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Isolation of backscattering resonances of a thin spherical shell
using iterative time reversal

Zachary Waters\textsuperscript{a}, Benjamin Dzikowicz\textsuperscript{b}, R. Glynn Holt\textsuperscript{a} and Ronald Roy\textsuperscript{a}

\textsuperscript{a}Boston University, Dept. of Aerosp. and Mech. Eng., 110 Cummington St., Boston, MA 02215, USA
\textsuperscript{b}Naval Surface Warfare Center, Panama City Division, Code HS-11, 100 Vernon Ave., Panama City, FL 32407, USA

The backscattering spectrum of thin spherical shells show resonance peaks due to several different physical processes including high frequency Lamb wave excitation and low frequency modal ringing [Kaduchak et al., J. Acoust. Soc. Am. 97, 2699-2708 (1995)]. These different processes can be isolated in both time and frequency by using simulated iterative time reversal. This is accomplished by windowing in the time domain and/or filtering in the frequency domain. Iterative time reversal techniques developed for buried target detection [Waters et al., J. Acoust. Soc. Am. 122, 3023 (2007)] are applied to the partial wave series solution for the backscattering of plane acoustic waves by a thin-walled spherical shell. Tank experiments are performed to verify theoretical results. Targets loaded with both water and sediment are considered. Understanding the relationship between the time reversal window’s size/position and the dominant target scattering mechanisms is key to the development of time reversal as a detection and identification technique. [Work supported by The Office of Naval Research.]