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Standard Terminology Related to Yarns and Fibers¹

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1. Scope

1.1 This standard is a compilation of terminology developed by Committee D-13.58 on Yarns and Fibers.

1.1.1 This terminology, mostly definitions, is unique to fibers and yarns used in the textile industry. Terms that are generally understood or adequately defined in other readily available sources are not included.

1.1.2 Subcommittee D13.58 has jurisdictional responsibility for every item in this standard. The standards in which the terms and definitions are used are listed by number after the definition. The wording of an entry cannot be changed without the approval of 13.58 subcommittee. Any changes approved by the subcommittee and main committee are then directed to subcommittee D13.92 on Terminology for subsequent changes or additions to Terminology [D123](#).

1.1.3 This terminology standard is not all inclusive of the terms under the jurisdiction of subcommittee D13.58. Other terminology standards under the jurisdiction of subcommittee D13.58 are [D3888](#), [D4466](#), and [D4848](#).

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

- [D76](#) Specification for Tensile Testing Machines for Textiles
- [D123](#) Terminology Relating to Textiles
- [D861](#) Practice for Use of the Tex System to Designate Linear Density of Fibers, Yarn Intermediates, and Yarns
- [D204](#) Test Methods for Sewing Threads
- [D1059](#) Test Method for Yarn Number Based on Short-Length Specimens³
- [D1244](#) Practice for Designation of Yarn Construction
- [D1422](#) Test Method for Twist in Single Spun Yarns by the Untwist-Retwist Method
- [D1423](#) Test Method for Twist in Yarns by Direct-Counting

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.

³ Withdrawn. The last approved version of this historical standard is referenced on www.astm.org.

- [D1425](#) Test Method for Unevenness of Textile Strands Using Capacitance Testing Equipment
- [D1577](#) Test Methods for Linear Density of Textile Fibers
- [D1578](#) Test Method for Breaking Strength of Yarn in Skein Form
- [D1907](#) Test Method for Linear Density of Yarn (Yarn Number) by the Skein Method
- [D2102](#) Test Method for Shrinkage of Textile Fibers (Bundle Test)
- [D2255](#) Test Method for Grading Spun Yarns for Appearance
- [D2258](#) Practice for Sampling Yarn for Testing
- [D2259](#) Test Method for Shrinkage of Yarns
- [D2260](#) Tables of Conversion Factors and Equivalent Yarn Numbers Measured in Various Numbering Systems
- [D2402](#) Test Method for Water Retention of Textile Fibers (Centrifuge Procedure)
- [D2612](#) Test Method for Fiber Cohesion in Sliver and Top (Static Tests)
- [D2494](#) Test Method for Commercial Mass of a Shipment of Yarn or Manufactured Staple Fiber or Tow
- [D2645](#) Tolerances for Yarns Spun on the Cotton or Worsted Systems
- [D2644](#) Tolerances for Yarns Spun on the Woolen System
- [D3106](#) Test Method for Permanent Deformation of Elastomeric Yarns
- [D3108](#) Test Method for Coefficient of Friction, Yarn to Solid Material
- [D3128](#) Specification for 2-Methoxyethanol
- [D3217](#) Test Methods for Breaking Tenacity of Manufactured Textile Fibers in Loop or Knot Configurations
- [D3218](#) Specification for Polyolefin Monofilaments
- [D3333](#) Practice for Sampling Manufactured Staple Fibers, Sliver, or Tow for Testing
- [D3412](#) Test Method for Coefficient of Friction, Yarn to Yarn
- [D3513](#) Test Method for Overlength Fiber Content of Manufactured Staple Fiber
- [D3693](#) Specification for Labeled Length per Holder of Sewing Thread
- [D3822](#) Test Method for Tensile Properties of Single Textile Fibers
- [D3823](#) Practice for Determining Ticket Numbers for Sewing Threads
- [D3888](#) Terminology for Yarn Spinning Systems

