

1           **On Catalysis by Biological Macromolecular Enzymes**

2           Running title: Enzymic Catalysis

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4           Jianshu Dong

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6           1. School of Pharmaceutical Sciences; Institute of Drug Discovery  
7           and Development; Key Laboratory of Advanced Drug Preparation  
8           Technologies, Ministry of Education of China; Collaborative Innovation  
9           Center of New Drug Research and Safety Evaluation; Zhengzhou  
10          University, Zhengzhou 450001, PR China

11          2. University of Chinese academy of sciences, Beijing, PR China

12          Email: [jdong@zzu.edu.cn](mailto:jdong@zzu.edu.cn), [dongjianshu08@mailsucas.ac.cn](mailto:dongjianshu08@mailsucas.ac.cn)

13          Phone: 0086 15736762872

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16        **Abstract**

17        Classical enzyme kinetics are summarized and linked with  
18 modern discoveries here. The time course of sequential catalytic  
19 events by biological macromolecular enzyme is analyzed at the  
20 molecular level; the relationships between catalytic efficiency  
21 (turnover number), catalytic rate/velocity, the amount of time taken  
22 and physical/biochemical conditions of the system are discussed. This  
23 writing tries to connect the microscopic molecular behavior of  
24 enzyme to kinetic data obtained in experiment, and the hypothesis  
25 proposed here provide an interpretation to previous experimental  
26 observations and can be testified by future experiments.

27        **Key words:** catalysis, kinetics, time, biological macromolecule,  
28 enzyme, large biological macro-substrate, catalytic step, catalytic  
29 efficiency, turnover number

30

## 31           **Introduction**

32           Some of the basic theories of biochemistry come from  
33 chemistry[1, 2], which is dealing with small molecules most of the  
34 time. Although enzyme kinetic principles transplanted from chemistry  
35 have changed a lot to adapt biological specificity, some of the  
36 description can be improved to better reveal the nature of molecular  
37 events of biochemical catalysis. This is important for the advance of  
38 not only science, but also biochemical engineering, drug discovery  
39 and other applications or technologies as well. In fact, enzyme kinetics  
40 can be viewed along the time axis of sequential catalytic events[3, 4].

41           Catalytic rate/velocity depends on the amount of time the enzyme  
42 taken to successfully convert certain amount of substrate molecules  
43 into products[5-7]. The catalytic process actually includes not only the  
44 traditionally defined chemical transformation step (which may include  
45 multiple chemical sub-steps itself), but also other related  
46 physical/biophysical/biochemical catalytic steps; for instance,  
47 diffusion, enzyme-substrate recognition/binding and product release  
48 steps are involved as well. This is the case for chemical reactions as  
49 well as biochemical reactions catalyzed by biological macromolecular  
50 enzymes. If any of these 'trivial' steps takes time to accomplish, it will  
51 affect the overall catalytic rate and cannot be ignored if accuracy is  
52 required. Here, this writing tries to discuss the complete catalytic cycle

53 as a whole. Turnover, catalytic step, enzyme, catalysis and catalytic  
54 cycle in the following discussion mean to refer to those related to  
55 biochemical reactions in aqueous solution catalyzed by biological  
56 macromolecular enzymes, unless stated otherwise. And this writing  
57 may be applied to other systems, reactions or catalysis as well.

58 To start with, time scales of fundamental steps of a catalysis will  
59 be discussed from the molecular model point of view. Protein with  
60 molecular weight of 64Kda diffuses at a rate of about  $5\mu\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$  in  
61 cells[8]. It takes roughly  $10^{-7}$  second on average for one molecule to  
62 meet with another in aqueous solution, with a concentration of 10mM,  
63 and if the concentration is  $1\mu\text{M}$ , the time is  $\sim 10^{-3}$  second. Tumbling of  
64 proteins in aqueous solution is at nanosecond ( $10^{-9}\text{s}$ ) time range.  
65 Local motions of an enzyme, like the motions of side chains of surface  
66 residues, take roughly  $10^{-12}$ - $10^{-9}$  second; it takes longer time when  
67 residues with large bulky side chains are involved. Medium scale  
68 conformational change up to several Angstroms like loop motion,  
69 hinge bending motion and some domain movement takes usually  
70 about  $10^{-9}$ - $10^{-4}$  second to accomplish[9-12]. The further the  
71 movement and the larger the moving portion, the longer time it will  
72 take. Large-scale conformational change takes roughly about  $10^{-4}$ - $10^0$   
73 second to accomplish, and some large-scale conformational change  
74 can take seconds or even longer time. The amount of time it takes for

75 the substrate-to-product chemical conversion step by different  
76 enzymes vary a lot, from  $10^{-7}$ - $10^0$ s to considerably long time[13, 14].  
77 From these numbers listed, it is obvious that diffusion process,  
78 reorientation, recognition/tethering and the conformational change  
79 step can happen at similar time scale as the substrate-to-product  
80 chemical conversion step [9-13, 15, 16], thus possibly affecting the  
81 catalytic rate as such.

82 Besides the chemical step, other steps can be rate limiting as well,  
83 both in theory and in reality. Turnover number  $k_{cat}$  of the  $H_2O_2$  to  
84 water plus dioxygen reaction catalyzed by catalase is around  $4 \times 10^7 s^{-1}$   
85 [13]. This value means that the catalytic rate can be partially limited  
86 by diffusion as well. In several other cases, binding, conformational  
87 change or product release are the rate limiting steps, respectively, and  
88 these facts have been supported by numerous experiments by  
89 different technologies [17-27]. Enzyme catalyzed reactions have a lot  
90 of steps involved; theoretically, any step can be rate limiting. All the  
91 catalytic steps contribute to the catalytic efficiency.

92 The discussion here is statistics-, probability- and  
93 frequency-based analysis, concerning the events of the whole overall  
94 biochemical process catalyzed by enzyme ensembles in a given  
95 aqueous solution system, rather than the behavior of an isolated  
96 single individual enzyme molecule, although sometimes certain

97 catalytic event of a single enzyme will be highlighted to explain what  
98 may be happening to the molecules in a batch. This is because a single  
99 catalytic cycle of a single individual enzyme may be stochastic, random  
100 and be affected by a lot of occasional factors. On the other hand, if any  
101 single catalytic cycle is critically concerned, like the very first one, it's  
102 obvious that the master equation discussed below will be readily  
103 applicable directly. And singular-enzyme behavior obtained by  
104 single-molecular technologies is statistically linked with this  
105 discussion as well.

### 106 **The first assumption**

107 All the reactions catalyzed by any free enzymes in homogenous  
108 aqueous solution systems should follow the same unified general  
109 principle; there should be no exceptions. This is the first assumption.

110 'Homogeneous aqueous solution system' means that all the  
111 participants of the catalysis are homogeneously distributed within the  
112 solution system and are freely diffusible in the solution. There shall be  
113 no denaturants in the system, so that the enzyme is properly folded  
114 and active, and all the way through the catalytic process, such mild  
115 conditions are maintained. If the system goes so far away from normal  
116 physiological condition that the enzyme gets denatured, the discussion  
117 here may not stand valid anymore.

118 If membrane protein is solubilized by detergents (or lipids) and is

119 freely diffusible, and homogeneous aqueous solution system is also  
120 formed; both the substrate and the product are water soluble, and the  
121 catalytic center locates at the solvent exposing surface; everything  
122 behaves very much alike water-soluble enzyme and aqueous solution  
123 system, then this is still within the scope of the first assumption.

124 Membrane integrated enzymes restrained in two-dimensional  
125 lipid bilayer system are different from soluble enzymes. First  
126 circumstance, membrane-protein enzyme is in lipid-bilayer systems  
127 with the catalytic center exposing to the solvent, and both the  
128 substrate and product are water soluble. It's like only the enzyme is  
129 floating within the two-dimensional space; the diffusion  
130 process/kinetics are special in that only substrate and product diffuse  
131 freely in aqueous solution. Conformational change kinetics of enzyme  
132 can be unusual in that lipid molecules are involved in the movement  
133 as well. Second case, both membrane-protein enzyme and substrate  
134 are hydrophobic and restrained in lipid-bilayer systems; the diffusion  
135 of both enzyme and substrate in lipid bilayer will be constrained in  
136 this two-dimensional space [28]. The diffusion and the  
137 conformational change manners will be distinct from those in  
138 aqueous solution.

