

Manipulating the magnetization focal patterns using complex phase filters

M. UDHAYAKUMAR¹, K. PRABAKARAN², K.B. RAJESH^{1*},
Z. JAROSZEWICZ^{3,4}, D. VELAUTHAPILLAI⁵

¹Department of Physics, Chikkanna Government Arts College,
Tiruppur, Tamilnadu, India

²Department of Physics, Mahendra Arts and Science College (Autonomous),
Namakkal, Tamilnadu, India

³Institute of Applied Optics, Department of Physical Optics,
Warsaw, Poland

⁴National Institute of Telecommunications, Warsaw, Poland

⁵Faculty of Engineering and Business Administration,
Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Bergen, Norway

*Corresponding author: rajeskb@gmail.com

Based on vector diffraction theory and inverse Faraday effect, the light induced magnetization distribution of a tightly focused azimuthally polarized Bessel–Gauss beam superimposed with a helical phase and modulated by an optimized multi belt complex phase filter (MBCPF) is analyzed numerically. It is noted that by adjusting the radii of different rings of the complex phase filter, one can achieve many novel magnetization focal distributions, such as sub-wavelength scale (0.29λ) and super-long (71λ) pure longitudinal magnetic probe and magnetization chain composed of nine, six and four magnetic spots of sub-wavelength scale. The authors expect that these results pave the path for fabricating magnetic lattices for spin wave operation, multiple atoms or magnetic particle trapping and transportation, confocal and magnetic resonance microscopy, as well as multilayer ultrahigh density magnetic storage.

Keywords: inverse Faraday effect, high NA lens, multi belt complex phase filter, azimuthally polarized Bessel–Gauss beam.

1. Introduction

In the past two decades, controlling the magnetic state of a medium with the help of femtosecond laser pulses is an emerging and rapidly developing research area in the field of modern magnetism. Recent research has shown that it is possible to realize deterministic and controllable switching of magnetic orders by ultrafast light pulses [1–7]. Excitation of ultrafast magnetic oscillations through non-thermal optical processes has

been demonstrated in many materials [8–12]. The need to enhance the operation speed of modern electronic and magneto-optical (MO) devices, and to further develop the all-optical magnetic storage technology, has motivated many searches aimed at achieving a fundamental understanding of the mechanisms of magnetization dynamics and switching [13–18]. Ultrafast optical laser pulses are currently used to manipulate the magnetization on the scale of a few hundred femtoseconds to picoseconds [19–23]. Unlike conventional magnetic storage devices, such an extremely fast and novel reversal mechanism does not require an external magnetic field, which provides us with an opportunity to write data with light. STANCIU *et al.* first demonstrated the all-optical magnetic recording (AOMR) by a single 40 fs circularly polarized laser pulse by the inverse Faraday effect (IFE) [24]. To further facilitate those fascinating and practical applications, it is highly desirable to obtain a super-long and sub-wavelength longitudinal magnetization needle, as well as an extra-long and sub-wavelength longitudinal magnetization chain. Based on the vector diffraction theory and the inverse Faraday effect (IFE) in magneto-optic (MO) film, a sub-wavelength magnetic confinement under tight focusing of circularly polarized beam was demonstrated [25–29]. Recently, the light-induced magnetization produced by tight focusing of azimuthally polarized beams with helical phase has received considerable attention and a lot of research groups participated in studying the magnetization generated by the interaction between phase singularity and polarization singularity under the tight focusing condition [30–32]. The pure longitudinal magnetization needle with a high aspect ratio above can be used to trap magnetic particles and realize high-density AOMR [33, 34]. However they might be less useful for a desired number of atoms trapping and transport, as well as multilayer magnetic-optical recoding and storage. Recently, NIE *et al.* proposed the possibility of obtaining a super-long (12λ) and sub-wavelength (0.416λ) longitudinal magnetization chain with single/dual channels in the focal region using 4Pi microscopy [35]. Later, using an azimuthally polarized vortex beam with proper amplitude modulation, GONG *et al.* found that a super-long (16λ) magnetization chain, composed of 19 sub-wavelength (0.44λ) spherical spots of longitudinal magnetization field, can be achieved in the focal volume of the objective lenses for a 4π tight focusing configuration [36]. However it is reported that the performance of 4Pi microscopy is significantly affected by aberration [37, 38]. Since the 4Pi microscopy can naively be considered as two separate microscopes configuration to operate in conjunction with each other, different combinations are associated with a phase shift of the interfering counter propagating waves and leads to significant different focal intensities. It is also noted that the parameters including polarization, chromatic aberrations, balance of intensities in the two arms and coherence of light have additional influence and need to be carefully considered in 4Pi configuration. Recently WEICHAO YAN *et al.* proposed that by selecting optimized parameters of a multi-Gaussian beam and topological charge of a spiral phase plate, not only a super-long and sub-wavelength longitudinal magnetization needle with single/dual channels for a single-lens high numerical aperture focusing system, but also an extra-long and three-dimensional super-resolution longitudinal magnetization chain with single/dual channels for a 4π high numerical aperture focusing system can also

