Oxygen Measurement via Phosphorescence: Reaction of Sodium Dithionite with Dissolved Oxygen

Zhimin Tao  
*State University of New York*

Jerry Goodisman  
*Syracuse University, goodisma@syr.edu*

Abdul-Kader Souid  
*State University of New York*

Follow this and additional works at: https://surface.syr.edu/che

Part of the Chemistry Commons

Recommended Citation
Tao, Zhimin; Goodisman, Jerry; and Souid, Abdul-Kader, "Oxygen Measurement via Phosphorescence: Reaction of Sodium Dithionite with Dissolved Oxygen" (2007). Chemistry Faculty Scholarship. 31.
https://surface.syr.edu/che/31

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Arts and Sciences at SURFACE. It has been accepted for inclusion in Chemistry Faculty Scholarship by an authorized administrator of SURFACE. For more information, please contact surface@syr.edu.
Oxygen Measurement via Phosphorescence: Reaction of Sodium Dithionite with Dissolved Oxygen

Zhimin Tao, Jerry Goodisman, and Abdul-Kader Souid

Introduction

Measurement of O2 concentration based on the quenching of the phosphorescence of Pd(II)-meso-tetra-(4-sulfonatophenyl)-tetrazenzoporpyrin (Pd phosphor) was introduced by Wilson and his co-workers.1 This method allows accurate and sensitive determination of \([O_2]\) in biological systems.1 Using a homemade instrument, we recently used this method to monitor cellular respiration (mitochondrial O2 consumption) under various conditions.5-7 The instrument records and analyzes the phosphorescence profile (emitted light intensity vs time) of the Pd phosphor, which is excited with a flash of 630 nm light.1-4 Since O2 quenches the phosphorescence of this probe, the decay constant of emitted light depends linearly on \([O_2]\).5,6

The stoichiometry and kinetics of the reaction of dithionite with dissolved oxygen is studied here using this instrument, with O2 in the rate-determining step.5,6 The ratio between bisulfite and bisulfate depends on the relative stoichiometry. At both temperatures, the initial rate of O2 consumption, \(-d[O_2]/dt\), is found to be 1/2 order in \(S_2O_4^{2-}\) and first order in O2. This finding is consistent with a previously proposed mechanism: \(S_2O_4^{2-} \rightleftharpoons 2SO_2^-\) comes to a rapid equilibrium, and \(SO_2^-\) reacts with O2 in the rate-determining step.

\[
S_2O_4^{2-} + \frac{1}{2} O_2 + H_2O \rightarrow 2HSO_3^- \quad (2)
\]

\[
S_2O_4^{2-} + \frac{3}{2} O_2 + H_2O \rightarrow 2HSO_4^- \quad (3)
\]

The ratio between bisulfite and bisulfate depends on the relative contributions of reactions 2 and 3. The initial steps of the reaction may involve eqs 4 and 5:

\[
S_2O_4^{2-} \rightleftharpoons 2SO_2^- \quad (4)
\]

\[
SO_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow \text{products} \quad (5)
\]

with eq 5 being followed by a series of further reactions.9 Raman spectroscopy11 and X-ray12 studies on \(S_2O_4^{2-}\) suggested a planar \(D_{2h}\) structure, which has one S–S bond in the center and two S–O bonds with different lengths in each halflanion. This is consistent with eq 4, which shows dissociation of \(S_2O_4^{2-}\) into two units of \(SO_2^-\). In addition, a mechanism for eq 5, which explained the equal amounts of bisulfate and bisulfite, was proposed by Rinker et al. The first step in eq 5 was

\[
\bullet SO_2^- + O_2 \rightarrow SO_2 + \bullet O_2^- \quad (6)
\]

with several other radicals involved in subsequent steps.9 Nonetheless, there is no evidence for or against this mechanism.

