

Echolocation volume calculation

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Calculating the volume of echolocation signals

Movement data from the tags are speed, pitch, roll, and heading. The inter-click interval is also available. From this, the volume of ‘searchable range’ can be calculated, given a few assumptions.

Calculating the cone volume for echolocation

Assuming speed of sound (s_s) to be 1500 m/s and with an inter-click interval ci , the maximum distance sound can reach and return to the whale (d) can be determined by

$$d = s_s \times \frac{ci}{2}$$

An additional time penalty for ‘processing time’ can be added that would simply subtract from ci .

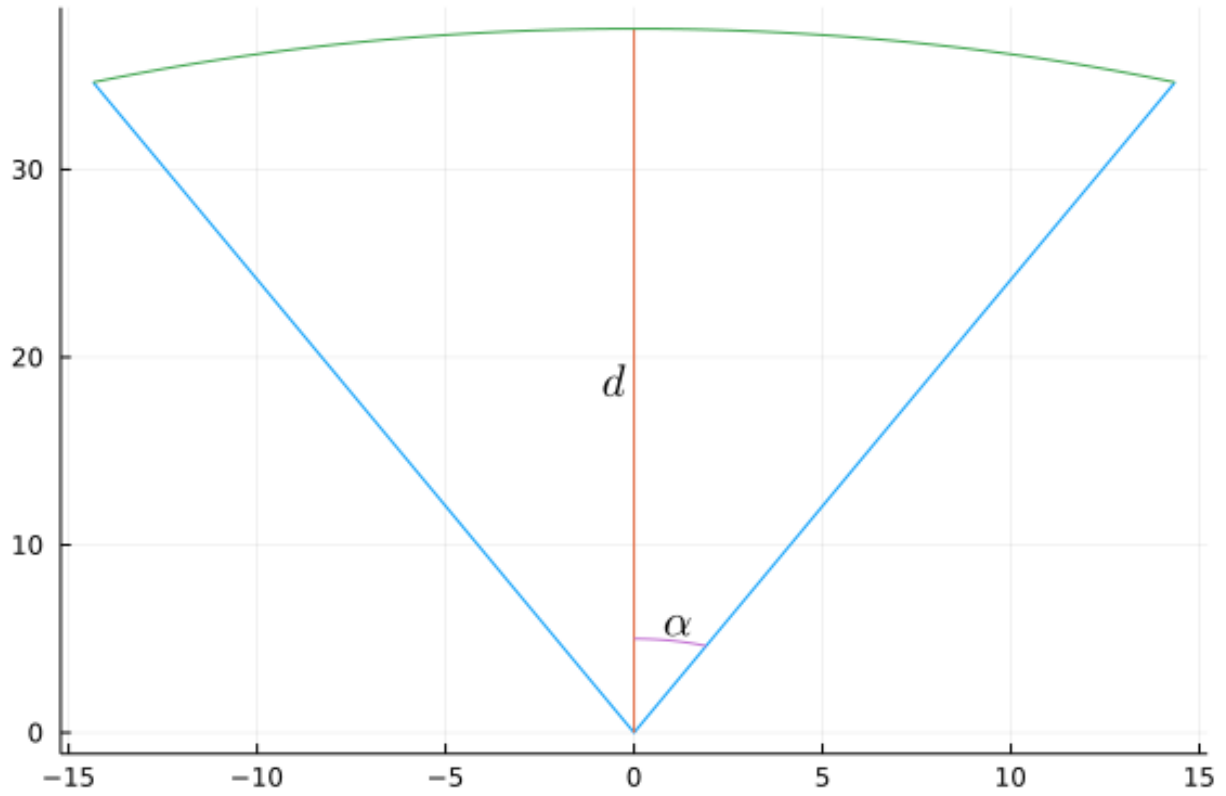
Now we have the maximum distance reachable, we can calculate the volume. This is assumed to be a section of a sphere, with angular width θ . This volume can be calculated using the equation

