CARA documentation indicates that it calculates using the phase part of the complex sound pressure amplitude and that it uses a grid of several thousand points, evaluating the sound field modal structure as a steady-state sound pressure distribution. This implied to me that it was calculating LF standing waves as pressure nodes using a finite element mesh of some sort. I would assume it uses a ray-tracing algorithm for frequencies above the modal range. But I'm not sure what algorithms they've used, so I think it's better to allow them to address your post. I've written an E-Mail to the folks that authored CARA, so we'll see how they respond.