2 3	The Topography of Frequency and Time Representation in Primate Auditory Cortices									
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Natural sounds can be characterised by their spectral content and temporal 33 modulation, but how the brain is organized to analyse these two critical sound 34 dimensions remains uncertain. Using functional magnetic resonance imaging, we 35 36 demonstrate a topographical representation of amplitude modulation rate in the 37 auditory cortex of awake macaques. The representation of this temporal dimension is organized in approximately concentric bands of equal rates across the superior 38 temporal plane in both hemispheres, progressing from high rates in the posterior 39 core to low rates in the anterior core and lateral belt cortex. In A1 the resulting 40 gradient of modulation rate runs approximately perpendicular to the axis of the 41 tonotopic gradient, suggesting an orthogonal organisation of spectral and temporal 42 sound dimensions. In auditory belt areas this relationship is more complex. The data 43 suggest a continuous representation of modulation rate across several physiological 44 areas, in contradistinction to a separate representation of frequency within each 45 46 area.

48 Introduction

Frequency structure (spectral composition) and temporal modulation rate are 49 fundamental dimensions of natural sounds. The topographical representation of 50 frequency (tonotopy) is a well-established organisational principle of the auditory 51 system. In mammals, tonotopy is established in the receptor organ, the cochlea, and 52 maintained as a systematic spatial separation of different frequencies in different 53 areas of the ascending auditory pathway, and in the auditory cortex. While temporal 54 modulation is recognised as an essential perceptual component of communication 55 sounds such as human speech and animal vocalisations (Rosen, 1992, Drullman et 56 al., 1994, Shannon et al., 1995, Chi et al., 2005, Wang, 2000, Elliott and Theunissen, 57 2009), its representation in the auditory system is poorly understood. In contrast to 58 sound frequency, amplitude modulation rate is not spatially organised in the cochlea 59 60 but represented in the temporal dynamics of neuronal firing patterns. However, a considerable proportion of neurons in the auditory brainstem and cortex show tuning 61 62 to amplitude modulation rates (reviewed in Joris et al.(2004)). It has been proposed that temporal information in sound is extracted by amplitude modulation filter banks 63 64 (Dau et al., 1997a, Dau et al., 1997b) that are physiologically instantiated in the midbrain (Rees and Langner, 2005). Studies in rodents (Langner et al., 2002), cats 65 (Schreiner and Langner, 1988) and primates (Baumann et al., 2011) have shown 66 that at the stage of the inferior colliculus amplitude modulation rate and frequency of 67 sound are represented in approximately orthogonal topographical maps. 68

Whether the spatial organisation of amplitude modulation rate is preserved in the 69 auditory cortex remains is debated. Data from gerbils (Schulze et al., 2002) and cats 70 (Langner et al., 2009) suggest a topographical map for temporal modulation rates in 71 the auditory cortex. In cats, orthogonal gradients for modulation rate and frequency 72 73 have been shown, similar to those in the inferior colliculus. However, it is not clear 74 how such an organisation might be preserved across the multiple auditory fields of primate cortex where different fields show different orientations of the tonotopic 75 gradient. While earlier fMRI studies in humans (Giraud et al., 2000, Overath et al., 76 2012, Schonwiesner and Zatorre, 2009) reported robust responses to a range of 77 amplitude modulated sounds, but no systematic organisation of rate, two more 78 79 recent studies suggested an orthogonal relationship of frequency and rate in areas 80 homologue to non-human primate auditory core (Herdener et al. 2013) and beyond

(Barton et al. 2012). Electrophysiology studies in non-human primates have shown
tuning of individual neurons to different modulation rates and suggest a tendency for
neurons in primary fields to prefer faster rates than neurons in field higher up the
hierarchy (Bieser and Muller-Preuss, 1996, Liang et al., 2002): see also (Joris et al.,
2004). However, no clear topographical organisation of modulation rate across
different auditory fields has been demonstrated in non-human primates.

In the current study we mapped the blood oxygen level dependent (BOLD) response 87 to a wide range of amplitude modulation rates from 0.5-512 Hz applied to a broad-88 89 band noise carrier in the auditory cortex of macaque monkeys using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). This range of modulation rates covers preferred 90 rates for cortical neurons (Joris et al., 2004). We investigated whether the preference 91 for specific amplitude modulation rates in neuronal ensembles is systematically 92 93 represented in the auditory cortex and, if so, how such an organisation is arranged relative to the tonotopic gradients across auditory fields. 94

The data reveal a topographic organisation of amplitude modulation rate in the macaque auditory cortex arranged in concentric iso-rate bands that are mirrorsymmetric across both hemispheres with a preference for the highest rates in the postero-medial auditory cortex at the medial border of A1 and for the lowest rates in lateral and anterior fields. This organisation results in a modulation rate gradient running approximately orthogonal to the tonotopic gradients in the auditory core fields, A1 and R.

