

Preface

As a result of new environment regulations, safety concerns, and the economical situation after the last crisis in 2008, there is a strong need of new innovative, environmentally friendly synthetic routes and enabling technologies to meet the new requirements. In the last few years, we have witnessed a steady growth in the field of continuous flow synthesis. The rising interest in this technology is in a direct relation with the recognition that this technique actually provides various advantages, especially in dealing with potentially hazardous chemistries, handling thermal runaways, or efficient mixing requirements. Despite the industrial background, continuous flow processing has slowly breached the barrier to academia and is now often considered as the logical choice for scaling up laboratory syntheses. However, as with every new technology, the obstacle of missing information and education on the basic principles, common problems, already existing protocols, and applications prevents its implementation in the daily research. Thus, the aim of this book is to give the reader a structured overview of known synthetic procedures involving the use of dedicated continuous flow instrumentation published during the last 15 years—the dawn of the twenty-first century. Although there are a large number of papers dealing with continuous flow processing (engineering, theoretical background, modelling, etc.), only those references dealing with organic synthesis examples are incorporated. Nevertheless, I would like to extend my apologies to all the scientists whose research findings could not be cited or discussed here.

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