

4D Audio-Visual Perception: Simulating, Synthesizing and Navigating with Sounds in Spaces

Changan Chen

changan.io

UT Austin

12/14/2023



TEXAS

The University of Texas at Austin

Human perception is multisensory

We often use *vision*, *audio*, *touch*, *smell* to sense the world



The status quo of audio-visual learning



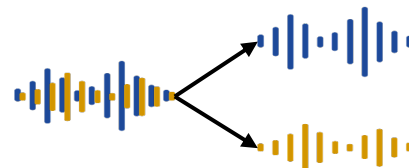
Object-centric:
the semantic correspondence between sight and sound of objects

Classification

Drum

Piano

Separation



Localization



1 drum kit 5 different spaces



Autonomous agents

Home assistance robot



Rescue robot



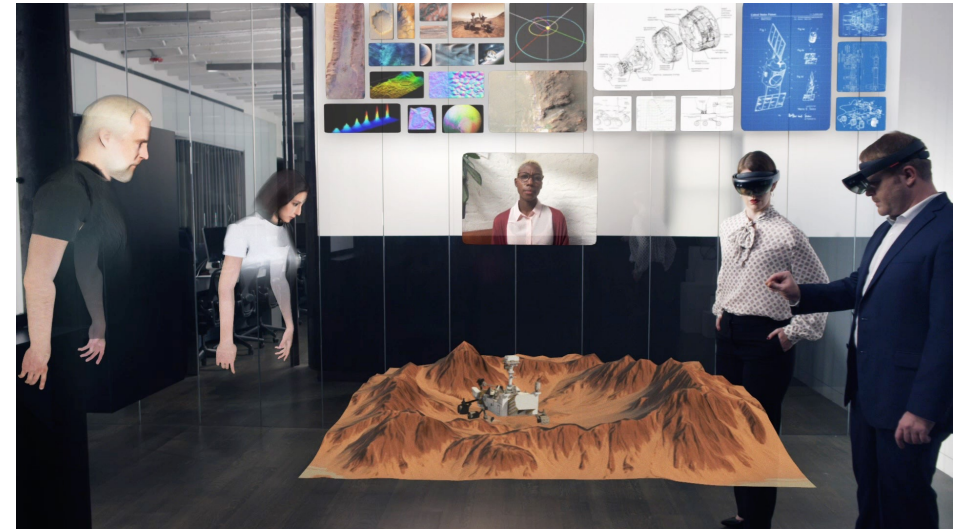
Robots that can navigate and localize sounding objects by reasoning the spatial, semantic, acoustic information in the audio and visual observation

Augmented reality and virtual reality

Enhanced hearing



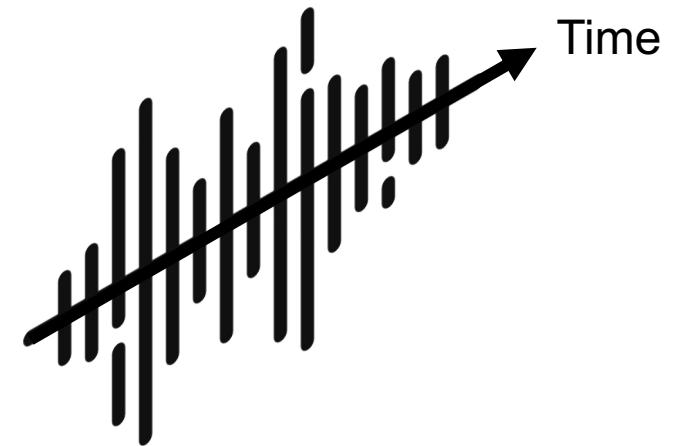
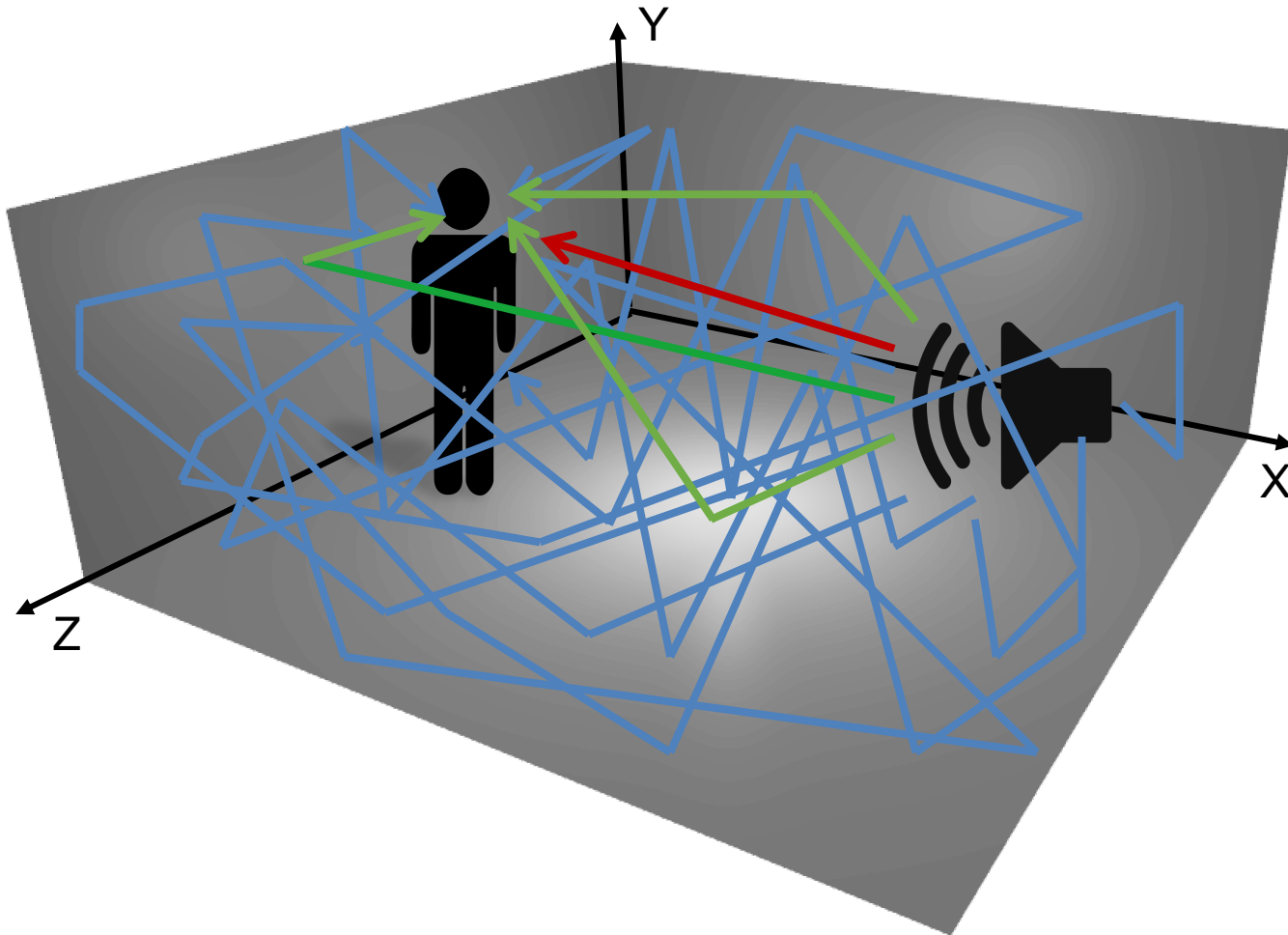
Immersive experience



AR/VR systems that can augment the hearing ability of the device wearer as well as create immersive experiences for users

4D audio-visual perception

My research: learning the correspondence between sight and sound in spaces

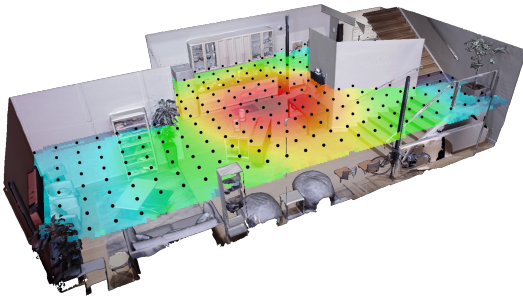


4D audio-visual perception

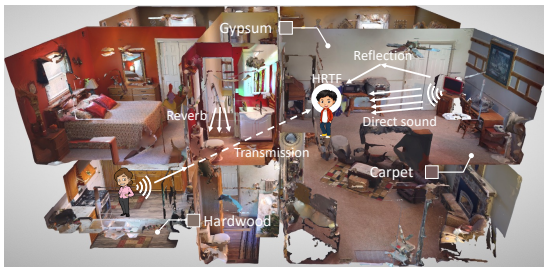
My research: learning the correspondence between sight and sound in spaces

Simulating sounds in spaces

SoundSpaces [ECCV20]

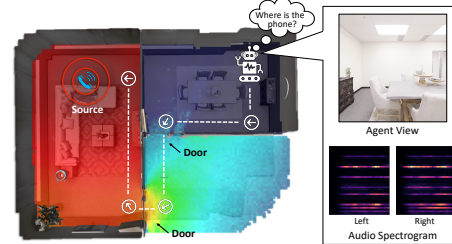


SoundSpaces 2.0 [NeurIPS22]

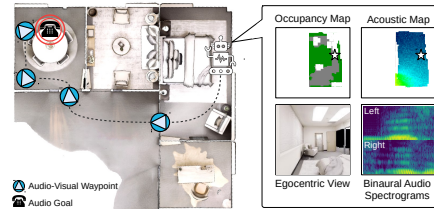


Navigating with sounds in spaces

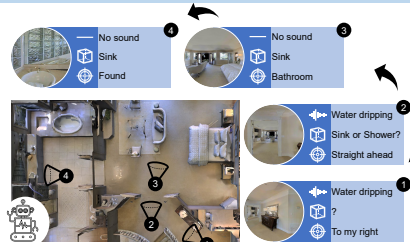
Audio-visual navigation SoundSpaces [ECCV20]



Efficient & hierarchical AV nav [ICLR21]

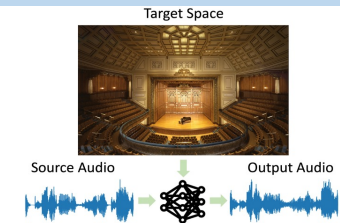


Semantic audio-visual navigation [CVPR21]

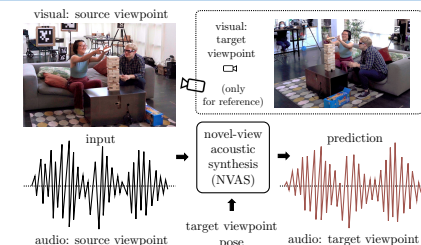


Synthesizing sounds in spaces

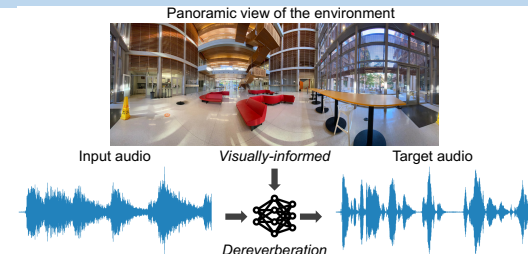
Visual acoustic matching [CVPR22]



Novel-view acoustic synthesis [CVPR23]

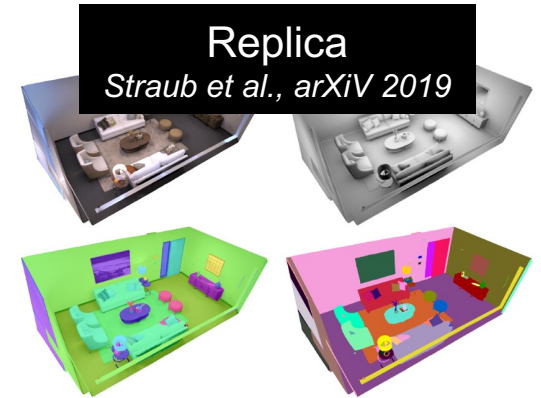
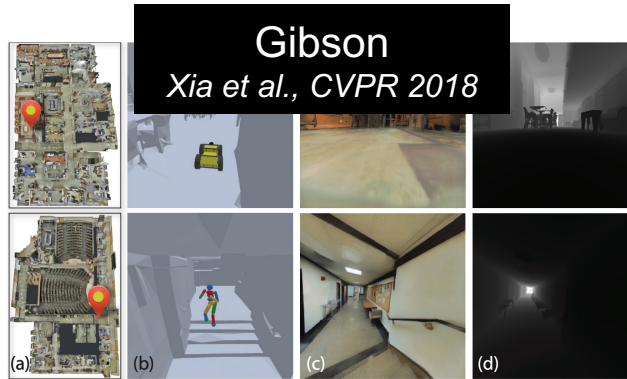


Audio-visual dereverberation [ICASSP23]



Simulating embodiment in 3D scenes

Datasets



Simulators



Advantages: Large-scale training, fast experimentation, consistent benchmarking and replicable research

Sim2Real

Sim2Real Predictivity: Does Evaluation in Simulation Predict Real-World Performance, Kadian et al., IRAL 2020
Sim-to-Real Transfer for Vision-and-Language Navigation, Anderson et al., CoRL 2020
RoboThor: An Open Simulation-to-Real Embodied AI Platform, Deitke et al., CVPR 2020

Enabling embodied agents and tasks

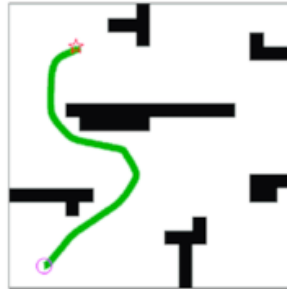


Today's embodied agents (robots) are deaf

- We want robots that can see, hear and react in the environment

Vision-Only

Gupta et al., 2017
Zhu et al., 2017
Sava et al., 2019
...



Vision-Language

Anderson et al., 2018
Wang et al., 2018
Wang et al., 2019
...



Vision-Interaction

Zhu et al., 2017
Gordon et al., 2018
Wortsman et al., 2019
...

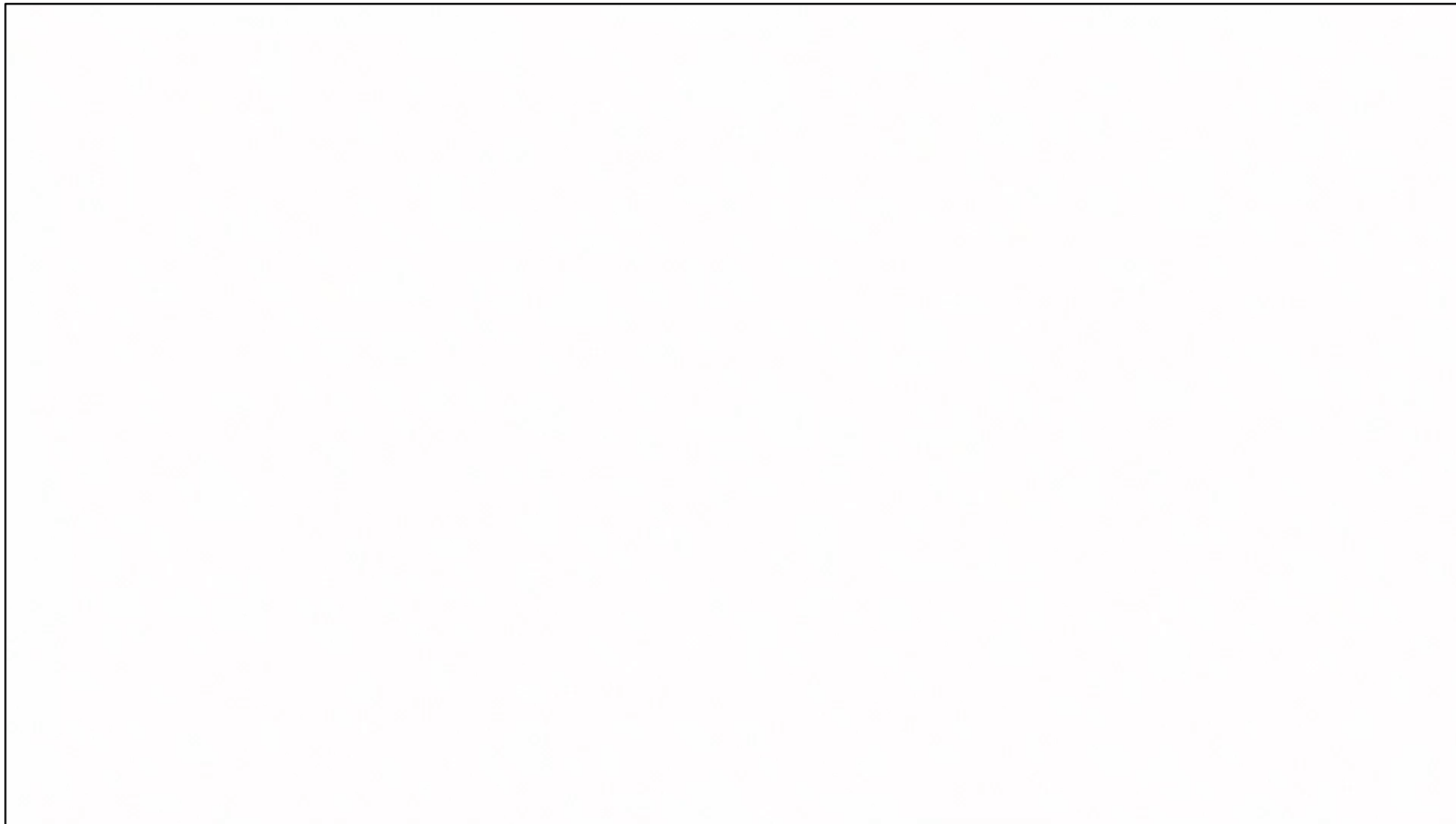


Vision-Audio

Chen and Jain et al., 2020
(this work)

