

Non-Gaussian correlations between reflected and transmitted intensity patterns emerging from opaque disordered media

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The propagation of monochromatic light through a scattering medium produces speckle patterns in reflection and transmission, and the apparent randomness of these patterns prevents direct imaging through thick turbid media. Yet, since elastic multiple scattering is fundamentally a linear and deterministic process, information is not lost but distributed among many degrees of freedom that can be resolved and manipulated. Here we demonstrate experimentally that the reflected and transmitted speckle patterns are robustly correlated, and unravel all the complex and unexpected features of this fundamentally non-Gaussian and long-range correlation. In particular, we show that it is preserved even for opaque media with thickness much larger than the transport mean free path, proving that information survives the multiple scattering process and can be recovered. The existence of correlations between the two sides of a scattering medium opens up new possibilities for the control of transmitted light without any feedback from the target side, but using only information gathered from the reflected speckle.

INTRODUCTION

In multiply scattering materials, the random inhomogeneities in the refractive index scramble the incident wavefront, mixing colors and spatial degrees of freedom, resulting in a white and opaque appearance [1]. Under illumination with coherent light and for elastic scattering, interference produces large intensity fluctuations that are not averaged out by a single realization of the disorder, resulting in a seemingly random speckle pattern [2]. In principle the speckle pattern encodes all the information on the sample and the incident light [3], and complete knowledge of the scattering matrix allows one to reverse the multiple scattering process and to recover the initial wavefront, thus permitting imaging through turbid materials [4, 5].

Speckle patterns are not as random as they appear at first sight. Interference between the possible scattering paths in the medium are known to produce spatial correlations between the intensity measured at different positions [6–8], and correlations of different ranges have been identified [9]. Short-range correlations determine the size of a speckle spot, while long-range correlations emerge as a consequence of constraints such as energy conservation or reciprocity [10–12]. The idea of using spatial correlations for imaging has recently emerged [13, 14], but it has been so far limited to the optical memory effect [15], a correlation of purely geometrical origin.

At first glance, as transmitted and reflected waves are expected to undergo very different multiple scattering sequences, correlations between transmitted and reflected wavefronts are expected to quickly average to zero. Very little attention has been given to the cross-correlation between the intensities measured at two points on opposite sides of the scattering medium (i.e., in the reflected and

transmitted speckles patterns), their existence being only mentioned in passing [16, 17]. However, a recent theoretical study suggested that a long-range correlation should survive even for thick (opaque) scattering media [18]. The existence of this reflection-transmission correlation suggests that one could non-invasively extract information on the transmitted speckle from a measurement restricted to the reflection half-space. As the discovery of new speckle correlation, like the recently described shift memory effect [19], have been systematically translated into novel imaging techniques in the past [20], we suggest that the reflection-transmission correlation we describe here will be of fundamental importance for future developments of applications based on reflection measurements, such as *in vivo* biological imaging [21].

In this work, we identify the non-trivial conditions required to detect the correlation between transmitted and reflected speckle patterns and report the first experimental proof of its existence. Furthermore, we show that this correlation is robust and we provide a complete understanding of all its complex features, for scattering materials with thickness L and scattering mean free path ℓ covering all the range from single scattering ($L \lesssim \ell$) to diffusive transport ($L \gg \ell$). The data are supported by 3D numerical simulations and by a theoretical analysis of the lineshape of the correlation function, and its dependence on the experimental parameters. The experiments and the theory embrace the complexity and the richness of the phenomenon, thus opening the way to its use as a basic ingredient in the design of new approaches for sensing, imaging or communicating through opaque scattering media.

Although major properties of speckle patterns are well captured by modelling wave propagation with Gaussian random processes [22], we will show that the cross-sample

correlation emerges from a non-Gaussian correction to the speckle properties. As a consequence, the correlation function is always small in amplitude but long-range. In particular, it does not contain any feature oscillating at the wavelength scale. In addition, we will demonstrate that the correlation function is independent of the disorder strength in the regime of large optical thickness in which the medium is opaque. This means that changing the scattering mean free path ℓ , for example by changing the density of scatterers, does not affect the correlation function. Hence, the dimensionless conductance (proportional to ℓ) is not the crucial parameter governing the cross-sample correlation measured here, contrary to the behaviour of long-range correlations measured in transmission, that have been extensively studied [7, 8]. Furthermore, we will show that the information content of the correlation function between reflection and transmission crucially depends on the distance to the sample. This is also in sharp contrast with long-range transmission correlations for which far-field and surface correlations are essentially related by Fourier transforms so that they carry the same information. Finally, we will identify a regime of moderate optical thickness where the correlation function becomes anisotropic and keeps a memory of the illumination angle. This memory effect, due to long-range correlations, has never been detected before and is fundamentally different from the well-known memory effect observed in transmission or reflection and resulting from Gaussian statistics [15].

MEASUREMENT OF THE TRANSMISSION-REFLECTION CORRELATION

The experimental apparatus is shown in Fig. 1(a). A monochromatic wave (2 mW He-Ne laser) is incident at an angle $\sim 45^\circ$ on a suspension of TiO_2 particles in glycerol, held between two microscope slides to form a scattering slab. The slab thickness L is controlled using calibrated spacers, and the mean free path ℓ is controlled by varying the TiO_2 concentration (see Appendix A). Typical samples with different optical thickness $b = L/\ell$, from semitransparent to fully opaque are shown in Fig. 1(b). For a set of given L and ℓ we record the intensity patterns $R(\mathbf{r})$ and $T(\mathbf{r})$ on the surface of the sample in reflection and transmission respectively, with two identical imaging systems each composed by a 10x microscope objective, a plano-convex 150 mm lens, and CCD camera (Allied Vision Manta G-146). As the samples are liquid the resulting speckle patterns change in time due to Brownian motion of the scatterers, with a decorrelation time τ that depends strongly on the sample thickness. Choosing an integration time $< \tau$, and a time interval between successive measurements $> \tau$, allows us to measure speckle images $R(\mathbf{r})$ and $T(\mathbf{r})$ for a large ensemble of configurations of the disordered medium. For all our

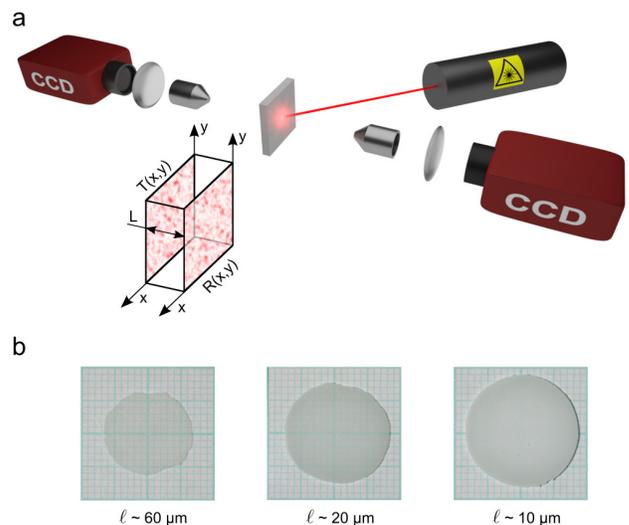


Figure 1. (a) Experimental setup. A scattering slab, formed by a suspension of TiO_2 particles in glycerol, is illuminated by a laser beam incident at an angle $\sim 45^\circ$. The speckle patterns on the two surfaces, $T(x, y)$ and $R(x, y)$ respectively, are recorded with two identical imaging systems. (b) Examples of samples with thickness $L = 20\mu\text{m}$ but different TiO_2 concentrations: from left to right 5 g/l, 10 g/l and 40 g/l, which correspond to a mean free path of $(60, 20.4 \text{ and } 9.8) \pm 2.5 \mu\text{m}$, respectively.

experiments the integration time was set to 1 ms. An example pair of images measured for a given realization of disorder is shown in Fig. 2(a,b). For each pair of R and T we calculate the correlation function C^{RT} defined as

$$C^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r}) = \frac{\langle \delta R(\mathbf{r}) \delta T(\mathbf{r} + \Delta\mathbf{r}) \rangle}{\langle R(\mathbf{r}) \rangle \langle T(\mathbf{r} + \Delta\mathbf{r}) \rangle} \quad (1)$$

where $\Delta\mathbf{r} = (\Delta x, \Delta y)$ is a transverse shift between the images, and $\delta f = f - \langle f \rangle$ denotes the statistical fluctuation of a random variable f , with $\langle \cdot \rangle$ the ensemble average. In the experiment, the averaging process is performed in two steps (see Appendix B). First, a cross correlation product between δR and δT , i.e. the integral $\int \delta R(\mathbf{r}) \delta T(\mathbf{r} + \Delta\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r}$, is taken for each realization of disorder. Plotted as a 2D map, the correlation product appears random, with a granularity similar to that of a speckle image [Fig. 2(c)]. Second, an ensemble averaging over the realizations of the disorder is taken, resulting in the appearance of a clear pattern in $C^{RT}(\Delta x, \Delta y)$ [Fig. 2(d)], and demonstrating that the transmitted and reflected speckle patterns are indeed correlated.

Speckle correlations are commonly divided into three categories: Short-range correlations (C_1) that decay with the separation between the observation points on the scale of the wavelength, long-range correlations (C_2) that

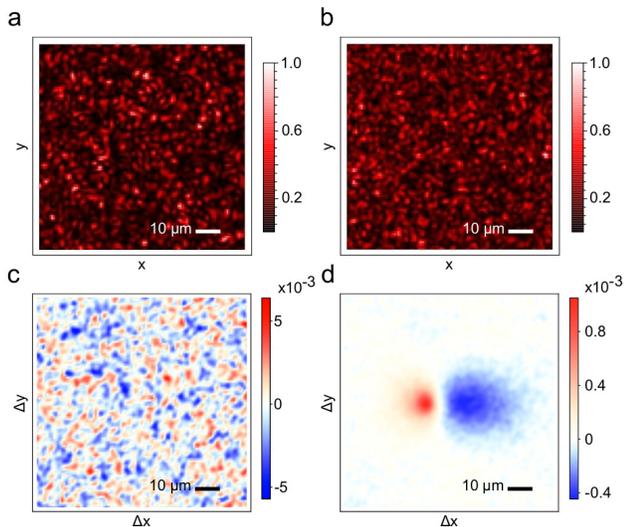


Figure 2. Typical measured speckle patterns in transmission (a) and reflection (b), for a sample with $L = 20 \mu\text{m}$ and $\ell \simeq 60 \mu\text{m}$. (c) Cross correlation product between the speckle patterns in (a) and (b). (d) Correlation function $C^{RT}(\Delta x, \Delta y)$ obtained after additional ensemble averaging from 10^4 realizations of the disorder. The long-range character of the correlation function, that extends far beyond the size of a speckle spot, is clearly visible.

have a polynomial decay, and infinite-range correlations (C_3) [8, 9]. The short-range correlation C_1 corresponds to the approximation of a field obeying Gaussian statistics [2], while C_2 and C_3 are non-Gaussian corrections. An additional infinite-range correlation (C_0) appears under illumination by a point source located inside the medium [23]. One can see in Fig. 2(d) that the lineshape of $C^{RT}(\Delta \mathbf{r})$ is much wider than a speckle spot, indicating that the dominant contribution to this correlation is long-range in nature.

