

Supporting Information for

Origin of Asynchronicity in Diels-Alder Reactions

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Fig. S10 Key unoccupied π -MO (isovalue = 0.03 Bohr^{-3/2}) computed at the equilibrium structures of (a) **O** and (b) **O–Li⁺**, where the MO-coefficients of the carbon and oxygen 2p_z atomic orbitals, contributing to the unoccupied orbitals, are shown in the schematic π -MOs, computed at ZORA-BP86/TZ2P.

Fig. S11 Activation strain analyses of the artificially constraint synchronous, asynchronous and stepwise Diels-Alder reaction mode (rxn mode) of **B** with **O** and **O–H⁺** (dot indicates TS) along the IRC projected onto the shorter newly forming a $C_B \cdots C_\beta$ bond, computed at ZORA-BP86/TZ2P: (a) total energy, (b) strain energy, (c) interaction energy, (d) Pauli repulsion, (e) electrostatic interaction, and (f) orbital interactions.

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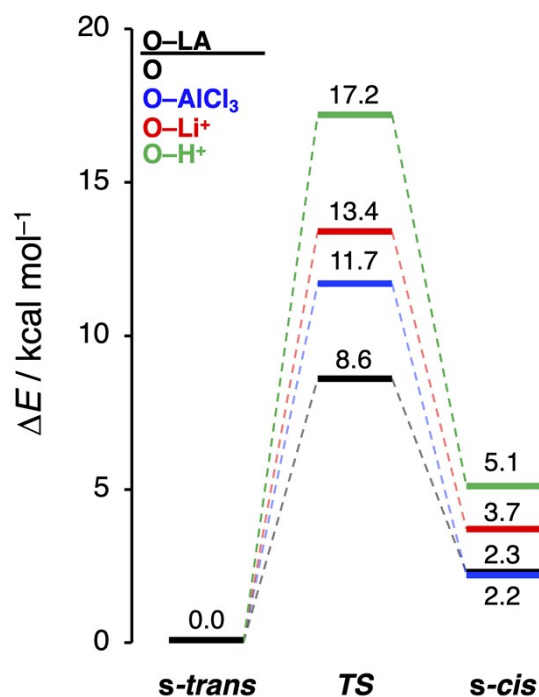


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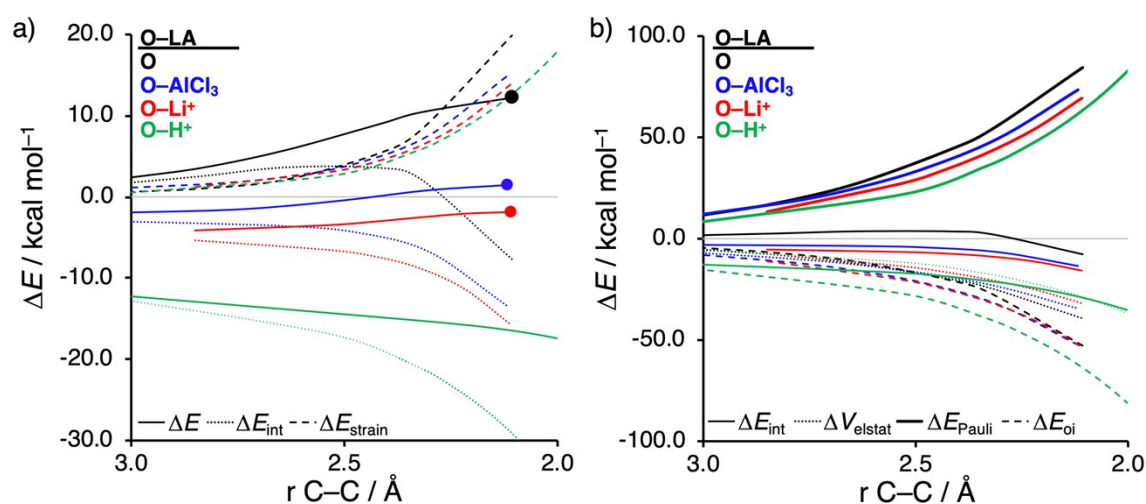


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Table S1 LA \cdots O=C bond energy decomposition analyses (in kcal mol⁻¹) and distance (in Å) in LA–acrylaldehyde (**O–LA**) complexes.^a

O–LA	ΔE_{int}	ΔV_{elstat}	ΔE_{Pauli}	ΔE_{oi}	$r(\text{LA}\cdots\text{O}=\text{C})$
O–AlCl₃	–35.2	–62.2	71.3	–44.3	1.921
O–Li⁺	–42.1	–35.7	15.5	–24.9	1.753
O–H⁺	–204.3	–28.4	0.0	–175.9	0.986

^a Computed at ZORA-BP86/TZ2P.

Table S2 LA \cdots O=C bond energy decomposition analyses (in kcal mol⁻¹) and distance (in Å) computed on consistent transition state-like geometries with a C_B \cdots C _{β} bond length between **B** and **O–LA** of 2.118Å.^{a,b}

O–LA	ΔE_{int}	ΔV_{elstat}	ΔE_{Pauli}	ΔE_{oi}	$r(\text{LA}\cdots\text{O}=\text{C})$
O–AlCl₃	–49.5	–76.9	85.6	–58.2	1.850
O–Li⁺	–60.5	–48.1	19.5	–31.9	1.703
O–H⁺	–238.9	–45.2	0.0	–193.6	0.986

^a Computed at ZORA-BP86/TZ2P. ^b The interacting fragments are (i) the Lewis acids and (ii) the dienophile and diene.