139 Presumptions of previous kinetic theories include steady-state  
140 assumption, transient-state assumption,

141 equilibrium/quasi-equilibrium assumption etc. Because the presence  
142 of exceptions and none can be the universal basic presumption of  
143 catalysis. Another basic issue is about rate limiting factors. Scientists  
144 used to believe that there were two distinct kinds of reactions in  
145 solutions, diffusion-controlled reaction[29-31] and  
146 activation-controlled reaction[1, 32, 33]; the rate constants were also  
147 expressed in distinct equations. Activation energy is required for the  
148 chemical conversion step[1]; if the chemical conversion is so fast that  
149 the diffusion step becomes rate limiting, then it's diffusion-controlled  
150 reaction. These two cases reveal two important common rate limiting  
151 sources or origins in solution. Actually, as discussed above, other  
152 steps like conformational change step have been shown nowadays  
153 sometimes to be rate limiting as well.

154 The third issue to be discussed is about the relative amount of  
155 reactants. For steady-state approximation, the number of substrate  
156 molecules needs to be much greater than the number of enzyme  
157 molecules. But the concentration of enzyme is not always so negligible  
158 as supposed. The concentration of large biological macro-substrates  
159 (LBMS) is usually lower than that of small-sized low-molecular-weight  
160 substrate (SMS) in the cell[34, 35]; the enzyme catalytic center is  
161 readily accessible to the SMS. LBMS diffuses slower and rotates slower  
162 than SMS, which all make LBMS take additional and longer time to



163 diffuse, to meet with the enzyme and to take the right orientation and  
164 accommodate specific parts into the catalytic pocket, both in vivo and  
165 in vitro. Much more importantly, it's always a mutual process of  
166 recognition between the enzyme and LBMS[22, 24, 36, 37]. In this  
167 case, the time taken by binding/tethering/recognition and  
168 conformational change process, etc, can no longer be neglected; it has  
169 to be taken into consideration. In other words, the experimentally  
170 obtained catalytic turnover number and velocity actually include the  
171 contributions of all steps (including sometimes significant  
172 contributions from other steps besides the chemical conversion or  
173 diffusion step), no matter the researcher realizes it or not. This is the  
174 case for both LBMS and SMS, and for the reasons discussed above, it  
175 is more important and serious for LBMS. For physiologically relevant  
176 enzyme catalysis, the concentration of LBMS is usually at similar order  
177 of magnitude with that of the enzyme. The presumption that the  
178 concentration of the enzyme is negligible if compared to that of the  
179 substrate will not typically stand true anymore for LBMS. Therefore,  
180 it's quite a different scenario for LBMS involved catalysis. If the  
181 concentrations of both enzyme and substrate are taken into  
182 consideration, the description about the catalysis shall be more  
183 reasonable.

184 As discussed above, enzyme catalyzed reactions are so diverse

185 that these issues are fundamentally distinct for different cases, and  
186 cannot be the universal basic presumption for catalysis. Enzyme  
187 kinetic theories, including Michaelis–Menten Kinetics,  
188 Briggs-Haldane’s theory, Quadratic Velocity Equation (tight-binding  
189 equation or the Morrison equation), and those theories on enzymic  
190 rate enhancement, etc, play important roles in the research of catalysis  
191 and enzymology[1, 5-7]. Aside from these principles, some other  
192 universally suitable kinetic principles may be extracted from  
193 innumerable available examples now.

#### 194 **Master equations**

195 Consider the whole picture of a single turnover (or single catalytic  
196 cycle) of an enzyme catalyzed multiple-turnover reaction, the enzyme  
197 and the substrate have to firstly diffuse to meet with each other; the  
198 reactants need to rotate to the right orientation to tether, to recognize  
199 and to bind, and the enzyme performs conformational change; then  
200 the substrate is converted to the product through the chemical  
201 conversion step; and then product is released and the enzyme enters  
202 another catalytic cycle. With all the sequential catalytic events the  
203 whole catalytic cycle is like a pipeline; although there might be bottle  
204 necks, each of every component step, if the catalytic cycle can be  
205 divided into discrete elementary steps, takes time to accomplish and  
206 contributes to the catalytic efficiency and velocity. Actually, as the

207 biochemical catalysis proceeds, each cycle of it will have to get  
208 through every single step and cannot skip any one.

209 The amount of time that one turnover spends stems from the  
210 combination of each single step of the catalytic cycle. All of the  
211 time-consuming steps limit the overall turnover number of catalysis.  
212 If any step takes such short time on average that it is negligible in  
213 comparison with other steps, then it can be omitted for simplicity, and  
214 which step to ignore depends on the situation. These diffusion,  
215 tethering/recognition, conformational change, chemical/biochemical  
216 conversion, and product release processes happen in ordered  
217 sequence; let the coherent process be carefully divided so that each  
218 step simply do not overlap in time axis with one another, then the  
219 amount of time taken by these sequential steps become addable.  
220 Effectual diffusion is an independent step without overlap in time  
221 course with other steps, in the same catalytic cycle or from nearby  
222 cycle; in very viscous systems or cases of LMWS or diluted reactants,  
223 diffusion takes considerable amount of time.

224 Normally the enzyme will visit each of every unit step  
225 periodically. The catalytic process is like many enzyme molecules  
226 action in parallel, each one conducts tandem repeats of catalytic cycles,  
227 only that the enzyme molecules are usually not synchronized. As for  
228 the starting point of a single turnover of the many continuous catalytic

229 cycles, it's up to the situation. Although for many different enzyme  
230 molecules in a system, the amount of time each takes to accomplish a  
231 single turnover may be different; the amount of time may distribute in  
232 a certain manner. Although for even the same enzyme molecule  
233 conducting multiple catalytic cycles, the time span of each turnover  
234 may be different, which may follow a certain distribution. Although  
235 the amount of time taken by any one specific step of the many  
236 sequential steps of many turnovers by many enzyme molecules may  
237 vary from one catalytic cycle to another. Let the averaged typical single  
238 catalytic cycle by a single enzyme be analyzed, all other enzyme  
239 molecules will be copies of this one; let time flows, catalytic cycles will  
240 be periodical tandem repeats of this single catalytic cycle.

241 Let there be  $n$  steps in an enzyme catalyzed multiple turnover  
242 reaction; within a single turnover, each step  $i$  takes time  $t_i$  to  
243 accomplish. Then the total amount of time  $t$  taken by a whole single  
244 turnover is the sum of the time taken by all the steps.

$$245 \quad t = \sum_{i=1}^n t_i \quad (1)$$

246 Both  $t$  and  $t_i$  have real biophysical meanings, at the microscopic  
247 single molecular level,  $t$  is defined as the total time taken by a  
248 representative single turnover of a single enzyme, and  $t_i$  is the amount  
249 of time taken by step  $i$  within the representative single turnover, both  
250 may be obtainable by single molecular technologies; at macroscopic

251 level,  $t$  and  $t_i$  are statistically averaged amount of time taken by  
 252 catalytic cycles or specific step of enzyme ensembles respectively.  
 253 Catalytic coefficient (turnover number)  $k$  is equivalent to the number  
 254 of substrate molecules converted to product per unit time by a single  
 255 enzyme molecule (or per single enzyme active site). Then,

$$256 \quad kt=1 \quad (2)$$

$$257 \quad k \cdot (t_1+t_2+t_3+\dots+t_i+\dots+t_n)=1 \quad (3)$$

258 These three equations are the core and central to this writing. At  
 259 microscopic level,  $k$  stands for catalytic cycles by a single enzyme  
 260 within one-unit time, which may be obtainable by single molecular  
 261 technologies; at macroscopic level,  $k$  is the averaged catalytic  
 262 efficiency or turnover numbers of enzyme ensemble (velocity divided  
 263 by enzyme concentration), which can be obtained by kinetic  
 264 experiment. And catalytic coefficient  $k_i$  of step  $i$  is defined as the  
 265 turnover number per unit time of a step- $i$ -dedicated single enzyme.

$$266 \quad t_i k_i=1$$

267 The catalytic coefficient  $k_i$  is the fastest possible catalytic  
 268 coefficient of step  $i$ . Imagine the enzyme is devoted to step  $i$  and doing  
 269 nothing else, and substrate of step  $i$  or product of step  $i-1$  is  
 270 immediately available in excess. Then,  $k_i$  of any step  $i$  will be larger in  
 271 value than  $k$ ; this means if the enzyme catalyzes only that single step,  
 272 it will result in more turnover numbers. Because normally the

273 enzyme is busy with other catalytic steps during time  $t-t_i$ , the overall  
 274 output of the whole catalytic cycle will decrease to a level below the  
 275 throughput capacity (or flux) of any single step  $i$ .

