

# PROPOSED SMPTE STANDARD

## for Television — System M/NTSC Composite Video Signals — Bit-Parallel Digital Interface

**SMPTE 244M**

Revision of ANS/SMPTE 244M-1993

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### 1 Scope

1.1 This standard describes a bit-parallel composite video digital interface for systems operating according to the 525-line, 59.94-Hz NTSC standard, as described by SMPTE 170M, sampled at four times color subcarrier frequency. Sampling parameters for the digital representation of encoded video signals, the relationship between sampling phase and color subcarrier, and the digital levels of the video signal are defined.

1.2 This standard has application for use with shielded twisted 12-pair cable of conventional design over distances up to 50 m, without transmission equalization or any special equalization of the receiver. Longer cable lengths may be used, but with rapidly increasing requirement for care in the cable selection and possible receiver equalization or the use of active repeaters or both.

1.3 Digital composite video signals, as defined by this standard, are the signals conveyed by the composite implementation of the serial digital interface. It should be noted that additional information to that described by this standard is also carried by the serial digital interface.

The serial digital interface is the preferred method for the interconnection of composite digital equipments when cable lengths exceed 50 m.

### 2 Normative references

The following standards contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this standard. At the time of publication, the editions

indicated were valid. All standards are subject to revision, and parties to agreements based on this standard are encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the standards indicated below.

SMPTE 170M, Television — Composite Analog Video Signal — NTSC for Studio Applications

ISO 2110:1989, Information Technology — Data Communication — 25-Pole DTE/DCE Interface Connector and Contact Number Assignments

ITU-R 471-1, Nomenclature and Description of Colour Bar Signals

### 3 General specifications

3.1 The analog signal shall be sampled at a rate of four times the color subcarrier frequency along the I and Q axes. The phase reference for the sample clock shall be color subcarrier ( $f_{sc}$ ). Many systems will derive this phase reference from the burst of the analog signal.

3.2 Color subcarrier phase to horizontal sync timing (SC/H) in the digital domain shall be zero.

3.3 The quantization scale shall be uniformly quantized PCM at 10 bits per sample. Eight bits per sample video data may be carried across the interface by using the eight most significant bits and setting the two least significant bits to zero.

3.4 The bits of the digital words that describe the video signal are transmitted in a parallel arrangement using 10 conductor pairs. An eleventh conductor pair carries a clock signal at  $4f_{sc}$  (14.31818 MHz).

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3.5 The interface consists of one transmitter and one receiver in a point-to-point connection.

### 4 Sampling structure and quantization specifications

#### 4.1 Sampling structure

Figure 1 depicts the line and field structure of the NTSC signal during the vertical blanking interval. Burst locked sinewave, shown in figure 1, is defined as a continuous sinewave at subcarrier frequency, with the same phase as burst.

4.1.1 There are 910 samples in a horizontal line period; 768 samples constitute the digital active video portion of each line. The remaining 142 samples comprise the digital horizontal blanking interval.

Each of the four samples during a color subcarrier period is described by the chrominance signal axis that it falls on. Figure 2 shows the derivation of the sample sequence.

Figure 3 depicts the sample numbering for a nominal NTSC signal. The half-amplitude point of the leading (falling) edge of the analog horizontal sync signal falls between samples 784 and 785.

The first of the 910 samples represents the first sample of the digital active line and is designated sample 0 for the purpose of reference. The 910 samples per line are, therefore, numbered 0 through 909. Samples 0 through 767 inclusive contain the digital active line video data.

4.1.2 The sample at sample 0, line 10, field 1, color frame A is an I axis (+123°) sample. (See figure 4.)

#### 4.2 Quantization specifications

4.2.1 The digital video signal shall be quantized according to table 1.

Table 1 – Signal quantization

	8-bit system	10-bit system
White level	C8 <sub>h</sub>	320 <sub>h</sub>
Blanking level	3C <sub>h</sub>	0F0 <sub>h</sub>
Sync tip level	04 <sub>h</sub>	010 <sub>h</sub>
Note - The "h" suffix indicates a hexadecimal value.		

4.2.2 The amplitude relationship between the digital signal and an equivalent analog signal is shown in figure 5. The signal illustrated is a representation of 100% level, 7.5% setup (100/7.5/100/7.5) color bars.

4.2.3 The characteristics of the data word are based on the assumption that the location of any required ( $\sin x$ )/ $x$  correction is at the point where the digital signal is converted to an analog form.

