

$$r_1 = 3.0 \text{ m} \quad \beta_1 = 40.0 \text{ dB}$$

What is the noise level of 1000 flies at the same distance?

The short answer is that each 10x of the intensity is +10 dB

1000 flies cause the intensity to be 1000x larger or 10^3

∴ The ~~intensity~~ sound level will increase by +10+10+10 and the final ~~intensity~~ sound level is

$$\beta_f = 40 + 30 = \boxed{70 \text{ dB}}$$

The long answer is

$$\beta_1 = 10 \log\left(\frac{I}{I_0}\right) \rightarrow \frac{\beta_1}{10} = \log\frac{I}{I_0} \rightarrow I = I_0 10^{\beta_1/10}$$

Now 1000 flies have an intensity in $\left(\frac{\text{W}}{\text{m}^2}\right)$ of

$$I_f = 1000 I_0 10^{\beta_1/10}$$

$$= 10^3 I_0 10^{\beta_1/10}$$

Use law of exponents

$$I_f = I_0 10^3 \cdot 10^{\beta_1/10} = I_0 10^{(3 + \beta_1/10)}$$

$$\text{Now } \beta_f = 10 \log\left(\frac{I_f}{I_0}\right) = 10 \log\left(\frac{I_0 10^{(3 + \beta_1/10)}}{I_0}\right)$$

$$= 10 \log(10^{3 + \beta_1/10}) = 10 \left[3 + \frac{\beta_1}{10}\right] = 30 + \beta_1$$

$$\beta_f = 30 + 40 = \boxed{70 \text{ dB}}$$