

## Problem session

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Please read the description below and answer the questions

Dissociation constant ( $k_D$ ) is important value to understand the protein-protein, protein-small molecule, etc interaction. There are two approaches to obtain  $k_D$  value, which are equilibrium approach and kinetic approach. Following shows some examples.

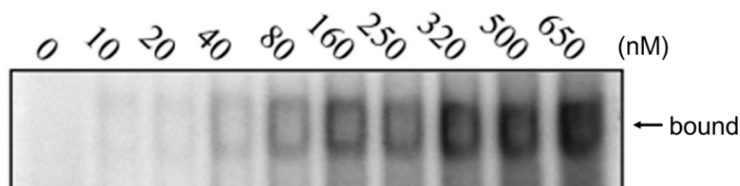
### Question 1

Here shows one example of equilibrium approach (describing two molecules as A and B, and describing concentration of each molecule as [A] and [B]). **Please calculate  $k_D$  value and explain what you need to concern when you obtain  $k_D$  value**

#### conditions

A:  $[A]_{\text{tot}} = 125 \text{ nM}$ ,  $[A]_{\text{tot}}$  is the concentration of A at the start ( $t = 0$ )

B:  $[B]_{\text{tot}} = 0 \text{ nM}, 10 \text{ nM}, 20 \text{ nM}, 40 \text{ nM}, 80 \text{ nM}, 160 \text{ nM}, 250 \text{ nM}, 320 \text{ nM}, 500 \text{ nM}, \text{ and } 650 \text{ nM}$   
analysis: native PAGE

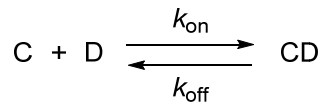


\*Gel image was taken from Bhardwaj, A.; Myers, M. P.; Buratti, E.; Baralle, F. E. *Nucleic Acids Research*, **2013**, *41*, 5062.

$[B]_{\text{tot}}$ (nM)	650	500	320	250	160	80	40	20	10	0
intensity (bound)	198	196	194	180	147	98	58	30	12	0

\*Intensities were virtually set, independent of the original paper.

**Question 2:** kinetic approach (describing two molecules as C and D, and describing concentration of each molecule as [C] and [D]).



(i) Please calculate association rate constant ( $k_{\text{on}}$ ) from the following

conditions

C:  $[C] \ll [D]$ ,  $[C]_{\text{tot}} = \text{constant}$ ,  $[C]_{\text{tot}}$  is the concentration of C at the start ( $t = 0$ )

D:  $[D]_{\text{tot}} = 210 \text{ pM}$ ,  $340 \text{ pM}$ ,  $480 \text{ pM}$ ,  $770 \text{ pM}$ ,  $1.2 \text{ nM}$ , and  $2.0 \text{ nM}$

Time of detection: 0 min, 5 min, 10 min, 20 min, 30 min, 40 min, and 50 min

Experiment was conducted using radioisotope labelled D (details are not mentioned here)

210 pM							
time (min)	0	5	10	20	30	40	50
bind (%)	0	6	12	23	31	34	35

340 pM							
time (min)	0	5	10	20	30	40	50
bind (%)	0	11	21	36	47	51	50

480 pM							
time (min)	0	5	10	20	30	40	50
bind (%)	0	16	30	51	61	64	63

770 pM							
time (min)	0	5	10	20	30	40	50
bind (%)	0	27	45	67	78	80	80

1.2 nM							
time (min)	0	5	10	20	30	40	50
bind (%)	0	39	66	87	93	94	93

2.0 nM							
time (min)	0	5	10	20	30	40	50
bind (%)	0	65	88	98	101	101	100

\*Percentage of binding was normalized by the binding at 2.0 nM, 50 min as 100%

At the beginning of association experiment ( $0 \leq t \leq 10 \text{ min}$  on this problem), the following equation can be set

$$\frac{d[CD]}{dt} = k_{\text{on}}[C][D]$$

When  $[C] \ll [D]$ ,  $[D] = \text{constant}$ . Therefore, if you set  $k_{\text{on}}[D] = k_{\text{obs}}$ , the following equation is obtained.

$$[CD] = [CD_{\text{max}}](1 - e^{-k_{\text{obs}}t}) \quad [CD_{\text{max}}] \text{ is specific binding reaching to equilibrium}$$

(ii) Please calculate dissociation rate constant ( $k_{off}$ ) from the following

conditions

binding CD: prepared before the experiment. C and radioisotope labelled D were mixed 1 h before the experiment. percentage of  $[CD]_0$  is set as 100% ( $t = 0$ )  
start of the experiment: When 10  $\mu$ M non-labelled D was added, the experiment started.

time (min)	0	40	60	90	120	180	240	300	360	420
binding (%)	100	88	81	72	64	52	43	36	31	27

At the dissociation experiment, the following equation can be set

$$\frac{d[CD]}{dt} = -k_{off}[CD]$$

Therefore, the following equation is obtained

$$[CD] = [CD]_0 e^{-k_{off}t}$$

(iii) (a) Please calculate  $k_D$  value from  $k_{on}$  and  $k_{off}$

When an experiment of equilibrium approach (conditions are shown below) was conducted,  $k_D$  value was calculated as 200 pM which is different from that of kinetic approach.

