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A 160-Gb/s OTDM Demultiplexer Based on Parametric Wavelength Exchange

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Abstract—Parametric wavelength exchange (PWE) has been demonstrated as a versatile device in providing different functionalities. In this paper, we will concentrate, numerically and experimentally, on one of these functionalities, namely, all-optical time demultiplexing of 160-Gb/s return-to-zero (RZ) signals based on a pulsed-pump PWE in a 400 m highly nonlinear dispersion-shifted fiber. Experimental results show power penalties ≤ 2.7 dB at bit-error rate of 10^{-9} for all demultiplexed 10-Gb/s RZ signals. We also derive theoretical expressions for the conversion/residual efficiencies and investigate the impact of pump pulse width and phase mismatch on these efficiencies. Furthermore, the impacts of pulsed-pump wavelength and power level on the characteristics of the switching window are investigated numerically. As a result, the demultiplexer can be easily upgraded to an add-drop multiplexer because of the complete exchange nature of PWE, which is justified by the surviving channels' waveform performance.

Index Terms—Optical communication, optical signal processing, optical time-division multiplexing (OTDM), parametric wavelength exchange (PWE).

I. INTRODUCTION

PARAMETRIC wavelength exchange (PWE) relies on four-wave mixing (FWM) phenomenon, where a signal wavelength at λ_{signal} and an idler wavelength at λ_{idler} exchange their power periodically while two strong pumps at λ_{p1} and λ_{p2} are copropagating in highly nonlinear dispersion-shifted fibers (HNL-DSF) [1]–[8]. According to the location of pumps in wavelength assignment, PWE can be classified into two categories, Type I (both pumps in normal dispersion region or denoted as WE I) and Type II (both pumps in anomalous dispersion region or denoted as WE II). Past results show that the pump-induced Raman amplification introduced asymmetric power transfer that degrades the performance of the WE I process [2]. Such performance degradation is particularly severe when the two pumps are arranged orthogonally in the normal dispersion region. Thus, WE II configuration with two pumps in the anomalous dispersion regime is presented [3]. In theory, no Raman gain is provided by pumps allocated in anomalous dispersion region. Attentive readers may wonder

whether the resultant Raman loss effect will have a detrimental effect in WE II. In experiment, if the signal power at fiber input is kept much lower than the threshold condition of Raman effects, it can safely predict that the Raman effects are insignificant. In fact, by using $P_0^{\text{cr}} \approx 16A_{\text{eff}}/L_{\text{eff}}g_R$ [9], we can predict that the Raman threshold in practical WE II experiments. For HNL-DSF with $L_{\text{eff}} = 1$ km and $A_{\text{eff}} = 7.5 \mu\text{m}^2$, the predicted Raman threshold is 110 mW. It means that Raman loss will not affect WE II performance as the typical input signal power is maintained at 3 dBm. We have also investigated the tuning range of WE II by fixing one pump wavelength and its corresponding signal wavelength, while tuning the other pump and its corresponding signal wavelength [4]. A tuning range of 15 nm is achieved with performance slightly degraded when one of the signals is tuned near the zero-dispersion wavelength (ZDW). The dynamic range of WE II was also explored recently [5], in which the crosstalk mechanism degrading the exchanged signal performance was discussed in detail. These discoveries support the practical use of PWE in modern optical network. For example, it may find applications as wavelength convertor or optical cross-connect switch in wavelength-division multiplexing (WDM) optical network [6]. Another interesting application of PWE is using it as optical packet switch [7] or demultiplexing in optical time-division-multiplexing (OTDM) systems [8]. In [7], an experimental validation of a PWE-based packet switch with two 10-Gb/s programmable nonreturn-to-zero (NRZ) signals that are switched in compliance with two synchronized quasi-square-pulsed pumps in the time domain was implemented.

The OTDM technology has advanced significantly over the past few years and extensive research efforts have been pursued in high-speed transmission systems over 160-Gb/s or higher (320 Gb/s and 640 Gb/s) [10]–[12]. For the practical implementation of optical packet switching, which brings the flexibility and efficiency of the Internet to transparent optical networking, one of the most essential devices is the high-speed channel demultiplexer. It selectively drops a 10-Gb/s or 40-Gb/s base rate tributary from a multiplexed high bit-rate data stream in the time domain. A switching window with high-extinction ratio is thus required to realize good drop performance.

Previously, channel demultiplexing has been realized by using FWM in conventional DSF with optical filtering [13] or cross-phase modulation in nonlinear optical loop mirror (NOLM) [14]. However, these approaches have their own merits and drawbacks. In general, the required length of conventional DSF is long, which will result in walk-off between data and gating pulses. Additionally, long fibers are less robust

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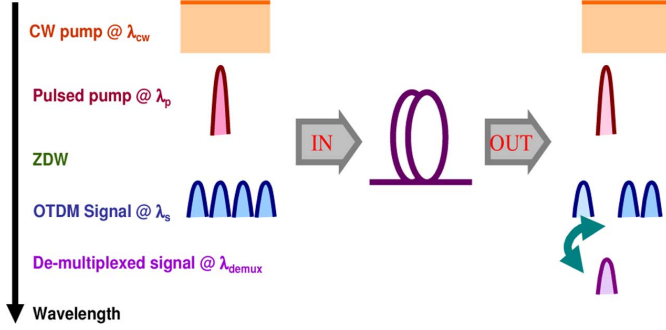


Fig. 1. Principle of operation of our proposed wavelength exchange-based demultiplexer.

to environmental disturbance and the polarization dependence is higher. Another design philosophy that aims at decreasing the size of the whole system is to replace fiber devices with semiconductor optical amplifier (SOA) [15]. The main limitation of an SOA-based approach results from its relatively slow temporal response governed by the carrier lifetime. Recently, pulsed-pump PWE has been studied, in which a synchronized pulsed pump and a continuous-wave (CW) pump were used in a PWE-based 80-Gb/s OTDM demultiplexer [16].

