

selectivity

This term is used in two different ways:

1. It sometimes refers to the discrimination shown by a given reactant A when it reacts with two alternative reactants B and C, or in two different ways (e.g. at two different sites) with a reactant B.
2. The term also sometimes refers to the ratio of products obtained from given reactants. This meaning is of importance for catalysts, which can have a wide range of selectivities.

Selectivity is quantitatively expressed by ratios of rate constants for the alternative reactions, or by the decadic logarithms of such ratios.

See also *isoselective relationship*, *partial rate factor*, *regioselectivity*, *selectivity factor*, *stereoselectivity*.

1996, 68, 186; 1994, 66, 1162