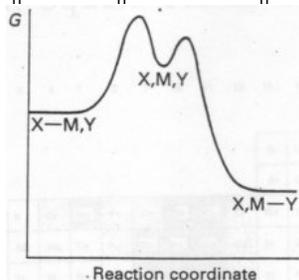
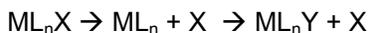


## INORGANIC REACTION MECHANISMS AND REDOX

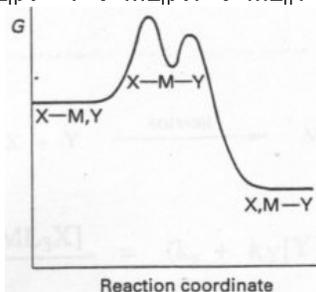
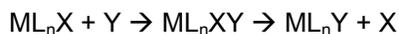
### Mechanisms

#### **Dissociative (D) Mechanism**

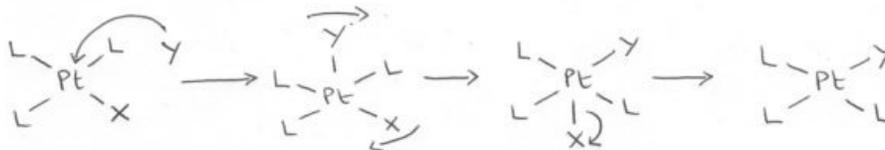


Rate is independent of Y, and is determined by the breaking of the M-X bond (analogous to  $S_N1$ ).

#### **Associative (A) Mechanism**



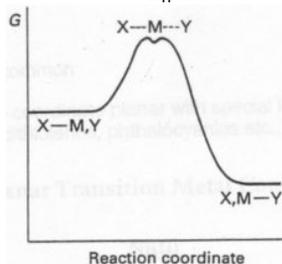
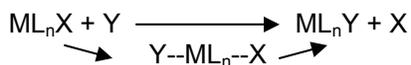
Common for Square Planar complexes.



Also, there is often a stereochemical change from the A mechanism, via an intermediate (analogous to  $S_N2$ ).

There is a third type of mechanism, distinguished by the fact that the intermediate cannot be isolated, and is thus some sort of amalgamation of the A and D mechanisms.

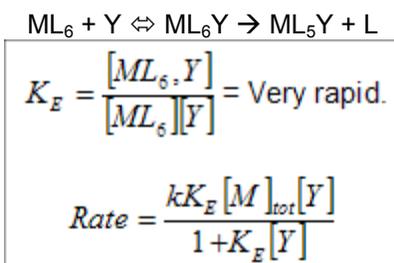
#### **Interchange (I) Mechanism**



This is common for 6-coordinate complexes.

It can have greater A or D mechanism characteristics, denoted  $I_a$  and  $I_d$ .

*Eigen-Wilkins Mechanism* (for describing I kinetically) –



If  $K_E[Y] \ll 1$ ,

$$rate = k_{obs}[M]_{tot}[Y]$$

$$k_{obs} = kK_E.$$

If  $K_E[Y] \gg 1$ , i.e. Y is the solvent,  $k_{obs} = k$ .

### Factors Favouring A or D (or $I_a$ or $I_d$ )

**Sterics** – Bulky ligands clearly will obstruct the nucleophile, so favouring the D mechanism over A.

**Large Metal Ion** favours A (easy attack by Y).

**Good Leaving Group** favours D.

**Nucleophilicity** highly favours A.  $I^-$  is good for soft metals,  $F^-$  good for hard metals.

**Spectator ligands** – no trans effect present for octahedral. However, strength of ligand matters. A good  $\sigma$ -donor increases e-density on the metal, so M-X breaks more easily. They may also stabilise low coordination number activated complex after the dissociation.

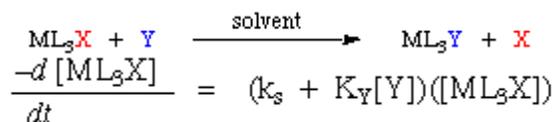
### Associative Activation –

Shrinking as ligand binds leads to increased A character. Thus, increase in number of non-bonding d electrons increases the volume of activation, so more Dissociative. Low d-count implies  $I_a$ .

For large metals, a large  $\Delta V$  is seen because they are more accessible. Also low non-bonding d count. Hence, tend towards  $I_a$ .

### Substitution at Square Planar Metal Complexes

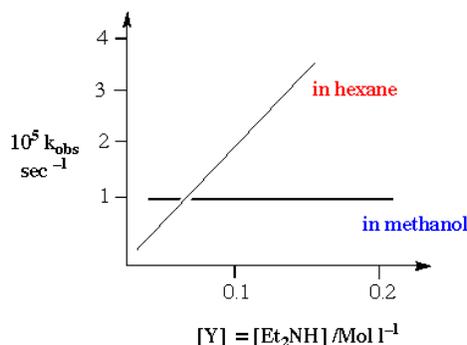
General Rate Law:



Factors Which Affect The Rate Of Substitution

1. Role of the Entering Group
2. The Role of The Leaving Group
3. The Nature of the Other Ligands in the Complex
4. Effect of the Metal Centre





An illustration of the importance of solvent on the substitution pathways for square planar reaction centres.

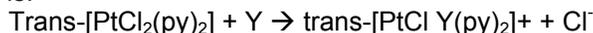
### 1. Role of the Entering Group

- Rate is proportional to the nucleophilicity of entering group
- Element specific
- It is best to define the strength of Y by the term NUCLEOPHILICITY – the rate of attack on a complex by a given Lewis Base (relative to the rate of attack of a reference).

The nucleophilicity parameter is calculated as:

$$n_{Pt} = \log \frac{k_2(Y)}{k_2^0}, k_2^0 = \text{methanol}$$

Reference reaction is:



Y best when CN<sup>-</sup>/CO, and worst when H<sub>2</sub>O/F<sup>-</sup>.

The opposite is true for X. A good nucleophile is a bad leaving group (relevant for the D mechanism).

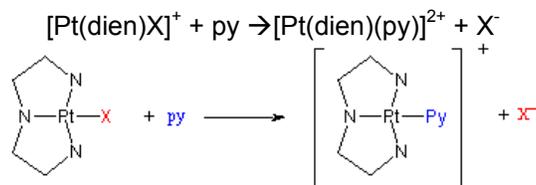
- No correlation of  $n_{Pt}$  scale with other properties of the nucleophiles, such as basicity, redox potentials, or pH, e.g. strongly basic ligands such as OH<sup>-</sup> or OMe<sup>-</sup> do not react with Pt(II) substrates.
- For the reactivity series I<sup>-</sup> > Br<sup>-</sup> > Cl<sup>-</sup> the most important factor seems to be the polarisability or "softness" resulting from the existence in low lying excited states.
- PR<sub>3</sub> > AsR<sub>3</sub> > SbR<sub>3</sub> >> NR<sub>3</sub>
- Notable exceptions to this series are NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>, SeCN<sup>-</sup>, which are "biphilic".
- "Biphilic" ligands exhibit different reactivities depending on the charge on the complex.

#### Biphilic Ligands:

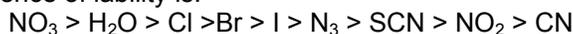
- Biphilic properties originate from π-acceptor properties from non-bonding electrons
- Availability of non-bonding electrons is dependent on ligand environment

### 2. The Role Of The Leaving Group

For the reaction:



in H<sub>2</sub>O at 25°C the sequence of lability is:



with a spread of over 10<sup>6</sup> in rate across series.

