

Network Management Solution for PS/PON, WDM/PON and Hybrid PS/WDM/PON using DS-OCDM

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Abstract: A novel network management solution for PS/PON, WDM/PON and PS/WDM/PON is proposed and developed. Modified DS-OCDM overcomes OTDR shortcomings and capacity limitation of known PON management techniques for standard and advanced PON architectures.

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1. Introduction

Passive Optical Networks (PONs) seem to be the ultimate winning solution for tomorrow's last first mile bottleneck. Started from the fiber to the customer in the early 90s, passive splitters (PS) enabled up to 1:8 or the GPON standard with forward error correction (FEC). PON managers however still lack the efficient monitoring technology appropriate for PS-based PON and its derivatives [1].

In this paper we focus on some of the In-Service management problems and propose for the first time to our knowledge a simple optical code division multiplexing (OCDM)-based architectural scheme that overcomes not only the PS/PON problems but are also applicable to more advanced PON architectures like wavelength division multiplexing WDM/PON and hybrid PS/WDM/PON (where a PS/PON-like system is built over every wavelength in a passive WDM network). Note that in our application we use the OCDM codes to carry management information and not the data itself. This makes the proposed OCDM scheme easy to implement at low transmission rates such as 1.25 Gbps.

2. An OCDM solution for In-Service PS/PON Management

Standard OTDR based on Rayleigh backscattering and power reflections used to monitor point-to-point links are ineffective in PS/PONs [2, 4]. Each branch termination connected to an optical network unit (ONU) as well as every splice connector and fiber defect or break contributes to a reflection peak and/or power loss step. In two equidistant branches experience failure they are indistinguishable. Even when a fiber fault results in a clear event the faulty branch is not identified requiring a track roll-out and outside intervention of technicians. Every branch must be checked separately from its end, which means an upstream OTDR transmission in order to identify the faulty one [3].

Few solutions for In-Service PS/PON management have been proposed [3]; all of them impractical. For instance a unique signature (or identifier) may be assigned to each leg of the network before the ONU. A discrete Bragg grating with a unique wavelength is placed at each ONU. At the CO side different interrogation techniques have been proposed including a broad and source multi-wavelength laser and tunable laser and filters etc. [4]. These systems are impractical for a large number of subscribers due to the very large spectrum to be sliced over one slice of every network leg. For 300 customers (respectively 8 in GPON with FEC) and using narrow slice width of 0.8 nm a total bandwidth of 5.6 nm (respectively 0.4 nm is required [3]).

Our OCDM management technique requires only one wavelength pre-allocated in the 5 nm already reserved for standard FTTH PS/PON monitoring. Our technique is also scalable for more advanced and complex PON networks always using only a single wavelength. As illustrated in Fig. 1, every network leg is terminated by a standard passive wavelength selector (WS) widely used in PONs isolating the standard monitoring U and from the other data bands at the front of every ONU and at the CO as well.

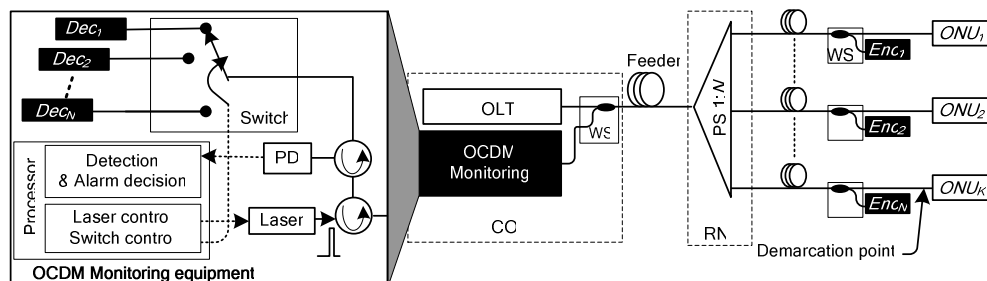


Fig. 1. OCDM-based PS/PON monitoring system: every network leg is assigned an encoder; one tunable decoder at the CO.

