

# **From Theory to Practice:**

## **Advanced calculation methods applied in outdoor sound propagation software product**

**Olive Tree Lab-Terrain**

13<sup>th</sup> March 2014

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P.E. Mediterranean Acoustics Research & Development

CYPRUS

# PART 1

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## INTRODUCTION

- The characteristic of our époque is lack of time. It seems that today, time must have acquired its highest price ever.



- It's only natural that acoustical software ought to offer fast calculations.



- Even though efficiency is a function of time, fast calculations do not preclude high efficiency.
- Rather fast and accurate calculations determine high efficiency.

## PRACTICE

- So far, we were using simplified and empirical methods to apply engineering solutions.
- This does not need to be the case anymore.

## THEORY

- The advent of technology and computers allows us to implement
- complicated mathematics
- in a user friendly environment
- which allows engineers to perform their tasks
  - accurately and
  - efficiently.

## PART 2

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# BASIC EQUATIONS USED IN PRACTICE VS ADVANCED METHODS

# Basic Equations & Approach in Practice

$$L_p = L_w - A_E$$

$L_p$  = SPL at receiver

$L_w$  = Source power

$A_E$  = Excess Attenuation

**$A_E$  = Distance Atten. +**

**Air Abs. +**

**Ground Refl. +**

**Barriers +**

**Meteo. +**

**Miscellaneous**

# Basic Equations & Approach

- The above approach is more or less correct and clearly distinguishes the various phenomena which take place between source and receiver
- However, if we have a closer look at the various components of the equation of  $A_E$ , and compare them to what theory dictates we'll discover discrepancies.
- Due to limited time and since all of us are well acquainted with **Sound Reflection at a receiver**, we will examine it a bit in detail.



## SOUND REFLECTION AT A RECEIVER

### PRACTICE

Standard methodologies use

- **Plane** wave propagation and
- usually **sound energy** summation

$$p_{\text{receiver}}^2 = p_{\text{direct}}^2 + p_{\text{refl}}^2$$

In addition, based on:

- sound absorption coefficient  
**or at best**
- surface impedance

### THEORY

Advanced methodologies use

- **Spherical** wave propagation
- **Surface impedance** and
- Sound **pressure addition**

$$p_{\text{receiver}} = p_{\text{direct}} + p_{\text{refl}}$$

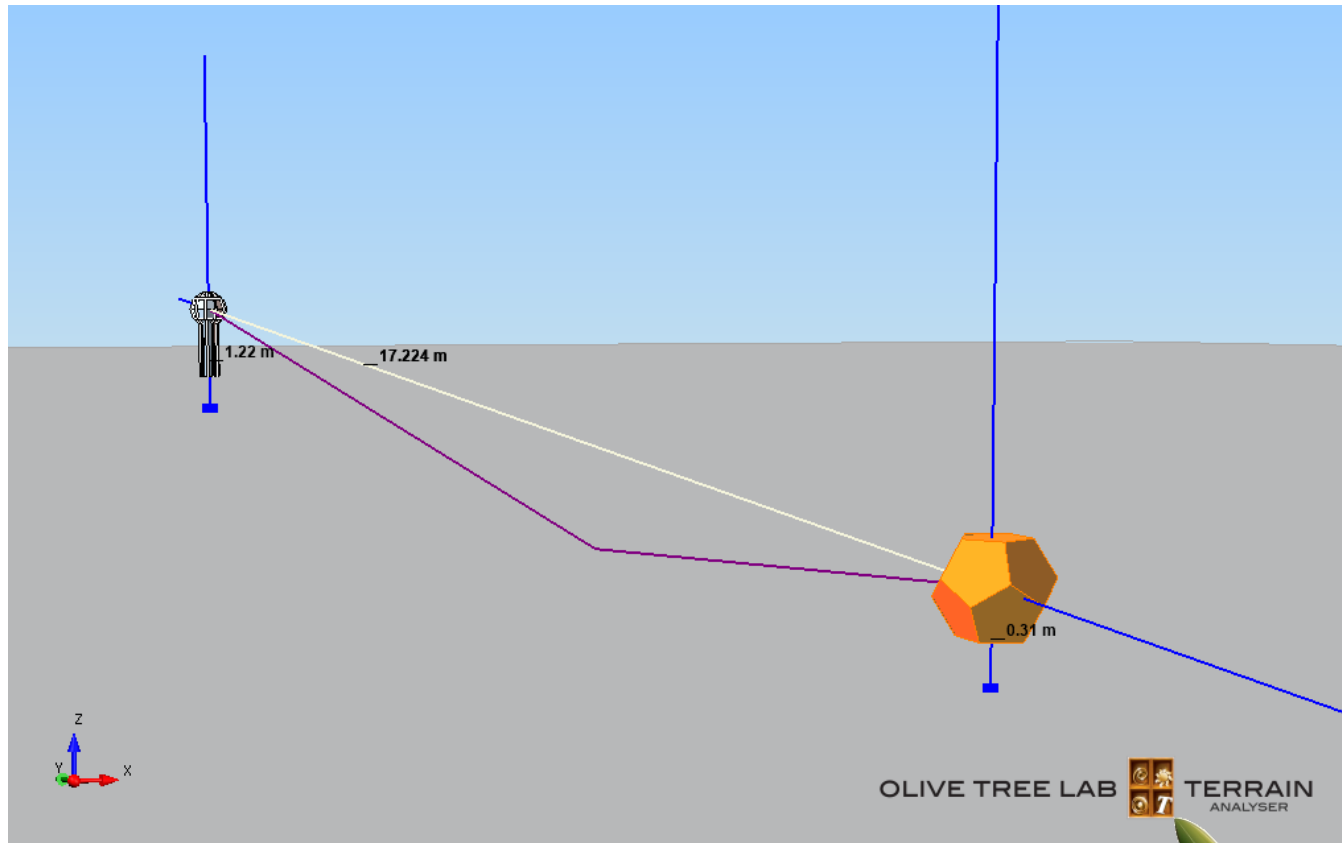
They predict

- Plane wave Reflection
- Ground wave propagation and
- Surface wave propagation



- We all know that there is “no free lunch”, therefore,
- What are the consequences of applying approximate equations?

## REFLECTION - SOURCE – RECEIVER CLOSE TO A SURFACE OF FINITE IMPEDANCE

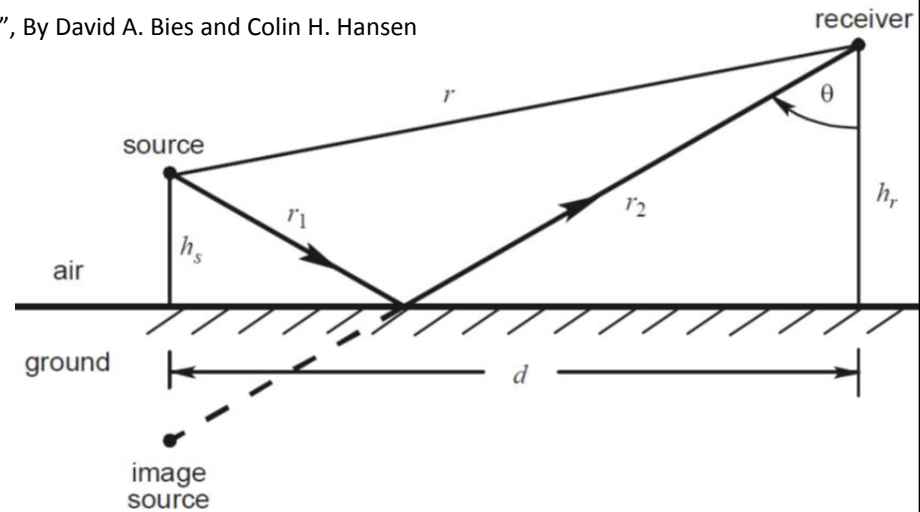


$$\rho = 1 - \alpha$$

$\alpha$  = statistical abs. coeff.

Not angle dependent

## SIMPLE & MANAGABLE



## STATISTICAL REFLECTION COEFFICIENT

- It is a function of absorption coefficient
- It is an energy based coefficient ( $p^2$ )
- **It does not provide** Interference effects due path differences
- **It does not provide** Interference effects due the material properties of the reflecting surface.

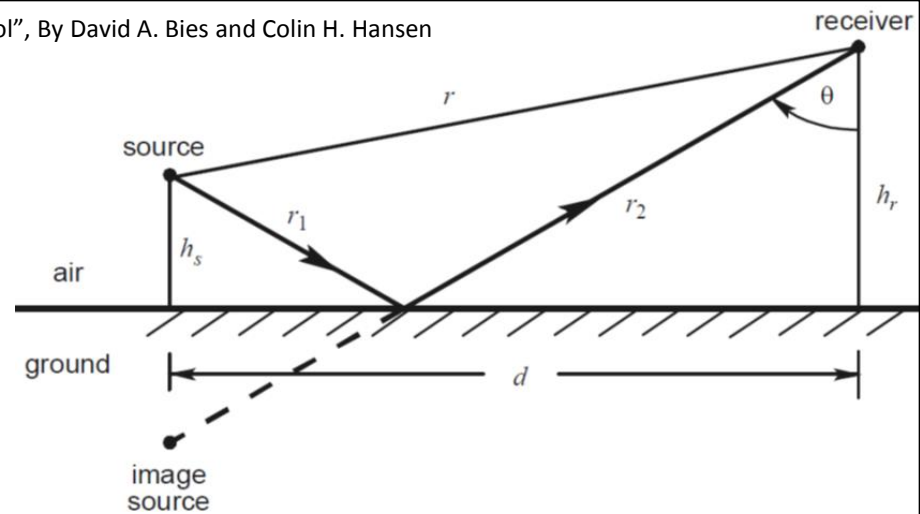
$$R_p = \frac{Z_m \cos \theta - \rho c}{Z_m \cos \theta + \rho c}$$

$Z_m$ =surface impedance

$\rho c$ = characteristic impedance

Angle dependent

**SIMPLE & MANAGABLE**



## PLANE WAVE REFLECTION COEFFICIENT

- Function of surface impedance and angle of incidence.
- When pressures are added (not energy), they provide, interference effects due path differences.
- Interference ignores the additional effect of phase change due to the properties of the reflecting material
- **This can only be handled by the spherical wave reflection coefficient.**

$$R_s = R_p + BG(w)(1 - R_p) \quad (5.146)$$

In Equation (5.146),  $R_p$  is the plane wave complex amplitude reflection coefficient given by either Equation (5.142) or (5.144) as appropriate. For the general case that the reflecting interface is extensively reactive,  $B$  is defined as follows:

$$B = \frac{B_1 B_2}{B_3 B_4 B_5} \quad (5.147)$$

where

$$B_1 = \left[ \cos \theta + \frac{\rho c}{Z_m} \left( 1 - \frac{k^2}{k_m^2} \sin^2 \theta \right)^{1/2} \right] \left[ 1 - \frac{k^2}{k_m^2} \right]^{1/2} \quad (5.148)$$

$$B_2 = \left[ \left( 1 - \frac{1}{\rho_m^2} \right)^{1/2} + \frac{\rho c}{Z_m} \left( 1 - \frac{k^2}{k_m^2} \right)^{1/2} \cos \theta + \left( 1 - \left( \frac{\rho c}{Z_m} \right)^2 \sin^2 \theta \right)^{1/2} \right] \quad (5.149)$$

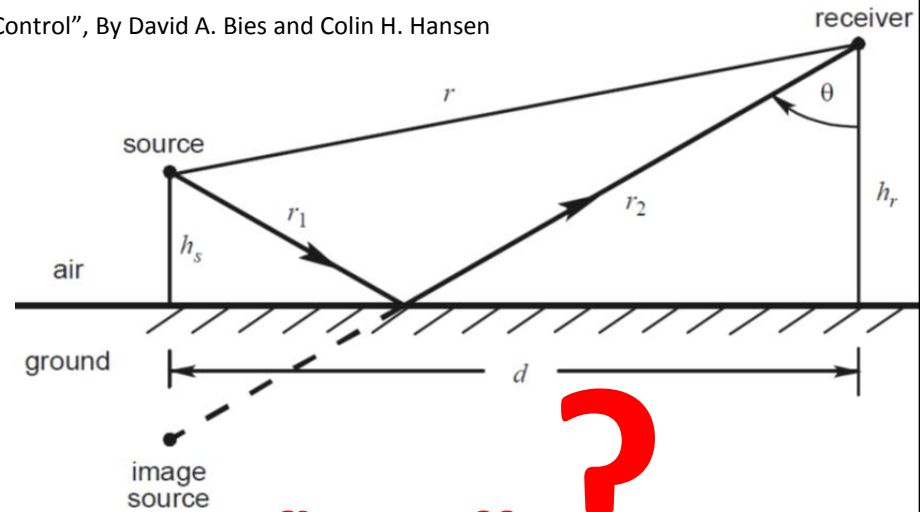
$$B_3 = \cos \theta + \frac{\rho c}{Z_m} \left( 1 - \frac{k^2}{k_m^2} \right)^{1/2} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{\rho_m^2} \right]^{-1/2} \quad (5.150)$$

$$B_4 = \left[ 1 - \frac{k^2}{k_m^2} \sin^2 \theta \right]^{1/2} \quad (5.151)$$

$$B_5 = \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{\rho_m^2} \right]^{3/2} \left[ 2 \sin^2 \theta \right]^{1/2} \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{\rho c}{Z_m} \right)^2 \right]^{1/2} \quad (5.152)$$

The argument,  $w$ , of  $G(w)$  in Equation (5.146), is referred to as the numerical distance and is calculated using the following equation, where  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  are defined in Figure 5.14:

$$w = \frac{1}{2} (1 - j) [2k_1(r_1 + r_2)]^{1/2} \frac{B_3}{B_5^{1/2}} \quad (5.153)$$



**All this for Spherical Wave Refl. Coeff. ?**

$$Q = R_p + (1 - R_p)F(w)$$

the so called Weyl-Van der Pol formula

**(1-R<sub>p</sub>)F(w) = Ground Wave component, named so, from Electromagnetism**

The term  $G(w)$  in Equation (5.146) is defined as follows:

$$G(w) = 1 - j\sqrt{\pi}wg(w) \quad (5.155)$$

where

$$g(w) = e^{-w^2} \operatorname{erfc}(jw) \quad (5.156)$$

and "erfc()" is the error function (Abramowitz and Stegun, 1965).

