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Steven M. Kaplan
Lexicographer



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color TV signal Abbreviation of **color television signal**. The signal, containing color images, which a **color TV (2)** receives.

color TV system Abbreviation of **color television system**. Same as **color TV (1)**.

color TV transmitter Abbreviation of **color television transmitter**. An entity or device which transmits **color TV (1)** images.

coloration For an audio component, any audible alterations from the original input signal. Used especially in the context of speakers, where inaccuracies in reproduction represent coloration.

colorimeter A light-sensitive instrument which measures color by quantifying the intensities of the three primary colors contained within it. May be used, for instance, for comparison with a given standard.

colorimetry The measurement of color and its properties, such as wavelength and intensity. Colorimetry may be used, for instance, to determine very small concentrations of certain substances in a solution, or to detect trace amounts of metals in finished components.

Colpitts oscillator An oscillator incorporating an active device and a capacitive voltage divider, and which uses capacitive feedback. The active device may be a vacuum tube, a bipolar junction transistor, or a field-effect transistor.

columbium Its symbol is **Cb**. The name columbium, which still used mostly by metallurgists, is an obsolescent name for the chemical element **niobium**.

column A vertical arrangement or series. For instance, a column of pixels or digits. This contrasts with a **row**, which is a horizontal arrangement or series.

column loudspeaker Same as **column speaker**.

column speaker A speaker design which incorporates two or more speaker units mounted vertically along the same axis. When the speaker units are in phase, the produced sound is reinforced. The sound-distribution pattern of these speakers is flat in the elevation plane. Also called **column loudspeaker**.

.com On the Internet, a top-level domain name suffix. The **com** is an abbreviation of **commercial**, although the entity employing this suffix need not be commercial. Also called **dot com**.

COM 1 Abbreviation of **communications port**. **2**. Acronym for **Component Object Model**. **3**. Abbreviation of **computer output to microfilm**.

COM 1 Same as **COM1**.

COM 1 port Same as **COM1**.

COM 2 Same as **COM2**.

COM 2 port Same as **COM2**.

com port Abbreviation of **communications port**.

com program Abbreviation of **communications program**.

COM1 The logical name given to the first serial port of a computer. Subsequent ports are **COM2**, **COM3**, and so on. Also called **COM1 port**.

COM1 port Same as **COM1**.

COM2 The logical name given to the second serial port of a computer. Also called **COM2 port**.

COM2 port Same as **COM2**.

coma **1**. In a CRT, a form of distortion in which a spot moving away from the center of the screen forms a comet shape. May be due, for instance, to a misalignment of the focusing of the electron beams. **2**. In an optical system, a form of aberration in which a point source of light forms a comet shape. Also known as **coma aberration**.

coma aberration Same as **coma (2)**.

coma lobes In an antenna, such as a dish antenna, a side lobe that occurs in the radiation or response pattern when only the reflector is tilted back and forth. Used, for instance, to eliminate the need to rotate the entire antenna.

comb filter A filter whose frequency response resembles the teeth of a comb, reflecting its alternately passing and rejecting narrow bands. May be used, for instance, in a TV receiver to separate the luminance and chrominance signals from the composite video signal.

combination microphone A microphone incorporating two or more microphones. Each microphone may be of the same or of a different type.

combination tone A third tone heard when two tones of different frequencies are listened to simultaneously.

combinational circuit A logic circuit whose output at any given moment depends only on its input values at that same instant. Such a circuit has no storage capability. Also called **combinatorial circuit**, or **combinational logic circuit**.

combinational logic A logic circuit or element whose output at any given moment depends only on its input values at that same instant. This contrasts with **sequential logic**, in which the output at any given moment depends, in part, on previous states. Also called **combinatorial logic**.

combinational logic circuit Same as **combinational circuit**.

combinational logic element A logic element whose output at any given moment depends only on its input values at that same instant.

combinatorial circuit Same as **combinational circuit**.

combinatorial logic Same as **combinational logic**.

combined head A magnetic tape or disk head which both reads and writes to the magnetic medium. For instance, such a head in the disk drive of a computer. Also called **read/write head**.

combiner A device that receives multiple separate inputs and unites them to form a common output. Used, for instance, to combine RF signals.

combiner circuit **1**. A circuit that receives multiple separate inputs and unites them to form a common output. **2**. A circuit that combines the luminance and chrominance signals with the synchronizing signals in a TV camera.

combo box In a GUI, a text-entry field which also has selectable default values. An example is a drop-down menu utilized for font size selection where a user can select from stated sizes or type in that desired.

comm port Abbreviation of **communications port**.

comm program Abbreviation of **communications program**.

command **1**. One or more signals which actuate a device. For instance, a remote control sending RF signals to control a device. **2**. An instruction that causes a computer action. For instance, pressing a function key to obtain the programmed result.

command buffer A segment of computer memory utilized to temporarily store commands. A command buffer is useful for various functions, such as repeating and editing commands.

command-driven Computer programs which accept commands in the form of special letters, words, or phrases. Although these commands must be learned, such programs are more flexible than **menu-driven programs**, in which menus are used to give commands.

command-driven program A program that is **command-driven**.

command-driven system An operating system that is **command-driven**.

command interpreter A program, which is part of the operating system of a computer, that accepts a given number of commands for the performance of programmed tasks. Such

dampen To gradually decrease the amplitude of a signal, wave, oscillation, or vibration. For example, the use of acoustic absorption to dissipate incident acoustic waves. Also called **damp**.