The operating principle of the proposed OTDM demultiplexer is shown in Fig. 1. A multiplexed input data pulse stream at a wavelength of λ_s enters the fiber input whilst a synchronized control pulse at λ_p and a CW pump at λ_{cw} are also fed into the fiber input as shown in Fig. 1. A selectively demultiplexed channel (Drop Channel) by the synchronized control pulse is produced at the wavelength of λ_{demux} , while the surviving channels (Through Channels) remain at the original wavelength. Due to the equipment constraint, the pulsed pump is prepared through wavelength conversion in a 100-m dispersion-flattened photonic crystal fiber. The walk-off effect in the nonlinear fiber under a finite fiber birefringence results in a pulse pedestal. This walk-off effect is the major limitation for higher speed operations and can be overcome by using a separate pulse source to serve as the pulsed pump.

This paper is organized as follow. In Section II, we analyze the characteristics of switching window of our proposed demultiplexer both theoretically and numerically. In Section III, we demonstrate a 160-Gb/s signal demultiplexer using pulsed-pump WE I in a 400-m-long HNL-DSF. We present the experimental results and discussions in Section IV. Our experiment is performed at a multiplexed data rate of 160 Gb/s with a 10-Gb/s base rate and power penalty ≤ 2.7 dB at 10^{-9} is achieved for all demultiplexed 10-Gb/s return-to-zero (RZ) signals. The complete exchange nature between the signals enables the demultiplexer to be easily upgraded to high-speed add-drop multiplexer (ADM), which will be proved by clear surviving channels' waveforms. Finally, some concluding remarks are presented in Section V.

II. THEORETICAL AND SIMULATION RESULTS

PWE transfers optical power between signal and idler periodically [1], [2]. In an optical fiber, the process is most easily

described by a set of coupled equations that describes the amplitudes of signal A_3 and idler A_4 as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial A_3}{\partial z} &= i\gamma \left[A_3^2 + 2A_1^2 + \frac{2}{3}(A_2^2 + A_4^2) \right] A_3 \\ &\quad + \frac{2}{3}i\gamma A_1 A_2^* A_4 \exp(i\Delta\beta z) \\ &\quad - \left(\beta_{13} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} - \frac{i}{2}\beta_{23} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\alpha}{2} \right) A_3 \\ \frac{\partial A_4}{\partial z} &= i\gamma \left[A_4^2 + 2A_1^2 + \frac{2}{3}(A_2^2 + A_3^2) \right] A_4 \\ &\quad + \frac{2}{3}i\gamma A_1^* A_2 A_3 \exp(i\Delta\beta z) \\ &\quad - \left(\beta_{14} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} - \frac{i}{2}\beta_{24} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} - \frac{\alpha}{2} \right) A_4. \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

Here A_j is the slowly varying envelope of the optical field with frequency ω_j , inverse group velocity β_{1j} , and group-velocity dispersion (GVD) parameter β_{2j} . A_1 , A_2 , A_3 , and A_4 correspond to the amplitudes of two pumps, signal and idler, respectively. z , α , and γ represent the length of fiber transmission, the fiber loss and nonlinear coefficient, respectively. The propagation constant mismatch is defined as $\Delta\beta = \beta_1 + \beta_4 - \beta_2 - \beta_3$, where β_j are the propagation constants in the fiber. Please note that we do not include Raman gain coefficient between pumps and signal in (1). Thus, strictly speaking, it can be used to describe WE I only if Raman interaction is neglected. A theoretical expression for the shape of switching window based on similar set of equations has been obtained in [17] by assuming that the signal power levels to be unaffected by the nonlinearity in fiber optical parametric amplifier. Unfortunately, it does not apply to the context of PWE-based demultiplexing because the power at A_3 is transferring to A_4 during PWE process. An analytical solution involving elliptical functions for (1), which takes pump depletion into account, is discussed in [18], [19]. Nevertheless, it is not practical to obtain a time-dependent analytical solution by using it. Hence, we follow the method described in [20] to derive a time-dependant solution for (1). If we assume that the pumps are not depleted ($A_1, A_2 \gg A_3$) and neglect dispersion effect, the solutions for signal and idler are

$$A_3(z) = \left(A_3(0) \cos gz - A_3(0) \frac{i\kappa}{2g} \sin gz \right) \quad (2)$$

$$A_4(z) = \left(i\frac{2}{3}\gamma A_1(0) A_2(0) A_3(0) \frac{\sin gz}{g} \right) \quad (3)$$

where the parametric gain g is defined as

$$g = \sqrt{(k/2)^2 + 4\gamma^2 |A_1(z)|^2 |A_2(z)|^2 / 9} \quad (4)$$

$$k = \Delta\beta + \frac{1}{3}\gamma(P_1 - P_2). \quad (5)$$

Note that in the context of OTDM demultiplexing, the initial idler power is assumed to be zero. The ratio

