# Arbitrary manipulations of focused higher-order Poincaré beams by a Fresnel zone metasurface with alternate binary geometric and propagation phases 

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#### Abstract

The manipulation of high-quality vector beams (VBs) with metasurfaces is an important topic and has potential for classical and quantum applications. In this paper, we propose a Fresnel zone (FZ) metasurface with metallic nanoslits arranged on FZs, which sets alternate binary geometric and propagation phases to cancel the incident spin component and focus the converted spin component (CSC). The rotation designs of nanoslits transform the incident polarization state on the conventional Poincaré sphere to VBs on the higher-order Poincaré (HOP) sphere. The two orbital angular momentum states of the CSCs were manipulated, and the focused HOP beams were generated. The experimental results demonstrate the broadband generation of arbitrarily focused HOP beams of high quality under the illumination of the red ( 632.8 nm ), green ( 532 nm ), and blue ( 473 nm ) light. This work will be of significance for the applications of VBs in different areas, such as precision metrology, optical micromanipulation, and quantum information. © 2022 Chinese Laser Press


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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Owing to the distinctive characteristics of inhomogeneous polarization distributions across transverse planes, vector beams (VBs) have attracted extensive attention over the past decade. Investigations of VBs have motivated discoveries of various interesting phenomena in the light field, such as the topological structures of polarization knots [1] and Möbius strips [2,3], and the sub-diffraction focusing spot [4,5], and have developed broad applications in classical areas, including high-resolution microscopy [6], precision metrology [7], laser fabrications [8-10], and classical communications [11]. Essentially, VBs are the non-separable superposition of spin angular momentum (SAM) and orbital angular momentum (OAM) eigenstates, similar to the local entanglement in a bipartite system $[12,13]$ and given the term classically entangled light. In quantum mechanics, VBs have been used as a novel resource to encode rotational invariant qubits in alignment-free communication over a distance [14-16] and have been applied to teleportations [17], asymmetric quantum networks [18], and quantum walks [19].

Composed of artificial metallic or dielectric nanostructures of adjustable geometry, metasurfaces have a powerful ability to manipulate the light field in polarization, as well as phase and frequency degrees of freedom, and have been successfully engineered for versatile applications such as multifunctional metalenses [20-23], holography [24], quantum photon sources [25], and quantum entanglement of SAM and OAM [26]. As one of the most important applications of metasurfaces, the generations of VBs have been studied extensively, and various metasurfaces have enabled the manipulations of VBs [27-31]. The earlier metasurface designs concentrated on the generations of radially and azimuthally polarized vector beams (RPVBs and APVBs) by using the method of directly controlling the local polarization and phase of nanostructures [32-35], and this method is still in use at present [36,37], in spite of the inconvenient manipulation and simple type of generated VBs. In 2016, Yue et al. [28] introduced a novel method for metasurface design by superposing two orthogonal circularly polarized vortex states, which was based on the principles of higher-order Poincaré (HOP) sphere proposed by

Milione et al. [38], and it has greatly improved the advances in VB manipulation. The investigations of manipulating HOP beams were subsequently started, as pioneered by the wellknown work by Delvin et al. [27] with spin-orbit conversion, and by Yue et al. [29] with multichannel superpositions of OAM; in a recent work, generation of the high-capacity channel HOP beams was realized by Jiang et al. [31]. Yet, these investigations did not involve the hyperbolic phase, and the generated VBs were unfocused.

With the beam size to the subwavelength scale, tightly focused VBs have fascinating properties and unusual abilities of strong manipulations [39], and also they can provide the topological structure of light field in the focal region $[2,40]$. The generations of focused VBs have reasonably attracted particular interest, in which the two functionalities of focusing and manipulating the polarized vortices are integrated in a single metasurface [41-49]. Based on the earlier method of controlling the local polarization and phase, several theoretical designs of metasurfaces have been reported for super-resolution focusing of RPVBs and APVBs, notwithstanding lacking experimental demonstrations [42-44]; Ding et al. [45,46] generated and experimentally demonstrated the dual-channel focused RPVBs and APVBs. With the novel method of superposing two circularly polarized vortices, the generations of the focused HOP beams were investigated, and typically, Wang et al. [47] generated the multichannel off-axial focused HOP beams with the geometric phase used both to manipulate and to focus the two vortices. In the present studies, undesirable factors adverse to generations of focused high-quality VBs exist: a futile background of output fields due to the diverging component was originated from opposite response of the geometric phase for focusing to the circular polarizations [47]; the limited discrete sizes of the nanostructures to acquire resonant phase for the hyperbolic phase of lens resulted in imperfections of the focused VBs [45,46]. Recently, Wu et al. [48] generated coaxial focused APVBs by arranging single-sized nanorods on the rings, but the extension to the generation of general VB needs to be further demonstrated. Additionally, Bao et al. [50] and Liu et al. [49] generated the perfect HOP beams by introducing the additional phase for the radially deflection, but the perfect VBs have greatly enlarged ring of intensity profiles (usually with a ring radius to several tens of micrometers) and, thereby, do not have the properties of strong manipulation, and they cannot be categorized as tightly focused VBs. On the whole, not much work has been conducted on coaxial focused HOP beams up to now.

The difficulty in generating coaxial focused HOP beams of high qualities lies in the influence of different adverse backgrounds or hostile scatterings. Particularly, the residual incident spin component (ISC) can be uncontrollably focused as the bright spot at the center, coinciding with the dark cores of the vortices, and the quality of generated HOP beam may be vulnerably and obviously deteriorated; one of the probable originations for the residual ISC is the variant size and orientation of the nanostructures, which cause them to deviate from the homogeneous periodic boundary conditions and the ideal wave plates [51].

