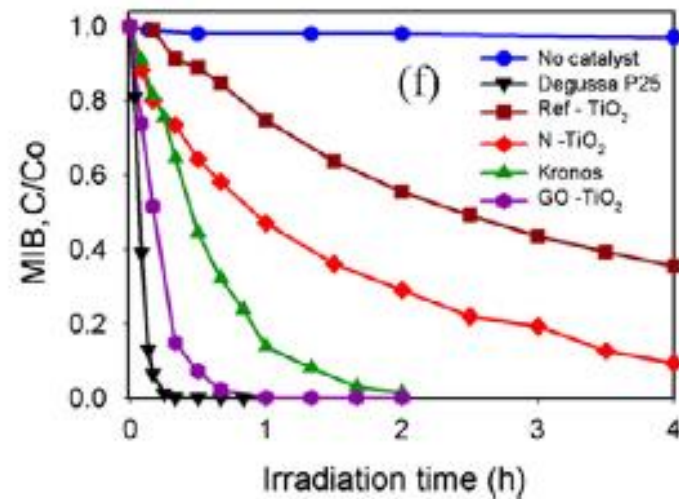


# Chemical kinetics in AOPs

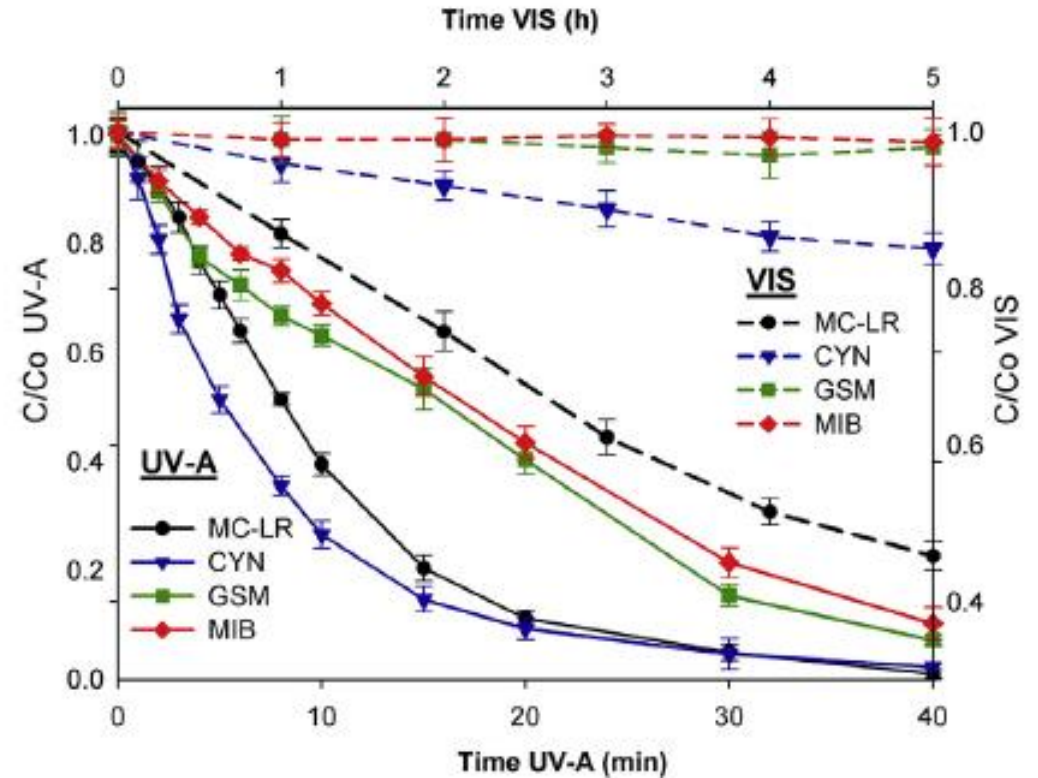
## Triantafyllos Kaloudis

Laboratory of Organic Micropollutants, EYDAP SA  
Institute of Nanoscience & Nanotechnology, NCSR Demokritos



## Why chemical kinetics ?

- Evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of AOPs.
- Compare AOPs objectively.
- Have clues about the underlying mechanisms.
- Study the effects of various process parameters.
- Optimization studies.
- Prediction of the course of the process.



Source: Fotiou et al. Water Research 2016  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.watres.2015.12.006>

# From observed degradation to mechanisms...

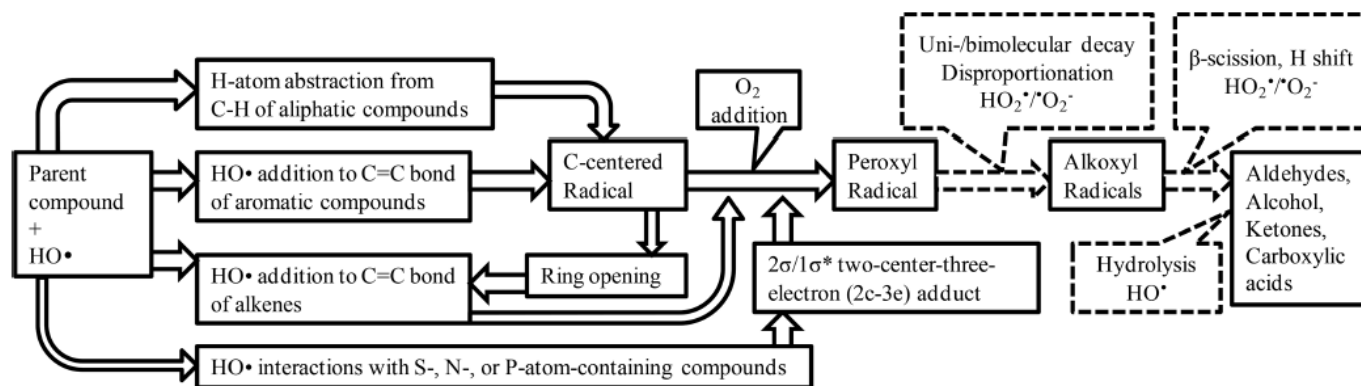


Figure 1. Known and unknown reaction pathways of organic compound degradation induced by hydroxyl radicals in aqueous phase AOPs.

Kamath et al. ES&T 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.8b00582>

- Complex reactions in AOPs even with one starting compound and a single reactive species.
- Transformation products not completely detected - identified - quantified.
- Mass balances generally not achieved.
- Elusive mechanisms.

