



Overview of Sivian's 1937 paper on Sound Propagation in Ducts Lined with Absorbing Materials



**Michigan
Technological**
University

Kara Hardy
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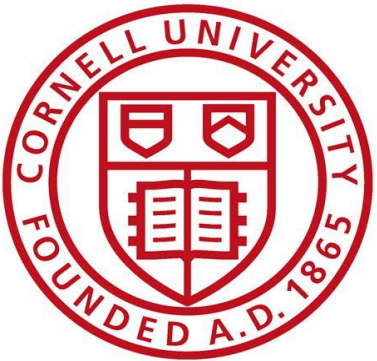
Leon John Sivian

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Born in Russia,
immigrated to the
United States as a
child

Earned a degree
in Electrical
Engineering from
Cornell University



Worked at Bell Labs for 30
years



Briefly interrupted by stints at
Missouri State College



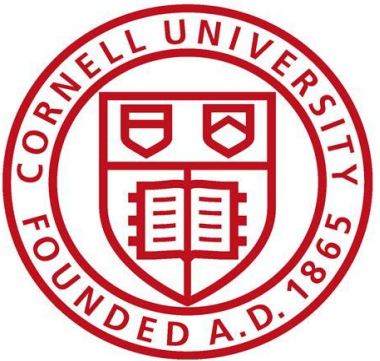
And the Navy Radio and Sound
Laboratory at the University of
California



[1-3]

Born in Russia,
immigrated to the
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child

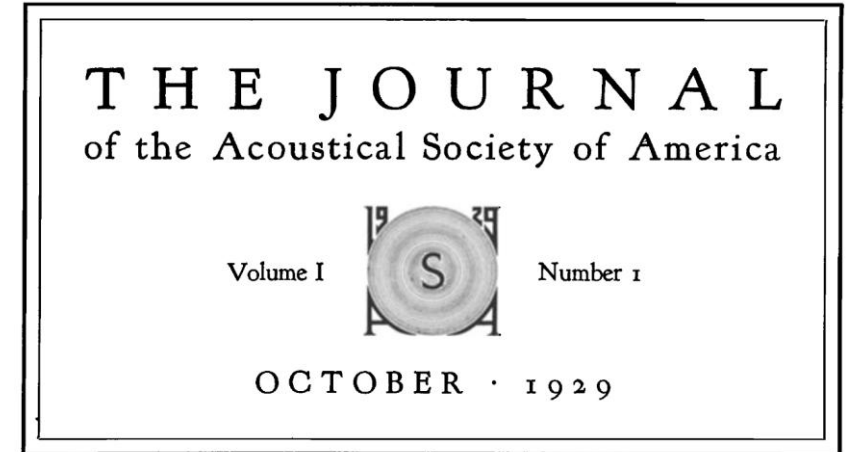
Earned a degree
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Worked at Bell Labs for 30
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One of the founding members of the
Acoustical Society of America



HISTORY OF ACOUSTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

By WALLACE WATERFALL

(As read at the beginning of the business meeting on May 10th)

At that meeting the following men were in attendance.
F. K. Richtmeyer, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.
L. J. Sivian, Bell Telephone Laboratories, N. Y. C.
R. L. Wegel, Bell Telephone Laboratories, N. Y. C.



OCTOBER, 1937

J. A. S. A.

VOLUME 9

Sound Propagation in Ducts Lined with Absorbing Materials*

L. J. SIVIAN

Bell Telephone Laboratories, New York, N. Y.

(Received June 28, 1937)

In ventilator and exhaust systems it is desirable to provide a high degree of attenuation for audiofrequency waves while offering low resistance to continuous or slowly pulsating air flow. For that purpose ducts lined with absorbing materials are sometimes used. This paper deals with sound propagation, particularly with its attenuation constant, in such ducts. Two types of lining are considered: (a) nonvibratile, i.e., a lining in which there is no wave motion propagated in the direction of the duct axis; (b) vibratile, i.e., a lining admitting of such motion. Methods for computing the propagation constants in terms of the acoustic constants of the lining, are given. Some experimental data are presented. Comparison of observed and computed values indicates that the computational procedure is substantially valid up to a frequency at which the sound wave-length is about twice the internal duct diameter.

[5]

OCTOBER, 1937

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Sound Propagation in Ducts Lined with Absorbing Materials*

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Part A: Non-Vibratile Linings

- Three cases of linings
- Transmission through duct of finite length
- Measured and computed values of the attenuation constant
- Effect of superimposed DC air flow

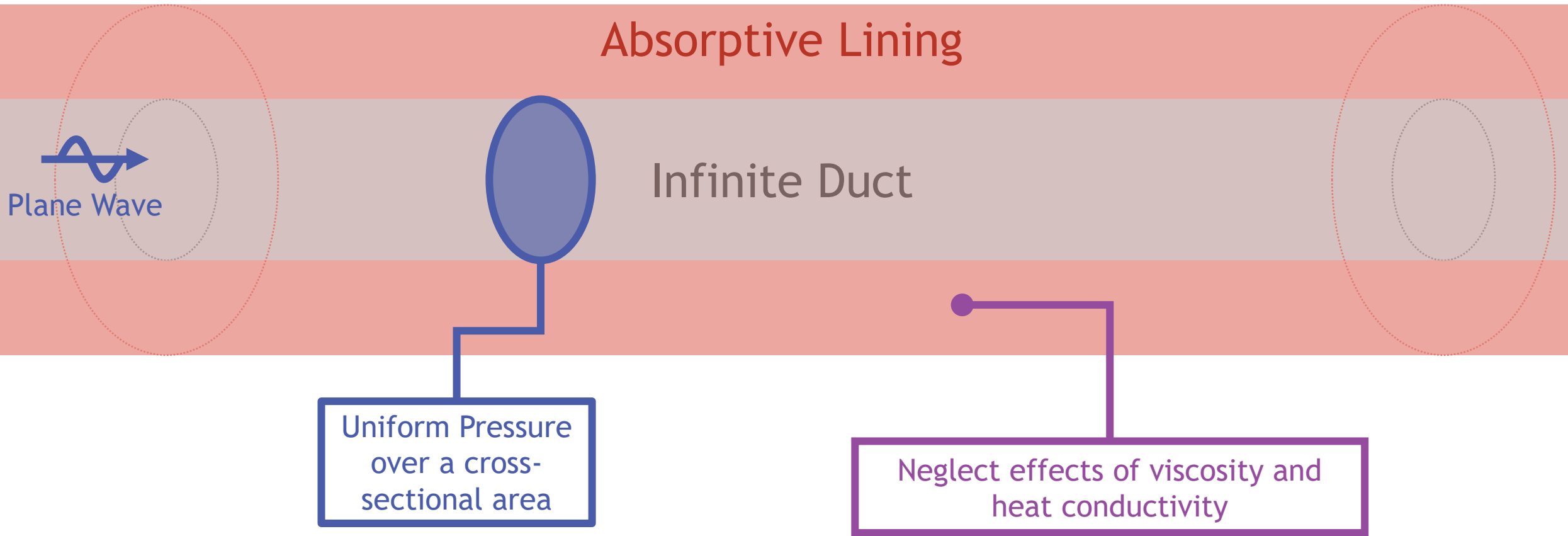
Part B: Vibratile Linings

The Problem and Sivian's Assumptions

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1D Propagation: Transmission Line Model

