# Electronic Supplementary Information <br> An Organometallic Catalase Mimic with Exceptional Activity, $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ Stability, and Catalase/Peroxidase Selectivity 

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## Table of Contents

Synthetic Procedures ..... S2
Spectroscopic and Kinetic Analysis Procedures ..... S2
Derivation of General Rate Law for Proposed Mechanism ..... S4
Figure S1. Catalase vs. peroxidase activity of Ru1 at $10 \mu \mathrm{M}$ ..... S13
Figure S2. Linear fits for plot of $v_{0}$ vs. [Ru1] $]_{0}$ ..... S14
References ..... S15

## Synthetic Procedures

General synthetic considerations. Complex Ru1 was prepared as previously described. ${ }^{1-4}$ All other materials were of reagent quality and used as received. All solvents used were HPLC grade. ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}\left\{{ }^{1} \mathrm{H}\right\}$ NMR spectra were recorded using a Bruker 500 MHz spectrometer. Chemical shifts $\delta$ (in ppm) for ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ and ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR are referenced to $\mathrm{SiMe}_{4}$ using the residual protio-solvent as an internal standard. For ${ }^{1} \mathrm{H}$ NMR: $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 7.26 \mathrm{ppm}$; DMSO- $d_{6}, 2.50 \mathrm{ppm}$. For ${ }^{13} \mathrm{C}$ NMR: $\mathrm{CDCl}_{3}, 77.16 \mathrm{ppm}$; DMSO- $d_{6}, 39.52$ ppm . Coupling constants ( $J$ ) are expressed in hertz $(\mathrm{Hz})$. Fourier transform high-resolution mass spectrometery with electrospray ionization (ESI-MS) were acquired on a Thermo q-Exactive Plus instrument via direct injection ( $100 \% \mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ ) using an Thermo Ultimate 3000 HPLC at a flow rate of $0.2 \mathrm{~L} / \mathrm{min}$. A resolving power of 140,000 was used for the data acquisition, and the instrument was calibrated immediately prior to use yielding better than 5 ppm mass accuracy. All reactions were performed under an inert atmosphere under an $\mathrm{N}_{2}$ atmosphere using standard Schlenk or glovebox techniques with the exclusion of light. All subsequent manipulations were performed under ambient conditions using standard benchtop techniques without the exclusion of light. When required, solvents were dried and deoxygenated using an Innovative Technologies solvent purification system, and then stored over molecular sieves ( $3 \AA$ ) in a drybox.

## Spectroscopic and Kinetic Analysis Procedures

General spectroscopic considerations. UV-visible absorption spectra were acquired on a Varian Cary 50 Bio spectrometer equipped with a water-cooled Quantum Northwest TC-125 peltier temperature controller. All solution measurements were performed at $25.0 \pm 0.1^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ in matched gas-tight quartz cuvettes (Precision Scientific) with 1 cm path lengths and 3.0 mL analyte solution volumes. Absorption spectra were acquired from 950 to 200 nm with a scanning speed of $300 \mathrm{~nm} \mathrm{~min}^{-1}$ and a resolution of 0.5 nm . Each kinetic analysis experiment ( 5 second intervals) was performed in quadruplicate on four different days. Stock solutions were prepared fresh daily and filtered ( $0.2 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ PTFE) immediately prior to use.

General procedure for kinetic analysis of $\mathbf{H}_{\mathbf{2}} \mathbf{O}_{\mathbf{2}}$ disproportionation by Ru1 in PBS. To a cuvette was added $2940 \mu \mathrm{~L}$ of PBS ( pH 7.4 ), and this solution was allowed to equilibrate at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 10 min . Next, a $30 \mu \mathrm{~L}$ aliquot of Ru1 (from a 1.0 mM stock solution in $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{CN}$ ) was added to the cuvette, the cuvette was covered and mixed via repeated inversion for 3 s , then placed back in the spectrometer, and an absorbance spectrum was acquired. The data acquisition mode was then switched to single-wavelength kinetics, the absorbance was set to zero, single-wavelength absorbance data collection was started, and the solution was allowed to equilibrate at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$ for 5 min . Next, a $30 \mu \mathrm{~L}$ aliquot of $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ (from a 2.0 M stock solution in $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$ ) was added, the cuvette was covered and mixed via repeated inversion for 3 s , then placed back in the spectrometer, and the kinetics program was allowed to continue. After the kinetics program had completed, another absorbance spectrum was acquired to confirm $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ consumption. Standard conditions (unless specified otherwise): $[\mathbf{R u 1}]_{0}=20 \mu \mathrm{M} ;\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]_{0}=20 \mathrm{mM}$; PBS ( pH 7.4 ), $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$. The $\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right.$ ] was determined from absorbance at $240 \mathrm{~nm}\left(\varepsilon=43.6 \mathrm{M}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$, and [ABTS ${ }^{-}$] was determined from absorbance at $734 \mathrm{~nm}\left(\varepsilon=1.5 \times 10^{4} \mathrm{M}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$. ${ }^{5}$

