**erythro structures**  
Also contains definition of: *threo structures in a polymer*

*in a polymer*

The relative configuration at two contiguous carbon atoms in the main chain bearing, respectively, substituents a and b (a ≠ b), is designated by the prefix *erythro* or *threo*, as appropriate, by analogy with the terminology for carbohydrate systems in which the substituents are OH. Examples:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{H} & \quad \text{H} \\
\text{\_\_C-\_C\_} & \\
\text{\phantom{\text{H} \quad \text{H}}} & \\
\text{a} & \quad \text{b}
\end{align*}
\]

*erythro*

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{H} & \quad \text{b} \\
\text{\_\_C-\_C\_} & \\
\text{\phantom{\text{H} \quad \text{b}}} & \\
\text{a} & \quad \text{H}
\end{align*}
\]

*threo*

Similar systems in which a higher level of substitution exists may be treated analogously if the *erythro* or *threo* designation is employed to denote the relative placements of those two substituents, one for each backbone carbon atom, which rank highest according to the Sequence Rule.

**Source:**  
Purple Book, p. 36