

Metasurface Optics for Ultra-Compact Augmented Reality Visors



Elyas Bayati¹, Shane Colburn¹, Arka Majumdar^{1,2}

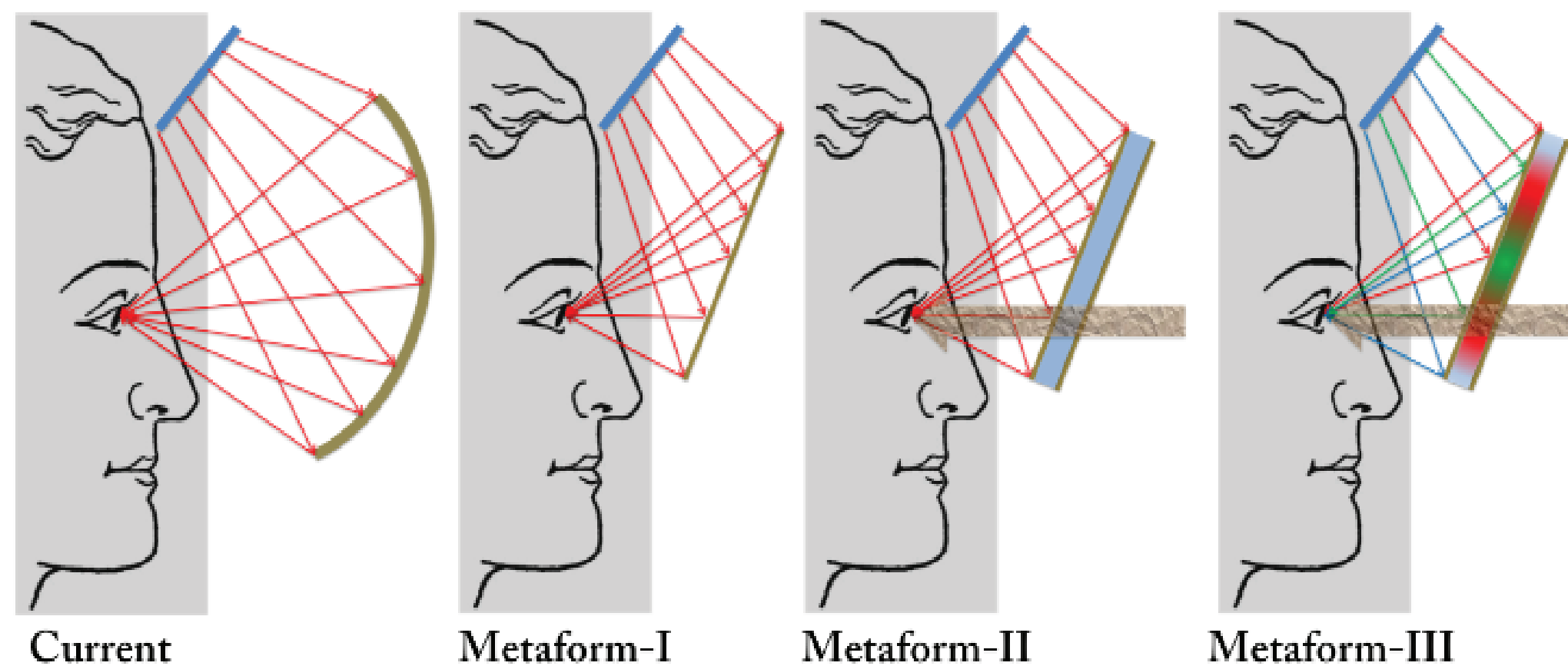
¹ University of Washington Electrical and Computer Engineering

