

# Lecture 8 Rate Equations (ch 15)

## 1. Turnover rate in propulsion (p577).

slides

We saw how actin polymerization drives a cell across a surface:

i) Listeria moves  $0.2 \mu\text{m/s} = 200 \text{nm/s}$

G-Actin monomer is  $2.7 \text{nm}$ , elongation of chain

$\Rightarrow$  rate is  $\frac{200}{2.7} \approx 70$  monomers/s.

ii) E. coli flagellum, 100 Hz rotation

$\sim 15$  'poles' of motor protein

$\sim 1500$  reaction steps/s.

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iii) Other rates (p88)

lysozyme turnover  $0.5 / \text{s} \sim 1 \text{sec}$

carbonic anhydrase  $600,000 / \text{s} = 1 \mu\text{s}$

side chain rotation  $500 \text{ps} = 2 \times 10^9 / \text{s}$

H-bond proton relay in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$   $10 \text{ps}$

covalent bond vibration  $10 \text{fs}$ .

## 2. Rate equation paradigm (p580).

Molecules in solution, concentration  $c_j = [j]$ ,  $j=1-n$

$$\frac{dc_j(t)}{dt} = f(c_1, \dots, c_n, \underbrace{k_1, \dots, k_m}_{\text{rate constants}})$$

Rate of concentrations (in dilute limit)  
of all species involved

Rate of rate constant.

Chemistry notation:

1 species  $\rightarrow$  1st order reaction  
2 " " 2nd " " etc

$$\frac{dc_j(t)}{dt} = k [c_1]^{n_1} [c_2]^{n_2} \dots$$

order wrt species 1 etc

units of  $k$  follow accordingly

3. First-order reactions (example on HW)

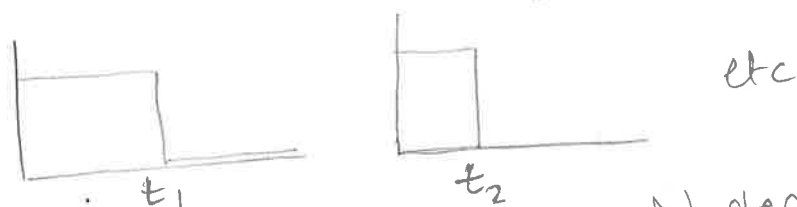
$$\frac{dc}{dt} = -kc \quad c = c_0 e^{-kt} = c_0 e^{-t/\tau} \quad \tau = 1/k$$

[could increase or decrease - bdy conditions]



Statistical mechanical picture of decay:  
"Waiting time" distribution: state of  $i$ 'th molecule trajectory

$$\sigma_i(t) = \begin{cases} 1 & t < t_i \text{ before reacting} \\ 0 & \text{after} \end{cases}$$



Divide time domain into  $N$  steps of  $\Delta t$

$$t = N\Delta t$$

Probability of decay within  $\Delta t$  is  $k\Delta t$

Probability to survive  $N$  steps then decay is

$$P(t)\Delta t = (1 - k\Delta t) \dots (1 - k\Delta t) \cdot k\Delta t \\ = (1 - k\Delta t)^N \cdot k\Delta t \approx e^{-k\Delta t N} \cdot k\Delta t$$

$$P(t) = k e^{-kt} = \frac{1}{\tau} e^{-t/\tau}$$

Waiting time distribution

Example: retinal  $cis \rightleftharpoons trans$  { isomerisation = like decay associated with absorption/emission photon

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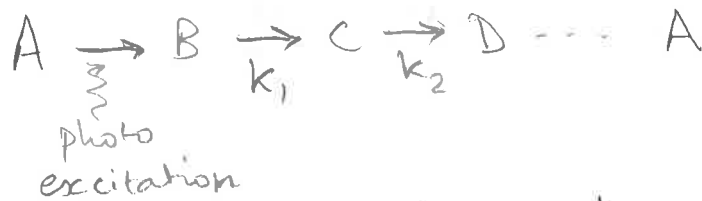
Central role in:

- i) photosynthetic bacteria (purple membrane)
- ii) vision.

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Bacteriorhodopsin. Photon  $\rightarrow$  cis-trans isomerisation  $\rightarrow$  electron transport across memb. This is used to drive ATP synthesis.

