A 1 General symbol for area (see S).
2 Aspect ratio (see As).
3 Ampères.
4 Atomic weight.
5 Moment of inertia about longitudinal axis, rolling mode.
6 Anode.
7 Amplitude.
8 Degrees absolute.
9 Ambient.
10 IFR flight plan suffix, fitted DME and 4096-code.
11 JETDS code: piloted aircraft, IR or UV radiation.
12 Airborne Forces category aircraft (UK, 1944–46).
13 Air Branch (UK Admiralty).
15 Aircraft category, ambulance (USAAS 1919–24, USN 1943).
16 Sonobuoy standard size class, c 1 m/3 ft.
17 Air Branch (UK Admiralty).
18 Calibration (USAF role prefix 1948–62).
19 Aircraft category, ambulance (USAAS 1919–24, USN 1943).
20 Amphibian (USAF 1948–55).
21 Availability.
22 Aeroplane (PPL).
23 Altitude, followed by digits indicating hundreds of feet.
24 Arm, as distinct from safe.
25 Antarctic (but Tov Bergeron’s classification = Arctic).
26 Alternate [airport].
27 Weather; hail
28 Accepted (EFIS or nav. display).
29 Arrival chart.
30 Sport parachuting certificate: 10 jumps, no accuracy demanded.
31 Autotuned (navaid).
32 Magnetic-vector potential.
33 Aircraft category: free balloon (FAI).
34 Cross-section area of wing torsion box.
35 Common but not universal usage for aft-acting aero-
dynamic force; not synonymous with drag but the x-axis
component of Fa.
36 Margin [e.g., 0.15 or 0.2] above stall speed.
A Structural resistance to buckling.
Å Wing-section axial force parallel to chord, per unit
span.
Ångström (10−10m), very small unit of length,
contrary to SI.
(A) Local time.
a 1 Velocity of sound in any medium.
2 Structural cross-section area.
3 Anode.
α Prefix atto, = 10−18.
5 (Suffix) available (thus, LDα = landing distance
available).
6 Ambient.
7 Acceleration.
â Average value of lift-curve slope due to angle of attack.
ä Kussner factor.
A0, A0 Unmodulated (steady note) CW radio emission.
A0A1 Unmodulated (steady note) radio emission iden-
tified by Morse coding in a break period.
A0A2 Unmodulated emission identified by Morse
coding heard above unbroken carrier (eg an NDB).
A1, A1 Unmodulated but keyed radio emission,
typically giving Morse dots and dashes.
A2 Flying instructor category; two years and 400 h as
instructor (British Commonwealth air forces).
A3 Military flying instructor category; 15 months and
250 h.
A1 Lift-curve slope for wing or other primary aero-
dynamic surface, numerically equal to dC/L/dx.
A2 Military flying instructor category; 15 months and
250 h.
A3M Advanced air-to-air missiles.
A1C Advanced automated air traffic control.
A25 Royal Navy form for reporting aircraft accidents.
A3H AM, SSB transmission with suppressed carrier.
A400 to A755 See Arinc, ARINC.
A-3M Unmodulated but keyed radio emission,
typically giving Morse dots and dashes.
A-2S Unmodulated (steady note) CW radio emission.
A-2S2 Unmodulated (steady note) CW radio emission,
typically giving Morse dots and dashes.
A-2T Unmodulated but keyed radio emission,
typically giving Morse dots and dashes.
A-2TC Advanced automated air traffic control.
A-25 Royal Navy form for reporting aircraft accidents.
A-400 to A755 See Arinc, ARINC.
A-755 Airborne airstrike command and control
(GTACS); S adds system.
A2HB Automated assistance with intelligence prepara-
tion of the battlespace (USAF).
A3 AM radio transmission with double SB.
1 Affordable acquisition approach (USAF).
A3H AM, SSB transmission with full carrier.
A1Army/NASA aircrew/aircraft integration (USA/US).
A3J AM, SSB transmission with suppressed carrier.
A3M Advanced air-to-air missiles.
A2T Advanced automated air traffic control.
A3H AM, SSB transmission with suppressed carrier.
A3M Advanced air-to-air missiles.
A400 to A755 See Arinc, ARINC.
A-6 AM radio transmission with double SB.
A-license Basic PPL without additions or endorse-
ments.
A-line Airway.
A-mode Transponder sends aircraft identification code
only.
A-sector Sector of radio range in which Morse A is
heard, hence A-signal.
A-station In Loran, primary transmitting station.
A-Staff Liquid oxygen (G).
A-type entry Fuselage passenger door meeting
FAA emergency exit requirements; typical dimensions
41 in × 76 in. 
AA

