

Glycerol concentrations required for the successful vitrification of cocktail conditions in a high-throughput crystallization screen

Robin Kempkes,^a Elizabeth Stofko,^b Kam Lam^c and Edward H. Snell^{a,d,*}

^aHauptman–Woodward Medical Research Institute, 700 Ellicott Street, Buffalo, NY 14203, USA, ^bCase Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio 44106, USA, ^cWashington and Jefferson College, 60 South Lincoln Street, Washington, PA 15301, USA, and ^dDepartment of Structural Biology, SUNY Buffalo, 700 Ellicott Street, Buffalo, NY 14203, USA

Correspondence e-mail: esnell@hwi.buffalo.edu

Received 14 November 2007

Accepted 18 December 2007

The Hauptman–Woodward Medical Research Institute runs a high-throughput crystallization screening service in which macromolecules are screened against 1536 potential crystallization cocktails. Typically, multiple crystallization leads are identified. With a limited amount of sample, the question becomes ‘How many leads can be optimized and which leads are most likely to produce X-ray diffraction data?’. In order to prioritize the hits for optimization, the amount of glycerol required to successfully cryocool each cocktail has been determined for the cocktails used in the high-throughput screen. Those hit conditions that require the minimum amount of cryoprotectant for successful vitrification will be closer in chemical make-up to the mother liquor. Hence, if the physical properties of the crystals are similar, one could logically prioritize leads that are more likely to produce diffraction based upon the chemical similarity of the native to the cryopreserved mother liquor.

1. Introduction

High-throughput crystallization is a highly automated process; hundreds of experiments can be conducted with a few milligrams of the macromolecule of interest. A high-throughput screening service is currently offered at the Hauptman–Woodward Medical Research Institute (HWI). Samples solicited from the biological community are screened against 1536 different biochemical cocktails (Luft *et al.*, 2003) using the microbatch-under-oil crystallization method (Chayen *et al.*, 1992). Individual experiments are composed of 200 nl macromolecule solution ($\sim 10 \text{ mg ml}^{-1}$) and 200 nl of a crystallization cocktail. Experiments are incubated at 296 K and the outcomes are imaged for four weeks. The images are archived and are immediately available to the investigator providing the sample. The cocktails used are broken down into three different groups: highly soluble salts, different molecular-weight PEG combinations and commercially available screens that complement the previous groups. Currently, the success rate is $\sim 50\%$, *i.e.* half of the screened samples result in a lead: a likely crystallization condition that can be optimized. Frequently, leads are observed from several chemically distinct cocktails. With a limited supply of macromolecule available for crystallization, can we devise a strategy to rationally prioritize these leads for optimization?

For X-ray structural data collection, the majority of samples are cryocooled in order to reduce radiation damage (Garman & Owen, 2006). Cryoprotective agents (cryoprotectants) are typically required to eliminate crystalline ice formation. One of these cryoprotectants is glycerol. The amounts of glycerol needed to successfully vitrify the Hampton Research Crystal

Screen (50 different biochemical cocktails) were determined by Garman & Mitchell (1996). A similar study expanded these data with the addition of 48 cocktails (adding Hampton Research Crystal Screen II) using glycerol and also PEG 400, ethylene glycol and 1,2-propanediol as cryoprotectants for all 98 (50 + 48) cocktails (McFerrin & Snell, 2002). In both studies, solutions were tested for successful vitrification using X-ray diffraction. McFerrin and Snell noted that 73% of the glycerol concentrations required to produce a visually clear solution were successfully vitrified as determined by X-ray diffraction. The remaining solutions required a 5% increase (the minimum glycerol concentration step used) to be successfully vitrified. Simple visual observation provided a good guide to the initial cryoprotectant condition within the sampling constraints.

We have expanded on previous studies and visually determined the concentrations of glycerol required to vitrify the first two groups of cocktails used in the HWI high-throughput screening laboratory. The introduction of any non-native component into a crystal, *e.g.* a cryoprotective agent, has the potential to cause damage (Mitchell & Garman, 1994). By determining the minimum concentration of glycerol required for successful vitrification of a lead condition, we can use this information as one of the criteria to prioritize the leads that are subsequently optimized, *i.e.* those where minimal additional of cryoprotection would be needed for data collection.

2. Experimental

The 1536-condition HWI crystallization screen can be divided into three groups. Groups 1 and 2 were constructed using an

incomplete factorial design (Audic *et al.*, 1997) and are buffered with 100 mM concentrations of CAPS (pH 10.0), TAPS (pH 9.0), Tris (pH 8.0), HEPES (pH 7.5), MOPS (pH 7.0), MES (pH 6.0), sodium acetate (pH 5.0) and sodium citrate (pH 4.0). Group 1 cocktails are highly soluble salts (262 cocktails). They include 36 different salts (11 cations and 14 anions) at ~30, 60 and 90% saturation, buffered as described. Group 2, PEG/salt (722 cocktails), includes five different molecular-weight PEGs (20, 8, 4, 1 kDa and 400 Da), combined with 35 salts at 100 mM concentration and buffered as described. Group 3 are the commercial screens (552 cocktails). This group is comprised of Hampton Research Matrix, Quick, PEG/Ion, PEG Grid, Ammonium Sulfate Grid, Sodium Chloride Grid, Crystal Screen HT, Index and SaltRx screens. For historical reasons, the first 22 cocktails from Hampton Research Crystal Screen Cryo are distributed within groups 1 and 2. These and other occurrences of Hampton Research cryocondition cocktails serve as a control during the experimental process. The first two groups were studied by the addition of 2.5% (*w/v*) increments of glycerol concentration to identify cryoprotectant conditions. For the third group, glycerol concentrations for Crystal Screen HT have been described elsewhere (McFerrin & Snell, 2002). Grid Screen Ammonium Sulfate and Grid Screen PEG/LiCl were used to investigate the fine sampling of chemical space, complementing the incomplete factorial sampling of the first two groups. The remainder were studied in somewhat less detail.

The instrumentation used consists of an offline goniometer system with an Oxford 700 cryostream positioned to cool the sample from directly above (Fig. 1*a*). Each sample was imaged with a Navitar zoom lens coupled to a Pixelink color firewire-linked CCD camera. Each component could be precisely translated. A Fibre-Lite metal halide machine-vision illuminator was used to illuminate the sample from the front. To bias the experiment towards the worst case, large 0.7–1.0 mm Hampton Research cryoloops mounted on magnetic heads were used to hold the solutions. Multiple loops were used, all of a similar measured size. They were washed and dried between each experiment.

In the high-throughput crystallization screening laboratory, the crystallization cocktail is mixed in a 1:1 ratio with the macromolecule in buffer. For the vitrification studies described here, all the cocktails were studied at full strength and then diluted in a 1:1 ratio with double-distilled water (ddH₂O). At full strength, the data provide an indication of the initial cryoprotectant properties of the cocktail. As solutes lower the vapor pressure of a solvent and decrease the freezing point, the data from the 1:1 dilution with ddH₂O

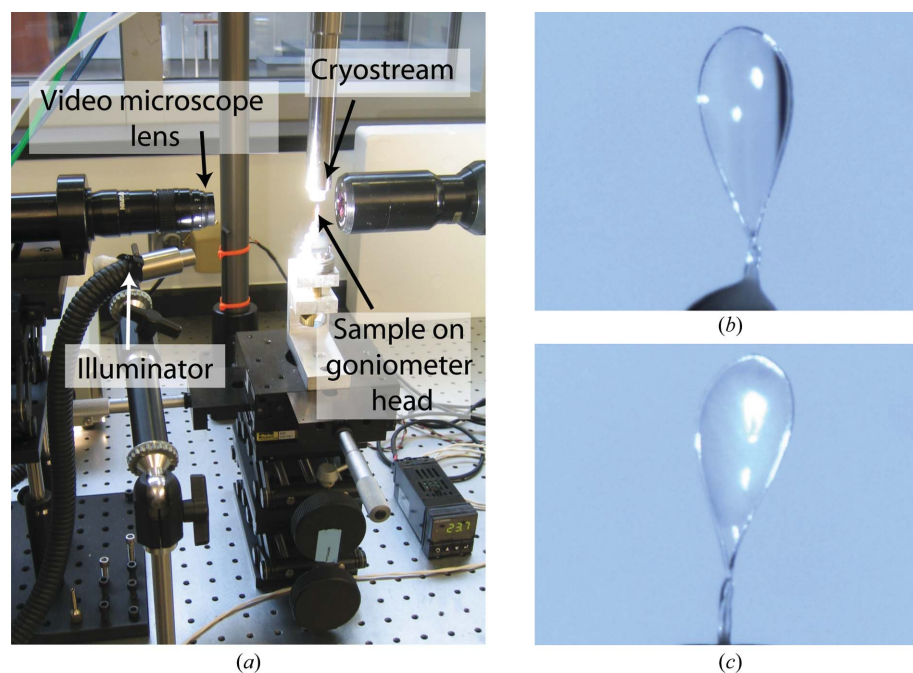


Figure 1
(*a*) Photograph of the experimental setup showing the video microscope lens, the fiber-optic illuminator, cryostream and goniometer mount. The instrument focused on the sample to the right-hand side is a thermal imaging camera used for other studies (Snell *et al.*, 2002). Examples of (*b*) a successful vitrification and (*c*) a poor flash-cooling result are also shown.

(having no solutes) represent a worst-case scenario. A total of 10 μl solution was pipetted onto a glass microscope slide and the loop was used to pick up solution and place it on the goniometer with the gas stream blocked. Once on the goniometer, the gas stream was swiftly unblocked to cool the cryoloop and the solution it contained. Magnified images of the loops were examined to determine whether the solution had vitrified successfully (Fig. 1*b*) or whether crystalline ice was present (Fig. 1*c*).

