Communications in Partial Differential Equations ›

Volume 36, 2011 - Issue 6

Original Articles

Angular Average of Time-Harmonic Transport Solutions

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Pages 1044-1070 | Received 22 Jul 2010, Accepted 20 Oct 2010, Published online: 31 Jan 2011

Cite this article https://doi.org/10.1080/03605302.2010.540608

Abstract

We consider the angular averaging of solutions to time-harmonic transport equations. Such quantities model measurements obtained for instance in optical tomography, a medical imaging technique, with frequency-modulated sources. Frequency modulated sources are useful to separate ballistic photons from photons that undergo scattering with the underlying medium. This paper presents a precise asymptotic description of the angularly averaged transport solutions as the modulation frequency ω tends to ∞. Provided that scattering vanishes in the vicinity of measurements, we show that the ballistic contribution is asymptotically larger than the contribution corresponding to single scattering. Similarly, we show that singly scattered photons also have a much larger contribution to the measurements than multiply scattered photons. This decomposition is a necessary step toward the reconstruction of the optical coefficients from available measurements.

Keywords:

Averaged measurements | Forward transport theory | Inverse transport problem | Optimal tomography | Stationary phase | Time-harmonic regime

2000 Mathematics Subject Classification:

35Q20 | 35R30

Acknowledgment

This work was supported in part by NSF grant DMS-0804696 and DOE grant DE-FG52-08NA28779.

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