

Generating Gaussian beams using energy-efficient phase DOEs

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Abstract

This work is devoted to the design of energy efficient helical phase diffractive optical elements (DOEs), type $\exp(im\phi)$, for the generation of Gauss–Laguerre modes, $\Psi_{0m}(r, \phi)$, $|m| \leq M$. DOEs are designed using the modified Lezem method. An optimal aperture radius is calculated for the elements that operate with a plane illuminating wave. In case of illumination with a Gaussian beam, an optimal effective radius of the Gaussian beam is calculated. Though in this case the main criterion for assessing the quality of synthesized DOEs is the energy efficiency (i.e., maximizing the content of specified Gauss-Laguerre modes in the generated light fields), the root-mean-square and geometric errors are very low. The results of the experimental simultaneous generation of 24 beams with different helical components in different diffraction orders are also presented.

Keywords: Gaussian beam, phase DOE, Gauss–Laguerre mode, Lezem method, aperture radius, illuminating wave, diffraction order.

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