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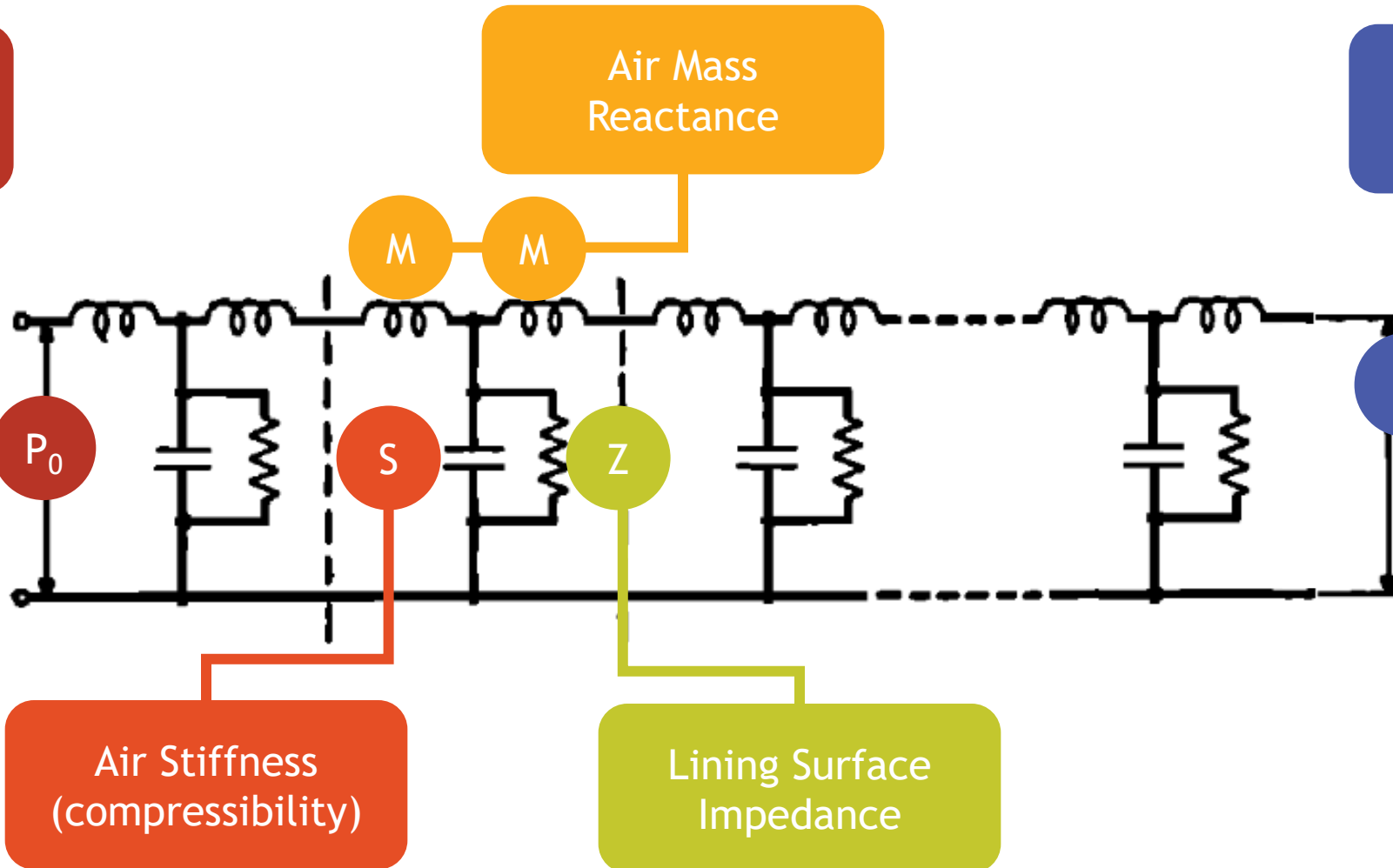


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Pressure at Duct Inlet

Air Mass Reactance

Pressure at Duct Outlet



1D Propagation: Transmission Line Model

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Lining Surface
Impedance

$$z = r + i\omega m - is/\omega$$

r

resistance

m

mass
reactance

s

stiffness

Propagation Constant and Impedance of the System

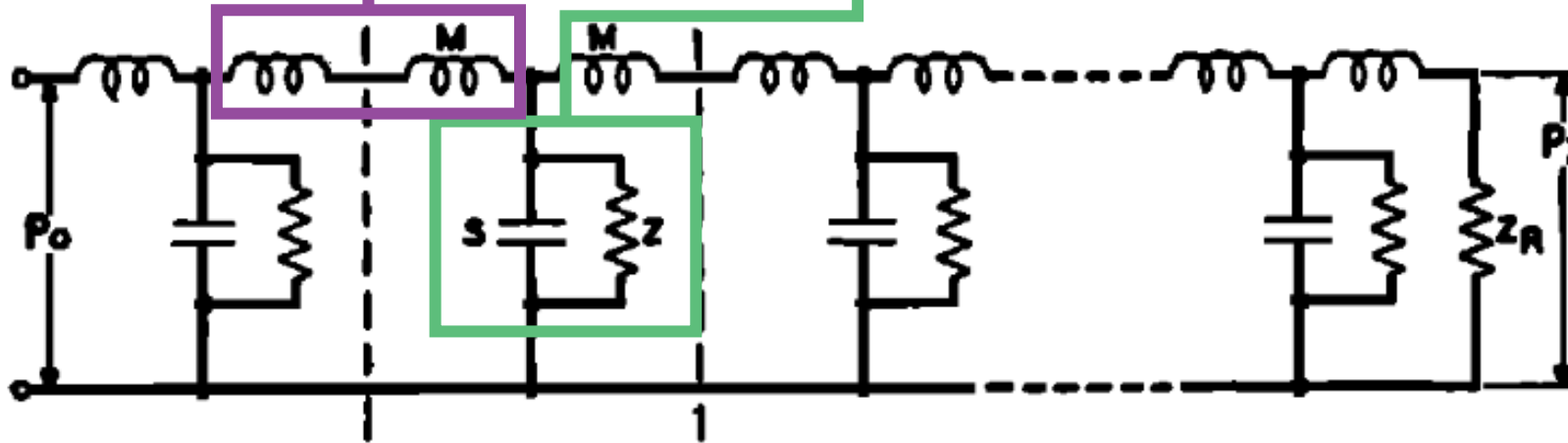
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Series Impedance,
 z_1

Shunt Admittance,
 z_2



Propagation Constant: $\Gamma = \sqrt{\frac{z_1}{z_2}} = ikM = \alpha + i\beta$

Characteristic Impedance: $z_c = \sqrt{z_1 z_2} = \frac{\rho c}{AM}$

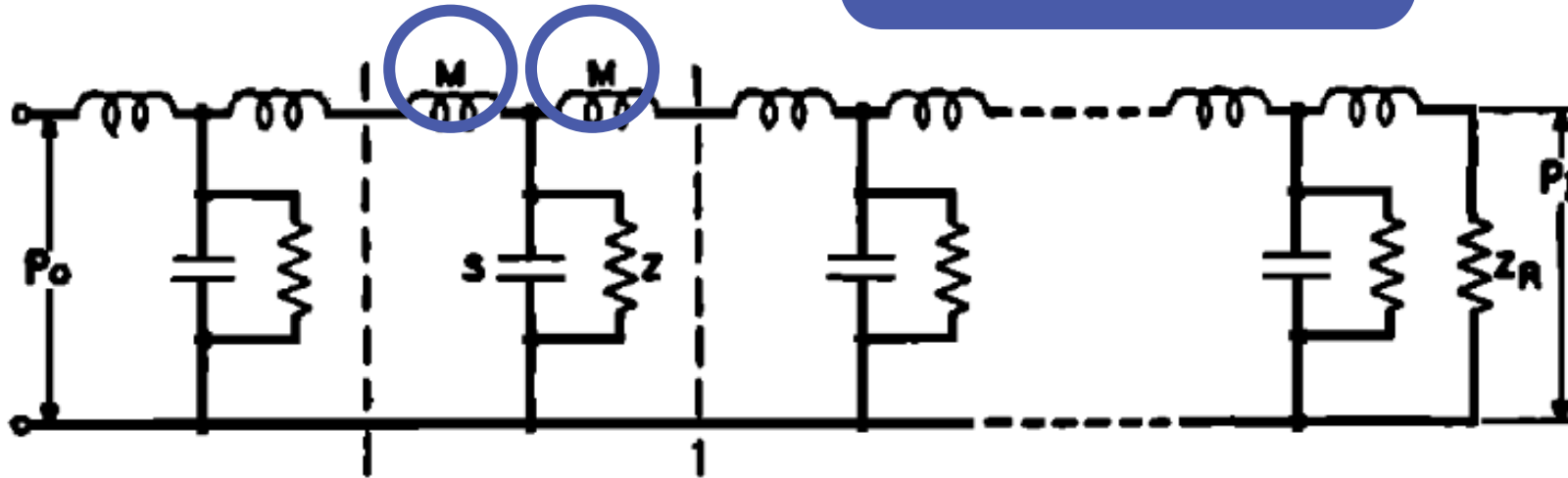
Propagation Constant and Impedance of the System

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Not the same M!
(it's frustrating, I
know!)



