



Research Article

# Kinetic Study of the Discoloration of Crystal Violet Dye in Sodium Hydroxide Medium

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## Abstract

The kinetics of the Discoloration of crystal violet in alkaline medium was investigated via pseudo-first order kinetics at  $\lambda_{max}$  587 nm. The reaction was first order dependence on [CV] and [OH<sup>-</sup>]. A decrease in pseudo first-order rate constant with increase in ionic strength of the reaction mixture was observed. Activation parameters were calculated and a plausible association mechanism in agreement with the kinetic and spectroscopic results was provided. Spectrophotometric titration revealed 1:1 consumption of crystal violet to hydroxyl ion.

## Keywords

Crystal violet (CV); Sodium hydroxide; Potassium nitrate; Activation parameters

## Introduction

Crystal violet is a cationic triphenyl methane dye which has found great importance in dyeing industries. It is used to dye substrates like cotton, leather and silk [1]. The study of the hydrolysis of crystal violet has not been reported and scanty literature is available on its chemistry. However, hydrolytic reaction of crystal violet in 2-Butoxyethanol and water mixture [2] and the effect of surfactants on alkaline hydrolysis of crystal violet in aqueous solution have been reported [3,4]. Furthermore, the fading of crystal violet in micro emulsions [5] and in 2-butoxyethanol/water mixture have been investigated [6]. Crystal violet like every other triphenylmethane dyes is hazardous to aquatic and terrestrial animals. Crystal violet was reported to be able to induce tumor growth in some species of fish [7]. It has been found to cause reduced RNA and protein synthesis and can cause decreased oxygen consumption in the rabbit granulation tissues [8]. Therefore, due to the hazardous effect of crystal violet, it has become pertinent to find an efficient and less cost effective way of removing it from the environment. Therefore, this research work tends to explore alkaline hydrolytic reaction of the dye with focus on the kinetics of its discoloration in sodium hydroxide medium.

## Methods

### Experimental

All chemicals used were of analytical grade and solutions were

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prepared with double distilled water. Crystal violet, sodium hydroxide and potassium nitrate were utilized. Stock solutions of crystal violet, potassium nitrate and sodium hydroxide were prepared and kept in water bath for temperature equilibration. Appropriate quantities in the order of crystal violet, potassium nitrate and sodium hydroxide were measured into a quartz cuvette. All kinetic measurements were carried out with a Simadzu UV-1800 double beam UV-vis spectrophotometer equipped with a thermostat at 587 nm.

### Kinetic measurement

The requisite amount of each reactant in the order stated above were introduced into a quartz cuvette and decrease in absorbance of crystal violet with time for each reaction mixture was monitored *via* pseudo-first order condition. Pseudo-first order rate constants ( $k_{obs}$ ) were obtained from the slope of plots of  $\ln A$  versus time.



$$\frac{-d[CV^+]}{dt} = k_2[CV^+][OH^-]$$

$$\frac{-d[CV^+]}{dt} = k_1[CV^+]$$

Where,  $k_1$ =pseudo first order rate constant (s<sup>-1</sup>)

$k_2$ =second order rate constant (M<sup>-1</sup>s<sup>-1</sup>)

$$k_1 = k_2[OH^-]$$

$$k_2 = \frac{k_1}{[OH^-]}$$

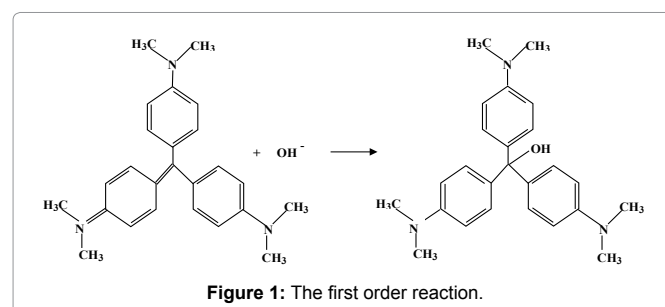
### Stoichiometry

The stoichiometry of the reaction was determined *via* spectrophotometric titration. The absorbance at infinite time of solutions containing [NaOH]<sub>0</sub> in the range  $6.67 \times 10^{-4}$ – $3.50 \times 10^{-3}$  M, [CV<sup>+</sup>]= $1 \times 10^{-5}$  M and  $\mu=0.05$  M were measured. However, from the plot of Absorbance versus [NaOH] curve, the stoichiometry was determined to be 1:1 (Figure 1).

