
**Road vehicles — Measurement
techniques in impact tests —
Instrumentation**

*Véhicules routiers — Techniques de mesurage lors des essais de chocs
— Instrumentation*

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work. In the field of information technology, ISO and IEC have established a joint technical committee, ISO/IEC JTC 1.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 22, *Road vehicles*, Subcommittee SC 36, *Safety aspects and impact testing*.

This sixth edition cancels and replaces the fifth edition (ISO 6487:2012), which has been technically revised.

Introduction

This International Standard is the result of a willingness to harmonize the previous edition, ISO 6487:2012, and SAE International's Recommended Practice, SAE J211-1.

It presents a series of performance requirements concerning the whole measurement sequence of impact shocks.

These requirements may not be altered by the user and all are obligatory for any agency conducting tests to this International Standard. However, the method of demonstrating compliance with them is flexible and can be adapted to suit the needs of the particular equipment used by a testing agency.

This approach affects the interpretation of requirements. For example, there is a requirement to calibrate within the working range of the channel, i.e. between F_L and $F_H/2,5$. This cannot be interpreted literally, as low-frequency calibration of accelerometers requires large displacement inputs beyond the capacity of virtually any laboratory.

It is not intended that each requirement be taken as necessitating proof by a single test. Rather, it is intended that any agency proposing to conduct tests to this International Standard guarantee that if a particular test could be and were to be carried out, then their equipment would meet the requirements. This proof would be based on reasonable deductions from existing data such as the results of partial tests.

On the basis of studies carried out by technical experts, no significant difference has been identified between the characteristics of the load transducer when using static as opposed to dynamic calibration methods. This new edition helps to define the dynamic calibration method for force and moment data channels in accordance with the current knowledge base and studies available.

The temperature of the anthropomorphic test device (ATD) used in a collision test needs to be monitored to confirm that it has been used within the acceptable temperature range prescribed for the whole ATD or body segment. The objective is to prevent temperature from being a variable that will influence the ATD response. The actual ATD temperature can be influenced by various factors including ambient air, high-speed photography lighting, sunshine, heat dissipation from transducers, and ATD in-board data acquisition systems. In order to respond to these objectives, the new edition specifies the performance requirements for the ATD temperature measurement.

This International Standard defines the requirements of an impact test for which the measurement uncertainties can only be partially calculated.

To summarize, this International Standard enables users of impact test results to call up a set of relevant instrumentation requirements by merely specifying this International Standard. Their test agency then has the primary responsibility for ensuring that the requirements of this International Standard are met by their instrumentation system. The evidence on which they have based this proof assessment will be available to the user upon request. In this way, fixed requirements guaranteeing the suitability of the instrumentation for impact testing can be combined with flexible methods of demonstrating compliance with those requirements.

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Road vehicles — Measurement techniques in impact tests — Instrumentation

1 Scope

This International Standard gives requirements and recommendations for measurement techniques involving the instrumentation used in impact tests carried out on road vehicles. Its requirements are aimed at facilitating comparisons between results obtained by different testing laboratories, while its recommendations will assist such laboratories in meeting those requirements. It is applicable to instrumentation including that used in the impact testing of vehicle subassemblies. It does not include optical methods which are the subject of ISO 8721.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 2041, *Mechanical vibration, shock and condition monitoring — Vocabulary*

ISO 3784, *Road vehicles — Measurement of impact velocity in collision tests*

ISO 4130, *Road vehicles — Three-dimensional reference system and fiducial marks — Definitions*

ISO/TR 27957, *Road vehicles — Temperature measurement in anthropomorphic test devices — Definition of the temperature sensor locations*

SAE J211-1, *Instrumentation for impact test — Part 1: Electronic instrumentation*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions given in ISO 2041 and the following apply.

3.1

data channel

all the instrumentation from, and including a single transducer (or multiple transducers, the outputs of which are combined in some specified way), to, and including any analysis procedures that may alter the frequency content or the amplitude content of data

3.2

transducer

first device in a *data channel* (3.1) used to convert a physical quantity to be measured into a second quantity (such as an electrical voltage) which can be processed by the remainder of the channel

3.3

channel amplitude class

CAC

designation for a *data channel* (3.1) that meets certain amplitude characteristics as specified by this International Standard

Note 1 to entry: The CAC number is numerically equal to the upper limit of the measurement range which is equivalent to data channel full scale.

