

absorption

1. The process of one material (absorbent) being retained by another (absorbate); this may be the physical solution of a gas, liquid, or solid in a liquid, attachment of molecules of a gas, vapour, liquid, or dissolved substance to a solid surface by physical forces, etc. In spectrophotometry, absorption of light at characteristic wavelengths or bands of wavelengths is used to identify the chemical nature of molecules, atoms or ions and to measure the concentrations of these species.

1990, 62, 2169

2. A phenomenon in which *radiation* transfers to matter which it traverses some of or all its energy.

1982, 54, 1534; 1996, 68, 2226