Propagation Constant: $\Gamma = \sqrt{\frac{z_1}{z_2}} = ikM = \alpha + i\beta$

Characteristic Impedance: $z_c = \sqrt{z_1 z_2} = \frac{\rho c}{AM}$

Propagation Constant Breakdown

$$\textit{Propagation Constant: } \Gamma = \sqrt{\frac{Z_1}{Z_2}} = i k M = \alpha + i \beta$$

α

Attenuation per unit length
of an infinite duct or duct
terminated in its characteristic
impedance

β

Wavenumber

$$\beta = \frac{\omega}{c_1} = \frac{2\pi f}{\textit{sound velocity in the duct}}$$



$$\sigma = \frac{s}{s_a}$$

Ratio of lining
stiffness to air
stiffness

$$q = \frac{\omega r}{s_a}$$

Relates lining
resistance to
frequency and air
stiffness
Used as a non-
dimensional proxy for
frequency in plots

$$\mu = \frac{ms_a}{r^2}$$

Relates lining mass
reactance to air
stiffness and
resistance

$$h = \frac{q}{k}$$

Relates q to the
wavenumber (k)

Part A: Non-Vibratile Linings

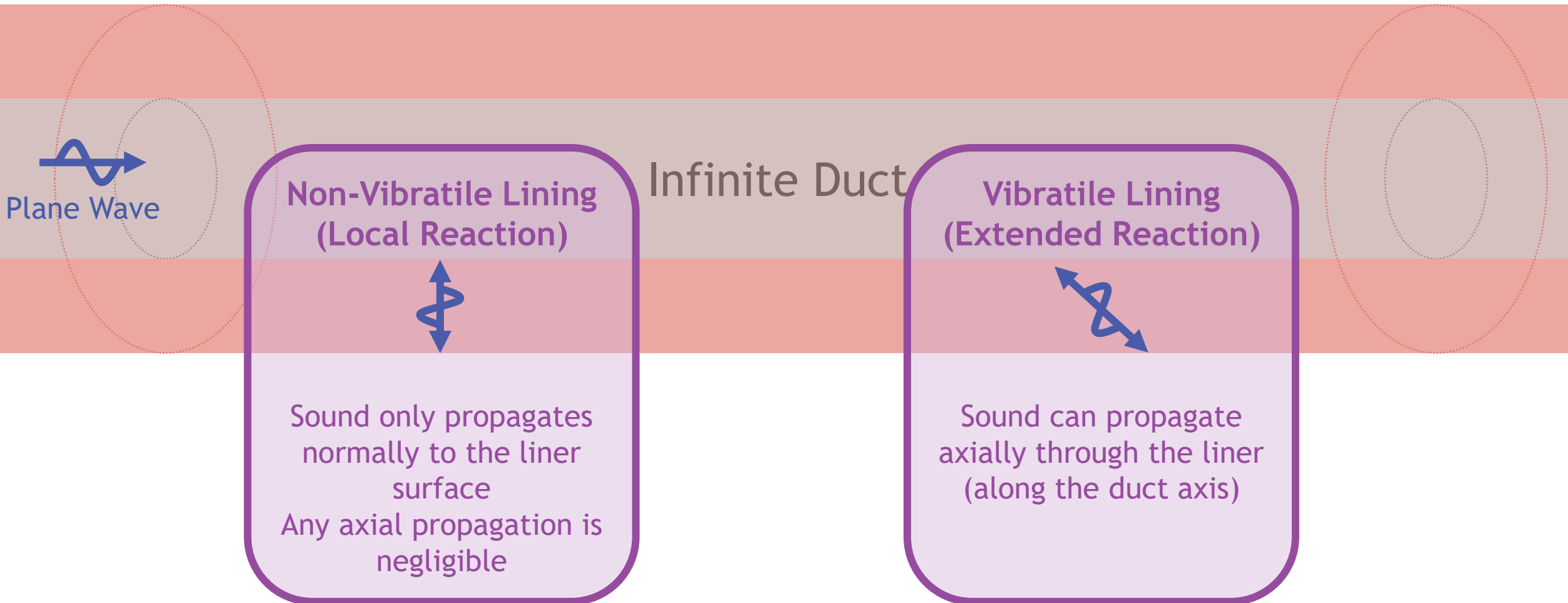


The Problem and Sivian's Assumptions

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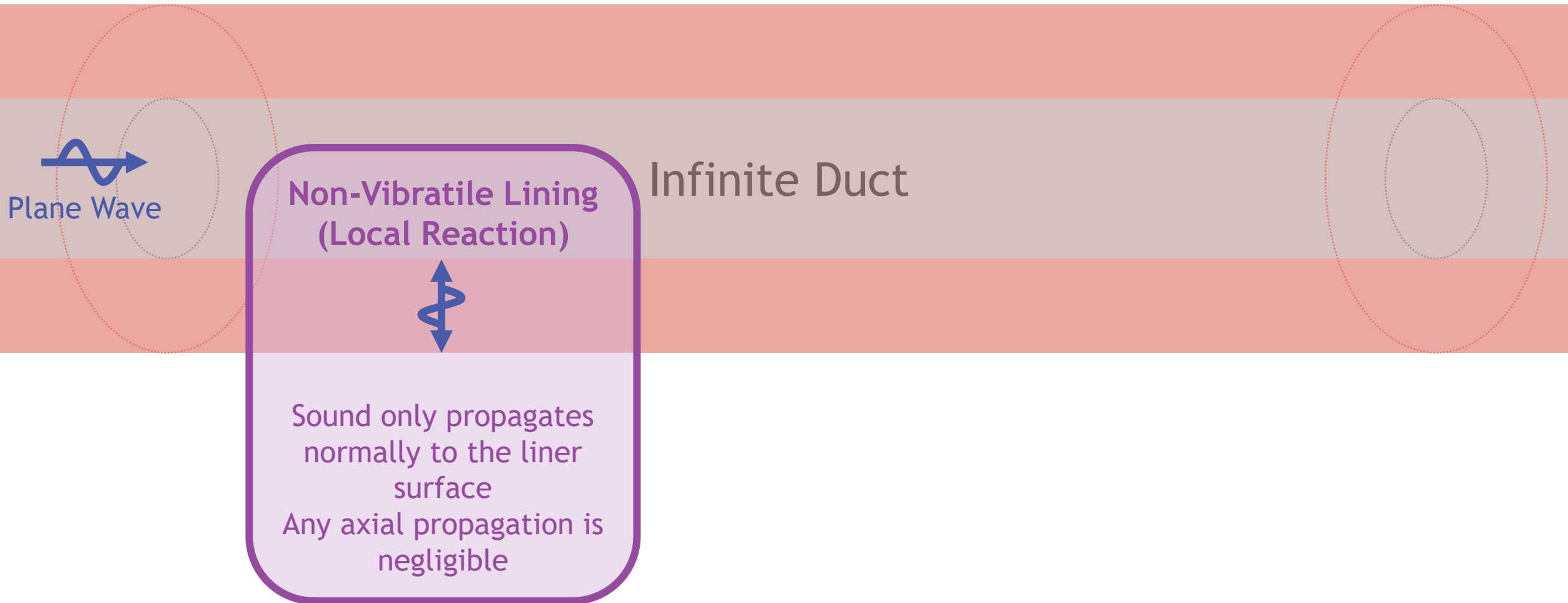


The Problem and Sivian's Assumptions

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Case 1.1: Constant Resistance

