



The Abdus Salam
International Centre for Theoretical Physics



SMR 1826 - 9

Preparatory School
to the
**Winter College on Fibre Optics, Fibre Lasers and
Sensors**

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Fiber-Optic Communications

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Fiber-Optic Communications

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Fiber-Optic Systems

Basics on Optical Communication Systems

Systems with Optical amplifiers

DWDWM systems

System's components

System performance

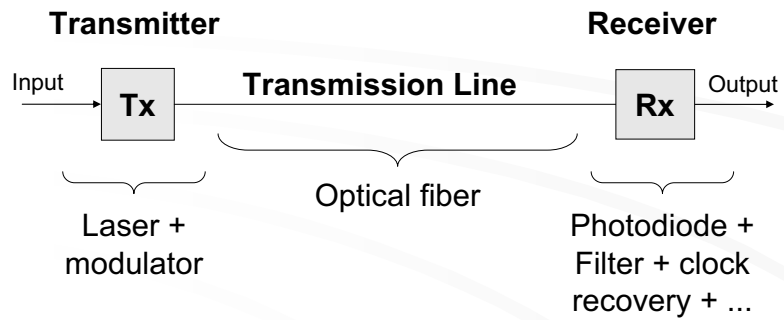
Topics

- **Basic system concepts**
- **Some system components**
- **System performance**
- **WDM Systems**

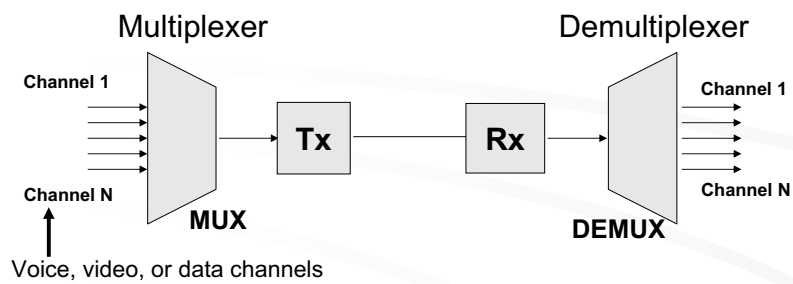
System concepts

Elements of transmission systems
Multiplexing
Modulation Formats
Digital Modulation Keying
TDM standards
Optically amplified systems
WDM systems

Elements of a Communication System



Multiplexing



Multiplexing can be in time domain (TDM), frequency domain (FDM), Polarization (PDM), Wavelength (WDM), ...

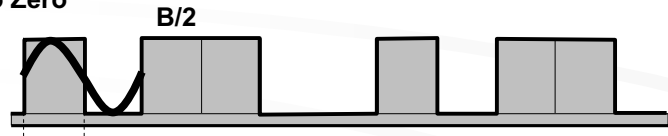
TDM = Time Division Multiplexing,
FDM = Frequency Division Multiplexing, ...

Digital Modulation Formats

Binary Word 1 0 1 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 0

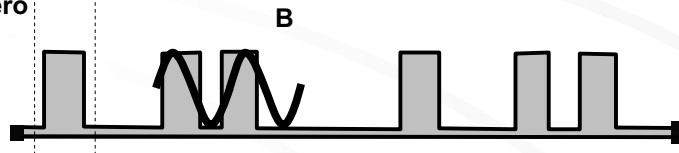
Non-Return to Zero

NRZ



Return to Zero

RZ



$T = 1/B$ (bit slot)

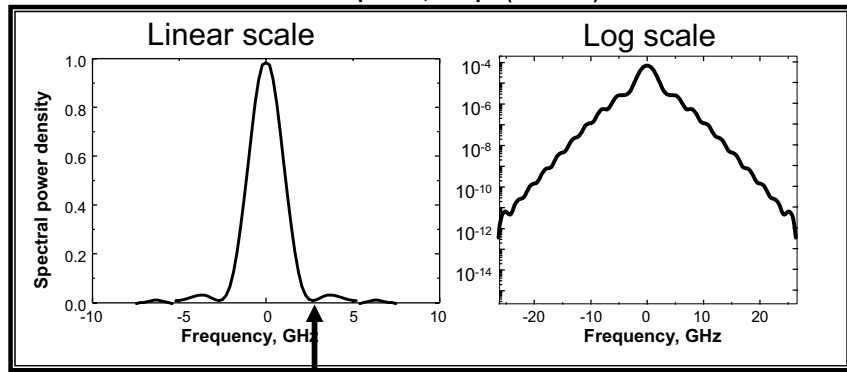
time

Better for clock recovery

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Spectrum of NRZ pulses

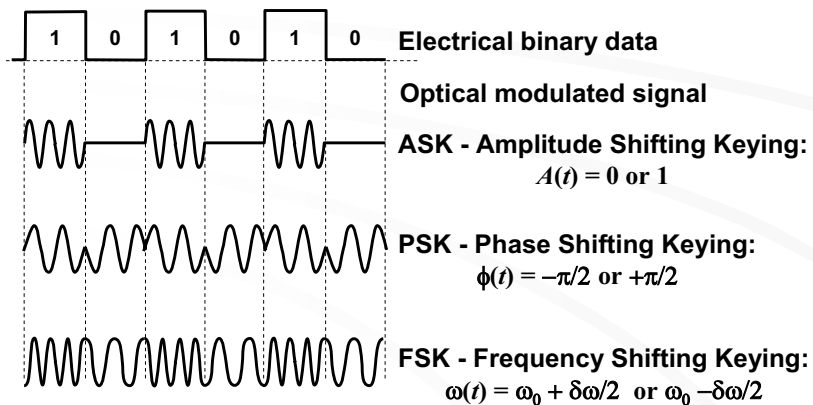
NRZ pulses, 400 ps (2.5 Gb/s)



No Fourier component at $f = B$ (2.5 GHz)

Digital Modulation Keying

Optical field: $E(t) = A(t) \cos[\omega(t)t + \phi(t)]$



TDM Standards

SONET - Synchronous Optical Network

SDH - Synchronous Digital Hierarchy

SONET	SDH	B(Mb/s)	Channels
OC-1		51.48	672
OC-3	STM-1	155.52	2,016
OC-12	STM-4	622.08	8,064
OC-48	STM-16	2,488.32	32,256
OC-192	STM-64	9,953.28	129,024

OC = Optical Carrier

STM = Synchronous Transport Mode

Attenuation

Absorption
Scattering
Bending

Decibel units

Input power

P_{in}

System

Output power

P_{out}

System Transmission: $T = P_{out}/P_{in}$

$$T_{dB} = 10 \log(P_{out}/P_{in})$$

-10 dB means $P_{out} = P_{in}/10$

-3 dB means $P_{out} = P_{in}/2$

-40 dB means $P_{out} = 10^{-4} P_{in}$

dBm: Power in dB relative to 1 mW

$$P_{dBm} = 10 \log(P/mW)$$

-10 dBm means $P = 0.1 \text{ mW}$

3 dBm means $P = 2 \text{ mW}$

40 dBm means $P = 10 \text{ W}$

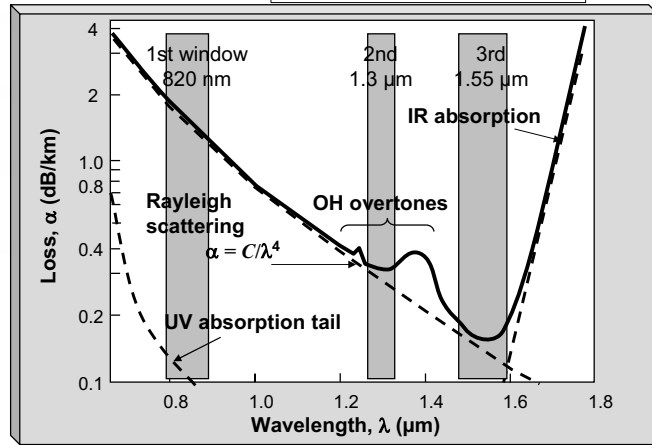
$$T_{dB} = P_{out} - P_{in}$$

(P_{in} and P_{out} in dBm)

Attenuation

Optical Power at a distance L : $P(L) = P(0) \times 10^{-\alpha L/10}$

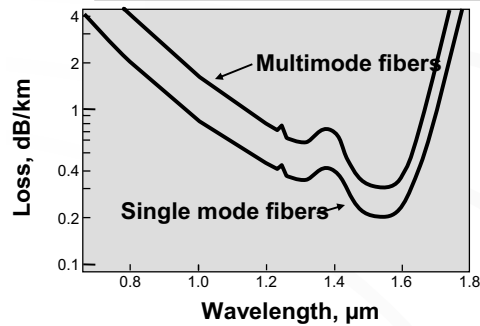
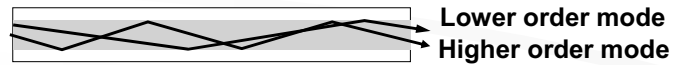
Loss coefficient: α (dB/km) $P_{dBm}(L) = P_{dBm}(0) - \alpha L$



