

The In-Line placement of EDFA in CWDM/DWDM system for BER comparison at 1540 nm

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Abstract

The continual increase in transfer capacity and speed leads to the continual improvement of fully optical transfer communication systems. The aim of this article is to present the creation of an 8-channel CWDM (Coarse Wavelength Division Multiplex) system (gap spacing of 20 nm), where 10 channels, with gaps of 2 nm are gradually inserted between wavelengths of 1530 nm to 1550 nm according to the ITU-T G.694.1 recommendation. This system is evaluated using the BER (Bit Error Rate) of a specific channel operating on a wavelength of 1540 nm. In the topology we used an EDFA (Erbium Doped Fibre Amplifier) placed In-Line at 90 km with a bit speed of 10 Gbit.s⁻¹. Consequently, in order to overcome the problem of distance, an optical loop with an appropriate EDFA configuration was created. This article presents the basic mathematical description of bit error rate and also deals with the possibility of the incorporation of CWDM and DWDM systems into existing infrastructures.

Keywords: BER, CWDM, DWDM, Q-factor

1. Introduction

An elementary transfer system generally contains three basic blocks: transmission, transfer and reception. For approximately ninety years after the telephone was invented in 1876, the main transfer media were pairs of metal cables twisted together [1], [2]. With the advance of computer systems and their ever-increasing data capacity and with the increasing portfolio of telephone options, the metal cables reached their limits. The breakthrough came in 1966 when Hackman and Kao proposed the use of optical fibres as an alternative solution to metal cables [3-5]. The change happened four years later when an OF (Optical Fibre) with an attenuation of less than 20 dB.km⁻¹ was made. Within seven years the commercial use of OF in communication networks had begun. During that time attenuation values were decreased to under 1 dB.km⁻¹ and today optical fibres with the attenuation value under 0.3 dB.km⁻¹ are accessible. Currently, the problem is not attenuation values but the ever-increasing demand for the increase in transfer speed and the transfer capacity of the already existing systems. The operators of optical communication systems are constantly pressured to raise the system's transfer capacity due to the amount of transferred data. This increase is mostly caused by the popular use of the cloud and multimedia services. Due to this capacity demand, an economical and logically manageable step would be for providers is to oversee a gradual transition to higher transfer speeds - using the existing optical network infrastructure which represents an already sizeable investment [6], [7]. One of the options of how to use optical lines effectively is to employ wavelength multiplexes WDM.

By adopting a transfer speed of 10 Gbit.s⁻¹ and creating 100 spectral channels using WDM, transfer speeds of up to 1 Tbit.s⁻¹ within one OF could be achieved. When transferring over long distances – of approximately over 100 km – the signal is weakened (attenuated) and it is necessary to employ optical amplifiers for its subsequent amplification [8], [16]. In such cases the amplifiers used enable a direct amplification of the optical signal - meaning they do not need to convert the optical signal into its electrical form and back again, as is the practise of repeaters [9]. In brief, the length of the optical line without optical amplifiers is dependent on: the transmitting power of the transmitter's laser, the type of OF, the transmitted signal and the sensitivity of the optical detector located in the receiver.

2. Fusion of CWDM/DWDM

The fusion of wave multiplexes WDM is implemented mostly to increase the total capacity of the transfer system. This increase of WDM capacity can be reached in several ways - not necessarily exclusive of one another [10-12]. The first option is to add more channels to the system, though that would result in the increase of the whole work spectrum which can already be exhausted because the majority of the components operate only within a limited spectrum. The second method is the decrease of gapping between channels, e.g. 100 GHz, 50 GHz, 25 GHz to 12.5 GHz [27]. The last solution would be to increase the data speed of individual channels. The co-existence of systems is understood as the incorporation of systems with higher data transfer speeds of its channels (e.g. 40 Gbit.s⁻¹) into the existing systems with lower data transfer speeds of their channels (e.g. 10 Gbit.s⁻¹). In the technical terminology such systems could be found

