

**OBJECTIVE RESIDUAL MONAURAL LOUDNESS  
ADAPTATION - A NEW CONCEPT**

A Thesis Submitted To The University of Mysore For The Degree of  
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

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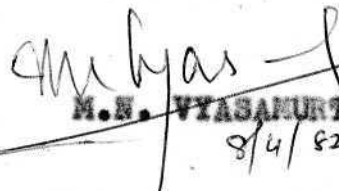
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TO  
MY STUDENTS (SUBJECTS).  
WHOM I HAVE  
TORTURED

DECLARATION

I declare that this thesis entitled, OBJECTIVE RESIDUAL MONAURAL LOUDNESS ADAPTATION -- A NEW CONCEPT, which is submitted here with for the award of the degree of Doctor Of Philosophy of the Uaiversity of Mysore is the result of the work carried out by me at the All india Institiute of speech and Hearing, Myaore 6, under the guidance of Dr. Vijay A. Shah, Head, Deptt. of Audiology, H.N Hospital, Bombay, and Consultant J.J. Hospital, Bombay.


I further declare that the resulta of this work have not been previualy submitted for any degree or fellowship.

  
**M.N. VYAS**  
8/4/52

CERTIFICATE

this is to certify that the thesis entitled  
OBJECTIVE RESIDUAL MONAURAL LOUDNESS ADAPTATION  
A NEW CONCRCPY submitted by Mr. M.N. Vyasa Murthy  
for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy of the  
University of Mysore is the result of research  
work done by him at the All india Institute of  
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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to acknowledge my profound indebtedness to Dr. Vijay A. Shah, Head, Deptt. of Audiology, H.N Hospital. Bombay and Consultant, J.J. Hospital, Bombay without whose invaluable guidance, constant interest & unceasing inspiration, the thesis in its present form could not have been achieved.

I am highly grateful to Dr. Arnold, M. Small, Visiting Scholar, Hearing and Speech Sciences, Division of Otolaryngology, Stanford University Medical Center, Stanford, California, 94305 (USA), for his useful comments on my paper entitled, "Objective Verification of Small's Model for Loudness Adaptation" which was sent to him during December, 1976. Also, I am very thankful for his encouragement.

My thanks are due to Dr. N. Rathna, Director, AIISH, Mysore 6, and Dr. S. Nikam, Professor and Head, Deptt. of Audiology, AIISH, Mysore 6, for their permission to carry out the investigation at AIISH, Mysore - 6. Also, I express my gratitude for their encouragement.

My thanks are also due to Mr.S.S Murthy, Lecturer in Electronics, Mr. Narayana Raju, Electronics Engineer and Miss Jayashree, for their help.

I am highly thankful to Shri T. Keshava Murthy, senior Stenographer. AIISH, Mysore 6. for his excellent work.

I am thankful to each and everyone who is directly or indirectly responsible for the present study.

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## SYNOPSIS

### OBJECTIVE RESIDUAL MONAURAL LOUDNESS ADAPTATION - A NEW CONCEPT

Many investigators have presented evidences for both qualitative and quantitative similarities between acoustic reflex and the perception of loudness. There are experimental evidences to show that signals at the threshold of acoustic reflex may be equally loud for listeners with normal hearing. A relation between loudness and acoustic reflex response exists if signals especially 0.5 KHz and 1 KHz are equated in terms of the magnitude of the middle ear muscle response. In the light of the evidences provided by many investigators including the author, it may not be unreasonable to assume that there is a relationship between loudness and acoustic reflex response in normal hearing subjects, under the established conditions.

Additionally, we have Borg and Odman's confirmation that decay and recovery originate in the afferent auditory systems and not in the acoustic reflex muscles. Reflex decay (or reflex adaptation) studies reported in the literature are quite different from the present study as the

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\*See Gorga, M,P.; Lilly, D.J., and Length, R.V., -  
Effect of signal band width upon threshold of the  
acoustic reflex and upon loudness. Audiology 19:  
277 - 292 (1980).

former studies are concerned with concomitant adaptation, whereas the latter one is concerned with residual adaptation.

Many controversies are prevailing as far as loudness coding during auditory adaptation is concerned, Studies relating to the amount of adaptation as a function of intensity, duration and frequency of the stimulus are in conflict. Recently, Weiler and his co-investigators have reported significant positive adaptation using a monaural technique viz., Monaural Heterophonic (MH). This is in contrast to the recent reports by many researchers who have observed no adaptation when the test conditions were designed to eliminate lateralising effects and binaural interaction between adapting and comparison tones. Till date, no clear reasons could be given for the differences observed among the different methods.

A new objective technique viz., ORMLA(Objective Residual Monaural loudness Adaptation) was developed for measuring adaptation. This technique satisfies most of the criteria prescribed by Small for the measurement of 'adequate' adaptation.

The thesis\* deals with adaptation measurements made

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\*Portions of this study were presented at the IX Annual conference of Indian Speech and Hearing Association held at Bangalore during Jan.. 1977 under the title: 'Objective Verification of Small's model of loudness Adaptation', (This paper got Dr.Desai's Best Paper Award).

using the new technique. The resulting data led the investigator to develop a revised model for loudness coding during auditory adaptation. The revised model provides answers to many of the controversies prevailing in the area of auditory adaptation - and also the revised model appears to be a 'break-through' in auditory physiology.

The subjects participating in the different experiments consisted of 32 to 48 normally hearing ( 20 dB HI,, students of ANSI 1969) at the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore 570 006, India, ranging in age from 19 to 27 years. The adapting stimulus was always presented to the left ear and monitoring of the reflex response was done in the right ear (air-pressure in the right ear canal was set at 0 mm H<sub>2</sub>O). The changes in the magnitude of reflex response (stiffness changes of the middle-ear system) as indicated by the deflection of the Balance Meter (BM) needle of a calibrated electro-acoustic impedance bridge - Madsen ZO 73 were noted down at different intensities of the test tone before adapting the ear. Consistent 'BM readings' at different intensity levels of the test tone were noted. The inter-stimulus interval was 30 sec for test tones < 100 dB SPL and 60 sec for test tones 100 dB SPL. The duration of each presentation of the test tone was 1.5 sec.

After noting down the 'BM readings' for the test tone at different intensity levels, the probe tone (220 Hz) in

The procedure for finding recovery time from adaptation was exactly same as the procedure used for measuring adaptation, but with a little difference. The measurement of adaptation did not stop at single presentation of the test tone (for 1.5 sec) 5 sec after the withdrawal of the adapting stimulus. The test tone was repeatedly presented once in 60 sec for 1.5 sec and each time 'BM reading' was noted. This procedure was continued until the magnitude of reflex ('BM reading') was the same as the 'BM reading' produced by the test tone during preadapted condition (in experiments IXb and IXc recovery process was studied for 10 min, of post adapted condition). The 'BM reading' obtained at 60 sec intervals were compared with the 'BM readings' which were recorded during pre-adapted condition to compute adaptation (in dB) at 60 sec intervals of recovery time.

The results of the experiments can be summarized as follows:

### **Experiment - I**

To know whether pure tones of frequencies viz., 0.5 KHz, 1 KHz and 2 KHz at equal loudness levels would produce equal magnitude of reflex in normal hearing subjects, 8 subjects (5M + 3F) in the age range 20 to 25 Yrs were tested. The results showed that in all the 8 subjects the magnitude of reflex as indicated by the BM needle deflection for 0.5 KHz and 1 KHz tones at 120 dB SPL was

the probe ear (Right Ear) was put off. Then, the adapting stimulus was presented continuously (duration, intensity and frequency of the adapting stimulus varied depending on the type of experiment). At the end of the required duration of exposure of the adapting stimulus, the adapting stimulus was withdrawn and after 5-sec. rest period, (this rest period was required for setting the knobs) the test tone at a level depending on the type of experiment was presented for 1.5 sec. The 'BM reading' was noted. This reading was compared with the 'BM readings' of the pre-adapted test tone levels. The pre-adapted test tone level, which had produced the same 'BM reading' (magnitude of reflex) as that of the post adapted test tone, was identified. Adaptation (in dB) was the difference between the post-adapted test tone level and the pre-adapted test tone level which produced the same 'BM reading' (magnitude of reflex) as that of the post adapted test tone. This way, loudness adaptation was measured in decibels (dB) objectively. loudness adaptation measured in the above manner has been termed 'objective Residual Monaural Loudness Adaptation' (ORMLA).

'BM readings' for pre-adapted test tone levels were recorded prior to each adaptation test. A minimum of 24 to 48 hrs rest, between adaptation tests, was allowed for each subject to ensure complete recovery from the fatigue processes.

exactly the same; however, for 2 KHz tone the magnitude of reflex at 120 dB SPL was less than the magnitude of reflex observed at 0.5 KHz and 1 KHz. Further, it was also observed that the magnitude of reflex increased with the increase in intensity above 120 dB SPL and decreased with the decrease in the intensity below 120 dB SPL. The magnitude of reflex was not the same for 0,5 KHz, 1 KHz and 2 KHz at 100 dB SPL. This is quite expected, as we know through equal loudness contours that at 100 dB SPL, the above tones are not heard equally loud. This result showed that for pure tones viz., 0.5 KHz and 1 KHz, the magnitude of reflex is a measure of loudness perceived by the subjects.

The above findings and the findings of other investigators. were used as the basis for the experiments reported here.

### **Experiment II**

A control study, was carried out to ensure that the magnitude of reflex observed at different intensity levels remained the same after 7-min. of silent interval. This study was done on 8 subjects ranging in age from 20 to 22 Yrs. There was no significant difference at 0.01 level between the two readings at all the intensity levels tested. There were some subjects who did not show consistent magnitude of reflex and those subjects were not included in the study. The subjects who showed consistent magnitude of

reflex at a constant level of the test tone and consistent increase in the magnitude of reflex with the increase in the intensity of the test tone were selected for all the experiments of the present study.

### **Experiment III**

(a) 34 subjects (16M + 18F) ranging in age from 19 to 26 Yrs (Mean age = 20.9) showed the mean adaptation (dB) values of 5.22, 7.98, 10.59 and 9.56 to 2 KHz adapting tone at 110 dB SPL, for exposure duration of 3,5, 7 and 9 min. respectively. Asymptotic state reached by 7-min. in all the subjects.

(b) The mean (6 trials on the same subject - the investigator) adaptation values for 0.5 KHz, 1 KHz and 2 KHz at 110 dB SPL, adapted for 3,5,7 and 9-min. were : 4.58, 5.83, 9.16 and 9.58; 6.66, 9.58, 9.16 and 10.0; 5.83, 7.92, 14.76 and 14.58 respectively.

### **Experiment IV**

(a) 31 subjects (12M + 19F) ranging in age from 19 to 25 Yrs. (Mean age = 20.3) showed mean adaptation values of 11.61 (3D = 5.45) and 19.42 (S.D =6.13) for adapting frequencies viz;\* 0.5 KHz and 1 KHz at 125 dB SPL for 3-min. continuous exposure, respectively. The results showed significant difference between the two means.



(b) Mean adaptation values obtained for 33 subjects (16M + 17F) in the age range 19 to 27 yrs. (Mean age = 20.75) for 1 KHz and 2 KHz adapting tones, adapted for 7-min. at 110 dB SPL were 7.65 ( S.D=3.34) and 11.44 (S.D = 3.67) respectively. The results showed significant difference between the two means,

(c) Mean adaptation values (6 trials on the same subject - the investigator) for the adapting frequencies 0.5 KHz and 1 KHz at 125 dB SPL (i.e., at equal magnitude of reflex-implicity that the adapting tones were presented at equal loudness levels for 7-min., were 20.83 (S.D = 1.18) and 22.20 (S.D = 1.95) respectively. The results showed, that the 'frequency effect' was negligible when the adapting tones at different frequencies were presented at equal loudness levels for 7-min.

### **Experiment V**

(a) 1 KHz at 110 dB SPL for 3-min. was used as the adapting stimulus. Adaptation was measured separately at test tones 1 KHz and 2 KHz (110 dB SPL). The mean adaptation values obtained were: 4.85 (S.D=3.25 ) at 1 KHz and 2.94 (S.D=3.16) at 2 KHz. 34 subjects (19M + 15F) in the age range of 19 to 25 yrs. were used in this experiment.

(b) 1 KHz at 125 dB SPL for 7-min, was used as the adapting stimulus. Adaptation was measured separately at test tones 0.5 Hz, 1 KHz and 2 KHz (Adaptation was measured at 125 dB SPL for all the test tones). Mean adaptation values (6 trials on the same subject - the investigator) at 1 KHz, 0.5 KHz and 2 KHz were: 20.53 (S.D = 1.18), 14.58 (SD=0.93) and 19.60 (S.D = 1.71) respectively.

The above experiments showed that adaptation was maximum at the adapting frequency and that there was spread of adaptation to neighbouring frequencies. These findings could be viewed as not out of line with the data reported by other investigators.

## Experiment VI

(a) Mean adaptation values (base-line condition) for 1 KHz presented continuously for 3-min at intensities viz., 100 dB SPL, 110 dB SPL and 120 dB SPL were: 1.91 (S.D = 2.23), 8.89 (S.D = 3.89) and 18.16 (S.D = 4.81) respectively. 34 subjects (M=13, F=21) in the age range 19 to 26 Yrs. (Mean age = 21.6) were tested. Friedman test indicated that - the over-all increase between 100 dB SPL and 120 dB SPL was significant. ( $\chi^2 = 63.18$ ; d.f = 2, P = 0.001). The increase between 100 dB SPL, and 110 dB SPL, was significant ( $\chi^2 = 24.7$ ; df = 1, P = 0,001).

The increase between 110 dB SPL and 120 dB SPL was significant ( $\chi^2 = 33.9$ ; df = 1, P = 0.001).

(b) Mean adaptation values obtained for 10 adult subjects (6F + 4M) for adapting stimulus of 1 KHz tone adapted for 7-min. at 105, 115 and 125 dB SPL were: 4.5 (S.D = 1.5), 9.5 (S.D = 3.5) and 22.0 (S.D = 7.61) respectively.

The above experiments showed that (Xb) adaptation measured at the intensity of the adapting stimulus (base-line condition) was linear with the intensity of the adapting stimulus. These results are in contrast to the results obtained by SDLB method.

### **Experiment VII**

(a) Mean adaptation values, obtained at 100 dB SPL (1 KHz) when the ear was adapted using 1 KHz tone at two different intensities viz., 105 and 115 dB SPL, separately, for 7-min, were: 4.84 (S.D = 3.55) and 5.08 (S.D = 3.56) respectively. The differences were not significant ( $X^2 = 0.5$ ;  $df = 1$ ,  $P > 0.5$ ). 32 subjects (18F + 14M) in the age range 19 to 26 Yrs. (Mean age = 20.4) participated in this experiment. The results showed that adaptation depends on the intensity at which it was measured, but not on the intensity at which the ear was adapted ; thus the present results could be viewed as not out of line with past findings,

(b) Experiment similar to VII (a) was carried out at very high intensity levels using 7 adult subjects (4F + 3M) . Adaptation ( $X_L$ ) was measured at 105 dB SPL after the ear was adapted to 1 KHz for 4-min at 125 dB SPL and 115 dB separately. Mean adaptation values were: 17.85 (S.D=4.51) and 17.85 (S.D=4.51) for adapting intensities of 125 dB SPL and 115 dB SPL respectively.

The results obtained in VII (a) and VII (b) confirm Small's prediction.

(c) To know whether  $X_L$  (adaptation measured at an intensity less than the adapting intensity) was less than  $X_b$  (adaptation measured at the adapting intensity or also called adaptation at the base-line condition),  $X_L$  was measured at 100 dB SPL and  $X_b$  was measured at 110 dB SPL - 1 KHz tone at 110 dB SPL for 7-min. was used as the adapting stimulus. 38 subjects (21 M + 17F) in the age range 19 to 24 Yrs. (Mean age = 20.3) participated in this experiment. Mean  $X_b$  was 7.96 (S.D = 3.38) and Mean  $X_L$  was 4.28 (S.D. = 3.08), Friedman test showed that the differences in the amounts of adaptation were significant, ( $\chi^2 = 26.95$ ;  $df = 1$ ;  $P = 0.001$ ).

### Experiment VIII

(a) 43 subjects (19M + 24F) In the age range 19 to 25 Yrs (Mean age = 20.8) showed Mean  $X_b$  and Mean  $X_h$  (adaptation measured at an intensity higher than the

adapting intensity) values of 6.39 (S.D = 3.86) and 8.78 (S.D. = 4.77) respectively. 1 KHz at 110 dB SPL for 7-min, was used as the adapting stimulus.  $X_h$  was measured at 120 dB SPL. Significant differences were observed between the two conditions ( $\chi^2 = 8.29$ ;  $df = 1$ ;  $p < 0.001$ ).<sup>13</sup> showed :  $X_h = X_b > 0$ ,

4 subjects showed :  $X_h < X_b > 0$ , & 7 subjects showed  $X_h > X_b > 0$

(b) 5 adult subjects (3F + 2M) were tested for  $X_h$  and  $X_b$  values using very high adapting intensity.  $X_b$  was obtained for 1 KHz tone at 125 dB SPL for 4-min. adaptation.  $X_h$  was obtained at 135 dB SPL. Mean values of  $X_h$  and  $X_b$  were: 4.0 (S.D = 4.89) and 13.0 (S.D = 4.0) respectively. This experiment showed that  $X_h < X_b > 0$  resulted when the adapting intensity was very high.

(c) Experiment similar to VIII (a) was repeated on a single subject (the investigator) for 8 times on separate days to check the reliability of the results. In all the 8 trials (16 adaptation tests)  $X_h$  was consistently more than  $X_b$ . The mean values of  $X_h$  and  $X_b$  were: 15.93 (S.D = 1.21) and 10.62 (S.D = 1.08) respectively.  $X_b$  was measured using 1 KHz tone at 110 dB SPL for 7-min.  $X_h$  was measured at 120 dB SPL

## Experiment IX

(a) 32 subjects (21 F + 11 M) ranging in age from 19 to 22 Yrs (Mean age = 21,1) showed mean adaptation values of 3.52 (S.D = 2.97) and recovery time varying from less than 1-min. to 3-min. for 0.5 KHz presented for 3-min. at 115 dB SPL. Nearly 50% of the subjects showed complete recovery within a minute. This experiment was done to have normative data regarding recovery time from adaptation to 0.5 KHz tone. This data might be useful if a diagnostic test based on recovery time for detecting retro-cochlear pathology cases would prove to be feasible.

(b) To study the 'frequency effect' in recovery time from adaptation, 1 KHz and 0.5 KHz tones at 125 dB SPL for 7-min were used for adaptation. Mean adaptation values (6 trials on the same subject - the investigator) for 1 KHz and 0.5 KHz were: 20.83 (S.D= 1.18) and 15.41 (S.D = 0.93) respectively. Recovery time for 1 KHz and 0.5 KHz in the above adaptation experiments were  $> 5 < 7$ -min and  $> 2 < 4$ -min respectively. This result showed that the recovery was rapid at 0.5 KHz.

(c) To study whether the recovery time, like adaptation ( $X_L$ ), was shorter when the recovery time was

determined using a test tone at a level lower than the adapting intensity, 1 KHz tone at 125 dB SPL for 7-min was used as the adapting stimulus. Recovery time was measured at 110 dB SPL and 125 dB SPL separately. The recovery time in all the 5 trials (on the same subject - the investigator) was  $> 2 < 3$ -min. when it was measured at 110 dB SPL; whereas the recovery time was  $> 5 < 7$ -min when it was measured at 125 dB SPL (8 trials on the same subject). This result showed that like  $X_L$  recovery time measured at an intensity lower than the adapting intensity was also reduced; hence, this finding supported Small's prediction with respect to recovery time also.

Test-retest data of all the above experiments showed very high correlation (Significant at 5% level of confidence). The results of all the above experiments led the investigator to propose a revised model for loudness coding during auditory adaptation.

The essence of the revised model and its possible applications are listed here:

1. The adapted neural units are of three types:
  - (1) Stable adapted neural units (a)
  - (2) Positive unstable adapted neural units (+ -a' ), and
  - (3) Negative unstable adapted neural units (- -a' ).

7. For high stimulus intensities, loudness is determined by the total number of activated neural units from the following<sup>(1)</sup> 'Simple Category' (or 'Complex Category'), (2)(NIIH) and (3)(NIOH)\*\*.
8. For low or moderate intensity stimulus, loudness of the post determined by the total number of activated neural , units from 'Simple Category' (or 'Complex Category') and (NIOH)\*\*.
9. Possible mechanisms of loudness adaptation can be summarized as follows :

When a stimulus (1 KHz) of moderate intensity is continuously presented to one of the ears of a normal hearing subject, the adaptation process (i.e., a gradual and continuous decrease in the number of activated neural units) begins in the 'Simple Category'. This process goes on as long as the adapting stimulus is continued; hence (a) will be increasing. Simultaneously, with the adaptation process, the number of activated (NIOH) units gradually increases as long as the adapting stimulus is continued i.e., (-a') will be increasing. This process is known as negative adaptation (or reverse adaptation). As the adapting stimulus is continued, more and more number of (NIOH) units begin to fire nerve impulses. Initially the rate of decrease in the number of activated neural units in the 'Simple Category' will be



2. 'Simple Category' and 'Complex Category' (terms used by Frishkopf and Goldstein) may be the sources for (a) units i.e., (a) units originate from the place of maximum stimulation of the basilar membrane, (a) units for low frequencies originate from 'Complex Category' and (a) units for 1 KHz originate from 'Simple Category'.
3. The source of (+ a') units is the Neural Units Inner-innervating the Inner Hair Cells (NIIH) and they are produced as a result of the efferent action
4. The source of (-a') units is the Neural Units Inner-innervating the Outer Hair Cells (NIOH) and they are produced as a result of the efferent action
5. (-a') units perform a reverse function of (+a') units and also that of (a) units. In other words, (-a') units (responsible for negative adaptation) will be contributing to the loudness during the adaptation process. (+a') and (-a') may be linked to 'R<sub>2</sub>' and 'R<sub>1</sub>' processes (respectively) reported by Hirsh and Bilger in connection with 'bounce' phenomenon observed within 2-min, of recovery time during TTS experiments. The revised model corroborates Hirsh and Bilger's hypothesis that 'bounce' phenomenon is a Neural phenomenon.
6. (+a') and (-a') units regain their original preadapted state whenever a test tone at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity is presented during the post adapted state.

faster than the rate of increase in the number of activated neural units of NIOH,. After some time, the rate of increase in NIOH units will 'catch-up' with the rate of decrease in the number of activated units of the 'Simple Category'. As a consequence of this, the total number of nerve impulses contributing to the loudness of the adapting stimulus (or test tone at the adapting intensity) remains fairly constant (contribution of nerve impulses from the 'Simple Category' will be decreasing, but the contribution of nerve impulses from the NIOH will be increasing). This way asymptotic loudness adaptation can be explained.

Incidentally, the above description, reveals a 'vital' information about 'inhibition' process. 'Inhibition' process in the auditory system is poorly understood. The revised model appears to be a 'break-through' in psycho-acoustic and electrophysiological research as far as understanding the mechanisms of 'inhibition' process in the auditory system is concerned. Since (-a) units are responsible for inhibiting the adaptation process, phenomenon of negative adaptation can be viewed as 'inhibition' process. Added to this, we know that outer hair cells are innervated by Olivo-cochlear bundle which is known to be

responsible for 'inhibition' process. Hence, now the mechanism of 'inhibition' process appears to be clear. While understanding the adaptation process, we have come to know the mechanism of 'inhibition' process which was not well understood and also our lack of knowledge regarding the 'inhibition' process was a great hurdle for understanding the complex mechanism of auditory processing of complex sounds.  
detector

The auditory feature/theory of speech perception, which was not widely accepted because of our lack of knowledge about 'inhibition' process, perhaps, now, gains its 'due' recognition.

10.  $X_h$  depends on (a) units only,

11.  $X_b$  depends on (a),  $(+a^1)$  and  $(-a^1)$ .

12.  $X_L$  depends on  $(a_1)$ ,  $(+a_1)$  and  $(-a_1)$

\*\* Derivations , -  $A = (a) + (a^1)$  - eq. 1

(See P X X iv)  $L_{tbb} = A + u$  - eq. 2

for abbreviations  $L_{tba} = u$  - eq. 3

$X_b = \text{Eq. 2} - \text{eq. 3} = A = (a) + (a^1)$

$X_b = (a) + (a^1)$  - eq. 4

$L_{tbb} = E + A + U$  - eq. 5

$L_{tba} = E + a^1 + U$  - eq. 6

$X_h = \text{eq. 5} - \text{eq. 6} = a$

$X_h = a$  - eq. 7

$L_{tbb} = A_1 + U_1$  - eq. 8 (.. Small's prediction)

$X_1 = \text{eq. 8} - \text{eq. 9} = A_1 = (a^*) + (a^f)$

$X_1 = (a_1) + (a_1)$  - eq. 10

13. The effect of (a) units can either be enhanced by (+a') units and/or decreased or cancelled by (-a') units. In other words, the loudness loss brought about by (a) units can be aggravated by (+a') units and/or the loudness loss can be minimized or completely cancelled or the loudness can be increased by the action of (-a') units.

14. The revised model can be used to explain the different results which are observed in adaptation measurements. The necessary conditions for the different results are given below:

$$(a) \quad X_h > X_b > 0$$

$$a > a + a' > 0$$

(1)

$$\text{Necessary conditions (NC)} \quad a^1 < 0 \text{ and } (2) \quad a > -a'$$

$$(b) \quad X_h > X_b = 0$$

$$a > a + a' = 0$$

$$\text{Necessary conditions (NC)} \quad (1) \quad a^1 < 0 \text{ and}$$

$$(2) \quad a = -a^1$$

(c)  $X_h > X_b < 0$  :  $a > a + a^1 < 0$

The necessary conditions: (1)  $a^1 < 0$  and (2)  $a < -a^1$

(d)  $X_h = X_b = 0$  ;  $a = a + a^1 = 0$

The necessary conditions: (1)  $a^1 = 0$  (2)  $a = -a^1 = 0$

This result was not observed in any of the subjects,

(e)  $X_h < X^a = 0$  ;  $a < a + a^1 = 0$

The necessary conditions: (1)  $a^1 > 0$  (2)  $a = -a^1$

This result was not observed in any of the subjects, as the two conditions could not be satisfied.

(f)  $X_h < X_b > 0$  ;  $a < a + a^1 > 0$  .

The necessary conditions; (1)  $a^1 > .0$  (2)  $a > -a^1$  and (3)  $a > 0$ .

(g)  $X_h < X_b > 0$  ;  $a_1 + a_1' < a + a^1 > 0$

The necessary conditions: (1)  $a_1 + a_1' < a + a^1$  (2)  $a > -a^1$

15. The revised model can be used to explain the available data for simultaneous Dichotic Loudness Balance Method (SDLB). As the revised model is derived from a Monaural technique, the model should be applied to each ear separately.

$X_b$  (SDLB)  $>$   $X_b$  (Monaural Hetrophonic - MH) is due to 'binaural interaction'. The 'binaural interaction' can be defined as the efferent action of monaural stimulation on the periphery of the contralateral auditory system.

$X_b$  (at 60 dB) in SDLB =  $X_b$  (at 80dB) in SDLB = 20 dB (the data reported by Weiler et al), is due to a phenomenon which may be named—the 'eclipse phenomenon'. The 'eclipse phenomenon' is the phenomenon in which the increase in the amount of adaptation which should result in the adapting ear, due to the increase in the intensity of the adapting stimulus (i.e., increasing the intensity from 60 dB to 80 dB SPL) is 'eclipsed' by the combined actions of the two efferent systems (the efferent systems innervating the outer hair cells and the efferent system innervating the inner hair cells) in the comparison ear. The action of the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells is to increase the loudness of the post adapted test tone in the comparison ear and the action of the efferent

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\* This point is revised in the light of an alternative approach available to the problem concerned.

system innervating the inner hair cells is to decrease the loudness of the post adapted test tone in the comparison ear. When the adapting stimulus is at 80 ds SPL in the adapting eR, there will be a combined action of the efferent systems in the comparison ear which results in

$$*a' = *Ltbb = Ltbb.$$

$X_h < X_b > 0$  at 60 dB SPL adapting intensity in SDLB, is due to the fact that  $X_b$  will be greater as a result of 'loudness gain' in the comparison ear (binaural interaction) where as this 'loudness gain' will be absent during  $X_h$  measurements (when the post adapted test tone is presented at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity the efferent action (cases)).

$X_h < X_b > 0$  at 80 dB SPL, adapting intensity in SDLB, is due to the combined efferent actions in the comparison ear and the adapting ear, together with the cessation of efferent actions during  $X_h$  measurements.

16. The revised model can also be used to explain the available data of Monaural Heterophonic (MH) technique. MH technique yields  $X_h = X_b > 0$ . As per the revised model, the necessary conditions for this result are:  
 (1)  $a' = 0$  (ii)  $a > -a'$ . These conditions are responsible for the above result. The result :  $X_h < X_b > 0$ ,

can also be expected in MH technique, provided the adapting intensity is very high. The necessary conditions for  $X_h < X_b > 0$  are : (1)  $a' > 0$  and (2)  $a > -a'$ . These conditions can be expected only at very high adapting intensity.

The available data show that MH technique yields significant adaptation (= 20 dB) for adapting stimulus 90 dB SPL, in contrast to other monaural techniques. The revised model shows that 'u' units for low frequencies and high frequencies are derived from 'Complex Category' and 'Simple Category' respectively. This difference enables the subject to make relative loudness judgements in MH technique during preadapted as well as post adapted balances. The other monaural techniques do not provide this advantage to the subjects; for instance, the technique which requires the subject to adjust the intensity of a continuously presented tone so as to maintain it at constant loudness. It is known that human sensory communication system is less than 0.1% efficient than an ideal communication system. This poor performance is due to the fact that our sensory systems are very poor in absolute judgements. Probably this factor might be responsible for the failure of the monaural techniques to show significant adaptation (Concomitant).

17. The important clinical applications appear to be that the present technique can be used as a special test

## ABBREVIATIONS

- A. Adaptable/Adapted neural units at the adapting intensity (base-line condition).
- a Stable adaptable/adapted neural units.
- +a<sup>1</sup> Positive unstable adaptable/adapted neural units.
- a' Negative unstable adapted neural units.
- L<sub>tb</sub> Loudness of a test tone at the adapting intensity (base-line condition), before adaptation.
- L<sub>tba</sub>. Loudness of a test tone at the adapting intensity (base-line condition) after adaptation.
- L<sub>th</sub> Loudness of a test tone at a level higher than the adapting intensity, before adaptation.
- L<sub>thl</sub> Loudness of a test tone at a level higher than the adapting intensity after adaptation.
- L<sub>tlb</sub> Loudness of a test tone at a level lower than the adapting intensity, before adaptation.
- L<sub>tla</sub> Loudness of a test tone at a level lower than the adapting intensity, after adaptation.
- X<sub>b</sub> Adaptation, "measured at the base-line condition or adaptation measured at the adapting intensity or 'Simple' - adaptation.
- X<sub>h</sub> Adaptation measured at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity,
- A<sub>l</sub> Adaptable/adapted neural units at a level lower than the base-line condition.
- a<sub>b</sub> Stable adaptable/adapted neural units at a level lower than the base-line condition.
- +a'<sub>b</sub> Positive unstable adaptable/adapted neural units at a level lower than the base-line condition.
- a'<sub>b</sub> Negative unstable /adapted neural units at a level lower, than the base-line condition.
- u- Unadaptable/unadapted neural units at the base-line condition.
- E- Extra neural units activated by. the test tone higher in intensity than the test tone at the adapting intensity.
- X<sub>(b-IA)</sub> - Adaptation measured in-the comparison ear at an intensity equal to the adapting intensity. (Adapting intensity in the comparison ear = adapting intensity in the adapted ear - Interaural Attenuation for A/C),



in clinical audiology for detecting retrocochlear patho-  
and cochlear pathology

logy/cases. Measurement of recovery time from adapta-  
tion and negative adaptation using the present techni-  
que, would enable the audiologists to have important infor-  
mation regarding the possibility for the presence or ab-  
sence of retrocochlear pathology and also about the inte-  
grity of 'Low-threshold' mechanism.

To conclude, the revised model for loudness coding  
during auditory adaptation, answers most of the controver-  
sies prevailing in the area of auditory adaptation. It  
is hoped that the revised model would act as a 'Catalyst'  
for rapid advancement of research in auditory physiology  
and 'Neuro-sciences' as the model has revealed the mecha-  
nism of 'Inhibition' process which was a 'Mystery' till  
date.

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Nearly two-decades ago, Small (1963) wrote that, "the stumbling block to the study of loudness adaptation has been and still is the lack of a straight forward technique of measurement". A thorough review of the literature concerning auditory adaptation, reveals that not much progress has been made over all these years in terms of developing a 'straight-forward technique' for the measurement of adaptation; hence, the area of loudness adaptation is full of controversies. Studies relating to the amount of adaptation as a function of intensity, duration and frequency of the stimulus are in conflict. Recently Weller and Friedman (1973); Weiler and Gross (1976); and Feaster and Weiler (1975) have reported significant positive adaptation using a monaural technique viz., Monaural Heterophonic (MH). On the contrary, a number of studies (Bray, Dirka and Morgan, 1973; Dirks, Morgan and Bray, 1974; Fraser, Petty and Elliott, 1970; Mirabella, Taub and Teichner, 1967; Petty, Fraser and Elliott, 1970; Stokinger, Cooper and Meissner, 1977; Stokinger and Studebaker, 1968; Wiley, Small and Lilly, 1973) have suggested that the adaptation effect could be attributed to binaural interaction-implying that if the test conditions were designed to eliminate lateralizing effects and binaural interaction between adapting and comparison tones, supra-threshold adaptation would be absent.

The above controversy exists mainly because of non-availability of a 'straightforward technique' for the measurement of adaptation.

A new objective technique viz., Objective Residual Monaural Loudness Adaptation (ORMLA) was developed (Vyasamurthy\*, 1977) to study the phenomenon of loudness adaptation. The new technique satisfies most of the criteria laid down by Small (1963) for the measurement of 'adequate' adaptation.

The thesis++ deals with adaptation measurement using ORMLA technique.

Gorga, Lilly and Length (1980) have provided evidences for both qualitative and quantitative similarities between acoustic reflex and the perception of loudness and they have concluded that signals at the threshold of acoustic reflex may be equally loud for listeners with normal hearing, Block and Wiley (1977) have suggested that a relation between loudness and acoustic reflex response may exist if signals are equated in terms of the magnitude of the middle ear muscle response. Block and Wrightman (1977); Bwertsen et al (1958);

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\* See Appendix A

++Portions of this study were presented, at the IX Annual conference of Indian Speech and Hearing Association, held at Bangalore during Jan. 1977. under the title: "Objective Verification of Small's Model of Loudness Adaptation", (this paper got Dr. Desa's Best Paper Award).

Flottorp et al. (1971); and Jepsen (1963), have presented evidences that the acoustic reflex is directly related to the loudness experience of the subjects. Further, Fedman (1963); Jepsen (1963); Kristensen and Jepsen (1952); Lamb et al, (1968); Metz (1946); and Thomsen (1955), have presented evidence that the occurrence of the reflex at a reduced sensation level reflects loudness recruitment. However there are studies viz., Anderson and Barr (1966); Scharf (1976); and Martin and Brunette (1980), which contend that the acoustic reflex may not depend exclusively on the perception of loudness. This controversial issue has been discussed thoroughly by Gorga et al (1980).

The investigator, fully agrees with Gorga and his co-investigators' (1980) general conclusion: "the hypothesis that signals at TAR (Threshold of the Acoustic Reflex) are equally loud cannot be dismissed. The results from the present experiment indicate that some relation (between loudness and acoustic reflex) exists.... Finally, measurements of psychophysical critical band widths may be dependant upon the intensity at which these measurements are made".

In addition to the evidences provided by Gorga et al., (1980) and Block and Wiley (1977) in support of the relationship between loudness and acoustic reflex, the investigator

studied the magnitude of reflex (as indicated by the deflection of the Balance Meter needle of an electro-acoustic impedance bridge-Madsen Z0 73) in 8 normal hearing subjects for three different pure tones viz., 500, 1000 and 2000 Hz at 120 dB SBL. The results showed that the magnitude of reflex in each subject was exactly the same for 500 and 1000 Hz tones at 120 dB SPL--implying that the magnitude of reflex was an indirect 'measure' of loudness perceived.

