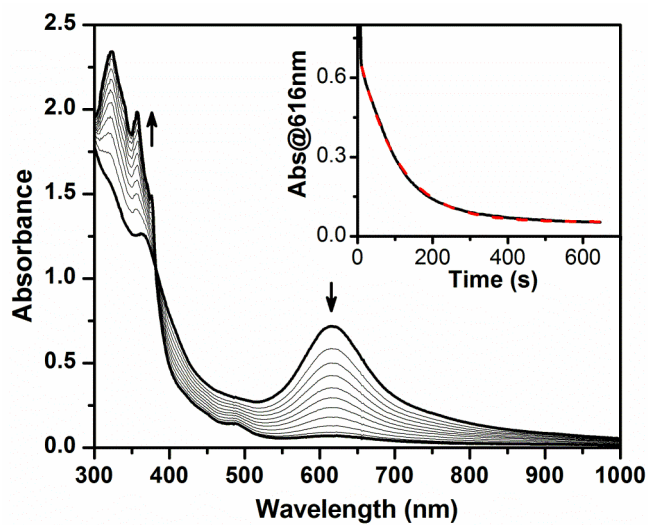


Supporting Information For

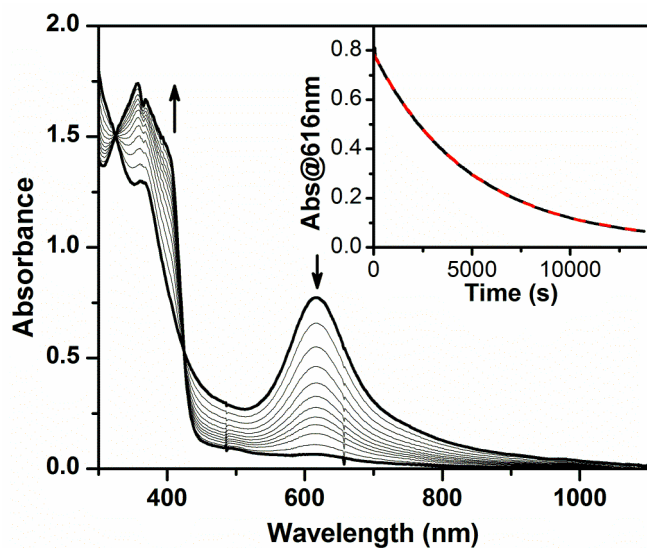
Substrate-Triggered Activation of a Synthetic  $[\text{Fe}_2(\mu\text{-O})_2]$  Diamond Core  
for C–H Bond Cleavage

Genqiang Xue, Alexander Pokutsa, and Lawrence Que, Jr.\*

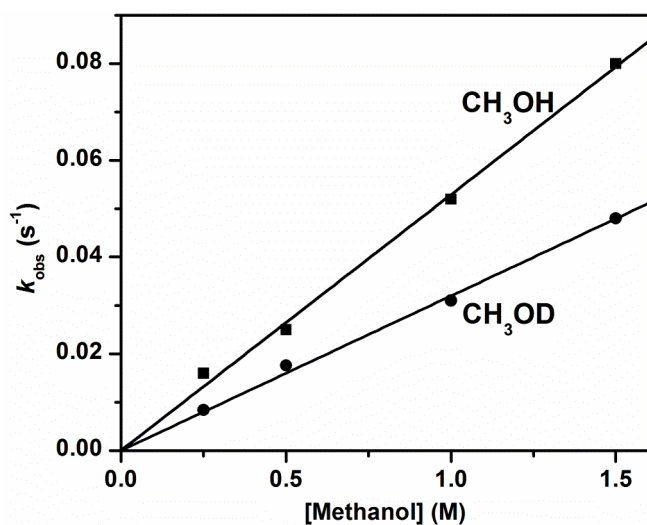
Department of Chemistry and Center for Metals in Biocatalysis, University of Minnesota,  
Minneapolis, MN 55455



