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relative hardness

The difference between the values of the absolute hardnesses (η) of a given molecule and the corresponding reference structure (η_a): $\eta_r = \eta - \eta_a$. The values of relative hardnesses correlate well with the resonance energies of cyclic compounds and may be used as an index of aromaticity.

Source:
PAC, 1999, *71*, 1919 *(Glossary of terms used in theoretical organic chemistry)* on page 1960

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