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Standard Terminology Related to Force, Deformation and Related Properties of Textiles¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This terminology standard is a compilation of definitions of technical terms related to force and deformation properties when evaluating a stress-strain curve of a textile. (See [Figs. X1.1 and X1.2](#).) A chart showing the relationship of the basic terms is shown in [Table 1](#). Terms that are generally understood or adequately defined in other readily available sources are not included.

1.2 For other terms associated with textiles, refer to Terminology [D123](#).

1.3 *This international standard was developed in accordance with internationally recognized principles on standardization established in the Decision on Principles for the Development of International Standards, Guides and Recommendations issued by the World Trade Organization Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

[D123 Terminology Relating to Textiles](#)

[D1578 Test Method for Breaking Strength of Yarn in Skein Form](#)

[D5344 Test Method for Extension Force of Partially Oriented Yarn](#)

3. Terminology

break factor, *n*— *in yarn testing*, the comparative breaking load of a skein of yarn adjusted for the linear density of the yarn expressed in an indirect system. [[D13.58](#)] [D1578](#)

breaking elongation—See **elongation at break**.

breaking force, *n*—the maximum force applied to a material carried to rupture. (Compare **breaking point**, **breaking strength**. *Syn.* **force-at-break**)

DISCUSSION—Materials that are brittle usually rupture at the maximum force. Materials that are ductile usually experience a maximum force before rupturing.

breaking load—deprecated term. Use the preferred term **breaking force**.

breaking point, *n*—*on a force-elongation curve, or stress-strain curve*, the point corresponding with the breaking force or the breaking stress in a tensile test. (Compare **breaking force**.)

breaking strength, *n*—strength expressed in terms of breaking force. (See also **breaking force** and **strength**. *Syn.*, strength at break)

breaking tenacity, *n*—the tenacity at the breaking force. (See also **breaking force**, **tenacity**.)

breaking toughness, *n*—toughness up to the breaking force of a material.

DISCUSSION—Breaking toughness is represented by the area and the stress-strain curve from the origin to the breaking force per unit length, and, in textile strands, is expressed as work (joules) per unit of linear density of the material. In textile fabrics, the unit is joules per gram.

chord modulus, *n*—*in a stress-strain curve*, the ratio of the change in stress to the change in strain between two specified points on the curve.

compression, *n*—the act, process, or result of compacting, condensing, or concentrating.

compressive force, *n*—the perpendicular force applied to surface(s) of a material in compaction.

compression recovery, *n*—the degree to which a material returns to its original dimension(s) after removal of a compressive force.

compression resistance, *n*—the ability of a material to oppose deformation under a compressive force.

corresponding elongation—See **elongation at specified force**.

corresponding force—See **force-at-specified-elongation**.

deformation, *n*—a change in shape of a material caused by forces of compression, shear, tension, or torsion.

DISCUSSION—Deformation may be immediate or delayed. Delayed deformation may be either recoverable or nonrecoverable.

¹ This terminology is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee [D13](#) on Textiles and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee [D13.58](#) on Yarns and Fibers

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

TABLE 1 Relationship of Force and Deformation Terms

Term	Symbol	Mathematical Expression	Unit
Length	L		mm (in.)
Extension	ΔL		mm (in.)
Strain		$\Delta L/L$	
Elongation		$\Delta L/L \times 100$	%
Linear density	D_1^A		tex (den)
Cross-sectional area	A		mm ² (in. ²)
Force	F		N (lbf)
Tension	T		N (lbf)
Strength	S		N (lbf)
Tenacity		F/D_1^A	mN/tex (lbf/den) ^B
Stress		F/A	N/m ² (lbf/yd ²) ^B

^A In computers, this may be given as "LD" instead of "D₁".

^B For fibers, these inch-pound units are usually gf/den and gf/in.²

deformation, permanent, *n*—the net long-term change in a dimension of a specimen after deformation and relaxation under specified conditions. (Syn. **permanent set, nonrecoverable deformation, and nonrecoverable stretch.**)

DISCUSSION—Permanent deformation is usually expressed as a percentage of the original dimension.

delayed deformation, *n*—deformation which is time-dependent and exhibited by material subject to a continuing force. [D13.58] D4848

elastic limit, *n*—in mechanics, the maximum stress which can be obtained in a material without causing permanent deformation of the material. (Compare *yield point*.)

