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KINETICS OF COMPLEXATION OF THE MACROCYCLES 18C6 AND
12C4 ETHERS WITH LIA..(U) POLYTECHNIC INST OF NEW YORK
FARMINGDALE DEPT OF CHEMISTRY H RICHMAN ET AL. JUN 84
TR-5 ARO-18978.5-CH DAAG29-82-K-0048

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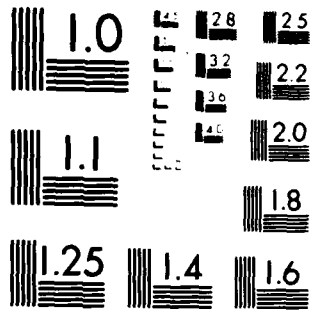
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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE		READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM
1. REPORT NUMBER ARO / 8978.5-CH	2. GOVT ACCESSION NO. N/A	3. RECIPIENT'S CATALOG NUMBER N/A
4. TITLE (and Subtitle) Kinetics of complexation of the macrocycles 18C6 and 12C4 ethers with LiAsF ₆ in 1,2-Dimethoxyethane at 25°C.		5. TYPE OF REPORT & PERIOD COVERED Technical
7. AUTHOR(s) Helmut Richman, Yoshifumi Harada and Sergio Petrucci		6. PERFORMING ORG. REPORT NUMBER 5
9. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME AND ADDRESS Dept. of Chemistry, Polytechnic Institute of NY, L.I. Center, Rte. 110, Farmingdale, NY 11735		8. CONTRACT OR GRANT NUMBER(s) DAAG/29/82/K0048 DAAG-29-82-K-0048
11. CONTROLLING OFFICE NAME AND ADDRESS U. S. Army Research Office Post Office Box 12211 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709		10. PROGRAM ELEMENT, PROJECT, TASK AREA & WORK UNIT NUMBERS
14. MONITORING AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS (if different from Controlling Office)		12. REPORT DATE June 1984
		13. NUMBER OF PAGES 12
		15. SECURITY CLASS. (of this report) Unclassified
		15a. DECLASSIFICATION/DOWNGRADING SCHEDULE
16. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of this Report) Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.		
17. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT (of the abstract entered in Block 20, if different from Report) NA		
18. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES The view, opinions, and/or findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy, or decision, unless so designated by other documentation.		
19. KEY WORDS (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Kinetics, complexation, macrocycles, 18C6, 12C4, LiAsF ₆ , 1,2-Dimethoxyethane, Electrical conductance, Ultrasonic Relaxation.		
20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) Ultrasonic Relaxation spectra of the systems LiAsF ₆ added to the macrocycles 18C6 or 12C4 ethers, in molar ratio ^{approx. = 1,} R_{m1} , in the solvent 1,2-Dimethoxyethane (DME) at $t=25^{\circ}\text{C}$, are reported. The concentration range covered was 0.05 to 0.25M for 18C6 and 0.1 to		

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Abstract Continued:

→ 0.3M for 12C4. Ancillary electrical conductance data, for the same systems in the concentration range 10^{-4} to $\sim 0.05M$ at 25.00 C reveal that the lithium-macrocycle interaction is weak, the conductance data being the same up to $\sim 10^{-2}M$, within experimental error of the one for the electrolyte in DME.

Based on a previous work revealing the presence of an outer sphere-
inner sphere equilibrium $LiSAsF_6 \rightleftharpoons LiAsF_6$ the present data are interpreted by a mechanism envisaging competition between the above reaction and the complexation scheme $LiSAsF_6 + C \rightleftharpoons LiC, AsF_6 + S$ where C is the crown ether. The results for $LiAsF_6 + 18C6$ are compared with previous one for the system $LiClO_4 + 18C6$ in DME.



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DIMETHOXYETHANE AT 25°C".

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KINETICS OF COMPLEXATION OF THE MACROCYCLES 18C6 AND 12C4
ETHERS WITH LiAsF_6 IN 1,2-DIMETHOXYETHANE AT 25°C

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Abstract

Ultrasonic Relaxation spectra of the systems LiAsF_6 added to the macrocycles 18C6 or 12C4 ethers, in molar ratio $R \approx 1$, in the solvent 1,2-Dimethoxyethane (DME) at $t=25^\circ\text{C}$ are reported. The concentration range covered was 0.05 to 0.25M for 18C6 and 0.1 to 0.3M for 12C4. Ancillary electrical conductance data for the same systems in the concentration range 10^{-4} to $\sim 0.05\text{M}$ at 25.00°C reveal that the lithium-macrocycle interaction is weak, the conductance data being the same up to $\sim 10^{-2}\text{M}$, within experimental error of the one for the electrolyte in DME. Based on a previous work revealing the presence of an outer sphere-inner sphere equilibrium $\text{LiSAsF}_6 \rightleftharpoons \text{LiAsF}_6$, the present data are interpreted by a mechanism envisaging competition between the above reaction and the complexation scheme $\text{LiSAsF}_6 + \text{C} \rightleftharpoons \text{LiC,AsF}_6 + \text{S}$ where C is the crown ether. The results for $\text{LiAsF}_6 + 18\text{C6}$ are compared with previous one for the system $\text{LiClO}_4 + 18\text{C6}$ in DME.

I. Introduction

In previous works^{1,2} it has been found that LiAsF_6 in the solvent 1,2-DME is the strongest electrolyte system so far investigated, which, in principle, could be used for construction of secondary lithium batteries. It was of interest to see whether one could further enhance the electrical conductivity of this system by adding complexing agents to Li^+ as crown-ethers. It was also of interest to determine the rate constants of formation and dissociation of the crown ether with the cation, as a too stable complex is unsuitable for the electrochemical reactions at the electrode surface.