BR rate equations are all 1st order, involving a single species, but form a chain



Reaction rates are 'nested' with later ones orders of magnitude slower than the early ones. Result is complete conversion. States are identified spectroscopically by the wavelength of peak adsorption.

$$E = h\nu = \hbar\omega = hc/\lambda$$

#### 4. Photosynthesis. (p747, d18)

movie slides

Similar story of photosynthetic reaction centre (PRC) As in mitochondria, the chloroplasts drive a proton gradient across the membrane, which then runs an ATP synthase.

The multiple states of the reaction are all connected by electron transfers between different {pigments} chromophores - coloured molecules that have optically excited charged states.

Reaction rates are governed by quantum mechanical overlap of these molecules. The electron transfers through a set of overlapping molecules. Fermi's "Golden Rule"

~100 chlorophyll molecules form a large antenna that funnels the electron to the PRC. eventually onto plastocyanin which moves from PSII over to PSI.

5. Bimolecular reaction,  
Michaelis-Menten kinetics.



Forward rate =  $k_+ [A][B]$  bimolecular

Reverse rate =  $k_- [AB]$  "off"

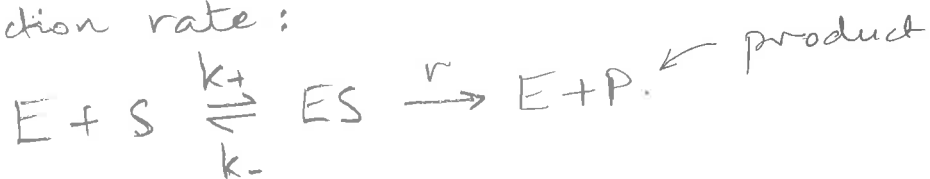
Equilibrium when rates are equal.

$$K_d = \frac{[A][B]}{[AB]} = \frac{k_-}{k_+} = \frac{k_{\text{off}}}{k_{\text{on}}} \quad \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{Law of} \\ \text{mass action} \end{array} \right]$$

We met this before and saw that fraction of one of the species "bound" =

$$P \text{ B-bound} = \frac{[AB]}{[AB] + [B]} = \frac{[A]/K_d}{[A]/K_d + 1}$$

If we now consider the enzyme-substrate reaction rate:



$$\frac{d[E]}{dt} = -k_+ [E][S] + k_- [ES] + r [ES]$$

$$\frac{d[S]}{dt} = -k_+ [E][S] + k_- [ES]$$

$$\frac{d[ES]}{dt} = +k_+ [E][S] - k_- [ES] - r [ES]$$

$$\frac{d[P]}{dt} = r [ES]$$

Want the steady state reaction rate generated by an excess of S and (slow) generation of P.

Define steady state as  $\frac{d[ES]}{dt} = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{[E][S]}{[ES]} = \frac{k_{-1} + r}{k_1} = K_m \text{ another } \exists m \text{ const.}$$

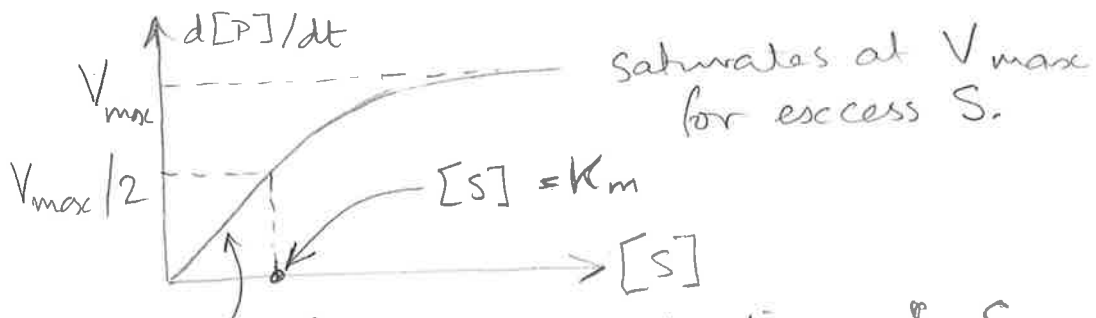
M-M result uses the maximum velocity of the reaction, generating product:

$$V_{\max} = r [E]_{\text{tot}} = r ([E] + [ES])$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d[P]}{dt} = r [ES] = r \frac{[E][S]}{K_m} = V_{\max} \frac{[E][S]}{K_m ([E] + [ES])}$$

$$= V_{\max} \frac{[E][S]}{K_m [E] + [E][S]} = V_{\max} \frac{[S]/K_m}{1 + [S]/K_m}$$

The formula is a saturation curve just like that for P bound:



slides

linear for low concentrations of S.

