



# Comparative representation of sound field quantities and sound energy quantities

Assumption:

German: <http://www.sengpielaudio.com/VergleichendeDarstellungVonSchall.pdf>

Air temperature = 20°C: (Atmospheric pressure  $1.01325 \cdot 10^5$  Pa = 1013 hectopascal)

Density of air at 20°C:  $\rho = 1.204$  kg / m<sup>3</sup> (At 0°C is  $\rho = 1.293$  kg/m<sup>3</sup>)

Speed of sound at 20°C:  $c = 343$  m / s (At 0°C is  $c = 331$  m/s)

Specific acoustic impedance  $Z$  at 20°C:  $Z = \rho \cdot c = \frac{P}{v} = 413$  N · s / m<sup>3</sup> (At 0°C is  $Z = 428$  N·s/m<sup>3</sup>)

Reference sound field quantities:

Reference sound pressure  $p_0 = 2 \cdot 10^{-5}$  N / m<sup>2</sup> =  $2 \cdot 10^{-5}$  Pa (Fixed "threshold of audibility")

Reference sound velocity  $v_0 = \frac{p_0}{\rho \cdot c} = \frac{p_0}{Z_0} = 5 \cdot 10^{-8}$  m / s (=  $4.854 \cdot 10^{-8}$  m / s)

Reference sound energy quantities:

Reference sound intensity  $J_0 = \frac{p_0^2}{Z_0} = Z_0 \cdot v_0^2 = 10^{-12}$  W / m<sup>2</sup> (=  $0.9685 \cdot 10^{-12}$  W / m<sup>2</sup>)

Reference sound energy density  $E_0 = \frac{J_0}{c} = \frac{p_0 \cdot v_0}{c} = 3 \cdot 10^{-15}$  W · m / s<sup>3</sup> (=  $2.824 \cdot 10^{-15}$  J / m<sup>3</sup>)

Reference acoustic power  $W_0 = J_0 \cdot A = 10^{-12}$  W = 1 pW bei  $A = 1$  m<sup>2</sup> (=  $0.9685 \cdot 10^{-12}$  W)

>>> Given:

A plane sound wave of  $f = 1$  kHz and the

Sound pressure  $\tilde{p} = 1$  Pa =  $1 \frac{N}{m^2} = 10$  μbar  $\Rightarrow$  94 dB SPL – We use always the RMS value.

Calculated:

Wavelength  $\lambda = \frac{c}{f} = \frac{343}{1000} = 0.343$  m = 34.3 cm

Periodic length  $T = \frac{1}{f} = 0.001$  s = 1 ms

Sound velocity  $\tilde{v} = 2 \cdot \pi \cdot f \cdot \tilde{\xi} = \frac{\tilde{p}}{Z_0} = \frac{1}{413} = 2.42 \cdot 10^{-3}$  m / s = 2.42 mm / s

Sound particle displacement  $\tilde{\xi} = \frac{\tilde{v}}{2 \cdot \pi \cdot f} = 0,385 \cdot 10^{-6}$  m = 0.385 μm

Acoustic intensity  $J$  or  $I = \tilde{p} \cdot \tilde{v} = \frac{\tilde{p}^2}{Z_0} = 2.42 \cdot 10^{-3}$  W / m<sup>2</sup> = 2.42 mW / m<sup>2</sup> Intensity is not amplitude

Sound energy density  $E = \frac{J}{c} = 7.06 \cdot 10^{-6}$  W · s / m<sup>3</sup> =  $7.06 \cdot 10^{-6}$  J / m<sup>3</sup>

Sound power  $W_0$  (mit  $A = 1$  m<sup>2</sup>) =  $\tilde{J} \cdot \tilde{A} = 2.42 \cdot 10^{-3}$  W = 2.42 mW

Level: Differentiate sound field quantities and sound energy quantities.

Sound pressure level  $L_p = 20 \cdot \log \frac{p}{p_0} = 20 \cdot \log \frac{1}{2 \cdot 10^{-5}} = 94$  dB (93.98 dB)

Sound velocity level  $L_v = 20 \cdot \log \frac{v}{v_0} = 20 \cdot \log \frac{2.42 \cdot 10^{-3}}{5 \cdot 10^{-8}} = 94$  dB (93.70 dB)

Acoustic intensity level  $L_J = 10 \cdot \log \frac{J}{J_0} = 10 \cdot \log \frac{2.42 \cdot 10^{-3}}{10^{-12}} = 94$  dB (93.84 dB)

Sound energy density level  $L_E = 10 \cdot \log \frac{E}{E_0} = 10 \cdot \log \frac{7.06 \cdot 10^{-6}}{3 \cdot 10^{-15} \cdot 10^{-12}} = 94$  dB (93.72 dB)

Sound power level  $L_W = 10 \cdot \log \frac{W}{W_0} = 10 \cdot \log \frac{2.42 \cdot 10^{-3}}{10^{-12}} = 94$  dB (93.84 dB)

Don't mix the pressure  $p$  with the power  $P$ , the sound power level is better called  $L_W$  instead of  $L_P$ . Theoretically interesting is, what sound level the full modulation of the atmospheric pressure is:  $L_p = 20 \cdot \log \frac{1.013 \cdot 10^5}{2 \cdot 10^{-5}} = 194$  dB SPL = 1000237 Pa (RMS). But this is not the maximum possible pressure!

A previously used sound quantity was 1 μbar = 0.1 Pa.

Since  $1$  W · s =  $1$  N · m, the result for the sound energy density  $1$  W · s / m<sup>3</sup> =  $1$  N / m<sup>2</sup> and that is the unit of sound pressure! Reminder: W · s = J (Joule). See also: <http://www.sengpielaudio.com/RelationshipsOfAcousticQuantities.pdf> "Relationship of acoustic quantities"