### Electrophilic Aromatic Substitution $-S_E^2$



# Mechanisms of Reaction

### Ingold-Hughes (original idea)

• Advantage: aromaticity is mantained in the direct displacement



#### Melander

 Secondary kinetic isotopic effect for nitration and bromination of aromatics

Reaction	k <sub>H</sub> /k <sub>D</sub>
Benzene + $HNO_3/H_2SO_4$	0.89
Toluene + $NO_2^+BF_4^-$	0.85



# Modified Ingold-Hughes Mechanism



 $\sigma$ -Complex : strong bonding between reactants

"Accepted" Mechanism for Nitration Ingold-Hughes (Polar) Mechanism  $HNO_3 + HA \iff H_2NO_3^+ + A^-$ (1) $H_2NO_3^+ \xrightarrow{k_1} NO_2^+ + H_2O$ (2) $ArH + NO_2^+ \xrightarrow{k_R} ArHNO_2^+$ (3)**Reaction Intermediate**  $ArHNO_2^+ + A^- \longrightarrow ArNO_2 + HA$ (4) $HNO_3 + ArH \longrightarrow ArNO_2 + H_2O$ Wheland Intermediate **Isolated** or  $ArHNO_2^+ \iff$  Wheland Intermediate Arenium ion (Olah) detected σ Complex (H. C. Brown)

### Modified Mechanisms

$$ArH + NO_2^+ \xrightarrow{\kappa_1} ArH.NO_2^+$$

Complex



Complex  $\sigma$ 

 $\mathbf{k}_2$ 

π Complex
 Interaction between reactants
 π system is involved with the NO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> as a whole

(Olah)

#### **Encounter Pair**

- No interaction between the reactants
  - Random collision of species leads to the σ complex
- Reactants are trapped into the solvent cage (Schofield)

#### SET

- Charge Transfer complex
- Formation of ArH<sup>+</sup> and NO<sub>2</sub>
   Depends on ionization potential of the aromatic

(Kerner, Weiss, Perrin, Eberson, Kochi)

### SET Mechanism

- Kenner (1945) and Weiss (1946)
  - Single Electron Transfer from ArH to NO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>

### • Perrin (1977)

- Nitronaphthalene from naphthalene under NO<sub>2</sub> and electrolysis
- Same product ratio for  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  (10:1) nitronaphthalene as that found in HNO<sub>3</sub>/H<sub>3</sub>CCN

ArH + NO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup> 
$$\stackrel{k_{SET}}{\longrightarrow}$$
 ArH<sup>+</sup> + NO<sub>2</sub>  $\stackrel{k_{colapse}}{\longrightarrow}$   $\stackrel{r''H^{+''}}{\longrightarrow}$   $\stackrel{r''H^{+''}}{\longrightarrow}$   $\stackrel{r''H^{+''}}{\longrightarrow}$   $\stackrel{r''H^{+''}}{\longrightarrow}$   $\stackrel{r''H^{+''}}{\longrightarrow}$  (Single Electron Transfer)  $\sigma$  Complex

Oxidation potentials of aromatics more activated than toluene are lower than oxidation potentials of  $NO_2$ 



Perrin, C. L.; J. Am. Chem. Soc. 1977, 99, 5516

### SET Mechanism

- Kochi, 1981
  - Nitration with  $NO_2Y$  (Y=OH, OAc,  $NO_3$ , Cl, Py, C( $NO_2$ )<sub>3</sub>)
  - $NO_2Y$  + aromatics  $\rightarrow$  Observation of absorption bands in the UV/Vis spectrum

Typical for Charge Transfer complexes



Problems:

small k predicted for an outer sphere complex (Marcus Theory) Explain low ipso substitution despite the high spin density on this position



# Mechanistics Aspects

Initial approach: *ab initio/DFT* calculations



Unified Mechanistic Concept of Electrophilic Aromatic Nitration: Convergence of Computational Results and Experimental Data

Pierre M. Esteves,<sup>\*,†,‡,⊥</sup> José Walkimar de M. Carneiro,<sup>§</sup> Sheila P. Cardoso,<sup>§</sup> André G. H. Barbosa,<sup>‡</sup> Kenneth K. Laali,<sup>∥</sup> Golam Rasul,<sup>†</sup> G. K. Surya Prakash,<sup>†</sup> and George A. Olah<sup>\*,†</sup>

J. AM. CHEM. SOC. 2003, 125, 4836-4849

## Initial Approach: $\pi$ Complexes?



### B3LYP/6-311++G\*\*//B3LYP/6-31++G\*\* calculations



# Key intermediates



#### Unoriented complex $\rightarrow$ Electrostatic nature ( $\pi$ ) Oriented complex $\rightarrow$ SET intimate pair

Avoided crossing between different electronic states

#### Ion-Molecule Reaction in the Gas Phase: Pentaquadrupole MS Colaboration with Prof. Marcos N. Eberlin (State University of Campinas – Brazil)