$$\eta = |A_4(z)|^2 / |A_3(0)|^2 \quad (6)$$

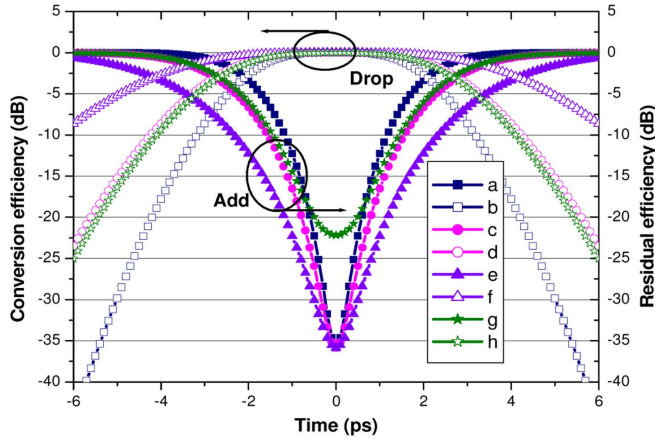


Fig. 2. Theoretical (add, drop) efficiency for various combination of pulse width and phase mismatching conditions [pulse width (ps), phase mismatch (km^{-1})] = (a, b) [2, 0]; (c, d) [4, 0]; (e, f) [6, 0]; (g, h) [4, 0.6].

is termed as conversion efficiency in previous literature [1]. Compared with conversion efficiency, we can also denote the residual efficiency such as

$$\eta_r = |A_3(z)|^2 / |A_3(0)|^2 = 1 - |A_4(z)|^2 / |A_3(0)|^2 = 1 - \eta \quad (7)$$

which arises from the energy conservation and fiber lossless assumption. When one or both pumps are pulsed, the conversion and residual efficiencies are functions of time. Note that, they are now essentially representing the switching window of the drop and add channels, respectively. Since only one pump pulse is used in our experiment, we will confine our theoretical and numerical discussions within the condition that there is only one pulsed pump for the rest of this paper. Let us assume from now on that A_1 is CW and A_2 is pulsed. There is no doubt that this assumption only approximates the switching window because it neglects group velocities mismatch between the pulses and pulse-shape distortion during fiber transmission. However, it is still useful in providing the essential information such as the relationship between pulse width, phase mismatch, and characteristics of switching window.

Curves (a)–(f) in Fig. 2 show the calculated residual (add) and conversion (drop) efficiency when we assume phase mismatch $\Delta\beta = 0 \text{ km}^{-1}$, while the fiber parameters used are $\gamma = 14 \text{ W}^{-1} \text{ km}^{-1}$, $L = 0.4 \text{ km}$. Gaussian-shaped pump pulses with pulse width of 2, 4, and 6 ps and $|A_1|^2 = |A_2(t)|_{\text{peak}}^2 = 3\pi/4\gamma L = 420 \text{ mW} = 26.2 \text{ dBm}$ are also used according to [16].

It is noticed that the widths of all the drop efficiencies are wide enough to transfer a typical 2-ps wide OTDM signal pulse at 160-Gb/s to the demultiplexed channel under all three pulse width conditions. Although the full-width at half-maximum (FWHM) of the add efficiencies varied, the add efficiencies at the edges of signal pulses (from -1 to 1 ps) are still as high as -15 dB when the pump pulse width is greater than 4 ps. It is already good enough for 160-Gb/s add performance [21]. To explore the impact of phase matching on add or drop efficiency, a phase mismatch $\Delta\beta \approx 0.6 \text{ km}^{-1}$ is introduced in calculation while the power level and other parameters remain. For 4-ps

pump pulse, add and drop efficiencies are shown in curves (g) and (h) in Fig. 2. It can be observed that the drop efficiency does not suffer much while the peak of add efficiency drops by more than 10 dB. In fact, it indicates that the add efficiency of our proposed OTDM demultiplexer is sensitive to phase-matching condition since PWE originates from FWM. The linear phase mismatch $\Delta\beta$ due to chromatic dispersion can be expressed as [1]

$$\Delta\beta = 2 \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{\beta_{2m}}{2m!} [(\Delta\omega_4)^{2m} - (\Delta\omega_3)^{2m}]. \quad (8)$$

In which $\Delta\omega_3 = \omega_3 - \omega_0$, $\Delta\omega_4 = \omega_4 - \omega_0$, β_{2m} denotes the $2m$ th derivative of β with respect to frequency around the ZDW. To gain better insight into $\Delta\beta$, we limit the summation of (8) to $m = 1, 2$. According to (8), factors such as fiber dispersion slope, wavelength selection of pumps, and signal will have a critical impact on the add efficiency of the demultiplexer.

Although the previous analytical model demonstrates that PWE is theoretically promising in high-speed applications such as ADM, estimation error can be arisen from neglecting the dispersion and Raman interaction between pumps and signal. It is reported that the walk-off time during which the two pulses interact with each other have an impact on the switching window [17]. Furthermore, it can be predicted that asymmetric power transfer characteristic inherited in WE I will affect the symmetry of switching window. In addition, the variation of pulse shape during fiber transmission due to self-phase modulation (SPM) and the existence of spurious FWM terms are not taken into account. Thus, in order to have a more realistic picture about the switching window, we have performed simulations by using *OptSim* [22]. We consider two pump waves located at 1540 nm (CW pump) and 1548 nm (Gaussian-shaped pulsed pump) with the average powers of 25.2 dBm and peak power of 29 dBm, respectively. The Gaussian-shaped RZ signals are located at 1561 nm with the average powers of -3 dBm and pulse width of 2 ps. The fiber parameters used are $\text{ZDW} = 1554 \text{ nm}$, $dD/d\lambda = 0.03 \text{ ps/nm}^2 \text{ km}$, $\beta_4 = 10^{-4} \text{ ps}^4/\text{km}$, and $\gamma = 14 \text{ W}^{-1} \text{ km}^{-1}$. These correspond to the experimental parameters as shown in Section III.

