

Gym Acoustics Guidance Workshop

Launch of a new ProPG

29 March 2023

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2.1 METHODOLOGY

Presented by

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Methodology Considerations

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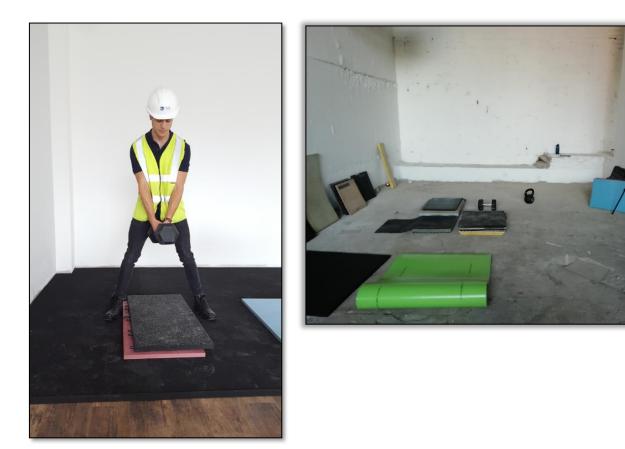


Types of Noise Issues from Gyms

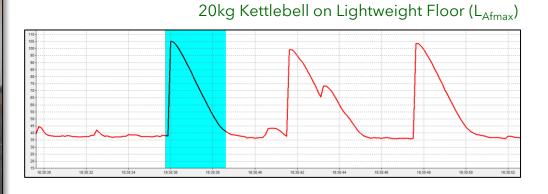
Noise Type	e.g.	Assessment
Airborne Noise	Amplified Music	Standard Airborne Assessment (BS EN ISO 16283-1)
High Impact Response (HIR)	Weight Drops, Fixed Pin Machines, Slamballs	Measurement of Gym Activity/ Weight Drop (Method 1 or 2, described in GAG document)
Synchronised Repetitive Excitation (SRE)	Treadmills, Dance	Difficult to standardise – SQA experience Approaches to assist assessment could include: • Heel-drop test (SCI P354) • Flat-footed running (approx 11km/h or 160 BPM)



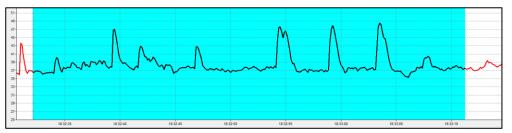
What is "Weight Drop" (HIR) Testing?



Examples of what we measure ...



Jogging on Lightweight Floor (L_{Afmax})





Considerations for "Weight Drop" (HIR) Testing?

- Repeatability (Height, Mass, Location, Dropped Object, Number of Repeats)
- Health & Safety
 (HSE Manual Handling Masses, Equality, Lifting Barbells)
- Damage to structure (Mass, Object Shape & Material)
- Representative
 (Different Methods for different purposes)

Method 1 (Consistent, Generic Approach)

Aims to provide a minimum baseline methodology to provide initial indication of site suitability (for untreated, pre-fit-out sites) and to avoid damage to untreated structures.

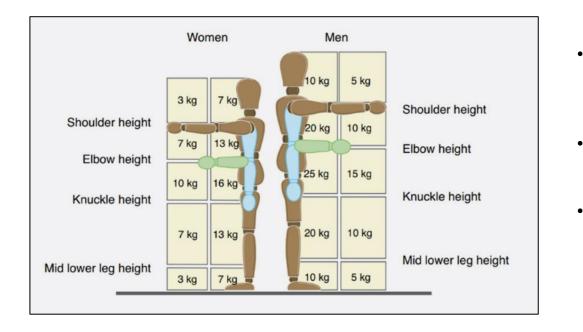
Method 2 (More Specific Approach)

Aims to measure the "real-life worst-case" proposed gym activity and would also typically be the default approach for investigative or diagnostic Acoustic testing, as site issues will typically be due to bespoke, site-specific activities.



Health & Safety

- Health & Safety Executive (HSE) states that there is <u>no law on maximum weight carried</u>, but places <u>responsibility on</u> <u>employers</u> to manage/control risk
- Lifting and lowering risk limits for manual handling in the UK, reproduced from guidance (below)



- <u>A risk assessment is essential</u>, taking into account the physical capability of each practitioner (including consideration of carrying tile/flooring samples)
- If necessary, a <u>Gym Employee or Trained Weight-lifter should be used</u> to drop heavier weights (recommended for Method 2 testing)
- RAMS should also include appropriate PPE which would typically require <u>Steel-Toe-capped Boots</u> to protect feet during weight-drop testing



