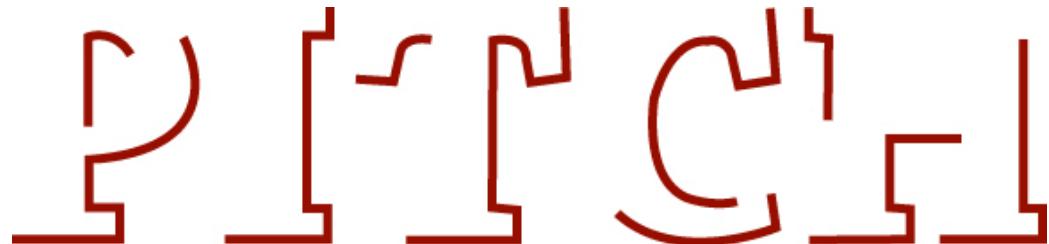
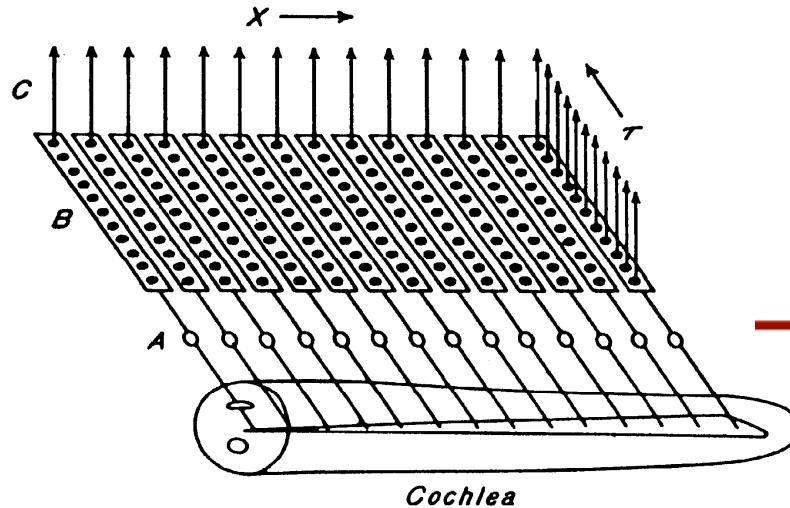




## Theories & models of musical pitch



# The search for the missing fundamental: theories & models of musical pitch

- Brief review of basics of sound & vibration
- Brief review of pitch phenomena
- Distortion theories (nonlinear processes produce F0 in the cochlea)
- Spectral pattern theories
  - Pattern-recognition/pattern-completion
  - Fletcher: frequency separation
  - The need for harmonic templates (Goldstein)
    - Terhardt's Virtual pitch: adding up the subharmonics
  - Musical pitch equivalence classes
  - Pitch classes and neural nets: Cohen & Grossberg
  - Learning pitch classes with connectionist nets: Bharucha
- Temporal theories
  - Residues: Beatings of unresolved harmonics (Schouten, 1940's)
  - Problems with residues and envelopes
  - Temporal autocorrelation models (Licklider, 1951)
  - Interspike interval models (Moore, 1980)
  - Correlogram demonstration (Slaney & Lyon, Apple demo video)
  - Population-interval models (Meddis & Hewitt, Cariani & Delgutte)
- Problems & prospects

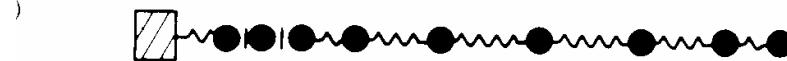
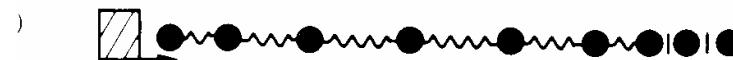
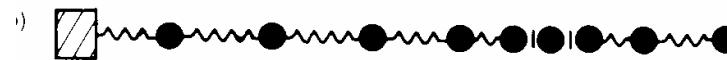
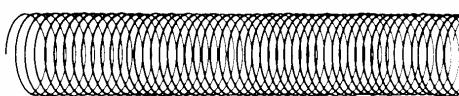
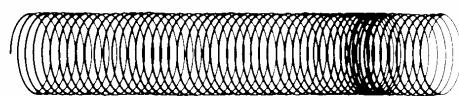
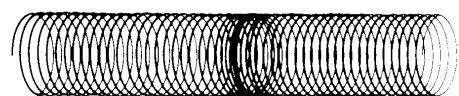
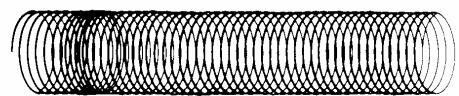
# Vibrations create compressions and expansions of air

Sound waves are alternating local changes in pressure

These changes propagate through space as “longitudinal” waves

**Condensation phase** (compression):  
pressure increases

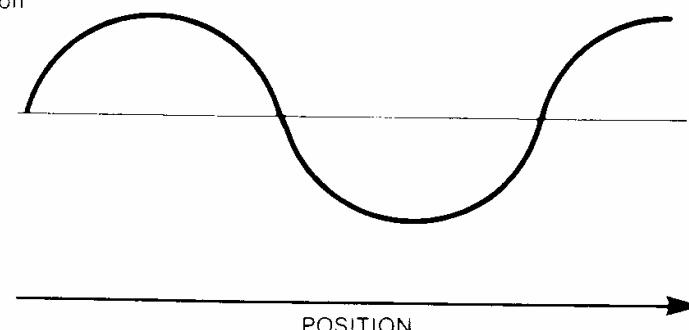
**Rarefaction (expansion) phase:**  
pressure decreases



Compression

Pressure

Expansion



# Waveforms

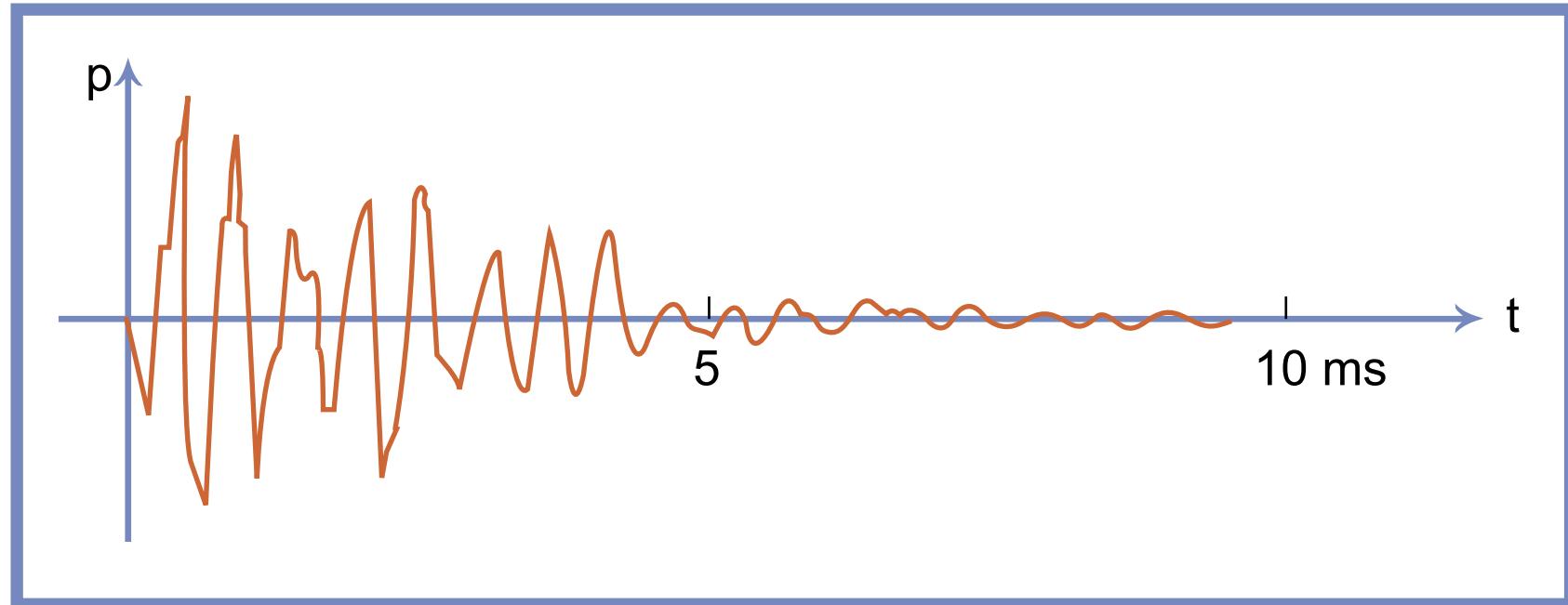
Microphones convert sound pressures to electrical voltages.

Waveforms plot pressure as a function of time, i.e. a “time-series” of amplitudes.

Waveforms are complete descriptions of sounds.

Audio CD's sample sounds at 44,100 samples/sec.

Oscilloscope demonstration.



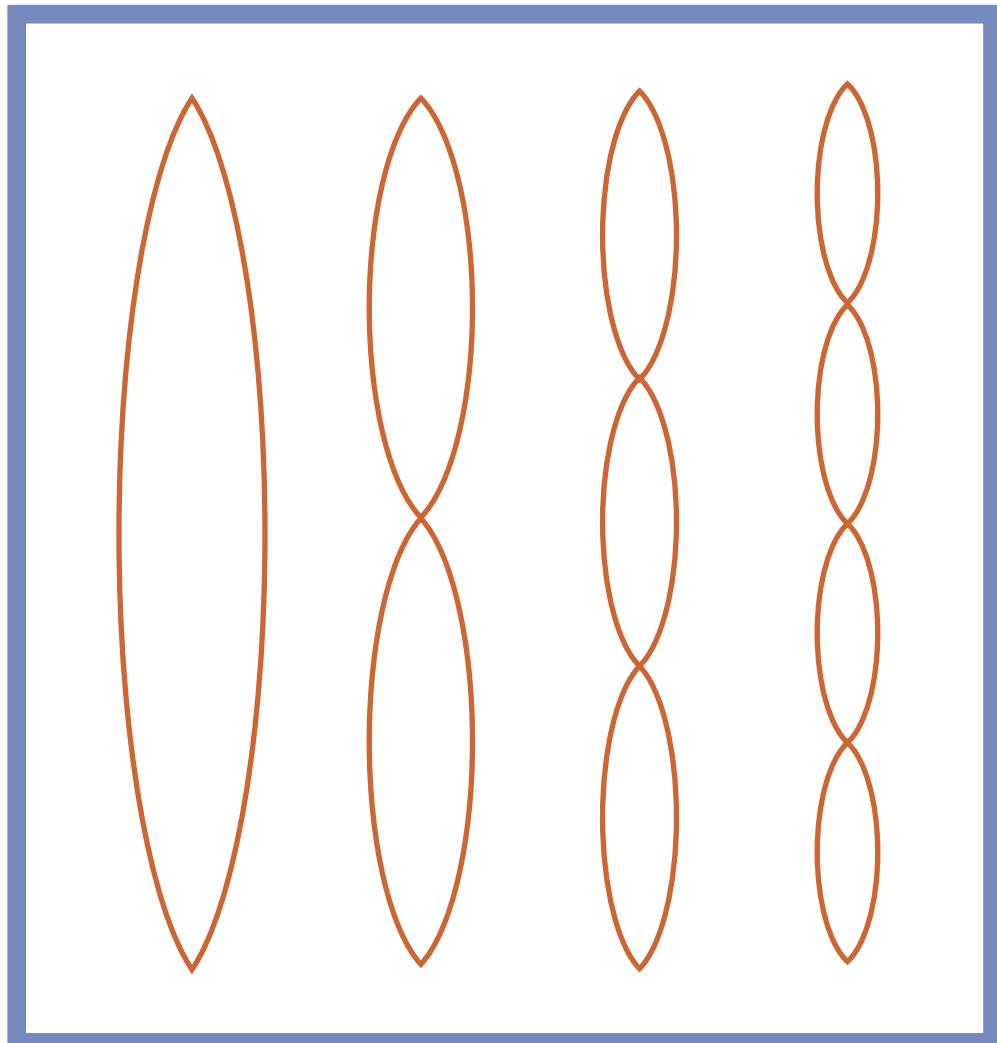
# Complex modes of vibration

Most physical systems have multiple modes of vibrations that create resonances that favor particular sets of frequencies.

Vibrating strings or vibrating columns of air in enclosures exhibit harmonic resonance patterns.

Material structures that are struck (bells, xylophones, percussive instruments) have resonances that depend partly on their shape and therefore can produce frequencies that are not harmonically related.

More later on what this means for pitch and sound quality.



# Frequency spectra

Joseph Fourier (1768-1830) showed that any waveform can be represented as the sum of many sinusoids (*Fourier spectrum*).

George Ohm (1789-1854) and Hermann von Helmholtz (1821-1894) postulated that the ear analyzes sound analogously, first breaking sounds into their partials.



Each sinusoid of a particular frequency (*frequency component, partial*) has 2 parameters:

- 1) its **magnitude** (amplitude of the sinusoid)
- 2) its **phase** (relative starting time)

A sound with only one frequency component is called a *pure tone*.

A sound with more than one is called a *complex tone*.

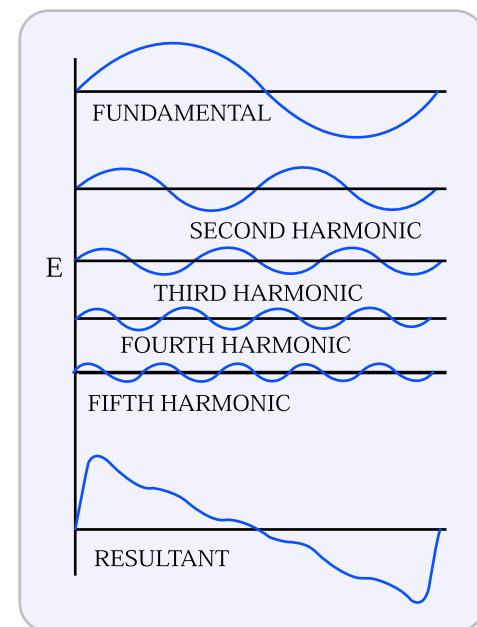
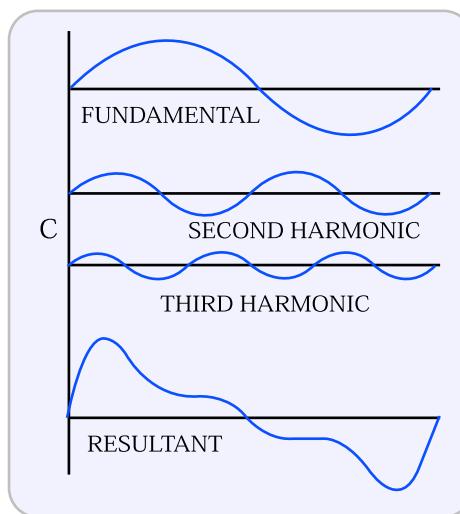
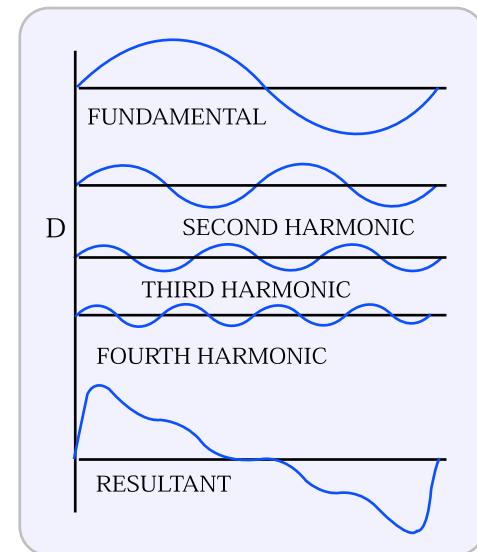
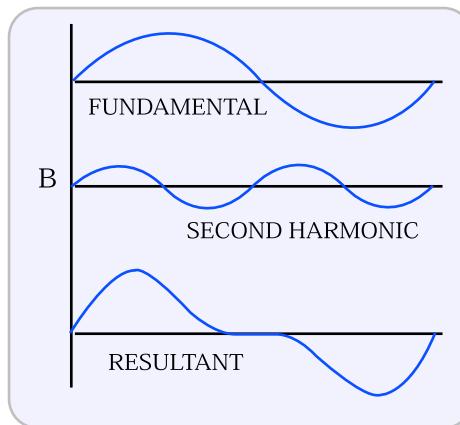
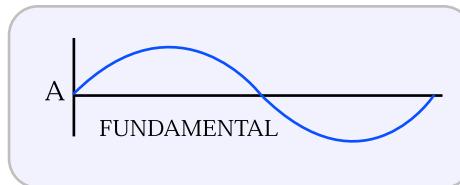
A complex tone whose partials are all part of the same harmonic series is called a *harmonic complex*.

Such a tone is periodic -- its waveform repeats with a period equal to 1/fundamental frequency (i.e. the fundamental period).

If any of the partials are not part of a harmonic series, then the sound is *inharmonic*.

# Fundamentals and harmonics

- Periodic sounds (30-20kHz) produce pitch sensations.
- Periodic sounds consist of repeating time patterns.
- The fundamental period ( $F_0$ ) is the duration of the repeated pattern.
- The fundamental frequency is the repetition frequency of the pattern.
- In the Fourier domain, the frequency components of a periodic sound are all members of a harmonic series ( $n = 1*F_0, 2*F_0, 3*F_0\dots$ ).
- The fundamental frequency is therefore the greatest common divisor of all of the component frequencies.
- The fundamental is also therefore a subharmonic of all component frequencies.



# Demonstrations

- **Oscilloscope demonstrations**
  - Armenian flute
  - Human voice
- **Spectrum analyzer demonstrations**
  - Flute
  - Violins
  - Human voice
- **Real time spectrogram demonstrations (iTunes/SpectroGraph plugin)**
  - Armenian flute
  - Violins
  - Vocal music

# Harmonic series

A harmonic series consists of integer multiples of a fundamental frequency, e.g. if the fundamental is 100 Hz, then the harmonic series is: 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 600 Hz, .... etc.

The 100 Hz fundamental is the *first harmonic*, 200 Hz is the *second harmonic*. The fundamental is often denoted by F0.

The fundamental frequency is therefore the greatest common divisor of all the frequencies of the partials.

Harmonics above the fundamental constitute the *overtone series*.

Subharmonics are integer divisions of the fundamental:

e.g. for F0= 100 Hz, subharmonics are at 50, 33, 25, 20, 16.6 Hz etc.  
Subharmonics are also called *undertones*.

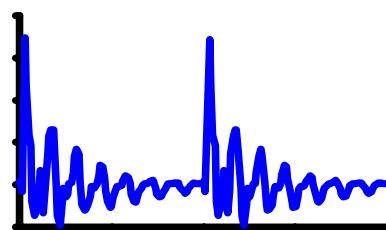
The fundamental period is  $1/F_0$ , e.g. for F0=100 Hz, it is 1/100 sec or 10 msec. Periods of the subharmonics are integer multiples of the fundamental period.

# Synthetic vowels

Waveforms

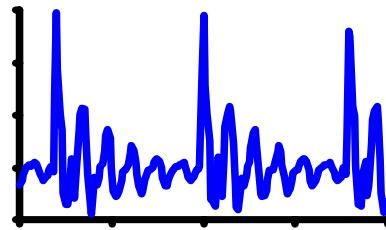
[ae]

F0 = 100 Hz



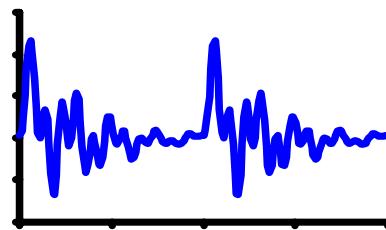
[ae]

F0 = 125 Hz



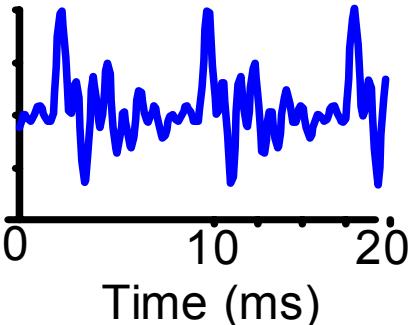
[er]

F0 = 100 Hz



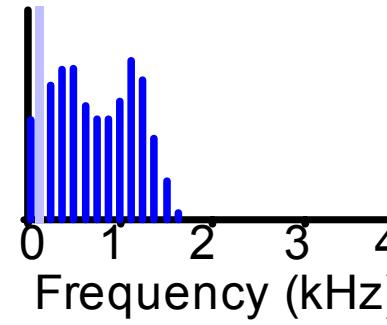
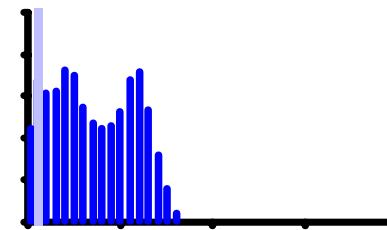
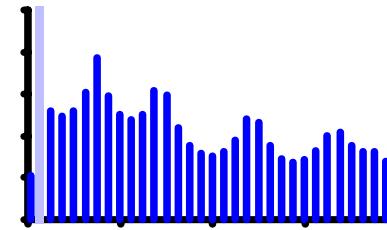
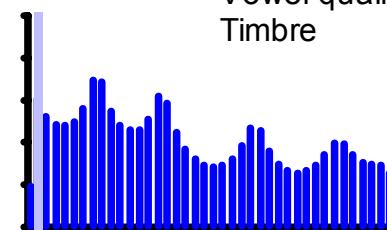
[er]

F0 = 125 Hz



Power Spectra

Formant-related  
Vowel quality  
Timbre

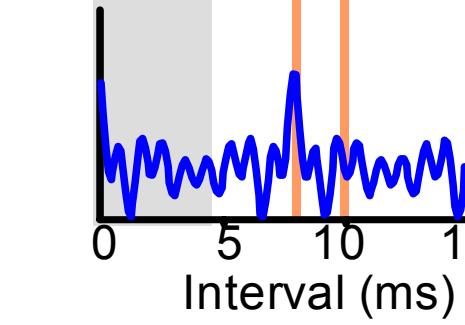
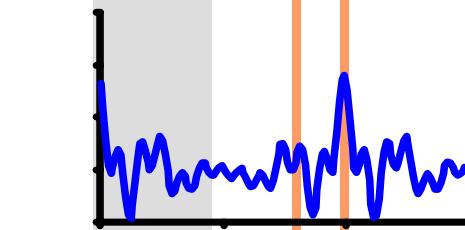
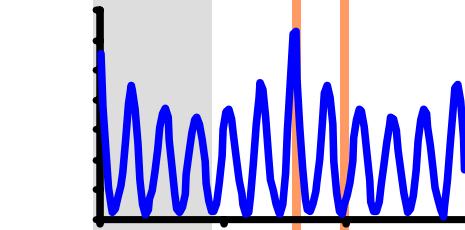
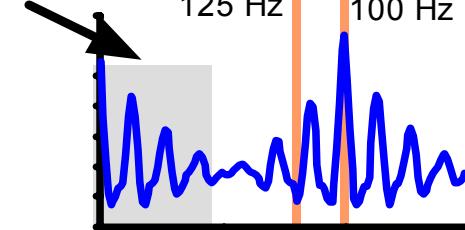


Autocorrelations

Pitch periods, 1/F0

125 Hz

100 Hz



Time (ms)

Frequency (kHz)

Interval (ms)

# Pitch : basic properties

- **Highly precise percepts**
  - **Musical half step:** 6% change F0
  - **Minimum JND's:** 0.2% at 1 kHz (20 usec time difference, comparable to ITD jnd)
- **Highly robust percepts**
  - **Robust quality** Salience is maintained at high stimulus intensities
  - **Level invariant** (pitch shifts < few % over 40 dB range)
  - **Phase invariant** (largely independent of phase spectrum,  $f < 2$  kHz)
- **Strong perceptual equivalence classes**
  - **Octave similarities** are universally shared
  - **Musical tonality** (octaves, intervals, melodies) 30 Hz - 4 kHz
- **Perceptual organization (“scene analysis”)**
  - **Fusion:** Common F0 is a powerful factor for grouping of frequency components
- **Two mechanisms? Temporal (interval-based) & place (rate-based)**
  - **Temporal:** predominates for periodicities  $< 4$  kHz (level-independent, tonal)
  - **Place:** predominates for frequencies  $> 4$  kHz (level-dependent, atonal)