Attenuation of Multi-Mode (MM) and Single Mode (SM) fibers

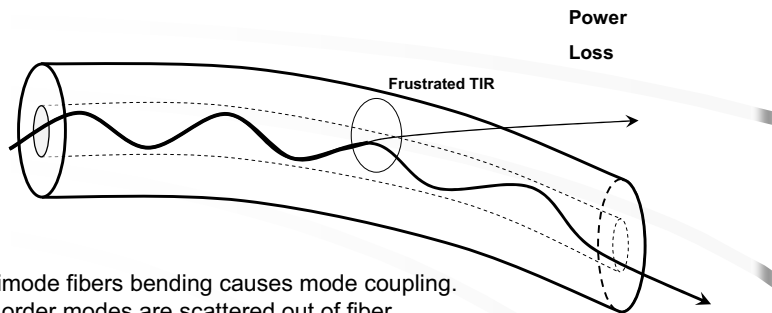
Multimode (MM) fibers attenuate more than single mode (SM) fibers

Light in higher order modes travels longer optical paths



Macrobending loss

Shedding of power by the effect of bending

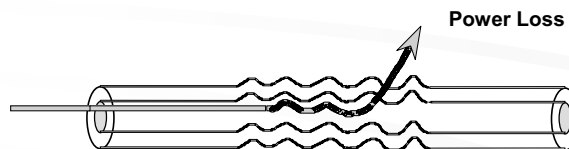


In multimode fibers bending causes mode coupling. Higher order modes are scattered out of fiber.

In single mode fibers, bending losses are appreciable for curvature radii < 1 cm.

Microbending loss

Scattering loss caused by rugosity of fiber



- Small axial distortions along the fiber axis
- Causes mode mixing and/or loss of optical power
- Can be induced by fiber jacketing, cabling, or environment

Dispersion

Intermodal dispersion

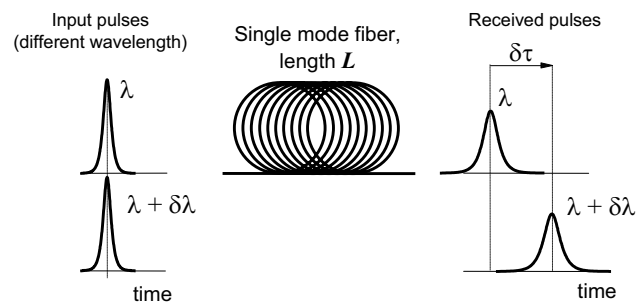
Multimode fibers

Intramodal dispersion

Multimode and singlemode

Dispersion parameter

Measurement of Group Velocity Dispersion (GVD):



$$D = \frac{1}{L} \frac{\delta\tau}{\delta\lambda}$$

Dispersion parameter [ps/nm/km]

Standard SM fibers at 1550 nm: $D = 17$ (ps/nm)/km

Group Velocity Dispersion (GVD)

Modes propagate as $\exp(-i\beta z)$. β is the *propagation constant*

Dispersion relation - Taylor series expansion

$$\beta(\omega) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 (\omega - \omega_0) + \frac{1}{2} \beta_2 (\omega - \omega_0)^2 + \frac{1}{3!} \beta_3 (\omega - \omega_0)^3 + \dots$$

β_1 : gives group delay

$$v_{\text{group}} = v_g = 1/\beta_1$$

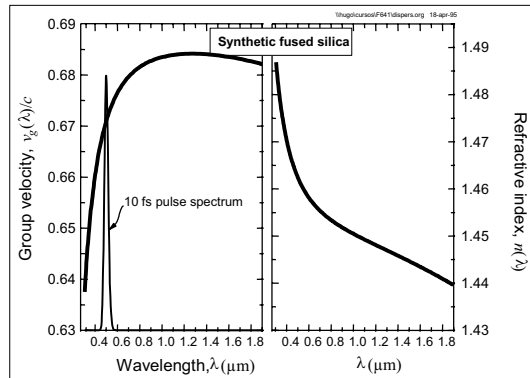
β_2 : GVD (Group Velocity dispersion)

$$\beta_2 = \frac{\lambda_0^3}{2\pi c^2} \left(\frac{d^2 n}{d\lambda^2} \right) = -\frac{\lambda_0^2}{2\pi c} D$$

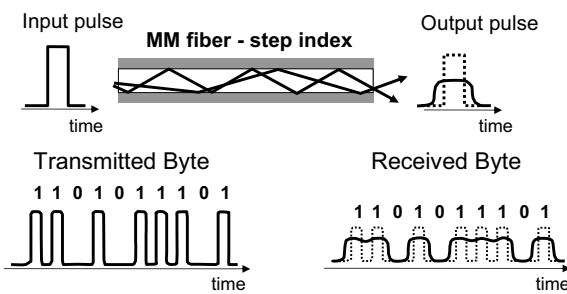
β_3 : Third order dispersion coefficient

β_4 : Fourth order dispersion coefficient

.....



Modal Dispersion



Dispersion limits the transmission capacity of fiber

Capacity of MM-step-index fibers $\cong 20 \text{ Mb/s} \times \text{km}$

Dispersion in step index MM fibers

Relation between the propagation constant and frequency is called the Dispersion Relation: $\beta = \beta(\omega)$

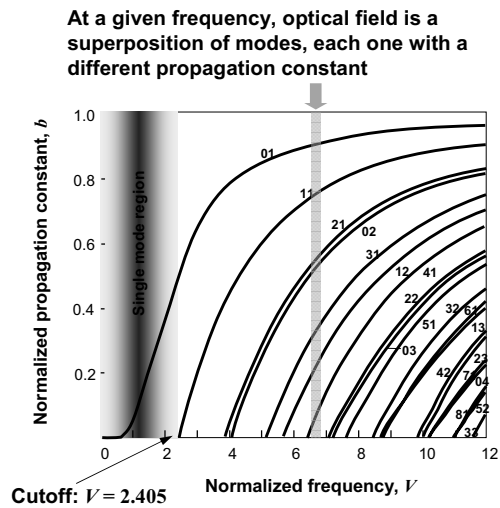
Normalized Propagation Constant

$$b = \frac{(\beta/k_0)^2 - n_2^2}{n_1^2 - n_2^2}$$

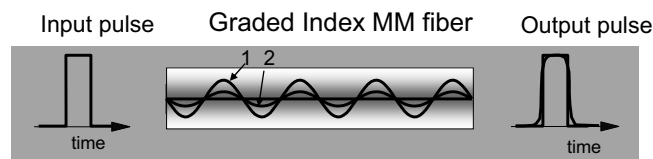
Normalized frequency

$$V = k_0 a \sqrt{n_1^2 - n_2^2}$$

$$[k_0 = \omega / c = 2\pi / \lambda]$$



Dispersion in graded index MM fibers



- Mode 1 travels a longer *physical* path than mode 2, but through regions of lower index;

$$\text{physical path} = \int dl$$

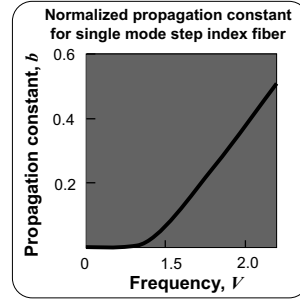
- The *optical* path is approximately the same for both modes.

$$\text{optical path} = \int n dl$$

Capacity of MM- graded index fibers $\approx 2 \text{ Gb/s} \times \text{km}$

Dispersion in single mode fibers

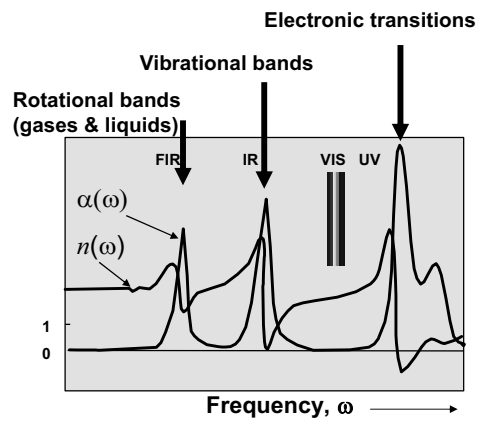
- **Chromatic dispersion:** group velocity depends on frequency
 - **Material dispersion:** refractive indices depend on frequency
 - **Waveguide dispersion:** boundary conditions depend on frequency



Material dispersion

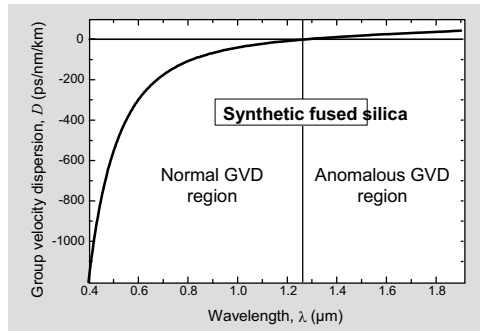
$$\beta(\omega) = \omega n(\omega) / c$$

Refractive index



GVD in silica

Optical fibers for communications are made of silica



Transparent materials exhibit a particular λ_0 where $D(\lambda_0) = 0$.
In pure silica, $\lambda_0 = 1.27 \mu\text{m}$ (Zero Dispersion Wavelength).