The first experiment, with the cocktail at full strength, identified conditions that already had cryoprotectant properties and the second with 50% ddH₂O was used as the starting point to study the glycerol concentrations needed for vitrification. If the 50% cocktail solution did not show successful vitrification, further investigation of the cocktail took place. Glycerol solutions containing 60, 55, 50, 45, 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10 and 5% (v/v) glycerol were prepared by volumetric dilution with ddH₂O. The glycerol solution was warmed in a water bath to reduce its viscosity and increase pipetting accuracy. For the first 984 cocktails, each solution was pipetted in equal volumes onto a glass microscope slide, aspirating and dispensing the mixed drop several times. The effective percentage of cryoprotectant was therefore from 30% to 0% glycerol in 2.5% (v/v) steps. Starting from the highest concentration of cryoprotectant, each solution was loaded in a loop and cooled and then imaged until evidence of crystalline ice was seen. The cryoprotectant concentration that remained clear was then recorded. The initial 984 cocktails (excluding the 22 Crystal Screen Cryo cocktails) provide an incomplete factorial sampling of crystallization space.

A similar procedure was followed for the Hampton Research Grid Screen Ammonium Sulfate and Grid Screen PEG/LiCl cocktails. Sample volume can be an important factor in cryoprotectant concentration and successful vitrification (Chinte *et al.*, 2005). Therefore, a single cocktail that required a larger than average amount of cryoprotectant was selected from the high-salt cocktails group (1.14 *M* ammonium sulfate pH 6) and from each of five different molecular-weight PEGs in the PEG group (lithium chloride pH 10, calcium acetate pH 6.0, ammonium sulfate pH 7.5, potassium phosphate pH 7.0 and ammonium phosphate dibasic pH 4.0 all at 0.1 *M* concentration for PEGs 20, 8, 4, 1 kDa and 400 Da, respectively). The experimental procedure was repeated in 5% steps (rather than the previous 2.5% steps) with these cocktails, using a succession of smaller loops ranging from 1.0 to 0.05 mm across. Each loop was independently measured using a light microscope to confirm its size.

The remaining cocktails were studied with 1:1 dilutions of the cocktails with 20, 10 and 5% (v/v) glycerol solutions. These cocktails (and the Ammonium Sulfate and PEG/LiCl Grid Screens) are used as reference points with the HWI crystallization screen in order to understand the behavior of the macromolecules over fine-sampled chemical shifts, to pinpoint the best category of potential crystallization chemicals and as a means to sample outliers in chemical space not covered by the 962-cocktail incomplete factorial sampled cocktails. Note that the Crystal Screen HT has been studied in detail

elsewhere (Garman & Mitchell, 1996; McFerrin & Snell, 2002).

3. Results

Figs. 2–7 list the cocktails and the concentrations of glycerol required to successfully vitrify the solution. The percentage column is divided into three sections, with the first identifying whether or not the cocktail was successfully vitrified at 100% concentration (without added cryoprotectant), the second if it was successful at 50% (v/v) concentration and the third the percentage of glycerol needed to vitrify a solution containing a 1:1 dilution of the cocktail with ddH₂O. In Figs. 8 and 9 the Hampton Research Grid Screen Ammonium Sulfate and Grid Screen PEG/LiCl results are displayed in a similar manner. Figs. 10–15 show the effect of loop size on the amount of cryoprotectant needed for successful vitrification. Fig. 16 provides a listing of the remaining screens. For brevity, only those conditions that displayed natural cryoprotectant qualities or that were cryoprotected with 20% (v/v) glycerol or less are displayed. Finally, Tables 1 and 2 summarize the results.

The highly soluble salts (223 cocktails; Fig. 2) required on average the highest concentrations of cryoprotectant [22.5% (v/v)], with the exceptions of lithium chloride, magnesium acetate and magnesium chloride hexahydrate at high concentration and pH. This was also observed in the data for 100% concentration cocktail conditions, *i.e.* no glycerol. In general, a higher initial salt concentration required a lower cryoprotectant concentration, as observed by Garman (1999). High salt concentrations as cryoprotectant agents have been observed elsewhere (Holyoak *et al.*, 2003; Rubinson *et al.*, 2000).

The PEG 20K results are shown in Fig. 3; for all the PEGs the salt concentration was 0.1 *M*. For 81 cocktails containing 20.0% (v/v) PEG 20K there was little variation in the required cryoprotectant concentration; that for glycerol averaged 23.9%. At 40% (v/v) PEG 20K (61 cocktails) the average cryoprotectant concentration was 16.0% (v/v). Two conditions required no cryoprotectant: ammonium bromide pH 7 and magnesium acetate pH 9. In the case of magnesium acetate, as the pH decreased the required concentration of cryoprotectant increased [0% (v/v) at pH 9, 10% (v/v) at pH 6 and 15% (v/v) at pH 5]. Ammonium bromide was only sampled once at 40% (v/v) PEG, so the extent of any pH trends are unknown. For PEG 8K (Fig. 4) at 20% (v/v) concentration (83 conditions), the average required cryoprotectant was 24.1% (v/v), similar to that for PEG 20K. PEG 8K at 40% (v/v) (70 conditions) reduced the average cryoprotectant to 16.2%. Again, there were a number of samples that needed no cryoprotectant. These were ammonium chloride pH 4, ammonium nitrate pH 7, magnesium acetate pH 7, sodium nitrate pH 4, lithium sulfate monohydrate pH 5 and manganese sulfate monohydrate pH 6. These cocktails included only single occurrences of magnesium, sodium and manganese salts and so no pH trends could be observed. PEG 4K (Fig. 5) at 20% (v/v) (75 conditions) required an average of 24.7% cryoprotectant and for 40% (v/v) (73 conditions) a concen-

No.	Salt	pH	PEG	%	
238	Ammonium bromide	10	20% PEG 20 000	0	22.5
239		9		0	27.5
240		7		0	22.5
241		7.5		0	22.5
242	Ammonium chloride	6		0	22.5
243		4		0	22.5
244	Ammonium nitrate	6		0	22.5
245		9		0	22.5
246	Ammonium phosphate, monobasic	10		0	22.5
247		7.5		0	22.5
248	Ammonium phosphate, dibasic	10	0	22.5	
249	Ammonium sulfate	7	0	22.5	
250	HR-Cryo-5		1	1	0
251	HR-Cryo-6		1	0	12.5
252	HR-Cryo-7		1	0	15.0
253	Lithium bromide	7	20% PEG 20 000	0	22.5
254		9		0	22.5
255	Lithium chloride	9		0	22.5
256		5		0	22.5
257		10		0	27.5
258		6		0	25.0
259	Magnesium acetate	9		0	22.5
260	Magnesium chloride hexahydrate	8		0	22.5
261		4		0	25.0
262		7		0	22.5
263		HR-Cryo-8		1	0
264	Manganese chloride	6	0	22.5	
265		4	0	22.5	
266	Potassium acetate	7.5	0	22.5	
267		7	0	25.0	
268		8	0	25.0	
269		6	0	22.5	
270	Potassium bromide	7.5	0	22.5	
271		5	0	25.0	
272		8	0	25.0	
273		9	0	27.5	
274	Potassium carbonate	5	0	27.5	
275		7.5	0	22.5	
276	Potassium chloride	10	0	22.5	
277		7.5	0	25.0	
278	Potassium nitrate	6	0	22.5	
279		8	0	27.5	
280		4	0	22.5	
281		8	0	22.5	
282	Potassium phosphate, monobasic	5	0	25.0	
283		6	0	25.0	
284		9	0	22.5	
284	Potassium thiocyanate	7	0	27.5	
286	Rubidium chloride	4	0	22.5	
287		10	0	25.0	
288		9	0	25.0	
289	Sodium bromide	4	0	25.0	
290		10	0	25.0	
291	Sodium chloride	7.5	0	22.5	
292		8	0	22.5	
293	Sodium molybdate dihydrate	7	0	25.0	
294		8	0	22.5	
295	Sodium nitrate	7	0	27.5	
296	Sodium phosphate, monobasic	4	0	22.5	
297		6	0	22.5	
298	Sodium thiosulfate pentahydrate	8	0	22.5	
299	Zinc acetate	6	0	25.0	
300		5	0	25.0	
301	Potassium phosphate, dibasic	10	0	22.5	
302	Cobalt sulfate heptahydrate	7	0	25.0	
303	Lithium sulfate monohydrate	6	0	25.0	
304		4	0	22.5	
305	Potassium phosphate, tribasic	9	0	22.5	
306		10	0	25.0	
307	Ammonium thiocyanate	7.5	0	25.0	
308	Manganese sulfate monohydrate	5	0	22.5	
309		6	0	22.5	
310		7	0	22.5	
311	Magnesium nitrate hexahydrate	5	0	22.5	
312		8	0	22.5	
313		7	0	25.0	