# Periodic sounds produce distinct pitches

## Many different sounds produce the same pitches

### Strong

- Pure tones
- Harmonic complexes
- Iterated noise

### Weaker

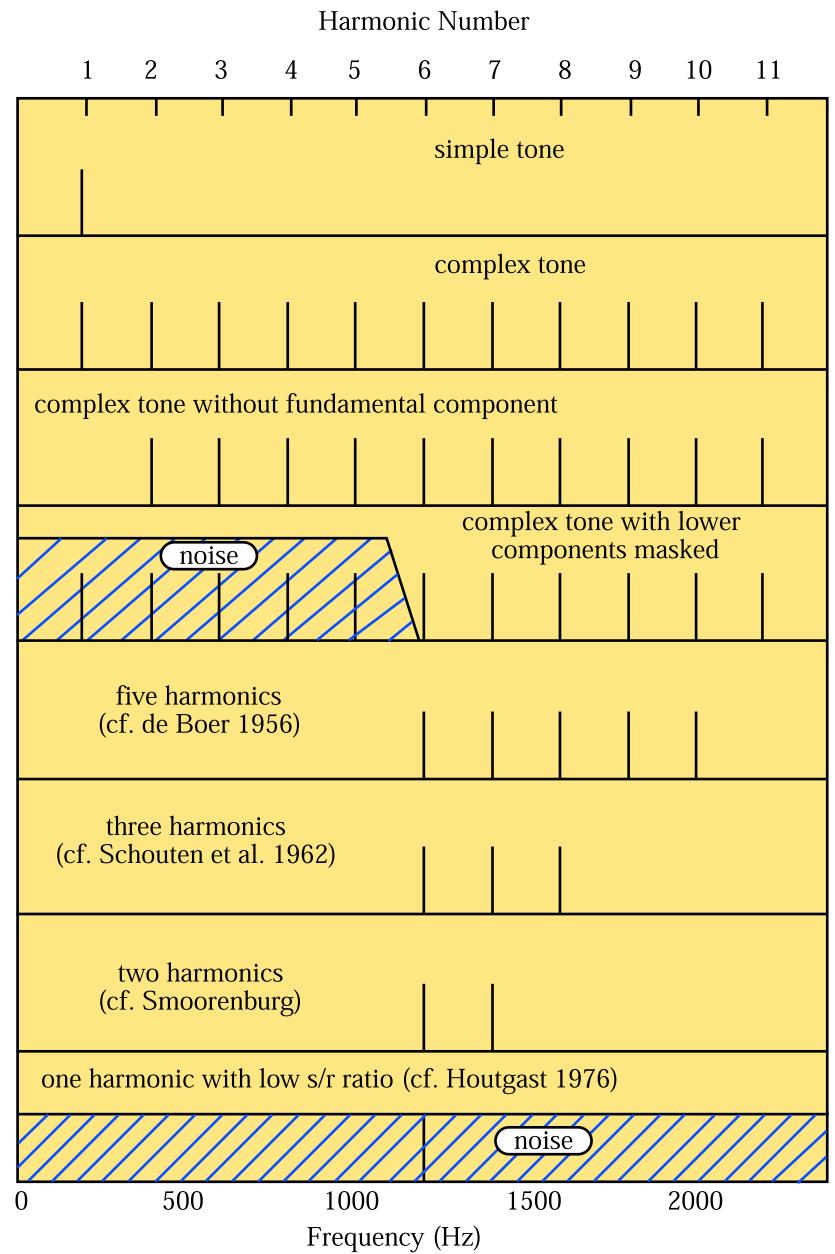
- High harmonics
- Narrowband noise

### Very weak

- AM noise
- Repeated noise

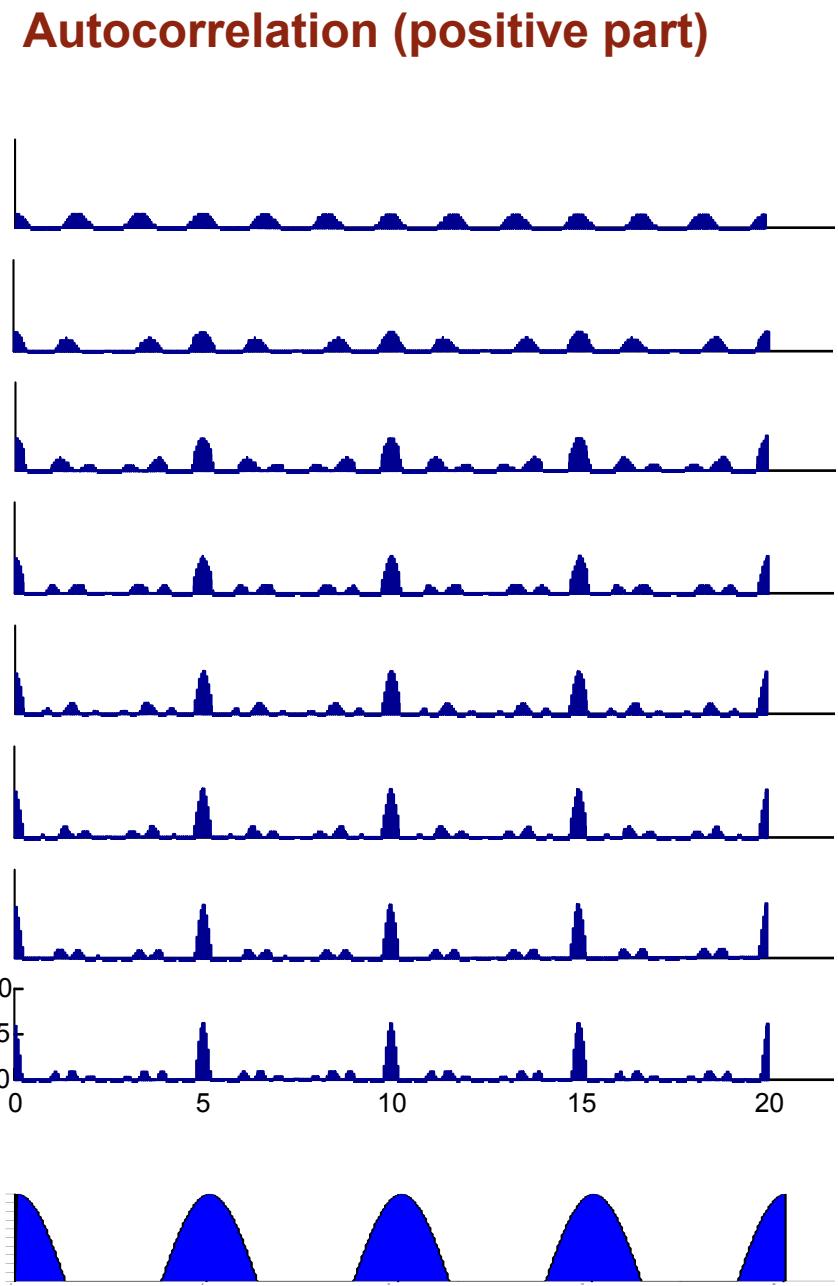
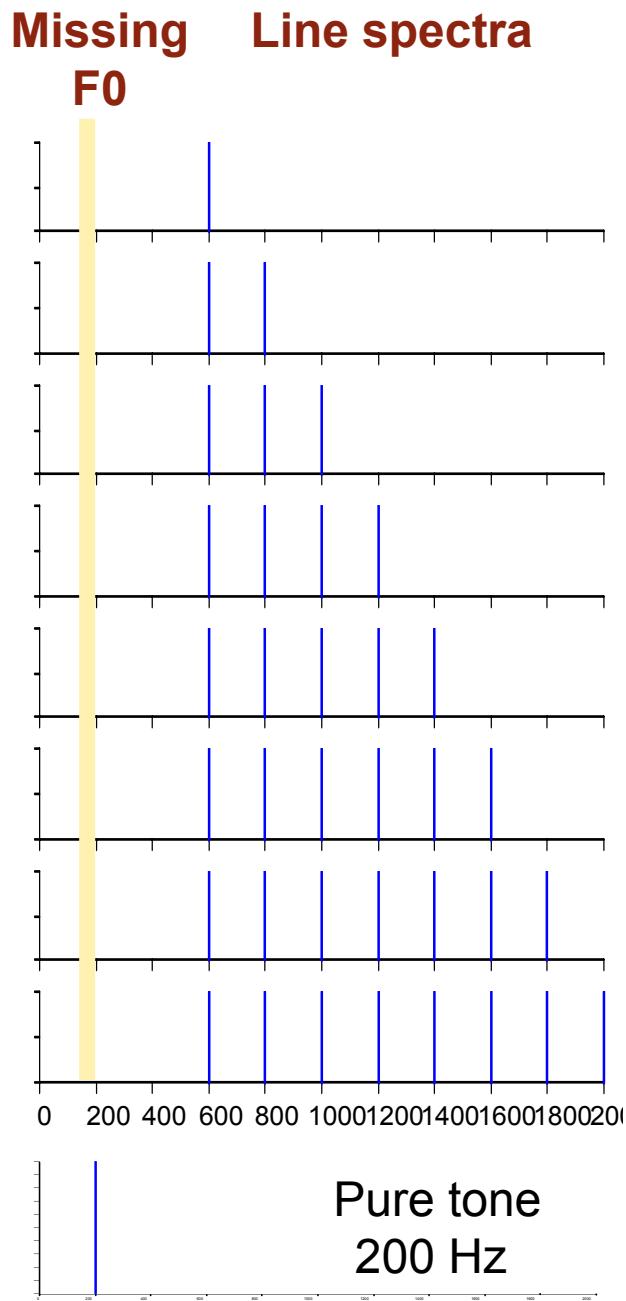
Strong  
pitches

Weaker  
low  
pitches



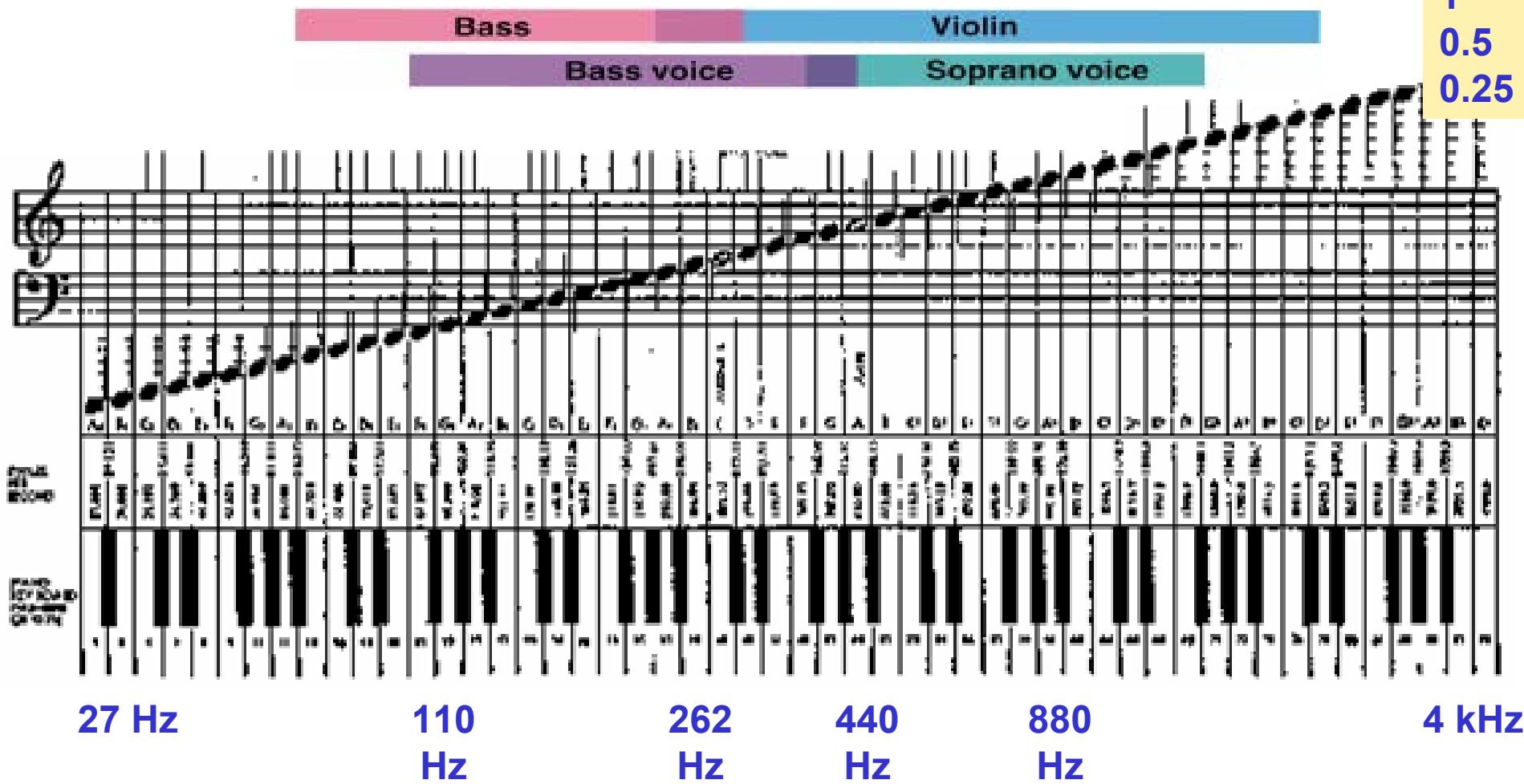
Schematic diagram representing eight signals with the same low pitch.

## Pitch as a perceptual emergent



10k  
8  
6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1  
0.5  
0.25

# Frequency ranges of (tonal) musical instruments



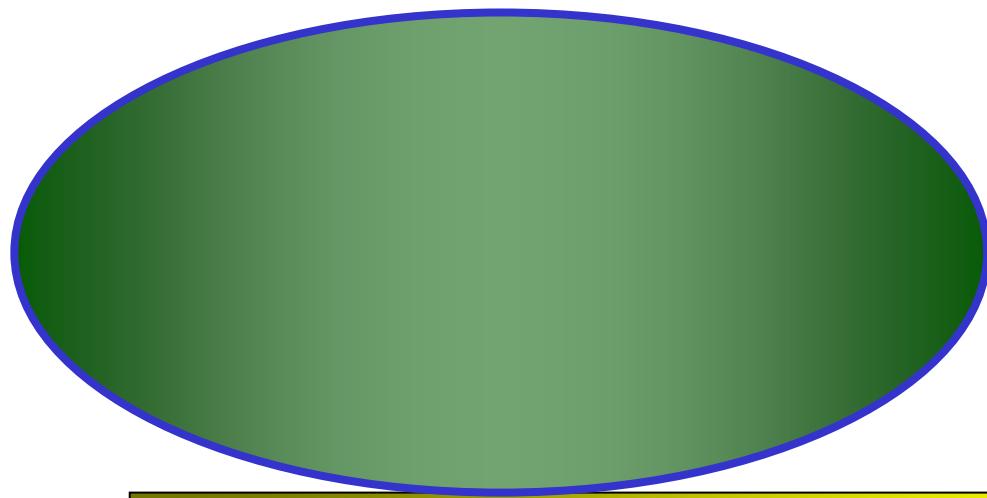
## Duplex time-place representations

"Pitch is not simply frequency"

Musical tonality: octaves, intervals, melodies



Strong phase-locking (temporal information)



temporal representation  
level-invariant, precise

place representation  
level-dependent, coarse

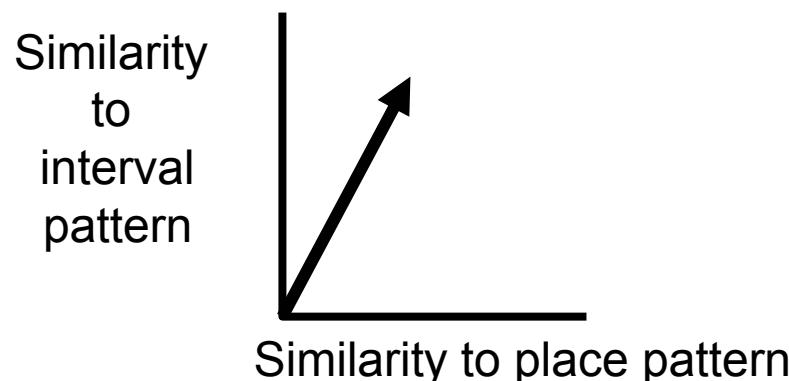
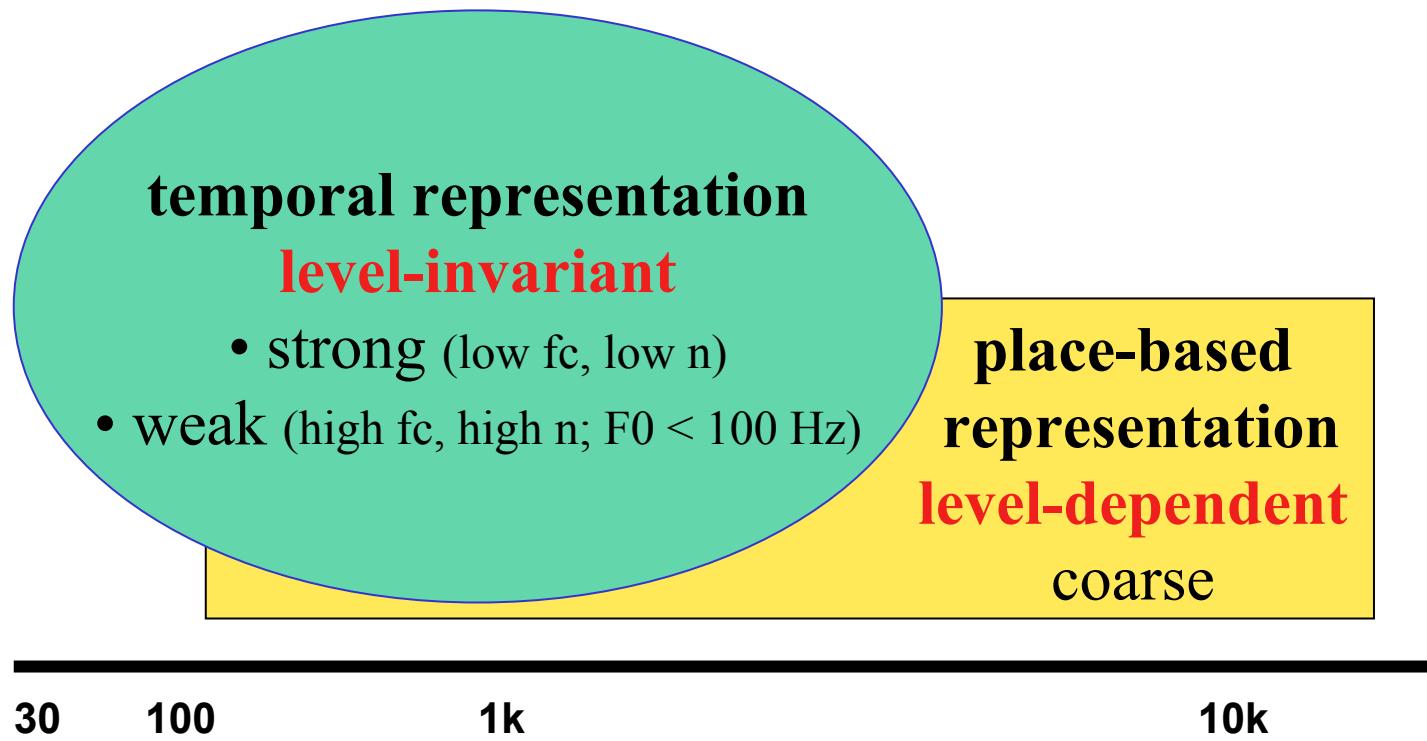


Frequency (kHz)

## Pitch height and pitch chroma

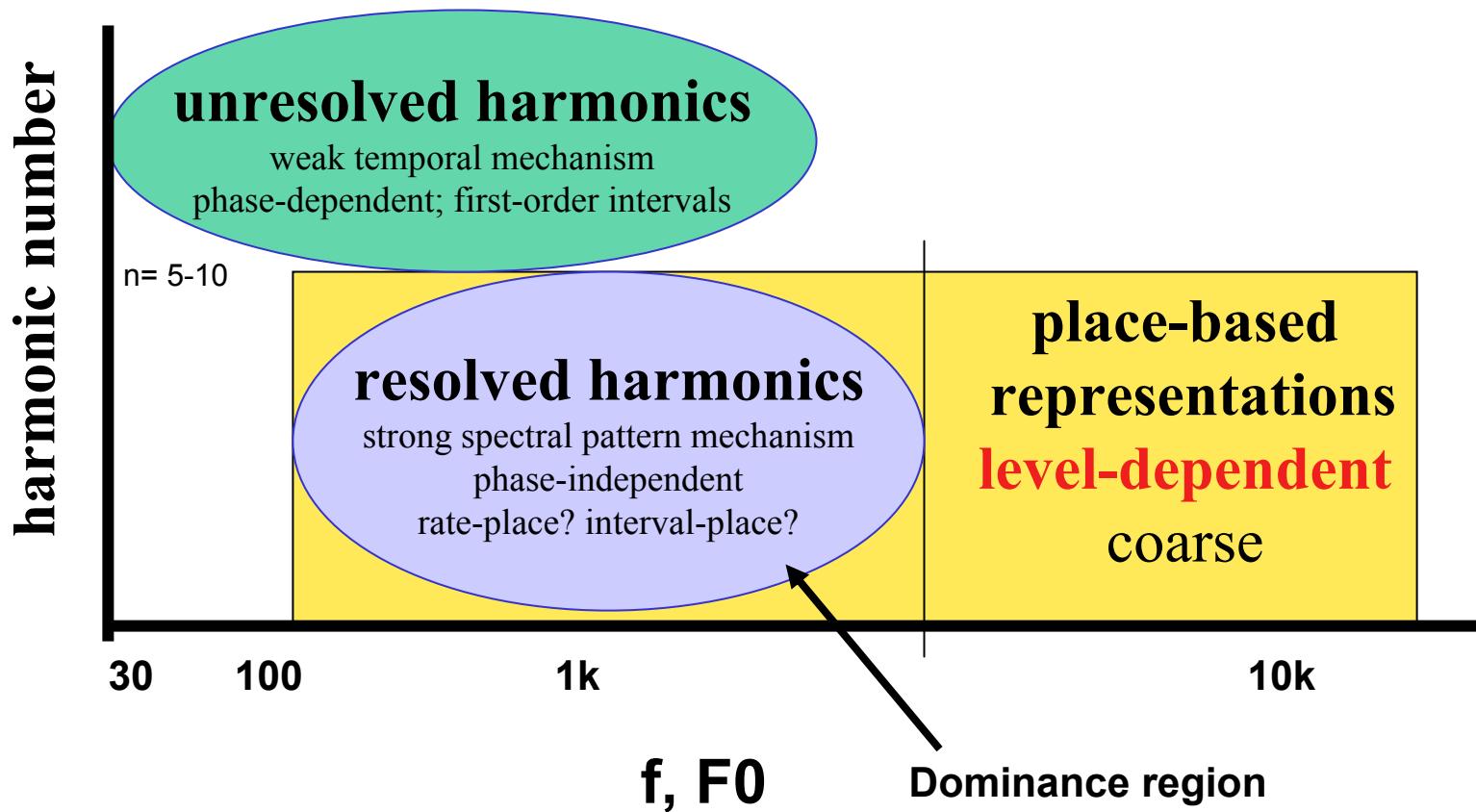
Please see Figure 1, 2, and 7 in Roger N. Shepard.  
"Geometrical Approximations to the Structure of Musical  
Pitch." *Psychological Review* 89 no. 4 (1982): 305-322.