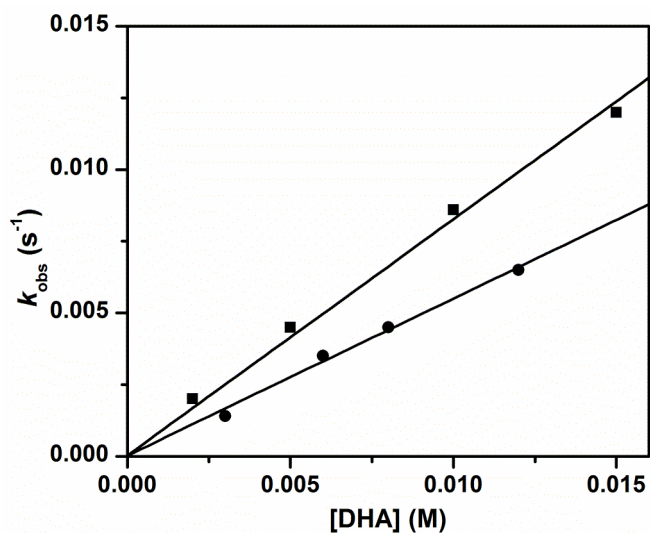
**Figure S1.** Time-resolved spectral changes during the oxidation of 10 mM DHA by **1** at  $-30\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  in MeCN in the presence of 1.0 M  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Inset: time trace at 616 nm (black solid line) together with the fit (red dashed line) using a first-order rate constant of  $0.0099\text{ s}^{-1}$ .



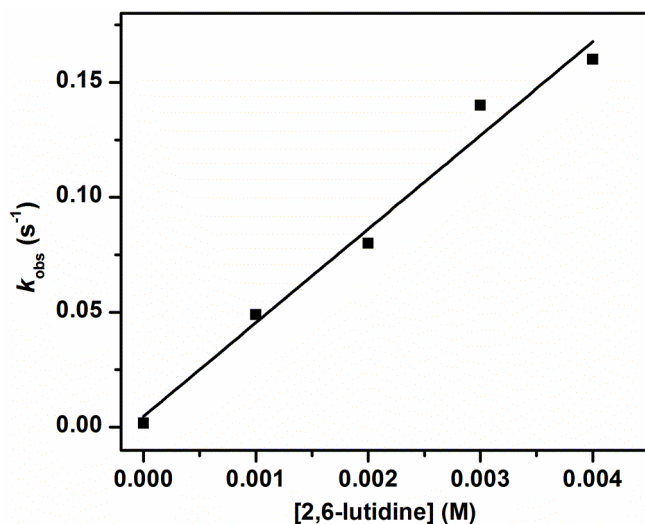
**Figure S2.** Time-resolved spectral changes during the oxidation of 1.0 mM CH<sub>3</sub>OH by **1** at -30 °C in MeCN in the presence of 50 mM H<sub>2</sub>O. Inset: time trace at 616 nm (black solid line) together with the fit (red dashed line) using a first-order rate constant of  $2.0 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ .



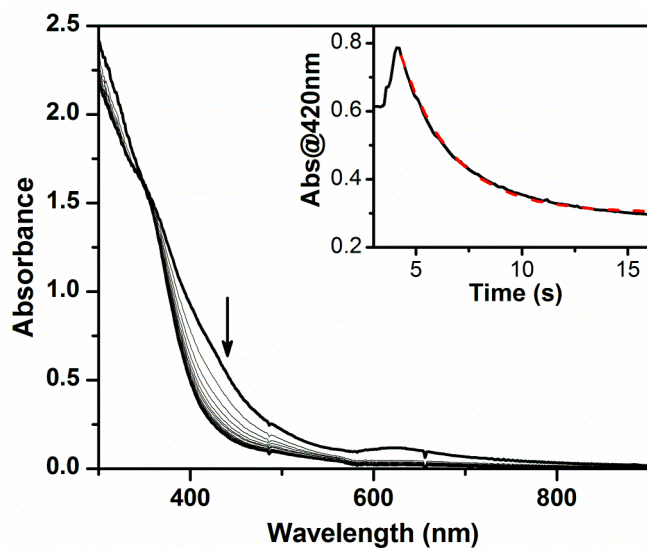
**Figure S3.**  $k_{\text{obs}}$ -vs-[substrate] plots for oxidation of CH<sub>3</sub>OH (squares) or CH<sub>3</sub>OD by **1** in MeCN in the presence of 10 mM 2,6-lutidine. The corresponding second order rate constants ( $k_2$ ) are  $0.053 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $0.032 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , and KIE is 1.6. The reaction rates were measured under Ar at -30 °C.



