

## conservation of orbital symmetry

The orbital symmetry control of concerted reactions; this requires transformation of the molecular orbitals of reactants into those of products to proceed continuously by following a reaction path along which the symmetry of these orbitals remains unchanged. Reactions which adhere to this requirement are classified as symmetry-allowed reactions, and those which do not as symmetry-forbidden reactions.

**Source:**

PAC, 1999, 71, 1919 (*Glossary of terms used in theoretical organic chemistry*) on page 1931