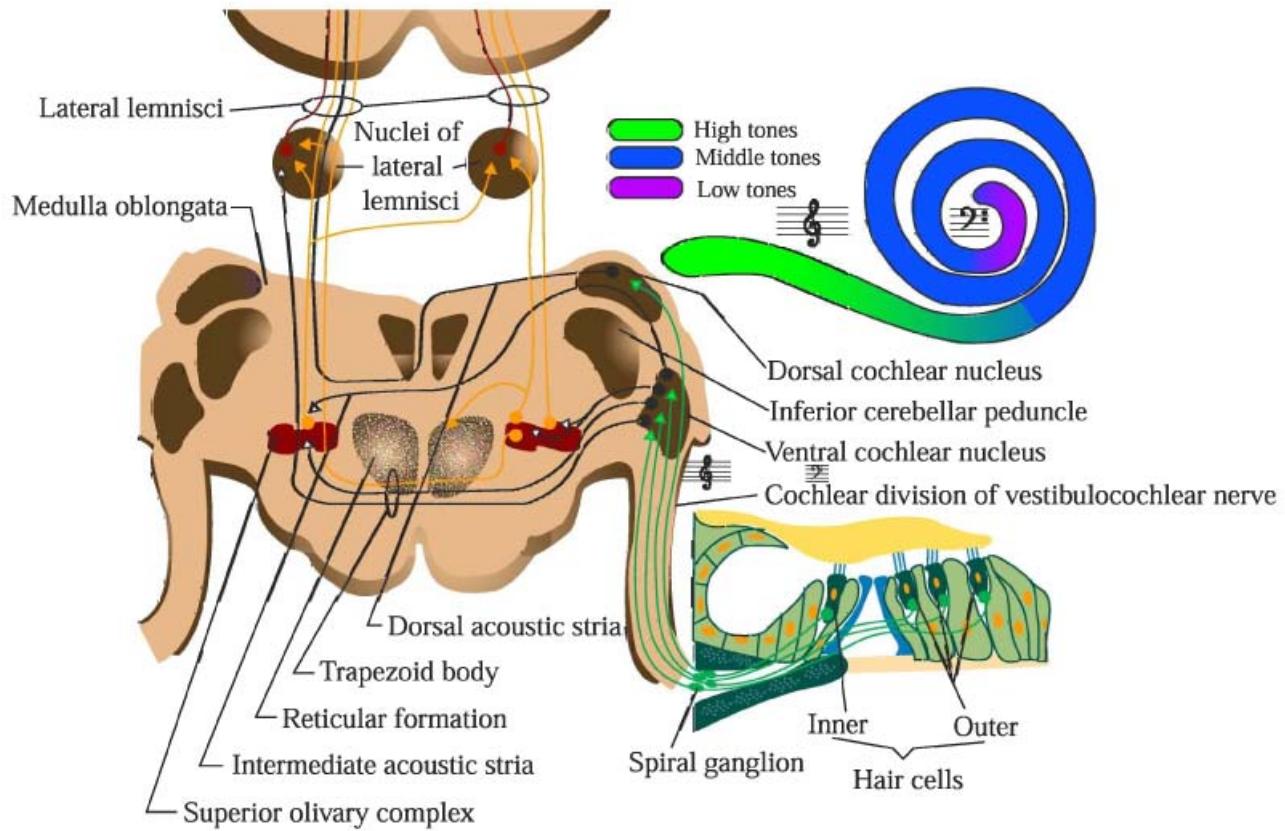
## Duplex time-place representations



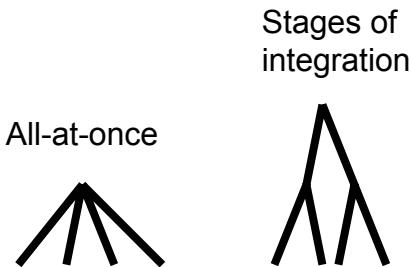
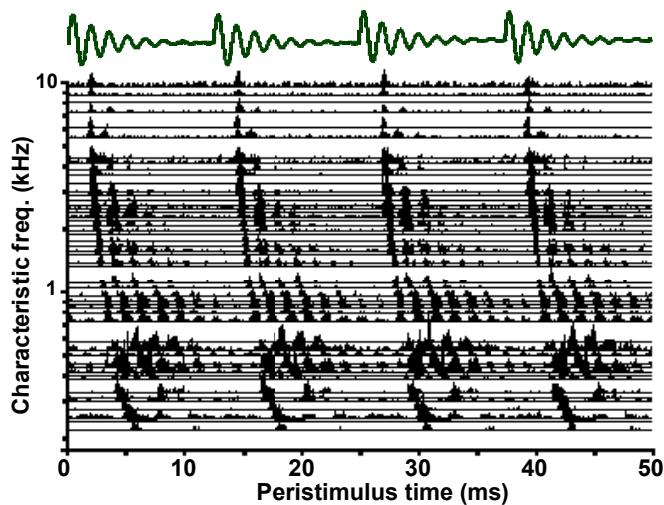
cf. Terhardt's  
spectral and virtual pitch

## A "two-mechanism" perspective (popular with some psychophysicists)





# Some possible auditory representations

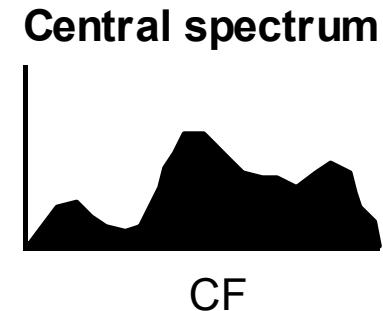


Local

Rate-place



Masking phenomena  
Loudness

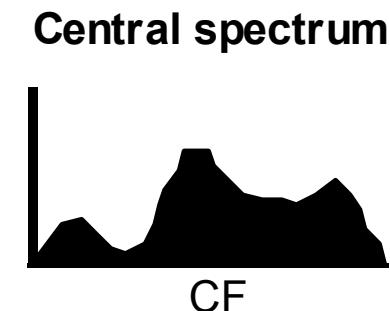


Synchrony-place

Phase-place

Interval-place

Pure tone pitch JNDs: Goldstein



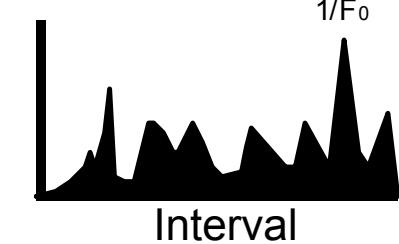
Global

Population-interval

Complex tone pitch



Population interval



# General theories of pitch

## 1. Distortion theories

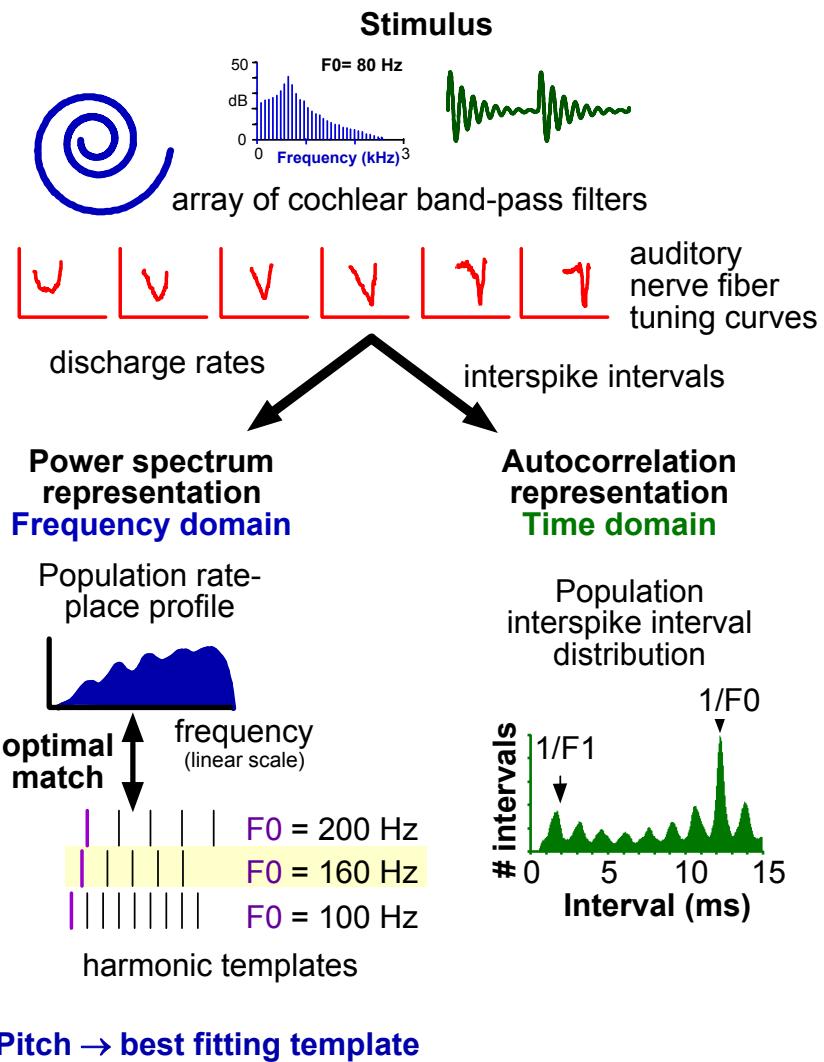
- reintroduce F0 as a cochlear distortion component (Helmholtz)
- sound delivery equipment can reintroduce F0 through distortion
- however, masking F0 region does not mask the low pitch (Licklider)
- low pitch thresholds and growth of salience with level not consistent with distortion processes (Plomp, Small)
- binaurally-created pitches exist

## 2. Spectral pattern theories

- Operate in frequency domain
- Recognize harmonic relations on resolved components

## 3. Temporal pattern theories

- Operate in time domain
- Analyze interspike interval dists.



# Psychological perspectives on pitch

Analytical: break sounds into frequencies

(perceptual atoms), then analyze patterns (templates)  
(British empiricism; machine perception)

Relational: extract invariant relations from patterns

(Gestaltists, Gibsonians, temporal models)

Nativist/rationalist: mechanisms for pitch are given by innate

knowledge and/or computational mechanisms

differences re: how recently evolved these are

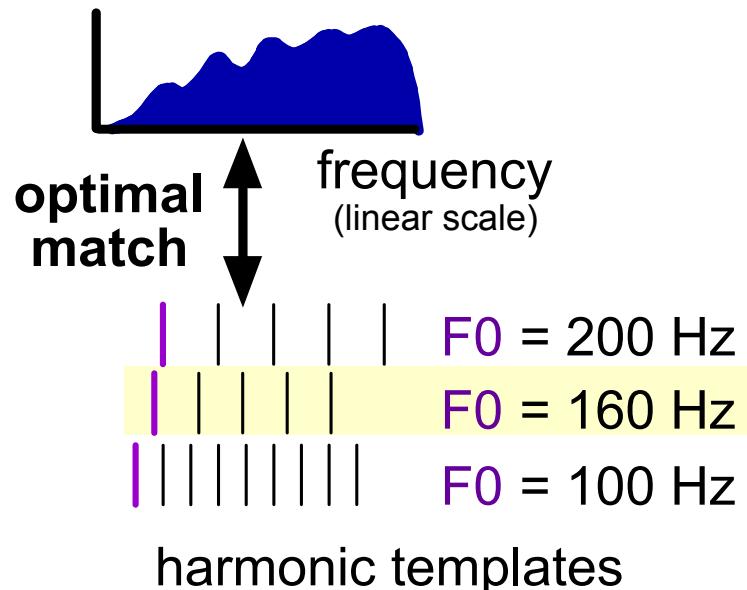
Associationist: mechanisms for pitch (e.g. templates) must be  
acquired through experience (ontogeny, culture)

Interactionist: (Piaget) interaction between native faculties and  
structure of experience (self-organizing systems)

# Spectral pattern theories

- Not the lowest harmonic
- Not simple harmonic spacings
- Not waveform envelope or peak-picking (pitch shift exps by Schouten & de Boer)
- Must do a real harmonic analysis of spectral fine structure to find common denominator, which is the fundamental frequency
- Terhardt: find common subharmonics
- Wightman: autocorrelation of spectra
- Goldstein, Houtsma: match spectral excitation pattern to harmonic templates
- SPINET: Use lateral inhibition/center-surround then fixed neural net to generate equivalence classes
- Barucha: adaptive connectionist networks for forming harmonic associations

## Central spectrum

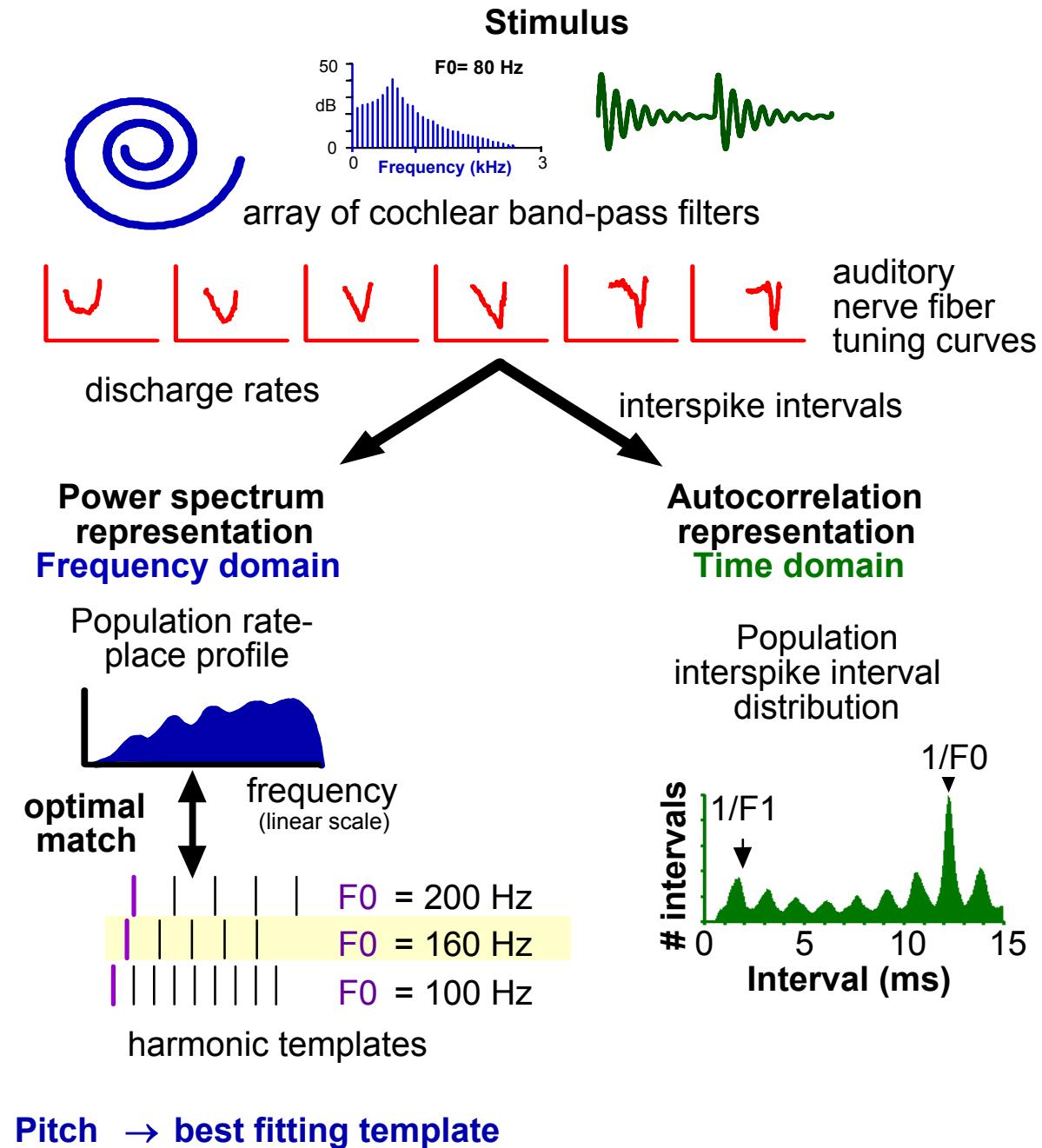


**Pitch → best fitting template**

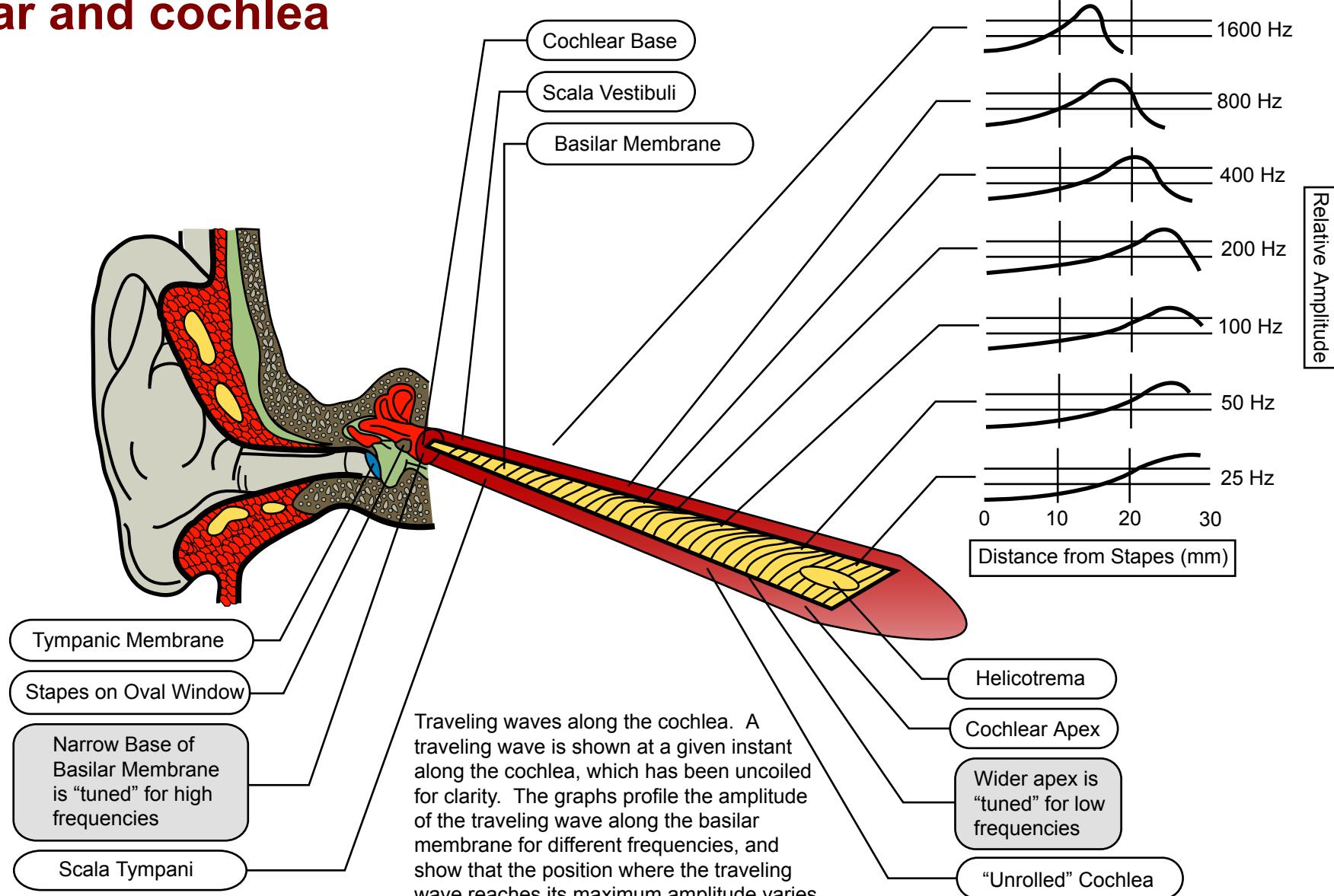
# Spectral pattern analysis vs. temporal pattern analysis

Note: Some models, such as Goldstein's use interspike interval information to first form a Central Spectrum which is then analyzed using harmonic spectral templates.

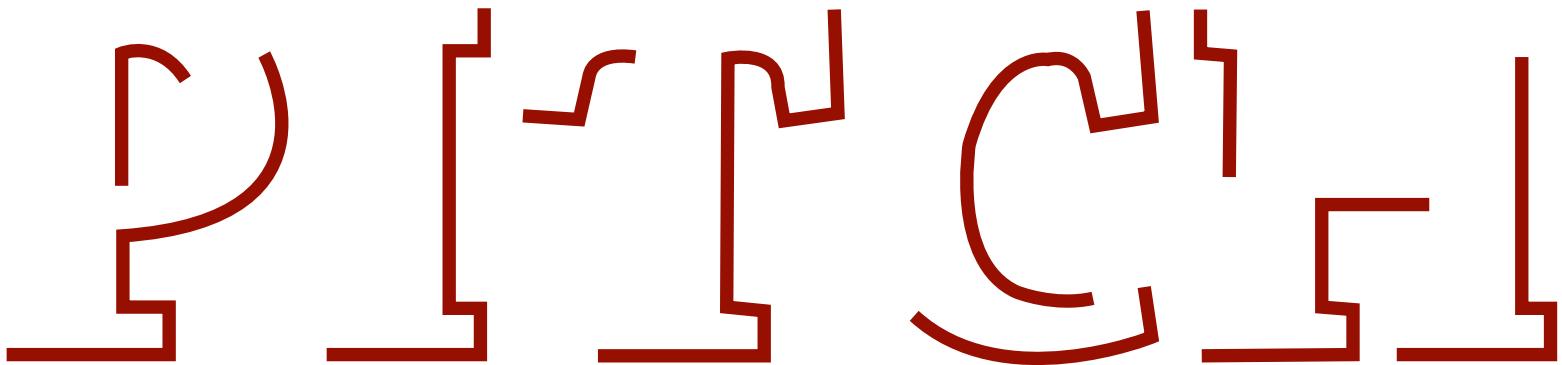
There are thus dichotomies  
1) between use of time and place information as the basis of the central representation, and  
2) use of spectral vs. autocorrelation-like central representations



# Ear and cochlea



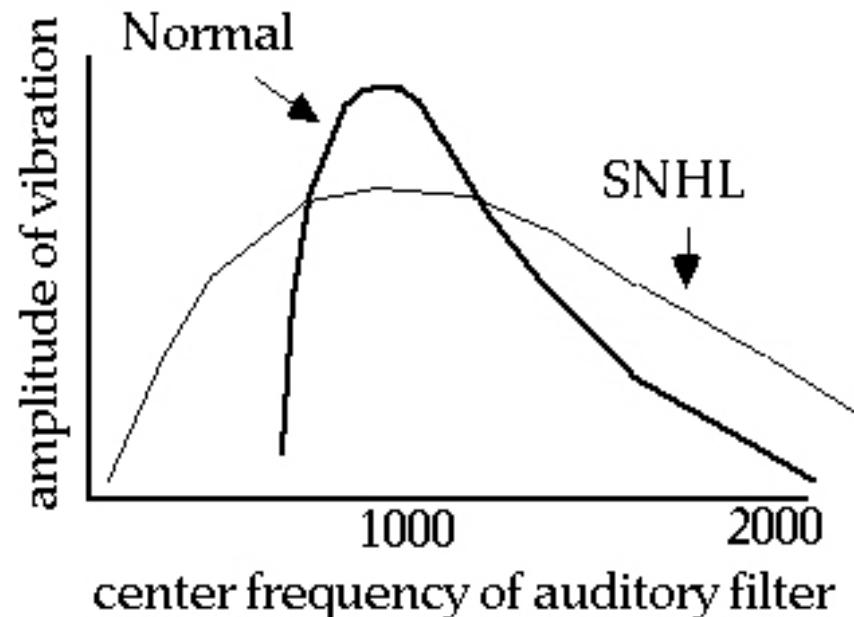
## “Virtual” pitch: F0-pitch as pattern completion



# From masking patterns to "auditory filters" as a model of hearing

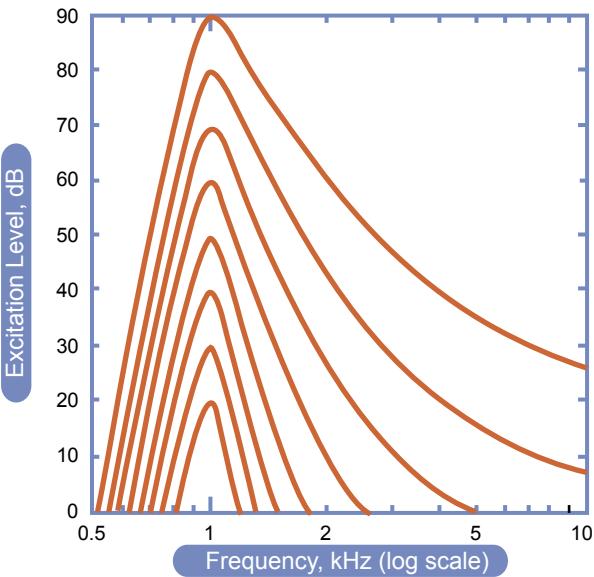
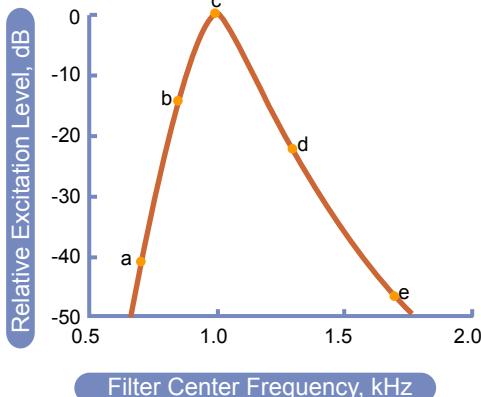
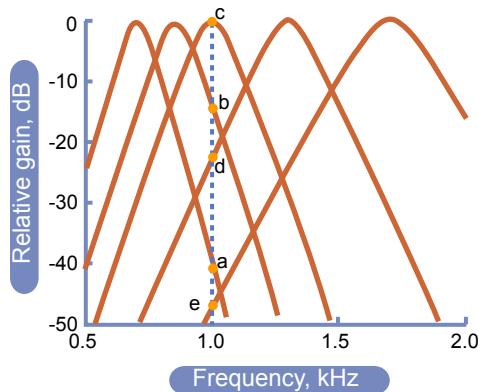
## Power spectrum Filter metaphor

Notion of one central spectrum that subserves perception of pitch, timbre, and loudness