² University of Washington Physics

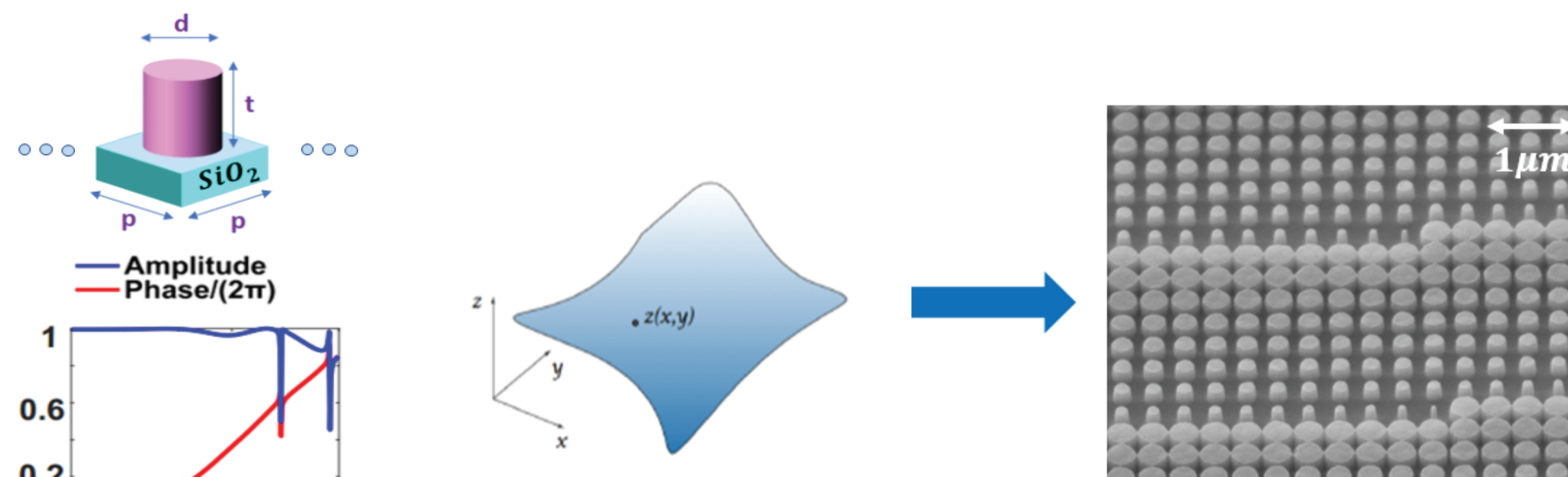
NOISE Lab

Abstract

The next generation of metasurface near-eye visors which will circumvent real-world distortions and provide a large field of view, as needed for an immersive AR experience is designed.

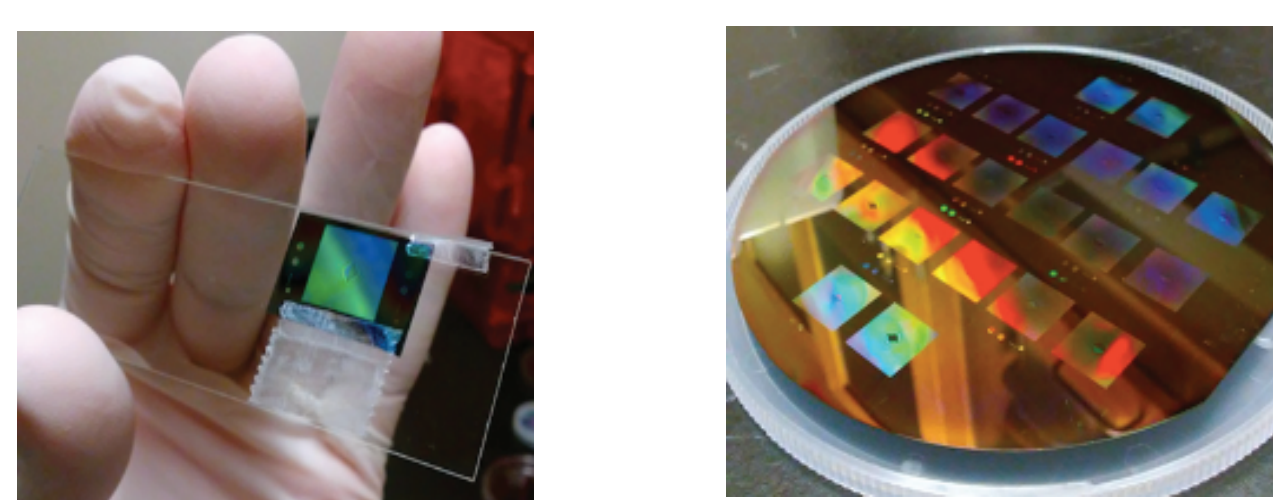


Background



Bayati, Elyas, *Appl. Opt.* (2019)