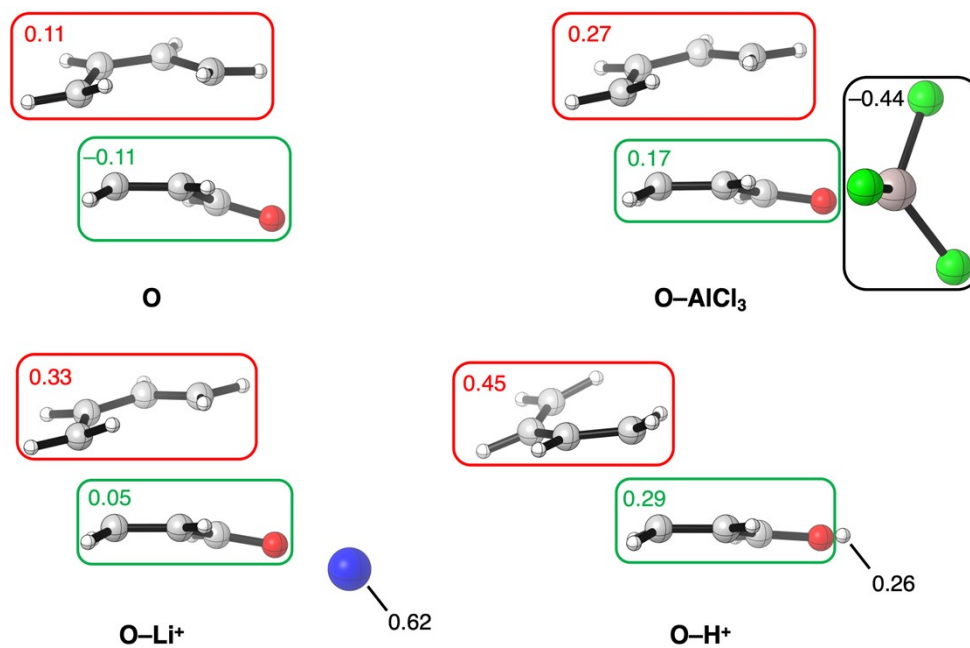


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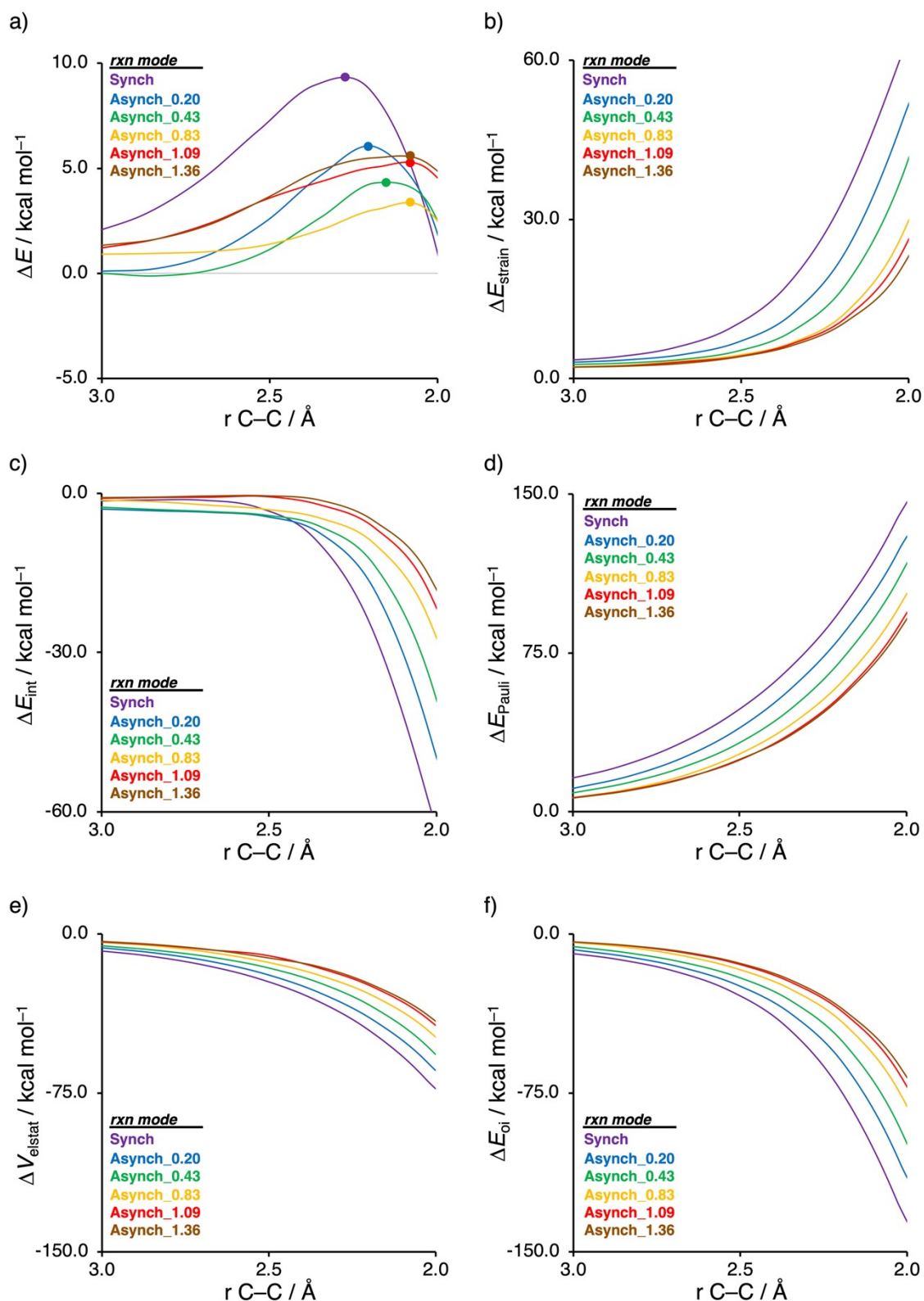


Fig. S4 Activation strain analyses of the artificially constraint synchronous and asynchronous Diels-Alder reaction mode (rxn mode) of **B** with $O-AlCl_3$ (dot indicates TS) along the IRC projected onto the shorter newly forming a $C_B \cdots C_\beta$ bond, computed at ZORA-BP86/TZ2P: (a) total energy, (b) strain energy, (c) interaction energy, (d) Pauli repulsion, (e) electrostatic interaction, and (f) orbital interactions.