For small  $w$  ( $|w| < 3$ ):

$$g(w) = e^{-w^2} - \frac{2jw}{\pi^{1/2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-2w^2)^n}{1 \times 3 \times \dots \times (2n+1)} \quad (5.157)$$

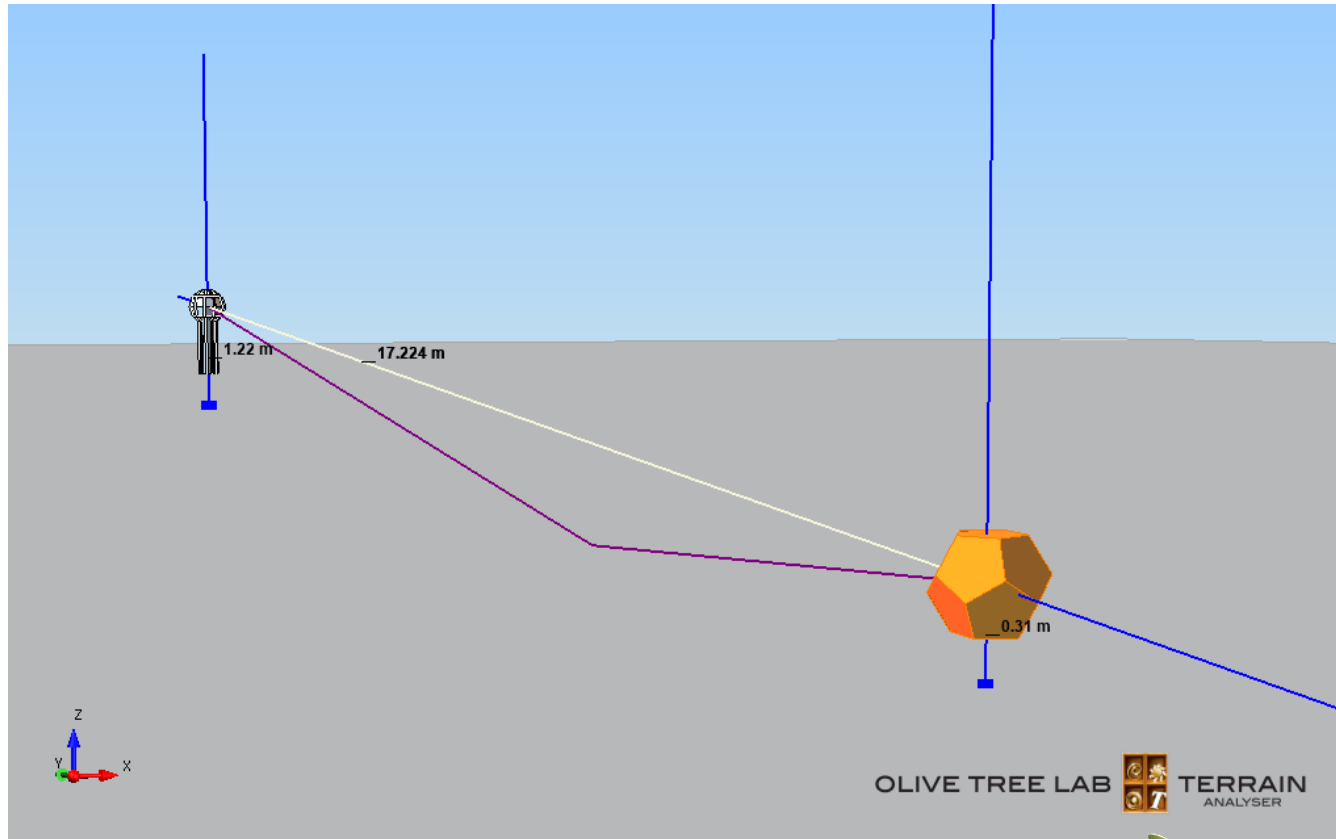
For values of  $w$  where the real part is greater than 3 or the imaginary part is greater than 2 and either is less than 6:

$$g(w) = -jw \left[ \frac{0.4613135}{w^2 - 0.1901635} + \frac{0.09999216}{w^2 - 1.7844927} + \frac{0.002883894}{w^2 - 5.5253437} \right] \quad (5.158)$$

For real or imaginary parts of  $w$  greater than 6:

$$g(w) = -jw \left[ \frac{0.5124242}{w^2 - 0.275255} + \frac{0.05176536}{w^2 - 2.724745} \right] \quad (5.159)$$

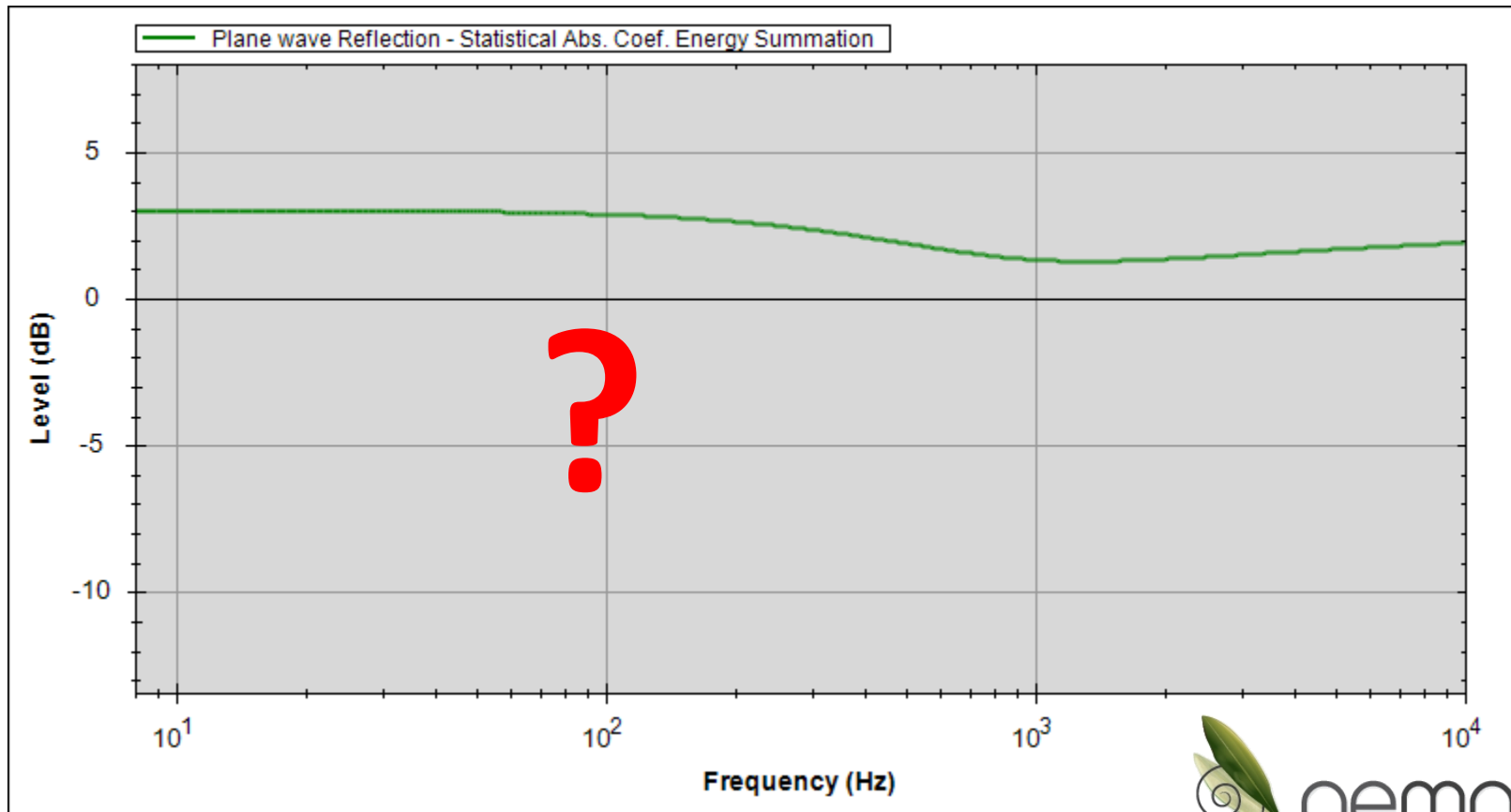
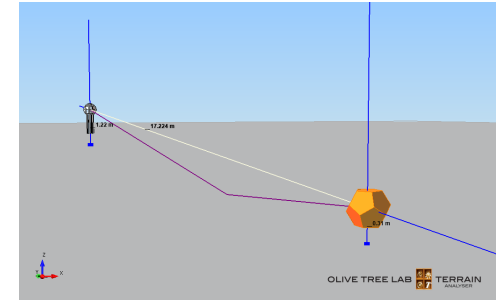
**REFLECTION -  
SOURCE – RECEIVER CLOSE TO A SURFACE  
OF FINITE IMPEDANCE (flow resistivity of 200 kPa s m<sup>-2</sup>)**



# STATISTICAL REFLECTION COEFFICIENT

Using equivalent abs. coeff.

$$\rho = 1 - \alpha$$

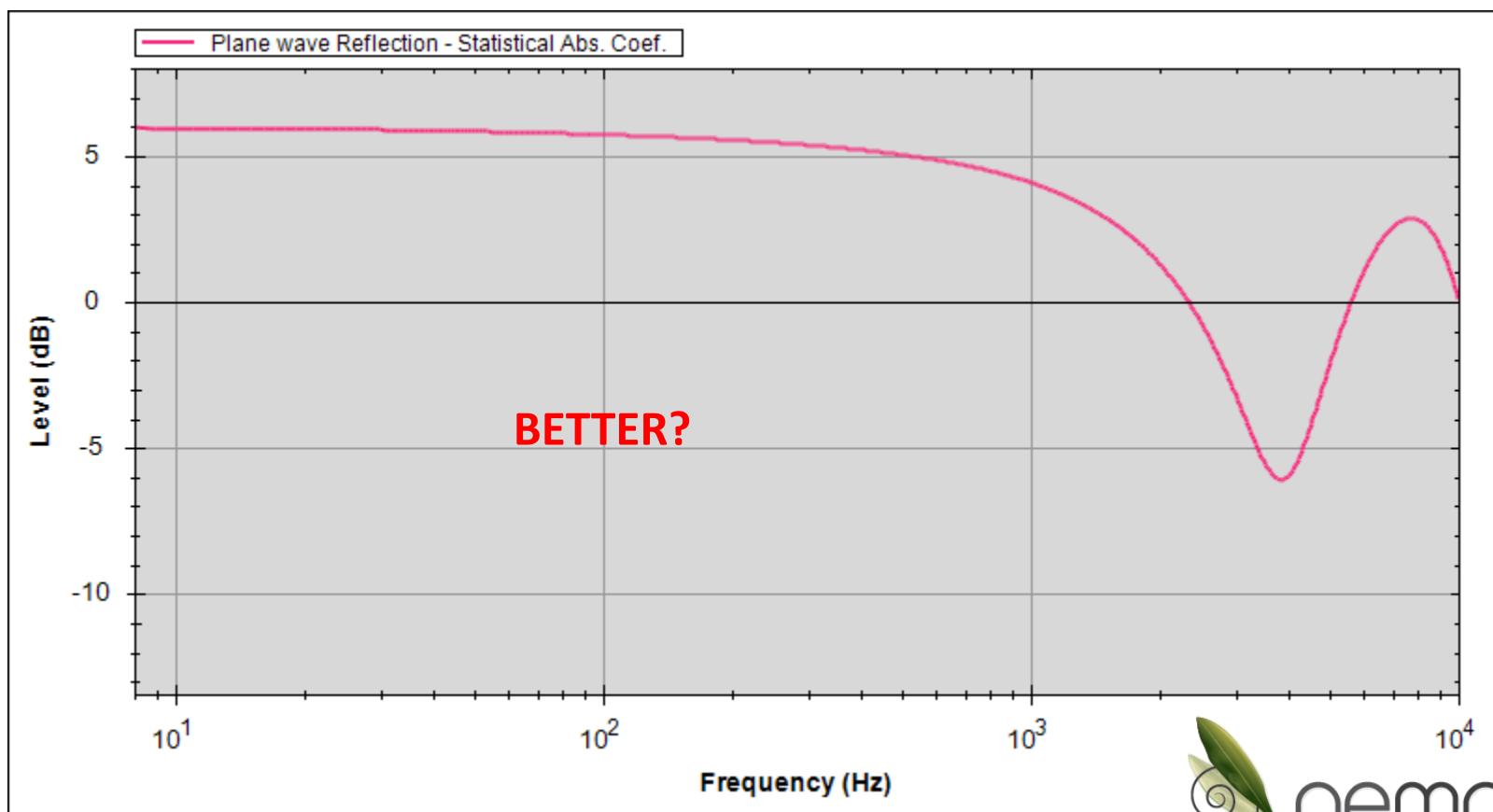
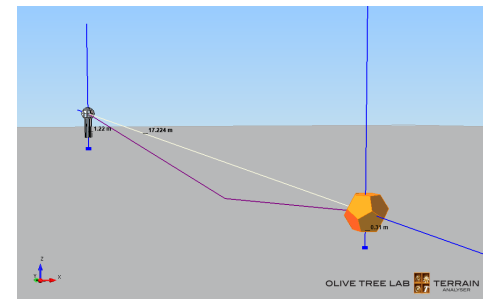




# PLANE WAVE REFLECTION COEFFICIENT

Using equivalent abs. coeff.