**DEGRADATION**

**TRANSFORMATION PRODUCTS**

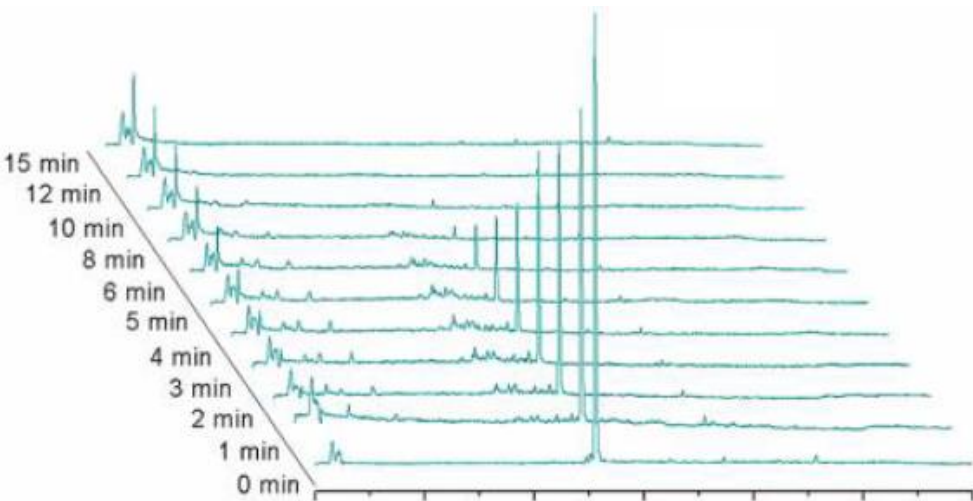
**PATHWAY**

**MECHANISM**

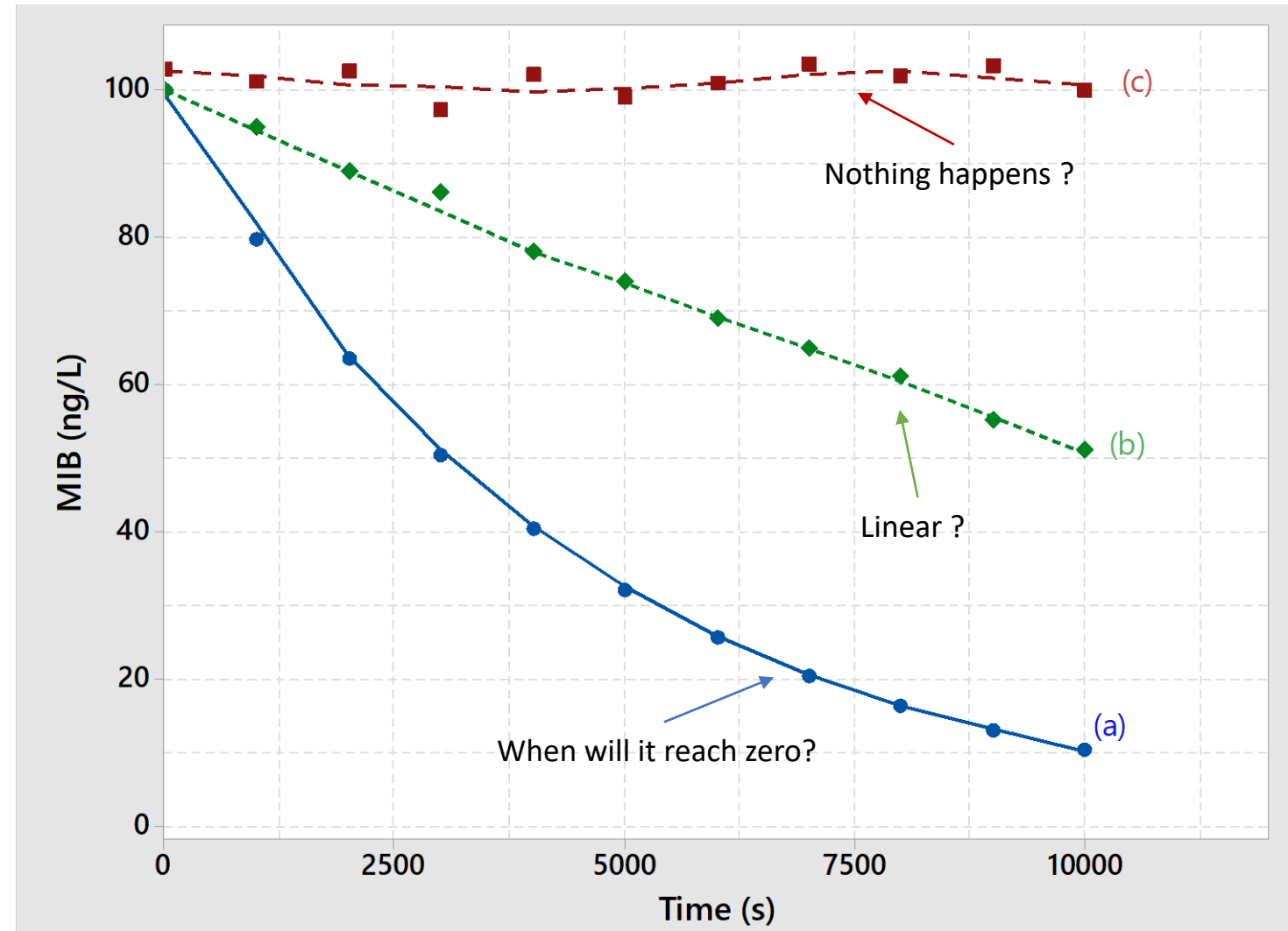


# Monitoring of degradation processes

- Example: monitoring of degradation of a compound over time by various AOPs.
- Analysis e.g., by GC-MS, LC-MS, photometry.
- Plots of concentration over time.
- Initial observations?



Fotiou et al., *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.* 2013,  
<https://doi.org/10.1021/ie400382r>



Plots (connecting line with smoothing) from simulated data

## Example of “zero order” kinetics

$[MIB]$  = Concentration of MIB (e.g., in M)

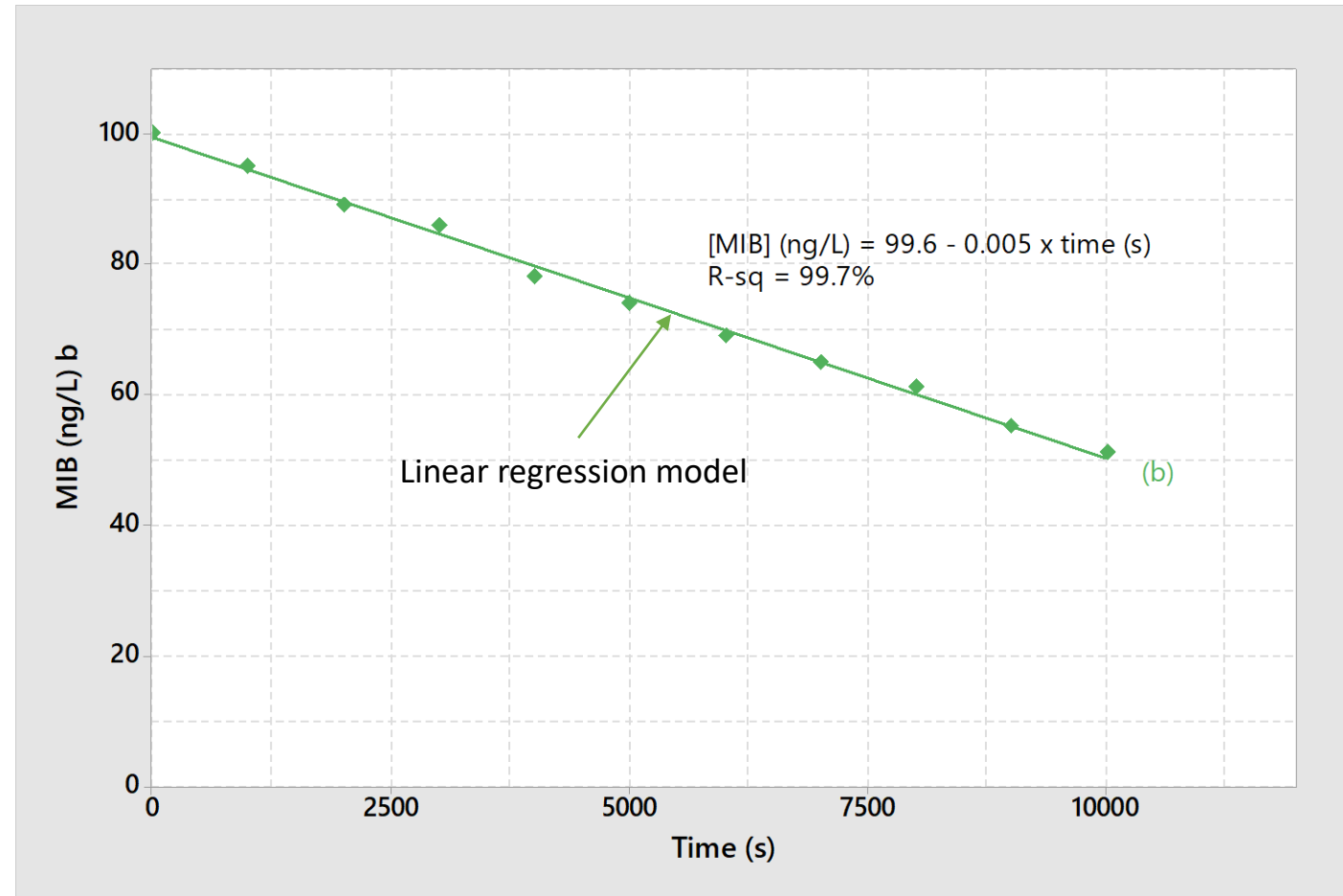
$\frac{d[MIB]}{dt}$  = rate of degradation of MIB (e.g.,  $Ms^{-1}$ )