Chromatic dispersion (another name for GVD)

Group velocity (v_g) depends on λ

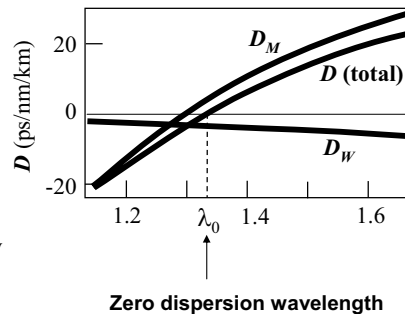
Dispersion parameter:

$$D = \frac{d}{d\lambda} \left(\frac{1}{v_g} \right) = - \frac{2\pi c}{\lambda^2} \frac{d^2\beta}{d\omega^2}$$

$$D = D_M + D_W$$

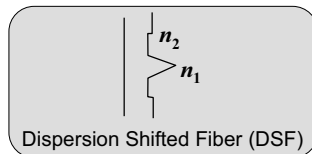
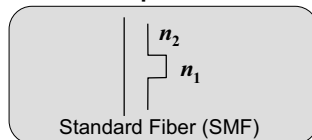
D_M (Material Dispersion):
 n_1 and n_2 depend on λ

D_W (Waveguide Dispersion):
 v_g depends on waveguide geometry



Dispersion Shifted Fibers

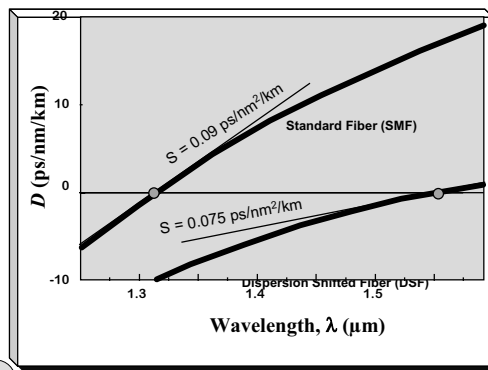
Index profile



Zero dispersion wavelength (λ_0):

Standard fiber: $\lambda_0 = 1310$ nm

Dispersion Shifted Fiber: $\lambda_0 = 1550$ nm



$$\text{Dispersion slope: } S = \frac{dD}{d\lambda}$$

Fibers for Telecom – Review

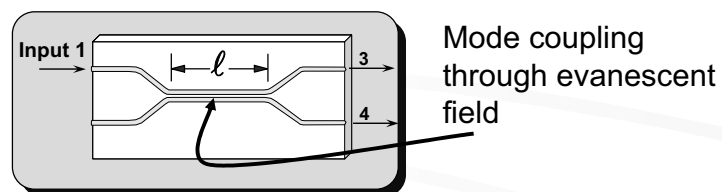
- **Multimode fibers**
 - Used in local area networks (LANs)
 - Capacity limited by intermodal dispersion:
 - 20 Mb/sxkm (step index)
 - 2 Gb/sxkm (graded index)
- **Single Mode Fibers**
 - Used for long distance
 - 25 THz bandwidth in 1.55 μ m window
 - Capacity limited by chromatic dispersion
 - Dispersion (D) can be positive, negative or zero
 - D = 0 @ 1.3 μ m in standard silica fibers
 - Waveguide dispersion can be adjusted by index profile
 - Dispersion shifted fiber (DSF): D = 0 @ 1.55 μ m
 - DSF: combines D = 0 and minimum loss
 - ... so, is DSF the ideal fiber??
 - Optical nonlinearities are very large in DSF - See next lectures

Some system components

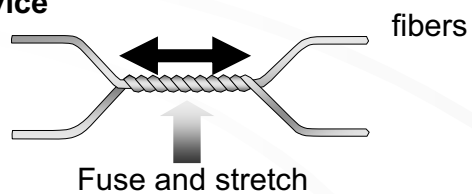
Fiber Couplers
Fiber Connectors
Fiber Cables
Fiber pigtailed devices
Lasers
Detectors
Modulators
Integrated optics: Mux
Amplifiers

Optical Couplers

Planar waveguide device

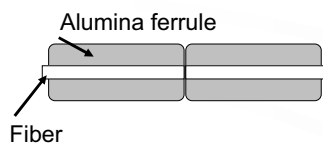
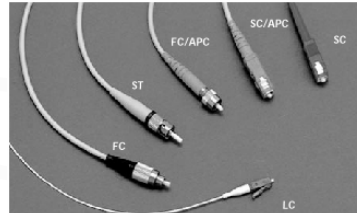


Fiber device



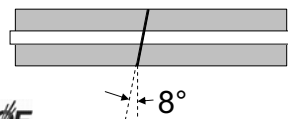
Fiber connectors

- **Various Types**
 - *FC/PC, SC, LC, SMA, ST*
- **Polishing quality**
 - *SPC (Super), UPC (Ultra)*



PC = Physical Contact

Insertion loss 0.2 dB
Back reflection -20 dB



APC = Angled Physical Contact

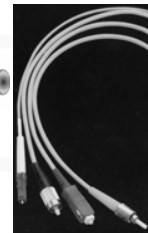
Insertion loss 0.2 dB
Back reflection -40 dB

Optical cables for the lab

Simplex



Duplex



Patch cords

Duplex connectors

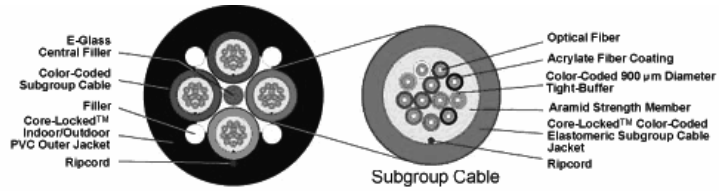


DSC

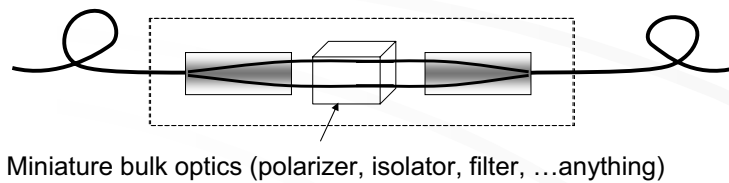
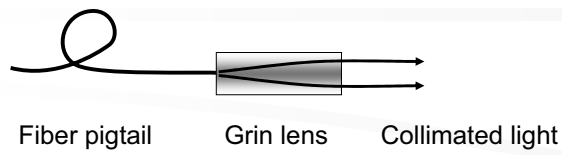


ESCON

Cables



Collimator

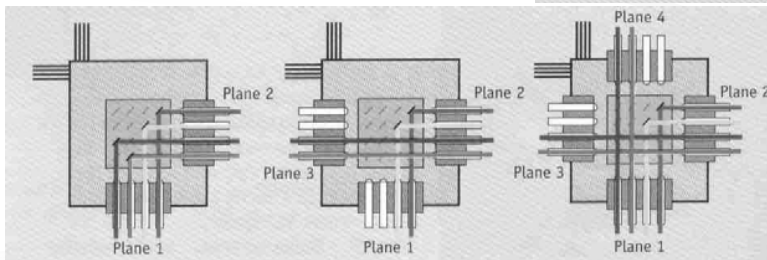
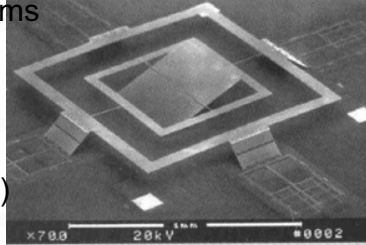


MEMS

- Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems

- Optical Switching

- Optical Cross Connect (OXC)



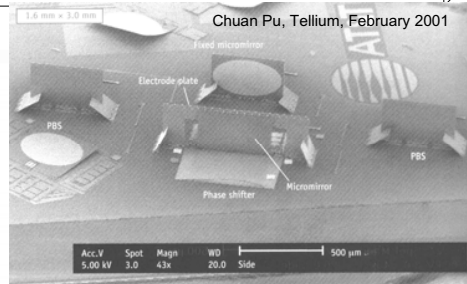
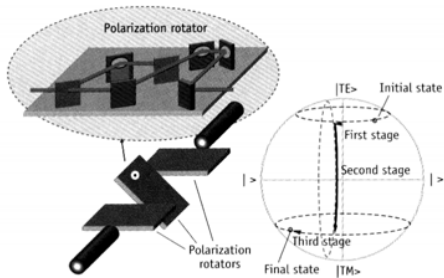
CePOF

E. Kruglick, WDM, March 2001

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MEMS (2)

