

Type 4.3 Ear Simulator

This model is of the P.57 Type 4.3 Full-Band Ear Simulator. The model includes the geometry of the ear canal as well as the pinna defined in the ITU-T P.57 standard. The model also includes interpolation data for an ear drum impedance ensuring correct acoustic properties of the ear. The model tries to fulfill the geometry and acoustic requirements defined in the standard. It is not a model of a particular, commercially available, ear simulator.

Model Definition

This model imports a geometry representation of the ear canal (Figure 1) as well as the combined pinna and ear canal (Figure 2) that is defined in the ITU-T P.57 standard, Ref. 1. To fulfill the acoustic requirements specified in the ITU-T P.57 standard, the eardrum impedance presented in Nielsen and Jensen, 2022 (Ref. 2) is imported as an interpolation function and used. Some details about the construction of the geometry are presented in Ref. 2.

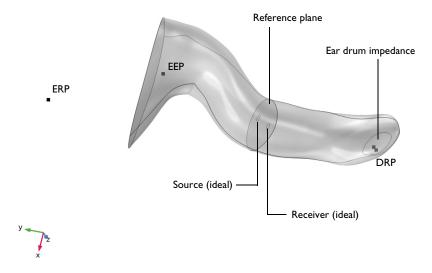


Figure 1: Geometry of the ear canal including reference plane.

A typical use case, where an in-ear device is tested (for example, a hearing aid) in the artificial ear, is presented in Nielsen and Jensen, 2023 (Ref. 3). In the reference, a

comparison between measurements (using a commercially available ear simulator) and simulations using the present ear geometry and impedance is carried out. The presented results show good correlation.

In the first model component (**Component 1**), the ear canal geometry shown in Figure 1 is imported. The image shows the ear reference point (ERP, here outside of the geometry), the ear entrance point (EEP), and the eardrum reference point (EDP). The image also shows the reference plane which is used when defining the transfer impedance of the system. A simulation, mimicking a typical measurement setup to compute the transfer impedance from the reference plane to the eardrum, is set up. The transfer impedance (absolute value of) is the acoustic characteristic defined in the ITU-T P.57 standard. The resulting absolute valued transfer impedance (times the frequency) $|\mathbf{Z} \cdot \mathbf{f}|$ is depicted in the results section in Figure 4. A comparison between a simulated transfer impedance and the standard is shown in Ref. 1. The location of an ideal source and an ideal receiver (corresponding to probes tubes in a typical measurement) is also depicted in Figure 1.

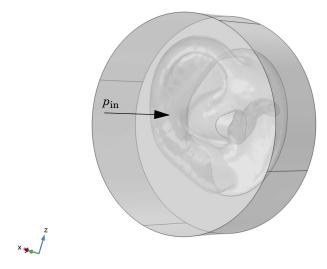


Figure 2: Geometry of the combined ear canal and pinna, including an exterior cylindrical air domain.

In the second model component (Component 2), the combined ear canal and pinna shown in Figure 2 is imported. The geometry also includes an exterior cylindrical air domain. Using this geometry, the open ear response to a normally incident plane wave p_{in} is

simulated (see the arrow in Figure 2). The open boundaries of the cylindrical air domain are modeled using the Perfectly Matched Boundary condition.

Results and Discussion

The pressure and sound pressure level (SPL) distributions in the ear canal (from the reference plane to the ear drum) evaluated at 20 kHz are depicted in Figure 3. The absolute value of the transfer impedance (times the frequency) $|Z \cdot f|$ is depicted in Figure 4. This curve represents the acoustic signature of the ear simulator described in the ITU-T P.57 standard.

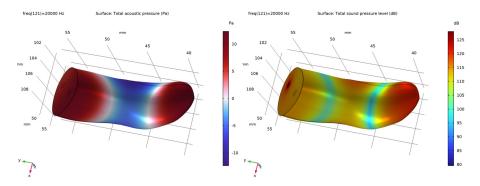


Figure 3: Pressure (left) and SPL (right) distribution in the ear canal at 20 kHz.

