# An Introduction to Kinetics and Competition Experiments:

Part 1 – Absolute Rates

Daniel Strassfeld Yu lab Literature talk – 7/12/21





Eyring *J. Chem. Phys.* **1935**, *3*, 107 Evans, Polanyi *Trans. Faraday Soc.* **1935**, *31*, 875

1) Reaction rate is proportional to [TS]<sup>‡</sup>

$$\frac{-d[SM]}{dt} \propto [TS]^{\ddagger}$$

2) Assume a "<u>quasi</u>-equilibrium" between the resting state and the transition state





Eyring J. Chem. Phys. **1935**, *3*, 107 Evans, Polanyi Trans. Faraday Soc. **1935**, *31*, 875

1) Reaction rate is proportional to [TS]<sup>‡</sup>

$$\frac{-d[SM]}{dt} \propto [TS]^{\ddagger}$$

2) Assume a "<u>quasi</u>-equilibrium" between the resting state and the transition state





Eyring J. Chem. Phys. **1935**, *3*, 107 Evans, Polanyi Trans. Faraday Soc. **1935**, *31*, 875

**k**1

Pdt

SM

1) Reaction rate is proportional to [TS]<sup>‡</sup>

$$\frac{-d[SM]}{dt} \propto [TS]^{\ddagger}$$

2) Assume a "<u>quasi</u>-equilibrium" between the resting state and the transition state





Eyring J. Chem. Phys. **1935**, *3*, 107 Evans, Polanyi Trans. Faraday Soc. **1935**, *31*, 875











relative rates vary as:

$$K^{\ddagger} = e^{-\Delta G^{\ddagger}/RT}$$

## $\Delta G = 2.5 \text{ kcal/mol}$ :

Тетр	$e^{-\Delta G/RT}$	
100 °C	29:1	
25 °C	68:1	
-78 °C	631 : 1	



































- determine the presence/absence/molecularity of a species in the RDTS
  - help to support/refute a proposal for the identity of the RDTS
    - help guide other mechanistic studies (e.g. computations)

- determine the presence/absence/molecularity of a species in the RDTS
  - help to support/refute a proposal for the identity of the RDTS
    - help guide other mechanistic studies (e.g. computations)

# 2) Examine how the rate law changes over the reaction

- Identify induction periods
- Identify catalyst deactivation

- determine the presence/absence/molecularity of a species in the RDTS
  - help to support/refute a proposal for the identity of the RDTS
    - help guide other mechanistic studies (e.g. computations)

# 2) Examine how the rate law changes over the reaction

- Identify induction periods
- Identify catalyst deactivation

## 3) Identify changes in bonding or charge between the resting state and RDTS

- Separate-pot KIE experiments
  - LFERs (e.g. Hammett plots)

- determine the presence/absence/molecularity of a species in the RDTS
  - help to support/refute a proposal for the identity of the RDTS
    - help guide other mechanistic studies (e.g. computations)

2) Examine how the rate law changes over the reaction

- Identify induction periods
- Identify catalyst deactivation

3) Identify changes in bonding or charge between the resting state and RDTS

- Separate-pot KIE experiments
  - LFERs (e.g. Hammett plots)

## Discovery of an inverse order in phosphine guides catalyst development for metathesis





## Discovery of an inverse order in phosphine guides catalyst development for metathesis





Grubbs JACS 1997, 119, 3887

## Discovery of an inverse order in phosphine guides catalyst development for metathesis





Grubbs JACS 1997, 119, 3887; Acc. Chem. Res. 2001, 34, 18





\*\*\*These data are for (salen)Cr(III) catalyzed epoxide openings with HN<sub>3</sub>. The HKR is also second order in catalyst, but the reaction isn't kinetically well behaved (...more on that in a bit)

2<sup>nd</sup> order dependence on [Cat] → cooperative, bimetallic mechanism



Discovery of a 2<sup>nd</sup> order dependence on [Cat] in the HKR: Jacobsen *Science* **1997**, *277*, 956; Development of oligo-salen: Jacobsen *ACIE* **2002**, *41*, 1374; *Tetrahedron* **2014**, *70*, 4165. Studies on ((salen)Cr<sup>III</sup>)<sub>2</sub>-catalyzed epoxide openings with azide: Jacobsen *JACS* **1996**, *118*, 10924; **1998**, *120*, 10780





