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COMPARISON OF THE EFFECTS  
BETWEEN SINGLE AND MULTIPLE-SCATTERING  
ON CODA WAVES FOR LOCAL EARTHQUAKES

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## Abstract:

The effects of multiple-scattering **on** coda waves have been investigated by an extension of the **single-scattering** theory. The contributions to the coda power **due** to multiple-scattering from a uniform distribution of isotropic scatterers in a two-dimensional infinite elastic **medium** have been numerically evaluated. The results show that **at** shorter lapse time, the coda power **is well** explained **by** the single-scattering theory. **At longer lapse** time, this is inadequate and the effects **of multiple-scattering** need to be considered. The neglect **of multiple-scattering** gives rise to an overestimate of the values **of** the quality factor ( $Q$ ) by a factor of 3.85.

## Introduction:

**Knopoff** and Hudson (1964) treated **the** problem of forward scattering " of P- and S-waves by a randomly **inhomogeneous elastic** medium and showed that the scattered waves are primarily of the S-type. Aki (1969) considered the back scattering of the same wave-types by heterogeneities in the lithosphere. He showed that the coda waves observed for local earthquakes can be explained in terms of the back scattering of the primary waves in the lithosphere.

Using coda waves for **local** earthquakes, **Aki** and **Chouet** (1975), **Rautian** and **Khalturin** (1978), Aki (**1980a,b**), **Herrmann** (1980) and **Singh** (1981) investigated the quality factor ( $Q$ ) of seismic waves for frequencies greater than 0.1 Hz. Aki (**1981a**) synthesized the results **of Q** measurements and showed that the  $Q$  values of coda waves closely agree to those measured for S-waves. Also, he showed that the seismograms for coda and S-waves exhibit identical station-site effects. Integrating

these observations **with** the results **on the** mechanism for the generation of coda waves mentioned above, Aki (1981b) concluded that the coda waves are S-to-S back-scattered waves.

The studies cited here, including those of Sato (1977a,b; 1978) and Kopnichev (1975, 1977) are based on the single-scattering theory. This theory is valid provided the mean free paths of the waves between the scatterers are greater than the travel distances from the scatterers to receiver. However, there may be physical situations where the above conditions are not valid. For such cases, contribution from multiple-scattering to the seismic coda may become important.

In the present study, we therefore considered the effects of multiple-scattering on coda waves for a two-dimensional geometry. We approached the problem by following the single-scattering theory of Aki (1969) and Aki and Chouet (1975). However, to maintain a continuity of the presentation with the works of Aki and colleagues, we first restate the problem of single-scattering and then proceed to compute the effects of higher-order scattering.

### Mathematical Preliminaries: Single-Scattering

Consider a two-dimensional infinite elastic medium in which numerous, statistically isotropic scatterers are distributed uniformly. For this physical condition, we represent the energy due to single-scattering per unit area in the form:

$$\frac{\sigma |\phi(\omega|r_n)|^2}{2\pi r_n} \quad (1)$$

where  $\sigma$  is the scattering cross-section of the scatterer at distance  $r_n$

from the station,  $\phi(\omega|r_n)$  is the amplitude spectrum of the incident wave at  $r_n$ . The power spectral density, then can be expressed as

$$p(\omega|t)\Delta t = \sum_{r < r_n < r+\Delta r} \frac{\sigma |\phi(\omega|r_n)|^2}{2\pi r_n} \quad (2)$$

We assumed in (2) that the scatterers with isotropic cross-section  $\sigma$  are distributed in the area bounded by  $r$  and  $r+\Delta r$ . Also, we assumed that both the incident and scattered waves are of the same kind and share the same propagation velocity ( $v$ ) and the station (receiver) and source of the primary waves are located at the same place. The scattered waves from the scatterers in  $(r, r+\Delta r)$  arrive at the station in the time interval  $(t, t+\Delta t)$ , where  $t=2r/v$  and hence,

$$\Delta t = 2\Delta r/v \quad (3)$$

in (3), it is implicit that the source dimension of the primary waves is small in comparison to  $v$ .

Let  $n_0$  be the density of scatterer per unit area in  $(r, r+\Delta r)$ .

