

### **additivity principle**

The hypothesis that each of several structural features of a *molecular entity* makes a separate and additive contribution to a property of the substance concerned. More specifically, it is the hypothesis that each of the several *substituent* groups in a parent molecule makes a separate and additive contribution to the standard Gibbs energy change (or *Gibbs energy of activation*) corresponding to a particular equilibrium (or *rate of reaction*).

See also *transferability*.

1994, 66, 1081