Rate law experiments. The concentrations of $\mathbf{R u} 1$ and $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ employed in the rate law experiments (cf. Figures 3 and 4) were obtained using this general kinetic procedure by varying stock solution concentration and holding aliquot volume constant. The $\mathrm{H}^{+}$concentrations were obtained using PBS adjusted to different pH values before the addition of any aliquots. The temperatures were obtained by allowing the working solution to equilibrate at different temperatures before the addition of Ru1.

Headspace Gas Analysis. The headspace of the reaction vessel was analyzed using He flow ( $\sim 0.7 \mathrm{~mL}$ $\mathrm{sec}^{-1}$ ) that went from the reaction vessel and fed an autosampling valve on the Thermo Trace GC with thermal conductivity detector. The autosampling valve made headspace injections onto the column (Restek packed column, ShinCarbon ST 80/100) every four and then two minutes, in a repeating cycle over 75 minutes total. The carrier flow was $22 \mathrm{~mL} \mathrm{~min}{ }^{-1}$ and the oven was set at $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.

## Derivation of General Rate Law for Proposed Mechanism



Proposed mechanism. Adapted from Scheme 2. The intermediates $\left[\mathrm{L}_{n} \mathrm{Ru}-\mathrm{OH}\right],\left[\mathrm{L}_{n} \mathrm{Ru}-\mathrm{OH}_{2}\right]^{1+},\left[\mathrm{L}_{n} \mathrm{Ru}-\left(\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right)\right]^{1+},\left[\mathrm{L}_{n} \mathrm{Ru}-\mathrm{OOH}\right],\left[\mathrm{L}_{n} \mathrm{Ru}-\mathrm{H}\right]$, and $\left[\mathrm{L}_{n} \mathrm{Ru}-\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{O}-\mathrm{RuL}_{n}\right]$ have been abbreviated as $[\mathbf{R u A}],[\mathrm{RuB}],[\mathbf{R u C}],[\mathrm{RuD}],[\mathrm{RuH}]$, and $[\mathrm{RuE}]$, respectively, for clarity.

Equation S1: Our previous studies into Ru1-catalyzed $\mathrm{ABTS}^{*}$ reduction revealed that formation of the $\mathrm{Ru}-\mathrm{H}$ intermediate was the turno-ver-limiting step. For our current studies into Ru1-catalyzed $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ disproportionation, we hypothesized that $\mathrm{Ru}-\mathrm{H}$ formation would likewise be the turnover-limiting step in our proposed mechanism (step 3). Thus, completion of the catalytic cycle would be limited by how quickly the $\mathrm{Ru}-\mathrm{H}$ intermediate formed and then reacted with $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ :

$$
-\frac{d\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{d t}=k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right][\mathrm{RuH}]
$$

Equation S2: The sum of the concentrations of the Ru-containing species leading up to the turnover-limiting step is equal to [Ru1] ${ }_{0}$, which is the total concentration of $\mathbf{R u} \mathbf{1}$ added at the beginning of the reaction:

$$
[\mathbf{R u} 1]_{0}=[\mathbf{R u A}]+[\mathbf{R u B}]+[\mathbf{R u C}]+[\mathbf{R u D}]+[\mathbf{R u H}]+[\mathbf{R u E}]
$$

Equation S3: Using the assumption that steps 1, 2, 5, and 6 achieve equilibrium rapidly (compared to turnover):

$$
\begin{aligned}
K_{1} & =\frac{[\mathrm{RuC}]}{\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right][\mathrm{RuB}]} \\
K_{2} & =\frac{\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right][\mathrm{RuD}]}{[\mathrm{RuC}]} \\
K_{5} & =\frac{[\mathrm{RuB}]}{\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right][\mathrm{RuA}]} \\
K_{6} & =\frac{\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right][\mathrm{RuE}]}{[\mathrm{RuB}][\mathrm{RuD}]}
\end{aligned}
$$

