

**Table II.** Summary of Known Fe(III) Species Water-Exchange Data

	$k_1$ (25 °C), s <sup>-1</sup>	$\Delta H^\ddagger$ , kcal/mol	$\Delta S^\ddagger$ , cal/(mol K)	$A/h$ , MHz
Fe(H <sub>2</sub> O) <sub>6</sub> <sup>3+</sup>	$1.67 \times 10^2$	18.5	13.8	
Fe(TMPyP)H <sub>2</sub> O <sup>5+</sup> <sup>a</sup>	$7.8 \times 10^5$	13.8	14.7	24.9
Fe(TPPS)H <sub>2</sub> O <sup>3+</sup> <sup>a</sup>	$1.4 \times 10^7$	13.7	20.2	22.6
species 2	$2.6 \times 10^7/n_2$	8.5	$3.9/n_2$	$45.6/n_2$

<sup>a</sup> Reference 9.

as species 2 is disappearing by an additional reaction to form a third species of Fe(III), probably a higher oligomer.

The data in Figure 6 for  $10^3/T < 3$  can be fit with the Swift-Connick equations in the form

$$Q_2 = \frac{Q_{2LIM}}{1 + (\Delta\omega_{M2})^2\tau_{M2}^2} \quad (7)$$

$$T_{2P*2} = \frac{1}{n_2} \left( \frac{1}{(\Delta\omega_{M2})^2\tau_{M2}} + \tau_{M2} \right) \quad (8)$$

where  $1/T_{2M2} = 0$  and the subscript 2 refers to species 2. The solid lines in Figure 6 were calculated with  $\Delta H_2^\ddagger = 8.5$  kcal/mol,  $n_2(A_2/h) = 45.6$  MHz,  $n_2\Delta S^\ddagger = 3.9$  eu, and  $\tau_{M2}(25^\circ\text{C})/n_2 = 3.9 \times 10^{-8}$  s.

Evidently only the  $(\Delta\omega_M)^2$  mechanism<sup>5</sup> is effective for broadening and  $T_{1e2}$  is so short that  $T_{2M2}$  is too long to be effective. The number of rapidly exchanging water molecules per Fe(III),  $n_2$ , is not known. Assuming  $1 \leq n_2 < 6$ , one concludes the water in species 2 exchanges faster than that in Fe(H<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>6</sub><sup>3+</sup> by a factor of  $(2-15) \times 10^4$  at 25 °C.

### Discussion

Judkins considered FeOH<sup>2+</sup>, Fe(OH)<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>, Fe<sub>2</sub>(OH)<sub>2</sub><sup>4+</sup>, and Fe<sub>3</sub>(OH)<sub>4</sub><sup>5+</sup> as possible contributors to the <sup>17</sup>O line broadening by Fe(III) in solutions containing 0.019-0.0986 M HClO<sub>4</sub>. He estimated a water lifetime in the first coordination sphere

of less than  $1.5 \times 10^{-6}$  s for FeOH<sup>2+</sup> and less than  $5.8 \times 10^{-7}$  s for Fe<sub>3</sub>(OH)<sub>4</sub><sup>5+</sup>. It is unlikely that any of these species can be identified as species 2 since they should not be stable in 1.5 M H<sup>+</sup> at 25 °C. In addition the shifts observed by Judkins are far too small for species 2 and his solutions showed no hysteresis effects lasting longer than 15 min. This conclusion is also supported by the relatively labile behavior of the  $\mu$ -oxo iron(III) complexes.<sup>6</sup>

In the case of Cr(III) it has been shown that a dinuclear species is formed by O<sub>2</sub> oxidation of Cr<sup>2+</sup> in perchloric acid<sup>7,8</sup> and that a mixture of polynuclear species is formed on boiling Cr(III) in HClO<sub>4</sub>.<sup>7</sup> The  $\mu$ -oxo or dihydroxo form has been postulated for the dinuclear species in this case.

In view of the above it is difficult to postulate a definite structure for species 2. It seems likely that it is a species formed in the early stages of hydrolysis of Fe(III) at high temperatures in acid, that oxo bridges are involved, that the enhanced water exchange is due to reduction of charge on the Fe(III), and that continued heating leads to higher oligomerization with eventual precipitation of the iron.

Table II summarizes what is known about water exchange on Fe(III) species. The  $A/h$  values would give  $n_2 = 2$  assuming the hypothesis<sup>3</sup> of constant  $A/h$  is valid. The low activation enthalpy and entropy suggest considerable weakening of the iron-water bond.

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## Catalytic Decomposition of Peroxymonosulfate in Aqueous Perchloric Acid by the Dual Catalysts Ag<sup>+</sup> and S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup> and by Co<sup>2+</sup>

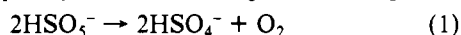
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Aqueous HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup> is catalytically decomposed to O<sub>2</sub> and HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> by the dual catalysts Ag<sup>+</sup> and S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup>. The rate law in acidic solution is  $-d[\text{HSO}_5^-]/dt = k[\text{Ag}^+]_0[\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}]_0$ . Both oxygen atoms in the O<sub>2</sub> product are derived from the terminal peroxide oxygen in HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup>. A chain mechanism of short chain length is proposed in which a HSO<sub>3</sub> intermediate is formed by the reaction of Ag<sup>2+</sup> and HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup>. HSO<sub>3</sub> rapidly decomposes in parallel, bimolecular paths which produce O<sub>2</sub> + 2SO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> and O<sub>2</sub> + S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup>, respectively. The slow step is the well-known reaction between Ag<sup>+</sup> and S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup>. Aqueous Co<sup>2+</sup> is also a catalyst for the decomposition of HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup>. The rate law, in the presence of dilute Ag<sup>+</sup>, is  $-d[\text{HSO}_5^-]/dt = k_{\text{Co}^{2+}}[\text{Co}^{2+}]_0[\text{HSO}_5^-]$ . A redox mechanism similar to that for the Ag<sup>+</sup>, S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup> catalysis is proposed in which Co<sup>2+</sup> and HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup> replace Ag<sup>+</sup> and S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup>, respectively. The kinetics are considerably more complicated in the absence of added Ag<sup>+</sup>. Some probable requirements for efficient, simple catalysis of the decomposition of HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup> are discussed.