Convenient parameterisation of data in terms of  $K_m = \text{conc at half rate max}$   
 $V_{\max} = \text{maximum turnover}$

Assumption of steady state ignored the early time transients of the system, which we look at next.

8.6.

6. Approach to steady state



slightly simpler case. Omitting the [ ] for conc:

$$\frac{dA}{dt} = -k_+A + k_-B$$

$$\frac{dB}{dt} = k_+A - (k_- + r)B$$

$$\frac{dC}{dt} = rB$$

remove one variable and noting that only the first two equations are coupled:

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{pmatrix} A \\ B \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -k & 1 \\ k & -1-\epsilon \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A \\ B \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $\tau = k_-t$  dimensionless time

$$k = k_+/k_- \quad \epsilon = r/k_-$$

eigenvalue equation with solution:

$$\begin{pmatrix} A \\ B \end{pmatrix} = a_1 \begin{pmatrix} A_1 \\ B_1 \end{pmatrix} e^{\omega_1 \tau} + a_2 \begin{pmatrix} A_2 \\ B_2 \end{pmatrix} e^{\omega_2 \tau}$$

$$\begin{vmatrix} -k-\omega & 1 \\ k & -1-\epsilon-\omega \end{vmatrix} = (k+\omega)(1+\epsilon+\omega) - k = 0$$

$$\omega^2 + (1+\epsilon+k)\omega + (k+k\epsilon - k) = 0$$

$$\omega_{1,2} = -\frac{1}{2}(1+\epsilon+k) \pm \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{(1+\epsilon+k)^2 - 4k\epsilon}$$

both roots are negative as expected for  $e^{\omega \tau}$

8.7

Interesting limit of slow generation of product, also relevant to M-M:  $\boxed{\epsilon \ll 1}$

$$\sqrt{\phantom{x}} = \sqrt{(1+k)^2 - 4\epsilon k}$$

$$\approx (1+k) \left( 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{4\epsilon k}{(1+k)^2} \right) = (1+k) - \frac{2\epsilon k}{1+k}$$

$$\omega_2 \approx -(1+k) \quad \omega_1 \approx -\epsilon \frac{k}{1+k}$$

fast

slow.

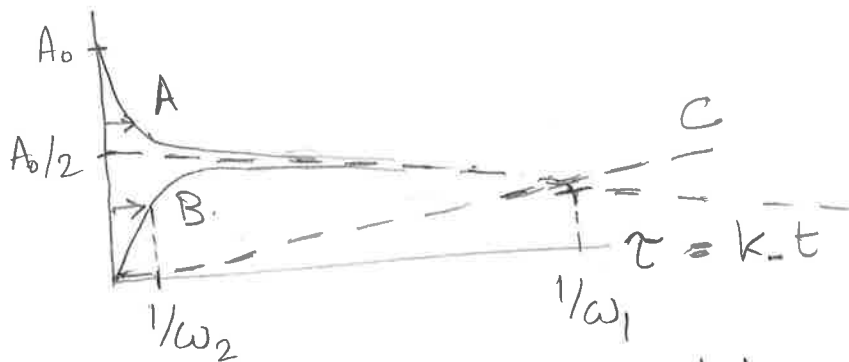
If, in addition  $\boxed{k \approx 1}$  for equal interconversion of A and B:  $k_+ \approx k_-$ , then eigenvectors

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A_2 \\ B_2 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{fast } \begin{matrix} A \downarrow \\ B \uparrow \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} A_1 \\ B_1 \end{pmatrix} = 0 \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{slow. } A, B \downarrow$$

Start with  $B=C=0$   $A = A_0$  initial conc.