4.2.4 Data is represented in 8- or 10-bit words.

In an 8-bit system, 254 of the 256 levels (01 through FE) are used to express a quantized value.

In a 10-bit system, 1016 of the 1024 levels (004 through 3FB) are used to express a quantized value.

In an 8-bit system, levels 00 and FF are protected and are not permitted in the data stream.

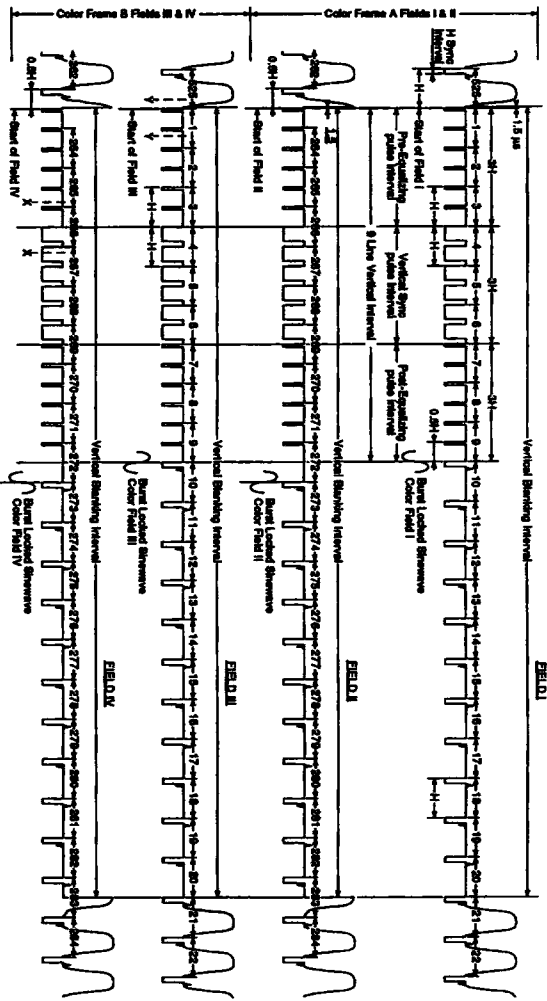
In a 10-bit system, levels 000, 001, 002, 003 and 3FC, 3FD, 3FE, and 3FF are protected and are not permitted in the data stream.

The protected and permitted data levels are shown in table 2.

Table 2 – Permitted and protected values

8 bits		10 bits
		000
00	Protected	001
		002
		003
01	Permitted	004
FE		3FB
		3FC
FF	Protected	3FD
		3FE
		3FF

4.2.5 Some models of composite digital video equipment allow the use of protected values in the video data. Designers of new equipment should consider the effects of such signals when detecting synchronizing patterns.



NOTE: I Burst begins with a positive half-cycle  
 V Burst begins with a negative half-cycle

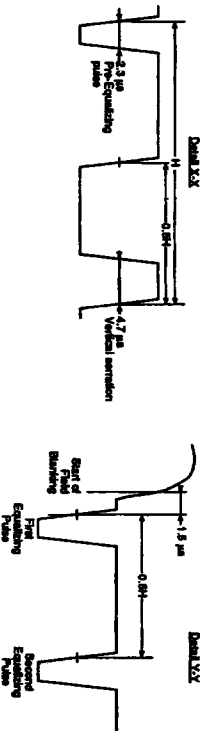
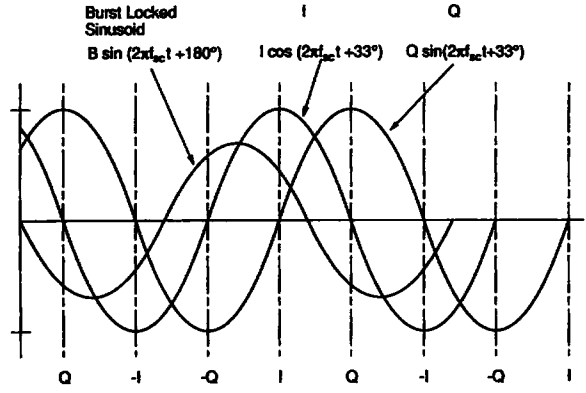


Figure 1 -- Vertical blanking interval structure



NOTE - The equation for the chrominance signal is  $E = I \cos(2\pi f_{sc}t + 33^\circ) + Q \sin(2\pi f_{sc}t + 33^\circ)$ .  
 The equation for the burst locked sinusoid is  $E = B \sin(2\pi f_{sc}t + 180^\circ)$ .

