## Introduction to Kinetics I

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- Rate expressions
- Single-step reactions
- Transition state theory
- Transition state molecularity
- Two-step reactions
- Rate determining steps
- Integrating simple rate expressions
- Changes in R.D.S.


## Substitution reactions



Even seemingly simple reactions do not always go well.
But not an easy pair of $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{N}} \mathbf{2}$ reactions!
See Sheldrake et al., Org. Biomol, Chem., 2009, 7, 238


19 \% over 2 steps
( 8 other methods failed! )

## Substitution reactions



But other more complicated reactions go very well!

See Sheldrake et al., Org. Biomol, Chem., 2009, 7, 238

quantitative

## Reaction orders and rate laws

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{A}+\mathrm{B}+\mathrm{C} \longrightarrow \mathrm{P} \quad \text { What is the mechanism? } \\
& \text { Not just curly arrows but timing! } \\
& \text { Rate of a reaction is defined as } \frac{d[P]}{d t} \text { where } \\
& \frac{d[P]}{d t}=k[A]^{a}[B]^{b}[C]^{c} \quad \begin{array}{l}
\text { where } a, b \text { and } c \text { are the ORDERs of the reaction with respect } \\
\text { to the concentrations of } A, B \text { and } C . k \text { is a constant. }
\end{array} \\
& \text { Remember } \\
& \text { a) a, b or c can be zero. } \\
& \text { b) orders for simple processes are often integers. } \\
& \frac{d[P]}{d t}=k[A] \quad \text { Simple unimolecular kinetics } \\
& \frac{d[P]}{d t}=k[A]^{2} \text { or } k[A][B] \quad \text { Simple bimolecular kinetics }
\end{aligned}
$$

## What do we want to know?

The $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{N}} 2$ reaction:


Transition state -
an energy maximum point along the reaction path


1) What is the structure of the transition state?
2) What is the energy of the transition state?

BIG problem:
Population of the transition state is effectively zero so we have to use indirect methods to study it.

## What does TS theory say?

The $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{N}} 2$ reaction:


Some assumptions:

1) The reaction is defined as a two-step process
2) Starting materials are in equilibrium with the TS
3) the rate of the "second step" is defined by statistical mechanics:

$$
k^{2}=\frac{k_{B} T}{h}
$$

## What does TS theory say?

The $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{N}} 2$ reaction:



$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { given that } \quad \frac{d[\text { prod }]}{d t}=k^{2}[\mathrm{~T} . \mathrm{S} .] \\
& \text { and } \quad \mathrm{K}^{1}=\frac{[\text { T.S. }]}{\left[\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right]\left[\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{Br}\right]} \\
& {[\mathrm{T} . \mathrm{S} .] }=\mathrm{K}^{1}\left[\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right]\left[\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{Br}\right] \\
& \frac{\mathrm{d}[\text { prod }]}{\mathrm{dt}}=\mathrm{k}^{2} \mathrm{~K}^{1}\left[\mathrm{NH}_{3}\right]\left[\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{Br}\right]
\end{aligned}
$$

## What does TS theory say?

The $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{N}} 2$ reaction:


## What does TS theory say?

The $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{N}} 2$ reaction:


We know

1) Which (and how many) starting materials are needed to make the T.S. of the rate determining step.

Therefore, we know what concentrations to adjust to make the reaction faster.
2) How much higher in energy is the T.S. than the starting materials.

Therefore we have some initial ideas about the structure of the T.S.
BUT
3) What about the making and breaking of bonds?

There are some methods useful for working out the difference in BONDING between the starting materials and the T.S. e.g. kinetic isotope effects and free energy relationships. These measure how broken or formed a bond is.

## Reaction orders and the molecularity of the R.D.S.



Reaction orders tell us which (and how many) starting materials are needed to make the T.S. of the R.D.S.

from experiment $\frac{\mathrm{d}\left[\mathrm{COCl}_{2}\right]}{\mathrm{dt}}=\mathrm{k}[\mathrm{CO}]\left[\mathrm{Cl}_{2}\right]^{1.5}$
A possible mechanism

This tells us that in the T.S. of the R.D.S. there is one CO molecule and $1.5 \mathrm{Cl}_{2}$ molecules.




## Stepwise reactions




Can we predict the rate expression for a two step process?

Let us assume that $[B]$ is $v$ low during the reaction, and that it reacts as fast as it is made.

