

OECC 2009 Plenary Session

Optical Communications: Innovations (and Their Needs) Abound

Alan E. Willner

**University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089-2565**

**When a person's
reputation precedes
him/her...**

(Respect)²

Thank You!!!!

... to Prof. Alex Wei for your gracious and kind invitation.

... to all my wonderful colleagues in Hong Kong.

... and for the generous support of Cisco, DARPA, HP, Intel, NSF, Packard Foundation.

USC's OCLab



Blazing Saddles: Lilly

“A wed wose. How
owdinawy.”

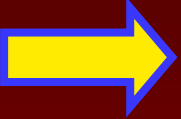
BORING?

- CIENA in 1996: 8X2.5 Gbit/s over 500 km with 100-GHz spacing. **BORING**.
- Is it boring enabling “Moore’s Law”?
- It’s boring in the “middle”, when advances seem easy and more advanced “systems” haven’t appeared.

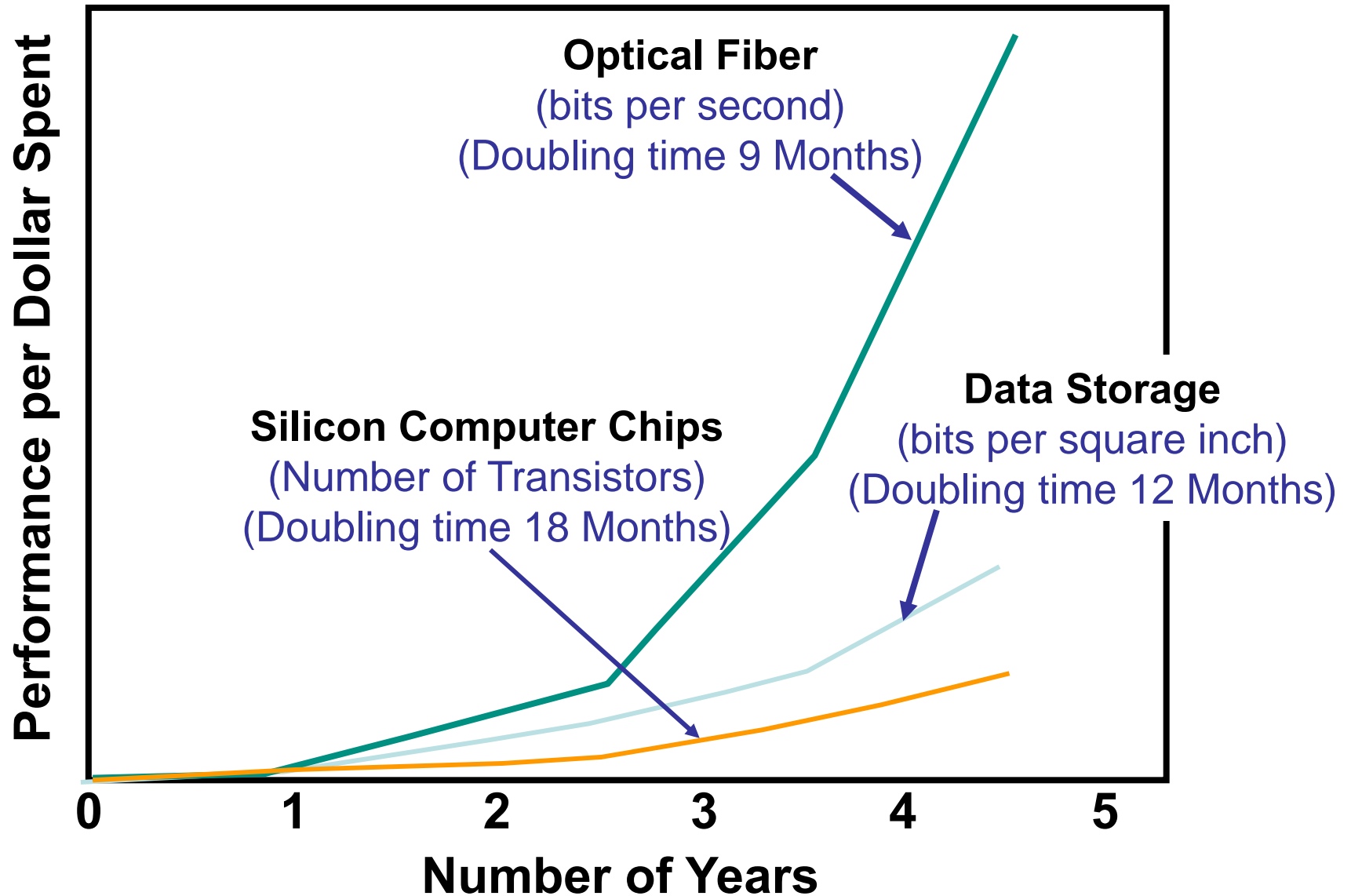
IMDD, MLSE, coherent, OFDM, ODC/EDC.

- Can be even more exciting, since completely new markets can open up. 😊

Outline

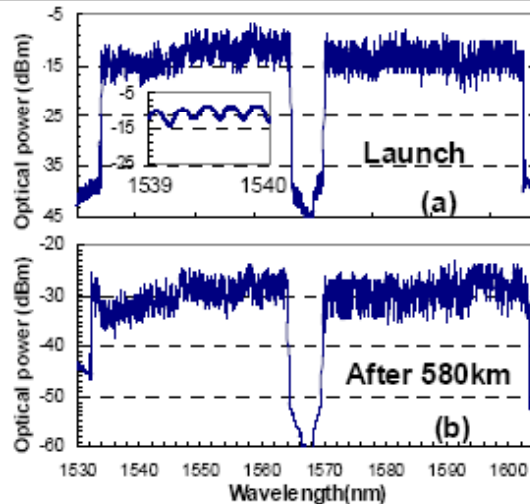
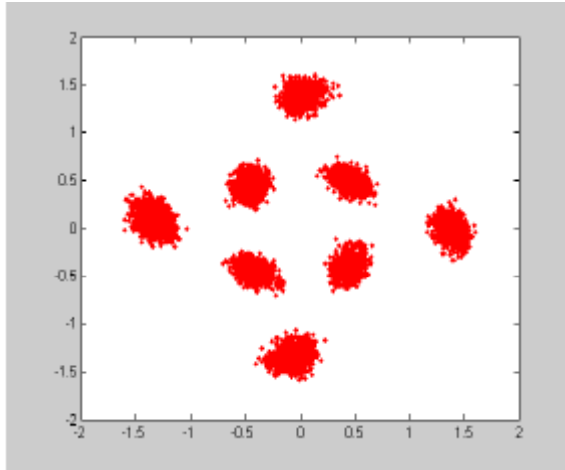
-  1. Overarching Perspective
2. Heterogeneity & Grooming
3. Optical Performance Monitoring
4. Optical Signal Processing

Optical Networks are Critical for Future Growth



Latest Results on High Capacity/S.E. Transmission

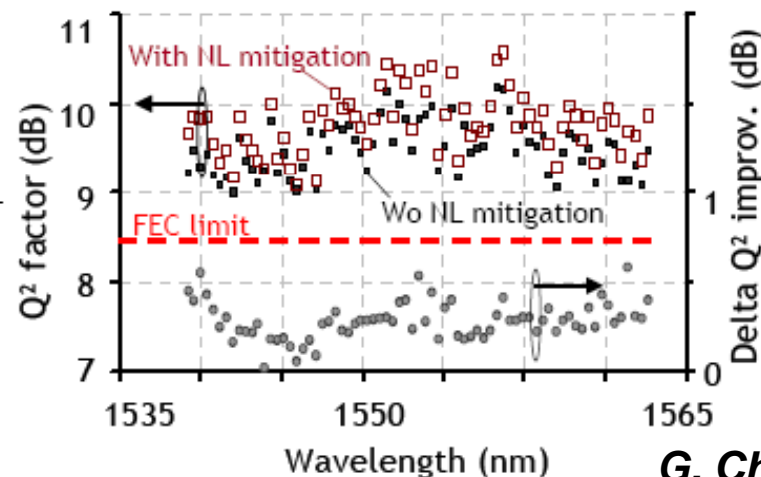
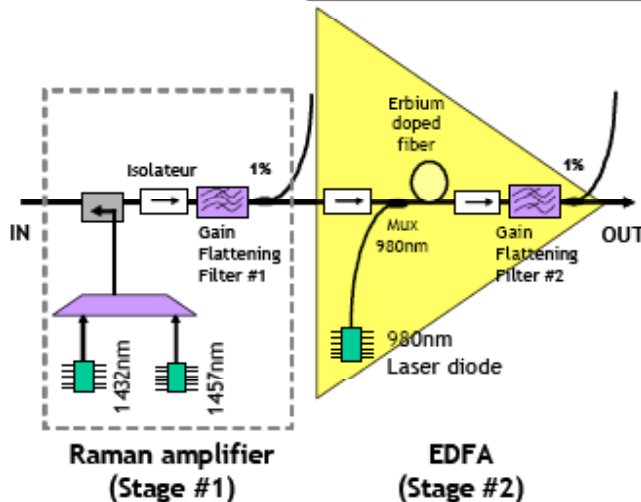
32Tb/s PDM-RZ-8QAM over 580km Ultra-low-loss Fiber



- PDM-RZ-8QAM
- Digital coherent detection
- EDFA-only Amplification
- 25GHz-spaced
- 320x114Gb/s
- length / loss ratio
82.8km / 14.6dB

X. Zhou, OFC 2009 PDP

72x100Gb/s over 7040km Large Effective Area Fiber



- 100Gb/s channels
- 88x80km distance
- Raman-Erbium amplification
- coherent receiver

G. Charlet, OFC 2009 PDP

Improving Spectral Efficiency

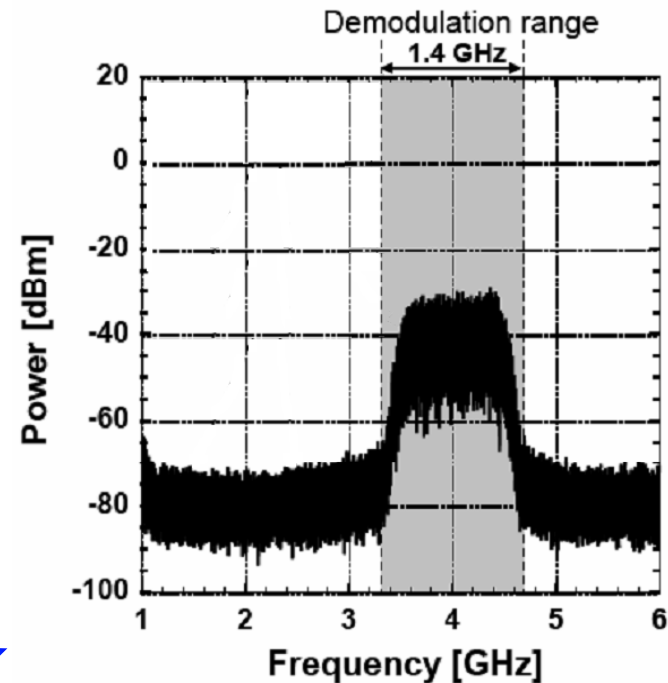
- ❑ Challenge: to explore multilevel optical modulation formats
- ❑ Pack more bits per symbol: DQPSK, APSK, OFDM, QAM
- ❑ Powerful tool: orthogonal modulation

Several Examples

| Modulation | Spectral Efficiency | Reference |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 10×112 Gbit/s PolMux 16-QAM | 6.2 bit/s/Hz | A. H. Gnauck PDPB8 2009 |
| 8×65.1 Gbit/s coherent PolMux-OFDM | 7 bit/s/Hz | H. Takahashi PDPB7 OFC2009 |
| PolMux 1Gsymbol/s 128 QAM 14 Gbit/s | 10 bit/s/Hz | H. Goto JThA45 OFC2008 |

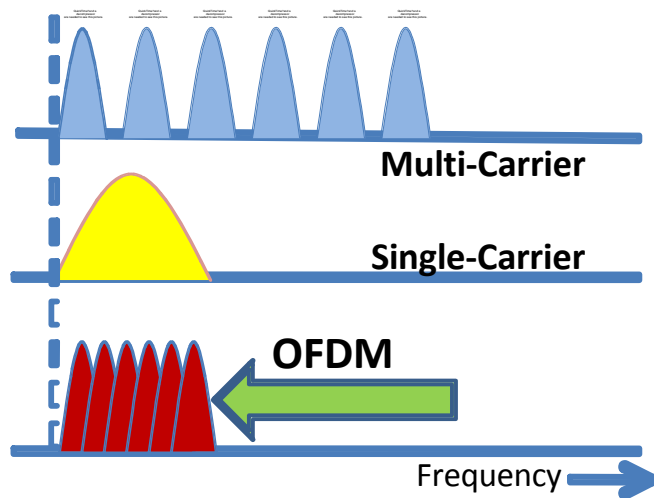
To date, largest spectral efficiency

10 bit/s/Hz Spectral Efficiency



Pol-Mux 1 Gsymbol/s, 128 QAM
(14Gbit/s) (BW: 1.4 GHz)

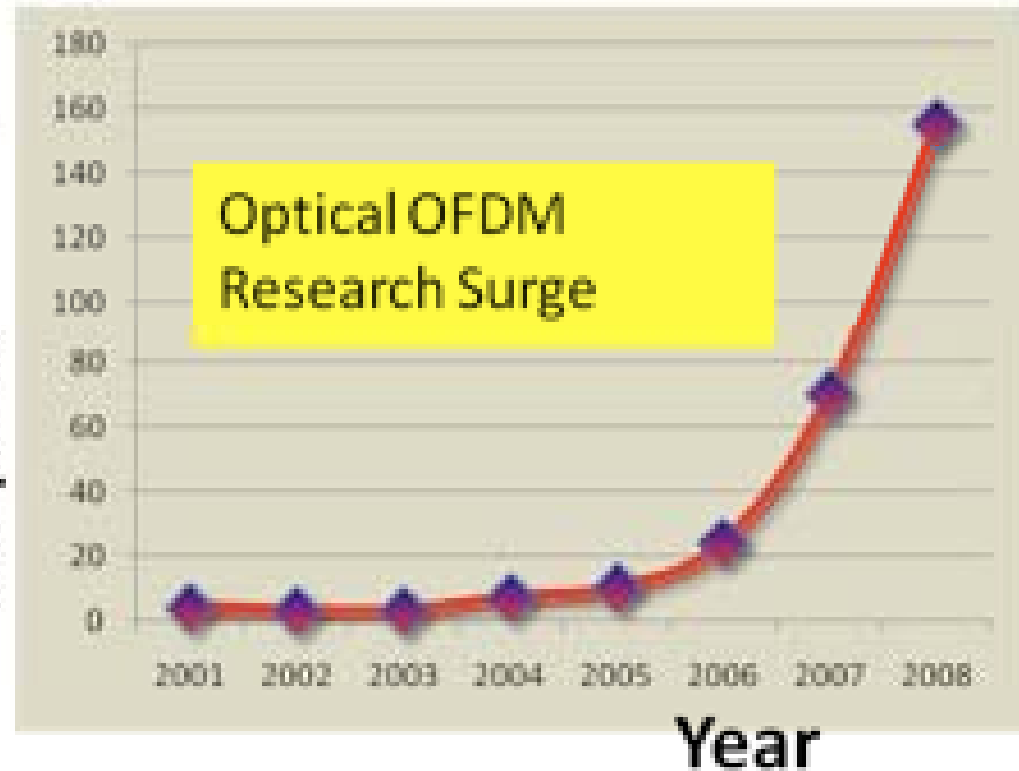
OFDM : “I come not to ...”



Access to phase, ampl. and freq.

Mitigation of linear impairments

of publications



- OFDM pushes complexity into the electric domain: # of computations needed for OFDM at transmitter is more than Coherent-Single-Carrier.
- Compared to conventional multi-carrier, OFDM saves ~ half the optical bandwidth.