Figure 2 - Derivation of sample sequence

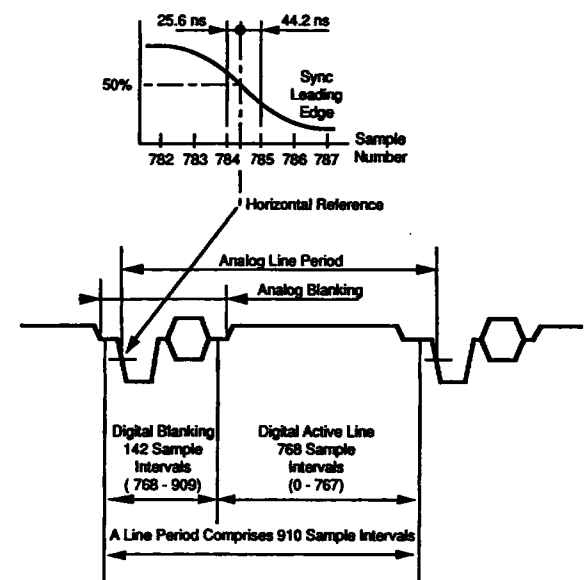


Figure 3 - Sample numbering for horizontal line period of nominal NTSC signal

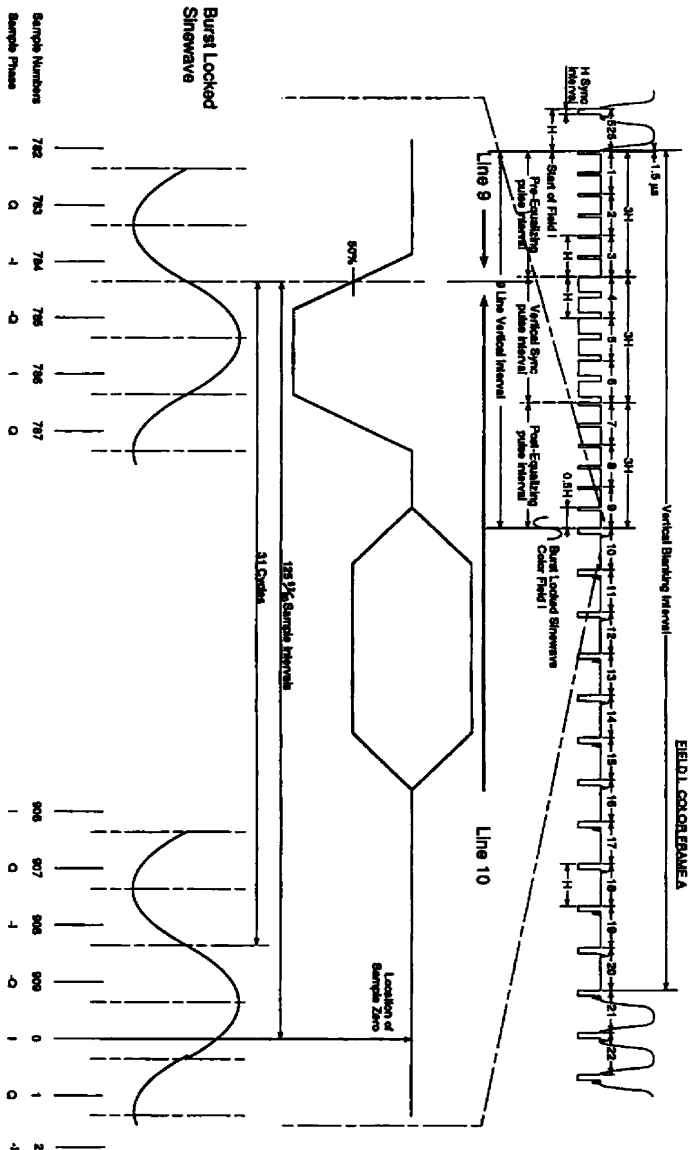


Figure 4 -- Derivation of the sample zero sampling phase for line 10, field 1, color frame A

