

Psychoacoustics of 3D Sound Recording: Research and Practice

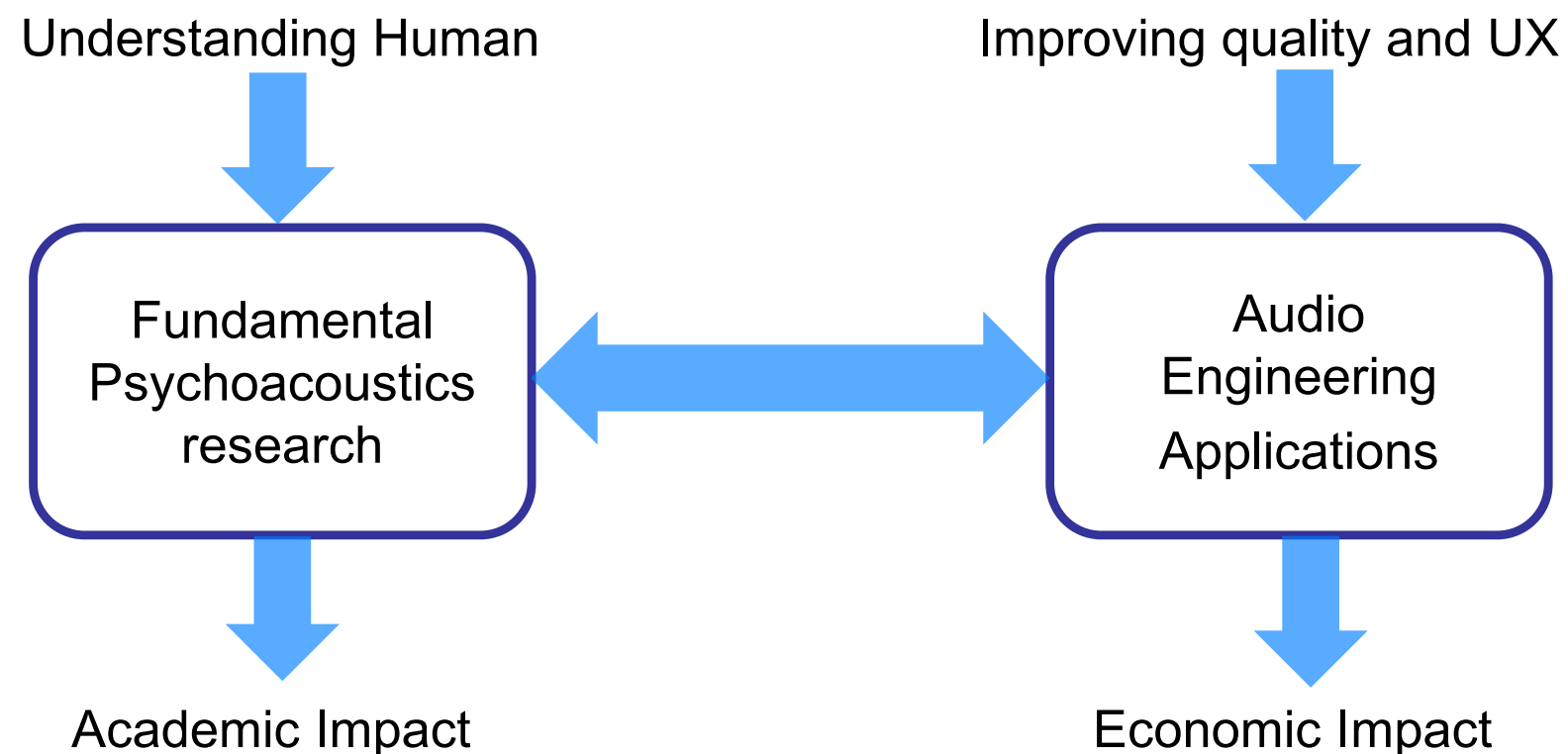
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www.hud.ac.uk/apl

- Senior Lecturer (i.e. Associate Professor) in Music Technology at the University of Huddersfield, UK (2010 – Present).
- Leader of the Applied Psychoacoustics Lab (2013 – Present).
- Senior Research Engineer at LG Electronics, Korea (2006 – 2010).
- PhD in surround sound psychoacoustics, University of Surrey, UK (2002 – 2006).
- BMus in Sound Recording (Tonmeister), University of Surrey (1998 – 2002).
- Freelance sound engineer (2002 – Present).
- Assistant sound engineer at Metropolis studios, London, UK (2000 – 2001).
- Intern sound engineer at Aspen Music Festival, Colorado, USA (1999, 2000).
- Assistant sound engineer at Sound Hill studios, South Korea (1997 – 1998).

Applied Psychoacoustics Lab (APL)

- The APL aims to provide solid psychoacoustic bases for audio engineering applications.
- To bridge gap between perception and engineering.



About Applied Psychoacoustics Lab (APL)

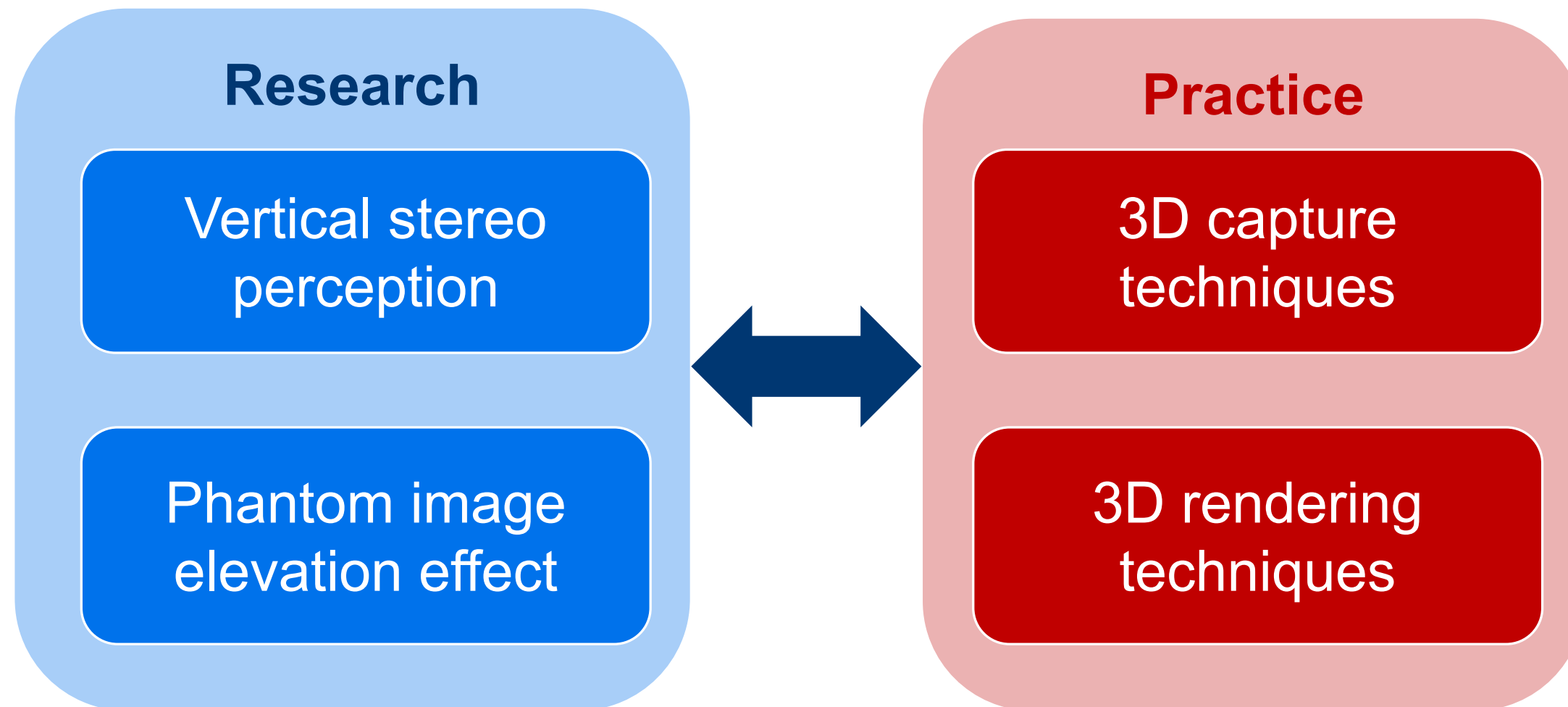
- Members
 - 3 staff researchers.
 - Currently 5 PhD, 2 Masters and 4 Undergraduate students.
 - 3 PhD and 2 Masters graduated.
- Current research focus
 - Sound recording and reproduction techniques for 3D and VR audio.
 - Binaural and multichannel auditory localisation mechanism.
 - Perceptually optimised virtual acoustics.
 - Auditory-visual interaction on the quality of experience.
 - Development of objective sound quality metrics.
- More information on www.hud.ac.uk/apl

Applied Psychoacoustics Lab (APL)

- ITU-R BS.1116-compliant listening room.
- 3D formats (22.2, Dolby Atmos, Auro-3D, etc.).



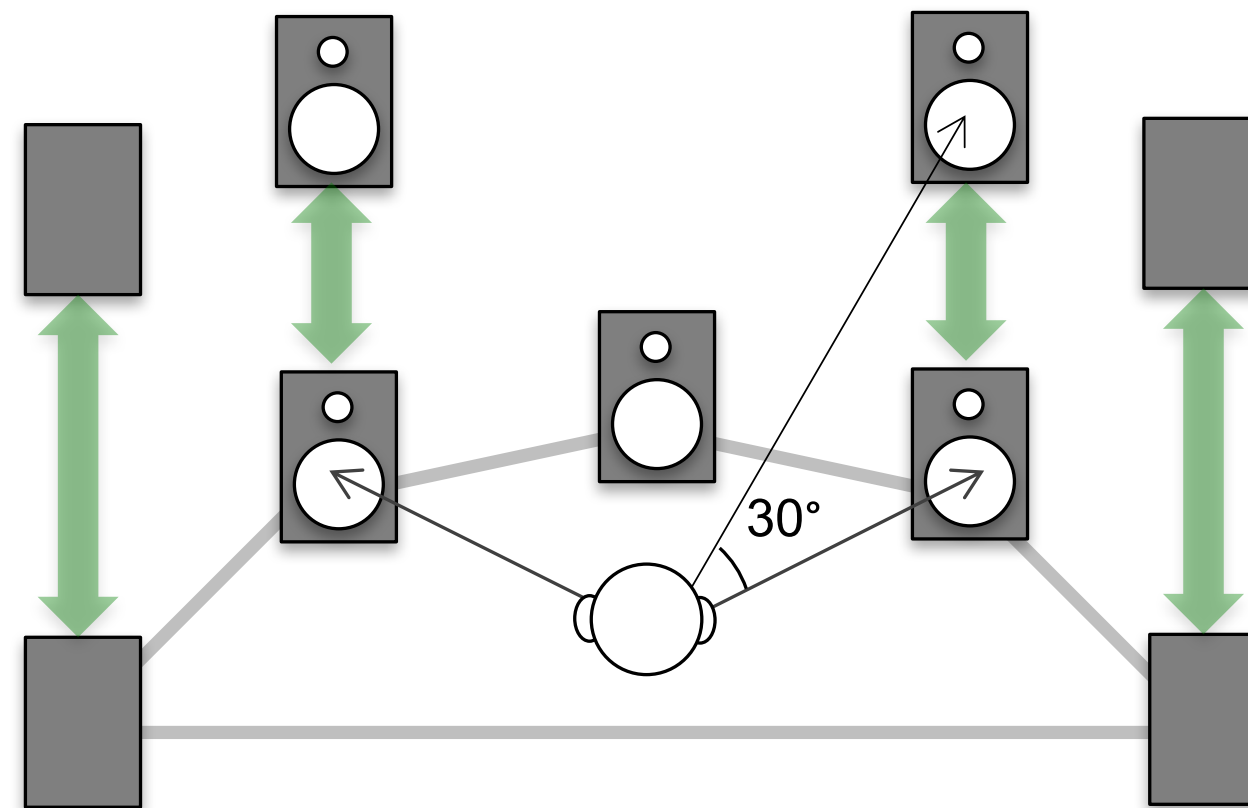
Today's talk and demo



With 9-channel 3D demos

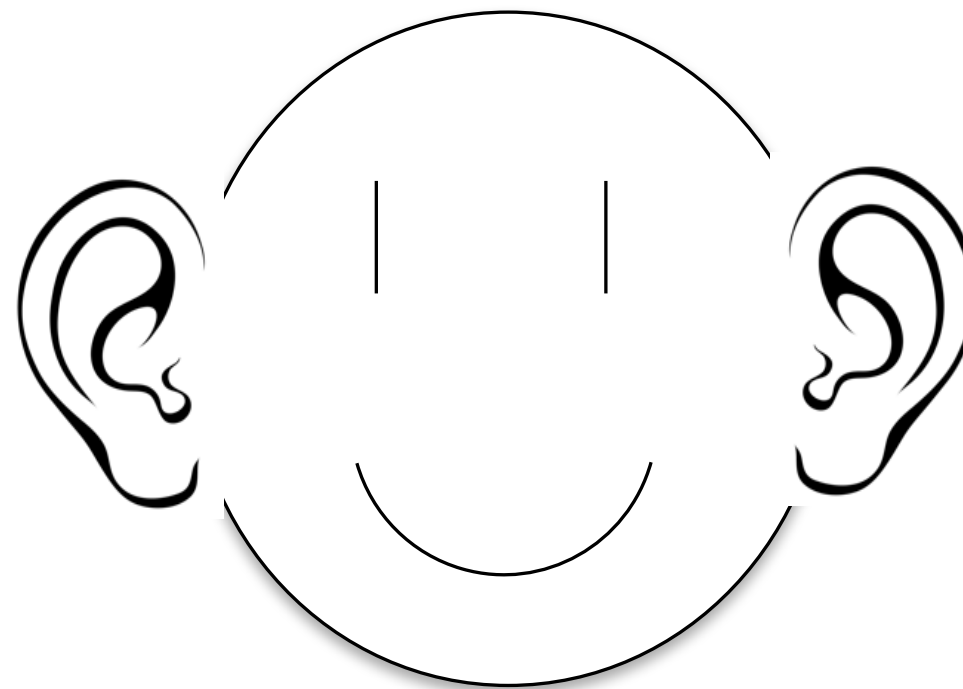
Background

- What's the optimal way of recording for 3D formats?
- How do we perceive sounds with vertical stereophony?

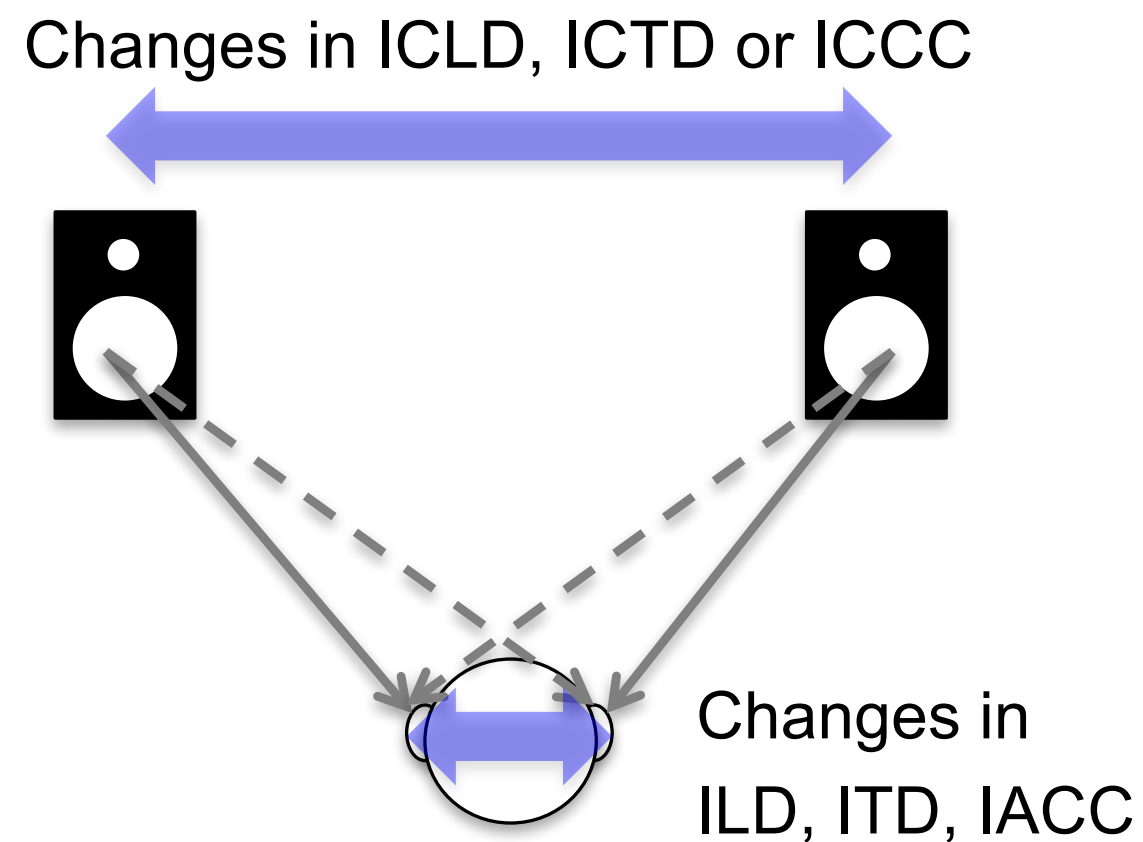


Background

- Vertical auditory perception is fundamentally different from horizontal perception.
 - Horizontal stereo: Interaural cues
 - Two ears spaced apart!

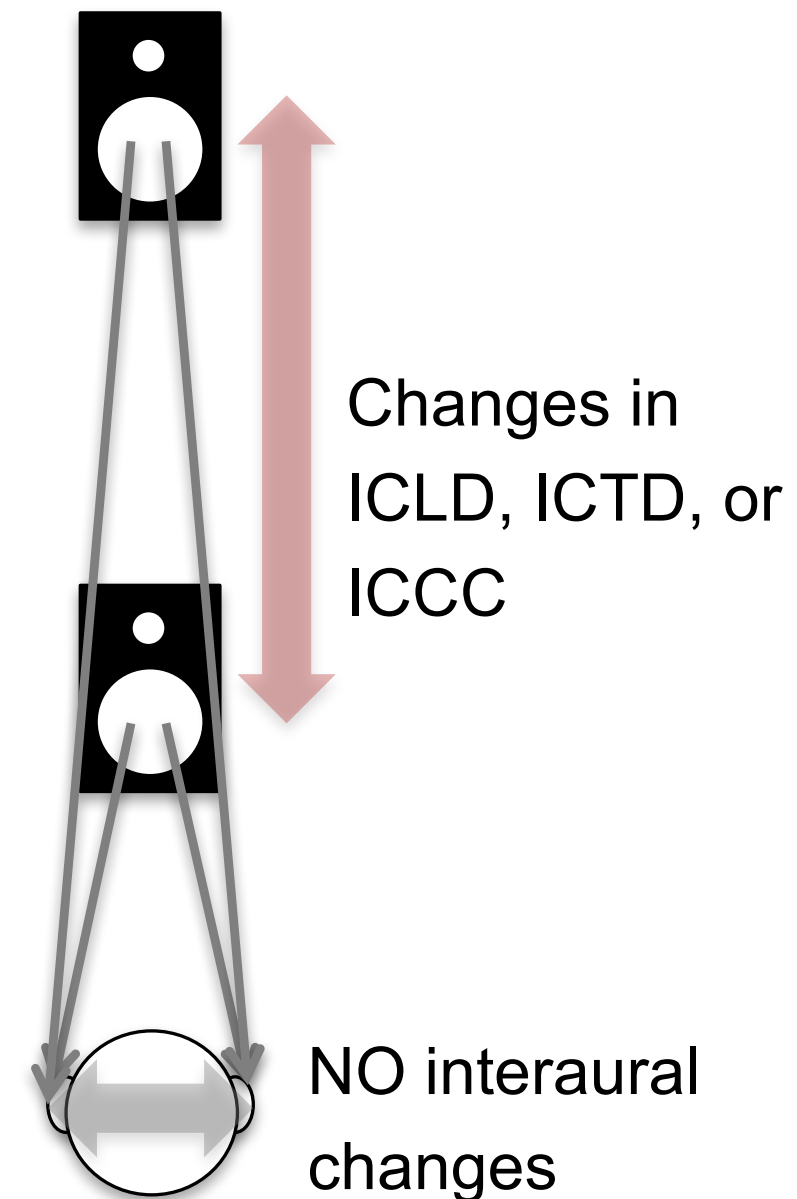


- Horizontal spatial perception
 - Inter-Channel cues translated into Inter-Aural cues



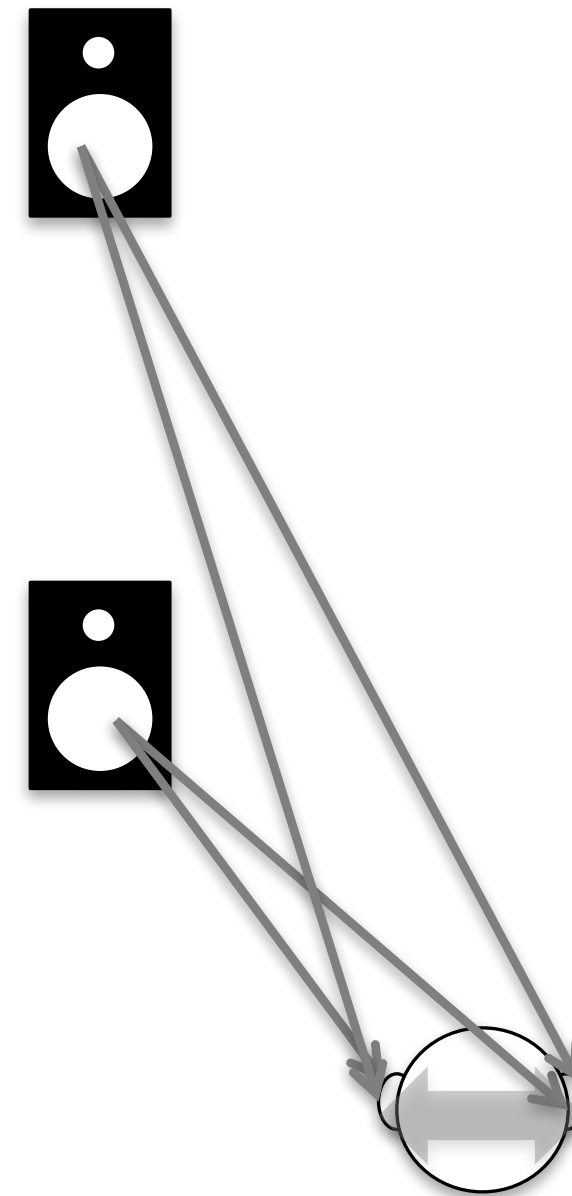
- Vertical spatial perception in the median plane.

Vertical localisation solely relies on **spectral** cues.



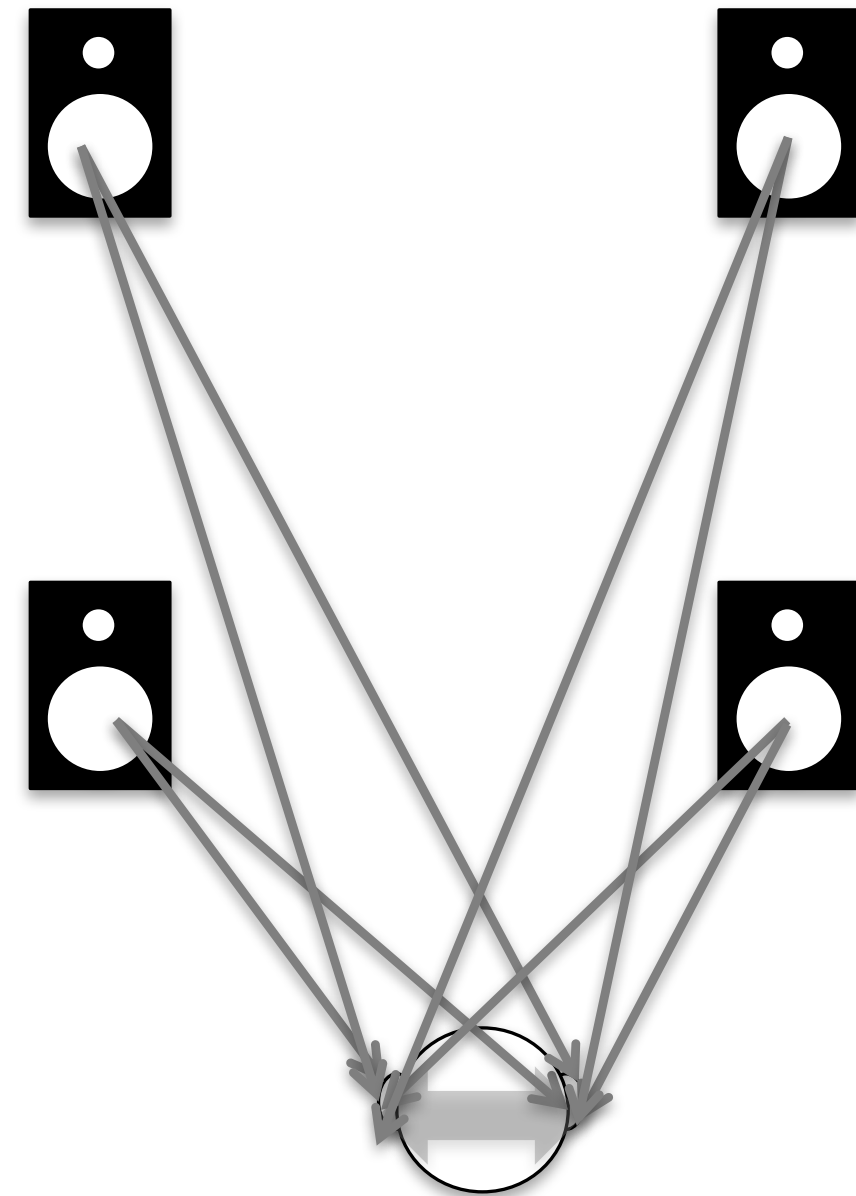
- Vertical spatial perception at an off-centre azimuth.

Vertical localisation mainly relies on **spectral** cues & some **interaural** cues.



- Vertical spatial perception with two vertical stereophonic layers.

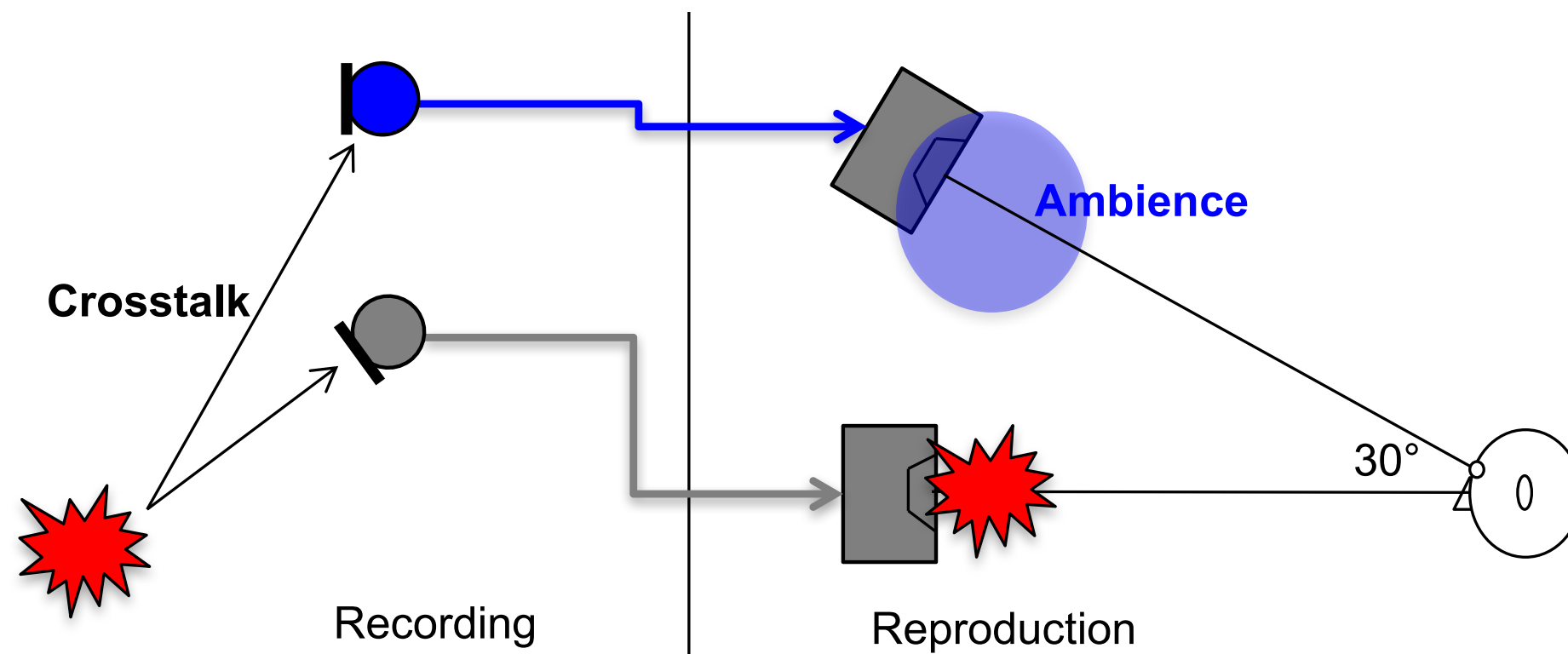
Vertical localisation is affected by **spectral** cues, **interaural** cues and the **phantom image elevation** effect.



Vertical Stereo Perception & 3D Microphone Techniques

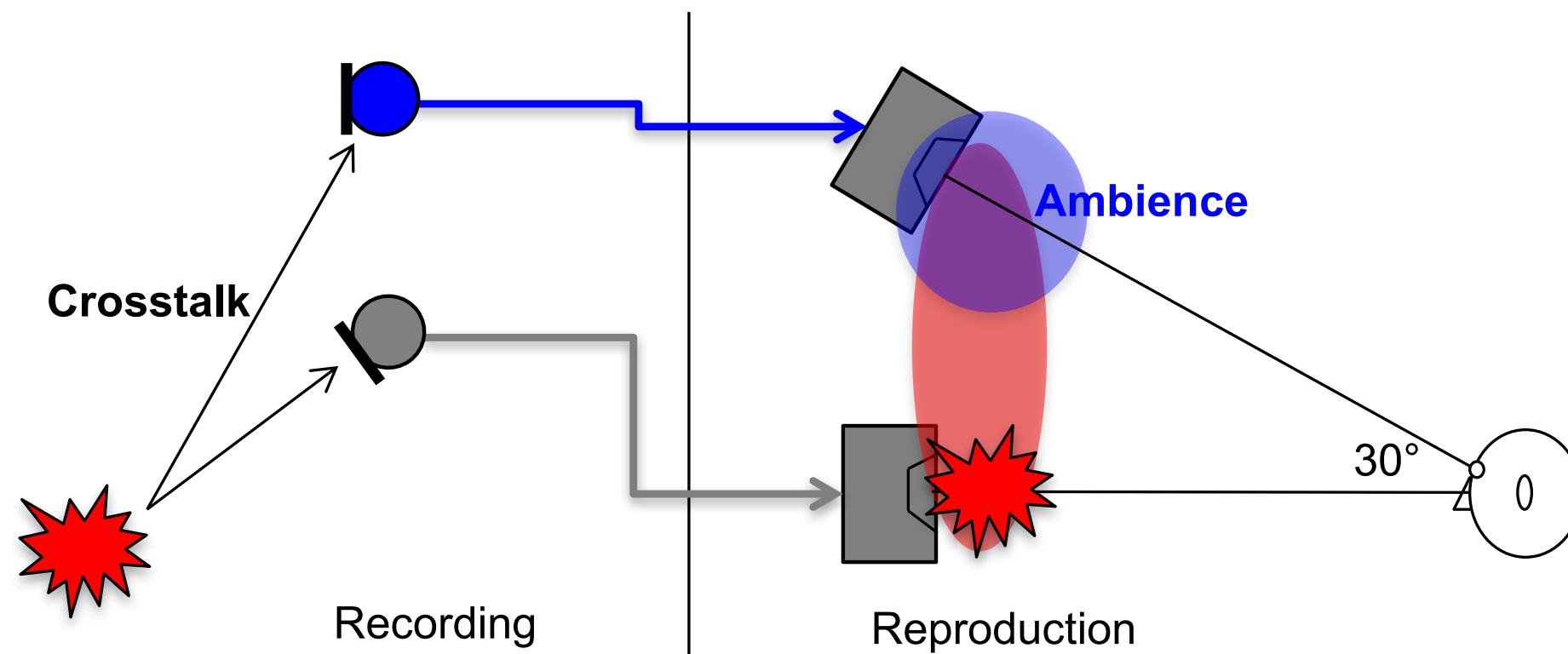
Vertical interchannel crosstalk

- What is vertical interchannel crosstalk?
 - A (delayed) direct sound captured by a height microphone that aims to capture ambience.