### Results and Discussion

Effect of [CV] on the reaction rate

The reaction was carried out by varying the concentrations of [CV] within the range  $1.00 \times 10^{-5}$  M– $7.00 \times 10^{-5}$  M at 298 K and



fixed  $[\text{NaOH}]_0 = 1.67 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$  and  $\mu = 0.085 \text{ M}$  ( $\text{KNO}_3$ ). The reaction is dependent on the  $[\text{CV}]$  as observed rate constant ( $k_{\text{obs}}$ ) increases with increase in  $[\text{CV}]$  as shown in Table 1. The slope of the plot of  $\ln k_{\text{obs}}$  versus  $\ln [\text{CV}]$  gave unity, indicating a first order dependence with respect to  $[\text{CV}]$ .

### Effect of $[\text{OH}^-]$ on the reaction rate

The observed rate constant was determined as a function of hydroxyl ion concentration  $[\text{OH}^-]$  in the range  $6.70 \times 10^{-4}$ - $3.50 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$ , keeping all other reactant concentrations constant at  $[\text{CV}] = 1.00 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$  and  $\mu = 0.05 \text{ M}$  at 298 K. The observed pseudo-first order rate constant increased with increase in  $[\text{OH}^-]$  as shown in Table 2 and showed a first order dependence. The second order rate constant obtained from the slope of a plot of  $k_{\text{obs}}$  versus  $[\text{OH}^-]$  was  $0.25 \text{ M}^{-1}\text{s}^{-1}$ . The presence of an intermediate complex cannot be over-ruled as a plot of  $1/k_{\text{obs}}$  versus  $1/[\text{OH}^-]$  gave an intercept (Figure 2) [9].

### Effect of ionic strength on the reaction rate

The dependence of ionic strength on the rate of reaction was monitored by varying the ionic strength of the reaction mixtures within the range 0.01-0.1 M and fixing the initial concentrations of other reactants as  $[\text{CV}] 1.00 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$  and  $[\text{OH}^-] 1.67 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$  at 298

Table 1: Effect of  $[\text{CV}]$ .

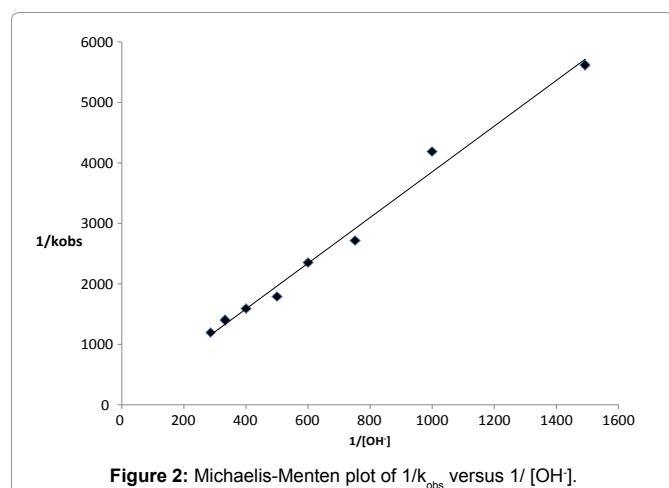
$10^5 [\text{CV}]/\text{M}$	$10^4 k_{\text{obs}}/\text{s}^{-1}$
1.00	1.73
2.00	3.22
3.00	4.12
4.00	5.26
5.00	6.10
6.00	7.80
7.00	8.90

$[\text{NaOH}] 1.67 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$   $\mu = 0.85 \text{ M}$

Table 2: Effect of  $[\text{OH}^-]$ .

