

**HSP**  **50**

*The 50th Anniversary HSP*



# Predictive Power of HSP in Formulation Science:

*In silico* design of bio-based solvents  
for nitrocellulose thanks to HSPs

*Jean-Marie AUBRY, Professor at the ENSC-Lille*

*April 5-7, 2017 – York*



# UCCS - GROUP « COLLOÏDS, CATALYSIS AND OXIDATION »

- **Located in Lille (North of France)**

1 hour from Paris by TGV.

1 154 000 inhabitants (> 110 000 students)



## Main event:

**Braderie de Lille, a huge flea market**



*mussel shells*

# THIS KEYNOTE IS BASED ON THE PUBLICATION BELOW ...

A “top-down” in silico approach for designing ad hoc bio-based solvents: application to glycerol-derived solvents of nitrocellulose  
L. Moity, V. Molinier, A. Benazzouz, B. Joossen, V. Gerbaud, J.M. Aubry. *Green Chem.* **18** (2016) 3169–3458



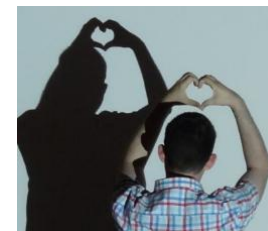
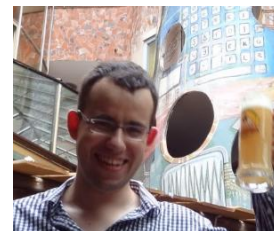
Laurianne MOITY  
(Solvay)



« The Artist » for  
this cover is ....



Adrien BENAZZOUZ (L'Oréal)



# SUMMARY

- **Solvents revival**
- **“Top-down” approach**
- **Virtual glycerol-based solvents**
- **Experimental validation**
- **Conclusion**

# Why is there a sudden surge of interest for solvents?

## NEW REGULATIONS LEAD TO REPLACE IMPORTANT SOLVENTS

### Environment

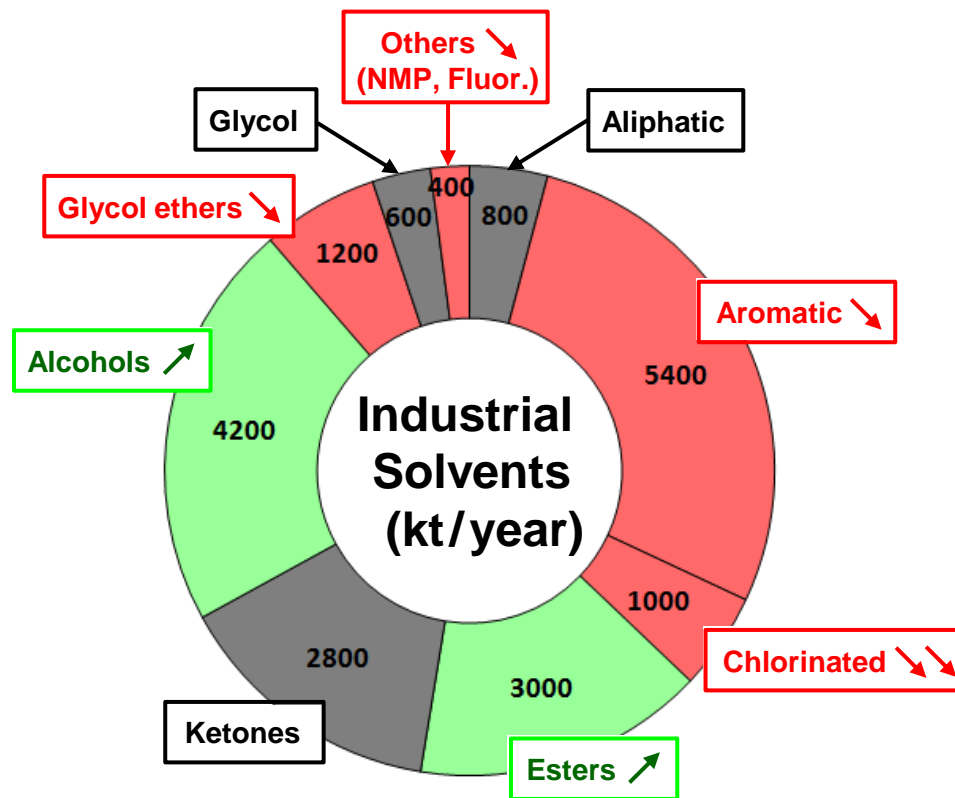
- VOC reduction
- Ozone Depletion (Freons)
- Biodegradation (non-cumulative)

### Human Health (in Europe)

- CMR (glycol ethers, NMP, toluene)
- REACH regulation

### Sustainable development

- 12 Principles of Green Chemistry
- Life Cycle Analysis
- Renewable raw materials

