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 INNOVATION LECTURES (INNOIEC) www.muni.cz

**Binding and Kinetics for Experimental Biologists**  
 Lecture 3  
**Equilibrium binding: Theory**

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Tento projekt je spolufinancován Evropským sociálním fondem a státním rozpočtem České republiky.

  
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## Lecture outline

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- **Theory** of equilibrium binding analysis
  - **matrix representation** of simultaneous equilibria
    - stoichiometric matrix*
    - formula matrix*
    - stability matrix*
  - **composition** of complex biochemical mixtures: numerical method
  - **thermodynamic cycles**: inconsistent equilibrium mechanisms
  - **multiple equivalent sites**: statistical factors
  - **nonspecific binding**: representation as a single "weak" binding site
- **Applications** in **DynaFit** scripting
  - Representing equilibrium binding mechanisms in DynaFit

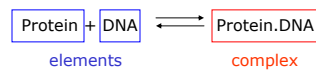

BKEB Lec 3: Equilibrium - Theory 2

## Matrix representation of complex equilibria

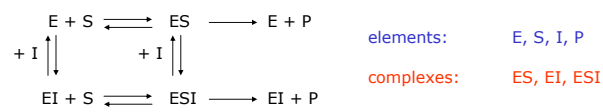
### “Complexes” and “elements”

#### TWO DISTINCT TYPES OF MOLECULAR SPECIES

##### Example 1: protein / DNA interactions



##### Example 2: enzyme kinetics (partial noncompetitive inhibition)



number of **species** = number of **elements** + number of **complexes**

## Illustrative example: Arginine kinase

### PHYSIOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

"**Phosphagen kinases** catalyze the reversible transfer of a high-energy phosphoryl group from phosphorylated guanidino storage compounds known as phosphagens to ADP in the following general reaction: phosphagen + MgADP + H<sup>+</sup> → guanidino acceptor + MgATP. These reactions are typically found in **cells that display high and variable rates of energy turnover, such as muscle fibers, neurons, spermatozoa and transport epithelia**"

*Journal of Experimental Biology* **206**, 1545-1556 (2003)  
Compaan DM, Ellington WR

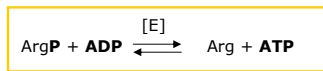
"The kinetic mechanism and evaluation of several **potential inhibitors** of purified arginine kinase from the cockroach (*Periplanta americana*) were investigated. This monomeric phosphagen kinase is important in **maintaining ATP levels during the rapid energy demands of muscle required for contraction and motility**. [...] Arginine kinase could be a useful chemotherapeutic target for the **control of cockroach proliferation**."

*Archives of Insect Biochemistry and Physiology* **57**, 166-77 (2004)  
Brown AE, Grossman SH

## Formula matrix, $F$

### DESCRIBES THE COMPOSITION OF COMPLEXES IN TERMS OF ELEMENTS

Example: **Arginine Kinase** *J. Exper. Biol.* **206**, 1545-1556 (2003)



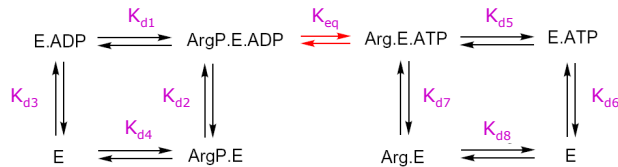
$$F = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ \cdot & 1 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 1 & \cdot & 1 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & 1 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 1 & 1 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 1 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 1 & \cdot & 1 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 1 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 1 & 1 \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 1 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \end{pmatrix} \begin{matrix} \dots E \\ \dots \text{ArgP} \\ \dots \text{ADP} \\ \dots \text{Arg} \\ \dots \text{ATP} \end{matrix}$$

		E	ArgP	ADP	Arg	ATP
elements	E	1	.	.	.	.
	ArgP	.	1	.	.	.
	ADP	.	.	1	.	.
	Arg	.	.	.	1	.
	ATP	.	.	.	.	1
complexes	E·ArgP	1	1	.	.	.
	E·ADP	1	.	1	.	.
	E·ArgP·ADP	1	1	1	.	.
	E·Arg·ATP	1	.	.	1	1
	E·Arg	1	.	.	1	.
	E·ATP	1	.	.	.	1

