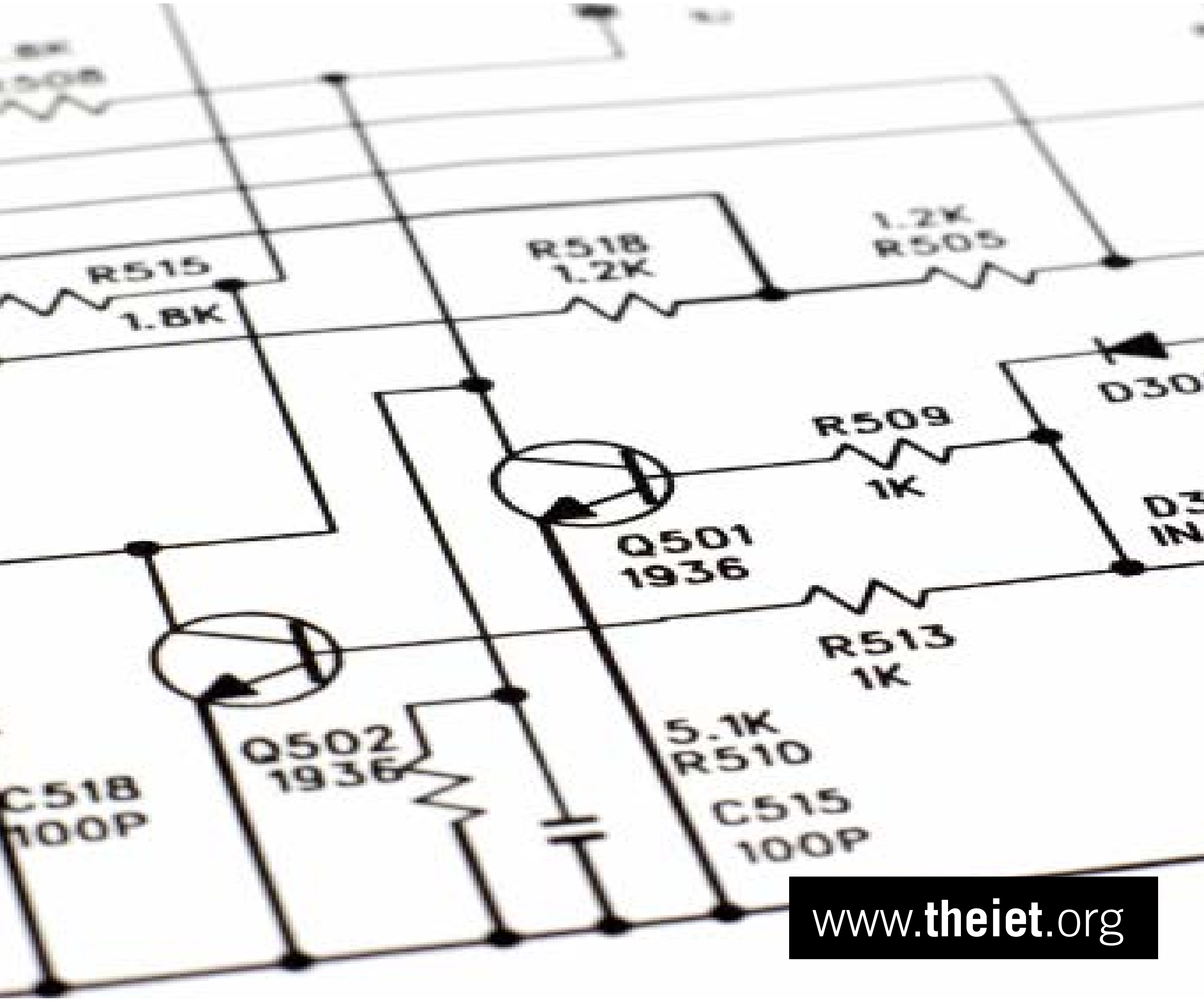
The Institution of Engineering and Technology

Units & Symbols
for Electrical & Electronic Engineers



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Preface

A booklet, Symbols and Abbreviations for use in Electrical and Electronic Engineering Courses, was published by the Institution of Electrical Engineers in 1968 and 1971. To take account of the many revisions and additions to British and International Standards since then, a new and fully revised edition was published in 1979, with reprints in 1980 and 1983.

In 1985, the editorial panel reconvened and undertook a total review and update of the Symbols and Abbreviations booklet, prior to it being re-issued under its new title in the professional brief series, in 1986. Further reviews of the contents were undertaken in 1991 and 1996. Any comments on the present content, or suggestions for additional material, will be welcomed. Please address comments to the Secretary of the Institution.

The booklet is for use by students and staff in colleges and universities, as a reference for authors of papers and books on electrical and electronic engineering and related subjects, and as a guide for draughtsmen and designers in industry.

Appendix A lists the standards which have been used in the preparation of this Guide.

Contents

Appendices

Introduction

In the expression I = 16 mA, I is the quantity symbol for the physical phenomenon of electric current, and 16 is its numerical value in terms of the decimal submultiple (10–3) of a unit (ampere) of current; mA is the unit symbol for milliampere. Other symbols (such as j, exp, Cu) are used to indicate mathematical operations, chemical elements etc. Frequently occurring technical phrases are commonly rendered as abbreviations (such as e.m.f., p.d.). In circuit diagrams, graphical symbols identify network components and devices.

International letter symbolism is based on the Roman and Greek alphabets. There are fewer than 90 distinctive capital and small letters to represent some thousands of scientific and technical quantities, and extensive duplication is unavoidable. Priority is given here to electrical, electronic and manufacturing engineering, and quantities in associated fields are, where necessary, assigned alternative or second-choice symbols.

The units and symbols listed throughout this booklet conform to the recommendations of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the British Standards Institution (BSI). Additionally, because of their common usage, in the Logic Symbols under Section 12 some distinctive-shape binary logic symbols have been used.

1. Abbreviations for Words & Phrases

Well known abbreviations, such as those listed below, are set in small roman (lower-case upright) letters, except for proper names, the unit system (SI), at the start of a sentence (e.g. A.C., not A.c.), and in titles and table headings where preferred:

Alternating current*	a.c	Phase†	ph.
Direct current*	d.c.	Potential difference	p.d.
Electromotive force	e.m.f.	Power factor	p.f.
Per unit	p.u.	Root mean square	r.m.s.

*Adjective only, as in a.c. motor, d.c. circuit.
†As in 3-ph. Supply

Ad hoc abbreviations (such as s.s.b. for single sideband) may be employed subject to an initial use in context of the full expression. Some acronyms (e.g. radar, laser) are used as nouns. The use of capital letters without full points for some abbreviations is common, particularly in the fields of logic, computers and microprocessors (see *Commonly used abbreviations in optical, logical and microprocessor curcuits* in Section 13).

2. Printing Conventions

For clarity, in scientific and technical literature, different types of object are printed in different typefaces. The normal printing conventions are as follows:

Object	Typeface	Examples
unit symbols	Roman	Hz, s, μm
scalar physical quantities	Italic	*f, t*
vestor physical quantities*	Italic boldface or	***AB***
	Italic with arrow	$\overrightarrow{AB}$
numbers and numerical constants	Roman	17, π, e
numerical variables	Italic	x, x_n, $f(x)$
matricies	Italic boldface	***A***
standard mathematical functions	Roman	sin, $\log_e$

Note: the four styles of typeface are (using the letter A as an example):

Roman (or 'upright'):	A	Roman boldface:	**A**
Italic (or 'sloping'):	*A*	Italic boldface:	***A***

*this typeface also applies to phasor physical quantities

Letter symbols, subscripts

Letter symbols should be used with consistency (e.g. only L for self-inductance, only P for power), but distinguishing subscripts can be attached (e.g. L_1 and L_2). Upper-case letters (e.g. V, I) are used for steady, mean and r.m.s values; lower-case letters for instantaneous values which vary with time (e.g. V, i). Maximum, minimum and average are indicated by subscripts (e.g. V_{max}, V_{min}, V_{av}).

