55.7 10GBASE-T link segment characteristics

10GBASE-T is designed to operate over ISO/IEC 11801 Class E or Class F 4-pair balanced cabling that meets the additional requirements specified in this subclause. Each of the four pairs supports an effective data rate of 2500 Mb/s in each direction simultaneously. The term "link segment" used in this clause refers to four duplex channels. Specifications for a link segment apply equally to each of the four duplex channels. All implementations of the balanced cabling link segment specification shall be compatible at the MDI. It is recommended that the guidelines (proposed) in ANSI/TIA/EIA-TSB-155, ANSI/TIA/EIA-568-B.2-10 and ISO/IEC 11801 Edition 2.1 be considered before the installation of 10GBASE-T equipment for any cabling system.

55.7.1 Cabling system characteristics

The cabling system used to support 10GBASE-T requires 4 pairs of ISO/IEC 11801 Class E or Class F balanced cabling with a nominal impedance of 100 Ω .

Additionally:

- a) 10GBASE-T uses a star topology with Class E or Class F balanced cabling used to connect PHY entities.
- b) 10GBASE-T is an ISO/IEC 11801 Class E and Class F application with the additional transmission requirements specified in this subclause.

55.7.2 10GBASE-T link transmission parameters

A 10GBASE-T link segment consisting of at least 55 to 100 meters of Class E or up to 100 meters of Class F which meets the transmission parameters of this subclause will provide a reliable medium. The transmission parameters of the link segment include insertion loss, delay parameters, nominal impedance, NEXT loss, ELFEXT loss, and return loss. In addition, the requirements for the alien crosstalk coupled "between" link segments is specified. The transmission parameters are further summarised in Table 55-8.

Link segment testing shall be conducted using source and load impedances of 100Ω .

The link segment transmission parameters of insertion loss and ELFEXT loss specified are ISO/IEC 11801 Class E specifications extended by extrapolating the formulas to a frequency up to 500 MHz with appropriate adjustments for length when applicable. The link segment transmission parameters of NEXT loss, MDN-EXT loss and Return Loss specified are ISO/IEC 11801 Class E specifications extended beyond 250 MHz by utilizing the equations referenced in TIA/EIA TSB-155 D1.3.

Editor's note: ISO/IEC TR-24750: Assessment of installed Class E and Class F cabling beyond their maximum specified frequencies, should be available before 802.3an is approved. In which case, 802.3an will reference both and may replace the above reference to TIA/EIA TSB-155.

55.7.2.1 Insertion loss

The insertion loss of each duplex channel shall be less than

$$1.05 \left(1.82 \times \sqrt{f} + 0.0169 \times f + \frac{0.25}{\sqrt{f}} \right) + 4 \times 0.02 \times \sqrt{f} \qquad (\text{dB}) \tag{55-10}$$

at all frequencies from 1 MHz to 500 MHz. This includes the attenuation of the balanced cabling pairs, including work area and equipment cables plus connector losses within each duplex channel. The insertion loss specification shall be met when the duplex channel is terminated in 100 Ω .

For the purpose of calculating the 10GBASE-T link segment insertion loss for cabling less than 100 meters the cable insertion loss is assumed to scale linearly with length as defined in (55–27).

55.7.2.2 Differential characteristic impedance

The nominal differential characteristic impedance of each link segment duplex channel, which includes cable cords and connecting hardware, is 100Ω for all frequencies between 1 MHz and 500 MHz.

55.7.2.3 Return loss

Each link segment duplex channel shall meet or exceed the return loss specified in the following equation at all frequencies from 1 MHz to 500 MHz. The reference impedance shall be 100 Ω .

$$\operatorname{Return_Loss}(f) = \begin{cases} 19 & 1 \le f < 10 \\ 24 - 5\log 10(f) & 10 \le f < 40 \\ 32 - 10\log 10(f) & 40 \le f < 400 \\ 6 & 400 \le f \le 500 \end{cases}$$
(dB) (55-11)

where f is the frequency in MHz.