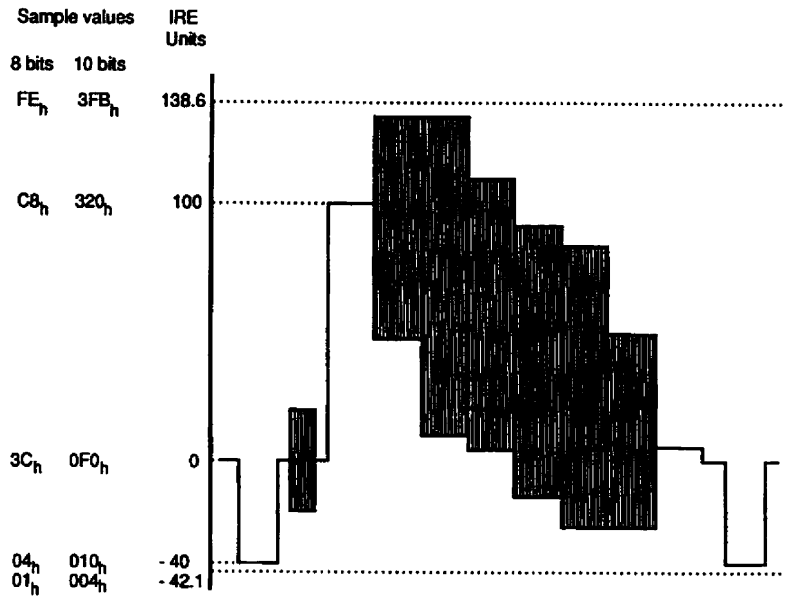


Figure 5 – Relationship between analog signal levels (IRE units) and digital sample values

### 4.3 Coding parameters

Sampling and quantization parameters are summarized in table 3.

Table 3 – Summary of coding parameters

Input signal	NTSC	
Number of samples/line period	910	
Sampling structure	Orthogonal	
Sampling frequency	4f <sub>sc</sub>	
Sampling phase	I and Q axes (+123° and +33°)	
Form of coding	Uniformly quantized PCM, 8 or 10 bits per sample	
Quantization scale	8-bit system	10-bit system
White level	C8	320
Blanking level	3C	0F0
Sync tip level	04	010

## 5 Digital raster structure

Figure 6 depicts the digital raster structure and its relationship to the analog raster structure.

### 5.1 Digital active field

The digital active field duration exceeds that of the analog active field. The digital active field period is positioned to begin before and end after the analog video. Thus, the vertical blanking edges of the analog video are contained within the digital active picture space.

### 5.2 Digital active line

The digital active line duration exceeds that of the analog active line. The digital active line is positioned to begin before and end after analog video. Thus, the blanking edges of the analog video are contained within the digital active line period.

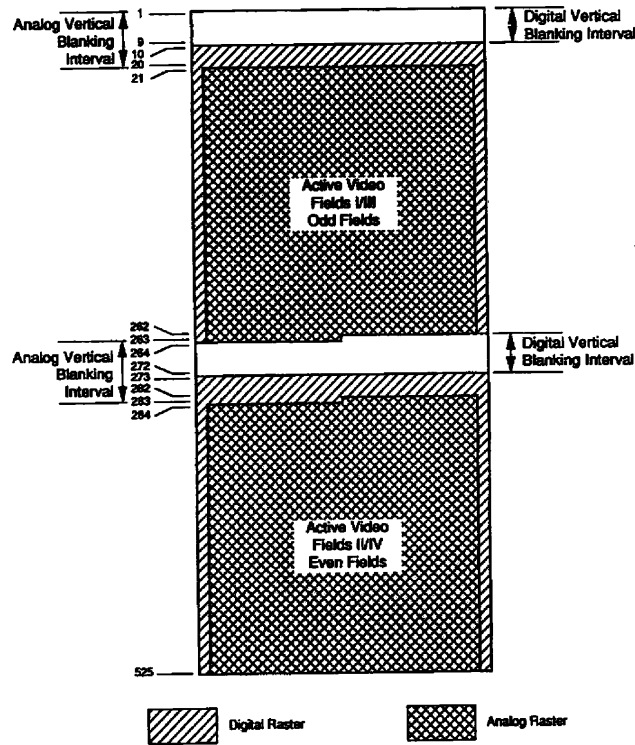


Figure 6 – Relationship between the analog and digital rasters

**5.3 Analog blanking for digitally generated NTSC**

When NTSC signals are digitally generated, blanking edges and rise times appropriate for the analog waveform must be included as an integral part of the digital signal. The edges and timings shall be in accordance with those defined in SMPTE 170M.

**5.4 Digital vertical blanking interval**

**5.4.1** The digital vertical blanking interval extends from line 525, sample 768 to line 9, sample 767 inclusive, for fields I and III and from line

263, sample 313 to line 272, sample 767 inclusive, for fields II and IV.