### Introduction

There have been numerous reports of catalysis of the decomposition of peroxymonosulfate<sup>1</sup> (eq 1). Examples of



catalysts include metal ions in both acidic and weakly basic

solution,<sup>2</sup> traces of nitric acid in concentrated sulfuric acid,<sup>3</sup> and organic substrates such as ketones.<sup>4</sup> Few of these systems

(1) A more systematic name for HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup>, the predominant species in acidic solution (pK<sub>a</sub> ≈ 9.3), is hydrogen peroxosulfate. However, in this paper we shall yield to common usage.

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involve simple catalysis in that some net consumption of the "catalyst" is often observed. Many of these studies have been largely qualitative due in part to the complexity of the reactions. As a result our understanding of the mechanisms by which the catalytic decomposition of peroxydisulfate occurs is quite limited.

We report in this paper two examples of true catalysis—by the dual catalysts  $\text{Ag}^+$  and  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$  and by  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  in aqueous perchloric acid solution. A combination of kinetic, stoichiometric, and oxygen-18 tracer results allows us to reach some conclusions about the mechanisms involved.

### Experimental Section

**Reagents.** Solutions of  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  were prepared from OXONE, kindly supplied by Du Pont. The formula given for this material is  $2\text{KHSO}_5 \cdot \text{KHSO}_4 \cdot \text{K}_2\text{SO}_4$ . We have found that the solid is contaminated with small amounts of  $\text{K}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ . Otherwise, OXONE has desirable properties. The solid is very stable, especially when stored in a refrigerator. Aqueous solutions are free of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , a troublesome impurity present if  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  is prepared from concentrated sulfuric acid and hydrogen peroxide,<sup>2,6,3</sup> concentrated hydrogen peroxide and chlorosulfonic acid,<sup>2a</sup> or the decomposition of peroxydisulfate in strongly acidic solution.<sup>5</sup> The potassium ion is largely removed through precipitation of  $\text{KClO}_4$  if concentrated solutions are prepared in cold, aqueous perchloric acid.

Solutions of specifically labeled  $\text{O}_3\text{SOO}^*\text{H}^-$  were prepared by the decomposition of  $\text{CsSO}_4\text{F}$  in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}^*$  containing 1 M  $\text{HClO}_4$ . Under these conditions increased yields of  $\text{O}_3\text{SOO}^*\text{H}^-$  and substantially less  $\text{HOO}^*\text{H}$  are obtained over those formed in dilute acid or in water.<sup>6</sup> In a typical preparation, 0.3 g of  $\text{CsSO}_4\text{F}$  (1.2 mmol) were dissolved in 3.0 mL of 1 M  $\text{HClO}_4$  in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}^*$ . After decomposition of the  $\text{SO}_4\text{F}^-$ , the solution contained 0.178 M  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  and 0.017 M  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ .  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  was destroyed by addition of a slight excess of  $\text{Ce}(\text{IV})$ .

$\text{CsSO}_4\text{F}$  was prepared as described previously<sup>6,7a</sup> and contained 99.2%  $\text{CsSO}_4\text{F}$  and 0.60%  $\text{Cs}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$ .<sup>7b</sup>

Cobaltous perchlorate was prepared from reagent grade cobaltous carbonate and perchloric acid and was recrystallized three times. Solutions of cobalt(III) perchlorate were prepared by electrolytic oxidation.

Lithium perchlorate was prepared from reagent grade lithium carbonate and perchloric acid and recrystallized three times. Sodium azide was recrystallized twice according to the procedure of Browne.<sup>8</sup>

Solutions of  $\text{VO}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$  were prepared from commercial vanadyl sulfate by ion exchange.

All other chemicals were of reagent grade and were used without further purification. Deionized water was distilled before use, first from acid dichromate and then from alkaline permanganate.

**Analytical Procedures.** Solutions of  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  were analyzed iodometrically by reaction with iodide followed by titration with thiosulfate. The  $[\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}]$  of these solutions was determined by difference after measuring  $[\text{HSO}_5^-] + [\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}]$  by first allowing the reaction with 1 M  $\text{I}^-$  to proceed for 15 min at room temperature with oxygen excluded. Solutions of  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  containing appreciable  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$  were assayed for  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  by conducting the titration in dilute  $\text{I}^-$  promptly and at 0 °C; under these conditions the  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$  does not interfere.

Very dilute solutions of  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  were assayed by spectrophotometrically measuring  $\text{I}_3^-$  formed by adding aliquots to  $\text{NaI}$  solutions such that the final  $[\text{I}^-]$  was 0.1 M. Under these conditions the  $[\text{I}_2]$  is less than 1% that of the  $[\text{I}_3^-]$ . The average extinction coefficient determined at 353 nm was  $2.52 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ ; the reported<sup>9</sup>  $\epsilon_{\text{I}_3^-}$  is  $2.64 \times 10^4 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$ . Measurements were made promptly to minimize the slow additional growth of absorbance due to the  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$ - $\text{I}^-$  reaction.  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  present in the solutions analyzed by this procedure did not interfere.

Table I. Kinetic Results for the  $\text{Ag}^+$ - $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$ -Catalyzed Decomposition of  $\text{HSO}_5^-$ <sup>a</sup>

$10^2 \times [\text{HSO}_5^-]_0$ , M	$10^2 \times [\text{Ag}^+]_0$ , M	$10^6 k$ , M/s	$10^3 \times [\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}]_0$ (added), M	$10^2 k'$ , <sup>b</sup> $\text{M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$
3.30 <sup>c</sup>	3.18	4.22		5.04
3.30	4.23	5.72		5.11
1.63	4.23	3.02		5.48
1.58	0.317	1.00	4.88	5.13
1.65	0.799	2.62	4.92	5.26
1.65 <sup>d</sup>	0.788	2.28	4.43	5.03
3.07	0.391	2.31	9.43	4.97
			av	$5.15 \pm 0.13$
3.47 <sup>e</sup>	4.23	6.00		
1.66 <sup>f</sup>	0.788	3.63	4.43	8.01
1.59 <sup>g</sup>	0.788	1.36	4.43	3.00
1.63 <sup>h</sup>	6.88	2.59		2.90
1.71 <sup>i</sup>	1.63	2.41		10.8

<sup>a</sup>  $[\text{HClO}_4] = 0.50 \text{ M}$ ,  $T = 17.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $I = 0.63 \pm 0.03 \text{ M}$  unless otherwise indicated. <sup>b</sup>  $k' = k/([\text{Ag}^+]_0(0.08[\text{HSO}_5^-]_0 + [\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}]_0(\text{added}))]$ . <sup>c</sup>  $\text{AgNO}_3$  used instead of  $\text{AgClO}_4$ . <sup>d</sup> 0.10 M  $\text{HClO}_4$ ,  $I = 0.60 \text{ M}$  ( $\text{LiClO}_4$ ). <sup>e</sup> New sample of OXONE used. <sup>f</sup> 0.10 M  $\text{HClO}_4$ ,  $I = 0.20 \text{ M}$ . <sup>g</sup> 1.91 M  $\text{HClO}_4$ ,  $I = 2.01 \text{ M}$ . <sup>h</sup>  $T = 10.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ . <sup>i</sup>  $T = 25.0 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ .

Spectrophotometric assays were made for  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  ( $\epsilon = 4.79 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$  at 510 nm),  $\text{Co}^{3+}$  ( $\epsilon = 34.5 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$  at 602 nm,  $265 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$  at 280 nm),  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  ( $\epsilon = 17.1 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$  at 762.5 nm), and  $\text{VO}_2^+$  ( $\epsilon = 145 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-1}$  at 350 nm).

**Kinetic Procedures.** The  $\text{Ag}^+$ - $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$ - and  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ -catalyzed decompositions of  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  were monitored by measuring the  $[\text{HSO}_5^-]$  at appropriate times. The reactions were carried out in a thermostated glass vessel wrapped with aluminum foil to exclude light. The possible influence of light on the reaction rates were not investigated.

The  $\text{Ag}^+$ -catalyzed oxidation of  $\text{VO}^{2+}$  by  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$  was monitored spectrophotometrically by measuring the formation of  $\text{VO}_2^+$ . A Zeiss PMQ 11 spectrophotometer equipped with a rapid mixing, thermostated sample compartment was used.

All glassware was thoroughly cleaned, copiously rinsed with deionized water, and baked at 150 °C before use.

**Oxygen-18 Tracer Experiments.** The experiments were carried out by placing the reagents in separate legs of a vessel shaped like an inverted Y, evacuating the vessel, outgassing the solutions, and mixing. After the reaction had proceeded nearly to completion, the evolved gas was removed, and its molecular and isotopic compositions were determined by mass spectrometry, using a Consolidated Model 21-260 mass spectrometer. These experiments were performed by Dr. Evan H. Appelman, Chemistry Division, Argonne National Laboratory.

### Results

**Catalytic Decomposition of  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  by the Dual Catalysts  $\text{Ag}^+$  and  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$ .** The rate of decomposition of  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  in 0.50 M perchloric acid is very slow at room temperature. The decomposition rate is markedly enhanced by the presence of moderate concentrations of silver(I). Plots of  $[\text{HSO}_5^-]$  vs. time were strictly linear for at least 90% of the total reaction, in accordance with rate expression 2. However, the value of the

$$-d[\text{HSO}_5^-]/dt = k \quad (2)$$

pseudo-zero-order rate constant was found to decrease with a decrease in the initial peroxydisulfate concentration. This behavior is suggestive of the action of a second catalyst present in the peroxydisulfate stock solutions. Analysis of the OXONE used as the source of  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  showed the presence of  $9 \pm 2\%$   $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$  ( $\% \equiv 10^2[\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}]/[\text{HSO}_5^-]$ ). Titrations of the spent reaction mixtures of  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  and  $\text{Ag}^+$  revealed that the  $[\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}]$  initially introduced with  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  was unchanged within experimental uncertainty. Additional kinetic experiments were performed with varying concentrations of  $\text{Ag}^+$  and added  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$ . Each of these experiments again obeyed pseudo-zero-order kinetics. Values of the rate parameter  $k$  obtained in this study over a range of experimental data are summarized in Table I.

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**Table II.** Kinetic Results for the Ag<sup>+</sup>-Catalyzed Oxidation of VO<sup>2+</sup> by S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup><sup>a</sup>

<i>T</i> , °C	<i>I</i> , M	10 <sup>3</sup> <i>k</i> <sub>1</sub> <sup>b</sup> , M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>	<i>k</i> <sub>4</sub> / <i>k</i> <sub>5</sub> <sup>c</sup>
25.0	0.65	5.04	9.7
17.0	0.65	2.63	8.8
17.0	2.05	1.80	7.3
10.0	0.65	1.51	8.6

<sup>a</sup> Conditions: [VO<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>0</sub> = 1.14 × 10<sup>-2</sup> M, [S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup>]<sub>0</sub> = 1.82 × 10<sup>-3</sup> M, [Ag<sup>+</sup>]<sub>0</sub> = 0.0948–0.181 M, and [HClO<sub>4</sub>] = 0.402–1.88 M. <sup>b</sup> Reaction monitored by following appearance of VO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> at 350 nm. Values of *k*<sub>1</sub> = *k*<sub>obsd</sub>/[Ag<sup>+</sup>]<sub>0</sub>, where *k*<sub>obsd</sub> was obtained from the slope of plots of ln (*A*<sub>∞</sub> - *A*<sub>*t*</sub>) vs. time. <sup>c</sup> Values obtained from the expression *k*' = *k*<sub>1</sub> / (2*k*<sub>4</sub> + 2*k*<sub>5</sub>)/*k*<sub>5</sub>, with use of the appropriate values of *k*' from Table I.

The data were analyzed in terms of the postulated rate expression (3). The fraction of S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup> initially present in the

$$-d[\text{HSO}_5^-]/dt = k[\text{Ag}^+]_0[\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}]_0 \quad (3)$$

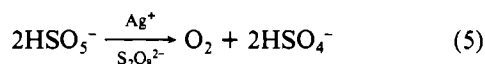
HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup> stock solutions was left as an unknown (*f* ≡ [S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup>]<sub>0</sub>/[HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sub>0</sub>). The best value of *f* was determined to be 0.080 by solving expression 4 by an iterative procedure.

$$k = k'[\text{Ag}^+]_0(f[\text{HSO}_5^-]_0 + [\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}]_{\text{added}}) \quad (4)$$

This value is in satisfactory agreement with the titrimetric result. Values of *k*' are listed in the last column of Table I. The constancy of these values for the first seven experiments indicates that the rate expression (3) adequately correlates the kinetic results.

