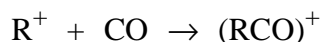
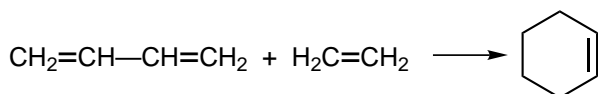


attachment

A *transformation* by which one *molecular entity* (the *substrate*) is converted into another by the formation of one (and only one) two-centre *bond* between the substrate and another molecular entity and which involves no other changes in *connectivity* in the substrate. For example, the formation of an acyl cation by attachment of carbon monoxide to a *carbenium ion* (R^+):



The product of an attachment may also be the *adduct* of the two reactants, but not all adducts can be represented as the products of an attachment. (For example, the Diels–Alder cycloaddition:



results in an adduct of buta-1,3-diene and ethene, but the reaction cannot be described as an attachment since bonds are formed between more than two centres.)

See also *colligation*, *electron attachment*.

1994, 66, 1086