2<sup>nd</sup> order dependence on [Cat] → cooperative, bimetallic mechanism



Discovery of a 2<sup>nd</sup> order dependence on [Cat] in the HKR: Jacobsen *Science* **1997**, *277*, 956; Development of oligo-salen: Jacobsen *ACIE* **2002**, *41*, 1374; *Tetrahedron* **2014**, *70*, 4165. Studies on ((salen)Cr<sup>III</sup>)<sub>2</sub>-catalyzed epoxide openings with azide: Jacobsen *JACS* **1996**, *118*, 10924; **1998**, *120*, 10780 Identification of a bimetallic mechanism allows for dramatic improvement in (salen)M epoxide openings



Electrophile	Nucleophile	Monomer 1 viable?	Co loading reduction with oligomer <b>4a</b> ª	Enhanced stereoselectivity or substrate scope with oligomer <b>4a</b> ? <sup>a</sup>
Terminal epoxides	Water Carbamates	Yes Yes	22–667-fold <sup>b</sup> 22-fold <sup>c</sup>	Yes n.d. <sup>d</sup>
Oxetanes	Intramolecular primary alcohols	Yes	100-fold <sup>e</sup>	Yes
	Intramolecular phenols	Yes	10-500-fold <sup>e</sup>	No
Terminal epoxides	Phenols	Substrate-dependent	59–587-fold <sup>f</sup>	Yes
Terminal epoxides	Primary alcohols	No	_	_
meso Epoxides	Water Carbamates	No No		

Discovery of a 2<sup>nd</sup> order dependence on [Cat] in the HKR: Jacobsen *Science* **1997**, *277*, 956; Development of oligo-salen: Jacobsen *ACIE* **2002**, *41*, 1374; *Tetrahedron* **2014**, *70*, 4165.

Studies on ((salen)Cr<sup>III</sup>)<sub>2</sub>-catalyzed epoxide openings with azide: Jacobsen JACS **1996**, *118*, 10924; **1998**, *120*, 10780

#### 1 isn't always the loneliest number – higher molecularity species with 1<sup>st</sup> order dependencies


#### 1 isn't always the loneliest number – higher molecularity species with 1<sup>st</sup> order dependencies







...the resting state of the catalyst is a monomer-dimer equilibrium heavily favoring the dimer:



So ~1<sup>st</sup> order in catalyst = an RDTS dimer

Approximately linear relationship between [1] and rate: rxn is roughly 1<sup>st</sup> order in [1], but...

Jacobsen JACS 2016, 138, 7860

## Saturation kinetics can appear to be a 0<sup>th</sup> order dependence





#### Saturation kinetics can appear to be a 0<sup>th</sup> order dependence



Molecularity of a species:

- Number of molecules of a reagent that are actually present in a resting state or TS
  - Unique to a species/mechanism it cannot vary with conditions (equilibria can shift to other species)
  - Often the thing we are interested in, but only observable indirectly
- Must be an integer for a given species
  - Must be  $\geq 0$

Kinetic order in a reagent:

- Reflects the difference in molecularity between the resting state(s) and the RDTS(s)
  - Can vary with conditions due to changes in the identity of the resting state(s) and the RDTS(s)
- Experimental observable indicating the impact a change in reagent concentration has on reaction rate
  - Can be any number

#### Common mistakes

"It can't be 1.2<sup>nd</sup> order in catalyst – you can't have 0.2 molecules of catalyst!"

"It's 1st order in catalyst, so it must be monomeric."

"It's Oth order in that reagent, so it's not involved in the RDTS."

## Wait, can't I just compute all of this?



Well, you can compute it...

...but should we trust the computations?

## Wait, can't I just compute all of this?



Well, you can compute it...

...but should we trust the computations?

1) Computations are limited by your imagination

2) Computations rely in part on cancellation of errors:

Good at relative energies of similar structures (e.g. diastereomeric TSs)

But potentially problematic when the structures differ significantly (changes in molecularity, charge, solvation, spin state, etc.)

# A Case Study of the Mechanism of Alcohol-Mediated Morita Baylis-Hillman Reactions. The Importance of Experimental Observations

R. Erik Plata and Daniel A. Singleton\*

Department of Chemistry, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77842, United States

**S** Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** The mechanism of the Morita Baylis—Hillman reaction has been heavily studied in the literature, and a long series of computational studies have defined complete theoretical energy profiles in these reactions. We employ here a combination of mechanistic probes, including the observation of intermediates, the independent generation and partitioning of intermediates, thermodynamic and kinetic measurements on the main reaction and side reactions, isotopic incorporation from solvent, and kinetic isotope



effects, to define the mechanism and an experimental mechanistic free-energy profile for a prototypical Morita Baylis—Hillman reaction in methanol. The results are then used to critically evaluate the ability of computations to predict the mechanism. The most notable prediction of the many computational studies, that of a proton-shuttle pathway, is refuted in favor of a simple but computationally intractable acid—base mechanism. Computational predictions vary vastly, and it is not clear that any significant accurate information that was not already apparent from experiment could have been garnered from computations. With care, entropy calculations are only a minor contributor to the larger computational error, while literature entropy-correction processes lead to absurd free-energy predictions. The computations aid in interpreting observations but fail utterly as a replacement for experiment.