In order to characterize the lineshape of the correlation function, and to probe its dependence on the sample parameters, we measured $C^{RT}(\Delta \mathbf{r})$ for different values of ℓ and L , covering the full range from the single scattering ($L \lesssim \ell$) to the diffusive ($L \gg \ell$) regime. The results are summarized in Fig. 3 (center and right columns), where both 2D maps $C^{RT}(\Delta x, \Delta y)$ and cross-sections along the line $\Delta y = 0$ (indicated as a dotted line in the 2D maps) are displayed. It is interesting to note that both the shape and the sign of the reflection/transmission correlation substantially depend on L and ℓ . In the single scattering regime (optical thickness $b \lesssim 1$), C^{RT} is dominated by a narrow peak (still much larger than a single speckle spot) with a negative side lobe. In the multiple scattering regime ($b \gg 1$), C^{RT} is dominated by a wide negative dip.

The short-range contributions to C^{RT} (C_1) decay on the scale of the wavelength [2], and are negligible in all measurements since in the reflection-transmission ge-

ometry the observation points are separated by a distance $\sqrt{L^2 + |\Delta \mathbf{r}|^2}$ which is much larger than λ for even the thinnest sample (see Appendix C for a detailed discussion). Hence, C^{RT} is necessarily a long-range correlation of the C_2 type. It is interesting to note that the reflection/transmission geometry naturally favors the observation of long-range correlations, without requiring any post-processing to remove the C_1 contribution that dominates in the pure transmission geometry [10, 11, 24, 25]. Another feature of the experiment is the illumination/detection geometry that excludes any contribution from specularly reflected and transmitted fields. Indeed, in the geometry in Fig. 1(a), the detectors do not collect the specularly reflected and transmitted averaged fields, but only the scattered light, i.e. the intensities of the fluctuating fields $T(\mathbf{r}) = |\delta E_T(\mathbf{r})|^2$ and $R(\mathbf{r}) = |\delta E_R(\mathbf{r})|^2$. This permits to track various long-range correlations all the way from $b \lesssim 1$ to $b \gg 1$ by avoiding spurious interference terms in the intensity correlation function that would not be negligible in the single scattering regime. The contribution of the averaged fields to the full field correlation is discussed in Appendix D.

NUMERICAL SIMULATIONS

To support the experimental data, we have performed full numerical simulations of wave propagation in three-dimensional disordered media. In the simulations, the samples consist of slabs of dipole scatterers with random positions. The scalar wave equation is solved numerically using the coupled-dipole method [26]. Since the measurements are not resolved in polarization, and since the input light is expected to depolarize on a length scale on the order of ℓ [27], we neglect polarization and numerically solve the scalar wave equation. To limit the number of scatterers and save computational time, the polarizability α of each scatterer has been chosen to maximize the scattering cross-section $\sigma_s = k^4 |\alpha|^2 / 4\pi$ leading to $\alpha = 4i\pi/k^3$, where k is the wavenumber. Adjusting the number density of scatterers ρ , we can vary the scattering mean-free path $\ell = 1/\rho\sigma_s$ and simulate different kinds of samples. Solving numerically the coupled-dipole equations, we compute the scattered field at any point on the input and exit surfaces of the slab, and deduce the correlation function $C^{RT}(\Delta \mathbf{r})$. The ensemble averaging is performed by computing the field for N realizations of the positions of the scatterers. N should be sufficiently large to satisfy $C^{RT} \gg \sigma/\sqrt{N}$, where σ is the standard deviation of the unaveraged correlation function. In the multiple scattering regime, where $C^{RT} \sim 1/(kL)^2$ and $\sigma \sim 1$ (see below), we get $N \gg (kL)^4$. As an example, for $k\ell = 10$ and $b = 1.5$, we have used 2685 dipoles and $N = 2.6 \times 10^7$ configurations. The results of the simulations are displayed in Fig. 3 (left column),

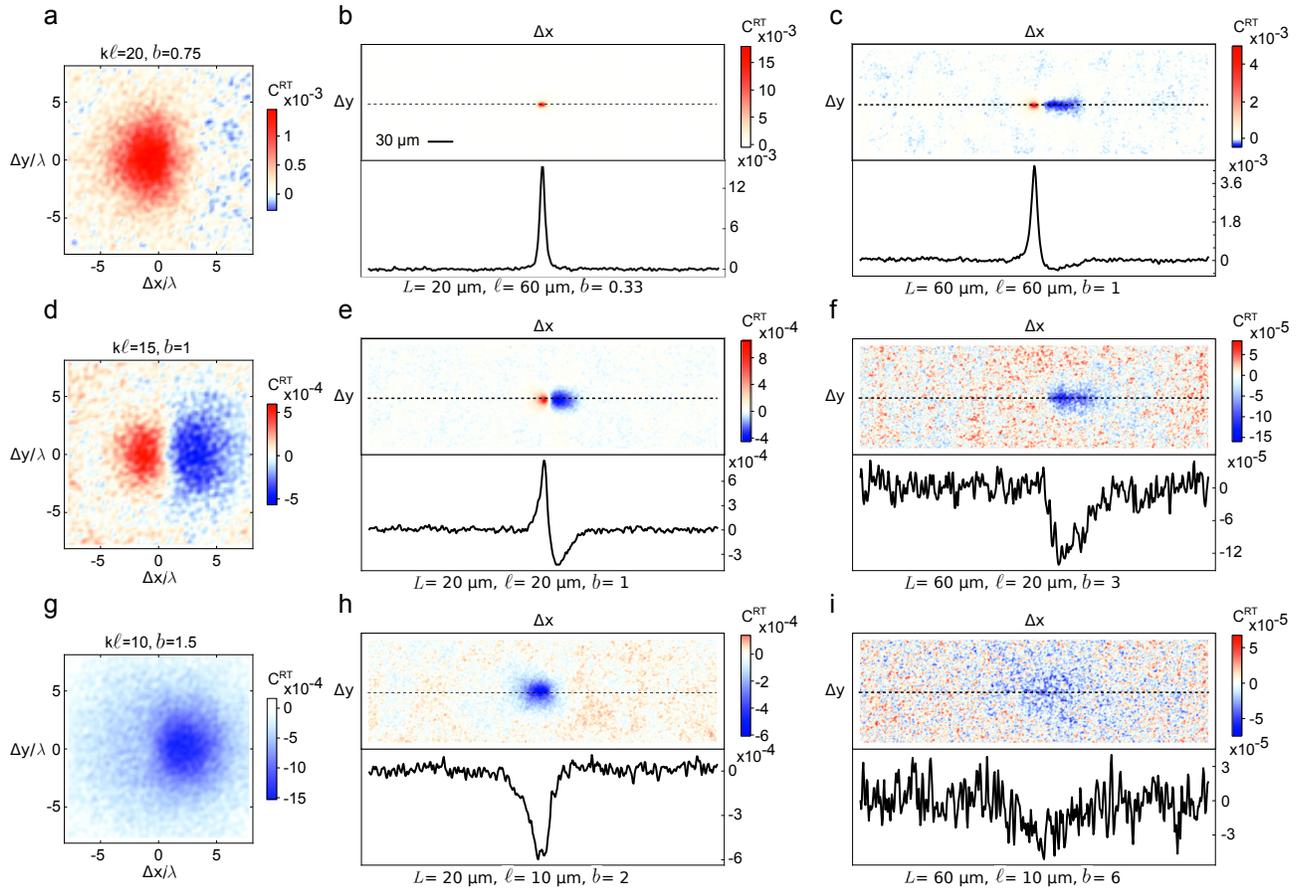


Figure 3. Average reflection-transmission correlation function C^{RT} for different values of L and ℓ and the optical thickness $b = L/\ell$. Left column: 3D numerical simulations of 2D maps of $C^{RT}(\Delta x, \Delta y)$. Center and right columns: Experimental results. For clarity, both 2D maps of $C^{RT}(\Delta x, \Delta y)$ and cross-sections along the line $\Delta y = 0$ (indicated as a dotted line in the 2D maps) are displayed. Two regimes are identified. For moderate optical thickness ($b \lesssim 1$), the correlation function is dominated by a narrow peak with a negative side lobe. For large optical thicknesses, ($b > 1$), the correlation function is dominated by a wide negative dip.

and are in very good agreement with the experimental data. The general shape of the correlation in the regimes $b < 1$, $b \simeq 1$ and $b > 1$ is well reproduced in the simulations. It is also worth noting that, in the experiment, N must be replaced by the effective number of realizations $N_{\text{eff}} = N\mathcal{A}L^{-2} \gg N$ that takes into account the spatial averaging, with \mathcal{A} the integration area in the speckle images. Taking advantage of the small decorrelation time of the medium and the large field of view of the camera, this effective number can be made large at will, allowing to probe the reflection/transmission correlation for sample thicknesses inaccessible in the simulations.

THEORETICAL ANALYSIS

In order to refine the analysis, and to get more physical insight, we have also used a formal perturbation theory in which the correlation function $C^{RT}(\Delta \mathbf{r})$ defined

in Eq. (1) is directly computed from a statistical ensemble averaging, without going through the intermediate cross correlation product used for the experimental data. Both averaging processes coincide provided that $\ell \gg \lambda$, a condition that is always satisfied in our experiments. Formal perturbation theory uses $1/k\ell$ as a small parameter, and relies on a diagrammatic formalism that allows one to derive explicit expressions of intensity correlation functions [6–8]. In the reflection/transmission geometry, care must be taken to properly account for leading contributions [16, 28].