Depending on which step is rate-determining in eqs 4 and 5, different kinetic schemes result. Some authors10 reported zero-order with O2, implying the forward reaction in eq 4 is rate-determining; this also predicts the reaction to be first-order with respect to \(S_2O_4^{2-}\). Other researchers8 claimed that the equilibrium in eq 4 is very rapid, and thus, eq 5 is the rate-controlling step; this predicts first-order kinetics with respect to O2 and 1/2-order with respect to \(S_2O_4^{2-}\). However, the rate-controlling
step, like the ratio of bisulfate and bisulfite in the final products, may depend on temperature and relative amounts of \( \text{S}_2\text{O}_4^{2-} \) and \( \text{O}_2 \).

Only a few studies\(^\text{13} \) of the reaction of \( \text{S}_2\text{O}_4^{2-} \) with \( \text{O}_2 \) in solutions have been reported lately, and they do not address the mechanism. Most investigations considered in the spectroscopic absorbance of \( \text{S}_2\text{O}_4^{2-} \) (\( \lambda_{\text{max}} = 315 \text{ nm} \)). Here, we investigate the stoichiometry and kinetics of this reaction by tracking \( \text{O}_2 \) consumption using our \( \text{O}_2 \) analyzer. The results suggest the stoichiometry for the overall reaction is temperature-sensitive. The kinetics is shown to be 1/2-order with respect to \( \text{S}_2\text{O}_4^{2-} \) and first-order with respect to \( \text{O}_2 \), showing that eq 5 is the rate-limiting step.

2. Experimental Section

2.1. Materials. \( \text{Pd} \) (II) complex of meso-tetra-(4-sulfonatophenyl)-tetraenzoorphyrin (Pd phosphor, sodium salt) was obtained from Porphyrin Products (Logan, UT). Pd phosphor solution (2.5 mg/mL = 2 nM) was prepared in dH\(_2\)O and stored at \(-20^\circ \text{C}\) in small aliquots. \( \text{d(+)-glucose anhydrous} \) (Cat \# 346351, lot \#D00003205) was purchased from Calbiochem (La Jolla, CA). Glucose oxidase (from \( \text{Aspergillus niger} \); 1400 units/mL in 100 mM sodium acetate, pH \( \sim 4.0 \)) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (St. Louis, MO). Sodium dithionite (MW 174.11) was purchased from Fluka, U.K. Working solutions (0.5–1.0 M) were freshly made in dH\(_2\)O under argon shield. Bovine serum albumin (BSA) was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich.

2.2. Instrument. An optical instrument was built to measure the phosphorescence of Pd phosphor.\(^{1-4} \) The probe was excited by light pulses (10 per s) that peaked at 625 nm (OTL630A-5–10-66-E, Opto Technology, Inc., Wheeling, IL). Duration of a pulse was 50–100 \( \mu \text{s} \). Emitted phosphorescence was isolated by a filter centered at 800 nm and passed through a Hamamatsu photomultiplier tube (# 928). Five microseconds after each flash, the resulting phosphorescence was digitized at 1 MHz by the ultrahigh-speed PCI-DAS4020/12 analog input board (Measurement Computing Corporation, Norton, MA). DASYLab (Measurement Computing Corporation, Norton, MA) was used for data acquisition.

Samples (final volume, 1.0 mL with dH\(_2\)O) containing 2 \( \mu \text{M} \) Pd-phosphor and 0.5% bovine fat-free albumin were placed in 1 mL glass vials. Serum albumin binds the Pd-phosphor and 0.5% bovine fat-free albumin were placed in 1 mL glass vials. Serum albumin binds the Pd-phosphor molecules and protects them from external chemical disturbance, such as changes in pH. The vials were sealed and placed in the instrument for \( \text{O}_2 \) measurement. Mixing was accomplished with the aid of parylene-coated stirring bars.

