



## 1.2 Field of Application

The instrumentation as defined in this recommended practice applies in particular to impact tests for road vehicles, including tests of their sub-assemblies, and occupant surrogates.

## 2. REFERENCES

### 2.1 Applicable Publications

The following publications form a part of this specification to the extent specified herein. Unless otherwise indicated, the latest version of SAE publications shall apply.

#### 2.1.1 SAE Publications

Available from SAE, 400 Commonwealth Drive, Warrendale, PA 15096-0001, Tel: 877-606-7323 (inside USA and Canada) or 724-776-4970 (outside USA), [www.sae.org](http://www.sae.org).

SAE J670	Vehicle Dynamics Terminology
SAE J1727	Injury Calculations Guidelines
SAE J1733	Sign Convention for Vehicle Crash Testing
SAE J2570	Performance Specifications for Anthropomorphic Test Device Transducers
SAE Paper 930100	An Evaluation of Various Viscous Criterion Computational Algorithms

#### 2.1.2 NHTSA Publication

Available from Department of Transportation, The Office of Crashworthiness Research, 408 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20590.

NHTSA Version 5 Test Reference Guide: Volume 1 – Vehicle Tests, Volume 2 – Biomechanics, Volume 3 – Components, and Volume 4 – Signal Waveform Generator

## 3. DEFINITIONS

The definitions in paragraphs 3.5 to 3.14 apply to the whole data channel, as defined in paragraph 3.1.

### 3.1 Data Channel

All of the instrumentation from and including a single transducer (or multiple transducers whose outputs are combined in some specified way) up to and including any analysis procedures that may alter the frequency content or the amplitude content or the timing of data. It also includes all cabling and interconnections.

### 3.2 Transducer

The first device in a data channel, used to convert a physical quantity to be measured into a second quantity (such as an electrical voltage) which can be processed by the remainder of the channel. For transducer equivalency, see Appendix B.

### 3.3 Full Scale

The maximum usable linear range of a data channel. For ATD transducers, see SAE J2570.

### 3.4 Data Channel Full Scale

That value of a data channel determined by the component of the channel with the lowest full scale level. This is expressed in terms of the measured variable (input). For example, F.S. = 50 G, 1000 N, 1 m/s, etc.

### 3.5 Channel Amplitude Class, CAC

The designation for a data channel that meets certain amplitude characteristics as specified by this recommended practice. The CAC number is numerically equal to the upper limit of the measurement range (that is, equivalent to the data channel full scale).

### 3.6 Characteristic Frequencies, $F_H$ , $F_L$ , $F_N$

These frequencies are defined in Figures 1 and 2.

### 3.7 Channel Frequency Class, CFC

The channel frequency class is designated by a number indicating that the channel frequency response lies within limits specified by Figure 1 for CFCs of 1000 and 600, and by Figure 2 for CFCs of 60 and 180.

NOTE: Figure 1 has not changed in reference to J211 March 1995 except to specify nodal points instead of slopes. This number and the value of the frequency  $F_H$  in hertz are numerically equal.

### 3.8 Calibration Value

The value measured and read during the calibration of a data channel (see paragraph 4.6).

### 3.9 Sensitivity Coefficient

The slope of the straight line representing the best fit to the calibration values determined by the method of least squares within the channel amplitude class.

### 3.10 Calibration Factor of a Data Channel

The arithmetic mean of the sensitivity coefficients evaluated over frequencies which are evenly spaced on a logarithmic scale between  $F_L$  and  $F_H/2.5$ .

### 3.11 Linearity Error

The ratio, in percent, of the maximum difference between the calibration value and the corresponding value read on the straight line defined in paragraph 3.9 at the upper limit of the channel amplitude class (data channel full scale).

### 3.12 Sensitivity

The ratio of the output signal (in equivalent physical units) to the input signal (physical excitation), when an excitation is applied to the transducer. (Example: 10.24 mV/G/V for a strain gage accelerometer.) For ATD transducers, see SAE J2570.

### 3.13 Phase Delay Time

The phase delay time of a data channel is equal to the phase delay (in radians) of a sinusoidal signal, divided by the angular frequency of that signal (in radians per second).

### 3.14 Environment

The aggregate, at a given moment, of all external conditions and influences to which the data channel is subjected.

3.15 Transverse Sensitivity (of a rectilinear transducer)

The sensitivity to excitation in a nominal direction perpendicular to its sensitive axis.

NOTE: The transverse sensitivity is usually a function of the nominal direction of the axis chosen. For ATD transducers, see SAE J2570.

3.16 Transverse Sensitivity Ratio (of a rectilinear transducer)

The ratio of the transverse sensitivity to its sensitivity along its sensitive axis.

3.17 FFT (Fast Fourier Transform)

A mathematical function used to convert data from the time domain to the frequency domain (FFT filter, a filter which operates in the frequency domain).

3.18 ATD

Anthropomorphic Test Device (Crash Test Dummy).

4. DATA CHANNEL PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Linearity Error

The absolute value of the linearity error of a data channel at any frequency in the CFC, shall be less than or equal to 2.5% of the value of the CAC, through the whole measurement range. In general a sufficient number of measurements shall be carried out in order to ensure the linearity in the range of interest, that is, between  $F_L$  and  $F_H$ .

