chain length, δ

In a chain reaction, the average number of times the closed cycle of reactions (involving the chain-propagating reactions) is repeated. It is equal to the rate of the overall reaction divided by the rate of the initiation reaction.

Source:
PAC, 1996, *68*, 149 *(A glossary of terms used in chemical kinetics, including reaction dynamics (IUPAC Recommendations 1996))* on page 157