Leaving group does not affect the nucleophilic discrimination factors only the intrinsic reactivity. The series tend to parallel the strength of the M-L bond.

### 3. The Nature of other Ligands in the Complex

#### The Trans Ligands

##### Definition:

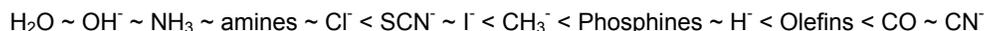
The trans effect is best defined as the effect of a coordinated ligand upon the rate of substitution of ligands opposite to it.

For square planar complexes, this is a kinetic effect.

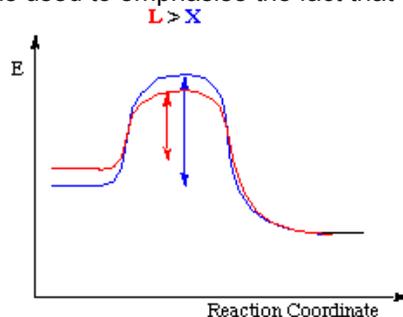
T is a spectator ligand trans to the Leaving Group. If T is a  $\pi$ -donor it will push electrons in to the metal, and weaken the M-X bond opposite to it.

$\pi$ -acceptors instead stabilise the transition state by reducing the electron density in antibonding orbitals.

For example, in the substitution reactions of Pt(II) square planar complexes, labilising effect is in the order:



Note that the "labilising effect" is used to emphasise the fact that this is a kinetic phenomenon.

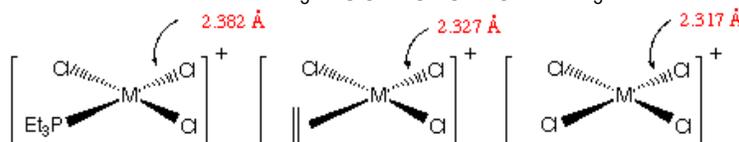


This labilisation may arise because of destabilisation (a thermodynamic term) of the ground state and/or a stabilisation of the transition state.

The trans influence is purely a thermodynamic phenomenon. That is, ligands can influence the ground state properties of groups to which they are trans. Such properties include:

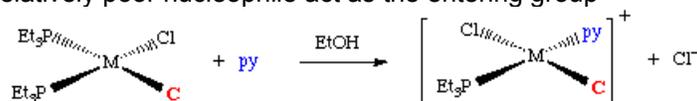
- (i) Metal-Ligand bond lengths
- (ii) Vibration frequency or force constants
- (iii) NMR coupling constants

The trans influence series based on structural data, has been given as:



#### The cis ligands

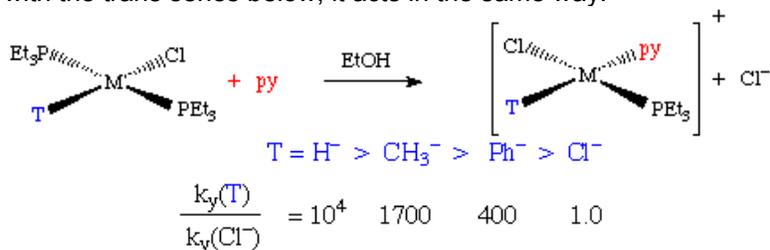
In cases where a relatively poor nucleophile act as the entering group





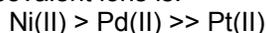
$$\frac{k_y(\text{C})}{k_y(\text{Cl}^-)} = 3.6 \quad 2.3 \quad 1.0$$

Note: Compare with the trans series below, it acts in the same way.

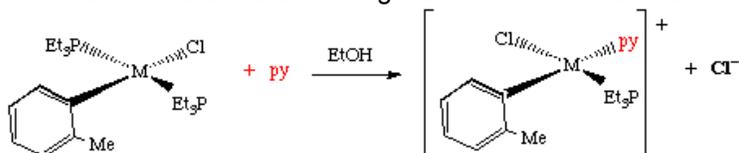


#### 4. Effect of the Metal Centre

The order of reactivity of a series of isovalent ions is:



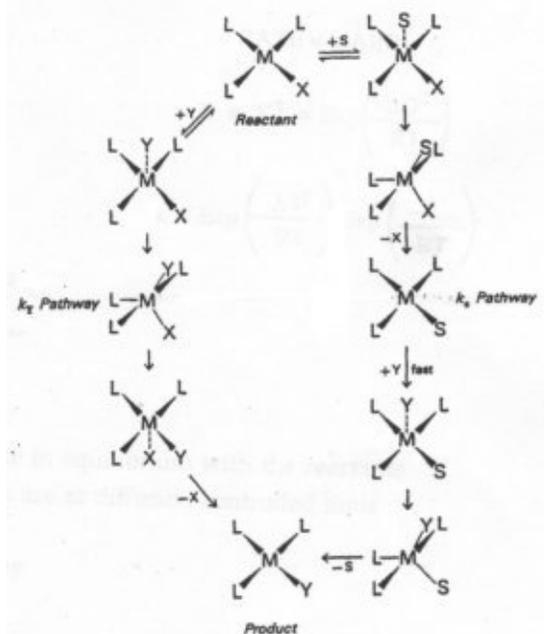
- This order of reactivity is the same order as the tendency to form 5-coordinate complexes.
- The more readily the formation of a 5-coordinate intermediate complex is, the greater the stabilisation of the transition state and so the greater the bimolecular rate enhancement.



#### The Intimate Mechanism for Substitution at Square Planar Complexes

$$\frac{-d}{dt} [\text{ML}_3\text{X}] = (k_s + k_y[\text{Y}]) ([\text{ML}_3\text{X}])$$

The associative pathways utilized in the substitution of one ligand for another at a square planar reaction centre:

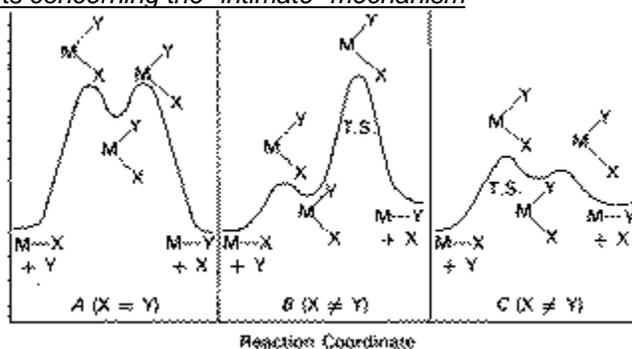


The 1st order dependence of the rate of the reaction on:

- The concentration of the substrate
- The concentration entering reagent

Indicates that these complexes undergo substitution of ligands by a bimolecular mechanism.

Some important points concerning the "intimate" mechanism

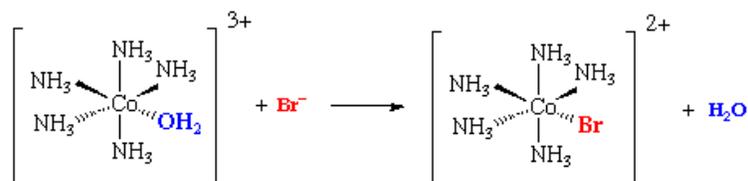


- Profile A applies when the energies of the reactants and products are almost equal, and in which the energies of the transition states are almost equal.
- Profile B is appropriate to a reaction for which the bond breaking is rate determining (D mechanism from the intermediate)
- Profile C depicts the situation when bond forming is rate determining, a situation in which the entering group (Y) lies higher in the trans effect series than the leaving group.