Above all, Borg and Odman (1979) have confirmed that decay and recovery originate in the afferent auditory system and not in the acoustic reflex muscles.

In the light of the evidences provided by Gorga et al., (1980); Block and Wiley (1977); Block and Wightman (1977); and the experimental evidence provided by the investigator, it may not be unreasonable to assume that there is a relation between loudness and acoustic reflex response in normal hearing subjects, if signal--500 and 1000 Hz-- are equated in terms of the magnitude of the middle ear muscle response. In other words, in a normal hearing subject, pure tones viz., 500 and 1000 Hz at equal loudness would produce the same magnitude of reflex (as indicated by the stiffness changes of the middle ear system when an electro-acoustic impedance bridge with a probe tone of 220 Hz is used). In the present

study, a calibrated Madsen Z0 73 impedance bridge was used for observing the changes in the magnitude of reflex (See Appendix-B for details regarding the Madsen - Z0 73 instrument).

As a point of clarification regarding the measurement of stiffness changes of the middle ear system, the explanation given by Kaplan et al (1974) can be mentioned: "At a probe frequency of 220 Hz, the Madsen instrument measures only the magnitude of the impedance changes regardless of whether the change is resistive or reactive, The measured impedance magnitude at the low frequency is primarily determined by the reactive rather than by the muscle's smaller resistive components of the middle ear impedance. For example, using representative middle ear impedance values of 1500 Ohms reactance ( $X_A$ ) and 300 Ohms resistance ( $R_A$ ) the magnitude of the middle ear impedance ( $|Z_A|$ ) is 1560 Ohms.

$$Z_A = \sqrt{X_A^2 + R_A^2} = \sqrt{1500^2 + 300^2} = \underline{1560}$$

$R_A$  contributes only 4% of the total impedance magnitude".

Ward (1973) distinguishes the phenomena commonly included under adaptation in two different ways: whether they are observed during or after exposure to the acoustic stimulus

(concomitant or residual respectively) and whether they require one ear (Monaural) or two (Binaural) for their measurement, Example for these four categories--concomitant monaural, concomitant binaural, residual monaural and residual binaural--are: tene decay, perstimulatory adaptation, TTS and Loudness reduction (measured by ABLB test) respectively.

In the present study, loudness adaptation was measured after exposure to the acoustic stimulus and it was measured using one ear--the adapted ear. The measurement of adaptation was made objective using a calibrated electro-acoustic impedance bridge. The non-test ear was used just for monitoring the stiffness changes. The adapting stimulus was always presented to the left ear of normal hearing ( $\leq 20$  dB HL, ANSI, 1969) subjects and monitoring of the reflex was done in the right ear (air-pressure in the right ear canal was always set at 0 mm-water). The changes in the magnitude of the reflex response (stiffness changes of the middle ear system) as indicated by the deflection of the Balance Meter (BM) needle of a calibrated electro-acoustic impedance bridge Madsen 2073 were noted down at different intensities of the test tone before adapting the ear. Consistent 'BM readings' at different intensity levels of the test tone were noted, The inter-stimulus interval was 30-sec for test tones

< 100 dB SPL and 60-sec for test tones 100 dB SPL. The duration of each presentation of the test tone was 1.5 sec. After noting down the 'BM reading' for the test tone at different intensity levels, the probe tone (220 Hz) in the probe ear (right ear) was put off. Then, the adapting stimulus was presented continuously (duration, intensity and frequency of the adapting stimulus varied depending on the type of experiment). At the end of the required duration of exposure of the adopting stimulus, the adapting stimulus was withdrawn and after 5-sec rest period, (this rest period was required for setting the controls of the impedance bridge) the test tone at a level depending on the type of the experiment was presented for 1,5-sec. The 'BM reading' was noted down. This reading was compared with the 'BM readings' of the pre-adapted test tone levels. The pre-adapted test tone level which had produced the same 'BM reading' (magnitude of reflex) as that of the post-adapted test tone, was identified. Adaptation (in dB) was the difference between the post-adapted test tone level and the pre-adapted test tone level which produced the same 'BM reading' as that of the post-adapted test tone, this way, loudness adaptation was measured in decibels (dB) objectively. Loudness adaptation measured in the above manner has been termed 'Objective Residual Monaural Loudness Adaptation' (ORMLA).

'BM reading' for pre-adapted test tone levels were



recorded prior to each adaptation test. A minimum of 24 to 48 hours rest, between adaptation tests, was allowed for each subject to ensure complete recovery from the fatigue processes.

the procedure for finding recovery time from adaptation was exactly same as the procedure used for measuring adaptation, but with a little difference. The measurement of adaptation did not stop at single presentation of the test tone (for 1.5-sec), 5-sec after the withdrawal of the adapting stimulus. The test tone was repeatedly presented once in 60-sec for 1.5-sec and each time 'BM reading' was noted. This procedure was continued until the 'BM reading' was the

same as the 'BM reading' produced by the test tone during pre-adapted condition (in experiments IXb and IXc recovery process was studied for 10-min of post adapted condition, the 'BM readings' obtained at 60-sec intervals were compared with the 'BM readings' which were recorded during pre-adapted condition to compute adaptation (in dB) at 60-sec intervals of recovery time.

The above brief description of the new technique (ORMLA) clearly shows that the reflex decay (or reflex adaptation) studies reported in the literature are quite different from the present study. The reflex decay studies reported in the literature are concerned with 'concomitant' adaptation

whereas the present study deals with 'residual' adaptation.

The present study was designed to verify the following null hypotheses, using ORMLA technique:

1. Duration of exposure of the adapting stimulus has no significant effect on the amount of adaptation.
2. Frequency of the adapting stimulus has no significant effect on the amount of adaptation.
3. Frequency of the test tone has no significant effect on the amount of adaptation,
4. intensity of the adapting stimulus has no significant effect on the amount of adaptation.
5. There is no significant difference between the amount of adaptation measured at an intensity lower than the adapting intensity ( ) and the amount of adaptation measured at the base-line condition or also known as adapting intensity ( $X_b$ ).
6. there is no significant difference between the amounts of adaptation obtained in the experimental conditions A and B, where experimental condition A refers to the measurement of adaptation for 1 KHz tone at 100 dB SPL, after adapting the ear using 1 KHz tone for 7-min at 109 dB SPL and the experimental condition B refers to the measurement of adaptation for 1 KHz tone at 100 dB SPL after adapting the ear using 1 KHz tone for 7-min at 115 dB SPL.
7. There is no significant difference between  $X_b$  and the amount of adaptation measured at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity ( $X_h$ ).

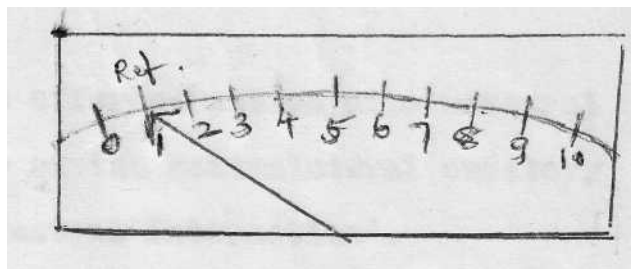
In addition to the verification of the null hypotheses, the purpose of the present investigation was to find answers to the following question

1. Are there differences in the 'magnitude of reflex' produced by the pure tones viz., 0.5, 1 and 2 KHz at 120 dB SPL? (As per equal loudness contours these tones at 120 dB SPL are expected to be heard equally loud in a normal hearing subject)
2. Does the 'frequency effect' (observed by many investigators in adaptation studies) disappear if the adapting stimuli are presented at equal loudness levels instead of constant intensity levels
3. Does the recovery time from adaptation vary depending on the frequency of the adapting stimulus?
4. Does the 'recovery time' from adaptation vary as a function of the intensity of the adapting stimulus?
5. Does the 'recovery time' from adaptation vary depending on the intensity of the test tone used while measuring the recovery time?
6. Would it be possible to explain the controversies prevailing in the area of auditory adaptation using the data of the present study?
7. Would it be possible to improve or revise the existing models for loudness coding during auditory adaptation using the data of the present study?
8. Would it be possible to use the present technique as a special test in diagnostic audiology for possible location of the lesions in the auditory system?

9. Would it be possible to throw some light on 'perstimulatory adaptation' as it is known as a 'provoking enigma' (Ward, 1973)?
10. In general can the data of the present study provide a new insight into the mechanisms basic to auditory adaptation?

Definitions of some of the terms used in the present study

BM reading reference. Prior to the presentation of the test tone to the subject's ear, the Balance Meter needle is required to be adjusted to a reference value. In the present study, the reference reading used was '1' on the Balance Meter Scale.



'BM reading' (Magnitude of reflex). Balance Meter (BM) reading refers to the indication of the Balance Meter needle of the Madsen 20-73 (20-73) Impedance Bridge, on the Balance Motor Scale when the test tone is presented to subject's ear at his acoustic reflex threshold or at higher levels.

Adaptation (ORMLA). Adaptation (Objective Residual Monaural Loudness Adaptation) in decibels, is the difference between the post adapted test tone level and the pre adapted test tone level which had produced the same 'BM reading' as that of the post adapted test tone.

OR Adaptation (ORMLA) in dB = post adapted test tone level - pre adapted test tone level which had produced the same 'BM reading' as that of the post adapted test tone.

'Negative Adaptation'. 'Negative Adaptation' is said to be present when 'BM reading' (magnitude of reflex) produced by the post adapted test tone is greater than the pre adapted test tone (pre adapted test tone level = post adapted test tone level). In negative adaptation, the loudness of the post adapted test tone will be greater than the loudness of the pre adapted test tone, although the intensity levels of the two tones are the same.

'Binaural Interaction': The efferent action of a monaural stimulation on the periphery of the contralateral auditory system is defined as the 'Binaural Interaction'.

The 'eclipse' phenomenon. The increase in the amount of adaptation, which should result in the adapting ear (in SDLB), due to the raise in the intensity of the adapting stimulus (i.e., from 60 dB to 80 dB), is 'eclipsed' by the combined actions of the efferent systems innervating the outer hair cells and the inner hair cells—the efferent systems have opposing functions. The levelling off of adaptation observed in simultaneous Dichotic Loudness balance (SDLB) method can be explained by means of the 'eclipse' phenomenon.

### ABBREVIATION

NIOH units. Neural Units Innervating the Outer Hair Cells.

NIIH units. Neural units Innervating the Inner Hair Cells.

A Adaptable/Adapted neural units at the adapting intensity (base-line condition).

a stable adaptable/adapted neural units.

+a' Positive unstable adaptable/adapted neural units.

-a' Negative unstable adapted neural units.

$L_{tbb}$  Loudness of a test tone at the adapting intensity (baseline condition), before adaptation.

$L_{tba}$  Loudness of a test tone at the adapting intensity (baseline condition) after adaptation.

$L_{tbb}$  Loudness of a test tone at a level higher than the adapting intensity, before adaptation.

$L_{tha}$  Loudness of a test tone at a level higher than the adapting intensity, after adaptation'

$L_{tlb}$  loudness of a test tone at a level lower than the adapting intensity, before adaptation.

$L_{tla}$  loudness of a test tone at a level lower than the adapting intensity, after adaptation.

$X_b$  Adaptation, measured at the base-line condition or adaptation measured at the adapting intensity or simple adaptation.

X<sub>h</sub> Adaptation measured at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity.

X<sub>l</sub> Adaptation measured at an intensity lower than the adapting intensity.

A<sub>l</sub> Adaptable/adapted neural units at a level lower than the base-line condition.

a<sub>l</sub> Stable adaptable/adapted neural units at a level lower than the base-line condition.

+a<sub>l</sub>' Positive unstable adaptable/adapted neural units at a level lower than the base-line condition.

-a<sub>l</sub>' Negative unstable adapted neural units at a level lower than the base-line condition.

u<sub>1</sub> Unadaptable/unadapted neural units at the base-line condition.

u<sub>l</sub> Unadapted/unadaptable neural units at a level lower than the base-line condition.

E Extra neural units activated by the test tone higher in intensity than the test tone at the adapting intensity.

\*X<sub>(b-IA)</sub> Adaptation measured in the comparison ear at an intensity equal to the adapting intensity.  
(Adapting intensity in the comparison ear = adapting intensity in the adapted ear - Interaural Attenuation for A/C).

## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The review of Literature concerning the present study deals with the three important research areas: (1) Loudness Vs Acoustic Reflex (2) Reflex Adaptation (or Reflex Decay) and (3) Auditory Adaptation).

#### LOUDNESS VS ACOUSIC REFLEX

Many studies (Jepsen, 1963; Dallos, 1964; Jerger et al, 1972; Peterson and Liden, 1972; Beedle and Harford, 1973; Margolis and Popelka, 1975; Kaplan et al, 1977; Margolis and Fox, 1977; Vyasamurthy and satyan 1977 wilson and Mc Bride, 1978) have shon that in normal hearing subjects, the threshold of the acoustic reflex for pure tones occure at levels of 70 - 90 dB HL (ISO,1964). Also many investigators (Metz, 1952; Ewetsen et al, 1958; Jepsen, 1963; Liden, 1969, 1970; Djupesland and Flottorp, 1970; Jerger et al, 1972; sieminski et al, 1977; Popelka, 1978; Rangasayee, 1975) have reported that mild to moderate hearing loss of cochlear origin exhibit reflex thresholds for pure tones at 70 - 90 dB HL (ISO, 1964). Thus, it follows that the reflex occurs at raduced sensation levels in mild to moderate sensorineural loss (Cochlear Pathology) patients. "Qualitatively this effect is consis- tent with the abnormal growth of loudness that the patients



demonstrate as the sensation level of a pure tone is increased. In fact, measurement of threshold of acoustic reflex has been referred to as the 'metz Test of Loudness Recruitment' (Ewertsea et al. 1958) and elicitation of acoustic reflex activity at reduced sensation levels has been interpreted as an objective measure of recruitment of loudness". (Gorga et al, 1980).

In addition to the above observation, there are studies (Anderson et al, 1969, 1970 a,b; Cartwright and Lilly, 1979; Olsen et al, 1975; Jerger, 1974; Sheehy, 1977) which show that the patients with confirmed retrocochlear pathology exhibit 50% reflex decay at suprathreshold levels. This effect is similar stleast on a qualitative basis to the decay of loudness observed in these patients on psycho-physical tests such as tone decay (Gorga et al, 1980).

Further, many investigation (McCandles, 1975; Tonnison, 1975; Shon and McCandles, 1976; Rapport and Tait, 1976; McLeod and Greenberg, 1977; Woodford and Holmes, 1977) have used the acoustic middle-ear muscle response to estimate loudness discomfort level.

Ross (1968) compared equal reflex and equal-loudness contours. The level of each of eleven tonal activating signals was set to elicit the same reflex magnitude as a reference tone (320 Hz). Additionally, each signal was

matebed in loudness to the 320 Hz reference. 2 of 4 subjects demenatrated similar equal-reflex and eqaul-loudness contours whereas the remaining 2 subjects demonatrated marked variations between the two measurements. Bleak and Wightman (1977) examined the relation between a statistically defined acoustic-reflex response and loudness for a 1000-Hz pure tone and for three different bands of noise. During loudness balances, each activating signal served as reference and was set at a level that yielded a specific magnitude of the middle-ear muscle response. The result from this study indicate a correlation between loudness and the acoustic reflex, Regardless of which signal served as the reference, equal-loudness contours approximated equal-reflex contours.

Block and Wiley (1979) examined acoustic-reflex growth functions aad loudness balance judgements for 3 normal hearing subjects with normal middle ear function. The hypothesis that acoustio reflex activating signal producing proportionately equal acoustic impedance changes are judged equal in loudness, was evaluated. The mean acoustic impedance and associated standard deviations were oomputed for the baseline (static) and activator (reflex) portions of each reflex event. an acoustic impedance change exceeding 2 standard deviations of base line was defined as the criterion acoustic reflex response. Acoustic impedance was

measured as a function of activator SPL for broadband noise and a 1000 Hz tone from criterion magnitude to the maximum acoustic impedance (or 120 dB SPL). This was defined as the dynamic range of reflex growth. Loudness-balance measurements were made for the 1000 Hz tone and broad band noise at SPL's representing 30, 50 and 70% of the individual dynamic range. The data supported the hypothesis.

Gorga et al (1980) studied the effect of activating-signal band width upon the threshold of the acoustic reflex in normal hearing subjects. Subsequently, loudness measurements were made for the same signals at the same intensity levels that were required to elicit an acoustic-reflex response. When loudness and acoustic reflex threshold were compared at comparable levels, similar trends emerged. They concluded that the results from that experiment provided evidence for both qualitative and quantitative similarities between acoustic reflex and the perception of loudness. Finally, on the basis of the results obtained, they suggested that signals at acoustic reflex thresholds may be equally loud for listeners with normal hearing.

Although, the above mentioned studies clearly point out that the loudness and acoustic reflex are closely related, there are also studies which point out that the acoustic reflex may not depend exclusively on the perception of loudness.

Small et al (1962) have shown that loudness summation is complete in approximately 20 m sec at levels of 60 dB sensation level. Although some difficulties exist in the measurement of temporal integration for the acoustic reflex, available data suggest that the critical duration for acoustic reflex threshold is never shorter than 100 m sec (Gorga et al, 1980).

In 1975, Margolis and Popelka examined the hypothesis that loudness is constant at acoustic reflex threshold. Acoustic-reflex thresholds were measured in five normal hearing adult subjects for octave frequencies from 250 to 4000 Hz, for a narrow band noise (BW = 50 Hz) centred at 500 Hz and for a wide-band noise. Acoustic reflex threshold was determined and the loudness of the reflex threshold stimulus was measured utilizing a monaural loudness-balance procedure employing a 1000 Hz comparison tone and a method of constant stimuli. Results indicated that for the activating stimuli used in that experiment, loudness at acoustic reflex threshold varied over a 17 dB range. They have concluded that the acoustic reflex is not dependent on some critical loudness of the activating stimulus and loudness may not be the key determinant of reflex activity."

Gorge et al (as reported by Gorga et al, 1980) investigated the acoustic reflex under binaural stimulation. They measured the magnitude of the acoustic reflex as a function

of interaural phase for a 550-Hz tonal activating signal. the level of this signal was varied over a range of + 10 dB relative to its acoustic reflex threshold and was always presented in a background of noise. They found that there was no difference in the magnitude of the acoustic-reflex response between homophasic and antiphasic conditions even though the antiphasic condition was judged louder (or more easily detectable). Thus the above result raised some doubts regarding one-to-one relationship between loudness and acoustic reflex.

"The literature concerned with the effects of signal bandwidth on loudness and on acoustic reflex threshold suggest that loudness and middle ear muscle response are not related. Many investigators (Zwicker et al, 1957; Scharf, 1959, 1962, 1976; Scharf and Meiselman, 1978) have studied critical band-widths for loudness under various stimulus conditions. Flottorp et al (1971), Djupesland and Zwislocki, (1973), Popelka et al (1974, 1976) and Djupesland et al, (1975) have reported band-width effects for acoustic reflex thresholds. The major differences between the findings in the above two classes of experiments is that the critical band-width' for the acoustic reflex is four to six times larger than the best estimates of 'critical band width' from psycho-physical loudness measurements." Gorga et al (1980).

The earliest models assumed that the width of the

critical band for loudness was Independent of single level. It should be noted, however, that indications of same level effects exist in many psycho-physical data on critical band width for loudness (Gorga et al, 1980).

Bourbon et al, (1968) provided evidence from masking studies that measured critical band widths may increase with level (as reported by Gorga et al, 1980).

The above mentioned studies show that there may not be one-to-one relationship between loudness and acoustic reflex.

Thus the relationship between loudness and acoustic reflex, has become a controversial issue. However, the present investigator completely agrees with the views expressed by Gorga et al (1980) regarding the relationship between loudness and acoustic reflex. Gorga et al, (1980) have thoroughly discussed this matter:

... the argument that loudness and TAR (Acoustic Reflex Threshold) are unrelated cannot be based solely upon a comparison of the effect of signal band width on the two measured responses, The data from the present experiment suggest that both loudness and TAR are affected in a similar manner by changes in band width....

.....  
... some general conclusions seem appropriate. The hypothesis that signals at TAR are equally loud cannot be dismissed. The results from the present experiment indicate that some relation exists. Additionally, the frequency analysis for both TAR and loudness appear to be similar, at least in form. Finally, measurements of psycho-physical critical band widths may be dependent upon the intensity at which these measurements are made.

As mentioned earlier, the present suthor goes by the general conclusions of Gorga et al, (1980) with regard to the relationship between loudness and acoustic reflex. In addition to this, the results of the experiment I ( see page 68 ) led the investigator to use the 'magnitide of reflex' as an indirect measure of loudness perceived by the normal hearing subjects.

**REFLEX      ADAPTATION      (OR      REFLEX      DECAY)**

Acoustic Reflex Adaptation is a relatively new area of investigation. adaptation of the acoustic reflex refers to a decrease in the magnitude of the reflex response during sustained acoustic stimulation. several investigation have described aspects of this phenomenon (Lorento de No', 1935; versall, 1958; Dallos, 1964; Djupesland, Flottorp aad Winther, 1967; Anderson, Barr and Wedenberg, 1968; Habener and Snyder, 1974; Olsen, Noffsinger and Kureziel, 1975; Wiley and Karlovich, 1975; Cunningham, 1976; Kaplan, Oilman and Dirke, 1977; Wilson, steckler, Jones and Margolis, 1978; Hetu and Careau, 1977; Given and seideman, 1979),

Anderson, Barr and Wedenberg (1969, 1970) have suggested that the measurment of acoustic reflex adaptation is an indication of VIII cranial nerve integrity. They have also

indicated that the amount of acoustic reflex adaptation relative to the maximum reflex contraction observed could be useful in diagnostic clinical audiology. They have suggested that 50% reflex decay is a critical level for interpretation of clinical significance. In brief, the procedure involved in determining 50% reflex decay is presentation of a 10 sec pure tone stimulus at 10 dB SL (ref: acoustic reflex threshold), at frequencies of 500 Hz or 1000 Hz and noting down the reduction in magnitude of reflex during 10-sec period. The reflex decay test is said to be positive if 50% reflex decay occurs within 5-sec of presentation of the stimulus. Anderson et al, (1970) have indicated that when this procedure was applied with stimulus frequencies of 2000 and 4000 Hz, considerable adaptation was noticed in normal hearing subjects. Therefore, they recommended that the frequencies above 1000 Hz should not be used for the clinical measurement of acoustic reflex decay for inference of VIII nerve integrity.

Johansson, Kylin and Langly (1967) observed no reflex adaptation to stimuli of 500 or 1000 Hz for 14 sec at 10 dB SL (ref: acoustic reflex threshold) in normal hearing subjects. However, they observed 50% reflex decay in normal hearing subjects to a stimulus of 2000 Hz at a sensation level of 10 dB SL (ref: acoustic reflex threshold) in 14 sec.



Similar 50% reflex adaptation was observed in 7 sec for a reflex eliciting stimulus of 4000 Hz.

Habener and Snyder (1974) reported no significant reflex adaptation to 500 and 1000 Hz reflex eliciting stimuli at 10 dB SL (ref:acoustic reflex threshold) in all 120 normal ears tested. Significant reflex adaptation, however, was observed at 2000 and 4000 Hz. Their data agreed with the studies of Anderson et al (1970) and Johansson et al (1967).

Wilson, Steckler, Jones and Margolis (1978) reported an investigation of acoustic reflex adaptation in 7 normal hearing adults for the reflex eliciting stimuli of 300, 1000, 2000, 4000 Hz and broadband noise. Levels of 96, 104 and 112 dB SPL were used to achieve acoustic reflex. They concluded that, "the higher the stimulus frequency, the greater the rate of reflex adaptation ...half life varies directly with stimulus intensity and inversely with stimulus frequency".

Wiley and Karlovich (1979) reported the amount of reflex decay for 500 Hz at levels of 5, 10 and 15 dB SL (ref:acoustic reflex threshold). These investigators observed less adaptation at 5 dB SL than at 10 dB SL for signal duration of 3 to 5-min and rapid reflex adaptation at 4000 Hz. General

findings were that:

...the amount of reflex adaptation varied with the spectrum of activating signals (reflex adaptation was greatest for the 4000-Hz activator less for the noise activator, and least for the 500-Hz activating signal)... the rate of reflex adaptation differed with activator spectrum (reflex adaptation rate was relatively rapid for the 4000 Hz activator, slower for noise, and much slower for the 500 Hz activating signal.... reflex adaptation did not appear to vary systematically with activating signal level except for the 500 Hz activator. in which case reflex adaptation appeared to begin earlier in time and to be of greater magnitude as the activating signal level increased.

The result of their study agreed with the results reported by Anderson et al (1970) and Alberti and Kristensen (1972).

Kaplan, Gilman and Dirks, (1976) investigated acoustic reflex adaptation in six normal subjects for five frequencies (500, 1000, 2000, 3000 and 4000 Hz) at sensation levels of 6, 12 and 18 dB. Kaplan et al (1976) reported no difference in the shape of the adaptation curves (% impedance change relative to stimulus duration) at any frequency for the entire range of sensation level\* tested. This is not consistent with the findings of Anderson et al (1970) or Wiley and Karolrich (1975).

Givens and Seidemen (1979) reported a systematic investigation of measurement parameters of acoustic reflex adaptation, General conclusion were that:

..study demonstrated properties of acoustic reflex adaptation that are in agreement with the previous research of Anderson et al, 1979; and Wilson et al 1978. However, farther definition of the stimulus variables involved in the Anderson et al (1970) procedure was achieved. The finding indicate that the sensation level - ref:acoustic reflex threshold affects properties of acoustic reflex adaptation. However, this effect is not intensity specific a range of 10 dB (15 dB + 5 dB) seems to be reasonable for this measurement. Expect for 3000 Hz, stimulus frequency affected adaptation characteristics uniformly across sensation level. For 500, 1000 and 2000 Hz an inverse relationship was demonstration between adaptation and sensation levels. At 3000 Hz, a consistent level of 50% adaptation was noted at all sensation levels

This study made the following implications on acoustic reflex adaptation in normal ears:

- (1) a range of at least 10 dB (15 dB SL 5 dB) is available for the administration of the procedure:
- (2) stimulus frequency has a significant effect on acoustic-reflex adaptation. Test stimuli should be selected with consideration of this variable.

Further research is needed to investigate acoustic-reflex adaptation with cochlear and retro-cochlear pathologies. Additional studies are needed to develop a more definitive clinical protocol.

Stelmachowicz and Lilly (1979) reported an Indirect estimate of auditory frequency selectivity from acoustic reflex measurements. they used the following rationale for their investigation:

...Generally it has been assumed that the dynamic properties of the acoustic stapedial reflex are dependent, in part, upon the neural activity in the superior olivary complex (Blevins, 1967; Borg, 1973). In human subjects it is possible to monitor changes in stapedial reflex activity utilizing aural acoustic

immittance measurements (Metz, 1951; Mollar, 1962; Dallos, 1964). Frequency selectivity of the acoustic reflex, however, has not been studied systematically in man.

In order to determine the frequency resolution of the stapedial reflex, a method similar to that used in a classical psycho-physical adaptation paradigm was chosen. In this paradigm, changes in aural acoustic susceptance (BA) produced by various stimuli were recorded both prior to and immediately following the presentation of an adaptor signal, the choice of this paradigm requires the following three assumptions:

- (1) An auditory stimulus of a given frequency and sound-pressure level excites a specific array of receptors;
- (2) If stimulus level and duration are such that some degree of acoustic-reflex adaptation (decay) occurs, then the spectral spread of this adaptation may be used to determine frequency resolution;
- (3) The extent to which the adaptation process decreases reflex-response magnitude (as a function of frequency) may be taken as a measure of the frequency selectivity of the system;

Unfortunately, there are a number of constraints and limitations inherent to this procedure. First, in order for the criterion response to be measurable some finite degree of acoustic-reflex adaptation must occur. In subjects with normal hearing, however, acoustic reflex adaptation typically is seen only at frequencies above 1000 Hz (Anderson, Barr and Wedenbergh 1970; Cartwright and Lilly, 1978). In addition, within the frequency range where acoustic-reflex adaptation does occur, the rate of adaptation decreases with decreasing frequency (Kaplan, Gilman and Dirks, 1976). Thus, for low-frequency stimuli, adaptor duration must be longer than for high-frequency stimuli in order to observe a similar amount of adaptation.

A second concern involves the intensity levels that must be used in order to elicit an acoustic reflex. A number of investigators have reported intensity effects in other estimates of frequency selectivity (Bourbon, Evans, and Deatherage, 1968; Zwicker, 1974; Moore, 1978). Others, however, have failed to show these level effects

(Zwicker, Flottorp, and Stevens, 1957; McGee, Ryan and Dallos, 1976; Scharf and Meiselman, 1977, Weber, 1978). If intensity effects do exist, then the results from the present investigation only can be compared with data obtained at similar levels.

Third, the present paradigm does not produce data in a form that is quantitatively comparable to existing estimates of frequency selectivity. Qualitative comparisons, however, are possible. To the extent that neural activity in the afferent branch of the acoustic-reflex is related to peripheral frequency analysis, similar trends in data of the present experiment are expected.

They found that the recovery from acoustic-reflex adaptation was more rapid for test frequencies below the adapter frequency than for test frequencies above the adaptor and that when their data were compared to tone-on-tone masking functions, qualitative similarities emerged between frequency selectivity observed psycho-physically and those observed during measurement of acoustic-reflex activity.

Nellis and Wiley (1979) have reported recovery characteristics of the acoustic reflex. They measured acoustic-reflex recovery time as a function of activator intensity level and duration for broad-band noise and a 500Hz tone in 10 normal-hearing subjects. The activating signals were presented at 5 and 10 dB above individual acoustic reflex thresholds for durations ranging from 0.25 to 100 sec. Reflex-recovery times were similar across both activators and across activator intensity levels. Recovery time was relatively constant for activators of 2 sec or less and increased for longer activator

durations. they have explained portions of the results from temporary threshold shift experiments on the basis of acoustic reflex recovery characteristics.

Borg and Odman (1979) have reported the time course of decay and recovery of ipsilateral and contralateral stapedius reflex especially to 2 KHz tone in 10 normal hearing subjects. They found that the reflex responses followed a closely similar time course with respect to both decay and recovery in simultaneous bilateral recording. They have concluded that decay and recovery originate in the afferent auditory system and not in the muscles. They found that the recovery was 50% complete, 250 msec after the end of the stimuli.

The above mentioned studies are quite different from the present study as most of those studies deal with 'concomitant' adaptation (the present study deals with 'residual' adaptation). In addition, all the reflex adaptation studies have measured "adaptation" in terms of reduction in the 'magnitude of reflex'. Whereas in the present study, adaptation (residual) was measured in decibels. (although the 'magnitude of reflex' was the criterion used for estimating 'loudness loss' or '\*loudness gain')

## AUDITOR ADAPTATION

Auditory adaptation in its most general sense could be taken to refer to any change in the functional state of the auditory system brought about by an acoustic stimulus. Such a change in the auditory system's functional state may manifest itself in a variety of ways (Small, 1963).

The loudness decrement resulting from continued auditory stimulation is termed auditory adaptation (Elliott and Praser, 1970).

"Auditory adaptation has as its essential feature the process of 'equilibration'. The response of a receptor to a steady stimulus declines as a function of time until it rea-

ches a steady level at which the energy expended by the receptor is just balanced by the metabolic energy which becomes available to sustain it. The psychological counterpart of this is a decline in apparent magnitude of a stimulus (e.g., its loudness) during the first few minutes of presentation, followed by a period in which the apparent magnitude remains roughly constant". (Moore, 1977).

A comprehensive review of loudness adaptation is provided by Small (1963). Small's (1963) model of loudness adaptation is reproduced here (as the investigation considers it

most relevant to the present study:

...the amount of loudness adaptation increases as a function of the intensity of the adapting stimulus. If adaptation is measured, however, at an intensity less than that of the adapting stimulus, it is found that the amount of adaptation does not depend upon the intensity at which the ear was adapted, but only upon the intensity at which adaptation is measured.

Adaptation increases as a function of the duration of the adapting stimulus. The time taken for the adaptation function to reach asymptote depends upon the characteristics of the adapting stimulus, but rarely exceeds 6 min. The amount of loudness adaptation decreases as a function of the interval between the cessation of the adapting stimulus and the presentation of the comparison stimuli. This recovery is monotonic with time and its rate depends upon the amount of adaptation from which recovery is taking place. The time taken for complete recovery varies tremendously with experimental procedure; it may be as short as 15 sec and almost certainly no longer than 4 min.

Maximum loudness adaptation is found at the frequency of the adapting stimulus, but the spread of adaptation to other frequencies occurs in symmetrical fashion (on a frequency scale). In addition, the effect is a peripheral rather than a central phenomenon.

#### Possible Mechanisms of Loudness Adaptation

One way to view the effects of intensity upon adaptation is to postulate that a given group of receptors is not effected differentially by adapting stimuli of different intensity. There are a number of assumptions related to this postulate and it will be informative therefore to list the reasoning step by step. (1) The key assumption is that the neural coding for loudness is the number of fibers activated. (2) It is also convenient to assume although not necessary in order to account for this intensity effect, that the neural elements have different sensitivities. (3) Presumably threshold constitutes some minimum number of active fibers, those with the lowest threshold and a 20 dB SL stimulus for instance would, initially at least, activate a group of greater number. Figure 1a, schematizes this situation. (4) If the 20 dB SL stimulus is continued indefinitely, some of the neural



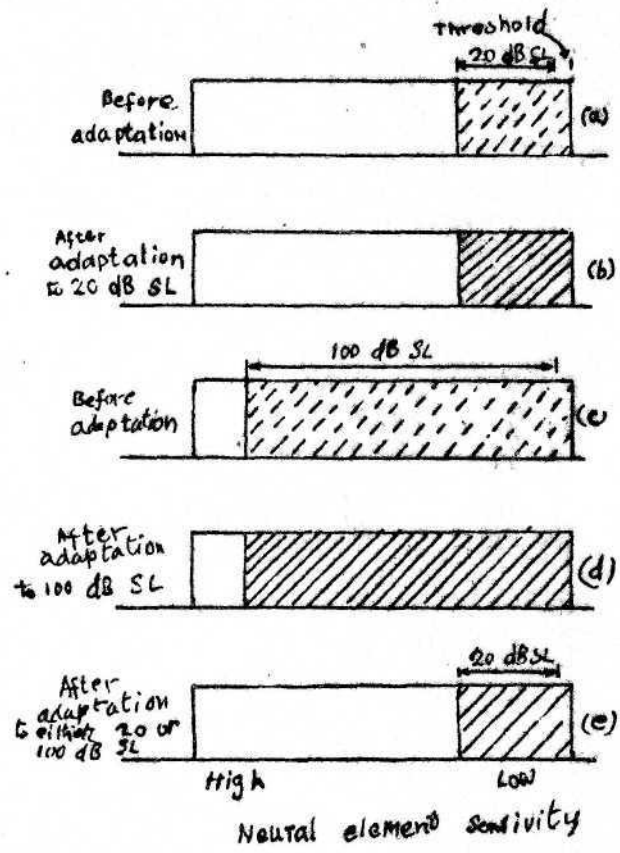


Fig. 1

units may become less sensitive and cease to respond to the 20 dB SL stimulus. (5) Another important assumption is that the distribution of the neural elements which cease to respond is independent of the element's initial sensitivity. Thus the density of active elements is decreased and this condition is represented in Fig. 1b. According to the initial assumption, the loudness of this stimulus will decrease. (6) Now consider the presentation of a 100 dB SL stimulus (Fig. 1c). A greater number of units are now activated, including the units which responded to the 20 dB SL stimulus as well as a number of additional units which have lower sensitivities. (7) If this stimulus is continued indefinitely a situation will occur similar to that described in steps 4 and 5. The result of this is shown in Fig. 1d. (8) It is important to note as an additional assumption; namely that the number of units which cease responding as the result of prolonged stimulation is a constant proportion of the total number initially activated. (9) If now, following a prolonged exposure to a 100 dB SL stimulus, a 20 dB SL stimulus is presented, the same number of units will be available as could have been the case had the exposure been to a stimulus of 20 dB SL. Thus, the change in loudness in a 20 dB SL stimulus will be the same whether the adapting stimulus is 20 or 100 dB. This situation is illustrated in Fig. 1e.