## Stoichiometric matrix, S

DESCRIBES INDIVIDUAL REACTIONS IN THE MECHANISM

Example: **Arginine Kinase** *Arch. Insect. Biochem. Physiol.* **57**, 166-77 (2004)



	$K_{d1}$	$K_{d2}$	$K_{d3}$	$K_{d4}$	$K_{eq}$	$K_{d5}$	$K_{d6}$	$K_{d7}$	$K_{d8}$
<b>reactants</b>									
E			+1	+1			+1		+1
ArgP	+1			+1					
ADP		+1	+1						
Arg						+1			+1
ATP							+1	+1	
<b>products</b>									
E·ArgP		+1		-1					
E·ADP	+1		-1						
E·ArgP·ADP	-1	-1			-1				
E·Arg·ATP					+1	-1		-1	
E·Arg							+1		
E·ATP						+1	-1		-1



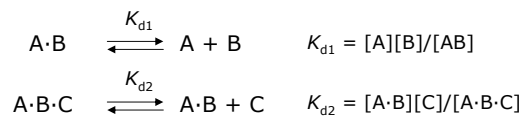
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## Definition: Complex formation constants

OVERALL EQUILIBRIUM CONSTANT = PRODUCT OF SEQUENTIAL EQUILIBRIUM CONSTANTS

Two sequential reaction with known  $K_d$ 's:



Total dissociation constant:

$$K_{dT} = K_{d1} \times K_{d2}$$



Complex stability constant:

$$K_A = 1 / (K_{d1} \times K_{d2})$$



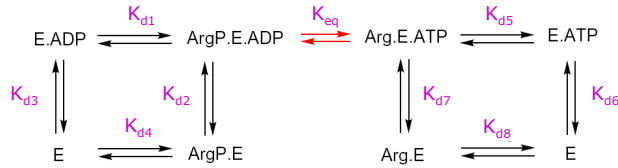
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## Complex stability matrix, $B$

DESCRIBES OVERALL STABILITY CONSTANTS OF COMPLEXES IN TERMS OF BINARY  $K_d$ 's

Example: **Arginine Kinase** *Arch. Insect. Biochem. Physiol.* **57**, 166-77 (2004)



	$K_{d1}$	$K_{d2}$	$K_{d3}$	$K_{d4}$	$K_{eq}$	$K_{d5}$	$K_{d6}$	$K_{d7}$	$K_{d8}$
E-ArgP				-1					
E-ADP			-1						
E-ArgP-ADP	-1		-1						
E-ArgP-ATP								-1	-1
E-Arg									-1
E-ATP							-1		

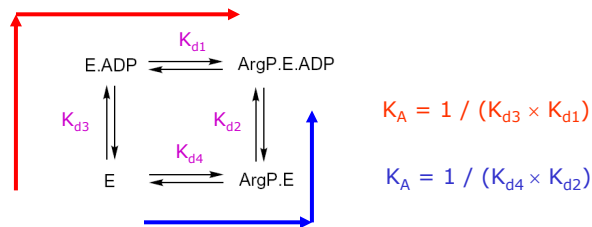
$K_{A,i}^{(tot)} = \prod_{j=1}^M K_j^{B_{i,j}}$   
 $K_A = 1 / (K_{d7} \times K_{d8})$

Can you spot anything suspicious about this stability matrix?

## Complex stability matrix: Ambiguity in case of cycles

TWO WAYS TO DEFINE THE STABILITY OF A TERNARY COMPLEX

Example: **Arginine Kinase** *Arch. Insect. Biochem. Physiol.* **57**, 166-77 (2004)

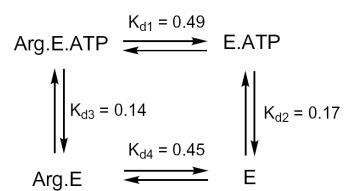


## Thermodynamic cycles

### Thermodynamic “box”

OVERALL EQUILIBRIUM CONSTANTS AROUND A **CYCLE** MUST BE EQUAL TO **1.00**

Numerical values of binary dissociation constants (mM):  
*Arch. Insect. Biochem. Physiol.* **57**, 166-77 (2004)

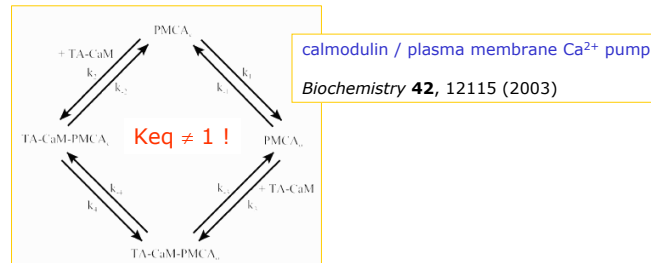
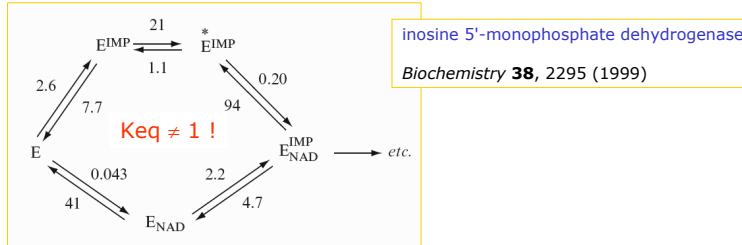


This thermodynamic box is not quite closed!

$$\frac{K_{d1} \times K_{d2}}{K_{d3} \times K_{d4}} = 1.32 \neq 1.00$$

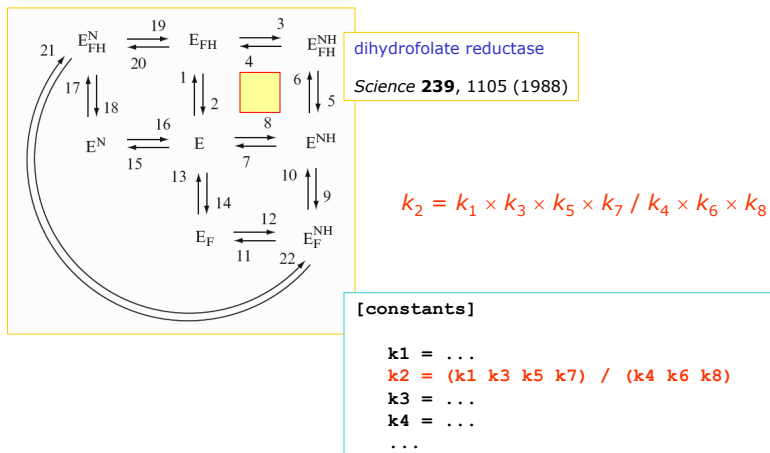
## Thermodynamic boxes in the literature

THIS THIS NOT A "MADE UP" ISSUE: **ERRONEOUSLY CLOSED BOXES ARE IN FACT FOUND!**



## DynaFit notation to "close the boxes" properly

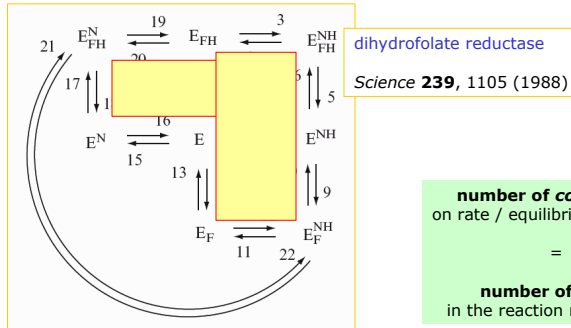
COMES UP IN THE ANALYSIS OF **KINETIC DATA**



## Multiple thermodynamic cycles

COME UP IN MORE COMPLEX MECHANISMS

How many cycles do you see?



