

Erratum

Erratum to “The effects of averaging on the enhancement factor for absorption of light by carbon particles in microdroplets of water” [JQSRT 72 (2002) 765]

Vadim A. Markel

Departments of Radiology and Bioengineering, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA

In my previous publication [1], I have argued that the average enhancement factor $\langle G \rangle$ for absorption of light by carbon inclusions in microdroplets of water can be as large as $\langle G \rangle \sim 25$, which is significantly larger than was previously reported [2,3]. This enhancement was attributed in Ref. [1] to the narrow morphology-dependent resonances in microspheres. It was concluded that the integral effect of such resonances is not small. However, the numerical results that supported this conclusion have been affected by a programming error. After this error was corrected, I have performed new simulations under the conditions identical to those of Ref. [1], and have found that the average enhancement factor is much smaller. For example, the correct numerical data analogous to those shown in Fig. 3 of Ref. [1] are presented in Fig. 1. Thus, the conclusion of Ref. [1] is not confirmed. Note that the same programming error has also affected the results of an earlier publication [4].

Although the simulations of Ref. [1] proved to be incorrect, the question of the influence of the narrow morphology-dependent resonances on the absorption enhancement factor averaged over a wide range of size parameters should not be closed. It is known that the internal field coefficients c_l and d_l can, in principle, become very large, so that $|c_l|^2, |d_l|^2 \gg 1$ (note that the squared amplitudes of the scattering coefficients a_l and b_l are bounded above by unity). For example, Grandy provides an example of a TM resonance for $l = 100$ and the refractive index $m = 1.45$ which occurs at $x \approx 74.89$ [5]. The line width of this resonance (considering x as a spectral variable) was estimated to be $\approx 1.38 \times 10^{-12}$, while the amplitude $|c_{100}|^2$ to be $\approx 4.89 \times 10^{12}$. The integral weight of this resonance is clearly not small. Thus, the internal field coefficients may become quite large at certain points in the two-dimensional plane of x and m (assuming that m is real). In Ref. [1], averaging over size parameters was performed for a fixed value of the refractive index, $m = 1.33$. However, proper averaging must take into account variations in m , either due to the dispersion, or to the changes in the environment.

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E-mail address: vmarkel@mail.med.upenn.edu.

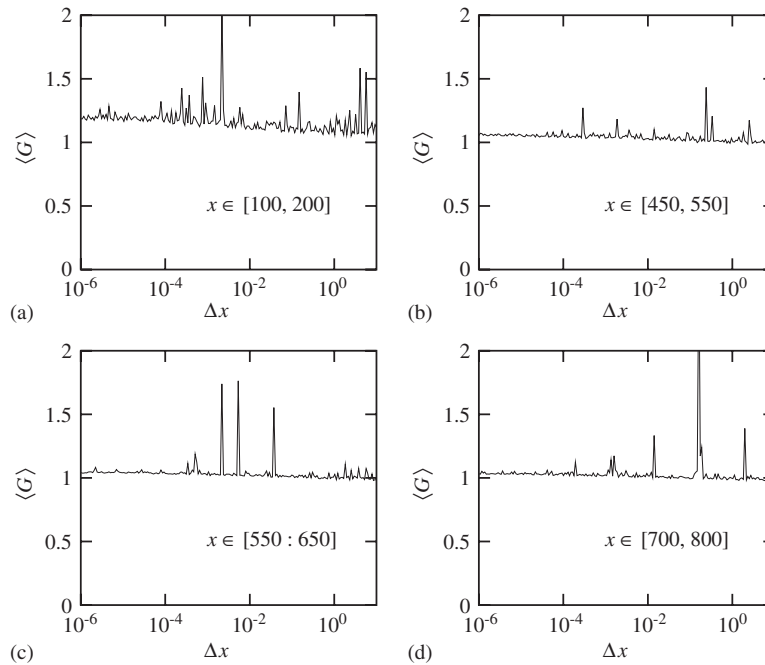


Fig. 1. Correct numerical data analogous to those shown in Fig. 3 of Ref. [1]. The average enhancement factor $\langle G \rangle$ is plotted as a function of Δx for different averaging intervals $[x_{\min}, x_{\max}]$, where $x = ka$ is the size parameter. Here $\langle G \rangle = N^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^N G(x_i)$ and $x_i = x_{\min} + \Delta x(i - 1)$, $\Delta x = (x_{\max} - x_{\min}) / (N - 1)$.

References

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