Example Liner

Wire mesh over hard wall, no air cavity

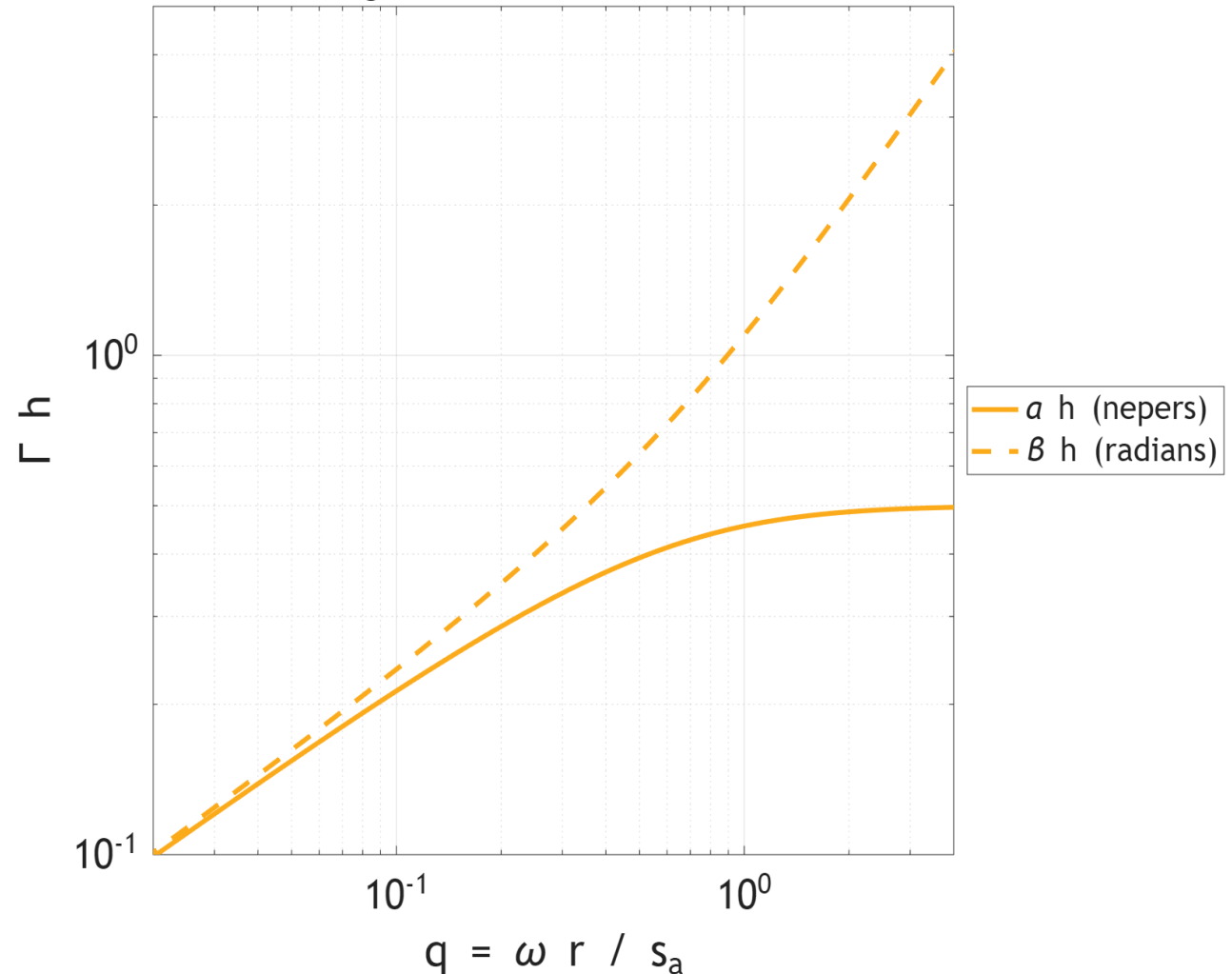
Surface Impedance

$$Z = r$$

Auxiliary Impedance Function

$$M^2 = 1 - \frac{i}{q}$$

Fig. 2 -- Case 1.1: $z = r$



Case 1.2: Constant Resistance and Stiffness

Example Liner

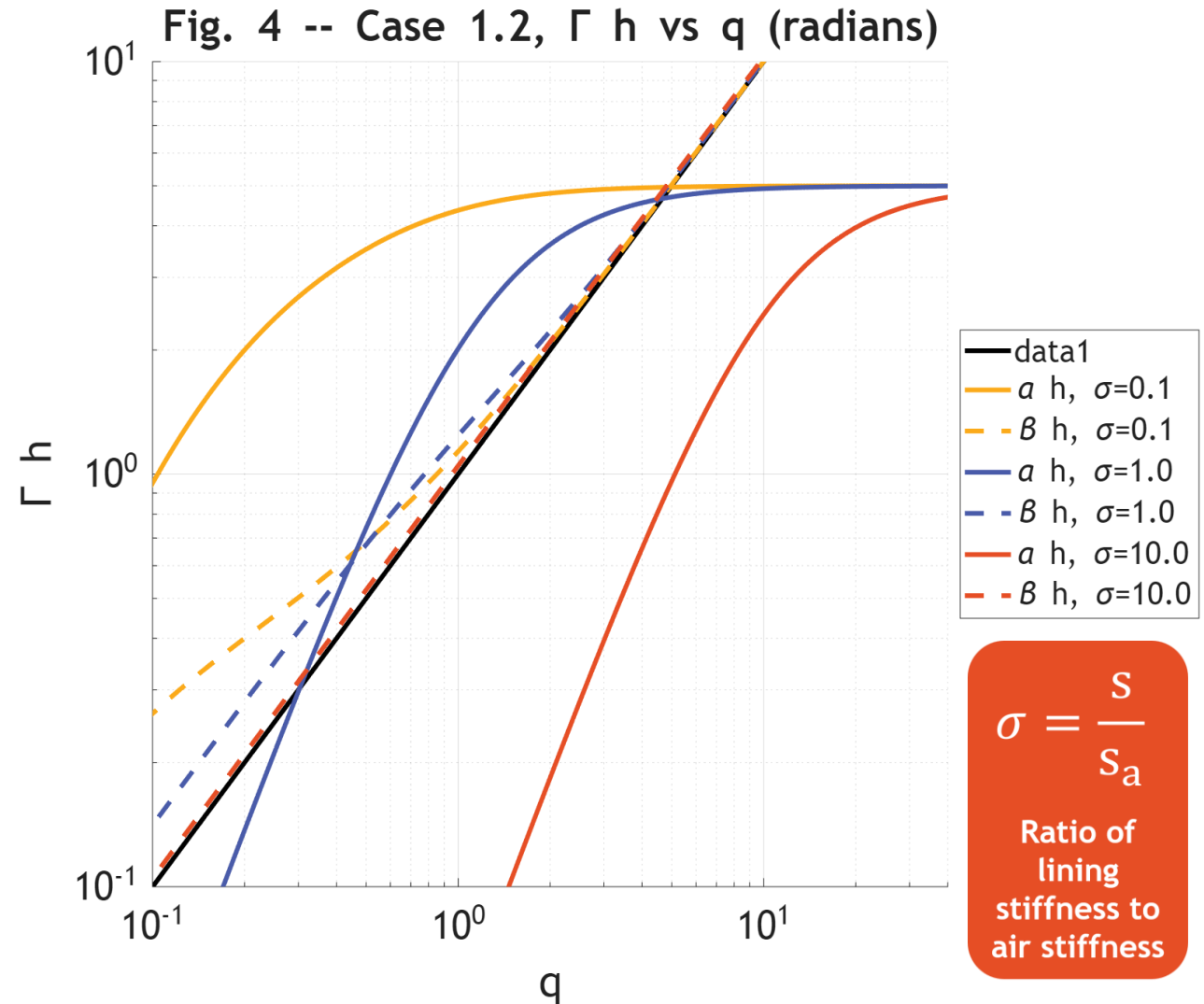
Wire mesh over air cavity

Surface Impedance

$$Z = r - \frac{is}{\omega}$$

Auxiliary Impedance Function

$$M^2 = 1 + \frac{1}{\sigma + iq}$$



Case 1.2: Constant Resistance and Stiffness

Example Liner