$10^3 [\text{OH}^-]/\text{M}$	$10^4 k_{\text{obs}}/\text{s}^{-1}$
0.67	1.78
1.00	2.39
1.33	3.68
1.67	4.26
2.00	5.58
2.50	6.28
3.00	7.14
3.50	8.32

$[\text{CV}] 1.00 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$   $\mu = 0.005 \text{ M}$



K. A decrease in  $k_{\text{obs}}$  with increase in ionic strength of the solution was observed (Table 3). The slope of a plot of  $\log k_{\text{obs}}$  versus  $\sqrt{\mu}$  gave -1, implying the presence of -1 and +1 charges on the reactants at the rate determining step (Figure 3) [10].

### Effect of temperature on reaction rate

The rate of reaction as a function of temperature was investigated by varying the temperature of the reaction mixtures within the range 298-313K and maintaining constant  $[\text{CV}]_0 = 1.00 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$  and  $[\text{OH}^-]_0 = 1.67 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$  and  $\mu = 0.05 \text{ M}$ . There was a considerable increase in the observed rate constant ( $k_{\text{obs}}$ ) with increase in temperature (Figure 4). The slope of Arrhenius plot of  $\ln k_{\text{obs}}$  versus  $1/T$  gave activation energy ( $E_a$ ) of  $15.60 \text{ kJmol}^{-1}$ . The entropy of activation ( $\Delta S^\ddagger$ ) and enthalpy of activation ( $\Delta H^\ddagger$ ) and Gibb's free energy of activation ( $\Delta G^\ddagger$ ) were

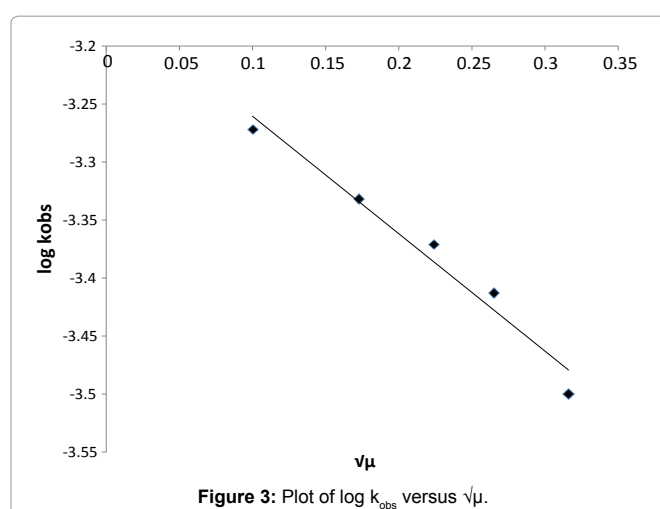
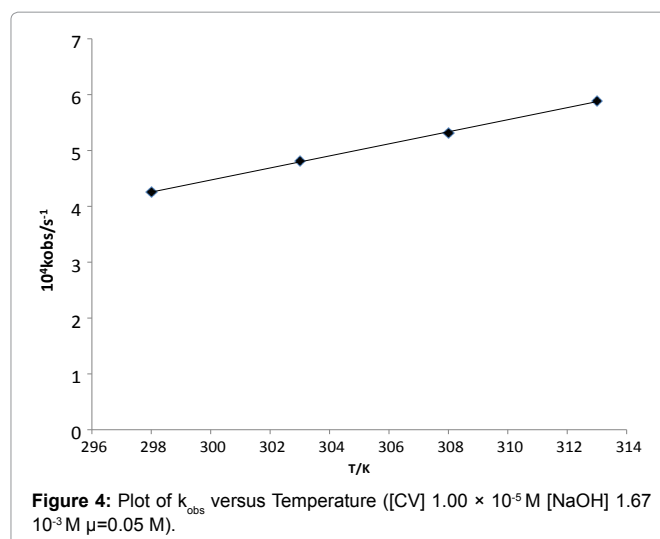


Figure 3: Plot of  $\log k_{\text{obs}}$  versus  $\sqrt{\mu}$ .

Table 3: Effect of ionic strength.

