critical excitation energy, $E_q$

*in 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