

## Supporting Information

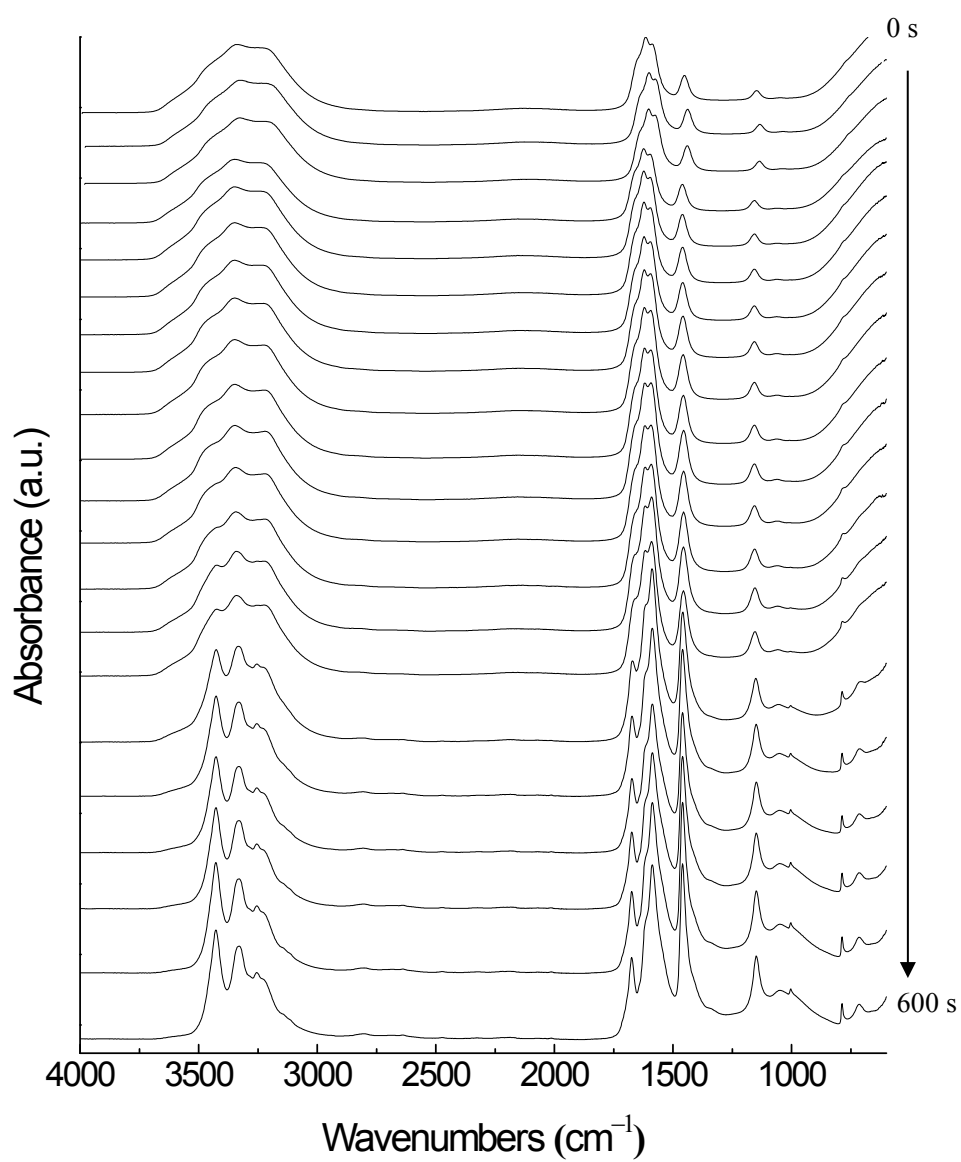
### Nucleation-dependant Chemical Bonding Paradigm: Effect of Rare Earth Ions on the Nucleation of Urea in Aqueous Solution