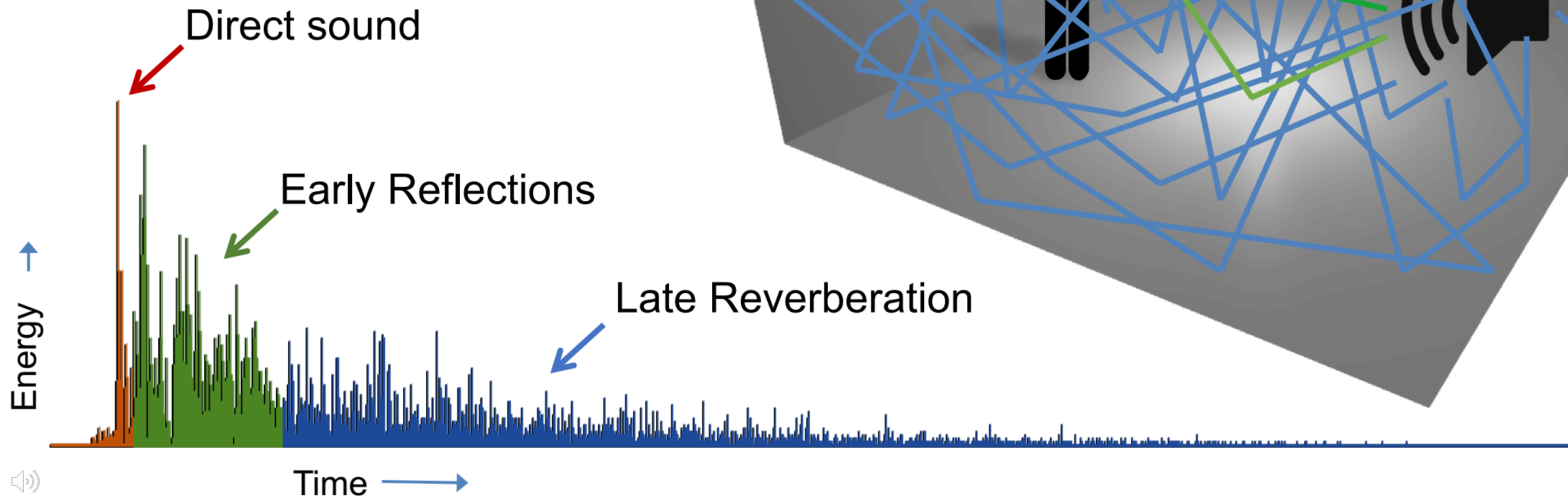
- No existing simulation supports audio-visual rendering
- No existing formulation for audio-visual navigation

SoundSpaces demo



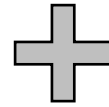
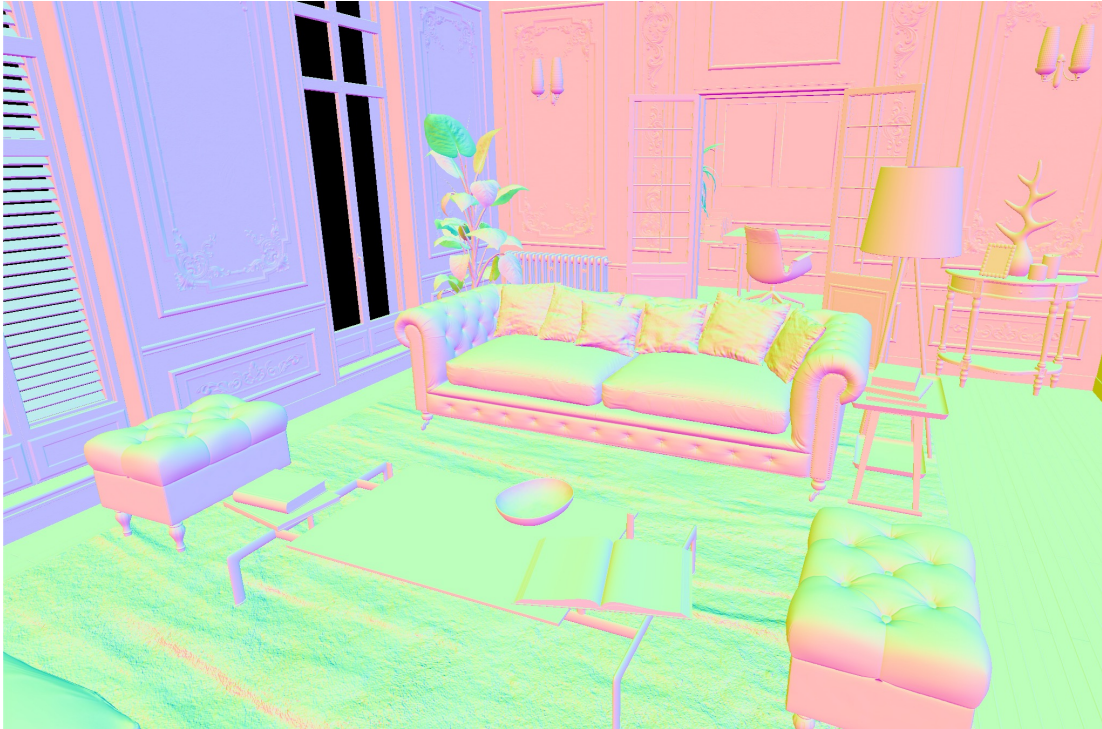
Background: acoustic simulation

Goal: simulate a perceptually-valid approximation of the room impulse response (RIR)



Physics-based audio rendering

3D Geometry



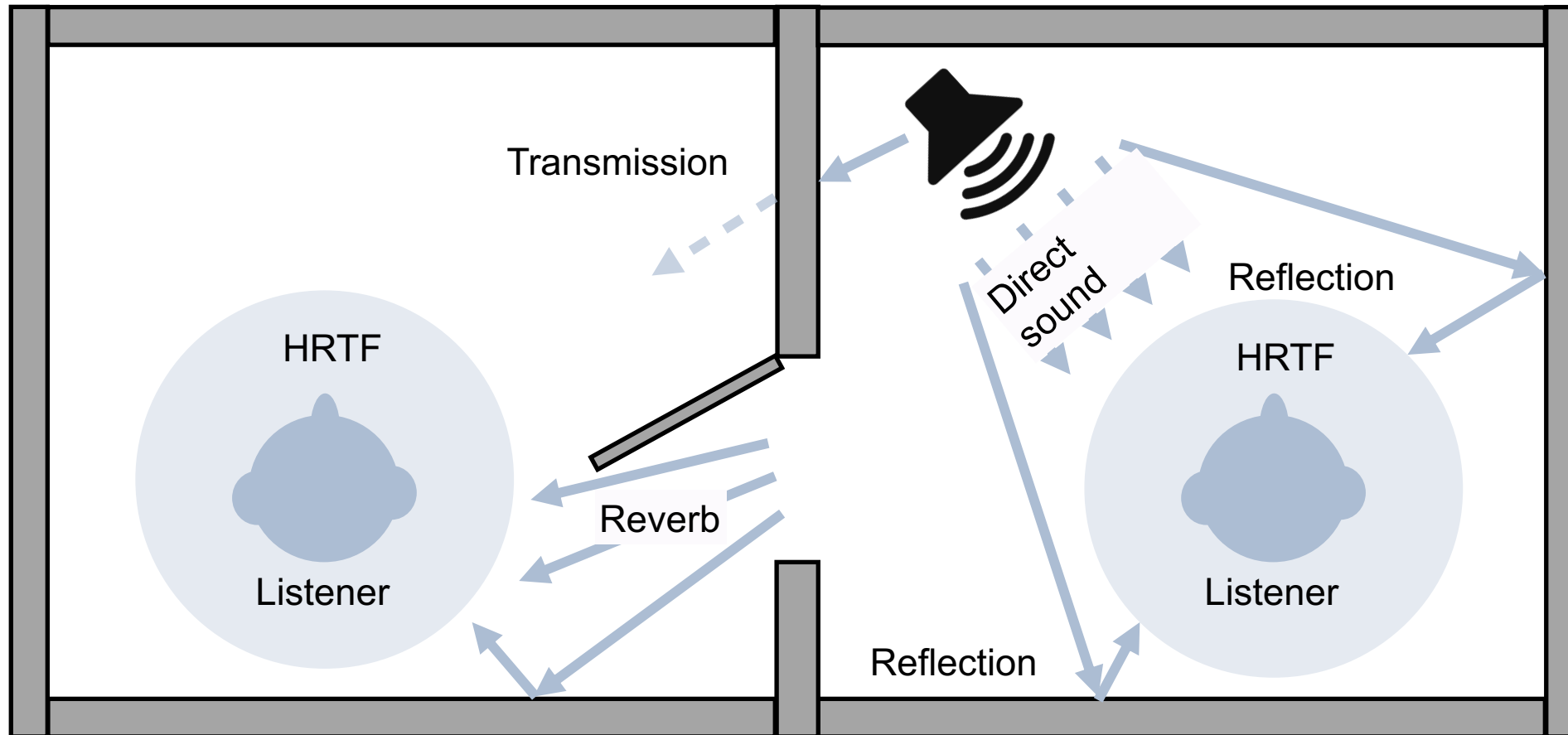
Material Properties



Simulate the sound received by the listener from a source location

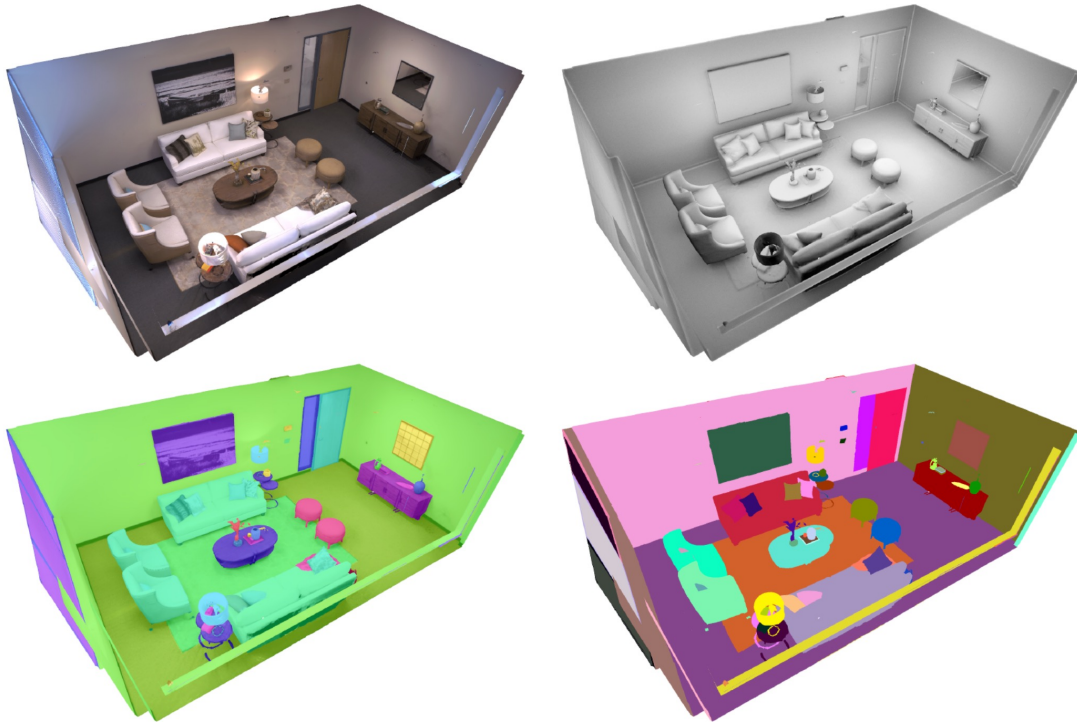
Sound propagation system

3D spatial audio for reflections and reverb with realistic acoustics
based on bidirectional ray tracing

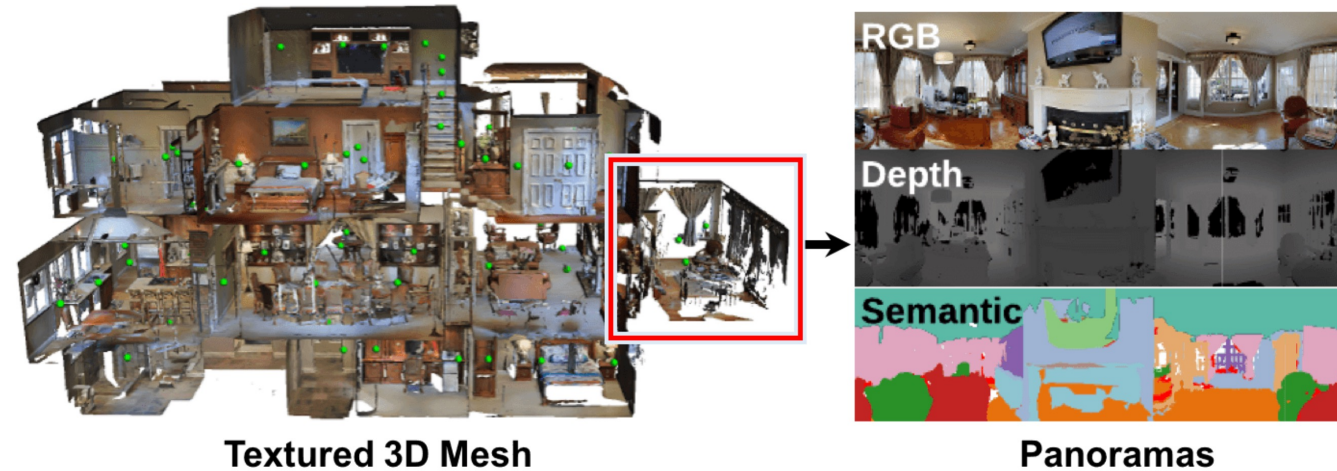


Real-scan environments

Replica¹ dataset



Matterport3D² dataset



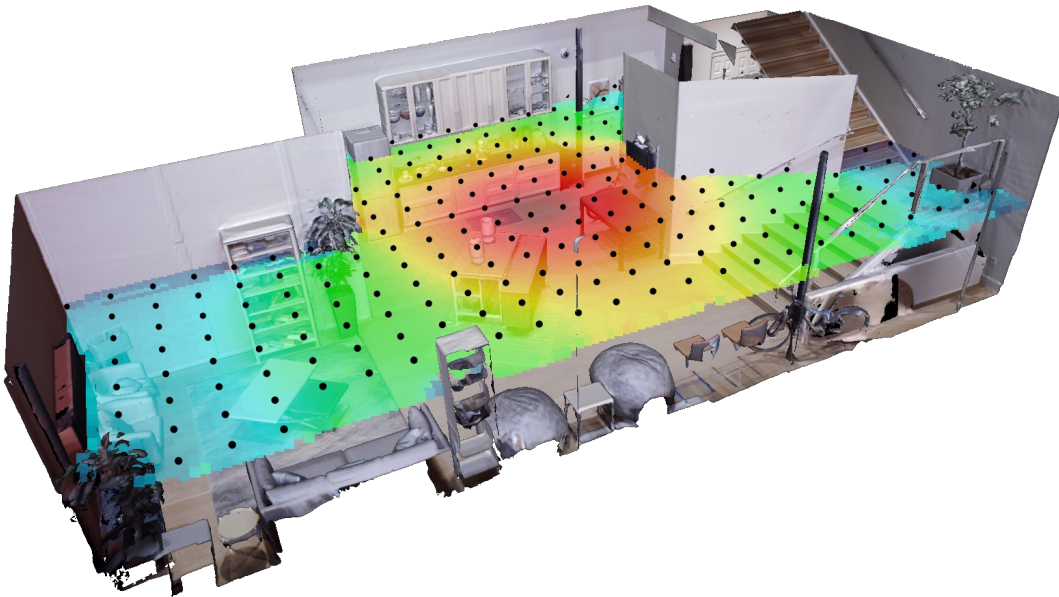
¹The Replica Dataset: A Digital Replica of Indoor Spaces, Straub et al., arXiv, 2019

²Matterport3D: Learning from RGB-D Data in Indoor Environments, Chang et al., 3DV, 2017

SoundSpaces: our audio simulator

SoundSpaces produces realistic audio rendering based on the room geometry, materials, and sound source location by **precomputing** the room impulse response function (RIR)

Users can insert any sound of their choice at runtime. The received sound is obtained by convolving the RIR with the source sound.



	# Scenes	Avg. Area	# RIRs
Replica	18	47.24 m ²	0.9M
Matterport3D	85	517.34 m ²	16.7M

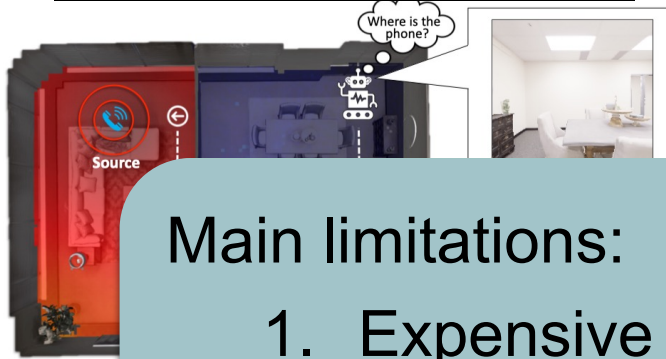
Table: Summary of dataset statistics

Visit soundspaces.org for more information!