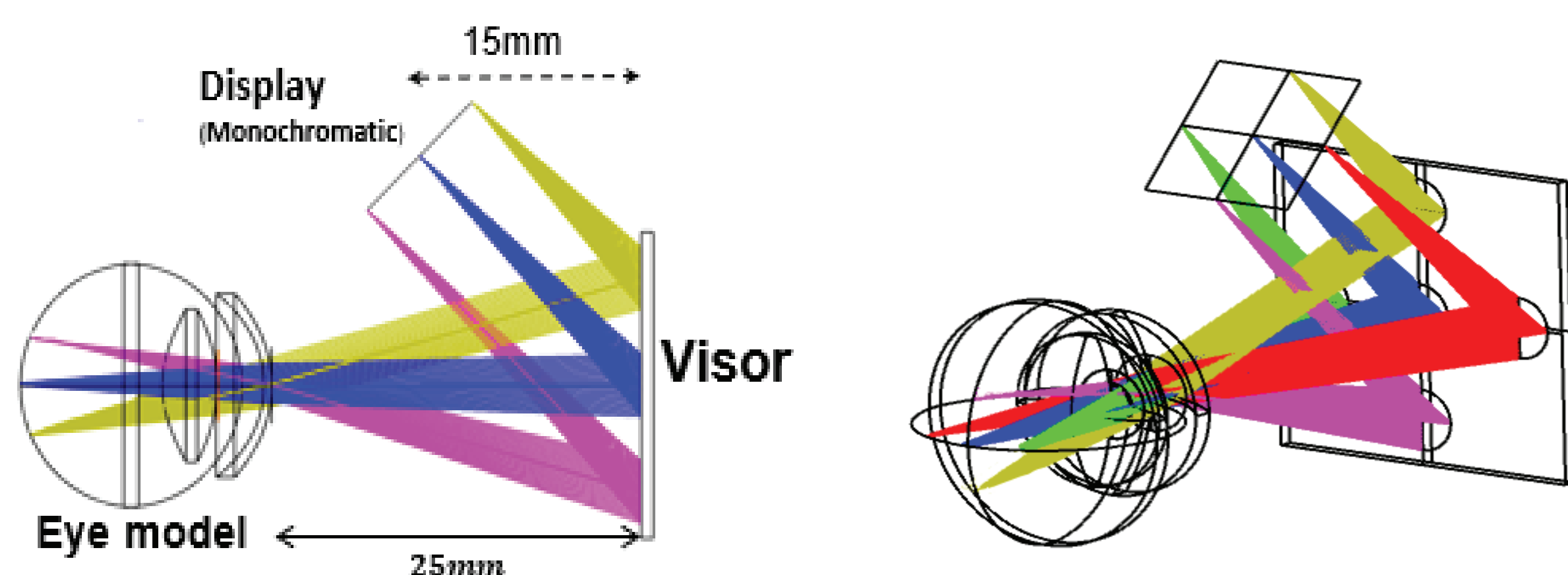
- Metasurfaces are quasiperiodic arrays of subwavelength optical antennas, which can arbitrarily modify the phase, amplitude, or polarization of an incident optical wave-front
- We can shape and convert any optical freeform shape to a surface of these nanoscatterers



Colburn, Shane, *Optica*. (2018)