(b) Please explain why these are different and what we need to do to obtain accurate  $k_D$  value

conditions

C:  $[C]_{tot} = \text{constant}$ ,  $[C]_{tot}$  is the concentration of C at the start ( $t = 0$ )

D:  $[D]_{tot} = \text{various concentration from } 50 \text{ pM to } 5 \text{ nM}$

detection time: 2 h later

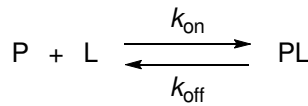
Topic: Interaction analysis

Question 1 was created from Bhardwaj, A.; Myers, M. P.; Buratti, E.; Baralle, F. E. *Nucleic Acids Research*. **2013**, *41*, 5062.

Question 2 was created from Sullivan, S. K.; Hoare, S. R. J.; Fleck, B. A.; Zhu, Y.; Heise, C. E.; Struthers, R. S.; Crowe, P. D. *Biochem Pharmacol*. **2006**, *72*, 838.

Dissociation constant ( $k_D$ ) is important value to understand the protein-protein, protein-small molecule, etc interaction. There are two approaches to obtain  $k_D$  value, which are equilibrium approach and kinetic approach. Following shows some examples.

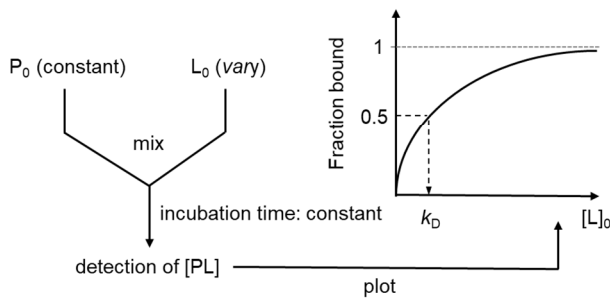
How to measure  $k_D$ ?



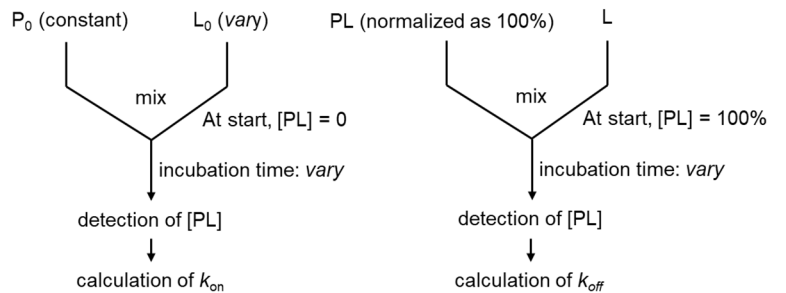
when  $k_{on}[P][L] = k_{off}[PL]$

$$k_D = k_{off}/k_{on} = \frac{[P][L]}{[PL]}$$

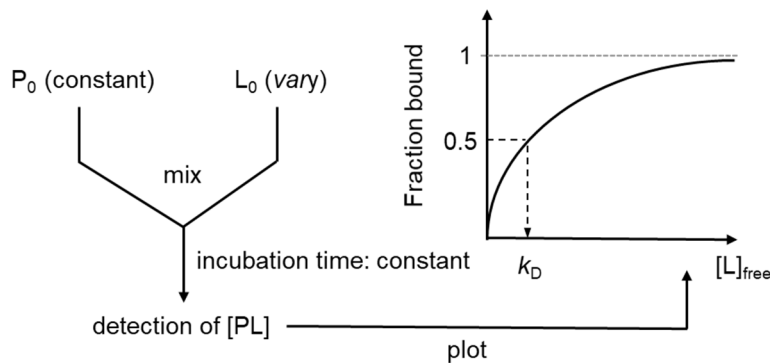
equilibrium (thermodynamic) approach



kinetic approach



**Question 1** equilibrium (thermodynamic) approach



When fraction rate is 0.5,  $[P]_{free} = [PL]$ .