Enabling audio-visual embodied AI and beyond

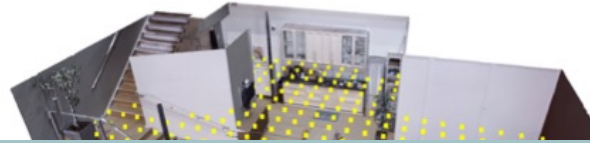
Audio-Visual Navigation

Chen et al., ECCV 2020



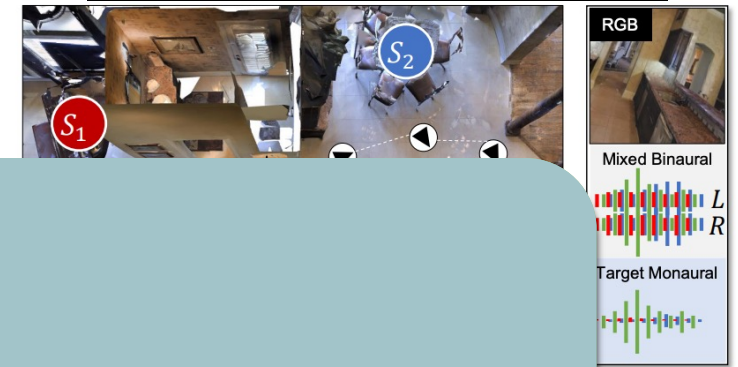
Echolocation Learning

Gao et al., ECCV 2020



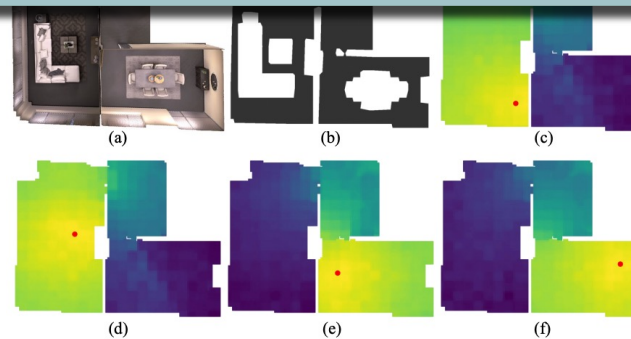
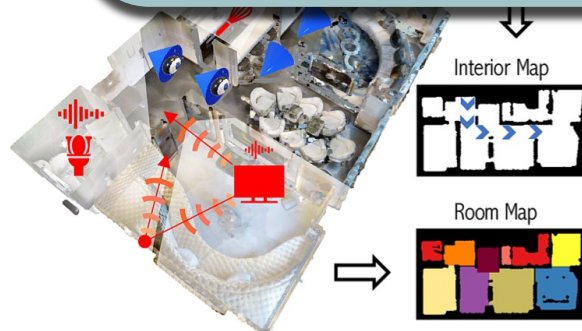
Audio-Visual Separation

Majumder et al., ICCV 2021

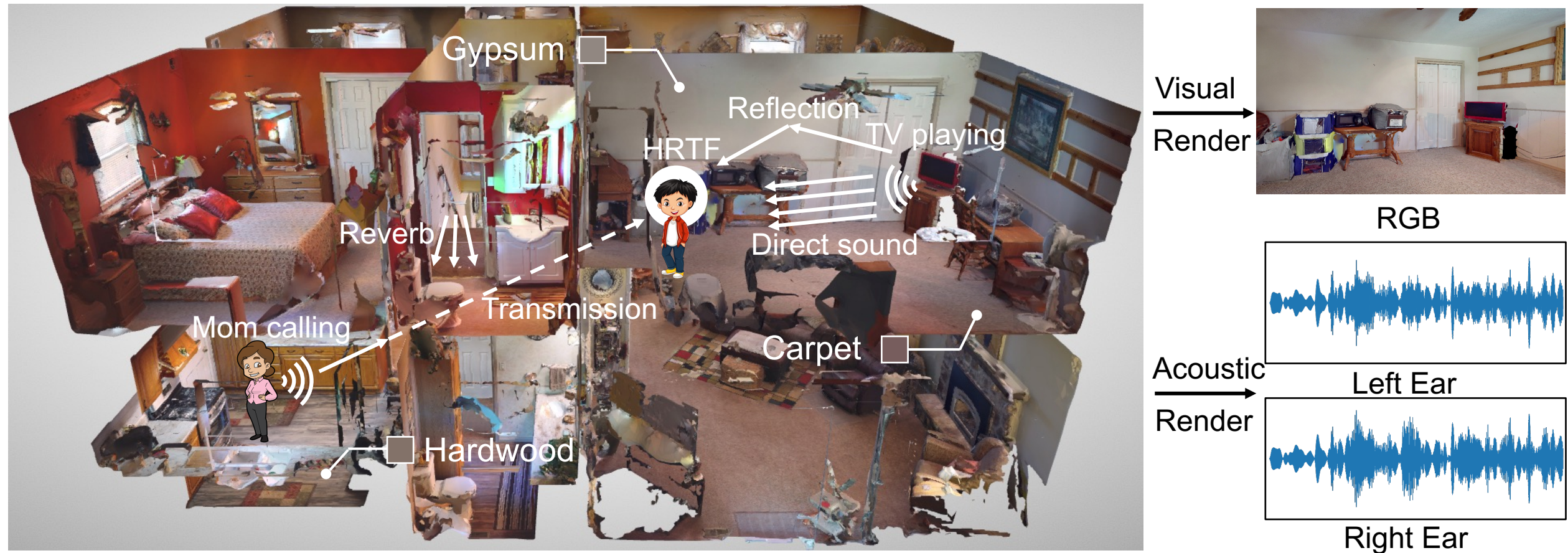


Main limitations:

1. Expensive to store millions of IRs
2. Does not generalize to new locations or environments
3. Microphones are not configurable



SoundSpaces 2.0: A fast, continuous, configurable and generalizable audio-visual simulation platform



Continuous rendering

We offer both spatial and acoustic continuity.



Navigating to someone speaking

Configurable simulation

Users can change all these parameters!

Simulation parameters

- Frequency bands
- Direct sound
- Indirect sound
- Transmission
- Diffraction
- Number of rays
- Number of threads
- Sample rate
- ...

Microphone types

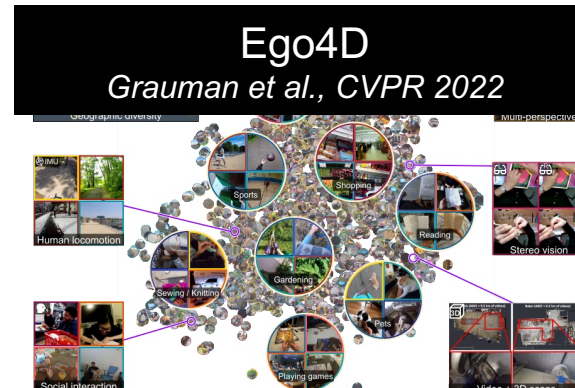
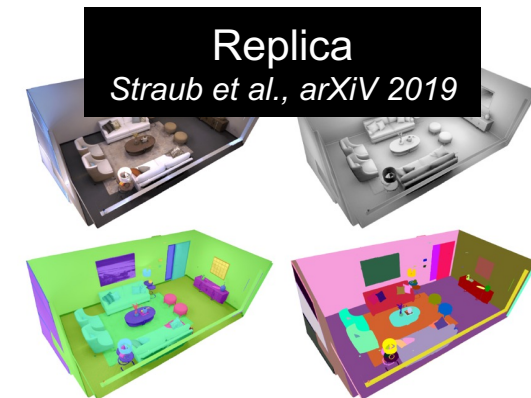
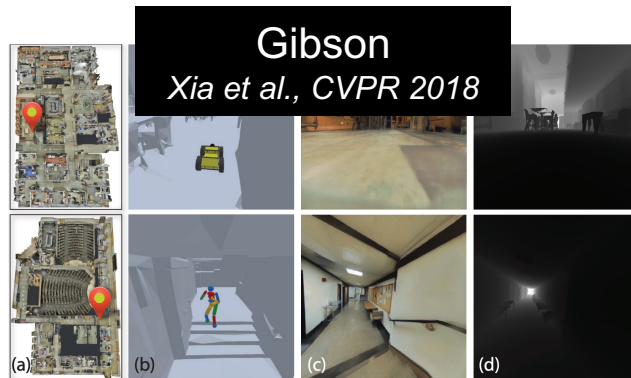
- Mono
- Binaural
- Stereo
- Quad
- Surround_5_1
- Surround_7_1
- Ambisonics
- Your mic array
- ...

Material properties

- Absorption coefficients
- Scattering coefficients
- Transmission coefficients
- Damping coefficients
- Frequency band specs
- Instance level config
- ...

Generalizable simulation

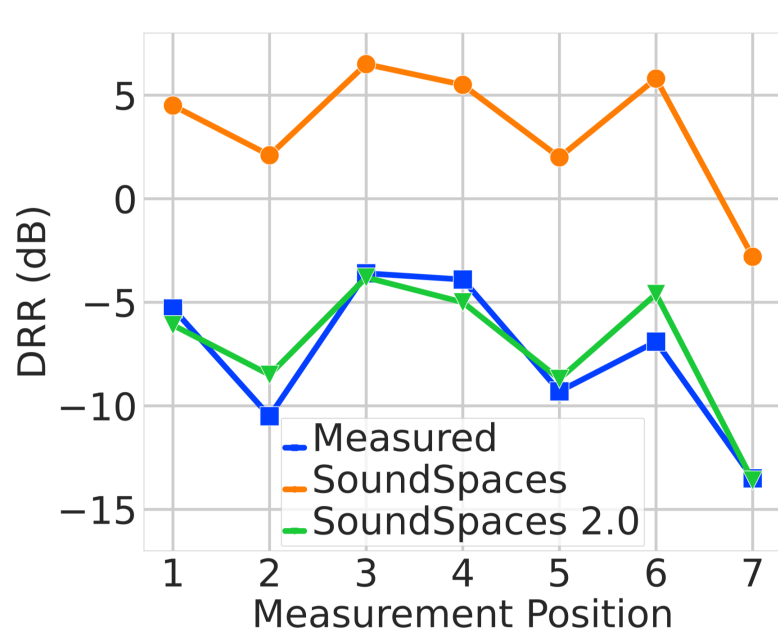
We support arbitrary scene datasets.



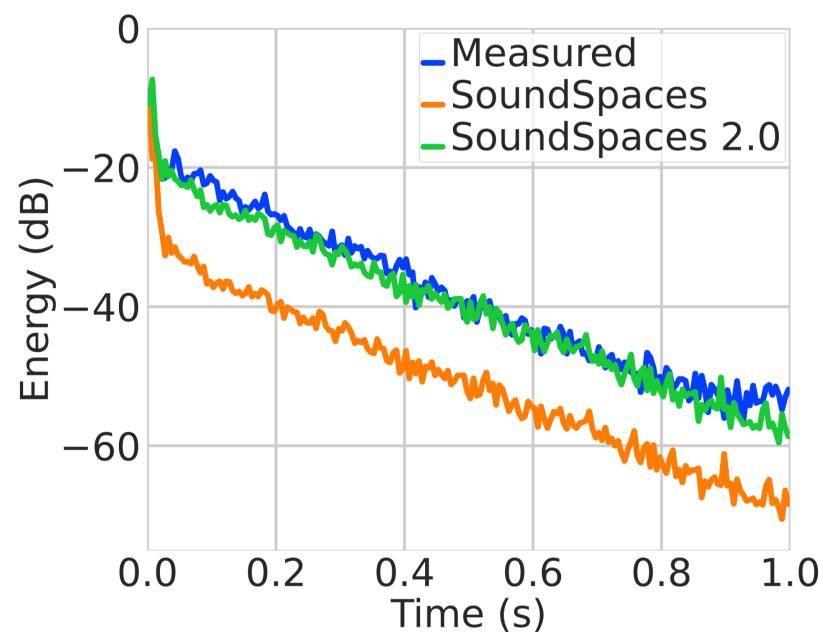
Validating simulation with real IRs

We collect acoustic measurements of the apartment in Replica dataset and compare to IRs rendered in SoundSpaces

SoundSpaces 2.0 has a better match of direct-to-reverberant ratio with real

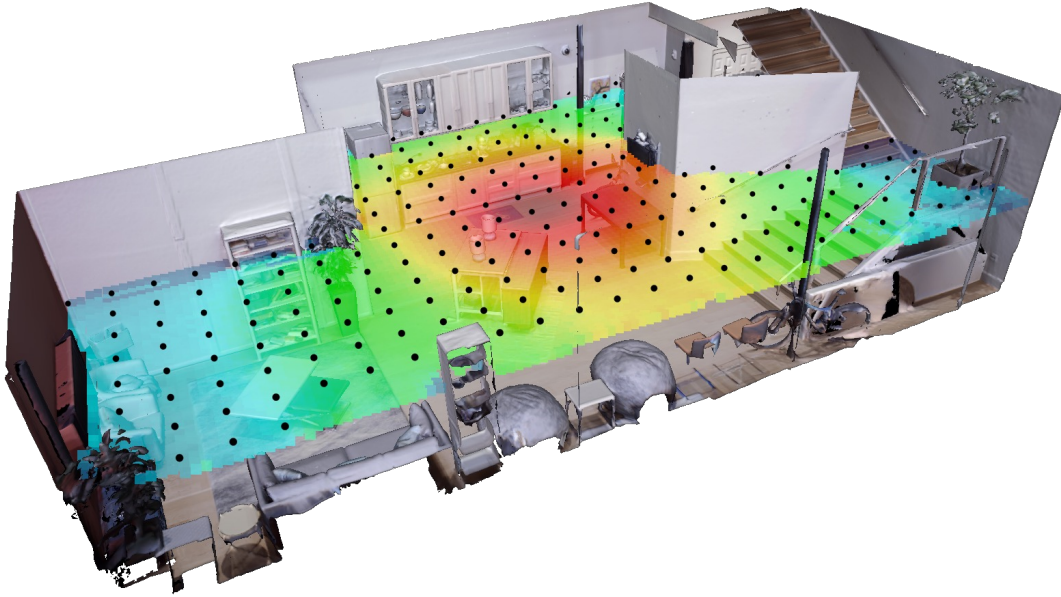


DRR comparison



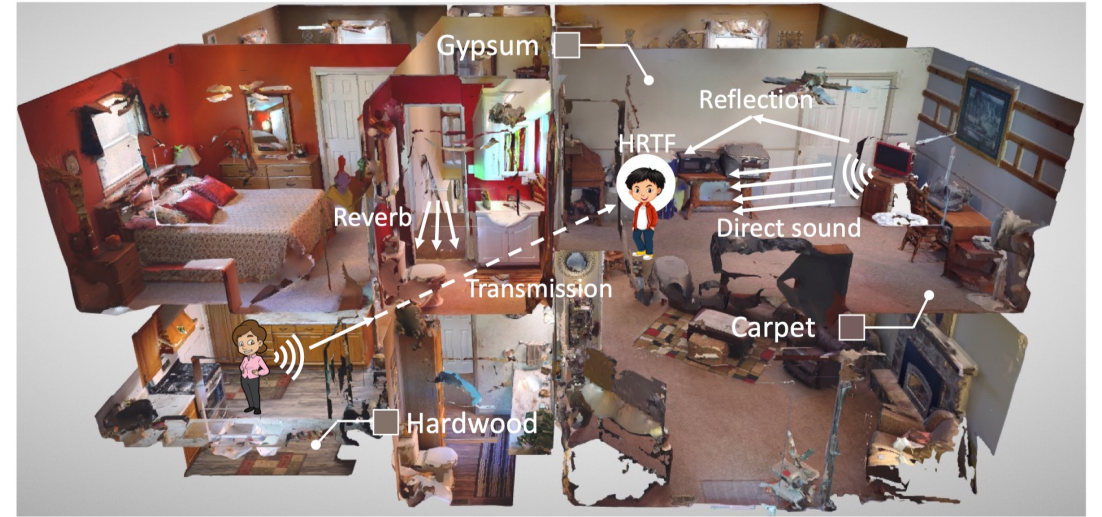
Early decay comparison

Main differences



SoundSpaces 1.0

- 500 fps+
- Discrete and unconfigurable



SoundSpaces 2.0

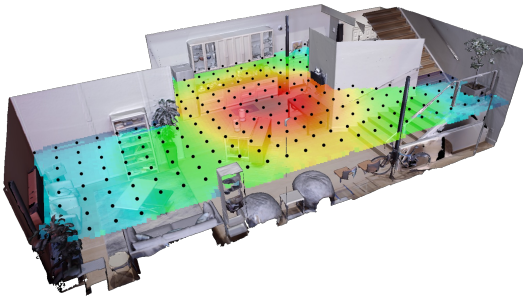
- 30 fps+
- Continuous and configurable

4D audio-visual perception

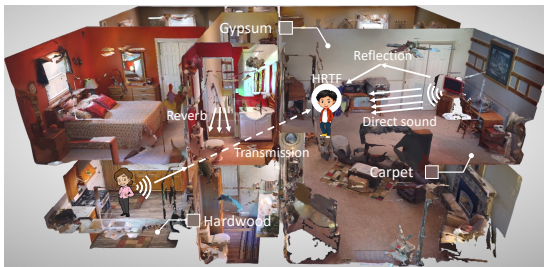
My research: learning the correspondence between sight and sound in spaces

Simulating sounds in spaces

SoundSpaces [ECCV20]

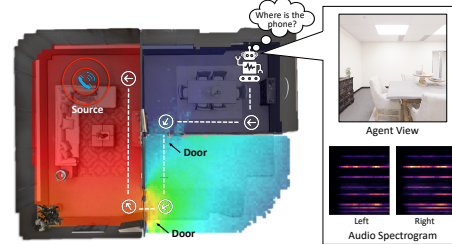


SoundSpaces 2.0 [NeurIPS22]

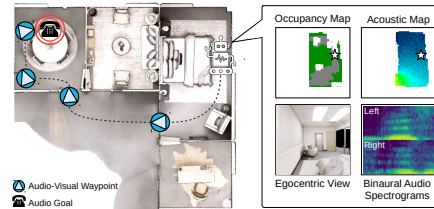


Navigating with sounds in spaces

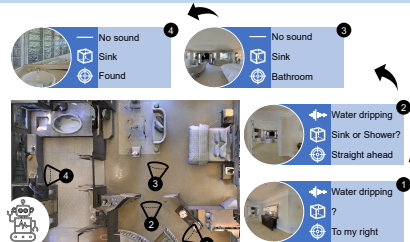
Audio-visual navigation SoundSpaces [ECCV20]



Efficient & hierarchical AV nav [ICLR21]

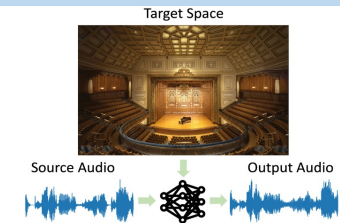


Semantic audio-visual navigation [CVPR21]

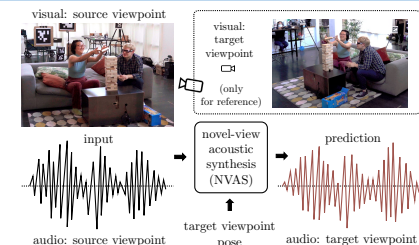


Synthesizing sounds in spaces

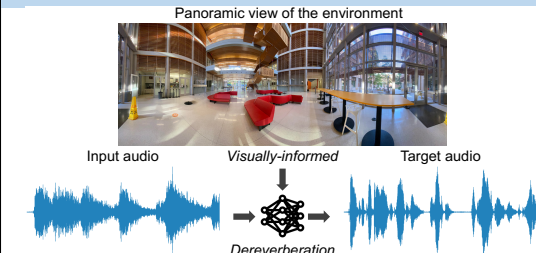
Visual acoustic matching [CVPR22]



Novel-view acoustic synthesis [CVPR23]

