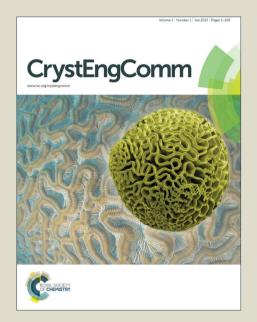
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ARTICLE TYPE

Melting point-solubility-structure correlations in multicomponent crystals containing fumaric or adipic acid

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This study investigates the relationships between the supramolecular structure and the solubility and melting point of six multicomponent crystals involving fumaric acid (FUM series) and adipic acid (ADI series). The crystals were prepared by solvent evaporation and fully characterised by thermal and diffraction techniques. In each series the melting points of the multicomponent crystals are lower than the 10 relevant carboxylic acid and they show partial correlation with their aqueous solubilities. With the aid of Hirshfeld surface analysis, the relationships between solubility, melting point and the supramolecular structure are discussed.

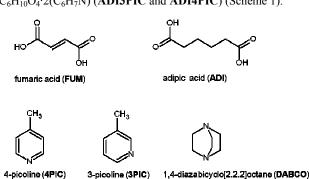
Introduction

The cocrystallisation approach has recently found application in 15 the preparation of pharmaceutical cocrystals^{1,2,3} with improved physicochemical properties, eg solubility^{4,5,6,7} and stability.⁸ Solubility is an important property as it can affect the dissolution rate and consequently bioavailability.9 Based on the biopharmaceutics classification system (BCS), approximately 20 40% of drugs on the market are categorized as Class II and IV, which represent drugs with low solubility.¹⁰

The relationship between the supramolecular structure of a drug and some of its physicochemical properties such as solubility and melting point forms an important part of 25 pharmaceutical research. The melting point is a fundamental property that has found utility in the estimation of vapour pressure, boiling point and aqueous solubility. 11 While the melting point is an easily measurable property, solubility determination is time consuming and tedious. An estimate of the 30 solubility of a drug before it is synthesised could be helpful not only in terms of saving costs and time but also in designing combinatorial libraries for drug discovery. 12 For these reasons, several computational methods have been developed for estimating solubility from the drug chemical structure 12,13,14,15 or 35 from the experimentally determined melting point^{16,11} with varying success. It has thereby been established that the aqueous solubility of a compound can be quantitatively related to its melting point and partition coefficient.¹⁷ In cocrystals, where two or more compounds exist in the crystal lattice, melting point 40 correlations to solubility or their utility in solubility estimation is still a challenge. 1,18 However, it has been shown that properties of pharmaceutical cocrystals can be tuned by judicious selection of the coformer. For example, if one wishes to increase the thermal stability of a given active pharmaceutical ingredient, then a 45 coformer with a higher melting point is used. Indeed, studies by

the melting points of pharmaceutical cocrystals can be controlled in a systematic manner by cocrystallisation with a series of structurally related coformers. Even though good correlation 50 between melting points of cocrystals and their coformer was reported, no correlation was found between coformer solubility and cocrystal solubility. In another study, direct proportionality between cocrystal solubility and coformer solubility was reported in a series of salicylic acid cocrystals.²⁰

As part of our ongoing interest in investigating the structureproperty relationships in cocrystals we have prepared four structurally related novel solvates of fumaric acid (FUM) and adipic acid (ADI) with 3-picoline (3PIC) and 4-picoline (4PIC); $C_4H_4O_4 \cdot 2(C_6H_7N)$ (FUM3PIC and FUM4PIC) 60 $C_6H_{10}O_4$ ·2(C_6H_7N) (**ADI3PIC** and **ADI4PIC**) (Scheme 1).



Scheme 1 The structures and abbreviations of compounds used in this study

The aim of this study was to establish a correlation between the 65 melting point and the solubility, if any, and to investigate how these physicochemical properties relate to the supramolecular structure. The choice of the dicarboxylic acids and picolines was influenced by their simplicity and also because they possess hydrogen bonding groups capable of forming the reliable 70 COOH ••• Naromatic heterosynthon. Although these compounds are