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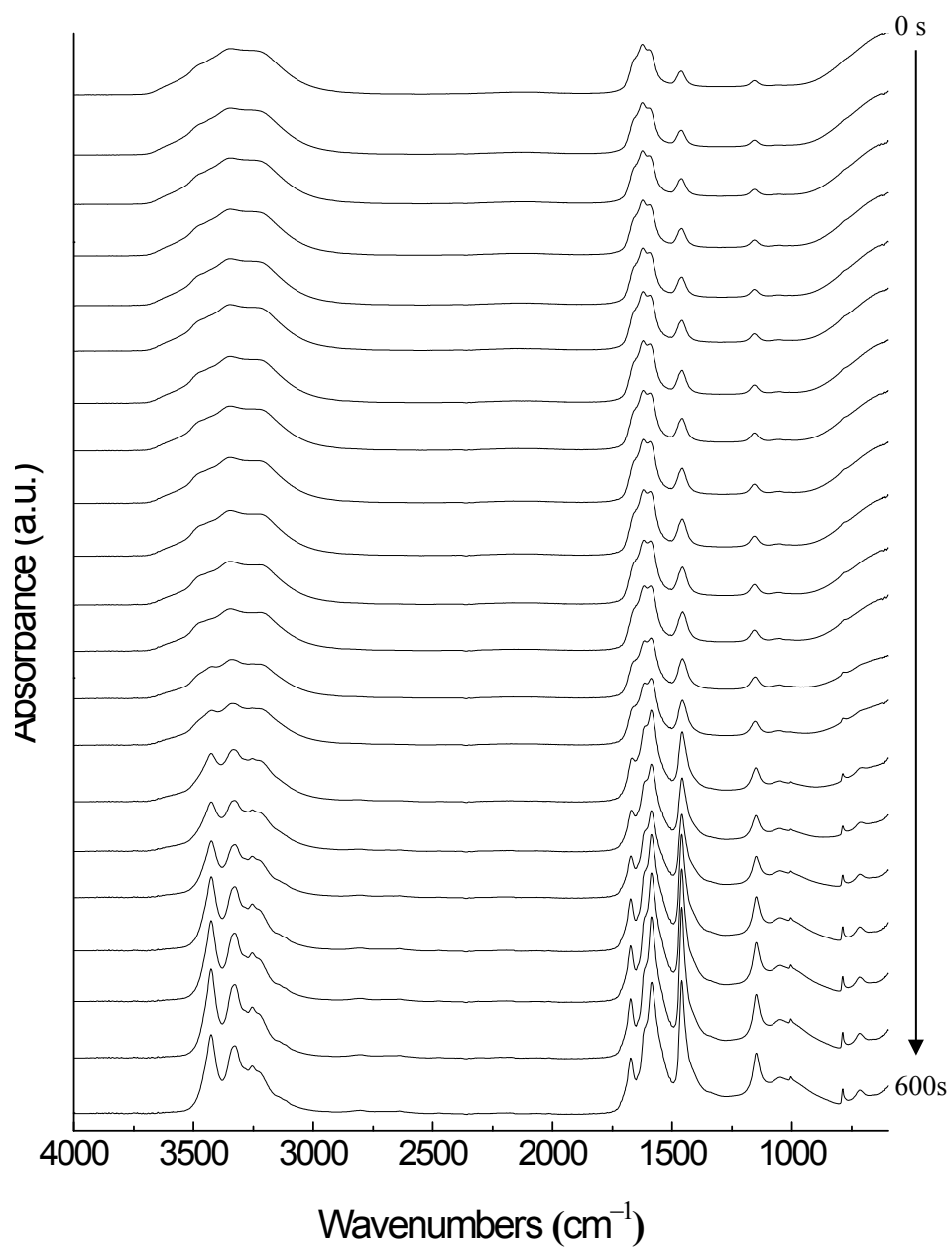
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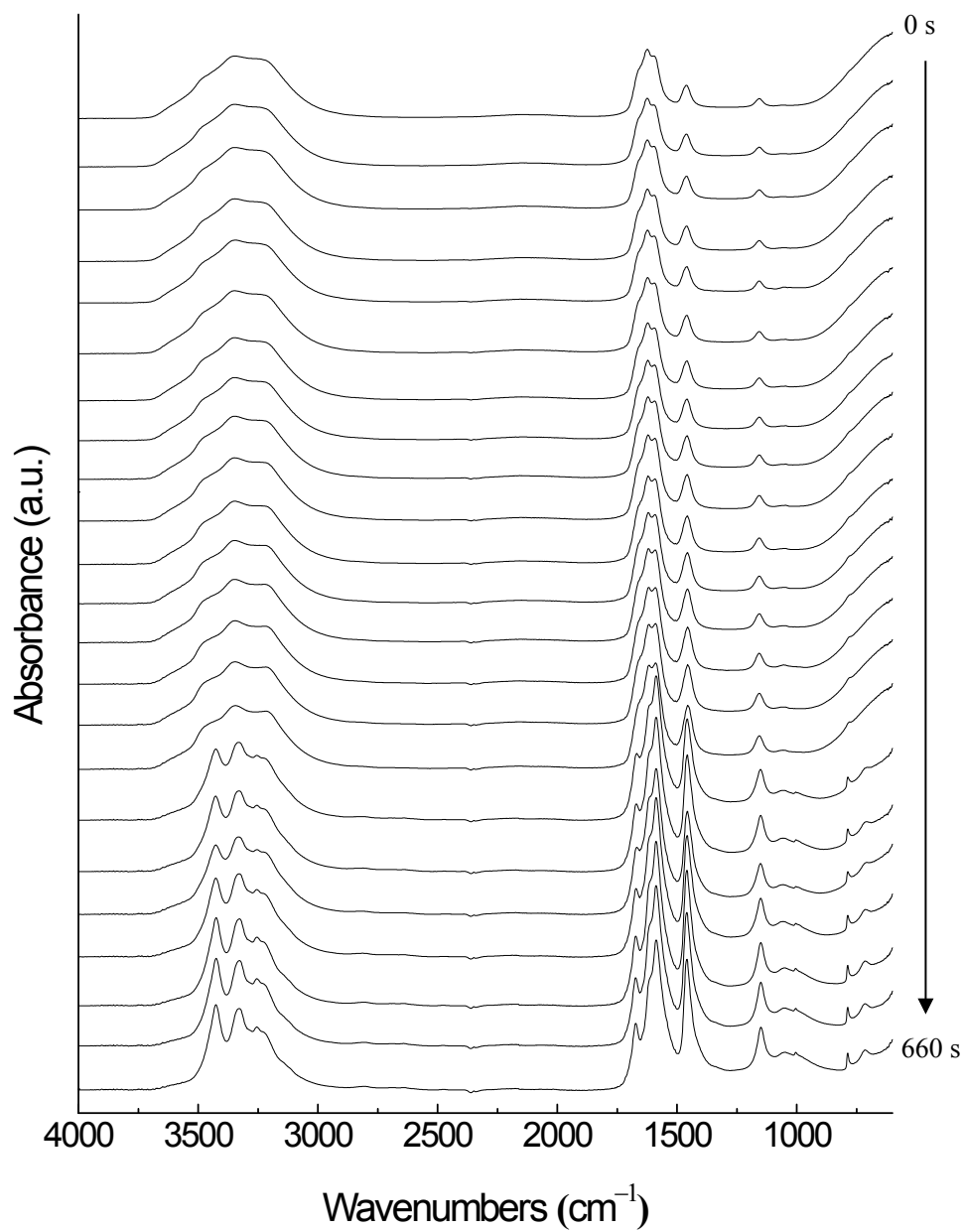


**Figure S1.** Time-dependent ATR-IR spectra of urea crystallization process at 20 °C.

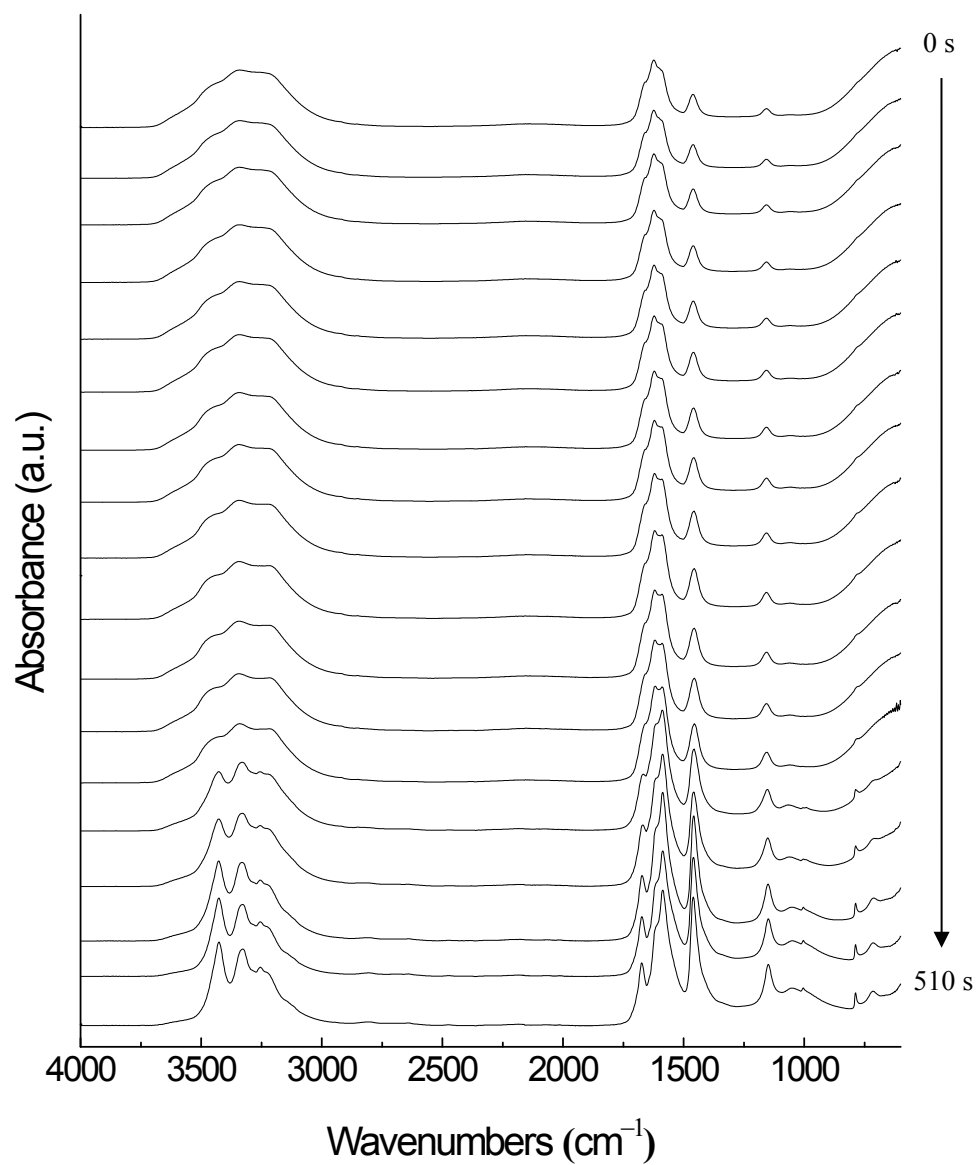
The time interval is 30 s, and the concentration of urea is 6.66 mol/L.