$10^2 \mu/\text{M}$	$10^4 k_{\text{obs}}/\text{s}^{-1}$
1.00	5.35
3.00	4.65
5.00	4.26
7.00	3.86
10.00	2.54

$[\text{CV}] 1.00 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$   $[\text{NaOH}] 1.67 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M}$



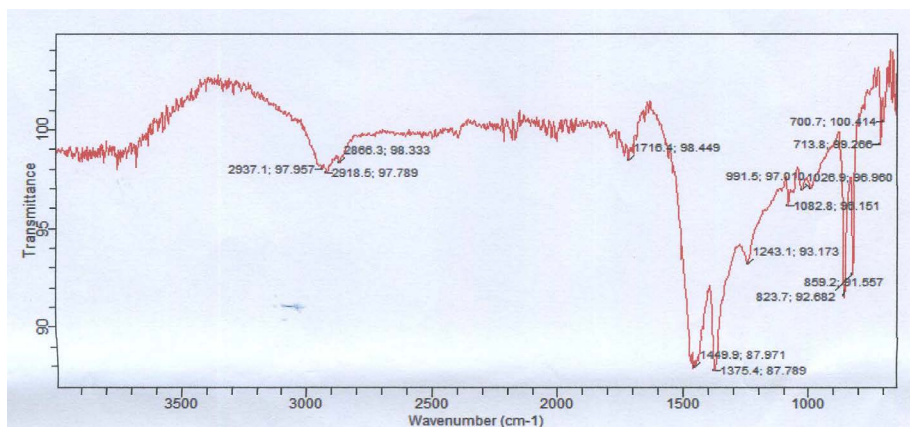
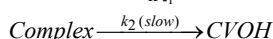
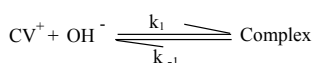


Figure 5: FTIR Spectrum of the product.

calculated using Eyring's equation as  $-0.26 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{K}^{-1} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$ ,  $13.95 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$  and  $91.43 \text{ kJ} \cdot \text{mol}^{-1}$  respectively.

The below listed kinetic and spectroscopic results were the basis for the proposed mechanism:

1. The reaction is first order dependent with respect to [CV] and [OH<sup>-</sup>].
2. The presence of -1 and +1 charges on the reactants at the rate determining step.
3. The presence of a possible intermediate complex during the course of the reaction.
4. Negative value of  $\Delta S^\ddagger$ , indicating an associative mechanism
5. FTIR product analysis showing the presence of a carbinol with sharp absorption at  $1474.2 \text{ cm}^{-1}$  signals the presence of C=C aromatic ring, the presence of O-H "free" is revealed from the sharp peak at  $3650\text{-}3600 \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Therefore, carbinol is suggested as the major product of the reaction (Figure 5).



$$\text{Rate} = k_2[\text{Complex}] \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{d[\text{Complex}]}{dt} = k_1[\text{CV}^+][\text{OH}^-] - k_{-1}[\text{Complex}] - k_2[\text{Complex}] \quad (2)$$

$$\frac{d[\text{Complex}]}{dt} = k_1[\text{CV}^+][\text{OH}^-] - (k_{-1} + k_2)[\text{Complex}] \quad (3)$$

Applying steady state approximation

$$0 = k_1[\text{CV}^+][\text{OH}^-] - (k_{-1} + k_2)[\text{Complex}] \quad (4)$$

$$k_1[\text{CV}^+][\text{OH}^-] = (k_{-1} + k_2)[\text{Complex}] \quad (5)$$

$$[\text{Complex}] = \frac{k_1[\text{CV}^+][\text{OH}^-]}{k_{-1} + k_2} \quad (6)$$

Substituting equation (6) in (1)

$$\text{Rate} = \frac{k_1 k_2 [\text{CV}^+][\text{OH}^-]}{k_{-1} + k_2}$$

$$\text{where } k = \frac{k_1 k_2}{k_{-1} + k_2}$$

$$\text{Rate} = k[\text{CV}^+][\text{OH}^-]$$

## Conclusion

Discoloration of crystal violet is first order with respect to the concentration of crystal violet and hydroxyl ion concentration. Like all triphenyl methane dyes, discoloration of crystal violet via hydrolysis involves the attack on the carbon within the planar ring of the dye by hydroxyl ion which results to the destruction of the conjugation configuration of the dye thereby yielding carbinol as the reaction product. Hydrolytic reaction of triphenyl methane dyes is most effective and cheapest method of the removal of dyes from industrial effluents.

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