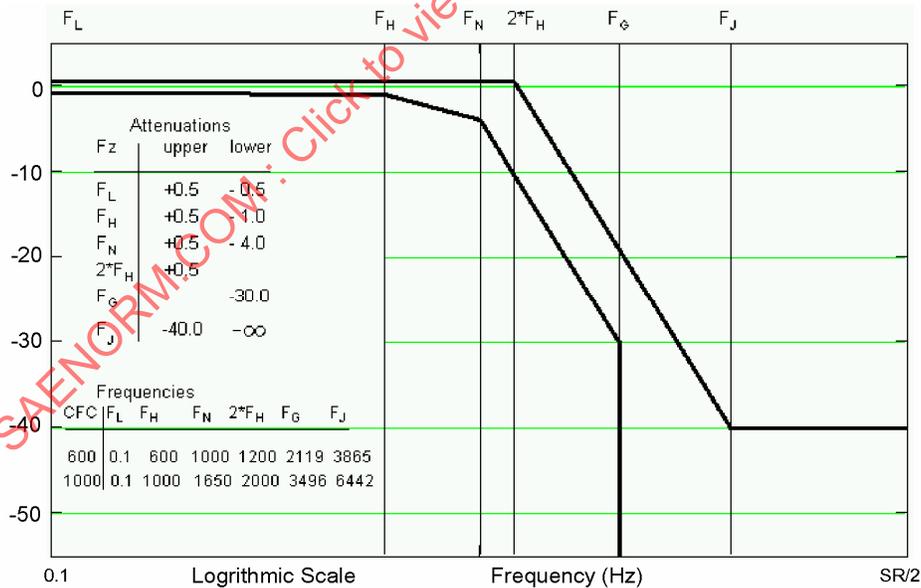


FIGURE 1 - DATA CHANNEL DYNAMIC ACCURACY, CLASS 600 AND 1000

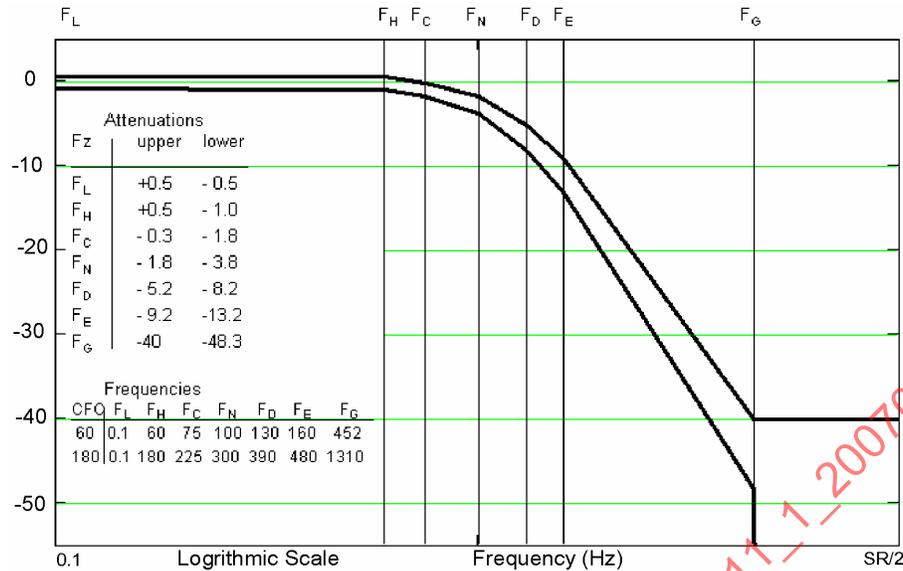


FIGURE 2 - DATA CHANNEL DYNAMIC ACCURACY, CLASS 60 AND 180

#### 4.2 Amplitude Against Frequency

The frequency response of a data channel shall lie within the limiting curves given in Figure 1 for CFCs of 1000 or 600. For CFCs of 180 or 60 the frequency response of a data channel shall lie within the limiting curves given in Figure 2. The 0 dB line is defined by the calibration factor. Note: The Figure 2 envelopes have been derived to center the frequency responses of the March 1995 J211 Appendix C CFC 60 and 180 filters in the corridors.

#### 4.3 Phase Delay Time

The phase delay time between the input and the output of a data channel shall be determined, and shall not vary more than  $1/(10 \cdot F_H)$  seconds between  $0.03 \cdot F_H$  and  $F_H$ . This includes the transducer, that is, the input is the excitation to the transducer.

#### 4.4 Time

##### 4.4.1 Time Base

A time base shall give at least 1/100 second resolution with an error of less than 1/10000 second.

##### 4.4.2 Relative Time Delay

The relative time delay between the signals of two or more data channels regardless of their frequency class, must not exceed 1 millisecond. Two or more data channels of which the signals are combined shall have the same frequency class and shall not have a relative time delay greater than  $1/(10 \cdot F_H)$  seconds. This requirement applies to analog signals as well as digital signals.

#### 4.5 Transducer Transverse Sensitivity Ratio

The transverse sensitivity ratio of all transducers shall be less than 5% in any direction. For ATD transducers, see SAE J2570.

#### 4.6 Calibration

Values in this section apply to reference equipment or "standards" against which a data channel is "calibrated", that is, its performance is determined.

#### 4.6.1 General

A data channel shall be calibrated at least once a year against reference equipment traceable to known standards. The methods used to carry out a comparison with reference equipment shall not introduce an error greater than 1% of the CAC. The use of the reference equipment is limited to the range of frequencies for which they have been calibrated. Subsystems of a data channel may be evaluated individually and the results factored into the accuracy of the total data channel. This can be accomplished for example by an electrical signal of known amplitude simulating the output signal of the transducer which allows a check to be made on the gain of the data channel, except the transducer.

#### 4.6.2 Accuracy of Reference Equipment for Calibration

The accuracy of the reference equipment shall be certified or endorsed by an approved metrology service (for example, traceable to the National Institute of Standards and Technology).

##### 4.6.2.1 Static Calibration

###### 4.6.2.1.1 Accelerations

The error shall be less than 1.5% of the channel amplitude class.

###### 4.6.2.1.2 Forces

The error shall be less than 1% of the channel amplitude class.

###### 4.6.2.1.3 Displacements

The error shall be less than 1% of the channel amplitude class.

##### 4.6.2.2 Dynamic Calibration

###### 4.6.2.2.1 Accelerations

The error in the reference accelerations expressed as a percentage of the channel amplitude class shall be less than 1.5% below 400 Hz, less than 2% between 400 and 900 Hz, and less than 2.5% between 900 Hz and the maximum frequency at which the reference acceleration is utilized (see paragraph 4.6.4).

###### 4.6.2.2.2 Forces, Moments, and Displacements

See SAE J2570 for load cell specifications titled "Free Air Resonance" for force and moment info.

###### 4.6.2.3 Time

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

#### 4.6.3 Sensitivity Coefficient and Linearity Error

The sensitivity coefficient and the linearity error shall be determined by measuring the output signal of the data channel against a known input signal, for various values of this signal. (The input signal is referenced to well known physical data, which is, a load or acceleration, but not voltage.)