$k$  = rate constant ( $Ms^{-1}$ )

$$\frac{d[MIB]}{dt} = -k$$

$$[MIB] = [MIB]_0 - kt$$

$$t_{1/2} = \frac{[MIB]_0}{2k}$$



- Rate of degradation does not depend on MIB concentration.
- “Saturation” kinetics

## Example of “first order” kinetics

$[MIB]$  = Concentration of MIB (e.g., in M)

$\frac{d[MIB]}{dt}$  = rate of degradation of MIB (e.g.,  $M s^{-1}$ )

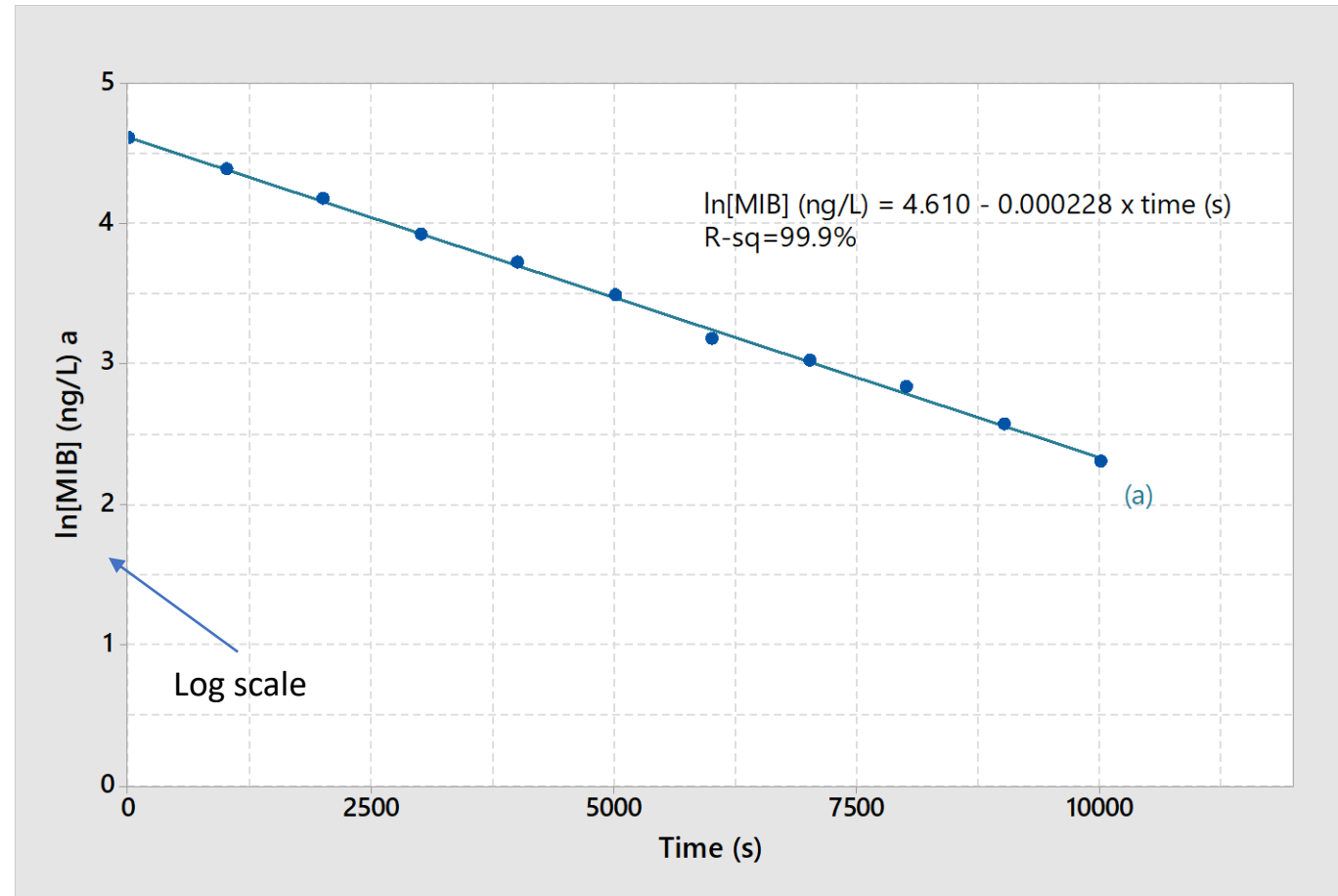
$k$  = rate constant ( $s^{-1}$ )

$$\frac{d[MIB]}{dt} = -k[MIB]$$

$$\ln[MIB] = \ln[MIB]_0 - kt$$

$$[MIB] = [MIB]_0 e^{-kt}$$

$$t_{1/2} = \frac{\ln(2)}{k}$$



- Rate of degradation depends on MIB concentration.
- Common in AOPs



## Example of “second order” kinetics

$[MIB]$  = Concentration of MIB (e. g., in M)

$\frac{d[MIB]}{dt}$  = rate of degradation of MIB (e. g.,  $M s^{-1}$ )