Vertical interchannel crosstalk

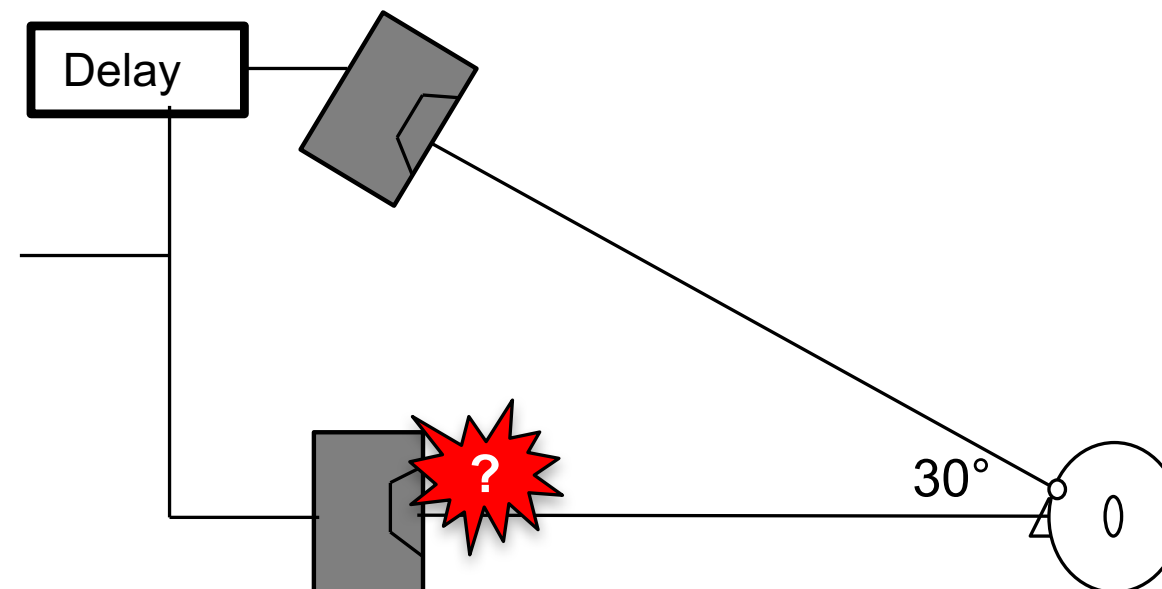
- What is vertical interchannel crosstalk?
 - A (delayed) direct sound captured by a height microphone that aims to capture ambience
 - Perceptual effects: Localisation shift, loudness, vertical image spread, etc.



Vertical Interchannel Time Difference

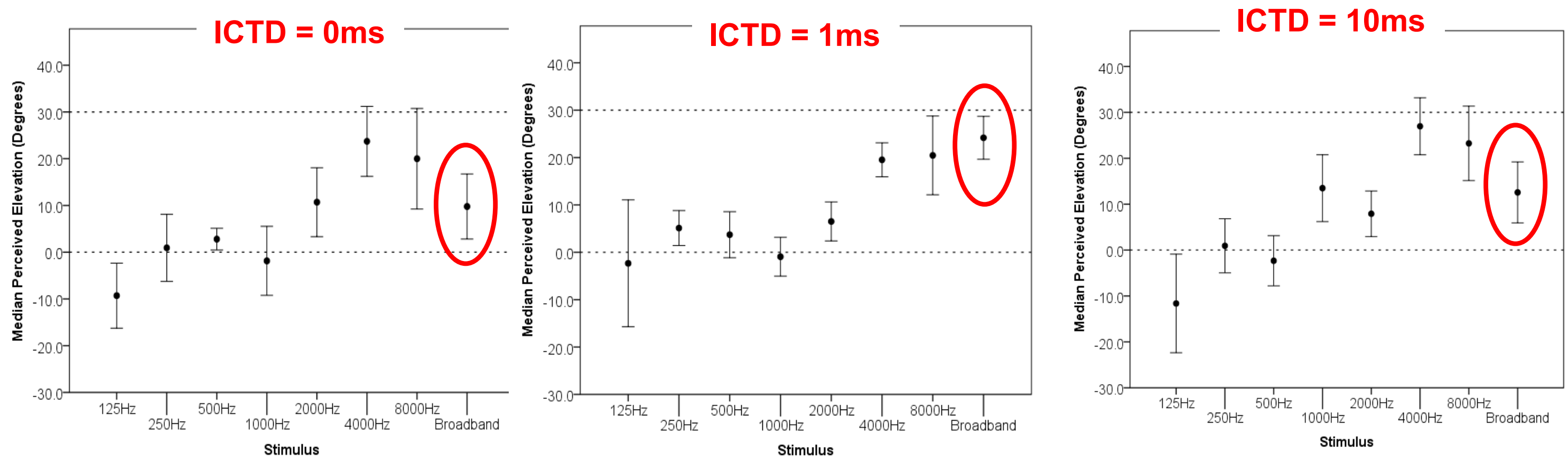
- Question 1: Can the image be localised at the ear-height by applying time delay between the vertically arranged microphones?

e.g. Omni mic for height
(no level diff but only time
diff)



Vertical Interchannel Time Difference

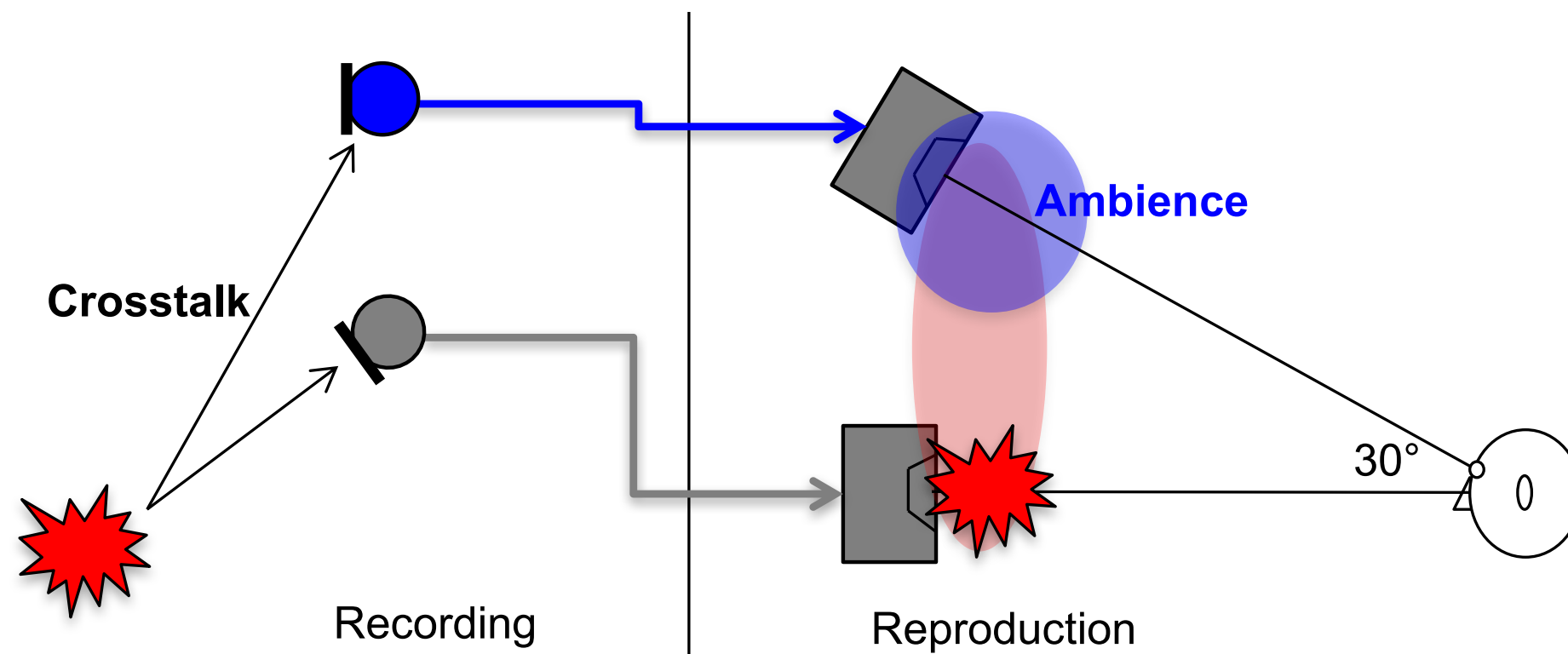
- Interchannel time difference (ICTD) is a very unstable cue for vertical localisation (Wallis and Lee 2015).
- The precedence effect does NOT operate vertically.



Wallis, R. and Lee, H. (2015) '[The Effect of Interchannel Time Difference on Localisation in Vertical Stereophony](#)' *Journal of the Audio Engineering Society*, 63 (10), pp. 767-776. ISSN 1549-4950

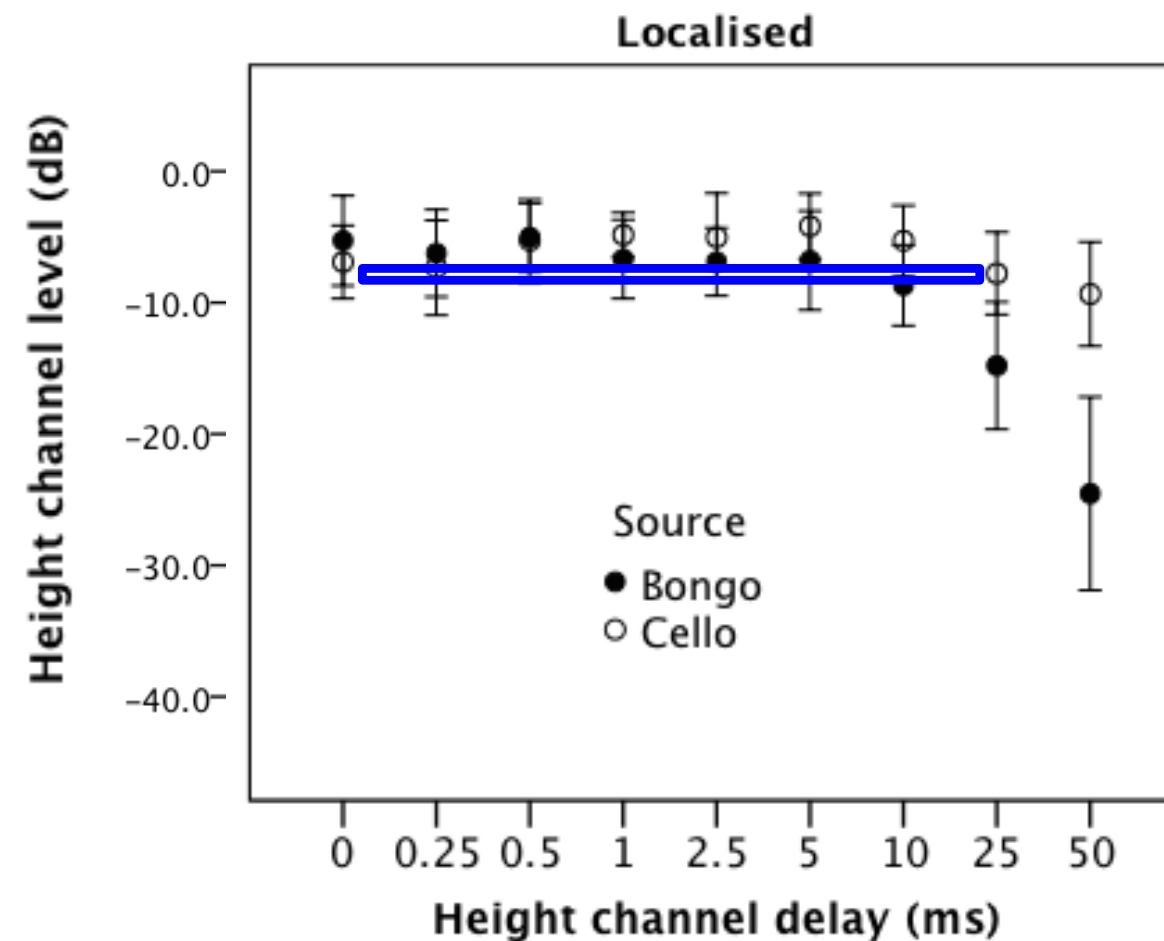
Vertical Localisation Threshold

- Question 2: How much level attenuation of vertical crosstalk is required for the image to be “*localised*” around the ear-height?



Vertical Localisation Threshold

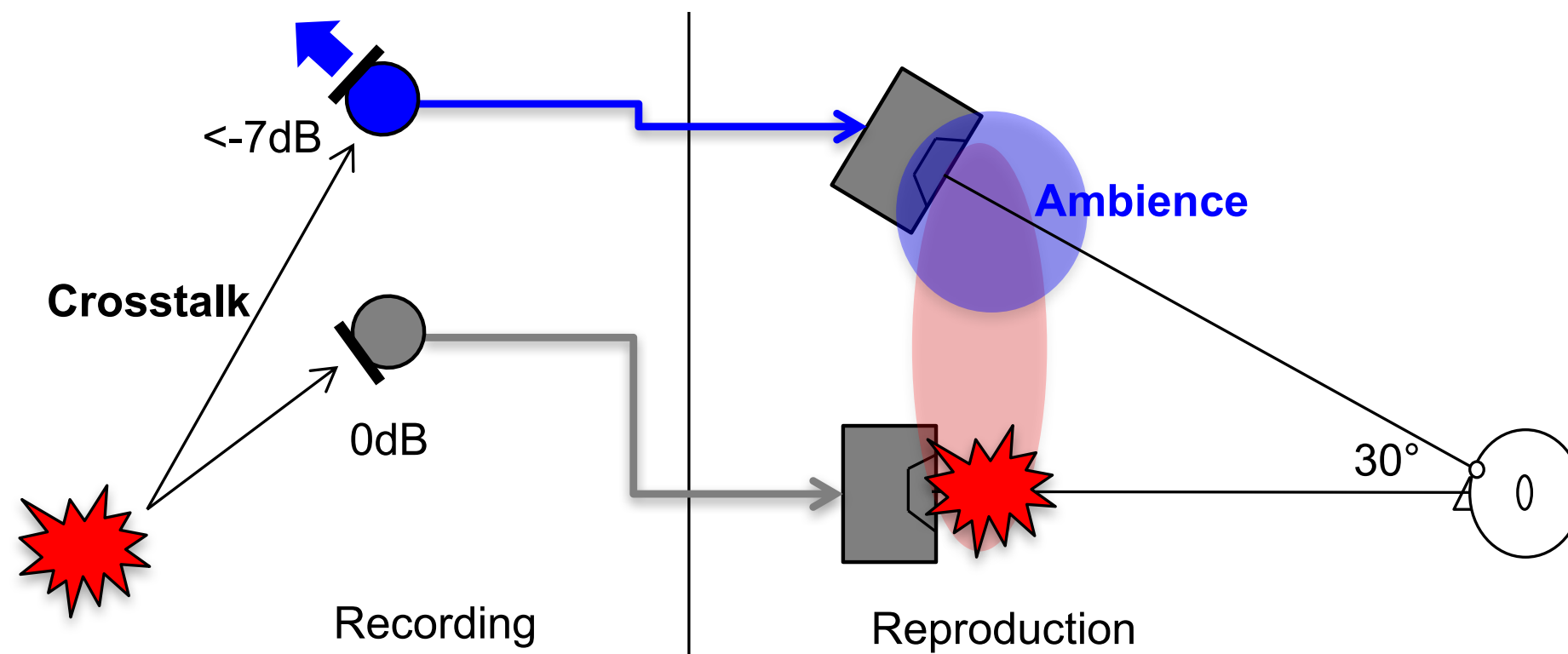
- Localised threshold (Lee 2011, Wallis and Lee 2017)
 - **Up to ICTD of 10ms**, the height channel level should be attenuated by at least **7dB** compared to the main channel level.



-7dB

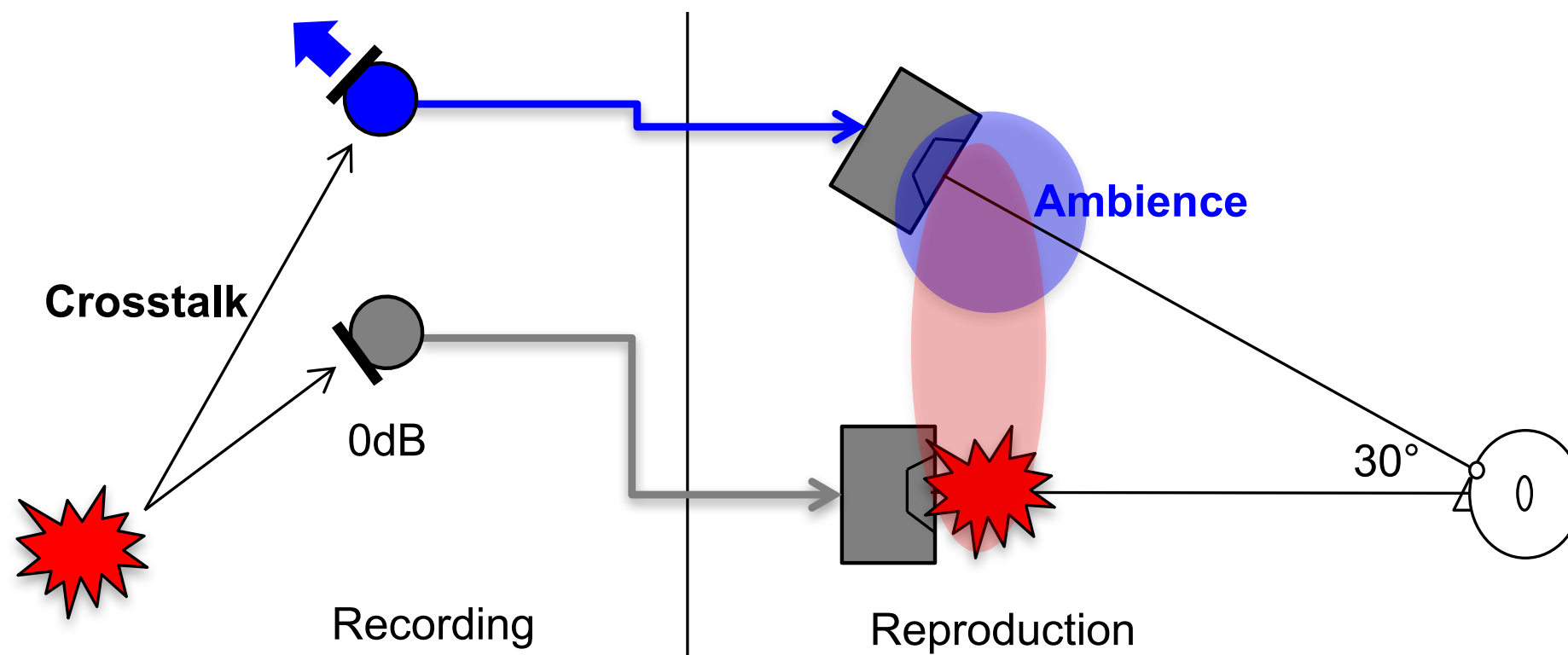
Vertical Localisation Threshold

- Localised threshold (Lee 2011, Wallis and Lee 2017)
 - The height microphone should be angled so that its ICLD to the main microphone becomes at least **-7dB**.



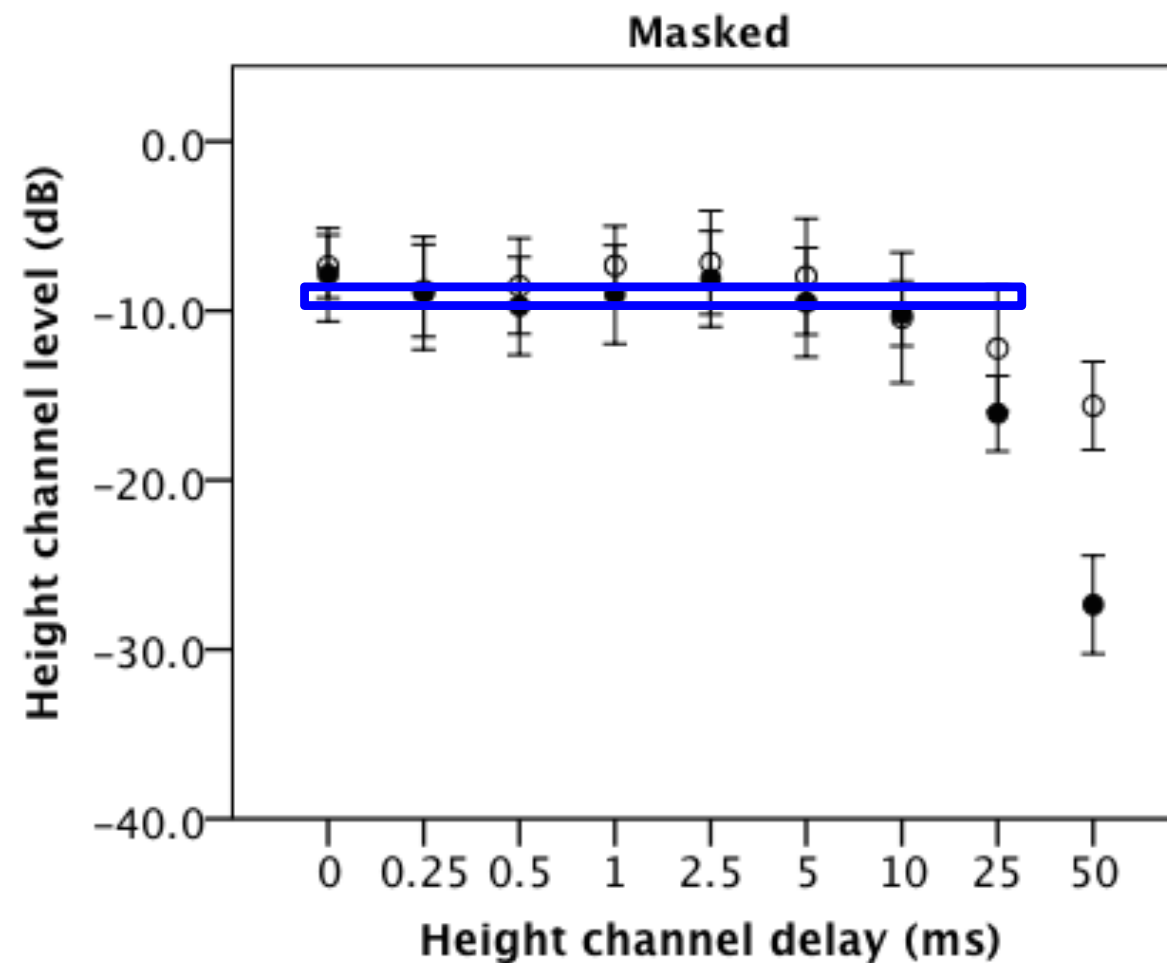
Vertical Masking Threshold

- Question 3: How much level attenuation of direct sound is required for the perceptual effects of vertical crosstalk to be “*completely inaudible*”?



Vertical Masking Threshold

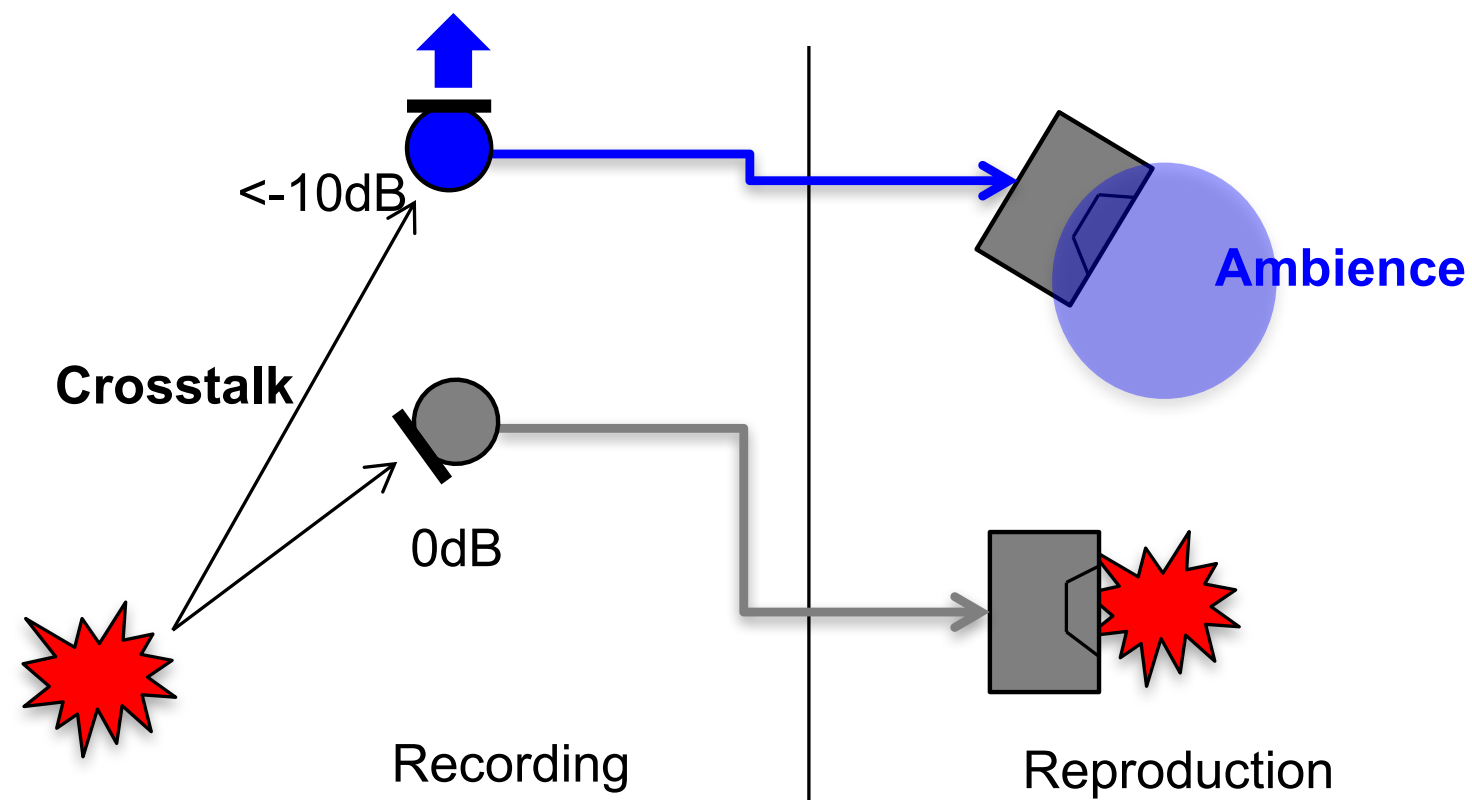
- Masked threshold (Lee 2011)
 - **Up to ICTD of 10ms**, the height channel level should be attenuated by at least **10dB** to make the crosstalk inaudible.



-10dB

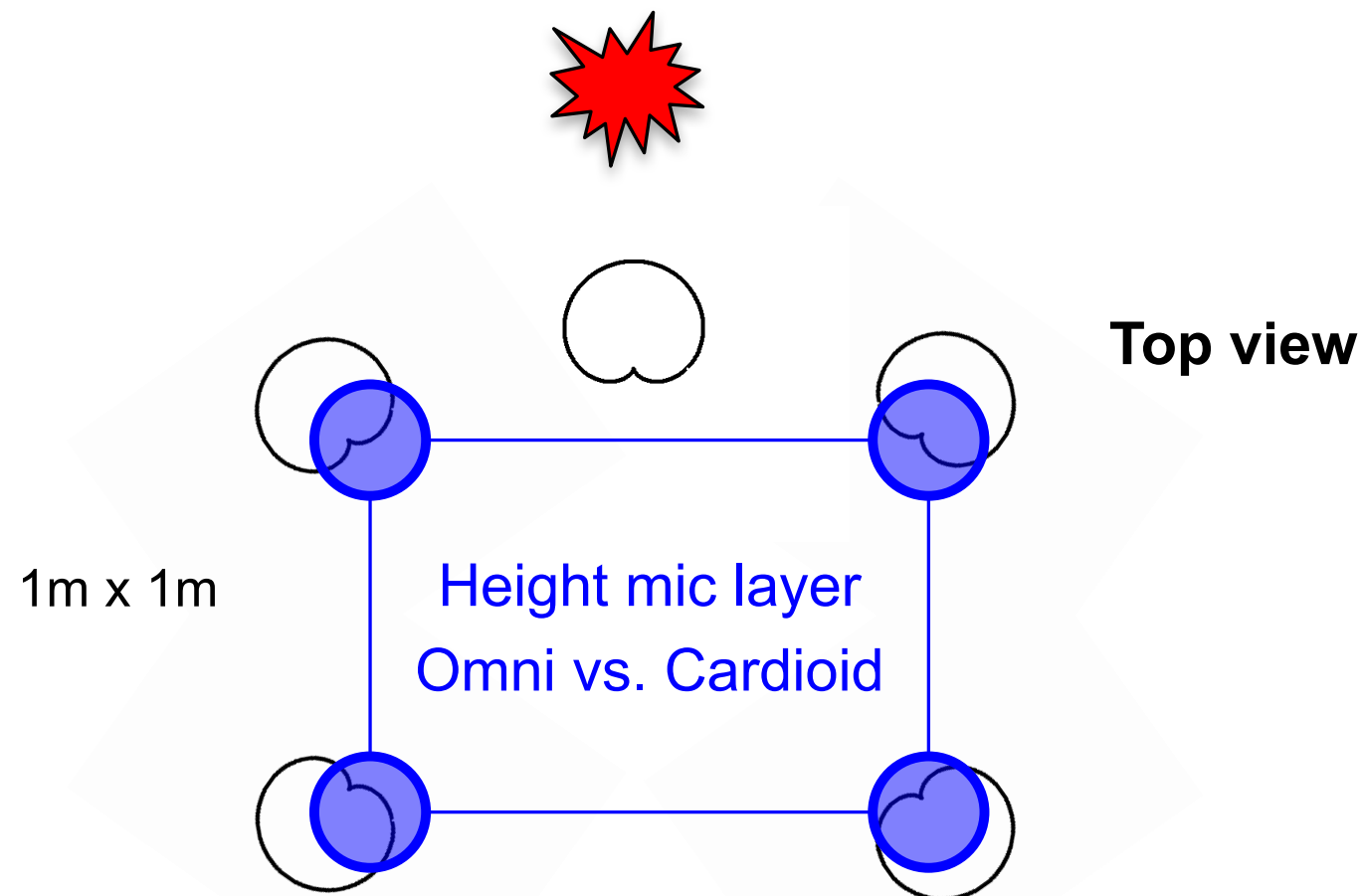
Vertical Masking Threshold

- Masked threshold (Lee 2011)
 - The height microphone should be angled so that its ICLD to the main microphone becomes at least **-10dB**.