No.	Salt	pH	PEG	%	
314	Ammonium bromide	7	40% PEG 20 000	1	0
315	Ammonium chloride	6		1	15.0
316		7		1	15.0
317	Ammonium nitrate	8		1	15.0
318		5	1	17.5	
319	Ammonium phosphate, monobasic	4	1	15.0	
320		8	1	15.0	
321	Ammonium phosphate, dibasic	7	20%	0	25.0
322	Ammonium sulfate	4	40%	1	15.0
323		8		1	17.5
324		5		1	17.5
325	HR-Cryo-9			1	0
326	Calcium acetate	7	40% PEG 20 000	1	15.0
327	Lithium bromide	10		1	15.0
328		7.5		1	17.5
329		6		1	15.0
330	Lithium chloride	8	1	17.5	
331	Magnesium acetate	6	1	10.0	
332		9	1	0	
333		5	1	15.0	
334	Magnesium chloride hexahydrate	5	1	15.0	
335	Magnesium sulfate heptahydrate	5	20%	0	27.5
336		6		0	27.5
337		9		0	22.5
338	Potassium acetate	9	40% PEG 20 000	1	15.0
339	Potassium bromide	10		1	15.0
340	Potassium carbonate	6		1	15.0
341		9		1	15.0
342	Potassium chloride	6		1	15.0
343		8		1	15.0
344		7		1	17.5
345	Potassium nitrate	4		1	15.0
346		7.5		1	17.5
347	Potassium phosphate, monobasic	5		1	17.5
348		9	1	17.5	
349		9	1	12.5	
350	Potassium thiocyanate	6	1	22.5	
351		10	1	22.5	
352	Rubidium chloride	5	0	22.5	
353		10	0	22.5	
354		8	0	22.5	
355		7.5	1	15.0	
356	Sodium bromide	6	1	22.5	
357		8	1	17.5	
358	Sodium chloride	4	1	17.5	
359		8	1	15.0	
360	Sodium molybdate dihydrate	10	1	12.5	
361		7.5	1	10.0	
362		7	1	17.5	
363	Sodium nitrate	9	1	17.5	
364		4	1	17.5	
365		7.5	1	15.0	
366		9	0	22.5	
367	Sodium phosphate, monobasic	5	0	22.5	
368		10	1	12.5	
369		10	1	17.5	
370	Sodium thiosulfate pentahydrate	8	1	17.5	
371	Zinc acetate	6	1	15.0	
372	HR-Cryo-10		1	0	15.0
373	HR-Cryo-11		1	0	22.5
374	HR-Cryo-12		0	0	22.5
375	HR-Cryo-13		1	1	0
376	Cobalt sulfate heptahydrate	8	20%	0	25.0
377		5		0	22.5
378		4		0	25.0
379	Lithium sulfate monohydrate	7.5	40%	1	15.0
380		7		1	12.5
381	HR-Cryo-14		1	0	15.0
382	Potassium phosphate, tribasic	5	20%	0	22.5
383		4		0	30.0
384	HR-Cryo-15		1	0	15.0
385	Ammonium thiocyanate	8	40%	1	15.0
386		9		0	15.0
387	HR-Cryo-16		1	0	12.5
388	Magnesium nitrate hexahydrate	5	40%	1	17.5
389		8		1	15.0
390		7		1	0

Figure 3

PEG 20 000 cocktail conditions (Nos. 238–390) shown in a similar manner to Fig. 2. Within these conditions several Hampton Research Crystal Screen Cryo condition screens are also included; Nos. 250–252, 263, 325, 372–375, 381, 384 and 387.

No.	Salt	pH	PEG	%		No.	Salt	pH	PEG	%		
				0	27.5					1	15.0	
391	Ammonium bromide	5	20% PEG 8000	0	27.5	468	Ammonium bromide	4	40% PEG 8000	1	0	15.0
392		8		0	27.5	469		7		0	0	25.0
393	Ammonium chloride	7		0	25.0	470	5	1		0	17.5	
394	Ammonium nitrate	8		0	25.0	471	5	1		0	17.5	
395		10		0	22.5	472	4	1		1	0	
396	Ammonium phosphate, monobasic	7		0	27.5	473	8	1		0	17.5	
397		8		0	25.0	474	4	1		0	17.5	
398		9		0	22.5	475	7.5	0		0	22.5	
399		5		0	25.0	476	7	1		1	0	
400		9		0	22.5	477	5	1		0	15.0	
401		Ammonium phosphate, dibasic		6	0	22.5	478	6	1	1	0	
402	Ammonium sulfate	7.5		0	22.5	479	5	0	0	25.0		
403		10		0	25.0	480	7.5	0	0	22.5		
404	Calcium acetate	6		0	27.5	481	5	40%	1	0	15.0	
405		7.5		0	22.5	482	6	PEG	1	0	15.0	
406	Calcium chloride dihydrate	5		0	25.0	483	9	8000	1	0	20.0	
407		7		0	27.5	484	HR-Cryo-18		1	1	0	
408	Lithium bromide	5		0	22.5	485	6	40% PEG 8000	1	0	17.5	
409		10	0	22.5	486	5	1		0	17.5		
410		7.5	0	22.5	487	4	0		0	22.5		
411	Lithium chloride	8	0	22.5	488	9	1		0	17.5		
412		9	0	25.0	489	6	1		0	15.0		
413	Magnesium acetate	6	0	22.5	490	5	1		0	17.5		
414	Magnesium chloride hexahydrate	7.5	0	22.5	491	7.5	0		0	22.5		
415		8	0	25.0	492	7	1		1	0		
416		7	0	22.5	493	5	1		0	15.0		
417	Magnesium sulfate heptahydrate	4	0	22.5	494	10	20%		0	0	22.5	
418		7	0	25.0	495	7.5	0	0	25.0			
419	Potassium acetate	10	0	22.5	496	5	0	0	25.0			
420	Potassium bromide	9	0	22.5	497	7	40% PEG 8000	1	0	10.0		
421		10	0	25.0	498	5		1	0	22.5		
422	Potassium carbonate	10	0	25.0	499	6		1	0	17.5		
423		6	0	22.5	500	5		1	0	22.5		
424	Potassium chloride	5	0	25.0	501	7		1	0	17.5		
425		4	0	22.5	502	7.5		1	0	12.5		
426	Potassium nitrate	10	0	22.5	503	7		1	0	17.5		
427		7	0	22.5	504	8		0	0	22.5		
428	Potassium phosphate, monobasic	5	0	22.5	505	5		1	0	15.0		
429		7.5	0	22.5	506	8		1	0	15.0		
430	Potassium thiocyanate	5	0	27.5	507	7.5	1	0	17.5			
431	Rubidium chloride	7.5	0	25.0	508	10	1	0	20.0			
432		6	0	27.5	509	9	0	0	22.5			
433	Sodium bromide	6	0	25.0	510	10	0	0	22.5			
434	Sodium chloride	7.5	0	25.0	511	6	1	0	15.0			
435		6	0	22.5	512	9	1	0	15.0			
436	Sodium molybdate dihydrate	6	0	25.0	513	7.5	1	0	15.0			
437		7	0	25.0	514	8	1	0	15.0			
438		9	0	25.0	515	7.5	1	0	17.5			
439		8	0	25.0	516	7	1	0	20.0			
440	Sodium nitrate	6	0	27.5	517	4	0	0	22.5			
441		7	0	22.5	518	10	1	0	17.5			
442		4	0	27.5	519	5	1	0	12.5			
443	7.5	0	27.5	520	8	1	0	22.5				
444	Sodium thiosulfate pentahydrate	10	0	22.5	521	9	0	0	22.5			
445	Zinc acetate	4	0	25.0	522	10	0	0	22.5			
446		5	0	30.0	523	7.5	0	0	22.5			
447	HR-Cryo-17		1	1	22.5	524	Sodium bromide	9	1	0	15.0	
448	Potassium phosphate, dibasic	7.5	20% PEG 8000	0	22.5	525	10	1	0	17.5		
449		4		0	22.5	526	8	1	0	17.5		
450		7		0	22.5	527	9	1	0	15.0		
451		8		0	22.5	528	6	1	0	15.0		
452	Cobalt sulfate heptahydrate	4		0	25.0	529	4	1	1	0		
453	Lithium sulfate monohydrate	9		0	25.0	530	8	1	0	17.5		
454		4		0	25.0	531	6	1	0	15.0		
455	Potassium phosphate, tribasic	8		0	22.5	532	7	1	0	17.5		
456		7.5		0	22.5	533	10	1	0	15.0		
457	Potassium phosphate, tribasic	7		0	25.0	534	9	1	0	15.0		
458		4		0	22.5	535	8	1	0	17.5		
459	Ammonium thiocyanate	8		0	25.0	536	6	1	0	17.5		
460		5		0	22.5	537	8	0	0	22.5		
461	10	0		22.5	538	Potassium phosphate, dibasic	5	20%	1	0	22.5	
462	Manganese sulfate monohydrate	5		0	25.0	539	5	1	1	0		
463		7		0	22.5	540	Lithium sulfate monohydrate	7	40%	1	0	22.5
464	Magnesium nitrate hexahydrate	4		0	22.5	541	9	1	0	15.0		
465		9		0	25.0	542	HR-Cryo-19		0	0	17.5	
466		6	0	22.5	543	Potassium phosphate, tribasic	5	20%	0	0	25.0	
467	7.5	0	22.5	544	4	0	0	22.5				
				545	Ammonium thiocyanate	6	40%	1	0	15.0		
				546	Manganese sulfate monohydrate	6		1	1	0		

Figure 4 PEG 8000 cocktail conditions (Nos. 391–546), similar to Fig. 2. Within these conditions several Hampton Research Crystal Screen Cryo condition screens are also included: Nos. 447, 484 and 542.