The calibration of the data channel shall cover the whole range of the amplitude class. (This is between  $F_L$  and  $F_H/2.5$ .)

For bi-directional channels, both the positive and negative values shall be evaluated. If the calibration equipment cannot produce the required input, due to excessively high values of the quantity to be measured, calibrations shall be carried out within the limits of these calibration standards and these limits shall be recorded in the report.

A total data channel shall be calibrated at a frequency or at a spectrum of frequencies with its significant values comprised between  $F_L$  and  $F_H/2.5$ .

#### 4.6.4 Calibration of the Frequency Response

The response curves of phase and amplitude against frequency for the data channel shall be determined by measuring the output signals of the data channel in terms of phase and amplitude against a known input signal, for various values of this signal varying between  $F_L$  and 10 times the CFC or 3000 Hz whichever is the lower value.

#### 4.7 Environmental Effects

The presence of any environmental effects shall be checked (that is, electric or magnetic flux, electrostatic discharge, cable velocity, etc.). This can be done for instance by recording the output of spare channels equipped with dummy transducers. If such an output signal is greater than 2% of the expected data peak value, corrective action shall be taken, for instance re-allocation or replacement of cables.

### 5. DATA CHANNEL SELECTION

The selection of a frequency response class is dependent upon many considerations, some of which may be unique to a particular test. The ultimate usage of the data and good engineering judgment will determine what portions of the frequency spectrum are significant or useful. The various classes of frequency response in Figures 1 and 2 are intended to permit appropriate choices for different engineering requirements.

It is important to note that valid comparisons using different frequency response classes may be difficult to make. It is useful to establish specific frequency response classes when comparing test results from different sources. The frequency response classes in Table 1 are recommended for that purpose. These recommendations reflect current practices and equipment. However, it is recognized that other considerations (for example, biomechanics) may impose special instrumentation requirements.

The channel class recommendations for a particular application shall not be considered to imply that all the frequencies passed by that channel are significant for the application. In several cases, such as occupant head accelerations, headform accelerations, and femur force, the recommendation may be higher than necessary, but current biomechanical knowledge will not permit a closer specification. All data are to be gathered at CFC 1000 or higher, for any purpose.

TABLE 1 - FREQUENCY RESPONSE CLASSES

Typical Test Measurements	Channel Frequency Class (CFC)
Vehicle structural accelerations for use in:	
Total vehicle comparison	60 <sup>(1)</sup>
Collision simulation input	60
Component analysis	600
Integration for velocity or displacement	180
Barrier face force	60
Belt restraint system loads	60
Anthropomorphic Test Device	
Head accelerations (linear and angular)	1000
Neck	
Forces	1000 <sup>(2,3,7)</sup>
Moments	600 <sup>(2,3)</sup>
Arm	
Forces	600 <sup>(5)</sup>
Moments	600 <sup>(5)</sup>
Accelerations	600 <sup>(5)</sup>
Thorax	
Spine accelerations	180
Rib accelerations	1000 <sup>(2)</sup>
Sternum accelerations	1000 <sup>(2)</sup>
Deflections	600 <sup>(2,4)</sup>
Lumbar	
Forces	600 <sup>(6)</sup>
Moments	600 <sup>(6)</sup>
Pelvis	
Accelerations	1000 <sup>(2)</sup>
Forces	600 <sup>(6)</sup>
Moments	600 <sup>(6)</sup>
Femur/Knee/Tibia/Ankle	
Accelerations	1000
Forces	600
Moments	600 <sup>(2)</sup>
Displacements	180 <sup>(2)</sup>
Sled acceleration	60
Steering column loads	600
Headform acceleration	1000

1. When overall acceleration of the frame or body in a given direction is desired and a higher frequency response class is used, readability of the data may be improved by averaging outputs of two or more transducers at different locations.
2. UMTRI-86-32 and ISO/TC22/SC12/WG3 N194.
3. These classifications are needed to calculate head impact forces based on neck forces and head accelerations when using an ATD.
4. SAE paper 930100.
5. SAE paper 2002-01-0806 or ISO/TC22/SC12/WG6 N557.
6. Reference Appendix B.
7. When Force channels are multiplied by a moment arm, a CFC 600 filter shall be used.

## 6. MOUNTING OF TRANSDUCERS

Mechanical resonance associated with transducer mounting shall not distort readout data.

Transducers shall be mounted on dummies using a support specially provided for this purpose. In cases where properties of non-mechanical test subjects preclude rigid transducer mounting, an analytical or experimental evaluation of mounting effects on the data shall be provided.

Acceleration transducers, in particular, shall be mounted in such a way that the initial angle of the actual measurement axis to the corresponding axis of the reference axis system is not greater than 5 degrees unless analytical or experimental assessment of the effect of the mounting on the collected data is made. When multi-axial accelerations at a point are to be measured, each acceleration transducer axis shall pass within 10 mm of that point, and the center of seismic mass of each accelerometer shall be within 30 mm of that point.

## 7. SIGN CONVENTION

In order to compare test results obtained from different crash test facilities, standardized coordinate systems need to be defined for crash test dummies, vehicle structures and laboratory fixtures. In addition, recorded polarities for various transducer outputs need to be defined relative to positive directions of the appropriate coordinate systems. This section describes the standardized sign convention.

### 7.1 Right-Handed Coordinate System

To assure consistent vector directions of moments and angular velocities and accelerations produced by vector multiplications all coordinate systems used in vehicle testing will be "right-handed".

Right-handed coordinate system consists of an ordered set of three mutually perpendicular axes (x, y, z) which have a common origin and whose positive directions point in the same directions as the ordered set of the thumb, forefinger and middle finger of the right hand when positioned as shown in Figure 3. Note that one can choose the positive x-axis to point in the direction of either the thumb, forefinger or middle finger as shown in the orientations 1, 2, and 3 of Figure 3. However, once this decision is made then the positive directions of the y- and z-axes must be as indicated by corresponding orientation shown in Figure 3.

