Cutoff – Definition

General Definition

A **cutoff** (or **cut-off**) is a threshold value used to divide a continuous range of data into distinct categories or to determine if a condition is met.

In Medicine and Diagnostics

A **cutoff point** in clinical practice refers to a specific value of a measurement beyond or below which a certain diagnosis, risk category, or treatment indication is applied.

Examples:

- Blood pressure ≥ **140/90 mmHg** → Hypertension
- Fasting glucose ≥ **126 mg/dL** → Diabetes Mellitus

In Statistics and Research

Cutoffs are used to distinguish between:

- Statistically significant vs. non-significant results
- Inclusion vs. exclusion criteria

Example:

- **p-value < 0.05** is a common cutoff for statistical significance

In Imaging or Signal Processing

A **cutoff frequency** is a boundary frequency that determines the limit for signal transmission in filters (e.g., low-pass or high-pass).