



Laser Communications

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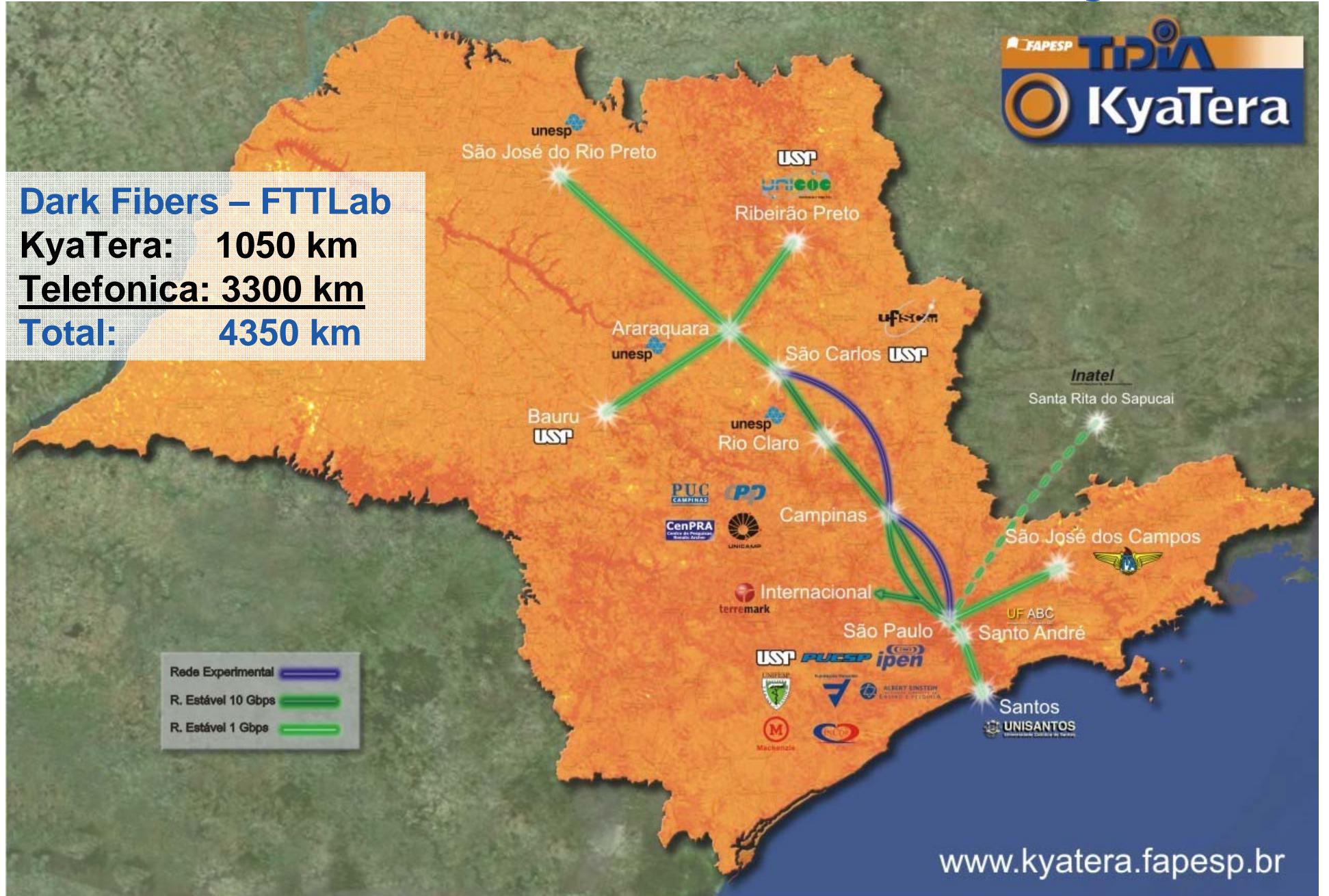
UNICAMP-IFGW

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Rede KyaTera



Dark Fibers – FTTLab
KyaTera: 1050 km
Telefonica: 3300 km
Total: 4350 km



Communications: Photonics versus Electronics

- Capacity of transmission lines:
 - Coaxial Cable: 10 Mb/s×km
 - Optical fiber: > 10 Gb/s×km,
- Implications in high speed signal processing:
 - Assuming that an electronic chip could process at 10 Tb/s, it could not transmit information to another chip 1 mm apart (!)
- Implications in \$\$ (telecom services):
 - Metallic line (10 Mb/s): 0.2 M\$/month
 - Optical Fiber (10 Gb/s): 200 M\$/month
 - (at 1¢/min per 5 kbps used 8 h/day)

Substitute cables and electronics by fibers and photonics

System concepts

Elements of transmission systems

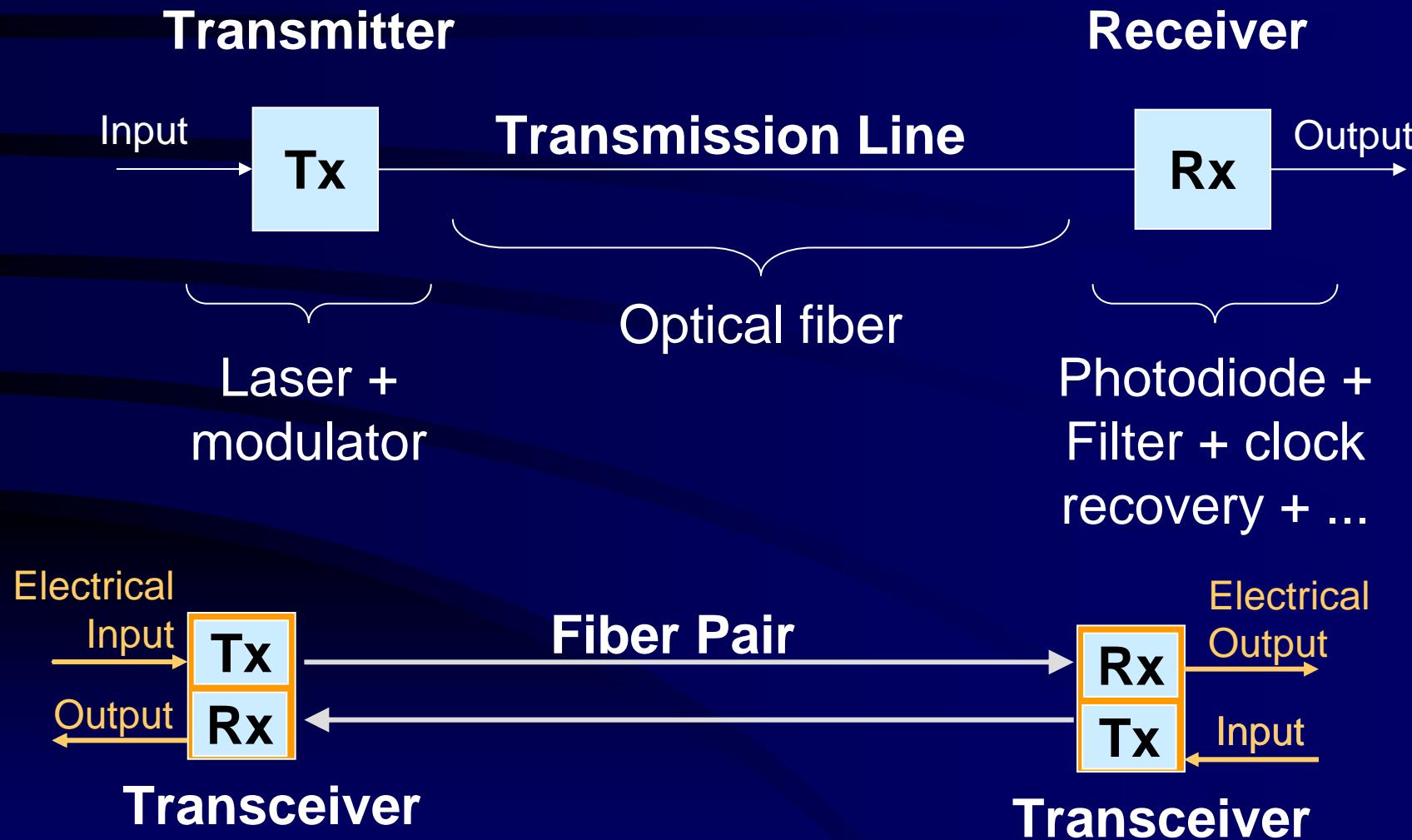
Multiplexing

Modulation Formats

Optically amplified systems

WDM systems

Elements of a Communication System

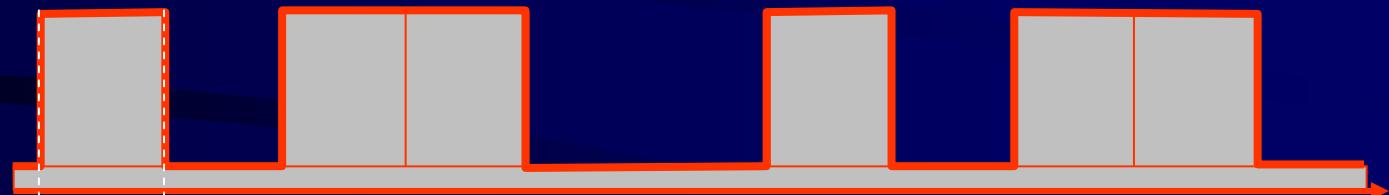


Digital Modulation Formats

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

Non-Return to Zero

NRZ



Return to Zero

RZ

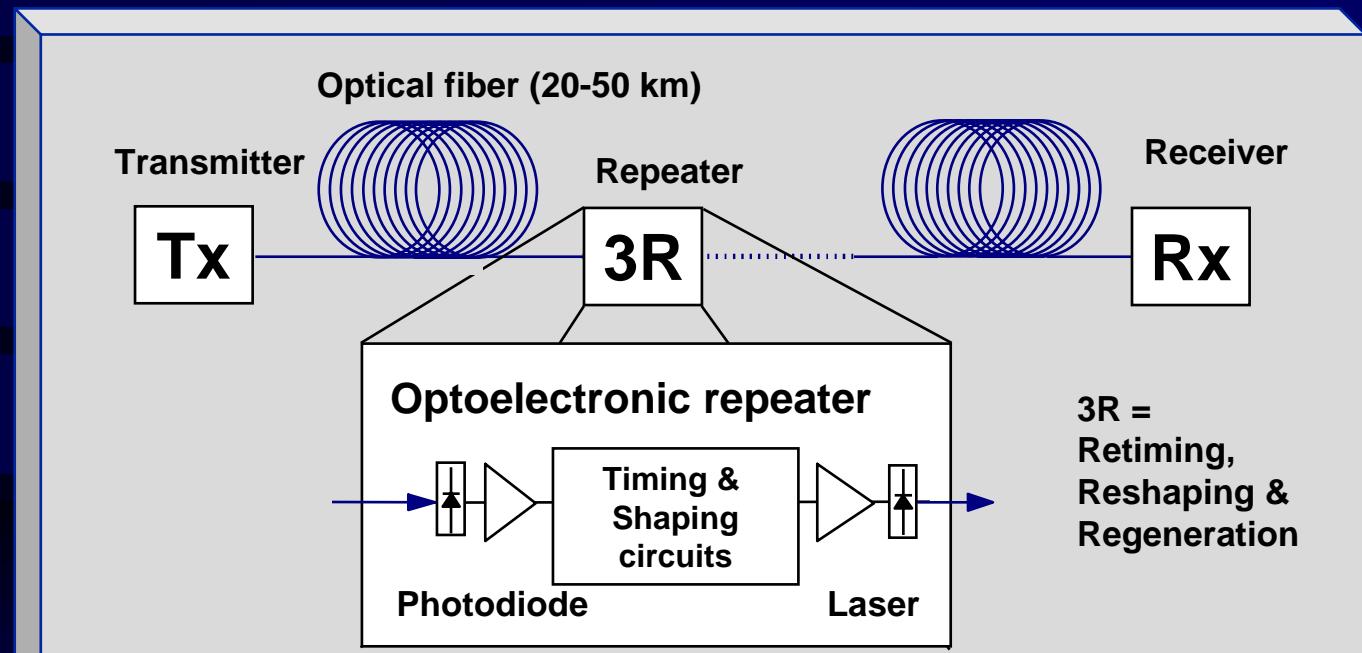


$T = 1/B$ (bit slot)