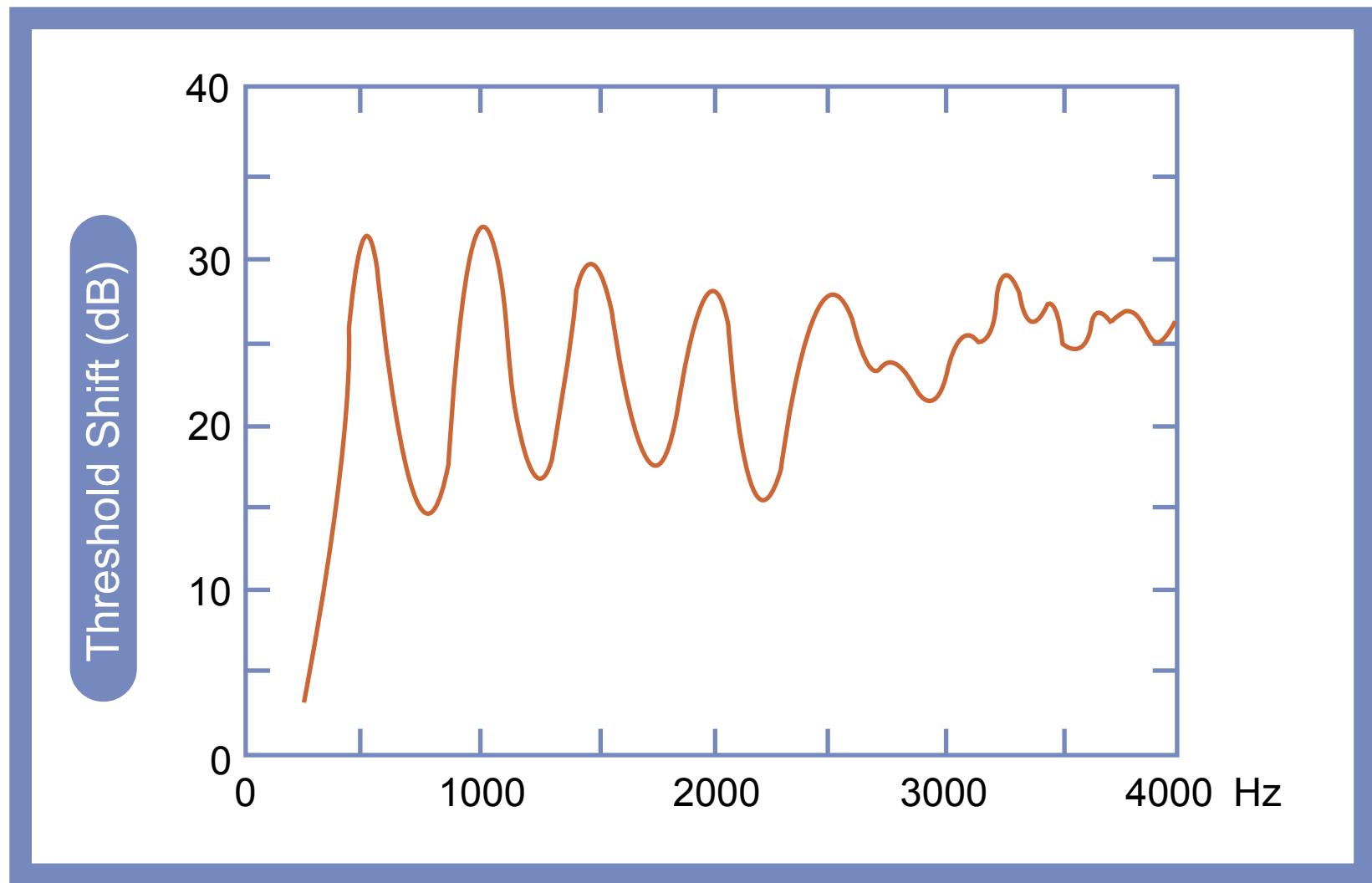


**2.2. Excitation pattern** Using the filter shapes and bandwidths derived from masking experiments we can produce the excitation pattern produced by a sound. The excitation pattern shows how much energy comes through each filter in a bank of auditory filters. It is analogous to the pattern of vibration on the basilar membrane. For a 1000 Hz pure tone the excitation pattern for a normal and for a SNHL listener look like this: The excitation pattern to a complex tone is simply the sum of the patterns to the sine waves that make up the complex tone (since the model is a linear one). We can hear out a tone at a particular frequency in a mixture if there is a clear peak in the excitation pattern at that frequency. Since people suffering from SNHL have broader auditory filters their excitation patterns do not have such clear peaks. Sounds mask each other more, and so they have difficulty hearing sounds (such as speech) in noise. --Chris Darwin, U. Sussex, [http://www.biols.susx.ac.uk/home/Chris\\_Darwin/Perception/Lecture\\_Notes/Hearing3/hearing3.html](http://www.biols.susx.ac.uk/home/Chris_Darwin/Perception/Lecture_Notes/Hearing3/hearing3.html)

## Shapes of perceptually-derived "auditory filters" (Moore)



# Resolution of harmonics



## Goldstein's harmonic templates

Please see Figure 3 in Goldstein J. L., A. Gerson, P. Srulovicz, M. Furst. "Verification of the Optimal Probabilistic Basis of Aural Processing in Pitch of Complex Tones." *J Acoust Soc Am.* 63, no. 2 (Feb, 1978): 486-97.

# Julius Goldstein references

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- Goldstein JL, Srulovicz P (1977) Auditory-nerve spike intervals as an adequate basis for aural frequency measurement. In: Psychophysics and Physiology of Hearing (Evans EF, Wilson JP, eds). London: Academic Press.
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- P. Srulovicz and J. Goldstein ( 1983) A central spectrum model: A synthesis of auditory nerve timing and place cues in monoaural communication offfrequency spectrum,. jasa, 73,: 1266--1276.
- Srulovicz P, Goldstein JL (1977) Central spectral patterns in aural signal analysis based on cochlear neural timing and frequency filtering. In: IEEE, p 4 pages. Tel Aviv, Israel.
- Srulovicz P, Goldstein JL (1983) A central spectrum model: a synthesis of auditory-nerve timing and place cues in monaural communication of frequency spectrum. J Acoust Soc Am 73:1266-1276.

## Terhard's method of common subharmonics

Spectral vs. virtual pitch: duplex model

Virtual pitch computation:

1. Identify frequency components
2. Find common subharmonics
3. Strongest common subharmonic after  
F0 weighting is the virtual pitch

Terhardt's model has been extended by

Parnrott to cover pitch multiplicity  
and fundamental bass of chords

# Terhardt references

- Terhardt E (1970) Frequency analysis and periodicity detection in the sensations of roughness and periodicity pitch. In: Frequency Analysis and Periodicity Detection in Hearing (Plomp R, Smoorenburg GF, eds). Leiden: A. W. Sijthoff.
- Terhardt E (1974a) On the perception of periodic sound fluctuations (roughness). *Acustica* 30:201-213.
- Terhardt E (1974b) Pitch, consonance, and harmony. *J Acoust Soc Am* 55:1061-1069.
- Terhardt E (1977) The two-component theory of musical consonance. In: Psychophysics and Physiology of Hearing (Evans EF, Wilson JP, eds), pp 381-390. London: Academic Press.
- Terhardt E (1979) Calculating virtual pitch. *Hearing Research* 1:155-182.
- Terhardt E (1984) The concept of musical consonance: a link between music and psychoacoustics. *Music Perception* 1:276-295.
- Terhardt E, Stoll G, Seewann M (1982a) Pitch of complex signals according to virtual-pitch theory: test, examples, and predictions. *J Acoust Soc Am* 71:671-678.
- Terhardt E, Stoll G, Seewann M (1982b) Algorithm for extraction of pitch and pitch salience from complex tonal signals. *J Acoust Soc Am* 71:679-688.
- Parncutt R (1989) Harmony: A Psychoacoustical Approach. Berlin: Springer-Verlag.

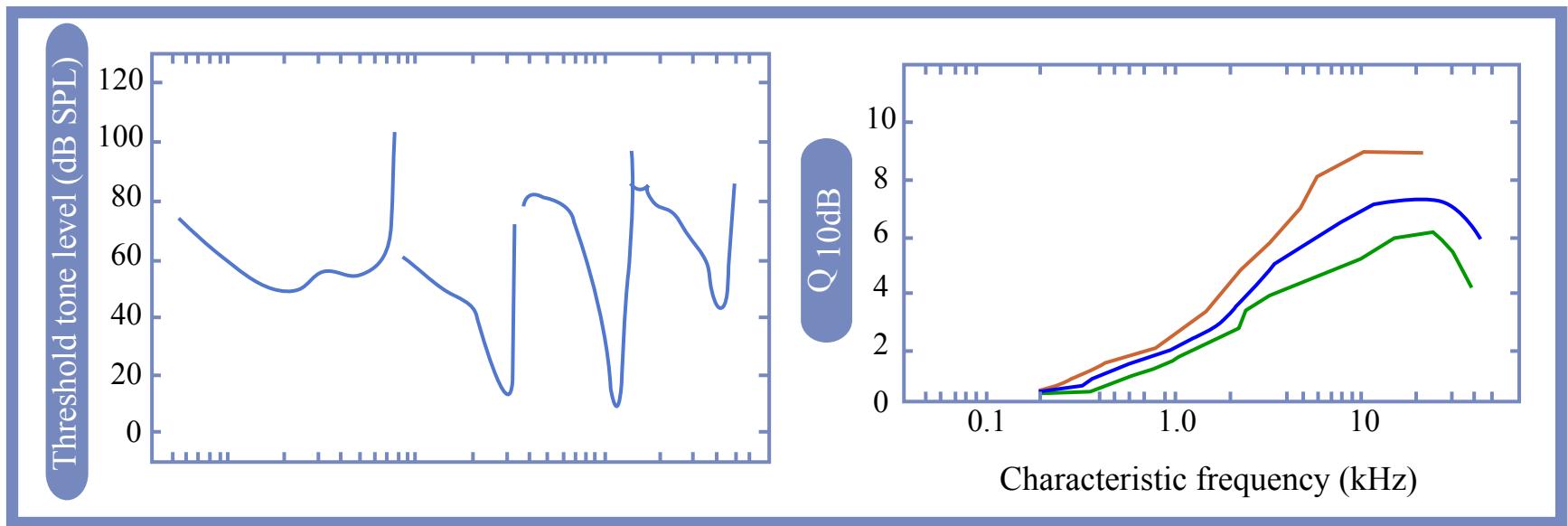
## **SPINET:**

**Cohen Grossberg, Wyse JASA**

**Fixed  
neural  
network:**  
connection  
weights  
arranged  
so as to form  
pitch-equivalence  
classes

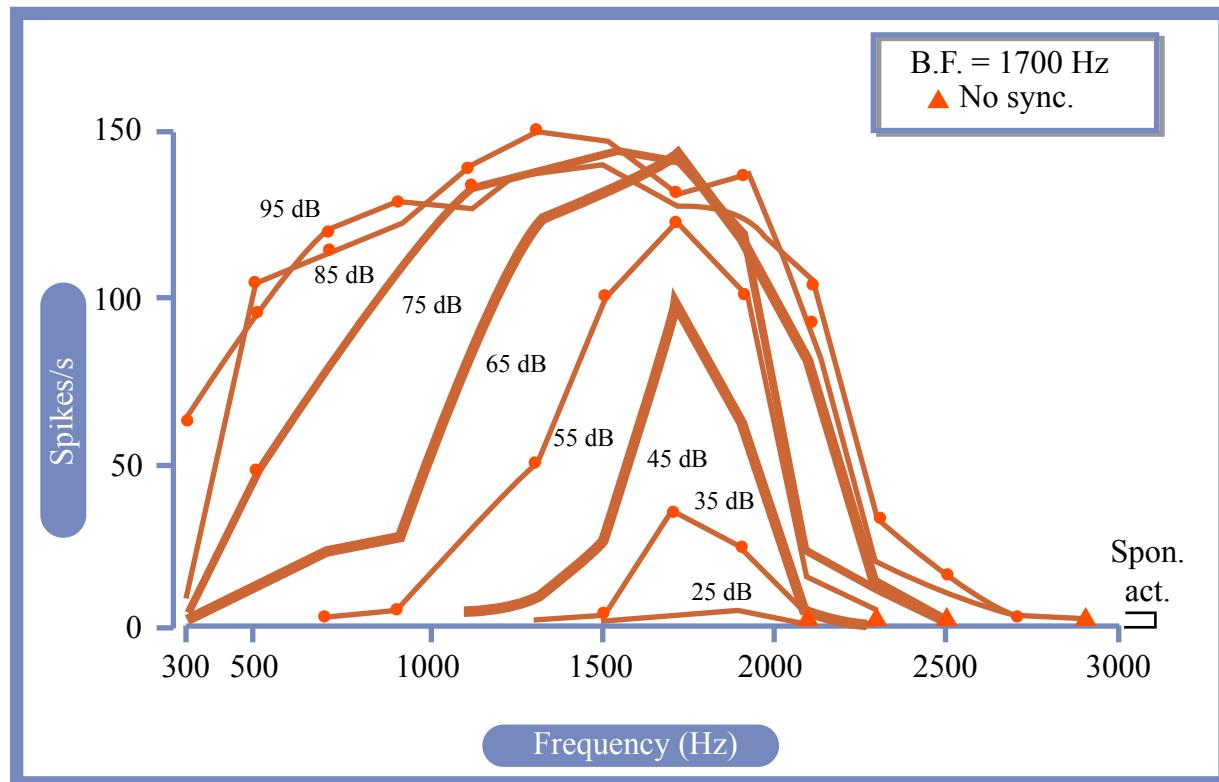
Please see Cohen M. A., S. Grossberg, L. L. Wyse. "A Spectral Network Model of Pitch Perception." *J Acoust Soc Am.* 98 no. 2 Pt 1 (Aug, 1995): 862-79.

# Neural tuning as a function of CF



# **Broad tuning and rate saturation at moderate levels in low-CF auditory nerve fibers confounds rate-based resolution of harmonics.**

## Low SR auditory nerve fiber



## Spectral pattern theories - pros & cons

Do make use of frequency tuning properties of elements in the auditory system

No clear neural evidence of narrow (< 1/3 octave) frequency channels in low-BF regions (< 2 kHz)

Operate on perceptually-resolved harmonics

Do not explain low pitches of unresolved harmonics

Require templates or harmonic pattern analyzers

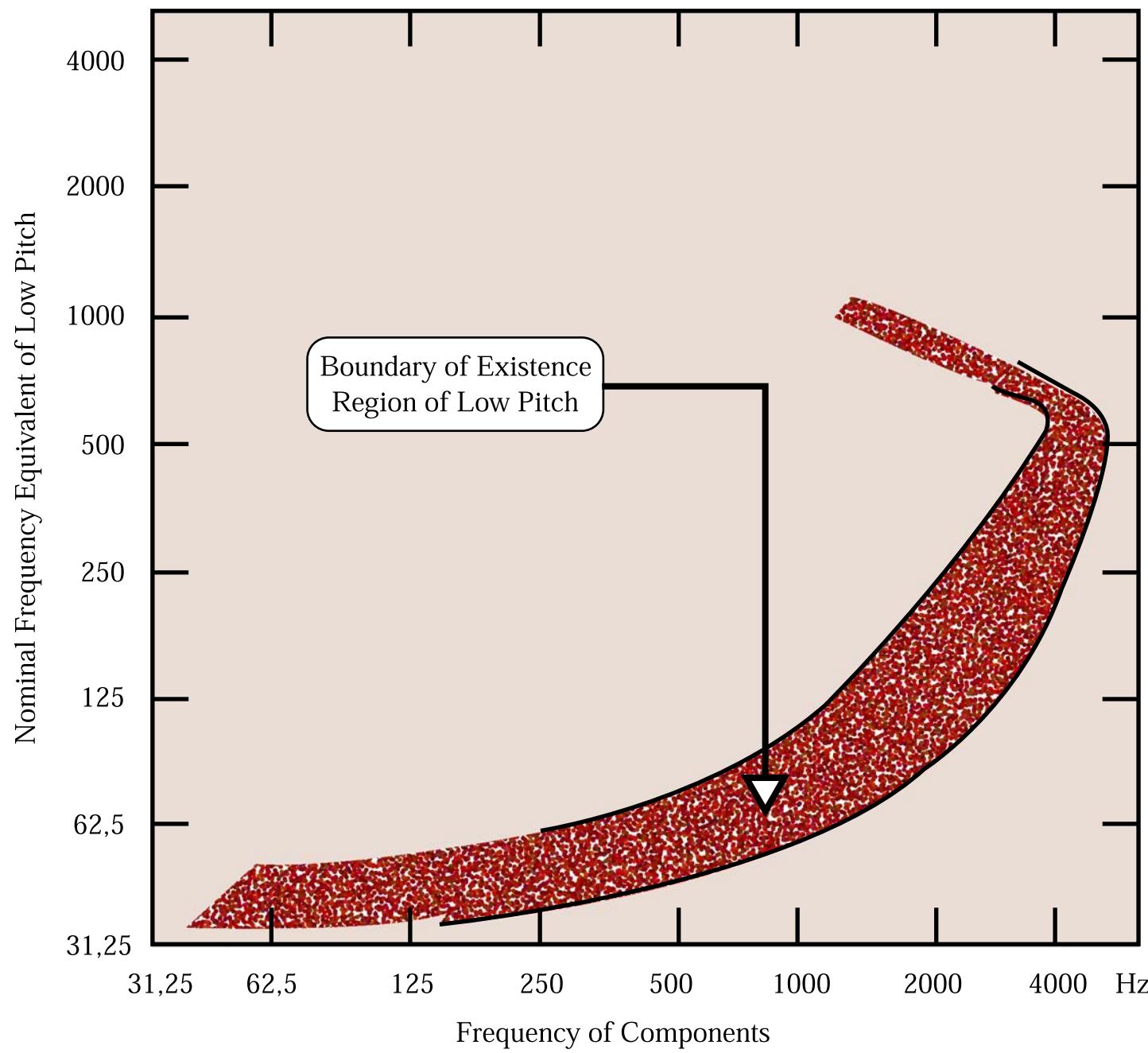
Little or no neural evidence for required analyzers

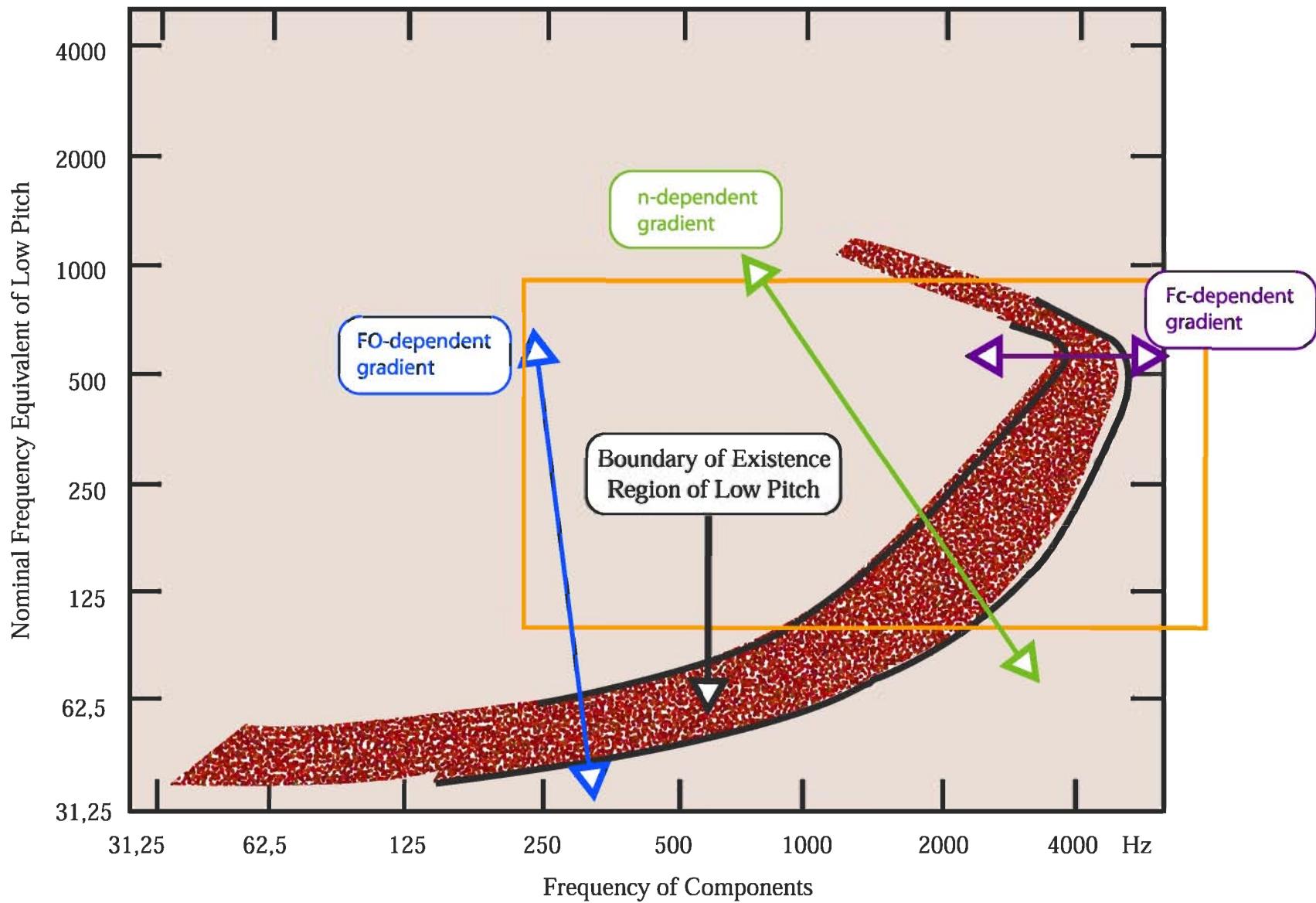
Problems w. templates: relative nature of pitch

Do not explain well existence region for F0

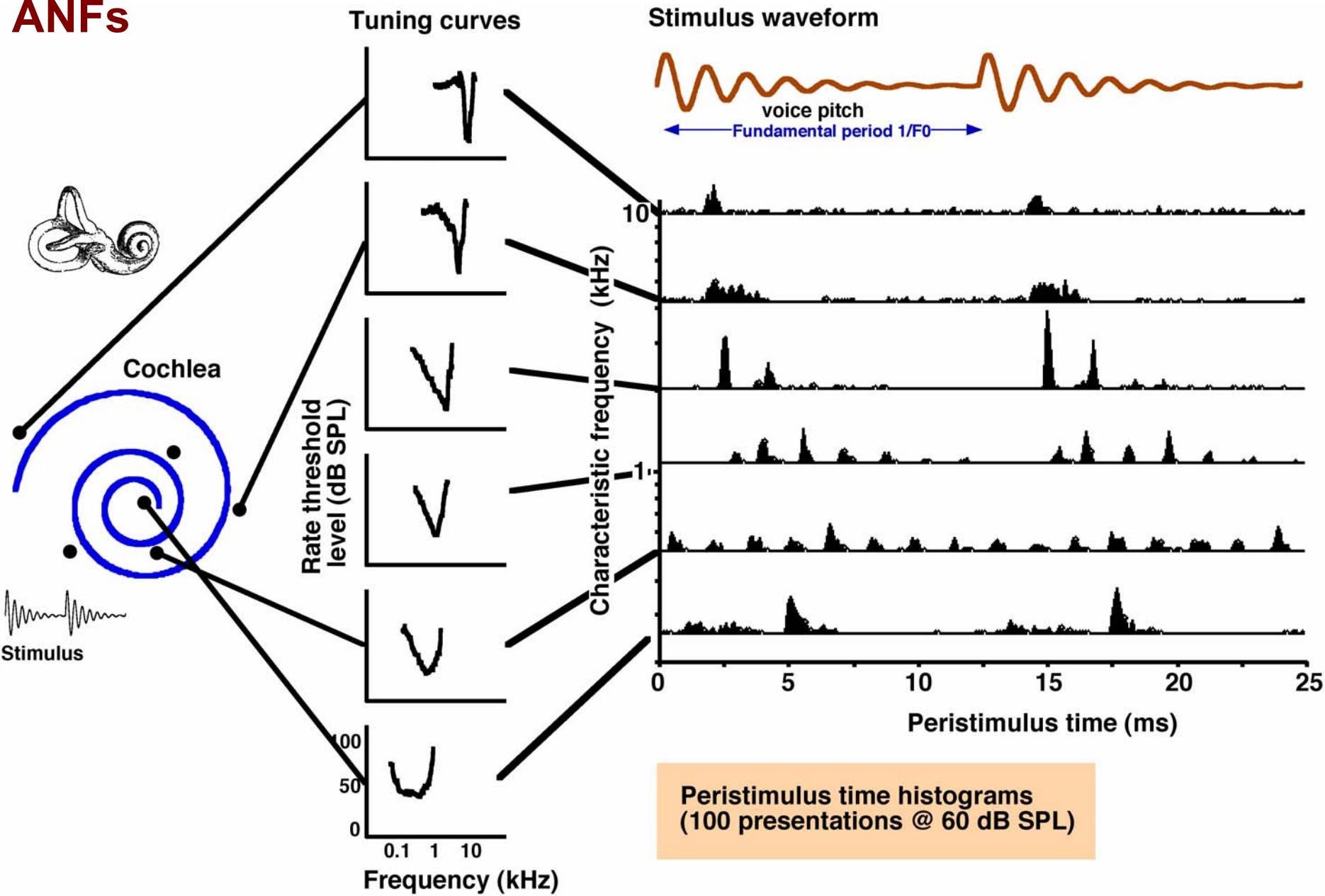
Learning theories don't account for F0 ranges or for phylogenetic ubiquity of periodicity pitch

# Existence region for missing fundamentals of AM tones





# ANFs



# Temporal pattern theories

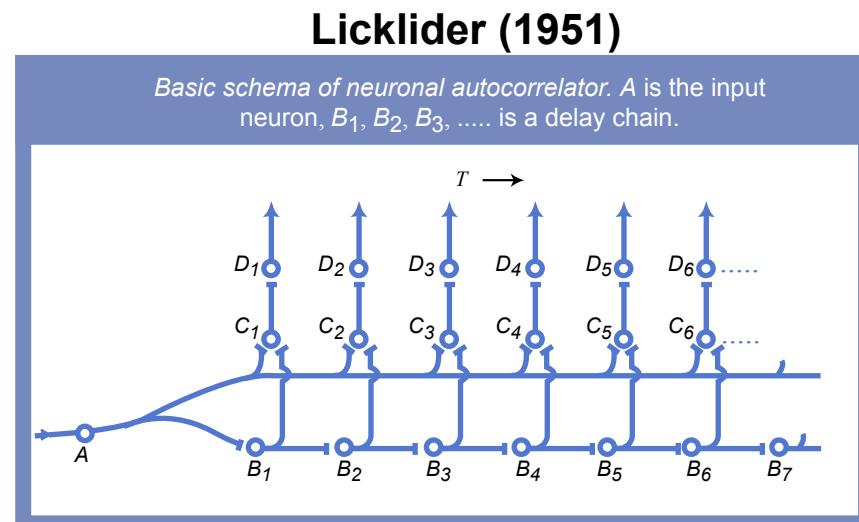
## Σ First-order intervals (renewal density)

- Schouten's temporal theory (1940's) depended on interactions between unresolved (high) harmonics. It was displaced by discovery of dominance region and binaural combination pitches in the 1960's. The idea persists, however in the form of spectral mechanisms for resolved harmonics and temporal ones for unresolved harmonics.

