



ASA/ANSI S1.42-2023
(revision of ASA/ANSI S1.42-2020)

AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD

Design Response of Weighting Networks for Acoustical Measurements

Secretariat:

Acoustical Society of America

Approved on November 6, 2023:

American National Standards Institute, Inc.

Abstract

This standard provides design information for the A-, B-, C-, D-, E-, G-, and U-weighting networks used for acoustical measurements. The analog poles and zeros for each weighting network are given, along with the equations for computing the magnitude and phase responses as functions of frequency. Coefficients and equations for computing the impulse and step responses of the A-, B-, C-, D-, and E-weighting networks as functions of time are provided in an informative annex. Information regarding digital implementation is also provided in an informative annex. Matlab scripts for the design of analog and digital implementations of the weighting networks described in this standard are also supplied.

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Foreword

[This Foreword is for information only and is not a part of the American National Standard ASA/ANSI S1.42-2023 American National Standard Design Response of Weighting Networks for Acoustical Measurements. As such, this Foreword may contain material that has not been subjected to public review or a consensus process. In addition, it does not contain requirements necessary for conformance to the standard.]

This standard comprises a part of a group of definitions, standards, and specifications for use in acoustics. It was developed and approved by Accredited Standards Committee S1 Acoustics, under its approved operating procedures. Those procedures have been accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The Scope of Accredited Standards Committee S1 is as follows:

Standards, specifications, methods of measurement and test, and terminology in the field of physical acoustics, including architectural acoustics, electroacoustics, sonics and ultrasonics, and underwater sound, but excluding those aspects which pertain to biological safety, tolerances, and comfort.

Weighting networks have been widely used for many years to provide standardized means to selectively filter acoustical signals. Since the design of standardized weighting networks has remained unchanged, it is possible to compare measured data from a vast data pool that has been accumulated over many years. For acoustical measurements, standardized weighting networks, test instruments, and test protocols ensure data compatibility and measurement repeatability. In this standard, only the design goals of the weighting networks are given. The tolerances in implementation of the weighting networks are generally found in the specific test instrument standards.

Major changes in this standard include:

- Normative references are updated.
- Design targets and pole/zero data for all of the weighting networks are now normative.
- The missing gain coefficient for G-weighting is now included.
- Target response magnitude and phase data from 1 Hz to 100 kHz is provided for the A-, B-, C-, D-, E-, and U-, and AU-weighting networks. Target response magnitude and phase from 0.250 Hz to 315 Hz is provided for the G-weighting networks.
- Design equations are updated.
- All graphs are updated.
- Coefficients and analytic expressions for the time response (impulse and step response) of weighting networks are moved to an informative annex.
- An informative annex on digital implementation is added.
- Updated Matlab files for the design of all weighting networks are included with the standard. The informative annex describing the use of the Matlab code is also revised.
- The bibliography is updated.

At the time this standard was submitted to Accredited Standards Committee S1, Acoustics, for approval, the membership was as follows:

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Working Group S1/WG5, Weighting Networks and Band Pass Filter Sets, which assisted Accredited Standards Committee S1, Acoustics, in the preparation of this Standard, had the following membership:

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Jacob Klos
Alexandra Loubeau

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Suggestions for improvements to this standard will be welcomed. They should be sent to Accredited Standards Committee S1, Acoustics, in care of the Standards Secretariat of the Acoustical Society of America, 1305 Walt Whitman Road, Suite 110, Melville, New York 11747. Telephone: +1 (516) 576-2341; E-mail: standards@acousticalsociety.org.

American National Standard

Design Response of Weighting Networks for Acoustical Measurements

1 Scope

The scope of this standard is to specify the transfer functions of weighting networks used for acoustical measurements. The analog poles and zeros that define each weighting network, as well as the resulting magnitude and phase response in the frequency domain, are provided. The scope is restricted to the design, or target responses of these weighting networks. Tolerances on these responses are generally found in the corresponding acoustical instrument performance specifications and are therefore outside the scope of this standard. Additional information regarding time response and digital implementations are found in the informative annexes.