103 **Results**

104 *Amplitude modulation rate maps*

In a first experiment we recorded the BOLD response to amplitude modulated broad 105 band noise at six different rates (0.5, 2, 8, 32, 128, 512 Hz, see also (Baumann et 106 al., 2011)) across the auditory cortex of three monkeys. We generated two different 107 maps to reveal the spatial organisation of modulation rate by projecting the data of 108 the acquired volumes onto the cortical surface derived from the anatomical scans. In 109 a first map (contrast map) we contrasted the response strength of the lower rate 110 bands versus the higher rate bands to reveal the gradual change of preference for 111 higher to lower modulation rates across the auditory cortex (Fig. 1, top panels). The 112 data corresponding to the two highest rates (512 Hz, 128 Hz) and lowest rates (2 Hz, 113 0.5 Hz) were combined before contrasting, while the intermediate rates were ignored 114 (see also Baumann et al., 2011). In a second map (best rate map), for each position 115 in the auditory cortex, we represented the rate band that showed the strongest 116 response. For the best rate maps, all six individual rates were mapped (Fig. 1, 117 bottom panels). The contrast maps reveal a topography for different amplitude 118 modulation rates with preferences for high rates consistently clustered in the 119 120 postero-medial auditory cortex with the maxima at the medial border of the primary field A1 in both hemispheres of all tested animals. Preferences for low rates were 121 located lateral, anterior and to some degree posterior to the high-rate clusters. In the 122 areas with the maximal preference for low or high rates, the contrast between low 123 and high rates was statistically significant (p<0.05) in all animals and hemispheres, 124 corrected for multiple comparisons with family-wise error (FWE) correction over the 125 recorded volume. The best modulation rate maps for the six tested rates (Fig. 1, 126 bottom) confirmed the systematic organisation of the response pattern with a 127 topographic representation of rate arranged in approximately concentric frequency 128 bands starting with high rates in the postero-medial auditory cortex (at least a few 129 voxels showed a best modulation rate of 128 Hz postero-medially in 5 of 6 130 hemispheres) and progressing anterior, lateral and in some cases posterior to lower 131 rates (see also the schemata in Fig. 4). The highest rate (512 Hz) was hardly 132 represented in the best-rate maps. 133

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135 *Frequency maps*

In a second experiment, we recorded the BOLD response to bandpass noise in three 136 different frequency bands (0.5-1 kHz, 2-4 kHz, 8-16 kHz) in the same animals used 137 in the first experiment. Based on these data, we generated contrast maps (Fig. 2, top 138 panels) and best frequency maps (Fig. 2, bottom panels) for each animal similar to 139 experiment 1. These maps confirm the well-established tonotopic pattern with 140 multiple reversals of the frequency gradient that serve as a basis for the delineation 141 of auditory fields in the primate auditory cortex (Baumann et al., 2010, Bendor and 142 Wang, 2008, Kosaki et al., 1997, Morel et al., 1993, Petkov et al., 2006). In a further 143 experiment, we confirmed these findings using a "phase encoded"-design (Sereno et 144 al., 1995, Joly et al., 2014) in animal M1 and M2 (Fig. 3). Based on these frequency 145 maps, we identified auditory fields according to Hackett (2011), using procedures 146 147 described in Petkov et al. (2006) and Baumann et al. (2010), adapted by the use of T1/T2 weighted MRI data to inform on the location of the core/belt border (Joly et al., 148 149 2014).

Here, we describe organisational features of these maps (summarised in Fig. 4, 150 right) which are well in line with previous studies (reviewed in Baumann et al., 2013). 151 The anterior-posterior low to high gradient that defines the auditory core field A1 is 152 particularly clear in the contrast maps (Fig. 2, top panels). In line with previous 153 studies in macaques, this gradient has generally a lateral-to-medial component in 154 addition to the main anterior-posterior direction (Baumann et al., 2010, Kosaki et al., 155 1997, Morel et al., 1993). Similar to the situation in humans, the low frequency area 156 that defines the border between fields A1 and R is typically wider on the lateral side 157 compared to the medial side. The anterior high frequency area, which forms the 158 border between the auditory fields R and RT, is typically located on the medial side 159 of the superior temporal plane, in the depth of the circular sulcus (see also Fig. 4, 160 Baumann et al., 2013). The resulting anterio-medial direction of the main frequency 161 gradient in R forms, in combination with gradient direction in A1, an inward inflection 162 in the gradient axis across A1 and R, which has previously been reported in Morel et 163 al. (1993) and Kosaki et al. (1997) in macaques, Bendor et al. (2008) in marmosets 164 and described in (Hackett, 2011, Jones, 2003, Baumann et al., 2013). This 165 directional change of the frequency gradient axis across the core fields, which is also 166 obvious from the different mean angles of the gradients in A1 and R (Tab. 1), is of 167

particular relevance for the relationship of temporal and spectral gradients in thesefields (see Fig. 4 and discussion).

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171 Relative orientation of modulation rate and frequency gradients in auditory core

The systematic, topographic representation of amplitude modulation rate we 172 demonstrate extends over multiple fields to form a wider concentric organisation 173 across the entire auditory cortex in both hemispheres. If this organization is overlaid 174 with the spectral pattern derived from experiment 2, we notice that in the auditory 175 176 core areas (A1, R) the gradients for modulation rate and frequency lie approximately orthogonal to one another (illustrated in schemata of Fig. 4). This arrangement is 177 178 most obvious in A1 in individual animals, but the relationship generally holds for R and the adjacent lateral belt fields as well. This occurs as a consequence of the 179 change in the direction of the tonotopic axis between A1 and R such that the 180 tonotopic gradient follows approximately the iso- amplitude-modulation rate lines. In 181 other words, the tonotopic axis runs anteriorly and medially in area R whilst the rate 182 gradient runs anteriorly and laterally to preserve the orthogonal relationship. In this 183 arrangement, the frequency reversals form spokes in the concentric organisation of 184 the amplitude modulation rate (Fig.1, Fig. 2, Fig. 4, left). However, rostral of R and 185 caudal of A1 the orthogonality of spectral and temporal features breaks down and 186 the gradients become more collinear and less obvious (Fig.1, Fig. 2, Fig. 4, right). 187