3.4
channel frequency class
CFC

frequency class designated by a number indicating that the channel frequency response lies within certain limits

Note 1 to entry: CFC XXX defines the frequency class with XXX = Frequency, F_H , in hertz.

3.5
calibration value

mean value measured and read during calibration of a *data channel* (3.1)

3.6
sensitivity

ratio of the output signal (in equivalent physical units) to the input signal (physical excitation) when an excitation is applied to the *transducer* (3.2)

EXAMPLE 10,24 mV/g/V for a strain gauge accelerometer.

3.7
sensitivity coefficient

slope of the straight line representing the best fit to the *calibration values* (3.5) determined by the method of least squares within the *channel amplitude class* (CAC) (3.3)

Note 1 to entry: Specific sensors such as seat belt sensors, torque sensors, and multi-axial force sensors may require a specific calibration procedure.

3.8
calibration factor of a data channel

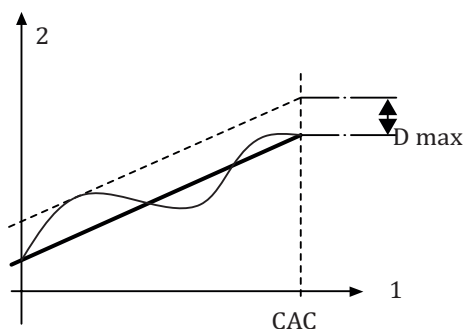
arithmetic mean of the *sensitivity coefficients* (3.7) evaluated over frequencies evenly spaced on a logarithmic scale between F_L and $F_H/2,5$

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 2](#) and [Figure 3](#).

3.9
non-linearity

ratio of the maximum difference ($D_{\max}$) between the *calibration value* (3.5) and the value read from the best approximation of *calibration values* (3.5) expressed as a percentage of the *channel amplitude class* (CAC) (3.3)

Note 1 to entry: See [Figure 1](#) and [4.5.4](#).

**Key**

- 1 input signal
- 2 output signal

NOTE Non-linearity = $D_{\max}/CAC * 100$.

Figure 1 — Non-linearity

3.10**transverse sensitivity of a rectilinear transducer**

sensitivity (3.6) to excitation in a nominal direction perpendicular to its sensitive axis

Note 1 to entry: The transverse sensitivity of a rectilinear transducer is usually a function of the nominal direction of the axis chosen.

Note 2 to entry: The cross sensitivity of force and bending moment transducers is complicated by the complexity of loading cases. At time of publication, this situation had yet to be resolved.

3.11**transverse sensitivity ratio of a rectilinear transducer**

ratio of the *transverse sensitivity of a rectilinear transducer* (3.10) to its sensitivity along its sensitive axis

Note 1 to entry: The cross-sensitivity of force and bending moment transducers is complicated by the complexity of loading cases. At time of publication, this situation had yet to be resolved.

3.12**phase delay time of a data channel**

time equal to the phase delay, expressed in radians, of a sinusoidal signal divided by the angular frequency of that signal and expressed in radians per second

3.13**environment**

aggregate at a given moment of all external conditions and influences to which the *data channel* (3.1) is subject

4 Performance requirements**4.1 CFC specifications and performance requirements**

The absolute value of the non-linearity of a data channel at any frequency (except if data channel is calibrated against only one point) in the channel frequency class (CFC) shall be less than or equal to 2,5 % of the value of the CAC over the whole measurement range.