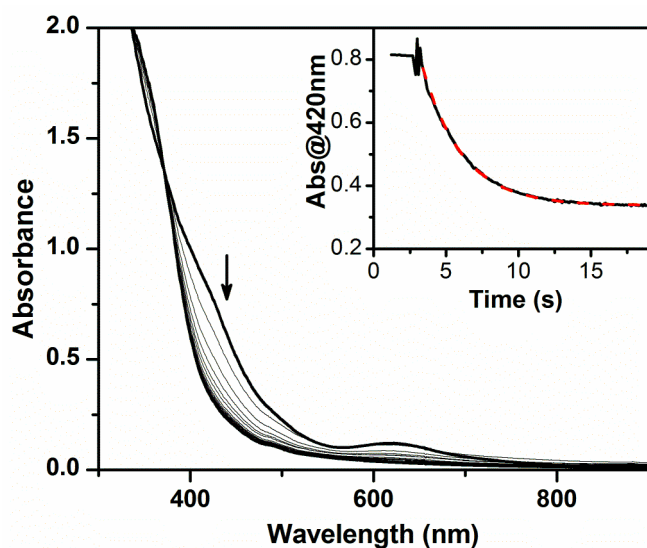
**Figure S4.**  $k_{\text{obs}}$ -vs-[DHA] plots for oxidation by **1** in MeCN in the presence of 1.0 M H<sub>2</sub>O (squares) or D<sub>2</sub>O (circles). The corresponding second order rate constants ( $k_2$ ) are 0.82 M<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> and 0.56 M<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>, and KIE is 1.5. The reaction rates were measured under Ar at -30 °C.



**Figure S5.**  $k_{\text{obs}}$ -vs-[2,6-lutidine] plot for oxidation of 2.0 mM DHA by **1** in MeCN with 1.0 M H<sub>2</sub>O at -30 C under Ar. See Table S5 for list of data in the plot.



**Figure S6.** Time resolved spectral changes during self-decay of **1-OCH<sub>3</sub>** at -50 °C in 3:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeCN. Inset: time trace at 420 nm (black solid line, one data point per 0.1 second) together with the fit (red dashed line) using a first order rate constant of 0.40 s<sup>-1</sup>.



**Figure S7.** Time-resolved spectral changes during the oxidation of DHA by **1-OCD<sub>3</sub>** at -80 °C in 3:1 CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>-MeCN. Inset: time trace at 420 nm (black solid line, one data point per 0.1 second) together with the fit (red dashed line) using a first order rate constant of 0.36 s<sup>-1</sup>.

**Table S1.** Summary of  $k_2'$  values for substrate oxidations by **1** and **3** at -30 °C under Ar.

Substrate	BDE kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>	$k_2'$ (M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ) by <b>3</b> in MeCN	$k_2'$ (M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ) by <b>1</b> in MeCN with 0.05 M H <sub>2</sub> O	$k_2'$ (M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup> ) by <b>1</b> in MeCN with 1.0 M H <sub>2</sub> O
xanthene	75.5 <sup>1</sup>	ND	4.8 x 10 <sup>-2</sup>	0.84
DHA	78 <sup>1</sup>	1.2	7.0 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.20
fluorene	80 <sup>1</sup>	0.22	4.1 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	0.16
triphenylmethane	81 <sup>2</sup>	0.16	ND	ND
diphenylmethane	82 <sup>2</sup>	ND	ND	6.5 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>
tetralin	85 <sup>2</sup>	0.10	6.9 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>	1.4 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>
ethylbenzene	87 <sup>1</sup>	2.7 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	ND	1.0 x 10 <sup>-4</sup>
toluene	90 <sup>1</sup>	ND	ND	4.0 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>
benzhydrol	79 <sup>3</sup>	ND	4.7 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	ND
benzyl alcohol	85 <sup>4</sup>	0.047	5.0 x 10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.7 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>
2-hexanol	90 <sup>4</sup>	2.2 x 10 <sup>-3</sup>	2.1 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>	ND
1-hexanol	93 <sup>4</sup>	3.6 x 10 <sup>-4</sup>	1.5 x 10 <sup>-4</sup>	ND
isobutanol	93 <sup>4</sup>	ND	2.0 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>	ND
ethanol	93 <sup>4</sup>	ND	1.4 x 10 <sup>-4</sup>	ND
methanol	96 <sup>5</sup>	2 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>	6.0 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>	6.3 x 10 <sup>-5</sup>

