17.6.1 Suggested system for the generation of abbreviations

As principles for constructing an abbreviation for a given technique, the assemblage of a sequence of letters, <u>starting from the right-hand side</u>, is recommended as follows:

(i) a letter or letters relating to the general <u>type of technique</u> used, e.g. spectroscopy, diffraction;

(ii) a letter or letters relating to the <u>types of probes/particles</u> involved in the experiment (e.g. photons, electrons, etc.);

(iii) letters relating to <u>descriptive adjectives or phrases</u>; these can sometimes be selected from alternatives to give convenient acronyms.

Examples of some abbreviations which do essentially conform to these principles are as follows:

Low Energy Electron Diffraction	LE	E	D
	(iii)	(ii)	(i)
Auger Electron Spectroscopy	A	E	S
	(iii)	(ii)	(i)
Transmission Electron Microscopy	T	E	M
	(iii)	(ii)	(i)

Notes:

(a) Where under (ii) more than one probe/particle is involved, the abbreviation for the incident particle should be given on the left, followed by that of the emitted particle.

e.g. photo(n)electron spectroscopy	PE	S
	(ii)	(i)

- (b) When solely electromagnetic radiation is involved, long-established usage shows that there are almost invariably adjectives which make it obvious that photons are involved, e.g. ultraviolet (UV); infrared (IR), etc., so that the symbol P, for photon, is not normally required.
- (c) As mentioned in the introduction, on practical grounds preference should nevertheless be given to abbreviations which are already very well established, even if these conflict with those derived systematically as described above. For example, it would be absurd at this stage to propose a change from

Nuclear Magnetic Resonance	Ν	Μ	R
	(ii)	(iii)	(i)

to the alternative

Magnetic Nuclear Resonance	Μ	Ν	R
	(iii)	(ii)	(i)

which would be based on the above principles.