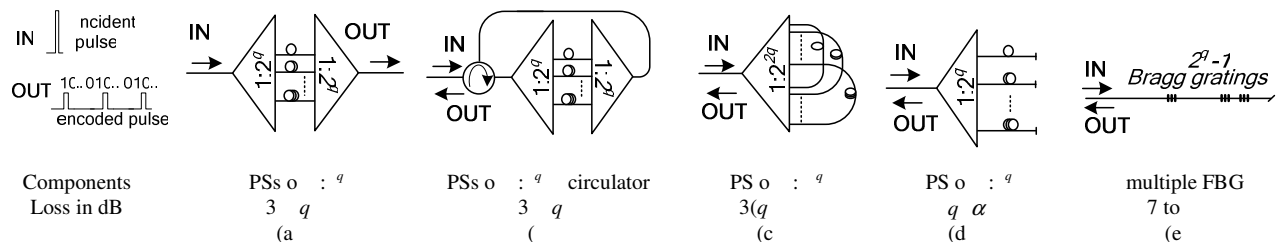


Fig. 2. Encoding designs: (a) standard encoder (b) modified encoder (c) q -splitter encoder (d) q -splitter encoder and (e) MBG encoder.

The transmission section of the OCDM monitoring equipment at the CO (Fig. 1) consists of a U and pulsed laser driven by a processor to transmit N (or S) order pulses with a predetermined low frequency rate (few mega hertz or lower). Every pulse propagates through the tree network split at the PS is coded by the encoders referred as Enc_i into i and is then reflected back to the CO. An encoder consists of a passive device that fragments an incoming pulse to a number of p sub-pulses and distributes them in time according to a specific code $i.e.$ direct sequence coding in the time domain. Every encoder at the leg termination implements a unique code. Our proposed network management system is a modified form of direct sequence DS-OCDM and our codes are also the so-called optical orthogonal codes (OOC). The PS (coupler) combines the upstream encoded pulses together as in standard OCDM. In the CO, a tunable DS decoder consisting of an optical switch and a bank of fixed decoders (similar to encoders but introducing delays in reverse order) discriminates responses coming from different branches of the tree network. Every fault or change in the network contributes an autocorrelation peak. A missing autocorrelation peak indicates that the corresponding network leg is broken or exhibits a normal power loss.

3. Encoder design

Our DS-OCDM network management technique is different from standard DS-OCDMA technique in various aspects: low required transmission rate dramatically alleviating the known implementation challenges of OCDMA; no reception no transmission or modulation at the ONU side; only the coding operation is needed; and 3) unlike standard DS encoders Fig. 1(a) work in transmission in our case reflection is the key encoder property.

We propose our designs of modified DS encoder all appropriate for our application in Fig. 1(b) to (e). All exploit splitters and delay lines to fragment the incident pulse into sub-pulses, disperse them, gather them back to the input and return them to the CO. Each of these encoder designs has its own advantages and drawbacks. The first Fig. 1(b) is the straightforward modification of the standard one of Fig. 1(a) entails $2^q : q$ splitters and one circulator. The second implementation in Fig. 1(c) requires one $2^q : q$ splitter and saves the circulator. The implementation in Fig. 1(d) requires only one $2^q : q$ splitter and finally Fig. 1(e) is an implementation uses a multiple Bragg grating *i.e.* a series of discrete gratings at the same wavelength but with different reflection intensities and physical locations [7].

We define three key design parameters for our system: 1) coding capacity (the number of different codes should be a minimum of 8 or standard GPON with FEC); 2) the modified DS encoders to be located at the network legs should be low cost and low component count; and 3) the power loss between the incident pulse and reflected coded signal back to the input should be minimized.

The encoder in Fig. 1(b) is the most expensive because of the circulator (with 0.5 dB loss per pass) and exhibits the highest power loss. The encoder in Fig. 1(d) is less expensive however exhibits very high loss due to the reflection coefficient α typically about 4% (3 dB) [8]. The encoder in Fig. 1(c) is less expensive than that in Fig. 1(e) because of the Bragg gratings compared to PSs; however MBGs has less insertion loss.

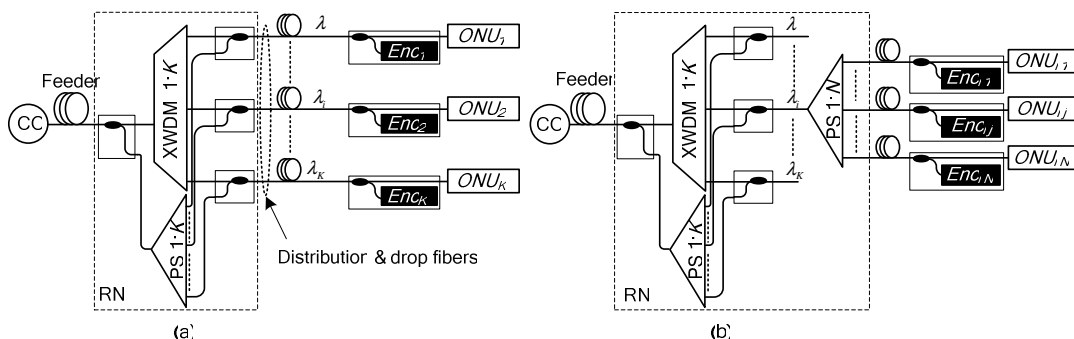


Fig. 3. Implementation of OCDM management in advanced PONs: (a) WDM PON and (b) PS WDM PON.

