# Transition states of uncatalyzed hydrolysis and aminolysis reactions of a

ribosomal P-site substrate determined by kinetic isotope effects†

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# **Supporting Information**

#### **Calculation of Hydrolysis Transition State**

The transition state of the hydrolysis reaction was determined using the model shown in Figure 1b. The initial *ab initio* transition state for the hydrolysis reaction was modeled using hydroxyl as a nucleophile without the application of any external constraints. The optimization gave a transition state structure that has a single imaginary frequency of 249i cm<sup>-1</sup> corresponding to the reaction coordinate (Supplementary Table 1). The transition state structure corresponding to this imaginary frequency had partial bond orders to the nucleophile as well as to the 3'-oxygen. However, the kinetic isotope effects calculated for this transition state structure were significantly different than the KIEs measured experimentally, suggesting that the transition state in solution is different than the one predicted *in vacuo* by Gaussian03 (Supplementary Figure 1). The small 3'-oxygen-18 experimental KIE of 0.6% for the hydrolysis reaction suggests that the O3'-C bond is fully intact at the transition state and a large oxygen-18 experimental KIE of 4.0% for the carbonyl oxygen indicates full bond order to the nucleophile. No cleavage of the 3'O-C bond and full bonding to the nucleophile suggests that transition state of the hydrolysis reaction resembles a tetrahedral intermediate.

#### **Calculation of Hydroxylaminolysis Transition State**

Modeling of the transition state for the aminolysis reaction was initiated by first matching the 3'-oxygen-18 KIE by increasing the 3'O-C bond length. In the absence of nucleophile, the 3'-oxygen-18 KIE of 2.9%

corresponds to a 3'-O-C bond length of 1.55 Å compared with 1.36 Å in the ground state. Matching the 3'oxygen-18 KIE in the absence of nucleophile however gave a normal carbonyl carbon-13 KIE of 2.1% which was less than the experimental KIE of 2.7% measured experimentally, indicating that some contribution to the carbon-13 KIE comes from increased bonding with the hydroxylamine nucleophile. Also, cleavage of the 3'O-C bond gave a small inverse isotope effect of 0.2% at the carbonyl oxygen due to the strengthening of the carbonyl bond as a result of partial cleavage of the 3'O-C bond. This is significantly different from the large normal KIE of 3.7% measured experimentally, suggesting the carbonyl oxygen-18 KIE must come entirely from increased bonding between the primary carbon and the nucleophile. Subsequent calculations were performed by increasing the bond order between the primary carbon and the nucleophile in small iterative steps until a close match was obtained between the calculated and experimental carbonyl oxygen-18 KIE. The experimental carbonyl oxygen-18 KIE of 3.7% corresponds to a C-N bond length of 1.33 Å suggesting a full bond order between the carbonyl carbon and the hydroxylamine nucleophile. At this step the 3'-O-C bond length was slightly adjusted to 1.64 Å to account for the small contribution to the 3'-oxygen-18 KIE that comes from bond formation with the nucleophile. The carbonyl oxygen-18 KIE of 3.7% corresponds to a carbonyl bond length of 1.37 Å at the transition state relative to 1.21 Å in the ground state. Furthermore, correlating 3'-oxygen-18 and carbonyl oxygen-18 KIES gave a primary carbon-13 KIE of 3.0% which is within the error of the value of 2.7% measured experimentally. The transition state model generated by correlating the 3'-oxygen-18, carbonyl oxygen-18, and carbonyl carbon-13 KIEs gave an α-deuterium KIE of inverse 1.9%, less inverse than the KIE of 3.9% measured experimentally. This suggests some portion of the isotope effect is contributed by the conformational change around the C-H bond influencing its out-of-plane bending modes. Adjusting the C<sup>methyl</sup>- $C<sup>sec</sup>$ -N<sup>amide</sup>-C<sup>amide</sup> torsional angle from -64.3° in the substrate to -62.0° in the transition state gave a secondary deuterium isotope effect of inverse 3.6%, close to the experimental value.

