

primitive change

One of the conceptually simpler molecular changes into which an *elementary reaction* can be notionally dissected. Such changes include bond rupture, bond formation, internal rotation, change of bond length or bond angle, bond *migration*, redistribution of charge, etc.

The concept of primitive changes is helpful in the detailed verbal description of elementary reactions, but a primitive change does not represent a process that is by itself necessarily observable as a component of an elementary reaction.

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