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}[\mathrm{~B}]}{\mathrm{dt}}=0
$$

$\frac{d[B]}{d t}=k^{1}[A]-k^{-1}[B][B r]-k^{2}[B]\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right]=0$
$[B]=\frac{k^{1}[A]}{k^{-1}\left[\mathrm{Br}^{-}\right]+k^{2}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right]}$

$$
\frac{d[C]}{d t}=k^{2}[B]\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right]=\frac{k^{1} k^{2}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right][\mathrm{A}]}{\mathrm{k}^{-1}\left[\mathrm{Br}^{-}\right]+\mathrm{k}^{2}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}\right]}
$$

## First step is R.D.S.




## Second step is R.D.S.




## Various types of $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{N}}$ reaction



1) A bimolecular $S_{N} 2$ reaction
$\frac{d[\mathrm{NuR}]}{\mathrm{dt}}=k\left[\mathrm{Nu}^{-}\right][\mathrm{RBr}]$
2) A unimolecular $S_{N} 1$ reaction

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}[\mathrm{NuR}]}{\mathrm{dt}}=\mathrm{k}[\mathrm{RBr}]
$$

3) A complex $S_{N}$ reaction with inverse order kinetics

$$
\frac{\mathrm{d}[\mathrm{NuR}]}{\mathrm{dt}}=\frac{\mathrm{k}^{1} \mathrm{k}^{2}\left[\mathrm{Nu}^{-}\right][\mathrm{RBr}]}{\mathrm{k}^{-1}[\mathrm{Br}]}
$$

## How does this relate to experiment?



Data from sample reaction 1:


## First order kinetics

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathrm{Nu}^{\ominus} \mathrm{R}-\mathrm{Br} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Nu}-\mathbf{R}_{\mathrm{Br}}{ }^{\ominus} \\
& \frac{d[\mathrm{RBr}]}{\mathrm{dt}}=-\mathrm{k}[\mathrm{RBr}] \\
& =-k \int_{0}^{t} d t \\
& \ln [R B r]_{\mathrm{t}}-\ln [\mathrm{RBr}]_{0}=\mathbf{- k t} \\
& \ln [\mathrm{RBr}]_{t}=-\mathrm{kt}+\ln [\mathrm{RBr}]_{0} \\
& \text { A straight line } \\
& \text { or } \\
& {[\mathrm{RBr}]_{\mathrm{t}}=[\mathrm{RBr}]_{0} \mathrm{e}^{(-\mathrm{kt})}}
\end{aligned}
$$

## How does this relate to experiment?

$$
\begin{array}{cl}
\mathrm{Nu}^{\ominus} \mathrm{R}-\mathrm{Br} & \mathrm{Nu}-\mathrm{R} \\
\mathrm{Br} \\
\ln [\mathrm{RBr}]_{t}=-\mathrm{kt}+\ln [\mathrm{RBr}]_{0} & \begin{array}{l}
\text { A first order reaction. Could be } \mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{N}} 1 \\
\text { or } \mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{N}} 2 \text { if }\left[\mathrm{Nu}^{\circ}\right] \text { is constant. }
\end{array}
\end{array}
$$



## How does this relate to experiment?



Data from sample reaction 2:


## Second order kinetics

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \mathbf{N u}^{\ominus} \underset{\mathbf{R}-\mathrm{Br} \longrightarrow \mathrm{Nu}-\mathbf{R} \underset{\mathrm{Br}}{ }{ }^{\ominus}}{ } \\
& \frac{\mathrm{d}[\mathrm{RBr}]}{\mathrm{dt}}=-\mathrm{k}[\mathrm{RBr}]\left[\mathrm{Nu}^{-}\right] \\
& \text {if }[\mathrm{RBr}]=\left[\mathrm{Nu}^{-}\right] \\
& \frac{\mathrm{d}[\mathrm{RBr}]}{\mathrm{dt}}=-\mathrm{k}[\mathrm{RBr}]^{2} \\
& \int_{[\mathrm{RBr}]_{0}}^{\left[\begin{array}{l}
{[\mathrm{RBr}]_{\mathrm{t}}} \\
{[\mathrm{RB}-\mathrm{Br}}
\end{array}{ }^{2}\right.} \quad=-k \int_{0}^{\mathrm{t}} \mathrm{dt} \\
& \int x^{n} d x=\frac{1}{n+1} x^{n+1} \\
& \frac{1}{[\mathrm{RBr}]_{t}}=k t+\frac{1}{[\mathrm{RBr}]_{0}} \\
& \text { A straight line }
\end{aligned}
$$

## How does this relate to experiment?



## Stepwise $\mathbf{S}_{\mathbf{N}} \mathrm{Ar}$ reactions





## Stepwise reaction kinetics




$$
\frac{d[\text { prod }]}{d t}=\frac{k^{1} k^{2}[p i p][A r X]}{k^{-1}+k^{2}}
$$

## Stepwise reaction kinetics




## Stepwise reaction kinetics