2.3. Data Analysis. A typical phosphorescence intensity profile, for air-saturated dH\(_2\)O to which 200 \( \mu \text{M} \) \( \text{S}_2\text{O}_4^{2-} \) has been added, is shown in Figure 1. Dithionite reacts rapidly with dissolved \( \text{O}_2 \) and, as shown below, 200 \( \mu \text{M} \) \( \text{S}_2\text{O}_4^{2-} \) removes more than half of the \( \text{O}_2 \) in air-saturated water. The data were analyzed by a computing program (C++ language, Table 1) that calculated the phosphorescence lifetime \( (\tau) \) and decay constant \( (1/\tau) \), from which \( \text{[O}_2\text{]} \) can be determined using eq 7

\[
\frac{1}{\tau} = \frac{1}{\tau_0} + k_q[\text{O}_2]
\]

where the values of \( 1/\tau_0 \) (10087 ± 156 \( \text{s}^{-1} \)) and \( k_q \) (96.1 ± 1.2 \( \mu\text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1} \)) were established by calibration.\(^5 \)

In the phosphorescence profile shown in Figure 1, the flash goes on at \( t = t_0 - 0.078548 \text{ s} \), stays on with a constant intensity until \( t = t_1 \sim 0.078626 \text{ s} \), and then goes off, so that the flash duration is \( \sim 78 \text{ \mu s} \). Since phosphorescence is a first-order process, the phosphorescence intensity \( (I) \) is proportional to the number of phosphor molecules in the excited state. This population decays with time and is pumped by the flash at a constant rate \( k' \). Thus, \( I = 0 \) for \( t < t_0 \), and

\[
\frac{dI}{dt} = k' - \frac{I}{\tau} \quad t_0 < t < t_1
\]

which integrates to

\[
I = k' \tau [1 - e^{-(t-t_0)/\tau}]
\]

For \( t > t_1 \) (lamp off),

\[
I = c e^{-(t-t_1)/\tau}
\]

where \( c \) is the maximum intensity (at \( t_1 \)); that is,

\[
c = k' \tau [1 - e^{-(t_1-t_0)/\tau}]
\]

The value of \( c \) is proportional to \( \tau \) only if \( t_1 - t_0 \gg \tau \). There are several ways of obtaining \( \tau \) from an intensity profile like the one in Figure 2, and we compare them here.

From direct reading of the experimental intensities (solid dots), one finds \( t_0 = 0.0785482 \text{ s} \), \( t_1 = 0.0786263 \text{ s} \), maximum intensity \( c = 3.00293 \text{ arbitrary units} \), and total area under the curve,

\[
A = \int_{t_0}^{t_1} I \, dt = k' \tau (t_1 - t_0)
\]

\[= 0.0003028 \text{ arbitrary units} \times \text{s} \] (by numerical integration). If these data followed the theoretical equation exactly, the ratio of the area to the height \( c \) would be

\[
A = \frac{k' \tau (t_1 - t_0)}{c} = \frac{1.0083 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}}{1.0003028 \text{ arbitrary units}} = 1.00083 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}
\]

so that exp\( (t_0 - t_1)/\tau \) = 1 - 0.77475 and \( \tau = 5.24 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s} \). This method for extracting \( \tau \) has the advantage of using all of the experimental data and does not necessitate determining \( k' \) separately. The disadvantages include involving calculations in which accuracy is lost because \((c/\tau A)(t_1 - t_0)\) is often close to 1 and requiring an arbitrary choice of where to truncate the area integration. An alternative is to fit the experimental data to the theoretical form using nonlinear least-squares. The best fit (dashed curve in Figure 2) corresponds to \( t_0 = 0.0785337 \text{ s} \), \( t_1 \)
= 0.0786150 s, maximum height \( c = 2.84994 \) arbitrary units, and peak area = 0.0002714 arbitrary units \( \times 9 \) s (from integration of eqs 8 and 9 to \( t \to \infty \)). Then \( A/c = 9.523 \times 10^{-5} \) s, so that the exponential fit is more reliable; although it uses less of the data, it requires determination of only one parameter, the decay rate (1/\( \tau \)). This method is easily implemented in the computer program, and we therefore use the exponential fit to determine the value of \( \tau \).

Fortunately, a simpler and more accurate method is available: after locating the position of the maximum, one fits the decreasing part of the profile to an exponential function. The exponential fit is more reliable; although it uses less of the data, it requires determination of only one parameter, the decay rate (1/\( \tau \)). This method is easily implemented in the computer program, and we therefore use the exponential fit to determine the value of \( \tau \).