2 Normative references

These references are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ASA/ANSI S1.4 /Part 1 /IEC 61672-1:2013 Electroacoustics – Sound Level Meters – Part 1: Specifications

ASA/ANSI S1.6-2016 American National Standard – Preferred Frequencies, Frequency Levels, and Band Numbers for Acoustical Measurements

IEC 60537:1976 Frequency weighting for the measurement of aircraft noise (D-weighting)

IEC 61012:1990 Filters for the measurement of audible sound in the presence of ultrasound

ASA/ANSI S1.45-2020/IEEE 260.4-2018 Standard for Letter Symbols and Abbreviations for Quantities Used in Acoustics

ISO 7196:1995 Acoustics – Frequency-weighting characteristic for infrasound measurements

3 Weighting network response characteristics - Frequency domain transfer function

In the frequency domain, the complex transfer function $H(jf)$ of a filter driven by a continuous sinusoidal waveform of frequency, f , can be expressed as

$$H(jf) = K \cdot \frac{\prod_{m=1}^M (jf - z_m)^{q_m}}{\prod_{n=1}^N (jf - p_n)^{r_n}} \quad (1)$$

where there are M finite complex zeros z_m of order q_m ; N complex poles p_n of order r_n ; K is a gain constant chosen so that the level of the magnitude of the weighting network response is 0 dB at the reference frequency; and $j = \sqrt{-1}$.

NOTE 1 The pole and zero locations are usually given as radian frequency values in the complex plane. Radian frequency values have been divided by 2π , so all pole and zero locations in this standard are given in hertz.

NOTE 2 The reference frequency for most weighting networks is 1 kHz. However, the G-weighting network for infrasound measurements uses a reference frequency of 10 Hz.

3.1 Magnitude

The level of the network response magnitude is given by

$$W(f) = 20 \log_{10} |H(f)| \quad [\text{dB}] \quad (2)$$

With the poles in the form $p_n = \alpha_n + j\beta_n$ and the zeros in the form $z_m = \gamma_m + j\delta_m$, the level of the network response magnitude can be written in terms of real quantities as

$$W(f) = 10 \log_{10} \left| K^2 \cdot \frac{\prod_{m=1}^M [\gamma_m^2 + (f - \delta_m)^2]^{q_m}}{\prod_{n=1}^N [\alpha_n^2 + (f - \beta_n)^2]^{r_n}} \right| \quad [\text{dB}] \quad (3)$$

3.2 Phase

The phase response of the network is given by

$$\varphi(f) = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{\mathcal{I}\{H(jf)\}}{\mathcal{R}\{H(jf)\}} \right) \quad (4)$$

which can be written in terms of real quantities as

$$\varphi(f) = \sum_{n=1}^N r_n \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{f - \beta_n}{\alpha_n} \right) - \sum_{m=1}^M q_m \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{f - \delta_m}{\gamma_m} \right) \quad (5)$$

4 Design of A- and C-weighting networks

ASA/ANSI S1.4 /Part 1 /IEC 61672-1 specifies the poles and zeros for the A- and C-weighting networks. The magnitude level and phase response for the A-, and C-weighting networks, as computed from the poles and zeros using Equations (2) through (5) at the ANSI/ASA S1.6 preferred frequencies are shown in Table 2. The magnitude level and phase responses are plotted in Figures 1 and 2 for the frequency range from 1 Hz to 100 kHz.

NOTE A-weighting and C-weighting were originally intended to be a simplified approximation to the inverse of the 40 phon and 100 phon equal loudness contours for pure tones, respectively.

The poles and zeros of the A-, and C-weighting networks are listed in Table 1. For the A- and C-weighting networks, all of the poles are on the real axis.

NOTE The poles of the C-weighting network are a subset of the poles for the A-weighting network.