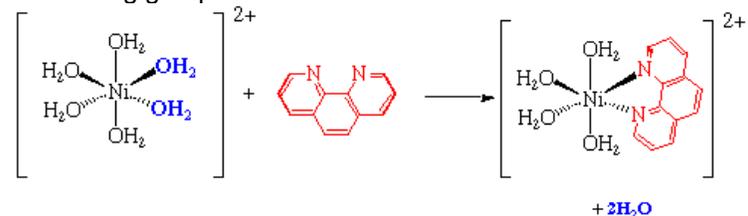
In a few cases the intermediate is reasonably stable and so lies at lower energy than the products.

General Substitution Reactions of Octahedral Complexes

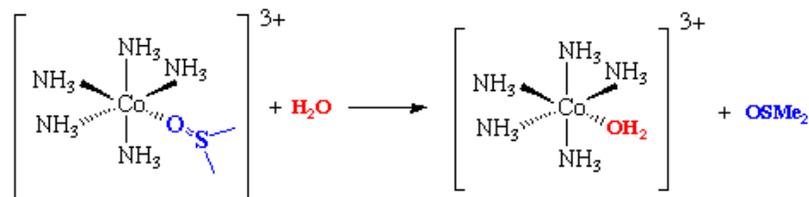
Studies on octahedral complexes have largely been limited to two types of reaction: Replacement of coordinated solvent (e.g. water). Perhaps the most thoroughly studied replacement reactions of this type is the formation of a complex ion from a hydrated metal ion in solution.



**Anation:** When the entering group is an ion the reaction is called anation.



**Solvolysis.** Since the majority of such reactions have been carried out in aqueous solution, hydrolysis is a more appropriate term. Hydrolysis reactions have been done under acidic or basic conditions.



**General Comments**

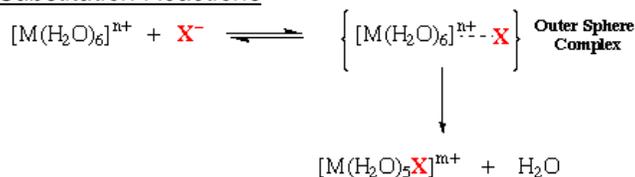


Observations / Implications

- Rates quite similar to water exchange rates (H<sub>2</sub>O dissociation important factor)
- Rate increases with charge on anion ("Outer Sphere" Complex)
- Rate unaffected by nucleophilicity, basicity, etc... (A and I<sub>a</sub> paths thus unlikely)
- Rate strongly dependent on M (suggests D or I<sub>d</sub> mechanism)
- Kinetics 2<sup>nd</sup> order (does not eliminate any mechanism)
- Intermediates not detected (very few cases, e.g. [Co(CN)<sub>5</sub>H<sub>2</sub>O]<sup>2-</sup>)
- ΔV‡ +ve, generally

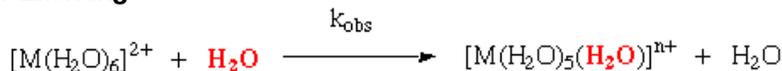
All this generally suggests an I<sub>d</sub> mechanism.

General Scheme for Substitution Reactions



$$\text{Rate} = k_{\text{obs}}[\text{complex}][X]$$

**Rates of Water Exchange**

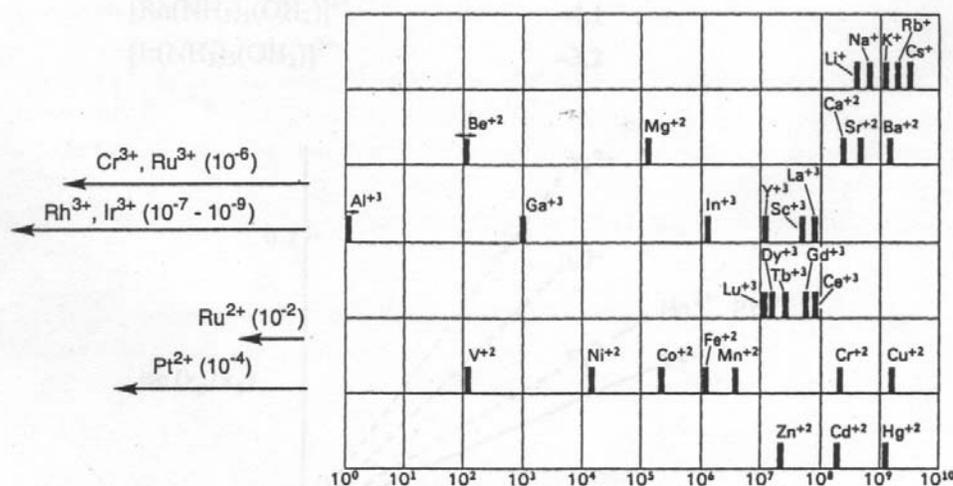


The 1st Order rate constants for the substitution of inner sphere water in transition and non-transition metal complexes fall over 10-orders of magnitude.

General Comments

The rate constants of a given ion are approximately constant, no matter what the nature of the entering group. (evidence for dissociative activation)

The substitution rates divide the metal ions into 4-distinct groups:



Characteristic rate constants (s<sup>-1</sup>) for the substitution of coordinated water molecules in some metal ions.

<b>Class 1</b>	Very fast water exchange ( $k > 10^8 \text{ s}^{-1}$ ), essentially diffusion controlled. These include the Group 1 and 2 ions (except $\text{Be}^{2+}$ and $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ ), Group 12 except $\text{Zn}^{2+}$ , and $\text{Cr}^{2+}$ and $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ .
<b>Class 2</b>	Rate constants in the range $10^4$ - $10^8 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . This includes $\text{Mg}^{2+}$ , the $\text{Ln}^{3+}$ cations, and most of the first row of transition metal divalent ions (except for $\text{V}^{2+}$ , and those in Class 1).
<b>Class 3</b>	Rate constants are in the range $1$ - $10^4 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . Examples are $\text{Be}^{2+}$ , $\text{Al}^{3+}$ , $\text{V}^{2+}$ and some first row trivalent cations.
<b>Class 4</b>	Slow rates of water substitution down to $< 10^{-7} \text{ s}^{-1}$ . Ions in this class are $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ , $\text{Co}^{3+}$ , and $2^{\text{nd}}$ and $3^{\text{rd}}$ row transition metal ions.

### **Factors which control the rate of $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ Substitution**

For Class 1, ionic size, and ionic charge are clearly the important ones. As the ion becomes smaller the substitution rate slows. Reflecting importance of orbital overlap between metal ion and departing ligand. Group 2 and 12 show similar trend, ( $\text{Be}^{2+}$  is anomalous due to complex hydrolysis reactions).

For T.M. metals the correlation of rate with size is not obeyed, e.g.  $\text{Cr}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ , and  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  have identical radii.

*Mechanism* – activation parameters have been determined for many water exchange reactions, and they support  $I_d$  (Eigen-Wilkins) for ions of Groups 1,2,12,13 and the lanthanides (typically  $\Delta S_a$  and  $\Delta V_a > 0$ ).

However, other data indicates that associative activation is also possible. This is particularly seen for early transition metal ions, but it changes to dissociative ( $I_d$ ) across the 1<sup>st</sup> row.

$2^{\text{nd}}/3^{\text{rd}}$  row transition metal ions and more highly charged 1<sup>st</sup> row ions tend to follow the  $I_a$  mechanism.