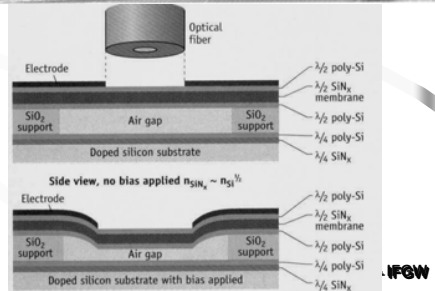
- Polarization Rotators



Chuan Pu, Tellium, February 2001

- Variable reflectivity

Gain slope compensation of amplifiers



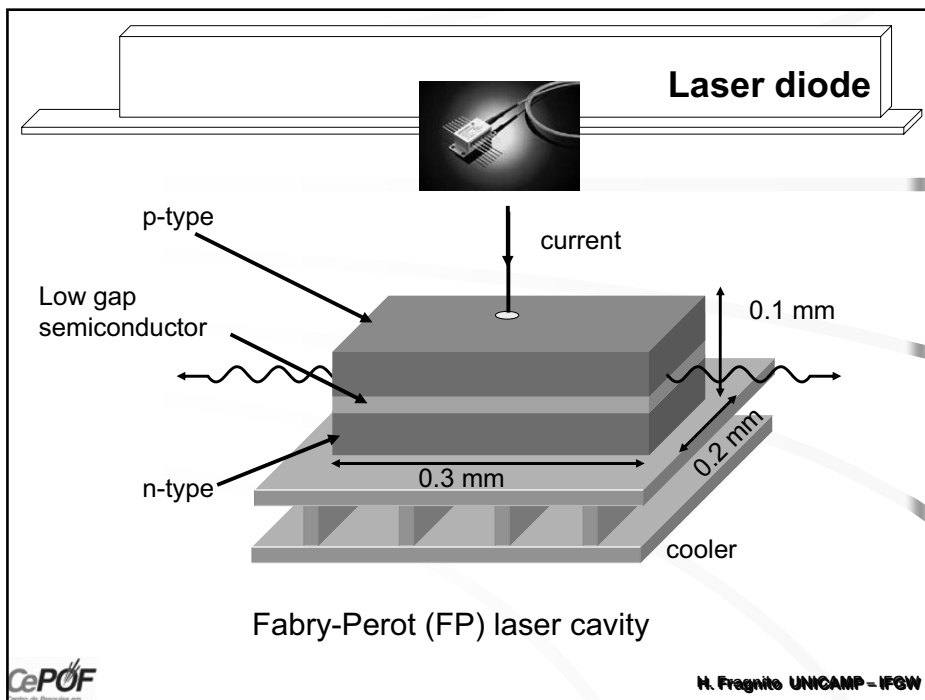
CePOF

K.W. Goossen, Lucent, October 2000

IFGW

Lasers for transmission

Semiconductor Diode Laser
Fabry-Perot Laser
DFB



Cavity modes

Cavity modes $\Delta\nu = c/2nL$

Fabry-Perot lasers ~ 30 modes (2-10 nm linewidth)
Mode jumping – Mode partition noise

DFB and DBR lasers: ~ 50 MHz linewidth

DFB: Distributed Feedback laser

DBR: Distributed Bragg Reflector

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Spontaneous emission spectrum

Emission spectrum of LEDs
(Light Emission Diode)

ASE or noise spectrum of Lasers
(Amplified Spontaneous Emission)

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Modulation bandwidth and chirp

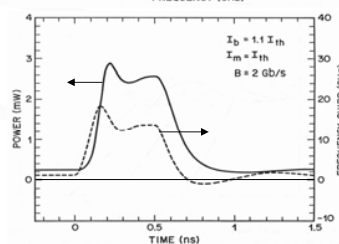
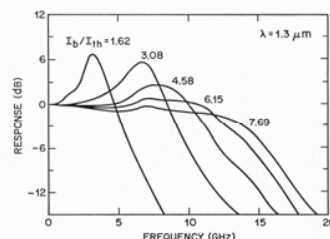
Direct Modulation

BW limited by

- carrier diffusion
- RC of wiring, contacts, packaging
- Relaxation oscillations

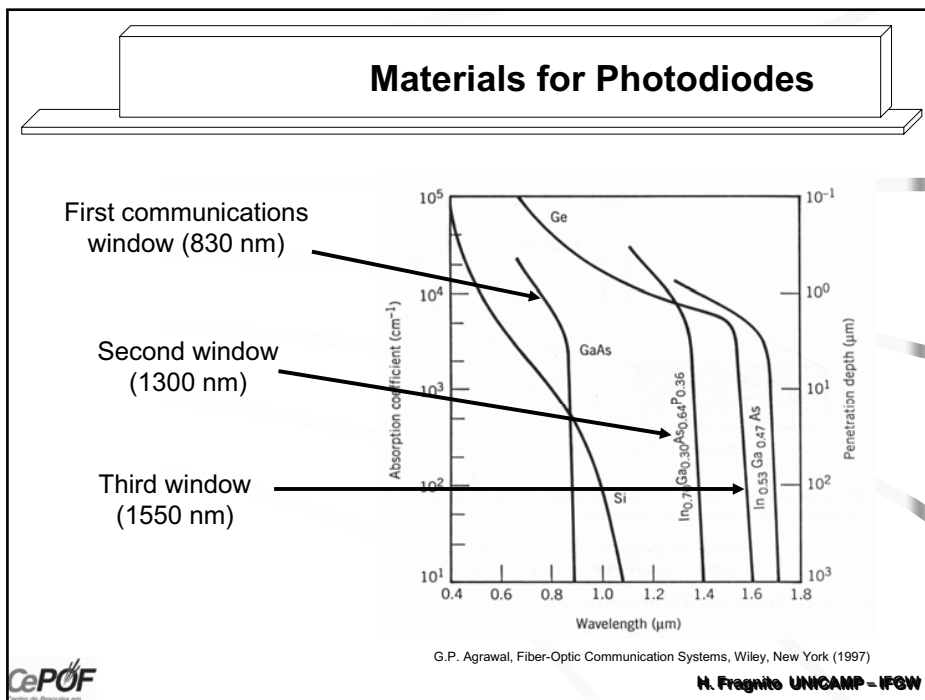
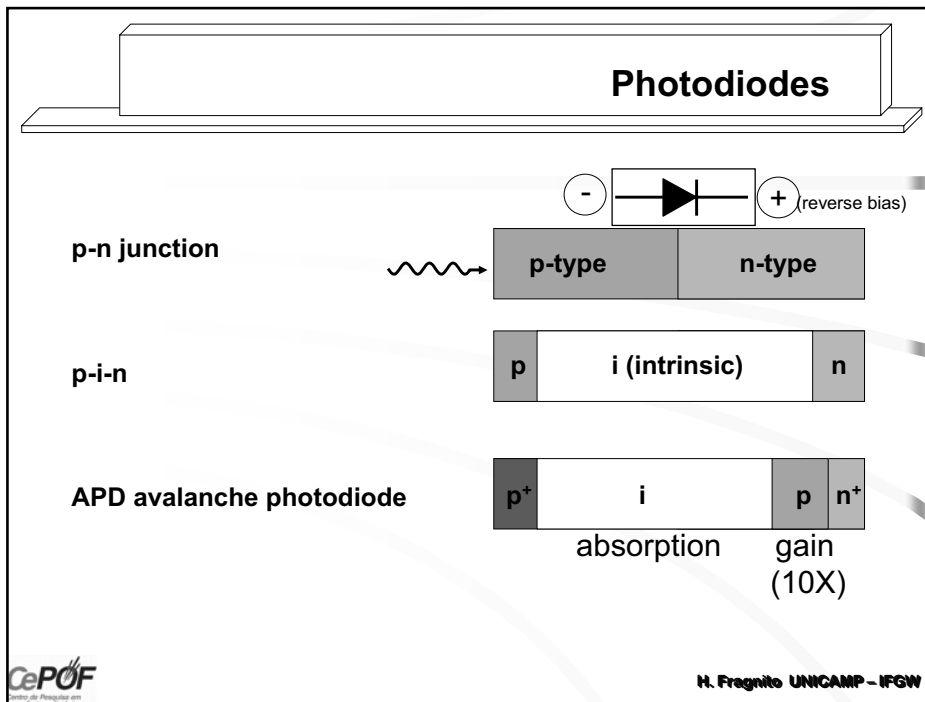
Instantaneous frequency varies (chirp)

- Dependence of refractive index on injection current (changes effective length of optical cavity)
- Positive chirp



Photodiodes



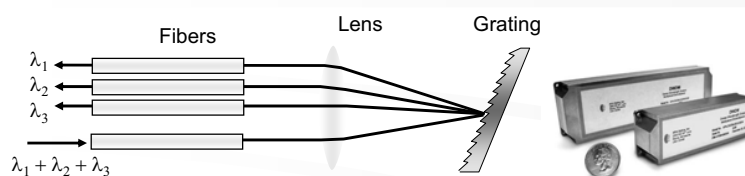


Photodiode Characteristics

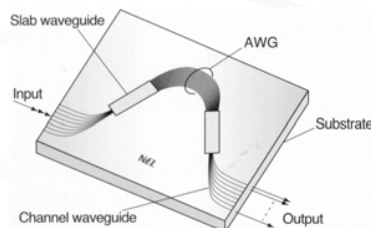
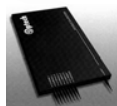
parameter	symbol	unit	Si	Ge	InGaAs
wavelength	λ	nm	400-1100	800-1800	1000-1700
Responsivity	R	A/W	0.5	0.6	0.8
Quantum eff.	η	%	85	50	65
Dark current	I_d	nA	1-10	50-500	1-20
Rise time	t_r	ps	20	100	20
Bandwidth	Δf	GHz	50	30	40
Bias (p-i-n)	V_b	V	50	10	6
Bias (APD)	V_b	V	250	40	30
Gain (APD)	M	-	500	200	10