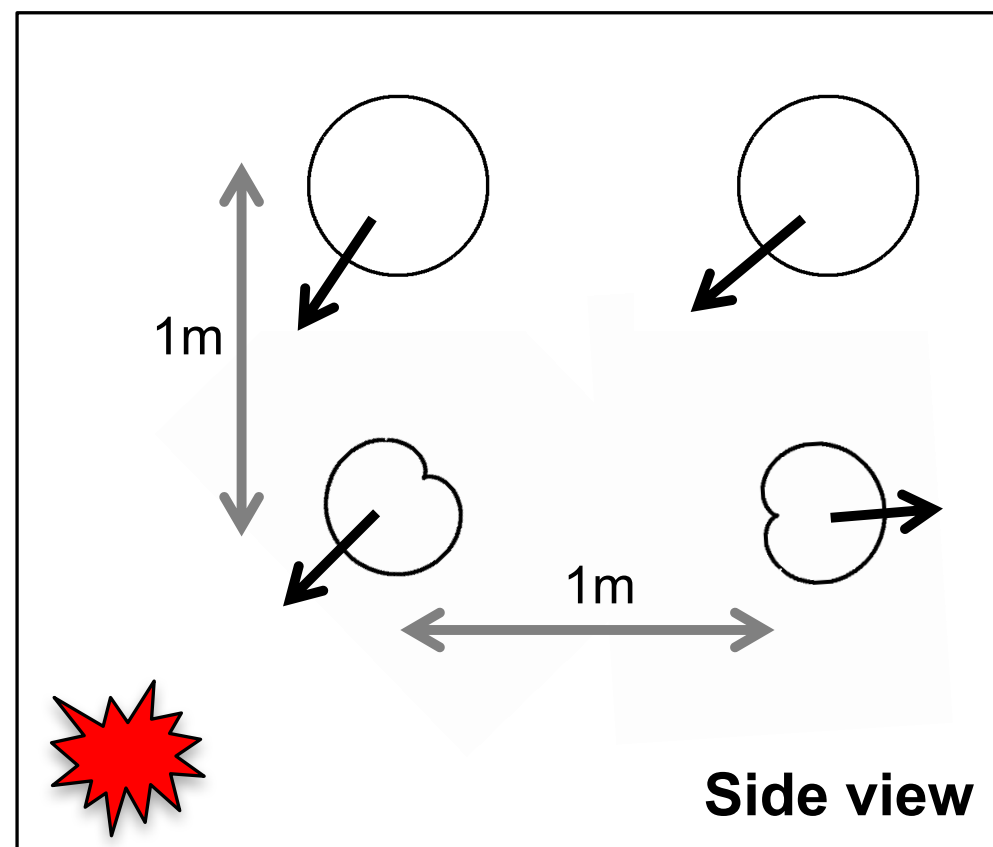
Demo: Omni vs. Cardioid for height

- Height mic polar pattern: **Omni vs. Cardioid**
- Multichannel 3D RIR recorded using a 9-channel Main Mic Array
- Convolved with various mono sources
- Venue: St.Paul's concert hall (RT=2.1sec) in Huddersfield, UK

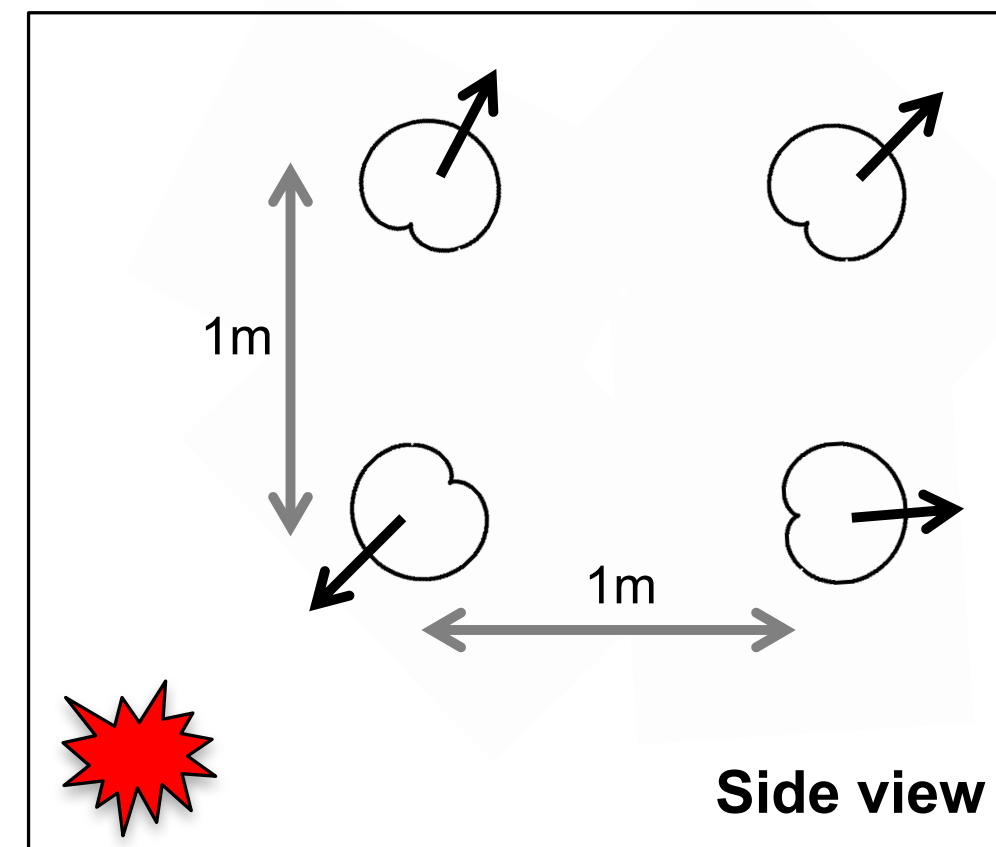


Demo: Omni vs. Cardioid for height

- Height mic polar pattern: **Omni vs. Cardioid**
- Multichannel 3D RIR recorded using a 9-channel Main Mic Array
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- Venue: St.Paul's concert hall (RT=2.1sec) in Huddersfield, UK



VS.



Demo: Omni vs. Cardioid for height

- St.Paul's concert hall at the University of Huddersfield (RT = 2.1sec)

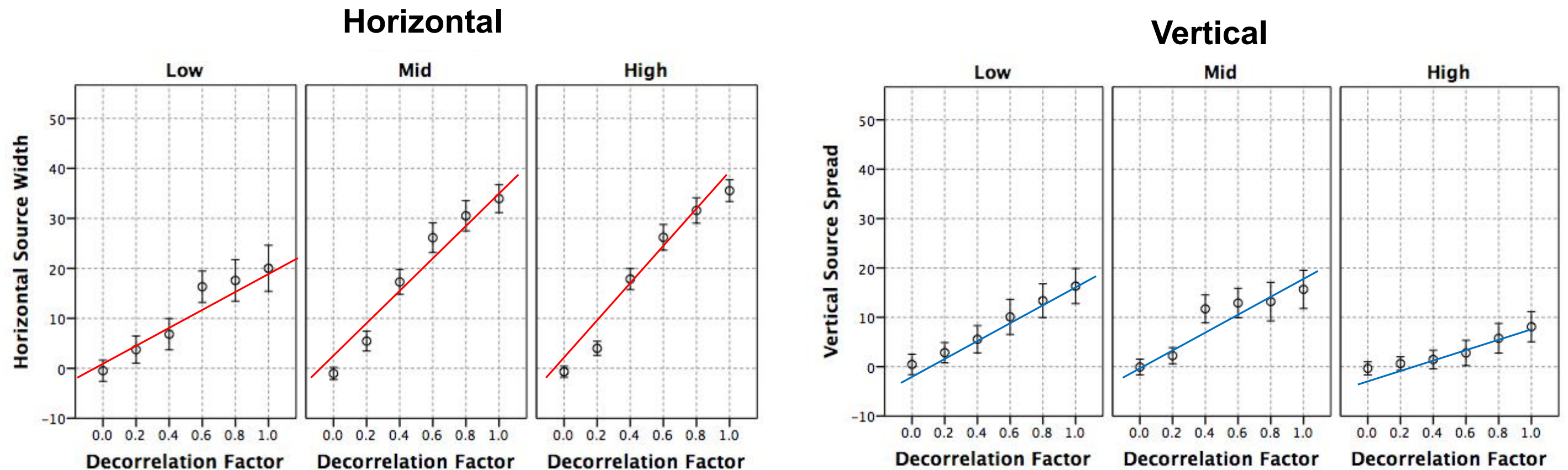


Demo: Omni vs. Cardioid for height

- Omni height: source-related effect (upwards localisation shift, loudness increase & colouration due to comb-filtering).
- Backward cardioid: environment-related effect (perceived source distance, vertical image spread, engulfment).
- Backward cardioid has more headroom to increase height ambience level without affecting localisation, loudness and tone colour.

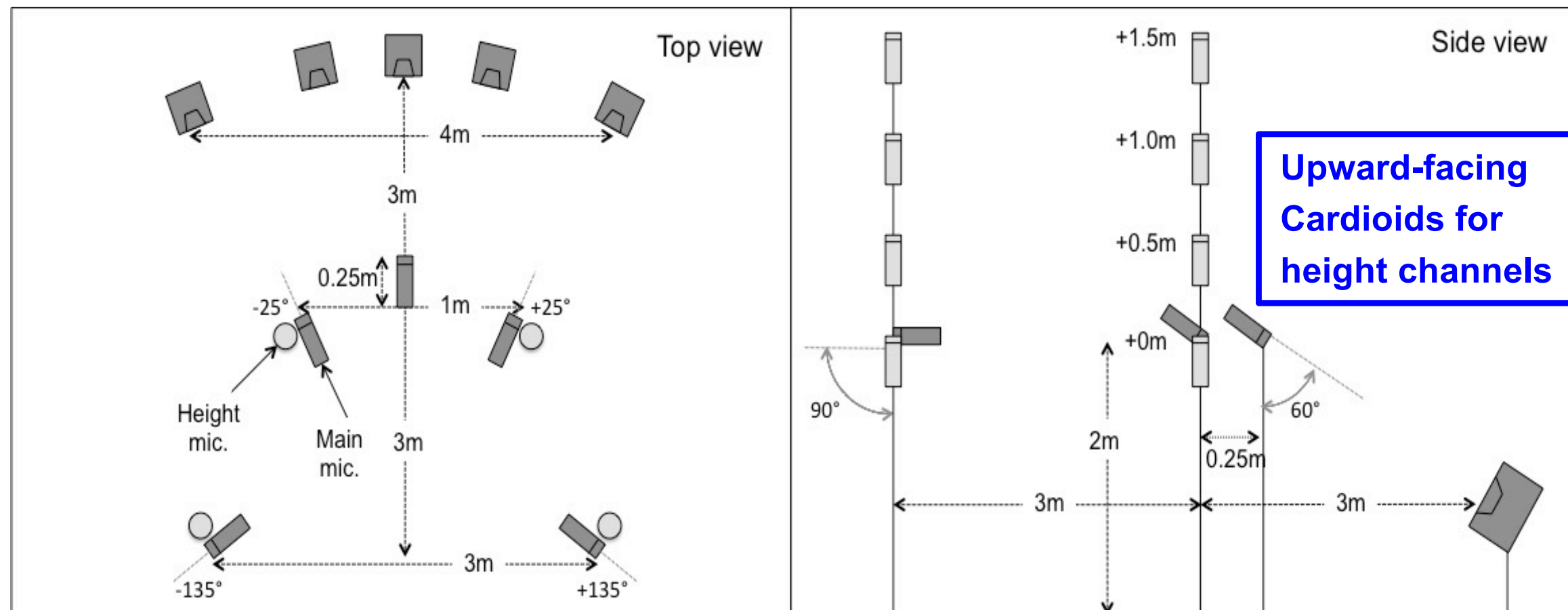
Vertical Decorrelation

- The effect of vertical decorrelation on vertical image spread (VIS) is audible, but not as large as that of horizontal decorrelation (Gribben and Lee 2017).



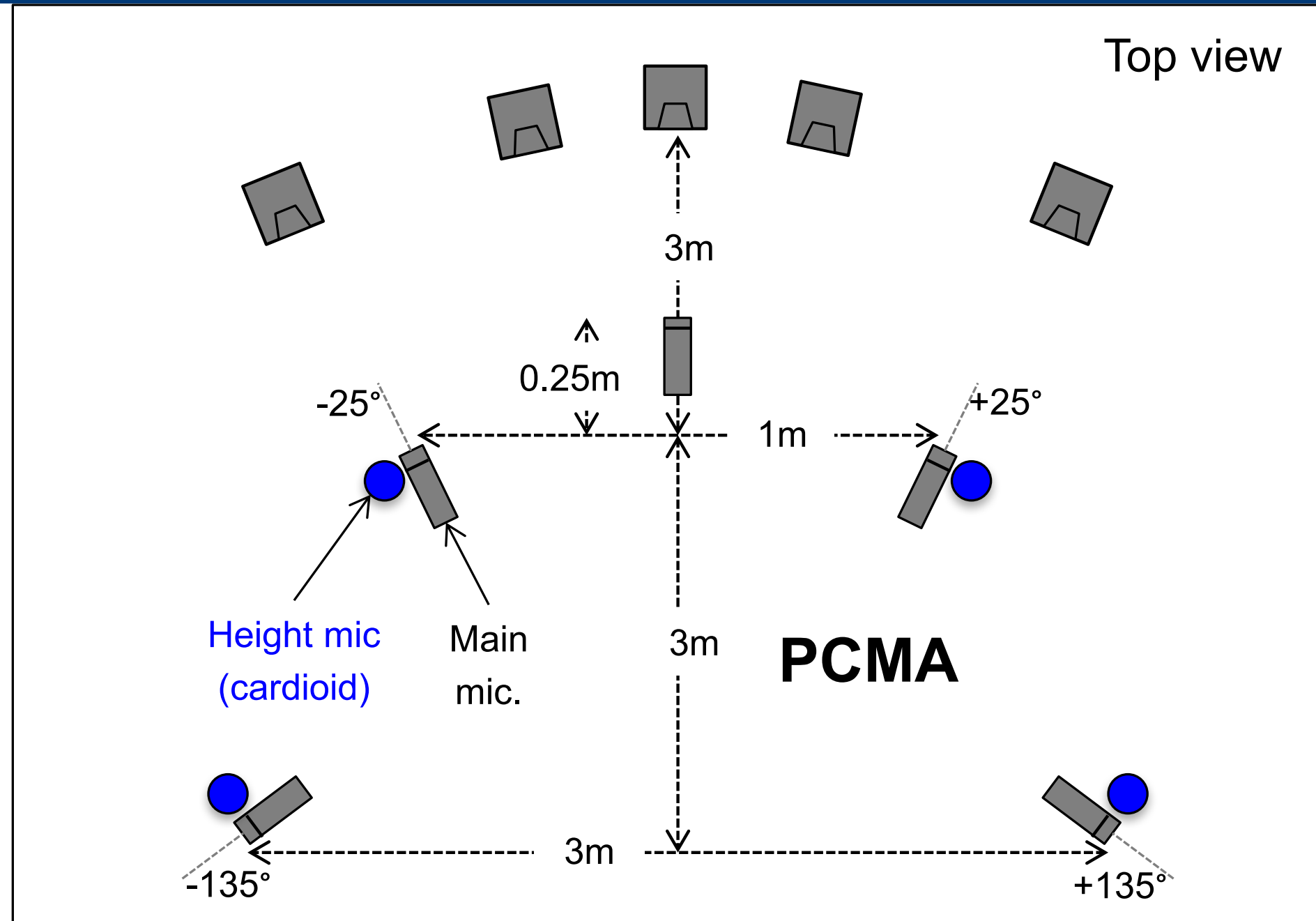
Vertical Microphone Spacing

- The effect of vertical microphone spacing on spatial impression (Lee and Gribben 2014)



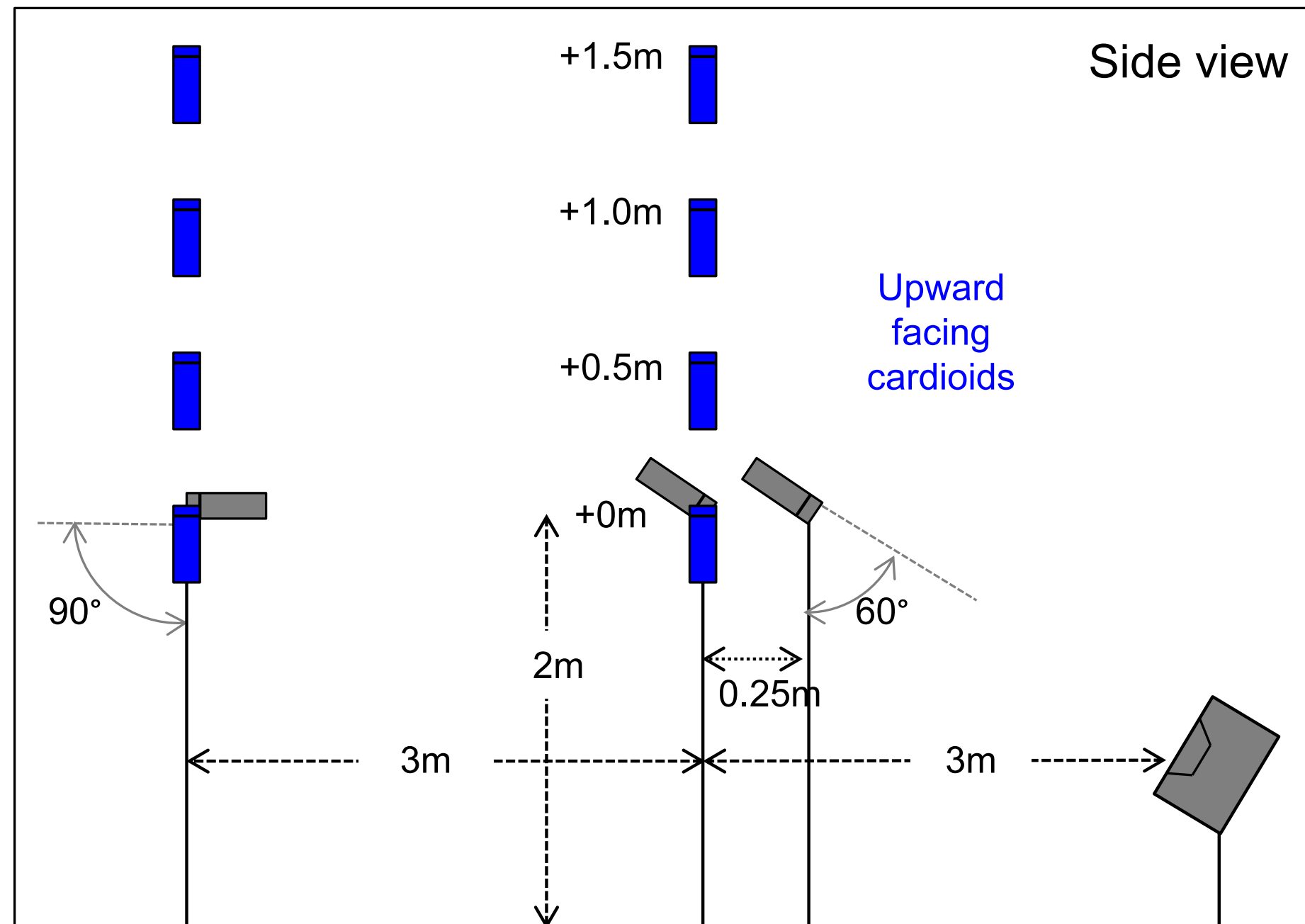
Lee, H. and Gribben, C. (2014) '[Effect of Vertical Microphone Layer Spacing for a 3D Microphone Array](#)' *Journal of the Audio Engineering Society*, 62 (12), pp. 870-884. ISSN 15494950

Recording Setup



Lee, H. and Gribben, C. (2014) '[Effect of Vertical Microphone Layer Spacing for a 3D Microphone Array](#)' *Journal of the Audio Engineering Society* , 62 (12), pp. 870-884. ISSN 15494950

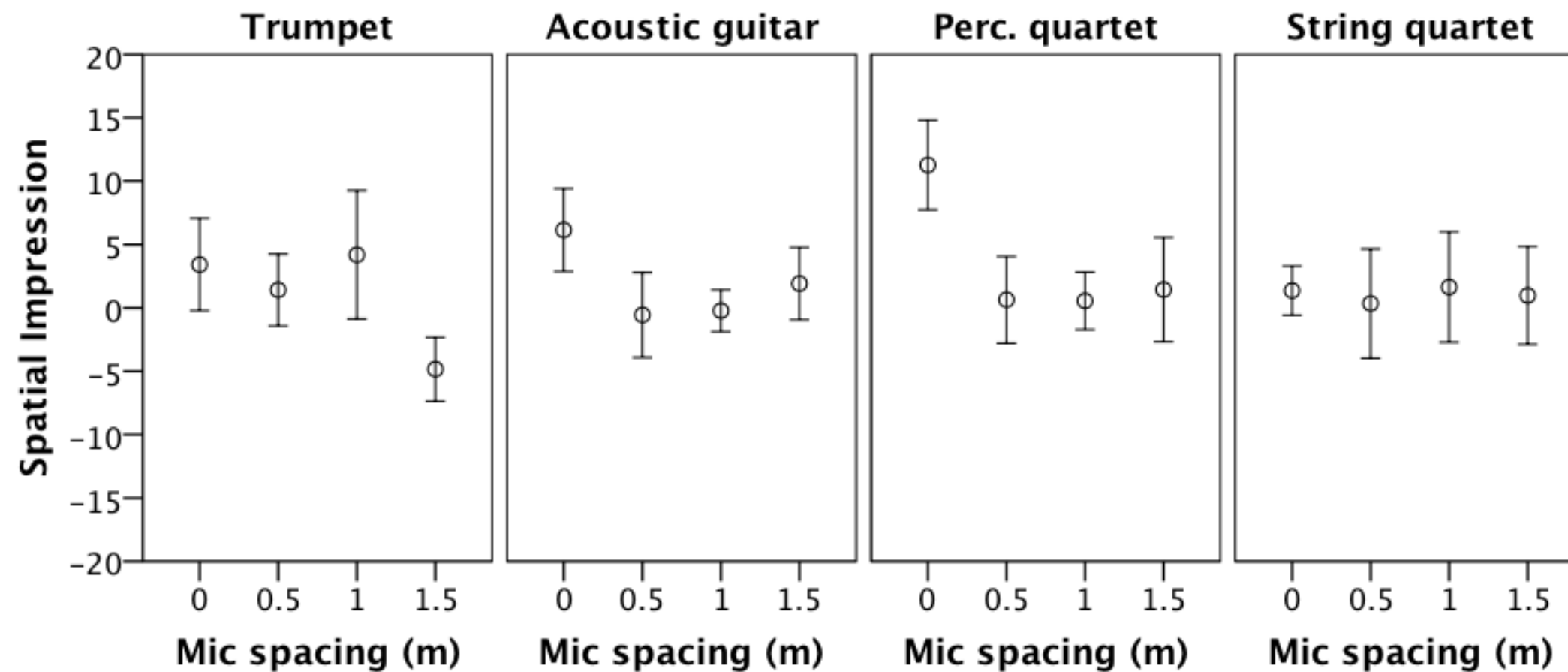
Recording Setup



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Vertical Microphone Spacing

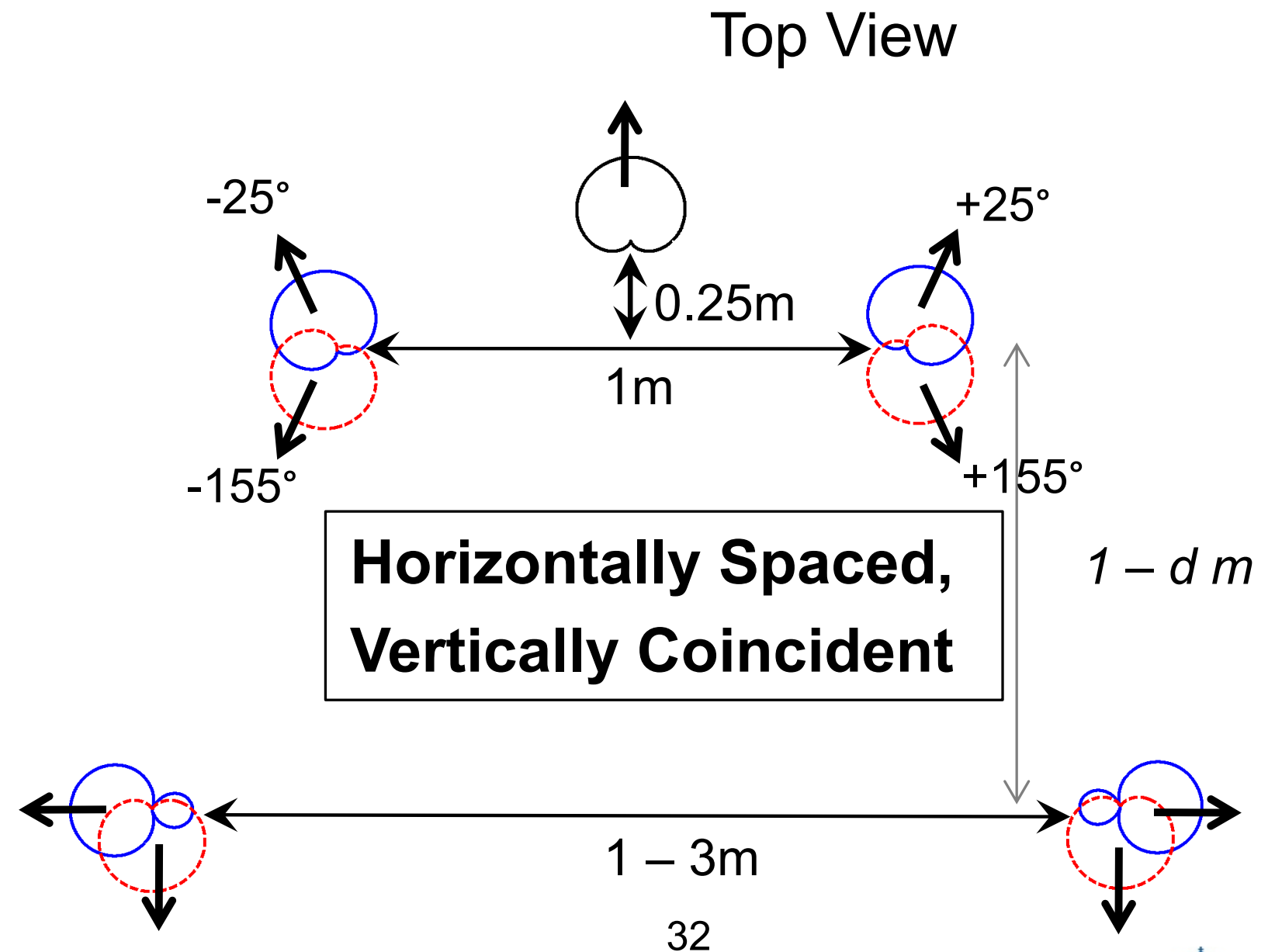
- Vertical microphone spacing does not have a significant effect on perceived spatial impression.
- 0m spacing (vertically coincident) produced greater spatial impression for percussive sources.



Lee, H. and Gribben, C. (2014) '[Effect of Vertical Microphone Layer Spacing for a 3D Microphone Array](#)' *Journal of the Audio Engineering Society* , 62 (12), pp. 870-884. ISSN 15494950

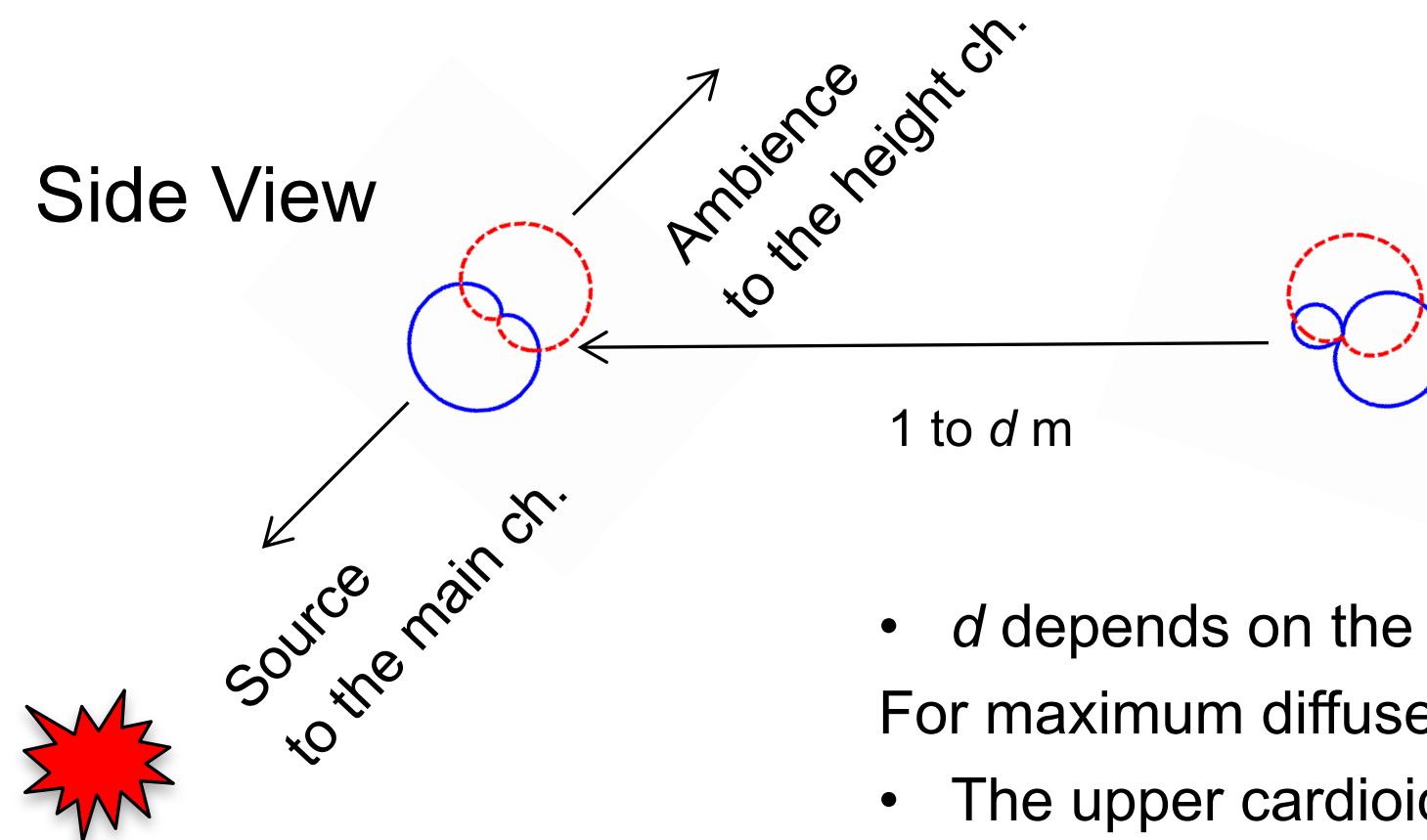
PCMA-3D Microphone Array

- Original concept of PCMA (Perspective Control Microphone Array) (Lee 2011, 2012)
 - Perceived distance control by virtual microphones at each pick up point.
 - Combine blue and red microphones with a varying mixing ratio → Virtual microphone pointing towards a different direction → controls D/R ratio → changes listener's perspective.



