

## **metastable ion**

*in mass spectrometry*

An ion which is formed with sufficient excitation to dissociate spontaneously during its flight from the ion source to the detector.

***Source:***

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 1549