Please see van Noorden, L. "Two channel pitch perception." In *Music, Mind and Brain*. Edited by M. Clynes. New York: Plenum.

## Σ All-order intervals (temporal autocorrelation)

Please see Moore, BCJ. *An Introduction to the Psychology of Hearing*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. San Diego: Academic Press. 2003.



Please see Figure 1 in Meddis, R., and M. J. Hewitt. Virtual pitch and phase sensitivity of a computer model of the Auditory periphery. I. Pitch identification. *J. Acoust. Soc. Am.* 89 no. 6 (1991): 2866-2882.

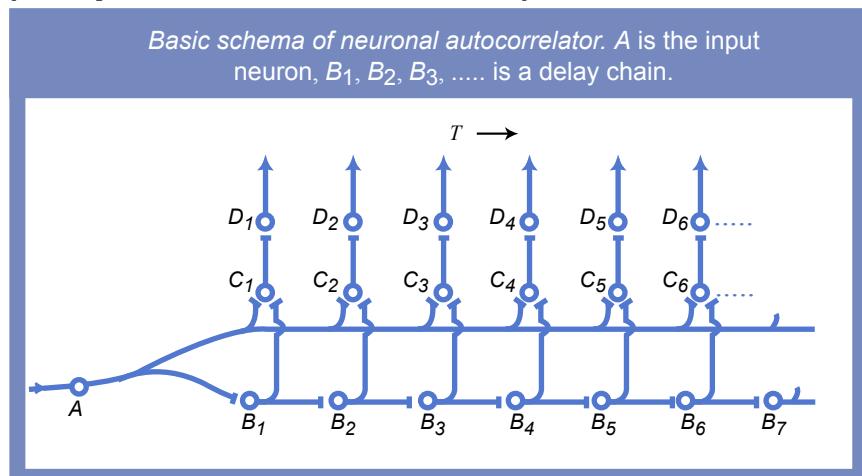
## Interval-based theories of pitch

### First-order intervals (renewal density)

Please see van Noorden, L. Two channel pitch perception. In Music, Mind and Brain. Edited by M. Clynes. New York: Plenum.

Please see Moore, BCJ. An introduction to the psychology of hearing. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. San Diego: Academic Press. 2003.

### All-order intervals (temporal autocorrelation)



Licklider (1951)

Please see Figure 1 in Meddis, R., and M. J. Hewitt. Virtual pitch and phase sensitivity of a computer model of the Auditory periphery. I. Pitch identification. *J. Acoust. Soc. Am.* 89 no. 6(1991): 2866-2882.

## Licklider's (1951) duplex model of pitch perception

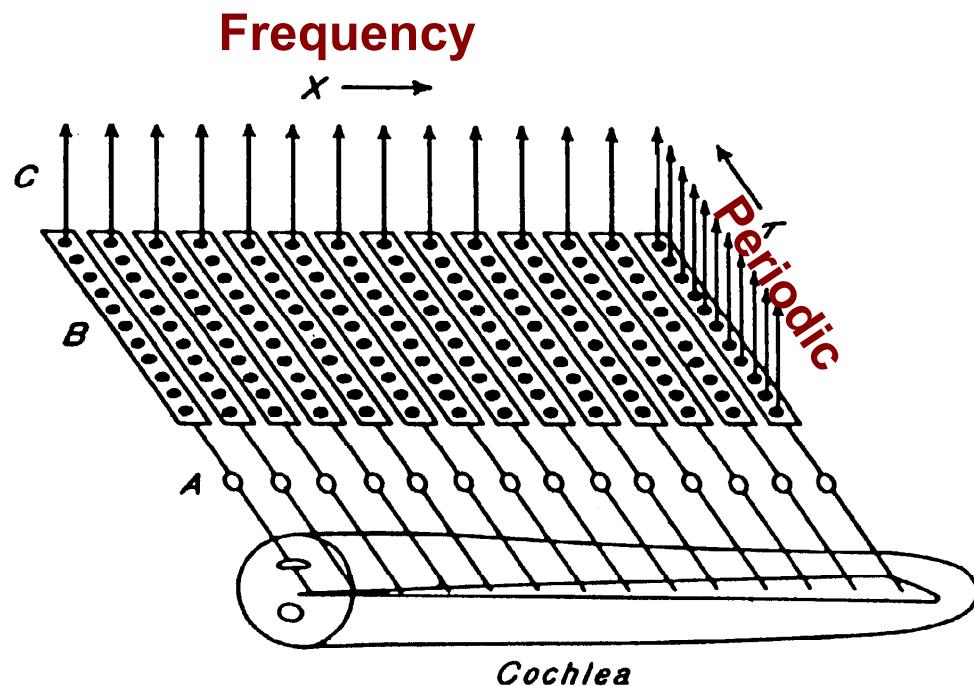
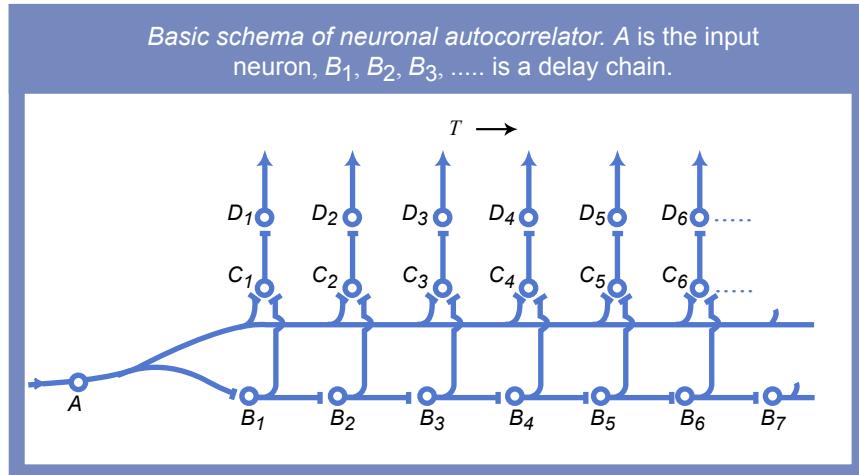


Fig. 2. – Schematic diagram of overall analyzer.

## Licklider's binaural triplex model

J.C.R. Licklider  
“Three  
Auditory Theories”  
In *Psychology: A  
Study of a  
Science*. Vol. 1, S.  
Koch, ed.,  
McGraw-Hill, 1959,  
pp. 41-144.

# Frequency

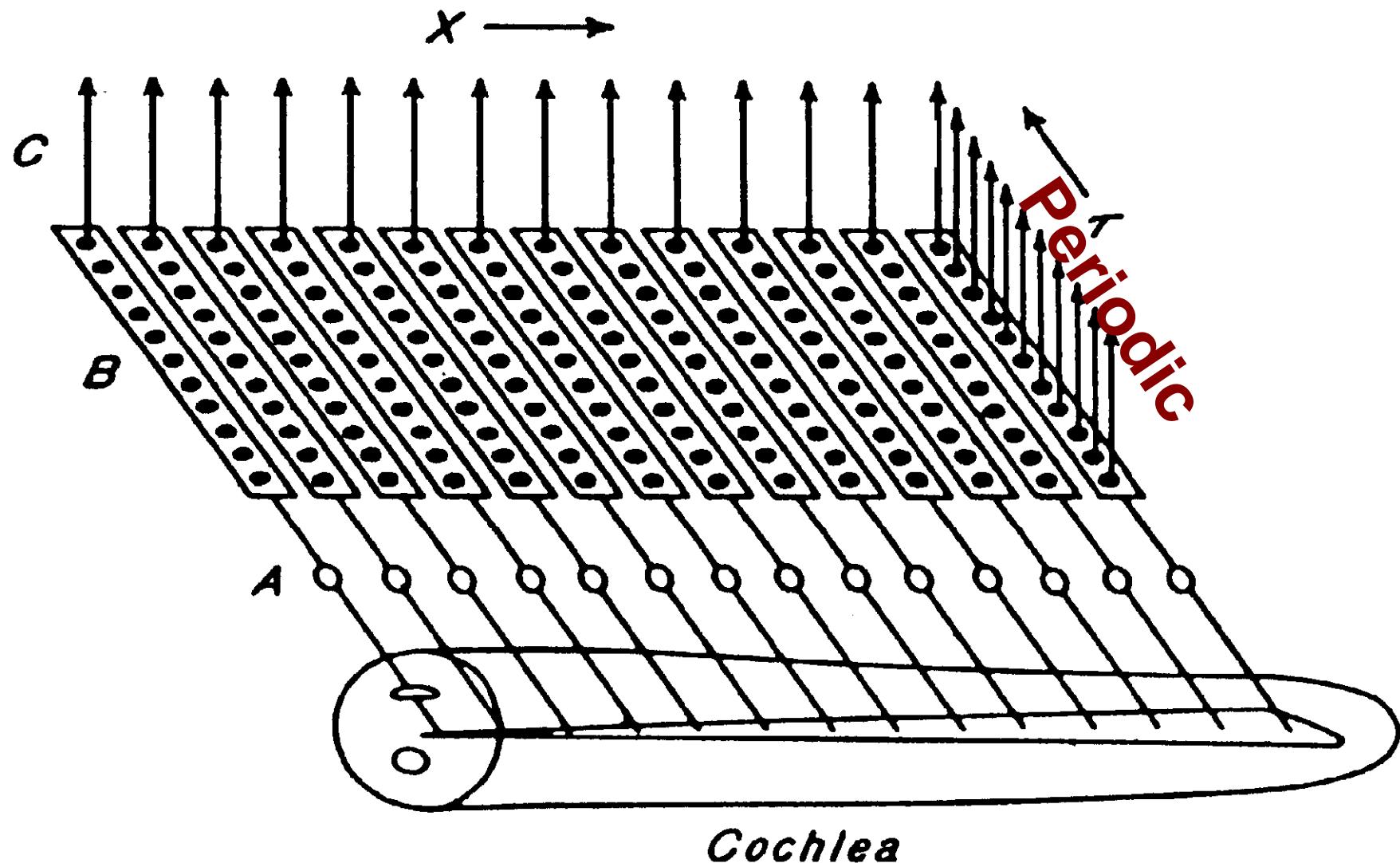
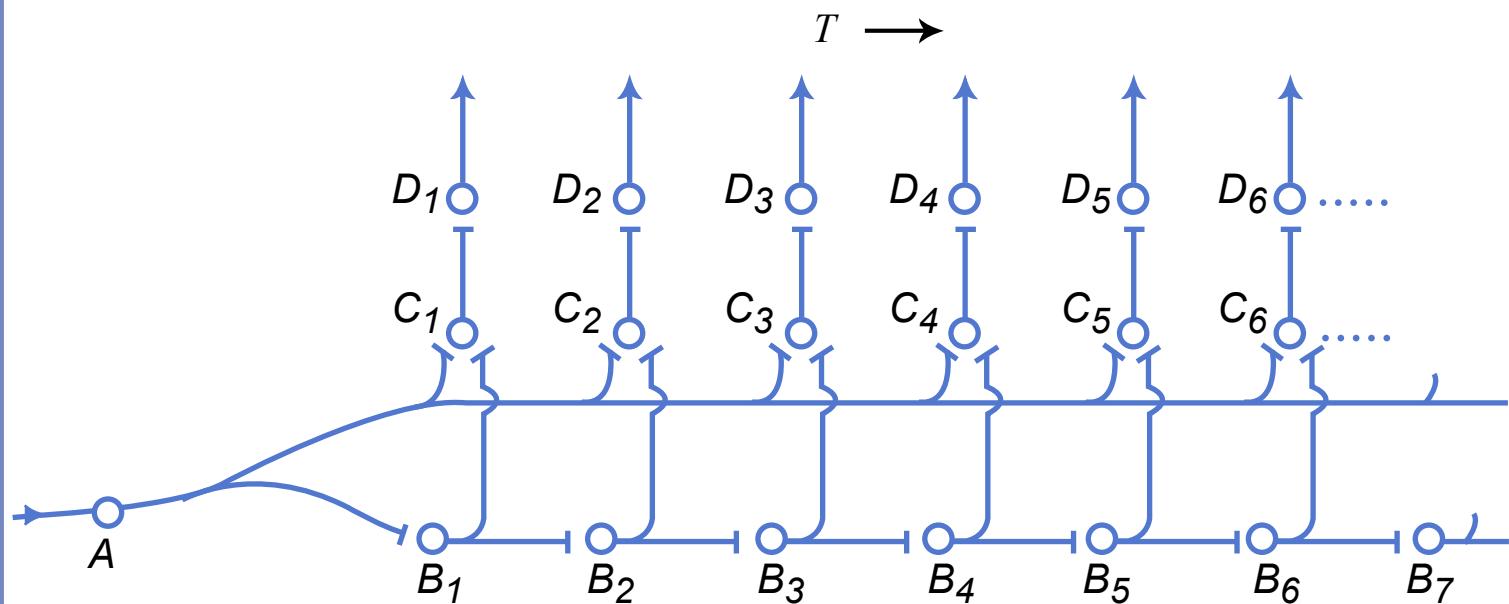


Fig. 2. – Schematic diagram of overall analyzer.

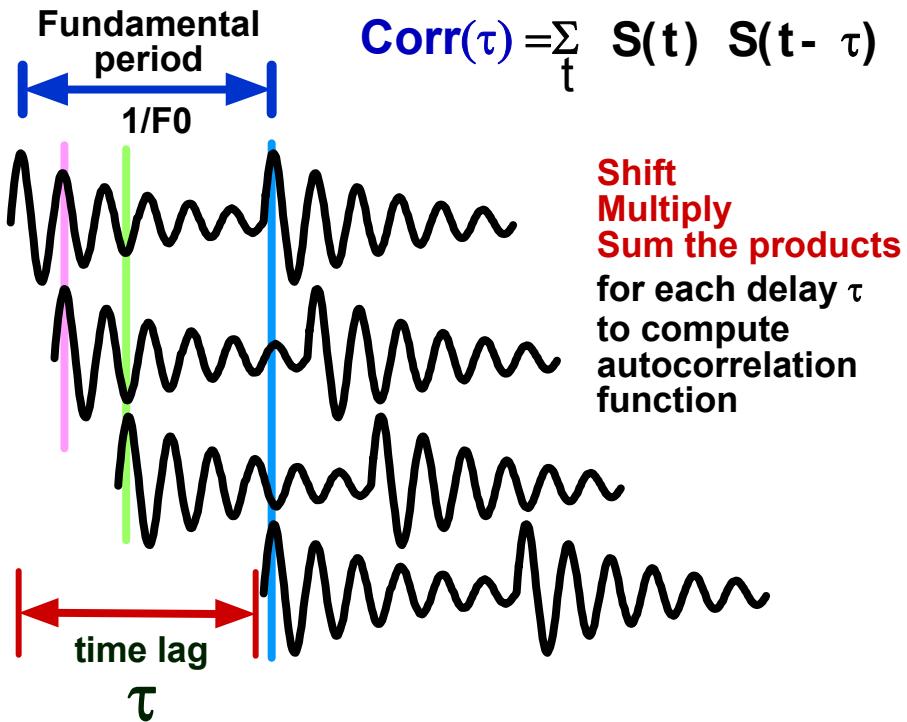
# Delay lines

*Basic schema of neuronal autocorrelator.* A is the input neuron,  $B_1, B_2, B_3, \dots$  is a delay chain.



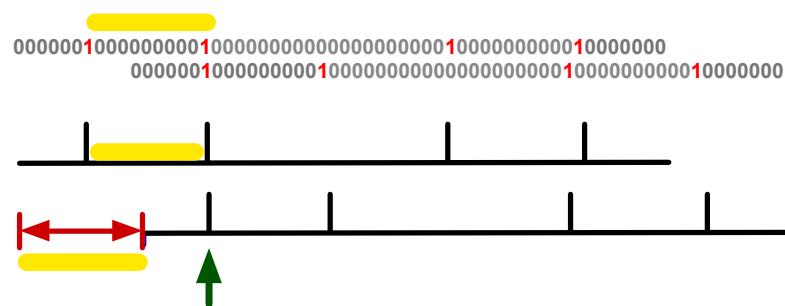
# Autocorrelation and interspike intervals

## Autocorrelation functions



**Shift**  
**Multiply**  
**Sum the products**  
for each delay  $\tau$   
to compute  
autocorrelation  
function

## Autocorrelations of spike trains = Histograms of all-order intervals



Please see Figure 6.16A-D in Lyon, Richard, and Shihab Shamma. "Auditory Representations of Timbre and Pitch." In *Auditory Computation*. Edited by R. R. Fay. New York: Springer Verlag. 1996.

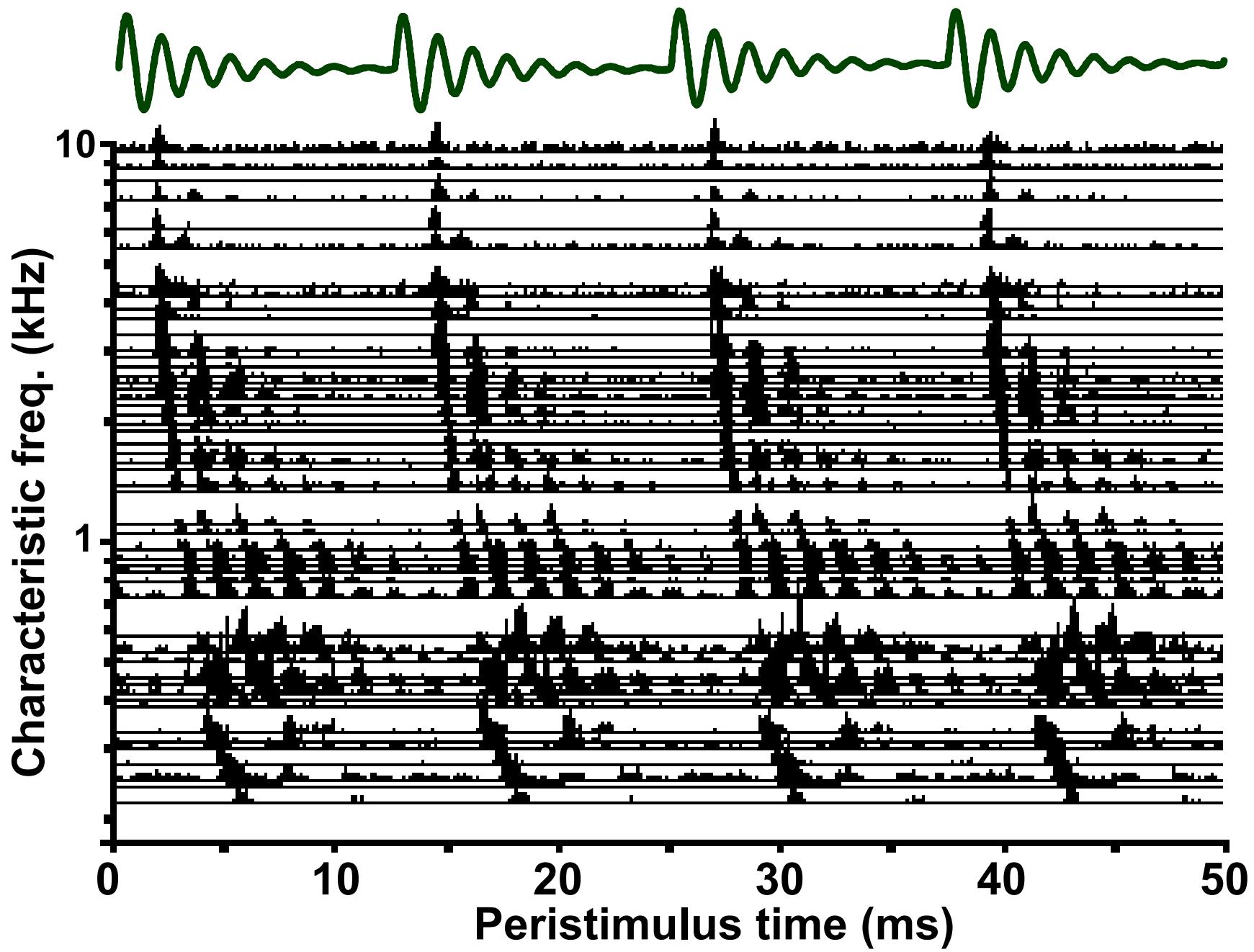
## Correlograms: interval-place displays (Slaney & Lyon)

Please see Slaney, Malcolm, and Richard F. Lyon. "On the Importance of Time -A Temporal Representation of Sound." In *Visual Representations of Speech Signals*. Edited by M. Crawford. New York: John Wiley. 1993.

# Correlograms

Please see Slaney, Malcolm, and Richard F. Lyon. "On the Importance of Time -A Temporal Representation of Sound." In *Visual Representations of Speech Signals*. Edited by M. Crawford. New York: John Wiley. 1993.