These practical interests went alongside more theoretical quests as the extent of interaction of crown-ethers with a cation already solvated by DME which (by structure and chelating ability) mimics a part of a crown ether. As $\text{LiClO}_4 + 18\text{C}6$ in DME had already³ been investigated, a comparison with $\text{LiAsF}_6 + 18\text{C}6$ in DME would offer an insight into the role (if any) of the anion in the complexation mechanism. This research in a strongly competing solvent, for the first coordination around Li^+ , will be the prelude and background of future work in solvents of less competitive nature, but more in use for battery construction.

To the above end, two experimental methods, audiofrequency electrical conductivity in the electrolyte concentration 10^{-4} to $5 \times 10^{-2} \text{M}$, and ultrasonic relaxation spectrometry in the frequency range 1-400 MHz and electrolyte concentration range 0.05-0.3M have been used.

II. Experimental

The equipment and procedure for the conductance⁴ and ultrasonic work² have been described elsewhere. For the materials LiAsF_6 ,¹ 1,2-DME³ and 18C6³ were purified as already reported. 12C4 (Aldrich) was vacuum distilled. Solutions were prepared by weight burettes directly in the conductance cell, kept at $t = 25.00 \pm 5 \times 10^{-3}$ as monitored by a calibrated Pt-thermometer and Mueller bridge.⁴ The conductance room was air-conditioned at $71 \pm 1^\circ\text{F}$. For the ultrasonic work, solutions were prepared in volumetric flasks, kept in dessicators and used shortly after preparation. Contact of the solutions with the atmosphere was kept to a maximum of 20-30 seconds during the filling time of the cells.

III. Results

Fig. 1a reports the equivalent conductance vs. concentration in the form of $\log_{10} \Lambda$ vs. $\log_{10} C$ for $\text{LiAsF}_6 + 18\text{C6}$ in molar ratio $R = [\text{18C6}] / [\text{LiAsF}_6] = 0.958$ at 25°C . In the same plot the data for LiAsF_6 in DME^1 are also reported. The two sets of data overlap within experimental error, indicating a weak or non detectable interaction between LiAsF_6 and 18C6 .

Fig. 1b reports the equivalent conductance vs. concentration ($\log_{10} \Lambda$ vs. $\log_{10} C$) for $\text{LiAsF}_6 + 12\text{C4}$ in DME at 25°C . Two runs at molar ratios $R = 0.974$ and $R = 1.004$ have been performed. As for the case of 18C6 , no difference, within experimental error, is visible from the data of the electrolyte LiAsF_6 in DME except for $c > 10^{-2}\text{M}$. This again indicates weak interaction between Li^+ and 12C4 in DME , a vital information for the interpretation of the ultrasonic data. Notice that $\text{LiClO}_4 + 18\text{C6}$ in DME shows the same behavior in conductance,⁵ except for data at $c \geq 10^{-2}\text{M}$ where a difference starts showing up when the crown ether is present.

Fig. 2 reports the ultrasonic spectrum vs. frequency f in the form of the excess sound absorption per wavelength μ for a representative concentration of LiAsF_6 added to 18C6 in DME at 25°C . In the above $\mu = (\alpha - Bf^2)u/f$, where α is the absorption coefficient of sound (neper cm^{-1}) at the frequency f ; B is the background sound absorption, α at $f \gg (\text{the relaxation frequencies}) f_I$ and f_{II} (see below), u/f is the wavelength, u is the sound velocity. The solid line in Fig. 2 is the calculated sum of two Debye single relaxation processes used to interpret the spectrum

$$\mu = 2\mu_I \frac{f/f_I}{1 + (f/f_I)^2} + 2\mu_{II} \frac{f/f_{II}}{1 + (f/f_{II})^2} \quad (1)$$

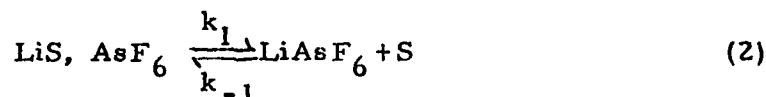
where f_I and f_{II} are the relaxation frequencies of the two Debye processes. μ_I and μ_{II} are the respective maximum sound absorptions per wavelength. It should be pointed out that other mathematical solutions for the interpretation of the sound spectrum may be possible including a distribution of relaxation times. The present one is the simplest possible interpretation of the spectrum. Fig. 3 shows a representative plot of the ultrasonic spectrum vs. frequency f , in the form of μ , for a representative concentration of

LiAsF_6 added to 12C4 in DME at 25°C. The solid line in Fig. 3 is the calculated sum of two Debye relaxation processes of excess maximum sound absorption per wavelength μ_I and μ_{II} centered at the relaxation frequencies f_I and f_{II} .

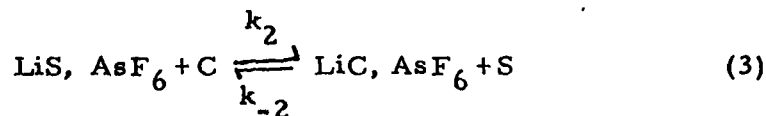
Table I reports all the calculated ultrasonic relaxation parameters together with the sound velocity u at the concentrations investigated in DME at 25°C.