Equation S4: Rearranging allows us to express the concentration of each Ru-containing species relative to an equilibrium counterpart:

$$
\begin{gathered}
{[\mathrm{RuA}]=\left(\frac{1}{K_{5}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]}\right)[\mathrm{RuB}]} \\
{[\mathrm{RuB}]=\left(\frac{1}{K_{1}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}\right)[\mathrm{RuC}]} \\
{[\mathrm{RuC}]=\left(\frac{\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]}{K_{2}}\right)[\mathrm{RuD}]} \\
{[\mathrm{RuE}]=\left(\frac{K_{6}}{\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]}\right)[\mathrm{RuB}][\mathrm{RuD}]}
\end{gathered}
$$

Equation S5: Using the assumptions that (i) steady-state for steps 3-4 is rapidly achieved, (ii) $k_{4} \gg k_{3}$, (iii) $k_{4} \gg k_{-3}$, and (iv) $k_{-4} \approx 0$ given that $[\mathbf{R u B}] \gg[\mathbf{R u A}]$ :

$$
\begin{gathered}
-\frac{d[\mathrm{RuH}]}{d t}=k_{3}[\mathrm{RuD}]-k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right][\mathrm{RuH}]=0 \\
{[\mathrm{RuD}]=\left(\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{k_{3}}\right)[\mathrm{RuH}]}
\end{gathered}
$$

Equation S6: We can substitute the various Ru-containing terms in Equation S2 with the relationships derived in Equations S5-S6, which will ultimately result in an equation describing $[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}$ as a function of only $[\mathrm{RuH}]$ :

$$
\begin{gathered}
{[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}=\left(\frac{1}{K_{5}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]}+1\right)[\mathrm{RuB}]+[\mathrm{RuC}]+[\mathrm{RuD}]+[\mathrm{RuH}]+[\mathrm{RuE}]} \\
{[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}=\left(\frac{1}{K_{1} K_{5}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}+\frac{1}{K_{1}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}+1\right)[\mathrm{RuC}]+[\mathrm{RuD}]+[\mathrm{RuH}]+[\mathrm{RuE}]} \\
{[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}=\left(\frac{\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]}{K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}+\frac{\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]}{K_{1} K_{2}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}+\frac{\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]}{K_{2}}+1\right)[\mathrm{RuD}]+[\mathrm{RuH}]+[\mathrm{RuE}]} \\
{[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}=\left(\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]\left[\mathrm{H}_{z} \mathrm{O}_{z}\right]}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{k_{3} K_{2}}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{k_{3}}+1\right)[\mathrm{RuH}]+[\mathrm{RuE}]} \\
{[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}=\left(\frac{k_{4}}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2}}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{k_{3} K_{2}}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{k_{3}}+1\right)[\mathrm{RuH}]+\left(\frac{K_{6}}{\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]}\right)[\mathrm{RuB}][\mathrm{RuD}]} \\
{[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}=\left(\frac{k_{4}}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2}}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{k_{3}{K_{2}}_{2}}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{k_{3}}+1\right)[\mathrm{RuH}]+\left(\frac{K_{6}}{K_{1}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}\right)[\mathrm{RuC}][\mathrm{RuD}]} \\
{[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}=\left(\frac{k_{4}}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2}}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{k_{3} K_{2}}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{k_{3}}+1\right)[\mathrm{RuH}]+\left(\frac{K_{6}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]}{K_{1} K_{2}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}\right)[\mathrm{RuD}]^{2}}
\end{gathered}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& {[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}=\left(\frac{k_{4}}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2}}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{k_{3} K_{2}}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{k_{3}}+1\right)[\mathrm{RuH}]+\left(\frac{k_{4}^{2} K_{6}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]^{\mathrm{Z}}}{k_{3}^{2} K_{1} K_{2}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}\right)[\mathrm{RuH}]^{2}} \\
& {[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}=\left(\frac{k_{4}^{2} K_{6}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{k_{3}^{2} K_{1} K_{2}}\right)[\mathrm{RuH}]^{2}+\left(\frac{k_{4}}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2}}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{k_{3} K_{2}}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{k_{3}}+1\right)[\mathrm{RuH}]}
\end{aligned}
$$