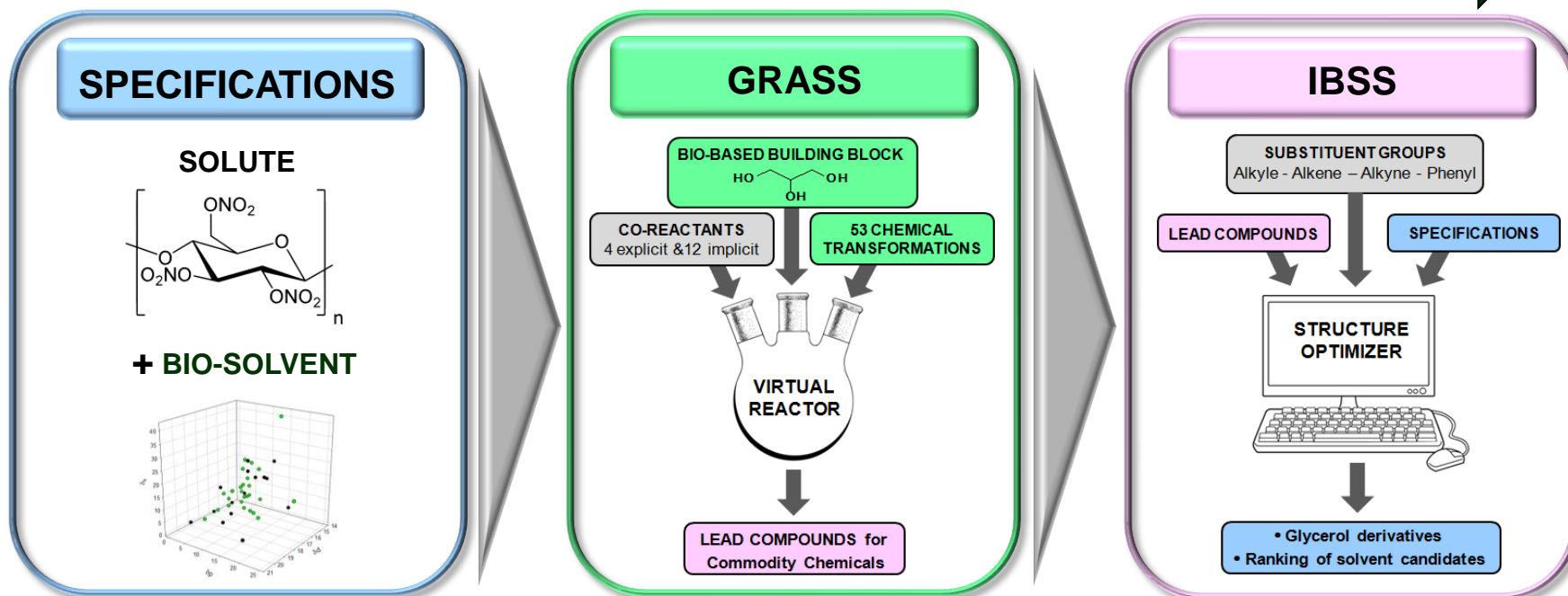


Nowadays, safety is the main driving force for choosing a solvent

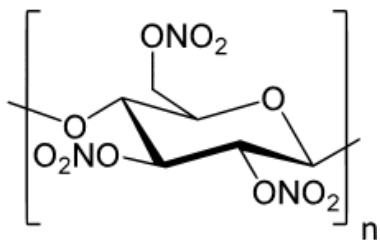
➔ Need for safe and effective sustainable solvents

Dividing a generic problem (**dissolving a solute**) into a series of tools allowing to find the best potential solutions (**optimal solvents**)