## Wait, can't I just compute all of this?





This proton-shuttle mechanism was the "highlight" of most of the computational papers

- predicted to be the RDTS by all 7 studies which considered it
- not considered in the other 4 studies
- ruled out by experiment a simple acid/base mechanism is operative!

#### Wait, can't I just compute all of this?

OMe



This proton-shuttle mechanism was the "highlight" of most of the computational papers

- predicted to be the RDTS by all 7 studies which considered it
- not considered in the other 4 studies
- ruled out by experiment a simple acid/base mechanism is operative!



"Finally, the errors in relative energetics seen here should be considered in the credence given to the assignment of mechanisms and rate-limiting steps from computational mechanistic studies... Overall, the combination of experimental and computational studies provides a full mechanistic pathway for the MBH reaction including details that would be impossible to discern from either alone.

# 1) Determining the kinetic order in a reagent or reagents

- determine the presence/absence/molecularity of a species in the RDTS
  - help to support/refute a proposal for the identity of the RDTS
    - help guide other mechanistic studies (e.g. computations)

# 2) Examine how the rate law changes over the reaction

- Identify induction periods
- Identify catalyst deactivation

3) Identify changes in bonding or charge between the resting state and RDTS

- Separate-pot KIE experiments
  - LFERs (e.g. Hammett plots)

Using time-course data to identify and resolve catalyst inhibition in Pd(II)-(0) cycles



Kinetics suggest Pd reoxidation becomes the RDTS



Stahl Science 2020, 370, 1454

Using time-course data to identify and resolve catalyst inhibition in Pd(II)-(0) cycles



*Kinetics suggest Pd reoxidation becomes the RDTS* 

Based on comparison of arylation and olefination, they hypothesize that BQ is inhibiting reoxidation\*



\*this is a bit of a logical leap – it would have been nice if they had shown an inverse order in BQ and/or that adding BQ to the olefination caused comparable inhibition

Stahl Science 2020, 370, 1454

ordered in  $O_2$ 



Stahl Science 2020, 370, 1454

#### Drawing inspiration for metathesis catalyst design from an induction period



"Polymerization using these group VIII metals are preceded by a sometimes lengthy initiation period [hours to days] that effectively limits their usefulness. It is during this initiation period that a small amount of reactive metal carbene is formed, which then very rapidly polymerizes the cyclic olefin present."

Grubbs JACS 1988, 110, 7542; Macromolecules 1993, 26, 4739

#### Drawing inspiration for metathesis catalyst design from an induction period



"Polymerization using these group VIII metals are preceded by a sometimes lengthy initiation period [hours to days] that effectively limits their usefulness. It is during this initiation period that a small amount of reactive metal carbene is formed, which then very rapidly polymerizes the cyclic olefin present."

EDA serves as a carbene transfer reagent, generating an active Ru-alkylidene catalyst

Grubbs JACS 1988, 110, 7542; Macromolecules 1993, 26, 4739

#### Drawing inspiration for metathesis catalyst design from an induction period



Grubbs 1st-gen

Grubbs JACS 1988, 110, 7542; Macromolecules 1993, 26, 4739; Acc. Chem. Res. 2001, 34, 18





Evidence of an induction period and catalyst deactivation!

Blackmond, Jacobsen JACS 2004, 126, 1360









This Co is a Lewis acid: Co-OH will be less reactive than Co-OAc  $\rightarrow$  deactivation as Co-X converts to Co-OH

Evidence of an induction period and catalyst deactivation!

Blackmond, Jacobsen JACS 2004, 126, 1360





Evidence of an induction period and catalyst deactivation!

