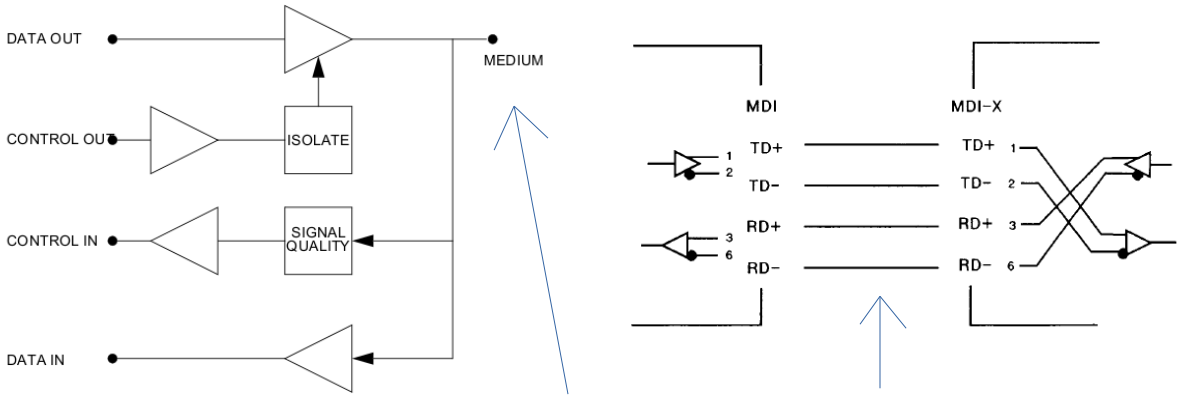
1.4.255 Medium Attachment Unit (MAU): A device containing an Attachment Unit Interface (AUI), Physical Medium Attachment (PMA), and Medium Dependent Interface (MDI) that is used to connect a repeater or data terminal equipment (DTE) to a transmission medium.

8.2 MAU functional specifications

The MAU component provides the means by which signals on the four physically separate AUI signal circuits to/from the DTE and their associated interlayer messages are coupled to the single coaxial cable baseband signal line. To achieve this basic objective, the MAU component contains the following functional capabilities to handle message flow between the DTE and the baseband medium:

a) *Transmit function.* The ability to transmit serial data bit streams on the baseband medium from the local DTE entity and to one or more remote DTE entities on the same network.
b) *Receive function.* The ability to receive serial data bit streams over the baseband medium.
c) *Collision Presence function*. The ability to detect the presence of two or more stations' concurrent transmissions.
d) *Monitor function* (Optional). The ability to inhibit the normal transmit data stream to the medium at the same time the normal receive function and collision presence function remain operational.
e) *Jabber function.* The ability to automatically interrupt the transmit function and inhibit an abnormally long output data stream.



NOTE—The AUI (comprised of DO, DI, CO, CI circuits) is not exposed when the MAU is, optionally, part of the DTE.

Figure 7–2—Generalized MAU model

For 10Base-T/10Base-Te, the medium is always 2 twisted pairs. Even when in half duplex (simplex) mode. Half duplex operation just allows you to connect multiple devices to the same Tx Rx pairs.

7.2.1.2.3 *signal_quality_error* message

The PMA sublayer sends a *signal_quality_error* message to the PLS sublayer in response to any of three possible conditions. These conditions are improper signals on the medium, collision on the medium, and reception of the *output_idle* message. They are described in the lettered paragraphs that follow. The physical realization of the *signal_quality_error* message is a CS0 sent by the MAU to the DTE on the Control In circuit.

In systems operating in half duplex mode, the MAU is required to assert the *signal_quality_error* message at the appropriate times whenever the MAU is powered, and not just when the DTE is requesting data output. In systems operating in full duplex mode, it is permitted, but not required, to implement the *signal_quality_error* message. See Figure 7–9, Figure 8–2, and Figure 8–3 for details.

a) Improper Signals on the Medium. The MAU may send the *signal_quality_error* message at any time due to improper signals on the medium. The exact nature of these improper signals are medium-dependent. Typically, this condition might be caused by a malfunctioning MAU (for example, repeater or head-end) connected to the medium or by a break or short in the medium. See the appropriate MAU specification for specific conditions that may cause improper signals on a given medium.
b) Collision. Collision occurs when more than one MAU is transmitting on the medium. The local MAU shall send the *signal_quality_error* message in every instance when it is possible for it to ascertain that more than one MAU is transmitting on the medium. The MAU shall make the best determination possible. The MAU shall not send the *signal_quality_error* message when it is unable to determine conclusively that more than one MAU is transmitting.
c) *signal_quality_error* Message Test. The MAU sends the *signal_quality_error* message at the completion of the Output function. See Figure 7–9 and Clause 8 for a more complete description of this test.