AA 1 Anti-aircraft.
  2 Airship Association [office, Folkestone CT20 3LG] (UK).
  3 Acquisition Aiding, technique for matching EM waveforms (esp for ECM).
  4 Air-to-air (ICAO code).
  5 Alert annunciator.
  6 Antenna array.
  7 Airbrokers Association (UK, 1949, became AAB).
A/A  Air-to-air (radar mode).
AAA 1 Airport advisory area.
  2 Army Aviation Association (USA), now AAAA.
  4 American Airship Association.
  5 Anti-aircraft artillery (triple-A).
  6 Affordable acquisition approach (usually A³, USAF).
  7 Associazione Arma Aeronautica [air force association] (I).
  8 African Airlines Association [office, Nairobi] (Int.).
AAA 1 Australian Aerial Agriculture Association.
  2 Army Aviation Association of America Inc. [office, Westport, CT 06880] (US).
  3 Antique Aeroplane Association of Australia.
  4 Advanced architecture for airborne arrays.
  5 American Aviation Aerospace Alliance.
  6 Arizona Antique Aircraft Association.
  7 Aircraft Appraiser Assoc. of America [Oklahoma City, OK] (US).
AAAC  Australian Army Aviation Corps.
AAACF  Airline Aviation & Aerospace Christian Fellowship [a charity, Lightwater, Surrey GU18 5JS] (UK).
AAAD  1 Airborne anti-armour defence.
  2 All-arms air-defence (UK).
AAADA  Atlantic Alliance of Aerospace and Defence Associations [Halifax, Nova Scotia] (Int).
AAAE  American Association of Airport Executives.
(AW)
AAAF  1 Association Aéronautique et Astronautique de France. [office, Paris]
  2 Previously the Association des Assurances Aviation de France, now Afasat.
AAAI  1 American Association for Artificial Intelligence [Menlo Park, CA 94025].
  2 Association of Australian Aerospace Industries [ACT 2608] (Australia).
AAAM  Advanced air-to-air missile.
AAAS  American Association for the Advancement of Sciences.
AAASS  Australian airborne acoustic systems strategy [sonobuoy system, also rendered A'SS].
AAATF  Australian Advanced Air-Traffic System [first nationwide ADS-B system in the world].
AAAV  Azienda Autonoma Assistenza al Volo, agency for air navigation and air traffic service (Italy).
AAAW  Air-launched, or advanced airborne, anti-armour weapon.
AAB  1 Association of Air Brokers, now BACA.
  2 Air Assualt Brigade.
AABM  Air-to-air battle management.
AAEEA

AAEEA  Association des Anciens Elèves de l’Ecole de l’Air (F).
AAES  1 Association of Aerospace Engineering Societies (US).
AAFlex  2 American Association of Engineering Societies.
AAF  Army/Air Force Exchange Service (US, becameAAFES). 
AAF  Army Air Force [s], full title USAAF, (June 1941–1947).
AAFARS  Advanced aviation forward-area refuelling system.
AAFB  AAF Base Unit.
AAFCE  Allied Air Forces Central Europe (NATO, pronounced af-see).
AAFEA  Australian Airline Flight Engineers’ Association.
AAFS  Army and Air Force Exchange Service (US).
AAFlIF  Automated air-facility information file, compiled by DMA.
AAFRA  Air Accident Investigation Branch (DETR, UK).
AAFIC  Air Accident Investigation Commission (US). 
AAIB  Air Accident Investigation Branch (Singapore).
AAAC  1 Accident Analysis Committee.
AAARC  Airworthiness Assurance Non-destructive Evaluation Laboratory (US).
AAAM  Airworthiness Assurance Non-destructive Evaluation Laboratory (USAF).
AAAMC  Airworthiness Assurance Non-destructive Evaluation Laboratory (USAF).
AAAS  1 Association of American Geographers.
AAASI  2 American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
AAASD  Advanced Aviation Protection System (EW).
AAAPT  1 Association of American Physicists in Asia.
AAARP  Air Armament Research Laboratory (USAF).
AAARPV  Advanced aerial refuelling boom.
AAAS  2 American Association for the Advancement of Science.
AAAS  3 American Association for the Advancement of Science.
AAASC  1 American Academy of Scientific Communication.
AAASD  2 Advanced aerial refuelling system.
AAAS  3 Advanced aerial refuelling system.
AAASD  2 Advanced aerial refuelling system.
AAAT  Air-to-air accelerator.
AAAT  Air to air target.
AAAT  Air to air refuelling system.
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**AARL**

AARL Advanced applications rotary launcher (S adds system).