Equation S7: To simplify the visual presentation of this equation, we can replace the coefficient for the $[\mathrm{RuH}]^{2}$ term with $F_{1}\left\{\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right\}$, to note that this coefficient is a function of $\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]$, and is not just a collection of invariant constants:

$$
[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}=F_{1}\left\{\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right\} \bullet[\mathrm{RuH}]^{2}+\left(\frac{k_{4}}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2}}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{k_{3} K_{2}}+\frac{k_{4}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{k_{3}}+1\right)[\mathrm{RuH}]
$$

Equation S8: With the coefficient for the $[\mathrm{RuH}]$ term, we can find the lowest common denominator and combine the numerators:

$$
\begin{gathered}
{[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}=F_{1}\left\{H_{2} O_{2}\right\} \bullet[\mathrm{RuH}]^{2}+\left(\frac{k_{4}}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}}+\frac{k_{4} K_{5}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}}+\frac{k_{4} K_{1} K_{5}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}}+\frac{k_{4} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}}+\frac{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}}\right)[\mathrm{RuH}]} \\
\quad[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}=F_{1}\left\{H_{2} O_{2}\right\} \bullet[\mathrm{RuH}]^{2}+\left(\frac{k_{4}+k_{4} K_{5}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]+k_{4} K_{1} K_{5}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]+k_{4} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]+k_{3} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}}\right)[\mathrm{RuH}]
\end{gathered}
$$

Equation S9: To simplify the visual presentation of this equation, we can replace the coefficient for the $[\mathbf{R u H}]$ term with $F_{2}\left\{\mathrm{H}^{+}, \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right\}$ to note that this coefficient is a function of both $\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$and $\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]$, and is not just a collection of invariant constants:

$$
[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}=F_{1}\left\{H_{2} O_{2}\right\} \bullet[\mathrm{RuH}]^{2}+F_{2}\left\{H^{+}, H_{2} O_{2}\right\} \bullet[\mathrm{RuH}]
$$

Equation S10: We need to use the quadratic formula to solve for $[\mathrm{RuH}]$, thus we need to subtract $[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}$ from both sides:

$$
0=F_{1}\left\{\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right\} \cdot[\mathrm{RuH}]^{2}+F_{2}\left\{H^{+}, \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right\} \bullet[\mathrm{RuH}]+\left(-[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}\right)
$$

Equation S11: W we can abbreviate $F_{1}\left\{\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right\}$ and $\mathrm{F}_{2}\left\{\mathrm{H}^{+}, \mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right\}$ with $\mathrm{F}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{F}_{2}$, respectively, to make the quadratic formula less cluttered:

$$
0=F_{1} \cdot[\mathrm{RuH}]^{2}+F_{2} \cdot[\mathrm{RuH}]+\left(-[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}\right)
$$

Equation S12: Using the quadratic formula to solve Equation S11 for [RuH], we obtain:

$$
[\mathrm{RuH}]=\frac{-F_{2} \pm \sqrt{F_{2}^{2}+4 F_{1} \cdot[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}}}{2 \cdot F_{1}}
$$

Equation S13: $\quad F_{1}$ and $F_{2}$ contain rate and equilibrium constants, which cannot be negative. In addition, the only operators in $F_{1}$ and $F_{2}$ are addition and multiplication, thus there are the hard constraints that $F_{1}>0$ and $F_{2}>0$. Thus, $-F_{2}$ can only be negative and the square root term can only be positive. As a result, subtracting the positive square root term from $-F_{2}$ would always afford a negative number for $[\mathrm{RuH}]$, and concentrations cannot be negative. We can therefore replace $\pm$ with simply + :

$$
[\mathrm{RuH}]=\frac{-F_{2}+\sqrt{F_{2}^{2}+4 F_{1} \cdot[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}}}{2 \cdot F_{1}}
$$

Equation S14: Now that we have a unique expression for [RuH], we can solve Equation S1 by plugging Equation S13 into it:

$$
-\frac{d\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{d t}=k_{4} \cdot\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right] \cdot\left(\frac{-F_{2}+\sqrt{F_{2}^{2}+4 F_{1} \cdot[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}}}{2 \cdot F_{1}}\right)
$$

Equation S15: Recalling that $F_{1}$ is a function of $\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]$, we can rearrange this equation to collect similar terms:

$$
-\frac{d\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{d t}=k_{4} \cdot\left(\frac{\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{2 \cdot F_{1}}\right) \cdot\left(-F_{2}+\sqrt{F_{2}^{2}+4 F_{1} \cdot[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}}\right)
$$

