

environment 404. Speaker zone 6 corresponds to a left rear area 412 and speaker zone 7 corresponds to a right rear area 414 of the virtual reproduction environment 404. Speaker zone 8 corresponds to speakers in an upper area 420a and speaker zone 9 corresponds to speakers in an upper area 420b, which may be a virtual ceiling area, ~~such as an area of the virtual ceiling 520 shown in Figures 5D and 5E.~~ Accordingly, and as described in more detail in the Authoring and Rendering Application, the locations of speaker zones 1–9 that are shown in Figure 4A may or may not correspond to the locations of reproduction speakers of an actual reproduction environment. Moreover, other implementations may include more or fewer speaker zones and/or elevations.

[062] In various implementations described in the Authoring and Rendering Application, a user interface such as GUI 400 may be used as part of an authoring tool and/or a rendering tool. In some implementations, the authoring tool and/or rendering tool may be implemented via software stored on one or more non-transitory media. The authoring tool and/or rendering tool may be implemented (at least in part) by hardware, firmware, etc., such as the logic system and other devices described below with reference to Figure 10. In some authoring implementations, an associated authoring tool may be used to create metadata for associated audio data. The metadata may, for example, include data indicating the position and/or trajectory of an audio object in a three-dimensional space, speaker zone constraint data, etc. The metadata may be created with respect to the speaker zones 402 of the virtual reproduction environment 404, rather than with respect to a particular speaker layout of an actual reproduction environment. A rendering tool may receive audio data and associated metadata, and may compute audio gains and speaker feed signals for a reproduction environment. Such audio gains and speaker feed signals may be computed according to an amplitude panning process, which can create a perception that a sound is coming from a position P in the reproduction environment. For example, speaker feed signals may be provided to reproduction speakers 1 through N of the reproduction environment according to the following equation:

$$[063] \quad x_i(t) = g_i x(t), \quad i = 1, \dots, N \quad (\text{Equation 1})$$

[064] In Equation 1, $x_i(t)$ represents the speaker feed signal to be applied to speaker i , g_i represents the gain factor of the corresponding channel, $x(t)$ represents the audio signal and t represents time. The gain factors may be determined, for example, according to the amplitude panning methods described in Section 2, pages 3-4 of V. Pulkki, *Compensating Displacement of Amplitude-Panned Virtual Sources* (Audio Engineering Society (AES) International Conference on Virtual, Synthetic and Entertainment Audio), which is hereby