**AAR points** Ground position of intended hookups.

**AARS** 1 Automatic altitude-reporting system.
2 Attitude/altitude retention system.

1 Advance [not advanced] airborne reconnaissance system (BAE Systems).

**AARTA** Army Aviation research and technology activity (USA).

**AAS** 1 Airport Advisory Service (FAA).
2 Army Aviation School (USA).


5 AATC Aircraft Airbase (italian Euret).

5 Air Armament School [former] (UK).

6 Advanced automation system (NAS 2).


8 Alternative access to [space] station (NASA).

**AASA** The Airlines Association of South Africa [Springbok, Transvaal].

**AASE** Advanced aircraft survivability equipment.

**AASF** 1 Advanced Air Striking Force [in France, 1939–40] (RAF).

2 Alaskan Aviation Safety Foundation [office, Anchorage, AK99502] (US).

3 Army Aviation Support Facility (USA).

**AASM** Advanced air-to-surface missile.

**AAST** Aircraft assembly and test system (Euret).

**AAU** Airworthiness Assurance Working Group.

**AAW** 1 Anti-air warfare.

2 Active aeroelastic wing.

3 Aeromedical Airlift Wing (USAF).

**AAWEX** Anti-air warfare exercise.

**AAWG** Airworthiness Assurance Working Group.

**AAWS** 1 Automatic Aviation Weather Service.

2 Advanced anti-tank weapon system.

3 Advanced artefact-weather weapon system.

**AB** Air base (USAF).

**AB/AB, a/b** A/Afterburner.

2 Airbrake.

**AABB** 1 Aircraft assembly and test system (Euret).

2 Advanced aircraft survivability equipment.

3 Aircraft Assembly Unit (UK, WW2).

3 Association of Aerospace Universities, 21 plus 5 commercial organisations [c/o Coventry University CV1 5FB] (UK).

4 Audio amplifier unit.

5 Antenna adaptor unit (IFF).

6 Articulated audio unit (threat warning).

7 Assigned amount unit(s) [emissions].

**AAUR** All-altitude upset recovery.

**AAV** Autonomous aerial vehicle.

**AAV** See AAVN.

**AAVN** Army Aviation (UK).

**AAVS** Aerospace Audio-Visual Service (USAF).

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Aberporth  
Chief UK missile test centre, formerly administered by RAE, on Cardigan Bay, now Pare Aberporth.

aberration  
Geometrical inaccuracy introduced by optical, IR or similar electromagnetic system in which radiation is processed by mirrors, lenses, diffraction gratings and other elements.

ABE  
1 Air-breathing engine [S adds system].  
2 Aerodrome beacon.

ABET  
Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (US).

ABF  
1 Annular blast fragmentation (warhead).  
2 Auto beam forming (passive sonobuoys).

ABFAC  
Aireborne forward air controller.

ABFI  
Association of Belgian Flight Instructors [Antwerp B-2140] (Belgium).

ABG  
Air Base Group (USAF).

ABGS  
Air Bombing and Gunnery School (RAF).

ABI  
1 Advanced[d] boundary information.  
2 Aireborne broadcast intelligence.  
3 Advanced baseline imager (NOAA).

ABIA  
Associação Brasileira das Indústrias Aeronáuticas.

ABICS, Abics  
Ada-based interception [or integrated] control system.

ABIHS  
Aireborne broadcast intelligence hardware system (hazard avoidance).

ABILA  
Aireborne instrument landing approach.

ab initio  
Aircraft or syllabus intended to train pilot with no previous experience [literally "from the beginning"].

ABIP  
Advisory Board of Interested Parties [EASA] (Int.).

ABIS  
All-bus instrumentation system.

ABIT, Abit  
ADS-B implementation team.

ABITA  
Association Belgique des Ingénieurs et Techniciens de l'Aéronautique et de l'Astronautique [office, B-1140 Brussels] (Belgium).

ABJAA  

ABL  
1 Aireborne laser.  
2 Atmospheric boundary layer.  
3 Armoured box launcher.  
4 Allegany Ballistics Laboratory (VS).

ablation  
Erosion of outer surface of body travelling at hypersonic speed in an atmosphere. An ablative material (ablator) chars or melts and is finally lost by vaporisation or separation of fragments. Char has poor thermal conductivity, chemical reactions within ablative layer may be endothermic, and generated gases may afford transpiration cooling. Main mechanism of thermal protection for spacecraft or ICBM re-entry vehicles re-entering Earth atmosphere.

ABLD  
Airbrakes/lift dumpers.

ABM  
1 Apogee boost motor.  
2 Anti-ballistic missile, with capability of intercepting re-entry vehicle(s) of ICBM.  
3 Abeam (ICAO code).  
4 Air-burst munition.  
5 Aviation business machine.  
6 Asynchronous balanced mode.

absolute alcohol  
7 Aircraft base maintenance.  
8 Adams Bashforth-Moulton, an LMM.  
abm  
Abeam.

ABMA  

ABMD  
Anti- [or advanced] ballistic missile defense; A adds agency, I initiative, P program, S system and T treaty (US).

ABN  
Aireborne.

ABn  
Aerodrome beacon.

abney level  
A spirit-level clinometer (obs.).

abnormality  
The presence of abnormal material forms or physical shapes that are not permitted by the engineering specification (FAA).

abnormal spin  
Originally defined as spin which continued for two or more turns after initiation of recovery action; today obscure.

A-bomb  
Colloquial term for fission bomb based upon plutonium or enriched uranium (A = atomic).

aborted  
1 To abandon course of action, such as takeover or mission.

2 Action thus abandoned, thus an *.

abort drill  
Rehearsed and instinctive sequence of actions for coping with emergency abort situation; thus, RTO sequence would normally includes throttles closed, wheel brakes, spoilers, then full reverse on all available engines consistent with ability to steer along runway.

above-wing nozzle  
Socket for gravity filling of fuel tanks.

ABP  
Aerodynamic balance panel.

ABPM  
Air-base protective measure (US).