- D3937 Test Method for Crimp Frequency of manufactured Staple Fibers
- D3990 Terminology Relating to Fabric Defects
- D4031 Test Method for Bulk Properties of Textured Yarns
- D4120 Test Method for Fiber Cohesion in Roving, Sliver, and Top in Dynamic Tests
- D4238 Test Method for Electrostatic Propensity of Textiles
- D4466 Terminology Related to Multicomponent Textile Fibers
- D4724 Test Method for Entanglements in Untwisted Filament Yarns by Needle Insertion
- D4848 Terminology Related to Force, Deformation and Related Properties of Textiles
- D4911 Tolerances for Yarns Made of Man-Made Fibers and Spun on the Parallel Worsted or Modified Worsted System
- D5103 Test Method for Length and Length Distribution of Manufactured Staple Fibers (Single-Fiber Test)
- D5104 Test Method for Shrinkage of Textile Fibers (Single-Fiber Test)
- D5332 Test Method for Fiber Length and Length Distribution of Cotton Fibers³
- D5344 Test Method for Extension Force of Partially Oriented Yarn
- D5647 Guide for Measuring Hairiness of Yarns by the Photo-Electric Apparatus
- D6197 Test Method for Classifying and Counting Faults in Spun Yarns in Electronic Tests
- D6587 Test Method for Yarn Number Using Automatic Tester
- D6612 Test Method for Yarn Number and Yarn Number Variability Using Automated Tester
- D6774 Test Method for Crimp and Shrinkage Properties for Textured Yarns Using a Dynamic Textured Yarn Tester

3. Terminology

3.1 Alphabetical listings of terms with subcommittee 13.58 jurisdiction and attribution for each term.

- American grain count**, *n*—a direct yarn numbering system for expressing linear density, equal to the mass in grains per 120 yards of sliver or roving. **D2260**
- bad/good test (%BGT)**, *n*—an index value which shows the total spread, or greatest variation, for the test; mathematically, the difference between the highest and lowest mass readings determined in the test, expressed as a percentage of the average mass. **D6612**
- beam**, *n*—*in textiles*, a large spool containing many ends of yarn wound parallel, and used for such purposes as weaving or warp knitting. **D2258**
- beam set**, *n*—*in textiles*, one or more beams of yarn in a single shipment to be further processed together for a specific end use. **D2258**
- bench marks**, *n*—marks placed on a specimen to define gage length, that is, the portion of the specimen that will be evaluated in a specific test. **D76**
- boundary friction**, *n*—friction at low sliding speeds (0.02 m/min or less) where lubrication occurs under thin-film lubricant conditions. **D3412**

broken filament, *n*—*in multifilament yarn*, breaks in one or more filaments. **D3990**

bulk shrinkage, *n*—a measure of potential stretch and power of stretch yarns or a measure of bulk of textured-set yarns. **D4031**

bunch, *n*—a defect in a yarn characterized by a segment not over 6 mm (¼ in.) in length that shows an abrupt increase in diameter caused by more fibers matted in this particular place. (See **slug**, **slub**.) **D2255**

cable twist, *n*—the construction of cabled yarn, cord, or rope in which each successive twist is in the opposite direction to the preceding twist; an S/Z/S or Z/S/Z construction. **D1423**

calibrate, *v*—to determine and record the relationship between a set of standard units of measure and the output of an instrument or test procedure.

DISCUSSION—This term is also commonly used to describe the checking of previously marked instruments, an operation more properly described as a description of verification. **D76**

capacity, *n*—*for tensile testing machines*, the maximum force for which the machine is designed.

DISCUSSION—Capacity is the maximum force the tester-frame and the drive system can exercise on the specimen without inadmissible deformations of the tester-frame, etc. Within its capacity, there are available load-cells with different full-scale ranges which may be chosen to select an appropriate full-scale range for a special test. **D76**

case, *n*—*in textiles*, a shipping unit, usually a carton, box, bale, or other container holding a number of yarn packages. **D2258**

clamp, *n*—that part of a testing machine used to grip the specimen by means of suitable jaws. **D76**

cockles, *n*—*in yarns*, irregular, thick, uneven lumps. **D2255**

coefficient of friction, *n*—the ratio of the tangential force that is needed to maintain uniform relative motion between two contacting surfaces to the perpendicular force holding them in contact. **D3108, D3412**

coefficient of variation unevenness, *n*—*in textiles*, the standard deviation of the linear densities over which unevenness is measured expressed as a percentage of the average linear density for the total length within which unevenness is measured. (See also **unevenness** and **mean deviation unevenness**.) **D1425**

cohesive force, *n*—*in a textile strand*, the force required to overcome fiber cohesion as the strand is being reduced in linear density.