Blackmond, Jacobsen JACS 2004, 126, 1360

# 1) Determining the kinetic order in a reagent or reagents

- determine the presence/absence/molecularity of a species in the RDTS
  - help to support/refute a proposal for the identity of the RDTS
    - help guide other mechanistic studies (e.g. computations)

# 2) Examine how the rate law changes over the reaction

- Identify induction periods
- Identify catalyst deactivation

#### 3) Identify changes in bonding or charge between the resting state and RDTS

- Separate-pot KIE experiments
  - LFERs (e.g. Hammett plots)

#### Using an absolute rate KIE experiment to prove rate-determining C-H activation



#### Using an absolute rate KIE experiment to prove rate-determining C-H activation



We can say this conclusively because absolute rate experiments only show us the resting state(s) and the RDTS(s) – if we used a competition experiment (relative rate measurement) we could only conclude that the C-H activation is irreversible, not necessarily ratedetermining

#### Fagnou JOC 2010, 75, 8180; Hartwig ACIE 2012, 51, 3066

## Proposed catalytic cycle at steady-state for HBr co-catalyzed oxetane opening



- Order in proton source, 1<sup>st</sup> order in catalyst, saturation in TMSBr, 0<sup>th</sup> order in oxetane
- Buildup of free catalyst and bromohydrin at steady state
- Observable catalyst-HBr complex
- Primary KIE in a one-pot competition experiment indicates reversible oxetane activation, enantiodetermining bromide delivery



## A brief introduction to measuring absolute rates



These are complimentary tools!

Reaction	% conv at a given time
Rxn A	50%
Rxn B	75%

Can we say how much faster Rxn B is than Rxn A based on these data?

Reaction	% conv at a given time
Rxn A	50%
Rxn B	75%

Can we say how much faster Rxn B is than Rxn A based on these data?

No! Rxn A could even be faster!

Reaction	% conv at a given time
Rxn A	50%
Rxn B	75%

Can we say how much faster Rxn B is than Rxn A based on these data?

No! Rxn A could even be faster!

 1) Rxn A could be faster but stall at lower conversion<sup>^</sup> (or Rxn A could have a longer induction period than Rxn B)



time

^This is more common than you might think – the same structural changes that make a catalyst more reactive (e.g. open coordination sites) can make it more prone to decomposition

Reaction	% conv at a given time
Rxn A	50%
Rxn B	75%

Can we say how much faster Rxn B is than Rxn A based on these data?

## No! Rxn A could even be faster!

 1) Rxn A could be faster but stall at lower conversion<sup>^</sup> (or Rxn A could have a longer induction period than Rxn B)



 Even for kinetically well-behaved reactions, you can't compute rate from a single time point without knowing the overall order



^This is more common than you might think – the same structural changes that make a catalyst more reactive (e.g. open coordination sites) can make it more prone to decomposition

Reaction	% conv at a given time
Rxn A	50%
Rxn B	75%

Can we say how much faster Rxn B is than Rxn A based on these data?

## No! Rxn A could even be faster!

 1) Rxn A could be faster but stall at lower conversion<sup>^</sup> (or Rxn A could have a longer induction period than Rxn B) 2) Even for kinetically well-behaved reactions, you can't compute rate from a single time point without knowing the overall order



Order $k_B/k_A$  $0^{th}$ 1.5 $1^{st}$ 2 $2^{nd}$ 3

^This is more common than you might think – the same structural changes that make a catalyst more reactive (e.g. open coordination sites) can make it more prone to decomposition Usually, our experimental data will be concentration vs. time

to get rate data, we need to find the derivative

For a non-O<sup>th</sup> order reaction, rate depends on the concentration of one or more reagent

rate will vary over the course of the reaction and a plot of [reagent] vs. time will exhibit curvature







For a non-O<sup>th</sup> order reaction, rate depends on the concentration of

rate will vary over the course of the reaction and a plot of [reagent] vs. time will exhibit curvature

but over a small conversion window, the changes in concentrations (and thus, rate) will be minimal -> we can approximate the derivative with a



Fitting error is ~10%, which is probably pretty similar to the experimental error you will have

 Collect [] vs. time data over a window of ~10% conversion\*

-> try to have at least 5 data points spread out between 0 and ~10% conversion\*



 Collect [] vs. time data over a window of ~10% conversion\*

-> try to have at least 5 data points spread out between 0 and ~10% conversion\*



\*really, what you need is a regime where the [] of all ordered reagents changes little enough that [] vs. time is roughly linear – 0-10% will generally be safe for a reaction that reaches complete conversion, but if your reaction stalls out at low conversion (catalyst death is rapid or an extremely potent inhibitor is generated) you will need to use a smaller window. A safe bet is looking at 0-10% *of the conversion your reaction can reach*
Collect [] vs. time data over a window of ~10% conversion\*