The assumption mentioned in step 5 is an interesting one. It implies that once the intensity of the stimulus is great enough to excite a particular element, it is immaterial, in terms of the length of time the element will continue to fire, how much greater the intensity becomes. If this is so, then the crucial factor would seem to be simply the length of time it has been firing. Under these conditions it is reasonable to suppose that there is a recovery process going on simultaneously with the adapting process. That is, certain elements will cease firing because of prolonged activity, while others may regain their initial sensitivity and begin activity again.

It should be noted that the formulation just advanced need not be changed in order to account for the effect of intensity upon threshold shifts brought about by prior stimulation. It is only necessary to point out that the threshold is dependent in a different way upon the sensitivity of the neural elements. The decreased sensitivity brought about by exposure simply requires that a more intense stimulus be presented in order that the fixed number of fibers required for threshold be activated.

If the material illustrated in Fig. 1 is extended it is possible to account for the symmetrical spread of adaptation from the frequency of the adapting stimulus to neighboring frequencies. It was proposed in the previous paragraph that loudness adaptation was a result of rendering nonfunctional a certain proportion of neural elements which initially responded to the stimulus. (1) The next step is to assume that the population of neural elements considered in Fig. 1 may perhaps be thought of as constituting a subpopulation located at a particular point on the basilar membrane. If this subpopulation is not on the basilar membrane, then it could be located at some place in the peripheral auditory system which is functionally connected point for point to the basilar membrane. (2) Thus, as a function of continued stimulation neural elements are locally rendered nonfunctional. Furthermore, it is likely that this effect is to be found in the region of the basilar membrane in which maximum displacement occurs in response to a particular frequency. (3) Consider now the situation in which a test stimulus is introduced whose frequency is different from that of the adapting stimulus. It would be expected that if the elements responding to the test stimulus were in part those which had responded to the adapting stimulus, the test stimulus would exhibit a loudness decrement in proportion to the degree of overlap between the two neural populations. (4) For tonal stimuli the displacement and, therefore, probably the excitation of neural elements along the basilar membrane are not uniform. Thus, the distribution of excitation must be considered in determining the amount of functional overlap. (5) As the frequencies of the test and adapting stimuli are separated, the area of overlap between neural populations decreases and consequently the amount of adaptation decreases. It should be noted that as long as the distribution of excitation along the basilar membrane is similar for each stimulus, the area of overlap will be the same regardless of whether the test frequency is above or below the adapting frequency. Thus a symmetrical spread of adaptation will occur.

Using listeners with normal hearing, it can only be determined that the locus of loudness adaptation is peripheral rather than central. The use of listeners with various types of peripheral auditory pathology should serve to better define the structures involved.

However, investigators who have studied this problem find marked loudness adaptation in patients with either cochlear involvement (for instance, see Hood, 1950) or disorders of the eighth nerve (of, Jerger, 1960, for example). From the standpoint of the hypothesis being advanced here, the exact loudness is immaterial; it could be either the hair cells or the eighth nerve or both, provided the provisions of step 1 are fulfilled,

The question of the time course of adaptation and recovery is extremely important in selection of the responsible specific physiological mechanism. If the time course is extremely rapid, as seems to be the case for short-term fatigue, then it is tempting to postulate a mechanism related to neural refractory periods. If, on the other hand, the phenomenon reflects slow changes, as does temporary threshold shift following rather intense stimuli, then some type of mechanism related to large scale metabolic activity would appear a possibility.

In the case of loudness adaptation and recovery, the changes, although perhaps more rapid than those in long-term fatigue, still seem much too long to put in the same class as short-term fatigue. The most likely mechanism would seem to involve the depletion and re-supply of metabolic reserves associated with neural activity in the peripheral portion of the auditory system.

Quite obviously many of the concepts proposed represent a gross oversimplification of loudness adaptation. It may be, however, that the very simplicity of the notions allows predictions, which may be tested experimentally, to be made more easily. At best, these hypotheses are only a framework on which to build. It seems possible that some building may be done with relatively little effort. For instance, pitch shifts under conditions of adaptation, masking or cochlear pathology may perhaps be incorporated with no additional assumptions.

..There are strong indications from many pieces of evidence that loudness adaptation does not increase indefinitely with time, but that it reaches an asymptotic or steady-state value after a certain period. The question is--what period? If data gathered with simultaneous dichotic balances are considered the answer seems to be 4 to 7 min. On the other hand, data from intermittency studies and those gathered with the moving phentom method indicate that 30 to 90 sec is a more reasonable estimate. Clearly, this question among others will not be resolved until more adequate procedures are available.

Actually, things are not so bad if all that is desired is to make statements about the relative time course of adaptation as influenced by various experimental variables. For instance, investigators are nearly unanimous in their finding that the time taken to reach asymptote increases as the intensity of the adapting stimulus increases. The effect of frequency is less well documented. The evidence that does exist seems to indicate no special effect other than that arising from the intensity of the adapting stimulus. That is, low frequencies reach asymptote more quickly than high frequency, but apparently only because the time to asymptote is related to the loudness of the adapting stimulus and for a constant SPL low frequencies tend to be less loud than higher frequencies. Although much more work needs to be done with intermittent stimuli, they seem to follow the same general trends as do other stimuli. The general rule is\_\_\_\_\_the greater the asymptotic level of adaptation, the greater is the time it takes adaptation to reach asymptote.

Remarkably little is known about recovery from loudness adaptation. Comparatively few studies have been done and most of those were carried out with methods that severely impair the value of the results. The studies using more adequate methods have simply failed to vary systematically the interesting experimental variables. Adequacy of methodology is again a bottleneck. Probably the method of intensive localization is the best of the current group. Although restimulation of the recovery ear is minimized by the use of very short test stimuli, simultaneous dichotic balances are used with their attendant difficulties. There is a pressing need for further research designed to answer such questions as these. (a) How long does it take the ear to recover from loudness adaptation?

(b) Does this time vary as a function of the characteristics of the adapting stimulus such as duration, intensity, or frequency? (c) Are the effects of those variables above and beyond simply the amount of adaptation they produce before recovery is allowed to begin?

The absolute amount of adaptation is likely to be influenced by such things as the amount of adaptation which has taken place in the comparison ear to a greater degree than is the time course of adaptation. For this reason much of the data in this area should be regarded with caution. For example, traditional procedures suggest a maximum amount of loudness adaptation to be of the order of 90 dB. Wright would suggest on the basis of his data that 50 to 60 dB is a more reasonable estimate. Clearly, this apparent discrepancy needs to be resolved.

A large group of studies have been carried out which investigated the influence of a number of experimental variables upon the amount of adaptation. A comparison of the relative adaptation obtained under these conditions is informative and probably not too far from correct, provided that a linear transformation exists between current data and data which will eventually be obtained with superior methods.

When the amount of adaptation was measured at an intensity less than that of the adapting stimulus, it was found that adaptation did not depend upon the intensity at which the ear was adapted, but only upon the intensity at which adaptation was measured. This is an extremely important finding although it was confirmed by a second investigator, it should be noted that both studies used the same methodology. Because of its importance, it would seem desirable to look for the same effect using a different experimental procedure. In addition, this phenomenon, together with its hypothesized neural basis, suggests that if the intensity of the adapting stimulus is less than that of the test stimulus, appreciably less adaptation should be observed than if test and adapting stimuli were of the same intensity. This hypothesis has not yet been tested.

Ward (1973) distinguishes the phenomena commonly included under adaptation in two different ways: Whether they are

observed during or after exposure to the acoustic stimulus (concomitant or residual respectively) and whether they require one ear (Monaural) or two (Binaural) for their measurement. Example for these four categories--concomitant monaural, concomitant binaural, residual monaural and residual binaural--are; tone decay, poststimulatory adaptation, TTS and loudness reduction (measured by ABLB test) respectively.

Many techniques (see Small, 1963) have been developed for measuring adaptation in its development, asymptotic state and recovery. Simultaneous Dichotic Loudness Balance (SDLB) technique, since it entails no interruption of the adapting stimulus is the best yet devised for measuring the development of adaptation (Elliott and Fraser, 1970). Asymptotic localisation and the moving phantom methods give information about maximum amount of adaptation. The methods of intensive and phase localization are appropriate for measuring

recovery from adaptation.

The SDLB technique is the one that has been more frequently used for measuring all of the aspects of adaptation. Several variations of this technique have been developed. Regardless of specific method of presentation, the SDLB technique has serious drawbacks (Elliott and Fraser, 1970);

1. Adaptation of the comparison ear through cross-over of the adapting stimulus (adapting stimulus > 70 dB SL may cause adaptation in the comparison ear). Procedurally, little can be done to handle each cross-over phenomena if the relation between adaptation and intensity of the adapting stimulus is linear as has been suggested by Hood, Carterette and Jerger then the only problem cross-over presents is that of underestimating the extent of adaptation at the higher intensity levels. However, if the relation is in any way nonlinear, the true datum is completely obscured.
2. Maintaining a continuous tone in the comparison ear during a loudness match can be detrimental.
3. The subjects may make use of both loudness and localization cues while making loudness judgments.

Ward (1973) has explained 'perstimulatory adaptation' in the following manner:

...Perstimulatory adaptation therefore appearing only when both ears are stimulated simultaneously, is a complex phenomena involving central interaction of the auditory pathway including, perhaps, efferent action of the non exposed ear. The maximum effect, always reached in 5 min or less, seems to be obtained under the following conditions:

1. When the control ear is given a pulsed tone instead of a continuous one (this keeps the effect from diminishing during the process of testing for it) (Wright, 1960).



2. When the stimulus is a pure tone instead of a noise; apparently irregularity helps minimize the growth of perstimulatory adaptation (Carterette, 1956).
3. When the adapting stimulus is continuous, although an intermittent tone or noise shows some adaptation, it is always less than for a steady adaptation (Sergeant & Harris, 1963).
4. When the instruction emphasize the median plane balance rather than 'equal loudness' (Stokinger & Studebaker, 1968).
5. When the comparison stimulus has the same frequency as the fatiguer, although there is considerable spread of effect to both higher and lower frequencies (Thwing, 1955).....
6. When the test subjects are adults; Karja (1968) found that the average perstimulatory adaptation in 7-15 year-old children was not significantly different from zero.

Just what processes underlie this fascinating phenomenon are still unknown, but no doubt the same ones are involved in;

1. the shifts in lateralizing power of tones after a subject wears a hearing aid in only one ear (Elfner and Carlson, 1965);
2. the changes with time of contralateral remote masking (Ward, 1967); and
3. the decreased TTS observed after binaural exposure relative to monaural exposure, over and beyond any effects attributable to middle-ear muscle action (Ward, 1965).

Perstimulatory adaptation seems to have little clinical usefulness so far, at least nothing seems to correlate well with individual differences in degree of adaptation (for example, Palva, 1955). Although Tanner (1955) observed a negative correlation between perstimulatory adaptation and ordinary TTS, I have been unable to duplicate this finding (Ward, 1968). Karja (1968) found no change in old age. For the moment, then, perstimulatory adaptation remains a provoking enigma.

Finally, Ward (1973) concluded that, "perstimulatory adaptation reflects a changes in the 'potency' of stimuli in regard to lateralization following monaural stimulation it is demonstable only by binaural presentation of test signals, and therefore involves complex judgmental processes relatively high up the auditory chain (though the possible efferent action of monaural stimulation on the periphery of the contralateral auditory system cannot be excluded)",

The studies regarding the effects of duration intensity and frequence of the adapting stimulus on the amount of adaptation and also on the recovery time are exhaustively reviewed by Elliott and Fraser (1970);

.. .Growth. Putting aside the inherent methodological problems we can proceed to the data that have been gathered on the phenomenon or adaptation. In general, its course of developmont is one of negative acceleration, with the greatest rate of adaptation occurring during the first one or to minutes ( Fig. 2), and the asymptotic level being reached anywhere from three to sevan minutes after the onset of the adapting stimulus. Most of the recovery from adaptation occurs within one minute, and recovery is complete within two minutes. Additionally, adaptation has a roughly linear relation to the intensity and little or no relation to the frequency of the adapting stimulus.

Although the developmental course of adaptation is well established, the values found at any particular point on that curve vary widely between inveatigtatoras The extent of the discrepancies can be seen in Fig.4 By far the most divergent results are those of Hood (1950) and Palva (1955). Both used a tracking procedure in obtaining the loudness matches, but their attentuation rates differed. Palva used a motor-driven

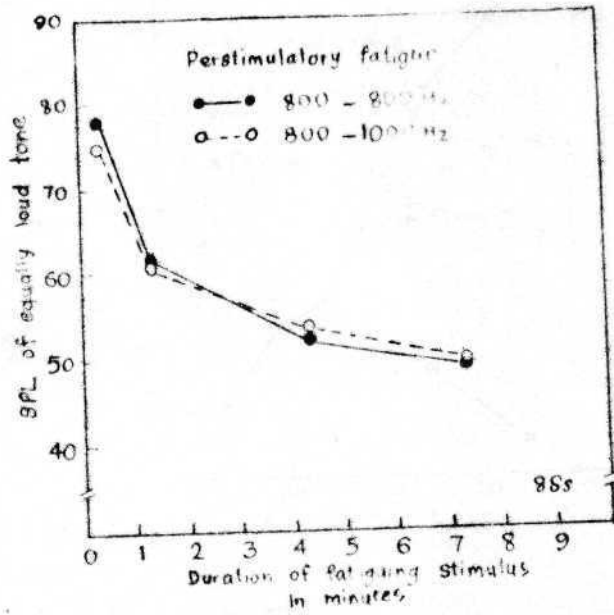


Fig. 2

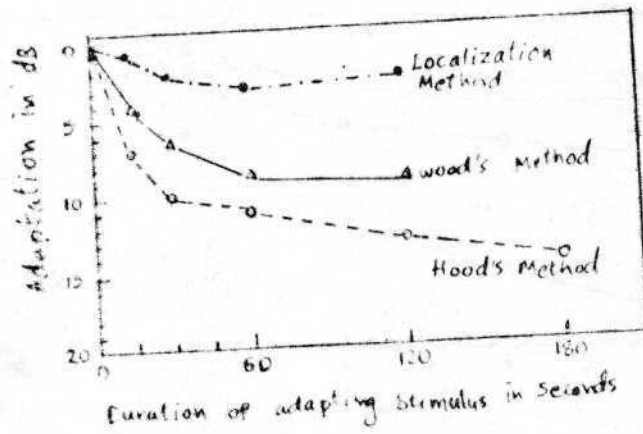


Fig. 3

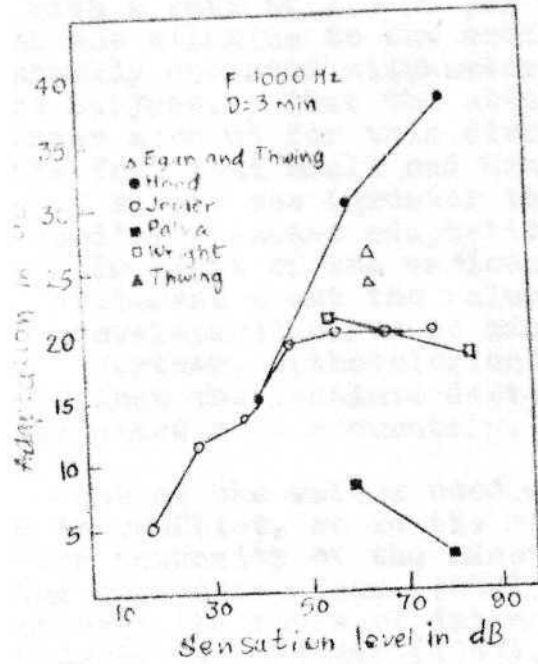


Fig.4

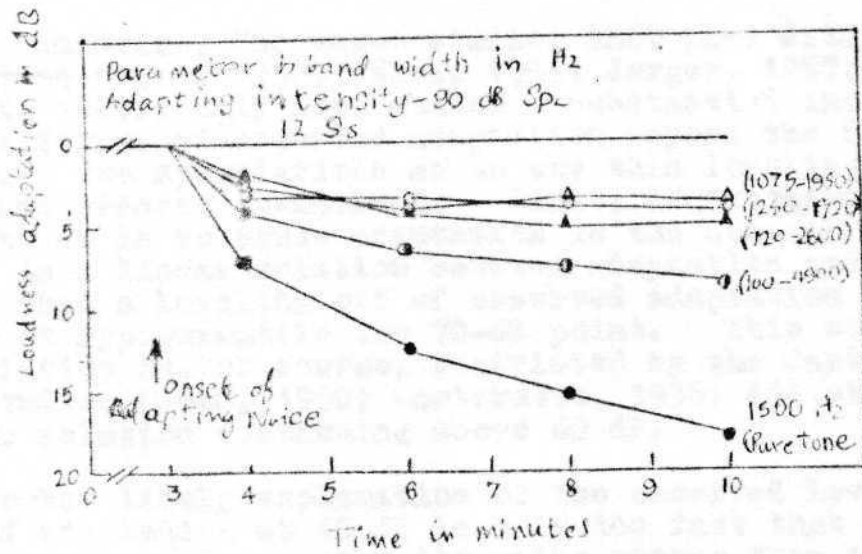


Fig. 5

attenuator with a rate of 2.3 dB per sec for the presentation of the stimulus to the control ear, and Hood used a manually operated attenuator with a rate governed by the subject. That the attenuation rate may in some manner account for this divergence is supported by the fact that small and Minifie (1961) using a rate of 5 dB per sec (greater than Palva's, but less than Hood's) Obtained adaptation of an intermediate value. In light of the various studies, even a general statement about the values for any point along the development curve of adaptation would be misleading. Further, methodological studies are sorely needed so that the absolute degree of adaptation may be determined more accurately.

Intensity. Just as the values used a describing adaptation are in conflict, so is the relation of adaptation to the intensity of the adapting stimulus. For a continuous pure tone, Hood (1950) found a roughly linear relation over the range of intensity values he investigated ( Fig: 4 ), Jerger (1957), too, demonstrated a linear relation, at least from 10 dB to 60 dB SL, but above this level, the function flattens out (Fig:4 ). Additionally, in those studies that investigated only two intensities (Palva, 1955; Wright, 1960), there is no increase in adaptation as a function of the adapting intensity.

To summarize, for those studies that have data points in common (Hood, 1950; Palva, 1955); Jerger, 1957; and Wright, 1960), only Wood showed a substantial increase in the degree of observed adaptation beyond the 60-dB level. Two speculations as to why this leveling off occurred present themselves. First, if crossover does operate so as to cause adaptation in the control ear and there is a linear relation between adaptation and intensity, then a leveling off of observed adaptation would occur at approximately the 70-dB point. This sort of speculation is, of course, restricted by the fact that two studies (Hood, 1950; Carterette, 1956) did show a linear relation continuing above 60 dB.

Another likely explanation of the observed leveling off of adaptation at 60 dB lies in the fact that the data are plotted in intensity units rather than in subjective loudness units. Carterette (1956) found a linear relation only when he made just such a transformation. Although a general statement might be that adaptation

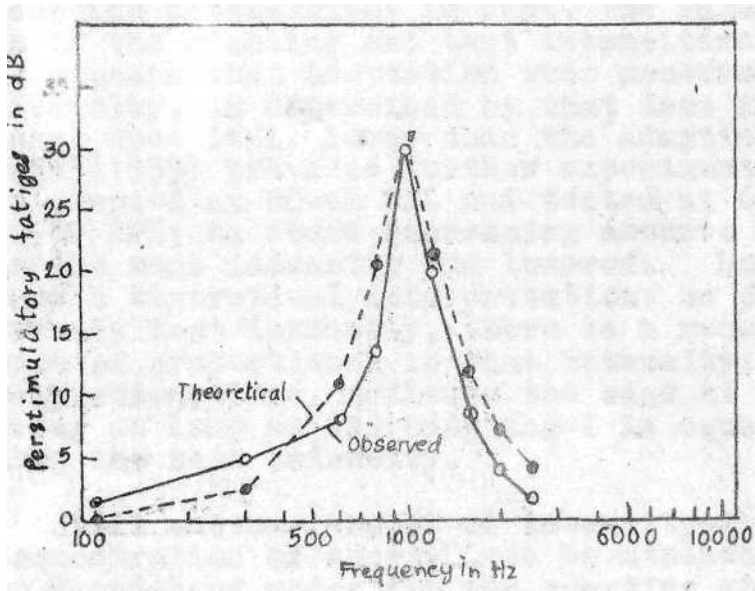


Fig.6

and the intensity of the adapting stimulus are linearly related, the upper limit of this function remains in doubt, Morw evidence is needed( before much a statement can be made with confidence.

Adaptation can be measured at intensity levels other than that of the adapting stimulus, This aspect has been investigated only by adapting the test ear at one intensity and measuring adaptation at a lower intensity. The opposite procedure has received no attention. The effect of adapting at one intensity and measuring adaptation at a lower intensity was first investigated by Hood (1950), who exposed the ear to a 100 dB SL tone and then measured adaptation at sensation levels extending from 20 dB through 100 dB. The adaptation he found was similar to that seen with lower adapting intensities; in fact, the values were the same as if the adapting and test intensities were identical. It appears that adaptation when measured at any given intensity, is determined by that test intensity—at least when it is lower than the adapting intensity. Egan (1955) provided further experimental support when he adapted at 80-dB SPL and tested at 60-, 70-, and 60-dB SPL; he found decreasing amounts of adaptation as the test intensity was lowered. Hood (1950) offered a theoretical interpretation; he postulated that for any test intensity, there is a receptor group whose size is proportional to that intensity; the amount of adaptation, then, reflects the size of the receptor group so long as the adapting I is equal to or greater than the test intensity.

Still another aspect of intensity—the effect of concentration of energy—can be studied by using narrow- or broad-band noise for the adapting stimulus. Carterette (1956) compared several bands of noise and a 1500-Hz tone using the methods of fixed and variable intensity, with 50-, 70-, and 90-dB SPL adapting stimuli. The results indicate that adaptation tends to increase as bandwidth increases, at least for the 90-dB SPL intensities (Fig. 5 ). Apparently as the available energy is spread over a broader frequency range, it adapts a larger receptor group. An exception to this tendency is evident in Fig:5 , where it will be noted that pure tone stimulation produces the greatest adaptation, which suggests the development of fatigue.

Interruption Rate. Carterette (1955) measured adaptation to a noise that was interrupted at rates

varying from 1 to 12.4 per sec, with a 50 percent duty cycle, First, he observed that, with total energy equal to that in a continuous adapting noise, the continuous noise produces more adaptation. Second, as interruption rate increases the degree of adaptation also increases. Carterette suggested that, as interruption rate is increased, the time for recovery is shortened and, thus, cumulative effects may be produced. However, the period of adaptation is likewise reduced, Apparently recovery processes suffer relatively more from the increase to interruption rate than do the adapting processes; thus there must be either a latency in the onset of the recovery processes or an initial recovery rate lower than the initial adapting rate. Certainly, these findings again emphasize that too little is known of the initial stages of adaptation and recovery.

Frequency. Two aspects of the frequency parameter merit discussion. First, does adaptation vary as a function of the frequency of the adapting stimulus, and second, does adaptation of one frequency spread to neighboring frequencies. Considering the first aspect, Jerger (1957), found a slight tendency for adaptation to increase as frequency increases from 125 Hz to 1000 Hz, but to remain approximately constant for frequencies from 1000 through 6000 Hz confirming evidence is lacking. Since most studies have confined themselves to one frequency. Of those studies that used two or more frequencies (Hood, 1950; Falva, 1955), differences in adaptation as a function of the adapting frequency were not reported.

As for the spread of adaptation to neighboring frequencies, there has been only one comprehensive study (Thwing, 1955). Apparently adaptation, at least for 1000 Hz at 80-dB SPL, has its maximum effect at the adapting frequency, with continuously lower degrees of adaptation observed on both sides until at 100 Hz and 2500 Hz, it has completely disappeared ( Fig:6 ). Thwing suggested that adaptation is proportional to the extent to which excitation patterns of the adapting and comparison stimuli overlap. A theoretical curve based on this hypothesis is shown in Fig. 6 ; it is symmetrical just as the data points are. Whether adaptation is always greatest at the adapting frequency, irrespective of frequency and intensity, is not known. The collection of such data would be of value in its own right, but additionally, would provide an evaluation of Thwing's hypothesis.



Intensity and, to a much lesser extent frequency both not to determine the temporal course of adaptation and in particular the point at which its asymptotic state is reached. Originally, Hood (1950) reported that adaptation is complete within 3 to 3.5 minutes regardless of the intensity or frequency of the adapting stimulus. However later studies confirmed this finding only for intensities up to 60 dB SL, or frequencies up to 1000 Hz (Jerger, 1957), Above these values, the frequency effect is negligible, and the degree of adaptation observed becomes primarily a function of the intensity of the adapting stimulus. Also at these higher levels as the intensity increases, the point at which the asymptote is reached is further delayed in general, for the higher intensities, the point of maximum adaptation is reached between five and seven minutes (e.g., see Figs. ... 2, 3 and 5 ).although increases in adaptation are reported beyond this point at a considerable slower rate. For example, Carterette (1956) reported that adaptation was still increasing at seven minutes when the intensity of the adapting stimulus was 90 dB SPL, that the asymptote is not reached in three minutes in most studies except at lower intensities and lower frequencies is most likely attributable the addition of fatigue processes.

Recovery. The chief difficulty in measuring recovery from adaptation is that the commonest technique (SDLB) involves restimulation of the test ear during the recovery process, Also, the first postadaptation balance has been taken at approximately one minute after the adapting stimulus has been terminated. Thus the recovery process is marred by measurement difficulties, is poorly known. Among those investigations who have used the SDLB technique (Kgan, 1955; Thwing, 1955; Wright, 1959), it is generally agreed that recovery is rapid, with far more recovery taking place in the first minute than in any comparable period thereafter. for example, Egan reported first-minute recovery of about 70 percent. Thwing reported 80 percent, and Wright reported 75 percent. The most interesting aspect of these data is that, regardless of the extent of adaptation at asymptote, a similar proportion of recovery takes place in the first minute. Not one of these investigators reported more than 6 or 7 dB adaptation after 60 sec, even though adaptation at asymptote was as high as 30 dB. Further recovery occurs during the second minute and, with the exception of one report (Wright, 1960, who observed between

3 and 8 dB of adaptation at the three-minute point), the evidence suggests that the functional characteristics of the ear are restored by the third minute,

The SDLS technique gives no information about the course of recovery during the first minute, and since this time period includes most of the recovery, other techniques are more appropriate. The method of intensive localization is preferred because restimulation is minimized. In this method, the intensity necessary for a median-plane localisation is determined by having the subject report if the fused image is to the left, to the right, or in the center while brief stimuli are presented. The intensity necessary for a "center" judgment before adaptation is compared with the intensity necessary after adaptation. Since restimulation is brief, certainly the effect of restimulation is minimized, and the course of recovery during the first minute can be ascertained.

Bekesy (1960, pp 357-358) using this method with stimuli of 0.2 sec duration, found that 80 percent of the recovery occurs during the first 5 sec; almost complete recovery occurs within 10 sec. Since the initial level of adaptation was low (15 dB), it is not possible to generalize these findings. Once again, we must close the discussion with the comment that more work needs to be done before definitive statements can be made.

Fraser, Petty and Elliott (1970) and Petty, Fraser and Elliott (1970) have identified binaural interaction or lateralization cues as the important determinant in the magnitude of intensive change required to realize equality between adapting and comparison tones. They found that loudness adaptation was essentially absent when binaural interaction was reduced or eliminated. A reduction in binaural interaction was accomplished in their studies by employing a delayed loudness balance or a heteraphonic balance procedure.

Morgan and Dirks (1973) conducted experiments to measure suprathreshold loudness adaptation at 500 Hz using a heterophonic listening condition in order to reduce binaural interaction. The adapting stimulus was presented at 70 dB SPL for 7-min, a long (3000 m sec) and a short (300 m sec) comparison stimulus were chosen to delineate the possible influence of the duration of the comparison stimulus itself on the magnitude of the loudness changes measured. No loudness adaptation was observed during those experimental conditions. They concluded that there would be no loudness changes in perstimulatory test conditions when binaural interaction was reduced. They also noticed an apparent "enhancement" of loudness during the adapting period when a train of short pulses (300 m sec each) was used as the comparison stimulus.

Bray, Dirks and Morgan (1973) have reported an experiment in which perstimulatory adaptation was measured under heterophonic conditions using SDLB procedures on normal listeners. The adapting signals were 500 and 3000 Hz presented at 70 dB SPL for 12-min, the last 5-min of which involved perstimulatory loudness balances. A tracking technique and the method of constant stimuli were employed. The results indicated that continuous stimulation did not significantly decrease the loudness of the adapting signal. Hence, they have concluded that under test conditions that reduce

or eliminate binaural interaction, suprathreshold loudness adaptation does not result for pure tone signals of 500 and 3000 Hz at 70 dB SPL.

In addition to the above studies, there are many studies (Dirks, Morgan and Bray, 1974; Mirabella, Tauband Teichner, 1967; Stokinger, Cooper and Meissner, 1972; Stokinger, Cooper, Meissner and Jones, 1972; Stokinger and Studebaker, 1968; Wiley, Small and Lilly, 1973) which suggest that the adaptation effect could be considered to be more central in nature. These investigators offered conclusion in favour of central origin because they could not observe appreciable amounts of adaptation when binaural interaction was eliminated or reduced. However, Weller and Gross (1973) showed that adaptation could be measured by means of heterophonic monaural procedure (MH) and these monaural effects were not likely to be due solely to central phenomena. They showed that similar amounts of adaptation were obtained using SDLB and MH techniques for example, using the SDLB technique with two 1000 Hz tones and the reference tone at 60 dB SPL in preadaptation, adaptation and post adaptation conditions, the average adaptation was 20.16 dB (Weller, Loob and Allusi, 1972). Similarly the MB technique with the adaptation tone at 500 Hz (60 dB) and the comparison tone at 10,000 Hz, the average adaptation was 22.3 dB (Weller and Cross, 1976).

subsequently Weiler, Linz, Mojdehi and Glass (1979) reported that there was no significant correlation between the magnitude of adaptation measured using SDLB and MH techniques. They offered the following interpretations:

1. Perhaps individual variability in being able to match a high versus a low frequency sound, as in the monaural case, varies so widely among individuals that it partially obscures adaptation effects. Or, conversely, perhaps the ability to do binaural loudness matches varies so such that it partially obscures the adaptation effects.
2. The two measures could well both vary differently for reasons of individual characteristics which then obscure any common processes.

However, the fact is that the measures did not vary together--there was no correlation and unless one can find evidence that the techniques point up differences in the ability to do monaural and binaural judgements independently of adaptation effects, then one must ignore the occurrence of similar means which appeared in the two conditions. One would then conclude that the techniques measure different aspects of auditory changes following adaptation.

Weiler, Loeb and Alluisi (1972) tested small's (1963) prediction to replicate Hood's (1950) and Egan's (1950) and Egan's (1955) findings for the case where adapting tone intensity exceeded that of test tone and farther investigated the growth of loudness at various levels with equal intensities of adapting and test tones. They confirmed that predictions inferred from small's model, of significantly lower

adaptation would result when test-tone intensity exceeded adapting-tone intensity. Further they found that adaptation effects with test and adapting tone equal in intensity increased between 40 and 60 dB remained relatively constant between 60 and 80 dB. When adapting tone intensity exceeded test tone intensity, the amount of adaptation did not increase, was also confirmed.

Weiler and Hood (1977) developed an improved model for loudness coding during auditory adaptation. They compared the loudness adaptation measured at four base-line intensities and at test values 10 and 20 dB above the base line intensities and found that there was an orderly decline in the amounts of adaptation. The magnitude of the decline in loudness adaptation with the increasing difference between the test values and the base line was shown to agree with earlier theories. A method for closely estimating the change in loudness adaptation is presented in convenient graphic form and in algebraic equations.

interestingly, Glass and Weiler (1979) reported that the results obtained in the two techniques (SDLB and MH) differed considerable when adaptation was measured at an

intensity higher than the adaptation intensity. General conclusion were "unlike the finding of Weiler and Hood (1977) for binaural simultaneous measurement of loudness balances the present study using the monaural simultaneous balance technique did not show a significant decline in adaptation when the test intensity was +10 dB above the adaptation intensity. That is, for the 50 dB adapting tone, we would have expected that less adaptation be measured at a test value of 60 dB (+10 dB above adaptation) than when the test value remained at 50 dB".

"Several characteristics of the present study may have contributed to the results. The subjects were older than previously, although not greatly so. The monaural balance technique has generally been less stable and more difficult than binaural simultaneous balance techniques and frequencies are different. It is also possible as suggested by Weiler and Davis (1975) that the monaural technique measures a

different auditory change due to adaptation than that measured by simultaneous binaural balances".

Recently, Mahon and Weiler (1980) have reported a further test of a model for loudness coding after adaptation. They have attempted to fit Weiler and Hood's (1977) quantitative model for loudness coding to an additional set of a SDLB data. The error of predictions for test values 10 dB above adapting intensity for 12 normal hearing listeners was -2.7 to -4.7 dB an average of -3.5 dB. Since the error of predictions was so nearly constant (S.D =  $\pm$  7.37 dB), the authors have considered it reasonable to attribute the error to the differences in procedural technique. They have concluded that the loudness model does account for a large component of coding in adaptation results.

Davis and Weiler (1978) have reported ear dominance effects in loudness following auditory adaptation. using MH technique, they found the amounts of adaptation for 500 Hz tone in left and right ears. 10 Subjects were tested in the left ear, and in the right. Left ear adaptation was 4.20 dB, while right ear adaptation was 12.88 dB (P 0.001), They have recommended that the possibility of ear difference in loudness adaptation be taken into account in future studies.

Vyasamurthy (1977) developed a new technique - objective



Residual Monaural Loudness Adaptation (ORMLA) to verify Small's (1963) predictions with regard to loudness adaptation, General conclusion of the early investigation carried out on a few normal hearing subjects with

methodolgy and other details are given in Appendix-A.

## CHAPTER III

### METHODOLOGY

#### subjects

The subjects participating in the majority of the experiments consisted of 32 to 48 normal hearing ( 20 dB HL ANSI 1969) students belonging to All India Institute of speech and Hearing, Mysore - 6 and to the nearby colleges, ranging in age from 19 to 27 years. Some experiments were carried out on small samples (5 to 10 subjects) of normal hearing subjects and also for some experiments the investigator, (age:39 Yrs) with normal hearing ( 20 dB HL ANSI 1969), himself was a subject.

The following criteria were used for the selection of subjects:

1. Normal hearing in both ears ( 20 dB HL ANSI 1969) for frequencies from 250 Hz to 4 KHz.
- 2, Normal tympanograms in both ears.
3. Acoustic reflex thresholds < 95 dB HL (ANSI 1969) for frequencies: 0.5, 1 & 2 KHz.
4. Normal middle ear pressure ( $\pm$  50 mm Hzo) in both ears.
5. Consistent increase in the magnitude of reflex (as observed through the deflection of the Balance Meter (BM) needle of the electro-acoustic impedance bridge Madsen - Z0 73) with increase in intensity of 1000 Hz tone, (i.e., the subjects, who did not show visually

noticeable consisted changes in the deflection of the BM needle with 5 dB increments in intensity of the test tone, were not included in the experiments-- in these subjects, the compliance changes were less and hence, the instrument was not sensitive enough to detect the small changes. To put it more meaningfully, the subjects who failed to show visibly noticeable changes in the deflection of BM needly, with 5 dB increments in the intensity of the test tone, should not be interpreted as the subjects in whom the loudness does not change with increase in intensity of the test tone)

6. No complaints of ear and/or noise and/or threshold inflection at the time of testing.

#### Equipment

(All the data were obtained using electro-acoustic impedance bridges (Madsen ZO 72 and Z 73), Probe tone (220 Hz) of the bridges were calibrated for 85 dB SPL by using Bruel and kjaer (B & K) equipment (Sound Level Meter - 2203; Octave Filter Set - 1613; Condenser Microphones - 4132; s.c.c. coupler - DB 0138 and Piston Phone - 4220). Built-in autometers of the impedance bridges and the other audiometers (for screening purposes) were calibrated for frequency and intensity outputs (and also for linearity of the attenuator) using 203 Timer/Counter Eastern Electronics and B a K equipment (artificial ear 4152; sound Level Meter-2203 with Octave Filter act and condenser microphone-4144) respectively. Standard procedures as described in the Manuals of the impedance bridges and the procedures described by Wilber

(1978) were followed. Calibration checks were made at regular intervals. Appendix-C gives Madson-Z073 impedance bridge's earphone (Telex-1470 with MX 41/AR cushion) outputs at different frequencies and at different intensity dial readings. Excerpts from "schoed for Impedance measurments" Z0 72 impedance bridge are given in Appandix-B to clarify the concept of impedance and the function of the instrument.