#### Extrel Pentaquadrupole QqQqQ Mass Spectrometer (MS<sup>3</sup>)





Eberlin, M. N. Mass Spectrom. Reviews 1997, 16, 113

### Extrel Pentaquadrupole QqQqQ Mass Spectrometer (MS<sup>3</sup>)



### Reaction of Benzene with $NO_2^+$



# SET is dominant

### Ion-Molecule Reaction: Solvent Effects





### MS/MS of m/z 124



### Does SET thermodynamically feasible? Ionization Energy (Potential) for ionization in the Gas Phase

$$\cdot NO_2 \rightarrow NO_2^+ + e \qquad IE_1$$
  
ArH  $\rightarrow ArH^+ + e \qquad IE_2$ 

 $NO_{2}^{+} + e \rightarrow NO_{2} -IE_{1}$ + ArH  $\rightarrow$  ArH<sup>+</sup> + e IE<sub>2</sub>

 $NO_2^+ + ArH \rightarrow NO_2^- + ArH^+$ 

 $\Delta H_{reaction} \approx IE_2 - IE_1 = \Delta IE$ 

Substrate	Ionization Energy (IE) (eV)ª	$\frac{\Delta IE \text{ for}}{\text{Reaction with}}$ $\frac{NO_2^+}{(eV)}$	$\begin{array}{c} \Delta IE \ for \\ Reaction \ with \\ NO_2^+ \ (kcal/ \\ mol) \end{array}$
$NO_2 \rightarrow NO_2^+ + e$	$9.586 \pm 0.002$	0.000	0.00
Benzene $\rightarrow C_6 H_6^+ + e$	$9.24378 \pm 0.00007$	-0.342	-7.89
Toluene $\rightarrow C_7 H_8^+ + e$	$\boldsymbol{8.828 \pm 0.001}$	-0.758	-17.48
mesitylene $\rightarrow C_9 H_{12}^+ + e$	$\textbf{8.40} \pm \textbf{0.01}$	-1.186	-27.35
$PhNH_2 \rightarrow PhNH_2^+ + e$	$7.720 \pm 0.002$	-1.866	-43.03
<b>PhOMe</b> $\rightarrow$ <b>PhOMe</b> <sup>+</sup> + e	$\textbf{8.20} \pm \textbf{0.05}$	-1.386	-31.96
naphthalene $\rightarrow C_{10}H_8^+ + e$	$\begin{array}{c} 8.1442 \pm 0.0009 \\ 8.141 \pm 0.01 \end{array}$	-1.442	-33.25
Nitrobenzene $\rightarrow C_6 H_5 NO_2^+ + e$	$\textbf{9.94} \pm \textbf{0.08}$	+0.354	+8.16
<b>1,3-din</b> itrobenzene $\rightarrow C_6 H_4 N_2 O_4^+ + e$	10.4	+0.814	+18.77
$C_6H_5CN \rightarrow C_6H_5CN^+ + e$	$9.73\pm0.01$	+0.144	+3.32
$C_6H_5CF_3 \rightarrow C_6H_5CF_3^+ + e$	$9.685\pm0.005$	+0.099	+2.28
fluorbenzene $\rightarrow C_6 H_5 F^+ + e$	$9.20\pm0.01$	-0.386	-8.90
chlorobenzene → C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> Cl <sup>+</sup> + e	$9.07\pm0.02$	-0.516	-11.9
bromobenzene → C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> Br <sup>+</sup> + e	$9.00\pm0.03$	-0.586	-13.5
iodobenzene $\rightarrow C_6 H_5 I^+ + e$	$\textbf{8.72} \pm \textbf{0.04}$	-0.866	-20.0

Data from NIST database: http://webbook.nist.gov/chemistry

# Nitration of Activated Aromatics



# Nitration of Activated Aromatics



# Nitration of Halo-Aromatics: PhF





### MS/MS of m/z 112



# Nitration of Halo-Aromatics: PhCl



# Nitration of Halo-Aromatics: PhBr



# Nitration of Halo-Aromatics: PhI



## Nitration of Deactivated Aromatics

![](_page_30_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Proposal

### Aprotic polar solvent

![](_page_31_Figure_2.jpeg)

# ProposalProtic polar solvent

![](_page_32_Figure_1.jpeg)

# SET x Solvation

![](_page_33_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Easy to understand some "strange" behaviors

#### Rearrangements

![](_page_34_Figure_2.jpeg)

V. A. Koptyug, Top. Curr. Chem **1984**, *122*, 1 Detsina and Koptyug, Zh. Org. Khim. **1972**, *8*, 2158

# <sup>18</sup>O isotope study

![](_page_35_Figure_1.jpeg)