Wire mesh over air cavity

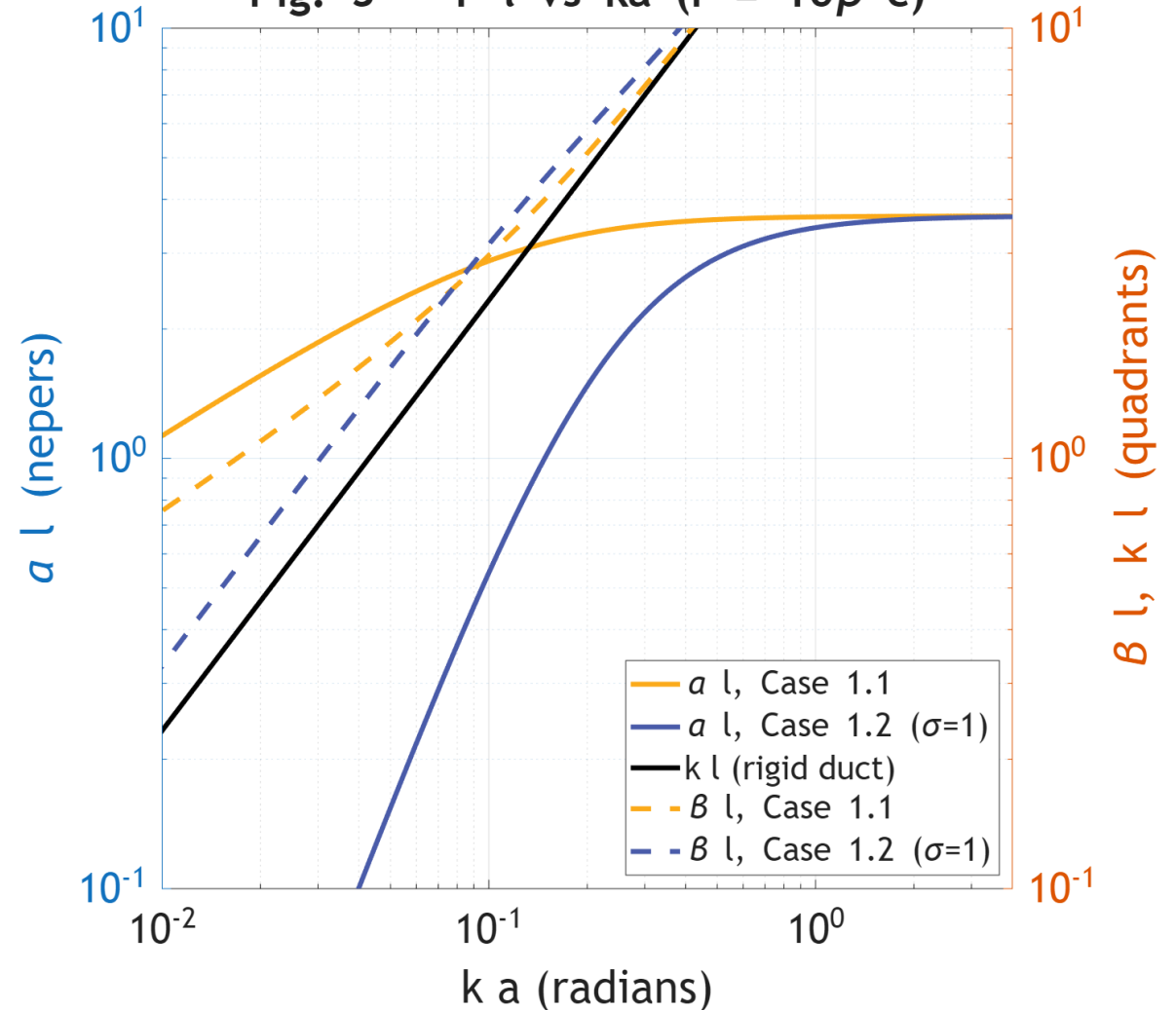
Surface Impedance

$$Z = r - \frac{iS}{\omega}$$

Auxiliary Impedance Function

$$M^2 = 1 + \frac{1}{\sigma + iq}$$

Fig. 3 -- Γl vs ka ($r = 10\rho c$)



Case 1.3: Constant Resistance and Mass Reactance

Example Liner

Perforate plate over hard wall, no air cavity

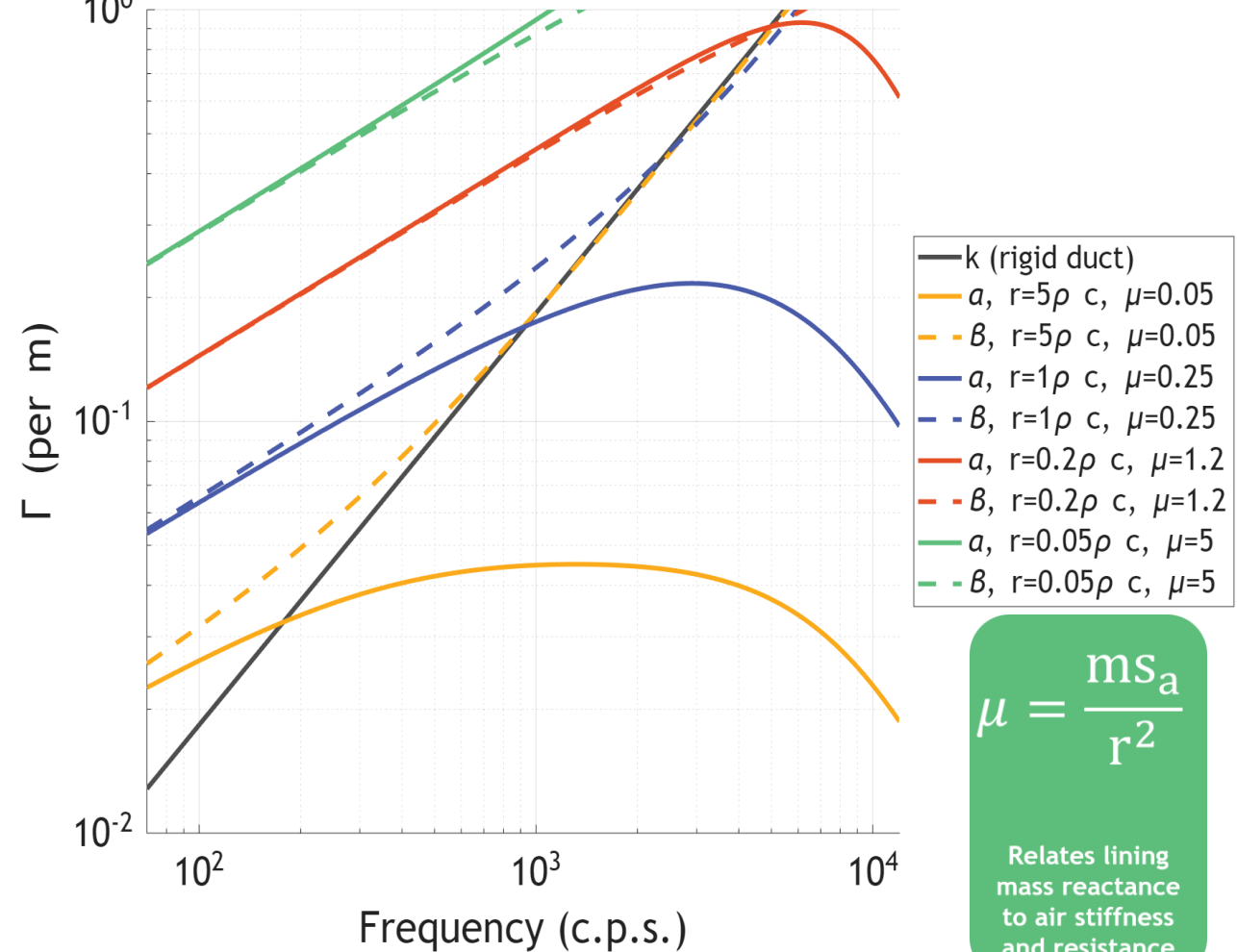
Surface Impedance

$$z = r + i\omega m$$

Auxiliary Impedance Function

$$M^2 = 1 + \frac{1}{q + iq^2}$$

Fig. 8 -- Case 1.3, α and β for four (r, μ) pairs (radians)