be achieved in the focal region [39]. They also numerically investigated the light induced magnetization fields by azimuthally polarized vortex beam with a Gaussian annulus profile tightly focused with single and a pair of high NA lenses [40]. Recently, the same group reported that magnetization spot with FWHM of 0.37λ and focal depth of 107λ can be obtained using an azimuthally polarized vortex beam and a multi-zone phase filter. However, such a multi-zone plate phase filter is difficult to produce because of its complex phase transmittance from the point of view of the filter structure, and the performance of the complex phase filters are superior compared to other types of filter [41]. Recently we demonstrated the possibility of generating a sub-wavelength (0.286λ) super-long (35λ) magnetic needle and magnetic chain with multiple spherical longitudinal spots using an azimuthally polarized multi Gaussian vortex beam phase modulated by a specially designed complex phase filter and focused with high NA objective [42]. In this paper, we theoretically proposed a simple and novel method to generate a sub-wavelength super-long longitudinal magnetization needle and a spherical magnetization chain in the focal volume of the objective by focusing an azimuthally polarized Bessel–Gauss vortex (APBGV) beam phase modulated by a specially designed complex phase filter.

2. Theory

The schematic diagram is shown in Fig. 1a. An incident azimuthally polarized Bessel–Gauss beam (APBGB) travels through the vortex $0-2\pi$ phase filter and becomes an azimuthally polarized Bessel–Gauss vortex beam (APBGVB). The APBGVB beam is then modulated with complex binary phase DOE with N concentric belts. For a high NA lens, the electric field of the BG beam at the output pupil is defined as follows [43]:

$$R(\theta) = J_1\left(2\beta \frac{\sin\theta}{\sin\alpha}\right) \exp\left[-\left(\beta \frac{\sin\theta}{\sin\alpha}\right)^2\right] \quad (1)$$

where β is the parameter that denoted the ratio of pupil diameter to the beam diameter. Using the Debye approximation [44, 45] for tight focusing, we obtain the following ex-

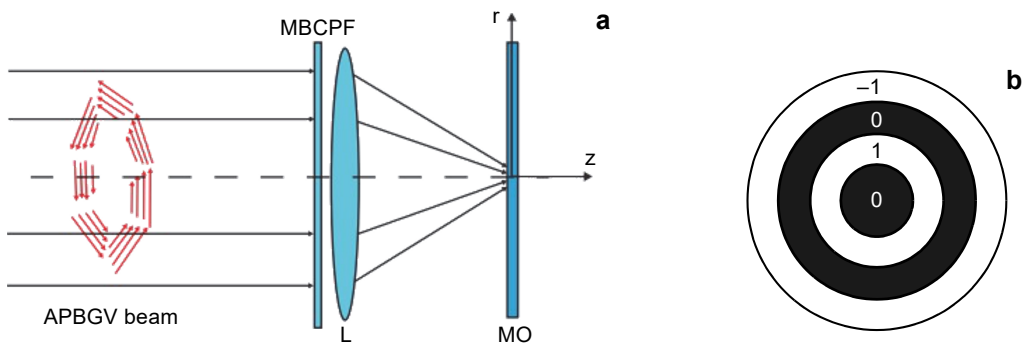


Fig. 1. The schematic diagram of a high NA focusing system is illustrated; a MO film is placed at the focal plane, which is illuminated by APBGV beam (a). Multi belt complex phase filter (MBCPF) (b).

pression for the transverse components in the case of focusing an azimuthally polarized beam (as in this case, with no longitudinal component), having an m -th order vortex phase

