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Computational Radiology and Imaging

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With 97 Illustrations



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FOREWORD

This IMA Volume in Mathematics and its Applications

COMPUTATIONAL RADIOLOGY AND IMAGING: THERAPY AND DIAGNOSTICS

is based on the proceedings of a workshop with the same title. The workshop was an integral part of the 1996–97 IMA program on “MATHEMATICS IN HIGH-PERFORMANCE COMPUTING.”

I would like to thank the scientific organizers: Christoph Börgers of Tufts University, Department of Mathematics and Frank Natterer of Universität Münster, Institut für Numerische und instrumentelle Mathematik for their excellent work as organizers of the meeting and for editing the proceedings.

I also take this opportunity to thank the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Army Research Office (ARO), whose financial support made the workshop possible.

Willard Miller, Jr., Professor and Director

PREFACE

The articles collected in this volume are based on lectures at the IMA Workshop "Computational Radiology and Imaging: Therapy and Diagnostics," March 17–21, 1997. Introductory articles by the editors and organizers of the workshop have been added. The focus is on inverse problems involving electromagnetic radiation and particle beams, with applications to X-ray tomography, nuclear medicine, near-infrared imaging, microwave imaging, electron microscopy, and radiation therapy planning.

For electromagnetic radiation with short wave lengths (for example X-rays, gamma rays, and near-infrared lasers), the particle model is appropriate, and the radiation transport is described by the linear Boltzmann equation. For larger wave lengths (for example microwaves), the wave model is appropriate, and the radiation transport is described by Maxwell's equations. Most of the articles in this volume either make explicit reference to the linear Boltzmann equation, or are implicitly based on limiting forms or approximate solutions of this equation. For example, X-ray tomography is based on transport without scattering, a limit of the linear Boltzmann equation in which the mean free path tends to infinity. Algorithms for near-infrared imaging are frequently based on diffusion, a limit of the linear Boltzmann equation in which the mean free path tends to zero. In radiation therapy planning, the quantity of greatest interest is the dose, the energy deposited per unit mass, a macroscopic quantity that could in principle be derived from the solution of a boundary value problem for the linear Boltzmann equation. In practice, simpler approximate dose calculation methods are often used. One of the articles in this volume, the one by Colton and Monk on microwave imaging, is based on the wave model.

The workshop deliberately did not focus on forward problems, even though their computational solution is often a very challenging task by itself, and the subject of extensive current research.

We thank the IMA for hosting the workshop with hospitality and efficiency, especially Avner Friedman, who was the director of the IMA at the time of the workshop, and Robert Gulliver, who was its associate director. The workshop was part of a year on high performance computing at the IMA, and we also thank the organizers of this year, especially Mitchell Luskin and Ridgway Scott. We thank the extraordinarily capable and helpful technical staff at the IMA, especially Patricia V. Brick. Above all, we thank the participants in the workshop for making it productive and inspiring.

Christoph Börgers
Frank Natterer
May 1998

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