IV. Discussion

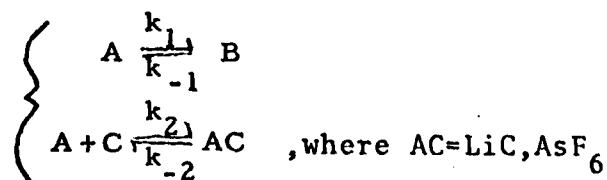
In a previous work the ultrasonic relaxation of LiAsF_6 ¹ was attributed to the equilibrium



when S is a solvent molecule. The above scheme (2) symbolizes an outer-sphere, inner-sphere equilibrium. Electrical conductance for both macrocycles 18C6 and 12C4 suggests that their interaction with Li^+ is weak in DME. We then propose that there exists a competition between scheme (2) and the complexation reaction



with C, the macrocycle. Call $\text{LiS, AsF}_6 = \text{A}$; $\text{LiAsF}_6 = \text{B}$. One can combine schemes 2 and 3 (omitting S, in excess), to:



and write the rate equations

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} -\frac{d(\text{A})}{dt} = k_1(\text{A}) - k_{-1}(\text{B}) + k_2(\text{A})(\text{C}) - k_{-2}(\text{AC}) \\ \frac{d(\text{AC})}{dt} = k_2(\text{A})(\text{C}) - k_{-2}(\text{AC}) \end{array} \right. \quad (4)$$

leading to (see Appendix) two relaxation times τ_I and τ_{II}

$$\tau_I^{-1} = \frac{1}{2} \left[S + \sqrt{S^2 - 4P} \right]; \quad \tau_{II}^{-1} = \frac{1}{2} \left[S - \sqrt{S^2 - 4P} \right]$$

with $S = k_2 \{ (A) + (C) \} + k_{-2} + k_1 + k_{-1}$

and $P = (k_1 + k_{-1}) \left[k_2 (A) + k_{-2} \right] + k_2 k_{-1} (C)$

for $\tau_I^{-1} (= 2\pi f_I) \gg \tau_{II}^{-1} (= 2\pi f_{II})$ as it is the case for the present

work $S^2 \gg 4P$ and $\tau_I^{-1} = S = k_2 \{ (A) + (C) \} + k_{-2} + k_1 + k_{-1} \approx k_1 + k_{-1}$ (5)

$$\tau_{II}^{-1} = \frac{P}{S} = k_{-2} + k_2 \left[(A) + \frac{k_{-1}}{k_{-1} + k_1} (C) \right] \quad (6)$$

From the study of the electrolyte LiAsF_6 alone in DME,¹ we have learned that for equilibrium (2) $K_1 = \frac{(\text{LiAsF}_6)}{(\text{LiSAsF}_6)} = 10^{-2}$. Hence since

$$K_1 = k_1/k_{-1}, \quad k_1 \ll k_{-1} \quad \text{and equation (6) becomes } \tau_{II}^{-1} = k_{-2} + k_2 \left[(A) + (C) \right] \quad (7)$$

which implies that the coupling factor $(k_{-1}/(k_1 + k_{-1})) \approx 1$.

Equation 7 will be tested for $\text{LiAsF}_6 + 18\text{C}_6$ and $\text{LiAsF}_6 + 12\text{C}_4$ in DME assuming $(A) \approx C_{\text{LiAsF}_6}$ and $(C) \approx C_{18\text{C}_6}$ or $\approx C_{12\text{C}_4}$ by virtue of the

suggested weak interaction between crown ethers and metal cations from conductance data.

Fig. 4 shows the plots of τ^{-1} vs. $(C_{\text{LiAsF}_6} + C_{\text{Macrocycle}})$. For 18C_6

linear regressions give determination coefficient $r^2 = 0.99$, Intercept $= k_{-2} = 1.6 \times 10^7 \text{ S}^{-1}$, Slope $= k_2 = 1.4 \times 10^8 \text{ M}^{-1}$, from which $K_2 = 8.8 \text{ M}^{-1}$.

For 12C_4 , linear regressions give $r^2 = 0.7$, Intercept $= k_{-2} = 5.5 \times 10^6 \text{ S}^{-1}$, Slope $= k_2 = 1.9 \times 10^7 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ S}^{-1}$ from which $K_2 = 3.5 \text{ M}^{-1}$.

Notice that for $\text{LiClO}_4 + 18\text{C6}$ in DME^3 plotting τ_2^{-1} vs. $(C_{\text{LiClO}_4} + C_{18\text{C6}})$,

namely neglecting the coupling with the dimerization $2\text{LiClO}_4 \rightleftharpoons (\text{LiClO}_4)_2^{3,6}$, one obtains³ $r^2 = 0.999$ $k_{-2} = 6.6 \times 10^6 \text{ s}^{-1}$, $k_2 = 2.4 \times 10^8 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ namely a forward rate constant within a factor of two for the two electrolytes reacting with 18C6 in DME. Speculations about the differences in k_2 and k_{-2} are negated by the numerical approximations made in relation to the respective coupled reactions for the two systems.

It is interesting to notice that the macrocycle 12C4 seems to react a factor of ten slower than 18C6 with LiAsF_6 in DME. The two macrocycles differ by the size of the cavity and their rigidity, 12C4 almost matching the Li^+ cation radius. The reasons for 12C4 reacting slower than 18C6 may be invoked from more rigidity of the ligand 12C4 and from the possible requirement of complete desolvation of Li^+ when reacting with 12C4. Without further structural information, these reasons as well as possible alternate ones, remain clearly speculative rationalizations of an experimental observation.

Conclusion

For the present solvent system, the weak interaction of both macrocycles with Li^+ has been established, as well as the relative lability of the complexes formed. The practical goals envisaged by the use of crown ethers in the introduction, do not seem feasible in DME. This solvent chelates the cation and by overwhelming mass effect competes effectively with the macrocycles. The situation may become dramatically different in other solvents where ionization of the electrolyte is an urgent practical requirement. Work is now planned along these lines.