Method 1 & Method 2 Testing

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Method 1 Testing

Testing Method 1 aims to provide a <u>minimum baseline methodology</u> to provide initial indication of site suitability (for untreated, pre-fit-out sites) and to avoid damage to untreated structures		
Minimum no. of weight drops	3	
Drop height from the finished floor level	0.5m	
Weight Range	20-35kg (Standardised)	

Anything above this height/weight would be classed as Method 2 testing

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Method 1 Testing

Weight Shape	Repeatable impact surface area, so ideally kettlebell
Weight Finish	Rubberised finish



During 'Method 1' testing, complementary testing with other items (e.g.: slamball) could also be done, at discretion of SQA



Method 2 Testing

Aims to measure the " <u>real-life worst-case</u> " proposed gym activity and would also typically be the default approach for investigative or diagnostic Acoustic testing, as site issues will typically be due to bespoke, site-specific activities.		
Minimum no. of weight drops	3-6	
Drop height from the finished floor level	Bespoke worst-case	
Weight Range	Bespoke gym equipment/activity	



Method 2 Testing

Due to the variation in the way energy will be transferred into the structure for different activity types, **Method 2** testing should ideally include assessment of one of each of the following activities (where these items are proposed or are expected to occur in a gym)

*Note that the 'heaviest proposed unit' may not necessarily be the heaviest weight available, particularly for units with interchangeable weights, however, should be representative of the typical upper limit used by the strongest/most experienced Gym users. A view should be taken in consideration of guidance from the Gym users and operators

Slamball, Medicine ball, Weight bags	Slams using the heaviest proposed unit*, 'slammed' from head height (approx 1.5 m) . If slamballs are proposed to be slammed on walls, this should be measured. Generally, the worst-case weight would be around 10 kg in that case
Dumbbells	Drops using the heaviest proposed unit*, in line with drop methodology given in Method 1. Generally, the typical worst-case weight would be around 35 kg
Barbells	Drops using the heaviest proposed unit [*] , in line with drop methodology given in Method 1. Typically, the worst-case weight would be around 150 kg
Treadmills	Running on the treadmill at a setting representative of a fast run (around 10 km/h) with shoes and with a flat-footed running style. This should ideally be measured continuously for a minimum of 30 seconds
Fixed-pin Machines	Given that the weight is fixed in the machine, it is recommended that the weight bars are released to drop from a height of around 0.2m . Typically, the worst-case weight would be 50 kg (depending on the type of machine)



Good Practice

Sound Level Meter	Class 1 defined in IEC 60651 and IEC 60804		
	Compliant with the requirements of BS EN ISO 8041-1:2017 (certified laboratory calibration within the previous two-year period)		
Vibration Equipment	Equipment should, ideally, be capable of simultaneous measurements in three orthogonal axes, as described within BS 6472:2008. Measurement in a single (z-) axis only may prove adequate when assessing the response of a floor		
Gym Floor Test Samples	Size representative of a larger installation (Ideally min. 1m x 1m). For treatment types with 'centres' at larger dimensions (e.g.: Resilient Cube System at 1m centres) Homogeneous Resilient Tile Treatment E.G.: Resilient Cube System C.G.: Resilient Cube System For treatment to a dimension of the system For treatment to a dimension of the system For the dimension of the system		



Good Practice

Number of Drop Positions	Enough to provide representative sample of area (Minimum 3 positions recommended)	
Worst-case Positions	These should be identified by SQA and included. Typically adjacent to noise-sensitive areas and/or adjacent to transmitting structures (e.g.: walls, columns, facades)	
Test Drop/Activity Location	 ≥ 0.5m from any transmitting structures, but at least one position ≈0.7m from worst-case transmitting structure Any test samples must not be in contact with transmitting structures At least one position where floor deflection is maximal (i.e.: judgement of SQA) 	
Receive Position	 One receptor position may be suitable Judgement of SQA to measure in worst-case location 	
Other flanking routes	As with Sound Insulation testing, it is critical that the effect of other flanking routes are mitigated, and considered in the analysis of data (e.g.: closing windows between test areas, excluding airborne component of impact drop on construction site)	



Good Practice

Times of Weight Drops	Specific times of weight drops should ideally be recorded to avoid subsequent data analysis errors (most useful where resulting impact noise is quiet/barely audible).	
	This is critical in live-use gyms, where other activity may also produce impact noise that should be excluded from analysis. Ideal scenario would of course, be empty gym & receptor, however site access limitations often prove non-idealised, in reality	
	1/3 Octave-band Measurements covering an appropriate range (recommended 20Hz minimum assessment frequency).	
	Higher frequencies should also be considered to take account of re-radiated sources (e.g.: rattling lights/fixtures) (Recommended up to 10kHz assessment frequency).	
Noise Measurements	Measurements in 'Full Storage' mode with Integration time of 0.125s (to record an accurate time history for subsequent analysis)	
	Microphone min. 0.7m from floor & min. 0.5m from walls in receive room	
	Background noise measurement should be taken	
Reverberation Time	If receive room will be different from test conditions, then RT could be calculated in like with ISO 354	



