

# Investigations on Dispersion Compensation using Fiber Braggs Grating

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## ABSTRACT

Optical fiber plays a very important role in communication system for data transmission. Optical fiber has many advantages which makes it for better transmission of data. Dispersion is the main factor which affects the performance of fiber. There are various ways which can compensate the fiber dispersion. Dispersion compensation by FBG (fiber bragg grating) is one of them. This paper investigates dispersion compensation of optical communication system by FBGs along with EDFA (erbium doped fiber amplifier). Dispersion compensation is done by FBG along with EDFA before the fiber (at the transmitter end) in the optical transmission system and FBG along with EDFA after the fiber (at the receiver end) in the optical transmission system. Minimum BER is obtained by using FBG along with EDFA before the fiber (at the transmitter end) in the optical transmission system as compare to FBG along with EDFA after the fiber (at the receiver end) in the optical transmission system. For 50 km BER reduces from  $1.10874e-102$  (at receiver side) to  $4.16583e-181$  (transmitter side).

## General Terms

Dispersion, Fiber Bragg Grating (FBG), Dispersion compensation, Optical Communication.

## Keywords

Fiber Bragg Grating (FBG), Dispersion, Bit error rate, Dispersion compensation, Optical Communication, Non-linear effects, Q-factor.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Optical fibers are used for data transmission in optical fiber communication system. In optical fiber data flows in form of light. The performance of optical fiber is limited by the factor known as dispersion. Due to dispersion after a specific distance pulses get broadened which leads to errors in receiver and correct reception of bits. EDFA (erbium doped fiber amplifier) plays an important role to avoid the losses in the signal. Dispersion-shifted fibers, dispersion-flattened fibers, dispersion decreasing fibers, DCFs (dispersion compensating fiber) are used for dispersion compensation in optical communication system. DCF is the type of fiber that has the opposite dispersion (negative dispersion) of the fiber (positive dispersion) being used in a transmission system. It is used to nullify the positive dispersion of the fiber. But by using these fiber nonlinear affects [1], insertion losses [1] and cost [2] of the optical transmission system increases. Also DCF is bulky [3].

A lot of work has been reported on the importance of different pulse formats in context of dispersion compensation. It is

found that for 40 Gb/s TDM-systems, RZ-modulation format with a duty cycle of 0.5 gives better performance as compare to NRZ data format [26], [5], [6], [7], [8]. The 3rd order Gaussian pulse(RZ) gives best performance and if 3rd order Gaussian pulse is used for long distances then less timing jitter and BER is observed as compare to by using 1st and 2nd order super Gaussian pulse(RZ) [4]. If optical link is of 150 km then 66.9 ps/nm/km dispersion is observed and dispersion of 150 km optical link (using FBGs as a dispersion compensator) can be compensated up to 33.8 ps/nm/km [9]. If in 100 km standard optical link 10 Gb/s non return to zero (NRZ) signal is transmitted then BER = 0.000875879 is observed (without dispersion compensation) and if FBGs is used as dispersion compensator then this BER decreases from 0.000875879 to  $1e-040$  [10]. It is also found that by comparing eye diagrams and Q parameters of dispersion compensation scheme using FBG and DCF dispersion compensation then dispersion compensation using FBG is the better method for chromatic dispersion compensation [11]. FBG is significantly different from DCF compensation. FBGs in optical communication system uses as filters [12], gain flatteners [13], highly selective filters for channel selection in dense WDM systems [14] and dispersion compensators [15]. As compare to DCF FBGs have low insertion loss, negligible nonlinearity and small size [16-17]. Fiber grating is used to compensate the chromatic dispersion (dispersion) in an optical fiber. Distortion in their phase response is the main drawback of FBGs which is known as group delay ripple (GDR) [18]. Here in this paper the work of paper [2] and Paper [19] for dispersion compensation is extended further. Paper [2] shows that performance of FBGs (dispersion compensator) on 10 km optical communication system and it is found that with increase in grating length the pulse extension decreases and also increase in its power [2]. In paper [2], the performance of 10 km optical communication was investigated but here in this paper the performance is investigated up to the length of 50 km. From paper [19] it is concluded that optical fiber length and attenuation coefficient are directly proportional to the noise figure.

Placement of FBG, EDFA gain, length of FBG in optical system plays a very important role in performance (dispersion compensation). When FBG along with EDFA before the fiber (at the transmitter end) in the optical transmission system is used then it gives better performance (less dispersion or minimum bit error rate) as compare when FBG along with EDFA after the fiber (at the receiver end) is used in the optical transmission system. In this paper input power is varied from -10dBm to 10dBm and performance of optical transmission system is investigated (10km, 20km, 30km, 40km, and 50km). FBG length is also varied from (2mm, 4mm, 6mm,

8mm,10mm, 12mm, 14mm) for different length of optical transmission system.

This paper also includes the effect of variation of EDFA gain on the performance (minimum bit error rate) of optical transmission system. It shows that variation of EDFA gain plays a significant role in performance of transmission system. In the first section of this paper the performance (Minimum BER) of two systems (FBG along with EDFA after the fiber (at receiver end) in the optical transmission system, FBG along with EDFA before the fiber (at the transmitter end) in the optical transmission system) is investigated by plotting the graph between input power and BER. In second section performance is investigated by plotting the graph between FBG length and BER. In third section performance is investigated by plotting the graph between EDFA gain and BER.