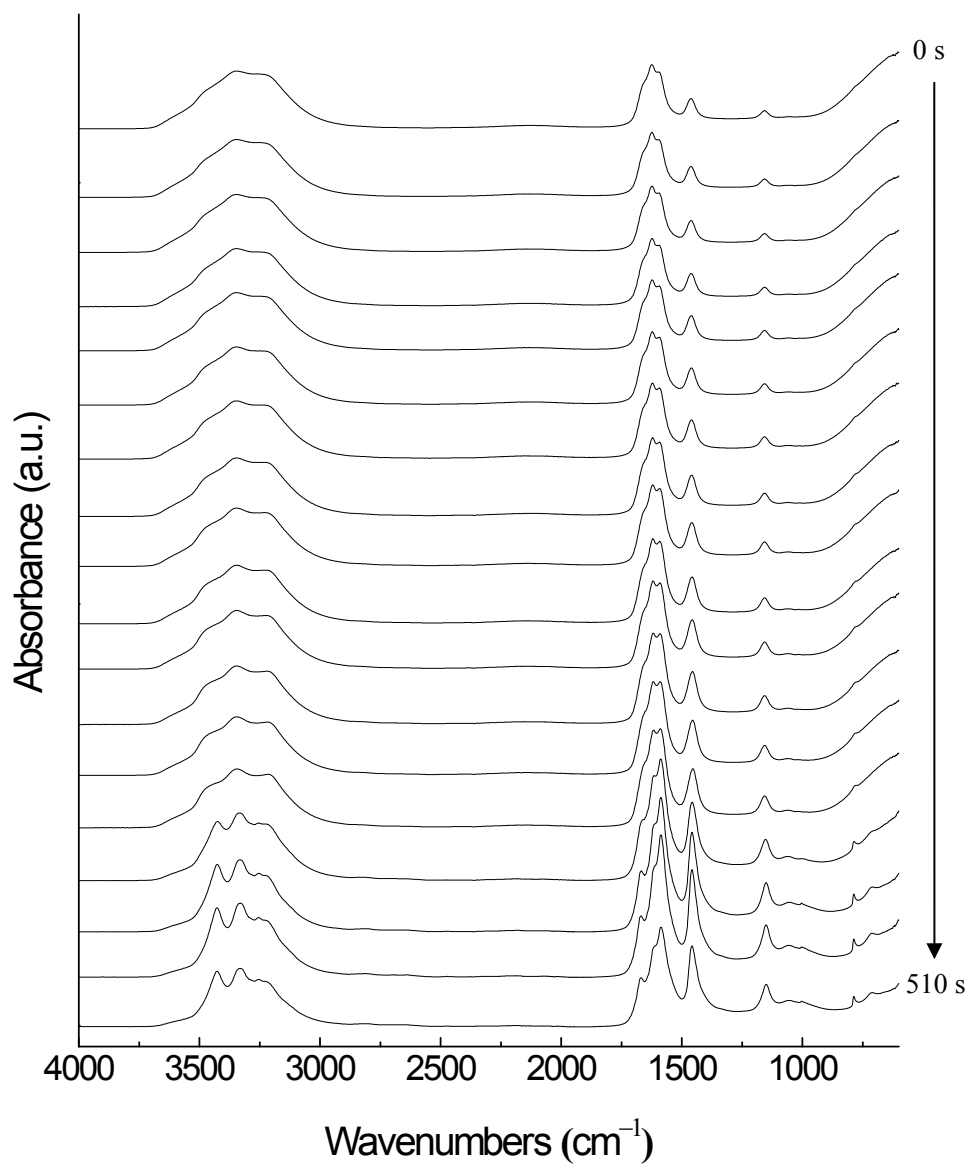
**Figure S2.** Time-dependent IR spectra of urea crystallization process in urea+LaCl<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution. The time interval is 30 s, and the concentration of LaCl<sub>3</sub> is 0.077 mol/L.



