

## Spontaneous reaction of malonyl peroxides with methanol

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### General

The numbers of the compounds are the same as those used in the main text.  $^1\text{H}$  NMR spectra were recorded on a Bruker AM instrument, 300.13 MHz, at 25°C. In both solvents,  $\text{CDCl}_3$  and  $\text{C}_6\text{D}_6$ ,  $\text{Me}_4\text{Si}$  was used as an internal standard with  $\delta$  0.000 ppm. *Ab initio* calculations were performed using Gaussian 09, Revision A.02 (G09).

### Benzene assisted shifts of signals in $^1\text{H}$ NMR spectra

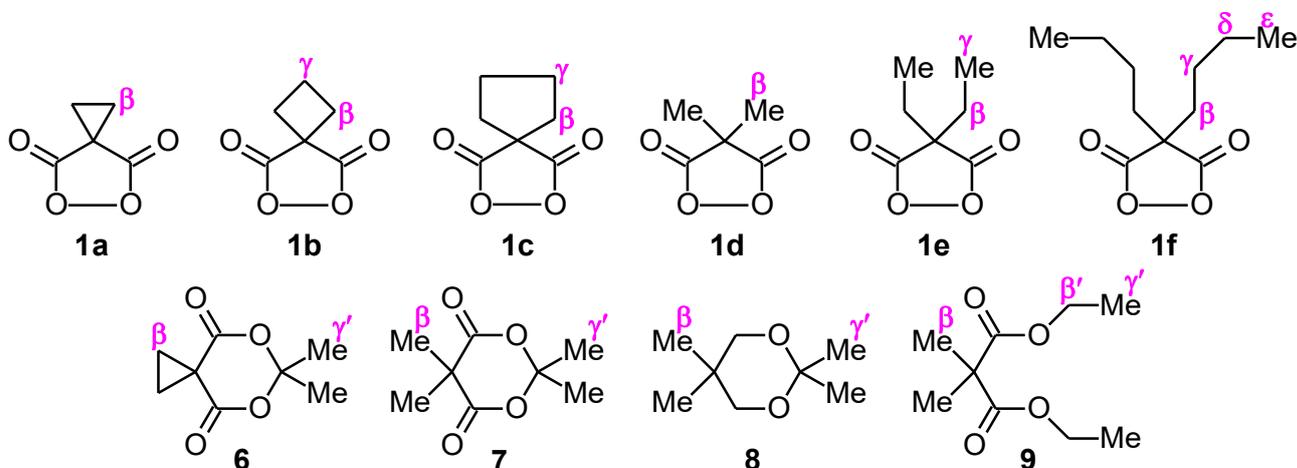


Table S1

Benzene assisted shifts for MPOs and relatives<sup>a</sup>

Compound	Proton signals	$\delta$ , ppm		$\Delta\delta$ (C <sub>6</sub> D <sub>6</sub> -CDCl <sub>3</sub> ) <sup>b</sup>
		CDCl <sub>3</sub>	C <sub>6</sub> D <sub>6</sub>	
<b>Malonyl peroxides</b>				
<b>1a</b>	$\beta$ -CH <sub>2</sub>	2.11	0.89	-1.22
<b>1b</b>	$\beta$ -CH <sub>2</sub>	2.69	1.72	-0.97
	$\gamma$ -CH <sub>2</sub>	2.34	1.46	-0.88
<b>1c</b>	$\beta$ -CH <sub>2</sub>	2.25	1.44	-0.81
	$\gamma$ -CH <sub>2</sub>	1.98	1.26	-0.72
<b>1d</b>	$\beta$ -Me	1.59	0.68	-0.91
<b>1e</b>	$\beta$ -CH <sub>2</sub>	1.95	1.30	-0.65
	$\gamma$ -Me	0.98	0.52	-0.46
<b>1f</b>	$\beta$ -CH <sub>2</sub>	1.90	1.47	-0.43
	$\gamma$ -CH <sub>2</sub>	1.31	1.07	-0.24
	$\delta$ -CH <sub>2</sub>	1.31	0.90	-0.41
	$\epsilon$ -Me	0.90	0.59	-0.31
<b>Other compounds</b>				
<b>6</b>	$\beta$ -CH <sub>2</sub>	1.98	1.46	-0.52
	$\gamma'$ -Me	1.82	1.17	-0.65
<b>7</b>	$\beta$ -Me	1.65	1.34	-0.31
	$\gamma'$ -Me	1.75	1.08	-0.67
<b>8<sup>c</sup></b>	$\beta$ -Me	0.96	0.78	-0.18
	$\gamma'$ -Me	1.42	1.38	-0.04
	CH <sub>2</sub>	3.50	3.32	-0.18
<b>9</b>	$\beta$ -Me	1.43	1.47	+0.04
	$\beta'$ -CH <sub>2</sub>	4.18	3.95	-0.23
	$\gamma'$ -Me	1.25	0.91	-0.34

<sup>a</sup>  $\delta$  of centers are shown for multiplets.