276 If any one step  $i$  is the only rate limiting step, and  $t \approx t_i$ , then  $k \approx k_i$ .  
 277 And this step  $i$  can be the diffusion step (a diffusion-controlled  
 278 reaction), or the enzyme conformational change step, or the  
 279 substrate-to-product chemical conversion step (an  
 280 activation-controlled reaction), or the product release step, or some  
 281 other step. There are times when the second most time-consuming  
 282 step  $j$  also takes considerable amount of time, for instance,  $t_j/t > 20\%$ .  
 283 Then the two steps  $i$  and  $j$  are both rate limiting; the throughput  
 284 capacity of other steps are so big that they are all waiting for these  
 285 two steps; the  $t-t_i-t_j \approx 0$ , then  $k \approx k_i k_j / (k_i + k_j)$ . There are cases when the  
 286 third most time-consuming step  $x$  also takes considerable amount of  
 287 time, for instance,  $t_x/t > 10\%$ , the  $t-t_i-t_j-t_x \approx 0$ , then  $k \approx k_i k_j k_x / (k_i k_x + k_j k_x$   
 288  $+ k_i k_j)$ . Similar equations can also be deduced, and so on.

289 For simplicity, five major steps will be discussed here, namely,  
 290 the diffusion step, the tethering step, the reactant conformational  
 291 change step, the substrate-to-product chemical conversion step and  
 292 the product release step. Each of the five steps takes time  $t_{difu}$ ,  $t_{tether}$ ,  
 293  $t_{conf}$ ,  $t_{chem}$  and  $t_{prod}$  on average within a single turnover, respectively.  
 294 For a certain catalysis, if all other steps can be ignored, then for the

295 whole single turnover, time  $t \approx t_{\text{difu}} + t_{\text{tether}} + t_{\text{conf}} + t_{\text{chem}} + t_{\text{prod}}$ . Turnover  
 296 number within one-unit time  $k = 1/t$ , and  $k_{\text{difu}} = 1/t_{\text{difu}}$ ,  $k_{\text{tether}} = 1/t_{\text{tether}}$ ,  
 297  $k_{\text{conf}} = 1/t_{\text{conf}}$ ,  $k_{\text{chem}} = 1/t_{\text{chem}}$ ,  $k_{\text{prod}} = 1/t_{\text{prod}}$ , then

$$298 \quad k \approx k_{\text{difu}} k_{\text{conf}} k_{\text{chem}} k_{\text{prod}} k_{\text{tether}} / (k_{\text{difu}} k_{\text{conf}} k_{\text{prod}} k_{\text{tether}} + k_{\text{conf}} k_{\text{chem}} k_{\text{prod}} k_{\text{tether}} + k_{\text{difu}} k_{\text{chem}} k_{\text{prod}} k_{\text{tether}} + k_{\text{difu}} k_{\text{conf}} k_{\text{chem}} k_{\text{tether}} + k_{\text{difu}} k_{\text{conf}} k_{\text{chem}} k_{\text{prod}})$$

300 The five major steps are present in all biological catalysis,  
 301 although for some enzymes/catalysis, one or more of these steps take  
 302 time that are negligible; for some others, there may be additional  
 303 major steps involved.

304  $t_{\text{difu}}$ , diffusion time, is the time taken on average for an effective  
 305 enzyme substrate encounter within the aqueous solution system.  
 306 After diffusion, the reactants are physically close to each other; the  
 307 substrate may rotate, roll, crawl or hop on the surface of the enzyme  
 308 for a successful in-catalytic-pocket binding. The reorientation and  
 309 tethering process is dependent on the surface property of the enzyme  
 310 and the substrate, like electrostatic property, the shape and  
 311 hydrophobicity, etc. Tethering along with solvation/desolvation is an  
 312 important and sophisticated process distinct from and closely related  
 313 to diffusion and conformational change, but only limited amount of  
 314 pioneering experimental results is available for a systematic  
 315 recapitulation[15, 38].

316  $t_{\text{chem}}$ , the total time spent on average by the chemical conversion

317 step within a single turnover of a catalysis.  $t_{\text{chem}}$  is independent of free  
318 substrate concentration or free enzyme concentration. For this  
319 chemical conversion part of a catalytic cycle, many classical  
320 biochemical principles still apply, like the transition state theory and  
321 Arrhenius equation, etc. For multistep chemical conversions, there  
322 can be  $t_{\text{chem1}}$ ,  $t_{\text{chem2}}$ , ..., and  $t_{\text{chem}} = t_{\text{chem1}} + t_{\text{chem2}} + \dots$

323  $t_{\text{conf}}$ , the amount of time taken by structure conformational  
324 change of reactants within a single catalytic cycle;  $t_{\text{conf}}$  is a parameter  
325 dependent mainly on the molecules' intrinsic structure and character,  
326 forces from other macromolecules and the environment like  
327 temperature, etc. Sometimes, the enzyme-substrate complex (or  
328 enzyme-substrate-modulator complex) performs conformational  
329 change as a whole.  $t_{\text{prod}}$  is the amount of time taken on average by  
330 product release step within a single catalytic cycle.

331  $t_{\text{phys}}$ , the total time taken by the physical or biophysical steps  
332 within a single turnover of a specific catalysis, including the time  
333 required for enzyme and substrate diffusion, rotation,  
334 tethering/binding, conformational change and product release  
335 process, etc. Although protonation/deprotonation can also take some  
336 time and is neither always part of the substrate-to-product  
337 conversion process nor always the biophysical process, it's usually  
338 short and too complex to be scrutinized here. In one word,  $t_{\text{phys}}$  is the



339 sum-time of all the physical steps before and after the chemical  
340 conversion;  $t_{\text{phys}}$  is the preparation time for chemical conversions to  
341 occur. If only diffusion, tethering, conformational change and product  
342 release steps account for the majority of physical process, then  
343  $t_{\text{phys}} \approx t_{\text{difu}} + t_{\text{tether}} + t_{\text{conf}} + t_{\text{prod}}$ . Chemical conversion steps are quite  
344 different from physical or biophysical steps in at least the following  
345 aspects, ① strong-covalent-bond change, ② driving forces, ③ rate  
346 limiting origins, ④ activation energy involved or not.

347 The master equations indicate at least the following.

348 1. The step which is the most time-consuming will be the  
349 primary 'rate-limiting' or efficiency-limiting step. Traditionally, the  
350 step which requires the most activation energy is regarded as the  
351 rate-limiting step, this may still stand correct for the sub-steps of the  
352 substrate-to-product chemical conversion step, but it can't be applied  
353 beyond. Although 'rate-limiting step' can be the one to optimize to  
354 greatly improve the overall catalytic efficiency and catalytic rate, it's  
355 not the sole factor that dictates the catalytic efficiency, but all the steps  
356 combined together.

357 2. The amount of time taken by each step is addable, the above  
358 discussion has explained how. But catalytic velocity (concentration per  
359 unit time measured in like  $\mu\text{M}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$  or  $\text{mM}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ) of each step or  
360 catalytic efficiency (turnover number  $k_i$  in  $\text{s}^{-1}$ ) of each step are not

361 directly addable. This writing will definitely be applicable to  
 362 unidirectional irreversible catalysis; the general concept here shall be  
 363 useful for studying other catalysis as well. In this writing, velocity of  
 364 each step is the throughput capacity of the step within the  
 365 fixed-volume system, and velocity of the whole catalytic cycle is the net  
 366 velocity.