# Auditory nerve



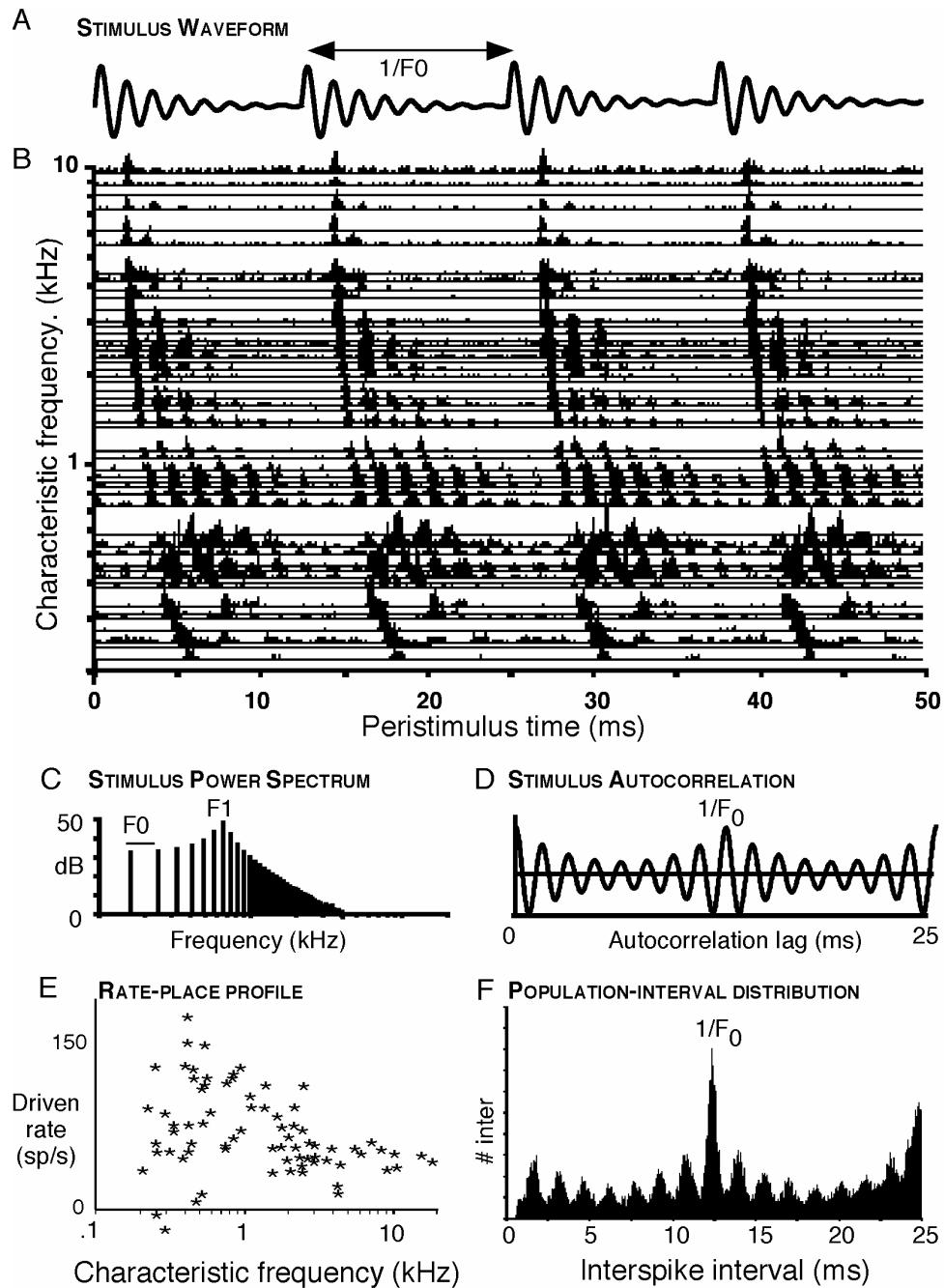
# Temporal coding in the auditory nerve

Work with Bertrand Delgutte  
Cariani & Delgutte (1996ab)

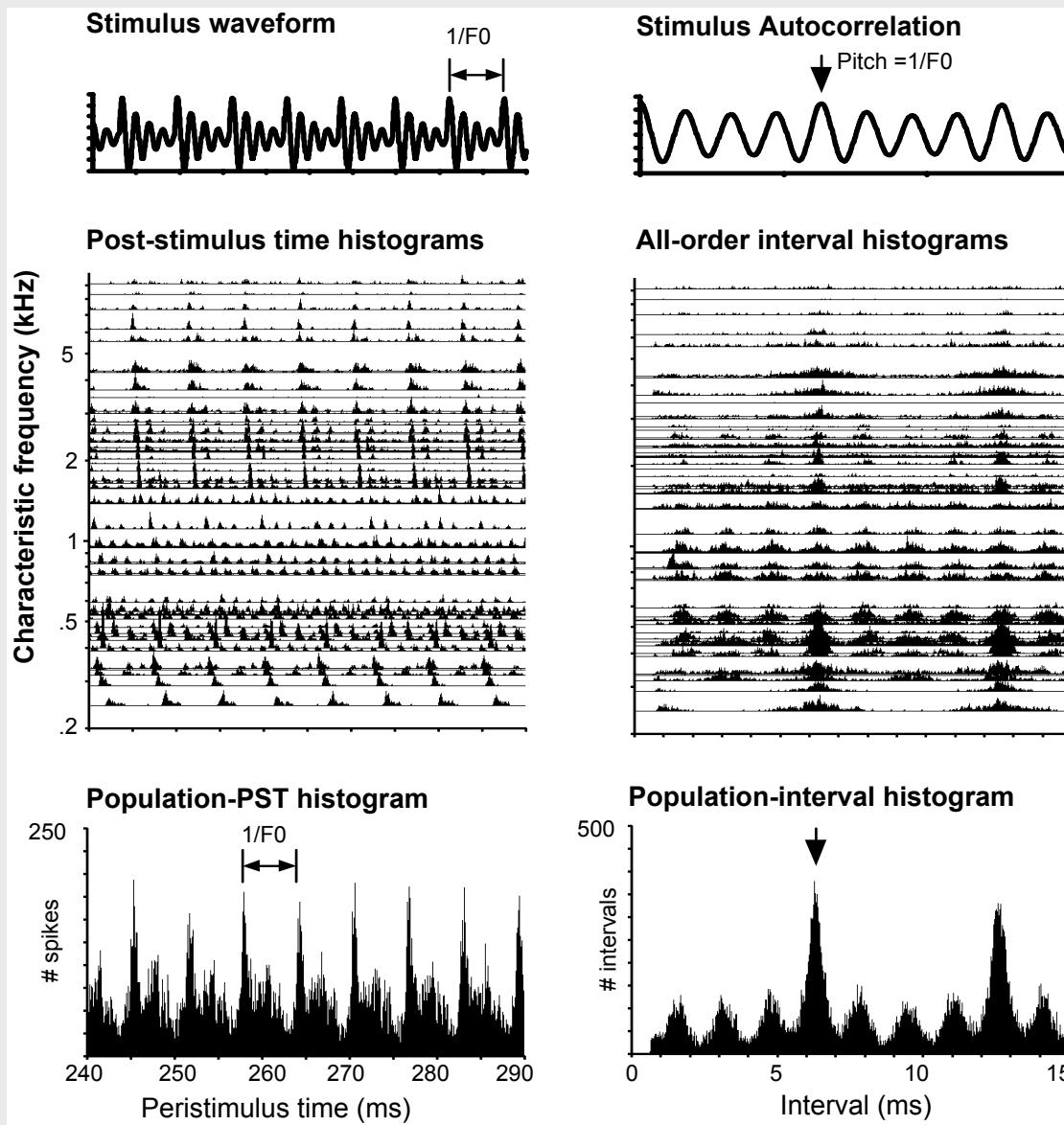
Dial-anesthetized cats.  
100 presentations/fiber  
60 dB SPL

Population-interval distributions are compiled by summing together intervals from all auditory nerve fibers.

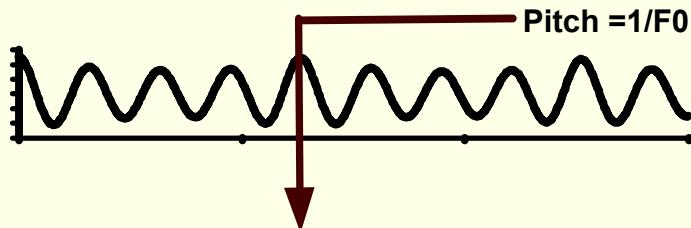
The most common intervals present in the auditory nerve are invariably related to the pitches heard at the fundamentals of harmonic complexes.



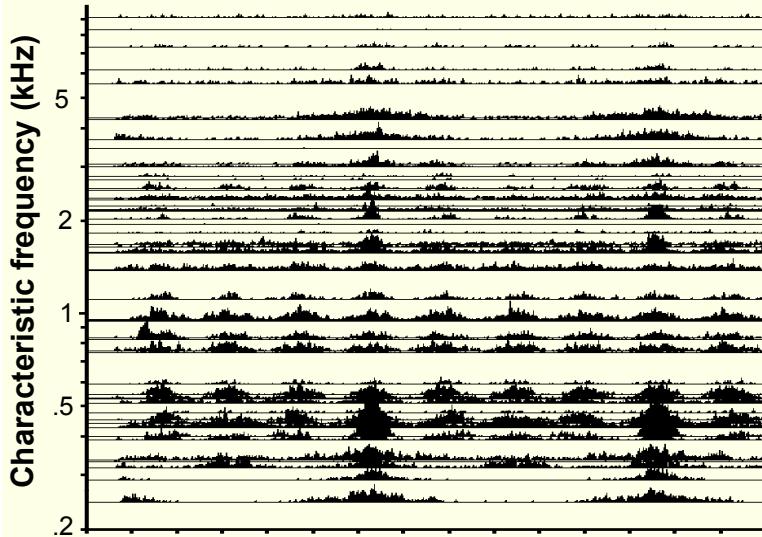
# The population-interval distribution of the auditory nerve



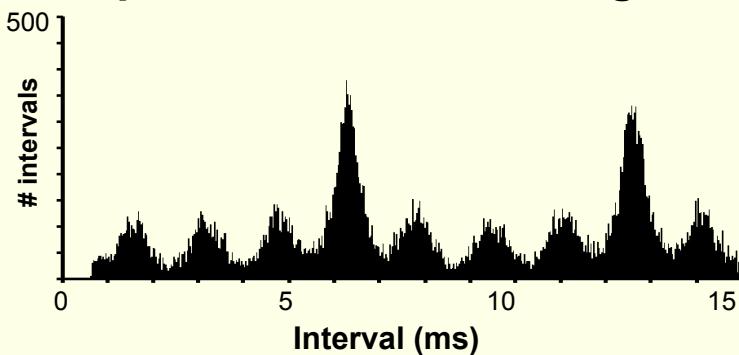
## Stimulus Autocorrelation



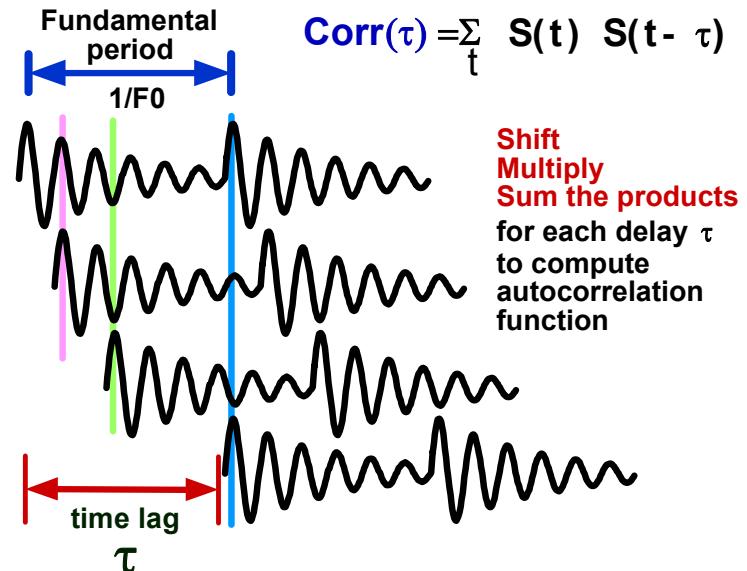
## All-order interval histograms



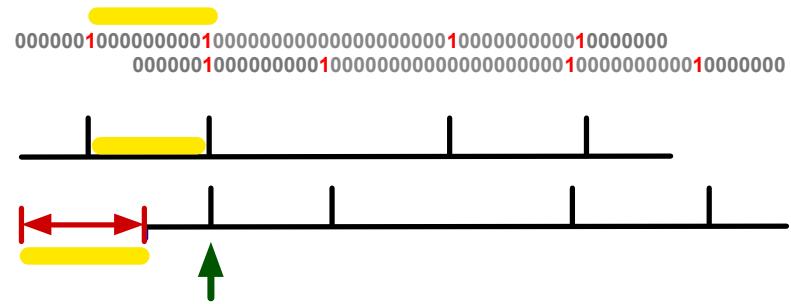
## Population-interval histogram



## Autocorrelation functions

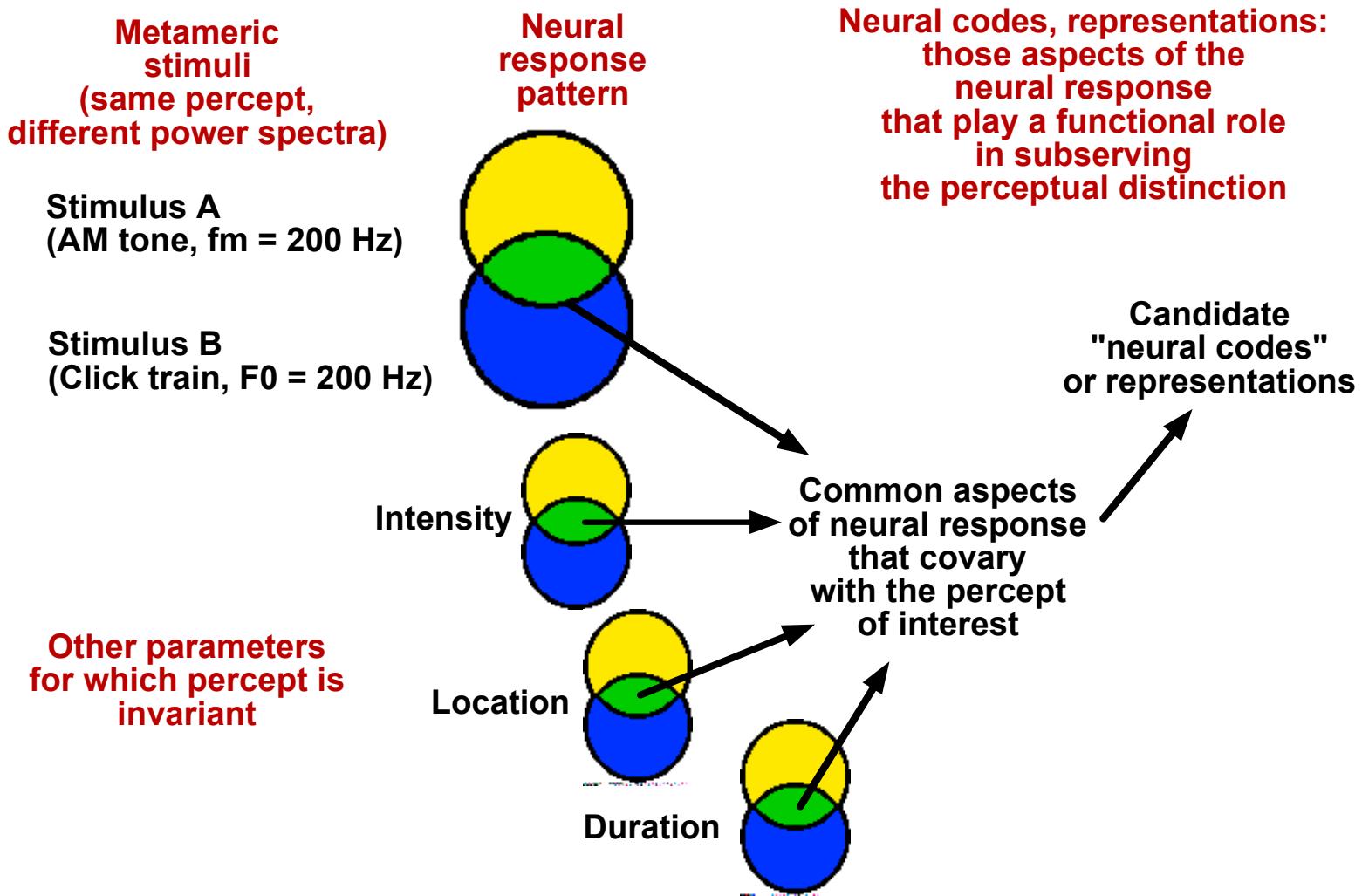


**Autocorrelations of spike trains** = **Histograms of all-order intervals**



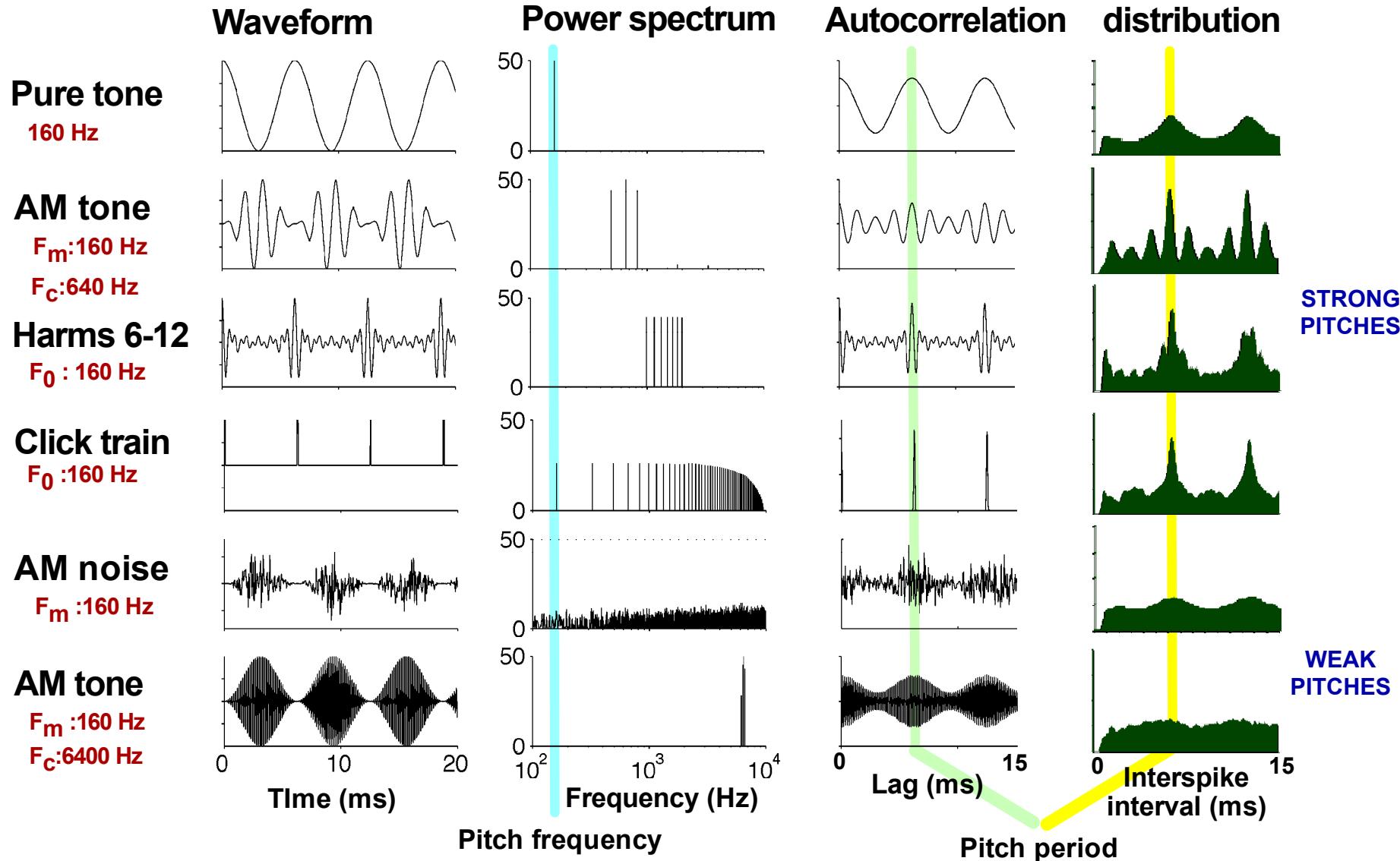
# Percept-driven search for neural codes:

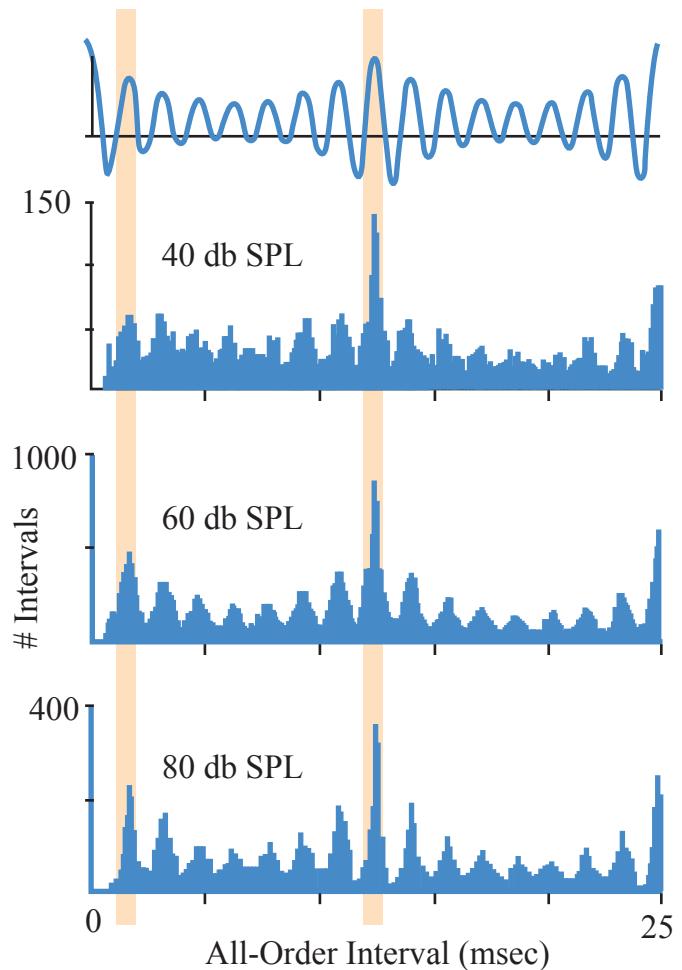
1. Use stimuli that produce equivalent percepts
2. Look for commonalities in neural response
3. Eliminate those aspects that are not invariant



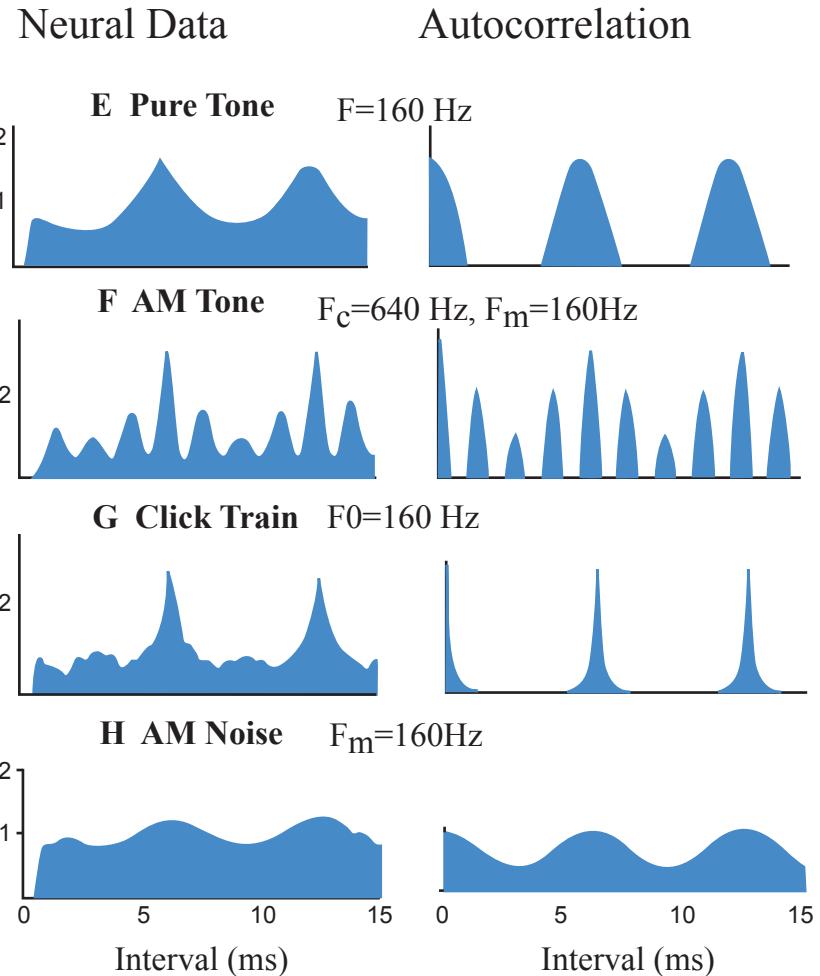
# Pitch equivalence

Six stimuli that produce a low pitch at 160 Hz

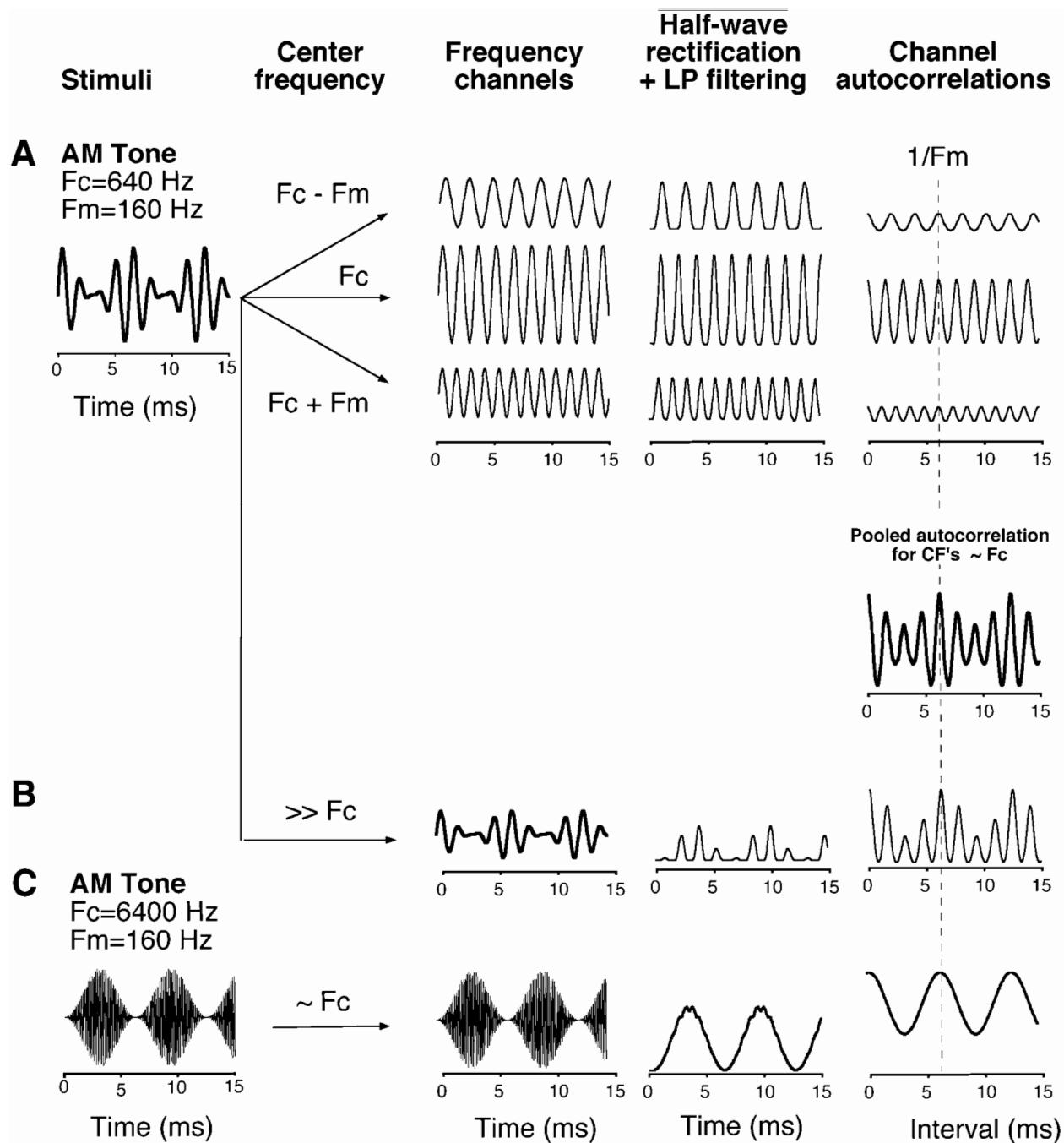




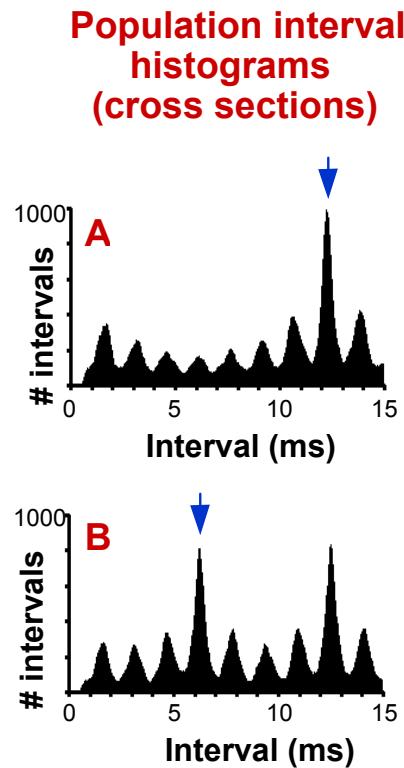
**Level-Invariance**



**Pitch Equivalence**



# The running population-interval distribution

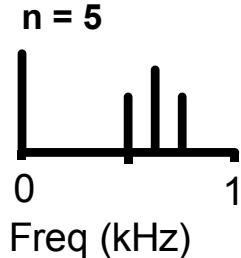
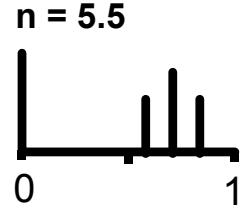
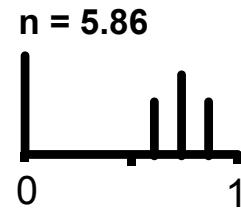
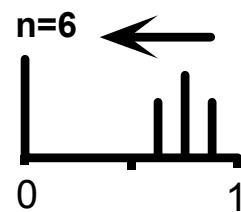


## Pitch height and pitch chroma

Please see Figure 1, 2, and 7 in Roger N. Shepard.  
"Geometrical Approximations to the Structure of Musical  
Pitch." *Psychological Review* 89 no. 4 (1982): 305-322.