First, we measure add and drop windows of our proposed demultiplexer by sliding the Gaussian-shaped control pulse across the signal pulse at 10-Gb/s base rate and measuring the corresponding output optical powers after filters centered at the wavelengths of the surviving and demultiplexed channel, respectively. Curves (a)–(f) in Fig. 3 correspond to the simulated switching windows when the pulse widths of the pump are 2, 4, and 6 ps, respectively. It can be observed that the on–off extinction ratios (which is defined as the suppression within the 6 ps time offset from the transmission peak or minimum) of the relative transmission curves for add and drop windows vary significantly with the pulse width. For 4-ps wide pulse, extinction ratios of $\sim 20 \text{ dB}$ are achieved for the drop and add channel and the FWHM of the windows is 3.2 ps and 1.9 ps for the drop and the add channels, respectively. However, for 2-ps wide pulse, the on–off extinction ratio and widths for drop and add channels are 17 dB and 12 dB and 2.6 ps and 2.1 ps each. We may also notice that switching windows are not very symmetric especially

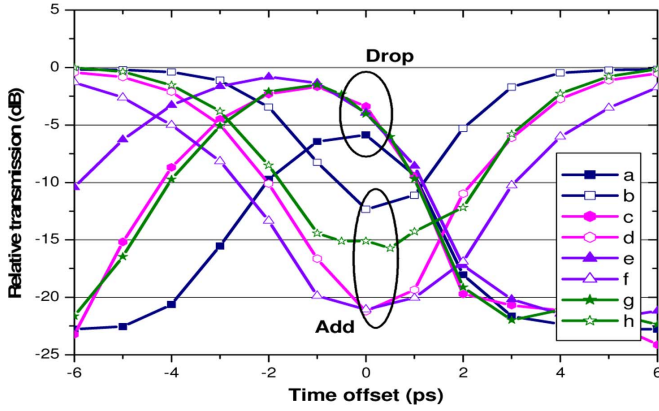


Fig. 3. Simulated switching windows of the demultiplexer for various pulse width and central pumped-pump wavelength [pulse width (ps), central wavelength (nm)] = (a, b) [2, 1548]; (c, d) [4, 1548]; (e, f) [6, 1548]; (g, h) [4, 1548.5].

for broader pulses. One possible explanation lies in that the unbalanced Raman gain effect for add and drop channel introduce it. On the other hand, it can also be attributed to the pulse-shape distortion suffered by control pulse, which is mainly due to the combined effect of SPM and GVD. Further optimization such as GVD property of the HNL-DSF and reducing the peak pump power should allow for symmetric switching windows [21]. In fact, assuming the dispersion increases linearly with the wavelength around ZDW, the walk-off length $L_w = T_0/|d_{12}| = T_0/[dD/d\lambda(\lambda_p - \lambda_0)(\lambda_s - \lambda_p) + dD/d\lambda(\lambda_s - \lambda_p)^2] \approx 1$ km, where d_{12} is the walk-off parameter and T_0 is pulse width of the pulsed pump [9], ensures that reducing the pulse peak power by using longer fiber length is a reasonable option.

As we have discussed in curves (g) and (h) in Fig. 2, phase mismatch will largely reduce the residual efficiency according to our analytical model, which corresponds to the switching window for add channel. However, for pulsed-pump-based PWE, the phase-matching condition is not as obvious as CW pump-based PWE. In order to investigate this effect in a more real situation, the wavelength of the pump pulse is detuned from 1548 to 1548.5 nm on purpose in the *OptSim* simulation. As shown in curves (g) and (h) in Fig. 3, the on-off extinction ratio for the add channel decreases by 5 dB, while that of the drop channel is not affected.

In Fig. 4(a), this issue is explored further. The central wavelength of the pump pulse is tuned from 1547 nm to 1549 nm so as to observe how the on-off extinction ratio varies. The simulation parameters used here are the same as those in Fig. 3 except that the pump pulse width is fixed at 4 ps. We can observe that although the on-off extinction ratio of drop channel is kept at relatively high value (>15 dB) over the 2 nm range that of the add channel is high enough (>18 dB) for a satisfactory add operation only within 0.5-nm-wide region around 1548 nm. These facts indicate that the wavelength selection for pump pulse is critical for wide-band phase matching, which cannot be revealed from the theoretical calculation shown in Fig. 2.

According to (5), in order to achieve a large on-off extinction ratio for both add and drop channels, the condition that the peak power of pulsed pump equals to CW pump power must be satisfied if we assume that linear phase mismatch $\Delta\beta \approx 0$ km $^{-1}$.