367 3. The experimentally obtained turnover number  $k_{\text{exp}}$  actually  
 368 equals to the  $k$  from the master equation discussed above, rather than  
 369 the catalytic coefficient  $k_i$  of any single step.  $k_{\text{exp}}=V_{\text{exp}}/[E_t]$ ,  $[E_t]$  is the  
 370 total committed active enzyme concentration. Experimentally  
 371 obtained single-turnover time  $t_{\text{exp}}$  ( $=1/k_{\text{exp}}$ ) is the average of many  
 372 turnovers catalyzed by enzyme ensemble of the system, it also equals  
 373 to the sum of the time actually spent by all the steps within a certain  
 374 representative single catalytic cycle.

$$375 \quad 1/k_{\text{exp}}=t_{\text{exp}}=\sum_{1 \rightarrow n} t_i$$

376 Again, if only diffusion, tethering, conformational change,  
 377 chemical conversion, product release and step  $j$  account for the  
 378 majority of catalytic time,  $t_{\text{exp}} \approx t_{\text{difu}} + t_{\text{tether}} + t_{\text{conf}} + t_{\text{chem}} + t_{\text{prod}} + t_j$ .

### 379 **The second assumption**

380 The catalytic coefficients  $k_{\text{chem}}$ ,  $k_{\text{conf}}$ ,  $k_{\text{prod}}$ , and  $k_{1-\text{difu}}=1/(t-t_{\text{difu}})$  of  
 381 any biological enzyme are parameters that correlate with and only  
 382 with the intrinsic characters of the enzyme (or the enzyme-substrate

383 complex, etc), the temperature  $T$ , the pressure  $P$ , the viscosity  $\eta$ , the  
384 density  $\rho$  and other biophysical/biochemical properties of the system.  
385 Except  $k_{\text{diffu}}$  and thus  $k$ , catalytic coefficient of all other steps is totally  
386 independent of free substrate concentration. This is the second  
387 assumption.

388 Intrinsic characters of the enzyme include all those factors that  
389 affect the activity of the enzyme used in the experiment, like the  
390 primary sequence, three dimensional structure or conformation, the  
391 modification state of the enzyme; whether the enzyme is apo or holo  
392 (with cofactors incorporated or not), with modulators or effectors or  
393 inhibitor or activator bound or not, the presence or absence of other  
394 attached regulatory molecules, etc[20, 39-41].

395 The properties of the solution system include physical (like  
396 temperature, pressure, viscosity, density, etc)[42-44] and chemical  
397 conditions. The latter includes the pH, the ion strength, types and  
398 concentration of solute or electrolyte, the presence and concentration  
399 of certain chemicals or loose interactors like effectors, regulators,  
400 substrate analogues etc. The most suitable chemical condition for  
401 catalysis is different from enzyme to enzyme. Chemical conditions will  
402 affect the catalysis or more specifically on catalytic efficiency  
403 differently from case to case.

404 If we'd like a catalytic coefficient (turnover number) to reveal the

405 properties of the enzyme and the physical & chemical conditions of  
406 the system, like the pressure, the temperature, the viscosity, density,  
407 etc, then it should have nothing to do with substrate concentration,  
408 enzyme concentration, or enzyme-substrate complex concentration.  
409 The catalytic coefficients  $k_{\text{chem}}$ ,  $k_{\text{conf}}$ ,  $k_{\text{prod}}$  are parameters of this kind.

### 410 **The third assumption**

411 The  $k_{\text{difu}}$ , collision/encounter rate  $V_{\text{difu}} (V_{\text{difu}} = k_{\text{collision}} [E][S])$ , thus  
412 the overall catalytic coefficient  $k$  and overall catalytic rate/velocity  
413  $V_{\text{overall}}$ , should depend on and be correlated with free substrate  
414 concentration [29-31]; velocity is measured in concentration per unit  
415 time (in like  $\text{Ms}^{-1}$ ,  $\text{mol}\cdot\text{L}^{-1}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ). The rate or velocity of conformational  
416 change and chemical conversion step depends on enzyme-substrate  
417 complex concentration  $[ES]$ ,  $V_{\text{conf-chem}} = k_{\text{conf-chem}} [ES]$ ,  $1/k_{\text{conf-chem}} = t_{\text{conf}}$   
418  $+t_{\text{chem}}$ . This is the third assumption.

419 Velocities of conformational change, chemical conversion or  
420 product release steps are unlinked with free substrate concentration.  
421 Michaelis-Menten equation describes and only describes relationship  
422 between initial velocity  $V_0$  (concentration per unit time in like  
423  $\mu\text{M}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$  or  $\text{mM}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ) and substrate concentration [5, 45], and it is very  
424 appropriate for the steady state initial velocity analysis when the  
425 product is generated at a linear velocity and catalytic rate shows linear  
426 dependence on active enzyme concentration  $[E]$ . What  $K_m$  means

427 down to the bottom?  $K_m/V_{max}$  is the linear dependence index of  $1/V_0$   
428 on  $1/[S]$ . For catalysis not obeying Michaelis-Menten kinetics, there  
429 can be alternative equations describing the relationship between  $V_0$   
430 and  $[S]$ .

431 Experimentally obtained one possible relationship between  
432 substrate concentration and initial velocity is like this [46](Fig.S1).  
433 With the increase of substrate concentration  $[S]$ , the initial velocity  
434  $V_0$ (concentration per unit time) is ever growing until it reaches a  
435 plateau near  $V_{max}$ (concentration per unit time), as the substrate  
436 concentration gets to near saturation. Michaelis-Menten equation well  
437 describes the shape of the curve.

438 As an equation summarized from experience, if  
439 Michaelis-Menten equation is applied at different substrate  
440 concentration  $[S]$  windows, the obtained parameter  $V_{max}/K_m$  will bear  
441 distinct innate meanings. When  $[S]$  is small,  $k_{collision} \cdot [S] \cdot [E]$  is small,  
442 diffusion step is rate limiting. Within certain low  $[S]$  ranges (the left  
443 bottom corner of the curve), Michaelis-Menten equation can be used  
444 to obtain the linear dependence index  $K_m/V_{max}$  of  $1/V_0$  on  $1/[S]$ . As an  
445 approximate diffusion term,  $V_{max}/K_m$  now has real biophysical  
446 definitions. As  $[S]$  increases to the middle part of the curve, maybe  
447 both diffusion and other steps like chemical conversion step are rate  
448 limiting. When  $[S]$  is near saturation, steps like chemical conversion

449 other than diffusion are the major rate-limiting steps, even with the  
450 further increase of  $[S]$ ,  $t_{\text{difu}}$  will not become noticeably shorter and  
451 diffusion will not improve the overall throughput of the catalysis  
452 significantly. As discussed before,  $[S]$  will not affect the values of  $t_{\text{conf}}$ ,  
453  $t_{\text{chem}}$ ,  $t_{\text{prod}}$ ,  $V_{\text{conf}}$ ,  $V_{\text{chem}}$ , or  $V_{\text{prod}}$  either. When  $[S]$  increases to the point  
454 where steps like chemical conversion other than the diffusion step  
455 start to become rate-limiting, the obtained 'dependence index'  $K_m/V_{\text{max}}$   
456 of  $1/V_0$  on  $1/[S]$  becomes a parameter with mixed contributions from  
457 both the diffusion step and other steps like the chemical conversion  
458 step, and the researcher simply cannot tell how much each one  
459 contributes, unless additional examination is carried out. Then the  
460 obtained  $V_{\text{max}}/K_m$  loses its original denotation and is no longer an  
461 approximate diffusion term. A relationship between rate/velocity of  
462 conformational change, chemical conversion or product release step  
463 and free substrate concentration  $[S]$  is pointless. Therefore, the same  
464 parameter 'dependence index'  $K_m/V_{\text{max}}$ , if obtained at different  $[S]$   
465 regions, conveys totally different information.

466 Then comes another question, when  $[S]$  gets to near saturation, is  
467 the experimentally obtained turnover number  $k_{\text{exp-cat-sat}}$  standing for  
468 that of the chemical conversion step? Not really. Is there any direct  
469 relationship between this  $k_{\text{exp-cat-sat}}$  and the activation energy  $E_a$ ? No  
470 necessary direct correlation. Activation energy  $E_a$  is only correlated

471 with the chemical conversion step. When  $[S]$  gets to near saturation,  
472 we can merely say that only diffusion time  $t_{\text{difu}}$  is definitely negligible,  
473 this means that  $1/k_{\text{exp-cat-sat}} \approx t_{\text{conf}} + t_{\text{tether}} + t_{\text{chem1}} + t_{\text{chem2}} + t_{\text{prod}}$ , if other  
474 steps are negligible as well. From the curve, it is obvious that, like any  
475 other trivial steps, the amount of time spent by diffusion is always  
476 there, with the increase of  $[S]$  it can be ignored, but it never really  
477 disappears.