**5.4.2** Digital data within the digital vertical blanking interval shall consist of a digital representation of an analog vertical interval. A 10-bit representation of the signal is preferred, although 8-bit values can be used. Suggested values are shown in table 4.

**5.4.3** The location and magnitude of the samples during the digital vertical blanking intervals are shown in figure 7a and figure 7b.

Table 4 – 10- and 8-bit hexadecimal values for the digital vertical blanking interval

Word	Fields I/III Sample values		Word	Fields II/IV Sample values	
	10 bit	8 bit		10 bit	8 bit
<b>Equalizing pulse interval values</b>					
768–782	0F0	3C	313–327	0F0	3C
783	0E9	3A	328	0E9	3A
784	0A4	29	329	0A4	29
785	044	11	330	044	11
786	011	04	331	011	04
787–815	010	04	332–360	010	04
816	017	06	361	017	06
817	05C	17	362	05C	17
818	0BC	2F	363	0BC	2F
819	0EF	3C	364	0EF	3C
820–327	0F0	3C	365–782	0F0	3C
328	0E9	3A	783	0E9	3A
329	0A4	29	784	0A4	29
330	044	11	785	044	11
331	011	04	786	011	04
332–360	010	04	787–815	010	04
361	017	06	816	017	06
362	05C	17	817	05C	17
363	0BC	2F	818	0BC	2F
364	0EF	3C	819	0EF	3C
365–782	0F0	3C	820–327	0F0	3C
<b>Vertical serration values</b>					
782	0F0	3C	327	0F0	3C
783	0E9	3A	328	0E9	3A
784	0A4	29	329	0A4	29
785	044	11	330	044	11
786	011	04	331	011	04
787–260	010	04	332–715	010	04
261	017	06	716	017	06
262	05C	17	717	05C	17
263	0BC	2F	718	0BC	2F
264	0EF	3C	719	0EF	3C
265–327	0F0	3C	720–782	0F0	3C
328	0E9	3A	783	0E9	3A
329	0A4	29	784	0A4	29
330	044	11	785	044	11
331	011	04	786	011	04
332–715	010	04	787–260	010	04
716	017	06	261	017	06
717	05C	17	262	05C	17
718	0BC	2F	263	0BC	2F
719	0EF	3C	264	0EF	3C
720–782	0F0	3C	265–327	0F0	3C

Fields I/III

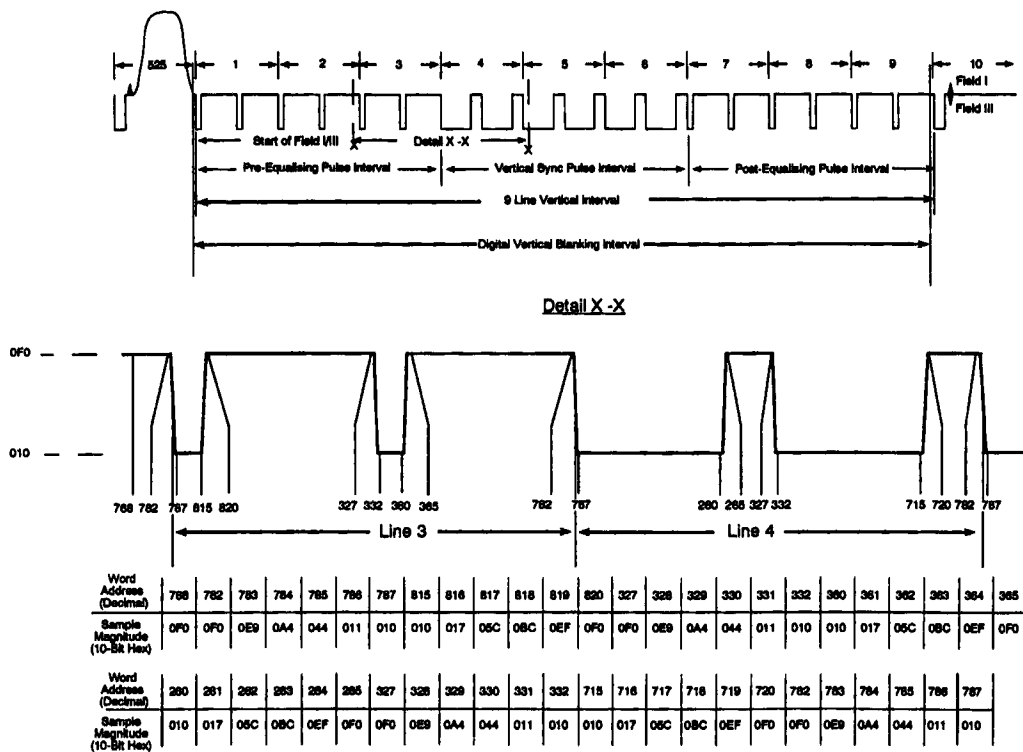


Figure 7a --Location and magnitude of 10-bit samples during digital vertical blanking interval of fields I and III