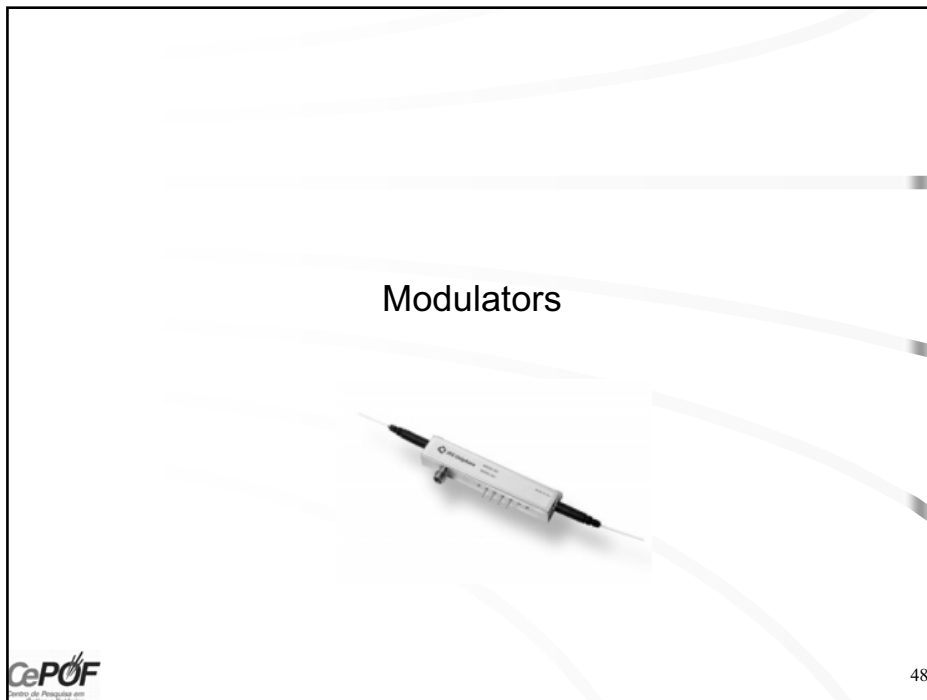
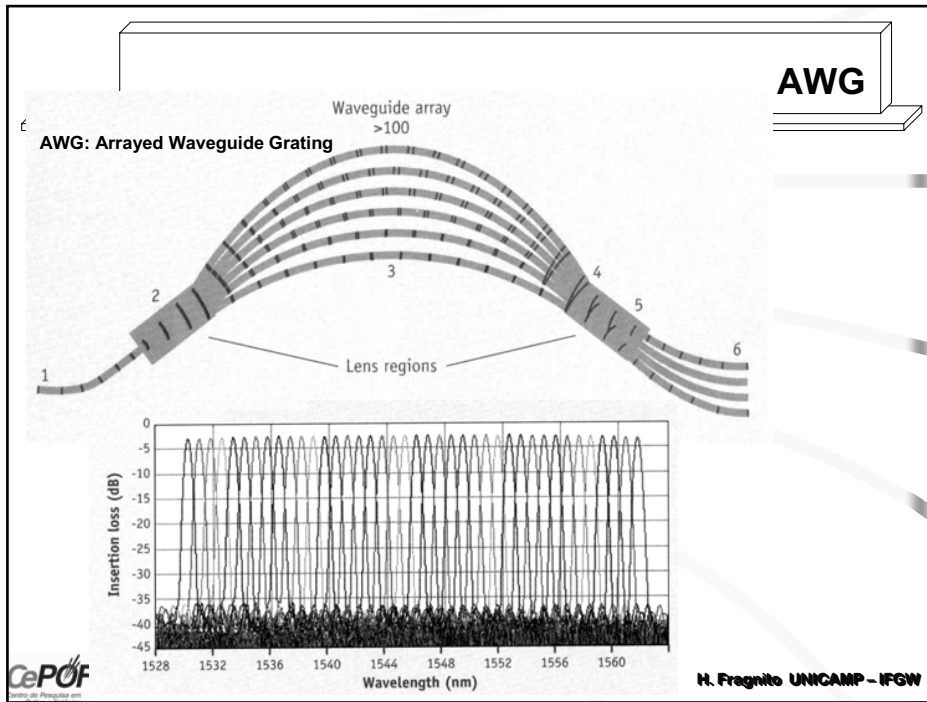
WDM Multiplexers

Free Space Grating MUX

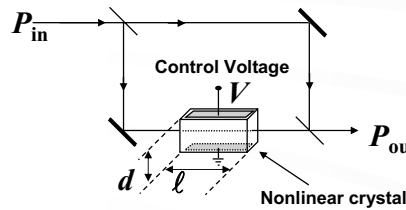


AWG: Arrayed Waveguide Grating





Electro-Optic Switch



Refractive index change:

$$\Delta n = -\frac{1}{2} r n^3 (V / d)$$

r = EO - coefficient

$$P_{\text{out}} = P_{\text{in}} (1 + \cos \Delta \phi) / 2$$

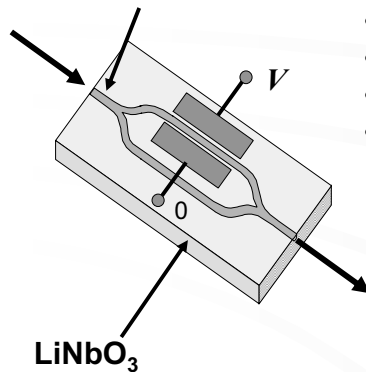
$$\Delta \phi = \pi V / V_{\pi}$$

Switching voltage:

$$V_{\pi} = \frac{\lambda d}{r n^3 l}$$

Waveguide Electro-Optic Switch

Waveguide (Ti in-diffused)



- Mach-Zehnder
- Switching voltage: 5 - 8 V
- Integrated optics
- Fiber pigtail

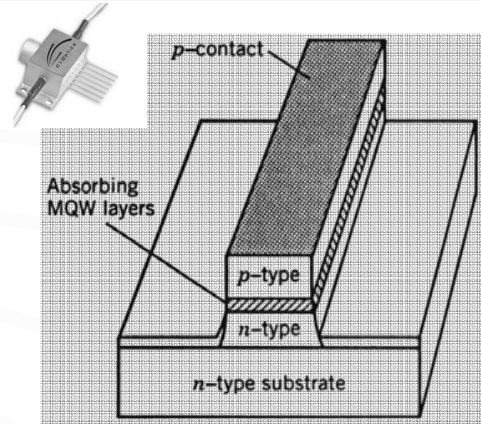
Electroabsorption modulator

Franz-Keldysh effect
50 GHz, 2V

Energy gap of semiconductors depends on applied electric field

Effect is enhanced in Multiple Quantum Wells

Integrated with laser in the same chip

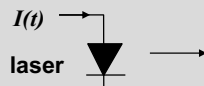


G.P. Agrawal, Fiber-Optic Communication Systems, Wiley, New York (1997)



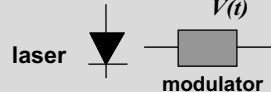
Direct versus External Modulation

Direct modulation



Broad spectral source

External modulation



Transform limited pulses

$$\sigma_t = LD\sigma_\lambda$$

Examples: $D = 17 \text{ ps/nm/km}$; $\lambda = 1550 \text{ nm}$

Fabry-Perot Laser:

$\sigma_\lambda = 2 \text{ nm} \Rightarrow D\sigma_\lambda = 34 \text{ ps/km}$

DFB Laser: ($\sigma_\nu = 20 \text{ MHz}$)

$\sigma_\lambda = 0.16 \text{ pm} \Rightarrow D\sigma_\lambda = 0.003 \text{ ps/km}$

But frequency chirp at 2.5 Gb/s modulation is $\sim 20 \text{ GHz}$:

$\sigma_\lambda = 0.17 \text{ nm} \Rightarrow D\sigma_\lambda = 2.7 \text{ ps/km}$