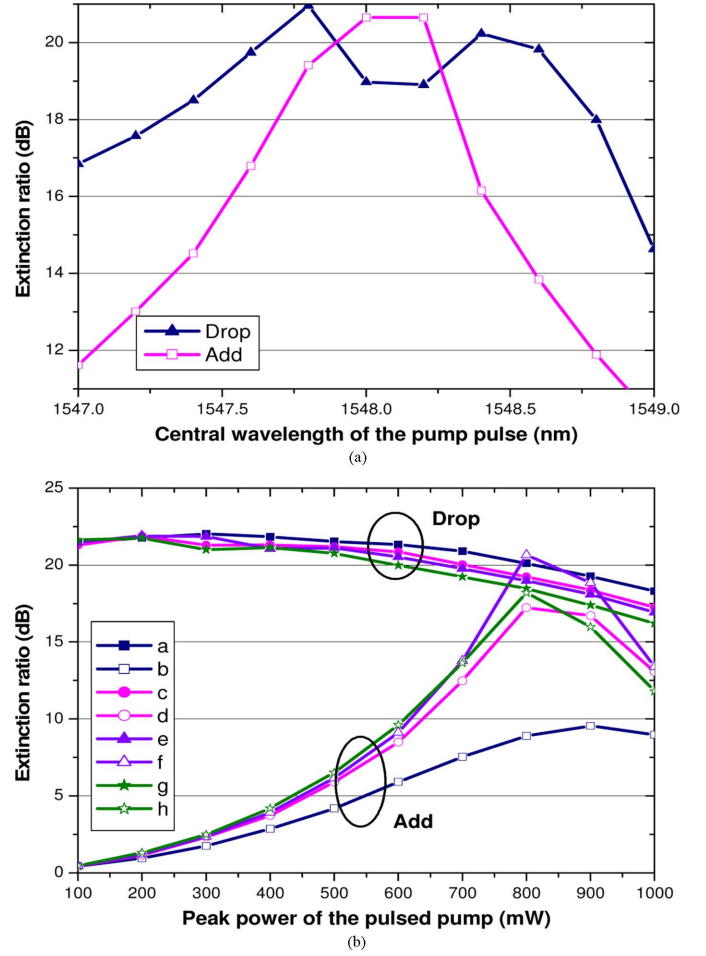


Fig. 4. (a) Extinction ratios for add and drop channel versus the central wavelength of the pump pulse. (b) Extinction ratios for add and drop channel versus the peak power of pump pulse. The CW pump powers are (a), (b) 200 mW, (c), (d) 300 mW, (e), (f) 330 mW, and (g), (h) 400 mW.

In reality, the power relationship between pulsed pump and CW pump is not maintained as $|A_1|^2 = |A_2(t)|_{\text{peak}}^2$. It can be qualitatively attributed to the fact that more than only four frequency components ($A_1 - A_4$) are produced and interact with each other in the actual PWE process. In addition, the Raman gain will also exhaust the power of pulsed pump because the frequency of the OTDM signal is exactly 13 THz above that of the pulsed pump. Since much power of the pulsed pump is exhausted during these complicated nonlinear processes, its initial peak power required in experiment is larger than 26.2 dBm, which is calculated from $|A_2(t)|_{\text{peak}}^2 = 3\pi/4\gamma L$. However, if the pulsed pump's power level is beyond the value that is required to completely deplete the original OTDM signal, the on-off extinction ratio will decrease due to the periodic nature of PWE. Fig. 4(b) shows the influence of the peak power of the pump pulse and average power of CW pump on the on-off extinction ratio. The parameters used in simulation are the same as in Fig. 3 except that the pump pulse width is fixed at 4 ps and pump powers are varied. It can be observed that an appropriate choice of pump powers is critical to obtain high on-off extinction ratio for both add and drop channels. An optimized combination outcome from simulation is $P_{\text{CW}} = 330$ mW and $P_{\text{pulsed}} = 800$ mW. If we compare this set