188 In order to quantify these observations we calculated gradient directions and relative orientations based on the contrast maps for the topographies of modulation rate and 189 190 frequency in the auditory core fields A1 and R using a two dimensional regression analysis as described in Baumann et al. (2011). We also calculated the relative 191 gradients for the caudio-lateral field CL, representative for extra-core areas where 192 the orthogonal direction breaks down. The auditory fields have been delineated 193 194 based on the tonotopy reversals as described in Baumann et al. (2010) and Petkov et al. (2006). The results are summarised in Tab. 1 and gradient directions in A1 are 195 196 indicated with green arrows in Fig. 1, 2 overlaid on the contrast maps with a circle marking the centre of mass of field A1. The gradient directions in the individual 197 hemispheres generally follow the schemata in Fig. 4. All the calculated fields show a 198 clear gradient. In A1, the gradient directions for rate and frequency clearly cross 199

each other but deviate somewhat from perfect orthogonality with an average angle of 118.7 \pm 22.3 degrees. The calculated directions in field R are more variable, but also show an average relative angle for rate and frequency gradients of about 120 degrees (117.2 \pm 47.6 degrees). In contrast, relative angles in the postero-lateral field CL are much closer to anti-parallel with 4 of 6 hemispheres showing a relative angle around 160 degrees and higher.

Due to their sparse, non-parametric nature, the best rate/frequency maps are less 206 suited for gradient analysis. Furthermore, in some belt fields that feature a single 207 208 best frequency, no gradient can be specified. However, for comparison, we provided a respective gradient analysis of the best rate/frequency for the fields with a defined 209 210 gradient in the supplementary methods (Supplementary File 1) and the gradients for A1 are highlighted on the respective maps in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2. In most cases, the 211 212 calculated gradient directions in core areas differ little from the analysis based on the contrast maps. The resulting relative angles are also similar with means closer to 213 110 degrees in core areas (108.5 \pm 42.1 degrees for A1, 112.0 \pm 55.1 degrees for 214 R). However, the correlation values (r^2) , p values and the variance across animals 215 and hemispheres are clearly worse, which can be attributed to the sparse nature of 216 the data. This is particularly true for the posterior belt field CL. 217

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219 Discussion

220 Here we demonstrate for the first time a systematic and topographic representation of amplitude modulation rate in the auditory cortex of non-human primates. 221 Concentric bands of decreasing rates extend bilaterally from the medial auditory 222 cortex in anterior, lateral and posterior directions. In the region of the auditory core 223 areas, the modulation gradients cross the well-established frequency gradients in 224 approximately perpendicular direction leading to an orthogonal representation of the 225 226 temporal and spectral dimensions of sound. This organisation increasingly breaks down in extra-core auditory fields that tend to show a preference for slow rates. The 227 228 topographical maps for temporal modulations are largely symmetrical across the hemispheres showing no signs of a consistent lateralisation for temporal features. 229

The topographical representation of stimulus attributes is a common organising 230 principle in the brain. Apart from sound frequency, we also find it in the multiple 231 retinotopic representations in the visual system and the somatotopic representations 232 in the somato-sensory system. Orthogonal representations of two topographic 233 gradients have been previously demonstrated for other stimulus dimensions in the 234 auditory system (Suga and O'Neill, 1979) and the visual system (e.g. Sereno et al., 235 1995, Tootell et al., 1982), and are predicted on theoretical considerations 236 (Swindale, 2004, Watkins et al., 2009). In the current case the partial orthogonal 237 238 representation might facilitate the simultaneous analysis of different dimensions of 239 sound.

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241 Comparison of the results to previous studies in primates

Previous studies that investigated the representation of amplitude modulation rate 242 (Giraud et al., 2000, Overath et al., 2012, Schonwiesner and Zatorre, 2009, Bieser 243 and Muller-Preuss, 1996, Bendor and Wang, 2008), have not reported a 244 245 topographical organisation of this temporal dimension in the auditory cortex. We can only speculate why such an organisation has not been reported in these previous 246 studies. Electrophysiology studies in other primate species have highlighted a 247 tendency for differential responses across different auditory fields with more primary 248 249 areas preferring faster rates or showing shorter latencies and areas higher up th hierarchy preferring lower rates or showing longer latencies (Bendor and Wang, 250 251 2008, Bieser and Muller-Preuss, 1996). These results have been interpreted in terms of a posterior-to-anterior high-to-low rate gradient (Bendor and Wang, 2008) or a 252 core-to-belt high-to-low rate gradient (Camalier et al., 2012). Given our results, both 253 schemes have some merit, but they do not capture the full complexity of the 254 organisation for temporal rates in concentric bands. Furthermore, the maps for 255 amplitude modulation rate reported in this study (Fig. 1) indicate that in addition to 256 differential responses between fields a clear gradient can be observed within the 257 fields, particularly in the auditory core. 258