References

* On leave from the Max-Planck Institute for biophysical chemistry, Goettingen-Nikolausberg, Germany W.

**On sabbatical leave from Fukui University, Fukui, Japan

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TABLE I

Ultrasonic relaxation parameters * μ_I , f_I , μ_{II} , f_{II} , B and sound velocity u for $\text{LiAsF}_6 + 18\text{C6}$ and $\text{LiAsF}_6 + 12\text{C4}$ in DME at 25°C , for the concentrations investigated.

LiAs F₆ + 18C6

C_{LiAsF_6} (M)	$C_{18\text{C6}}$ (M)	μ_I $\times 10^5$	f_I (MHz)	μ_{II} $\times 10^5$	f_{II} (MHz)	$B \times 10^{17}$ ($\text{cm}^{-1} \text{S}^2$)	$U \times 10^{-5}$ (cmS^{-1})
0.25	0.25	500	100	400	14	48	1.195
0.25	0.25	600	110	460	14	48	1.195
0.20	0.20	450	110	400	11	48	1.194
0.15	0.15	500	80	360	10	42	1.190
0.10	0.10	320	90	280	7	40	1.190
0.054	0.055	270	80	300	5	36	1.186

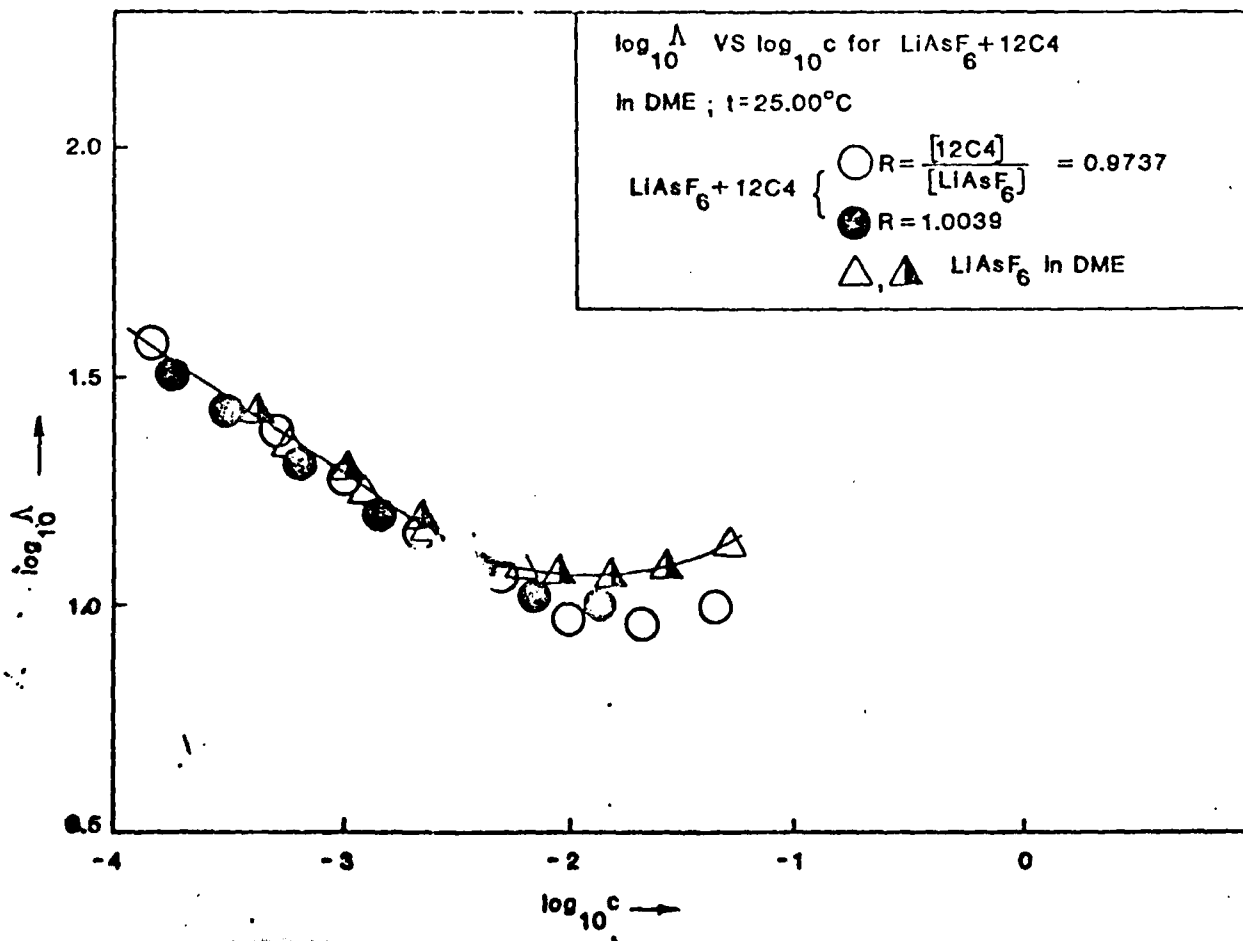
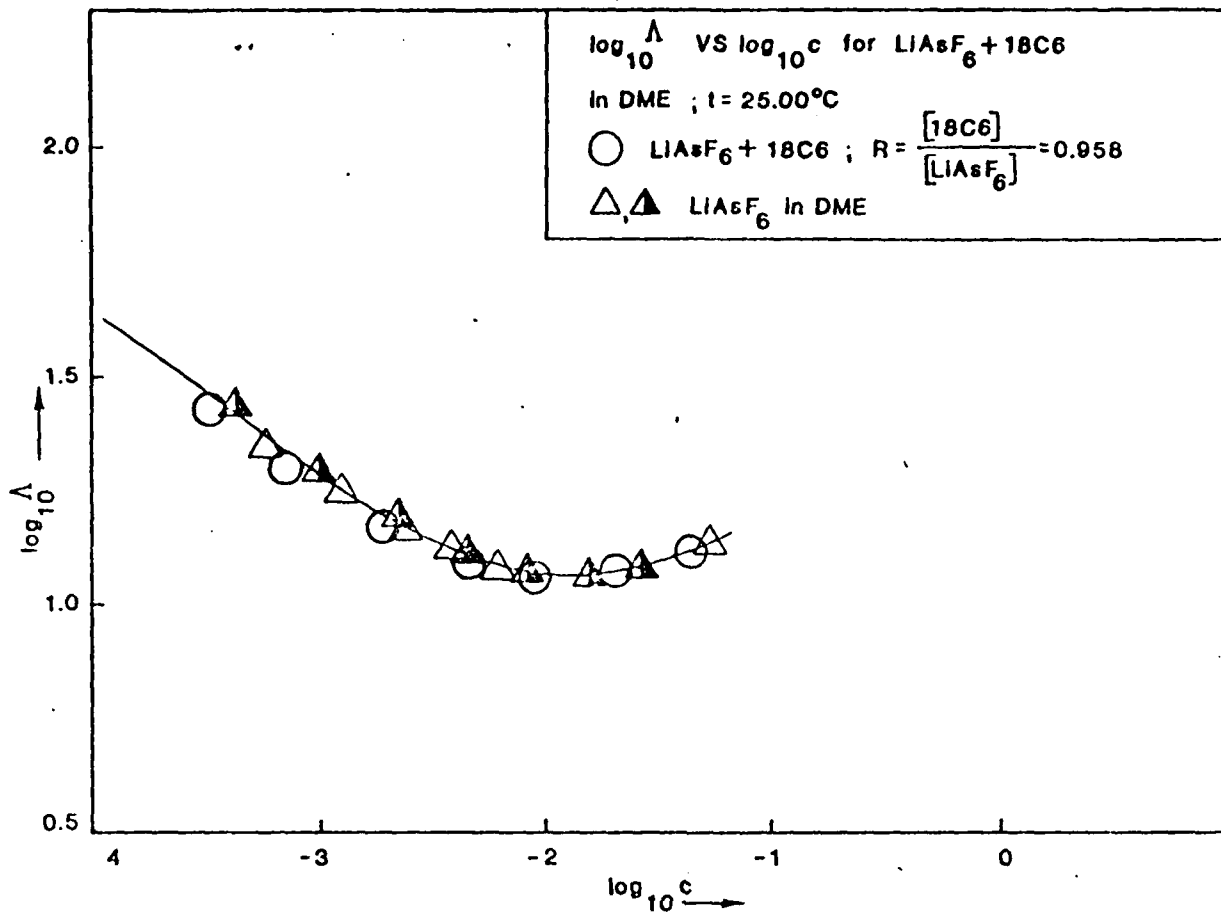
LiAs F₆ + 12C4

