nucleophilic catalysis

Catalysis by a *Lewis base*, involving formation of a *Lewis adduct* as a *reaction intermediate*. For example, the hydrolysis of acetic anhydride in aqueous solution catalysed by pyridine:

$$C_5H_5N + (CH_3CO)_2O \rightarrow [C_5H_5NCOCH_3]^+ + CH_3CO_2^-$$

$$[C_5H_5NCOCH_3]^+ + H_2O \rightarrow C_5H_5N + CH_3CO_2H + H^+_{aq}$$

See also *electrophilic, nucleophilicity*.

1994, *66*, 1146