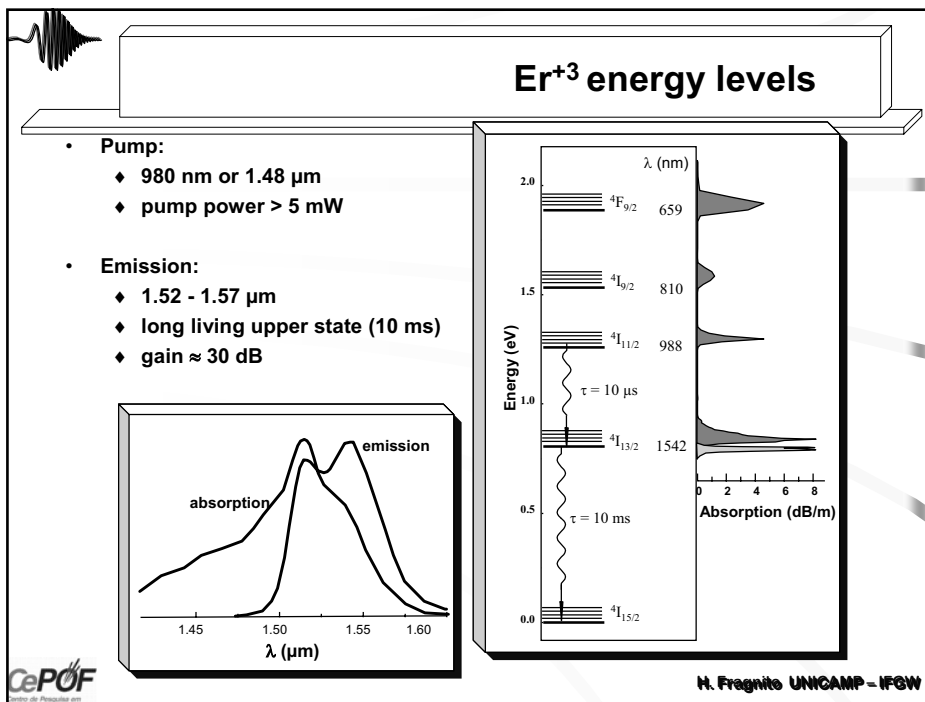
Bandwidth limited pulses:

$B = 2.5 \text{ Gb/s} \Rightarrow D\sigma_\lambda = 0.34 \text{ ps/km}$

$B = 10 \text{ Gb/s} \Rightarrow D\sigma_\lambda = 1.4 \text{ ps/km}$

$B = 40 \text{ Gb/s} \Rightarrow D\sigma_\lambda = 5.5 \text{ ps/km}$

Optical Amplifiers



Gain Saturation and Noise of EDFA

- Signal to Noise Ratio (SNR) degradation
Due to Amplified Spontaneous Emission (ASE)
- Noise Figure: $NF = SNR_{in}/SNR_{out} > 3 \text{ dB}$

The graph shows Gain (dB) on the y-axis (0 to 40) and Output Signal Power (dBm) on the x-axis (-20 to 20). Three curves are shown for different pump powers: 10 mW (circles), 20 mW (triangles), and 30 mW (squares). All curves show a linear increase in gain with input power until they reach a saturation point, after which the gain decreases. Higher pump power results in higher saturation gain.

The graph shows Power (dBm) on the y-axis (-50 to 0) and Wavelength (nm) on the x-axis (1500 to 1580). A sharp signal peak is visible at approximately 1540 nm. A broad, lower-level noise floor is labeled as ASE. The total power is indicated as $P_{out} + P_{ASE} = GP_{in} + P_{ASE}$.

CePOF H. Fraguito UNICAMP - IFGW

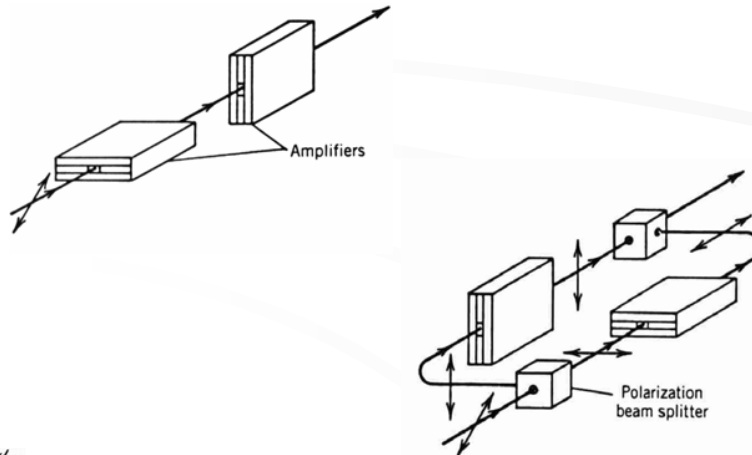
SOA

Semiconductor Optical Amplifier

- Laser diode with antireflection coating
- Fast response (recombination time) ~ ns
- Very sensitive to light polarization
(PDG: polarization dependent gain)
- Wide bandwidth
- Operation in 1300 nm or 1500 nm windows

CePOF H. Fraguito UNICAMP - IFGW

PDG compensation in SOAs

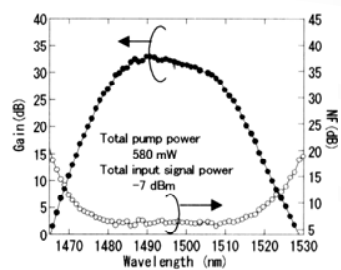


Thulium Doped Fiber Amplifiers

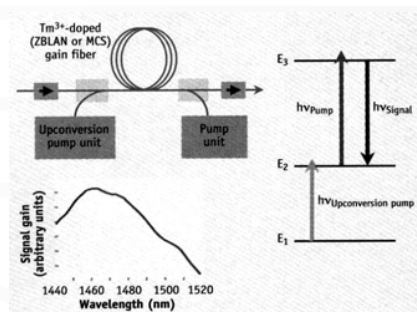
1440-1480 nm normal

1480-1510 nm gain shifted

Special host glass



A. Aozasa et. al., OFC'2001, PD1, March 2001



M. Islam and M. Nietubycyt.WDM, March 2001

Optical Amplifiers

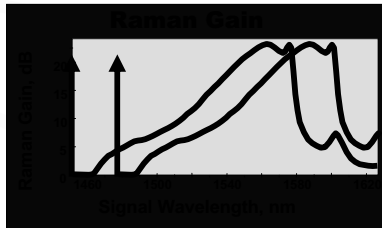
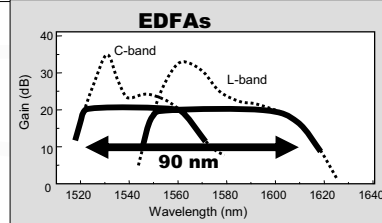
EDFA (1500-1620 nm) Erbium

TDFA (1440-1510 nm) Thulium

SOA (60 nm bandwidth)
Semiconductor Optical Amplifier

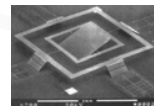
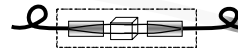
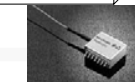
Raman Amplifiers (40 nm bandwidth;
choice of spectral region)

Limited by Nature to ~ 100 nm
Physics: Quantum energy levels
Chemistry: Special materials



Components REVIEW

- Lasers and photodiodes
 - Linewidth depends on laser type:
 - Fabry-Perot: 2-8 nm (1 THz)
 - DFB: 50 MHz (0.00005 nm)
 - Modulation bandwidth to 20 GHz but chirp may be a problem
 - Avalanche photodiodes provide gain
 - p-i-n photodiodes respond to 50 GHz
- integrated, waveguide devices (ex. AWG MUX)
 - Compact, highly stable devices
- High speed modulators:
 - electro-optic (Lithium Niobate)
 - electroabsorption (Semiconductor)
- Optical Amplifiers:
 - EDFA: 35 nm bandwidth, NF = 4-6 dB, $\tau = 10$ ms
 - L-band EDFA: 1560-1610 nm
 - SOAs: Compact and inexpensive, but polarization dependent and $\tau =$ ns
 - Raman: 40-100 nm bandwidth, we can choose the gain region
 - Other Rare earths: Thulium (S-band), Praseodymium (1300 nm band),...



System performance

Power Budget
Detection
BER and Q factor
Eye diagram

Power budget

System design

(dB units)

$$P_{RX} = P_{TX} - \alpha L - N_{splices} \eta_{splice} - \text{System margin}$$

Average splicing
insertion loss

2 – 5 dB
(aging)

Dispersion

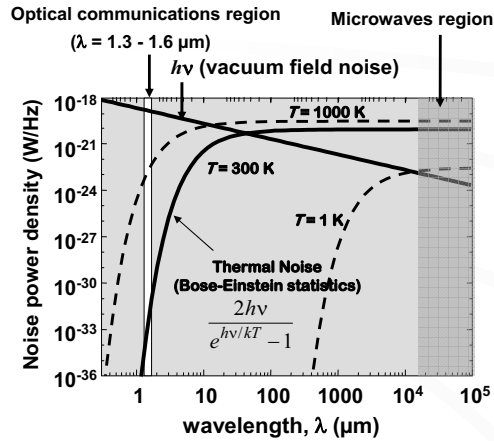
Keep pulse duration $< 1.25 T$ ($T = 1/B =$ “bit slot”)

$$\sigma_{\lambda} DLB < 0.25$$

Attenuation and dispersion can be compensated with
optical amplifiers and dispersion compensators

What about noise?