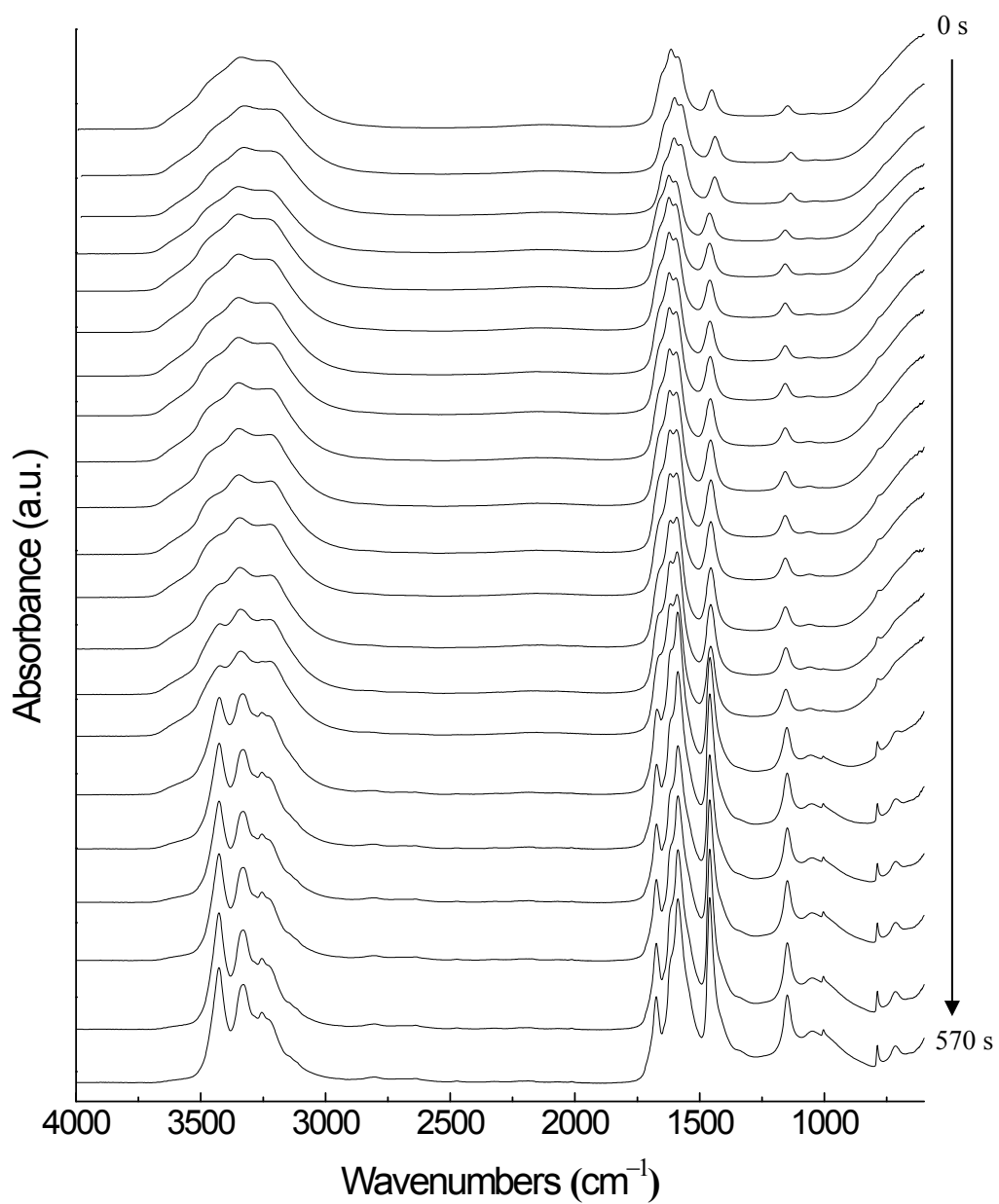
**Figure S3.** Time-dependent IR spectra of urea crystallization process in urea+GdCl<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution. The time interval is 30 s, and the concentration of GdCl<sub>3</sub> is 0.077 mol/L.



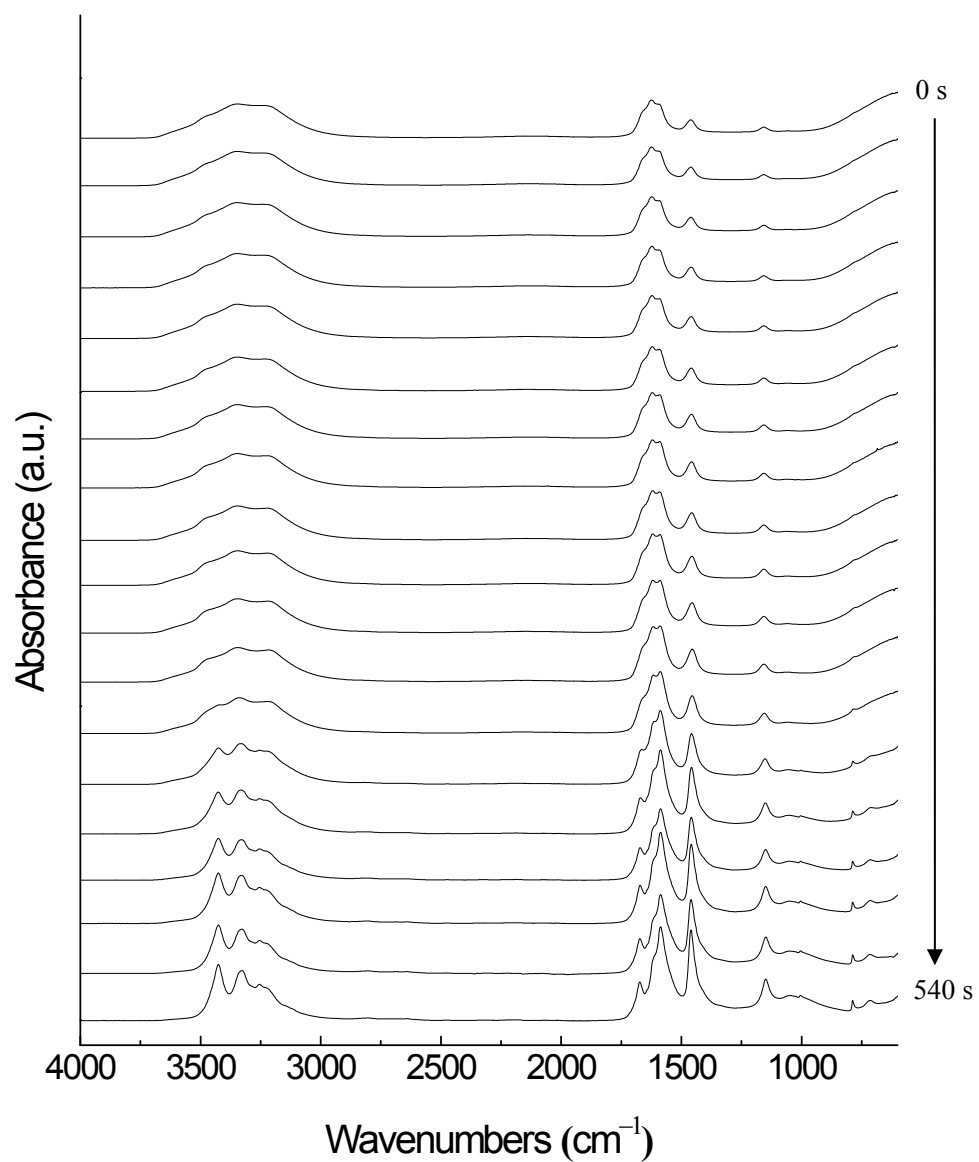
**Figure S4.** Time-dependent IR spectra of urea crystallization process in urea+LuCl<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution. The time interval is 30 s, and the concentration of LuCl<sub>3</sub> is 0.077 mol/L.



