

SAGGING AND READING ROOM

The notation was made on an IBM 3600 computer at Wesleyan University Connecticut, the final work consisting of a tape recording of the live realisation of this notation.

Parts are provided for four performers, two female and two male, consisting of a number of statements of the general form:

At the time of the next statement this cassette will be further from/nearer to microphone 1/2 than A/B/C/D's cassette and further from/nearer to microphone 1/2 than A/B/C/D's cassette.

Performer A's part specifies locations relative to those of B,C and D. Performer B's part specifies locations relative to those of A,C and D etc. These notations were read onto cassette tape recorders as a series of statements separated by two second gaps. The live performance stage consisted of each performer playing a statement on his/her machine, turning off the machine, attempting to position himself/herself at the specified location and then playing the next statement on the cassette.

In order to locate his/her position in space 'at the time of the next statement' each performer had to perform at least two triangulations, i.e. further from/nearer to microphone 1/2 than A/B/C/D and
further from/nearer to microphone 1/2 than A/B/C/D

The programme specifies locations which correlate the performers' movements so that they describe complex figures in the recording space.

The recording was made on a stereo tape machine, the microphone of the left channel being designated as microphone 1 and the microphone of the right channel as microphone 2.

The microphones were positioned 35' apart which was the distance between the two loudspeakers used for playback (pseudo stereo recording and playback). Each performer's interpretation of 'further from' and 'nearer to' necessarily affected the other performers' positions in space and gave rise to great distortions of the programme's figures in the form of 'bunching' near microphones and 'spreading' to the farthest parts of the space. Distortions were also caused by the shape of the space and the obstacles within it.

The final tape recording gives an enormous amount of verbal information about the shape of the performance, any particular performer's position in space etc., but it is far too complex to be followed in real time. When listening to the tape one passes from a stage of attempting to correlate verbal information, assign names, determine the fixed locations, account for the informational time lag ('at the time of the next statement') to understanding the movements within the performance space by the complex acoustic information that the speech sounds carry, (amplitude variations, binaural discrimination, relationship of direct to reflected sound). The work therefore exhibits surfaces, and the first surface of verbal information appears to be a barrier to an understanding of the recorded performance until, through disenchantment, the second surface of acoustic information begins to provide this understanding.

In order to provide a flickering between these surfaces, the programme occasionally gives illogical instructions which apart from providing performance dilemmas for the performers at the live performance stage, cause the listener to be pulled back from the acoustic surface to the verbal/semantic surface.

AT THE TIME OF THE NEXT STATEMENT THIS CASSETTE WILL BE FURTHER FROM MICROPHONE 1 THAN ALVINS CASSETTE AND NEARER TO MICROPHONE 2 THAN ALVINS CASSETTE

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AT THE TIME OF THE NEXT STATEMENT THIS CASSETTE WILL BE NEARER TO MICROPHONE 2 THAN PARYS CASSETTE AND NEARER TO MICROPHONE 1 THAN ALVINS CASSETTE

AT THE TIME OF THE NEXT STATEMENT THIS CASSETTE WILL BE NEARER TO MICROPHONE 1 THAN ALVINS CASSETTE AND FURTHER FROM MICROPHONE 2 THAN JAMES CASSETTE

AT THE TIME OF THE NEXT STATEMENT THIS CASSETTE WILL BE FURTHER FROM MICROPHONE 1 THAN ALVINS CASSETTE AND FURTHER FROM MICROPHONE 1 THAN ALVINS CASSETTE

AT THE TIME OF THE NEXT STATEMENT THIS CASSETTE WILL BE NEARER TO MICROPHONE 2 THAN PARYS CASSETTE AND FURTHER FROM MICROPHONE 2 THAN JAMES CASSETTE

AT THE TIME OF THE NEXT STATEMENT THIS CASSETTE WILL BE FURTHER FROM MICROPHONE 2 THAN MARYS CASSETTE AND FURTHER FROM MICROPHONE 2 THAN JAMES CASSETTE

AT THE TIME OF THE NEXT STATEMENT THIS CASSETTE WILL BE NEARER TO MICROPHONE 2 THAN PARYS CASSETTE AND FURTHER FROM MICROPHONE 2 THAN ALVINS CASSETTE

AT THE TIME OF THE NEXT STATEMENT THIS CASSETTE WILL BE FURTHER FROM MICROPHONE 2 THAN ALVINS CASSETTE AND NEARER TO MICROPHONE 2 THAN MARYS CASSETTE

AT THE TIME OF THE NEXT STATEMENT THIS CASSETTE WILL BE FURTHER FROM MICROPHONE 2 THAN JAMES CASSETTE AND NEARER TO MICROPHONE 1 THAN JAMES CASSETTE

AT THE TIME OF THE NEXT STATEMENT THIS CASSETTE WILL BE FURTHER FROM MICROPHONE 2 THAN ALVINS CASSETTE AND NEARER TO MICROPHONE 1 THAN JAMES CASSETTE

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AT THE TIME OF THE NEXT STATEMENT THIS CASSETTE WILL BE NEARER TO MICROPHONE 1 THAN JAMES CASSETTE AND FURTHER FROM MICROPHONE 1 THAN JAMES CASSETTE

Handwritten notes at the top of the page, including "Alvin's cassette" and "Anthony's cassette".

Alvin,

See what you think of these permutations...

Handwritten signature: Anatt

Handwritten name: Hildegard

at the time of the next statement this cassette will be nearer to microphone 1 than Alvin's cassette and nearer to microphone 1 than Alvin's cassette

① at the time of the next statement this cassette will be nearer to microphone 1 than Alvin's cassette and further from microphone 2 than Anthony's cassette

② at the time of the next statement this cassette will be further from microphone 2 than Alvin's cassette and nearer to microphone 1 than Roland's cassette

at the time of the next statement this cassette will be further from microphone 2 than Alvin's cassette and further from microphone 2 than Hildegard's cassette

① at the time of the next statement this cassette will be nearer to microphone 1 than Anthony's cassette and nearer to microphone 1 than Alvin's cassette

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at the time of the next statement this cassette will be nearer to microphone 1 than Anthony's cassette and further from microphone 2 than Anthony's cassette

① at the time of the next statement this cassette will be further from microphone 2 than Anthony's cassette and nearer to microphone 2 than Roland's cassette

at the time of the next statement this cassette will be further from microphone 2 than Anthony's cassette and further from microphone 2 than Hildegard's cassette

② at the time of the next statement this cassette will be nearer to microphone 1 than Roland's cassette and nearer to microphone 1 than Alvin's cassette

at the time of the next statement this cassette will be nearer to microphone 1 than Roland's cassette and further from microphone 2 than Anthony's cassette

at the time of the next statement this cassette will be further from microphone 2 than Roland's cassette and nearer to microphone 1 than Roland's cassette

at the time of the next statement this cassette will be further from microphone 2 than Roland's cassette and further from microphone 2 than