### **Procedure**

In general, there were three stages in the experiments carried out in the present study (All the experiments were carried out in a sound treated room with ambient noise levels less than the prescribed levels). The three stages were: (1) Pre-adaptation (2) adaptation and (3) Post-adaptation. Pre-adaptation stage. The reflex thresholds of the phone ear (Left ear) and the middle ear pressure of the probe ear (right ear) were determined for each subject using the procedures given in the Manual of Madson Z072/Z073 impedance bridge. Next, the air-pressure in the external auditory meatus of the subbject's right ear was adjusted exactly Cmm H2o, irrespective of the middle ear preasure of the subject (all the subjects had the middle ear pressur of  $\pm 50$  mm H20). Sensitivity Knob was set at '3' position and compliance control knob was adjustad until the BM needle showed '1' on the BK scale. BM needle reading '1' was used as the reference for all the subjects.

The test tone was presented for 1.5 sec to the left ear at the reflex threshold level and the BM needle deflection produced by the test tone was noted. After an interval of 30 sec, the test tone was presented at the same level and again the BM needle deflection was noted. Just before the presentation of the test tone, each time, the compliance control knob was adjusted (if found necessary) until the BM needle showed '1' position on the BM scale. the above procedure was followed to find the magnitude of reflex (BM needle deflection or BM reading) for the test tone at different intensity levels. At each level of the test tone, at least, three readings were considered. The consistent readings were considered. The presentation of the test tone at different levels (differing by 5 dB steps) was in random order. The inter-stimulus interval was 30-sec for test tone levels less than 100 dB SBL and 60-sec for the test time levels 100 dB SPL.)

The above pre-adaptation teasting procedure was carried out prior to every adaptation test.

Adaptation stage. Depending on the type of experiment, the adapting stimulus was presented contiauously for a particular period and at a particular intensity. During this period, the probe tone (220 Hz) was turned off, but the position of the probe was not disturbed. The subject was asked to sit quietly without much bodily movements. Vocalization, yawning,

coughing, laughing, swallowing (frequently) and sneezing were not permitted during the pre-adaptation, adaptation and post-adaptation stages. If any of these motor activities were observed, the testing had to be done again on a different day.

Post-adaptation stage. A few seconds before the termination of the adapting stimulus, the air-pump was adjusted (if found necessary) until the manometer needle showed exactly 0mm H<sub>2</sub>O. As soon as the adapting period was over, the adapting stimulus was turned off. A rest period of 5 sec was allowed as this period was necessary to set the knobs to the desired positions (setting the sensitivity knob to the required sensitivity position. adjusting the compliance control knob until the BM needle showed '1' position; changing the mode of presentation of the test tone; adjusting the frequency and intensity controls in some experiment only). After 5 sec-rest period, the test tone at a particular level depending on the type of experiment was presented for 1.5 sec--the BM needle deflation produced by the test tone was noted down, This reading was labelled as 'post-adapted BM reading'.)

The 'post-adapted BM reading' was compared with the 'BM readings' produced by the pre-adapted test tone levels. The pre-adapted test tone level, which had produced the same

'BM reading' (mangnitude of reflex) as that of the post adapted test tone was identified. Adaptation (in dB) was the difference between the post-adapted test tone level and the pre-adapted test tone level which produced the same 'BM reading' as that of the post-adapted test tone. This way, loudness adaptation was measured in decibels objectively. Loudness adaptation measured in the above manner has been termed 'Objective Residual Monaural loudness Adaptation' (ORMLA).

Amount of adaptation (Xb) = Intensity of the post-adapted test-tone  
 - Intensity of the pre-adapted test tone level which produced the same 'BM reading' as that of the post-adapted test-tone.

Computation of the amount of adaptation is illustred through three examples:

**Example 1**

Preadapted test tone levels in dB SPL	BM reading (reference)	BM reading	Sensitivity position
	1		3
90	1	2.5	3
95		3.5	
100	1		
105	1		
110	1	6.0	3
		6.5	3
115	1	7.5	3

Postadapted test tone level in dB SOL	BM reading (reference)	BM reading	Sensitivity position
110	1	5.0	3

In the above example, pre-adapted test tone level which had produced the same 'BM reading' as that of the post-adapted test tone level happens to be 100 dB SPL

Therefore  $X_b = 110 - 100 = 10 \text{ dB}$

Preadapted tone level SPL	test in dB	BM reading reference	BM reading	Sensitivity position
90	1	1	2.0	3
95	1	1	3.0	3
100	1	1	5.0	3
105	1	1	5.5	3
110	1	1	6.0	3
115	1	1	7.0	3
<hr/>				
Postadapted test tone level in dB SPL				
110		1	4	3



pre-adapted test tone level of 93 dB SPL, had produced 'BM reading' of 3.0 and the pre-adapted test tone level of 100 dB SPL had produced the 'BM reading' of '5.0'. It was assumed that the preadapted test tone level of 97.5 dB SPL would have produced 'BM reading' of '4.0'. This assumption (although not desirable from the point of view of very accurate measurements) was following due to the practical problems. This type of assumption was followed whenever 'BM reading' of the postadapted test tone was mid-way between the two 'BM readings' produced by the preadapted test tone levels differing by 5 dB.

Therefore  $X_b = 110 - 97.5 = 12.5$  dB

Example 3

Preadapted test tone level in dB SPL	BM reading reference	BM reading	Sensitivity position
90	1	2.0	2
95	1	2.5	2
100	1	3.0	2
105	1	3.5	2
110	1	4.0	2
115	1	4.5	2

Postadapted test tone level in dB SPL    BM reading reference    BM reading    Sensitivity position

115    1    2.5    2

therefore  $X_b = 115 - 95 = 20$  dB

The procedure for finding the recovery time from adaptation was exactly the same as the procedure used for measuring adaptation, but with a little difference. The procedures used in all the three stages—pre-adaptation, adaptation and post-adaptation—of the experiments were followed for determining the recovery time. After noting down the 'Bm reading' produced by the post-adapted test tone of 1.5 sec, (at an intensity depending on the type of experiment) 55 sec rest period was given to the subject. At the end of 55-sec rest period, the post-adapted test tone was again presented as before—the 'BM reading' was noted down. Similarly, 'BM readings' produced by the post-adapted test tone at recovery intervals of 2 min, 3 min, 4 min etc., (i.e, until complete recovery was observed) were noted down. In the experiments IX<sub>b</sub> and IX<sub>c</sub> recovery process was studied for 10 min of post adapted stage.

The 'BM readings' obtained at 1 min, 2 min, 3 min, 4 min, etc., of post adapted stage were compared with the 'BM readings' which were recorded during the pre-adapted stage to compute adaptation (in dB) at the different recovery periods.

In addition to the above general procedures of most of the experiments of the present study, two different types of experiments were also carried out. The two different types of experiments were : Experiments I and Experiment II.

### Experiment I

Experiment I was carried out to know whether pure tones of frequencies viz., 0.5, 1 and 2 KHz at equal loudness levels would produce equal magnitude of reflex in normal hearing subjects. Eight subjects (5M + 3F) in the age range of 20 to 23) years were tested. 'BM readings' obtained for the three tones at 120 dB SPL and at 100 dB SPL were noted.

### Experiment II

A control study on 8 normal hearing subjects ranging in age from 20 to 22 years was carried out to ensure that the magnitude of reflex observed at different intensity levels remained the same after 7 min of silent interval. 'BM readings' for 1000 Hz tone at 90, 95, 100, 105, 110, 115 and 120 dB SPL were recorded. The procedure as described in preadaptation stage (p<sup>59</sup>) was followed. After 7-min silent interval, 'BM readings' for 1000 Hz tone at the different levels were recorded using the same procedure. the procedure used in the pre-adaptation stage.

Using the methodology as explained in this chapter, many experiments (III<sub>a</sub>, III<sub>b</sub>, IV<sub>a</sub>, IV<sub>c</sub>, IV<sub>c</sub>, V<sub>a</sub>, V<sub>b</sub>, VI<sub>a</sub>, VI<sub>b</sub>, VII<sub>a</sub>, VII<sub>b</sub>, VII<sub>c</sub>, VIII<sub>a</sub>, VIII<sub>b</sub>, VIII<sub>c</sub>, VIII<sub>d</sub>, IX<sub>a</sub>, IX<sub>b</sub>, IX<sub>c</sub>, and IX<sub>d</sub>) were carried out in the present study, These experiments are discussed the chapter IV.

To check the reliability of the result, retest data were also obtained

## CHAPTER IV

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Experiment - I

Results of the experiment - I are presented in Table 1. This experiment was conducted to know whether pure tones of frequencies viz., 0.5, 1 and 2 KHz at equal loudness levels would produce equal magnitude of reflex in normal hearing subjects. 8 subjects (5 M + 3 F) in the age range of 20 to 30 years were tested. The results show that in all the 8 subjects, the magnitude of reflex as indicated by the BM needle deflection for 0.5 and 1 KHz tones at 120 dB SPL is exactly the same; however, for 2 KHz tone, the magnitude of reflex at 120 dB SPL is less than the magnitude of reflex observed at 0.5 and 1 KHz. Additionally, it was observed that the magnitude of reflex increased with the increase in intensity above 120 dB SBL. At 100 dB SPL, the magnitude of reflex is not the same for 0.5, 1 and 2 KHz tones. This is quite reasonable as we know (through equal loudness contours) that, at 100 dB SPL, the above mentioned tones are not heard equally loud.

Thus, the results of the experiment - I clearly showed that the magnitude of reflex does indicate loudness perceived by the normal hearing subjects, for pure tones viz., 500 and 1000 Hz.

The above findings and the findings of other investigators, supporting the relationship between loudness and acoustic reflex, were used as the basis for the experiments carried out in the present study.

### Experiment-II

Table 2 shows the 'BM readings at different intensity levels of 1000 Hz tone, obtained before and after 7-min 'silent interval'. This study was conducted as a control study. It is clear from the table 2 that the 'BM readings' prior to the 'silent interval' and after the 'silent intensity' are almost the same. A high correlation ( $r = 0,99$ ) between the two readings at 110 dB SPL of 1 KHz tone was observed.

The above result shows that the new technique (ORMLA) can be reliably used for adaptation measurements.

### Experiment IIIa

Table 3a shows adaptation values (in dB) with Mean and S.D., for simple adaptation (adaptation measured at the baseline condition), at four durations of exposure for 2 KHz tone at 110 dB SPL. Thirty-four subjects (16M + 18F) ranging in age from 19 to 26 Yrs (Mean age = 20.9) showed the mean adaptation (d8) values of 5.22, 7.98, 10.59 and 9.56 to 2 KHz adapting tone at 110 dB SPL for exposure duration of 3,5,7 and 9-min respectively. Asymptotic state reached by 7-min in most of the subjects.

TABLE 1

'BM readings' obtained in 8 subjects

Subjects	BM sensit- ivity position	500 Hz		1000 Hz		2000 Hz			
		at dB	120 SPL	at dB	100 SPL	at dB	120 SPL	at dB	100 SPL
1	2	4.0	1.5		4.5	2.0	3.0	1.5	
2	2	5.5	2.0		5.5	3.5	4.0	2.5	
3	2	5.0	1.5		5.0	3.0	4.0	-	
4	3	8.5	2.0		8.0	4.0	7.0	2.5	
5	3	6.0	1.5		6.5	3.0	5.0	-	
6	2	4.5	1.5		4.5	2.5	2.0	-	
7	2	5.0	1.5		5.0	2.5	3.0	-	
8	3	6.0	2.0		6.0	3.5	4.5	1.5	

TABLE 2

'BM readings' obtained in 8 subjects for 1 KHz tone at different intensity levels in dB SPL

Subjects	90	95	100	105	110	115	120
1	3.0(3.0)	4.5(4.0)	5.0(5.0)	6.0(6.5)	7.9(8.0)	8.5(9.0)	10.0(9.5)
2	2.0(2.0)	3.0(3.0)	3.5(9.5)	4.0(4.0)	4.5(4.5)	5.0(5.0)	3.5(9.5)
3	2.0(2.0)	3.0(3.0)	4.5(4.0)	5.5(5.0)	7.0(7.5)	9.0(8.5)	10.0(9.5)
4	3.0(3.0)	4.0(4.0)	5.5(5.0)	7.0(7.5)	9.0(9.0)	10.0(10.0)	-
5	2.0(2.0)	3.5(3.5)	5.0(5.0)	5.5(5.5)	6.0(6.0)	6.5(6.5)	7.0(7.0)
6	-	2.0(1.5)	5.0(5.5)	7.0(7.0)	8.0(8.0)	9.0(9.0)	10.0(10.0)
7.	1.5(1.5)	2.5(2.5)	3.0(3.0)	4.0(4.0)	5.0(5.0)	6.0(6.0)	7.5(8.0)
8.	2.0(2.0)	3.0(3.0)	4.0(4.0)	5.0(5.0)	5.5(5.5)	6.5(7.0)	7.5(8.0)

Figure in parenthesis indicate 'BM readings' after 7- min silent interval.



TABLE 3a

Anditory adaptation values ( in decibels) with Mean and S.D.,for simple adaptation at four durations of exposure for 2 KHz tone at 110dB

Subjects	Sex	Age	3-Min	5-Min	7- Min	9-Min
1	M	22	5 (5)	10	10	10
2	M	22	5	10	10	10
3	M	20	7.5	5	10	10
4	M	21	0	10	10	7.5
5	F	21	2.5 (2.5)	5	5	10
6	M	20	7.5	10	10	7.5
7	M	21	5(5)	5	10	7.5
8	F	20	7.5(5)	5	12.5	10
9	M	21	2.5	5	10	15
10	F	21	5(2.5)	12.5	15	15
11	F	21	5	12.5	15	15
12	F	20	7.5(5)	10	10	10
13	F	22	5 (5)	15	15	15
14	M	19	5	5	10	12.5
15	F	20	5	5	10	10
16	M	26	0(2.5)	0	10	10
17	M	21	0	0	7.5	10
18	F	20	5	5	10	15
19	F	21	10(10)	15	15	15

contd.

-2-

TABLE 3a  
continued

Subjects	Sex	Age	3-Min	5-Min	7-Min	9-Min
20	M	21	10	12.5	12.5	12.5
21	M	22	0	12.5	10	15
22	M	20	5(5)	5	5	5
23	F	21	10(10)	7.5	10	7.5
24	M	20	5	5	10	10
25	F	19	15	15	17.5	17.5
26	F	21	2.5	10	10	10
27	M	21	0	5	10	10
28	F	19	7.5(10)	10	12.5	15
29	F	20	5	5	7.5	5
30	F	21	0	5	10	7.5
31	M	21	7.5	10	12.5	15
32	F	21	10	10	7.5	10
33	F	22	2.5	7.5	10	10
34	F	24	7.5	7.5	10	10

mean= mean= mean= mean= mean=9.56  
20.9 5.22 7.98 10.59

S.D = S.D = S.D = S.D.= 3.44  
3.5 3.87 2.64

Figure in parenthesis indicate values.

The difference as evaluated with the Wilcoxon - T, between the adaptation values obtained at 3 and 5-min of exposure, was statistically significant ( $T=-18$ ,  $N=22$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ).

The difference, as evaluated with the Wilcoxon -T, between the adaptation values obtained at 5 and 7-minn of exposure, was statisatically signifcant ( $T=-12$ ,  $N=23$ ,  $P < 0.01$ ).

The differance, as evaluated with the Wilcoxon - T, between the adaptation values obtained at 7 and 9-min of exposure, was not significant ( $T=+60$ ,  $N=16$ ,  $P > 0.05$ ).

Thus the Null Hypothesis - 1 (Duration of exposure has no significant effect on the amount of adaptation) is accepted when the duration of expoaure is 7 min. The Null Hypothesis is rejected when the duration of exposure is < 7min.

#### Experiment IIIb

Adaptation values (with Mean) for 0.5, 1 and 2 KHz tones at 110 dB SPL adapted for 3, 5, 7 and 9-min, obtained on a single subject (the investigator - 6 trials) are given in Table 3b.

TABLE 3B

Adaptation values (with Mean) for 0.5, 1 & 2  
KBz tones at 110 dB SPL, adapted for 3,5,7 &  
9-min

Frequency	Duration of exposure = 3 min						Mean
	Number of trials						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
500 Hz	5	0	7.5	7.5	5	2.5	4.58
1000 Hz	7.5	10	7.5	5	5	5	6.66
2000 Hz	5	5	7.5	7.5	5	5	5.83

frequency	Duration of exposure = 5 min					Mean
	Number of Trials					
	1	2	3	4	5	
500 Hz	5	5	7.5	7.5	5	5.83
1000 Hz	10	10	10	10	7.5	9.58
2000 Hz	7.5	7.5	10	7.5	7.5	7.92

Frequency	Duration of exposure = 7 min						Mean
	Number of trials						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
500 Hz	10	10	7.5	10	7.5	10	9.16
1000 Hz	12.5	10	12.5	10	12.5	10	9.16
2000 Hz	15	12.5	12.5	15	15	15	14.16

Frequency	Duration of exposure = 9-min						K#am
	Number of Trials						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
500 Hz	10	10	7.5	10	10	10	9.58
1000 HZ	12.5	12.5	12.5	10	12.5	10	10.0
2000 Hz	12.5	15	12.5	15	15	12.5	14.58

TABLE 4a

Adaptation values (in dB) with Mean &  
S.d. for adapting frequencies of 500  
and 1000 Hz at 125 dB SPL for 3-min  
exposure

Subjects	sex		Adaptation at 500 Hz	Adaptation at 1000 Hz
1	F	19	5	15
2	F	22	15	20
3	M	22	20	25
4	M	22	10	20
5	M	21	10	25
6	F	20	15	20
7	F	20	5	10
8	F	20	15	20
9	F	20	7.5	15
10	F	20	10	25
11	F	19	20	25
12	F	19	20	25
13	F	22	15	25
14	F	21	15	25
15	F	22	5	15
16	F	20	5	10
17	M	22	5	10
18	F	20	5	12.5
19	F	19	5	10
20	F	20	10	15
21	F	22	10	17.5
22	F	21	20	25
23	F	21	20	22.5
24	F	20	10	15
25	F	20	7.5	10
26	M	20	15	20
27	M	22	10	15
28	M	23	15	17.5
29	M	21	5	10
30	M	21	5	7.5
31	M	25	5	10

Mean=20.3

Mean=19.42

The results show that at all the three frequencies (.5, 1 and 2 KHz) asymptote has reached by 7-min of exposure.

#### Experiment IVa

Table 4 a reveals adaptation values (in dB) with Mean and S.D. for adapting frequencies of 500 and 1000 Hz at 125 dB SPL for 3-min exposure.

Thirty one subjects (12 M + 19 F) ranging in age from 19 to 25 Yrs (Mean age = 20.3) showed mean adaptation values of 11.61 (S.D = 5.45) and 19.42 (S.D = 6.13) for adapting frequencies viz., 0.5 and 1 KBz at 120 dB SPL for 3-min exposure, respectively.

The difference, as evaluated with the Wilcoxon - T, between the adaptation values obtained for 500 Hz and 1000 Hz adapting tones, was found to be statistically significant (  $Z = -4.86$ ,  $N = 31$ ,  $P < 0.00003$ ).

#### Experiment IVb

The results of the experiment IVb are presented in Table 4b. Mean adaptation values obtained for 33 subjects (16 M + 17 F) in the age range 19 to 27 Yrs - (Mean age = 20.75) for 1 KHz and 2 KHz adapting tones, adapted for 7-min at 110 dB SPL are: 7.65 (S.D. = 3.34) and 11.44 (S.D = 3.67) respectively.

TABLE 4B

Adaptation values (in dB) with Mean and S.D., for  
1000 and 2000 Hz adapting frequencies at 110 dB  
SPL for 7-min exposure

Subject	Sex	Age	Adaptation at 1KHz	Adaptation at 2 KHz
1	F	19	5	10
2	F	20	15(12.5)	20
3	F	19	10	15
4	F	19	10	15
5	M	27	10	12.5
6	F	19	2.5	5
7	M	19	12.5	15
8	M	20	2.5(5)	10
9	F	21	5(5)	10
10	F	19	10(7.5)	15
11	F	19	10	17.5
12	M	21	5	10
13	M	23	10(7.5)	12.5
14	M	24	7.5(10)	12.5
15	F	19	10	12.5
16	F	21	7.5(10)	12.5
17	M	23	2.5	10
18	M	24	0(0)	7.5
19	M	22	10	12.5
20	F	20	5(5)	12.5
21	F	19	12.5	15
22	F	20	15	20
23	M	20	10	10
24	M	21	10	10
25	M	20	5(5)	5
26	M	20	5	9
27	F	21	5	10
28	M	21	12.5	15
29	F	21	7.5(10)	12.5
30	F	21	5	10
31	M	19	5	12.5
32	M	21	5	7.5
33	F	22	5	10

Mean=20.75    Mean=7.65    Mean=11.44  
S.D=3.34    S.D=3.67

Figure in parenthesis indicate re-test values.

the non-parametric Friedman  $X^2$  test (Siegel, 1956) was used to make comparison of the results. The difference between the adaptation values of the two frequencies, was found to be statistically significant.

$$X^2 = 25.45; df = 1; P = 0.001)$$

From the results of the experiments-IVa and IVb, the Null Hypothesis-2 (Frequency of the adapting stimulus has no significant effect on the amount of adaptation can be

#### Experiment-IVc

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Table 4c gives the results of the experiment IVc. Mean adaptation values (6 trials on the same subject—the investigator) for the adapting frequencies viz., 0.5 KHz and 1 KHz at 125 dB SPL (i.e., at equal magnitude of reflex-- implying that the adapting tones are presented at equal loudness levels for 7-min) are: 20.83 (S.D = 1.18) and 22.20 (S.D = 1.95) respectively.

The results show that the 'frequency effects on the amount of adaptation is negligible when the adapting tones at different frequencies are presented at equal loudness levels for 7-min. Thus it may be inferred that there may not be any 'frequency effect' in adaptation provided, the adapting tones at different frequencies are presented at 'equal-loudness' levels.



Table 4c

Adaptation values (in dB) with. Mean and S.D.,<sub>t</sub> for adapting frequencies Viz., 500 and 1000 Hz- at 125 dB SPL (i.e., at equal magnitude of reflex) for 7- min exposure.

Number of Trials S.D for	Adaptation. at 500 Hz	Adaptation at 1000 Hz	Mean & S.D. for	
			500 Hz	1000 Hz
1	20	20	Mean = 20.83	Mean = 22.2
2	20	22.5		
3	22.5	20	S.D.= 1.18	S.D.= 1.95
4	22.5	22.5		
5	20			
6	20	20		
7	20	22.5		
8	20	25		

TABLE 5a

Adaptation values (in dB) with Mean and S.D. obtained at 1000 and 2000 Hz test tones after adapting the ear using 1 KHz tone at 110 dB SPL for 3-min exposure

Subjects	Sex	Age	Adaptation measured at 1000Hz	Adaptation measured at 2000 Hz
1	M	20	5	2.5 (2.5)
2	M	22	0	2.5
3	M	20	12.5(10)	7.5 (5)
4	M	20	5	5
5	F	19	2.5 (5)	0
6	F	20	7.5	10(7.5)
7	F	19	7.5(10)	5
8	F	20	2.5	0
9	F	20	7.5(5)	0(0)
10	F	20	5	0
11	M	21	5	0(0)
12	M	21	5(5)	0
13	M	19	5	10(5)
14	M	20	5	7.5
15	F	21	2.5(2.5)	0
16	M	21	5(2.5)	2.5(5)
17	F	21	0	2.5
18	F	22	10	5(0)
19	M	22	5	0
20	F	22	5	0(5)
21	M	20	5(9)	2.5
22	F	22	5	5
23	F	22	5	0(0)
24	F	22	9(5)	0
25	F	21	5	5(2.5)
26	f	22	5(5)	5
27	M	21	2.5	0
28	M	20	0	0
29	M	19	10	10
30	M	19	2.5	5
31	M	22	5	2.5
32	M	20	5	0
33	M	19	0	0
34	M	25	7.5	5

Mean=20.1 Mean=4.85 Mean=2.94

S.D=3.25 S.D=3.16

### Experiment Va

Table 5a shows the results of the experiment Vz. 1 KHz at 110 dB SPL for 3-min, was used as the adapting stimulus. Adaptation was measured separately using test tones viz., 1 KHz and 2 KHz at 110 dB SPL. The mean adaptation values obtained are: 4.85 (S.D = 3.25) at 1 KHz and 2.94 (S.D = 3.16) at 2 KHz. Thirty-four subjects (19 M + 15 F) in the age range of 19 to 25 Yrs were used in this experiment,

The results show that adaptation spreads to the neighbouring frequency. This result can be viewed as not out of line with the results reported by other investigators.

The difference, as evaluated with the Wilcoxon - T, between the adaptation values obtained at 1 and 2 KHz test tones, was found to be significant (Z = -3.38; N = 28; P < 0.0003).

Since the results show that there is significant difference in the amounts of adaptation measured at different test tones, the Null Hypothesis-3 (Frequency of the test tone has no significant effect on the amount of adaptation) can be rejected.

### Experiment Vb

---

Table 5b reveals the spread of adaptation to 500 and 2000 Hz regions. 1 KHz at 125 dB SPL for 7-min was used as

Table 5b

Adaptation values (in dB) with Mean and S.D.,  
 obtained at test frequencies viz., 5,1 and  
 2 KHz after adapting the ear using 1 KHz tone  
 at 125 dB SPL for 7-min exposure

Number of trials	Adaptation value (1 KHz-125-7 min) measured at 0.5Hz (125)	Adaptation value (1 KHz-125-7 min) measured at 1KHz (125)	Adaptation value(1 KHz 125-7 min) measured at 2 KHz (125)
1	15	22.5	20
2	15	20.0	20
3	12.5	22.5	22.5
4	15	20.0	17.5
5	15	20.0	17.5
6	15	20.0	20
<hr/>			
	Mean. = 14.56	Mean = 20.83	Mean = 19.6
	S.D. = 0.93	S.D. = 1.18	S.D. = 1.71

Code : Adapting frequency - adapting intensity - duration of exposure of the adapting stimulus.

the adapting stimulus Adaptation was measured separately at test tones viz., 0.5, 1 and 2 KHz (Adaptation was measured at 125 dB SPL for all the test tones). Mean adaptation values (6 trials on the same subject - the investigator) at 1 KHz, 0.5 KHz and 2 KHz are : 20.83 (S.D = 1.18); 14.58 (S.D = 0.93) and 19.60 (S.D = 1.71) respectively.

The above experiments ( Va and Vb) show that adaptation is maximum at the adapting frequency and that there is a spread of adaptation to the neighbouring frequencies. These findings are in agreement with the results reported in the literature:

#### Experiment VIa

---

Adaptation values (in dB) with Mean and S.D., for simple adaptation at three intensities of 1000 Hz tone for 3-min exposure, are presented in Table 6a. Mean adaptation values (base-line condition) for 1 KHz tone presented continuously for 3-min at intensities viz., 100, 110 and 120 dB SPL are: 1.91 (S.D = 2.23), 8.89 (S.D = 3.89) and 18.16 (S.D = 4.81) respectively. thirty-four subjects (M = 13, F = 21) is the age range 19 to 26 Yrs (Mean age = 21.6) were tested.

Friedman test indicated that—the overall increase between 100 dB SPL and 120 dB SPL was significant ( $X^2 = 63.18$ ;  $df = 2$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ). The increase between 100 dB SPL and 110 dB SPL was significant ( $X^2 = 24.7$ ;  $df = 1$ ,  $P = 0.001$ ).

TABLE 6a

Adaptation values (in dB) with Mean and S.D.,  
for simple adaptation at three intensities of  
1000 Hz tone for 3-min  
exposure

subjects	sex	Age	Adaptation score 1 KHz 100 dB SPL	Adaptation score 1 KHz 110 dB SPL	Adaptation score 1 KHz 120 dB SPL
1	F	19	2.5	10	
2	F	20	0(0)	7.5	15
3	F	20	0	10	17.5
4	F	21	5(5)	10	20
5	M	19	0	10	20
6	M	21	5	15	25
7	F	20	5(5)	7.5	20
8	F	22	0(2.5)	10	17.5
9	F	19	0	10	20
10	M	19	2.5	10	22.5
11	M	23	0	12.5	20
12	F	23	0(0)	5	15
13	F	22	2.5	7.5	15
14	M	20	5	12.5	25
15	F	21	0(0)	7.5	20
16	M	23	2.5	15	22.5
11	F	23	5	10	20
18	M	22	0(0)	0	10
19	M	21	0(0)	2.5	10
20	M	19	0	2.5	20
21	F	20	2.5(2.5)	15	23
22	F	26	5	15	25
23	F	20	5 (0)	10	20
24	F	19	0	7.5	20
25	F	19	2.5(0)	12.5	25
26	F	19	0	10	22.5
27	F	22	0(0)	10	25

continued.

continued

Subjects	Sex	Age	Adaptation score I KHZ 100 dB SPL	Adaptation score1KHz 110 dB SPL	Adaptation score 1KHz 120 dB SPL
28	F	23	5	10	22.5
29	M	20	0(0)	7.5	1 2 . 5
30	M	20	5	5	12.5
31	F	21	0	0	10
32	F	22	5	7.5	20
33	M	22	2.5	2.5	12.5
34	M	23	5	5	15

Mean= 21.64 Mean=8.89 Mean=18.16

S.D. = 2.3 S.D=3.89 S.D= 4.81

Figures in parenthesis indicate re-test values.

TABLE 6b

Adaptation values (in dB) with Mean and S.D.,  
for simple adaptation at three intensities of  
1000 Hz tone for 7-min exposure

Subjects	Adaptation 105 dB SPL	Adaptation 115 dB SPL	Adaptation 125 dB SPL
1	5(5)	10 (10)	20(20)
2	5(5)	10(10)	20(20)
3	5(5)	5(5)	10(10)
4	0(0)	5(5)	10(10)
5	5(5)	10(10)	20(20)
6	5(5)	15(15)	30(30)
7	5	10	20
8	5(5)	5(5)	10 (10)
9	5(5)	10(10)	20(20)
10	5	15	
	Mean = 4.5 S.D. = 1.5	Mean = 9.5 S.D. = 3.5	Mean = 22.0 S.D. = 7.61

Figures in parenthesis indicate retest values.



The increase between 110 dB SPL, and 120 dB SPL was significant ( $X^2 = 39.9$ ;  $df = 1$ .  $P < 0.001$ ). This the Null Hypothesis - 4 (Intensity of the adapting stimulus has no significant effect on the amount of adaptation ) can be rejected.

#### Experiment VIb

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Table 6b gives the results of the experiment VIb. This experiment was conducted to study the growth of adaptation at high adapting intensities. Simple adaptation (adaptation measured at the base-line condition) was determined at adapting intensities of 105, 115 and 125 dB SPL. The duration of exposure was 7-min. 10 subjects were tested. Mean adaptation values obtained for 10, adult subjects (6 F + 4 M ) for adapting stimulus of 1 KHz tone adapted for 7-min at 105, 115 and 125 dB SPL are 4.5 (S.D = 1.5); 0.5 (S.D = 3.5) and 22.0 (S.D = 7.6) respectively.

The results of experiments VIa and VIb show that adaptation increases with the increase in intensity of the adapting stimulus.

These results are in contrast to the results obtained in simultaneous Dichotic Loudness Balance (SDLB) method. (This point is thoroughly discussed in chapter V).

#### Experiment VIIa

Adaptation values (in ds) with Mean and S.D., obtained

TABLE 7a

Adaptation values (in dB) with Mean and S.D.,  
obtained in two conditions with post-adapted  
test tone level of 100 dB SPL

subjects	sex	Age	Condition A	Condition B
			Adaptation Value 1 KHz -105-7 min	Adaptationvalue 1 KHz - 115-7 min
1				
2	F	19	5	10(10)
3	F	20	7.5	10
4	F	20	5(5)	5
5	F	20	10 19	10(10)
6	F	22	2.5(5)	2.5
7	M	20	0	0
8	M	21	2.5	0(0)
9	F	20	7.5(5)	5(5)
10	F	19	5	5
11	F	19	7.5	7.5(5)
12	F	19	0	0
13	M	26	10(7.5)	10(10)
14	F	20	7.5	10
15	M	19	5(5)	7.5(5)
16	M	20	2.5	5
17	F	19	5	5
18	F	19	0 (2.5)	0
19	M	19	0	2.5(0)
20	M	19	5(5)	5
21	M	19	10	10 (7.5)
22	M	19	10(7.5)	10
23	M	21	5 (5)	0(5)
24	M	21	0	2.5
25	M	21	0	0(0)
26	F	22	7.5	5

continued...

Continued

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Subjects	Sex	Age	Condition A*		Condition B**	
			Adaptation value	1 KHz-105-7 min	Adaptation value	1 KHz-115-7 min
27	F	21	5		5	
28	F	21	0		0	
29	F	21	5		7.5	
30	F	21	10		10	
31	M	22	5		5	
32	M	22	0		2.5	

---

Mean=20.4      Mean=4.84      Mean= 5.08  
S.D.=3.53      S.D =3.56

\*Condition A: After adapting the ear using 1 KHz tone at 105 dB SPL for 7-min exposure, adaptation was measured at 100 dB SPL.

Condition B: after adapting the ear using 1 KHz tone at 115 dB SPL for 7-min exposure, adaptation was measured at 100 dB SPL.

figures in parenthesis indicate re-test values.

in two conditions with post-adapted test tone levels of 100 dB SPL are presented in Table 7a, Condition A refers to the measurement of adaptation using a test tone of 1 KHz tone at 100 dB SPL, after adapting the ear to 1000 Hz tone at 105 dB SPL for 7-min. Condition B, refers to the measurement of adaptation using a test tone of 1 KHz tone at 100 dB SPL, after adapting the ear to 1000 Hz tone at 115 dB SPL for 7-min.

Mean adaptation values obtained at 100 dB SPL (1 KHz) then the ear was adapted to 1 KHz tone under the condition A and B are 4.84 (S.D = 3.53) and 5.08 (S.D = 3.56) respectively. The differences were not significant ( $\chi^2 = 0.5$ ;  $df = 1$ ;  $P > 0.5$ ). Thirty-two subjects (18 F + 14 M) in the age range 19 to 26 Yrs (Mean age = 20.4) participated in this experiment.

from the above results, the Null Hypothesis -6 (see page -9) can be rejected.

Thus, the above results confirm small's (1963) prediction that "If adaptation is measured at an intensity less than that of the adapting stimulus, it is found that the amount of adaptation does not depend upon the intensity at

TABLE 7b  
 Adaptation values (in dB) with Mean and  
 S.D. obtained in two conditions with  
 post-adapted test tone level of 105 dB

Subjects	Condition	1*	Condition 2**
1	15(15)		15(15)
2	10(10)		10(10)
3	20(20)		20(20)
4	15(15)		15(15)
5	25(25)		25(25)
6			
7	20(20)		20(20)
	Mean = 17.85		Mean = 17.85
	S.D = 4.51		S.D = 4.51

\* Condition 1 - after adapting the ear using 1 KHz at 115 dB SPL for 4 min exposure, 1 adaptation was measured at 105 dB SPL.

\*\*Condition 2 - after adapting the ear using 1 KHz tone at 125 dB SPL for 4-min exposure, adaptation was measured at 105 dB SPL.

Figures in parenthesis l indicate re-test values.

which the ear was adapted, but only upon the intensity at which adaptation is measured".

#### Experiment VIIb

Table 7b shows the adaptation values (in dB) (with Mean & SD), obtained in two conditions with post-adapted test tone level of 105 dB SPL. Condition 1 refers to the measurement of adaptation, using a test tone of 1 KHz tone at 105 dB SPL, after adapting the ear to 1000 Hz tone at 115 dB SPL for 4-min exposure, Condition 2, refers to the measurement of adaptation, using a test tone of 1 KHz at 105 dB SPL after the ear to 1000 Hz tone at 125 dB SPL for 4-min exposure.