Fields II/IV

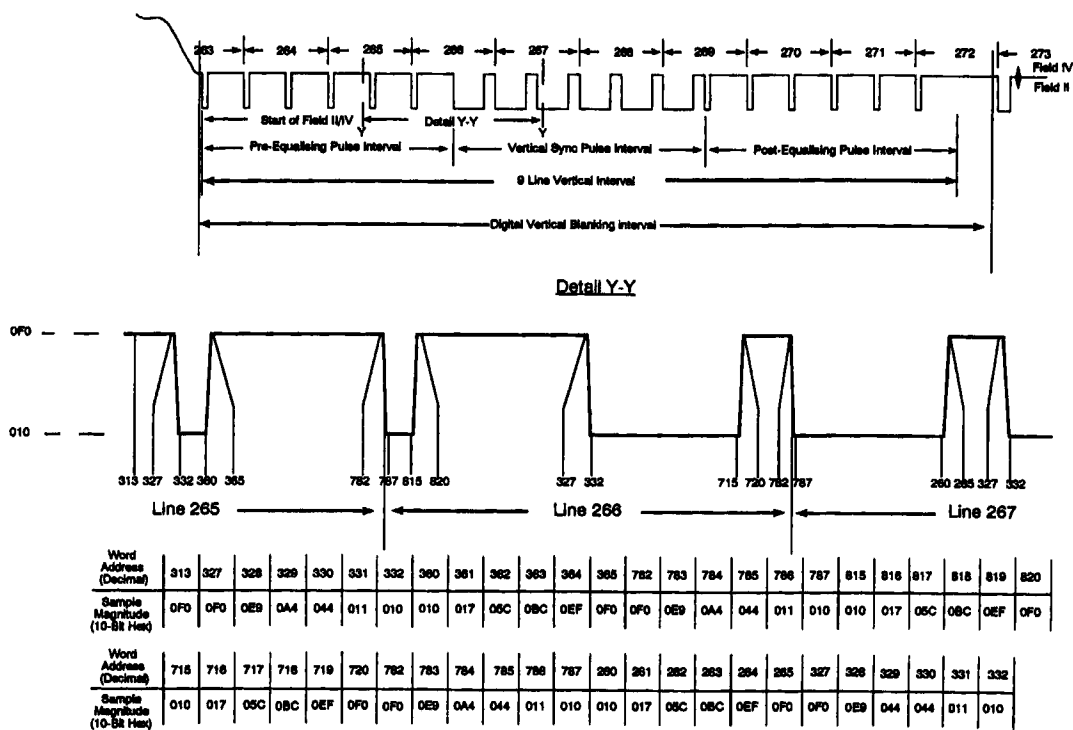


Figure 7b --Location and magnitude of 10-bit samples during digital vertical blanking interval of fields II and IV

**5.4.4** Some models of digital composite video equipment may use values for the samples in the digital vertical blanking interval that differ from those listed in table 4. However, the range of values must conform to the tolerances laid down for the analog signal by SMPTE 170M. Designers of receivers for this interface should consider the effects of such changes when implementing detection circuits.

### 5.5 Digital horizontal blanking interval

**5.5.1** The digital horizontal blanking interval extends from sample 768 to sample 909 inclusive, on all lines outside the digital vertical blanking interval.

**5.5.2** Digital data within the digital horizontal blanking interval shall consist of a digital representation of an analog horizontal blanking interval, with a burst of 0 SC/H phase. A 10-bit representation is preferred. Where 8-bit values are used, the sample values are selected to maximize the accuracy of representation of the burst. Suggested values are shown in table 5.