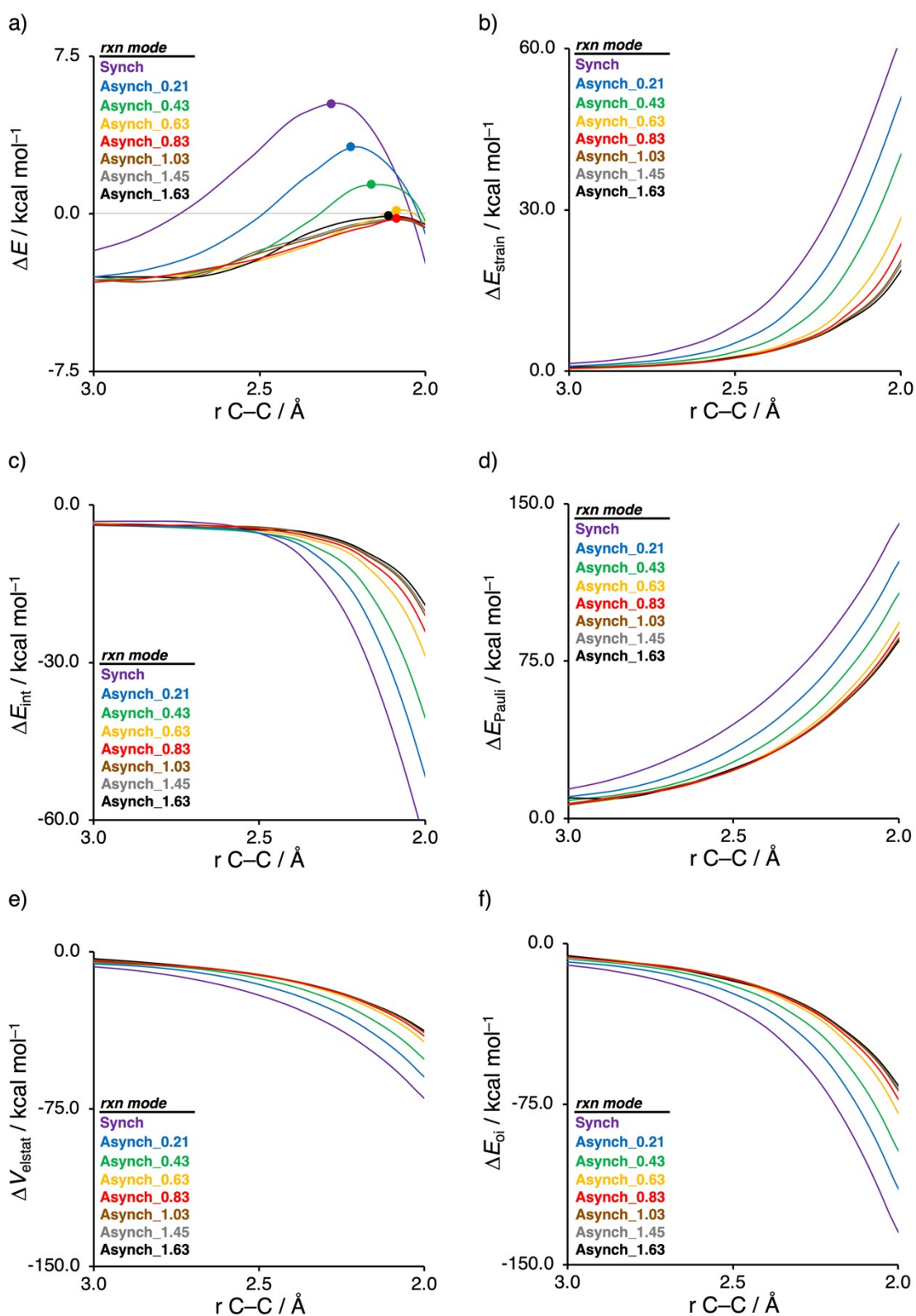


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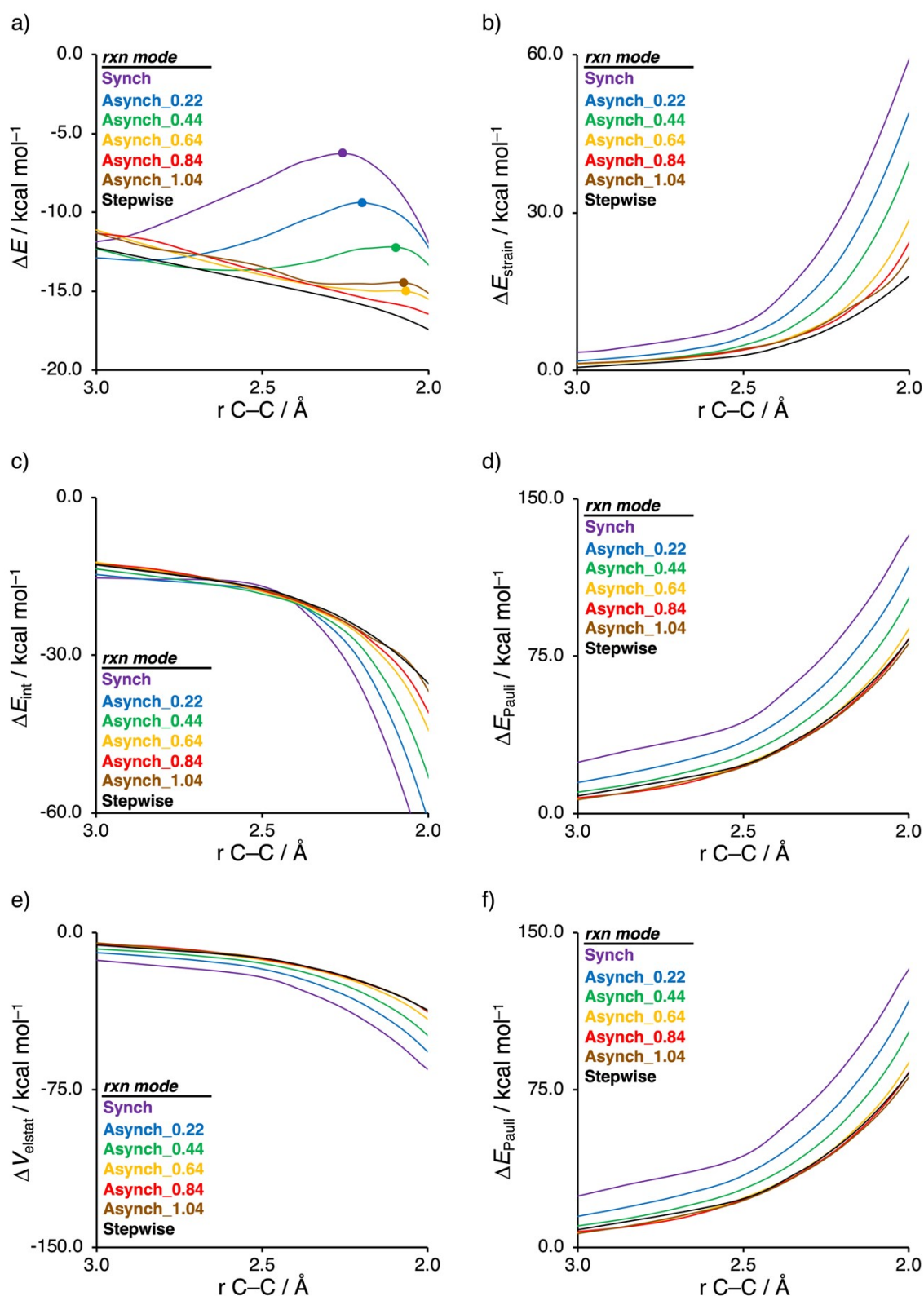


Fig. S6 Activation strain analyses of the artificially constraint synchronous, asynchronous and stepwise Diels-Alder reaction mode (rxn mode) of **B** with $O-H^+$ (dot indicates TS) along the IRC projected onto the shorter newly forming a $C_B \cdots C_\beta$ bond, computed at ZORA-BP86/TZ2P: (a) total energy, (b) strain energy, (c) interaction energy, (d) Pauli repulsion, (e) electrostatic interaction, and (f) orbital interactions.

