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1 Efforts to Improve X3D Audio

1.1 Audio in X3D ISO

Spatial sound has a conceptual role in the Web3D environments, due to highly realism scenes that can provide. Since Web Audio API is the most popular sound engine, we propose to get the necessary steps required to make X3D fully compatible with this library.

Particularly, two types of nodes are included in the X3D, the first is about the sound description and the other one for the sound source. Specifically, the first node is the **X3DSoundNode**, which is an abstract node for all sound nodes. It is minimalist with only one attribute, *metadata*, which expresses important information for the significance, appearance and the proposed role of the model. The second node is the **X3DSoundSourceNode**, which is the abstract node for each node that is used to emit sound and it has a number of common fields with the *TimeSensor*, for example the *loop*, the *startTime*, the *stopTime*, the *pauseTime* and *resumeTime* (see Figure 1).

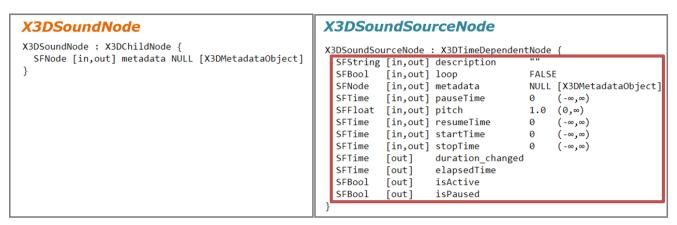


Figure 1: X3DSoundNode - X3DSoundSourceNode in X3D

The third node is the **Sound**, which is derived from the X3DSoundNode. It is designed for the description of the X3D scene sounds. Specifically, it determines both the location and the behaviour of the sound. Additionally, the geometry describes that the sound can be directed and be emitted in an elliptical pattern. Two ellipsoids constitute the pattern, which specifies the borders for level of loudness of the sound. Also, ellipsoids can be reshaped in order to provide more or less directional focus from the location of the sound. Consequently, the sound node is intended to recognize the source and is related to the direction, the location, the priority and general, the spatial features of the sound source (see Figure 2).

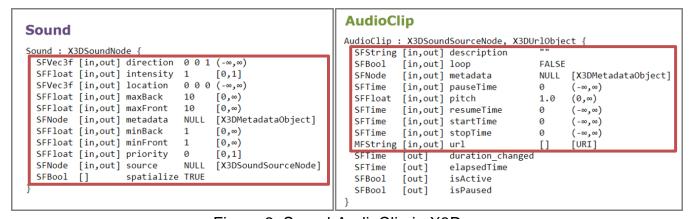


Figure 2: Sound-AudioClip in X3D

The fourth node is the **AudioClip**, which is derived from the X3DSoundSourceNode. It specifies audio data that can be referenced by Sound nodes. Basically, it loads an external audio file with a view to handle playing, stopping and starting (see Figure 2). As regard the attributes, AudioClip has a number of fields in common with TimeSensor, because it is an X3DSoundSourceNode and implements the X3DTimeDependentNode abstract type. Basically, the fields of the sound nodes and their interrelation are presented in Figure 3 by an interpretive hierarchic diagram.

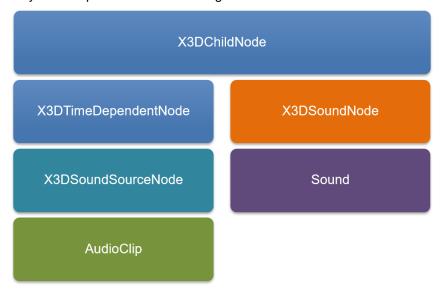


Figure 3: Inheritance diagram of Audio nodes in X3D

1.2 Background Work Using X3D Sound Components

A method for the introduction of spatial sound component in the X3DOM framework, based on X3D specification and Web Audio API has already implemented. The proposed method incorporates the introduction of enhanced sound nodes for X3DOM which are derived by the implementation of the X3D standard components, enriched with accessional features of Web Audio API. Particularly, with this approach the complex sound design and implementation is becoming transparent to the programmer and moreover the applications are independent of the sound libraries are employed.

The development consists of the registration of Web Audio API and custom components into X3DOM framework. All these nodes are used by HTML DOM, which is essentially an X3D scene, directly from the X3DOM and no through JavaScript structure. On the other hand, JavaScript code, which is indicated as JavaScript Controller, accords all the indispensable instruction of nodes design and role. It interacts with the HTML file, for the purpose of parsing the 3D scene and being updated on any potential change in the scene.

