

Effect of Length and Apodization on Fiber Bragg Grating Characteristics

Rakesh Kumar Gumasta, Dr. Anubhuti Khare

Abstract— Fiber gratings have a growing impact on the fiber optic communication industry. The simulation result of the reflectance of the uniform and apodized fiber bragg grating (FBG) are presented. Various apodization technique is useful to reduce secondary lobes or side lobes of reflection spectrum of fibre bragg grating. The effect of FBG length and apodization profile are presented

Index Terms— Fiber Bragg Grating (FBG) , Optical add drop multiplexer (OADM) , Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing (DWDM), Optical circulator (OC) ,

1 INTRODUCTION

Fiber Bragg Gratings (FBGs) are most commonly used as wavelength selective reflector. Fiber Bragg gratings are spectral filters based on the principle of Bragg reflection. They typically reflect light over a narrow wavelength range and transmit all other wavelengths. When light propagates by periodically alternating regions of higher and lower refractive index, it is partially reflected at each interface between those regions. If the pitch of the grating is properly designed, then all partial reflections add up in phase and can grow to nearly 100%, for a specific wavelength even if the individual reflections are very small. The condition for high reflection is known as Bragg condition. For all other wavelengths the out of phase reflections end up cancelling each other, resulting in high transmission. Fiber grating can be classified into two types.

First one is Bragg Grating and another is Transmission Grating. Bragg grating favors coupling between travelling in opposite directions. They are also called reflection gratings or short-period gratings. On the other hand, in transmission gratings, coupling occurs between modes travelling in the same direction. Transmission gratings are also referred to as long period gratings.

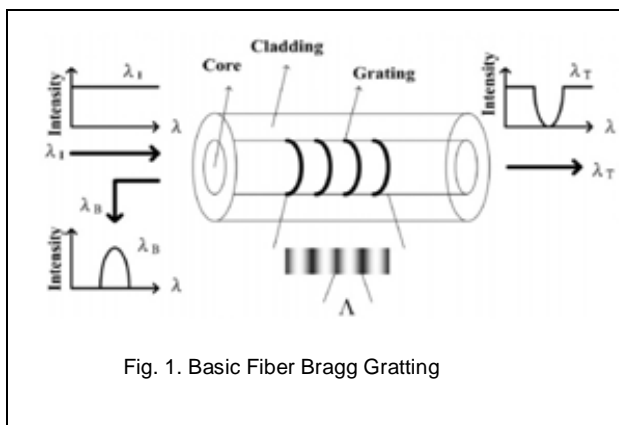


Fig. 1. Basic Fiber Bragg Grating

The reflected wavelength is mainly determined by the period of the grating. Most common applications of fiber gratings in fiber optic communications are as add-drop filters in WDM systems, gain flatteners and pump stabilizers for EDFA's, wavelength selective reflectors for Raman amplifiers, Dispersion compensators for long-haul systems, encoder for CDMA systems.

2 THEORY

There are various methods available to solve the field relations numerically inside gratings in order to calculate the reflection and transmission spectra of fiber Bragg gratings. The well-known methods include:

- The transfer matrix method.
- Rouard's method.
- The Gel'Fand -Levitan-Marchenko inverse scattering method.
- The Bloch theory method.
- Numerical integration to solve the coupled-mode equations

2.1 Coupled Mode Theory

For Fiber gratings allow considerable energy exchange between two or more fiber modes. The phase matching between different modes is achieved by the periodicity of the index change; the amplitude of modulation of index change, the average refractive index, and the period of the perturbation fully characterize a grating. These parameters can vary along the length of a grating, and they determine the frequency spectrum of the grating.

In the presence of a periodic perturbation of the refractive index, the wavelength for which the coupling between two modes is maximized is given by the following resonance condition:

$$\beta_1 - \beta_2 = m \frac{2\pi}{\Lambda} \quad (1)$$

- Author Rakesh Kumar Gumasta is currently pursuing masters degree program in digital communication from UIT- RGPV-Bhopal ,India, Mob-9893783704. E-mail: rakeshgumasta44@gmail.com
- Co-Author name is Dr. Anubhuti Khare Associate Professor in Electronics and communication department, UIT- RGPV,Bhopal,India. E-mail: anubhutikhare@mail.com