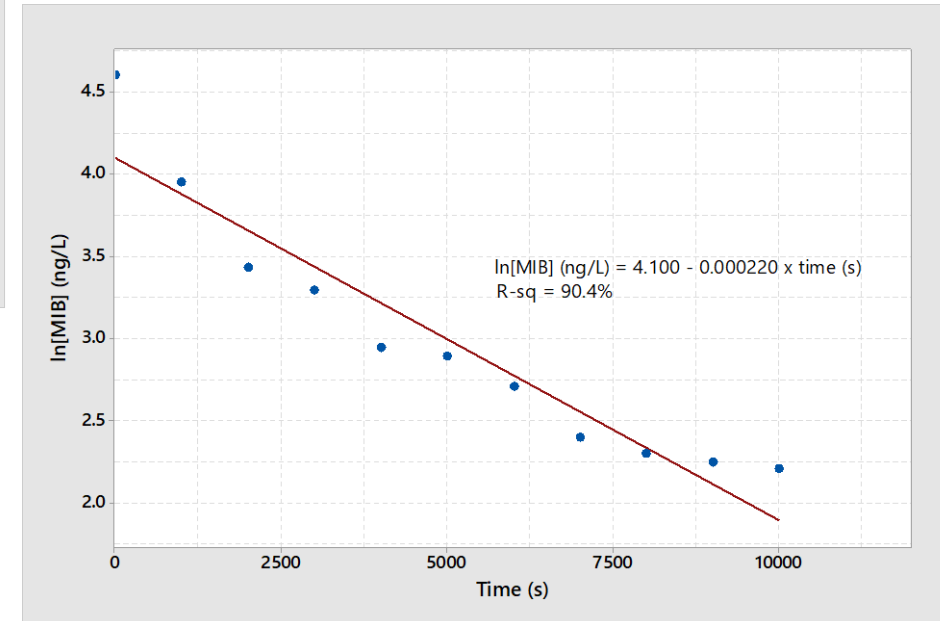
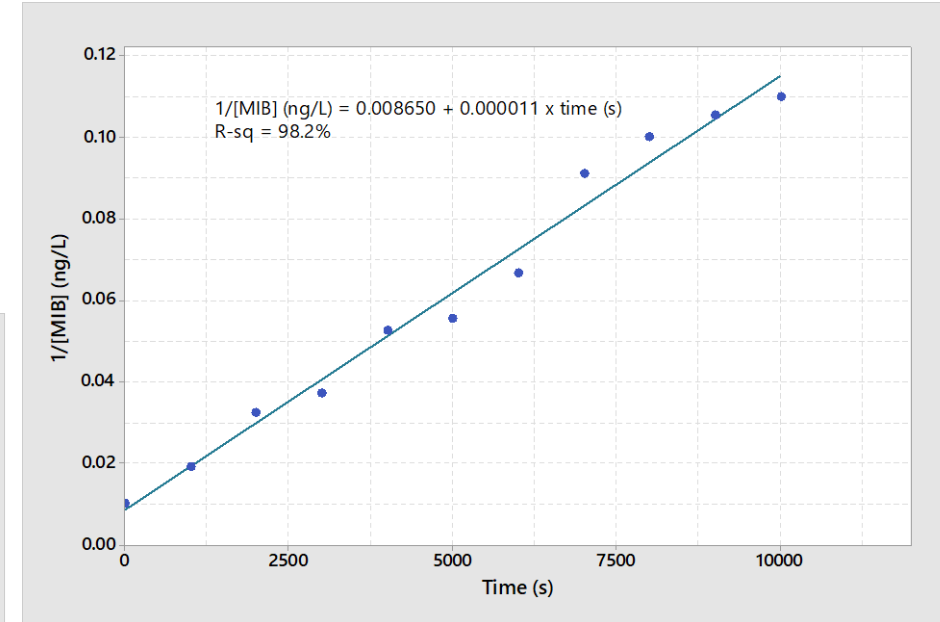
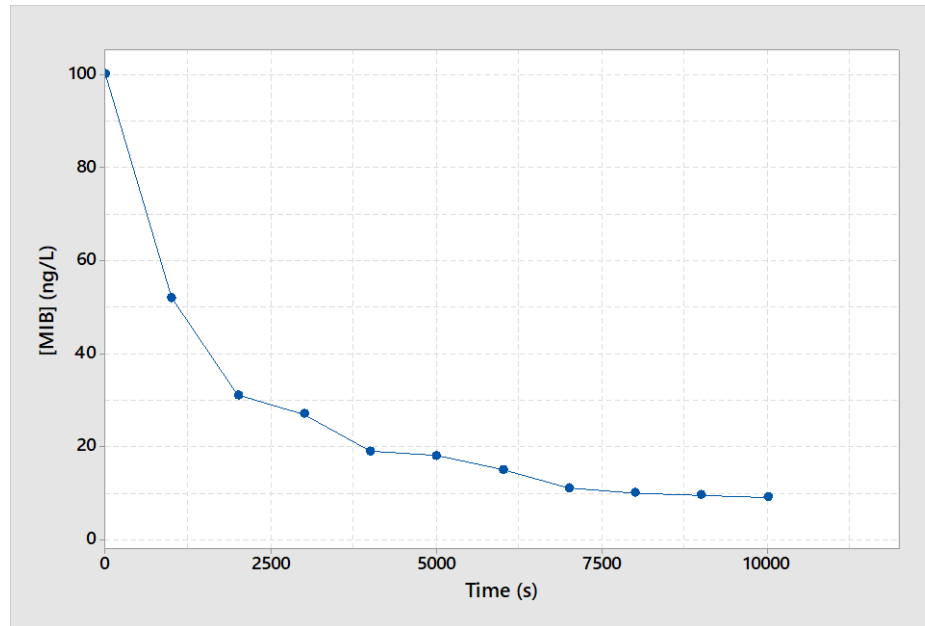
$k$  = rate constant ( $M^{-1} s^{-1}$ )

$$\frac{d[MIB]}{dt} = -k[MIB]^2$$

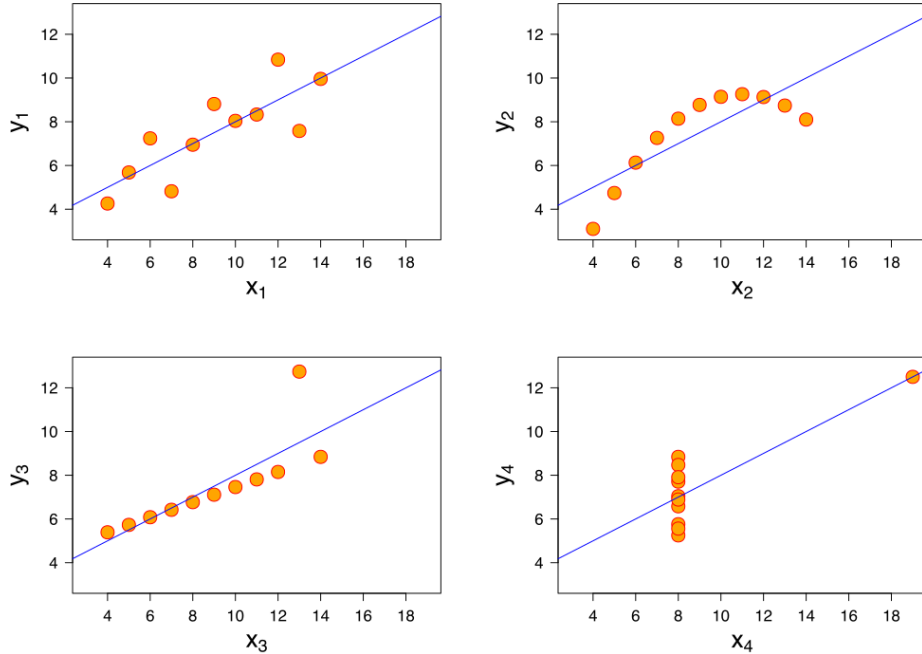
$$\frac{1}{[MIB]} = \frac{1}{[MIB]_0} + kt$$

$$t_{1/2} = \frac{1}{k[MIB]_0}$$

- Elementary bimolecular reactions



# How to evaluate kinetic models?



Anscombe's quartet: Correlation

$(x,y)=0.816$ ,

Linear regression line  $y = 3.00 + 0.500x$ ,

$R^2=0.67$ , **for all datasets.**

Anscombe (1973) DOI: [10.1080/00031305.1973.10478966](https://doi.org/10.1080/00031305.1973.10478966)

- R-sq vs adjusted R-sq (for more independent variables)

- Mean Square Error: 
$$MSE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i - \hat{y}_i)^2$$

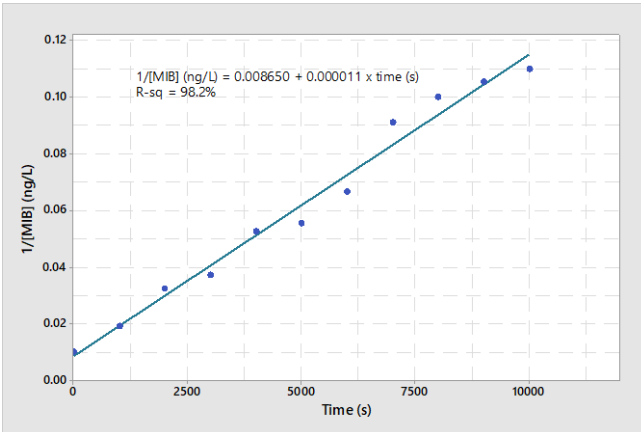
- Mean Absolute Error 
$$MAE = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N |y_i - \hat{y}_i|$$

- Distribution of residuals  $(y_i - \hat{y}_i)$

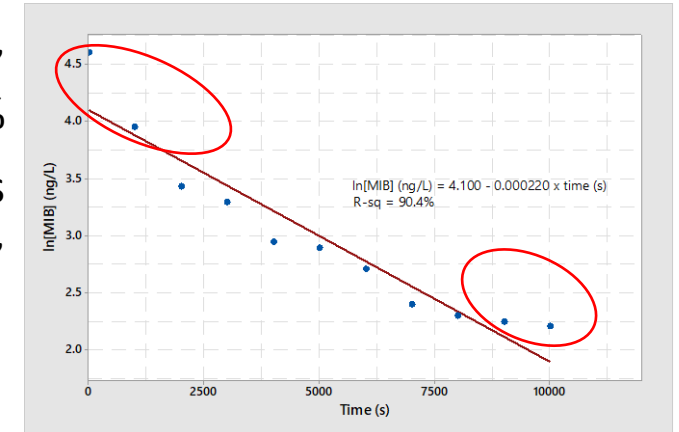
- Outliers?