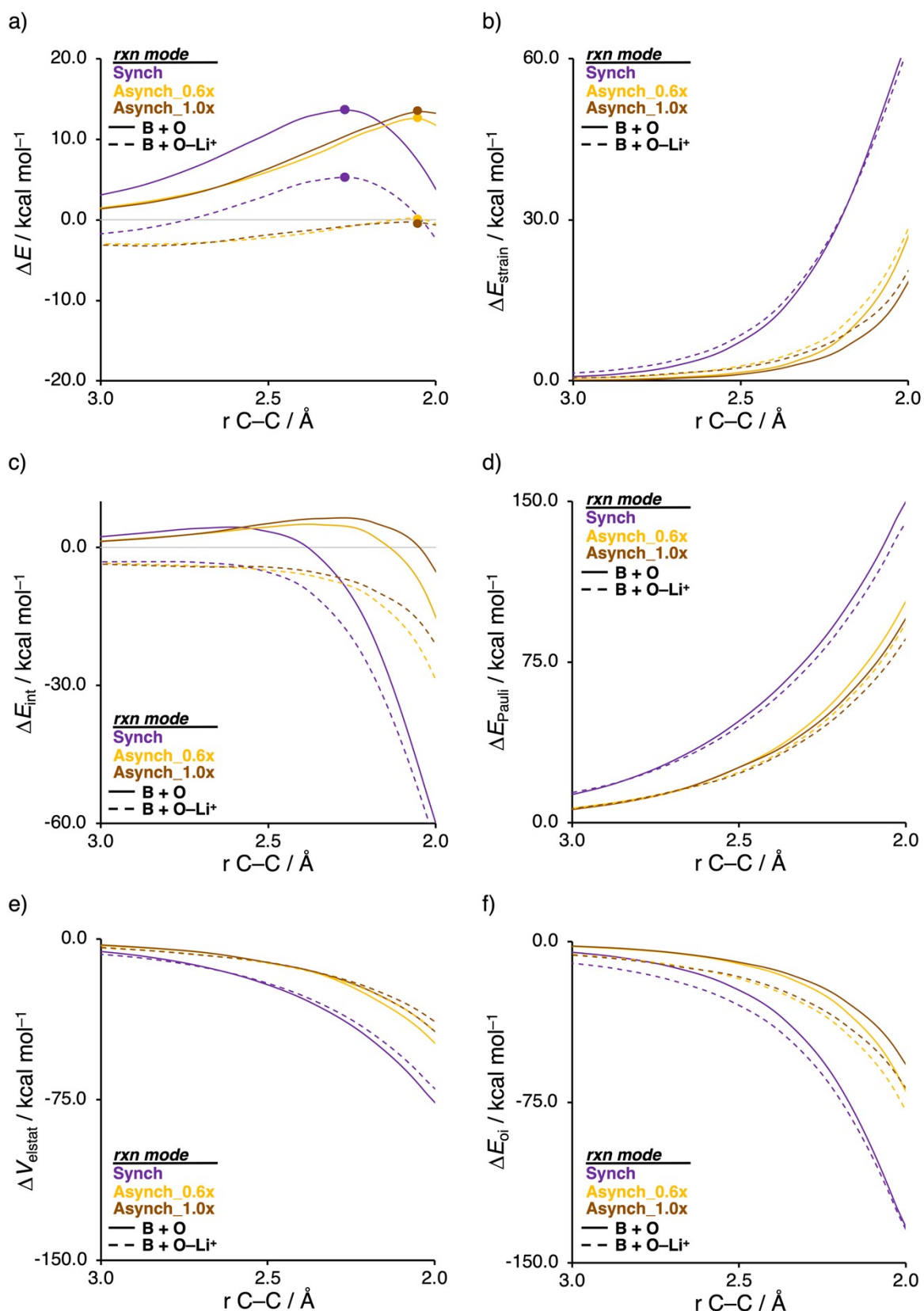


Fig. S7 Activation strain analyses of the artificially constraint synchronous, asynchronous and stepwise Diels-Alder reaction mode (*rxn mode*) of **B** with **O** and **O-Li⁺** (dot indicates TS) along the IRC projected onto the shorter newly forming a C_B•••C_β bond, computed at ZORA-BP86/TZ2P: (a) total energy, (b) strain energy, (c) interaction energy, (d) Pauli repulsion, (e) electrostatic interaction, and (f) orbital interactions.

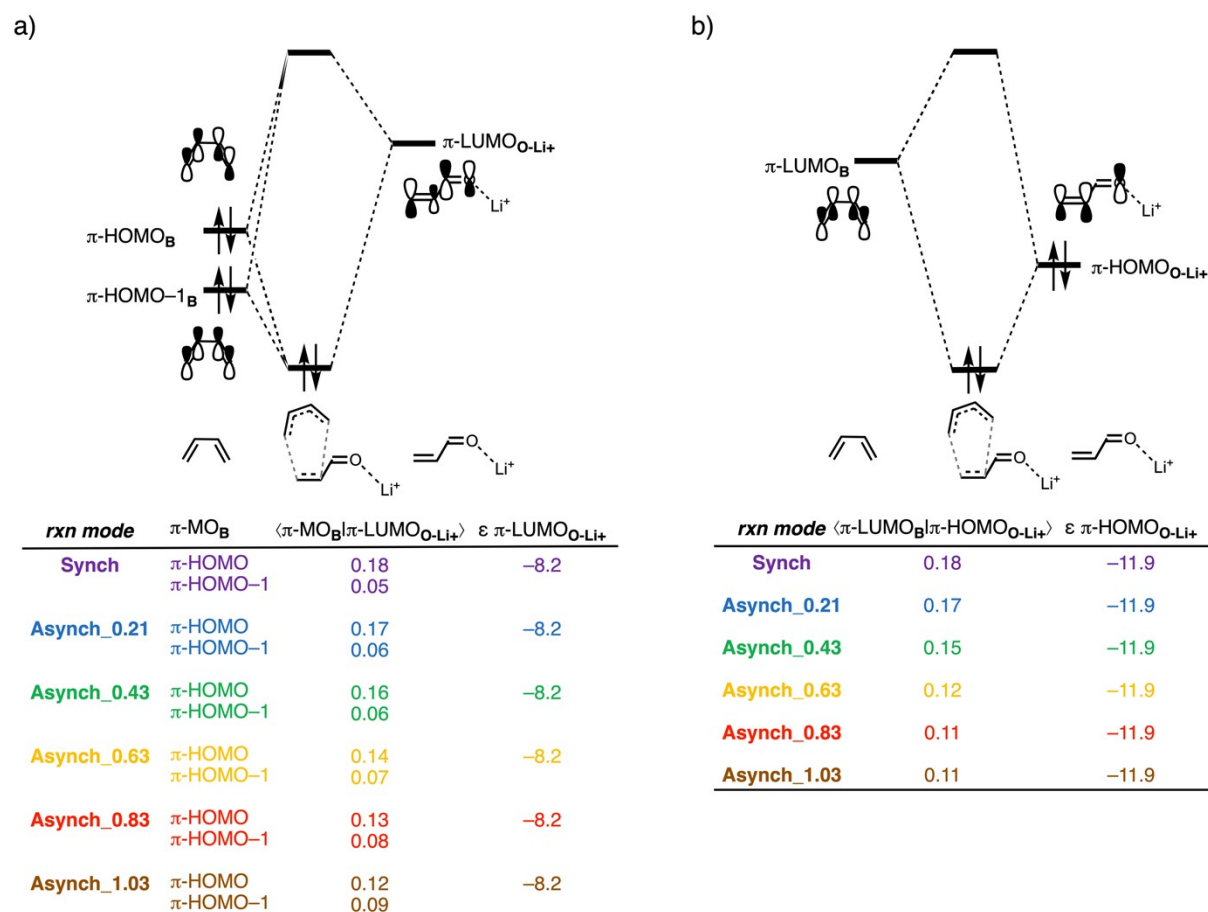


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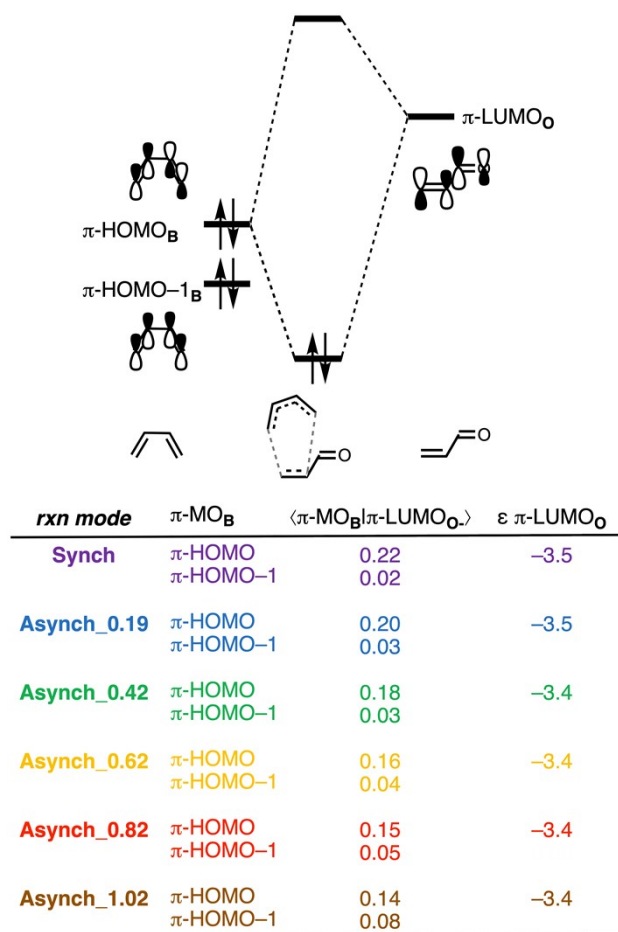