In this paper, we propose a novel plasmonic metasurface consisting of nanoslits arranged perpendicularly on the odd
and even rings of Fresnel zone (FZ), denoted as FZ metasurfaces, to realize the manipulation of coaxial focused HOP beams. With the combined alternate binary geometric and propagation phases, the superposition of wavelets from the slits on two adjacent rings is designed to cancel the ISC through destructive interference and to focus the converted spin component (CSC) through constructive interference. By controlling the orientation of the nanoslits and adjusting the elliptical polarization of incident light, the superposition of two orthogonal OAM states of CSCs having topological charges of equal absolute value but opposite signs is realized. Correspondingly, the coaxial focused VB at an arbitrary point on the HOP sphere is generated. With the path-dependent propagation phase as the hyperbolic phase matched to the constructive interference, the metasurface design realizes accurate focusing, which differs from the previous work with the sizedependent resonant phase $[45,46]$ (which also belongs to propagation phase) and polarization-dependent geometric phase for focusing [47]. Thus, our metasurfaces are composed of single-sized slits, avoiding the probable ISC due to the variant size of nanostructures. Besides, in contrast to the dielectric metasurfaces [52-54], the transmitted light field through metal slits undergoes the complete spin-orbit interaction [55], which provides the foundation for a clear cancellation of ISC contributing to the bright central peak. Additionally, the high accuracy of the focused ion beam (FIB) lithography allows the precise fabrications of the samples, avoiding to a good extent the fab-rication-induced deviation of the nanostructures from the ideal wave plates. By taking these advantages of the metasurface designs, we demonstrate the generation of coaxial focused VBs of high quality. Here we first gave the theoretical analysis of the focused VB fields for the FZ metasurface design based on the Huygens-Fresnel principle and the transmittance property of the nanoslits; then by the simulations with finite-difference time domain (FDTD) method, we optimized the metasurfaces and demonstrated the generations of the focused HOP beams; the metasurfaces were designed for wavelength 632.8 nm and were also demonstrated to work at wavelengths 532 nm and 473 nm , respectively. Experimentally, we realized the HOP beams evolving on the equator and on the prime meridian of the HOP sphere with $l=1,3$ at the wavelength of $632.8 \mathrm{~nm}, 532 \mathrm{~nm}$, and 473 nm , respectively, and we also realized the second- and third-order VBs on the equator of the HOP sphere at the wavelength of 632.8 nm . The generated HOP beams appeared to be of high quality and seemed to be among high levels of experimental focused VBs in our acquirable references. We expect that the method proposed in this paper will be of significance to related fields in classical and quantum physics.

## 2. PRINCIPLE ANALYSIS AND STRUCTURE DESIGN

Figure 1(a) is the schematic of the generation of the focused HOP beams by the FZ metasurface, which consists of nanoslits in a gold film on a fused silica substrate. A representative nanoslit occupying the substrate area of side-lengths $P_{r}$ and $P_{\theta}$ is shown in Fig. 1(a), panel i; the length and width of slit are $L$ and $W$, respectively, and the orientation angle of the slit


Fig. 1. Schematic for generating the focused HOP beams via an FZ metasurface. (a) Basics for the generation of focused HOP beams. Upon illumination of incident beam of a wavelength $\lambda$ ( $\lambda=632.8 \mathrm{~nm}, 532 \mathrm{~nm}$, and 473 nm ) with the arbitrary polarization state $\left|\boldsymbol{u}_{\text {in }}\right\rangle=a_{1}|R\rangle+a_{2}|L\rangle$ described as the superposition of RCP (represented by the light blue arrow) and LCP (represented by the upward wine arrow) components, the output beam is the superposition of the LCP and RCP OAM states of $|L,-2 m\rangle$ and $|R, 2 m\rangle$ with weights $a_{1}$ and $a_{2}$, respectively. (a) Panel i , enlarged view of a representative slit. (a) Panel ii, intensity patterns of focused HOP beams generated at the center focal plane. (b) SEM image and (c) enlarged view of the FZ metasurface with geometric parameters $m=3 / 2$ and $\varphi_{0}=\pi / 2$. (d) Illustrative geometry for the theoretical analysis of the VB produced by the metasurface.
$\varphi$ is the angle between the normal of the slit's longer side and $x$ axis. The incident plane wave $\left|\boldsymbol{u}_{\text {in }}\right\rangle$ is elliptically polarized, and it contains components of right circular polarization (RCP) $|R\rangle$ and left circular polarization (LCP) $|L\rangle$ with the weights $a_{1}$ and $a_{2}$, respectively. The output field includes the OAM states of LCP and RCP $|L,-2 m\rangle$ and $|R, 2 m\rangle$, which are determined by the rotation order $m$ of the nanoslits, and the coaxial focused HOP beam of order $l=2 m$ is formed at the focal plane, with the dark core at the optical axis. The metasurface is designed for red light with wavelength 632.8 nm and is extended to green and blue light with wavelength 532 nm and 473 nm , respectively. Figure 1(a), panel ii shows the intensity patterns of generated VBs of order $l=3$ for demonstration at wavelengths of $473 \mathrm{~nm}, 532 \mathrm{~nm}$, and 632.8 nm under the illuminating light of RCP $(|R\rangle)$, horizontal linear polarization $(|H\rangle), 45^{\circ}$-slanted linear polarization $(|D\rangle)$, and arbitrary polarization $\alpha_{1}|R\rangle+\alpha_{2}|L\rangle$, respectively. Figure $1(\mathrm{~b})$ shows the scanning electron microscopy (SEM) image of a metasurface, and Fig. 1(c) shows an enlarged view. The nanoslits are arranged on the $N$ rings of FZ and grouped into odd and even rings, as labeled in green and in red, respectively, in Fig. 1(c). The nanoslits on the even rings of the FZs are perpendicular to those on the odd rings in the same radial line, producing the alternate binary geometric phases of 0 and $\pi$. The orientation of the slit on the odd ring at azimuth $\theta$ is defined by $\varphi(\theta)=m \theta+\varphi_{0}$, where $\varphi_{0}$ is the orientation of initial slit
at $\theta=0$, and correspondingly, the slit orientation on the even ring is $\varphi^{\prime}=\varphi-\pi / 2$. The radius of the $n$th ring $r_{n}=\sqrt{n \lambda f+n^{2} \lambda^{2} / 4}$ sets the incremental path $n \lambda / 2$ of the slits with wavelength $\lambda$ and focal length $f$ [56], and it also introduces the alternate binary propagation phases of 0 and $\pi$.