In terms of  $n_0$ , (2) becomes

$$p(\omega|t)\Delta t = \frac{2\pi r \Delta r n_0 \sigma}{2\pi r} |\phi(\omega|r)|^2$$

$$\text{or } p(\omega|t)\Delta t = n_0 \sigma \Delta r |\phi(\omega|r)|^2 \quad (4)$$

Substituting (3) in (4), we get

$$p(\omega|t) = \frac{v n_0 \sigma}{2} |\phi(\omega|r)|^2 \quad (5)$$

For the conservation of energy (E), we have

$$E \sim 2\pi r |\phi(\omega|r)|^2 = 2\pi r_0 |\phi(\omega|r_0)|^2$$

$$\text{or } |\phi(\omega|r)|^2 = |\phi(\omega|r_0)|^2 \left(\frac{r_0}{r}\right) \quad (6)$$

where  $\phi(\omega|r_0)$  is the amplitude spectrum at the reference distance  $r_0$ .

In terms of the quality factor  $Q$ , the fractional loss of energy due to scattering and intrinsic absorption per cycle is  $2\pi/Q$  and the attenuation in power during the time period  $t$  is  $\exp(-\omega t/Q)$ , where  $\omega$  is the angular frequency. Incorporating the attenuation factor and (6) in (5), we get

$$p(\omega|t) = \frac{n_0 r_0 \sigma |\phi(\omega|r_0)|^2}{t} \exp(-\omega t/Q). \quad (7)$$

where we replaced  $v/2$  by  $r/t$ .

#### Multiple-Scattering:

In order to explain the computational procedures used here, we first consider the effects of double and triple-scattering.

##### (a) Double-Scattering:

For this case we consider the contribution to the coda of the scatterers in the two-dimensional area  $2r \leq r_1 + r_2 + r_3 \leq 2(r+\Delta r)$ . Here  $r = vt/2$ ,  $r_1$  and  $r_2$  are the distances between the source (receiver occupies the same place as the source) and the first scatterer and between the first and second scatterers, respectively.  $r_3$  is the distance between the second scatterer and the receiver (Fig.1).

We consider next, an uniform distribution of the second scatterer, thereby constituting a set of scatterers in the area between two concentric

ellipses (Fig. 1) with foci at S and A. The first scatterer is held fixed for the time being at  $r_1$ . The major axes of the inner and outer ellipses are then,  $2r-r_1$  and  $2(r+\Delta r)-r_1$ , respectively. For the scatterers between the two ellipses, there are two sources of incident waves--one at S represented by the source of the primary waves and the other at A due to scattering of the primary waves by the first scatterer.

The scattered waves originating at A can be expressed in the form:

$$\sigma |\phi(\omega|r_1)|^2 \quad (8)$$

where  $\phi(\omega|r_1)$  is the amplitude spectrum of the primary waves at  $r_1$  and  $\sigma$  is the cross-section of the scatterer situated at this point.

In terms of a reference distance  $r_0$ , (8) becomes

$$\sigma |\phi(\omega|r_0)|^2 \left(\frac{r_0}{r_1}\right) \quad (9)$$

Using (9) and following the same approach as used for the single-scattering case, we can represent the square of the amplitude spectrum at  $r$  for the double-scattering case in the form

$$|\phi(\omega|r)|^2 = \frac{\sigma^2}{2\pi r_2 2\pi r_3} \left(\frac{r_0}{r_1}\right) |\phi(\omega|r_0)|^2 \exp(-\omega t/Q) \quad (10)$$

(10) represents the contribution of a pair of scatterers, one being in the area between the two ellipses and the other at  $r_1$  from the receiver.