Duct Transmission and Experimental Comparisons

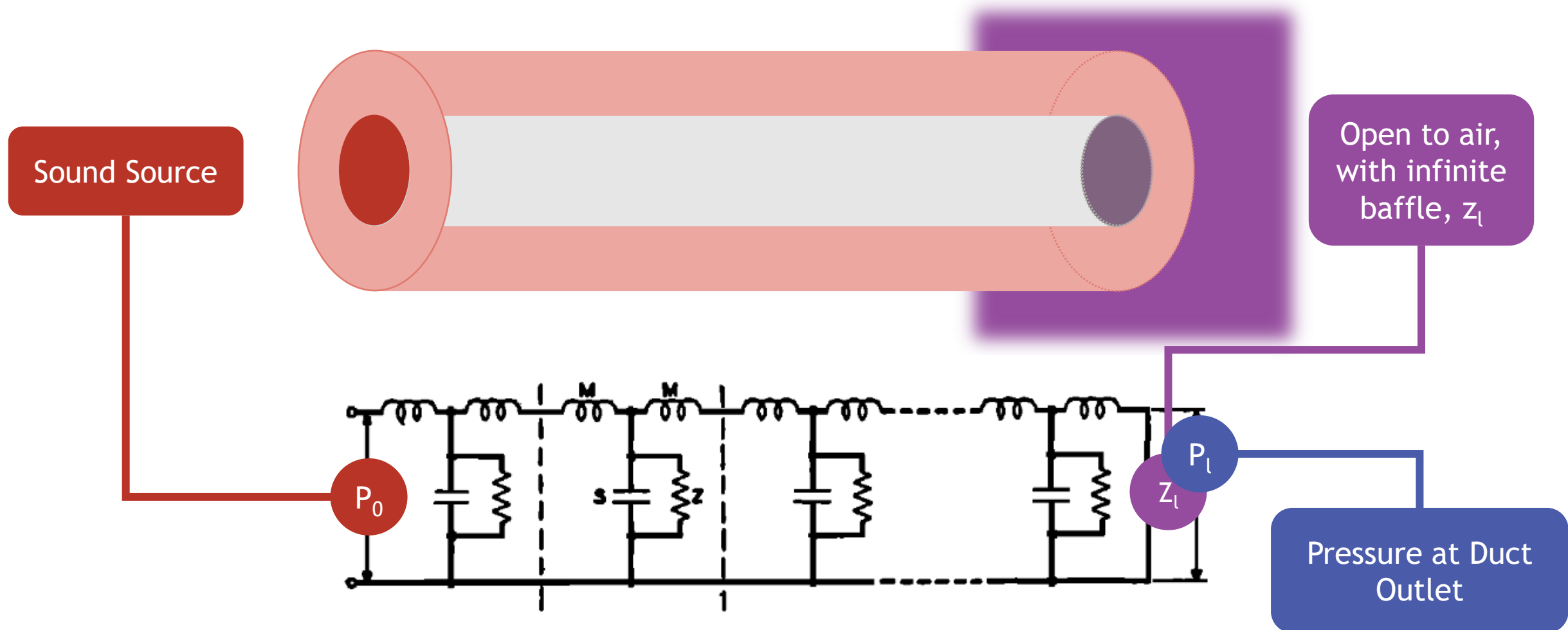


Duct of Finite Length and Open Termination

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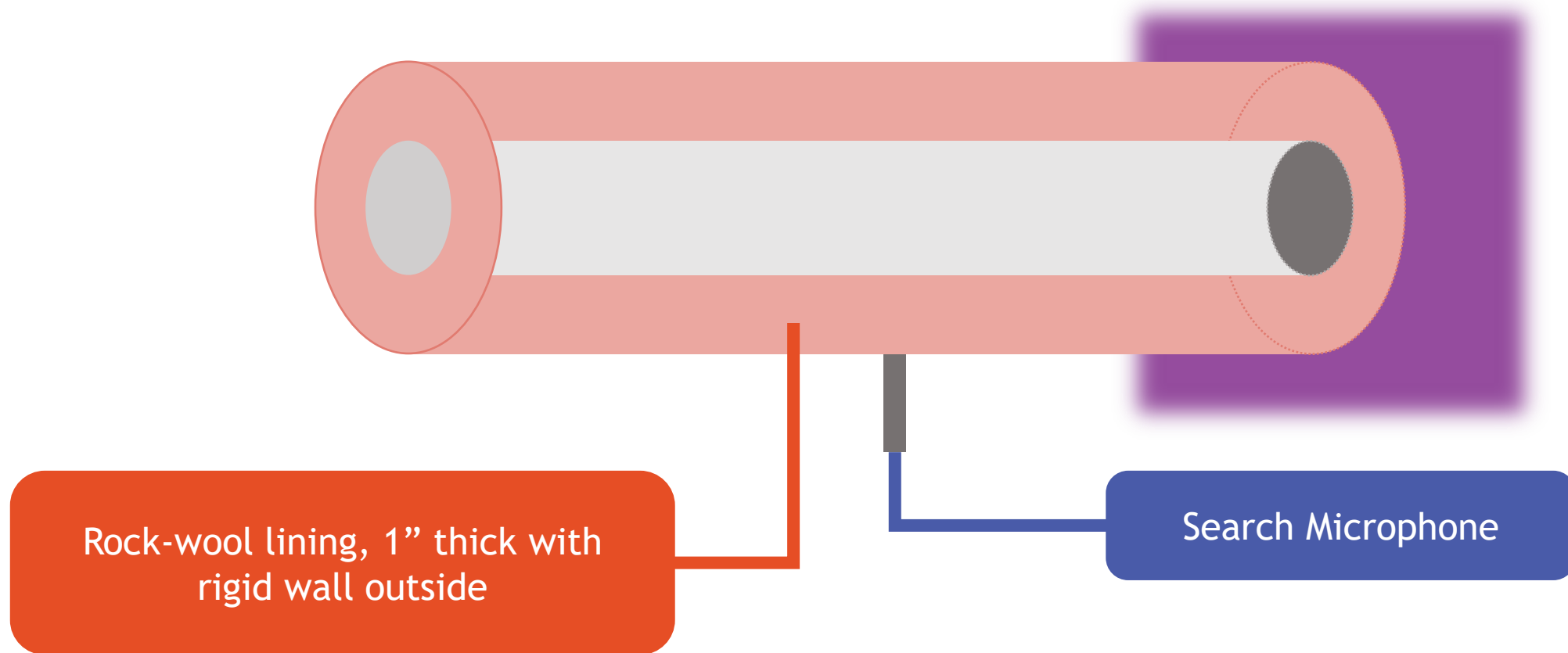


Duct of Finite Length and Open Termination

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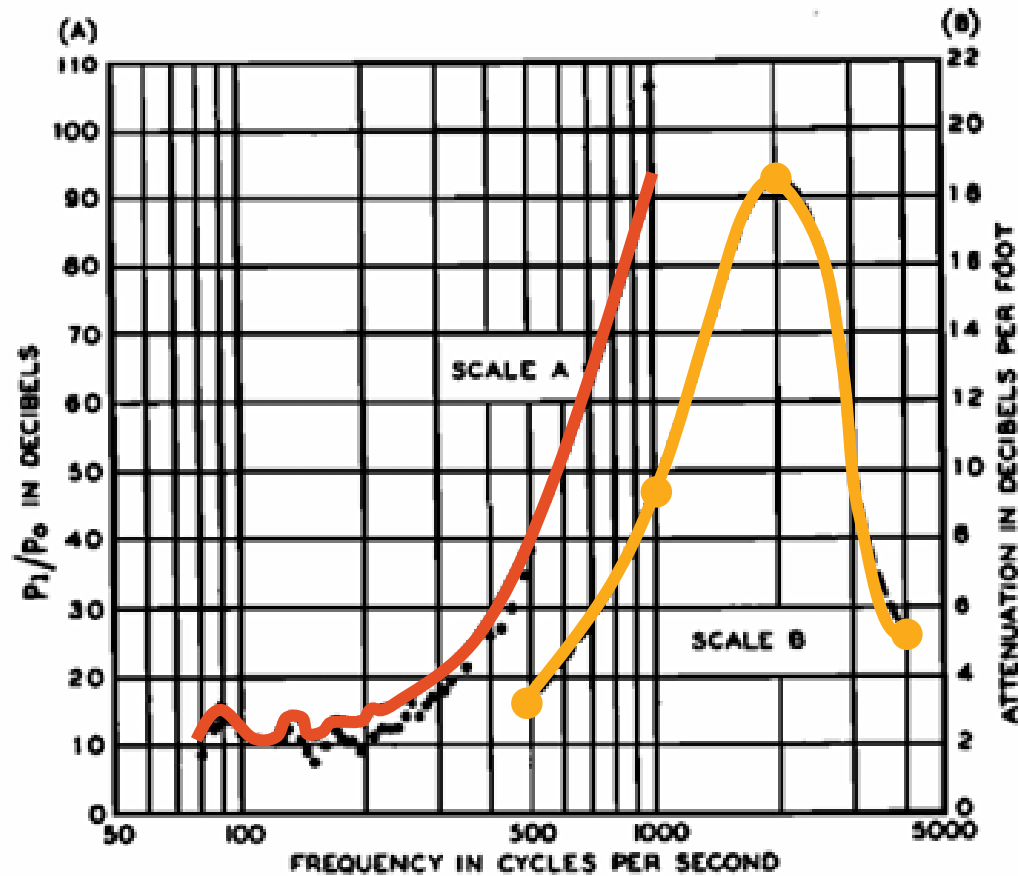


Calculations vs. Experimental Results

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Calculated P_1/P_0

Attenuation (dB/ft)

With D.C flow speeds up to 2,100 ft/min, the acoustic attenuation was found to be within 5% of the no-flow cases at 500 and 1000 Hz