Figure 1(d) schematically demonstrates two slits on the odd and even rings, lying at the positions $r_{n}\left(r_{n}, \theta\right)$ and $r_{n+1}\left(r_{n+1}, \theta\right)$ with radii $r_{n}$ and $r_{n+1}$, respectively. Generally, a thin slit acts as a local linear polarizer, with the transmitted direction perpendicular to its longer sides. Thus, the Jones matrix of the slit on the odd rings is $\boldsymbol{J}=\boldsymbol{R}(-\varphi) \boldsymbol{J}_{0} \boldsymbol{R}(\varphi)$, where $\boldsymbol{R}(\varphi)$ is the rotation matrix and $\boldsymbol{J}_{0}=\operatorname{diag}[0,1]$ is the matrix for the polarizer with horizontal transmission. When the metasurface was illuminated by CP light $\boldsymbol{u}^{\sigma}=\left[\begin{array}{cc}1 & \sigma i\end{array}\right]^{T} / \sqrt{2}$, with helicity $\sigma= \pm 1$ for LCP and RCP, respectively, and superscript $T$ denoting the transpose of the matrix, the transmitted fields of slits on the odd and even rings are calculated as

$$
\begin{equation*}
\boldsymbol{U}_{\mathrm{od} ; \mathrm{ev}}^{\sigma}\left(r_{\mathrm{od} ; \mathrm{ev}}, \theta\right)=\boldsymbol{J}\left(\varphi_{\mathrm{od} ; \mathrm{ev}}\right) \boldsymbol{u}^{\sigma}=\boldsymbol{u}^{\sigma} / 2 \pm e^{i 2 \sigma \varphi} \boldsymbol{u}^{-\sigma} / 2 \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where subscript "od" represents the slit on an odd ring and "ev" on an even ring, $r_{\mathrm{od}}=r_{n}$ and $r_{\mathrm{ev}}=r_{n+1}, \varphi_{\mathrm{od}}=\varphi$, and $\varphi_{\mathrm{ev}}=\varphi^{\prime}=\varphi-\pi / 2$. The first term on the right-hand side of the above equations has the same helicity as the incident light and is referred to as the ISC, whereas the second term has the opposite helicity with the geometric phase $\Phi_{g}=2 \sigma \varphi$ imposed and is termed as the CSC.

First, we consider the wave field $\boldsymbol{E}_{\mathrm{od}}^{\sigma}(\rho, \alpha)$ produced by the odd rings in the polar coordinates on the focal plane. Such a wave field can be taken as the discrete sum of wavelet fields diffracted from the slits, but for more general expression, it is replaced by the integral over the metasurface. Based on the vector-form Huygens-Fresnel principle [57], it is written as

$$
\begin{equation*}
\boldsymbol{E}_{\mathrm{od}}^{\sigma}(\rho, \alpha)=\frac{-i}{\sqrt{\lambda}} \iint_{A} \frac{1}{\sqrt{s}} \boldsymbol{U}_{\mathrm{od}}^{\sigma}(r, \theta) e^{i k s} r \mathrm{~d} r \mathrm{~d} \theta \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $s$ is the distance from point $(r, \theta)$ to point $(\rho, \alpha)$, $\boldsymbol{U}_{\text {od }}^{\sigma}(r, \theta)$ is the field distributed over the neighborhood element area $\mathrm{d} A=\mathrm{d} r \mathrm{~d} \theta$ of a single slit, which is used to replace the transmitted fields $\boldsymbol{U}_{\mathrm{od}}^{\sigma}\left(r_{\mathrm{od}}, \theta\right)$ given by Eq. (1), and $k=$ $2 \pi / \lambda$. The above equation also holds for the field $\boldsymbol{E}_{\mathrm{ev}}^{\sigma}(\rho, \alpha)$ produced by the even rings, with $\boldsymbol{U}_{\mathrm{ev}}^{\sigma}(r, \theta)$ for even rings to replace $\boldsymbol{U}_{\mathrm{od}}^{\sigma}(r, \theta)$. In the paraxial area with small $\rho, s \approx$ $\left(f^{2}+r^{2}\right)^{1 / 2}+\left[\rho^{2}-2 \rho r \cos (\alpha-\theta)\right] / 2 f$, where $\left(f^{2}+r^{2}\right)^{1 / 2}$ is the distance from the point $(r, \theta)$ to the focus [58]. By denoting $s_{\mathrm{od}}=\left(f^{2}+r_{\mathrm{od}}^{2}\right)^{1 / 2}$ and $s_{\mathrm{ev}}=\left(f^{2}+r_{\mathrm{ev}}^{2}\right)^{1 / 2}$ for the odd and even rings, respectively, the fields $\boldsymbol{E}_{\text {od }}^{\sigma}(\rho, \alpha)$ and $\boldsymbol{E}_{\text {ev }}^{\sigma}(\rho, \alpha)$ can be further expressed in the following comprehensive form:

$$
\begin{align*}
\boldsymbol{E}_{\text {odjev }}^{\sigma}(\rho, \alpha)= & \frac{-i}{\sqrt{\lambda f}} \iint_{A} \boldsymbol{U}_{\text {od;ev }}^{\sigma}(r, \theta) \\
& \times e^{i k\left(s_{\text {odiev }}+\rho^{2} / 2 f\right)} e^{-i k \rho r \cos (\alpha-\theta) / f} r \mathrm{~d} r \mathrm{~d} \theta \tag{3}
\end{align*}
$$