-> try to have at least 5 data points spread out between 0 and ~10% conversion\*

# 2) Fit the data to a line – the slope of the line is $k_{obs}$ under those reaction conditions



 Collect [] vs. time data over a window of ~10% conversion\*

-> try to have at least 5 data points spread out between 0 and ~10% conversion\*

2) Fit the data to a line – the slope of the line is  $k_{obs}$  under those reaction conditions



Repeat steps 1 and 2 varying the starting concentration of the reagent of interest
-> try to have at least 5 data. Ideally, they should span a concentration range of
~1 order of magnitude centered on your standard reaction conditions



4) Plot  $k_{obs}$  vs. [reagent] to determine order. NB – when fitting the data <u>do not</u> force the fit through the origin

In this case, k<sub>obs</sub> varies linearly with [reagent] - > the reaction is 1<sup>st</sup> order in that reagent

5) Repeat the whole process as necessary for other reagents of interest



\*don't actually try to do this just by eye, instead use graphical fitting methods from Blackmond and Bures



\*don't actually try to do this just by eye, instead use graphical fitting methods from Blackmond and Bures







Blackmond ACIE **2005**, *44*, 4302; Bures ACIE **2016**, *55*, 16084



Blackmond ACIE 2005, 44, 4302



Blackmond ACIE 2005, 44, 4302



This is the same way we determine catalyst order with initial rates (but we're determining  $k_{obs}$  from the full reaction time-course, so it is a bit more accurate)

Blackmond *ACIE* **2005,** *44,* 4302



Blackmond ACIE 2005, 44, 4302



1) The "same excess" experiment

Cat A + B ───► C

	[A]	[B]	Excess
Rxn 1	0.16	0.24	0.08
Rxn 2	0.12	0.20	0.08
Rxn 1 (after formation of 0.04 mmol of pdt)	0.12	0.20	0.08



This reaction is kinetically well behaved!\*

Blackmond ACIE 2005, 44, 4302

\*apart from the change in RDTS at high conversion



1) The "same excess" experiment

Cat A + B → C

	[A]	[B]	Excess
Rxn 1	1.5	2	0.5
Rxn 2	1	1.5	0.5
Rxn 1 (after formation of 0.5 mmol of pdt)	1	1.5	0.5



This reaction is <u>not</u> kinetically well behaved! Cat decomp or pdt inhibition are likely occuring

Blackmond ACIE 2005, 44, 4302



1) The "different excess" experiment

Cat A + B → C

	[A]	[1b]	Excess
Red	0.115	0.1	0.015
Gray	0.215	0.1	0.115



at identical [1b] (x-axis) but non-identical [A] the rates overlay -> the reaction is 0<sup>th</sup> order in [A]

Blackmond ACIE 2005, 44, 4302; Jacobsen JACS 2020, 142, 6951



#### -> conceptually simple

-> generally, the experiments are straightforward (can use aliquots or parallel reactions)

 -> requires many experiments/data points (~25/reagent of interest – this can get really laborious if you are determining order in multiple reagents)

-> avoids complications from kinetic misbehavior (catalyst death and product inhibition should be minimal within the first 10% of the reaction)

-> blind to kinetic misbehavior



Initial rates and RPKA are largely complimentary techniques: which is best depends on the question(s) you want to ask and the behavior of your particular system, however... RPKA uses data from a full or nearly full reaction time course (you need at least a few half-lives)

-> conceptually more complicated

-> assay development and experiments can be challenging (requires *in situ* monitoring)

-> requires far fewer experiments, and nearly all of the "cost" is up front in assay development (the marginal labor involved in determining order in an additional reagent is low)

#### -> any kinetic misbehavior that occurs will confound a "simple" determination of kinetic orders

-> reveals kinetic misbehavior and allows you to study it whether you originally knew to look for it or not



-> conceptually simple

-> generally, the experiments are straightforward (can use aliquots or parallel reactions)

-> requires many experiments/data points (~25/reagent of interest – this can get really laborious if you are determining order in multiple reagents)

-> avoids complications from kinetic misbehavior (catalyst death and product inhibition should be minimal within the first 10% of the reaction)

-> blind to kinetic misbehavior

# If we are going to do kinetics in our lab, we should probably use initial rates

We would likely be asking a targeted question (e.g., what is my catalyst order), not trying to determine the complete rate law

Our reactions are typically heterogeneous and we know catalyst death is common -> almost certainly are not kinetically well behaved and likely not amenable to *in situ* monitoring

### Looking behind the curtain



For an excellent review on absolute vs. competition KIE experiments in the context of C-H activation, see: Hartwig ACIE **2012**, *51*, 3066