## 2. SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

Working principle of FBG:- FBG is shown in Fig. 1.

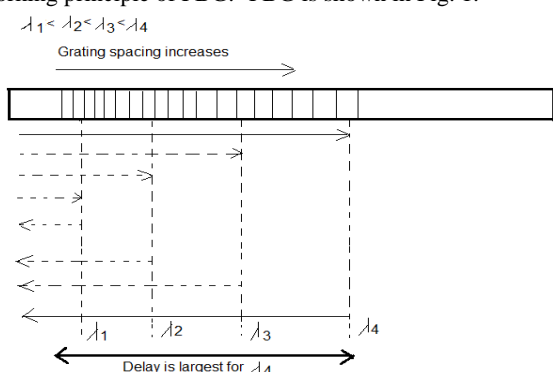


Fig 1: Working principle of FBG.

The fiber bragg grating is made so segments which reflects different wavelengths are in different positions along the length of fiber. Let the longer wavelengths ( $\lambda_4$ ) arrived first and shorter wavelengths ( $\lambda_1$ ) arrived last. The longer wavelengths are transmitted through to the last part of gratings and shorter wavelengths are reflected by the first part of grating. Due to this longer wavelength have to travel a longer distance, so they are delayed, allowing the shorter wavelength to catch up. Layout of dispersion compensation module based on fiber bragg grating is shown in Fig. 2.

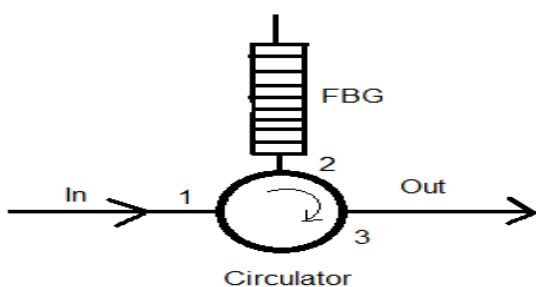


Fig 2: Dispersion compensation module based on fiber bragg grating (FBG).

The diagrams of optical transmission system (Fig. 3.,Fig. 4)are as:-

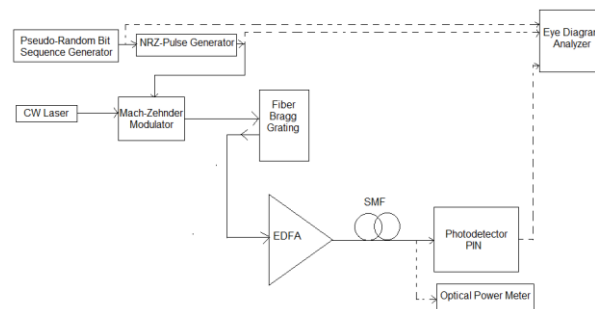


Fig 3: FBG along with EDFA before the fiber (at transmitter end) in the optical transmission system.

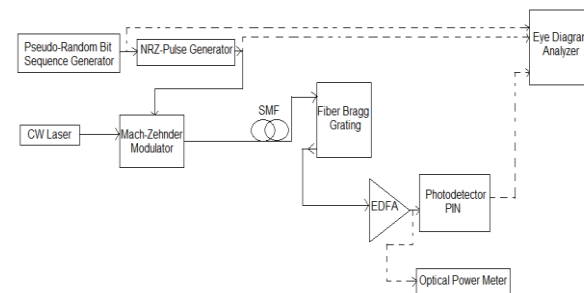


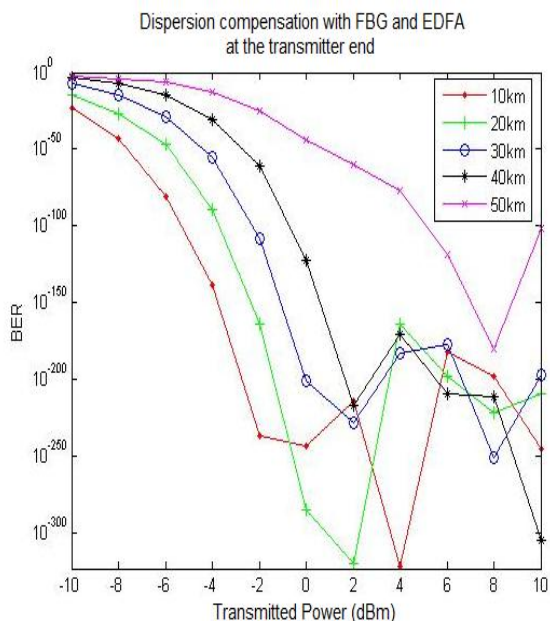
Fig 4: FBG along with EDFA after the fiber (at receiver end) in the optical transmission system.