The optical path $s_{\mathrm{ev}}$ for an even ring has an increment of $\lambda / 2$ relative to its adjacent odd ring, so a propagation phase difference $\Delta \Phi_{p}=k s_{\mathrm{ev}}-k s_{\mathrm{od}}=\pi$ is introduced. Based on Eqs. (1) and (3), by adding $\boldsymbol{E}_{\mathrm{od}}^{\sigma}(\rho, \alpha)$ and $\boldsymbol{E}_{\text {ev }}^{\sigma}(\rho, \alpha)$, we obtain the focused field under CP illumination:

$$
\begin{align*}
\boldsymbol{E}^{\sigma}(\rho, \alpha)= & \frac{C_{0}}{2} \iint_{A} e^{-i k \rho r \cos (\alpha-\theta) / f}\left[\left(\boldsymbol{u}^{\sigma}+\boldsymbol{u}^{-\sigma} e^{i 2 \sigma \varphi}\right)\right. \\
& \left.+\left(\boldsymbol{u}^{\sigma}-\boldsymbol{u}^{-\sigma} e^{i 2 \sigma \varphi}\right) e^{i \pi}\right] r \mathrm{~d} r \mathrm{~d} \theta \\
= & \boldsymbol{u}^{-\sigma} C_{0} e^{i 2 \sigma \varphi_{0}} \int_{r_{1}}^{r_{N}} \int_{0}^{2 \pi} e^{i 2 \sigma m \theta} e^{-i k \rho r \cos (\alpha-\theta) / f} r \mathrm{~d} r \mathrm{~d} \theta \tag{4}
\end{align*}
$$

where $C_{0}=-\operatorname{iexp}\left[i k\left(s_{\mathrm{od}}+\rho^{2} / 2 f\right)\right] / \sqrt{\lambda f}$ is a complex constant and $\exp \left(i k s_{\mathrm{ev}}\right)=\exp \left(i k s_{\mathrm{od}}+i \pi\right)$ is used. Because of the propagation phase factor $\exp (i \pi)$, the two terms of the ISC related to $\boldsymbol{u}^{\sigma}$ in the above equation were canceled in the destructive interference. By contrast, with the combination of the alternate binary geometric and propagation phases, the terms of the CSC were constructively added. Essentially, with the optical path $s$ in increment $\lambda / 2$, the odd and even rings of the metasurface set the exact match of the hyperbolic phase and realize the focusing of the output field like a Fresnel lens.

When the illuminating light is generalized to an arbitrary elliptical polarization, it can be represented geometrically by a point on the conventional Poincaré sphere (PS) with spherical coordinates $(2 \Theta, 2 \Phi)$ and can be written as the superposition of RCP and LCP lights:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\boldsymbol{u}_{\mathrm{in}}=\sum_{\sigma=-1(\sigma \neq 0)}^{1} a_{\sigma} e^{-i \sigma \Phi} \boldsymbol{u}^{\sigma}, \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $a_{\sigma=-1}=\cos \Theta$ and $a_{\sigma=1}=\sin \Theta$ denote the normalized amplitude coefficients of the RCP and LCP, respectively. In Eq. (4), the integral over $\theta$ is evaluated as the product of a vortex phase factor of $\alpha$ and the Bessel function of $r$. By combining Eqs. (4) and (5) and calculating the integral over $r$, we obtain the wave field $\boldsymbol{E}(\rho, \alpha)$ on the focal plane:

$$
\begin{align*}
\boldsymbol{E}(\rho, \alpha)= & \sum_{\sigma=-1(\sigma \neq 0)}^{1} a_{\sigma} e^{-i \sigma \Phi} \boldsymbol{E}^{\sigma}(\rho, \alpha) \\
\approx & C_{0}(m) r_{N}^{2 m+2} \rho^{2 m}\left(\sum_{\sigma=-1(\sigma \neq 0)}^{1} a_{\sigma} e^{i \sigma \Phi^{\prime}} e^{i 2 \sigma m \alpha} u^{-\sigma}\right) \\
& \times{ }_{1} F_{2}\left[m+1, m+2,2 m+1 ;-\left(\frac{k \rho r_{N}}{2 f}\right)^{2}\right] \tag{6}
\end{align*}
$$

where $\Phi^{\prime}=2 \varphi_{0}-\Phi$ and ${ }_{1} F_{2}(a, b, c ; x)$ is the hypergeometric function. The following integral relation is used:

$$
\begin{align*}
& \int_{0}^{r_{N}} J_{2 m}(k \rho r / f) r \mathrm{~d} r=\frac{r_{N}^{2 m+2}}{(2 m+2)(2 m)!}\left(\frac{k \rho}{2 f}\right)^{2 m} \\
& \quad \times{ }_{1} F_{2}\left[m+1, m+2,2 m+1 ;-\left(\frac{k \rho r_{N}}{2 f}\right)^{2}\right] \tag{7}
\end{align*}
$$

$C(m)$ is related to $m$ by

$$
\begin{equation*}
C_{0}(m)=\frac{2 \pi C_{0}(i k)^{2 m}}{(2 f)^{2 m}(2 m+2)(2 m)!} \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

The lower limit $r_{1}$ was neglected owing to the insignificance of $r_{1}^{2 m+2}$ in comparison with $r_{N}^{2 m+2}$ in Eq. (7). Equation (6) indicates that the focused HOP beam $\boldsymbol{E}(\rho, \alpha)$ is formed, which
is the contribution of the two CSCs. The beam was radially modulated by the hypergeometric function and is called a vector hypergeometric beam. By controlling the parameters $m, \varphi_{0}, \Theta$, and $\Phi$ of the metasurface and the incident light, the polarization state of the VB at point $\left(2 \Theta^{\prime}, 2 \Phi^{\prime}\right)$ on the HOP sphere of order $l$ can be manipulated arbitrarily. From Eq. (6), the relation $\Theta^{\prime}=\pi / 2-\Theta, \Phi^{\prime}=2 \varphi_{0}-\Phi$ was obtained for mapping the incident light on PS to VBs on the HOP sphere. Interestingly, when the incident light went from north to south poles on the PS, the generated VB moved oppositely from the south to the north poles on the HOP sphere.

