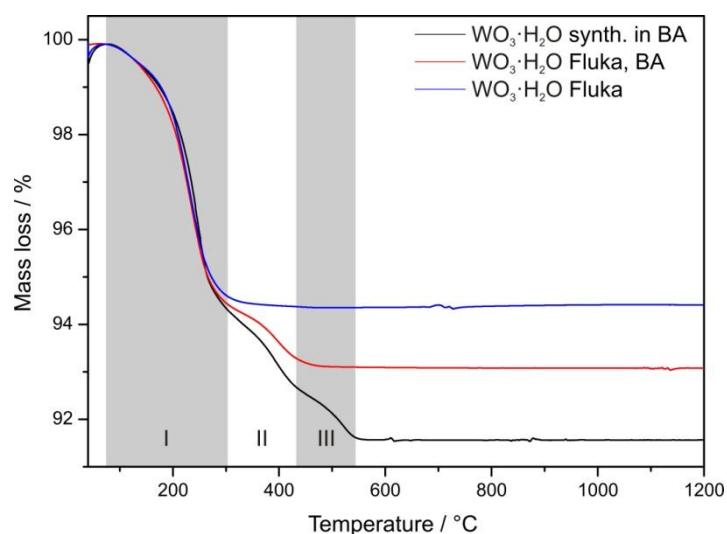
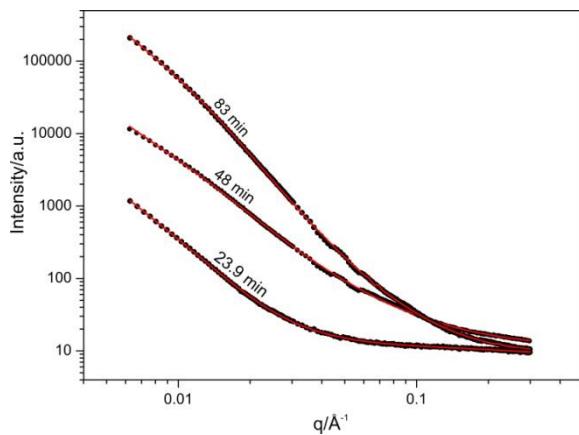


## Supplementary information



**Figure S1.** TGA measurements of  $\text{WO}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  synthesized in benzyl alcohol (black curve, mass loss = 8.3%) compared to a  $\text{WO}_3 \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$  sample obtained from Fluka (blue curve, mass loss = 5.5%) and a sample of the Fluka powder heated in benzyl alcohol (red curve, mass loss = 6.8%). The mass losses are because of the loss of water of crystallization (I), loosely bound benzyl alcohol (II) and chemically bound benzyl alcohol (III). Surface water was removed before the measurements by drying at 130°C.



**Figure S2.** Examples of SAXS data with their corresponding fits at selected times.