No.	Salt	pH	PEG	%			No.	Salt	pH	PEG	%			
				0	0	25.0					0	0	22.5	
547	Ammonium bromide	10	20% PEG-4000	0	0	25.0	621	Ammonium bromide	4	20%	0	0	22.5	
548		8		0	0	25.0	622		6		1	0	12.5	
549	Ammonium chloride	10		0	0	25.0	623	Ammonium chloride	10		40% PEG-4000	1	0	17.5
550		5		0	0	25.0	624		7			1	0	12.5
551	Ammonium nitrate	8		0	0	25.0	625	7.5	1			0	12.5	
552	Ammonium phosphate, monobasic	9		0	0	25.0	626	Ammonium nitrate	6			1	0	17.5
553		4		0	0	25.0	627		9			1	0	22.5
554		7		0	0	22.5	628		10			1	0	12.5
555	Ammonium phosphate, dibasic	4		0	0	25.0	629	7.5	1			1	0	
556		9		0	0	25.0	630	10	0			0	22.5	
557		7		0	0	22.5	631	Ammonium phosphate, dibasic	10			0	0	27.5
558	Ammonium sulfate	7.5		0	0	27.5	632	10	1			0	17.5	
559		9		0	0	25.0	633	Ammonium sulfate	4			0	0	22.5
560	Calcium acetate	7		0	0	25.0	634		6			1	0	15.0
561	Calcium chloride dihydrate	5		0	0	25.0	635	Calcium chloride dihydrate	7			1	0	17.5
562		7.5		0	0	25.0	636		5			1	0	17.5
563	Lithium bromide	5		0	0	25.0	637	Lithium bromide	4			1	0	17.5
564		8		0	0	27.5	638		10			1	0	15.0
565	Lithium chloride	8		0	0	25.0	639	Magnesium acetate	7.5			0	0	22.5
566		10		0	0	25.0	640	Magnesium chloride hexahydrate	5			1	0	22.5
567		5		0	0	25.0	641		7.5			1	1	0
568	Magnesium chloride hexahydrate	7.5		0	0	27.5	642	Manganese chloride	6			1	0	22.5
569		6		0	0	25.0	643	5	1			0	20.0	
570		7.5		0	0	22.5	644	Potassium acetate	8			1	1	0
571	Magnesium sulfate heptahydrate	7		0	0	22.5	645		7.5			1	1	0
572		8		0	0	22.5	646	7	1			0	20.0	
573		9		0	0	25.0	647	Potassium bromide	9			1	0	17.5
574		6		0	0	25.0	648		6			0	0	22.5
575	4	0		0	25.0	649	Potassium carbonate	7.5	1			0	15.0	
576	5	0		0	22.5	650		8	0			0	22.5	
577	Manganese chloride	7		0	0	27.5		651	10			1	0	20.0
578		6		0	0	25.0	652	Potassium chloride	9			1	0	15.0
579	Potassium acetate	4		0	0	25.0	653		6			1	1	0
580		6		0	0	22.5	654	Potassium nitrate	6			1	0	10.0
581	4	0		0	22.5	655	10		1			1	22.5	
582	Potassium bromide	8		0	0	27.5	656	4	1			0	17.5	
583		7.5		0	0	22.5	657	8	1			0	17.5	
584	Potassium carbonate	7		0	0	27.5	658	Potassium phosphate, monobasic	4			1	0	17.5
585		8		0	0	25.0	659		6			1	0	12.5
586	Potassium chloride	10		0	0	22.5	660	7	1			0	17.5	
587		8		0	0	27.5	661	Potassium thiocyanate	8	1		1	0	
588	Potassium nitrate	7		0	0	27.5	662		4	1		0	17.5	
589	Potassium phosphate, monobasic	4		0	0	25.0	663	7.5	1	0	22.5			
590	Potassium thiocyanate	4		0	0	25.0	664	Rubidium chloride	8	1	0	15.0		
591		9		0	0	22.5	665		5	1	0	15.0		
592		7.5		0	0	22.5	666		7	1	0	12.5		
593	Rubidium chloride	7		0	0	27.5	667	Sodium bromide	5	1	0	15.0		
594	Sodium bromide	7		0	0	25.0	668		7.5	1	0	12.5		
595		5		0	0	22.5	669	Sodium chloride	5	1	1	22.5		
596	Sodium chloride	5		0	0	25.0	670	Sodium molybdate dihydrate	10	1	0	15.0		
597		7		0	0	25.0	671		8	1	0	15.0		
598		9		0	0	25.0	672	Sodium nitrate	9	1	0	17.5		
599	7.5	0		0	27.5	673	5		1	0	12.5			
600	Sodium molybdate dihydrate	10		0	0	22.5	674	7.5	1	1	0			
601		4		0	0	22.5	675	Sodium thiosulfate pentahydrate	9	1	0	10.0		
602	Sodium nitrate	8		0	0	27.5	676		10	1	1	0		
603		6		0	0	25.0	677	5	1	0	12.5			
604	Sodium phosphate, monobasic	6		0	0	25.0	678	Zinc acetate	6	1	0	12.5		
605		4		0	0	25.0	679		8	0	0	22.5		
606	Sodium thiosulfate pentahydrate	8		0	0	25.0	680	Lithium sulfate monohydrate	7	1	1	0		
607	Potassium phosphate, dibasic	4		0	0	25.0	681	Potassium phosphate, tribasic	10	1	1	0		
608		9		0	0	22.5	682		9	0	0	25.0		
609	Cobalt sulfate heptahydrate	5		0	0	25.0	683	8	0	0	22.5			
610		8		0	0	22.5	684	9	1	0	17.5			
611	Lithium sulfate monohydrate	4		0	0	27.5	685	Ammonium thiocyanate	4	1	0	12.5		
612		5		0	0	27.5	686		6	1	0	22.5		
613	Potassium phosphate, tribasic	4		0	0	22.5	687	Manganese sulfate monohydrate	6	0	0	22.5		
614		8		0	0	25.0	688		7	1	0	12.5		
615		10		0	0	22.5	689		7	1	0	15.0		
616	Ammonium thiocyanate	4	0	0	22.5	690	6	1	0	12.5				
617		5	0	0	22.5	691	7	1	0	12.5				
618	Manganese sulfate monohydrate	6	0	0	25.0	692	Magnesium nitrate hexahydrate	6	1	0	22.5			
619		6	0	0	25.0	693		5	1	0	12.5			
620	Magnesium nitrate hexahydrate	9	0	0	22.5	694		9	1	0	15.0			

Figure 5
PEG 4000 cocktail conditions (Nos. 547–694), similar to Fig. 2.

No.	Salt	pH	PEG	%		
695	Ammonium bromide	7.5	20% PEG 1000	0	0	25.0
696	Ammonium chloride	4		0	0	27.5
697		5		0	0	22.5
698		9		0	0	22.5
699	Ammonium nitrate	8		0	0	25.0
700		7.5		0	0	22.5
701		5		0	0	22.5
702	Ammonium phosphate, monobasic	4		0	0	25.0
703		7		0	0	25.0
704	Ammonium phosphate, dibasic	6		0	0	25.0
705		4		0	0	22.5
706	Ammonium sulfate	9		0	0	22.5
707		6		0	0	22.5
708	Calcium chloride dihydrate	7		0	0	22.5
709		5		0	0	22.5
710	Lithium bromide	7		0	0	25.0
711	Lithium chloride	8		0	0	25.0
712		6		0	0	25.0
713	Magnesium chloride hexahydrate	9		0	0	27.5
714		8		0	0	22.5
715		6	0	0	22.5	
716	Magnesium sulfate heptahydrate	7.5	0	0	25.0	
717		9	0	0	25.0	
718		5	0	0	25.0	
719	Manganese chloride	5	0	0	25.0	
720		4	0	0	25.0	
721		6	0	0	25.0	
722	Potassium acetate	4	0	0	22.5	
723	Potassium bromide	4	0	0	22.5	
724	Potassium carbonate	5	0	0	22.5	
725		4	0	0	22.5	
726	Potassium chloride	5	0	0	25.0	
727		7	0	0	25.0	
728	Potassium nitrate	5	0	0	25.0	
729		10	0	0	22.5	
730		6	0	0	22.5	
731	Potassium phosphate, monobasic	7	0	0	22.5	
732		6	0	0	27.5	
733	Potassium thiocyanate	10	0	0	25.0	
734		8	0	0	27.5	
735	Rubidium chloride	6	0	0	25.0	
736		9	0	0	25.0	
737	Sodium bromide	7	0	0	22.5	
738		4	0	0	25.0	
739	Sodium chloride	10	0	0	25.0	
740		9	0	0	25.0	
741	Sodium molybdate dihydrate	7.5	0	0	25.0	
742		7	0	0	27.5	
743	Sodium nitrate	8	0	0	27.5	
744		7.5	0	0	22.5	
745	Sodium thiosulfate pentahydrate	8	0	0	22.5	
746	Zinc acetate	5	0	0	25.0	
747		8	0	0	25.0	
748	Potassium phosphate dibasic	4	0	0	25.0	
749		10	0	0	22.5	
750		8	10%	0	0	27.5
751	Cobalt sulfate heptahydrate	7	20% PEG 1000	0	0	22.5
752		6		0	0	27.5
753		5		0	0	25.0
754	Lithium sulfate monohydrate	6		0	0	25.0
755		7		0	0	25.0
756	Potassium phosphate, tribasic	9		0	0	27.5
757		9		0	0	22.5
758		7		0	0	27.5
759	Ammonium thiocyanate	7.5		0	0	25.0
760		10		0	0	22.5
761	Manganese sulfate monohydrate	8		0	0	25.0
762		7.5		0	0	25.0
763	Magnesium sulfate monohydrate	4		0	0	27.5
764		5		0	0	27.5
765	Magnesium nitrate hexahydrate	8		0	0	25.0
766		5		0	0	22.5
767	7	0		0	25.0	

