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Editorial Laser-light and interactions with particles (LIP), 2022

Fabrice R.A. Onofri*
Aix-Marseille Université, CNRS, IUSTI UMR 7343, 13 453, Marseille, France

Gérard Gouesbet

CORIA-UMR 6614, Normandie Université, CNRS, Université et INSA de Rouen, Campus Universitaire du Madrillet, Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, 76800, France

Maciej Kolwas Institute of Physics, Al. Lotnikow 32/46, 02-668 Warsaw, Poland

Daniel Jakubczyk Institute of Physics, Al. Lotnikow 32/46, 02-668 Warsaw, Poland

*Corresponding author : fabrice.onofri@univ-amu.fr

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Lorenz-Mie theory and shaped beams, Bessel functions, optical forces, plasmon-polariton excitation and photonic molecules, optical wireless communication, optical particle characterization methods

This "Laser-light and interactions with particles (LIP), 2022", or "LIP2022", topical issue brings together papers selected after the organization, but not exclusively, of the eponymous conference which tooks place from August 21st to 26th, 2023, in Warsaw, under the chairmanship of Professors D. Jakubczyk and M. Kolwas [1]. The biennial LIP conference series is a direct descendant of the former "Optical Particle Sizing (OPS), theory and practice" conference, launched and chaired by G. Gouesbet and G. Gréhan in Rouen in 1987. OPS was renamed as "Optical Particle Characterization Conference (OPC)" after 1990. The OPS and OPC conferences were mainly devoted to optical measurements, using laser sources, of the size of individual particles and, subsequently, to the characterization of their composition or temperature. In 2012, to take account of the most recent developments in the field, it was decided to rename the conference series to "LIP" and broaden its topics to laser beams description, including acoustical and quantum beams; mechanical effects of light for particle manipulation, optical tweezer, force measurement; near-field, far-field and time-resolved scattering computations and laboratory experiments; plasmonic and other resonances; scattering properties of complex shaped particles and aggregates: morphology; multiple scattering in random, dense or turbulent. Since the beginning applications are also welcomed in the following domains: two- and multiphase flow characterization; aerosol and atmospheric sciences: nucleation, transport, characterization; plasma and soft matter physics: colloids, suspensions, aggregation; biomedical optical engineering: cell manipulation and properties, microrheology; remote sensing and free space communication and optical particle characterization [2-5].

The present topical issue contains 16 papers that are briefly introduced in what follows. They are organized in seven categories or topics: computation of complex functions related to light scattering problems, description of particular structured beams in free space, scattering of nanoemitters and photonic molecules, optical forces, shaped beams and their propagation in the atmosphere, evaluation of asymptotic light scattering models and optical particle characterization methods.

We start with two papers by Ambrosio et al. [6, 7], dealing with the computation of complex functions related to light scattering problems. Since the beginning of electromagnetic theory, the

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numerical calculation of solutions has been a key issue. The case of the Lorenz-Mie theory (LMT), whose formalism was established more than a century old [8, 9], is well known. The applicability of this theory, which gives the general expressions for the scattering of a plane wave by spherical, homogeneous and isotropic scatterers, became only real from the end of the 1970s, beginning of the 1980s. This, thanks to the spreading of personal computers, but also its partial rewriting, in terms of the ratio of complex functions and their derivatives as well the development of stable numerical algorithms using specific upward and downward recurrences [10-12]. This is precisely what it is proposed by Ambrosio et al [6], for specific expressions involving products between (Ricatti-)Bessel functions, and their derivatives, that are of interest to compute photophoresis effects on lossy concentric spherical particles. This approach is extended by the same authors, in a second article [7], for expressions of complex functions appearing in the calculation of the photophoretic asymmetry factors of infinite cylinders. The latter, illuminated by plane waves or light-sheets, being, either isolated or positioned near conducting corners or planar boundaries.

