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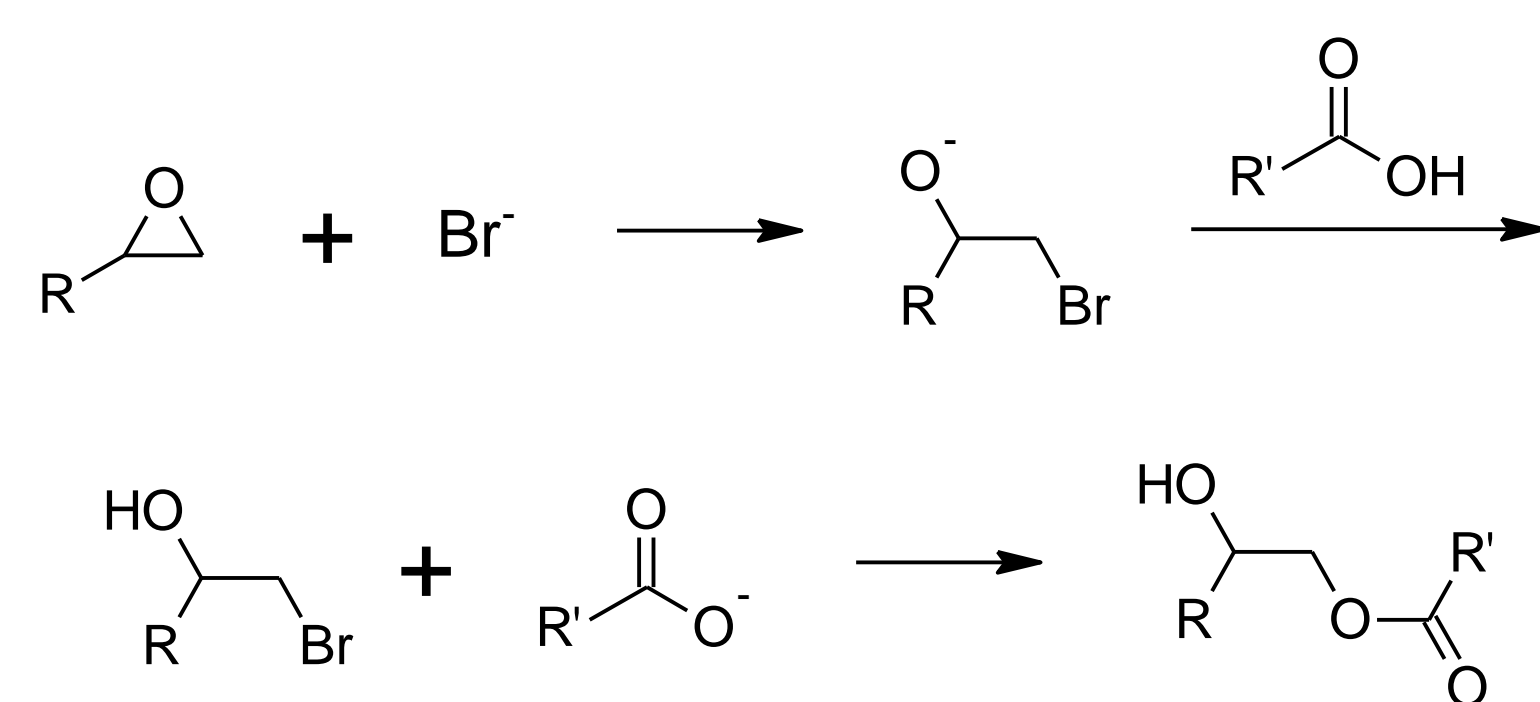
Effect of halide in ammonium salts in the addition of benzoic acid to styrene oxide

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Introduction

- Addition reactions to epoxides are an important and well studied class of reactions.
- The use of TBAB as a catalyst for the addition of, phenols¹, carboxylic acids², and thiols³ has been reported.
- The proposed mechanism for the addition of carboxylic acids is shown below.³