55.7.2.4 Coupling parameters between duplex channels comprising one link segment

In order to limit the noise coupled into a duplex channel from adjacent duplex channels, Near-End Crosstalk (NEXT) loss and Equal Level Far-End Crosstalk (ELFEXT) loss are specified for each link segment. In addition, each duplex channel can be disturbed by more than one duplex channel. To ensure the total NEXT loss and FEXT loss coupled into a duplex channel is limited, multiple disturber Near-End Crosstalk (MDN-EXT) and multiple disturber ELFEXT (MDELFEXT) loss is specified.

55.7.2.4.1 Differential Near-End Crosstalk

In order to limit the crosstalk at the near end of a link segment, the differential pair-to-pair Near-End Crosstalk (NEXT) loss between a duplex channel and the other three duplex channels is specified to meet the bit error rate objective specified in 55.1. The NEXT loss between any two duplex channels of a link segment shall be at least

$$-20 \times \log 10 \left(10^{\frac{74.3 - 15\log 10(f)}{-20}} + 2 \times 10^{\frac{94 - 20\log 10(f)}{-20}} \right)$$
 (dB) (55-12)

where f is the frequency $(1 \le f < 330)$ in MHz.

The NEXT loss between any two duplex channels of a link segment shall be at least

$$31 - 50 \times \log 10 \left(\frac{f}{330}\right)$$
 (dB) (55-13)

56 where f is the frequency $(330 \le f \le 500)$ in MHz.

55.7.2.4.2 Multiple Disturber Near-End Crosstalk (MDNEXT) loss

Since four duplex channels are used to transfer data between PMDs, the NEXT that is coupled into a data carrying channel will be from the three adjacent disturbing duplex channels.

To ensure the total NEXT coupled into a duplex channel is limited, multiple disturber NEXT loss is specified as the power sum of the individual NEXT losses. The Power Sum loss between a duplex channel and the three adjacent disturbers shall be greater than

$$-20 \times \log 10 \left(10^{\frac{72.3 - 15 \log 10(f)}{-20}} + 2 \times 10^{\frac{90 - 20 \log 10(f)}{-20}} \right)$$
 (dB) (55-14) (dB)

where f is the frequency $1 \le f < 330$ in MHz and

$$28 - 42 \times \log 10 \left(\frac{f}{330}\right)$$
 (dB) (55-15) $\frac{19}{20}$

where f is the frequency $(330 \le f \le 500)$ in MHz.

55.7.2.4.3 Multiple-Disturber Power Sum Near-End Crosstalk (PS NEXT) loss

PS NEXT loss is determined by summing the power of the three individual pair-to-pair differential NEXT loss values over the frequency range 1 MHz to 500 MHz. as follows:

$$-10 \times \log 10 \sum_{i=1}^{n} 10^{\frac{-NL(f)i}{10}}$$
(dB) (55-16)

where

NL(f)i is the magnitude in dB of NEXT loss at frequency f of pair combination i

i is the pair-to-pair combination (1 to n)

n is the number of pair-to-pair combinations

55.7.2.4.4 Equal Level Far-End Crosstalk (ELFEXT) loss

Equal Level Far-End Crosstalk (ELFEXT) loss is specified in order to limit the crosstalk at the far end of each link segment duplex channel and meet the BER objective specified in 55.1.1. Far-End Crosstalk (FEXT) is crosstalk that appears at the far end of a duplex channel (disturbed channel), which is coupled from another duplex channel (disturbing channel) with the noise source (transmitters) at the near end.

FEXT loss is defined as

$$\text{FEXT_Loss}(f) = 20 \times \log 10 \left(\frac{V_{pds}(f)}{V_{pcn}(f)}\right) \qquad (\text{dB}) \tag{55-17}$$

and ELFEXT_Loss is defined as

$$ELFEXT_Loss(f) = 20 \times \log 10 \left(\frac{V_{pds(f)}}{V_{pcn(f)}}\right) - SLS_Loss(f) \qquad (dB) \qquad (55-18)$$

where

Vpdsis the peak voltage of disturbing signal (near-end transmitter)Vpcnis the peak crosstalk noise at far end of disturbed channelSLS_Lossis the insertion loss of disturbed channel in dB

The worst pair ELFEXT loss between any two duplex channels shall be greater than

$$-20 \times \log 10 \left(10^{\frac{67.8 - 20\log(10(f))}{-20}} + 4 \times 10^{\frac{83.1 - 20\log10(f)}{-20}} \right)$$
(dB) (55-19)

where f is the frequency over the range of 1 MHz to 500 MHz.

