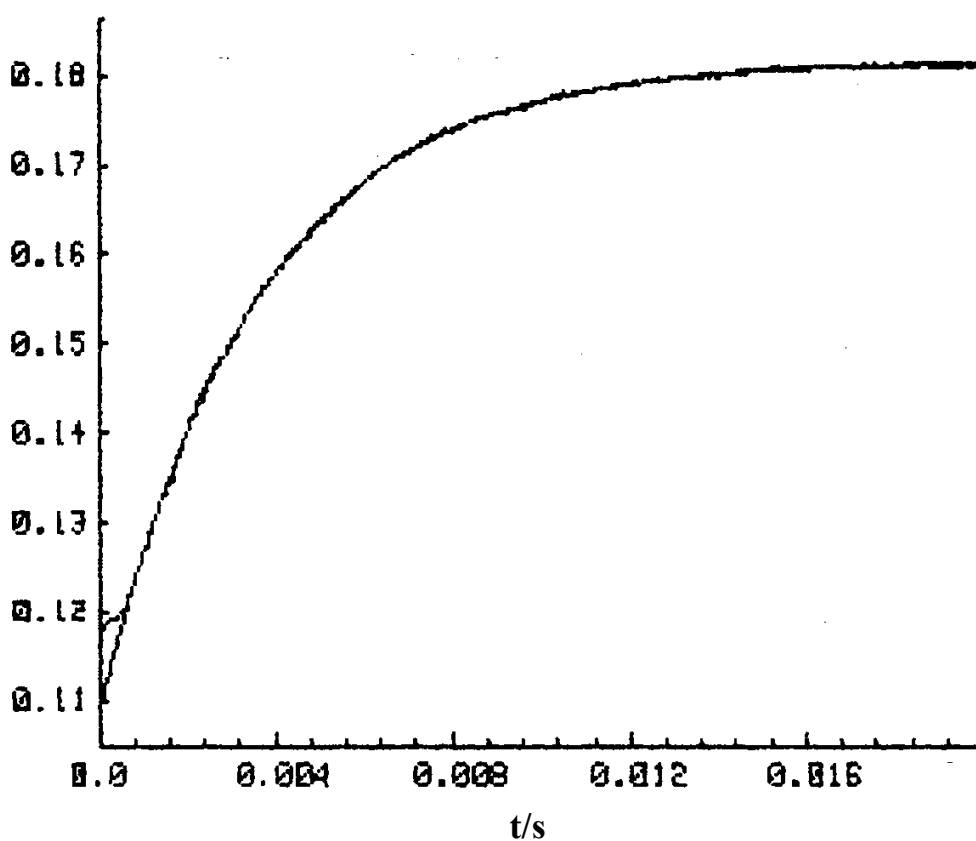


### ESI pages for

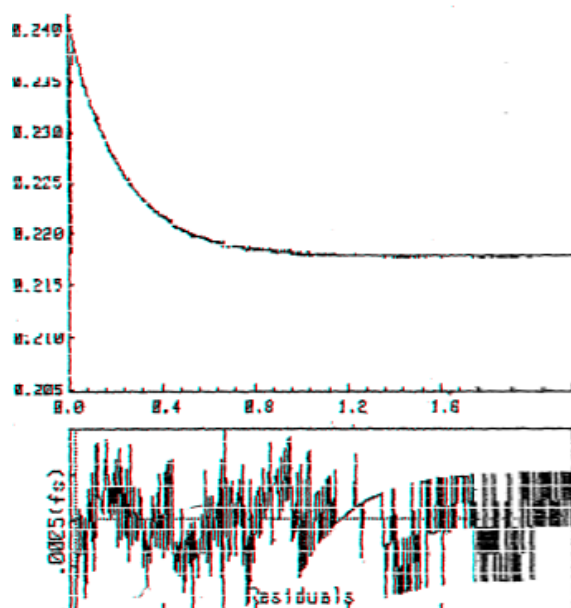
## Kinetic study of the reaction of $[\text{Rh}_6(\text{CO})_{16}]$ with $\text{NO}_2^-$ : Insertion of the nitrogen atom into a $\text{Rh}_6$ cluster core

*Claudia Babij,<sup>a</sup> David H. Farrar,<sup>a</sup> Anthony J. Poë\*<sup>a</sup> and Sergey P. Tunik<sup>b</sup>*