Optical Field Noise



At optical telecom frequencies:

quantum fluctuations of vacuum field \gg thermal noise (even at $1273\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$)

In practice, thermal noise of electronic part of receiver dominates

Photodetection noise

Total current $I_1 = (\eta e / h\nu)P + i_s + i_T + i_d$

Responsivity (A/W)
 $P =$ optical power (W)

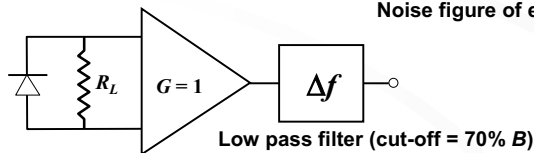
Dark current
 Thermal noise
 Shot noise
 Signal photocurrent

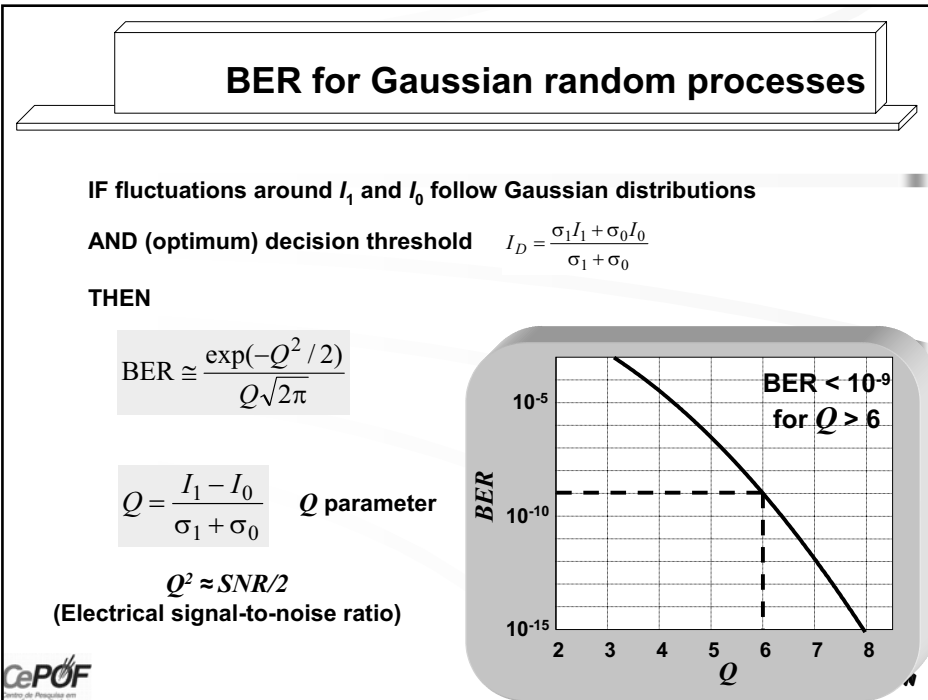
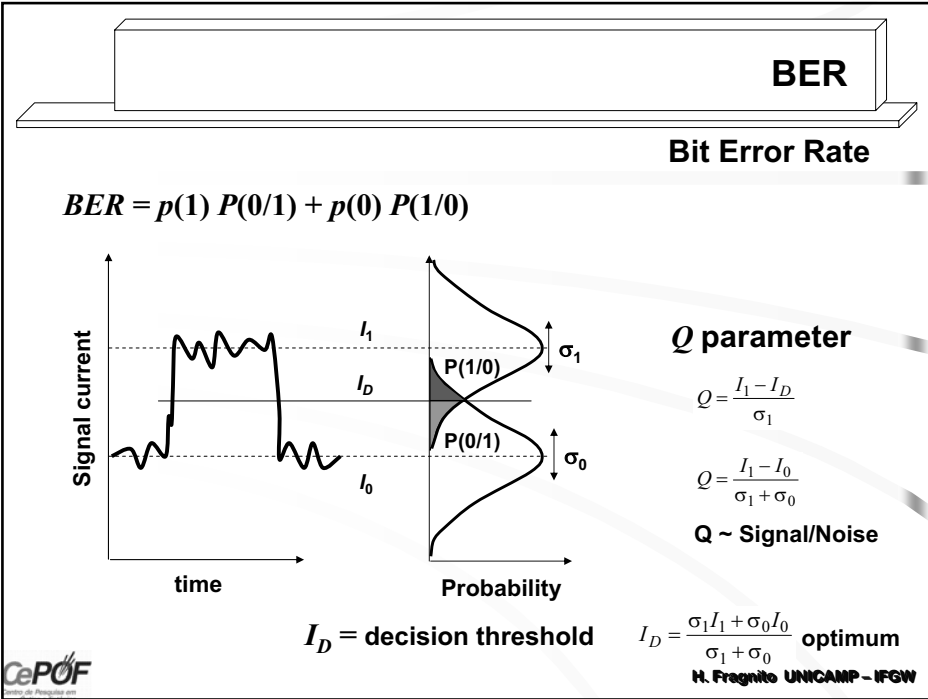
Shot noise $\sigma_s^2 = \langle i_s^2 \rangle = 2eI_1\Delta f$

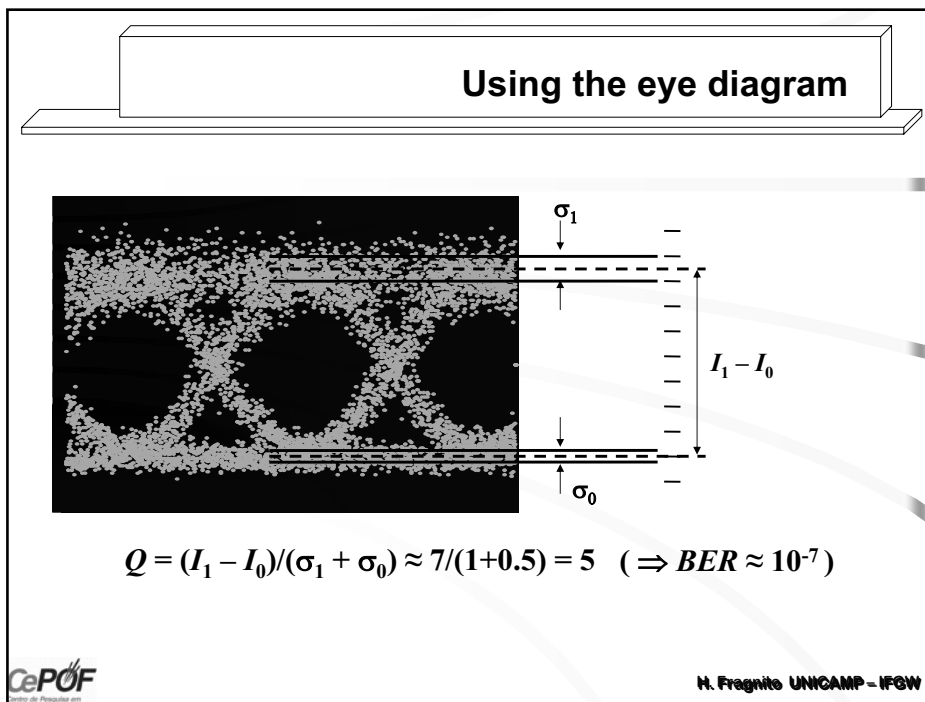
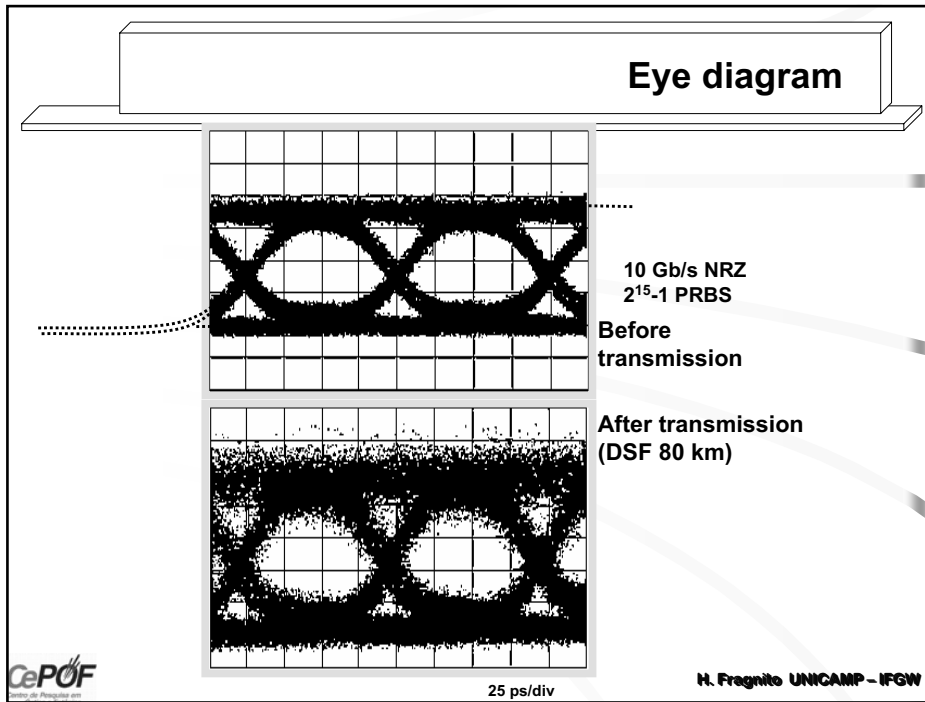
Thermal noise $\sigma_T^2 = \frac{4kT}{R_L} F_N \Delta f$