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under “The hybrid transfer systems 10G/40G” or “mix 10G/40G”. According to the recommendation ITU-T G.696.1 the majority of fully optical communication systems work with a transfer speed of 10 Gbit.s⁻¹ using NRZ (Non-Return to Zero) with gapping of 50 GHz or 100 GHz [13-15]. Because considerable finances have been devoted to the construction of systems with a transfer speed of 10 Gbit.s⁻¹, uprooting the entire system for something newer would be very costly. Therefore, it is logical that the next step for operators regarding how to increase transfer speeds would be to use the already existing infrastructure. It goes without saying that the new system would also be expected to be retroactively compatible. Due to the stated reasons, the 40 Gbit.s⁻¹ and 100 Gbit.s⁻¹ systems have a number of limitations requiring some attention. They are able to exist within the old infrastructure (fibres of type SMF) without changes to the: dispersion map, resistance to non-linear effects and PMD (Polarization Mode Dispersion), the signal's transition through OADM (Optical Add-Drop Multiplexor), their mutual influencing between 10 Gbit.s⁻¹ and 40 Gbit.s⁻¹/100 Gbit.s⁻¹ and the option of maintaining the 50 GHz gapping. Increasing the transfer speed from 10 Gbit.s⁻¹ to 40 Gbit.s⁻¹ and more, brings several problems, making the typical solution of the classic amplitude modulation OOK-NRZ (On-Off Keying Non-Return to Zero) unusable for this level [16-19]. This is why the systems with greater transfer speed utilise the duobinary modulations (DPSK and DQPSK) and phase modulation PSK (Phase Shift Keying). At the mentioned transit the BER is increased 16 times - caused by the chromatic dispersion, the squaring the speed multiple. The value of chromatic dispersion at the speed of 10 Gbit.s⁻¹ is tolerated by NRZ to 1000 ps/nm/km, whereas for the speed of 40 Gbit.s⁻¹ it is only 60 ps/nm/km. That implies that with the increase of transfer speed, dispersion compensation is necessary if not indispensable [20]. The other restriction is the

requirement for OSNR which has to be larger by 6 dB (10 dB) for the 40 Gbit.s⁻¹ (100 Gbit.s⁻¹) receiver - if the original BER is to be maintained. Also, the resistance against PMD decreases with the multiplication of speed to the limiting points of 3 ps for 40 Gbit.s⁻¹ and 1 ps for 100 Gbit.s⁻¹. It is created due to the production imperfections of OF and it causes delay between polarisation components [21]. Its compensation is not a stochastic process, compared to the chromatic dispersion. OF from before 1994 are unusable for high-speed and high-capacity transfers because of their high values of PMD. It has been proven that the restriction due to PMD and chromatic dispersion is negligible if using a coherent reception with digital signal processing. Also, the influence of 10 Gbit.s⁻¹ or 40 Gbit.s⁻¹/100 Gbit.s⁻¹ needs to be mentioned [22-24]. If the system with a transfer speed of 10 Gbit.s⁻¹ OOK-NRZ is merged to a system with a speed of 40 Gbit.s⁻¹ using PSK, the 40 Gbit.s⁻¹ system will be interfered with XPM (Cross Phase Modulation) - which originates from amplitude modulation. The interaction between transfer systems with 10 Gbit.s⁻¹ and 40 Gbit.s⁻¹ can be influenced by a simple change of transfer power or by a correct placing of channels. With appropriate planning for dispersion compensation and by the introduction of RDPS (Residual Dispersion Per Span) these reductions are possible: XPM and FWM (Four Wave Mixing). This is closely connected with choosing a correct type of OF. ITU-T G.652 shows a greater chromatic dispersion than ITU-T G.655 or ITU-T G.653, so it is better to suppress the occurrence of non-linear effects at the output [25]. It has been experimentally discovered that the phase-modulated signals with a higher symbolic speed (e.g. DPSK) have the tendency to be less influenced by XPM than the signals with a lower symbolic speed (e.g. DQPSK) [26]. The other alternative to coexistence is the fusion of CWDM and DWDM systems (in technical terminology marked as “CWDM/DWDM”).

