contact potential difference (Volta potential difference)

The electric potential difference between one point in the vacuum close to the surface of \( M_1 \) and another point in the vacuum close to the surface of \( M_2 \), where \( M_1 \) and \( M_2 \) are two uncharged metals brought into contact.

**Source:**
PAC, 1983, 55, 1251 (*Interphases in systems of conducting phases (Provisional)*) on page 1257