

**Supporting**

**Modelling the Methacrylated Chitosan hydrogel properties through an experimental design approach, from composition to material property**

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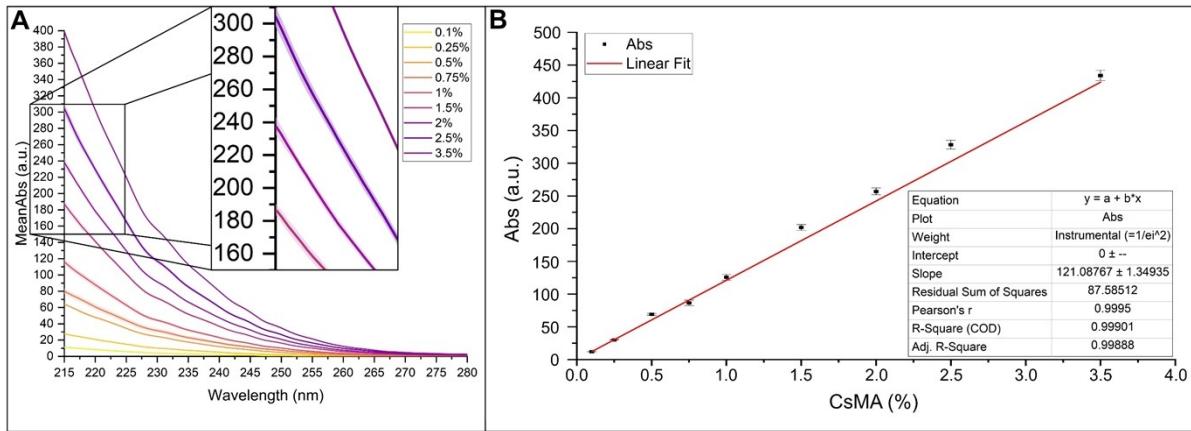
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## 1. Materials and Methods

### 1.1. Optical Calibration



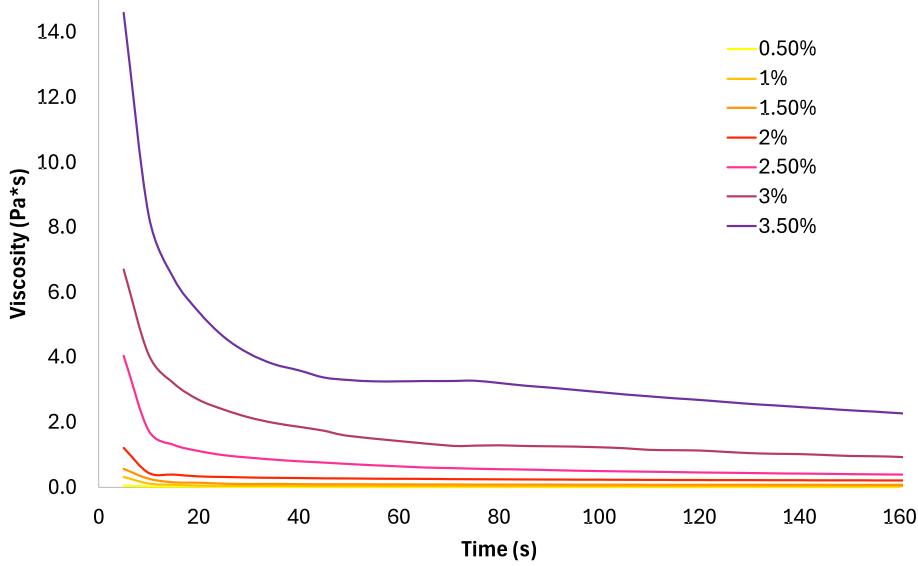
**Figure S1:** (A) UV Absorbance spectra of CsMA with increasing concentration: the intensity increased proportionally to the concentration of CsMA. The uncertainty on the UV-Vis curve (shown as a shadowed area) resulted to be extremely small, as reported by the magnification. (B) The increase in the UV-Vis intensity was linear and usable to obtain a calibration curve using the intensities at 215 nm.

In **Figure S1 A**, the UV absorbance spectra at different CsMA concentrations are reported. An increase in CsMA concentration increases the absorbance. Interestingly, the 95% CI reported as shadowed zone are extremely small, as can be seen by the magnification. Based on absorbance intensities at 215 nm a calibration curve was built (**Figure S1 B**). The data points were fitted by a straight line passing through the origin. The angular coefficient ( $m$ ) resulted to be 121.09 this can be used to convert the intensity on CsMA concentration in percentage while the value 12.108767 was used to achieve the conversion in mg/mL (**Equation S1**). The high  $r^2$  (0.999) ensured a good fitting of the calibration curve to the data.

$$[CsMA] \left( \frac{mg}{mL} \right) = \frac{I_{215}}{12.109} \quad (S1)$$

## 2. Results

### 2.1. Viscosity



**Figure S2:** Viscosity plot as function of time during the rheological analysis for all the tested hydrogel solutions (from 0.5% to 3.5% of CsMA content). The shear rate was linearly increased in the  $1 \text{ s}^{-1}$ - $100 \text{ s}^{-1}$  range and shear stress and viscosity recorded.

**Table S1:** The Model F-value of 3736.17 implies the model is significant. There is only a 0.01% chance that an F-value this large could occur due to noise. P-values less than 0.0500 indicate model terms are significant. In this case A, C, BC,  $A^2$ ,  $B^2$ ,  $C^2$ , ABC,  $A^2C$ ,  $AC^2$ ,  $B^2C$ ,  $BC^2$ ,  $B^3$ ,  $C^3$  are significant model terms, the rest of the non-significant terms were added to maintain the model hierarchy. Applied transformation: natural log.

