

#### Metasurfaces for future wireless communications

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#### **Designer Materials and Devices group**



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#### **Our expertise**



# **Current wireless communications**



Going to higher frequencies means:

- Higher price
- Higher complexity
- More interference issues
- Higher energy consumption
- Less multipath propagation

#### Reconfigurable transmitters and receivers

#### **Critical aspects in mmWave communications**

# High free-space path loss and sensitivity to obstacles



# Denser antenna arrays with smaller elements



- O'Hara et al, A Perspective on Terahertz Next-Generation Wireless Communications, Technologies 7, 43, 2019.
- R. Flamini et al, Toward a Heterogeneous Smart Electromagnetic Environment for Millimeter-Wave Communications: An Industrial Viewpoint, IEEE TAP 70, 10, 2022.



# **Future wireless communications**



# Reconfigurable transmitters and receivers and Smart Environment

Reconfigurable intelligent surfaces:

- Passive or almost passive (inexpensive)
- No interference
- Low maintenance cost



#### **Example of RIS deployment in Hong Kong city**



#### 60% coverage



80% coverage

R. Flamini et al, Toward a Heterogeneous Smart Electromagnetic Environment for Millimeter-Wave Communications: An Industrial Viewpoint, IEEE TAP 70, 10, 2022.



# **Indoor environments**





#### **Research interest**

Publications in each year. Keywords: "**reconfigurable intelligent surface**". *Source: https://app.dimensions.ai* 





#### History of the field

#### **Diffraction gratings**





C. Palmer, E. Loewen, Diffraction Grating Handbook, 2005



N. Payam, F. Yang, and A.Z. Elsherbeni, Reflectarray antennas: theory, designs, and applications, 2018.

#### Metasurfaces



H.-T. Chen, et al, A review of metasurfaces: physics and applications, Reports on progress in physics 79, 7, 2016.

#### Reconfigurable intelligent surfaces (RISs)



Y. Liu et al, Reconfigurable intelligent surfaces: Principles and opportunities, IEEE CST 23, 3, 2021.



#### **Our metasurface experience**



- Asadchy et al, Physical Review B 94, 7, 2016.
- Díaz-Rubio, Asadchy et al, Science Advances 3, 8, e1602714, 2017.



# **Passive vs reconfigurable**





Passive and Dynamic  $\rightarrow$  IRS/RIS

R. Flamini et al, Toward a Heterogeneous Smart Electromagnetic Environment for Millimeter-Wave Communications: An Industrial Viewpoint, IEEE TAP 70, 10, 2022.



### **Multifunctional metasurfaces for 6G**





One functionality













One functionality



2 functionalities





# Towards highly multifunctional structures: metacrystals



Groups of Jelena Vuckovic, Ole Sigmund, Andrei Faraon, Shanhui Fan, Jonathan Fan, Alejandro Rodriguez, Nader Engheta, and many others

#### **Diffraction orders**





## **6 functionalities**





Average efficiency 92%



# **4 functionalities**





Average efficiency 87%



#### **Full-wave simulations**





### **3D-printed sample**

	In-plane resolution	Out-of-plane resolution
FDM	250 um	100 um
SLS	500 um	100 um
SLA	85 um	25 um



Fabricated structure operating at 50GHz



#### **PLA permittivity measurements**



#### **Measurement setup**





#### **Measurement results. Absorption**





#### **Measurement results. Anomalous reflection**



Maximum average efficiency for 4 functionalities reaches 79.3% at 49.5 GHz



#### References

- M.M. Asgari, P.B. Catrysse, H. Wang, S. Fan, and V.S. Asadchy, Multifunctional Metacrystals for Advanced Wave Engineering, 17th International Congress on Artificial Materials for Novel Wave Phenomena (Metamaterials 2023), 2023.
- P.B. Catrysse, S. Fan, H. Wang, V. Asadchy, M. Asgari (2023). Unpowered/Passive directional routing meta-structure for 5G+ communications. Provisional Patent Application filed with United States patent and trademark office. Application No.: 63/537,133. Filing Date: 2023-09-07.

We are looking for industrial collaborations!