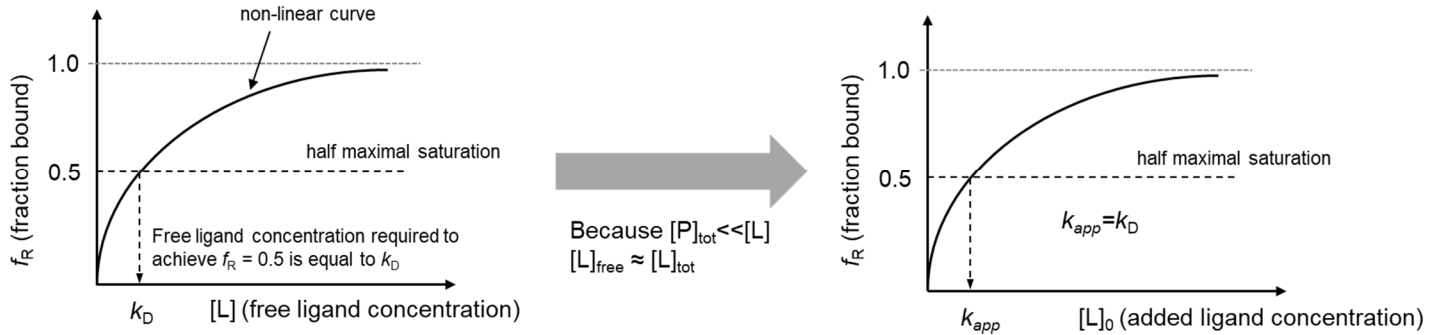
From  $k_D = [P][L]/[PL]$ ,  $k_D = [L]_{free}$

• The most common approach to measuring affinity is to vary the concentration of one component, while keeping the concentration of the other binding partner constant.  $[P]$  needs to be constant, while  $[L]$  needs to be varied started from lower than  $k_D$  and ended at higher than  $k_D$ .

There are three conditions to obtain  $k_D$  value according to the relation between  $k_D$  and concentration of the constant.

**1. Condition A ( $[P]_0 < 0.1 k_D$ )**

In this condition, the concentration of one component (P) is a lot below the  $k_D$  value. In this case, the concentration of variable component (L) around  $k_D$  is much higher than the concentration of P ( $[L] \gg [P]_0$ ). This means the concentration of L which binds to P is very small. Therefore,  $[L]$  can be approximated as  $[L]_0$ , which is the concentration of the added L.



At condition A, the following formula holds:

$$k_{on}[P][L] = k_{off}[PL]$$

$$\frac{k_{off}}{k_{on}} = k_D = \frac{[P][L]}{[PL]}$$

$$k_D = \frac{([P]_{tot} - [PL])[L]}{[PL]} \text{ when } [P] = [P]_{tot} - [PL]$$

$$[PL] = \frac{[P]_{tot}[L]}{k_D + [L]}$$

$$[PL] = \frac{[P]_{tot}[L]_{tot}}{k_{app} + [L]_{tot}} \text{ when } [L] \approx [L] + [PL] = [L]_{tot}$$

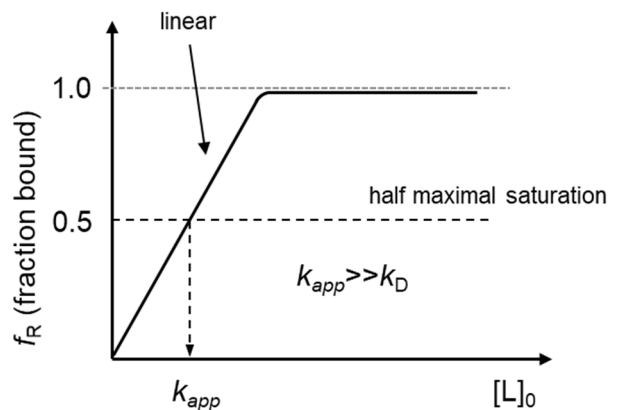
The above equation can be converted to log-logistic functions:

$$[PL] = \frac{[P]_{tot}}{\frac{k_{app}}{[L]_{tot}} + 1} = [P]_{tot} / \{1 + \exp(\ln(k_{app}) - \ln([L]_{tot}))\}$$

The  $k_{app}$  value calculated by the above equation equals  $k_D$ .

**2. Condition B ( $[P]_0 > 100 k_D$ )**

In this condition, the concentration of the constant (P) is much larger than  $k_D$ . Therefore, all added L binds to P until no more free P left. In this case, the concentration of P which gives half binding does not equal to the  $k_D$ . Moreover, at high concentration of P, the shape of the plotted chart become linear, and  $k_{app}$  value is simply half of the concentration of P.



**3. condition C** ( $0.1 k_D < [P]_0 < 100 k_D$ )

In this condition, the concentration of P is not low enough to be able to ignore the concentration of bounded L. Thus [L] cannot be approximated as [L]<sub>tot</sub>. In limiting situations, [L]<sub>free</sub> can be calculated. However, in other situations, a more complex quadratic binding equation can be considered:

$$\frac{d[PL]}{dt} = k_{on}[P][L] - k_{off}[PL]$$

$$[P] = [P]_{tot} - [PL], \quad [L] = [L]_{tot} - [PL]$$

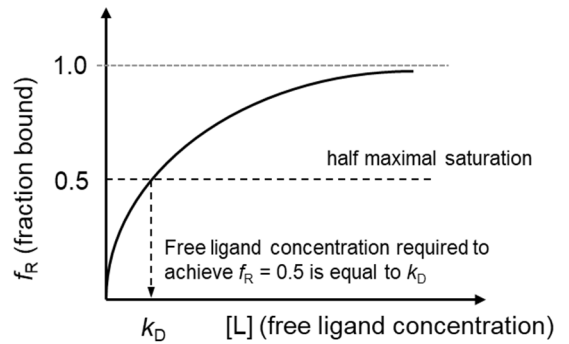
$$\frac{d[PL]}{dt} = k_{on}([P]_{tot} - [PL])([L]_{tot} - [PL]) - k_{off}[PL]$$

