

**DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF A FIBER BREAK MONITORING  
SYSTEM IN OPTICAL FIBER COMMUNICATIONS**

**By**

**AHMAD ASHRIF BIN A BAKAR**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,  
in Fulfilment of the Requirement for the Degree of Master of Science**

**October 2004**

## DEDICATION

*In the name of Allah, Most Gracious and Most Merciful*

*For the sake of Islam*

**Abstract of the thesis presented to the Senate of University Putra Malaysia in  
fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science**

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**Faculty: Engineering**

Fiber optic cable has been used widely in network communications system. It has being a favorable choice since it offers many advantages, such as immunity to electrical interference, lightening, high bandwidth and security. Due to the massive deployment of optical fiber cable, networks based on this medium needs significantly good monitoring and protection scheme to ensure its availability, especially for critical networks. Current approach uses a system known as Remote Fiber Testing System (RFTS) or Remote Fiber Monitoring System (RFMS). RFMS allows an operator to remotely monitor the condition of a fiber cable by using Optical Time Domain Reflectometer (OTDR). The requirements to place OTDR permanently for continuous monitoring force the line owners to place a high investment to the system. Moreover, placing OTDR is overkill since most of the faults in the fiber optic cable are due to the fiber break.

This thesis presents a new approach of monitoring and detecting fiber break by using a simpler device, significantly less expensive yet gives an appropriate measurement to the distance break in place of the OTDR-based RFMS. The design and development of the system, namely Fiber Break Monitoring System (FBMS) will continuously monitor the optical signals in the live fiber cable. The device automatically measures the distance when it detects the break. The distance is measured by analyzing the propagation time of the Fresnel reflection, occurred at the end of the surface break to be detected by the detector module inside FBMS.

The study is carried out in both simulation and experiment. The typical performances for analyzing the performance of FBMS are the length resolution, event deadzone, sampling resolution, accuracy, dynamic range and pulsewidth. Those performances were compared to the typical OTDR. This study has proved that FBMS is practicable for a real time monitoring, detecting a fiber break and giving an acceptable result to the distance measured.

**Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia  
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains**

**REKA BENTUK DAN PEMBINAAN SISTEM PENGAWASAN GENTIAN  
OPTIK PUTUS BAGI KOMUNIKASI GENTIAN OPTIK**

Oleh

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Kabel gentian optik telah digunakan secara meluas di dalam sistem komunikasi rangkaian. Dewasaini, kabel jenis ini menjadi pilihan utama. Ini adalah kerana, gentian optik menyediakan lebih banyak kelebihan berbanding jenis kabel yang lain antaranya, kebal terhadap gangguan medan elektrik, kilat, punyai jalurlebar yang amat luas serta ciri keselamatan. Disebabkan penggunaan kabel gentian optik yang semakin pesat, rangkaian berasaskan gentian ini memerlukan suatu skema pengawasan serta pemantauan yang baik bagi memastikan kelancaran penggunaannya, terutama pada rangkaian yang kritikal. Pendekatan yang diambil buat masa ini adalah dengan menggunakan suatu sistem yang dikenali sebagai Remote Fiber Testing System (RFTS) atau Remote Fiber Monitoring System (RFMS). RFMS membenarkan pengoperasi mengawal keadaan kabel gentian optik ini secara jauh dengan menggunakan Optical Time Domain Reflectometer (OTDR). Keperluan bagi meletakkan OTDR secara tetap di dalam sistem bagi memantau kabel

secara langsung memaksa pemilik jalur menyediakan pelaburan yang amat tinggi. Tambahan pula, meletakkan OTDR secara tetap pada sistem komunikasi rangkaian adalah amat tidak munasabah disebabkan kebanyakan daripada kerosakan yang berlaku di dalam kabel gentian optik adalah hanyalah disebabkan kabel gentian yang patah yang mana tidak memerlukan bagi alat yang terlalu sofistikated.

Tesis ini membentangkan suatu pendekatan baru bagi memantau dan mengesan gentian yang patah dengan menggunakan suatu peranti yang mudah, murah dan memberikan bacaan yang memuaskan bagi pengiraan lokasi gentian yang patah untuk menggantikan sistem RFMS yang berasaskan OTDR. Reka bentuk dan pembinaan system yang dinamakan Fiber Break Monitoring System (FBMS) ini akan memantau isyarat cahaya secara langsung di dalam kabel gentian yang sedang digunakan. Peranti ini akan membuat pengiraan secara terus apabila berjaya mengesan patah. Lokasi patah dikira dengan menganalisa masa yang diambil oleh pantulan Fresnel untuk kembali ke modul pengesan di dalam FBMS yang mana pantulan Fresnel ini berlaku di permukaan gentian yang patah.