Aakeröy in 2009¹⁹ and more recently in 2014⁴ have shown that

not pharmaceutical cocrystals they are in fact model cocrystals which represent the same types of motifs that are present in some drugs and pharmaceutical cocrystals. We have also reproduced the two previously reported salts of 1,4-diazabicyclo[2.2.2]octane 5 (**DABCO**) with fumaric acid, $2[C_4H_3O_4][C_6H_{14}N_2^{2+}]$ and adipic acid, [C₆H₉O₄-][C₆H₁₃N₂⁺] hereafter referred to as **FUMDABCO** and ADIDABCO respectively. 21,22,23 Guided by the quantitated pKa rule by Cruz-Cabeza,24 we expected salt formation for structures FUM3PIC (ΔpKa = 2.08), 25 FUM4PIC (ΔpKa = 10 2.30), **ADI3PIC** (ΔpKa = 1.71) and **ADI4PIC** (ΔpKa = 1.93) since in this Δ pKa range (1.71-2.30) the probability of salt formation is 60-70%. However, we did not observe any proton transfer in these structures. 26,27,28 FUMDABCO and ADIDABCO were chosen as part of this study because these two 15 structures contain the same dicarboxylic acids and consist of charge assisted hydrogen bonds. The crystal structures of the four solvates as well as the two salts were analysed by single crystal X-ray diffraction (SCXRD) and melting points were measured using differential scanning calorimetry (DSC). Solubilities were 20 determined in water and ethanol. Typically, drug solubility is measured in water, ethanol and octanol because this would give an indication of the behaviour of the drug in the polar, intermediate and non-polar environments in biological systems.²⁹ In addition, aqueous and ethanol solubilities are important as 25 water and ethanol are the media commonly used for drug delivery.²⁹ With the aid of Hirshfeld surface analysis^{30,31} an attempt was made to discuss the relationship between the supramolecular structure, melting point and solubility.

Experimental

30 All chemicals were purchased from Sigma Aldrich and used without further purification. Single crystals of FUM3PIC, FUM4PIC, ADI3PIC and ADI4PIC were prepared by dissolving each dicarboxylic acid in 3- and 4-picoline in separate experiments and allowing the solvent to evaporate slowly. 35 FUMDABCO and ADIDABCO were prepared following the reported procedures. 21,22,23 In all cases, colourless block shaped crystals were obtained after a few days. DSC was carried out using a Perkin Elmer 6 under a N₂ gas purge (flow rate of 30.0 ml/min). Experiments were conducted over a temperature range 40 of 30 °C to 350 °C. Powder X-ray diffraction (PXRD) data were recorded on a Bruker D2 phaser diffractometer using CuKa radiation (1.54184 Å) generated at 30 kV and 10 mA. Simulated powder patterns of crystal structures were calculated using Mercury³² and compared with the experimental patterns to 45 confirm bulk phase purity (Fig. S1-S4). Equilibrium solubility values were determined in both water and ethanol at 25 °C using the gravimetric method (Fig. S5 and S6).

X-ray crystallography

Intensity data for ADI3PIC and FUM3PIC were collected on a 50 Nonius Kappa CCD single crystal X-ray diffractometer using graphite monochromated MoK α radiation ($\lambda = 0.7107$ Å, T = 173 K) generated by a Nonius FR590 generator at 50 kV and 30 mV. A series of frames were recorded, each of width 1° in \(\rho \) or in ω to ensure completeness of the data collected to $\theta > 28^{\circ}$. The 55 unit cell was indexed from the first ten frames, and positional data were refined along with diffractometer constants to give the

final cell parameters. The strategy for data collection was evaluated using COLLECT³³ software. Integration and scaling (DENZO and SCALEPACK)34 resulted in unique data sets 60 corrected for Lorentz polarization effects and for the effects of crystal decay and absorption by a combination of averaging of equivalent reflections and overall volume and scaling correction. Intensity data for FUM4PIC and ADI4PIC were collected on the Bruker DUO APEX II diffractometer³⁵ with graphite-65 monochromated MoKα radiation ($\lambda = 0.71073$ Å) at 173K using an Oxford Cryostream 700. Data collection and cell refinement were performed using SAINT-Plus³⁶ and the space groups were determined from systematic absences using XPREP³⁷ and further justified by the refinement results. Accurate unit cell parameters 70 were refined on all data. The structures were solved using SHELXS-97³⁸ and refined using full-matrix least squares methods in SHELXL-97,³⁸ within the X-Seed³⁹ graphical user interface. Non-hydrogen atoms were refined anisotropically and hydroxyl hydrogen atoms were located in the difference electron density ₇₅ map. The hydrogen atoms bound to carbon atoms were placed at idealized positions and refined as riding atoms. For the ADI4PIC structure E-statistics indicated a P-1 space group but upon refinement, the methyl groups of the picoline showed disorder. We therefore refined the structure in P1 and, interestingly, the 80 hydrogen atoms of the methyl groups showed no disorder and were not related by the pseudo centre of symmetry located at the centre of the ADI methylene chain. Thus this structure is noncentrosymmetric only by virtue of the different orientation of the methyl hydrogen atoms of the picoline. Crystal data and 85 hydrogen bond details are given in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively. CCDC deposit numbers 1008278-1008281 contains the supplementary crystallographic data for this paper. These data can be obtained free of charge from the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre via www.ccdc.cam.ac.uk/ 90 data request/cif.