Consider an elemental area AA (Fig. 1) with  $n_0$  as the density of scatterer. The elemental area AA can be expressed as

$$\Delta A = r_3 \Delta\theta \Delta r_3 \quad (11)$$

The equation of the inner ellipse in polar coordinates  $(r, \theta)$  is

$$r_3 = \frac{(a^2 - c^2)}{a - c \cos \theta} \quad (12)$$

where  $\theta$  is the angle between  $r_1$  and  $r_3$ ; it is measured counterclockwise.  $a$  is the semi-major axis and is given by

$$a = \frac{2r - r_1}{2} \quad (13)$$

or  $ha = \Delta r \quad (14)$

For fixed  $c = \frac{r_1}{2}$ , we have

$$\Delta r_3 = \frac{\partial r_3}{\partial a} \Delta a \quad (15)$$

For fixed  $e$ , using (12) we write (15) in the form

$$\Delta r_3 = \left(1 + \frac{c^2 \sin^2 \theta}{(a - c \cos \theta)^2}\right) \Delta a \quad (16)$$

Substituting (14) and (16) in (11), we get

$$\Delta A = \left[1 + \frac{c^2 \sin^2 \theta}{(a - c \cos \theta)^2}\right] r_3 \Delta r \Delta \theta \quad (17)$$

Thus, the contribution of all scatterers in the area between the two ellipses can be expressed in the form

$$n_0 \int_A |\phi(\omega|r)|^2 dA \frac{1}{8\pi^2 r_1} n_0 \sigma^2 |\phi(\omega|r_0)|^2 \exp(-\omega t/Q) \int_0^{2\pi} \left[ 1 + \frac{c^2 \sin^2 \theta}{(a-c \cos \theta)^2} \right] d\theta \quad (18)$$

where we replaced  $\Delta r$  by  $v\Delta t/2$ .  $A$  is the area between the two ellipses.

The number of first scatterers in the interval  $(r_1, r_1 + \Delta r_1)$  is  $2\pi r_1 \Delta r_1 n_0$ . The power spectral density of the waves arriving in the time interval  $(t, t + \Delta t)$  for double-scattering then becomes

$$p(\omega|t)\Delta t = \int_0^r 2\pi r_1 n_0 dr_1 n_0 \int_A |\phi(\omega|r)|^2 dA \quad (19)$$

Using (18) in (19), we get

$$p(\omega|t) = \frac{1}{4\pi} n_0^2 \sigma^2 r_0 v |\phi(\omega|r_0)|^2 \exp(-\omega t/Q) K_2 \quad (20)$$

where

$$K_2 = \int_0^r dr_1 \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1}{(2r-r_1-r_3)} \left[ 1 + \frac{c^2 \sin^2 \theta}{(2r-r_1-r_1 \cos \theta)^2} \right] d\theta \quad (21)$$

Substituting  $t = \frac{r_1}{r}$  in (21), we get

$$K_2 = \int_0^1 t dt \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{2-t(1+\cos \theta)}{2-(2t-t^2)(1+\cos \theta)} \left[ 1 + \frac{t^2 \sin^2 \theta}{\{2-t(1+\cos \theta)\}^2} \right] d\theta \quad (22)$$

b. Triple-Scattering. :

In this case, the scatterers being located at  $r_1$ ,  $r_2$  and  $r_3$  satisfy the condition  $2r \leq r_1+r_2+r_3+r_4 \leq 2(r+\Delta r)$ , where  $r = vt/2$ ,  $r_1$ ,  $r_2$  and  $r_3$  are the distances between the receiver and first scatterer, between first and second scatterer and between second and third scatterer, respectively.  $r_4$  is the distance between the third scatterer and the receiver. As before, the square of the amplitude spectrum at  $r$  can be expressed in the form

$$|\phi(\omega|r)|^2 = \frac{\sigma^3}{2\pi r_2 2\pi r_3 2\pi r_4} \left(\frac{r_0}{r_1}\right) |\phi(\omega|r_0)|^2 \exp(-\omega t/Q) \quad (23)$$

where the quantities on the left- and right-hand sides denote the same quantities as in (10).

For computational purposes, we fix the positions of the first and second scatterers at  $r_1$  and  $r_2$ , respectively, and take into account the third scatterers distributed in the area between two concentric ellipses, such that  $(2r-r_1-r_2) < r_3+r_4 < [2(r+\Delta r)-r_1-r_2]$  is satisfied. Next, following a similar approach as used for the double-scattering case, we integrate with respect to  $r_2$  and  $r_1$  for  $0 \leq r_2 \leq (r-r_1)$  and  $0 \leq r_1 \leq r$ , respectively. The power spectral density, thus can be expressed in the form