No.	Salt	pH	PEG	%		
768	Ammonium bromide	8	40% PEG 1000	0	0	22.5
769		5		0	0	22.5
770	Ammonium chloride	8		1	0	17.5
771	Ammonium nitrate	7		1	0	15.0
772	Ammonium phosphate, monobasic	10		1	0	12.5
773		4		1	0	17.5
774		7.5		1	1	0
775		7		1	0	15.0
776	Ammonium phosphate, dibasic	4		1	0	10.0
777	Ammonium sulfate	7		1	1	0
778		10		1	0	15.0
779		8		1	0	25.0
780	Calcium acetate	5		1	0	17.5
781	Calcium chloride dihydrate	7		1	0	12.5
782	Lithium bromide	6		1	0	12.5
783		4		1	0	17.5
784		8		1	0	17.5
785		9		1	0	12.5
786	Lithium chloride	5		1	0	12.5
787		9		0	0	12.5
788		4	1	1	0	
789		10	0	1	0	
790	Magnesium acetate	8	1	0	17.5	
791	Magnesium chloride hexahydrate	9	1	0	17.5	
792	Magnesium sulfate heptahydrate	9	1	0	17.5	
793		5	0	0	22.5	
794	Manganese chloride	6	1	0	17.5	
795		7	0	0	22.5	
796	Potassium acetate	6	1	1	0	
797	Potassium bromide	5	1	1	0	
798		8	1	0	17.5	
799	Potassium carbonate	4	0	0	25.0	
800		10	1	0	17.5	
801		4	1	0	17.5	
802	Potassium chloride	5	1	0	15.0	
803		9	1	0	20.0	
804	Potassium nitrate	10	1	0	15.0	
805		9	1	0	17.5	
806	Potassium phosphate, monobasic	7.5	1	0	17.5	
807		7.5	0	0	22.5	
808	Potassium thiocyanate	4	1	0	17.5	
809		8	1	0	17.5	
810	Rubidium chloride	4	1	0	17.5	
811		7.5	1	0	15.0	
812	Sodium bromide	6	1	0	17.5	
813		4	1	0	10.0	
814		8	1	0	15.0	
815	Sodium chloride	6	1	0	17.5	
816		10	1	0	17.5	
817	Sodium molybdate dihydrate	9	1	0	10.0	
818		8	1	0	17.5	
819	Sodium nitrate	10	1	0	10.0	
820		7.5	1	0	17.5	
821	Sodium phosphate, monobasic	8	20%	1	0	22.5
822		4	0	0	12.5	
823	Zinc acetate	10	1	0	17.5	
824		6	1	0	15.0	
825	Potassium phosphate, dibasic	5	1	0	15.0	
826		8	1	0	10.0	
827	Lithium sulfate monohydrate	5	1	0	15.0	
828		7	0	0	22.5	
829	Potassium phosphate-tribasic	8	1	0	12.5	
830		6	0	0	17.5	
831		10	0	0	17.5	
832	Ammonium thiocyanate	7.5	0	0	17.5	
833		6	0	0	25.0	
834	Manganese sulfate monohydrate	9	1	0	17.5	
835		10	1	0	15.0	
836	Magnesium nitrate hexahydrate	7	1	0	17.5	
837		6	1	0	17.5	
838	Magnesium sulfate monohydrate	7	1	0	17.5	
839		9	1	0	12.5	

Figure 6 PEG 1000 cocktail conditions (Nos. 695–839), similar to Fig. 2.

#	Salt	pH	PEG	%		
				1	0	0
840	Ammonium bromide	8.0	40% PEG 400	1	1	0
841		4.0		1	0	17.5
842	Ammonium chloride	6.0		1	0	20.0
843		10.0		0	0	22.5
844	Ammonium nitrate	7.0		0	0	22.5
845		5.0		1	0	17.5
846	Ammonium phosphate, monobasic	5.0		1	0	17.5
847		7.5		1	0	12.5
848	Ammonium phosphate, dibasic	8.0		1	0	15.0
849	Ammonium sulfate	7.0		1	0	17.5
850		7.5	1	0	17.5	
851	Calcium acetate	5.0	1	0	10.0	
852		7.5	1	0	17.5	
853	Calcium chloride dihydrate	6.0	1	1	0	
854		7.5	1	0	17.5	
855	HR-Cryo-20		1	1	0	
856	Lithium bromide	6.0	40% PEG 400	1	0	15.0
857		4.0		0	0	22.5
858		8.0		1	0	20.0
859		9.0		1	0	15.0
860	Lithium chloride	7.0		1	0	20.0
861	Magnesium acetate	5.0		1	0	17.5
862	Magnesium chloride hexahydrate	6.0		1	0	17.5
863	Magnesium sulfate heptahydrate	6.0		1	0	17.5
864		7.0		1	0	17.5
865	Potassium acetate	10.0		1	0	12.5
866		7.0	1	0	17.5	
867	Potassium bromide	7.5	1	1	0	
868		6.0	1	0	12.5	
869		4.0	1	0	20.0	
870	Potassium carbonate	9.0	1	0	12.5	
871		5.0	1	0	12.5	
872	Potassium chloride	7.0	1	1	0	
873		4.0	1	0	10.0	
874	Potassium nitrate	6.0	1	1	0	
875		7.5	1	1	0	
876	Potassium phosphate, monobasic	9.0	1	0	0	
877		6.0	1	1	0	
878	Potassium thiocyanate	7.0	1	1	0	
879		10.0	1	0	12.5	
880		6.0	1	1	0	
881	Potassium molybdate dihydrate	9.0	1	1	0	
882		10.0	1	1	0	
883	Rubidium chloride	4.0	1	1	0	
884		9.0	1	1	0	
885		4.0	1	0	20.0	
886	Sodium bromide	7.0	1	0	20.0	
887		5.0	1	0	12.5	
888	Sodium chloride	8.0	1	0	22.5	
889		7.0	0	0	12.5	
890	Sodium phosphate, monobasic	7.5	1	1	0	
891	Sodium molybdate dihydrate	8.0	1	0	25.0	
892		6.0	1	1	0	
893	Sodium nitrate	8.0	1	0	17.5	
894		5.0	1	1	0	
895	Sodium phosphate, dibasic	6.0	0	0	22.5	
896		8.0	1	0	22.5	
897	Sodium thiosulfate pentahydrate	8.0	0	0	22.5	
898		9.0	1	1	0	
899	Zinc acetate	10.0	1	0	7.5	
900		8.0	1	1	0	
901	Potassium phosphate, tribasic	6.0	1	1	0	
902		5.0	1	1	0	
903	Lithium sulfate monohydrate	5.0	1	1	0	
904		10.0	1	1	0	
905	Potassium phosphate, dibasic	7.5	1	1	0	
906		10.0	1	0	22.5	
907	Ammonium thiocyanate	5.0	1	1	0	
908		7.0	1	1	0	
909	Magnesium nitrate hexahydrate	9.0	1	0	12.5	
910		7.5	1	1	0	
911	Magnesium nitrate hexahydrate	8.0	1	0	10.0	
912		4.0	1	0	22.5	
913	Magnesium nitrate hexahydrate	7.5	1	0	12.5	
914		9.0	1	1	0	

#	Salt	pH	PEG	%			
				1	0	0	
915	Ammonium bromide	5.0	80%	1	1	0	
916		7.0		1	1	0	
917	Ammonium chloride	5.0		1	1	0	
918		8.0		1	1	0	
919	Ammonium nitrate	7.5		60%	1	1	0
920	Ammonium phosphate, monobasic	8.0		20% PEG 400	0	0	30.0
921		9.0			0	0	25.0
922	Ammonium phosphate, dibasic	5.0			0	0	25.0
923		7.0			0	0	27.5
924		4.0			0	0	27.5
925		8.0	0		0	25.0	
926	Ammonium sulfate	9.0	0		0	25.0	
927	Calcium acetate	5.0	0		0	25.0	
928	HR-Cryo-21		1		1	0	
929	Calcium chloride dihydrate	7.5	80%		1	1	0
930		8.0		1	1	0	
931	Lithium bromide	10.0	20%	0	0	25.0	
932	Lithium chloride	7.0	80%	1	1	0	
933	Magnesium acetate	7.0		1	1	0	
934	Magnesium chloride hexahydrate	8.0		1	1	0	
935		7.0		1	1	0	
936	Magnesium sulfate heptahydrate	5.0	20%	0	0	25.0	
937		7.5		0	0	27.5	
938	Manganese chloride	7.0	80%	1	1	0	
939	Potassium acetate	9.0		1	1	0	
940	Manganese chloride	8.0		1	1	0	
941		5.0		1	1	0	
942	Potassium acetate	10.0	20%	0	0	22.5	
943		6.0		1	1	0	
944		7.0	80%	1	1	0	
945	Potassium bromide	9.0		1	1	0	
946	Potassium carbonate	7.0	60%	1	1	0	
947	Potassium chloride	8.0	80%	1	1	0	
948		7.0		1	1	0	
949	Potassium nitrate	10.0	20%	0	0	27.5	
950		7.0	80%	0	0	22.5	
951	Potassium phosphate, monobasic	5.0	20%	0	0	25.0	
952	Potassium thiocyanate	7.5	80%	1	1	0	
953		10.0		20%	1	0	27.5
954	Rubidium chloride	7.5	80%	1	1	0	
955	Sodium bromide	5.0		1	1	0	
956		7.5		1	1	0	
957	Sodium chloride	5.0		1	1	0	
958		9.0	1	1	0		
959		4.0	1	1	0		
960	Sodium molybdate dihydrate	8.0	60%	1	0	7.5	
961		9.0		1	1	0	
962	Sodium nitrate	10.0	20%	0	0	25	
963		5.0	80%	1	1	0	
964		7.0		1	1	0	
965	Sodium phosphate, monobasic	10.0	20%	0	0	25	
966	HR-Cryo-22		1	0	17.5		
967	Sodium thiosulfate pentahydrate	8.0	80%	1	1	0	
968		6.0		1	1	0	
969	Zinc acetate	8.0	80%	1	1	0	
970	Potassium phosphate, dibasic	6.0	20%	0	0	27.5	
971		5.0		0	0	27.5	
972	Cobalt sulfate heptahydrate	5.0	40%	0	0	27.5	
973		5.0		1	1	0	
974		8.0	20%	0	0	27.5	
975		4.0		0	0	25.0	
976	Lithium sulfate monohydrate	8.0	60%	1	1	0	
977	Potassium phosphate, tribasic	4.0	20% PEG 400	0	0	27.5	
978		8.0		0	0	22.5	
979		10.0		0	0	25.0	
980	Manganese sulfate monohydrate	4.0	20%	0	0	27.5	
981		6.0		0	0	30.0	
982	Magnesium nitrate hexahydrate	5.0	60%	0	0	30.0	
983		6.0		1	1	0	
984	7.5	80%	1	1	0		

Figure 7

PEG 400 cocktail conditions (Nos. 840–984), similar to Fig. 2. Note that within these conditions several Hampton Research Crystal Screen Cryo screens are also included: Nos. 855, 928 and 966.

Table 1

Summary of the cryoprotection needed for the different components of the first two groups of the HWI crystallization cocktails as described in Figs. 1–7.

The data are tabulated excluding results from the Crystal Screen Cryo cocktails distributed through the first 984 cocktails. The cryoprotectant concentrations are final concentrations (v/v).