$$R_p = \frac{Z_m \cos \theta - \rho c}{Z_m \cos \theta + \rho c}$$



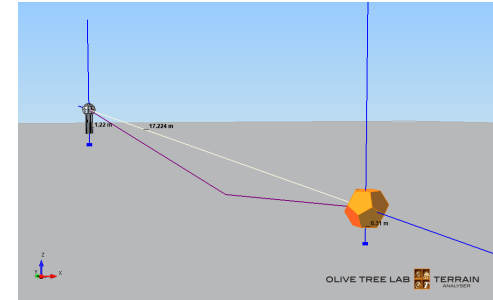
# SPHERICAL WAVE REFLECTION COEFFICIENT

Credit, "Engineering Noise Control", By David A. Bies and Colin H. Hansen

$$R_s = R_p + BG(w)(1 - R_p) \quad (5.146)$$

In Equation (5.146),  $R_p$  is the plane wave complex amplitude reflection coefficient given by either Equation (5.142) or (5.144) as appropriate. For the general case that the reflecting interface is extensively reactive,  $B$  is defined as follows:

$$B = \frac{B_1 B_2}{B_3 B_4} \quad (5.147)$$



where

$B_1 =$

5

$B_2 =$

0

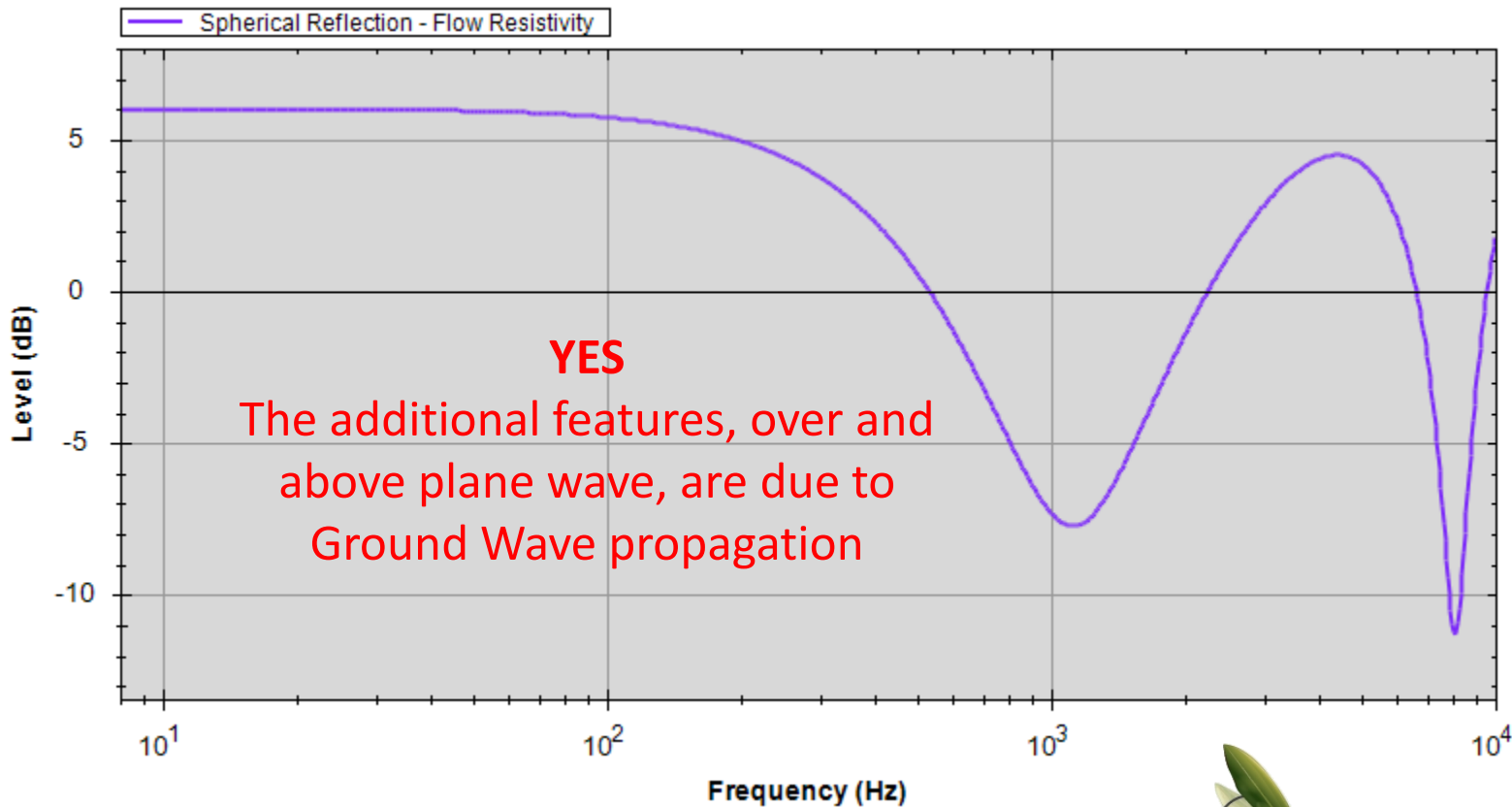
$B_3 =$

-5

$B_4 =$

-10

$B_5 =$



(5.154)

(5.155)

(5.156)

(5.157)

is greater

(5.158)

(5.159)

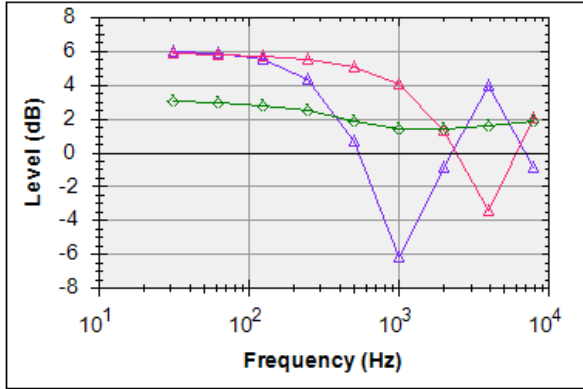
The argument is calculated using the following equation, where  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  are defined in Figure 5.14:

# ALL TOGETHER FOR COMPARISON

Export Octave Curves (CSV)

Export Octave Curves (Clipboard)

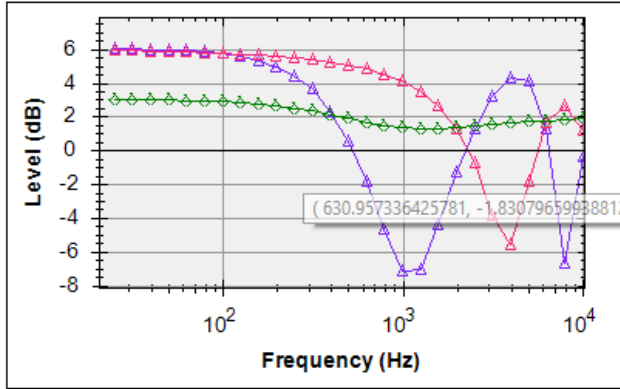
Octave Graph   Octave Table



Export Third Octave Curves (CSV)

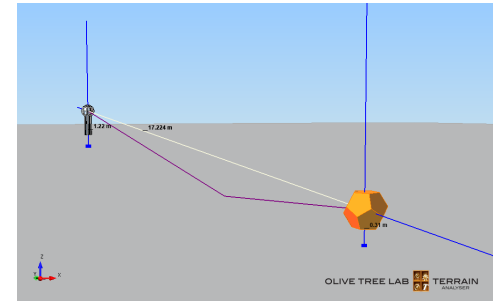
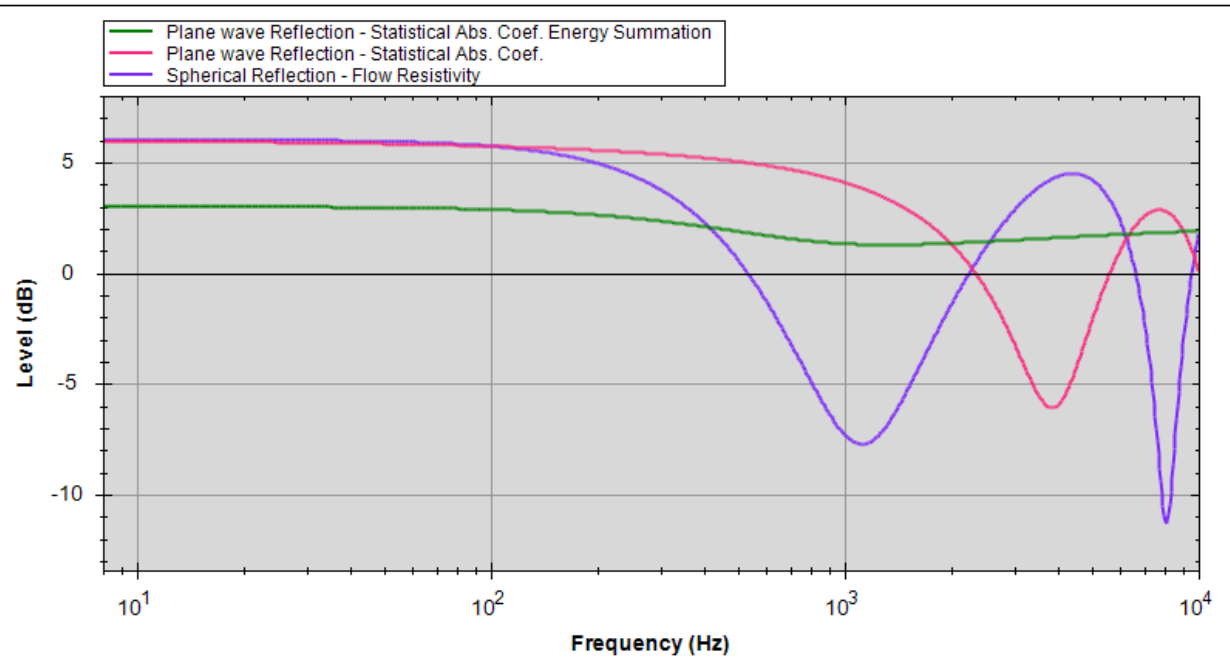
Export Third Octave Curves (Clipboard)

1/3 Octave Graph   1/3 Octave Table

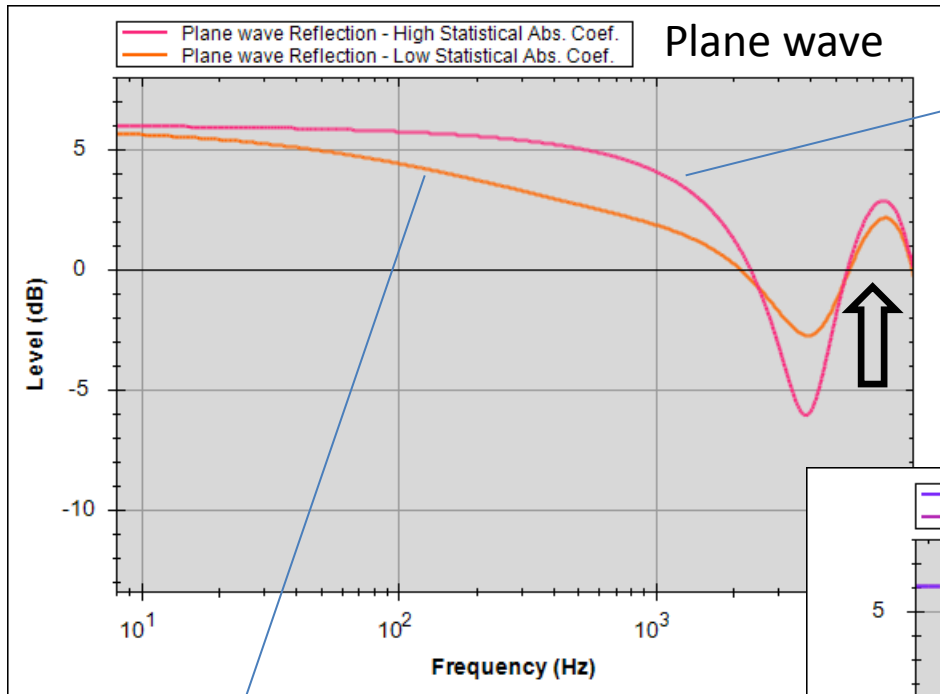


Export High Resolution Curves (CSV)

Export High Resolution Curves (Clipboard)

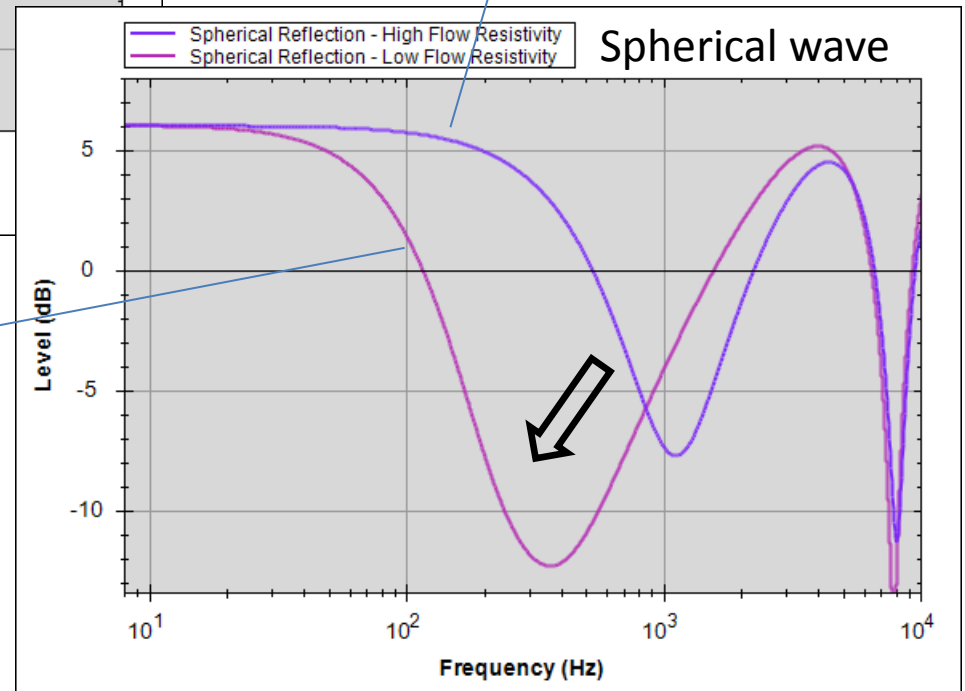


# SPHERICAL VS PLANE WAVE REFLECTION COEFFICIENT Harder to Softer material (flow resistivity from 200 to 10 kPa s m<sup>-2</sup>)