<sup>b</sup> Negative BAS are shifts to high field.

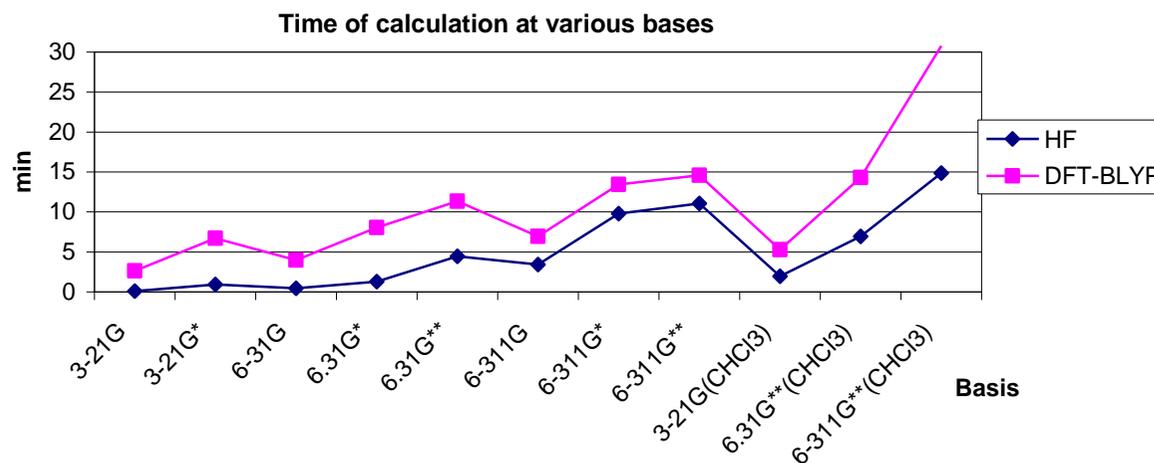
<sup>c</sup> Position of 'carbonyl carbon' in **8** is assumed to be as in **7**.

Table S2

Results of *ab initio* calculations of geometry for MPO 1a (for the selection of preferable method)

Basis	Calculation time <sup>(d)</sup> , min		Free energy, kcal/mol				Angle OC-C-CO				Bond O-O, Å			
	HF	DFT-BLYP	Free energy, kcal/mol		Calculated		Calculated - X-ray		Calculated		Calculated - X-ray			
			HF	DFT-BLYP	HF	DFT-BLYP	HF	DFT-BLYP	HF	DFT-BLYP	HF	DFT-BLYP		
3-21G	0.07	2.60	-306,391.83	-308,112.26	108.42	109.84	0.82	2.24	1.47	1.53	-0.01	0.05		
3-21G*	0.92	6.70	-306,434.18	-308,167.24	108.34	109.76	0.74	2.16	1.47	1.55	-0.01	0.07		
6-31G	0.43	3.97	-307,956.78	-309,714.80	107.16	108.59	-0.44	0.99	1.45	1.54	-0.03	0.06		
6.31G*	1.28	8.02	-307,965.88	-309,727.90	106.90	108.40	-0.70	0.80	1.45	1.54	-0.03	0.06		
6.31G**	4.42	11.30	-307,966.56	-309,728.03	106.91	108.40	-0.69	0.80	1.45	1.54	-0.03	0.06		
6-311G	3.40	6.92	-308,037.20	-309,795.66	106.86	108.85	-0.74	1.25	1.44	1.53	-0.04	0.05		
6-311G*	9.78	13.40	-308,043.71	-309,802.96	106.66	108.53	-0.94	0.93	1.43	1.53	-0.05	0.05		
6-311G**	11.03	14.57	-308,043.80	-309,806.48	106.66	108.70	-0.94	1.10	1.43	1.53	-0.05	0.05		
3-21G(CHCl3)	1.93	5.27	-306,398.15	-308,116.41	108.50	109.85	0.90	2.25	1.46	1.53	-0.02	0.05		
6.31G**(CHCl3)	6.93	14.28	-307,974.51	-309,734.13	106.93	108.41	-0.67	0.81	1.45	1.54	-0.03	0.06		
6-311G**(CHCl3)	14.83	30.73	-308,051.50	-309,803.98	106.43	108.60	-1.17	1.00	1.43	1.53	-0.05	0.05		
					<b>Mean:</b>	<b>-0.35</b>	<b>1.30</b>			<b>Mean:</b>	<b>-0.03</b>	<b>0.06</b>		

Published data		
Angle OC-C-CO		Bond O-O, Å
X-ray <sup>(a)</sup>	HF 6-31G* <sup>(b)</sup>	X-ray <sup>(a)</sup>
107.6	105.2	1.48
Semi-empirical calculation data <sup>(c)</sup>		
Method	OC-C-CO	Bond O-O, Å
PM3	102.85	1.57
PM6	105.28	1.43
PM6(CHCl3)	105.39	1.43



(a) *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 2010, **132**, 14409.