DISCUSSION—In dynamic tests, cohesive force is the force required to maintain drafting in a roving, silver, or top. In static tests, cohesive force is measured while a test specimen is held in a fixed position between two slowly separating clamps. **D2612, D4120**

colorfastness, *n*—the resistance of a material to change in any of its color characteristics, to transfer its colorant(s) to adjacent materials, or both, as the result of exposure of the material to any real or simulated environment that might be encountered during processing, storage, use or testing of the material. **D204**

commercial allowance, *n*—an arbitrary value equal to the

commercial moisture regain plus a specified allowance for finish, used with the mass of scoured, oven-dried yarn, to compute (1) yarn linear density, (2) the commercial or legal mass of a shipment or delivery of any specific textile material (see also **commercial moisture regain**) or (3) the mass of a specific component in the analysis of fiber blends

D1907, D2494

commercial mass, *n*—billed mass as determined by a generally accepted method or as agreed upon between the purchaser and supplier.

DISCUSSION—The basis for determining the commercial mass of a shipment of yarn or manufactured fibers is generally one of the following: (1) *CAS Basis (commercial allowance with scoured material)*—the mass of oven-dry fiber or yarn after scouring by definite prescribed methods plus the mass corresponding to its *commercial allowance*, (2) *CMRS Basis (commercial moisture regain with scoured material)*—the mass of oven-dry fiber or yarn after scouring by definite prescribed methods plus the mass corresponding to its *commercial moisture regain*. (3) *CMRU Basis (commercial regain with unscoured material)*—the mass of unscoured oven-dry fiber or yarn plus the mass corresponding to its *commercial regain*. (4) *UN Basis (unadjusted net)*—the mass of the unscoured fiber or yarn with no adjustment for the amount of moisture or finish, or both.

D2494

cone, *n*—in *textiles*, (1) a yarn holder or bobbin of conical shape used as a core for a yarn package of conical form, also called a cone core. (2) the yarn package obtained when yarn is wound upon a cone core.

D2258

constant-rate-of-extension type tensile testing machine (CRE), *n*—in *tensile testing*, an apparatus in which the pulling clamp moves at a uniform rate, and the force-measuring mechanism moves a negligible distance with increasing force, less than 0.13 mm (0.005 in.)

D76

constant-rate-of-load tensile testing machine (CRL), *n*—in *tensile testing*, an apparatus in which the rate of increase of the force is uniform with time after the first 3 s and the specimen is free to elongate, this elongation dependent on the extension characteristics of the specimen at any applied force.

D76

constant-rate-of-traverse tensile testing machine (CR), *n*—a testing machine in which the pulling clamp moves at a uniform rate and the force is applied through the other clamp which moves appreciably to actuate a force-measuring mechanism, producing a rate of increase of force or extension that is usually not constant and is dependent upon the extension characteristics of the specimen.

D76

container, *n*—a receptacle designed to hold a material, or to give integrity to the material.

DISCUSSION—The term container in textiles may include bales, cartons and other shipping containers.

D3333

coefficient of variation (CV), *n*—a measure of the dispersion of observed values equal to the standard deviation for the values divided by the average of the values; may be expressed as a percentage of the average (%CV).

D6612

core-spun yarn, *n*—a compound structure in which a filament or strand serves as an axis around which a cover of either loose fiber or a yarn is wound.

DISCUSSION—(1) *General*—in yarn testing, when the core and cover in this type of compound structure need to be separated, for testing of

either component, the methods used should not compromise the physical properties of the component to be evaluated: and (2) *Specific*—as a sewing thread, the means by which this compound structure is made will not allow the core and cover to be readily separated without compromising the physical attributes of each component. Hence, the sewing thread should be evaluated as a compound structure.

D204

cotton count, *n*—an indirect yarn numbering system generally used in the cotton system equal to the number of 840-yd lengths of yarn per pound.

D1059, D2260, D6587, D6612

cotton system, *n*—a spinning system adapted to fibers less than 65 mm (2.5 in.) in length.

DISCUSSION—This system usually employs flat-top cards and may use roll and other drafting assemblies on intermediate processes and spinning machines.

D2645

cover, *n*—in *yarns*, the outside layer of fibers that form the surface of a yarn.

D2255

covered yarn, *n*—a compound structure which contains distinguishable inner and outer fibrous elements which can be different.

D204

CRE—abbreviation for constant-rate-of-extension.

D76

crimp, *n*—in *a textile strand*, the undulations, waviness, or succession of bend, curls, or waves in the strand induced either naturally, mechanically, or chemically.