| Source          | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F-value          | p-value     |  |
|-----------------|----------------|----|-------------|------------------|-------------|--|
| <b>Model</b>    | 2132.96        | 17 | 125.47      | 3736.17 < 0.0001 | significant |  |
| A-T             | 23.65          | 1  | 23.65       | 704.12 < 0.0001  | ***         |  |
| B-Shear Rate    | 0.0010         | 1  | 0.0010      | 0.0308           | 0.8608      |  |
| C-Concentration | 113.76         | 1  | 113.76      | 3387.51 < 0.0001 | ***         |  |
| AB              | 0.0062         | 1  | 0.0062      | 0.1855           | 0.6669      |  |
| AC              | 0.0519         | 1  | 0.0519      | 1.55             | 0.2141      |  |
| BC              | 0.5245         | 1  | 0.5245      | 15.62 < 0.0001   | ***         |  |
| $A^2$           | 1.20           | 1  | 1.20        | 35.71 < 0.0001   | ***         |  |
| $B^2$           | 19.27          | 1  | 19.27       | 573.73 < 0.0001  | ***         |  |
| $C^2$           | 25.76          | 1  | 25.76       | 766.95 < 0.0001  | ***         |  |
| ABC             | 1.72           | 1  | 1.72        | 51.18 < 0.0001   | ***         |  |
| $A^2C$          | 3.90           | 1  | 3.90        | 116.15 < 0.0001  | ***         |  |
| $AB^2$          | 0.7622         | 1  | 0.7622      | 22.70 < 0.0001   | ***         |  |
| $AC^2$          | 0.8419         | 1  | 0.8419      | 25.07 < 0.0001   | ***         |  |
| $B^2C$          | 1.19           | 1  | 1.19        | 35.32 < 0.0001   | ***         |  |

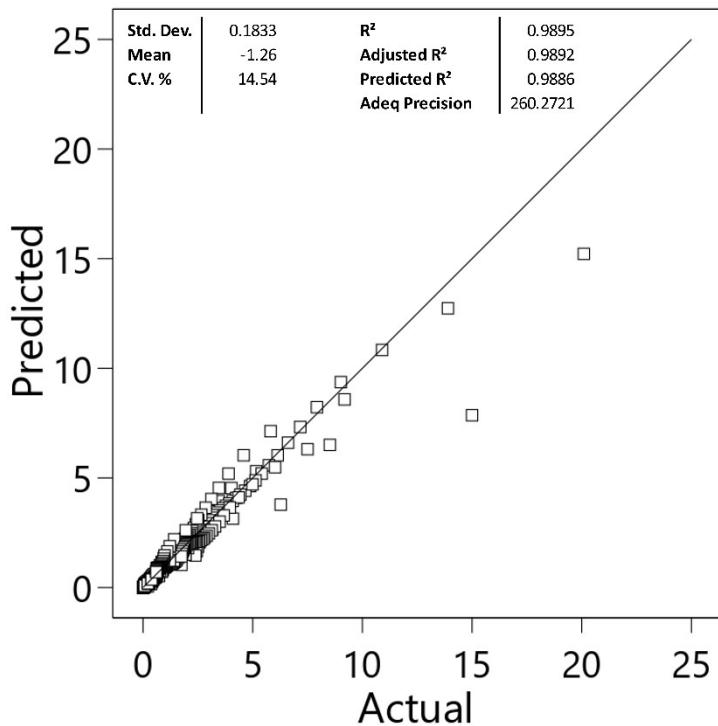
|                       |         |     |        |        |          |     |
|-----------------------|---------|-----|--------|--------|----------|-----|
| <b>BC<sup>2</sup></b> | 1.99    | 1   | 1.99   | 59.27  | < 0.0001 | *** |
| <b>B<sup>3</sup></b>  | 9.32    | 1   | 9.32   | 277.51 | < 0.0001 | *** |
| <b>C<sup>3</sup></b>  | 6.13    | 1   | 6.13   | 182.56 | < 0.0001 | *** |
| <b>Residual</b>       | 22.67   | 675 | 0.0336 |        |          |     |
| <b>Cor Total</b>      | 2155.63 | 692 |        |        |          |     |

**Table S2:** Initial assessment of the model, we choose the model that maximize  $R^2$ , adjusted  $R^2$  ( $R^2_A$ ), predicted  $R^2$  ( $R^2_P$ ) and minimize PRESS. The maximization of the  $R^2_A$  ( $R^2$  adjusted on the number of model term), ensured that the increment of  $R^2$  was only in minor part due to the increment in the number of terms. The increment of  $R^2_P$  and the minimization of PRESS indicates that the chosen model is predictive.  $R^2_A$  and  $R^2_P$  are in good agreement and in good agreement with  $R^2$  (difference is lower than 0.2). This indicate that the chosen model well fit the collected data (excluding overfitting or underfitting). The adequate precision is a measure of the signal to noise ratio, a value higher than 4 is desirable, in our case due to the high number of point the value results to be around 260.

| Source    | StD           | $R^2$         | $R^2_A$       | $R^2_P$       | PRESS        | Adq. Precision |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Linear    | 0.3723        | 0.9557        | 0.9555        | 0.9551        | 96.79        |                |
| 2FI       | 0.3724        | 0.9559        | 0.9555        | 0.9547        | 97.66        |                |
| Quadratic | 0.2665        | 0.9775        | 0.9772        | 0.9765        | 50.65        |                |
| Cubic     | <b>0.1833</b> | <b>0.9895</b> | <b>0.9892</b> | <b>0.9886</b> | <b>24.66</b> | <b>260.27</b>  |

**Table S3:** Coefficients in terms of coded factors (normalized in the [-1, 1] range). The coefficient estimate represents the expected change in response per unit change in factor value when all remaining factors are held constant. The intercept in an orthogonal design is the overall average response of all the runs. The coefficients are adjustments around that average based on the factor settings.