The numerator of the first term "raised to the power of 10" in equation (55-19) is the cable portion of the duplex channel of 100 meters. The ELFEXT of the cable improves as the cable is reduced in length as defined in equation (55-20). The equation assumes coupling over 100 meters of cable including horizontal cable and cable cords

$$(67.8 - 20\log 10(f)) - 10\left(\log 10(\frac{L}{100})\right)$$
 (dB) (55-20)

where L is the length in meters of the 10GBASE-T link segment.

55.7.2.4.5 Multiple Disturber Equal Level Far-End Crosstalk (MDELFEXT) loss

Since four duplex channels are used to transfer data between PMDs, the FEXT that is coupled into a data carrying channel will be from the three adjacent disturbing duplex channels. To ensure the total FEXT coupled into a duplex channel is limited, multiple disturber ELFEXT loss is specified as the power sum of the individual ELFEXT losses. The Power Sum loss between a duplex channel and the three adjacent disturbers shall be greater than

$$-20 \times \log 10 \left(10^{\frac{64.8 - 20 \log 10(f)}{-20}} + 4 \times 10^{\frac{80.1 - 20 \log 10(f)}{-20}} \right)$$
 (dB) (55-21)

where f is the frequency over the range of 1 MHz to 500 MHz.

55.7.2.4.6 Multiple-Disturber Power Sum Equal Level Far-End Crosstalk (PS ELFEXT) loss

PS ELFEXT loss is determined by summing the power of the three individual pair-to-pair differential ELF-EXT loss values over the frequency range 1 MHz to 500 MHz as follows:

PSELFEXT_Loss(f) =
$$-10 \times \log_{10} \sum_{i=1}^{i=n} 10^{\frac{-EL(f)i}{10}}$$
 (55–22)

where

EL(f)i is the magnitude of ELFEXT loss at frequency f of pair combination i i is the pair-to-pair combination (1 to n)

n is the number of pair-to-pair combinations

55.7.2.5 Maximum link delay

The propagation delay of a link segment shall not exceed 570 ns at all frequencies between 2 MHz and 500 MHz.

55.7.2.6 Link delay skew

The difference in propagation delay, or skew, between all duplex channel pair combinations of a link segment, under all conditions, shall not exceed 50 ns at all frequencies from 2 MHz to 500 MHz. It is a further functional requirement that, once installed, the skew between any two of the four duplex channels due to environmental conditions shall not vary more than 10 ns within the above requirement.

55.7.3 Coupling parameters between link segments

Noise coupled between the disturbed duplex channel in a link segment and the disturbing duplex channels in other link segments is referred to as alien crosstalk noise. To ensure the total Alien NEXT loss and Alien FEXT loss coupled between link segments is limited, multiple disturber Alien Near-End Crosstalk (MD ANEXT) and multiple disturber Alien FEXT (MDAFEXT) loss is specified. In addition, to ensure the reliable operation of the link segment, a minimum alien crosstalk to insertion loss ratio is specified.

55.7.3.1 Multiple Disturber Alien Near-End Crosstalk (MDANEXT) loss

In order to limit the alien crosstalk at the near end of a link segment, the differential pair-to-pair Near-End Crosstalk (NEXT) loss between the disturbed duplex channel in a link segment and the disturbing duplex channels in other link segments is specified to meet the bit error rate objective specified in 55.1. To ensure the total Alien NEXT coupled into a duplex channel is limited, multiple disturber Alien NEXT loss is specified as the power sum of the individual Alien NEXT disturbers.

55.7.3.1.1 Multiple-Disturber Power Sum Near-End Crosstalk (PS ANEXT) loss

PS ANEXT loss is determined by summing the power of the individual pair-to-pair differential Alien NEXT loss values over the frequency range 1 MHz to 500 MHz. as follows:

$$-10 \times \log 10 \sum_{i=1}^{n} 10^{\frac{-AN(f)i}{10}}$$
(dB) (55-23) (55

i

n

where

AN(f)i is the magnitude in dB of ANEXT loss at frequency f of pair combination i

is the pair-to-pair combination (1 to n)

is the number of pair-to-pair combinations between link segments

The Power Sum ANEXT loss between a disturbed duplex channel in a link segment and the disturbing duplex channels in other link segments shall meet the values determined using equation (55–24).

$$PSANEXT \ge \begin{cases} X1 - 10\log 10(\frac{f}{100}) \quad (dB) & 1 \le f \le 100 \\ \\ X1 - 15\log 10(\frac{f}{100}) \quad (dB) & 100 < f \le 500 \end{cases}$$
(55-24)

where f is the frequency in MHz and X1 = the intercept at f=100 MHz.

