

The characteristic, or so-called eigen-frequencies, eigen-wavelengths, eigen-energy densities associated with 1-D axial, 2-D transverse and fully 3-D oblique modes of acoustic standing waves in a room can be “generically” written as:

$$f_{lmn} = \omega_{lmn} / 2\pi = vk_{lmn} / 2\pi = v / \lambda_{lmn} = \frac{1}{2}v\sqrt{(l/L_x)^2 + (m/L_y)^2 + (n/L_z)^2}$$

$$\lambda_{lmn} = 2\pi / k_{lmn} = 2 / \sqrt{(l/L_x)^2 + (m/L_y)^2 + (n/L_z)^2}$$

$$w_{lmn} = \frac{1}{4}\rho_o\omega_{lmn}^2 A_{lmn}^2 = \pi^2\rho_o f_{lmn}^2 A_{lmn}^2 = \frac{1}{4}\pi^2 v^2 \rho_o A_{lmn}^2 \left[ (l/L_x)^2 + (m/L_y)^2 + (n/L_z)^2 \right]$$

$$l, m, n = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, \dots$$

The 1-D axial modes have the lowest frequency and/or energy; the {1,0,0} axial mode is the lowest, the next lowest is the {0,1,0} axial mode, the next lowest is the {0,0,1} axial mode.

If the room is cubical in shape, *i.e.*  $\{L_x = L_y = L_z\}$ , then degeneracies (*i.e.* standing waves having the same energy/mode) in various of the standing wave modes will exist, the first few of which are summarized in the table below:

[ <i>l,m,n</i> ] Mode	Degeneracy	Mode Type
[100,010,001]	3	1-D Axial
[101,011,110]	3	2-D Transverse
[111]	1	3-D Oblique
[200,020,002]	3	1-D Axial
[201,210,021,012,102,120]	6	2-D Transverse
[211,121,112]	3	3-D Oblique

Thus, the degeneracies associated with a cubical-shaped room imply that a cubical room will be more problematic in terms of room resonances and acoustic feedback than for a rectangular-shaped room, where  $\{L_x \neq L_y \neq L_z\}$ . This can be seen from the so-called density of states for 3-D standing waves in a cubical vs. rectangular room, as shown in the figure below for two equal volume rooms, one cubical, the other rectangular, the latter with  $L:W:H$  ratio 3:2:1:

