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Metasurfaces and plasmonic holography: A new route to ultrathin displays

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Abstract

Optical applications and components very often rely on refraction at geometrically shaped interfaces between two materials or spatial modulation of the phase during the propagation of light. Both effects, however, require a variation of the refractive index in threedimensional space and lead to optical elements that need to be significantly thicker than the utilized wavelength. Recently, new approaches with artificially structured materials, the socalled Metamaterials, open exciting possibilities for the realization of compact optical elements. The high degree of flexibility in the design and manufacturing of optical Metamaterials allows now to control the propagation of light to a high degree of freedom. Plasmonic Metasurfaces that consist only of a monolayer of planar metal structures are in particular promising. They have the advantage that they can provide full control over light propagation with relatively low manufacturing costs and no requirements on complex three dimensional nanofabrication techniques. One of the most interesting properties of Metasurfaces is the ability to produce an abrupt phase change for the passage of light through a surface. This phase change offersa unique possibility for controlling the local wave front on a sub wavelength scalewhich also leads to a modification of the classic law of refraction. The talk will provide an overview of the concept of Berry phase Metasurfaces and show recent developments in the field of beam shaping and holography.