chirality axis

**Synonym:** axis of chirality

An axis about which a set of ligands is held so that it results in a spatial arrangement which is not superposable on its mirror image. For example with an allene \( \text{abC}=\text{C}=\text{C}cd \) the chiral axis is defined by the \( \text{C}=\text{C}=\text{C} \) bonds; and with an *ortho*-substituted biphenyl the atoms C-1, C-1', C-4 and C-4' lie on the chiral axis.

**Source:**
PAC, 1996, 68, 2193 (*Basic terminology of stereochemistry (IUPAC Recommendations 1996)*) on page 2203