**Figure S5.** Time-dependent IR spectra of urea crystallization process in urea+LaCl<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution. The time interval is 30 s, and the concentration of LaCl<sub>3</sub> is 0.155 mol/L.

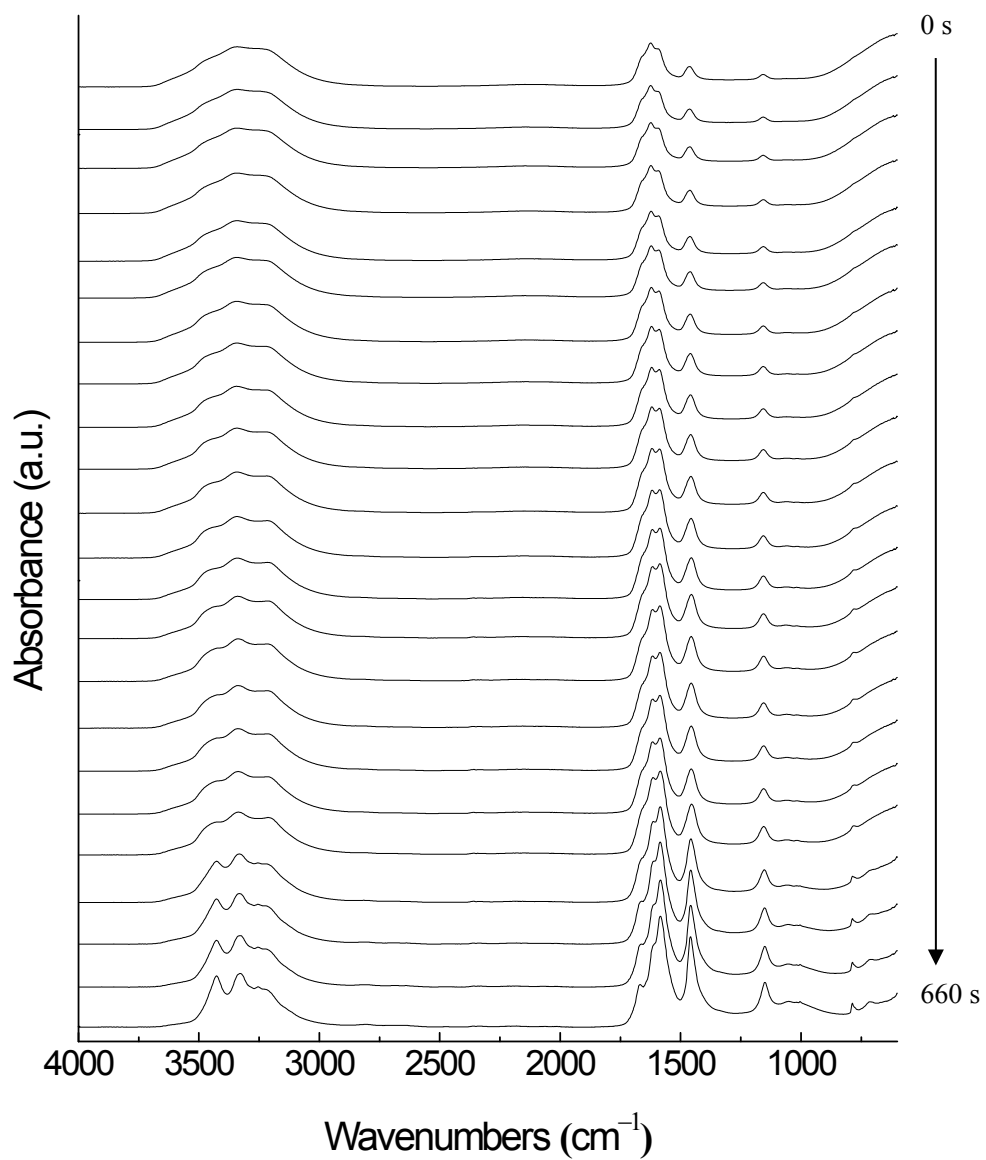


**Figure S6.** Time-dependent IR spectra of urea crystallization process in urea+GdCl<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution. The time interval is 30 s, and the concentration of GdCl<sub>3</sub> is 0.155 mol/L.