time

Traditional Optical Communication System

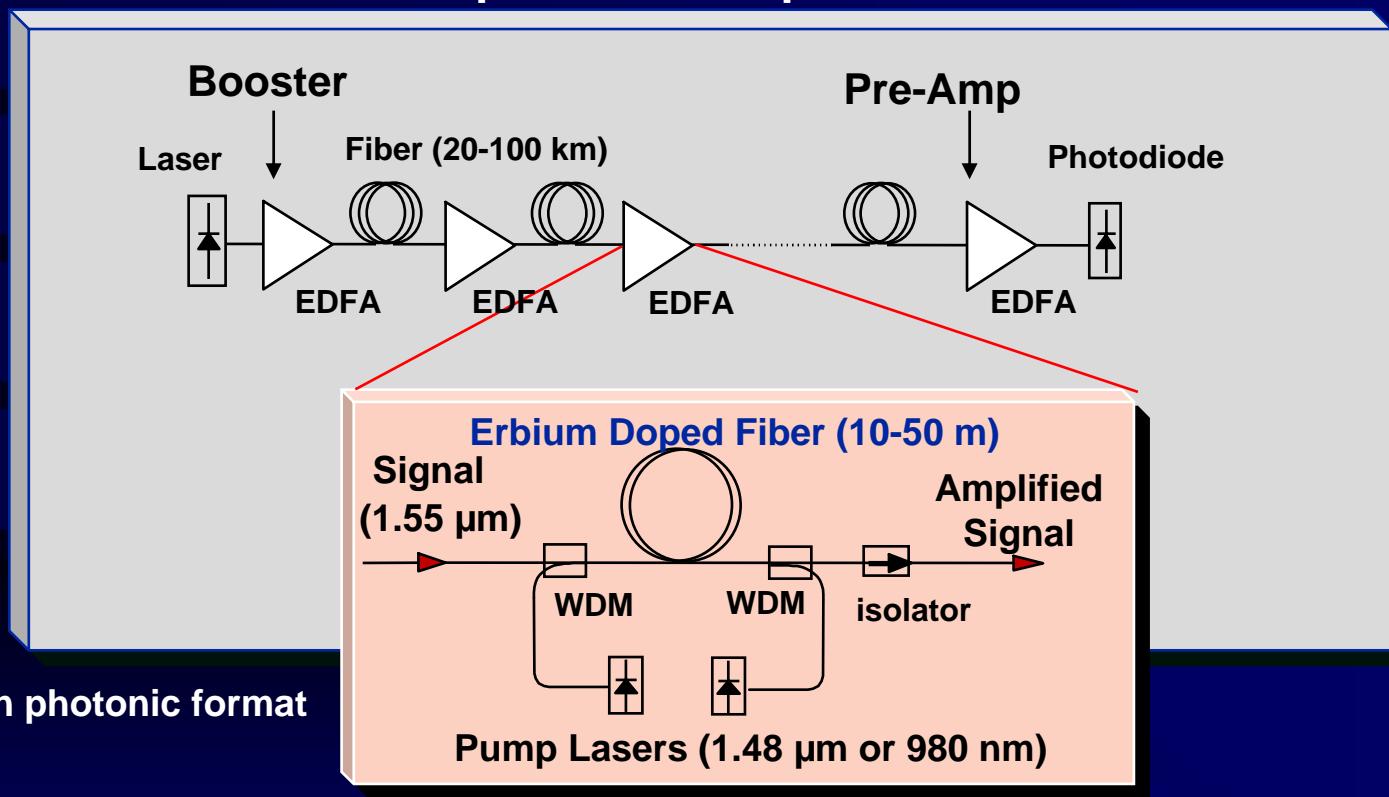
Loss compensation: Repeaters at every 20-50 km



Capacity limited by speed of electronic circuits.
Timing circuits are specific for a given bit rate, protocol coding, format,...

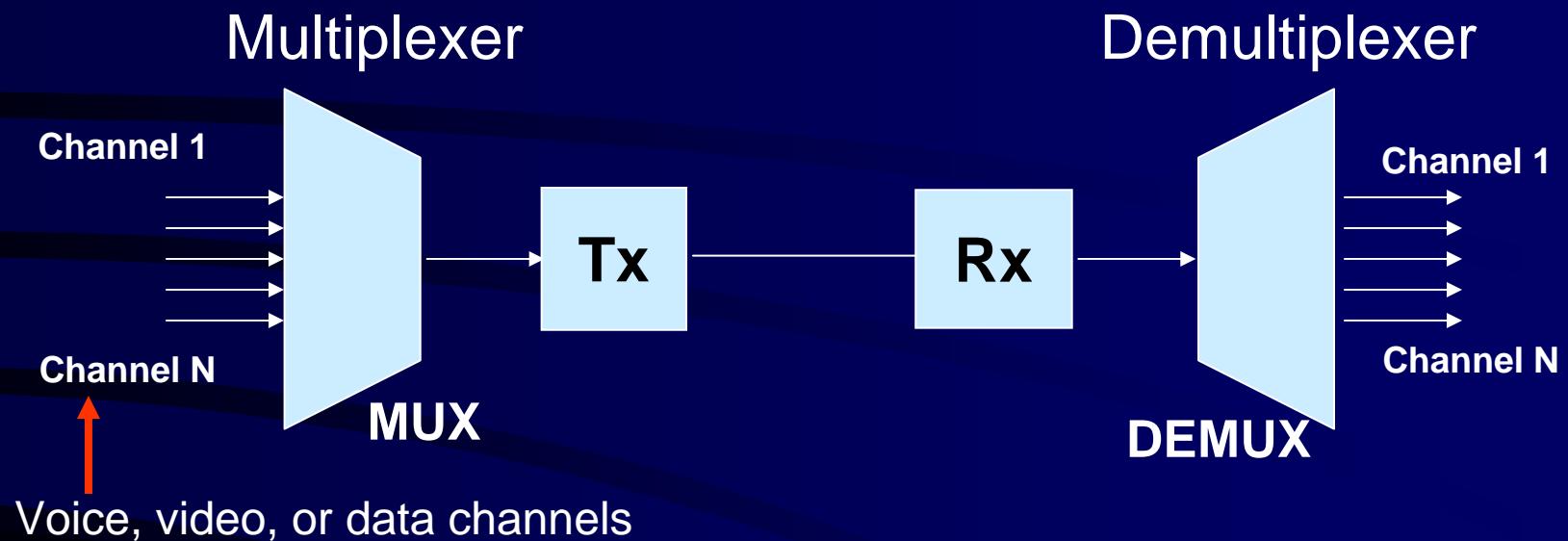
Optically Amplified Systems

EDFA = Erbium Doped Fiber Amplifier



Transparent to bit rate (< 4 Tb/s), protocol, format,...

Multiplexing

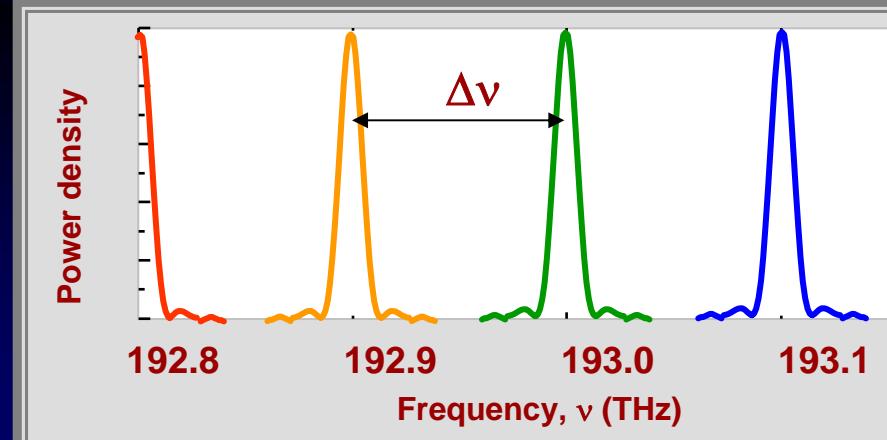
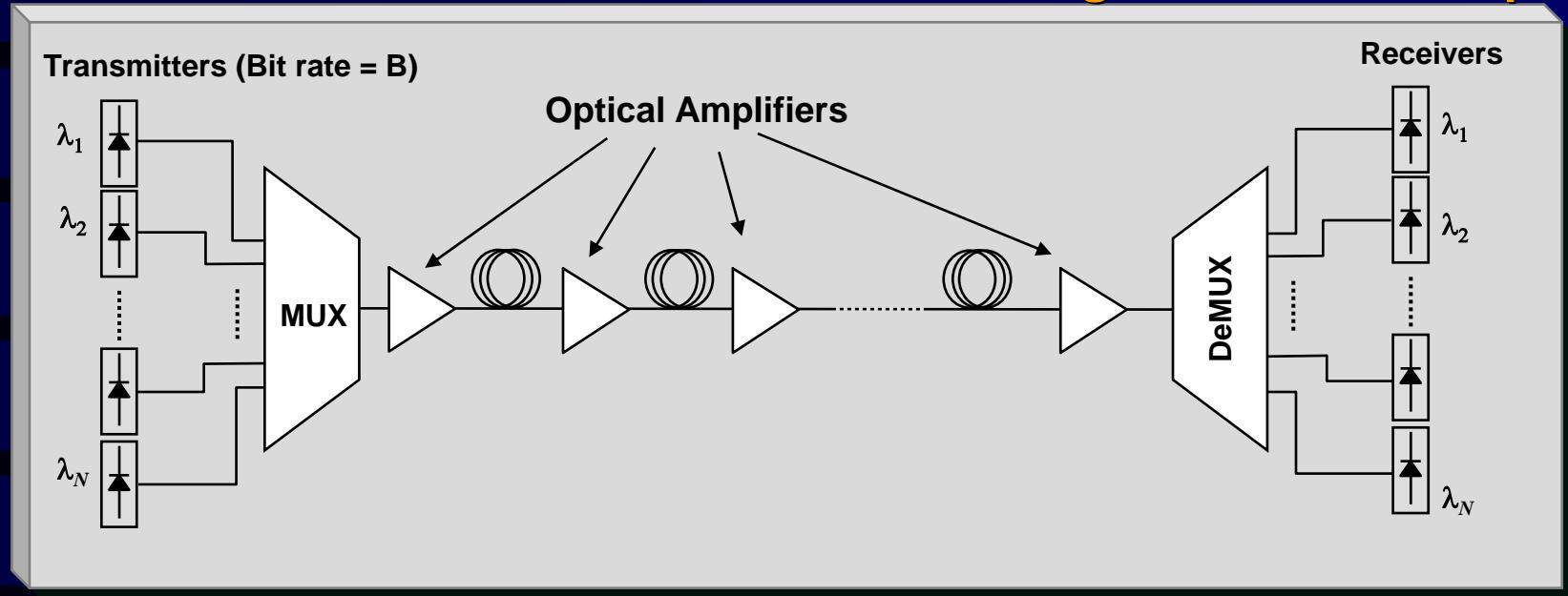


**Multiplexing can be in time domain (TDM), frequency domain (FDM),
Polarization (PDM), Wavelength (WDM), ...**

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

DWDM Systems

DWDM = Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing



CWDM = Coarse WDM:
 $\Delta\lambda = 20 \text{ nm}$

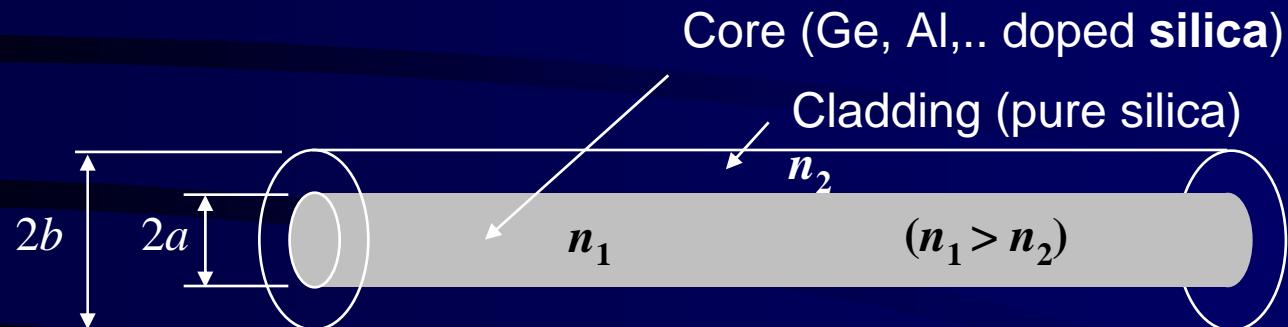
Cheaper than DWDM

Some System Components and Devices

- Optical fibers
- Fiber Couplers
- Fiber Connectors
- Lasers and Detectors
- Optical Amplifiers
- DWDM MUX/DeMUX
- Modulators

Optical Fibers

Optical fibers are cylindrical dielectric waveguides



Typical dimensions

Core diameter $2a = 9$ to $62.5 \mu\text{m}$

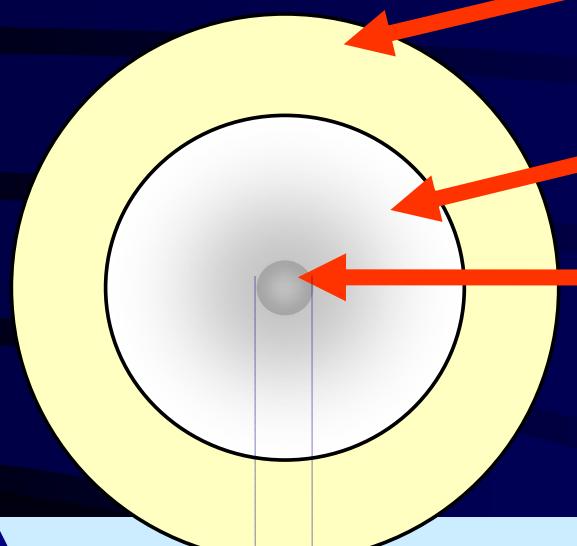
Cladding diameter $2b = 125 \mu\text{m}$

Typical values of refractive indices

Core: $n_1 = 1.446$

Cladding: $n_2 = 1.445$

Index profile



Protection cladding

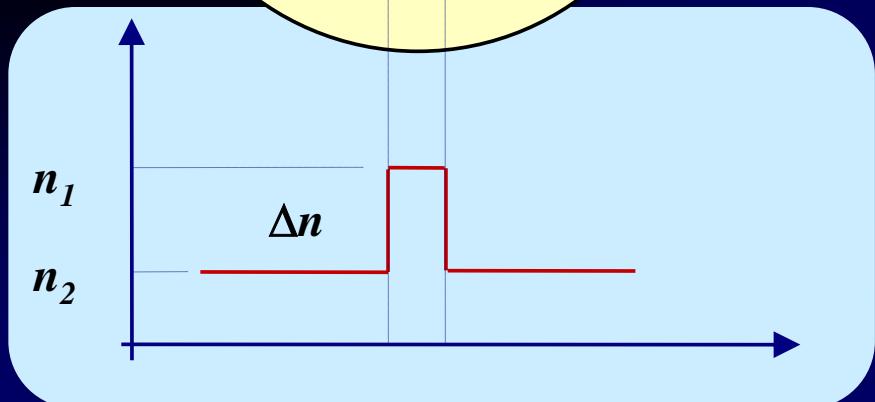
Plastic (250 µm)

Cladding

pure silica (125 µm)