## TOP-DOWN APPROACH for SOLVENT DESIGN



# 1<sup>st</sup> STEP: Choose a target and define specifications



+

**Effective and safe**

**Bio-solvent**

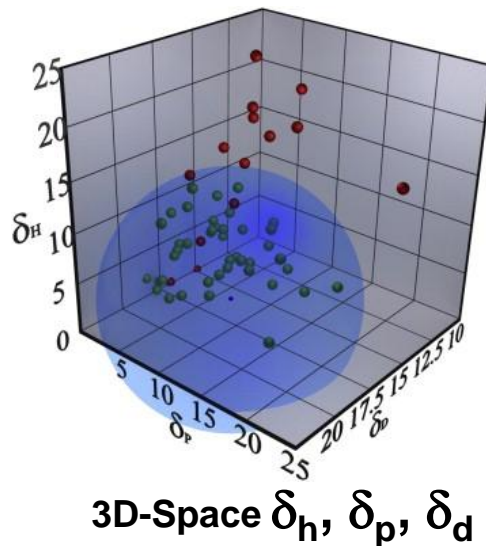
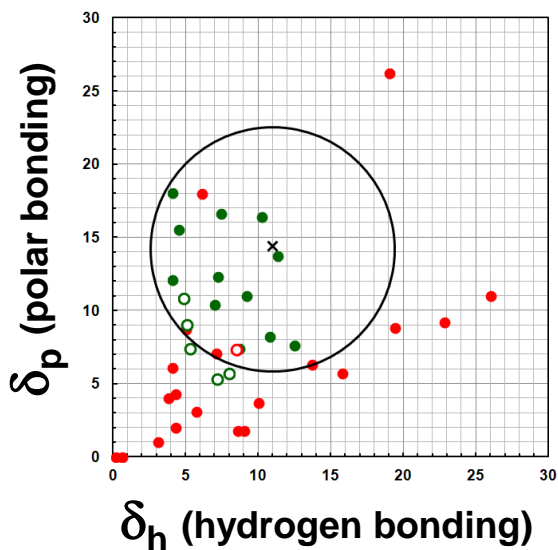
**Nitrocellulose** (nail polish and wood lacquer)

+

**Solvent**

- Effective (**assessed through Hansen approach**)
- Bio-based (e.g. **glycerol** derivatives)
- Non-flammable (Flash point > 60°C)
- Non-toxic and biodegradable

# Hansen's sphere of nitrocellulose with 40 usual solvents



## Hansen's sphere Parameters / $\text{MPa}^{1/2}$

$$\delta_d = 18.4$$

$$\delta_p = 14.4$$

$$\delta_h = 11.0$$

---


$$R = 8.3$$

Distance from  
the centre

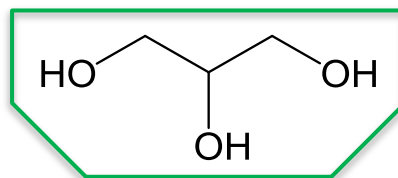
$$D = \sqrt{4(d_{d_{\text{Solvent}}} - d_{d_{\text{Solute}}})^2 + (d_{p_{\text{Solvent}}} - d_{p_{\text{Solute}}})^2 + (d_{h_{\text{Solvent}}} - d_{h_{\text{Solute}}})^2}$$

Predicted  
effectiveness

$$\text{RED} = D / R \Rightarrow \text{Good solvent when RED} < 1$$

## 2<sup>nd</sup> STEP: Generate *in silico* feasible solvents from glycerol with GRASS, a Computer Assisted Organic Synthesis software

**GRASS** = **GeneratoR** of **Agro-**  
**based Sustainable Solvents**

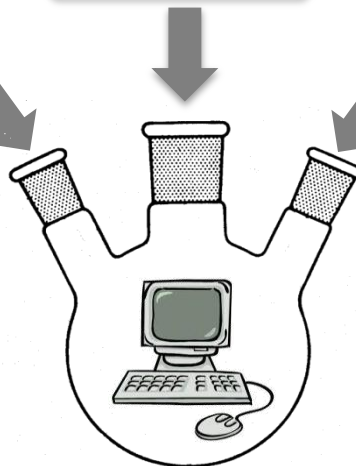


**Co-Reactants**

**15 Implicit** ( $H_2$ ,  $O_2$ ,  $H_2O$ ...)

**+ 7 explicit:**

- Ethanol
- Methyl amine
- Acetic acid
- Acetone, etc ...



**Sustainable Chemical Transformations**

- Esterification
- Oxidation
- Dehydration
- Carbonatation
- Acetal formation
- Etc ...

**VIRTUAL Derivatives of glycerol**

**We limit ourselves to the 1<sup>st</sup> GENERATION !**

## Relevant Chemical Transformations for Commodities

### Bibliographical sources:



- Synthesis of petrochemical commodities
- Transformations of bio-based molecules

≈ 450 reactions  
were found

### Selection criteria of relevant chemical conversions:



- Efficiency (good yields)
- Mild conditions (temperature, pressure)
- Greenness (atom economy, safe reactants)
- Cost effectiveness

