**crystal field splitting**

The removal of a degeneracy of the energy levels of molecular entities or ions due to the lower site symmetry created by a crystalline environment. This term is sometimes incorrectly used synonymously with the term ligand field splitting.

**Source:**
PAC, 1996, 68, 2223 (Glossary of terms used in photochemistry (IUPAC Recommendations 1996)) on page 2234