The meaning of the word “Data” in science

The screen grabs from Wiktionary shown below use yellow and red to highlight what the word “data” means in a scientific context. In contrast, gray is used to highlight the sense in which the word is used by the telecommunications industry.

1. (plural: data) A measurement of something on a scale understood by both the recorder (a person or device) and the reader (another person or device). The scale is arbitrarily defined, such as from 1 to 10 by ones, 1 to 100 by 0.1, or simply true or false, on or off, yes, no, or maybe, etc.

2. (plural: data) (philosophy) A fact known from direct observation.

3. (plural: data) (philosophy) A premise from which conclusions are drawn.

4. (plural: datums) (cartography, engineering) A fixed reference point, or a coordinate system.

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1. (plural of datum) Yes!

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1. (collectively) Information, especially in a scientific or computational context, or with the implication that it is organized. [quotations ▼]

   The raw information was processed and placed into a database so the data could be accessed more quickly.

2. (collectively) Recorded observations that are usually presented in a structured format.

3. (computing) A representation of facts or ideas in a formalized manner capable of being communicated or manipulated by some process.

4. (mobile telephony) Digital information such as images or web pages transmitted using the cellular telephone network rather than wifi.

   run out of data

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