PCMA-3D Microphone Array

- Application of PCMA for 3D capture (Lee and Gribben 2014)

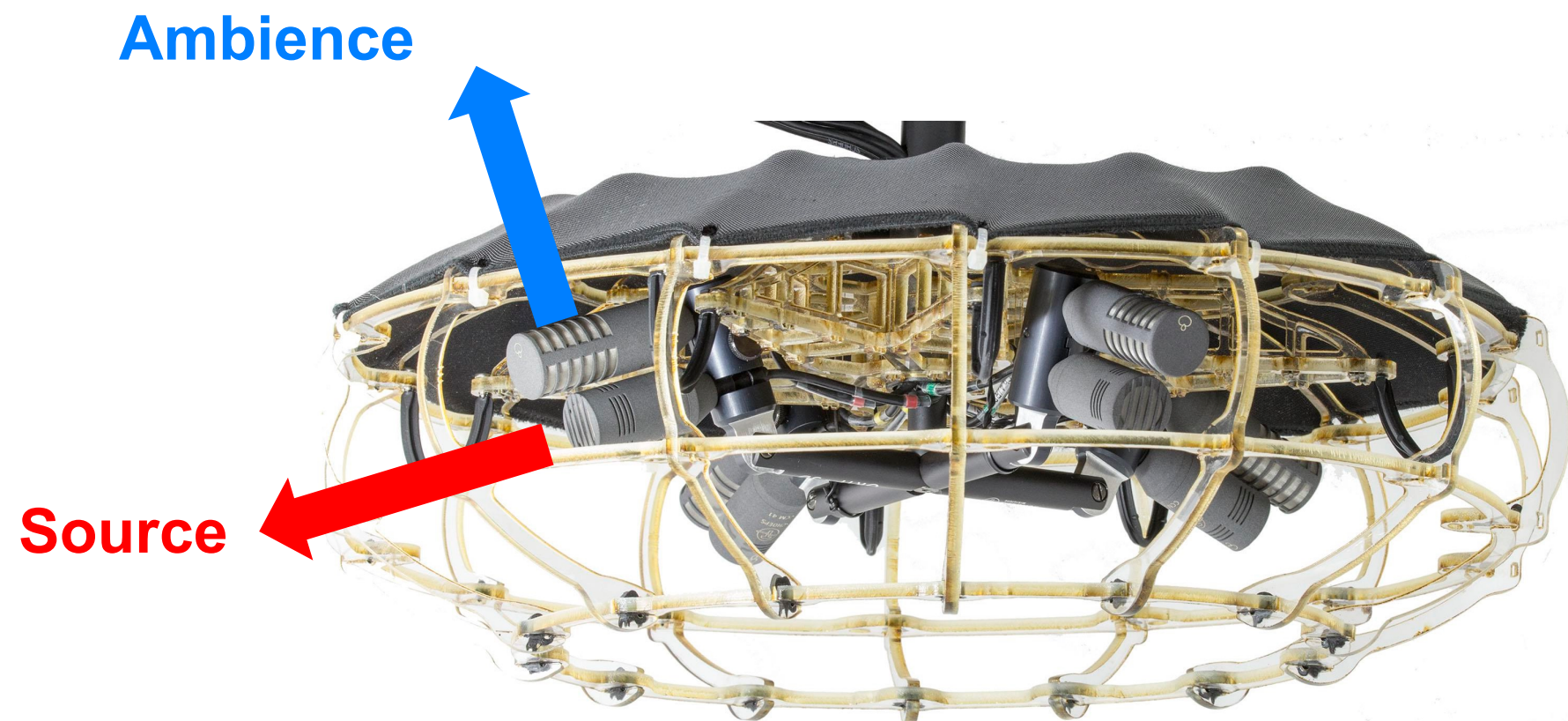


Separation between
Source and Environmental
components !

- d depends on the desired diffuseness of the rear channels: For maximum diffuseness, beyond critical distance recommended.
- The upper cardioids can be angled directly towards the ceiling: this still allows enough suppression of the vertical interchannel crosstalk.

ORTF-3D by Schoeps

- Vertical concept based on a finding by Lee and Gribben (2014).
 - Vertically coincident, horizontally spaced.



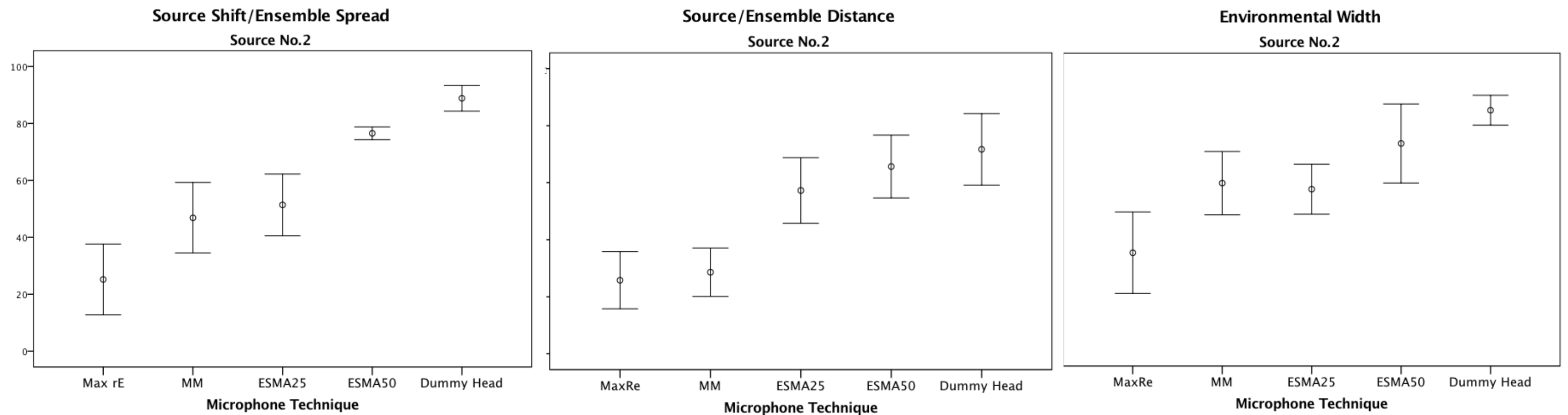
Lee, H. and Gribben, C. (2014) '[Effect of Vertical Microphone Layer Spacing for a 3D Microphone Array](#)' *Journal of the Audio Engineering Society* , 62 (12), pp. 870-884. ISSN 15494950

- Equal Segment Microphone Array for 360 recording (for VR).
- 50cm x 50cm square, ideal size for accurate localisation in a quadraphonic reproduction (Lee 2016).
- Vertically coincident (Cardioid main + supercardioid height.)



Lee, H (2016) '[Capturing and Rendering 360° VR Audio Using Cardioid Microphones](#)'. In: AES Conference on Audio for Augmented and Virtual Reality, 30 Sep - 1 Oct 2016, Los Angeles, USA

- Comparison against FOA and Dummy Head (Millns and Lee 2018).



Millns, C. and Lee, H (2018) 'An Investigation into Spatial Attributes of 360° Microphone Techniques for Virtual Reality'. In: *AES the 144th International Convention*, 23 – 26 May 2018, Milan, Italy.

VR Soundscape Library



Applied Psychoacoustics Lab (APL)

Dr. Hyunkook Lee

Demo: Siglo De Oro Choir

- Recorded in 11.0 using the PCMA-3D concept.
- Pure Audio Blu-ray
 - Auro-3D 9.0 96kHz
 - Dolby Atmos 48kHz
 - DTS 5.0 192kHz
 - LPCM 2.0 192kHz
- To be released by Delphian Records on 18 May.



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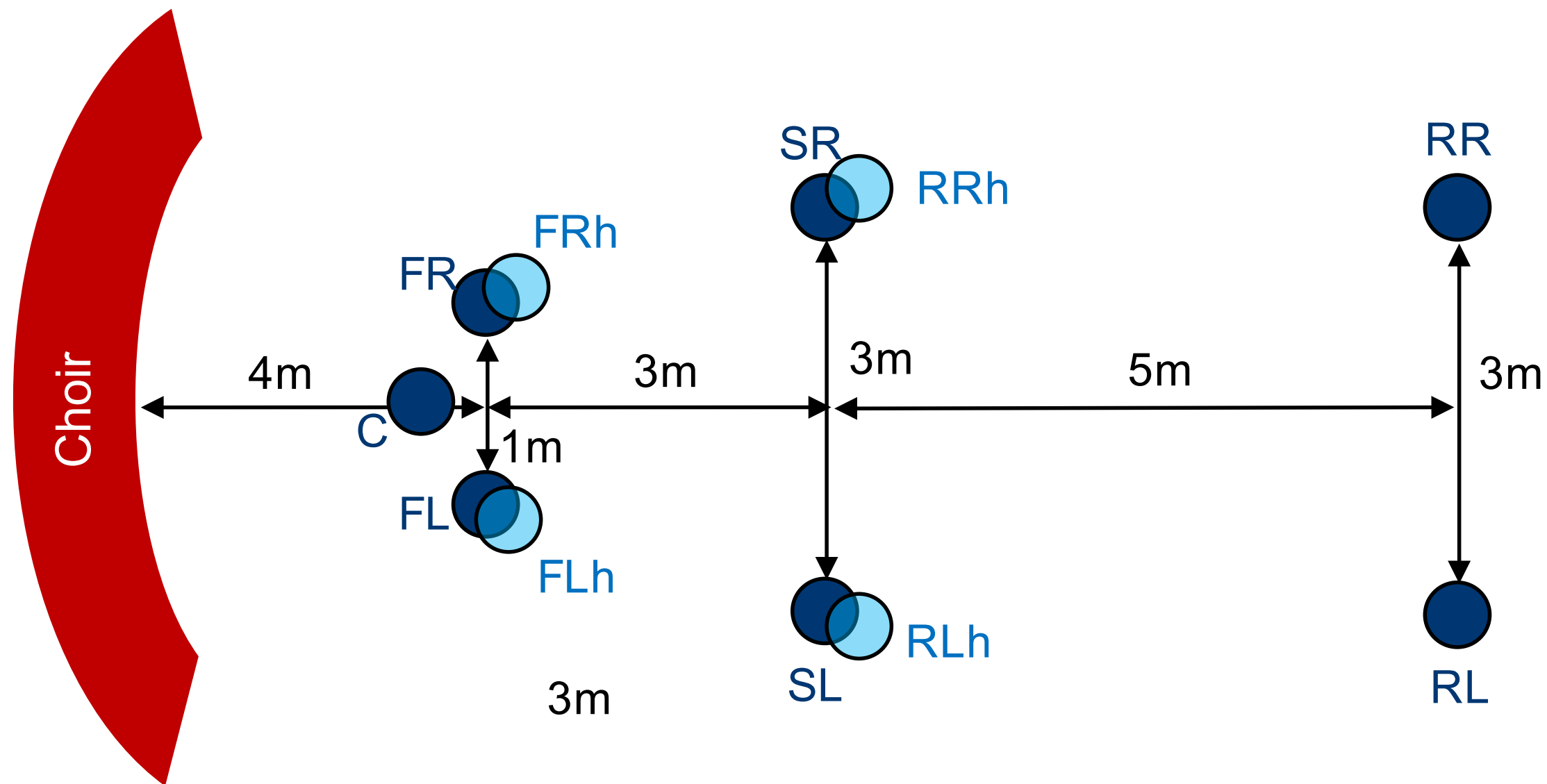
Demo: Siglo De Oro Choir

- Recorded at Merton College Chapel in Oxford, UK.



Demo: Siglo De Oro Choir

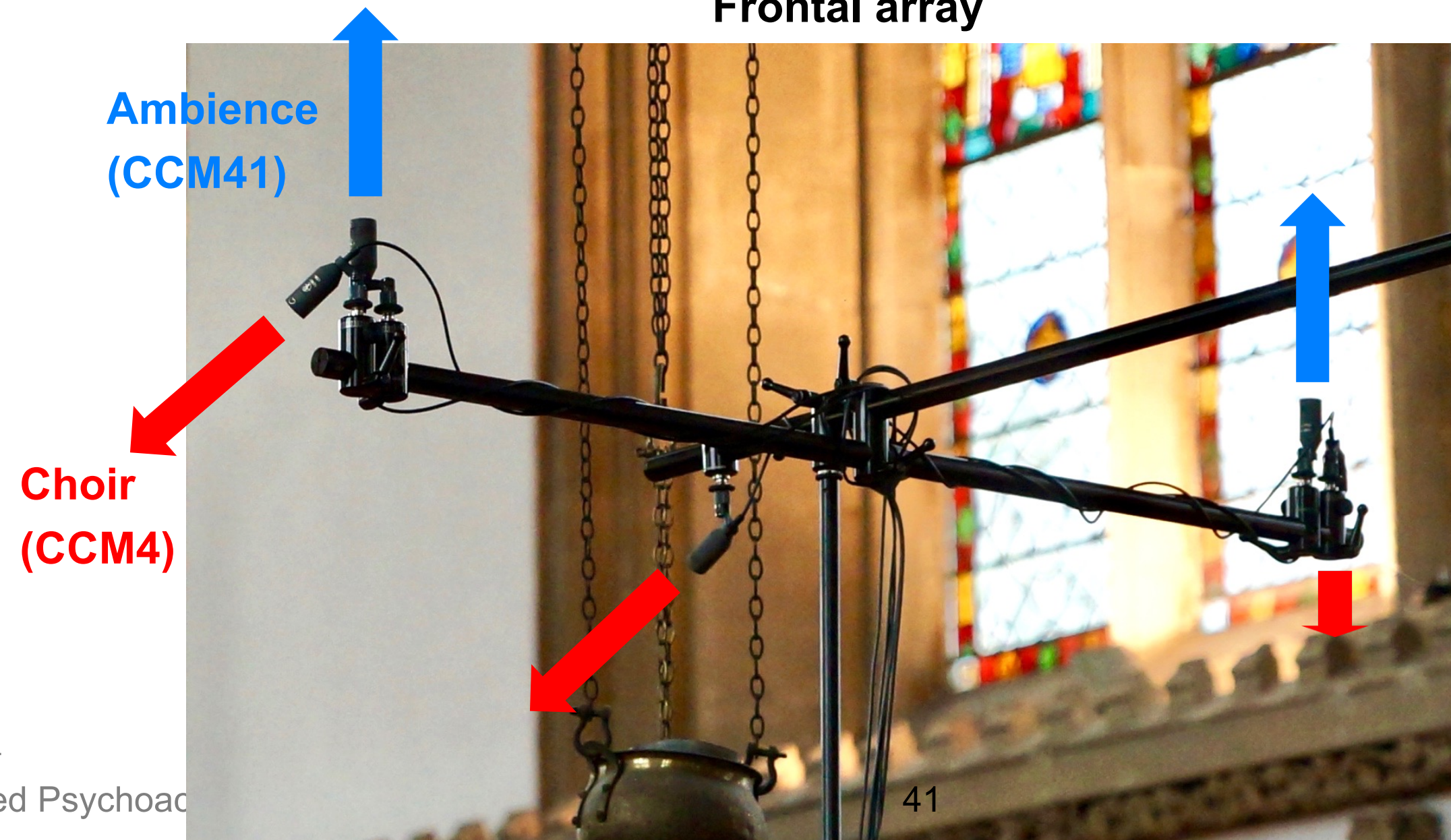
- PCMA-3D microphone arrangement for 11.0 (7+4)



Demo: Siglo De Oro Choir

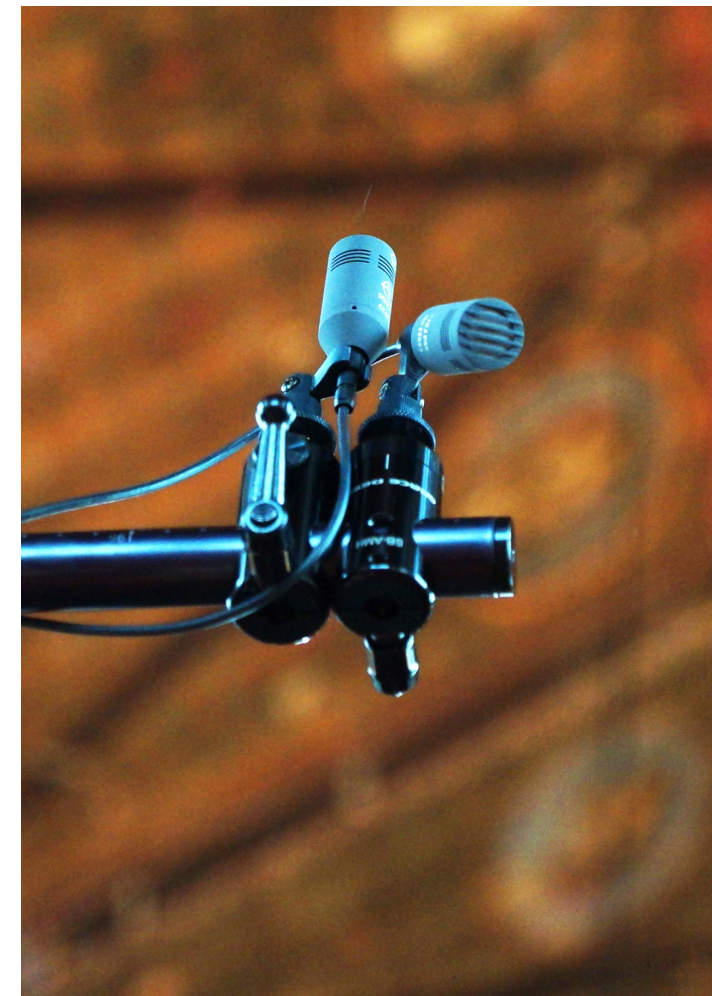
- Microphones used: Schoeps CCM4 (main) and CCM41 (height).

Frontal array



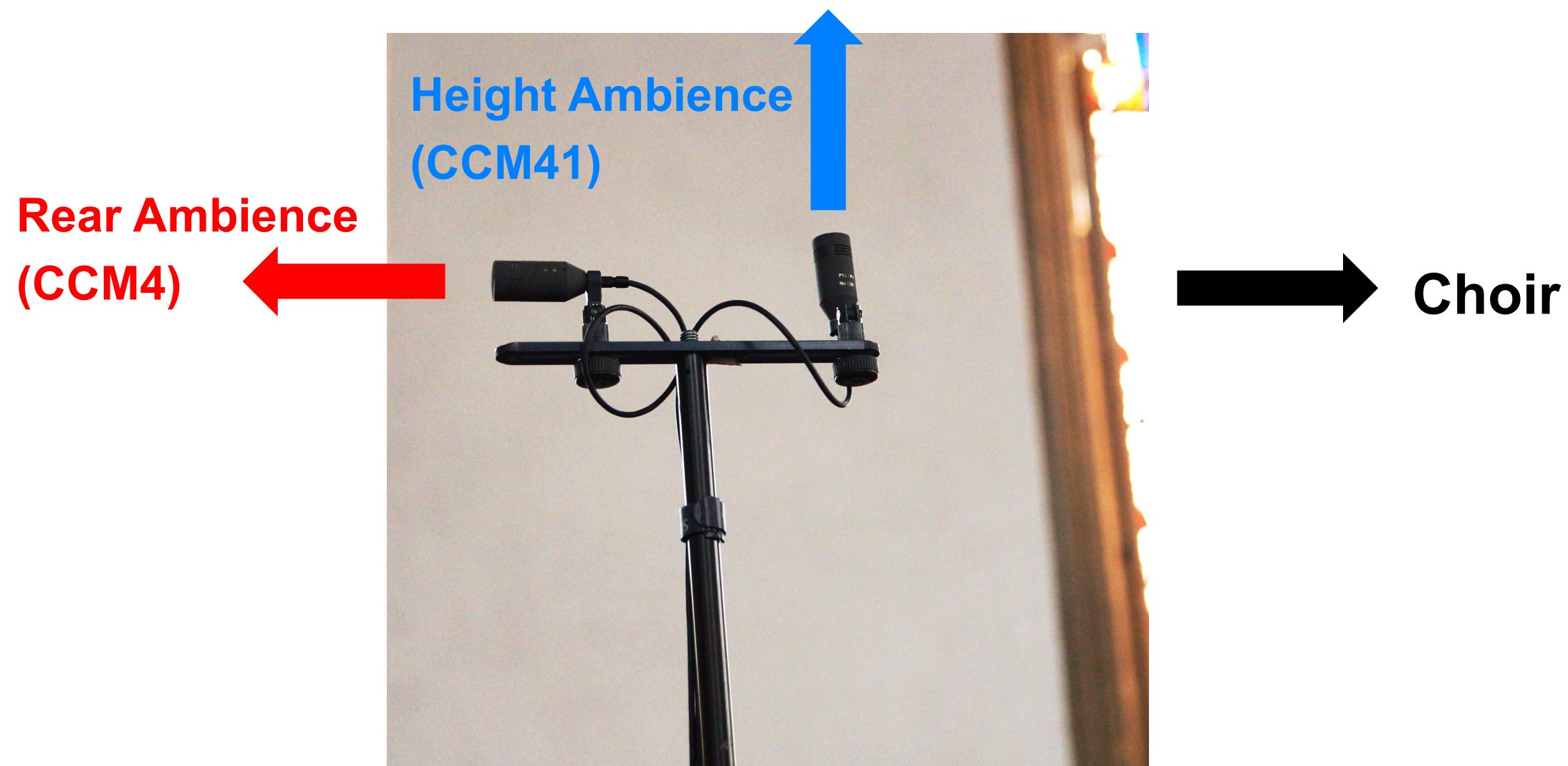
Demo: Siglo De Oro Choir

- Microphones used: Schoeps CCM4 and CCM41.



3D Recording of Siglo De Oro Choir

- Microphones used: Schoeps CCM4 and CCM41.



Demo: Zulu Ensemble in 9.0

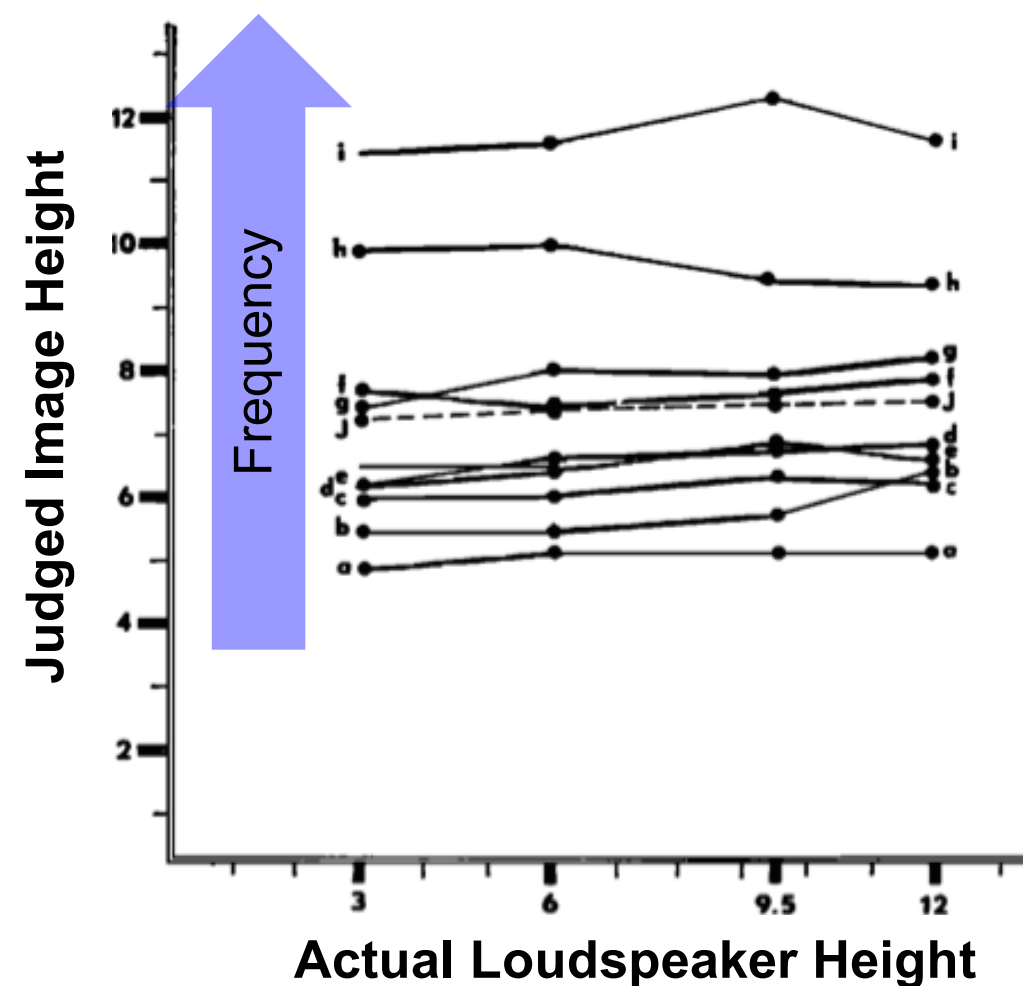
- Recorded at St. Paul's at the University of Huddersfield.



Benefit of Height Channels

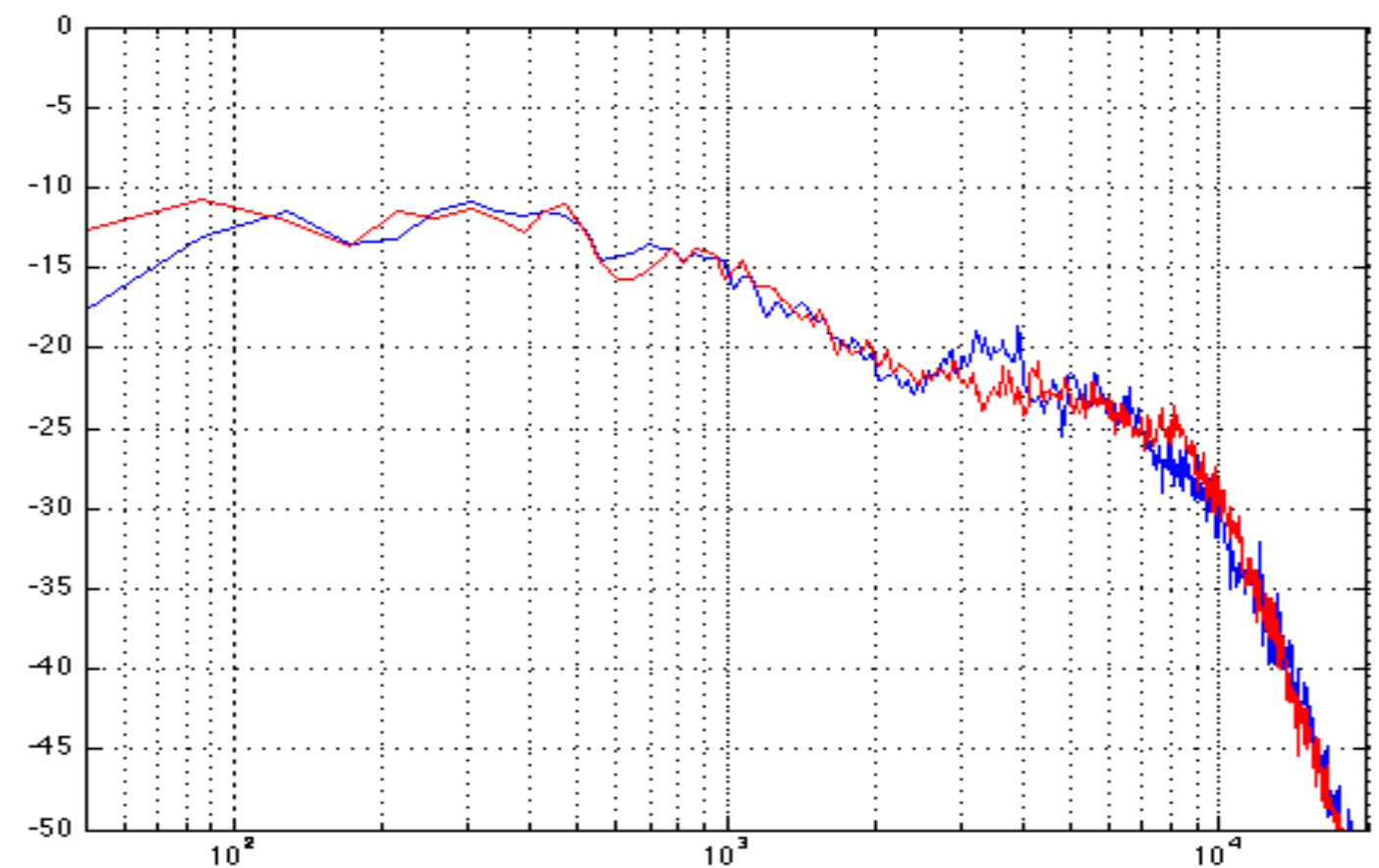
- For typical ambience signals, there is little sense of localisation from the physical height speaker positions.
- Pitch-Height Effect
 - Lower frequencies tend to be localised lower regardless of the physical height of the source.

