

# and Electronics Terms

Sixth Edition



Published by the  
Institute of Electrical and  
Electronics Engineers, Inc.

IPR2017-01819  
NVIDIA v. Polaris  
Polaris Ex. 2001

# Sixth Edition

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

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ISBN 1-55937-833-6



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ing a condition of adaptation. (ED) [127]

**adaptation data** Data used to adapt a program to a given installation site or to given conditions in its operational environment. (C) 610.12-1990

**adaptation parameter** A variable that is given a specific value to adapt a program to a given installation site or to given conditions in its operational environment; for example, the variable Installation\_Site\_Latitude. (C) 610.12-1990

**adapter (1) (general)** A device for connecting parts that will not mate. An accessory to convert a device to a new or modified use. (IM) [40]

(2) **(test, measurement, and diagnostic equipment)** A device or series of devices designed to provide a compatible connection between the unit under test and the test equipment. May include proper stimuli or loads not contained in the test equipment. (MIL) [2]

**adapter kit (test, measurement, and diagnostic equipment)** A kit containing an assortment of cables and adapters for use with test or support equipment. (MIL) [2]

**adapter, standard** A two-port device having standard connectors for joining together two waveguides or transmission lines with nonmating standard connectors. (IM) 474-1973w

**adapter, waveguide (waveguide components)** A structure used to interconnect two waveguides that differ in size or type. If the modes of propagation also differ, the adapter functions as a mode transducer. (MTT) 147-1979w

**adapting** *See*: self-adapting.

**adaptive antenna system** An antenna system having circuit elements associated with its radiating elements such that one or more of the antenna properties are controlled by the received signal. (AP) 145-1993

**adaptive coding** The application of two or more image compression techniques to a single image, based on properties of different parts of the image. (C) 610.4-1990

**adaptive color shift (illuminating engineering)** The change in the perceived object's color caused solely by the change of the state of chromatic adaptation. *See also*: state of chromatic adaptation. (ED) [127]

**adaptive control system** *See*: control system, adaptive.

**adaptive equalization (data transmission)** A system that has a means of monitoring its own frequency response characteristics and a means of varying its own parameters by closed-loop action to obtain the desired overall frequency response. (PE) 599-1985w

**adaptive equalizer** An electronic device for maximizing the signal quality on a transmission channel by monitoring the signal and adjusting the equalization. *Synonym*: automatic equalizer. (C) 610.7-1995

**adaptive maintenance (1) (software)** Software maintenance performed to make a computer program usable in a changed

are interpreted as leading zeros. Normally, the ADC numbers would start at 1 and go up in sequence for a given system. Different systems in a specific laboratory could use non-sequential numbers, e.g., 1 to 4, and 11 to 14, for different types of equipment. (NPS) 1214-1992

**Adcock antenna** A pair of vertical antennas separated by a distance of one-half wavelength or less, and connected in phase opposition to produce a radiation pattern having the shape of the figure eight in all planes containing the centers of the two antennas. (AP) 145-1993

**add** To insert a record into an existing file. (C) 610.5-1990

**add-and-subtract relay** *See*: bidirectional relay.

**added source statements** The count of source statements that were created specifically for the software product. (C/SE) 1045-1992

**addend** A number to be added to another number (the augend) to produce a result (the sum). (C) 1084-1986w

**adder (1)** A device whose output is a representation of the sum of the two or more quantities represented by the inputs. *See also*: electronic analog computer; half-adder. (C/MIL) [2], 162-1963w

(2) A device whose output data is the arithmetic sum of the two or more quantities presented as input data. *Contrast*: subtracter. *See also*: adder-subtracter; full adder; half adder; parallel adder; quarter adder; serial adder; summer. (C) 610.10-1994

**adder-subtracter** A device that acts either as an adder or subtracter depending upon the control signal received. *Note*: The adder-subtracter may be constructed so as to yield the sum and the difference at the same time. (C) 610.10-1994

**add file** A file containing records that are being added or are to be added to a master file. (C) 610.5-1990

**addition agent (electroplating)** A substance that, when added to an electrolyte, produces a desired change in the structure or properties of an electrodeposit, without producing any appreciable change in the conductivity of the electrolytes, or in the activity of the metal ions or hydrogen ions. *See also*: electroplating. (EEC/PE) [119]

**addition without carry\*** *See*: exclusive OR.

\* Deprecated.

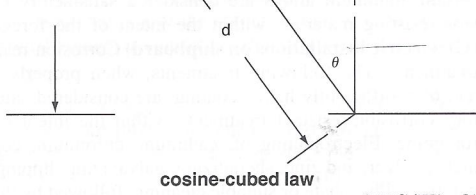
**additive** A chemical compound or compounds added to an insulating fluid for the purpose of imparting new properties or altering those properties that the fluid already has. (PE) 637-1985r

**add-on board** *See*: expansion board.

**add record** A record that is to be added or that has been added to a master file. *Contrast*: deletion record. (C) 610.5-1990

**address (1) (semiconductor memory)** Those inputs whose states select a particular cell or group of cells.

IPR2017-0181905  
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cosine-cubed law

(EEC/IE) [126]

**cosine emission law** *See*: Lambert's cosine law.

**cosine law (illuminating engineering)** A law stating that the illuminance on any surface varies as the cosine of the angle of incidence. The angle of incidence  $\theta$  is the angle between the normal to the surface and the direction of the incident light. The inverse-square law and the cosine law can be combined as  $E = (I \cos \theta) / d^2$ . *See also*: inverse-square law.