(b) *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.*, 2011, **50**, 10495.

(c) Author's G09 calculations.

(d) Starting from the same file of the molecule.

### Conclusions

1. Method DFT-BLYP provides geometric data (at least for this molecule) which are somewhat less close to experimental data than those of HF method.
2. Calculation times for DFT-BLYP method are constantly and often significantly longer than times needed for HF identical calculations.
3. The bases higher than 6.31G\* improve the results insignificantly only.

Table S3

**Results of *ab initio* calculations of transition states (TS) in the reaction of MPOs with methanol**

Item	Molecule(s)	Basis <sup>a</sup>	Medium	Free energy, kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>	Differences, kcal mol <sup>-1</sup>
1	<b>1d</b> + 1MeOH	6.31G**	vacuum	-380,885.72	0.00
	<b>TS(a)-1d</b>			-380,843.87	<b>41.85</b>
	<b>2d</b>			-380,892.49	-6.77
2	<b>1e</b> + 1MeOH	6.31G**	vacuum	-429,852.98	0.00
	<b>TS(a)-1e</b>			-429,808.73	<b>44.25</b>
	<b>2e</b>			-429,862.79	-9.80
3	<b>1d</b> + 1MeOH	6.31G**	PCM MeOH	-380,895.77	0.00
	<b>TS(b)-1d</b>			-380,865.14	<b>30.63</b>
	<b>2d</b>			-380,904.12	-8.35
4	<b>1e</b> + 1MeOH	6.31G**	PCM MeOH	-429,862.24	0.00
	<b>TS(b)-1e</b>			-429,828.75	<b>33.50</b>
	<b>2e</b>			-429,873.10	-10.85
5	<b>1d</b> + 2MeOH	6.31G	vacuum	-453,041.09	0.00
	<b>TS(c)-1d</b>			-453,012.96	<b>28.13</b>
	<b>2d</b>			-453,051.47	-10.38
6	<b>1e</b> + 2MeOH	6.31G	vacuum	-502,007.86	0.00
	<b>TS(c)-1e</b>			-501,976.47	<b>31.38</b>
	<b>2e</b>			-502,014.32	-6.46

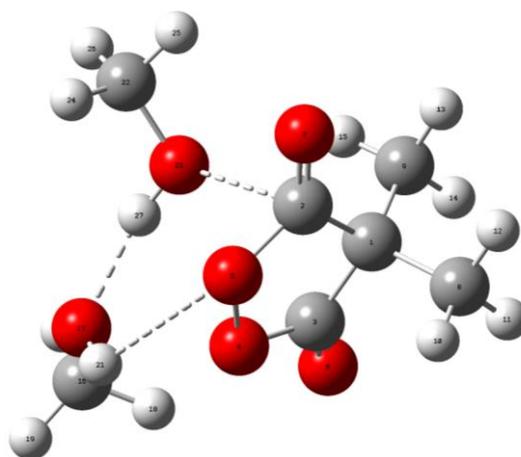
<sup>a</sup> All calculations were performed using Hartree-Fock method.

### Discussion of some calculation results

It has been already stated in the main text that the calculated differences in energy barriers of ~3 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> are not large enough for the explanation of more than 800 times difference in the rates of the spontaneous reactions of MPOs **1d** and **1e** with methanol (Table 1 in the main text). Some observed peculiarities of this reaction may be a possible reason of the calculation inefficiency.

1. Calculations of TS in "methanol solution" (model PCM, items 3,4 in Table S3, series **TS(b)**) produced the lowering of energy barriers for ~11 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup> (in comparison with values in vacuum, items 1,2, series **TS(a)**).
2. Even more significant lowering of energy barriers, for ~13 kcal mol<sup>-1</sup>, was observed for the reaction model with two methanol molecules (items 5,6, series **TS(c)**). Both methanol molecules participate equally in TS of this reaction (see Pic. S1). The further lowering of energy barriers, although less significant, was observed in TS models with participation of 3-5 methanol molecules. Quantitative values of these results could not be cited due to inability to find the optimal configuration of TSs with 3-5 independent molecules.

3. We believe that these results are in accordance with the experimentally found but strange dependence of the reaction rate of MPO spontaneous methanolysis from MPO : MeOH ratio. In a case of 1 : 250 ratio the 50% methanolysis of **1d** needs 5 minutes (item 6, Table 1), however in case 1 : 10 ratio 50% conversion of **1d** was only achieved in 1 hour (item 7). Needless to say, methanol "concentrations" in both cases were practically the same because methanol was the sole solvent. At the 1 : 2 MPO : MeOH ratio the most reactive MPOs **1b,d** do not react at all during several days (items 4,8 and some other unpublished experiments).



**Figure S1** Transition state for the reaction of MPO **1d** with two MeOH molecules.