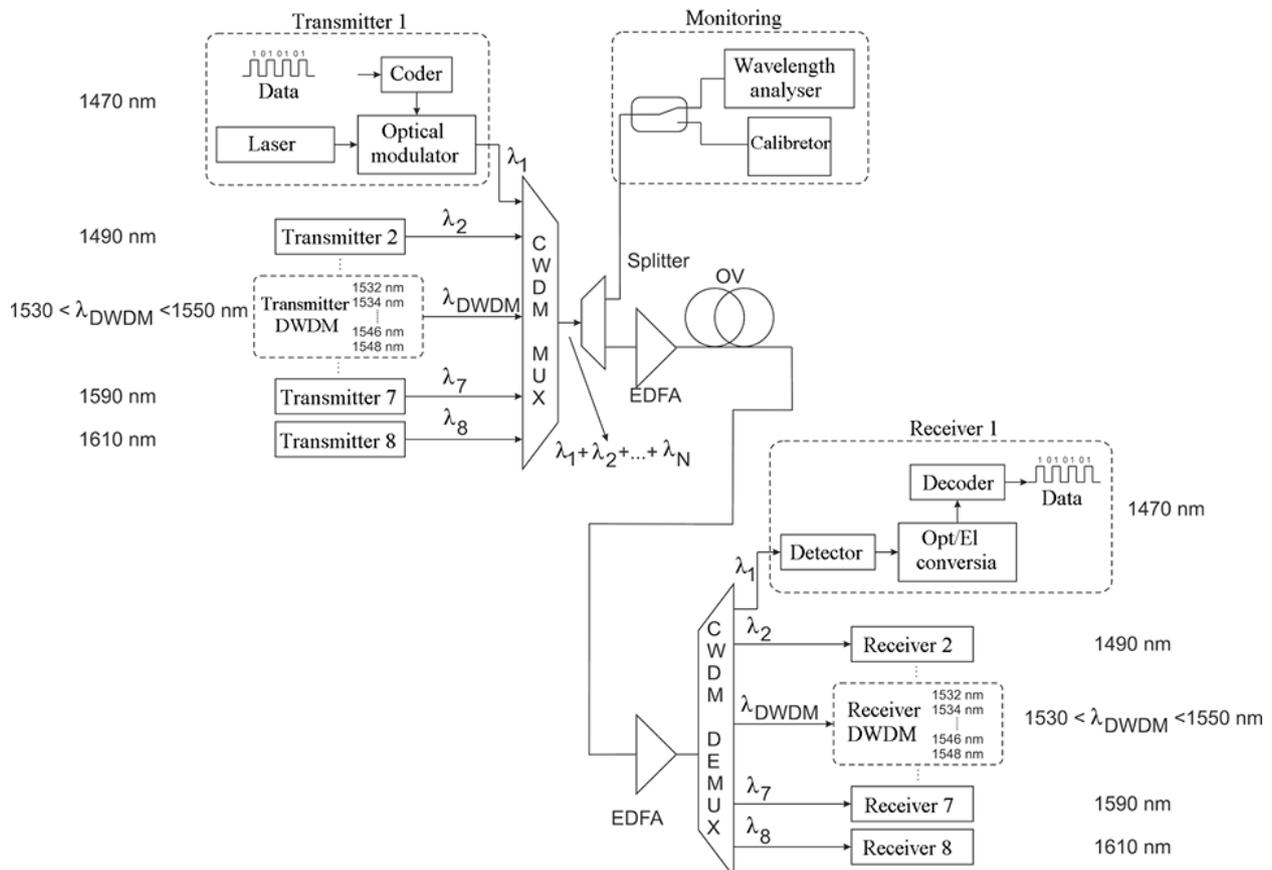


Fig. 1. Topology of CWDM/DWDM

The DWDM system is integrated into the mentioned configuration connecting into the existing CWDM system according to the recommendation ITU T G.694.1. In this case, the increase in the number of channels happens at the same spectrum of wavelengths. In Figure 1 the topology of a CWDM/DWDM system is used to compare the BER of the output.