Furthermore, we will always be comparing \( \tau \) values after calibration. The sampling was done at 307 200 Hz. Since the lamp flashes every 0.1 s, the duration of the flash is 78 \( \mu \)s, and...
necessary to find the maximum in each profile and fit the points composed of a number of profiles like that of Figure 1. It is zero or zero-like readings by setting a data-dropping threshold are zero and of no interest. The analysis program removes all data.

The reaction mixtures (in dH2O) contained 2 mM Pd phosphor, 0.5% albumin, and glucose oxidase (7.0 units/mL) with or without 1.0 mM dithionite. The solutions were stirred and equilibrated with air for 30 min. One milliliter of each solution was then placed in a sealed vial for [O2] measurement at 25 °C and 37 °C (Figure 2). The overall reaction of glucose (C6H12O6) with O2 produces gluconic acid (C6H11O7) and H2O2.

\[
\text{glucose} + \text{O}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{gluconic acid} + \text{H}_2\text{O}_2
\]

The reaction mixtures (in dH2O) contained 2 mM Pd phosphor, 0.5% albumin, and glucose oxidase (7.0 units/mL) with or without 1.0 mM dithionite. The solutions were stirred and equilibrated with air for 30 min. One milliliter of each solution was then placed in a sealed vial for [O2] measurement at 25 °C (panel A) and 37 °C (panel B). O2 was consumed rapidly on injection of 45, 90, 135, 180, and 225 μM (final concentrations) D-glucose. Measured 1/τ in s⁻¹ decreased as [D-glucose] increased; the best linear fits are shown.

At 25 °C (Figure 2A), the slope without dithionite (circles) was \(-86.065 \pm 4.479 (r^2 > 0.99)\) and with dithionite (squares) \(-134.72 \pm 16.19 (r^2 > 0.95)\) and with dithionite (squares) \(-132.13 \pm 3.99 (r^2 > 0.99)\). Thus, the effect of dithionite and its oxidation products on the Pd phosphor at 25 °C and 37 °C was negligible. The curves in the presence of dithionite were lower because of less dissolved O2 in these solutions.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Experimental Results. Figures 3 and 4 show representative plots of the reciprocal of the measured decay constant τ (+ signs) obtained in successive measurements at 25 °C (Figure 3) and 37 °C (Figure 4). Each plot corresponds to an experiment in which dithionite was added to air-saturated water at the concentration shown in the plot label. Here, 1/τ is plotted versus elapsed time. Since, according to eq 7, 1/τ is a linear function of [O2], these are essentially plots of [O2] versus time. The rapid decline in [O2] when S2O4²⁻ is injected is evident.

For each plot, the values of 1/τ before and after the drop in [O2], 1/τb and 1/τa, were obtained by averaging 100−200 measurements. The value of 1/τb should correspond to the oxygen concentration in air-saturated dH2O, which is 267 μM at 25 °C and 225 μM at 37 °C. When [S2O4²⁻] > 500 μM, the value of 1/τa corresponds to total depletion of O2; that is 1/τa = 1/τb. From the values of 1/τb and 1/τa, we obtain information about the stoichiometry of the overall reaction (see below). From the shape of the experimental curve, we obtain information about the kinetics and rate constant of the reaction.

It can be seen, for instance, that the drop in 1/τ is rapid and mostly linear, suggesting a reaction which is zero-order in O2. The possibility that the phosphor is affected by the dithionite or its oxidation products was also investigated, by measuring the glucose oxidase-catalyzed oxidation of glucose at 25 °C and 37 °C (Figure 2). The overall reaction of glucose (C6H12O6) with O2 produces gluconic acid (C6H11O7) and H2O2.

\[
\text{glucose} + \text{O}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{gluconic acid} + \text{H}_2\text{O}_2
\]

The decay time τ is about 40 μs; the useful data from each flash involves fewer than 100 points, and >99.8% of the readings are zero and of no interest. The analysis program removes all zero or zero-like readings by setting a data-dropping threshold (e.g., 0.05), producing a sawtooth intensity-versus-time plot, composed of a number of profiles like that of Figure 1. It is necessary to find the maximum in each profile and fit the points after the maximum to an exponential. The Microsoft Visual C++ program (Table 1) combines these tasks by screening the data stream for maxima with intensities greater than 0.05, noting the time of each maximum (t0) and keeping only data declining from the peak but above the data-dropping threshold within 0.1 s. This produces 10 decay curves per second, each of which is fit to an exponential function.