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{E}_{m,\perp}^{\text{az}}(\rho, \varphi, z) &= \begin{pmatrix} E_{m,\rho}^{\text{az}}(\rho, \varphi, z) \\ E_{m,\varphi}^{\text{az}}(\rho, \varphi, z) \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} i^{m+1} k f \exp(im\varphi) \\ &\quad \times \int_0^\alpha R(\theta) T(\theta) \begin{pmatrix} J_{m+1}(k\rho \sin\theta) + J_{m-1}(k\rho \sin\theta) \\ -i [J_{m+1}(k\rho \sin\theta) - J_{m-1}(k\rho \sin\theta)] \end{pmatrix} \sin\theta \exp(ikz \cos\theta) d\theta \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where (ρ, φ, z) are the cylindrical coordinates in the focal region, (θ, φ) are the spherical angular coordinates of the focusing system's output pupil, α is the maximum value of the azimuthal angle related to the system's numerical aperture, $R(\theta)$ is the incident beam, $T(\theta)$ is the pupil's apodization function (equal to $(\cos\theta)^{1/2}$ for aplanatic systems), $k = 2\pi/\lambda$ is the wave number, λ is the wavelength, and f is the focal length. Equation (1) shows that the azimuthal polarization is retained only when focusing in the absence of a vortex phase ($m = 0$). When a vortex phase is present, part of the energy of the azimuthal component will be transferred to the orthogonal radial component. Based on the IFE, the magnetization field induced by tightly focusing azimuthally polarized beams with helical phase near the focal point is defined as [31]

$$\mathbf{M} = i\gamma \mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{E}^* \quad (3)$$

where \mathbf{E} is the electric field, \mathbf{E}^* is its conjugate, and γ is a real constant proportional to the susceptibility of the material [46–48]. By substituting Eqs. (2) into Eq. (3), the magnetization field can be given by

$$\mathbf{M} = 2\gamma |A|^2 \text{Re}(E_\rho E_\varphi^*) \mathbf{e}_z \quad (4)$$

Hence it is noted that the magnetization field induced by the tightly focusing azimuthally polarized vortex beam has only a longitudinal component.

2.1. Focusing with multi belt complex phase filter (MBCPF)

The combination of amplitude and phase only filters are usually called complex filters. Such filters are formed by cascading of phase filter and an amplitude filter. Recently, such filters are used to generate a 3D optical gauge and controllable 3D optical chain under the tight focusing condition [49]. The complex filter converge the optimized transverse super-resolution and also extends the depth of focus (DOF) and hence it in-

tegrates the performance of two different filters onto a single filter and is expected to improve the performances of AOMR greatly. Recently, liquid crystal display spatial light modulators (LCD-SLMs) are used as programmable elements for complex modulation [50, 51]. So, the goal of this paper is to give an investigation on the design and application of 4 belt complex phase filter (CPF) for AOMR system that extends the DOF and to realize transverse super-resolution of magnetization focal structure simultaneously, which will improve the performance of optical storage system greatly. Moreover we have optimized the CPF to generate a chain of spherical multiple magnetization spots for multiple trapping of magnetic particles. The four belt CPF is shown in Fig. 1b. The phase and amplitude function $A(\theta)$ of the multi belt complex phase filter MBCPF(θ) is given by [52]

$$\text{MBCPF}(\theta) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{for } 0 < \theta < \theta_1, \quad \theta_2 < \theta < \theta_3 \\ 1 & \text{for } \theta_1 < \theta < \theta_2 \\ -1 & \text{for } \theta_3 < \theta < \theta_{\max} \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

where θ_1 and θ_2, θ_3 are radius of the first, second and the third zones, respectively. A MBCPF is positioned at the pupil plane, where the transmissions from the inner to the outer zone belts are 0, 1, 0, and -1 , respectively. The experimental realization of such a complex filter is much simpler than the filters proposed in the previous method [53]. Here we considered the 4-belt CPF and the set of four angles to obtain a particular focal patterns optimized by traditional global-search-optimization algorithm [54, 55]. Based on this algorithm, we choose one structure with random values for θ_1 to θ_3 from all possibilities and simulate their focusing properties by vector diffraction theory and IFE. If the structure generates a sub-wavelength single focal spot and satisfies the limiting conditions that the FWHM of the generated magnetization segment is less than 0.5, it is chosen as the initial structure during the optimization procedures. In the following steps, we continue to vary θ of one chosen zone to generate a uniform intensity on axial profile without affecting the limiting condition. We then repeat the procedure for θ of other zones. The same procedure is then adopted for creating multiple focal spots segments by considering the limiting conditions that the FWHM of each of the generated focal spot is less than 0.5λ and there should be at least two, four or eight such focal spots in the focal segment