Core

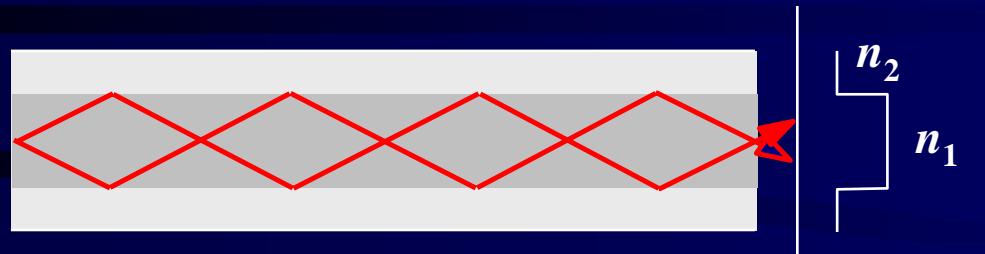
Doped silica (9 – 62.5 µm)



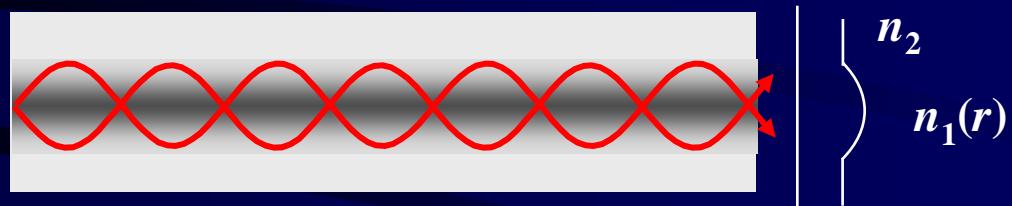
Index step typical values:

$$\Delta n = 0.001 - 0.01$$

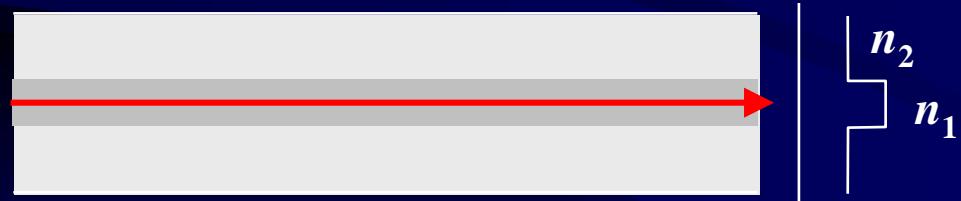
Main fiber types



Step Index
Multimode



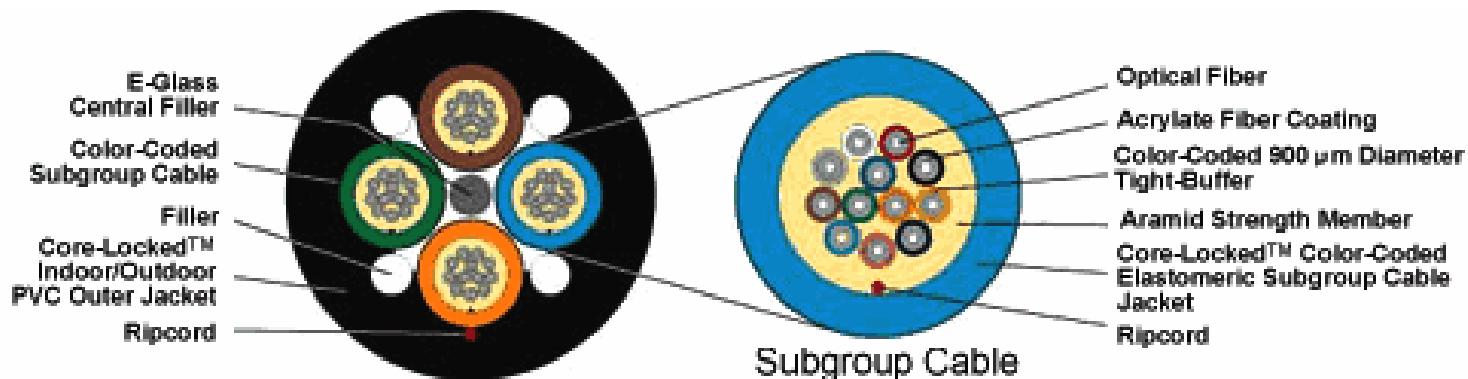
Gradual Index
Multimode



Step Index
Single Mode



Optical Cables

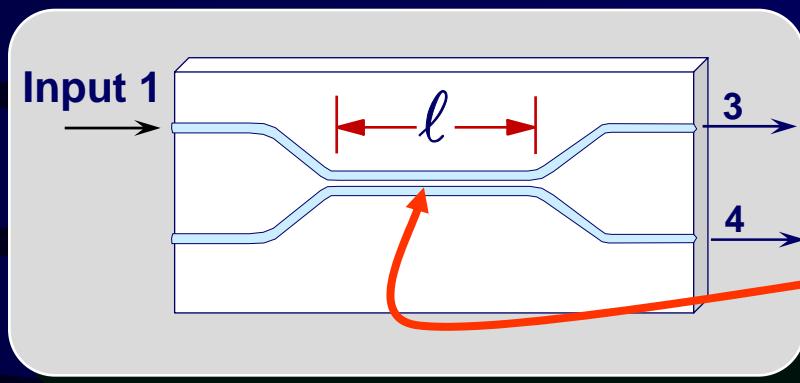


Patch cords



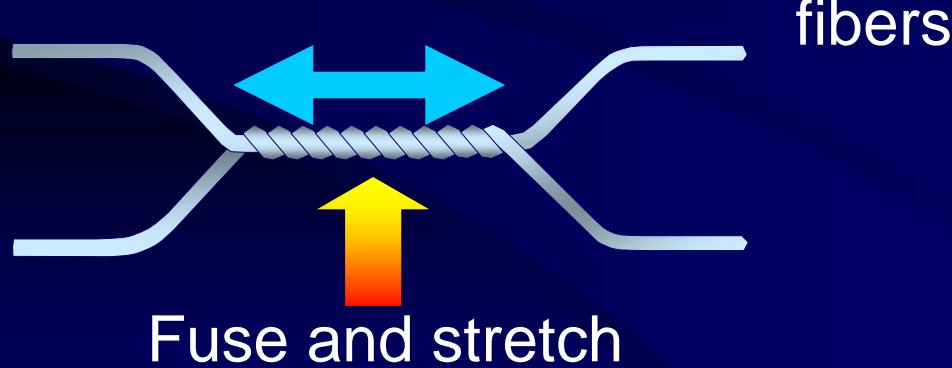
Optical Couplers

Planar waveguide device



Mode coupling
through evanescent
field

Fiber device





Attenuation and Dispersion

Decibel units

Input power

P_{in}



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)

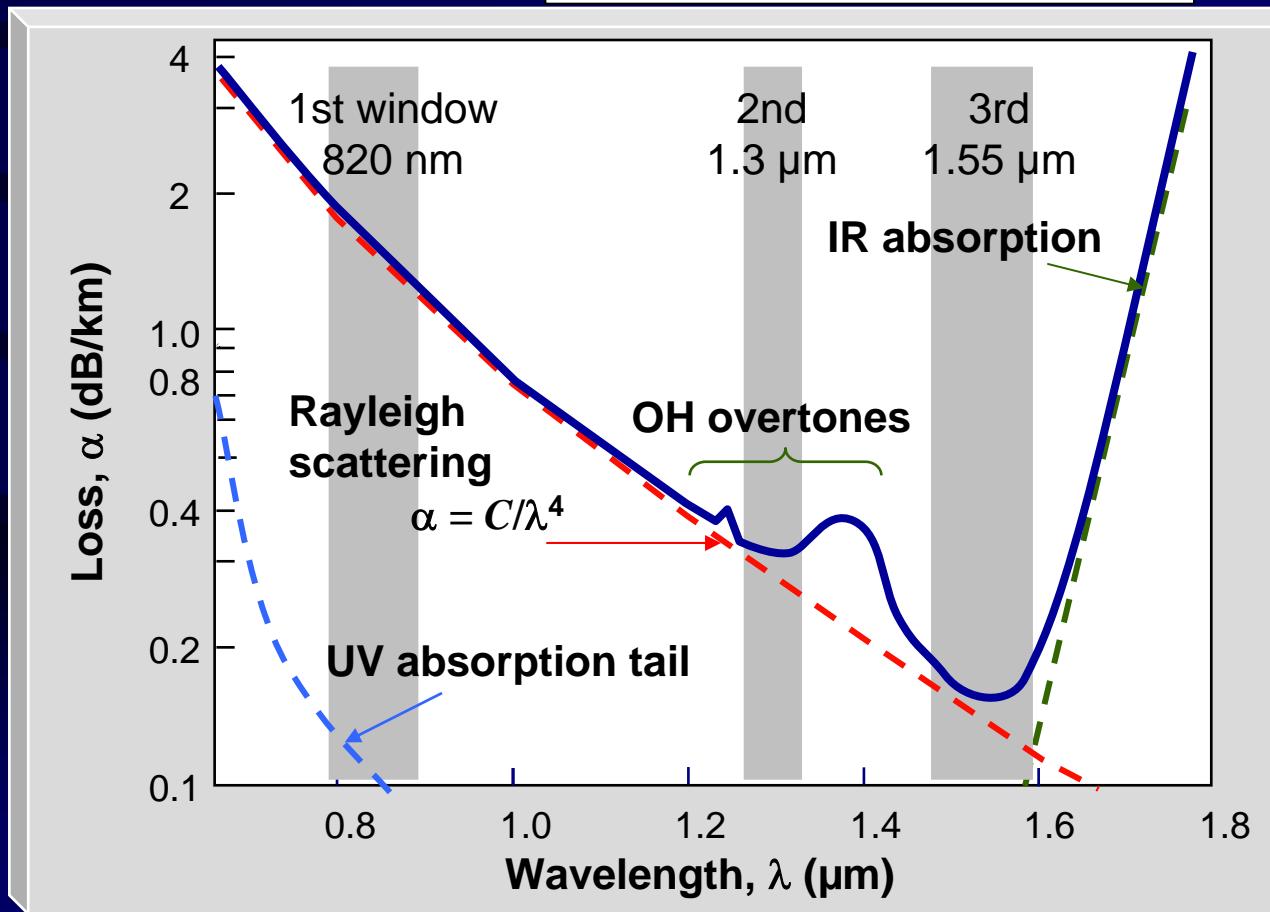
Attenuation

Optical Power at a distance L :

$$P(L) = P(0) \times 10^{-\alpha L/10}$$

Loss coefficient: α (dB/km)

$$P_{dBm}(L) = P_{dBm}(0) - \alpha L$$



Power budget

System design

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

$\alpha = 0.2 \text{ dB/km}$
(1550 nm) or
 $\alpha = 0.35 \text{ dB/km}$
(1300 nm)

Average splicing
insertion loss
(typically 0.5 dB)

(dB units)

2 – 5 dB
(aging)

Sensitividade típica dos receptores:

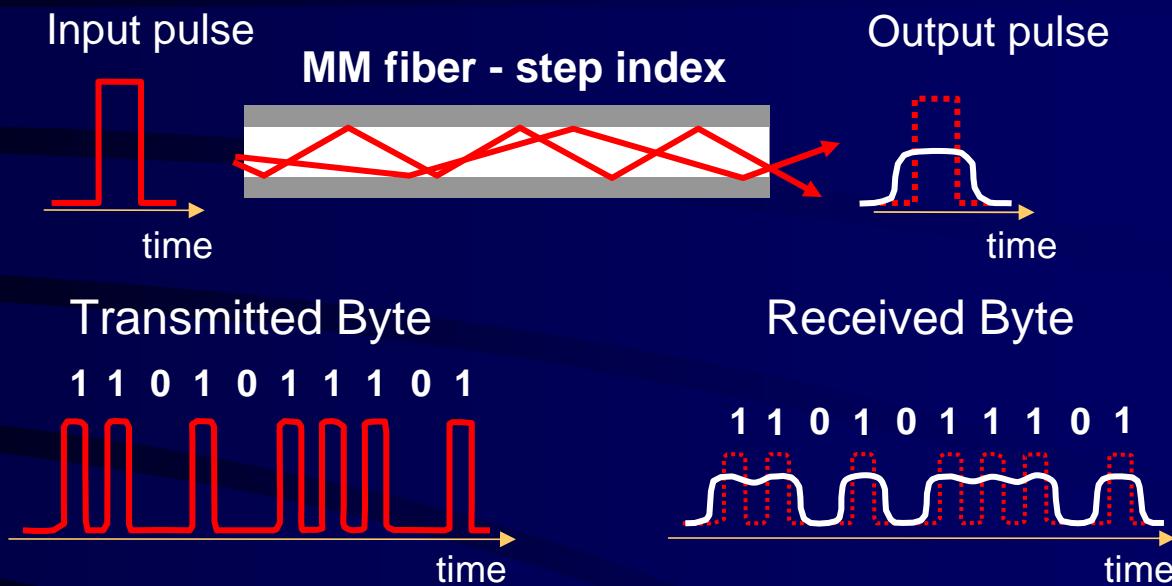
$P_{RX} = -28 \text{ dBm}$ para 1 Gb/s

$P_{RX} = -19 \text{ dBm}$ para 10 Gb/s

Potência típica de transmissores

$P_{TX} = +1 \text{ dBm}$

Modal Dispersion

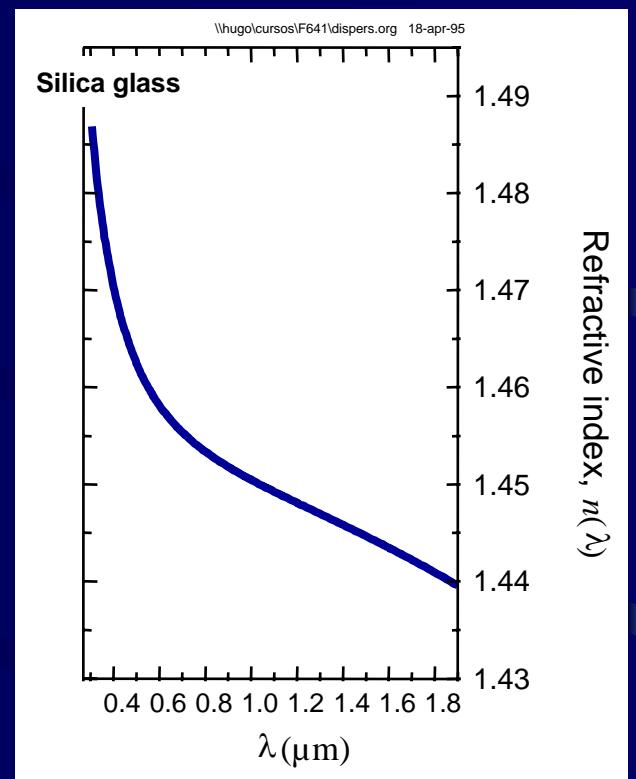
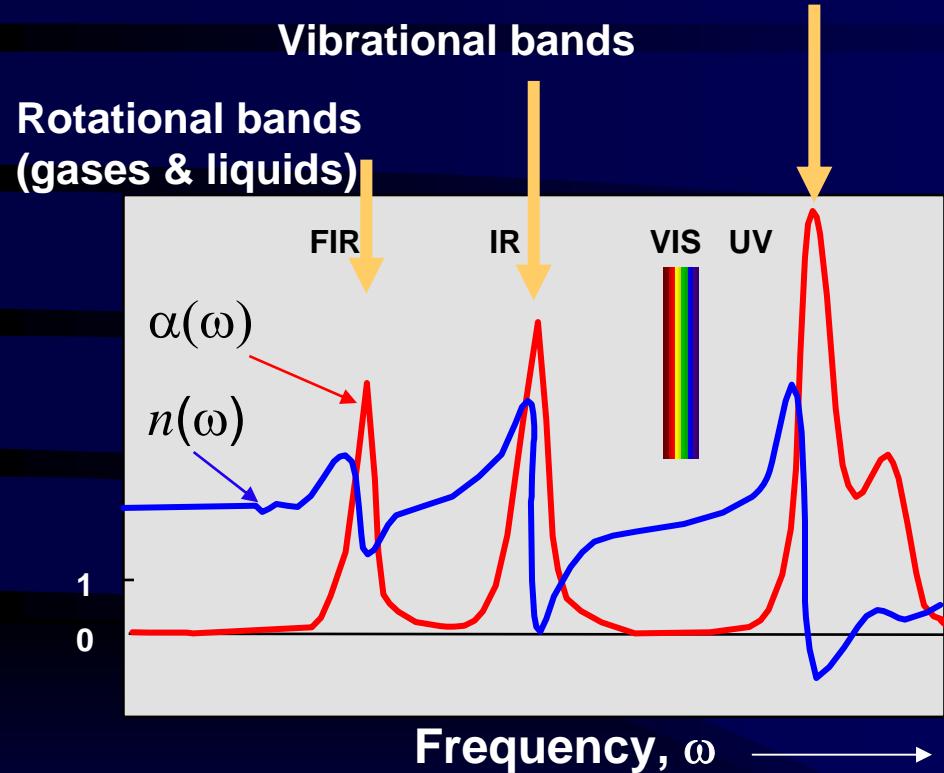


Dispersion limits the transmission capacity of fiber

Capacity of MM-step-index fibers $\approx 20 \text{ Mb/s} \times \text{km}$
Capacity of MM-graded-index fibers $\approx 2 \text{ Gb/s} \times \text{km}$

Material dispersion

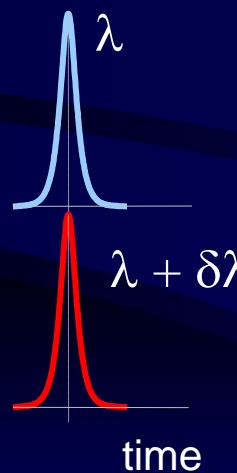
Electronic transitions



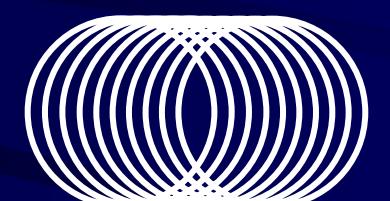
Dispersion parameter

Measurement of Group Velocity Dispersion (GVD):

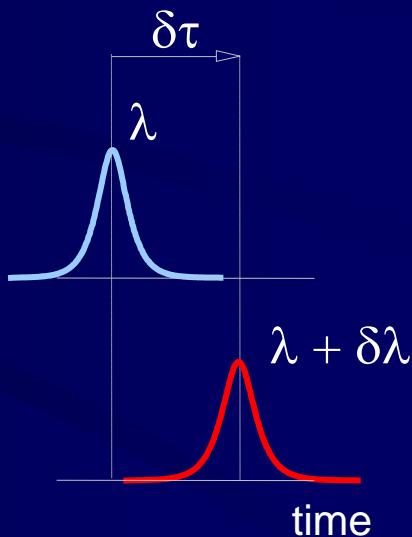
Input pulses
(different wavelength)



Single mode fiber,
length L



Received pulses



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

Dispersion parameter [ps/nm/km]

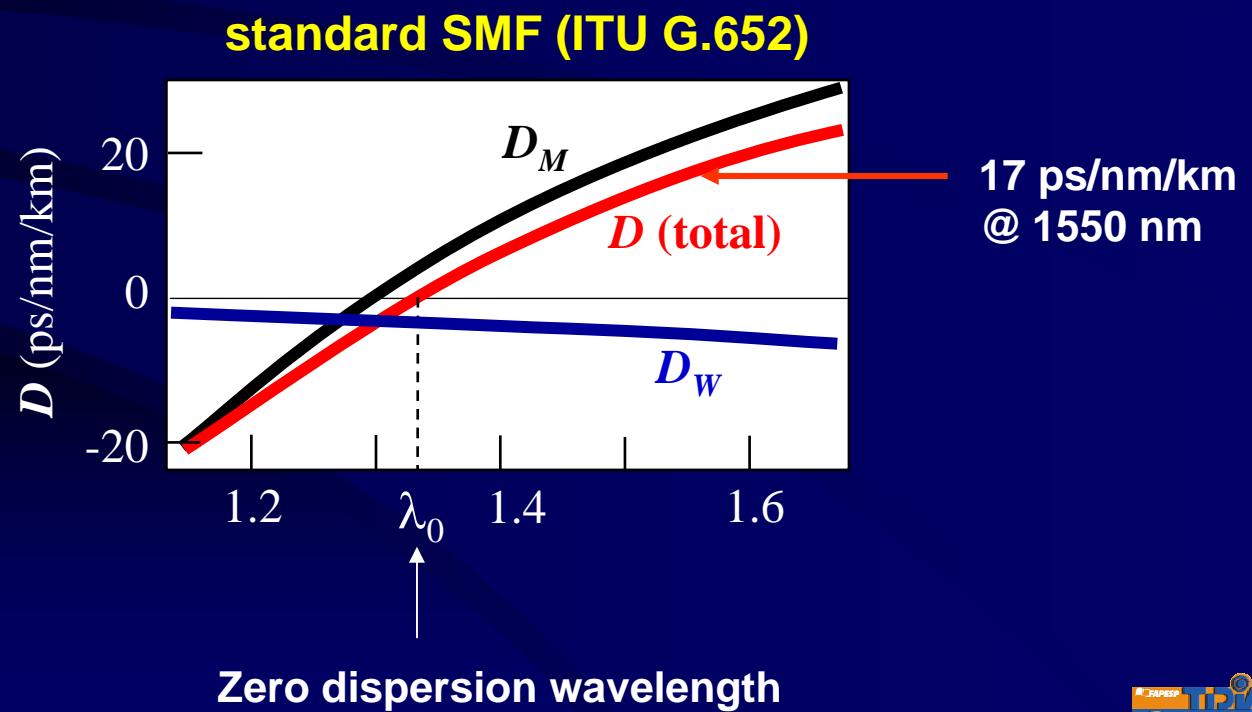
Chromatic dispersion

Group velocity (v_g) depends on λ

Dispersion parameter: $D = D_M + D_W$

D_M (Material Dispersion):
 n depends on λ

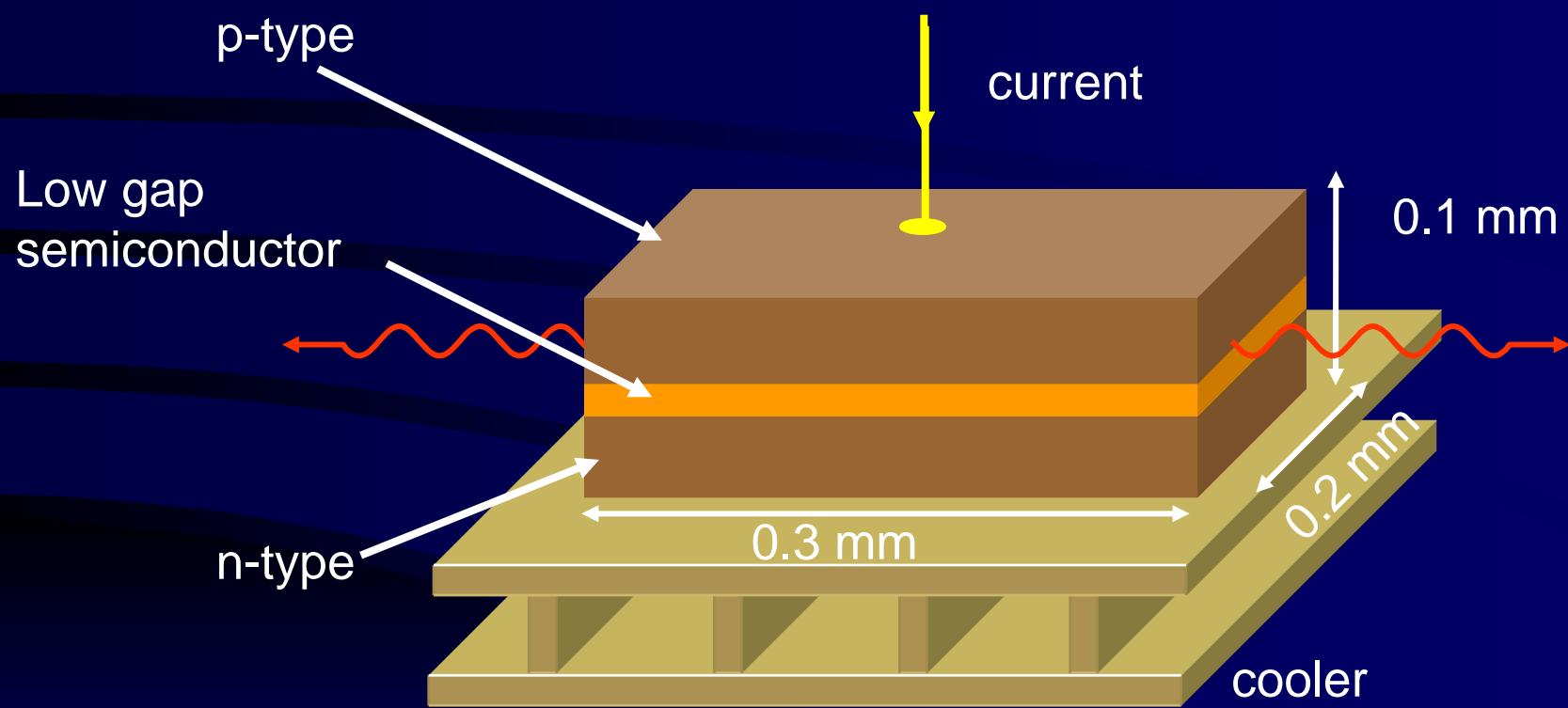
D_W (Waveguide Dispersion):
 v_g depends on waveguide geometry



Some system components

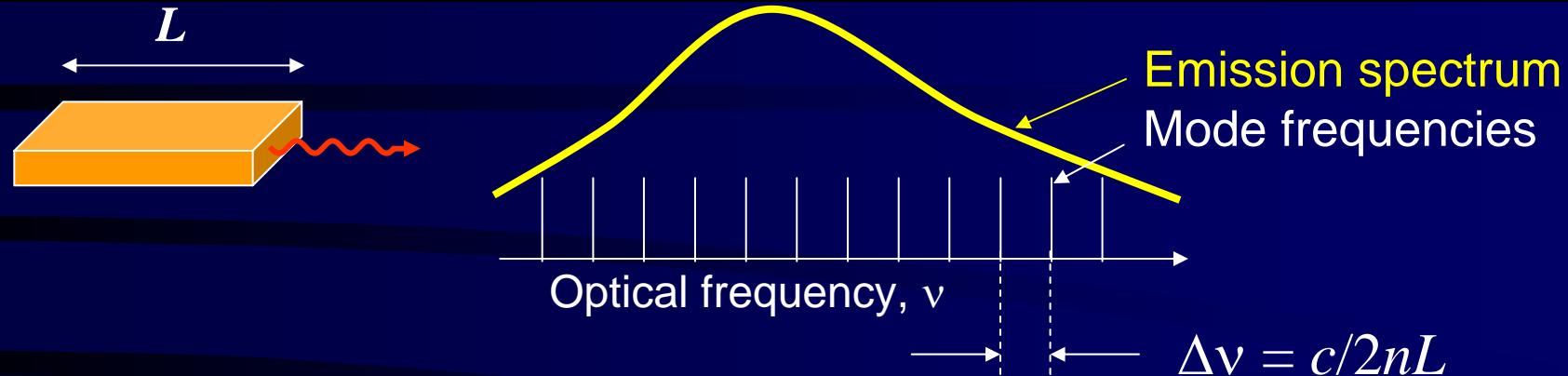
Diode Lasers
Detectors
Modulators
Integrated optics: Mux
Amplifiers

