THEORY OF REFLECTANCE AND EMITTANCE SPECTROSCOPY

Reflectance and emittance spectroscopy have become increasingly important tools in remote sensing, and have been employed in virtually all recent planetary spacecraft missions. They are primarily used to measure properties of disordered materials, especially in the interpretation of remote observations of the surfaces of the Earth and other terrestrial planets.

*Theory of Reflectance and Emittance Spectroscopy* gives a quantitative treatment of the physics of the interaction of electromagnetic radiation with particulate media, such as powders and soils. Subjects covered include electromagnetic wave propagation, single particle scattering, diffuse reflectance, thermal emittance, and polarization. This new edition has been updated and expanded to include: extension of the equivalent slab model of irregular particle scattering to include particle phase functions and coated particles; a quantitative treatment of the effects of porosity; a detailed discussion of the coherent backscatter opposition effect, including polarization; a quantitative treatment of simultaneous transport of energy within the medium by conduction and radiation; and lists of relevant databases and software.

With a strong emphasis on physical insights, this book is an essential reference for research scientists, engineers, and advanced students of planetary remote sensing.

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THEORY OF REFLECTANCE
AND EMITTANCE SPECTROSCOPY

Second Edition

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To Carley, Christopher, and Hanna
Contents

Acknowledgments xi

1 Introduction 1
  1.1 Scientific rationale 1
  1.2 About this book 3

2 Electromagnetic wave propagation 5
  2.1 Maxwell’s equations 5
  2.2 Electromagnetic waves in free space 6
  2.3 Propagation in a linear nonabsorbing medium 11
  2.4 Propagation in a linear absorbing medium 17
  2.5 Interference 22
  2.6 Polarization; the Stokes vector 23

3 The absorption of light 27
  3.1 Introduction 27
  3.2 Classical dispersion theory 27
  3.3 Dispersion relations 33
  3.4 Mechanisms of absorption 34
  3.5 Band shape and temperature effects 43
  3.6 Spectral databases 44

4 Specular reflection 45
  4.1 Introduction 45
  4.2 Boundary conditions in electromagnetic theory 45
  4.3 The Fresnel equations 46
  4.4 The Kramers–Kronig reflectivity relations 61
  4.5 Absorption bands in reflectivity 62
  4.6 Criterion for optical flatness 64
## Contents

5 Single-particle scattering: perfect spheres 66
  5.1 Introduction 66
  5.2 Concepts and definitions 66
  5.3 Scattering by a perfect, uniform sphere: Mie theory 72
  5.4 Properties of the Mie solution 73
  5.5 Other regular particles 95
  5.6 The equivalent-slab approximation 95
  5.7 Computer programs 99

6 Single-particle scattering: irregular particles 100
  6.1 Introduction 100
  6.2 Extension of definitions to nonspherical particles 101
  6.3 Empirical scattering functions 101
  6.4 Theoretical and experimental studies of nonspherical particles 109
  6.5 The generalized equivalent-slab model 122
  6.6 Computer programs and databases 144

7 Propagation in a nonuniform medium: the equation of radiative transfer 145
  7.1 Introduction 145
  7.2 Effective-medium theories 146
  7.3 The transport of radiation in a particulate medium 148
  7.4 Radiative transfer in a medium of arbitrary particle separation 158
  7.5 Methods of solution of radiative-transfer problems 169
  7.6 Computer programs 179

8 The bidirectional reflectance of a semi-infinite medium 180
  8.1 Introduction 180
  8.2 Reflectances 180
  8.3 Geometry and notation 183
  8.4 The radiance at a detector viewing a horizontally stratified medium 185
  8.5 Empirical reflectance expressions 187
  8.6 The diffusive reflectance 189
  8.7 The bidirectional reflectance 195
  8.8 Comparison of the IMSA model with measurements 210
  8.9 Bidirectional reflectance of a medium of arbitrary filling factor 216

9 The opposition effect 221
  9.1 Introduction 221
  9.2 The shadow-hiding opposition effect (SHOE) 224
  9.3 The coherent backscatter opposition effect (CBOE) 237
  9.4 Combined SHOE, CBOE, and IMSA models 260
Contents ix