3. Unit Symbols

Unit symbols are printed in upright roman characters and are used after numerical values (e.g. 10 A, but 'a few amperes'). They are the same in singular and plural, and are not followed by a full point except for normal punctuation, e.g. at the end of a sentence. A space is set between the number and its unit symbol (e.g. 230V, not 230V). The decimal multiples and submultiples given below are prefixed, without a space, to the unit symbols (e.g. 6.6 kV). Compound decimal prefixes should not be used (e.g. pF, not μμF).

10^{24}	yotta	Y				10^{-3}	milli	m
10^{21}	zetta	Z				10^{-6}	micro	μ
10^{18}	exa	E	10^{2}	hecto	h	10^{-9}	nano	n
10^{15}	peta	P	10^{1}	deca	da	10^{-12}	pico	p
10^{12}	tera	T	10^{-1}	deci	d	10^{-15}	femto	f
10^{9}	giga	G	10^{-2}	centi	c	10^{-18}	atto	a
10^{6}	mega	M				10^{-21}	zepto	z
10^{3}	kilo	k				10^{-24}	yocto	y

Powers in steps of 3 are preferred, but some others have common usage (e.g. centimetre cm, decibel dB).

Compound symbols

In a compound unit symbol, multiplication is denoted by either a dot or a space (e.g. N•m, N m). The last form may also be written without a space, provided that special care is taken when the symbol for one of the units is the same as the symbol for a prefix, e.g. mN means millinewton, not metre newton. Unit division may be indicated by a solidus (e.g. V/m). Not more than one solidus should appear in a combination (e.g. 5 m/s2, not 5 m/s/s). In some cases parentheses or negative powers may be used for clarity (e.g. 1/s or s–1; J/(m s K) or J m–1 s–1 K–1).

4. Numerical Values

Numbers should generally be printed in roman (upright) type. To facilitate the reading of numbers with many digits, these may be separated into suitable groups, preferably of three digits, counting from the decimal sign towards the left and the right; the groups should be separated by a small space, and never by a comma or a point, nor by any other means.

The decimal sign

The IEC and the BSI indicate that a comma on the line is the preferred decimal sign. In most British Standards, most UK literature, and all USA literature it is the practice to use a dot on the line as the decimal marker. In order to avoid confusion the IEE adopts the convention of English literature publications and uses a dot on the line as the decimal marker.

Multiplication of numbers

In the UK the preferred sign for the multiplication of numbers is a cross (X); if a dot is used as the decimal sign, the cross must be used. (A dot half-high may be used as the multiplication sign for numbers, but in this case a comma should be used as the decimal sign.)

5. The International System of Units

The International System of Units (SI) establishes three kinds of units: base, supplementary, and derived, discussed in the following sub-sections under Section 5. In addition, various other units, listed under the sub-heading Non-SI Units, are recognised for continued use alongside SI units. Many obsolescent non-SI units are listed in Section 11, where conversion factors are given.

SI base units and supplementary units

There are seven base units and two supplementary units, as shown below:

Base quantity	Name of SI base unit	Unit symbol
length metre m	metre	m
mass kilogram kg	kilogram	kg
time second s	second	s
electric current	ampere	A
thermodynamic temperature kelvin K	kelvin	K
amount of substance mole mol	mole	mol
luminous intensity candela cd	candela	cd
plane angle radian rad	radian	rad
solid angle steradian sr	steradian	sr

The definitions of these units are as follows:

- **metre** (m): the metre is the length of the path travelled in vacuum by light during (1/299 792 458) second.
- **kilogram** (kg): the mass of the international prototype of the kilogram.
- **second** (s): the duration of 9 192 631 770 periods of the radiation corresponding to the transition between the two hyperfine levels of the ground state of the caesium 133 atom.
- **ampere** (A): that constant current which, if maintained in two straight parallel conductors of infinite length, of negligible circular cross-section, and placed 1 metre apart in vacuum, would produce between these conductors a force equal to 2 x 10^{-7} newton per metre of length.
- **kelvin** (K): the unit of thermodynamic temperature is the fraction 1/273.16 of the thermodynamic temperature of the triple point of water (but see footnote*).
- **candela** (cd): the luminous intensity, in a given direction, of a source which emits monochromatic radiation with a frequency 540 x 10^{l2} hertz and whose energy intensity in that direction is (1/683) watt per steradian.
- **mole** (mol): the amount of substance of a system which contains as many elementary entities as there are atoms in 0.012 kilogram of carbon 12. When the mole is used, the elementary entities must be specified and may be atoms, molecules, ions, electrons, other particles, or specified groups of such particles.
- **radian** (rad): the plane angle between two radii of a circle which cut off on the circumference an arc equal in length to the radius.
- **steradian** (sr): the solid angle which, having its apex at the centre of a sphere, cuts off an area of the surface of the sphere equal to that of a square with sides of length equal to the radius of the sphere.

The supplementary units 'radian' and 'steradian' are to be regarded as dimensionless derived units which may be used or omitted in the expressions for derived units.

* In addition to the thermodynamic temperature (symbol T), expressed in kelvins, use is also made of Celsius temperature (symbol t) defined by the equation $t = T - T_o$ where T_o = 273.15 K by definition. The unit 'degree Celsius' is equal to the unit 'kelvin', but 'degree Celsius' is a special name in place of 'kelvin' for expressing Celsius temperature. A temperature interval or a Celsius temperature difference can be expressed in degrees Celsius as well as kelvins, but kelvin is to be preferred.

SI derived units

The units of all physical quantities are derived from the base and supplementary SI units, and certain of them have been named. These, together with some common compound units, are given here:

Quantity	Unit Name	Unit Symbol	Expression in terms of SI base unit
force	newton	N	$m\ kg\ s^{-2}$
energy	joule	J	$m^2\ kg\ s^{-2}$
power	watt	W	$m^2\ kg\ s^{-3}$
pressure, stress	pascal	Pa	$m^{-1}\ kg\ s^{-2}$
electric potential	volt	V	$m^2\ kg\ s^{-3}\ A^{-1}$
electric charge	coulomb	C	s A
electric flux	coulomb	C	s A
magentic flux	weber	Wb	$m^2\ kg\ s^{-2}\ A^{-1}$
magnetic flux density	tesla	T	$kg\ s^{-2}\ A^{-1}$
electric resistance	ohm	Ω	$m^2\ kg\ s^{-3}\ A^{-2}$
electric conductance	siemens	S	$m^{-2}\ kg^{-1}\ s^3\ A^2$
capacitance	farad	F	$m^{-2}\ kg^{-1}\ s^4\ A^2$
inductance	henry	H	$m^2\ kg\ s^{-2}\ A^{-2}$
Celsius temperature*	degree Celsius	oC	K
frequency	hertz	Hz	s^{-1}
luminous flux	lumen	Im	cd sr
activity (of a radionuclide)	becquerel	Bq	s^{-1}
absorbed dose	grey	Gy (=J/Kg)	$m^2\ s^{-2}$
dose equivalent	sievert	Sv (=J/Kg)	$m^2\ s^{-2}$
mass density	kilogram per cubic metre	kg/m^3	$m^{-3}\ kg$
moment of force	newton metre	N m	$m^2\ kg\ s^{-2}$
torque	mewton metre	N m	$m^2\ kg\ s^{-2}$
electric field strength	volt per metre	V/m	$m\ kg\ s^{-3}\ A^{-1}$
electrical displacement	coulomb per square metre	C/m^2	$m^{-2}\ s\ A$
magnetic field strength	ampere per metre	V/m	$m^{-1}\ A$
thermal conductivity	watt per metre kelvin	$W\ m^{-1}\ K^{-1}$	$m\ kg\ s^{-3}\ K^{-1}$
luminance	candala per square metre	cd/m^2	$m^{-2}\ cd$

*See footnote to previous sub-section - **SI base units and supplementary units**

Non-SI units

Some commonly used units not within the SI range are:

angle	degree (1° = ∏/180 rad); minute (1’ = (1⁄60)°) second (1” = (1⁄60)’); revolution (1 r = 2∏rad)
energy	calorie (cal); electronvolt (eV); watt-hour (W h)
length	ångström (Å)
mass	ton (ton); tonne (= metric ton) (t) unified atomic mass unit (u)
pressure, stress	atmosphere (atm); bar (bar); torr (Torr)
rotational frequency	revolution per minute (r/min)*, revolution per second (r/s)*
time	minute (min); hour (h); day (d); year (a)
volume	litre (L, l or litre)

*These are widely used for rotational frequency in specifications of rotating machinery.