# Visual and statistical evaluation



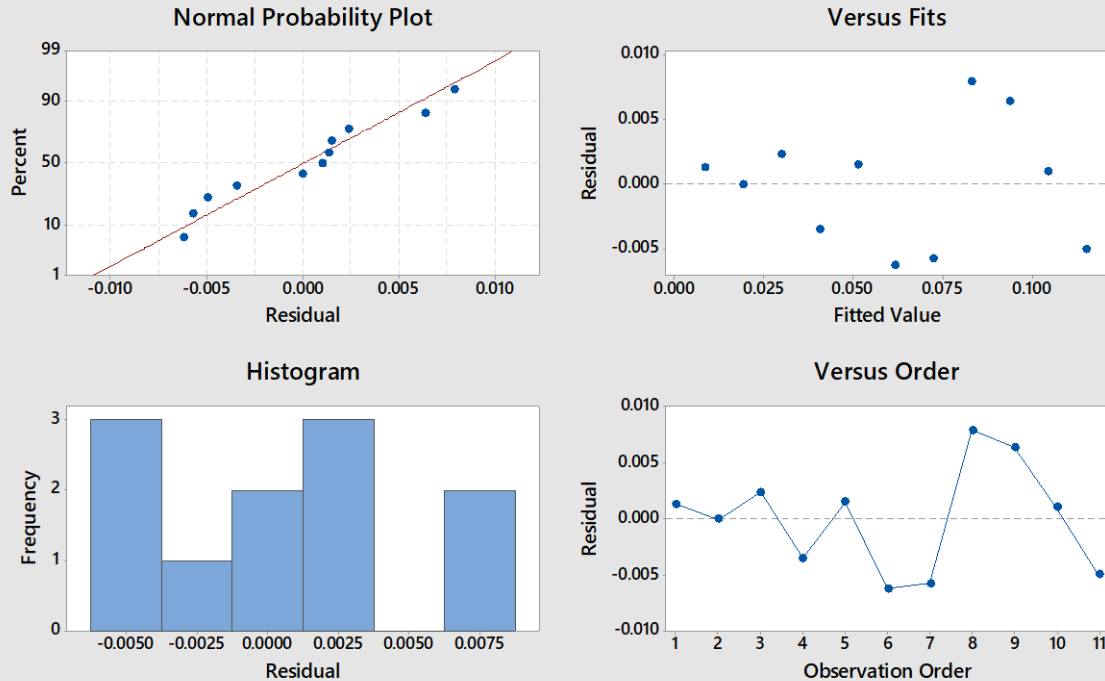
R-sq=98.2%,  
R-sq(adj) = 98.0%  
Residuals: no trends



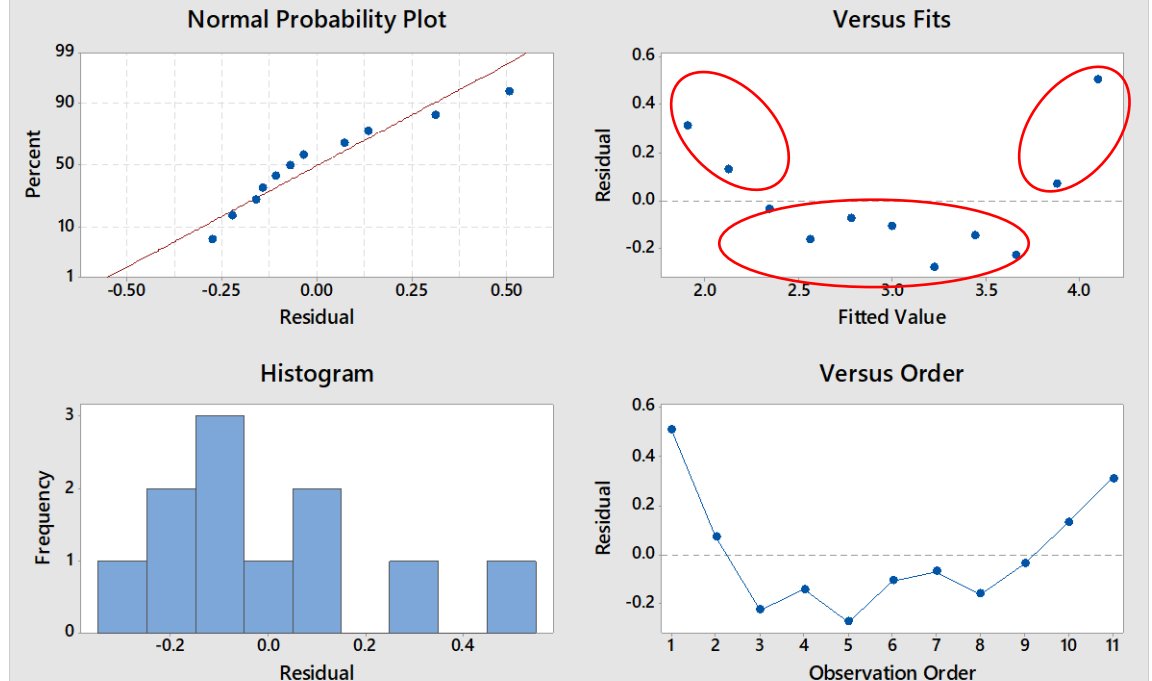
R-sq=90.4%,  
R-sq(adj) = 89.3%  
Residuals: trends  
Caution with “outliers”



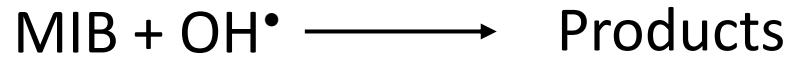
Residual Plots for  $1/[MIB]$  (ng/L)



Residual Plots for  $\ln[MIB]$



# Steady state approximation



This elementary reaction kinetics is expressed as:

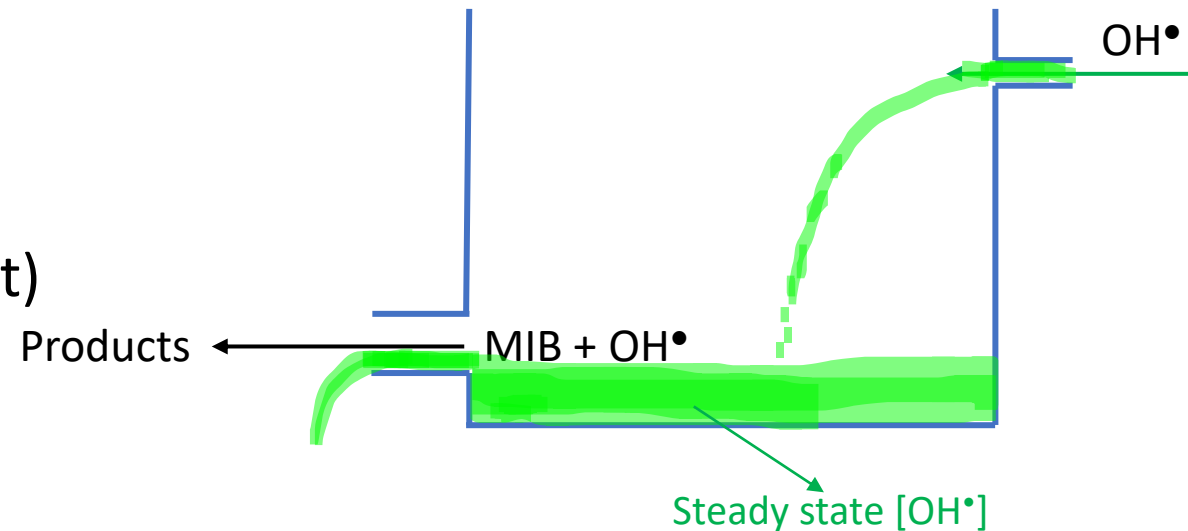
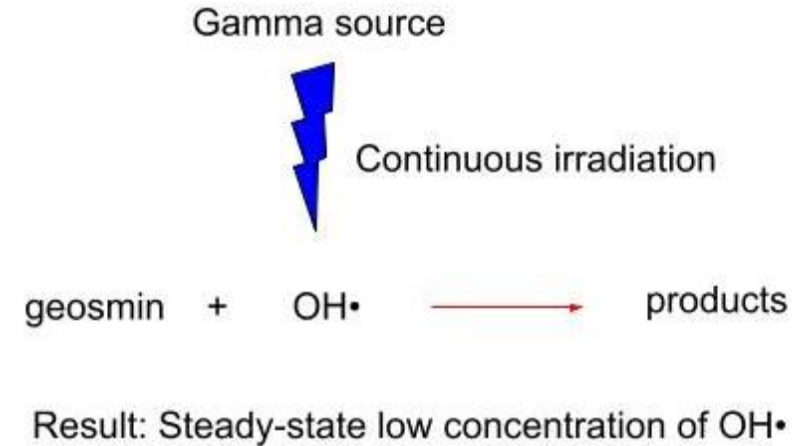
$$\frac{d[\text{MIB}]}{dt} = k[\text{MIB}][\text{OH}^\bullet]$$