Let us first discuss the regime of large optical thickness $L \gg \ell$ corresponding to Fig. 3(f-i). Strikingly, we observe in this regime that $C^{RT}(\Delta \mathbf{r})$ is negative, in agreement with the prediction in Ref. [18]. This means that for every bright spot in reflection (transmission) the corresponding area in transmission (reflection) is more likely to be darker, and *vice versa*. This feature is consistent with flux conservation arguments. Indeed, defining $T \propto$

$\int T(\mathbf{r})d\mathbf{r}$ and $R \propto \int R(\mathbf{r})d\mathbf{r}$, energy conservation imposes $T + R = 1$ for a non-absorbing medium, from which it follows that $\int C^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r})d\Delta\mathbf{r} \propto \langle \delta T \delta R \rangle = -\langle \delta T^2 \rangle < 0$. Note that the existence of negative long-range C_2 correlations has been previously pointed out in Refs. [17, 29].

We stress that the previous simple flux conservation argument imposes a global constraint on the correlation, but does not determine its sign for each position $\Delta\mathbf{r}$. Only a full theoretical calculation accounting for the interferences between crossing paths can give the full lineshape of $C^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r})$. Nonetheless, an intuitive understanding of the local sign of the reflection-transmission speckle correlation can be built in the following way. In a thick scattering slab, interferences create large fluctuations of the wave intensity at the scale of the wavelength (bulk speckle pattern). These intensity fluctuations create local fluctuations of the energy flux, that act as a source term for the diffusive transport of the intensity towards the medium boundaries. This mechanism is formally analogous to that of particle diffusion driven by Langevin forces in a molecular fluid [30, 31]. Due to local flux conservation, a positive flux fluctuation pointing towards the transmission interface has to be compensated on average by a negative fluctuation pointing towards the reflection interface, giving rise to a local negative correlation. This analysis shows that the existence of R-T correlations does not rely on energy conservation, so that we expect the correlation to be robust against absorption.

In Appendix E, we have refined the theoretical analysis performed in Ref. [18] in the regime $L \gtrsim \ell \gg \lambda$. We find that both the amplitude and the width of the correlation function depend on L and ℓ , as in the experimental data in Figs. 3(f-i). For $L \gg \ell$, the dominant diagrams belong to the class represented in Fig. 4(a), that are typical of long-range C_2 correlation functions. They predict a correlation function that is isotropic, independent of the angle of incidence, and scales as $C^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r}) = C_2^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r}) = -f(|\Delta\mathbf{r}|)/(kL)^2$, where f is a dimensionless function that decays on a range $|\Delta\mathbf{r}| \simeq L$ [18]. This long-range character of the correlation function originates from the crossing of two diffusive paths that probe a transverse distance L before escaping, as represented in Fig. 4(a). Note that this path crossing is the analogous of the source term in the Langevin picture mentioned above. Moreover, the correlation function in this regime is independent of the disorder strength $k\ell$, which makes it strikingly different from that observed in a pure transmission geometry, for which $C_2^{TT} \sim 1/[(k\ell)(kL)] \propto 1/g$, where g is the dimensionless conductance of the sample [9]. Another important difference between C_2^{RT} and C_2^{TT} is the evolution of their information content with respect to the detection scheme. Although C_2^{TT} contains the same information whether it is measured on the sample surface or in the far field, this is not the case for C_2^{RT} . Indeed, in the far field, we have $C^{RT}(\mathbf{k}_b, \mathbf{k}_{b'}) \sim \int C^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r})d\Delta\mathbf{r} = \text{const.}$ for any pair of observation directions $\mathbf{k}_b, \mathbf{k}_{b'}$, as the information

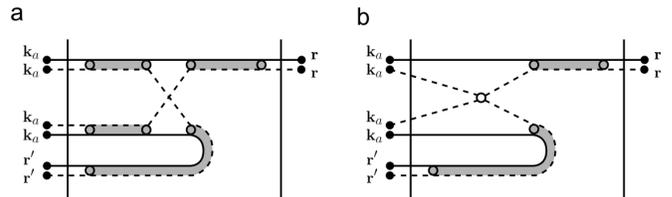


Figure 4. Diagrams contributing to the $C^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r})$ correlation. An intensity correlation depends on 2 intensities (4 fields) that propagate through the sample, therefore involving 4 inputs and 4 outputs. Shaded tubes represent diffusive paths and open circles stand for scatterers; single solid lines stand for averaged fields and single dashed lines for their complex conjugates. The diagram in panel (a) is representative of the class of C_2 diagrams describing the negative contribution of the correlation function at large optical thickness ($L \gg \ell$). Panel (b) represents the class of C_0 -type diagrams that contribute to the positive peak dominant in the regime $\ell \sim L \gg \lambda$.

content is spread uniformly over all degrees of freedom. We give a more detailed explanation of this phenomenon in Appendix E. For this reason we focus our discussion on the correlations measured on the sample surface.

In the regime of moderate optical thickness $\ell \sim L \gg \lambda$, where single scattering is expected to dominate, an intensity correlation extending far beyond the size of a single speckle spot is still observed [see Fig. 3(c-e)], but with a positive peak appearing in the vicinity of the negative contribution. The apparent relative position and amplitude between the peak and the dip depends on the angle of incidence of the illumination (see Appendix F). Contrary to the negative dip in the correlation function observed at large optical thickness, the lineshape is anisotropic, with negative side lobes (hardly visible the experimental data in Fig. 3(c-e), but visible in the calculations presented in Appendix F) that are more pronounced along the direction of the projection of the incident beam onto the sample surface. Moreover, the amplitudes of both the positive peak and the side lobes substantially depend on the incidence angle. These two features of the correlation function (long-range extent and dependence on the angle of incidence) suggest a qualitative description based on diagrams of the class represented in Fig. 4(b). Such diagrams satisfy both properties simultaneously. The field exchange, that creates the correlation, occurs on the first scattering event, and encodes a phase difference in the subsequent diffusive paths (shaded tubes) that depends on the angle of incidence. Moreover, the diffusive propagation provides the long-range behavior. The theoretical evaluation of these diagrams is detailed in Appendix G. They lead to a contribution to the correlation function scaling as $1/(kL)^4$ for $b \gg 1$. This is consistent with the fact that, according to the measurements and the numerical simulations, this contribution has to be negligible at large optical thickness, where the C_2^{RT} correlation function discussed

previously scaling as $1/(kL)^2$ dominates. The observed anisotropy in the correlation function is also well reproduced, supporting the relevance of the analysis based on the diagrams in Fig. 4(b). Interestingly, these diagrams are formally similar to those leading to the infinite-range correlations C_0 observed when the sample is excited by a point source [23, 32]. In a non-absorbing medium, as a consequence of energy conservation, the C_0 contribution is related to the fluctuations of the local density of states at the source position [33, 34]. In the present context, where a plane wave excitation is used, the C_0 -type contribution to the reflection-transmission correlation function is long-range and satisfies $\int \langle C_0^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r}) \rangle d\Delta\mathbf{r} = 0$. This property also leads to the conclusion that the C_0 -type contribution observed is specific to speckle patterns measured on the surface of the sample, and vanishes in the case of far-field angular measurements.

Finally, in the quasi-ballistic regime $\ell \gg L \gg \lambda$, which is not the focus of our experiment, we expect the correlation C^{RT} to contain additional contributions to C_2 and C_0 (see the discussion in Appendix G), that still result in an overall positive peak. Note that this positive correlation does not contradict the flux conservation argument mentioned earlier. Indeed, this argument rigorously applies for intensity correlations built from the total fields (including the averaged reflected and transmitted fields), which coincides with the measured correlation (1) at large optical thickness only (see Appendix D).

CONCLUSIONS

In summary, we have demonstrated experimentally the existence of a cross-correlation between the speckle patterns measured in reflection and transmission on the surface of a disordered medium. The correlation persists in the regime of large optical thickness $L \gg \ell$ in which the sample is opaque due to multiple scattering. The measurements are supported by 3D numerical simulations, and have been analysed using a perturbative theory (valid when $\ell \gg \lambda$). We have found that the reflection-transmission correlation has two contributions: a positive peak dominant at moderate optical thicknesses $L \lesssim \ell$, and a negative dip dominant in the diffusive regime $L \gg \ell$, which we interpret as (respectively) C_0 and C_2 -type scattering sequences. In the regime $L \gg \ell$, the amplitude of C^{RT} scales as $1/(kL)^2$ in 3D, but at the same time the range over which the correlation has an effect grow as L^2 , compensating the decrease in amplitude with the increase of the number of speckle spots contributing to the cross information [35]. The possibility to extract information on the transmitted speckle from a measurement limited to the reflection half-space offers new possibilities for the detection of objects hidden behind opaque scattering media, including ghost imaging schemes, and for the control of wave propagation by

wavefront shaping techniques [36, 37].

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APPENDIX A: MEAN FREE PATH CHARACTERIZATION

In order to determine the mean free path of the three samples with different concentrations of the TiO₂ we used the well known Lambert-Beer law $I = I_0 e^{-L/\ell_e}$ where I and I_0 are the transmitted and initial intensities respectively, L is the thickness of the sample and ℓ_e the extinction length. This law measures the attenuation of the ballistic light when going through the sample. Since absorption in the sample of TiO₂ and glycerol is negligible (albeit non zero) compared to scattering we can consider $\ell_e \approx \ell$. We measured the attenuation of the ballistic beam for different thicknesses of the sample and obtained the scattering mean free path of the three different samples by fitting the Lambert-Beer law, as shown in Fig. 5.

The scattering mean free paths for the samples with concentrations of 50 mg of TiO₂, 150 mg of TiO₂, and 400 mg of TiO₂ in 10 ml of glycerol were found to be, respectively, $58.5 \pm 1.3 \mu\text{m}$, $18.0 \pm 0.5 \mu\text{m}$, and $6.9 \pm 0.7 \mu\text{m}$.

APPENDIX B: EXPERIMENTAL DETERMINATION OF THE CORRELATION FUNCTION

Experimentally, the determination of the intensity correlation function $C^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r})$ defined by Eq. (1) is performed in two steps. First, a spatially averaged function $\overline{C^{RT}}(\Delta\mathbf{r}) = \int \delta R(\mathbf{r}) \delta T(\mathbf{r} + \Delta\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r}$ is calculated for each pair of reflected and transmitted speckle images. Then, an ensemble averaging is performed leading to the correlation function $\langle \overline{C^{RT}}(\Delta\mathbf{r}) \rangle$. In this appendix, we comment on the definition of $\overline{C^{RT}}(\Delta\mathbf{r})$ that allows us to remove some experimental artefacts, and we detail the necessary conditions for the correlation function $\langle \overline{C^{RT}}(\Delta\mathbf{r}) \rangle$ to coincide with the usual correlation function $C^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r})$ that only involves ensemble averaging.