**60 sustainable chemical  
transformations but ...  
only 15 apply to glycerol**

## 15 chemical transformations applicable to glycerol

TRANSFORMATION	ALCOHOL	CO-REACTANT	FINAL FUNCTION
Esterification	$\text{>C-OH}$	$\text{R}-\overset{\text{O}}{\parallel}{\text{C}}-\text{OH}$	$\text{R}-\overset{\text{O}}{\parallel}{\text{C}}-\text{O}-\text{C}<$
Hydro-alkoxy-addition	$\text{>C-OH}$	$\text{H}_2\text{C}=\text{C}-\text{H}$	$\text{H}_2\text{C}-\text{CH}_2-\text{O}-\text{C}<$
Acetalization	$\text{C}(\text{OH})_2 + \text{C}'$	$\text{R}'-\overset{\text{O}}{\parallel}{\text{C}}-\text{O}-\text{R}$	$\text{R}'-\text{O}-\text{C}(\text{O}-\text{R})_2$
Alcoholysis	$\text{>C-OH}$	$\text{H}_2\text{C}-\overset{\text{O}}{\parallel}{\text{C}}-\text{H}$	$\text{HO}-\text{O}-\text{C}<$ $\text{H}_2\text{C}-\text{CH}_2$
Dehydration	$\text{H}-\text{C}-\text{OH}$	$-\text{H}_2\text{O}$	$\text{>C}=\text{C}<$
Oxidation	$\text{H}-\text{C}-\text{OH}$	$\text{O}_2$	$\text{C}(\text{OH})_2$
Oxidation	$\text{H}-\text{C}-\text{OH}$	$\text{O}_2$	$\text{>C}=\text{O}$
Carbonation	$\text{C}(\text{OH})_2 + \text{C}'$	$\text{CO}_2$	$\text{O}=\text{C}(\text{O}-\text{C}')_2$
Amino-de-hydroxylation	$\text{>C-OH}$	$\text{NH}_3$	$\text{>C-NH}_2$
Amino de-hydroxylation	$\text{>C-OH}$	$\text{HN}(\text{R})\text{R}'$	$\text{>C-N}(\text{R})\text{R}'$
Alkoxy de-hydroxylation	$\text{>C-OH}$	$\text{R-OH}$	$\text{>C-O-R}$
Alcohol carbonylation	$\text{>C-OH}$	$\text{CO}$	$\text{>C}-\overset{\text{O}}{\parallel}{\text{C}}-\text{OH}$
Alcohol sulfation	$\text{>C-OH}$	$\text{SO}_3$	$\text{>C-O-SO}_3\text{H}$
Hemiacetalization	$\text{>C-OH}$	$\text{R}'-\overset{\text{O}}{\parallel}{\text{C}}-\text{O}-\text{R}$	$\text{R}'-\text{O}-\text{C}(\text{OH})(\text{O}-\text{R})$
Glycol oxidative cleavage	$\text{HO}-\text{C}-\text{C}-\text{OH}$	Oxidant	$\text{C}(\text{OH})_2 + \text{C}(\text{OH})_2$