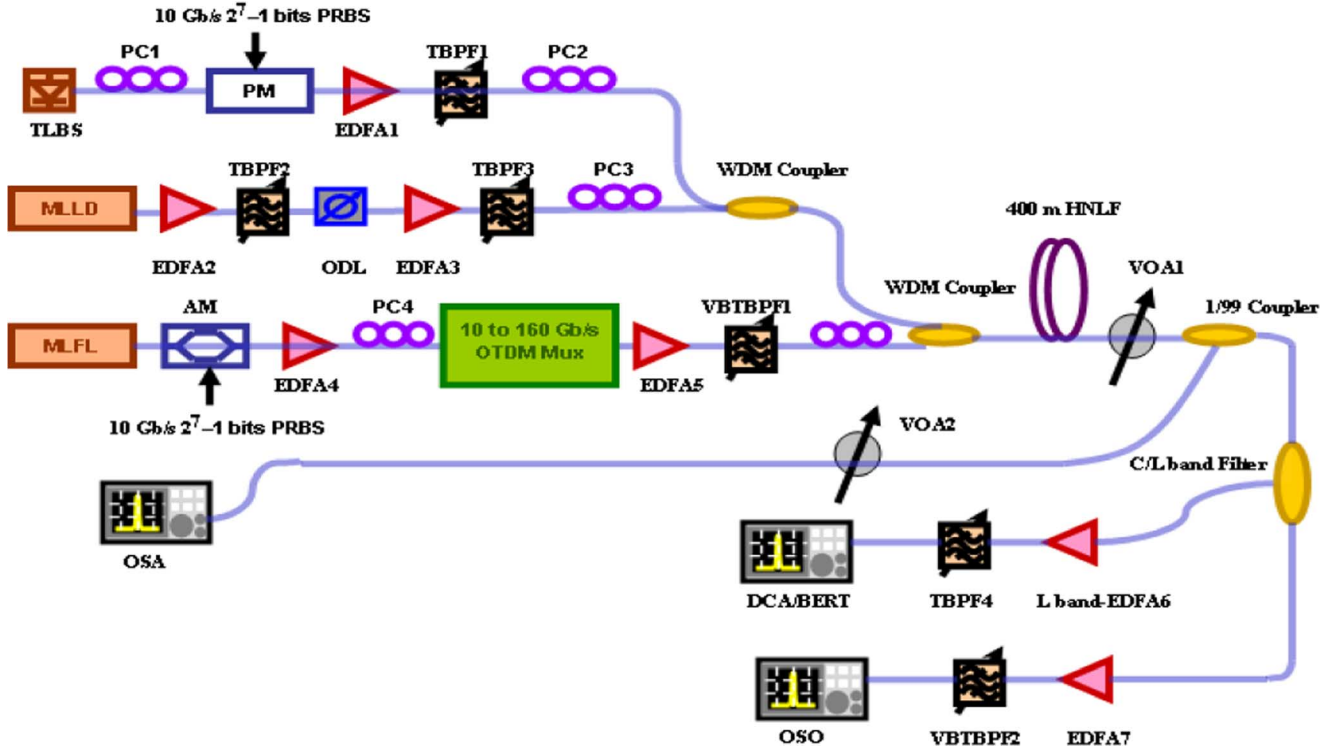


Fig. 5. Experimental setup for the proposed 160 Gb/s demultiplexer.

of parameter with the analytical prediction, it can be found that the CW power is lower but the peak power of the pump pulse is much higher. It matches our qualitative discussion mentioned earlier.

III. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

Fig. 5 shows the experimental setup of the proposed OTDM demultiplexer. The input 160-Gb/s OTDM RZ signal at 1561 nm is generated by time multiplexing an intensity-modulated 2-ps 10-GHz pulse train from a mode-locked fiber laser with a Mach-Zehnder modulator. An erbium-doped fiber amplifier (EDFA1) is used before the bit-rate multiplier (MUX) to compensate its loss. The pseudorandom binary sequence (PRBS) length of the resultant bit-rate multiplied 160-Gb/s OTDM signal is $2^7 - 1$ bits. This 160 Gb/s signal is then amplified to 8 dBm average power with another stage of EDFA2 before fiber input. To avoid distortion of 160-Gb/s OTDM signal, the bandwidth of the filter must be broad enough to contain the whole spectra of the signal. Thus, a variable bandwidth tunable bandpass filter (VBTBPF1) is inserted after EDFA2 to reduce amplified spontaneous noise (ASE) level. The bandwidth of the VBTBPF ranges from 0.4 to 10 nm, and its insertion loss is approximately 6 dB. On the other hand, a 10-GHz pump pulse with 2-ps pulse width at 1549 nm is prepared by a mode-locked laser diode. It is preamplified by EDFA3 before boosted by EDFA4 to a 15-dBm average input power. Two tunable bandpass filters (TBPF1 and TBPF2) are inserted after each EDFA to reduce ASE noise as well. The optical delay line placed in the middle of two amplifier sections is used to align the gating pulse with the bit slot of the target channel. The CW pump at 1540 nm is phase dithered with a phase modulator driven by

a 10-Gb/s $2^7 - 1$ PRBS to suppress stimulated Brillouin scattering [23]. The CW pump is amplified by EDFA5 to 26-dBm average input power and combined with the pulsed pump. The state of polarization of the pumps and signals are controlled by polarization controller (PC2-4) at each arm to satisfy the orthogonal polarization condition before they are launched into a 400-m HNL-DSF for signal demultiplexing. The optical spectra before and after HNL-DSF are shown in Fig. 6(a). The nonlinear coefficient γ , the ZDW λ_0 , and the dispersion slope $dD/d\lambda$ of the HNL-DSF are $14 \text{ W}^{-1} \text{ km}^{-1}$, 1554 nm, and $0.03 \text{ ps/nm}^2 \text{ km}$, respectively. After demultiplexing, the surviving 150 Gb/s signal and demultiplexed 10 Gb/s signals are separately filtered and amplified by TBPF4 and VBTBPF2 and corresponding EDFAs before being sent to digital communication analyzer (DCA) and optical sampling oscilloscope (OSO) for eye diagrams measurement, respectively. The OSO working in C-band has a very wide bandwidth $>500 \text{ GHz}$ and short sampling resolution $\approx 1 \text{ ps}$.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In order to characterize the proposed demultiplexer, Fig. 6(b) shows the measured add and drop windows. We use the same method as we discussed in Section II to measure them, which is to time shift the control pump pulse across the 10-Gb/s RZ signal pulse while measuring the output powers at the wavelength of signal and demultiplexed channel, respectively. Although we do not realize the add operation in experiment, the switching window for the add channel is still measured to demonstrate the potential to upgrade our proposed demultiplexer to an ADM. The FWHM of the measured windows is 6.3 ps and 2.0 ps for the drop and the add channels, respectively.