3. Results and discussion

Without loss of validity and generality, it was supposed that $\lambda = 1$, and NA of the objective is 0.95. For simplicity, here we assume that the refractive index $n = 1$, $A = 1$. The parameters used for the calculations are $m = 1$, $\theta_{\max} = \arcsin(\text{NA})$. For all calculations, the length unit is normalized to λ and the energy density is normalized to unity. Figure 2 shows the magnetization distribution obtained for an azimuthally polarized APBGV beam with $\beta = 2.5$ and 5.5. It is noted from Figs. 2a–2c when $\beta = 2.5$ that the generated magnetization spot has FWHM of 0.74λ and focal depth around 3.65λ . How-

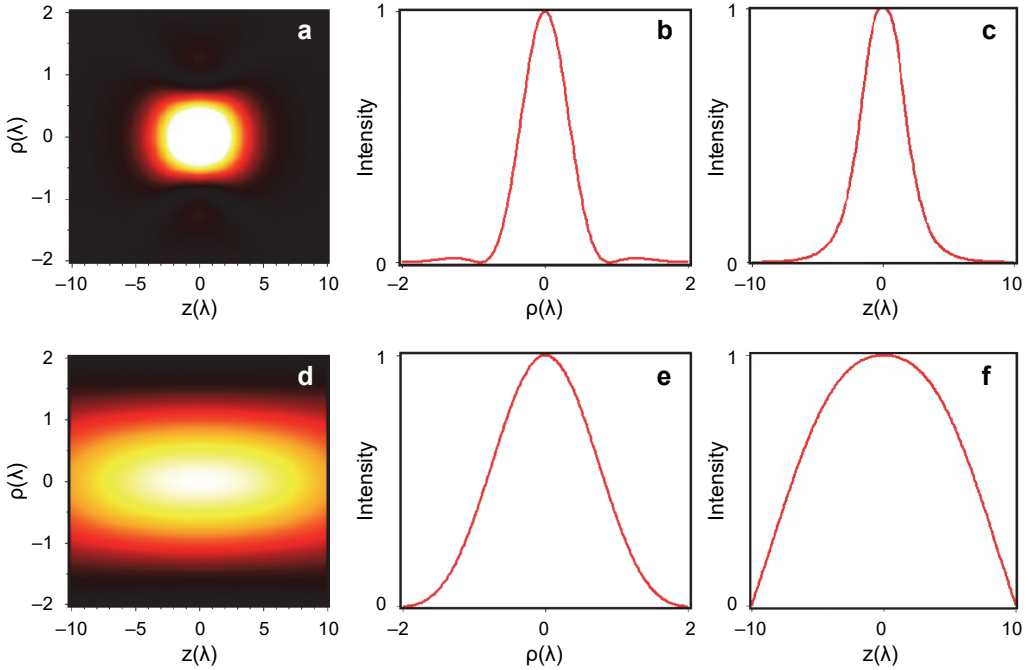


Fig. 2. Normalized magnetization distribution in ρ - z plane for APBGV beam (a, d), 2D normalized magnetization profiles along the radial direction at $z = 0$ (b, e), and magnetization profiles along the z -axis axial direction (c, f) for $\beta = 2.5$ (a, b, c) and for $\beta = 5.5$ (d, e, f).

ever we noted that increasing β to 5.5 increased the focal depth as well as the spot size to 20λ and 1.6λ , respectively, as shown in Figs. 2d–2f. Thus to improve the focal depth without increasing the spot size, we proposed a MBCPF. The set of three angles of the 4 belt CPF optimized as an example for the above task using a traditional global search algorithm is $\theta_1 = 47.57^\circ$, $\theta_2 = 48.15^\circ$, $\theta_3 = 56.17^\circ$, $\alpha = 71.84^\circ$. Figure 3 illustrated the focusing performance of a phase modulated azimuthally polarized Bessel–Gauss beam with $\beta = 2.5$ and 5.5.