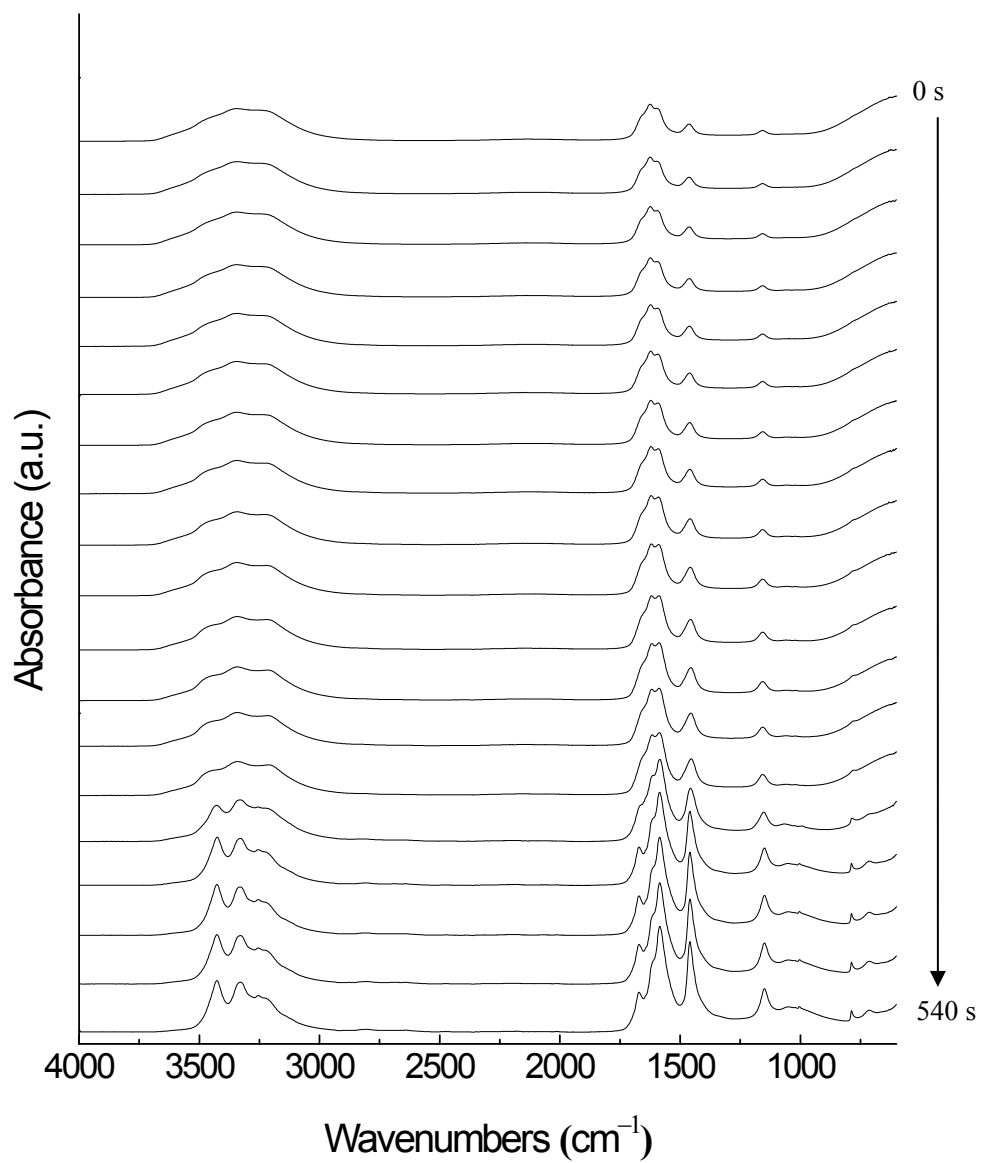


**Figure S7.** Time-dependent IR spectra of urea crystallization process in urea+LuCl<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution. The time interval is 30 s, and the concentration of LuCl<sub>3</sub> is 0.155 mol/L.

