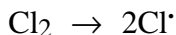


**photolysis**

The cleavage of one or more *covalent bonds* in a *molecular entity* resulting from absorption of light, or a photochemical process in which such cleavage is an essential part. For example:



The term is used incorrectly to describe irradiation of a sample, although in the combination flash photolysis this usage is accepted.

1994, 66, 1150; see also 1990, 62, 2206