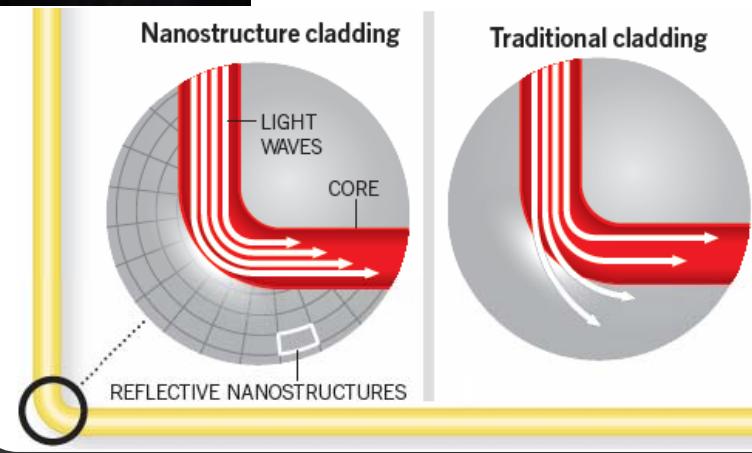
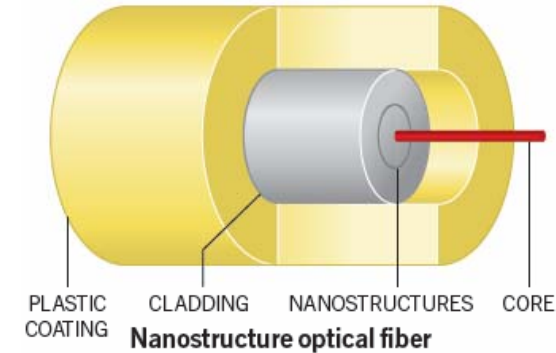
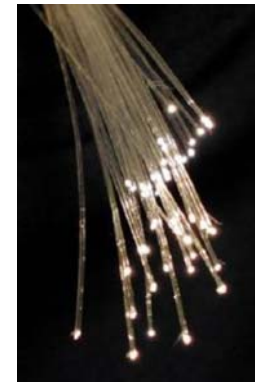
TIME

THE BEST INVENTIONS OF THE YEAR

IEEE Corporate Innovation Recognition 2009



Corning ClearCurve Fiber



- ❑ Corning NanoStructures Technology
- ❑ Best macrobending performance
- ❑ Compatible with current optical fibers
- ❑ **Attenuation: 0.19-0.21 dB/km (1550nm)**
- ❑ **Macrobend Loss: <0.10 dB (Radius: 5 mm)**

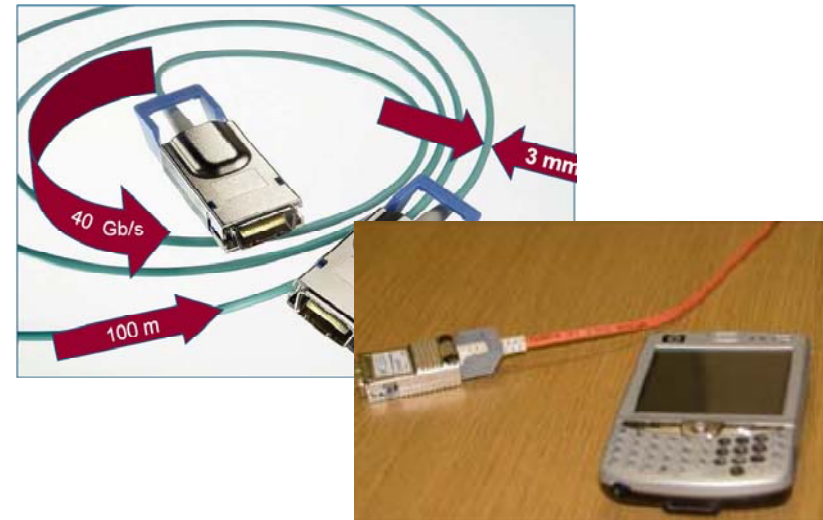
Corning Incorporated

Classical Copper Cable



- ❑ Max Speed: 10 Gbit/s
- ❑ Max Length: 10 m
- ❑ Bending Radius: 10 cm
- ❑ Thickness: ~5 cm (Compaq alpha-server)
- ❑ Cost: 18 \$/Gbps/m (HP Superdome)

Active Optical Cable



- ❑ Max Speed: 20 Gbit/s
- ❑ Max Length: 200 m
- ❑ Bending Radius: 25 mm
- ❑ Thickness: 3 mm
- ❑ Cost: 0.2 \$/Gbps/m

“Brittle Network”



Bran Ferren
Chief Creative Officer
Applied Minds, Inc., USA
OFC - Plenary Speaker '06

Predicted “**bursting**” of bubble in ‘97

- **Optical systems are brittle**
- **Optical systems are difficult to use**
- **Need “plug-and-play” robustness**

Michael Jackson's Death Strains the Internet

LONDON (CNN) -- How many people does it take to break the Internet? Just one -- Michael Jackson. The story took a slice of the Internet.

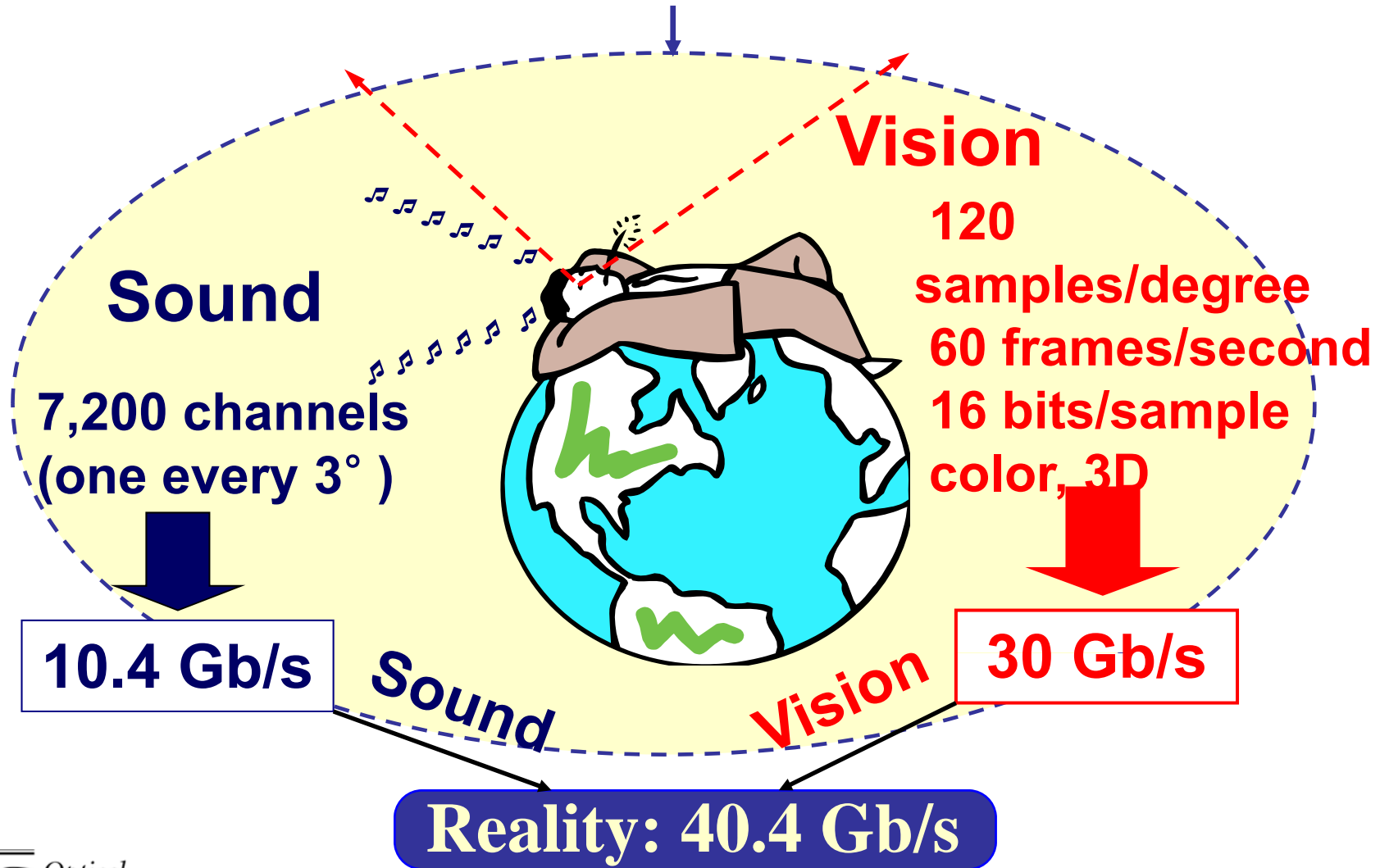
"Between ~2:40 p.m. PDT and 3:15 p.m. PDT today, some Google News users experienced difficulty accessing search results," Google told CNET. Also, users complained that Google News was down.

As sites fell, users raced to other sites: TMZ had several outages; users then switched to Perez Hilton, which also struggled. CNN reported a 5X rise in traffic in ~1 hour. Twitter crashed as users saw multiple "fail whales". Twitter had had to temporarily disable its search results.

CNET reported that by 3:15 p.m. PT, Wikipedia seemed to be "temporarily overloaded." The Los Angeles Times suffered outages. AOL's instant messenger was hit, "AIM was down for ~40 minutes."

The Bandwidth of Tomorrow's "Immersive" Reality

The bandwidth of human visual & audio perception

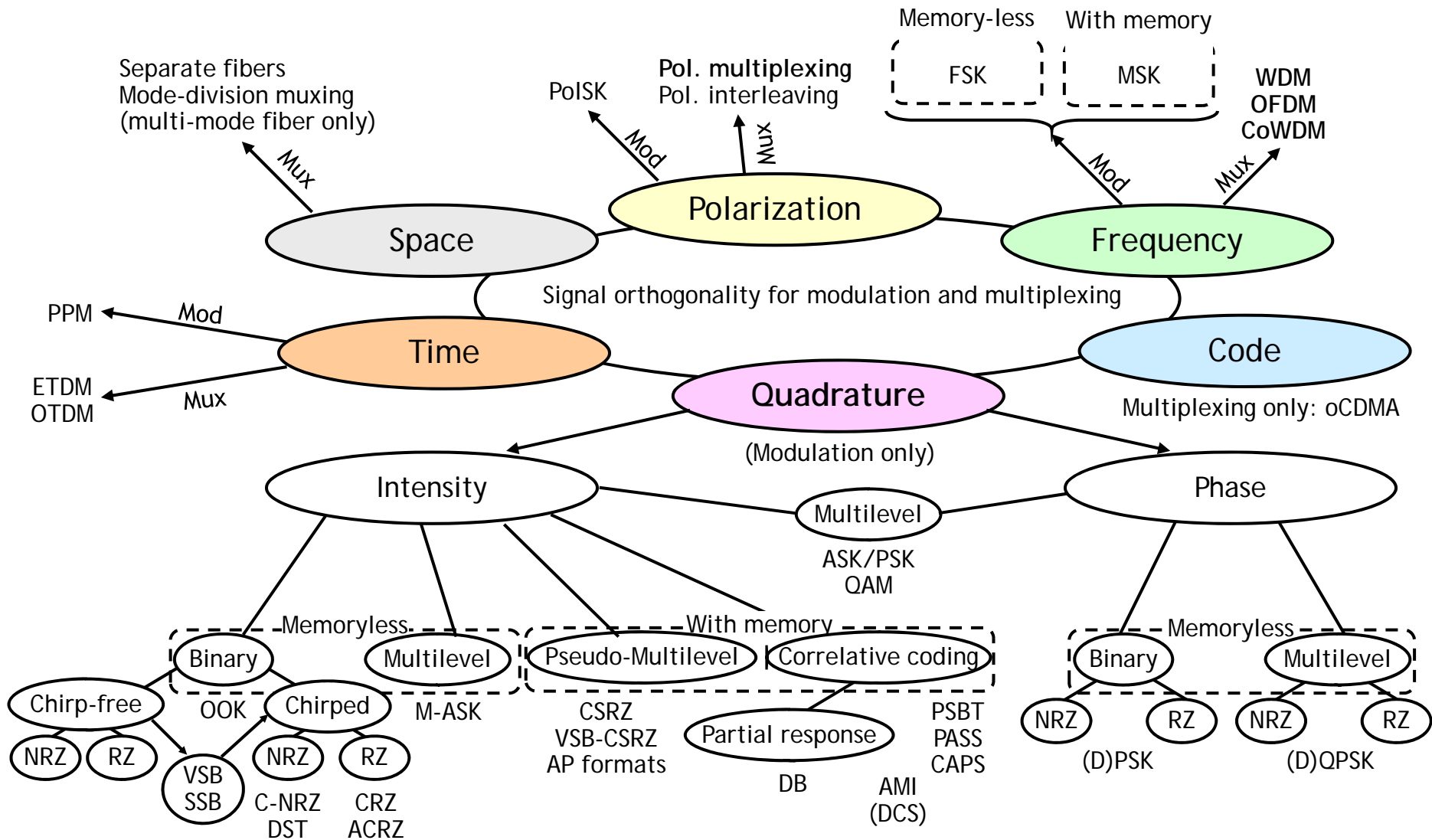


Bob Metcalfe: OFC 2008 Plenary Talk

- 40 Gb/s: Shipping today in 50G ITU grid thanks to hard work
- 100 Gb/s: Spectral efficiency will enable same happy outcome (same hut spacing, existing fiber, WDM grid, ...), IEEE standards by 2010
- 1 Tb/s: Will not fit in current infrastructure. Break current constraints:
 - Advanced modulation formats
 - Break out of 50G spacing
 - Break out of C/L bands
 - New fiber types
 - New lasers



Optical Signal Spaces for Modulation / Multiplexing



“Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade”

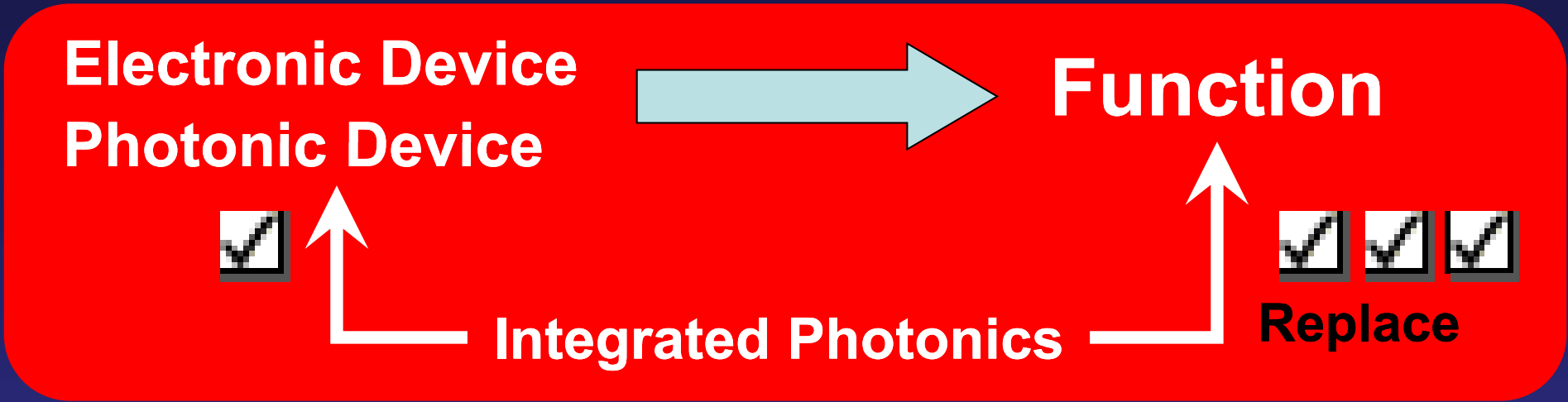
HJ: “We will face 3 devices of lethal cunning ...”

HJ,J: “How do we stop them?”

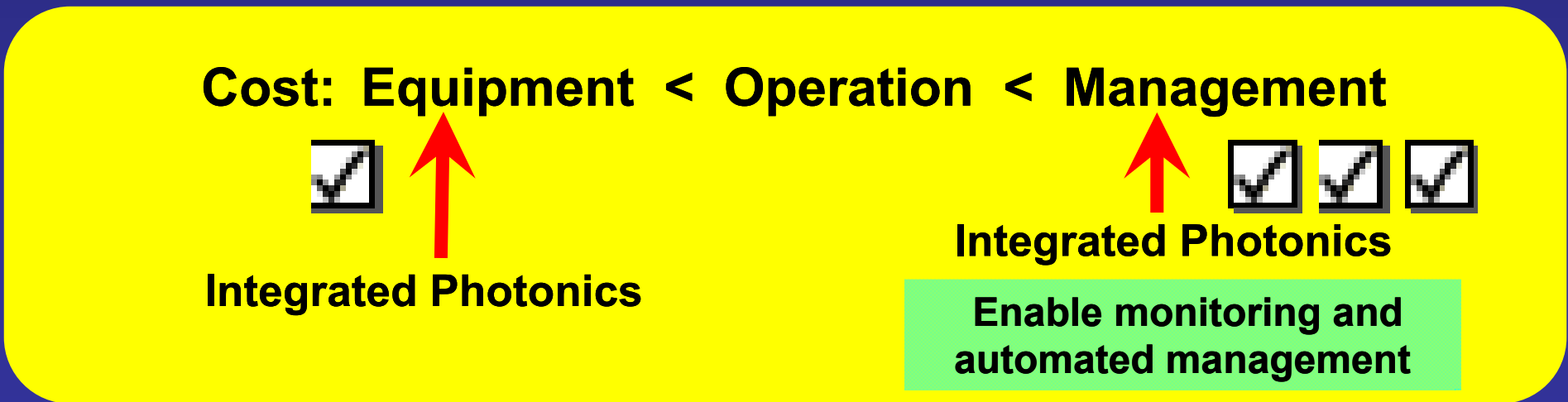


HJ: “I don’t know?”