The next two papers [13, 14] deal with the description of structured beams in the frame of the Generalized Lorenz-Mie theory (GLMT) [15]. Generally speaking, GLMT gives general expressions for the scattering of shaped beams by spherical homogeneous or concentric particles, spheroids..., with a separation variable method and the introduction of beam shape coefficients (BSCs) [15]. In the first paper, Ambrosio [13] introduces an analytical approach to overcome numerical limitations in the description of frozen waves, i.e. a specific class of non-diffracting and stationary localized wave field whose intensity envelope remains static [16]. The two major improvements concern the determination of the Fourier coefficients of compositions of generalized Legendre functions and the exact solution to integrals involving Bessel functions for an on-axis configuration. The second paper deals with the description of Ince-Gaussian beams (IGBs, named for Edward L. Ince's polynomials) [17] in the frame of the GLMT[15]. IGBs beams are exact solutions of the paraxial wave equation, like Hermite-Gaussian, Laguerre-Gaussian or hypergeometric-Gaussian beams for instance. The Hermite-Gaussian and Laguerre-Gaussian modes are a special case of the IG modes that are natural solutions to the paraxial wave equation (PWE) in elliptic cylindrical coordinates. In the present work, Votto et al. succeed to derive with the finite series method the BSCs of IGBs beams from the BSCs Laguerre-Gaussian beams, opening perspectives for a better description of frozen waves in light scattering problems notably.

The beam shape also matters when dealing with long distance optical wireless communication and LIDAR remote sensing, due to the diffraction of the beam, the presence of aerosol and raindrops [18], as well as the turbulence of the atmosphere [19]. Dong et al. [18] consider the energy attenuation characteristics of high-order Bessel vortex beams [20] under rainfall atmospheric conditions. An optical vortex is a structured light wave which has an isolated point singularity. A polarization vortex (vector beam) has spatially variant polarizations with a polarization singularity, whereas a phase vortex has a spiral phase front with a phase singularity or screw dislocation [21]. The fact is that optical vortices has recently gained increasing interest in optical particle manipulation, laser machining, optical microscopy and optical communications. In the present paper, the authors show, through numerical simulation using GLMT framework, that the beam extinction caused by raindrop is significantly reduced when using Bessel vortex beam instead of classical Gaussian beams. The authors also show that increasing the topological charge and axial cone angle of Bessel vortex laser beam increases their penetrating ability in rainfall environment, like the use of near-infrared beams rather than visible or mid-infrared ones. Then, Gökçe et al [19] investigate the propagation of multimode beams whose wavefront is distorted by the turbulence of the atmosphere itself, limiting the quality and range of optical communications [22]. The model developed [19] accounts particularly for the structure constants of atmosphere, the number of modes of the laser beam, the bi-static distance, the focal length and radius of the coupling lenses at the optical fiber outputs. Numerical simulations reveal that increasing the number of modes enhances notably the coupling efficiency performance when compared with Gaussian beams. The same hold for the source size, so has to the size and the focal length of the coupling lenses, and the wavelength in a certain extent.

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The next two papers deal with the scattering of nanoemitters [23] and photonic molecules [24]. The work by G. Burlak G. and Medina-Ángel [23] is part of the studies devoted to the linear and nonlinear plasmonic properties of nanohybrids and nanocomposites made of metallic nanoparticles and nanoemitters emitters (e.g. [25, 26]). The model developed herein reveals that the inclusion in these structures of dispersed single-walled carbon nanotubes considerably changes the properties of the plasmon-polariton fields in such a hybrid system. This makes possible to control the properties of local optical fields that allows creating of miniature low threshold coherent sources with tunable polarization. Numerical simulations show also that the strength of coupling of nanoemitter with plasmon-polaritons is maximal when the field interconnections appear in the entire carbon nanotubes array. We then move to a work by Y. E. Geints that is focused on the optical properties of miniature resonant microcavities whose efficiency is sufficient to provide whispering-gallery modes. These "photonic molecules (PM)" [27], composed of "atoms" (e.g., cylinders or spheres) are studied when excited simultaneously via two light channels (tapered fibers). The current numerical study, restricted to mirror-symmetric PM, reports that for a seven-atom silicon microcylinder cyclic-PM a tenfold intensity amplification/suppression of several supermodes from the Stokes and anti-Stokes bands of PM spectrum can be reached [26].