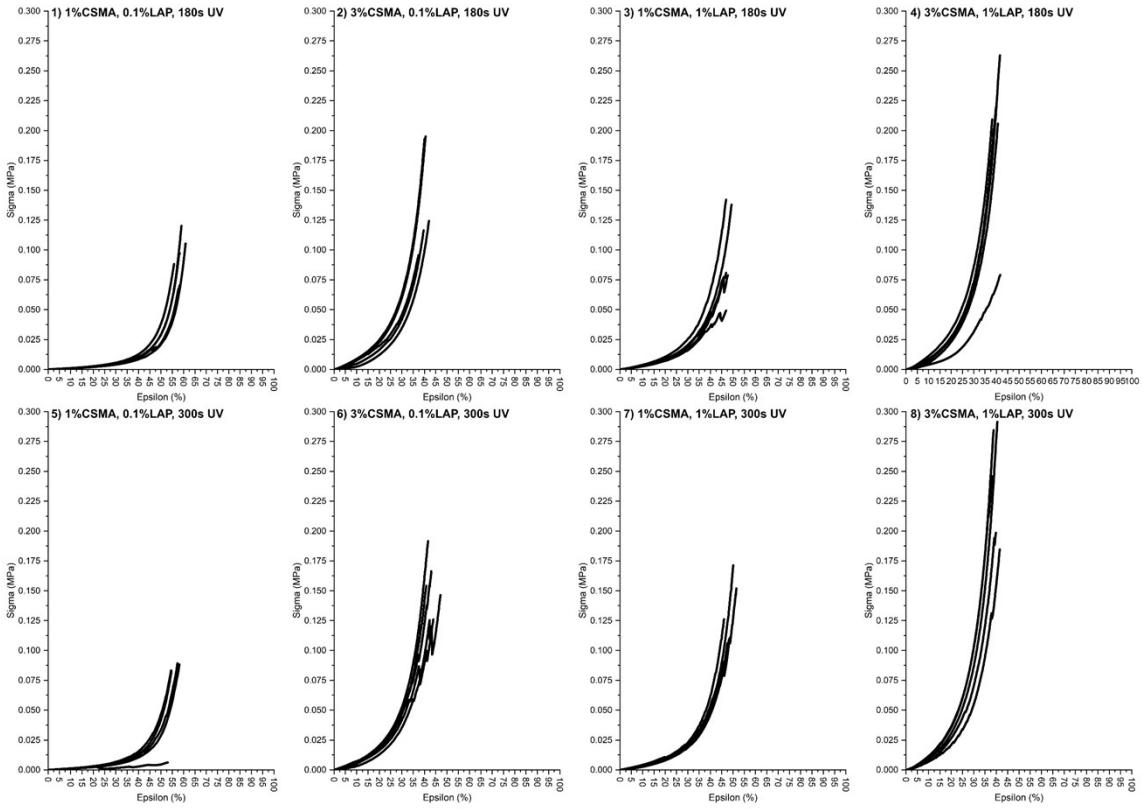
| Factor          | Coefficient Estimate | Standard Error | 95% CI Low | 95% CI High |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|------------|-------------|
| Intercept       | -1.13                | 0.0174         | -1.16      | -1.09       |
| A-T             | -0.4247              | 0.0160         | -0.4562    | -0.3933     |
| B-Shear Rate    | -0.0057              | 0.0323         | -0.0691    | 0.0578      |
| C-Concentration | 2.04                 | 0.0350         | 1.97       | 2.11        |
| AB              | 0.0061               | 0.0142         | -0.0217    | 0.0339      |
| AC              | 0.0159               | 0.0128         | -0.0092    | 0.0410      |
| BC              | -0.0698              | 0.0177         | -0.1044    | -0.0351     |
| $A^2$           | -0.0965              | 0.0162         | -0.1282    | -0.0648     |
| $B^2$           | 0.5306               | 0.0222         | 0.4871     | 0.5741      |
| $C^2$           | -0.5039              | 0.0182         | -0.5396    | -0.4682     |
| ABC             | 0.1519               | 0.0212         | 0.1102     | 0.1936      |
| $A^2C$          | 0.2611               | 0.0242         | 0.2135     | 0.3086      |
| $AB^2$          | 0.1269               | 0.0266         | 0.0746     | 0.1792      |
| $AC^2$          | 0.1096               | 0.0219         | 0.0666     | 0.1525      |
| $B^2C$          | -0.1963              | 0.0330         | -0.2612    | -0.1314     |
| $BC^2$          | -0.2340              | 0.0304         | -0.2937    | -0.1743     |
| $B^3$           | -0.7035              | 0.0422         | -0.7864    | -0.6206     |
| $C^3$           | 0.4572               | 0.0338         | 0.3907     | 0.5236      |



**Figure S3:** Predicted vs actual plot of the viscosity model. The points fall close to the diagonal indicating a good fit. The model well-fit the collected data with a  $R^2$  value of 0.98. This value agrees with the adjusted  $R^2$ . The model is predictive with a predicted  $R^2$  of 0.98. The adequate precision higher than 4 (260.3) indicates an appropriate signal to noise ratio.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \ln(\eta) &= -4.70534 + 0.0718854 * A - 0.0722449 * B + 3.99273 * C \\
 &\quad * AC + 0.0103178 * BC - 0.0016331 * A^2 + 0.00113772 * B^2 \\
 &\quad + 0.000123983 * ABC + 0.000639313 * A^2C + 3.13922e - 0 \\
 &\quad * AC^2 - 5.34099e - 05 * B^2C - 0.00210119 * BC^2 - 5.79998e \\
 &\quad * C^3
 \end{aligned} \tag{S2}$$

## 2.2. Compression



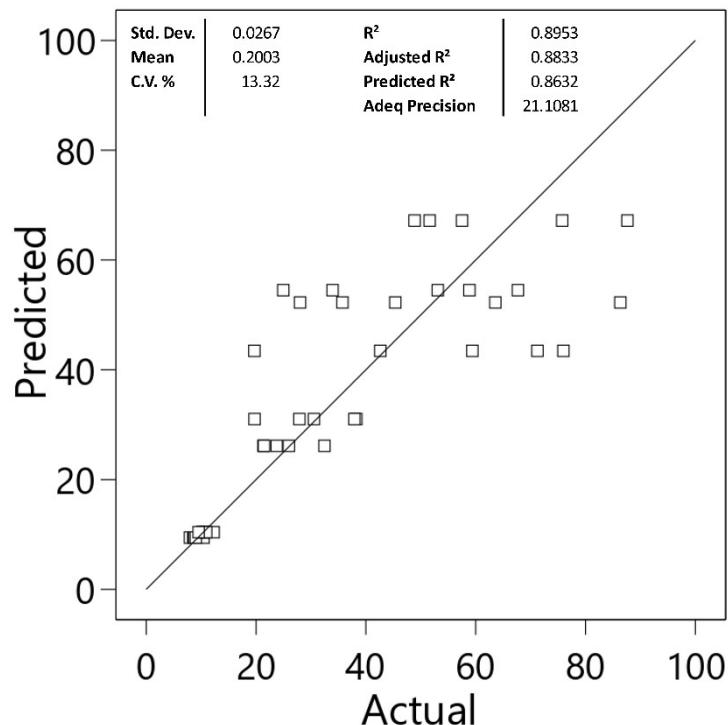
**Figure S4:** Stress-strain curves obtained in the compression test. Five samples were tested for each trial.