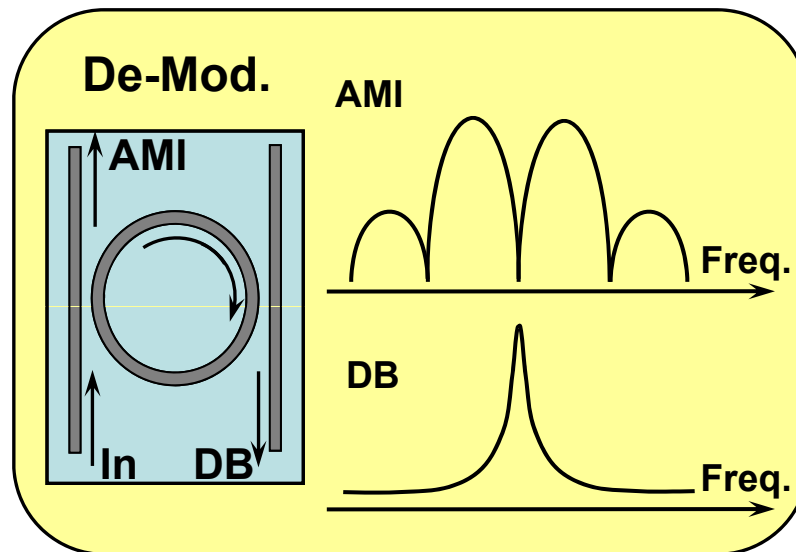
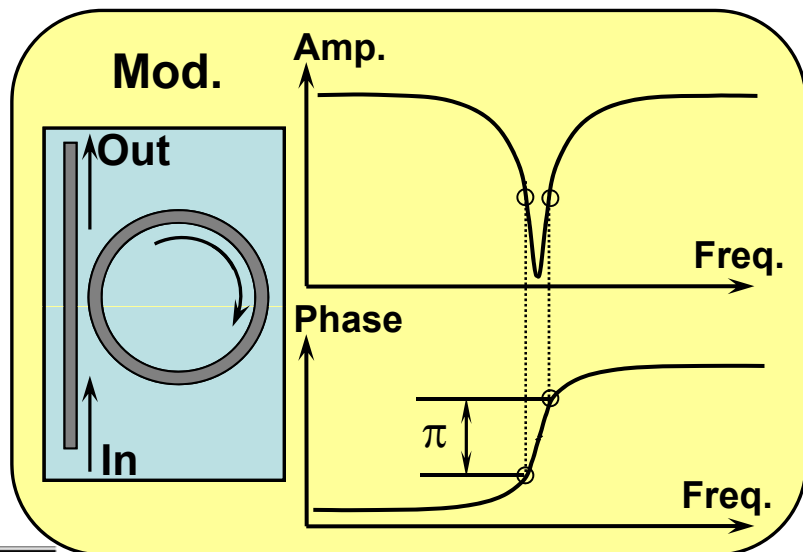
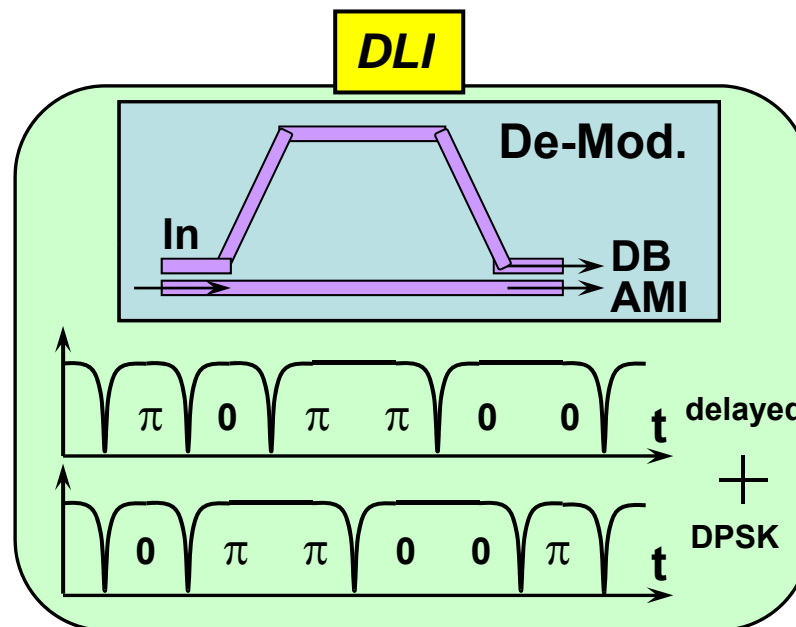
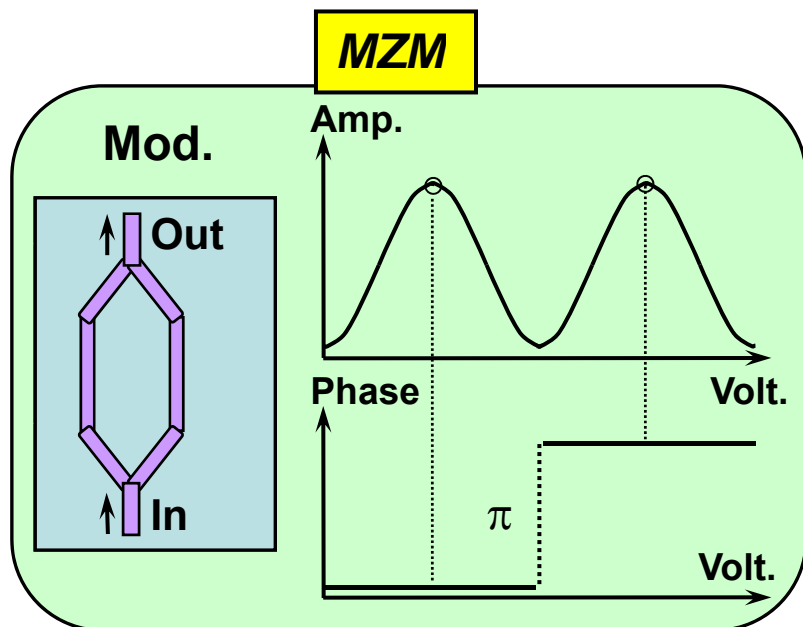
Replace Function, Not Device



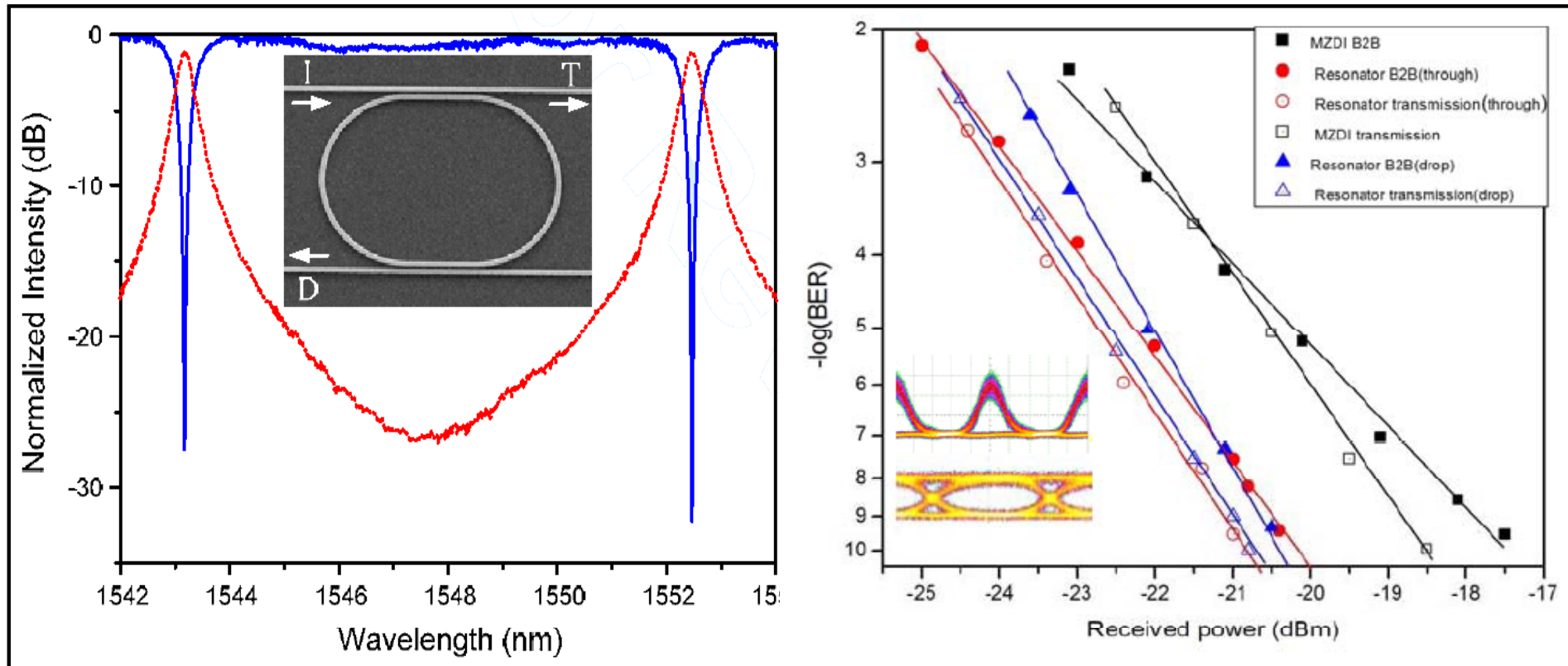
Nick Tabellion, CTO, Fujitsu Softek: "The commonly used number is: For every \$1 to purchase storage, you spend \$9 to have someone manage it."



Microring-Based DPSK Principle



Experimental Demonstration



Silicon photonics enables:

- Ultra compact structure.
- Low power consumption.
- Achievable bit rates of up to 40Gb/s.
- Cost-effective fabrication.
- Tolerant to phase shift and demodulator frequency offset.

Silicon microring filters show <0.7 dB power penalty than standard MZM+DLI. Here the DLI itself has 3-dB penalty due to imperfection.

Data Centers

- What the heck is a “data center”?
- Do data centers represent a new set of research challenges?
 - *Fat pipes and short (?) distance.*
 - *Latency is crucial.*
 - *Multiple-order nodes, multicasting.*
 - *Data aggregation and granularity.*
- Go forth and explore....

Outline

1. Overarching Perspective

 2. Heterogeneity & Grooming

3. Optical Performance Monitoring

4. Optical Signal Processing

RF to Optical Transition

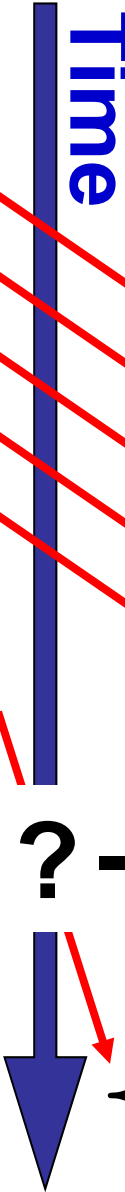
RF/Electronic History

Coherent Transmission
Multi-level Modulation
Transatlantic Transmission
FEC Introduced by Shannon
Equalization

Variable Bit Rate Systems
Dynamic Bandwidth Allocation
S/W-Defined Radio

Optical History

Coherent Optical Systems
Multi-level Modulation
First Transatlantic Line
FEC for Transatlantic
Optical Equalization

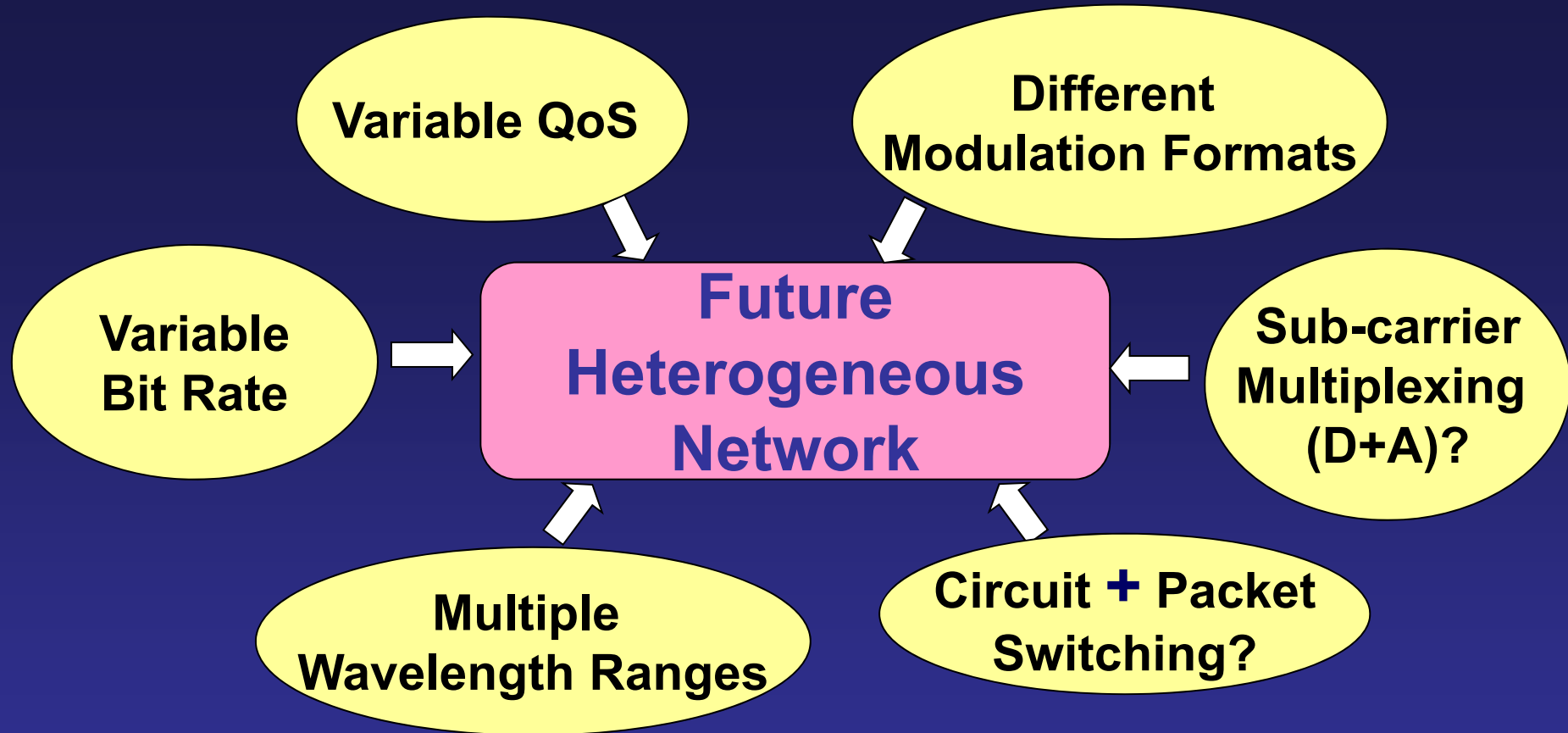


**Device Capabilities Drive
System Applications**

Coherent Systems Revisited?

**Variable Bit Rates Systems?
Dynamic Bandwidth Allocation?
“S/W-H/W Defined” Reconfigurable
Optical Systems?**

Heterogeneous Systems: One Network Fits All



- Hardware should be reconfigurable and transparent
- An intelligent network could use the *optimal* method from the application/user viewpoint.

Economics: Early market entry of new services (CATV??)

Data Granularity: Which Costs LESS to Deploy?

