 mg, the test for uniformity of content of single-dose preparations (2.9.6) is performed instead of the test for uniformity of mass.



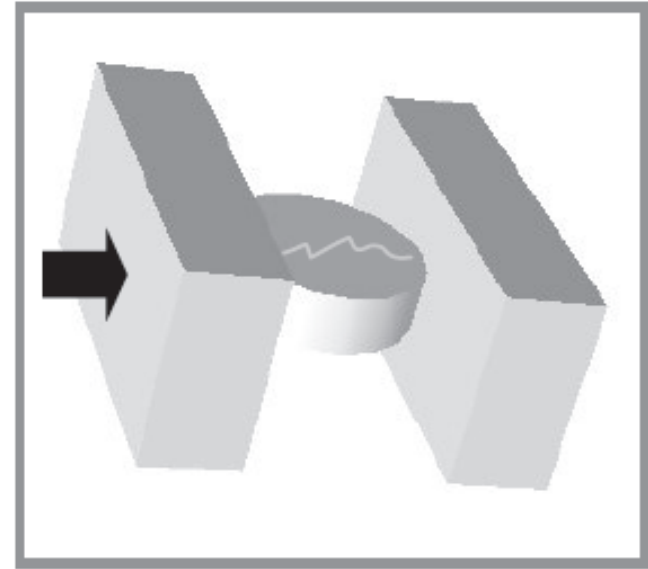
# TABLET HARDNESS

## Crushing Strength Test

This measures the degree of force needed to fracture a tablet.

Measurement accuracy: 1 Newton

Number of units tested: 10

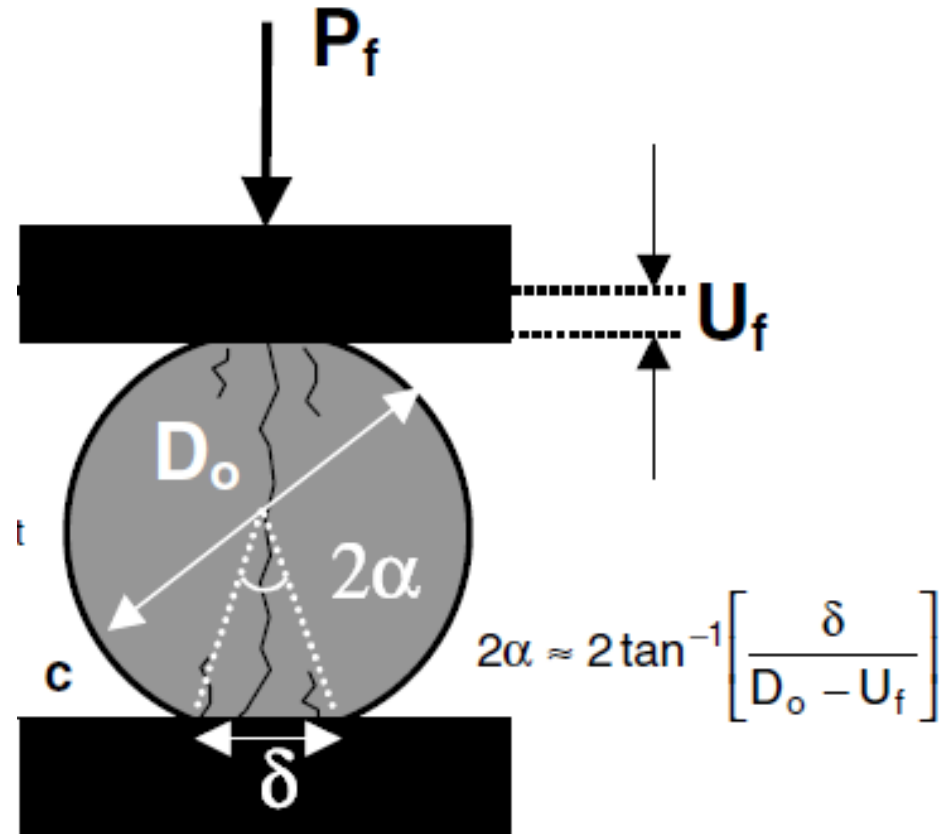


# TENSILE STRENGTH

**Tensile strength (MPa)**  
(only if diametral fracture)

$$\sigma = \frac{2F}{\pi D e}$$

F: force needed to fracture tablet (N)  
D: tablet diameter (mm)  
e: tablet thickness (mm)



**Allows to overcome the dimensions of tablets**

**Recommended values: 1 to 2 MPa**



# FRIABILITY

Required amount of tablets is dedusted, weighed and subjected to a uniform tumbling motion for a specified time. They are then dedusted and reweighed.