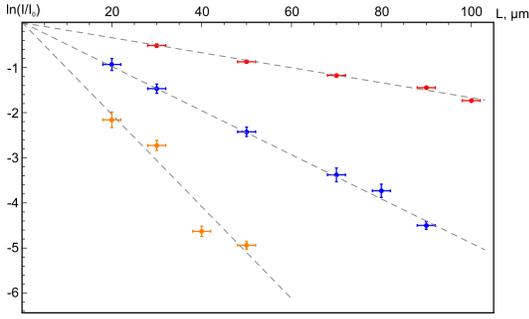


Figure 5. Experimental data to determine the mean free path of the three different sample concentrations we used. In red is the data corresponding to the concentration of 50 mg of TiO_2 in 10 ml of glycerol, in blue the concentration of 150 mg of TiO_2 in 10 ml of glycerol and in yellow, the data corresponding to the concentration of 400 mg of TiO_2 in 10 ml of glycerol. The black dashed lines represent the Lambert-Beer law fitting to the corresponding experimental data.

Measuring images (including speckle patterns) with coherent light inevitably leads to artefacts due to interference of the signal with scattered light. Figures 6(a) and 6(b) show an example of a raw measurement for the speckle patterns in transmission and reflection. From a single measurement it is almost impossible to notice, but all the raw measurements sit on a irregular fringe pattern background due to the reflections in the protective glass window in front of the CCD detector. In fact, if we average the raw measurements over disorder, the speckle patterns average out and the inhomogeneous background becomes apparent [see Figs. 6(c,d)].

If one were to use the raw measurements to find the cross-correlation function, the correlation between the inhomogeneous background patterns would dominate and obscure any real speckle correlation [see Fig. 6(e)]. These artefacts can be eliminated using the following procedure. Let us denote by S_m the measured speckle pattern in reflection or transmission, and by F the unwanted fringes. We have $S_m = S + F$, where S is the desired speckle pattern, and F is unknown but is also the same for each realization of disorder. Thus we can calculate $S_m - \langle S_m \rangle = S + F - (\langle S \rangle + F) = S - \langle S \rangle = \delta S$. This procedure eliminates F , and directly leads to a measurement of δS . For this reason, we have defined a spatially averaged function

$$\overline{C^{RT}}(\Delta\mathbf{r}) = \mathcal{N}_1^{-1} \overline{\delta R(\mathbf{r})\delta T(\mathbf{r} + \Delta\mathbf{r})}, \quad (2)$$

with the normalization factor

$$\mathcal{N}_1 = \left[\overline{\delta R(\mathbf{r}) - \langle \delta R(\mathbf{r}) \rangle} \right]^2^{1/2} \times \left[\overline{\delta T(\mathbf{r} + \Delta\mathbf{r}) - \langle \delta T(\mathbf{r} + \Delta\mathbf{r}) \rangle} \right]^2^{1/2}. \quad (3)$$

Here the overline represents the spatial average over the coordinate \mathbf{r} . This quantity is directly accessible from

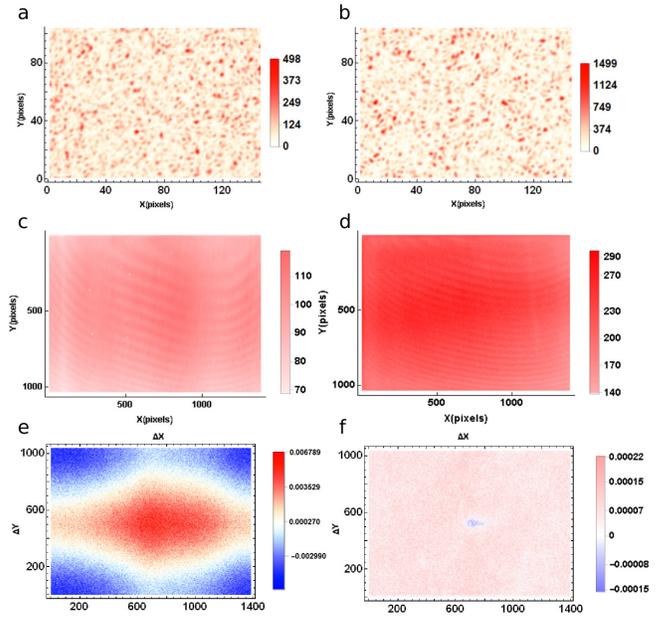


Figure 6. Typical raw average intensity measurement in reflection (a) and transmission (b). Averaged intensity distribution over 2000 realizations of disorder in reflection (c) and transmission (d). The inhomogeneous background is clearly visible in both $\langle R \rangle$ and $\langle T \rangle$. (e) Direct cross-correlation of R and T (without subtracting the background). (f) Cross-correlation between δR and δT as described in the main text.

the experimental data, and is free of artefacts as shown in Fig. 6(f).

In the experiment, the spatially averaged function $\overline{C^{RT}}(\Delta\mathbf{r})$ is averaged over an ensemble of realizations of disorder, leading to a correlation function $\langle \overline{C^{RT}}(\Delta\mathbf{r}) \rangle$. Assuming that spatial and ensemble averaging are equivalent, we can write $\langle \overline{C^{RT}}(\Delta\mathbf{r}) \rangle \simeq \mathcal{N}_2^{-1} \langle \delta R(\mathbf{r})\delta T(\mathbf{r} + \Delta\mathbf{r}) \rangle$, with

$$\mathcal{N}_2 = \left\langle [\delta R(\mathbf{r}) - \langle \delta R(\mathbf{r}) \rangle]^2 \right\rangle^{1/2} \times \left\langle [\delta T(\mathbf{r} + \Delta\mathbf{r}) - \langle \delta T(\mathbf{r} + \Delta\mathbf{r}) \rangle]^2 \right\rangle^{1/2}. \quad (4)$$

This correlation differs from Eq. (1) since the normalization factor \mathcal{N}_2 involves intensity fluctuations in reflection and transmission, and not averaged values. Since the experiments are carried out in the weak scattering regime $kl \gg 1$, we can assume that the intensity in each speckle pattern follows a Rayleigh statistics to a very good approximation. This amounts to neglecting non-Gaussian contributions to the field in each speckle pattern. In this case we have $\langle \delta R^2 \rangle = \langle R \rangle^2$ and $\langle \delta T^2 \rangle = \langle T \rangle^2$, and

$$\langle \overline{C^{RT}}(\Delta\mathbf{r}) \rangle \simeq C^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r}) = \frac{\langle \delta R(\mathbf{r})\delta T(\mathbf{r} + \Delta\mathbf{r}) \rangle}{\langle R(\mathbf{r}) \rangle \langle T(\mathbf{r} + \Delta\mathbf{r}) \rangle}. \quad (5)$$

We illustrate the good agreement between $\langle \overline{C^{RT}}(\Delta\mathbf{r}) \rangle$ and $C^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r})$ in Fig. 7, where both correlations have

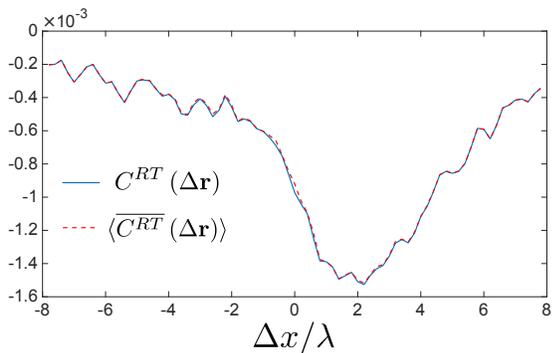


Figure 7. Comparison between the two correlation functions $\langle C^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r}) \rangle$ and $C^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r})$. The transverse distance $\Delta r = \Delta x$ is varied along the direction of the illumination plane. Parameters of the 3D numerical simulation: $L/\ell = 1.5$, $k\ell = 10$, $\theta_a \simeq 45^\circ$.

been calculated numerically for a 3D scattering medium with optical thickness $b = 1.5$ and scattering strength $k\ell = 10$.

APPENDIX C: GAUSSIAN AND NON-GAUSSIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CORRELATION FUNCTION

The calculation of the correlation function given in Eq. (1) requires to evaluate

$$\langle R(\mathbf{r})T(\mathbf{r}') \rangle = \langle \delta E_R(\mathbf{r})\delta E_R(\mathbf{r})^* \delta E_T(\mathbf{r}')\delta E_T(\mathbf{r}')^* \rangle \quad (6)$$

where $\mathbf{r}' = \mathbf{r} + \Delta\mathbf{r}$. The Gaussian contribution, usually denoted C_1 , is obtained by pairing fields to form averages of complex conjugate pairs. On the other hand, non-Gaussian contributions necessarily involve scattering paths that connect four fields, since $\langle \delta E_R(\mathbf{r}) \rangle = \langle \delta E_T(\mathbf{r}) \rangle = 0$. By noting $\langle \dots \rangle_c$ the non-Gaussian contributions, we obtain

$$C^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r}) = \frac{|\langle \delta E_R(\mathbf{r})\delta E_T(\mathbf{r}')^* \rangle|^2}{\langle R(\mathbf{r}) \rangle \langle T(\mathbf{r}') \rangle} + \frac{\langle \delta E_R(\mathbf{r})\delta E_R(\mathbf{r})^* \delta E_T(\mathbf{r}')\delta E_T(\mathbf{r}')^* \rangle_c}{\langle R(\mathbf{r}) \rangle \langle T(\mathbf{r}') \rangle}. \quad (7)$$

The first term of Eq. (7) is the C_1 contribution. This contribution can be large, of the order of unity, if the distance between observations points is smaller than the wavelength. This is always possible in the T-T configuration, where points \mathbf{r} and \mathbf{r}' are measured in the same plane: the C_1 contribution dominates the correlation $C^{TT}(\Delta\mathbf{r})$ for $\Delta r \lesssim \lambda$. On the contrary, in the R-T configuration, the distance between observation points is $\sqrt{L^2 + \Delta r^2}$. Therefore, the C_1 contribution is always negligible for $L \gg \lambda$, as it is the case in our experiment. We have checked numerically that this statement remains

valid at moderate optical thickness, where the diffusion approximation breaks down. In Fig. 8 we compare the full correlation $C^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r})$ with the C_1 contribution and the connected contribution [last term of Eq. (7)], calculated from microscopic wave propagation simulation in a three-dimensional slab of optical thickness $L/\ell = 1$ and scattering strength $k\ell = 15$. We observe that the full correlation [Fig. 8(a)] is well approximated by its connected part [Fig. 8(b)], indicating that the C_1 contribution [Fig. 8(c)] is indeed negligible. Other simulations (not shown) revealed that the C_1 contribution becomes important for $kL \lesssim 1$, as expected. This analysis shows that the R-T configuration is particularly adapted to access and study non-Gaussian quantities in mesoscopic physics, such as the connected and long-range contributions $\langle \delta E_R(\mathbf{r})\delta E_R(\mathbf{r})^* \delta E_T(\mathbf{r}')\delta E_T(\mathbf{r}')^* \rangle_c$. Indeed the latter dominate the correlation in the full range from the deep diffusive ($L \gg \ell$) to the quasi-ballistic ($L \lesssim \ell$) regime. This is in sharp contrast with the T-T configuration, for which it is difficult to extract the small non-Gaussian part of the correlation: this requires a delicate fitting procedure or an additional field measurement that can be cumbersome with optical waves, see for instance Refs. [32, 38].