Below is the list of the implementation of the major X3D sound nodes (X3DSoundSourceNode: AudioClip and X3DSoundNode: Sound) using Web Audio API functionality.

Table 1: X3DSoundSourceNode: AudioClip

Node	X3D	Our Approach	
	SFString description	SFString description	WebAudioAPI:AudioSource
dı	SFBool loop	SFBool loop	WebAudioAPI:AudioSource
oCli	SFNode metadata	SFNode metadata	WebAudioAPI:AudioSource
udie	SFTime pauseTime	SFTime pauseTime	WebAudioAPI:AudioSource
: A	SFFloat pitch	SFFloat pitch	WebAudioAPI:AudioSource
lode	SFTime resumeTime	SFTime resumeTime	WebAudioAPI:AudioSource
ceN	SFTime startTime	SFTime startTime	WebAudioAPI:AudioSource
our	SFTime stopTime	SFTime stopTime	WebAudioAPI:AudioSource
Spu	MFString url	MFString url	WebAudioAPI:AudioSource
inos	SFTime duration_changed		
X3DSoundSourceNode: AudioClip	SFTime elapsedTime		
×	SFBool isActive		
	SFBool isPaused		

Table 2: X3DSoundNode: Sound

Node	Node X3D		Our Approach	
	SFVec3f location	SFVec3f position	Web Audio API:PannerNode	
	SFVec3f direction	SFRotation orientation	Web Audio API:PannerNode	
	SFFloat maxBack SFFloat maxFront SFFloat minBack SFFloat minFront	SFFloat coneInnerAngle	Web Audio API:PannerNode	
pur		SFFloat coneOuterAngle	Web Audio API:PannerNode	
Sot		SFFloat coneOuterGain	Web Audio API:PannerNode	
X3DSoundNode: Sound		SFString distanceModel	Web Audio API:PannerNode	
No		SFFloat maxDistance	Web Audio API:PannerNode	
[pui		SFString panningModel	Web Audio API:PannerNode	
Sou		SFFloat refDistance	Web Audio API:PannerNode	
3D8		SFFloat rolloffFactor	Web Audio API:PannerNode	
\bowtie	SFFloat intensity	SFInt32 gain	Web Audio API: GainNode	
	SFFloat priority	SFFloat priority	Web Audio API: DynamicsCompressorNode	
	SFNode source	SFNode source	WebAudioAPI:AudioSource	
	SFNode metadata			
	SFBool spatialize			
		SFVec3f velocity (new)	Web Audio API:PannerNode	

In order to verify the validity of our method, several experiments/examples were carried out, in which new registered nodes were used (http://medialab.teicrete.gr/minipages/x3domAudio/index.html). These tests have been investigated with the use of Google Chrome 41.0, Firefox Mozilla 36.0 and Opera 28.0.

1.3 Proposal to Improve X3D Sound Component – Introduction of Web Audio API components

The X3D comprises a fundamental part in the 3D web development. At the same time, the spatial sound should be an integral part of an immersive 3D application, due to the fact that it can improve the sense of realism and the immersion both in complex acoustic environments and dynamic virtual scenes. Based on that, we propose the enrichment of X3D with spatial sound features, using the structure and the functionality of Web Audio API.

Particularly, the Web Audio API involves handling audio operations inside an audio context (AudioContext node) and has been designed to allow modular routing. Particularly, the approach of Web Audio API is based on the concept of audio context, which presents the direction of audio stream flows, between sound nodes (AudioNode).

A simple, typical workflow for web audio API¹ is presented in Figure 4.

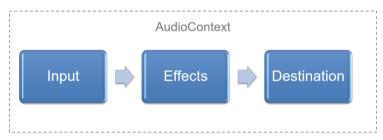


Figure 4: A simple example of modular routing¹

Taking to account all the above together, the proposed method is the registration of a new node, under the X3D Sound node, with the name AudioContext. This node can be used as parent of the AudioNode, which can have all the supported interfaces/nodes of Web Audio API (Figure 5 and Figure 6).