Figures 3a–3c shows that the above optimizing MBCPF generates an axial chain of sub-wavelength scale nine magnetization spots, each having FWHM of 0.326λ , DOF of 1.3λ and are separated by axial distance 1.3λ when $\beta = 2.5$. Such a pure magnetization chain found potential significance in multilayer magneto-optical data, ultra-compact MO devices, magnetic particle trapping and transportation, fabricating magnetic lattices for spin wave operation, as well as confocal and magnetic resonance [56–59]. It is also noted from Figs. 3d–3f that the above optimized MBCPF also generates a magnetization segment confined with FWHM 0.29λ and extends axially without diffraction up to 71λ when $\beta = 5.5$. Such a pure magnetization probe with extended focal depth may find applications in AOMR and in particle trapping. Moreover, the DOF achieved is much larger than the previously proposed methods and is compared in the Table.

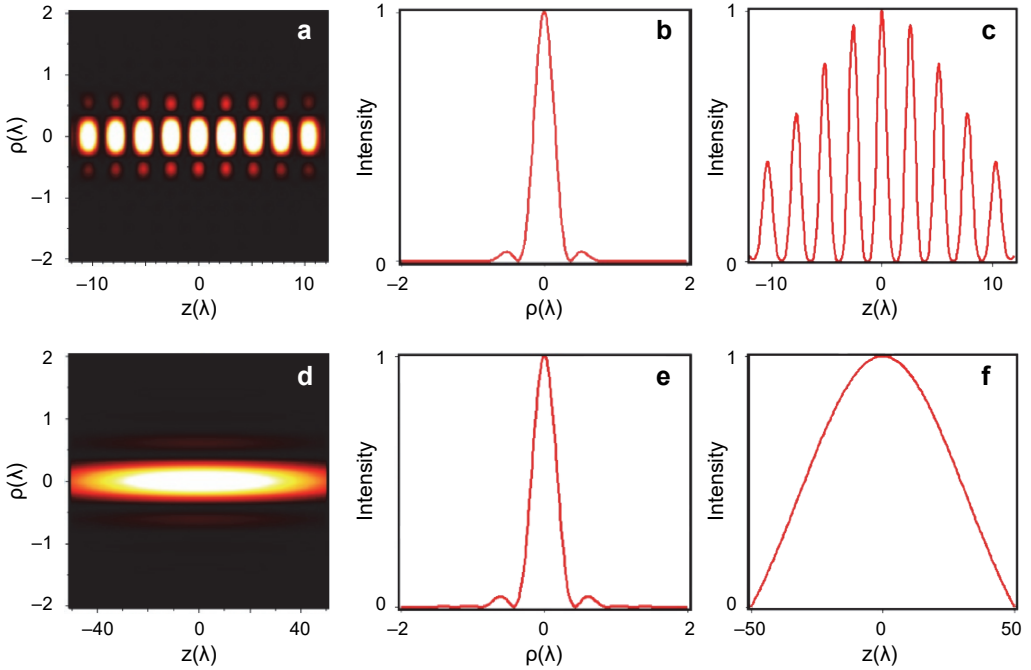


Fig. 3. Normalized magnetization distribution in ρ - z plane for phase modulated APBGV beam (a, d), 2D normalized magnetization profiles along the radial direction (b, e), and magnetization profiles along the z -axis (c, f) for $\beta = 2.5$ (a, b, c) and for $\beta = 5.5$ (d, e, f).

T a b l e. Comparison of performance of the proposed configuration with similar configurations.

Methods	FWHM	DOF
Binary phase filter [31]	0.38λ	7.48λ
Vortex binary filters [35]	0.416λ	12λ
4pi method [36]	0.44λ	16λ
Azimuthally polarized annular multi Gaussian [42]	0.286λ	35λ
Azimuthally polarized DG beam [59]	0.29λ	52.2λ
Proposed method (APBGVB)	0.29λ	71λ