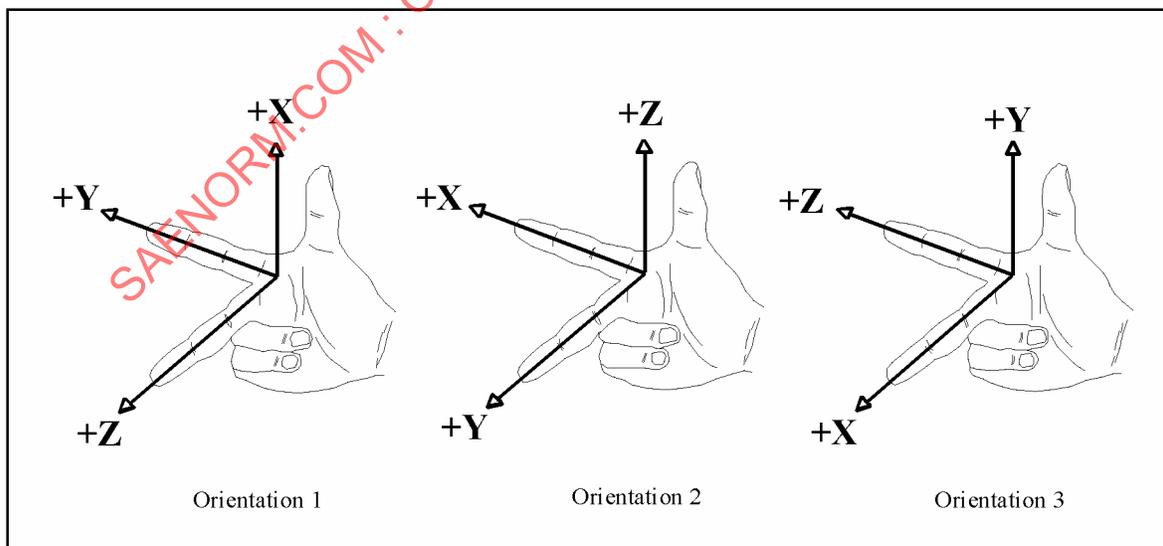


FIGURE 3 - THE THREE POSSIBLE ORIENTATIONS OF A RIGHT-HANDED COORDINATE SYSTEM RELATIVE TO THE THUMB, FOREFINGER AND MIDDLE FINGER OF THE RIGHT HAND

Positive angular motion and moment directions are determined by the right-handed screw rule. If a positive axis is grasped with the right hand with the thumb extended in the positive direction as shown in Figure 4, then the curl of the fingers indicate the positive direction for angular motions and moments.

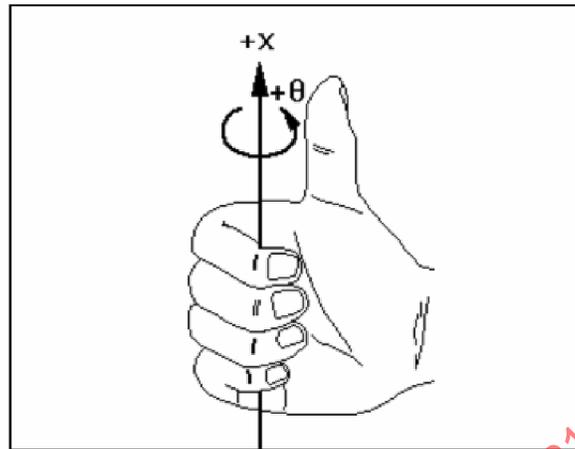


FIGURE 4 - RIGHT-HANDED SCREW RULE

A simple method to determine if a (x, y, z) coordinate system is right-handed is to rotate the system 90 degrees about the z-axis using the right-handed screw rule. If the positive x-axis rotates to the position previously occupied by the positive y-axis, then the system is right handed.

## 7.2 Vehicle and Laboratory Coordinate Systems

For vehicle and laboratory coordinate systems, positive z-axis will be directed downward, positive x-axis will be directed forward relative to the vehicle and positive y-axis will be directed away from the vehicle's left to its right (see SAE J670 – Vehicle Dynamics Terminology). For structures within the vehicle that have a principle axis of motion such as the steering wheel and column, the vehicle coordinate system may be rotated about the y-axis such that the positive x-axis is directed along the column axis.

## 7.3 Dummy Coordinate Systems

Coordinate systems can be affixed to any point on the dummy. To determine the orientation of the coordinate axes, the dummy will always be considered as standing erect. For this posture, the positive y-axis will be directed from the dummy's left to its right side, the positive z-axis will be directed downward from head to toe, and the positive x-axis will be directed forward. In anatomical terminology, the positive x-axis is directed from the posterior to the anterior (P-A), the positive y-axis is directed from the left to right (L-R), and the positive z-axis is directed from superior to inferior (S-I). Figure 5 shows examples of this standardized orientation for coordinate systems attached to a few body points. Note that as the dummy is articulated to sit in a vehicle or if the dummy is articulated for a test, the coordinate systems rotate with their respective dummy parts.

## 7.4 Polarities of Acceleration, Velocity, and Displacement

Positive recorded outputs for these transducers are to be consistent with the positive axes of the coordinate system defined for the specific dummy or vehicle point being measured. For example, a blow to the back of the dummy's head produces an acceleration in the forward direction (+x) which shall be recorded as a positive acceleration. A blow to the top of the head produces a +z acceleration. A blow to the left side of the head produces a +y acceleration.

For displacements, the coordinate systems of interest must be defined. For example, frontal chest compression is the distance that the sternum moves relative to the thoracic spine. In this case, the coordinate system is fixed to the thoracic spine. When the sternum moves closer to the spine, its displacement is rearward relative to the spine which is in the negative x-direction. Hence, the polarity for frontal chest compression is negative. For lateral chest compression, a blow to the left side of the chest produces a positive displacement of the impacted ribs relative to the thoracic spine. However, a blow to the right side of the chest produces a negative rib displacement. The rearward displacement of the tibia relative to the femur that is measured by the knee shear transducer is in the negative x-direction. The polarity for this motion shall be negative.