APPENDIX D: R-T CORRELATION BUILT FROM THE TOTAL REFLECTED AND TRANSMITTED FIELDS

The experiment is performed with a laser illumination oriented with a non-zero angle with respect to the sample surface, that allows us to measure the intensity of the fluctuating part of the fields, $R(\mathbf{r}) = |\delta E_R(\mathbf{r})|^2$ and $T(\mathbf{r}') = |\delta E_T(\mathbf{r}')|^2$, only. We want here to discuss what would be the R-T correlation if the mean fields were also measured. Let us note $\tilde{X}(\mathbf{r}) = |E_X(\mathbf{r})|^2 = |\langle E_X(\mathbf{r}) \rangle + \delta E_X(\mathbf{r})|^2$, where X stands for R or T . By expressing \tilde{X} in terms of X and using $\langle \tilde{X} \rangle = \langle X \rangle + |\langle E_X \rangle|^2$, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \delta \tilde{R}(\mathbf{r})\delta \tilde{T}(\mathbf{r}') \rangle &= \langle \delta R(\mathbf{r})\delta T(\mathbf{r}') \rangle + \\ &+ 2 \text{Re} \{ \langle E_T(\mathbf{r}') \rangle \langle \delta E_T(\mathbf{r}')^* R(\mathbf{r}) \rangle + \\ &+ \langle E_R(\mathbf{r}) \rangle \langle \delta E_R(\mathbf{r})^* T(\mathbf{r}') \rangle + \\ &+ \langle E_R(\mathbf{r}) \rangle \langle E_T(\mathbf{r}') \rangle^* \langle \delta E_R(\mathbf{r})^* \delta E_T(\mathbf{r}') \rangle + \\ &+ \langle E_R(\mathbf{r}) \rangle \langle E_T(\mathbf{r}') \rangle \langle \delta E_R(\mathbf{r})\delta E_T(\mathbf{r}')^* \rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Hence, the R-T correlation built from the total reflected and transmitted fields contains additional interferences between the mean fields and the scattered fields. We illustrate their role in Fig. 9, where we compare C^{RT} [(a) panel] and \tilde{C}^{RT} [(b) panel] calculated for a 3D disordered slab ($L/\ell = 1$, $k\ell = 15$, illumination angle $\theta_a = 45^\circ$). On top of the long-range component of C^{RT} , \tilde{C}^{RT} also exhibits tiny oscillating contributions and additional long-range contributions due to the four terms

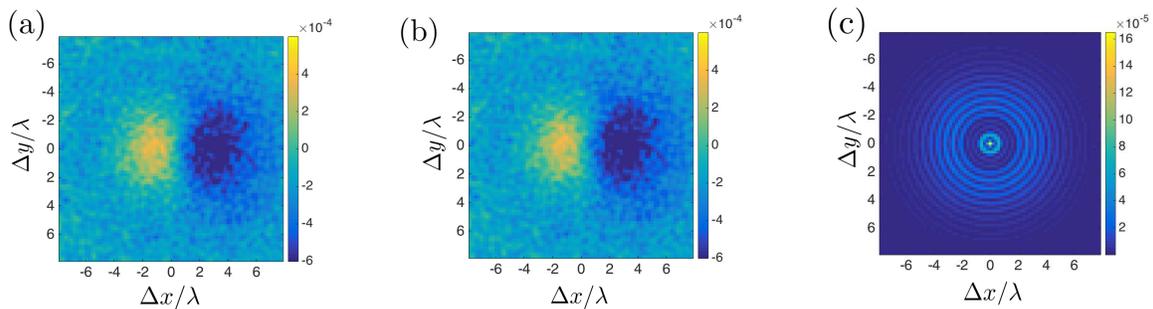


Figure 8. Correlation function C^{RT} calculated from numerical simulation of the wave equation in a 3D slab. (a) Full correlation; (b) Connected part of the correlation [second term of the r.h.s. of Eq. (7)]; (c) C_1 contribution of the correlation [first term of the r.h.s. of Eq. (7)]. Parameters: $k\ell = 15$, $L/\ell = 1$, $\theta_a \simeq 45^\circ$.

of Eq. (8). These contributions, negligible in the deep diffusive regime $L \gg \ell$, become important at moderate optical thickness $L \sim \ell$. This explains why the positive contribution to the long-range correlation discussed in this work was not detected in Ref. [18] where only \tilde{C}^{RT} was analyzed. In Fig. 10 we compare both correlation functions, calculated from 2D numerical simulations such as those performed in Ref. [18], for two different optical depths. At large optical depth the two correlations are equal while it is no more the case in the regime $L \sim \ell$ where interference terms dominate.

APPENDIX E: ANALYTICAL CALCULATION OF $C_2^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r})$

In this appendix we refine the calculation of C_2^{RT} that was previously performed by some of us in Ref. [18]. Let us first remind the physical picture that gives rise to the long-range C_2 correlation. The correlator (5) is the average of four fields (measured at the two detector positions)

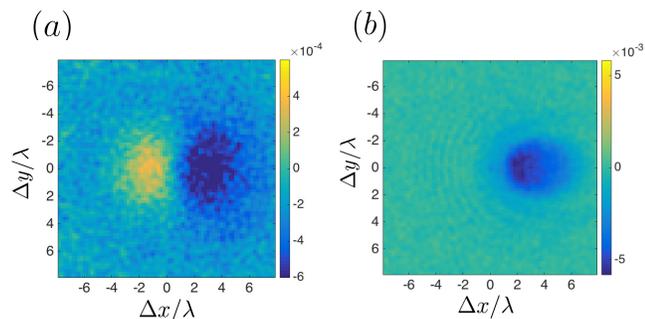


Figure 9. Comparison of two R-T correlation functions calculated from numerical simulation of the wave equation in a 3D slab. (a) Correlation function $C^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r}) = \langle \delta R(\mathbf{r}) \delta T(\mathbf{r} + \Delta\mathbf{r}) \rangle / \langle R(\mathbf{r}) \rangle \langle T(\mathbf{r} + \Delta\mathbf{r}) \rangle$ built from fluctuating parts of the fields; (b) Correlation function $\tilde{C}^{RT} = \langle \delta \tilde{R}(\mathbf{r}) \delta \tilde{T}(\mathbf{r} + \Delta\mathbf{r}) \rangle / \langle \tilde{R}(\mathbf{r}) \rangle \langle \tilde{T}(\mathbf{r} + \Delta\mathbf{r}) \rangle$ built from the full fields (see text for details). Parameters: $k\ell = 15$, $L/\ell = 1$, $\theta_a = 45^\circ$.

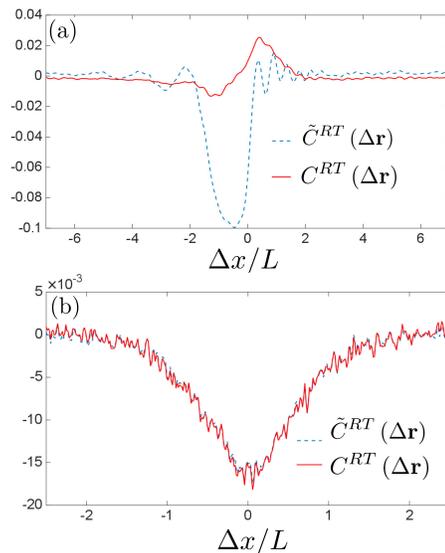


Figure 10. Comparison of two R-T correlation functions calculated from numerical simulation of the wave equation in a 2D slab. (a) moderate optical thickness $L = \ell$ and shifted incidence $\theta_a \simeq -35^\circ$; (b) Large optical thickness $L/\ell = 7$ at normal incidence $\theta_a = 0$. Other parameter: $k\ell = 10$.

that can be decomposed as sums over all scattering paths. The idea is to select paths that give a non-vanishing contribution to the average. The C_2^{RT} contribution is obtained by considering pairs of fields that propagate diffusively in the disordered medium until their paths cross at an arbitrary position inside the medium. When this crossing occurs, pairs of fields exchange their partners to form new pairs that travel again diffusively through the system until they reach the output boundaries. There are two different ways to do so as represented in Fig. 11. For the same reason that made C_1^{RT} negligible (see appendix C), the diagram represented in Fig. 11 (b) is negligible for all positions \mathbf{r} and \mathbf{r}' in the regime $kL \gg 1$.

