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DICTIONARY OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TERMS

**Sixth
Edition**

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**McGRAW-HILL DICTIONARY OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TERMS,
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fracture system [GEOL] A stress-related group of contemporaneous fractures. { 'frak-shər ,sis-təm }

fracture test [ENG] 1. Macro- or microscopic examination of a fractured surface to determine characteristics such as grain pattern, composition, or the presence of defects. 2. A test designed to evaluate fracture stress. { 'frak-shər ,test }

fracture wear [MECH] The wear on individual abrasive grains on the surface of a grinding wheel caused by fracture. { 'frak-shər ,wer }

fracture zone [GEOL] An elongate zone on the deep-sea floor that is of irregular topography and often separates regions of different depths; frequently crosses and displaces the mid-oceanic ridge by faulting. { 'frak-shər ,zōn }

fractus [METEOROL] A cloud species in which the cloud elements are irregular but generally small in size, and which presents a ragged, shredded appearance, as if torn; these characteristics change ceaselessly and often rapidly. { 'frak-təs }

fragile site [GEN] The chromosomal position of a deoxyribonucleic acid sequence predisposed to spontaneous or induced breakage; sometimes contains short repetitive sequences. { 'frāj-əl 'sit }

fragile X syndrome [MED] A hereditary condition resulting from a trinucleotide repeat at an inherited fragile site on the long arm of the X chromosome. Affected males usually have some characteristic facial features, enlarged testes, and mental retardation. Females with one fragile X chromosome and one normal X chromosome may have a lesser degree of mental retardation. { ,frāj-əl 'eks ,sin,drōm }

fragility [SCI TECH] The state or quality of being fragile, that is, brittle or easily broken. { frə'jil-əd-ē }

fragility test [PATH] A measure of the resistance of red blood cells to osmotic hemolysis in hypotonic salt solutions of graded dilutions. { frə'jil-əd-ē ,test }

fragipan [GEOL] A dense, natural subsurface layer of hard soil with relatively slow permeability to water, mostly because of its extreme density or compactness rather than its high clay content or cementation. { 'frāj-ə ,pan }

fragment [ORD] 1. A piece of an exploding or exploded bomb, projectile, or the like. 2. To break into fragments. { 'frag-mənt }

fragmental printing [GRAPHICS] A nonstandard typeface, used for printing large characters, in which the elements of a rectangular grid are either wholly filled, wholly empty, or half filled, with the portion on one side of a diagonal filled and the other half empty. { 'frag-ment-əl 'print-ɪŋ }

fragmentation [COMPUT SCI] The tendency of files in disk storage to be divided up into many small areas scattered around the disk. [CELL MOL] Amitotic division; a type of asexual reproduction. [MIN ENG] The blasting of coal, ore, or rock into pieces small enough to load, handle, and transport without the need for hand-breaking or secondary blasting. [PSYCH] Disordered behavior and mental processes. { ,frag-mən'tā-shən }

fragmentation ammunition [ORD] Ammunition that is primarily intended to produce a fragmentation effect. { ,frag-mən'tā-shən am-yə ,nish-ən }

fragmentation bomb [ORD] An item designed to be dropped from aircraft to produce many small, high-velocity fragments when detonated. { ,frag-mən'tā-shən bām }

fragmentation bomb cluster [ORD] Multiple fragmentation bombs suspended and dropped from a single station of a bomb rack on an airplane. { ,frag-mən'tā-shən 'bām ,kləs-tər }

fracture [FRAC] Also known as fracture. [FRAC] A test conducted to determine number and weight distribution, and (where the test permits) the velocity and spatial distribution of fragments produced by a projectile or other munition upon impact. { ,frag-mən'tā-shən ,test }

fragment emission [ORD] In terminal ballistic tests, the fragments upon leaving the exploded projectile, including the number of fragments and their weight, and velocity of each fragment. { 'frag-ment-ən }

fragmenting [COMPUT SCI] The breaking up of a file into its various components. { 'frag-ment-ɪŋ }

fragment simulator projectile [ORD] Projectile that simulates the action of a fragment; used in ballistic testing on a proving ground. { 'frag-mənt ,sim-yə ,lād-ər prɒj-əkt-əl }

Frahm frequency meter See vibrating-reed frequency meter. { 'frām 'frē-kwən-sē ,mēd-ər }

frambesia See yaws. { fram'bē-zhə }

framboid [GEOL] A microscopic aggregate of pyrite often occurring in spheroidal clusters. { 'fram,bɔɪd }

frame [BUILD] The skeleton structure of a building known as framing. [COMMUN] 1. One cycle of a recurring series of pulses. 2. An elementary building block for transmission over a network or communication system. [COMPUT SCI] See main frame. [ELECTR] 1. One cycle of coverage of a television picture. 2. A rectangular area representing the size of copy handled by a facsimile machine. [GRAPHICS] A single complete picture on motion picture film. { frām }

frame buffer [COMPUT SCI] A device that stores a picture or frame for processing. { 'frām ,bʊf-ər }

frame dragging See dragging of inertial frame. { ,drag-ɪŋ }

frame frequency [ELECTR] The number of times per second that the frame is completely scanned in television. Also known as picture frequency. { 'frām ,frē-kwən-s-ən }

frame grabber [COMPUT SCI] An external device that digitizes standard television video images for storage or processing in a computer. { 'frām ,grab-ər }

frame of reference [PHYS] A coordinate system used for the purpose of assigning positions and times to events. Also known as reference frame. { 'frām əv 'ref-rəns }

frame period [ELECTR] A time interval equal to the reciprocal of the frame frequency. { 'frām ,pɪr-ē-əd }

framer [ELECTR] Device for adjusting facsimile images so the start and end of a recorded line are the same as the corresponding line of the subject copy. { 'frām-ər }

frames [COMPUT SCI] Subdivisions of a browser window with each section containing a separate Web page.

frame set [MIN ENG] The arrangement of the legs and crossbar so as to provide support for the roof of an underground passage. Also known as framing; set. { 'frām ,set }

frameshift mutation [GEN] The addition or deletion of nucleotides to an exon in numbers other than three, which shifts the translation reading frame so a new set of codons is read. Also known as phase-shift mutation. { 'frām ,ʃɪft mju'tā-shən }

frameshift suppression [GEN] Reversion of a frameshift mutation by a second frameshift mutation in the same region. { 'frām ,ʃɪft sə ,presh-ən }

framework [ENG] The load-carrying frame of a structure. Also known as frame. [GEOL] 1. In geology, or sedimentary rock, the rigid arrangement created by