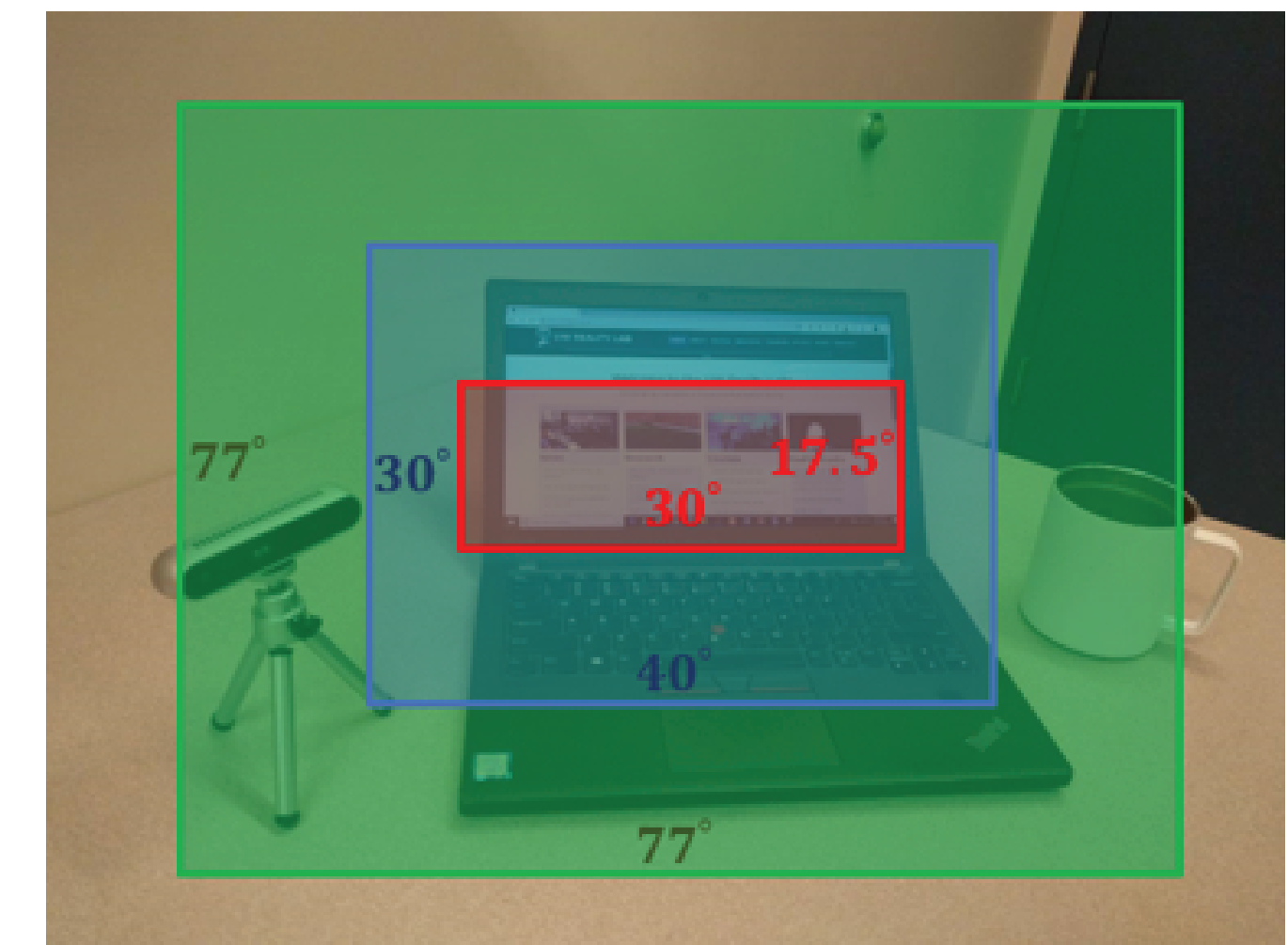
- Large area metasurfaces in large scale can be fabricated