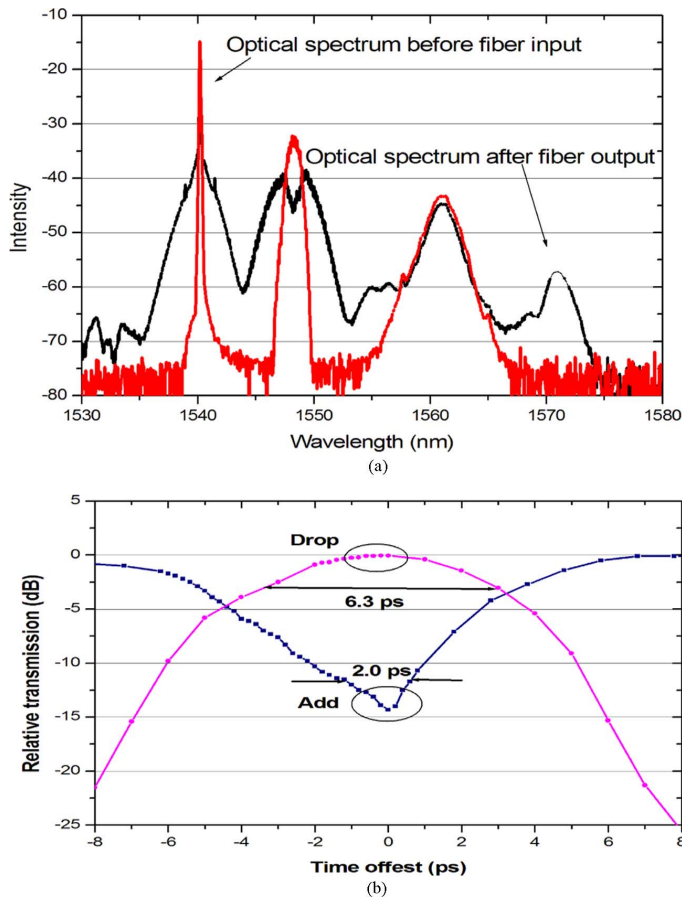


Fig. 6. (a) Optical spectra before and after HNLF. (b) Measured switching windows for add and drop channels.

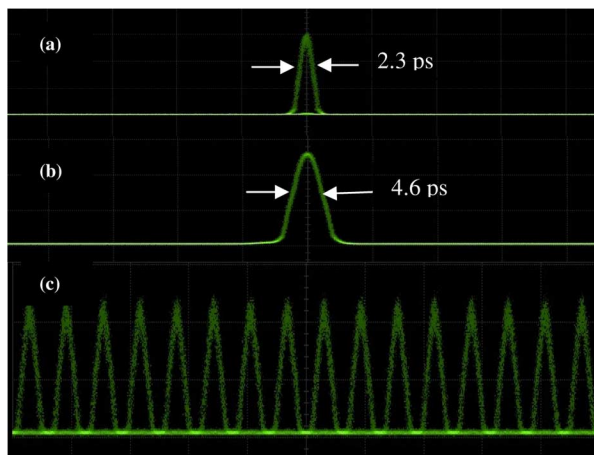


Fig. 7. Measured eye diagrams by OSO. (a) Original 10-Gb/s RZ signal. (b) Pump pulse before fiber input. (c) 160-Gb/s multiplexed data. Time base: 10 ps/div.

The corresponding on-off extinction ratios are ~ 22 dB and ~ 15 dB, which match qualitatively with the simulated results shown in the curves (g) and (h) in Fig. 3.

Fig. 7(a) shows the 10-GHz RZ signal pulse before the MUX. Its pulse width is measured to be 2.3 ps. Fig. 7(b) shows the 10-GHz pump pulse. Its pulse width is broadened to 4.6 ps by

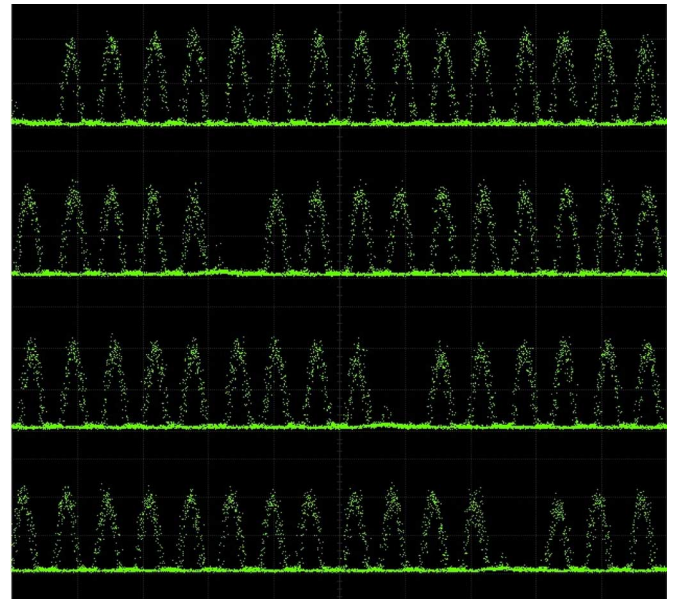


Fig. 8. Measured eye diagrams for the surviving channels by OSO. From top to bottom, channels #1, #6, #10, and #13. Time base: 10 ps/div.

the two 0.8-nm tunable filters TBP1 and TBP2. The 160-Gb/s multiplexed OTDM signal is shown in Fig. 7(c) for reference.

To demonstrate the potential simultaneous add/drop operations at a 160-Gb/s signal data rate, eye diagrams for some of 16 surviving channels and after demultiplexer are shown in Fig. 8. Two odd and two even channels are randomly selected and displayed. They are channels 1, 6, 10, and 13 from top to bottom, respectively. It can be observed that the target channel is almost completely depleted in all cases and clear and widely open eye diagrams are observed for the surviving signals. The small amount of residual power at the original channel can be attributed to combined effects of incomplete exchange and preamplification before OSO. The incomplete exchange may arise from the ZDW fluctuation within the fiber and is reflected by the finite on-off extinction ratio of the add window. A disadvantage of the PWE-based demultiplexer compared to the popular NOLM-based demultiplexer is that the latter one has no phase-matching requirement, and hence, ZDW variations do not influence the performance of the system. One thing noteworthy is that preamplification is necessary because the sensitivity of the OSO is relatively poorer than conventional photodetector. Although the amplification raises the amplitude of the surviving channels, it introduces noise as well.