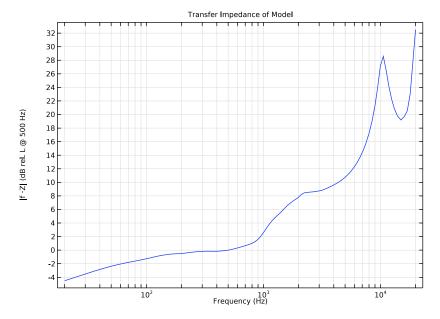


Figure 4: Absolute value of the transfer impedance (times frequency) as function of frequency. Computed from the reference plane to the ear drum.

The total pressure (incident plus scattered) and the total SPL at the surface of the pinna for the setup described in Figure 2 is depicted in Figure 5. The open ear response as a function of frequency is depicted in Figure 6; here specifically showing the sound pressure level at the ear drum.

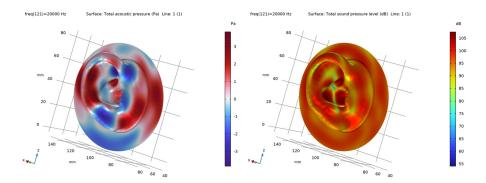


Figure 5: Total pressure (left) and SPL (right) distribution on the surface of the ear at $20\ kHz$.

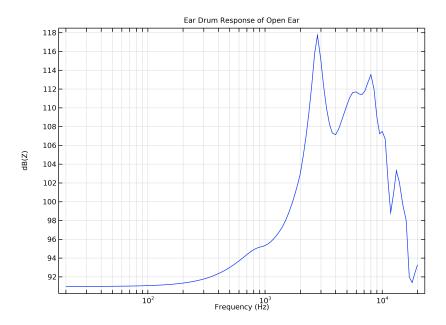


Figure 6: Ear drum response of the open ear as function of frequency.

References

1. ITU-T Recommendation P.57: Artificial Ears. 2021.

- 2. L.B. Nielsen and M. Herring Jensen, "The Digital Twin of a New and Standardized Fullband Ear Simulator," DAGA 2022.
- 3. L.B. Nielsen and M. Herring Jensen, "Simulation and physical testing using standardized ear simulator," DAGA 2023.

Application Library path: Acoustics Module/Tutorials,

Thermoviscous Acoustics/type 43 ear simulator

Modeling Instructions

From the File menu, choose New.

NEW

In the New window, click Model Wizard.

MODEL WIZARD

- I In the Model Wizard window, click **3D**.
- 2 In the Select Physics tree, select Acoustics>Pressure Acoustics, Frequency Domain (acpr).
- 3 Click Add.
- 4 Click 🔵 Study.
- 5 In the Select Study tree, select General Studies>Frequency Domain.
- 6 Click **Done**.

GLOBAL DEFINITIONS

Parameters 1

- I In the Model Builder window, under Global Definitions click Parameters I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Parameters, locate the Parameters section.
- **3** In the table, enter the following settings:

Name	Expression	Value	Description
vn	1[m/s]	I m/s	Source velocity

Interpolation I (int I)

I In the Home toolbar, click f(X) Functions and choose Global>Interpolation.

- 2 In the Settings window for Interpolation, locate the Definition section.
- 3 From the Data source list, choose File.
- 4 Click **Browse**.
- **5** Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file type_43_ear_simulator_impedance.txt.
- 6 In the Number of arguments text field, type 1.
- **7** Find the **Functions** subsection. In the table, enter the following settings:

Function name	Position in file
absZ	1
argZ	2

- 8 Locate the Interpolation and Extrapolation section. From the Interpolation list, choose Piecewise cubic.
- 9 From the Extrapolation list, choose Linear.
- **10** Locate the **Units** section. In the **Function** table, enter the following settings:

Function	Unit		
absZ	kg/(m^2*s)		
argZ	rad		

II In the **Argument** table, enter the following settings:

Argument	Unit
Column I	1

GEOMETRY I

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Geometry I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Geometry, locate the Units section.
- 3 From the Length unit list, choose mm.
- 4 Locate the Advanced section. From the Geometry representation list, choose CAD kernel.

