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Principles of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry: 2nd Edition

Edited by Simon Gaisford, Vicky Kett and Peter Haines

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Published by the Royal Society of Chemistry, [www.rsc.org](http://www.rsc.org)

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## 1.1 Introduction

In 2015, the Thermal Methods Group (TMG), an interest group of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), entered its 50th year. It seems appropriate therefore to not only look back to its origins but also to review briefly its activities since its formation and its current role in the field of thermal analysis and calorimetry. For readers interested in a more detailed account of the formation of the Group, there is an excellent paper covering the first twenty one years of the TMG's history.<sup>1</sup>

## 1.2 The Early Years

The 1960s were an exciting time for thermal analysis. The field was growing rapidly and the range of commercially available equipment was expanding, including the introduction of both power-compensated and heat flux differential scanning calorimeters. In addition, a significant number of thermal analysts were engaged in building their own equipment, particularly in the field of simultaneous thermogravimetry-differential thermal analysis.

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