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# Choosing a model for laser speckle contrast imaging: supplement

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**Fig. S1.** Relative error caused by a typical combination of wrong assumptions when measuring blood flow in the parenchyma. Ground truth model was set to  $MU_{n=0.5}$  with  $\tau_c = 1ms$ , T = 5ms,  $\beta = 0.5$ ,  $\rho = 0.8$ , while the conventionally used  $MO/SU_{n=1,simp}$  was tested.



**Fig. S2.** Relative error caused by using  $MU_{n=0.5}$  model in medium-sized vessels. Ground truth model was set to  $MO/SU_{n=1}$ , with T = 5ms,  $\tau_c = 0.2ms$ ,  $\beta = 1$ ,  $\rho = 1$ .

### Derivation of Eq. 12

Field autocorrelation function for multiple scattering unordered motion regime is given by:

$$g_1(\tau) = exp\left(-\sqrt{\tau/\tau_c}\right) \tag{S1}$$

With Eq. 10,  $g_2$  becomes:

$$g_2 = 1 + \beta \left[ \rho^2 exp(-\sqrt{\tau/\tau_c}) + 2\rho(1-\rho) \left| exp(-\sqrt{\tau/\tau_c}) \right| + (1-\rho^2) \right]$$
(S2)

Substitute the new  $g_2$  into Eq. 3 to compute the autocovariance  $C_t(\tau)$ :

$$C_t(\tau) = \beta \left[ \rho^2 exp(-\sqrt{\tau/\tau_c})^2 + 2\rho(1-\rho)exp(-\sqrt{\tau/\tau_c}) + (1-\rho)^2 \right] < I >_t^2$$
(S3)

From Eq. 1 the contrast is derived as:

$$K_{s}^{2} = \frac{2\beta}{T} \int_{0}^{T} (1 - \frac{\tau}{T}) \Big\{ \rho^{2} exp(-\sqrt{\tau/\tau_{c}})^{2} + 2\rho(1 - \rho) exp(-\sqrt{\tau/\tau_{c}}) + (1 - \rho)^{2} \Big\} d\tau$$
(S4)

Compute the definite integral to obtain Eq.12.

#### Derivation of Eq. 13

For single scattering and ordered motion regime, the proper model of autocorrelation function is

$$g_1(\tau) = exp\left(-(\tau/\tau_c)^2\right)$$
(S5)

Substitute Eq. S5 in Eq. 10, *g*<sub>2</sub> becomes:

$$g_2 = 1 + \beta \left\{ \rho^2 exp \left( -(\tau/\tau_c)^2 \right)^2 + 2\rho(1-\rho)exp \left( -(\tau/\tau_c)^2 \right) + (1-\rho)^2 \right\}$$
(S6)

The autocovariance function  $C_t(\tau)$  in this case becomes:

$$C_t(\tau) = \beta \left\{ \rho^2 exp\left( -(\tau/\tau_c)^2 \right)^2 + 2\rho(1-\rho)exp\left( -(\tau/\tau_c)^2 \right) + (1-\rho)^2 \right\} < I_t >^2$$
(S7)

Substitute Eq. S7 into Eq. 1, the contrast equation is:

$$K_{s}^{2} = \frac{2\beta}{T} \int_{0}^{T} (1 - \frac{\tau}{T}) \Big\{ \rho^{2} exp\Big( - (\tau/\tau_{c})^{2} \Big)^{2} + 2\rho(1 - \rho) exp\Big( - (\tau/\tau_{c})^{2} \Big) + (1 - \rho)^{2} \Big\} d\tau \quad (S8)$$

Compute the definite integral to obtain Eq.13.