478 Turnover number (in like  $s^{-1}$ ), rate/velocity (concentration per  
479 unit time in like  $\mu\text{M}\cdot\text{min}^{-1}$  or  $\text{mM}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ), and extent of catalysis per unit  
480 time  $d\xi/dt$ , defined as the quantity of substrate molecules converted to  
481 product per unit time by all the committed active enzyme molecules in  
482 the system (measured in amount per unit time in like  $\text{mol}\cdot\text{s}^{-1}$ ), have  
483 something in common in essence: they all indicate the throughput of  
484 the catalysis in a given unit of time, although they are representing in  
485 different ways.

### 486 **Diffusion process**

487 Diffusion step is a process that the enzyme and the substrate  
488 diffuse in aqueous solution to reach each other. Brownian motions of  
489 substrate and enzyme take place and contribute to the homogeneous  
490 distribution of the system. Diffusion process is different from other  
491 steps in that usually at least two free participants are involved, and  
492 one complex is formed after tethering. Diffusional-movement velocity

493 of molecule depends on the molecular weight, viscosity, temperature  
494 and density of the system, etc[47-51].

495 An enzyme catalyzed reaction will only occur if the reactant  
496 molecules/particles come within a distance  $R^*$  from each other. Then  
497 the rate of the encounter will be dependent on the frequency of  
498 molecular collisions[29-31]. Problems of complex diffusion process of  
499 multiple reactants can always be dissected into the diffusion and  
500 collision of two, first between reactant1 and reactant2, then between  
501 reactant1-2 complex and reactant3, etc. Here, the case of one enzyme  
502 and one substrate will be taken as an example for the following (and  
503 above) discussion. In addition, for example, an enzyme catalyzes the  
504 modification of a LBMS using compound1 in the presence of ATP.  
505 Although multiple routes are possible, the formation of  
506 enzyme-LBMS-compound1-ATP quaternary complex via diffusion can  
507 usually be roughly estimated through the investigation of diffusion  
508 and encounter of enzyme and LBMS.

509 First circumstance, no distant attraction or repulsion between the  
510 enzyme and substrate; the two reactants only come to each other by  
511 chance. In aqueous solution,

$$512 \quad \text{Collision/encounter rate} = 4\pi R^*(D_E + D_S)N_A \cdot [E] \cdot [S]$$

$$513 \quad \text{Collision rate constant } k_{\text{collision}} = 4\pi R^* N_A (D_E + D_S),$$

$$514 \quad k_{\text{collision}} = 4\pi R^* N_A [k_B T / (c_E \pi \eta R_E) + k_B T / (c_S \pi \eta R_S)],$$



515  $\pi$  is a constant with a value  $\sim 3.14159265$ ,  $D_E$  and  $D_S$  are the  
 516 diffusion coefficients of the two reactants (Enzyme and Substrate) in  
 517 solution,  $N_A$  being Avogadro's number with a value of  
 518  $6.0222 \times 10^{23} \text{mol}^{-1}$ ,  $[E], [S]$  are the concentrations of the Enzyme and  
 519 Substrate reactant molecules, respectively.  $R_E, R_S$  are the effective  
 520 radius (or gyration radius) of Enzyme and Substrate, respectively,  $T$  is  
 521 the absolute temperature,  $k_B$  is Boltzmann constant with a value of  
 522  $1.3806 \times 10^{-23} \text{JK}^{-1}$ ,  $\eta$  is the viscosity. The values of constants  $c_E$  and  $c_S$   
 523 obtained from experiment reveal mainly the properties of the  
 524 molecules like shape etc. The pH, certain ion and certain chemical will  
 525 also affect the diffusion process and the value of these parameters [50,  
 526 52], for example  $c_E, c_S$ , or  $R^*$ .

527 Since Boltzmann constant  $k_B = R/N_A$ ,  $R$  is the gas constant,

$$528 \quad k_{\text{collision}} = (4RT/\eta) \cdot R^* \cdot [1/(c_E R_E) + 1/(c_S R_S)] \quad (4)$$

$$529 \quad \text{Collision/encounter rate} = (4RT/\eta) \cdot R^* [1/(c_E R_E) + 1/(c_S R_S)] \cdot [E][S]$$

530 If  $R$  is used in units of  $\text{J} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{K}^{-1}$ ,  $T$  in Kelvin,  $\eta$  in poise ( $\text{P}$ ,  $1 \text{ P} =$   
 531  $0.1 \text{ kg} \cdot \text{m}^{-1} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ),  $k_{\text{collision}}$  will have units of  $\text{m}^3 \cdot \text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{sec}^{-1}$ .

532 The encounter rate constant of diffusion in aqueous solution is  
 533  $\sim 7.4 \times 10^9 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$  ( $\text{mol}^{-1} \cdot \text{L} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ) for two molecules with molecular weight  
 534 of  $190 \text{g/mol}$  (approximately  $1 \text{nm}$  in size), with diffusion coefficient  
 535  $D_{1\text{nm}}$  of  $4.9 \times 10^{-6} \text{cm}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ . For protein molecules with molecular weight of  
 536  $41 \text{ kilodalton}$  (approximately  $5 \text{nm}$  in size) in aqueous solution,

537 encounter rate constant is  $\sim 6.3 \times 10^9 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$ , and diffusion coefficient  
 538  $D_{5\text{nm}}$  is  $8.3 \times 10^{-7} \text{ cm}^2\text{s}^{-1}$ . When the concentration of the molecules falls  
 539 within milli molar (mM,  $10^{-3}\text{M}$ ) range, the time it takes on average for  
 540 an encounter is about  $10^{-6}$  second; when the concentration of the  
 541 molecules falls within micro molar ( $\mu\text{M}$ ,  $10^{-6}\text{M}$ ) range, the time it takes  
 542 for an encounter is about  $10^{-4} \sim 10^{-3}$  second.

543 Second circumstance, there is coulomb interaction (attraction  
 544 /repulsion) between the reactants (for example between the enzyme  
 545 and substrate),

$$546 \quad f(u) = (U / k_B T) / (e^{U / k_B T} - 1)$$

$$547 \quad U = (e^2 / 4\pi\epsilon_0) \cdot (Z_E Z_S / \epsilon_R R^*)$$

548  $Z_E, Z_S$  are reactant charge numbers,  $e^2 / 4\pi\epsilon_0 = 2.307 \times 10^{-28} \text{ Jm}$ ,  $\epsilon_R$  is  
 549 relative permittivity. If  $Z_E \cdot Z_S = 0$ , then  $f(u) = 1$ .

$$550 \quad k_{\text{collision}} = 4\pi R^* N_A [k_B T / (c_E \pi \eta R_E) + k_B T / (c_S \pi \eta R_S)] \cdot f(u)$$

$$551 \quad k_{\text{collision}} = (4RT / \eta) \cdot R^* \cdot [1 / (c_E R_E) + 1 / (c_S R_S)] \cdot f(u) \quad (5)$$

552  $k_{\text{dif}} = 1000 \cdot k_{\text{collision}} \cdot [S]$ ,  $[S]$  in  $\text{mol} \cdot \text{L}^{-1}$ ,  $k_{\text{dif}}$  has unit of  $\text{s}^{-1}$ ,  
 553 collision/encounter rate/velocity has unit of  $\text{M} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ . Similarly, another  
 554 parameter  $k_{\text{difSub}} = 1000 \cdot k_{\text{collision}} \cdot [E]$  may be defined, which reveals the  
 555 number of enzyme molecules one substrate molecule will possibly  
 556 meet with on average in the solution system within one unit of time,  
 557 in like  $\text{s}^{-1}$ . Therefore,  $k_{\text{collision}}$  is much more important a parameter  
 558 than  $k_{\text{dif}}$ . This  $k_{\text{dif}}$  parameter is dependent on concentration, viscosity,

559 temperature, pressure, electrostatic attraction, electromagnetic effect,  
560 etc.