DISCUSSION—Crimp has many characteristics, among which are its amplitude, frequency, index, and type. In Test Method **D3937**, crimp is characterized by a change in the directional rotation of a line tangent to the fiber as the point of tangent progresses along the fiber. Two changes in rotation constitutes one unit of crimp.

D3937

crimp, *n*—in *a yarn*, the undulations, waviness, or succession of bends, curls, or waves in the yarn induced either naturally, mechanically, thermally, or chemically.

D6774

crimp contraction, *n*—an indicator of crimp capacity or a characterization of a yarn's ability to contract under tension.

D4031, D6774

crimp development medium, *n*—for *testing of textured yarn*, an environment that allows the temporary set of fiber crimp to be overcome and that allows the filaments to assume their permanently set configuration.

D4031

crimp frequency, *n*—in *manufactured staple fibers*, the number of crimps or waves per unit length of extended or straightened fiber.

D3937

crimp index, *n*—an indirect measure of the amplitude of the crimp.

DISCUSSION—Crimp index is calculated as the difference in distance between two points on the fiber as it lies in an unstretched condition in one plane and the distance between the same two points when the fiber is straightened under a specified tension expressed as a percentage of the unstretched distance. To improve reproducibility, the unstretched distance may be measured under a specified, very low tension to align the fiber in one plane.

D3937

crimp recovery, *n*—a measure of the ability of a yarn to return to its original crimped state after being subjected to tension.

D4031

CRL—abbreviation for constant-rate-of-loading.

D76

CRT—abbreviation for constant-rate-of-traverse.

D76

cut, *n*—in *asbestos and glass yarns*, the number of 100-yd

lengths of yarn per pound; an indirect yarn numbering system. **D1059, D2260**

cut, *n*—in wool yarns, the number of 300-yd lengths of yarn per pound; an indirect yarn numbering system. **D1059, D2260**

denier, *n*—the unit of linear density, equal to the mass in grams of 9000 m of fiber, yarn, or other textile strand that is used in a direct yarn numbering system. (See also **linear density**) **D1059, D2260, D6587, D6612**

density frequency variability (DFV), *n*—an index of the spacing of irregularities; mathematically, the number of times the measured mass crosses over the mean mass line from higher-to-lower values or lower-to-higher values divided by the distance over which the count is made. **D6612**

density spread (%DS), *n*—a value which indicates the degree to which the mass varies from its average; mathematically, the average of the differences between the maximum and minimum values within specified subsections, expressed as a percent based on an overall average. **D6612**

direct cabling technology, *n*—a single-step manufacturing systems that produces a twist-balanced cabled yarn (2 fold) from twistless single yarns.

DISCUSSION—Direct cabling of yarn is carried out in a one-step twisting operation as compared to conventional cabling of yarn that is carried out in multiple twist operations. **(D13.59) D1423**

direct yarn numbering system, *n*—a system that expresses the linear density of yarn in mass per unit length.

DISCUSSION—The preferred units of measurements for the direct yarn measuring system are grams and meters. Tex (weight in grams for 1000 metres) and Denier (weight in grams for 9000 metres) are recommended to show linear density in the direct numbering system. These can be calculated by dividing the mass of a yarn by its length. Conversion factors to convert between direct and indirect numbering systems can be found in Standard Tables **D2260, D1059, D1907, D2260**

direction of twist, *n*—the right or left direction of the helix formed in a twisted strand as indicated by superimposition of the capital letter “S” or “Z.”

DISCUSSION—Yarn has an S twist, when the yarn is held in a vertical position, the visible spirals or helices around the central axis conform in direction of slope to the central portion of the letter “S”, and Z twist if the invisible spirals or helices conform in direction of slope to the central portion of the letter “Z”. When two or more yarns, either single or plied are twisted together, the letters “S” and “Z” are used in a similar manner to indicate the direction of the last twist inserted. **D1422, D1423**

draw ratio (DR), *n*—the relation of the final length per unit mass to original length per unit mass of a material resulting from drawing. **D3218, D5344**

draw texturing, *n*—for processing thermoplastic fibers, the simultaneous or sequential process of drawing and imparting crimp, thus producing increased molecular orientation and increased bulk.

DISCUSSION—The drawing and texturing stages may occur in separate, usually consecutive, zones of a machine (sequential draw texturing) or together in the same zone (simultaneous draw texturing).

D5344

drawing, *n*—in textile processing, the process of stretching or attenuating a material to increase the length per unit mass.