## 3. SIMULATION RESULTS

Using FDTD (Lumerical Solutions) software, the simulations of the focused RPVB and APVB produced by the metasurface sample with parameters $m=1 / 2$ and $\varphi_{0}=\pi / 2$ were first performed to demonstrate the focusing effect of the metasurface. The optimized slit dimension is $L=250 \mathrm{~nm}$ and $W=90 \mathrm{~nm}$, and the focal length is set at $f=10 \mu \mathrm{~m}$ for wavelength of $\lambda=632.8 \mathrm{~nm}$. The number of rings $N=28$ with the diameter of metasurface $32.0 \mu \mathrm{~m}$. Figure 2(a) shows the schematic demonstration. Panels i and ii in Fig. 2(b) show the total intensity patterns $I_{\text {total }}$ on the $x-z$ plane and the focal plane under the $x$-polarized incident light, respectively, at wavelength 632.8 nm , and panel iii in Fig. 2(b) shows the curves of the total and component intensities along the $x$ direction. The results indicate that a strong longitudinal component field was obtained, where the intensity curve of $I_{\text {total }}$ exhibited a sharp focused profile with full width at half-maximum (FWHM) of $0.606 \lambda$. The patterns and curves for APVB in panels iv-vi in Figs. 2(b) demonstrate that the beam has a profile with a hollow core with FWHM (the inner FWHM) of $0.39 \lambda$ under the $y$-polarized incident light. These results demonstrate that tight focusing of the VBs was achieved. The transmitted efficiency $T$ for the powers of the transmitted field from the slit at different wavelengths was simulated under periodic boundary condition with illumination of LCP; the power values were the sum of the ISC and the CSC averaged over the substrate area $A_{c}=P_{r} \times P_{\theta}$, and the data at the distance of a wavelength behind the slit are shown in Fig. 2(c). Therein the power ratios of ISC and CSC to the transmitted power are also shown, respectively. The phases for an individual slit were also simulated, and the on-axis data at a distance of wavelength are shown in Fig. 2(c). The transmitted efficiency is $9.45 \%$ for the main wavelength $632.8 \mathrm{~nm}, 0.87 \%$ for the wavelength 532 nm , and $1.76 \%$ for 473 nm , respectively. As might be understood, one of the reasons for the limited efficiency is the small aspect ratio of the nanoslit for the occupied substrate area. For some application scenarios, particularly with laser sources of higher power but requirement of high beam quality, the limited efficiency might be acceptable. Panels i-iii in Fig. 2(d) show the simulated intensity profiles in the $x-z$ plane at the wavelengths of $632.8 \mathrm{~nm}, 532 \mathrm{~nm}$, and 473 nm , for the metasurface designed to generate the focused RPVB. The corresponding focal lengths are $f=9.7 \mu \mathrm{~m}, 14.2 \mu \mathrm{~m}$, and $17.6 \mu \mathrm{~m}$, respectively. Next, for the metasurface with $m=1$ and $\varphi_{0}=\pi / 2$ under the illumination of elliptically polarized lights at the designed wavelength of 632.8 nm , the weights squared for


Fig. 2. Numerical simulations for the generation of the focused HOP beams. (a) Schematic and (b) simulation results of the focused RPVB and APVB. The focused solid spot with an approximately $3 \lambda$ depth of focus in (b) panels i and ii verifies the generation of the focused RPVB; the hollow dark spot in (b) panels iv and verifies the generation of the focused APVB; (b) panels iii and vi show the curves of the total and component intensities along the $x$ direction. $I_{\text {total }}$, total intensity; $I_{r}$, radial, $I_{\varphi}$, azimuthal, $I_{z}$, longitudinal component intensities. (c) Upper panel, transmitted efficiency $T$ for the powers of the transmitted field, and the phases of the ISC and CSC of the slit in broadband. The incident light is LCP. Lower panel, $R_{\mathrm{rcp}}$ and $R_{\mathrm{lcp}}$, representing the transmitted power ratios of RCP and LCP to the total transmitted power, respectively. (d) Panels i-iii show the simulated intensity distribution on the $x-z$ plane. (e) Curves of the weights squared for OAM states $|R, 2 m\rangle$ (blue) and $\mid L$, $-2 m\rangle$ (red) versus the polar angle $2 \Theta$ on PS of the incident light. The curves in the inset show the corresponding weights squared of CP components $|R\rangle$ and $|L\rangle$ of the incident light with $\lambda=632.8 \mathrm{~nm}$.
the CSCs $|R, 2 m\rangle$ and $|L,-2 m\rangle$ were extracted from the simulation results and plotted versus coordinate $2 \Theta$ of the incident light on prime meridian on the PS, as represented by scattered stars of Fig. 2(e), respectively. The corresponding curves are plotted based on Eq. (6). The cross similarity of the curves in Fig. 2(e) for VBs and in the inset for the incident light validates the map of point $(2 \Theta, 2 \Phi)$ on PS to point $\left(2 \Theta^{\prime}, 2 \Phi^{\prime}\right)=$ $(\pi-2 \Theta,-2 \Phi)$ on the HOP sphere. Figure 2(e) also presents the intensity patterns of the $x$-polarized components at five $2 \Theta$ values on the top row, and the blurred lobes in the two patterns for $2 \Theta=\pi / 4$ and $2 \Theta=3 \pi / 4$ intuitively reflect the elliptical polarization states of the generated VBs. In addition, in the FDTD simulations, many sophisticated optimizations were performed for the output field of each experimental sample before fabrication.

To analyze the broadband properties and the chromatic dispersion, we further performed the broadband simulations of the APVBs with FDTD, and the total intensity images of beams for 14 wavelengths in the range from 450 nm to 650 nm are shown in Fig. 3(a), where the images are in a unified color bar. These images demonstrate that the HOP beams can be achieved in the broadband. The focal lengths $f$ corresponding to these were extracted, as shown in Fig. 3(b), which appears to be approximately linearly decreased in wavelength range under consideration, indicating the chromatic dispersion of the metasurface. The FWHMs of the hollow cores in the total intensity profiles $I_{\text {total }}$ for the APVBs of different wavelengths at the focal planes were also extracted, and they are shown in blue curve in Fig. 3(b); on the whole, the

FWHM as the multiplier of wavelength decreases with the wavelength, with the value for the main wavelength 632.8 nm being FWHM $=0.39 \lambda$. The variation of the tightly focused VBs, including the beam size and the corresponding divergence, with observation distance $Z$ away from focal plane, is of importance in focusing engineering [59,60] and in light field topology [2,40]. The variation of tightly focused APVBs may be analyzed through that of the FWHMs [48,61]. To this end, we extracted the FWHMs of the APVBs at seven distances $Z$ near the focal planes for the wavelengths $632.8 \mathrm{~nm}, 532 \mathrm{~nm}$, and 473 nm , respectively, and the results are presented in Fig. 3 (c). It is seen that the FWHM (relative to wavelength) is smaller for larger wavelength of light; this is related to the shorter focal length and then the larger NA of the metasurface. Moreover, with the unobvious maximum at the focal plane, the variation of FWHM for the wavelength 632.8 nm indicates that the generated beam behaves the same as the general tightly focused VBs [48,62,63], which has been demonstrated to diverge quickly outside the depth of focus of several wavelengths [63] at large NA. The variations of FWHM for other two wavelengths appear to be more complicated [48], presumably because of the smaller NA and the non-specific wavelength optimization in the metasurface design.

