The descriptors erythro and threo are used to distinguish between diastereomers containing only two chiral centers, which are adjacent and bearing two pairs of common ligands (1).

![Diagram](image1)

If, in the Fischer projection, like ligands are on the same side of the bond linking the chiral centers, the compound is identified as the erythro isomer; if they are on the opposite sides, the compound is identified as the threo isomer.

eg: 2,3-dichloroethane

![Diagram](image2)

*erythro*-2,3-dichloroethane

*threo*-2,3-dichloroethane

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