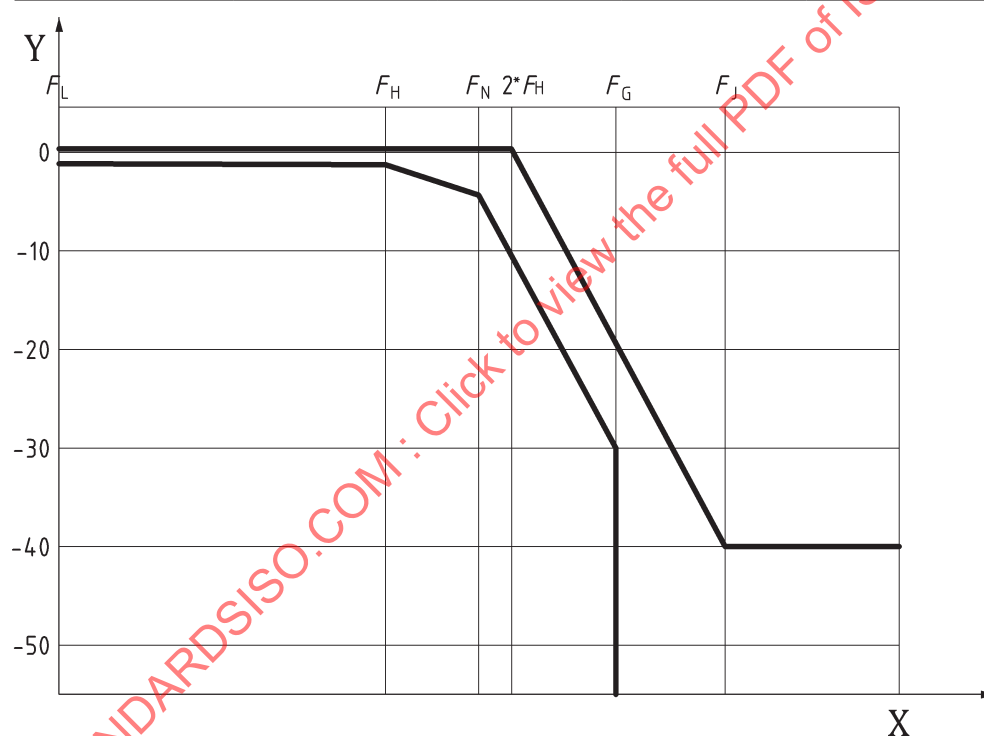
The frequency response of a data channel shall lie within the limiting curves given in [Table 1](#) and [Figure 2](#) for CFC 1 000 and CFC 600. For CFC 60 and CFC 180, the frequency response of a data channel

shall lie within the limiting curves given in [Table 2](#) and [Figure 3](#). The zero decibels line is defined by the calibration factor.

NOTE For CFC 180 and CFC 60, the filtering algorithm given in [Annex A](#) addresses this requirement.

Table 1 — Logarithmic scales for CFC 1 000 and CFC 600

	Attenuations (dB)		Frequency (Hz)	
	Upper	Lower	CFC 600	CFC 1000
F_Z				
F_L	+0,5	-0,5	0,1	0,1
F_H	+0,5	-1,0	600	1 000
F_N	+0,5	-4,0	1 000	1 650
$2 \cdot F_H$	+0,5		1 200	2 000
F_G		-30,0	2 119	3 496
F_J	-40,0	$-\infty$	3 865	6 442