## 4. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP AND RESULTS

Figure 4(a) illustrates the optical setup for generating the focused HOP beams of arbitrary polarization states. Three lasers of wavelengths $632.8 \mathrm{~nm}, 532 \mathrm{~nm}$, and 473 nm were used as


Fig. 3. (a) Intensity patterns of APVB on the focal plane at 14 different wavelengths between 450 and 650 nm . All the patterns are in a unified color bar. (b) The focal length (red stars) and the inner FWHM (blue triangles) at different wavelengths. (c) The FWHM of the simulated APVB along the optical axis with wavelengths $\lambda_{0}=632.8,532$, and 473 nm , respectively.
the light sources, respectively. The elliptically polarized light was obtained after the half-wave plate (HWP) and quarter-wave plate (QWP) to illuminate the sample. The focused HOP beam behind the sample was captured by the MO, and the polarization component patterns were imaged using Andor's Zyla 5.5 sCMOS camera. Four samples, i.e., $S^{1}, S^{2}, S^{3}$, and $S^{5}$, with $m=1 / 2,1,3 / 2$, and $5 / 2$, respectively, and $\varphi_{0}=\pi / 2$, were fabricated on the Au films with 200 nm thickness over silica substrates. Here, the superscript denotes $l=2 m$. SEM images


Fig. 4. (a) Schematic diagram of the experimental setup. HWP, half-wave plate; QWP, quarter-wave plate; A, attenuator; MO, microscope objective (NA $=0.9 / 100 \times$ ); P, linear polarizer. (b), (c) SEM images (local) of samples $S^{1}$ and $S^{2}$, respectively. (d) Schematic for the correlation of the linear polarization of light $\boldsymbol{E}_{0}$ and the polarization of the transmitted field $\boldsymbol{E} . \boldsymbol{E}_{0 x}, \boldsymbol{E}_{0 y}$ and $\boldsymbol{E}_{x}, \boldsymbol{E}_{y}$ represent their component fields. (d) Panels i-iii represent the horizontally, angle - $\Phi$-obliquely, and vertically incident polarizations, respectively, where the transmitted fields $\boldsymbol{E}$ are polarized in the horizontal direction, oblique angle $\Phi$ with respect to the inverse $x$ direction, and vertical direction. When the polarization direction $\Phi$ of incident light $\boldsymbol{E}_{0}$ is rotated counterclockwise from 0 to $\pi / 2$, the polarization of the transmitted field $\boldsymbol{E}$ rotates clockwise from 0 to $\pi / 2$.
of samples $S^{1}$ and $S^{2}$ are shown in Figs. 4(b) and 4(c), respectively. In the fabrication, the Au films were deposited on substrate by use of magnetron sputtering under the pressure of $2.0 \times 10^{-4} \mathrm{~Pa}$ with a deposition rate of $1 \mathrm{~nm} / \mathrm{s}$. Then the slits of the designed metasurfaces were etched in the Au film with the FIB system (FEI Helios G4 UX) at the acceleration voltage of 30 kV and beam current of 93 pA . By adjusting the incident elliptical polarization, the samples can produce VB corresponding to any point on the HOP sphere of order $l$.

In Fig. 5(b), the experimental intensity patterns of the VBs produced by sample $S^{1}$ are presented at the wavelength of 632.8 nm with the polarization angle of incident light $\Phi$ being horizontal $(|H\rangle)$, diagonal $(|D\rangle)$, vertical $(|V\rangle)$, and antidiagonal $(|A\rangle)$, respectively. The patterns from the top to bottom rows are the VBs of radial, $135^{\circ}$-slanted, azimuthal, and $45^{\circ}$ slanted polarization, corresponding to the four points in clockwise order from A to D on the equator of the HOP sphere with $l=1$, respectively, which are in mapping correlation to the points from a to d in opposite directions on the equator on PS, as illustrated in Fig. 5(a). The polarization states are schematically indicated by arrows overlaid on the doughnut patterns.

The optical mechanism correlating the incident light to the VB is pictorially depicted in Fig. 4(d); the left horizontal slit and right vertical slit constitute the initial double slits located on odd and even rings of sample $S^{1}$, respectively. Remembering that the transmitted field of the slit is polarized perpendicularly to its longer side, under the $x$-polarized incident light, the right slit can excite the transmitted field while the left cannot, with the superposed field being that of the former, as demonstrated in Fig. 4(d), panel i. In contrast, under the $y$-polarized incident light, the superposed field is that of the latter, as shown in Fig. 4(d), panel iii. When the polarization direction of incident light $E_{0}$ is rotated counterclockwise from 0 to $\Phi$, the
components $\boldsymbol{E}_{0 x}$ and $\boldsymbol{E}_{0 y}$ of $\boldsymbol{E}_{0}$ excite $\boldsymbol{E}_{x}$ and $\boldsymbol{E}_{y}$ of the transmitted field $\boldsymbol{E}$ through the right vertical slit and left horizontal slit, as demonstrated in Fig. 4(d), panel ii, the inverse direction in $\boldsymbol{E}_{x}$ is consistent with the optical path increment $\lambda / 2$, and the superposed field of double slits is polarized at angle $\pi-\Phi$.