Let us stress here the difference between C_2^{RT} and C_2^{TT} . C_2^{TT} is made of the same diagrams as in Fig. 11 but

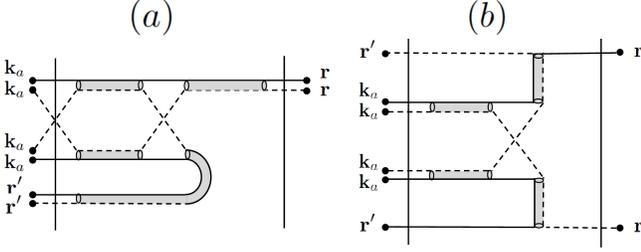


Figure 11. Typical diagrams contributing to the connected four-field correlations in R-T. Panel (a) corresponds to the case where the fields exchange at the entrance, propagate and exchange inside the medium. After this exchange they can travel diffusively through long distances to eventually be measured at the desired points. Panel (b) corresponds to the case where the two pairs of fields propagate first together, then exchange inside the medium and at the end have to exchange again to eventually be measured at two different points. The output vertex of this diagram is identical to the output vertex of the C_1 correlation.

with the point \mathbf{r}' in the transmission plane. As a result, the diagram of Fig. 11 (b) is not negligible for observation points in the same transmission plane. In particular, this diagram with observation points in the far field is the Fourier transform of the one represented in Fig. 11 (a) with points at the sample surface. Conversely, for C_2^{RT} , since the diagram of Fig. 11 (b) is negligible, we measure in the far field the contribution of Fig. 11 (a) only:

$$C^{RT}(\mathbf{k}_b, \mathbf{k}'_b) = \int \frac{d\Delta\mathbf{r}}{\mathcal{A}} C^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r}), \quad (9)$$

for any couple of observation directions $\mathbf{k}_b, \mathbf{k}'_b$. Here \mathcal{A} is the transverse area covered by the input illumination. Although C_2^{TT} contains the same information whether it is measured at the sample surface or angularly in the far field, this is not the case for C_2^{RT} .

Mathematically, the contribution of Fig. 11 (a) to the correlator (6) reads

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \delta E_R(\mathbf{r}) \delta E_R(\mathbf{r})^* \delta E_T(\mathbf{r}') \delta E_T(\mathbf{r}')^* \rangle_{C_2} = & \\ & \int |\langle E(\mathbf{r}_1) \rangle|^2 |\langle E(\mathbf{r}_2) \rangle|^2 L(\mathbf{r}_2, \boldsymbol{\rho}_2) L(\mathbf{r}_1, \boldsymbol{\rho}_1) \\ & \times H(\boldsymbol{\rho}_1, \boldsymbol{\rho}_2, \boldsymbol{\rho}_3, \boldsymbol{\rho}_4) L(\mathbf{r}_3, \boldsymbol{\rho}_3) L(\mathbf{r}_4, \boldsymbol{\rho}_4) \\ & \times |\langle G(\mathbf{r}' - \mathbf{r}_3) \rangle|^2 |\langle G(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_4) \rangle|^2 d\mathbf{r}_1 \dots d\mathbf{r}_4 d\boldsymbol{\rho}_1 \dots d\boldsymbol{\rho}_4, \quad (10) \end{aligned}$$

where $\langle G(\mathbf{r}) \rangle$ is the mean Green's function of the wave equation, $L(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')$ represents a diffusive pair of fields that propagate from \mathbf{r} to \mathbf{r}' , and the operator $H(\boldsymbol{\rho}_1, \boldsymbol{\rho}_2, \boldsymbol{\rho}_3, \boldsymbol{\rho}_4)$ stands for the diffusion partner exchange. The latter is

called a Hikami vertex and reads

$$\begin{aligned} H(\boldsymbol{\rho}_1, \boldsymbol{\rho}_2, \boldsymbol{\rho}_3, \boldsymbol{\rho}_4) = & \frac{h}{4} \delta(\boldsymbol{\rho}_1, \boldsymbol{\rho}_2, \boldsymbol{\rho}_3, \boldsymbol{\rho}_4) \\ & \times \left(\underbrace{\Delta_{\boldsymbol{\rho}_1} + \dots + \Delta_{\boldsymbol{\rho}_4}}_1 + \underbrace{2\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\rho}_1} \cdot \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\rho}_2}}_2 + \underbrace{2\nabla_{\boldsymbol{\rho}_3} \cdot \nabla_{\boldsymbol{\rho}_4}}_3 \right), \quad (11) \end{aligned}$$

where $\delta(\boldsymbol{\rho}_1, \boldsymbol{\rho}_2, \boldsymbol{\rho}_3, \boldsymbol{\rho}_4)$ means $\int \delta(\boldsymbol{\rho}_1 - \boldsymbol{\rho}) \delta(\boldsymbol{\rho}_2 - \boldsymbol{\rho}) \delta(\boldsymbol{\rho}_3 - \boldsymbol{\rho}) \delta(\boldsymbol{\rho}_4 - \boldsymbol{\rho}) d\boldsymbol{\rho}$ and h is the weight of the vertex defined in Ref. [6] for example. We have labelled three terms in Eq. (11). In the literature dedicated to mesoscopic physics it is often argued that the term 1 is negligible (since it forces the crossing to occur at the sample surface, see Ref. [7]), while the two others give rise to equal contributions, see Ref. [8]. This was the approach adopted in Ref. [18], where the Hikami vertex was replaced by twice the term 3. We call C_2^{out} the analytical form of the correlation calculated in this way. Similarly, we call C_2^{in} the form obtained by keeping twice the term 2. In fact, in the R-T configuration, there is no good reason to neglect the term 1 nor to assume that terms 2 and 3 are of the same amplitude. For this reason, we compute here all contributions explicitly. We write the complete correlator as

$$C_2^{RT}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = C_2^\Delta(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') + \frac{C_2^{\text{in}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') + C_2^{\text{out}}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')}{2}, \quad (12)$$

where the three contributions come from the three terms labelled in the vertex (11). Following the same approach as in Ref. [18], we find in three-dimensional space

$$\begin{aligned} C_2^\Delta = & \frac{-3}{4k^2\ell^2} \int \frac{J_0(q\Delta r/L) \text{sh}(qz_0/L)^2}{q \text{sh}[q(1+2z_0/L)]^2} \\ & \times \left(\text{sh}\left[q\left(1+\frac{z_0}{L}\right)\right] \text{sh}\left(\frac{qz_0}{L}\right) \frac{27L}{10\ell} \right. \\ & \left. + \left(\frac{27}{20} + \frac{5\ell^2}{3L^2}\right) q \text{sh}\left[q\left(1+2\frac{z_0}{L}\right)\right] \right) dq, \quad (13) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} C_2^{\text{in}} = & \frac{-3}{4k^2\ell^2} \frac{15}{2} \int \frac{J_0(q\Delta r/L) \text{sh}(qz_0/L)^2}{q^2 \text{sh}[q(1+2\frac{z_0}{L})]^2} \\ & \times \left(-q \text{ch}\left[q\left(1+\frac{z_0}{L}\right)\right] + \text{sh}(q) \right) dq, \quad (14) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} C_2^{\text{out}} = & \frac{-3}{4k^2\ell^2} \frac{15}{2} \int \frac{J_0(q\Delta r/L) \text{sh}(qz_0/L)^2}{q^2 \text{sh}[q(1+2\frac{z_0}{L})]^2} \\ & \times \left(-q \text{ch}(q) + \left[1 + q^2 \left(1 + \frac{2z_0}{L} + \frac{2z_0^2}{L^2} \right) \right] \text{sh}(q) \right) dq, \quad (15) \end{aligned}$$

and in two-dimensional space

$$C_2^\Delta = \frac{-L}{\pi k \ell^2} \int \frac{\cos(q\Delta r/L) \operatorname{sh}(qz_0/L)^2}{q^2 \operatorname{sh}[q(1 + 2\frac{z_0}{L})]^2} \quad (16)$$

$$\times \left(\operatorname{sh}\left(q\frac{z_0}{L}\right) \operatorname{sh}\left[q\left(1 + \frac{z_0}{L}\right)\right] \frac{16(1 + \frac{\pi}{2})L}{\pi^2(1 + \frac{\pi}{4})\ell} \right. \\ \left. + \left(\frac{4(1 + \frac{\pi}{2})^2}{\pi^2(1 + \frac{\pi}{4})} + \frac{(1 + \frac{\pi}{4})\ell^2}{L^2} \right) q \operatorname{sh}\left[q\left(1 + 2\frac{z_0}{L}\right)\right] \right) dq$$

$$C_2^{\text{in}} = \frac{-32L(1 + \pi/4)}{\pi k \ell^2} \frac{1}{\pi^2} \int \frac{\cos(q\Delta r/L) \operatorname{sh}(qz_0/L)^2}{q^3 \operatorname{sh}[q(1 + 2\frac{z_0}{L})]^2} \\ \times \left(-q \operatorname{ch}\left[q\left(1 + \frac{z_0}{L}\right)\right] + \operatorname{sh}(q) \right) dq \quad (17)$$

$$C_2^{\text{out}} = \frac{-32L(1 + \pi/4)}{\pi k \ell^2} \frac{1}{\pi^2} \int \frac{\cos(q\Delta r/L) \operatorname{sh}(qz_0/L)^2}{q^3 \operatorname{sh}[q(1 + 2\frac{z_0}{L})]^2} \\ \times \left(-q \operatorname{ch}(q) + \left[1 + q^2 \left(1 + \frac{2z_0}{L} + \frac{2z_0^2}{L^2} \right) \right] \operatorname{sh}(q) \right) dq, \quad (18)$$

where z_0 is the extrapolation length (see Ref. [18] for details). We have represented these different contributions in Fig. 12 in the case of wave propagation through 2D disordered slab. The contribution C_2^{out} is negative, whereas C_2^{in} and C_2^Δ are positive. In addition, C_2^{in} and C_2^{out} do not have the same amplitude. However the sum of all terms, given by Eq. (12), turns out to be well approximated by C_2^{out} , as it was done in Ref. [18]. Both expressions are in good agreement with simulations of microscopic wave propagation. Hence, we conclude that all conclusions of Ref. [18] remain qualitatively valid. In particular, at large optical depth $L \gg \ell$, we find $C_2^{RT}(\Delta \mathbf{r}) = -f(\Delta r/L)/(kL)^{d-1}$, where $f(x)$ is a positive decaying function of range unity given by

$$f(x) = \int_0^\infty \frac{q \cos(qx)}{\operatorname{sh}(q)} \left(\frac{(1 + \pi/2)^2 + \pi(1 + \pi/2)}{4\pi(1 + \pi/4)} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1 + \pi/4}{\pi} \frac{[-2q \operatorname{ch}(q) + \operatorname{sh}(q)(2 + q^2)]}{q^2 \operatorname{sh}(q)} \right) dq$$

in dimension 2 and by

$$f(x) = \int_0^\infty \frac{q^2 J_0(qx)}{\operatorname{sh}(q)} \\ \times \left(\frac{21}{20} + \frac{5}{4} \frac{[-2q \operatorname{ch}(q) + \operatorname{sh}(q)(2 + q^2)]}{q^2 \operatorname{sh}(q)} \right) dq$$

in dimension 3. This means, in particular, that the R-T correlation becomes independent of the disorder strength $k\ell$ in the deep diffusive regime.