		No. of cocktails	Cocktail and ddH ₂ O		Cocktail solution with 1:1 cryoprotectant					
			0%	50%	30%	25%	20%	15%	10%	5%
Salts (1–237)	All	233	16.9%	5.5%	94.0%	75.5%	16.3%	10.7%	7.7%	6.9%
PEG 20K (238–390)	All	141	35.3%	1.3%	100%	92.9%	36.2%	24.8%	2.8%	1.4%
	20%	81	0%	0%	100%	87.7%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	40%	60	93.3%	3.3%	100%	100%	85.0%	58.3%	6.7%	3.3%
PEG 8K (391–546)	All	153	37.9%	4.6%	100%	92.8%	34.6%	19.6%	5.2%	4.6%
	20%	83	1.2%	0%	100%	86.7%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	40%	70	81.4%	10.0%	100%	100%	74.3%	42.9%	11.4%	10.0%
PEG 4K (547–694)	All	148	42.6%	6.8%	100%	90.5%	37.2%	25.7%	8.1%	6.8%
	20%	75	0%	0%	100%	82.4%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	40%	73	86.3%	13.7%	100%	100%	75.3%	52.1%	16.4%	13.7%
PEG 1K (695–839)	All	145†	39.6%	4.1%	100%	91.7%	42.8%	21.4%	7.6%	4.1%
	20%	72	0%	0%	100%	84.9%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	40%	72	80.3%	8.5%	100%	100%	87.3%	43.7%	15.5%	8.5%
PEG 400 (840–984)	All	142	76.0%	46.5%	100%	90.1%	72.5%	59.2%	50.0%	46.5%
	20%	28	0%	0%	100%	51.9%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	40%	75	90.7%	39.5%	100%	100%	86.7%	61.3%	44.0%	38.7%
	60%	7	100%	85.7%	100%	100%	100%	100%	85.7%	85.7%
	80%	32	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
1–984 (962 excluding Crystal Screen Cryo)		962	39.0%	11.1%	98.8%	85.4%	37.8%	25.4%	12.9%	11.1%

† One condition is 10% PEG 1K.

tration of 14.9% was required. PEG 1K (Fig. 6) was similar; at 20%(v/v) PEG (72 conditions) the average cryoprotectant concentration was 24.5% and for 40%(v/v) PEG (72 conditions) it was 15.3%. The reduction in cryoprotectant concentration required for vitrification of 20% and 40% PEG for the 20K, 8K, 4K and 1K PEGs were similar.

The PEG 400 group (Fig. 7) was more complex in composition and sampled 20% (28 conditions), 40% (75 conditions), 60% (seven conditions) and 80%(v/v) (32 conditions) PEG 400 with glycerol. The concentrations of glycerol required averaged 26.3, 10.43, 1.1 and 0%(v/v), respectively. Unfortunately, comparison with the other PEGs in the screen is difficult as PEG 400 is sampled at a larger number of

concentrations but at a reduced number of chemical conditions. We can say that the 20% PEG 400 conditions required cryoprotectant concentrations comparable to similar conditions in the other PEG screens. It is also noticeable that at 40% PEG 400 the concentration of cryoprotectant required is significantly less than that of the higher molecular-weight PEGs.

In the case of the Ammonium Sulfate Grid Screen (Fig. 8) there was a small decrease in the cryoprotectant required with an increasing concentration of ammonium sulfate and no apparent pH effect. Similarly, as shown in Fig. 9, as the PEG 6000 concentration increased there is a slight decrease in the cryoprotectant needed. The most dramatic effect arises from

#	Chemical (M)	Buffer (0.1 M)	pH	%		
1201	Ammonium sulfate	0.8	Citric acid	4	0	30.0
1202			Citric acid	5	0	30.0
1203			MES	6	0	27.5
1204			HEPES	7	0	30.0
1205			Tris	8	0	30.0
1206			Bicine	9	0	27.5
1207		1.6	Citric acid	4	0	27.5
1208			Citric acid	5	0	25.0
1209			MES	6	0	25.0
1210			HEPES	7	0	27.5
1211			Tris	8	0	25.0
1212			Bicine	9	0	27.5
1213		2.4	Citric acid	4	0	22.5
1214			Bitric acid	5	0	22.5
1215			MES	6	0	22.5
1216			HEPES	7	0	22.5
1217			Tris	8	0	22.5
1218			Bicine	9	0	22.5
1219		3.2	Citric acid	4	0	25.0
1220			Citric acid	5	0	22.5
1221			MES	6	0	22.5
1222			HEPES	7	0	22.5
1223			Tris	8	0	22.5
1224			Bicine	9	0	22.5

Figure 8
Hampton Research Grid Screen Ammonium Sulfate, cocktail Nos. 1201–1224.

No.	Chemicals (0.1 M)	pH	Chemicals	%						
1105	1.0 M Lithium chloride		PEG 6000	0	0	30.0				
1106							Citric acid	4	0	30.0
1107							MES	6	0	30.0
1108							HEPES	7	0	30.0
1109							Tris	8	0	27.5
1110							Bicine	9	0	27.5
1111			10%(w/v)	Citric acid	4	0	25.0			
1112				Citric acid	5	0	25.0			
1113				MES	6	0	27.5			
1114				HEPES	7	0	27.5			
1115				Tris	8	0	30.0			
1116				Bicine	9	0	22.5			
1117			20%(w/v)	Citric acid	4	0	25.0			
1118				Citric acid	5	0	22.5			
1119				MES	6	0	22.5			
1120				HEPES	7	0	22.5			
1121				Tris	8	0	22.5			
1122				Bicine	9	0	22.5			
1123			30%(w/v)	Citric acid	4	0	22.5			
1124				Citric acid	5	0	22.5			
1125				MES	6	0	22.5			
1126				HEPES	7	1	20.0			
1127				Tris	8	0	22.5			
1128				Bicine	9	0	22.5			

Figure 9
Hampton Research Grid Screen PEG/LiCl, cocktail Nos. 1105–1128. With the exception of PEG and LiCl, all chemicals are at 0.1 M concentration.

Table 2

The percentage of cocktails from commercial screens used in the 1536-condition HWI high-throughput screening laboratory that show cryoprotectant properties without dilution, diluted 1:1 with ddH₂O and diluted 1:1 with 20, 10 and 5% glycerol solution.

Note that those conditions that did not require cryoprotectant at 1:1 dilution with ddH₂O are not counted in the figures for those requiring cryoprotectant. The cryoprotectant numbers are cumulative, *i.e.* the 20% cryoprotectant numbers also encompass those that were successful with 10% and 5% cryoprotectant.

Hampton Research Screen name	No. of conditions	Conditions successfully cryoprotected				
		Cocktail solution and ddH ₂ O		Glycerol concentration		
		0%	50%	20%	10%	5%
Natrix	48	10.4%	4.2%	18.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Quick Screen	24	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Nucleic Acid	24	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sodium Malonate	24	33.3%	4.2%	33.3%	4.2%	0.0%
PEG/LiCl	24	4.2%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%
PEG/Ion	48	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
PEG 6000	24	0.0%	0.0%	20.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Ammonium Sulfate	24	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Sodium chloride	24	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Crystal Screen HT	96	21.8%	6.2%	57.3%	11.0%	5.2%
Index HT	96	20.8%	6.2%	45.8%	5.2%	0.1%
Salt RX	96	19.8%	3.1%	9.4%	0.0%	0.0%
All	552	14.5%	3.2%	23.9%	3.0%	0.9%

the reduction of solution volume (cryoloop size). In each case (Figs. 10–15) there is a clear trend in the reduction of cryoprotectant required as a function of the cryoloop size. All of the cocktails studied still required cryoprotectant, even for the smallest cryoloop size.

Loop size (mm)	Glycerol concentration [% (v/v)]						
	30	25	20	15	10	5	0
0.7–1.0	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
0.5–0.7	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
0.4–0.5	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
0.3–0.4	-	-	-	-	-	X	X
0.2–0.3	-	-	-	-	-	X	X
0.1–0.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	X
0.05–0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X

Figure 10

1.14 M ammonium sulfate pH 6. ‘X’ indicates the observation of ice, while ‘-’ indicates that vitrification was visually successful.

Loop size (mm)	Glycerol concentration [% (v/v)]						
	30	25	20	15	10	5	0
0.7–1.0	-	-	-	X	X	X	X
0.5–0.7	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
0.4–0.5	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
0.3–0.4	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
0.2–0.3	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
0.1–0.2	-	-	-	-	-	X	X
0.05–0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X

Figure 11

20% PEG 20 000, 0.1 M lithium chloride pH 10. ‘X’ indicates the observation of ice, while ‘-’ indicates that vitrification was visually successful.

Loop size (mm)	Glycerol concentration [% (v/v)]						
	30	25	20	15	10	5	0
0.7–1.0	-	X	X	X	X	X	X
0.5–0.7	-	-	X	X	X	X	X
0.4–0.5	-	-	X	X	X	X	X
0.3–0.4	-	-	-	-	-	X	X
0.2–0.3	-	-	-	-	-	X	X
0.1–0.2	-	-	-	-	-	X	X
0.05–0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X

Figure 12

20% PEG 8000, 0.1 M calcium acetate pH 6. ‘X’ indicates the observation of ice, while ‘-’ indicates that vitrification was visually successful.

Loop size (mm)	Glycerol concentration [% (v/v)]						
	30	25	20	15	10	5	0
0.7–1.0	-	X	X	X	X	X	X
0.5–0.7	-	-	-	X	X	X	X
0.4–0.5	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
0.3–0.4	-	-	X	X	X	X	X
0.2–0.3	-	-	-	X	X	X	X
0.1–0.2	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
0.05–0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X

Figure 13

20% PEG 4000, 0.1 M ammonium sulfate pH 7.5. ‘X’ indicates the observation of ice, while ‘-’ indicates that vitrification was visually successful.