Part B: Vibratile Linings

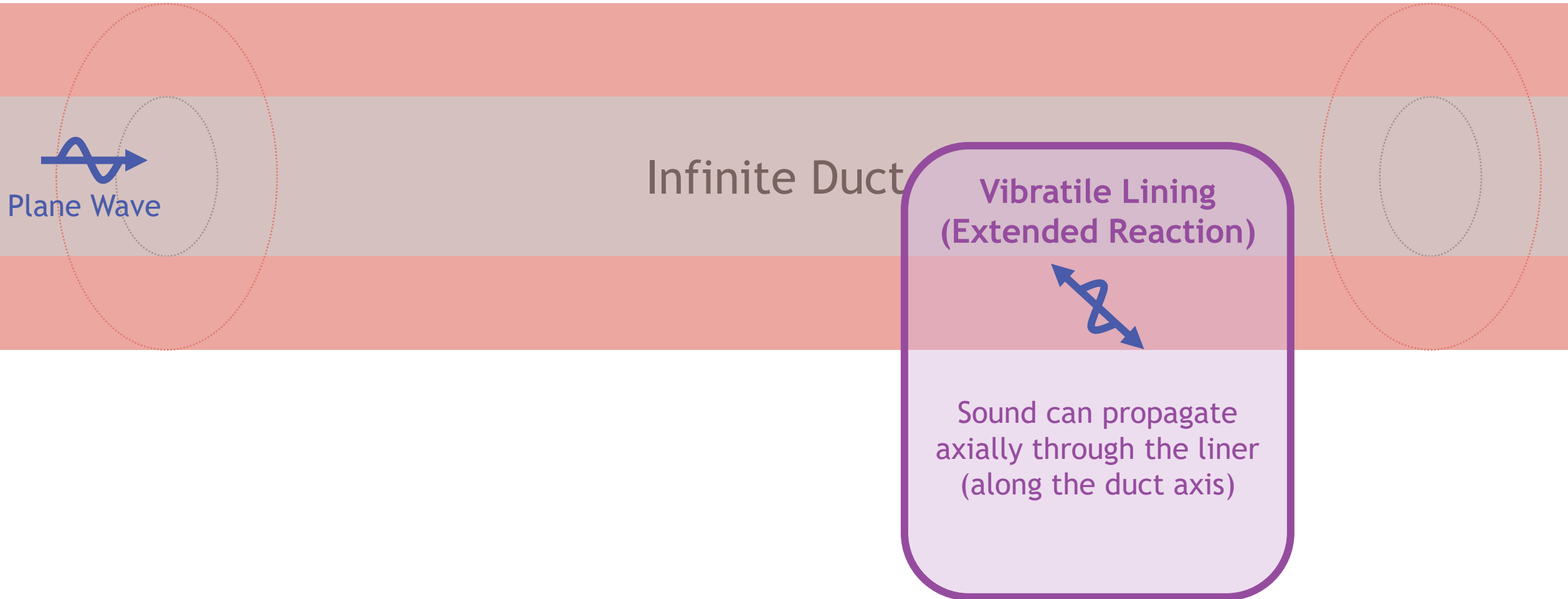


The Problem and Sivian's Assumptions

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Wall Propagation
Constant

$$\Gamma_w = \left(i\omega \cdot \frac{r_e + i\omega m}{s + i\omega r} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

“Mostly Air-Borne”
Wave

$$\Gamma_1^2 = \frac{1}{2}(\Gamma_w^2 - k^2 - R)$$

where $R = [(\Gamma_w^2 - k^2)^2 + 4k^2\Gamma_w^2 + 4k^2s_n/(s + i\omega r)]^{\frac{1}{2}}$

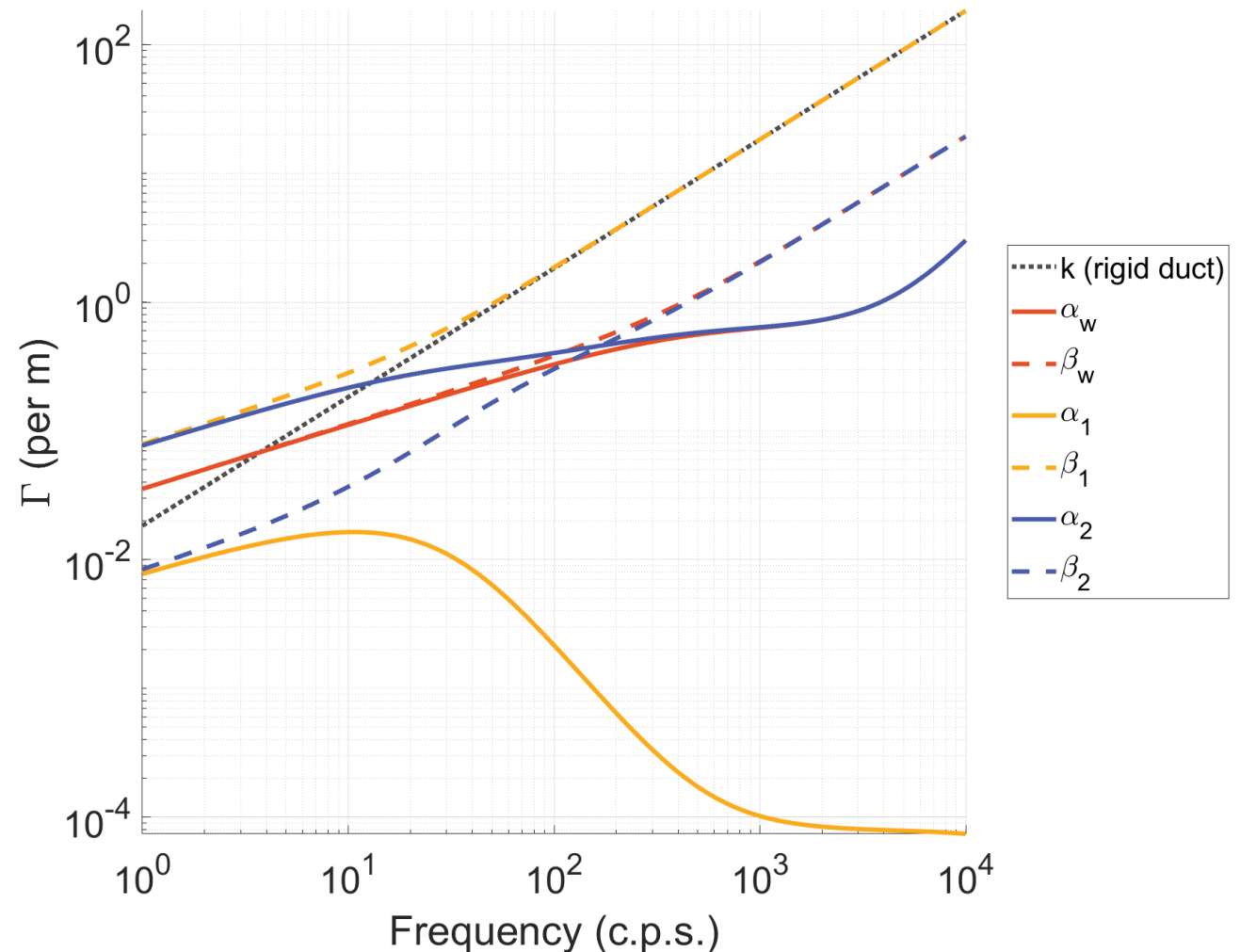
“Mostly Structure-
Borne” Wave

$$\Gamma_2^2 = \frac{1}{2}(\Gamma_w^2 - k^2 + R)$$

where $R = [(\Gamma_w^2 - k^2)^2 + 4k^2\Gamma_w^2 + 4k^2s_n/(s + i\omega r)]^{\frac{1}{2}}$