Roffler and Butler (1968)



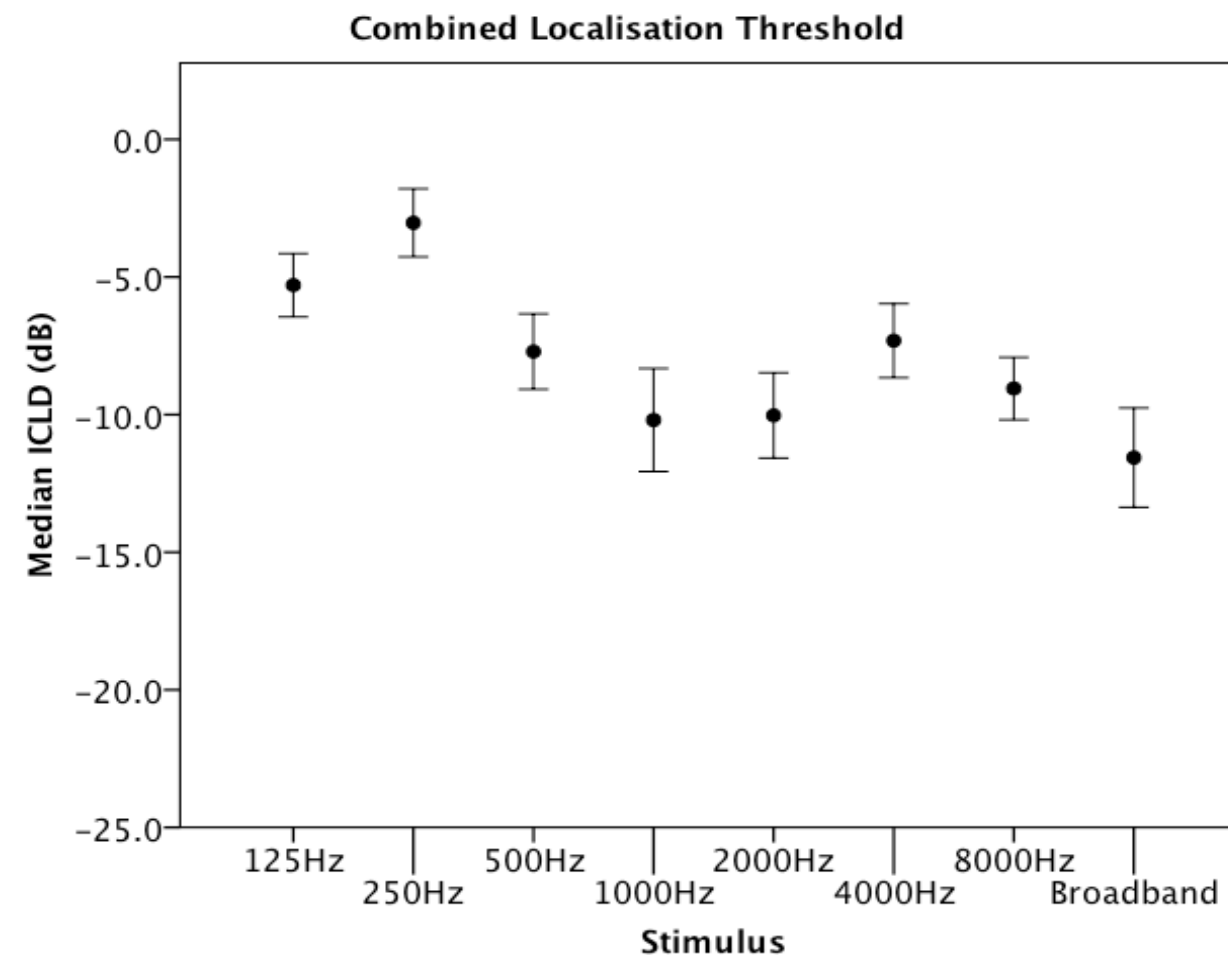
Benefit of Height Channels

- Spectrum of typical acoustic reverberation
 - High frequency roll-off.
 - Pitch-height effect!
 - Not localised at the physical height speaker position.
- Main benefits of height channels for ambience
 - Perceived depth
 - Vertical image spread
 - Openness



Frequency Dependency of Localisation Threshold

- Localised threshold depends on frequency.
- Results for octave-band pink noises (Wallis and Lee 2016)



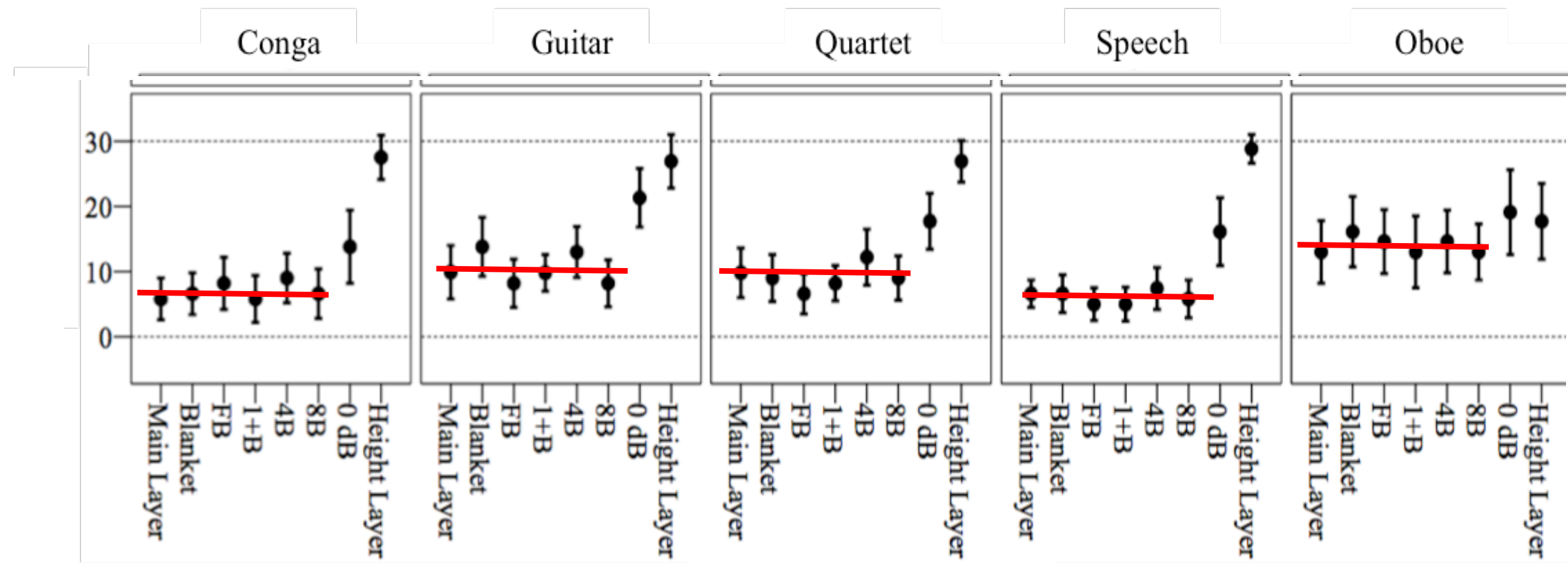
Pitch-height effect!

- LF bands from height channels are localised low inherently.
→ requires less level reduction.

Wallis, R. and Lee, H. (2016) '[Vertical Stereophonic Localisation in the Presence of Interchannel Crosstalk: the Analysis of Frequency- Dependent Localisation Thresholds](#)' *Journal of the Audio Engineering Society* , 64 (10), pp. 762-770.

Frequency Dependency of Localisation Threshold

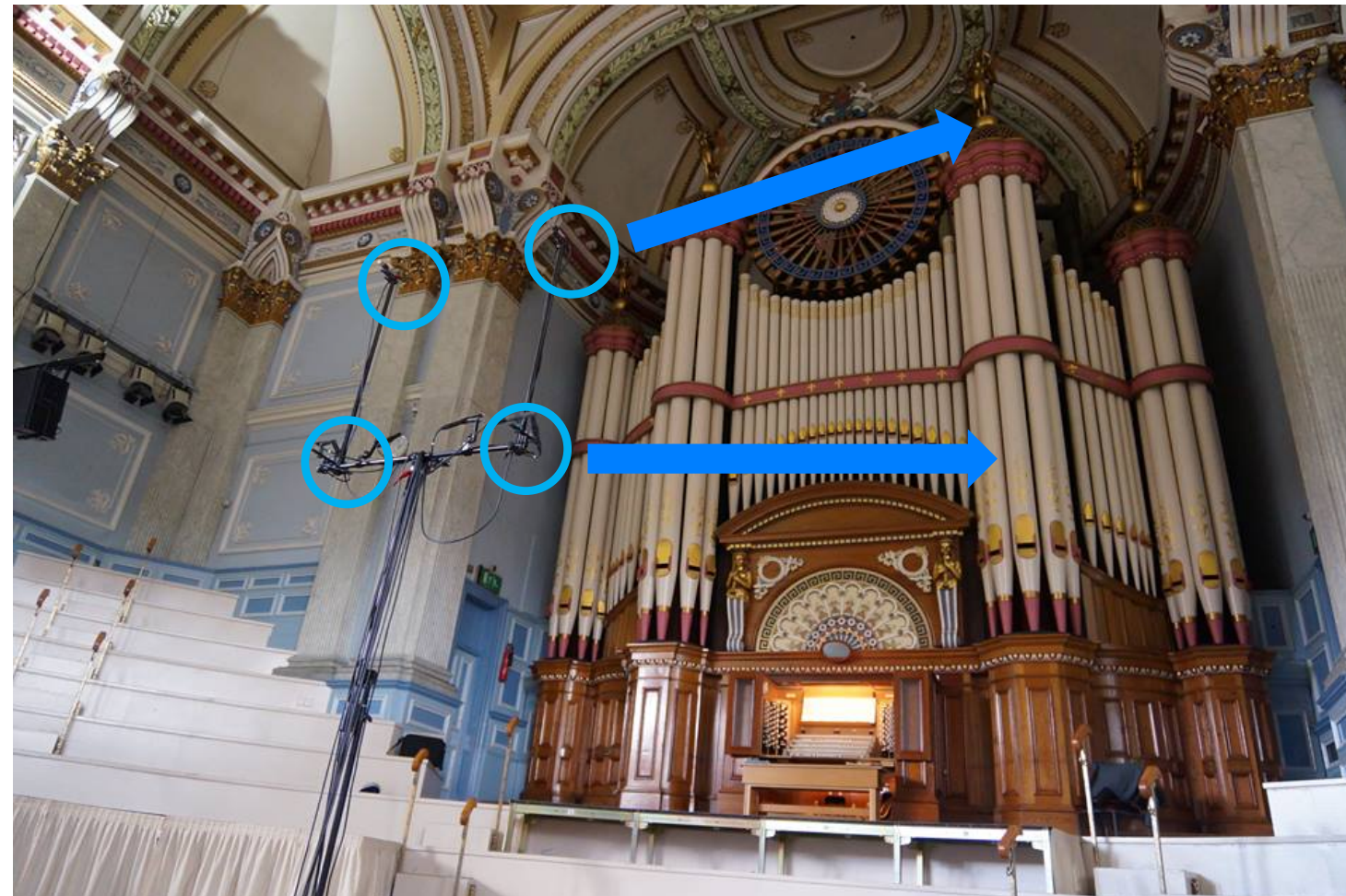
- Band-dependent application of localisation threshold for musical sources (Wallis and Lee 2017).
 - Reducing only high frequencies (e.g. 8kHz band) can still localise the image at the same perceived height of the main layer.



Wallis, R. and Lee, H. (2017) '[The Reduction of Vertical Interchannel Crosstalk: The Analysis of Localisation Thresholds for Natural Sound Sources](#)' *Applied Sciences* , 7 (3). ISSN 2076-3417

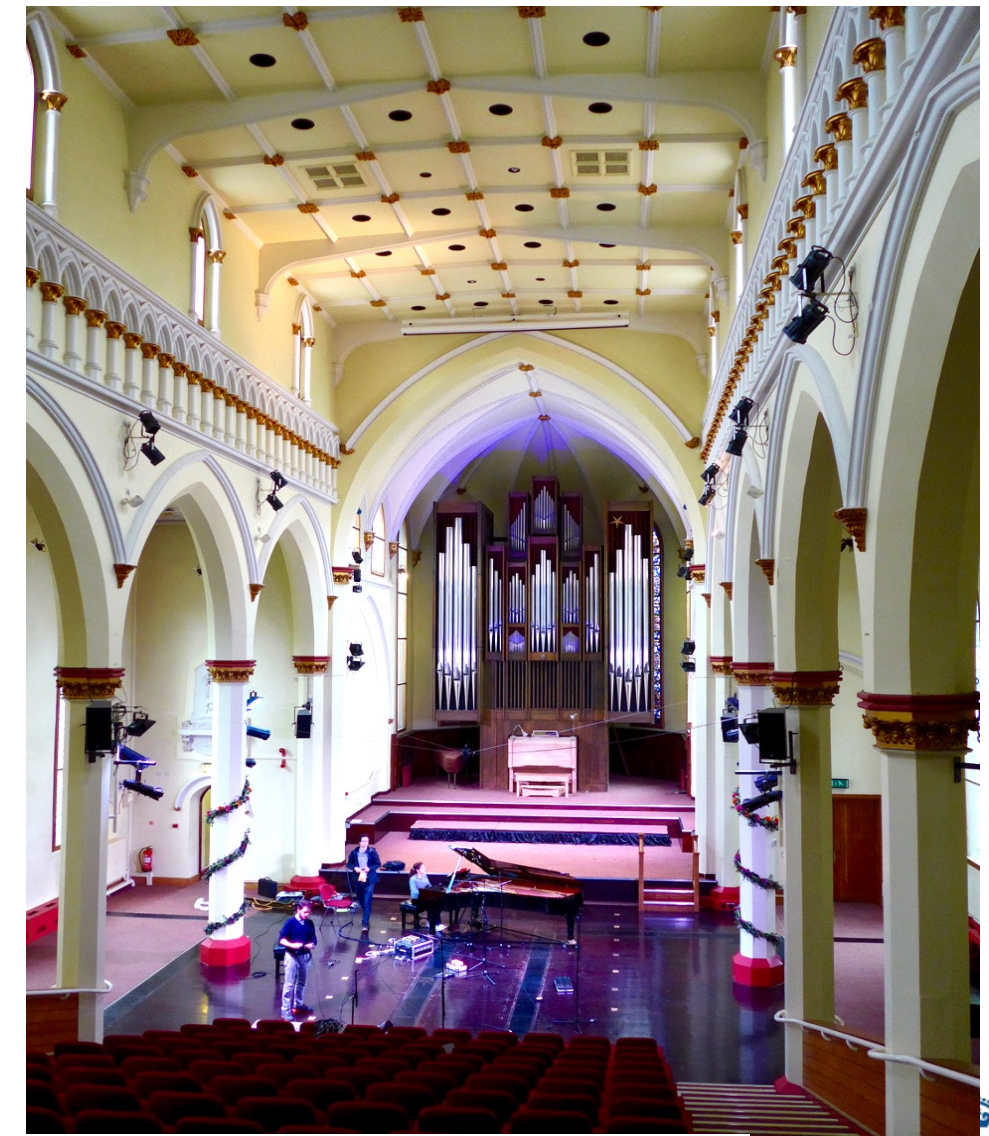
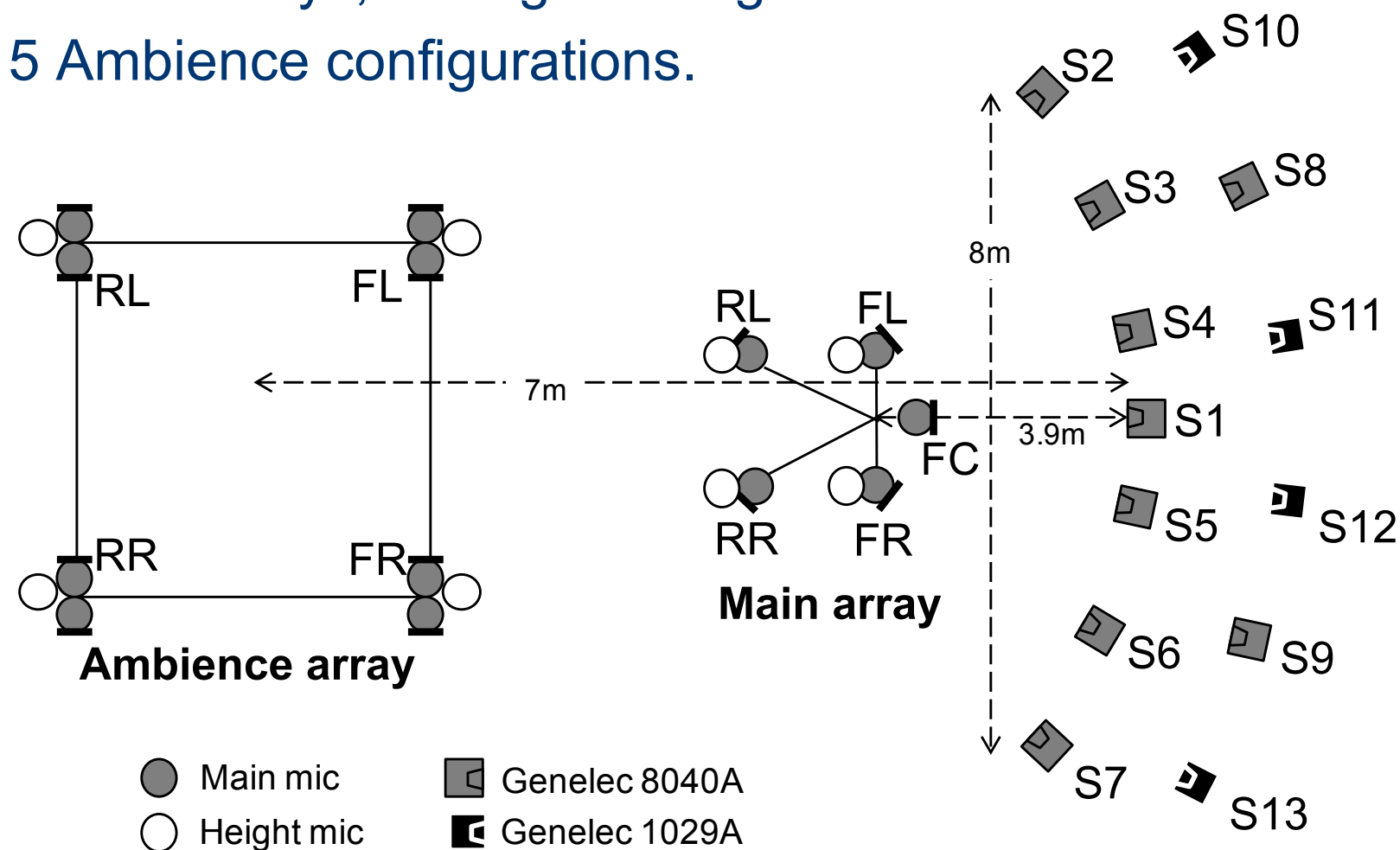
Demo: Organ

- Recorded at Huddersfield Town Hall.
- Capture direct sounds with both main and height microphones.
- Tall instrument e.g. organ; Elevated sources, e.g. Choir on platforms.



MAIR Library and Renderer

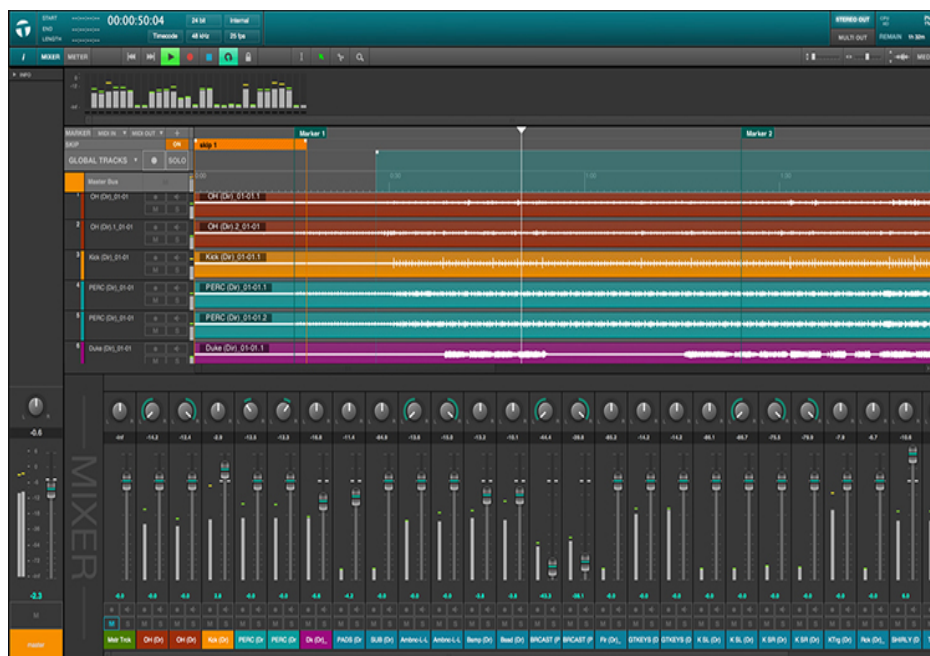
- Over 2000 Microphone Array Impulse Responses (MAIRs) captured for 13 source positions (Lee and Millns 2017).
- 12 Main arrays, 9 Height configurations.
- 15 Ambience configurations.



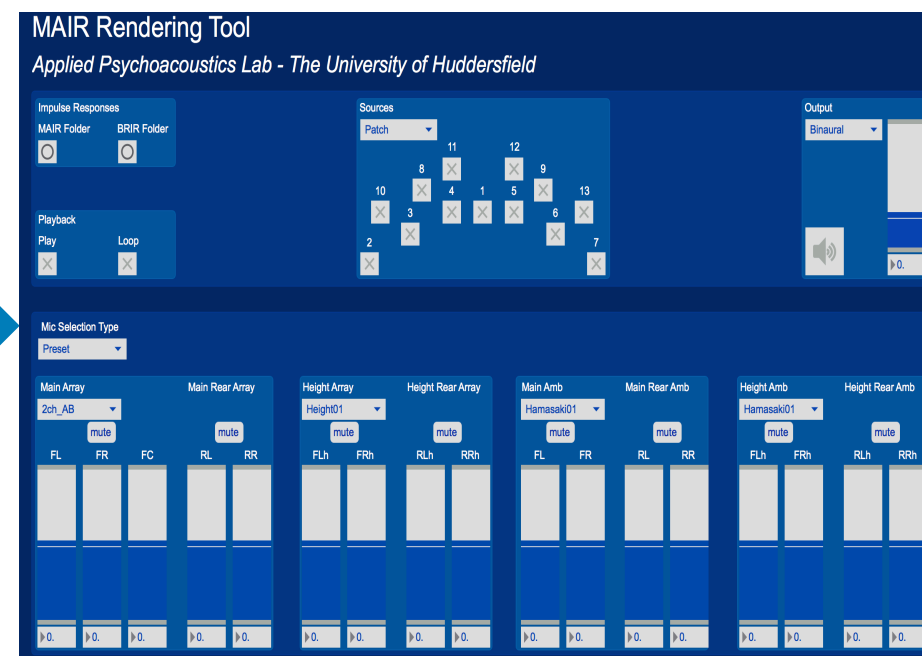
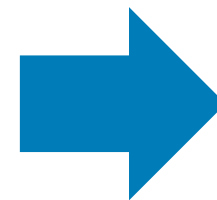
Lee, H. and Millns, C. (2017) '[Microphone Array Impulse Response \(MAIR\) Library for Spatial Audio Research](#)'. In: *Audio Engineering Society 143rd international convention, 18-21st October 2017, New York*

MAIR Library and Renderer

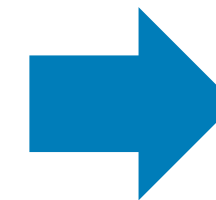
- Available from www.github.com/APL-Huddersfield
- Renderer allows mic array mixing and binaural/multichannel output.
- Takes outputs from a DAW session, or browse individual files.



DAW



MAIR Renderer



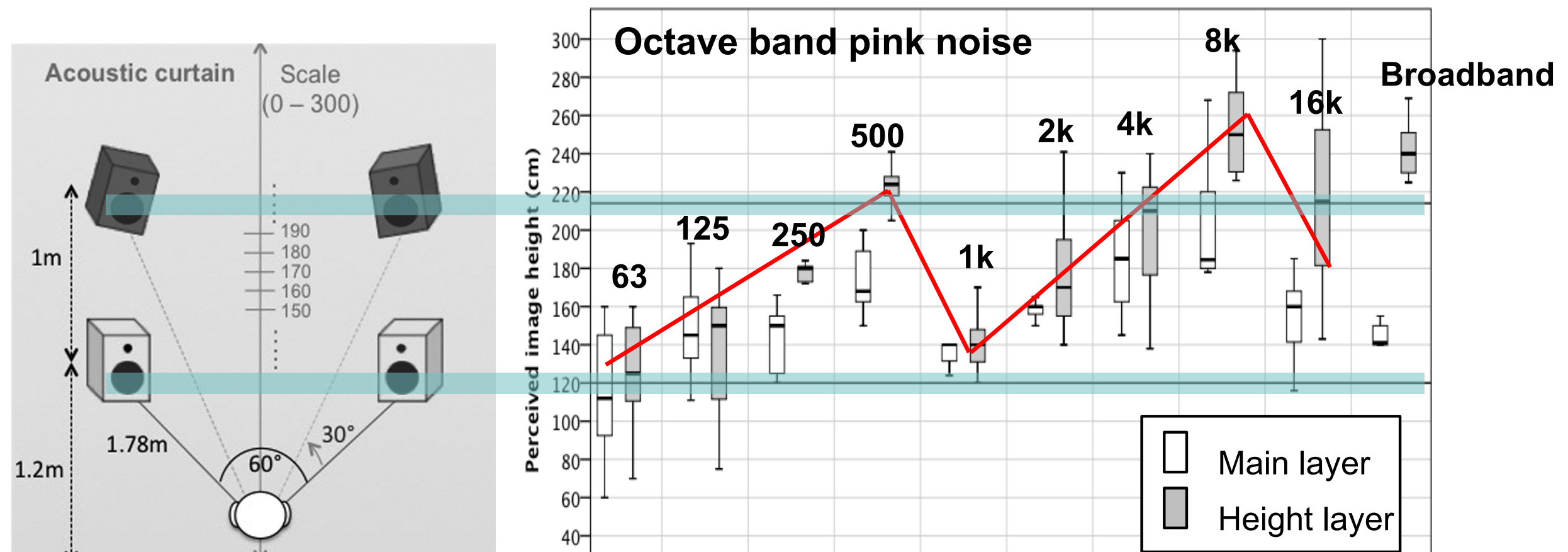
- Virtual mic array comparison
- Binaural & multichannel playback

Lee, H. and Millns, C. (2017) '[Microphone Array Impulse Response \(MAIR\) Library for Spatial Audio Research](#)'. In: *Audio Engineering Society 143rd international convention, 18-21st October 2017, New York*

Phantom Image Elevation Effect

Pitch-Height Effect for Phantom Source

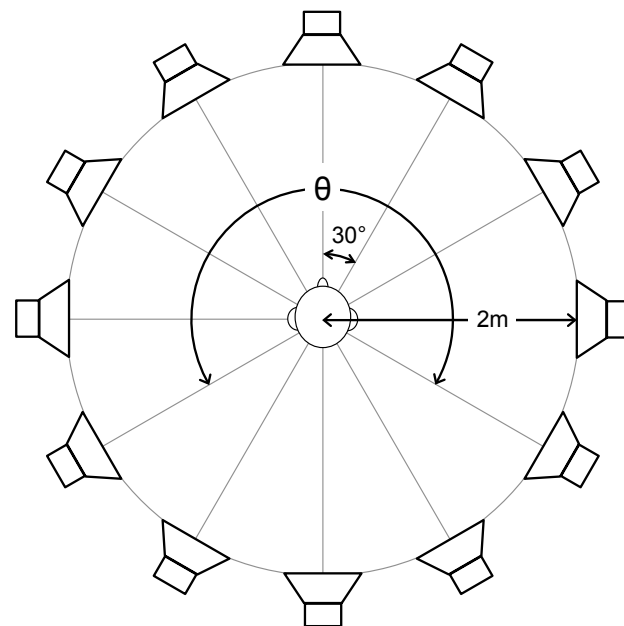
- Pitch-height effect for horizontal **phantom** image (Lee 2016)



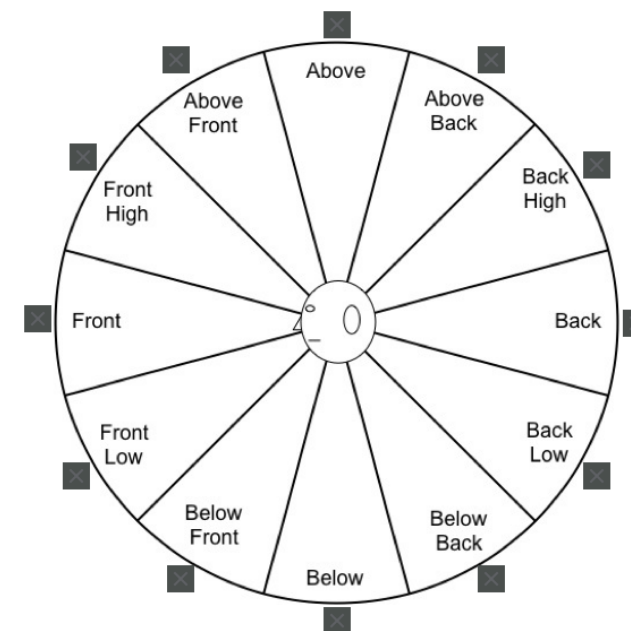
- Overall, the pitch-height effect operates in two separate regions.
- Reset at 1kHz → Back localisation (Blauert's Directional bands)

Phantom Image Elevation

- Phantom centre image tends to be perceived to be elevated in the median plane, and the effect is stronger with a larger speaker angle (first found by de Boer 1939).
- Investigation into source dependency (Lee 2017)
 - 11 different source types; speaker angle from 0° to 360° with 30° intervals.