The function of Pseudo-random bit sequence generator is to scramble data signal in terms of bit rates [20]. Here it is producing 10 Gbps bit rate. NRZ-pulse Generator produces the electrical data signal for modulation process [19]. Continuous Wave (CW) laser with frequency 193.1 THz is applied to the system and it is modulated externally with non-return-zero (NRZ) pseudorandom binary sequence in a Mach-Zehnder modulator. Mach-Zehnder has extinction ratio of 30 dB. Signal flows through single mode optical fiber. FBG is used to compensate the chromatic dispersion of optical fiber which arises during the travelling of signal in fiber as the distance increases. The function of erbium-doped fiber amplifier (EDFA) is to compensate the loses in optical transmission system. Function of photodetector is detection of light (photon) at the receiver. It converts light directly into current. Eye Diagram Analyzer is used for checking the minimum bit error rate. Optical power meter is used is used for checking the received signal power level.

## 3. FIRST SECTION:-COMPARISON ON THE BASIS OF INPUT POWER VERSES BER

This section describes comparison between transmitted power with BER at different values of distances (10, 20, 30, 40, 50 Km). For a particular value of distance eg- 10km, power is varied from -10dBm to 10dBm. The length of the FBG is also varied from 2mm to 14mm. The minimum BER obtained is plotted against transmitted power.

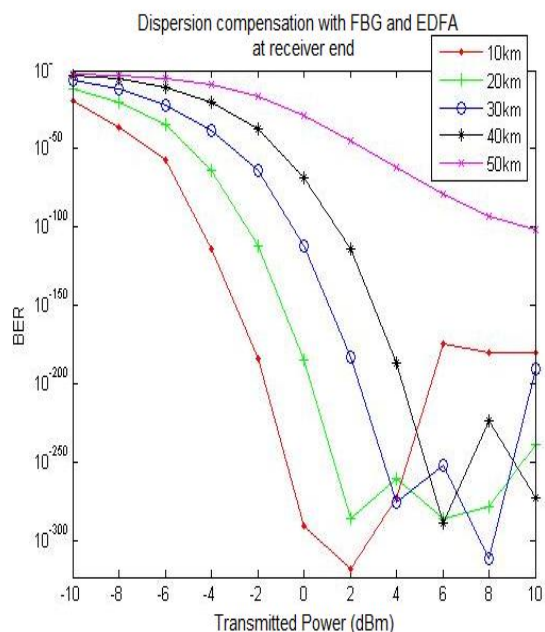
The system achieves a low BER for a particular power, then afterward it increases. Graph between input power and BER for dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at transmitter end is shown in Fig. 5.



**Fig 5: Graph between input power and BER for dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at transmitter end.**

For 10km minimum BER of 1.87745e-322 is observed at 4dBm input power. For 20 km minimum BER of 1.29445e-320 is observed at 2dBm input power. For 30km minimum BER of 1.8834e-251 is observed at 8dBm input power. For 40km minimum BER of 2.16954e-305 is observed at 10dBm. For 50km minimum BER of 4.16583e-181 is observed at 8dBm.

Graph between input power and BER for dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at receiver end is shown in Fig. 6.



**Fig 6: Graph between input power and BER for dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at receiver end.**

For 10km minimum BER of 6.73614e-319 is observed at 2dBm input power. For 20 km minimum BER of 4.90116e-287 is observed at 2dBm input power. For 30km minimum BER of 1.39294e-312 is observed at 8dBm input power. For 40km minimum BER of 7.5984e-290 is observed at 6dBm. For 50km minimum BER of 1.10874e-102 is observed at 10dBm.

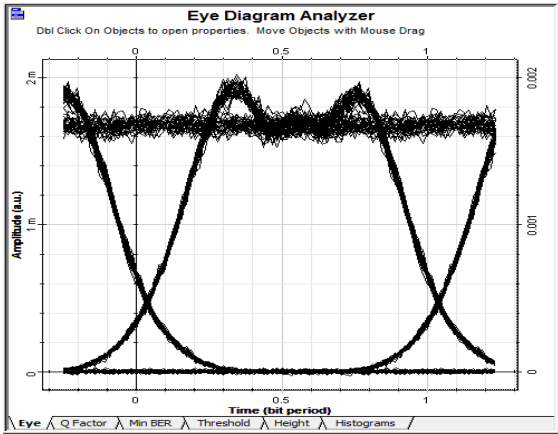
Comparison of graphs in Fig. 5 and Fig.6 on the basis of minimum BER for particular distance is shown in table 1.

**Table 1.**

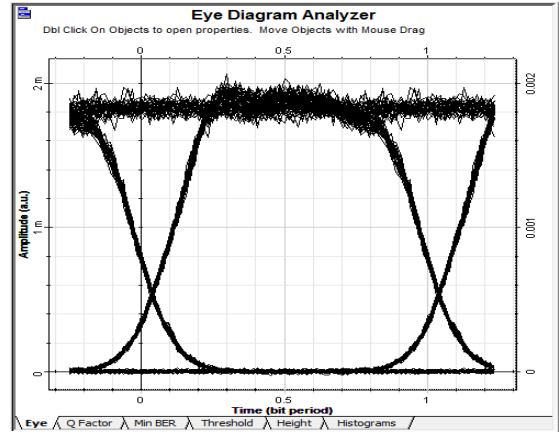
Distance (km)	Transmitted Input power (dBm) level for Dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at transmitter end	Minimum BER for Dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at transmitter end	Transmitted Input power (dBm) level for Dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at receiver end	Minimum BER for Dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at receiver end
10km	4dBm	1.87745e-322	2dBm	6.73614e-319
20km	2dBm	1.29445e-320	2dBm	4.90116e-287
30km	8dBm	1.8834e-251	8dBm	1.39294e-312
40km	10dBm	2.16954e-305	6dBm	7.5984e-290
50km	8dBm	4.16583e-181	10dBm	1.10874e-102

After comparisons of the BER values for the two configurations, it can be concluded that the optical system using FBG and EDFA at the transmitter end has a better performance except for 30 km. Thus the placement of FBG and EDFA in optical transmission system plays an important role to reduce the BER of optical system.