The possibility that the phosphor is affected by the dithionite or its oxidation products was also investigated, by measuring the glucose oxidase-catalyzed oxidation of glucose at 25 °C and 37 °C (Figure 2). The overall reaction of glucose (C6H12O6) with O2 produces gluconic acid (C6H11O7) and H2O2.

\[
\text{glucose} + \text{O}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{gluconic acid} + \text{H}_2\text{O}_2
\]
From eq 12, the zero-order rate constant or reaction rate is

\[ r = k_0 = \frac{1}{k_q} \left( \frac{1}{\tau_a} - \frac{1}{\tau_b} \right) \frac{1}{(t_a - t_b)} \]  \hspace{1cm} (13)

The fit to eq 10 is somewhat better than the fit to eq 12 because eq 10 takes into account the curvature in the plots as 1/\( \alpha \) approaches 1/\( \alpha \).

### 3.2. Stoichiometry of the Reaction of S\(_2\)O\(_4\)\(^2-\) with O\(_2\).

At 25 °C, 22 data sets with various concentrations of S\(_2\)O\(_4\)\(^2-\) below 1.0 mM were obtained. For some of them, the values of 1/\( \alpha \) are plotted versus [S\(_2\)O\(_4\)\(^2-\)] in Figure 5A, where each error bar is the standard deviation for one determination of 1/\( \alpha \). Figure 5B, similarly, shows the results of some of the measurements at 37 °C.

It is expected that [O\(_2\)] after S\(_2\)O\(_4\)\(^2-\) addition (obtained from \( \tau_a \)) will decrease linearly with \( d = [S_2O_4^{2-}] \) for \( d < s[O_2] \), where \( s \) is the ratio of S\(_2\)O\(_4\)\(^2-\) consumed to [O\(_2\)] consumed, until \( d = s[O_2] \) being the original [O\(_2\)]. For \( [S_2O_4^{2-}] > s[O_2] \), 1/\( \tau_a \) should equal 1/\( \tau_a \) since all of the oxygen has been reduced. The broken line in Figure 5A is the best fit of all 22 data points to the 3-parameter function

\[ 1/\tau = \alpha + \beta d, \ \ d < \delta; \ \ \ 1/\tau = \gamma, \ \ d > \delta \]  \hspace{1cm} (14)

where \( \alpha + \beta \delta = \gamma \). This best fit has \( \alpha = 28.844 \ \text{s}^{-1}, \ \beta = -54.0 \ \text{s}^{-1} \ \mu\text{M}^{-1}, \ \delta = 312.3 \ \mu\text{M}, \ \text{and} \ \gamma = 11971 \ \text{s}^{-1} \). Since

[O\(_2\)] = 267.2 \ \mu\text{M}, \ s = 1.167 \pm 0.201 \ (\text{error from linear fit}). This result is consistent with eq 1 but suggests that \( s \) may be slightly greater than 1.

A similar analysis was made of the 28 data sets from measurements at 37 °C with dithionite concentrations below 1.0 mM. The values of 1/\( \alpha \) are plotted versus [S\(_2\)O\(_4\)\(^2-\)] in Figure 5B, where each error bar is the standard deviation for one determination of 1/\( \alpha \). The dashed line in Figure 5B is the best fit to eq 14, using all 28 values of 1/\( \alpha \). In this case, 1/\( \alpha \) = 41745 \ \text{s}^{-1}, \ \beta = -80.4 \ \text{s}^{-1} \ \mu\text{M}^{-1}, \ \delta = 384.2 \ \mu\text{M}, \ \text{and} \ \gamma = 10823 \ \text{s}^{-1} \). Since [O\(_2\)] = 225.4 \ \mu\text{M}, \ s = 1.705 \pm 0.134 \ (\text{error from linear fit}). This result is significantly different from what is implied by eq 1 and shows that eq 2 occurs more often than eq 3 at the higher temperature.

