

**critical excitation energy,  $E_q$**

*in situ microanalysis*

Minimum energy to excite a specific analytical signal. The term is most frequently used in connection with the generation of X-ray spectra, designating the ionization (binding) energy of the orbital on which the transition ends.

**Source:**

PAC, 1983, 55, 2023 (*Nomenclature, symbols and units recommended for in situ microanalysis (Provisional)*) on page 2027