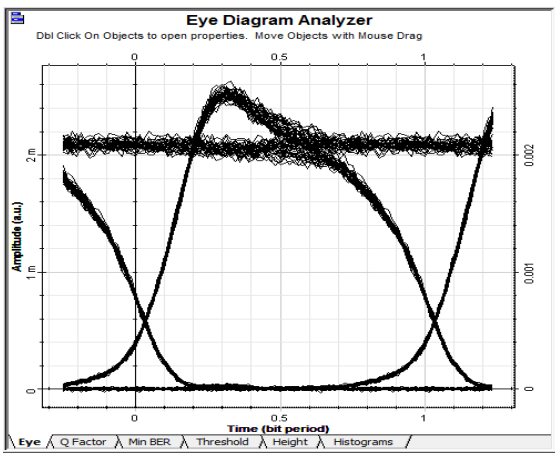
Comparison of eye diagram for 10, 20, 30, 40, 50km using dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at transmitter end and using dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at receiver end is shown in Fig 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 7.9, 7.10.



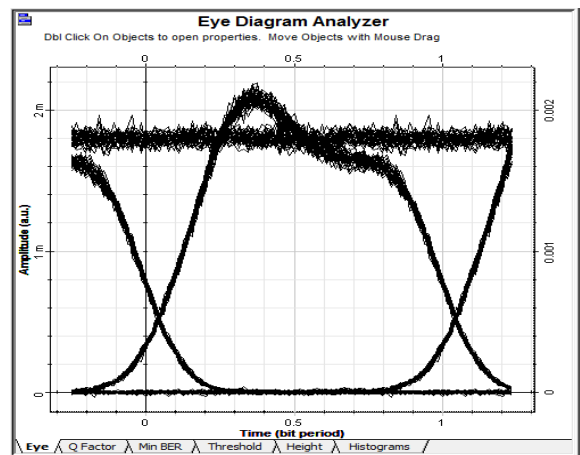
**Fig 7.1:** Eye diagram for the system using dispersion compensation at transmitter end system for 10 Km.



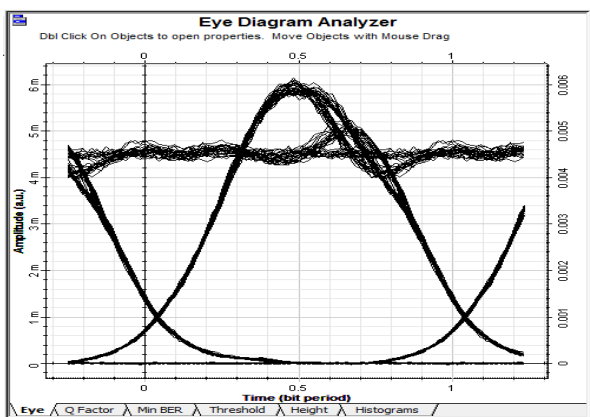
**Fig 7.2:** Eye diagram for the system using dispersion compensation at receiver end system for 10km.



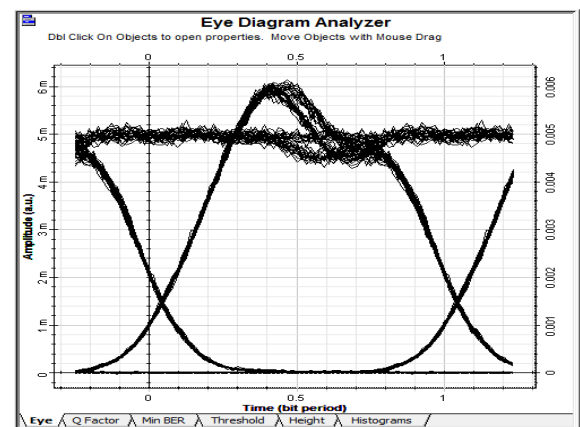
**Fig 7.3:** Eye diagram for the system using dispersion compensation at transmitter end system for 20 km.