0.30	0.29	550	100	140	3	50	1.200
0.25	0.25	570	85	100	2	49	1.190
0.20	0.20	450	80	80	2	48	1.196
0.175	0.175	370	90	85	1.7	44	1.180
0.10	0.10	220	90	70	1.7	42	1.174

* The calculated relaxation parameters are affected by an average error of $\pm 5\%$, except the parameter B which carries an error of $\pm 1 \times 10^{-17} (\text{cm}^{-1} \text{S}^2)$. The sound velocity u is measured with an average error of $\pm 2\%$.

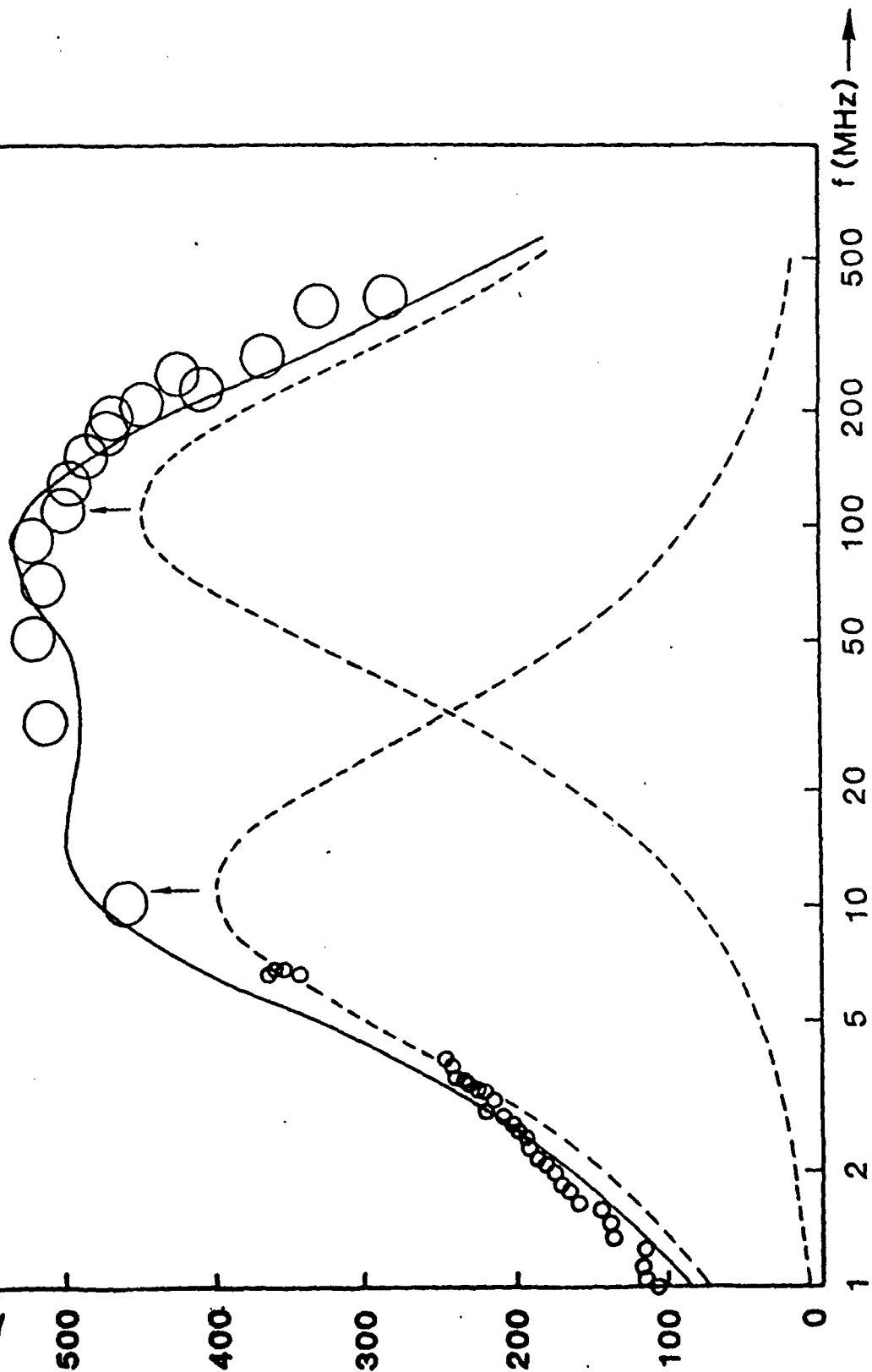
Captions of the figures

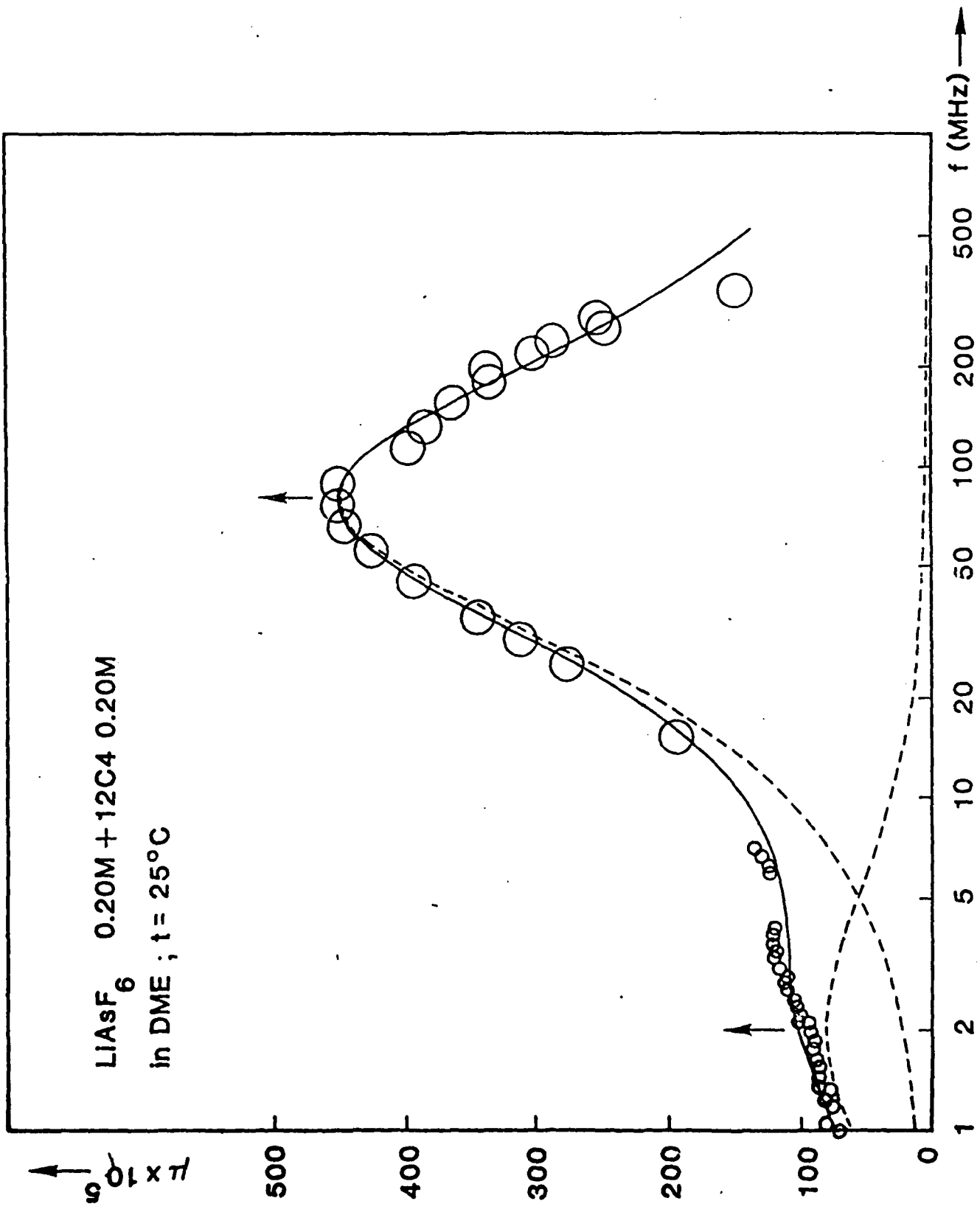
- Fig. 1 A $\log_{10} \Lambda$ vs $\log_{10} C$ for $\text{LiAsF}_6 + 18\text{C}6$ in DME;
 $t = 25^\circ \text{C}$. The triangles refer to LiAsF_6 in
DME (Reference 1).
- Fig. 1 B $\log_{10} \Lambda$ vs $\log_{10} C$ for $\text{LiAsF}_6 + 12\text{C}4$ in DME;
 $t = 25^\circ \text{C}$. The triangles refer to LiAsF_6 in
DME (Reference 1).
- Fig. 2 Excess sound absorption per wavelength μ vs
frequency f for LiAsF_6 0.20M + $18\text{C}6$ 0.20M in
DME; $t = 25^\circ \text{C}$.
- Fig. 3 μ vs f for LiAsF_6 0.20M + $12\text{C}4$ 0.20M in DME;
 $t = 25^\circ \text{C}$.
- Fig. 4 τ_{II}^{-1} vs $(C_{\text{LiAsF}_6} + C_{\text{Macrocycle}})$ for $\text{LiAsF}_6 +$
 $18\text{C}6$ and $\text{LiAsF}_6 + 12\text{C}4$ in DME; $t = 25^\circ \text{C}$.