Vibration Testing

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Vibration

- Tactile Vibration usually secondary concern to Sound Transfer
- Can be used to determine Natural Frequency of floor
- Useful to predict noise transfer where airborne flanking paths limit useful measurement pre-fit-out (e.g.: in large unit, that will later be subdivided into separate partitioned units).
- <u>Measurements of the RMS and/or peak acceleration</u> should be carried out in <u>1/3 octave bands</u>. The frequency ranges covered by weighting networks designed to address human response (ref. BS 6472 and BS 6841) and those of the Vibration Criterion curves are encapsulated by the **minimum range 0.5Hz to 315Hz**.
- <u>VDV measurements not recommended</u>. In some cases, an eVDV could be established, although care should be taken in approximating regularity of events used.

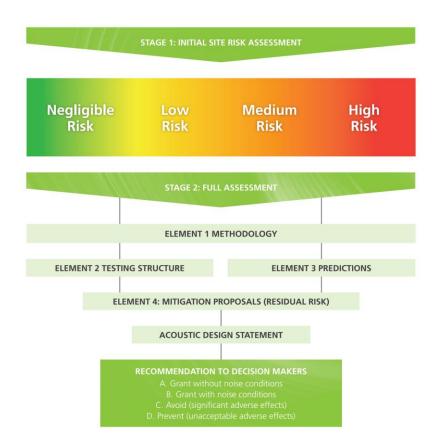


Vibration

- Transducer mounted at levelled position corresponding to the most-affected occupant, this typically being taken as the centre of the room.
 A secure connection should be established with the structure, for example by using a proprietary tripod baseplate or by other appropriate means that neither amplifies nor attenuates the vibration to be measured. It should be recognised that, where floors in a building utilise constructions of differing stiffness or mobility, the worst-affected receptor may not necessarily be the closest to the Gym.
- Much of the instrumentation currently on the market comprises three channels, allowing concurrent triaxial measurement. Where only single axis measurements are possible, preference should be given to obtaining data in the vertical (z-) axis, unless it can be shown that one of the other axes dominates



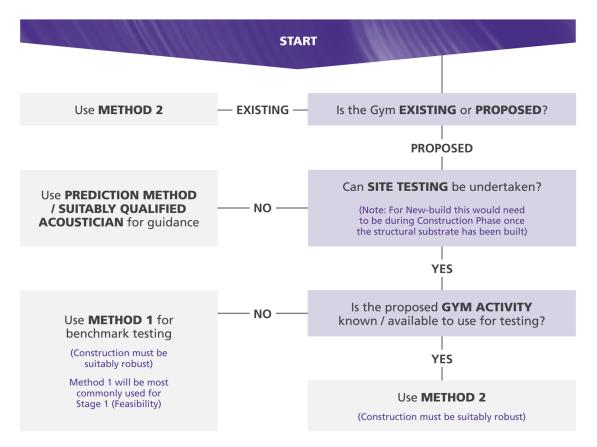
Where does Testing fit in?



- Suitably Qualified Acoustician (SQA)
- Different types of testing may suit different stages of project
- Could be Baseline / Complaints / Commissioning Testing



When to use Method 1 or Method 2 Testing?



Method 2 testing would be the default for diagnostic/complaint investigation testing

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2.2 PREDICTION

Presented by

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Associate Director and Vibration Group Leader at Hoare Lea. 18 years in industry

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Thank you, consultees!

- The feedback received during the consultation period was extremely useful. Thanks to all who got in touch.
- Input from BAG and Professor Carl Hopkins was gratefully received.
- My colleagues Ollie Buxton, Nikhilesh Patil and Matthew Naylor.
- Special mention to those who sent me their own version of the calculation process, along with typo spots!

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Background and Motivation

- To provide an engineering-grade means of prediction so as to provide early flags during design or feasibility stages.
- Something that does not require specialist software or is computationally expensive. Can be executed in a spreadsheet package.
- Allows mitigation to be built in based on empirical values rather than complex methods.
- Focussed on gyms above a sensitive receiver however the model can be extended if needed.
- Does not negate the need for testing which shall always be considered to be the most reliable means of assessment. The prediction can however be used as a complementary tool alongside testing to extrapolate to heavier values.