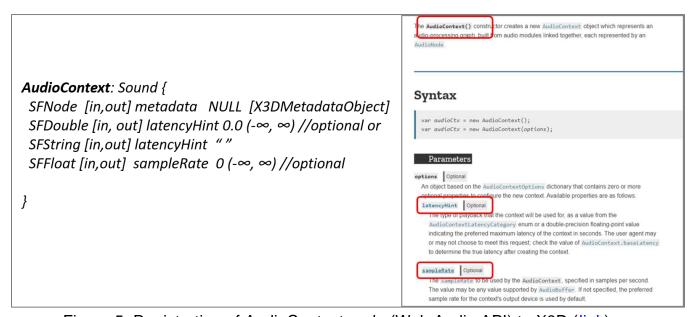


Figure 5: Registration of AudioContext node (Web Audio API) to X3D (<u>link</u>)

5

https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/API/Web_Audio_API

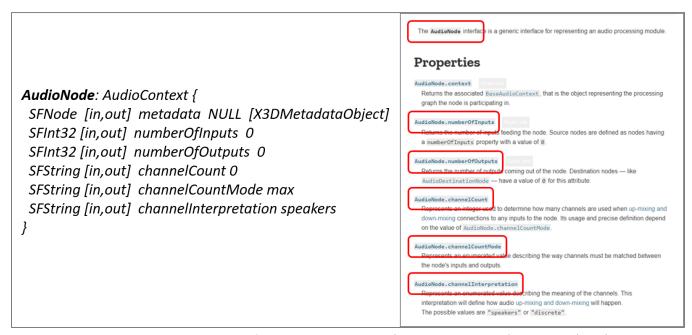


Figure 6: Registration of AudioNode node (Web Audio API) to X3D (<u>link</u>)

All the other interfaces of the Web Audio API (link) could be derived from the AudioNode (Figure 7).

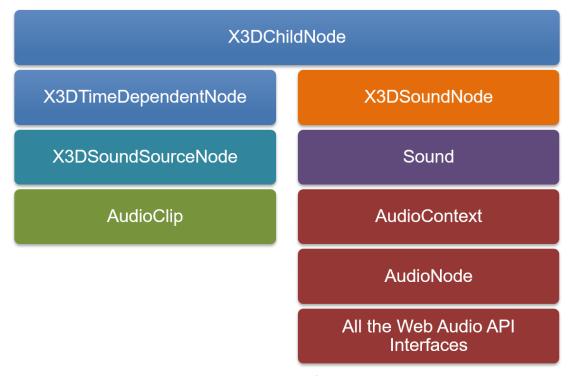


Figure 7: Proposal: Inheritance diagram of enhanced Audio nodes in X3D

1.4 Revised Work Using X3D Sound Components based on the Above Proposal to Improve X3D Sound Component

This section presents the revisions in the implementation of examples/experiments that were presented in Section 1.2. Based on the structure, which is highlighted in Figure 7, the implementation includes:

the registration of the X3D core Sound Nodes to match with the proposal that has already described.

Sound Node (X3D)

```
x3dom.registerNodeType("Sound", "X3DSoundNode", defineClass(x3dom.nodeTypes.X3DSoundNode,
     function(d) {
        x3dom.nodeTypes.X3DSoundNode.superClass.call(this, d),
        this.addField_SFNode("metadata", x3dom.nodeTypes.X3DMetadataObject),
        this.addField_SFVec3f(d, "direction", 0, 0, 1),
        this.addField SFFloat(d, "intensity", 1),
        this.addField SFVec3f(d, "location", 0, 0, 0),
        this.addField_SFFloat(d, "maxBack", 10),
        this.addField_SFFloat(d, "maxFront", 10),
        this.addField_SFFloat(d, "minBack", 1), this.addField_SFFloat(d, "minFront", 1),
        this.addField_SFFloat(d, "priority", 0),
        this.addField_SFNode("source", x3dom.nodeTypes.X3DSoundSourceNode),
        this.addField SFBool(d, "spatialize", !0)
       //New attributes
       //In order to use it in html under the Sound node of X3D
        this.addField_SFNode("transform", x3dom.nodeTypes.Transform),
        this.addField_SFNode("panner", x3dom.nodeTypes.PannerNode),
        this.addField SFNode("filter", x3dom.nodeTypes.BiguadFilterNode),
        this.addField_SFNode("delay", x3dom.nodeTypes.DelayNode)
X3DSoundSourceNode(X3D)
     x3dom.registerNodeType("X3DSoundSourceNode", "X3DTimeDependentNode",
     defineClass(x3dom.nodeTypes.X3DSoundNode, function(d) {
        x3dom.nodeTypes.X3DSoundSourceNode.superClass.call(this, d),
        this addField SFString(d, "description", ""),
        this.addField_SFBool(d, "loop", !1),
        this.addField_SFNode("metadata", x3dom.nodeTypes.X3DMetadataObject),
        this.addField_SFTime(d, "pauseTime", 0), this.addField_SFFloat(d, "pitch", 1),
        this.addField_SFTime(d, "resumeTime". 0).
        this.addField SFTime(d, "startTime", 0),
        this.addField_SFTime(d, "stopTime", 0)
        //New attributes
        this.addField MFString(d, "url", [])//From AudioClip X3D Node
        this._audio = document.createElement("audio"), "Microsoft Internet Explorer" != navigator.appName &&
     document.body.appendChild(this._audio)
```