Grinding experiments

In order to determine whether the solvates FUM3PIC, FUM4PIC, ADI3PIC and ADI4PIC can be obtained mechanochemically, the starting materials were ground with a 95 mortar and pestle for thirty minutes and the resulting compounds were analysed by PXRD. The PXRD patterns show that FUM4PIC and ADI3PIC can be reproduced by grinding while a different phase of FUM3PIC is produced. Grinding also produces the same phase of ADI4PIC as solution synthesis but with some traces of unreacted adipic acid (see ESI Fig. S1-S4).

Results and discussion

Crystals of FUM3PIC, FUM4PIC, ADI3PIC and ADI4PIC suitable for SCXRD were prepared by the solvent evaporation technique. Except for ADI4PIC, the asymmetric units consist of one molecule of 3- or 4-picoline and half a molecule of a dicarboxylic acid located on an inversion centre (Fig. 1(a-c)). The asymmetric unit of ADI4PIC consists of one molecule of adipic acid and two molecules of 4-picoline (Fig. 1(d)). In all four structures, the molecules are linked into discrete units via 110 carboxylic acid •• • picolinyl interactions involving a strong O-H•••N hydrogen bond and an additional weaker C-H•••O

 μ (mm⁻¹)

Limiting indices (hkl)

Reflections collected/unique

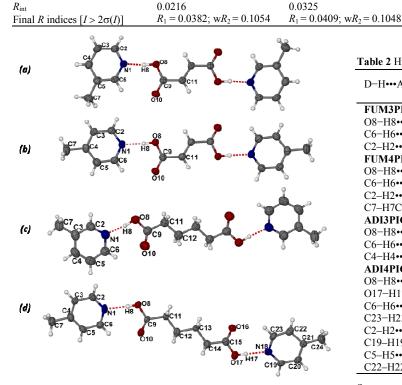
	FUM3PIC	FUM4PIC	ADI3PIC	ADI4PIC	
CCDC number	DC number 1008280		1008278	1008281	
Molecular formula	$C_{16}H_{18}N_2O_4$	$C_{16}H_{18}N_2O_4$	$C_{18}H_{24}N_2O_4$	$C_{18}H_{24}N_2O_4$	
Formula weight	302.32	302.32	332.39	332.39	
Temperature (K)	173(2)	173(2)	173(2)	173(2)	
Crystal system	monoclinic	monoclinic	monoclinic	triclinic	
Space group	$P2_1/c$	$P2_1/c$	$P2_1/n$	<i>P</i> 1	
a/Å	9.805(2)	8.746(2)	5.473(1)	6.948(1)	
b/Å	4.810(1)	7.217(1)	14.309(3)	7.162(1)	
c/Å	16.660(3)	12.799(3)	11.659(2)	10.509(2)	
x/°	90	90	90	78.17(3)	
3/°	98.91(3)	92.68(3)	99.48(3)	73.90(1)	
//°	90	90	90	62.48(3)	
Volume (Å ³)	776.2(3)	807.0(3)	900.6(3)	443.8(2)	
Z	2	2	2	1	
ρ (g cm ⁻³)	1.294	1.244	1.226	1.244	
1 (2)					

Table 1 Selected crystal data, experimental and refinement parameters for structures FUM3PIC, FUM4PIC, ADI3PIC and ADI4PIC