DISCUSSION—Elastic limit is a property of a material whereas yield point is a specific point on a stress-strain curve.

elasticity, *n*—that property of a material by virtue of which it tends to recover its original size and shape immediately after removal of the force causing deformation.

elongation, *n*—the ratio of the extension of a material to the length of the material prior to stretching, expressed as a percent.

DISCUSSION—Elongation may be measured at any specified force or at rupture.

elongation at break, *n*—the elongation corresponding to the breaking force. (Compare **elongation at rupture**. See also **elongation**.) Syn. **breaking elongation**.

*elongation at the breaking load, *n**—deprecated term. Use the preferred term **elongation at break**.

elongation at specified force, (EASF), *n*—the elongation associated with a specified force on the force-extension curve. (Syn. **corresponding elongation**).

elongation at rupture, *n*—the elongation corresponding to the force-at-rupture. (Compare **elongation at break**.)

DISCUSSION—The elongation at rupture for a brittle material is usually equal to the elongation at break; but for ductile materials this elongation may be greater.

extensibility, *n*—that property by virtue of which a material can undergo extension or elongation following the application of sufficient force.

extension, *n*—the change in length of a material due to stretching. (Compare **elongation**.)

DISCUSSION—Extension may be measured at any specified force or at rupture and is expressed in units of length, for example, millimetres and inches.

extension force, *n*—the force required to stretch a material to a given length. [D13.58] D5344

extension-recovery cycle, *n*—in tension testing, the continuous extension of a specimen, with a momentary hold at a specified extension, followed by a controlled rate of return to zero extension.

failure, *n*—an arbitrary point beyond which a material ceases to be functionally capable of its intended use. (Compare **rupture**.)

DISCUSSION—A material may be considered to have failed without having ruptured.

force, *n*—a physical influence exerted by one body on another which produces acceleration of bodies that are free to move and deformation of bodies that are not free to move. (Compare **strength**.)

DISCUSSION—Force is properly expressed in newtons (N) or multiples and submultiples of newtons, for example kilonewtons (kN) and millinewtons (mN). Force is also expressed as grams-force (gf), kilograms-force (kgf), or pounds-force (lbf), but the use of these terms is deprecated.

*force at break, *n**—See **breaking force**.

force at rupture, *n*—the force applied to a material immediately preceding rupture. (Compare **breaking force**. See also **rupture**.)

DISCUSSION—Materials that are brittle usually rupture at the maximum force. Materials that are ductile usually experience a maximum force before rupturing.

force at specified elongation (FASE), *n*—the force associated with a specific elongation on the force-extension or force-elongation curve. (Syn. **corresponding force**.)

force-deformation curve, *n*—a graphical representation of the force and deformation relationship of a material under conditions of compression, shear, tension or torsion. (Compare **force-elongation curve, force-extension curve and stress-strain curve**.)

DISCUSSION—Force-deformation related curves include force-extension, force-compression, force-shear (displacement), force-torque and stress-strain curves. The shape of the force-extension curve of a material and the shape of the corresponding stress-strain curve are the same, only the units are different. Force is expressed in such units as newton, kilogram-force, pound force. In tension, shear or compression tests, deformation is expressed in such units of length as metre, millimetre or inches. In torsion tests, deformation is expressed in such units for plane angles as radians or degrees.

force-elongation curve, *n*—a graphical representation of the force and elongation relationship of a material under tension. (Compare **force-deformation curve, force-extension curve and stress-strain curve**.)

force-extension curve, *n*—a graphical representation of the force and extension relationship of a material under tension. (Compare **force-deformation curve, force-elongation curve and stress-strain curve**.)

immediate elastic recovery, *n*—recoverable deformation which is essentially independent of time, that is, occurring in (a time approaching) zero time and recoverable in (a time approaching) zero time after removal of the applied force. (Compare **delayed deformation** and **delayed elastic recovery**.)

initial modulus, *n*—in a stress-strain curve, the slope of the initial straight-line portion of the curve.

knot breaking force, *n*—in tensile testing, the breaking force of a strand having a specified knot configuration tied in the portion of the strand mounted between the clamps of a tensile testing machine. (Compare **knot breaking strength**. See also **breaking force**.)

knot breaking load, *n*—deprecated term. Use the preferred term, **knot breaking force**.

knot breaking strength, *n*—strength expressed in terms of knot breaking force. (See also **knot breaking force**.)

linear density, *n*—mass per unit length.

load—deprecated term. Use the preferred term, **force**.

load, *vt*—to apply a force.