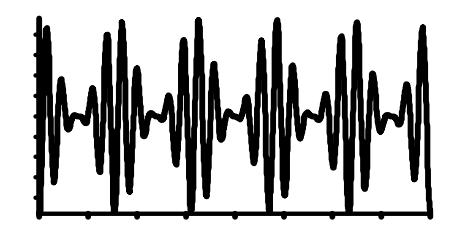
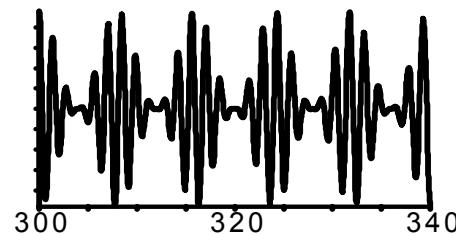
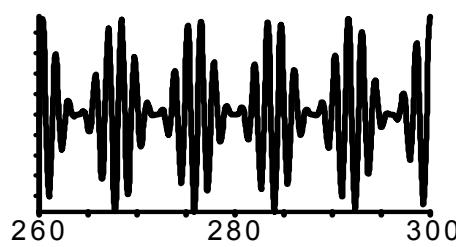
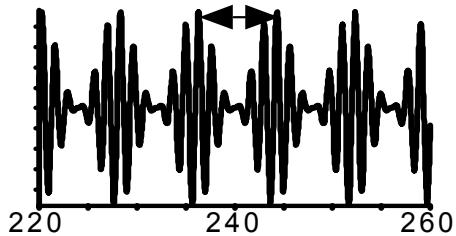
# Pitch shift of inharmonic complex tones

$F_m = 125$  Hz  
 $F_c = 750$  Hz



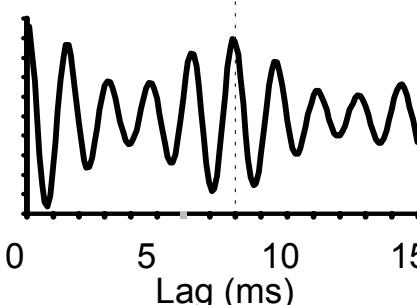
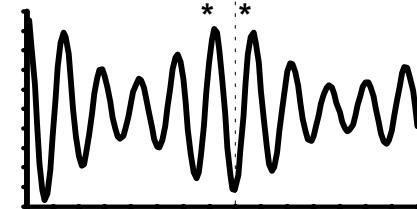
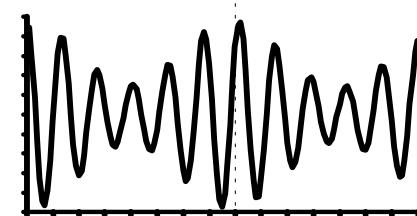
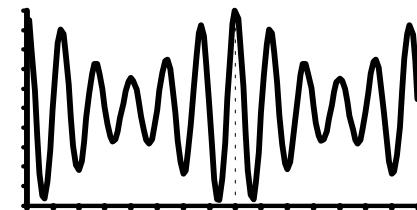
Stimulus waveform

$1/F_m$



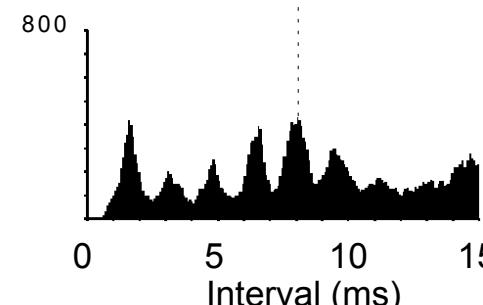
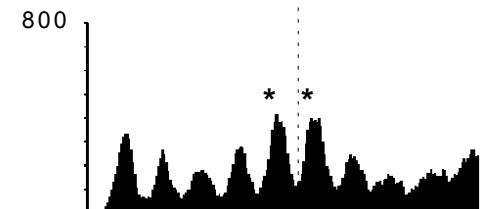
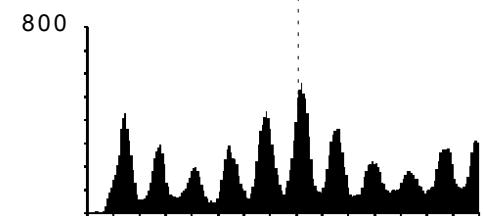
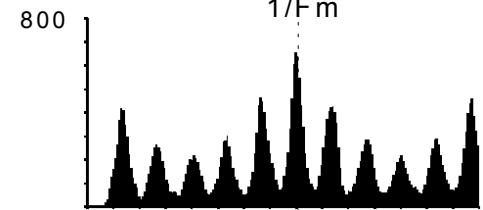
Stimulus autocorrelation

$1/F_m$



Population interval distributions

$1/F_m$

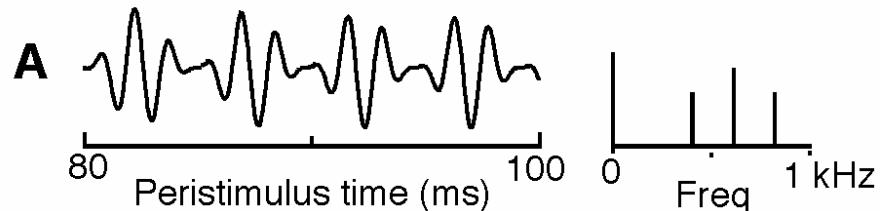


# Pitch shift of inharmonic complex tones

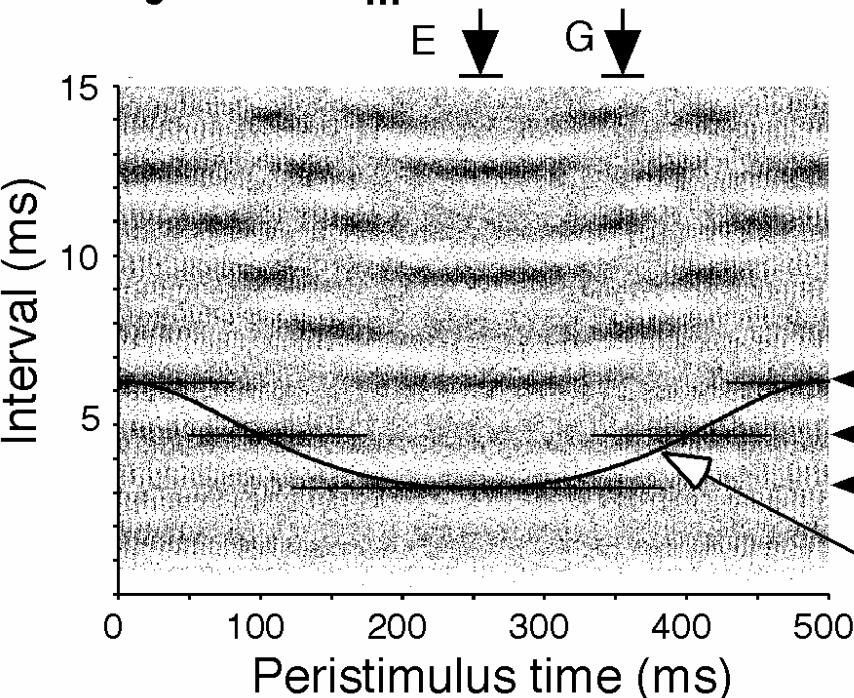
## Phase-invariant nature of all-order interval code

### AM Tone

$F_c=640$  Hz,  $F_m=200$  Hz

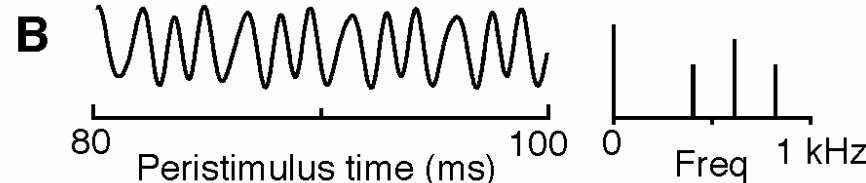


C  $F_c=640$  Hz,  $F_m=160-320$  Hz

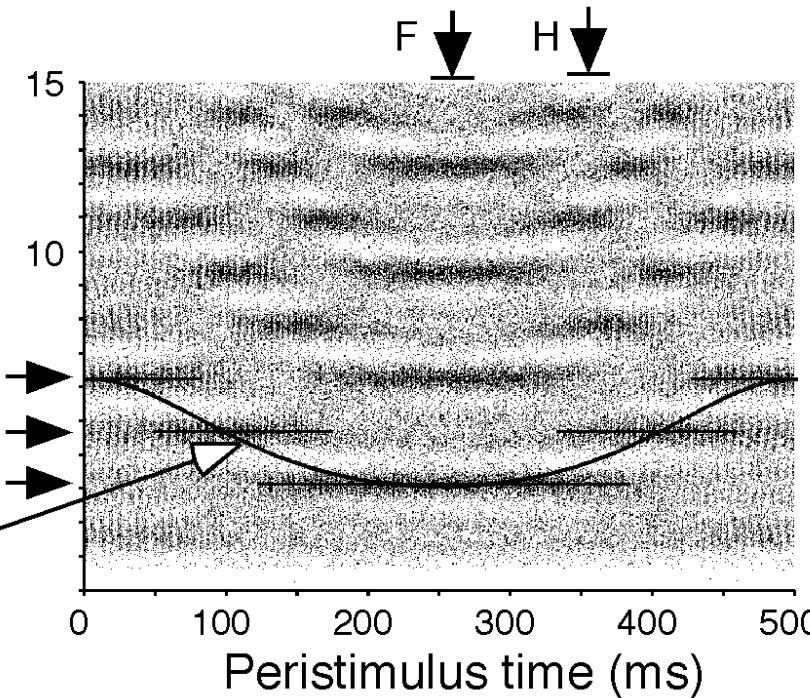


### QFM Tone

$F_c=640$  Hz,  $F_m=200$  Hz

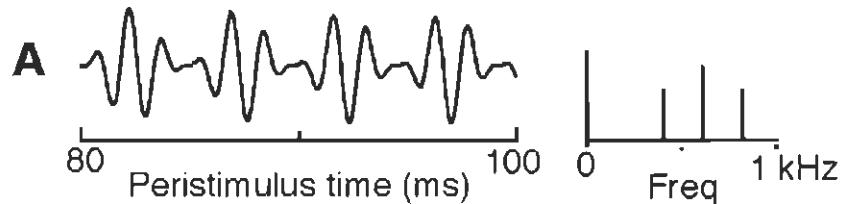


D  $F_c=640$  Hz,  $F_m=160-320$  Hz

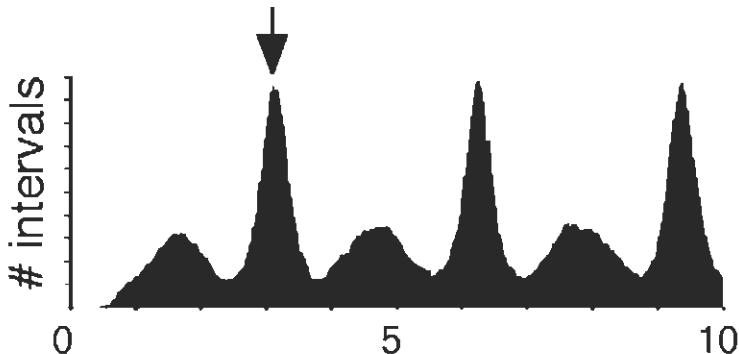


## AM Tone

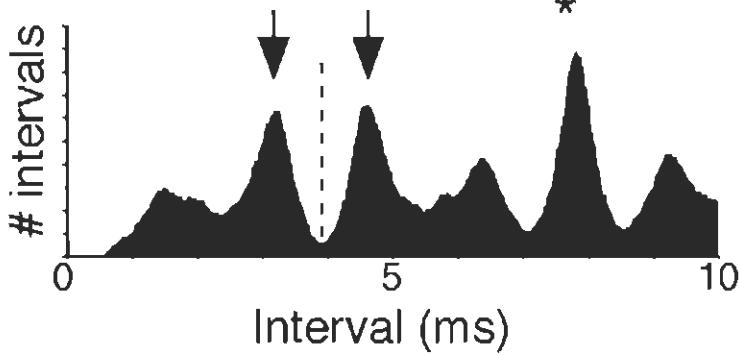
$F_c=640$  Hz,  $F_m=200$  Hz



E AM  $F_c=640$  Hz,  $F_m=320$  Hz  
PST=225-275

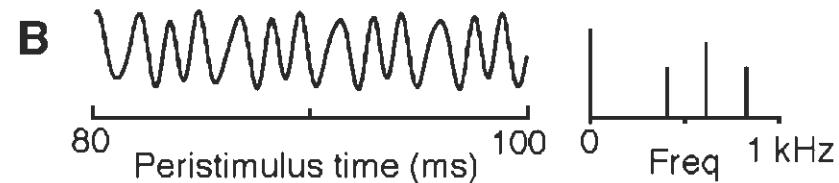


G AM  $F_c=640$  Hz,  $F_m=256$  Hz  
PST=335-385

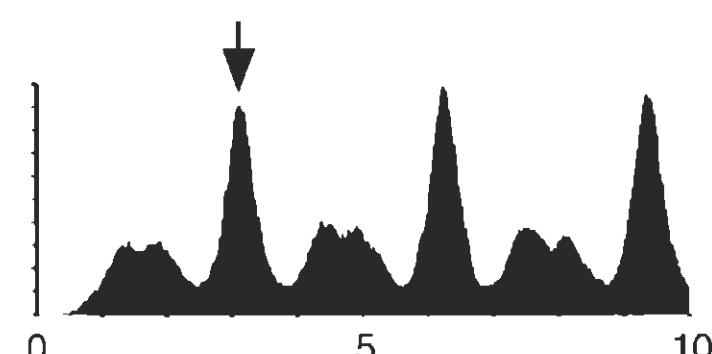


## QFM Tone

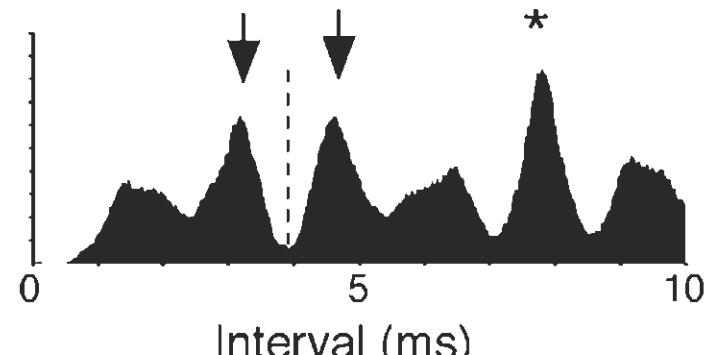
$F_c=640$  Hz,  $F_m=200$  Hz



F QFM  $F_c=640$  Hz,  $F_m=320$  Hz  
PST=225-275



H QFM  $F_c=640$  Hz,  $F_m=256$  Hz  
PST=335-385

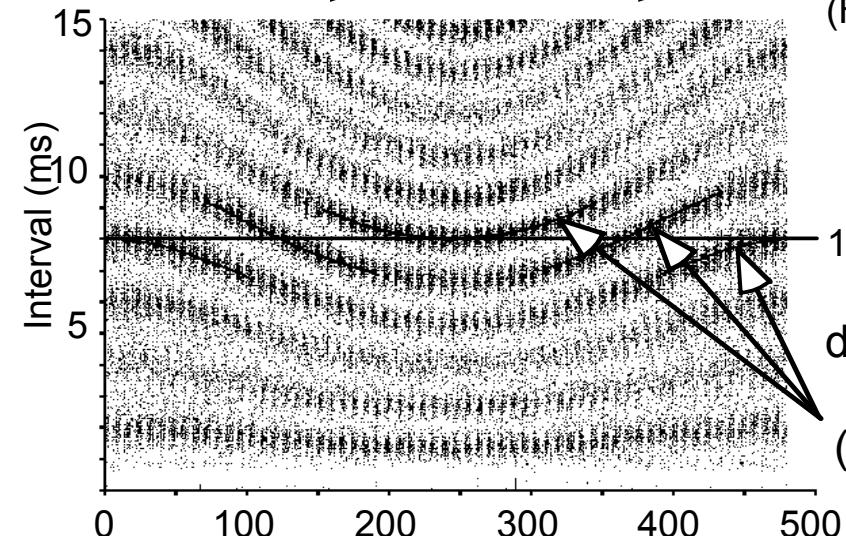


# Cochlear nucleus IV: Pitch shift

Variable-Fc AM tone  $F_m = 125$  Hz  $F_c = 500\text{-}750$  Hz Pitch ~ de Boer's rule

Pooled ANF (n=47)

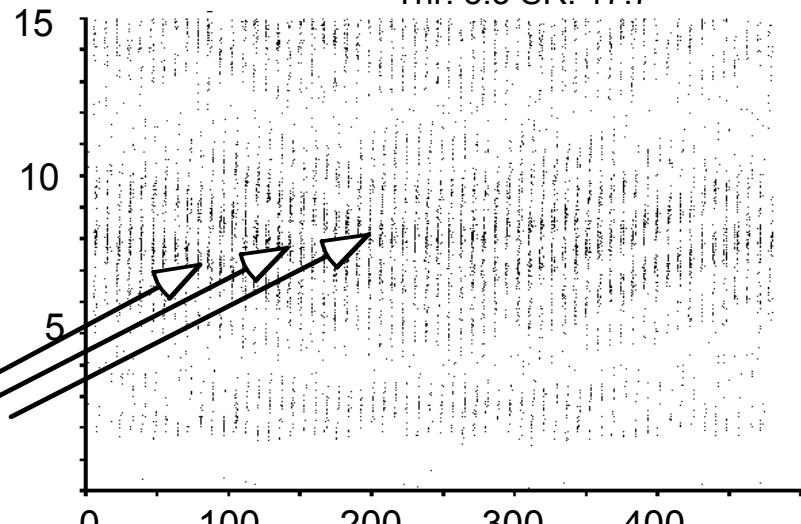
500 → 750 → 500 Fc (Hz)



$1/F_m$

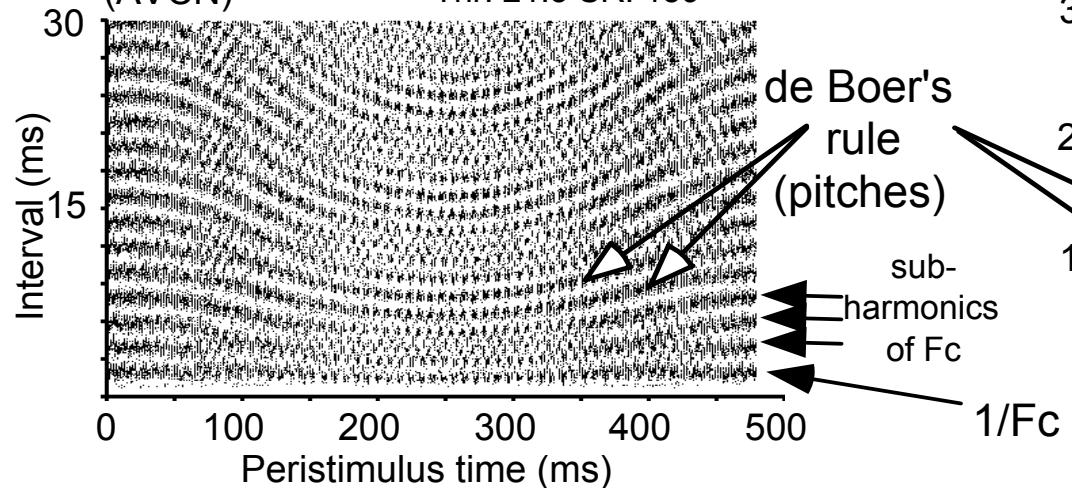
de Boer's  
rule  
(pitches)

Chop-S (PVCN)  
Unit 35-40 CF: 2.1 kHz  
Thr: 5.3 SR: 17.7



Primarylike  
(AVCN)

45-17-4 CF: 408 Hz  
Thr: 21.3 SR: 159

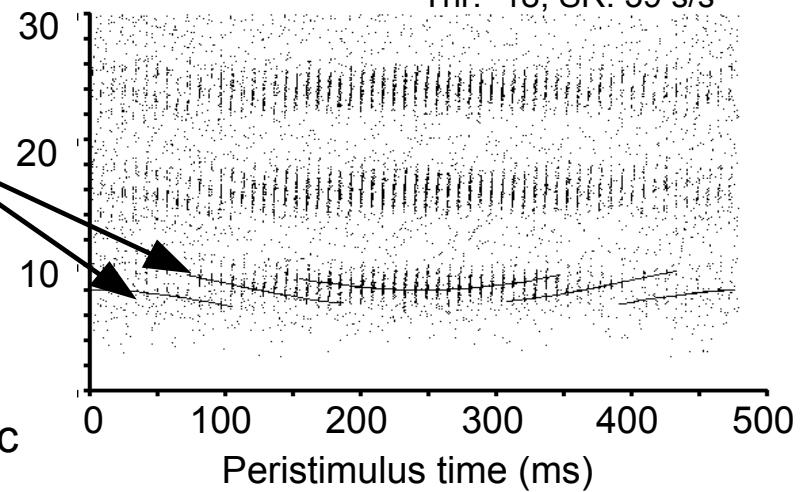


de Boer's  
rule  
(pitches)

sub-  
harmonics  
of Fc

Pauser (DCN)

45-15-8 CF: 4417  
Thr: -18, SR: 39 s/s



Peristimulus time (ms)

# Dominance region for pitch (harmonics 3-5 or partials 500-1500 Hz)

$F0_{3-5} = 80$  Hz

Harmonics 3-5 alone

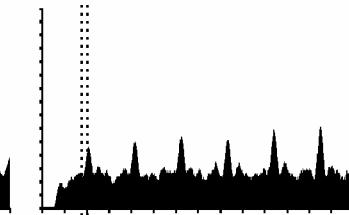
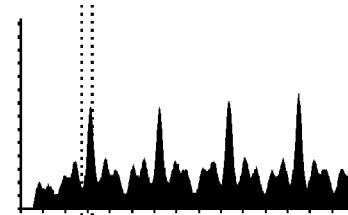
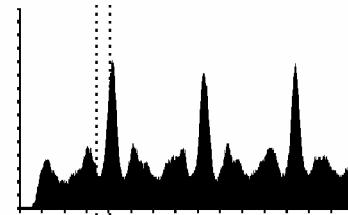
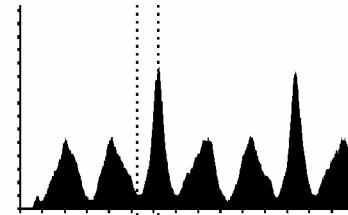
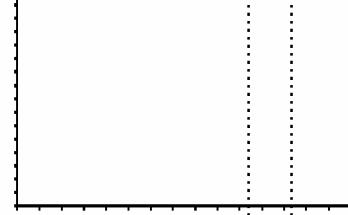
$F0_{3-5} = 160$  Hz