APPENDIX F: DEPENDENCE ON THE ANGLE OF INCIDENCE IN THE REGIME $L \sim \ell$

In this appendix we discuss the angular dependence of the shape of the correlation $C^{RT}(\Delta \mathbf{r})$ in the regime of

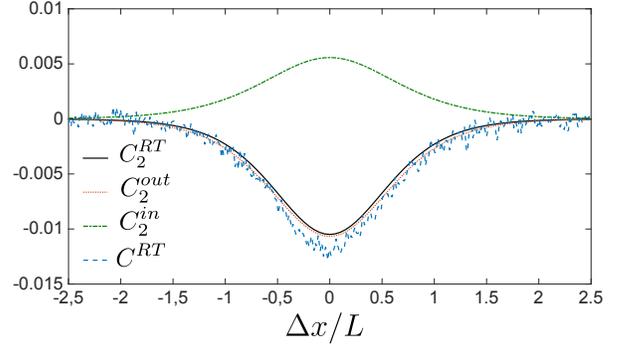


Figure 12. Analytical predictions for the C_2^{RT} correlation (black solid line), C_2^{out} correlation (red dotted line) and C_2^{in} correlation (green dash-dotted line) compared with the simulation of 2D wave propagation in a disordered medium (blue dashed line). Parameters of the simulations: $k\ell = 10$, $L/\ell = 10$, $\theta_a = 0$.

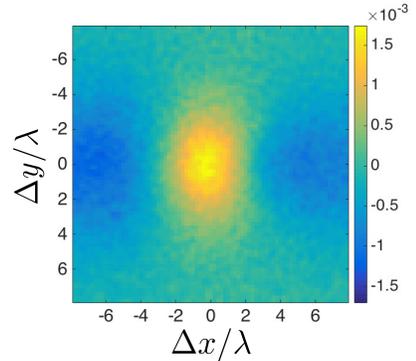


Figure 13. $C^{RT}(\Delta \mathbf{r})$ calculated from 3D numerical simulations of the wave propagation in a disordered slab of moderate optical depth. The direction $\Delta y = 0$ is defined as the intersection of the incidence plane with the sample surface. Parameters: $L/\ell = 1$, $k\ell = 15$, $\theta_a \simeq 75^\circ$.

moderate optical depth. In Fig. 13, we have represented the result of 3D numerical simulations of the wave propagation in a disordered slab of optical thickness $L/\ell = 1$ and disorder strength $k\ell = 15$. The horizontal axis is defined as the intersection of the incidence plane with the sample surface (here $\theta_a \simeq 75^\circ$). As discussed in the main text, the correlation is positive for $\Delta \mathbf{r} \lesssim L$ and presents negative side lobes that are more pronounced along the illumination direction. We have analyzed the angular dependence of this shape along the direction $\Delta y = 0$. The results are presented in Fig. 14. For $\theta_a = 57^\circ$, the correlation $C^{RT}(\Delta x)$ is asymmetric. When the angle of incidence θ_a increases, both the positive central peak and the negative side lobes grow. In addition, the correlation becomes more and more symmetric. We interpret the shape of this correlation function as the result of the superposition of two contributions, C_2^{RT} and C_0^{RT} . The contribution C_2^{RT} is a negative deep with a mini-

imum located at $\Delta x > 0$. As discussed in the main text, this contribution is almost independent of θ_a . On the other hand, the contribution C_0^{RT} contains both a positive peak located at $\Delta x \simeq 0$ and symmetric negative side lobes. It is also strongly dependent on the illumination angle (see appendix G for details). Hence, the latter is responsible for the anisotropic shape observed in Fig. 13 and the evolution presented in in Fig. 14. In particular, the correlation $C^{RT}(\Delta x)$ shown in Fig. 14 becomes more and more symmetric for increasing θ_a because the amplitude of the negative side lobes of C_0^{RT} gets larger than the C_2^{RT} deep. A microscopic interpretation of this phenomenon is proposed in the next appendix.

APPENDIX G: C_0^{RT} CORRELATION WITH PLANE WAVE ILLUMINATION

The C_0 correlation has first been introduced in Refs. [23, 33] in the case of a point source excitation. Here we consider the same class of scattering processes, but generated by a plane wave excitation. As we will see, both the formal calculation and the qualitative consequences are different from the case of a point source excitation. The microscopic representation of the C_0^{RT} diagrams are represented in Fig. 15. Each diagram involves scattering paths that visit a common scatterer located near the front side of the sample. The symmetric diagrams (not shown) that involve a common scatterer at the outputs can be neglected for the same reason as the C_1 correlation (see appendix C). Using the same notations as in appendix E, the four-field correlator $C_0^{RT}(\Delta \mathbf{r}) = \langle \delta E_R(\mathbf{r}) \delta E_R(\mathbf{r}')^* \delta E_T(\mathbf{r}'') \delta E_T(\mathbf{r}''')^* \rangle_{C_0}$ takes, in 3D, the form

$$C_0^{RT}(\Delta \mathbf{r}) = \frac{4\pi}{\ell} \int V(\mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_3) L(\mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_4) L(\mathbf{r}_3, \mathbf{r}_5) \times |\langle G(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_4) \rangle|^2 |\langle G(\mathbf{r}' - \mathbf{r}_5) \rangle|^2 d\mathbf{r}_2 d\mathbf{r}_3 d\mathbf{r}_4 d\mathbf{r}_5,$$

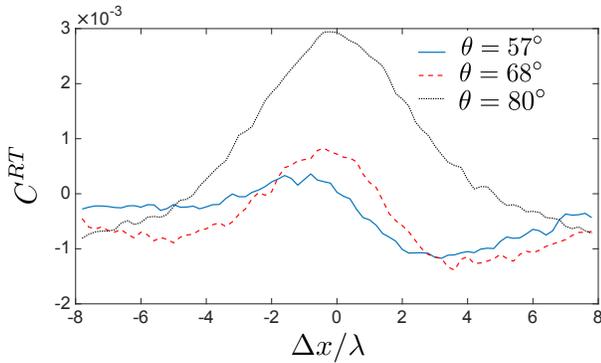


Figure 14. Dependence of $C^{RT}(\Delta \mathbf{r})$ on the illumination angle θ_a , along the illumination direction $\Delta y = 0$ (horizontal axis of Fig. 13). Parameters of the 3D simulation: $L/\ell = 1$, $k\ell = 15$.

where $V(\mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_3)$ is the sum of the four possibilities for connecting the input plane wave to the ladder diagrams starting in \mathbf{r}_2 and \mathbf{r}_3 , as represented in Fig. 15. For example the contribution of Fig. 15(a) to the vertex V is

$$V^{(a)}(\mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_3) = \int \langle E(\mathbf{r}_2) \rangle^* \langle E(\mathbf{r}_3) \rangle^* |\langle E(\mathbf{r}_1) \rangle|^2 \times \langle G(\mathbf{r}_2 - \mathbf{r}_1) \rangle \langle G(\mathbf{r}_3 - \mathbf{r}_1) \rangle d\mathbf{r}_1, \quad (19)$$

where the mean field $\langle E(\mathbf{r}) \rangle$ depends on the incidence angle. By integrating over the transverse coordinates, we get

$$C_0^{RT}(\Delta \mathbf{r}) = \frac{\ell}{16\pi^3} \times \int \left([\tilde{V}_{\mathbf{q}_a, \mathbf{q}}^{(a)}(z_2, z_3) + \tilde{V}_{\mathbf{q}_a, \mathbf{q}}^{(c)}(z_2, z_3)] e^{i(\mathbf{q}_a - \mathbf{q}) \cdot \Delta \mathbf{r}} + [\tilde{V}_{\mathbf{q}_a, \mathbf{q}}^{(b)}(z_2, z_3) + \tilde{V}_{\mathbf{q}_a, \mathbf{q}}^{(d)}(z_2, z_3)] e^{i(\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_a) \cdot \Delta \mathbf{r}} \right) \times L_{\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_a}(z_2, 0) L_{\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_a}(z_3, L) d\mathbf{q} dz_2 dz_3, \quad (20)$$

where z label longitudinal coordinates, \mathbf{q}_a is the transverse component of the incident wave vector \mathbf{k}_a , and $L_{\mathbf{q}}(z, z')$ is the Fourier transform of $L(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}')$ with respect to the transverse part of the coordinate $\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'$. In addition, the components \tilde{V} are given by

$$\tilde{V}_{\mathbf{q}_a, \mathbf{q}}^{(a)}(z_2, z_3) = \int \bar{G}_{\mathbf{q}_a}(0, z_1)^2 \bar{G}_{2\mathbf{q}_a - \mathbf{q}}(z_1, z_3) \times \bar{G}_{\mathbf{q}}(z_1, z_2) \bar{G}_{\mathbf{q}_a}(0, z_2)^* \bar{G}_{\mathbf{q}_a}(0, z_3)^* dz_1, \quad (21)$$

$$\tilde{V}_{\mathbf{q}_a, \mathbf{q}}^{(c)}(z_2, z_3) = \int |\bar{G}_{\mathbf{q}_a}(0, z_1)|^2 \bar{G}_{\mathbf{q}}(z_1, z_3)^* \times \bar{G}_{\mathbf{q}}(z_1, z_2) \bar{G}_{\mathbf{q}_a}(0, z_2)^* \bar{G}_{\mathbf{q}_a}(0, z_3)^* dz_1, \quad (22)$$