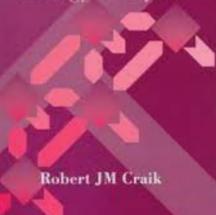
Background and Motivation



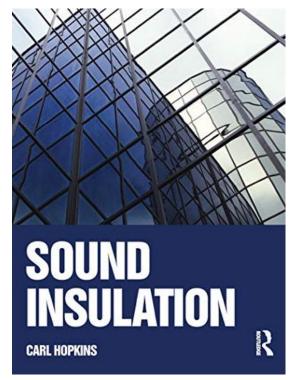
Lyon, R.H., 1975. Statistical energy analysis of dynamical systems. Theory and Applications.

Sound Transmission through Buildings using Statistical Energy Analysis

Gower



Craik, R.J.M, 1996. Sound Transmission Through Buildings: Using Statistical Energy Analysis}



Hopkins, C., 2012. Sound insulation. Routledge..

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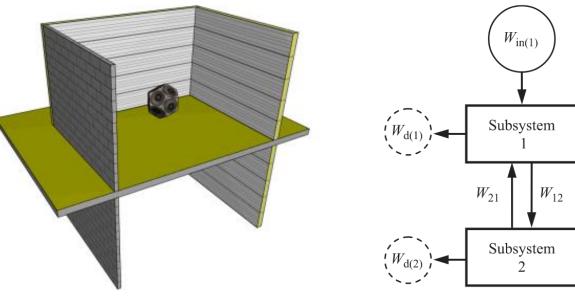
Fahy, F. and Walker, J. eds., 2018. Advanced applications in acoustics, noise and vibration. CRC Press.





Prediction framework

- The prediction methodology is based on Statistical Energy Analysis (SEA).
- You might already be familiar with the concepts. A simplified SEA approach is utilised in Standard EN 12354 and implemented in software which predicts to this standard.
- Like K_{ij} terms within EN 12354, we concern ourselves with the passing of energy once between subsystems.



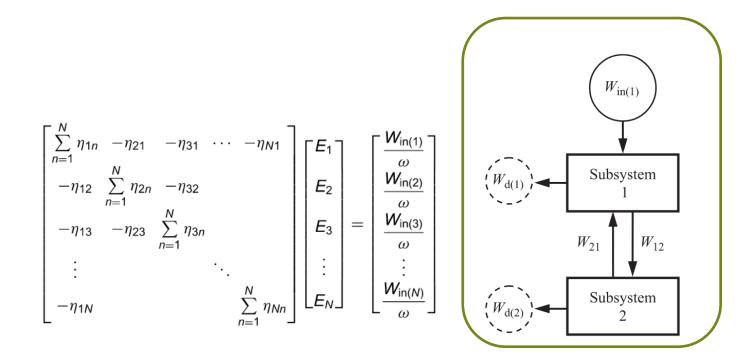
Source: BASTIAN (DataKustik GmbH) product literature.

Source: Hopkins, C., 2012. Sound insulation. Routledge..



Prediction framework

- The SEA-based prediction in GAG is a 2 subsystem model, comprising floor under impact and receiving room below.
- Procedure is similar to that which can be used to predict tapping machine vibration (See Hopkins).
- Because of the limited number of subsystems, and the fact that we are considering the 1-way path from floor to receiver, this permits a relatively light calculation.



Source: Hopkins, C., 2012. Sound insulation. Routledge..



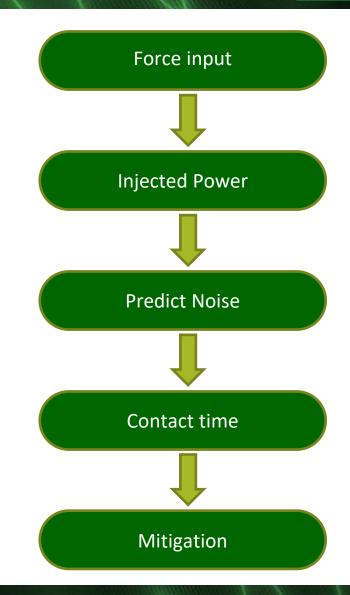
Factors affecting transmission

- Mass of impactor (free-weight/dumbbell/barbell).
- Radius of weight impacting upon the surface (contact area).
- Weight drop height.
- Contact stiffness of the floor covering.
- Mass and dimensions of the floating and structural floor.
- Damping.
- Room acoustics.
- Properties of any floating floor system for mitigation purposes.
- Flanking structural (or airborne) transmission paths.