ABPNL  
Association Belge des Pilotes et Navigateurs techniciens de Ligne [office, B-1140 Brussels] (Belgium).

A-BPSK  
Aeronautical binary phase-shift keying.

ABR  
1 Amphibian bomber reconnaissance.  
2 Agile-beam radar.

abradable seal  
Surface layer of material, usually non-structural, forming almost gas-tight seal with moving member and which can abrasive harmlessly in event of mechanical contact. Some fan and compressor-blade** are silicone rubber with 20% fill of fine glass beads.

ABRC  
Advisory Board for the Research Councils (UK).

Abres, ABRES  
Advanced ballistic re-entry system[s].

ABRU  
Advanced bomb rack unit.

ABRV  
1 Advanced ballistic re-entry vehicle.  
2 Abbreviation.

ABS  
1 Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene, strong thermosetting plastic material.  
2 Anti-blocking system.  
3 Anti-lock braking system.  
abs  
Absolute scale of units.

ABSA  
Advanced base support aircraft.

abscessa  
1 In co-ordinate geometry, X-axis.  
2 X-axis location of a point.

ABSL  
Ambient background sound level.

absolute aerodynamic ceiling  
Altitude at which maximum rate of climb of aerodyne, under specified conditions, falls to zero. Usually pressure altitude atmsl, atmosphere ISA, aircraft loading 1 g, and weight must be specified. Except for zoom ceiling, this is greatest height attainable.

absolute alcohol  
Pure ethyl alcohol (ethanol) with all water removed.
**absolute altimeter**

absolute altimeter Altimeter that indicates absolute altitude; nearest approach to this theoretical ideal is laser altimeter, closely followed by instruments using longer EM wavelengths (radio altimeter).

**absolute altitude** Distance along local vertical between aircraft and point where local vertical cuts Earth’s surface.

**absolute angle of attack** Angle of attack measured from angle for zero lift (which with cambered wing is negative with respect to chord line).

**absolute ceiling** Usually, absolute aerodynamic ceiling.

**absolute density** Theoretical density (symbol $\rho$) at specified height in model atmosphere.

**absolute fix** Fix (2) established by two or more position lines crossing at large angles near 90°.

**absolute humidity** Humidity of local atmosphere, expressed as gm$^{-3}$.

**absolute inclinometer** Inclinometer reading attitude with respect to local horizontal, usually by precise spirit level or gyro.

**absolute optical shaft encoder** Electromechanical transducer giving coded non-ambiguous output exactly proportional to shaft angular position.

**absolute pressure** Gauge pressure plus local atmospheric pressure.

**absolute system** Of several ** of units, or for calculating aerospace parameters, most important is reduction of aerodynamic forces to dimensionless coefficients by dividing by dynamic pressure head $\frac{1}{2}pV^2$.

**absolute temperature** Temperature related to absolute zero. Two scales in common use: absolute (°A) using same unit as Fahrenheit or Rankine scale (contrary to SI), and Kelvin (K) using same unit as Celsius scale.

**absolute zero** Temperature at which all gross molecular (thermal) motion ceases, with all substances (probably except helium) in solid state. $0K = \text{-273.16°C.}$

**absorbed dose** Energy imparted by nuclear or ionising radiation to unit mass of recipient matter; measured in rads.

**absorption band** Range of frequencies or wavelengths within which specified EM radiation is absorbed by specified material; narrow spread(s) of frequencies for which absorption is at clear maximum.

**absorption coefficient** $J$ in acoustics, percentage of sound energy absorbed by supposed infinitely large area of surface or body. $2$ In EM radiation, percentage of energy that fails to be reflected by opaque body or transmitted by transparent body (in case of reflection, part of radiation may be scattered). Water vapour is good absorber of EM at long wavelengths at which solar energy is reflected from Earth’s surface, so ** for solar energy varies greatly with altitude.

**absorption process** Chemical production of petroils (gasolines) by passing natural gas through heavy hydrocarbon oils.

**absorption cross-section** Absorption coefficient of radar target expressed as ratio of absorbed energy to incident energy.

**ABT** 1 About (ICAO).

2 Air-breathing threat(s).

Abta, ABTA Association of British Travel Agents, [office, London].

ABTJ Aferburning turbojet.

**ACAP**

ACAP 1 Aviation bird unit (airport).

2 Avionics block upgrade.

**ABV** 1 Air-bleed valve.

2 Above (ICAO).

3 Alternative boost vehicle (BMDS).

**ABW** Air Base Wing (USAF).

**AC** 1 Aligned continuous (FRP1).

2 Aircraft commander.

3 Army co-operation (UK).

4 Aerodynamic centre (a.e.c. is preferred).

5 Or Ac, acceleration command.

6 Acquisition cycle.

7 Advisory circular (FAA).

8 Aircraft characteristic (JAR).

9 Automated circumferential (riveting).

10 Airworthiness circular.

11 Air carrier.

12 Air conditioner.

13 Airman certification (US).

14 Active component.

15 Area coverage (Satcoms).

16 Analyst console.

17 Approach control.

Ac Altocumulus cloud.