**Fig 7.4:** Eye diagram for the system using dispersion compensation at receiver end system for 20 km.

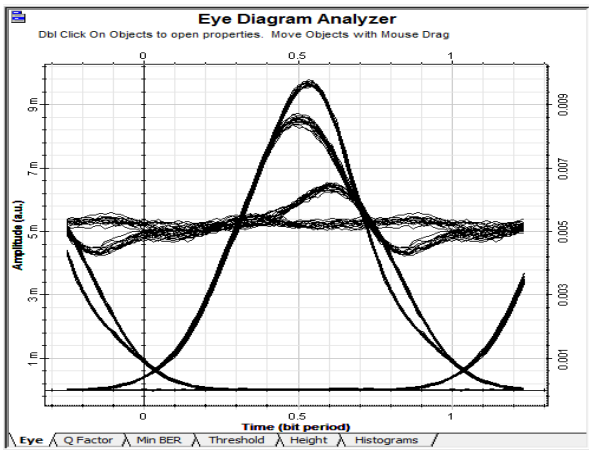


**Fig 7.5:** Eye diagram for the system using dispersion compensation at transmitter end system for 30 km.

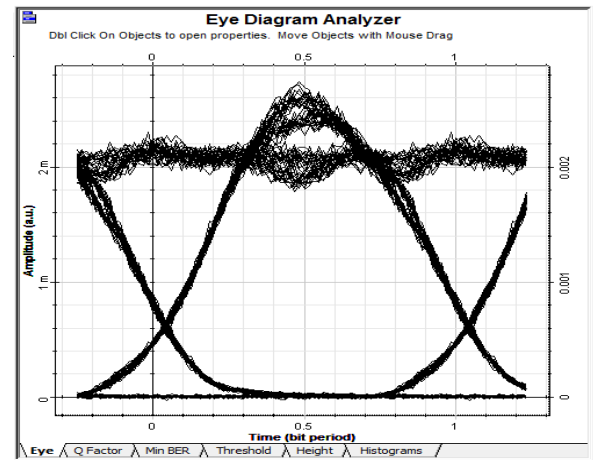


**Fig 7.6:** Eye diagram for the system using dispersion compensation at receiver end system for 30 km.

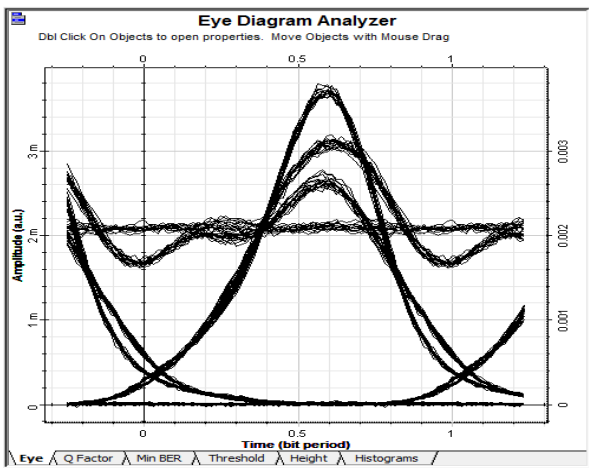
Comparison of Q-factor in Dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at transmitter end and at receiver end is shown in Table 2.



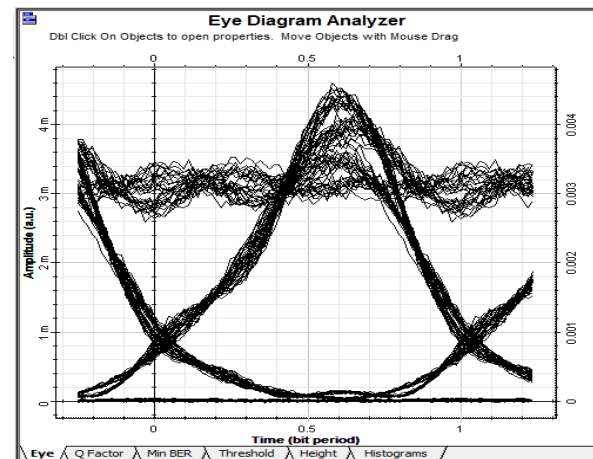
**Fig 7.7:** Eye diagram for the system using dispersion compensation at transmitter end system for 40 km.



**Fig 7.8:** Eye diagram for the system using dispersion compensation at receiver end system for 40 km.



**Fig 7.9:** Eye diagram for the system using dispersion compensation at transmitter end system for 50 km.



**Fig 7.10:** Eye diagram for the system using dispersion compensation at receiver end system for 50 km.

**Table 2. Comparison of Q-factor when Dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at transmitter end and at receiver end**

Distance (km)	Q-factor when Dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at transmitter end	Q-factor when Dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at receiver end
10km	38.3669	38.1523
20km	38.259	36.1797
30km	33.8485	37.7741
40km	37.3261	36.3565
50km	28.6676	21.4802

Except for 30 km case, the Q factor observed for both the configurations at distances of 10,20,40,50 Km reveals that the system employing FBG and EDFA at the transmitter gives a better performance.

It is observed that the BER in the system first falls down to a minimum and then it increases after reaching a particular input power level.

The BER initially falls down because at low power level when EDFA amplifies the incoming signal at receiver (by stimulated emission) there are more number of erbium ion available for amplification and EDFA generate less noise (by spontaneous emission). More availability of erbium ion provides better amplification of signal and therefore BER decreases [21] (falls down initially).

The BER with the optimum setting of decision threshold (for choosing whether bit is a 1 or 0) is given by [1]:-

$$BER = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{erfc} \left( \frac{Q}{\sqrt{2}} \right) \approx \frac{\exp \left( \frac{-Q^2}{2} \right)}{Q\sqrt{2\pi}}$$

Where Q-factor is given by  $Q = \frac{I_1 - I_0}{\sigma_1 + \sigma_0}$

$I_0$  and  $I_1$  are the average photocurrent generated by a 0 bit and 1 bit respectively.