Laser diode



Fabry-Perot (FP) laser cavity

Cavity modes

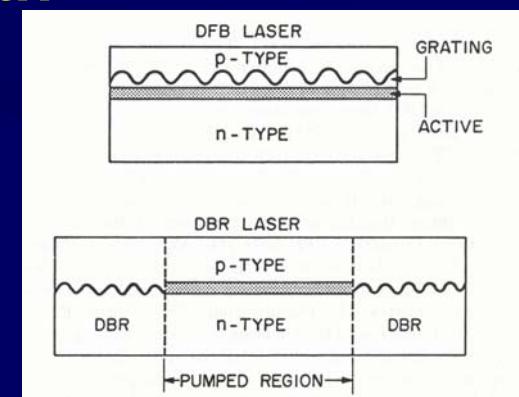


Fabry-Perot lasers ~ 30 modes (2-10 nm linewidth)
Mode jumping – Mode partition noise

DFB and DBR lasers: ~ 50 MHz linewidth

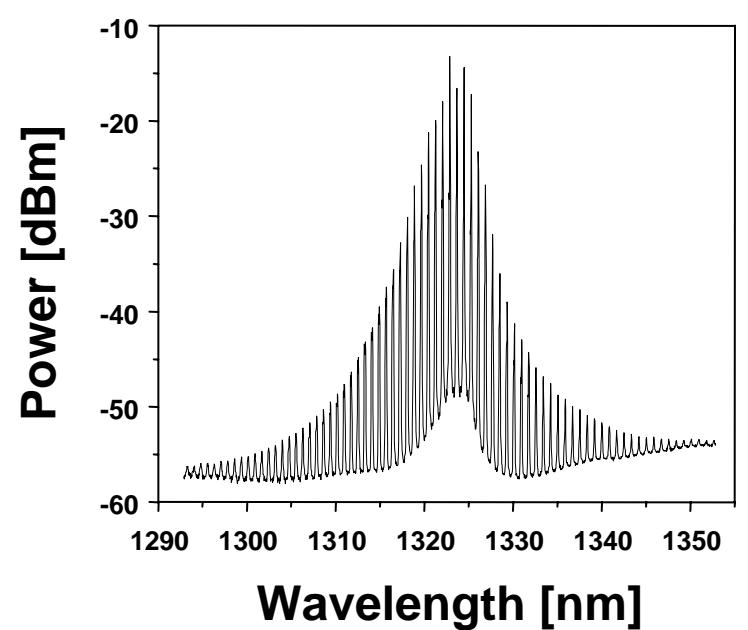
DFB: Distributed Feedback laser

DBR: Distributed Bragg Reflector

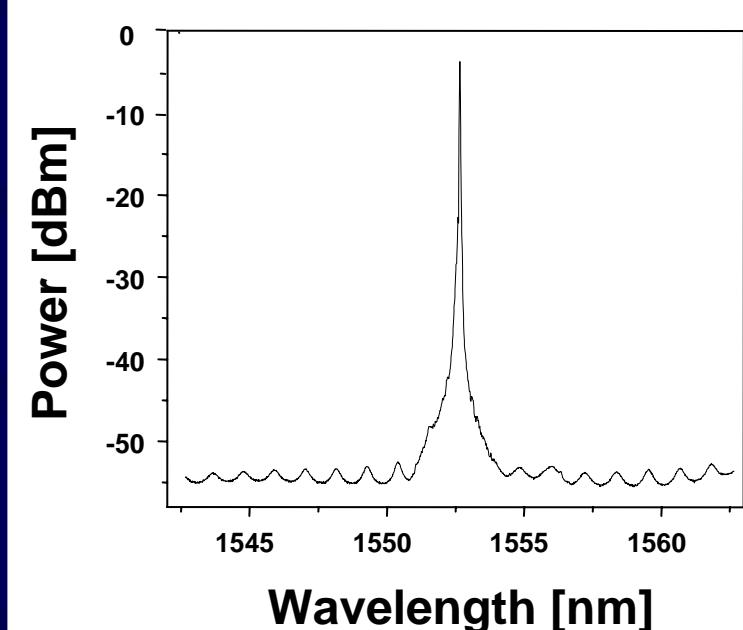


Some laser spectra

Fabry-Perot Laser

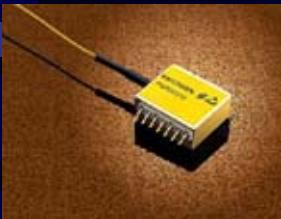


DFB Laser (B=1 Gbps)

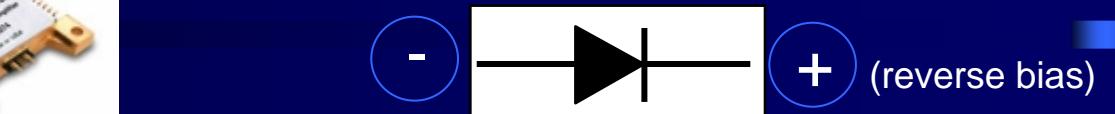


Measurements: Dr. Diego Marconi (03 Oct 2007)

Photodiodes



p-n junction



p-i-n



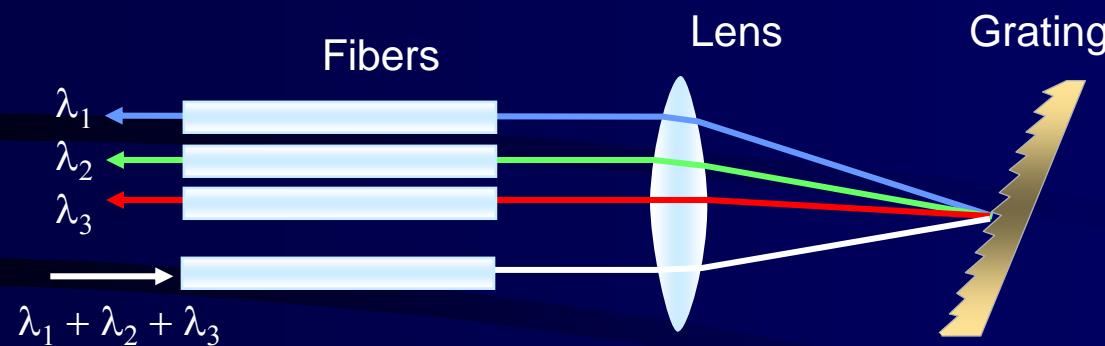
APD avalanche photodiode



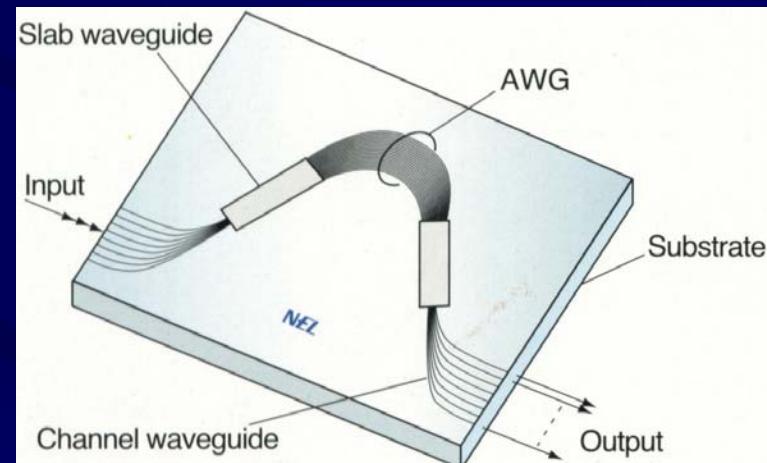
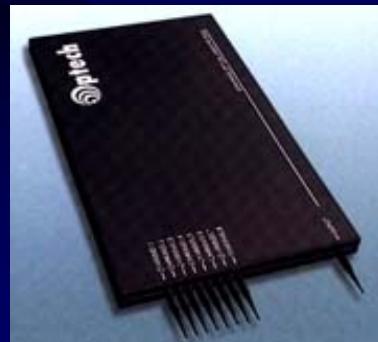
absorption gain (10X)

WDM Multiplexers

Free Space Grating MUX



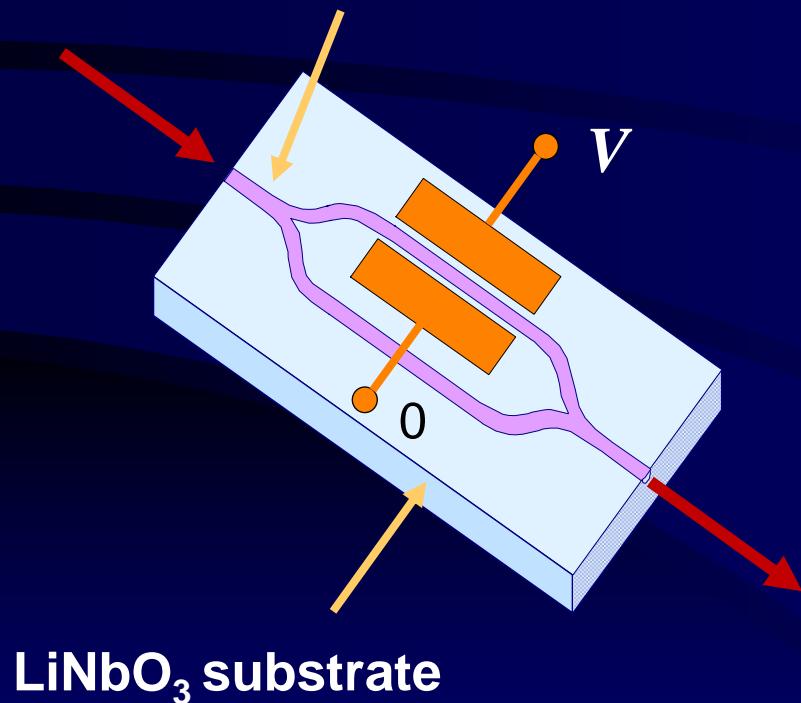
AWG: Arrayed Waveguide Grating



Modulators

Waveguide Electro-Optic Switch (KyaTera)

Waveguide (Ti in-diffused)



- Mach-Zehnder
- Switching voltage: 5 - 8 V
- Up to 60 Gb/s
- Integrated optics
- Fiber pigtail



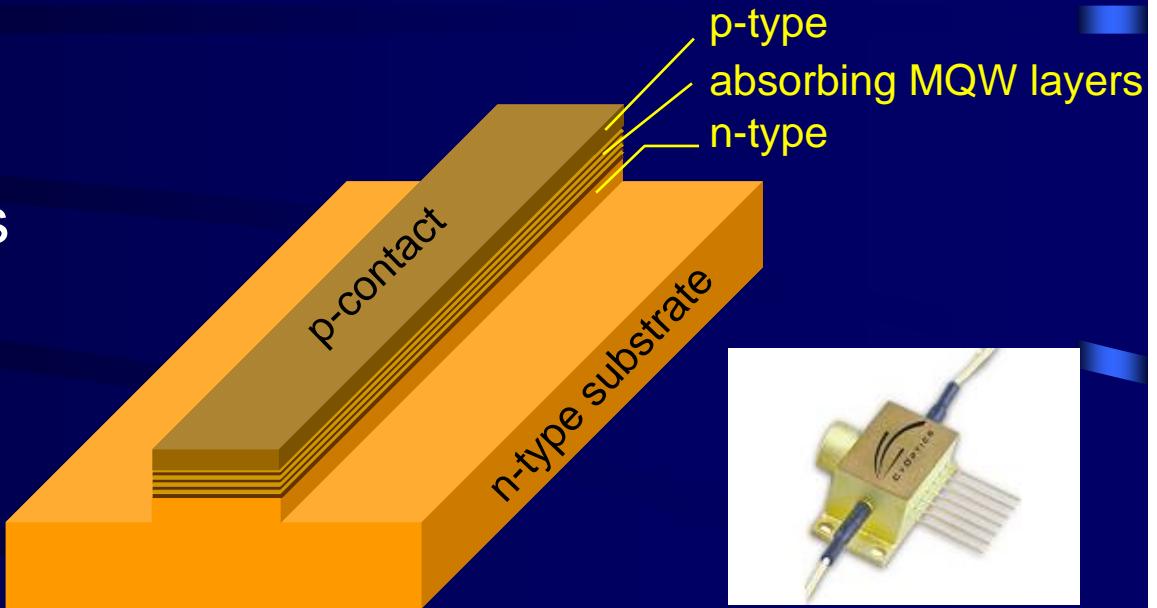
Electroabsorption modulator

Franz-Keldysh effect:
energy gap of
semiconductors depends
on applied electric field

Effect is enhanced in
Multiple Quantum Wells

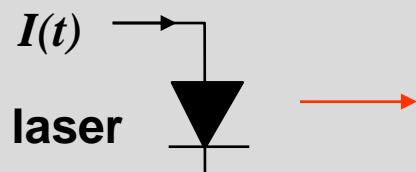
50 GHz, 2V

Integrated with laser in
the same chip



Direct versus External Modulation

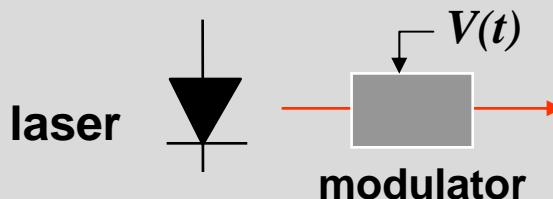
Direct modulation



Broad spectral source
(~20 GHz chirp)