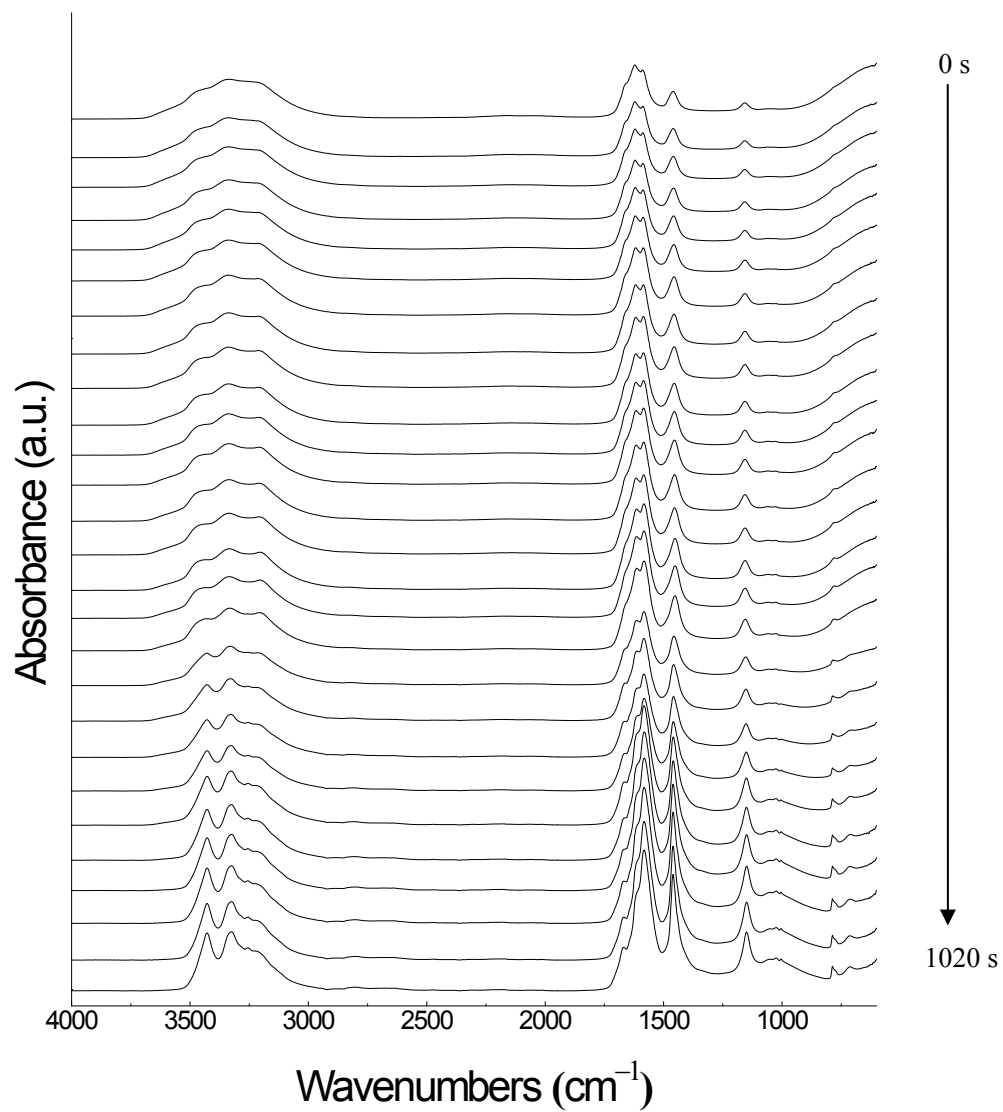




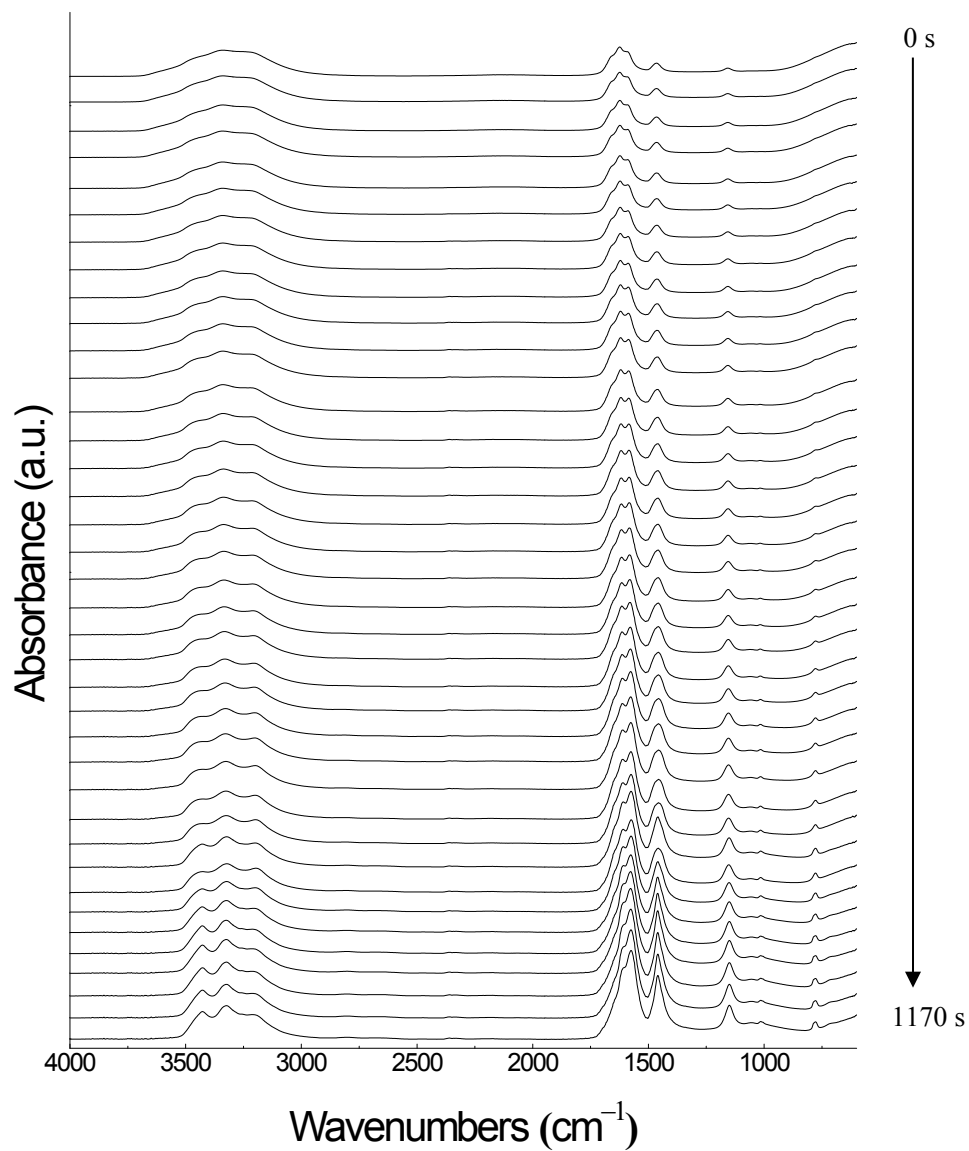
**Figure S8.** Time-dependent IR spectra of urea crystallization process in urea+LaCl<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution. The time interval is 30 s, and the concentration of LaCl<sub>3</sub> is 0.310 mol/L.



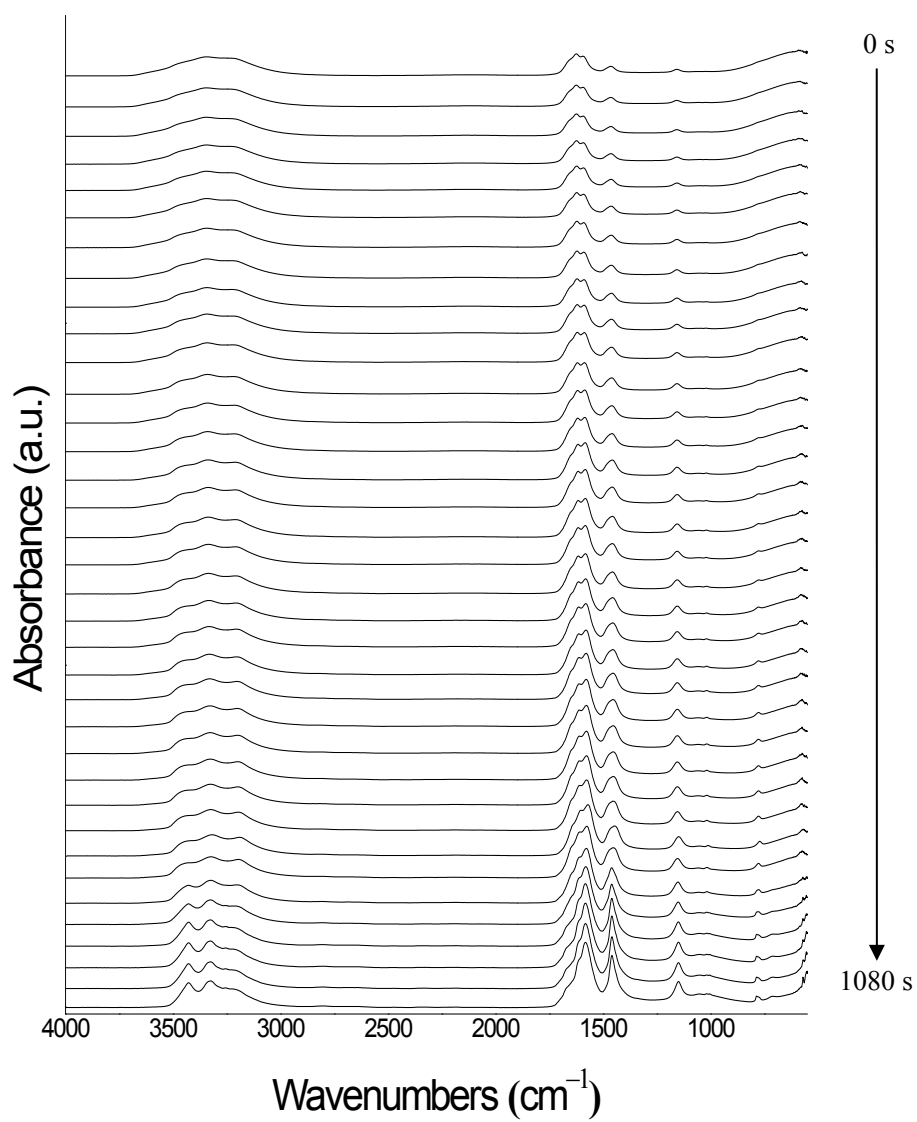
**Figure S9.** Time-dependent IR spectra of urea crystallization process in urea+GdCl<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution. The time interval is 30 s, and the concentration of GdCl<sub>3</sub> is 0.310 mol/L.



