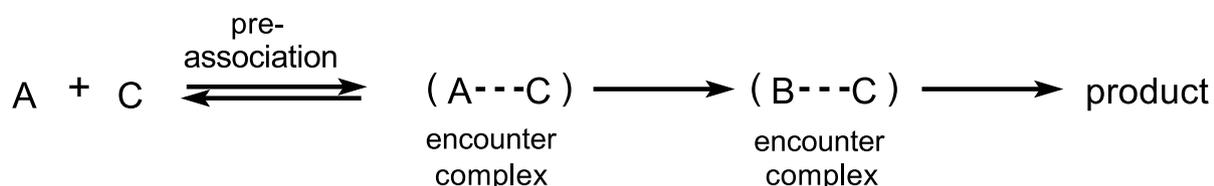


## spectator mechanism

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

**Source:**

PAC, 1994, 66, 1077 (*Glossary of terms used in physical organic chemistry (IUPAC Recommendations 1994)*) on page 1165