$$p(\omega|t) \Delta t n_0 \int_0^r r_1 dr_1 \int_0^{r-r_1} 2\pi n_0 r_2 dr_2 \int_A \frac{\sigma^3 n_0}{8\pi^3 r_2 r_3 r_4} \left(\frac{r_0}{r_1}\right) |\phi(\omega|r_0)|^2 \exp(-\omega t/Q) dA \quad (24)$$

or

$$p(\omega|t) = \frac{n_0^3 \sigma^3 r_0 v |\phi(\omega|r_0)|^2 \exp(-\omega t/Q)}{4\pi} \int_0^r dr_1 \int_0^{r-r_1} dr_2 \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1}{(2r-r_1-r_2-r_4)} \frac{\partial r_4}{\partial a} d\theta \quad (25)$$

where  $A = \frac{\partial r_4}{\partial r} r_4 da d\theta$ ,  $da = r$  and

$$r_4 = \frac{a^2 - c^2}{a - c \cos \theta} \quad (26)$$

$$2a = 2r - r_1 - r_2 \quad (27)$$

$$2c = r_1 + r_2 \quad (28)$$

Using (26'), (27) and (28) in (25), we get

$$p(\omega|t) = \frac{1}{4\pi} n_0^3 \sigma^3 r_0 r v |\phi(\omega|r_0)|^2 \exp(-\omega t/Q) K_3 \quad (29)$$

where

$$K_3 = \frac{1}{r} \int_0^r dr_1 \int_0^{r-r_1} dr_2 \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1}{(2r - r_1 - r_2 - r_4)} \left[ 1 + \frac{c^2 \sin^2 \theta}{(a - c \cos \theta)^2} \right] d\theta \quad (30)$$

$$\text{or } K_3 = \int_0^1 dt_1 \int_0^{1-t_1} dt_2 \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{2 - (t_1 + t_2)(1 + \cos \theta)}{2 - \{2(t_1 + t_2) - (t_1 + t_2)^2\}(1 + \cos \theta)} \left[ 1 + \frac{(t_1 + t_2)^2 \sin^2 \theta}{\{2 - (t_1 + t_2)(1 + \cos \theta)\}^2} \right] d\theta \quad (31)$$

where  $t_1 = \frac{r_1}{r}$  and  $t_2 = \frac{r_2}{r}$ .

In general, the contribution to the seismic coda for kth order scattering can be expressed in the form

$$p_k(\omega|t) = \frac{1}{4\pi} r_0 r^{(k-2)} n_0^k \sigma^k v |\phi(\omega|r_0)|^2 \exp(-\omega t/Q) K_k \quad (32)$$

where

$$K_k = \frac{1}{r^{k-2}} \int_0^r dr_1 \int_0^{r-r_1} dr_2 \dots \int_0^{r-r_1-\dots-r_{k-2}} dr_{k-1} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{1}{(2r-r_1-\dots-r_{k-1}-r_{k+1})} \left[ 1 + \frac{c^2 \sin^2 \theta}{(a-c \cos \theta)^2} \right] d\epsilon \quad (33)$$

$$\text{or } K_k = \int_0^1 dt_1 \int_0^{1-t_1} dt_2 \dots \int_0^{1-t_1-\dots-t_{k-1}} dt_{k-1} \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{2-\zeta_2(1+\cos\theta)}{2-\{2\zeta_2-\zeta_2^2\}(1+\cos\theta)} \left[ 1 + \frac{\zeta_2^2 \sin^2 \theta}{\{2-\zeta_2(1+\cos\theta)\}^2} \right] d\epsilon \quad (34)$$

$$\text{where } t_i = \frac{r_i}{r}, \quad \zeta_1 = \sum_{i=1}^{k-2} t_i, \quad \zeta_2 = \sum_{i=1}^{k-1} t_i.$$

Instead of solving the integrals for  $K_k$  ( $k=1, 2, \dots$ ) analytically, we evaluated them numerically. The values of  $K_k$  for different  $k$  up to  $k=7$  are given in Table 1, which were obtained by Gauss's integration method. Since the value of  $p_k(\omega|t)$  decreases rapidly with increasing order of scattering, we restricted the computation to  $k \leq 7$ .