259 While earlier human fMRI studies (Giraud et al., 2000, Overath et al., 2012, 260 Schonwiesner and Zatorre, 2009) did not show a clear topographical representation 261 of amplitude modulation rate, two recent studies suggest a topographical gradient for

this sound dimension (Barton et al., 2012, Herdener et al., 2013). Furthermore, both 262 studies reported an orthogonal relationship of temporal rate and frequency in some 263 auditory areas. The representation of modulation rates reported in Barton et al. 264 (2012) in the human auditory cortex resembles the data from the current study with a 265 maximal preference of high rates in the postero-medial cortex surrounded by areas 266 with a preference for lower rates. However, the interpretation of the topographical 267 pattern of this study differs to ours, in proposing a concentric organisation for 268 frequency representation overlapping with an angular representation of modulation 269 270 rate in contrast to our interpretation of a concentric organisation for modulation rate and an angular representation of frequency in core areas. An important result of this 271 difference is that Barton et al. (2012) suggest an orthogonal relationship of frequency 272 and modulation rate representation in the entire auditory cortex while in our case we 273 find such a relationship mainly in the core areas. Furthermore, the study of Barton et 274 al suggested that each field contained a separate complete amplitude modulation 275 rate gradient in addition to a separate and complete frequency gradient whilst the 276 scheme that we demonstrate in macaques suggests that amplitude modulation rate 277 is represented across multiple areas, none of which contain a complete map. 278 279 However, a detailed comparison between the two studies is complicated by Barton et al.'s (2012), use of a definition of the auditory fields that is incompatible with the 280 281 definition commonly used in non-human primates.

The study by Herdener et al. (2013) focused on human homologues of the auditory 282 core areas (hA1, hR) in the vicinity of the Heschl's gyrus. The reported results in 283 these areas are consistent with ours in that they suggest orthogonal relationships of 284 frequency and amplitude modulation rates with similar gradient directions found to 285 those in our study. Finally, a further recent study in humans tested the representation 286 of temporal and spectral features (Santoro et al., 2014). The chosen approach 287 differed from our and previous studies in that a computational analysis was applied 288 to test different models of stimulus feature representation. Thus, the emphasis was 289 not on mapping individual rates and frequencies or identifying stimulus gradients. 290 Furthermore, combined spectro-temporal modulations where used as stimuli in 291 addition to pure temporal and spectral modulations. Nevertheless, the study 292 identified an area in postero-medial auditory cortex, just posterior of the medial 293 Heschl's gyrus, with a preference for fast temporal rates. Regions anterior and lateral 294

of this area showed a preference for low temporal rates (summarised in Fig. 7 of Santoro et al., 2014). Based on anatomical relationships in the auditory cortex between human and non-human primates as suggested in Baumann et al. (2013), such a pattern for temporal rate preference is consistent with the concentric pattern of rate representation observed here.

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301 How does the BOLD response reflect sound modulation responses of single 302 neurons?

In electrophysiology, neuronal responses to modulation rate are usually divided into 303 two different coding principles: rate coding and temporal coding (e.g. Liang et al., 304 2002, Lu et al., 2001, Yin et al., 2011), reviewed in Joris et al., (2004). The rate code 305 is a measure of the average number of spikes fired over a defined period of time to 306 the different modulation rates, and the temporal code is a measure of how well the 307 neuron's firing synchronises with the amplitude envelope of the stimulus at different 308 309 modulation rates. The average response of neurons in the cortex shows slightly 310 different best rates for the two measures and some neurons are properly tuned to only one of the two measures (Joris et al., 2004). Different neurons in the auditory 311 cortex of non-human primates have been reported with tuning to modulation rates 312 between 2-120 Hz, measured by temporal response and between 1-250 Hz 313 314 measured by rate response (Bieser and Muller-Preuss, 1996, Liang et al., 2002), see also (Joris et al., 2004). However, neurons responding with a synchronised temporal 315 316 response are rarely tuned to rates above 64 Hz and are preferentially located in primary areas. Neurons demonstrating rate tuning make up the majority of neurons 317 that respond to modulated sounds in-non primary auditory areas and are frequently 318 319 tuned to rates at 64 Hz and above.

It is not entirely clear which of the two response types are represented by the BOLD response reported in this study. While an increased average firing rate of a local sample of neurons to a certain modulation rate would certainly lead to an increased BOLD response, an increased synchronisation within the same sample of neurons would probably have a similar effect. This is supported by a simulation study which suggested that both types of firing patterns would influence the BOLD response in similar way (Chawla et al., 1999). In our study, the range of amplitude modulation

rates represented in the BOLD response and the pattern of areas that respond to 327 specific rates is better matched by response properties reported for single neurons 328 responding with a rate code in non-human primates (Bendor and Wang, 2008, 329 Bieser and Muller-Preuss, 1996, Liang et al., 2002). Nevertheless, it is also possible 330 that the measured BOLD signal is a response to a combination of rate- and 331 332 temporal-coding neurons.

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Comparison of preferred amplitude modulation rates in humans and monkeys 334

335 The responses to different amplitude modulation rates reported in this study are in line with results from previous electrophysiological studies in other non-human 336 337 primates (Bieser and Muller-Preuss, 1996, Liang et al., 2002) in the range of the preferred rates (2-128 Hz) as well as the preferred rates for the different fields. The 338 current study showed the highest preference in A1 for a rate of 32 Hz and to a lesser 339 extent to 8 Hz while similar electrophysiology studies in monkeys additionally 340 highlighted 16 Hz, a rate not used in this study. Human studies (Giraud et al., 2000, 341 Harms and Melcher, 2002, Overath et al., 2012) showed slightly lower preferred 342 rates between 2-8 Hz for primary areas while rates above 64 Hz where hardly 343 represented. These species-specific values are consistent with psychophysical 344 comparisons between humans and macaques in an amplitude modulation 345 discrimination task showing average peak sensitivities at lower rates in humans (10-346 60 Hz) than in macaques (30-120 Hz) (O'Connor et al., 2010) or even a low pass 347 function in humans (Viemeister, 1979). 348

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Relevance of amplitude modulation rate for other temporal response features 350