**Under steady state conditions,  $[\text{OH}^\bullet] = \text{constant}$**

$$\frac{d[\text{MIB}]}{dt} = k'[\text{MIB}] \text{ (1}^\text{st} \text{ order)}$$

$$k' = k[\text{OH}^\bullet] \text{ (apparent or observed rate constant)}$$

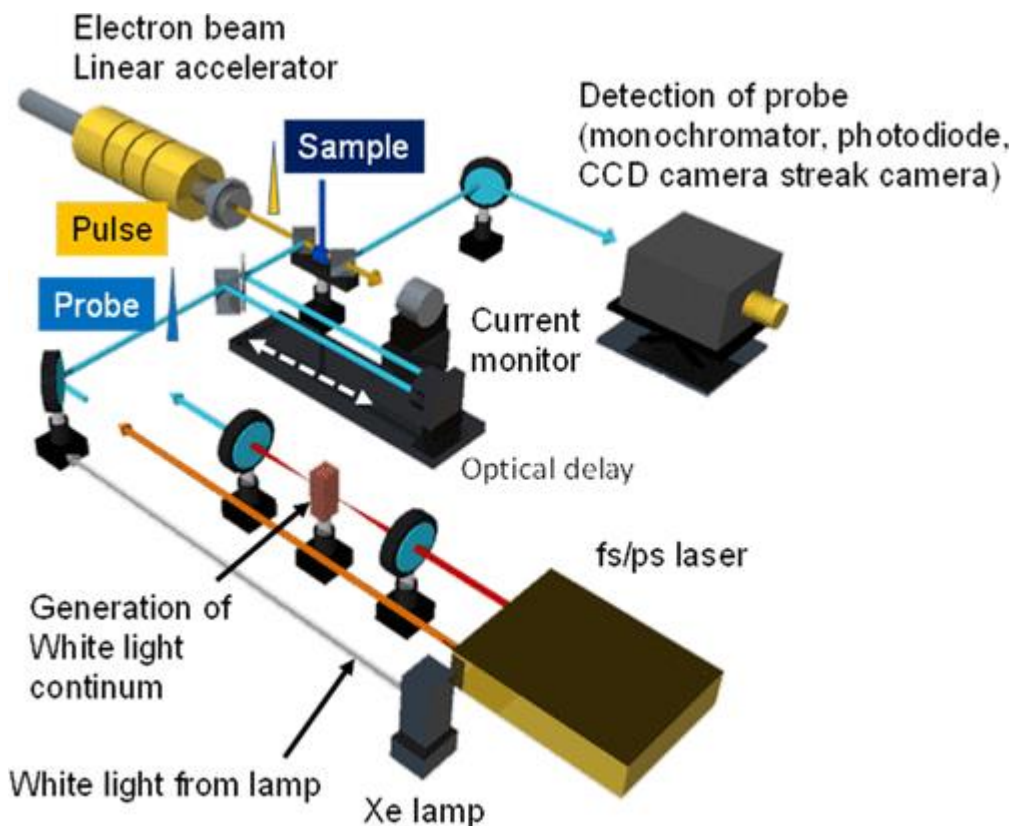
Also called “pseudo-first order” kinetics.



# Determination of rate constants of radical reactions

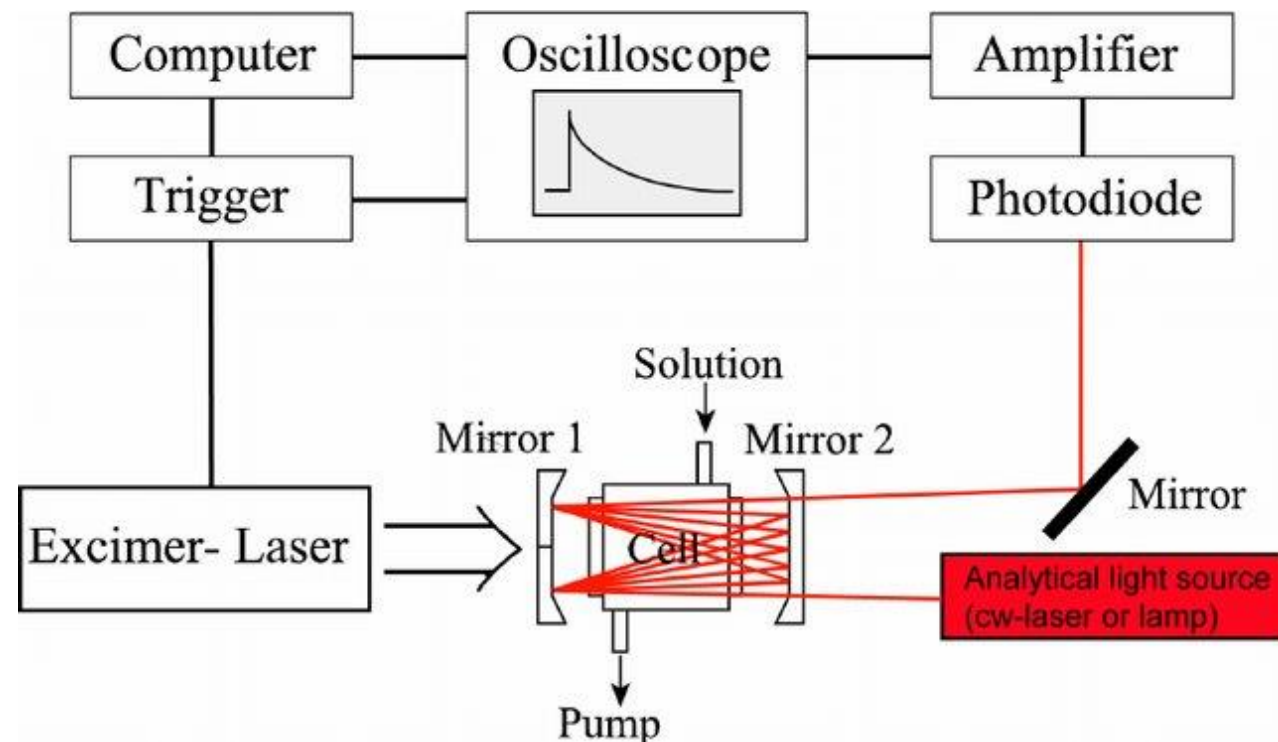
*(reference methods - down to femtosecond timescale)*

## Pulse radiolysis



*Kobayashi, Chem. Rev. 2019, 119, 6, 4413–4462*

## Flash photolysis



*Hoffmann et al. 2014*

# Databases with bimolecular rate constants of radical reactions



## Kinetics Database Resources

[Simple Reaction Search](#)

[Search Reaction Database](#)

[Search Bibliographic Database](#)

[Set Unit Preferences](#)

[Contact Us to Submit an Article](#)

[Citation](#)

[Help](#)

## Other Databases

[NIST Standard Reference Data Program](#)

[NIST Chemistry Web Book](#)

[NDRL-NIST Solution Kinetics Database](#)

[NIST Computational Chemistry Comparison and Benchmark Database](#)

[The NIST Reference on Constants, Units, and Uncertainty](#)

## NIST Chemical Kinetics Database

Standard Reference Database 17, Version 7.1 (Web Version), Release 1.6.8  
Data Version 2022

*A compilation of kinetics data on gas-phase reactions*

### Reaction Database Quick Search Form

Enter the reactant(s) and/or product(s) in the fields below. Fields may be left blank.

