# DFT study on the cobalt(III) catalysts for CO<sub>2</sub>/epoxide copolymerization

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# **Inoue (1969)** mixture of ZnEt<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O was active for catalysing copolymerization of propylene oxide and CO<sub>2</sub>





# Inoue (1969) TOF: 0.12 $h^{-1}$ ZnEt<sub>2</sub>/H<sub>2</sub>O



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#### Coates (2003) TOF: 17-81 h<sup>-1</sup>

#### Bun Yeoul Lee (2009) TOF: 16 000 h<sup>-1</sup>

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#### **Catalytic systems – hypothetical key factors**



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#### Catalytic systems – hypothetical key factors

How does **the length of the alkyl chain** linking the N<sup>+</sup>-salt with the salen ligand **affect stability** of structure?



 $X^{-}=CH_{3}COO^{-}$  $Y^{-}=NO_{3}^{-}$ 

#### **Catalytic systems – first model**





 $X = CH_3COC$  $Y = NO_3^-$ 

#### **Catalytic systems – first model**





#### **Catalytic systems – advanced models**





#### **Catalytic systems – static calculations**



#### **CP2K program (static calculations)**

for all elements DZVP basis was used; XC functional Becke88Perdew+Grimme3 box with edge equal to 40 Å ; cut off 260;



#### CP2K program (dynamic and static calculations)

for all elements DZVP basis was used; XC functional Becke88Perdew+Grimme3 box with edge equal to 40 Å ; cut off 260; dynamic calculations T=300K





How does **the length of the alkyl chain** linking the N<sup>+</sup>-salt with the salen ligand **affect stability** of structure?







distances between cobalt atom and nitrogen atoms from chains with  $(Bu)_3N^+$  group – colors on the picture corresponds do the colors on the graph (top);

changes in potential energy along MD trajcetory (bottom graph)



## III cisβ

starting geometry t=0



N-Co 9.85 A N-Co 9.44 A N-Co 10.95 N-Co 8.07 25



III cisβ

time [fs]







#### Summary

With the increase in chain length the preference of  $\mbox{cis}\beta$  is stronger

Chain movement is strongly affected by the chain-length

#### Future

bonding of co-monomers to metal center

investigation of elementary reactions in the copolymerization mechanism

#### Future research – mechanism of copolymerization



#### Acknowledgments