Import I (impl)

- I In the **Home** toolbar, click **Import**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Import, locate the Import section.
- 3 Click **Browse**.

- 4 Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file type_43_ear_simulator_ear_canal.mphbin.
- 5 Click Import.
- 6 In the Home toolbar, click **Build All**.

ADD MATERIAL

- I In the Home toolbar, click **Add Material** to open the Add Material window.
- 2 Go to the Add Material window.
- 3 In the tree, select Built-in>Air.
- 4 Click Add to Component in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the Home toolbar, click 🤼 Add Material to close the Add Material window.

DEFINITIONS

Variables 1

- I In the Home toolbar, click $\partial =$ Variables and choose Local Variables.
- 2 In the Settings window for Variables, locate the Variables section.
- **3** In the table, enter the following settings:

Name	Expression	Unit	Description
Ztrans	aveop1(acpr.p_t)		
Zin	<pre>aveop2(acpr.p_t)/intop1(vn)</pre>		

Source

- I In the **Definitions** toolbar, click **\(\frac{1}{2} \) Explicit**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Explicit, type Source in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Input Entities section. From the Geometric entity level list, choose Boundary.
- 4 Click Paste Selection.
- 5 In the Paste Selection dialog box, type 8 in the Selection text field.
- 6 Click OK.

Probe Microphone

- I In the **Definitions** toolbar, click **\(\frac{1}{2} \) Explicit**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Explicit, type Probe Microphone in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Input Entities section. From the Geometric entity level list, choose Boundary.
- 4 Click Paste Selection.

- 5 In the Paste Selection dialog box, type 9 in the Selection text field.
- 6 Click OK.

Ear Drum

- I In the **Definitions** toolbar, click **\(\frac{1}{2} \) Explicit**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Explicit, type Ear Drum in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Input Entities section. From the Geometric entity level list, choose Boundary.
- 4 Click Paste Selection.
- 5 In the Paste Selection dialog box, type 7 in the Selection text field.
- 6 Click OK.

Integration I (intobl)

- I In the Definitions toolbar, click Nonlocal Couplings and choose Integration.
- 2 In the Settings window for Integration, locate the Source Selection section.
- 3 From the Geometric entity level list, choose Boundary.
- 4 From the Selection list, choose Source.

Average I (aveob I)

- I In the Definitions toolbar, click Monlocal Couplings and choose Average.
- 2 In the Settings window for Average, locate the Source Selection section.
- 3 From the Geometric entity level list, choose Boundary.
- 4 From the Selection list, choose Ear Drum.

Average 2 (aveob2)

- I In the Definitions toolbar, click Monlocal Couplings and choose Average.
- 2 In the Settings window for Average, locate the Source Selection section.
- 3 From the Geometric entity level list, choose Boundary.
- 4 From the Selection list, choose Probe Microphone.

PRESSURE ACOUSTICS, FREQUENCY DOMAIN (ACPR)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Pressure Acoustics, Frequency Domain (acpr).
- 2 In the Settings window for Pressure Acoustics, Frequency Domain, locate the **Domain Selection** section.
- 3 Click Clear Selection.
- 4 Click Paste Selection.

- 5 In the Paste Selection dialog box, type 2 in the Selection text field.
- 6 Click OK.
- 7 In the Settings window for Pressure Acoustics, Frequency Domain, locate the Typical Wave Speed for Perfectly Matched Layers section.
- **8** In the c_{ref} text field, type 343[m/s].

Impedance I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose Impedance.
- 2 In the Settings window for Impedance, locate the Boundary Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose Ear Drum.
- 4 Locate the Impedance section. In the Z_n text field, type absZ(log10(freq[1/Hz]))* exp(i*argZ(log10(freq[1/Hz]))).

Normal Velocity I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose Normal Velocity.
- 2 In the Settings window for Normal Velocity, locate the Boundary Selection section.
- **3** From the **Selection** list, choose **Source**.
- **4** Locate the **Normal Velocity** section. In the v_n text field, type vn.