Bit Error Rate

Every optical network needs to be tested before being introduced to public service. The testing identifies whether the optical network is correctly connected and whether it is sufficient for a reliable and faultless transfer of data. For telecommunication data transfers the BER value represents the percentage of faulty bits to its total number of received bits at the input of the receiver of that transfer route [27]. In brief, BER is the figure regarding how the data is needed to be resent due to possible faults occurring.

Creation of the eye diagram

The eye diagram is the most employed tool (analysis) in communications to evaluate the received signal. By looking at the output diagram individual faults can be identified. The diagram is used for the evaluation of the optical line of some system (in our case the individual lines of DWDM). Some terms - like Q-factor, bit error rate or SNR (Signal to Noise Ratio) - are closely related to the eye diagram [16], [28]. The ideal shape of the eye (10^{-40}) should contain the transmitted "1" and "0". In Figure 2 an ideal eye diagram can be seen.

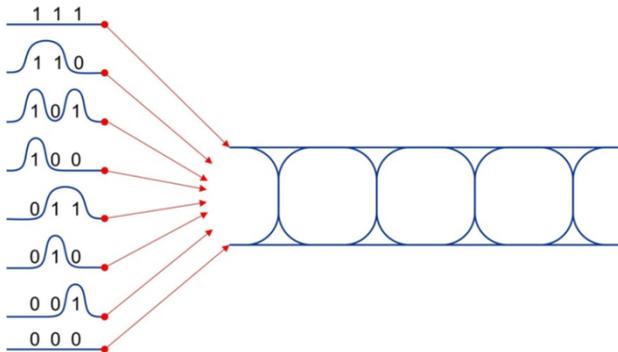


Fig. 2. Creation of the ideal eye diagram

BER and related Q factor

BER depreciates in the case where the decisive level extends beyond the interference - which then results in an incorrect interpretation of received optical impulses. In practice, the optical line is delivered to the network provider with a complete documentation and with the individual values of BER evaluating individual lines (BER representing the criteria of quality of the line) [29-30]. BER is calculated based on its number of acknowledged faults received in that particular optical signal:

$$BER = \frac{N_E}{N_A}, \tag{1}$$

where N_E represents all faulty bits and N_A represents all received bits. In Figure 3 the density of BER expectancy is shown.

BER is closely related to Q-factor which can be calculated by minusing γ_{opt} , which represents the optimal value of the middle level of logical "0" and logical "1":

$$Q = \frac{\mu_1 - \gamma_{opt}}{\sigma_1} = \frac{\gamma_{opt} - \mu_0}{\sigma_0} = \frac{\mu_1 - \mu_0}{\sigma_1 + \sigma_0}, \tag{2}$$

where it applies that:

$$\gamma_{opt} = \frac{\mu_1 \sigma_0 - \mu_0 \sigma_1}{\sigma_0 + \sigma_1}. \tag{3}$$

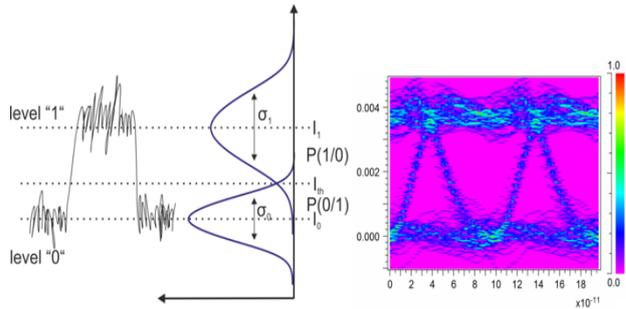


Fig. 3. The eye diagram with divided density of expectancy

In Figure 2 the expected values of BER $P(\mu(t) > \gamma_{opt} | \mu_0) / P(\mu(t) < \gamma_{opt} | \mu_0)$ indicated the real values when the particular expectation $\mu(t)$ is greater/lesser than the optimal value γ_{opt} or the middle value of the level logic „1“, „0“. It indicates that the specific areas overlap and there is problem in differentiating whether a "1" or "0" was received [16], [17] and [22]. This problem of differentiating what was received at/in output could be defined by equations separate for "1" and separate for "0":