Loop size (mm)	Glycerol concentration [% (v/v)]						
	30	25	20	15	10	5	0
0.7–1.0	-	-	X	X	X	X	X
0.5–0.7	-	-	X	X	X	X	X
0.4–0.5	-	-	-	X	X	X	X
0.3–0.4	-	-	X	-	X	X	X
0.2–0.3	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
0.1–0.2	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
0.05–0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X

Figure 14

20% PEG 1000, 0.1 M potassium phosphate tribasic pH 7.0. ‘X’ indicates the observation of ice, while ‘-’ indicates that vitrification was visually successful.

Loop size (mm)	Glycerol concentration [% (v/v)]						
	30	25	20	15	10	5	0
0.7–1.0	-	-	X	X	X	X	X
0.5–0.7	-	-	X	X	X	X	X
0.4–0.5	-	-	-	X	X	X	X
0.3–0.4	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
0.2–0.3	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
0.1–0.2	-	-	-	-	X	X	X
0.05–0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	X

Figure 15

20% PEG 400, 0.1 M ammonium phosphate dibasic pH 4.0. ‘X’ indicates the observation of ice, while ‘-’ indicates that vitrification was visually successful.

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Screen, Grid Screens Sodium Malonate, PEG/Ion Screen, PEG 6000, Sodium Chloride, Index and SaltRx) are shown in Table 1. For the Quick Screen and PEG/Ion screen no cocktails could be satisfactorily cryoprotected with 20% glycerol or less.

Table 1 breaks down the results into the percentages of cocktail groups 1 and 2 that were successfully vitrified without cryoprotectant, diluted 1:1 with ddH₂O and finally as a func-

tion of the 1:1 dilution with different concentrations (v/v) of glycerol in ddH₂O. The latter represents the final cryoprotectant concentration and is cumulative, e.g. a cocktail vitrified with 10% cryoprotectant is also counted as successful with higher concentrations. Of the 962 cocktails in groups 1 and 2 (excluding the Crystal Screen Cryo cocktails), ~40% were natively cryoprotected, ~38% were cryoprotected with 20% glycerol and almost all were cryoprotected with 30%

Hampton Research Natrix, cocktail Nos. 985–1032													
No.	Salt (M)		Buffer	Precipitant		pH	Other	100%	50%	%			
985	MgCl ₂	0.01	MES	Li ₂ SO ₄ ·H ₂ O	2.0 M	5.5		0	0	20			
987	Magnesium acetate	0.1		MPD	20% (v/v)			0	0	20			
996	Magnesium sulfate	0.01	Sodium cacodylate	Li ₂ SO ₄ ·H ₂ O	1.8 M	6		0	0	20			
1000	Magnesium acetate	0.04		MPD	30% (v/v)			1	1	0			
1011	Ammonium acetate	0.2		PEG 8000	30% (v/v)			0	0	20			
1013	Magnesium chloride	0.01	Sodium HEPES	LiCl	4.0 M	7	0.01 M MgCl ₂	1	0	–			
1015		0.005		PEG MME 550	25% (v/v)			1	0	20			
1016	Potassium chloride	0.2		1,6-Hexanediol	20% (w/v)			0	0	20			
1017	Ammonium chloride	0.2		MPD	30% (w/v)			0	0	20			
1018	Potassium chloride	0.1		MPD	15% (v/v)			0	0	20			
1030	MgSO ₄ aqueous	0.005		Tris hydrochloride	1,6-Hexanediol			35% (v/v)	8.5	0.005 M MgSO ₄ aqueous	1	1	0
1032	Ammonium chloride	0.2	PEG 4000	30% (w/v)	0	0	20						
Hampton Research Quick Screen, cocktail Nos. 1033–1057													
No conditions found at 20% or less cryoprotectant													
Hampton Research Nucleic Acid Mini Screen cocktail Nos. 1058–1080													
No.	Chemical (mM)		Buffer	pH	Chemical			100%	50%	%			
1061	Potassium chloride	80	40 mM sodium cacodylate	6	10% MPD	12 mM spermine tetra-HCl	20 mM magnesium chloride	1	0	–			
1066	Sodium chloride	12					80 mM potassium chloride	1	0	–			
1071	Potassium chloride	80		7			80 mM potassium chloride	1	0	–			
1075	Sodium chloride	12					80 mM SrCl ₂ , 20 mM MgCl ₂	1	0	–			
1078	Lithium chloride	40					20 mM magnesium chloride	1	0	–			
1080	Strontium chloride	80											
Hampton Research Grid Screen Sodium Malonate, conditions 1081–1104													
No.	Chemical	M	pH	100%	50%	%	No.	M	pH	100%	50%	%	
1086	Sodium malonate	3.4	4	1	0	12.5	1098	3.4	6	1	0	20.0	
1090		2.4	5	0	0	20.0	1102	2.4	7	1	0	20.0	
1091		2.9	5	1	0	20.0	1103	2.9	7	1	0	20.0	
1092		3.4	5	1	0	12.5	1104	3.4	7	1	1	0	
1097		2.9	6	1	0	10.0							
Hampton Research Grid Screen PEG/LiCl, cocktail Nos. 1105–1128													
Data available in Fig. 9.													
Hampton Research Grid screen PEG/Ion Screen, cocktail Nos. 1129–1176													
No conditions found at 20% or less cryoprotectant													
Hampton Research Grid Screen PEG 6000, cocktail Nos. 1177–1200													
No.	Buffer (0.1 M)	pH			Chemicals			100%	50%	%			
1195	Citric acid	4			PEG 6000	30% (w/v)	0	0	20.0				
1196		5					0	0	20.0				
1197	MES	6					0	0	20.0				
1198	HEPES	7					0	0	20.0				
1200	Bicine	9					0	0	20.0				
Hampton Research Grid Screen Ammonium Sulfate, cocktail Nos. 1201–1224													
Data available in Fig. 8													
Hampton Research Grid Screen Sodium Chloride, cocktail Nos. 1225–1248													
No.	Chemical (M)	Buffer (0.1 M)			pH	100%	50%	%					
1243	Sodium chloride	4.0 M			Citric acid	4	0	0	20.0				
Hampton Research, Crystal Screen HT, cocktail Nos. 1249–1344													
Data available in McFerrin & Snell (2002)													

Figure 16

Components of the commercial screens used in the 1536 cocktails that could be successfully cryocooled with 20% glycerol or less or showed cryoprotectant properties alone and after 1:1 dilution with H₂O. For brevity, the cocktails that were not successfully vitrified are omitted.

Hampton Research Index, cocktail Nos. 1345–1440								
No.	Chemical (M)		Buffer (0.1 M)	pH	Chemical	100%	50%	%
1345	Ammonium sulfate	2.0	Citric acid	3.5		0	0	20.0
1364	Tri-sodium citrate dihydrate	1.4	HEPES	7.5		0	0	20.0
1365	Tri-ammonium citrate pH 7.0	1.8				0	0	20.0
1367	DL-Malic acid pH 7.0	2.1				1	0	10.0
1368	Sodium acetate trihydrate pH 7.0	2.8				0	0	20.0
1369	Sodium formate pH 7.0	3.5				0	0	20.0
1370	Di-ammonium tartrate pH 7.0	1.1				1	0	20.0
1371	Sodium malonate pH 7.0	2.4				1	1	0
1380	Tacsimate pH 7.0	15%			2%(w/v) PEG 3350	0	0	20.0
1381			HEPES	7.0	25%(w/v) PEG 1500	0	0	20.0
1382					30%(v/v) Jeffamine M-600 reagent pH 7.0	1	0	10.0
1383					30%(v/v) Jeffamine ED-2001 reagent pH 7.0	0	0	20.0
1384			Citric acid	3.5	25%(w/v) PEG 3350	0	0	20.0
1386			Bis-tris	5.5		0	0	20.0
1388			HEPES	7.5		1	0	20.0
1389			Tris	8.5		0	0	20.0
1391						1	1	0
1393	Calcium chloride				28%(w/v)	1	0	20.0
1394			Bis-tris	6.5		1	1	0
1395				5.5		1	1	0
1395	Ammonium acetate	0.2		6.5	45%(w/v) MPD	1	0	10.0
1396			HEPES	7.5		1	1	0
1397			Tris	8.5		1	1	0
1398	Calcium chloride	0.05	Bis-tris	6.5	30%(v/v) PEG MME 550	1	0	20.0
1399	Magnesium chloride	0.05		7.5		1	1	0
1400	Potassium chloride	0.2	HEPES	7.5	Pentaerythritol propoxylate (5/4 PO/OH)	1	0	10.0
1401	Ammonium sulfate	0.05			Pentaerythritol ethoxylate (15/4 EO/OH)	1	0	20.0
1402			Bis-tris	6.5	45%(v/v) polypropylene glycol P 400	1	0	10.0
1403	Magnesium chloride	0.02	HEPES	7.5	22%(w/v) polyacrylic acid 5100 sodium salt	1	0	10.0
1404	Cobalt chloride	0.1	Tris	8.5	20%(w/v) polyvinylpyrrolidone K15	1	0	20.0
1406	Trimethylamine <i>n</i> -oxide		Tris	8.5	20%(w/v) PEG MME 2000	0	0	20.0
1412	Ammonium sulfate	0.20	HEPES	7.5	25% (w/v) PEG 3350	0	0	20.0
1414			Bis-tris	5.5		0	0	20.0
1415				6.5		0	0	20.0
1416	Sodium chloride		HEPES	7.5		0	0	20.0
1417			Tris	8.5		0	0	20.0
1418	Lithium sulfate		Bis-tris	5.5		0	0	20.0
1419				6.5		0	0	20.0
1420			HEPES	7.5		0	0	20.0
1421			Tris	8.5		0	0	20.0
1422			Bis-tris	5.5		0	0	20.0
1423	Ammonium acetate			6.5		0	0	20.0
1424			HEPES	7.5		0	0	20.0
1426			Bis-tris	5.5		0	0	20.0
1427	Magnesium chloride			6.5		1	0	20.0
1428			HEPES	7.5		0	0	20.0
1429			Tris	8.5		1	0	20.0
1435	DL-Malic acid pH 7.0	0.15			20%(w/v) PEG 3350	0	0	20.0
1438	Tri-sodium citrate	0.20				0	0	20.0
1439	Potassium thiocyanate	0.10				0	0	20.0
1440	Potassium bromide	0.15			30%(w/v) PEG MME 2000	0	0	20.0