Prediction in 5 steps

- You can actually obtain a noise level output in Step 3, however, we need to make some corrections to better align predictions with real-world observation.
- By Step 4, the hard work is done, leaving only Step 5 to consider the reduction in noise level you would be expected to achieve via floating floor mitigation.
- The guidance is all you need and the document is presented in a way such that all variables are defined. No guesswork, just follow the steps!





Modal check

- SEA relies on modes in the system. No modes, implies no energy to flow between subsystems.
- Often referred to as a mid-high frequency method of calculation. What does that mean for floors and thuds from weight drops?
- Typically speaking, the fundamental mode of vibration in floors is lower than that which is in a room. This means sufficient modes in the floor usually exist in the lower regions of the audible spectrum. If the room has a modal overlap greater than 1, this is a good sign the model will provide reasonable results.
- The document sign posts other methods should the user wish to investigate further, as it is the case that other means of calculating modal overlap between connected subsystems is more reliable. For most purposes the method in the document should suffice.

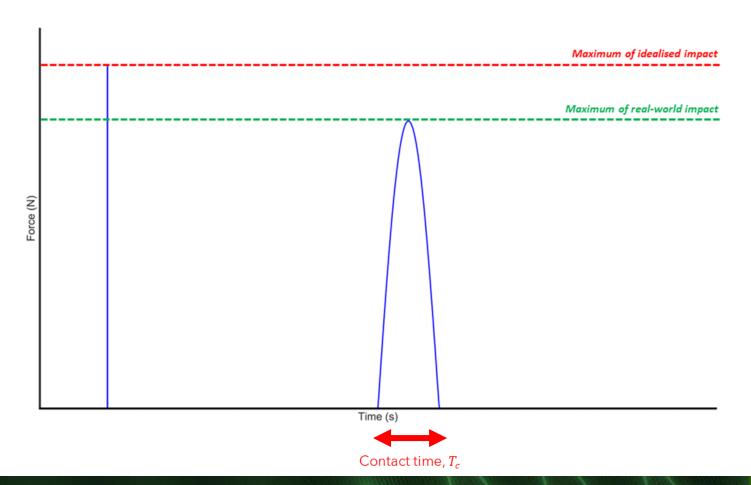
 $M = f\eta n(f)$

Modal overlap



It all starts with a bang

- We initially impact assuming infinitesimally small contact time.
- In reality, the impact will occur over a contact time period, which we refer to as T_c.
- Making some assumptions as to how energy is conserved, by increasing the contact period, we increase the area under the Force vs Time curve.
- Peak response reduces. Impulse remains the same.

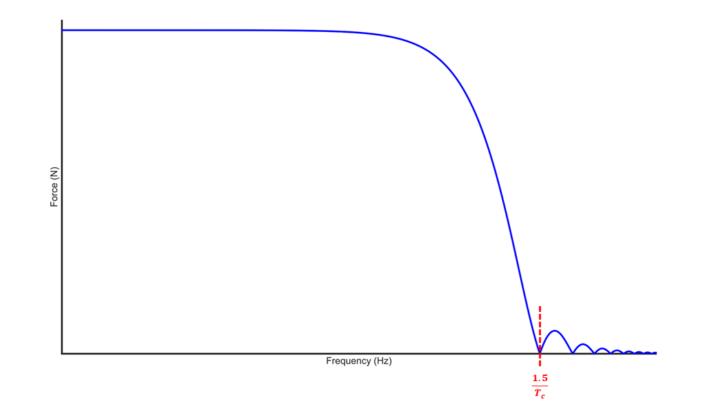




Frequency content

- The contact time no affects the force pulse in the time domain, but also the spectral content in the frequency domain.
- Shorter duration impacts have a broader frequency range (think tapping machine on concrete vs timber floors). The point at which high frequency content rolls off is related to the contact time.
- The frequency at which a significant degree of attenuation occurs can be

estimated by the relationship $\frac{1.5}{T_c}$.

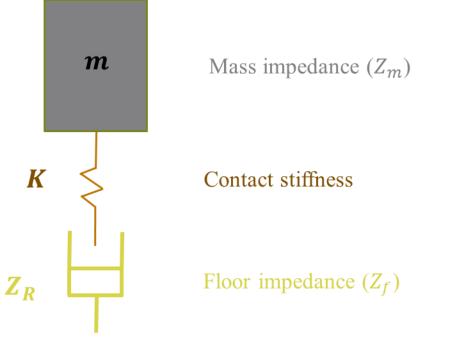




- In step 2, we are required to determine the injected power into power injection into slab.
- The impedance of the falling object and the receiving floor influence the transmitted power. We can think of these impedances acting in series ($Z_{tot} = Z_f + Z_m$).
- From this, and terms defined for force, we derive the injected power by taking the real part of $\frac{1}{Z_{tot}}$.