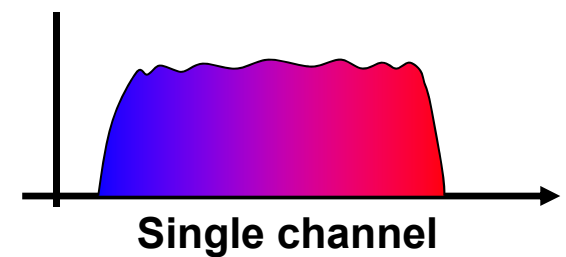
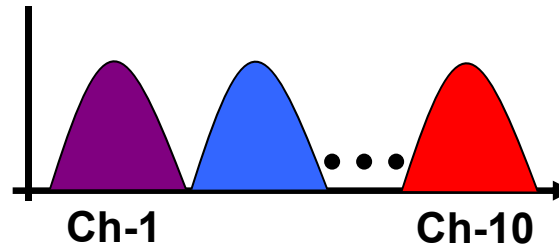
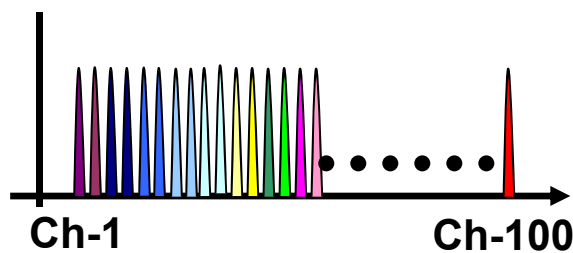
100 x 10Gb/s

vs

10 x 100Gb/s

vs

1x 1000Gb/s



More Granularity

Robust to Channel Impairments

Less OSNR required

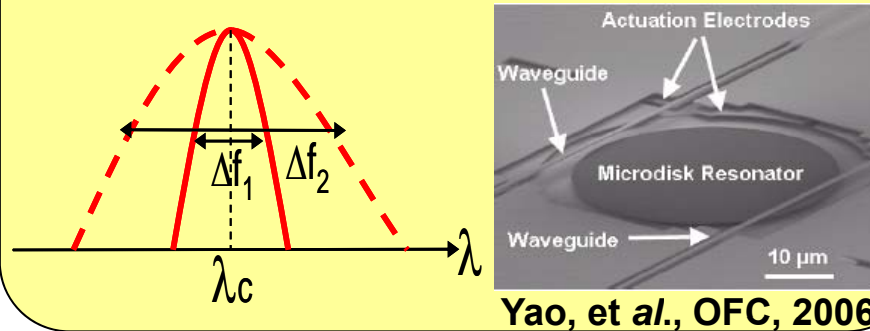
Less hardware/channel

Less management cost

Spectral efficiency

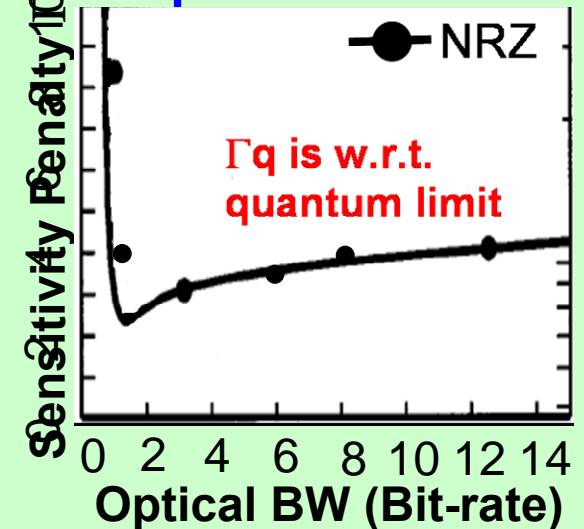
Grooming: Dynamic BW Allocation

Tunable BW filter



Matched Filter

- Optimize OSNR



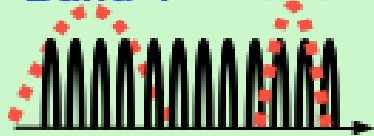
Pfennigbauer, et al., PTL, 2002

Variable Bit-Rate Channel

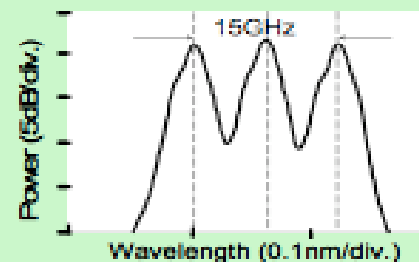
- Efficient allocation

Reconfigurable Channel Banding

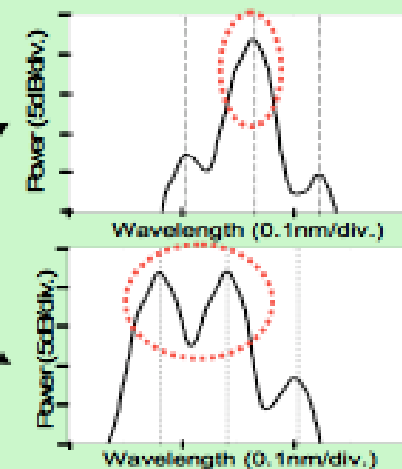
Band-1 Band-2



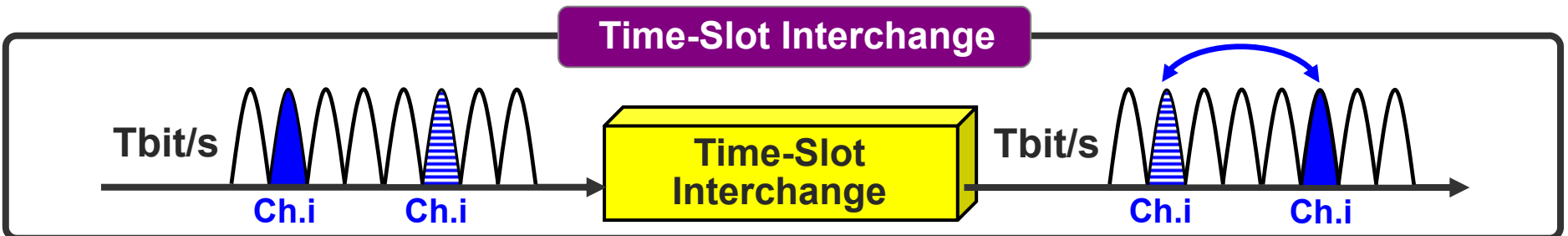
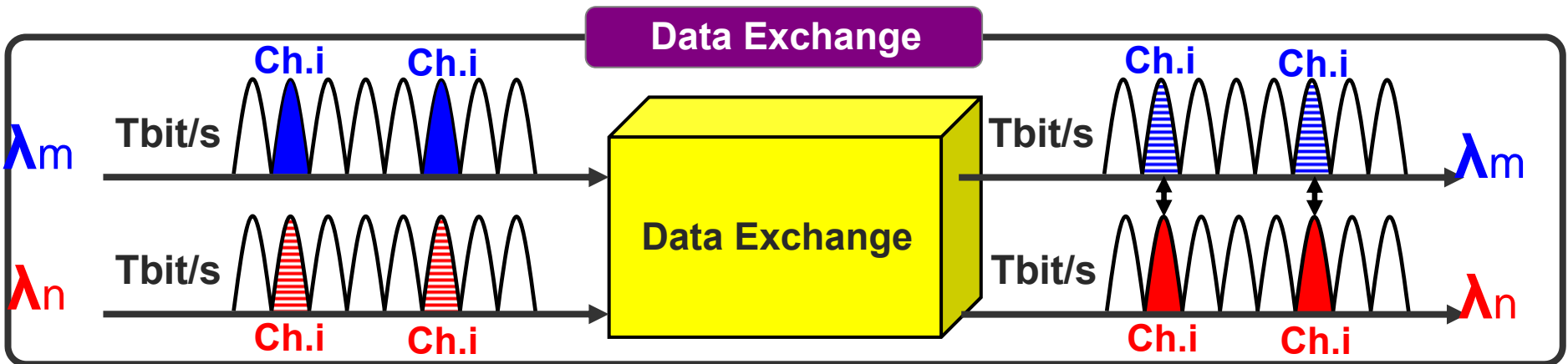
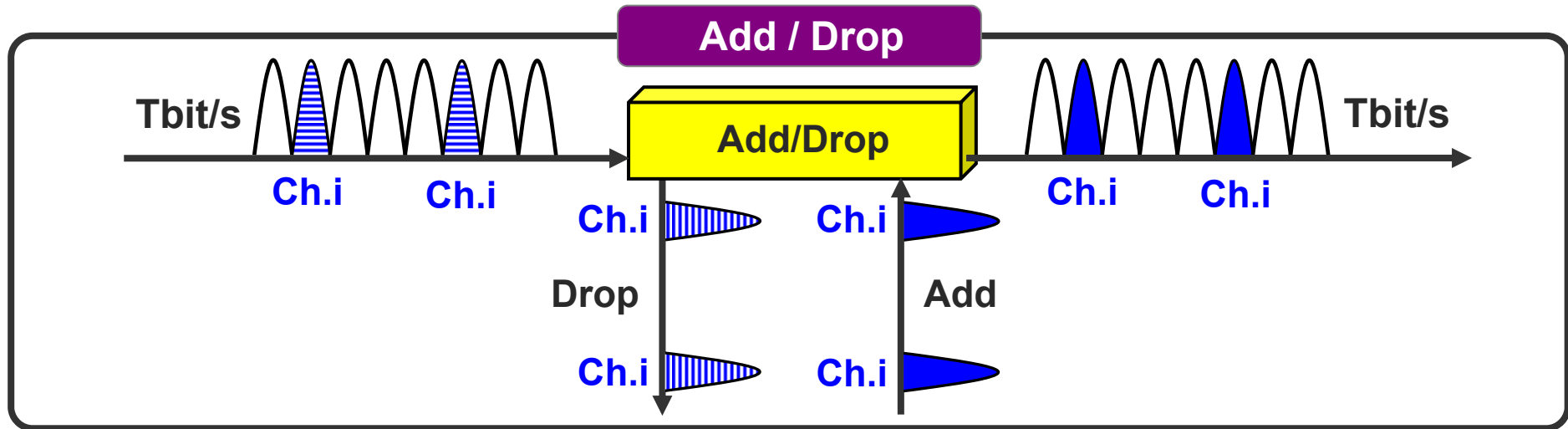
- Common routing
- Common processing
- Reconfigurable granularity



B. Zhang, et al, CLEO 2006

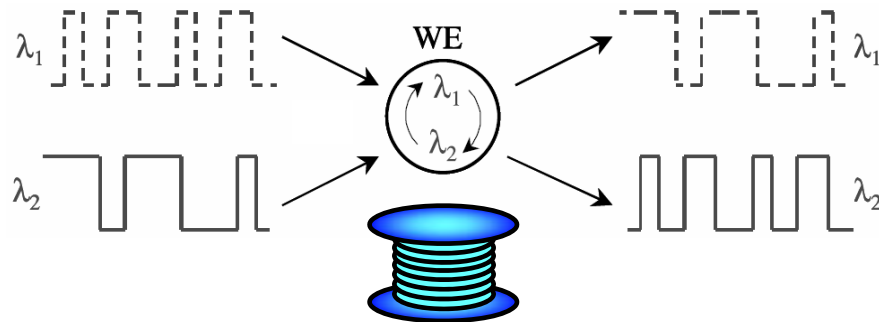


Grooming in Optical Domain



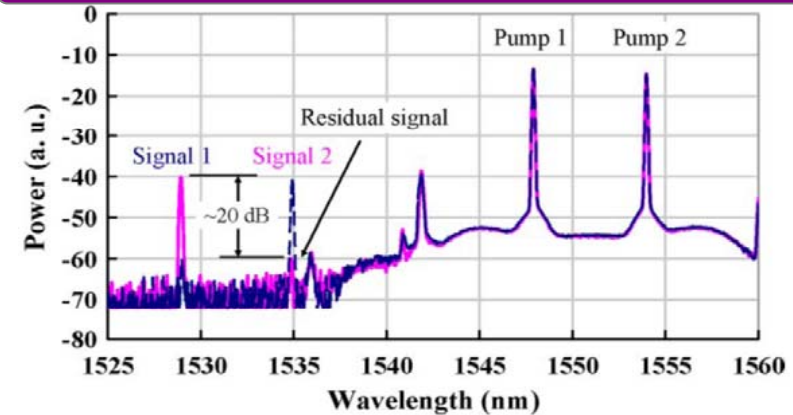
Data Grooming: Wavelength Exchange

Concept

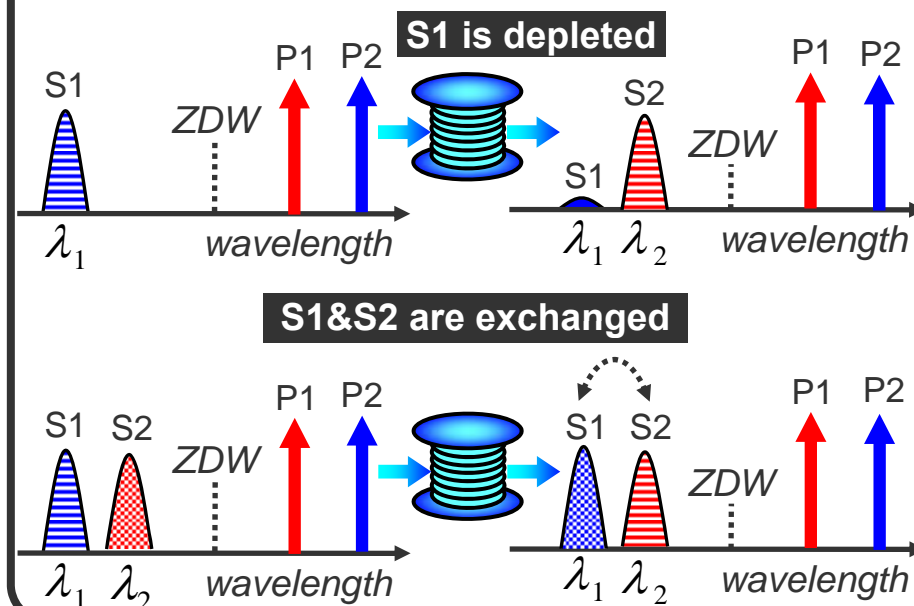


HNLF: highly nonlinear fiber

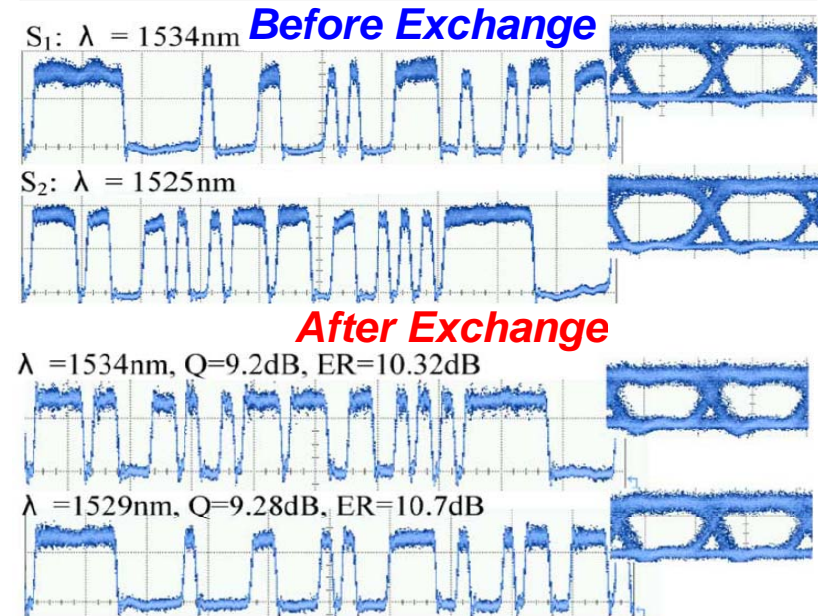
10-Gbit/s Exchange (Spectrum)