At equilibrium,  $\frac{d[PL]}{dt} = 0$ ,  $k_D = \frac{k_{off}}{k_{on}}$

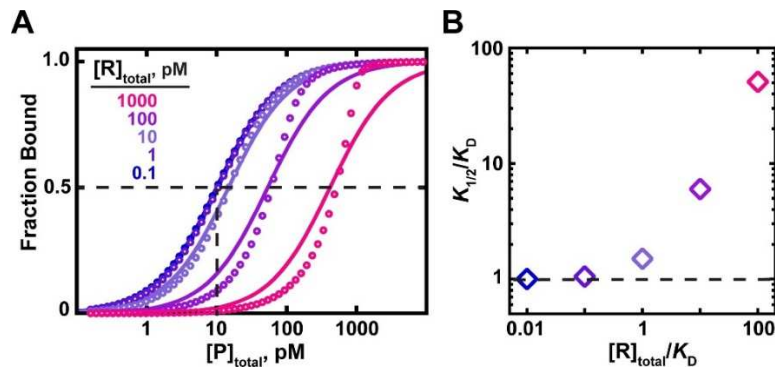
$$[PL]^2 - ([P]_{tot} + [L]_{tot} + k_D)[PL] + [P]_{tot}[L]_{tot} = 0$$

$$[PL] = \frac{([P]_{tot} + [L]_{tot} + k_D) - \sqrt{([P]_{tot} + [L]_{tot} + k_D)^2 - 4[P]_{tot}[L]_{tot}}}{2}$$

Several techniques (for example, isothermal titration calorimetry (ITC)) use this quadratic binding equation for data fitting. Up to 100-fold excess can be useful for data with minimal noise.



Example: equation of condition A (actual  $k_D = 10 \text{ pM}$ )<sup>1)</sup>



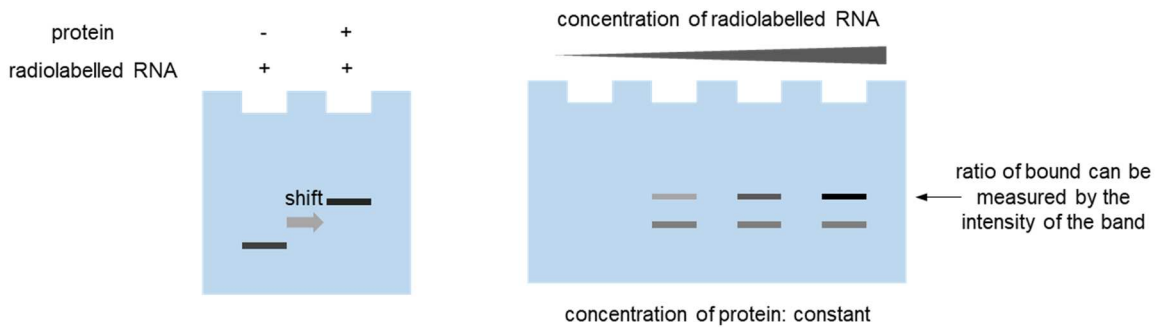
(A) The simulation data ranging  $0.1 \text{ pM} \leq [R]_{tot} \leq 1000 \text{ pM}$ . When  $[R]_{tot} \leq 1 \text{ pM}$ , which 10-fold below the  $k_D$ , the data are reliable, and  $k_{1/2}$  (apparent  $k_D$ ) equals to actual  $k_D$ . At higher concentration of R, the data become unreliable, and  $k_{1/2}$  (apparent  $k_D$ ) becomes much higher than actual  $k_D$ . (B) The relationship between  $k_{1/2}$  (apparent  $k_D$ ) and actual  $k_D$ .