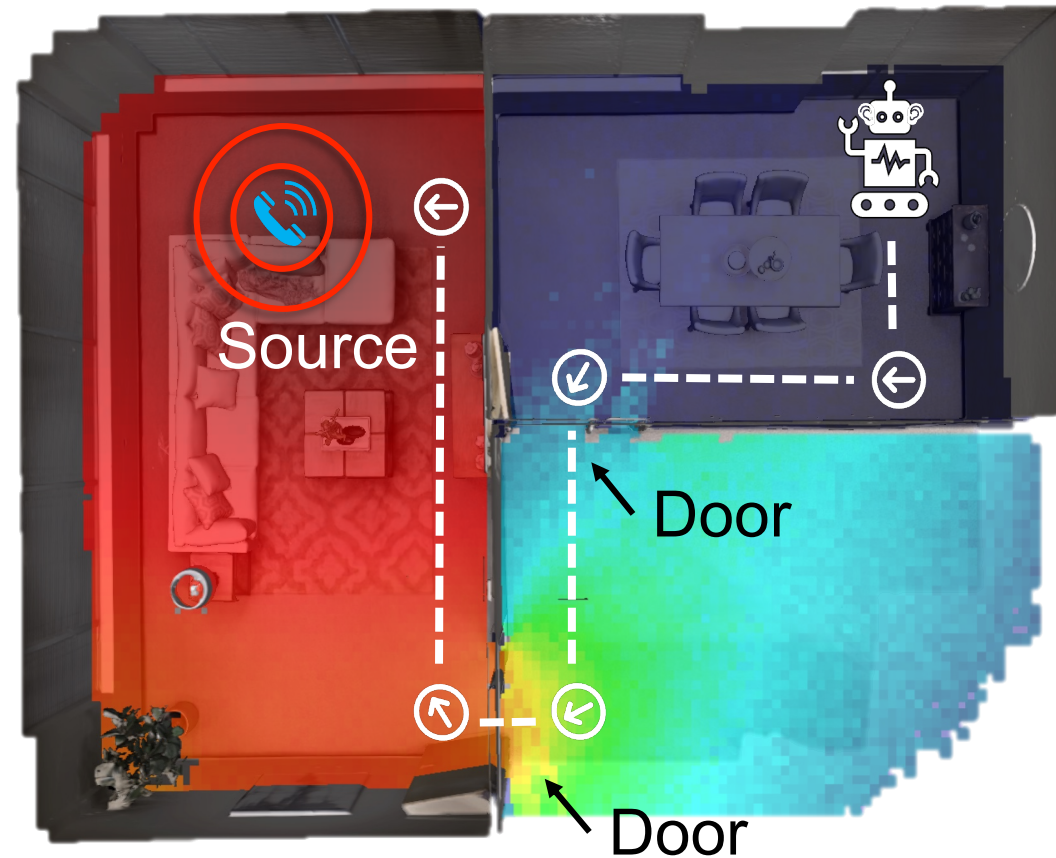


Audio-visual dereverberation [ICASSP23]



Audio-visual navigation in 3D environments

An agent navigates to a sounding object with vision and audio perception

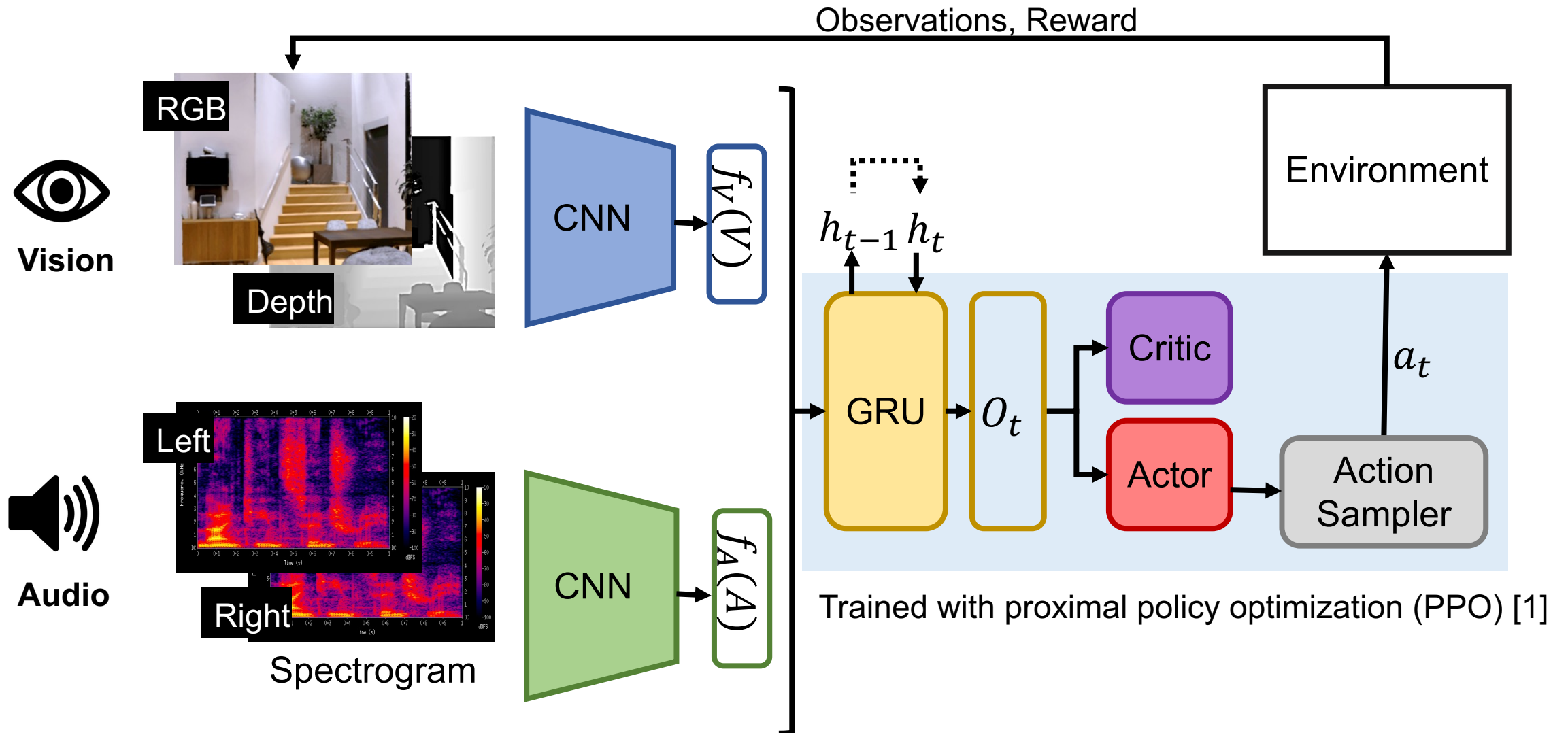


Learning with deep reinforcement learning

- Learn to navigate in simulation via trials and errors
- Rewarded +1 for getting close and +10 for reaching the goal



Navigation policy



[1] Proximal Policy Optimization Algorithms, John Schulman et al., arxiv 2017

C. Chen*, U. Jain*, et al., SoundSpaces: Audio-Visual Navigation in 3D Environments, ECCV 2020

Navigation example



Key messages:

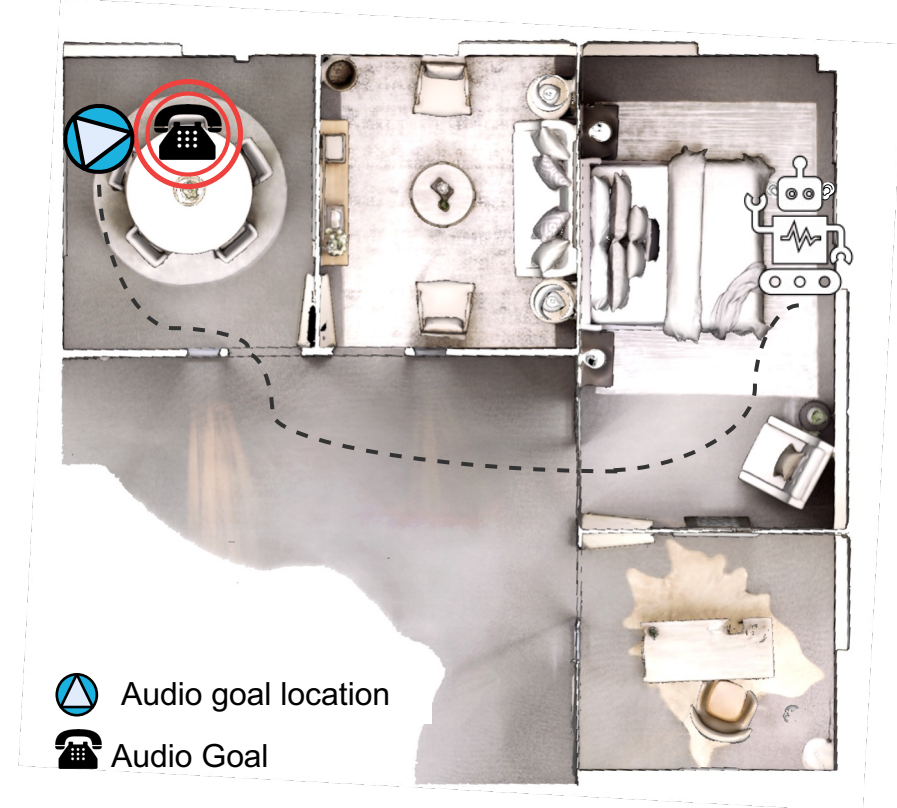
1. Embodied agent can locate sounds by seeing and hearing
2. A blind agent can also navigate by only using binaural cues



Limitations of the navigation policy

Existing models learn to act at fixed granularities of action motion

- Chen et al.¹: learn to generate primitive actions step-by-step
- Gan et al.²: predict target locations and navigate with geometric planner



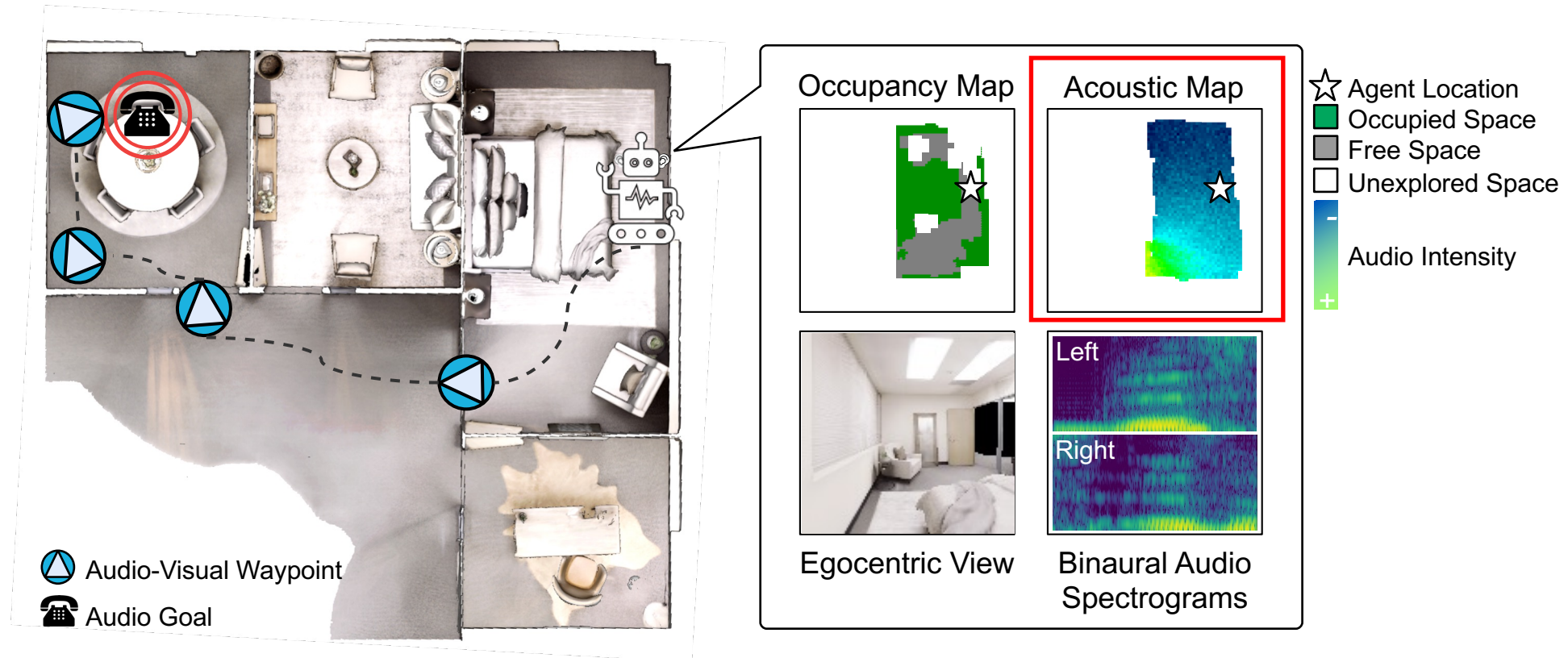
¹SoundSpaces: Audio-Visual Navigation in 3D Environments, Chen et al., ECCV, 2020

²Look, Listen, and Act: Towards Audio-Visual Embodied, Gan et al., ICRA, 2020

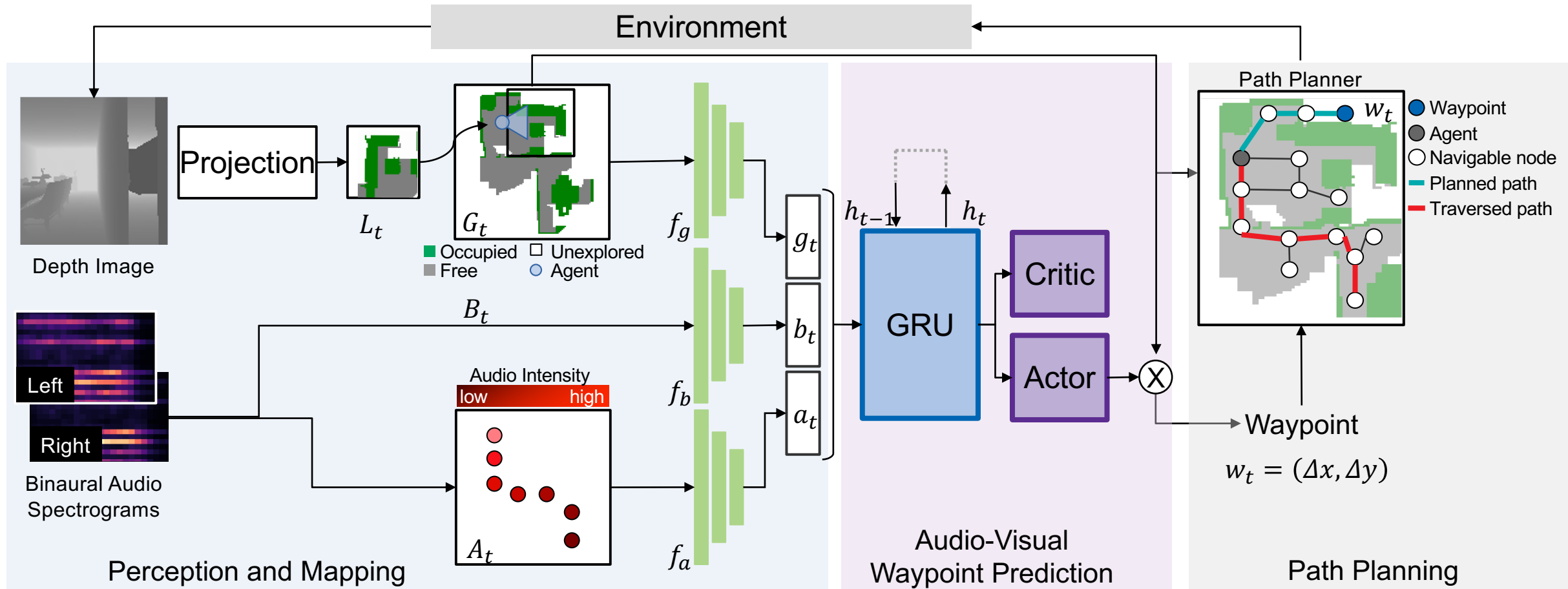


Learning to set waypoints for AV navigation

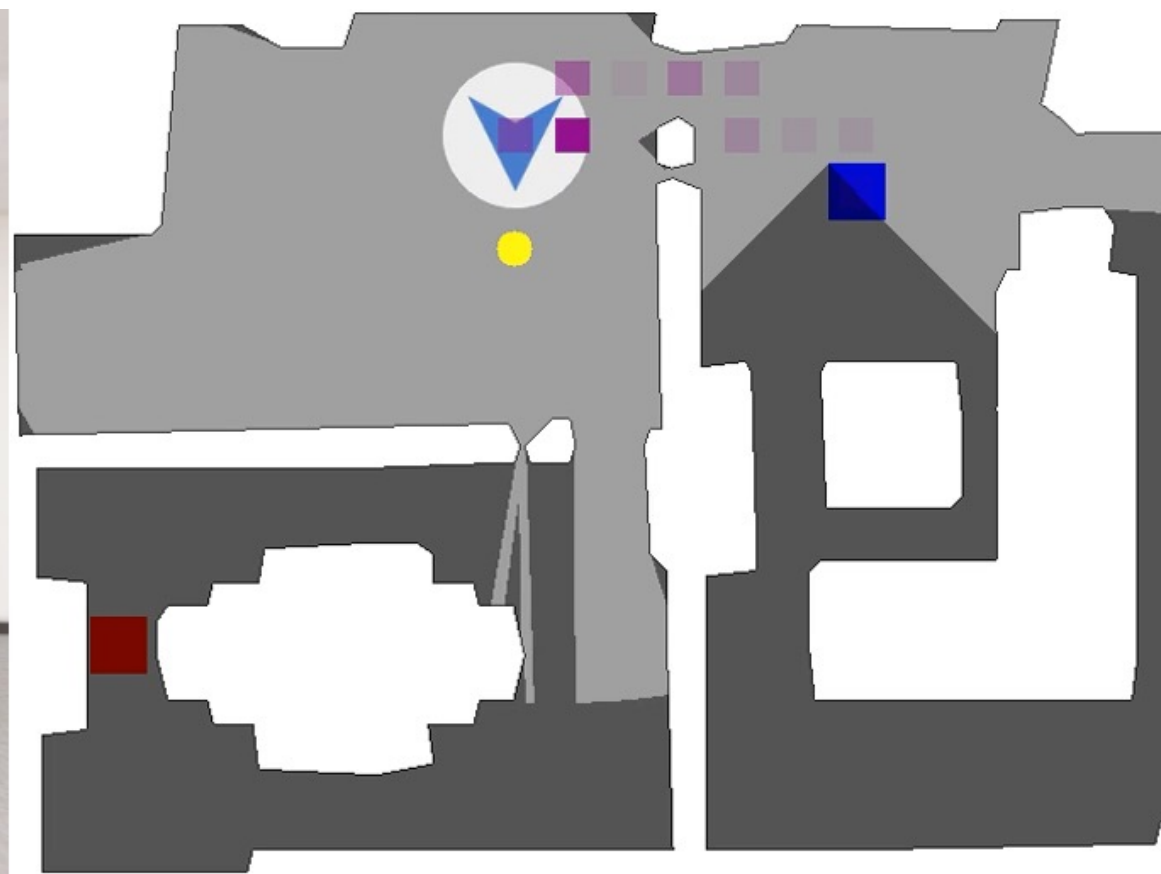
- Infer audio-visual subgoals with RL end-to-end at varying granularities
- Acoustic memory to help infer goal locations and decide stop actions



Audio-visual waypoints navigation model (AV-WAN)



Waypoint selection and acoustic memory



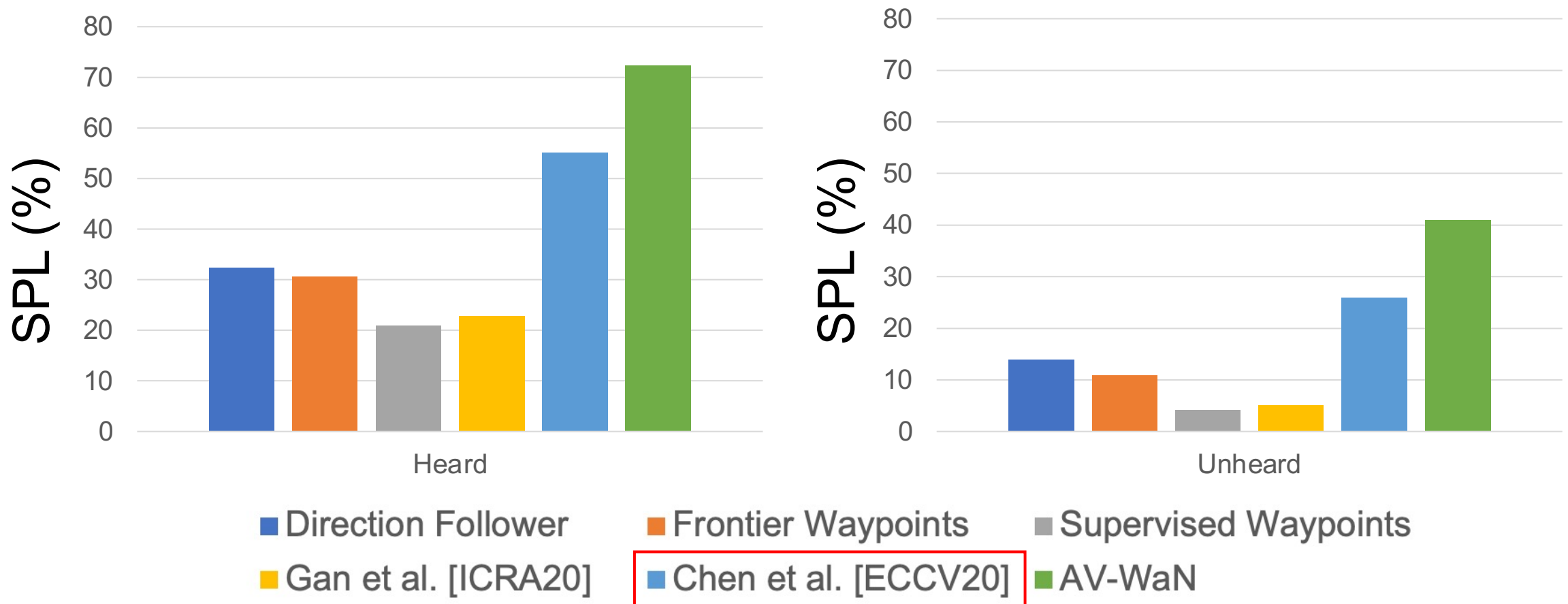
Agent Goal Start Waypoint Normalized intensity Seen/Unseen area Occupied area

Our model dynamically selects waypoints and builds an acoustic memory as it moves.