Metaform I Visor



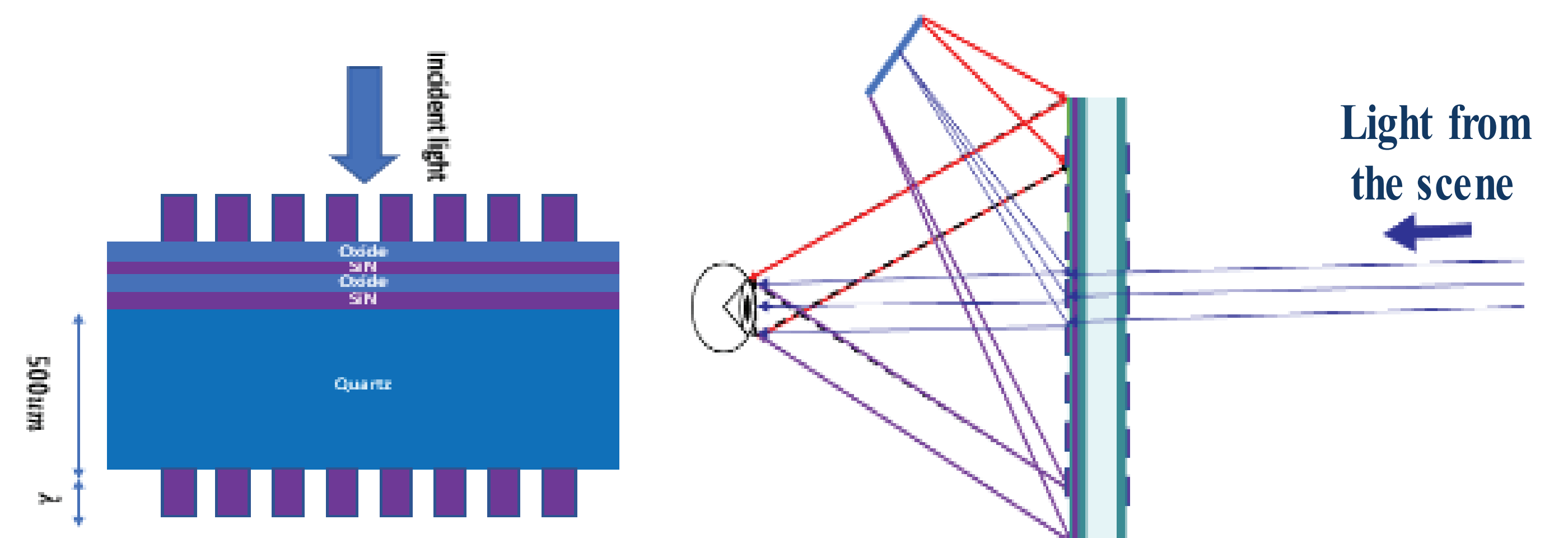
- A phase mask for single visor is designed to guide light from the display to the eye.
- The use of metasurfaces, allow very large bending angle, allowing large field of view (more than 77 degrees) when placed only 2.5 cm away from the eye