The rationalisation for this is as follows:

- For ions following the  $I_d$  mechanism, bond breaking is important in the rate limiting step and therefore one key factor must be the strength of the M-O interaction. We expect rate to increase as ionic radius increases and charge decreases. This is clearly the case for Groups 1,2 and 13, and most of the lanthanides. Hence  $\text{Be}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Al}^{3+}$  undergo slow water substitution.
- For transition metals the correlation between rate and size is not always obeyed, e.g.  $\text{Cr}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  have the same ionic radii. Octahedral  $\text{Cr}^{2+}$  (HS  $d^4$ ) and  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  ( $d^9$ ) are susceptible to Jahn-Teller distortions which lengthen two of the M-O bonds, which will facilitate substitution by a dissociative mechanism (breaking a weaker bond).
- Group 2 vs. Group 13:  $\text{Ca}^{2+}/\text{Zn}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Sr}^{2+}/\text{Cd}^{2+}$  are as expected.  $\text{Hg}^{2+}$  faster than expected. Perhaps due to 2-short/four long Hg-OH<sub>2</sub> bonds due to  $sd_{z^2}$  hybridisation for  $d^{10}$ .
- Ligand field stabilisation energies affect the rate for transition metals. Essentially ions which have large LFSE's will be less labile for both associative and dissociative activation. Hence  $d^3$  (e.g.  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ ),  $d^8$  ( $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ) and low spin  $d^4$ ,  $d^5$  and  $d^6$  are expected to be inert, while  $d^0$ ,  $d^{10}$ ,  $d^1$  and  $d^2$  can be expected to be much more labile, and the rate should also follow the order  $\text{Mn}^{2+} > \text{Fe}^{2+} > \text{Co}^{2+}$ .  $\text{Cr}^{2+}$  and  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ , Jahn-Teller effect. Trivalent ions should have slower rates, as should second and third row ions.
- $\text{Al}^{3+}$  is smaller than  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  but the rate for  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  is 3 orders of magnitude lower – effect of covalence and d electron configuration.

The many factors considered when assessing different rates are summarised below:

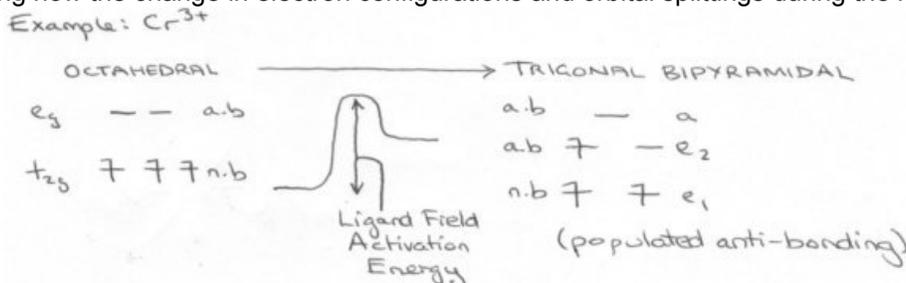
**Charge** – higher charge lowers the energy of d-orbitals, making them closer in energy to ligand orbitals. This leads to a better overlap, and a stronger bond (assuming they do not hydrolyse the water ligand).

Generally, as  $\Delta H_a$  decreases, k will increase (common sense!). Similarly, increased ionic radius leads to increased rate (bigger target!).

An entropy change greater than 0 indicates a Dissociative-like mechanism (more disorder in the transition state). Smaller radius also favours the D mechanism (harder to attack by nucleophile of A mechanism).

**CFSE** – lower is better, since reaction involves loss of stabilising CFSE influence.

Considering now the change in electron configurations and orbital splittings during the reaction:



Factors to consider here:

- $d^3$  is inert, since to rearrange electrons, one must be promoted to an eg orbital (antibonding – expends energy). Thus  $\Delta H_a$  will be high.
- $\text{CFSE} = \frac{6}{5}\Delta_0$ . This is at a maximum, and this energy is lost on change of configuration, which is a loss of stabilisation.
- $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  is small and charged, so the Cr-O bond is likely to be strong. One of these bonds is lost on reaction.
- Mechanism requires population of an antibonding orbital in the intermediate stage – this is energetically unfavourable.

All of these lead to a high Ligand Field Activation Energy, and thus it can be seen why  $\text{Cr}^{3+}$  is very inert to substitution.

For less charged metals, and for metals with lower CFSE, the exchange will occur more rapidly.

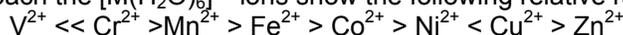
Moving down a Group, the 4d and 5d orbitals are lower in energy, and make a closer energy match with better overlap to the ligands. This leads to a stronger bond, and so a higher  $\Delta H_a$ . Similarly, down the Group the orbital splitting is larger for 2nd/3rd row, which leads to a larger LFAE (bigger energy gap for promotion of any electrons into antibonding).

Another factor to consider is an increased Volume of Activation. This is a factor when there are more d electrons (e.g. in  $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ ), and leads to a greater entropy change, and drives the Dissociative mechanism of the reaction.

Predominant factor is electron configuration requirements, however.

### ***Orbital Occupation Effects on Substitution Reactions of Octahedral Complexes***

The basic assumption is that there is a significant contribution to the activation energy in a substitution reaction is the change in d-orbital energy on going from the ground state of the complex to the transition state. Any loss in energy would contribute to the activation (and slow the rate). Using this approach the  $[\text{M}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+}$  ions show the following relative rates:



### General Comments

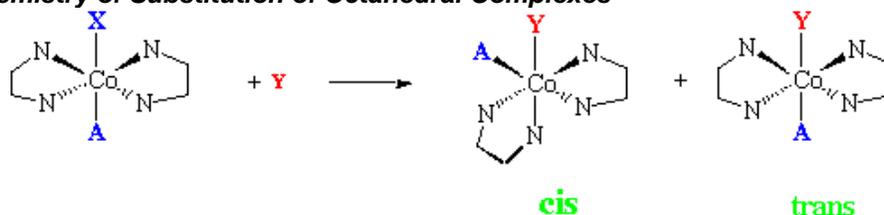
Series is generally in good agreement with experimental data.

The  $d^3$  ions are predicted to be substitutionally inert.

Except for  $\text{Ni}^{2+}(d^8)$ , the high spin  $d^4$ - $d^{10}$   $M^{2+}$  ions are predicted to be labile by either  $C_{4v}$  or  $D_{3h}$  transition state pathways.

Some deviation that need further explanation:  $\text{Cr}^{2+}(\text{d}^4)$ , and  $\text{Cu}^{2+}(\text{d}^9)$  complexes are especially labile. This is due as mentioned earlier to the Jahn-Teller effect.  $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ , and  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  are predicted to have equal labilities, but we observe experimentally that substitution rates decrease across the series. This is due to the increase in  $Z_{\text{eff}}$  across the series and increase in  $E(\text{M-L})$ .

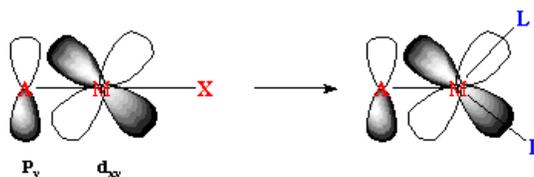
### Stereochemistry of Substitution of Octahedral Complexes



#### General Points about Stereochemistry

1. In general,  $\text{trans}[\text{Co}(\text{en})_2\text{ACl}]^{2+}$  undergo stereochemical change on hydrolysis, whereas  $\text{cis}[\text{Co}(\text{en})_2\text{ACl}]^{2+}$  react with retention of original chirality.
2. cis isomer generally react faster than trans isomers
3. Ligands A, that lead to stereochemical change in the trans series are those with  $p\pi$  orbitals
4. If the reaction proceeds through a square pyramidal intermediate, retention of configuration will be observed.
5. Proceeding through a trigonal bipyramid, has 75% chance of leading to stereochemical change.