**number of constraints**  
on rate / equilibrium constants  
=  
**number of cycles**  
in the reaction mechanism.

## Equilibrium composition of complex mixtures



## Composition of complex mixtures at equilibrium

### MATRIX FORMALISM - FREE ENERGY MINIMIZATION

Find a vector of species concentrations,  $\mathbf{c}$ , that minimize the total Gibbs free energy

$$G = \sum_{i=1}^N c_i (\mu_i^\circ + RT \ln c_i)$$

where

$$\mu_i^\circ = -RT \ln K_{A,i}^{(tot)} \quad K_{A,i}^{(tot)} = \prod_{j=1}^M K_j^{B,j} \quad K_j = \prod_{i=1}^N c_i^{S_{i,j}}$$

subject to the mass-conservation constraints

$$\sum_{k=1}^N F_{k,j} c_k = c_i^{(tot)}$$

- DETAILS:** Royer, C.A.; Smith, W.R.; and Beechem, J.M. (1990)  
 "Analysis of binding in macromolecular complexes: A generalized numerical approach"  
*Anal. Biochem.*, **191**, 287-294.
- Royer, C.A. and Beechem, J.M. (1992)  
 "Numerical analysis of binding data: advantages, practical aspects, and implications"  
*Methods Enzymol.* **210**, 481-505.

## Equilibrium matrices in DynaFit

## Why should you care about matrices in DynaFit ?

AT LEAST TO UNDERSTAND WARNING MESSAGES WHEN **YOUR MECHANISM IS WRONG**

Example of a "wrong" mechanism: A closed thermodynamic box 

```
DynaFit : sim-001.txt
File Edit View Help
Input Output
Close a thermodynamic box (WRONG!)
;
[[task]
    task = simulate
    data = equilibria
[mechanism]
    A + B <=> AB : Ka dissoci
    B + C <=> BC : Kc dissoci
    AB + C <=> ABC : Kca dissoci
    A + BC <=> ABC : Kac dissoci
```

**invalid mechanism!**

C	.	1	1
---	---	---	---

**Stability matrix**

	AB	BC	ABC
Ka	-1	.	-1
Kc	.	-1	.
Kca	.	.	-1
Kac	.	.	.

DynaFit "understands" that forming the ABC complex can legitimately involve **only three unique equilibrium constants**. It has decided to **throw away  $K_{ac}$** .

**Warning!**

The following equilibrium constants are redundant (ignored)

**Kac**

## Stoichiometric matrices in DynaFit

"TABULAR" TRANSCRIPT OF THE REACTION **MECHANISM**

DynaFit input:

```
[mechanism]
    A + B <=> AB : Ka dissoci
    B + C <=> BC : Kc dissoci
    AB + C <=> ABC : Kca dissoci
    A + BC <=> ABC : Kac dissoci
```

**Stoichiometric matrix:**

- as many **rows** as there are **reactions**
- as many **columns** as there are **species**
- **entries** reflect the **stoichiometry** of reactions
- **negative** entries represent "reactants"
- **positive** entries represent "products"

**What it means for you:**

Always check at least the species names (top row) and equilibrium constant names (leftmost column). This will assure that DynaFit "understood" what you meant.

DynaFit output:

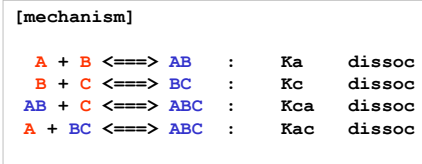
**Stoichiometric matrix**

	A	B	C	AB	BC	ABC
Ka	1	1	.	-1	.	.
Kc	.	1	1	.	-1	.
Kca	.	.	1	1	.	-1
Kac	1	.	.	.	1	-1

## Formula matrices in DynaFit

REACTING SPECIES ARE CLASSIFIED INTO **COMPONENTS** AND **COMPLEXES**

DynaFit input:



DynaFit output:

**Formula matrix**

	AB	BC	ABC
A	1	.	1
B	1	1	1
C	.	1	1

Formula matrix:

- as many *rows* as there are *components*
- as many *columns* as there are *complexes*
- *entries* reflect the *composition* ("*formula*") of complexes

*What it means for you:*

Always check the "Model" link in the output.

