Transfer Hydrocyanation by the Nickel(0)/Lewis Acid Cooperative Catalysis,

Mechanism Investigation and Computational Prediction of Shuttle Catalysts

Shao-Fei Ni^{\dagger}, Ti-Long Yang^{\dagger}, Li Dang^{$*^{\dagger \ddagger}$}

[†]Department of Chemistry in South University of Science and Technology, Shenzhen,

518055, P. R. China

^{*}Department of Chemistry and Key Laboratory for Preparation and Application of

Ordered Structural Materials of Guangdong Province, Shantou University, Guangdong

515063, P. R. China

E-mail: dangl@sustc.edu.cn

Species	ΔE_{gas}	ΔG_{gas}	ΔE_{sol}
Ni(COD) ₂	0.0	0.0	0.0
Cplx1	-16.2	-12.0	-0.6
1	-7.9	-7.2	-0.3
TS1-2	27.6	29.0	37.9
2	8.6	9.5	15.3
TS2-3	24.4	22.0	32.4
3	23.6	21.0	30.1
4	29.4	11.1	8.7
5	15.8	13.1	21.0
TS5-6	22.6	20.4	29.3
6	15.2	14.6	23.2
7	11.0	10.5	19.1
TS7-8	28.8	28.4	35.3
8	-11.8	-10.8	0.14
9	19.2	15.1	24.7
TS9-10	23.3	21.5	31.0
10	11.4	9.6	12.2
11	10.2	9.4	16.4
TS11-12	26.7	28.3	33.8
12	-11.0	-8.0	2.6
13	-7.6	8.5	5.5
TS13-14	42.5	56.1	49.0
14	-8.6	5.0	6.5
15	-1.8	12.3	9.6
TS15-16	55.5	69.0	59.7
16	-1.5	10.0	10.8

Table S1. The ΔE_{gas} , ΔG_{gas} , and, ΔE_{sol} of the species involved in Figure 1, 2, and 3.

Species	ΔE_{gas}	ΔG_{gas}	ΔE_{sol}
Ni(COD) ₂	0.0	0.0	0.0
LA ^N -1	-52.2	-33.8	-37.0
LA ^N -TS1-2	-18.5	-3.4	-5.7
LA ^N -2	-36.4	-23.3	-23.1
LA ^N -TS2-3	-19.1	-6.7	-3.8
LA ^N -3	-23.7	-13.0	-10.9
LA ^N -4	-15.1	-17.9	-9.3
LA ^N -5	-32.4	-18.3	-16.1
LA ^N -TS5-6	-27.8	-14.2	-8.6
LA ^N -6	-33.6	-18.5	-16.4
LA ^N -7	-41.2	-23.6	-24.9
LA ^N -TS7-8	-24.3	-8.8	-8.8
LA ^N -8	-53.3	-35.4	-35.9

Table S2. The $\Delta E_{gas}, \Delta G_{gas}, and, \Delta E_{sol}$ of the species involved in Figure 5.

Species	ΔE_{gas}	ΔG_{gas}	ΔE_{sol}
Ni(COD) ₂	0.0	0.0	0.0
LA ⁰ -1	-30.3	-10.5	-8.1
LA ⁰ -TS1-2	4.9	21.0	25.1
LA ⁰ -2	-10.6	8.2	9.1
LA ⁰ -TS2-3	17.6	32.7	34.6
LA ⁰ -3	8.4	23.6	23.8
LA ⁰ -4	19.9	19.2	27.9
LA ⁰ -5	4.3	20.6	23.8
LA ⁰ -TS5-6	10.8	27.0	32.5
LA ⁰ -6	2.3	21.0	22.8
LA ⁰ -7	-3.2	15.1	14.9
LA ⁰ -TS7-8	9.4	26.9	30.3
LA ⁰ -8	-23.1	-5.8	-0.7

Table S3. The ΔE_{gas} , ΔG_{gas} , and, ΔE_{sol} of the species involved in Figure 7.