The power spectral density of the coda waves due to multiple scattering can thus be expressed in the form .

$$P(\omega|t) = P_s(\omega|t) + P_m(\omega|t) \quad (35.)$$

In (35),  $P_s(\omega|t)$  and  $P_m(\omega|t)$  represent the contributions for single and multiple scattering, respectively, where

$$P_s(\omega|t) = \frac{1}{t} n_0 \sigma r_0 |\phi(\omega|r_0)|^2 \exp(-\omega t/Q) \quad (36)$$

and  $P_m(\omega|t)$  for nth order scattering is

$$P_m(\omega|t) = n_0^2 \sigma^2 v r_0 |\phi(\omega|r_0)|^2 \exp(-\omega t/Q) \sum [\alpha_k \beta^{k-2}] \quad (37)$$

where  $\alpha_k$  are numerical constants which are given in Table 1 for different k and  $\beta = n_0 \sigma r_0$ .

It may be noted that for the two-dimensional geometry,  $\sigma$  and  $n_0$  have dimensions of length L and  $L^{-2}$ , respectively, for unit mass of each scatterer. Thus  $\beta = n_0 \sigma r_0$  is a dimensionless quantity. Using the values of  $\alpha_k$  ( $k = 2, 3, \dots$ ) from Table 1, the polynomial in the square bracket in (37) can be fitted by the function  $\exp(0.74\beta)$  in the interval  $0 \leq \beta \leq 3$  for 99 percent confidence limits. We thus rewrite (37) in the form

$$P_m(\omega|t) = (n_0 \sigma)^2 r_0 v |\phi(\omega|r_0)|^2 \exp(0.74\beta - \omega t/Q)$$

Or

$$P_m(\omega|t) = S \exp(0.74\beta - \omega t/Q), 0 \leq \beta \leq 3 \quad (38)$$

where

$$S = (n_0 \sigma)^2 r_0 v |\phi(\omega|r_0)|^2 \quad (39)$$

Using (39), we rewrite (36) in the form

$$P_s(\omega|t) = \frac{S}{2\beta} \exp(-t/Q) \quad (40)$$

Substituting (38) and (40) in (35), we get

$$P(\omega|t) = S \exp(-\omega t/Q) \left[ \frac{1}{2\beta} + \exp(0.74\beta) \right] \quad (41)$$

Since the dimensionless quantity  $\beta$  represents the **loss** in power due to scattering, we express the quality factor  $Q_s$  due to single scattering in the form

$$Q_s = \frac{\omega t}{n_o \sigma r}$$

or

$$Q_s = \frac{\omega t}{\beta} \quad (42)$$

where  $\omega$  is the angular frequency. Recall that the quality factor  $Q$  represents the combined loss due to single scattering and intrinsic absorption. Let  $Q_i$  represent the quality factor for intrinsic absorption. In terms of  $Q_s$  and  $Q_i$ ,  $Q$  becomes

$$\frac{1}{Q} = \frac{1}{Q_s} + \frac{1}{Q_i} \quad (43)$$

Substituting (42) and (43) in (38) and (40), we get

$$P_m(\omega|t) = S \exp \left[ -\omega t \left( \frac{0.26}{Q_s} + \frac{1}{Q_i} \right) \right] \quad (44)$$

and

$$P_s(\omega|t) = (2\omega t)^{-1} Q_s S \exp \left[ -\omega t \left( \frac{1}{Q_s} + \frac{1}{Q_i} \right) \right] \quad (45)$$

From the time dependence  $t^{-1}$  of (45), it follows that at short lapse time  $t$  (time measured from the origin time of the source) and for a given value of  $\omega$ , the contribution from single-scattering dominates

the **power** spectral density of coda waves. However, as  $t$  increases, the contribution **to** the power spectral density from multiple-scattering becomes dominant. Thus, at sufficiently **large values** of  $t$ , the determination of  $Q$  values on the basis of single-scattering theory **yields an overestimation of  $Q$  values** by a factor of **3.85** (reciprocal of 0.26), as can be seen from (44).

