impact parameter, b

In simple hard sphere collision theory the distance of closest approach that would result for two particles in a collision if the particle trajectories were undeflected by the collision.

Source:
Green Book, 2nd ed., p. 56
PAC, 1991, *63*, 1541 *(Recommendations for nomenclature and symbolism for mass spectroscopy (including an appendix of terms used in vacuum technology). (Recommendations 1991))* on page 1555
PAC, 1996, *68*, 149 *(A glossary of terms used in chemical kinetics, including reaction dynamics (IUPAC Recommendations 1996))* on page 168