$$P(1|0) = \frac{1}{\sigma_0 \sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\gamma_{opt}}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\mu - \mu_0}{\sigma_0} \right)^2} d\mu = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{erfc} \left(\frac{\gamma_{opt} - \mu_0}{\sigma_0 \sqrt{2}} \right), \tag{4}$$

$$P(0|1) = \frac{1}{\sigma_1 \sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\gamma_{opt}} e^{-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\mu - \mu_1}{\sigma_1} \right)^2} d\mu = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{erfc} \left(\frac{\mu_1 - \gamma_{opt}}{\sigma_1 \sqrt{2}} \right), \tag{5}$$

where BER equals:

$$BER = \frac{1}{2} [P(1|0) + P(0|1)] = \frac{1}{4} \left[\operatorname{erfc} \left(\frac{\gamma_{opt} - \mu_0}{\sigma_0 \sqrt{2}} \right) + \operatorname{erfc} \left(\frac{\mu_1 - \gamma_{opt}}{\sigma_1 \sqrt{2}} \right) \right], \tag{6}$$

$$BER = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{erfc} \left(\frac{Q}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \approx \frac{e^{-\left(\frac{Q^2}{2} \right)}}{Q \sqrt{2\pi}}. \tag{7}$$

BER is also closely connected to SNR, which could be expressed as a ratio of a signal's power (P_s) to the ration of noise power (P_N). The horizontal portrayal in Figure 3 shows SNR. It is applied that the lower the BER the greater the value of SNR:

$$SNR = \frac{P_s}{P_N}. \tag{8}$$

In the case that the signal contains additional noise, the amplifier amplifies both segments. A situation is possible when the signal is unrecognisable from a high level of amplified noise. The correlation between BER and SNR could be defined as:

$$BER = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{erfc} \left(\frac{SNR}{2} \right). \quad (9)$$

When the bit error rate is small, it is more efficient to calculate Q-factor using OSNR as follows:

$$Q_{dB} = 20 \log \sqrt{OSNR} \sqrt{\frac{B_0}{B_E}} = OSNR_{dB} + 10 \log \frac{B_0}{B_E}, \quad (10)$$

where B_E defines the electric bandwidth behind the receiver and B_0 defines the bandwidth reaching the detector. The noise figure NF (Noise Figure) usually increases by a spontaneous emission when employing EDFA. In the case that the ASE is examined (Amplified Spontaneous Emission) in relation to the signal, the OSNR could be defined as:

$$OSNR = \frac{P_{IN}}{NF \cdot h \cdot f \cdot \Delta f}, \quad (11)$$

where h is Planck constant ($6.626 \cdot 10^{-34}$), NF is the noise figure of a particular EDFA, P_{IN} defines the input power, f is the frequency of radiation, Δf is the bandwidth in which the NF measurement took place. According to the equation (11) the total number of OSNR could be defined, where the lower index i determines the grade of the particular system:

$$\frac{1}{OSNR_{CELK}} = \sum_i \frac{1}{OSNR_i}. \quad (12)$$

The equation (11) could be extended for the fully optical communication line by every EDFA compensating the attenuation of its preceding OF, with N being the number of EDFAs with identical gain used. Then OSNR will be defined as:

$$OSNR_i = \frac{P_0}{NF \cdot \Gamma \cdot h \cdot f \cdot \Delta f}, \quad (13)$$

where P_0 is defined as the output power of the multiplex used and Γ is the attenuation of the travelled distance. According to the equation (12) the total value of OSNR can be calculated:

$$\begin{aligned} OSNR_{CELK} &= \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^N \frac{NF \cdot \Gamma \cdot h \cdot f \cdot \Delta f}{P_0}} = \\ &= \frac{1}{N \cdot \frac{NF \cdot \Gamma \cdot h \cdot f \cdot \Delta f}{P_0}} = \frac{P_0}{NF \cdot \Gamma \cdot h \cdot f \cdot \Delta f \cdot N} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