 $W_{in} = F_{rms}^2 Re\left\{\frac{1}{(Z_f + Z_m)}\right\}$

TIP: Excel has commands for complex values!





Mobility

$$Y_s = \frac{\nu(j\omega)}{F(j\omega)}$$

Impedance

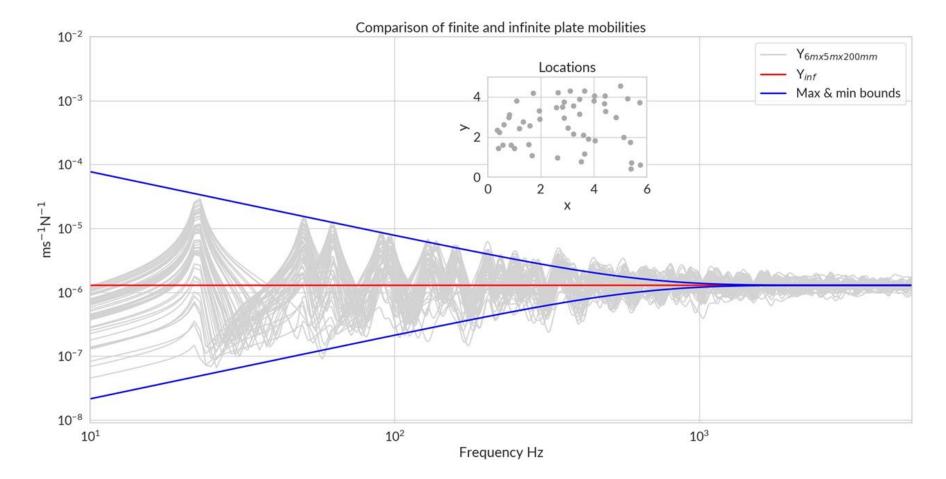
$$Z_s = \frac{F(j\omega)}{v(j\omega)}$$

Note:

Source & Receiver the same = 'driving point mobility' Source & Receiver different = 'transfer mobility'

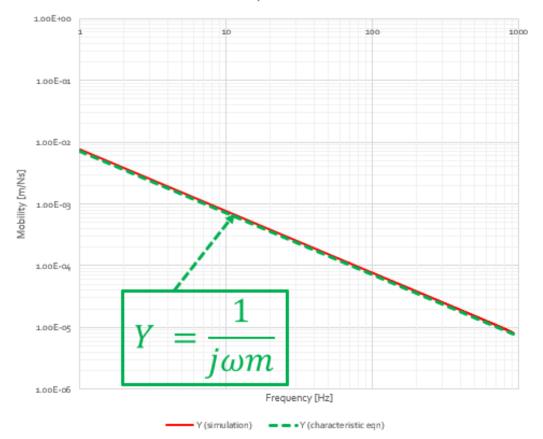
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Mobility Simulation

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Radiation

 In Step 3, we predict the noise in the room below the impact source. We do this using a 2 subsystem model with one-way coupling and some other rudimentary assumptions on flow. The energy in the room can be expressed as

$$E_2 = \frac{\eta_{12}}{\eta_1 \eta_2} \frac{W_{in\{1\}}}{\omega}$$

- η_1 = total loss factor for the plate/floor, estimated as 0.01 + 1/ \sqrt{f} for bending wave motion within concrete structures
- η_2 = total loss factor for the room
- η_{12} = is the plate-to-room coupling loss factor. $\eta_{12} = \frac{\rho_0 C_0 \sigma}{\omega \rho_s}$
- The value σ is the value chosen for radiation efficiency.



Radiation

- In the GAG, a value $\sigma = 1$ is generally ok for practical purposes. Though some care is required.
- Those familiar with groundborne vibration may well be using similar assumptions without realising. The ANC redbook equation $L_p = L_v -$ 27, assumes $\sigma = 1$ used when predicting groundborne noise from spatial average velocity.
- Other expressions and methods for predicting radiated noise and radiation efficiency can be sought if deemed necessary.

$$L_p = L_v - 27 + 10 \log(\sigma)$$
$$L_p = 10 \log(\sigma) + 6 + L_v - 10 \log\left(\frac{A}{S}\right)$$