Hampton Research SaltRX, cocktail Nos. 1441–1536.								
No.	Salt (M)		Buffer (0.1 M)	pH	100%	50%	%	
1442	Sodium acetate	2.8	Bis-tris propane	7.0	1	0	-	
1452			Sodium acetate	4.6	0	0	-	
1453	Sodium chloride	3.2			1	0	20.0	
1458	Tri-ammonium citrate pH 7.0	2.0	Bis-tris propane	7.0	1	0	20.0	
1461	Tri-sodium citrate dihydrate	1.2			1	0	-	
1467			Sodium acetate	4.6	1	0	-	
1468			Bis-tris propane	7.0	1	0	-	
1470	Sodium formate		Sodium acetate	4.6	1	0	20.0	
1472		3.5	Tris	8.5	1	0	-	
1474	DL-Malic acid pH 7.0	2.2			1	0	12.5	
1476	Sodium malonate pH 7.0	2.4	Bis-tris propane	7.0	1	0	20.0	
1478	Ammonium nitrate	2.5			1	0	-	
1488	Sodium nitrate	4.0			1	0	-	
1512	Lithium sulfate monohydrate	1.5	Tris	8.5	0	0	20.0	
1513			Sodium acetate	4.6	1	1	0	
1514	Magnesium sulfate hydrate	1.0			1	0	-	
1523	Di-ammonium tartrate	1.3	Bis-tris propane	7.0	1	0	-	
1531	Potassium thiocyanate	0.5	Tris	8.5	0	0	20.0	
1532			Sodium acetate	4.6	1	0	20.0	
1533	Ammonium acetate	4.0	Bis-tris propane	7.0	1	1	0	
1534			Tris	8.5	1	1	0	
1536	Tacsimate	60%(v/v)	Bis-tris propane	7.0	1	0	20.0	

Figure 16 (continued)

glycerol. There was a sharp increase in cryoprotection going from 20% to 30% glycerol. The commercial screens (Table 2) were not as well suited to cryoprotection, with only 14.5% natively cryoprotected and 24% protected with 20% glycerol. This should not be construed as a criticism of the commercial screens, since cryoprotection was not a factor in their design.

4. Discussion

Cryocooling for X-ray data collection requires transforming the crystal and any mother liquor surrounding it into an amorphous form, *i.e.* vitrification. Vitrifying pure water, even for the smallest volumes, requires cooling to below 136 K (Mayer, 1991) in less than 10^{-4} s (Bruggeller & Mayer, 1980; Mayer, 1988). Glycerol is thought to work as a cryoprotectant by causing bulk water depletion and hydrogen-bond linearization and by increasing alkyl backbone interactions within the macromolecule (Dashnau *et al.*, 2006). There are many cryoprotectants available, but in addition to its cryoprotective properties glycerol is an effective enhancer of both macromolecular structural order and stabilizes against noncovalent modification (Gekko & Timasheff, 1981; Prieu *et al.*, 1996; Sousa, 1995). Practically, glycerol can be formulated as a component in the storage-buffer component and on crystallization it can be readily incorporated into the crystal lattice, effectively displacing water (Charron *et al.*, 2002). The Heterocompound Information Centre (HIC-Up; Kleywegt, 2007) lists over 2280 macromolecules in the Protein Data Bank (PDB; Berman *et al.*, 2000) in which glycerol is observed within the structure. Ethylene glycol is the next most common cryoprotectant and is observed in over 700 structures. Similarly, a survey of crystallization reports published in *Acta Crystallographica Section D* in 2000 and 2001 showed that glycerol was used in 50% and ethylene glycol was used in 10% of cases (Garman & Doublé, 2003). This does not necessarily imply that glycerol is the best cryoprotectant to use. For reasons of convenience it is often the first; if it works, no further optimization is carried out (Garman & Doublé, 2003).

McFerrin & Snell (2002) determined the amounts of glycerol, PEG 400, ethylene glycol and 1,2-propanediol needed to successfully vitrify the 98 Hampton Research Crystal Screen I and II conditions. In comparing the concentration of glycerol required for vitrification *versus* other cryoprotectants, there were differences in a small number of samples, *e.g.* Crystal Screen I condition No. 44 (0.2 M magnesium formate) required 50% glycerol but only 35%, 30% and 30% PEG 400, ethylene glycol and 1,2-propanediol, respectively. However, the average magnitudes of the difference in cryoprotectant concentration when compared with glycerol were 4.0%, 3.2% and 5.9% for PEG 400, ethylene glycol and 1,2-propanediol, respectively. The data for glycerol can thus be used as a guide for the concentration of these cryoprotectants. McFerrin and Snell also used (2*R*,3*R*)-(–)-2,3-butanediol for the nine conditions under study that required the highest concentration of glycerol. On average,

10.6% less butanediol than glycerol was required for vitrification.

The cryoprotective properties of glycerol, methanol, 2-propanol, sucrose, xylitol, dextrose, trehalose, ethylene glycol, PEG 200, PEG 2K, PEG 20K, dimethyl sulfoxide (DMSO), 2-methyl-2,4-pentanediol (MPD) and salt (NaCl) with pure water have been systematically studied as a function of volume from 1 nl to 20 μ l. Cryoprotectant conditions were determined for plunge-cooling into liquid nitrogen (Berejnov *et al.*, 2006). The concentration required for vitrification decreased with volume, especially in the range \sim 5–0.1 μ l. This range includes the typical volumes held in a sample loop and the observation is similar to previous observations that smaller loops require less cryoprotectant for vitrification (Chinte *et al.*, 2005) and is empirically well known. Berejnov *et al.* (2006) note the presence of three regimes in the cooling process: large volume and therefore slow cooling rate where the critical concentration is nearly constant, intermediate volumes where the concentration shows a sharp decrease with volume and small volumes where the cooling rate saturates and the critical cryoprotectant concentration levels off. From Figs. 10–15 it is clear that typical crystallographic samples are in the intermediate regime. The results of Berejnov and coworkers also illustrate that there are cryoprotectants, *i.e.* 2-propanol, MPD and dextrose, that successfully vitrify solutions at significantly lower concentrations than glycerol. Our results are in agreement with Berejnov *et al.* (2006) and Chinte *et al.* (2005): smaller volumes require less cryoprotectant. However, the crystal volumes required for X-ray diffraction coupled with currently available cooling technologies make it impossible to rapidly cool pure H₂O in the time required for vitrification, *i.e.* in less than 10^{-4} s, even for the smallest cases (Bruggeller & Mayer, 1980; Mayer, 1988). Unlike Chinte *et al.* (2005), we do not observe any evidence indicating that the concentration of cryoprotectant needed tends to be zero at the smallest loop size. This may be a consequence of the fact that we chose worst-case cocktails while Chinte *et al.* (2005) used a random sampling of conditions.

Cryocooling samples requires both a good cryoprotectant and good experimental technique and there are many excellent articles that cover these in detail (Pflugrath, 2004; Garman & Schneider, 1997; Garman & Owen, 2006; Garman, 1999; Rodgers, 1997; Garman & Doublé, 2003). Garman & Owen (2006) make a number of suggestions for the choice of cryoprotectant. For two-thirds of cases they suggest that 15–25% glycerol is appropriate. For conditions with PEGs less than 4K, increasing the PEG concentration or adding other low-molecular-weight PEGs is effective. PEGs greater than 4K can be cryoprotected with lower molecular-weight PEGs and crystallization conditions that already contain MPD can be cryoprotected by increasing the MPD concentration. Finally, those with salt that were not protected with glycerol can be cryoprotected with ethylene glycol, with a mixture of sugars, by increasing the salt concentration or by exchanging the salt for an organic solvent. While there are many cryoprotectants, given the ability of glycerol to form ordered conformations within the crystal structure (Charron *et al.*, 2002) and its

stabilizing effect (Sousa, 1995) it seems prudent to incorporate at least a small amount during the crystallization step or earlier unless there is the potential for competition with a ligand of interest. For penetrating cryoprotectants, adding them before or during the crystallization step prevents possible disruption to the lattice by addition of the cryoprotectant after crystals have formed (Pflugrath, 2004).

5. Conclusion

In terms of high-throughput crystallization-condition screening, the data presented here provide a criterion for prioritizing subsequent optimization of crystallization conditions. However, it is important to note that the data represent a worst-case scenario for vitrification; a dilution of the cocktail with glycerol solution was used rather than replacement of the water with glycerol and larger than typical sample volumes were examined. Replacing water in the cocktail with the cryoprotectant agent maintains the original cocktail composition at the same concentration and thereby minimizes deleterious effects to the crystal (unlike the dilution used here). This is the optimum and recommended method to produce a good cryoprotectant solution (Garman, 1999). In terms of volume, a balance is required between the reduction in cryoprotectant needed owing to sample size and practical considerations for collecting X-ray data. The optimum concentration required for the collection of the best X-ray data may not be the same as that which is just sufficient for vitrification (Mitchell & Garman, 1994). Similarly, annealing techniques that could be used to improve crystal quality (Hanson *et al.*, 2003) have the potential to work well with a higher than required cryoprotectant concentration but will not work so well if the concentration is too low (Juers & Matthews, 2004). The data presented here provide a starting point for the optimization of cryoprotectant concentrations under similar biochemical conditions.

We would like to thank Erie County New York for their support of ES and KL in the HWI summer intern program. Joseph Luft is thanked for critical reading of the manuscript and the staff of the HWI high-throughput laboratory are thanked for all their help and comments. Dr Elspeth Garman

is acknowledged for useful discussions. Support from the John R. Oishei Foundation and NIH U54 GM074899 is acknowledged.

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