Mean adaptation values are: 17.85 (S.D = 4.51) and 17.85 (S.D = 4.51) for the conditions 1 and 2 respectively.

These results confirm small's (1963) prediction even at high adapting intensities.

#### Experiment VIIc

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To verify the Null Hypothesis-5 (See page-9) the experiment VIIc was carried out, The results of this experiment are presented in Table 7c.  $X_b$  and  $X_l$  values with Mean and S.D., for 38 subjects (21 M + 17 F) in the age range 19 to 24 Yrs (Mean age = 20.3) are shown in the table 7c  $X_b$  was measured at 110 dB SPL and  $X_p$  was determined at 100 dB SPL.

TABLE 7c  
 $X_b$  and  $X_L$  values (in dB)  
 with Mean and S.D

Subjects	Sex	Age	$X_b$	$X_L$
			1 KHz - 110 - 7 min measured at 110 dB SPL	1 KHz - 110 - 7min measured at 100 dB SPL
1	F	20	5 (5)	2.5
2	F	19	15	19 (7.5)
3	F	19	10	7.5
4	F	19	10	5(5)
5	M	20	10	7.5
6	M	19	12.5	7.5(5)
7	F	21	5	0
8	F	19	10	5(5)
9	F	19	10(7.5)	7.5
10	M	21	5	0
11	M	23	10	0(0)
12	M	24	7.5(10)	5(0)
13	F	19	10	7.5
14	F	22	2.5(5)}	0(0)
15	F	22	7.5(5)	5(2.5)
16	F	20	5(5)	0(0)
17	F	19	12.5	5
18	M	20	10	5
19	M	20	5	5
20	M	20	5	5
21	F	21	12.5	5
22	M	20	5	0
23	M	21	5(5)	0(2.5)
24	M	21	5(5)	0
25	F	22	5(5)	0(0)
26	F	20	5(5)	2.5

continued...

TABLE 7c  
continued

Subjects	Sex	Age	X <sub>b</sub>		X <sub>L</sub>	
			1 KHz - 110 measured at SPL	- 7min 110 dB SPL	1 KHz - 110 - 7min measured at 100 dB	
27	M	20	5		5	
28	M	20	5		5	
29	F	20	15 (12.5)		10	
30	M	21	15		10	
31	M	20	5		2.5	
32	F	20	5		5	
33	M	22	7.5		5	
34	M	22	10(10)		5	
35	M	21	10(10)		5	
36	M	22	10(7.5)		7.5	
37	M	22	5 (0)		0	
38	M	21	5(5)		5	
Mean=20			Mean=7.96		Mean = 4.28	
			S.D = 3.38		S.D. = 3.08	

X<sub>b</sub> - adaptation measured at the base-line condition.

X<sub>L</sub> - adaptation, measured atca level lower than the baseline condition.

figure in parantheis indicate re-test valuses.



1 KHz tone at 110 dB SPL for 7-min was used as the adapting stimulus.

Mean  $X_b$  and Mean  $X_L$  values are: 7.96 (S.D = 3.38) and 4.28 (S.D. = 3.08) respectively.

Friedman test showed that the difference between  $X_b$  and  $X_L$  values was significant ( $\chi^2 = 26.95$ ;  $df = 1$ ;  $P \leq 0.001$ ).

Thus the Null Hypothesis that there is no significant difference between  $X_b$  and  $X_L$  values, can be rejected.

This result corroborates the findings of other investigators with regard to Small's prediction (1963).  $X_L$  values are found to be less than  $X_b$  values.

#### Experiment VIIIa

Table 8a illustrates the results of the experiment VIIIa. This experiment was carried out to verify the Null Hypothesis (there is no significant difference between  $X_b$  and  $X_h$  values). Forty-three subjects (19M + 24 F) in the age range of 19 to 25 Yrs (Mean age = 20.8) showed Mean  $X_b$  and Mean  $X_h$  values of 6.39 (S.D = 3.86) and 8.78 (S.D = 4.77) respectively. 1 KHz tone at 110 dB SPL for 7-min was used as the adapting stimulus.  $X_h$  was measured at 120 dB SPL.

Friedman test showed significant difference between  $X_b$

TABLE 8a  
 $X_b$  and  $X_h$  values (in dB) with  
 Mean and S.D.,

Subjects	Sex	Age	$X_b$ 1 KHz - 110-7min measured At 110 dB SPL	$X_h$ 1 KHz -110-7min measured at 120 dB SPL
1	M	22	0	
2	M	24	10(10)	10 (10)
3	M	24	7.5 (10)	15 (12.5)
4	M	21	7.5(10)	7.5(10)
5	M	20	10(7.5)	10 (10)
6	M	22	5	10
7	M	23	0	7.5
8	F	22	7.5	15
9	F	20	0(0)	5 (5)
10	F	20	5	5
11	M	22	0	5
12	M	21	0	5
13	F	20	5(5)	12.5 (10)
14	F	20	5	0
15	F	19	12.5	20
16	F	20	5	5
17	F	20	15(12.5)	15 (15)
18	F	20	10	5
19	F	22	5(5)	10 (10)
20	M	20	5	10
21	M	21	5	5
22	F	20	5(5)	10(5)
23	F	19	15	20
24	F	19	10	5
25	F	20	10	10
26	M	25	10	15

continued....

continued

subjects	Sex	Age	$X_b$	$X_L$
			1 KHz - 110-7min measured at 110 dB SPL	1 KHz - 110-7 min measured at 120 5dB SPL
27	F	20	10	5
28	M	19	10	10
29	M	20	2.5 (5)	10 (10)
30	F	19	10	55
31	F	19	10	15
32	M	19	0(0)	5(5)
33	M	22	5	5
34	M	12.5 21		12.5
35	M	22	5	0
36	F	21	5	10
37	F	21	10	10
38	F	21	7.5(10)	10(5)
39	F	20	5	5
40	F	21	2.5	2.5
41	F	22	0(0)	2.5(5)
42	M	19	5	10
43	M	21	5	10

Mean=20.8 Mean=6.39 Mean = 8.78

S.D =3.86 S.D = 4.77

$X_b$  -adaptation measured at the base-line condition.

$X_h$  - adaptation measured at as intensity higher than the base-line condition.

Figure in paranthesis indicate re-test values.

and  $X_h$  values ( $x^2 = 8.29$ ;  $df = 1$ ;  $P \leq 0.001$ ). Thirteen subjects showed:  $X_h = X_b > 0$ ; 4 subjects showed:  $X_h < X_b > 0$ ; 7 subjects showed:  $X_h > X_b \leq 0$ ; and the remaining subjects (19) showed:  $X_h > X_b > 0$ .

Thus this experiment showed individual differences. The subjects who showed no positive adaptation were considered to have yielded '0' dB adaptation. On retesting, it was observed that all the seven subjects had 'Negative adaptation', since the investigator was particularly interested in 'positive adaptation', whenever the subjects exhibited 'Negative adaptation' (increase in the 'magnitude of reflex' (or BM reading) for the post adapted test tone), he had considered the adaptation as '0' dB; Hence, '0' dB adaptation reported in this experiment was actually 'Negative adaptation'. The exact amount of 'Negative adaptation', was, however, not recorded.

Since significant differences between  $X_b$  and  $X_h$  values were observed, the Null Hypothesis-7 (there is no significant difference between  $X_b$  and  $X_h$  values) can be rejected.

The results of this experiment and the result of subsequent experiments led the investigator to propose a revised model for loudness coding during auditory adaptation. Further discussion on the results of this experiment and the

subsequent experiments follows in the next chapter (Chapter V).

#### Experiment VIIIc

Table 8c shows the results of the experiment VIIIc. This experiment was conducted to ensure that the results:  $X_h > X_b > 0$  was not due to any experimental error.  $X_b$  and  $X_h$  values (8 trials on the same subject - the investigator) are presented in the Table 8c. In all the 8 trials (16 adaptation tests on different days)  $X_h$  is consistently more than  $X_b$ .  $X_b$  was measured using 1 KHz tone at 110 dB SPL for 7-min.  $X_h$  was measured at 120 dB SPL. Table 8c shows that the mean values of  $X_h$  and  $X_b$  are: 15.93 (S.D = 1.21) and 10.62 (S.D = 1.08) respectively. Thus this experiment confirmed that the result:  $X_h > X_b > 0$  was a reality and that it was not due to any experimental error.

#### Experiment VIIIB

Table 8b shows the results of this experiment.  $X_b$  and  $X_h$  values (with Mean and S.D) are given in the Table 8b.  $X_b$  was determined using 1 KHz tone at 120 dB SPL for 4-min as the adapting stimulus.  $X_h$  was determined using 1 KHz at 130 dB SPL as the test tone. Five adult subjects (3 F + 2 M) were tested in this experiment.

Mean values of  $X_h$  and  $X_b$  are: 4.0 (S.D = 4.89) and 13.0 (S.D = 4.0) respectively.

TABLE 8b

$X_b$  and  $X_h$  values (in dB) with  
Mean and S.D.

Subjects	$X_b$ 1 KHz - 120 - 4 min measured at 120 dB SPL	$X_h$ 1 KHz - 120 - 4 min measured at 120 dB SPL
1	15(15)	10(10)
2	20(20)	10 (10)
3	10(10)	0 (0)
4	10(10)	0 (0)
4 5	10(10)	0 (0)
	Mean = 13.0	Mean = 4.0
	S.D = 4.0	S.D =4.89

$X_b$  - adaptation measured at the base-line condition.

$X_h$  - adaptation measured at an intensity higher than  
the base-line condition.

Figure in the parenthesis indicate re-test values.

TABLE 8c  
 $X_b$  and  $X_h$  values (in dB) with Mean  
 and S.D., data obtained  
 on a single subject

Number of trial*	$X_b$ 1 KHz - 110 -min measured at 110	-min -dB-SPL 110	$X_b$ 1 KHz - 110 - 7-min measured at 120 dB SPL
1	10		15
2	10		15
3	12.5		17.5
4	10		17.5
5	10		15
6	12.5		17.5
7	10		15
8	10		15
	Mean= 10.62		Mean = 15.93
	S.D = 1.08		S.D = 1.21

$X_b$  - adaptation measured at the base-line condition.

$X_h$  - adaptation measured at an intensity higher than  
 the base-line condition.

Thus this experiment showed:  $X_h < X_b > 0$ . This means that the result:  $X_h < X_b > 0$  expected at very high adapting intensities.

#### Experiment VIIIId

Table 8d gives the results of the experiment-"VIIIId. This experiment is similar to the experiment VIIIb.  $X_b$  and  $X_h$  values were obtained on the same subject (the investigator - 6 trials) using very high adapting intensity.  $X_b$  was measured using 1 KHz tone at 125 dB SPL for 7-min.  $X_h$  was measured using 1 KHz test tone at 135 dB SPL. Mean  $X_b$  and  $X_h$  values are: 20.83 (S.D = 1.18) and 11.25 (S.D = 3.01) respectively.

Thus the result :  $X_h < X_b > 0$ , can be expected at very high adapting intensity.

#### Experiment IXa

Experiment IXa was done to have normative data regarding recovery time from adaptation to 0.5 KHz tone at 115 dB SPL for 3-min exposure. Table 9a gives the results of the experiment. Thirty two subjects (21F + 11M) ranging in age from 19 to 22 Yrs (Mean age = 21.1) were tested. Mean adaptation was 3.52 (S.D = 2.97). Nearly 50% of the subjects showed complete recovery within a minute. This data might be useful if a diagnostic test based on recovery time



TABLE 8d  
 $X_b$  and  $X_h$  values (in dB) with Mean  
 and S.D., (data obtained on single  
 subject using very high adapting  
 intensity

Number of trials	$X_b$	$X_h$
	1 KHz - 125 - 7-min measured at 125 dB SPL	1 KHz - 125 - 7-min measured at 125 dB SPL
1	22.5	15
2		
3	20	10
	20	10
4	22.5	10
5	20	-
6	20	-
	Mean = 20.83	Mean = 11.25
	S.D. = 1.18	S.D. = 3.01

TABLE 9a

Adaptation values (in dB) (with Mean and S.D)  
and recovery time, for 500 Hz tone adapted for  
3 min at 115 dB SPL

Subjects	Sex	Age	$X_b$ 0.5 KHz - 115-3min measured at 115	Recovery time in minutes
1	F	19	7.5	<3
2	F	19	5	< 3
3	F	20	0	-
4	M	20	10(5)	<3 (<3)
5	F	20	0	-
6	F	19	0(0)	-
7	F	20	0	-
8	F	20	2.5(2.5)	<1 (<1)
9	F	19	2.5	<1
10	M	22	5 ( 5 )	<1 (<1)
11	F	20	2.5	<1
12	F	22	2.5	<1
13	F	20	2.5(2.5)	<1 (<1)
14	M	21	5	<2
15	M	19		<2
16	F	21	5	-
17	M	20	0	-
18	F	21	2.5	<1
19	F	22	5	<2
20	F	21	7.5(5)	<2 (<2)

continued

Subjects	Sex	Age	X <sub>b</sub> 0.5 KHz - 115 - 3 min measured at 115	Recovery time in minutes
21	F	20	7.5	< 1
22	F	19	2.5	< 1
23	M	22	2.5(5)	< 1
24	M	20	5	< 1
25	M	21	7.5(5)	< 3(<3)
26	F	22	5	<1
27	F	19	2.5	<1
28	M	22	10	<2
29	F	21	5	<1
30	F	20	0(2.5)	-( <1)
31	M	22	0	-
32	M	20	0	-
Mean = 21.1			Mean = 3.32	Range 1 to 3
			S.D = 2.97	

Figure in paranthesis indicate re-test values.

for detecting retrocochlear pathology cases would prove to be feasible.

#### Experiment IXb

Experiment IXb was carried out to know whether the recovery time is dependent on the frequency of the test tone. Since the experiment IVc ("cf. PP.79-80") showed that the frequency of the adapting stimulus may have negligible effect on the amount of adaptation, provided the loudness of the adapting stimulus is taken into account, (instead of the intensity of the adapting stimulus) 500 Hz and 1000 Hz tones were presented at equal loudness level (equal magnitude of reflex) to study the recovery time. These tones were presented (separately) at 125 dB SPL for 7-min. Adaptation and recovery time were measured. This experiment was carried out on a single Subject (the investigator) 12 times on different days. From the table 9a, Mean adaptation values with S.D for 1 KHz and 500 Hz tones are: 20.830 (S.D = 1.18) and 15.41 (S.D = 0.93) respectively. The recovery time for 1 KHz varied from 5 to 7-min. The recovery time for 0.5KHz varied from 2 to 3 min. (in one trial the recovery tone was nearly 4-min).

Thus the results show that the recovery time at 500 Hz is rapid. the difference in the amount of adaptation observed at 500 Hz and 1000 Hz adapting tones may be due to the

TABLE 9b

Adaptation and recovery time for 500 and  
1000 Hz adapting tones at 125 dB SPL

Number of trials	1KHz - 125 - 7-min measured at 125 dB SPL		0.5 KHz - 125 - 7 min measured at 125 dB SPL	
	Adaptation in dB	Recovery time in minutes	Adaptation in dB	Recovery time in minutes
1	20	> 5 < 6	15	>2<3
2	22.5	> 5 < 6	15	>2<3
3	20	> 6 < 7		>3<4
4	22.5	> 6 < 7	17.5 15	>2<3
5	20	> 5 < 6	15	>2<3
6	20	> 5 < 6	15	>2<3
Mean=15.41		Mean = 20.83 Ranged 5 to S.D.=0.93		Range 2 to 4

rapid recovery which takes place at 500 Hz. As the technique (ORMLA) requires 5-sec rest period i.e, after the withdrawal of the adapting stimulus; this rest period might be responsible for less amount of adaptation observed at 900 Hz.

Thus there appears to be a 'frequency effect' in recovery from adaptation.

#### Experiment IXc

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Experiment IXc was carried out to know whether recovery time like adaptation, would be less when the recovery time was measured using a test tone of intensity lower than the adapting intensity. Table 9c gives the results of the experiment.

Recovery time was measured in two conditions : (1) Adapting the ear using 1 Khz tone at 125 dB SPL for 7-min and measuring the recovery time using 1 Khz test tone at 125 dB SPL and (2) Adapting the ear using 1 KHz tone at 125 dB SPL for 7-min and measuring the recovery time using 1 KHz test tone at 110 dB SPL.

The above experiment was done on a single subject (the investigator - 8 trials or 13 (8 + 5) adaptation tests) on different days.

TABLE 9c

Recovery time measured in two conditions

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Number of trials	Condition 1	Condition 2
	1 KHz - 125 - 7-min measured at 125 dB SPL	1 KHz - 125 - 7 min measured at 110 dB SPL Recovery time in Minutes
1	>5<6	>2<3
2	>5<6	>2<3
3	>6<7	>2<3
4	>6<7	>2<3
5	>5<6	>2<3
6	>5<6	-
7	>6<7	-
8	>5<6	-

---

TABLE 9d  
 Recovery time and adaptation values at  
 three adapting intensities

Number of trials	Condition '1' 1KHz-100-7 Min		Condition '2' 1KHz-110-7 Min		Condition '3' 1 KHz-125-7 Min	
	Adapta- tion in dB	Recovery time in minutes	adapta- tion in dB	Recovery time in minutes	Adapta- tion in dB	Recovery time in minutes
1	5	>1 < 2	10	> 2 < 3	22.5	>6 < 7
2	5	< 1	12.5	> 4 < 5	20	>5 < 6
3	2.5	< 1	10	> 2 < 3	20	>6 < 7
4	5	< 1	7.5	>2 <3	22.5	>5 < 6
5	5	> 1 < 2	12.5	> 4 < 5	25	>6 < 7
6	7.5	> 2 < 3	12.5	> 4 < 5	20	> 5 < 6
7	5	> 2 < 3	10	> 5 < 4	22.5	> 5 < 6
8	7.5	> 2 < 3	1 0	> 3 < 4	25	> 6 < 7
Mean = 5.31 S.D = 1.49		> 2 < 3	Mean=10.62 S.D = .65	>2 < 5	Mean=22.2 S.D = 1.95	range 5 to 7



From the table 9C, It is clear that the recovery time, like adaptation, is also reduced when the recovery time was measured using the test tone of intensity lower than the adapting intensity. Thus, the results of this experiment reveal that small's (1963) prediction holds good for recovery time also.

#### Experiment IXd

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Experiment IXd was done to determine whether recovery time increases with the increase in the amount of adaptation. Adaptation and recovery time were measured using three adapting intensities viz., 100, 110 and 125 dB SPL. 1 KHz tone (7-min exposure) was used as the adapting stimulus. Table 9d illustrates the results of the experiment.

It is clear from the Table 9 d that the recovery time increases with the increase in the amount of adaptation. Recovery time (2 to 3 min) observed in condition '1' has increased to 5 to 7-min in condition '3'.

Thus it can be concluded that the time required for complete recovery from adaptation is dependent upon the amount of adaptation.

#### Reliability Tests

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To check the reliability of the results obtained in all the above experiments, 8 to 16 subjects, belonging to

TABLE 10

Summary of test and re-test data (with pearsons 'r' of correlation between test and re-test data) of majority of the experiments

Sl. No.	Experi- ment No.	Descript- ion of the data	Test Data Mean (in dB)	Re-test data Mean (in dB)	'r'	Value of 'r' required for significance	
						at 1% level of significance	at 5% level of significance
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1	IIa	'BMreadings' at 110 dB SPL of 1 KHz tone	6.56 (not in dB)	6.68 (Not in dB)	0.99	0.83 (df=6)	
2	IIIa	Adaptation 2KHz-110-3	5.83	5.62	0.829	0.708 (df=10)	
3	IVb	(See VIIc)					
4	Va	1K-110-3'	5.75	5.5	0.78	0.76 (df=8)	
		1K-110-3' measured at 2 KHz	3.86	2.95	0.68	0.73 (df=9)	0.6 (df=9)
5	VIa	1K-100-3'	1.07	1.07	0.94	0.66 (df=12)	
6	VIb	1k-105-7'	4.5	4.5	1.0	0.7 (df=8)	
		1K-115-7'	9.5	9.5	1.0	0.7(df=8)	
		1K-125-7'	22.0	22.0	1.0	0.7(df=8)	
7	VIIa	1K-125-7' condition A	6.0	5.75	0.87	0.76(df=8)	
		1K-115-7' condition B	5.68	5.22	0.88	0.73(df=9)	
8	VIIb	Condition 1	17.85	17.85	1.0	0.87(df=5)	
		Condition 2	17.85	17.85	1.0	0.87(df=5)	

continued...

continued

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	VIIIc	X <sub>b</sub>	7.03	6.41	0.80	0.62 (df=14)	
		X <sub>L</sub>	3.27	2.68	0.7	0.68 (df=11)	
10.	VIIIa	X <sub>b</sub>	5.77	6.15	0.92	0.68 (df=11)	
		X <sub>h</sub>	9.42	8.65	0.78	0.68 (df=11)	
11.	VIIIb	X <sub>b</sub>	13.0	13.0	1.0	0.96 (df=3)	
		X <sub>h</sub>	4.0	4.0	1.0	0.96 (df=3)	
12.	IXa	0.5K-115-3'	3.75	3.25	0.79	0.76 (df=8)	

Code : adapting frequency - adapting intensity - duration of adaptation.

each experiment, were retested on different days. Test and re-test data of the majority of the experiments are presented in a summarized form in Table 10. Pearsons 'r' correlation between test and retest data and significance of correlation at 5% or 1% level of confidence are also presented in the Table 10.

From the Table 10, it is clear that the test and re-test data show very high correlation--significant at 1% level of confidence in all the experiments (except Va, which shows significance at 5% level of confidence).

## CHAPTER V

### GENERAL DISCUSSION

The results of the experiment VIIIa showed that the subjects differed considerably in their performance--that is, there was inter subject variability when adaptation was measured at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity. Among the 43 subjects tested, 19 subjects showed:  $X_h > X_b > 0$ ; 13 subjects showed:  $X_h = X_b > 0$ ; 4 subjects showed:  $X_h < X_b > 0$  and 7 subjects showed  $X_h > X_b < 0$ . Friedman test showed significant difference between  $X_h$  and  $X_b$  values ( $\chi^2 = 8.29$ ;  $df = 1$ ;  $P < 0.001$ ). Majority of the subjects showed  $X_h > X_b > 0$ .

The above results are quite interesting as, such types of results are not reported by any investigator using the techniques which are commonly used for measuring adaptation. However, a recent study by Glass and Weiler (1979) showed no significant difference between  $X_h$  and  $X_b$  values.

The results of the present study are quite contrary to the results reported in the literature.

Glass and Weiler (1979) discussed their results in the following manner, "several characteristics of the present study may have contributed to the results. The subjects

were older than previously, although not greatly so. The monaural balance technique has generally been less stable and more difficult than binaural simultaneous balance technique, and frequencies are different. It is also possible as suggested by Weiler and Davis (1975) that the monaural technique measures a different auditory change due to adaptation than that measured by simultaneous binoural balances".

The result of the experiment VIIIb & VIIId showed:  $X_h < X_b > 0$ . In these experiments very high adapting intensity was used; hence, the results:  $X_h < X_b > 0$  can be expected at very high adapting intensity.

When all the above results are carefully scrutinized, the following observation would be obvious: (1) presence of inter-subject variability for  $X_h$  and  $X_b$  values under similar experimental conditions. (2)  $X_h < X_b > 0$ , results consistently when the adaptation intensity is very high (120 dB SPL). (3)  $X_h > X_b > 0$ , results when the adapting intensity is not very high, and (4) Seven subjects in the experiment VIIIa show  $X_b < 0$  ("of. PP 96-99").

The above observations gave clues to the investigator to think of the possible explanations for the obtained results. Meanwhile, several questions had to be answered:

- (1) Why was the result:  $X_h < X_b > 0$  observed consistently at very high adapting intensity only?

- (2) What could be the explanations for the following results? -  $X_h > X_b > 0$ ;  $X_h = X_b > 0$ ;  $X_h > X_b \leq 0$  (since these results are contrary to small's (1963) prediction)
- (3) Why was the result:  $X_h < X_b = 0$  not observed in any of the subjects tested?
- (4) What could be the reasons for the obtained results:  $X_L < X_b > 0$ , which concurred with Small's prediction.
- (5) What could be the explanation for the 'Frequency Effect' observed with regard to the recovery time? i.e., why was the recovery time rapid for 500 Hz test time?
- (6) Why did the 'negative adaptation' ( $X_b < 0$ ) result at moderate adapting intensity only?
- &(7) What could be the auditory mechanism for the increase in loudness of the post adapted test tone?

The moment, the investigator realised that the 'negative adaptation' was perhaps the main 'culprit' for the results:  $X_h > X_b > 0$ , the task become very easy to find answers to the above mentioned questions. Loudness coding during auditory adaptation was visualised through the equation derived from the obtained data.

The important observation in seven subjects of experiment VIIIa) that the loudness of the post adapted test tone increased when the post adapted test tone was presented at the base-

line intensity (adapting intensity) and that the loudness of the post-adapted test tone decreased when it was presented at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity, was a clear evidence for the different auditory mechanisms involved. In other words, the auditory mechanisms involved in the perception of loudness of the post adapted test tone at base-line intensity and at a level higher than the base-line intensity are quite different. The fact that the loudness of the post adapted test tone at the base-line intensity ( $L_{tba}$ ) was greater than the loudness of the pre-adapted test tone at the base-line intensity ( $L_{tbb}$ ) showed that there was 'facilitatory' effect (increasing the loudness of the test tone) when the test tone at the base-line intensity (adapting intensity) was presented to the ear during the post-adapted condition. On the other hand, the fact that the loudness of the post adapted test tone at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity ( $L_{tha}$ ) was less than the loudness of the pre-adapted test tone at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity ( $L_{thb}$ ), showed that there was no 'facilitatory' effect (but instead there was 'loudness decreasing' effect).

In brief, it can be interpreted as follows:

1.  $L_{tba} - L_{tbb}$  (loudness increase after adaptation) is due to the 'facilitatory effect',
2.  $L_{thb} - L_{tha}$  (loudness loss) is due to the absence of the 'facilitatory effects and also due to the presence of loudness decreasing effect.



the above interpretation make it clear that the 'facilitatory effect' operates when the post-adapted test tone is presented at the adapting intensity and that the 'facilitatory effect' disappears when the post-adapted test tone at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity is presented. Since  $L_{tha} < L_{thb}$ , the 'loudness decreasing effect' must be operating when the post-adapted test tone at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity is presented.

The result:  $X_h > X_b > 0$  observed in 19 subjects of experiment VIIIa shows that in these subjects there was loudness loss when the post adapted test tone was presented at the base-line intensity i.e.,  $L_{tba} < L_{tbb}$ . This means that the 'loudness decreasing effect' must be operating when the post adapted test tone was presented at the base-line intensity.

Thus, it is obvious that the 'loudness decreasing effect' must operate during both (base-line and at higher intensity than the base-line) post-adaptation measurements.

The above points have revealed that the moment the post adapted test tone at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity is presented, the 'facilltatory effect' will not be available, but instead the 'loudness decreasing effect' will be operating. The 'loudness decreasing effect' may be viewed in terms of reduction in the number of activated neural units. The 'facilltatory effect' can be viewed in terms of 'increase'

in the number of activated neural units.

Thus, the 'loudness decreasing effect' appears to be clear, When an auditory stimulus is presented continuously, some of the neural units become less sensitive and cease to respond (adaptation process). The decrease in the number of activated neural units, due to the adaptation process, is mainly responsible for  $L_{tha} < L_{thb}$ . Since the 'adapted neural units' are responsible for  $L_{tha} < L_{thb}$ , it may not be correct to assume ("cf. pp 31-37"), that all the adapted neural units would be reactivated by the post-adapted test tone at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity. Small (1963) hypothesized that a test tone of greater intensity than the adapting tone would excite more elements than the adapting stimulus. A test tone of this nature would excite previously adapted units, and some non-adapted units, The prediction was that less adaptation should be measured when the test tone exceeded the adapting tone intensity, than when test and adapting stimuli were of equal intensity" (Weller and Hood, 1977).

Thus, Small's assumption as reported by Weller and Hood (1977) needs to be revised in the light of the data of the present study.

The consistent result:  $X_h < X_b > 0$ , obtained in the experiments VIIIb and VIIIId at very high adapting intensity.

should be interpreted in the light of the results as discussed above. From the previous discussion it is clear that the 'adapted neural units' operate while  $X_b$  and  $X_h$  measurements. During  $X_b$  measurements, both 'adapted neural units' and the 'facilitatory effect' will be operating. Since the 'facilitatory effect' disappears when the post-adapted test tone at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity is presented, it must be of 'unstable' nature. On the other hand, since the 'adapted neural units' are not reactivated by the post-adapted test tone at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity, these adapted units must be of 'stable' nature.

The fact that the 'facilitatory effect' results due to continuous auditory stimulation, this may be due to the function of 'unstable' adapted neural units. Thus it is reasonable (as the data and the discussion suggest) to assume that the 'unstable adapted' neural units would be reactivated when the post-adapted test tone at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity is presented and that the 'stable' adapted neural units will not be reactivated by the post adapted test tone at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity.

At this point, it is clear that there exists at least two types of adapted neural units: (1) 'stable' adapted neural units (a) & (2) 'unstable' adapted neural units (a').

Further explanatlons for the obesrved resulte in the pre-  
sent study can be best illustrated through the equation.

Adapted nearal unit (A) = Stable adapted neural units

(a) + Unstable adapted neural  
units (a'). OR

$$A = a + a' \dots \text{eq 1.}$$

Loudness of a test tone at the adapting intensity (base-line  
condition) before adaptation ( $L_{tbb}$ ).

= Adaptable neural unite (A) + Unadaptable neural units (U ).

$$\text{OR } L_{tbb} = A + U \dots \text{eq. 2}$$

Loudness of a test tone at the adapting intensity (Base-line  
condition) after adaptation ( $L_{tba}$ ).

= + unadapted neural units ( U ).

$$\text{OR } L_{tba} = U \dots \text{eq. 3.}$$

Loudness loss at the base-line intensity ( $L_{tbb} - L_{tba}$ ) =  $X_b$  =

$$A + U - U = A$$

$$\text{OR } L_{tbb} - L_{tba} = X_b = A$$

$$\text{OR } X_b = a + a' \quad (.' \quad A = a + a') \dots \text{eq. 4}$$

Loudness of a test tone at an intensity higher then the adapting  
intensity, before adaptation ( $L_{thb}$ )

= Extra neural units activated by the test tone higher in  
intensity than the test tone at the adapting intensity (E)  
+ A + U

$$\text{OR } L_{thb} = B + A + U \dots \text{eq 5.}$$

Loudness of a test tone at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity, after adaptation ( $L_{tha}$ ) = E + unstable adapted neural units (a') + U

OR  $L_{tha} = E + a' + U \dots \text{eq. 6.}$

(because unstable adapted neural units will be reactivated by the post-adapted test tone at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity).

Adaptation measured at an intensity higher than the base line intensity ( $X_h$ ) =  $L_{thb} - L_{tha} = E + A + U - E - a' - U = a$

OR  $X_h = a \dots \text{eq. 7.}$

<----->

The results of the experiments VII a, VII b, and VII c, confirmed small's (1963) hypothesis that, "if adaptation is measured at an intensity less than that of the adapting stimulus, it is found that the amount of adaptation does not depend upon the intensity at which the ear was adapted, but only upon the intensity at which adaptation is measured".

The result:  $X_L < X_b > 0$  can be explained as follows:

Loudness of test tone at an intensity lower than the base-line intensity, before adaptation ( $L_{t1b}$ ) = Adaptable neural units at an intensity lower than the adapting intensity ( $A_1$ ).

OR  $L_{t1b} = A_1 + U_1 \dots \text{eq. 8.}$

A test tone of lesser intensity than the adapting tone intensity excites fewer auditory elements and thus less adaptation appropriate to the test tone intensity results (Small 1963).

Loudness of a test tone at an intensity lower than the adapting intensity, after adaptation ( $L_{t1a}$ ) =  $U_1$

OR  $L_{t1a} = U_1$  . . . eq. 9. (.'. the post adapted test tone at an intensity lower than the adapting intensity cannot re-activate the unstable adapted neural units).

.'. Adaptation measured at an intensity lower than the adapting intensity ( $X_1$ ) =  $L_{t1b} - L_{t1a} = A_1 + U_1 - U_1 = A_1$

OR  $X_1 = a_1 + a_1$  . . . eq. 10 (because  $A_1 = a_1 + a_1$ )

where  $a_1$  is the stable adapted neural units at an intensity lower than the adapting intensity and  $a_1$  is the unstable adapted neural units at an intensity lower than the adapting intensity.

Using the derived equation viz.,  $x_b = a + a'$  ... eq. 4

$X_h = a$  ... eq. 7

$X_l = a_1 + a_1$  .. eq. 10

the different results obtained in the present study can be explained.

(1)  $X_h > X_b < 0$

$a > a+a' < 0$

.'. The necessary conditions for this results are : (1)  $a' < 0$  (ii)  $a < -a'$ .  $a' < 0$  indicated that the unstable adapted neural units is negative, i.e., these unstable adapted neural units can be designated "Negative unstable adapted neural units". These units are responsible for the increase in the loudness of the post adapted test tone presented at the base-line intensity. In other words, these negative unstable adapted several units ( $-a'$ ) are responsible for the "facilitatory effect" (negative adaptation) observed in seven subjects of the experiment VIIIA. Since  $X_b < 0$ , can be expected at moderate adapting intensities only, it is reasonable to assume that  $-a'$  units are associated with moderate intensity of the adapting stimulus. It is well known that the outer hair cells respond to low intensity sound; hence, it is quite possible that the neural units innervating the outer hair cells may be a source of  $-a'$  units. The function of  $-a'$  units is to increase the loudness of the post adapted test tone at the base-line intensity. This is possible only when extra neural units are activated during the continuous auditory stimulation, These extra activated neural units must be the same as the negative unstable adapted neural units. Since the source of  $-a'$  units may be the neural units innervating the outer hair cells (as discussed earlier) a link between  $-a'$  units and the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells can be reasonably guessed. This deduction can be further strengthened by the fact that the efferent system is known for 'inhibitory' activity.

Negative adaptation can be viewed as 'inhibition' of adaptation process. When adapting stimulus of moderate intensity is presented continuously to the ear, the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells may start activating the sensory inputs - thus there will be extra activated neural units during the post adapted condition. The above discussion points out that the action of the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells may be responsible for the extra activated neural units which in turn are responsible for  $L_{tba} > L_{tbb}$ . Thus this efferent action tries to 'inhibit the adaptation process by activating additional sensory inputs.

This 'vital' information that the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells 'activates' the sensory inputs while the adaptation process goes on, appears to be a 'break-through' in auditory physiology.

From the above deduction, it is clear that the '-a' units originate from the action of the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells. The fact that the 'facilitatory effect' (resulting from '-a' units) disappears at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity clearly above that the 'facilitatory effect' has some link with the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells. The efferent action can be expected to cease the moment the post adapted test tone at an intensity higher than



the adapting intensity is presented; hence, the link between 'a' units and the action of the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells seems to be justified. The moment the higher auditory centres get the information that the adaptation process (gradual decrease in the number of activated neural units), is going on, the efferent system will be activated. To compensate for the decrease in the neural activity due to the adaptation, process gradually the efferent nerve ending (innervation the outer hair cells) will become active (it is well known that the efferent innervation have control over sensory inputs). Consequently, there will be a gradual increase in the number of impulsis reaching the auditory centres. Due to the adaptation process, there will be a gradual decrease in the number of impulses reaching the auditory centres, but simultaneously with the adaptation process, there will be a gradual increase in the number of impulses reaching the auditory centres due to the efferent action (inhibition process). The efferent action is to inhibit the adaptation process. The results of the present study clearly show that the 'adaptation process' is not inhibited (by the action of the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells) by means of preventing the neural units getting adapted, but instead, the adaptation process is inhibited (by the efferent action) by means of activation of additional sensory units (afferent neural units innervating the outer hair cells).

$$(2) X_h > X_b = 0$$

$$a < a + a' = 0$$

.'. The necessary conditions for this results are:

$$(i) \quad a' < 0 \quad \& \quad (ii) \quad a = -a'$$

Thus the rasult:  $X_h > X_b = 0$  is due to the presence of negative adapted neural units and stable adapted neural units. Both these units are in equal proportion.

$$(3) x_h = X_b + 0$$

$$a = a + a' = 0$$

.'. The necessary condition for this result are: (1)  $a' = 0$

$$(ii) \quad a = 0 \quad \& \quad (iii) \quad a = -a'.$$

$$(4) \quad X_h > X_b > 0$$

$$a < a + a' > 0$$

.'. The necessary conditions for this result are:

$$(1) \quad a' < 0 \quad \& \quad (ii) \quad a > -a'.$$

$$(5) \quad X_h < X_b > 0$$

$$a < a + a' > 0$$

.'. The necessary condition for this result are: (1)  $a' > 0$

$$(ii) \quad a > -a' \quad a \quad (iii) \quad a > 0.$$

$a' > 0$  shows that unstable adapted neural units are "positive unstable adapted neural units". Thus it appears that there are two types of unstable adapted neural units vis.,

positive unstable adapted neural units (+a') and negative unstable adapted neural units (-a')

Since the result  $X_h < X_b > 0$  was observed consistently at very high adapting intensity, it is quite possible that the neural units innervating the inner hair cells may be a source for +a' units (it is well known that the inner hair cells respond to high intensity sounds). Further  $a + a' > 0$  shows that the contribution of -a' units to the loudness of the post-adapted test tone at the base-line intensity can be considered insignificant.