6. Quantity Symbols for Mechanics, Thermodynamics, Illumination

As noted in Section 2, an italic typeface is used for quantity symbols.

Quantity	Symbol	SI Unit
acceleration, angular	α	rad/s^2
acceleration, linear	a	m/s^2
acoustic pressure	p	Pa
angle, plane	α, β, γ	rad
angle, solid	Ω	sr
angular momentum	L	kg m^2 s^{-1}
area, surface area	A, S	m^2
bulk compressibility	K	m^2/N
coefficient of heat transfer	α	W m^{-2} K^{-1}
density	ρ	kg/m^3
efficiency	η	-
energy	E	J
energy, kinetic	E_k	J
energy, potential	E_p	J
energy, volume density	W	J/m^3
enthalpy	$H (=U=pV)$	J
entropy	S	J/K
force	F	N
frequency	f	Hz
frequency, angular	ω	rad/s
friction, coefficient	μ	-
friction, force coefficient	F	N s/m
friction, torque coefficient	F	N m s/rad
Gibbs function	$G (=U+pV-TS)$	J
heat, quantity of heat	Q	J
heat, heat capacity	C	J/K
heat, specific heat capacity	c	J kg^{-1} K^{-1}
heat, flow rate	ϕ_{th}	W
heat, density of heat flow rate	q	W/m^2
Helmholtz free energy	$A, F (A=U-TS)$	J
illumunance	E	Lx
internal energy	U	J
isentropic exponent	$K = -\frac{V}{p}\left(\left(\frac{\partial p}{\partial V}\right)_s\right)$	-
kinematic viscosity	v	m^2/s
length	l	m
luminance	L	cd/m^2
luminous flux	ϕ	lm
luminous intensity	I	cd
mass	m	kg
mass flow rate	qm	kg/s
mechanical impedance	Z_m	N s/m
moduli, modulus of elasticity (Young)	E	Pa
moduli, longitudinal modulus of elasticity	E	N/m^2
moduli, sheer modulus, modulus of rigidity	G	N/m^2
moduli, bulk modulus, modulus of compression	K	N/m^2
moment of force	M	N m
moment of inertia	J	kg m^2

6. Quantity Symbols for Mechanics, Thermodynamics, Illumination (continued)

Quantity	Symbol	SI Unit
momentum	p	kg m/s
Poisson ratio	μ	-
pressure, stress	p	Pa
radius of gyration	k	m
ratio of specific heat capacities	Υ $(=c_p/c_v)$	-
second axial moment of force	I_a	m^4
second polar moment of area	I_p	m^4
specific heat capacity, constant pressure	c_p	-
specific heat capacity, constant volume	c_v	-
specific heat capacity, staturation	c_{sat}	-
strain, linear	ε	-
strain, sheer	Υ	-
strain, volume strain, bulk strain	Θ	-
surface tension	Υ	N/m
temperature, thermodynamic temperature	T, Θ	K
temperature, Celsius temperature	t,	oC
temperature interval	-	K
thermal, conductivity	λ, k	w m^{-1} K^{-1}
thermal, resistance	R_{th}	K/W
time	t	s
time constant	τ	s
torque	T	N m
velocity, angular	ω	rad/s
velocity, linear	v	m/s
viscosity	η	Pa s
viscosity, kimematic		m^2/s
volume	V	m^3
volume, specific	v	m^3/kg
volume, flow rate	g_v	m^3/s
weight	G	N
work	W	j

7. Quantity Symbols for Electrotechnics

Quantity	Symbol	SI Unit
admittance	Y	S
attenuation	A	Np† dB†
attenuation coefficient	α	m^{-1}
bandwidth	B	Hz
capacitance	C	F
charge	Q	C
charge density, surface	σ	C/m^2
charge density, volume	ρ	C/m^3
conductance	G	S
conductance, mutual	g_m	S
conductivity	Υ, σ	S/m
control angle, rectifier	α	rad
control angle, inverter	β	rad
coupling factor	k	-
current	I	A
current density, area	J	A/m^2
current density, linear	A	A/m
current linkage	Θ	A
damping coefficient	δ	s^{-1} (or Np/s)
decrement, logarithmic	λ	-
dipole moment, electric	p	C m
dipole moment, magnetic	j	Wb m
dissipation factor	d	-
distortion factor	d	-
electric constant	ε_o	F/m
electric field, strength	E	V/m
electric field, level	L_e	Np††
electric flux	Ψ	C
electric flux density	D	C/m^2
electric polarisation	P	C/m^2
electric susceptibility	χ, χ_ε	-
electromotive force	E	V
energy	E, W_e	J
energy, Fermi	ε	J‡
feedback factor	β	-
frequency	f	Hz
frequency, angular	ω	rad/s
frequency, deviation	Δf	Hz
frequency, complex angular	p	s^{-1}
gain	G	-
group velocity	c_g, v_g	m/s
group delay	t_g	s
Hall coefficient	R_h, A_h	m^3/C
impedance	Z	Ω
impedance, characteristic	Z_o	Ω
impedance, surge	Z_o	Ω
inductance, self	L	H
inductance, mutual	L_{jk}, M	H
leakage factor	σ	-

† Not a SI unit but in common use—also see section 11 sub section **Special remark on Logarithmic quantities and units**
†† Not a SI unit but in common use
‡ More usually expressed in eV

7. Quantity Symbols for Electrotechnics (continued)

Quantity	Symbol	SI Unit
loss angle	δ	rad
magnetic constant	μ_o	H/m
magnetic field strength	H	A/m
magnetic flux	Φ	Wb
magnetic flux density	B	T
magnetic flux linkage	Ψ	Wb
magnetic (area) moment	m	A m^2
magnetic polarisation	B_i J	T
magnetic susceptibility	χ, κ	-
magnetic vector potential	A	Wb/m
magnetisation	H_i M	A/m
magnetomotive force	F, f_μ	A
mobility	μ	m^2 V^{-1} s^{-1}
modulation factor (a.m.)	m	-
modulation factor (f.m.)	δ	rad
noise factor	F, F_n	-
noise power	P_n	W
noise temperature	T_n	K
number density of particles	n	m^{-3}
number of phases	m	-
number of pole pairs, pulses	p	-
number of turns	N	-
period	T	s
permeability, absolute	μ	H/m
permeability, relative	μ_r	-
permeance	Λ	H, Wb/A
permittivity, absolute	ε	F/m
permittivity, relative	ε_r	-
phase, angle	Φ	rad
phase, delay	t_o	rad
phase, deviation	$\Delta\Phi$	rad
phase change	B	rad
phase-change coefficient	β	rad/m
phase velocity	c_Φ, v_Φ	m/s
polarisation, electric	P	C/m^2
polarisation, magnetic	B_i J	T
potential	V	V
potential difference	U, V	V
power, active	P	W
power, apparent	S	V A
power, reactive	Q	var†
power factor	λ	-
power factor, sinusoidal	$cos\ \Phi$	-
power-level difference	-	Np†, dB†
Poynting vector	S	W/m^2
propagation coefficient	γ	m^{-1}
Q (quality) factor	Q	-
radiant energy	Q, W	J
radiation resistance	R_r	Ω

† Not a SI unit but in common use

7. Quantity Symbols for Electrotechnics (continued)

Quantity	Symbol	SI Unit
rating	S	V A, W
reactance	X	Ω
reflection coefficient	r, p	-
refractive index	n	-
regulation	ε	p.u.†
reluctance	R, R_m	H^{-1}, A/Wb
resistance	R	Ω
resistance-temperature coefficient	α	K^{-1}
resistivity	ρ	Ω m
signal	S	-
slip	s	-
standing-wave radio	s	-
susceptance	B	S
susceptibility, electric	χ, χ_ε	-
susceptibility, magnetic	χ, κ	-
transconductance	g_m	A/V, S
transfer function	H	-
transmission factor	τ	-
turn-on, turn-off time	t_{on} t_{off}	s
voltage	U, V	V
wavelength	λ	m
work function	Φ	J ‡

† Not a SI unit but in common use
‡ More usually expressed in eV

8. Subscripts and other uses of Letters and Numbers

It is recommended as a guiding principle for the printing of subscripts that, when these are symbols for physical quantities, they should be printed in italic type. Numbers as subscripts should be printed in roman type; mathematical variables (e.g. running subscripts) should be printed in italic type. All other subscripts should be printed in roman type.