The equations (13) and (14) assumed that NF and Γ do not change. Using ROA the OSNR is defined for level i as:

$$OSNR_i = \frac{P_{IN(i)} \cdot G_{RA(i)}}{NF_i \cdot h \cdot f \cdot \Delta f}, \quad (15)$$

where G_{RA} represents the agent raising OSNR when using ROA (Raman Optical Amplifier). From the equation (14) it is obvious that the growing distance results in the decrease of OSNR, but only when EDFA is connected [16], [22]. If a reduction of the drop is needed, there is the option of using the Raman amplification which increases the input power of EDFA according to the provided equation (15). To simplify the matter, a 16-channel DWDM system was created with gaps of 50 GHz [22]. This simulation was created in the program environment "Matlab", to emphasise the relation between BER and Q-factor. In Figure 4 shows the ideal curve for BER and its corresponding Q-factor with red points indicating the individual values for the particular optical lines [22]. The line with a speed of 40 Gbit.s⁻¹ is acceptable in the case of its Q-factor being of value of approximately 6 and BER being under the value of 10⁻⁰⁹.

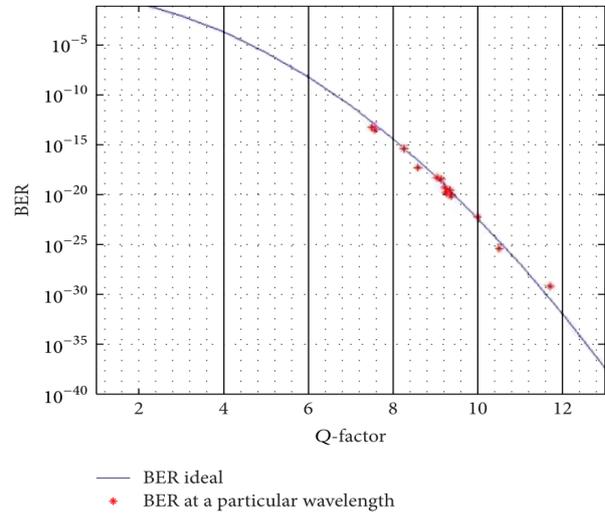


Fig. 4. Relation between BER and Q-factor (simulation in the environment „Matlab“) [22]

3. Creation of CWDM/DWDM for comparison of BER in the output

The whole constructed system is portrayed in Figure 1. It consists of three parts, which are: receiving, transferring and transmitting. The transmitting stage is created with 8 transmitting units from 1470 nm to 1610 nm with gaps of 20 nm. Between the wavelengths of 1530 nm to 1550 nm, 10 transmitting units with gaps of 2 nm were inserted. In Figure 5 can be seen the input spectrum of the signal.

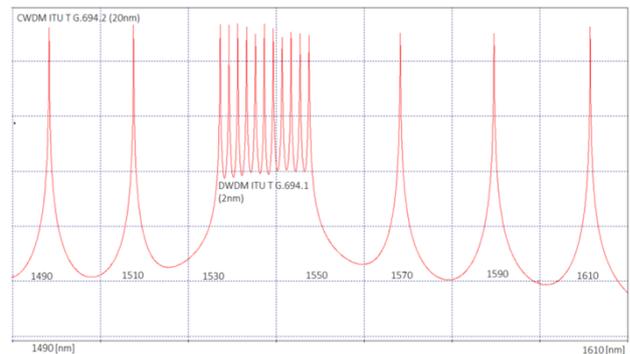


Fig. 5. Spectrum of CWDM/DWDM system

Every transmitting unit contains 4 basic blocks which are: CW laser, modulator, coder and a data source. In our topology we used “MachZehnder” type modulation, its power is set to the value of 1.03 mW, and the bit speed of that channel is 10 Gbit.s⁻¹. In our case a CWDM system was created, with a transfer speed of 80 Gbit.s⁻¹, into which are inserted 10 channels with transfer speed of 100 Gbit.s⁻¹. After the transmitting units is placed the AWG multiplexor that joins the individual signals into a mutual optical fibre. A mathematical description of AWG and its use were defined in [18], [24]. The transfer part includes an optical splitter, OF and an amplifier of the EDFA type. The OF has an attenuation value of 0.3 dB.km⁻¹ according to the recommendation G.652.D - additionally, the simulation ignored the Raman scattering effect and SBS (Stimulated Brillouin Scattering). The key component EDFA is set to a power value of 30 mW and it operates at 980 nm.

