

**UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA**

**ELECTRIC POTENTIAL ASSISTED  
CRYSTALLIZATION OF L-  
ISOLEUCINE IN AQUEOUS PHASE:  
EXPERIMENTAL AND  
COMPUTATIONAL MODELLING  
APPROACH**

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Thesis submitted in fulfillment  
of the requirements for the degree of  
**Doctor of Philosophy**

**Faculty of Chemical Engineering**

May 2017

## ABSTRACT

Crystallization is a major technological process for particle formations. It is important and widely used in the production of pharmaceutical drugs since most drugs particles are produced in crystalline form. L-isoleucine is one of the drugs that exist in crystalline form and it can be produced through crystallization process. However, even slight changes in the crystallization condition can drastically alter crystals properties. Control of the process in order to control the physicochemical properties (solubility, morphology, polymorphism) is crucial to produce the right type of crystal. To overcome this problem, electric potential was applied with the intention to control the process. Hence it has become the main objective of this study to determine the effect of electric potential on solubility and metastable zone width (MSZW) of L-isoleucine crystallization. Solubility of L-isoleucine experiment was conducted using three different methods; (1) Solubility Method A: Gravimetric method, (2) Solubility Method B: Isothermal dissolution and (3) Solubility Method C: Dissolution with controlled heating rate, while polythermal and isothermal method was adopted for the crystallization process. The results showed that all three methods gave significant difference in solubility data. The inconsistency of the solubility data led to the determination of conductivity of the solution where the presence of aggregation was proven to be present based on the critical aggregation concentration (CAC). Solubility data was also correlated to two different existing mathematical models; modified Wilson model and modified Wilson coupled with Pazuki-Rohani model, in order to assess the suitability of the model to be used for L-isoleucine. Based on the result, modified Wilson coupled with Pazuki-Rohani model was the most suitable model to explain the solubility behaviour of L-isoleucine, with and without the presence of electric potential due to the lower value of root mean square error (RMSE). Polythermal crystallization experiment revealed that the MSZW of the system with the presence of electric potential decreased compared to the MSZW without the presence of electric potential. Nucleation rate was proven to increase when electric potential was applied to the solution. Isothermal crystallization was also investigated with the presence of electric potential. The induction time reduced when the concentration increases and when the electric potential was applied to the solution, meaning that the electric potential promoted the nucleation process so that it can be achieved faster. The nucleation rate was calculated and it was found that for low supersaturation system, the nucleation rate was higher when electric potential was applied to the solution compared to the solution system without the presence of electric potential. Characterization of L-isoleucine product crystal recovered at the end of the experiment using x-ray powder diffraction (XRPD) revealed that mixture of Form A and Form B existed in the solution for polythermal crystallization method while only Form B polymorph existed in the solution for isothermal crystallization. Meanwhile, differential spectroscopy calorimetry (DSC) showed that only Form A existed in the solution for both methods. No proton transfer was observed to occur based on the characterization using Fourier transform infrared (FTIR) as no  $-\text{COOH}$  functional group was observed in the spectrum. Molecular dynamic simulation was also conducted to find the nucleation rate and compared with the experimental isothermal crystallization data. The simulated nucleation rate was found to be in a degree higher than the experimental data. The critical number of molecules and critical radius was also found to be in a good agreement with the experiment data.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Alhamdulillah thanks to Allah swt. for giving me the strength, health, time and patience to complete this thesis.

A special thank you goes to my academic supervisors, Dr. Nornizar Anuar and Dr. Noor Fitrah Abu Bakar for their advice, guidance, moral support, and encouragement given to me in completing this thesis and study.

Not to forget, thank you to all my colleagues in Particle Engineering Technology Group especially Umi Rafiah Binti Shukri, Asna Nabila Binti Ahmad Zamri, Nurasikin Binti Jamburi, Mohd Zulfahmi Bin Lukman, Muhamad Fitri Bin Othman and Syawal Bin Abdullah for the continuous support during the time when the experiment was carried out.

A special thank you to Syaidatul Akma Binti Mohd Zuki and Noor Hazwani Binti Mohd Noor for being exceptional friends who are always giving me the support and encouragement in completing the study.

Finally, this thesis is dedicated to the memory my late father, Mohd Azmi, my mother, Tengku Kamariah and my siblings; Nik Mohd Syaiful, Nik Suriani, Nik Muhammad Safwan and Nik Muhammad Syahrin for the support throughout the completion of this thesis. Last but not least, I wish to thank everyone who have shown their support whom I failed to mention here.

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