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varactor tuning The use of one or more **varactors** for tuning. Used, for instance, in receivers or oscillators. Also called **varicap tuning**.

VARhour Same as **VAR-hour**.

VARhour meter Same as **VAR-hour meter**.

variable Its abbreviation is **var (2)**. **1.** A number, quantity, or magnitude which does not have a fixed value. Also, a symbol, such as **x**, representing such a variable. **2.** A number, quantity, or magnitude which can assume any of multiple values. Also, a symbol, such as **x**, representing such a variable. **3.** That which changes, or tends to change over time. Also, a symbol, such as **x**, representing such a variable. **4.** That which changes during a given process. Also, a symbol, such as **x**, representing such a variable.

variable attenuator A circuit or device which reduces the amplitude of a signal, ideally without introducing distortion, by a continuously-variable amount, or in steps.

variable bias A bias value that changes, or that can be adjusted. Automatic bias is an example.

variable bit rate In ATM, a minimum bandwidth which is guaranteed to be maintained. Utilized, for instance, for audio and/or video conferencing. Variable bit rate has real-time and non-real-time versions. Its abbreviation is **VBR**.

variable block A data block whose size or length may be varied, depending on the needs.

variable-capacitance diode Same as **varactor**.

variable capacitor A capacitor whose capacitance can be varied. This may be accomplished, for example, through the use of rotating plates. Also known as **variable condenser**, **adjustable capacitor**, or **adjustable condenser**.

variable-carrier modulation A type of amplitude modulation in which the amplitude of the carrier wave is varied according to the percentage of modulation, providing for an essentially constant modulation factor. Also called **controlled-carrier modulation**, or **floating-carrier modulation**.

variable component An electrical component, such as a capacitor or resistor, whose value which can be adjusted.

variable condenser Same as **variable capacitor**.

variable coupling Inductive coupling between circuits which can be varied. This may be accomplished, for instance, by adjusting the position of one coil with respect to another.

variable data printing Printing, such as that of brochures, in which each set of sheets has different content.

variable-depth sonar Sonar in which the depth of the underwater sound projectors and hydrophones can be varied. Its abbreviation is **VDS**.

variable field 1. A field, such as a dynamic magnetic field, whose intensity varies over time. **2.** Same as **variable-length field**.

variable frequency **1.** A frequency, such as a modulated carrier frequency in FM, which varies over time. **2.** A frequency, such as that of a variable-frequency oscillator, which can be varied.

variable-frequency oscillator An oscillator whose frequency can be adjusted. This adjustment may occur in discrete steps, or through a continuous range. This contrasts with a **fixed-frequency oscillator**, whose frequency cannot be varied. Its abbreviation is **VFO**.

variable inductance Same as **variable inductor**.

variable inductor An inductor whose inductance can be adjusted. It may consist, for instance, of a coil whose inductance can be varied by using one or more moving elements such as taps or sliding contacts. This contrasts with a **fixed inductor**, which has a single inductance which cannot be varied. Also called **variable inductance**.

variable-length field A data field whose size in bits or bytes is determined by the amount of data stored. This contrasts with a **fixed-length field**, whose size can not be adjusted. Also called **variable field (2)**.

variable-length record A data record composed of **variable-length fields**. This contrasts with a **fixed-length record**, which is composed of fixed-length fields.

variable-mu tube An electron tube whose mu, or amplification, factor can be varied.

variable output **1.** An output, such as that of an audio amplifier, whose level can vary. **2.** An output whose level is varied.

variable reactor Same as **varactor**.

variable-reluctance motor A brushless synchronous motor that does not utilize a permanent magnet, and which does not have a coil in its rotor. Such a motor has pointed poles in both the stator and rotor, and the coils of the stator are fed the energizing current, which creates a magnetic pulling force that enables rotation. Reluctance motors are comparatively robust and efficient, and can be used when very high ambient temperatures are present. Its abbreviation is **VR motor**. Also called **reluctance motor**, or **switched-reluctance motor**.