ΔE_{gas}	ΔG_{gas}	ΔE_{sol}
0.0	0.0	0.0
-71.5	-35.1	-41.8
-43.4	-9.7	-14.5
-53.1	-18.7	-26.1
-34.3	-2.6	-5.8
-34.9	-4.7	-8.4
-29.9	-15.3	-11.9
-45.0	-13.7	-16.5
-39.9	-5.9	-7.9
-47.5	-12.5	-17.1
-55.2	-19.2	-26.5
-44.6	-8.4	-14.0
-70.2	-31.8	-37.9
	$\begin{array}{r} \Delta E_{gas} \\ 0.0 \\ -71.5 \\ -43.4 \\ -53.1 \\ -34.3 \\ -34.9 \\ -29.9 \\ -45.0 \\ -39.9 \\ -45.0 \\ -39.9 \\ -47.5 \\ -55.2 \\ -44.6 \\ -70.2 \\ \end{array}$	$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c c } \hline \Delta E_{gas} & \Delta G_{gas} \\ \hline 0.0 & 0.0 \\ -71.5 & -35.1 \\ -43.4 & -9.7 \\ -53.1 & -18.7 \\ -34.3 & -2.6 \\ -34.9 & -4.7 \\ -29.9 & -15.3 \\ -45.0 & -13.7 \\ -39.9 & -5.9 \\ -47.5 & -12.5 \\ -55.2 & -19.2 \\ -44.6 & -8.4 \\ -70.2 & -31.8 \\ \end{tabular}$

Table S4. The ΔE_{gas} , ΔG_{gas} , and, ΔE_{sol} of the species involved in Figure 8.

Species	ΔE_{gas}	ΔG_{gas}	ΔE_{sol}
Ni(COD) ₂	0.0	0.0	0.0
L1-LA ^N -1	-54.9	-39.8	-39.3
L1-LA ^N -TS1-2	-15.8	-3.0	-3.3
L1-LA ^N -2	-29.7	-17.7	-17.0
L1-LA ^N -TS2-3	-22.1	-11.0	-6.5
L1-LA ^N -3	-26.7	-16.0	-15.5
L1-LA ^N -4	-7.6	-14.1	-3.3
L1-LA ^N -5	-31.6	-20.6	-14.7
L1-LA ^N -TS5-6	-22.6	-12.1	-6.5
L1-LA ^N -6	-40.9	-28.9	-23.4
L1-LA ^N -7	-46.1	-31.6	-26.1
L1-LA ^N -TS7-8	-29.2	-15.7	-10.9
L1-LA ^N -8	-59.0	-43.8	-37.9
L2-LA ^N -1	-52.1	-33.0	-36.5
L2-LA ^N -TS1-2	-20.4	-4.6	-7.2
L2-LA ^N -2	-35.4	-21.3	-21.5
L2-LA ^N -TS2-3	-16.8	-5.2	-1.2
L2-LA ^N -3	-22.4	-12.2	-8.9
L2-LA ^N -4	-7.3	-12.8	-1.6
L2-LA ^N -5	-31.0	-18.0	-13.6
L2-LA ^N -TS5-6	-27.0	-14.1	-6.8
L2-LA ^N -6	-37.6	-22.7	-19.2
L2-LA ^N -7	-39.3	-22.6	-22.6
L2-LA ^N -TS7-8	-22.5	-7.9	-6.7
L2-LA ^N -8	-53.4	-34.6	-34.6
L3-LA ^N -1	-49.2	-32.5	-20.6
L3-LA ^N -TS1-2	-21.4	-7.0	-10.9
L3-LA ^N -2	-36.9	-23.4	-27.7
L3-LA ^N -TS2-3	-23.3	-13.5	-12.1
L3-LA ^N -3	-24.6	-15.8	-16.0
L3-LA ^N -4	-14.7	-18.6	-13.4
L3-LA ^N -5	-33.0	-20.5	-22.9
L3-LA ^N -TS5-6	-25.7	-13.8	-13.9
L3-LA ^N -6	-31.8	-18.8	-21.0
L3-LA ^N -7	-40.7	-24.5	-28.8
L3-LA ^N -TS7-8	-21.1	-7.3	-10.2
L3-LA ^N -8	-72.6	-43.9	-57.4

Table S5. The ΔE_{gas} , ΔG_{gas} , and, ΔE_{sol} of the species involved in Figure 10.