Some commonly used abbreviations, often occurring as subscripts, are as follows:

General

a	absolute
	acoustic
	active
	additional
	alternating
	ambient
	anode
	anti-resonance
	axial
amb	ambient
as	asynchronous
av	average
b	backward
	base
br	breakdown
c	calculated
	carrier
	case
	coercive
	collector
	correction
	critical
	cut-off
ch	chemical
cp	composite
cr	critical
d	d-axis
	damped
	delay
	deviation
	diameter
	difference
	diffuse
	direct
	dissipation
	distortion
	dynamic
dem	demodulation
e	effective
	electric
	emitter
	equivalent
	error
	external

exp	experimental
f	field
	filament, heater
	final
	forward
	frequency
fl	floating
g	airgap
	gate
	grid
	group
h	hysteresis
	height, depth
	hybrid
i	ideal
	image
	induced
	initial
	input
	instantaneous
	intermediate
	internal
	intrinsic
im	image
in	insertion
ind	indirect
j	junction
k	cathode
	knee
	iterative
	short circuit
K	transformation ratio
l	leakage
	limiting
	line
	local
	longitudinal
L	load
	large signal

8. Subscripts and other uses of Letters and Numbers (continued)

m	magnetic
	magnetising
	maximum
	measured
	mechanical
	mutual
	peak value
max	maximum
med	median
min	mimimum
mod	modulation
n	natural
	noise
	nominal
o	output
	spherical characteristic *in vacuo*
oc	open circuit
opt	optical
or	original
ov	overload
p	parallel, shunt
	parasitic
	pole, or pairs of poles
	primary
	psophometric
	pulse
pd	pull down
ph	phase
pk	peak
pt	punch through
pu	pull up
p-p	peak-to-peak
q	q-axis
	quadrature
	quiescent
	turn off
r	radical
	radiation
	rated
	real
	relative
	reflection
	remanent
	residual

r (cont)	resonance
	resulting
	reverse
	reverse transfer
	rotational
	rotor
ref	reference
rms	root mean square value
s	secondary
	segment
	series
	signal
	spherical
	standardised
	static
	stator
	steady issue
	storage
	synchronous
sat	saturation
sc	short-circuit
sim	simultaneous
sin	sinusodial
stg	storage
suc	successive
t	tangential
	total
	transient
	transmission
	transverse
th	thermal
	theoretical
tot	total
u	usual
	useful
v	luminous
	vartying
	vacuum
	valley
wdg	winding
x	reactive
	crosstalk

8. Subscripts and other uses of Letters and Numbers (continued)

0	characteristic free space no load zero frequency	2	negative sequence output port 2 second harmonic secondary
1	full load fundamental input port 1 positive sequence primary	3	tertiary
		, p	parallel
		, n	perpendicular
		0, s	spherical
		∞	at infinity

Semiconductors

To the incremental hybrid (h), admittance (y) and impedance (z) parameters, double subscripts are applied in the order (1) function, (2) common electrode:

(1) i or 11 input; o or 22 output; f or 21 forward transfer; r or 12 reverse transfer.
(2) b base; c collector; d drain; e emitter; g gate; s source (e.g. h_{oe}, y_{12b}).

The upper-case variant of the subscript is used for static (d.c.) or large-signal values (e.g. h_{FE}, h_{21F}).

The real and imaginary parts of a device impedance are shown, respectively, by Re and j Im (e.g. h_{ie} = Re (h_{ie}) + j Im (h_{ie})).

Upper-case letters are used for the representation of electrical parameters of external circuits and all inductances and capacitances. Except for L and C, lower-case letters are used for electrical parameters inherent in the device (e.g. r_e). In equivalent circuits using 3-terminal devices, a third letter may be used to indicate the condition at the third terminal (e.g. V_{CBO} where $I_E = 0$), while the first subscript indicates one terminal of the device and the second subscript the reference terminal or circuit node.

9. Mathematical Symbols

Term	Symbol
$\sqrt{-1}$	j
ratio of circumference to diameter of circle	π(≈3.141 592 654)
base of natural logarithms	e (≈2.718 281 828)
exponential function (to the base e) of *x*	e^x, exp *x*
logarithm to the base *a* of x	$\log_a x$
natural logarithm of *x*	ln *x* ($\log_c x$)
common logarithm of *x*	lg *x* ($\log_{10} x$)
binary logarithm of *x*	lb x ($\log_2 x$)
circular functions of *x*	sin *x*, cos *x*, tan *x*
inverse circular functions of *x*	arcsin *x*, arccos *x*, arctan *x*
hyperbolic functions of *x*	sinh *x*, cosh *x*, tanh *x*
inverse hyperbolic functions of *x*	arsinh *x*, arcosh *x*, artanh *x*
sum	$\sum$
product	$\prod$
function *f*	*f*
value of the function *f* at *x*	f(x)
limit to which $f(x)$ tends as *x* approaches a	$\lim_{x \ a} f(x)$
finite increment of *x*	Δx
variation of *x*	∂f
total differential of *f*	df
operators $\frac{\partial}{\partial x}$, $\frac{d}{dx}$	D_x, D
differential coefficient of order n of $f(x)$	$\frac{d^n f}{dx^n}$, $f^{(n)}(x)$
partial differential coefficient of order $f(x, y, \ldots)$ with respect to *x*, when *y*, ... are held constant	$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x, y, \ldots)$, $\left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}\right)_{y,\ldots}$
indefinite integral of $f(x)$ with respect to *x*	$\int f(x)dx$
definitive integral of $f(x)$ from $x = a$ to $x = b$	$\int_a^b f(x)dx$
convolution product of *f* and *g*	$f * g$
matrix ***A***	$\begin{pmatrix} A_{ll} & \cdots & A_{ln} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ A_{ml} & \cdots & A_{mn} \end{pmatrix}$
inverse of the square matrix ***A***	$\boldsymbol{A}^{-l}$
transpose matrix of ***A***	$\boldsymbol{A}^{T}$, $\tilde{\boldsymbol{A}}$
complex conjugate matrix of ***A***	$\boldsymbol{A}^*$
determinant of the square matrix ***A***	*det* ***A***, $\begin{vmatrix} A_{n} & \cdots & A_{ln} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ A_{nl} & \cdots & A_{nn} \end{vmatrix}$

9. Mathematical Symbols (continued)

Term	Symbol
vector ***A***	***A***, (*A* also used)
magnitude of the vector ***A***	*A*, **A**
scalar product of ***A*** and ***B***	**A** •|**B**|
vector product of ***A*** and ***B***	***A x B***
del operator	
gradient of **ø**	**ø,** grad **ø**
divergence of ***A***	• ***A***, div ***A***
curl of ***A***	x ***A***, curl ***A***
Laplacian	$^2 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2}$
D'Alembertian	$\square = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^2} - \frac{1}{c^2} \cdot \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2}$

