

INPUT IMPEDANCE

<p>What is it?</p>	<p>Input impedance (Z_{in}) expresses the mathematical relation between pressure and flow at a given location, and fully quantifies the arterial tree downstream from that location, encompassing any factor that affects the relation between pressure and flow.</p> <p>Impedance is a concept adopted from electrical engineering, which only considers sinusoidal waves. Given that arterial pressure and flow signals are usually quasi periodic, they can be decomposed into a steady signal (the 'DC' component) and a series of sine waves (also called harmonics; the 'AC' component) with frequencies that increase as multiples of heart rate. Ten harmonics usually suffice to accurately represent arterial pressure and flow waves.</p> <p>The ratio of corresponding harmonics of pressure and flow yields impedance for those frequencies. For a given frequency, we need to express the relation between two sine waves (one for the pressure and flow harmonic). This requires two numbers: the ratio of the amplitude of the pressure and flow harmonic (impedance modulus), and the phase difference (impedance phase) to quantify their timing. The input impedance is thus not a single number, but usually presented graphically with two plots: one showing the impedance modulus as a function of frequency (having units of flow/pressure, e.g. ml/(mmHg.s)), and a second one showing the phase (in degrees or radians).</p>
<p>Why do we measure it?</p>	<p>Input impedance is a concise and powerful way to comprehensively quantify the entire arterial system, independent of cardiac function, and quantitatively determine the interrelation of pressure and flow. If Z_{in} is known, pressure can be perfectly predicted from flow, and vice versa. It is a powerful tool for modellers to assess and quantify how well the behaviour of the modelled system matches the system that one wants to model.</p> <p>Measuring input impedance is relevant in basic cardiovascular (patho)physiology research on the overall behaviour of the arterial tree and in studying cardio-vascular interactions. The clinical utility of input impedance is rather low, as it remains unpractical to (simultaneously) assess central pressure and flow waveforms, and input impedance is a too encompassing property to identify slow and subtle changes in arterial properties. In addition, Z_{in} is highly dependent on body size requiring complex normalization when used in comparative studies.</p>
<p>How can it be measured</p>	<p>The figure below illustrates all steps necessary to calculate impedance. The pressure and flow waveforms are decomposed into their mean (DC) component signal and harmonics (~ spectral components), sine waves with a frequency at a natural multiple of cardiac frequency and a time lag. For each frequency, impedance represents the ratio of the corresponding pressure and flow harmonic, with the impedance modulus being the ratio of their amplitudes, and the phase angle the difference of their phase angles. Negative phase angle implies that flow is ahead of pressure. The value at 0Hz is the ratio of mean pressure and flow, i.e., total arterial resistance.</p>

<p>Where is it measured?</p>	<p>Input impedance is not directly measurable, but is calculated from measured pressure and flow waves. It can be applied to any location in the arterial tree and quantifies the system downstream from the measuring site, but it is usually assessed in the ascending aorta and pulmonary artery.</p>
<p>Figure</p>	<p>Steps needed to compute input impedance. See 'How can it be measured' for a detailed description.</p> <p>Figure adapted from Segers et al. 2022 In: Textbook of Arterial Stiffness and Pulsatile Hemodynamics in Health and Disease, Edition 1</p>
<p>References</p>	<p>Mills et al. 1970. DOI: 10.1093/cvr/4.4.405 Murgo et al. 1980. DOI: 10.1161/01.Cir.62.1.105 Nichols et al. 1977. DOI: 10.1161/01.Res.40.5.451 O'Rourke et al. 1967. DOI: 10.1161/01.Res.20.4.365 Taylor 1966. DOI: 10.1016/s0006-3495(66)86638-9</p>

FEEDBACK AND SUGGESTIONS FOR THESE DEFINITIONS* CAN BE SUBMITTED AT

<https://vascagenet.eu/feedback-for-official-glossary-of-key-terms>

* These definitions have been downloaded from <https://vascagenet.eu/official-glossary> and were released on 12th July, 2022.