Supplementary Figure 1. Kinetic isotope effects for the hydrolysis transition state calculated without the application of any external constraints and their comparison to the experimental values.



Supplementary Figure 2. Comparison of distribution of natural charges between the ground state and the transition state for the hydrolysis and aminolysis reactions, as calculated using Natural Bond Orbital (NBO) analysis at B3LYP/6-31G\*\* using Gaussian 03.



**Charge = -1 and multiplicity = 1 Charge = 0 and multiplicity = 1** Supplementary Figure 3. Numbering scheme of atoms used in the Gaussian calculations.



Supplementary Table 1. Imaginary mode for the unrestrained transition state for the hydrolysis reaction.





Supplementary Table 2. Coordinates for the hydrolysis transition state.



## **Applied Constraints**

16 19 21 23 F

19 21 23 25 F

6 4 1 17 F

19 20 1.390 F

19 31 1.605 F

16 19 1.426 F

20 19 31 32 -171.00 F

37 21 23 25 -71.5 F

Supplementary Table 3. Largest Imaginary mode for the aminolysis reaction (there are more imaginary modes

smaller than  $-50$  cm<sup>-1</sup>).



Supplementary Table 4. Coordinates for the aminolysis transition state.

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## **Applied Constraints**

20 19 31 37 F 25 23 21 39 -62.00 F 31 37 F 20 19 31 32 F

Supplementary Table 5: Sum of Second order Perturbation Contributions Calculated by NBO Basis in the representative models of the substrate and the transition state for the hydrolysis reaction calculated using B3LYP/6-31G\*\*

### **Hyperconjugation (kcals/mol) <sup>a</sup>**



<sup>a</sup>Sum of second order perturbation contributions calculated by NBO analysis. Lp1 is the sp-type lone pair; and Lp2 is *p*-type lone pair. In the bracket is an atom/bond that contributes maximally to the hyper conjugation stabilization energy:  ${}^{\text{b}}\text{Lp2(O3')}$ ,  ${}^{\text{c,d}}\text{Lp2(O<sup>carbonyl</sup>)}$ ;  ${}^{\text{e,f}}\text{Lp2(C=O)}$ .

Supplementary Table 6: Sum of Second order Perturbation Contributions Calculated by NBO Basis in the representative models of the substrate and the transition state for the Aminolysis reaction calculated using B3LYP/ 6-31G\*\*

### **Hyperconjugation (kcals/mol) <sup>a</sup>**



<sup>a</sup>Sum of second order perturbation contributions calculated by NBO analysis. Lp1 is the sp-type lone pair; and Lp2 is p-type lone pair. In the bracket is an atom/bond that contributes maximally to the hyper conjugation stabilization energy:  ${}^{\text{b}}Lp2(O3')$ ,  ${}^{\text{c,d}}Lp(O^{\text{carbonyl}})$ ;  ${}^{\text{e,f}}Lp2(C=O)$ .

Supplementary Table 7: Showing the contribution of including imaginary frequencies on the calculated equilibrium isotope effects (EIEs) for the hydrolysis reaction



<sup>a</sup>EIEs calculated by including the imaginary frequencies in the substrate and the transition state for the hydrolysis reaction.

**bEIEs calculated by ignoring imaginary frequencies in the substrate and the transition state.** 

Supplementary Table 8: Showing the influence of imaginary frequencies on kinetic isotope effects (KIEs) and equilibrium isotope effects (EIEs) for the aminolysis reaction..



<sup>a</sup>KIEs in which only the largest imaginary frequency (-414 cm<sup>-1</sup>) is included in the calculation of isotope effects along with complete set of real frequencies

<sup>b</sup>KIEs calculated by including complete set of frequencies including all the imaginary frequencies in the substrate and the transition state.

 ${}^{\text{c}}$ EIEs calculated by ignoring all imaginary frequencies of magnitude greater than -50 cm<sup>-1</sup> in the substrate and the transition state.