Solvents revival

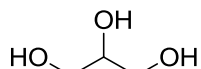
Top down approach

Glycerol-based solvents

Experimental validation

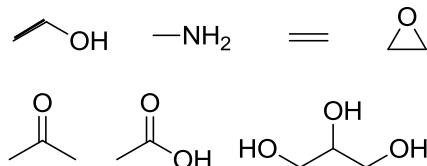
CONCLUSION

Bio-based building-block



+

Co-reactants: **Implicit** + 7 explicit



**GRASS**

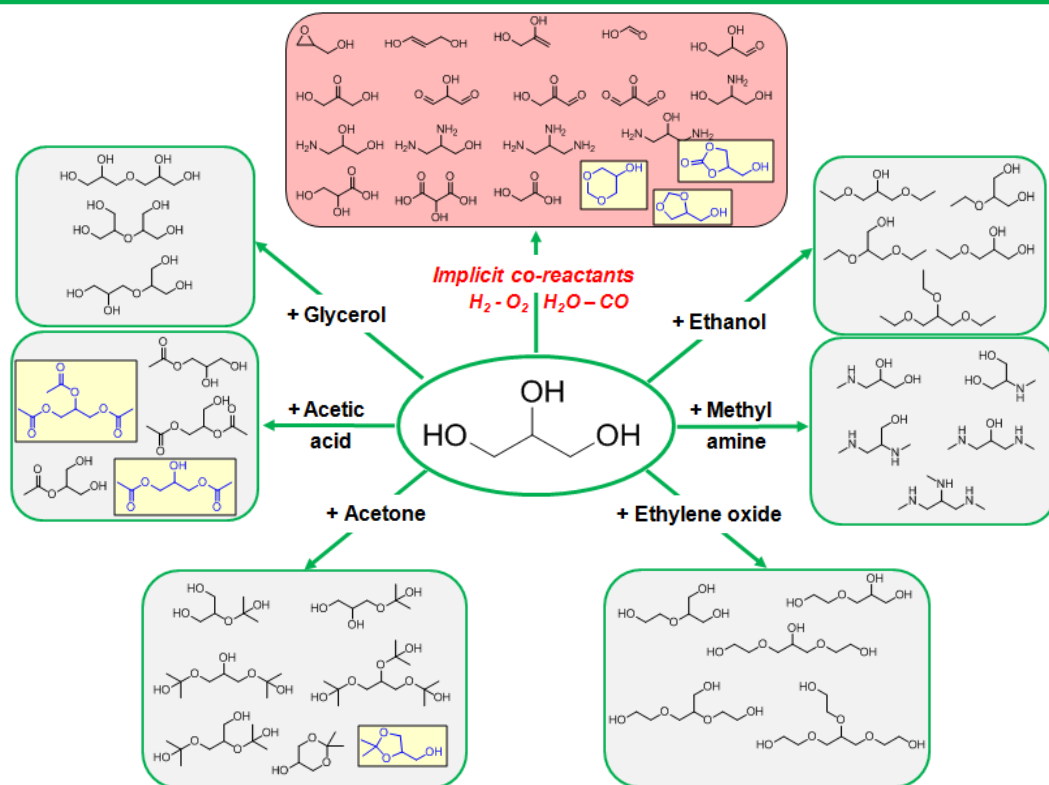
*chemical transformations*

50 virtual candidates at the 1<sup>st</sup> generation

Molecules highlighted in yellow obtainable with yield > 95%

2<sup>nd</sup> generation: 15000 compounds

## 1<sup>ST</sup> GENERATION : Virtual derivatives of Glycerol



**GRASS program ...**

generates “leads” molecules but other co-reactants are also relevant:  
EtOH  $\Leftrightarrow$  MeOH, PhOH, etc...



**IBSS program ...**

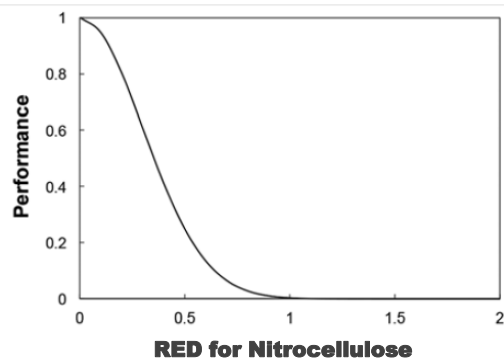
- Generates derivatives from “leads”
- Predicts properties of virtual solvents candidates

## 3<sup>rd</sup> STEP: Specifications for the ideal solvent

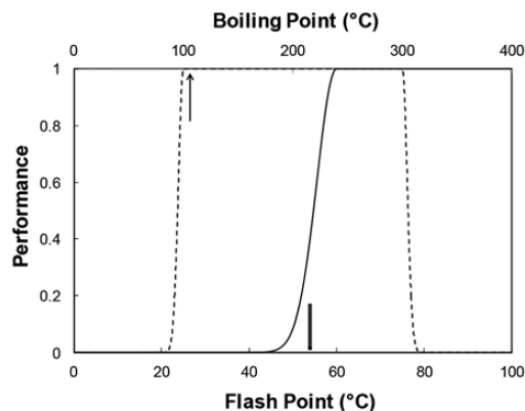
Individual performances	Target values	Weight %
Solubilisation ( <b>Hansen approach</b> )	RED = 0	40 %
Volatility	100°C < BP < 300°C	20 %
Flammability	FP > 60°C	20 %
Toxicity (fish)	LC <sub>50</sub> > 100 mg/L	10 %
Biodegradability (octanol/water)	K <sub>O/W</sub> < 10 <sup>-3</sup>	5 %
Bioaccumulation	BCF < 100	5 %

# 3<sup>rd</sup> STEP: IBSS program predicts properties of virtual solvents

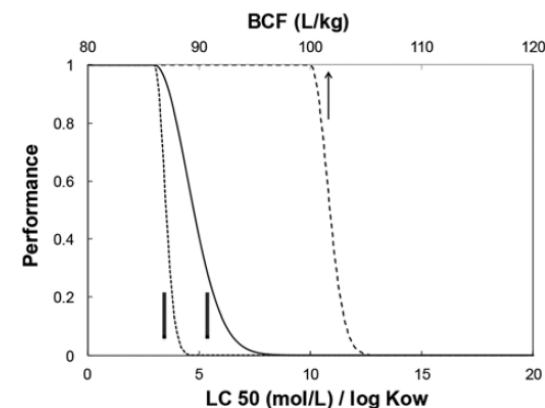
## Individual Performances assessed by predictive methods



RED with HSPiP software



BP, FP, EHS indexes are calculated with group contribution methods

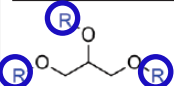
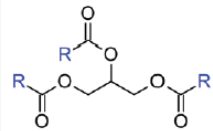
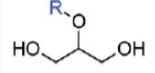