Points 3 and 5 above:

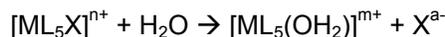


### Stereochemistry of Substitution of Octahedral Complexes

Compound	D or $I_d$ Mechanism			
	Tetragonal or Square Pyramid Intermediate		Trigonal Bipyramid Intermediate	
	cis product	trans product	cis product	trans product
$\text{trans-ML}_4\text{AX}^{n+}$	0	100	66.6	33.3
$\text{cis-ML}_4\text{AX}^{n+}$	100	0	83.3	16.6
$\text{trans-M(L-L)}_2\text{AX}^{n+}$	0	100	66.6	33.3
$\text{cis-M(L-L)}_2\text{AX}^{n+}$	100	0	$\Lambda = 58.3$ $\Delta = 25.0$	16.7

### Hydrolysis under Acid and Alkaline Conditions

The hydrolysis reaction:



This is often called aquation. The rate law for such a reaction is commonly of the form:

$$\text{Rate} = k_A [ML_5X] + k_B [ML_5X][OH^-]$$

Water as the entering ligand (55.5M) does not appear in the rate law. This reaction has been studied extensively for  $Co^{3+}$  complexes. The second term occurs when there are ionisable protons in the complex. In general,  $k_B$  (for base hydrolysis) is about  $10^4$  times  $k_A$  (for acid hydrolysis).

#### **Acid Hydrolysis –**

Data for  $Co^{3+}$  complexes indicate an  $I_d$  mechanism very close to the D limit.

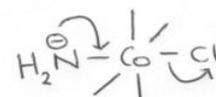
- For  $[Co(NH_3)_5X]^{n+}$  the rates correlate well with the stability of the complexes, indicating that Co-X bond breaking is important in the rate limiting step.
- For a series of  $[Co(NH_3)_5(RCO_2)]^{n+}$  complexes there was a correlation with the basicity of the carboxylate.
- For a series of substituted bidentate amines, the rate increases with increasing bulk of substituents on the chelating ligand (e.g. Me<sub>2</sub>en faster than en), indicating a dissociative mechanism.
- $\Delta V$  for X=Cl was close to the molar volume of water, indicating an  $I_d$  mechanism close to the D limit.

#### **Base Hydrolysis –**

As mentioned earlier the rates of substitution of octahedral complexes are not sensitive to the nature of the entering group-with one exception. In basic media  $Co(III)$  complexes having ligands of the type  $NH_3$ ,  $RNH_2$ ,  $R_2NH$  are sensitive to the nature of the entering group.

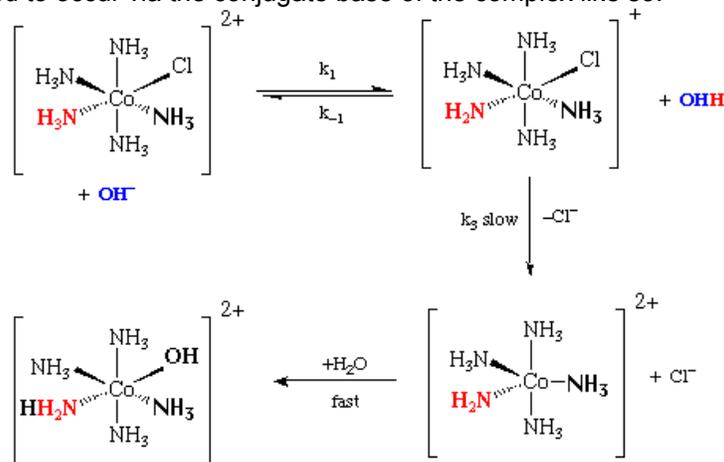
The base catalysed reactions are generally much more rapid than aquation or hydrolyses in acid solution.

The agreed mechanism, involves the removal of a proton from the amine ligand. This step is generally very fast, ( $10^5$  faster), and represents rapid pre-equilibrium to the rate determining loss of leaving group.



$$\frac{-d[\text{complex}]}{dt} = k_{obs}[\text{complex}][OH^-]$$

The second order rate law for base hydrolysis of complexes with ionisable protons on the ligands does not arise from direct attack of  $OH^-$  on the complex in an A mechanism. The reaction is generally accepted to occur via the conjugate base of the complex like so:



$$\frac{-d[\text{complex}]}{dt} = \frac{k_2 K [\text{complex}] [\text{OH}^-]}{1 + K [\text{OH}^-]}$$

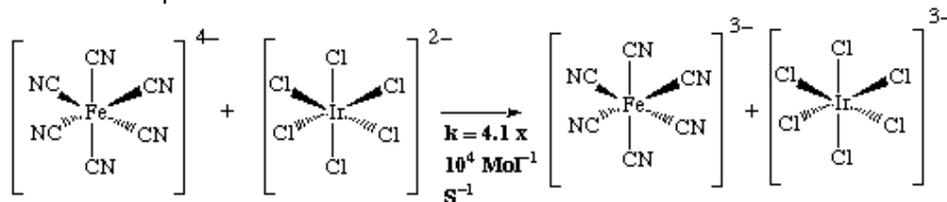
If, however, K is quite small (it is in the range 0.01-0.2 for Pt(IV) complexes) so that  $K[\text{OH}^-] \ll 1$ , the rate law would reduce to that experimental observed.

- The rate of H/D exchange for the coordinated ammonia is  $10^5$  times faster than the hydrolysis reaction, consistent with the rapid pre-equilibrium between the complex and its conjugate base.
- The rate in the presence of the  $\text{HOO}^-$  ion, which is a weaker base but stronger nucleophile than  $\text{OH}^-$ , is slower.
- The acidity of coordinated ammonia is low, so the equilibrium concentration of the conjugate base is low, and the actual rate acceleration by the amide group is  $> 10^6$ .
- The proposed trigonal bipyramidal structure of the conjugate could result in stereochemical change.

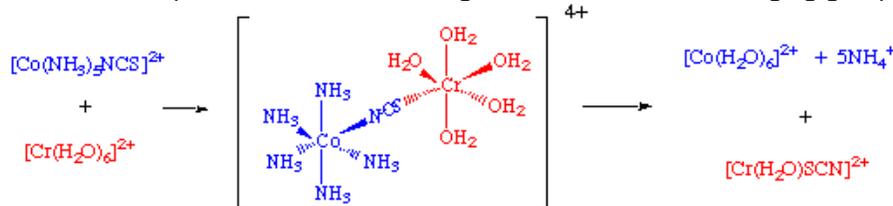
Another factor which should be considered here, as well as those above for Water Exchange, is vacancy in the non-bonding orbitals. This is because the amide created in the base hydrolysis above is now a very strong  $\pi$ -donor, and the electrons it donates must enter low energy non-bonding orbitals in order to increase the rate. In fact, if the  $t_{2g}$  is full, the rate will decrease due to the destabilising influence. This influence is worse when large splittings are involved, e.g. from strong field ligands or 4d/5d orbitals.