**Answer**

Quantitative Electrophoresis mobility shift assay (EMSA)<sup>6)</sup>

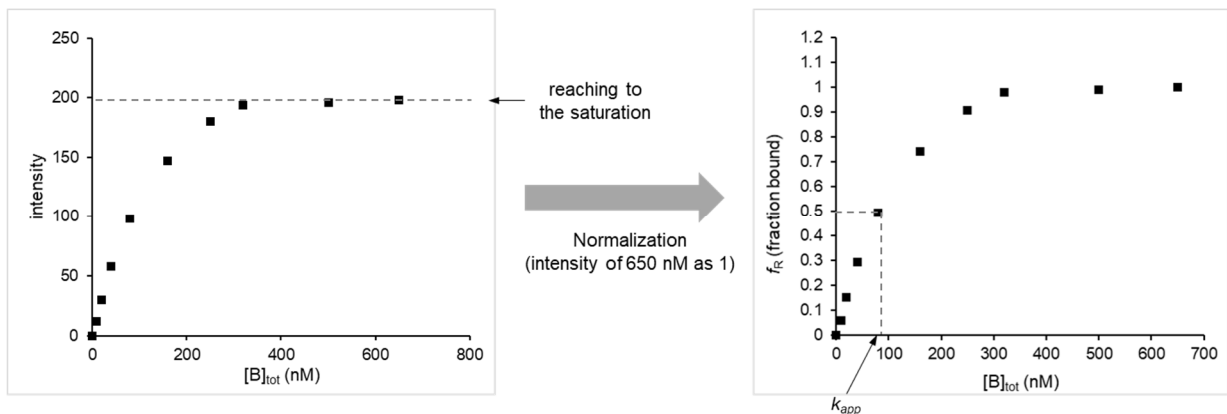
- Used to protein-DNA and protein-RNA interaction
- Usually radiolabeled DNA or RNA are used, analysed by native-PAGE (a method of electrophoresis without denaturing so that complex can be detected), detected by autoradiography

overview of EMSA



Using equation of condition A

[B] <sub>tot</sub> (nM)	650	500	320	250	160	80	40	20	10	0
intensity (bound)	198	196	194	180	147	98	58	30	12	0
f <sub>R</sub> (fraction bound)	1	0.99	0.98	0.909	0.742	0.495	0.293	0.152	0.061	0



$$k_{on}[A][B] = k_{off}[AB]$$

$$\frac{k_{off}}{k_{on}} = k_D = \frac{[A][B]}{[AB]}$$

$$k_D = \frac{([A]_{tot} - [AB])[B]}{[AB]} \text{ when } [A] = [A]_{tot} - [AB]$$

$$[AB] = \frac{[A]_{tot}[B]}{k_D + [B]}$$

$$[AB] = \frac{[A]_{tot}[B]_{tot}}{k_D + [B]_{tot}} \text{ when } [B] \approx [B] + [AB] = [B]_{tot}$$

The above equation can be converted to log-logistic functions:

$$[AB] = \frac{[A]_{tot}}{\frac{k_D}{[B]_{tot}} + 1} = [A]_{tot} / \{1 + \exp(\ln(k_D) - \ln([B]_{tot}))\}$$

or

$$[AB] = \frac{[A]_{tot}}{\frac{k_D}{[B]_{tot}} + 1} = [A]_{tot} / \{1 + 10^{(\log(k_D) - \log([B]_{tot}))}\}$$

example (GraphPad prism)

- Equation: Sigmoidal dose-response (variable slope)

$$Y = Bottom + \frac{Top - Bottom}{1 + 10^{(\log EC_{50} - X) \times Hillslope}}$$

X is the logarithm of concentration. Y is the response. Y starts at Bottom and goes to Top with a sigmoid shape. This is identical to the “four parameter logistic equation”.

- data table

X Values		A		
	[B]max	fraction rate		
	X	A:Y1	A:Y2	A:Y3
1	650	1.000000		
2	500	0.989899		
3	320	0.979798		
4	250	0.909091		
5	160	0.742424		
6	80	0.494949		
7	40	0.292929		
8	20	0.151515		
9	10	0.060606		

Logarithm of the concentration →

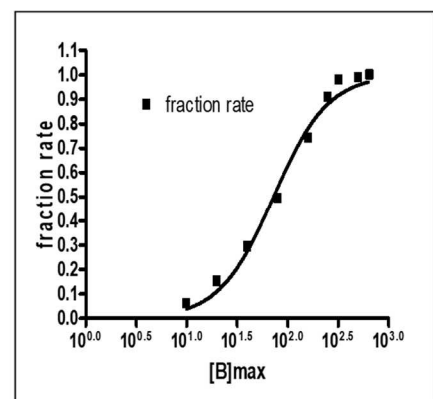
X Values		A		
	X Title	Data Set-A		
	X	A:Y1	A:Y2	A:Y3
1	2.813	1.000		
2	2.699	0.990		
3	2.505	0.980		
4	2.398	0.909		
5	2.204	0.742		
6	1.903	0.495		
7	1.602	0.293		
8	1.301	0.152		
9	1.000	0.061		

- extracted parameters and data plotting

X Values		A		
	[B]max	fraction rate		
	X	A:Y1	A:Y2	A:Y3
1	650	1.000000		
2	500	0.989899		
3	320	0.979798		
4	250	0.909091		
5	160	0.742424		
6	80	0.494949		
7	40	0.292929		
8	20	0.151515		
9	10	0.060606		

1	Sigmoidal dose-response (variable slope)	
2	Best-fit values	
3	BOTTOM	0.0
4	TOP	1.000
5	LOGEC50	1.860
6	HILLSLOPE	1.614
7	EC50	72.48



$k_{app}$  is calculated as 72.5 nM. However,  $[A]_{tot}$  is 125 nM. Therefore,  $k_{app} < [A]_{tot}$ , which indicated that condition A does not fit to this situation. The condition C needs to be considered.