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

External modulation



Transform limited pulses

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

Fabry-Perot Laser (4 nm): 70 ps/km

DFB Laser (0.2 nm): 3 ps/km

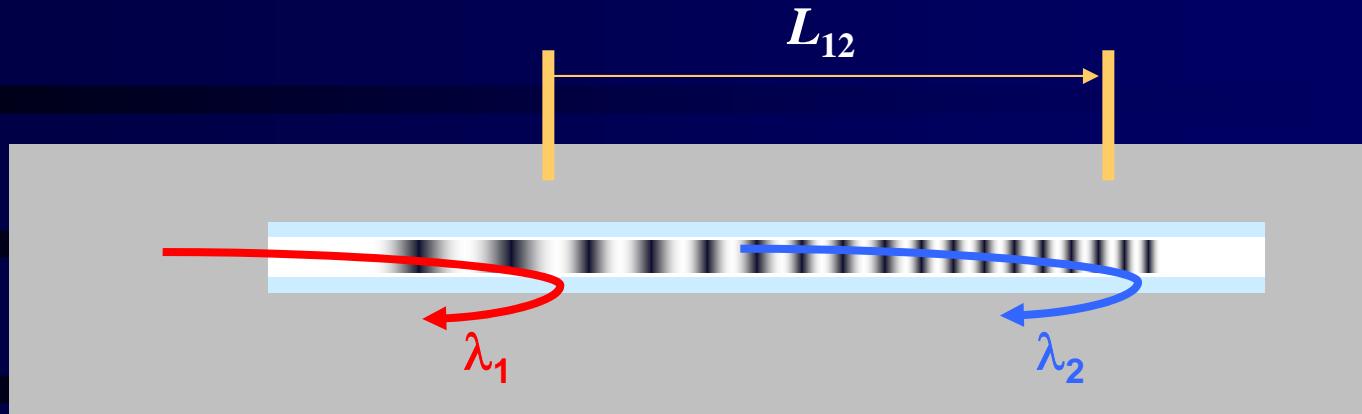
Bandwidth limited pulses:

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

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

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

Chirped Fiber Bragg Gratings



- Dispersion compensation

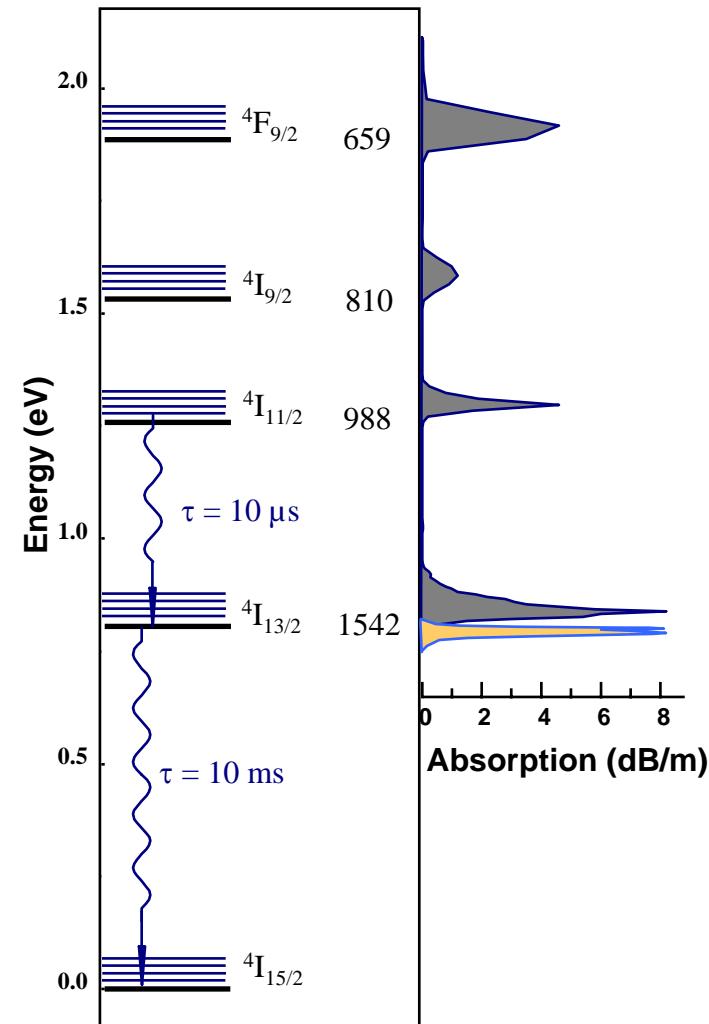
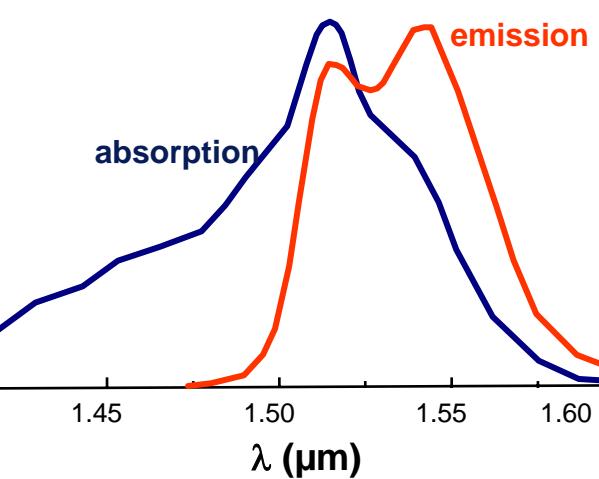
$$\text{Optical Delay } \tau_{12} = nL_{12}/c$$



Optical Amplifiers

Er⁺³ energy levels

- Pump:
 - ◆ 980 nm or 1.48 μm
 - ◆ pump power > 5 mW
- Emission:
 - ◆ 1.52 - 1.57 μm
 - ◆ long living upper state (10 ms)
 - ◆ gain ≈ 30 dB



Characteristics of EDFA based Systems

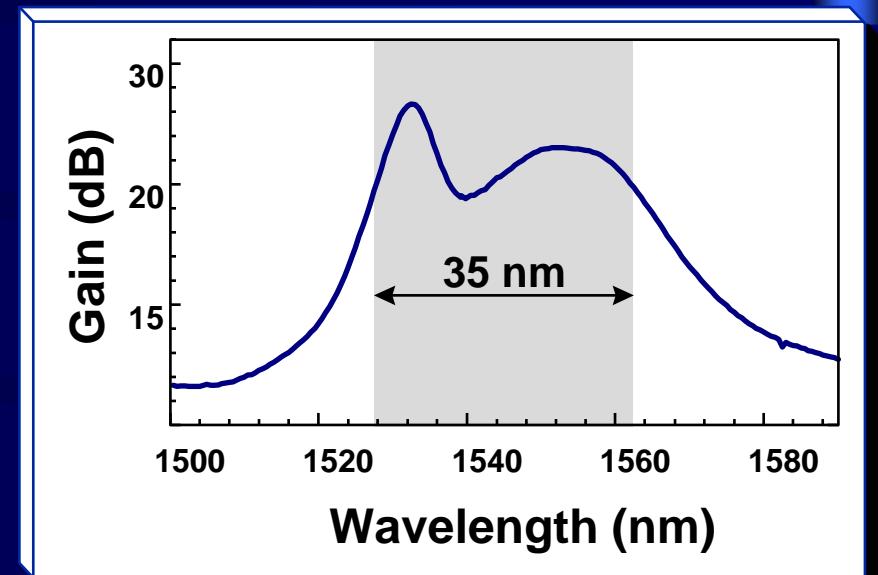
**Bandwidth > 4 THz
depends on glass host
(100 nm in Telurite glass)**

Low noise

**Optical power > 100 mW
larger distance between EDFAs**

**Transparent to bit rate, modulation format,
and bit coding (transmission protocol)**

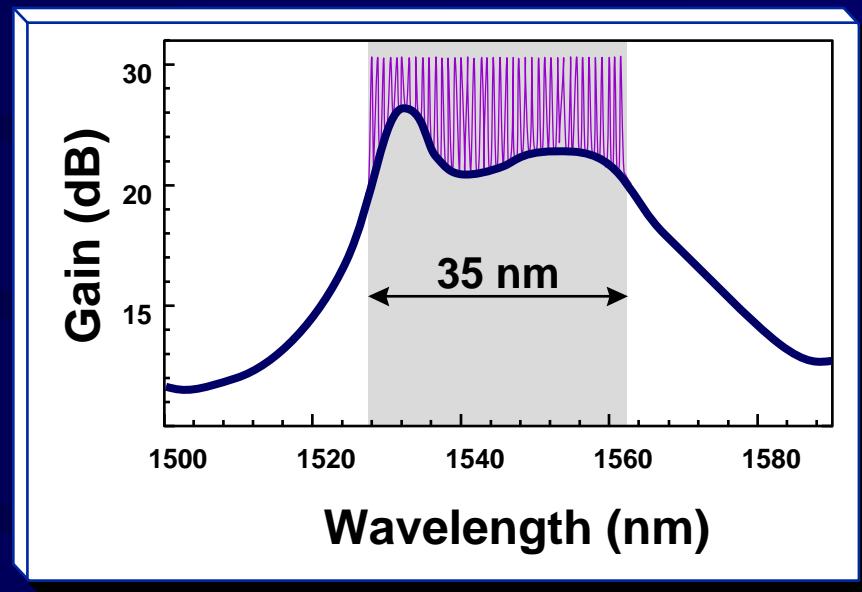
**Ideal for WDM
(Wavelength Division Multiplexing)**



Bandwidth of WDM systems with EDFAs

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

- 4 THz Optical Bandwidth
- 80 WDM channels \times 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**

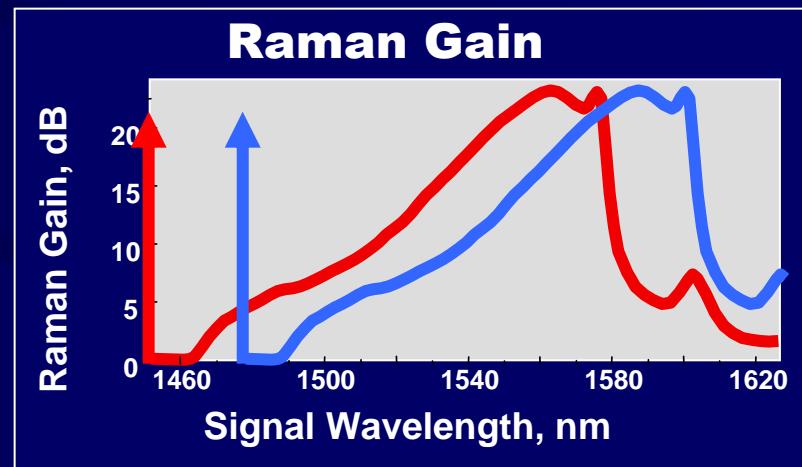
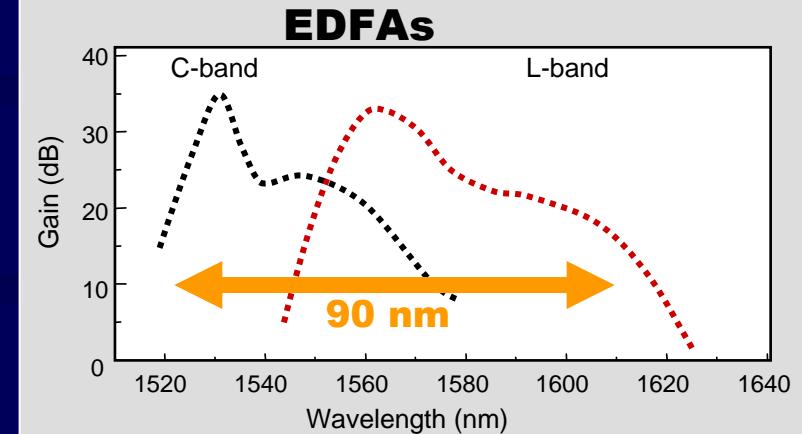
Optical Amplifiers for DWDM

EDFA (1510-1620 nm) Erbium

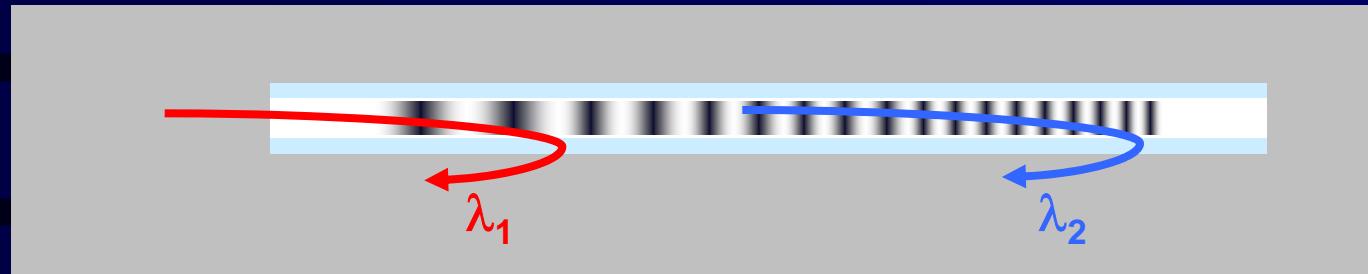
TDFA (1440-1510 nm) Thulium

SOA (60 nm bandwidth)
Semiconductor Optical Amplifier

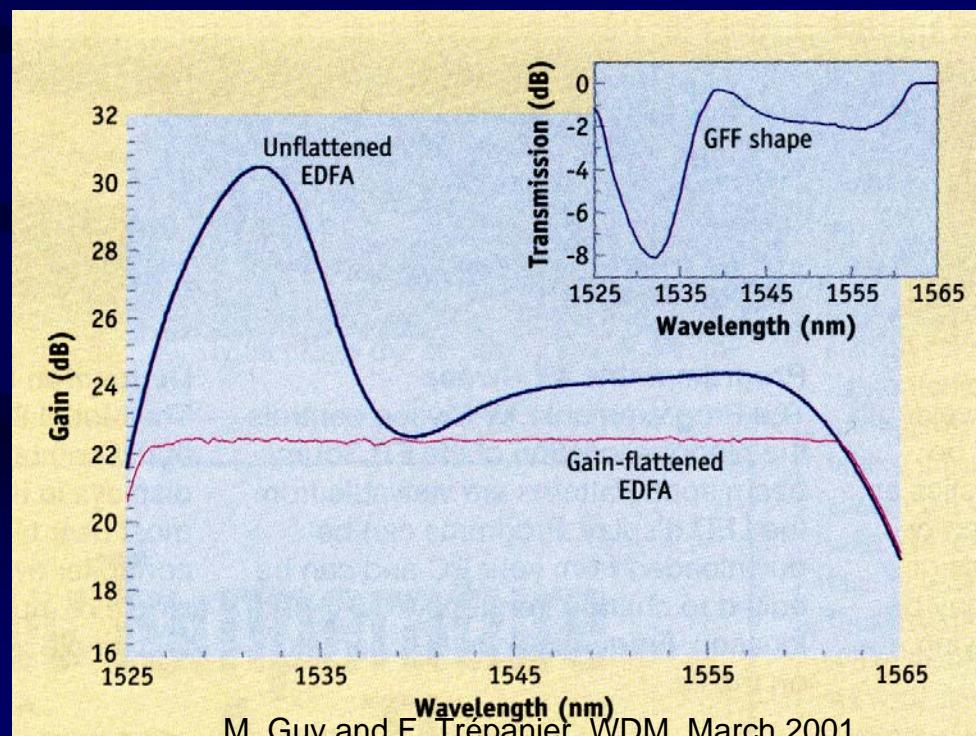
Raman Amplifiers (40 nm bandwidth;
choice of spectral region)



