
telephony's DICTIONARY

SECOND EDITION

**Defining 16,000 telecommunication
words and terms**

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telephony[®]

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Telephony's Dictionary, Second Edition

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- intended to deal only with comparatively simple tasks.
- minimum charge duration (MCD)** The period of long-distance call-time for which a call charge is always applied, regardless of the actual length of the call.
- minimum discernible signal** The smallest input which will produce a discernible change in output.
- minimum standard antenna** A directional antenna having the specified minimum characteristics as regards directive gain and service sector at its operating frequency or frequencies.
- minimum usable field strength** Minimum value of the transmitter field strength necessary to permit a desired reception quality, under specified receiving conditions, in the presence of natural and man-made noise, but in the absence of interference from other transmitters. Syn. minimum field-strength.
- minor relay center** In telegraphy, a tape relay center with no alternative routing facilities.
- minor switch** See switch, minor.
- mirror, splicer's** Small mirror used by cable splicers to check on the quality of the wipe made around a lead cable splice.
- misalignment** Fault in a long transmission line resulting if each repeater section does not insert sufficient gain to offset losses. If actual conditions vary from those expected there can be significant overall gains (making crosstalk higher than it should be) or losses (making signal/noise ratio worse than it should be).
- misalignment loss** See angular misalignment loss, gap loss, lateral offset loss.
- miscellaneous common carrier** A common carrier offering TV or radio facilities, not a public landline telephone service or a public message telegraph service.
- misdelivered block** A block received by a user other than the one intended.
- mismatch, impedance** Difference between impedances at a point. These differences introduce reflection losses and make maximum power transfer impossible.
- mission bit stream** The totality of subscriber information bits being passed through a system. This excludes framing, stuffing, control and service channel bits.
- mitigation, electrolysis** Method of reducing the severity of damage to lead cable sheaths by attempting to control the direction of current flow to ground from the sheath so that the metal of the sheath is not eaten away. See cathodic protection, galvanic anode, negative return.
- mixer** 1. A circuit with two or more input signals and an output that is some desired function of the input. 2. In sound transmission, recording or reproducing, a device that combines two or more input signals, usually adjustable, into one output signal. 3. The stage in a superheterodyne radio receiver at which the incoming signal is modulated with the signal from the local oscillator to produce the intermediate frequency signal. Syn. first detector.
- mixing ratio** The ratio of the mass of water vapor to the mass of dry air in a given volume of air (frequently expressed in g/kg). The mixing ratio affects radio propagation.
- MKS.** Old system of internationally standardized physical measurements based on the meter, kilogram and second. Now replaced by the SI system.
- mnemonic** A memory aid in which an abbreviation or arrangement of symbols has an easily remembered relationship to the subject.
- mnemonic address** A simple address code with some easily remembered relationship to the actual name of the destination, often using initials or other letters from the name to make up a pronounceable word.
- mobile control terminal** The fixed base radio station which controls a network of mobile radio stations. The control terminal sends out coded pulses to call the required mobile, arranges for frequency/channel allocation and provides supervisory services during a call.
- mobile telephone** A public radiotelephone service which, by means of transportable equipment, gives both-way access to (1) the public telephone network via one base station, (2) other mobile telephone stations via one or more base stations.
- mobile telephone exchange** A switching center controlling calls in a cellular mobile radio system. (The exchange itself is not normally mobile).
- modal dispersion** Pulse spreading caused by different optical path lengths in a multi-mode fiber.
- modal distance** In telephony, the distance between the center of the grid of a telephone handset transmitter cap and the center of the mouth of a person talking, when the handset is in the modal position.
- modal distortion** See multimode distortion.
- modal noise** Disturbance in multi-mode fibers fed by laser diodes, occurring when fibers contain elements with mode-dependent attenuation (e.g., imperfect splices).
- modal position** In telephony, the position of a handset when its receiver is held in close contact with the ear of a person with head dimensions that are modal for a population.
- mode** 1. In any transmission line, one of the permitted electromagnetic field distributions. The field pattern of a given mode depends on wavelength, refractive index and waveguide geometry. 2. One of the modes of vibration of a piezoelectric crystal. 3. The most frequent value in a frequency distribution.
- mode, break-in** Method of echo suppression operation. Suppression is removed when the receiving end attempts to interrupt the voice from the sending end.
- mode, dominant waveguide** The simplest mode for propagation of radio waves through a particular waveguide. The longest possible wavelength can be transmitted when using the dominant mode.
- mode, suppressor** Method of echo suppression operation in which the receiving end is unable to break in