 the registration of the Web Audio API core Sound Nodes to match with the proposal that has already described

AudioContext: For managing and playing all sounds. Like a graph with all nodes

```
x3dom.registerNodeType("AudioContext", "Sound", defineClass(x3dom.nodeTypes.X3DSoundNode, function(d) {
    x3dom.nodeTypes.X3DSoundNode.superClass.call(this, d),
    this.addField_SFFloat(d, "currentTime", 0),
    this.addField_SFNode("destination", x3dom.nodeTypes.AudioDestinationNode),
    this.addField_SFNode("listener", x3dom.nodeTypes.AudioListener),
    this.addField_SFFloat(d, "sampleRate", 0),
    this.addField_SFNode("mozAudioChannelType", x3dom.nodeTypes.AudioListener)
}
```

AudioNode: For every Node in the graph, if numberOfInputs then it is a source node

```
x3dom.registerNodeType("AudioNode", "AudioContext", defineClass(x3dom.nodeTypes.X3DSoundNode, function(d) {
    x3dom.nodeTypes.X3DSoundNode.superClass.call(this, d),
    this.addField_SFNode("context", x3dom.nodeTypes.AudioContext),
    this.addField_SFInt32(d, "numberOfInputs", 0),
    this.addField_SFInt32(d, "numberOfOutputs", 0),
    this.addField_SFInt32(d, "channelCount", 0),
    this.addField_SFString(d, "channelCountMode", "max"),
    this.addField_SFString(d, "channelInterpretation", "speakers")
}
```

PannerNode: Describe its position with right-hand Cartesian coordinates, its movement using a velocity vector and its directionality using a directionality cone

```
x3dom.registerNodeType("PannerNode", "AudioNode", defineClass(x3dom.nodeTypes.X3DSoundNode, function(d) {
    x3dom.nodeTypes.X3DSoundSourceNode.superClass.call(this, d),
    this.addField_SFVec3f(d, "position", 0, 0, 0),
    this.addField_SFRotation(d, "orientation", 0, 0, 1, 0),
    this.addField_SFVec3f(d, "velocity", 0, 0, 0),
    this.addField_SFFloat(d, "coneInnerAngle", 360),
    this.addField_SFFloat(d, "coneOuterAngle", 360),
    this.addField_SFFloat(d, "coneOuterGain", 0),
    this.addField_SFString(d, "distanceModel", "inverse"),
    this.addField_SFFloat(d, "maxDistance", 1e4),
    this.addField_SFFloat(d, "refDistance", 1),
    this.addField_SFFloat(d, "rolloffFactor", 1)
}
```

BiquadFilterNode: Different kinds of filters, tone control devices or graphic equalizers

```
x3dom.registerNodeType("BiquadFilterNode", "AudioNode", defineClass(x3dom.nodeTypes.X3DSoundNode, function(d) { x3dom.nodeTypes.X3DSoundNode.superClass.call(this, d), this.addField_SFInt32(d, "frequency", 0), this.addField_SFFloat(d, "detune", 0), this.addField_SFFloat(d, "Q", 0), this.addField_SFFloat(d, "gain", 0), this.addField_SFString(d, "type", "lowpass") }
```

DelayNode: A delay between the arrival of an input data and its propagation to the output

```
x3dom.registerNodeType("DelayNode", "AudioNode", defineClass(x3dom.nodeTypes.X3DSoundNode, function(d) {
    x3dom.nodeTypes.X3DSoundNode.superClass.call(this, d),
    this.addField_SFInt32(d, "delayTime", 0)
}
```

 the development of JavaScript Controller (wrapper) which is responsible to detect/recognize for Sound element in html file. Also, there is code for the creation of both a 3D sound object and an Array with the new registered nodes. Finally, the 3D sound object is updated and exchanges data with html DOM.