We demonstrated a topographic map for a specific temporal feature of sound, the 351 rate of amplitude modulation. Temporal variation of sound can also be characterised 352 by other means such as frequency modulation. Furthermore, differences in response 353 latencies in areas at a similar hierarchy level were used as an indicator of the 354 temporal resolution of the local circuits (Langner et al., 2002, Langner et al., 1987). 355 Various studies show however that different temporal response measures to different 356 357 temporal stimulus features are highly correlated. Liang et al. (2002), for example,

shows a high correlation of single neuron responses in the auditory cortex of non-358 human primates to amplitude modulation rate and frequency modulation rate. 359 Studies in the inferior colliculus showed good correlation of the representation of 360 amplitude modulation rate and the response latency of neurons in the inferior 361 colliculus (Langner et al., 2002, Langner et al., 1987). Furthermore, studies that 362 recorded response latencies across different auditory fields, showed a tendency for 363 longer latencies in rostral fields (Bendor and Wang, 2008, Camalier et al., 2012) and 364 belt fields (Camalier et al., 2012), consistent with the preference for slower 365 366 modulation rates we found in these areas. This suggests that preferred amplitude modulation rate is representative of the processing, or integration, time windows 367 which characterise the time scale over which temporal features are integrated in a 368 particular area or circuit. 369

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371 Conclusions

Here, we demonstrate a systematic, topographical representation of modulation rate 372 in the auditory cortex of a non-human primate, organised, in parts, orthogonally to 373 the established gradient for frequency. The systematic concentric organisation of 374 amplitude modulation rate that we demonstrate here, could provide an anatomical 375 basis for the analysis of different modulation rates in separate modulation filterbanks 376 (Dau et al., 1997a, Dau et al., 1997b). The superposition of maps of modulation rate 377 and frequency also occurs in the inferior colliculus (Baumann et al., 2011) where 378 some higher modulation rates are represented than in the cortex, whilst in the cortex 379 the modulation rates mapped decrease with greater distance from A1. The mapping 380 of distinct dimensions of sound, amplitude modulation rate and frequency, as distinct 381 vectors in an anatomical space, is analogous to the mapping of polar angle and 382 eccentricity that occurs at all processing levels of the visual system. Representation 383 in the auditory cortex differs, however, in that a complete mapping of modulation rate 384 does not occur within each cortical area, in contrast to the multiple and complete 385 representations of spectral frequency that these areas contain. 386

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389 Materials and Methods

390 Experiment 1, 2

Animals: The data were obtained from three male macaque monkeys (Macaca mu-391 latta) weighting 9 – 16 kg. Animals were implanted with a headholder under general 392 anaesthesia and sterile conditions as described in detail previously (Thiele et al., 393 2006). Before scanning, the animals were habituated to the scanner environment. A 394 custom made primate chair was used to position the animal in the vertical bore of the 395 scanner and head movements were minimised with a head holder. Details of the po-396 sitioning procedures are given in (Baumann et al., 2010). All experiments were car-397 ried out in accordance with the UK, Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act (1986), Eu-398 ropean Communities Council Directive 1986 (86/609/EEC) and the US National Insti-399 tutes of Health Guidelines for the Care and Use of Animals for Experimental Proce-400 dures, and were performed with great care to ensure the well-being of the animals. 401

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Sound stimuli and presentation (see also Baumann et al., 2011): Sound stimuli were 403 created in MATLAB 7.1 (MathWorks, Natick, USA) with a sample rate of 44.1 kHz 404 and 16 bit resolution. Stimuli for characterising the BOLD response to spectral fre-405 406 quencies were based on a random-phase noise carrier with three different passbands, 0.5-1 kHz, 2-4 kHz and 8-16 kHz resulting in three different stimuli that en-407 compassed different spectral ranges. The carriers were amplitude modulated with a 408 sinusoidal envelope of 90% depth at 10 Hz to achieve a robust response in the audi-409 tory system. The stimuli for characterising the temporal rates in the amplitude modu-410 lation experiment were also based on random-phase noise carrier but had a flat 411 broad-band spectrum from 25 Hz to 16 kHz. This carrier was amplitude modulated at 412 six different rates, 0.5 Hz, 2 Hz, 8 Hz, 32 Hz, 128 Hz and 512 Hz resulting in six dif-413 ferent stimuli that covered a broad range of temporal rates identical to the data pre-414 viously reported from the inferior colliculus (Baumann et al., 2011). The duration of 415 all the stimuli was 6 s which included at least three cycles of the modulation in the 416 case of the lowest temporal frequency. This duration is also sufficient for the BOLD 417 response in the auditory cortex of macaques to reach a plateau (Baumann et al., 418 2010). The on- and off-set of the stimulus were smoothed by a linear ramp of 50 ms. 419 We presented the stimuli in the scanner at an RMS sound pressure level of 75 dB 420 using custom adapted electrostatic headphones based on a Nordic NeuroLab sys-421

tem (*NordicNeuroLab, Bergen, Norway*). These headphones feature a flat frequency
transfer function up to 16 kHz and are free from harmonic-distortion at the applied
sound pressure level. Sound pressure levels were verified using an MR-compatible
condenser microphone B&K Type 4189 (Bruel&*Kjaer, Naerum, Denmark*) connected
by an extension cable to the sound level meter Type 2260 from the same company.

