## Electronic Supplementary Information (ESI) for

# Microdynamic changes of moisture-induced crystallization of

## amorphous calcium carbonate revealed by in-situ FTIR

### spectroscopy

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Fig. S1 Powder X-ray diffraction (XRD) profile of the prepared ACC sample.



Fig. S2 SEM image of the prepared ACC sample.



**Fig. S3** Thermogravimetric analysis (TGA) of ACC. The sample shows a mass loss of 8 wt% between 50 and 300 °C due to the removal of water. CaCO<sub>3</sub> decomposes into CaO and CO<sub>2</sub> between 600 and 700 °C. Therefore, the chemical formula of the asprepared ACC can be expressed as CaCO<sub>3</sub> $\cdot$ 0.48H<sub>2</sub>O.



**Fig. S4** Infrared spectral comparison between ACC and proto-calcite ACC. Both spectra are normalized by the integral area of  $v_2$  (898-815 cm<sup>-1</sup>). Proto-calcite ACC is known to have a formula of CaCO<sub>3</sub>·H<sub>2</sub>O<sup>s1</sup>, thus according to the integral area of v (O-H of water) (3637-3000 cm<sup>-1</sup>), the formula of the as-prepared ACC in this work can be calculated to be CaCO<sub>3</sub>·0.56 H<sub>2</sub>O.



**Fig. S5** Four representative fitted spectra of the O-H stretching region of ACC at (a) 0, (b) 60, (c) 150 and (d) 300 min.

#### **Operation Details of Sequence Order Determination from 2DCOS Results**

Noda's rule can be summarized as follows: if the cross-peaks ( $v_1$ ,  $v_2$ , and assume  $v_1 > v_2$ ) in synchronous and asynchronous spectra have the same sign, the change at  $v_1$  may occur prior to that of  $v_2$ , and vice versa. Thus, we firstly listed all the signs of cross-peaks in asynchronous spectra, then turned back to list the corresponding signs in synchronous spectra. Multiplication was performed in succession on these two signs of each cross-peak. To each final sign of cross-peaks, two corresponding wavenumbers can be found on the left and bottom respectively. Because all the signs are above the diagonal line ( $v_1 = v_2$ ) in accordance with our spectra-reading habits, the wavenumber on the bottom is larger than the one on the left. Therefore, according to Noda's rule, if the sign is positive (+), the larger wavenumber or the bottom wavenumber will respond to external perturbation earlier than the smaller wavenumber will respond earlier than the bottom one. If the sign is zero (or blank), we cannot make an exact judgment.

The following are the final results of multiplication on the signs of each crosspeak in synchronous and asynchronous spectra in Fig. 9.



Thus, we have the sequence order as follows:

 $3130 \text{ cm}^{-1} \rightarrow 698 \text{ cm}^{-1} \rightarrow 856 \text{ cm}^{-1} \rightarrow 1064 \text{ cm}^{-1} \rightarrow 3410 \text{ cm}^{-1} \rightarrow 744 \text{ cm}^{-1} \rightarrow 876 \text{ cm}^{-1} \rightarrow 1485 \text{ cm}^{-1} \rightarrow 874 \text{ cm}^{-1} \rightarrow 1086 \text{ cm}^{-1} \rightarrow 1402 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ 

### References

S. Sun, D. M. Chevrier, P. Zhang, D. Gebauer and H. Cölfen, *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2016, 55, 12206-12209.