PHTN4661

Optical Circuits and Fibres

COURSE INTRODUCTION – SESSION 1, 2008

COURSE STAFF

Course convener: A/Prof. F. Ladouceur  f.ladouceur@unsw.edu.au
Lab demonstrator: Mr Mark Hiscocks  m.hiscocks@student.unsw.edu.au

Consultations: Students are encouraged to use the open consultation hours; students may seek consultation with the course convener at other times by appointment.

COURSE DETAILS

Credits: The course is a 6 UoC course; expected workload is 10–12 hours per week throughout the 12 week session.

Contact hours: The course consist of 2 hours of lectures per week, and 2 hours of laboratory sessions or tutorial per week:

Lectures: Tuesdays, 8am–10am, room RedC M010
Lab sessions: Wednesdays, 9am–11am, room EE347
Wednesdays, 2pm–4pm, room EE347
Tuesdays, 10am–12am, room EE347

Laboratory classes start in week 2.

COURSE DETAILS

CONTEXT AND AIMS

Optical circuits are miniaturised and integrated optical paths and devices onto a single planar substrate. They are commonly used in traditional optical telecommunications but are now finding new application fields in sensing, MEMs, astronomy and data transfer (chip-to-chip, board-to-board).
**Aims:** The course aims to make student familiar with standard *silica-on-silicon* planar waveguide technology and its interface with standard telecom optical fibres. In that process, the student will be introduced to the modelling and design of optical circuits.

**Relation with Other Courses**

For those with a special interest, this course builds on the fundamental formalism associated with waveguides studied in Stage 3, by exploring how they can be used to build functional optical circuits.

**Prerequisite:** Stage 3 electromagnetic course

**Assumed knowledge:** It is assumed that the students possess an good understanding of electromagnetism (e.g. Maxwell’s equations), and have a good computer literacy, in particular familiarity with C++ programming and *MathLab* or *Mathematica*.

**Following courses:** This course is a pre/co-requisite for post-graduate courses.

**Learning Outcomes**

After successfully completing this course, students will be expected to:

1. Understand the typical applications of optical circuits;
2. Understand the coupling mechanisms with optical fibres;
3. Model using various techniques the basic building blocs of integrated circuits;
4. Design simple optical circuits (paths, phase shifters, interferometers, etc)
5. Understand the limitations placed on optical circuits imposed by fabrication, losses and integration;

The course delivery methods and course content address a number of core UNSW graduate attributes; these include:

1. The capacity for analytical and critical thinking and for creative problem-solving, which is addressed by the laboratories and tutorial exercises;
2. The ability to engage in independent and reflective learning, which is addressed by the laboratories;
3. The skills of effective communication, which are addressed by the laboratory reports.

Please refer to [http://www.ltu.unsw.edu.au/content/userDocs/GradAttrEng.pdf](http://www.ltu.unsw.edu.au/content/userDocs/GradAttrEng.pdf) for more information about graduate attributes.

**Teaching Strategy**
The course consists of the following elements: lectures, laboratory work and voluntary home work:

**Lectures:** During the lectures, integrated optics and related design issues are discussed and the appropriate theoretical framework is introduced. The lectures provide the students with a focus on the core material in the course and stresses the important conceptual advances. Numerous examples of optical integrated circuits are discussed in order to convey a qualitative understanding of their operations. Students are expected to attend the lectures and prepare themselves for them.

**Laboratory work:** The laboratory work will be based on an in-house software library (Light Numerical Recipes). The student will be asked to use this library, in the form on C++ programs, to study various aspects of light propagation in optical circuits.

**ASSESSMENT**

There are two components of the assessment in this course:

- **Lab work:** 5 laboratory sessions for 25% overall weight
- **Quiz:** 25% overall weight
- **Final exam:** 50% overall weight

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

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<td>1</td>
<td><em>Course introduction</em> – Optical circuits and optical fibres; <em>silica-on-silicon</em> fabrication process; applications of optical circuits.</td>
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| 2    | *Waveguide modes* – field decomposition; normal modes; supermodes; mode properties, mode coupling.  
*Laboratory 1:* Modes of rectangular waveguides |
| 3    | *Optical fibers* – fabrication process, type of fibres, bound-, leaky- and radiation modes, polarisation effects. |
| 4    | *Planar waveguides* – fabrication process, typical properties, modes of planar waveguides, loss mechanisms  
*Laboratory 2:* Waveguide design: coupling |
<p>| 5    | <em>Gaussian approximation</em> – From Maxwell equation to scalar fields, weak-guidance approximation, Gaussian representation |</p>
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| 6    | Loss mechanisms – Bend loss, transition loss, optimal paths, attenuation  
Laboratory 3: Phase shifter |
| 7    | Mode coupling and propagation – Couple mode theory, forward- and backward coupling, Beam Propagation Techniques (BPM). |
| 8    | Devices 1: Couplers and gratings – design, optimisation and applications  
Laboratory 4: Mode coupling |
| 9    | Devices 2: X and Y junctions – design, optimisation and applications |
| 10   | Devices 3: Multi-mode interferometers  
Laboratory 5: Beam Propagation Method |
| 11   | Circuit design – Device integration, constraints; competing technologies; |
| 12   | Overall review |

**Resources for Students**

**Text Books**

There will not be a single prescribed text, but possible suitable references to add to a growing personal professional library:

F. Ladouceur and J.D. Love, Silica Based Buried Channel Waveguides and Devices, Kluver.  
A.W. Snyder and J.D. Love, Optical Waveguide Theory, Kluver.

**On-line Resources**

The course will make continuous usage of WebCT/Vista for course and laboratory material distribution: [http://vista.elearning.unsw.edu.au](http://vista.elearning.unsw.edu.au)

**Other Matters**

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism
Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of other peoples work, including the copying of assignment works and laboratory results from other students. Plagiarism is considered a serious offence by the University and severe penalties may apply. For more information about plagiarism, please refer to http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism

**Continual Course Improvement**

Students are advised that the course is under constant revision in order to improve the learning outcomes of its students. Please forward any feedback (positive or negative) on the course to the course convener or via the Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement Process.

**Administrative Matters**

On issues and procedures regarding such matters as special needs, equity and diversity, occupational health and safety, enrolment, rights, and general expectations of students, please refer to the School policies, see http://scoff.ee.unsw.edu.au/.