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The IEEE Standard Dictionary of Electrical and Electronics Terms

Sixth Edition

Standards Coordinating Committee 10, Terms and Definitions
Jane Radatz, Chair

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longitudinal interference

longitudinal interference *See*: common-mode interference; signal.

longitudinal magnetic recording A type of magnetic recording in which magnetic polarities representing data are aligned along the length of the recording track. *Contrast*: perpendicular magnetic recording. (C) 610.10-1994

longitudinal magnetization Magnetization of the recording medium in a direction essentially parallel to the line of travel. (SP) [32]

longitudinal mode (laser maser) Refers to modes that have the same field distributions transverse to the beam, but a different number of half period field variations along the axis of the beam. *See also*: longitudinal resonances. (LEO) 586-1980w

longitudinal (common) mode voltage (low voltage surge protective devices[gas-tube surge-protective devices]) The voltage common to all conductors of a group as measured between that group at a given location and an arbitrary reference (usually earth). (PE/PSPD) [8], C62.31-1987r

longitudinal offset loss *See*: gap loss.

longitudinal overvoltage An overvoltage that appears between the open contact of a switch. (C/PE) 1313.1-1996

longitudinal profile (1) (overhead-power-line corona and radio noise) The profile of a parameter, usually near ground level, measured at a constant lateral distance from the power line and plotted as a function of distance along the line. For example, a longitudinal profile of the vertical component of the electric field strength, of the radio noise field strength, etc. (PE/T&D) 539-1990

(2) (radio noise from overhead power lines and substations) The radio noise field strength at ground level measured at constant horizontal distance from the power line and plotted as a function of distance along the line. (PE/T&D) 430-1986r

longitudinal redundancy check (LRC) (1) (data transmission) A system of error control based on the formation of a block check following preset rules. *Note*: The check formation rule is applied in the same manner to each character. (COM) [49]

(2) A parity check performed bit-wise on the rows of a string of characters represented in matrix form, with each bit for each character representing one column in the matrix. *Note*: The LRC is the comparison of the parity of the rows before and after an operation such as a magnetic tape read or transmission through a data communication channel. *See also*: vertical redundancy check. (C) 610.7-1995

longitudinal resonances (laser maser) (in a beam resonator) Resonances corresponding to modes having the same field distribution transverse to the beam, but differing in the number of half period field variations along the axis of the beam. *Note*: Such resonances are separated in frequency by approximately $v/2L$ where v is the speed of light in the resonator and $2L$ is the round trip length of the beam in the resonator. (LEO) 586-1980w

longitudinal (common mode) signal (telephone loop performance) The longitudinal voltage is half the algebraic sum of the voltages to ground in the two conductors (tip and ring). The longitudinal current is the algebraic sum of the current in these conductors. (COM) 820-1984r

longitudinal voltage (1) (power fault effects) A voltage acting in series with the longitudinal circuit. (PE) 367-1996

(2) *See also*: common-mode voltage. (C/LM) 802.3i-1990s

longitudinal wave A wave in which the direction of displacement at each point of the medium is the same as the direction of the propagation. (Std100) 270-1966w

long-line adapter (telephone switching systems) Equipment inserted between a line circuit and the associated station(s) to allow conductor loop resistances greater than the maximum for which a system is designed. (COM) 312-1977w

long-line current Current (positive electricity) flowing through the earth from an anodic to a cathodic area that returns along

an underground metallic structure. *Note*: Usually used only where the areas are separated by considerable distance and where the current results from concentration cell action. *See also*: stray-current corrosion. (IA) [59]

long packet A packet with a length of over 1518 B. *Synonym*: over-sized packet. *Contrast*: short packet. (C) 610.10-1994, 610.7-1995

long-pitch winding (rotating machinery) A winding in which the coil pitch is greater than the pole pitch. *See also*: direct-current commutating machine. (PE) [9]

long-term settling error The absolute difference between the final value specified for short-term settling time, and the value 1 s after the beginning of the step, expressed as a percentage of the step amplitude. (IM) 1057-1994

long-term stability (LTS) (ferroresonant voltage regulators) (power supplies) The change in output voltage or current as a function of time, at constant line voltage, load, and ambient temperature (sometimes referred to as "drift"). *See also*: overall regulation. (AE/PEL) [41], 449-1990