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MRI hardware and imaging: Data were recorded in an actively shielded, vertical 4.7 428 T MRI scanner (Bruker Biospec 47/60 VAS) equipped with a Bruker GA-38S gradient 429 430 system with an inner-bore diameter of 38 cm (Bruker BioSpin GmbH, Ettlingen, Germany). The applied RF transmitter-receiver coil (Bruker) was of a volume bird-431 cage design that covered the entire head of the animals. Functional and structural 432 data were acquired from 2 mm thick slices that were aligned to the superior temporal 433 plane and covered the temporal lobe. The slices were selected with the help of an 434 additional structural brain scan in sagittal orientation. 435

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Functional scan parameters: Single-shot gradient-recalled echo-planar imaging se-437 quences were optimised for each subject sharing an in-plane resolution of 1 x 1 mm² 438 439 and a volume acquisition time (TA) of 1s. Typical acquisition parameters were: TE: 21 ms, flip angle (FA): 90°, spectral bandwidth: 200 kHz, field of view (FOV): 9.6 x 440 9.6 cm², 16 slices of 2 mm thickness, with an acquisition matrix of 96 x 96. Each vol-441 ume acquisition was separated by a 9 s gap to avoid recording the BOLD response 442 443 to the gradient noise of the previous scan ('sparse design'). In combination with the TA of 1s this results in a repetition time (TR) of 10 s. The stimuli were presented dur-444 ing the last 6 s of the silent gap. The detailed timing was based on a previous BOLD 445 response time course characterisation in the auditory system of macaques 446 (Baumann et al., 2010). Before every other volume acquisition stimuli were omitted 447 to obtain data for a silent baseline. For the frequency experiment a total 720 volumes 448 were acquired per session. This resulted in 120 volumes per stimulus per session 449 (half of the volumes served for the baseline) or 360 volumes per stimulus in total for 450 the three sessions. For the amplitude modulation experiment 540 volumes per ses-451 sion were acquired resulting in 45 volumes per stimulus per session and 315 vol-452 umes per stimulus for the combined seven sessions. 453

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455 *Structural scan parameters:* Structural images (T1-weighted) used the same geome-456 try as the functional scans to simplify coregistration. The imaging parameters of the 457 MDEFT (Modified Driven Equilibrium Fourier Transform) sequence were: TE: 6 ms, 458 TR: 2240 ms, FA: 30°, FOV 9.6 x 9.6 cm² using an encoding matrix of 256 x 256 to 459 result in an in-plane resolution of 0.375 x 0.375 mm² per voxel. Structural scans 460 were acquired after each functional session.

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Data analysis: For preprocessing and general linear model analysis we employed 462 463 the SPM5 software package (www.fil.ion.ucl.ac.uk/spm/) implemented in Matlab 7.1. The data acquired from each animal were analysed separately. Image volumes from 464 each session were realigned to the first volume and the sessions of each experiment 465 were subsequently realigned to each other before smoothing the data with a kernel 466 of 2 mm full-width half-maximum. The time-series were high pass filtered with a cut-467 off of 300 s to account for slow signal drifts and the data was adjusted for global sig-468 nal fluctuations (global scaling). In a general linear model analysis for the combined 469 sessions of each experiment, the voxel-wise response estimate coefficients (beta-470 values) and t-values for the contrast of the different stimuli versus the silent baseline 471 472 were calculated. Further analysis and data display was performed using custom designed Matlab scripts. The data were masked retaining only voxels that showed sig-473 474 nificant values for the combined stimuli versus baseline contrast for each of the two experiments (p<0.001; uncorrected for multiple comparisons). 475

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Frequency/rate contrast maps: The frequency contrast maps were calculated voxel by voxel by subtracting the response estimate coefficients (beta-values) of the low frequency condition (0.5-1 kHz) from the high frequency condition (8-16 kHz). The rate contrast maps were calculated similarly, however the means of the lowest two rates (0.5, 2 Hz) and the highest two rates (128, 512 Hz) were taken before subtracting the response estimate coefficients; see also (Baumann et al., 2011). The resulting maps represent the degree of preference for high or low frequencies/rates.

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Best frequency/rate response maps (*BF/R-map*): The best frequency/rate response maps were calculated by identifying voxel by voxel for each experiment and animal which of the three frequency conditions or six temporal rate conditions showed the highest t-values. The resulting maps represent the preferred frequency or rate foreach voxel.

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491 Projection of data on anatomical surface: Structural images were segmented using 492 ITKsnap (<u>http://www.itksnap.org</u>). The binary image was used to generate a 3D tri-493 angulated mesh of the superior temporal plane using BrainVisa suite 494 (<u>http://brainvisa.info</u>). The data from of the Contrast- and Best Frequency/rate Maps 495 where then projected on the rendered surface using BrainVisa and taking, for each 496 point on the surface, the data in a sphere of 1.6 mm into account.

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Analysis of gradients: For further analysis the data from the contrast maps on the 498 surface was imported into Matlab as vertex mesh. Auditory fields according to 499 (Hackett, 2011) were identified based on the gradient reversals of the tonotopic 500 maps; see (Baumann et al., 2010) and (Petkov et al., 2006) for details, and auditory 501 core/belt borders suggested by myelinisation maps that were estimated from a T1/T2 502 contrast procedure as described in Joly et al. (2014). For each auditory field the 503 mean gradients of modulation rate and frequency preference were calculated in 504 505 separate, two dimensional regression analyses as previously described in Baumann et al. (2011). The input of the regression analysis was the spatial x and y coordinates 506 507 and the values from the contrast maps, effectively resulting in gradients of a flat projection of the contrast values for the different auditory fields. 508

509

510 Experiment 3

Subjects: The two male rhesus monkeys that participated in this experiment were identical to subjects M1 and M2 in experiment 1 and 2. Before the scanning sessions, the monkeys were trained to perform a visual fixation task with the head of the animal rigidly positioned with a head holder attached to a cranial implant. The visual fixation task was used to equalise as much as possible attention across runs and minimize body movement and stress during scanning and presentation of the auditory stimuli.