This analysis requires both Ag<sup>+</sup> and S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup> to function as true catalysts in this system. While Ag<sup>2+</sup> was never detected during the kinetic experiments, its characteristic brown color and ultraviolet absorption developed in the "spent" reaction mixtures after complete decomposition of HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup>.

These observations coupled with the gas analysis (vide infra) demonstrate that the net stoichiometry for the decomposition is



All the results in Table I except the eighth experiment were obtained by using a 2 year old sample of OXONE that was stored at 5 °C. The ratio mmol of HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup>/g was 2.63. A newly acquired sample with the same ratio equal to 2.85 was used in the eighth experiment. The kinetic result was identical with that obtained with use of the older sample on the assumption that the S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup> content was 7.9% that of the HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup> (titrimetric value = 8%).

Silver(I) is a catalyst in many oxidations by peroxydisulfate.<sup>10</sup> We have determined the value of *k*<sub>1</sub> for rate expression 6 for our experimental conditions in a brief reinves-

$$-d[\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}]/dt = k_1[\text{Ag}^+][\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}] \quad (6)$$

tigation of the silver(I)-catalyzed oxidation of oxovanadium(IV) by peroxydisulfate.<sup>11</sup> The results are summarized in Table II.

The rate parameter *k*<sub>1</sub> has been found previously to be independent of the hydrogen ion concentration but to decrease with increasing ionic strength.<sup>10</sup> These features are also observed for *k*', the rate parameter for the Ag<sup>+</sup>, S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup> catalyzed decomposition of HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup>.

**Catalytic Decomposition of HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup> by Co<sup>2+</sup>.** Cobalt(II) is also a catalyst for the decomposition of peroxymonosulfate.

**Table III.** Kinetic Results for the Co<sup>2+</sup>-Catalyzed Decomposition of HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup> in the Presence of Ag<sup>+</sup><sup>a</sup>

10 <sup>3</sup> × [HSO <sub>5</sub> <sup>-</sup> ] <sub>0</sub> , M	10 <sup>3</sup> × [Co <sup>2+</sup> ], M	10 <sup>3</sup> × [Ag <sup>+</sup> ], M	[HClO <sub>4</sub> ], M	<i>T</i> , °C	10 <sup>4</sup> × (slope) <sup>b</sup> , s <sup>-1</sup>	10 <sup>3</sup> <i>k</i> <sub>Co<sup>2+</sup></sub> <sup>c</sup> , M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
0.891	0.197	1.98	1.95	17.0	8.48	4.30
0.891	0.0985	1.98	1.99	17.0	4.56	4.63
0.891	0.0985	0.793	2.01	17.0	4.28	4.34
0.891	0.0394	1.98	2.01	17.0	1.99	5.05
2.06	0.0389	1.96	2.00	17.0	2.00	5.14
9.89	0.0382	1.92	2.03	17.0	1.83	4.79
30.7	0.0382	9.62	2.03	17.0	(2.32) <sup>d</sup>	(6.07) <sup>d</sup>
2.12	0.0390	1.94	1.02	17.0	3.29	8.43
2.12	0.0390	1.94	2.05	9.0	0.706	1.81
2.12	0.0390	1.94	1.02	9.0	1.19	3.06
2.12	0.0390	1.94	0.554	9.0	2.02	5.19
2.12	0.0390	1.94	0.260	9.0	4.07	10.4
2.12	0.0390	1.94	2.05	25.0	4.98	12.8

<sup>a</sup> *I* = 2.0 M (LiClO<sub>4</sub>). <sup>b</sup> Obtained from plot of ln [HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup>] vs. *t*. <sup>c</sup> *k*<sub>Co<sup>2+</sup></sub> = slope/[Co<sup>2+</sup>]. <sup>d</sup> The rate of the Ag<sup>+</sup>-S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup> reaction is not negligible; kinetic plot curved upward after ca. 60% reaction. Entry is slope of linear portion.

Cobalt(III) was not observed spectrophotometrically during the decomposition ([Co<sup>3+</sup>]<sub>max</sub> < 1% [HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sub>0</sub>). Nevertheless, a redox process is indicated by the general observation that added Co<sup>3+</sup> markedly enhances the reaction rate. Unlike the Ag<sup>+</sup> system, the rate is not influenced by dilute S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup>.

The kinetics of the reaction are simplified if Ag<sup>+</sup> is also present under conditions where its reaction with S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup> introduced with HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup> is negligible or nearly so. Excellent pseudo-first-order plots of ln [HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup>] vs. time for at least 85% of total reaction were obtained over a modest range of initial concentrations and temperature. Values of the slopes of these plots are summarized in Table III. Values of *k*<sub>Co<sup>2+</sup></sub>, appropriate to expression 7 are approximately constant. We will

$$-d[\text{HSO}_5^-]/dt = k_{\text{Co}^{2+}}[\text{HSO}_5^-][\text{Co}^{2+}]_0 \quad (7)$$

argue later that the role of Ag<sup>+</sup> in this reaction is to scavenge sulfate radicals, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>•-</sup>. At the lowest Ag<sup>+</sup> concentration tested, there is a slight decrease in *k*<sub>Co<sup>2+</sup></sub>; at the highest concentration the Ag<sup>+</sup>-S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>8</sub><sup>2-</sup> reaction is no longer negligible, and the value of the rate parameter increases.

The hydrogen ion dependence of the rate parameter was briefly examined at 9.0 °C. A plot of *k*<sub>Co<sup>2+</sup></sub> vs. 1/[H<sup>+</sup>] was linear, with a slope of 2.56 × 10<sup>-3</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> and an intercept of 5.5 × 10<sup>-4</sup> M<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>. This result indicates that the reaction rate is predominantly inverse first order with respect to the hydrogen ion concentration.

The kinetic behavior of the Co<sup>2+</sup>-catalyzed decomposition of HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup> is considerably more complicated in the absence of added Ag<sup>+</sup>. We do not have a very complete understanding of this system at the present time. Some of the experimental data are summarized in Table IV.

