

Digital audio — Digital input-output interfacing — Transmission of digital audio over asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) networks

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National foreword

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**Digital audio –
Digital input-output interfacing –
Transmission of digital audio over asynchronous
transfer mode (ATM) networks
(IEC 62365:2004)**

Audionumérique –
Interface numérique d'entrée-sortie –
Transmission de l'audionumérique
sur les réseaux à mode de transfert
asynchrone (ATM)
(CEI 62365:2004)

Digitalton –
Digitale Ein-/Ausgangsschnittstellen –
Übertragung von Digitalton
über ATM-Netzwerke
(IEC 62365:2004)

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CENELEC

European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization
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Central Secretariat: rue de Stassart 35, B - 1050 Brussels

Foreword

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Annex ZA has been added by CENELEC.

Endorsement notice

The text of the International Standard IEC 62365:2004 was approved by CENELEC as a European Standard without any modification.

In the official version, for Bibliography, the following note has to be added for the standard indicated:

IEC 60027-2 NOTE Harmonized as HD 60027-2:2003 (not modified).

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INTRODUCTION

This International Standard describes means for the transmission of professional audio across digital networks, including metropolitan- and wide-area networks, to provide the best performance with regard to latency, jitter, and other relevant factors.

Current-generation wide-area communications are based on two very similar systems, synchronous optical network (SONET) and synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH), SONET being used in the United States and SDH in Europe. On top of them are run integrated services digital network (ISDN), asynchronous transfer mode (ATM), and Internet protocol (IP).

ISDN provides telephone call connections of a fixed capacity that carry one 8-bit value per 125 μ s; when a call is set up, its route through the system is chosen, and the switches that route the data are configured accordingly. Each link, between switches or between switch and end equipment, is formatted into frames that take 125 μ s to transmit, and each data byte is identified by its position in the frame.

ATM, also called broadband ISDN, provides a service similar to ISDN, but with the capacity of each call being specified by the caller. Links are formatted into cells, which consist of a header and 48 data bytes; the header is typically 5 bytes long, and most of it is taken up with the virtual channel identifier (VCI) that shows to which call the cell belongs. Call set-up, routing, and switching are done in the same way as in ISDN, but with calls not being restricted to 1 byte every 125 μ s.

IP provides a very different service, not designed for continuous media such as audio and video. There is no call set-up, and each packet contains enough information within itself to allow it to be routed to its destination. This means that the header is much larger than in the case of ATM, typically 74 bytes, and packets will also typically be much larger, if only because otherwise the overheads would be excessive. Each packet is liable to be routed separately, so two packets that are part of the same flow may well take different routes. This can mean that the one that was sent first does not arrive first.

For many professional audio applications, a round-trip time from the microphone through the mixing desk and back to the headphones of no more than 3 ms is required. Allowing 0,5 ms each for conversion from analog to digital and back again, it follows that the network connections to and from the mixing desk must have a latency of less than 1 ms each. For distances of more than about 200 km, the transmission delay alone will exceed 1 ms, but within a metropolitan area the transmission delay should be no more than 0,25 ms (equivalent to about 50 km), leaving 0,75 ms for packetization, queuing within switches, and resynchronization within the receiving equipment.

Packetization delays are proportional to the size of the transmission unit (frame, cell, or packet), and resynchronization delays depend on how evenly spaced the transmission units are when they arrive at their destination. Both classes of delay are thus small for ISDN and large for IP. Using the format specified in this standard to carry dual-channel IEC 60958-4 audio with a 48 kHz sampling frequency over ATM results in an inter-cell time of 125 μ s, at which ATM will have similar delays to ISDN. A higher sampling frequency or a larger number of channels would reduce the inter-cell time and hence also the delays.

The queuing time within each ISDN switch is likely to be around one frame time or 125 μ s. The ATM documents limit the queuing time in an ATM switch to approximately the inter-cell time for the call, which, as with the other delays, translates into performance similar to that of ISDN for dual-channel 48 kHz IEC 60958-4 audio and better for higher sampling frequencies or larger numbers of channels.

The queuing time within an IP router for normal, best effort, Internet traffic is unbounded, and if the router is congested, packets may simply be thrown away. Resource reservation protocol (RSVP) (see Annex A) allows capacity to be reserved for a particular traffic flow, but it does not guarantee that the packets will actually be routed over the links on which the capacity has been reserved; if the flow is re-routed, it will only get a best effort service until a reservation has been made on the new route, and it may not even be possible to make a reservation on the new route at all.

ATM has therefore been chosen as providing a more convenient service than ISDN and significantly better performance than IP, even when RSVP is used.

This standard does not specify a physical interface to the network because one of the features of ATM is its ability to make a seamless connection between interfaces operating at a wide variety of data rates and with different ways of encoding the ATM cells. Commonly used interfaces provide 25,6 Mbit/s over category 3 structured wiring and 155,52 Mbit/s over category-5 structured wiring or fibre-optic cable.