damper 1. A diode utilized to limit unwanted oscillations. Also called **damper tube** (1), **damper diode** (1), **damping tube** (1), or **damping diode** (1). 2. In a TV receiver, a diode used to limit unwanted oscillations in the horizontal deflection circuit. Also called **damper tube** (2), **damper diode** (2), **damping tube** (2), or **damping diode** (2). 3. A device which provides **damping** (1), or **damping** (3).

damper diode 1. Same as **damper** (1). 1. Same as **damper** (2).

damper tube 1. Same as **damper** (1). 1. Same as **damper** (2).

damper winding A winding which serves to dampen any oscillations in a synchronous motor. Also called **amortisseur winding**.

damping 1. A gradual reduction or limiting in the amplitude of a vibrating motion, such as an oscillation. Such decreases are due, for instance, to energy losses to friction. In measuring instruments, damping may be introduced to minimize oscillation or overshoot. 2. The extent of the reduction in amplitude **damping** (1) provides. 3. The reduction of the magnitude of vibration or resonance of a surface or material, in order to reduce or eliminate sound waves. Also called **acoustic damping**, or **soundproofing**.

damping coefficient Same as **damping factor** (1).

damping diode 1. Same as **damper** (1). 1. Same as **damper** (2).

damping factor 1. For an underdamped vibrational system, the ratio of the amplitude of a given vibration, to that of the next vibration. For example, the ratio of the amplitude of a damped oscillation to the succeeding one. Also called **damping coefficient**, or **damping ratio**. 2. The natural logarithm of the **damping factor** (1). Also called **decrement** (3), or **logarithmic decrement**. 3. The ratio of the nominal impedance of a speaker, to the total impedance driving it. A higher damping ratio stabilizes the driven speaker, and improves its performance.

damping magnet A permanent magnet whose field is utilized to dampen the movement of a moving conductor, such as a disk.

damping material A material, such as glass wool, which is placed within the enclosure of a speaker to absorb sound and reduce out-of-phase reflections.

damping ratio Same as **damping factor** (1).

damping resistor A resistor that provides **damping** (1). For instance, such a resistor used in a galvanometer to minimize oscillation or overshoot.

damping tube 1. Same as **damper** (1). 1. Same as **damper** (2).

Daniell cell A primary cell consisting of a zinc-mercury anode in dilute sulfuric acid, and a copper cathode in a copper sulfate solution, each solution separated by a porous partition. It has a voltage of approximately 1.08.

DAP Abbreviation of **Directory Access Protocol**.

DAP protocol Same as **Directory Access Protocol**.

daraf A unit of elastance, which is the reciprocal of capacitance. **Daraf** is **farad** spelled backwards, as elastance expressed in darafs is equal to 1 divided by capacitance expressed in farads.

dark conduction Conduction of current that occurs in a photosensitive material when it is not illuminated. An example is residual conduction in a photoconductive cell after the source of illumination is removed.

dark current Current that flows through a photosensitive material when it is off, or not illuminated. An example is a residual current flowing through a photoconductive cell after the source of illumination is removed. Also called **electrode dark current**.

dark discharge An electric discharge, such as that which may occur in a gas, that does not emit light.

dark fiber Fiber-optic cable that is installed but that has no electronics, such as transmitters or regenerators, connected to it. Such cables may be leased or sold to customers that add the required components. This contrasts with **lit fiber**, which does handle communications traffic.

dark resistance The resistance of a photosensitive material in total darkness.

dark space 1. A dark zone within a glow-discharge tube. For instance, an Aston dark space, or a Crookes dark space. 2. In a glow-discharge tube, a narrow dark space near the cathode, between the cathode glow and the negative glow. Also called **Crookes dark space**, **cathode dark space**, or **Hittorf dark space**.

dark spot A dark area, that may appear in a received TV image, which is caused by clouds of electrons forming within a TV camera tube.

dark-trace tube A type of CRT whose screen is specially coated, so that it darkens when impacted by electrons. The displayed signals on such a screen are presented as dark traces or blips against a bright background. Also called **skiatron**.

Darlington amplifier An amplifier consisting of a **Darlington pair**. Such an amplifier provides high input impedance and high current gain.

Darlington pair A compound connection of two bipolar junction transistors whose collectors are connected, and in which the emitter of the input transistor is connected to the base of the output transistor. Both transistors are usually mounted on the same transistor housing. Also called **double emitter follower**.

DARS Abbreviation of **digital audio radio service**. A broadcast radio service in which content is digitally encoded. Such broadcasts may or may not be transmitted via satellite.

DAS 1. Abbreviation of **data-acquisition system**. 2. Abbreviation of **dual-attachment station**.

DASD Acronym for **direct-access storage device**.

dashpot A device utilized for damping and controlling motion. It consists of a cylinder with a contained piston, whose motion is damped by a contained liquid or gas.

DAT 1. Abbreviation of **digital audio tape**. 2. Abbreviation of **dynamic address translator**.

data 1. Factual information, such as that derived from observation, experimentation, or calculation, especially that which is used for processing and/or further analysis. 2. Information which is represented in a manner suitable for digital transmission or computer use. 3. Originally the plural form of the word **datum**, although **data** is commonly used in either the plural or singular form.

data abstraction 1. In object-oriented programming, the abstraction of the underlying structure of data. 2. In object-oriented programming, the abstraction of the items contained in a data type.

data acquisition 1. The gathering of data, especially that which is to be used for processing and/or analysis. The collecting of such data may be manual or automatic. 2. The gathering of data which is, or is to be represented in a manner suitable for digital transmission or computer processing.

data-acquisition computer A computer used for **data acquisition**. Such a computer may have analog and/or digital inputs from signals generated by measuring instruments.