Key

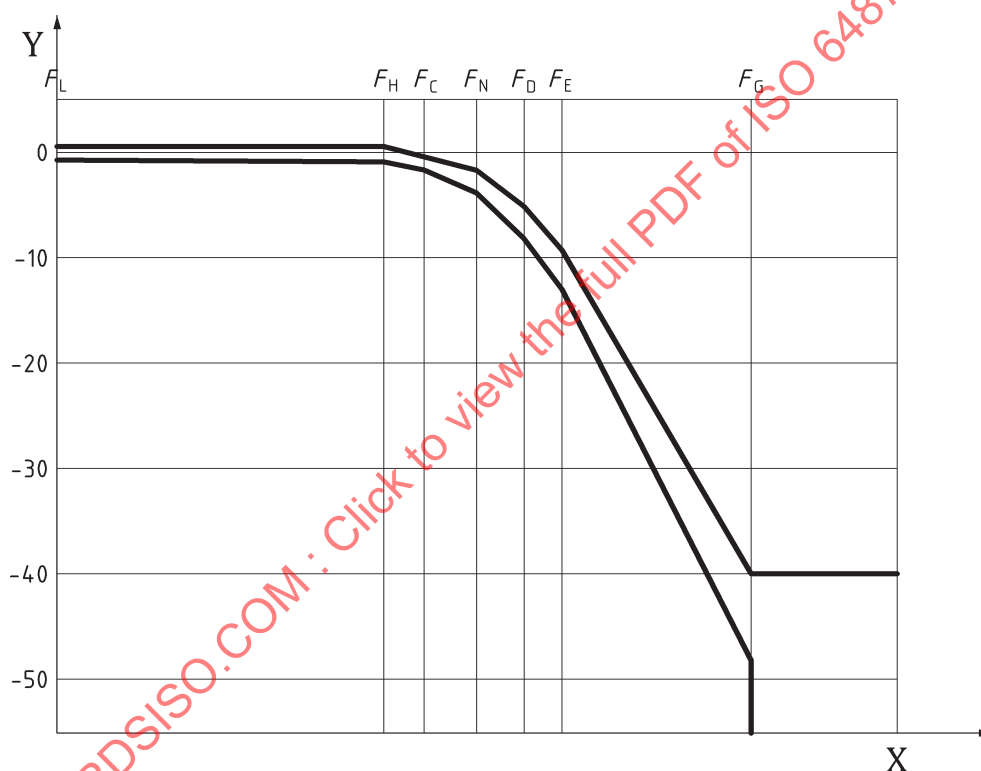
X in Hertz

Y in dB

Figure 2 — Frequency response limits — CFC 1 000 and CFC 600

Table 2 — Logarithmic scales for CFC 60 and CFC 180

	Attenuations (dB)		Frequency (Hz)	
	Upper	Lower	CFC 60	CFC 180
F_Z				
F_L	+0,5	-0,5	0,1	0,1
F_H	+0,5	-1,0	60	180
F_C	-0,3	-1,8	75	225
F_N	-1,8	-3,8	100	300
F_D	-5,2	-8,2	130	390
F_E	-9,2	-13,2	160	480
F_G	-40	-48,3	452	1 310

**Key**

X in Hertz

Y in dB

Figure 3 — Frequency response limits — CFC 60 and CFC 180

4.2 Phase delay time of a data channel

The phase delay time of a data channel between its input and output shall be determined. It shall not vary by more than $1/(10 F_H)$ s between $0,03 F_H$ and F_H .

4.3 Time

4.3.1 Timebase

Time reference system of data acquisition system (DAS) shall ensure that time base is a minimum of 0,01 s with an accuracy equal or better than 1 %.

4.3.2 Relative time delay

The relative time delay between the signals of two or more data channels, regardless of their frequency class, shall not exceed 1 ms excluding phase delay caused by phase shift. Two or more data channels whose signals are combined shall have the same frequency class and shall have a relative time delay not greater than $1/(10 F_H)$ s.

This requirement is applicable to analog signals, synchronization pulses, and digital signals.

4.4 Transducer transverse sensitivity ratio of a rectilinear transducer

The transducer transverse sensitivity ratio of a rectilinear transducer shall be less than 5 % in any direction.

4.5 Calibration

4.5.1 General

As a general rule, a data channel should be calibrated once a year. Other intervals can be defined in accordance with standards, regulations, or requirement specific to the application to ensure that the measuring equipment meets the requirements of this International Standard and corresponds to the intended use. The calibration shall be done against reference equipments traceable to known National or International Standards through an unbroken chain. The use of reference equipment is limited to the range of frequencies for which it has been calibrated.

Data channel subsystems can be evaluated individually and the results factored into the accuracy of the total data channel. This can be made, for example, by an electrical signal of known amplitude simulating the output signal of the transducer allowing a check to be made on the gain of the data channel, excluding the transducer.

4.5.2 Accuracy of reference equipment for calibration

The accuracy of the reference equipment for calibration shall be confirmed by an accredited metrology organization.

4.5.3 Calibration procedures and uncertainties

The stated uncertainty should be the product of the standard deviation and coverage factor $k = 2$, which for a normal distribution, corresponds to a coverage probability of approximately 95 %.

[Table 3](#) presents the relevant procedures.

The result of a calibration can be recorded in a document sometimes called a calibration certificate or a calibration report.

Table 3 — Calibration procedures and uncertainties

Calibration procedures	Uncertainties
	Relative expanded measurement uncertainty for transducer types used in crash testing specific to the maximum value of the calibration range
Accelerometer Shock calibration (pendulum)	<1,8 %
Accelerometer Sinusoidal calibration (Shaker)	<2 % below 400 Hz <2,5 % from 400 Hz to 2 kHz <3,5 % from 2 kHz to 5 kHz
Acceleration static calibration (centrifuge)	<1,5 %
Force sensor – static calibration	<1 %
Displacement	<1 %
Angle	<1,5 %
Angular rate	<3 %
Pressure	1%
Temperature	<1 % or 0,2 K
Torque	<2 %
NOTE Calculation of uncertainties according to JCGM 100:2008.	