0.090

 $\pm 11; \pm 9; -17, 16$

6600/2015



0.094

 ± 13 ; ± 16 ; ± 22

3742/2005

Fig. 1 (a-d) The molecular structure of FUM3PIC, FUM4PIC, 5 ADI3PIC and ADI4PIC respectively showing thermal ellipsoids at 70% probability level for non-hydrogen atoms

interaction between the ortho hydrogen and the carbonyl moiety. In the FUM3PIC structure the hydrogen bonded units pack in layers along the b axis, and the entities in consecutive layers 10 interact with each other via a weak interaction involving the hydroxyl oxygen and one of the picolinyl hydrogen atoms (C2-H2•••O8; 3.240(2) Å; 129.9°) (Fig. 2(a)). Units in the same layers interact with each other via $\pi^{\bullet\bullet\bullet\pi}$ interactions of 3.29 Å between the picolinyl moiety and the carboxylic group (C6•••C9). The 15 FUM4PIC structure also consists of layers along the b axis and the hydrogen bonded units interact with those in consecutive

Table 2 Hydrogen bond details and short contacts

 $R_1 = 0.0461$; w $R_2 = 0.1160$

0.087

 $\pm 13; \pm 6; \pm 22$

4023/2051

0.0372

Table 2 Hydrogen bond details and snort contacts							
D-H•••A	D–H (Å)	H•••A (Å)	D•••A (Å)	∠D−H•••A (°)			
FUM3PIC							
O8-H8•••N1	0.97	1.63	2.595(1)	173.7			
C6-H6•••O 0	0.95	2.68	3.351(1)	127.8			
C2–H2•••O8 ⁱ	0.95	2.55	3.240(2)	129.9			
FUM4PIC							
O8-H8•••N1	0.91	1.68	2.583(1)	170.1			
C6-H6•••O10	0.95	2.61	3.275(2)	127.6			
C2-H2•••O8 ⁱⁱ	0.95	2.54	3.239(2)	130.8			
C7-H7C•••O10 ⁱⁱⁱ	0.98	2.63	3.590(2)	166.0			
ADI3PIC							
O8-H8•••N1	0.95	1.71	2.664(2)	176.4			
C6-H6•••O10	0.95	2.51	3.208(2)	130.6			
C4-H4•••O10 ^{iv}	0.95	2.43	3.340(2)	161.0			
ADI4PIC							
O8-H8•••N1	0.90	1.79	2.688(4)	176.2			
O17-H17•••N18	0.92	1.76	2.684(5)	173.6			
C6-H6•••O10	0.95	2.55	3.261(6)	132.1			
C23-H23•••O16	0.95	2.59	3.285(6)	130.5			
C2-H2•••O17 ^v	0.95	2.57	3.376(5)	142.9			
C19–H19•••O8 ^{vi}	0.95	2.56	3.370(4)	143.6			
C5–H5•••O16 ^{vii}	0.95	2.43	3.307(5)	153.6			
C22–H22•••O10 ^{viii}	0.95	2.43	3.317(6)	154.5			

0.088

 ± 9 ; ± 9 ; ± 13

8165/2207

 $R_1 = 0.0364$; w $R_2 = 0.1037$

0.0215

Symmetry codes: (i) -x+2, y-1/2, -z+3/2, (ii) -x+1, y-1/2, -z+1/2, (iii) x, -z+1/2, (iiii) -z, -z+1/2, (iiii) -z, -z+1/2, (iiii) -z, -z+1/2, (iiii) -z, -z+1/2, (iiiii) -z, -z+1/2, (iiii) -z, 20 y+1/2, z-1/2, (iv) -x+3/2, y+1/2, -z+3/2, (v) x-1, y, z-1, (vi) x+1, y, z+1, (vii) x-1, y-1, z and (viii) x+1, y+1, z

layers via three short contacts (C2-H2•••O8; 3.239(2) Å; 130.8° and C7- H7C•••O10; 3.590(2) Å; 166.0° and H5•••H5 = 2.33 Å) 25 as well an interaction between the picolinyl moiety and one of the hydrogen atoms of the methyl group (C7–H7C••• π = 3.45 Å). In the ADI3PIC structure the units are arranged in a herringbone fashion along the c axis and they interact with each other via two short contacts (C4-H4•••O10; 3.340(2) Å; 161.0° and H6•••H7A $_{30} = 2.31 \text{ Å}$) to form 2D sheets (Fig. 2(c)). These sheets pack on top of each other and interact via two C-H•••π interactions (C12- $H12A \cdot \cdot \cdot \pi = 2.98 \text{ Å and C13-} H13B \cdot \cdot \cdot \pi = 3.69 \text{ Å}).$