Hence, some of the examples/experiments (and the results of them) can be described by the following figures/Code:

Spatial sound with a sound source which moves in the scene (right left)

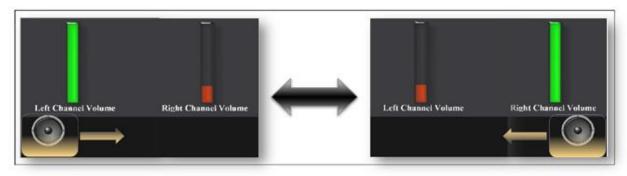
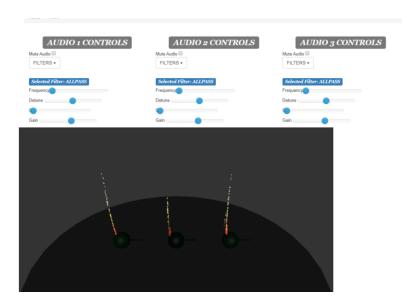


Figure 8: Example 1

Filters



```
clound)

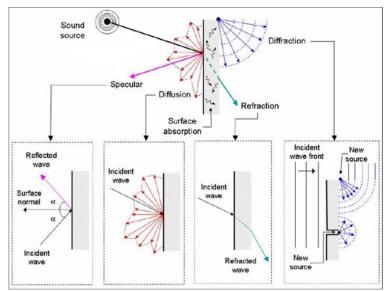
cloud (Transform USE*Audio1')
channelinde position=0 0 0 orientation=10 0' velocity='0 0 0' coneinneringle='360' coneouteringle='360' coneouteringle='160' coneouteringle='160' coneouteringle='160' oneouteringle='160' oneouteringle='160'
```

Figure 9: Example 2

2 Extended Efforts in X3D Audio

Many acoustic effects including surface reflection, physical phenomena such as interference and diffraction, the absorption, coefficient of materials should be taken into account, in order to increase the realism of the sound in a web 3D environment. For that reason, the next step, to enrich the X3D sound nodes, is to introduce new acoustical material descriptors. This approach is one of the first to provide sound material characteristics in the web 3D scene.

The following figure demonstrates the most important sound propagation phenomena, in order that the overview of acoustical material descriptors will be understandable.



- · absorption coefficient
- · specular coefficient
- · diffusion coefficient
- refraction coefficient
- diffraction coefficient

Figure 10: Sound Propagation Phenomena²

2.1 Absorption coefficient

The sound **Absorption Coefficient (a)** of a surface is the ratio of the sound intensity absorbed or otherwise not reflected by a specific surface that of the initial sound intensity. This characteristic depends on nature and thickness of material. Particularly, the sound is absorbed when it encounters fibrous or porous materials, panels that have some flexibility, volumes of air which resonate, openings in the room boundaries (e.g. doorway). Moreover, absorption of sound by a particular material/panel depends on the frequency and angle of incidence of the sound wave.

Some of the typical sound absorbers could be the acoustic panels, membranes, drapes, foams, carpets and can be represent by a variable taking values between zero (zero absorption - total reflection) and one (perfect absorption - no reflection). Absorption coefficients are usually measured in reverberation chambers according to DIN EN ISO standard 354.

2.2 Specular coefficient

The sound **Specular Coefficient (s)** describes specular reflection, one of the physical phenomenon of sound, which occurs when a sound wave strikes a plane surface and a part of the sound energy is reflected back into the space but the angle of reflection is equal to the angle of incidence.

² B. Kapralos, M. Jenkin, and E. Milios, "Sonel Mapping: A Probabilistic Acoustical Modeling Method," Build. Acoust., vol. 15, no. 4, pp. 289–313, Dec. 2008

2.3 Diffuse coefficient

The sound **Diffusion Coefficient (d)** aims to measure the degree of scattering produced on reflection. Specifically, it is produced in the same way as the specular reflection, but in this case, the sound wavelength is comparable with the corrugation dimensions of an irregular reflection surface and the incident sound wave will be scattered in all directions. In other words, it is a measure of the surface's ability to uniformly scatter in all direction. The diffusion coefficient is measured in an anechoic chamber according to the ISO standard 17497-2.