Hololens I
Magic Leap One
Metaware Visor

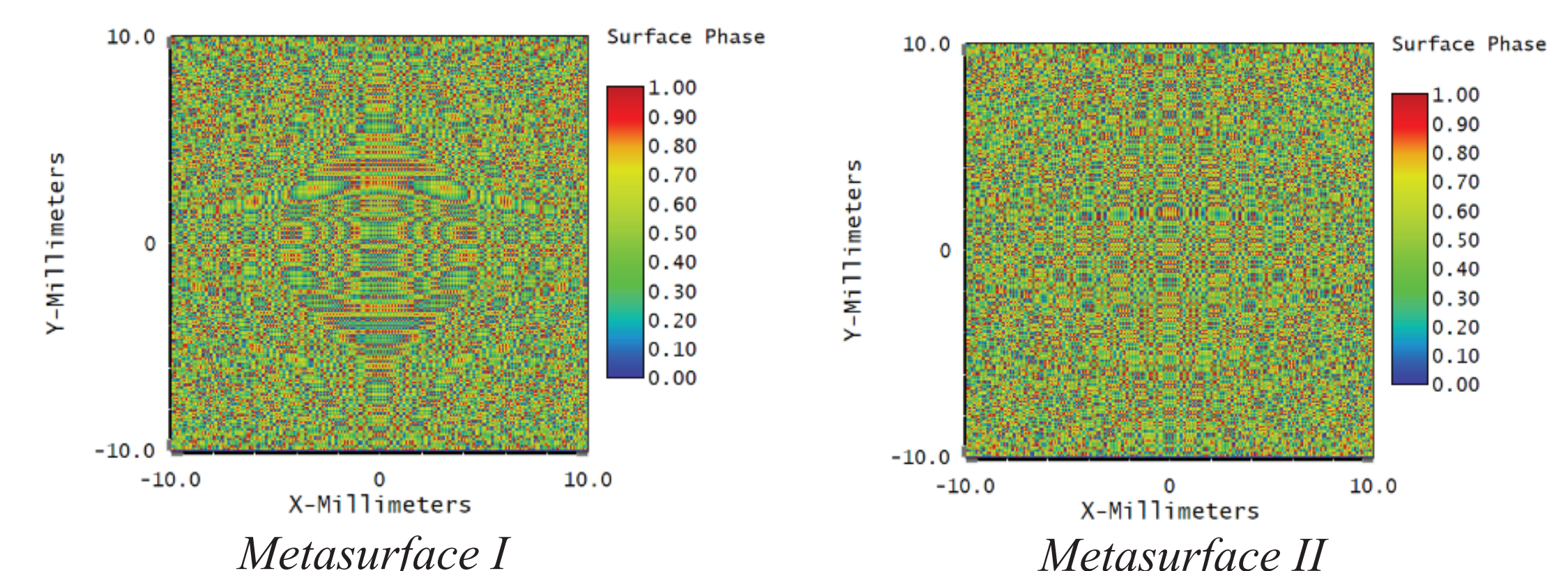


- Better Field of View compare to current existing AR

Metaform II Visor

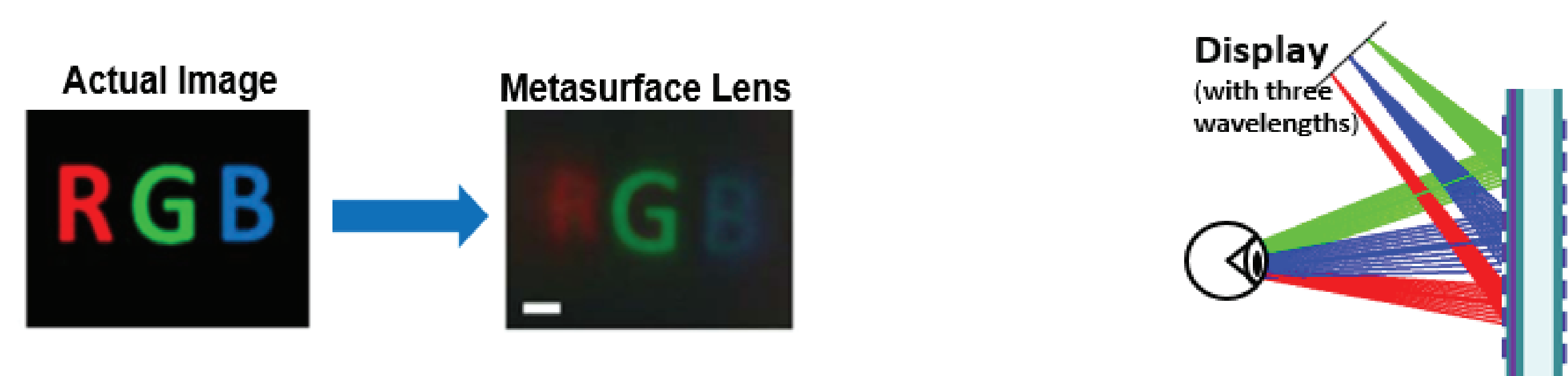


- A composite metasurface is developed to improve the see-through quality
- Use of another metasurface to correct any distortion of the real-world caused by the first metasurface