### 3.3. Kinetics of the Reaction of S\(_2\)O\(_4\)\(^2-\) with O\(_2\).

In these experiments, S\(_2\)O\(_4\)\(^2-\) was added to a sample of air-saturated dH\(_2\)O containing Pd phosphor without interrupting the measurement of \( \tau \), and the measured values of 1/\( \tau \), which depends linearly on [O\(_2\)], were plotted versus \( t \). The data sets studied resemble those in Figures 3 and 4. The plots for 25 °C (Figure 3A,B) show a mostly linear decrease in 1/\( \tau \) from \( t = t_0 \) to \( t = t_a \); that is, the decrease is initially linear and deviates from linearity for 1/\( \tau \) below about 15000 s\(^{-1}\); according to eq 7, this corresponds to [O\(_2\)] < 40 \ \mu\text{M}. In the plots for 37 °C (Figure 4A,B), the decrease is much faster, corresponding to faster rates at the higher temperature. Where d[O\(_2\)]/dt is independent of [O\(_2\)]
(for $[O_2] > 40 \mu M$) the reaction is apparently zero-order with respect to $O_2$, where $-d[O_2]/dt$ decreases with $[O_2]$ (for $[O_2] < 40 \mu M$), the order of the reaction with respect to $O_2$ is apparently greater than 0. This is consistent with the mechanism of eqs 4 and 5: For higher $[O_2]$, eq 4, which is zero-order in $[O_2]$, is the rate-determining step; but for lower $[O_2]$, eq 5 becomes slower and rate-determining, and it is first-order in $[O_2]$. Creutz and Sutin found $d[O_2]/dt$ to follow zero-order kinetics “over at least 80% reaction” when $S_2O_4^{2-}$ was present in excess. It is also possible that the decrease is exponential, since an exponential is linear close to the origin.

In order to establish the order with respect to $S_2O_4^{2-}$ and to calculate rate constants, we compare the initial rates of reaction $r$ for different $[S_2O_4^{2-}]$. These are calculated according to eq 11 or eq 13. Since the initial rate should be proportional to $[S_2O_4^{2-}]x[O_2]0$, where $x$ is the order of the reaction, $x$ can be determined by linear regression on a plot of ln($r$) versus ln($[S_2O_4^{2-}]$).

Values of $r$ determined from experiments at 25 °C are given in Table 2, and values determined at 37 °C are given in Table 3. Equations 10 and 11, the exponential fitting functions, were used to obtain these values. There was much more scatter in the initial reaction rates at higher $T$, because of insufficient time resolution in the values of $1/r$. In fact, little information is available when the value of $1/r$ drops from $1/r_0$ at time $t$ to a value indistinguishable from $1/r_0 ([O_2] \sim 0)$ at $t + \Delta t$ where $\Delta t$ is the time between measurements. Since the standard deviation in $1/r$ is $\sim 10^3 s^{-1}$ and $1/r_0 - 1/r_0$ is $\sim 3 \times 10^4 s^{-1}$, this means

$$30 e^{-CT} < 1$$

or, with $\Delta t = 0.07 s$, $C > 49 s^{-1}$. Thus, values of $r$ are of doubtful validity when

$$r > 3 \times 10^4 Ck_q = 1.5 \times 10^4 \mu M s^{-1}$$

All the values of $r$ in Tables 2 and 3 were used in the fitting; removing those greater than $1.5 \times 10^4 \mu M s^{-1}$ changes the results only slightly.

To find the order of the reaction with respect to $S_2O_4^{2-}$, we perform a linear regression of ln($r$) versus ln($[S_2O_4^{2-}]$), shown in Figure 6. For the 25 °C data, the slope is 0.59 ± 0.07, showing clearly that the reaction is $1/2$-order with respect to $S_2O_4^{2-}$. This is expected if eq 4 is the rate-determining step. For 37 °C, the slope is 0.49 ± 0.09 (Figure 6), showing that...
Figure 5. Determinations of stoichiometry of the reaction of \(S_2O_4^{2-}\)
with \(O_2\) at 25 °C (A) and 37 °C (B). Over 20 data sets with various
concentrations of \(S_2O_4^{2-}\) below 1.0 mM were obtained. The resulting
values of \(1/r_1\), for some of these data sets are plotted vs \([S_2O_4^{2-}]\),
where each error bar is the standard deviation for one determination of \(1/r_1\).
The plot of all \(1/r_1\) values vs \([S_2O_4^{2-}]\) was fitted to the two-line function
shown as a dashed line. The intersection point of the two lines
determines the stoichiometry.