A/C Approach Control (FAA style).

ac Aerodynamic centre.

a.e.c. 1 Alternating current (electricity).

2 Aerodynamic centre of wing or other surface; often written ac.

alc Aircraft (FAA = a/c). 1 Air Crew Association (UK).

AACA 1 Air Carrier Association of America.

2 Australian Civil Aviation Authority.

3 Academic Center for Aging Aircraft (universities + DoD).

4 African Civil Aviation Agency, oversees five regional bodies (2007–).

AACAIA Armed Forces Association of India [office, Mumbai].

AACAAR Aircraft communications addressing and reporting [adds system].

ACAB Air Cavalry Attack Brigade (USA).

ACAC 1 Arab Civil Aviation Council (Int).

2 African Civil Aviation Commission (Dakar, Senegal) (Int.).

3 Aircooled air cooler.

ACAMS Aircraft communications and management system.

ACAN Amicale des Centres Aéronautiques Nationaux [F-75801 Paris] (F).


2 Advanced composite aircraft (helicopter) program (US).
ACARE

ACARE Advisory Council for Aeronautical Research in Europe (Int.).

Acars, ACARS 1 Aircraft communications and automatic reporting system; most common interpretation.
2 Airborne communication and recording system.
3 Arinc communications addressing and reporting system.
4 Airline communication and reporting system (Rockwell Collins).

ACAS 1 Air-cycle air-conditioning system.
2 Assistant Chief of the Air Staff.
3 Aluminium core, aluminium skin.
4 Airborne collision-avoidance system.
5 Aircraft collision-avoidance system (ICAO is currently *II; 2002).
6 Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (UK).
7 Airfield chemical-alarm system.
8 Aircraft analytical system (software).

ACASS Advanced closed air support system (US).

Acassa Army close air support situational awareness (USA/USAF).

Acat, ACAT 1 Association of Colleges of Aerospace Technology [Weybridge KT13 8TT](UK).
2 Air Carrier Ab initio Training; MPL adds Multiple crew pilot license (US).

Acatt Army combined arms team trainer (Cobra/Apache/Scout).

ACAVS Advanced cab and visual system.

ACARS Aircraft communications and auto-reporting system.

ACBM Aircraft collision-avoidance system (ICAO is Air-to-Air Collision Avoidance System). 

ACCE Active clearance control.

ACCC 1 Air, or air traffic, or area, or aerodrome, or airfield control centre.
2 Active clearance control.
3 Aircraft Combat Command (USAF, from 1 June 1992, HQ Langley AFB).
4 Air Co-ordinating Committee (US, military/civilian, 1945-60).
5 Axis-controlled carrier.
6 Avionics computer control.
7 Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce (US, 1921 on).
8 Automatic code change (IFF).
9 Aero Club of Canada [Ontario K7C 4L7].
10 Aerobatic Certificate Course (AOPA).
11 Audio control console.

AcC Alteocumulus castellatus.

ACCA 1 Air Courier Conference of America [office, Falls Church, VA] (US).
2 Air Charters Carriers’ Association.

ACC 1 Australian Competition and Consumer Commission.
2 Aluminium [aluminum] conductor, composite core [cable].

ACCE Air Command and Control Element (RAF).

accelerated flight Although aircraft that gains or loses speed is accelerating in horizontal plane, term should be used only for acceleration in plane perpendicular to flight-path, esp. in vertical plane.

accelerated history Test record of specimen subjected to overstress cycling, overtemperature cycling or any other way of ‘aging’ at abnormally rapid rate.

accelerated mission endurance test An engine or other item is subjected to a non-stop succession of simulated in-service missions.

accelerated stall Stall entered in accelerated flight. As common way of inducing stall is to keep pulling up nose, it might be thought all stalls must be accelerated, but in gradual entry flight path may be substantially horizontal. “High-speed stall” is possible in violent manoeuvre because acceleration in vertical plane requires wing to exceed stalling angle of attack. Stall-protection systems are generally designed to respond to rate of change of angle of attack close to stalling angle, so stick-pusher (or whatever form system takes) is fired early enough for critical value not to be reached.

accelerate-stop Simulation of RTO by accelerating from rest to V1 or other chosen speed and immediately bringing aircraft to rest in shortest possible distance; hence * distance.

accelerating pump In piston engine carburettor, pump provided to enrich mixture each time throttle is opened, to assist acceleration of engine masses.

accelerating well Originally receptacle for small supply of fuel automatically fed into choke tube by increased suction when throttle was opened. Later became small volume connected by bleed holes to mixture delivery passage. Usually absent from modern engines.

acceleration Rate of change of velocity, having dimensions LT–2 and in SI usually measured in ms–2 = 3.28084 fits–2 [reciprocal, 0.3048]. As velocity is vector quantity, * can be imparted by changing trajectory without changing speed, and this is meaning most often applied in aerospace.

acceleration control unit Major element in engine fuel control unit, usually a servo sensing compressor delivery pressure to make fuel flow keep pace with demand for extra fuel to accelerate engine as throttle is opened.