**Table S2.** Rate constants for methanol (1.0 M) oxidation by **1** in MeCN at -30 °C under Ar (Figure 6). For the  $k_{\text{obs}}$  versus  $\text{p}K_{\text{a}}$  experiments, 10 mM bases were added to mixture of **1** and methanol.

[2,6-lutidine] / mM	0	2.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	10	20	50
$k_{\text{obs}}$ (x $10^{-3}$ s $^{-1}$ )	0.20	1.6	2.6	3.8	4.1	5.7	11	23
[2,4,6-collidine] / mM	0	2.0	4.0	6.0	10			
$k_{\text{obs}}$ (x $10^{-3}$ s $^{-1}$ )	0.20	3.2	6.0	9.2	14			
$\text{p}K_{\text{a}}$	5.17	5.97	6.51	6.77	7.48			
$k_{\text{obs}}$ (x $10^{-3}$ s $^{-1}$ )	0.23	0.80	1.4	5.7	14			

**Table S3.** Comparison of the rates for the oxidation of DHA<sup>a</sup> and methanol<sup>b</sup>.

Oxidant	T/Solvent	Rate constants
<b>DHA oxidation<sup>a</sup></b>		
<b>1</b> + 1 M H <sub>2</sub> O	-30 °C/CH <sub>3</sub> CN	0.80 M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
<b>2</b> + 1 M H <sub>2</sub> O	-30 °C/CH <sub>3</sub> CN	0.15 M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
<b>2</b>	-80 °C/3:1 CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> :CH <sub>3</sub> CN	10 <sup>-5</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
<b>4</b>	-80 °C/3:1 CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> :CH <sub>3</sub> CN	10 <sup>-4</sup> M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
<b>2</b> -OH	-80 °C/3:1 CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> :CH <sub>3</sub> CN	28 M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
<b>2</b> -OCD <sub>3</sub>	-80 °C/3:1 CH <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> :CH <sub>3</sub> CN	360 M <sup>-1</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
<b>Methanol oxidation<sup>b</sup></b>		
<b>1</b> (+ 2.0 M CH <sub>3</sub> OH)	-30 °C/CH <sub>3</sub> CN	4.0 x 10 <sup>-4</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
<b>2</b> (+ 2.0 M CH <sub>3</sub> OH)	-30 °C/CH <sub>3</sub> CN	3.3 x 10 <sup>-5</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>
<b>4</b> (+ 2.0 M CH <sub>3</sub> OH)	-30 °C/CH <sub>3</sub> CN	5 x 10 <sup>-6</sup> s <sup>-1</sup>

<sup>a</sup>DHA oxidation rates by **2**, **4** and **2**-OH were reported from ref 6. <sup>b</sup>Only first order rate constants for the oxidation of 2 M CH<sub>3</sub>OH are listed, because the reaction rates for **2** and **4** at lower methanol concentrations were too slow to allow second order rate constants to be obtained.

**Table S4.** Rate constants measured for the Eyring plot for the self-decay of **2**-OCH<sub>3</sub> (Figure 9, inset). All  $k_{\text{obs}}$  values are averages of data from three measurements.

T (°C)	-85	-80	-75	-70	-65	-60	-55	-50
$k_{\text{obs}}/(\text{s}^{-1})$	0.012	0.024	0.040	0.080	0.13	0.33	0.44	0.78

**Table S5.** Rate constants for DHA (2 mM) oxidation by **1** in the presence of 1 M H<sub>2</sub>O and varying amounts of 2,6-lutidine in MeCN at -30 °C under Ar (Figure S5).

[2,6-lutidine]/mM	0	1.0	2.0	3.0	4.0
$k_{\text{obs}}/(\text{s}^{-1})$	0.0018	0.049	0.080	0.14	0.16

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