Stimuli: Sound stimuli were generated at the beginning of each functional run. The 518 stimuli were computed with a sampling rate of 44.1 kHz using an in-house Python 519 program - PrimatePy. PrimatePy mainly relies on Psychopy, a psychophysics 520 package (www.psychopy.org/). Stimuli were pure tone bursts and were presented in 521 either low-to-high or high-to-low progression of frequencies. Frequencies were 500, 522 707, 1000, 1414, 2000, 2828, 4000, 5657, and 8000 Hz (half-octave steps). Tone 523 bursts were either 50 ms or 200 ms in duration (inter-stimulus interval 50 ms) and 524 were alternated in pseudo-randomized order during the 2 s block, resulting in a 525 526 rhythmic pattern of tone onsets. Pure tone bursts of one frequency were presented for a 2 s block before stepping to the next frequency until all 9 frequencies had been 527 presented. This 18 s progression was followed by a 12 s silent pause, and this 30 s 528 cycle was presented 15 times. A run lasted for 8 minutes and the two run types with 529 either low-to-high or high-to-low progression, were alternated. Stimuli were delivered 530 through MR-compatible insert earphones (sensimetrics, Model S14, www.sens.com). 531 Scan noise was attenuated by the earphones and by dense foam padding around 532 533 the ears.

Behavioural task: The animal performed the visual fixation task during the acquisition 534 of a full time series (8min). Each time series was followed by a break of about 1 535 minute. The eye position was monitored at 60Hz with a tracking (camera-based with 536 Infra-Red illumination) of the pupil using iView software (SMI, www.smivision.com, 537 Teltow, Germany). The task was as follow: a fixation target (a small red square) 538 appeared on the centre of the screen, when the eye trace entered within a fixation 539 window (about 2-3 visual degree centred onto the target) a timer started and the 540 fixation target turned green. A continuous visual fixation (no saccades) of a randomly 541 defined duration of 2-2.5 sec. was immediately followed by the delivery of a juice 542 reward using a gravity-fed dispenser. The reward was controlled by PrimatePy via a 543 data acquisition USB device LabJack (U3-LV, http://labjack.com/). 544

Magnetic resonance imaging: Functional MRI measurements by blood oxygen leveldependent (BOLD) contrast consisted of single-shot gradient-echo echo-planar imaging sequences with the following parameters: TR=1400ms, TE=21ms, 90° flip angle, matrix 92 x 92, FOV 110mm x 110mm, in-plane resolution 1.2 x 1.2 mm², slice thickness=1.2mm. Functional times series consisted of a continuous acquisition of 343 volumes with 20 axial slices acquired with parallel imaging with 2-fold GRAPPA

acceleration using 8-channel array receive coil. The RF transmission was done with
the Bruker birdcage volume coil in transmit mode. From the scanner, a TTL pulse
signal was triggered at the start of every volume and sent out to PrimatePy via the
LabJack for synchronization purposes. In total, a number of 15 runs were acquired
(M1:8, M2:7) which represents 15*343=5145 volumes.

Anatomical MR images consisted of 2 sequences, T1-weighted (T1w) and T2 556 weighted (T2w) images. The T1w images consisted of a 2D magnetization-prepared 557 rapid gradient-echo (MPRAGE) sequence with a 130 degree preparation pulse, 558 TR=2100ms, TE=7ms, TI=800ms, 27° flip angle. The T2w images consisted of a 2D 559 Rapid Acquisition with Relaxation Enhancement (RARE) sequence with 560 TR=6500ms, TE=14ms, RARE factor 8. The geometry was the same for both T1w 561 and T2w images: matrix 166 x 166, FOV 100mm x 100mm, slices thickness 0.6mm, 562 563 and 54 axial slices. Because of time constraints, those anatomical scans were acquired during separate scanning sessions but with the same visual fixation task to 564 565 minimise body motion and stress and to control the animal's behaviour.

566 *Data analyses:* MR images were first converted from Bruker file format into 3D 567 (anatomical data) or 4D (x,y,z,t functional data) minc file format (.mnc) using a Perl 568 script pvconv.pl (<u>http://pvconv.sourceforge.net/</u>) and next from minc to nifti format 569 using the *minc tools*.

Structural images were resampled at 0.25mm isotropic voxels with 7th order B-spline 570 interpolation method. Semi-automatic segmentation of the white matter was 571 performed using ITKsnap (http://www.itksnap.org). The binary image (after dilation of 572 0.5mm) was used to generate a 3D triangulated mesh (including smoothing) using 573 BrainVisa suite (http://brainvisa.info) and a selection of the sub-surface 574 corresponding to the Lateral 575 Sulcus (LS) was saved into the GIFTI (www.nitrc.org/projects/gifti/) file format. 576

577 Raw fMRI data entered a preprocessing stage, including motion correction and 578 spatial smoothing with a Gaussian kernel (FWHM=1.5mm). The time-series were 579 further processed using python scripts (nitime and nibabel python libraries). Times 580 series entered a filter with an infinite impulse response (IIR) function to remove 581 fluctuations below 0.02 and above 0.1 Hz. The filtered times series of each voxel 582 was then normalised as percentage of signal change relative to the mean signal of

that voxel. For each voxel, cross-correlation between time-series from both run types
was computed and time delay between the two signals (argument of the maximum
correlation) revealed the preferred frequency. Volumetric preferred frequency maps
were then projected onto the 3D cortical surface.