Figure 4 shows that MBCPF optimized with angles $\theta_1 = 43.5^\circ$, $\theta_2 = 48.15^\circ$, $\theta_3 = 56.17^\circ$, $\alpha = 71.84^\circ$ can generate a chain of six magnetization spots axially separated by a distance of 1.6λ and each having FWHM of 0.30λ with DOF as 1.8λ when $\beta = 2.5$. We further noted that further increasing β as 5.5 can generate a magnetization spot having FWHM of 0.32λ and focal depth 27λ . Figures 5a–5c shows that the MBCPF generates an axial chain of sub-wavelength four magnetization spots each having FWHM of 0.31λ , DOF of 1.8λ and separated by axial distance 1.6λ , when $\beta = 2.5$. We further noted that further increasing to $\beta = 5.5$ can generate a magnetization spot having FWHM of 0.34 and focal depth 12.4λ . The set of angles of a complex phase filter (CPF)

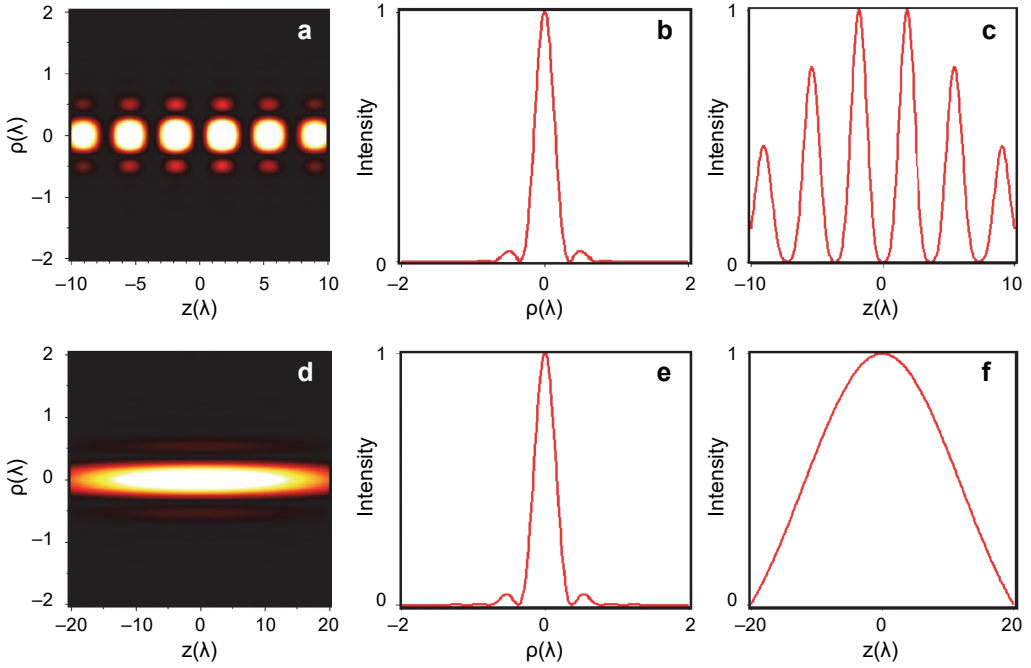


Fig. 4. The same as Fig.3 but for MBCPF optimized with different set of angles.

