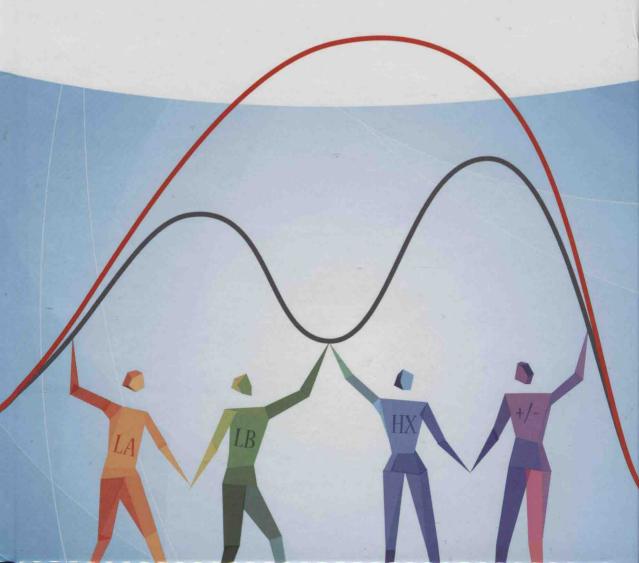
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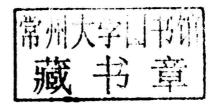
Designing Efficient Catalysts for Synthesis



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Cooperative Catalysis

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Editor

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Preface

The field of asymmetric catalysis has witnessed an amazing progress during the last decades. Even so, technical scale applications are still largely limited to few catalytic asymmetric reaction types [1]. From a technical point of view the large majority of traditional catalytic asymmetric methodologies is not proficient enough in terms of various fundamental aspects such as catalytic activity, substrate scope, selectivity, and cost efficiency.

In order to develop asymmetric catalysts of considerably improved activity, selectivity, and general applicability, the research field of cooperative catalysis is currently intensively studied by a large number of research groups worldwide, following the seminal marks of pioneers in that field like E. J. Corey, Eric Jacobsen, Ryoji Noyori, Masakatsu Shibasaki, or Hisashi Yamamoto to mention just a few. Their research strategy has mimicked the catalytical principles used by Nature to design artificial tailor-made catalysts: like Nature's catalysts - enzymes - these artificial catalyst systems make use of the synergistic and often sophisticated interplay of two or more functional groups. By simultaneous activation of the reactants using different catalyst functional groups cooperative catalysts can decrease the energy of the transition states of the rate-limiting steps to a much greater degree compared to either functional group working independently. Cooperative catalysts can thus notably accelerate and precisely control a chemical reaction, at the same time reducing the amount of side products and accordingly the production of waste. Dual/multiple activation catalysts consequently very often accomplish higher efficiencies than conventional monofunctional catalysts in terms of reactivity, substrate scope, regio-, diastereo- or enantioselectivity and potentially also cost-efficiency. Cooperative catalysis is arguably the most promising strategy to realize high reactivity and selectivity in chemical transformations. It thus appears likely that the different strategies of cooperative catalysis will streamline organic synthesis in general and will in the future also enable a growing number of technical scale applications for catalytic asymmetric C-C, C-N and C-O bond formations. Cooperative catalysis is hence expected to significantly strengthen asymmetric catalysis as a key technology for our society.

Like mentioned, cooperative catalysis makes use of two or even more functional groups present in a catalytic system, which simultaneously work in concert to accelerate and control a chemical reaction. In the definition utilized in most chapters of this book these activating functional groups might be part of the same bi- or multifunctional catalyst entity or of two or more separate (co)catalyst molecules. This implicates that terms like bi(multi)functional catalysis, dual (multiple) activation catalysis, contemporaneous dual catalysis, synergistic catalysis or catalyzed catalysis are all covered by the general title of this book – 'Cooperative Catalysis'. Examples for cascade catalysis will thus usually (with some exceptions where suitable) not be presented, because in cascade catalysis the different activating catalyst functionalities do not collectively team up in a way that they decrease the energy of the same transition state by their simultaneous action. An exception has, e.g., been made for Chapter 11, in which the intriguing cooperation of enzymes and metal(–complexe)s is described, albeit both catalysts do not activate the substrates simultaneously.

The present book is considered to provide an overview of the most intensively studied concepts of cooperative catalysis, their historical development, their mode of operation and important applications. Advantages of these concepts, and sometimes also pitfalls that need to be overcome in the future, are described and illustrated. A central but not limiting aspect of this book is asymmetric catalysis. The book is subdivided in 13 chapters - each one written by scientific experts in the corresponding field - and classified by the types of the activating principles. It needs to be mentioned though that the transition between different concepts is often floating. For example, the areas of bimetallic catalysis and Lewis acid/Brønsted base catalysis are to a certain degree related concepts and it sometimes depends on your standpoint which classification might be preferred. To avoid a large overlap, this book thus contains a chapter about bimetallic catalysis with carbophilic Lewis acids, but there is no additional chapter for azaor oxophilic bimetallic catalysts, as the arguably most important systems are already discussed in the chapter about Lewis acid/Brønsted base catalysis. In addition, as theoretically almost every traditional catalytic activation principle may be combined with another one in a cooperative sense, a huge variability appears to be possible. For that reason the title of some chapters specifies only one of the activating principles.

Summing up the most important – often complementary – concepts of cooperative catalysis in one book is expected to support the further development of this important field by both sharpening and extending our perception. It is not very risky to predict that the future of catalysis will be cooperative! Emil Fischer described a related vision already more than 100 years ago, when he stated: *If we wish to catch up with Nature, we shall use the same methods as she does, and I can foresee a time in which physiological chemistry will not only make greater use of natural enzymes but will actually resort to creating new synthetic ones [2].*

René Peters Universität Stuttgart, 2014

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