**conformational analysis**

The assessment of the relative energies (or thermodynamic stabilities), reactivities, and physical properties of alternative conformations of a molecular entity, usually by the application of qualitative or semi-quantitative rules or by semi-empirical calculations.

*Source:*
PAC, 1996, 68, 2193 (*Basic terminology of stereochemistry (IUPAC Recommendations 1996)*) on page 2204