The intercept is referred to as the PS ANEXT constant. The PS ANEXT constant is determined in 55.7.3.1.2 constrained by the ratio of the PS ANEXT to the insertion loss.

The average PS ANEXT loss of the 4-pairs shall meet the values determined using equation (55–25)

$$PSANEXT_avg \ge \begin{cases} (X1+1) - 10\log 10(\frac{f}{100}) & (dB) & 1 \le f \le 100 \\ \\ (X1+1) - 15\log 10(\frac{f}{100}) & (dB) & 100 < f \le 500 \end{cases}$$
(55-25)

where f is the frequency in MHz and X1 = the intercept at f=100 MHz.

55.7.3.1.2 PS ANEXT loss to insertion loss ratio requirements

To ensure reliable operation, a minimum insertion loss to alien crosstalk ratio must be maintained. The PS ANEXT loss requirement of 55.7.3.1.1 can be relaxed based on a reduction in the maximum insertion loss specified in 55.7.2.1. The insertion loss reduction can be achieved by utilizing 10GBASE-T link segments less than 100 meters defined by (55–27) or the insertion loss at 250 MHz of the supported cabling types in Table 55–8.

The adjusted PS ANEXT loss requirement is determined by first calculating the PS ANEXT_constant and utilizing the constant in the PS ANEXT limit line model.

The PS ANEXT_constant is defined by the following equation:

$$PSANEXT_constant = 62 - \frac{10GBTIL(250MHz) - (IL(250MHz))}{1.04}$$
(dB) (55-26)

where

10GBTIL(250MHz) is the 10GBASE-T link segment insertion loss at 250 MHz (equation (55–10))

IL(250MHz) is the insertion loss of a 10GBASE-T link segment less than 100 meters (equation (55–27)) or the insertion loss at 250 MHz of the supported cabling types in Table 55–8.

For the purpose of calculating the 10GBASE-T link segment insertion loss for cabling less than 100 meters the cable insertion loss is assumed to scale linearly with length.

The scaled 10GBASE-T link segment is defined by the following equation:

Scaled_10GBT_IL =
$$\frac{\text{Length}_m}{100} \times 1.05 \left(1.82 \times \sqrt{f} + 0.0169 \times f + \frac{0.25}{\sqrt{f}} \right) + 4 \times 0.02 \times \sqrt{f} \text{ (dB)}$$
 (55–27)

where Length_m is in meters

.Table 55–8 lists the calculated PS ANEXT constants for the cabling types and distances.

Cabling	Distance	PS ANEXT_ constant (dB)	PS ANEXT_ constant_avg average of the 4-pairs (dB)	Insertion Loss at 250 MHz (dB)
Class E ^a	100 meters	62	63	35.9
Category 6 ^b	55 meters	47	48	20.3
Class F ^c	100 meters	60	61	33.8
Augmented Category 6 ^d	100 meters	60	61	33.8

Table 55-8— Cabling types, distance and PS ANEXT Constants

^aThe PS ANEXT for a Class E channel assumes the maximum insertion loss of a Class E channel extrapolated to 500 MHz (Reference: ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 25 N 981A)

^bThe PS ANEXT for a Category 6 channel assumes the maximum insertion loss of a Category 6 channel of 55 meters extrapolated to 500 MHz specified in TIA/EIA TSB-155 D1.3.

^cThe PS ANEXT for a Class F channel assumes the maximum insertion loss of a Class F channel specified in ISO/ IEC 11801.