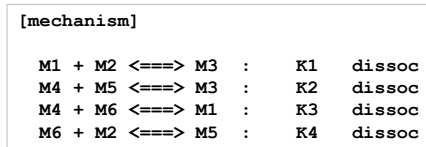
**Make sure that the formula matrix is derived correctly.**

This will assure that DynaFit "understood" what you meant.

## Formula matrices: Sometimes not completely obvious

DYNAFIT IS FAIRLY GOOD AT "UNDERSTANDING" WHAT IS A COMPLEX OR COMPONENT SPECIES

DynaFit input:



Components: ? M6, M2, M4  
Complexes: ? M3, M5, M1

↑  
"ABC"

DynaFit output:

**Formula matrix**

	M3	M5	M1
M6	1	1	1
M2	1	1	.
M4	1	.	1

*What it means for you:*

Always name your species "sensibly".

This will assure that the formula matrix can be easily checked.

## Stability matrices in DynaFit

HERE IS WHERE DYNAFIT PUTS ANY WARNINGS ABOUT **INCONSISTENT MECHANISMS**

DynaFit input:

```
[mechanism]
A + B <=> AB : Ka  dissoc
B + C <=> BC : Kc  dissoc
AB + C <=> ABC : Kca dissoc
A + BC <=> ABC : Kac  dissoc
```

DynaFit output:

**Stability matrix**

	AB	BC	ABC
Ka	-1	.	-1
Kc	.	-1	.
Kca	.	.	-1
Kac	.	.	.

Stability matrix:

$$K_{ABC} = K_a^{-1} K_{ca}^{-1}$$

- as many **rows** as there are *equilibrium constants* in the mechanism
- as many **columns** as there are *complexes*
- **entries** reflect the *total stability constants* of complexes
- an **empty row** means a *redundant step* in the mechanism (e.g., a closed "box")

*What it means for you:*

Always check the stability matrix for the presence of empty (shaded) rows.  
If any are found, see which redundant equilibrium constant was ignored by DynaFit.  
If you prefer to keep this constant, **delete some other redundant step**.

## Formula matrix derivation: how does DynaFit do it?

DYNAFIT "DOES" A LOT OF LINEAR ALGEBRA AND "UNDERSTANDS" A VERY NICE **THEORY BOOK**

W.R. Smith and R.W. Missen (1991)

*Chemical Reaction Equilibrium Analysis: Theory and Algorithms*

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Krieger Publishing  
Malabar, Florida

ISBN-10: 0894645846

[mechanism]

```
M1 + M2 <=> M3 : K1  dissoc
M4 + M5 <=> M3 : K2  dissoc
M4 + M6 <=> M1 : K3  dissoc
M6 + M2 <=> M5 : K4  dissoc
```

components

### Chemical Reaction Equilibrium Analysis: Theory and Algorithms

WILLIAM R. SMITH  
Professor of Mathematics and Statistics  
University of Guelph

RONALD W. MISSEN  
Professor of Chemical Engineering  
University of Toronto



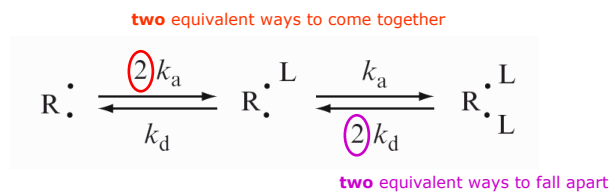
A Wiley-Interscience Publication  
JOHN WILEY & SONS  
New York / Chichester / Brisbane / Toronto / Singapore

## Equivalent binding sites & “statistical factors”

## Equivalent binding sites & “statistical factors”

### “INTRINSIC” VS. “MACROSCOPIC” RATE CONSTANTS

Two identical, non-interacting binding sites:

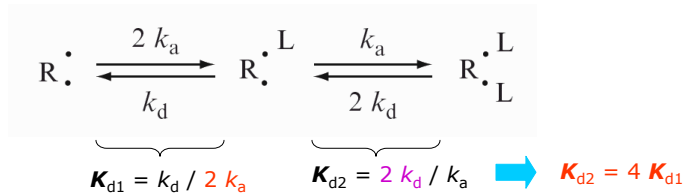


- R receptor
- L ligand
- binding site
- $k_a$  *intrinsic* association rate constant
- $k_d$  *intrinsic* dissociation rate constant

## 2 Equivalent binding sites: Equilibrium constants

"INTRINSIC" VS. "MACROSCOPIC" EQUILIBRIUM CONSTANTS

Two identical, non-interacting binding sites:



DynaFit notation:

```
[mechanism]
R + L <=> R.L : K1 dissoc
R.L + L <=> R.L.L : K2 dissoc

[constants]
K2 = 4 * K1
K1 = 1.2345
```

## 3 Equivalent binding sites: Equilibrium constants

A DYNAFIT SCRIPT TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN INDEPENDENT AND INTERACTING SITES

```
[task]
data = equilibria
model = interacting sites ?

[mechanism]
P + L <=> P.L : K1 dissoc
P.L + L <=> P.L.L : K2 dissoc
P.L.L + L <=> P.L.L.L : K3 dissoc

[constants] ; vary independently
K3 = 1.23 ?
K2 = 4.56 ?
K1 = 7.89 ?
...

[task]
data = equilibria
model = independent sites ?

[constants] ; link via statistical factors
K3 = 1 ?
K2 = 3 * K3
K1 = 9 * K3
...
```

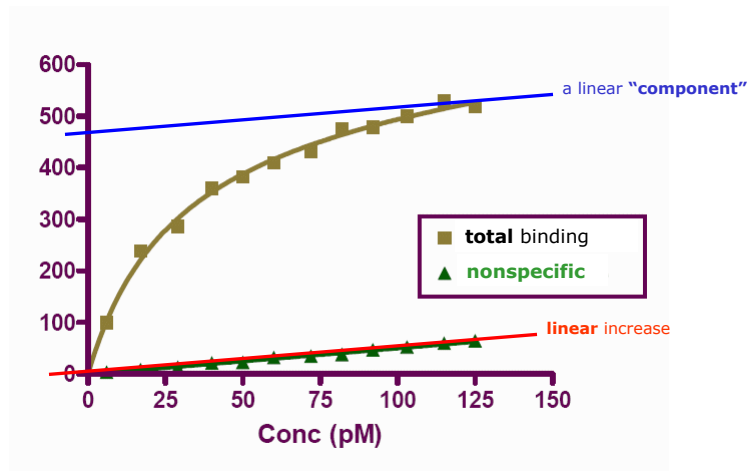
exercise:

derive statistical relationships between equilibrium constants for **four** independent sites

## Nonspecific binding interactions

### Nonspecific binding: How to identify it

HOW TO RECOGNIZE NONSPECIFIC BINDING IN ACTUAL EXPERIMENTAL DATA



[www.graphpad.com/prism/learn/binding%20analysis.pdf](http://www.graphpad.com/prism/learn/binding%20analysis.pdf)

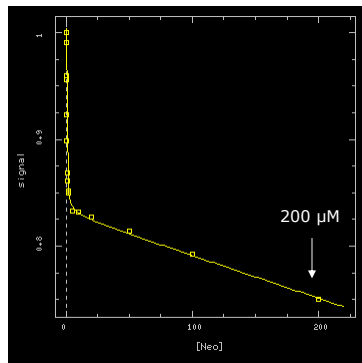
## Nonspecific binding: How to analyze it in DynaFit

DEFINE AN **EXTREMELY WEAK** BINDING SITE WITH A **HUGE RESPONSE FACTOR**

1. introduce a **second "specific"** binding site  
this will represent many very weak (nonspecific) sites
2. assign to it an **extremely weak** binding affinity  
many orders of magnitude higher  $K_d$
3. treat the weak nonspecific  $K_d$  as a **fixed constant**  
optimize only the *specific* binding constants
4. assign a very **large response factor**  
corresponding to "many simultaneous sites"
5. treat the response factor as an **adjustable parameter**  
this represents the "number of weak sites"

## Nonspecific binding: Example - data

**HIV-1 Rev RESPONSIVE ELEMENT (LABELED RNA FRAGMENT) / NEOMYCIN B**



[Neomycin],  $\mu\text{M}$

For the RRE-72AP construct, a further 10% linear decrease in fluorescence was observed as the neomycin concentration was increased from 10 to 200  $\mu\text{M}$ . This decrease is most likely attributable to binding to very weak sites with binding constants in the low millimolar range, and was not analyzed further.

