

Review Article on Fiber Optics

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The benefits of communication have to be extended to rural areas in order to provide better education, better medical advices/treatments etc. In this context, it is essential that the devices to be employed should have the capacity of transmission of large information traffic. It deserves mentioning in this connection that optical fiber possesses low attenuation loss around 0.15dB/Km and high bandwidth to the extent of a few tera bytes. This is why optical communication system has emerged as an indispensable item for long distance communication. The concerned operating wavelength ranges between 1.3 μ m and 1.6 μ m, since optical fiber made of silica has the lowest attenuation loss at 1.55 μ m while its material dispersion vanishes around the wave length 1.3 μ m.

With the invention of semiconductor laser and optical fiber, the life style of every person living on the planet has undergone a massive change. The huge bandwidth in optical fiber communication system is the key for providing tele education, tele medicine, tele health, agricultural knowledge etc. to rural population. In fact, fiber optic cables are presently crisscrossing oceans, deserts, mountains etc., to communicate the advanced information to the rural population.

Moreover, it is desirable that in respect of fiber to source coupling, maximum efficiency will be delivered both in field of sensor and communication as well. In this respect micro lenses grown on fiber tips have been found to be most efficient. In fact, the grown micro lenses should be ideal in respect of coupling, if it does not permit spherical aberration, it has large aperture to collect the entire incident light and it matches both laser and fiber modes. In view of the stated criteria, hyperbolic micro lens on the tip of single mode fiber has been found to be most suitable and in fact it has produced nearly 100% theoretical coupling efficiency. But the fabrication of hyperbolic micro lens on the fiber tip requires costly laser micro machining technique. This is why hemispherical microlens in spite of its moderate efficiency is being used worldwide as it can be fabricated easily by simple photolithographic process. In fact tremendous interests have been generated to design different coupling systems for maximizing source to fiber coupling. Tapered lenses of different designs drawn on fiber ends are also being employed in the technology of coupling optics. Further, inherent mismatch losses for different coupling devices are studied in order to predict the tolerance of the concerned device with respect to the offsets. Side by side, refractive index profile of the fiber is also being monitored in order to match the fiber spot size with the laser spot size for maximum coupling optics. Thus coupling optics involve presentation of new projects taking care of polarization maintained fibers as well as nonlinearity. Accordingly reports of such investigation are being added to the literature continuously.

Moreover Er doped fiber amplifier, fiber Raman Amplifier etc., are replacing electronic amplifier whereby the tedious process of E/O conversion and O/E conversion is avoided and things are thus implemented fast since velocity of light exceeds velocity of electron. Here lies the merit of all optical technology.

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