### Electron Transfer Reactions

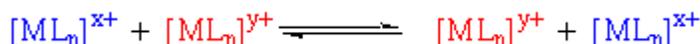
Electron transfer reactions may occur by two mechanisms: outer or inner sphere. In principle outer sphere mechanism involves electron transfer from reductant to oxidant with the coordination shells or spheres of each staying intact. That is one reactant becomes involved in the outer or second coordination sphere of the other reactant and an electron flows from the reductant to oxidant. Such a mechanism is established when rapid electron transfer occurs between two substitution-inert complexes.

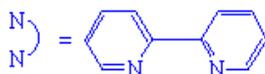
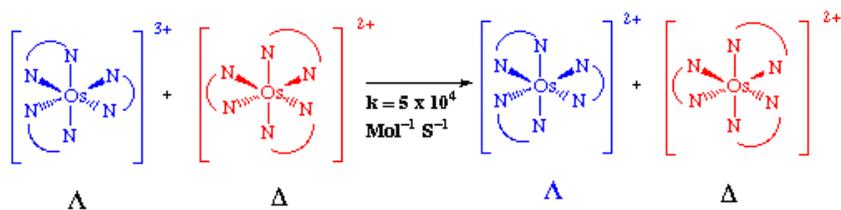


An inner sphere mechanism is one in which the reactant and oxidant share a ligand in their inner or primary coordination spheres the electron being transferred across a bridging group.



### Outer Sphere Electron-Transfer





Electron-transfer will lead to change in the total optical rotation, thus if equal concentrations of reagents are used:

Rate of Racemisation  $\equiv$  Rate of Electron Transfer



Studied by :

- Isotopic labelling with  $^{54}\text{Mn}$
- $^{17}\text{O}$  NMR studies

Mechanism

Electron transfer from the reductant to the oxidant, with the coordination shells or spheres of each staying intact. (One reactant becomes involved with outer sphere or second coordination sphere of the other reactant).

Such reactions are observed in electron-transfer reactions of substitutionally inert complexes.

Elementary Steps in the Outer Sphere Mechanism



Formation of a precursor (cage) complex



Chemical activation of the precursor, electron transfer and relaxation of the successor complex



Dissociation to the separated products

$$k_{\text{obs}} = K_A k_{el}$$

**Step 1.** Formation of the Precursor Complex

This step is always considered to be fast, the rate is generally determined by  $k_{el}$ .

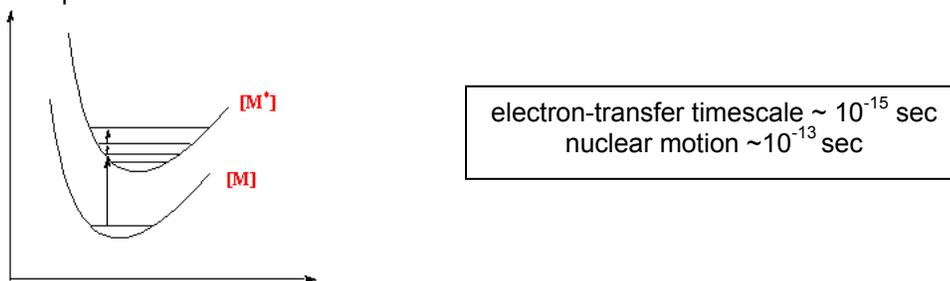
**Step 2.** Chemical Activation and Electron Transfer

Important factors are:

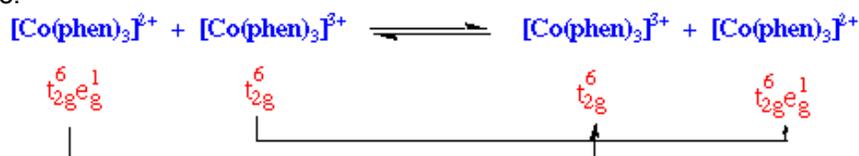
- Solvent reorganisation
- Electronic structure
- M-L reorganisation small

### Franck-Condon Factors

Electron-transfer processes must satisfy the Frank-Condon restrictions, i.e. the act of electron transfer is much shorter than atomic motion. The consequences are that no angular momentum can be transferred to or from the transition state during electron transfer, there is also restrictions in changes in spin.

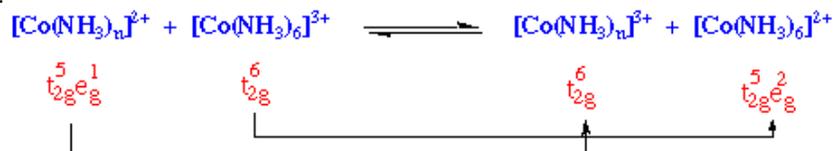


For example:



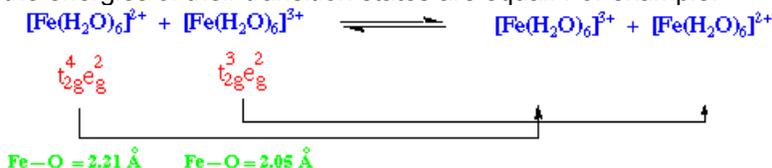
Has an outer sphere electron transfer rate of  $1.1 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ sec}^{-1}$ , simply requires the transfer of electron from  $e_g$  orbital of one Co to the other.

The reaction:

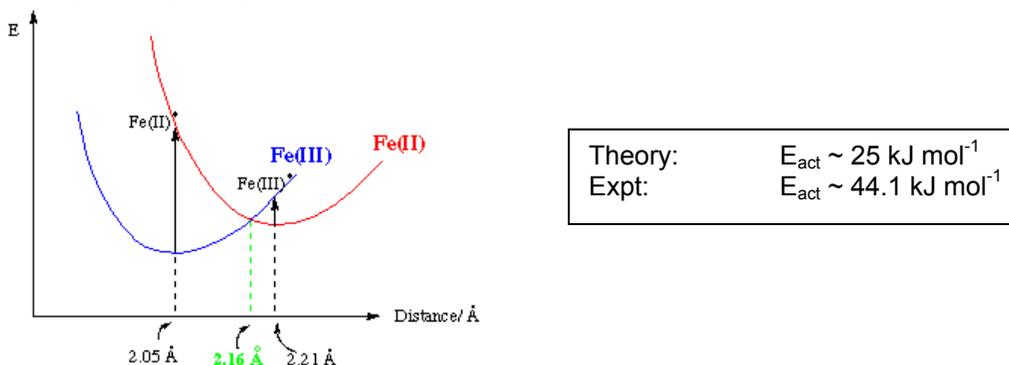


Is very slow  $k = 10^{-9} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ sec}^{-1}$  requires a change of spin multiplicity as well.

In addition the oxidant and reductant must structurally reorganise themselves before electron transfer so that the energies of their transition states are equal. For example:



If electron transfer took place at their equilibrium positions, then we would have compressed Fe(II) ion and a stretched Fe(III) ion. These are in vibrationally excited states and would release energy, contravening thermodynamics. Thus the reagents must match their energies before electron transfer can occur.



### Generalised Rules for Chemical Activation

The factors mentioned above can be combined with basic MO theory to give a basis for predicting trends in electron transfer rates using electron structure arguments.

You could expect more facile electron transfer when both donor and acceptor MO's are  $\pi^*$  type.