561 When the enzyme is nearly saturated by the SMS, the required  
562 effectual Brownian motion distance of substrate is very short. The  
563 higher the concentration of the substrate molecules in the more  
564 inviscid/frictionless system, the shorter the efficacious diffusion  
565 distance required. The chances are there is substrate immediately  
566 available near the catalytic centre[6, 7, 45], the larger the [S] and the  
567 slower the other steps, the greater the probability of this. If the  
568 enzyme catalysed biochemical reaction is the conversion from a SMS  
569 to a small-molecular-weight product, the diffusion process will  
570 scarcely affect the catalytic rate/velocity significantly unless ①the  
571 combined process of conformational change, chemical conversion  
572 and product release steps are very fast, much faster than diffusion  
573 step, ②the reactant concentration is very low, ③ the system is very  
574 viscous, ④there is repulsion between reactants.

### 575 **Conformational change and structural** 576 **re-organization/rearrangement**

577 Conformational change prepares both the enzyme and the  
578 substrate with correct geometry and electrostatics ready for substrate  
579 to product conversion, the enzyme and sometimes both the enzyme  
580 and the substrate perform conformational change. Conformational

581 change can be induced by enzyme substrate binding or can be a  
582 spontaneous process, the enzyme or substrate may sample a broad  
583 distribution of conformations and visit the chemical-conversion ready  
584 conformation with variable frequencies. For LBMS, the enzyme-LBMS  
585 complex frequently performs conformational change as an integrated  
586 unity[53]. Induced fit can have a very amplified scale and a different  
587 definition when comes to macromolecular enzyme and  
588 macro-substrate. Conformational change is independent of and not  
589 coupled to the diffusion step.

590 Catalysis relevant conformational change can be classified into  
591 three different categories, first, the minor-scale conformational  
592 change of the active site that happens in parallel with the chemical  
593 step. Some conformational change and chemical steps may be coupled;  
594 for example, the bound substrate can be converted to product through  
595 the action (side chain vibration, rotation or flipping) of the residues at  
596 the catalytic centre[54]. Local motion can be quick and fast, taking  
597 little time. This is a case where conformational change shows little  
598 observable additional constrain, aside from chemical conversion, on  
599 the catalytic rate. Second, the large-scale conformational change that is  
600 separable in time course from the substrate to product chemical  
601 conversion step; third, large-scale conformational change that  
602 happens in parallel with the chemical conversion step. Large-scale

603 conformational change and chemical conversion steps may also  
604 happen in parallel. For some enzymes/catalysis, both minor-scale  
605 conformational change and large-scale conformational change take  
606 place, either can overlap to some extent to the substrate-to-product  
607 conversion process. On the other hand, large-scale conformational  
608 change step can be independent of and separable from the chemical  
609 conversion step[23, 26, 27, 42], especially when large-scale  
610 conformational change is correlated with molecular recognition or  
611 product release. In either case, large-scale conformational change may  
612 significantly affect the overall rate of catalysis.

613 For the three categories discussed above, the tiny-scale dynamics  
614 of the enzyme does not form an independent step. The large-scale  
615 conformational change does form an independent unique step.  
616 Large-scale conformational change accounts for the majority part of  
617 the dynamics of the enzyme, both from the time and space point of  
618 view; it takes the majority amount of time, and covers the majority  
619 scale of distance. The amount of time taken by conformational change  
620 step is mainly arisen from large-scale conformational change. There  
621 are real cases where conformational-change efficiency affects the  
622 catalytic rate/velocity of biochemical reactions[23, 26, 27]; this  
623 happens since large proportions of the enzyme involve in large-scale  
624 conformational change. A couple of different factors can be given here

625 about what may affect conformational-change efficiency and  
626 rate/velocity.

627 Intrinsic factors of the enzyme that affect the  
628 conformational-change efficiency. One, the rigidity, stability and  
629 flexibility of the enzyme will affect the conformational-change  
630 efficiency. For instance, thermal stable enzymes tend to have  
631 enhanced hydrogen bonding network, hydrophobic interaction and  
632 other weak interactions; these interactions collectively make the  
633 enzyme stable, and contribute to the rigidity and reduced flexibility at  
634 ambient temperatures. The presence of linkers, hinges or long chains  
635 may contribute to the flexibility of the enzyme. Two, steric hindrance.  
636 Certain residues of the enzyme or substrate may hinder the  
637 conformational change through steric effect, thus reducing the  
638 conformational-change efficiency. Enzyme-substrate interaction may  
639 be decelerated by steric frustration as well. Three, the  
640 conformational-change efficiency of the enzyme-substrate complex as  
641 a whole can be affected by certain residues or certain factors, either  
642 accelerating or decelerating, while the conformational change of the  
643 free enzyme is not affected. Modification or mutation of the enzyme  
644 will sometimes affect the conformational-change efficiency through  
645 the second or the third mechanism.

646 Environmental factors that can affect the conformational-change

647 efficiency. The presence of certain chemicals, certain cofactors, ligands,  
648 modulators or certain regulatory molecules and ion strength, etc, may  
649 affect the conformational-change efficiency[55]. The pH of the  
650 solution system will influence the protonation state of both the  
651 enzyme and the substrate, may thus affecting electrostatic interaction  
652 and efficiency of conformational change. The enzyme may be  
653 hindered from or promoted to efficient conformational change  
654 because of protonation state change. The affinity between the enzyme  
655 and the substrate may be affected by the protonation state or pH as  
656 well.

657 Temperature, pressure, viscosity and density can all affect  
658 conformational-change efficiency[16, 23, 43, 44, 56-64]. Relationship  
659 between conformational-change coefficient and physical conditions of  
660 the solution system is proposed here.

$$661 \quad k_{\text{conf}} = C_{\text{adjust}} T p / (\sigma + \eta) \quad (6)$$

662 T is the absolute temperature measured in Kelvin, p is the  
663 pressure in pascal (1Pa=1 kg·m<sup>-1</sup>·s<sup>-2</sup>), c<sub>adjust</sub> is an adjustment constant,  
664 η is the viscosity in poise (P, 1 P = 0.1 kg·m<sup>-1</sup>·s<sup>-1</sup>), σ is another  
665 adjustment parameter with unit the same as viscosity. k<sub>conf</sub> is  
666 measured in s<sup>-1</sup>. This equation supposes no melt of the enzyme or  
667 enzyme-substrate complex, especially no melt of the interdomain  
668 linker region if the conformational change happens between the two

669 domains. Near the melting temperature, this function may not apply.  
670  $k_{\text{adjust}}$  and  $k_{\text{conf}}$  of the conformational-change step at each of the pH,  
671 certain chemicals, certain cofactors or modulators, or each of the ion  
672 concentration etc, may be different.

673 Concerning how conformational change affects catalytic  
674 efficiency and rate, there can be three distinct pathways. First,  
675 conformational change affects the enzyme-substrate  
676 recognition/binding. The second, conformational change affects the  
677 substrate-to-product chemical conversion; without the  
678 conformational change, the biochemical environment of the active  
679 site will not be prepared ready for the successful chemical conversion.  
680 The third, conformational change affects the product release. Catalytic  
681 kinetics, molecular dynamics simulation, nuclear magnetic resonance  
682 and single molecular technology may be employed to study the  
683 conformational change step, with NMR experimentally proved to be  
684 helpful[23, 60].

685 Long-range effect on catalysis is one of the revealing phenomena  
686 that conformational-change step does affect catalytic rate seriously[37,  
687 65, 66]. Residues far away from the catalytic center show significant  
688 impact on both conformational-change efficiency and catalytic rate,  
689 either accelerating or decelerating; those residues do not affect the  
690 catalytic center or the substrate-to-product chemical conversion step



691 but affect the conformational change step;  
692 conformational-change-efficiency alteration is the primary cause of  
693 catalytic-rate change.

694 For cases like enzyme-LBMS-ATP-compound1, enzyme and  
695 LBMS are major players of both diffusion and conformational-change  
696 steps, what if enzyme and LBMS form a binary complex and then  
697 perform conformational change, while at the same time ATP and  
698 compound1 diffuse to bind to the binary complex? Is there overlap  
699 between the diffusion and conformational change steps? How can this  
700 be explained? Actually, let this complicated process be simplified to  
701 these steps or similar may be a feasible and credible approximation,  
702 first, diffusion and encounter of enzyme and LBMS, then  
703 conformational change of enzyme-LBMS binary complex, then  
704 diffusion and encounter of enzyme-LBMS binary complex with ATP  
705 and compound1, the process of which is swift.

