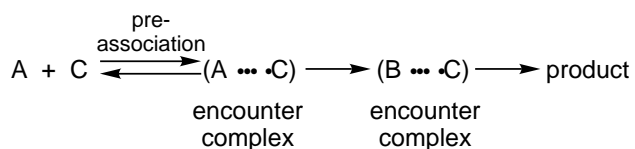


spectator mechanism

A *pre-association* mechanism in which one of the *molecular entities*, C, is already present in an *encounter pair* with A during formation of B from A, but does not assist the formation of B, e.g.



The formation of B from A may itself be a bimolecular reaction with some other reagent. Since C does not assist the formation of A, it is described as being present as a spectator, and hence such a mechanism is sometimes referred to as a spectator mechanism.

See also *microscopic diffusion control*.
1994, 66, 1165