Gain Flattening Filter – GFF



Grating with varying index modulation depth



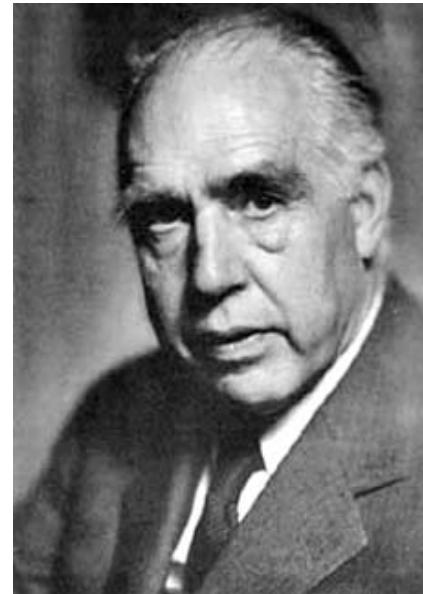
M. Guy and F. Trépanier, WDM, March 2001

H. Fragnito, CEFET-UNICAMP

The Future

“Prediction is very difficult, especially if it's about the future.”

Niels Bohr
1922 Nobel Prize in Physics



Internet in the future

- **20 years ago**

Telephony network
64 kb/s per voice circuit
Passive user

Metropolis,
Fritz Lang (1927)



- **Today**

Network with variety of uses/services (voice, data, video, radio,...)
User generated content (wikis, youtubes, blogs, mushups,...)
Mb/s per user
> 1 billion internauts
Cost per bit reduced by one million

But, a jungle of technologies (with different languages) – Tower of Babel
100 billion spam/day, viruses, insecure, vulnerable, fragile
Increasing socioeconomic dependence of the Internet

- **Tomorrow**

Infinity of applications and content
Super high resolution video
5 billion users – Gb/s per user (and we humans will be minority...)
FTTH

Secure, robust, inexpensive broadband Internet, convergence of technologies

- **Which scientific advances will enable such future?**

100 to 1000 increase in capacity in 20 years

100 to 1000 times the present capacity?

- **Grand challenges for optical communications:**

- 1. Technology Problem:**

- DWDM today 40 channels – does it scale to 4000 channels?
- Today's amplifier technology does not scale
- Electronic routing technology does not scale

- 2. Real state problem**

- 3. Energy consumption problem**

- 4. Costs: big problem**

- **Perceived paths:**

- Optical amplifiers for the whole high-transparency window of silica
- Integrated optical circuits (hundred lasers in a chip)
- All optical networking
- ...

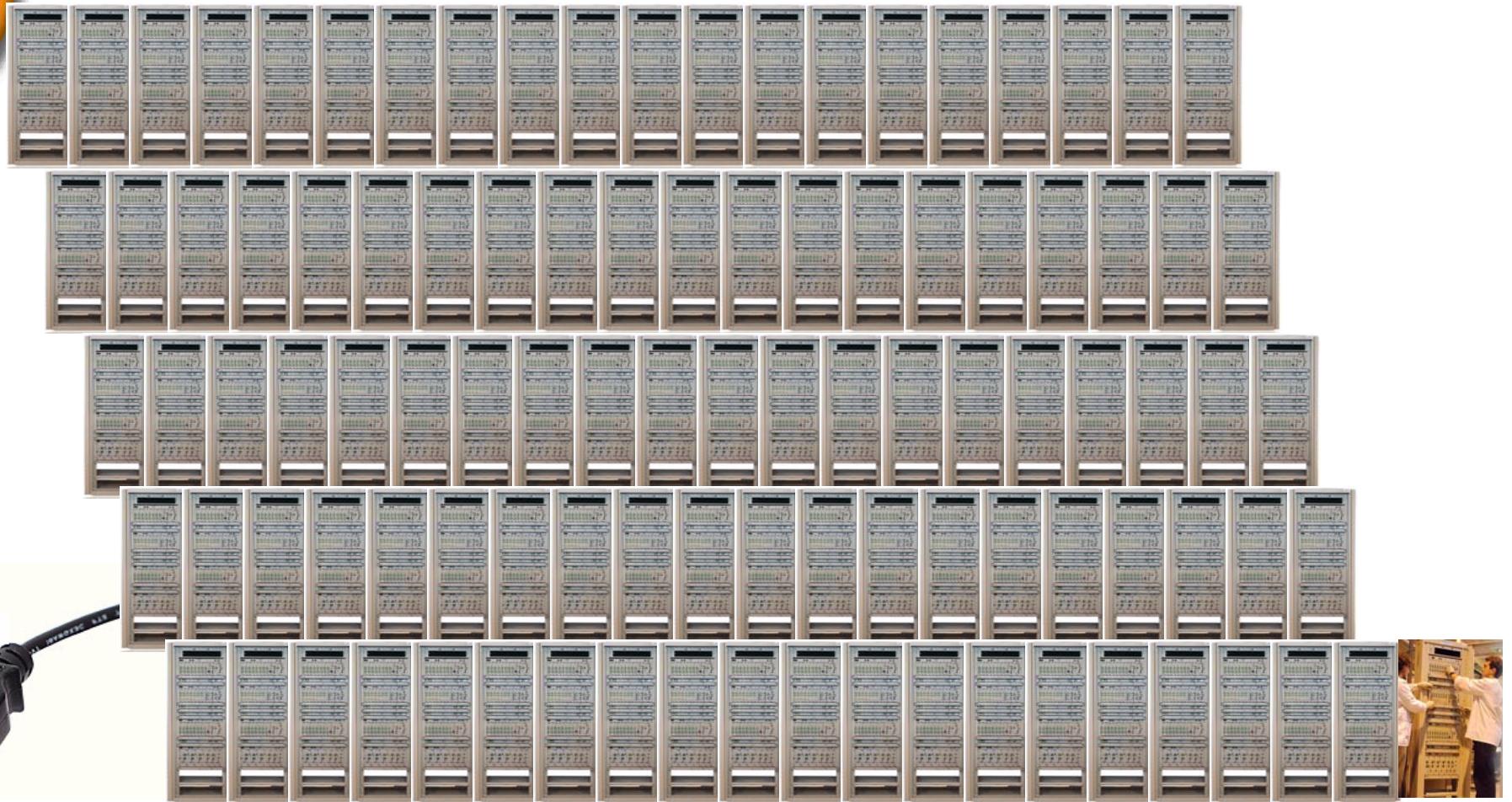
DWDM equipment today

\$ 20 thousand/channel



X 100 ?

\$ 100 million (at ~every node in the network)

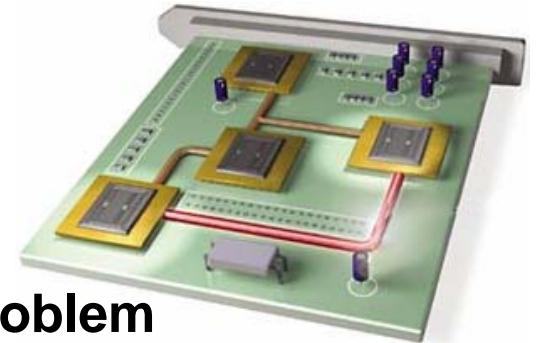


50 kW

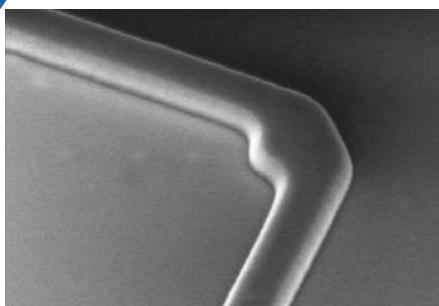
100 m² footprint

Opportunities for nanophotonics

- **Nanoturization:** alleviates real state problem
- **Optical interconnects:** alleviates power consumption problem
- **Integrated optical devices:** alleviates cost problem
- **But... a whole family of passive and active nanophotonic devices must be developed**