Harder material

Softer material

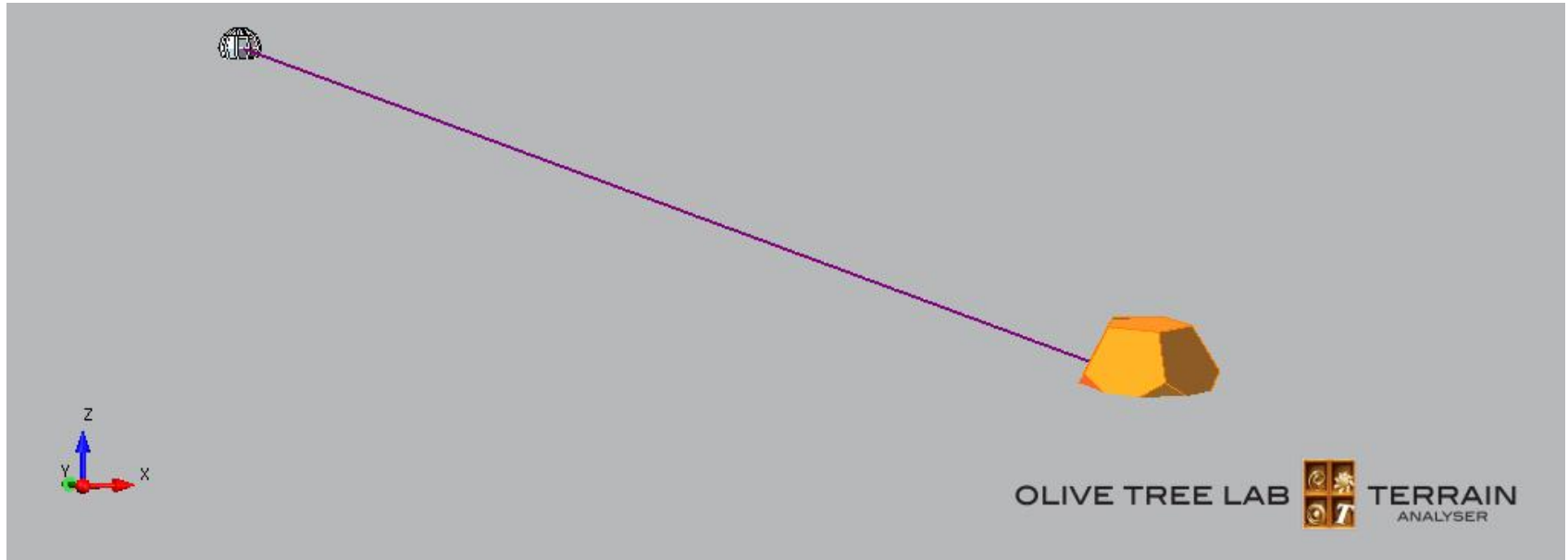


## REFLECTION – PREDICTING GROUND WAVE

SOURCE – RECEIVER ON THE SURFACE

(of finite impedance, flow resistivity of  $10 \text{ kPa s m}^{-2}$ )

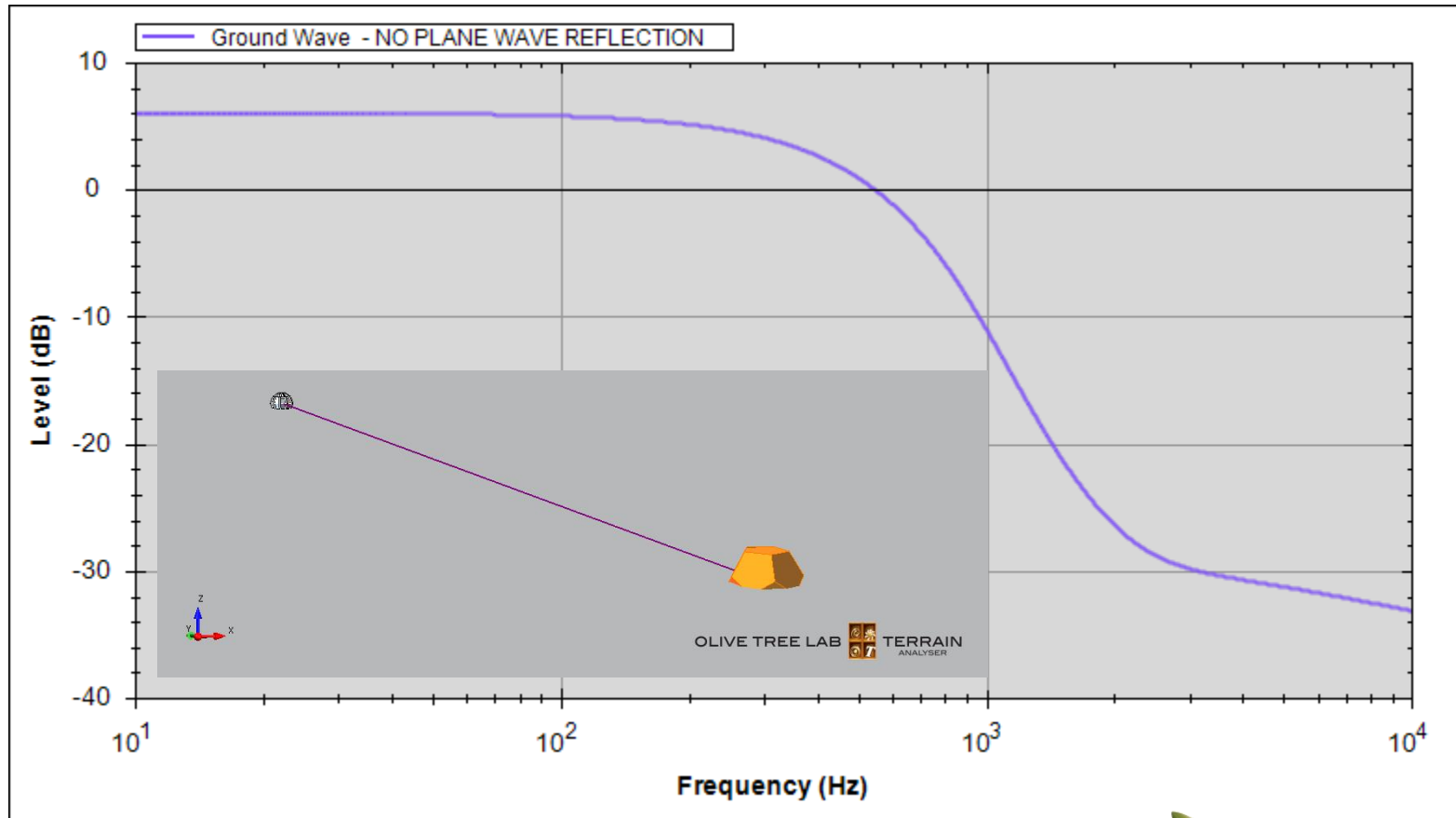
**NO PLANE WAVE REFLECTION IS POSSIBLE**



# SPHERICAL WAVE REFLECTION COEFFICIENT

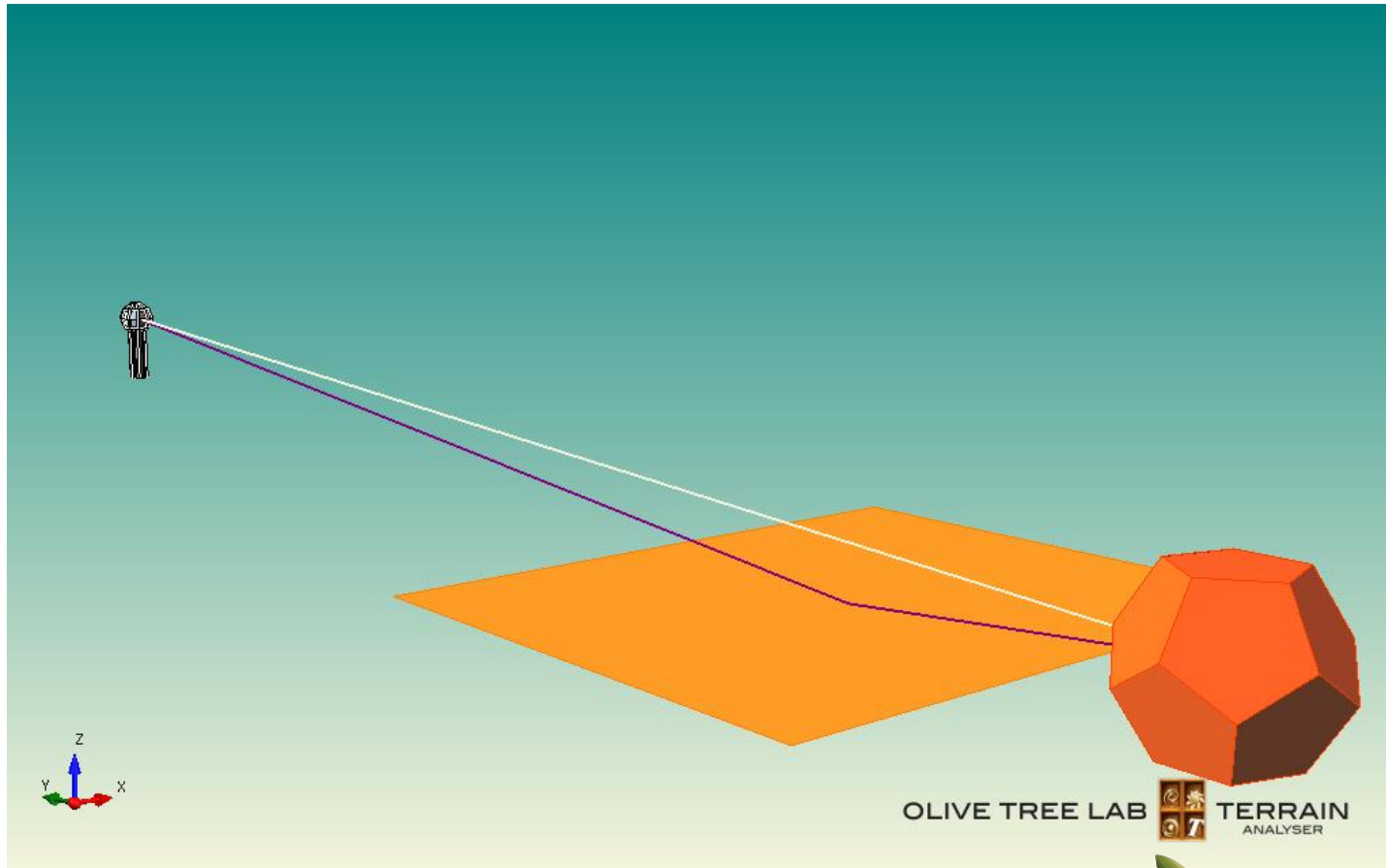
## PREDICTS **GROUND WAVE**

WHEN PLANE WAVE REFLECTION IS NOT POSSIBLE  
(finite impedance, flow resistivity of  $10 \text{ kPa s m}^{-2}$ )