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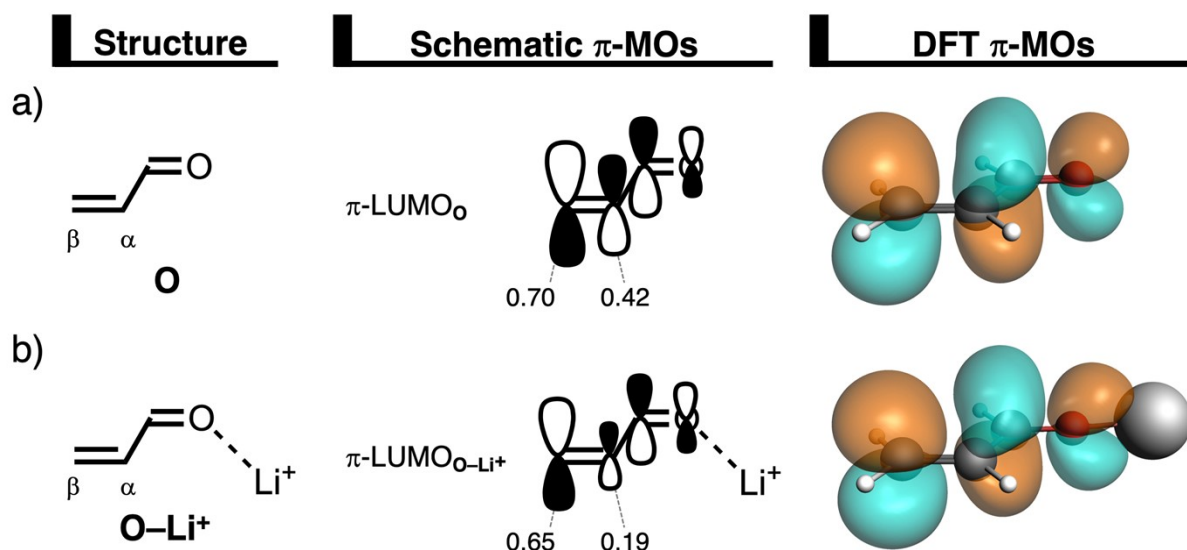


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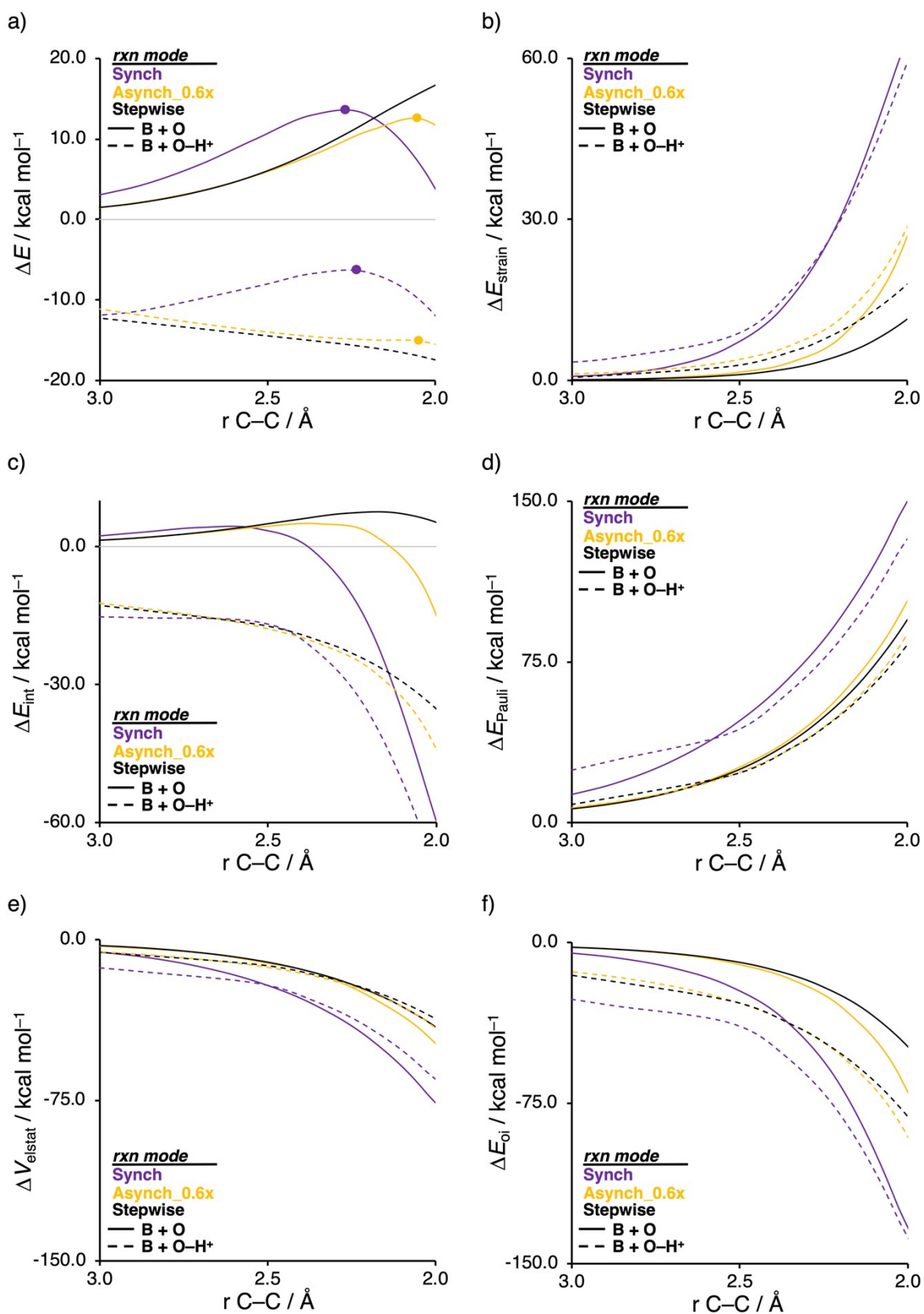