10. Physical Constants

Quantity	Symbol	Numerical Value	Unit
acceleration of free fall (standard)	g_n	9.806 65*	m/s^2
atmospheric pressure (standard)	p_o	$1.013\ 25 \times 10^5$*	Pa
atomic mass constant (unified)	m_u	$1.660\ 540 \times 10^{-27}$	kg
Avogadro constant	N_A	$6.022\ 137 \times 10^{23}$	mol^{-1}
Bohr magneton	μ_B	$9.274\ 015 \times 10^{-24}$	J/T
Boltzmann constant	k	$1.380\ 658 \times 10^{-23}$	J/K
elementary (proton) charge	e	$1.602\ 177 \times 10^{-19}$	C
electron: charge	$-e$	$-1.602\ 177 \times 10^{-19}$	C
electron: rest mass	m_e	$9.109\ 390 \times 10^{-31}$	kg
electron: charge/mass ratio	e/m_e	$1.758\ 820 \times 10^{11}$	C/kg
Faraday constant	F	$9.648\ 531 \times 10^4$	C/mol
free space: electric constant	ε_o	$8.854\ 188 \times 10^{-12}$	F/m
free space: intrinsic impedance	Z_o	376.730 3	Ω
free space: magnetic constant	μ_o	$4\pi \times 10^{-7}$	H/m
free space: speed of e.m. waves	c	$2.997\ 924\ 58 \times 10^8$*	m/s
gravitational constant	G	$6.672\ 59 \times 10^{-11}$	$N\ m^2\ kg^{-2}$
ideal molar gas constant	R	8.314 510	$J\ mol^{-1}\ K^{-1}$
neutron rest mass	m_n	$1.674\ 929 \times 10^{-27}$	kg
Planck constant	h	$6.626\ 076 \times 10^{-34}$	J s
normalised	$\hbar$	$1.054\ 573 \times 10^{-34}$	J s
proton: charge	$+e$	$1.602\ 177 \times 10^{-19}$	C
proton: rest mass	m_p	$1.672\ 623 \times 10^{-27}$	kg
proton: charge/mass ratio	e/m_p	$9.578\ 831 \times 10^7$	C/kg
radiation constants	c_1	$3.741\ 775 \times 10^{-16}$	$W\ m^2$
	c_2	$1.438\ 769 \times 10^{-2}$	m K
Stefan-Boltzmann constant	σ	$5.670\ 51 \times 10^{-8}$	$W\ m^{-2}\ K^{-4}$
unified atomic mass unit (is one twelfth of the mass of the atom of the nuclide 12C)		$1.660\ 540 \times 10^{-27}$	kg
velocity of sound in air (s.t.p.)	c	331.45	m/s

* exact values

Values of physical constants (apart from speed of sound) derived from CODATA Bulletin No. 63, Nov. 1986.

11. Conversion Factors

Exact values are shown with an asterisk *.
Some of these units may no longer have a legal validity.

Length

1 Å	100.0*	pm
1 mil	25.4*	μm
1 in	25.4*	mm
1 ft	0.304 8*	m
1 yd	0.914 4*	m
1 mile	1.609 344*	km
1 nautical mile	1.852*	km
1 astronomical unit	0.149 597 87*	Tm
1 light year	9.460 3	Pm

Area, Volume

1 in^2	645.16*	mm^2
1 ft^2	0.092 903 04*	m^2
1 yd^2	0.836 127	m^2
1 ha	10 000.0*	m^2
1 in^3	16 387.064*	mm^3
1 litre	1.0*	dm^3
1 UK fluid ounce	28.41×10^{-6}	m^3
1 UK gal	4.546 09	L
1 US gal	3.785 41	L
1 ft^3	0.028 316 8	m^3
1 yd^3	0.764 555	m^3
1 $mile^2$ (640 acres)	2.589 98	km^2
1 are	100.0*	m^2
1 acre (4840 yd^2)	4 046.855	m^2

Mass, Density

1 oz (adp)	28.35	g
1 oz (troy)	31.10	g
1 lb	0.453 592.37*	kg
1 tonne	1 000.0*	kg
1 (UK) ton	1 016.05	kg
1 lb/ft^3	16.018 5	kg/m^3
1 lb/in^3	27.68	Mg/m^3
1 cwt (UK)	50.802 3	kg
1 carat	0.2*	g

Velocity

1 ft/s	0.304 8*	m/s
1 mile/h	0.447 04*	m/s
1 knot	0.514 4	m/s

Force, Pressure, Torque

1 ozf	278.0	mN
1 lbf	4.448 22	N
1 kgf	9.806 65*	N
1 Torr	133.322	Pa
1 mm Hg	133.322	Pa
1 in H_2O	249.09	Pa
1 m H_2O	9.806 65*	kPa
1 bar	100.0*	kPa
1 lbf/in^2	6.894 76	kPa
1 ft lbf	1.355 82	N m
1 dyne	10.0*	μN
1 standard atmosphere	0.101 325*	MPa

Energy, Power

1 eV	0.160 218 2	aJ
1 cal (international table)	4.186 8*	J
1 Cal (= 1 kcal thermochemical)†	4.184*	kJ
1 ft lbf	1.355 82	J
1 m kgf	9.806 65*	J
1 Btu	1.055 06	kJ
1 therm	105.506	MJ
1 kW h	3.6*	Mj
1 ft lbf/s	1.355 82	W
1 m kgf/s	9.806 65*	W
1 Btu/h	0.293 071	W
1 hp (UK)	0.745 7	kW
1 erg/s	0.1*	μW

† Widely used for energy content of food. (There are different 'calories', of marginally different sizes; also note that the 'big calorie', used in newspapers etc., is 1000 times the corresponding 'small calorie'.)

Nucleonics, Radiation

Curie	1 Ci	3.70×10^{10}*	Bq
rad	1 rd	0.01*	Gy
Röntgen	1 R	2.58×10^{-4}*	C/kg
barn	1 barn (or 1 b)	10^{-28}*	m^2
foot-candle	1 ft cd	10.76	lx

Special remark on logarithmic quantities and units

The expression for the time dependence of a damped harmonic oscillation can be written either in real notation or as the real part of a complex notation

$F(t) = A\,e^{-\partial t}\cos(\omega t) = \mathrm{Re}(A\,e^{-(\partial + j\omega)t})$

This simple relation involving ∂ and ω can be obtained only when e (base of natural logarithms) is used as the base of the exponential function. The coherent SI unit for the damping coefficient ∂ and the angular frequency ω is second to the power minus one, i.e. 1/s. Using the special names neper, Np, and radian, rad, for the units of ∂t and ωt respectively, the units for ∂ and ω become neper per second, Np/s, and radian per second, rad/s, respectively. Neper and radian are special names for the 'dimensionless' unit one, 1. The neper is used as a unit for logarithmic quantities; the radian is used as a unit for plane angles and for the phase of circular functions.

Corresponding variation in space is treated in the same manner

$F(x) = A\, e^{-\alpha x} \cos(\beta□x) = \mathrm{Re}(A\, e^{-\gamma x})$, $\gamma = \alpha□+ j\beta$

where the unit for α is neper per metre, Np/m, and the unit for β is radian per metre, rad/m.

In ISO 31, the level of a field quantity is therefore defined as the natural logarithm of a ratio of two amplitudes, $L_F = \ln(F/F_0)$, and is hence a quantity of dimension one. The unit neper (= the number 1) is the level of a field quantity when $F/F_0 = e$.

Since power is often proportional to the square of an amplitude, a factor 1/2 is introduced in the definition of the level of a power quantity $L_p = (1/2) \ln(P/P_0)$ in order to make the level of the power quantity under these circumstances equal to the level of the field quantity.

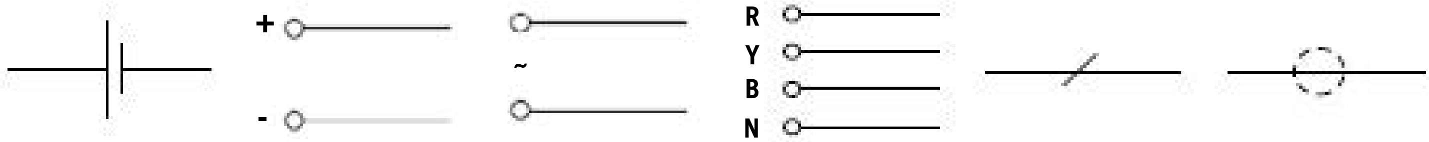
In practice the non-coherent unit degree, ...°, (1° = π/180 rad) is often used for angles and the non-coherent unit bel, B, [1 B = $(1/2) \log_e^{10}$ Np ≈ 1.151 293 Np] is based on common logarithms (base 10) for logarithmic quantities. Instead of the bel, its sub-multiple the decibel, dB, is commonly used.