Thermoviscous Boundary Layer Impedance 1

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose Thermoviscous Boundary Layer Impedance.
- 2 In the Settings window for Thermoviscous Boundary Layer Impedance, locate the Boundary Selection section.
- 3 Click Paste Selection.
- 4 In the Paste Selection dialog box, type 4,5 in the Selection text field.
- 5 Click OK.
- 6 In the Settings window for Thermoviscous Boundary Layer Impedance, locate the Fluid Properties section.
- 7 From the Fluid material list, choose Air (mat I).

MESH

Proceed and generate the mesh using the **Physics-controlled mesh** functionality. The frequency controlling the maximum element size is per default taken **From study**. Set the desired **Frequencies** in the study step. In general, 5 to 6 second-order elements per wavelength are needed to resolve the waves. For more details, see *Meshing* (*Resolving the*

Waves) in the Acoustics Module User's Guide. In this model, use the default Automatic option, which gives 5 elements per wavelength.

ADD COMPONENT

Right-click Thermoviscous Boundary Layer Impedance I and choose Add Component>3D.

GEOMETRY 2

- I In the Settings window for Geometry, locate the Units section.
- 2 From the Length unit list, choose mm.

Import I (impl)

- I In the **Home** toolbar, click **Import**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Import, locate the Import section.
- 3 Click **Browse**.
- 4 Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file type_43_ear_simulator_full_ear.mphbin.
- 5 Click Import.
- 6 In the Home toolbar, click **Build All**.

ADD MATERIAL FROM LIBRARY

In the Home toolbar, click Windows and choose Add Material from Library.

ADD MATERIAL

- I Go to the Add Material window.
- 2 In the tree, select Built-in>Air.
- **3** Click **Add to Component** in the window toolbar.
- 4 In the Home toolbar, click **‡** Add Material to close the Add Material window.

DEFINITIONS (COMP2)

Ear Drum

- I In the **Definitions** toolbar, click **\(\frac{1}{3} \) Explicit**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Explicit, type Ear Drum in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Input Entities section. From the Geometric entity level list, choose Boundary.
- 4 Click Paste Selection.
- 5 In the Paste Selection dialog box, type 8 in the Selection text field.
- 6 Click OK.

ADD PHYSICS

- I In the Home toolbar, click Add Physics to open the Add Physics window.
- 2 Go to the Add Physics window.
- 3 In the tree, select Acoustics>Pressure Acoustics>Pressure Acoustics, Frequency Domain (acpr).
- 4 Click Add to Component 2 in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the Home toolbar, click and Physics to close the Add Physics window.

PRESSURE ACOUSTICS, FREQUENCY DOMAIN 2 (ACPR2)

Thermoviscous Boundary Layer Impedance 1

- I Right-click Component 2 (comp2)>Pressure Acoustics, Frequency Domain 2 (acpr2) and choose Thermoviscous Boundary Layer Impedance.
- 2 In the Settings window for Thermoviscous Boundary Layer Impedance, locate the **Boundary Selection** section.
- 3 Click Paste Selection.
- 4 In the Paste Selection dialog box, type 6 in the Selection text field.
- 5 Click OK.
- 6 In the Settings window for Thermoviscous Boundary Layer Impedance, locate the Fluid Properties section.
- 7 From the Fluid material list, choose Air (mat2).

Background Pressure Field I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Domains** and choose Background Pressure Field.
- 2 In the Settings window for Background Pressure Field, locate the Domain Selection section.
- 3 Click Paste Selection.
- 4 In the Paste Selection dialog box, type 1 in the Selection text field.
- 5 Click OK.
- 6 In the Settings window for Background Pressure Field, locate the **Background Pressure Field** section.
- 7 In the p_0 text field, type 1.
- **8** From the c list, choose From material.

