Thermolysis is breaking one or more covalent bonds in a species using heat as the source of energy.

eg:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Br} & \quad \text{Br} \\
\downarrow & \quad \Delta & \quad \rightarrow \\
2 \text{Br} & \quad \cdot
\end{align*}
\]

see also photolysis

Contributors

• Gamini Gunawardena from the OChemPal site (Utah Valley University)