Mean tablet mass > 650 mg : 10 tablets

< 650 mg: closest to 6.5 g

100 rotations = 4 minutes

Limit: < 1%

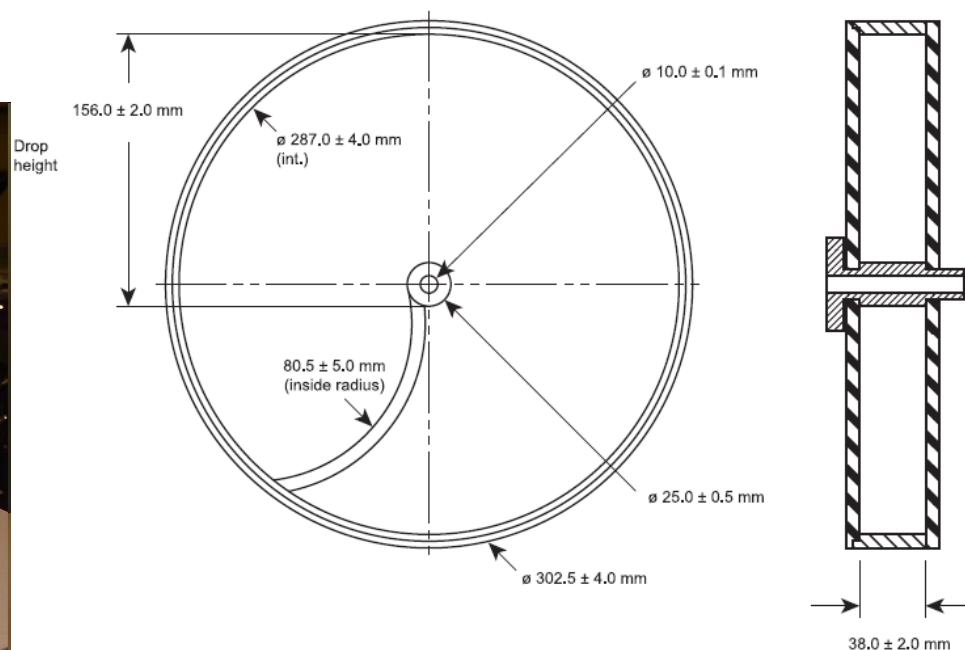


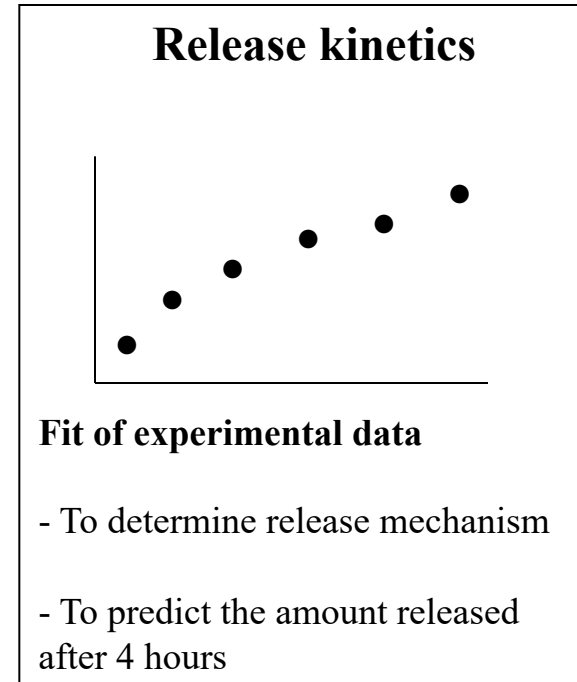
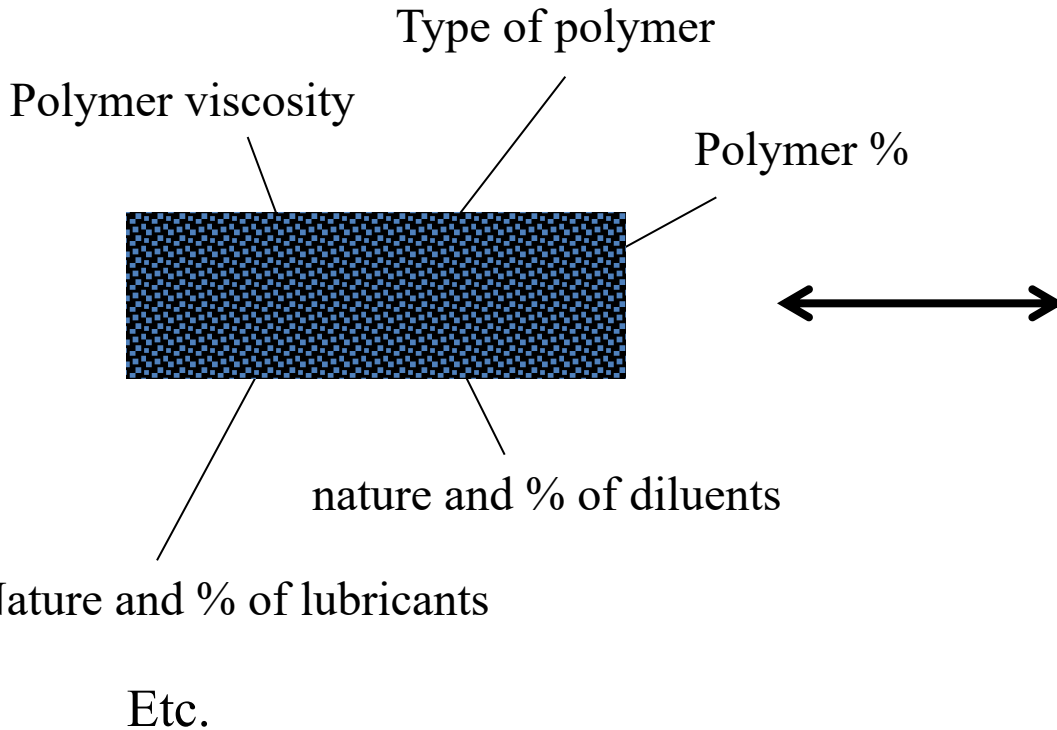
Figure 2.9.7.-1. - Tablet friability apparatus



# PRACTICAL WORKS

## Practical work objective:

To develop matrix tablets able to release 50% of a defined API into 4 hours.



# CONCLUSION