In many situations laser diagnostics can be considered as non-intrusive. This is no longer the case when the laser beams ionize or heat up matter or, as the following two papers [28] [29] show, induce mechanical forces through radiation pressure. Gouesbet et al. [28] study forces exerted on quadrupoles, in terms of BSCs and Mie coefficients, within the framework of GLMT. These forces are categorized in mixing forces and recoil forces, gradient and non-gradient forces. The authors also propose to introduce a third category, in which the so-called scattering forces are actually decomposed in scattering forces and non-standard forces [28]. The second paper on optical forces is from the same authors, it is the last paper of a series aiming to the partition of optical forces exerted on arbitrary sized particles in the framework of GLMT [29].

Although there are various electromagnetic approaches for calculating the scattering properties of fractal aggregates [30-32], they are still limited in terms of maximum dimension of the aggregates or the size and absorptivity of the monomers. The computational efforts they require with respect to analytical models like the Rayleigh-Debye-Gans approximation for fractal aggregates (RDG-FA)[33-36] is also a critical aspect for inverse methods requiring the creation of large database. RDG-FA, that is intrinsically based on Rayleigh theory of the scattering by a dipole, also neglects electromagnetic coupling within the aggregate. But it provides simple formula for the interpretation of the behavior of the optical structure factor (OSF) with key parameters such as the number of monomers, the fractal dimension or the radius of gyration [35, 37], that are at the basis of numerous reasoning in various research fields. In the present paper [38], Argentin et al employ the discrete dipole approximation and phasor approach [39] to study the role of the coupling on the OSF for the specific case of soot particles. The later have an intermediate fractal dimension (1.6 to 1.8) and high monomer absorptivity (carbonaceous material) that partially violate the basic assumptions of this theory. However, via a numerical study, the authors succeed to propose correction functions allowing to slightly extend the range of validity of RDG-FA for soot particles. These functions are thought to be useful for related laser diagnostics. The Geometrical Optics (GO) is another asymptotic approach whose hypothesis regarding the scatterer size is totally opposite. It basically assumes that the scattered is much larger than the wavelength and that other optical properties (like the Fresnel coefficients for instance) change slowly regarding the wavelength scale. The fact is that, during the last decades, the interest in GO and physical optics approximations (e.g. [40-47]), and their hybridization (e.g. [47, 48]), has considerably raised. This is certainly due to the fact that electromagnetic models stalled in the race towards particles with large size parameters (i.e. a few hundred). In the work by Zhang et al [49], the authors evaluate the characteristic size of a particle that is the most relevant to the accuracy of the GOA in the case of faceted dielectric particle generated from platonic solids. This model, introduced more than one decade ago, is not based on a conventional ray tracing method with differential geometry considerations, e.g. [44, 50-52]. As a hybrid model, it uses conventional GO to calculate the particle near-field and physical optics to calculate the corresponding far-field. It comes out from numerical comparisons with a rigorous invariant imbedding T-matrix method [53], that accuracy of this hybrid

model is determined by the individual facet size and the maximum dimension of the particle. The curvature of the particle surface, that acts as a divergent factor [50, 54] in the calculation of the intensity of the scattered rays or the focusing of the indent rays, is not considered in this work.