DISCUSSION—This process orients the molecular chains in the length direction of a monofilament or partially oriented yarn. **D3218, D5344**

effective carriage mass, *n*—in CRL-type tensile testing machine, the force actually applied to a specimen by the mass of the carriage, plus any added masses. **D76**

effective fiber length, *n*—in vibroscope test for linear density, that portion of the fiber free to vibrate between fixed supports or holders. **D1577**

effective gage length, *n*—in tensile testing, the estimated length of the specimen subjected to a strain equal to that observed for the true gage length.

DISCUSSION—The effective gage length can be calculated using the following equation:

$$G_E = G_N \times E_N/E_T \quad (1)$$

where:

G_E = effective gage length

G_N = nominal gage length

E_N = percent elongation based on the nominal gage length, and

E_T = percent elongation based on the true gage length. **D76**

elastomeric yarn, *n*—a nontextured yarn which can be stretched repeatedly at room temperature to at least twice its original length and which after removal of the tensile force will immediately and forcibly return to approximately its original length.

DISCUSSION—The elastic properties of yarn are produced by the use of filaments, or a core, made from polymers having a special chemical composition or molecular structure, for example, filaments made from spandex or from cut or extruded rubber. **D3106**

electrostatic decay half-life, *n*—in textiles, the time in minutes for the maximum voltage induced on the textile to be reduced to one half of the maximum voltage by the various decay mechanisms: conduction and ionization of the air. **D4238**

electrostatic propensity, *n*—the capacity of a nonconducting material to acquire and hold an electrical charge by induction (by means of corona discharge) or by triboelectric means (rubbing with another material). **D4238**

end, *n*—an individual silver, roving, yarn, or cord.

DISCUSSION—For yarns, one or more continuous, multiple parallel lengths of yarn which may be wound on a yarn package or beam. For example, two lengths of yarn wrapped parallel on a single bobbin constitute two yarn ends, likewise, one thousand lengths of yarn wrapped parallel on a single beam constitutes one thousand yarn ends. **D2258**

entanglement, *n*—the extent or degree to which the filaments in a yarn are interlocked and cannot be readily separated.

DISCUSSION—There are two kinds of entanglements, intermediary (loose) node and hard (tight) node. Intermediary nodes are pulled out



easily under tension or separated by a needle. Test Method **D4724** measures the presence of hard nodes in which the interlocking or interlacing is compact pulling the yarn bundle together. **D4724**

evaluator, *n*—a part of, or an attachment to, an unevenness testing instrument, which automatically gives an estimate of R_u . **D1425**

fabric package, *n*—a length of fabric in a form suitable for handling, storing, or shipping.

DISCUSSION—Fabric packages may be unsupported, such as when folded in cases, or supported, such as on tubes, bolts, or creels. Fabric packages are frequently referred to as rolls or pieces. **D2258**

fiber beard, *n*—*in length testing of fibers*, fibers caught randomly on a comb which are subsequently straightened and parallelized without stretching or damaging. **D3513**

fiber chip, *n*—*in manufactured textiles*, staple fibers that are massed together as a unit and that maintain a single geometry or alignment. **D3937**

fiber cohesion, *n*—in textiles, the resistance to separation of fibers in contact with one another.

DISCUSSION—This resistance is due to the combined effects of the surface characteristic, length, crimp, finish, and linear density of the fibers. Cohesion should not be confused with adhesion or sticking together as in a glutinous substance. **D2612, D4120**

filament yarn, *n*—a yarn composed of (continuous) filaments assembled with or without twist. **D3822, D4724**

final twist, *n*—the number of turns per unit length in a single yarn component of a plied yarn or the plied yarn component of a cabled yarn as the component lies in the more complex structure. (syn. “as-is” twist) **D1423**

frayed, *adj*—*in textiles*, a worn condition characterized by damaged yarn surfaces, projecting yarn ends, hairiness, etc. **D5647**

friction, *n*—the resistance to the relative motion of one body sliding, rolling, or flowing over another body with which it is in contact.

DISCUSSION—There are two frictional properties exhibited between any pair of surfaces: static friction and kinetic friction. Test Methods **D3108** and **D3412** both measure the coefficient of friction for kinetic friction. **D3108, D3412**

fundamental resonant frequency, *n*—*in linear density testing*, the lowest frequency at which free oscillations can exist in a fiber tensioned between two fixed points. **D1577**

fuzz, *n*—untangled fiber ends that protrude from the surface of a yarn or fabric.