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k=1  
 $\epsilon=0.01$



$C = \int B dt$  has small initial delay, then steady rise, then saturation as B runs out.

- i) Separation of time scales
  - fast equilibration of A & B.
  - slow conversion of A, B  $\rightarrow$  C
 } allowed when rates very different

ii) Application to M-M when we assumed

$$\frac{d[ES]}{dt} = 0 \Rightarrow \text{initial equilibration is over.}$$

ok except for transient

## 7. Actin polymerization

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Important roles of actin and microtubules in powering mitosis (cell division)

movie

- i) microtubules connect centromeres to the spindle poles. Motor action pulls the sets of chromosomes apart.
- ii) once complete, an actin waist is formed which constricts off the membranes of the two daughter cells.

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Experiments show conc. dependent polymerization rates for actin, 10x faster on the "barbed" end than the "pointed" end.

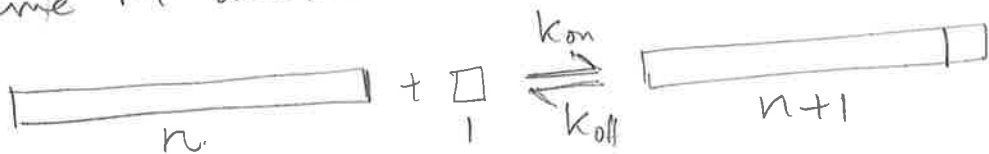
Pointed end	binds	ATP-actin	move	slow
Barbed end	binds	ADP-actin	move	fast

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4-levels of hierarchy of models, later ones considering 2x ends + ATP/ADP roles.  
 i) equilibrium models don't work:  
 all-or-nothing behaviour like a phase transition.

ii) good models have equilibrium with a population of monomers,  $c_0$ , which gets depleted:

Assume  $M$  initial nuclei in volume  $V$ , FIXED



$$\frac{dn}{dt} = k_{\text{on}} \left( c_0 - \frac{Mn(t)}{V} \right) - k_{\text{off}}$$

Fixed conc. of polymers is omitted because it is constant.

$\frac{M n(t)}{V}$  is the concentration of monomers already polymerised, reducing the available concentration of monomers,  $C_0$ , for further reaction.

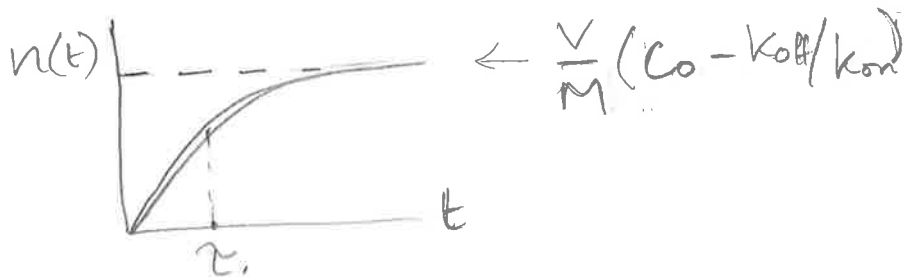
i) Steady state solution when  $dn/dt = 0$

$$k_{on} \frac{M n(t)}{V} = k_{on} C_0 - k_{off} \Rightarrow n(t) = \frac{V}{M k_{on}} (k_{on} C_0 - k_{off})$$

ii) Transient solution to reach that state

$$n \sim n_0 e^{-t/\tau} \quad \tau = V / k_{on} M$$

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### 8. Hierarchy of models

Extend to the cases of pointed / bearded ends and ADP + ATP bound monomers.

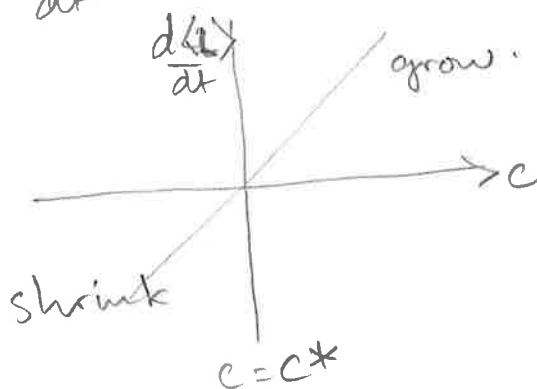
Let  $c = C_0 - \frac{M}{V} n$  be the actual local concentration of monomers. Rate equation now

$$\frac{dn}{dt} = k_{on} c - k_{off}$$

$$= 0 \text{ when } c = c^* = k_{off} / k_{on}$$

Length of polymer = no. monomers  $\times$  spacing  $a$ .