OH + phenol →  +

If you would like more search options, try...

[advanced reaction search form](#)

[bibliographic search form](#)

[Welcome](#)

[About the database.](#)

[Getting Started](#)

[A quick introduction to the database.](#)

### Reaction Database Search Form

Fill in one or more of the text fields below. Searchable fields and logical operators may be changed via the pull-down menus. Additional [help](#) is available.

	▼	Reactant	▼	is	▼	OH	▼
and	▼	Reactant	▼	is	▼	phenol	▼
and	▼	Product	▼	is	▼		▼
and	▼	Product	▼	is	▼		▼
and	▼	Squib	▼	contains	▼		▼
<input type="button" value="Submit Search"/> <input type="button" value="Clear Form"/>							

☐ Find only decomposition reactions

Restrict search to results of type any ▼

## Critical Review of rate constants for reactions of hydrated electrons, hydrogen atoms and hydroxyl radicals ( $\cdot\text{OH}/\cdot\text{O}^-$ in Aqueous Solution

Cite as: Journal of Physical and Chemical Reference Data **17**, 513 (1988); <https://doi.org/10.1063/1.555805>  
Submitted: 23 June 1987 • Published Online: 15 October 2009

George V. Buxton, Clive L. Greenstock, W. Phillips Helman, et al.

## Reactivity of $\text{HO}_2/\text{O}_2^-$ Radicals in Aqueous Solution

Cite as: Journal of Physical and Chemical Reference Data **14**, 1041 (1985); <https://doi.org/10.1063/1.555739>  
Published Online: 15 October 2009

Benon H. J. Bielski, Diane E. Cabelli, Ravindra L. Arudi, and Alberta B. Ross

## Search Results

Click on a link in the table below to see detail on the selected reaction.

Records	Reaction
<a href="#">5 records matched</a>	Phenol + $\cdot\text{OH} \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{O} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$
<a href="#">3 records matched</a>	Phenol + $\cdot\text{OH} \rightarrow$ Adduct
<a href="#">11 records matched</a>	Phenol + $\cdot\text{OH} \rightarrow$ Products
<a href="#">2 records matched</a>	Phenol + $\cdot\text{OH} \rightarrow \text{cyc-C(OH)CHCHCHCH(OH)}$
<a href="#">2 records matched</a>	Phenol + $\cdot\text{OH} \rightarrow \text{cyc-C(OH)CHCHCHCH(OH)CH}$
<a href="#">2 records matched</a>	Phenol + $\cdot\text{OH} \rightarrow \text{cyc-C(OH)CHCHCH(OH)CHCH}$
<a href="#">1 record matched</a>	Phenol + $\cdot\text{OH} \rightarrow \text{cyc-C(OH)2CHCHCHCH}$

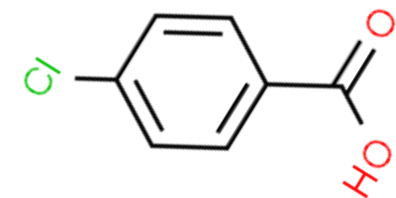
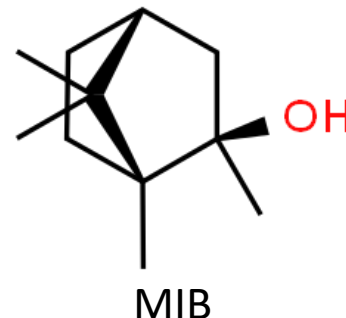
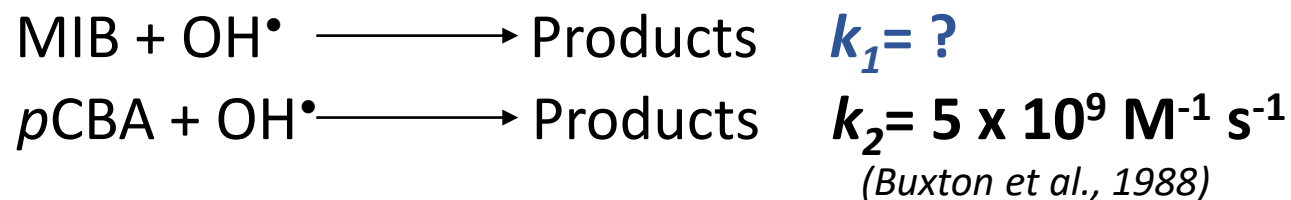
Search returned 26 records.

<https://kinetics.nist.gov/kinetics/>

# Competition kinetics

Can we determine 2<sup>nd</sup>-order rate constants of elementary bimolecular radical reactions from steady state experiments?

**Example:** Competition of OH• for MIB and pCBA :



4-chlorobenzoic acid  
(competitor)

$$\frac{d[MIB]}{dt} = k_1 [OH]^\bullet [MIB] = k_{1obs} [MIB]$$

$$\frac{d[pCBA]}{dt} = k_2 [OH]^\bullet [pCBA] = k_{2obs} [pCBA]$$

- $k_{1obs}$  &  $k_{2obs}$  are determined from a steady state experiment.
- Steady state  $[OH]^\bullet$  is determined from  $k_{2obs}$  ( $k_2$  is known).
- $k_1 = k_{1obs} / [OH]^\bullet$

Huber et al. Environ. Sci. Technol. 2003, 37, 1016-1024 <https://doi.org/10.1021/es025896h>

He et al. Water Research 74, 2015, 227-238 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.watres.2015.02.011>

# Heterogeneous systems (e.g., TiO<sub>2</sub> photocatalysis)

- Most common degradation kinetic model: (pseudo) first order.
- Adsorption on the surface of the catalyst.
- Langmuir-Hinshelwood model:

$$\frac{d[MIB]}{dt} = -k\theta = \frac{kK[MIB]}{1 + K[MIB]}$$

$\theta$  = fraction of surface coverage by MIB

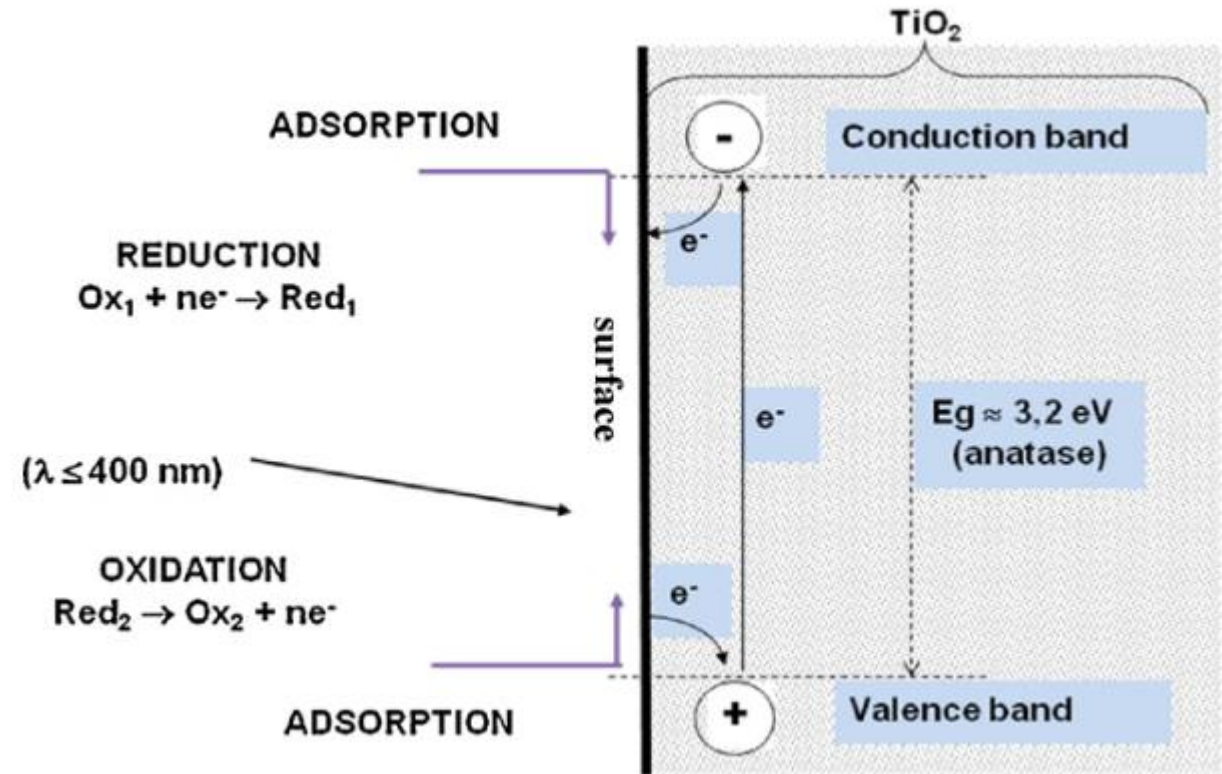
$K$  = Langmuir adsorption constant

When  $[MIB]$  is low ( $\ll 1$ ), it simplifies to:

$$\ln[MIB] = \ln[MIB]_0 - kKt \quad (\text{first order})$$

$$K_{obs} = kK$$

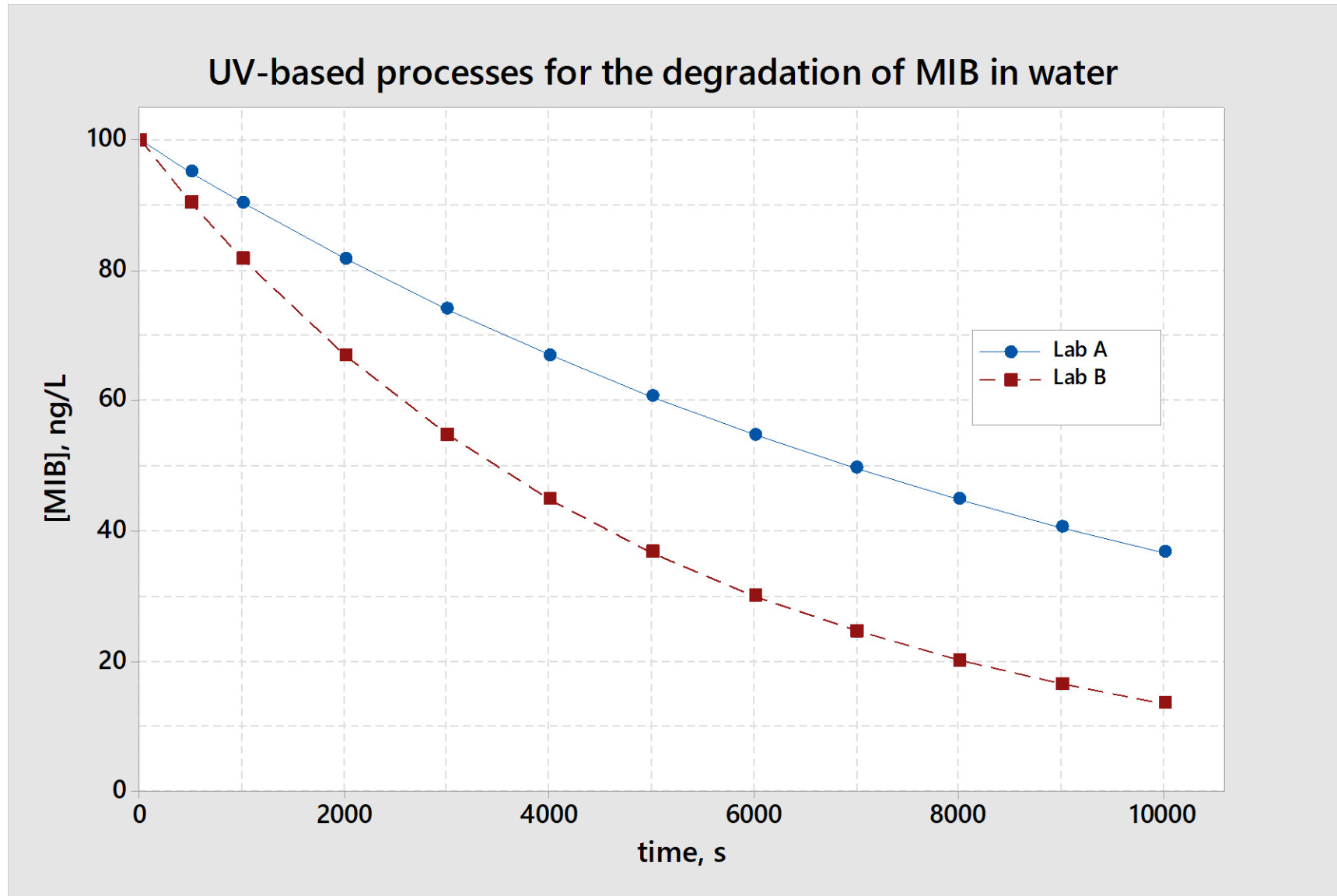
Zhang & Sillanpää, Chapter 5 in "Advanced Water Treatment – AOPs, Elsevier, 2020.



Herrmann 2010, *Photochem. Photobiol. A*.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jphotochem.2010.05.015>

# Which process is more efficient?

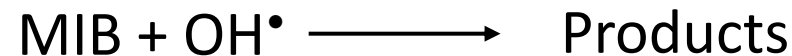




## Electrical Energy per Order, $E_{EO}$

$E_{EO}$  is the **electrical energy** necessary to reduce the concentration of a contaminant **by one order of magnitude** (90 % reduction) in a unit volume of water.

How it works:



$$\frac{d[\text{MIB}]}{dt} = k[\text{OH}^\bullet][\text{MIB}] = k_{obs}[\text{MIB}] \text{ (steady state approx. for OH}^\bullet\text{)}$$

- From measurements of [MIB] vs time,  $k_{obs}$  **is determined** (*pseudo-first order kinetics*).
- From the integrated equation of 1<sup>st</sup> order  $[\text{MIB}] = [\text{MIB}]_0 e^{-k_{obs}t}$  the **time needed for 1 order of magnitude** reduction of [MIB] is calculated.
- Time is directly converted to **Energy** (known power consumption of the photoreactor).
- $E_{EO}$  **is a better metric** of process efficiency but has limitations (dependency on concentration of reagents, photoreactor configuration, compound under study etc).

Bolton et al. *Pure Appl. Chem.*, Vol. 73, No. 4, pp. 627–637, 2001 <https://doi.org/10.1351/pac200173040627>

Bolton et al. *Photochem. & Photobiol.*, 2015, 91: 1252–1262 <https://doi.org/10.1111/php.12512>

Keen et al. *Pure Appl. Chem.* 2018; 90(9): 1487–1499 <https://doi.org/10.1515/pac-2017-0603>

## Take-home messages

- Reactions in AOPs are complex, as reactive radicals react in various ways and sites, leading to many transient or stable transformation products.
- Degradation of compounds often follow a 1<sup>st</sup>-order kinetic law, but zero-order or 2<sup>nd</sup>-order can be observed, depending on the conditions.
- Steady state conditions are often established in continuous UV or gamma-irradiation AOPs.
- In heterogeneous systems, adsorption plays a key role.
- The “reference” techniques to determine elementary bimolecular rate constants are pulse radiolysis and flash photolysis.
- Competition kinetics can help in determining bimolecular rate constants.
- Efficiency of AOPs is better evaluated by  $E_{EO}$ , but still depends on reactor configuration and other parameters.