9 Specify the \mathbf{e}_k vector as

0	x
- 1	у
0	z

Perfectly Matched Boundary I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **| Boundaries** and choose Perfectly Matched Boundary.
- 2 In the Settings window for Perfectly Matched Boundary, locate the Boundary Selection section.
- 3 Click Paste Selection.
- 4 In the Paste Selection dialog box, type 1,2,4,7,9 in the Selection text field.
- 5 Click OK.
- 6 In the Settings window for Perfectly Matched Boundary, locate the Geometry section.
- **7** Specify the \mathbf{r}_0 vector as

110.0[mm]	x
67.6[mm]	у
40.7[mm]	z

Imbedance I

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose Impedance.
- 2 In the Settings window for Impedance, locate the Boundary Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose Ear Drum.
- **4** Locate the **Impedance** section. In the Z_n text field, type absZ(log10(freq[1/Hz]))* exp(i*argZ(log10(freq[1/Hz]))).

MESH

Proceed and generate the mesh using the Physics-controlled mesh functionality. In this component, use again the default **Automatic** option, which gives 5 elements per wavelength.

STUDY I - EAR CANAL

- I In the Model Builder window, click Study I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Study, type Study 1 Ear Canal in the Label text field.

Step 1: Frequency Domain

- I In the Model Builder window, under Study I Ear Canal click Step I: Frequency Domain.
- 2 In the Settings window for Frequency Domain, locate the Study Settings section.
- 3 Click Range.
- 4 In the Range dialog box, choose ISO preferred frequencies from the Entry method list.
- 5 In the Start frequency text field, type 20.
- 6 In the Stop frequency text field, type 20000.
- 7 From the Interval list, choose I/I2 octave.
- 8 Click Add.
- 9 In the Settings window for Frequency Domain, locate the Physics and Variables Selection section.
- **10** In the table, enter the following settings:

Physics interface	Solve for	Equation form
Pressure Acoustics, Frequency Domain (acpr)	V	Automatic (Frequency domain)
Pressure Acoustics, Frequency Domain 2 (acpr2)		Automatic (Frequency domain)

Solution I (soll)

ADD STUDY

- I In the Study toolbar, click Add Study to open the Add Study window.
- 2 Go to the Add Study window.
- 3 Find the Studies subsection. In the Select Study tree, select General Studies> Frequency Domain.
- 4 Click Add Study in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the Study toolbar, click Add Study to close the Add Study window.

STUDY 2 - FULL EAR

- I In the Model Builder window, click Study 2.
- 2 In the Settings window for Study, type Study 2 Full Ear in the Label text field.

Step 1: Frequency Domain

I In the Model Builder window, under Study 2 - Full Ear click Step 1: Frequency Domain.

- 2 In the Settings window for Frequency Domain, locate the Study Settings section.
- 3 Click Range.
- 4 In the Range dialog box, choose ISO preferred frequencies from the Entry method list.
- 5 In the Start frequency text field, type 20.
- 6 In the Stop frequency text field, type 20000.
- 7 From the Interval list, choose I/I2 octave.
- 8 Click Add.
- 9 In the Settings window for Frequency Domain, locate the Physics and Variables Selection section.
- **10** In the table, enter the following settings:

Physics interface	Solve for	Equation form
Pressure Acoustics, Frequency Domain (acpr)		Automatic (Frequency domain)
Pressure Acoustics, Frequency Domain 2 (acpr2)	V	Automatic (Frequency domain)

Solution 2 (sol2)

In the Study toolbar, click Show Default Solver.

STUDY I - EAR CANAL

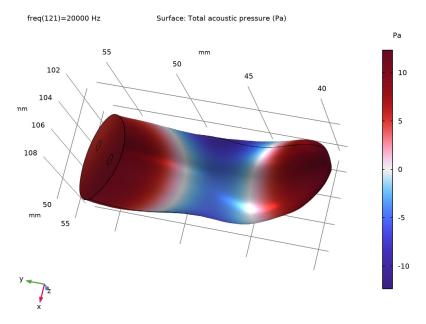
Click **Compute**.