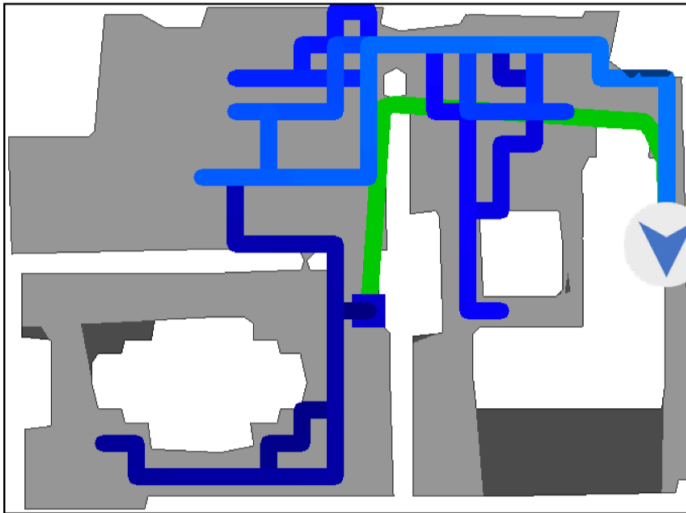
Navigation results

- Strongly outperforms all baselines and existing methods
- Generalizing to unheard sounds and unseen environments

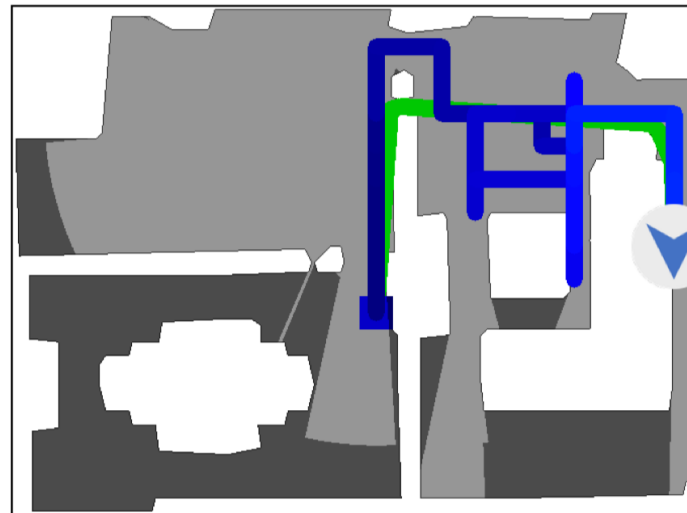


Navigation trajectories

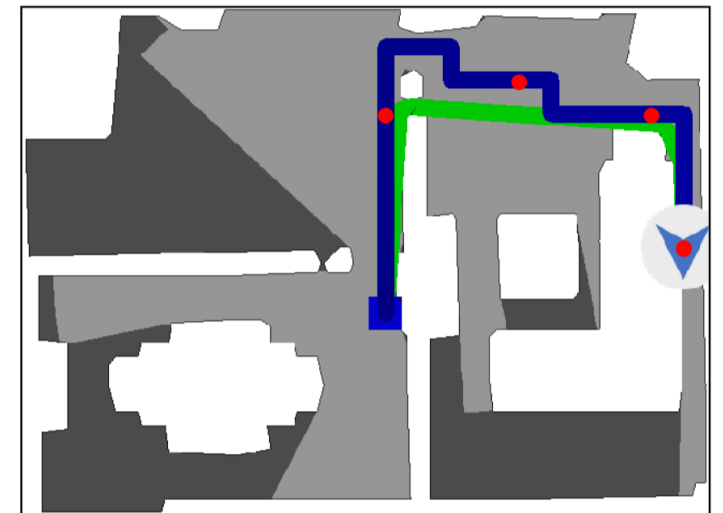
- Gan et al. [ICRA 20]: is prone to errors and often leads the agent to backtrack
- Chen et al. [ECCV20]: oscillates around obstacles
- AV-WaN (Ours): reaches the goal most efficiently



Gan et al. [ICRA20]



Chen et al. [ECCV20]



AV-WaN (Ours)

Agent Start Waypoint Shortest path Agent path Seen/Unseen area Occupied area

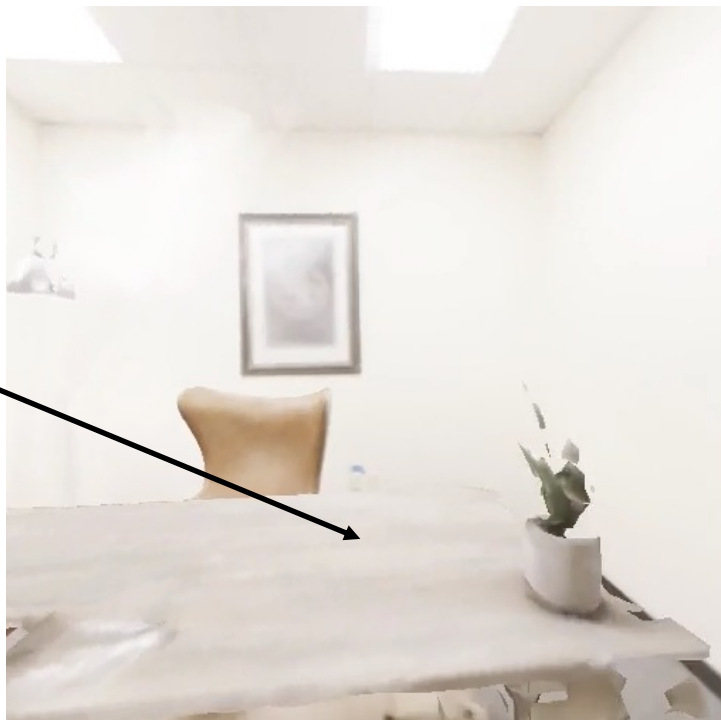


Limitations of the AudioGoal task

AudioGoal task (Chen et al. ECCV 2020, Gan et al. ICRA 2020):

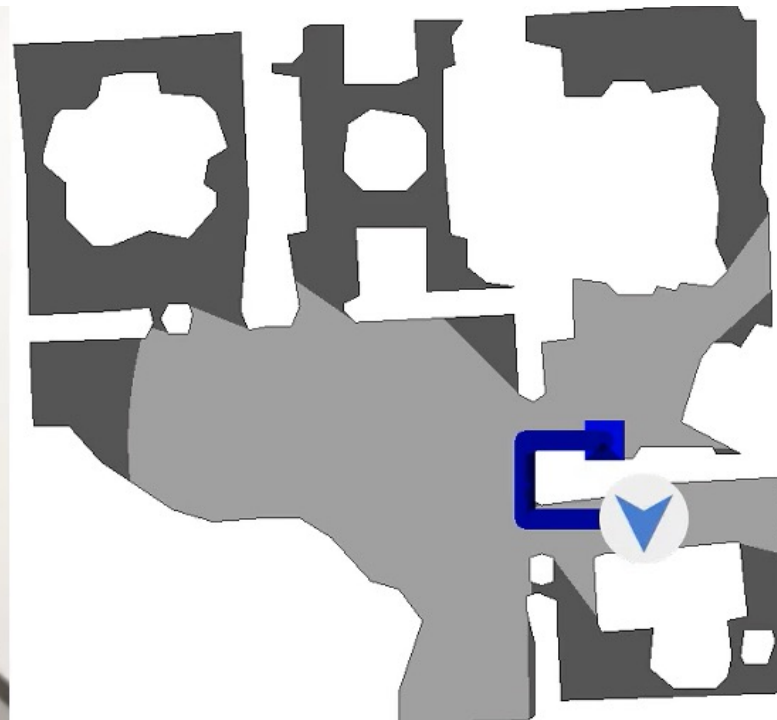
- The sound is constant and periodic (it covers the whole episode)
- The goal has no visual embodiment

Agent's egocentric view



Telephone
not present!

Top-down map



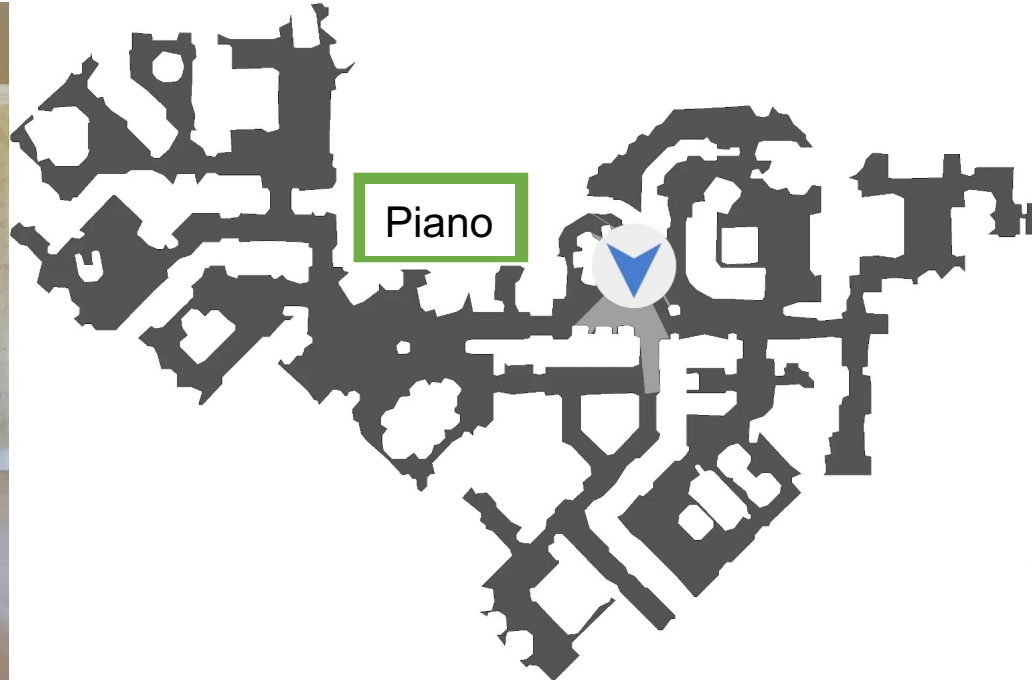
The agent searches for the ringing telephone in an unfamiliar environment

Semantic AudioGoal

Agent's egocentric view



Top-down map



Wear headphones
for spatial sound

The agent must continue navigating even after the sound stops

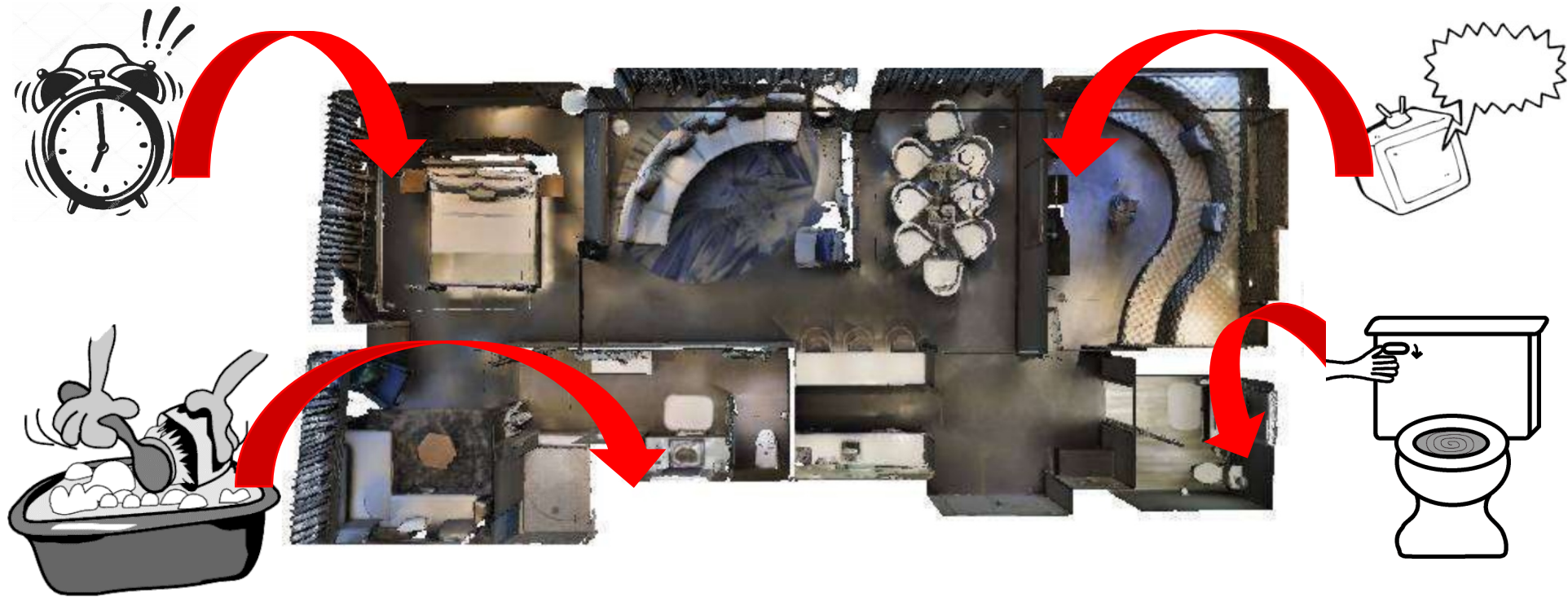
Our proposed semantic AudioGoal task:

- The sound is associated with a semantically meaningful object
- The sound is not periodic and has variable length



Semantic AudioGoal dataset

- Augment an existing simulator SoundSpaces¹ with semantic sounds
- 21 object categories in Matterport3D²: chair, TV, cabinet, sink etc.
- Object-emitted sounds and object-related sounds

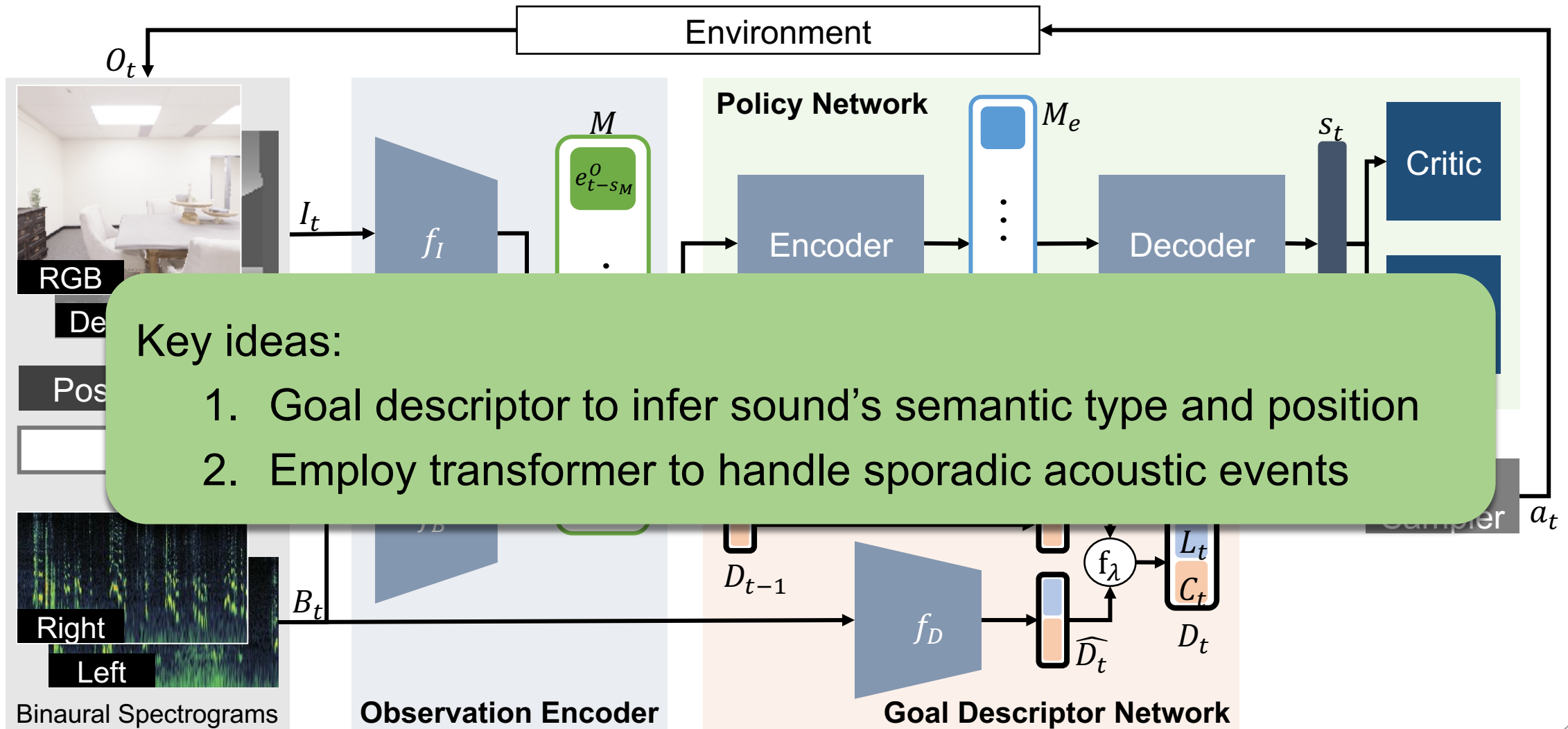


¹Changan Chen et al., SoundSpaces: Audio-Visual Navigation in 3D Environments, ECCV 2020