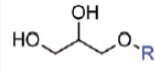

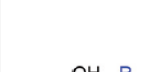

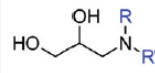




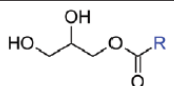


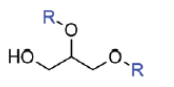
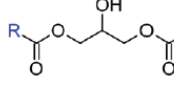
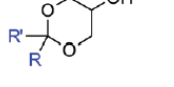

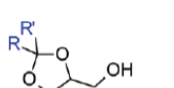


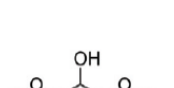





Global effectiveness of virtual solvents are assessed by the

$$\text{Overall Performance} = \sum (\text{Individual Performance}) \times (\text{Weight \%})$$

# 4<sup>th</sup> STEP: IBSS generates derivatives and ranked them

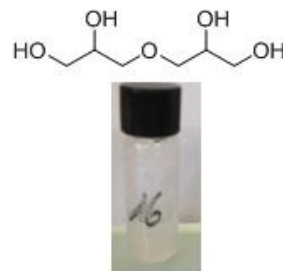
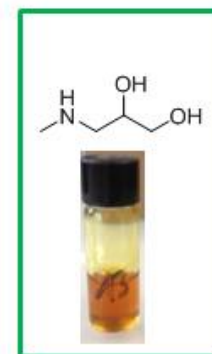
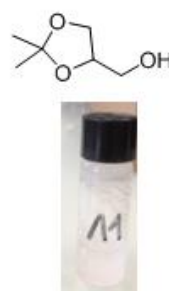
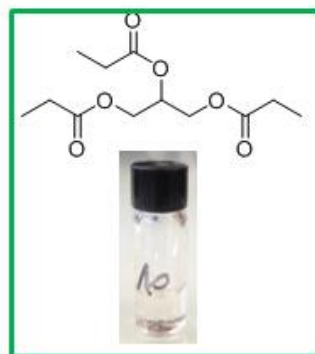
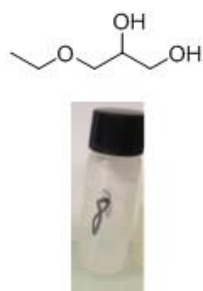
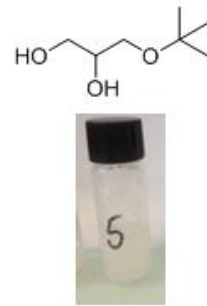
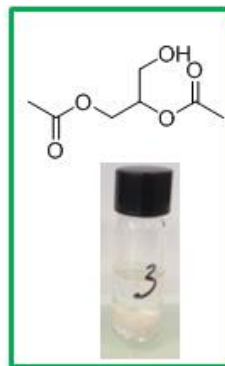
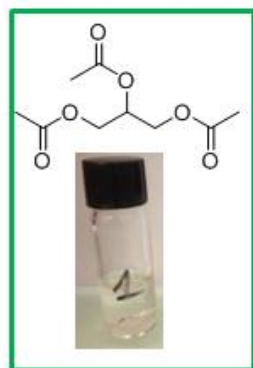
**R groups from leads** are replaced by C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, cycloalkyl, alkene, cycloalkene or phenyl substituents and the solvent-candidates are ranked thanks to the overall Performance Function

Lead compounds	Co-reagent	Substituents		Perf %	Ref.
		R	R'		
	R-OH	Me	—	39.5	51
		Et	—	57.4	—
	R-COOH	Me	—	54.6	55
		Et	—	54.9	58
		—	—	—	—
	R-OH	Me	—	57.9	50
			—	65.1	59
	R-OH	—	—	—	—
		Me	—	58.3	49
			—	61.5	60
	R-OH		—	62.5	—
		—	—	—	—
	R-NH-R'	H	Me	58.4	—
		H		61.6	61
		H		67.1	—

Lead compounds	Co-reagent	Substituents		Perf %	Ref.
		R	R'		
	R-COOH	Me	—	58.6	53
			—	64.1	62
			—	69.1	—
	R-OH	Me	Me	59.1	—
		Et	Et	60.8	63
	R-COOH	Me	Me	59.9	52
		—	—	—	—
	R-COOH	Me	Me	58.5	57
		H		61.7	64
	R-COOH			71.8	—
		Me	Me	58.4	56
	R-COOH			63.5	65
				63.5	—
	R-OH	Me	Me	60.6	47
		Et	Et	62.9	20

Among the most promising virtual candidates, some are **completely new** while 15 are **commercially available**. Let us focus on the latter !!!