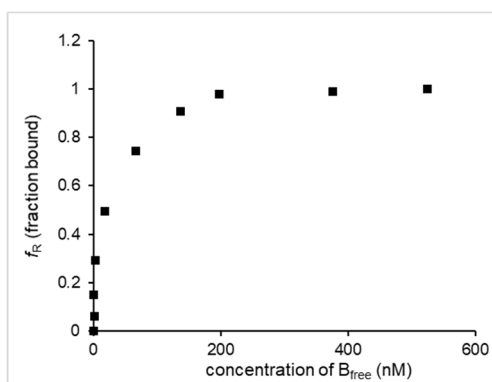


Using equation of condition C

In this situation, the concentration of AB at the maximum ( $[AB]_{\max}$ ) can be considered as the total concentration of A ( $[A]_{\text{tot}}$ ). Therefore, the concentration of bound ( $[AB]$ ) is calculated as  $[AB] = f_R[A]_{\text{tot}}$ . The following approximation is set:

$$[B]_{\text{free}} \approx [B]_{\text{tot}} - f_R[A]_{\text{tot}}$$

$[B]_{\text{tot}}$ (nM)	650	500	320	250	160	80	40	20	10	0
intensity (bound)	198	196	194	180	147	98	58	30	12	0
$f_R$ (fraction bound)	1	0.99	0.98	0.909	0.742	0.495	0.293	0.152	0.061	0
$[B]_{\text{free}}$ (nM)	525	376.3	197.5	136.4	67.2	18.13	3.384	1.061	2.424	0



$$[AB] = \frac{[A]_{\text{tot}}}{\frac{k_D}{[B]_{\text{free}}} + 1} = [A]_{\text{tot}} / \{1 + 10^{(\log(k_D) - \log([B]_{\text{free}}))}\}$$

example (GraphPad prism)

- Equation: Sigmoidal dose-response (variable slope)

$$Y = \text{Bottom} + \frac{\text{Top} - \text{Bottom}}{1 + 10^{(\log EC_{50} - X) \times \text{Hill slope}}}$$

X is the logarithm of concentration. Y is the response. Y starts at Bottom and goes to Top with a sigmoid shape. This is identical to the “four parameter logistic equation”.

- data table

	X Values		A		
	[B]free		fraction rate		
	X		A:Y1	A:Y2	A:Y3
1	525.000000		1.000000		
2	376.262600		0.989899		
3	197.525300		0.979798		
4	136.363600		0.909091		
5	67.196970		0.742424		
6	18.131310		0.494949		
7	3.383838		0.292929		
8	1.060606		0.151515		
9	2.424242		0.060606		

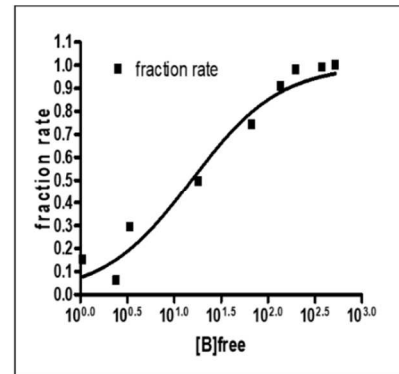
Logarithm of the concentration



	X Values		A		
	X Title		Data Set-A		
	X		A:Y1	A:Y2	A:Y3
1	2.720		1.000		
2	2.575		0.990		
3	2.296		0.980		
4	2.135		0.909		
5	1.827		0.742		
6	1.258		0.495		
7	0.529		0.293		
8	0.026		0.152		
9	0.385		0.061		

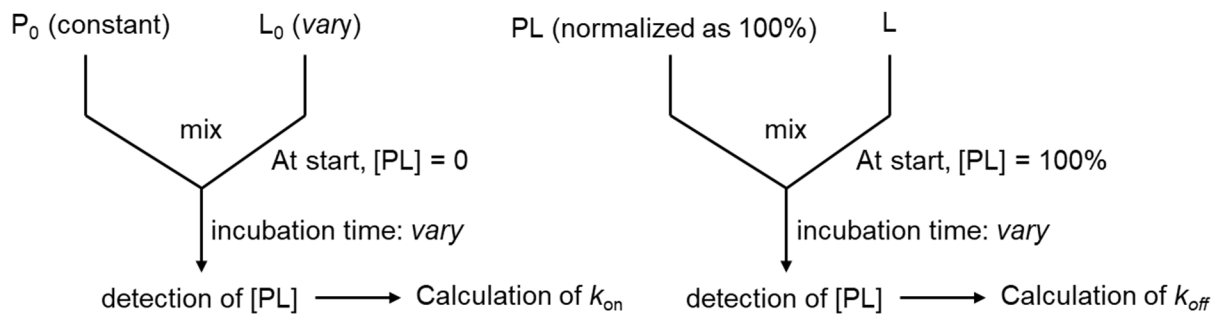
• extracted parameters and data plotting

		A
		fraction rate
		Y
1	Sigmoidal dose-response (variable slope)	
2	Best-fit values	
3	BOTTOM	0.0
4	TOP	1.000
5	LOGEC50	1.187
6	HILLSLOPE	0.9258
7	EC50	15.39



$K_D$  is calculated as 15.4 nM.