²Angle Chang et al., Matterport3D: Learning from RGB-D Data in Indoor Environments, 3DV 2017

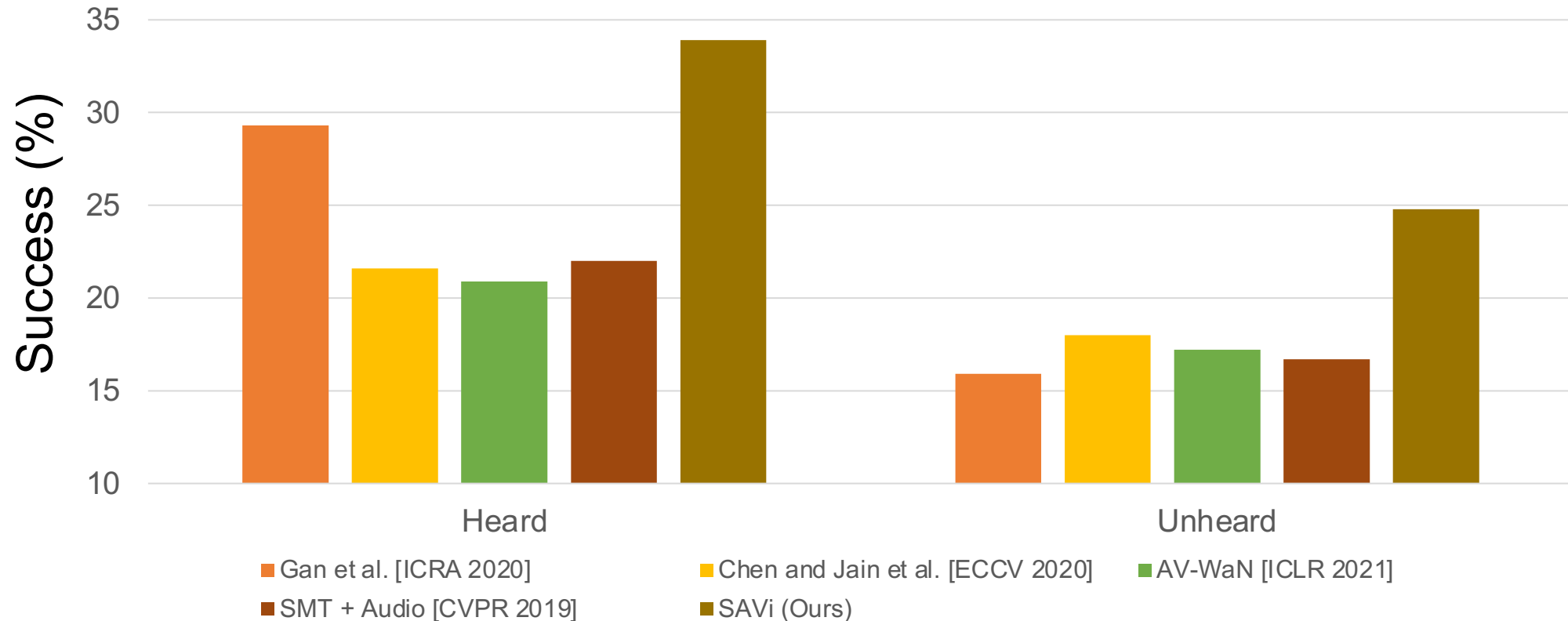


Semantic Audio-Visual Navigation (SAVi)



Navigation results

- SAVi strongly outperforms all existing methods
- Generalizing to unheard sounds



Navigation example

Object: Chest of drawers

Sound: Opening and closing a drawer

C_t: chest of drawers

Embodied agents can learn about how objects look and sound through interactions with a 3D scene

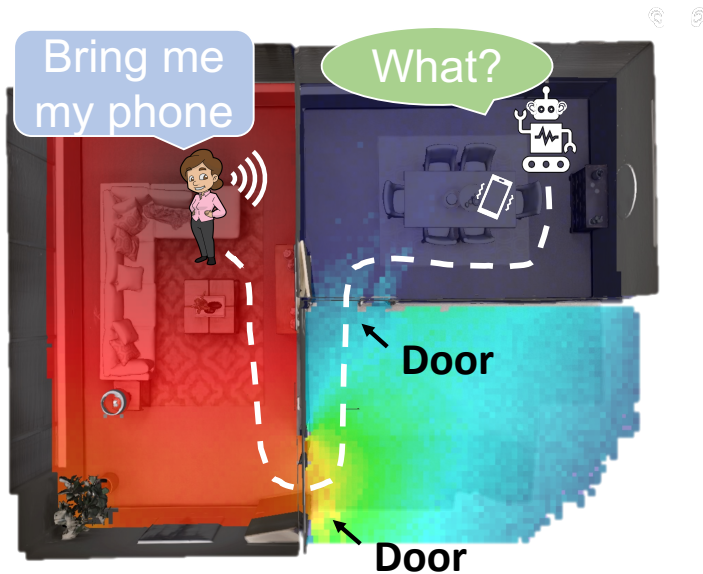
Agent  Object  Viewpoint  Start  Path w/ sound  Path w/o sound  Shortest path  Seen/Unseen  Occupied   L_t

The agent identifies its drawer sliding sound and locates the target object with vision after the sound stops.



Beyond navigation: recognition and synthesis

- Recognizing human speech in spaces is challenging due to reverberation
- Synthesizing sounds that are consistent with visual observations
- Requires studying perception separately from decision-making



Robotics



Home assistance

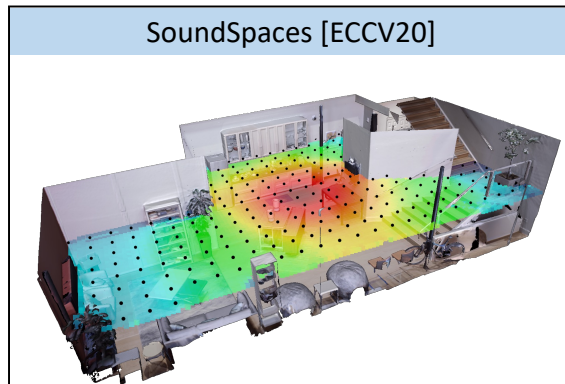


AR/VR

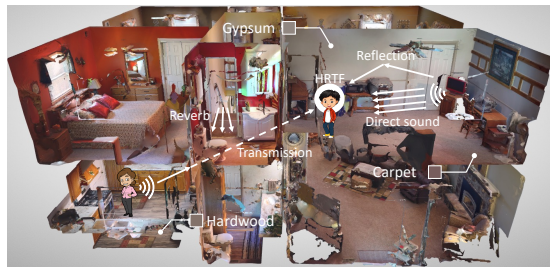
4D audio-visual perception

My research: learning the correspondence between sight and sound in spaces

Simulating sounds in spaces

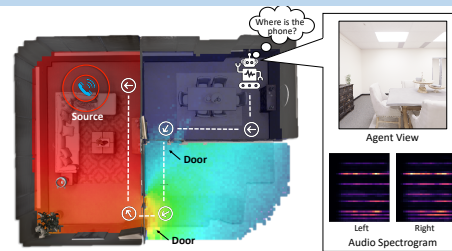


SoundSpaces 2.0 [NeurIPS22]

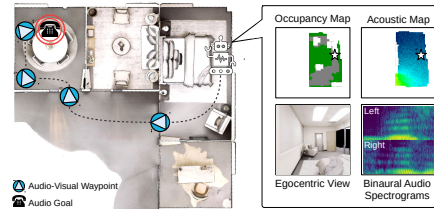


Navigating with sounds in spaces

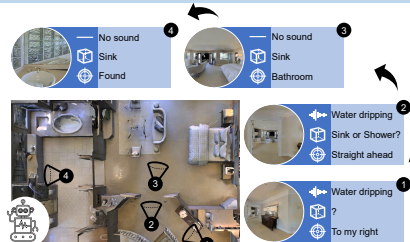
Audio-visual navigation SoundSpaces [ECCV20]



Efficient & hierarchical AV nav [ICLR21]

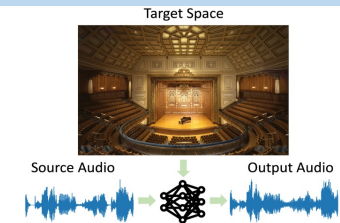


Semantic audio-visual navigation [CVPR21]

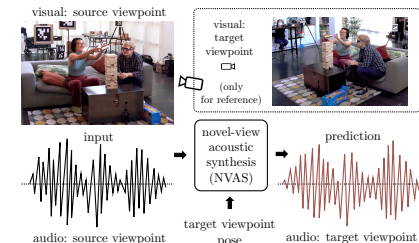


Synthesizing sounds in spaces

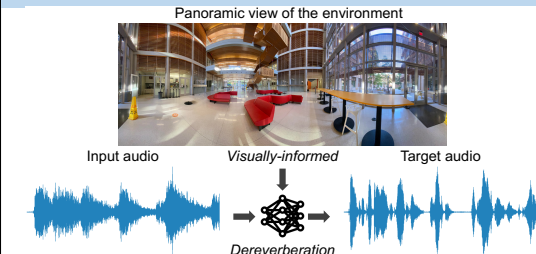
Visual acoustic matching [CVPR22]



Novel-view acoustic synthesis [CVPR23]



Audio-visual dereverberation [ICASSP23]



Matching acoustics

Can we alter the acoustic signature of the sound if we understand the acoustics of the space based on visuals?



Augmented reality



Film dubbing

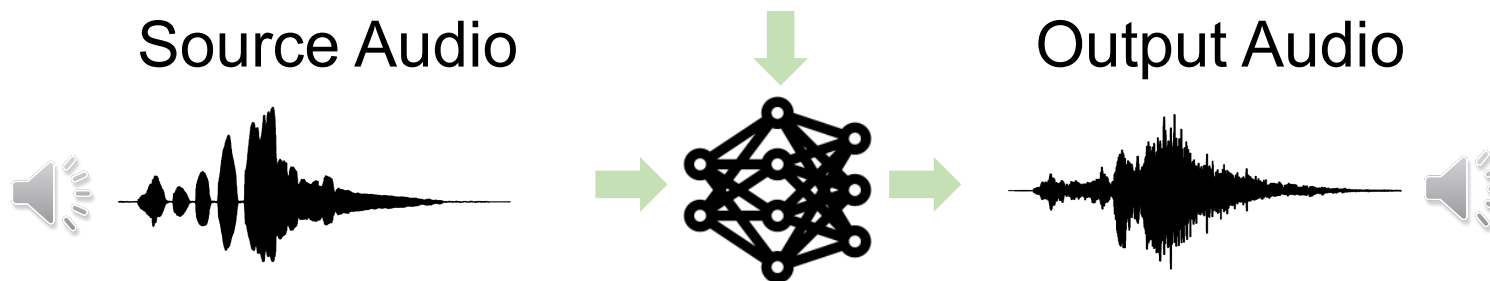
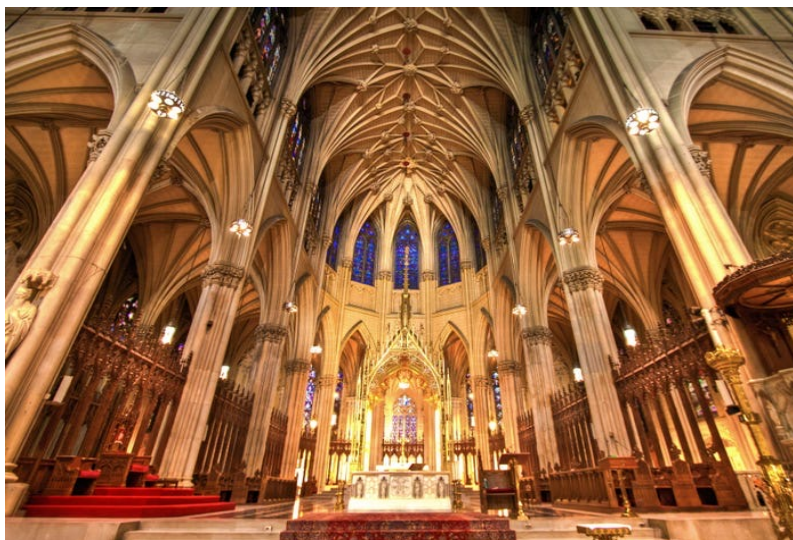


Video conferencing

The visual acoustic matching task

We propose to transform the sound recorded in one space to another depicted in the target visual scene.

Target Space



The visual acoustic matching task

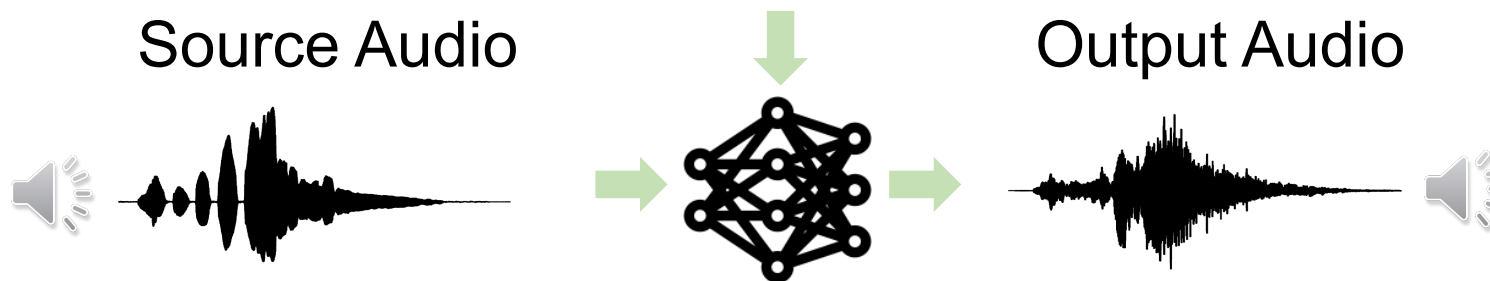
We propose to transform the sound recorded in one space to another depicted in the target visual scene.

Target Space



Main challenges:

1. Crossmodal (audio-visual) reasoning
2. Obtaining the right data for the task



The visual acoustic matching task

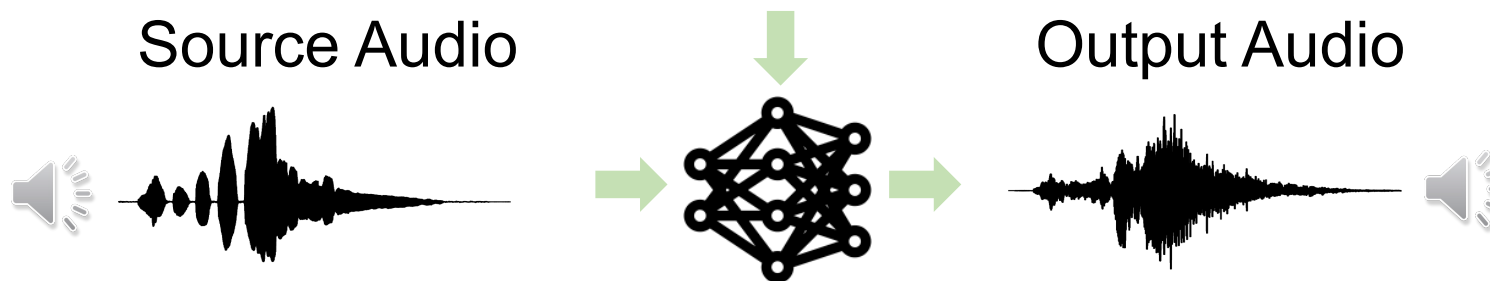
We propose to transform the sound recorded in one space to another depicted in the target visual scene.

