

intramolecular catalysis

The acceleration of a chemical transformation at one site of a *molecular entity* through the involvement of another *functional* ('catalytic') *group* in the same molecular entity, without that group appearing to have undergone change in the reaction product. The use of the term should be restricted to cases for which analogous *intermolecular* catalysis by *chemical species* bearing that catalytic group is observable. Intramolecular catalysis can be detected and expressed in quantitative form by a comparison of the reaction rate with that of a comparable model compound in which the catalytic group is absent, or by measurement of the *effective molarity* of the catalytic group.

See also *neighbouring group participation*.

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