Some numerical conversion factors are:

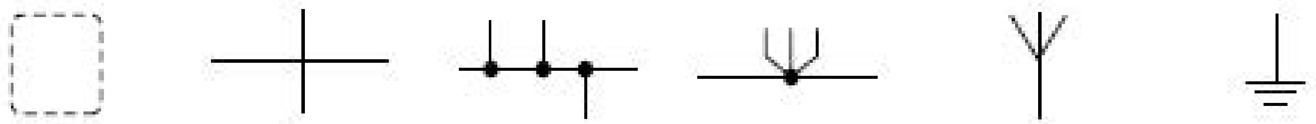
power level	1 dB	$0.05 \log_e 10$ Np (=0.115 129 Np)
	1 Np	$20 \log_{10} e$ dB (≈8.686 dB
frequency	1 octave	$\log_{10} 2$ decade (≈0.301 decade)
	1 decade	$\log_2 10$ octave (≈3.321 octave)

12. Graphical Symbols

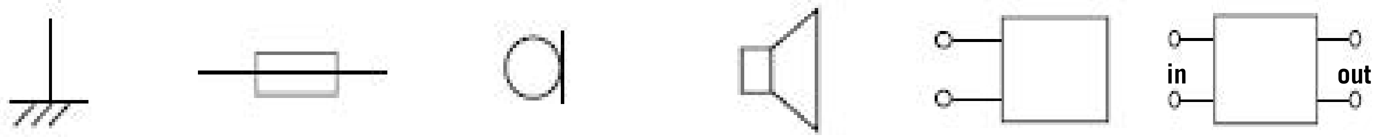
Connections and network elements



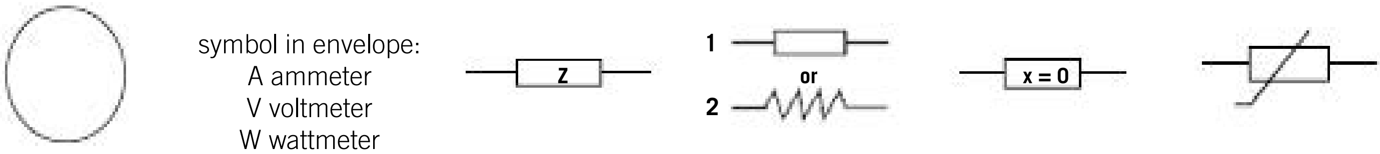
cell battery (long +ve) | d.c. supply | a.c. supply | *n* conductors | screened conductor



screen | crossing | junctions | common | antenna | earth



frame | fuse | microphone | loudspeaker | one-port | two-port

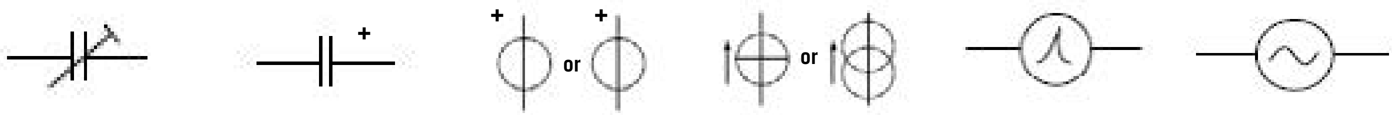


indicating movement

symbol in envelope:
A ammeter
V voltmeter
W wattmeter
etc.

general impedance | resistor (1 prefered) | non-reactive | *U* (or V) non-linear

thermistor † | moving contact | general impedance (1 prefered) | variable | tapping | capacitor



pre-set | polarised e.g. electrolytic | ideal voltage source † | ideal current source † | signal | oscillator

signal path

† Not in BS but in common use

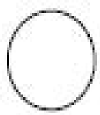
Power plant

Transformers:

2-wdg 3-wdg auto current or pulse

if desired, core shown by single line annotated to indicate material

Machines:



descriptive symbols in envelope:
G (generator), M (motor), G̲ d.c., M̲ a.c.
S (synchronous), GS, MS

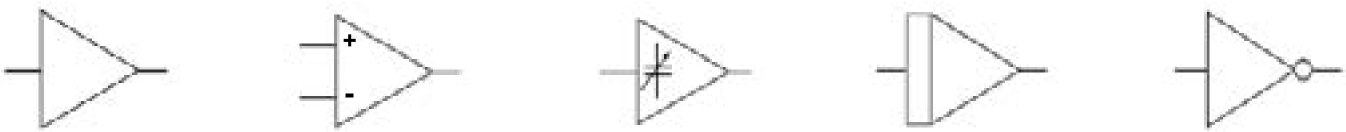
linear M stepping M wdgs M starter

choke reactor circuit-breaker isolator gap bridge rectifier converter

{ -/ d.c.
~/- rectifier
-/~ inverter
etc.

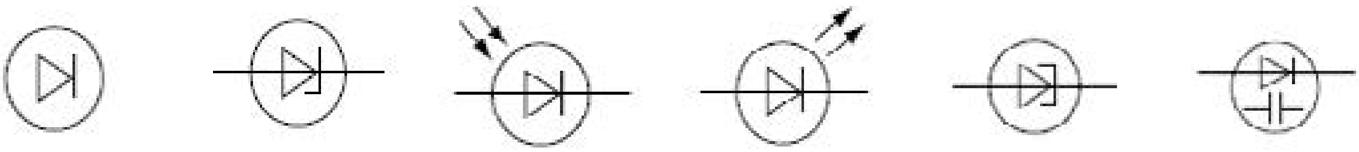
Electronic devices

Amplifiers:



general operational parametric integrating inverting

Diodes:



general breakdown diode, Esaki diode photo-diode light emitting diode tunnel diode varactor

Thyristors:

triode thyristor (type unspecified) triac reverse blocking n-gate triode thyristor p-gate

Electronic devices (continued)

Cells:

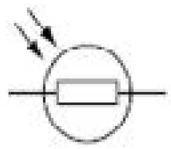


photo-conductive device

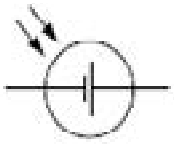
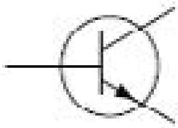


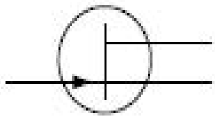
photo-voltaic

Transistors:

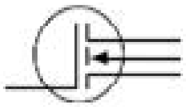
(for p-type arrows are reversed)



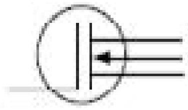
npn transistor



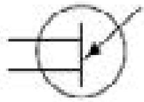
JUGFET n-channel



IGFET † n-channel enhancement



IGFET † n-channel depletion



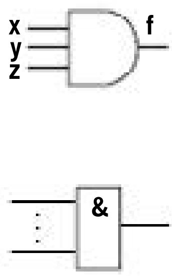
unijunction transistor with n-type base

(use of the envelope symbol is optional unless there is a connection to it)
† with substrate connection brought out

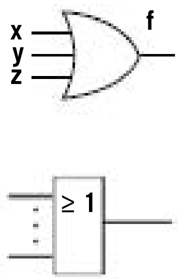
Logic symbols

BS 3939 (1991)

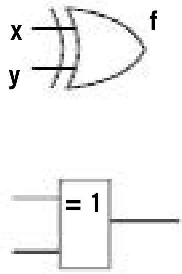
†



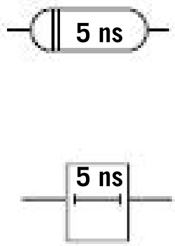
AND element



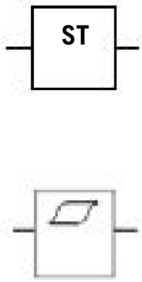
Or element



EX CL OR



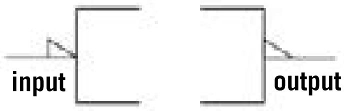
delay element (5 ns)



