## **Pericyclic Reactions**

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- among the reactants and products usually at least one molecule is unsaturated
- the reactions involve the formation or scission of  $\sigma\text{-bonds}$  and the consumption or generation of  $\pi\text{-bonds}$
- $\bullet$  the electronic reorganization occurs in some sort of cyclic array of the participating atomic centers.

Pericyclic reactions are apparently **concerted**: the electronic rearrangements involved in bond-making/bond-breaking proceed simultaneously in a one-step (one TS<sup>‡</sup>) process.

A single kinetic step is a characteristic of a concerted reaction; a concerted reaction in which all changes in bonding occur in comparable extents in the transition state is commonly defined as **synchronous**.

Energy

Energy

Reaction coordinate

Reaction coordinate

Energetically nonconcerted degenerate Cope rearrangement of biallyl.