long-term timebase stability The change in time base frequency (usually given in parts per million) over a specified period of time at a specified sampling rate. (IM) 1057-1994

long-time-delay phase trip element A direct-acting trip device element that functions with a purposely delayed action (seconds). (PE/SWG) C37.100-1992

long-time rating A rating based on an operating interval of five minutes or longer. (NEC/NESC) [86]

longwall machine A power-driven machine used for undercutting coal on relatively long faces. (EEC/PE) [119]

long-wire antenna A wire antenna that, by virtue of its considerable length in comparison with the operating wavelength, provides a directional radiation pattern. (AP) 145-1993

longword serial A form of word-serial communication that allows 32-bit data transfers between commanders and servants. (C/MM) 1155-1992

look A colloquial expression for a single attempt at detection of a target. (AE) 686-1990w

look up To use a code-decode table or look-up table to obtain data values or other information. (C) 610.5-1990

look-up table A table of values used in obtaining the value of a function using a table look-up procedure. *See also*: code-decode table. (C) 1084-1986w, 610.5-1990

loom *See*: flexible nonmetallic tubing.

loop (1) (telephone loop performance) The transmission and signaling channel, with or without gain, between the center of the end office switch and the network interface. It also extends direct current (dc) power to the network interface. (COM) 820-1984r

(2) (signal-transmission system and network analysis) A set of branches forming a closed current path, provided that the omission of any branch eliminates the closed path. *See also*: ground loop; mesh; signal. (CAS/IE) [43], 155-1960r

(3) (A) (software) A sequence of computer program statements that is executed repeatedly until a given condition is met or while a given condition is true. *Synonym*: iterative construct. *See also*: loop body; loop control; UNTIL; WHILE. **(B) (software)** To execute a sequence of computer program statements as in definition (A). (C) 610.12-1990

(4) (data transmission) (telephone circuit) In communications, loop signifies a type of facility, normally the circuit between the subscriber and central office. (Usually a metallic circuit). (PE) 599-1985w

loop antenna (1) (data transmission) An antenna consisting of one or more complete turns of conductor, excited so as to provide an essentially uniform circulatory current, and a radiation pattern approximating that of an elementary magnetic dipole. (PE) 599-1985w

(2) (overhead-power-line corona and radio noise) An antenna consisting of one or more turns of a conductor. If the

DATA packet Any packet other than a HEADER, PACKET COUNT, or ACKNOWLEDGE packet.

(C/TT) 1149.5-1995

data path Signal lines on a bus associated with data.

(C/MM) 959-1988r

data phase A period within a transaction used to transfer data.

(BA/C) 10857-1994, 896.3-1993, 896.4-1993

data processing (DP) (1) The systematic performance of operations upon data, such as data manipulation, merging, sorting, and computing. *Synonym:* information processing. *See also:* administrative data processing; automatic data processing; business data processing; commercial data processing; distributed data processing; integrated data processing; mechanical data processing; office automation; remote-access data processing. (C) 610.2-1987

(2) (emergency and standby power) Pertaining to any operation or combination of operations on data.

(IA) 446-1987s

data processing cycle *See:* processing cycle.

data processing system A system, including computer systems and associated personnel, that performs input, processing, storage output, and control functions to accomplish a sequence of operations on data. *See also:* information system.

(C) 610.10-1994, 610.2-1987

data processor* (1) (A) A processor capable of performing operations on data. For example: a desk calculator or tabulating machine, or a computer. (B) A person who operates a computer.

(C) 610.10-1994

(2) Any device capable of being used to perform operations on data, for example, a desk calculator, tape recorder, analog computer, or digital computer.

(IA) 446-1987s

* Deprecated.

data producer certification The determination by the data producer that data have been verified and validated against documented standards of criteria. (C/DIS) 1278.3-1996

data quality *See:* data integrity.

data quality objective The qualitative and quantitative statements that specify the quality of data required to support decisions for any process requiring radiochemical analysis (radioassay).

(NI) N42.23-1995

data rate (1) The rate at which a data path (e.g., a channel) carries data, measured in bits per second (b/s).

