Inherent Optical Properties - Absorption

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Ocean Optics Coastal Summer School 2019

Absorption, Scattering and Beam Attenuation

- Attenuation of a beam by absorption and scattering
- Consider a beam of photons which collide with particles



The beam is attenuated: - by photons, which are absorbed;

- by photons, which are scattered into another direction and, thus, do not reach the detector.



Beer-Lambert Law



- absorbance of a solution $A = \log_{10} I_0 / I = a^* Ic$
- Transmittance $T = I/I_0$
- *a*^{*} specific absorption coefficient
- I path length of light
- c concentration of absorber in the solution

Liquid Waveguide Capillary Cell (LWCC)



- Common spectrophotometers: 1cm or 10 cm cell
- Main purpose: Increase optical path length (50-500cm) by:
- Waveguide technology
- total internal reflection at the core/wall interface.