RESULTS

Acoustic Pressure (acpr)

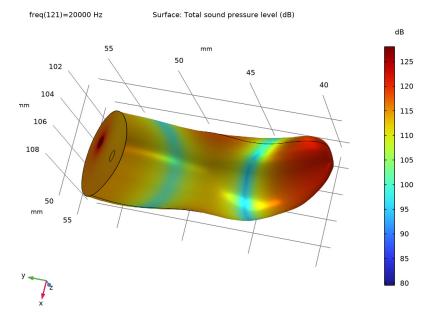
I In the Acoustic Pressure (acpr) toolbar, click **Plot**.

The acoustic pressure for the ear canal should look like the following figure:



Sound Pressure Level (acpr)

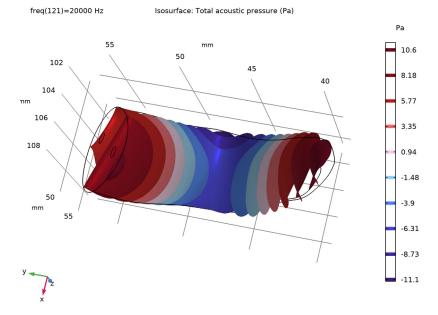
I In the Model Builder window, click Sound Pressure Level (acpr).



Acoustic Pressure, Isosurfaces (acpr)

I In the Model Builder window, click Acoustic Pressure, Isosurfaces (acpr).

2 In the Acoustic Pressure, Isosurfaces (acpr) toolbar, click **Plot**.



Transfer Impedance of Model

- I In the Home toolbar, click **Add Plot Group** and choose ID Plot Group.
- 2 In the Settings window for ID Plot Group, click to expand the Title section.
- 3 From the Title type list, choose Label.
- 4 In the Label text field, type Transfer Impedance of Model.
- 5 Locate the Plot Settings section.
- **6** Select the **x-axis label** check box. In the associated text field, type Frequency (Hz).
- 7 Select the y-axis label check box. In the associated text field, type |f \cdot Z| (dB rel. L @ 500 Hz).
- 8 Locate the Axis section. Select the x-axis log scale check box.

Global I

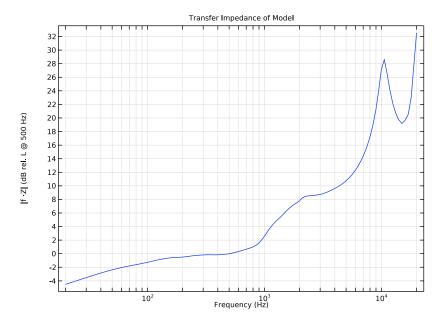
- I In the Transfer Impedance of Model toolbar, click (Global.
- 2 In the Settings window for Global, locate the y-Axis Data section.

3 In the table, enter the following settings:

Expression	Unit	Description
20*log10(freq*abs(Ztrans))-withsol('sol1',20* log10(freg*abs(Ztrans)),setval(freg,500))		Model

- 4 Click to expand the Legends section. Clear the Show legends check box.
- 5 In the Transfer Impedance of Model toolbar, click Plot.

The simulated transfer impedance of the ear canal geometry should look like the following figure:



STUDY 2 - FULL EAR

I In the **Home** toolbar, click **Compute**.

Next, delete the Ear Canal/Solution 1 (2) (sol1) and the Study 2 - Full Ear/ Solution 2 (3) (sol2). In theory, the components could be coupled in the studies but in this model they are not. Therefore, there is no need to have both solutions for each study.

RESULTS

Study I - Ear Canal/Solution I (2) (soll)

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Results>Datasets node.
- 2 Right-click Results>Datasets>Study I Ear Canal/Solution I (2) (soll) and choose Delete.

Study 2 - Full Ear/Solution 2 (3) (sol2)

In the Model Builder window, under Results>Datasets right-click Study 2 - Full Ear/ Solution 2 (3) (sol2) and choose Delete.

Acoustic Pressure (acpr2)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results click Acoustic Pressure (acpr2).
- 2 In the Settings window for 3D Plot Group, locate the Plot Settings section.
- 3 Clear the Plot dataset edges check box.

Selection 1

- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Acoustic Pressure (acpr2) node.
- 2 Right-click Surface I and choose Selection.
- **3** Select Boundaries 3, 5, 6, and 8 only.