acceleration datum Engine N1 corresponding to typical approach power, used in engine type testing for 2½ min. rest period before each simulated overholt acceleration (repeated 8 or 15 times).

acceleration errors Traditional direct-reading magnetic compass misreads under linear acceleration (change of speed at constant heading) and in turn (apparent vertical acceleration at constant speed); former is a maximum on E–W headings, increasing speed on W heading in N hemisphere indicating apparent turn to N; Northerly Turning Error (N hemisphere) causes simple compass to lag true reading, while Southerly Turning Error results in over-reading. Simple suction horizon misreads under all applied accelerations, most serious under linear positive acceleration (t-o or overshoot), when indication is falsely nose-up and usually right-wing down (with clockwise rotor, indication is diving left turn).

acceleration manoeuvre High-speed yo-yo.

acceleration-onset cueing Simulator technique in which real acceleration is initially imparted and then reduced, usually to zero, at a rate too low for body to notice; thus trainee can even believe in sustained afterburner takeoff.

acceleration stress Physical deformation of human body caused by acceleration, esp. longitudinal.

acceleration tolerance See g-tolerance.

accelerator 1 Device, not carried on aircraft, for increasing linear acceleration on takeoff; original name for catapult.
2 Software for boosting throughput of digital data, especially for satellite transmission.

accelerator pump Accelerating pump.
accelerometer

**accelerometer** Device for measuring acceleration. INS contains most sensitive * possible. Usually one for each axis, arranged to emit electrical signal proportional to sensed acceleration. Recording * makes continuous hard-copy record of sensed acceleration, or indicates peak. Direct reading * generally fitted in test flying but not in regular aircraft operation.

Accept Automated cargo clearance enforcement processing technique, computerised inspection of selected items only, to help identify high-risk items (US customs).

acceptable alternative product One which may be used in place of another for extended periods without technical advice (NATO).

**acceptance** One meaning is agreement of air-traffic control to take control of particular aircraft. Hence * rate is (1) actual rate in one-hour period, or (2) the maximum that can safely be handled.

acceptance test Mainly historic, test of hardware witnessed by customer or his designated authority to demonstrate acceptability of product (usually military). Schedule typically covered operation within design limits, ignoring service life, fatigue, MTBF, MMH/FH and fault protection.

acceptance trials Trials of flight vehicle carried out by eventual military user or his nominated representative to determine if specified customer requirement has been met.

Access Assembly concept for construction of erectable space structures.

access door Hinged door openable to provide access to interior space or equipment.

access light Until about 1940, light placed near airfield boundary indicating favourable area over which to approach and land.

access panel Quickly removable aircraft-skin panel, either of replaceable or interchangeable type, removed to provide access to interior.

accessories Replaceable system components forming functioning integral part of aircraft. Except in general aviation, term is vague; includes pumps, motors and valves, excludes such items as life-rafts and furnishing. In case of fuel system (for example) would include pumps, valves, contents gauges and flowmeters, but not tanks or pipelines.

accessory drive Shaft drive, typically for group of rotary accessory units, from main engine, APU, EPU, MEMU or other power source.

access time 1 Time required to access any part of computer program (typically $10^{-3}$ to $10^{-5}$ s).

2 Time required to project any desired part of film or roller map in pictorial cockpit display (typically about 3 s).

3 Time necessary to open working section of tunnel and reach model installed (typically about 1,000 s, but varies greatly).

ACCGS Air Cadet Central Gliding School (Syrerston, UK).

ACCID Notification of aircraft accident (ICAO).

accident Incident in life of aircraft which causes significant damage or personal injury (see notifyable).

accident-protected recorder Flight recorder meeting mandatory requirements intended to ensure accurate playback after any crash.

**accident rate** In military aviation most common parameter is accidents per 100,000 flying hours; other common measures are fatal accidents, crew fatalities and aircraft write-offs on same time basis, usually reckoned by calendar year. In commercial aviation preferred yardsticks are number of accidents (divided into notifiable and fatal) per 100 million passenger-miles (to be replaced by passenger-km) or per 100,000 stage flights, either per calendar year or as five-year moving average. In General Aviation usual measure is fatal accidents per 100,000 take-offs.

accident recorder Device, usually self-contained and enclosed in casing proof against severe impact, crushing forces and intense fire, which records on magnetic tape, wire, or other material, flight parameters most likely to indicate cause of accident. Typical parameters are time, altitude, IAS, pitch and roll attitude, control-surface positions and normal acceleration; many other parameters can be added, and some * on transports are linked with maintenance recording systems. Record may continuously superimpose and erase that of earlier flight, or recorder may be regularly reloaded so that record can be studied.

ACCIS Automated command and control information system (NATO).

ACISRC See AC2ISRC [alphabetically, AC two . . ].

acclrm Accelerometer.

accompanying cargo/supplies Cargo and/or supplies carried by combat units into objective area.

ACCP Automatic configuration control processor.

ACC-R Area control centre radar.

accredited medical conclusion Decision by licensing authority on individual's fitness to fly, in whatever capacity.

accredited sortie One that puts bomb on target.

ACCS Airborne Command and Control Squadron (USAF, NATO).