Detsina, Sidorova, Panova, Malykhin, Shakirov *Zh. Org. Khim.* **1979,** *15*, 1887

### **Proposal: Distinct Reaction Intermediates**

![](_page_36_Figure_1.jpeg)

Three distinct intermediates before proton elimination

### **Frontier MO and its relation to SET**

![](_page_37_Figure_1.jpeg)

Donor (D) Acceptor (A)

(a) Ground State:  $|NO_2^+, C_6H_6>$ 

**(b)** Ground State:  $c_1 |NO_2^+, C_6H_6 > + c_2 |NO_2, C_6H_6^+ > + \dots$ 

![](_page_37_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Figure_0.jpeg)

### **HOMO of Benzene**

![](_page_39_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Symmetric

![](_page_39_Figure_3.jpeg)

#### Antisymmetric

![](_page_39_Figure_5.jpeg)

**E** = -0,329 Hartrees

![](_page_39_Picture_7.jpeg)

**E** = -0,329 Hartrees

Jean, Y.; Volatron, F.; An introduction to molecular orbitals; Oxford University Press; New York, 213, 1993.

![](_page_40_Figure_0.jpeg)

### **Energy (a.u.) of MO's for the aromatic substrates**

Substrate	HOMO	<b>HOMO - 1</b>
Benzene	-0,329 (S)	-0,329 (A)
Toluene	-0,317 (S)	-0,328 (A)
Aniline	-0,290 (S)	-0,330 (A)
Phenol	-0,310 (S)	-0,338 (A)
Fluorbenzene	-0,334 (S)	-0,347 (A)
Clorobenzene	-0,333 (S)	-0,347 (A)
Bromobenzene	-0,330 (S)	-0,348 (A)
Nitrobenzene	-0,365 (A)	-0,374 (S)
Benzaldehyde	-0,346 (A)	-0,350 (S)
rifluormethyl)benzene	-0,352 (A)	-0,357 (S)

Analysis of symmetry and energy of selected MOs

**Donors:** CH<sub>3</sub>, NH<sub>2</sub>, OH, F, Cl and Br. **Acceptors:** NO<sub>2</sub>, CHO and CF<sub>3</sub>.

# Regioselectivity: SET pair for PhCl

![](_page_42_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_6.jpeg)

**Directing groups ortho and para** SET complex is only formed at ipso and para positions

### **MO's for the complex between PhNO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub><sup>+</sup>** *ortho*

![](_page_43_Picture_1.jpeg)

HOMO

para

![](_page_43_Picture_4.jpeg)

HOMO

![](_page_43_Picture_6.jpeg)

HOMO - 1

![](_page_43_Picture_8.jpeg)

HOMO - 1

![](_page_44_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Figure_0.jpeg)

# Rearrangement of N-Nitroanilines

![](_page_46_Figure_1.jpeg)

# SET in aniline nitration?

	Reação	Energia de Ionização (IE) (eV)ª	∆EI para a reação com NO <sub>2</sub> + (kcal/mol)
	$NO_2 \rightarrow NO_2^+ + e$	$9.586 \pm 0.002$	0.00
	$PhNH_2 \rightarrow PhNH_2^+ + e$	$7.72 \pm 0.002$	-43.0
p-MeC	$OC_6H_4NH_2 \rightarrow p-MeOC_6H_4NH_2^+ + e$	$7.58\pm0.01$	-46.3
p-MeS	$SC_6H_4NH_2 \rightarrow p-MeSC_6H_4NH_2^+ + e$	$7.60 \pm 0.01$	-45.8
p-Me	$eC_6H_4NH_2 \rightarrow p-MeC_6H_4NH_2^+ + e$	$7.85 \pm 0.05$	-40.0
m-Me	$eC_6H_4NH_2 \rightarrow m-MeC_6H_4NH_2^+ + e$	$7.50 \pm 0.02$	-40.7
p-H	$FC_6H_4NH_2 \rightarrow p-FC_6H_4NH_2^+ + e$	8.18	-32.4
p-C	$IC_6H_4NH_2 \rightarrow p-CIC_6H_4NH_2^+ + e$	7.8	-41.2
m-l	$FC_6H_4NH_2 \rightarrow m-FC_6H_4NH_2^+ + e$	8.33	-29.0
m-C	$IC_6H_4NH_2 \rightarrow m-CIC_6H_4NH_2^+ + e$	$8.1\pm0.1$	-34.3
m-B	$rC_6H_4NH_2 \rightarrow m-BrC_6H_4NH_2^+ + e$	$7.7 \pm 0.1$	-43.5
p-NC	$CC_6H_4NH_2 \rightarrow p-NCC_6H_4NH_2^+ + e$	$8.64 \pm 0.04$	-21.8
p-O <sub>2</sub> N	$NC_6H_4NH_2 \rightarrow p-O_2NC_6H_4NH_2^+ + e$	$8.34 \pm 0.01$	-28.7