As +a' units originate from the neural units innervation the inner hair cells, it is quite possible that the function of these units may be quite contrary to the -a' units (for more discussion on this aspect see pp. ).

$$(6) X_h < X_b = 0$$

$$a < a + a' = 0$$

∴ The necessary conditions for this results are:  
(i)  $a' > 0$  and (ii)  $a = a'$ .

This result was not observed in any subject and the two conditions could not be satisfied. From the previous results, it is clear that  $a = -a'$  can be expected at moderate intensities of the adapting stimulus, whereas  $a' > 0$  can be expected at

very high adapting intensities ("of pp 129-130"). Since the condition  $a = -a'$  requires moderate intensity of the adapting stimulus and the condition:  $a' > 0$  requires very high adapting intensity, the co-existence of these two conditions in a subject to produce the result:  $X_h < X_b = 0$ , is impossible.

$$(7) \quad X_1 < X_b > 0$$

$$\text{From eq. 10, } a_1 + a_1 < a + a' > 0$$

.'. The necessary conditions for this result are : (1)  $a_1 + a_1 < a + a'$  (ii)  $a > -a'$ , Since  $a_1 + a_1 < a + a_1'$ , the result  $X_1 < X_b > 0$  was observed consistently in all the subjects tested.

Experiment IXb showed that the recovery from Adaptation at 500 Hz was more rapid than the recovery from adaptation at 1 KHz. This result suggests that (a) units originate from different regions of the basilar membrane. It may be reasonable to assume that the place of maximum stimulation on the basilar membrane is the source for (a) units (stable adapted neural units). "simple Category" and "Complex Category" (terms used by Frishkepf and Goldstein (Teas, 1970) may be the source for (a) units i.e., (a) units for low frequencies may originate from 'Complex Category' and (a) units for  $\geq 1$  KHz may originate from 'Simple Category'.

"+a'" and "-a'" may be linked to "R<sub>2</sub>" and "R<sub>1</sub>" processes (respectively) reported by Hirsh and Bilger (ward,1963) in connection with 'bounce' phenomenon observed within 2-min of recovery time during TTS experiments. Thus the present study supports Hirsh and Bilger's hypothesis that 'bounce' phenomenon is a neural phenomenon.

Possible Mechanisms of perstimulatory Adaptation (Concomitant-binaural

Adaptation measured using Simultaneous Dichotic Loudness Balance Method (SDIB) is Known as 'perstimulatory-adaptation'. (or concomitant binaural).

Ward (1973) has concluded that, "perstimulatory adaptation reflects a changes in the 'potency' of stimuli in regard to localization following monaural stimulation it is demonstrable only by binaural presentation of test signals and therefore involves complex judgemental processes relatively high up the auditory chain (though the possible efferent action of monaural stimulation on the periphery of the contralateral auditory stimulation cannot be ruled out)....For the moment, perstimulatory adaptation remains a provoking enigma".

Using the deductions drawn from the results of the present study and using too data available for Monaural Heterophonic (MH) technique and SDLB technique, it may be possible to understand the mechanism involved in 'perstimulatory adaptation'.

The reason for using the data of MH technique instead of the data of ORMLA technique is that the former measures 'concomitant' adaptation and the latter measures 'residual' adaptation. Since 'perstimulatory adaptation' is 'concomitant' adaptation, the data of ORMLA are not compared with the data of SDLB technique. The mechanisms of perstimulatory adaptation can be understood if the answers to the following questions are known:

1. Why do we observe  $X_h < X_b > 0$ , when the adapting intensity is  $\leq 60$  dB SPL, in SDLB method?
2. Why do we observe levelling off of adaptation above 60 dB SPL, in SDLB method?
3. Why do we observe  $X_h < X_b > 0$ , when the adapting intensity is about 60 dB SPL, in SDLB method?

Since the deductions from the results of the present study are from a monaural technique (ORMLA) these deductions cannot be applied straightaway to the available data of SDLB method. Therefore, it is necessary to consider the adapting ear and the comparison ear separately. After knowing the conditions which prevail (during the post-adapted conditions) in the two ears, the combined effects can be reasonably predicted.

Regarding the question--why do we observe  $X_h < X_b > 0$  in SDLB technique at 60 dB SPL adapting intensity, the answer may be obtained as follows:

Available data for MH technique at an adapting intensity of 60 dB SPL is  $X_b = 11.75$  dB (Mean) (Weiler et al 1977). from the deductions of the present study, the condition required for  $X_b > C$  is  $a + a' > 0$  or  $a > -a'$ . Thus,  $a > -a'$  can be expected in the adapting ear during the post-adapted condition of SDLB method. Since the cross-over of the adapting stimulus to the comparison ear at 60 dB SPL is negligible, adaptation of the comparison ear may be ruled out. For convenience it can be assumed that the adapting ear and the comparison ear are identical during preadapted balances.

The available data for SDIB at 60 dB SPL adapting intensity is 20 dB (Mean) (Weiler, 1972). Thus it follows that SDLB method yields  $X_b > 0$  i.e., the comparison of the data available for MH technique and the data of SDLB, shows that  $X_b$  (SDLB)  $>$   $X_b$  (MH) (i.e,  $20 > 11,75$ ). the fact that SDLB method yields more adaptation than the MB technique at identical interelty and at identical adapting period, is an indication for the influence of the comparison ear in the results. Weiller et al (1979) showed no significant correlation between the amounts of adaptations obtained for MH and SDLB techniques

an the same subjects. Glass and Weiler (1979) observed that MH technique and SDLB technique yielded:  $X_h = X_b > 0$  and  $X_h < X_b > 0$  respectively for nearly the same stimulus parameters (Weiler et al 1972). Thus the above finding show that ADLB and MH techniques yield different results although both measure concomitant adaptation. The difference in the results obtained in the two methods must be due to the influence of the comparison ear.

Since adaptation of the comparison ear through cross-over of the adapting stimulus (60 dB SPL) can be considered negligible, the influence of comparison ear (CE) can be expected through 'binaural interaction', The results  $X_b$  (SDLB)  $> X_b$  (MH) can be expected provided  $*L_{tba} > *L_{tbb}$  (loudness of the post-adapted test tone in the comparison ear loudness of the pre-adapted test-tone in the comparison ear. But,  $*L_{tba} > *L_{tbb}$  can be expected only when  $*X_b < 0$  i.e., '-a' results in the comparison ear. This means that 'negative adaptation' (or action of the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells "cf. pp.125-128") must be present in the comparison ear. In this context, the author likes to recall Ward's (1973) suggestion that, "...there may be a possibility for the efferent action of monaural stimulation on the periphery of the contralateral auditory system in 'perstimulatory adaptation'".



the above discussion clearly reveals that  $X_b$  (SDLB) >  $X_b$  (MH) is due to 'binaural interaction as correctly guessed by Ward (1973). Thus the process of 'binaural interaction' which was not well understood, perhaps, now appears to be clear. The 'binaural interaction' can be defined as the efferent action of monaural stimulation on the periphery of the contralateral auditory system. Hereafter, 'binaural interaction', refers to the above definition.

**From the discussion,**

Adaptation obtained at an adapting ( $X_b$  (at 60) in SDLB) intensity of 60 dB SPL in SDLB

$+*L_{tha}$  (at 60) -  $*L_{tbb}$  (at 60)  
(Loudness efferent action)

(because loudness gain in the comparison ear increases perstimulatory adaptation)

adaptation measured at an intensity higher than the adapting in- ( $X_b$  (at 60) in SDLB = intensity of 60 dB SPL in SDLB

$L_{tbb} - L_{tha} - (*L_{tbb} - *L_{tha})$

$L_{tbb} - L_{tha}$  (because  $*L_{tbb} - *L_{tha} = 0$ , during  $X_b$  measurements the efferent action ceases

$\therefore X_n$  (at 60) in SDLB <  $X_b$  (at 60) in SDLB.

$$\begin{aligned} & [\text{Therefore } \{L_{tbb}(\text{at } 60) - L_{tba}(\text{at } 60) \\ & + *LL_{tba}(\text{at } 60) - *L_{tbb}(\text{at } 60)\} \\ & > L_{thb} - LL_{tha}] \end{aligned}$$

In other words, in SDLB at 60 dB adapting stimulus  $X_h < X_b > 0$  results because  $X_b$  (SDLB) will be greater due to the 'loudness gain' in the comparison ear (binaural interaction) whereas this loudness gain will be absent during  $X_h$  measurement (i.e., when

the post-adapted test tone is presented at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity, the efferent action ceases).

Regarding the question--why do we observe levelling off of adaptation above 60 dB SPL in SDLB technique? the answer can be obtained as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{available data: } X_b(\text{at } 60 \text{ dB}) \text{ in SDLB} \\ & = X_b(\text{at } 80 \text{ dB}) \text{ in SDLB} \\ & = 20 \text{ dB (Weiler et al, 1972)} \end{aligned}$$

The data for MH technique at adapting intensity of 80 dB SPL is not available. However, it is reasonable to expect,  $X_b(\text{at } 80) > 0$

as  $X_b(\text{at } 60)$  is known to be greater than 0 dB. The condition required for  $X_b(80) > 0$  is  $a > -a'$ . This condition can be expected in the adapting ear during post-adapted balances in SDLB method. Therefore in the adapting ear,  $L_{tba}(\text{at } 80) < L_{tbb}(\text{at } 80)$  can be expected.

In the comparison ear, two conditions will prevail during the post adapted balance: (1) the conditions due to 'binaural interaction' and (2) the conditions due to adaptation of the comparison ear through cross-over of the adapting

Due to the condition (1),  $*L_{tbb}$  (at 80) <  $*L_{tba}$  (at 80) can be expected in the comparison ear. (.'.  $X_b < 0$  or  $*a < *-a'$ ). Due to the condition (2),  $*L_{tbb}$  (at 80) =  $*L_{tba}$  (at 80) can be expected in the comparison ear (.'. at adapting intensity of 80-IA = 40 dB SPL,  $*X_b$  (at 80-IA) = 0,  $*a$  (at 80-IA) =  $*-a'$  (at 80 - IA) can be expected as per the data reported by Glass & Weiler (1979). The combined effects of the two conditions in the comparison ear would be:  $*L_{tba}$  (at 80) >  $*L_{tbb}$  (at 80) i.e., The loudness of the post-adapted test tone in the comparison ear will be louder than the pre adapted test tone of the comparison ear at 80 dB SPL. However, compare the situations prevailing in the adapting ear and the comparison ear, together.  $L_{tbb}$  (at 80) >  $L_{tba}$  (at 80) (situation in the adapting

$*L_{tbb}$ (at 80) <  $*L_{tba}$  (at 80) (situation in the comparison ear)

adaptation obtained at an adapting intensity of 80 dB SPL in SDLB. ( $X_b$  (80) in SDLB) -  
 $L_{tbb}$ (at 80) -  $L_{tba}$  (at 80)  
+  $*L_{tb}$ (at 80) -  $*L_{tbb}$ (at 80)

(.'. Loudness gain in the comparison ear increases 'perstimulatory adaptation').

Adaptation obtained at an  
adaptation intensity of dB  $(X_b(60) \text{ in SDLB})$   
SPL in SDLB  $L^{tbb}(\text{at } 60) - L_{tba}(\text{at } 60)$   
 $+ *L_{tba}(\text{at } 60) - *L_{tbb}(\text{at } 60)$   
(because Loudness gain in the  
comparison ear increases  
'per stimulatory adaptation')

The available data shows that:

$X_b(\text{at } 80) \text{ in SDLB} = X_b(\text{at } 60) \text{ in SDLB}$

$.. L_{tbb}(\text{at } 80) - L_{tba}(\text{at } 80) + *L_{tba}(\text{at } 80) - *L_{tbb}(\text{at } 80)$

$- L_{tbb}(\text{at } 60) - L_{tba}(\text{at } 60) + *L_{tba}(\text{at } 60) - *L_{tbb}(\text{at } 60)$

Rearranging.

$$L_{tbb}(\text{at } 80) - L_{tba}(\text{at } 80) - L_{tbb}(\text{at } 60) + L_{tba}(\text{at } 60) \\ = *L_{tba}(\text{at } 60) - *L_{tbb}(\text{at } 60) - *L_{tba}(\text{at } 80) + *L_{tbb}(\text{at } 80)$$

i.e., Loudness decrease in the adapting ear due to the  
increase in the intensity of the adapting stimulus (i.e., increase  
in intensity from 60 to 80 dB)

Loudness increase in the comparison ear due to the efferent  
action for 60 dB stimulus

+ Loudness loss in the comparison ear due to the efferent  
action for 80 dB stimulus

Curiously, the above derivation shows that the efferent action  
at 80 dB SPL of the adapting stimulus is to reduce

the loudness of the post-adaptation test tone in the comparison ear and that the efferent action at 60 dB SPL of the adapting stimulus is to increase the loudness of the post-adapted test tone in the comparison ear. Thus there exist two types of efferent systems. The efferent system which functions at low levels ( $\leq 60$  dB) is concerned with 'negative adaptation' and the efferent system which functions at high intensity levels is concerned with 'inhibition' i.e., arresting or inhibiting the sensory inputs from firing impulses. Since the efferent system which is responsible for 'negative adaptation' has already been identified as the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells ("of. pp.125-128") the efferent system which brings about 'inhibition' (preventing the sensory units from firing) must be the efferent system which innervates the inner hair cells). The reason being that this efferent action is present only at high adapting intensity. It is known that the inner hair cells respond to high intensity sounds only. From the above discussion it is clear that (+a') units originate from the action of the efferent system innervating the inner hair cells.

Therefore, the increase in the adaptation, in the adapting ear, resulting from the increase in the intensity of the adapting stimulus (i.e., raising the intensity from 60 to 80 dB) will be 'eclipsed' by 'binaural interactions' in SDLB method.

Interestingly, the effects of 'binaural interaction' for 60 dB and 80 dB adapting stimulus are different. When the adapting intensity is 60 dB SPL (or less), the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells will be responsible for the increase in the loudness of the post-adapted test tone in the comparison ear. When the adapting intensity is 80 dB SPL or more the efferent system innervating the inner hair cells will be responsible for the decrease in loudness of the post-adapted test tone in the comparison ear. Since the two efferent systems operate together when the adapting stimulus is at 80 dB SPL, the net result will be that the loudness of the post-adapted test tone in the comparison ear will be almost equal to the loudness of the pre-adapted test tone in the comparison ear or pre-adapted test tone in the adapting ear). Consequently  $*L_{tbb}(\text{at } 80 \text{ dB}) = *L_{tba}(\text{at } 80) =$

$L_{tbb}(\text{at } 80)$ . Finally,  $X_b(\text{at } 80) \text{ in SDLB} = L_{tbb}(\text{at } 80) - L_{tba}(\text{at } 80) = 20$ ;

$X_b(\text{at } 60) \text{ in SDLB} = L_{tbb}(\text{at } 60) - L_{tba}(\text{at } 60) + *L_{tba}(\text{at } 60) - *L_{tbb}(\text{at } 60) = 20$

In sum, it can be stated that the levelling off of adaptation observed in SDLB method, is mainly due to the 'binaural interaction'. At  $\leq 60$  dB SPL of the adapting stimulus 'Binaural Interaction' will be due to the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells, whereas at 80 dB SPL of the adapting stimulus there will be a combined action of the two efferent systems in the comparison ear. The combined actions of the two efferent systems are mainly responsible for the levelling off of adaptation observed in SDLB method.

Regarding the question--Why do we deserve  $X_h < X_b > 0$  when the adapting intensity is about 80 dB SPL in SDLB method--the answer can be found on these lines:

In the adapting ear,  $X_h < X_b > 0$  can be expected as MH technique should yield. the result:  $X_h < X_b > 0$  when the adapting intensity is 80 dB SP (since the previous discussion revealed that at 80 dB SPL, the efferent system innervating the inner hair cells will be operating). The deductions from the data of the present study suggest that:  $X_h < X_b > 0$  can be expected at very high adapting intensity if ORMLA technique is used. Since MH technique yields more positive adaptation at low adapting intensities, it is reasonable to expect  $X_h < X_b > 0$  at a relatively lower adapting intensity for MH technique. As mentioned earlier, ORMLA and MH techniques measure 'residual' and 'concomitant' adaptation respectively. The difference in the amounts of adaptation observed between MH and ORMLA techniques, is mainly due to 'concomitant' and 'residual' nature of adaptation measurements involved in the two techniques.

With the above clarification,  $X_h < X_b > 0$  can be expected in the adapting ear when the adapting intensity is about 80 dB SPL. As per the deductions from the present data, the necessary conditions are:  $a < a + a' > 0$ ; (i)  $a' > 0$ , (ii)  $a > -a'$  & (iii)  $a > 0$ . Therefore,  $L_{tbb} - L_{tba} > 0$

and  $L_{thb} - L_{tha} > 0$  can be expected in the adapting ear. Since  $X_h$  depends on (a) units and  $X_b$  depends on (a), (+a') and (-a') units,  $X_h < X_b$ . (however the relative contribution of (-a') units will be insignificant).

In the comparison ear,

$*L_{tbb} = *L_{tba}$  can be expected. Earlier it was discussed that at adapting intensity of 80 dB SPD, both the efferent systems would be operating together and hence  $*L_{tbb} = *L_{tba}$  in the comparison ear ("of. pp. 137-140").

Due to the adaptation of the comparison ear through crossover of the adapting stimulus  $*L_{tbb} = *L_{tba}$  can be expected ( $*X_b = *X_{b-40} = 0$  can be expected--this is similar to  $X_h = X_b = 0$ , where b-40 refers to adapting intensity (80) - IA(40), When the adapting intensity is b-40,  $*a$  at(b-40) =  $*a$  at(b-40) +  $*a'$  at(b-40) = 0 can be expected. MH technique at 40 dB SPL (80-40) adapting intensity, can be expected to yield 0 dB adaptation vide: data reported by Glass & Weiler, 1979).

$*L_{thb} - *L_{tha} = 0$  (.'. the efferent actions will cease the moment the post adapted test or  $*X_h = 0$  tone at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity is presented in the adapting ear-- the efferent actions will cease in both the ears).

Due to the adaptation of the comparison ear through the



cross-over of the adapting stimulus,  $*L_{t_{hb}} = *L_{t_{ha}}$  (because  $a*$  at  $(b-40)=0$ ).

Summing up the above situations prevailing in the two ears during post adapted balance.

$$X_b \text{ in SDLB} = X_b - *X_b = X_b \text{ ( because } *X_b = 0)$$

$$X_h \text{ in SDLB} = X_h - *X_h = X_h \text{ (because } *X_h = 0)$$

$$X_h \text{ in SDLB} < X_b \text{ in SDLB (because } X_b \text{ in SDLB} = X_b$$

$$X_h \text{ in SDLB} = X_h$$

$X_b$  depends on (a)&(a')

$X_h$  depends on (a) only)

Thus  $X_h < X_b > 0$  is observed in SDLB when the adapting intensity is 80 dB SPL.

The combined efferent actions in the comparison ear and the adapting ear, together with the cessation of efferent actions during  $X_h$  measurements, are responsible for  $X_h < X_b > 0$ , in SDLB method at 80 dB SPL.

Morgan and Davis (1973) have reported that SDLB (hetero- phonic) technique does not show adaptation for 500 Hz tone at 70 dB SPL for 12-min adapting period. This results shows that 'binaural interaction' is effective only when the adapting

stimulus and the comparison stimulus are of the same frequency.

All the above discussions clearly revealed the mechanism of 'perstimulatory adaptation'. Thus, the deductions from the data of the present study are very useful in understanding the loudness coding during auditory adaptation. The mechanisms involved in 'perstimulatory adaptation' and, the controversies prevailed in the area of auditory adaptation are satisfactorily answered by the data of the present study.

The fact that the efferent action (negative adaptation) persists even after the withdrawal of the adapting stimulus (see for example  $X_h > X_b < 0$ ) is probably an important 'clue' for the mechanism of 'tinnitus'. The pathophysiology of tinnitus is yet to be known. The discovery that the efferent action (negative adaptation) activities the sensory inputs even in the absence of acoustic stimulus is a clear evidence for understanding the patho-physiology of tinnitus.

In the light of the results of the present study it may be hypothesized that a disturbance in the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells, may be responsible for 'tinnitus' observed in, atleast some pathological cases.

Tinnitus, arising after exposure to continuous auditory stimulation, is likely to be due to the action of the efferent

system innervating the outer hair cells.

Having known the sources of 'a' +a' and -a' units and also the possible mechanisms of loudness coding during auditory adaptation, it may be possible to visualize the adaptation process in the different results observed in the present study.

$$(1) X_h > X_b < 0 \quad ; \quad a > a + a' < 0$$

The necessary conditions for this result are:

$$(i) a' < 0 \quad \& \quad (ii) a < -a'$$

This result was observed when the adapting stimulus (1 KHz) was presented at 110 dB SPL for 7-min.  $X_h$  was measured at 120 dB SPL, (see experiment VIII a).

$L_{tbb}$  = loudness contributed by 'Simple category'

$L_{tba}$  = loudness contributed by 'simple category'

- loudness contributed by stable adaptable neural units (a).

+ loudness contributed by (-a') units 'contribution of NIOH units through the action of the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells)

$L_{thb}$  = loudness contributed by 'simple Category'

+ loudness contributed by additional units ('.' 120 dB > 110 dB).

$L_{tba}$  = loudness contributed by 'simple Category'

+ loudness contributed by the additional units  
- loudness contributed by the stable adapted neural units (a).

The above description shows that:

(i)  $L_{tba} > L_{tbb}$  .'.  $X_b$  is negative ( $a < -a'$ )

(ii)  $L_{tha} < L_{thb}$  .'.  $X_h > 0$

(2)  $X_h X_b = 0$

$L_{tbb}$  = loudness contributed by 'simple Category'

$L_{tba}$  = loudness contributed by 'simple Category'

- loudness contributed by (a) units (stable adaptable)  
+ loudness contributed by (-a') units (contribution of NIOH units through the efferent action)

$L_{thb}$  = loudness contributed by 'simple Category'

+ loudness contributed by the additional units  
(.' 120 > 110)

$L_{tha}$  = loudness contributed by 'simple category'

+ loudness contributed by the additional units  
- loudness contributed by (a) units

The above description shows that:

(i)  $L_{tba} = L_{tbb}$  (.' a = -a' )  
.'.  $X_b = 0$

(ii)  $L_{tha} < L_{thb}$  (because of the presence of (a) units)  
.'.  $X_h > 0$

(3)  $X_h > X_b > 0$  ;  $a > a = a' > 0$

The necessary condition are: (i)  $a' < 0$  (ii)  $a > -a'$

(iii)  $a > 0$

$L_{tbb}$  = loudness contributed by 'simple Category'

$L_{tba}$  = loudness contributed by 'Simple Category'

- loudness contributed by a stable adaptable neural units (a) + loudness contributed by (-a') units (loudness contributed by the action of the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells).

$L_{thb}$  = loudness contributed by 'simple category' + loudness contributed by the additional units.

$L_{tha}$  = loudness contributed by 'simple category' + loudness contributed by the additional units - loudness contributed by the stable adaptable neural units(a).

the above description shows that:

(i)  $L_{tba} < L_{tbb}$  ('.' a > -a' > '.'  $X_b > 0$ )

(ii)  $L_{tha} < L_{thb}$  (because of the presence of (a) units)

'.'  $X_h > 0$  and  $X_h > X_b$  ('.' a > -a')

(4)  $X_h = X_b = 0$  ;  $a = a + a' = 0$

The necessary conditions are:

(i)  $a' = 0$  (ii)  $a = -a' = 0$

$L_{tbb}$  = Loudness contributed by 'Simple Category'

$L_{tba}$  = Loudness contributed by 'simple Category'

This result was not observed in any subject as it is obvious that after adapting the ear using 110 dB SPL stimulus (1 KHz) for 7-min,  $a = 0$  is highly impossible.

(5)  $X_h < X_b = 0$  ;  $a < a + a' = 0$

The necessary conditions are:

- (i)  $a' > 0$  (ii)  $a = -a'$

The result was also not observed in any subject. It is obvious that the necessary condition cannot be satisfied.  $a' > 0$  can be expected at very high adapting intensity, whereas  $a = -a'$  can be expected at moderate intensity of the adapting stimulus. The co-existence of these two necessary conditions is impossible.

$$(6) X_h < X_b > 0 \quad ; \quad a < a + a' > 0$$

The necessary conditions are:

- (i)  $a' > 0$  (ii)  $a > -a'$  (iii)  $a > 0$

$L_{tbb}$  = Loudness contributed by 'Simple category'  
+ Loudness contributed by neural units innervating  
the inner hair cells.

$L_{tba}$  = Loudness contributed by 'simple category' + Loudness  
contributed by neural units inner hair cells.  
- Loudness contributed by positive unstable adapted  
neural units (the number of activated NIIH units which  
cease functioning due to the action of the efferent  
system innervating the inner hair cells)  
+ Loudness contributed by  $-a'$  units (this is insignifi-  
cant).

$L_{thb}$  = Loudness contributed by 'simple category' + Loudness  
contributed by NIIH + Loudness contributed by additional  
units ('.' 130 > 120).

$L_{tha}$  = Loudness contributed by 'simple category'  
+ Loudness contributed by NIIH  
+ Loudness contributed by additional units  
- Loudness contributed by stable adaptable neural units (a).

The above sedcription shoes that:

(i)  $L_{tba} < L_{tbb}$  ('.' Loudness loss due to {a) and  
+a units is more than the loud-  
'.'  $X_b > 0$  ness gsin due to -a' units, which  
is insignificant here).

(ii)  $L_{tha} L_{thb}$  (becouse of the presence of (a) units)  
'.' $X_h > 0$

But  $X_h < X_b$  ('.'  $X_b$  is determined by (a) and +a' units.  
whereas,  $X_h$  is detemined by (a) units  
only. Also when the post adapted test  
tone is presented at an intensity higher  
then the adapting intensity, the efferent  
action ceases).

Thus all the obtained results can be vieualised.

CHAPTER VI

A REVISED MODEL FOR LOUDNESS  
CODING DURING AUDITORY  
ADAPTATION

The results of the present study and the controversies prevailing in the area of auditory adaptation (including the mechanisms involved in perstimulatory adaptation), cannot be explained on the basis of the existing models for loudness coding during auditory adaptation. An adequate model which resolves the prevailing controversies and also which provides satisfactory explanation to the data obtained in the present study, seems to be the outcome of the present investigation. The essence of the revised model for loudness coding during auditory adaptation is presented in the following steps:

1. The adapted neural units are of three types: (i) stable adapted neural units (a) (ii) Positive unstable adapted neural units (+a') (iii) Negative unstable adapted neural units (-a').
2. 'Simple Category' and 'Complex Category' (terms used by Frishkopf and Goldstein) may be the sources for (a) units i.e., (a) units originate from the place of maximum stimulation of the basilar membrane (a) units for low frequencies originate from 'complex category' and (a) units for  $\geq 1$  KHz originate from 'simple category'.
3. The source of +a units is the Neural Units Innervating the inner Hair Cells (NIIH) and they are produced by the action of the efferent system innervating the inner hair cells.



4. The source of -a' units is the Neural units innervating the Outer Hair cells (NIOH) and they are produced by the action of the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells.
5. -a' units perform a reverse function of +a' units and also that of (a) units. In other words, - a' units (responsible for negative adaptation) will be contributing to the loudness during the adaptation process. +a' and -a' units may be linked to 'R<sub>2</sub>' and 'R<sub>1</sub>' processes (respectively) reported by Hirsh and Bilger (ward 1963) connection with 'bonuce' phenomenon observed within 2-min of recovery time during TTS experiments, Thus the revised model corroborates Hirsh and Bilger's hypothesis that 'bounce' phenomenon is a neural phenomenon.
6. +a' and -a' units regain their original preadapted state whenever a test tone at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity is presented during the post-adapted state. In other words, the moment the post-adapted test tone at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity is presented, the efferent action ceases.
7. For high stimulus intensities, loudness of the post adapted test tone at the adapting intensity is determined by the total number of activated neural units from the following: (i) 'simple category' or 'complex category' (ii) NIIH and (iii) NIOH. However, the contribution of the sensory units (activated by the action of the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells) for loudness of the post adapted test tone will be insignificant.
8. For low or moderate intensity stimulus, the loudness of the post adapted test tone at adapting intensity.

is determined by 'simple category' (or complex category) and NIOH (sensory units of outer hair cells activated by the action of the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells).

9. Possible mechanisms of loudness adaptation. When a stimulus ( $\geq 1$  KHz) of moderate intensity is continuously presented to one of the ears of a normal hearing subject, the adaptation process (i.e., a gradual and continuous decrease in the number of activated neural units) begins in the 'simple category'. This process goes on as long as the adapting stimulus is continued; hence, stable adapted neural units (a) will be increasing. Simultaneously with the adaptation process, the number of sensory units innervating the outer hair cells, (NIOH) activated by the efferent system (innervating the outer hair cells) gradually increases as long as the adapting stimulus is continued i.e., -a' units will be increasing. This process is known as 'negative adaptation' (or reverse adaptation). As the adapting stimulus is continued, more and more number of sensory units innervating the outer hair cells (NIOH) begin to fire nerve impulses. initially, the rate of decrease in the number of activated neural units in the 'simple category' will be faster than the rate of increase in the number of activated (through the efferent action) sensory units innervating the outer hair cells. After some time, the rate of increase in the activated sensory units innervating the outer hair cells will 'catch-up' with the rate of decrease in the number of activated units of the 'simple category'. As a consequence of this, the total number of nerve impulses contributing to the loudness of the adapting stimulus (or test tone at the

adapting intensity) remains fairly constant (contribution of the nerve impulses from the 'simple category' will be decreasing, but the contribution of nerve impulses from the NIOH will be **increasing**). This way asymptotic loudness adaptation can be explained.

Incidentally, the above description, reveals a 'vital' information about 'inhibition' process. 'Inhibition' process in the auditory system is poorly understood. The revised model appears to be a 'break-through' in psychoacoustic and electro-physiological research as far as understanding the mechanisms of 'inhibition' process in the auditory systems is concerned, Since -a' units are responsible for inhibiting the adaptation process, phenomenon of negative adaptation can be viewed as 'inhibition process'. As explained in Chapter V (pp 125-128), the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells, is responsible for -a' units. Since the efferent system is known for its 'inhibitory' function, the negative adaption brought about by the efferent system (innervating the outer hair cells) may be regarded as 'inhibition of adaptation process.

10.  $X_h$  depends on (a) units only (see pp 123-124 for its derivation).
11.  $X_b$  depends on a , +a' and -a' (see pp 122-123 for its derivation).
12.  $X_1$  depends on  $a_1 + a_1'$  and  $-a_1'$  (see pp 124-125 for its derivation)

13. The effect of (a) units can either be enhanced by +a' units and/or decreased or cancelled by -a' units. In other words, the loudness loss brought about by (a) units can be aggravated by +a' units and/or the loudness can be minimized or completely cancelled or loudness can be increased by the action of -a' units.

14. The revised model can be used to explain the different results obtained in the present study:

$$(a) \quad X_h > X_b < 0 \quad ; \quad a > a + a' < 0$$

The necessary conditions are : (i)  $a' < 0$  and  
(ii)  $a < -a'$  (see pp.125-128 for the discussion)

$$(b) \quad X_h > X_b = 0 \\ a > a + a' = 0$$

The necessary conditions are : (i)  $a' < 0$  and  
(ii)  $a = -a'$  (see pp.129-147 for the discussion)

$$(c) \quad X_h > X_b > 0 \\ a > a + a' > 0$$

The necessary conditions are: (i)  $a' < 0$   
(ii)  $a > a'$  (iii)  $a > 0$   
(see pp 147-148 for the discussion)

$$(d) \quad X_h = X_b = 0 \\ a = a + a' = 0$$

The necessary conditions are; (i)  $a' = 0$   
(ii)  $a = -a'$   
(iii)  $-a' = 0$

(Note: This result was not observed) (See pp: 148 for explanation)

(e)  $X_h < X_b = 0$

$$a < a + a' = 0$$

The necessary conditions are: (i)  $a' > 0$

(ii)  $a = -a'$

Note: This result was also not observed in any subject (See pp. 149 for explanation)

(f)  $X_h < X_b > 0$

$$a < a + a' > 0$$

The necessary conditions are: (i)  $a' > 0$

(ii)  $a > -a'$

(iii)  $a > 0$

(See pp.149-150 for the discussion)

(g)  $X_1 < X_b > 0$

a)  $a_1 < a + a' > 0$

The necessary conditions are: (i)  $a_1 + a_1' < a + a'$  and

(ii)  $a > -a'$  (See pp. 131 for the discussion)

15.  $X_b$  (SDLB)  $> X_b$  (MH) is due to "binaural interaction".

The 'binaural interaction' can be defined as the efferent action of monaural stimulation on the periphery of the contralateral auditory system (See pp.133-136 for a thorough discussion).

16.  $X_b$  (at 60 dB) in SDIB =  $X_b$  (at 80 dB) in SDLB = 20 dB

(the data reported by Weiler et al, 1972), is due to a phenomenon which may be named--the 'eclipses phenomenon'.

The "eclipse phenomenon" is the phenomenon in which the increase in the amount of adaptation which should result in the adapting ear, due to the increase in the intensity of the adapting stimulus (i.e., increasing the intensity from 60 dB to 80 dB SPL) is 'eclipsed' by the combined actions of the two efferent systems (the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells and the efferent system innervating the inner hair cells) in the comparison ear. The action of the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells is to increase the loudness of the post adapted test tone in the comparison ear and the action of the efferent system innervating the inner hair cells is to decrease the loudness of the post adapted test tone in the comparison ear. When the adapting stimulus is at 80 dB SPL in the adapting ear, there will be a combined action of the efferent systems in the comparison ear which results in  $*L_{tba} = *L_{tbb} = L_{tbb}$  (see pp137-141 for a thorough discussion).

17.  $X_h < X_b > 0$  at 60 dB SPL adapting intensity in SDLB, is due to the fact that  $X_b$  will be greater as a result of 'loudness gain' in the comparison ear (binaural interaction), whereas this 'loudness gain' will be absent during  $X_h$  measurements (when the post adapted test tone is presented at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity the efferent action ceases) (See pp. 134-137 for a thorough discussion).
  
18.  $X_h < X_b > 0$  at 80 dB SPL adapting intensity in SDLB, is due to the combined efferent actions in the comparison ear and the adapting ear, together with the cessation of efferent actions during  $X_h$  measurements (see pp 142-144 for a thorough discussion).

19. 'Binaural Interaction' is effective only when the adapting stimulus and the comparison stimulus are of the same frequency. In support of this, the data reported by Morgan and Davis (1973) can be recalled. (They found that 500 Hz tone at 70 dB SPL for 12-min did not show adaptation for SDLB (heterophonic) technique)
  
20. The fact that the efferent action (negative adaptation) persists even after the withdrawal of the adapting stimulus (See for example:  $X_h > X_b < 0$  PP.125-128) is probably an important clue to the mechanism of 'tinnitus'. The pathophysiology of tinnitus is yet to be known. The discovery that the efferent action (action of the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells) activates the sensory inputs even in the absence of the acoustic stimulus is a clear evidence for understanding the pathophysiology of tinnitus. Tinnitus, arising out of exposure to continuous auditory stimulation is likely to be due to the action of the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells. A disturbance in the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells, may be responsible for the 'tinnitus' observed in, at least, some pathological cases.