the rate-determining step is 1/2-order at the higher temperature
as well. We have also calculated \(r_1\) values using eqs 12 and 13,
corresponding to fits to a three-line function. Although the values
of \(r_1\) are much higher than those in Tables 2 and 3, the slope of
the plot of \(\ln r_1\) versus \(\ln [S_2O_4^{2-}]\) is still ~0.5.

3.4. Rate Constants. In summary, the initial rate of the
oxygen-consumption reaction, in \(\mu M s^{-1}\), is found to be equal to

\[
-\frac{d[O_2]}{dt} = \frac{\exp(2.092 + 0.594 \ln[S_2O_4^{2-}])}{17.8[S_2O_4^{2-}]^{1/2}}
\]

(15) at 25 °C and

\[
-\frac{d[O_2]}{dt} = \frac{\exp(5.124 + 0.493 \ln[S_2O_4^{2-}])}{196.3[S_2O_4^{2-}]^{1/2}}
\]

(16) at 37 °C, where \([S_2O_4^{2-}]\) is in \(\mu M\). Assuming the reaction is
first order in \(O_2\) (see below) and using initial concentrations of
\(O_2\) of 267 \(\mu M\) at 25 °C and 225 \(\mu M\) at 37 °C, we calculate that
the rate constants are 66.7 M\(^{-1/2}\) s\(^{-1}\) at 25 °C and 872 M\(^{-1/2}\)
\(\cdot s^{-1}\) at 37 °C. The temperature dependence of the rate constant
corresponds to an activation energy of

\[
-R \frac{d \ln(k)}{d(1/T)} = \frac{2.571R}{0.0001298} = 164.7 \text{ kJ/mol}
\]

which should be related to the dissociation energy of \(S_2O_4^{2-}\)
into \(2SO_2^{\cdot}\). The \(S-S\) single-bond energy is 425 \(\text{kJ/mol}\);\(^{15}\)
therefore, the \(S-S\) bond in dithionite is highly destabilized.

Assuming eqs 4 and 5 are the only reactions contributing to
oxygen consumption (note that in the scheme of Rinker et al.,\(^9\)
\(O_2\) enters as a reactant in a later step as well), we may write
the rate equations as follows. Letting \(k_1\) and \(k_1\) be the forward and
reverse rate constants for reaction 4 and letting \(k_2\) be the rate constant
for reaction 5, we find the steady-state equation for the reactive intermediate \(\mathrm{SO}_2^{\cdot}\) is

\[
2k_1[S_2O_4^{2-}] - 2k_{-1}[SO_2^{\cdot}]^2 - k_2[SO_2^{\cdot}][O_2] = 0
\]

(17)

According to Creutz & Sutin\(^{10}\) \(k_1 \sim 2.5 \text{ s}^{-1}\) at \(pH 8, 25 \text{ °C}; k_{-1}\)
~ \(1.8 \times 10^9 \text{ M}^{-1}\) \text{ s}^{-1}\) at \(pH 6.5, 25 \text{ °C}; k_2 > 10^8 \text{ M}^{-1}\) \(\cdot \text{s}^{-1}\) 25
\(\text{°C}. If, in our experiments, the second term in eq 17 were much
smaller than the third, we would have

\[
[SO_2^{\cdot}] \sim \frac{2k_1[S_2O_4^{2-}]}{k_2[O_2]}
\]

and

\[
-\frac{d[O_2]}{dt} = k_2[SO_2^{\cdot}][O_2] = 2k_1[S_2O_4^{2-}]
\]

This predicts the order of the reaction with respect to \(S_2O_4^{2-}\)
correctly. Apparently, the second term in eq 17 is larger than
the third, so that $S_2O_4^{2-} \leftrightarrow 2 SO_3^{2-}$ comes to a rapid equilibrium and

$$\frac{-d[O_2]}{dt} = k_2[SO_2][O_2] = k_2\sqrt{\frac{k_1}{k_{-1}}}[S_2O_4^{2-}]^{(1/2)}[O_2] \quad (18)$$

which predicts the order with respect to dithionite correctly. If one accepts this, the order with respect to $O_2$ is 1, which is also consistent with our observations.