Reasons are:

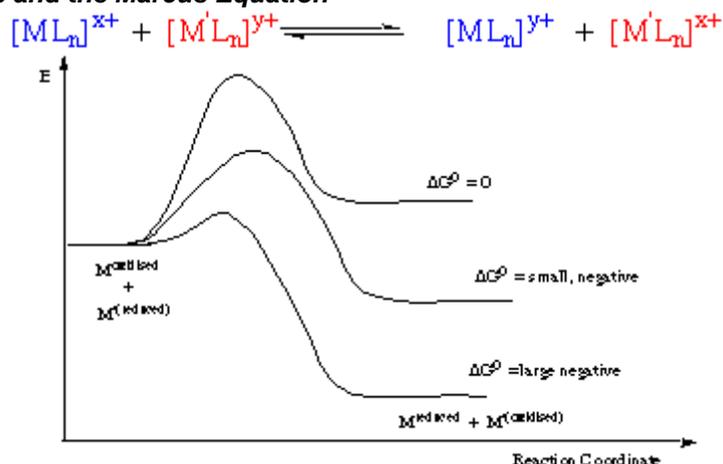
Changing M-L distance is usually less for a change in  $d\pi^*$  than  $d\sigma^*$  orbital

Donor-acceptor overlap is better for  $\pi^* \rightarrow \pi^*$  transfer than  $\sigma^* \rightarrow \sigma^*$  transfer, since  $\pi^*$  orbitals point to faces of Oh rather than the corners ( $\sigma^*$ )

### How do you Spot an Electron Transfer Reaction ?

- Is it a Redox Reaction ?
- Are the Complexes Substitutionally Inert ?
- Do the Complexes contain Potentially Bridging Ligands ?
- Which Electrons are Being Transferred ?
  - $\pi^* \rightarrow \pi^*$  (good especially for  $\pi$ -acceptor ligands)
  - $\sigma^* \rightarrow \sigma^*$

### Cross Reactions and the Marcus Equation



In general the rates of outer sphere electron transfers involving a change in free energy is given by the Marcus Equation:

$$k_{12} = (k_1 k_2 K_{12} f)^{1/2}$$

where  $K_{12}$  is the equilibrium constant for the cross reaction

$k_1$ , and  $k_2$  are the rate constants for the self exchange reactions

The parameter  $f$  is usually close to 1.

The barrier to electron transfer consists of two parts, the "intrinsic" contribution and the thermodynamic part ( $\Delta G_{12}^\circ$ ).

The free energy of activation for electron transfer ( $\Delta G_{12}^\ddagger$ ) is given by:

$$\Delta G_{12}^\ddagger = \frac{(\Delta G_1^\ddagger + \Delta G_2^\ddagger)}{2} + \frac{\Delta G_{12}^\circ}{2}$$

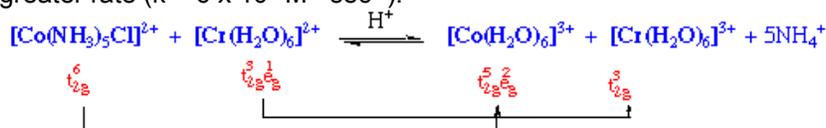
### Summary

Simple electron transfer. No sharing of ligands.

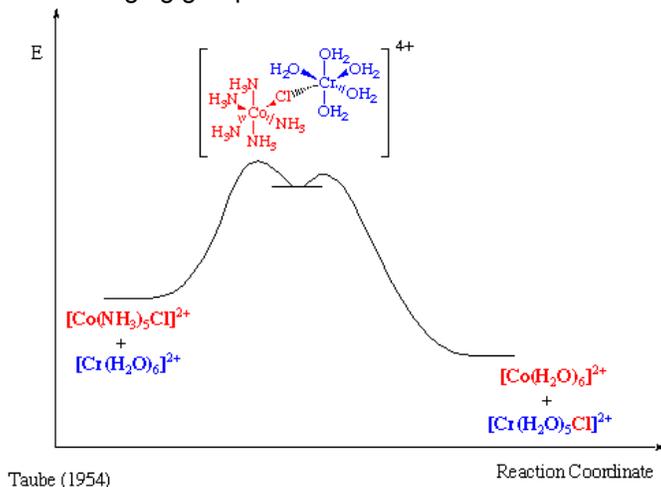
Occurs when redox is faster than ligand substitution. The key to the mechanism is the matching of the energies of the reactants.



However, if one ammonia ligand on Co(III) is substituted by Cl<sup>-</sup>, reaction now occurs with a substantially greater rate ( $k = 6 \times 10^5 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ sec}^{-1}$ ).



The reductant and the oxidant share a ligand in their primary coordination sphere, the electron being transferred across a bridging group.

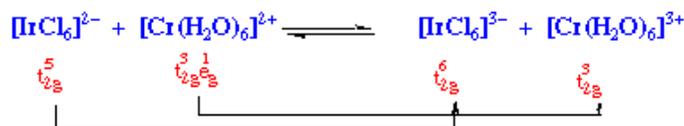


### Prerequisites for Inner Sphere Mechanism

One reactant (usually the oxidant) possess at least one ligand capable of binding simultaneously to two metal ions.

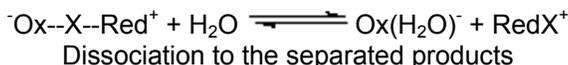
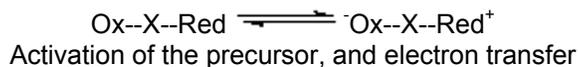
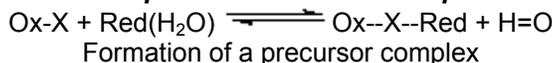
The other reactant is substitutionally labile; i.e. one ligand must be replaced by the bridging ligand.

### Examples

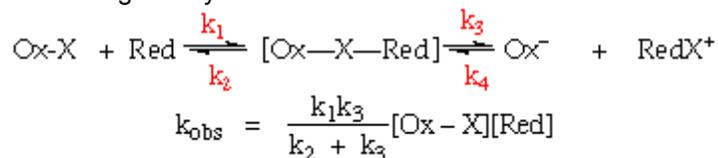


Ligand transfer is not a requirement for inner sphere mechanism.

### The Elementary Steps and Rate Expression for the Inner Sphere Mechanism



The overall reaction can be given by:



$k_1$  is rate limiting, formation of the precursor complex (usually substitution of the bridging ligand for  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  on the Red complex).

$k_3$  is rate determining, electron transfer within the complex, or fission of the successor complex. Both extremes give 2<sup>nd</sup> order kinetics

### ***Important Factors which Affect the Rate of Inner Sphere Reactions***

#### 1. Formation of the Precursor Complex

This step is closely related to the rates of substitution in Octahedral Complexes.

- Octahedral  $d^3$  are relatively inert
- High spin  $d^4$  and  $d^5$  are labile

Thus the rates of electron transfer involving  $[\text{V}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_6]^{2+}$  ( $d^3$ ) are comparable to the rate of water substitution.

#### 2. Electronic Structure of Oxidant and Reductant

Many electron transfer reactions are greatly enhanced when they proceed via an inner sphere mechanism.

This can be explained by consideration of the symmetries of the reductant orbital from which the electron is lost and the oxidant orbital into which the electron moves.

#### EXAMPLE

The  $\text{O}^* \rightarrow \text{O}^*$  electron transfer is the most accelerated, and is the route that requires most chemical activation, i.e. bond rearrangement in the transition state. These requirements seem to be largely overcome by forming 3-centre bonds in the transition state.

#### 3. Nature of the Bridging Ligand

Inner sphere electron transfer reactions are very sensitive to the nature of the bridging ligand.

The bridging group has two roles:

1. To bring the metal centres together (Thermodynamic contribution), important factor here is the stability of the intermediate, and M-L bond strengths.
2. The kinetic contribution is the transfer the electron, important factor is the matching of the donor and acceptor MO's.

Bridging ligands can be organic or inorganic.