### 706 **Substrate-to-product chemical conversion step**

707 The classical kinetic theories actually explain the chemical  
708 conversion step explicitly, and these theories illustrate why and how  
709 chemical steps are accelerated by the enzymes. Equilibrium constant  
710  $K_{eq}$  and Gibbs standard free energy change  $\Delta G^\circ$  describe the direction,  
711 favorability and the final state of the chemical conversion step, like  
712 the relationship between final concentrations of the product and the

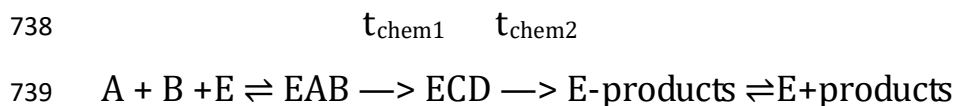
713 reactants ( $K_{eq}$ ), and the total energy released or absorbed during the  
 714 reaction ( $\Delta G^\circ$ ). Equilibrium constant has a direct relationship with  
 715 standard free energy change. From transition state theory and  
 716 Arrhenius Equation [1, 67], the relationship between the activation  
 717 energy  $\Delta G^\ddagger$ , temperature and the rate constant  $k_{Gibchem}$  of chemical  
 718 steps are established [68-70],  $-\Delta G^\ddagger = RT \cdot \ln(k_{Gibchem} h / k_B T)$ . Two  
 719 adjustment factors  $A_1, A_2$  are introduced into the equation here to  
 720 estimate a relationship between chemical conversion coefficient or  
 721 turnover number  $k_{chem}$  and temperature,

$$722 \quad k_{chem} \approx A_1 (k_B T / h) e^{-A_2 \cdot \Delta G^\ddagger / RT} = A_1 (k_B T / h) e^{-A_2 (\Delta H^\ddagger - T \Delta S^\ddagger) / RT}.$$

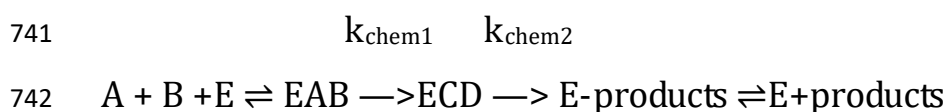
723  $R$  is the ideal gas constant ( $8.314 \text{ JK} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$ ),  $k_B$  is Boltzmann  
 724 constant with a value of  $1.3806 \times 10^{-23} \text{ JK}^{-1}$ , and  $T$  is the absolute  
 725 temperature, frequency factor  $A_1 k_B T / h$  need to be obtained  
 726 experimentally. Enzymes lowers the activation energy, increases the  
 727 possibility of substrate reaching the required state, thus speeding up  
 728 the chemical step.

729 This equation works fine particularly for the chemical conversion  
 730 step of a catalysis, but does not always work for the catalytic process  
 731 as a whole. It is true within the chemical conversion step that, the  
 732 sub-step which requires the highest activation energy is the rate  
 733 limiting sub-step. If the whole catalytic cycle is concerned, certain step  
 734 like the physical/biophysical process can be rate limiting but can have

735 nothing to do with activation energy of chemical step at all. Some  
 736 unidirectional and irreversible reactions do not follow equilibrium  
 737 thermodynamics[71, 72], but the master equations will still apply.



740 or



743 The overall rate of substrate-to-product chemical conversion  
 744 step is mainly constrained by the rate limiting sub-step which  
 745 requires the highest activation energy. The rate limiting sub-step of  
 746 chemical process may follow the Arrhenius equation, then the whole  
 747 chemical process roughly follows Arrhenius equation, and  $k_{\text{chem}}$   
 748 roughly equals to the rate limiting chemical sub-step  $k_{\text{chem}i}$ . If there  
 749 are two rate-limiting chemical sub-steps, i and j, both may follow  
 750 Arrhenius equation,

751  $k_{\text{chem}i} = A_{i1} (k_B T/h) e^{-A_{i2} \cdot \Delta G^\ddagger / RT},$

752  $k_{\text{chem}j} = A_{j1} (k_B T/h) e^{-A_{j2} \cdot \Delta G^\ddagger / RT},$

753 Consistent with the master equation, let  $t_{\text{chem}} k_{\text{chem}} = 1,$   
 754  $1/k_{\text{chem}} = 1/k_{\text{chem}i} + 1/k_{\text{chem}j},$  then the Arrhenius equation for the whole  
 755 chemical conversion step will be different from that of step i or j.

## 756 **Product-release step**

757 Sometimes, the product-release step can be the rate-limiting

758 step[17, 26, 42]. On one occasion, the product-release process means  
759 huge conformational change, and  
760 product-dispensing-conformational-change step can be time  
761 consuming. Another situation, the product may exhibit strong affinity  
762 to the enzyme, resulting in slow release.

763 Can product-release step overlap in time course with  
764 substrate-binding step? Can product release happen at the same time  
765 as substrate binds to the enzyme? It's possible but not always.  
766 Sometimes, the presence of substrate facilitates the release of product,  
767 because the substrate has higher affinity to the enzyme than the  
768 product. The product-release step and reactant-conformational-change  
769 step are not consecutive steps but separated by the chemical step.  
770 Will things change in essence if the start of a catalytic cycle is defined  
771 alternatively? Probably not. If another catalytic cycle is defined to start  
772 immediately after substrate is converted to product, and all the things  
773 after this moment means to prepare the enzyme ready for the next  
774 catalytic cycle, they are probably still two separate events, probably  
775 interrupted by the diffusion step in between.

776 If product release means large-scale conformational change, there  
777 is a function describing the product-release kinetics.

$$778 \quad k_{\text{prod}} = C_{\text{adjust-prod}} T_p / (\sigma + \eta)$$

779 Can this function be combined with that of the

780 reactant-conformational-change step? Is it possible that the two  
781 functions merge into one, and a different value for factor  $c_{\text{adjust}}$  and  $\sigma$   
782 are obtained after the combination? Maybe this is plausible in certain  
783 circumstances.

784 The rate/velocity of product-release step depends on  
785 enzyme-product concentration  $[EP]$ ,  $V_{\text{prod}}=k_{\text{prod}}[EP]$ . Product  
786 dissociation kinetics need to be studied experimentally for further  
787 systematic analysis, especially for cases like rate-limiting product  
788 release caused by strong binding.

### 789 **The catalytic cycle as a whole**

790 The addable nature of the amount of time taken by each step of  
791 catalysis (equation1), and the relationship between turnover number  
792 and time (equation 2,3) are the major points of this writing. The  
793 unidirectional irreversible continuous flow of time is commonly  
794 regarded as invariant in universe; each of every enzyme molecule  
795 inevitably has to undergo each of every catalytic cycle through each  
796 single step, unable to skip any one single step; and both underlie the  
797 versatility of these equations. Classical theories on enzyme catalysis  
798 also utilize statistical concept to describe the kinetics, but multiple  
799 enzyme molecules or possibilities are concerned at any given unit of  
800 time[6, 7, 45]. Whenever one writes  $k_1([E_t]-[ES])[S]=[ES](k_2+k_{-1})$  or  
801 something similar, he/she consciously or unconsciously admits either

802 of the following. ① Assuming  $k_2$  and  $k_{-1}$  as possibilities of one single  
803 ES pair going from ES to either directions. In this case  $k_2$  and  $k_{-1}$  are  
804 probability parameters, but in reality, the time a step takes is a real  
805 fixed value as long as the catalysis takes place, which may be measured  
806 by modern technologies. ② Assuming some enzyme molecules ( $k_{-1}$ )  
807 go from  $ES \rightarrow S+E$ , some others ( $k_2$ )  $ES \rightarrow E-p$ ; In this case  $k_2$  and  $k_{-1}$   
808 are proportion, fraction or distribution parameters, this time they are  
809 something real but very difficult to relate to real concrete biophysical  
810 properties and hard to examine, as  $k_2$  and  $k_{-1}$  themselves are  
811 statistical values. Assuming either case, statistics is used to answer  
812 how many go forward and how many go backward. Statistics actually  
813 can be used alternatively where it is samplable and statisticabal. This  
814 writing utilizes each catalytic cycle as independent samples for  
815 statistics, rather than counting the amount or chances of going either  
816 direction by ensemble of enzyme molecules like above. This writing  
817 tries to elucidate catalytic kinetics of macromolecular enzymes in  
818 aqueous solution at molecular level. Kinetic experiment obtained  
819 parameters are actually the averaged value, which indicate the  
820 regularities of the behaviors of bulk enzyme molecules, and this is  
821 linked here to the statistical analysis of singular enzyme catalytic  
822 behavior, which can be obtained for instance by single molecule  
823 techniques. And the functions in this study can be connected to and

