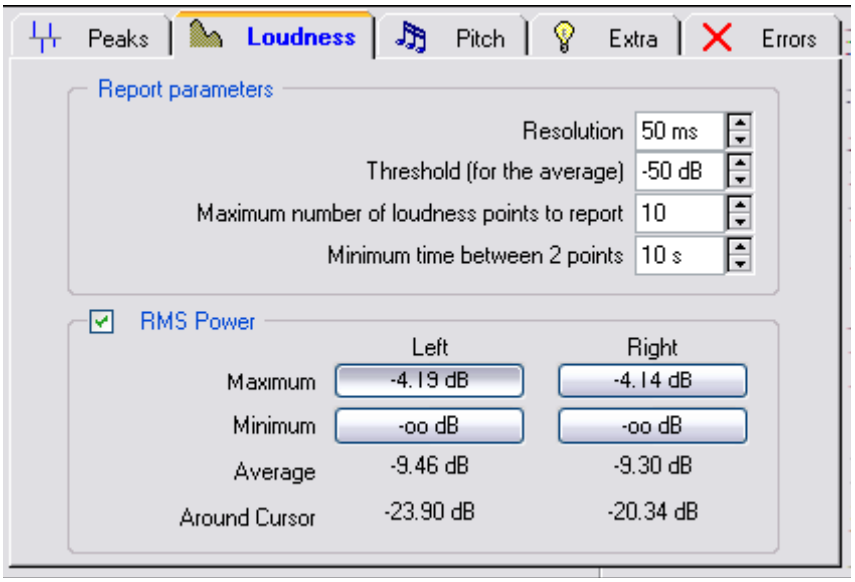
Wavelab 6: The Loudness Tab

The Loudness tab can be found in the Global Analysis window. A quick way to access the Global Analysis window is to select the “Y” key on your computer keyboard.



The options in the Loudness tab finds loud and weak sections in a more “intelligent” manner than the Peaks tab. The theory behind this is that there might be a single sample with a high or low value somewhere, but this may not necessarily mean that this section is perceived as loud/weak. To find sections that the ear perceives as significant in volume, you must look at a longer section of audio. To do this you measure a consecutive section of samples and then average their value. WaveLab does just this, using a mathematical method called RMS (Root Mean Square) which is well known for its accuracy.

Parameters

The parameters on the Loudness tab are slightly more complicated than those for Peak analysis:

• “Resolution” is the length of audio measured and averaged. If this value is lowered, very short passages of loud/low audio will be detected. When it is raised, the sound will have to be loud/low for a longer period to result in a hot point.

• “Threshold…” is used for recordings where there are pauses, to make sure the average value is calculated correctly. A pause could “fool” the algorithm. Therefore you can set up a value, and all audio below that value will be considered silence and will not be taken into account for the average value.

• “Maximum number…” and “Minimum time…” are the same as on the Peaks tab, see above.

Result

The Result fields show you the following values:

Option	Description
Maximum and Minimum	The level of the highest and lowest points in the analyzed section.
Average	The overall loudness of the whole analyzed section.
Around Cursor	The loudness at the wave cursor position at the time of the analysis.