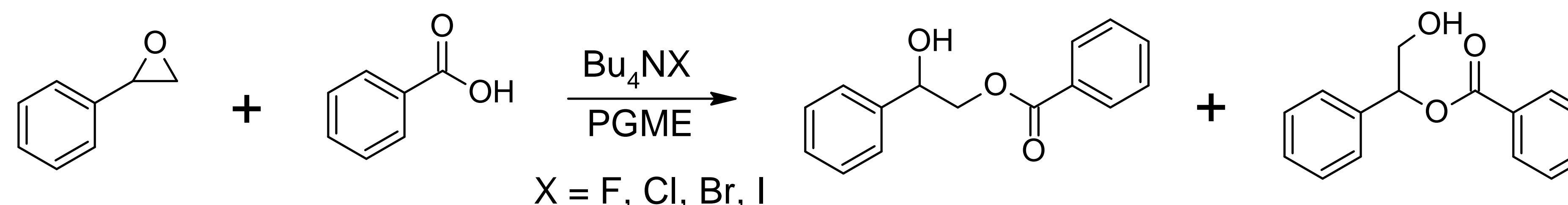


- However, research in our lab has shown that TBAF gives faster reaction times with phthalimide as the nucleophile.
- From the results with phthalimide, we were interested in reinvestigating the reaction of a carboxylic acid with an epoxide..

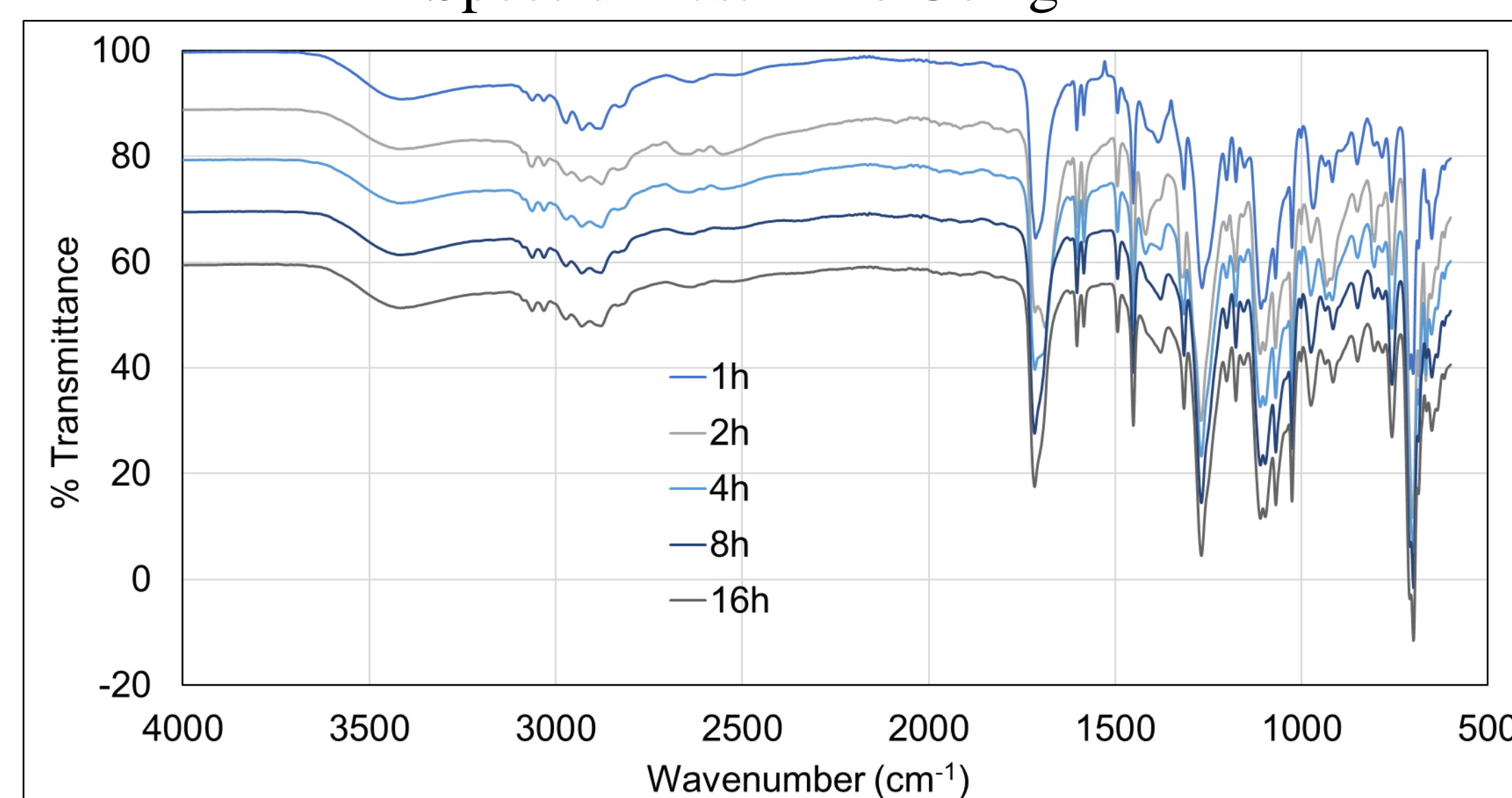
Experimental

- All materials were commercially available and used as received.
- To a round bottom flask was added benzoic acid, styrene oxide, ammonium salt (1 mol% of benzoic acid), and PGME. The reaction was then heated at reflux.
- Aliquots were removed at 1, 2, 4, 8, and 16 h for analysis by IR spectroscopy.