**5.5.3** The location and magnitude of the samples during the digital horizontal blanking region are shown in figure 8.

**5.5.4** Some models of digital composite video equipment may use values for the samples in the digital horizontal blanking interval that differ from those listed in table 5. However, the range of values must conform to the tolerances laid down for the analog signal by SMPTE 170M and by this standard in respect of 0 SC/H phase. Designers of receivers for this interface should consider the effects of such changes when implementing detection circuits.

NOTE - There are two sets of values listed in the table for both the 10-bit and 8-bit sample values. The first value is designated as being 0° and represents the sample values that are used when the phase of the burst is positive. The second value is designated as being 180° and represents the sample values that are used when the phase of the burst is negative.

## 6 Electrical characteristics

### 6.1 Signal conventions

**6.1.1** The signals shall be transmitted via balanced signal pairs. Although the use of ECL technology is not mandated, the line driver and receiver shall be ECL compatible to permit the use of standard ECL parts for either or both ends. In this standard, "standard ECL" refers to the 10,000 series of ECL logic.

**6.1.2** The signalling sense of the voltage appearing across the interconnection cable is positive binary and defined as follows: The DATA terminal of the generator shall be positive (+) with respect to the RETURN terminal for a binary 1 (HIGH or H or ON) state. The DATA terminal of the generator shall be negative (-) with respect to the RETURN terminal for a binary 0 (LOW or L or OFF) state. (See figure 9.)

**6.1.3** The data lines are designated DATA 0 through DATA 9. DATA 9 is the most significant bit.

### 6.2 Transmitter characteristics

**6.2.1** The transmitter shall have a balanced output with a maximum impedance of 110 ohms.

**6.2.2** The common mode voltage of the line driver shall be  $-1.3 \text{ V} \pm 15\%$  with reference to the ground terminals.

**6.2.3** The generated signal shall lie between 0.8 V and 2.0 V peak-to-peak, measured across a 110-ohm resistor connected to the output terminals without any transmission line.

**6.2.4** Rise and fall times shall be no longer than 5 ns and differ by not more than 2 ns, as measured between the 20% and 80% amplitude points, across a 110-ohm resistor connected to the output terminals without any transmission line.

### 6.3 Receiver characteristics

**6.3.1** The cable shall be terminated by 110 ohms  $\pm 10$  ohms.

Table 5 - 10- and 8-bit hexadecimal values for the digital horizontal blanking interval

Word	10-bit sample values		8-bit sample values		Word	10-bit sample values		8-bit sample values	
	0°	180°	0°	180°		0°	180°	0°	180°
768-782	0F0	0F0	3C	3C	874	12D	0B3	4B	2D
783	0E9	0E9	3A	3A	875	092	14E	25	53
784	0A4	0A4	29	29	876	0B3	12D	2D	4B
785	044	044	11	11	877	14E	092	53	25
786	011	011	4	4	878	12D	0B3	4B	2D
787-849	010	010	4	4	879	092	14E	25	53
850	017	017	6	6	880	0B3	12D	2D	4B
851	05C	05C	17	17	881	14E	092	53	25
852	0BC	0BC	2F	2F	882	12D	0B3	4B	2D
853	0EF	0EF	3C	3C	883	092	14E	25	53
854-856	0F0	0F0	3C	3C	884	0B3	12D	2D	4B
857	0F0	0F0	3C	3C	885	14E	092	53	25
858	0F4	0EC	3D	3B	886	12D	0B3	4B	2D
859	0DC	104	37	41	887	092	14E	25	53
860	0D6	10A	36	42	888	0B3	12D	2D	4B
861	12C	0B4	4B	2D	889	14E	092	53	25
862	123	0BD	49	2F	890	12D	0B3	4B	2D
863	096	14A	25	53	891	092	14E	25	53
864	0B3	12D	2D	4B	892	0B3	12D	2D	4B
865	14E	092	53	25	893	14E	092	53	25
866	12D	0B3	4B	2D	894	129	0B7	4A	2E
867	092	14E	25	53	895	0A6	13A	2A	4E
868	0B3	12D	2D	4B	896	0CD	113	33	45
869	14E	092	53	25	897	112	0CE	44	34
870	12D	0B3	4B	2D	898	0FA	0E6	3F	39
871	092	14E	25	53	899	0EC	0F4	3B	3D
872	0B3	12D	2D	4B	900-909	0F0	0F0	3C	3C
873	14E	092	53	25					



**7.2.3** It is recommended that the cable be constructed to minimize the effects of crosstalk between signal lines, the susceptibility of the signal lines to external noise, and the transmission of interface signals to the external environment.