Target Space

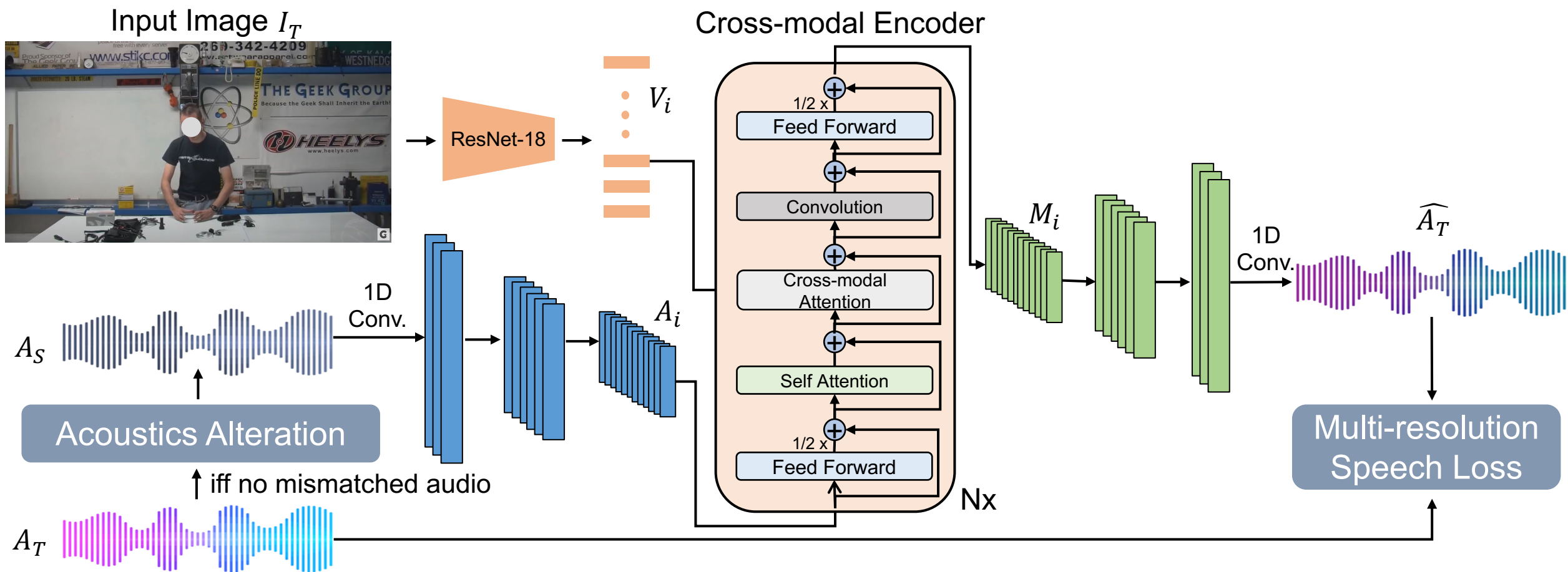


Key ideas:

1. Reasoning how image regions affect acoustics with attention
2. Leveraging Web videos with self-supervision for learning



Audio-Visual Transformer for Audio Generation



Acoustics alteration strategy

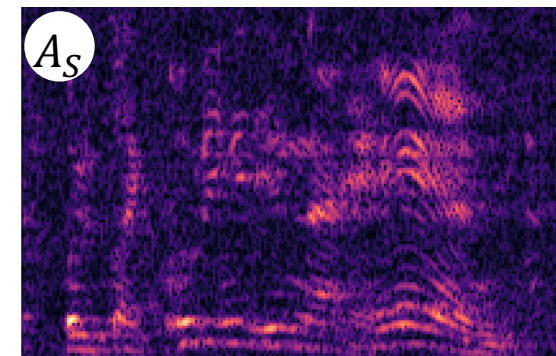
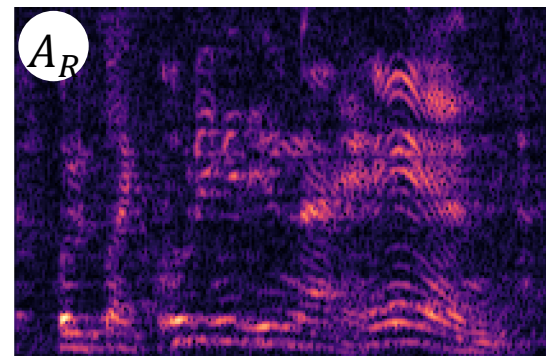
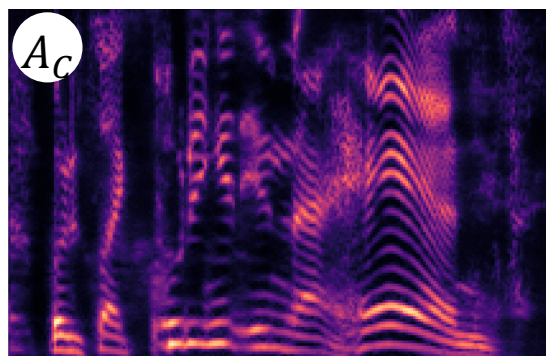
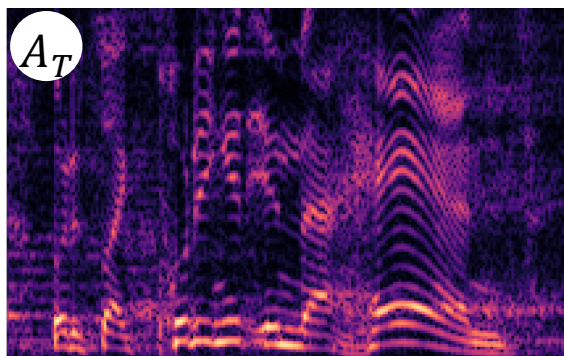
Goal: create audio with the same content but different acoustics as self-supervision.



Dereverberation

Acoustic Randomization

Adding Noise



Experiment results

- Experiment on both synthetic and web video datasets
- Strongly outperforms traditional and heavily supervised approaches

	<i>SoundSpaces-Speech</i>						<i>Acoustic AVSpeech [4]</i>			
		<i>Seen</i>		<i>Unseen</i>			<i>Seen</i>		<i>Unseen</i>	
	STFT	RTE (s)	MOSE	STFT	RTE (s)	MOSE	RTE (s)	MOSE	RTE (s)	MOSE
Input audio	1.192	0.331	0.617	1.206	0.356	0.611	0.387	0.658	0.392	0.634
Blind Reverberator [1]	1.338	0.044	0.312	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Image2Reverb [2]	2.538	0.293	0.508	2.318	0.317	0.518	-	-	-	-
AV U-Net [3]	0.638	0.095	0.353	0.658	0.118	0.367	0.156	0.570	0.188	0.540
AViTAR w/o visual	0.862	0.140	0.217	0.902	0.186	0.236	0.194	0.504	0.207	0.478
AViTAR	0.665	0.034	0.161	0.822	0.062	0.195	0.144	0.481	0.183	0.453

[1] More than 50 years of artificial reverberation, Vesa Valimaki, et al., DREAMS 2016

[2] Image2reverb: Cross-modal reverb impulse response synthesis, Nikhil Singh et al., ICCV 2021

[3] 2.5d visual sound, Ruohan Gao and Kristen Grauman, CVPR 2019

[4] Looking to Listen at the Cocktail Party: A Speaker-Independent Audio-Visual Model for Speech Separation, Ariel Ephrat et al., SIGGRAPH 2018

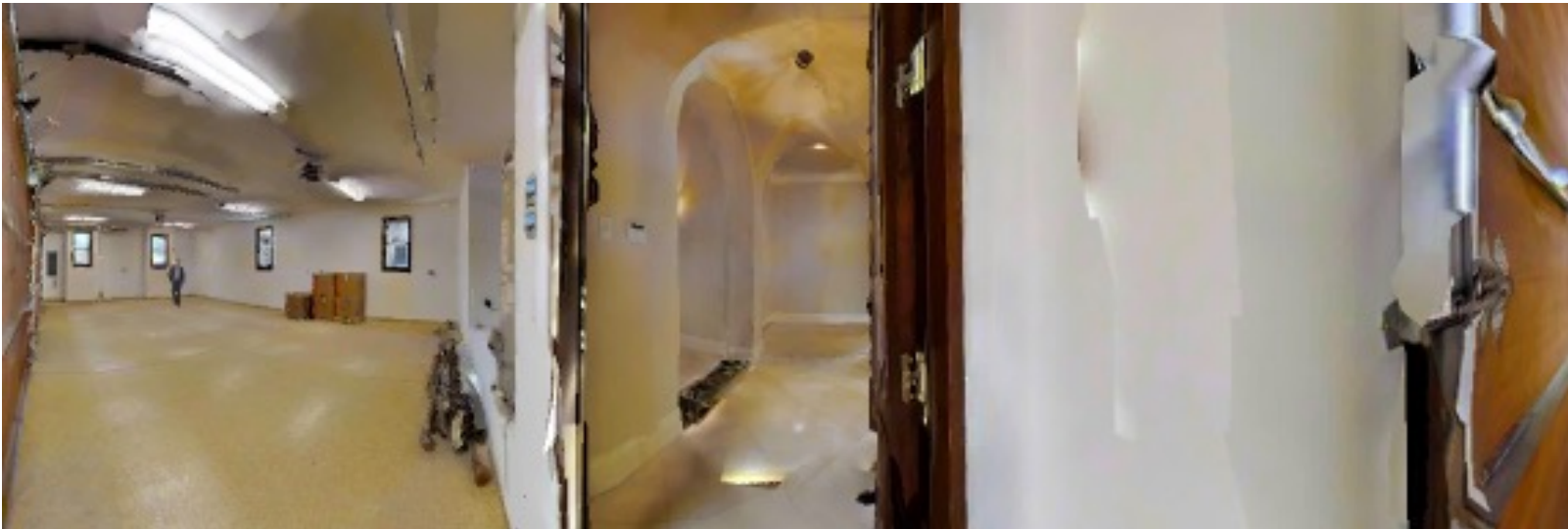
STFT: distance between mag spectrogram

RTE: errors of RT60 (time of reverb decaying by 60dB)

MOSE: errors of MOS (measures speech quality)

Examples on SoundSpaces-Speech

In this example, we show comparison of our model with baselines on SoundSpaces-Speech (unseen).



Anechoic



GT Target



AViTAR



Image2Reverb[1]









AV U-Net [2]

[1] Image2Reverb: Cross-Modal Reverb Impulse Response Synthesis, Singh et al., ICCV 2021

[2] 2.5D Visual Sound, Gao et al., CVPR 2019

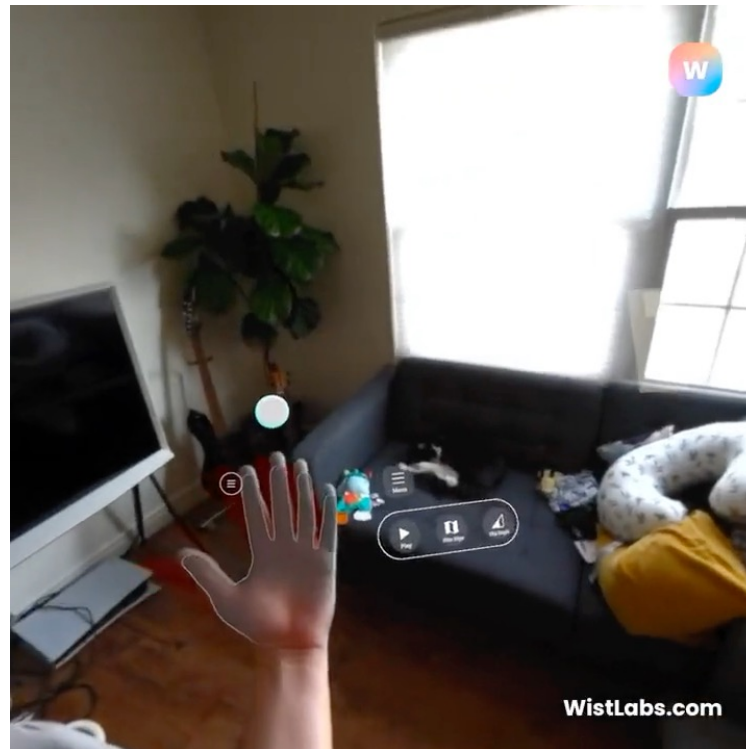
Matching different environments on AVSpeech

	Office	Garage	Auditorium
Input			
AViTAR			
RT60	0.34s	0.40s	0.58s

Our AViTAR model reasons the image content and learns to inject more reverberation into the speech as the environment gets larger.

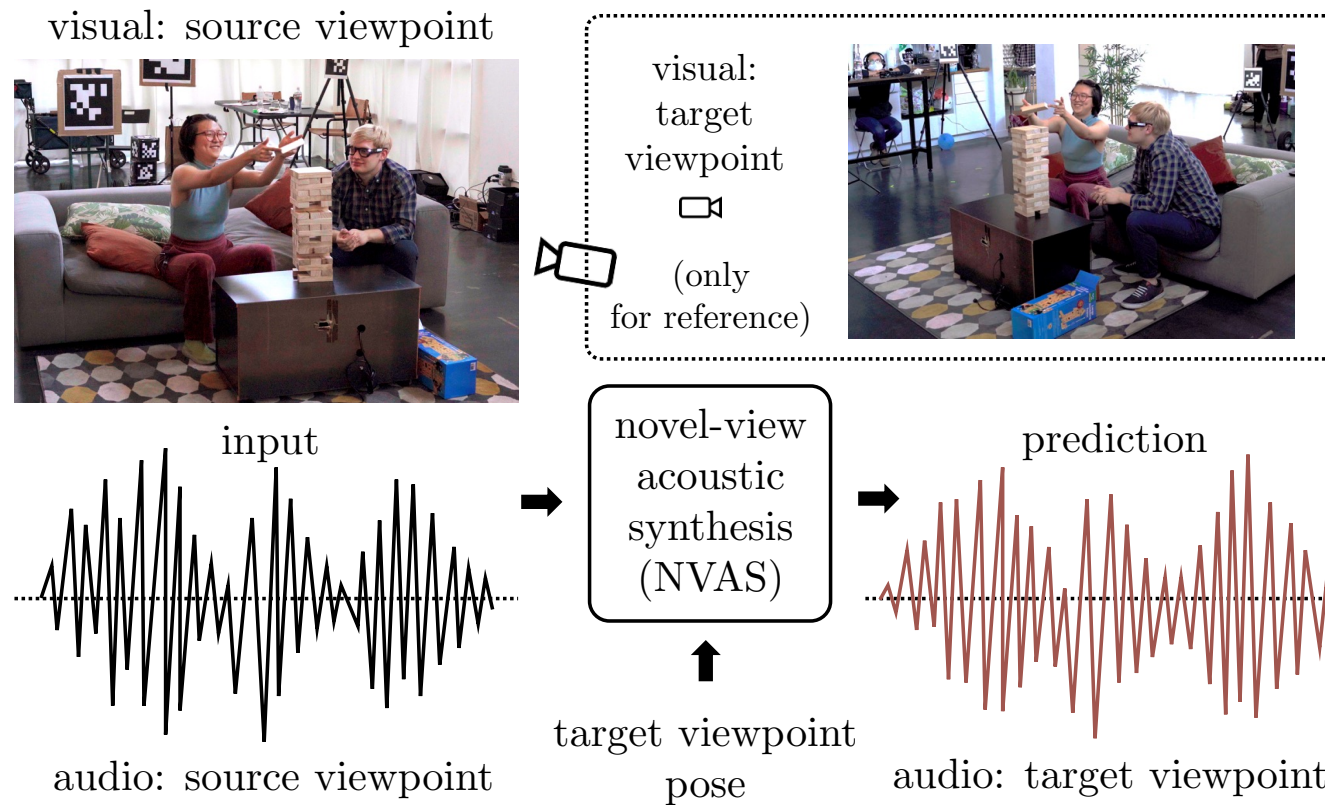
Can we synthesize fine-grained acoustics?

- Many of our important life moments are recorded in videos
- Videos are however passively collected from one viewpoint
- Recreating the moment in 3D is important for immersive AR/VR applications
- Novel-view synthesis (NVS) is vision-only and does not handle sound



Novel-view acoustic synthesis

We propose the novel-view acoustic synthesis task:



Difference between NVS & NVAS

Novel-view synthesis (NVS):

- 3D scenes change limitedly during the recording
- Camera captures directional map
- Frequency of providing spatial triangulation and segmentation

Novel-view acoustic synthesis (NVAS):

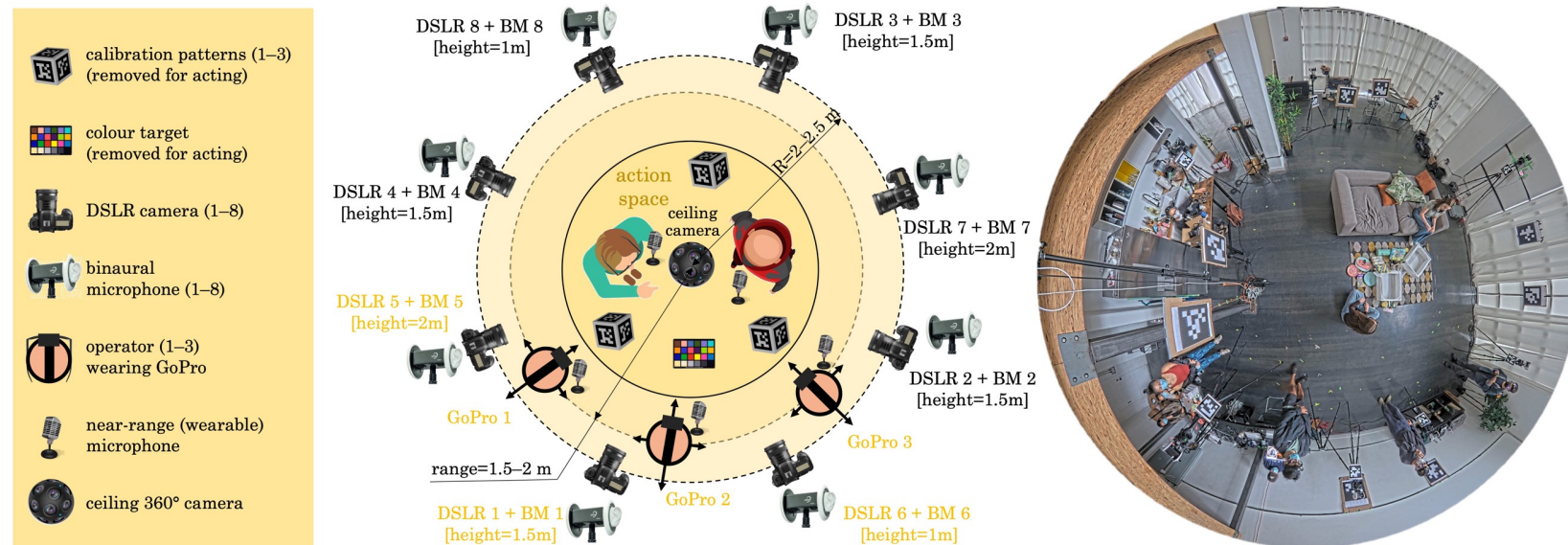
- Sound changes substantially over time
- Sound changes substantially over time at best weakly
- Sounds are often mixed together wide range of

1. Lack of supporting dataset and benchmark
2. Lack of existing model that is capable of NVAS



Replay-NVAS dataset

- 68 scenes of social interactions, 2-4 actors per scene
- 8 surrounding viewpoints, equipped with DSLR cameras and binaural mics
- Each actor has a near-range mic to record their voice
- Over 50 hours of video data



Replay-NVAS example



SoundSpaces-NVAS dataset

- Constructed based on SoundSpaces 2.0¹ audio-visual simulator
- Renders acoustic effects such as direct sound, reverberation, transmission, and diffraction
- Use LibriSpeech² (audio book) as the source audio
- 1,000 speakers, 120 3D scenes, 200K viewpoints and 1.3K hours of audio-visual data

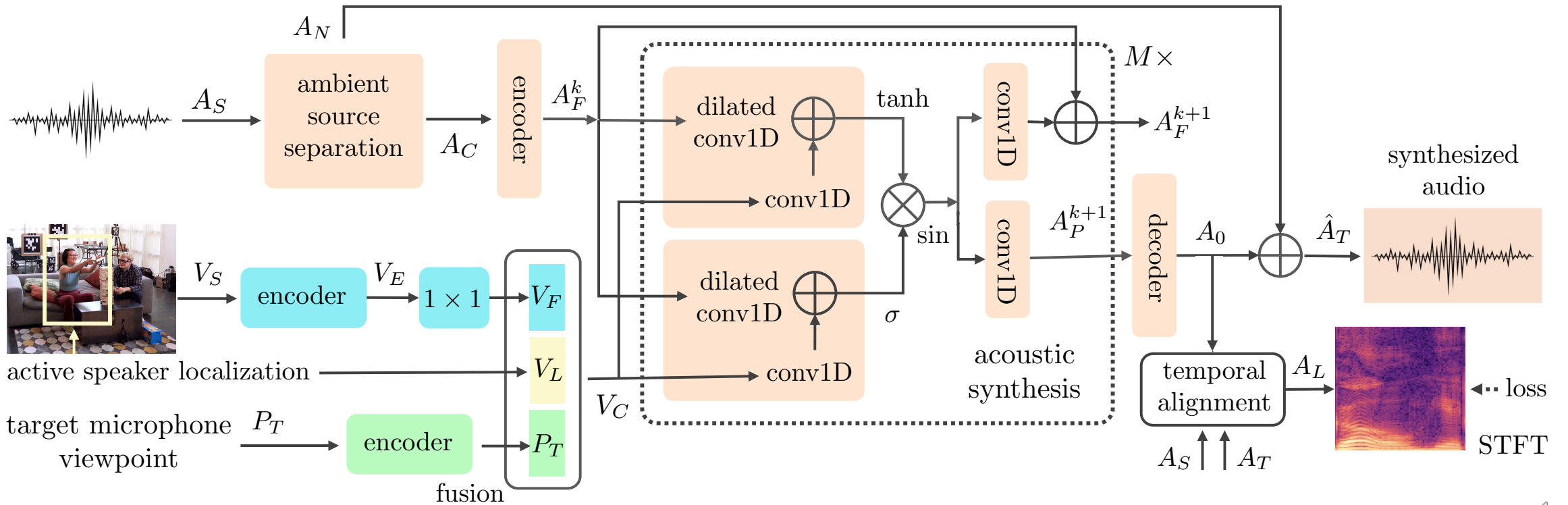
¹SoundSpaces 2.0: A Simulation Platform for Visual-Acoustic Learning, Chen et al., NeurIPS 2022

²Librispeech: An ASR corpus based on public domain audio books, Chen et al., ICASSP 2015



Visually Guided Acoustic Synthesis (ViGAS)

Learn an **implicit neural transfer function** that reasons the sound source location, acoustics of the space and the target pose in 3D to synthesize the target sound.