Equation S16: Expanding $F_{1}$ into its full expression results in both $\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]$ terms canceling out, leaving behind only rate and equilibrium constants, which we will abbreviate as $G_{1}$ :

$$
\left(\frac{\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{2 \bullet F_{1}}\right)=k_{4} \cdot\left[\mathrm{H}_{z} \mathrm{O}_{z}\right] \cdot\left(\frac{k_{3}^{2} K_{1} K_{2}}{2 k_{4}^{2} K_{6}\left[\mathrm{H}_{z} \mathrm{O}_{z}\right]}\right)=\left(\frac{k_{3}^{2} K_{1} K_{2}}{2 k_{4} K_{6}}\right)=G_{1}
$$

Equation S17: The rate of Ru1-catalyzed $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ disproportionation can thus be described using the equation below, where $G_{1}$ is a constant, $F_{1}$ is a function of $\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]$, and $F_{2}$ is a function of both $\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$and $\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]$ :

$$
-\frac{d\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]}{d t}=G_{1} \cdot\left(-F_{2}+\sqrt{F_{2}^{2}+4 F_{1} \cdot[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}}\right)
$$

Equation S18: If our reaction rate data are acquired very early in the reaction (i.e., the initial reaction rate, $v_{0}$ ), assuming that steady-state has still been achieved, then the concentrations of $\mathrm{H}^{+}$and $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ will not have yet deviated significantly from their initial values. We can therefore replace the unknown, time-dependent concentration terms $\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]$and $\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]$ with the known, initial concentration values $\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]_{0}$ and $\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]_{0}$, respectively:

$$
\begin{gathered}
F_{1}=\frac{k_{4}^{2} K_{6}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]_{0}}{k_{3}^{2} K_{1} K_{2}} \\
F_{2}=\frac{k_{4}+k_{4} K_{5}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]_{0}+k_{4} K_{1} K_{5}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]_{0}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]_{0}+k_{4} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]_{0}+k_{3} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}}{k_{3} K_{1} K_{2} K_{5}}
\end{gathered}
$$

Equation S19: To explore the relationship between $v_{0}$ and $[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}, v_{0}$ is measured as $[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}$ is varied but $\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]_{0}$ and $\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]_{0}$ are held constant. Within these constraints, $F_{1}$ and $F_{2}$ simplify to:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& F_{1}=a_{1} \\
& F_{2}=b_{1}
\end{aligned}
$$

Equation S20: Plugging Equation S19 into Equation S17 will give the relationship between $v_{0}$ and $\left.[\mathbb{R} u 1]\right]_{0}$ that is predicted by the proposed mechanism:

$$
v_{0}=G_{1} \cdot\left(-b_{1}+\sqrt{b_{1}^{2}+4 a_{1} \cdot[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}}\right)
$$

Equation S21: If the proposed mechanism is correct, then a plot of measured $v_{0} \mathrm{vs}$. [Ru1] $]_{0}(y$ and $x$, respectively) will be accurately fit by:

$$
y=G_{1} \cdot\left(-b_{1}+\sqrt{b_{1}^{2}+4 a_{1} \cdot x}\right)
$$

Equation S22: Because $G_{1}$ is just a constant, we can replace it with $(c)$. For a simpler equation, we can drop the subscripts for $a$ and $b$, with the understanding that $a, b$, and $c$ here are not the same as in Equation S26 or Equation S30.

$$
y=(c) \cdot\left[-b+\left(b^{2}+4 a x\right)^{1 / 2}\right]
$$

Equation S23: To explore the relationship between $v_{0}$ and $\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]_{0}, v_{0}$ is measured as $\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]_{0}$ is varied but $\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]_{0}$ and $[\mathrm{Ru11}]_{0}$ are held constant. Within these constraints, $F_{1}$ and $F_{2}$ simplify to:

$$
F_{1}=a_{2} \bullet\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]_{0}
$$

$$
F_{2}=b_{2} \cdot\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]_{0}+c_{2}
$$

Equation S24: Plugging Equation $\mathbf{S 2 3}$ into Equation $\mathbf{S 1 7}$ will give the relationship between $v_{0}$ and $\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]_{0}$ that is predicted by the proposed mechanism:

$$
v_{0}=G_{1} \bullet\left\{-b_{2}\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]_{0}-c_{2}+\sqrt{\left(b_{2} \bullet\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]_{0}+c_{2}\right)^{2}+4 a_{2} \bullet[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0} \bullet\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]_{0}}\right\}
$$