Lacourciere *et al.* (2000) *Biochemistry* **39**, 5630-41



## Nonspecific binding: Example – input script

HIV-1 Rev RESPONSIVE ELEMENT (LABELED RNA FRAGMENT) / NEOMYCIN B

```
[mechanism]

R72 + Neo <=> R72.Neo      : K1  dissoc
R72.Neo + Neo <=> Neo.R72.Neo : K2  dissoc

[constants] ; uM

K1 = 0.1 ?
K2 = 10000 ——— Kd2 = 10 mM  extremely weak binding

[concentrations] ; uM

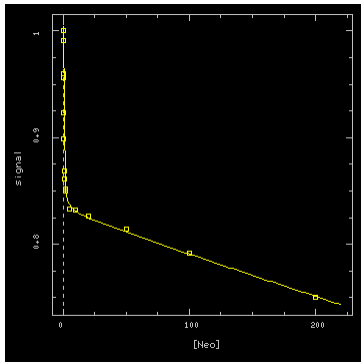
R72 = 0.1

[responses]

R72 = 10 ?
R72.Neo = 5 ?
Neo.R72.Neo = -5 ? ——— "straight line" binding curve continues to high negative values
```

## Nonspecific binding: Example – results of fit

HIV-1 Rev RESPONSIVE ELEMENT (LABELED RNA FRAGMENT) / NEOMYCIN B



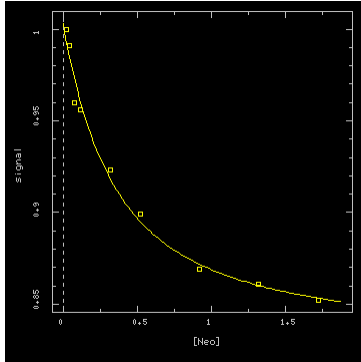
$$K_1 = (266 \pm 30) \text{ nM}$$

*specific binding component*

No.	Par#Set	Initial	Final	Std. Error	CV (%)	Note
#1	K1	0.1	0.265656	0.0302723	11.40	
#2	r(R72)	10	10.0441	0.0388884	0.39	
#3	r(R72.Neo)	5	8.30487	0.0286772	0.35	
#4	r(Neo.R72.Neo)	-5	-32.2529	3.01752	9.36	

## Nonspecific binding: Sometimes it *can* be ignored

HIV-1 Rev RESPONSIVE ELEMENT (LABELED RNA FRAGMENT) / NEOMYCIN B



$$K_1 = (290 \pm 70) \text{ nM}$$

*specific binding only*

No.	Par#Set	Initial	Final	Std. Error	CV (%)
#1	K	0.3	0.289936	0.0728402	25.12
#2	r(R72)	10	10.0329	0.0556981	0.56
#3	r(R72.Neo)	8.5	8.2671	0.104526	1.26

## Summary and conclusions

1. We need to understand the **matrix representation** of complex equilibria at least enough to be able to read DynaFit warning messages.
2. DynaFit will happily work even with **inconsistent mechanisms**, but it will **ignore redundant equilibrium constants** ("closed thermodynamic box")
3. **Equivalent sites** require a proper use of **statistical factors**.
4. **Nonspecific binding** looks like a "linear component" superimposed onto the usual nonlinear (hyperbolic) binding curve.
5. Nonspecific binding is modeled in DynaFit as "specific" binding characterized by **very high dissociation constant** "fixed" in the regression model.
6. DynaFit is not a "silver bullet": You must still **use your brain** a lot.