# Hammett correlation

![](_page_48_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Figure_0.jpeg)

Rate controlling step: Depends on the ionization potential of ArH

### **Conclusions:** Nitration

- Reaction of  $NO_2^+$  with ArH  $\rightarrow$  SET
- Solvation makes
  - **Deactivated aromatics**  $\rightarrow$  Aducts formed
  - Activated aromatics  $\rightarrow$  SET is favored
- SET mechanism is surely involved in nitration of activated aromatics
- Mechanistic continuum between polar mechanism (Ingold-Hughes) and SET: Depends on ArH and on solvation
- The higher the HOMO of ArH, lower the "barrier" for the SET and aromatic is more easily undergo oxidation.

### Nitration: Mechanistic Continuum

Polar Mechanism (Ingold-Hughes)

•Substrates with high PI (meta directing substituents)

•Non oxidant electrophiles

•Solvents with high  $\varepsilon$  (H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>, polar protic solvents, etc)

•Substrates with low PI (orthopara directing substituents)

SET

Mechanism

•Oxidant electrophiles

•Solvents with low  $\varepsilon$  (aprotic polar solvents, SO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>, etc)

# Other Typical Electrophilic Aromatic Substitution

Friedel-Crafts Alkylation
Friedel-Crafts Acylation
Halogenation
Sulfonation
Nitrosation
Metalation

### Acetilação do tolueno

#### Ativação pelo CH<sub>3</sub>

Permite a formação de um complexo  $\sigma$  em para, porém menos estável que o complexo  $\pi$ correspondente.

Complexo  $\sigma$  em orto não foi encontrado.

Pequenas diferenças de Energia X efeito estérico?

Parâmetros geométricos

Ângulo do grupo acílio nos complexos é muito semelhante ao do radical acila

Complexo  $\pi$  X complexo SET

![](_page_54_Figure_8.jpeg)

### Acetilação do nitrobenzeno

![](_page_55_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_55_Figure_2.jpeg)

Dois mínimos encontrados: ambos de interação do íon acetílio com a base n do grupo nitro (átomo de oxigênio), mais forte do que a base  $\pi$  do anel.

#### Kinetic Isotope Effect for Propionilation and Benzoylation of Aromatics

 $CH_3CH_2CO^+SbF_6^-$ Toluene-benzene- $d_6$ 

Toluene-benzene- $d_6$ Tolueno- $d_5$ -benzeno  $k_{\rm H}:k_{\rm D}$  = **2.84** Benzeno- $d_6$ 

 $k_{\rm H}:k_{\rm D}$  = **3.06** Toluene- $d_5$ 

 $C_6H_5CO^+SbF_6^$ *p*-Xilene-benzene

p-Xileno-benzeno- $d_6$ Toluene- $d_5$ -benzene Toluene- $d_5$ -benzene  $k_{\rm H}:k_{\rm D}$  = **1.80** Benzene- $d_5$ 

 $k_{\rm H}:k_{\rm D}$  = **1.65** Toluene- $d_5$ 

G. A. Olah, J. Lukas, E. Lukas; JACS 1969, 91(19), 5319

# Other kinetic isotopic effects:

Reaction	Туре	k <sub>H</sub> /k <sub>D</sub>
$PhNMe_2 + Br_2$	Halogenation	2.6
PhOMe + ICl	Halogenation	3.8
$PhBr + H_2SO_4$ (oleum)	Sulfonation	1.5
$PhOH + NO^+$	Nitrosation	4.1
$PhH + Hg(OAc)_2$	Metalation	6.0

![](_page_58_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_60_Figure_0.jpeg)

# Conclusion

The electrophilic aromatic substitution mechanism can be a spectrum of possibilities between the SET or Polar (Ingold-Hughes) mechanism, dependending on the oxidative character of the electrophile and the ionization potential of the aromatic substrate.

Solvent/medium effects can influence the reactional pathway

### Perspectives

- Reinvestigation of other electrophilic aromatic and alifatic substitution under the SET paradigm
- Electrophiles, Superelectrophiles or Superoxidants?
- The single electron transfer process and theories of reactivity
- Development of new reaction under the new paradigm.

# Team

#### **Coworkers**

- José Walkimar de M. Carneiro (IQ/UFF)
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![](_page_64_Picture_0.jpeg)

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![](_page_65_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_65_Picture_5.jpeg)

#### Instituto de Química

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![](_page_66_Picture_2.jpeg)

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![](_page_66_Picture_4.jpeg)