**Table S4:** The Model F-value of 74.81 implies the model is significant. There is only a 0.01% chance that an F-value this large could occur due to noise. P-values less than 0.0500 indicate model terms are significant. In this case A, B, AB are significant model terms. The Lack of Fit F-value of 0.64 implies the Lack of Fit is not significant relative to the pure error. Applied transformation: Inverse square root.

| Source           | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F-value | p-value  |                 |
|------------------|----------------|----|-------------|---------|----------|-----------------|
| <b>Model</b>     | 0.2133         | 4  | 0.0533      | 74.81   | < 0.0001 | significant     |
| A-CSMA           | 0.1279         | 1  | 0.1279      | 179.53  | < 0.0001 | ***             |
| B-LAP            | 0.0497         | 1  | 0.0497      | 69.72   | < 0.0001 | ***             |
| C-UV Exp.        | 0.0024         | 1  | 0.0024      | 3.43    | 0.0726   |                 |
| AB               | 0.0332         | 1  | 0.0332      | 46.57   | < 0.0001 | ***             |
| <b>Residual</b>  | 0.0249         | 35 | 0.0007      |         |          |                 |
| Lack of Fit      | 0.0014         | 3  | 0.0005      | 0.6404  | 0.5946   | not significant |
| Pure Error       | 0.0235         | 32 | 0.0007      |         |          |                 |
| <b>Cor Total</b> | 0.2382         | 39 |             |         |          |                 |

**Table S5:** Coefficients in terms of coded factors (normalized in the [-1, 1] range). The coefficient estimate represents the expected change in response per unit change in factor value when all remaining factors are held constant. The intercept in an orthogonal design is the overall average response of all the runs. The coefficients are adjustments around that average based on the factor settings.

| Factor    | Coefficient Estimate | Standard Error | 95% CI Low | 95% CI High |
|-----------|----------------------|----------------|------------|-------------|
| Intercept | 0.2003               | 0.0042         | 0.1918     | 0.2089      |
| A-CSMA    | -0.0566              | 0.0042         | -0.0651    | -0.0480     |
| B-LAP     | -0.0352              | 0.0042         | -0.0438    | -0.0267     |
| C-UV Exp. | -0.0078              | 0.0042         | -0.0164    | 0.0008      |
| AB        | 0.0288               | 0.0042         | 0.0202     | 0.0374      |



**Figure S5:** Predicted vs actual plot of the compression Young's modulus model. The points are scattered along the diagonal indicating a reasonable agreement between the model and the data points. The model well-fit the collected data with a  $R^2$  value of 0.89. This value agrees with the adjusted  $R^2$  (0.88). The model is predictive with a predicted  $R^2$  of 0.86. The adequate precision higher than 4 (21.1) indicates an appropriate signal to noise ratio.

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{E}} = 0.458191 - 0.0917612 * A - 0.206342 * B - 0.000130222 * C + 0.0640121 * . \quad (S3)$$

### 2.3. Area

**Table S6:** Kruskal-Wallis test with a Dunn's multicomparison on the distributions of pore areas. Almost all the differences resulted to be statistically different. This clearly indicate an impact of the process factors (both composition and UV-exposure) on the hydrogel's structures.

| Samples | Mean rank diff. | Significant | Summary | Adjusted P Value |
|---------|-----------------|-------------|---------|------------------|
| 1 vs. 2 | -1693           | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 1 vs. 3 | -4174           | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 1 vs. 4 | -5146           | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 1 vs. 5 | -2178           | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 1 vs. 6 | -2219           | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 1 vs. 7 | -1473           | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 1 vs. 8 | -2011           | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 2 vs. 3 | -2481           | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 2 vs. 4 | -3454           | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 2 vs. 5 | -485.6          | No          | ns      | 0.053            |
| 2 vs. 6 | -526.1          | No          | ns      | 0.072            |
| 2 vs. 7 | 219.6           | No          | ns      | >0.9999          |
| 2 vs. 8 | -318.1          | No          | ns      | >0.9999          |
| 3 vs. 4 | -972.2          | Yes         | *       | 0.0321           |
| 3 vs. 5 | 1996            | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 3 vs. 6 | 1955            | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 3 vs. 7 | 2701            | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 3 vs. 8 | 2163            | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 4 vs. 5 | 2968            | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 4 vs. 6 | 2928            | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 4 vs. 7 | 3673            | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 4 vs. 8 | 3136            | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 5 vs. 6 | -40.47          | No          | ns      | >0.9999          |
| 5 vs. 7 | 705.2           | Yes         | ***     | 0.001            |
| 5 vs. 8 | 167.5           | No          | ns      | >0.9999          |
| 6 vs. 7 | 745.7           | Yes         | **      | 0.001            |
| 6 vs. 8 | 208             | No          | ns      | >0.9999          |
| 7 vs. 8 | -537.7          | Yes         | *       | 0.046            |

## 2.4. Diameter

**Table S7:** Kruskal-Wallis test with a Dunn's multicomparison on the distributions of pore equivalent diameter. Almost all the differences resulted to be statistically different. This clearly indicate an impact of the process factors (both composition and UV-exposure) on the hydrogel's structures. It should be noticed that being the equivalent diameters a derived value the results of the test are identical of the previous table.

| Samples | Mean rank diff. | Significant | Summary | Adjusted P Value |
|---------|-----------------|-------------|---------|------------------|
| 1 vs. 2 | -1693           | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 1 vs. 3 | -4174           | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 1 vs. 4 | -5146           | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 1 vs. 5 | -2178           | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 1 vs. 6 | -2219           | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 1 vs. 7 | -1473           | Yes         | ***     | <0.0001          |
| 1 vs. 8 | -2011           | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 2 vs. 3 | -2481           | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 2 vs. 4 | -3454           | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 2 vs. 5 | -485.6          | No          | ns      | 0.053            |
| 2 vs. 6 | -526.1          | No          | ns      | 0.072            |
| 2 vs. 7 | 219.6           | No          | ns      | >0.9999          |
| 2 vs. 8 | -318.1          | No          | ns      | >0.9999          |
| 3 vs. 4 | -972.2          | Yes         | *       | 0.032            |
| 3 vs. 5 | 1996            | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 3 vs. 6 | 1955            | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 3 vs. 7 | 2701            | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 3 vs. 8 | 2163            | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 4 vs. 5 | 2968            | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 4 vs. 6 | 2928            | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 4 vs. 7 | 3673            | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 4 vs. 8 | 3136            | Yes         | ****    | <0.0001          |
| 5 vs. 6 | -40.47          | No          | ns      | >0.9999          |
| 5 vs. 7 | 705.2           | Yes         | ***     | 0.001            |
| 5 vs. 8 | 167.5           | No          | ns      | >0.9999          |
| 6 vs. 7 | 745.7           | Yes         | **      | 0.001            |
| 6 vs. 8 | 208             | No          | ns      | >0.9999          |
| 7 vs. 8 | -537.7          | Yes         | *       | 0.046            |