In order to elaborate the above observations, we **computed**  $P(\omega|t)/S$ ,  $P_m(\omega|t)/S$  and  $P_s(\omega|t)/S$  as a function of  $\beta$  and  $\bar{Q} = 1.0, 0.5$  and **0.1** from (41), (44) and (45). Here  $\bar{Q} = Q/Q_s$ , where  $Q$  and  $Q_s$  represent the same quantities as in (43). The **results** of computations are given in Figs. 2a, b and c.

It may be noted in Figs. 2a, b and c that the graphs of  $P_s(\omega|t)/S$  and  $P_m(\omega|t)/S$  as a function of  $\beta$  for **all** the three values of  $\bar{Q}$  intersect for a value of  $\beta = \beta_c$ , where  $\beta_c = 0.38$  corresponding to a time  $t = t_c$ . For  $\beta > 0.38$  and  $\bar{Q}$  of **1.0** and 0.5, the contribution **to** the coda from multiple-scattering starts dominating with increasing values of  $\beta$ . However, single-scattering accounts **well** the-power in the coda for  $\beta = n_0\sigma < \beta_c$  or for **travel** time  $t_c < 0.76(n_0\sigma v)^{-1}$ .

The quantity  $n_0\sigma$  has been **called** turbidity by Aki and Chouet (1975); it has the dimension of the reciprocal of mean-free path. For the LASA area in Montana, Aki (1980) obtained a **value of**  $0.008 \text{ km}^{-1}$  for  $n_0\sigma$ . **This value** with  $v = 3.5 \text{ km/see}$  (velocity of S-waves in the upper part of the lithosphere) and  $\beta_c = 0.38$  yields a **travel** time ( $t_c$ ) of 28 sec. **Thus**, for travel time ( $t$ ) in the range of 100 to 200 see, at least for the LASA area, the contribution **of multiple-scattering** to the coda section of the seismograms for **local** earthquakes **would** be important.

For  $\bar{Q} = 0.1$  (Fig. 2c), the power in coda decreases rapidly to an insignificant level at  $\beta = \beta_c$  compared to the other two values of  $\bar{Q}$ . Therefore, the overall contribution of single scattering to the coda is more important than those of multiple scattering; thus for this value of  $\bar{Q}$ , the effects of multiple scattering can be neglected.

### Conclusions:

In this study, the single scattering theory of Aki (1969) for coda waves has been extended to the multiple-scattering case for a two-dimensional elastic medium consisting of a uniform distribution of numerous but statistically isotropic scatterers. For this physical condition of the medium, the power spectral density of coda waves for the  $n$ th order scattering has been expressed in integral form. Numerically integrating this expression up to 7th order scattering the contributions to the coda power from single- and multiple-scattering are compared.

The results of the comparison show that at shorter lapse time  $t < t_c$ , the properties of coda waves are well explained by the single-scattering theory. However, for lapse time  $t > t_c$ , the single-scattering theory is not adequate in explaining the coda waves. Rather, the contributions to the coda power from multiple-scattering become important. At longer lapse time  $t \gg t_c$ , the determination of the quality factor  $Q$  on the basis of single-scattering theory yields an overestimation of the  $Q$  values by a factor of 3.85.

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TABLE 1.

Values of  $K_k$  and  $\alpha_k$  are shown for different values of k.

k	$K_k$	$\alpha_k$
2	12.5	<b>1.0</b>
3	<b>8.31</b>	0.66
4	3.26	0.26
5	<b>0.921</b>	0.074
6	0.203	0.016
7	0.035	0.0028

Figure Captions:

Figure 1. The geometry for the distribution of scatterers. .'

Figure 2. "The relationship of coda power as a function of  $\beta$  and  $\bar{Q}$  are shown for single- and multiple-scattering. The values of  $P(\omega|t)/S$ ,  $P_s(\omega|t)/S$  and  $P_m(\omega|t)/S$  are shown as a function of  $\beta$ . (a)  $\bar{Q} = 1.0$ .

(b)  $\bar{Q} = 0.5$ , and (c)  $\bar{Q} = 0.1$ . Note that the total power spectral density of coda waves is

$P(\omega|t) = P_s(\omega|t) + P_m(\omega|t)$ , where  $P_s(\omega|t)$  and  $P_m(\omega|t)$  are the power spectral densities due to single- and multiple-scattering, respectively.