(EEC/IE) [126]

**cosmic noise (radio-wave propagation)** Noise-like radio waves originating from extragalactic sources.

(AP) 211-1990

**cosmic radio waves** *See*: cosmic noise.

**COSRO** *See*: conical-scan-on-receive-only.

**costate** The state of the adjoint system. *See also*: control system.

(CS/IM) [120]

**cost of incremental fuel (electric power system)** The ultimate replacement cost of the fuel that would be consumed to supply an additional increment of generation (usually expressed in cents per million British thermal units).

(PE) 94-1970w

**costs (power operations)** Monies associated with investment or use of electrical plant. *See also*: fixed investment costs.

(PE) 858-1987s

**COSU** *See*: central office service unit.

**COTS** *See*: commercial-off-the-shelf.

**coulomb** The unit of electric charge in SI units (International System of Units). The coulomb is the quantity of electric charge that passes any cross section of a conductor in one second when the current is maintained constant at one ampere.

(Std100) 270-1966w

**Coulomb's law (electrostatic attraction)** The force of repulsion between two like charges of electricity concentrated at two points in an isotropic medium is proportional to the product of their magnitudes and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between them and to the dielectric constant of the medium. *Note*: The force between unlike charges is an attraction.

(Std100) 270-1966w

**coulometer (voltmeter)** An electrolytic cell arranged for the measurement of a quantity of electricity by the chemical action produced. *See also*: electricity meter.

(EEC/PE) [119]

**count (radiation counters)** A single response of the counting system. *See also*: scintillation counter; tube count.

(ED/NPS) 161-1971w, 309-1970r, 398-1972r

counter; modulo-n counter. (B) A register or storage location used to accumulate the number of occurrences of some event. *See also*: program counter.

(C) 610.10-1994

**counter beam system** Tunnel lighting system or luminaires having a light distribution that is greater in the opposite direction of travel.

(RL) C136.27-1996

**counter cells** *See*: counter-electromotive-force cells.

**counter electromotive force** (any system) The effective electromotive force within the system that opposes the passage of current in a specified direction.

(EEC/PE) [119]

**counter-electromotive-force cells (counter cells)** Cells of practically no ampere-hour capability used to oppose the battery voltage. *See also*: battery.

(EEC/PE) [119]

**counter-mounted cooking unit** A cooking appliance designed for mounting in or on a counter and consisting of one or more heating elements, internal wiring, and build-in or separately mountable controls. *See also*: wall-mounted oven.

(NEC/NESC) [86]

**counterpoise (1)** A system of conductors, elevated above and insulated from the ground, forming a lower system of conductors of an antenna. *Note*: The purpose of a counterpoise is to provide a relatively high capacitance and thus a relatively low impedance path to earth. The counterpoise is sometimes used in medium- and low-frequency applications where it would be more difficult to provide an effective ground connection.

(AP) 145-1993

**(2)** A conductor or system of conductors arranged beneath the line; located on, above, or most frequently below the surface of the earth; and connected to the grounding system of the towers or poles supporting the line

(PE/PSPD) 81-1983, C62.23-1995

**(3)** *See also*: ground grid.

(PE/T&D) 524-1992

**counter, radiation** *See*: radiation counter.

**counter tube (radiation counters)** A device that reacts to individual ionizing events, thus enabling them to be counted.

(A) (externally quenched). A radiation-counter tube that requires the use of an external quenching circuit to inhibit re-ignition. (B) (gas-filled, radiation). A gas tube used for detection of radiation by means of gas ionization. (C) (gas-flow). A radiation-counter tube in which an appropriate atmosphere is maintained by a flow of gas through the tube. (D) (Geiger-Mueller). A radiation-counter tube operated in the Geiger-Mueller region. (E) (proportional). A radiation-counter tube operated in the proportional region. (F) (self-quenched). A radiation-counter tube in which re-ignition of the discharge is inhibited by internal processes. *See also*: anticoincidence.

(ED/NPS) 161-1971w, 309-1970r

**counting channel (liquid-scintillation counting)** A region of the pulse-height spectrum that is defined by upper and lower boundaries set by discriminators.

(NI) N42.15-1990

**counting efficiency (1) (radiation counter)** The average fraction of the number of ionizing particles that are incident

on the detector that are counted.

(NI) N42.15-1990

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counting mechanism (of automatic circuit recloser) electrical impulses and successive electrical impulses. It resets if the total impulses do not occur

counting operation (of automatic circuit recloser) mechanism towards an open

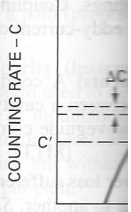
counting operation time The time between the minimum actuating current operation.

counting rate (1) Number of occurrences per unit time interval. *See also*: anticoincidence.

(2) (germanium spectrometer) The rate at which pulses are being registered. The rate is reciprocal second.

counting-rate meter (pulse counter) A meter that measures the time rate of occurrence of a pulse train. *See also*: time interval. *See also*:

counting rate versus voltage (radiation counter tube) The relationship between the counting rate and the applied voltage for a given tube.



Counting rate - voltage relative plateau normalized plateau counting rate versus voltage

counting region A region of the pulse-height spectrum of a counting channel analyzer.

country beam *See*: upper country code (telephone number) or three-digit number