The length of the Erbium-doped fibre was 14 m and it was chosen according to Figure 6 showing the best amplification was attained by precisely this length of fibre.

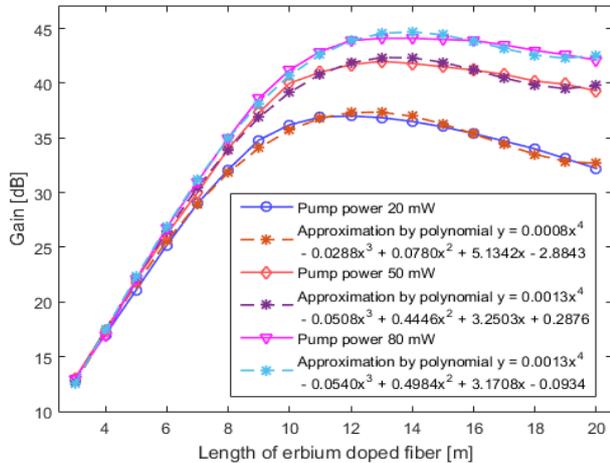


Fig. 6. Length of Erbium-doped fibre to EDFA gain

At the end of the transfer route is the demultiplexor where the separation of individual wavelengths happen. The receiving part consists of a filter set to the effectivity of 0.8. It consequently leads to the transfer of the optical signal into its electrical form - and the output represents the individual data that were transmitted at the beginning of the line. For our designed system we measured one specific channel operating at a wavelength of 1540 nm. To evaluate the quality of the line we utilised the measurement method based on the Monte Carlo type. The eye diagram with a bit speed of 10 Gbit.s⁻¹ after the distance of 90 km at a wavelength of 1540 nm is displayed in Figure 7.

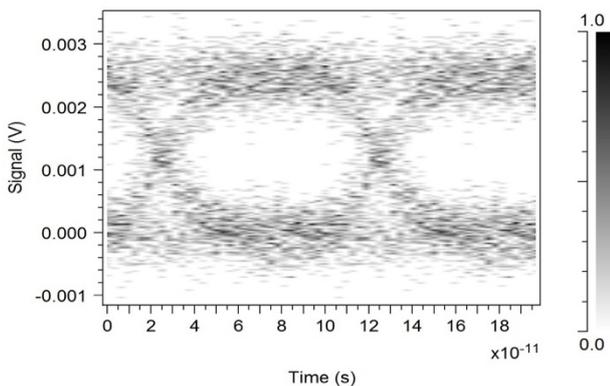


Fig. 7. Eye diagram for 1540nm after 90km

The length of OF was chosen so the EDFA was able to amplify the signal to its best ability. Table 1 shows the values of BER for various lengths of OF.

Table 1. Length of OF in the optical system for the BER comparison.

Length OF (km)	BER	BER_min	BER_max	Q ² (dB)
90	2.4785·10 ⁻¹⁶	3.3362·10 ⁻¹⁷	5.7894·10 ⁻¹⁴	18.992
95	7.5159·10 ⁻¹⁴	5.8209·10 ⁻¹⁵	8.7016·10 ⁻¹³	17.369
100	4.3659·10 ⁻⁰⁹	7.3663·10 ⁻¹¹	8.9892·10 ⁻⁰⁸	13.558
105	1.4462·10 ⁻⁰⁵	6.2035·10 ⁻⁰⁶	3.2586·10 ⁻⁰⁵	12.427
110	2.2262·10 ⁻⁰⁴	1.1152·10 ⁻⁰⁵	5.5522·10 ⁻⁰⁴	8.5585
115	9.1415·10 ⁻⁰³	6.8273·10 ⁻⁰³	1.2116·10 ⁻²	7.4576

The increasing demand on transfer speed results in worsening of BER and a drop in Q-factor in the output. Figure 8 shows displayed drops of Q-factor depending on the distance of OF with increasing bit speed.