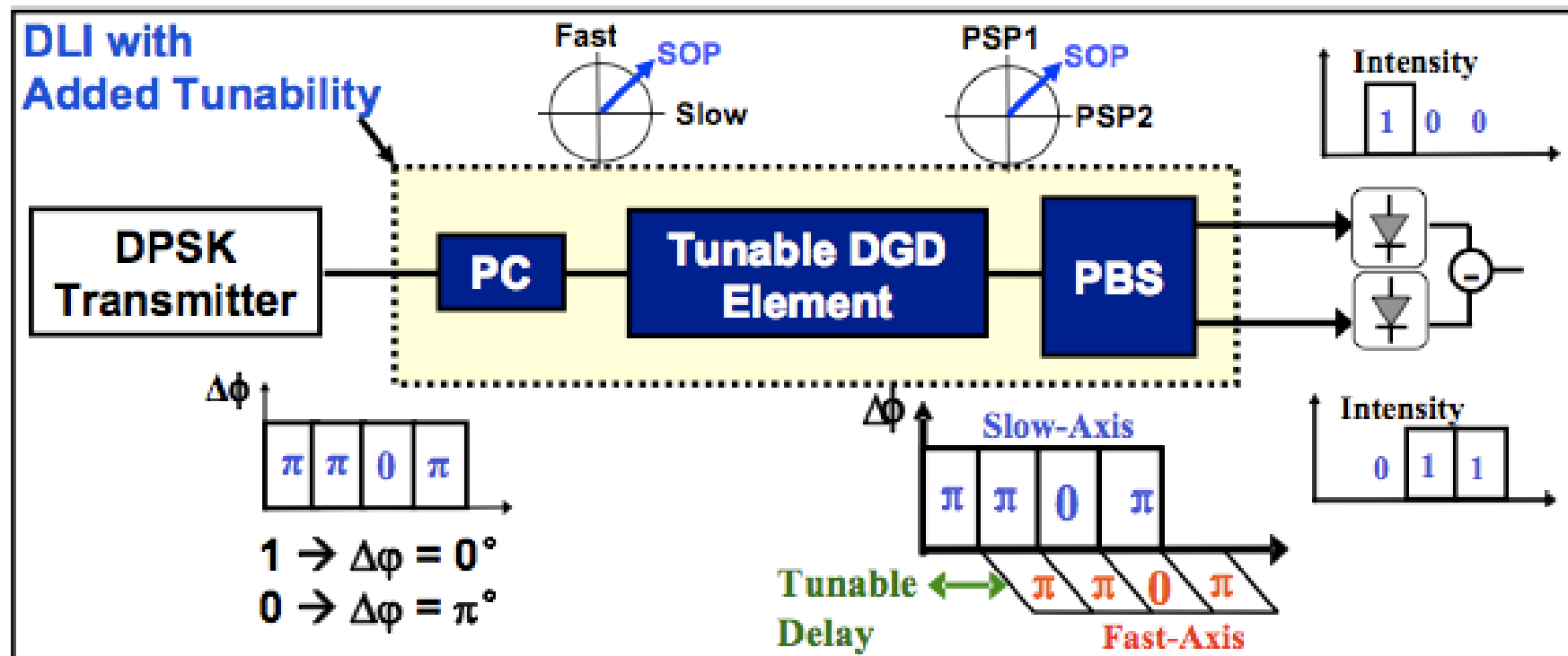
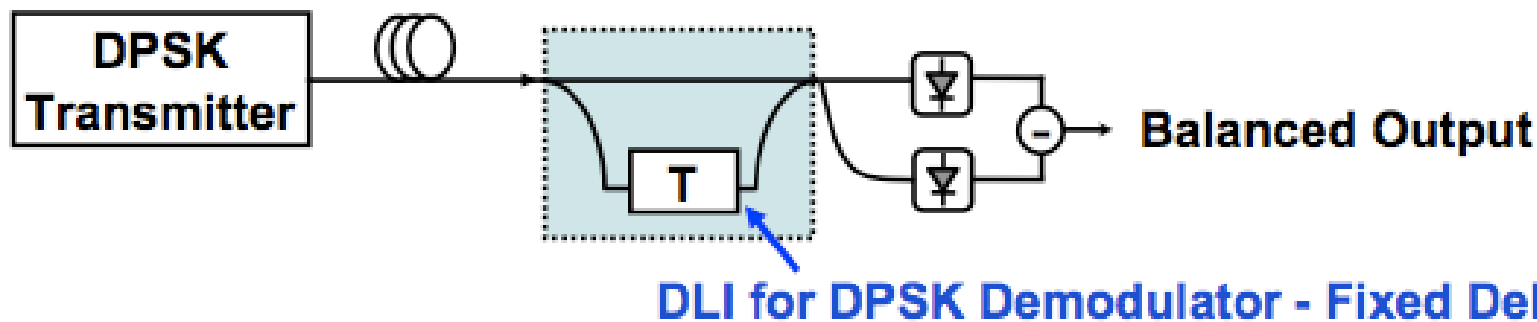
Principle: Parametric Depletion



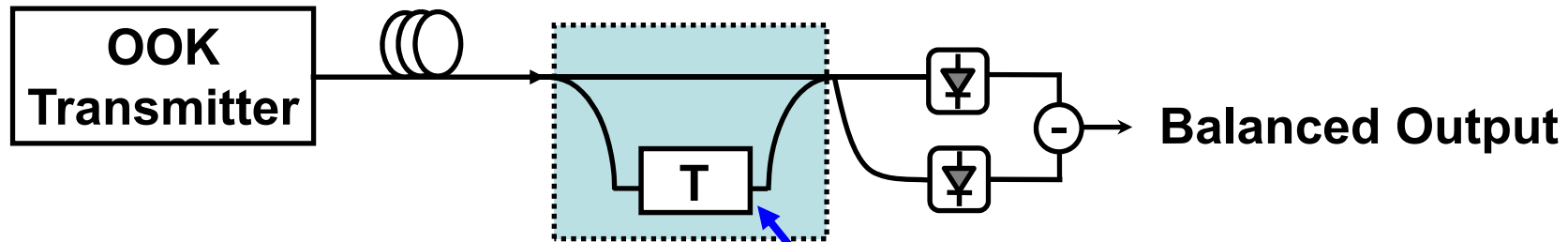
10-Gbit/s Exchange (Waveform)



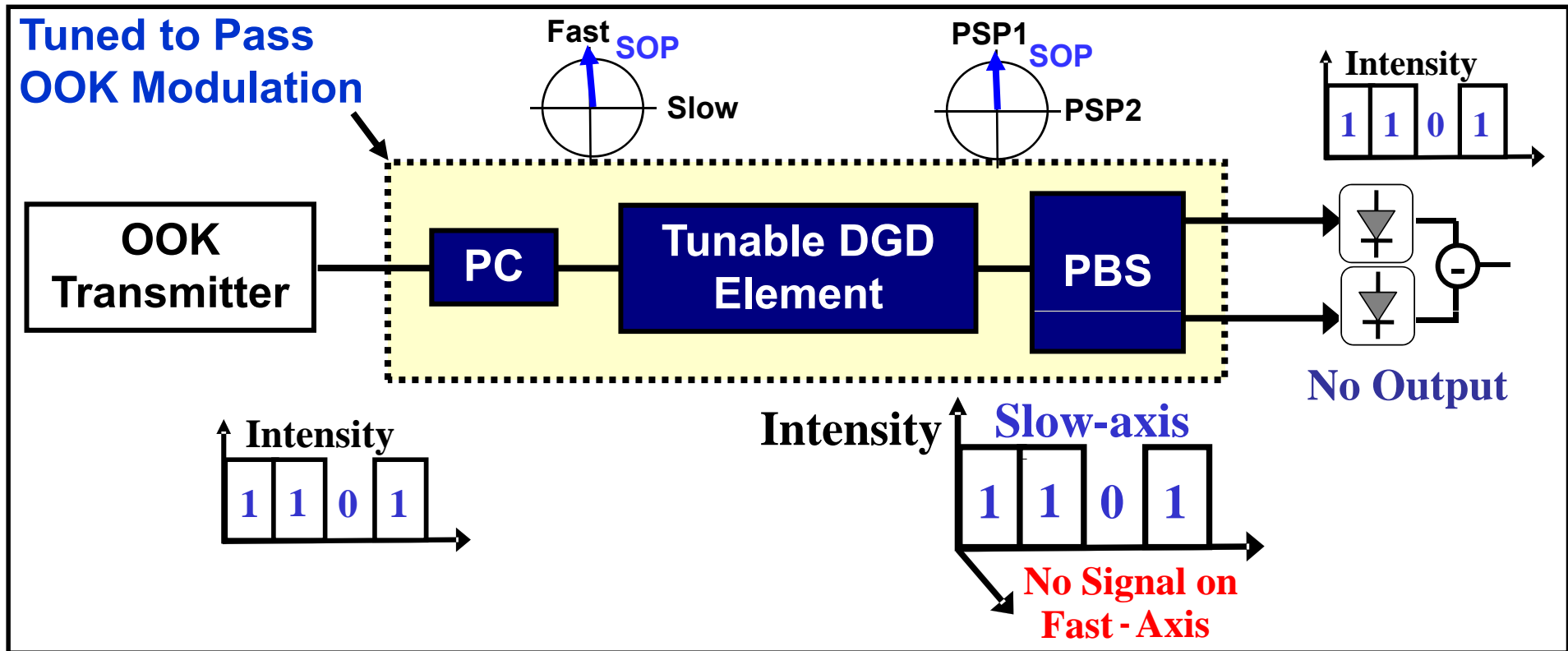
Multi-Rate, Multi-Format Receiver Design



Multi-Rate, Multi-Format Receiver Design



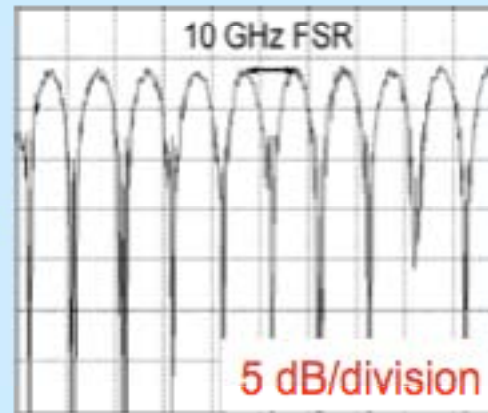
DLI Unable to Pass Intensity Modulation



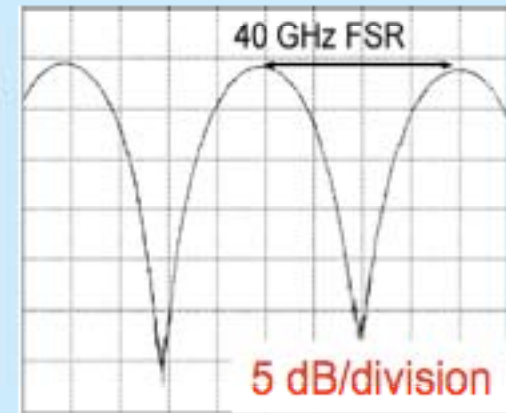
Multi-Rate, Multi-Format Receiver Design

- Transmission responses of the interferometer tuned to receive different bit rates

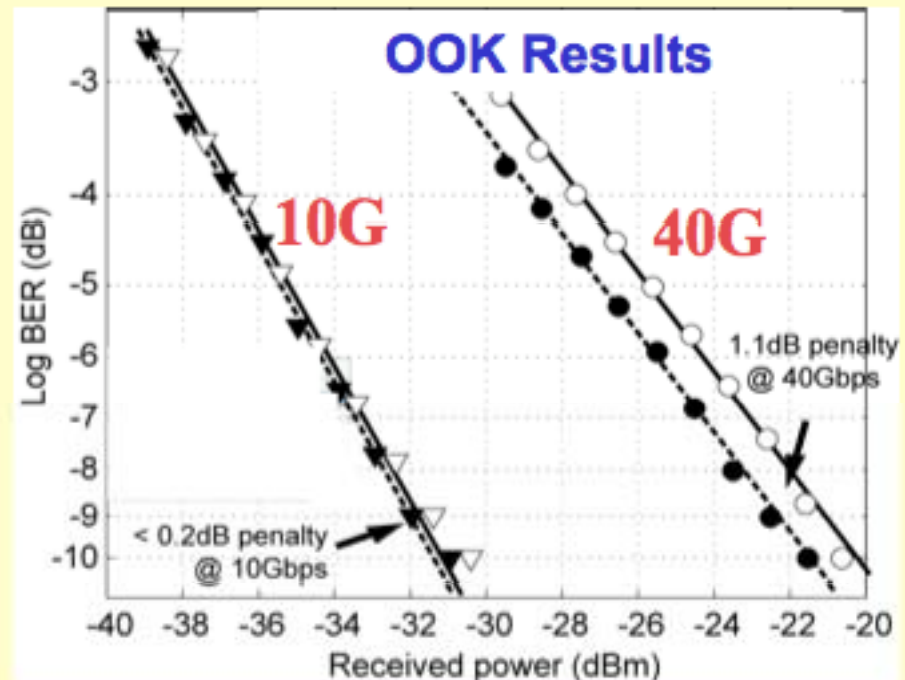
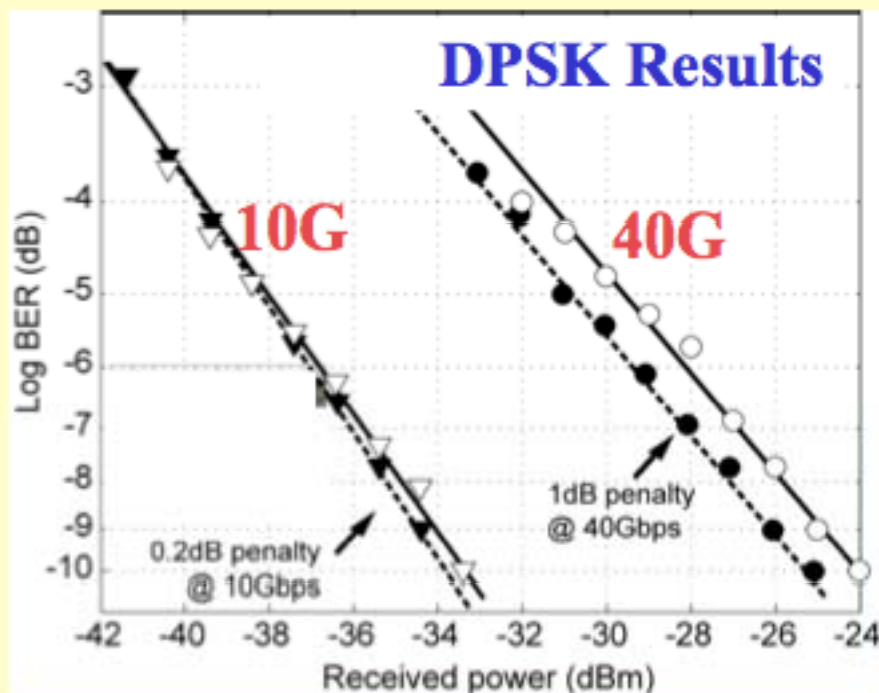
(Desired FSR \rightarrow Bit Rate)



10GHz FSR for 100ps DGD

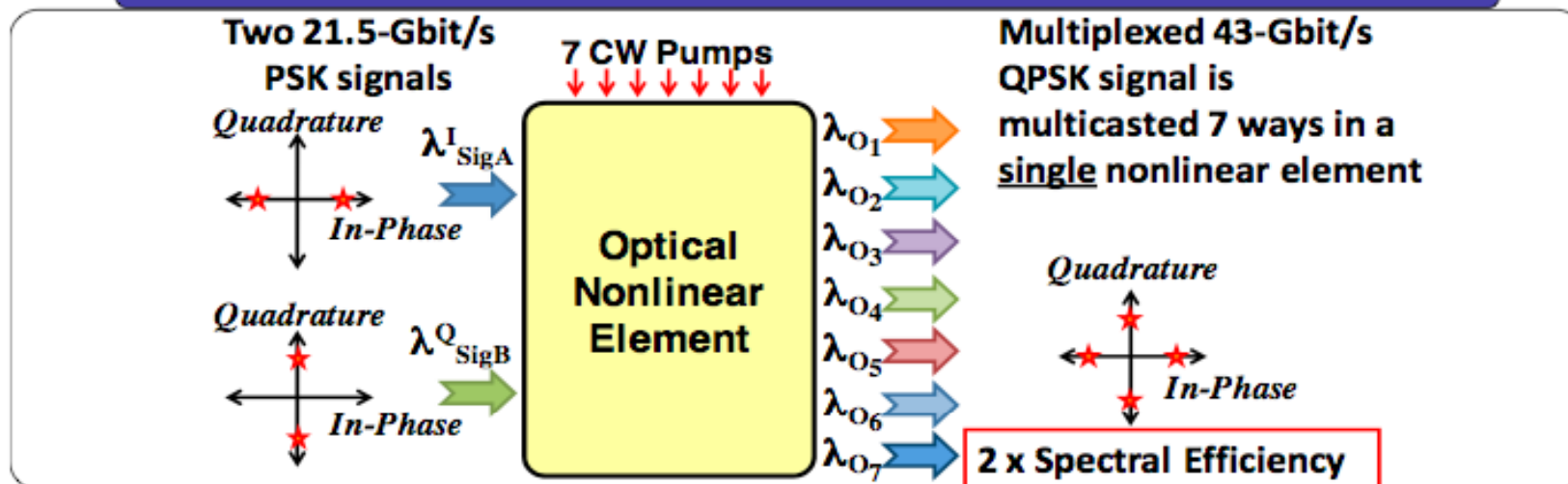


40GHz FSR for 25ps DGD



D.2. DQPSK Multiplexing and Multicasting

Simultaneous Multiplexing/Multicasting



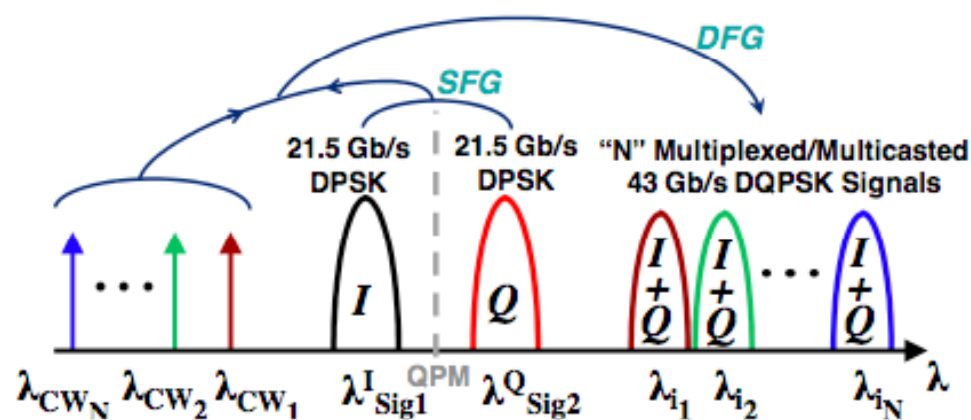
$$E_{i,N} \sim E_{Sig1} \times E_{Sig2} \times E_{CW,N}^*$$

$$\phi_{i,N} \sim \phi_{Sig1} + \phi_{Sig2} - \phi_{CW,N}$$

Phase of the output idler is a linear combination of the phase of the two pumps and the dummy CW lasers.