## CHAPTER VII

### SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

A relation between loudness and acoustic reflex response exists if signals especially 0.5 KHz and 1 KHz are equated in terms of the magnitude of the middle ear muscle response. In the light of the evidences provided by many investigators, including the author (Thomsen, 1955; Ewertson et al. 1958; Flottorp et al 1971; Block and Wrightman, 1977; Block and Wiley, 1977; Gorga, Lilly and Length, 1980) regarding the existence of the relationship between loudness and acoustic reflex, it was reasonably assumed that a relationship does exist between loudness and acoustic reflex response in normal hearing subjects. Additionally, Borg and Odman have (1979) confirmed that decay and recovery originate in the afferent auditory system and not in the acoustic reflex muscles.

A new objective technique viz., objective Residual Monaural Loudness Adaptation (ORMLA) was developed (Vyasa-murthy, 1977) for measuring adaptation. This technique satisfies most of the criteria prescribed by small (1963) for the measurement of 'adequate' adaptation.

The thesis deals with adaptation measurement made using the new technique. The resulting data led the investigator to develop a revised model for loudness coding



during auditory adaptation. The review model provides answers to many of the controversies prevailing in the area of auditory adaptation-and also the revised model appears to be a break-through in auditory physiology.

The subjects participating in the different experiments consisted of 32 to 48 normally hearing ( $\leq 20$  dB HL ANSI 1969) students belonging to the All india institute of speech and Hearing, Mysore-570 006, and to the neighbouring colleges, ranging in age from 19 to 27 Years. The adapting stimulus was always presented to the left ear and monitoring of the reflex response was done in the right ear (air-pressure in the right ear canal was set at Omniwater). The changes in the magnitude of reflex response (stiffness changes of the middle-ear system) as indicated by the deflection of the Balance Meter (BM) needle of a calibrated electro-acoustic impedance bridge - Madsen 20-73 were noted down at different intensities of the test tone before adapting the ear, Consistant 'BM reading' at different intensity levels of the test tone were noted. The inter-stimulus interval was 30 sec for test tones  $< 100$  dB SPL and 60 sec for test tones  $\geq 100$  dB SPL. The duration of each presentation of the test tone was 1.5 sec. After noting down the 'BM reading' for the test tone at different intensity levels, the probe tone (220 Hz) in the probe ear (right ear) was put off. Then, the adapting stimulus was presented continusly

(duration, intensity and frequency of the adapting stimulus varied depending on the type of experiment). At the end of the required duration of exposure of the adapting stimulus, the adapting stimulus was withdrawn and after 5-sec rest period (this rest period was required for setting the knobs) the test tone at a level depending on the type of experiment was presented for 1.5 sec. The 'BM readings' was noted. This reading was compared with the 'BM readings' of the pre-adapted test tones levels, the pre-adapted test tone level, which had produced the same 'BM reading' (magnitude of reflex) as that of the post adapted test tone, was identified. Adaptation (in dB) was the difference between the post adapted test tone level and the pre-adapted test tone level which produced the same 'BM readings' (magnitude of reflex) as that of the post adapted test tone. This way), loudness adaptation was measured in decibels (dB) objectively, loudness adaptation measured in the above manner has been termed 'Objective Residual Monaural Loudness Adaptation' (ORMLA).

'BM readings' for pre-adapted test tone levels were recorded prior to each adaptation test. A minimum of 24 to 48 hrs rest, between adaptation tests, was allowed for each subject to ensure complete recovery from the fatigue processes.

The procedure for finding the recovery time from adaptation was exactly the same as the procedure used for measuring adaptation, but with a little difference. The measurement of adaptation did not stop at a single presentation of the test tone, (for 1.5 sec) 5 sec after the withdrawal of the adapting stimulus. The test tone was repeatedly presented once in 60 sec for 1.5 sec and each time the 'BM reading' was noted. This procedure was continued until the magnitude of reflex (BM reading) was the same as the 'BM reading' produced by the test tone during pre-adapted condition. The 'BM reading' obtained at 60 sec intervals were compared with the 'BM reading' which were recorded during pre-adapted condition to complete adaptation (in dB) at 60 sec intervals of recovery time.

Several experiments were carried out. The results of these experiments led the investigator to propose a revised model for loudness coding during auditory adaptation. The following conclusions have been made:

1. For pure tones viz., 0.5 and 1 KHz, the magnitude of reflex (BM reading) can be used as a 'measure' of loudness perceived by the normal hearing subjects.
2. (the 'BM readings' at different intensity levels of a test tone remained the same after 7-min of silent interval—indicating that the ORMLA technique could be used reliably without much interference from the possible variables.

3. The null hypothesis that the duration of exposure has no significant effect on the amount of adaptation was rejected ( $p < 0.01$ ) for duration below 7-min and the null hypothesis that the duration of exposure has no significant effect on the amount of adaptation was accepted ( $p > 0.05$ ) for duration  $\geq 7$  min. Thus the results showed that asymptotic loudness adaptation reached by 7-min.
4. The null hypothesis that the frequency of the adapting stimulus has no significant effect on the amount of adapting warn rejected ( $p < 0.001$ )
5. The null hypothesis that the frequency of the test tone has no significant effect on the amount of adaptation was rejected ( $p < 0.0003$ ). Thus the results showed that the test frequencies do influence the amount of adaptation measured. Also, the results showed that adaptations does spread to the neighbouring frequencies (More adaptation was observed at the a adapting frequency).
6. The effect of frequency of the adapting stimulus on the amount of adaptation was negligible when the adapting tones (0.5, 1 and 2 KHz) were of equal loudness levels.
7. The null hypothesis that the intensity of the adapting stimulus has no significant effect on the amount of adaptation was rejected ( $p \leq 0.001$ ).
8. The null hypothesis that there is no significant difference between the  $X_L$  values obtained in the two conditions: (A) adapting the ear using 1 KHz tone at 105 dB SPL for 7 min and measuring the adaptation using 1 KHz tone at 100 dB SPL, (B) adapting the ear using 1 KHz tone at 115 dB SPL for 7-min and measuring

adaptation using KHz tone at 100 dB SPL, was accepted ( $\chi^2 = 0.5$ ;  $df = 1$ ,  $P > 0.5$ ). Thus the results confirmed Small's (1963) prediction.

9. The null hypothesis that there is no significant difference between  $X_b$  and  $X_L$  values, was rejected ( $\chi^2 = 26.95$ ;  $df = 1$ ;  $P < 0.001$ ). Mean  $X_b$  was 7.96 (S.D = 3.38) and Mean  $X_L$  was 4.28 (S.D = 3.08). Thus the results ( $X_b > X_L$ ) confirmed Small's prediction (1963).
10. The null hypothesis that there is no significant difference between  $X_h$  and  $X_b$  values, was rejected ( $\chi^2 = 8.29$ ;  $df = 1$ ;  $P \leq 0.001$ ). Interestingly, inter-subject variability in the results was observed. Nineteen out of 43 subjects tested, showed;  $X_h > X_b > 0$ ; thirteen subjects showed;  $X_h = X_b > 0$ ; four subjects showed;  $X_h < X_b > 0$  and seven subjects showed  $X_h > X_b \leq 0$ . Thus the results were not in agreement with Small's hypothesis (1963). (adapting intensity = 110 dB SPL)
11. Repeated testing on a single subject (the investigator) showed:  $X_h > X_b > 0$  consistently. (adapting intensity = 110 dB SPL)
12. At very high adapting intensity (120 dB SPL for 7-min) 5 adult subjects showed:  $X_h < X_b > 0$ . On retesting, the same results were obtained. Thus Small's prediction (1963) appeared to be true at very high adapting intensity.
13. Repeated testing on the single subject (the investigator) at very high adapting intensity (125 dB SPL for 7-min) showed:  $X_h < X_b > 0$  consistently. Thus Small's prediction (1963) appeared to be true at very high adapting intensity.

14. when 0.5 KHz tone at 115 dB SPL for 3-min was used as the adapting stimulus, average amount of adaptation obtained was 3.52 dB (S.D = 2.97). 50% of the subjects (16) showed complete recovery from adaptation within a minute. The maximum recovery time was 3 min. This normative data for recovery time might be useful if a diagnostic test, based on recovery time for detecting retro-cochlear pathology cases, would prove to be feasible.
13. the time required for complete recovery was found to be dependent on the frequency of the adapting stimulus, The recovery time for 500 Hz tone was more rapid than the recovery time for 1000 Hz tone.
16. Like  $X_L$  the recovery time determined at an intensity lower than the adapting intensity was also reduced; hence, this finding supported Small's prediction (1963) with respect to recovery time also.
17. Test-retest data of the majority of the experiments showed very high correlation (significant at 1% level of confidence, except in one experiment in which correlation was significant at 5% level of confidence).
18. The results of the present study led the investigator to propose a revised model for loudness coding during auditory adaptation the essence of the revised model are given in the following steps:
  - (a) The adapted neural units are of three types:
    - (1) Stable adapted neural units (a)
    - (2) Positive unstable adapted neural units (+a' ) and
    - (3) Negative unstable adapted neural units(-a' )

- (b) 'simple category' and 'complex category' (terms used by Frlshkopf and Goldstein) may be the sources for (a) units i.e., (a) units originate from the place of maximum stimulation of the basilar membrane (a) units for low frequencies originate from 'complex category' and (a) units for  $\geq$  1KHz originate from 'simple category'.
- (c) The source of (+a') units is the Neural Units Innervating the Inner Hair cells (NIIH) and they are produced by the action of the efferent system innervating the inner hair cells.
- (d) The source of (-a') unite is the Neural Units Inner-vating the Cuter Hair cells (NIOH) and they are produced by the action of the efferent system inner-vating the outer hair cells.
- (e) (-a') units perform a reverse function of (+a') units and also that of (a) units. In other words, (-a') units (responsible for negative adaptation) will be contributing to the loudness during the adaptation process. (+a') and (-a') units may be linked to 'R<sub>2</sub>' and 'R<sub>1</sub>' processes (respectively) reported by Hirsh and Bilger (word 1963) in connection with 'bounce' phenomenon observed within 2-min of recovery time during TTS experiments. Thus the revised model corroborates Hirah and Bilger's hypothesis that 'bounce' phenomenon is a neural phenomenon.
- (f) (+a' ) and (-a' ) units regain their original pre-adapted state whenever a test tone at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity is presented during the post-adapted period. In other words, the moment the post-adapted test tone at an intensity higher than the adapting intensity is presented, the efferent action ceases.

- (g) For high stimulus intensities, loudness of the post-adapted test tone at the adapting intensity, is determined by the total number of activated neural units from the following: (i) 'simple category' or 'complex category' (ii) NIIH and (iii) NIOH. However, the contribution of the sensory units (activated by the action of the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells) for loudness of the post adapted test tone will be insignificant.
- (h) For low or moderate intensity stimulus the loudness of the post adapted test tone at adapting intensity ( $L_{tba}$ ) is determined by 'Simple Category' (or complex category) and NIOH (Sensory units of outer hair cells activated by the action of the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells).
- (l) Asymptotic loudness adaptation results when the rate of increase in (a) and/or (+a') units becomes equal to the rate of increase in (-a') units.
- (j)  $X_b$  depends on (a), (+a') and (-a') units.
- (K)  $X_h$  depends on (a) units only.
- (l)  $X_L$  depends on ( $a_L$ ), (+ $a_L'$ ) and (- $a_L'$ ).
- (m) The effect of (a) units can either be enhanced by (+a') units and/or decreased or cancelled by (-a') units. In other words, the loudness loss brought about by (a) unite can be aggravated by (+a) units and/or the loudness loss can be minimized or completely cancelled or loudness can be increased by the action of (-a') units.



19.  $X_b$  (SDLB) >  $X_b$  (MH) is due to 'binaural interaction'. 'Binaural interaction' can be defined as the efferent motion of the monaural stimulation on the periphery of the contralateral auditory system.
20.  $X_b$  (at 60) in SDLB =  $X_b$  (at 80) in SDLB = 20 dB, (the date reported by Weiler et al (1972) is due to a phenomenon named--the 'ecli[sepheomenon'] .
21.  $X_h < X_b > 0$  at 60 dB SBL adapting intensity in SDLB is due to: (1) Loudness gain ('binaural interaction') in the comparison ear while doing  $X_b$  measurement and (ii) the absence of this 'loudness gain' while doing  $X_h$  measurement.
22.  $X_h < X_b > 0$  at 80 dB SPL adapting intensity in SDLB, is due to the combined efferent actions in the comparison ear and the adapting ear, together with the cessation of efferent actions during  $X_h$  measurments.
23. 'Binaural interaction' is effective only when the adapting stimulus and the comparison stimulus are of the same frequency.
24. The fact that the efferent action (negative adaptation ) persists even after the withdrawal of the adapting stimulus, is probably an important clue to the mechanism of 'tinnitus. Tinnitus, arising out of exposure to continueus auditory stimulation is likely to be due to the motion of the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells. A disturbance in the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells may be responsible for the 'tinnitus' obesrved in, at least, some pathological casses.

### Recommendations

1. To substantiate the findings of the present study,  $X_b$  and  $X_h$  values may be determined for MH technique using adapting intensity of greater than 80 dB SPL.
2. A detailed study on 'negative adaptation' on normal and clinical population would be worthwhile for establishing the feasibility of using ORMLA technique as a special test in clinical audiology for testing the integrity of 'Low threshold' mechanism. Additionally, this type of study may provide more information regarding the action of the efferent auditory nervous system innervating the outer hair cells.
3. Establishment of adequate data, for recovery from adaptation, on normal and clinical populations, using ORMLA technique, on the same lines of the experiment IXa, is recommended for the consideration of ORMLA technique as an objective test for identifying retrocochlear pathology cases.
4. Since the result:  $X_h < X_b > 0$  observed in SDLB technique, at adapting intensity of 60 or 80 dB HL (ISO, 1964), must be due to the efferent action/s of monaural stimulation on the periphery of the contralateral auditory system, SDLB technique can be used as a test for checking the integrity of the efferent system/s.

5. Electro physiological research studies on animals may be focussed on the efferent auditory system innervating the outer hair cells especially when the auditory stimulus is presented continuously. The results of such investigation may give further evidence to the psycho-acoustically observed phenomenon of 'inhibition' (negative adaptation) which results due to the action of the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells.

6. The research studies pertaining to cochlear implants for the deaf children, may have to explore the implications of the findings of the present study regarding the functions of the efferent auditory systems. It appears that the efferent systems operate like AVC (Automatic Volume Control) circuits in hearing aids. At low adapting intensities, the efferent system innervating the outer hair cells, plays a significant role in increasing the loudness of the sound. At high adapting intensities, the efferent system innervating the inner hair cells, plays a significant role in inhibiting the efferent units (innervating the inner hair cells) from firing.

7. In general, the result of the present study may have implications in auditory physiology and 'Neuro-Sciences'; hence it is recommended that the investigators currently engaged in psycho-acoustic and electro-physiological research

studies may focus their attention more towards the functions of the efferent auditory systems.

8. It appears that there are individual differences as far as the adaptation process (including the efferent action) is concerned hence, exploration of the factors responsible for the individual differences viz., magnitude of efferent action: magnitude of efferent action associated with NIOH; magnitude of efferent action associated with NIIH; and adaptability of stable adaptable neural units may contribute to the advancement of diagnostic and rehabilitative audiology (including the medical sciences).

#### Limitations

1. The main limitation of the study, perhaps, is that the adaptation (ORMLA) could not be determined immediately after the termination of the adapting stimulus-adaptation could be measured only after 5-sec rest period.

2. The investigators who strongly believe that there is no one-to-one relationship between loudness and reflex may not like the idea of using the 'magnitude of reflex' as a criterion for loudness perceived by the normal hearing subjects. (However, the investigator would like to stress the point that he has not equated the magnitude of reflex with the

loudness perceived in a causal way. In fact, the relationship between loudness and reflex magnitude, in normal hearing subjects, was established through an experiment (experiment - I) and also has relied on the studies reported by Gorga et al (1980), Block and Wightman (1977) and Block and Willey, (1977). Above all, the results of the study have clearly resolved the controversies which were prevailing in the area of auditory adaptation; hence, the objections (if there are any) for assuming a relationship between 'magnitude of reflex' and the loudness perceived, appear to be not reasonable).

3. The experiment I showed that the relationship between loudness perceived and the magnitude of reflex, appeared to be not true at 2 KHz. Hence, strictly speaking, ORMLA technique may not be suitable for measuring adaptation at 2 KHz. (Nevertheless, at 2 KHz, asymptotic loudness adaptation was observed. Thus, it may not be unreasonable to assume that ORMLA technique is useful for measuring adaptation at 2 KHz also.

4. During testing, motor activities such as vocalization, coughing, sneezing, laughing, yawning and frequent swallowing act as variables and hence they are required to be controlled for reliable results.

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APPENDIX-A

AN OBJECTIVE VERIFICATION OF SMALL'S  
MODEL OF LOUDNESS ADAPTATION\*

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APPENDIX - A

ABSTRACT

Small's model (1963) of loudness adaptation and the controversies prevailing with regard to the levelling off of simple adaptation above 60 dB have been objectively answered using Electroacoustic Impedance Bridge (Madsen 2072). The following conclusions are made:

1. Simple adaptation (Loudness adaptation measured at the intensity of the adapting stimulus) is linear with the intensity of the adapting stimulus beyond 60 dB level. The levelling off of simple adaptation above 60 dB as reported by other investigators (Palva, 1955; Jerger, 1957; Weiler, 1972) may be attributed to the adaptation of comparison ear owing to lateralization (cross over) of the adapting stimulus. In the present study, the influence of adaptation of non-test ear was completely ruled out as non-test ear was not made use of for measuring loudness adaptation unlike SDLB technique (non-test ear, in the present investigation, was used just for recording compliance changes). Further, the explanation of Palva and Karja (Weiler, 1972) that levelling off of simple adaptation may be due to spread of stimulation to internal hair cells, can no more be entertained in the light of the results of the present investigation.



2. Small's prediction that if adaptation is measured at an intensity less than that of the adapting stimulus, the amount of adaptation does not depend on the intensity at which the ear is adapted, but only upon the intensity at which adaptation is measured, is confirmed objectively by the present investigation.

3. Predictions inferred from Small's model of significantly lower adaptation when test tone intensity exceeds adapting tone intensity are objectively confirmed.

At present, studies are being carried out regarding asymptotic state of adaptation and recovery of adaptation in the same lines of the present investigation.

## INTRODUCTION

Ward (1973) distinguishes the phenomena commonly included under adaptation in two different ways whether they are observed during or after exposure to the acoustic stimulus (concomitant or residual respectively) and whether they require one ear (monaural) or two (binaural) for their measurement. Examples for these four categories—concomitant monaural, concomitant binaural, residual monaural and residual binaural are: tone decay, parastimulatory adaptation, TTS and loudness reduction (measured by ABLB test) respectively.

In the present paper, loudness adaptation is measured after exposure to the acoustic stimulus and it is measured using one ear--the same adapted ear. The measurement of adaptation is made objective using Electroacoustic Impedance Bridge (Madsen 1972). It is believed that elicitation of the acoustic reflex is directly related to the loudness experience of an acoustic stimulus (Metz 1952; Thomsen, 1955; Evertsen et al, 1958; Terkildsen, 1960; Moller, 1961; Terkildsen, 1964; Lamb, Peterson and Hansen, 1968, Djupesland, Plottorp and Winther, 1970; Jerger, 1970; Flottorp et al, 1971; Alberti and Kristensen, 1972; Petersem & Lidan, 1970; Fitzeland and Bartin 1974; Vyasamurthy, 1975; Rang sai, 1975), Based on this belief, difference in the magnitude of the reflex between pre-adapted test tone and post-adapted test tone at equal intensity levels is considered as a measure of loudness adaptation i.e. the amount of loudness adaptation in decibels is the difference between the intensity of the post adapted test tone and the intensity of the pre-adapted test tone which produces the same magnitude of reflex as that of the postadapted test tone. This way, loudness adaptation is measured in decibels objectively. Loudness adaptation measured in this manner may be termed objective residual monaural loudness adaptation (ORMLA).

Many techniques have been devised for measuring adaptation in its development, asymptotic state and recovery. The

simultaneous dichotic loudness balance (SDLB) technique is the one that has been most frequently used for measuring all of the aspects of adaptation. Studies relating to the amount of adaptation as a function of intensity, duration and frequency of the stimulus are in conflict. Hood (1950) found a roughly linear relation over the range of intensity values he investigated (40 dB SL to 80 dB SL). Jerger(1957) has demonstrated a linear relation from 10 dB to 60 dB SL, but above this level the function flattens out. Jerger(1957) Palva (1955) and Weiler (1972) have found no increase in adaptation as a function of adapting intensity above 60 dB. Elliott and Fraser (1970) summarize as follows:

...For the studies that have data points in common (Hood,1950; Palva, 1955; Jerger, 1957 and Wright, 1960) only Hood showed a substantial increase in the degree of observed adaptation beyond the 60 dB level. Two speculations as to why this levelling off of occurred present themselves. First, if crossover does operata so as to cause adaptation in the control ear and there is a linear relation between adaptation and intensity, then a levelling off of observed adaptation would occur at approximately the 70 dB point. This sort of spoculation is, of course restricted by the fact that two studies: Hood (1950) and Carterette (1956) did show linear relation continuing above 60 dB....The levelling off of adaptation at 60 dB, lies in the fact that the data are plotted in intensity units rather than in subjective loudness units. Carterette (1956) found a linear relation only when he made just such a transformation. Although a general statement might be that adaptation and the intensity of the adapting stimulus are linearly related, the upper limit of this function remains in doubt. More evidence is needed before such a statement can be made with confidence.

Further, Palva & Karja (as mentioned by Weiler, 1972)

have suggested that the change in the function above 60 dB may be linked to a spread of stimulation to the internal hair cells.

Small's model (1963) of loudness adaptation has been verified by some investigators (Egan, 1995; Hood, 1990; Weiler, 1972). It seems that objective verification of small's model of loudness adaptation in the lines of present investigation has not yet been attempted by any investigator. The present study is the first attempt ever made to verify Small's model of loudness Adaptation objectively. Also this study aims to throw light on the existing controversies with regard to the levelling off of loudness adaptation above 60 dB.

## METHOD

### Subjects

Four groups of normal hearing subjects in the age range of 18 - 22 years were tested, for four experiments: I, IIA, IIB and III. Subjects were selected on the criteria of:

1. Normal hearing in with ears ( $\leq 20$  dB HL ANSI, 1969) for frequencies from 250 Hz to 4 KHz
2. Normal tympanograms in both ears
3. Normal acoustic reflex thresholds in both ears
4. Increase in the magnitude of reflex with increase in the intensity of 1000 Hz tone i.e., subjects who showed visually noticeable changes in the deflection of Balance Meter (BM) needle for every 5 dB rise in intensity of 1000 Hz tone upon 105 dB SPL and visually noticeable changes for every

10 dB rise above 105 dB SPL were selected (at high intensity levels noticeable change in the deflection of BM needle occurred only for 10 dB steps).

### Equipment

All data were obtained using an electroacoustic impedance bridge (Madsen Z072). Probe tone (220 Hz) of the bridge was calibrated for 89 dB SPL by using B & K Sound Level Meter (220) with Octave Filter set (B & K 1613) attached to 2 cc coupler with 4144 (B & K) condenser microphone. Frequency of 220 Hz tone was checked by using 203 Timer/Counter Eastern Electronics and Earphone output (Telex with MK-41/AR cushion) was calibrated using B & K SPL meter (2203) with Octave Filter Set (B & K 1613) attached to 6 cc coupler with 4144 (B & K) microphone. Attenuator linearity was checked. Earphone output for 1000 Hz tones at different dial readings are given in Appendix 1.

### Procedure

Four experiments were carried out using four groups of normal subjects: Group 1, Group 2, Group 3 and Group 4.

Experiment No. I. Experiment I was conducted to see whether simple adaptation (adaptation measured at the intensity of the adapting stimulus) remains constant above 60 dB. 10 selected subjects (6 F + 4 M) were tested (Group 1). The following procedure was followed for each subject:

Step 1. Acoustic reflex threshold of Lt. ear was determined at 1 KHz. The procedure given in the Manual of Madsen

Z072 impedance bridge was followed. 1000 Hz tone was presented for 1.5 sec (there is a provision for presenting tones for 1.5 sec in the bridge). BM needle deflection positions and sensitivity knob position at different levels of 1000 Hz tone were noted. The different levels were: 80, 85, 90, 95, 100, 105, 115 and 125 dB SPL. At high intensity levels sensitivity knob of impedance bridge was set at '2' or '1'. Three readings were taken at each level for reliability. The readings were consistent. BM needle position and sensitivity knob position for different levels of 1000 Hz tone in a subject are given in Appendix 2.

Note: The above testing was done for all the subjects prior to every adaptation test.

Step 2. 1000 Hz tone was presented continuously to left ear of each subject for 7 min at 105, 115 and 125 dB ASL separately on differant days. At the end of 7-min adaptation, the tone was withdrawn and immediately compliance control knob and sensitivity knob (probe tone was put off during adaptation) were adjusted until BM needle showed '0' (midline of the scale). Next, the same tone was presented again for 1.5 sec. BM needle deflection position was noted. adjustment of compliance control and airpump for middle ear pressure could be done within 5 sec. Thus there was 5 sec rest period before the ear was restimulated for the measurement of adaptation. BM needle position and sensitivity position for post adapted 1000 Hz tone was compared with the

same BM needle position and sensitivity position for pre-adapted 1000 Hz tone. For example -- If BM needle position and sensitivity position for preadapted 1000 Hz tone at 90 dB SPL is \*4 (3) BM (S) and for post adapted 1000 Hz tone at 105 dB SPL is also 4 (3) BM (S). Then adaptation in dB measured at 105 dB SPL is equal to 15 dB (109 - 90), The rationale is that when 1000 Hz tone is presented at 105 dB SPL to the ear which is adapted for 7', the loudness of 1000 Hz tone will be decreased by an amount equal to the amount of adaptation. Consequently the magnitude of the reflex is also reduced. Reduction in the magnitude of the reflex is a measure of adaptation.

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Experiment II 'A'. Experiment II 'A' and II 'B' were

carried out to verify Small's prediction that when adaptation is measured below the intensity of the adapting stimulus the amount of adaptation does not depend upon the intensity at which the ear is adapted, but only upon the intensity at which adaptation is measured.

8 subjects (5F + 3 M) were tested for this experiment. Group 2, was used.

Procedure 1. Step 1 of experiment was carried out;

2. Amount of adaptation for 1000 Hz tone when presented continuously for 4 min at 125 dB SPL was measured at 115 and 105 dB SPL separately on different days. The technique of measurement was same as the technique mentioned in step 2 of experiment I.

+4(3) means--4 refers to Balance Meter reading, 3 refers to sensitivity knob position.

Experiment II 'B'. 7 subjects (4 F + 3 M) were tested for this study. Group 3, was used.

Procedure 1. Step 1 of experiment I was carried out.

2. Amount of adaptation for 1000 Hz tone when presented for 4- min continuously at 125dB SPL and 115dB SPL was determined on different days using 1000 Hz test tone at 105 dB SPL. The technique of measurement was same as the technique mentioned in step 2 of experiment I.

Experiment III. This experiment was done to investi-

gate whether lower adaptation results when adaptation is measured at an intensity higher than the intensity of the adapting stimulus.

Five subjects (3F+2M) were tested for this study. Group 4 was used.

Procedure 1. Step 1 of experiment was carried out.

2. Amount of adaptation was measured at 130 dB SPL and 120 dB SPL on different days after the ear was adapted to 1000 Hz tone at 120 dB SPL for 4 min. The technique of measurement was same as the technique mentioned in step 2 of experiment I.

Reliability. The subjects were retested for reliability on different days.



Experiment I. Table 1 reveals the amount of simple adaptation exhibited by normal hearing subjects when exposed to 1000 Hz tone continuously for 7 min at 125, 115 and 105 dB SPL. Amount of adaptation was same during retest conditions for all the subjects at all the intensity levels tested. It is clear from the data that simple adaptation increases a function of intensity of 1000 Hz tone. This finding is in contrast to the observation of earlier investigators (Jerger 1997, Palva 1955 and Weiler, 1972) that simple adaptation remains fairly constant above 60 dB. The result of the present study proves beyond any doubt that simple adaptation is linear with the intensity of the adapting stimulus (1 KHz) even above 60 dB. Levelling off of adaptation above 60 dB as observed by other investigators may be attributed to the adaptation of comparison ear owing to lateralization of adapting stimulus. The amount of adaptation measured by using the present study is not at all affected by the adaptation of nontest ear as the nontest ear is not used for measuring loudness adaptation unlike SDLB technique (nontest ear, in the present study, is used just for recording compliance changes).

Farther. it is obvious from the results of the present study that the explanation of Palva and Karja (as mentioned by Weiler 1972) that the levelling off of simple adaptation

Table 1

Amount of simple adaptation for 10 subjects

No. of Subjects	Intensity 1		KHz tone in dB		SPL	
	125		115		105	
	Amount of adaptaton in dB		Amount of adaptation in dB		amount of adaptation in dB	
	Test	Retest	Test	Retest	Test	Retest
1	20	20	10	10	5	5
2	20	20	10	10	5	5
3	10	10	5	5	5	5
4	10	10	5	5	0	0
5	20	20	10	10	5	5
6	30	30	15	15	5	5
7	20	-	10	-	5	5
8	10	10	5	5	5	5
9	20	20	10	10	5	5
10	30	-	15	-	5	-

- = Not test

Table 2

Amount of adaptation (in dB) to 1 KHz tone presented at 125 dB SPL for 4 continuously. Adaptation was measured at 115 dB SPL & 105 dB SPL

Sl. No. of subjects	4'	5" 1.5"	4'5"	1.5"
	125	115	125	105
	Test	Retest	Test	Retest
1	10	10	5	5
2	15	15	10	10
3	20	20	15	15
4	25	25	15	15
5	10	10	5	5
6	20	20	10	10
7	15	15	10	10
8	20	20	15	15

above 60 dB may be due to spread of stimulation to internal hair cells can no more be entertained.

Experiment II 'A'. Results of this experiment are given in table 2. Table 2 shows the amount of adaptation exhibited by 8 subjects to 1000 Hz tone when exposed continuously for 4 min at 125 dB SPL. Amount of adaptation was measured at 115 and 105 dB SBL separately on different days after adaptation to 1000 Hz tone for 4 min at 125 dB SPL.

The results reveal that when adaptation is measured below the intensity of the adapting stimulus, the amount of adaptation does not depend upon the intensity at which the ear is adapted, but only upon the intensity at which adaptation is measured. The results confirm Small's prediction objectively.

Experiment II 'B'. Table 3 shows the amount of adaptation exhibited by 7 subjects to 1000 Hz tone when exposed continuously for 4 min at 125 dB SPL and 119 dB SPL on different days. Adaptation was measured at 105 dB SPL. Same amounts of adaptation were observed even when the ear was adapted to different intensity levels. Thus the results confirm Small's prediction objectively.

Table 3  
Amount of adaptation (in dB) to 1 KHz tone  
Presented at 125 dB SPL, 115 dB SPL for 4  
was measured at 105 dB SPL

Sl. No. of subjects	4' 125 Test	5" 1.5" 105 Retest	4' 115 Test	5" 1.5" 105 Retest
1	15	15	15	15
2	10	10	10	10
3	20	10	20	20
4	15	15	15	15
5	25	25	25	25
6	20	20	20	20
7	20	20	20	20

**Table 4**

**Amount of adaptation (in dB) to 1 KHz tone presented at 120 dB SPL for 4' continuously--adaptation was measured at**

Sl.No.of subjects	130 dB SPL and 125 dB SPL		120 dB SPL	
	4' 120 Test	5" 120 Retest	4' 120 Test	5" 1.5" 130 Retest
1	15	15	10	10
2	20	20	10	10
3	10	10	0	0
4	10	10	0	0
5	10	10	0	0

Experiment III. Table 4 shows the amount of adaptation exhibited by 5 subjects when exposed to 1000 Hz tone at 120 dB SPL for 4 min continuously. Amount of adaptation was measured at 120 and 130 dB SPL separately on different days after the ear was adapted to 1000 Hz tone for 4 min at 120 dB SPL. This experiment shows that less adaptation results when adaptation is measured at an intensity higher than the intensity of adapting stimulus. Predictions, inferred from Small's model, of lower adaptation when test tone intensity exceeds adapting tone intensity were confirmed objectively.

In all the experiments retest values agreed with the test values indicating high reliability of the test procedure used ( $r=1.00$ ).

### Summary and Conclusion

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Small's model (1963) of loudness adaptation and the controversies prevailing with regard to the levelling off of simple adaptation above 60 dB have been objectively answered using Electroacoustic Impedance Bridge (Madsen Z0 72). The following conclusions are made:

1. Simple adaptation (loudness adaptation measured at the intensity of the adapting stimulus) is linear with the intensity of the adapting stimulus beyond 60 dB level. The levelling off of simple adaptation above 60 dB as reported

by other investigators (Palva, 1955; Jerger, 1957; Weiler, 1972) may be attributed to the adaptation of comparison ear owing to lateralization (Crossover) of the adapting stimulus. In the present study, the influence of adaptation of non-test ear was completely ruled out as non-test ear was not made use of for measuring loudness adaptation unlike SPLB technique (non-test ear, in the present investigation was used just for recording compliance changes). Further, the explanation of Palva and Karja (Weiler, 1972) that levelling off of simple adaptation may be due to spread of stimulation to internal hair cells, can no more be entertained in the light of the results of present investigation.

2. Small's prediction that if adaptation is measured an intensity less than that of the adapting stimulus, the amount of adaptation does not depend on the intensity at which the ear is adapted, but only upon the intensity at which adaptation is measured, is confirmed objectively by the present investigation.

3. Predictions, inferred from Small's model, of significantly lower adaptation when test tone intensity exceeds adaptation tone intensity are objectively confirmed.

At present, studies are being carried out regarding asymptotic state of adaptation and recovery of adaptation in the same lines of the present investigation.



APPENDIX 'A'

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APPENDIX - 1

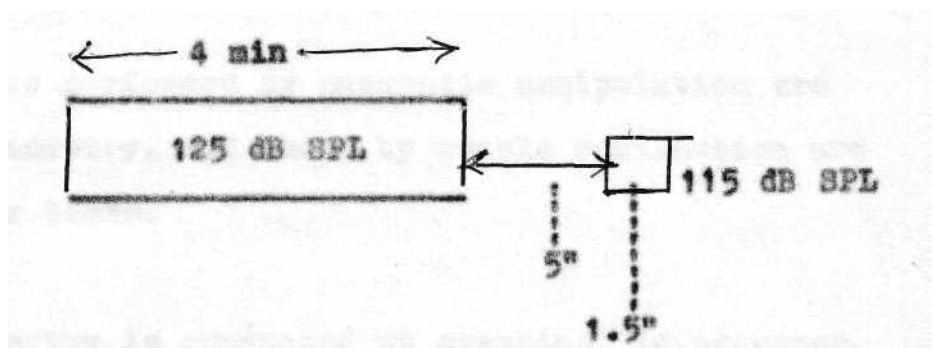
Dial Readings dB HL	Earphone output at 1 KHz in dB SPL
	65
	70
60	75
	80
65	85
	90
70	95
	100
75	105
	110
80	115
85	120
90	125
95	130
100	
105	
110	
115	
120	
125	

Note: Decimal points have been omitted.

Appendix - 2

Pressure in the ear canal (mm H <sub>2</sub> O)	dB SPL of 1 KHz tone (pre-adaptation)	BM needle position	sensitivity Knob position
0	85	2	3
0	90	4	3
0	90	2	2
0	95	3	2
0	100	4	2
0	105	4.5	2
0	110	1	1
0	115	2	1
0	125	2.5	1

Example:



B.M. needle position and sensitivity knob position for the post-adapted test tone presented at 115 dB SPL is 3 (2)

BMS

The same magnitude of reflex is obtained for the pre-adapted test tone at 95 dB SPL (shown in boxes).