Kajian di dalam tesis ini dijalankan dengan menggunakan kaedah simulasi dan eksperimen. Jenis-jenis prestasi yang dikaji untuk kualiti FBMS adalah resolusi jarak, ketepatan, resolusi sample, jarak dinamik dan lebardenyutan. Kesemua prestasi ini dibandingkan dengan kualiti OTDR yang biasa. Kajian ini membuktikan bahawa FBMS ini amat praktikal bagi pemantauan gentian optik secara langsung, mengesan kabel yang patah serta memberikan pengiraan lokasi yang memuaskan.

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I certify that an Examination Committee met on.....2004 to conduct the final examination of Ahmad Ashrif bin A Bakar on his Master of Science thesis entitled “Design and Development of Fiber Break Monitoring System (FBMS) in Optical Fiber Communications” in accordance with Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Act 1980 and Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (Higher Degree) Regulations 1981. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the relevant degree. Members of the Examination Committee are as follows:

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## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for the quotations and citations, which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at UPM or other institutions.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Pages
DEDICATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vii
DECLARATION	x
LIST OF TABLES	xiv
LIST OF FIGURES	xv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xviii
LIST OF NOTATION	xix
 <b>CHAPTERS</b>	
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Problem Statement	2
1.3 Objective	3
1.4 Scope of Work	4
1.5 Methodology	6
1.6 Thesis Overview	7
2 BASIC THEORY AND LITERATURE REVIEW	9
2.1 Basic Literature Phenomena	9
2.1.1 Refractive Index	9
2.1.2 Refraction and Reflection	10
2.2 Optical Fiber	13
2.2.1 Optical Fiber Structure	14
2.3 Signal Degradation in Optical Fibers	15
2.3.1 Scattering Losses	17
2.3.2 Bending Losses	19
2.3.3 Core and Cladding Losses	21
2.4 Fresnel Reflection	21
2.5 Optical Time Domain Reflectometer	24
2.5.1 OTDR Basic Principles	25
2.6 Fault Locator	27
2.7 Critical Review	27
3 DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF MODULES	29
3.1 FBMS Design Model	29
3.2 Detector Module	31
3.2.1 Model Setup	31
3.2.1.1 Photodetector	32
3.2.1.2 Current-to-Voltage Converter Circuit	33
3.2.1.3 Amplifier Circuit	34
3.2.2 Parameters Under Study	35
3.2.2.1 Output Voltage	35

3.2.2.2	Peak-to-peak Noise	36
3.2.2.3	Input Power	36
3.2.2.4	Load Resistor	37
3.2.2.5	Feedback Resistor	37
3.2.2.6	Gain	37
3.2.3	Results and Analysis	37
3.2.3.1	Gain	43
3.2.3.2	Design Improvement	48
3.3	Coupler Module	52
3.3.1	Module Setup	52
3.3.2	Coupling Ratio Characterization	52
3.4	Signal Loss Detection Module	53
3.4.1	Module Setup	54
3.4.2	Parameters Under Study	55
3.4.2.1	Input Voltage	56
3.4.2.3	Threshold Voltage	56
3.4.3	Results and Analysis	56
3.4.3.1	Comparator Circuit Characterization	56
3.5	Laser Pulse Module	60
3.5.1	Module Setup	60
3.5.2	Parameters Under Study	64
3.5.2.1	Output Power	64
3.5.2.2	Load Resistor	65
3.5.3	Results and Analysis	65
3.6	Display Module	66
3.6.1	Module Setup	66
3.7	Optical Switch Module	68
3.7.1	Module Setup	68
3.8	Summary	69
4	DEVELOPMENT OF A DISTANCE MEASUREMENT MODULE	72
4.1	Distance Measurement Algorithm	72
4.2	Parameters Under Study	75
4.2.1	Distance	75
4.2.2	Length Resolution	75
4.2.3	Event Deadzone	76
4.2.4	Sampling Resolution	77
4.2.5	Pulsewidth	77
4.2.6	Propagation Time	78
4.3	Results and Analysis	79
4.3.1	Length Resolution	81
4.3.2	Event Deadzone	84
4.3.3	Sampling Resolution	85
4.4	Summary	88
5	DEVELOPMENT OF FIBER BREAK MONITORING SYSTEM (FBMS)	89
5.1	Device Setup	89
5.2	Parameters Under Study	90

5.2.1	Accuracy	90
5.2.2	Dynamic Range	91
5.2.3	Input Voltage Threshold	91
5.3	Results and Analysis	91
5.3.1	Accuracy	94
5.3.2	Pulsewidth Effect on Accuracy	97
5.3.3	Dynamic Range	98
5.3.4	Performance and Cost Trade off	101
5.4	Summary	102
6	CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORK	104
6.1	Conclusion	104
6.2	Main Contribution of the Thesis	105
6.3	Future Work	106
	REFERENCES	108
	APPENDIX	112
	BIODATA OF THE AUTHOR	113