SFG: Sum Frequency Generation

DFG: Difference Frequency Generation



O. Yilmaz, et. al, OFC 2009, OThM4

QuickTime?and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Outline

1. Overarching Perspective

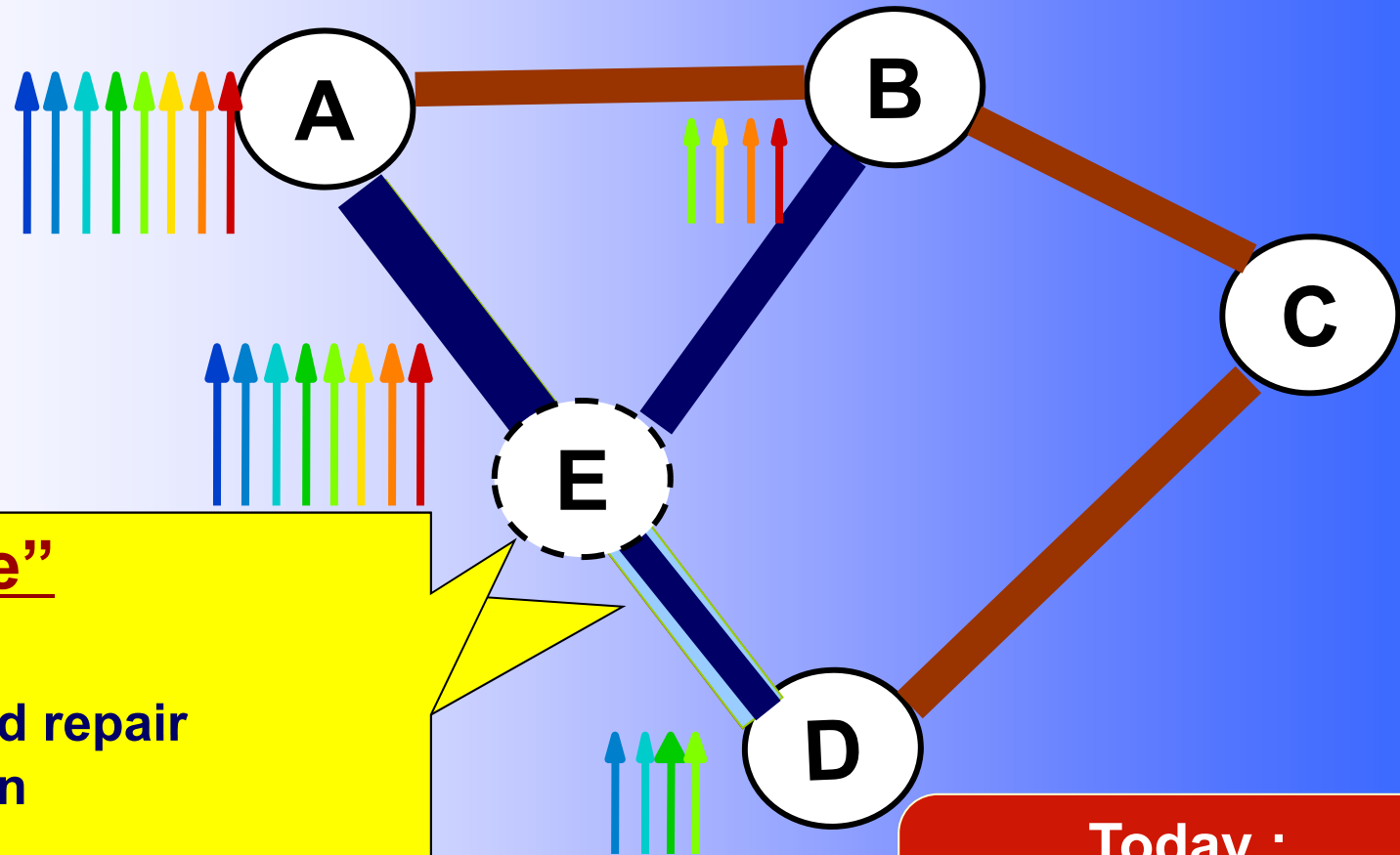
2. Heterogeneity & Grooming

 3. Optical Performance Monitoring

4. Optical Signal Processing

Think “wireless laptop LAN” ...

Self-Managed Networks



“Adaptive”

Resources

- Diagnose and repair
- BW allocation
- Gain/Loss
- Dispersion Compensation
- λ -Routing
- Look-up tables

Today :
Measure, Make,
Tweak, Pray.

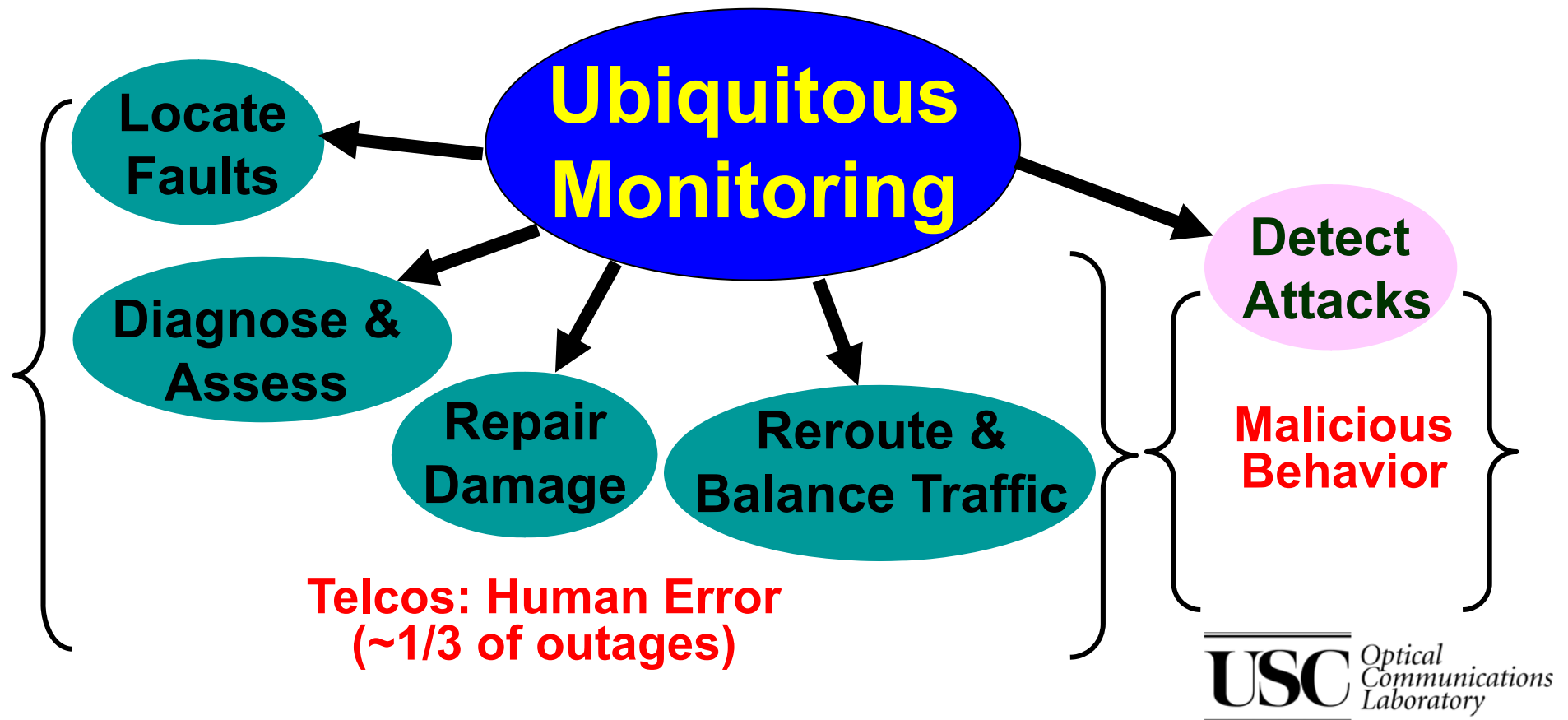
Automation + Intelligence + Monitoring

Keep the person out of the loop

Monitoring the State of the Network

Window of operability is shrinking → Monitoring is required

- Monitor non-catastrophic data degradation
- Isolate specific impairments
- Ubiquitous deployment
- Graceful routing based on physical state of network?



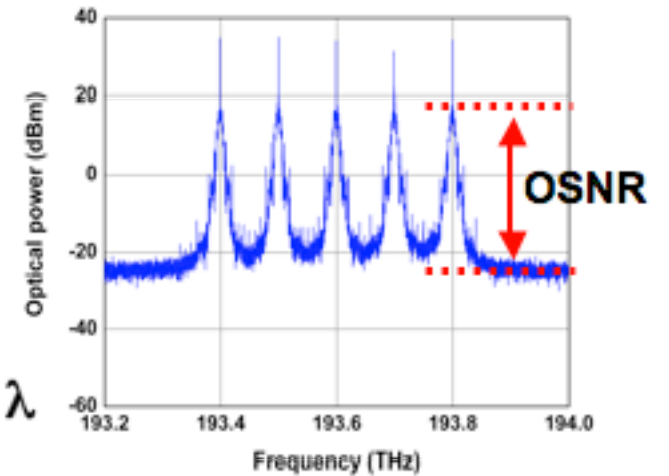
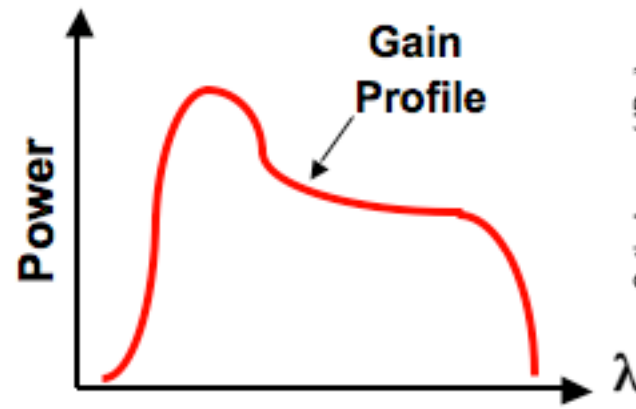
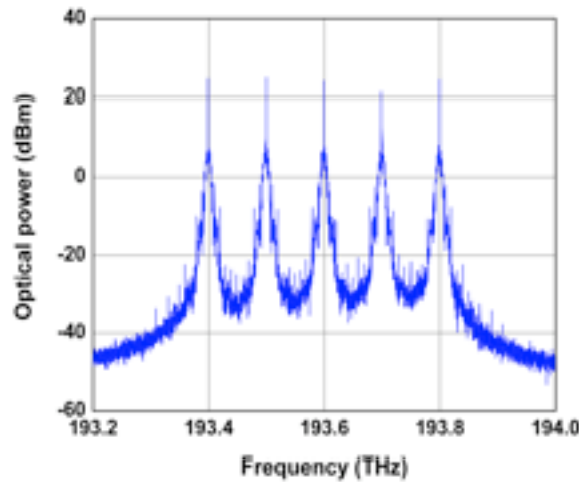
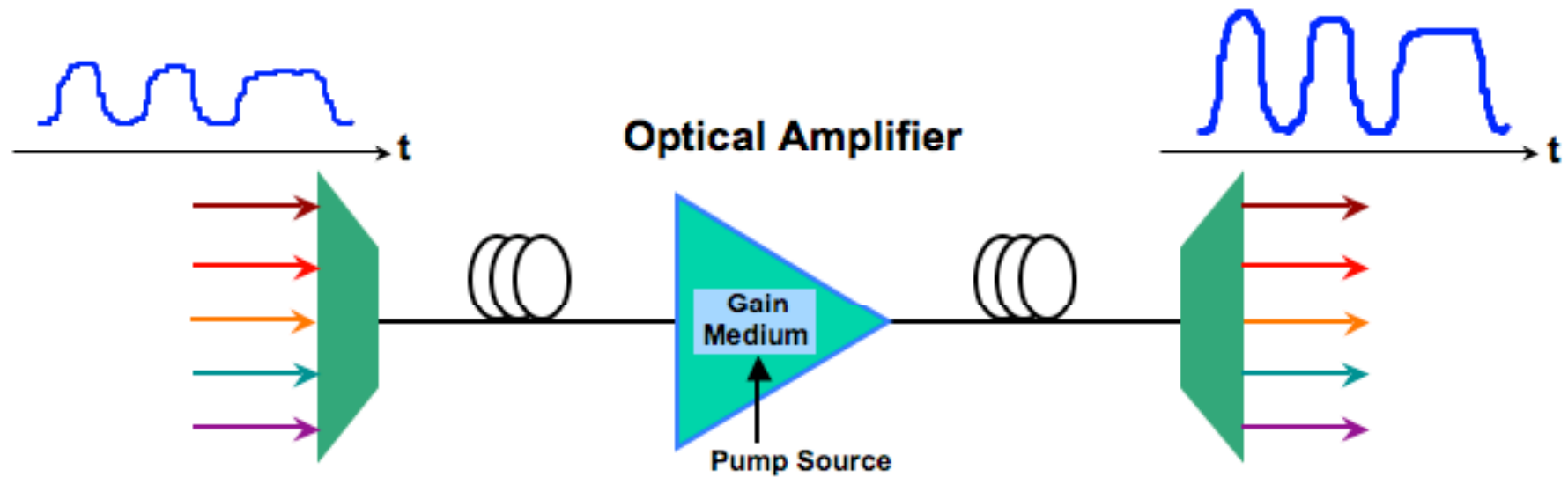
Monitoring for an Efficient Network

Robert Shapiro, former Undersecretary of Commerce:

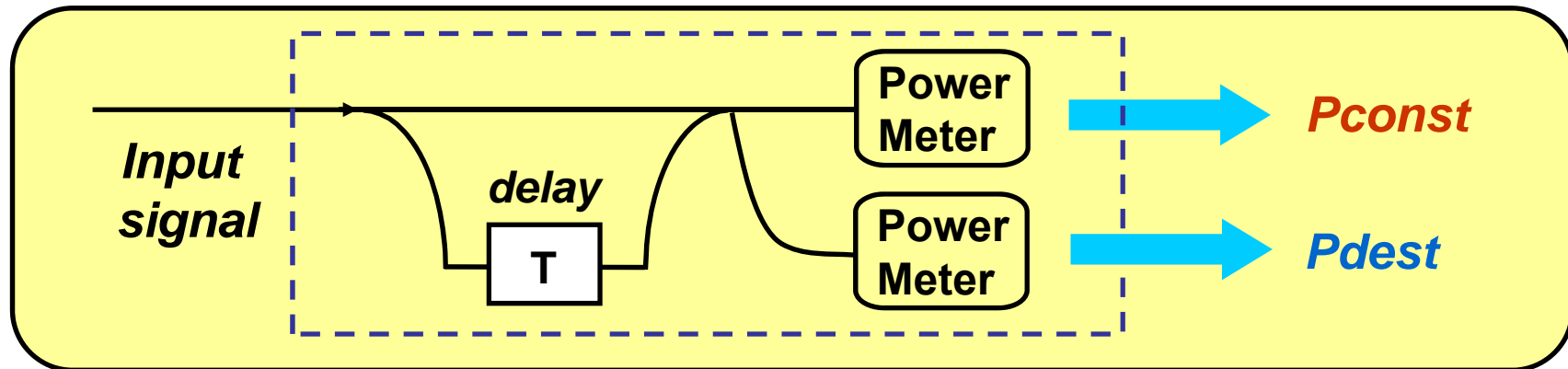
“Accommodating the fast-rising demands on bandwidth will require a significant acceleration in industry investments – totaling \$300 billion to \$1 trillion for the US”.