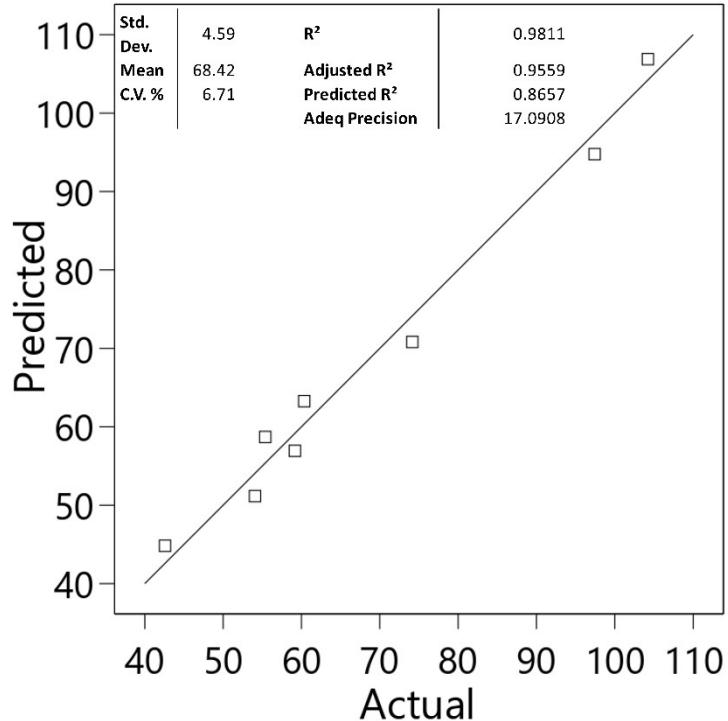
## 2.5. Mean Diameter

**Table S8:** The Model F-value of 38.95 implies the model is significant. There is only a 0.64% chance that an F-value this large could occur due to noise. P-values less than 0.0500 indicate model terms are significant. In this case A, B, C, BC are significant model terms. Applied transformation: None.

| Source           | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F-value | p-value |             |
|------------------|----------------|----|-------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| <b>Model</b>     | 3286.25        | 4  | 821.56      | 38.95   | 0.0064  | significant |
| A-CsMA           | 293.20         | 1  | 293.20      | 13.90   | 0.0336  | *           |
| B-LAP            | 898.86         | 1  | 898.86      | 42.62   | 0.0073  | **          |
| C-UV Exp.        | 441.72         | 1  | 441.72      | 20.94   | 0.0196  | *           |
| BC               | 1652.48        | 1  | 1652.48     | 78.35   | 0.0030  | **          |
| <b>Residual</b>  | 63.27          | 3  | 21.09       |         |         |             |
| <b>Cor Total</b> | 3349.53        | 7  |             |         |         |             |

**Table S9:** Coefficients in terms of coded factors (normalized in the [-1, 1] range). The coefficient estimate represents the expected change in response per unit change in factor value when all remaining factors are held constant. The intercept in an orthogonal design is the overall average response of all the runs. The coefficients are adjusted around that average based on the factor settings.

| Factor    | Coefficient Estimate | df | Standard Error | 95% CI Low | 95% CI High |
|-----------|----------------------|----|----------------|------------|-------------|
| Intercept | 68.42                | 1  | 1.62           | 63.25      | 73.59       |
| A-CsMA    | 6.05                 | 1  | 1.62           | 0.8866     | 11.22       |
| B-LAP     | 10.60                | 1  | 1.62           | 5.43       | 15.77       |
| C-UV Exp. | -7.43                | 1  | 1.62           | -12.60     | -2.26       |
| BC        | -14.37               | 1  | 1.62           | -19.54     | -9.20       |



**Figure S6:** Predicted vs actual plot of the pores' mean diameter model. The points falls along the diagonal indicating a good agreement between the model and the data points. The model well-fit the

collected data with a  $R^2$  value of 0.98. This value is in agreement with the adjusted  $R^2$  (0.95). The model is predictive with a predicted  $R^2$  of 0.87. The adequate precision higher than 4 (17.1) indicates an appropriate signal to noise ratio.

$$D_{Mean} = 2.81606 + 6.05393 * A + 15.1308 * B + 0.168922 * C - 0.0532303 * BC \quad (S4)$$

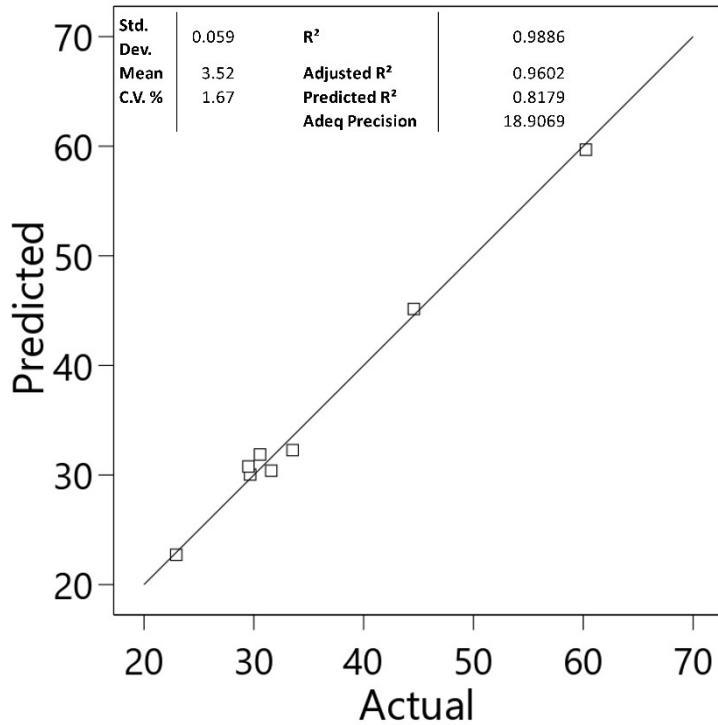
## 2.6. Median Diameter

**Table S10:** The Model F-value of 34.74 implies the model is significant. There is only a 2.82% chance that an F-value this large could occur due to noise. P-values less than 0.0500 indicate model terms are significant. In this case B, BC are significant model terms. Applied transformation: Natural log.