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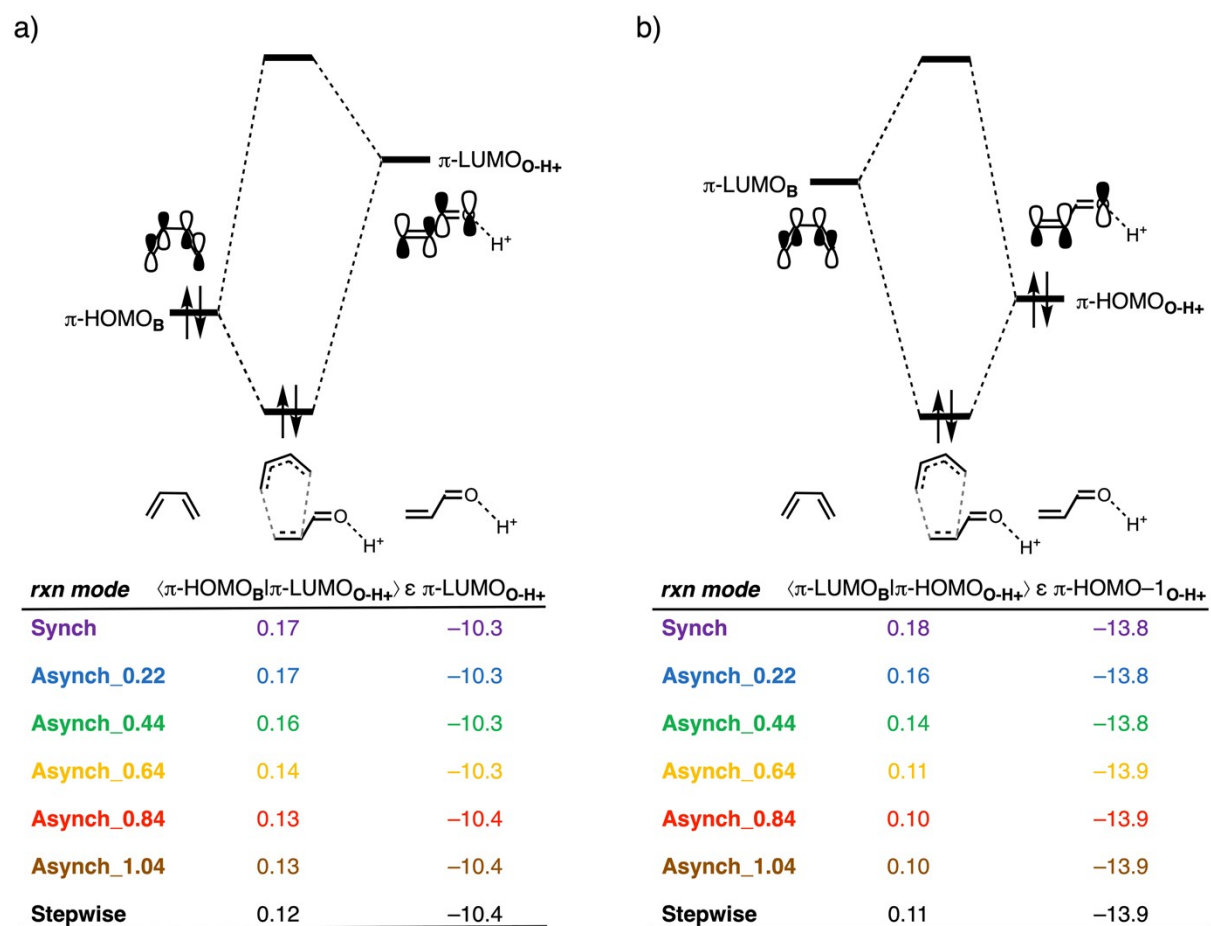
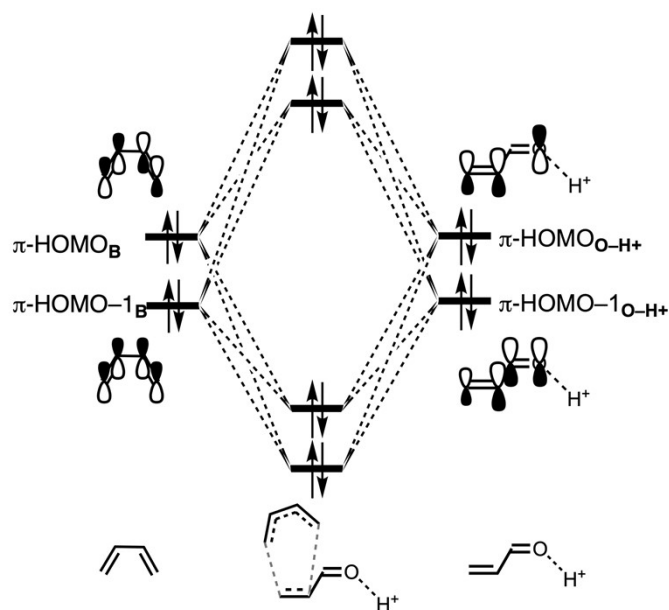


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<i>rxn mode</i>	$\langle \pi\text{-HOMO}_B \pi\text{-HOMO}_{O-H^+} \rangle$	$\langle \pi\text{-HOMO-1}_B \pi\text{-HOMO}_{O-H^+} \rangle$	$\langle \pi\text{-HOMO-1}_B \pi\text{-HOMO-1}_{O-H^+} \rangle$
Synch	0.00	0.16	0.05
Asynch_0.22	0.02	0.15	0.05
Asynch_0.44	0.04	0.14	0.05
Asynch_0.64	0.07	0.12	0.04
Asynch_0.84	0.08	0.11	0.02
Asynch_1.04	0.09	0.11	0.02
Stepwise	0.10	0.08	0.01

Fig. S13 Closed-shell orbital interaction diagrams with key overlaps, at consistent transition state-like geometries (shorter $C_B \cdots C_\beta$ bond at 2.186Å), of the artificially constraint synchronous, asynchronous, and stepwise Diels-Alder reaction modes (*rxn mode*) of **B** with **O-H⁺**, computed at ZORA-BP86/TZ2P.

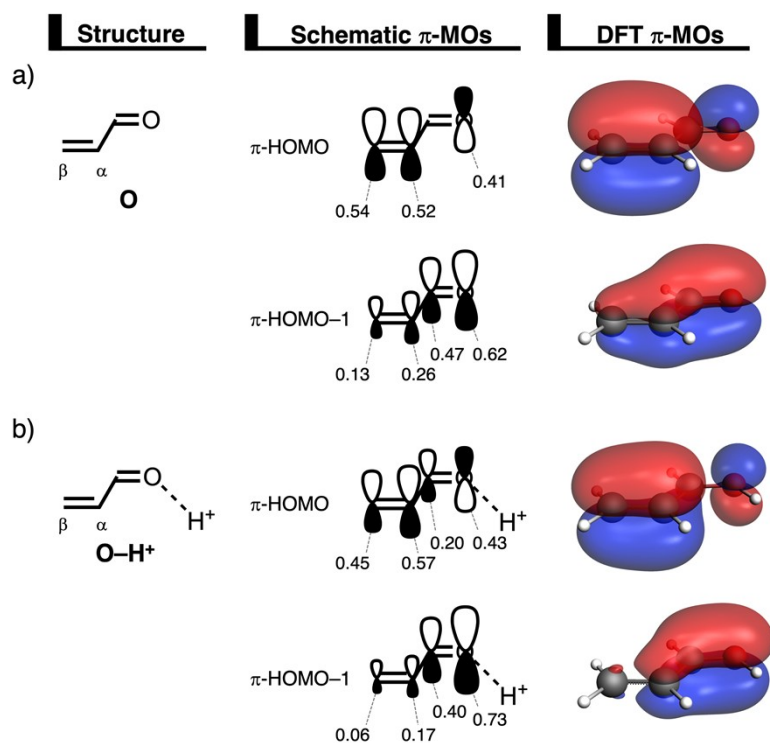
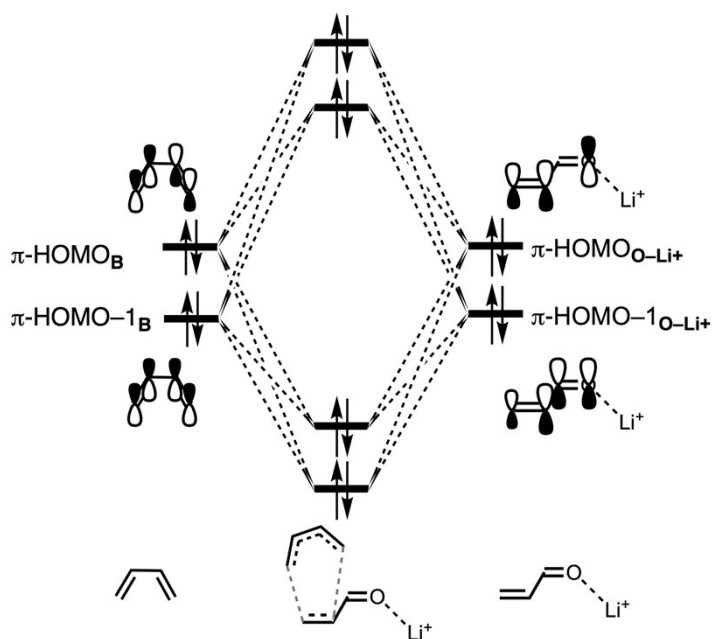