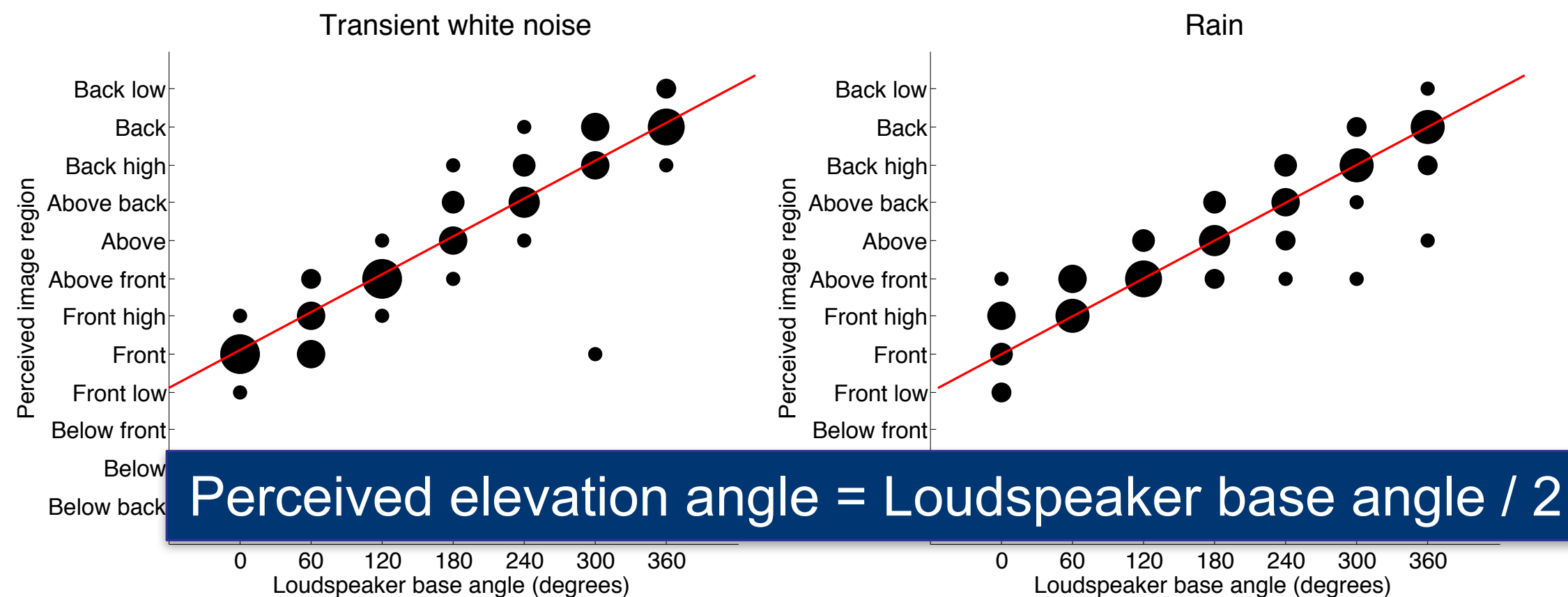
Loudspeaker arrangement



Response method

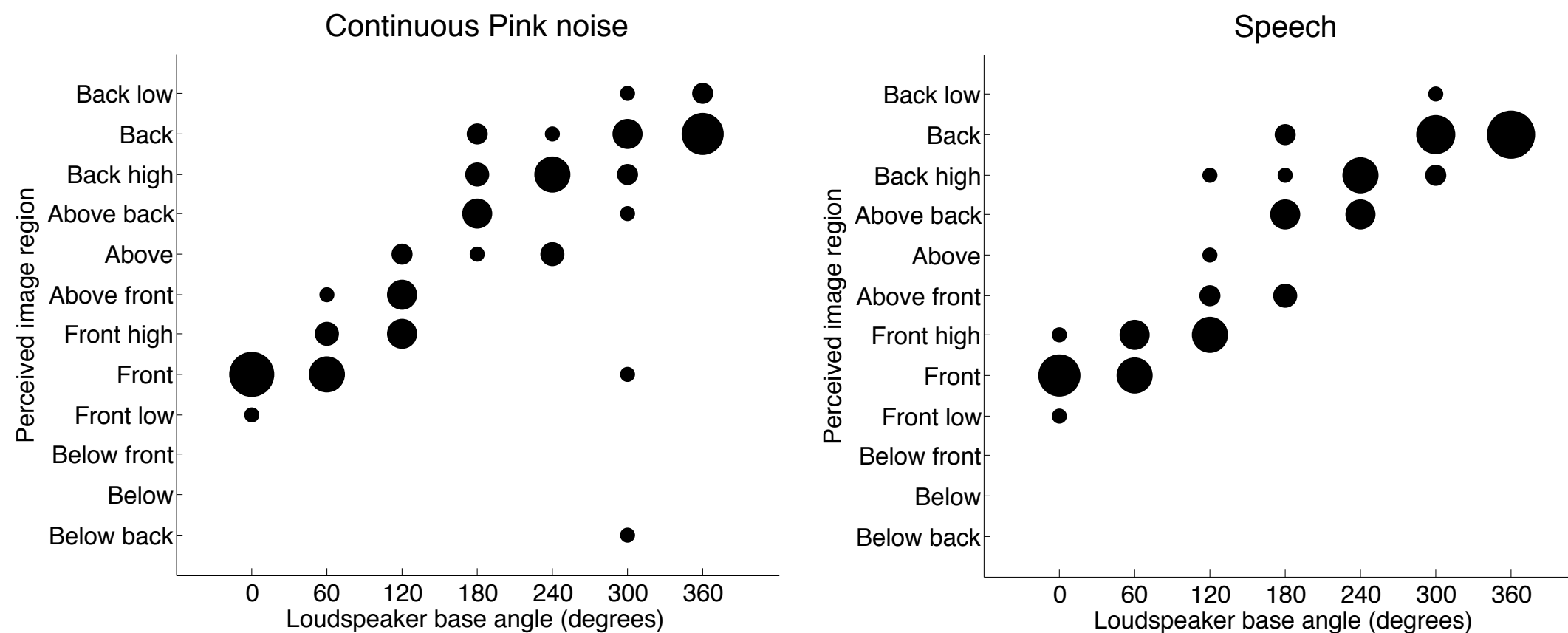
Phantom Image Elevation

- Sound source dependency (25 subjects)
 - Responses are most linear and consistent for source with a broad and flat spectrum.



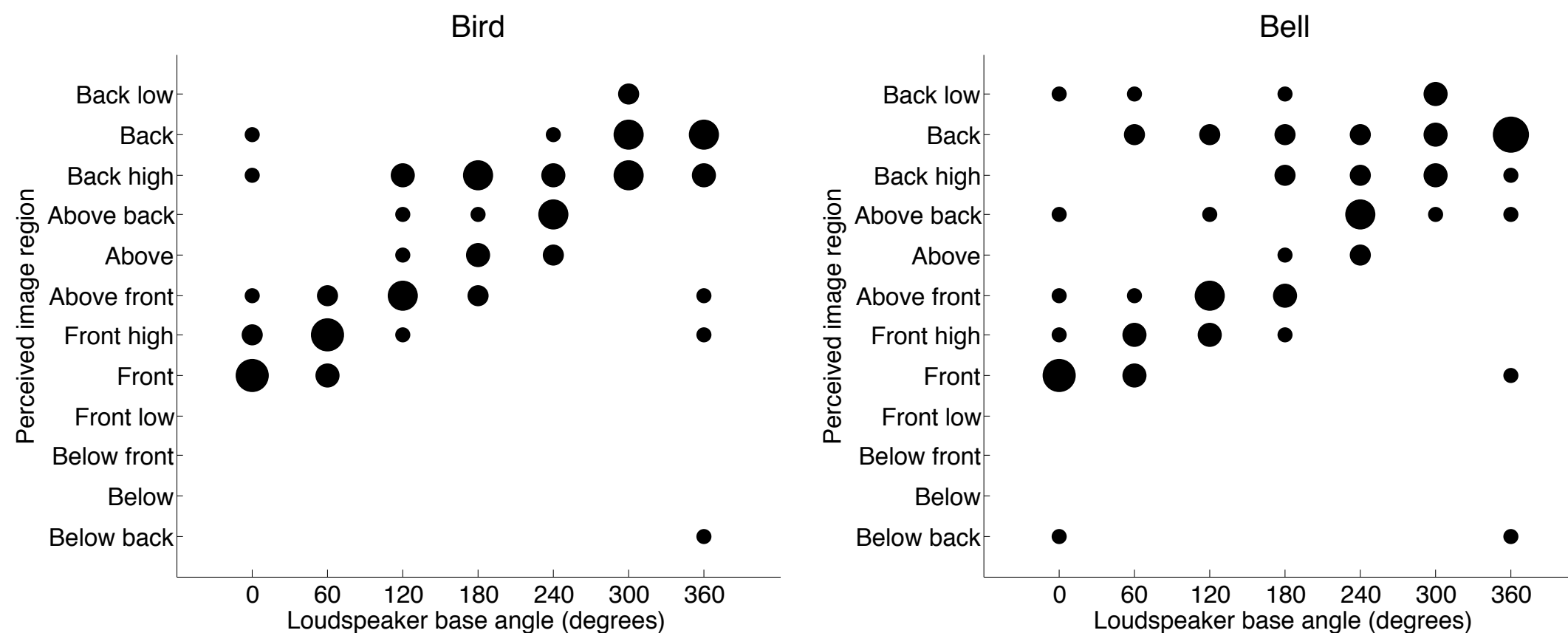
Phantom Image Elevation

- Sound source dependency (25 subjects)
 - The above perception is weaker for sources with more low frequency energy. (no strong “aboveness”)



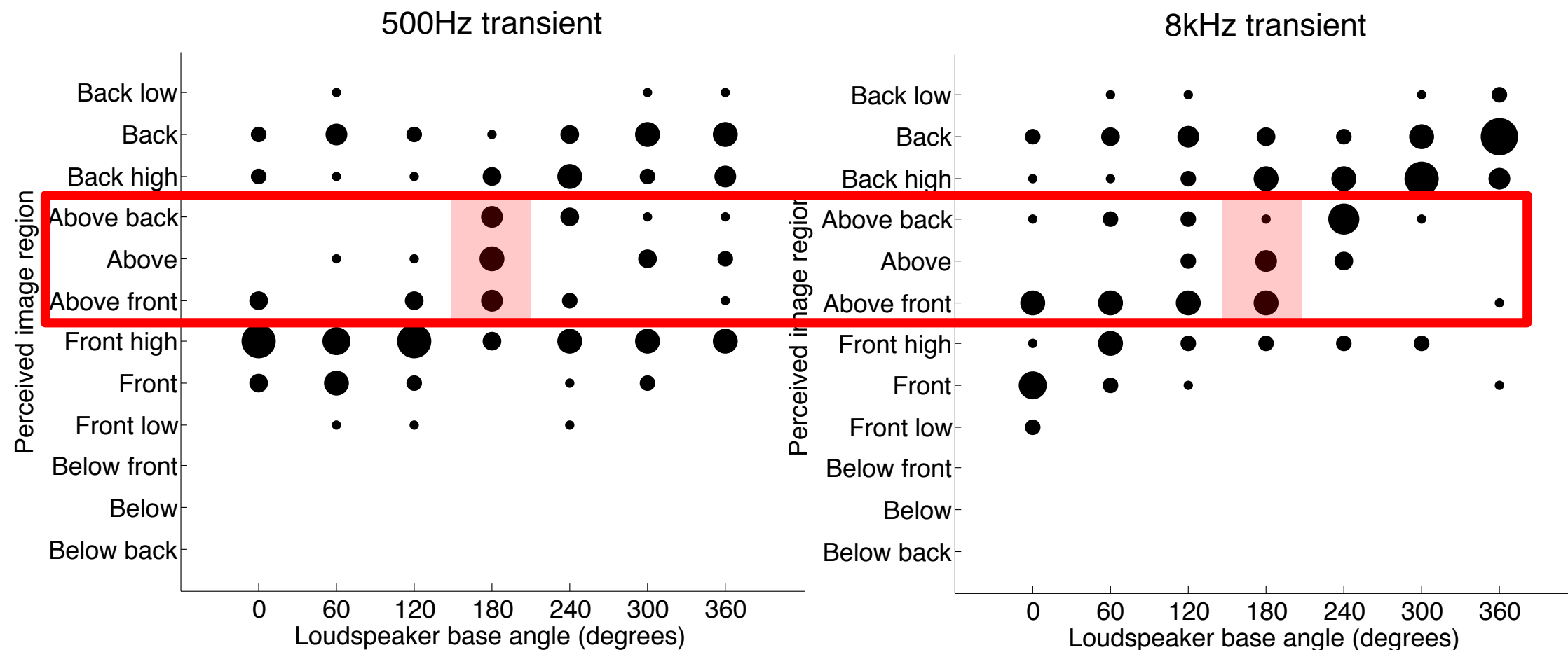
Phantom Image Elevation

- Sound source dependency (25 subjects)
 - Responses are most inconsistent for sources with narrow spectrum or steady-state nature.



Phantom Image Elevation

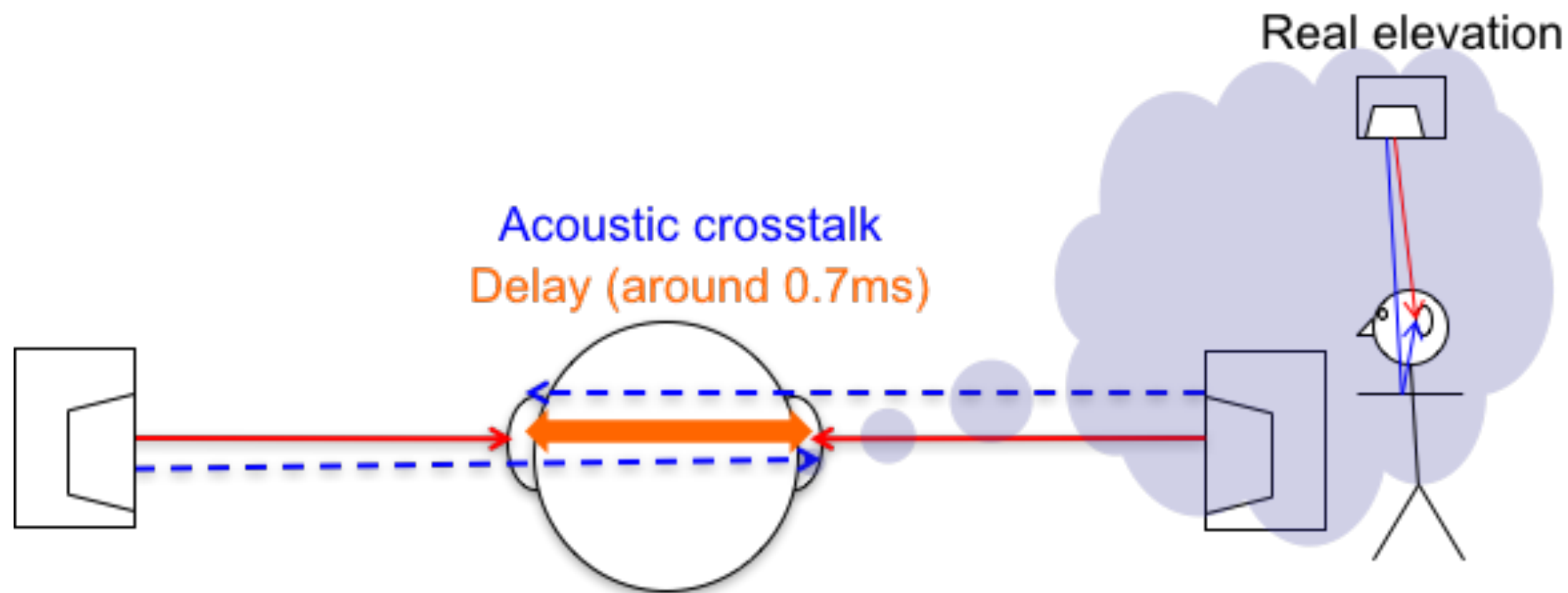
- Frequency dependency (20 subjects) (Lee 2016)
 - 500Hz and 8kHz: the most effective bands for the 'above' perception among all octave bands.



Lee, H (2016) '[Phantom Image Elevation Explained](#)'. In: *Audio Engineering Society the 141st International Convention*, 29 Sep - 2 Oct, Los Angeles, USA

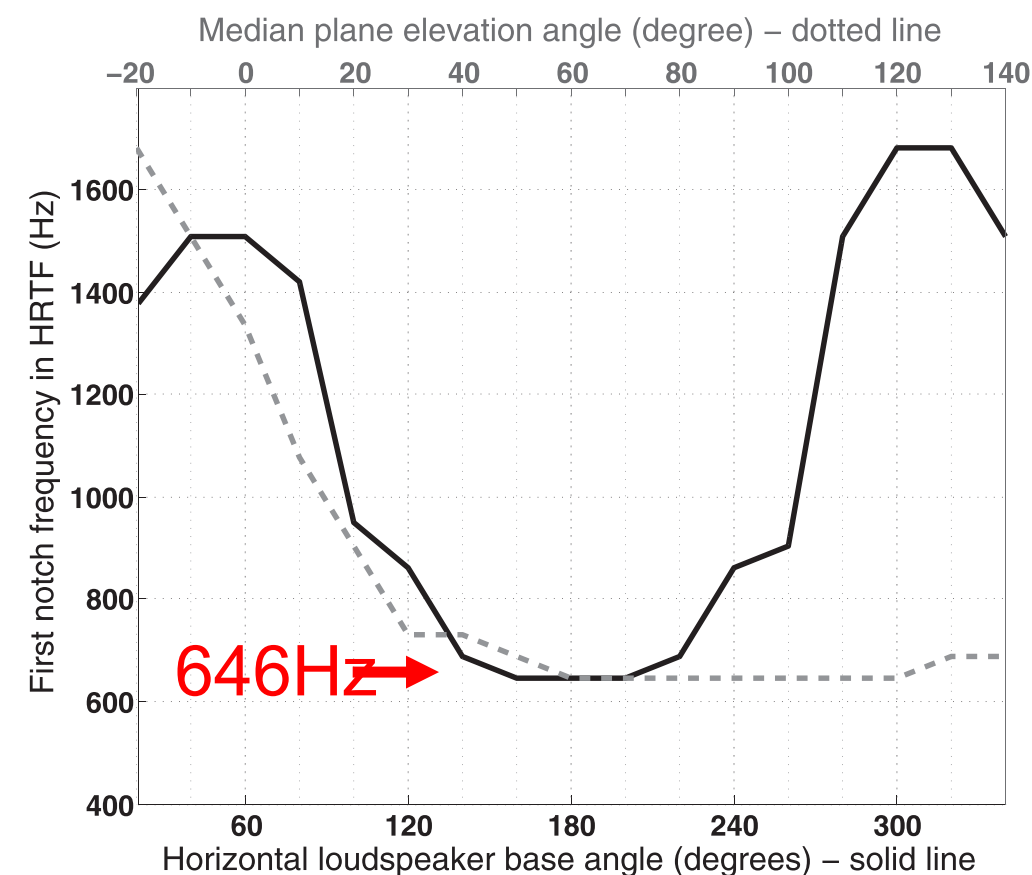
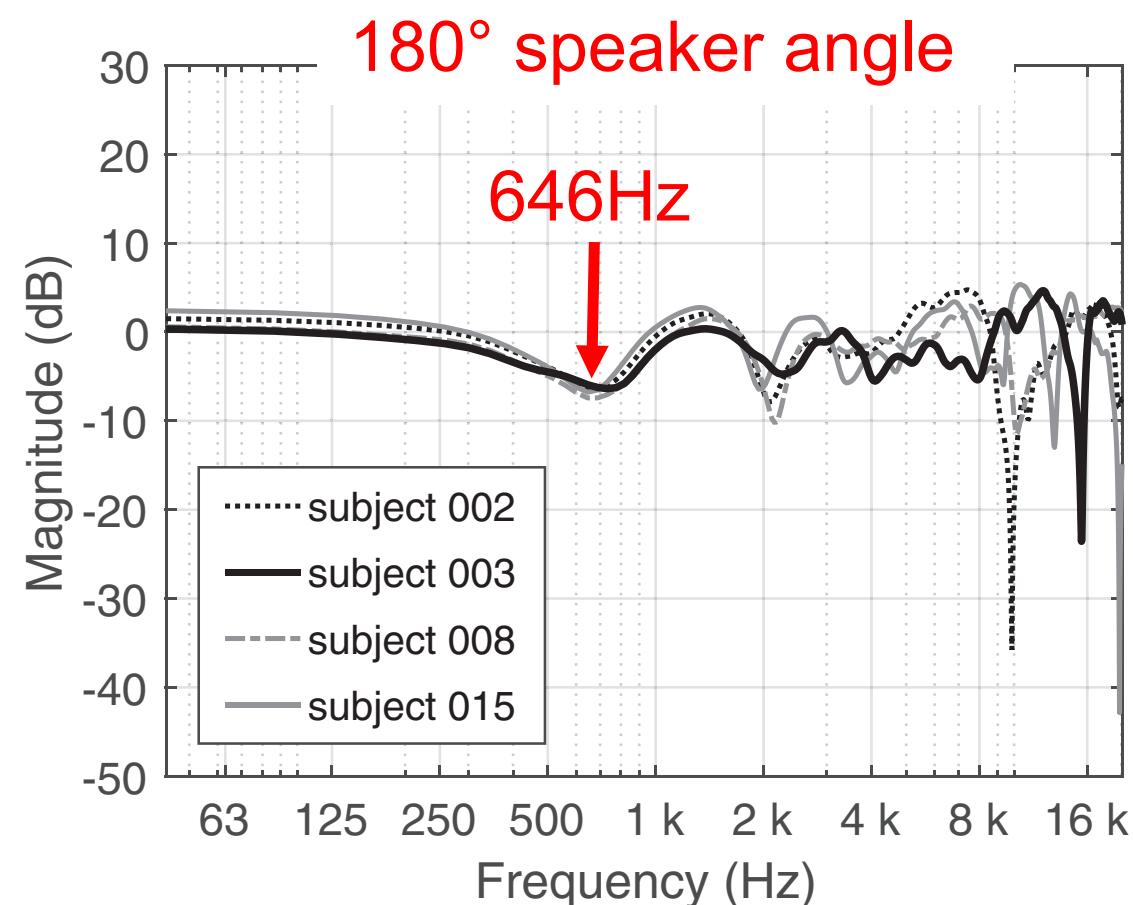
Phantom Image Elevation

- A new theory (Lee 2017)
 - At low frequencies, the brain interprets the spectral notch caused by acoustic crosstalk as that caused by the shoulder reflection by a real source elevated in the median plane.



Phantom Image Elevation

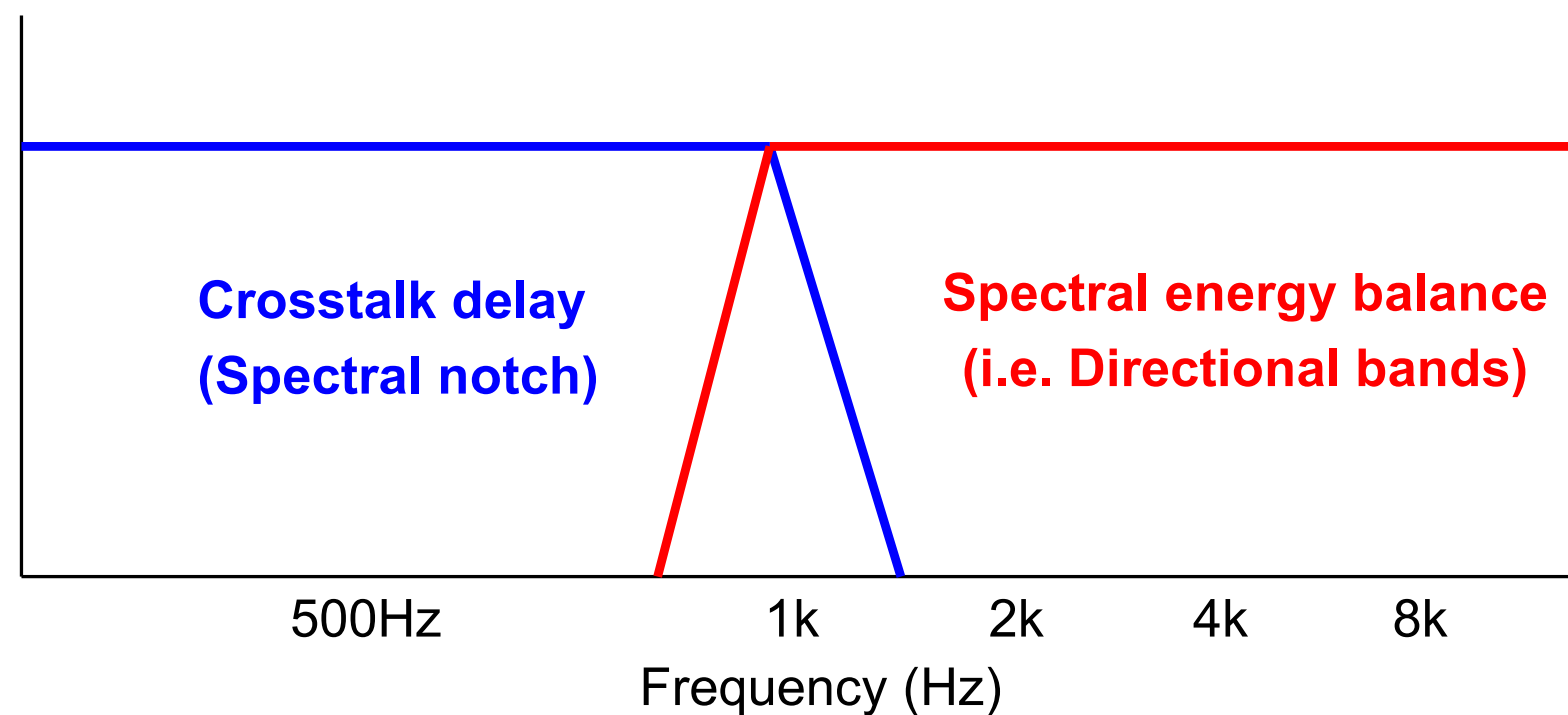
- A new theory (Lee 2017)
 - At low frequencies, the brain interprets the spectral notch caused by acoustic crosstalk as that caused by the shoulder reflection by a real source elevated in the median plane.



Lee, H (2017) '[Sound Source and Loudspeaker Base Angle Dependency of the Phantom Image Elevation Effect](#)' *Journal of the Audio Engineering Society*, 65 (9), pp. 733-748. ISSN 1549-4950

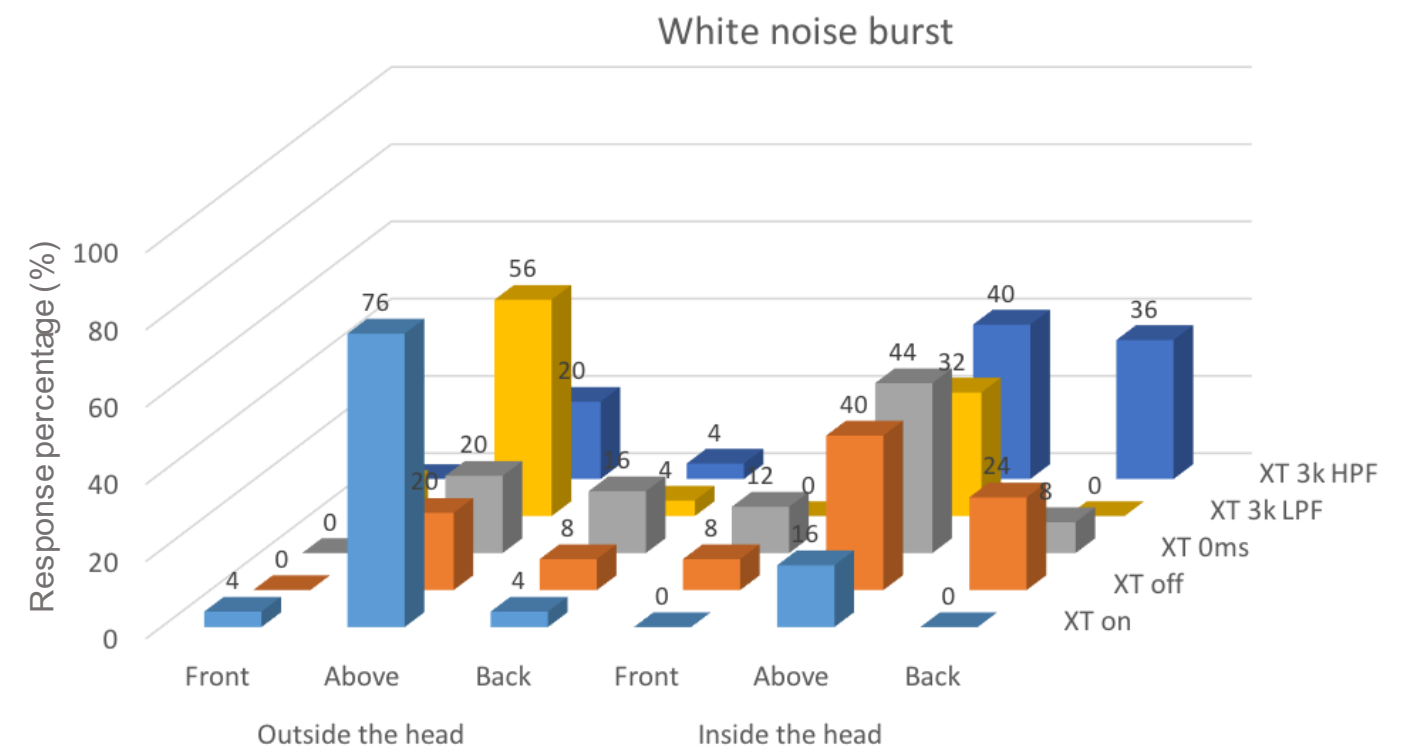
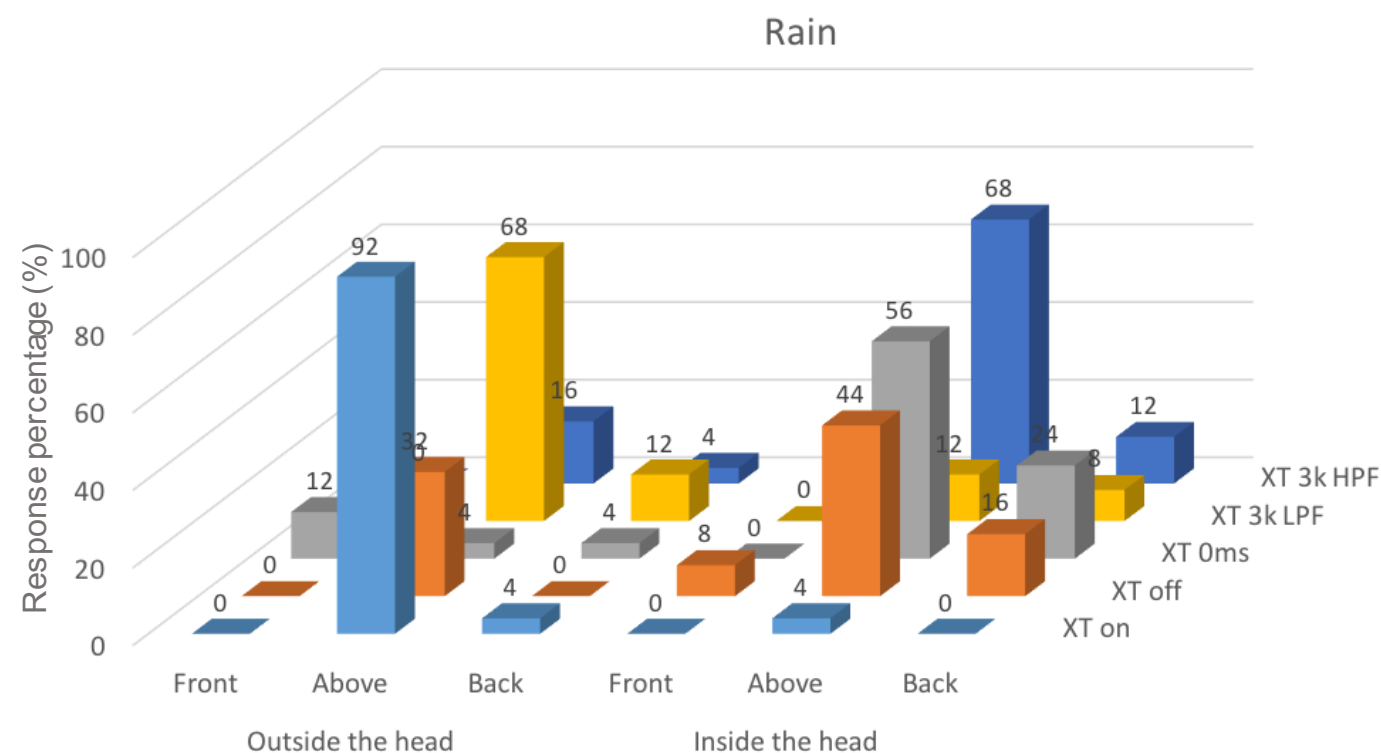
Phantom Image Elevation

- A new theory (Lee 2017)
 - Low frequencies: spectral notch due to acoustic crosstalk.
 - High frequencies: spectral energy balance (i.e. boosted bands).



