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SI 678 Preserving Sound and Motion

Class 4 – Re-recording processes and standards



Themes

Themes

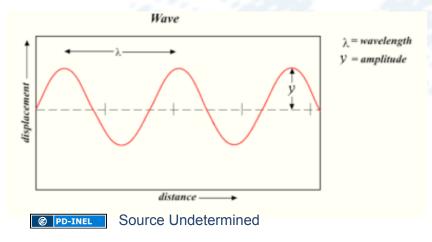
- Sound signals?
- Transfer processes
- Digital sampling standards
- Master file standard
- Format standard

'Whenever rerecording becomes necessary, it must be done with historical faithfulness in mind" Schuller 1991



What is sound?

- Audible acoustic sound
 - Human ear as primary, but not only target
 - 20 kHz is maximum human hearing
- Sound waves with properties
 - Frequency (Hz), wavelength, period, amplitude, intensity, speed, and direction
- Sound pressure in dB per reference sound of 20 uPa.

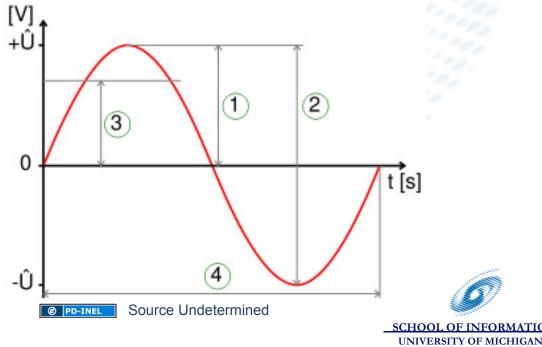




Frequency and Amplitude

$$\lambda = \frac{v}{f}$$

Were v is the propagation speed of the wave and f is its frequency. For sound waves in air, this is the speed of sound, 345 m/s (1238 km/h) in air at room temperature and atmospheric pressure.



Transfer processes

Re-recording

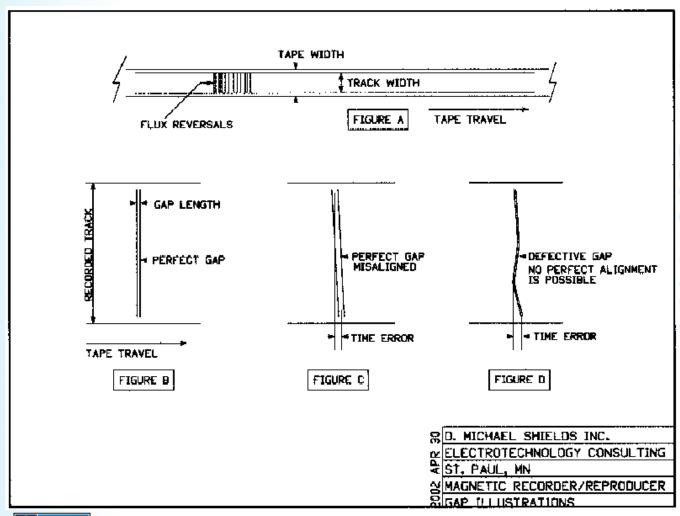
Transfer

Decision making Sampling

- Re-record from the "original"
- 2. Clean media and equipment
- 3. Use top quality equipment
- 4. Compensation for misalignment
- Compensation for recording anomalies
- 6. Compensation for signal anomalies



Tape Head Alignment







IASA TC-03

- Ethics: Technical truth and consequences.
 Technical feasibility. User needs.
- 8. (p. 7): "It is important to understand that the intended signal is only part of a given sound document. The unintended and undesirable artefacts (noise, distortions) are also part of the sound document, either caused by limited historical recording technology, or subsequently added to the original signal by mishandling (eg clicks) or by poor storage. Both have to be preserved with utmost accuracy, which has consequences for the choice of digital resolution."



Creating a Master File

- The master file listed here is under consideration as a future replacement for the open-reel analog tape recordings current designated as preservation masters.
 - Bitstream: Uncompressed PCM [no data reduction]
 - Configuration: Monophonic or stereo depending upon characteristics of source item
 - Sampling frequency: 96 or 48 kHz depending upon characteristics of source item
 - Word length: 24 bit word length
 - File format: WAVE
 - Enhancement: No cleanup, or minimal cleanup as agreed to by Library after analysis and recommendations at time of task order establishment
 - Filename structure: Item identifier as specified by Library, followed alpha character m, and extension wav, e.g., 1235m.wav



Digital sampling

- Sample at over twice desired frequency
- CD standard 44.1 kHz @ 16 bits
 - Compromise of fidelity and capacity
- DVD standard 48 kHz @ 16 bits
- IASA standard [now also EBU]
 - 48/24minimum
 - 96 kHz @ 24 bits recommended
 - Need for international synchronization



Broadcast Wave Format

- EBU approved metadata extension to Microsoft Wave format [fully pub.]
- Application of RIFF bitstream format [resource interchange file format]
- PCM [Pulse Code Modulation] and MGEP are the bitstream encoding methods.
- bext and mext chunks contains technical metadata
- Presently limited to 4gb files [EBU is working on this issue]

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Thank you!

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