(EMB/PE/SWG/SUB) 1073.3.1-1994, 1073.4.1-1994, 999-1992, C37.1-1994, C37.100-1992

(2) *See also:* transfer rate. (C) 610.7-1995

data reconstruction (date processing) The conversion of a signal defined on a discrete-time argument to one defined on a continuous-time argument. (IM) [52]

data record *See:* record.

data reduction (1) The transformation of raw data into a more useful form, for example, smoothing to reduce noise.

(MIL) [2]

(2) (data management) Any technique used to transform data from raw data into a more useful form of data. For example, grouping, summing, or averaging related data.

(C) 610.5-1990

data resource A purposely organized body of data that is of use to some person or group of people.

(C) 610.5-1990

data security The degree to which a collection of data is protected from exposure to accidental or malicious alteration or destruction. *See also:* data integrity; database security.

(C) 610.5-1990

data-sensitive fault A fault that causes a failure in response to some particular pattern of data. *Synonym:* pattern-sensitive fault. *Contrast:* program-sensitive fault. (C) 610.12-1990

data service unit A device that provides bipolar conversion functions to ensure proper signal shaping and adequate signal strength in a digital communications environment. *See also:* channel service unit. (C) 610.7-1995

data set (1) (data management) A named collection of related records. *Synonym:* file. *See also:* partitioned data set.

(C) 610.5-1990

(2) (data transmission) A modem serving as a conversion element and interface between a data machine and communication facilities. *See also:* modem. (PE) 599-1985w

data signaling rate The rate of data transmission, generally expressed as bits per second. *See also:* baud rate.

(C) 610.10-1994, 610.7-1995

data sink (1) (data transmission) The equipment which accepts data signals after transmission. (PE) 599-1985w

(2) The functional unit that accepts transmitted data. *Contrast:* data source. (C) 610.7-1995

data source (1) (data transmission) The equipment which supplies data signals that enter into a data link.

(PE) 599-1985w

(2) The functional unit that originates data for transmission. *Contrast:* data sink. (C) 610.7-1995

data space The address space which devices may have that is recommended for use in data operations. There are few constraints applied to data space uses. *See also:* CSR space. 960-1993

data stabilization (navigation aid terms) (vehicle-borne navigation systems) The stabilization of the output signals with respect to a selected reference invariant with vehicle orientation. (AE) 172-1983w

data stack A stack that may be used for passing parameters between Forth definitions. (BA/C) 1275-1994

data station *See:* station.

data storage description language A language used to define the organization of stored data in terms that are independent of any particular storage device or operating system.

(C) 610.5-1990

data storage schema A data structure that describes the manner in which data items are physically stored in storage. *See also:* database definition. (C) 610.5-1990

data stream (A) All data that is transmitted through an input-output channel in a single read or write operation. (B) A continuous stream of data elements being transmitted, or intended for transmission. (C) 610.10-1994

data striping RAID storage A form of RAID storage, known as level 0, in which data is striped across the multiple drives by system block size. *Note:* No parity check is performed.

(C) 610.10-1994

data structure (data management) (software) A physical or logical relationship among data elements, designed to support specific data manipulation functions. *Synonym:* logical structure. (C) 610.12-1990, 610.5-1990

data structure-centered design A software design technique in which the architecture of a system is derived from analysis of the structure of the data sets with which the system must deal. *See also:* input-process-output; modular decomposition; object-oriented design; rapid prototyping; stepwise refinement; structure clash; structured design; transaction analysis; transform analysis. (C) 610.12-1990

data structure diagram A diagram that depicts a set of data elements, their attributes, and the logical relationships among them. *Contrast:* data flow diagram. *See also:* entity-relationship diagram.

Employee Record										
Emp. No. (4I)	Emp. Name			Emp. Address				Dept. No. (3I)	Emp. Sal. (4I)	
	First (10C)	Mid. (1C)	Last (16C)	Street (20C)	City (20C)	State (2C)	Zip (9I)			
I = Integer	C = Character									

data structure diagram

(C) 610.12-1990

data sublanguage (DSL) A subset of another language, called the host language, that is used to perform database operations. *Synonym:* database sublanguage. (C) 610.5-1990

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three-phase dry-type air-core reactor

three-phase dry-type air-core reactor Dry-type air core reactors are single phase devices. In a three-phase reactor the single phase reactors are stacked and magnetically coupled. Depending on the application the self inductance may be modified to compensate for mutual coupling effects.