Line 1

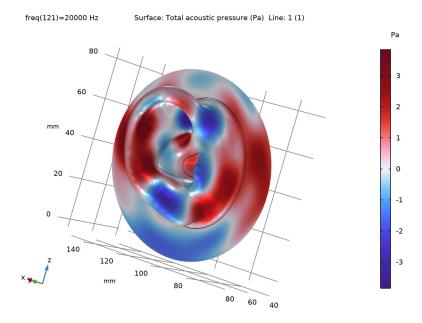
- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Acoustic Pressure (acpr2) and choose Line.
- 2 In the Settings window for Line, locate the Expression section.
- 3 In the Expression text field, type 1.
- 4 Locate the Coloring and Style section. From the Coloring list, choose Uniform.
- 5 From the Color list, choose Black.

Selection 1

- I Right-click Line I and choose Selection.
- **2** Select Edges 6–9, 13, and 14 only.

3 In the Acoustic Pressure (acpr2) toolbar, click Plot.

The acoustic pressure of the pinna and ear canal system should look like the following figure:



Sound Pressure Level (acpr2)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Results click Sound Pressure Level (acpr2).
- 2 In the Settings window for 3D Plot Group, locate the Plot Settings section.
- 3 Clear the Plot dataset edges check box.

Selection I

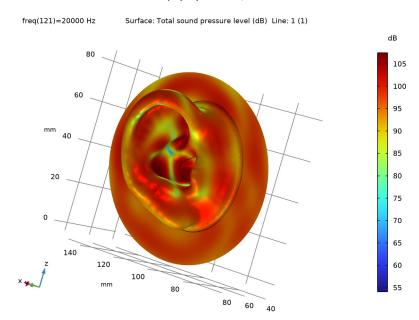
- I In the Model Builder window, expand the Sound Pressure Level (acpr2) node.
- 2 Right-click Surface I and choose Selection.
- **3** Select Boundaries 3, 5, 6, and 8 only.

Line 1

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Sound Pressure Level (acpr2) and choose Line.
- 2 In the Settings window for Line, locate the Expression section.
- 3 In the Expression text field, type 1.
- 4 Locate the Coloring and Style section. From the Coloring list, choose Uniform.
- 5 From the Color list, choose Black.

Selection I

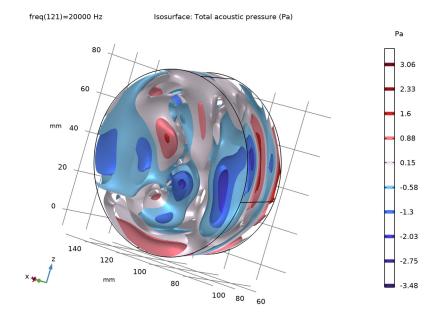
- I Right-click Line I and choose Selection.
- **2** Select Edges 6–9, 13, and 14 only.
- 3 In the Sound Pressure Level (acpr2) toolbar, click Plot.



Acoustic Pressure, Isosurfaces (acpr2)

I In the Model Builder window, under Results click Acoustic Pressure, Isosurfaces (acpr2).

2 In the Acoustic Pressure, Isosurfaces (acpr2) toolbar, click Plot.



Ear Drum Response of Open Ear

- I In the Home toolbar, click Add Plot Group and choose ID Plot Group.
- 2 In the Settings window for ID Plot Group, type Ear Drum Response of Open Ear in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Data section. From the Dataset list, choose Study 2 Full Ear/Solution 2 (sol2).
- 4 Click to expand the Title section. From the Title type list, choose Label.
- 5 Locate the Axis section. Select the x-axis log scale check box.

Octave Band I

- I In the Ear Drum Response of Open Ear toolbar, click \to More Plots and choose Octave Band.
- 2 In the Settings window for Octave Band, locate the Selection section.
- 3 From the Geometric entity level list, choose Boundary.
- 4 From the Selection list, choose Ear Drum.
- 5 Locate the Plot section. From the Quantity list, choose Continuous power spectral density.

