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Methodological aspects in the determination of the auditory filters
and critical band at low and mid-frequencies

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In order to evaluate loudness or audibility of complex sounds, knowledge of the auditory filter characteristics is necessary. At low frequencies, where both the threshold of hearing and dynamic range become considerably frequency dependent, care must be taken to account for this both in the psycho-acoustical model and the methodological approach. To account for variation in hearing sensitivity at low frequencies, equal loudness contours have been used to weight the stimuli accordingly. At mid and high frequencies, threshold of hearing curves have been used. These stimuli weightings can be applied before or after the experiment, normally being applied afterwards. Due to the non-linear characteristics of the cochlear amplifier, it is arguable whether post-experimental weighting is a proper approach, or whether at low frequencies there will be any difference between pre or post stimuli weighting. Listening experiments are then to be performed to test possible differences in pre or post filtering the stimuli. The most appropriate approach will then be discussed. Measurements will be done at low and mid frequencies. To obtain accurate auditory filter estimates, individual ELC or threshold curves will be determined. Methods such as the notched-noise method and the classical band-widening approach will be tested with these conditions.