(PE) C57.16-1996

three-phase electric locomotive An electric locomotive that collects propulsion power from three phases of an alternating-current distribution system. *See also:* electric locomotive.

(EEC/PE) [119]

three-phase enclosure A metallic enclosure containing the buses and/or devices of all phases of a three-phase system.

(PE/SUB) C37.122.1-1993

three-phase four-wire system A system of alternating-current supply comprising four conductors, three of which are connected as in a three-phase three-wire system, the fourth being connected to the neutral point of the supply, which may be grounded. *See also:* alternating-current distribution.

(PE/T&D) [10]

three-phase seven-wire system A system of alternating-current supply from groups of three single-phase transformers connected in Y so as to obtain a three-phase four-wire grounded-neutral system for lighting and a three-phase three-wire grounded-neutral system of a higher voltage for power, the neutral wire being common to both systems. *See also:* alternating-current distribution.

(PE/T&D) [10]

three-phase three-wire system A system of alternating-current supply comprising three conductors between successive pairs of which are maintained alternating differences of potential successively displaced in phase by one-third of a period. *See also:* alternating-current distribution.

(PE/T&D) [10]

three-plus-one address Pertaining to a four-address code in which one address part always specifies the location of the next instruction to be interpreted.

(C) 162-1963w

three-plus-one address instruction A computer instruction that contains four address fields, the fourth containing the address of the instruction to be executed next. For example, an instruction to add the contents of locations A and B, place the results in location C, then execute the instruction at location D. *Contrast:* four-plus-one address instruction; one-plus-one address instruction.

(C) 610.12-1990

three-position relay A relay that may be operated to three distinct positions.

(EEC/PE) [119]

three-state A type of bus driver. Either drives high, low, or not at all.

(C/MM) 1196-1987

three-state circuit A digital circuit which has three output states: logical one (false), logical zero (true) and a high impedance output to isolate itself from the circuit.

(C) 610.10-1994

three-state indication *See:* supervisory control functions.

3-state pin A component output pin where the drive may be either active or inactive (for example, at high impedance).

(C/TT) 1149.1-1990

three-terminal capacitor Two conductors (the active electrodes) insulated from each other and from a surrounding third conductor that constitutes the shield. When the capacitor is provided with properly designed terminals and used with shielded leads, the direct capacitance between the active electrodes is independent of the presence of other conductors. (Specialized usage.)

(Std100) 270-1966w

three-tone slope A measure of attenuation distortion at 404 Hz and 2804 Hz relative to loss at 1020 Hz (or 1004 Hz). Three-tone slope is specified for many telecommunication services.

(COM) 743-1995

three-wire control A control function that utilizes a momentary-contact pilot device and a holding-circuit contact to provide undervoltage protection. *See also:* relay; undervoltage protection.

(IA) [60]

three-wire system (direct current or single-phase alternating current) A system of electric supply comprising three con-

ductors, one of which (known as the neutral wire) is maintained at a potential midway between the potential of the other two (referred to as the outer conductors). *Note:* Part of the load may be connected directly between the outer conductors, the remainder being divided as evenly as possible into two parts each of which is connected between the neutral and one outer conductor. There are thus two distinct voltages of supply, the one being twice the other. *See also:* alternating-current distribution; direct-current distribution.

(PE/T&D) [10]

three-wire type current transformer (I) (power and distribution transformers) One which has two primary windings each completely insulated for the rated insulation level of the transformer. This type of current transformer is for use on a three-wire single-phase service. *Note:* The primary windings and secondary windings are permanently assembled on the core as an integral structure. The secondary current is proportional to the phasor sum of the primary currents.

(PE) C57.12.80-1978r

(2) One that has two insulated primary windings and one secondary winding and is for use on a three-wire, single-phase service. *Note:* The primary windings and the secondary winding are permanently assembled on the core as an integral structure. The secondary current is proportional to the phasor sum of the primary currents.