DISCUSSION—Fuzz should not be confused with “cover”. **D2255**

fuzzy, *adj*—characterized by a hairy appearance due to broken fibers or filaments. (Syn. hairiness) **D5647**

grain, *n*—*in yarn spinning*, a direct yarn numbering system for sliver, top or roving, equal to the mass in grains of 120 yds. (See **American grain count**) **D2260**

grain, *n*—*in measuring mass*, 1/7000 lb avoirdupois **D2260**

greige thread, *n*—undyed or unfinished sewing thread in the state following final plying or equivalent step in a processing sequence, such as extruding, texturizing or braiding. **D204, D3823**

grex, *n*—an obsolete direct numbering system for fiber yarn or other textile strand equal to the mass in grams per 10 000 m **D1059, D2260**

grip, *v*—*in tensile testing*, to hold, grasp, or secure, for example, to grip the specimen by the jaws of the clamps. **D76**

growth, *n*—an increase in one or more dimensions of an object or a material. **D204**

hairiness, *n*—*or yarns*, an overall condition characterized by filaments or fibers protruding from the yarn surface and uniformly distributed along the yarn length. (Compare wild fibers.) **D5647**

hawser twist, *n*—the construction of cabled yarn, cord, or rope in which the single and first-ply twist are in the same direction and the second-ply twist is in the opposite direction, and S/S/Z or Z/Z/S construction. **D1423**

heat shrinkage, *n*—a decrease in one or more dimensions of an object or material exposed to heat. **D3128**

heatset yarn, *n*—*in a textured yarn*, a yarn that is subjected to secondary heat during the texturing process, which is designed to reduce the torque and bulk shrinkage.

DISCUSSION—The characteristics of heatset yarns are a function of the temperature, time, and length of exposure to the heat source.

indirect yarn numbering system, *n*—a system that expresses the linear density of yarn in length per unit mass.

DISCUSSION—The preferred units of measurements for the indirect yarn measuring system are yards and pounds. Cotton count (number of 840 yard lengths per pound), worsted count (number of 560 yard lengths per pound), metric count (number of 1000 metre lengths per kilogram), woolen run (number of 1600 yard lengths per pound) and number of yards per pound are commonly used in the indirect numbering system. These can be calculated by dividing the number of specified lengths of a yarn by its unit of mass. Conversion factors to convert between indirect and direct numbering systems can be found in Standard Tables **D2260** **D1059, D1907, D2260**

integrator, *n*—*in textile unevenness testing*, a device that calculates the coefficient of variation unevenness or the mean deviation unevenness.

DISCUSSION—The terms “integrator” and “integration” as applied to textile unevenness testing do not imply integration in the strict mathematical sense. The type integrator, linear or quadratic, must be carefully selected depending upon a known irregularity of the material; that is, purely random or purely periodic. **D1425**

jaw face, *n*—*in tensile testing machines*, the surface of a jaw which in the absence of a liner contacts the specimen. **D76**

jaw liner, *n*—*in tensile testing machines*, any material placed between the jaw face and the specimen to improve the holding power of the jaws. **D76**

jaws, *n*—*in tensile testing machines*, the elements of a clamp which grip the specimen. **D76**

kinetic friction, *n*—friction developed between two bodies in motion. (Compare **static friction**.) **D3108**

lea, *n*—*in cotton yarns*, the number of 120-yd lengths of yarn per pound; an indirect yarn numbering system. **D1059**

lea, *n*—in *linen yarns*, the number of 300-yd lengths of yarn per pound; an indirect yarn numbering system. **D1059, D2260**

least count, *n*—in *tensile testing machines*, the smallest change in the indicated property that can customarily be determined.

DISCUSSION—In tensile testing machines with close graduations for force and elongation indications, the least count may be the value of a graduation interval; with open graduations, or with magnifiers for reading, the least count may be an estimated fraction (rarely as fine as 0.1) of a graduation interval; and with verniers, the least count is ordinarily the difference between the scale and vernier graduations measured in terms of scale units. If the indicating mechanism includes a stepped detent, the detent action may determine the least count (See **sensitivity, in mechanical systems**) **D76**

length between, L_b , *n*—in *textile unevenness testing*, the length between which unevenness is measured, the equivalent of the length of strand segments weighed in a direct method of measuring unevenness **D1425**

length distribution, *n*—of *staple fibers*, a graphic or tabular presentation of the proportion or percentage (by number or by mass) of fibers having different lengths. **D5103, D5332**

length within, L_w , *n*—in *textile unevenness testing*, the length over which unevenness is measured.