The physical layer section description and unique ATM abbreviations can be found in ATM forum approved specifications. See the Bibliography.

DIGITAL AUDIO – DIGITAL INPUT-OUTPUT INTERFACING – TRANSMISSION OF DIGITAL AUDIO OVER ASYNCHRONOUS TRANSFER MODE (ATM) NETWORKS

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies a means to carry multiple channels of audio in linear PCM or IEC 60958-4 format over an ATM layer service conforming to ITU-T Recommendation I.150. It includes a means to convey, between parties, information concerning the digital audio signal when setting up audio calls across the ATM network.

It does not specify the physical interface to the network.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents 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.

IEC 60958-1, *Digital audio interface – Part 1: General*

IEC 60958-4, *Digital audio interface – Part 4: Professional applications*

ITU-T Recommendation I.150: *B-ISDN asynchronous transfer mode functional characteristics*

ITU-T Recommendation I.363.5, *B-ISDN ATM Adaptation Layer specification: Type 5 AAL*

ITU-T Recommendation Q.2931: *Digital Subscriber Signalling System No. 2 – User-Network Interface (UNI) layer 3 specification for basic call/connection control*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1

asynchronous transfer mode (ATM)

networking technology in which data are carried in 48-o cells

NOTE Octet (unit symbol, o) is defined as an 8-bit data element by IEC 60027-2, which is synonymous with byte (unit symbol, B) whenever the term, byte, is restricted to 8-bit elements.

3.2

ATM adaptation layer (AAL)

protocol layer that allows different services, such as packet transfer, to be provided on an ATM network

3.3

ATM signaling

protocol that conveys connection management and other messages between an ATM network and equipment attached to it

3.4

audio channel

path that carries one monophonic digital audio signal

3.5

audio port

physical or virtual connector that carries a fixed number of audio channels

3.6

information element (IE)

component of an ATM signalling message

3.7

MADI

serial multi-channel audio digital interface

3.8

organizationally unique identifier (OUI)

3-o code issued by a designated agency to form globally consistent bit strings as described in *OUI and company_id assignments*

3.9

user-to-user indication (UI)

single bit in the ATM cell header that can be used by the ATM adaptation layer as a marker for certain cells

3.10

virtual channel

communications channel that provides for the sequential unidirectional transport of ATM cells on a link between two pieces of equipment

3.11

virtual channel identifier (VCI)

numerical tag occupying a 16-bit field in the ATM cell header that identifies the virtual channel over which the cell is to travel

3.12

virtual circuit

route through a network formed by concatenating virtual channels

3.13

virtual path

group of up to 65536 virtual channels

3.14

virtual path identifier (VPI)

numerical tag occupying an 8-bit field in the ATM cell header that identifies the virtual path which contains the virtual channel over which the cell is to travel

4 Format of audio data in ATM cells

4.1 Format of audio samples

4.1.1 Subframes

4.1.1.1 Each audio sample shall be encoded in a subframe that consists of a whole number of octets. The subframe shall be stored in the cell in consecutive octets, with the first bit of the subframe in the most significant bit of the first octet.

4.1.1.2 A subframe shall consist of the fields listed in Table 1, in the order in which they appear.

Table 1 – Fields contained in a subframe

Field	Specified in
Audio sample word	4.1.2
Ancillary data	4.1.3
Protocol overhead	4.1.4

4.1.2 Audio sample word

4.1.2.1 The audio sample shall be represented in linear 2's complement form, with the most significant bit first. If the source provides fewer bits than the size of this field, the unused least significant bits shall be set to zero.

NOTE This specification is the same as in IEC 60958-4, except that the bit order is reversed.

4.1.2.2 The number of bits in the audio sample word shall be chosen in such a way that the total number of bits in the subframe is 8, 16, 24, 32, or 48.

4.1.3 Ancillary data

4.1.3.1 This field shall either contain no bits or consist of four bits designated B, C, U, V, in that order.

4.1.3.2 The C, U, and V bits shall be the channel status, user data, and validity bits specified in IEC 60958-1.

4.1.3.3 The B bit shall be a 1 for the first subframe of the block specified in IEC 60958-1, and a 0 for all other subframes.

NOTE The B bit affects the interpretation of the C bit, and possibly also of the U bit, but has no relation to the grouping of samples specified in 4.2.

Where more than one audio channel is carried, the B bit shall be set at the start of the block in every channel, not just in the first channel. The block starts may be unaligned.

4.1.4 Protocol overhead

This field shall either contain no bits or consist of a sequencing bit followed by three bits that provide data protection.

4.1.4.1 Sequencing word

The sequencing word consists of the sequencing bits of all the subframes in a cell, in the order in which the subframes appear in the cell.

4.1.4.1.1 Sequence number

The first four bits of the sequencing word shall contain a sequence number in the form of a binary integer with the least significant bit first.

Except in the first cell transmitted on a virtual circuit, the value of this integer shall be 1 more (modulo 16) than in the previous cell on the same virtual circuit.