This topical issue ends with three papers on optical particle characterization methods. The first paper, by Shopa et al [55], deals with experiments on the analysis of the migration of nanoparticle towards the surface of a slowly evaporating colloidal droplet trapped in an electrodynamic trap. For this purpose, the authors track the change in the laser induced fluorescence of the doped nanoparticles as well as in the fine resonance structures of the scattering patterns and whispering gallery modes of the droplet. Moreover, despite some successes, the authors stress on a possible direct interaction of the pumping beam with the nanoparticles self-organization. The second paper, by Brunel et al [56], proposes a model accounting for spherical aberrations introduced by the imaging lens of interferometric particle imaging (IPI) systems. Note that IPI systems where initially designed to characterize the size and velocity of flowing droplet or bubble [57-59]. The correction model introduced here decomposes the aberrating phase term introduced by the imaging system over a basis of Gaussian functions. The predictions and corrections achieved with this model are in excellent agreement with experimental data for on-axis or off-axis rough particles, or for neighbored rough particles whose interferometric images overlap, producing complex speckle-like images. These developments are powerful not only for the correction of IPI images, but also all 3D reconstructions based on multi-view setups and back projections from different 2D images. In the last paper, by Peng et al [60], the authors investigate the robustness of the analysis of Global rainbow signals [61, 62] for signal-to-noise-ratios in the range 60 down to 5dB. The inversion method used is a conventional parametric analysis assuming the particle distribution shape (normal, log-normal, and bimodal normal)[63] but it is coupled with a more innovative empirical mode decomposition (EMD) for denoising. The numerical study, as well as preliminary experimental results, shows that the EMD method helps a lot in the ideal case of an additive white noise.

To conclude this editorial, as guest editors and on behalf of the committees of LIP conferences, we want to thank the JQSRT editorial board, for the quality of their work and their unwavering support. We also thank all authors of selected papers presented herein and the anonymous reviewers who have helped us, collectively, to improve the readability and impact of all selected papers. We also take this opportunity to announce that the 14th edition of LIP conference will be organized by the School of Physics of Xidian University, in Xi'an, China, on September 19th—22nd, 2024, see at http://lipconference.org/, under the supervision of the conference conveners, L. Guo, Y. Han, F. Onofri and G. Gouesbet.



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Fabrice Onofri is senior researcher (directeur de recherche) at the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS). He is mainly working on the optical and electromagnetic characterization of particle and particle systems. Over the years, his research has found applications in various fields ranging from aerosols and multiphase flows to soft matter and plasma physics, in the frame of national and international academic as well as industrial granted projects.



Gérard Gouesbet is a Professor Emeritus of the National Institute of Applied Sciences of Rouen. He has worked in particular on the modeling of turbulent and multiphase flows, on the nonlinear dynamics of systems, on combustion and plasmas, on optical particle characterization and light scattering. He is the driving force behind the development of generalized Lorenz-Mie theories, and the winner of the 2020 van de Hulst award. He published nearly 400 papers in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters. He is also involved in philosophical studies, e.g. his book in philosophy of sciences entitled "Hidden world in quantum physics, Dover publications" and his recently achieved tetralogy on the philosophy of violence (written in French)



Maciej Kolwas is professor in the Institute of Physics of the Polish Academy of Science. His scientific activity started in field of quantum optics studying two photon phenomena - Hanle effect, photon bunching, nonlinear phenomena inside laser resonators. Then his interest concentrated on study of thermodynamics of micro and nano droplets of pure liquids and colloidal suspensions with the laser light scattering. He held several administrative positions at the Institute of Physics- head of group, head of division, rector of International Post Graduate Studies. He was active member of physical societies acting on the end as President of Polish Physical Society and President European Physical Society.



Daniel Jakubczyk is an associate professor and head of the Group of Optical Characterisation of Micro- and Nanoobjects at the Institute of Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences. His research activities are essentially experimental. They have included the formation of light-induced sodium nanodroplets, near-field scanning optical microscopy, thermodynamics of evaporation of micro- and nanodroplets, surface thermodynamics of evaporating microdroplets of suspensions/nanofluids,

application of machine learning to optical recognition of nanofluids. He received his Ph.D. and habilitation degree at the Institute of Physics PAS.

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