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Focusing light through a free-form scattering medium

Alfredo Rates¹, Aurèle J. L. Adam², Wilber L. IJzerman^{3,4}, Ad Lagendijk¹, Willem L. Vos¹

1. Complex Photonic Systems (COPS), MESA+ Institute for Nanotechnology, University of Twente,

P.O. Box 217, 7500AE Enschede, The Netherlands

2. Optics Research Group, Department of Imaging Physics, Delft University of Technology,

Lorentzweg 1, 2628 CJ Delft, The Netherlands

3. CASA, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, Eindhoven University of Technology,

PO Box 513, 5600MB Eindhoven, The Netherlands

4. Signify Research, High Tech Campus 7, 5656AE Eindhoven, The Netherlands

Imaging and transport light through scattering opaque media is a hot topic pursued in multiple fields, ranging from nanotechnology to life sciences. A promising technique to do this is wavefront shaping (WFS), where the light propagation through a scattering medium is controlled by interference [1][2]. Recently, the potential of WFS was even extended to, for instance, time-varying samples [3][4]. In most cases to date, WFS has been done on the quintessential scattering sample geometry, namely in slabs.

Real-world applications, however, require samples to have any shape – "free-form scattering optics" – that defies current theories. Here, we present the study of an opaque sample of TiO2 particles suspended in silicone. Exploiting the flexibility of silicone, we are able to modify the geometry of the sample and measure the enhancement of the intensity η in a point of the speckle pattern. Using this opportunity, we compare the performance of a flat and a free form sample. These experimental measurements will be compared with a newly formulated theory of light transport in free form scattering media.

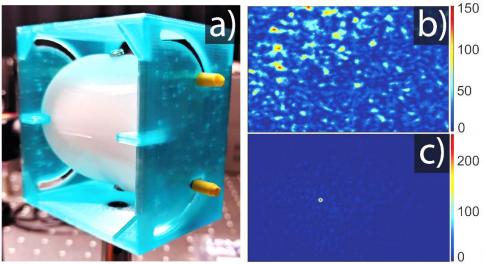


Fig. 1 a) Photo of a free formed (curve) slab, sample of TiO2 nanoparticles in silicone. b) Speckle when illuminating the bent sample with plane waves. c) Wavefront shaping leads to a brighter spot even when transmitted through a free-formed scattering sample.

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