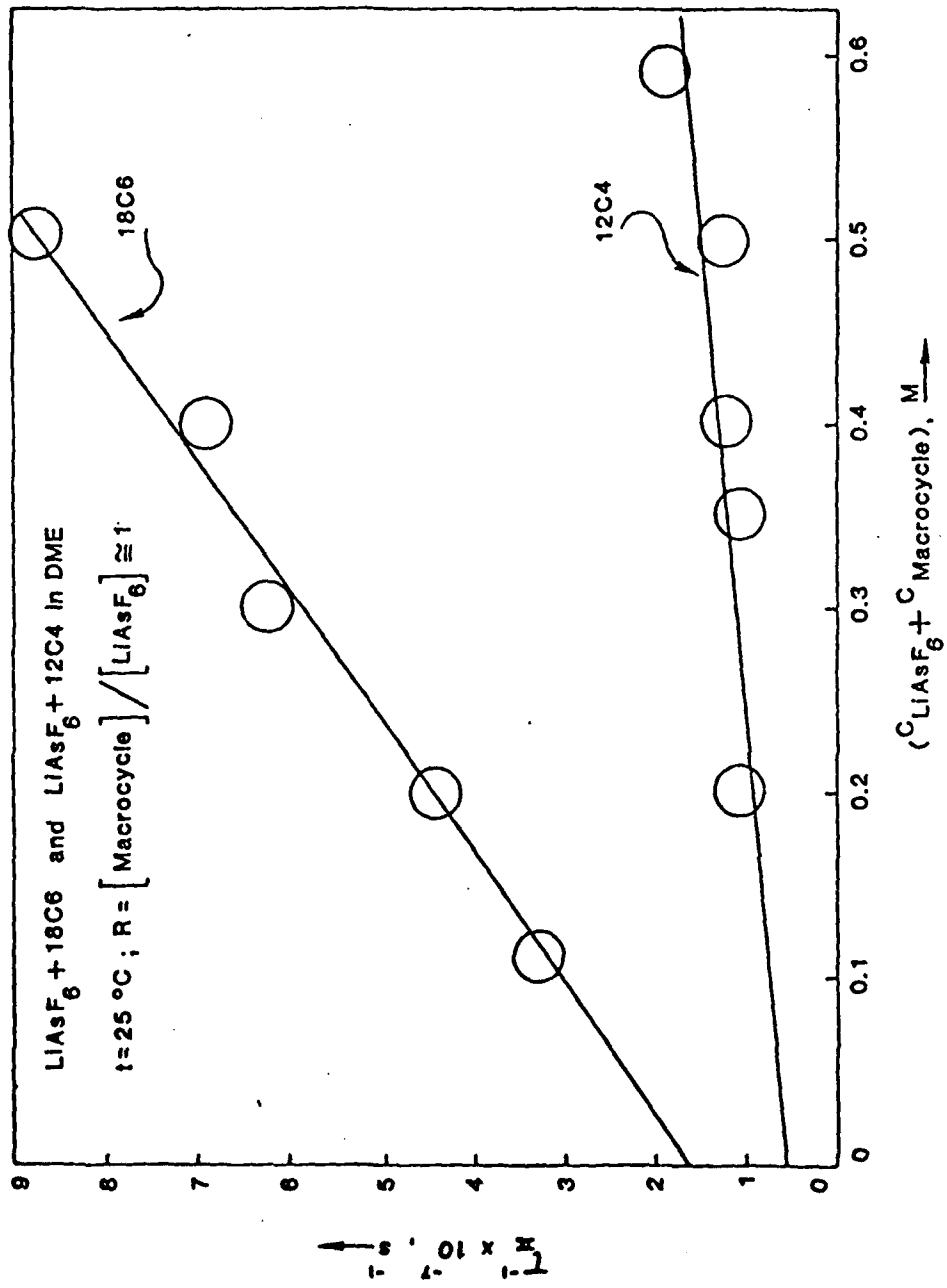


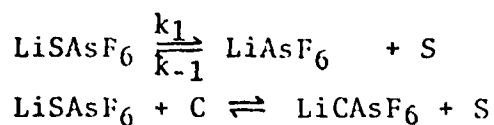
LiAsF₆ 0.20M + 18C6 0.20M
in DME ; t = 25°C

$\mu \times 10^6$ ↑

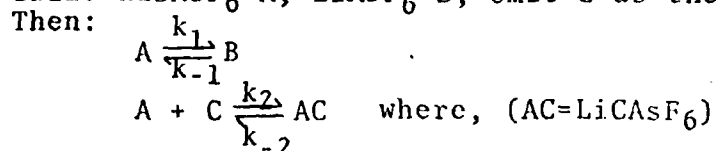






Appendix

Call: $\text{LiSAsF}_6 = \text{A}$, $\text{LiAsF}_6 = \text{B}$, Omit S as the solvent is in excess.