For
$$f < f_c$$
:

$$\sigma = \frac{U}{2\pi\mu kS\sqrt{\mu^2 - 1}} \left[\ln\left(\frac{\mu + 1}{\mu - 1}\right) + \frac{2\mu}{\mu^2 - 1} \right] [C_{BC}C_{OB} - \mu^{-8}(C_{BC}C_{OB} - 1)]$$
For $f = f_c$:

$$\sigma \approx \left(0.5 - \frac{1}{L_2} \right) \sqrt{k} \sqrt{L_1}$$
For $f > f_c$:

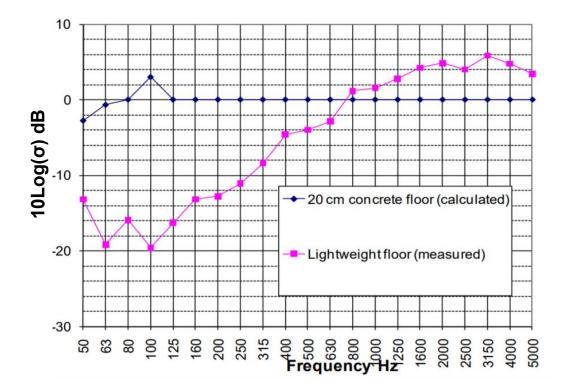
$$\sigma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \mu^2}}$$



Radiation

<u>"Procedures to predict exposure in buildings and estimate annoyance</u>" (2012) M. Villot, C. Guigou, P. Jean, N. Picard

- In general terms, the radiation efficiency is equal to one **above its critical frequency** (f_c). As such, the value for σ is not the same for all materials. Below it, not much happens.
- Heavier materials/constructions tend to have a low f_c. This is partially why it has been accepted to assume radiation efficiency as 1 for groundborne noise assessments.
- The same cannot be assumed for lightweight constructions.

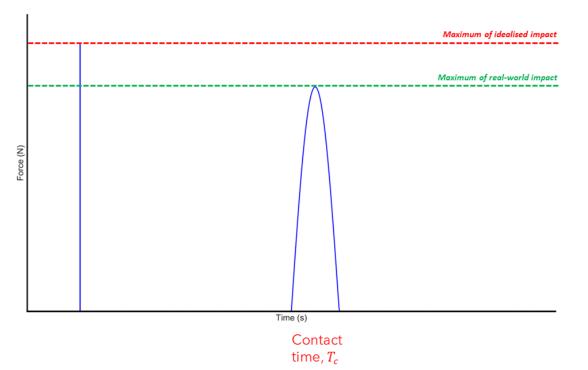




Corrections for contact time

- As we saw earlier, the contact time T_c will influence both the maximum observed force level in time and the spectral content in the frequency domain.
- If the force spectrum is not modified to account for the contact time, it will overestimate the sound pressure level significantly. We are also usually interested in a fast-weighted noise level L_{fmax} so we need to stretch the energy in the contact time period to 100ms, which serves as a reasonable estimator.

$$L_{F\max(est)} = L_p + 10 \log\left(\frac{Tc}{0.1}\right)$$





Corrections for transmission above/elsewhere

- Transmission to floors above is more difficult in an SEA framework owing to the growth of coupled subsystems.
- Spreadsheet packages likely to become cumbersome/impractical.
- Empirical corrections for floor to floor vibration may be used, though results can be highly variable depending on the size of floor/structural conditions.

$\begin{bmatrix} \sum_{n=1}^N \eta_{1n} & -\eta_{21} & -\eta_{31} & \cdots \end{bmatrix}$	$-\eta_{N1}$	$\left\lceil \frac{W_{in(1)}}{\omega} \right\rceil$
$-\eta_{12} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \eta_{2n} -\eta_{32}$	E ₂	$\frac{W_{in(2)}}{\omega}$
$-\eta_{13} - \eta_{23} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \eta_{3n}$	E ₃	$=\left \frac{W_{in(3)}}{\omega}\right $
÷		
$-\eta_{1N}$	$\sum_{n=1}^{N} \eta_{Nn} \int \left[E_N \right]$	$\left\lfloor \frac{W_{in(N)}}{\omega} \right\rfloor$



Mitigation

- Prediction is actually quite complex in reality due to dynamic effects, cavity resonances etc.
- Rarely achieve idealised mitigation scenarios (SDOF transmissibility for example).
- A general consensus through supplier discussions in the group.
- Leaves scope for suppliers to undertake R&D or provide evidence of betterment. Values are not set in stone.

Table 4: Typical performance estimates for various isolation systems

Isolation type	Typical system thickness mm	Typical capped-maximum ¹ reduction in impact noise/vibration per octave/third-octave band dB ²
Pad/Matting (multiple layers)	100-150	10-20
Pad/Matting with solid elements	150-190	30-35
Floating timber floors/sport floors	80-100	10-15
Floating concrete floors with matting to upper surface	200-350	30-40

Table 4 Notes:

- 1. Values correspond to stated thickness ranges.
- 2. Values assume a concrete structural floor. Very thin or lightweight structures would be expected to have lower values than presented.