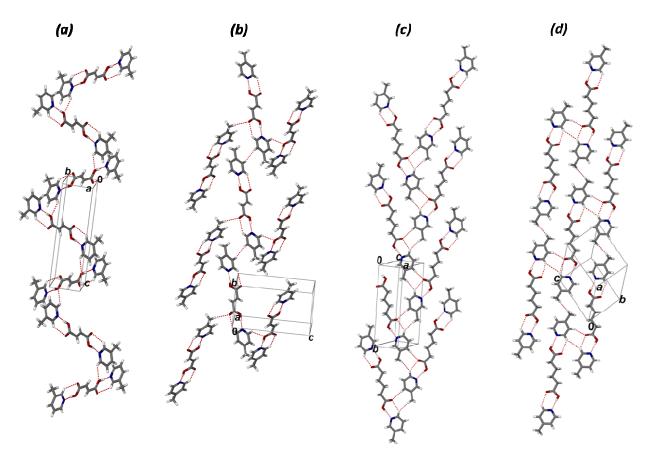


Fig. 2 The hydrogen bonded networks in (a) FUM3PIC, (b) FUM4PIC, (c) ADI3PIC and (d) ADI4PIC

The ADI4PIC structure also consists of 2D sheets formed as a 5 result of five short contacts in the bc plane (C2-H2•••O17; 3.376(5) Å; 142.9°, C19-H19•••O8; 3.370(4) Å; 143.6°, C5-H5•••O16; 3.307(5) Å; 153.6°, C22-H22•••O10; 3.317(6) Å; 154.5° and H24C•••H7C = 2.21 Å). The 2D sheets interact with neighbouring sheets via two C-H••• π interactions involving two 10 of the adipic acid hydrogen atoms (H14B and H11B) and the picolinyl ring (CH••• π = 2.781 Å and 2.763 Å) (Fig. 2(d)).

Melting point, solubility and Hirshfeld surface analysis

The solubilities of the four solvates as well as the previously reported **FUMDABCO** (CCDC code HUSTAO²¹), 15 ADIDABCO (UNEFOI²³), FUM (FUMAAC⁴⁰) and ADI (ADIPAC13⁴¹) were measured in water and ethanol and the values are given in Table 3. Their melting points were determined using DSC (Table 3) and the DSC thermograms are presented in the ESI (Fig. S7 and S8). Both melting point and solubility are 20 influenced by intermolecular interactions and are related via the enthalpy of fusion.⁴² Generally, compounds with strong intermolecular interactions have high melting points and high heat of fusion and conversely low solubilities. 42 The melting points of the multicomponent crystals are lower than the 25 corresponding dicarboxylic acid and they follow the order

FUM>FUMDABCO>FUM3PIC>FUM4PIC

and

ADI>ADIDABCO>ADI3PIC>ADI4PIC

These trends are attributed to the appearance of the stronger

30 intermolecular interactions (hydrogen bond, charge assisted hydrogen bond) in the multicomponent crystals. The carboxylic acid homo dimers in the pure acids are stronger than the charge assisted heterosynthons in the salts which are, in turn, stronger than the acid •• picoline heterosynthons in the solvates. The 35 aqueous solubility in both series does not follow the expected trend but rather follows the order

FUM3PIC<FUM<FUMDABCO<FUM4PIC

and

ADI3PIC<ADI<ADIDABCO<ADI4PIC

40 We found no correlation between the ethanol solubility and the melting points for both the FUM and ADI series. It is interesting to note that in both series, the solvates containing 3-picoline show a somewhat different behaviour and have the lowest aqueous solubilities. In order to understand how the melting point and the 45 solubility relate to the supramolecular structure, 2D fingerprint plots were generated using CrystalExplorer^{30,31} which gave a breakdown of the intermolecular interactions as well as their contributions to the total Hirshfeld surface (Table 3). For the structures FUM3PIC, FUM4PIC, ADI3PIC and ADI4PIC, 50 each fragment was defined as a whole supramolecular unit consisting of two 3- or 4-picoline molecules hydrogen bonded to a dicarboxylic acid. Following the same logic, FUMDABCO and ADIDABCO fragments were also taken to be two DABCO molecules and one dicarboxylic acid (Fig. S9). The contributions 55 from the H•••H, O•••H and C•••H interactions were plotted with the aqueous solubilities and melting points as depicted in Fig. 3.

