Transformation Optics Based Lift for Large View-Angle, Phase-Undisturbed Optical Imaging

Chia-Wei Chu\textsuperscript{1,2}, Jui Chang Tsai\textsuperscript{1}, Zhi Chen\textsuperscript{3,4}, Yu-Bo Duan\textsuperscript{3,4}, Tiancheng Han\textsuperscript{5}, Cheng Wei Qiu\textsuperscript{6}, George Barbastathis\textsuperscript{3,7}, Baile Zhang\textsuperscript{8,9}, and Yuan Luo\textsuperscript{1,2,*}

\textsuperscript{1}Center of Optoelectronic Biomedicine, National Taiwan University college of Medicine, Taipei, Taiwan
\textsuperscript{2}Molecular Imaging Center, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan
\textsuperscript{3}Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART) Centre, Singapore
\textsuperscript{4}National University of Singapore, Singapore
\textsuperscript{5}School of Physical Science and Technology, Southwest University, Chongqing 400715, China
\textsuperscript{6}Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, National University of Singapore, Singapore 119620, Singapore
\textsuperscript{7}Department of Mechanical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, USA
\textsuperscript{8}Division of Physics and Applied Physics, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore 637371, Singapore
\textsuperscript{9}Centre for Disruptive Photonic Technologies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore 637371, Singapore

E-mail: yuanluo@ntu.edu.tw

1. Introduction

Controlling the propagation of light is always an interesting research topic for a variety of applications such as light trapping, display and imaging. Recently, using the invariance of Maxwell’s equation, transformation optics has provided a new method to design devices for manipulating light propagation [1] [2]. Here, based on transformation optics, we experimentally demonstrate a two-dimensional optical lift with large viewing angle for the light in visible wavelength. The device is made of a single piece of calcite crystal with $n_e=1.66$, and $n_o=1.48$, which is a natural homogeneous birefringent material with low-loss in visible regime.

2. Simulation

First, the simulation of light propagation, using the software COMSOL Multiphysics, is executed. Fig. 1(a) shows the result of light propagation with calcite ($n_e=1.66$, and $n_o=1.48$), while Fig. 1(b) shows light reflected by the same mirror located above the original position with an increased height of $h$. The thickness of the calcite $H$ is 19.8 mm. Compare the two output beams, obviously, the phases in these two situation are identical.

3. Experiment

The dimension of this optical imaging lift is 10 mm (W) x 40 mm (L) x 19.8 mm (H). Fig. 2(a) shows the images when light only reflected from mirror, while Fig. 2(b) shows the images when light reflected from mirror covered by the designed calcite.

4. Conclusion

The phase-undisturbed optical imaging lift with large view-angle is developed and verified both in simulation and experiment.

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