$$\frac{d\langle L \rangle}{dt} = (k_{on} c - k_{off}) a.$$



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i) Consider different  $k_{on}$  and  $k_{off}$  for the ends

$$\frac{dn_+}{dt} = k_{on}^+ c - k_{off}^+ \quad \text{one end}$$

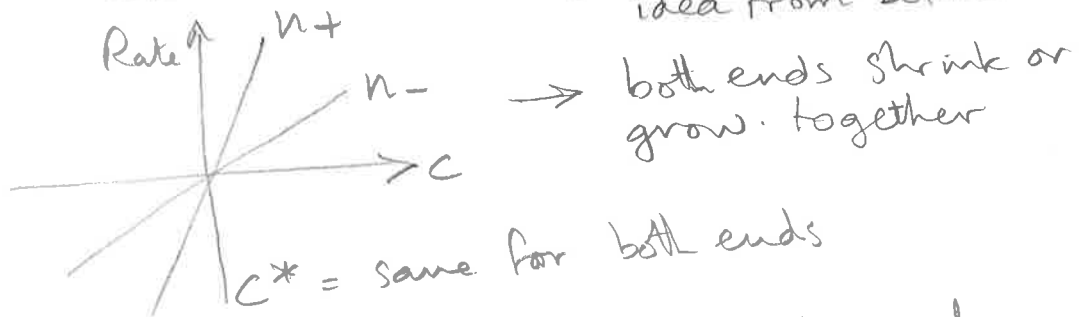
$$\frac{dn_-}{dt} = k_{on}^- c - k_{off}^- \quad \text{other end.}$$

But the ratios have to be the same because the monomers are the same

$$\frac{k_{off}}{k_{on}} = \frac{1}{V} e^{\Delta G/k_B T}$$

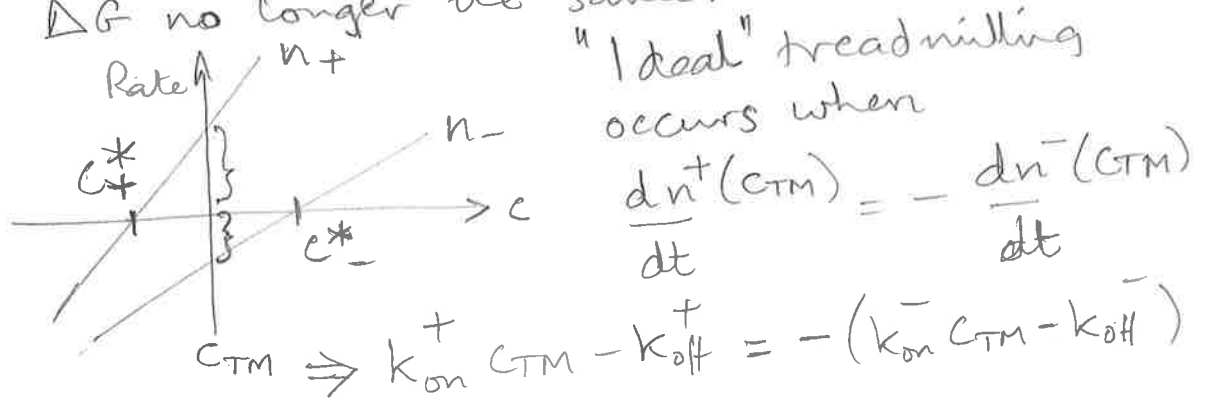
is the same for both ( $\Delta G$  vs concentration) idea from before

slide.



ii) Different monomers at each end  
 Barbed ends - only ATP-monomers  
 Pointed ends - only ADP-monomers  
 $\Delta G$  no longer the same.

slide.



$$\Rightarrow c_{TM} = \frac{k_{off}^- + k_{off}^+}{k_{on}^- + k_{on}^+}$$