Species	ΔE_{gas}	ΔG_{gas}	ΔE_{sol}
9	19.2	15.1	24.7
TS9-10	23.3	21.5	31.0
10	11.4	9.6	12.2
11	10.2	9.4	16.4
TS11-12	26.7	28.3	33.8
12	-11.0	-8.0	2.6
LA ^N -9	-29.8	-16.9	-14.0
LA ^N -TS9-10	-25.3	-11.2	-8.0
LA ^N -10	-34.8	-22.6	-24.6
LA ^N -11	-37.4	-22.1	-22.4
LA ^N -TS11-12	-22.6	-6.5	-7.9
LA ^N -12	-52.7	-32.2	-32.7
LA ⁰ -9	-0.3	13.1	18.3
LA ⁰ -TS9-10	8.4	23.2	27.7
LA ⁰ -10	0.9	17.7	17.2
LA ⁰ -11	-10.7	8.5	11.8
LA ⁰ -TS11-12	4.4	21.9	29.8
LA ⁰ -12	-32.9	-13.7	-7.6
2LA-9	-51.4	-20.4	-23.5
2LA-TS9-10	-39.5	-10.3	-11.2
2LA-10	-45.5	-14.7	-21.0
2LA-11	-53.3	-17.9	-24.3
2LA-TS11-12	-36.9	-0.5	-8.1
2LA-12	-69.4	-31.5	-35.1

Table S6. The ΔE_{gas} , ΔG_{gas} , and, ΔE_{sol} of the species involved in Figure S1.



Figure S1. Free energy profiles of the mechanism of the direct H-transfer from substrate **R1** to **R2**.





Figure S2.Free energy profile of the mechanism of transfer hydrocyanation leading to the branched Markovnikov **P2-B**.



Figure S3.(a)Free energy profile for the test of the ω-B97XD functional by the other two functional with empirical dispersion correction; (b) Free energy profile for the test of the basis set(LanL2DZ were exployed for Ni and the all-electron 6-31+G* basis set was used in describing all other main-group atoms including P and Cl); (c) Structure papameters of the transition state LAN-TS1-2. (LAN-TS1-2-A:LanL2DZ were exployed for Ni, P, Clandthe all-electron 6-31G* basis set was used in describing all other main-group atoms; LAN-TS1-2-B:LanL2DZ were exployed for Ni and the all-electron 6-31+G* basis set was used in describing all other main-group atoms; LAN-TS1-2-B:LanL2DZ were exployed for Ni and the all-electron 6-31+G* basis set was used in describing all other main-group atoms including P and Cl); (d)Free energy profile when ligand L11 is used in the calculation with∞-B97XD functional(LanL2DZ were exployed for Ni, P, Clandthe all-electron 6-31G* basis set was used in describing all other main-group atoms).



Figure S4.Free energy profile for three new catalysts with ligand L1, L2, and L3 catalyzed transfer hydrocynation.















16





Cplx1



COD



P1





Ni(COD)2









TS2-3











TS9-10

TS11-12



TS13-14

TS-15-16

Figure S5. Optimized geometries with selected structural parameters (distances in Å) for the species involved in the reactions without Lewis acid.























LA^N-8



LA^N-9

LA^N-10



LA^N-11

LA^N-12



LA^N-TS9-10

LA^N-TS11-12

Figure S6. Optimized geometries with selected structural parameters (distances in Å) for the species involved in the reactions with one Lewis acid bind to the N atom of nitrile.



LA^O-1







LA^O-4





LA^O-5

LA^O-6

Page S23





LA^O-9

LA^O-10



LA⁰-12



LA^O-TS1-2

LA^O-TS2-3



LA^O-TS5-6

LA^O-TA7-8





LA^O-TS11-12

Figure S7. Optimized geometries with selected structural parameters (distances in Å) for the species involved in the reactions withone Lewis acid bind to the O atom of the ligand.







2LA-4



2LA-5









2LA-9

2LA-10



2LA-11

2LA-12

Page S27







Figure S8. Optimized geometries with selected structural parameters (distances in Å) for the species involved in the reactions with two molecular of Lewis acids bind to the N atom of the nitrile and the O atom of the ligand.



L1-LA^N-1







L1-LA^N-4





L1-LA^N-5



Figure S9. Optimized geometries with selected structural parameters (distances in Å) for the species involved in the L1 catalyzed reactions.



Page S31



Figure S10. Optimized geometries with selected structural parameters (distances in Å) for the species involved in the L2 catalyzed reactions.



L3-LA^N-5





Figure S11. Optimized geometries with selected structural parameters (distances in Å) for the species involved in the L3 catalyzed reactions.