The effective rate constant derived from our results at 25 °C is 66.7 M$^{-1/2}$ s$^{-1}$, and this should be equal to $k_2\sqrt{k_1/k_{-1}}$. It is impossible to use literature values for the rate constants here: the values of $k_1$ and $k_{-1}$ reported by Creutz and Sutin$^{10}$ were measured at pH 8 and pH 6.5 respectively, while our measurements were at much lower pH. Our measured pH varied linearly with $[S_2O_4^{2-}]$, being 3.61 ± 0.03 for 100 μM and 3.82 ± 0.10 for 10 mM. A value of $2.4 \times 10^8$ M$^{-1}$ s$^{-1}$ was reported by Huie et al$^{16}$ for

$$SO_2^{2-} + O_2 \rightarrow SO_2 + \bullet O_2^- \quad (19)$$

at room temperature, pH = 1.0. It seems very likely that eq 19 is the first reaction in the series of reactions indicated by eq 5. Note that $SO_2$ in aqueous solution near neutral pH is equivalent to bisulfite, so that bisulfate must be formed by subsequent reactions. For example, superoxide ion $O_2^-$ (like $O_2$) can oxidize S(iv) to S(v),$^{13}$ which is easily oxidized to S(vi) (bisulfate).

4. Conclusions

From the above results, it can be seen that our instrument can be conveniently utilized to monitor rapid chemical reactions, by measuring the phosphorescence decay rate, 1/τ. Since $1/τ$ is linearly dependent on $[O_3]$, measurement of $1/τ$ gives $[O_3]$. The tail of each phosphorescence decay profile was fit to an exponential function to measure $[O_3]$. Presently, phosphorescence profiles are obtained every 0.1 s (flash rate), making it feasible to monitor chemical reactions in which the oxygen concentration changes substantially in a few hundred milliseconds. Reactions 100 times faster could be tracked if the flash rate were increased to 1000 Hz.

We applied our O$_2$ analyzer to investigate the reaction of $S_2O_4^{2-}$ with O$_3$, which apparently begins with the reactions of eqs 4 and 5. The stoichiometry study shows 1.2:1.0 ($S_2O_4^{2-}/O_2$) at 25 °C (consistent with the results of other workers) and 1.6:1.0 at 37 °C. The variation may be due to different temperature dependences of the rates of the reaction steps which follow eq 5. The relative rates of these steps determine the overall stoichiometry and, equivalently, the relative amounts of bisulfate and bisulfite produced. The reaction of SO$_2$ with O$_3$ very probably produces SO$_3$ and $O_3^-$, and SO$_2$ in aqueous solution already yields HSO$_3^-$. Subsequent reactions involve further oxidations by $O_2$ and $O_3^-$. The kinetics study shows that at both temperatures the oxygen depletion $-d[O_2]/dt$ is $1/2$-order in $[S_2O_4^{2-}]$ and first-order in $[O_3]$. This supports the suggestion of previous workers that conversion between $S_2O_4^{2-}$ and SO$_3^-$ (eq 4) reaches equilibrium rapidly, so that reaction 5 is rate-determining and is the main contributor to the depletion of oxygen.

Acknowledgment. This work is supported by a fund from the Paige’s Butterfly Run. We appreciate the contribution of Dr. Harvey Penefsky, who built the apparatus and allowed us to use it for these measurements. We also appreciate the contribution of Dr. Yu Zhang with the electronic circuit and of Mr. Shiliyang Xu with the computer language.

References and Notes

(15) Handbook of Chemistry and Physics; Chemical Rubber Publishing Co.; Table 9, p 58.
(22) Wilson, D. F.; Cerignola, G. J. Cancer Res. 1992, 52, 3988.