### Question 2: kinetic approach



#### (i) calculating $k_{on}$

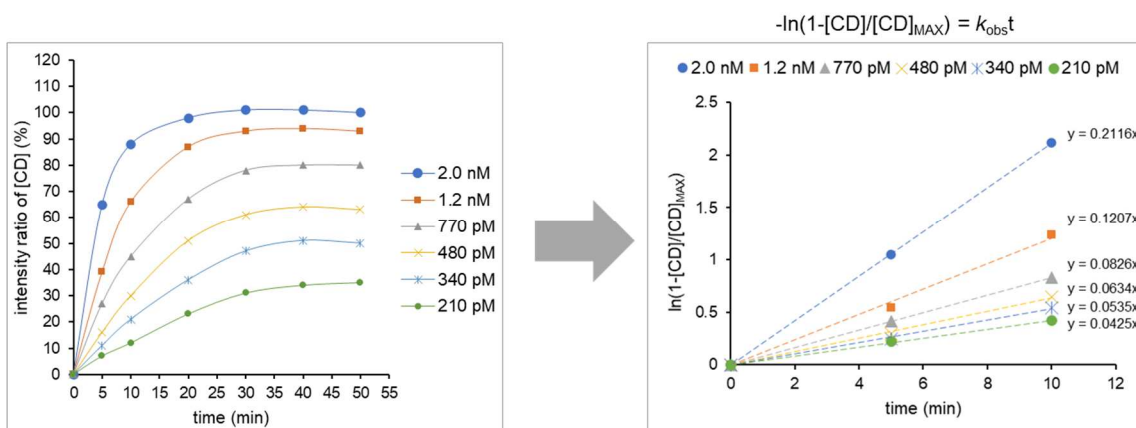
The following equations hold:

$$[CD] = [CD]_{MAX}(1 - e^{-k_{obs}t})$$

$$1 - \frac{[CD]}{[CD]_{MAX}} = e^{-k_{obs}t}$$

$$-\ln\left(1 - \frac{[CD]}{[CD]_{MAX}}\right) = k_{obs}t$$

when  $-\ln\left(1 - \frac{[CD]}{[CD]_{MAX}}\right)$  is fitted with  $t$  (time),  $k_{obs}$  can be determined as slope for each concentration ( $[B]$ )

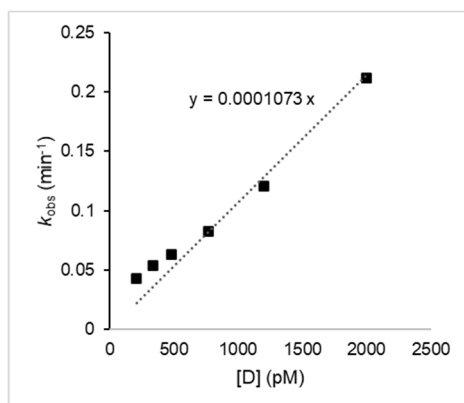


$[D]_{\text{tot}}$ (pM)	210	340	480	770	1200	2000
$k_{\text{obs}}$ ( $\text{min}^{-1}$ )	0.0425	0.0535	0.0634	0.0826	0.1207	0.2116

Also the following equation holds

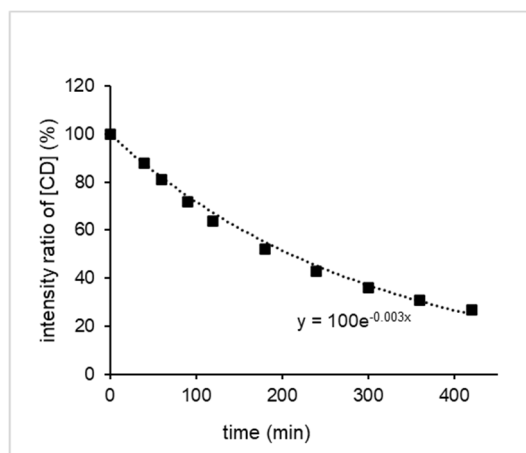
$$k_{\text{obs}} = k_{\text{on}}[D]$$

from the equation above,  $k_{\text{on}}$  can be determined.



$$k_{\text{on}} = 0.000107 \text{ (pM}^{-1}\text{min}^{-1}\text{)} = 107 \text{ (}\mu\text{M}^{-1}\text{min}^{-1}\text{)}$$

**(ii) calculating  $k_{\text{off}}$**



The data is fitted as above.

$$k_{\text{off}} = 0.00331 \text{ (min}^{-1}\text{)} = 0.199 \text{ (h}^{-1}\text{)}$$