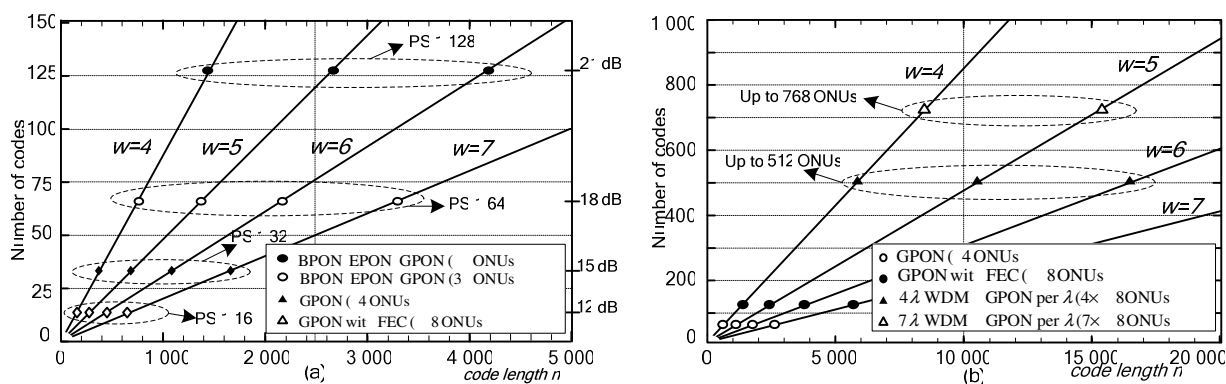


Fig. 4. Coding system design tool: (a) PS PON systems (b) PS WDM PON systems.

4. Applicability to WDM/PON and PS/WDM/PON

In Fig. 3 we develop an architectural solution that allows our technique to manage more advanced and complex PON architectures. In WDM PON every customer is served by dedicated wavelength [5]. Previously proposed PON management uses all wavelengths for data and the other for monitoring. Every customer is dedicated two wavelengths: one for data and another for monitoring. A wavelength selector is placed before the WDM demultiplexer in order to separate the monitoring and at the 5 nm. Upstream and downstream data is assumed here to share the same fiber; other variants could be similarly derived. Our technique separates all the monitoring wavelengths and makes them available for data hence doubling the network capacity. Only a single monitoring wavelength is split and distributed to all clients.

5. Coding system design

Let Ω be a collection of binary n tuples generated by [9] from the specification $(n, \lambda_a, \lambda_c)$ where n is the code length, λ_a is the Hamming weight, λ_c are used as follows. For vectors $X, Y \in \Omega$ the expressions

$$R_X(\tau) = \sum_{i=1}^n X(i)X(i+\tau) \leq \lambda_a \text{ and } R_{XY}(\tau) = \sum_{i=1}^n X(i)Y(i+\tau) \leq \lambda_c \text{ define respectively the autocorrelation and the}$$

cross correlation functions for $0 \leq \tau \leq n-1$. Note that the code weight (i.e. the number of ones per code) is equal to the number of delay lines in the encoding devices of Fig. 4(c) to (d) and the number of Bragg gratings in the MBG encoder of Fig. 4(e).

In [9] the authors recently developed an OOC generating technique so called Outer product matrix based algorithm that maximizes the number of codes for given weight and length n and unit cross correlation and autocorrelation side lobes ($\lambda_a = \lambda_c = 1$). We used this algorithm to develop a coding system. In Fig. 4(a) and 4(b) we show the number of codes (i.e. clients) vs. code length n for different code weights. From Fig. 4(a) a designer could determine the appropriate (n, λ_a) pairs to support EPON GPON etc. For $W=4$ our delay lines are required in the encoder of Fig. 4(c) uses one 1:8 PS (i.e. 1:3 PS with $q=3$) and the MBG encoder of Fig. 4(e) entails our gratings. Fig. 4(b) presents codes that could support PS WDM PON of Fig. 3(c).

6. Conclusion

We proposed a novel PON management solution using modified DS-SS/OCDS system that overcomes the OTDR shortcomings for point to multipoint networks and the capacity limitation of previously proposed monitoring techniques. Our solution easily scales up from PS PON to WDM PON and PS WDM PON supporting close to a thousand customers all using only one monitoring wavelength. We developed different encoding settings for our system and developed a design tool for appropriate codes.

8. References

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