2 Air command and control system (NATO).

3 Air-cycle [modular] cooling system.

4 Airborne computing and communications system.

ACCSA Allied Communications and Computer Security Agency (NATO, Brussels).

ACCTS Aviation Co-ordinating Committee for telecommunications Services (US).

accumulator 1 Electrical storage battery, invariably liquid-electrolyte and generally lead/acid.

2 Device for storing energy in hydraulic system, or for increasing system elasticity to avoid excessive dynamic pressure loading. Can act as emergency source of pressure of fluid, damp out pressure fluctuations, prevent incessant shutting of pressure regulators and act as pump back-up at peak load.

3 Device for storing limited quantity of fuel, often under pressure, for engine starting, inverted flight or other time when normal supply may be unavailable or need supplementing.

4 Portion of computer central processor or arithmetic unit used for addition.

accuracy jump Para-sport jump in which criterion is distance from target.

accuracy landing In flying training or demonstration, dead-stick landing on designated spot (= spot landing).

accuracy of fire Linear distance between point of aim and mean point of strikes.

Accu-Time Magnetron circuit capable of being precisely tuned to different wavelengths.
ACD 1 Automatic [or automated] chart display.
2 Aeronautical Charting Division (NOAA).

ACDA Arms Control and Disarmament Agency.

ACDAC Asociación Colombiana de Aviadores Civiles [pilots’ union; Bogotá] (Colombia).

ACDB Airport characteristics data-bank (ICAO).

AC/DC Air refuelling tanker able both to dispense and receive fuel in flight (colloq).

ACDO Air-carrier district office (US).

ACDP Armament control and display panel.

ACDS 1 Automatic countermeasures [or computer-controlled] dispenser [or dispensing] system.
2 Assistant Chief of the Defence Staff (UK).
3 Air-, or advanced, combat direction system.

ACDR Airborne central data tape recorder (now generally called RSD).

ACE 1 Automatic check-out equipment.
2 Association of Consulting Engineers [London SW1H 0QL] (UK).
3 Air combat evaluator (CIU software).
4 Aircrew (or accelerated copilot) enrichment.
5 Allied Command Europe (NATO).
6 Association des Compagnies Aériennes de la Communauté Européenne [all EC7 members of IACA; office, Brussels (Belgium)].
7 Advanced crew-station evaluator [helicopter].
8 Automated center for electronics, computer control of all phases of circuit design, development, assembly and test (Lockheed).
9 ‘Technical acknowledgement’ (ACARS code).
10 Actuator control electronics.
11 Advanced-certification equipment.
12 Aerospace Committee (BSI).
13 Aviation capabilities enhancement.
14 Analysis [and] control element.
15 Agile control experiment.
16 Aerobatic certification evaluator.
17 Aviation Career Education, or Educator (US).
18 Aviation Combat Element of MEU.
19 Autonomous combat [manoeuvres] evaluation.
20 Air-combat emulator.
21 Adaptive-cycle engine.
22 Association of Cost Engineers [Sandbach, Cheshire] (UK).
23 Aviation [airport] capacity evaluation (FAA 2002–).
24 Aviation Centre of Excellence (45 European members).
25 Aéro Club d’Egypte [Cairo].
26 Airborne Command Element (Aawas).
27 Airstate capacity enhancement.
ace Combat pilot with many victories over enemy aircraft. WW2 USAAF scores included strafing (air/ground) “victories”. Number required to qualify has varied, but in modern world is usually five confirmed in (air/ground) “victories”. Number required to qualify has varied, but in modern world is usually five confirmed in (air/ground) “victories”. Number required to qualify has varied, but in modern world is usually five confirmed in (air/ground) “victories”.
28 Autonomous combat direction system. WW2 USAAF scores included strafing (air/ground) “victories”.
29 Autonomous combat direction system.
30 Autonomous combat [manoeuvres] evaluation.
31 Air-combat emulator.
32 Adaptive-cycle engine.
33 Association of Cost Engineers [Sandbach, Cheshire] (UK).
34 Aviation Centre of Excellence (FAA 2002–).
35 Aviation Centre of Excellence (45 European members).
36 Aéro Club d’Egypte [Cairo].
37 Airborne Command Element (Aawas).
38 Airstate capacity enhancement.
39 Autonomous combat direction system.
40 Autonomous combat [manoeuvres] evaluation.
41 Air-combat emulator.
42 Adaptive-cycle engine.
43 Association of Cost Engineers [Sandbach, Cheshire] (UK).

achieved navigation performance

ACEM Aerial camera electro-optical magazine.
ACER Air Corps Enlisted Reserves (USA).
ACES 1 Advanced-concept escape system.
2 Advanced-concept ejection seat.
3 Air-carrier engineering support.
4 Aerial combat enhanced [or evaluation, or evaluator] simulation.
5 Advanced carry-on Elint/ESM suite.
6 Adaptation controlled environment system (ATC).
7 Airborne capability extension system.

ACeS Asia cellular satellite system.
ACESNA Agence Centrafricaine pour la Sécurité Navigation Aérienne. [office Bangui, Central African Rep.].
ACESS Aircraft computerized equipment support system.