Phantom Image Elevation

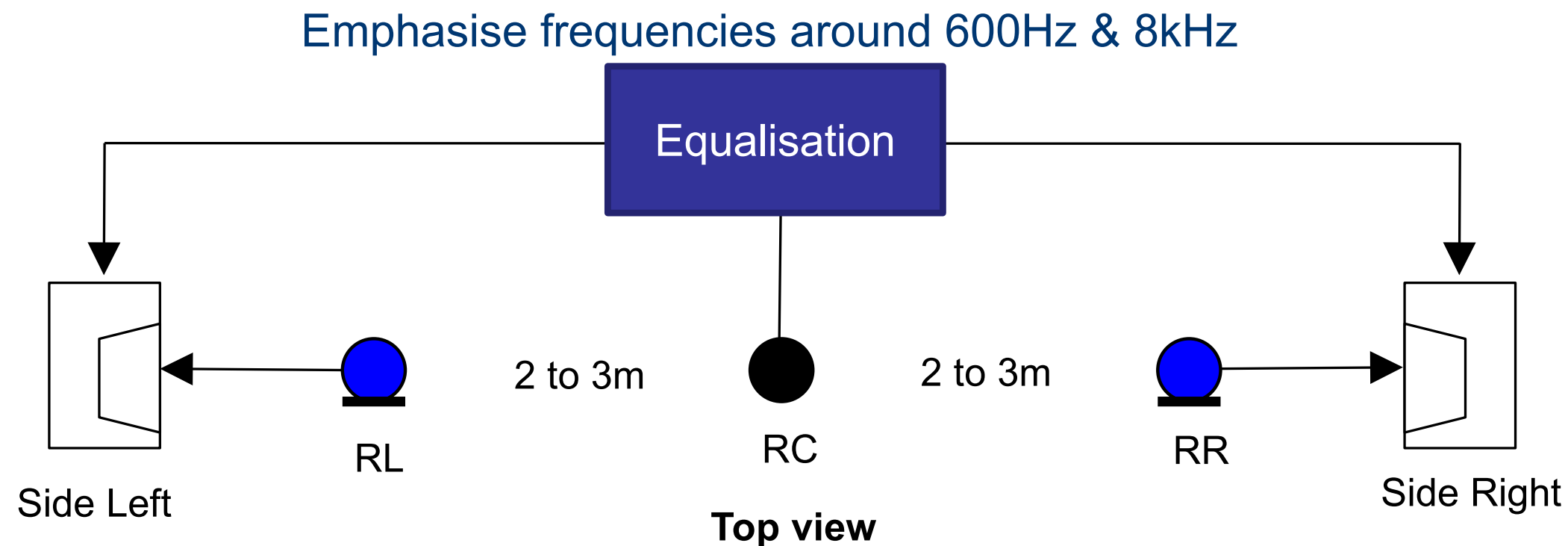
- Verification (Lee 2016)
 - Individualised binaural simulation with 5 subjects (5 repetitions).
 - Crosstalk on and off / high-passed and low-passed.
 - LF crosstalk → Above localisation **outside** the head.
 - HF crosstalk → Above localisation **inside** the head.



Lee, H (2016) '[Phantom Image Elevation Explained](#)'. In: *Audio Engineering Society the 141st International Convention*, 29 Sep - 2 Oct, Los Angeles, USA

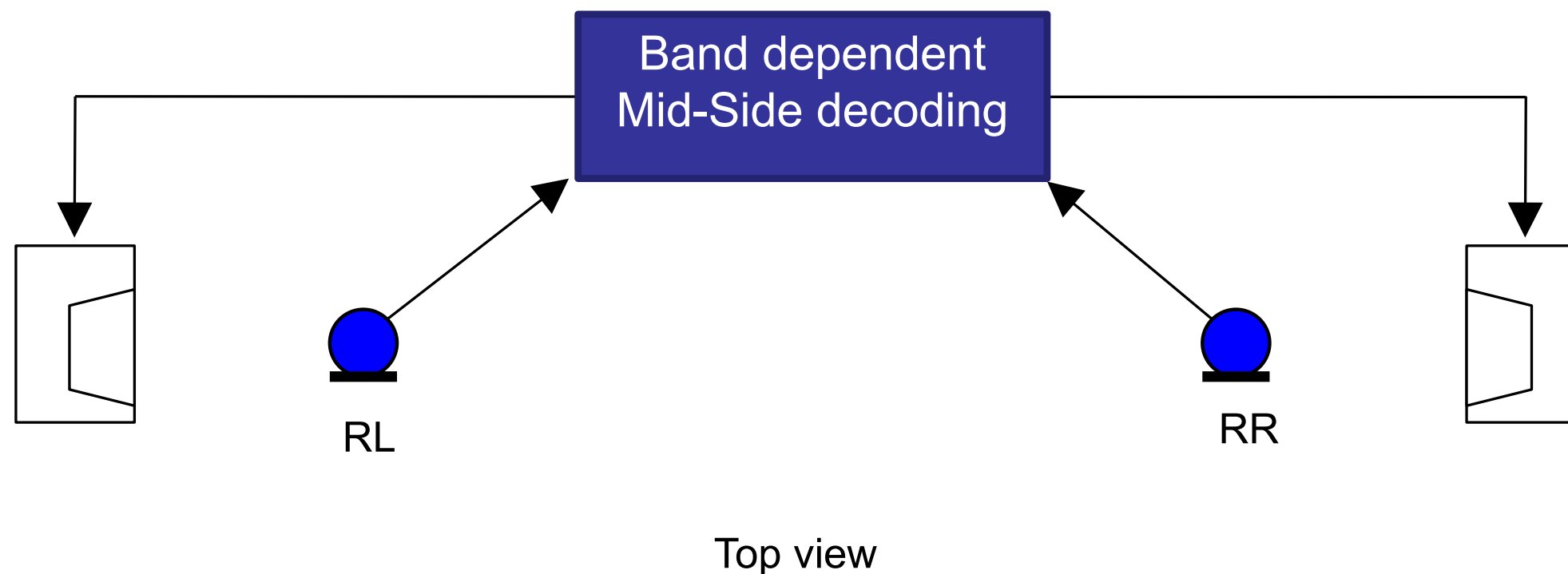
Phantom Image Elevation

- Exploiting the effect for surround ambience recording (Lee 2017)
- A centre ambience microphone fed into both side (rear) L and R speakers adds “aboveness” to the ambient image, while the wide microphones provide horizontal spread of the image.



Phantom Image Elevation

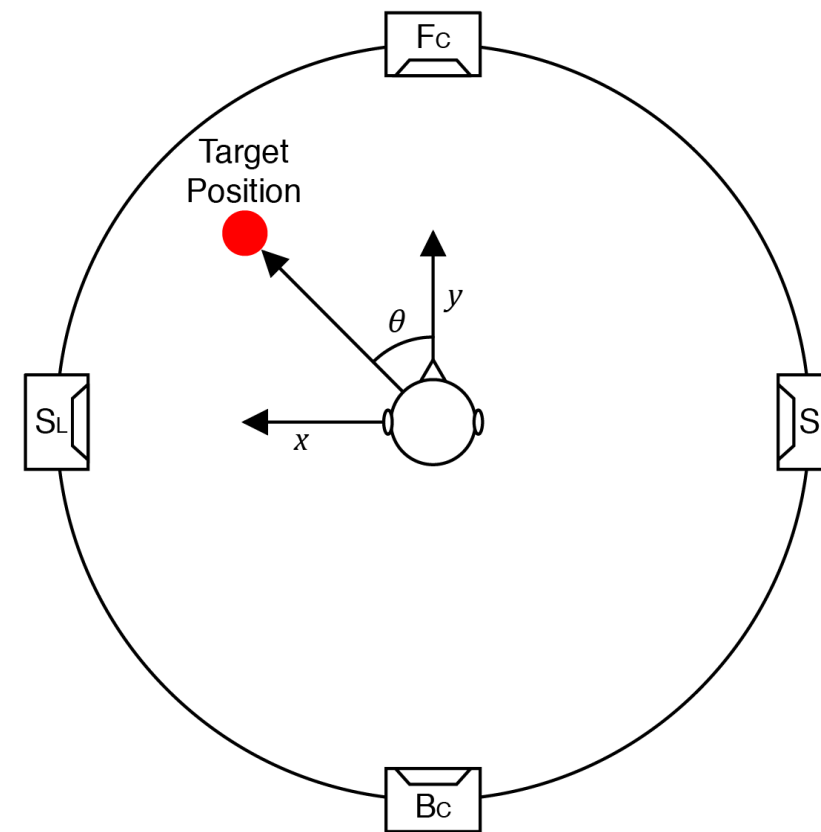
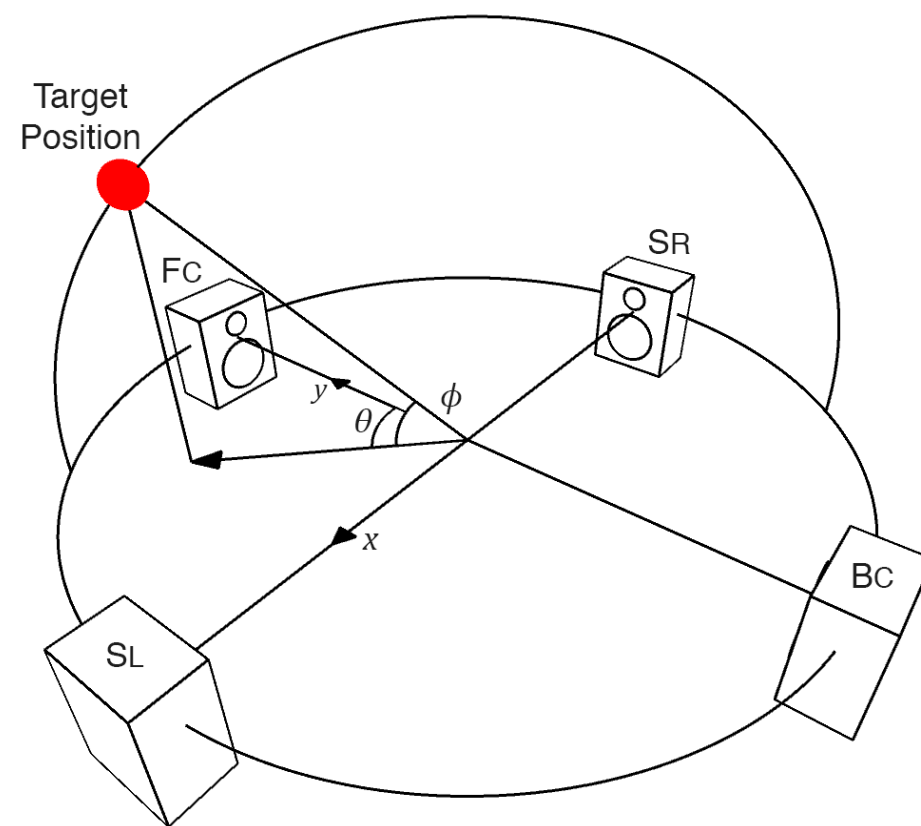
- Band-dependent MS decoding for side or rear channels (Lee 2016).
- Use mid signals for 500Hz and 8kHz bands for the elevation effect.





Virtual Hemispherical Amplitude Panning (VHAP)

- Virtual 3D panning method exploiting the phantom image elevation effect (Lee, Johnson and Mironovs 2018).
- 4 ear-height loudspeakers (SL, SR, FC, BC) with a constant power relationship.
- Use 3 active loudspeakers (e.g. SL, SR, FC for a target image in the front half; SL, SR, BC for the rear half).



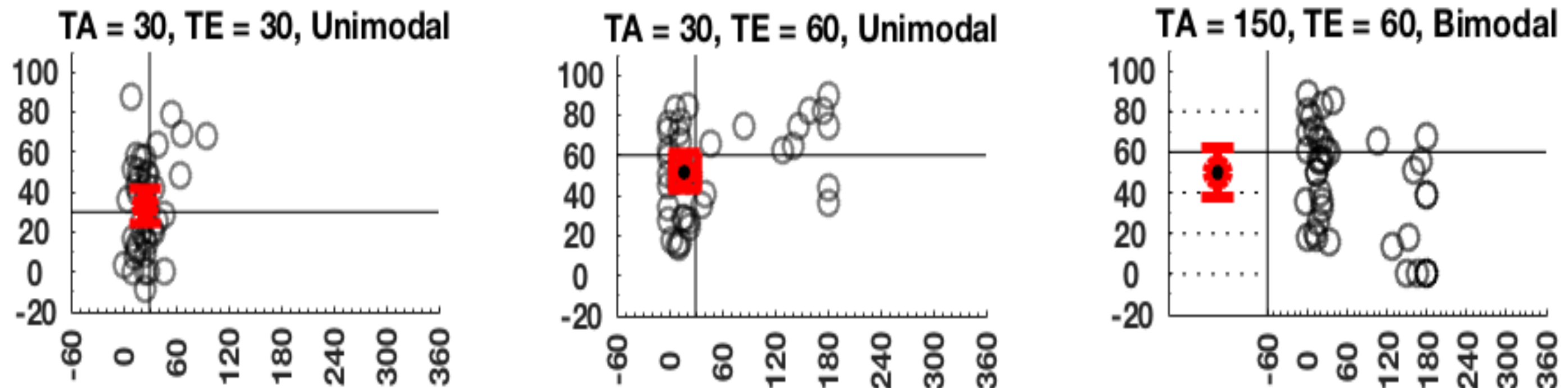
Lee, H., Johnson, D. and Mironovs, M. (2018) 'Virtual Hemispherical Amplitude Panning (VHAP): A Method for 3D Panning without Elevated Loudspeakers' *In: Audio Engineering Society 144th international convention, 23-26 May 2018, Milan, Italy.*



Virtual Hemispherical Amplitude Panning (VHAP)

- Virtual 3D panning method exploiting the phantom image elevation effect (Lee, Johnson and Mironovs 2018)
- Works with some limitations in consistency.

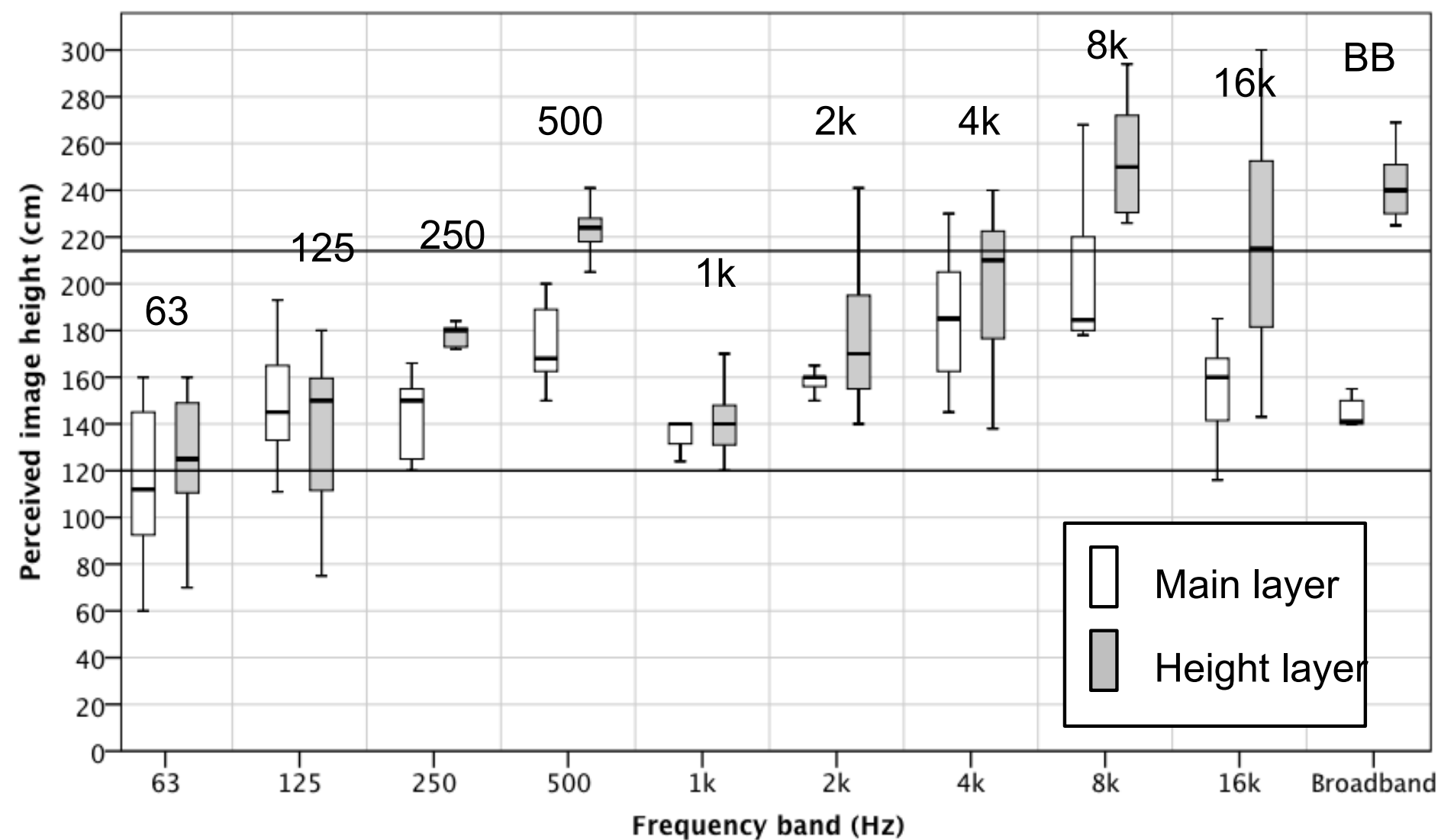
TA = Target Azimuth (deg); TE = Target Elevation (deg)



Frequency-based Vertical Processing

Perceptual Band Allocation (PBA)

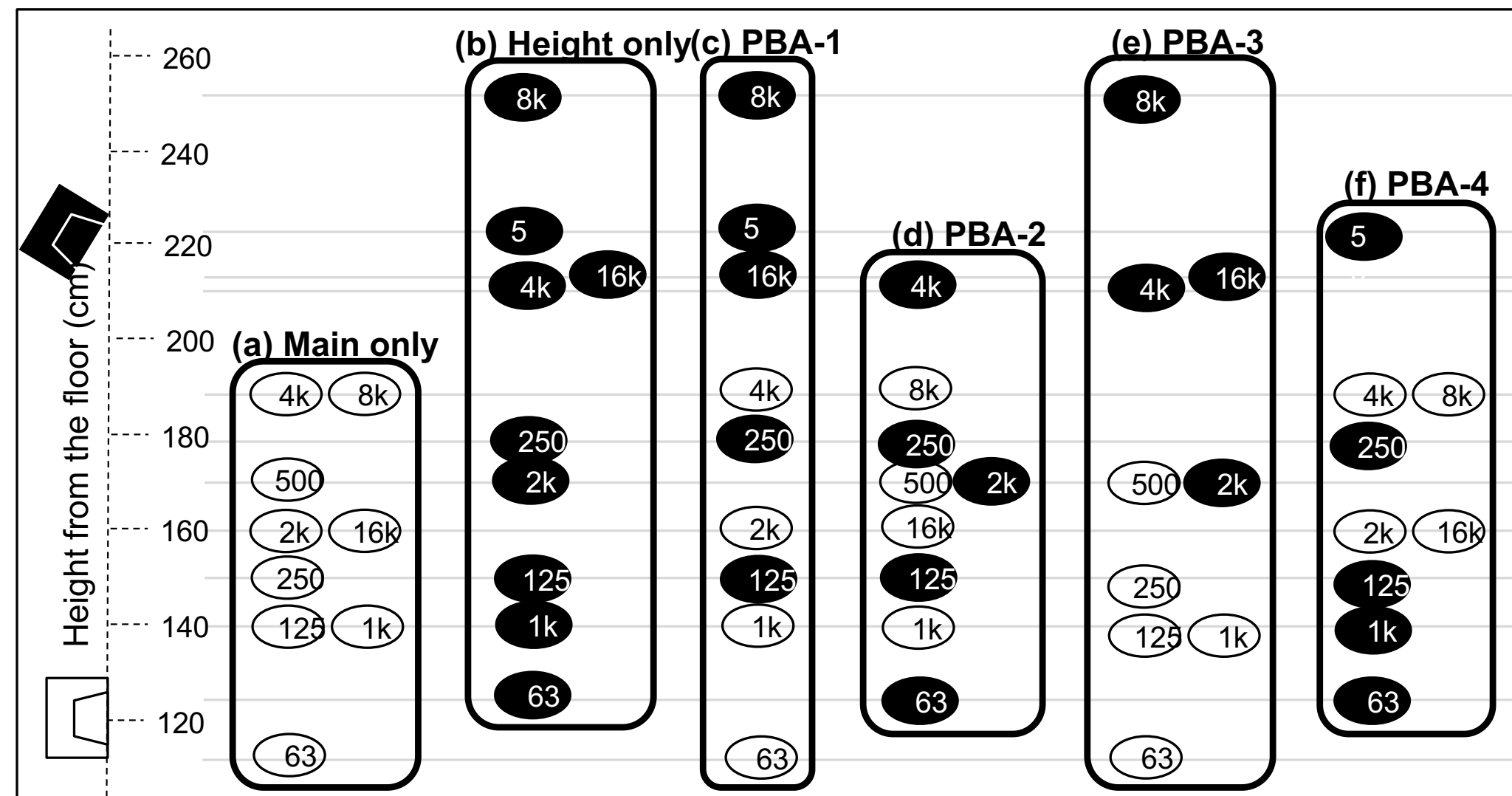
- Each frequency band has its inherent vertical image position (Lee 2016).



Lee, H (2016) '[Perceptual Band Allocation \(PBA\) for the Rendering of Vertical Image Spread with a Vertical 2D Loudspeaker Array](#)' *Journal of the Audio Engineering Society* , 64 (12), pp. 1003-1013. ISSN 1549-4950

Perceptual Band Allocation (PBA)

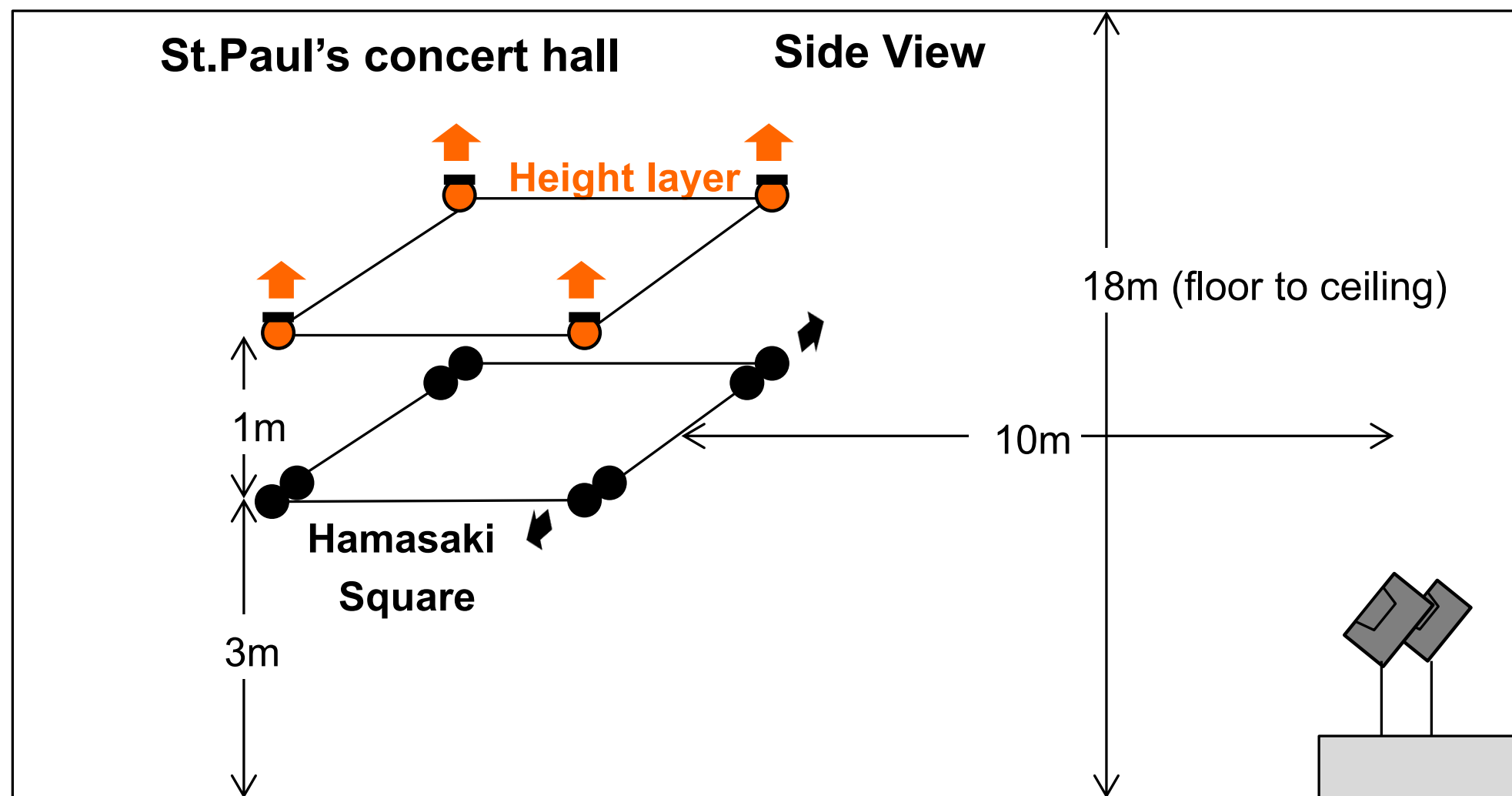
- It is possible to produce different degrees of vertical image spread by allocating each band to a different loudspeaker layer (Lee 2016).



Lee, H (2016) '[Perceptual Band Allocation \(PBA\) for the Rendering of Vertical Image Spread with a Vertical 2D Loudspeaker Array](#)' *Journal of the Audio Engineering Society*, 64 (12), pp. 1003-1013. ISSN 1549-4950

2-Band PBA

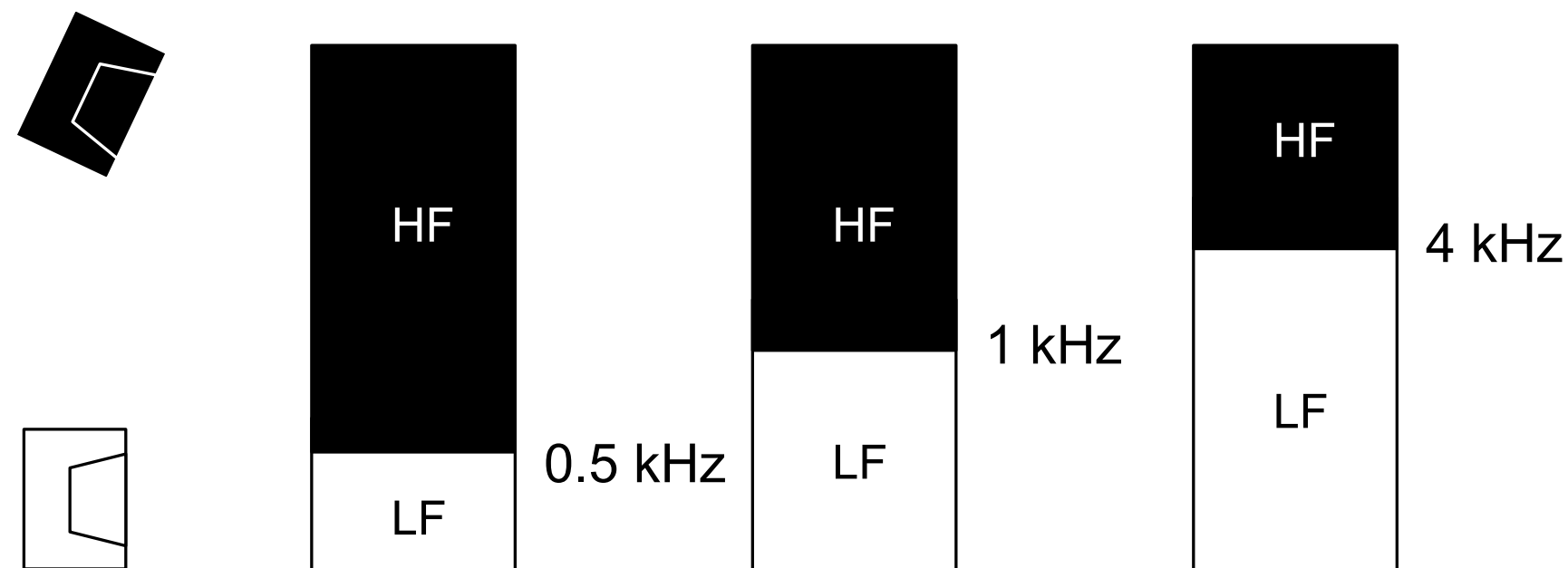
- Simple PBA with 2 band split (low and high bands) (Lee 2015).