$\sigma_0^2$  and  $\sigma_1^2$  are the noise variances for 0 bit and 1 bit respectively.

BER and Q are directly proportional to each other. BER improves as Q increases. Also Q is directly proportional to average received power ( $\overline{P_{rec}}$ ) [1].

BER is also given by [1]-

$$BER = \operatorname{erfc} \left( \sqrt{\eta N_p} / 2 \right)$$

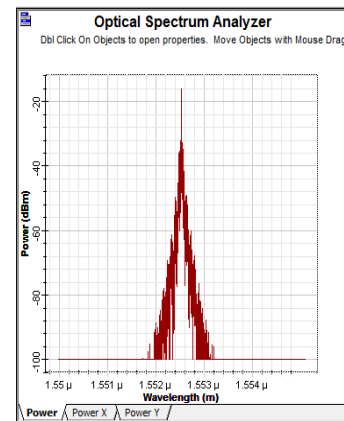
Where  $\eta N_p = Q$ ,  $N_p$  is the average number of photon contained within the “1” bit.

The main reason of increase in BER of optical fiber communication system is nonlinear effects in fiber. Nonlinear effects are Raman scattering (SRS), stimulated Brillouin scattering (SBS) and kerr effect [22]. Kerr effect include self-phase modulation (SPM), cross-phase modulation (XPM), and four-wave mixing (FWM). Kerr effect arises from intensity-dependent variations in the refractive index in the silica fiber [22]. EDFA adds noise caused by amplified spontaneous emission (ASE) that propagates along with the signal and increase BER (broadens the pulse) when signal is received.

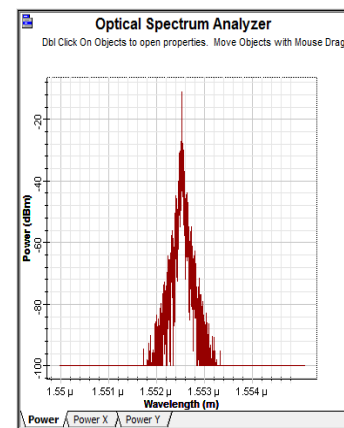
EDFA amplifies the incoming signal (by stimulated emission) but spontaneous emission also takes place there. This emission adds noise in the signal. At low power ASE level is less. Combination of nonlinear effects and EDFA’s ASE noise increase the BER at the receiver.

Further the spectrum of bit stream is observed and it is found that the spectrum broadens as the input power is increased in the fiber. This broadening is due to the combined effect of non-linear effects and ASE. Due to this broadening, there are side lobes at different neighbouring wavelengths. Such side lobes reduce the power in central wavelength and are responsible for increase in BER. Due to these reasons BER after reaching a particular power level starts increasing.

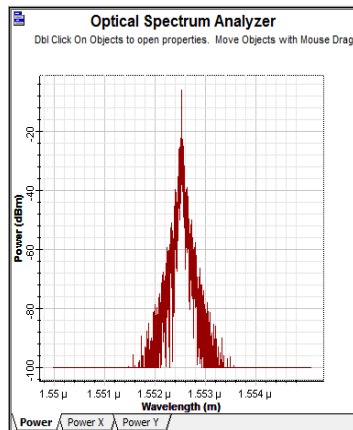
Spectrum of input bit stream observed at the output of EDFA for different input power levels are shown in Fig. 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5 –



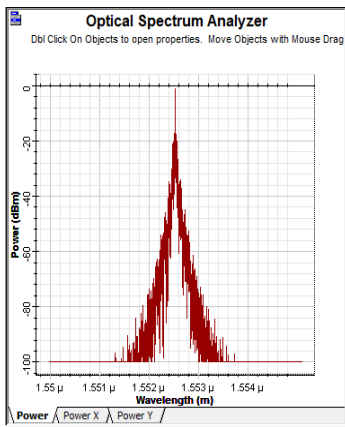
**Fig 8.1: Spectrum of input bit stream when input power is -10dBm.**



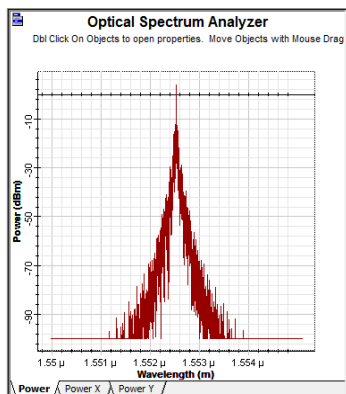
**Fig 8.2: Spectrum of input bit stream when input power is -5dBm.**



**Fig 8.3: Spectrum of input bit stream when input power is 0 dBm.**



**Fig 8.4: Spectrum of input bit stream when input power is 5 dBm.**



**Fig 8.5: Spectrum of input bit stream when input power is 10 dBm.**

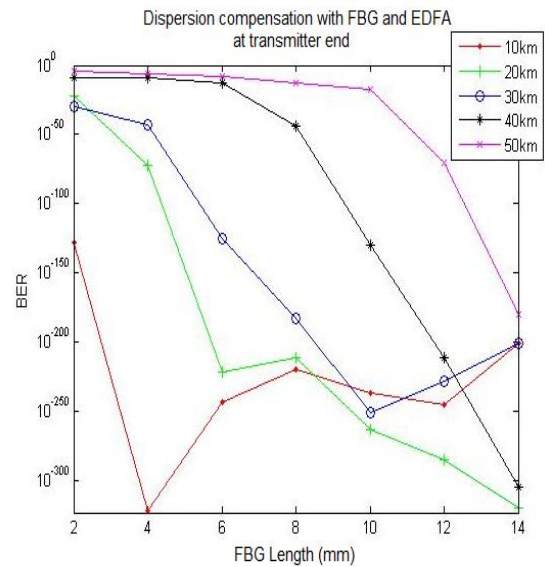
These results shows that with for low input power initially BER curve goes down and when power increases then BER curve start to increase.