In practice...
 $\sigma_T \gg \sigma_s$

Noise figure of electrical amplifier







System Performance REVIEW

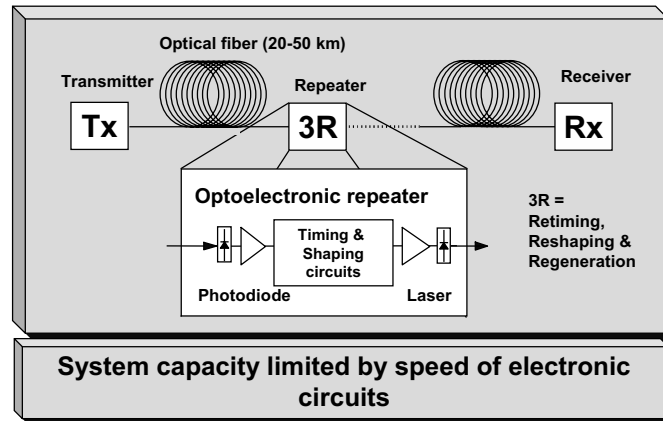
- Noise in optical field gives shot noise, but in photodetected, electrical signals, thermal noise dominates
- Eye diagram is a powerful tool for system diagnostics
 - BER is determined by Q factor ($Q^2 \sim \text{SNR}/2$)
 - $\text{BER} < 10^{-9}$ for $Q > 6$
- What are the physical limits of fiber optic transmission systems?
 - Attenuation?
 - Dispersion?
 - Nonlinearities?

WDM Systems

Traditional Systems – 3R
Optically Amplified systems
WDM

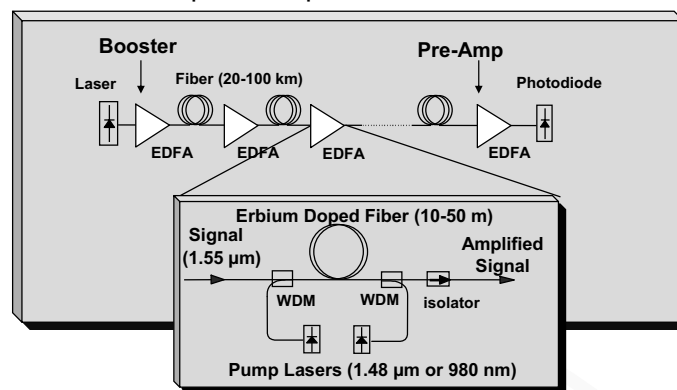
Traditional Optical Communication System

Loss compensation: Repeaters at every 20-50 km



Optically Amplified Systems

EDFA = Erbium Doped Fiber Amplifier



Bits continue in photonic format

Characteristics of EDFA based Systems

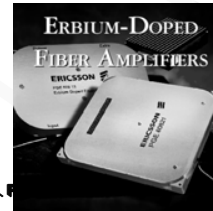
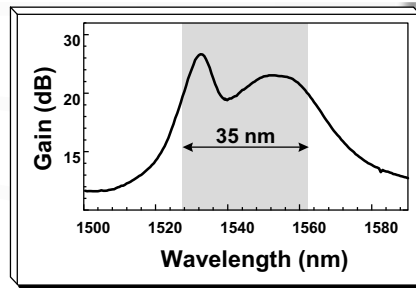
Bandwidth > 4 THz
depends on glass host
(100 nm in Telurite glass)

Low noise
NF ~ 4 – 7 dB

Optical power > 10 mW
larger distance between EDFAs

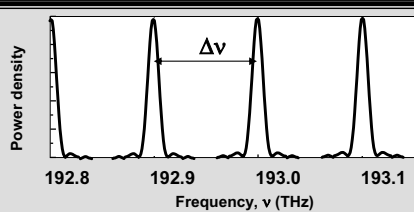
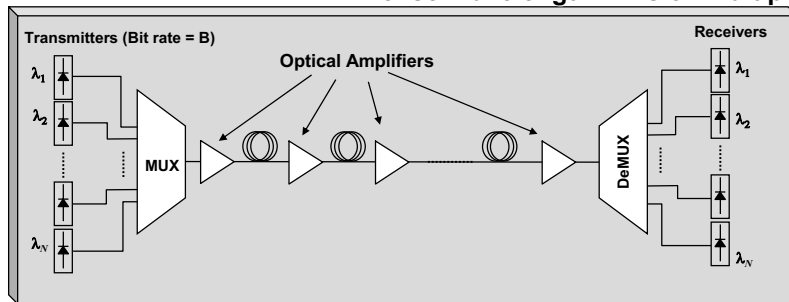
**Transparent to bit rate, modulation format,
and bit coding**

Ideal for WDM
(Wavelength Division Multiplexing)



DWDM Systems

DWDM = Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing



$\Delta\nu = 100 \text{ GHz}, 50 \text{ GHz},$
(up to 40 Gb/s) DWDM

25 GHz, or 12.5 GHz
(up to 10 Gb/s)
UDWDM (Ultra Dense)

ITU grid

$$\nu_n = \nu_0 + n\Delta\nu$$

$$\nu_0 = 193.1 \text{ THz}$$

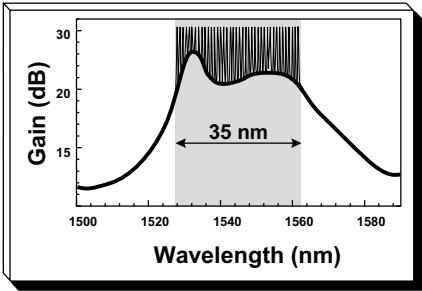
(1552.52 nm)

$$(n = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots)$$

Bandwidth of WDM systems with EDFAs

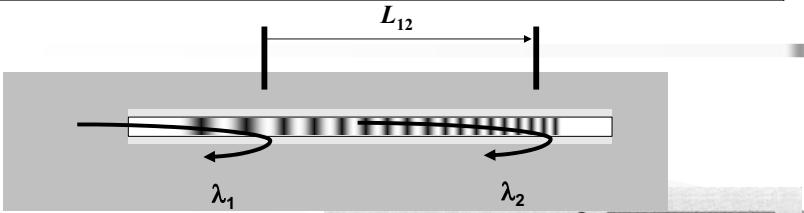
EDFA = Erbium Doped Fiber Amplifier
C band (1530-1560 nm)

- 4 THz Optical Bandwidth
- 80 WDM channels x 40 Gb/s (50 GHz channel spacing)
- Total capacity: 3.2 Tb/s
- Important issues:
 - Bandwidth
 - Gain flatness
 - Output power

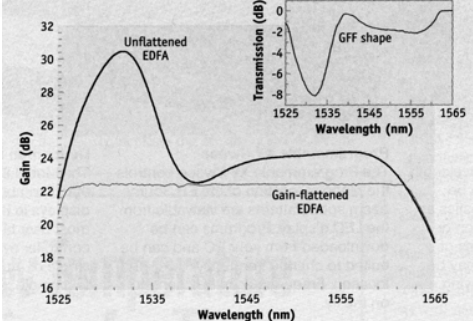


Capacity of DWDM systems determined by bandwidth of optical amplifiers

Chirped Fiber Bragg Gratings



- Dispersion compensation
Optical Delay $\tau_{12} = nL_{12}/c$
- Gain flattening
(varying index modulation)



M. Guy and F. Trépanier, WDM, March 2001

Systems Concepts REVIEW

- **Optical Communication system use several Multiplexing techniques, all include TDM (Time Division Multiplexing)**
 - TDM standards (SONET, SDH): ex. OC-192 = STM-64 = 10 Gb/s
 - Modulation is ISK – Intensity Shifted Keying and NRZ format
- **DWDM systems use Gb/s lasers at different lambdas**
 - Aggregated bit rate = $N \times B$
 - Channel spacing 50-100 GHz; ITU grid
 - Total optical bandwidth limited by bandwidth of optical amplifiers
 - Total power $N \times P$ (nonlinear optical effects are important)

Where to get more information

- G.P. Agrawal, *Fiber-Optic Communication Systems*, 2nd ed., J. Wiley & Sons, New York (1998).
- *Lightwave Magazine*, PennWell, free subscription: <http://lw.pennnet.com/home.cfm>
- B.E.A. Saleh and M.C. Teich, *Fundamentals of Photonics*, Wiley, New York, 1991.
- K. Iizuka, *Elements of Photonics*, Vol. II: For fiber and integrated optics, Wiley, New York, 2002.
- G. Keiser, *Optical Fiber Communications*, 2nd ed., Mc Graw Hill, New York, 1991.
- J.A. Buck, *Fundamentals of optical Fibers*, Wiley, New York, 1995.
- *Journal of Lightwave Technology* 24(12), special issue, Dec. 2006.