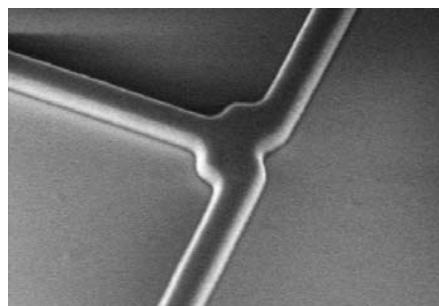


Bends

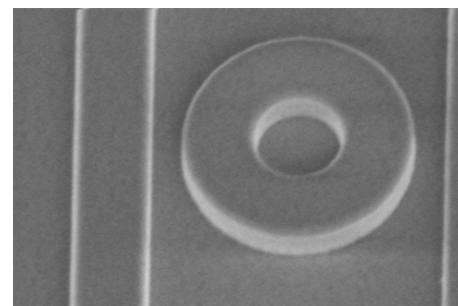


Massachusetts Institute of Technology , 2000

Splitters

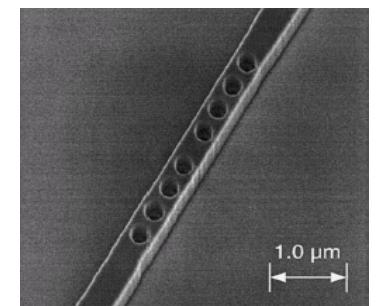


Filters



Cornell
Nanophotonics Group 2003

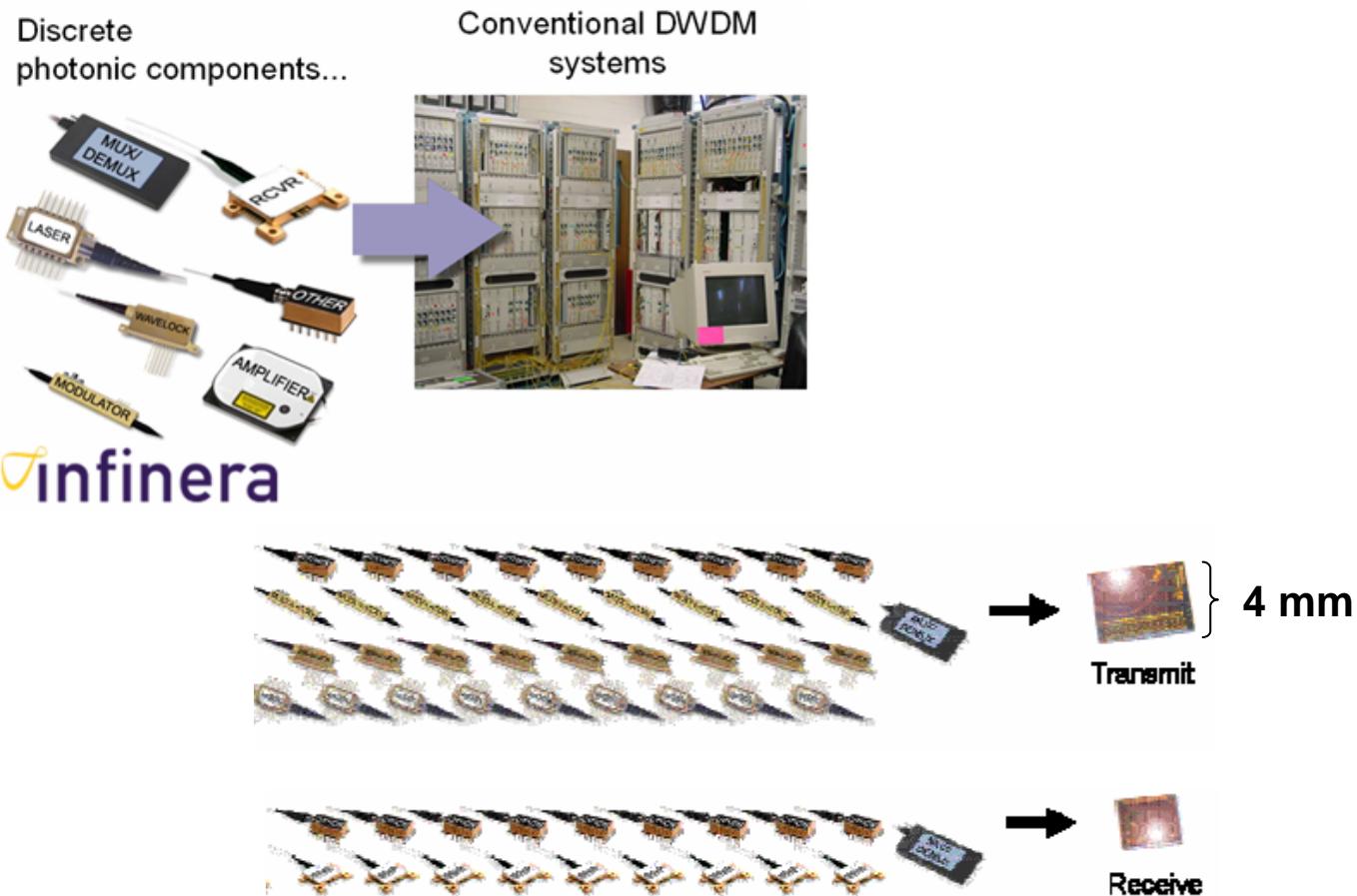
Cavities



J. S. Foresi et al.
Nature 390, 143 (1997)

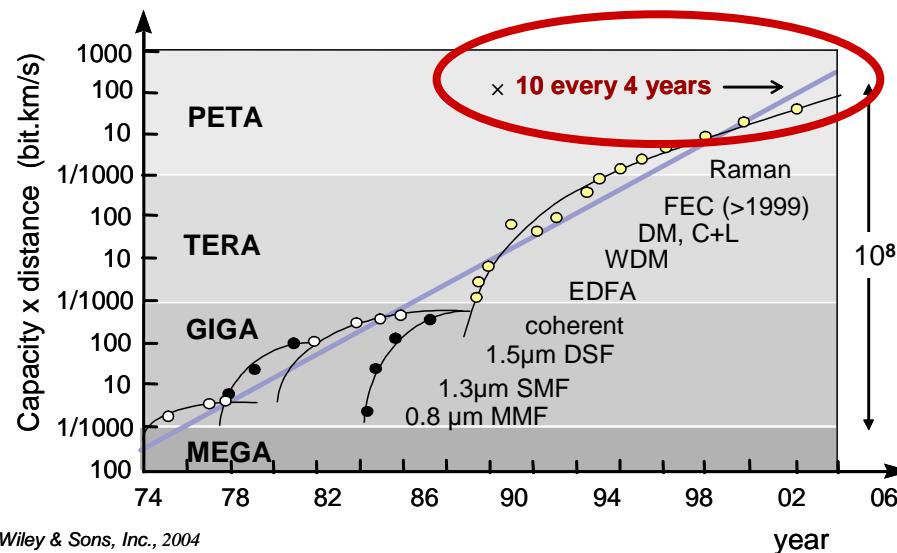
(Courtesy: Michal Lipson)

The real state problem



10 DWDM transmitters/receivers in an InP chip (Infinera)

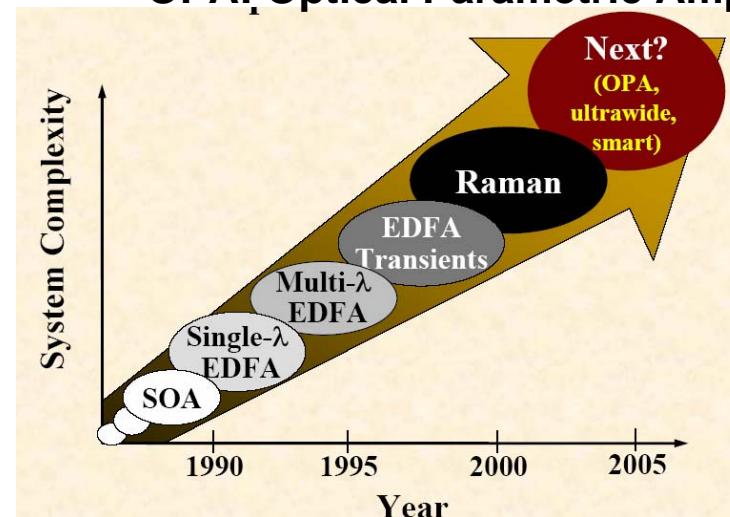
Technology Roadmap



Evolution of telecommunications
(Emmanuel Desurvire, 2006).

X 10^5 in 20 years?

OPA: Optical Parametric Amplifiers



Evolution of optical amplifiers (Alan Willner, 2006).

Optical Amplifiers for DWDM

DWDM: Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing

Existing technologies, such as

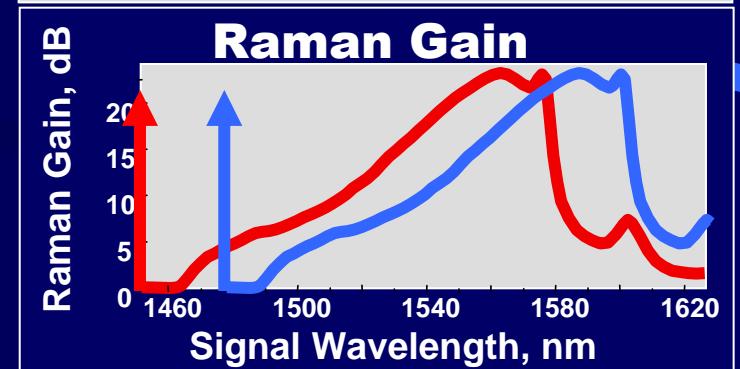
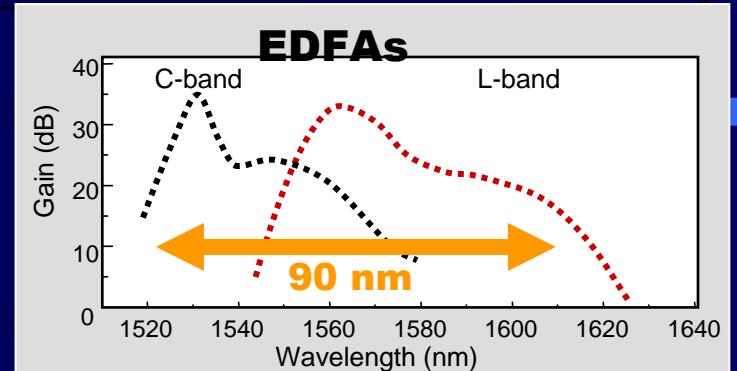
REDFA (Rare-Earth Doped Fiber Amplifiers),
SOA (Semiconductor), and
Raman amplifiers

...

are limited by Nature to ~ 100 nm bandwidth

Physics: Position of quantum energy levels

Chemistry: Spectral broadening - special materials



FOPAs

DWDM: Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing

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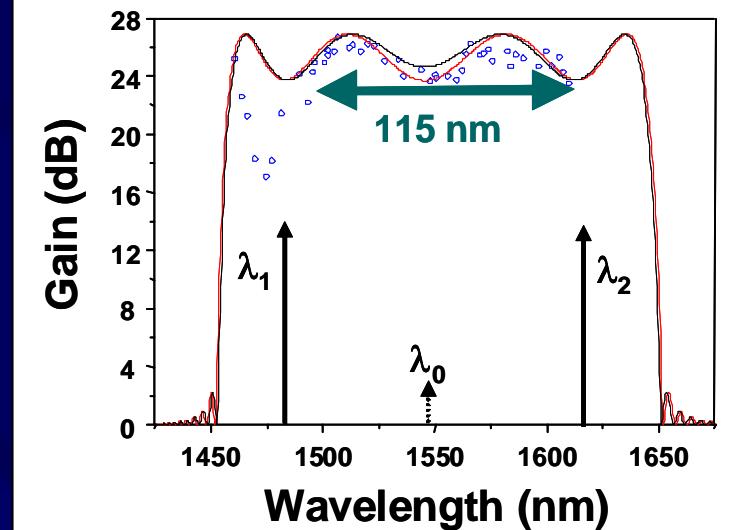
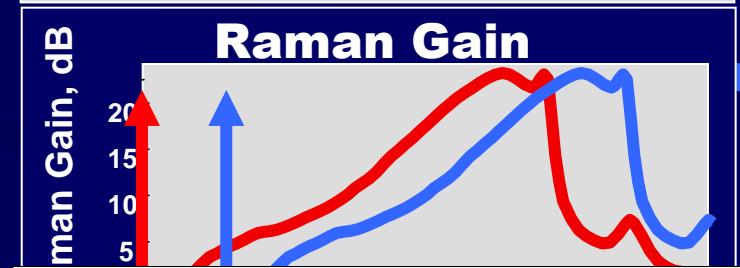
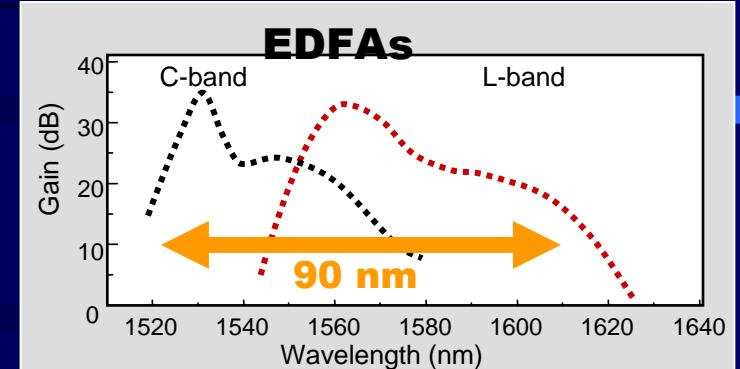
Physics: Position of quantum energy levels

Chemistry: Spectral broadening - special materials

FOPAs – Fiber Optic Parametric Amplifiers

Bandwidth and spectral region can be engineered by choosing waveguide dispersion

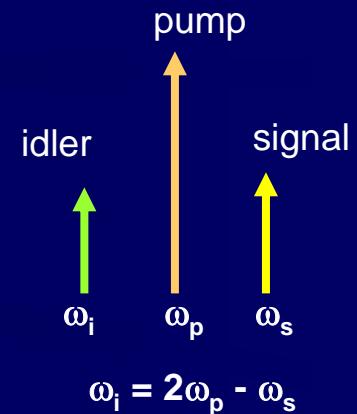
... controllable by waveguide design



Fiber-Optic Parametric Amplifiers

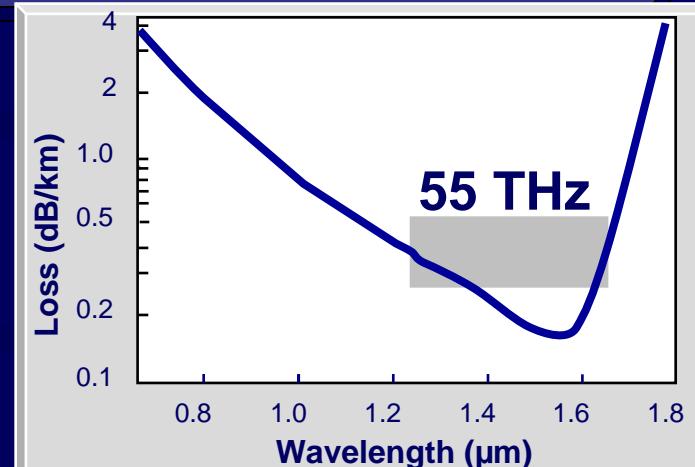
FOPAs

- Based on nonlinear refractive index
- Pump laser near zero dispersion wavelength
- Idler wave generated
 - can be used as wavelength converter
- Typical pump power, fiber length, gain, bandwidth:
 - **P = 0.1 – 1 W, but few mW in nanophotonic waveguides**
 - **L = 0.2 – 5 km, but few cm in nanophotonic waveguides**
 - **G = 20 – 40 dB (up to 70 dB demonstrated)**
 - **$\Delta\lambda_{3dB} = 20 – 60 \text{ nm}$ ($> 100 \text{ nm}$ demonstrated)**



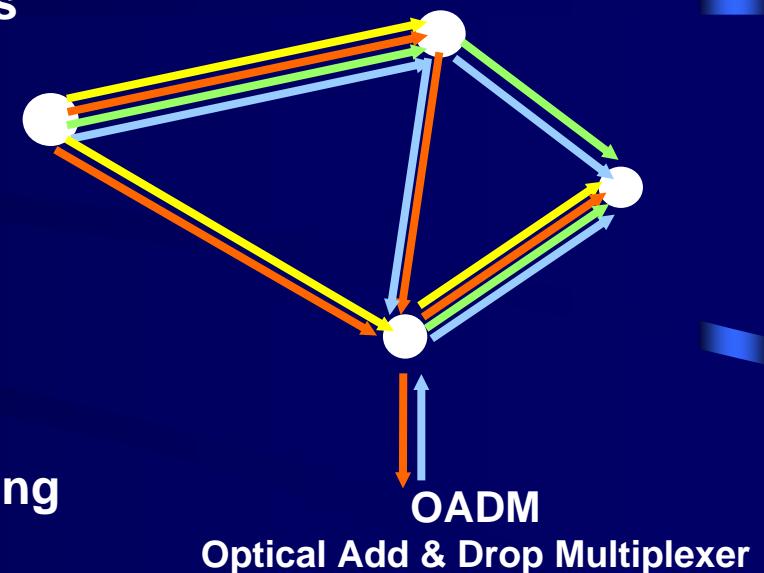
The ideal optical amplifier

- Explore the full capacity of silica fibers (1250-1650 nm) with a single device
 - ◎ 54.5 THz bandwidth
 - ◎ 1164 channels @ 40 Gb/s = 46.6 Tb/s
 - ◎ $(M-1) \times 46.6 = 140$ Tb/s ($M = 4$) for M-ary format
- 400 nm bandwidth, flat gain spectrum, high output power
- Is it possible? Do we need it? Do we want it?
- If yes, probably the only option is the FOPA (Fiber-Optic Parametric Amplifier or Waveguide-OPA)
- But FOPDs can do much more than just amplify signals...



WDM Networking

- **WDM networks need new functionalities**
 - Add and Drop Channels Optically
 - Wavelength Routing Assignment
 - Wavelength reuse
- **Wavelength Conversion**
- **FOPDs met the needs of WDM networking**





Questions?