| Source           | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F-value | p-value |             |
|------------------|----------------|----|-------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| <b>Model</b>     | 0.6039         | 5  | 0.1208      | 34.74   | 0.0282  | significant |
| A-CsMA           | 0.0356         | 1  | 0.0356      | 10.24   | 0.0854  | .           |
| B-LAP            | 0.2040         | 1  | 0.2040      | 58.68   | 0.0166  | *           |
| C-UV Exp.        | 0.0525         | 1  | 0.0525      | 15.09   | 0.0603  | .           |
| AC               | 0.0425         | 1  | 0.0425      | 12.22   | 0.0730  | .           |
| BC               | 0.2693         | 1  | 0.2693      | 77.45   | 0.0127  | *           |
| <b>Residual</b>  | 0.0070         | 2  | 0.0035      |         |         |             |
| <b>Cor Total</b> | 0.6108         | 7  |             |         |         |             |

**Table S11:** Coefficients in terms of coded factors (normalized in the [-1, 1] range). The coefficient estimate represents the expected change in response per unit change in factor value when all remaining factors are held constant. The intercept in an orthogonal design is the overall average response of all the runs. The coefficients are adjusted around that average based on the factor settings.

| Factor    | Coefficient Estimate | df | Standard Error | 95% CI Low | 95% CI High |
|-----------|----------------------|----|----------------|------------|-------------|
| Intercept | 3.52                 | 1  | 0.0208         | 3.43       | 3.61        |
| A-CsMA    | 0.0667               | 1  | 0.0208         | -0.0230    | 0.1564      |
| B-LAP     | 0.1597               | 1  | 0.0208         | 0.0700     | 0.2494      |
| C-UV Exp. | -0.0810              | 1  | 0.0208         | -0.1707    | 0.0087      |
| AC        | -0.0729              | 1  | 0.0208         | -0.1626    | 0.0168      |
| BC        | -0.1835              | 1  | 0.0208         | -0.2732    | -0.0938     |



**Figure S7:** Predicted vs actual plot of the pores' median diameter model. The points are falls in the diagonal indicating a good agreement of the model and the collected data points. The model well-fit the collected data with a  $R^2$  value of 0.99. This value agrees with the adjusted  $R^2$  (0.96). The model is predictive with a predicted  $R^2$  of 0.82. The adequate precision higher then 4 (18.9) indicates an appropriate signal to noise ratio.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \ln^{[2]}(D_{Median}) & \quad (S5) \\
 &= 2.03894 + 0.358213 * A + 0.198575 * B + 0.00481685 * C \\
 &\quad 0.000679522 * BC
 \end{aligned}$$

## 2.7. Weight Loss

**Table S12:** Mean values and standard deviations of the bare weight loss expressed as relative percentage respect to the initial hydrogel weight (at  $t_0$ ).

| time |       | 1     |        | 2     |       | 3     |       | 4     |       | 5     |       | 6     |       | 7     |       | 8     |      |
|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| day  | hr    | Mean  | StD    | Mean  | StD   | Mean  | StD   | Mean  | StD   | Mean  | StD   | Mean  | StD   | Mean  | StD   | Mean  | StD  |
| 0    | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00   | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00 |
| 0.5  | 8.56  | 2.08  | -6.92  | 5.82  | 12.67 | 2.73  | 0.34  | 6.67  | 10.11 | 1.48  | -1.56 | 2.76  | 5.28  | 2.18  | -0.57 | 5.37  |      |
| 1    | 15.04 | 1.89  | -14.04 | 2.28  | 15.52 | 2.97  | 2.17  | 5.66  | 11.60 | 2.41  | -0.57 | 11.94 | 8.62  | 2.19  | 6.43  | 6.60  |      |
| 2    | 22.65 | 10.63 | 1.74   | 5.71  | 20.39 | 6.18  | 5.69  | 8.28  | 18.60 | 7.05  | 9.88  | 7.29  | 14.72 | 4.41  | 21.83 | 7.21  |      |
| 3.5  | 24.47 | 7.79  | 19.88  | 17.45 | 24.89 | 6.11  | 31.50 | 9.23  | 20.56 | 4.45  | 21.20 | 9.56  | 19.54 | 4.85  | 19.11 | 12.28 |      |
| 1    | 17    | 36.37 | 8.66   | 35.12 | 10.23 | 35.01 | 6.57  | 36.76 | 11.93 | 34.45 | 9.92  | 35.50 | 12.82 | 30.78 | 5.42  | 30.58 | 4.89 |
| 2    | 48    | 36.48 | 9.26   | 37.83 | 10.01 | 35.79 | 7.73  | 45.56 | 7.82  | 33.73 | 10.04 | 41.83 | 11.51 | 28.15 | 5.46  | 39.11 | 4.81 |
| 3    | 72    | 39.73 | 10.25  | 33.21 | 14.59 | 33.77 | 7.88  | 44.06 | 8.65  | 36.64 | 7.80  | 37.16 | 12.31 | 27.43 | 9.07  | 36.75 | 6.05 |
| 4    | 96    | 37.41 | 12.89  | 40.35 | 9.43  | 34.14 | 6.00  | 47.63 | 8.63  | 36.36 | 8.11  | 37.67 | 10.13 | 22.06 | 7.92  | 35.94 | 3.58 |
| 7    | 168   | 40.03 | 9.34   | 42.42 | 8.14  | 38.33 | 7.19  | 46.29 | 10.67 | 38.30 | 8.67  | 36.06 | 14.93 | 32.85 | 8.06  | 37.89 | 1.94 |
| 14   | 336   | 43.95 | 8.98   | 43.14 | 9.24  | 43.25 | 9.57  | 49.69 | 10.74 | 42.52 | 7.78  | 43.79 | 10.34 | 46.76 | 13.06 | 38.26 | 2.91 |
| 22   | 528   | 42.58 | 11.41  | 41.41 | 7.82  | 55.24 | 8.70  | 48.37 | 8.20  | 41.86 | 7.89  | 40.00 | 8.61  | 48.98 | 7.11  | 35.14 | 3.28 |
| 30   | 720   | 42.94 | 10.72  | 38.33 | 11.87 | 51.54 | 12.75 | 46.71 | 7.03  | 42.36 | 9.84  | 42.41 | 7.49  | 46.34 | 13.37 | 37.80 | 7.62 |
| 60   | 1440  | 46.27 | 11.99  | 42.09 | 10.33 | 56.86 | 9.27  | 45.17 | 11.19 | 45.72 | 6.93  | 46.04 | 9.13  | 46.39 | 14.85 | 36.82 | 3.15 |