$$\frac{2}{3}\pi d^2 h$$

where $h = (d - d(\cos(\frac{\theta}{2})))$

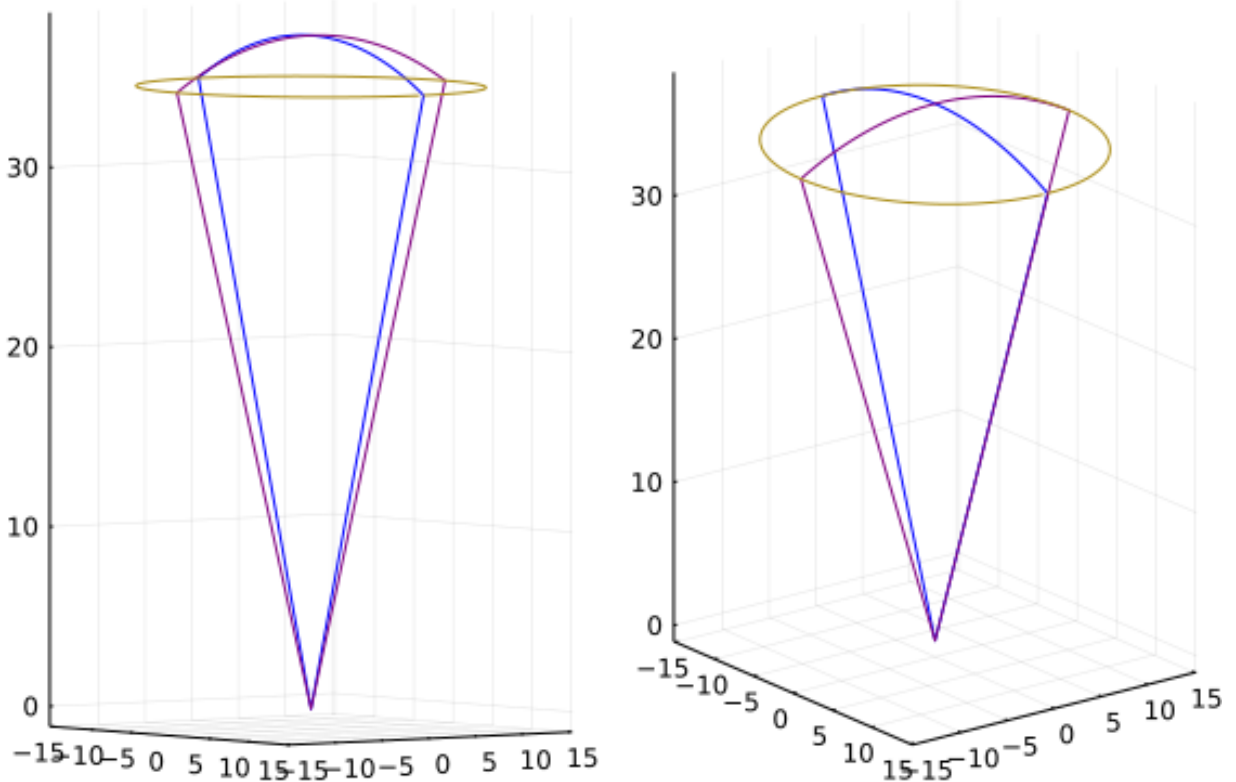
This assumes the sound is spread via angle θ in all directions (adjustments can be made if this specification needs changing).

So, given a typical sperm whale ci of 0.05s and an angular spread of 45° (i.e. 22.5° either side of the origin), the maximum distance would be 37.5m. Plotting this in 2D space shows the following



where α is equal to $\theta/2$

Projecting this onto a 3D plane generates the following



and a volume of 2122.2 m³. NOW CALCULATED VOLUME AS WHALE MOVES FORWARD WITH PITCH AND ROLL CHANGES.

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