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Title:

Sound character, sound quality, sound design, and soundscape – Important acoustical aspects of today and in future

Author/s:

Klaus, Genuit

Abstract:

A sound event cannot be calculated or measured only by one numerical value. The acoustics are determined by the spectral composition and the temporal patterns. The discipline of psychoacoustics has established itself, which, in addition to the simple determination of energy, can provide more differentiated, meanwhile globally standardized analyses describing the sound character. Parameters such as loudness, sharpness, tonality, roughness, and fluctuation help to classify the sound character of a sound event, but determining the sound quality requires additional information about the meaning and functionality of the sound source with consideration of the context. How does the sound character fit to the sound source, what expectations and experiences does the listener have? The international standard ISO 12913 "Soundscape" describes this relationship of perceived sound quality considering the context, while also considering that there are usually spatially distributed sound sources that determine the entire sound event. The aurally correct recording of a complex sound event for the purpose of psychoacoustic analysis and auditory assessment is therefore normatively based on the use of binaural measurement technology.

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