^dThe PS ANEXT for an Augmented Category 6 channel assumes the maximum insertion loss of an Augmented Category 6 defined in TIA/EIA-568-B.2-10, D1.4

Note: The PS ANEXT limits represent the minimum requirements for 10GBASE-T operation over the referenced cabling type and distance and are not intended to represent the PS ANEXT performance limits of the cabling (i.e., the PS ANEXT performance of the cabling may be better than the minimum requirements specified in 10GBASE-T).

Note: For simulating PHY performance to estimate system margin, the PS ANEXT constant average (average of the four pairs) is increased by 2.5 dB to account for an averaging of the PS ANEXT over frequency.

55.7.3.2 Multiple Disturber Alien Far-End Crosstalk (MDAFEXT) loss

In order to limit the alien crosstalk at the far-end of a link segment, the differential pair-to-pair alien far-end crosstalk loss between the disturbed duplex channel in a link segment and the disturbing duplex channels in other link segments is specified to meet the bit error rate objective specified in 55.1. To ensure the total Alien FEXT coupled into a duplex channel is limited, multiple disturber ELFEXT loss is specified as the power sum of the individual Alien ELFEXT losses.

55.7.3.2.1 Multiple-Disturber Power Sum Alien Equal Level Far-End Crosstalk (PS AELFEXT) loss

Power sum Alien ELFEXT loss is determined by summing the power of the individual pair-to-pair differential Alien ELFEXT loss values over the frequency range 1 MHz to 500 MHz as follows:

where

i

n

PS AELFEXT_Loss(f) =
$$-10 \times \log_{10} \sum_{i=1}^{i=n} 10^{\frac{-EL(f)i}{10}}$$
 (55–28)

EL(f) is the magnitude of Alien ELFEXT loss at frequency f of pair combination i

channels in other link segments shall meet the values determined using equation (55–29):

 $PSAELFEXT \ge X2 - 20\log 10(\frac{f}{100})$ (dB) $1 \le f \le 500$ (55-29)

The PS AELFEXT loss between a disturbed duplex channel in a link segment and the disturbing duplex

where f is the frequency in MHz and X2 = the intercept at f=100 MHz.

is the 1, 2, or 3 (pair-to-pair combination)

is the number of pair-to-pair combinations

The average PS AELFEXT loss of the 4-pairs shall meet the values determined using equation (55–30)

$$PSAELFEXT_avg \ge (X2+4) - 20\log 10(\frac{f}{100})$$
 (dB) $1 \le f \le 500$ (55-30)

where f is the frequency in MHz and X2 = the intercept at f=100 MHz.

The intercept is referred to as the PS AELFEXT constant. The PS AELFEXT constant is determined in 55.7.3.2.2 by the ratio of the PS AELFEXT to the insertion loss and a length correction term. The insertion loss dependent term maintains the required SNR ratio and the IL independent term enables a relaxation of the PS AELFEXT due the reduction in crosstalk coupling for lengths less than 100 meters.

Table 55–9 lists the PS AELFEXT for the supported cabling types and distances.

55.7.3.2.2 PS AELFEXT loss to insertion loss ratio requirements

The PS AELFEXT constant is defined by the following equation:

To ensure reliable operation, a minimum insertion loss to alien crosstalk ratio must be maintained. The PS
AELFEXT loss requirement of 55.7.3.2.1 can be relaxed based on a reduction in the maximum insertion loss
specified in 55.7.2.1 and a reduction in the AELFEXT coupling for cabling lengths less than 100 meters.

The adjusted PS AELFEXT loss requirement is determined by first calculating the PS AELFEXT constant
and utilizing the constant in the PS AELFEXT limit line model of equation (55–31).

PS AELFEXT_constant =
$$37.9 - \left(\frac{10GBTIL(250MHz) - IL(250MHz)}{2.29}\right) - 10\left(\log 10(\frac{L}{100})\right)$$
 (dB) (55–31)

where

10GBTIL(250MHz) is the 10GBASE-T link segment insertion loss at 250 MHz (equation (55-10))

IL(250MHz) is the insertion loss of a 10GBASE-T link segment less than 100 meters (equation (55–27)) or the insertion loss of the supported cabling types in Table 55–9 at 250 MHz.

L is the length in meters of the 10GBASE-T link segment. The equation assumes coupling over 100 meters of cable including horizontal cable and cable cords

The field testing of length and insertion loss are addressed in TIA/EIA TSB-155 and ISO/IEC TR-24750.