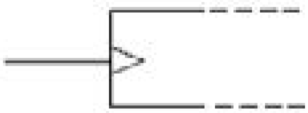
Schmitt trigger

† Not in BS but in common use

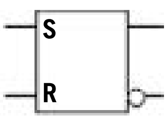
logic negation



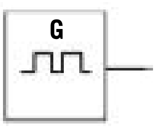
logic polarity



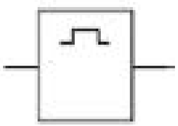
dynamic input



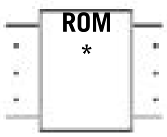
RS-bistable



astable element

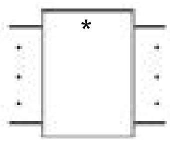


monostable



memories: ROM; PROM; RAM; CAM

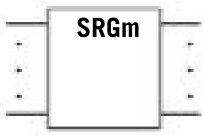
asterisk: indicates no. of addresses and bits



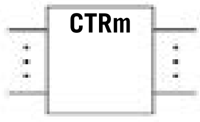
arithmetic elements

asterisk:
∑ adder
P-Q subtractor
π multiplier
ALU arithmetic logic unit

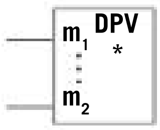
Logic symbols (continued)



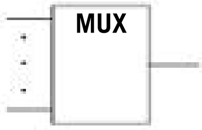
shift register



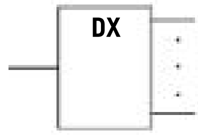
counter



display unit

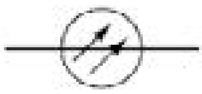


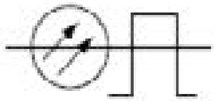
multiplexer

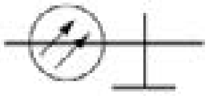


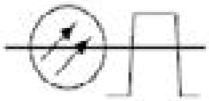
demultiplexer

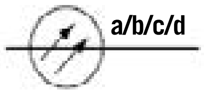
Optic fibre symbols


optical fibre
optical fibre cable

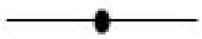

multimode stepped index optical fibre

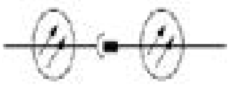

single mode stepped index optical fibre

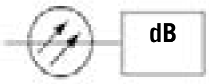

graded index optical fibre



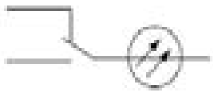
a core diameter
b cladding "
c first coating "
d jacketing "

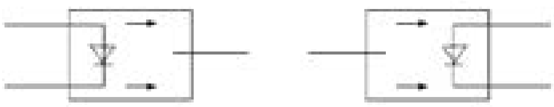

permanent joint


optical connection female-male

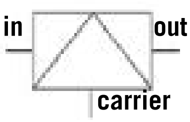


optical attenuator

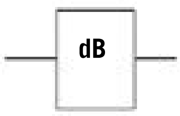

changeover contact in optical fibre circuit


guided light devices

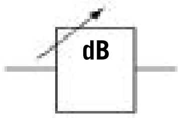
Telecommunication symbols



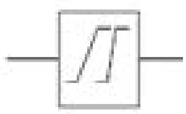
general symbol for: modulator, demodulator, discriminator

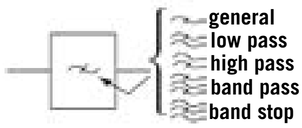


fixed loss attenuator

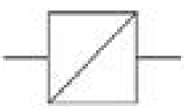


variable loss attenuator


distortion corrector

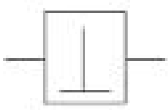


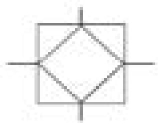
filter

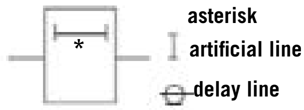


f_1/f_2 freq. chgr.
$f/_{(f/n)}$ freq. div.
$f/_{nf}$ freq. mult.
$2^5/_2{}^7$ code conv. etc

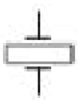
general symbol for charger

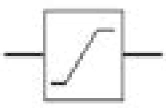

balancing network

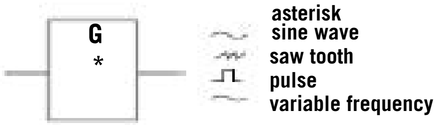

hybrid transformer



delay line

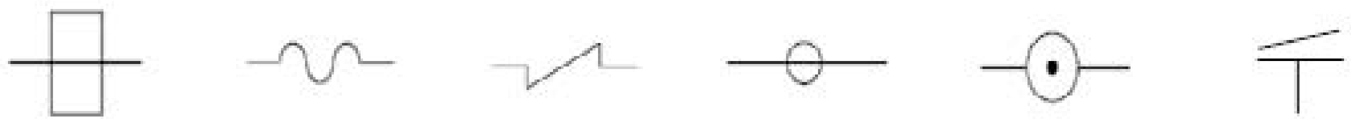

piezo-electric circuit


threshold

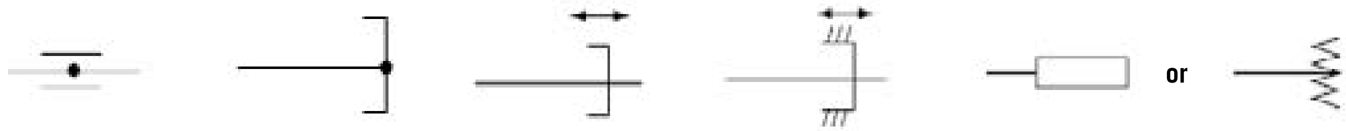


generator

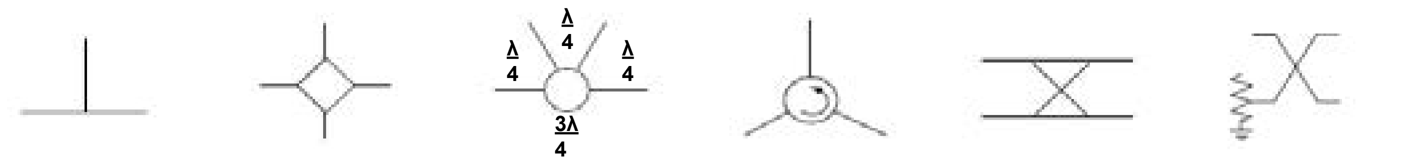
Microwave devices



rectangular | flexible | twisted | rectangular | coaxial | taper



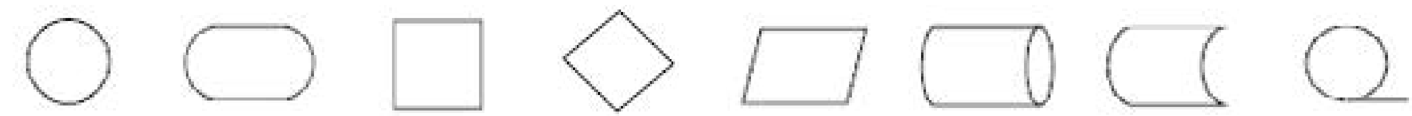
stripline 3 conductors | short-circuit | sliding short-circuit | non-contacting piston | matched termination



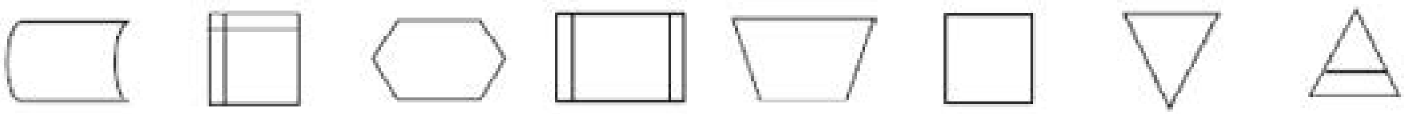
three-port junction | four-port junction | hybrid ring | three-port circulator | directional coupler | quadrature coupler

isolator | phase changer (directional) | T-R tube | cavity resonator | maser amplifier | laser generator