10 A miscellany of bidirectional reflectances and related quantities 263
  10.1 Introduction 263
  10.2 Some commonly encountered bidirectional reflectance quantities 263
  10.3 Reciprocity 264
  10.4 Diffuse reflectance from a medium with a specularly reflecting surface 266
  10.5 Oriented scatterers: applications to vegetation canopies 268
  10.6 Reflectance of a layered medium 272
  10.7 Mixing formulas 282

11 Integrated reflectances and planetary photometry 287
  11.1 Introduction 287
  11.2 Integrated reflectances 287
  11.3 Planetary photometry 295

12 Photometric effects of large-scale roughness 303
  12.1 Introduction 303
  12.2 Derivation 307
  12.3 Applications to planetary photometry 323
  12.4 Summary of the roughness correction model 331
  12.5 Other planetary photometric models 335

13 Polarization of light scattered by a particulate medium 339
  13.1 Introduction 339
  13.2 Linear polarization of particulate media 340
  13.3 The positive branch of polarization 344
  13.4 The negative branch of polarization 354
  13.5 Summary 367

14 Reflectance spectroscopy 369
  14.1 Introduction 369
  14.2 Measurement of reflectances 370
  14.3 Inverting the reflectance to find the scattering parameters 372
  14.4 Absorption bands in reflectance 378
  14.5 The reflectance spectra of intimate mixtures 388
  14.6 Absorption bands in layered media 392
  14.7 Retrieving the absorption coefficient from the single-scattering albedo 395
  14.8 Other methodologies 400
  14.9 Particulate media with X < 1 406
  14.10 Planetary applications 407
Contents

15 Thermal emission and emittance spectroscopy
   15.1 Introduction
   15.2 Black-body thermal radiation
   15.3 Emissivity
   15.4 Kirchhoff’s law
   15.5 Combined reflectance and emittance
   15.6 Emittance spectroscopy
   15.7 The thermal shadow-hiding opposition effect: thermal beaming

16 Simultaneous transport of energy by radiation and thermal conduction
   16.1 Introduction
   16.2 Equations
   16.3 Some time-independent applications of the equations
   16.4 Time-dependent radiative and conductive models

Appendix A A brief review of vector calculus
Appendix B Functions of a complex variable
Appendix C The wave equation in spherical coordinates
Appendix D Fraunhofer diffraction by a circular hole
Appendix E Table of symbols

Bibliography
Index
Acknowledgments

From the first edition

Many persons have contributed to this book. Foremost is my wife, Joyce, to whom this book is dedicated. Without her continuing support, to say nothing of pleas, cajoleries, and sometimes even threats, this book would not have been written. My children, Kevin, Jeff, and Cheryl, all managed to launch themselves successfully while this work was under way. In spite of several anxious moments, they have been a joy and an inspiration.

Next are my former students. Their suggestions, criticisms, measurements, and computations made important contributions. Bob Nelson built the goniometric photopolarimeter that took much of the data used in this book. He will be happy to know the instrument is still functional. I am especially grateful to Eddie Wells for his careful measurements and suggestions, and also to Jeff Wagner, Deborah Domingue, and Audrey McGuire.

Over the years I have benefited from conversations with many other persons, particularly Jack Salisbury, Paul Helfenstein, Carle Pieters, Joe Veverka, Roger Clark, Marcia Nelson, Jim Pollack, Ted Bowell, and Kaari Lumme. I also wish to thank Sophia Prybylski of Cambridge University Press. Her careful attention to the manuscript caught many errors of both typography and grammar.

My father was fond of quoting Albert Einstein to the effect that a scientist never really understands his own theories unless he can satisfactorily explain them to an average person. I never was able to verify whether or not Einstein actually said this, but it seemed like a good principle to follow. My colleague and friend Bill Cassidy is an explorer, finder of meteorites, and raconteur extraordinaire, but he has never claimed to be a mathematician, and thus he was an ideal man-on-the-street for my ideas. Many times he watched while I covered a blackboard with equations, and then asked me to explain in English what I had just written. I hope his patience has had a positive effect on the clarity of this book.
Acknowledgments

The major impetus behind the development of the reflectance models described here has been the desire to provide a tool that will enable planetary scientists to better understand the surfaces of the various bodies we study. I am grateful to the Planetary Geology and Geophysics Program, Solar System Exploration Division, Office of Space Science and Applications of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for their continuing support. I especially wish to thank former NASA program manager Steve Dwornik, who continued to approve my grant proposals even though at times he was not quite sure what I was attempting to do. I also thank the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences for a senior research fellowship at NASA’s Ames Research Center that supported me while I was working out some of these ideas.