Results

- Experiment on both single environment and novel environment
- Outperforms traditional approaches and audio-only ablation
- Generalizing to novel environment with single view is non-trivial

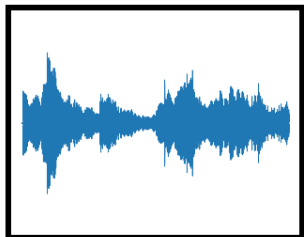
	SoundSpaces-NVAS						Replay-NVAS		
	<i>Single Environment</i>			<i>Novel Environment</i>			<i>Single Environment</i>		
	Mag	LRE	RTE	Mag	LRE	RTE	Mag	LRE	RTE
Input audio	0.225	1.473	0.032	0.216	1.408	0.039	0.159	1.477	0.046
TF Estimator [1]	0.359	2.596	0.059	0.440	3.261	0.092	0.327	2.861	0.147
DSP [2]	0.302	3.644	0.044	0.300	3.689	0.047	0.463	1.300	0.067
VAM [3]	0.220	1.198	0.041	0.235	1.131	0.051	0.161	0.924	0.070
ViGAS w/o visual	0.173	0.973	0.031	0.181	1.007	0.036	0.146	0.877	0.046
ViGAS	0.159	0.782	0.029	0.175	0.971	0.034	0.142	0.716	0.048

[1] Extrapolation, interpolation, and smoothing of stationary time series. Norbert Wiener. Report of the Services 19, 1942

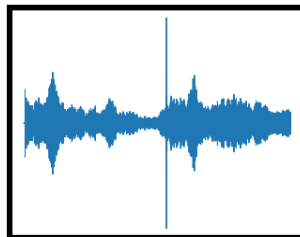
[2] Introduction to head-related transfer functions (hrtfs): representations of hrtfs in time, frequency, and space. Cheng et al., AES 2001

[3] Visual Acoustic Matching, Chen et al., CVPR 2022

Replay-NVAS example 1

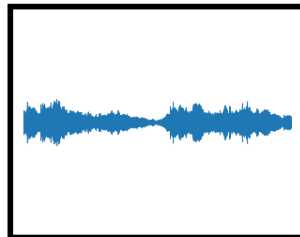


Left channel

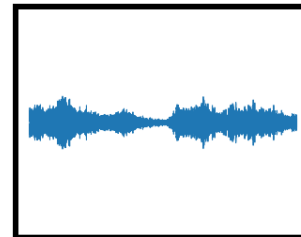


Right channel

Source

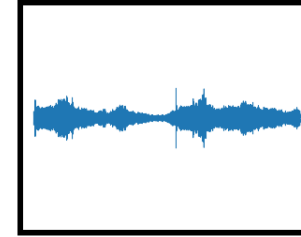


Left channel

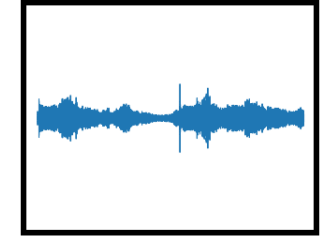


Right channel

Target



Left channel

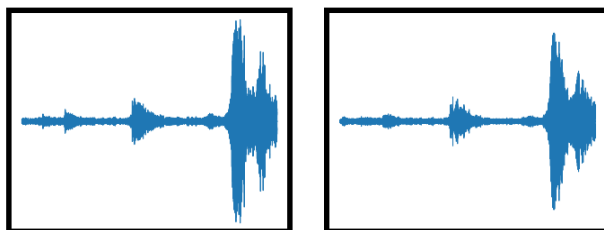


Right channel

Ours



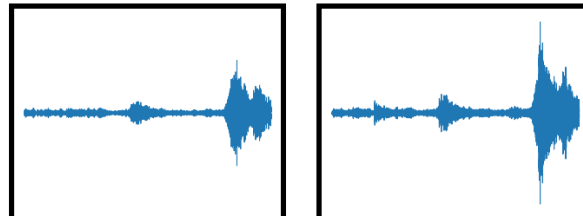
Replay-NVAS example 2



Left channel

Right channel

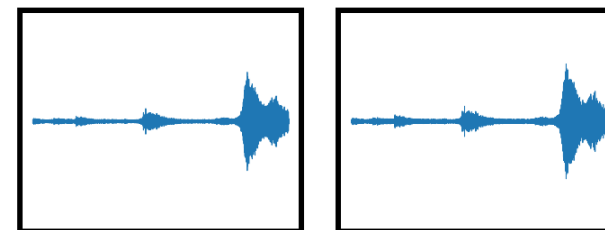
Source



Left channel

Right channel

Target



Left channel

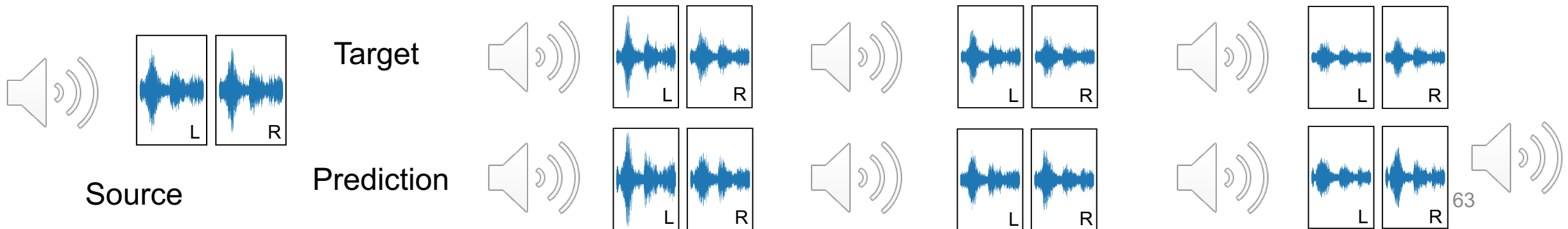
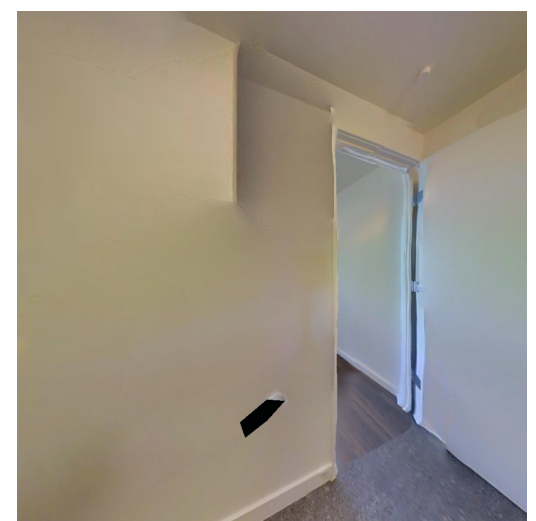
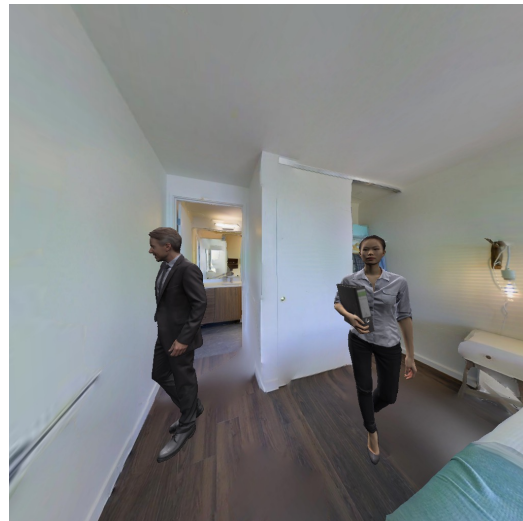
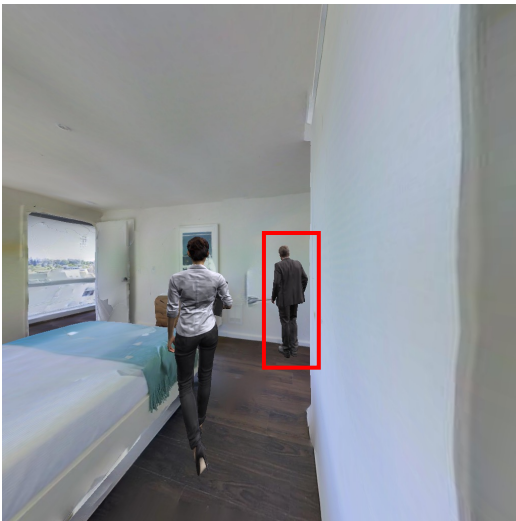
Right channel

Ours



Qualitative examples on SoundSpaces-NVAS

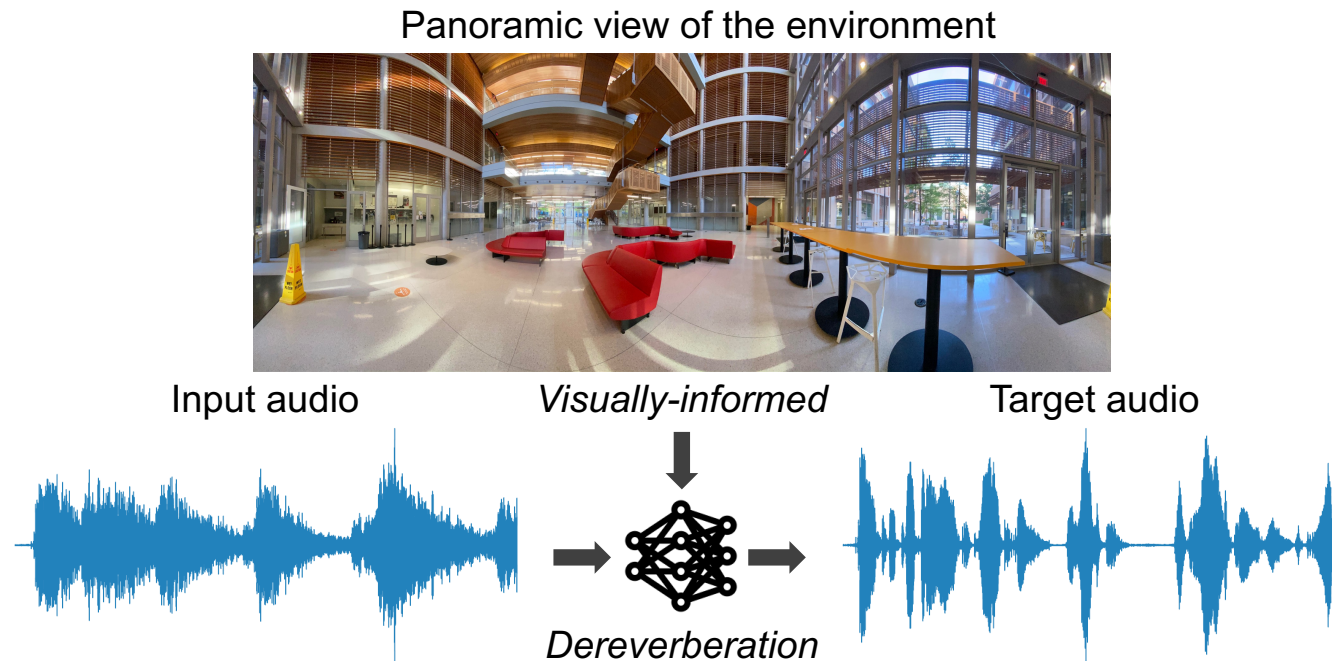
Here we show that for one source viewpoint, our model predicts the audio for four different viewpoints.



Audio-visual dereverberation

Can we strip away reverberation with visual cues?

- We propose the audio-visual dereverberation task
- Model dereverberates better with visual information
- Demonstrates on several downstream tasks



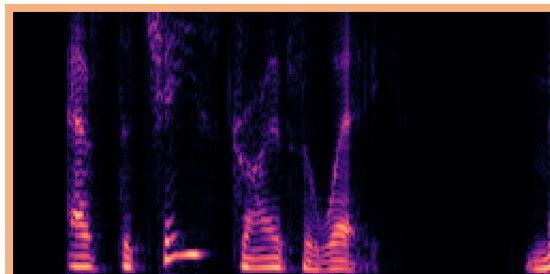
Qualitative examples

Panorama RGB

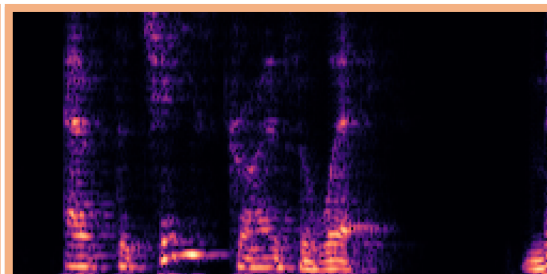


Long corridor, distance speaker

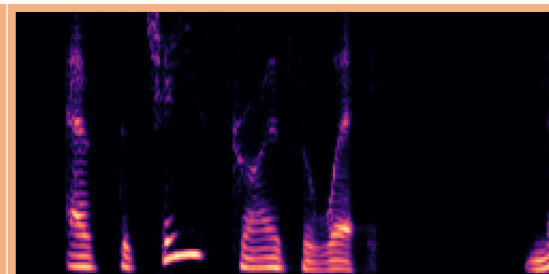
Clean (GT)



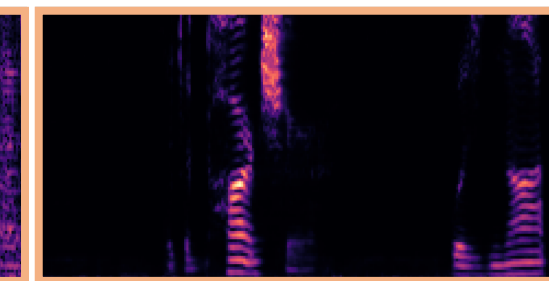
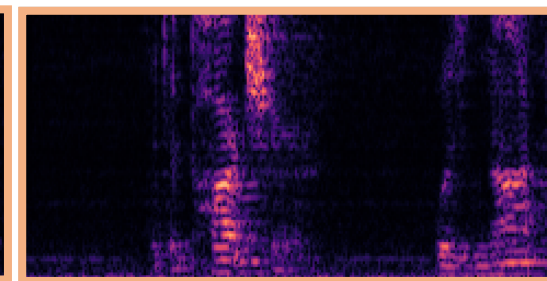
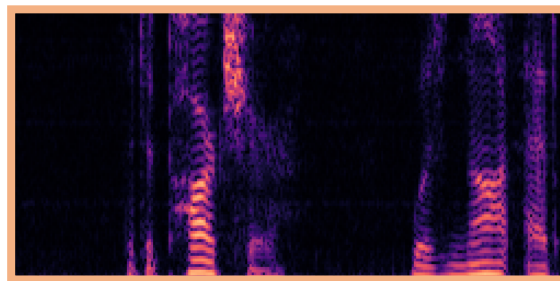
Reverberant



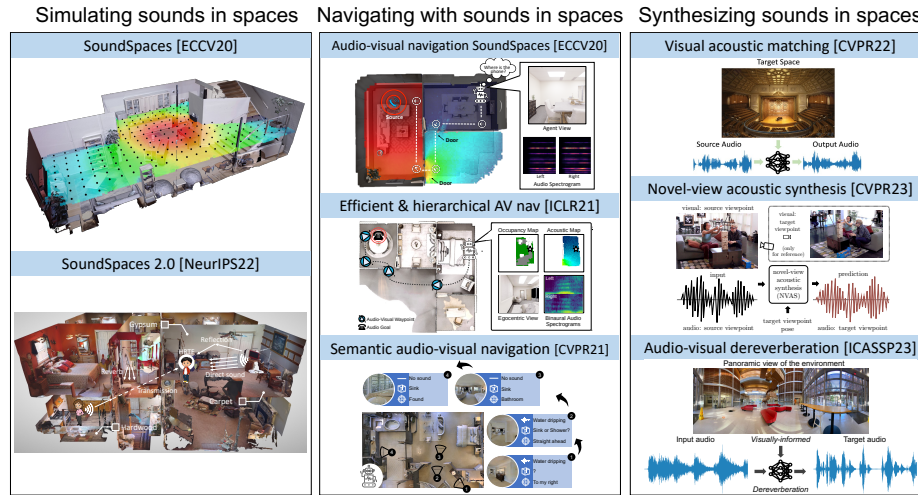
De-reverberated



Classroom, close speaker



Summary



Simulator & Datasets

- SoundSpaces 1.0 & 2.0
- SoundSpaces derived
- Multi-view AV datasets

Tasks

- Audio-visual embodied AI
- Visual-acoustic learning
- Multimodal NVS

Algorithms

- Multimodal navigation policies
- Self-supervision for VAM
- Multimodal fusion & generation

Thank you!