Flowchart symbols

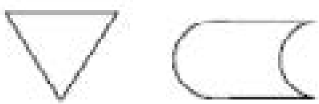


connector | terminal / interrupt | process | decision | data | direct access storage | on-line storage | sequential access storage



stored data | internal storage | preparation | predefined process | manual operation | auxiliary operation | merge | extract

control transfer | loop | limit | collate | sort | document | display | manual input



off-line storage | magnetic disk

13. Some Abbreviations

Commonly used abbreviations in optical, logic and microprocessor circuits

Abbreviation	Description
ACC	accept
ACK	acknowledge
ADR	address
ALU	arthmetic logic unit
BCD	binary code decimel
BCTR	bit counter
BIN	binary
BPS	bits per second
BUF	buffer
BUS	bus
B	byte
CAR	carry
CC	condition code
CE	chip enabled
CLK	clock
CLR	clear
COMP	compare
CP	clock pulse
CR	clock register
CT	count
CTR	counter
CY	cycle
D	data
DEC	decimal
DEL	delay
DIN	data in
DOUT	data out
DR	data register
DRAM	dynamic random access memory
EN	enable
END	end
EPROM	electronic programmable read only memory
ERASE	erase
ERR	error
EXOR	exclusive or
F	function
FF	flip-flop
FIFO	first in - first out
G	gate
GEN	generate
GND	ground
HEX	hexidecimal

Abbreviation	Description
INH	inhibit
INT	interrupt
I/O	input / output
LD	load
LOG 1	logical one
LOG Z	logical zero
LSB	least-significant bit
MAR	memory address register
MM	main memory
MPX	multiplex
MR	memory register
MSB	most significant bit
MUX	multiplexor
µP	microprocessor
N	negation
OCT	octal
OP	operation
PAR	parity
PC	program counter
PE	parity error
PU	pull up
RAM	random access memory
REG	register
RES	reset
RO	read out
ROM	read only memory
RUN	run
SET	set
SH	shift
SRAM	static random access memory
START	start
STOP	stop
STR	storage
SYNC	synchronisation
TERM	terminate
TO	to (transfer)
TP	time pulse
TRIG	trigger
WI	write in
WR	write

Component identification abbreviations

Abbreviation	Description
AE	aerial
B	battery
BB	busbar
C	capacitor
CB	circuit breaker
CK	clock
CON	contactor
CSR	controlled semicondustor rectifier
D	diode
EQ	equaliser
F	fan
FB	ferrite disc or bead
FC	ferrite core
FL	filter
FS	fuse
FW	field winding
G	generator
H	heater
HC	heat coil
HD	hydrophone
IC	integrated circuit
IREG	induction regulator
ISL	isolator
K	key

Abbreviation	Description
L	inductor
LK	link
LP	lamp
LS	loudspeaker
M	motor
ME	meter
MG	motor generator
MIC	microphone
MK	morse key
ML	module
MT	telephone handset
MX	matrix
PCC	photoconductive cell
PEC	photoelectric cell
PL	plug
RE	recording instrument or meter
SD	surge diverter of any type
SE	sealing end
SEM	semaphore indicator
SHW	shunt winding
SRAM	static random access memory
SW	seires winding
TD	transductor
TL	telephone receiver
U	unit
VB	vibrator

14. Letter and Digit Code for R & C Values

For resistors, R, K, M, G and T are used as multipliers for 1, 10^3, 10^6, 10^9 and 10^{12}, respectively, of resistance values expressed in ohms, whilst for capacitors, p, n, µ, m and F are used as multipliers for 10^{-12}, 10^{-9}, 10^{-6}, 10^{-3} and 1, respectively, of the capacitance values expressed in farads.

For example:

Resistance values	Coded marking	Capacitance values	Coded marking
0.15 Ω	R15	0.15 pF	p15
1.5 Ω	1R5	1.5 pF	1p5
15.0 Ω	15R	15.0 pF	15p
1.5 kΩ	1K5	1.5 nF	1n5
150 kΩ	150K	150 nF	150n
1.5 MΩ	1M5	1.5 µF	1µ5
15 MΩ	15M	15 µF	15µ
1.5 GΩ	1G5	1.5 mF	1m5
1.5 TΩ	1T5	15 mF	15m

Appendix A

List of Standards used in complilation of 'Units & Symbols'

British Standards Institution (BSI) Publications

BS 3363: 1988	Letter symbols for semiconductor devices and integrated microcircuits
BS 3939: 1992	Graphical symbols for electrical power, telecommunications and electronics diagrams
BS 4058: 1995	Data processing flow chart symbols, rules and conventions
BS 5070: 1991	Engineering diagram drawing practice. Part 4: recommendations for logic diagrams
BS 5555: 1993	SI Units and recommendations for the use of their multiples (ISO 1000: 1992) and of certain other units
BS 5775: 1993	Quantities, units and symbols. Part 5: electricity and (ISO 31: 1992) magnetism. Part 11: mathematical signs and symbols for use in the physical sciences and technology

Note: The information given in the Booklet is in accordance (where relevant) with the Council* Directive on Units of Measurement (1991).

*The Council of the European Communities

Appendix B

Typefaces used

English Alphabet

Upper case upright	Lower case upright	Upper case sloping	Lower case sloping
A	a	*A*	*a*
B	b	*B*	*b*
C	c	*C*	*c*
D	d	*D*	*d*
E	e	*E*	*e*
F	f	*F*	*f*
G	g	*G*	*g*
H	h	*H*	*h*
I	i	*I*	*i*
J	j	*J*	*j*
K	k	*K*	*k*
L	l	*L*	*l*
M	m	*M*	*m*
N	n	*N*	*n*
O	o	*O*	*o*
P	p	*P*	*p*
Q	q	*Q*	*q*
R	r	*R*	*r*
S	s	*S*	*s*
T	t	*T*	*t*
U	u	*U*	*u*
V	v	*V*	*v*
W	w	*W*	*w*
X	x	*X*	*x*
Y	y	*Y*	*y*
Z	z	*Z*	*z*

Appendix B

Typefaces used

Greek Alphabet

	Upper case upright	Lower case upright	Upper case sloping	Lower case sloping
alpha	Α	α	A	α
beta	Β	β	B	β
gamma	Γ	γ	$\mathit{\Gamma}$	γ
delta	Δ	δ, ∂*	$\mathit{\Delta}$	δ
epsilon	Ε	ε	E	ε
zeta	Ζ	ζ	Z	ζ
eta	Η	η	H	η
theta	Θ	θ	$\mathit{\Theta}$	θ
iota	Ι	ι	I	ι
kappa	Κ	κ	K	κ
lambda	Λ	λ	$\mathit{\Lambda}$	λ
mu	Μ	μ	M	μ
nu	Ν	ν	N	ν
xi	Ξ	ξ	$\mathit{\Xi}$	ξ
omicron	Ο	ο	O	o
pi	Π	π	$\mathit{\Pi}$	π
rho	Ρ	ρ	P	ρ
sigma	Σ	σ	$\mathit{\Sigma}$	σ
tau	Τ	τ	T	τ
upsilon	Υ	υ	$\mathit{\Upsilon}$	υ
phi	Φ	φ	$\mathit{\Phi}$	φ
chi	Χ	χ	X	χ
psi	Ψ	ψ	$\mathit{\Psi}$	ψ
omega	Ω	ω	$\mathit{\Omega}$	ω

*Used only for partial differential coefficients

The Institution of Engineering and Technology

IET Offices

London
Savoy Place
2 Savoy Place
London
WC2R 0BL
United Kingdom
www.savoyplace.co.uk

Stevenage
Michael Faraday House
Six Hills Way
Stevenage Herts
SG1 2AY
United Kingdom
T: +44 (0)1438 313311
F: +44 (0)1438 765526
E: postmaster@theiet.org
www.theiet.org

New Jersey
379 Thornall Street
Edison NJ 08837
USA
T: +1 (732) 321 5575
F: +1 (732) 321 5702

Beijing
Suite G/10F
China Merchants Tower
No.118 Jianguo Road
Chaoyang District
Beijing China
100022
T: +86 10 6566 4687
F: +86 10 6566 4647
E: china@theiet.org
www.theiet.org.cn

Hong Kong
4412-13 Cosco Tower
183 Queen's Road
Central
Hong Kong
T: +852 2521 2140
F: +852 2778 1711

Bangalore
Unit No 405 & 406
4th Floor, West Wing
Raheja Towers
M. G. Road
Bangalore 560001
India
T: +91 80 4089 2222
E: india@theiet.in
www.theiet.in

IET Venues

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London
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Glasgow
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