In the first 12 experiments the ratio [Co<sup>2+</sup>]<sub>0</sub>/[HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup>]<sub>0</sub> was varied from 0.014–18. Kinetic plots of ln [HSO<sub>5</sub><sup>-</sup>] vs. time usually exhibited what we take as a brief induction period (up to ca. 15% total reaction) followed in all cases by a linear region extending to 90% total reaction. The values of *k*<sub>Co<sup>2+</sup></sub> calculated from expression 8 are approximately 40% less than

$$-d[\text{HSO}_5^-]/dt = k'_{\text{Co}^{2+}}[\text{HSO}_5^-][\text{Co}^{2+}]_0 \quad (8)$$

the values of *k*<sub>Co<sup>2+</sup></sub> obtained under comparable conditions but with added Ag<sup>+</sup>. Otherwise, the major features of the reactions are quite similar, including a predominantly inverse first-order hydrogen ion dependence. However, at higher Co<sup>2+</sup> concentrations than those listed in Table IV, the first-order plots curve upward throughout the reaction. For example, this feature was observed for an experiment with 0.0989 M Co<sup>2+</sup> but otherwise identical with the third entry.

(10) Wilmarth, W. K.; Haim, A. In "Peroxide Reaction Mechanisms"; Edwards, J. O., Ed.; Interscience: New York 1962; pp 194–200.

(11) (a) Yost, D. M.; Claussen, W. H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1931**, *53*, 3349. (b) Values of *k*<sub>1</sub> recently have been determined directly, although at lower ionic strengths than used in the present study. See: Kimura, M.; Kawajiri, T.; Tanida, M. *J. Chem. Soc., Dalton Trans.* **1980**, 726.

Table IV. Kinetic Results for the  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ -Catalyzed Decomposition of  $\text{HSO}_5^-$ 

$[\text{HSO}_5^-]_0, \text{M}$	$[\text{Co}^{2+}]_0, \text{M}$	$[\text{HClO}_4], \text{M}$	$I, \text{M}$	$T, ^\circ\text{C}$	$10^4(\text{slope}),^a \text{s}^{-1}$	$10^2 k'_{\text{Co}^{2+}},^b \text{M}^{-1} \text{s}^{-1}$
$2.12 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.90 \times 10^{-2}$	0.260	2.0	9.0	2.44	0.627
$2.12 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.95 \times 10^{-2}$	0.260	2.0	9.0	1.22	0.625
$5.00 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.98 \times 10^{-2}$	1.96	2.0	17.0	1.09	0.274
$5.00 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.98 \times 10^{-2}$	0.680	2.0	17.0	3.16	0.794
$5.00 \times 10^{-3}$	$3.90 \times 10^{-2}$	0.65	2.0	17.0	(0.67) <sup>c</sup>	(0.17) <sup>c</sup>
$5.00 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.51 \times 10^{-2}$	0.393	2.0	17.0	1.65	1.09
$5.00 \times 10^{-3}$	$4.53 \times 10^{-3}$	0.106	2.0	17.0	1.92	4.24
$1.00 \times 10^{-2}$	$5.14 \times 10^{-2}$	0.521	0.68	17.0	8.48	1.65
$5.39 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.31 \times 10^{-2}$	0.506	0.55	17.0	1.76	1.34
$2.70 \times 10^{-3}$	$1.31 \times 10^{-2}$	0.506	0.55	17.0	1.58	1.21
$1.11 \times 10^{-2}$	$4.15 \times 10^{-3}$	0.503	0.52	17.0	4.19	1.01
$4.74 \times 10^{-2}$	$6.55 \times 10^{-4}$	0.500	0.50	39.8	1.04	15.9

$[\text{HSO}_5^-]_0, \text{M}$	$[\text{Co}^{2+}]_0, \text{M}$	$[\text{HClO}_4], \text{M}$	$I, \text{M}$	$T, ^\circ\text{C}$	$10^4(\text{slope}),^d \text{s}^{-1}$	$10^2(\text{slope})/([\text{HSO}_5^-]_0 \times [\text{Co}^{2+}]_0)^{1/2}$
$4.12 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.96 \times 10^{-1}$	2.0	2.6	17.0	4.0	4.5
$4.12 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.96 \times 10^{-1}$	2.0	2.6	17.0	4.0 <sup>e</sup>	4.5
$8.06 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.96 \times 10^{-1}$	2.0	2.6	17.0	4.8	3.8
$4.12 \times 10^{-4}$	$7.85 \times 10^{-2}$	2.0	2.2	17.0	1.8	3.2
$1.68 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.97 \times 10^{-1}$	2.0	2.6	17.0	3.4	5.9

<sup>a</sup> Obtained from the plot of  $\ln [\text{HSO}_5^-]$  vs.  $t$ . <sup>b</sup>  $k'_{\text{Co}^{2+}} = \text{slope}/[\text{Co}^{2+}]_0$ . <sup>c</sup>  $2.01 \times 10^{-3} \text{ M HN}_3$  added. <sup>d</sup> From the plot of  $\ln [(2[X_0(X_0 - X)]^{1/2} - X + 2X_0)/X]$  vs.  $t$ , where  $X = [\text{HSO}_5^-]$ . <sup>e</sup>  $8.0 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M HSO}_5^-$  added to  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  solution; kinetic experiment listed was initiated ca. 24 h later.

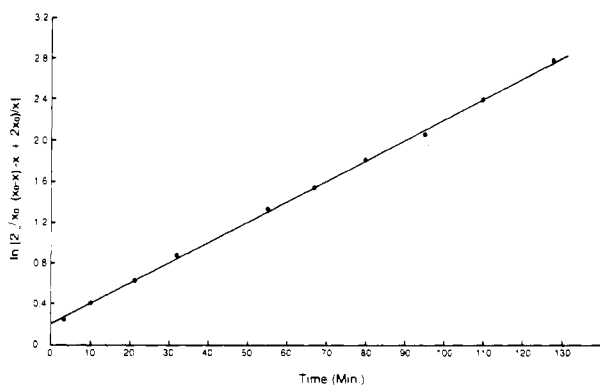


Figure 1. Kinetic plot of  $\ln [(2[X_0(X_0 - X)]^{1/2} - X + 2X_0)/X]$  vs. time. Conditions:  $[\text{HSO}_5^-]_0 = 1.68 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ ,  $[\text{Co}^{2+}]_0 = 0.197 \text{ M}$ ,  $[\text{HClO}_4] = 2.0 \text{ M}$ ,  $T = 17.0 ^\circ\text{C}$ .