I would be remiss if I did not especially acknowledge Thomas Gold, who may be said to have started it all. I had just finished my graduate studies at Cornell University when President Kennedy announced that we were going to the Moon. As a result, planetary science was suddenly revitalized. I thought that this would be a much more exciting field in which to do research than neutron physics, which was the subject of my doctoral dissertation, and Tommy agreed to accept me for postdoctoral research.

No one knew what the surface of the Moon was like, but Tommy thought that it was covered with a very fine-grained soil, which he referred to by the generic term “dust.” At the time, that idea was at odds with the prevailing wisdom, which was divided between those who expected to find volcanic extrusive rock similar to Hawaiian aa and those who expected cobbly gravel, thought to have been generated by meteorite impacts. Tommy returned from a conference at which astronomers from the then Soviet Union had emphasized the strongly backscattering character of the lunar bidirectional reflectance function. He was sure that “dust” could have this property and suggested that I build a goniometric photometer to investigate the diffuse reflectances of particulate media.

He assigned a young graduate student, Hugh Van Horn, as my research assistant. Hugh has since gone on to study brighter and denser objects than the Moon. We built the photometer and proceeded to measure the bidirectional reflectance functions of everything we could lay our hands on, including pulverized rocks, but the only material that was as backscattering as the Moon was reindeer moss – hardly a likely candidate. Somewhat in desperation, we began referring to the mysterious shapes that would produce a lunar type of photometric function as “fairy castle structures.”

One day we discovered that very fine SiC abrasive powder was strongly backscattering, but that coarse SiC powder was not. There was no obvious reason for that difference in scattering properties, so I went off in search of microscope to see if a magnified inspection of the surface would give me a clue. It was late on Friday afternoon, and most of my colleagues had gone home, so that the only instrument
I could borrow was a low-power, stereoscopic microscope. This turned out to be serendipitous. First, I looked through the microscope at the coarse-grained powder. It resembled a pile of gravel and was not very interesting. Then I placed the fine-grained powder on the stage, and there were the fairy castles.

The name we had given the structures turned out not to be facetious at all, but is in fact a rather accurate description of the morphology of a powder in which the surface forces that act between grains exceed the gravitational forces exerted on them by the Earth. As I looked through the microscope, I saw a miniature world of deep, mysterious valleys and soaring towers leaning at crazy angles atop rugged, porous hills, with flying buttresses, and all connected by lacy bridges. Readers can easily verify these features for themselves. The complexity of such a texture is impossible to perceive with a monocular microscope, but it is just what is necessary to produce a lunar-type reflectance function. This discovery, along with Lyot’s polarization data, turned out to be among the strongest pre-Apollo evidences that the lunar surface consists of a fine-grained regolith.

After we had solved the problem experimentally, I thought I would see if I could describe it mathematically, and I have been thinking about reflectances, off and on, ever since.

Finally, I wish to thank Ted Bowell for proposing that an asteroid that he discovered be named 3549 Hapke after me. I hope that someday my granddaughter Carley will land on it.

Preface to the second edition

In the years since the first edition of this book appeared reflectance and emittance spectroscopy have evolved into mature techniques for the remote study of surfaces of bodies of the solar system. The first edition had been generously received by my colleagues, so Cambridge University Press suggested that I write a second edition. Interactions with many colleagues, including those cited above and also Paul Lucey, Jack Mustard, and Mark Robinson, continue to help my understanding of reflectance. I am particularly indebted to my former students Jennifer Piatek and Amy Snyder Hale. The many discussions with them and their research while at the University of Pittsburgh made important contributions to this book. Jen’s wizardry with MAC computers and her general programming skills were astonishing to someone who finished his formal schooling with only a slide rule. Bob Nelson has grown from a former graduate student into a respected planetary scientist and personal friend. We continue to collaborate on measurements of the reflectance and polarization of particulate media, and these measurements and his insights have been invaluable.

Finally, I thank Larry Taylor for naming the mineral hapkeite (Fe$_2$Si) after me.