2.4 Refraction coefficient

The sound **Refraction Coefficient (r)** of a medium determines the propagation speed of the wave. This, for a wave travelling from medium one into medium two, then the ratio of the refractive indices is equal to the inverse of the velocity ratios. Furthermore, the sound waves are refracted when parts of a wave front travel at different speeds. This happens in uneven winds or temperatures. Sound waves tend to bend away from warm ground, since it travels faster in warmer air.

2.5 Proposal to Improve X3D Sound Component – Introduction of Acoustical Material Descriptors

Our proposal is not just to customize an environment but instead to fully integrate Web Audio API into X3D language, by introducing new sound nodes and incorporate them in X3D. Specifically, the first approach to improve X3D sound components provides the introduction of the new acoustical material descriptors to **Material** node of X3D. Figure 11 presents the current X3D node of **Material** and the first proposed approach:

```
Material: X3DMaterialNode {
 SFFloat [in,out] ambientIntensity 0.2
                                           [0,1]
 SFColor [in,out] diffuseColor
                                0.8 0.8 0.8 [0,1]
 SFColor [in,out] emissiveColor 0 0 0
                                           [0,1]
 SFNode [in,out] metadata
                                 NULL
                                            [X3DMetadataObject]
 SFFloat [in,out] shininess
                                0.2
                                        [0,1]
                                           [0,1]
 SFColor [in,out] specularColor 000
 SFFloat [in,out] transparency
                                          [0,1]
Material: X3DMaterialNode {
 SFFloat [in,out] ambientIntensity 0.2
                                           [0,1]
 SFColor [in,out] diffuseColor
                                0.8 0.8 0.8 [0,1]
 SFColor [in,out] emissiveColor 0 0 0
                                          [0,1]
                                NULL
 SFNode [in,out] metadata
                                           [X3DMetadataObject]
                                       [0,1]
 SFFloat [in,out] shininess
                               0.2
                                 000
 SFColor [in,out] specularColor
                                          [0,1]
 SFFloat [in,out] transparency
                                        [0,1]
 SFFloat [in,out] absorption
                                     [0, 1]
 SFFloat [in,out] specular
                                 0
                                     [0,1]
 SFFloat [in,out] diffuse 0
                             [0,1]
 SFFloat [in,out] refraction
                             0
                                 [0,1]
```

Figure 11: Strategies to Improve X3D Sound Component – 1st Structure

Finally, Figure 12 illustrates the second proposed approach, in which the new acoustical material descriptors is introduced to new **AcousticMaterial** node within **Shape** node of X3D.

```
Shape: X3DShapeNode {
  SFNode [in,out] appearance NULL [X3DAppearanceNode]
  SFNode [in,out] geometry NULL [X3DGeometryNode]
  SFNode [in,out] metadata NULL [X3DMetadataObject]
  SFVec3f []
                bboxCenter 0 0 0 (-∞,∞)
  SFVec3f []
                bboxSize -1 -1 -1 [0,∞) or -1 -1 -1
 }
Shape: X3DShapeNode {
 SFNode [in,out] appearance NULL [X3DAppearanceNode]
 SFNode [in,out] geometry NULL [X3DGeometryNode]
 SFNode [in,out] metadata NULL [X3DMetadataObject]
 SFVec3f []
              bboxCenter 0 0 0 (-∞,∞)
 SFVec3f []
             bboxSize -1 -1 -1 [0,∞) or -1 -1 -1
 SFNode [in, out] AcousticMaterial NULL [X3DAcousticMaterial]
AcousticMaterial: X3DAcousticMaterial {
 SFNode [in,out] metadata
                             NULL
                                      [X3DMetadataObject]
 SFFloat [in,out] absorption
                             0 [0,1]
 SFFloat [in,out] specular
                             0 [0,1]
 SFFloat [in,out] diffuse 0 [0,1]
 SFFloat [in,out] refraction 0 [0,1]
 SFString [in,out] name //Name (and only the name) of the material
 SFString [in,out] description //Detailed description of the material
```

Figure 12: Strategies to Improve X3D Sound Component – 2nd Structure