.Table 55–9 lists the calculated PS AELFEXT consants for the cabling types and distances.

Cabling	Distance	PS AELFEXT_ constant (dB)	PS AELFEXT_ constant_avg average of the 4-pairs (dB)	Insertion Loss at 250 MHz (dB)
Class E ^a	100 meters	37.9	41.9	35.9
Category 6 ^b	55 meters	33.7	37.7	20.3
Class F ^c	100 meters	37	41	33.8
Augmented Category 6 ^d	100 meters	37	41	33.8

Table 55–9— Cabling types, distances and PS AELFEXT Constants

^aThe PS AELFEXT constant for a Class E channel assumes the maximum insertion loss of a Class E channel extrapolated to 500 MHz (Reference: ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 25 N 981A).

^bThe PS AELFEXT constant for a Category 6 channel assumes the maximum insertion loss of a Category 6 channel of 55 meters extrapolated to 500 MHz specified in TIA/EIA TSB-155 D1.3.

^cThe PS AELFEXT constant for a Class F channel assumes the maximum insertion loss of a Class F channel (Reference: ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 25 N 981A).

^dThe PS AELFEXT for an Augmented Category 6 channel assumes the maximum insertion loss for an Augmented Category 6 channel defined in TIA/EIA-568-B.2-10, D1.4.

Note: The PS AELFEXT limits represent the minimum requirements for 10GBASE-T operation over the referenced cabling type and distance and are not intended to represent the PS ANEXT performance limits of the cabling (i.e., the PS AELFEXT performance of the cabling may be better than the minimum requirements specified in 10GBASE-T).

55.7.4 Noise environment

The 10GBASE-T noise environment consists of noise from many sources. The primary noise sources that impact the objective BER are the crosstalk and echo interference of a link segment, which are reduced to a small residual noise, and the noise coupled between the link segments referred to as alien crosstalk noise. The remaining noise sources, which are secondary sources, are discussed in the following. The 10GBASE-T noise environment consists of the following:

- Echo from the local transmitter on the same duplex channel (cable pair). Echo is caused by the a) hybrid function used to achieve simultaneous bi-directional transmission of data and by impedance mismatches in the link segment. It is impractical to achieve the objective BER without using echo cancellation. Since the symbols transmitted by the local disturbing transmitter are available to the cancellation processor, echo interference can be reduced to a small residual noise using echo cancellation methods.
- Near-End Crosstalk (NEXT) interference from the local transmitters on the duplex channels (cable b) pairs) of the link segment. Each receiver will experience NEXT interference from three adjacent

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transmitters. NEXT cancellers are used to reduce the interference from each of the three disturbing transmitters to a small residual noise. NEXT cancellation is possible since the symbols transmitted by the three disturbing local transmitters are available to the cancellation processor.

- c) Far-End Crosstalk (FEXT) noise at a receiver is from three disturbing transmitters at the far end of the duplex channel (cable pairs) of the link segment. FEXT noise can be reduced through cross coupled equalizers although the symbols from the remote transmitters are not immediately available.
- d) Inter-Symbol Interference (ISI) noise. ISI is the extraneous energy from one signaling symbol that interferes with the reception of another symbol on the same channel. 10GBASE-T supports the use of Tomlinson Harashima Precoding as a mechanism to reduce the effects of ISI.
- e) Noise from non-idealities in the duplex channel, transmitters, and receivers; for example, DAC/ADC non-linearity, electrical noise (shot and thermal), and non-linear channel characteristics. 10GBASE-T limits the effects of some of these non-idealities by a variety of PMA electrical specifications
- f) Noise coupled between link segments. Noise coupled between the disturbed duplex channel in a link segment and the disturbing duplex channels in other link segments is referred to as alien crosstalk noise. Since the transmitted symbols from the alien crosstalk noise sources are not available to the cancellation processor (they are in another cable), it is very difficult to cancel the alien crosstalk noise. To ensure robust operation the alien crosstalk must meet the specifications of 55.7.3.
- g) The background noise for 10GBASE-T is expected not to exceed -150 dBm/Hz. A background noise limit of -150 dBm/Hz was assumed in the 10GBASE-T Matlab simulation models.