**7.2.4** The cable shall have an outer shield, to minimize radiation, carried through the cable assembly. This shield shall be terminated via the chassis ground pin and the connector body at each end.

**7.2.5** The cable shall be constructed to minimize the differential time delay between any two of the conductor pairs.

**7.3 Connectors**

**7.3.1** The connectors shall have the mechanical characteristics conforming to the industry standard 25-pin subminiature type D, as described below. Additional information may be found in ISO 2110. (This interface will require that the connectors be inserted many times. ECL voltage and current levels are relatively low. Thus, the materials in the connector should be appropriate to the application.)

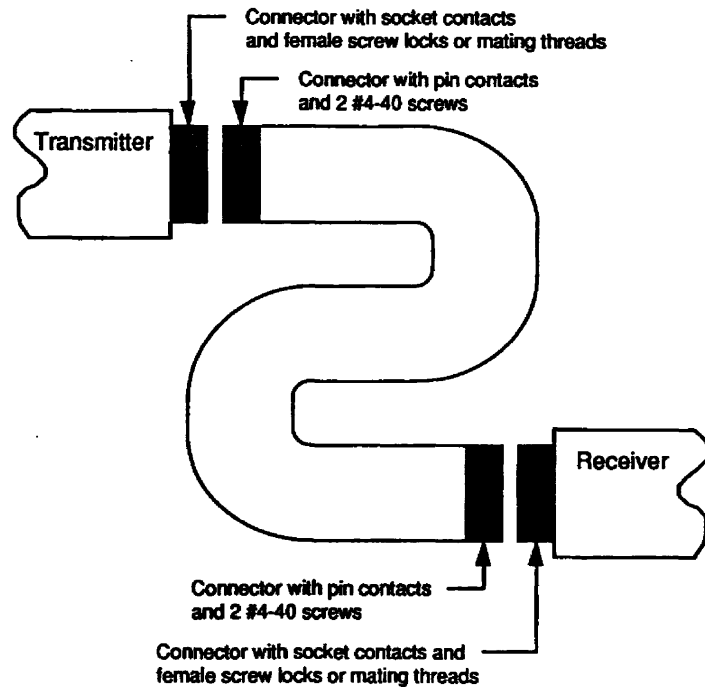
**7.3.2** Cable connectors employ pin contacts and equipment connectors employ socket contacts (see figure 11).

**7.3.3** Cable connectors shall be provided with No. 4-40 mounting screws and equipment connectors shall be provided with female screw locks or mating threads. For further information, see annex A.

**7.4** Connector contact assignments shall be in accord with table 6.

**Table 6 – Connector contact assignments**

Contact	Signal line	Contact	Signal line
1	CLOCK	14	CLOCK RETURN
2	SYSTEM GROUND	15	SYSTEM GROUND
3	DATA 9 (MSB)	16	DATA 9 RETURN
4	DATA 8	17	DATA 8 RETURN
5	DATA 7	18	DATA 7 RETURN
6	DATA 6	19	DATA 6 RETURN
7	DATA 5	20	DATA 5 RETURN
8	DATA 4	21	DATA 4 RETURN
9	DATA 3	22	DATA 3 RETURN
10	DATA 2	23	DATA 2 RETURN
11	DATA 1	24	DATA 1 RETURN
12	DATA 0 (LSB)	25	DATA 0 RETURN
13	CABLE SHIELD		



**Figure 11 – Cable connector configuration**

**Annex A (informative)  
Additional data**

**A.1 Connector characteristics**

The interface employs a 25-pin subminiature type D connector with the connectors on the transmitter and receiver using socket contacts and the connectors on both ends of the cable using pin contacts.

Connectors are locked together by two No. 4-40 screws on the cable connectors, which mate with female screw locks mounted on the equipment connectors. Detailed dimensions are given in ISO 2110.

The relative position of the connector and the female screw lock are defined in figure A.1. The recommended minimum connector spacing is defined in figure A.2. It is recommended that the cable connectors employ a conductive

backshell to maintain the shielding of the signal conductors. Care should be taken to select designs that are appropriate for use with the screw latching specified.

**A.2 Cable shield pin**

The cable shield (pin 13) is for the purpose of controlling electromagnetic radiation from the cable. It is recommended that pin 13 provide high-frequency continuity to the chassis ground at both ends and, in addition, provide DC continuity to the chassis ground at the transmit end.

**A.3 Connector orientation**

For either vertical or horizontal mounting, contact 1 should be uppermost.