∴ Adaptation = 115 - 95 = 20 dB

## APPENDIX - B

### EXCERPTS FROM "SCHOOL FOR IMPEDANCE MEASUREMENTS

#### INTRODUCTION TO IMPEDANCE

Impedance is a technique for making measurements of the function and intensity of the middle ear system. Because the system is mechanical, the measurements can be made objectively.

The technique is based upon measuring the changes in sound pressure level in the ear canal caused by manipulation of the tympanic membrane and the ossicular chain. The manipulation is accomplished either pneumatically or by middle ear muscle contraction.

The tests performed by pneumatic manipulation are called tympanometry, and those by muscle contraction are called reflex tests.

Tympanometry is conducted by creating, in sequence, positive and negative air pressures in a sealed ear canal and recording the changes in mobility of the tympanic membrane/ossicular chain system thus caused. Creating a positive air pressure of 200 mm (water gauge) in a sealed ear canal will stiffen the tympanic membrane and thus

reduce its efficiency as a transmission link. In this state the T.M has reduced mobility and is said to have a low compliance, or in other words the passage of sound is reduced or impeded, and the T.M. is said to have a high impedance.

If a negative air pressure of 200 mm is applied, the T.M will again be stiffened, its compliance will be reduced and its impedance increased.

The point of maximum compliance (minimum impedance) will occur when there is no artificially induced stiffness i.e., when the air pressure in the external ear canal equals the air pressure in the middle ear spaces. If the air pressure in the external canal is changed slowly from +200 to -200 mm the compliance, in a normal middle ear, will change from low to high and back to low.

In a normally functioning middle ear, contraction of either of the middle ear muscles will exert a pull on the transmission link (the link comprising the tympanic membrane and ossicular chain) and will thus increase the impedance of the system. If an audio stimulus at about 70 dB above

threshold is presented to an ear, and the stapedial muscle contracts the impedance change can be observed. In the absence of stapedial muscle reflex, there is some abnormality of the middle ear.

The instrument used for measurement is referred to as an impedance bridge, the word bridge in this context implying an electrical circuit which compares two signals. When the two signals are equal, the bridge is said to be in balance. Any difference between the two signals will unbalance the bridge, and it is thus a simple matter to provide a meter whose deflection can be directly interpreted as a change in one of the signals. If the other of the two signals is a standardized or reference signal, the result is an extremely sensitive and effective way of measuring small quantities.

The impedance bridge has two meters. The first is an electro - manometer, which is an accurate gauge for measuring the ear canal air pressure. The second is the balance meter which is operating as a sensitive sound level meter, for measuring the sound pressure level in the ear canal.

Reading of these meters are used to determine if the middle ear being investigated is normal or abnormal. In the presence of abnormality, the bridge offers further help



in differentiating between the more common middle ear pathologies.

## BASIC PRINCIPLE

The Madsen Z072 Impedance Bridge is one of a series of instruments used to detect and measure middle ear functions. It can also detect and measure the action of middle ear muscles. The instrument's advantage is that it is capable of making all measurements quickly and with no discomfort to the patient. The Z072 Impedance Bridge works on the principle that when a hard walled cavity has a calibrated audio tone applied to it, a sound pressure level (SPL) will be established. If the volume of such a cavity is large, the intensity of the tone must be relatively large to attain a given SPL within the cavity. Conversely, if the cavity is small, the intensity of the tone necessary to attain the same SPL will be relatively smaller. When this sound pressure level is measured the volume of that cavity can be determined and any change in that cavity can also be distinguished.

## TECHNICAL PRINCIPLES

Attached to the Z072 headband is a small metal case containing a receiver and a microphone. The metal probe

section contains three small pipes. soft eartips of different sizes enable the probe to make an airtight fit in the ear canal. A cavity is thus formed by the airtight closure of the ear canal terminated by the ear drum. A pure tone generator produces a fixed frequency of 220 Hz. termed the probe tone ,which is the basis for the acoustic impedance measurements. The probe tone is applied to the revolver, the sound output of which is coupled by a rubber tube to one of three pipes in the probe. The microphone, which is connected by a second rubber tube to another of the probe pipes, serves to monitor the SPL within the canal. The remaining pipe in the probe section is connected by flexible tubing to a pressure system consisting of a pump and electro-manometer by mean of which specific positive or negative pressures can be applied to the ear canal.

The compliance control is a multi-turn potentiometer acting as an attenuator to govern the probe tone intensity. When the Compliance Control is adjusted to give zero reading on the Balance Meter, the SPL in the ear canal is precisely 85 dB (55 dB above the threshold for normal hearing). This SPL is made to coincide with zero on the Balance Meter. The other side of the meter is connected to a very stable DC supply of 20 volts. When the microphone signal voltage equals 20 volts. The voltage at the Balance Meter terminal is

zero, the polarity of the opposing voltages being such that cancellation occurs. When the SPL exceeds 85 dB the balance Meter reading is to the right of centre zero and if below 85 dB, to the left of zero.

The main scale cursor for the Compliance Control traverses alternative scales, one for readings of Acoustic Impedance engraved in Acoustic Ohms and the other for Compliance reading engraved in Cubic Centimeters (cc). Acoustic impedance and Volume (cc) are in direct relationship for hard-walled cavities and it is on this basis that the Compliance control is calibrated. Thus, if the probe is fitted to a hard-walled cavity having a volume within the measuring range of the Z072, the volume, in cc, may be measured and read off the Compliance Scale.

When measurements are made on the ear, adjustment of the Z072 Compliance Control to a zero reading on the Balance Meter sets the SPL in the ear canal to 85 dB. For a given ear canal volume, the measured compliance will differ from that in a hard-walled cavity of similar volume due to absorption of acoustic energy at the eardrum and through the middle ear. As the absorption of energy increases, the compliance increases or, expressed another way, the acoustic impedance decreases.

The amount of absorption at the eardrum equals a certain

increase of the actual volume of the ear canal. It is determined, among others, by three separate factors, the eardrum itself, the ossicular chain, and the middle ear space.

#### PRINCIPLES OF ACOUSTIC IMPEDANCE

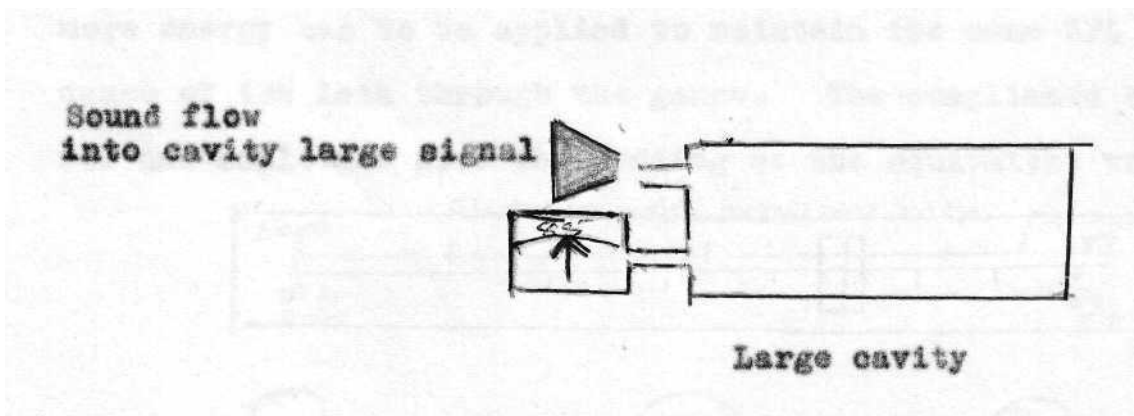
Acoustic impedance is the resistance offered by an object to sound and it is measured in units termed acoustic ohms. The mobility of the object can also be measured and expressed as compliance. It has been customary to indicate the compliance is equivalent volume of air. Any stiffness can be expressed by such a specific volume.

When sound strikes an object, some of the acoustic energy is reflected and some is absorbed, depending upon the nature of the material involved. Thus, when sound reaches the Tympanic Membrane (T.M), some of the acoustic energy is absorbed causing it to vibrate. The energy thus dissipated gives rise to the mechanical motion of the T.M. and the ossicular chain within the middle ear. Mechanically, the ear is a highly complicated and delicately poised structure. A normal T.M. and middle ear offer a relatively low acoustic impedance. implying that appreciable energy is absorbed and passed through the middle ear. If the eardrum is thickened or the middle ear contains fluid, the acoustic impedance

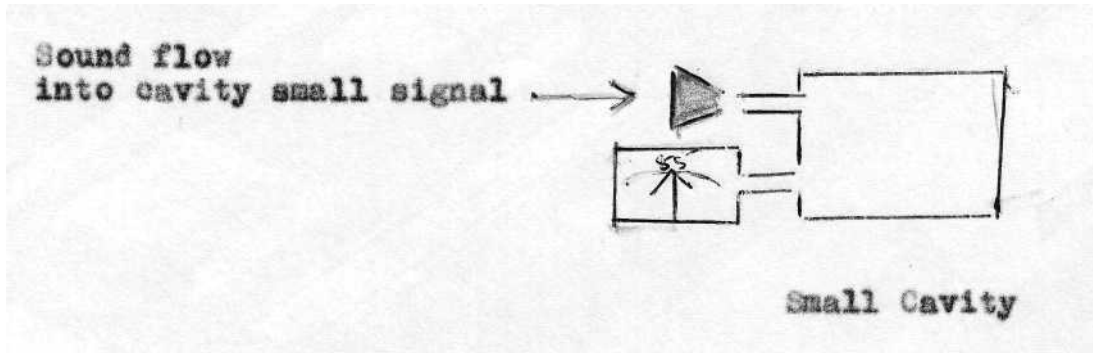
will be increased which means that less energy will be absorbed and there will be a consequent loss of transmission. Likewise, if a negative pressure exists within the middle ear and the T.M. becomes stretched, the acoustic impedance will be increased.

With the Model Z072, T.M. characteristics may be observed by the application of positive and negative pressures to the ear canal. The function of the intra-aural muscle reflexes may also be studied and the various observations are seen as changes in acoustic impedance. The correct clinical interpretation of the various measurements has to be considered and in order to make the best practical use of the model Z072 it is important to understand the principle involved.

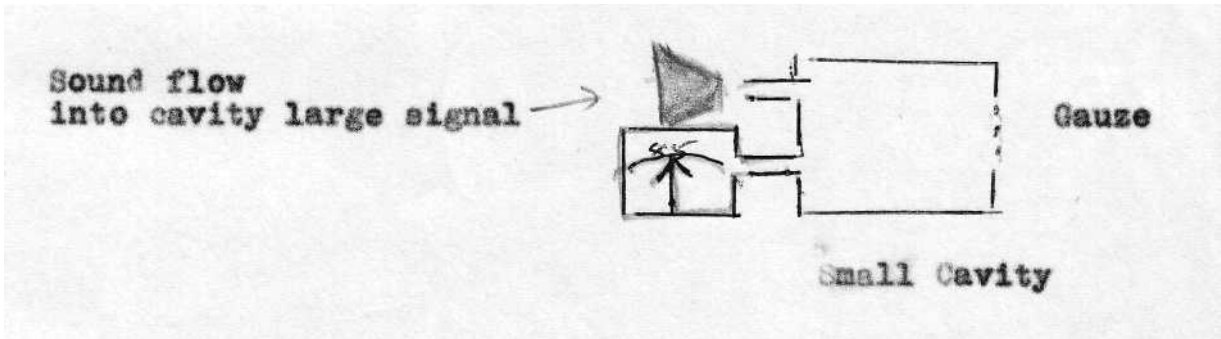
The volume of a hard-walled cavity may be determined acoustically by the application of a pure tone of a fixed frequency and known energy, and measuring the Sound Level (SPL) within the cavity.



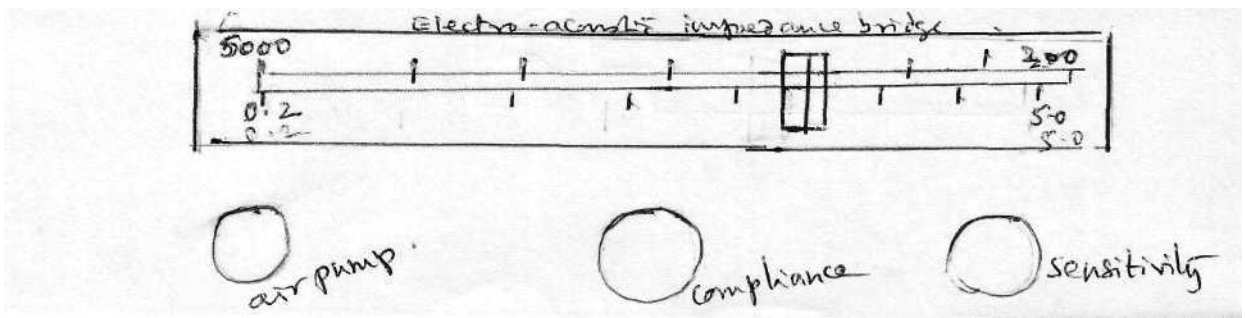
If the volume of such a cavity is large, the energy of the tone must be relatively large to attain a given SPL within the cavity.

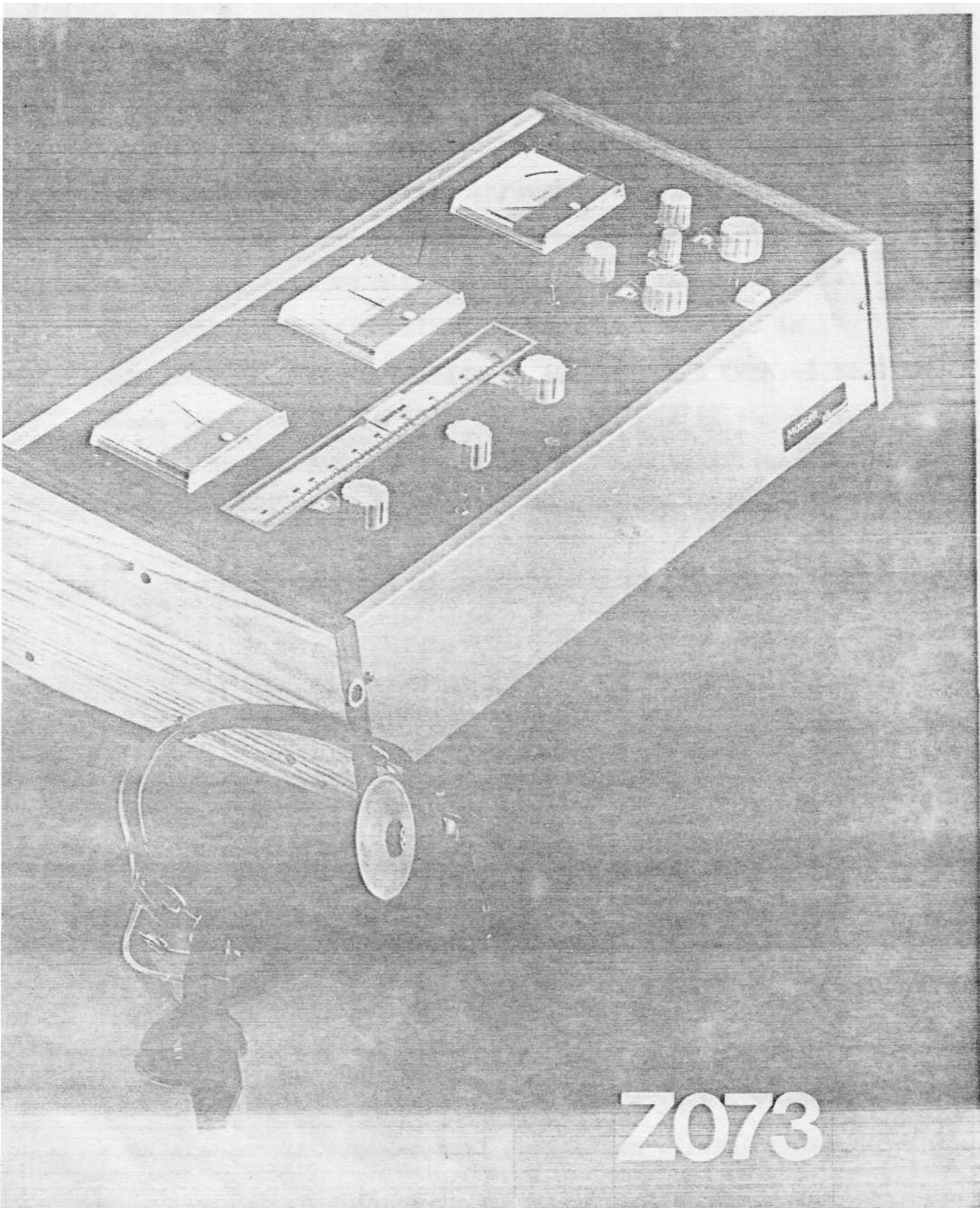


Conversely, if the cavity is small, the energy of the tone necessary to attain the same SPL will be relatively smaller.



If a gauze is inserted in one end of the small cavity more energy has to be applied to maintain the same SPL because of the leak through the gauze. The compliance control and scale now give the reading of the equivalent volume.

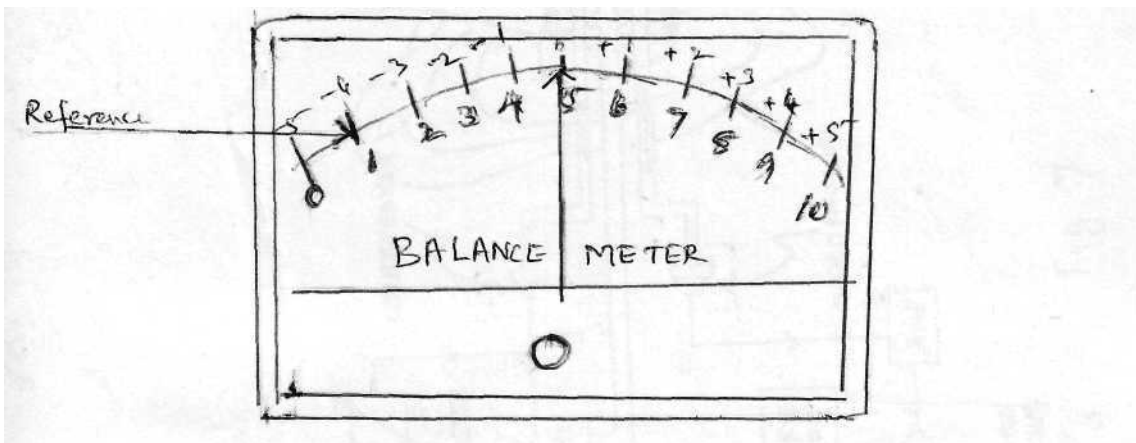




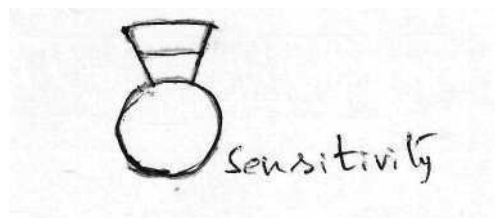
Z073

Madsen

The basic principle of the Model Z072 is that the compliance potentiometer controls the amount of energy that flows into the cavity through the probe, whilst the balance meter which (via the probe) is connected to the microphone, acts as a sound level meter showing a pre-set sound pressure level of 85 dB SPL when it is in balance. If the deflection is in the range from -5 to 0 it means that the SPL is less than 85 dB, and if the deflection is in the range 0 to +5 the SPL is higher than 85 dB.



The sensitivity switch can change the sensitivity of the balance meter in such a way that it will give full deflection for relatively large or small changes in SPL. In position 1 the sensitivity is such that it takes several dB changes in SPL to get full deflection on the meter (Tympanometry) whereas in sensitivity 4 just a fraction of a dB change will cause full deflection (Reflex Text).





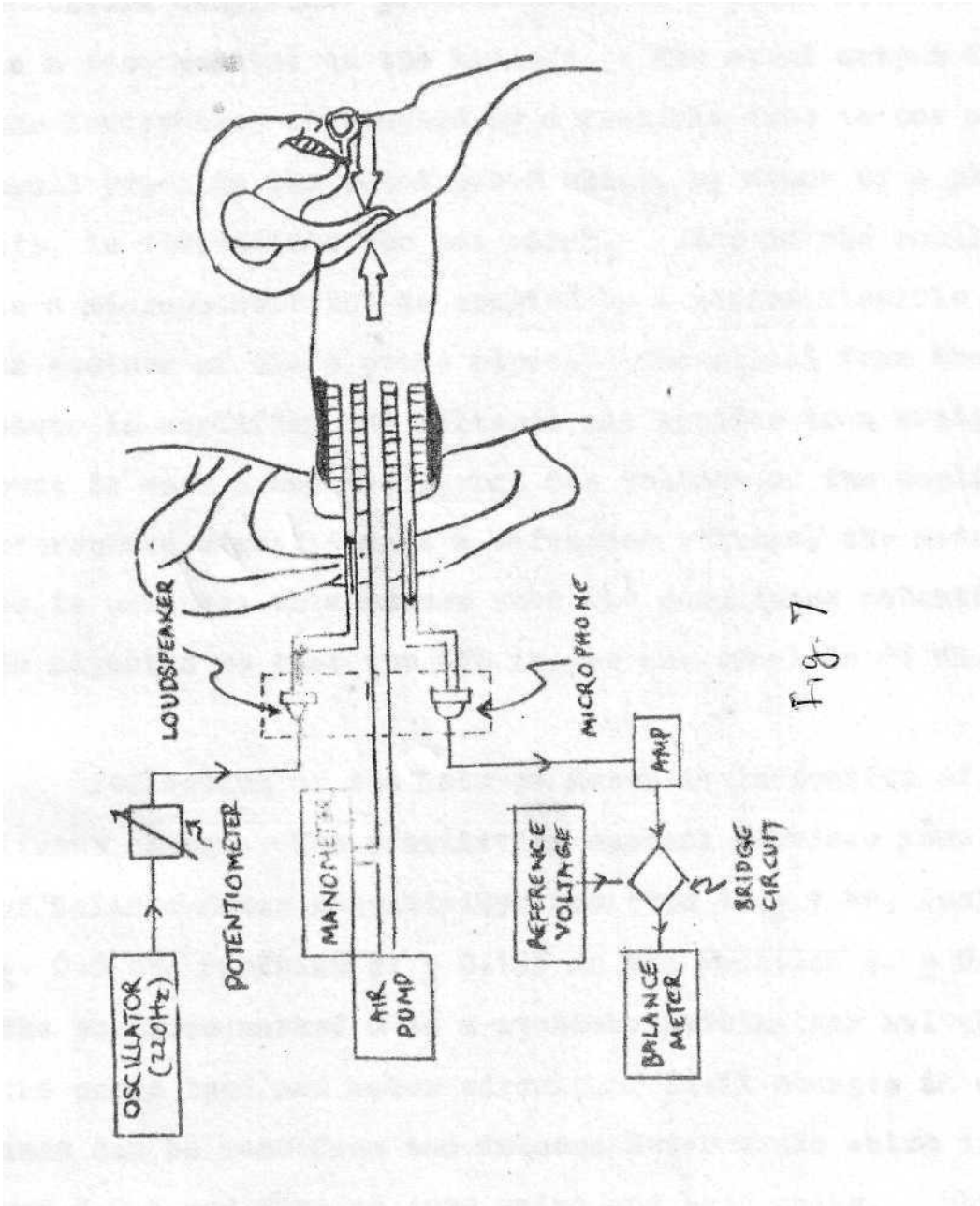


Fig-7

The impedance section of the Model Z072 consist of an oscillator producting a 220 Hz tone. This goes via the multiturn compliance potentiometer to a small loudspeaker in a case mounted on the headset. The sound output from the loudspeaker is coupled by a flexible tube to one of 3 small pipes in the metal probe which, by means of a plastic tip, is fitted into the ear canal. Also in the small case is a microphone which is coupled by a second flexible tube to another of the 3 probe pipes. the signal from the microphone is amplified aad filtered and applies to a bridge circuit in such a way that, whan the voltage of the amplified microphone signal equals a reference voltage, the meter will be in balance; this occurs when the compliance potentiometer is adjusted so that the SPL in the ear cannal is 85 dB.

Deflection of the Balance Water is indicative of compliance change. The sensitivity control provides four degrees of Balance Mater sensitivity: Position 1:  $\pm 1$  cc, Position 2:  $+ 0.5$  cc. Position 3:  $+ 0.125$  cc and Position 4:  $\pm 0.025$  cc. The position marked 0 is a stand-by setting for switching off the probe tone and meter circuit. Small changes in compliance can be read from the Balance Meter scale which is engraved 5-0-5 and divided late units and half units. When it is desired to measure previsely small changes in compliance. reference should be made to the Conversion Charts which takes into account the setting of the Sensitivity control (Positions

1,2, 3 & 4) and the volume of the ear canal under investigation which must be measured.

The main scale associated with the Compliance control is calibrated in terms of Compliance (0.2 to 5.0 cc) and Accoustic Impedancr (5000 to 200 acoustic ohms). When the wavelength of the probe tone is large in comparison with the volume, volume and acoustic impedance are in direct relationship for hard-walled cavities and it is on this basis that these scales are calibrated. Subject to due allowance being made for actual ear cavity size by reference to the Conversion Chartas the Balance Meter gives an accurate expanded interpretation of the main Compliance scale. By this means very small compliance changes can be measured. Note that clockwise rotation of the Compliance control gives Balance Meter deflection to the right and anti-clockwise rotation gives deflection to the left. Thus, for example, if the Balance Meter needle is reading full scale to the right, rotate the Compliance control to the left (anti-clockwise) to obtain a zero reading.

#### AIR PRESSURE SYSTEM

The third pipe in the metal probe section is connected by a flexible tube to the pressure outlet at the near of the instrument. The system comprises a multi-turn pump

and electro-manometer scaled  $\pm 400$  mm (water gauge). The pump control has a scale with a centre zero and extended lines on either side which become increasingly bolder towards the limits of pump-control rotation. The electro-manometer is based on a pressure transducer connected to both the ear canal and the pressure system. Thus, the true pressure is displayed on the meter.

Pressures above or below atmospheric may be applied to the ear under investigation. A pre-set control at the rear of the instruments marked zero Adj (39) is provided. For zero adjustment of manometer (1) leave the probe open whilst adjusting. The zero setting of the manometer (1) is independent of atmospheric barometric changes.

#### FITTING THE HEADSET

The headset is fitted with a single audiometric ear-phone by means of which the stimulus for the muscle reflex tests is applied by the audiometer section. Before carrying out any tests it is important to remove any wax from the patient's ears which may block the three small apertures in the probe and render the instrument unserviceable.

The relative positions of the probe and audiometer

earphone will depend upon the particular tests to be carried out, For general tympanometry including middle ear pressure, cavity volume and eardrum impedance measurements, the probe is placed in the ear under investigation, and the audiometer earphone on the contralateral ear. For muscle reflex measurements, the audiometer earphone is placed on the ear under investigation, and the probe is placed in the opposite ear. In facial nerve examinations, the probe is placed in the ear under investigation and the opposite ear is stimulated by the audiometer to determine whether the intraaural muscle reflex action is present.

Always set the pump control to zero before inserting the probe to ensure that the full pump range is available. Adjust the audiometer earphone so that the cushion aperture is directly facing the ear canal. Select a suitable mushroom shaped plastic or cellular nylon foam eartip for the probe - push the eartips on to the probe to make a flush fit. Insert the probe into the external meatus making sure that the probe apertures do not come into contact with the ear canal. When inserting the probe, pull the pinna upwards and backwards to straighten the ear canal and make insertion easier. Also, ask the patient to open his jaw whilst inserting, as this widens the ear canal. In cases where it is difficult to get a seal, apply a little vaseline to the tip; this will make it easier to slide it in and at the

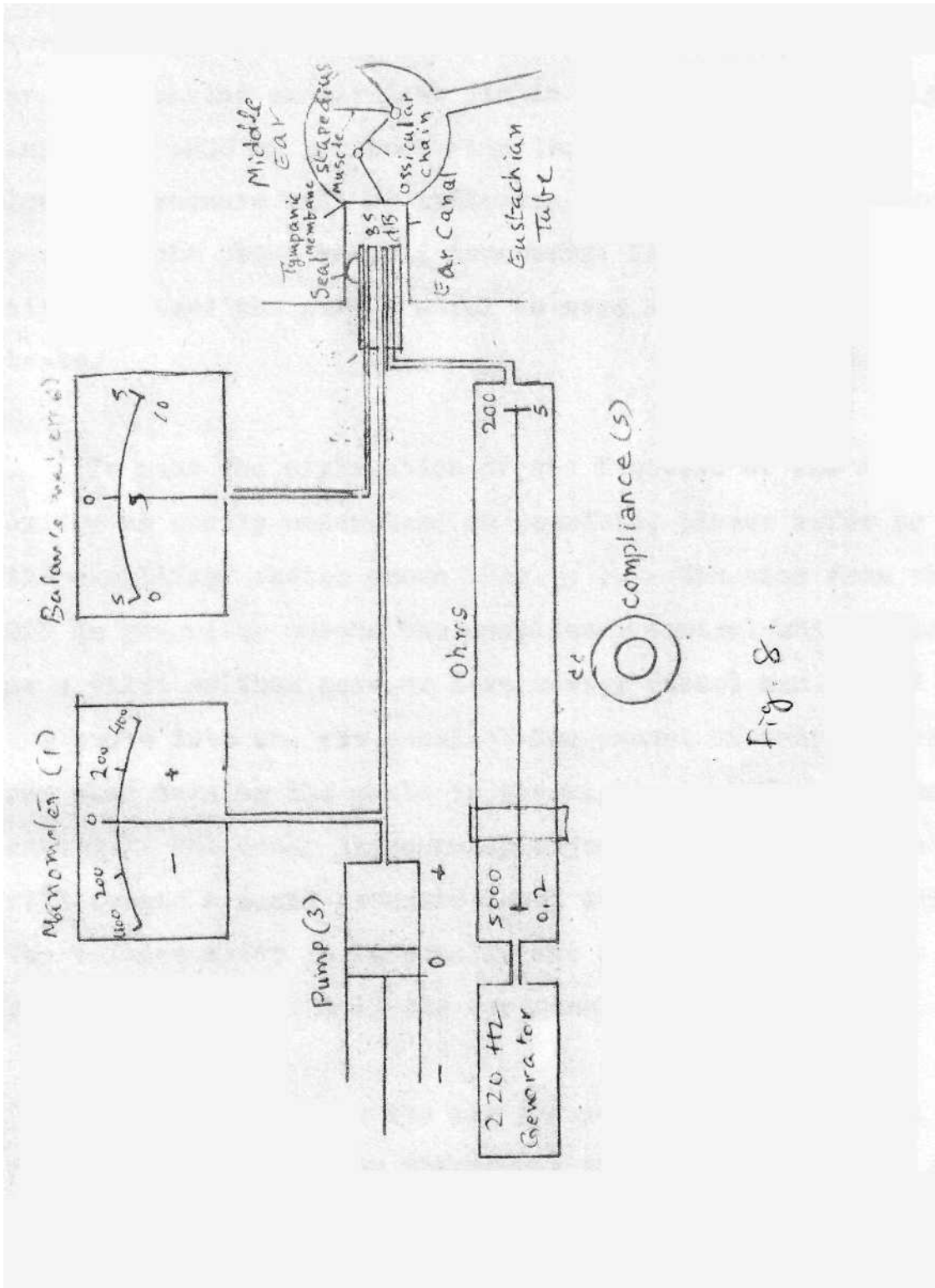


Fig. 8.

same time if forms a better seal. Too much vaseline may obstruct the three small pipes. Always check that the probe is making an airtight fit in the ear canal by applying about +200 mm pressure with the pump control. Any loss of pressure will be indicated by the manometer. Reposition the probe and, if necessary, fit a different ear-tip. Re-set the pump control to zero before commencing tests.

To make the explanation of the function of the Madsen Bridge as easily understood as possible, please refer to the simplified sketch shown (Fig. 8 ). The tone from the 220 Hz generator passes the compliance control which acts as a valve so that more or less energy (tone) can be fed via the probe into the ear canal. The amount of energy increases when turning the scale to the right, towards a larger cavity. The scale is normally adjusted to that the energy will create a sound pressure level in the ear canal of 85 dB. The balance meter is internally set so that it will show a balance when the SPL in the ear canal is 85 dB.

The pump controls the air pressure in the ear canal and the manometer shows the actual pressure. When the piston in the pump is moved to the right (toward +) a positive pressure is, via the probe, created in the ear canal and

when the piston is moved to the left a negative pressure is reached. The manometer will at all times show the actual pressure.

### Tympanometer

Tympanometer is used to test mechanical condition of the middle ear. The test includes checking of the mobility of the tympanic membrane and associated ossicles, fluid and air pressure in the middle ear as well as eustachian tube function.

The tympanometry test using the impedance meter can be explained in the following simplified way. Under normal conditions the air pressure in the middle ear equal the pressure in the ear canal, because the ear canal as well as the middle ear, via the eustachian tube, has normal atmospheric pressure. The tympanic membrane will therefore normally be in its neutral relaxed position free to move, and show a normal compliance. If, in a normal ear, a pressure of +220 is applied to the ear canal, the tympanic membrane will be moved inwards and clamped. It will have less mobility and be less compliant and the balance meter will give a deflection to the right. When the pressure in the ear canal is reduced, the tympanic membrane will move back towards its relaxed position, it will become more compliant and therefore the balance meter will move to the left. When the



pressure in the ear canal equals the pressure in the middle ear, the tympanic membrane will be in its most compliant position and the balance meter will indicate that by giving a minimum reading on the red scale.

If a negative pressure is applied to the ear canal in a normal ear, the tympanic membrane will be moved outwards and clamped. It will have less mobility and be less compliant and the Balance Meter will show a low compliance by deflecting to a higher number on the red scale. This will be more or less the same situation as when the positive pressure was applied. When the negative pressure is reduced the tympanic membrane will move towards the relaxed position, it will again become more compliant, and therefore the needle on the balance meter will move to the left. When the pressure in the ear canal equals the pressure in the middle ear, the tympanic membrane will be in its most compliant position and the balance meter will indicate that by giving a minimum reading on the red scale.

To find the actual pressure in a middle ear, the pressure is therefore changed from +200 mm towards a negative pressure. The Balance Meter is watched and the air pressure that creates the lowest reading on the red scale (highest compliance) equals the pressure in the middle ear.

## Acoustic Reflex Test

When a sound of a relatively high intensity (70 - 90 dB above threshold) is applied to an ear. the stapedius muscle in both ears will contract. When the muscle contracts it will make a slight pull on the ossicles, which will be transmitted to the tympanic membrane and result in a small change of compliance. Because the compliance change is very small, it is important that the pressure in the external canal exactly equals the middle ear pressure, whether it is 0, -20, -40 etc, in order to ensure that the tympanic membrane in its most compliant position.

When the stimulus is presented to one ear, the acoustic signal goes via the middle ear, cochlear and the nerve system to the brain. If the loudness sensation is enough, the brain will, through the 7th nerve, cause the stapedius muscles in both ears to contract.

When the stapedius muscle contracts it makes the system less compliant, therefore the balance meter will give a deflection to the right as long as the stimulus is on. In normal hearing a stimulus intensity of 70 - 90 dB HTL will cause a stapedius muscle contraction. Normally the contraction will be clearly seen on the balance meter when sensitivity switch is set at 3. If the deflection is very small

the sensitivity can be increased 5 times by setting sensitivity switch in position 4. If white noise is used the required intensity for eliciting the stapedius reflex is less than for pure tones. Here it should be emphasized that the W.N. is calibrated in S.P.L.

APPENDIX - C

Earphone (Telen - 1460 with Mz - 41/AR cushion)  
 outputs at different frequencies and at  
 different intensity dial readings.

Dial Readings in dB HL.	Output in dB SPL		
	500Hz	1000 Hz	2000 Hz
70	86.0	79.0	75.0
75	90.5	84.0	79.5
80	95.0	89.0	85.0
85	100.0	94.0	89.5
90	105.5	99.0	94.5
95	110.0	104.5	99.5
100	114.5	109.0	104.0
105	119.0	114.5	109.5
110	124.0	119.5	113.5
115	129.0	124.5	116.5
120	133.5	130.0	123.5
125	138.0	134.5	129.5

NOTE : 1. Decimal points were not considered while reporting the results.

NOTE : 2. Madsen Z073 has a provision for a vernier scale.

NOTE : 3. In the present study all the intensity levels are expressed as multiples of 5, for convenience.