Lee, H (2015) '[2D to 3D ambience upmixing based on perceptual band allocation](#)' *Journal of the Audio Engineering Society*, 63 (10), pp. 811-821. ISSN 1549-4950\

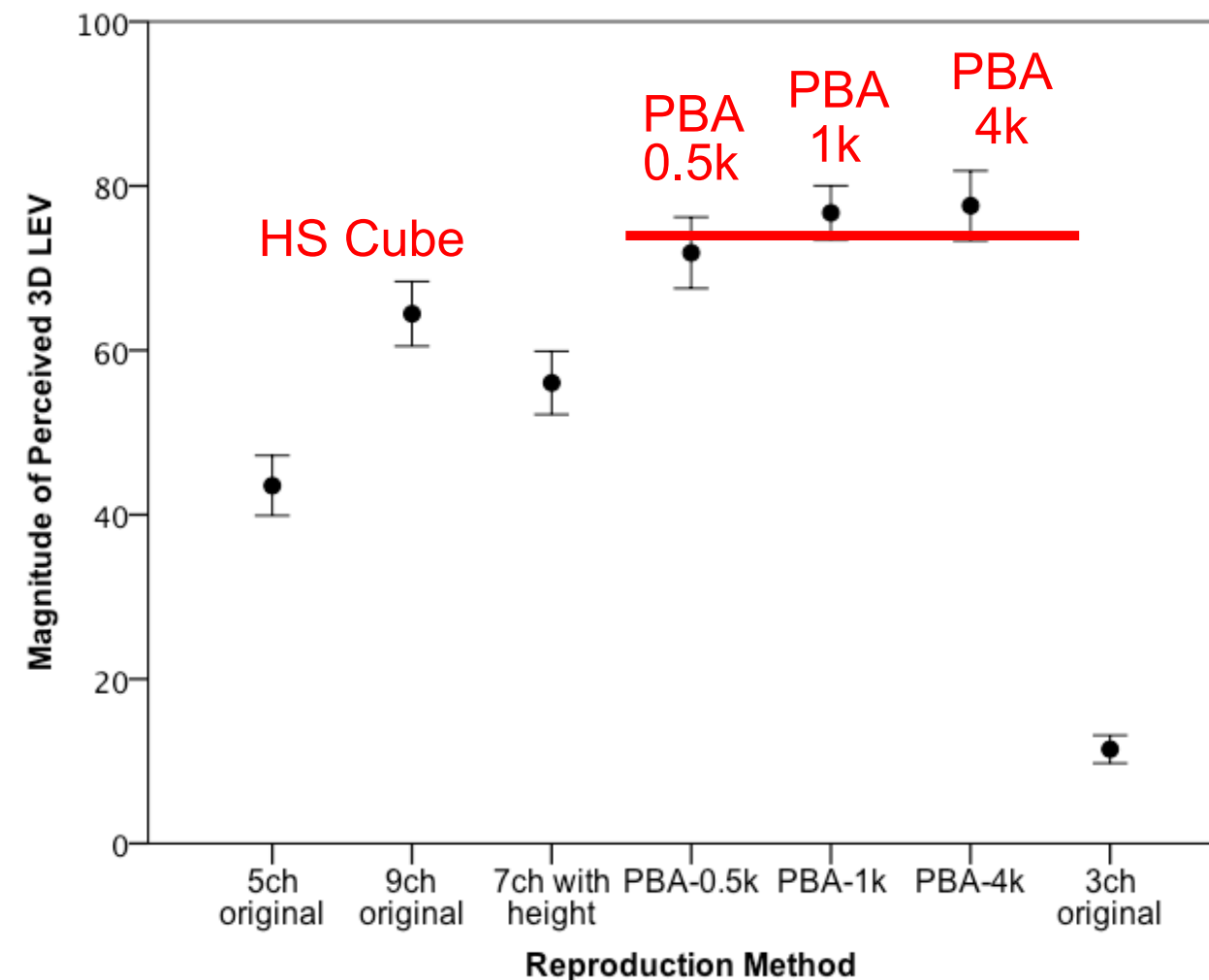
2-Band PBA process

- Low and high pass filtering
 - 4ch ambient signals captured by the Hamasaki Square
 - At three different crossover frequencies: 0.5, 1 and 4kHz
- LF signals to main channels, HF signals to height channels



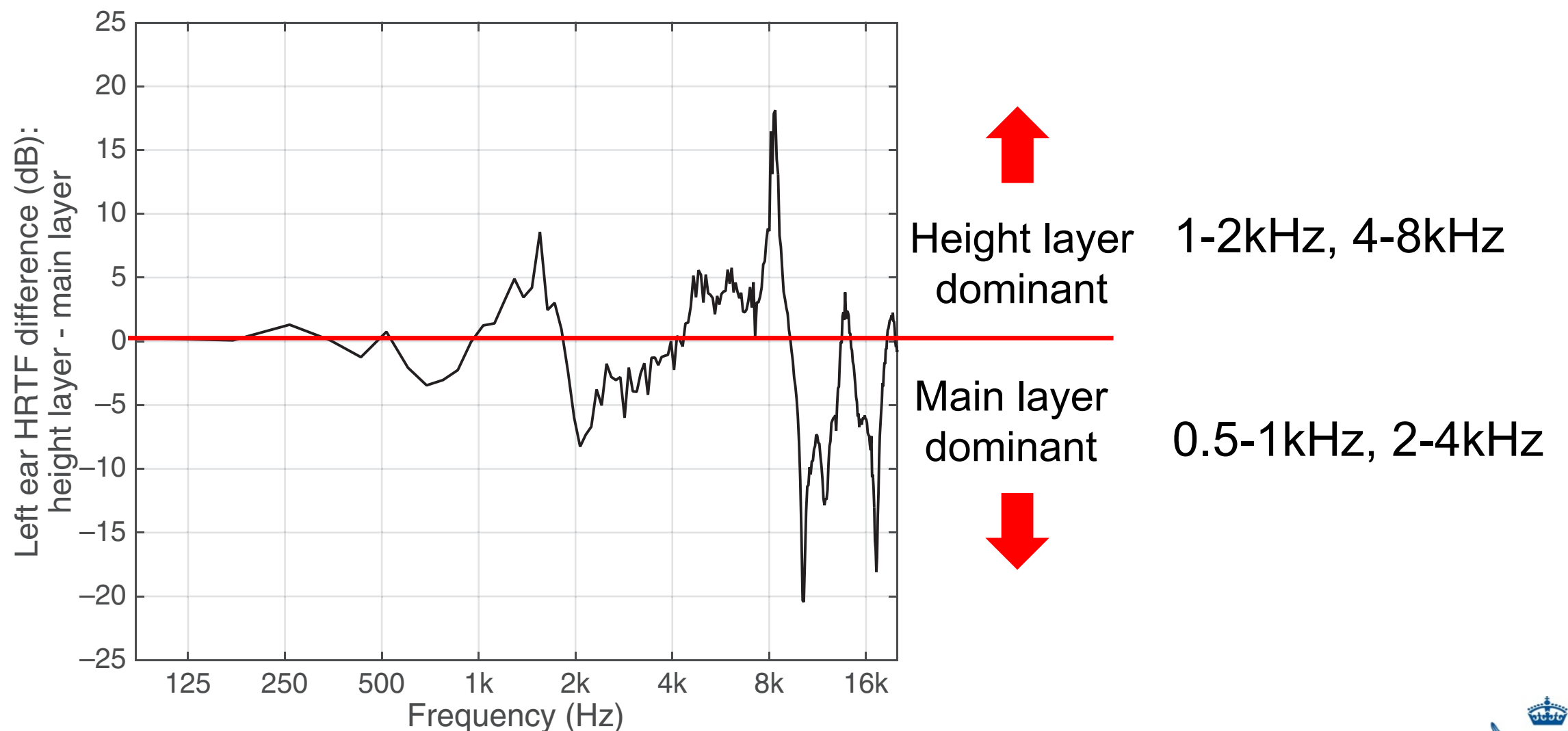
3D LEV – Overall plots

- PBA upmixing sounded more enveloping than 9-channel original Hamasaki-Cube (within the experimental condition).



Main layer vs. Height layer in HRTF

- Delta HRTF (Height layer – Main layer) for the left ear (Lee 2016).
 - From MIT's KEMAR HRIR database

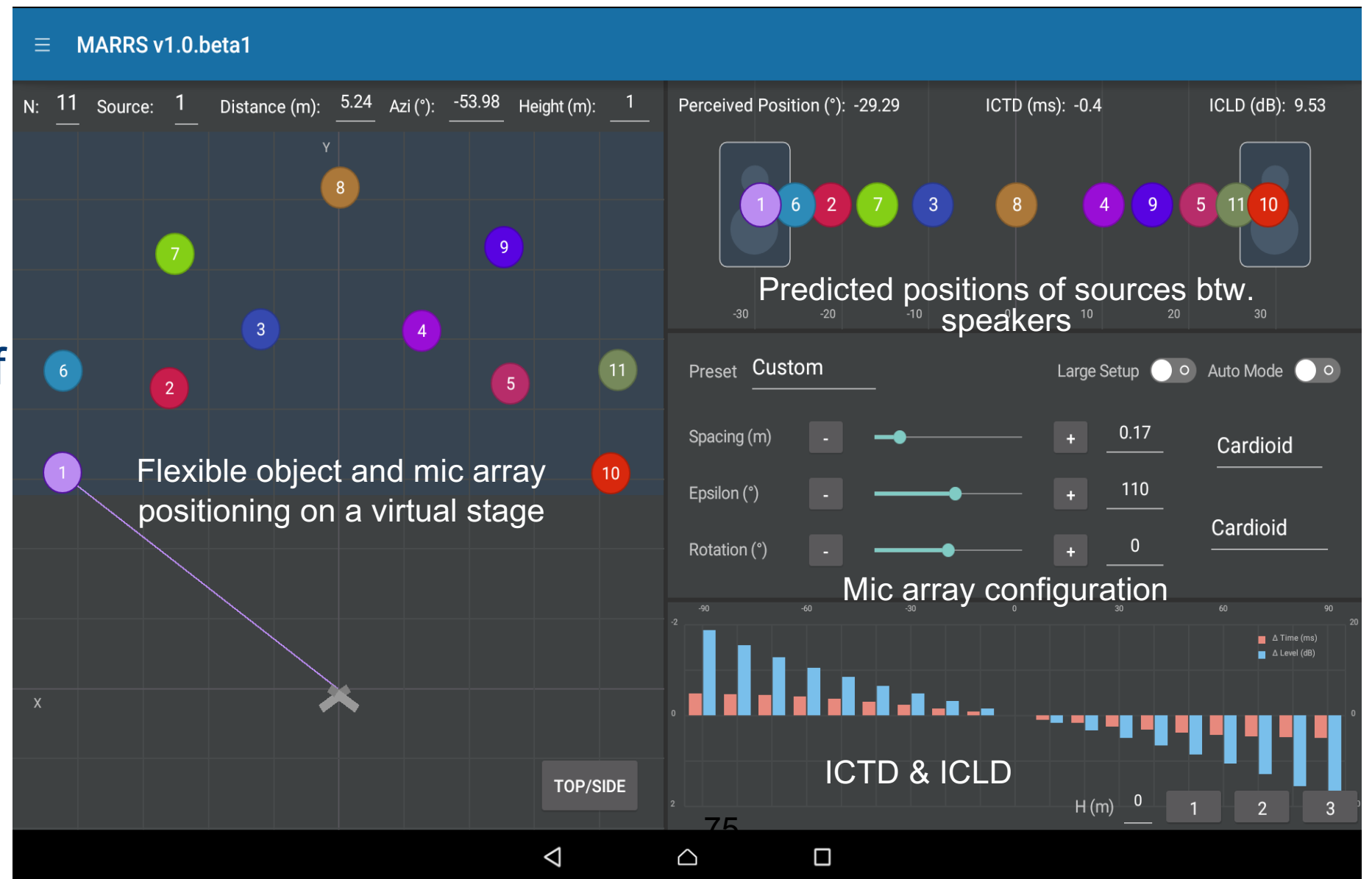


Lee, H (2016) '[Perceptual Band Allocation \(PBA\) for the Rendering of Vertical Image Spread with a Vertical 2D Loudspeaker Array](#)' *Journal of the Audio Engineering Society* , 64 (12), pp. 1003-1013. ISSN 1549-4950

APL Software for Researchers and Sound Engineers

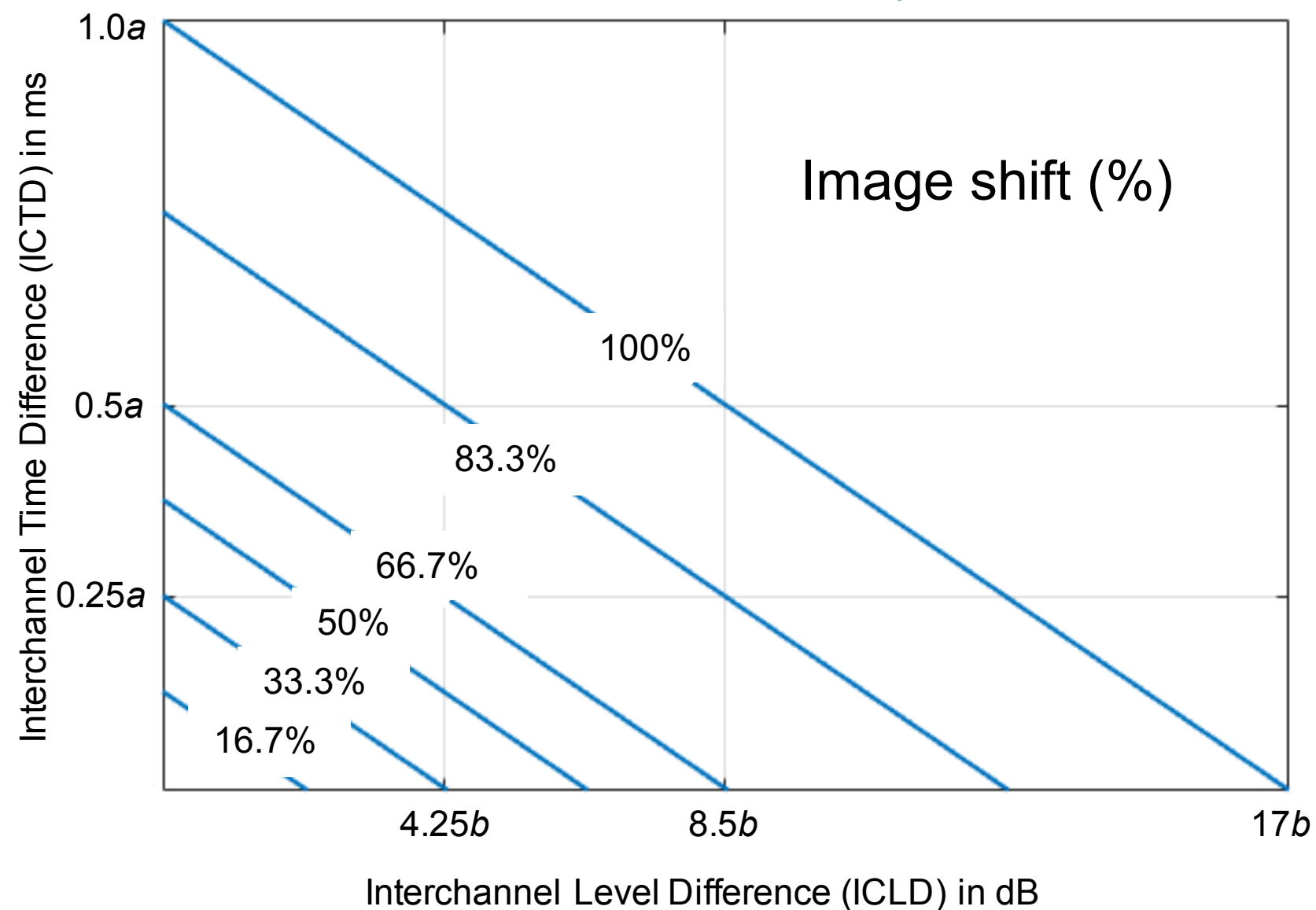
MARRS app for mic technique simulation

- Object-oriented mic technique design tool (Lee, Johnson and Mironovs 2017).
- Based on the time-level trade-off functions
- Free download from iOS and Android app stores.



A New Time and Level Trade-off Model

- Prediction of image localisation depending on loudspeaker base angle (Lee, Johnson and Mironovs 2017)



$$\varphi = \left(ICTD + \frac{a}{17b} ICLD \right) \frac{4\theta}{3a}$$

$$, \text{ if } ICTD \leq -\frac{a}{17b} ICLD + \frac{a}{2} \text{ \& } ICLD \leq 17b \left(\frac{a}{2} - ICTD \right)$$

$$\varphi = \left(ICTD + \frac{a}{17b} ICLD + \frac{a}{2} \right) \frac{2\theta}{3a}$$

, otherwise

φ = predicted image angle

θ = half the loudspeaker base angle

$a = ITD(\theta)/ITD(30^\circ)$

$b = ILD(\theta)/ILD(30^\circ)$

Dr. Hyunkook Lee

HULTI-GEN (universal listening test interface generator)

- Fully customisable listening test GUI generator.
- Standalone Max application (no license required.)
- Download: <http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/24809/>

2/3 Define the grading scale and labelling...

Go to Main Menu
Go to Editing Menu

Scale Settings Custom

No. of Labels: 11 Maximum Scale Value: 100.0
No. of Lines: 6 Minimum Scale Value: 0.0
Hide Lines: X Scale Resolution: 1
Hide Score: X Slider Starting Position: 100.0

Audible Anchors (%)

REF High Low
X X X
100 100 0

Labelling

Edit Labels
Hide Labels: X
Label Font Size: 24
Label Length: 10
Label Position: 10

REF 100
Excellent
80
Good
60
Fair
40
Poor
20
Bad
0
100.

Back Continue

HULTI-GEN Clear All and Re-randomise

Go to Main Menu
Go to Editing Menu

Compare the stimuli.

Audio on/off Save Results

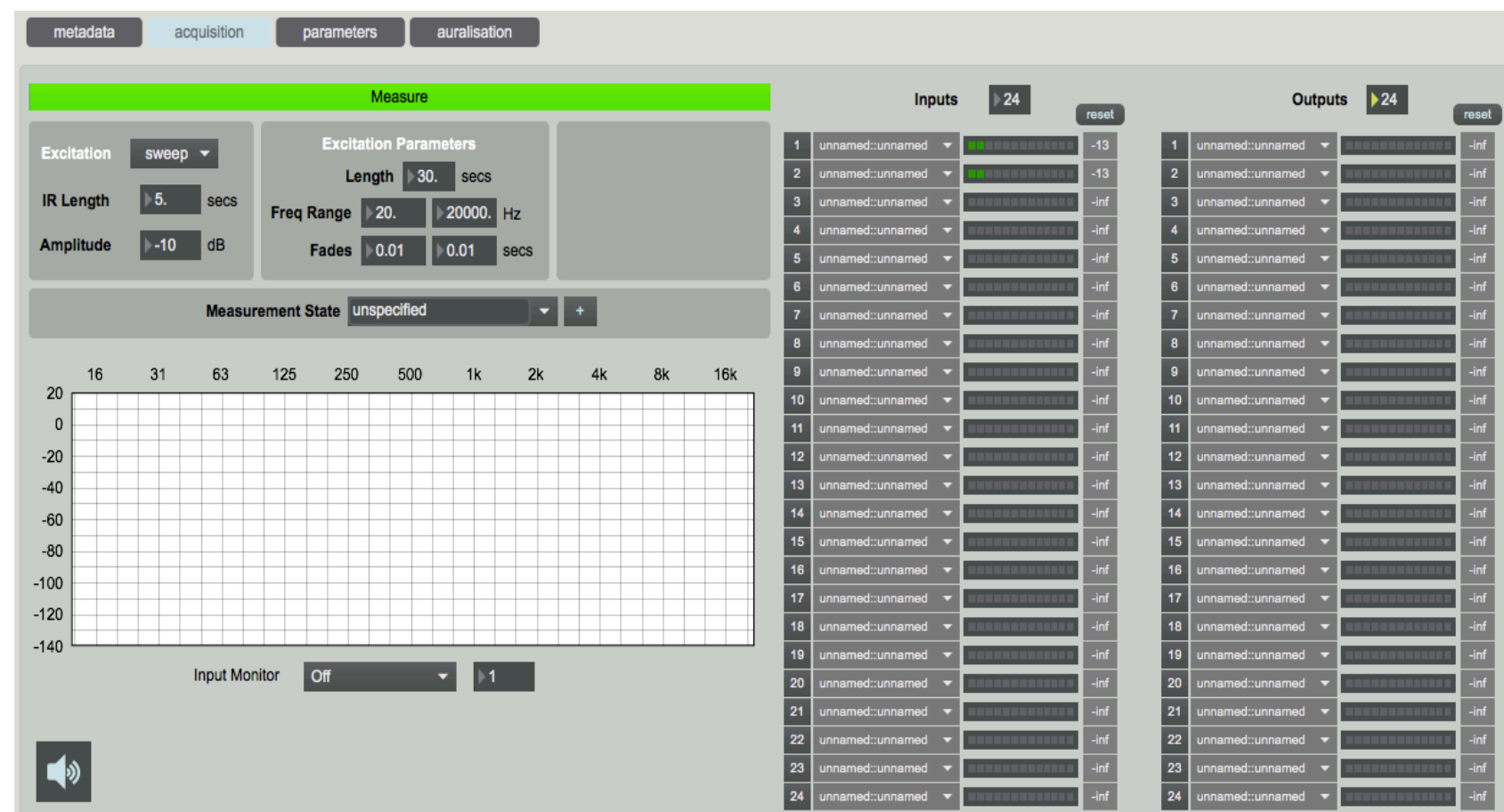
REF 100
Excellent
80
Good
60
Fair
40
Poor
20
Bad
0
100.

A B C D E F
100. 100. 100. 100. 100. 100.

Previous Trial 1 of 6 Next

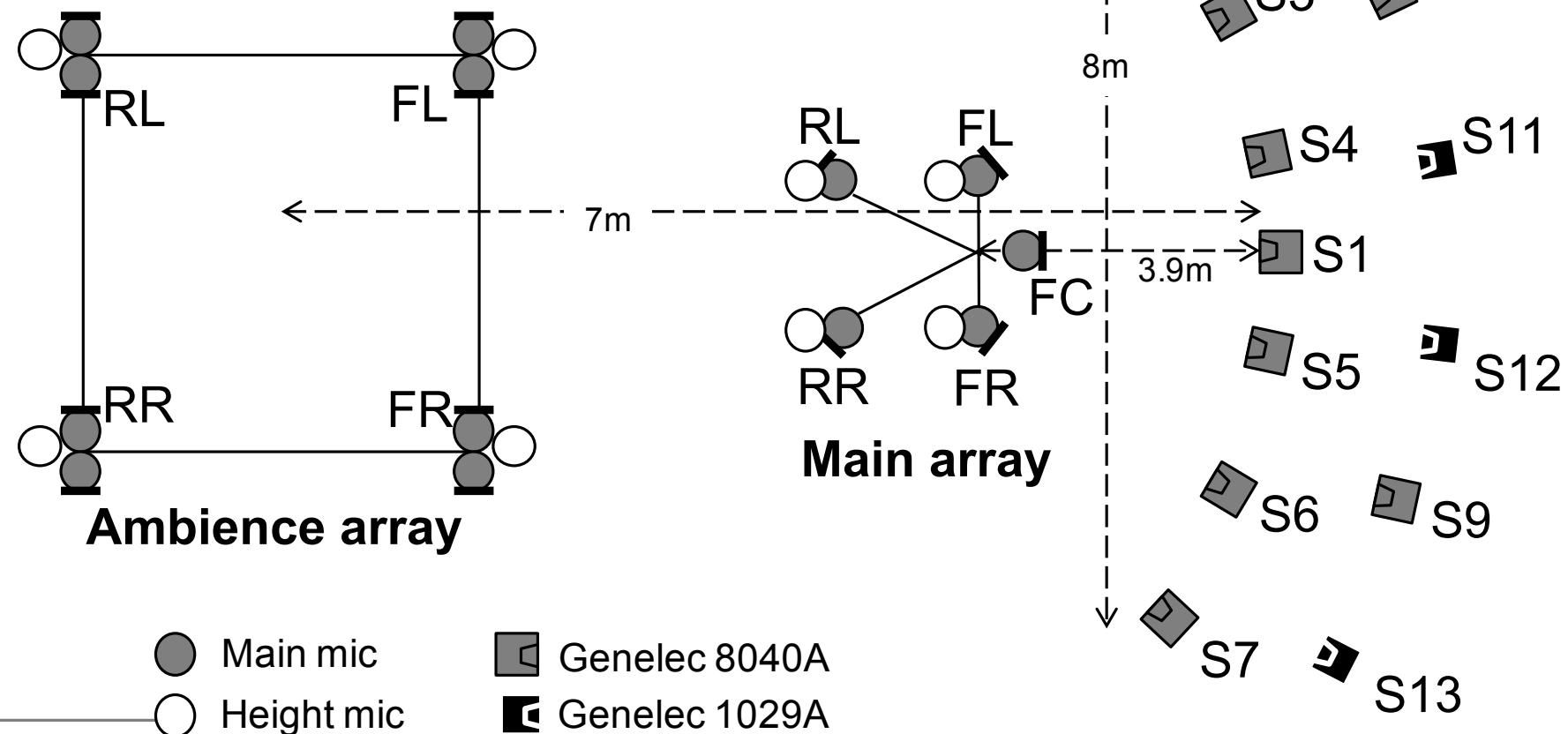
HAART (multichannel impulse response toolbox)

- Impulse response measurement with 24 mics and 24 loudspeakers on one click → Parameter analysis → Binaural auralisation.
- Download: <http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/24579/>

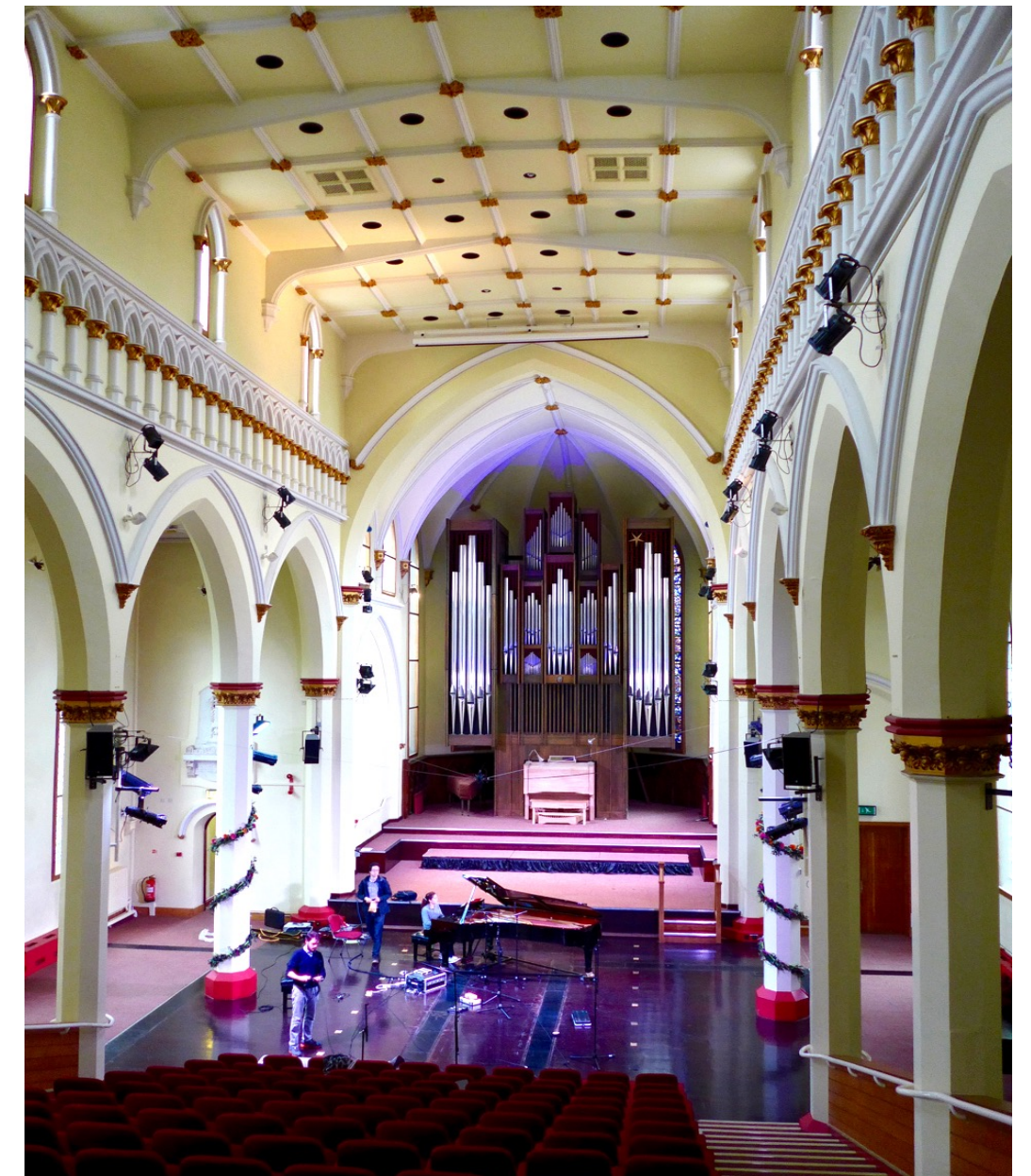


MAIR Library and Renderer

- Over 2000 Microphone Array Impulse Responses (MAIRs) captured for 13 source positions (Lee and Millns 2017). www.github.com/APL-Huddersfield
- 12 Main arrays, 9 Height configurations.
- 15 Ambience configurations.

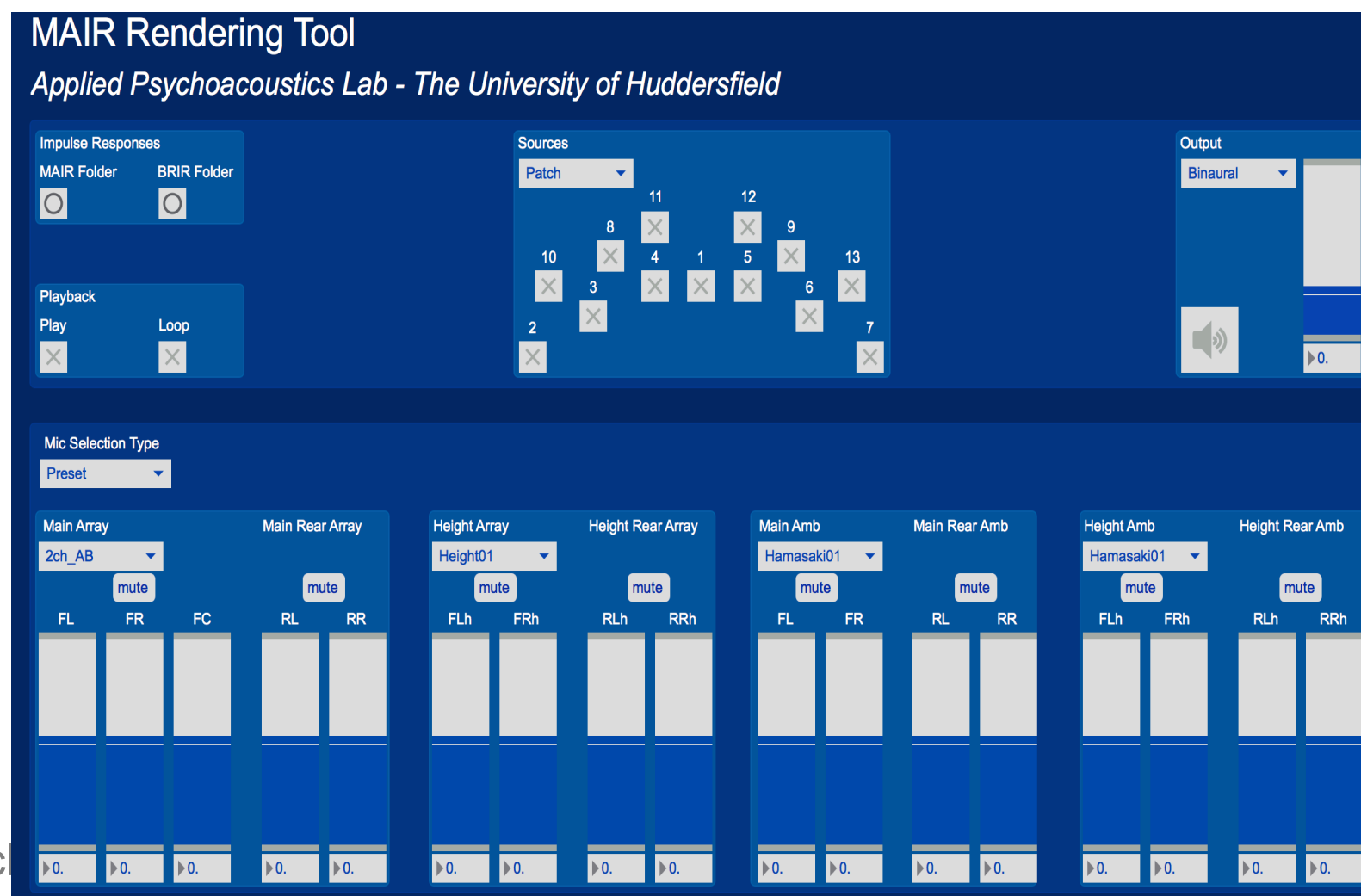


Applied Psychoacoustics Lab (APL)



MAIR Library and Renderer

- www.github.com/APL-Huddersfield
- Renderer allows mic array mixing and binaural/multichannel output.
- Takes outputs from a DAW session, or browse individual files.



- Virtual mic array comparison
- Binaural & 9ch 3D playback

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- Gribben, C. and Lee, H. (2017) '[The Perceptual Effect of Vertical Interchannel Decorrelation on Vertical Image Spread at Different Azimuth Positions](#)'. In: *AES 142nd International Conference, 20th-23rd May 2017, Berlin, DE*
- Wallis, R. and Lee, H. (2017) '[The Reduction of Vertical Interchannel Crosstalk: The Analysis of Localisation Thresholds for Natural Sound Sources](#)' *Applied Sciences* , 7 (3). ISSN 2076-3417
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- Mironovs, M. and Lee, H. (2017) '[The Influence of Source Spectrum and Loudspeaker Azimuth on Vertical Amplitude Panning](#)'. In: *AES 142nd International Conference, 20th-23rd May 2017, Berlin, DE*

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