

Analytical solutions for light interaction with a sphere

Definitions: $x \equiv \pi D / \lambda$ - size parameter

$m = n + in'$ - index of refraction relative to medium

$\rho \equiv 2x(n-1)$ - phase lag suffered by ray crossing the sphere along its diameter

$\rho' \equiv 4xn'$ - optical thickness corresponding to absorption along the diameter

$\beta \equiv \tan^{-1}(n'/(n-1))$

D - Diameter

λ - wavelength in medium (=wavelength in vacuum/index of refraction of medium relative to vacuum)

Rayleigh regime: $x \ll 1$ and $|m|x \ll 1$

$$Q_a = 4x \operatorname{Im} \left\{ \frac{(m^2 - 1)}{(m^2 + 2)} \right\}$$

note: proportional to λ^{-1}

$$Q_b = \frac{8}{3} x^4 \left| \frac{(m^2 - 1)}{(m^2 + 2)} \right|^2$$

note: proportional to λ^{-4}

$$Q_c = Q_a + Q_b$$

$$Q_{bb} = Q_b / 2$$

$$\text{Phase function: } \langle \beta \rangle = 0.75(1 + \cos^2 \theta)$$

Rayleigh-Gans regime: $|m-1| \ll 1$ and $\rho \ll 1$

$$Q_a = \frac{8}{3} x \operatorname{Im} \{ (m-1) \}$$

note: proportional to λ^{-1}

$$Q_b = |m^2 - 1| \left[2.5 + 2x^2 - \sin(4x)/4x - 7/16(1 - \cos(4x)) / x^2 + (1/(2x^2) - 2) \{ \gamma + \log(4x) - \operatorname{Ci}(4x) \} \right],$$

where $\gamma = 0.577$ and

$$C_i(x) = - \int_x^\infty \frac{\cos(u)}{u} du$$

$$Q_c = Q_a + Q_b$$

$$\text{For } x \ll 1: Q_b = \frac{32}{27} x^4 |m-1|^2, Q_{bb} = Q_b / 2$$

$$\text{For } x \gg 1: Q_b = 2 x^2 |m-1|^2, Q_{bb} = 0.31 |m-1|^2$$

Anomalous diffraction (VDH): $x \gg 1, |m-1| \ll 1$ (ρ can be $\gg 1$)

$$Q_c = 2 - 4 \exp(-\rho \tan \beta) \left[\cos(\beta) \sin(\rho - \beta) / \rho + (\cos \beta / \rho)^2 \cos(\rho - 2\beta) \right] + 4 (\cos \beta / \rho)^2 \cos 2\beta$$

$$Q_a = 1 + 2 \exp(-\rho') / \rho' + 2 (\exp(-\rho') - 1) / \rho'^2$$

$$Q_b = Q_c - Q_a$$

Geometric optic: $x \gg \gg 1$

$$Q_c = 2$$

Absorbing particle: $Q_b = 1, Q_a = 1$

Exactly Non-absorbing particle: $Q_b = 2, Q_a = 0$

Angular scattering cross section: $\hat{\beta}_{diff}(\theta) = \frac{Gx^2}{16\pi} \left[\frac{2J_1(x \sin \theta)}{x \sin \theta} \right]^2 (1 + \cos \theta)^2$, where G

is the cross sectional area ($\pi D^2 / 4$).