Fig. 9(a) shows the waveforms of the corresponding demultiplexed signals. They are measured by using DCA because its L-band wavelength is beyond the operating range of OSO (C-band). The tail's ripples observed in the demultiplexed signals are due to the limited electrical bandwidth of a 53-GHz photodetector. To investigate the signal quality degradation after demultiplexing, magnified demultiplexed and original signals are compared in Fig. 9(b) and (c). It is noticed that the mark level of the demultiplexed signal is slightly noisier compared with original one. It is believed to be caused by the phase dithering of the CW pump light. The CW pump's dithered phases are transferred to the idler through PWE

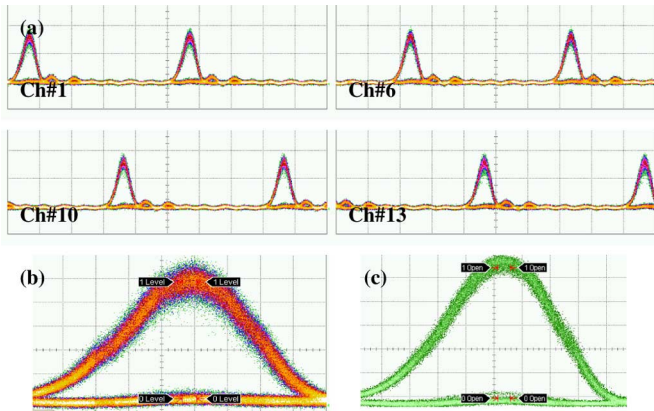


Fig. 9. (a) Measured eye diagrams for the four demultiplexed channels. Time base: 10 ps/div. (b) Magnified eye diagrams for the demultiplexed signal. (c) Magnified eye diagrams for the original signal.

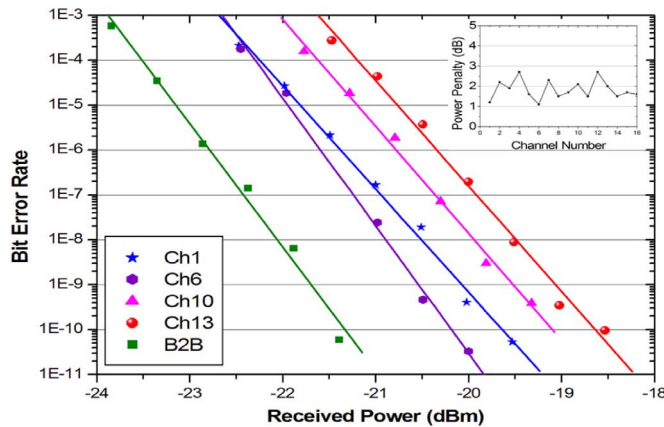


Fig. 10. BER plots of the B2B and four demultiplexed signals (inset). Power penalty at 10^{-9} for all 16 channels.

process. Furthermore, the phase modulation is converted to intensity modulation during fiber transmission and filter. Such degradation can be avoided by using two pulsed pumps.

To quantify the performance of the demultiplexer, bit-error rate (BER) of the demultiplexed signals are measured and compared against the back-to-back (B2B) 10-Gb/s RZ signal as shown in Fig. 10. Error-free operations are attained for all channels. Compared to the B2B curve, the power penalties incurred in the demultiplexed process range from 1.2 to 2.7 dB at 10^{-9} BER as shown in the inset of Fig. 10. The variation of power penalty among different channels is believed to be caused by amplitude fluctuation of the bit-rate multiplied OTDM signal.

V. CONCLUSION

We have theoretically investigated the switching windows of our proposed OTDM demultiplexer based on PWE in HNLf, which is shown to be a promising candidate in high-speed signal processing application. It is also verified by the simulation results, which take chromatic dispersion and other nonlinear effects such as Raman effect into account. The investigation toward the dependence of on-off extinction ratio of switching window on the phase-mismatch condition and pump power levels reveals the optimized parameter selection for the proposed demultiplexer. We also have experimentally

demonstrated the OTDM demultiplexer. One 160-Gb/s OTDM signal has been successfully demultiplexed into 16 individual 10-Gb/s signals. Clear and widely open eye diagrams have been obtained for all 16 demultiplexed channels, with less than or equal to 2.7 dB power penalty at BER of 10^{-9} . The clean depletion performance at the target time slot for surviving channels demonstrates that the proposed demultiplexer has potential capability for ADM of high-speed OTDM signals. The polarization insensitive operation of wavelength exchange using polarization diversity scheme [24] or potentially circularly polarized pumps [25] can be advantageous for its deployment compared to its NOLM counterpart [26]. Experimental implementation of PWE-based ADM holding these strengths will be the subject of further research.

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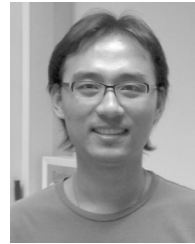
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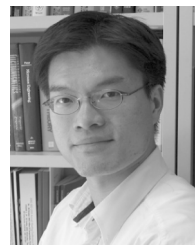
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