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<i>rxn mode</i>	$\langle \pi\text{-HOMO}_B \pi\text{-HOMO}_{O\text{-Li}^+} \rangle$	$\langle \pi\text{-HOMO-1}_B \pi\text{-HOMO}_{O\text{-Li}^+} \rangle$	$\langle \pi\text{-HOMO-1}_B \pi\text{-HOMO-1}_{O\text{-Li}^+} \rangle$
Synch	0.00	0.17	0.06
Asynch_0.21	0.02	0.16	0.04
Asynch_0.43	0.04	0.15	0.05
Asynch_0.63	0.07	0.13	0.05
Asynch_0.83	0.08	0.12	0.04
Asynch_1.03	0.09	0.11	0.04

Fig. S15 Closed-shell orbital interaction diagrams with key overlaps, at consistent transition state-like geometries (shorter $C_B \cdots C_\beta$ bond at 2.186Å), of the artificially constraint synchronous, asynchronous, and stepwise Diels-Alder reaction modes (*rxn mode*) of **B** with **O-Li⁺**, computed at ZORA-BP86/TZ2P.

Table S3 Cartesian coordinates (in Å), energies (in kcal mol⁻¹), and number of imaginary frequencies of all stationary points, computed at ZORA-BP86/TZ2P.

1,3-butadiene (B)

E = -1293.71

H = -1238.39

G = -1258.36

N_{imag} = 0

C	1.372709	-0.713395	-0.499580
C	0.701805	-0.211221	0.547604
C	-0.701805	0.211220	0.547604
C	-1.372709	0.713394	-0.499580
H	0.889339	-0.878856	-1.463378
H	2.423105	-0.989233	-0.417892
H	1.222329	-0.125437	1.506398
H	-1.222329	0.125438	1.506398
H	-0.889339	0.878856	-1.463378
H	-2.423105	0.989233	-0.417892

Acrylaldehyde (O)

E = -1079.86

H = -1039.30

G = -1059.22

N_{imag} = 0

O	-1.805437	-0.128643	0.000101
C	-0.681419	0.344494	0.000020
H	-0.520914	1.454121	-0.000072
C	0.558854	-0.450420	0.000033
C	1.757915	0.146949	-0.000061
H	0.445846	-1.536537	0.000121
H	2.689984	-0.416496	-0.000054
H	1.836090	1.236572	-0.000148

AlCl₃-Acrylaldehyde (O-AlCl₃)

E = -1434.84

H = -1385.54

G = -1417.50

N_{imag} = 0

O	0.661512	0.025306	-0.051897
C	1.905924	-0.059650	0.019823
H	2.418889	0.321265	0.922761
C	2.692720	-0.640167	-1.040494
C	4.030247	-0.709275	-0.913250
H	2.163919	-1.008038	-1.920882
H	4.659268	-1.140322	-1.690596
H	4.529909	-0.332264	-0.019317
Al	-0.547375	0.758364	1.249338
Cl	0.797970	1.373286	2.792993
Cl	-1.743858	-0.922534	1.712922
Cl	-1.447726	2.330189	0.158450

Li⁺-Acrylaldehyde (O-Li⁺)**E** = -1001.73**H** = -958.54**G** = -980.98**N_{imag}** = 0

O	0.799212	0.202108	0.348660
C	2.025686	0.024055	0.220272
H	2.701840	0.348387	1.035977
C	2.638667	-0.584087	-0.932494
C	3.978469	-0.730840	-0.969424
H	1.993175	-0.911345	-1.749145
H	4.483131	-1.185514	-1.820907
H	4.606522	-0.396611	-0.141414
Li	-0.874351	0.547703	0.739051

H⁺-Acrylaldehyde (O-H⁺)**E** = -986.78**H** = -937.74**G** = -957.75**N_{imag}** = 0

O	0.618001	0.031444	-0.043262
C	1.899998	-0.086289	-0.034326
H	2.352990	0.307356	0.882297
C	2.689077	-0.650903	-1.061715
C	4.036599	-0.699761	-0.895144
H	2.209405	-1.035759	-1.965222
H	4.686323	-1.126018	-1.659989
H	4.514715	-0.315040	0.007768
H	0.188585	-0.316764	-0.859818

TS: O + B**E** = -2361.37**H** = -2264.59**G** = -2291.35**N_{imag}** = 1, n = -391.095i cm⁻¹

C	-0.984945	0.969366	0.286069
C	-0.051477	1.632967	-0.508167
H	0.347730	2.584704	-0.159161
C	-2.044892	0.151645	-0.298464
O	-3.075323	-0.188802	0.272101
H	-1.866135	-0.126365	-1.370893
H	-1.112862	1.242784	1.335295
H	-0.144688	1.548578	-1.591315
C	0.171966	-1.246589	0.877796
C	0.854625	-1.463843	-0.292425
C	1.702813	-0.498494	-0.877605
C	1.864892	0.773308	-0.342725
H	2.486204	1.494146	-0.874279
H	-0.593770	-1.940668	1.219214
H	0.610925	-2.349423	-0.883038
H	2.062548	-0.687178	-1.891227
H	0.498726	-0.505853	1.602924
H	1.833905	0.915851	0.736306

P: O + B

E = -2409.61

H = -2309.97

G = -2335.91

N_{imag} = 0

C	-0.591977	-0.109794	-0.417378
C	0.740295	0.005527	-1.192978
H	0.554100	0.369258	-2.213001
C	-1.548123	-0.998101	-1.177552
O	-2.608033	-0.650478	-1.656805
H	-1.196486	-2.060835	-1.286574
H	-1.053708	0.885308	-0.334941
H	1.188224	-0.997325	-1.283325
C	-0.337115	-0.687748	0.991389
C	0.866950	-0.075970	1.657170
C	1.775085	0.665679	1.013421
C	1.719020	0.937080	-0.465611
H	2.724929	0.828288	-0.900588
H	-0.209329	-1.784891	0.929841
H	0.976170	-0.253073	2.729663
H	2.606766	1.101253	1.571714
H	1.438307	1.991085	-0.637629
H	-1.227981	-0.531377	1.619211

TS: O-AlCl₃ + B

E = -2725.09

H = -2620.02

G = -2656.62

N_{imag} = 1, **n** = -289.409 cm⁻¹

C	-1.270422	-1.342160	-0.419335
C	-2.564712	-1.703977	-0.787237
C	-0.432752	-0.623739	-1.303490
O	0.804662	-0.380418	-1.150239
H	-0.865255	-0.300591	-2.266089
Al	2.093779	-0.332827	0.176152
Cl	1.442018	-1.584127	1.798296
Cl	2.058481	1.741878	0.707423
Cl	3.856530	-1.015856	-0.779296
H	-0.839892	-1.673798	0.527727
H	-3.023510	-2.561156	-0.296020
H	-2.893373	-1.533964	-1.812234
C	-1.677477	1.423191	0.343245
C	-2.759139	1.600996	-0.467480
C	-3.870220	0.714682	-0.517920
C	-3.965946	-0.463122	0.203891
H	-4.866295	-1.067788	0.102583
H	-0.792716	2.055157	0.269755
H	-2.736371	2.412356	-1.197826
H	-4.616615	0.899613	-1.294023
H	-3.439668	-0.575638	1.149934
H	-1.677178	0.706924	1.162703