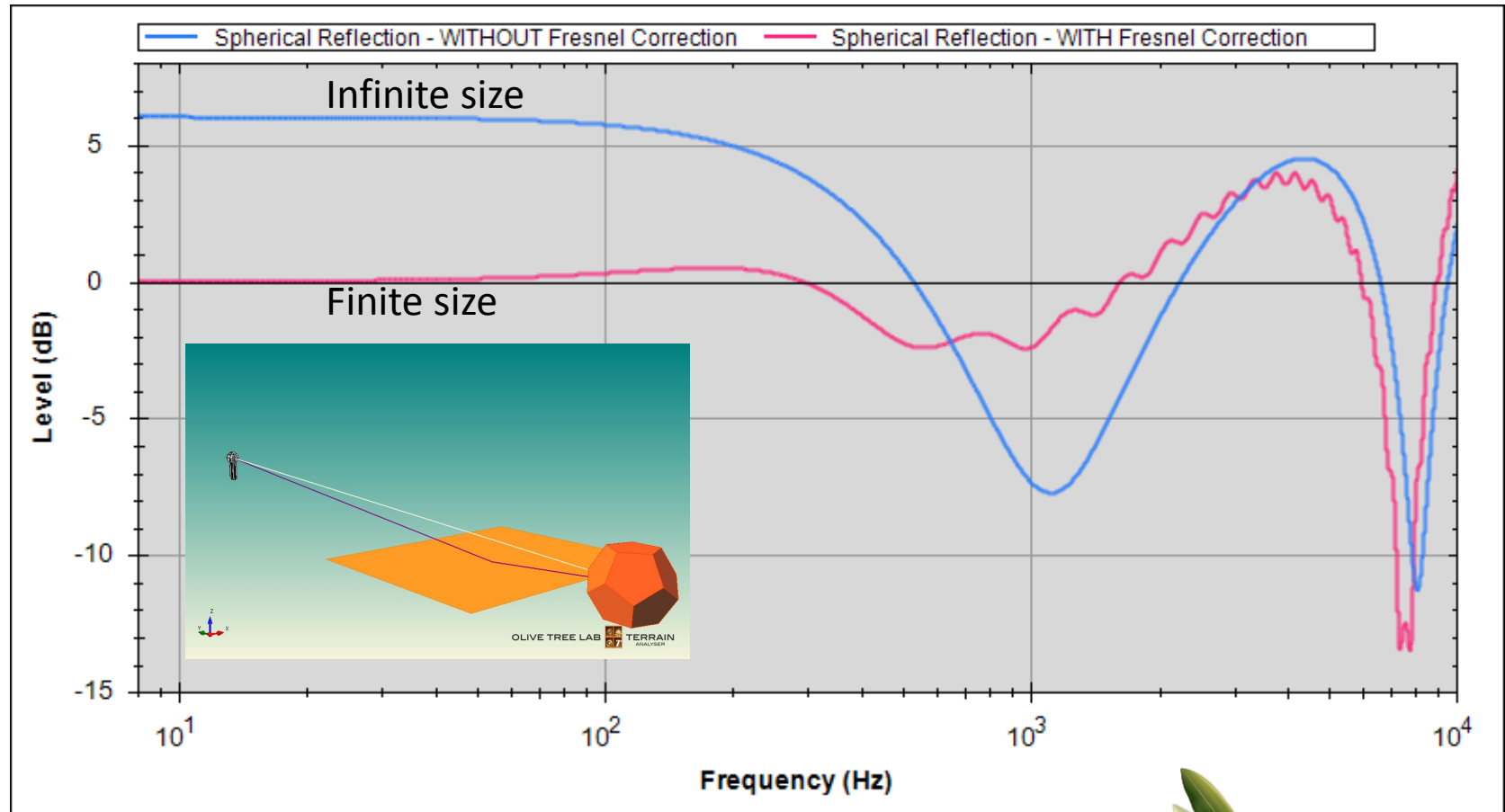
# SPHERICAL WAVE REFLECTION COEFFICIENT

CORRECTED FOR REFLECTING SURFACE SIZE  
USING FRESNEL ZONES CORRECTION



# SPHERICAL WAVE REFLECTION COEFFICIENT

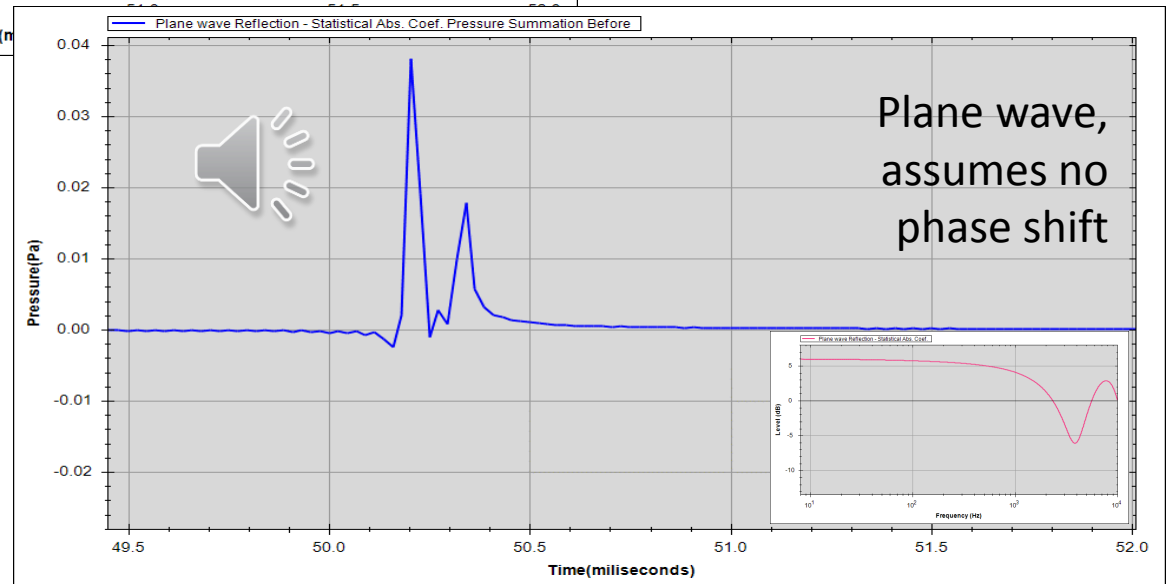
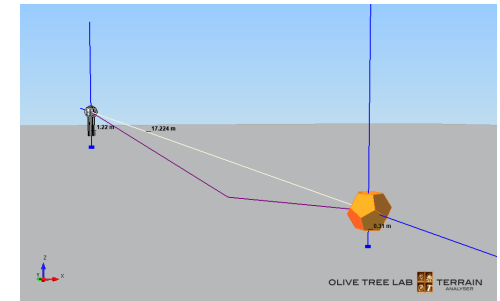
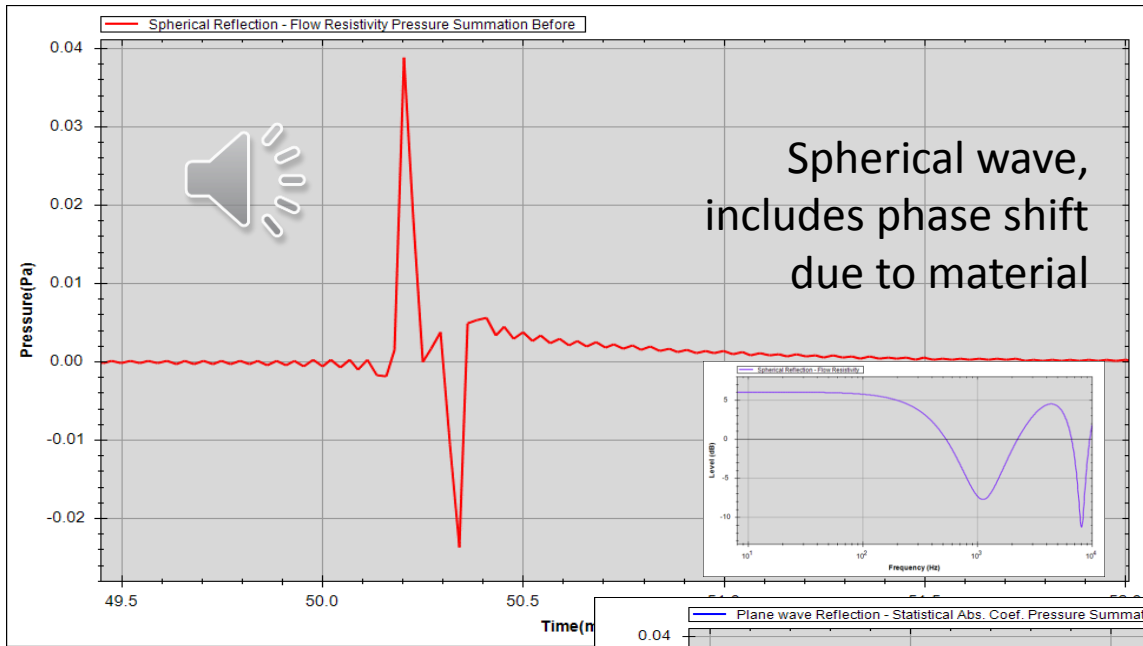
CORRECTED FOR REFLECTING SURFACE SIZE  
USING FRESNEL ZONES CORRECTION





# SPHERICAL VS PLANE WAVE REFLECTION COEFFICIENT

## IN TIME DOMAIN



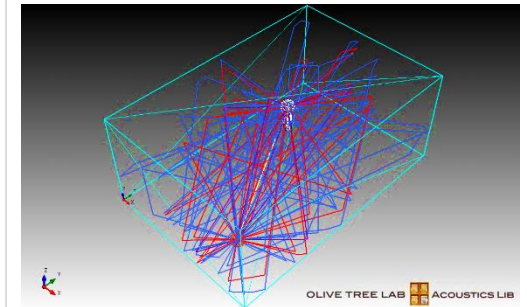
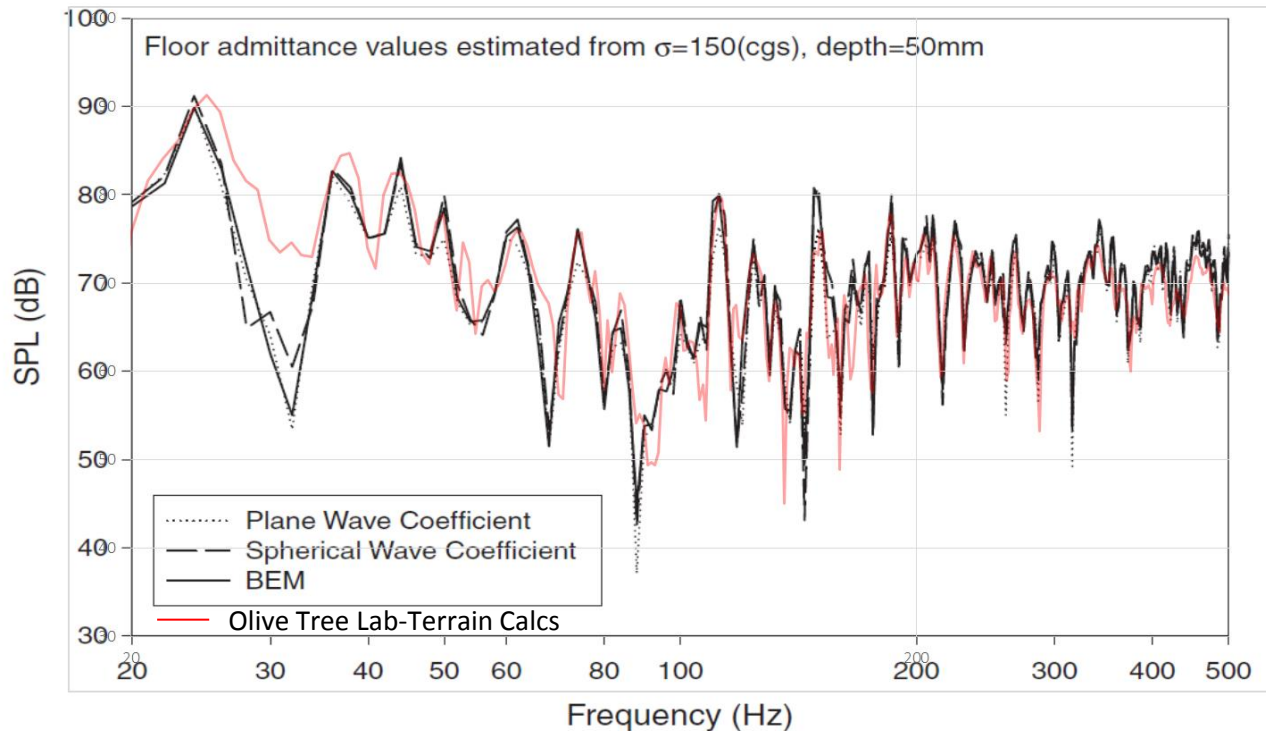
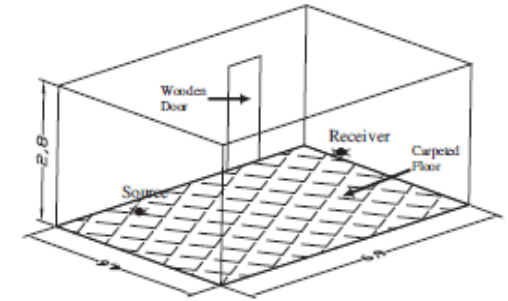
# SPHERICAL WAVE CALCULATES ROOM RESONANCES

From Lam's paper, where he proves that Spherical Reflection Coefficient matches BEM results.

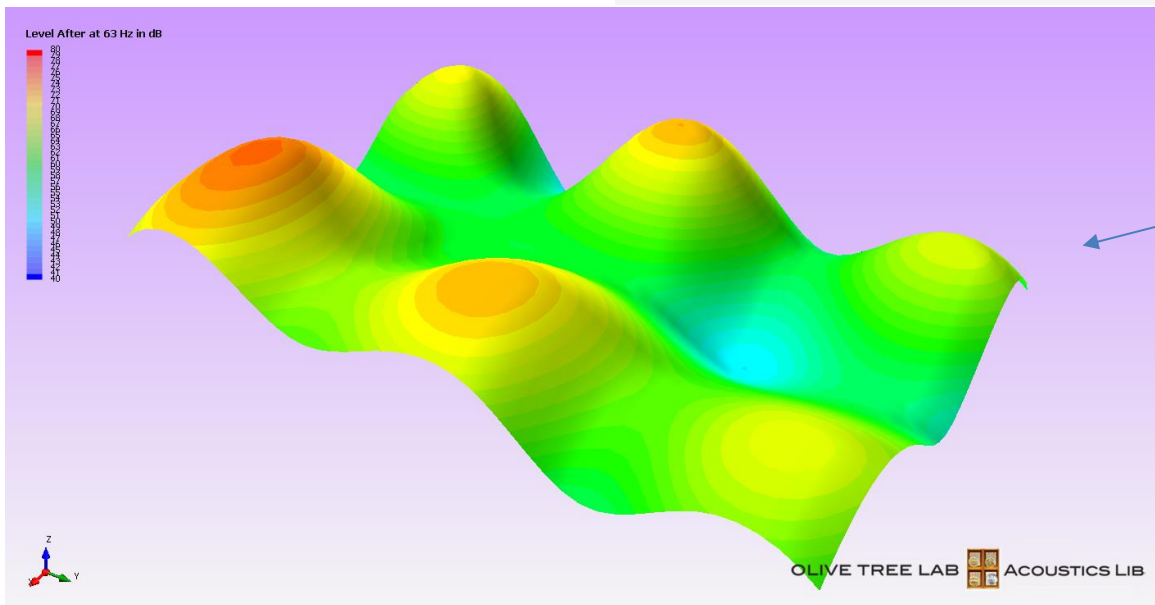
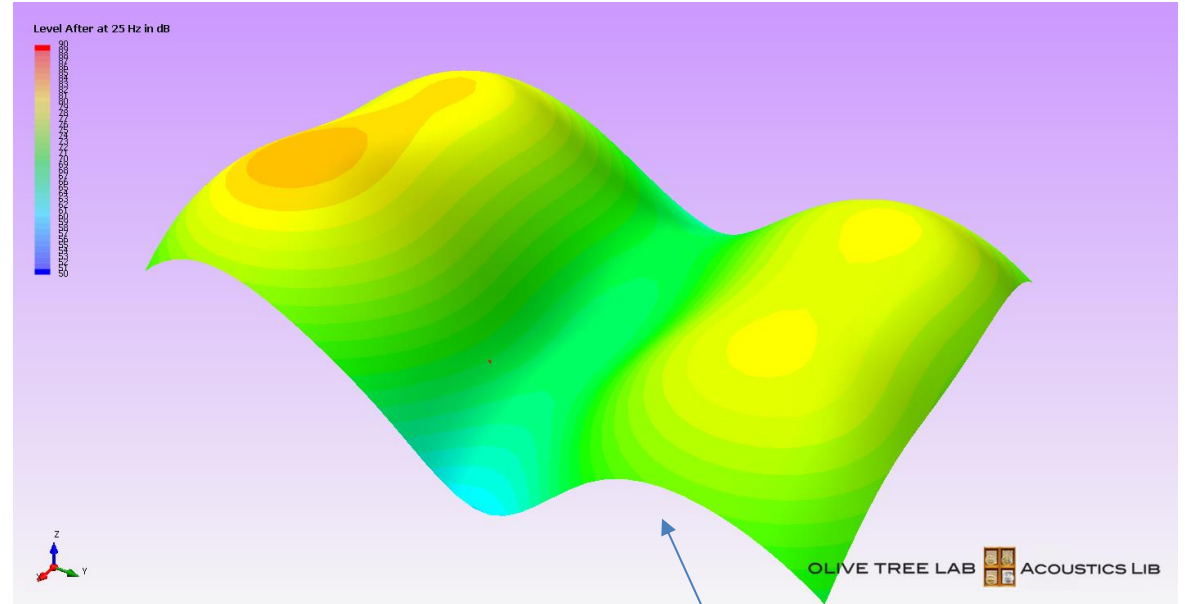
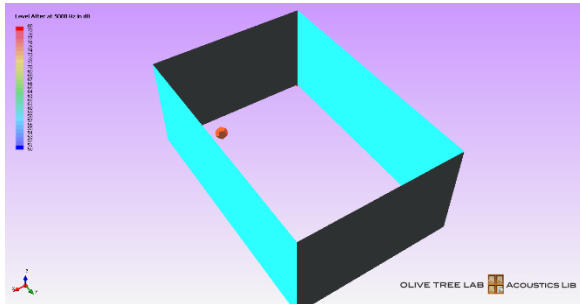
- estimated reflection orders 80,
- our results with 23 orders (calc. time 19 hrs)