It should be noted that the presence of  $\text{HN}_3$  markedly reduces the reaction rate but does not alter the form of the rate law. In the fifth entry of Table IV,  $\text{HN}_3$  would competitively reduce traces of  $\text{Co}^{3+}$  generated during the reaction ( $k = 15 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  under the experimental conditions<sup>12</sup>) and presumably other oxidizing intermediates such as  $\text{SO}_4^-$  but not significantly reduce the  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  ( $k = 1.6 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  under the experimental conditions).<sup>13</sup>

Quite different kinetic profiles are observed at large values of the ratio  $[\text{Co}^{2+}]_0/[\text{HSO}_5^-]_0$ . The last five entries summarize results obtained when this ratio was varied from 190–1200. The unusual kinetic behavior does not appear to arise from trace impurities in the  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  solutions, since the use of such solutions that had been "pretreated" with  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  yielded identical results. The simplest rate expression we have found that allows a preliminary kinetic analysis is

$$-d[\text{HSO}_5^-]/dt \propto [\text{HSO}_5^-]([\text{HSO}_5^-]_0 - [\text{HSO}_5^-])^{1/2} \quad (9)$$

Integration gives expression 10 where  $X = [\text{HSO}_5^-]$ . The  $\ln [(2[X_0(X_0 - X)]^{1/2} - X + 2X_0)/X] = t(\text{slope})$  (10)

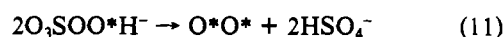
Table V. Oxygen-18 Tracer Results for the Catalyzed Decomposition of  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  at  $25 ^\circ\text{C}$

reacn solution	atom % $^{18}\text{O}$			$n^c$
	solvent enrichment <sup>a</sup>	$\text{O}_3\text{SOO}^*\text{H}^-$ enrichment <sup>b</sup>	$\text{O}_2$ enrichment	
0.028 M $\text{HSO}_5^-$ 0.0145 M $\text{Co}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ 0.23 M $\text{HClO}_4$	1.566	0.203	0.213	1.97 <sup>d</sup>
0.076 M $\text{HSO}_5^-$ 0.0008 M $\text{Co}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ 0.5 M $\text{HClO}_4$	0.770	1.527	1.476	1.92
0.00356 M $\text{HSO}_5^-$ 0.20 M $\text{Co}(\text{ClO}_4)_2$ 0.5 M $\text{HClO}_4$	0.299	1.527	1.477	1.92
0.0304 M $\text{HSO}_5^-$ 0.012 M $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$ 0.0042 M $\text{AgClO}_4$ 0.5 M $\text{HClO}_4$	0.429	1.527	1.485	1.94

<sup>a</sup> Normal oxygen (in  $\text{HSO}_5^-$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , and  $\text{O}_2$ ) is taken as 0.203 atom %  $^{18}\text{O}$ . <sup>b</sup>  $\text{O}_3\text{SOO}^*\text{H}^-$  was prepared by the decomposition of  $\text{SO}_4\text{F}^-$  in  $\text{H}_2\text{O}^*$  containing 1 M  $\text{HClO}_4$ . The enrichment of the terminal peroxide oxygen of the  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  product was taken to be that of the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}^*$ .<sup>6</sup> <sup>c</sup> Number of terminal peroxide oxygen atoms per  $\text{O}_2$  molecule. <sup>d</sup> By itself, this experiment only shows that 0.015 solvent oxygen atoms are present per  $\text{O}_2$  molecule. However, the set of results demonstrates that little, if any,  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  oxygen atoms other than at the terminal peroxide position are incorporated into the  $\text{O}_2$  product.

appropriate plots were reasonably linear, as indicated in Figure 1. Values of the slopes of these plots are listed in Table IV.

**Oxygen-18 Tracer Experiments.** As mentioned earlier, the catalyzed decompositions of peroxymonosulfate investigated in this study yield dioxygen. The isotopic composition of this product was determined in several oxygen-18 tracer experiments. The results are summarized in Table V. The recent availability<sup>6</sup> of  $\text{O}_3\text{SOO}^*\text{H}^-$  greatly simplifies the interpretation. The major conclusion that may be drawn is that under all conditions tested the predominant source of both oxygen atoms in the  $\text{O}_2$  product is the terminal peroxide oxygen in  $\text{HSO}_5^-$ , as summarized by reaction 11.

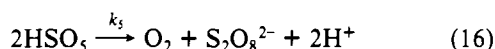
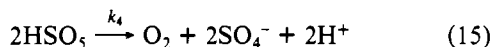
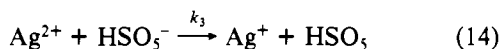
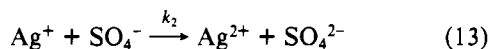
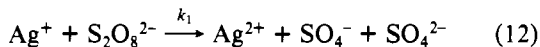


(12) Murmann, R. K.; Sullivan, J. C.; Thompson, R. C. *Inorg. Chem.* **1968**, *7*, 1876.

(13) Thompson, R. C.; Wieland, P.; Appelman, E. H. *Inorg. Chem.* **1979**, *18*, 1974.

## Discussion

The experimental results obtained for the catalytic decomposition of  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  by  $\text{Ag}^+$  and  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$  impose severe constraints on the mechanisms that may be proposed. Both  $\text{Ag}^+$  and  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$  are true catalysts in this reaction. The rate law has been determined, and the oxygen product has been found to contain primarily terminal peroxide oxygen from  $\text{HSO}_5^-$ . We propose the mechanism (12)–(16) to account for these ob-

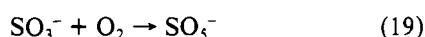
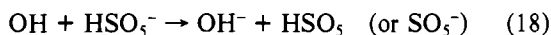


servations. If the steady-state approximation is applied to the concentrations of  $\text{Ag}^{2+}$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^-$ , and  $\text{HSO}_5$ , rate law 17 is ob-

$$-d[\text{HSO}_5^-]/dt = k_1[(2k_4 + 2k_5)/k_5][\text{Ag}^+]_0[\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}]_0 \quad (17)$$

tained, in agreement with the experimentally determined expression. The mechanism preserves a constant  $[\text{Ag}^+]$  and  $[\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}]$ , a required feature if these ions are to function as catalysts.

