Angular self-reconstruction of petal-like beams

Igor A. Litvin,1,* Liesl Burger,1,2 and Andrew Forbes1,2,3

1Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, P.O. Box 395, Pretoria 0001, South Africa
2Laser Research Institute, Physics Department, University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch 7602, South Africa
3School of Physics, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Private Bag X54001, Durban 4000, South Africa

*Corresponding author: ILitvin@csir.co.za

Abstract
The self-reconstruction of superpositions of Laguerre–Gaussian (LG) beams has been observed experimentally, but the results appear anomalous and without a means to predict under what conditions this take place. In this Letter, we offer a simple equation for predicting the self-reconstruction distance of superpositions of LG beams, which we confirm by numerical propagation as well as by experiment. We explain that the self-reconstruction process is not guaranteed and predict its dependence on the obstacle location and obstacle size.