

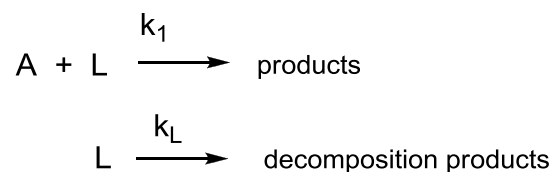
## Supporting Information

### The Effects of Ligand Decomposition on the Pseudo-First Order Profile of a Ligand Substitution Reaction: A “silent killer” in the background

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#### Derivation of Equation (4)

For the system



$$\frac{d[A]}{dt} = -k_1[A][L]$$

$$\frac{d[L]}{dt} = -k_1[A][L] - k_L[L]$$

$$\frac{d[L]}{d[A]} = \frac{-k_1[A][L] - k_L[L]}{-k_1[A][L]}$$

$$\frac{d[L]}{d[A]} = 1 + \frac{k_L}{k_1[A]}$$

$$d[L] = \left(1 + \frac{k_L}{k_1[A]}\right) d[A]$$

Integrating gives  $[L] = [A] + \frac{k_L}{k_1} \ln[A] + c_1$  where  $c_1$  is a constant.

Now,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d[A]}{dt} &= -k_1[A][L] \\ &= -k_1[A] \left( [A] + \frac{k_L}{k_1} \ln[A] + c_1 \right) \end{aligned}$$

Then,

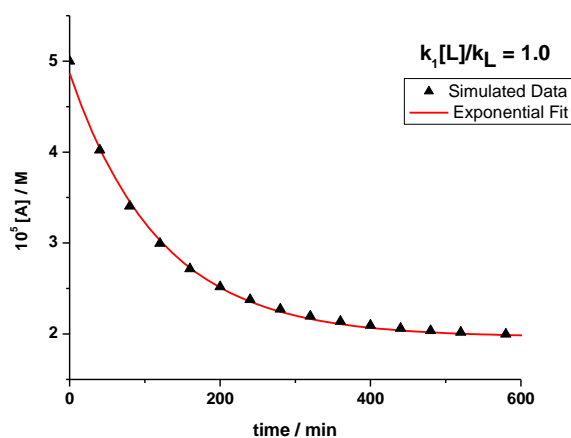
$$\frac{d[A]}{dt} = -k_1[A]^2 - k_L[A] \ln[A] - k_1[A]c_1$$

$$\int \frac{d[A]}{k_1[A]^2 + k_L[A] \ln[A] + k_1[A]c_1} = -t + c_2 \text{ where } c_2 \text{ is a constant.}$$

This integral cannot be determined analytically (solved by quadrature).

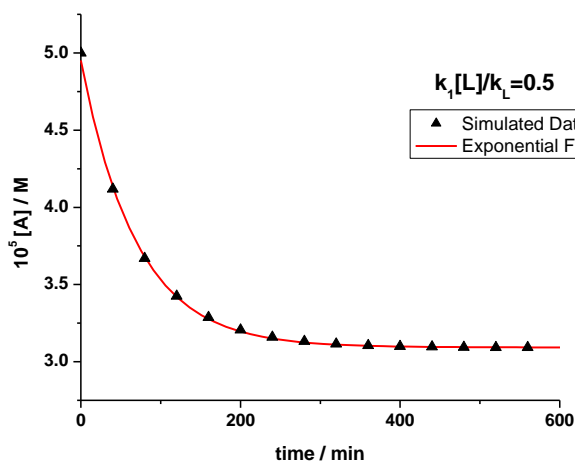
**Figure S1.**

Best fit of the simulated data at  $k_1[L]_0/k_L = 1$  assuming that the reaction fits a simple first-order equation, giving  $k_{1st} = 8.363 \times 10^{-3} \text{ min}^{-1}$ . The simulated data has been fitted for the first 5 half lives of the reaction. The following parameters were fixed to obtain the simulated data:  $[L]_0 = 5.00 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ ,  $[A]_0 = 5.00 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ ,  $dt = 1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ min}$ ,  $k_1 = 12.4 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$  and  $k_L = 6.20 \times 10^{-3} \text{ min}^{-1}$ . Selected data points are shown for clarity.



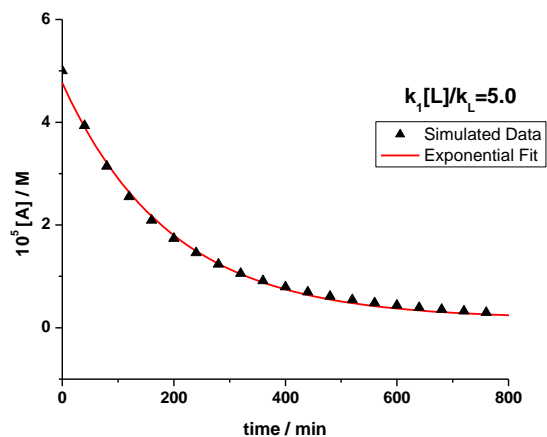
**Figure S2**

Best fit of the simulated data at  $k_1[L]_0/k_L = 0.5$  assuming that the reaction fits a simple first-order equation, giving  $k_{1st} = 1.446 \times 10^{-2} \text{ min}^{-1}$ . The simulated data has been fitted for the first five half lives of the reaction. The following parameters were fixed to obtain the simulated data:  $[L]_0 = 5.00 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ ,  $[A]_0 = 5.00 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ ,  $dt = 1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ min}$ ,  $k_1 = 12.4 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$  and  $k_L = 0.0124 \text{ min}^{-1}$ . Selected data points are shown for clarity.



### Figure S3

Best fit of the simulated data at  $k_1[L]_0/k_L = 5.0$  assuming that the reaction fits a simple first-order equation, giving  $k_{1st} = 5.187 \times 10^{-3} \text{ min}^{-1}$ . The simulated data has been fitted for the first five half lives of the reaction. The following parameters were fixed to obtain the simulated data:  $[L]_0 = 5.00 \times 10^{-4} \text{ M}$ ,  $[A]_0 = 5.00 \times 10^{-5} \text{ M}$ ,  $dt = 1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ min}$ ,  $k_1 = 12.4 \text{ M}^{-1} \text{ min}^{-1}$  and  $k_L = 1.24 \times 10^{-3} \text{ min}^{-1}$ . Selected data points are shown for clarity.



**Figure S4**

An expanded view of Figure 5c) in the main text.