Where β_1 and β_2 are the propagation constants of the two modes, and Λ is the period of the index modulation. In a fiber bragg grating the first order diffraction usually dominates, so we can consider that $m=1$. By considering β_2 is less than 0 and by assuming that the two modes are identical i.e. $\beta_1 = -\beta_2$, we get the resonant wavelength for bragg reflection

$$\lambda_D = 2n_{eff}\Lambda \quad (2)$$

Coupled mode theory is considered to be a good approach to calculate the spectral response of bragg gratings. Let us consider two identical modes propagating in opposite directions through a bragg grating, and denote them $Ae^{+i\beta z}$ and $Be^{-i\beta z}$. Due to the periodic refractive index perturbation, the coupling coefficient will have a "DC" (period-averaged) component, and an "ac component"

$$c(z) = \sigma(z) + 2\kappa(z)\cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{\Lambda}z\right) \quad (3)$$

where

$$\sigma(z) = \frac{\omega}{c} \frac{\int_0^a \int_0^a \delta n_{co}(z) \Psi^2 dx dy}{\int_0^a \int_0^a \Psi^2 dx dy}$$

$$\kappa(z) = \frac{v}{2} \sigma(z)$$

Ψ is the transverse profile of the identical modes. a is the core radius of the fiber.

The presence of the periodic index perturbation causes the two modes to be coupled such that their amplitudes A and B will vary along the propagation axis (z -axis) as follows:

$$\frac{dA}{dz} = i\sigma A + i\kappa B e^{-i(2\beta - \frac{2\pi}{\Lambda})z} \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{dB}{dz} = -i\sigma B - i\kappa A e^{+i(2\beta - \frac{2\pi}{\Lambda})z} \quad (5)$$

We can define the detuning δ to be

$$\delta = 2\pi n_{eff} \left(\frac{1}{\lambda} - \frac{1}{\lambda_D} \right) \quad (6)$$

Let us introduce another "dc" self-coupling coefficient:

$$\hat{\sigma} = \sigma + \sigma = \beta \left(1 + \frac{\delta n_{co}}{n_{eff}} \right) - \frac{\pi}{\Lambda} \quad (7)$$

It is also useful to introduce this substitution

$$A(z) = R(z)e^{-i\delta z} \quad (8)$$

$$B(z) = S(z)e^{+i\delta z} \quad (9)$$

To solve this system, a new substitution is required:

$$R(z) = r(z)e^{+i\delta z} \quad (10)$$

$$S(z) = s(z)e^{-i\delta z} \quad (11)$$

Which gives the following system:

$$\frac{dr}{dz} = i\kappa s(z)e^{-i2\delta z} \quad (12)$$

$$\frac{ds}{dz} = -i\kappa r(z)e^{+i2\delta z} \quad (13)$$

By solving the equation (8) and (9) and by passing the conditions $A(0) = r(0) = 1$ and $B(L) = s(L) = 0$, we obtain the amplitude and power reflection coefficients ρ and R

$$\rho = \frac{B(0)}{A(0)} = \frac{s(0)}{r(0)} = \frac{-\kappa \sinh(\Omega L)}{\delta \sinh(\Omega L) + i\Omega \cosh(\Omega L)} \quad (14)$$

$$R = |\rho|^2 = \frac{\sinh^2(\Omega L)}{\cosh^2(\Omega L) - \frac{\delta^2}{\kappa^2}} \quad (15)$$

Where $\Omega = \sqrt{\kappa^2 - \delta^2}$.

Given the fact that for most applications single-mode fiber is used, it is useful to calculate the coupling coefficient for a Bragg grating coupling the mode LP_{01} to the opposite propagating mode LP_{01} :

$$\sigma = \frac{2\pi}{\Lambda} \frac{\delta n_{co} \Gamma}{\delta n_{eff}} = \frac{2\pi}{\Lambda} \frac{\delta n_{eff}}{\delta n_{eff}} \quad (16)$$

$$\kappa = \frac{\pi}{\Lambda} v \delta n_{eff} \quad (17)$$

where $\delta n_{eff} = \Gamma \delta n_{co}$ and Γ is the confinement factor of the mode.

Maximum reflectivity R_{max} for a bragg grating:

$$R_{max} = \tanh^2(\kappa L) \quad (18)$$

At the wavelength

$$\lambda_{max} = \left(1 + \frac{\delta n_{eff}}{n_{eff}} \right) \lambda_D \quad (19)$$

From equation (19) it can be seen that the wavelength λ_{max} at which the maximum reflectivity occurs drifts from the initial design wavelength λ_D by a factor of $\frac{\delta n_{eff}}{n_{eff}} \lambda_D$.

for a uniform bragg grating to define the bandwidth between the first zeros:

$$\Delta \lambda_0 = v \frac{\delta n_{eff}}{n_{eff}} \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{\lambda_D}{v \delta n_{eff} L} \right)^2} \cdot \lambda_D \quad (20)$$