824 be applied to experimental study. A set of simultaneous equations can  
825 be used to achieve this. If all other steps are negligible,

$$826 \quad 1/k \approx t_{\text{difu}} + t_{\text{conf}} + t_{\text{chem}} + t_{\text{prod}}$$

$$827 \quad 1/V_{\text{overall}} \approx 1/(k_{\text{collision}} \cdot [E] \cdot [S]) + (t_{\text{conf}} + t_{\text{chem}})/[ES] + t_{\text{prod}}/[EP]$$

$$828 \quad 1/t_{\text{difu}} = k_{\text{collision}} \cdot [S]$$

829 A lot of parameters need to be acquired from experiment to  
830 resolve these functions. The situation may be simplified according to  
831 three different scenarios. First, diffusion step is rate limiting, and all  
832 the three steps (conformational change, chemical conversion, and  
833 product release) combined are not rate limiting, then  $k_{\text{conf-chem-prod}}$  (or  
834  $t_{\text{conf}} + t_{\text{chem}} + t_{\text{prod}}$ ) probably need not to be considered;  $[ES]$  is changing  
835 as  $[S]$  decreases. Then,  $V_{\text{overall}} \approx k_{\text{collision}} \cdot ([E] \cdot [S])$ , and equation 4 or 5  
836 may be used together to estimate the ratio of unproductive collision,  
837 which is  $1 - [V_{\text{overall}} / ([E] \cdot [S])] / [(4RT/\eta) \cdot R^* \cdot [1/(c_E R_E) + 1/(c_S R_S)]] \cdot f(u)$ .

838 Second, diffusion step is fast, the three steps combined is rate limiting.  
839  $[ES]$  is virtually constant, so that steady state approximation can be  
840 applied. Then  $1/k \approx 1/k_{\text{conf-chem-prod}} = t_{\text{conf}} + t_{\text{chem}} + t_{\text{prod}}$ ,

841  $1/V_{\text{overall}} \approx (t_{\text{conf}} + t_{\text{chem}})/[ES] + t_{\text{prod}}/[EP]$ , and actual  $k_{\text{conf-chem-prod}}$  is  
842 slightly larger than the experimentally obtained  $k_{\text{exp}}$ . The values of  $t_{\text{conf}}$ ,  
843  $t_{\text{chem}}$ ,  $t_{\text{prod}}$  need to be further examined to see which one or ones  
844 dominate. Third, both diffusion and the three steps combined are rate  
845 limiting. The overall catalytic rate/velocity  $V_{\text{overall}}$  and turnover

846 number  $k$  of the catalysis can be examined and obtained  
847 experimentally.

$$848 \quad 1/k \approx t_{\text{difu}} + t_{\text{conf-chem}} + t_{\text{prod}}$$

$$849 \quad 1/V_{\text{overall}} \approx 1/(k_{\text{collision}} \cdot [E] \cdot [S]) + t_{\text{conf-chem}}/[ES] + t_{\text{prod}}/[EP]$$

850 If  $t_{\text{conf-chem}}/[ES] + t_{\text{prod}}/[EP]$  can be approximated by  
851  $t_{\text{conf-chem-prod}}/[ES]$ , like overall rate/velocity of three steps combined  
852 (conformational change, chemical conversion and product release)  
853 approximately depends on the concentration of enzyme-substrate  
854 complex,

$$V_{\text{conf-chem-prod}} \approx k_{\text{conf-chem-prod}} \cdot [ES] \quad \text{or}$$

$$855 \quad V_{\text{conf-chem-prod}} \approx k_{\text{conf-chem-prod}} \cdot [ES_1 S_2 S_3 \dots] \quad , \quad \text{then,}$$

$$856 \quad 1/V_{\text{overall}} \approx 1/(k_{\text{collision}} \cdot [E] \cdot [S]) + t_{\text{conf-chem-prod}}/[ES].$$

857 From this discussion, a systematic and much more balanced  
858 analysis of catalytic process is possible. For instance, the catalytic rate  
859 is affected by temperature, this is not only because temperature  
860 affects the activation of chemical-conversion step, but also because  
861 temperature affects the biophysical steps of each catalytic cycle as  
862 well.

863 Binding energy contributes to reaction specificity and catalysis,  
864 this is the classical expression about the relationship between binding  
865 energy and catalysis. But previously, relationship between binding  
866 efficiency and catalytic efficiency (or catalytic rate) is not clear. Now,  
867 correlation between enzyme-macro-substrate recognition/binding



868 efficiency, conformational change efficiency and catalytic rate,  
869 between chemical conversion efficiency and catalytic rate, and  
870 between product release efficiency and catalytic rate, are discussed  
871 and linked to parameters obtained from kinetic, biophysical and  
872 biochemical experiments. Efficient binding, by itself, definitely  
873 contributes to catalysis, by increasing turnover numbers[6, 7, 45, 73].  
874 The binding energy can reduce activation energy of chemical  
875 conversion step, thus accelerating the chemical step, but strong  
876 binding may slow down the product release or  
877 enzyme-product-complex dissociation. Therefore, affinity, binding  
878 energy, or dissociation constant obtained from biophysical  
879 experiments do not correlate directly to the catalytic velocity. Here an  
880 atypical example is discussed. For LBMS involved multiple reactant  
881 catalysis, the binding energy between enzyme and LBMS does not  
882 necessarily contribute to the velocity of the catalysis directly, although  
883 it accounts for the majority of the binding energy. Binding energy is  
884 not always the driving force sometimes not the only driving force for  
885 catalysis, for instance, nucleotide triphosphate involved catalysis.  
886 Usually the catalysis comes to a halt in the absence of nucleotide  
887 triphosphate. Reaction coupling or the step-by-step release of covalent  
888 bond energy as one sequential reaction can explain the driving effect  
889 of NTPs. A detailed mechanism-based explanation of relationship

890 between binding efficiency, binding energy and catalytic rate requires  
891 further investigation.

892 Huge enzyme machinery catalyzed complex biosynthesis includes  
893 multiple rounds of conformational change, chemical conversion etc to  
894 manufacture a single macromolecular product. For these complex  
895 biochemical reactions, chemical conversion process, conformational  
896 change and other steps may be interspersed with one another.  
897 Biosynthesis are very sophisticated long-lasting processes and can  
898 repeat to generate certain amount of macromolecular copies [74-80].  
899 Catalytic step of these complex catalysis may be different from above.

### 900 **Summary and perspectives**

901 This writing tries to explain catalytic kinetics from molecular level  
902 point of view. Inspected microscopic molecular events from this  
903 detailed kinetic study will provide fresh insight into the catalytic  
904 mechanism of enzyme. The relationship between catalytic rate and  
905 substrate concentration, biophysical, biochemical conditions etc can  
906 explain various experimental phenomena in general. With the  
907 advancement of science and technology, especially with the  
908 development of single molecular manipulation and detection  
909 techniques[81-84], study in detail and in depth of the catalytic  
910 behavior of singular enzyme will become feasible, which will provide  
911 fresh insight into the catalytic mechanism of enzymes. Extensive

912 further experimental research is required to combine this writing,  
913 classical kinetic theories and experimentally obtained single molecular  
914 actual behavior[85].

915 Now that enzyme catalytic efficiency and catalytic rate/velocity  
916 can be affected by so many factors at so many steps, a lot of different  
917 strategies / approaches can be utilized for enzyme engineering, drug  
918 discovery[86, 87], signaling pathway manipulation or metabolic  
919 pathway modulation and so on.

920

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## 926 **Competing interests**

927 The author declares no competing financial interests.

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