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Information technology — MPEG audio technologies —

Part 4: Dynamic Range Control

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Partie 4: Contrôle de gamme dynamique

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Foreword

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

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

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

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

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

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information Technology*, Subcommittee SC 29, *Coding of audio, picture, multimedia, and hypermedia*.

ISO/IEC 23003 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Information technology — MPEG audio technologies*:

— *Part 1: MPEG Surround*

— *Part 2: Spatial Audio Object Coding*

— *Part 3: Unified speech and audio coding*

— *Part 4: Dynamic Range Control*

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Introduction

Consumer audio systems and devices are used in a large variety of configurations and acoustical environments. For many of these scenarios, the audio reproduction quality can be improved by appropriate control of content dynamics and loudness.

This part of ISO/IEC 23003 provides a universal dynamic range control tool that supports loudness normalization. The DRC tool offers a bitrate efficient representation of dynamically compressed versions of an audio signal. This is achieved by adding a low-bitrate DRC metadata stream to the audio signal. The DRC tool includes dedicated sections for clipping prevention, ducking, and for generating a fade-in and fade-out to supplement the main dynamic range compression functionality. The DRC effects available at the DRC decoder are generated at the DRC encoder side. At the DRC decoder side, the audio signal may be played back without applying the DRC tool, or an appropriate DRC tool effect is selected and applied based on the given playback scenario.

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Information technology — MPEG audio technologies —

Part 4:
Dynamic Range Control

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1 Scope

This part of ISO/IEC 23003 specifies technology for loudness and dynamic range control. This International Standard is applicable to most MPEG audio technologies. It offers flexible solutions to efficiently support the widespread demand for technologies such as loudness normalization and dynamic range compression for various playback scenarios.

2 Normative references

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

ISO/IEC 14496-12, *Information technology — Coding of audio-visual objects — Part 12: ISO base media file format*

ISO/IEC 23001-8, *Information technology — MPEG systems technologies — Part 8: Coding-independent code points*

3 Terms, definitions and mnemonics

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 14496-12 and the following apply.

3.1 Terms

3.1.1
DRC sequence
series of DRC gain values that can be applied to one or more audio channels

3.1.2
DRC set
defined set of DRC sequences that produce a desired effect if applied to the audio signal

3.1.3
album
collection of audio recordings that are mastered in a consistent way. Traditionally, a collection of songs released on a Compact Disk belongs into this category, for example

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