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DICTIONARY OF
SCIENTIFIC AND
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Fifth Edition



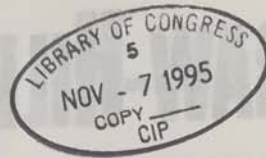
McGraw-Hill DICTIONARY OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TERMS Fifth Edition

Sybil P. Parker
 Editor in Chief

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On the cover: Photomicrograph of crystals of vitamin B₁.
(Dennis Kunkel, University of Hawaii)



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subboundary structure [MET] A network of low-angle grain boundaries of less than one degree within the main crystals of a metal. { 'səb'baun'drē 'strəkchər }

subcaliber [ORD] Smaller than the standard caliber for a gun, generally used in practice firing. { 'səb'kal'əbər }

subcaliber ammunition [ORD] Ammunition used with a gun or launching tube, usually in practice firing, of a caliber smaller than the standard. { 'səb'kal'əbər ,am'yə'nishən }

subcaliber equipment [ORD] Any item of equipment, such as small guns, adapters, tubes, and accessories, used for firing subcaliber ammunition in practice drills with larger guns. { 'səb'kal'əbər i'kwipmənt }

subcaliber firing [ORD] Practice firing of subcaliber ammunition, in connection with drills in elevating, traversing, or aiming guns of larger caliber. { 'səb'kal'əbər 'firɪŋ }

subcaliber gun [ORD] A gun mounted on the outside and above the tube of a larger gun; it is used in practice firing of subcaliber ammunition, in connection with aiming drills with the larger gun. { 'səb'kal'əbər 'gən }

subcaliber mount [ORD] Special mount in or on the tube of a gun, upon which a gun of smaller caliber can be attached for practice firing. { 'səb'kal'əbər 'maʊnt }

subcaliber rocket [ORD] A rocket designed especially to be fired from launching tubes of larger caliber than the rocket itself. { 'səb'kal'əbər 'rækət }

subcapillary interstice [GEOL] An interstice in which the molecular attraction of its walls extends across the entire opening; it is smaller than a capillary interstice. { 'səb'kap'ə,lərə i'n'tɔrstəs }

subcardinal vein [VERT ZOO] Either of a pair of longitudinal veins of the mammalian embryo or the adult of some lower vertebrates which partly replace the postcardinals in the abdominal region, ventromedial to the mesonephros. { 'səb'kɑrd'nəl 'væn }

subcarrier [COMMUN] 1. A carrier that is applied as a modulating wave to modulate another carrier. 2. See chrominance subcarrier. { 'səb'kar'ɪər }

subcarrier oscillator [ELECTR] 1. The crystal oscillator that operates at the chrominance subcarrier or burst frequency of 3.579545 megahertz in a color television receiver; this oscillator, synchronized in frequency and phase with the transmitter master oscillator, furnishes the continuous subcarrier frequency required for demodulators in the receiver. 2. An oscillator used in a telemetering system to translate variations in an electrical quantity into variations of a frequency-modulated signal at a subcarrier frequency. { 'səb'kar'ɪər 'ɪs'ə,ləd'ər }

subcerebral plane [ANTHRO] The plane passing through a line traversing the lower angles of the parietal bones and the junctionure of the superciliary ridge and the cheek bone. { 'səb'sə're-brəl 'plæn }

subchannel [COMPUT SCI] The portion of an input/output channel associated with a specific input/output operation. [COMMUN] In a telemetry system, the route required to convey the magnitude of a single subcommutated measurand. { 'səb'chan'əl }

subclavian artery [ANAT] The proximal part of the principal artery in the arm or forelimb. { 'səb'klāv'vē-ən 'ɑrd'ə-rē }

subclavian vein [ANAT] The proximal part of the principal vein in the arm or forelimb. { 'səb'klāv'vē-ən 'væn }

subclavius [ANAT] A small muscle attached to the clavicle and the first rib. { 'səb'klāv'vē-əs }

subclimax [ECOL] A community immediately preceding a climax in an ecological succession. { 'səb'kli,maks }

subcluster [ASTRON] One of the several distinct clumps of galaxies that often compose an irregular cluster. { 'səb'klʌs'tər }

subclutter visibility [ELECTR] A measure of the effectiveness of moving-target indicator radar, equal to the ratio of the signal from a fixed target that can be canceled to the signal from a just visible moving target. { 'səb'klʌd'ər ,viz'ə'bil'əd'ē }

subcollateral [ANAT] Ventrad of the collateral sulcus of the brain. { 'səb'kə'ləd'ərəl }

subcommutation [COMMUN] In telemetry, commutation of additional channels with output applied to individual channels of the primary commutator. { 'səb,kəm'yə'tə'shən }