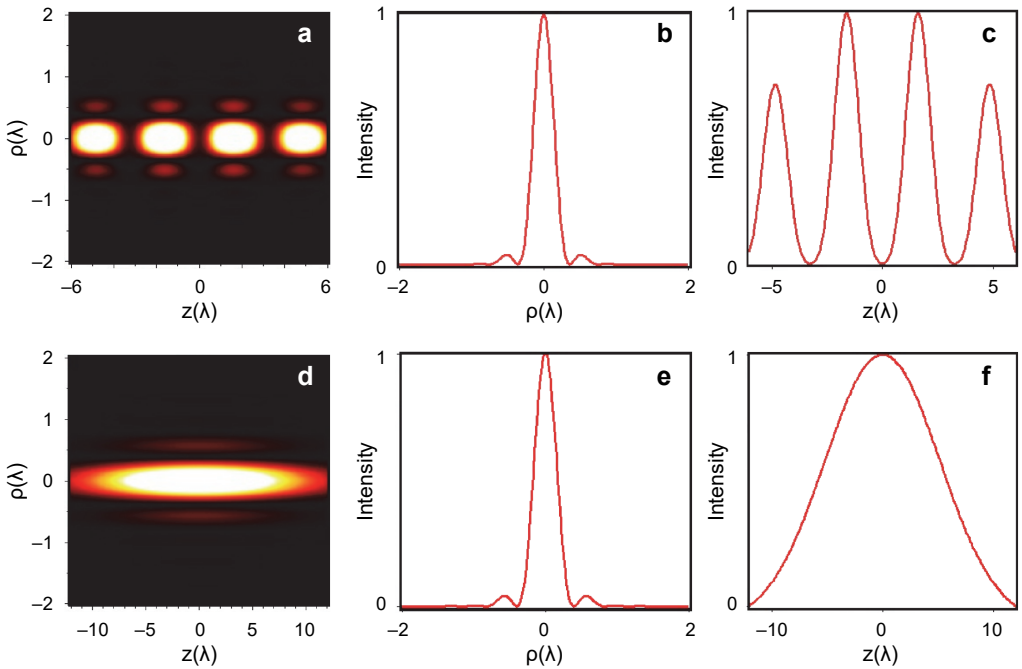


Fig. 5. The same as Fig. 3 but for MBCPF optimized with different set of angles.

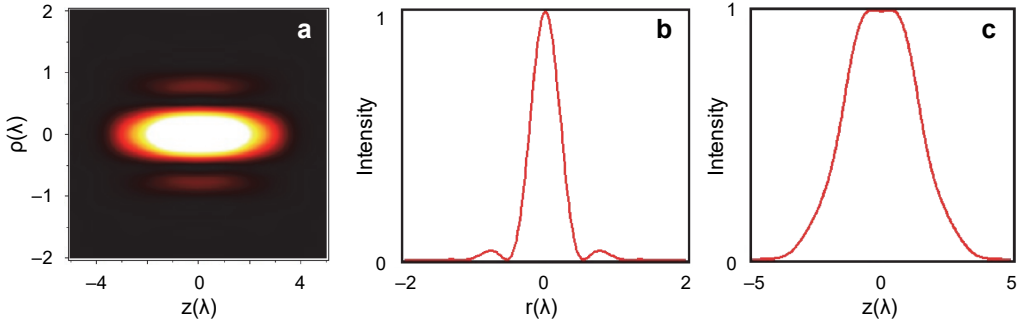


Fig. 6. Normalized magnetization distribution in ρ - z plane for APBGV beam (a), 2D normalized magnetization profiles along the radial direction at $z = 0$ (b), and magnetization profiles along the z -axis axial direction (c) for $\beta = 1.6$.

optimized for the above mentioned focal segments is $\theta_1 = 43.5^\circ$, $\theta_2 = 47^\circ$, $\theta_3 = 56.17^\circ$, $\alpha = 71.84^\circ$. Thus from the above example we showed that with a perfectly optimized MBCPF one can tune the magnetization focal structure from a segment of multiple spherical magnetization spots of specific numbers to a magnetization probe of fixed focal depth by properly tuning the pupil to beam ratio β of incident APBGV beam from 2.5 to 5.5. Apart from this, Fig. 6a shows the possibility of generating a sub-wavelength scale magnetization probe with fine axial homogeneity generated by MBCPF optimized with angles $\theta_1 = 24.07^\circ$, $\theta_2 = 42.42^\circ$, $\theta_3 = 56.17^\circ$, $\alpha = 71.84^\circ$ for $\beta = 1.6$. Figure 6b shows that the FWHM of the generated magnetic probe is 0.47λ . The axial intensity distribution shows in Fig. 6c that the generated magnetization focal segment is axially homogenous and its FWHM the DOF is around 3.36λ . Thus, by using a single focusing unit and by properly modulating the phase of incident APBGV beam using optimizing MBCPF, one can generate a super-resolution magnetic probe of extended focal depth suitable AOMR and a chain of multiple magnetization spots for multiple trapping of magnetic particles.

4. Conclusion

In conclusion, the proposed multi belt complex phase modulation scheme with high NA lens for tightly focused azimuthally polarized Bessel–Gauss beam superimposed with a helical phase and modulated by an optimized multi belt complex phase filter (MBCPF) is analyzed numerically. It is noted that by adjusting the radii of different rings of the complex phase filter, one can achieve many novel magnetization focal distributions, such as a sub-wavelength scale (0.29λ) and super-long (71λ) longitudinal magnetic probe and multiple magnetization spots suitable for all-optical magnetic recording, and magnetic lattices for spin wave operation and atomic trapping are generated.

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