4.5.3.1 Forces and moments

Static calibration is a sufficient method for the calibration of force and moment data channels and can therefore be used to determine transducer sensitivity.

4.5.3.2 Displacements

A method for the evaluation of the dynamic response during the calibration of data channels for displacement has not been included in this International Standard since no satisfactory method is known at present. The problem is to be reconsidered at a later date.

4.5.3.3 Time

The error in the reference time shall be less than $1/(10 \times \text{sample rate})$.

NOTE The reference time is the timebase of the reference system used for calibration.

4.5.4 Sensitivity coefficient and nonlinearity

The sensitivity coefficient and the non-linearity shall be determined by measuring the output signal of the data channel against a known input signal for various values of this signal.

The calibration of the data channel shall cover the whole range of the amplitude class.

For bi-directional channels, both the positive and negative values shall be used.

If the calibration equipment cannot produce the required input due to the excessively high values of the quantity to be measured, calibrations shall be carried out within the limits of these calibration standards and these limits shall be recorded in the report.

A total data channel shall be calibrated at a frequency or at spectrum of frequencies with its significant value being between F_L and $F_H/2,5$.

4.5.5 Calibration of frequency response

The response curves of phase and amplitude against frequency shall be determined by measuring the output signals of the data channel in terms of phase and amplitude against a known input signal for various values of this signal varying between F_L and 10 times the CFC or 3 000 Hz, whichever is lower.

4.6 Environmental effects

The existence or non-existence of an influence of environmental effects shall be checked regularly (i.e. electric or magnetic flux, electric, magnetic, electrostatic effects due to the violent displacement or friction of electric cables during tests, etc.). This can be done, for example, by recording the output of spare channels equipped with dummy transducers.

If significant output signals (typically greater than 2 % of the expected data peak value) are obtained, corrective action shall be taken, for example, the relocation or replacement of cables.

4.7 Choice and designation of data channel

The CAC and CFC define the data channel and their values are chosen for a given application by the party requiring the application.

A data channel in accordance with this International Standard shall be designated as follows.



The type of filter used, phaseless or phase shifting, shall be declared for each channel.

If the calibration of the amplitude or frequency response does not cover the complete CAC or CFC owing to limited properties of the calibration equipment, then the CAC or CFC shall be marked with an asterisk.

EXAMPLE A measurement carried out in accordance with this International Standard, where the channel amplitude class is 200 m/s², the channel frequency class 1 000, and the calibration of the amplitude response did not cover the complete CAC, is designated as follows.

ISO 6487 - CAC* 200 m/s² - CFC 1 000

The test report shall indicate the calibration limits.

4.8 Choice of reference coordinate system

The following coordinate systems shall be used:

- For the dummy measurements: SAE J211-1;
- For the vehicle measurements: ISO 4130 or SAE J211-1.

The coordinate reference system used shall be clearly defined for each measurement.

4.9 Impact velocity measurement

Impact velocity measurement shall be in accordance with ISO 3784.

4.10 ATD temperature measurement

Measurements shall be recorded at a rate of one reading per minute. The minimum measurement range shall be from 10 °C to 40 °C. The location of the measurement probe shall be in accordance with ISO/TR 27957.

The accuracy tolerance of the complete measurement chain shall be three times narrower than the temperature tolerance specified for the ATD.

EXAMPLE For a Hybrid III, the specified temperature span is from 20,6 °C to 22,2 °C which corresponds to a tolerance of $\pm 0,8$ °C. The accuracy tolerance for the temperature measurement would then be $\pm 0,26$ °C.

The error contribution of the transducer, extension wire (if applicable), and data acquisition equipment shall be taken into account.

Dynamic response: After a temperature step, the transducer shall indicate 90 % of the new value within one minute.

The measurements shall be carried out in accordance with recognized standards (see [Annex C](#)).