$\tilde{V}^{(b)} = \tilde{V}^{(a)*}$, and $\tilde{V}^{(d)} = \tilde{V}^{(c)*}$. In these expressions, $\bar{G}_{\mathbf{q}}(z, z') = i/(2k_z) e^{ik_z(z' - z)} e^{-|z' - z|/2\mu\ell}$, with $k_z = \sqrt{k^2 - q^2} \equiv k\mu$, is the transverse Fourier transform of the mean Green's function of the Helmholtz equation. We now make the approximations $L(z_2, 0, q - q_a) \simeq L(0, 0, q - q_a)$ and $L(z_3, L, q - q_a) \simeq L(0, L, q - q_a)$, and integrate Eq. (20) over the longitudinal coordinates z_1, z_2 and z_3 . The correlator becomes:

$$C_0^{RT}(\Delta \mathbf{r}) = \frac{\ell^4}{128\pi^3 k^6} \int \cos[(\mathbf{q}_a - \mathbf{q}) \cdot \Delta \mathbf{r}] \times L_{\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_a}(0, 0) L_{\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_a}(0, L) F(\mu, \mu_a, k\ell) d\mathbf{q}, \quad (23)$$

with

$$F(\mu, \mu_a, k\ell) = \frac{2(\mu_a - \mu)}{\mu_a(2\mu_a - \mu)(\mu + \mu_a)} \times [9\mu^3 + 18\mu^2\mu_a + 11\mu\mu_a^2 + 2\mu_a^3 + 4\mu^3\mu_a^2(\mu - \mu_a)^2 k^2 \ell^2] / ([9\mu^2 + \mu_a^2 + 6\mu\mu_a + 4\mu^2\mu_a^2(\mu - \mu_a)^2 k^2 \ell^2] \times [(\mu + \mu_a)^2 + 4\mu^2\mu_a^2(\mu - \mu_a)^2 k^2 \ell^2]), \quad (24)$$

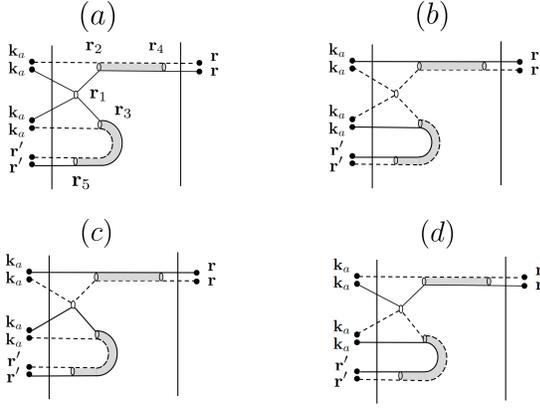


Figure 15. Leading diagrams contributing to C_0^{RT} . Shaded tubes represent diffusive paths (ladders); single solid lines stand for averaged fields and single dashed lines for their complex conjugates. The extra scatterer located near the surface boundary can connect the ladders in four different ways.

where $\mu_a = \sqrt{1 - q_a^2/k^2}$ and $\mu = \sqrt{1 - q^2/k^2}$.

Normalizing the correlator by the intensity product $\langle |\delta E_R(\mathbf{r})|^2 \rangle \langle |\delta E_T(\mathbf{r}')|^2 \rangle = \ell/6k^4\mu_a^2L$ and the integration momentum variable by the sample thickness L , we finally obtain

$$C_0^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r}) = \frac{27\mu_a^2kL}{4\pi(k\ell)^3} \int \cos \left[\frac{(\mathbf{q}'_a - \mathbf{q}') \cdot \Delta\mathbf{r}}{L} \right] \times P(\mathbf{q}'_a, \mathbf{q}') F(\mu, \mu_a, k\ell) d\mathbf{q}', \quad (25)$$

where $q'_a = q_aL = kL\sin\theta_a$, and the ladder contribution $P(\mathbf{q}'_a, \mathbf{q}')$ is defined as:

$$P(\mathbf{q}'_a, \mathbf{q}') = \frac{\text{sh}[|\mathbf{q}'_a - \mathbf{q}'|z_0/L]^3 \text{sh}[|\mathbf{q}'_a - \mathbf{q}'|(1 + z_0/L)]}{|\mathbf{q}'_a - \mathbf{q}'|^2 \text{sh}[|\mathbf{q}'_a - \mathbf{q}'|(1 + 2z_0/L)]^2}. \quad (26)$$

In order to obtain the result (25) we used various approximations that are justified in the diffusive regime $L > \ell$ only. Therefore, we must be cautious not to use this result in the quasi-ballistic regime $L \lesssim \ell$. We note also that in the deep diffusive regime $L \gg \ell, z_0$ and for small angle of incidence ($\mu_a \simeq 1$), the C_0^{RT} correlation with plane wave illumination takes the compact form:

$$C_0^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r}) \simeq \frac{5}{16\pi k^4 L^4} \int \cos \left[\frac{(\mathbf{q}'_a - \mathbf{q}') \cdot \Delta\mathbf{r}}{L} \right] \times \frac{q'^2 |\mathbf{q}'_a - \mathbf{q}'|}{\text{sh}[|\mathbf{q}'_a - \mathbf{q}'|]} d\mathbf{q}', \quad (27)$$

which scales as $C_0^{RT} \propto 1/(kL)^4$. In this regime, it is therefore much smaller than $C_2^{RT} \propto 1/(kL)^2$ (see appendix E). This explains why it is not observed experimentally in the diffusive regime.

Before analyzing the result (25) in more details, let us comment on the differences with the correlation calculated with plane wave outputs or point-source inputs.

For plane-wave outputs, we find

$$C_0^{RT}(\mathbf{k}_b, \mathbf{k}_{b'}) = \int \frac{d\Delta\mathbf{r}}{\mathcal{A}} C_0^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r}) = 0, \quad (28)$$

for all observation directions $\mathbf{k}_b, \mathbf{k}_{b'}$. This striking result comes from the fact that $F(\mu_a, \mu_a, k\ell) = 0$. This means that, for plane wave outputs, the diagram of Fig. 15(a) [resp. Fig. 15(b)] is compensated by the one Fig. 15(c) [resp. Fig. 15(d)]. This result turns out to be completely different from the one obtained in the configuration involving point-like sources and detectors, where the diagrams of Figs. 15(a,b) do not contribute to the correlation.

Let us now discuss the strong dependence of the result (25) on the illumination angle θ_a . At the origin of this dependence is the total momentum conservation during the interaction with the common scatterer of Fig. 15. The information carried by the illumination plane wave is transmitted to the ladder diagrams that conserve momentum over long distances, so that the input information finally reaches the sample boundaries. The same property occurs in the well-known memory effect introduced in Ref. [15]. We illustrate the dependence of the correlation (25) on θ_a in Fig. 16. For $\theta_a = 0$, the rotational symmetry is preserved so that $C_0^{RT}(\Delta\mathbf{r})$ depends on Δr only. It presents a positive peak centered in $\Delta r = 0$, that extends over a distance $\Delta r \sim L$. Beyond this distance the correlation presents small negative side lobes, that are such that the sum rule (28) is satisfied. When the rotational symmetry is broken ($\theta_a \neq 0$), the correlation becomes anisotropic. It now presents two mirror symmetries with respect to the intersection of the incidence plane with the sample surface. The direction of this intersection defines the horizontal axis in Fig. 16. We observe that the negative side lobes become more pronounced along this direction. In addition, the amplitude of both the central peak and the side lobes get larger for increasing θ_a , in agreement with the sum rule (28) as well as the numerical observations discussed in the previous appendix.

The previous analysis shows that C_0^{RT} reproduces the features observed experimentally in the R-T correlation in the regime $L \sim \ell$. As was observed in the experiment, C_0^{RT} is long-range, keeps a memory on the incidence angle, becomes anisotropic for $\theta_a \neq 0$, presents a central peak and negative side lobes, and both the peak and the side lobes become more pronounced when θ_a is increased. That said, it should be stressed that the formula (25) does not reproduce quantitatively the amplitude of the positive correlation observed in the regime $L \sim \ell$. This is not much a surprise since, as we explained above, the result (25) was obtained in the diffusive regime $L > \ell$. In addition, it is worth mentioning that the scattering processes described by C_0^{RT} and C_2^{RT} are not the only ones that contribute in the quasi-ballistic regime $L \lesssim \ell$. For example, it is clear that, in the regime $L \ll \ell$, the scattering sequences where the four fields interact with

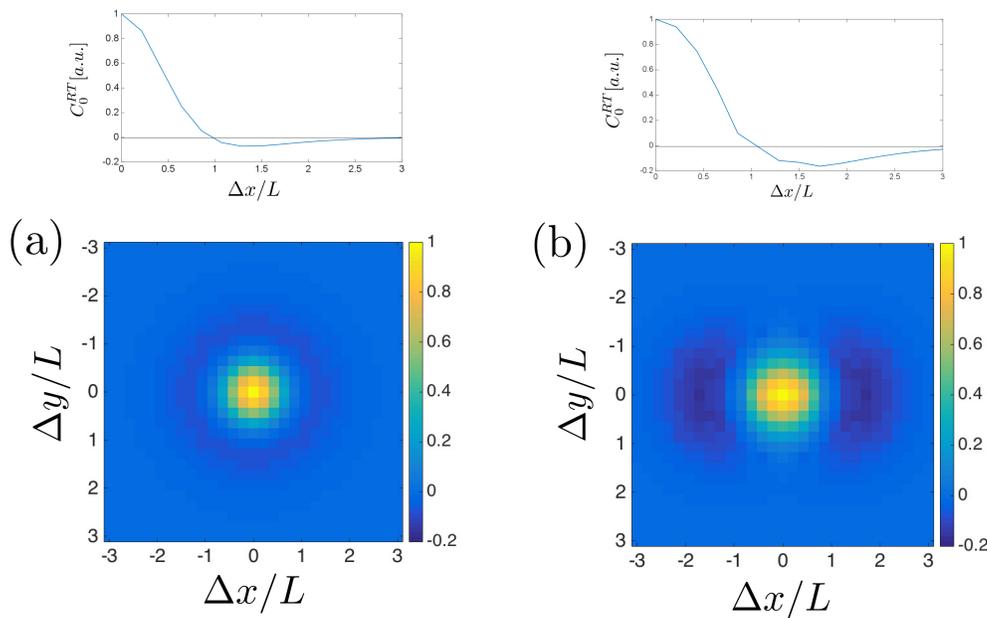


Figure 16. Analytical prediction for the C_0^{RT} correlation (normalized to unity) represented in Fig. 15 for two different illumination angles: (a) $\theta_a = 0$ and (b) $\theta_a = 45^\circ$ and their cut (in caption) along the direction $\Delta y = 0$ which is defined as the intersection of the incidence plane with the sample surface. The caption corresponds to the cut along $\Delta y = 0$. Parameters: $\lambda = 632$ nm, $L = 50$ μm , $\ell = 15$ μm . The diffusive approximation was used for the ladder diagrams.

a common scatterer play an important role as well. We did not discuss such contributions to the correlation in the main text because the regime $L \ll \ell$ is not probed experimentally and such scattering sequences do not possess the dependence on the illumination angle mentioned above.

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