Ligand Spheres in asymmetric hetero Diels-Alder reactions catalyzed by Cu(II) box complexes: Experiment and Modeling

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Supplementary Information

Contents

- 1. Comparison between the calculated geometry and the X-ray structure of CuboxCl₂.
- 2. EPR, ENDOR, and HYSCORE spectra together with the positioning of the tensor axes.
- 3. Experimental and computed g-factors of the model structures.
- 4, Experimental/simulated and computed HFC couplings for LP1, LP2 and LP3 structures.



	X-ray (Ref 35)	B3LYP/TZVP
Cu-N1	198	200
Cu-Cl1	223	224
N1-Cu-N2	90.5	90.9
Cl1-Cu-Cl2	99.8	98.9
C-N1-Cu-Cl2	108.9	109.8

Figure/Table S1: Experimental and calculated geometry of CuboxCl₂. Hydrogen atoms are omitted for clarity. Distances are given in pm, angles in °.



Figure S2. Tensor diagram showing the orientation of the principal axes frames with respect to the (a) distorted square planar complex structure for Stage 1 (S1) - $Cu(OTf)_2/tert$ -butylbox and (b) distorted square pyramidal complex structure for Stage 2 (S2) - $Cu(OTf)_2/tert$ -butylbox + ethyl glyoxylate and Stage 3 (S3) - $Cu(OTf)_2/tert$ -butylbox + ethyl glyoxylate + 1,3-cyclohexadiene (1,3-cyclohexadiene is not included in the picture since it is not directly coordinated to the Cu(II) center)

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Figure S3. Added X- band HYSCORE spectra of stage **1** (**S1**) - Cu(OTf)₂/tertbutylbox, measured at 4 K, (a) 339.5 mT, $\tau = 104 + 160 + 32$ ns (b) 325.5 mT, $\tau = 104 + 160 + 32$ ns (c) 281.5 mT, $\tau = 160 + 40$ ns at 4 K, (a, b, c – Experimental) and (d, e, f – Simulated)



Figure S4. X- band HYSCORE spectra of stage **3** (**S3**) - Cu(OTf)₂/tert-butylbox + ethyl glyoxylate + 1,3-cyclohexadiene (a) 339.5 mT, $\tau = 104 + 160 + 32$ ns (b) 325.5 mT, $\tau = 104 + 160 + 32$ ns (c) 281.5 mT, $\tau = 160$ ns at 4 K, (a, b, c - Experimental) and (d, e, f - Simulated)



Figure S5. X- band Experimental Davies ENDOR spectra of **S1** – Cu(OTf)₂/tertbutylbox (a – 335.4 mT and b – 278.5 mT), and S 3 - Cu(OTf)₂/tert-butylbox + ethyl glyoxylate + 1,3-cyclohexadiene (c – 335.4, d – 278.5 mT), measured at 4 K with long microwave pulses of $t_{\pi/2}$ = 96 and t_{π} = 192 ns, and (e – 335.4 mT) and (f – 290 mT) of **S3** measured with short microwave pulses $t_{\pi/2}$ = 16 and t_{π} = 32 ns

This hf contrast selective ENDOR experiments for **S3** prove unambiguously the presence of broad ¹⁴N ENDOR signals in the range 16 MHz – 24 MHz (spectrum in Fig. S5 /e/ recorded at 335.4 mT) and 16 MHz – 20 MHz (Fig. S5 /f/ recorded at 290.0 mT). The data provide a rough estimate of $A_{\parallel}^{N} \approx 48$ MHz and $A_{\perp}^{N} \approx 32$ MHz for the ¹⁴N hfc parameters in sample III. Note that the largest ¹⁴N hfc is observed in the ENDOR spectrum taken at 335.4 mT (Fig. S5 /e/). Therefore, the A_{\parallel}^{N} principal axis of the ¹⁴N hfc tensor lies within the *x-y* plane of the Cu(II) g tensor. In the same way we may likewise assign the broad baseline signals ranging from 17 MHz to 20 MHz in the ENDOR spectra of sample I (Fig. S5 /a and b/) to ¹⁴N signals yielding hfc estimates of $A_{\parallel}^{N} \approx 40$ MHz and $A_{\perp}^{N} \approx 34$ MHz for the respective hfc parameters.



Figure S6. X- band two pulse field-swept ESE spectra measured with short pulses $\pi/2 = 16$ ns and $\pi = 32$ ns, and the pulse delay of $\tau = 800$ ns at 4 K, of **S1** - Cu(OTf)₂/*tert*-butylbox and **S3** - Cu(OTf)₂/*tert*-butylbox + ethyl glyoxylate (1) + 1,3 - cyclohexadiene (2), the arrows with a, b and c represents the fields 339.5 mT, 325.5 mT and 281.5 mT respectively, at which the HYSCORE spectra were measured.