The first two reactions have considerable precedent,<sup>10</sup> and the second is consistent with the observation that silver(I) appears to be an excellent scavenger for sulfate radicals.<sup>14</sup> The third reaction is in harmony with our observation that  $\text{Ag}^{2+}$  causes immediate formation of  $\text{O}_2$  when added to  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  solutions.  $\text{HSO}_5$  (or  $\text{SO}_5^-$ ) has been proposed previously as a product of reactions 18 and 19,<sup>15</sup> as an intermediate in the

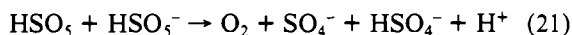


photolytic decomposition of peroxydisulfate<sup>16</sup> and in the reaction between cerium(IV) and peroxymonosulfate.<sup>28</sup> The oxygen formed in reactions 15 and 16 of the proposed mechanism is consistent with the oxygen-18 tracer results provided only the terminal oxygen in each  $\text{HSO}_5$  molecule is incorporated into the  $\text{O}_2$  product. The strength of the S–O bond presumably precludes bond breaking at the sulfur, leading to bimolecular decomposition of  $\text{HSO}_5$ . This situation is in sharp contrast to hydrogen peroxide chemistry, where oxygen formation invariably incorporates both oxygen atoms originally present in the peroxide moiety.<sup>17</sup>

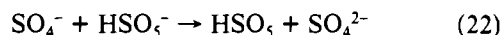
The most unusual feature of the proposed mechanism is the competitive mode of decomposition of  $\text{HSO}_5$ .<sup>26</sup> The scheme implies that  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$  is either formed within the cage or the  $\text{SO}_4^-$  radicals escape and react with  $\text{Ag}^+$ . Replacement of reaction 16 with eq 20 can be ruled out on the basis of the resulting



rate expression. Similarly, reaction 21 cannot be substituted



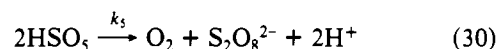
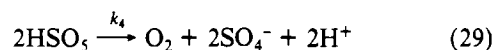
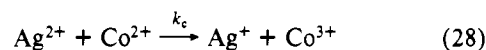
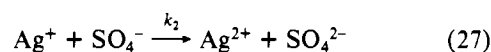
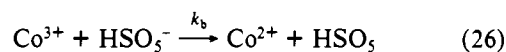
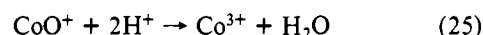
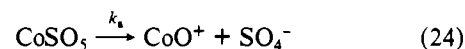
for reaction 15. However, adding reaction 22 to the proposed



mechanism does not alter the derived rate law.

If we accept the mechanism, the ratio  $k_4/k_5$  can be calculated from the values of  $k'$  and  $k_1$ . The values of  $k_4/k_5$  are listed in the last column of Table II and are approximately constant. This feature is not inconsistent with the assumption that the ratio should be relatively insensitive to temperature and medium effects. The mechanism may be interpreted as a chain reaction of short chain length, in that approximately 20  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  ions are decomposed for each reaction of  $\text{Ag}^+$  and  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$ .

The cobalt(II)-catalyzed decomposition of peroxymonosulfate is much more complicated, and at present we can only reach some tentative mechanistic conclusions. However, some of the salient features of the  $\text{Ag}^+$ ,  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$  catalyzed reaction should be operative, but  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$  inadvertently introduced with  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  should play a negligible or at least minor role. Let us first consider the  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  catalysis under conditions where  $\text{Ag}^+$  has been added to minimize any  $\text{Ag}^+$ – $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$  reaction.<sup>18</sup> We tentatively propose the reaction scheme (23)–(30). The rapid

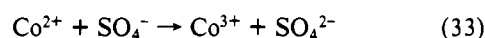
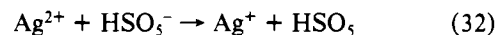


equilibrium (23) is included to account for the observed predominantly inverse first-order hydrogen ion dependence but is assumed to lie far to the left. Applying the steady-state approximation to the  $[\text{Co}^{3+}]$ ,  $[\text{Ag}^{2+}]$ ,  $[\text{SO}_4^-]$ , and  $[\text{HSO}_5]$  leads to the derived rate equation (31). This expression is

$$-d[\text{HSO}_5^-]/dt = k_a(K/[\text{H}^+])((2k_4 + 2k_5)/k_5)[\text{Co}^{2+}]_0[\text{HSO}_5^-] \quad (31)$$

identical in form with that observed experimentally. The rate law is analogous to that proposed for the  $\text{Ag}^+$ ,  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$  catalysis, with  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  and  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  replacing  $\text{Ag}^+$  and  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$ , respectively.

Inclusion of the addition reactions (32) and (33) does not



alter eq 31. Reaction 28 is known to be rapid.<sup>19</sup>

The role of  $\text{Ag}^+$  in this scheme is primarily to scavenge  $\text{SO}_4^-$  radicals. Our previous results<sup>14</sup> indicate that  $\text{Ag}^+$  is a much more efficient  $\text{SO}_4^-$  scavenger than  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ .

The interpretation of the  $\text{Co}^{2+}$  catalysis without added  $\text{Ag}^+$  is more complicated and rather unsatisfactory. We suggest that the major perturbation in most of our experiments is the alternative reaction (eq 34) of the sulfate radical (other than



(14) (a) Thompson, R. C.; Appelman, E. H., to be submitted for publication. (b) The rate constant for reaction 13 has been estimated to be  $3 \times 10^9$ . See: Walling, C.; Camaioni, D. M. *J. Org. Chem.* **1978**, *43*, 3266.  
 (15) (a) Roebke, W.; Renz, M.; Henglein, A. *Int. J. Radiat. Phys. Chem.* **1969**, *1*, 29. (b) Hayon, E.; Treinen, A.; Wilf, J. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1972**, *94*, 47. (c) Maruthamuthu, P.; Neta, P. *J. Phys. Chem.* **1977**, *81*, 937.  
 (16) Tsao, M.; Wilmarth, W. K. *J. Phys. Chem.* **1959**, *63*, 346.  
 (17) (a) Cahill, A. E.; Taube, H. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1952**, *74*, 2312. (b) Anbar, M. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1961**, *83*, 2031.

(18) Solutions of  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  free of  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$  can be prepared but are contaminated with small amounts of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ . We have chosen to accept the  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$  impurity rather than cope with the complications arising from the presence of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ .  
 (19) Huchital, D. H.; Sutin, N.; Warnqvist, B. *Inorg. Chem.* **1967**, *6*, 838.

reaction 33). This reaction cannot have a major stoichiometric significance, as the magnitude of  $[\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}]_\infty - [\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}]_0$  is approximately what would be anticipated as a result of reaction 30. However, a small participation of reaction 34 could have a significant kinetic influence. The brief induction period observed may be due to a buildup of the steady-state concentration of  $\text{Co}^{3+}$ . A small decrease in this steady-state concentration relative to that maintained in the presence of  $\text{Ag}^+$  would account for the lower values of  $k'_{\text{Co}^{2+}}$  for the first 12 experiments in Table IV compared to  $k_{\text{Co}^{2+}}$ .