## Evaluation of effectiveness of 15 commercial glycerol derivatives towards nitrocellulose



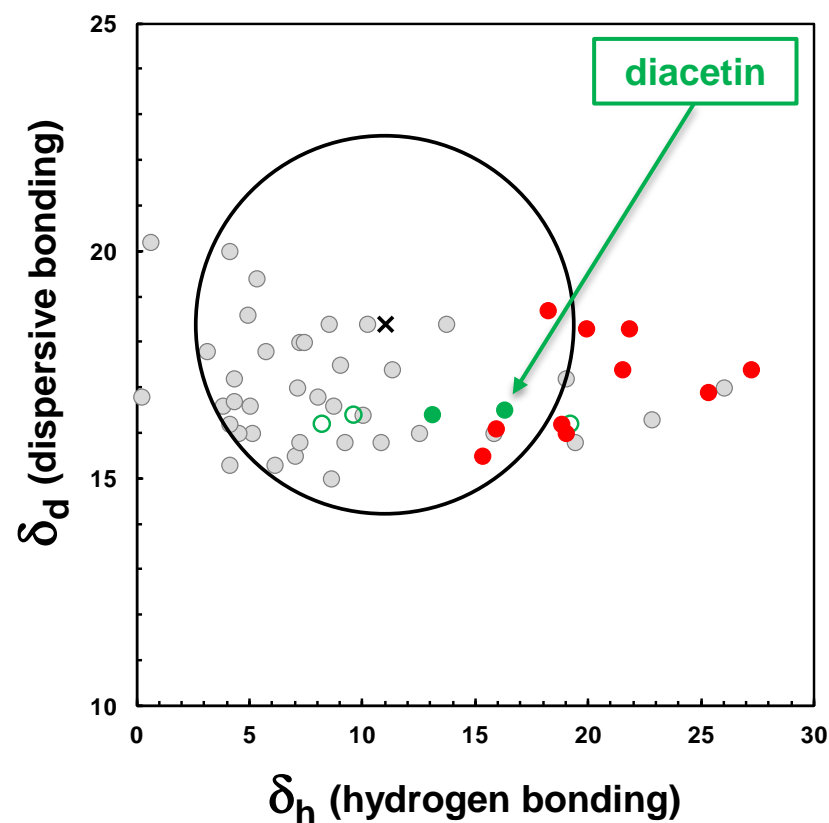
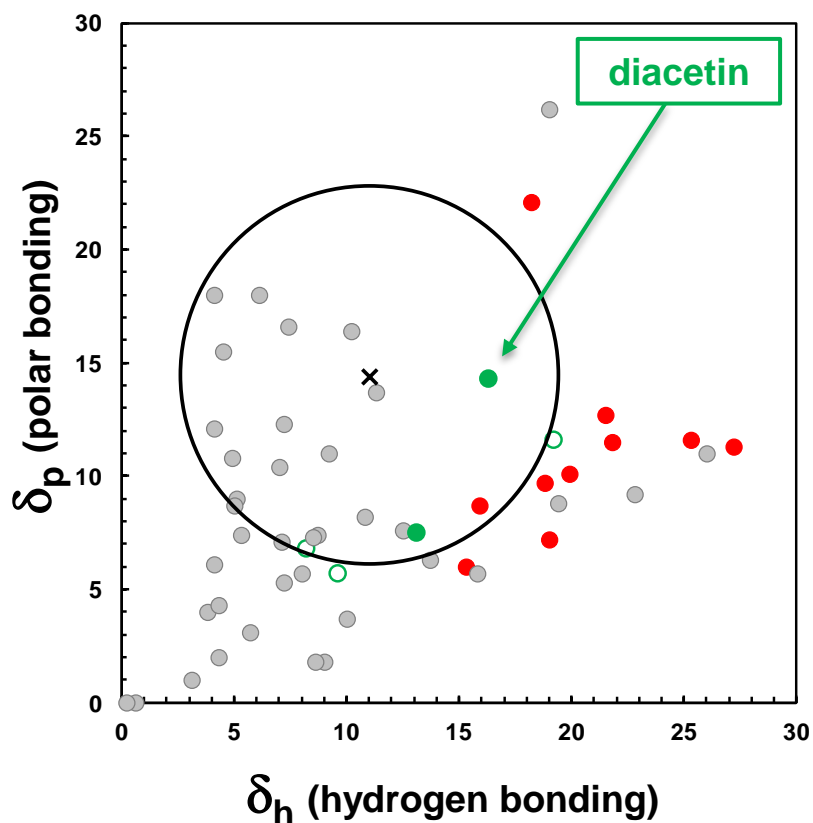
## Prediction from HSP (RED < 1) vs Experimental tests

Glycerol derivates	RED (Hansen)	Solubilisation of Nitrocellulose ?
<b>Diacetin</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Tripropionin	1.1	<b>Yes</b>
Triacetin	1.1	<b>Yes</b>
-----		
Glycerol formal	<b>1.2</b>	<b>No</b>
Glycerol carbonate	<b>1.2</b>	<b>No</b>
Solketal	<b>1.2</b>	<b>No</b>
Glycerol	<b>1.2</b>	<b>No</b>