P: O-AlCl₃ + B

E = -2762.86

H = -2654.50

G = -2692.34

N_{imag} = 0

C	-1.371561	0.116758	-0.454102
C	-2.125160	-1.241993	-0.615992
C	-0.161441	0.059146	-1.296134
O	1.018316	0.001998	-0.912620
H	-0.314895	0.038325	-2.393458
C	-2.283272	1.287010	-0.900322
C	-3.676704	1.147607	-0.347959
C	-4.153201	0.025897	0.200655
C	-3.363203	-1.250120	0.288654
H	-4.000579	-2.102703	0.007553
Al	1.849650	-0.004602	0.826193
Cl	1.016428	-1.759373	1.704302
Cl	3.903033	-0.090766	0.351579
Cl	1.157040	1.823450	1.671179
H	-1.084453	0.242068	0.598855
H	-1.456289	-2.071868	-0.356627
H	-2.428776	-1.362571	-1.667155
H	-2.318567	1.348096	-2.003285
H	-4.303539	2.040204	-0.394514
H	-5.163592	0.017222	0.613757
H	-3.063728	-1.434984	1.333910
H	-1.839560	2.233804	-0.559077

RC: O-Li⁺ + B

E = -2299.56

H = -2199.71

G = -2232.73

N_{imag} = 0

C	-1.112844	-1.647494	0.181177
C	-2.333170	-2.143970	-0.143491
C	-0.279611	-1.062827	-0.824537
O	0.912274	-0.712881	-0.637908
H	-0.707653	-0.964269	-1.839235
Li	2.587655	-0.310393	-0.585032
H	-1.842981	1.270417	0.771410
H	-4.788117	0.199292	-1.498161
H	-3.684542	0.036199	1.381030
H	-0.715879	-1.720683	1.195243
H	-2.945914	-2.676695	0.580922
H	-2.701683	-2.111106	-1.167901
C	-1.952010	1.649419	-0.244850
C	-3.000922	1.326374	-1.028012
C	-4.084181	0.414183	-0.690290
C	-4.295424	-0.180425	0.504888
H	-5.150429	-0.837370	0.656204
H	-1.199947	2.358185	-0.587954
H	-3.055237	1.772402	-2.023928

TS: O-Li⁺ + B**E** = -2297.30**H** = -2197.67**G** = -2227.42**N_{imag}** = 1, **n** = -264.495i cm⁻¹

C	-1.274191	-1.371044	-0.250009
C	-2.545800	-1.686449	-0.731363
C	-0.323324	-0.684604	-1.036224
O	0.902484	-0.552789	-0.736626
H	-0.662166	-0.297030	-2.015135
Li	2.597701	-0.508357	-0.585371
H	-4.583114	0.815694	-1.446303
H	-1.804036	0.841151	1.200285
H	-3.536381	-0.509553	1.139526
H	-0.953021	-1.734514	0.728539
H	-3.066372	-2.540251	-0.299137
H	-2.776122	-1.498303	-1.779037
C	-1.793408	1.539735	0.366380
C	-2.817544	1.629121	-0.523926
C	-3.886382	0.689636	-0.614493
C	-4.005004	-0.451579	0.158761
H	-4.885817	-1.079078	0.030556
H	-0.961265	2.241091	0.330540
H	-2.789587	2.419347	-1.276473

P: O-Li⁺ + B**E** = -2331.55**H** = -2229.38**G** = -2258.02**N_{imag}** = 0

C	-1.411214	0.091952	-0.317946
C	-2.162633	-1.253539	-0.581581
C	-0.128740	0.067402	-1.039555
O	0.993862	0.111467	-0.512477
H	-0.181627	-0.008224	-2.146267
C	-2.282992	1.275481	-0.828340
C	-3.708158	1.143762	-0.359158
C	-4.233350	0.014508	0.123757
C	-3.472839	-1.278390	0.215500
H	-4.096169	-2.102160	-0.164511
Li	2.641724	0.182507	0.078613
H	-5.267043	0.008665	0.472498
H	-3.275631	-1.523347	1.272811
H	-1.856042	2.222332	-0.465764
H	-1.221487	0.201062	0.759627
H	-1.529774	-2.106833	-0.304435
H	-2.377477	-1.334101	-1.657473
H	-2.246990	1.327050	-1.930907
H	-4.314991	2.048833	-0.418113

Int: O-H⁺ + B**E** = -2300.52**H** = -2194.09**G** = -2223.07**N_{imag}** = 0

C	-0.116018	-1.329606	-0.165990
C	-1.400561	-1.179303	0.531051
H	-1.926786	-2.130198	0.668503
C	0.233697	-0.532740	-1.210334
O	1.345225	-0.620213	-1.945635
H	-0.415580	0.267589	-1.572176
H	0.575624	-2.103869	0.178816
H	-2.061640	-0.477231	0.010671
C	-2.077850	2.231618	2.783758
C	-2.849440	1.109895	2.881053
C	-2.394211	-0.202418	2.613315
C	-1.126357	-0.607330	2.065973
H	1.925586	-1.343193	-1.633320
H	-2.491851	3.213502	3.010643
H	-3.885236	1.215100	3.208283
H	-3.126709	-1.001173	2.769891
H	-0.716866	-1.478909	2.593325
H	-1.029601	2.198367	2.486720
H	-0.377026	0.186808	2.010720

TS: O-H⁺ + B**E** = -2300.00**H** = -2194.13**G** = -2221.31**N_{imag}** = 1, n = -49.296i cm⁻¹

C	-1.299393	-0.627633	-1.305275
C	-1.010280	-0.584619	0.130926
H	-1.521806	-1.361703	0.708771
C	-1.741209	0.463969	-1.987148
O	-2.088396	0.515076	-3.274856
H	-1.883157	1.432033	-1.501634
H	-1.153705	-1.573817	-1.834563
H	-1.274015	0.387622	0.563538
C	2.312837	1.578848	-0.161860
C	1.772875	1.273583	1.053171
C	1.042300	0.091582	1.325022
C	0.616557	-0.903299	0.379299
H	0.652241	-1.918759	0.787057
H	2.850235	2.514321	-0.313801
H	1.909909	1.972877	1.879640
H	0.680441	-0.027489	2.351093
H	2.242336	0.909411	-1.019033
H	1.125444	-0.864668	-0.585937
H	-1.983170	-0.354642	-3.710418

P: O-H⁺ + B

E = -2319.13

H = -2211.37

G = -2237.64

N_{imag} = 0

C	-1.439060	-0.020867	-0.376903
C	-2.117330	-0.199402	1.044735
C	-0.049657	-0.380647	-0.299925
O	0.955186	0.399593	-0.488268
H	0.265065	-1.403012	-0.056268
C	-2.190446	-0.975604	-1.380391
C	-3.660233	-0.662385	-1.341980
C	-4.270501	-0.085564	-0.301024
C	-3.561901	0.303441	0.962000
H	-4.099751	-0.117134	1.828027
H	0.687283	1.322818	-0.711648
H	-3.611039	1.396601	1.095207
H	-5.334905	0.144172	-0.359834
H	-1.794476	-0.829167	-2.394748
H	-1.554319	1.026258	-0.702344
H	-1.555852	0.352710	1.807545
H	-2.088036	-1.265844	1.303600
H	-1.988425	-2.022143	-1.103645
H	-4.218901	-0.891448	-2.250845