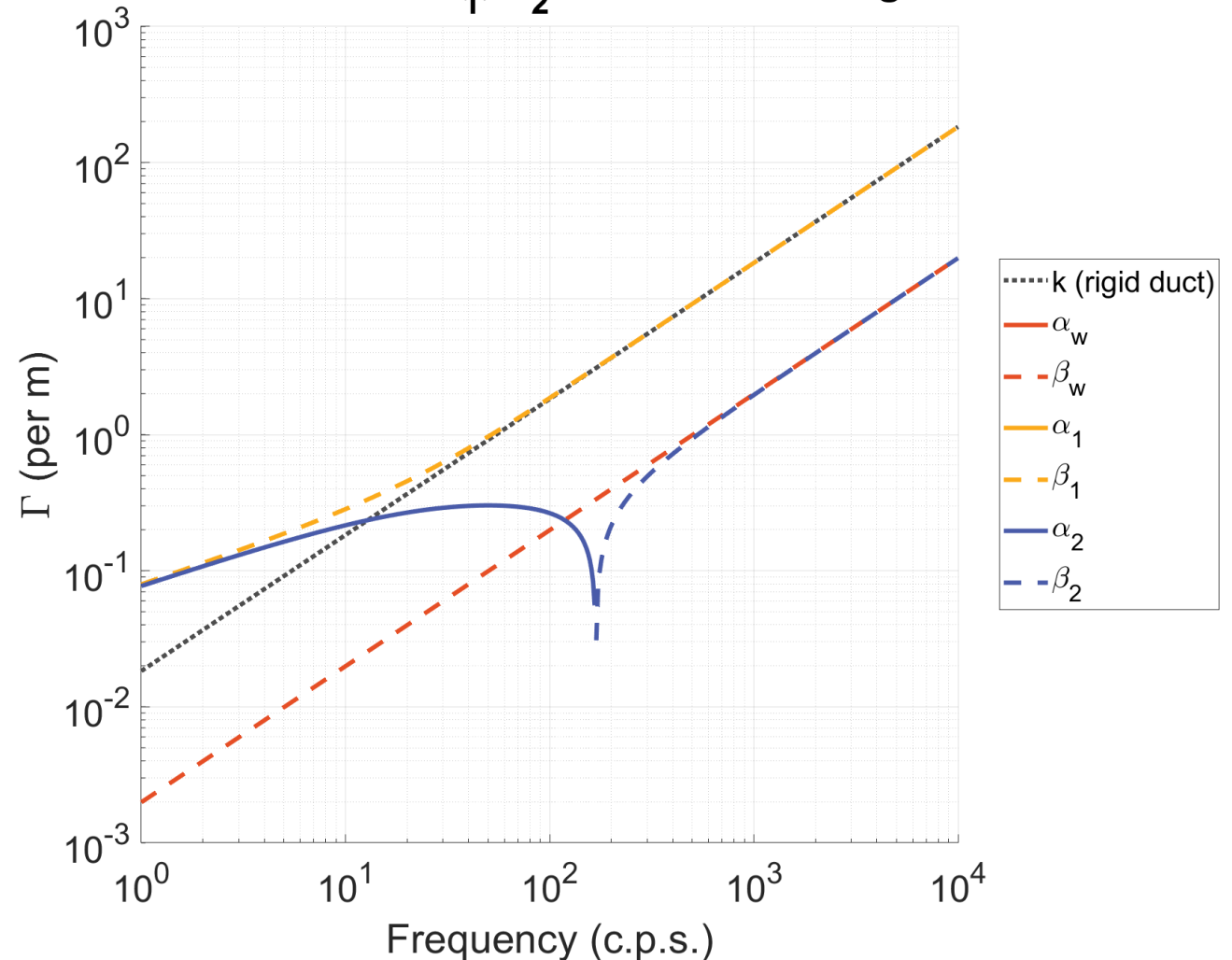
As the frequency increases, the coupling between the two waves decreases and the waves become almost completely fluid-borne and structure-borne

Section B -- Γ_1, Γ_2 for vibratile lining



In a no dissipation case,
we see that no
propagation occurs in the
structure-borne wave
until the cuton frequency

Section B -- Γ_1, Γ_2 for vibratile lining



A Historical Perspective of Liners in Grazing Flow



1937 vs. Present Day Differences and Similarities

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What is considered common knowledge?

- Sivian doesn't explicitly define all variables used
- Lack of citations of other work

Effects of Cut-on Modes

- Limits frequency range to when half the wavelength is greater than the diameter of the tube cross-section ($0.5\lambda > 2a$)
- Discusses what sounds like a (0,1) duct mode

Measurement Similarities

- Plane wave
- Measure pressure along the duct axis to find the propagation constant
- Surface impedance is still the “state of the art”

Vibratile and Non-Vibratile vs. Local and Extended Reaction

Study Extended Reaction (Vibratile) Linings

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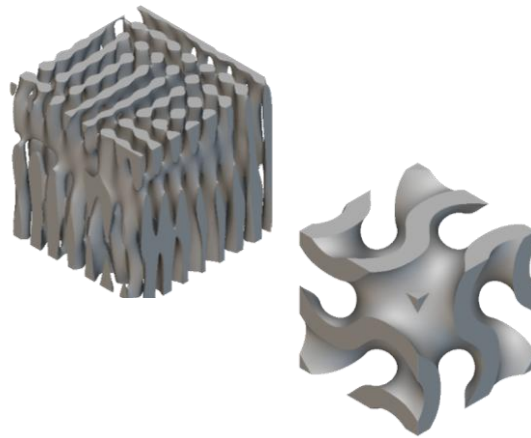
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Mitigating grazing flow impedance eduction errors in additively manufactured porous liners
presented by Kara Hardy, Friday (tomorrow) 10:40 AM, Melbourne

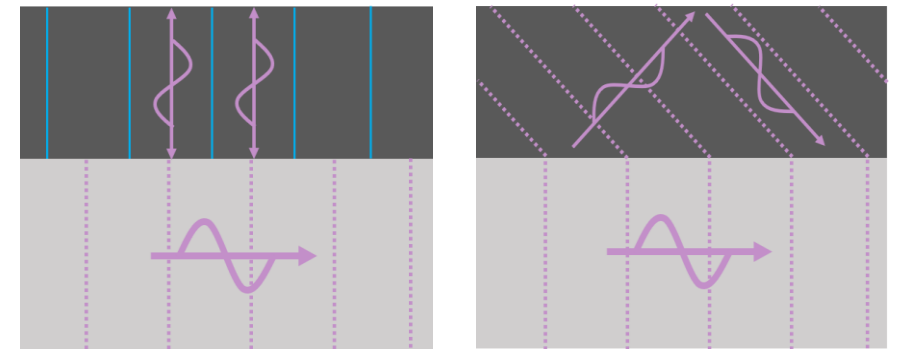
Traditional absorbers behave like quarter-wavelength resonators, attenuating a very small band of frequencies

Bulk absorbers tend to have a more broadband response, better for current aircraft engine acoustic environments

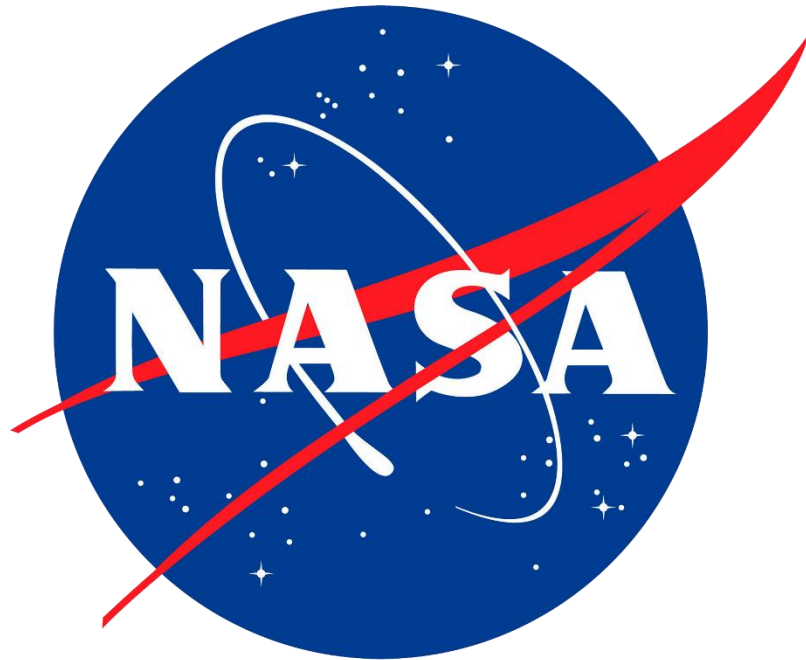
**Bulk Absorbers
(Extended Reacting) [6]**



Extended reacting absorbers violate the locally reacting assumption that grazing flow impedance eduction uses, making them un-engineer-able [7-9]



- [1] “College Logo: Cornell University.” Accessed: Jul. 09, 2026. [Online]. Available: <https://collegelogo.blogspot.com/2010/05/cornell-university.html>
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- [9] Martha C Brown, Chelsea Dodge, Jordan R Kreitzman, and Michael G Jones, “Assessment of Acoustic Behavior for Perforate-Over-Large-Cell Liners,” Jun. 2023. doi: [10.2514/6.2023-3501](https://doi.org/10.2514/6.2023-3501).



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(Received June 28, 1937)



Thank You!