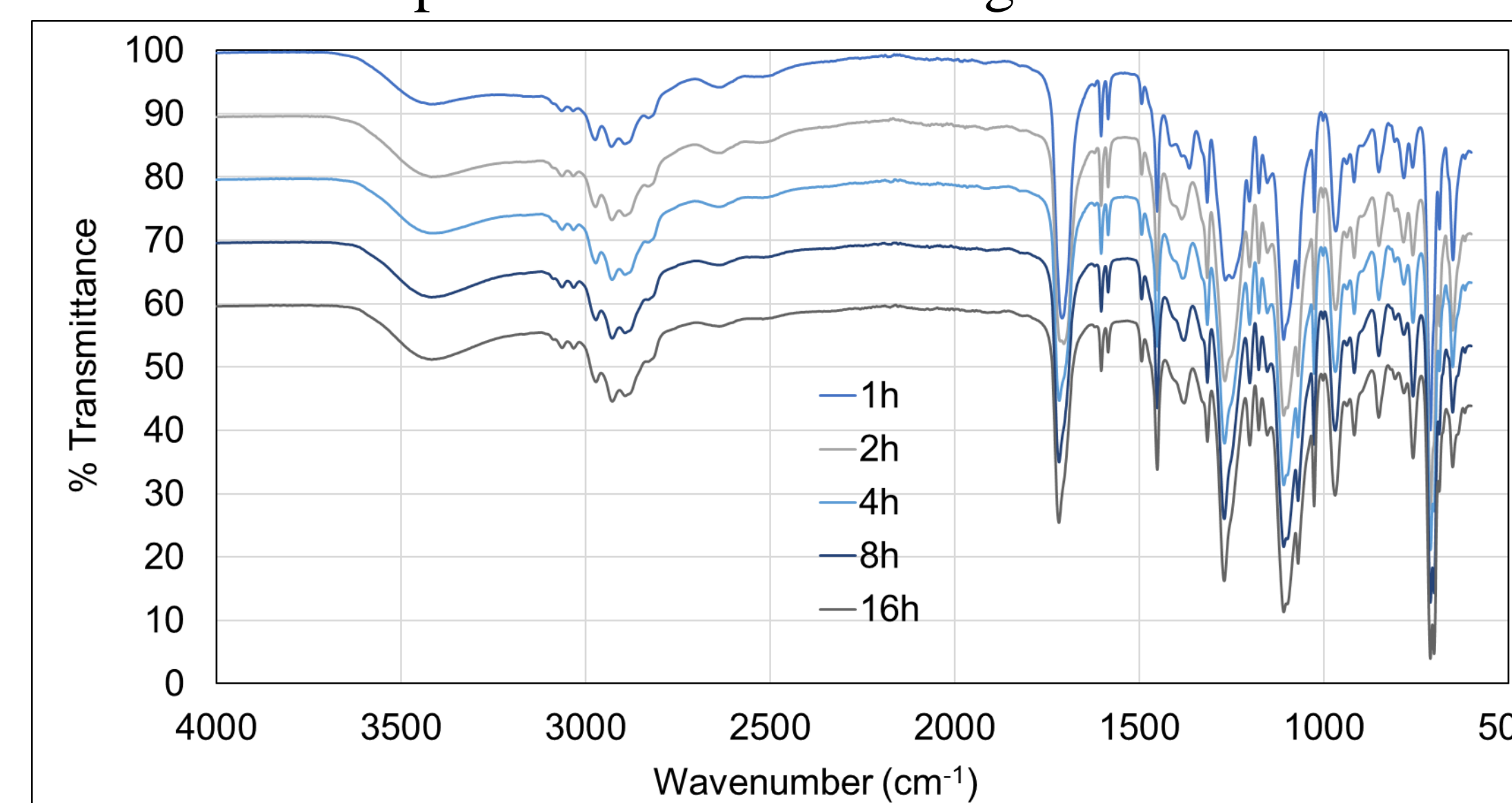
Results



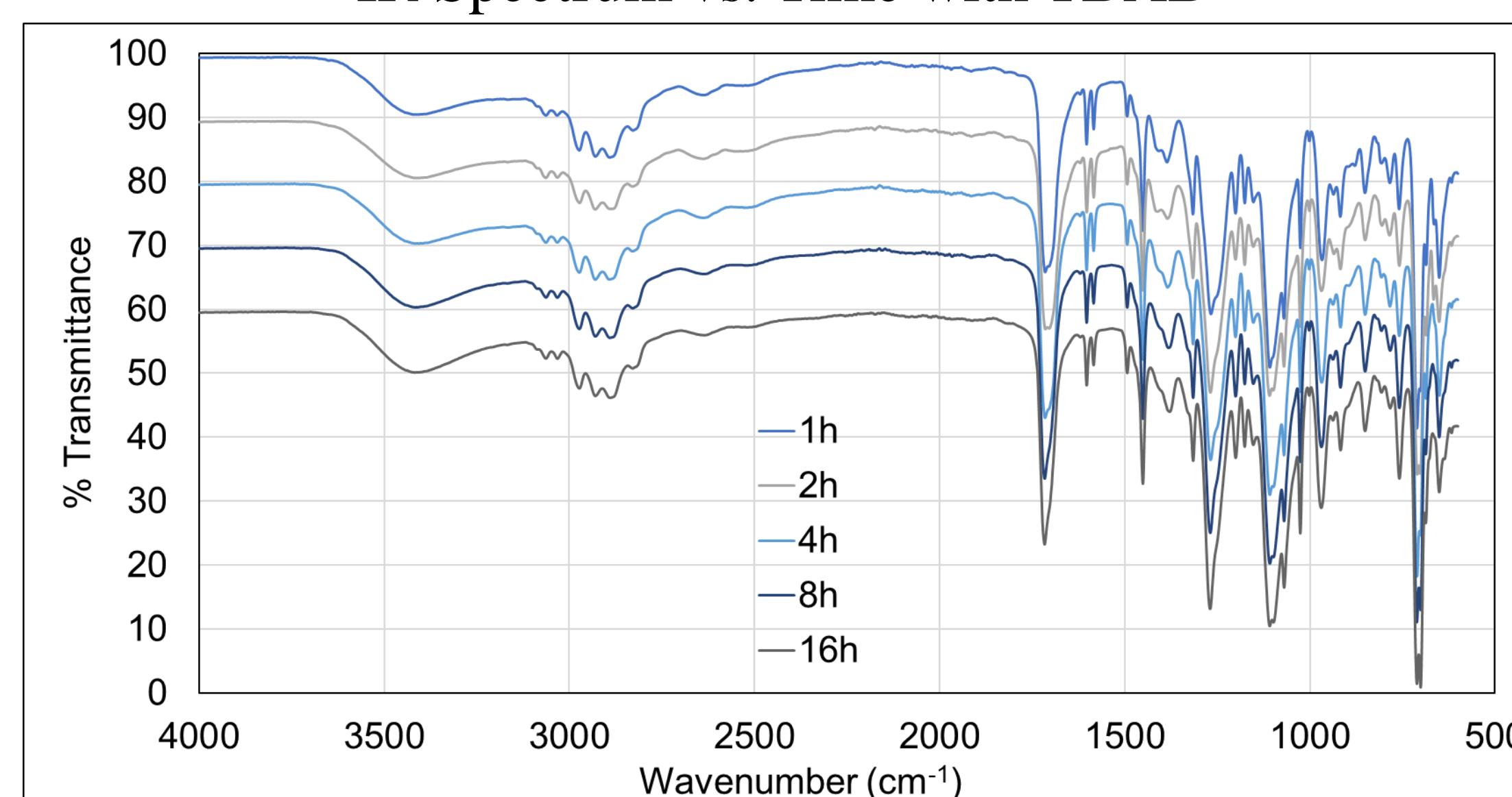
IR Spectrum vs. Time Using TBAF



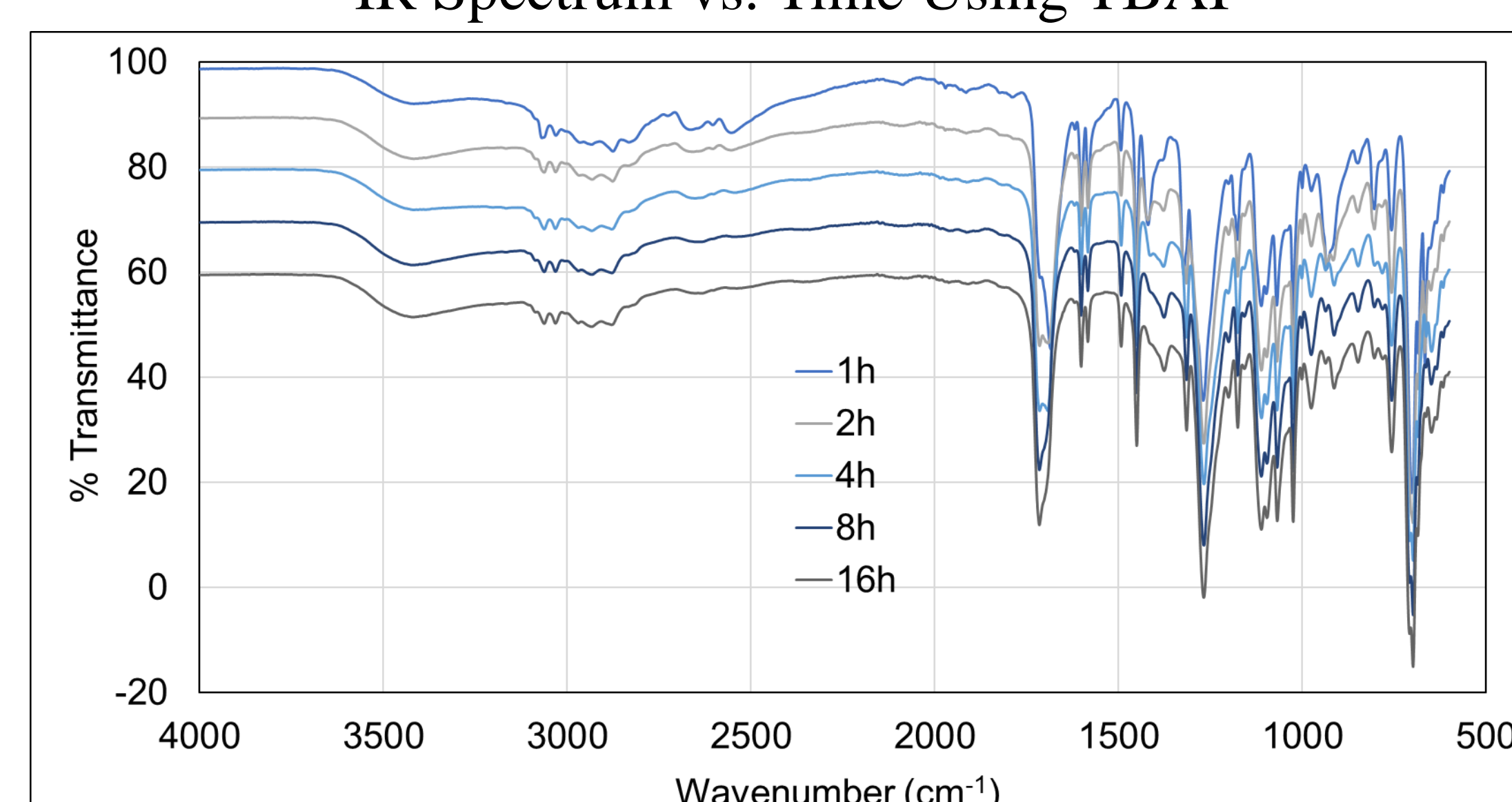
IR Spectrum vs. Time Using TBAC



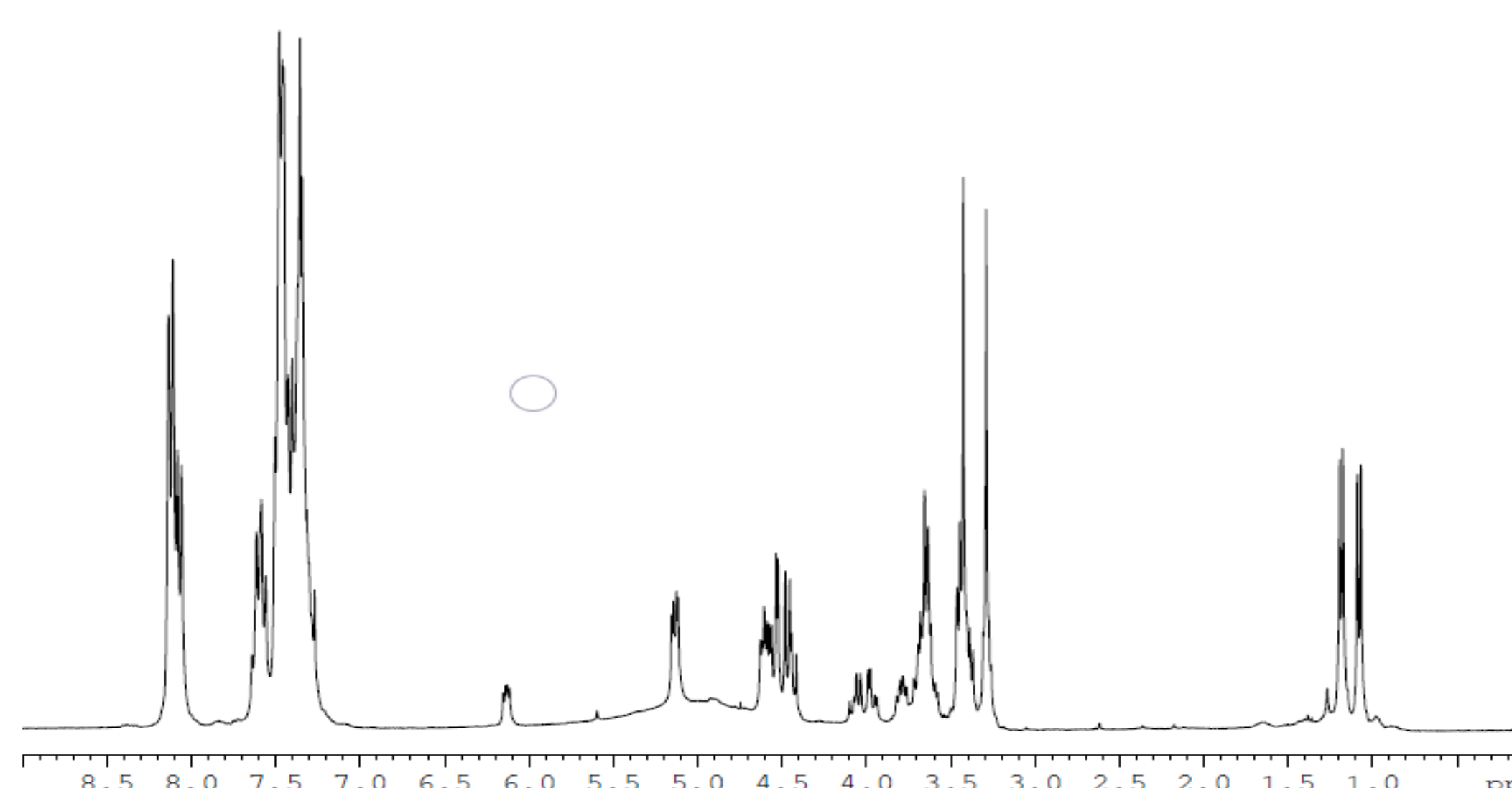
IR Spectrum vs. Time with TBAB



IR Spectrum vs. Time Using TBAI



H-NMR Spectrum of Products



Conclusion & Future Directions

- Ratio of products was near 3:1 for all catalyst and differed from the 1:1 product ratio with phthalimide.
- Significantly less catalyst (1%) was needed for benzoic acid compared to phthalimide (6%).
- Catalyst with fluoride or chloride seemed to show slightly faster reaction rates than bromide or iodide.
- Reaction mechanism does not seem to follow published mechanism.
- Future work will use phenyl glycidyl ether to determine the effect of catalyst with an epoxide that is more aliphatic.
- In addition, NMR studies will be performed to more accurately determine the effect of catalyst.

References

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Acknowledgements

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