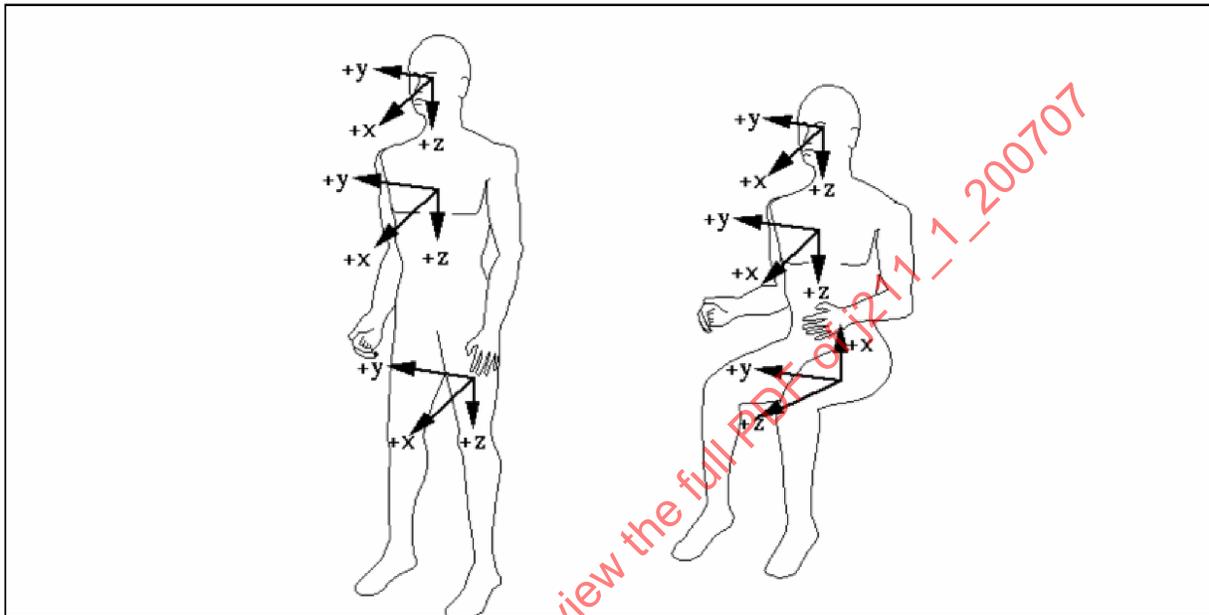


FIGURE 5 - ORIENTATIONS OF STANDARDIZED DUMMY COORDINATE SYSTEMS FOR STANDING AND SEATED POSTURES

#### 7.5 Polarities of Measured External Loads

For load cells that measure loads applied directly to the dummy or vehicle structure, their recorded output polarities shall be consistent with the direction of the applied external load referenced to the standardized coordinate system at the point of the load application. For example, load cells that measure shoulder belt loading of the clavicle are designed to measure  $F_x$  and  $F_z$  applied to the clavicle. Positive directions for these applied forces would be forward (+x) and downward (+z) relative to the dummy, respectively. For the BIOSID, a lateral inward load applied to the crest of the left ilium would be positive (+y), while a lateral inward load applied to the crest of the right ilium would be negative (-y).

#### 7.6 Polarities of Measured Internal Loads

Defining recorded output polarities for load cells that measure loads internal to the dummy requires a standardized dummy sectioning scheme and a definition of what sectioned dummy part is to be loaded in the positive direction since internal loads occur in pairs of equal magnitudes but opposite directions. The standardized sectioning scheme is illustrated by the free-body diagram of a cube shown in Figure 6. It is assumed that the load cell of interest is contained within the cube and responds to loads applied to the surfaces of the cube. Load cell outputs shall be recorded with positive polarities when normal loads, shear loads, torques or moments are applied in the positive direction, as defined by the standardized coordinate system, to the right, front, and/or bottom surfaces of the cube. These loads are represented by solid arrows. For static equilibrium, equal magnitude but opposite (negative) direction loads must be applied to the left, back and/or top surfaces of the cube as indicated by the dashed arrows. For example, upper and lower neck, lumbar spine, and upper and lower tibia load cells shall have positive recorded outputs when the dummy is sectioned below the load cell in question and positive loads are applied to the bottom surface of the load cell in question. Free-body diagrams showing the load systems that produce the required recorded polarities for specific dummy load cells are given in the appropriate dummy users manual and in SAE Information Report J1733 - Sign Convention for Vehicle Crash Testing.