DISCUSSION—Although the terms *load* and *force* are frequently used interchangeably to denote the same phenomena, ASTM has adopted use of the technically correct term *force*.

load at specified elongation (LASE)—deprecated term. Use the preferred term, **force at specified elongation (FASE)**.

load-deformation curve, *n*—deprecated term. Use the preferred term, **force-deformation curve**.

load-elongation curve, *n*—deprecated term. Use the preferred term, **force-elongation curve**.

loop breaking force, *n*—in tensile testing, the breaking force of a specimen consisting of two lengths of strand from the same supply looped together in a specified configuration and mounted between the clamps of a tensile testing machine. (Compare **loop breaking strength**. See also **breaking force**.)

loop breaking load, *n*—deprecated term. Use the preferred term, **loop breaking force**.

loop breaking strength, *n*—strength expressed in terms of loop breaking force. (See also **loop breaking force, strength**.)

modulus, *n*—the property of a material representative of its resistance to deformation. (See also **chord modulus, initial modulus, tangent modulus, Young's modulus**.)

pretension, *n*—the specified tension applied to a specimen preparatory to making a test.

DISCUSSION—Pretension may be used to establish a uniform baseline for a test. In tensile testing, the pretension is usually a low force designed to remove kinks, crimp or wrinkles and essentially straighten and align the specimen as it is being mounted in the testing machine.

recovery, delayed elastic—See **delayed elastic recovery**.

recovery immediate elastic—See **immediate elastic recovery**.

recovery tensile strain—See **tensile strain recovery**.

rupture, *n*—the breaking or tearing apart of a material. (Compare **failure**.)

DISCUSSION—As applied to tensile testing, rupture refers to the total separation of a material into two parts either all at once or in stages, or the development of a hole in some materials.

secant modulus, *n*—deprecated term in textile terminology. Use the preferred term *chord modulus*.

single-strand breaking force, *n*—in tensile testing, the breaking force of one strand that follows a specified path, usually a straight line, between the clamps of a tensile testing machine. (Compare **breaking force**.)

single-strand strength, *n*—deprecated term. Use **single-strand breaking strength**.

skein break factor, *n*—the comparative breaking strength of a skein of yarn adjusted for the linear density of the yarn expressed in an indirect system; the product of the breaking strength of the skein and the yarn number expressed in an indirect system.

DISCUSSION—A statement of the break factor of the skein must indicate the number of wraps in the skein if this is not otherwise apparent; without information on the number of wraps, a statement of the break factor is meaningless. Break factor is frequently given other designations such as lea count constant, lea product, and breaking ratio.

skein breaking tenacity, *n*—the skein breaking strength divided by the product of the yarn number in direct numbering system and the number of strands placed under tension.

DISCUSSION—Observed breaking strength can be converted to breaking tenacity by dividing the breaking strength by the product of the yarn measured in a direct numbering system and the number of strands placed under tension (twice the number of wraps in the skein).

strain, *n*—deformation of a material caused by the application of an external force.

DISCUSSION—Strain is usually expressed as a ratio involving extension.

strength, *n*—the property of a material that resists deformation induced by external forces. (Compare **force**.)

DISCUSSION—Strength may be expressed in units of force for a specific material or units of stress. Traditionally, some have considered strength to be an average of individual values rather than the individual values.

strength at break, *n*—See **breaking strength**.

strength at rupture, *n*—strength expressed in terms of the force at rupture. (Compare **breaking strength**.)

stress, *n*—the resistance to deformation developed within a material subjected to an external force.

DISCUSSION—Stress is the result of strain and vice versa. In textiles, stress is expressed in units of force per unit cross-sectional area. Typical examples are tensile stress, shear stress, or compressive stress.

stress decay, *n*—in mechanics, the reduction in force to hold a material at a fixed deformation over a period of time.

DISCUSSION—This is a generic definition. Stress is already defined. The stress decay is due to adsorption of energy.

stress-strain curve, *n*—a graphical representation of the stress and strain relationship of a material under conditions of