$F0_{3-5} = 240$  Hz

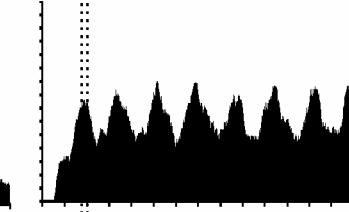
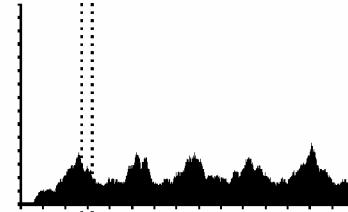
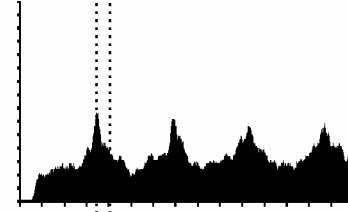
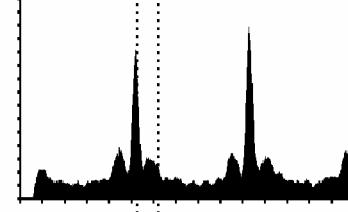
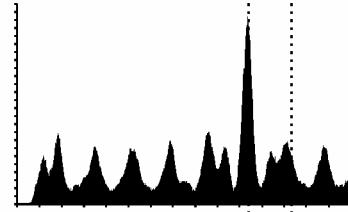
$F0_{3-5} = 320$  Hz

$F0_{3-5} = 480$  Hz

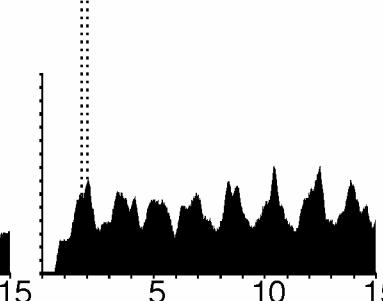
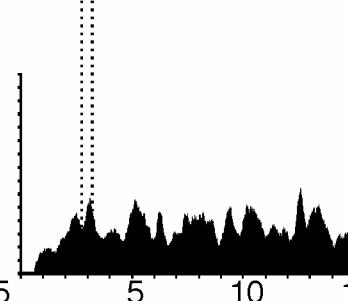
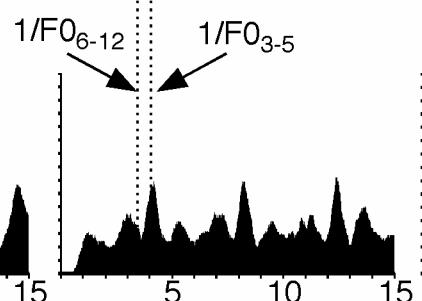
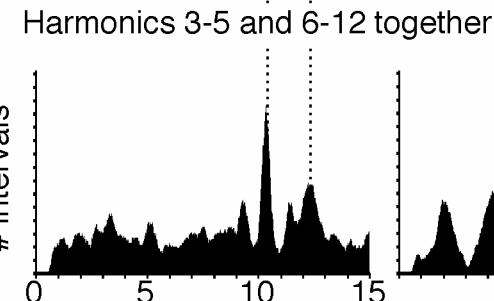
# intervals



# intervals

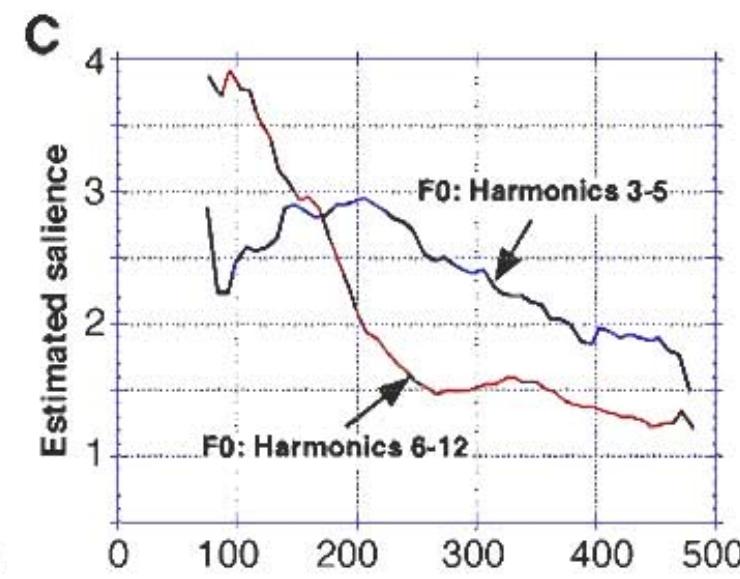
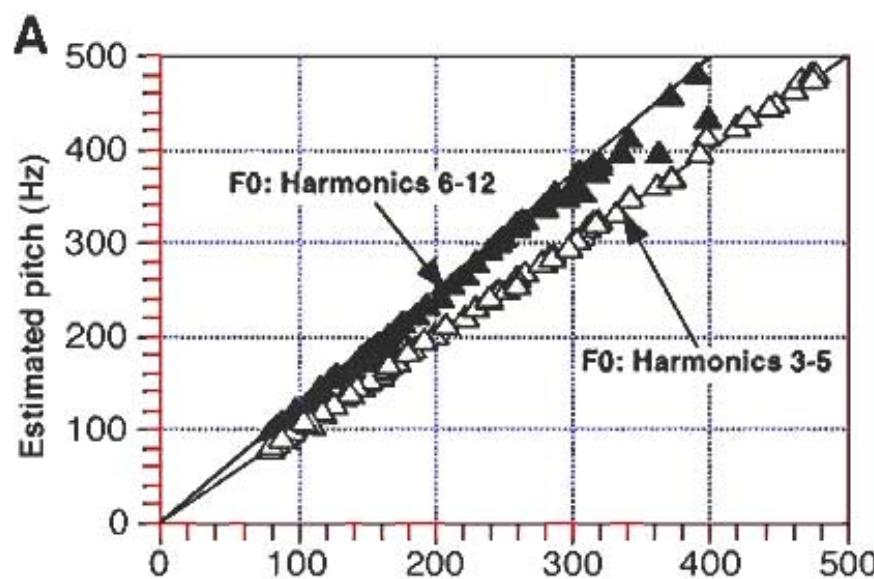


# intervals

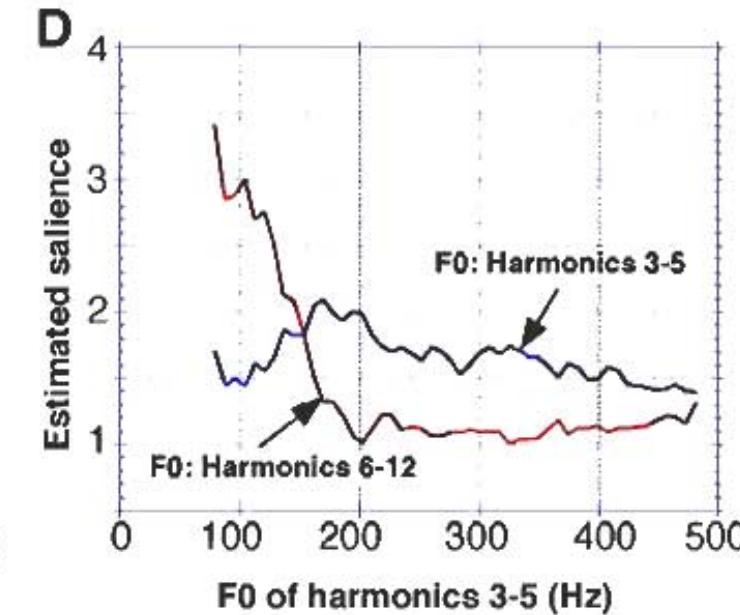
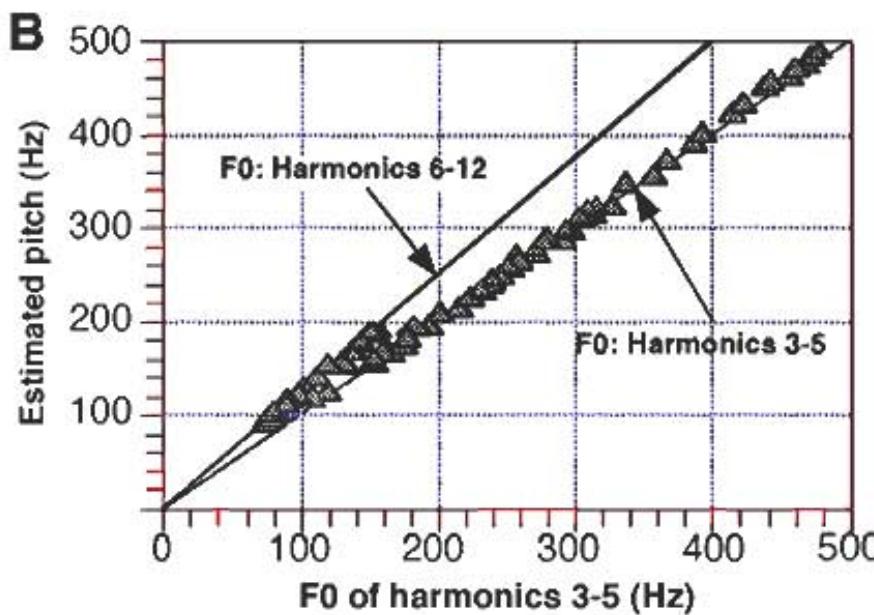


Interval (ms)

### Harmonics 3-5 and 6-12 presented separately



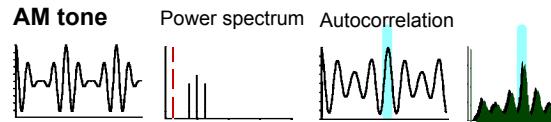
### Harmonics 3-5 and 6-12 presented concurrently



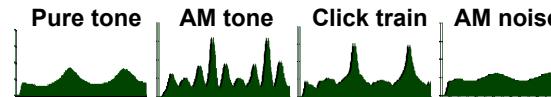
# Summary

## Population-interval representation of pitch at the level of the auditory nerve

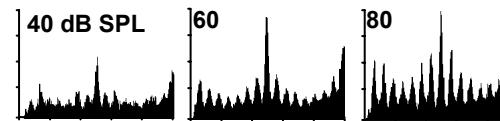
Pitch of the  
"missing fundamental"



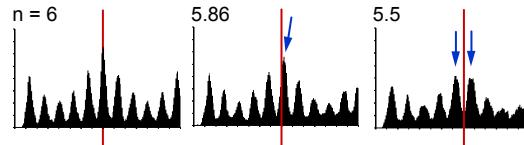
Pitch  
Equivalence



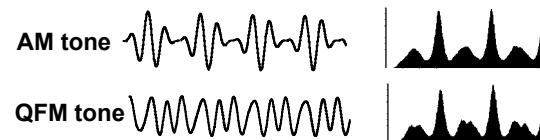
Level invariance



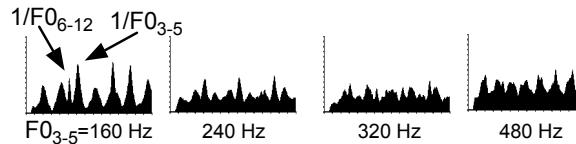
Pitch shift of  
inharmonic  
AM tones



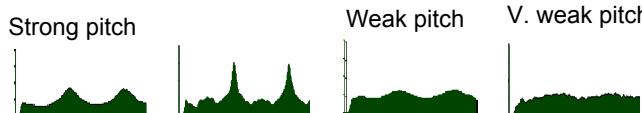
Phase invariance



Dominance region



Pitch salience



## Temporal theories - pros & cons

Make use of spike-timing properties of elements in early processing (to midbrain at least)

Interval-information is precise & robust & level-insensitive

No strong neurally-grounded theory of how this information is used

Unified model: account for pitches of perceptually-resolved & unresolved harmonics in an elegant way (dominant periodicity)

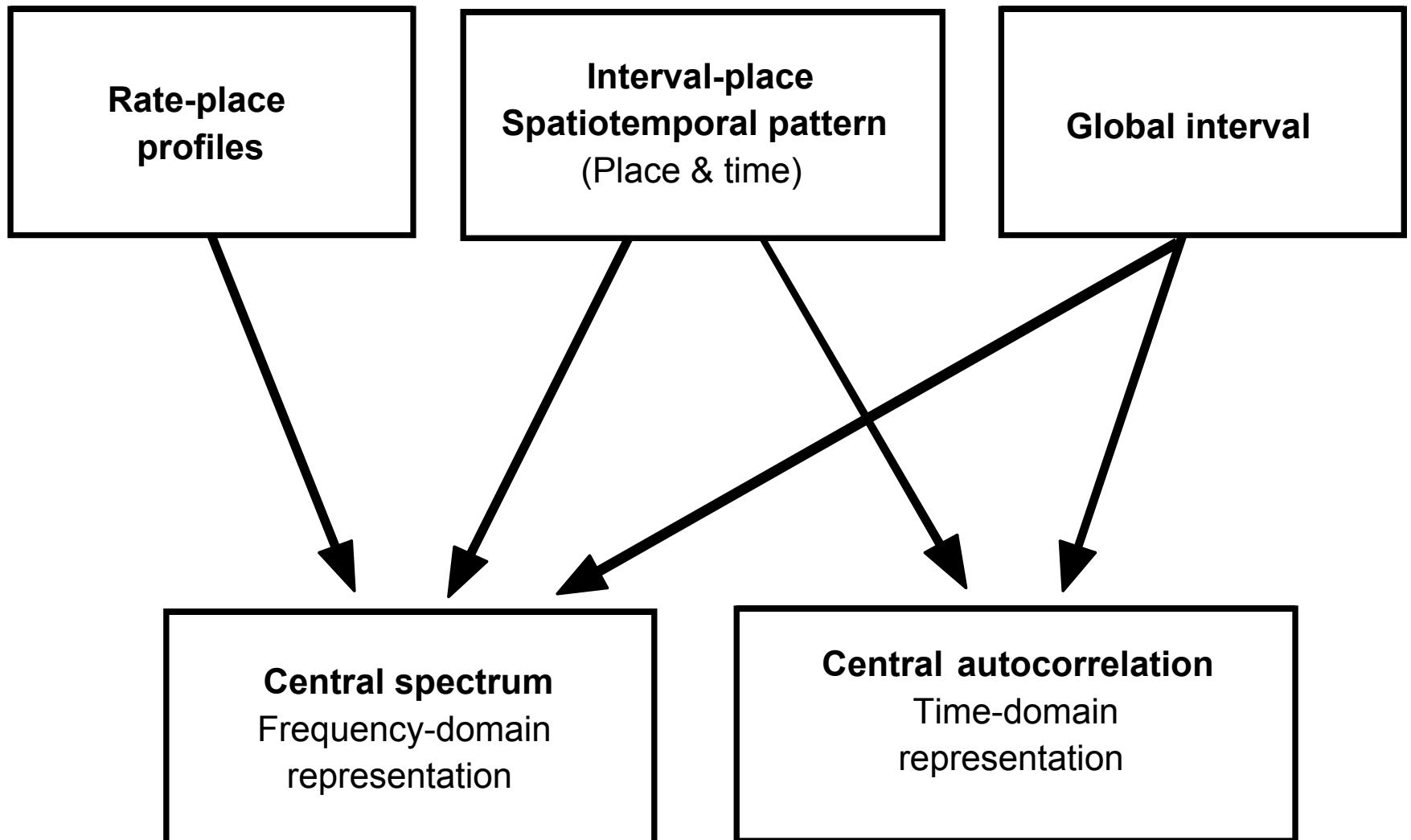
Explain well existence region for F0 (albeit with limits on max interval durations)

Do not explain low pitches of unresolved harmonics

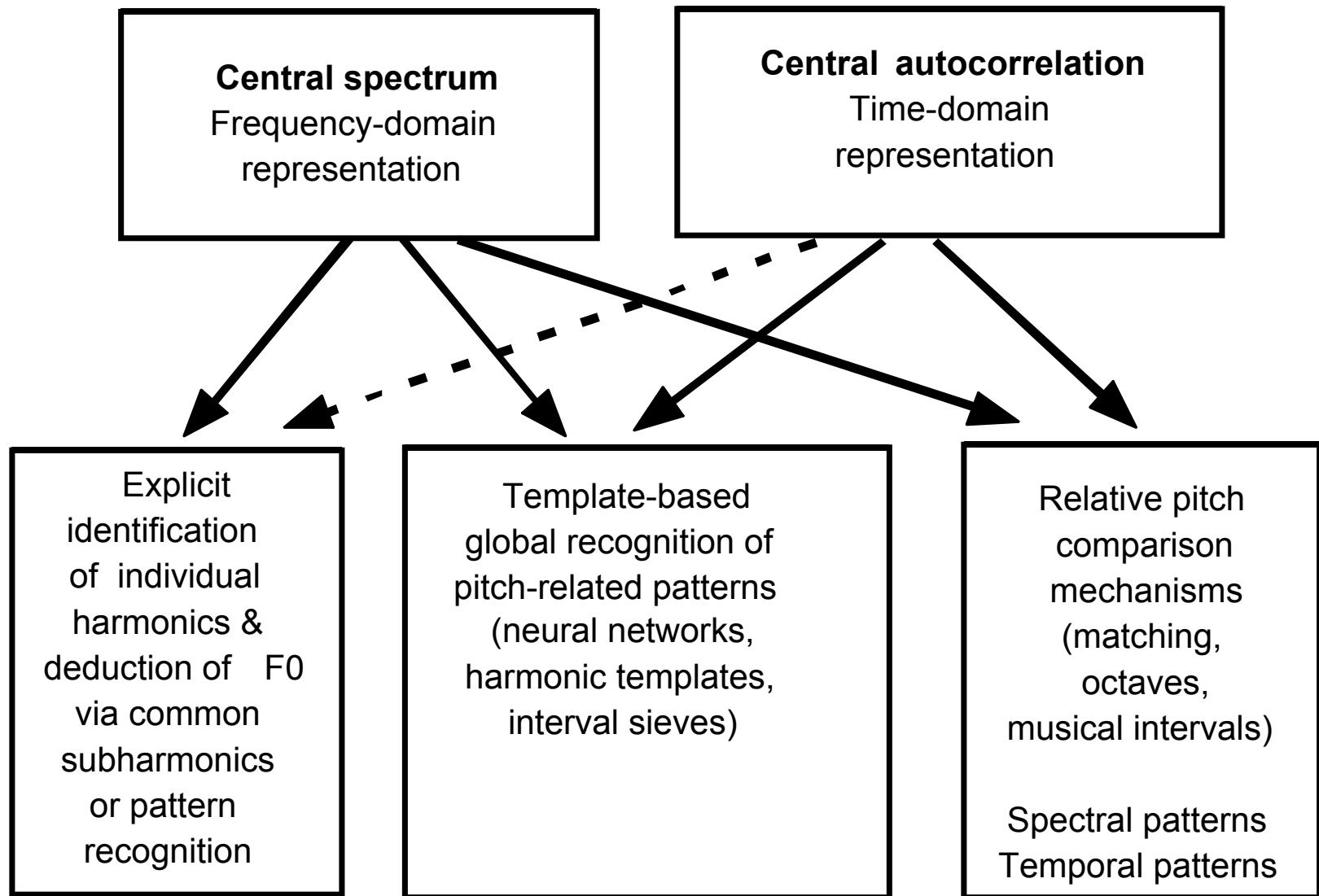
Interval analyzers require precise delays & short coincidence windows

Little or no neural evidence for required analyzers

# Physiological and functional representations



# Different representations can support analogous strategies for pitch extraction, recognition, and comparison



## **Reading/assignment for next meeting**

- Tuesday. Feb. 24
- Pitch mechanisms, continued
- Perception of timbre
- Reading:
  - Moore Chapter 8, pp. 269-273
  - Chapter in Deutsch by Risset & Wessel on Timbre  
(first sections up to p. 113-118)
  - Handel, chapter on Identification

Pitch classes  
and  
perceptual similarity

Build up harmonic  
associations  
from repeated  
exposure to harmonic  
complex tones

Harmonic similarity relations  
are direct consequences  
of the inherent structure  
of interval codes

# OCTAVE SIMILARITY

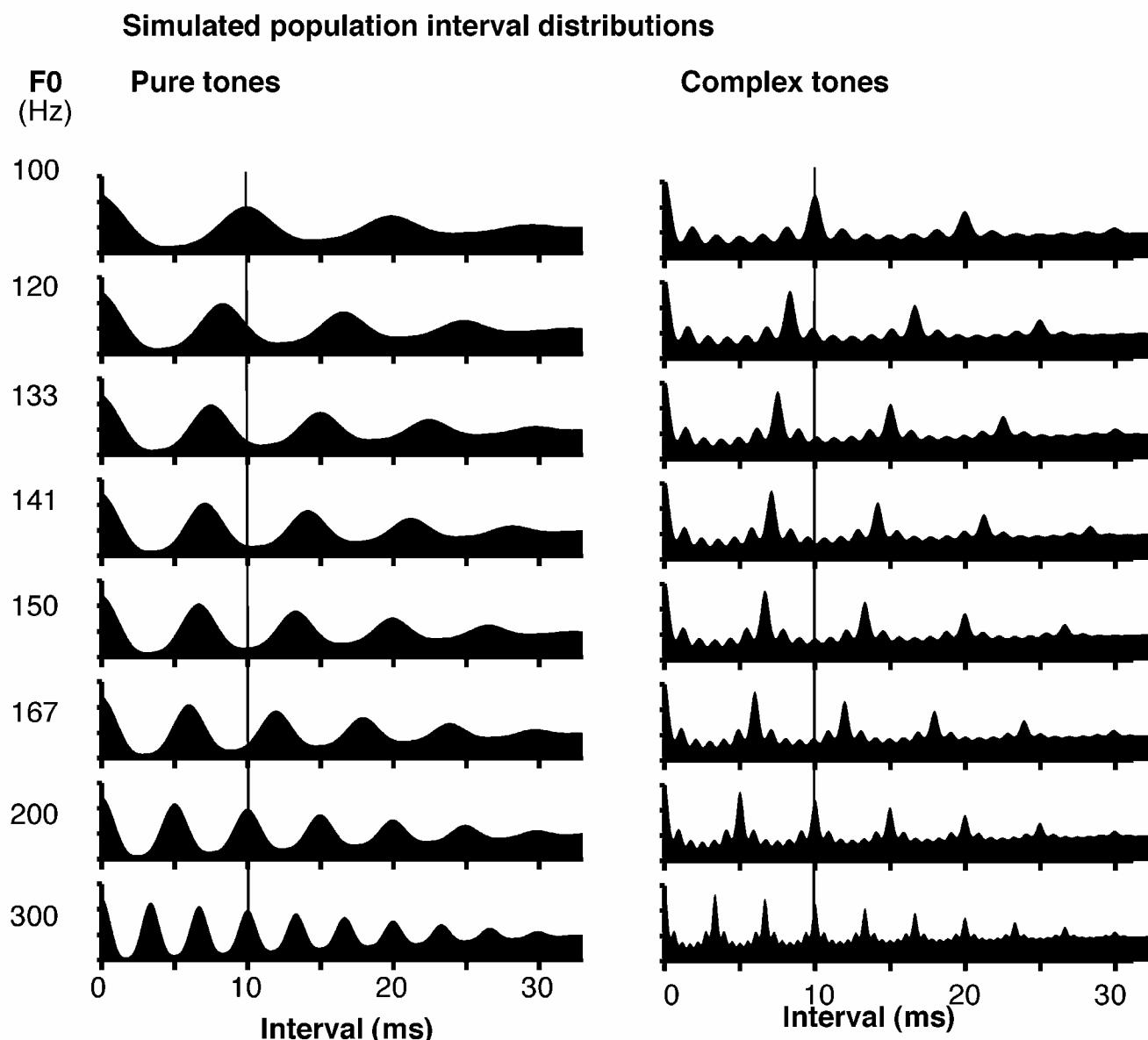


Figure 4. Similarities between population-interval representations associated with different fundamental frequencies. Simulated population-interval distributions for pure tones (left) and complex tones (right) consisting of harmonics 1-6.

## Octave similarity

Please see Cariani, Peter. *Journal of New Music Research* 30 no. 2 (2001): 107-135.

## Pitch height and pitch chroma

Please see Figure 1, 2, and 7,in Roger N. Shepard.  
"Geometrical Approximations to the Structure of Musical  
Pitch." *Psychological Review* 89 no. 4 (1982): 305-322.

Please see Cariani, Peter. *Journal of New Music Research*. 30 no. 2 (2001): 107-135.

## Musical tonal relations

Please see Roger N. Shepard. "Geometrical Approximations to the Structure of Musical Pitch." *Psychological Review* 89 no. 4 (1982): 305-322.

Please see Cariani, Peter. *Journal of New Music Research*. 30 no. 2 (2001): 107-135.