Quite different kinetic profiles are exhibited by the last five experiments in Table IV, in which a very large  $[\text{Co}^{2+}]_0/[\text{HSO}_5^-]_0$  ratio was used. We cannot quantitatively account for this behavior, but a crude qualitative interpretation gives some insight. We suggest that, while the  $[\text{Co}^{3+}]$  is undetectably low during the reaction, it continuously builds up as the reaction proceeds. If we make the obviously nonrigorous approximations of

$$d[\text{Co}^{3+}]/dt = k_a[\text{Co}^{2+}]_0[\text{HSO}_5^-] \quad (35)$$

$$-d[\text{HSO}_5^-]/dt = k_b[\text{Co}^{3+}][\text{HSO}_5^-] \quad (36)$$

where  $k_a$  and  $k_b$  refer to reactions 24 and 26, respectively, expression 37 can be derived. This equation is identical in form

$$-d[\text{HSO}_5^-]/dt = (2k_a k_b [\text{Co}^{2+}]_0) [\text{HSO}_5^-] ([\text{HSO}_5^-]_0 - [\text{HSO}_5^-])^{1/2} \quad (37)$$

with expression 9, which does correlate the kinetic data for each individual experiment. Integration of eq 37 identifies the slope in eq 10 as  $(2k_a k_b [\text{Co}^{2+}]_0 [\text{HSO}_5^-]_0)^{1/2}$ . Qualitatively, this treatment lends some support to the suggestion that the unusual kinetic behavior derives in part from a continuous, but very low, buildup of  $\text{Co}^{3+}$ . Quantitatively, the scheme fails as would be anticipated from the gross approximations made.<sup>20</sup> This failure can be clearly seen by the inconsistent values of the quantity slope/ $([\text{HSO}_5^-]_0 [\text{Co}^{2+}]_0)^{1/2}$  listed in the last column of Table IV.

Considerable information is available concerning the uncatalyzed decomposition of peroxydisulfate. The kinetics are second order over the pH range 6–12, with a maximum rate at a pH of 9.3, the  $pK_a$  of  $\text{HSO}_5^-$ .<sup>2a,b</sup> Predominantly

terminal peroxide oxygen is incorporated into the  $\text{O}_2$  product.<sup>21</sup> In strongly acidic solution the decomposition instead yields  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ , with both oxygen atoms originating from the peroxide moiety in  $\text{HSO}_5^-$ .<sup>22</sup> However, we have found that in acidic solutions containing certain metal ion catalysts neither of these modes of decomposition are competitive, and instead a redox process is operative. The metal ion must be oxidized, by either  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  or a  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$  impurity. The metal ion must be a weak reducing agent to serve as an effective catalyst, since its oxidized form must be capable of forming  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  from  $\text{HSO}_5^-$ . The bimolecular decomposition of the  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  intermediate then partially sustains the chain decomposition of  $\text{HSO}_5^-$ .

Conceivably, catalysis by some metal ions may not involve radical species formed through a redox process. However, this mode of catalysis has not been demonstrated to date.<sup>23</sup>

It will be interesting, when more data are available, to compare the 1-equiv, redox catalysis of the decomposition of peroxydisulfate and hydrogen peroxide.<sup>24</sup> We anticipate that thermodynamic differences will be important. The standard free energies of the  $\text{HSO}_5^-$ - $\text{HSO}_5^-$  and  $\text{HSO}_5^-$ - $\text{O}_2$  couples are probably less favorable than for the  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$ - $\text{HO}_2$  and  $\text{HO}_2$ - $\text{O}_2$  couples.<sup>25</sup> Consequently, not only does the oxidized form of the catalyst presumably need to be a more potent oxidant for efficient catalysis of  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  decomposition but also oxidation of  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  may be a rare event relative to bimolecular decomposition as proposed in this communication.

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**Registry No.**  $\text{HSO}_5^-$ , 12188-01-1;  $\text{O}_3\text{S}-\text{O}-\text{O}^*-\text{H}^-$ , 76282-18-3;  $\text{Ag}^+$ , 14701-21-4;  $\text{S}_2\text{O}_8^{2-}$ , 15092-81-6;  $\text{Co}^{2+}$ , 22541-53-3;  $\text{VO}^{2+}$ , 20644-97-7;  $\text{CsSO}_4\text{F}$ , 70806-67-6.

(21) Koubek, E.; Levey, G.; Edwards, J. O. *Inorg. Chem.* **1964**, *3*, 1331.

(22) Bunton, C. A.; Llewellyn, D. R. *Research (London)* **1952**, *5*, 142.

(23) A debate on just this point has arisen over the enhanced rate of decomposition of  $\text{HSO}_5^-$  in the presence of cerium(IV) in sulfuric acid solution. See ref 2d,e,g. The argument presented by Wilson et al. for a radical process appears to be more persuasive to us.

(24) For a recent review of the  $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ -catalyzed decomposition of  $\text{H}_2\text{O}_2$  and of "Fenton's Reagent", see: Walling, C. *Acc. Chem. Res.* **1975**, *8*, 125.

(25) This prediction is based on available standard electrode potentials. The value of  $E^\circ$  for the couple  $\text{HSO}_4^- + \text{H}_2\text{O} = \text{HSO}_5^- + 2\text{H}^+ + 2e^-$  is listed as -1.44 V on the Du Pont data sheet for OXONE. However, a more recent estimate of this potential is -1.75 V. See: Spiro, M. *Electrochim. Acta* **1979**, *24*, 313.

(26) A reviewer pointed out that the self-reaction of tertiary alkylperoxy radicals is quite similar to what we are proposing for  $\text{HSO}_5^-$ . See, for example: Howard, J. A. *Adv. Free-Radical Chem.* **1972**, *4*, 42.

(20) Even modest refinements in the analysis lead to very cumbersome equations. While the equations can be solved, the extensive number of adjustable parameters that would be required to test our data causes the exercise to be unwarranted.