Table 1 – Poles and zeros (in Hz), and gain constants of the transfer functions for the A- and C-weighting networks.

		A-weighting		C-weighting	
Zeros	m	q_m	$\gamma_m + j\delta_m$	q_m	$\gamma_m + j\delta_m$
	1	4	$0 + j0$	2	$0 + j0$
Poles	n	r_n	$\alpha_n + j\beta_n$	r_n	$\alpha_n + j\beta_n$
	1	2	$-20.598997 + j0$	2	$-20.598997 + j0$
	2	1	$-107.65265 + j0$	–	–
	3	1	$-737.86223 + j0$	–	–
	4	2	$-12\,194.217 + j0$	2	$-12\,194.217 + j0$
K		1.8719344×10^8		1.4976245×10^8	

Table 2 – Steady-state magnitude level and phase response of the A- and C-weighting networks.

Frequency, Hz	Magnitude, dB		Phase, °	
	A-weighting	C-weighting	A-weighting	C-weighting
1.00	-148.58	-52.51	-6.18	-185.57
1.25	-140.83	-48.65	-7.72	-186.96
1.60	-132.28	-44.38	-9.87	-188.90
2.00	-124.55	-40.53	-12.33	-191.11
2.50	-116.85	-36.70	-15.39	-193.86
3.15	-108.89	-32.76	-19.34	-197.42
4.00	-100.72	-28.73	-24.45	-202.02
5.00	-93.14	-25.03	-30.38	-207.33
6.30	-85.40	-21.30	-37.91	-214.07
8.00	-77.55	-17.59	-47.40	-222.52
10.0	-70.43	-14.33	-57.97	-231.88
12.5	-63.58	-11.34	-70.21	-242.62
16.0	-56.42	-8.43	-85.52	-255.83
20.0	-50.39	-6.22	-100.57	-268.50
25.0	-44.82	-4.44	-116.28	-281.26
31.5	-39.52	-3.03	-132.69	-293.93
40.0	-34.54	-1.98	-149.37	-305.88
50.0	-30.27	-1.30	-164.48	-315.69
63.0	-26.22	-0.82	-179.60	-324.38
80.0	-22.40	-0.50	-194.68	-331.87
100	-19.14	-0.30	-208.27	-337.66
125	-16.19	-0.17	-221.34	-342.46
160	-13.24	-0.08	-235.13	-346.83
200	-10.85	-0.03	-246.99	-350.12
250	-8.67	0.00	-258.35	-352.93
315	-6.64	0.02	-269.73	-355.48
400	-4.77	0.03	-281.26	-357.86
500	-3.25	0.03	-291.95	-359.98
630	-1.91	0.03	-302.96	-362.17
800	-0.79	0.02	-314.21	-364.56
1000	0.00	0.00	-324.45	-367.02
1250	0.58	-0.03	-334.34	-369.82
1600	0.99	-0.09	-344.87	-373.47
2000	1.20	-0.17	-354.12	-377.45
2500	1.27	-0.30	-363.32	-382.23
3150	1.20	-0.50	-373.08	-388.22
4000	0.96	-0.83	-383.74	-395.73
5000	0.55	-1.29	-394.49	-404.12
6300	-0.12	-1.99	-406.61	-414.27
8000	-1.15	-3.05	-420.20	-426.24
10 000	-2.49	-4.41	-433.63	-438.47
12 500	-4.25	-6.18	-447.36	-451.23
16 000	-6.71	-8.63	-462.20	-465.23
20 000	-9.35	-11.28	-474.72	-477.14
25 000	-12.33	-14.26	-485.96	-487.90
31 500	-15.70	-17.64	-496.06	-497.60
40 000	-19.41	-21.35	-504.82	-506.03
50 000	-23.02	-24.95	-511.57	-512.54
63 000	-26.85	-28.79	-517.28	-518.05
80 000	-30.88	-32.82	-522.03	-522.64
100 000	-34.68	-36.62	-525.59	-526.07