Rate equations:

$$\frac{-d(\text{A})}{dt} = k_1 (\text{A}) - k_{-1} (\text{B}) + k_2 (\text{A})(\text{C}) - k_2 (\text{AC})$$

$$\frac{d(\text{AC})}{dt} = k_2 (\text{A})(\text{C}) - k_{-2} (\text{AC})$$

Linearization of the rate equations gives:

$$\frac{-d \delta(\text{A})}{dt} = k_1 \delta(\text{A}) - k_{-1} \delta(\text{B}) + k_2 (\text{A}) \delta(\text{C}) + k_2 (\text{C}) \delta(\text{A}) - k_{-2} \delta(\text{AC})$$

$$\frac{d \delta(\text{AC})}{dt} = k_2 (\text{A}) \delta(\text{C}) + k_2 (\text{C}) \delta(\text{A}) - k_{-2} \delta(\text{AC})$$

From mass conservation one writes:

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{A}_0) &= (\text{A}) + (\text{B}) + (\text{AC}) \\ 0 &= \delta(\text{A}) + \delta(\text{B}) + \delta(\text{AC}) \quad \text{and} \quad \delta(\text{B}) = -\delta(\text{A}) - \delta(\text{AC}) \\ (\text{C}_0) &= (\text{C}) + (\text{AC}) \\ 0 &= \delta(\text{C}) + \delta(\text{AC}) \quad \text{and} \quad \delta(\text{C}) = -\delta(\text{AC}) \end{aligned}$$

Substituting, one obtains relations in $\delta(\text{A})$ and $\delta(\text{AC})$:

$$\frac{-d \delta(\text{A})}{dt} = [k_1 + k_{-1} + k_2 (\text{C})] \delta(\text{A}) + [k_{-1} - k_2 (\text{A}) - k_{-2}] \delta(\text{AC})$$

$$\frac{d \delta(\text{AC})}{dt} = k_2 (\text{C}) \delta(\text{A}) - [k_2 (\text{A}) + k_{-2}] \delta(\text{AC})$$

Call $\delta(\text{A}) = \delta(\text{A}_0) e^{-\lambda t}$, $\delta(\text{AC}) = \delta(\text{AC}_0) e^{-\lambda t}$ namely assume for small

perturbations a first order rate of re-equilibration. Then, given

$$\frac{d \delta(\text{A})}{dt} = -\lambda \delta(\text{A}), \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{d \delta(\text{AC})}{dt} = -\lambda \delta(\text{AC}):$$

$$[k_1 + k_{-1} + k_2 (\text{C}) - \lambda] \delta(\text{A}) + [k_{-1} - k_2 (\text{A}) - k_{-2}] \delta(\text{AC}) = 0$$

$$k_2 (\text{C}) \delta(\text{A}) - [k_2 (\text{A}) + k_{-2} - \lambda] \delta(\text{AC}) = 0$$

The system of two eqs. has solutions if:

$$\begin{vmatrix} [k_1 + k_{-1} + k_2(C) - \lambda] & [k_{-1} - k_2(A) - k_{-2}] \\ k_2(C) & -[k_2(A) + k_{-2} - \lambda] \end{vmatrix} = 0$$

leading to

$$\lambda^2 - S\lambda + P = 0$$

$$\text{where } S = k_2\{(A)+(C)\} + k_{-2} + k_1 + k_{-1}$$

$$P = (k_1 + k_{-1})[k_2(A) + k_{-2}] + k_2 k_{-1} (C)$$

with solutions

$$\lambda_{I,II} = \tau_{I,II}^{-1} = \frac{1}{2} [S \pm \sqrt{S^2 - 4P}]$$

With the plus and minus sign referring to τ_I^{-1} and τ_{II}^{-1} respectively.

For loosely coupled reactions ($k_1, k_{-1} \gg k_2, k_{-2}$) take $S^2 \gg 4P$.

Then, the "fast" relaxation time is given by

$$\tau_I^{-1} = S \approx k_1 + k_{-1}$$

and the "slow" relaxation time is given

$$\tau_{II}^{-1} = \frac{P}{S} = \frac{(k_1 + k_{-1})[k_2(A) + k_{-2}]}{k_1 + k_{-1}} \frac{k_2 k_{-1}}{k_1 + k_{-1}} \quad (C)$$

having expanded $S - S (1 - \frac{4P}{S^2})^{\frac{1}{2}} \approx S - S (1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{4P}{S^2}) = \frac{2P}{S}$.

Then

$$\tau_{II}^{-1} = k_2(A) + k_{-2} + \frac{k_{-1}}{k_1 + k_{-1}} k_2 (C)$$

$$\tau_{II}^{-1} = k_{-2} + k_2 \left[(A) + \frac{k_{-1}}{k_1 + k_{-1}} (C) \right]$$

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