Equation S25: If the proposed mechanism is correct, then a plot of measured $v_{0} \mathrm{vs}$. [ $\left.\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]_{0}(y$ and $x$, respectively) will be accurately fit by:

$$
y=G_{1} \cdot\left\{-b_{2} x-c_{2}+\sqrt{\left(b_{2} x+c_{2}\right)^{2}+4 a_{2}[\operatorname{Ru1}]_{0} \cdot x}\right\}
$$

Equation S26: Because $G_{1}$ is just a constant, we can replace it with $(d)$. For a simpler equation, we can drop the subscripts for $a, b$, and $c$, with the understanding that $a, b$, and $c$ here are not the same as in Equation S22 or Equation S30. In this equation, [Ru1] $]_{0}$ is an invariant constant $\left(2.0 \times 10^{-5} \mathrm{M}\right)$.

$$
y=(d) \cdot\left[-b x-c+\left\{(b x+c)^{2}+4 a[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0} \cdot x\right\}^{1 / 2}\right]
$$

Equation S27: To explore the relationship between $v_{0}$ and $\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]_{0}, v_{0}$ is measured as $\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]_{0}$ is varied but $\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]_{0}$ and $[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}$ are held constant. Within these constraints, $F_{1}$ and $F_{2}$ simplify to:

$$
\begin{gathered}
F_{1}=a_{3} \\
F_{2}=b_{3} \cdot\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]_{0}+c_{3}
\end{gathered}
$$

Equation S28: Plugging Equation S27 into Equation S17 will give the relationship between $v_{0}$ and $\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]_{0}$ that is predicted by the proposed mechanism:

$$
v_{0}=G_{1} \cdot\left\{-b_{3}\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]_{0}-c_{3}+\sqrt{\left(b_{3} \cdot\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]_{0}+c_{3}\right)^{2}+4 a_{3} \cdot[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}}\right\}
$$

Equation S29: If the proposed mechanism is correct, then a plot of measured $v_{0}$ vs. $\left[\mathrm{H}^{+}\right]_{0}(y$ and $x$, respectively) will be accurately fit by:

$$
y=G_{1} \cdot\left\{-b_{3} x-c_{3}+\sqrt{\left(b_{3} x+c_{3}\right)^{2}+4 a_{3}[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}}\right\}
$$

Equation S30: Because $G_{1}$ is just a constant, we can replace it with $(d)$. For a simpler equation, we can drop the subscripts for $a, b$, and $c$, with the understanding that $a, b$, and $c$ here are not the same as in Equation S22 or Equation S26. In this equation, [Ru1] $]_{0}$ is an invariant constant $\left(2.0 \times 10^{-5} \mathrm{M}\right)$.

$$
y=(d) \cdot\left[-b x-c+\left\{(b x+c)^{2}+4 a[\mathrm{Ru} 1]_{0}\right\}^{1 / 2}\right]
$$



Figure S1. Plot of absorbance vs. time for $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ disproportionation (blue trace) and $\mathrm{ABTS}^{2-}$ oxidation (red trace) by Ru1. Conditions: $\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]_{0}=20 \mathrm{mM}$ (blue trace) or $5 \mu \mathrm{M}$ (red trace), $\left[\mathrm{ABTS}^{2-}\right]_{0}=0 \mu \mathrm{M}$ (blue trace) or $200 \mu \mathrm{M}$ (red trace), $[\mathbf{R u 1}]_{0}=10 \mu \mathrm{M}$, PBS ( pH 7.4 ), $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.; $\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]$ determined from absorbance at $240 \mathrm{~nm}\left(\varepsilon=43.6 \mathrm{M}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}\right)$, and [ABTS ${ }^{-}$] determined from absorbance at $734 \mathrm{~nm}(\varepsilon=1.5 \times$ $10^{4} \mathrm{M}^{-1} \mathrm{~cm}^{-1}$.


Figure S2. Plot of initial rate ( $v_{0}$ ) of Ru1-catalyzed $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ disproportionation vs. [Ru1] $]_{0}$ which shows that (A) the unforced linear fit predicts an uncatalyzed reaction rate of $5 \mu \mathrm{M} \mathrm{s}$-1 and (B) forcing the linear fit to have a $y$-intercept $=0$ does not adequately model the experimental data. Conditions: $[\mathbf{R u 1}]_{0}=10,20$, 30 , or $40 \mu \mathrm{M} ;\left[\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}_{2}\right]_{0}=20 \mathrm{mM}$; PBS ( pH 7.4 ), $25^{\circ} \mathrm{C}$.

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