

## electron-counting rules

Rules establishing correspondence between the topology of a molecular structure and the number of electrons which may be placed into its bonding molecular orbitals. In the origin of various electron-counting rules lies a general assumption that the completeness of the valence electron shell of a molecular entity belonging to a certain structural type serves as the major criterion of structural stability.

**Source:**

PAC, 1999, 71, 1919 (*Glossary of terms used in theoretical organic chemistry*) on page 1936