

# Chapter 8

## LOW FREQUENCY - HIGH INTENSITY ULTRASOUND

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### Introduction

Sound waves are longitudinal waves emitted in solid, liquid or gas medium. Waves are generated by any mechanism that is based on compressing and vibrating the medium surrounding the wave source. The simplest sound waves are sinusoidal waves, which have a certain frequency, amplitude, wavelength, and travel in the form of compression and expansion through an environment. As sound waves move through an environment, there is a change in pressure as well as the location of molecules in the environment. It is more appropriate to show sound waves in physics by pressure changes because the human ear is sensitive to pressure changes. The sound frequency spectrum that the human ear can hear ranges from 16 Hz to 20 kHz. The area below this range is called infrasound and the area above it is called ultrasound. If the pressure change generated by the sound waves is called acoustic pressure, the change in acoustic pressure ( $P$ ) at a given frequency ( $f$ ) with respect to time ( $t$ ) can be given by equation (1).

$$P = P_{\max} \cdot \sin(2\pi ft) \quad (1)$$

In equation (1),  $P_{\max}$  is the maximum acoustic pressure. The maximum acoustic pressure can be given by equation (2). In the equation,  $v$  represents the sound velocity,  $\rho$  is the medium density,  $Q$  is the power transferred to the fluid and  $A$  is the surface area of the source <sup>(1, 3)</sup>.

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to acoustic cavitation, i.e., growth and implosive collapse of microscopic bubbles generated in the rarefaction part of the ultrasound field in a liquid. The implosive collapse of bubbles generates extreme conditions like high temperatures and high pressures in very short times.

**Keywords:** Ultrasound, cavitation, applications.

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