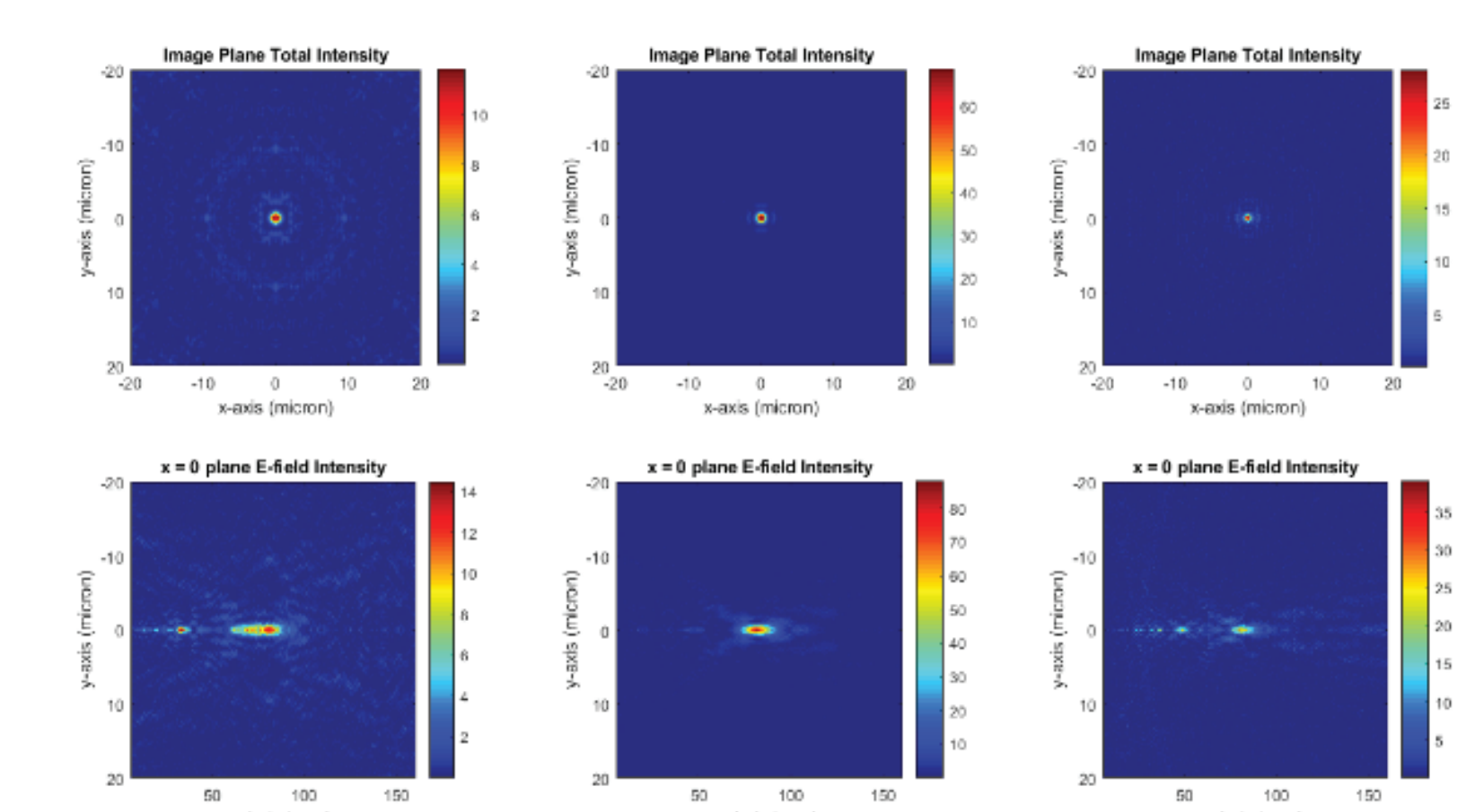
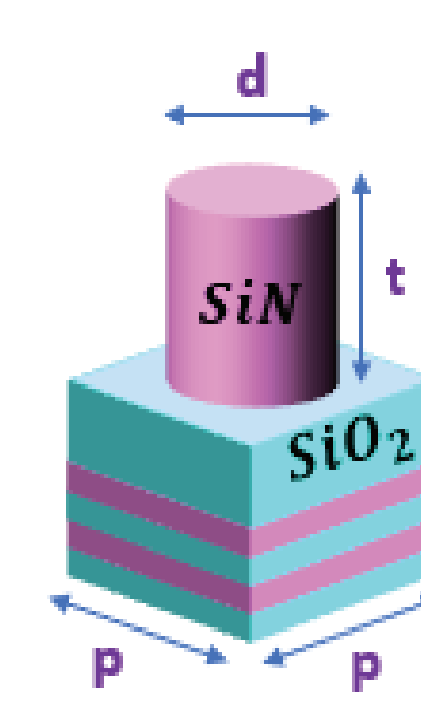


- Optimized phases for composite metasurface visor
- RMS wavefront error for metasurface visor (0.63λ) can be much smaller than current freeform visors (1.17λ)

Metaform III Visor (Future work)



- A long-standing problem for metasurfaces has been their strong chromatic aberrations (rainbow effect)
- Chromatic aberration can be solved using computational imaging and performing dispersion engineering



Acknowledgements

- The UW Reality Lab, Facebook, Google, and Huawei