However the major difficulty is deciding whether the e-transfer is either outer or inner sphere. A useful test has been developed, consider the reaction;



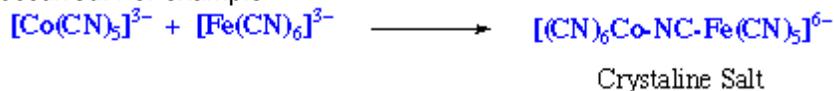
The azide ion can better form an intermediate, than thiocyanate.

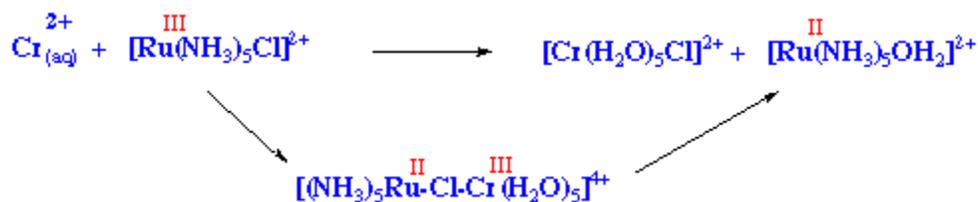


Studies of inner sphere reactions involving organic bridging ligands, show that reduction rates can be controlled by steric effects, electronic structure of the bridge, the point on attack on the bridge, and its reducibility.

#### 4. Fission of the Successor Complex

Occasionally, the rate determining step can be the fission of the binuclear complex, after e-transfer has occurred. For example





The reason of the stability of the binuclear complex in this case is that both Cr(III) ( $d^3$ ) and Ru(II) ( $d^6$ ) are substitutionally inert.

**Differentiation between Outer Sphere vs. Inner Sphere Electron Transfer**

1. Outer sphere mechanism is open to all redox active systems, while inner sphere mechanism requires substitutionally labile reactants and products.
2. Evidence from ligand transfer, labelling, etc..
3.  $\Delta V^\ddagger$
4. Marcus Relationship (outer sphere reactions)
5.  $\text{N}_3^-$  vs.  $\text{NCS}^-$  ratio (Outer Sphere)  $\sim 1$   
ratio (Inner Sphere)  $\gg 1$

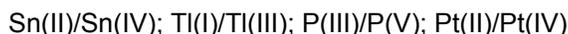
Relative Rates of Reduction of  $\text{N}_3^-$  and  $\text{NCS}^-$  Complexes

Oxidant	Reductant	$k(\text{N}_3^-)/k(\text{NCS}^-)$	Reaction Type
$[\text{Co}(\text{NH}_3)_5\text{X}]^{2+}$	$\text{Cr}^{2+}$	$10^4$	inner sphere
$[\text{Co}(\text{NH}_3)_5\text{X}]^{2+}$	$\text{V}^{2+}$	27	not determined
$[\text{Co}(\text{NH}_3)_5\text{X}]^{2+}$	$\text{Fe}^{2+}$	$>3 \times 10^3$	inner sphere
$[\text{Co}(\text{NH}_3)_5\text{X}]^{2+}$	$\text{Cr}(\text{bipy})_3^{2+}$	4	outer sphere
$[\text{Co}(\text{H}_2\text{O})_5\text{X}]^{2+}$	$\text{Cr}^{2+}$	$4 \times 10^4$	inner sphere

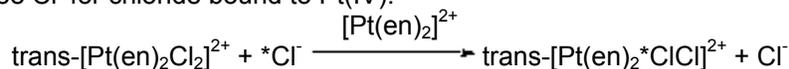
**Two Electron Transfer Reactions**

Many p-Block and transition metals has stable oxidation states separated by two, and do not usually form stable in complexes with odd numbers of electrons;

e.g



One of the best understood two-electron transfer reaction, in T.M. chemistry is the Pt(II)-catalysed exchange of free  $\text{Cl}^-$  for chloride bound to Pt(IV).



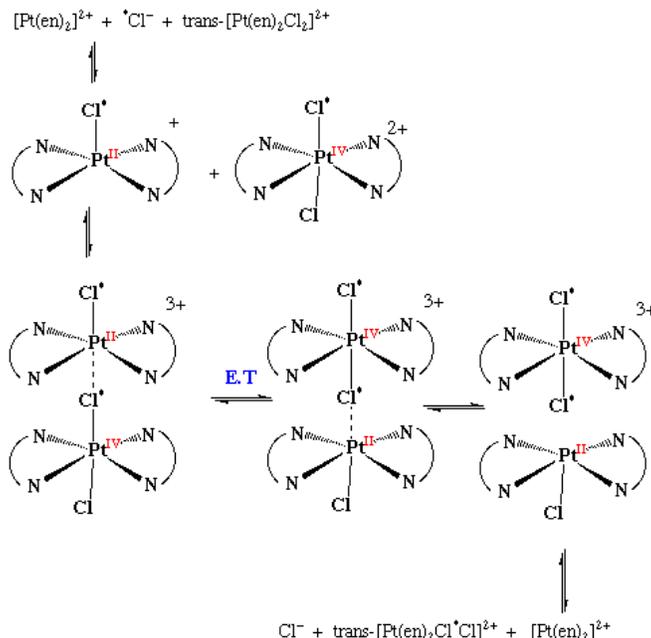
The rate law:

$$k_f = k[\text{Pt(II)}][\text{Pt(IV)}][\text{Cl}^-]$$

The mechanism seems to involve rapid addition of free chloride to the Pt(II) complex to form a five coordinate, which then forms an inner sphere complex with Pt(IV)

The Pt centres are then in very similar environments and two-electron transfer takes place. (c.f. Frank Condon restrictions)

Mechanism:



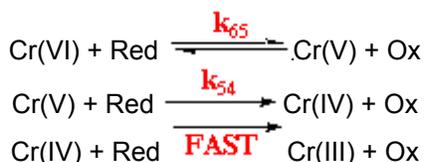
Exchange of  $\text{Cl}^-$  was found to occur at the same rate as change in optical rotation in the reaction of  $\text{trans-}[\text{Pt}(\text{en})_2\text{Cl}_2]^{2+}$  with  $[\text{Pt}(\text{en})_2]^{2+}$

**Complementary and Non-Complementary Reactions**

All the electron transfer reaction discussed previously are described as complementary. The oxidant and reductant change their oxidation state by an equal number of units. This termed a Complementary Reaction.

The oxidant and the reductant change their oxidation states by a different number of units. This is termed a Non-Complementary Reaction

Most non-complementary reactions proceed via elementary steps each involving one electron transfers. The most commonly observed kinetic scheme is, for example in chromate ion oxidations ( $\text{HCr}(\text{VI})\text{O}_4^-$ ):

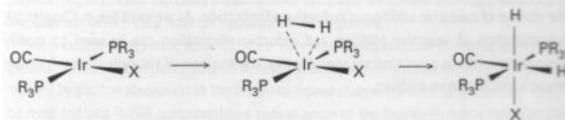


Applying steady-state approximation to Cr(V) then the following rate law can be derived:

$$\frac{-d[\text{HCrO}_4^-]}{dt} = \frac{k_{65}k_{54}[\text{Cr}(\text{VI})][\text{Red}]^2}{k_{54}[\text{Red}] + k_{54}[\text{Ox}]}$$

**Oxidative Addition**

(MORE DETAIL IN ORGANOMETALLICS NOTES)



$d^8$  uses non-bonding axial electron-pair to bond to Lewis Acid, and moves to  $d^6$ .