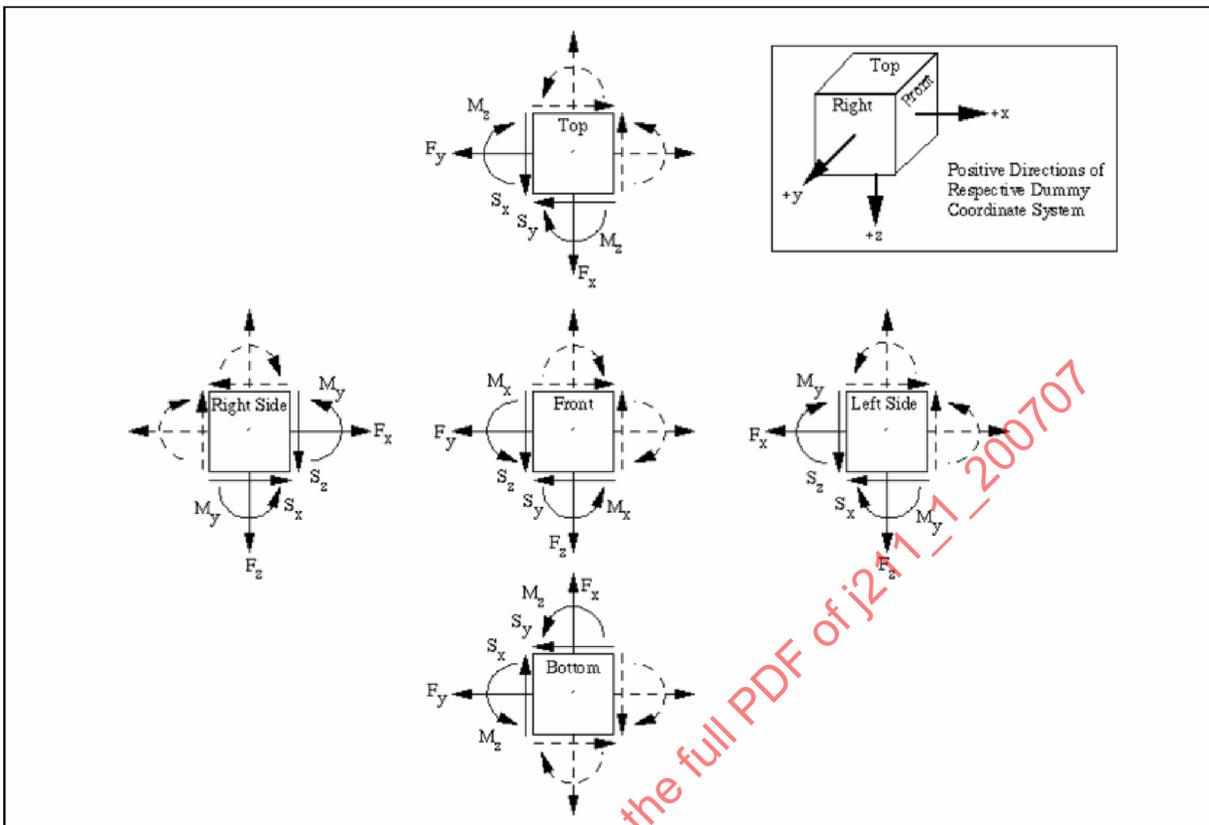


FIGURE 6 - DIRECTIONS OF LOADS APPLIED TO FREE-BODY DIAGRAM OF THE SECTIONED DUMMY PART CONTAINING THE LOAD CELL OF INTEREST (ILLUSTRATED AS A CUBE) FOR POSITIVE RECORDED POLARITIES

Notes for Figure 4:

1. Principle axes of load cell are aligned parallel to respective axes of local dummy coordinate system.
2. Bold arrows of normal forces (F), shear forces (S), and moments (M) are shown in positive directions. These Positive loads are applied to front, right, and bottom surfaces of the cube. Dotted arrows indicate direction of loads applied to the back, left and top surfaces for static equilibrium.

#### 7.7 Dummy Manipulations for Checking Polarities of Measured Loads

Table 2 contains descriptions of dummy manipulations and the corresponding polarities for recorded outputs for some of the more common load cells used in dummies. Manipulations for checking polarities of load cells not listed in Table 2 may be found in the users manual for the specific dummy being used or SAE Information Report J1733 - Sign Convention for Vehicle Crash Testing.

TABLE 2 - DUMMY MANIPULATIONS FOR CHECKING RECORDED  
LOAD CELL POLARITY RELATIVE TO SIGN CONVENTION

Load Cell	Measure	Dummy Manipulations	Polarity
Upper	Fx	Head rearward, chest forward	+
And	Fy	Head leftward, chest rightward	+
Lower	Fz	Head upward, chest downward	+
Neck	Mx	Left ear toward left shoulder	+
Loads	My	Chin toward sternum	+
	Mz	Chin toward left shoulder	+
Left shoulder Loads (BioSID)	Fx	Left shoulder forward, chest rearward	+
	Fy	Left shoulder rightward, chest leftward	+
	Fz	Left shoulder downward, chest upward	+
Right shoulder Loads (BioSID)	Fx	Right shoulder forward, chest rearward	+
	Fy	Right shoulder rightward, chest leftward	+
	Fz	Right shoulder downward, chest upward	+
Clavicle Loads	Fx	Shoulder forward, chest rearward	+
	Fz	Shoulder downward, chest upward	+
Rib force	Fx	Compression	(-)
Upper And Lower Lumbar Spine	Fx	Chest rearward, Pelvis forward	+
	Fy	Chest leftward, pelvis rightward	+
	Fz	Chest upward, pelvis downward	+
	Mx	Left shoulder toward left hip	+
	My	Sternum toward front of legs	+
	Mz	Right shoulder forward, left shoulder rearward	+
Sacrum load (BioSID)	Fy	Left H-point pad leftward, chest rightward	+
Left iliac load (BioSID)	Fy	Left iliac rightward, chest leftward	+
Right iliac load (BioSID)	Fy	Right iliac rightward, chest leftward	+
Pubic load (side impact)	Fy	Right H-point pad leftward, left pad rightward	(-)
Crotch belt Loads	Fx	Pubic rearward, pelvis forward	(-)
	Fz	Pubic upward, chest downward	(-)
Iliac lap belt Loads	Fx	Upper iliac spine rearward, chest forward	(-)
	My	Upper iliac spine rearward, chest forward	+

TABLE 2 - DUMMY MANIPULATIONS FOR CHECKING RECORDED  
LOAD CELL POLARITY RELATIVE TO SIGN CONVENTION (CONTINUED)

Load Cell	Measure	Dummy Manipulations	Polarity
Backplate (EuroSID)	Fx	Force into back	+
	Fy	Force into left side	+
	My	Pull back on top of backplate	+
	Mz	Push forward on left edge of back plate, hold thorax in place.	+
T-12 Spine (EuroSID)	Fx		+
	Fy	Chest rearward, pelvis forward	+
	Mx	Chest leftward, pelvis rightward	+
	My	Left shoulder to left hip Chest forward, hold pelvis	+
Thoracic spine	Fx		+
	Fz	Chest rearward, pelvis forward	+
	My	Chest upward, pelvis down Chest toward knees	+
Left acetabulum	Fy	Left H-point rightward, pelvis leftward	+
Right acetabulum	Fy	Right H-point leftward, pelvis rightward	(-)
Left side Abdominal load (EuroSID)	Fy	Left side of abdomen rightward, chest leftward	+
Right side Abdominal load (EuroSID)	Fy	Right side of abdomen leftward, chest rightward	(-)
Femur loads (dummy in Seated position, Femurs Horizontal)	Fx	Knee upward, upper femur downward	+
	Fy	Knee rightward, upper femur leftward	+
	Fz	Knee forward, pelvis rearward	+
	Mx	Knee leftward, hold upper femur in place	+
	My	Knee upward, hold upper femur in place	+
	Mz	Tibia leftward, hold pelvis in place	+
Knee clevis	Fz	Tibia downward, femur upward	+
Upper tibia Loads	Fx	Ankle forward, knee rearward	+
	Fy	Ankle rightward, knee leftward	+
	Fz	Tibia downward, femur upward	+
	Mx	Ankle leftward, hold knee in place	+
	My	Ankle forward, bottom of knee clevis rearward	+
Lower tibia Loads	Fx	Ankle forward, knee rearward	+
	Fy	Ankle rightward, knee leftward	+
	Fz	Ankle downward, knee upward	+
	Mx	Ankle leftward, hold knee in place	+
	My	Ankle forward, bottom of knee clevis rearward	+

## 8. DIGITAL DATA PROCESSING

This section establishes guidelines for digital data processing equipment used by crash testing agencies.