587

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592

593 Author Contributions

594 S.B., T.D.G an A.R. designed the experiments 1,2. O.J. and S.B. designed 595 experiment 3. S.B. acquired the data for experiments 1,2. O.J. acquired the data for 596 experiment 3. A.T. provided the animals and supervised their handling. L.S. provided 597 the MRI sequences and adjusted it for the animals. S.B. analysed the data of 598 experiments 1,2 with contribution from C.I.P and O.J. O.J. analysed the data of 599 experiment 3. S.B. wrote the manuscript with T.D.G. and contributions from O.J, 600 A.R., A.T., C.I.P and L.S.

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725 Figure Legends

Fig 1: *Representation of amplitude modulation rates in the auditory cortex.* Top panels: map showing contrast of low versus high rates (rate contrast map) projected on rendered surfaces of the superior temporal planes in three animals (M1-3). Green arrows indicate mean gradient direction of the contrast in auditory field A1 (gradient directions derived from 2D regression; see also table 1). Green circles indicate the position of the centre of mass of A1. Bottom panels: map of preferred response to different rates (Best rate map). A; anterior, P; posterior, L; left, R; right.

Fig 2: *Representation of spectral frequency in the auditory cortex.* Top panels: map of contrast of low versus high frequency band (frequency contrast map) projected on rendered surfaces of the superior temporal planes in three animals (M1-3). Green arrows indicate mean gradient direction of the contrast in auditory field A1. Green circles indicate the position of the centre of mass of A1. Bottom panels: map of preferred response to different frequency bands (Best frequency map). A; anterior, P; posterior, L; left, R; right.

Fig 3: *Representation of spectral frequency in the auditory cortex derived from "phase-encoded" experiment.* Top panels: map of preferred response to nine different frequencies between 0.5-8 KHz projected on rendered surfaces of the superior temporal planes in two animals (M1, M2). Approximate border between A1 and R is marked by grey bars. A; anterior, P; posterior, L; left, R; right.

Fig. 4: Schematic representation of amplitude modulation rate organisation in macaque auditory cortex. Model of modulation rate organisation in context of functional field borders and frequency reversals (left side). Schematic organisation of tonotopy with indication of main gradients for tonotopy and modulation rate in selected functional fields (right side).

Tab. 1: Directions and relative orientations of amplitude modulation rate and frequency gradients in selected auditory fields. Main gradient directions (relative to anterior-posterior axis) and the resulting relative angle (α) between the orientations of the amplitude modulation rate (Rate) and spectral frequency (Frequency) gradients in auditory fields A1, R and CL are listed for two hemispheres (L, R) in three animals

755	(M1-3). Additionally, R ² values, p-values and number of data points (n) from the re-
756	spective 2D regression analysis are included.

Animal	Hemis- phere	Field	Rel. angle (α) [degrees]	Frequency [degrees]	R ²	p-value	Rate [degrees]	R ²	p-value	n (vertices)
M1	L	A1	137	162	0.796	<1E-16	25	0.636	<1E-16	84
	R		73	155	0.546	<1E-16	82	0.696	<1E-16	101
M2	L		120	175	0.927	<1E-16	56	0.884	<1E-16	154
	R		133	160	0.803	<1E-16	66	0.750	<1E-16	103
М3	L		121	164	0.824	<1E-16	43	0.699	<1E-16	156
	R		128	175	0.722	<1E-16	47	0.675	<1E-16	87
Average			118.7	165.2	0.77		53.2	0.72		114.2
StdDev			23.3	8.2	0.13		19.7	0.09		32.5
		_	24	20	0.400		400	0 700		00
M1	L	ĸ	81	38	0.106	1.40E-02	120	0.782	<1E-16	88
Mo	ĸ		140	23	0.391	2.89E-11	117	0.600	<1E-10	107
IVI Z			51	29	0.697	<1E-10	80	0.420	2.00E-09	102
Mo	ĸ		103	44	0.441	2.50E-10	147	0.660	<1E-10	93
IVIS	R		180	9	0.476	1.40E-10 4 20E-15	100	0.255	4.20⊑-06 <1F-16	٥ <i>۲</i> 73
				Ũ	0.011	1.202 10	101	0.001		10
Average			117.2	37.3	0.45		120.2	0.57		91.7
StdDev			47.6	24.6	0.20		28.7	0.20		12.1
М1		CI	161	13	0 577	2 80E-04	148	0 587	1 70E-06	33
	R	0L	113	109	0.516	3.30E-07	138	0.264	1.70E 00	44
M2	L		163	42	0.563	3.30E-07	155	0.582	2.00E-12	40
	R		102	14	0.552	5.70E-10	116	0.559	<1E-16	58
М3	L		168	27	0.795	3.30E-16	165	0.751	2.60E-14	48
-	R		158	2	0.706	4.20E-11	156	0.768	4.20E-13	42
Average			144.2	34.5	0.62		146.3	0.59		44.2
StdDev 758			28.8	39.0	0.11		17.4	0.18		8.4

760 Supplementary table 1: Directions and relative orientations of amplitude modulation rate and frequency gradients in selected auditory field (based on best rate/frequency 761 maps). Main gradient directions (relative to anterior-posterior axis) and the resulting 762 relative angle (α) between the orientations of the amplitude modulation rate (Rate) 763 and spectral frequency (Frequency) gradients in auditory fields A1, R and CL are 764 listed for two hemispheres (L, R) in three animals (M1-3). Additionally, R² values, p-765 values and number of data points (n) from the respective 2D regression analysis are 766 767 included. * No defined gradient direction due to single best frequency in field