variable-reluctance pickup A phonographic pickup that converts the movements of the stylus into the corresponding audio-frequency voltage output by varying the reluctance of an internal magnetic circuit. Also called **magnetic pickup**, or **magnetic cartridge**.

variable-reluctance transducer A transducer which converts a parameter, magnitude, signal, or phenomenon into a proportional change in the reluctance of a magnetic circuit, or vice versa.

variable-resistance transducer A transducer which converts a parameter, magnitude, signal, or phenomenon into a proportional change in the resistance of a circuit, or vice versa.

variable resistor Also known as **adjustable resistor**. **1.** A resistor whose resistance may be varied by a mechanical device such as a sliding contact. Also called **rheostat**. **2.** Same as **varistor**. **3.** Any resistor whose resistance may be varied.

variable-speed motor A motor whose speed can be varied while under load. Also called **adjustable-speed motor**.

variable transformer A transformer whose output voltage can be varied between some minimum, or zero, and a maximum. This is generally accomplished by means of a sliding contact arm. In most cases, a variable transformer is an autotransformer. Also known as **adjustable transformer**.

variable voltage divider A voltage divider that utilizes adjustable resistors to vary the voltage. A potentiometer is an example. Also known as **adjustable voltage divider**.

Variac A **variable transformer** which is usually utilized for the adjustment of an AC voltage. Used, for instance, when a specific voltage above or below the line voltage is needed.

variance In statistics, the value obtained by adding the squares of the differences between each number and the mean value of a set, series, or population, and dividing by the number of members of said set. The square root of variance is called **standard deviation**.

varicap Same as **varactor**.

varicap diode Same as **varactor**.

varicap tuning Same as **varactor tuning**.

variometer A variable inductor incorporating two coils connected in series, one of which is rotated to adjust overall inductance values. Such coils are usually mounted concentrically.

varistor A semiconductor device which serves as a variable resistor. It resistance value is determined by its input voltage, and an example is a metal-oxide varistor. Also called **voltage-dependent resistor**, **variable resistor (2)**, **voltage-controlled resistor**, or **adjustable resistor (2)**.

varmeter An instrument w
tive power in vars. Also s

VB Abbreviation of **Visual**

VBI Abbreviation of **vertica**

VBR Abbreviation of **variat**

VBR-non-real time Abbr
real-time. In ATM, varia
support real-time applica
conferencing. Its own abt

VBR-nrt Abbreviation of **V**

VBR-real time Abbreviati
In ATM, variable bit rate
applications such as audi
own abbreviation is **VBR-**

VBR-rt Abbreviation of **VI**

VCA **1.** Abbreviation o
2. Abbreviation of **voltag**

vCalendar A specification
the exchange of schedul
tions and devices. Used,
data between PDAs, PIM
puters.

vCard A specification or s
ness cards. Used, for ins
name, job title, telephone
physical address, betwe
PDAs, PIMs, cell phones,

VCCS Abbreviation of **volt**

VCD Abbreviation of **videc**

VCI Abbreviation of **Virtu**

VCL Abbreviation of **Virtu**

VCN Abbreviation of **virtu**

VCO **1.** Abbreviation o
2. Abbreviation of **Voice**

VCR 1. Abbreviation of **vi**
viation of **voltage-contro**

VCSEL Acronym for **Ver**
ser. A laser diode that e
face, as opposed to its
manufacture and easier tc
ficient and durable. Sinc
more circular, it is especi
fibers.

VCVS Abbreviation of **vol**

VCXO Abbreviation of **vol**

Vdc Abbreviation of **volts**

VDC Abbreviation of **volts**

VDD Abbreviation of **virtu**

VDR **1.** Abbreviation of **v**
recorder. **2.** Abbreviatio

VDS Abbreviation of **varia**

VDSL Abbreviation of **v**
line, or very high bit-rate
of DSL utilizing copper
data transfer rates of up t
to over 100 Mbps down
affected significantly by
and the shorter the distan

VDT Abbreviation of **vid**
play terminal.

VDU Abbreviation of **vis**
unit.

vector 1. Same as **vector**
tion of a **vector quantit**
as a single column. **4.**