Using above equation it is easy now to design a uniform fiber bragg grating and to calculate its reflectivity spectrum. When designing a uniform bragg grating at a given wavelength, the only two parameters we have to worry about are the length L and the index change δn_{co} of the grating. We observe from equation (18) that the maximum reflectivity R_{max} is a function of the coupling coefficient κ and the length of the grating L , and from equation (17) ac coupling coefficient κ depends only on δn_{co} . It is obvious that the maximum reflectivity increases with the product κL . For uniform grating the visibility v is constant along the entire grating, and is equal to 1. Therefore, we can rearrange the equation (20) as follows:

$$\Delta\lambda_0 = \frac{1}{n_{eff}} \sqrt{(\delta n_{eff})^2 + \left(\frac{\lambda_0}{L}\right)^2} \cdot \lambda_0 \quad (21)$$

The bandwidth of a non-chirped fiber bragg grating is narrower for longer grating, and is wider for larger index changes. This valid for all non-chirped bragg gratings (not just uniform). However, if we want our strong grating to be narrow as well, we have to consider a longer grating with smaller index change. We also have to take into account the fact that the grating may become saturated. Since the grating has already met 100% reflectivity, increasing the strength κL will only affect the bandwidth of the grating. All uniform fiber bragg gratings have secondary lobes, which become larger in magnitude as the grating reflectivity increases. The process of eliminating the secondary lobes by designing a grating with a non-uniform index change along its length is called apodization. For apodized gratings, the visibility $v(z)$ is not constant along the length of the grating. The function after which the visibility v varies with length z is called apodization function. There are various type of apodization function such as gaussian, Raised-Cosine, Hyperbolic-Tangent. Since Gaussian function simplifies the analysis by being an auto fourier transform, we can use the following Gaussian apodization:

$$v(z) = \exp\left(-A \left(\frac{z - \frac{L}{2}}{L}\right)^2\right)$$

3 SIMULATION RESULT

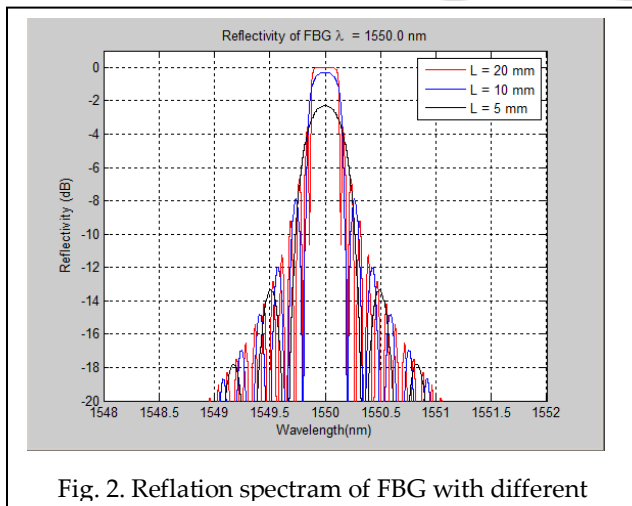


Fig. 2. Reflection spectrum of FBG with different

Figure 1 shows the effect of length of fiber bragg grating on reflection characteristics of uniform fiber bragg grating. It's clear from figure that as we increase FBG length the peak reflectivity is increased but side lobes also increases. Figure 2 shows the effect of apodization factor on reflection characteristics of fiber bragg grating of length 20 mm. It's clear from figure that as we increase apodization factor the maximum reflectivity is constant but the side lobe power is reduced.

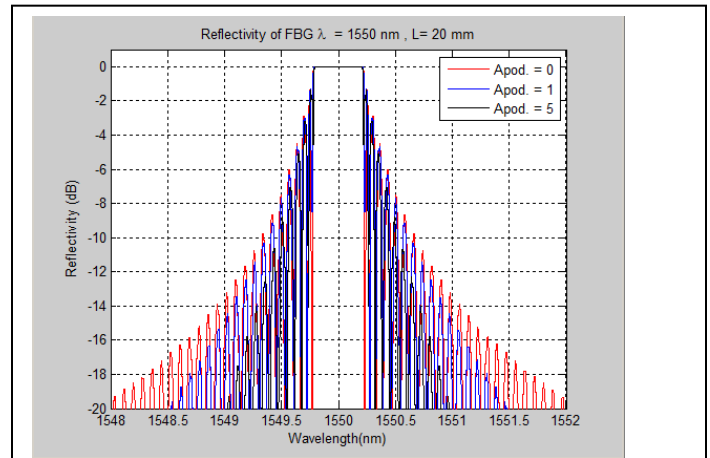


Fig. 3. Reflection spectrum of FBG with different apodization factor

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