#### **4. SECOND SECTION :- COMPARISON ON THE BASIS OF FBG LENGTH AND BER:-**

This section describes the comparison between FBG length with BER at different values of distances (10, 20, 30, 40, 50 km). Input power to the optical system is varied between -10 to 10 dBm; BER is observed using BER analyser. The resulting minimum BER (out of that available at different input power level) is plotted against FBG length.

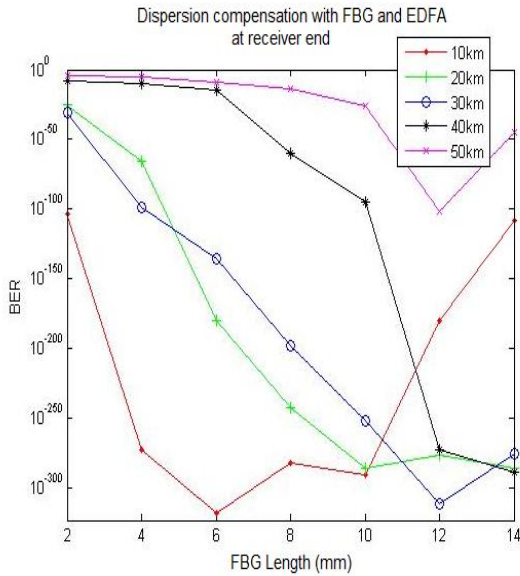
From the graph in Fig. 9 and Fig. 10 it can seen that FBG length plays an important role in decreasing the BER. The system achieves a low BER for a particular FBG length, and then afterward it increases.

Graph between FBG length and BER for dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at transmitter end is shown in Fig. 9.



**Fig 9: Graph between FBG length and BER for dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at transmitter end.**

Graph between FBG length and BER for dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at receiver end is shown in Fig. 10.



**Fig 10: Graph between FBG length and BER for dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at receiver end.**

Comparison of graphs in Fig. 9, Fig. 10 on the basis of minimum BER for particular distance is shown in Table 3.

**Table 3. Comparison on the basis of minimum BER for particular distance.**

Distance (km)	FBG Length (mm) for Dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at transmitter end	Minimum BER for Dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at transmitter end	FBG Length (mm) for Dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at receiver end	Minimum BER for Dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at receiver end
10km	4mm	1.87745e-322	6mm	6.73614e-319
20km	14mm	1.29445e-320	10mm	4.90116e-287
30km	10mm	1.8834e-251	12mm	1.39294e-312
40km	14mm	2.16954e-305	14mm	7.5984e-290
50km	14mm	4.16583e-181	12mm	4.40182e-046

From the table, it is clear that except for 30 km the optical system using FBG and EDFA at the transmitter end achieves less BER as compare to optical system using FBG and EDFA at the receiver end. Thus the placement of FBG and EDFA along with proper selection of FBG length in optical transmission system plays an important role to reduce the BER of optical system.

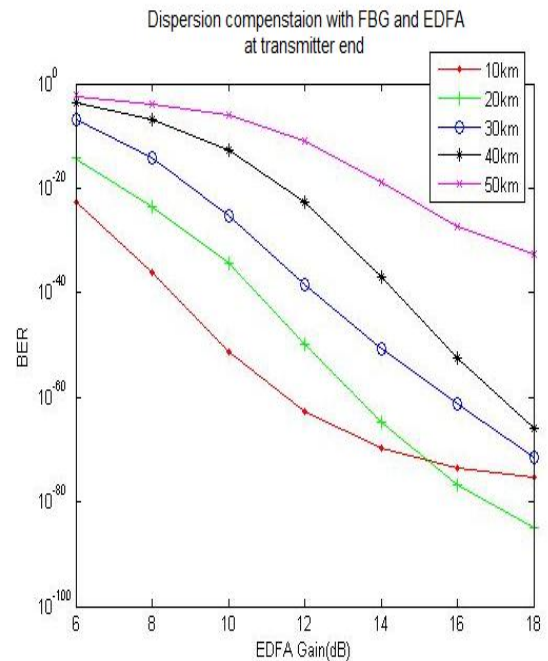
Initially, the BER decreases with increase in the length of FBG. The reason behind the decrease is that if the grating length increases, the group delay of reflection band increases (power reflectivity increases) and therefore dispersion compensated bandwidth increases [23]. So the margin of the distance increases over which the compensation is taking place.

After an optimum length the BER starts to increase. The reason behind the increase in BER is due to the increase in sidelobe level in the reflectivity spectrum [24]. The sidelobes increase the insertion losses and thus lead to increase in BER [25].