subcomponent [DES ENG] A part of a component having characteristics of the component. { 'səb'kəm,pə'nənt }

subcompound [CHEM] A compound, generally in the vapor phase, in which an element exhibits a valency lower than that exhibited in its ordinary compounds. { 'səb'kəm,pəʊnd }

subconchoidal [GEOL] Pertaining to a fracture that is partly or vaguely conchoidal in shape. { 'səb'kən'koid'əl }

subconscious [PSYCH] Pertaining to mental activity beyond the level of consciousness, including the preconscious and the unconscious. { 'səb'kən'shəs }

subconsequent stream See secondary consequent stream. { 'səb'kən'səkwənt 'strēm }

subcontinent [GEOGR] 1. A landmass such as Greenland that is large but not as large as the generally recognized continents. 2. A large subdivision of a continent (for example, the Indian subcontinent) distinguished geologically or geomorphically from the rest of the continent. { 'səb'kənt'ən'ənt }

subcontract [ENG] A contract made with a third party by one who has contracted to perform work or service for whole or part performance of that work or service. { 'səb'kən,tra'kt }

subcontractor [ENG] A manufacturer or organization that receives a contract from a prime contractor for a portion of the work on a project. { 'səb'kən,tra'kt'ər }

subcritical [NUCLEO] Having an effective multiplication constant less than one, so that a self-supporting chain reaction cannot be maintained in a nuclear reactor. { 'səb'kri'd'əkəl }

subcritical assembly See subcritical reactor. { 'səb'kri'd'əkəl ə'sembli }

subcritical flow See subsonic flow. { 'səb'kri'd'əkəl 'flō }

subcritical mass [NUCLEO] A piece of fissionable material having an effective multiplication constant of less than one, so that it does not give rise to a self-supporting chain reaction. { 'səb'kri'd'əkəl 'mas }

subcritical reactor [NUCLEO] A reactor having an effective multiplication constant of less than one, so that a self-supporting chain reaction cannot be maintained. Also known as subcritical assembly; teaching reactor. { 'səb'kri'd'əkəl rē'aktər }

subcrop [GEOL] An occurrence of strata beneath the subsurface of an inclusive stratigraphic unit that succeeds an unconformity on which there is marked overstep. { 'səb,krap }

subcutaneous connective tissue [HISTOL] The layer of loose connective tissue beneath the dermis. { 'səb'kyū'tānē-əs kə'nek'tiv ,tish'ū }

subcutaneous emphysema [MED] The presence of air in the tissues just under the skin; when seen in diving it usually involves the skin of the neck and nearby areas. { 'səb'kyū'tānē-əs ,em-fə'sēmə }

subcycle generator [ELECTR] Frequency-reducing device used in telephone equipment which furnishes ringing power at a submultiple of the power supply frequency. { 'səb,sɪ'kəl 'jen-ə,rād'ər }

subdevice bit See select bit. { 'səb'di,vɪs ,bit }

subdivided capacitor [ELEC] Capacitor in which several capacitors known as sections are mounted so that they may be used individually or in combination. { 'səb'di'vidəd kə'pas-əd'ər }

subdivision graph [MATH] A graph which can be obtained from a given graph by breaking up each edge into one or more segments by inserting intermediate vertices between its two ends. { 'səb'di,vɪz'ən ,graf }

subdominant [ECOL] A species which may appear more abundant at particular times of the year than the true dominant in a climax; for example, in a savannah trees and shrubs are more conspicuous than the grasses, which are the true dominants. { 'səb'dəm'ənənt }

subdrainage [CIV ENG] Natural or artificial removal of water from beneath a lined conduit. { 'səb'drā'nɪj }

subdrilling [ENG] Refers to the breaking of the base in which boreholes are drilled 1 foot (0.3 meter) or several feet below the level of the quarry floor. { 'səb'dril'ɪŋ }

subduction [GEOL] The process by which one crustal block descends beneath another, such as the descent of the Pacific plate beneath the Andean plate along the Andean Trench. { 'səb'dʌk'shən }

subdural hematoma [MED] A mass of blood between the arachnoid and the dura mater. { 'səb'dʊr'əl ,hē'mə'tō'mə }

subdural hemorrhage [MED] Bleeding between the dura mater and the arachnoid. { 'səb'dʊr'əl ,hem'rɪj }

subdwarf star [ASTRON] An intermediate star type; luminosity is between that of main sequence stars and the white dwarf stars on the Hertzsprung-Russell diagram; spectral classes F, G, and K are most numerous. { 'səb,dwɔrf 'stɑr }

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