Y. W. LAM: COMPUTER MODELLING OF ROOM ACOUSTICS

*Acoust. Sci. & Tech.* **26**, 2 (2005)



# SPHERICAL WAVE CALCULATES ROOM RESONANCES



Above at 25 Hz

Left at 63 Hz

## Olive Tree Lab – Terrain, based on the work of :

- Salomon's ray model using analytical solutions
- Hadden & Pierce for spherical wave diffraction coefficients
- Chessel for spherical wave reflection coefficients
- Delany & Basley for finite surface impedance
- Clay on finite size reflectors with Fresnel zones
- Keller on his geometrical theory of diffraction
- Sound path explorer – an in-house model to detect and draw diffraction and reflection sound paths in a 3D environment
- Harmonoise for atmospheric turbulence

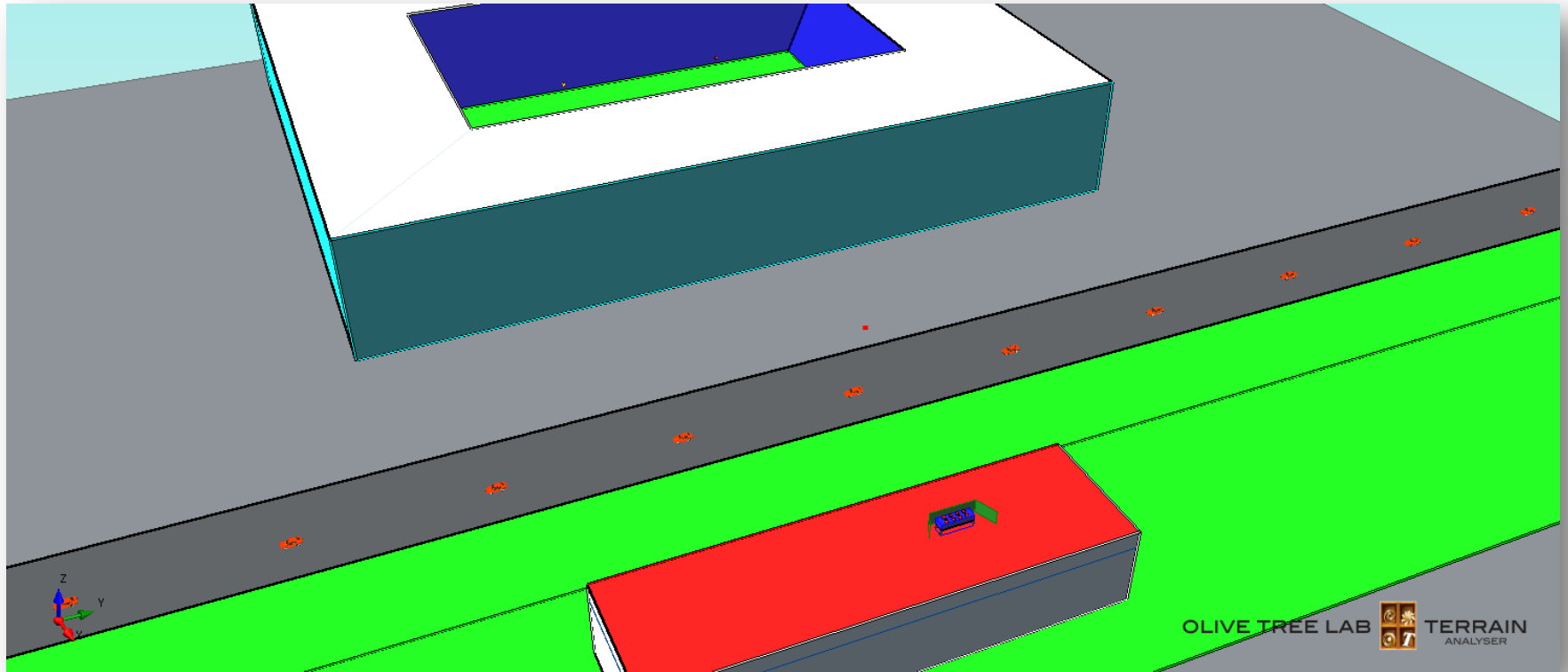
## PART 3

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# FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE AN EXAMPLE:

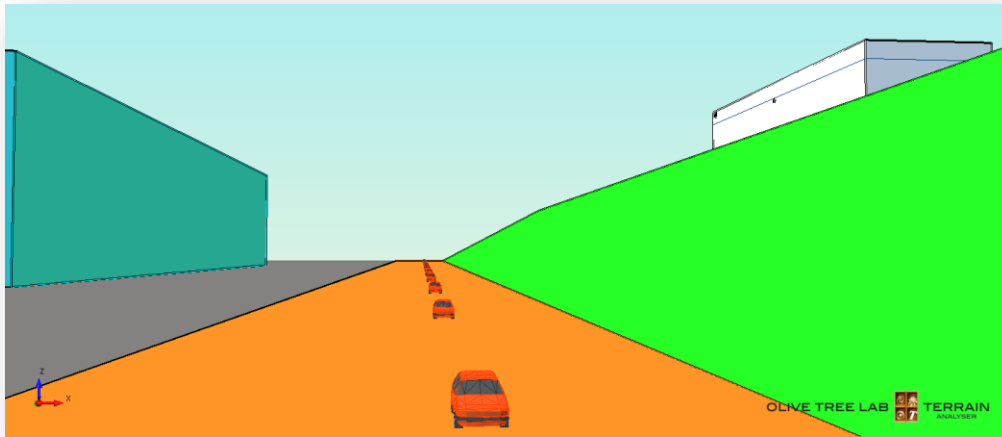
A block of flats is affected by stadium concerts and a chiller.  
The background noise level is determined by road traffic  
between the flats and the stadium

## EXAMPLE: A block of flats affected by stadium concerts and a chiller

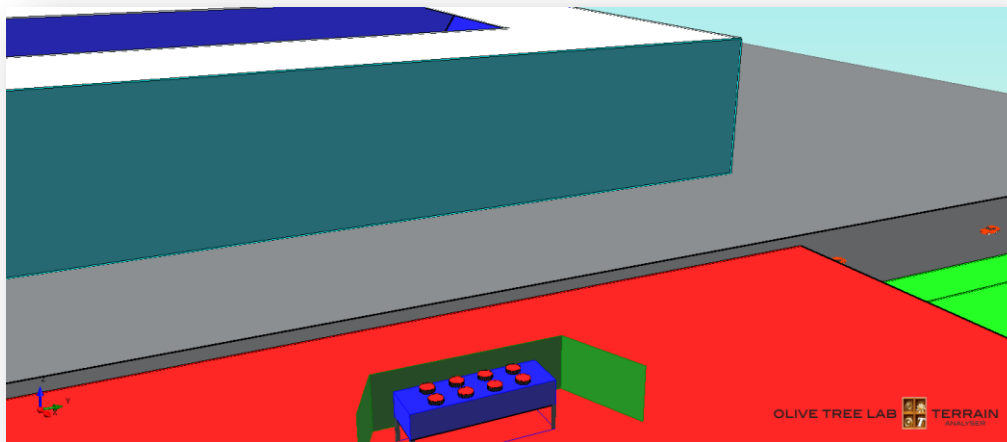


- A stadium across a block of flats and in between a main road.
- There is a chiller on the roof
- Speakers in the stadium (coherent sources)

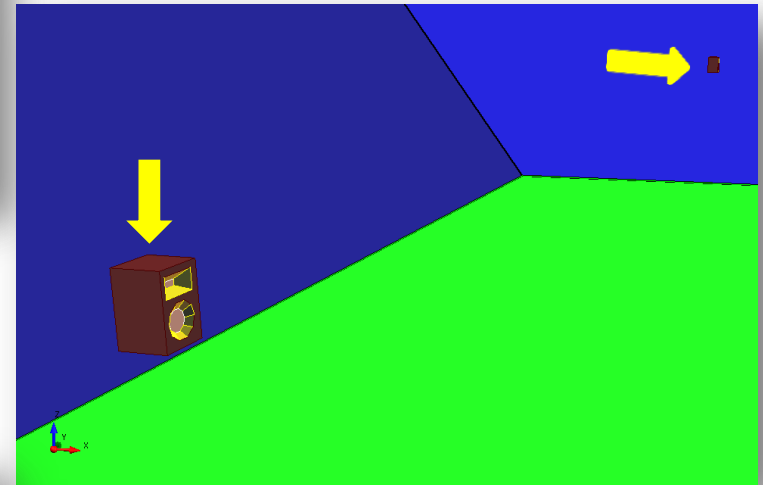
# EXAMPLE: A block of flats affected by stadium concerts and a chiller



A stadium across a block of flats and in between a main road.

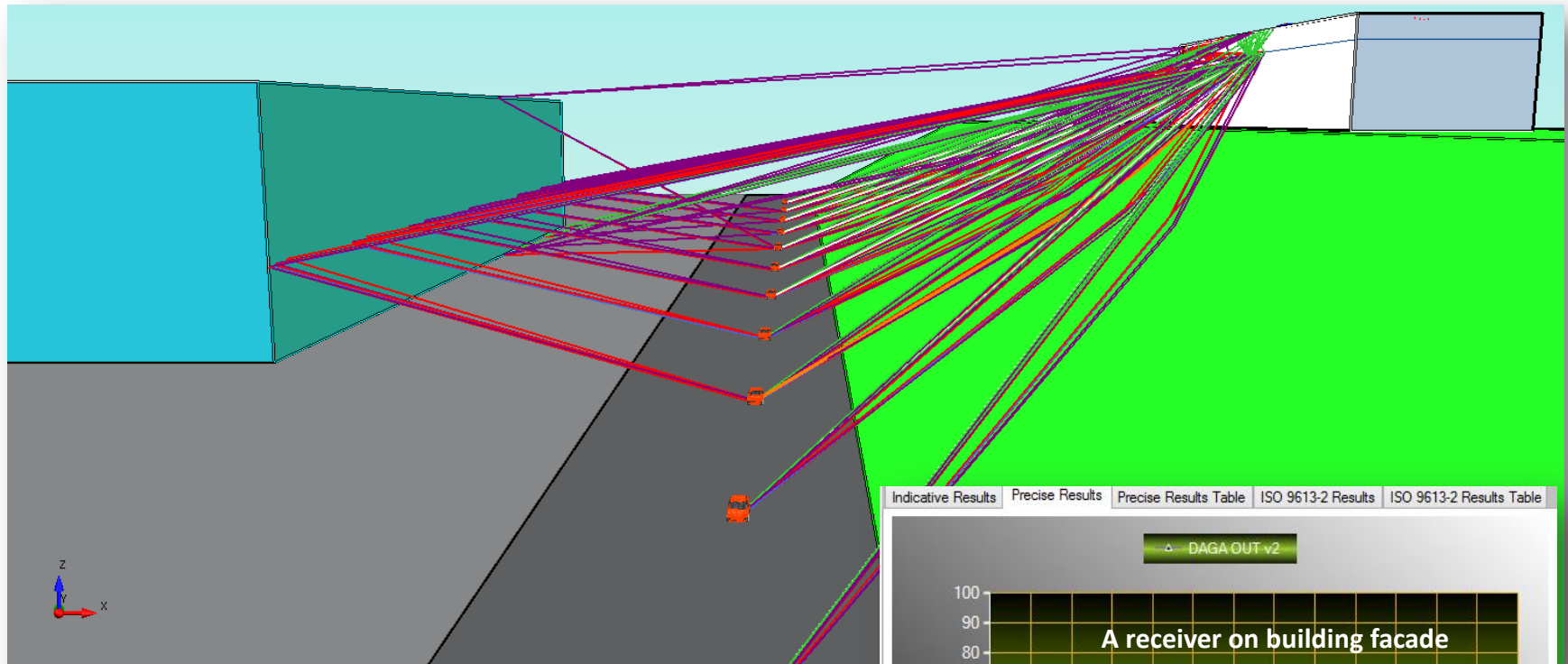


A chiller on the roof

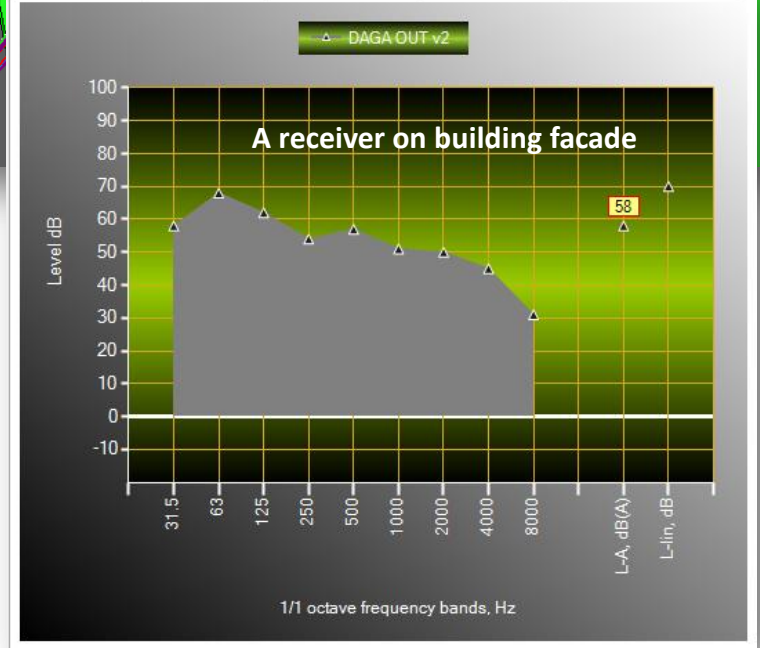


Speakers in the stadium  
(coherent sources)