Fundamentally, when sample $S^{1}$ is illuminated by the incident light polarizing in angle $\Phi$ to the $x$ axis with corresponding longitude $2 \Phi$, the included RCP and LCP were transformed into vortices $|L,-1\rangle \exp \left[i\left(2 \varphi_{0}-\Phi\right)\right]$ and $|R, 1\rangle \exp \left[-i\left(2 \varphi_{0}-\Phi\right)\right]$, respectively. Thus, the superposed VB has the linear polarization state with longitude $-2 \Phi$ on the equator. This finding demonstrates that when the incident polarization goes along the equator on the PS, the VB goes opposite to the HOP sphere, as demonstrated in Fig. 5(a). Figures 5(c) and 5(d) show the similar experimental results to those in Fig. 5(b) for sample $S^{1}$ but under illuminating light with the wavelength of 532 nm and 473 nm , respectively.

Figure $5(\mathrm{e})$ shows the intensity patterns of VBs also produced by $S^{1}$ at nine latitude points labeled by I (south pole) to IX (north pole) on the prime meridian of the HOP sphere under the illuminations of the three wavelengths, corresponding to the polarization states of the incident light going from point i (north pole) to ix (south pole) on the prime meridian of PS, with the latitudes varying from 0 to $\pi$ in intervals of $\pi / 8$, as indicated in Fig. 5(a). The patterns of each wavelength show that, when the polarization states of the VBs move from the equator to the poles, the orientations of the lobes in the


Fig. 5. Experimental results of the HOP beams of order $l=1$ produced by sample $S_{1}$ under the illumination of the red ( 632.8 nm ), green ( 532 nm ), and blue ( 473 nm ) light. (a) The transformation of the polarization states from the PS (left) to HOP sphere (right) by the metasurface. (b) Intensity patterns of VBs on the equator of HOPs under the illumination of the red light. (c) and (d) Intensity patterns of VBs under the illumination of green and blue light, respectively. (e) Measured intensity patterns of nine VBs on the prime meridian of HOP sphere. The red double arrows and elliptical and round arrows represent the incident polarizations, the white arrows represent the polarization components (i.e., the direction of the polarizer) of the VBs, the doughnuts overlaid by the black elliptical (or round) and double-sided arrows of schematic polarization states are the experimental intensity patterns of $I=I_{x}+I_{y}$, and the gray hollow arrows mark the orientation of the lobes.


Fig. 6. Experimental intensity patterns produced by samples $S^{2}, S^{3}$, and $S^{5}$, respectively. (a) Intensity patterns of the VBs at the four equator points marked from A to D. (b1), (b2) Experimental results of nine VBs evolving along the prime meridian of the HOP sphere with $l=3$ under the illumination of red light at $\lambda=632.8 \mathrm{~nm}$, and under the illumination of green light at $\lambda=532 \mathrm{~nm}$ and blue light at $\lambda=473 \mathrm{~nm}$, respectively. The upper and lower rows are for green light ( $\lambda=532 \mathrm{~nm}$ ) and blue light ( $\lambda=473 \mathrm{~nm}$ ), respectively. All the horizontal white arrows represent polarization components of the VBs.
$x$-component patterns remain unchanged, but their boundaries become blurred.

Figure 6(a) shows the experimentally measured patterns of VBs on the equator of the HOP with orders $l=2,3$, and 5 produced by samples $S^{2}, S^{3}$, and $S^{5}$, in rows from 1 to 3 , respectively. The patterns in the left column are the total intensity doughnut of the VB s at point A on the corresponding HOP sphere. The red double-sided arrows on the top title row represent incident polarizations, i.e., $|H\rangle,|D\rangle,|V\rangle$, and $|A\rangle$ from left to right, respectively. The gray hollow arrows mark the orientation of the lobes. Each pattern of polarization component has $2 l$ lobes, which manifests the $2 l$ azimuthal interference fringes of the $x$-polarized vortices $\exp (i l \alpha)$ and $\exp (-i l \alpha)$ in the azimuthal cycle $2 \pi$. When the incident linear polarization rotates to angle $\Phi$, in the pattern of the corresponding VB , the lobe marked with the hollow arrow rotates to the angle $\alpha=\Phi / l$.

For further demonstrations, Fig. 6(b1) shows the intensity patterns of the HOP beams produced by $S^{3}$ on the prime meridian at wavelength of 632.8 nm , still at the nine points shown in Fig. 5(a), but on the sphere of $l=3$. The incident polarization ellipse is plotted in the upper-left corner of each pattern. Figure 6(b2) shows the given intensity patterns of the nine points for wavelength of 532 nm and 473 nm , and elliptical and round arrows in the title row label the incident polarizations. Overall, all the experimental patterns of the focused HOP beams generated with the FZ samples were of higher quality, and the implementations were feasible and convenient.

## 5. DISCUSSION

Though there is noticeable improved quality of the abovefocused HOP beams, to introduce a quantitative evaluation is necessary for beams to be compared with those produced by the
previous methods. To this end, we choose the commonly used vector quality factor (VQF), which is defined as concurrence (also denoted by $C$ ) for quality description of the general VBs [64], and it was first proposed as the quality measure of VBs formed by two cylindrical vector vortex modes [65]. It is defined as $[64,65]$

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathrm{VQF}=C=\sqrt{1-\frac{S_{1}^{2}}{S_{0}^{2}}-\frac{S_{2}^{2}}{S_{0}^{2}}-\frac{S_{3}^{2}}{S_{0}^{2}}} \tag{9}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $S_{0}, S_{1}, S_{2}$, and $S_{3}$ are the components of global Stokes parameters $\vec{S}=\int \mathrm{d}^{2} \vec{\rho} \vec{S}(\vec{\rho})$, with $\vec{S}(\vec{\rho})$ the local Stokes parameters. While $I=S_{0}$ represents the total intensity in the VB , and $I=I_{b}+I_{v}=I_{d}+I_{a}=I_{r}+I_{l}$, with the subscript $h, v, d, a, r$, and $l$ signifying the intensities of horizontal, vertical, diagonal, antidiagonal, right, and left circularly polarized light components, VQF is expressed as [64]

$$
\begin{align*}
\mathrm{VQF} & =C \\
& =\sqrt{1-\left(\frac{I_{h}-I_{v}}{I_{b}+I_{v}}\right)^{2}-\left(\frac{I_{d}-I_{a}}{I_{d}+I_{a}}\right)^{2}-\left(\frac{I_{r}-I_{l}}{I_{r}+I_{l}}\right)^{2}} \tag{10}
\end{align*}
$$