ACET Air-cushion equipment transporter, for moving aircraft and other loads over soft surfaces, especially over airbase with paved areas heavily cratered (S adds ‘system’).
2 Automatic cancellation of extended [radar] target[s].
3 Affordable capable engine technology, TDP adds technology demonstrator programme [2005–] (UK).

acetate Compound or solution of acetic acid and alkali.

acetone CH₃.CO.CH₃, inflammable, generally reactive chemical, often prepared by special fermentation of grain, used as solvent. Basis of many ‘dopes’ and ‘thinners’.

ACETS, Acets Air-cushion equipment transportation system (for post-attack airfields).

acetylene CH₂CH or C₂H₂, colourless gas, explosive mixed with air or when pressurized but safe dissolved in acetone (trade name Prestolite and others). Burns with oxygen to give 3,500°C flame for gas welding; important ingredient of plastics.

Aceval Air-cushion evaluation.

ACEX Air-coupled electronic transducer.

ACF 1 Aircraft Components Flight (RAF).
2 Advanced common flightdeck.
3 Area control facility.

ACFC 1 Aircooled flight-critical.
2 Aircooled fuel cooler.

ACFD Advanced civil flight deck.

AC*ISR Adaptive C*ISR.

ACFR Australian Centre for Field Robotics.

acft Aircraft (ICAO), also loosely ACFT.

ACG 1 Austro Control GmbH (Austria).
2 Airfield Construction Group (RAF, WW2).
3 Airport Compatibility Group.

ACGF Aluminium-coated glass fibre (chaff).

ACGS Aerospace Cartographic and Geodetic Service (USA, formerly MAC).

ACH 1 Advanced Chain Home (UK WW2).
2 Advanced compound helicopter.


achieved navigation performance The measure of uncertainty in the position element.
achromatic

achromatic Transmitting white light without diffraction into special colours; lens system so designed that sum of chromatic dispersions is zero.

ACI 1 Air Council Instruction (UK).
2 Airports Council International; suffixes denote regions, thus – NA = North America [office, 1215 Geneva 16] (Int.).
3 Avionics caution indicator.
4 Armament control indicator.
ACID Aircraft identification.
acid engine Rocket engine in which one propellant is an acid, usually RFNA or WFNA.
acid extraction Stage in production of lubricating oils in which sulphuric acid is used to extract impurities.
Acids, ACIDS 1 Automated communications and intercom distribution system.
2 A conformal ice detection system.
3 Air Cadet League of Canada – Europe.
ACINT, Acint Active acoustic intelligence.
Acips Airfoil and cowl ice protection system.
ACIS Advanced CClD imaging spectrometer.
2 Armament, or advanced, control/indicator set.
3 Advanced cabin interphone system.
ACJ Advisory circular. Joint.
ACJN Adaptive joint C4ISR node.
ACK Acknowledgement of uplink (Acars).
ack Acknowledgement (ICAO).
Ack-ack Anti-aircraft (UK WW1, became passé in WW2).
Ackeret formula There are many, most important being, for thin wing above MDRT, regardless of camber, C1 = 4α/VM–1.
Ackeret theory First detailed treatment [1925] for supersonic flow past infinite wing, suggesting sharp leading and trailing edges and low t/c ratio; favoured profiles were biconvex or trapezium (parallel double wedge).
acknowledged program A special-access program whose existence is admitted.
acknowledgement Confirmation from addressee that message has been received and understood.
ACL 1 Anti-collision light.
2 Allowable cabin load.
3 Aeronautical-chart legend.
4 Altimeter check location.
5 Air Cadet League of Canada.
6 ATC1 clearance[s].
Aclaim Airborne coherent lidar for air inflight measurement.
Aclant Allied Command, Atlantic (NATO).
ACL The Air Cadet league of Canada [office, Ottawa].
ACLD, ACld Ottawa.
ACICN Advisory, or advanced, CNI panel.
ACIDs Air-Conformal Ice Detection System.
ACM Conformal airframe design.
ACN Aéro Club National d’Algérie (Algeria).
ACNA Aeronautical Communications Node, C4ISR.
ACNE Airborne communications node, C4ISR, now called ATCJ.
ACNIP Auxiliary, or advanced, CNI panel.
ACNS Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (UK).
ACNSS Advanced com/nav/surveillance system.
ACO 1 Airspace control, or coordination, order.
2 Airborne Control, or Communications, Officer.
3 Aerostat coordination office.
4 Advanced concepts of applications.
5 Air-combat order.
ACOC Air-cooled oil cooler.
acorn 1 Streamlined body or forebody added at intersection of two aerodynamic surfaces [e.g. fin/tailplane] to reduce peak suction.
2 Streamlined body introduced at intersection of crossing bracing wires to prevent chafing.
3 Streamlined fairing over external DF loop.
acorn valve Small thermonic valve (radio tube) formerly added to VHF or UHF circuit to improve efficiency.
ACOS 1 Assistant Chief of Staff.
2 Air Crew Officers’ School.