# EXAMPLE – NOISE CRITERIA



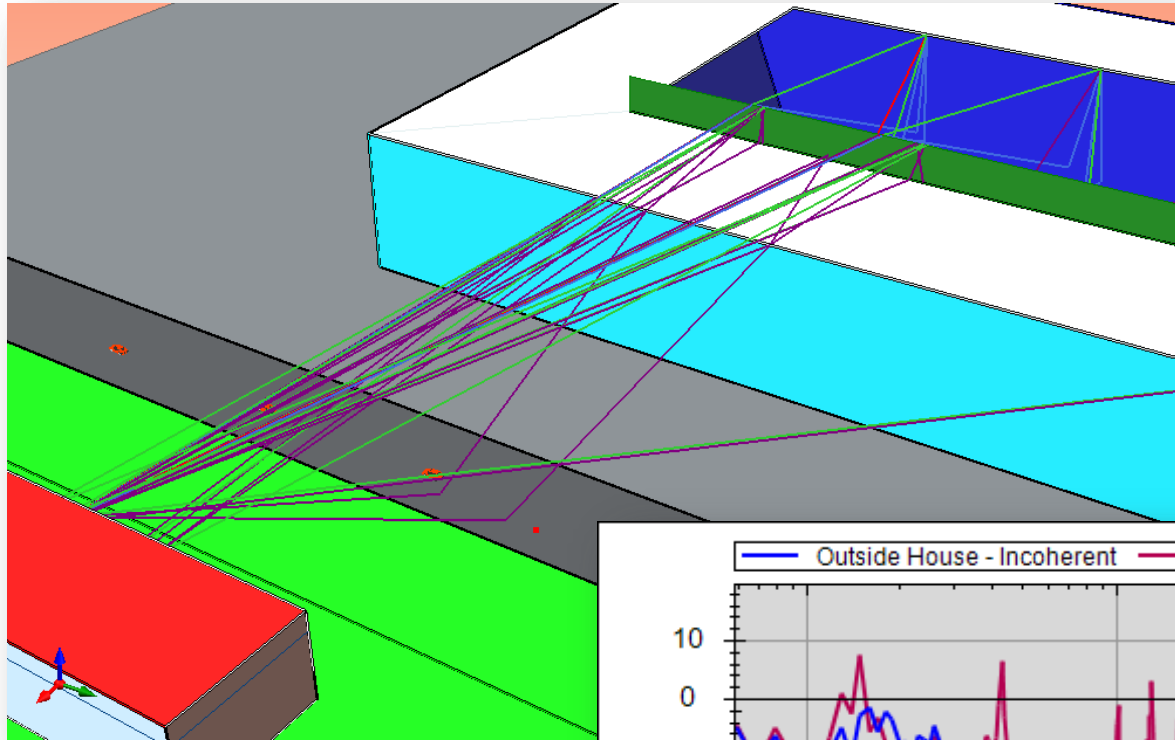
Indicative Results   Precise Results   Precise Results Table   ISO 9613-2 Results   ISO 9613-2 Results Table



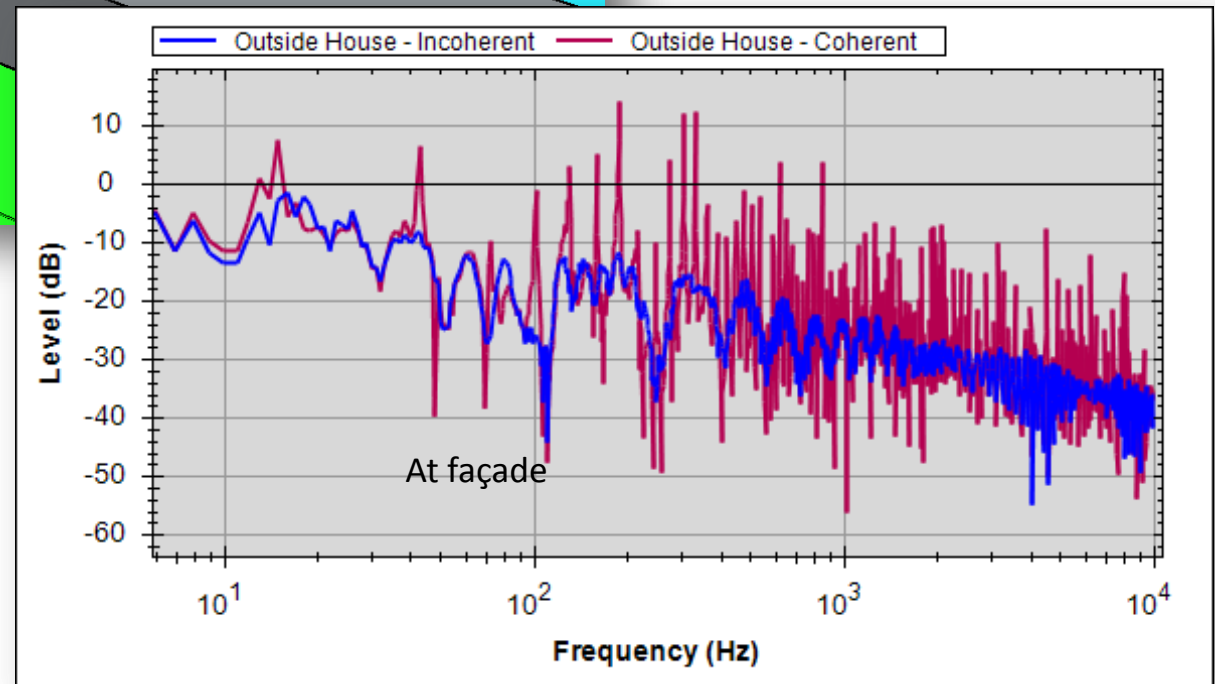
The BNL at the façade due to road traffic is calculated to be 58 dB(A) having the spectrum shown



# EXAMPLE – COHERENT & INCOHERENT SOURCE ADDITION

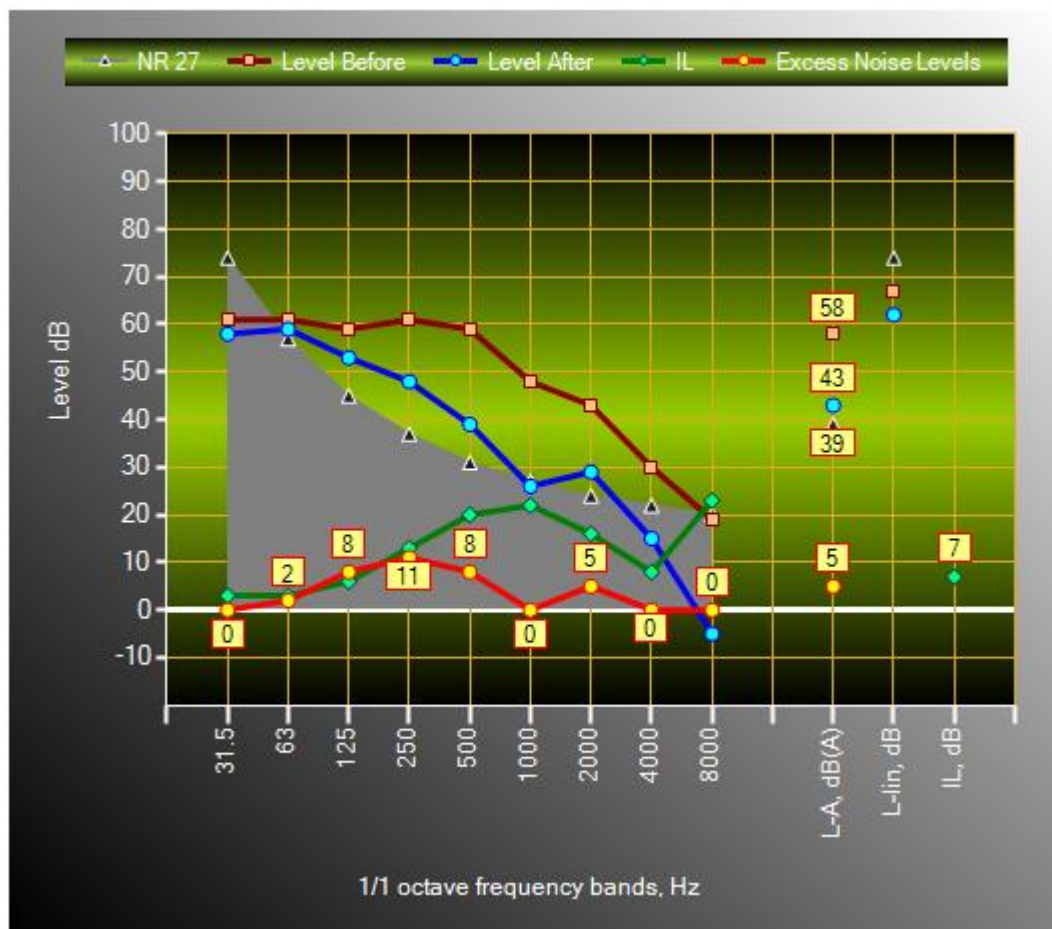


**Relative Levels** outside stadium during a concert.  
Levels when speakers are calculated as coherent and incoherent sources.  
Note: speakers are omnidirectional.





# EXAMPLE – AT RECEIVER, A GRAPH THAT SHOWS ALL NECESSARY INFO



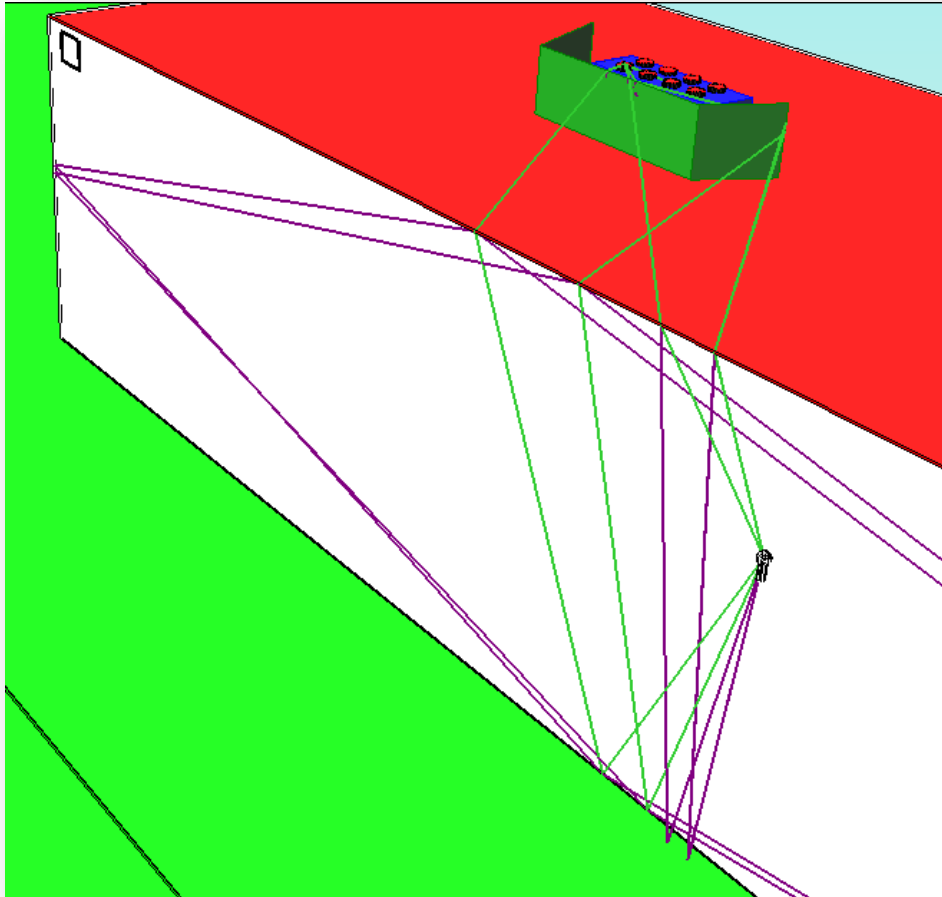
## A TOOL TO SOLVE A PROBLEM:

ONE GRAPH SHOWS ALL NECESSARY INFO AT A RECEIVER

- Absolute Level Before Barrier Insertion (brown curve)
- Level after insertion of Barrier (blue)
  - Noise criteria, Grey Area
  - Barrier Insertion Loss (green)
- Excess Level to meet criteria (red, the result of blue minus grey area levels)
  - Levels in dB(A) & linear dB
  - Average IL

PROBLEM IS SOLVED WHEN BLUE CURVE IS INSIDE GREYED AREA & EXCESS LEVEL IS ZERO

# EXAMPLE – CHILLER, PATHS, RESULTS, CALCULATION OPTIONS



# EXAMPLE – CHILLER BARRIER RESULTS TABLES & GRAPHS, REL. LEVELS

Export Octave Curves (CSV)

Export Octave Curves (Clipboard)

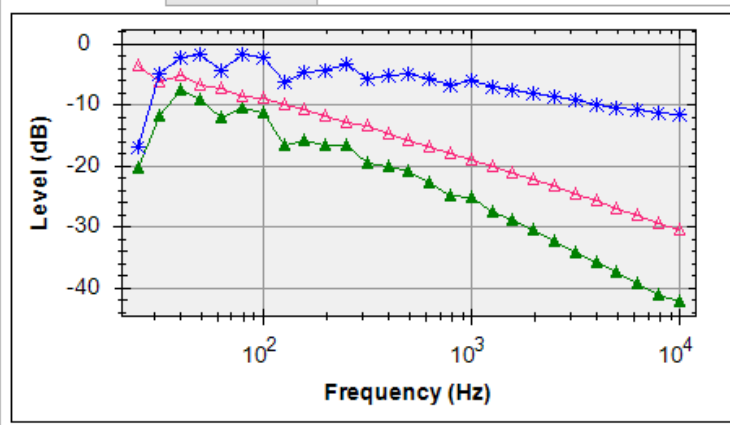
Export Third Octave Curves (CSV)

Export Third Octave Curves (Clipboard)