(PE) C57.13-1993

threshold (I) (A) (mathematics of computing) A logic operator having the property that if P is a statement, Q is a statement, R is a statement, . . . , then the threshold of P, Q, R, . . . is true if at least N statements are true, false if less than N statements are true, where N is a specified non-negative integer called the threshold condition. **(B) (mathematics of computing)** The threshold condition as in definition (A).

(C) 1084-1986w

(2) **(image processing)** A specified gray level used for producing a binary image. *See also:* thresholding.

(C) 610.4-1990

(3) **(illuminating engineering)** The value of a variable of a physical stimulus (such as size, luminance, contrast or time) which permits the stimulus to be seen a specific percentage of the time or at a specific accuracy level. In many psychophysical experiments, thresholds are presented in terms of 50 percent accuracy or accurately 50 percent of the time. However, the threshold also is expressed as the value of the physical variable which permits the object to be just barely seen. The threshold may be determined by merely detecting the presence of an object or it may be determined by discriminating certain details of the object.

(EEC/IE) [126]

(4) (of a maser or laser) The condition of a maser or laser wherein the gain of its medium is just sufficient to permit the start of oscillation.

(LEO) 586-1980w

(5) **(accelerometer) (gyros)** The largest absolute value of the minimum input that produces an output equal to at least 50% of the output expected using the nominal scale factor.

(AE) 528-1994

(6) A value of voltage or other measure that a signal must exceed in order to be detected or retained for further processing.

(AE) 686-1990w

threshold audiogram *See:* audiogram.

threshold center voltage The algebraic average of the (HC) and (LC) threshold voltages; that is, $(V_{LC} + V_{HC})/2$.

(Std100)

threshold current (I) (protection and coordination of industrial and commercial power systems) The magnitude of current at which a fuse becomes current limiting, specifically the symmetrical root-mean-square (rms) available current at the threshold of the current-limiting range, where the fuse total clearing time is less than half-cycle at rated voltage and rated frequency, for symmetrical closing, and a power factor of less than 20%. Refer to various peak let-through current curves for each type of fuse. The threshold ratio is the relationship of the threshold current to the fuse's continuous-current rating.

(IA) 242-1986r

letter-quality (LQ) Pertaining to printed output that is suitable for high quality correspondence. *Note:* This term implies that "letter quality" output matches that of a standard typewriter. *See also:* draft quality; near-letter quality.

(C) 610.10-1994

letter spacing *See:* intercharacter spacing.

let-through sparkover (surge arresters) A measure of the highest lightning surge an arrester is likely to withstand without sparkover in 3 μs or less. The value determined by a 1.2 × 50-μs impulse sparkover test. *See also:* IEEE.

(PE) [8]

level (1) (data transmission) The magnitude of a quantity, especially when considered in relation to an arbitrary reference value. Level may be stated in the units in which the quantity itself is measured (for example, dB) expressing the ratio to a reference value.

(PE) 599-1985w

(2) (A) (software) The degree of subordination of an item in a hierarchical arrangement. *See also:* hierarchy. (B) (software) A rank within a hierarchy. An item is of the lowest level if it has no subordinates and of the highest level if it has no superiors. *See also:* hierarchy.

(C/SE) 729-1983s

(3) (general) (quantity) Magnitude, especially when considered in relation to an arbitrary reference value. Level may be stated in the units in which the quantity itself is measured (for example, volts, ohms, etc.) or in units (for example, decibels) expressing the ratio to a reference value. *Notes:* 1. Examples of kinds of levels in common use are electric power level, sound-pressure level, voltage level. 2. The level as here defined is measured in two common units: in decibels when the logarithmic base is 10, or in nepers when the logarithmic base is e. The decibel requires that *k* be 10 for ratios of power, or 20 for quantities proportional to the square root of power. The neper is used to represent ratios of voltage, current, sound pressure, and particle velocity. The neper requires that *k* be 1. 3. In symbols,

$$L = k \log_e(q/q_0)$$

where

L = level of kind determined by the kind of quantity under consideration

r = base of the logarithm of the reference ratio

q = the quantity under consideration

*q*₀ = reference quantity of the same kind

k = a multiplier that depends upon the base of the logarithm and the nature of the reference quantity

See also: blanking level; reference black level; reference white level; signal level; transmission level.