Case Studies

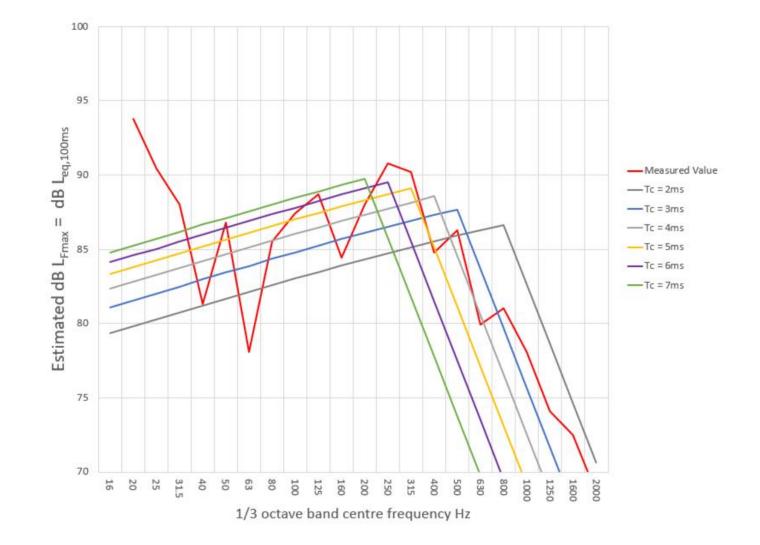
- Provided to give you confidence in the approach, and also something to benchmark against to check your working!
- Case studies were predicted blind before comparing to measurement data.
- Reiterate that the main purpose is investigate order of magnitude impact. Useful for feasibility studies and deciding what level of intervention may be required.

Table H5: Input parameters for prediction model

Step	Parameter Required	Value
1	Mass	35 kg/m³
	Drop height	1m
2	Floor density	2300kg
	Floor thickness	250mm
	Young's modulus	30x109N/mm
	Poisson ratio	0.2
3	Reverberation Time	0.6s (at each band)
	Speed of sound in air	343m/s
	Density of air	1.21kg/m ³
	Radiation efficiency	1 (for all bands)
	Room volume	15
4	Contact time	2-7ms



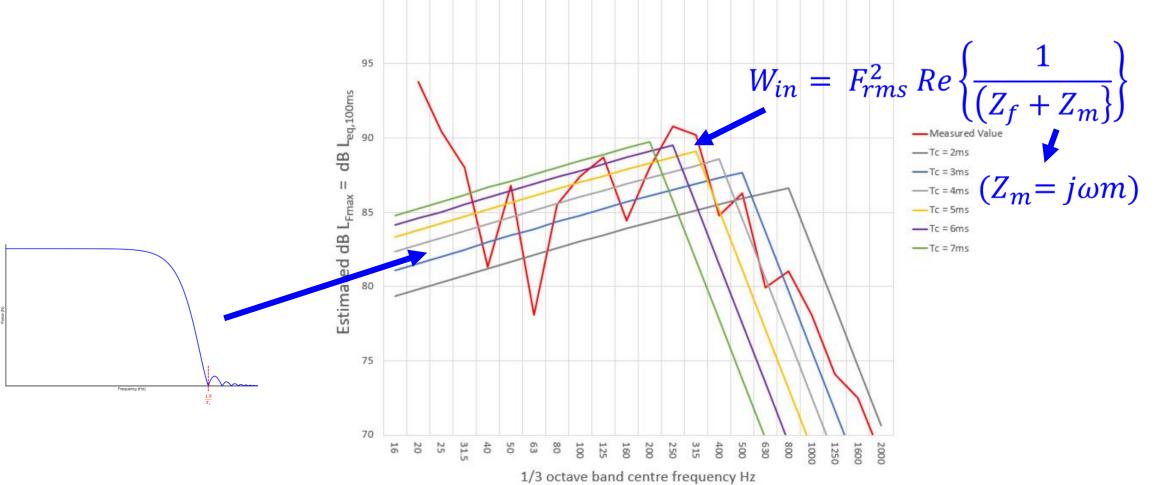
Case Studies





Case Studies

100



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Conclusion

- Prediction methodology is there to avoid costly issues or problematic designer/client/user issues down the line.
- When used correctly with knowledge of limitations, the user should have a good feel for the degree for the problem at hand.
- That said, measurements would still be preferable!