Octave Graph Octave Table

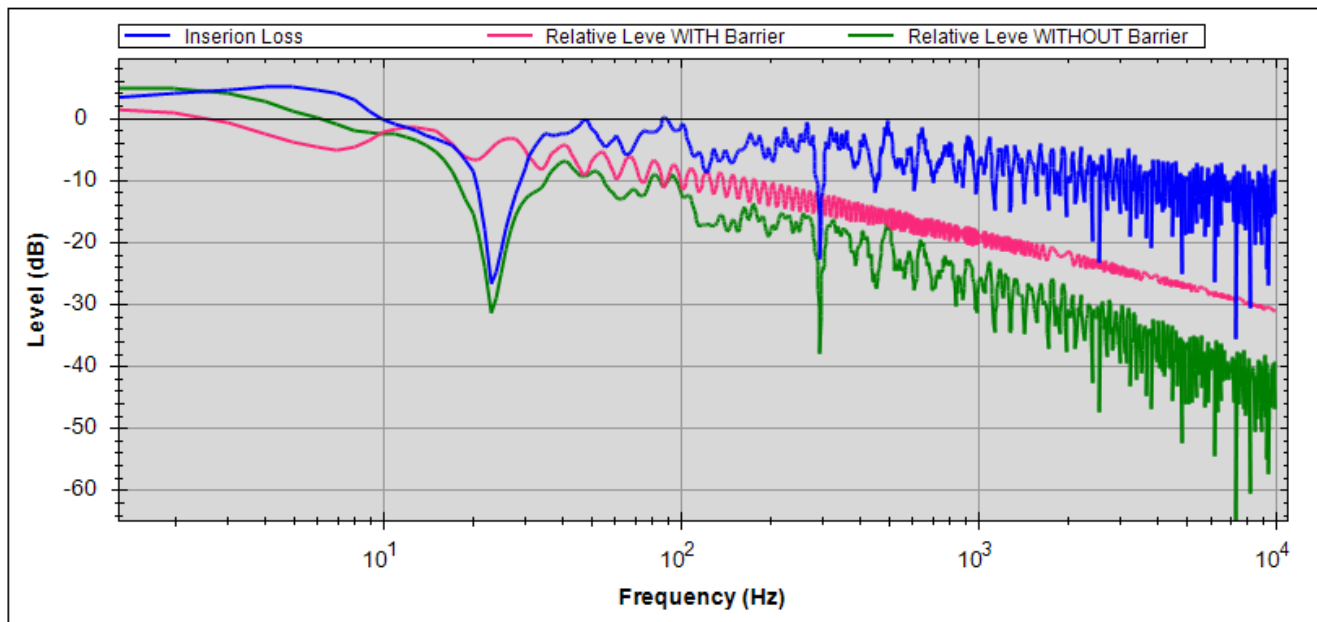
Frequency	Level (dB) [Chiller - Insertion Loss -]	Level (dB) [Chiller - Relative Level WITH Barrier -]	Level (dB) [Chiller - Relative Level WITHOUT Barrier -]
32	-4.7	-5.1	-10.4
63	-2.5	-7.8	-10.6
126	-4.4	-10.1	-14.5
251	-4.5	-12.8	-17.5
501	-5.3	-15.9	-21.3
1000	-6.7	-19.1	-25.9
1995	-8.2	-22.3	-30.5
3981	-10	-25.8	-35.7

1/3 Octave Graph 1/3 Octave Table



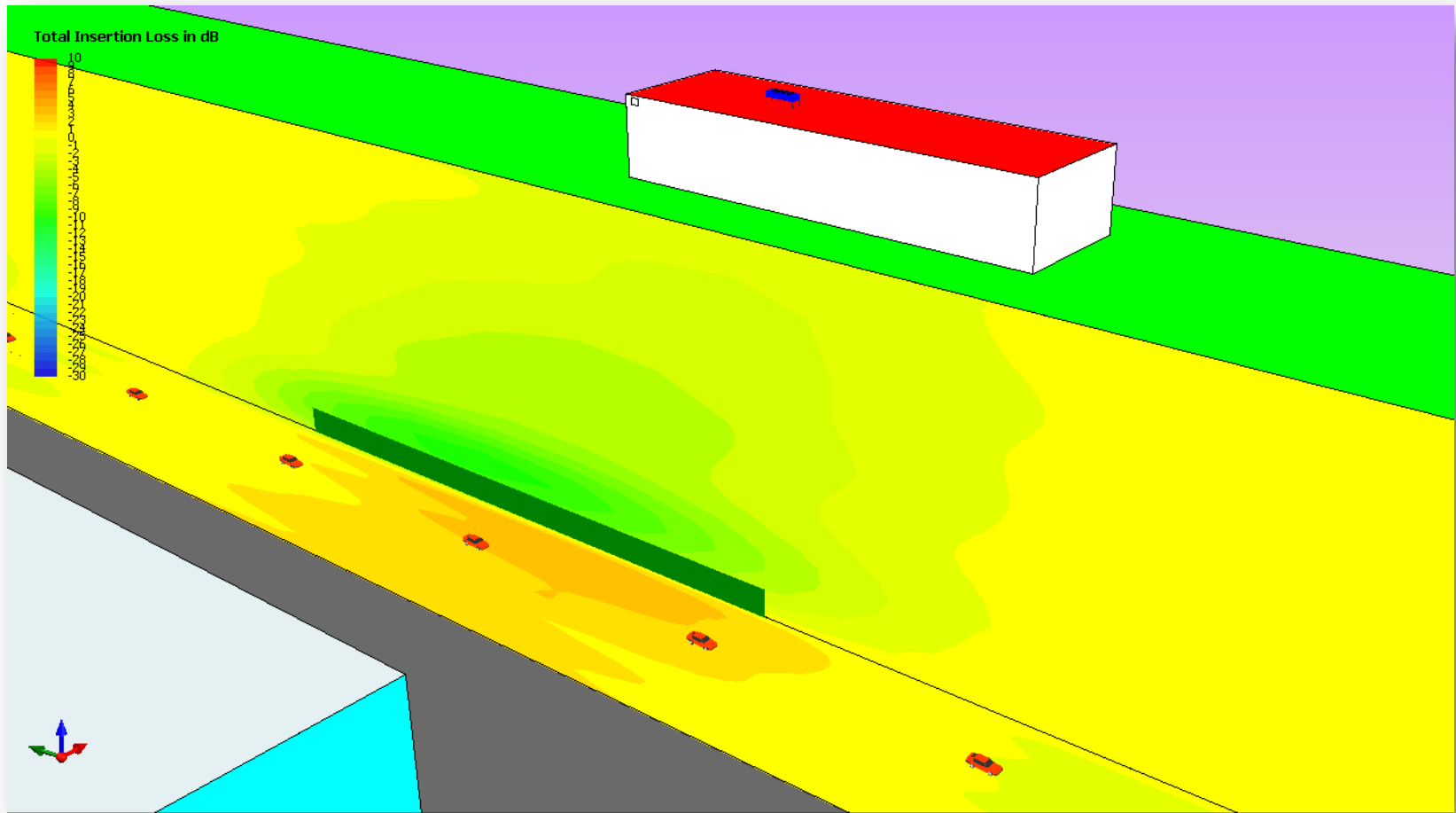
Export High Resolution Curves (CSV)

Export High Resolution Curves (Clipboard)



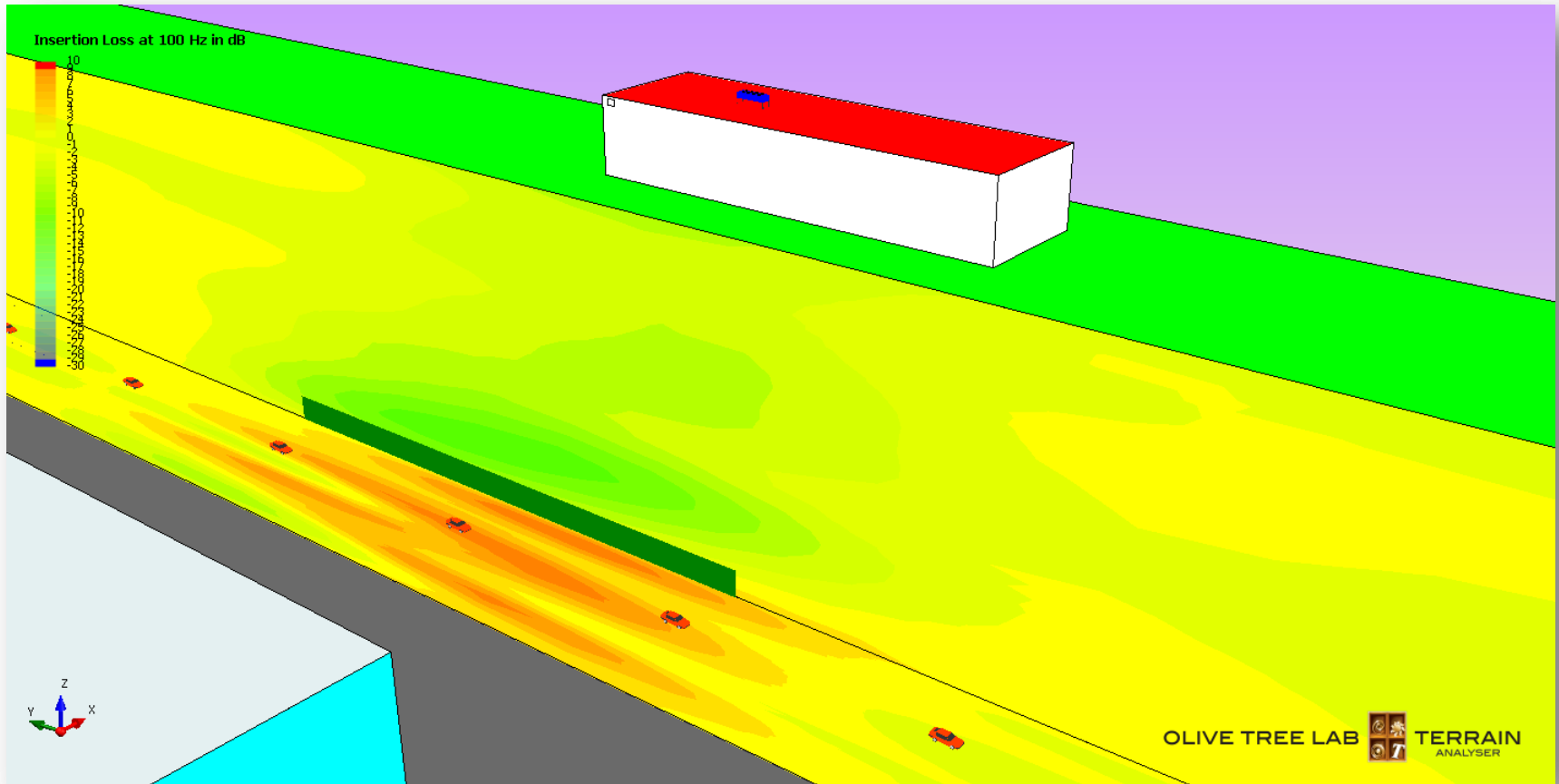
# EXAMPLE – BARRIER IL MAPPING, BROADBAND

Mapping of Barrier IL. The effect of the stadium and barrier increase levels on the road



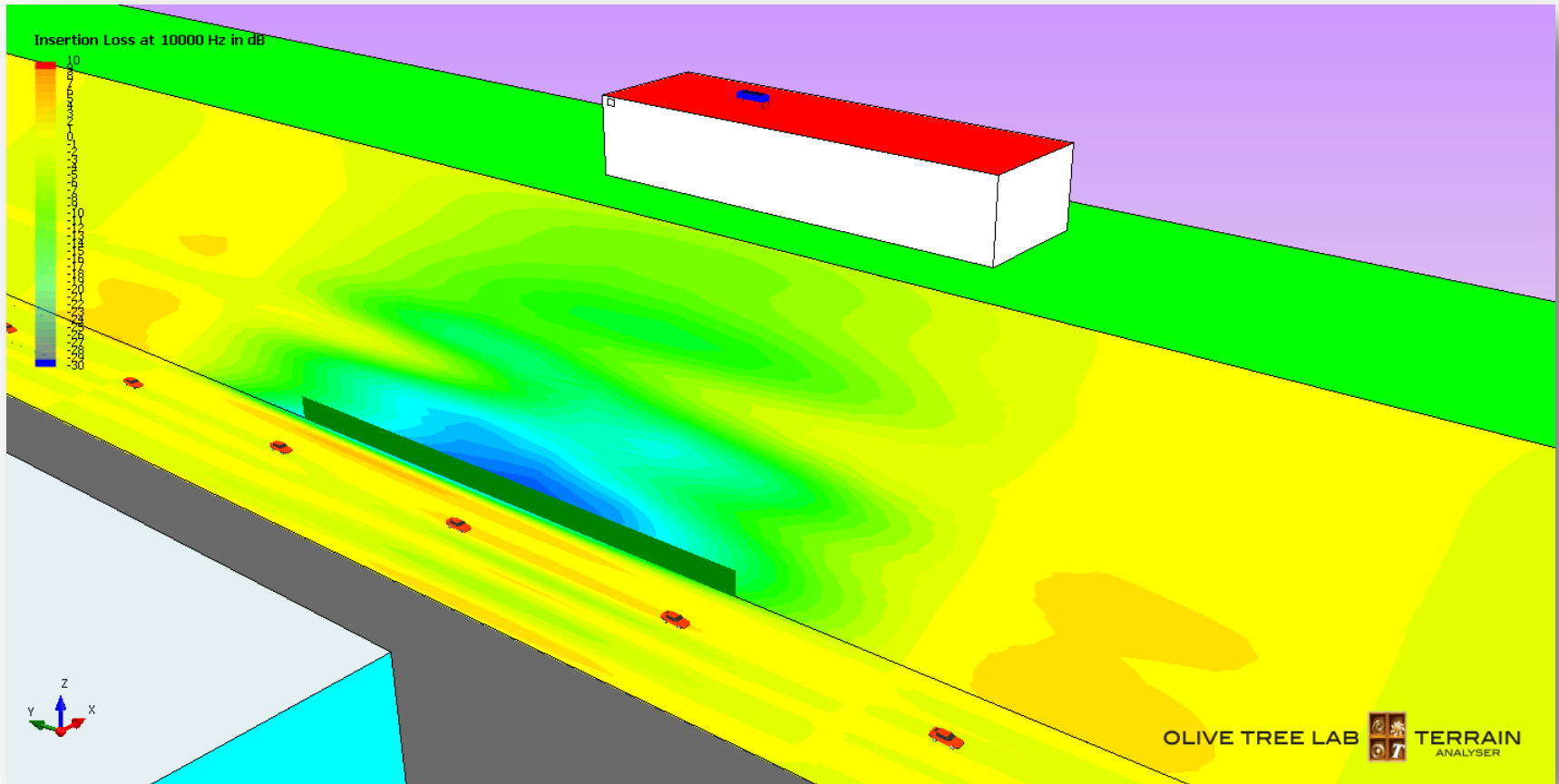
# EXAMPLE – BARRIER IL MAPPING, 100Hz

Mapping of Barrier IL. The effect of the stadium and barrier increase levels on the road



# EXAMPLE – BARRIER IL MAPPING, 10kHz

Mapping of Barrier IL. The effect of the stadium and barrier increase levels on the road





## PART 4

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# CONCLUSIONS

# CONCLUSIONS

- Nowadays technology allows the replacement of simplified calculation methods with advanced calculation methods.
- Advanced calculation methods offer engineers and scientists
  - Accuracy
  - Simplicity
  - More efficiency

Thank you for your attention.

I would welcome questions or comments.