DISCUSSION—The total length of the strand from which the segments weighed were sampled in a direct method of measuring unevenness. For indirect methods, the maximum value of length within is the tested length from the specific package. **D1425**

linear density, *n*—for *fiber and yarn*, mass per unit length. **D861, D1059, D1577, D2260, D3106, D3217, D3822, D6587, D6612**

linear integrator, *n*—in *textile unevenness testing*, an integrator that operates continuously and reports unevenness for a certain, and unchanging, time past.

DISCUSSION—The input to the integrator immediately preceding the moment of taking a reading receives greater “weight” than the prior input, and this “weighting” gradually decreases with the lapse of time. (*Syn.* fading memory integrator) **D1425**

loopy, *adj*—a descriptive term for yarns having randomly sized loops of fibers or filaments protruding from the yarn surface.

DISCUSSION—Loopiness may or may not be desirable depending on the yarn’s end-use. **D5647**

mass, *n*—the quantity of matter in a body. (See also **weight**.) **D1059, D4848**

mean deviation unevenness, U %, *n*—in *textiles*, the average of the absolute values of the deviations of the linear densities of the integrated lengths between which unevenness is measured and expressed as a percentage of the average linear density for the total length within which unevenness is measured. (See also **unevenness, coefficient of variation unevenness**.) **D1425**

metric count, *n*—an indirect yarn numbering system for sliver roving, and yarn, equal to the number of kilometers per kilogram (1000 m/kg). **D1059, D2260**

modified worsted system, *n*—a worsted system for spinning man-made fibers which relies on pin control of fibers during

sliver weight reduction, but which bypasses the system of combing required with wool to remove noil. **D4911**

monofilament, *n*—a single filament which can function as a yarn in commercial textile operations, that is, it must be strong and flexible enough to be knitted, woven, or braided, etc. (see **yarn**.)

DISCUSSION—(1) When a monofilament is drawn or in use, it does not fibrillate into (essentially) reticulate multifilaments. (2) A flat polyolefin monofilament can be called a tape yarn. **D3218**

multiple-length staple fibers, *n*—manufactured staple fibers that are two or more times the nominal cut fiber length. **D3513**

nep, *n*—a tightly tangled knot-like mass of unorganized fibers. Compare nap and pill. **D2255**

nominal gage length, *n*—in *tensile testing*, (*General*) the length of a specimen under specified pretension measured from nip-to-nip of the jaws of the holding clamps in their starting position at the beginning of the test, and including any portion of the specimen on contact with bollard or snubbing surfaces. (*Specific 1*), the length of a specimen under specific pre-tension between frets, in instruments where the specimen is not held by clamps, for example, in a vibroscope. (*Specific 2*), the length of a specimen measured between the points of attachment to the tabs while under specified pretension.

DISCUSSION—The calculated percentage of elongation based on the nominal gage length may be in error due to extension of that part of the specimen which lies between the jaws of the clamps. **D76**

olefin fiber—a manufactured fiber in which the fiber-forming substance is any long-chain synthetic polymer composed of at least 85 % by weight of ethylene, propylene, or other olefin units, except amorphous (noncrystalline) polyolefins qualify under rubber. **D3218**

original length, *n*—of *yarns*, the length of the yarn under a specified tension. **D6774**

original twist, *n*—the twist in a single or plied yarn component of a plied or cabled yarn as the component was before incorporation into the more complex structure. **D1423**

overlength staple fibers, *n*—manufactured staple fibers that are at least 10 % longer than nominal or average cut length. **D3513**

partially oriented yarn, *n*—filament yarn in which polymer molecules are only partially aligned.

DISCUSSION—Additional drawing of partially oriented yarn results in full orientation of the polymer molecules and optimizes the tensile properties of the yarn. **D5344**

polyolefin, *n*—any long-chain synthetic polymer composed of at least 85 % by weight of ethylene, propylene, or other olefin units (monomers), except amorphous (non-crystalline) polyolefin qualifying under Rubber 1, as defined by the Federal Trade Commission. (Compare Olefin)

DISCUSSION—The generic term olefin has been adopted by the Federal Trade Commission in place of the technically correct term polyolefin. **D3218**