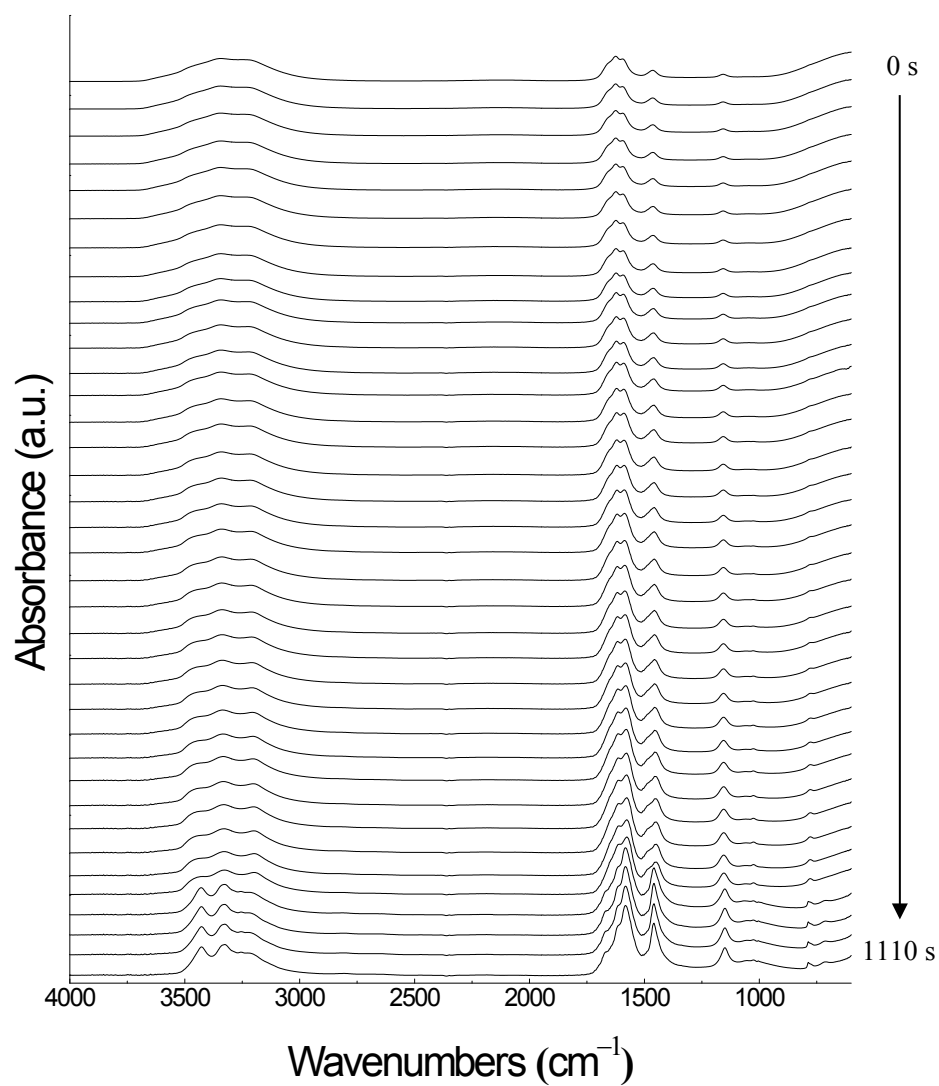
**Figure S10.** Time-dependent IR spectra of urea crystallization process in urea+LuCl<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution. The time interval is 30 s, and the concentration of LuCl<sub>3</sub> is 0.310 mol/L.



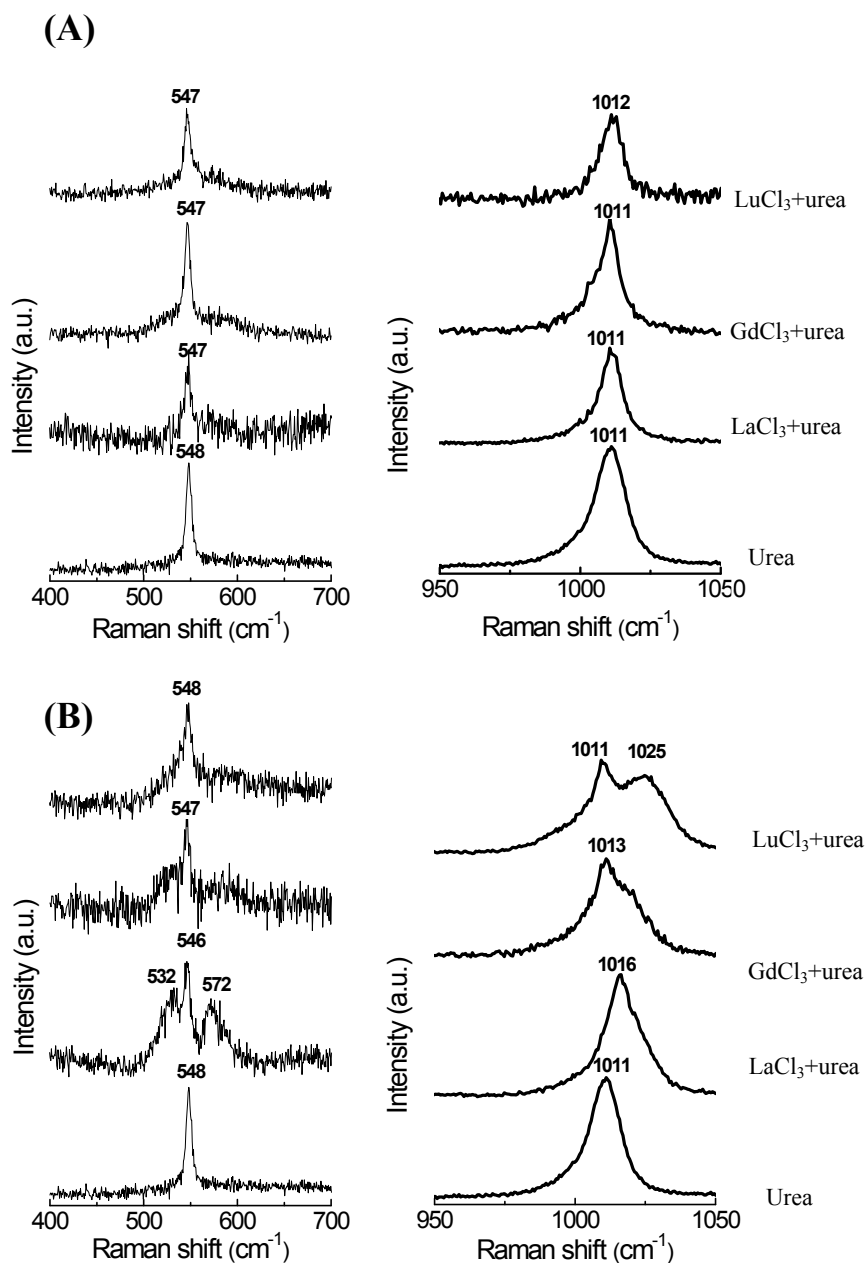
**Figure S11.** Time-dependent IR spectra of urea crystallization process in urea+LaCl<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution. The time interval is 30 s, and the concentration of LaCl<sub>3</sub> is 0.615 mol/L.



**Figure S12.** Time-dependent IR spectra of urea crystallization process in urea+GdCl<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution. The time interval is 30 s, and the concentration of GdCl<sub>3</sub> is 0.615 mol/L.



**Figure S13.** Time-dependent IR spectra of urea crystallization process in urea+LuCl<sub>3</sub> aqueous solution. The time interval is 30 s, and the concentration of LuCl<sub>3</sub> is 0.615 mol/L.



**Figure S14.** Raman spectra of NCN stretching vibrations in crystalline urea from urea/LnCl<sub>3</sub> aqueous solutions, and concentration of LnCl<sub>3</sub> are 0.077 mol/L(A) and 0.615 mol/L (B).