Figure S7. X- band two pulse field-swept ESE spectra measured with the selective microwave pulses of $t_{\pi/2} = 96$ ns and $t_{\pi} = 192$ ns, and with the pulse delay of $\tau = 1200$ ns, at 4 K, of S1 - Cu(OTf)₂/tert-butylbox and Stage 3 (S3) - Cu(OTf)₂/tert-butylbox + ethyl glyoxylate (1) + 1,3 - cyclohexadiene (2), the arrows with a, b and c represents the fields 335.4 mT, 290 mT and 278.5 mT respectively, at which the ENDOR spectra were measured



Figure S8. X- band HYSCORE spectra of **S1** - Cu(OTf)₂/*tert*-butylbox (a – Experimental, c – Simulated) and S3 - Cu(OTf)₂/*tert*-butylbox + Ethyl glyoxylate + 1,3 - Cyclohexadiene (b – Experimental, d – Simulated), measured at the g_{zz} Cu(II) EPR spectral position 281.5 mT at 4 K, with τ = 160 ns



Figure S9. Vector diagram showing the relationship between the external field B_0 and the vector **r** joining the electron spin and the nucleus (¹H or ¹⁹F) which lies in the *xz* plane. **r** is at an angle of θ_l to the *z* axis. The *xyz* coordinate frame corresponds to the **g** tensor frame. θ_0 is the angle between the external magnetic field B_0 and the g_{zz} axis. Φ_l is the azimuthal angle from *z* between the *zx* plane and the *zB*₀ plane.



Figure S10. Schematic drawing of the $Cu(OTf)_2/tert$ -butylbox complex **(S1)** together with the vector diagram showing the relationship between the **g** tensor frame and the *z* axis of the proton hf tensor. The *z* axis of the proton hyperfine tensor is shown to be perpendicular to the g_{zz} axis. The $g_{xx/yy}$ and g_{zz} axes of the Cu(II) **g** tensor frame are respectively parallel and perpendicular to the complex plane containing Cu(II) ion, the two equatorially coordinated imine nitrogen atoms from the oxazoline rings of the *tert*-butylbox ligand, and the two equatorially coordinated oxygen atoms from the triflate (-O-SO₂-CF₃) (which are slightly tilted about 26° from the Cu(II) plane).



Figure S11. Schematic drawing of the $Cu(OTf)_2/tert$ -butylbox + ethyl glyoxylate complex (**S2**) together with a vector diagram showing the relationship between the **g** tensor frame and the *z* axis of the proton hf tensor. The *z* axis of the proton hyperfine tensor is shown to be at an angle of 51° from the g_{zz} axis. The $g_{xx/yy}$ and g_{zz} axis of the Cu(II) **g** tensor frame are respectively parallel and perpendicular to the complex plane containing Cu(II) ion, two equatorially coordinated imine nitrogen atoms from the oxazoline rings of the *tert*-butylbox ligand and the two equatorially coordinated oxygen atoms from the dienophile (which are slightly tilted about 26° from the Cu(II) plane). Here the –OTf li gans is axially coordinated to the Cu(II), through the sulphonic oxygen atom and is perpendicular to the complex plane containing Cu(II), and parallel to g_{zz} axis.

	() _		gu
	Exp	Calc	Exp	Calc
S1	2.077	2.067	2.303	2.208
S2	2.068	2.063	2.304	2.195
S3	2.080	2.072	2.323	2.198

Table S12. Comparison of calculated and experimental g-factors for S1, S2 and S3 structures.

	A				A _{II}			A iso				
	LP1	LP2	LP3/S2	sim	LP1	LP2	LP3/S2	sim	LP1	LP2	LP3/S2	sim
Cu	91.4	20.0	52.8	38.0	-411.2	-498.5	-536.6	424.0	-	-	-	-
Ν	25.6	33.0	35.7	35.0	35.1	44.7	48.6	35.0	28.6	37.1	40.3	35.0
Н	-1.10	-0.48	-1.42	-1.46	-1.30	0.83	4.66	6.82	0.06	-0.04	0.50	1.3
F	1.58	0.07	-0.59	-0.73	-5.08	3.81	1.19	1.46	-2.61	1.11	0.00	0.00

Table S13. Comparison of calculated and experimental/simulated HFC couplings of Cu, N, relevant F and H nuclei for LP1, LP2 and LP3 structures.