# Reaction IR Spectroscopy and MCR-ALS Analysis for Investigation of Reaction Mechanisms 

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$\mathbf{R e a c t i o n ~ I R ~ s p e c t r o s c o p y , ~ a n d ~ M u l t i ~ C u r v e ~ R e s o l u t i o n - ~}^{\text {a }}$ Alternating Least Square (MCR-ALS) are very useful techniques to define reaction mechanisms with real time. We have developed these techniques, we hope to test the ours. Benzo fused azoles are important building blocks in therapeutically active compounds, natural products, and functional materials. Recently, Prof. Cheon's group in Korea University proposed a cyanide based powerful metal-free catalyst for synthesis of benzoxazole molecules and they asserted that the cyanide attacks the carbon of imine and enables the orbital interaction between $\sigma^{*}$ of $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{CN}$ and the lone pair on the X -group (Baldwin's 5 -exo-tet rule). However, Chen et. al. in Nankai University, argued this mechanism with computational method. They reported the activation energy of this mechanism is too high for the facile preparation of benzoxazole compounds on room temperature. Therefore, we tried IR spectroscopic, computational and MCR-ALS research to verify the mechanisms.

1. Flow type Reaction IR Cell

2. MCR-ALS method

3. Reaction hypotheses


All the computations reported in this work were carried out using Gaussian 09 program package. All structures were optimized using the M06-2X functional method with $\mathbf{6 - 3 1 + G}(\mathbf{d})$ basis level. The UM06-2X functional method was used for the molecules that has doublet and triplet spin states structures as oxygen $\left(\mathrm{O}_{2}\right)$ molecule, and radical intermediate states. Frequency calculations were implemented at the same functional to confirm the optimized structures but the basis set was used higher level, as $\mathbf{6 - 3 1 1 + + G}(\mathbf{3 d f}, 2 \mathbf{2 d})$. Solvation model was implemented CPCM model with DMF solvent $(\varepsilon=36.7)$ All the spectroscopic intensity in this work are reported in atomic unit (a.u.), and peak position are scaled by 0.943 .
$\mathbf{E x p e r i m e n t ~ w a s ~ p e r f o r m e d ~ i n ~ t h e ~ s a m e ~ c o n d i t i o n ~ w h i c h ~}$ was performed previously by Y. H. Cho, et. al. in Korea University ${ }^{1{ }^{1}}$. An open test tube were added a phenolic imine ( $\mathbf{0 . 2 5} \mathbf{~ m m o l : ~} 1.0$ equiv) and $\mathbf{N a C N}$ ( $\mathbf{1 2 . 2 ~ m g ; ~} 0.25$ $\mathbf{m m o l} ; \mathbf{1 0 0} \mathbf{~ m o l} \%$ ) were dissolved in DMF ( 1.0 mL ). The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature in an open flask and monitored by FT-IR every 5 min . The complete termination of the reaction was convinced by the peak of the product in the FT-IR. We tried the MCRALS analysis to obtain a time profile of reaction components.
${ }^{\text {i }}$ ) Y. H. Cho, et. al. Adv. Synth. Catal., 2012, 354, 2992-2996


Vibrational Probe
Region 1: $1000 \sim 1040 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ reactant and product (aromatic C - H bending modes) Region 2: $2000 \sim 2300 \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$ intermediate molecules ( $-\mathrm{C}=\mathrm{N}$ stretching modes)

2. Quantum Calculations




* Scaling factor: calculated peak position $\times 0.943$

3. Summary of Calculation

| Molecule | Peak Position <br> $\left(\mathbf{c m}^{-1}\right)$ | Vibrational Mode |
| :---: | :---: | :--- |
| Reactant | 1038 | Aromatic C-H bending |
| Intermediate 5 | 2183 | $-\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N}$ stretching |
| Intermediate 7 | 2157 | $-\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N}$ stretching |
| Intermediate 8 | 2147 | $-\mathrm{C} \equiv \mathrm{N}$ stretching |
| Product | 1000 | Aromatic C-H bending |
| Product | 1026 | Aromatic $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{H}$ bending |

1. Mode assign of Experimental data

| Peak Position <br> $\left(\mathrm{cm}^{-1}\right)$ | Vibrational Mode | Molecule* |
| :---: | :--- | :--- |
| 1003 | Aromatic C-H bending | Product |
| 1024 | Aromatic C-H bending | Product |
| 1035 | Aromatic C-H bending | Reactant |
| 2150 | -C $=$ N stretching | Intermediate 8 |
| 2160 | C $=$ N stretching | Intermediate 7 |
| 2200 | -C $=$ N stretching | Intermediate 5 |
| 2249 | -C $=$ N stretching (?) | Undefined |

* molecules are estimated.

2. Time profile of Reaction components

$\mathbf{W}_{\text {ithout knowing the shapes of the spectra and the }}$ concentration profile, we can decompose the spectroscopic data into the spectra and the concentration profile by using MCR-ALS. Since during the reaction the acquisition of concentration profile is hard, this method will suggest a new way to obtain the concentration information of reaction components. By using this concentration data, we could find the clues to the mechanism.



## Conclusion

$\mathbf{W e}_{\text {e could trace the reaction components through above }}$ time profile and decomposed IR spectrum. Reaction IR spectroscopy, quantum chemical calculation, and MCRALS analysis can provide hints of reaction mechanism.

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