

## electron density

If  $P(x, y, z) dx dy dz$  is the probability of finding an electron in the volume element  $dx dy dz$  at the point of a molecular entity with coordinates  $x, y, z$ , then  $P(x, y, z)$  is the electron density at this point. For many purposes (e.g. X-ray scattering, forces on atoms) the system behaves exactly as if the electrons were spread out into a continuously distributed charge. The term has frequently been wrongly applied to negative charge population.

**See also:** charge density

**Source:**

PAC, 1994, 66, 1077 (*Glossary of terms used in physical organic chemistry (IUPAC Recommendations 1994)*) on page 1110