(PE/SP/T&D) [32], 539-1990

(4) (charge-storage tubes) A charge value which can be stored in a given storage element and distinguished in the output from other charge values. *See also:* channel.

(ED) 161-1971w

(5) The level in dBm of a signal or tone into a resistive load equal to the designated impedance at the point of measurement. Levels measured into complex impedances, as specified by ITU-T Recommendation O.41, clause 3.13, are not recognized by this standard.

(COM) 743-1995

(6) *See also:* transit.

(PE/T&D) 524-1992

level above threshold (sensation level) (sound) The pressure level of the sound in decibels above its threshold of audibility for the individual observer.

(SP) [32]

level band pressure (electroacoustics) (for a specified frequency band) The sound-pressure level for the sound contained within the restricted band. *Notes:* 1. The reference pressure must be specified. 2. The band may be specified by its lower and upper cutoff frequencies or by its geometric or arithmetic center frequency and bandwidth. The width of the band may be indicated by a prefatory modifier, for example, octave band (sound pressure) level, half-octave band level, third-octave band level, 50-hertz band level.

(SP) [32]

level compensator (signal transmission) An automatic transmission-regulating feature or device to minimize the effects of variations in amplitude of the received signal. *See also:* telegraphy.

(EEC/PE) [119]

level detector (as applied to relaying) A device that produces a change in output at a prescribed input level.

(PE/SWG) C37.100-1992

leveling *See:* platform erection.

leveling block *See:* leveling plate.

leveling error (accelerometer) (inertial sensors) The angle between the local horizontal and the input reference axis when the accelerometer output is zero.

(AE) 528-1984s

leveling plate (leveling block) (rotating machinery) A heavy pad built into the foundation and used to support and align the bed plate or rails using shims for adjustment before grouting.

(PE) [9]

leveling zone (elevators) The limited distance above or below an elevator landing within which the leveling device may cause movement of the car toward the landing. *See also:* elevator car-leveling device.

(EEC/PE) [119]

level n repeater A repeater that is (n - 1) link segments below the root repeater in a cascade.

(C/LM) 802.12-1995

level of documentation (software) A description of required documentation indicating its scope, content, format, and quality. Selection of the level may be based on project cost, intended usage, extent of effort, or other factors. *See also:* documentation; quality.

(C/SE) 729-1983s

level of maintenance A level at which diagnostics can operate (e.g., maintenance depot, factory, in the field).

(ATL) 1232-1995

Level 1 device A device that supports the Level 1 electrical interface.

(C/MM) 1284-1994

level, power dBm Decibels relative to one milliwatt. This is the customary unit worldwide for measurement of telecommunications signal power. Zero dBm equals one milliwatt.

(COM) 1007-1991

level, relay *See:* relay level.

level sensitive Pertaining to a circuit that can be held in one state as long as an input signal maintains a certain value. *Contrast:* edge sensitive. *See also:* transparent latch.

(C) 610.10-1994

level-sensitive scan design A variant of the scan design technique that results in race-free, testable digital electronic circuits.

(C/TT) 1149.1-1990

level-sensitive signal Signals whose high or low state is sampled based on the leading and/or trailing edges of edge-sensitive strobe signals.

(BA/C) 896.9-1994

levels, usable (storage tubes) The output levels, each related to a different input, that can be distinguished from one another regardless of location on the storage surface. *Note:* The number of usable levels is normally limited by shading and disturbance. *See also:* storage tube.

(ED) 158-1962w

level switch (power system device function numbers) A switch which operates on given values, or on a given rate of change, of level.

(PE/SUB) C37.2-1979s

level, tracking Deviation of the gain or loss as the input level to a codec is varied. Usually the reference level is 0 dBm0 at 1004 Hz.

(COM) 1007-1991

Level 2 device A device that supports the Level 2 electrical interface.

(C/MM) 1284-1994

lever blocking device (railway signaling) A device for blocking a lever so that it cannot be operated.

(EEC/PE) [119]

lever indication (railway signaling) The information conveyed by means of an indication lock that the movement of an operated unit has been completed.

(EEC/PE) [119]

LEX A compiler specification language in which the input is (1) a specification of a set of regular expressions and (2) actions to be taken upon recognizing each of these. The output

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LF *See:*

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