**In agreement with HSP predictions, diacetin is actually an effective and non-toxic bio-based solvent for nitrocellulose**

Positions of glycerol-based solvents with regard to the Hansen's solubility sphere of nitrocellulose

○ Conventional solvents   ● Good bio-solvents   ● Poor biosolvents   ○ and ○ Outliers



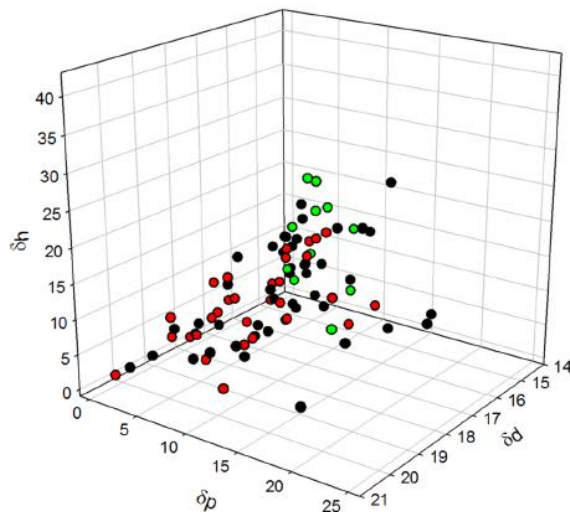
# POSTER: Finding a Greener Set of Solvents for HSPs

## POSTER:

A. BENZAOUZ, L. MOITY, C. PIERLOT, V. MOLINIER, M. SERGENT, J. M. AUBRY  
A greener set of solvents to study the solubility profile of polymers and resins according to Hansen approach

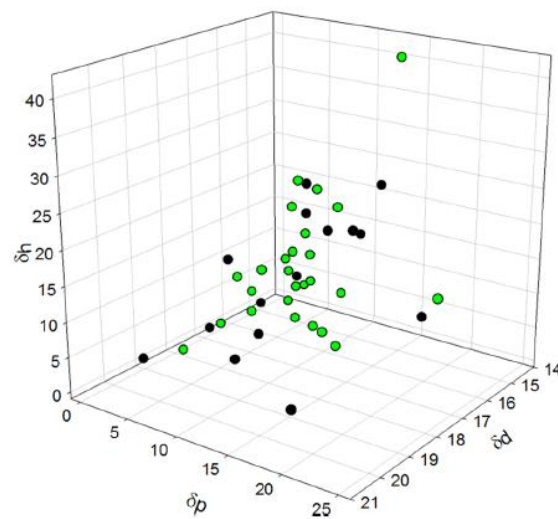
## PUBLICATION:

A. BENZAOUZ, L. MOITY, C. PIERLOT, M. SERGENT, V. MOLINIER, J-M. AUBRY,  
Selection of a Greener Set of Solvents Evenly Spread in the Hansen Space  
by Space-Filling Design. *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.* (2013) **52**, 16585-16597



Historical set of Hansen's solvents

● Unacceptable solvents



Greener set of solvents well-spread

● Green solvents ● Acceptable solvents

## Designing ad hoc bio-based solvents

- **GRASS** is able to generate thousands of **feasible** virtual leads from a platform molecule
- **IBSS** may ... predict relevant **physico-chemical and HSE** properties of candidate solvents  
... generate **derivatives** from generic leads through the exchange of substituents  
... calculate the value of the overall **performance** function and ranked the candidates
- **Top-Down approach** allows pointing out **diacetin** as a good and safe solvent for nitrocellulose

## Prospects for the future

- Construct a **databank** of thousands of virtual molecules generated from the main bio-based building blocks (glycerol, succinic acid, itaconic acid etc...)
- Improve prediction of the solubilizing power of a virtual solvent (**Hansen** ⇒ **COSMO-RS**)

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS to the colleagues and PhD-students who participated to this work (ANR program)

**Dr René BARONE (Univ. Marseilles):** Designer of the pre-version of GRASS program

**Dr Vincent GERBAUD (ENSIACET, Toulouse):** Designer of the IBSS program

**Dr Philippe MARION (Solvay):** Selection of industrially relevant transformations

**Dr Valérie MOLINIER (Total):** Co-supervisor of L. Moity's thesis



**2013 Dr Laurianne MOITY**

Design and test of green solvents

**Dr Adrien BENAZZOUZ :** Hansen parameters

**Benjamin JOOSSEN :** Tested bio-based solvents



THANK YOU VERY MUCH  
FOR YOUR ATTENTION