**5. THIRD SECTION :- COMPARISON ON THE BASIS OF EDFA GAIN VERSES BER:-**

This section describes comparison between EDFA gain (dB) with BER at different values of distances (10, 20, 30, 40, 50 Km). The launched power is kept -10 dBm for all values of distance. EDFA gain is varied and the BER is observed, while the minimum BER obtained for different FBG lengths is plotted against EDFA gain.

Graph shows that increase in EDFA gain plays a very important role in decreasing the BER. The system achieves a low BER for a particular EDFA gain. With increase in EDFA gain, BER decreases. Graph between EDFA gain and BER for dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at transmitter end is shown in Fig. 11.



**Fig 11: Graph between EDFA gain and BER for dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at transmitter end.**

From the graph in Fig. 11 it is observed that with increase in EDFA gain (for transmitter side) BER keeps on decreasing. Graph between EDFA gain and BER for dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at receiver end is shown in Fig.12.



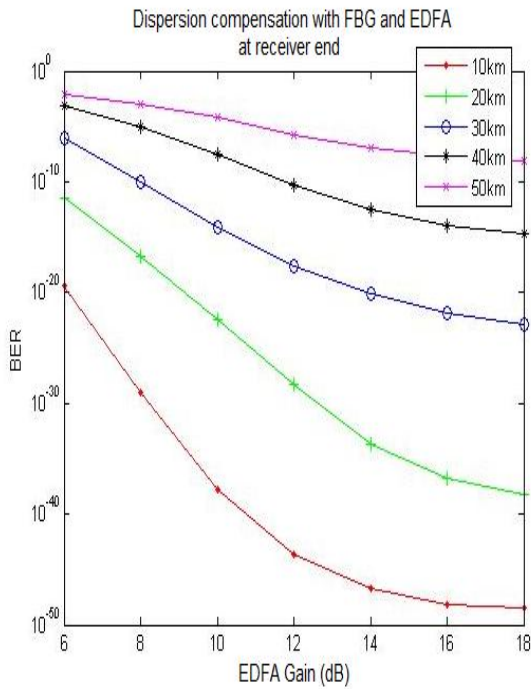


Fig 12: Graph between EDFA gain and BER for dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at receiver end.

From the graph in Fig. 12 the lowest value of BER is obtained at an EDFA gain of 16 dB. But after that (16 dB) it starts to saturate. So, 16dB is the optimum value of gain for dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at receiver end.

Comparison of graph in Fig. 11, Fig. 12 on the bases of minimum BER for a particular distance is shown in table 4.

Table 4. Comparison of graph on the bases of minimum BER for a particular distance

Distance (km)	EDFA gain (dB) for Dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at transmitter end	Minimum BER for Dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at transmitter end	EDFA gain (dB) for Dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at receiver end	Minimum BER for Dispersion compensation with FBG and EDFA at receiver end
10km	18dB	3.99917e-076	16dB	7.23851e-049
20km	18dB	9.23505e-086	16dB	1.64977e-037
30km	18dB	4.01022e-072	16dB	1.39974e-022
40km	18dB	1.24679e-066	16dB	1.19253e-014
50km	18dB	1.98315e-033	16dB	1.87345e-008

Therefore, except for 30 km the optical system using FBG and EDFA at the transmitter end has a less BER as compare to optical system using FBG and EDFA at the receiver end. Thus the placement of FBG and EDFA in optical transmission system plays an important role to reduce the BER of optical system.

From paper [2] for 10km optical communication system (using input power 1mW, FBG length 6mm) minimum BER observed is 1.35988e-198 (according to their parameter setting) but our results (using FBG and EDFA at transmitter side) reduces this minimum BER from 1.35988e-198 to 2.41949e-244 with better signal waveform (reception) at eye diagram analyser. In paper [4], pre compensation (dispersion compensation at transmitter side) scheme gives BER < 10<sup>-10</sup> for 120km optical link, but our results (dispersion compensation at transmitter side) give better performance upto 50 km with min BER 4.16583e-181. Also in paper [4] post compensation scheme (dispersion compensation scheme at receiver side) gives BER < 10<sup>-20</sup> for 120km optical link, but our results (dispersion compensation at receiver side) give better performance upto 50 km with min BER 1.10874e-102.

## 6. CONCLUSION

The positioning of the FBG along with EDFA plays an important role in improvement of the optical systems performance. Results obtained give better performance (less BER) as compare to paper [2] and [4]. When FBG is used at transmitter side for dispersion compensation, it gives better performance (minimum BER) as compare to when used for compensation at receiver side. For 10km BER reduces from 6.73164e-319 to 1.87745e-322 with input power 4dB, for 20km BER reduces from 4.90116e-287 to 1.29445e-320 with input power 2dB, for 40km BER reduces from 7.5984e-290 to 2.16954e-305 with input power 10 dB, for 50 km bit error reduces from 1.10874e-102 to 4.16583e-181. Only for 30km BER increases from 1.39294e-312 to 1.8834e-251. For 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 km to get minimum BER best FBGs length are 4mm, 14mm, 10mm, 14mm, 14mm respectively. The gain of the EDFA also plays an important role in systems performance. For configuration (FBG at the transmitter end), 18 dB gain has given the best results and for configuration (FBG at the receiver) 16 dB gain has given the best results.

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