

## SINAD, SNR, THD calculator

A commonly used specification is signal to noise-plus-distortion (S/[N+D], or S/[THD+N]), also called **SINAD**. This is essentially the **inverse of THD+N**, when referred to the signal; its dB number is the same, but with opposite polarity.

Another performance measure describing the test results is the signal to noise ratio, S/N or **SNR**, which is a measure of the relative noise power, most useful for estimating response to small signals in the absence of harmonics.

If S/N is not specified, but **THD** and THD+N are provided, relative to the input signal, THD can be **rss**-subtracted from THD+N to obtain the noise to signal ratio [= 1/(S/N)]. If the numbers are given in dB, the **rss** subtraction formula for logarithmic quantities in the **APPENDIX** can be used as follows

$$SNR = -10 \log_{10} \left( 10^{(THD+N)/10} - 10^{THD/10} \right)$$

to yield the input signal power relative to noise power expressed in dB.

### APPENDIX

**RSS** addition of logarithmic quantities:

The **root-square sum** of two rms signals,  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ , has an rms value of  $\sqrt{S_1^2 + S_2^2}$ .

One often needs to calculate the rss sum of two numbers that are **expressed in dB** relative a given reference. To do this one has to take the antilogs, perform the rss addition, then convert the result back to dB. These three operations can be *combined* into *one* convenient formula: If D1 and D2 are ratios expressed in dB, their sum, expressed in dB, is

$$10 \log_{10} \left( 10^{D_1/10} + 10^{D_2/10} \right)$$

Similarly, to find the difference between two rms quantities,

$$x = \sqrt{S_2^2 - S_1^2}$$

the result, x, expressed in dB, is

$$10 \log_{10} \left( 10^{D_2/10} - 10^{D_1/10} \right)$$

<http://www.analog.com/library/analogDialogue/Anniversary/16.html>

**Note:**

$$THD_{dBc} = 10 \log \left( \frac{\sum_{i=2}^6 P_i}{P_1} \right) \quad ; \quad SNR_{dBc} = 10 \log \left( \frac{P_1}{P_{all} - \sum_{i=0}^6 P_i} \right)$$

$$SINAD_{dBc} = 10 \log \left( \frac{P_1}{\underbrace{P_{all} - \sum_{i=0}^1 P_i}_{1/SNR} - \sum_{i=2}^6 P_i + \sum_{i=2}^6 P_i}_{THD}} \right) = -10 \log \left( 10^{\frac{THD}{10}} + 10^{\frac{SNR}{10}} \right)$$

$P_1$ : signal (sine) power,  $P_i, i = 2, 3, \dots$ : harmonic components,  $P_0$ : DC component