- ✓ **Operate closer to the “red line”.**
- ✓ **Less need to over-build.**
- ✓ **Decrease mean-time-to-failure.**
- ✓ **Decrease mean-time-to-repair.**
- ✓ **Decrease human error.**

Optical Signal-to-Noise Ratio



OSNR Monitoring for Multiple Modulation Formats

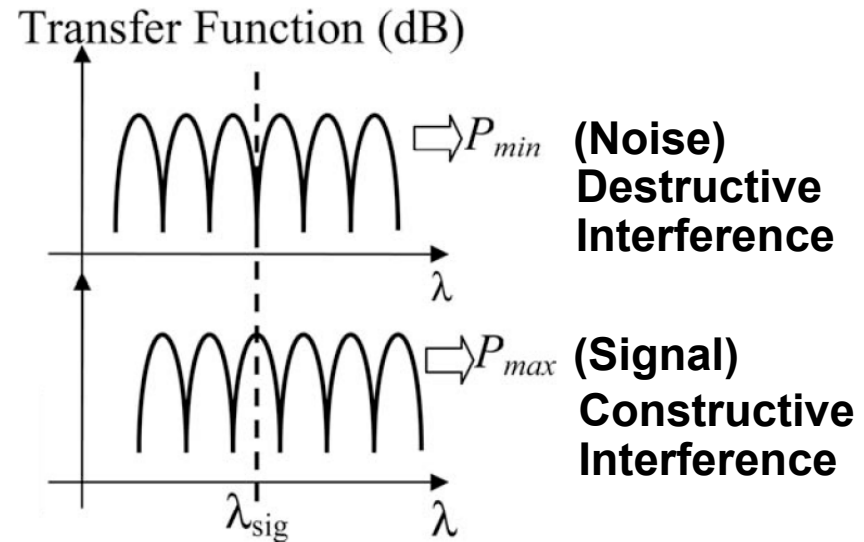
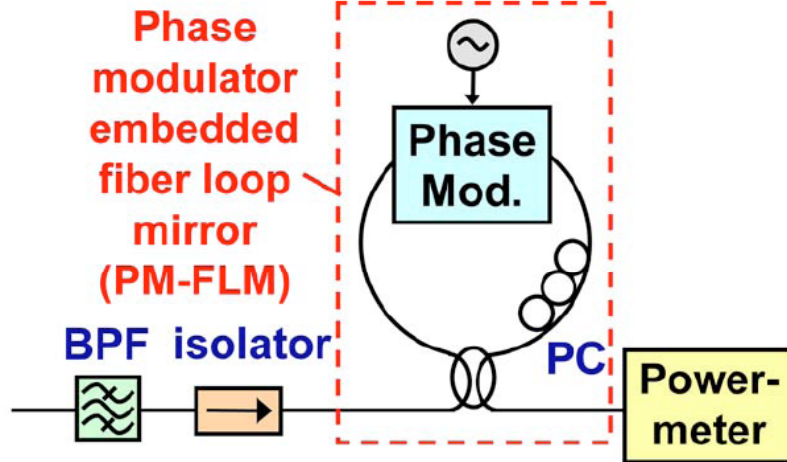


Signal has coherent interference, noise doesn't

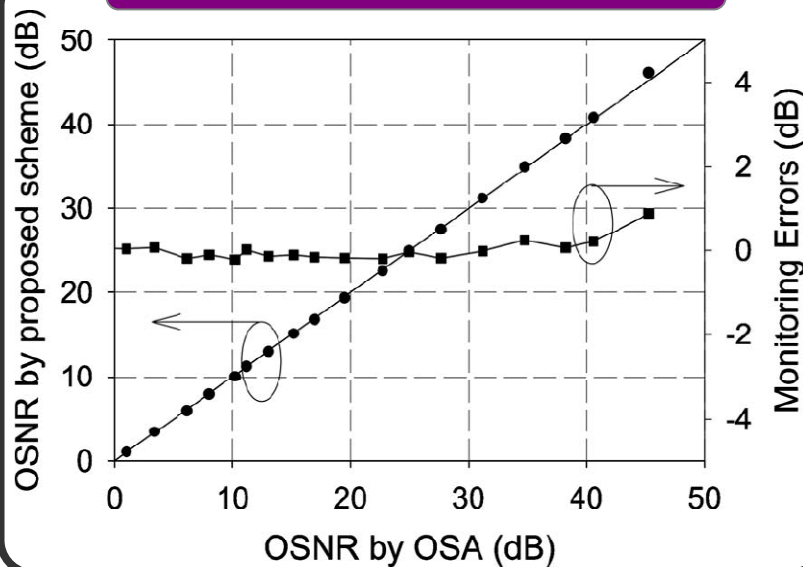
$$Ratio = \frac{\left(\frac{3}{4} P_{signal} + \frac{1}{2} P_{noise}\right)}{\left(\frac{1}{4} P_{signal} + \frac{1}{2} P_{noise}\right)}$$

- Using partial bit delay-line Interferometer (DLI)
- OSNR is proportional to the **Ratio (= P_{const} / P_{dest})**
- Applicable to OOK, DPSK data

In-Band OSNR Monitoring

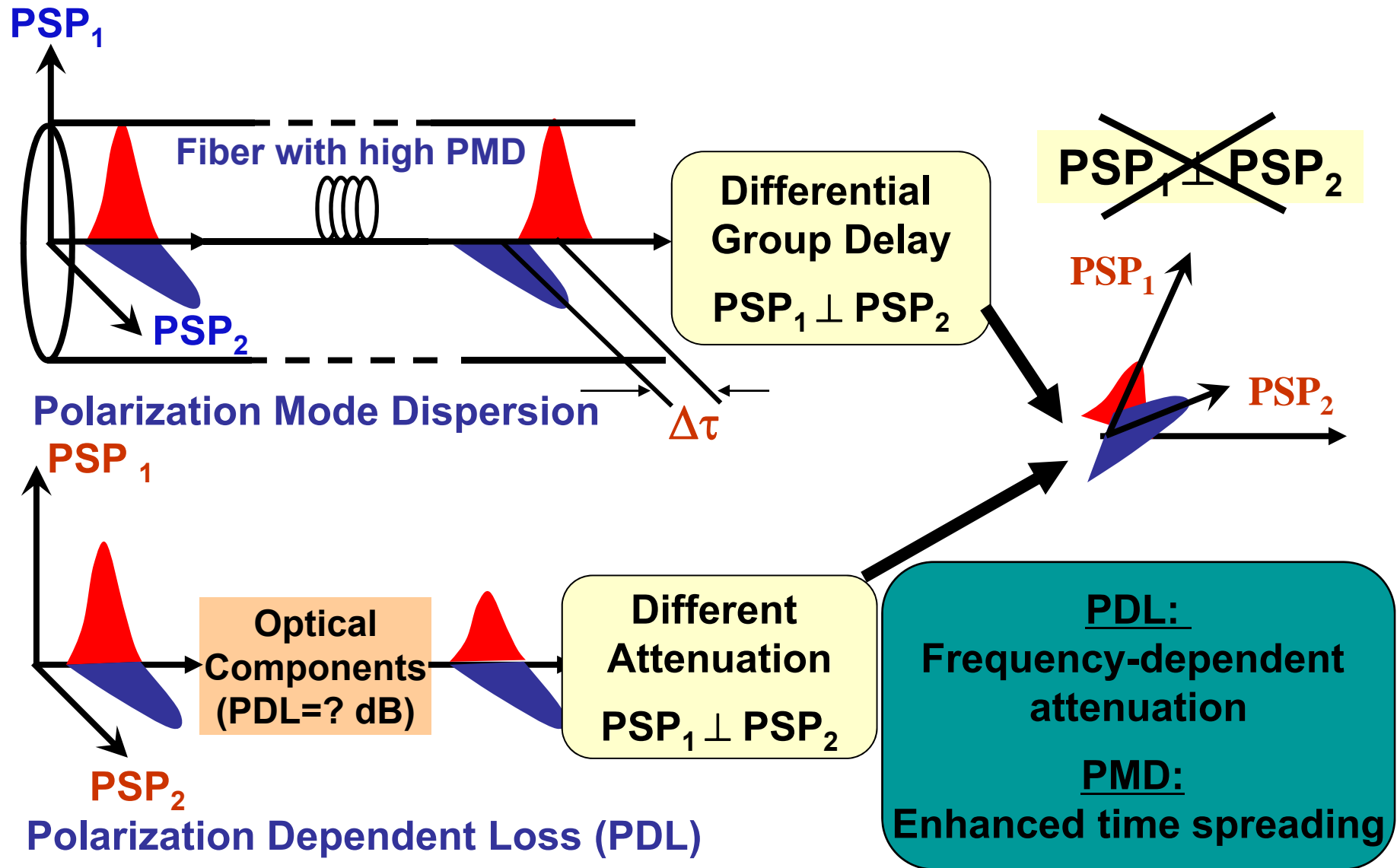


Monitoring Results



- ❑ Noise: incoherent
- ❑ Phase Modulator: introduces intrinsic birefringence inside the loop
- ❑ Altering the voltage of phase modulator shifts the transfer function
- ❑ Constructive interference: signal is extracted
- ❑ Destructive interference: noise level is extracted

Combined Effects of PMD and PDL

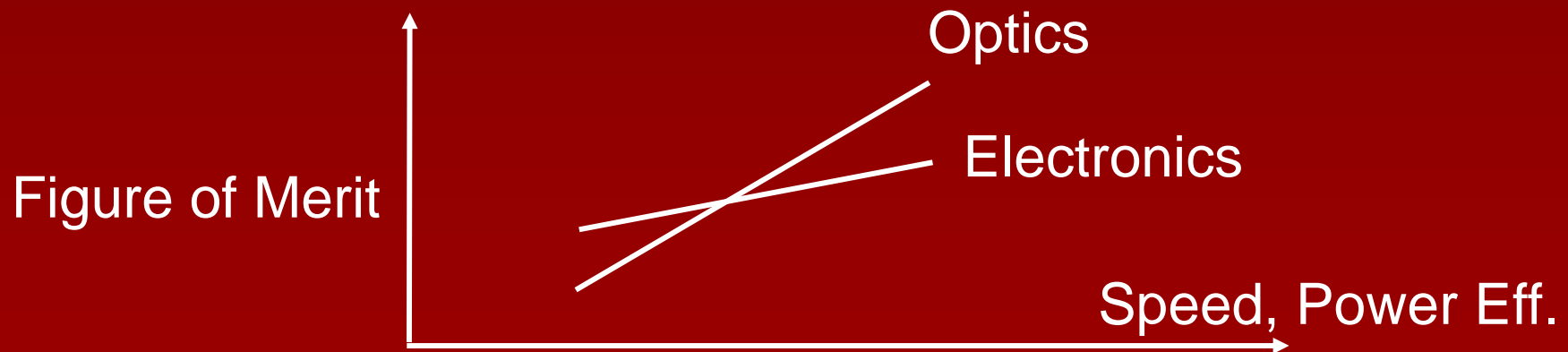


Outline

1. Overarching Perspective
2. Heterogeneity & Grooming
3. Optical Performance Monitoring
-  4. Optical Signal Processing

Where, O' where, is the cross-over point?

- The assumption is that optics should be better than electronics for speed & power efficiency.
- Depends on the “function” (simple & fast).
- Is now the time for on-chip interconnections and signal processing applications?

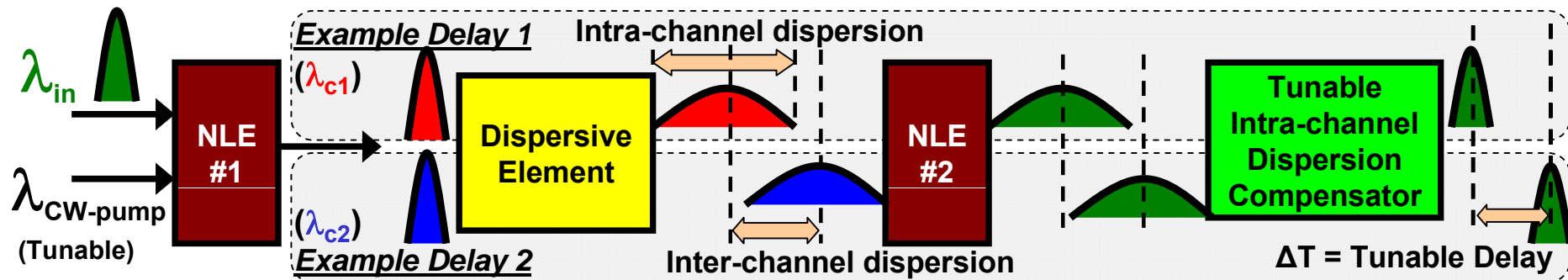


**Please tell me,
where's your pain?**

***(even muxing at 100G in
electronics)***

Continuously & Widely Tunable Delays

Use wideband, low-noise optical nonlinearities to achieve dramatic increases in continuously tunable delays for very high bit rate signals.



λ -conversion via first nonlinear element (NLE) (pump determines λ_c)

Desired delay is selected through tuning of $\lambda_{CW-pump}$

λ -conversion back to λ_{in} via second nonlinear element (NLE)

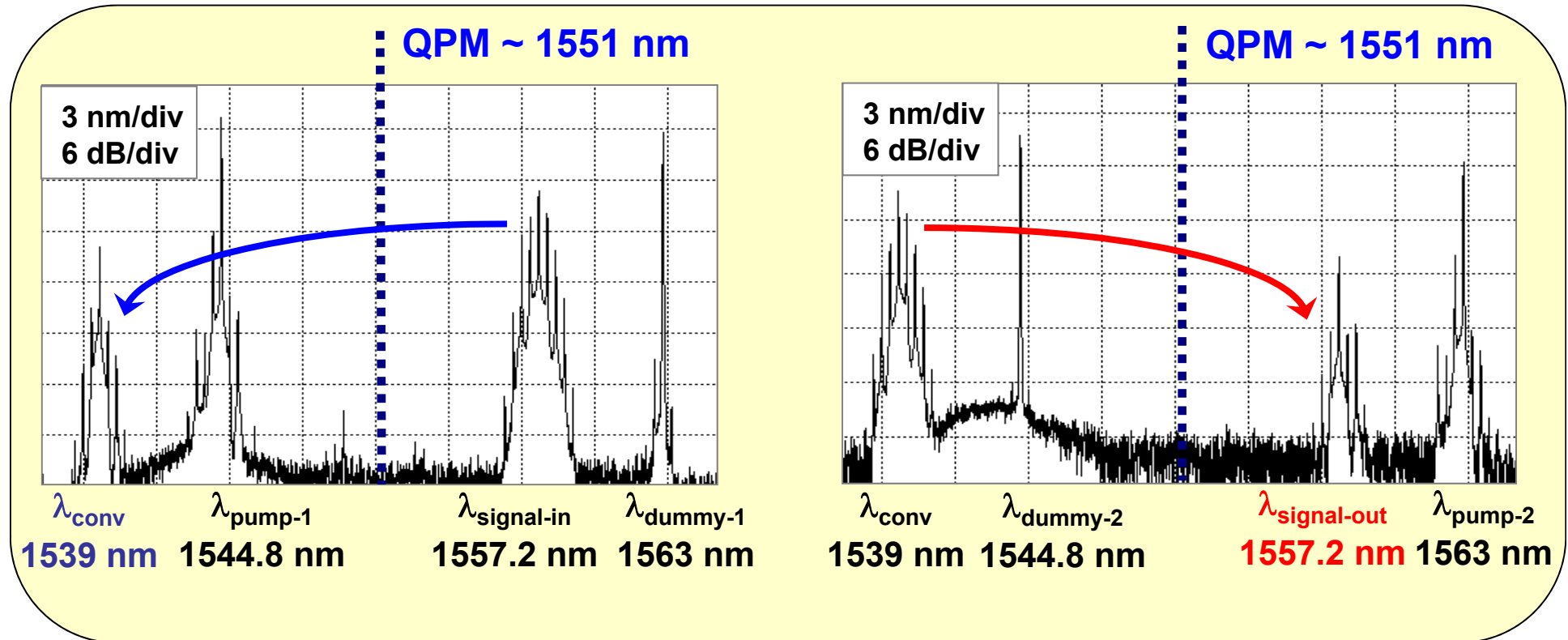
Time delay depends on relative inter-channel dispersion