## 2.8. Degradation/Swelling

**Table S13:** Mean values and standard deviations of the degradation/swelling expressed as the mass of the detached hydrogel in relative percentage respect to the initial hydrogel weight (at  $t_0$ ).

| time |      | 1     |       | 2      |       | 3     |       | 4     |       | 5     |       | 6     |       | 7     |       | 8     |       |
|------|------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| day  | hr   | Mean  | StD   | Mean   | StD   | Mean  | StD   | Mean  | StD   | Mean  | StD   | Mean  | StD   | Mean  | StD   | Mean  | StD   |
|      | 0    | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00   | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00  |
|      | 0.5  | 8.60  | 2.09  | -6.86  | 5.82  | 12.72 | 2.73  | 0.72  | 6.71  | 10.15 | 1.47  | -1.49 | 2.77  | 5.32  | 2.18  | -0.45 | 5.36  |
|      | 1    | 15.12 | 1.90  | -13.90 | 2.28  | 15.61 | 2.97  | 2.36  | 5.68  | 11.66 | 2.39  | -0.42 | 11.95 | 8.70  | 2.19  | 6.69  | 6.57  |
|      | 2    | 22.78 | 10.64 | 1.97   | 5.71  | 20.53 | 6.18  | 6.28  | 8.33  | 18.70 | 7.03  | 10.11 | 7.29  | 14.83 | 4.41  | 22.23 | 7.18  |
|      | 3.5  | 24.64 | 7.80  | 20.20  | 17.44 | 25.08 | 6.11  | 32.31 | 9.29  | 20.69 | 4.43  | 21.52 | 9.57  | 19.70 | 4.85  | 19.65 | 12.24 |
| 1    | 17   | 36.58 | 8.66  | 35.51  | 10.20 | 35.24 | 6.57  | 37.73 | 11.99 | 34.64 | 9.90  | 35.90 | 12.82 | 30.97 | 5.42  | 31.23 | 4.82  |
| 2    | 48   | 36.73 | 9.27  | 38.29  | 9.98  | 36.06 | 7.73  | 46.69 | 7.90  | 33.96 | 10.03 | 42.29 | 11.52 | 28.37 | 5.45  | 39.88 | 4.73  |
| 3    | 72   | 40.02 | 10.26 | 33.72  | 14.56 | 34.08 | 7.88  | 45.34 | 8.71  | 36.90 | 7.78  | 37.67 | 12.32 | 27.69 | 9.06  | 37.63 | 5.96  |
| 4    | 96   | 37.74 | 12.91 | 40.92  | 9.39  | 34.48 | 6.00  | 49.05 | 8.71  | 36.65 | 8.10  | 38.23 | 10.14 | 22.35 | 7.91  | 36.92 | 3.47  |
| 7    | 168  | 40.39 | 9.35  | 43.04  | 8.09  | 38.71 | 7.19  | 47.84 | 10.75 | 38.62 | 8.65  | 36.67 | 14.95 | 33.17 | 8.07  | 38.97 | 1.82  |
| 14   | 336  | 44.35 | 8.99  | 43.81  | 9.19  | 43.66 | 9.57  | 51.37 | 10.81 | 42.87 | 7.76  | 44.44 | 10.36 | 47.11 | 13.07 | 39.46 | 2.78  |
| 22   | 528  | 43.01 | 11.43 | 42.14  | 7.76  | 55.68 | 8.70  | 50.19 | 8.27  | 42.24 | 7.87  | 40.70 | 8.63  | 49.37 | 7.12  | 36.45 | 3.13  |
| 30   | 720  | 43.40 | 10.73 | 39.10  | 11.81 | 52.01 | 12.75 | 48.67 | 7.05  | 42.77 | 9.82  | 43.16 | 7.51  | 46.75 | 13.39 | 39.22 | 7.45  |
| 60   | 1440 | 46.78 | 12.01 | 42.92  | 10.25 | 57.38 | 9.26  | 47.27 | 11.27 | 46.16 | 6.93  | 46.84 | 9.15  | 46.84 | 14.87 | 38.36 | 2.96  |

## 2.9. Solubilization

**Table S14:** Mean values and standard deviations of the solubilization expressed as the mass of the solubilized hydrogel in relative percentage respect to the initial hydrogel weight (at  $t_0$ ).