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Annex A (informative)

Example of Butterworth four-pole phaseless digital filter (including initial conditions treatment) algorithm

The following algorithm is unsuitable for filter frequencies above CFC 180 since, at high frequencies, the frequency response of this digital filter varies as a function of the sampling rate used.

```

/* ----- */
/*          Butterworth phaseless filter          */
/* ----- */

//  Author: NHTSA
//  for CFC 60:      F – 3 dB = 100
//  for CFC 180:     F – 3 dB = 300

/* ----- */
/*          Variables used          */
/* ----- */

```

F – 3 dB = cutoff frequency at –3 dB

F – 6 dB = cutoff frequency at –6 dB = 1,25 * **F – 3 dB**

SampleRate = sampling interval in seconds

Pi = 3,141592654

a1, a2, b0, b1, b2 filter coefficients

Samples = initial table of samples

NumberOfSamples = length of **Samples** table

NOTE The index of a table is between zero and length of table – 1.

FilterTab = table of filtering samples

IndexLastPoint + 1 = length of **FilterTab** table

NumberOfAddPoints = number of points to be added to **NumberOfSamples**

```

/* ----- */
/*                               Initial condition                               */
/* ----- */

```

//The table **Samples** is completed with anti-symmetry around $t = 0$. Gives table **FilterTab**

/*compute the number of points to be added to the table **Samples***/

NumberOfAddpoints = 0,01/**SampleRate**

NumberOfAddPoints = min [max (**NumberOfAddPoints**, 100), **NumberOfSamples** - 1]

IndexLastPoint = **NumberOfSamples** + 2 * **NumberOfAddPoints** - 1

/*Generation of table to be filtered **FilterTab***/

for i = **NumberOfAddPoints** to **NumberOfAddPoints** + **NumberOfSamples** - 1 by step 1

FilterTab[i] = **Samples[i - NumberOfAddPoints]**

endfor

for i = 0 to **NumberOfAddPoints** - 1 by step 1

FilterTab[NumberOfAddPoints - i - 1] = 2 * **Samples[0]** - **Samples[i + 1]**;

FilterTab[NumberOfSamples + NumberOfAddPoints + i] =

2 * **Samples[NumberOfSamples - 1]** - **Samples[NumberOfSamples - i - 2]**

endfor

```

/* ----- */
/*                               computer filter coefficients                               */
/* ----- */

```

Wd = 2. * **Pi** * **F** - 6 dB

Wa = sin(**Wd** * **SampleRate**/2,0)/cos(**Wd** * **SampleRate**/2,0)

b0 = $Wa^2 / (1 + \sqrt{2} * Wa + Wa^2)$

b1 = 2. * **b0**

b2 = **b0**

a1 = -2 * ($Wa^2 - 1$) / ($1 + \sqrt{2} * Wa + Wa^2$)

a2 = $(-1 + \sqrt{2} * Wa - Wa^2) / (1 + \sqrt{2} * Wa + Wa^2)$

```

/* ----- */
/*                               Filter forward                               */
/* ----- */

```

y1 = 0

for i = 0 to i = 9 by step 1

 y1 = y1 + **FilterTab**[i]

endfor

y1 = y1/10,0

x2 = 0.

x1 = **FilterTab**[0]

x0 = **FilterTab**[1]

FilterTab[0] = y1

FilterTab[1] = y1

for i = 2 to i = **IndexLastPoint** by step 1

 x2 = x1

 x1 = x0

 x0 = **FilterTab**[i]

FilterTab[i] = **b0** * x0 + **b1** * x1 + **b2** * x2 + **a1** * **FilterTab**[i - 1] + **a2** * **FilterTab**[i - 2]

endfor

```

/* ----- */
/*                               Filter backward                               */
/* ----- */

```

y1 = 0

for i = **IndexLastPoint** to **IndexLastPoint** - 9 by step -1

 y1 = y1 + **FilterTab**[i]

endfor

y1 = y1/10,0

x2 = 0.

x1 = **FilterTab**[**IndexLastPoint**]

x0 = FilterTab[IndexLastPoint - 1]

FilterTab[IndexLastPoint] = y1

FilterTab[IndexLastPoint - 1] = y1

for i = IndexLastPoint - 2 to i = 0 by step -1

x2 = x1

x1 = x0

x0 = FilterTab[i]

FilterTab[i] = b0 * x0 + b1 * x1 + b2 * x2 + a1 * FilterTab[i + 1] + a2 * FilterTab[i + 2]

endfor

```

/* ----- */
/*           Filtering of samples           */
/* ----- */

```

for i = NumberOfAddPoints to i = NumberOfAddPoints + NumberOfSamples - 1 by step 1

Samples[i - NumberOfAddPoints] = FilterTab[i]

endfor