### 8.1 Pre-sample Filtering

Filtering corresponding to the frequencies of the data channel class may be carried out during processing of data.

Since crash test data may have high-frequency components above the channel class  $F_H$ , pre-sample filtering shall be used to keep these components from causing aliasing errors in the sampling process. Before recording, analog anti-aliasing filtering, at a level corresponding to CFC 1000 or higher, shall take place. Overall data acquisition system pre-sample filtering must be such that the total system response shall comply with section 3.7. The maximum error induced by aliasing at the  $F_H$  frequency shall not exceed 0.1% of the CAC (more than 60 decibels of attenuation at sample rate –  $F_H$  Hertz).

### 8.2 Sampling Rate

The minimum acceptable sampling rate is a function of many variables, particularly sophistication of the reconstruction method used in the processing software. For those installations utilizing only simple reconstruction software, the sample rate shall be a minimum of ten times the  $F_H$ . In installations with CFC 1000 pre-sample filters, this corresponds to a minimum sampling rate of no less than 10 000 samples per second per channel.

### 8.3 Resolution

Digital word lengths of at least 12 bits (including sign) shall be used to be assured of reasonable accuracy in processing. The least significant bit shall correspond to no greater than 0.2% of the CAC.

### 8.4 Data Processing

Processing software is typically used to scale and filter data, determine zero levels, perform mathematical operations and prepare data plot formats.

#### 8.4.1 Digital Filtering

Phaseless filters are to be used for post-test filtering. Phaseless filters will cause time uncertainty in turn causing problems in comparing data to film, and comparing data to data if the class filters are different. Filtering shall precede all non-linear operations, such as calculation of resultant vectors and injury indices. Any phaseless filtering algorithm can be used for CFC filtering as long as the total system response conforms to the data channel performance requirements as given in Section 4 (The J211-1 March 1995 Appendix C filter algorithm continues to meet this requirement for CFC-60 and CFC-180). An FFT filtering system is available in Appendix C. Compliance to these corridors can be determined by measuring the attenuation of a known analog input. Alternatively a sum of the data acquisition system, transducer calibration pass/fail corridors, and the phase-less filter response can be compared to the CFC corridor. The type of digital filter used shall be reported. The user is cautioned to examine the unfiltered data for signal overloads, since the filtering process can mask certain overload conditions.

#### 8.4.2 Scaling

A check of the channel gain accuracy shall be applied to each analog input before every test, rather than relying on the set gain values. Corrective measures shall be required when the results of this check are outside of the requirements of section 4.6.1.

#### 8.4.3 Zeroing

The zero level of each data channel shall be corrected post-test. This correction shall bring the normalized value of a stable pre-test section of data to the proper initial value for the transducer.

#### 8.4.4 Injury Index Calculations

Injury index calculations shall use all sampled data points. Details on various injury index calculations can be found in SAE Information Report J1727 – Injury Calculation Guidelines.

### 9. TIMING MARKS

Timing marks are essential in data analysis and correlation of high-speed film to other data channels. Timing frequency error shall be less than 1% of the chosen or designated frequency. Timing synchronization shall be within  $\pm 1$  ms.

### 10. TIME OF CONTACT SYNCHRONIZATION

Time of initial contact shall be recorded within 0.4 ms of the closing of a switch actuated by the impact. It shall also be recorded in film data using a visual indicator such as strobe lights or timing mark channels. When a switch is not applicable, Time of Contact may be established through post-test correction or re-setting the TO mark to coincide with first sample to exceed a predetermined value (for example, 0.5 Gs) when processed with an appropriate phaseless CFC filter. The established Time Zero (if different from the initial Time of Contact) shall be reflected in all digital systems, with no more than 0.4 ms difference between any two systems, and noted in all analog data. Non-analysis cameras shall be exempt.

### 11. PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

In reporting results of tests, the following information shall be provided with data tabulations, time history traces, etc.:

- a. The data channel designations.
- b. Description of designated reference points and locations of vehicle accelerations.
- c. Transducer mounting analysis, if required by Section 6.0.
- d. Type of digital filter used.
- e. Method of combining sub-systems for calibration.
- f. Inertial coordinate system definition.

The results shall be presented on A4 (210 x 297 mm) size paper (ISO 216) or 8.5 x 11 in. paper. Results presented as diagrams shall have axes scaled with one measurement unit corresponding to a suitable multiple of the chosen unit (for example 1, 2, 5, 10, 20 millimeters). SI units shall be used, except for vehicle velocity where kilometers per hour may be used and for accelerations due to an impact where g may be used (with  $g = 9.80665$  m/s/s).

### 12. STANDARDIZATION OF DIGITAL DATA

For purposes of digital data exchange it is recommended that the ISO or NHTSA Format for Data Exchange be followed. The ISO multimedia data exchange format is defined by the Technical Specification ISO/TS 13499: 2003. This publication is available through an order to ISO/CS (International Standards Organization) or the National ISO Member ANSI. The documentation for the NHTSA format is available through the Office of Crashworthiness Research (NHTSA). The title of the documentation is – NHTSA Version 5 Test Reference Guides.

### 13. NOTES

#### 13.1 Marginal Indicia

The change bar (I) located in the left margin is for the convenience of the user in locating areas where technical revisions have been made to the previous issue of the report. An (R) symbol to the left of the document title indicates a complete revision of the report.

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## APPENDIX A - SPECIFIC MEASUREMENTS

## A.1 IMPACT VELOCITY

This can be calculated by measuring the time required to traverse a known distance prior to impact. Determination of impact velocity shall be with an error of less than 1% of the actual velocity.