**(iii) (a) calculating  $k_{\text{D}}$**

$$k_{\text{D}} = k_{\text{off}}/k_{\text{on}} = 0.00331/107 = 31 \text{ pM}$$

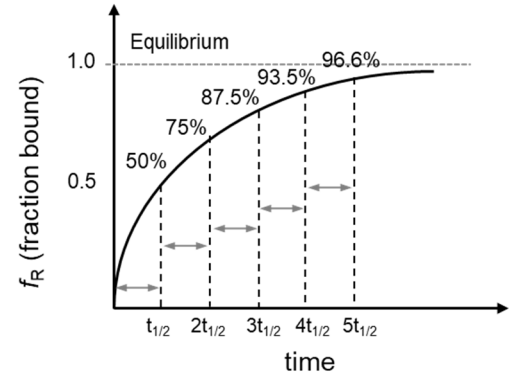
The  $k_{\text{D}}$  value is 6.5-fold different from that from the experiment of equilibrium approach (200 pM)

**(b) why does  $k_D$  value from equilibrium approach from kinetic approach?**

For calculating accurate  $k_D$  value by equilibrium approach, the system needs to reach “equilibrium”. From the chart at left, it takes five half-times to reach “equilibrium” (96.6%).

The use of an incubation time greater than  $5 \times t_{1/2}$  is a safe assumption for ensuring equilibrium.

The half-time depends on the concentration, however, it is useful to consider the limiting case with the protein concentration approaching zero, which is the longest half time calculated from dissociation rate constant. The half-time can be calculated as follows:



$$[CD] = [CD]_{MAX}(1 - e^{(-k_{on}[D]-k_{off})t})$$

$$\text{when } [CD] = \frac{1}{2}[CD]_{MAX}, \quad t = t_{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$\frac{1}{2}[CD]_{MAX} = [CD]_{MAX}e^{(-k_{on}[D]-k_{off})t_{\frac{1}{2}}}$$

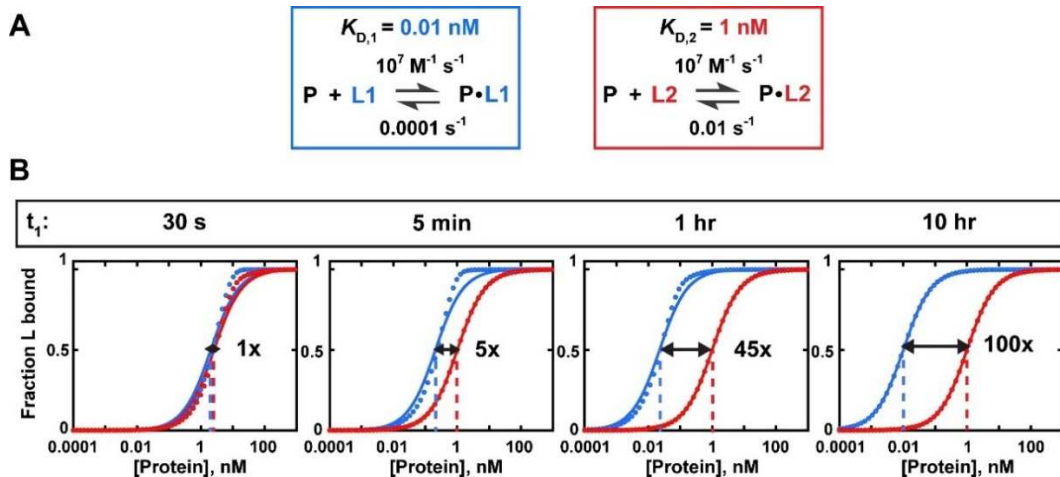
$$t_{\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{\ln 2}{k_{on}[D] + k_{off}}$$

Considering the limiting case with the protein concentration approaching zero, the following holds:

$$t_{\frac{1}{2},limit} = \frac{\ln 2}{k_{off}} = \frac{0.693}{k_{off}} = 3.5 \text{ h}$$

The experiment this time incubated for only 2 h. Therefore, it needed to incubate longer enough.

Example<sup>1)</sup>



(A) Binding parameters for protein (P) interactions with two ligands, L1 and L2. The dissociation rate constant ( $k_{off}$ ) for L1 is 100-fold lower than for L2, such that L1 requires much longer to equilibrate than L2. (B) Simulated binding data for L1 and L2 with varying incubation times ( $t_1$ ). Equilibration of L1 binding is not complete until  $t_1 = 10 \text{ hr}$  (while L2 equilibration only takes  $\sim 5 \text{ min}$ ). Therefore, the observed relative affinity is time-dependent and underestimates the true specificity if the incubation time is shorter than  $\sim 10 \text{ hr}$ .

## Reference

1. Jarmoskaite, I.; AlSadhan, I.; Vaidyanathan, P. P.; Herschlag, D. *eLife* **2020**, *9*, 1.
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5. Pollard, T. D.; *Mol Biol Cell.* **2010**, *23*, 4061.
6. Hellman, L. M.; Fried, M. G.; *Nat Protoc.* **2007**, *2*, 1849