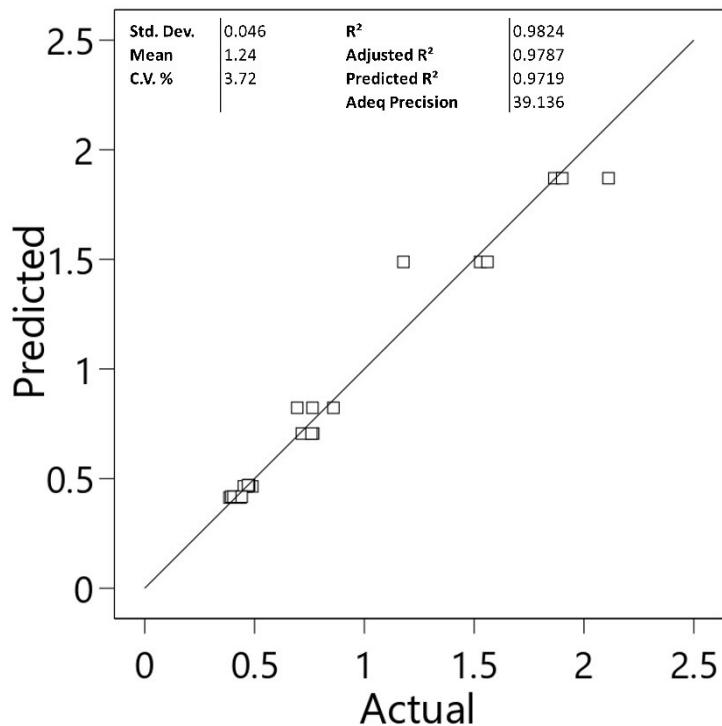
| time |      | 1     |       | 2     |       | 3     |       | 4     |       | 5     |       | 6     |       | 7     |       | 8     |       |
|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| day  | hr   | Mean  | StD   |
|      | 0    | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
|      | 0.5  | 0.039 | 0.002 | 0.064 | 0.002 | 0.047 | 0.001 | 0.385 | 0.044 | 0.035 | 0.002 | 0.075 | 0.005 | 0.039 | 0.002 | 0.064 | 0.002 |
|      | 1    | 0.080 | 0.004 | 0.144 | 0.001 | 0.096 | 0.005 | 0.182 | 0.023 | 0.060 | 0.023 | 0.156 | 0.004 | 0.075 | 0.001 | 0.144 | 0.001 |
|      | 2    | 0.123 | 0.005 | 0.230 | 0.008 | 0.137 | 0.001 | 0.595 | 0.062 | 0.098 | 0.021 | 0.238 | 0.004 | 0.111 | 0.003 | 0.230 | 0.008 |
|      | 3.5  | 0.166 | 0.008 | 0.318 | 0.015 | 0.184 | 0.001 | 0.805 | 0.079 | 0.137 | 0.021 | 0.324 | 0.006 | 0.151 | 0.004 | 0.318 | 0.015 |
| 1    | 17   | 0.215 | 0.009 | 0.392 | 0.028 | 0.227 | 0.003 | 0.971 | 0.085 | 0.192 | 0.022 | 0.397 | 0.009 | 0.192 | 0.005 | 0.392 | 0.028 |
| 2    | 48   | 0.258 | 0.011 | 0.457 | 0.033 | 0.266 | 0.003 | 1.133 | 0.093 | 0.225 | 0.022 | 0.457 | 0.011 | 0.225 | 0.009 | 0.457 | 0.033 |
| 3    | 72   | 0.295 | 0.013 | 0.515 | 0.040 | 0.302 | 0.003 | 1.281 | 0.094 | 0.257 | 0.021 | 0.509 | 0.013 | 0.261 | 0.016 | 0.515 | 0.040 |
| 4    | 96   | 0.331 | 0.016 | 0.570 | 0.045 | 0.340 | 0.003 | 1.411 | 0.108 | 0.288 | 0.021 | 0.559 | 0.013 | 0.291 | 0.017 | 0.570 | 0.045 |
| 7    | 168  | 0.363 | 0.017 | 0.621 | 0.050 | 0.374 | 0.001 | 1.546 | 0.106 | 0.319 | 0.022 | 0.608 | 0.016 | 0.322 | 0.019 | 0.621 | 0.050 |
| 14   | 336  | 0.393 | 0.017 | 0.671 | 0.054 | 0.404 | 0.001 | 1.680 | 0.106 | 0.347 | 0.022 | 0.651 | 0.018 | 0.351 | 0.018 | 0.671 | 0.054 |
| 22   | 528  | 0.435 | 0.016 | 0.725 | 0.060 | 0.442 | 0.002 | 1.823 | 0.108 | 0.379 | 0.020 | 0.702 | 0.020 | 0.384 | 0.022 | 0.725 | 0.060 |
| 30   | 720  | 0.469 | 0.016 | 0.773 | 0.068 | 0.473 | 0.002 | 1.959 | 0.109 | 0.409 | 0.021 | 0.748 | 0.023 | 0.413 | 0.021 | 0.773 | 0.068 |
| 60   | 1440 | 0.511 | 0.015 | 0.831 | 0.083 | 0.516 | 0.003 | 2.106 | 0.110 | 0.444 | 0.021 | 0.799 | 0.023 | 0.452 | 0.023 | 0.831 | 0.083 |

**Table S15:** The Model F-value of 264.59 implies the model is significant. There is only a 0.01% chance that an F-value this large could occur due to noise. P-values less than 0.0500 indicate model terms are significant. In this case A, B, C, AB are significant model terms. The Lack of Fit F-value of 1.99 implies the Lack of Fit is not significant relative to the pure error. There is a 15.54% chance that a Lack of Fit F-value this large could occur due to noise. Applied transformation: Inverse square root.

| Source           | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F-value | p-value  |                 |
|------------------|----------------|----|-------------|---------|----------|-----------------|
| <b>Model</b>     | 2.24           | 4  | 0.5592      | 264.59  | < 0.0001 | significant     |
| A-CsMA (%)       | 1.78           | 1  | 1.78        | 842.58  | < 0.0001 | ***             |
| B-LAP (%)        | 0.2131         | 1  | 0.2131      | 100.84  | < 0.0001 | ***             |
| C-UV Exp (s)     | 0.0464         | 1  | 0.0464      | 21.97   | 0.0002   | ***             |
| AB               | 0.1965         | 1  | 0.1965      | 93.00   | < 0.0001 | ***             |
| <b>Residual</b>  | 0.0402         | 19 | 0.0021      |         |          |                 |
| Lack of Fit      | 0.0109         | 3  | 0.0036      | 1.99    | 0.1554   | not significant |
| Pure Error       | 0.0292         | 16 | 0.0018      |         |          |                 |
| <b>Cor Total</b> | 2.28           | 23 |             |         |          |                 |

**Table S16:** Coefficients in terms of coded factors (normalized in the [-1, 1] range). The coefficient estimate represents the expected change in response per unit change in factor value when all remaining factors are held constant. The intercept in an orthogonal design is the overall average response of all the runs. The coefficients are adjusted around that average based on the factor settings.

| Factor       | Coefficient Estimate | df | Standard Error | 95% CI Low | 95% CI High |
|--------------|----------------------|----|----------------|------------|-------------|
| Intercept    | 1.24                 | 1  | 0.0094         | 1.22       | 1.26        |
| A-CsMA (%)   | -0.2724              | 1  | 0.0094         | -0.2920    | -0.2528     |
| B-LAP (%)    | -0.0942              | 1  | 0.0094         | -0.1139    | -0.0746     |
| C-UV Exp (s) | 0.0440               | 1  | 0.0094         | 0.0243     | 0.0636      |
| AB           | -0.0905              | 1  | 0.0094         | -0.1101    | -0.0709     |



**Figure S8:** Predicted vs actual plot of the solubilization model. The points falls in the diagonal indicating a good agreement of the model and the collected data points. The model well-fit the collected data with a  $R^2$  value of 0.98. This value agrees with the adjusted  $R^2$  (0.97). The model is predictive with a predicted  $R^2$  of 0.927. The adequate precision higher then 4 (39.1) indicates an appropriate signal to noise ratio.

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{(Sol)}} = 1.23657 - 0.272393 * A - 0.0942322 * B + 0.0439805 * C - 0.0904962 * D \quad (\text{S6})$$