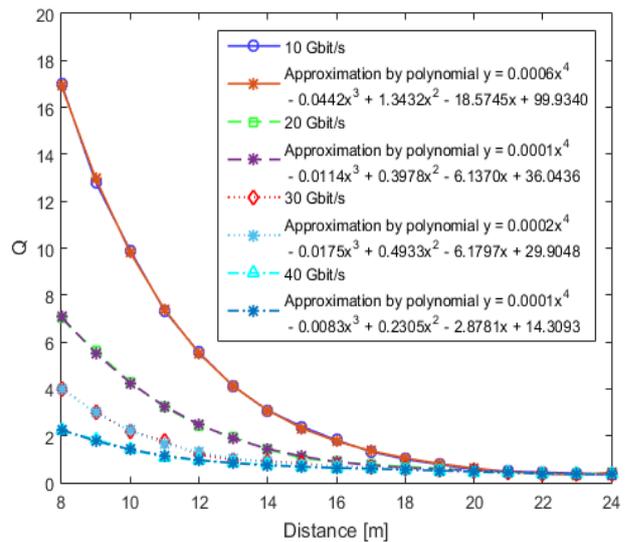


Fig. 8. Dependence of Q-factor on the length of OF at the change of bit speed

The aim of the system's construction was the appropriate application of EDFA in the transfer stage. According to Table 1 the most advantageous placement of EDFA is in the optical system after 90 km. We created an optical loop where we applied EDFA and OF after 90 km. The whole system was evaluated only for the wavelength of 1540 nm. The optical loop was managed until BER had not dropped under the value of 10⁻⁹ - when it was not possible to distinguish the individual optical impulses in the output. Table 2 shows the final results of BER and Q-factor for a bit speed 10 Gbit.s⁻¹ for an optical line operating at 1540 nm, when its 1 iteration equals the length of 90 km.

Table 2. Final BER for various distances of the system.

Iteration/km	BER	BER_min	BER_max	Q ² (dB)
25/2250	5.5581·10 ⁻¹⁵	1.8978·10 ⁻¹⁷	4.1448·10 ⁻¹⁴	16.225
30/2700	6.6656·10 ⁻¹¹	4.5441·10 ⁻¹²	3.7065·10 ⁻⁰⁹	13.325
35/3150	3.6589·10 ⁻⁰⁹	9.9898·10 ⁻⁰⁹	8.1284·10 ⁻⁰⁸	11.963
40/3600	2.2252·10 ⁻⁰⁵	1.5889·10 ⁻⁰⁷	2.2278·10 ⁻⁰⁴	10.589

In our proposed topology we theoretically did not exceed the distance of 3000 km while maintaining BER. To increase the distance we could have used the fibres of the type DCF (Dispersion Compensation Fibre). When creating the system with the optical loop we would use a standard 80 km SMF

fibre and directly behind we would place 20 km's of DCF fibre. This would compensate for the dispersion in the output. With this topology of the optical loop we could possibly reach the distance of 4000 km in a way that would preserve BER in the output.

4. Conclusion

The aim of this article was the basic mathematical description of the bit error rate BER and also the possibility of fusing CWDM and DWDM systems to be implemented into one infrastructure. During the construction of the system, the EDFA was placed as In-Line so we would be able to reach the maximal possible length for this configuration. With the appropriate length of optical fibre (14 m, Fig.6) and by maintaining the bit speed (10 Gbit.s⁻¹) we could theoretically

reach the distance of 3000 km. The article also points to the necessity of using EDFA for distances up to 100 km so that the individual optical impulses are recognisable at the output. To breach a greater distance than 3000km, it would be advisable to also employ the fibres of the type DCF - in which case the theoretical distance increases to 4000km (BER= 2,842·10⁻¹⁰). The provider plays the key role in designing the system by determining the financial aspect of the system, the number of channels and the bit speed. It is necessary to consider that by condensing channels and increasing the speed, non-linear effects of the type XPM, SPM and FWM will occur in the optical power.

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