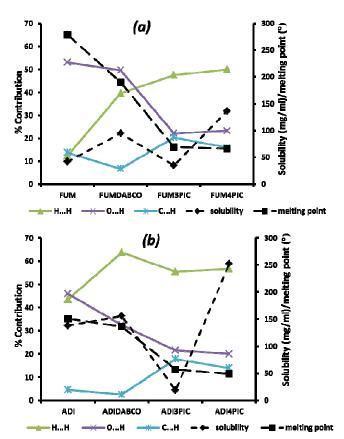
In both the FUM and ADI series, generally, the O•••H interactions correlate with the melting point and the highest O•••H contribution being observed in the compound with the highest melting point. On the other hand, there is a general 5 increase of the H•••H interactions with decreasing melting point. Interestingly, C•••H interactions in both the FUM and the **ADI** series show an inverse relationship to the solubility. When considering the solvates only (Fig. 4), the C•••H interactions, which are considered to be attractive, contribute 10 more in FUM3PIC and ADI3PIC than in FUM4PIC and ADI4PIC, while the H•••H interactions which are somewhat an indicator of an unfavoured packing feature contribute more in the FUM4PIC and ADI4PIC. A closer inspection of the 2D fingerprint plots of the FUM3PIC and FUM4PIC reveals that 15 the closest atom-atom contact for the H•••H interactions obtained by taking the sum of de and di at the point of the spike is shorter in FUM4PIC (2.13 Å) and ADI4PIC (2.04 Å) than in FUM3PIC (2.40 Å) and ADI3PIC (2.12 Å). This indicates a more efficient packing with better balanced interactions in the 20 FUM3PIC and ADI3PIC structures than in the FUM4PIC and ADI4PIC. The close packing in these structures as well as the higher percentage of the C. H attractive interactions are contributing to their lower solubilities.

25 **Table 3** Melting point (Mp), solubility (aqueous (Sw) and ethanol (Se)), H•••H, O•••H and C•••H contributions for the multicomponent crystals and the pure acids

Compound	Mp (°C)	Sw (mg/ml)	Se (mg/ml)	Н•••Н (%)	O•••H (%)	C•••H (%)
FUM	279	42	35	12.3	53.0	13.7
FUMDABCO	190	95	305	39.6	49.6	6.8
FUM3PIC	69	35	15	47.5	22.1	20.3
FUM4PIC	66	136	271	50.0	23.3	16.0
ADI	151	138	89.0	43.5	45.9	4.6
ADIDABCO	136	156	30.0	63.7	32.5	2.6
ADI3PIC	57	19	148	55.4	21.5	17.8
ADI4PIC	49	252	20	56.8	19.9	13.8

Conclusions

In summary, six multicomponent crystals involving fumaric acid 30 and adipic acid were synthesised and the relationships of the supramolecular structures with the melting points and solubilities were discussed. The structures are very similar in that the supramolecular units formed by the acid-base pairs are connected primarily via strong O-H · · · N hydrogen bonds. Secondary 35 interactions such as H•••H, CH•••O, π ••• π and CH••• π are utilised in the packing. The melting point showed partial correlation with the aqueous solubility but no correlation with ethanol solubility. Analysis of the crystal structures using CrystalExplorer provided a breakdown of the intermolecular interactions and it was found 40 that the O•••H interactions correlate with the melting point; a decrease in melting point corresponds to a decrease in O•••H interactions while the C. H interactions show an inverse relationship to the aqueous solubility.



45 Fig. 3 Plots of the melting point, aqueous solubility and the percentage contributions from H•••H, O•••H and C•••H interactions in the FUM series (a) and in the ADI series (b)

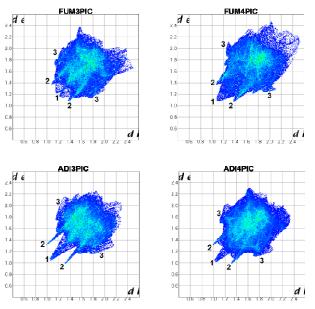


Fig. 4 The 2D plots derived from Hirshfeld surface analysis for 50 FUM3PIC, FUM4PIC, ADI3PIC and ADI4PIC. Spikes labelled 1-3 represent the H•••H, O•••H and C•••H interactions respectively

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