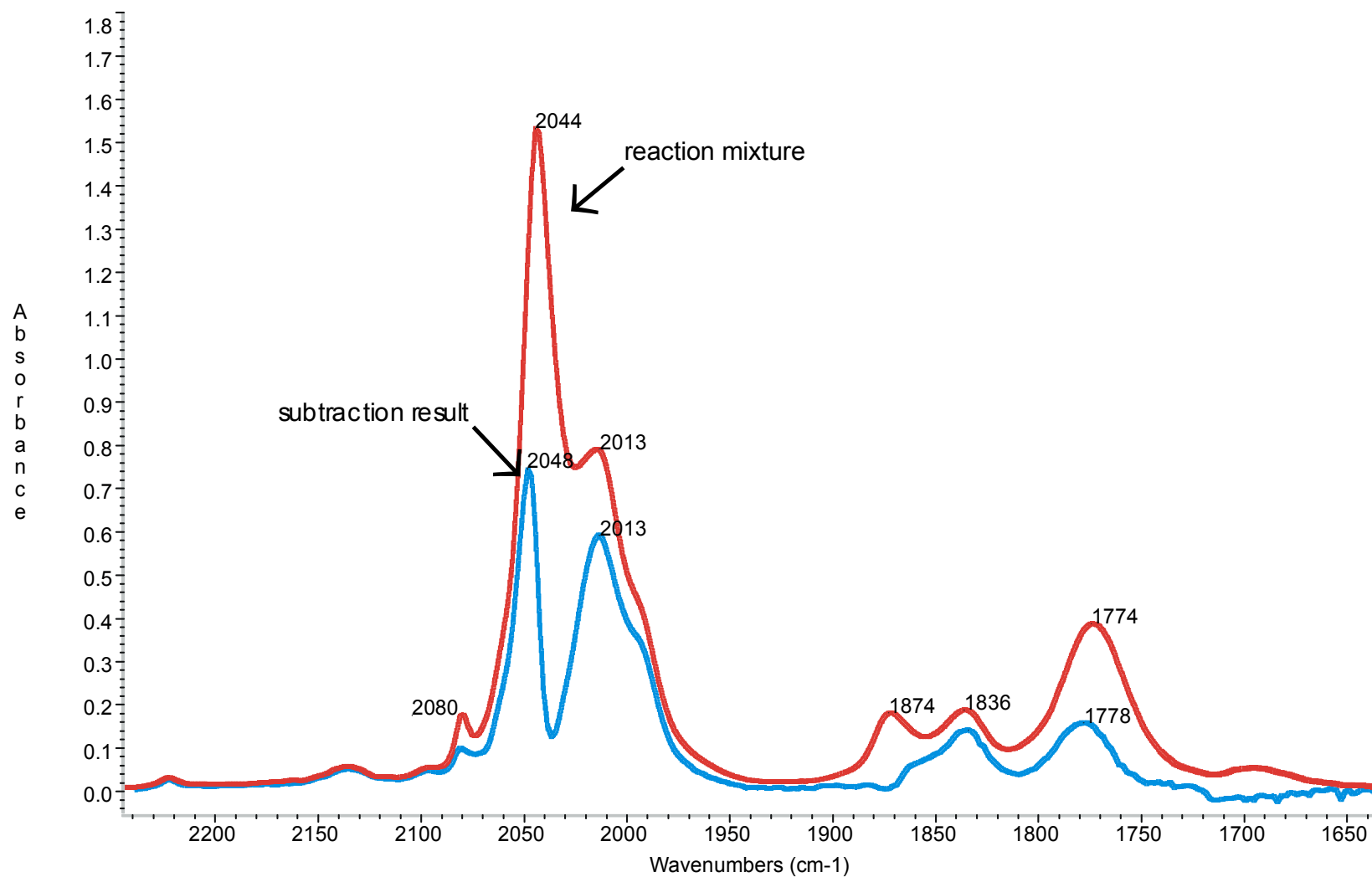
Fig. S1 Typical absorbance changes at 450 nm during step 1 at 25 °C under  $\text{N}_2$ . Data fitted using a single exponential function.



**Fig. S2** Typical plot of absorbance (425 nm) vs. time (t/s) for step 2 at 10 °C under CO. Data fitted using a single exponential function and the “residuals” are also shown (with a much expanded scale).



**Fig. S3** Spectrum of the “2013  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  species” established by subtracting the spectra of  $[\text{Rh}_6(\text{CO})_{14}(\kappa^2\text{-OCONO})]^-$  and  $\text{Rh}_6\text{N}(\text{CO})_{15}]^-$  from that of the mixture when the concentration of the “2013  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  species” is at a maximum.





**Table S1** Crystal Data and Structure Refinement for PPN[Rh<sub>6</sub>N(CO)<sub>15</sub>] (Using *SHELXTL/PC*; Bruker Analytical X-ray : Madison, WI, 1997).

Identification code	k99228
Empirical formula	C <sub>51</sub> H <sub>30</sub> N O <sub>16</sub> P <sub>2</sub> Rh <sub>6</sub>
Formula weight	1592.16
Temperature	150(1) K
Wavelength	0.71073 Å
Crystal system	Triclinic
Space group	P-1
Unit cell dimensions	a = 9.0540(18) Å $\alpha$ = 109.80(3)°. b = 15.826(3) Å $\beta$ = 91.07(3)°. c = 19.596(4) Å $\gamma$ = 97.02(3)°.
Volume	2616.7(9) Å <sup>3</sup>
Z	2
Density (calculated)	2.021 Mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Absorption coefficient	1.980 mm <sup>-1</sup>
F(000)	1542
Crystal size	0.25 x 0.20 x 0.20 mm <sup>3</sup>
Theta range for data collection	2.59 to 27.51°.
Index ranges	0 ≤ h ≤ 11, -20 ≤ k ≤ 20, -25 ≤ l ≤ 25
Independent reflections	11788 [R(int) = 0.064]
Completeness to theta = 27.51°	97.9 %
Absorption correction	None
Max. and min. transmission	0.6929 and 0.6374
Refinement method	Full-matrix least-squares on F <sup>2</sup>
Data / restraints / parameters	11788 / 0 / 686
Goodness-of-fit on F <sup>2</sup>	1.038
Final R indices [I > 2σ(I)]	R1 = 0.0360, wR2 = 0.0815
R indices (all data)	R1 = 0.0496, wR2 = 0.0866
Extinction coefficient	0.00098(9)

Largest diff. peak and hole                      0.948 and -1.210 e.Å<sup>-3</sup>