## A.2 TEST SPECIMEN CRUSH

## A.2.1 Residual Crush

Residual crush is specified by one or more single-valued data points, with respect to designated reference points. Determination of residual crush shall be with an error of less than 5% of the actual crush.

## A.2.2 Dynamic Crush

Maximum dynamic crush is a measurement of the maximum deformation of the test specimen during the impact. This is also measured with respect to one or more designated reference points. Contingent on the size of the specimen and the magnitude of the expected dynamic crush, the following are possible measurement methods:

- a. High-speed motion picture photography.
- b. Double integration of acceleration data.
- c. Use of a specific displacement transducer.

The error shall be less than 5% of the actual crush.

## A.3 STEERING COLUMN DISPLACEMENT

Displacements relative to designated reference points on the vehicle can be measured by various techniques. The coordinate system in which displacement is measured shall be indicated. Determination of steering column displacement shall be accurate to  $\pm 0.5$  in. ( $\pm 1.27$  cm).

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## APPENDIX B - TRANSDUCER EQUIVALENCY

Transducer selection is a primary concern in the process of selecting a data channel configuration. Furthermore, the variety of transducers, within a transducer category, i.e., acceleration, pressure, force, displacement, etc., is ever widening, yielding concern regarding equivalence and/or correlation of various transducer performances for any specific application. As the transducer forms an integral part of the data channel, the error contribution of transducer related factors shall be included when considering overall data channel performance requirements as outlined in Section 4.

The purpose of SAE J211 is to recommend "techniques of measurement used in impact tests" which "will provide a basis for meaningful comparison of test results from different sources." This is the goal of establishing equivalency of performance for various transducer types. Such a goal, considered relative to a transducer category, requires thorough knowledge of the measurement objective and its environment. It is not necessarily limited by technological constraints of transducer fabrication or design but is unmistakably linked to both the transient and steady responses under impact loading conditions.

Both steady-state and transient transducer responses depend on the combined performance of the transducer characteristics or specifications. Interaction of transducer characteristics can precipitate significant differences in both steady-state and transient responses between transducers with similar specifications. The user must ascertain combined performance to establish equivalence.

Potential sources of transducer errors are related to data channel compatibility (i.e., transducer may adversely interact with the remainder of the data channel upstream of the anti-aliasing filter), e.g., resonance/damping influences. Other sources of errors are related to environmental compatibility, i.e., non-measurement influences and interactions, which encompass temperature drift, magnetic and electric fields effects, etc., and transducer size, weight, seismic mass location, transverse sensitivity, gage creep, etc. As such, the user must ascertain data channel and environmental compatibility when establishing equivalence.

To establish equivalence, it is the user's responsibility to perform the tests necessary to ensure that the transducers under consideration yield similar results for the application of interest, within the error tolerances recommended by SAE J211 for the whole data channel.

If feasible, to verify equivalence, transducers may be used back-to-back and/or side-by-side in actual test conditions for a given measurement application. A statistically significant number of tests shall be performed to validate the results. This method also may be used if there are no calibration methods to validate the dynamic response of the transducer type in question.

An SAE report, J2570, titled "Performance Specifications for Anthropomorphic Test Device Transducers", addresses issues of transducer equivalency. The purpose of the report is to establish guidelines in comparison and selection of various transducer types.

## APPENDIX C - VERIFYING THE DATA ACQUISITION SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

To verify compliance with SAE J211 "total system response" requirements four sources of attenuation/distortion must be summed and compared to an acceptable limit. The limit is provided by the SAE J211 CFC system corridors, the sources of distortion include the data acquisition system, the transducer, the post-test filter algorithm and other sources such as noise induced into the cabling. In these routines an allowance of 0.1 db is provided as a default for all cables between the transducer and the data acquisition system (CBL and CBU). The testing agency shall verify their cables meet this value or modify CBL and CBU if necessary. The total distortion from the data acquisition system and transducer are bounded by their individual calibration pass/fail corridors. Although exact values could be used, the pass/fail corridors provide a worst case scenario for system response. A CFC compliant filter must provide sufficient attenuation to keep the "sum of all attenuation/distortion" within the SAE J211 CFC system corridor.

In general these routines shall not need to be modified. However, if modification to the routines is necessary they shall be made using good engineering judgment, and aimed at meeting the SAE J211 goal of improving compatibility between test sites. For example, if a data acquisition system has a low frequency anti-aliasing filter it may fall below the lower CFC-1000 boundary. In such a case the post-test filter would be required to add gain at specific frequencies (which the routines currently do not allow), to keep the system within the SAE J211 CFC corridor. Such a change would require a careful consideration of the affects on noise and distortion, and verification that none of the SAE J211 parameters are violated.

These routines use the Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) defined by the FFT(v) function from MathCad 8, described as:

Real Fourier transform. This transform has the form (non-optimized):

$$TD_j = \frac{1}{L} \sum_k D_k * e^{-ijk 2\pi / L} \quad (\text{Eq. C1})$$

where

L is the power of two length of data vector (D),  
 TD is the transformed data vector, and  
 i is the imaginary unit (k and j have initial values of zero).

The length of the TD vector from this function will be 0.5\*L+1. Some commercial Fast Fourier Transform functions will result in TD being the same length as L. Within these, the second half of TD vector will be a reflection of the first half. The use of such a FFT function will require some modifications to the routines supplied herein.

Definitions:

- CBL The Cable Boundary Lower, the negative lower limit of the attenuation due to sources other than the data acquisition system, transducer, and filter algorithm, such as cabling (default to a max. of -0.1).
- CBU The Cable Boundary Upper, the positive upper limit of the attenuation due to sources other than the data acquisition system, transducer, and filter algorithm, such as cabling (default to a min. of 0.1).
- COR A 7 by 16 matrix which defines the nodal points of the CFC corridors.
- DAS The data acquisition system. This describes a set of parameters used to collect a data channel for the purpose of designing a custom filter for that channel.
- DFZ The delta value for the reference frequency vector, equal to SR/L.
- DLA A vector of the attenuations of the nodes in the data acquisition systems lower pass/fail boundary.
- DLF A vector of the frequencies of the nodes in the data acquisition systems lower pass/fail boundary.