We take the HOP beams of order 2 for the main wavelength 632.8 nm as the example to look at the improvement of the beam quality with the method in this paper. We first calculated the theoretical VQF on the prime meridian of the sphere [13,64], which is taken as the standard VQF, and it is given in the red solid curve in Fig. 7(a). Correspondingly, using FDTD, we also performed the simulations of the HOP beams produced by the corresponding metasurface sample designed with the method of this paper. Nine beams at the corresponding latitude points on the prime meridian from the north to south pole in equal latitude-intervals were simulated, and then the VQF of the beams was calculated based on Eqs. (9) and (10), given in blue stars in Fig. 7(a). For comparison, the metasurface sample $S_{a}^{\prime}$ was designed as the one by the state-of-the-art method, also to produce the corresponding HOP beams of order 2, and it was composed of single slits rather than the orthogonal slit-pairs, with the same slit size of $250 \mathrm{~nm} \times$ 90 nm ; the slits were arranged in grids along $x$ and $y$ axes [29], the geometric phase of the slit was used simultaneously for both the hyperbolic phase of lens and the spiral phase of vortex,


Fig. 7. VQF as a function of the parameters (a) $2 \Theta^{\prime}$ and (b) slit width $W$. (a) VQF of the simulated HOP beams of order 2 on the prime meridian. Solid red line, theoretical VQF; blue stars, VQF for sample $S^{2}$; green triangle, VQF for sample $S_{a}^{\prime}$. The upper and lower patterns of HOP beams are for $S^{2}$ and $S_{a}^{\prime}$ at $2 \Theta^{\prime}=3 \pi / 4$, respectively. (b) VQF for FZ metasurface samples $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{b} 1}^{\prime}-\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{b} 7}^{\prime}$ of slit width varying from 90 nm to 150 nm at $2 \Theta^{\prime}=\pi / 4$.
and the sample $S_{a}^{\prime}$ was of the same dimension as above metasurface of this paper. The corresponding nine beams were also simulated, and the obtained VQF is shown in green triangle in Fig. 7(a). The deviations of the VQF values for the two samples from the theoretical values are also shown in green triangles in Fig. 7(a), demonstrating that the quality of the HOP beams by the method of the paper is improved. For intuitive visualizations, the simulated intensity images of $x$-polarized component at $2 \Theta^{\prime}=3 \pi / 4$ for two samples are shown in Fig. 7(a).

To understand the influence of fabrication imperfections such as the size and rounded corner of the slits on the quality of the generated beams, we conducted the FDTD simulations accordingly on the HOP beams of order 2 produced by seven FZ metasurfaces $\left(S_{b 1}^{\prime}-S_{b 7}^{\prime}\right)$ of different slit sizes, while each of metasurfaces was composed of identical slits. The slits took the same length of $L=250 \mathrm{~nm}$, and the width varied from 90 nm to 150 nm , with increment of 10 nm for the metasurfaces in slit width order. Since the VQF of the produced HOP beams at the point with the latitude $2 \Theta^{\prime}=\pi / 4$ on the prime meridian appeared to deviate moderately from the standard beams, we calculated the VQF of these beams at this point, and it is shown in round dots in Fig. 7(b). It demonstrates that the metasurface with the larger width will to some degree lower the quality of the generated HOP beams. Further, we replace the rectangle slit with an elliptical slit, with the major axis 300 nm and minor axis 110 nm for an area approximately equal to the original slit (the rectangle of $250 \mathrm{~nm} \times 90 \mathrm{~nm}$ ), to check the influence of rounded corners of the slits, and again the HOP beams of order 2 produced by the metasurface $S_{c}^{\prime}$ of the elliptical slits were simulated. We obtained the VQF and had the largest difference 0.171 from standard value at the north pole, in contrast to the largest difference 0.181 also at the north pole for our metasurface of rectangle slits. This indicates that the round corner of the slits does not have much adverse effects on the quality of the generated VBs for the plamonic metasurfaces. On the whole, though the size errors in fabricating the metasurfaces may decrease to some degree the quality of the VB s, within the easily feasible fabricating accuracy of 10 nm , and considering the non-adverse influence of the round corner, the deterioration of the beam quality due to the imperfections in fabricating the plasmonic metasurfaces can be well controlled.

## 6. CONCLUSION

In summary, we experimentally demonstrate FZ metasurfaces to manipulate broadband coaxial focused HOP beams, realizing the arbitrary transformation from incident polarization at $(2 \Theta, 2 \Phi)$ on PS to VB at $(\pi-2 \Theta,-2 \Phi)$ on the HOP sphere. The slits on the odd and even rings set the alternate binary geometric and propagation phases, with the hyperbolic phase being exactly matched. The focusing of the CSCs was realized through a constructive interference, avoiding the geometric-phase-related diverging component. Although the plasmonic metasurface is usually thought to have a low transmittance, all transmitted light through metallic slits completely undergoes spin-orbit interactions [55], and the metasurface inherently overcomes the bright central peak due to residual ISC [53,54] existing in the dielectric metasurface [54]. Therefore,
this characteristic of plasmonic metasurfaces is important for achieving coaxial focused HOP beams of high quality, of which the dark cores are vulnerable even to small background light, and for other applications with requirements of high-quality light manipulation. Besides, the focused HOP beams generated under incident light of different wavelengths have been obtained at a different focal plane. It is envisioned that, by introducing techniques eliminating the chromatic aberration in metalens for the focusing manipulation such as the inte-grated-resonant units $[66,67]$ and the combined C-shaped units [68], the potential achromatic operation for generating real broadband HOP beams is hopeful to be realized. Lastly, our metasurface design provides a novel method for manipulating focused HOP beams flexibly and feasibly and proves important and useful for integrated devices in various conventional and quantum applications.

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Data Availability. The data that support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

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