

WHISPERING GALLERY



Speak to Someone From Across the Room

This exhibit demonstrates the reflection and focusing of sound by two large parabolic reflectors.

What To Do & How It Works:

1. Talk directly into the ring while a friend listens at the other ring.

The sound waves travel from your mouth to the dish, there they are reflected toward the other dish.(fig 1) Your friend hears you clearly because the parabolic dish focuses the sound onto the ring.

2. If you stand between the parabolic dishes you can eavesdrop on someone's conversation.

3. Move back about two feet so that the ring is half way between you and the parabolic dish.

When you speak the sound waves are now reflected back to your own ears. A flat wall does not focus back all the sound.

Sound Wave Pattern

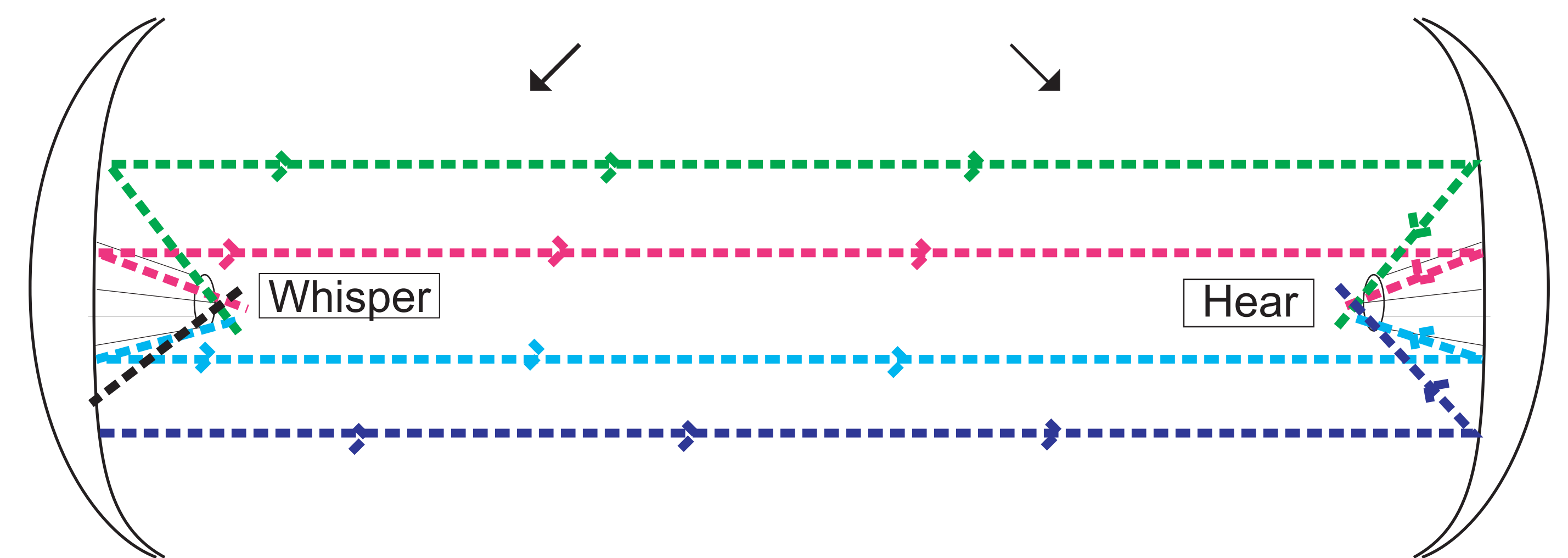


Fig. 1

**IT IS THE SPECIAL PARABOLIC
SHAPE THAT FOCUSES THE SOUND
IN THIS WAY!**