PPLN: Conversion Spectra

λ -Conversion Stage 1

Dispersion

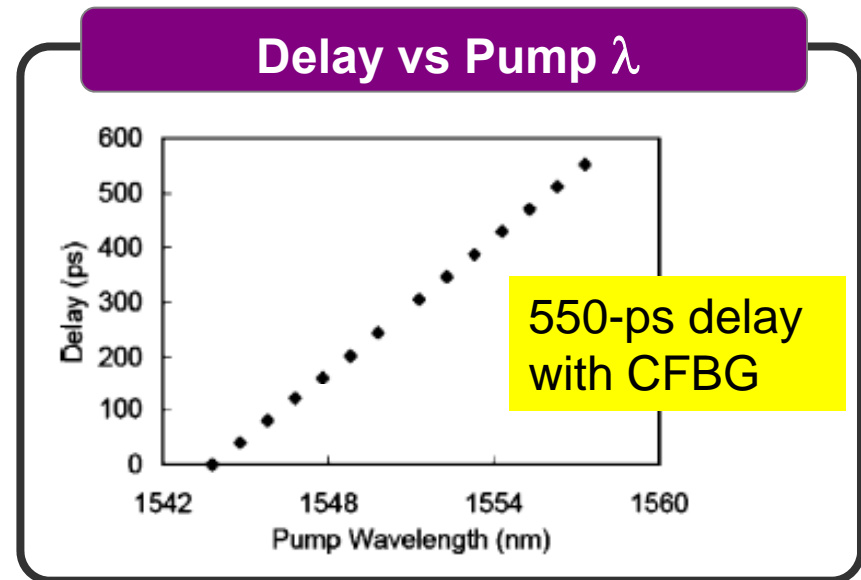
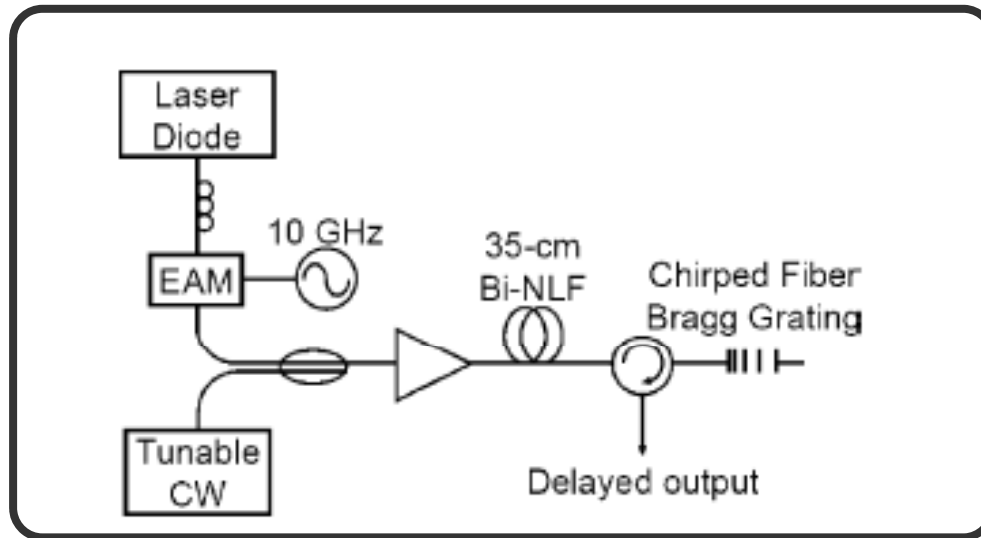
λ -Conversion Stage 2



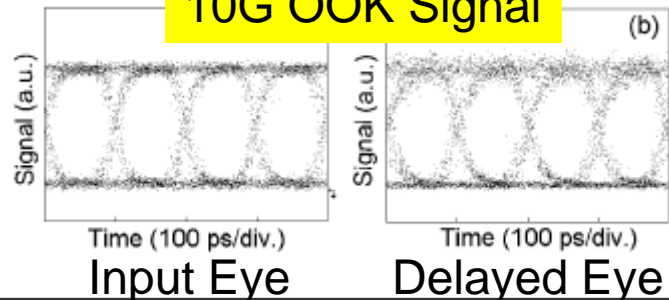
➤ Approximately -12 dB conversion efficiency in both stages

➤ Converted signals in both stages above ASE noise floor

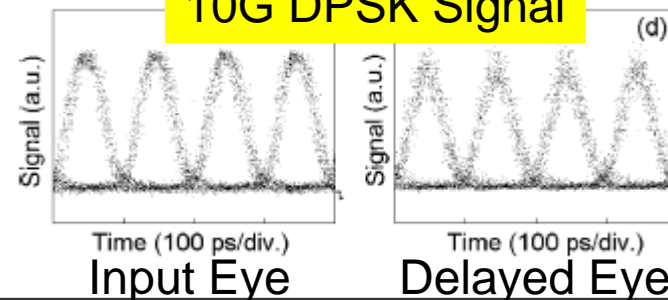
(L. Christen, et. al., Optics Letters 2008)



10G OOK Signal

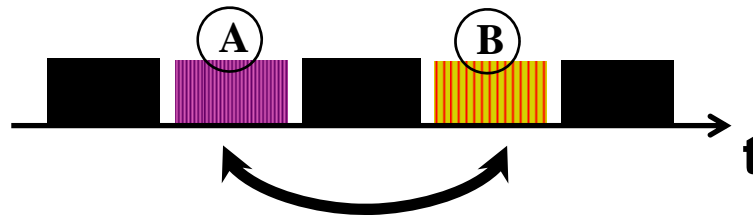


10G DPSK Signal



- ❑ Bismuth oxide HNLF and chirped fiber Bragg gratings result in **small footprint**.
- ❑ By using four wave mixing in Bi-HNLF, **modulation-format transparency** is achieved in the all-optical delay module.
- ❑ < 3.5 dB power penalty demonstrated for both OOK and DPSK signals

- ❖ Manipulation of time domain data (bit/packet swapping) can mitigate output port contention and may improve network efficiency.
- ❖ 20 packets, 500 bits/packet, 40-Gbit/s = 25 ns



Intercchanger swaps packets A & B

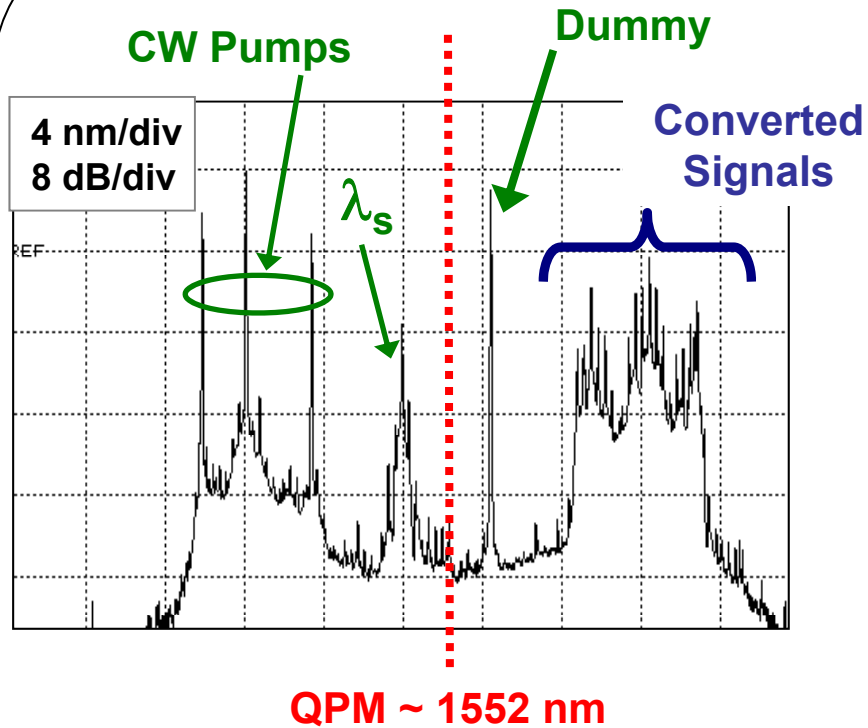
➤ Desirable Features for Intercchanger:

- Multi-rate and -format handling capability
- Ability to handle variable packet size
- Input/output wavelength independent
- Non-discrete set of delay values

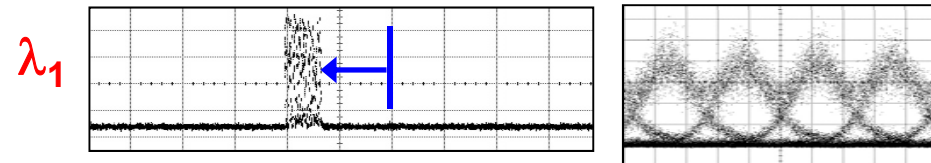
Experimental Results at 40-Gb/s

(O. Yilmaz, et al, Optics Letters, 2008)

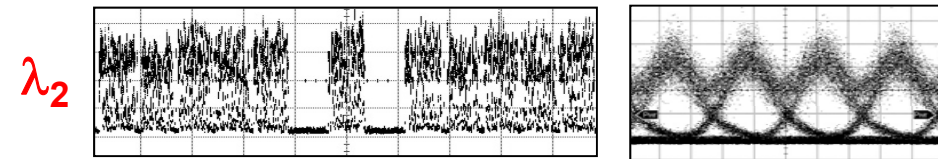
Wavelength Conversion via SFG/DFG in PPLN



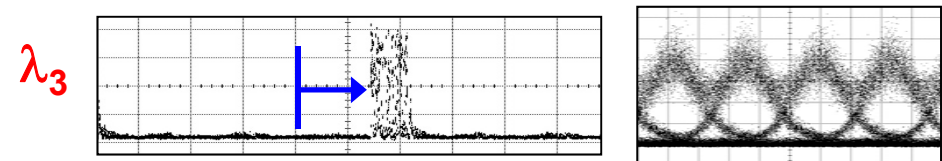
Packet "A" Advanced 2 packets (+9.1 ns)



All Packets, Except A & B → Reference (0.0 ns)

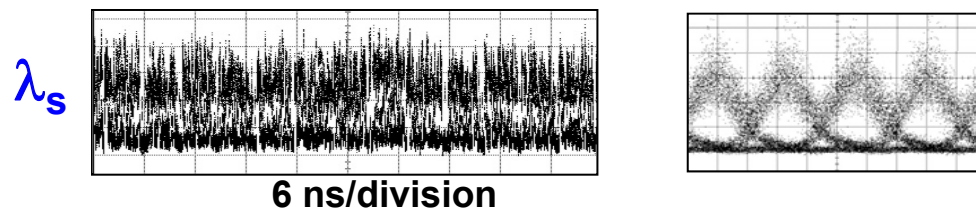


Only Packet "B" Delayed 2 Packets (-9.1 ns)



6 ns/division

Output Multiplexed Signal After Dispersion Compensation



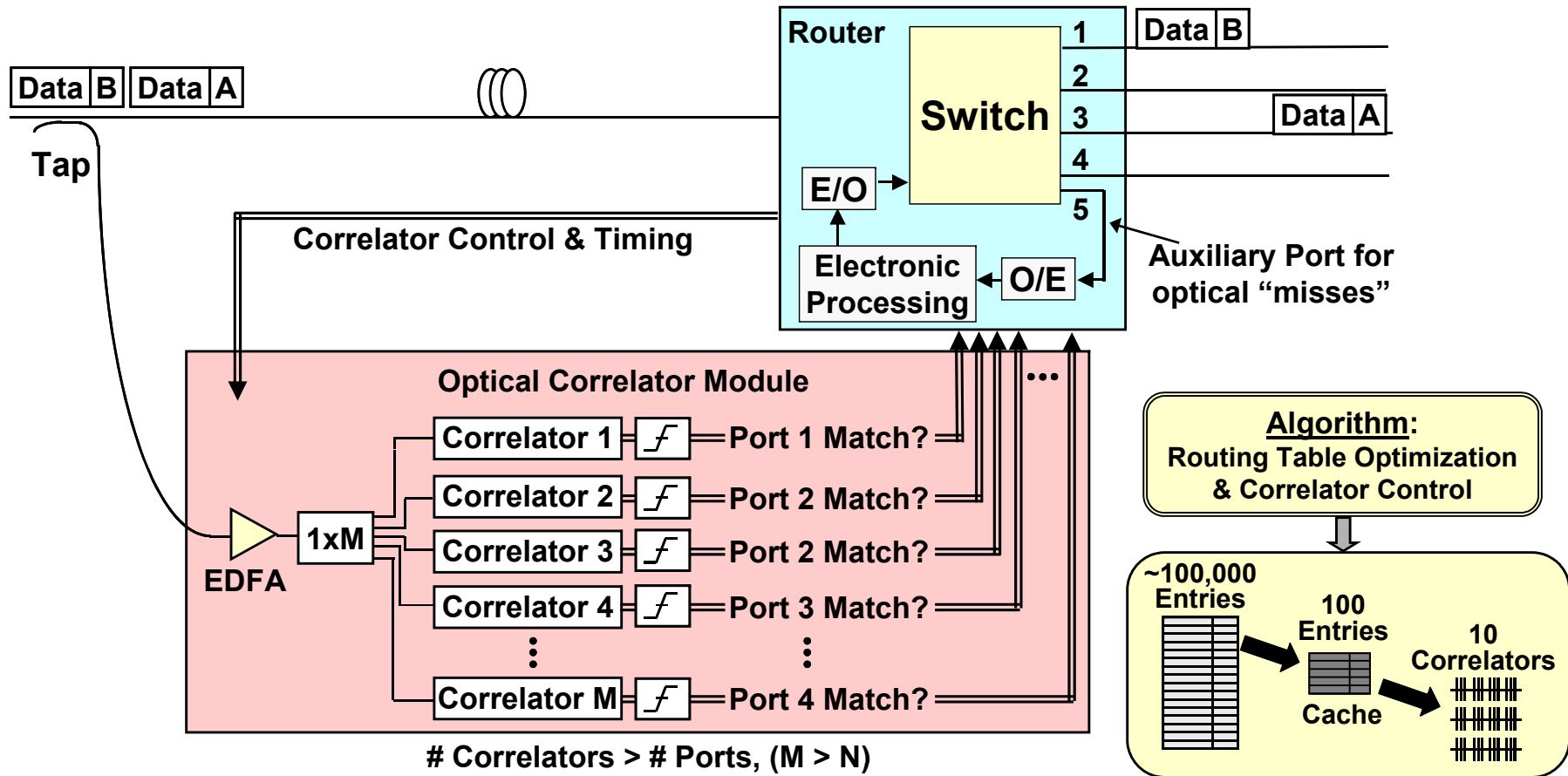
(A and B packets swapped)

QuickTime?and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

QuickTime?and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

QuickTime?and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Correlators for Boosting Internet Routing Capabilities



Implement a subset of the routing table creating an "optical bypass" to route the most common packet headers optically

If you can't measure it, you can't experiment and make progress.

Whither 100-Gbit/s?

Use nonlinearities to ...

Photrix, Picosolve, etc.

QuickTime?and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

QuickTime?and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

QuickTime?and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

The Power of Photonics: Greener & Healthier

Bosons & Waves: $A\cos(\omega t + \phi)$

- High energy can be directed with very low loss.
 - ✓ *Ex.: lighting, manufacturing, displays, solar energy, fusion, transmission, medical treatment, fabrication, defense, low power consumption.*
- Many different wave properties (i.e., degrees-of-freedom) can be manipulated.
 - ✓ *Encode amplitude, frequency, phase, polarization, direction.*
 - ✓ *Ex.: communications, sensing, information processing, computing, data storage, security.*
- Coherent waves have unparalleled accuracy, speed & dynamic range.
 - ✓ *Ex.: medical diagnostics, clocks, imaging, spectroscopy, instrumentation, reconfigurable/flexible systems, fundamental physical processes, ultrafast/ultrastable probing.*

Compelling Issues Necessitating a Study

- **Orders-of-magnitude growth in technical performance.**
 - ✓ *Ex.: Clocks, communications, medical diagnostics, storage, energy density.*
 - ✓ *Optics has enjoyed Moore's Law-like growth but also has fundamental limits that must be attacked.*
- **Optics has cemented itself as a transformative, enabling technology affecting many aspects of society.**
 - ✓ *Ex.: Social penetration of the Internet.*
 - ✓ *Optics is critically important in healthy economic times and, potentially, even more important in a difficult economy (i.e., telepresence, telecommuting, etc.)- Nortel, Metro Networks.*
 - ✓ Yet *optics is viewed as an exotic, non-robust technology.*

Summary

- ✓ **Photonics might dramatically change the cost, robustness, functionality and performance of communication systems.**
- ✓ **A force-multiplier is to enable a “function” rather than simply replace a device 1-for-1.**
- ✓ **There are a rich set of research problems that must be pursued to herald this vision.**

Bit-Rate Distance Product

