Contents

Chapter 1
Introduction to Telecommunications and Fiber Optics 1

1.1 Telecommunications 1
   What It Is 1
   Telecommunications: Point-to-Point Systems and Networks 2
   Information-Carrying Capacity 3
   The Need for Fiber-Optic Communications Systems 5

1.2 A Fiber-Optic Communications System: The Basic Blocks 6
   Basic Block Diagram 7
   The Role of Fiber-Optic Communications Technology 13

1.3 A Look Back and a Glance Ahead 13
   Historical Notes 13
   The Industry Today and Future Trends 19
   Developments to Watch 25

Problems 26
References 27

Chapter 2
Physics of Light: A Brief Overview 28

2.1 Electromagnetic Waves 28
2.2 Beams (Rays) 30
   Refractive Index 30
2.3 A Stream of Photons 36
   An Energy-Level Diagram 36
   A Photon 36
   Radiation and Absorption 37
Chapter 3
Optical Fibers—Basics 42

3.1 How Optical Fibers Conduct Light 42
   Step-Index Fiber: The Basic Structure 42
   Launching the Light: Understanding Numerical Aperture 46

3.2 Attenuation 49
   Bending Losses 50
   Scattering 52
   Absorption 53
   Calculations of Total Attenuation 54
   Measuring Attenuation 56

3.3 Intermodal and Chromatic Dispersion 57
   Modes 57
   Modal (Intermodal) Dispersion 60
   The First Solution to the Modal-Dispersion Problem—Graded-Index Fiber 63
   A Better Solution to the Modal-Dispersion Problem—Singlemode Fiber 65
   Chromatic Dispersion 66

3.4 Bit Rate and Bandwidth 69
   Bit Rate and Bandwidth Defined 69
   Dispersion and Bit Rate 70

3.5 Reading a Data Sheet 71
   Where to Begin 72
   General Section 72
   “Optical Characteristics” Section 72
   “Geometric Characteristics” Section 75
   “Environmental Specifications” Section 76
   “Mechanical Specifications” Section 77
   Other Characteristics 77
   Conclusion 77

Summary 79
Problems 80
References 82

Chapter 4
Optical Fibers—A Deeper Look 83

4.1 Maxwell's Equations 83
   Set of Maxwell's Equations 83
   Interpretation of Maxwell's Equations 85
   Wave Equations 87
   Solving Wave Equations 89

4.2 Propagation of EM Waves 90
   Wave Equations for a Time-Harmonic EM Field 90
   EM Waves: Propagation in a Lossy Medium 91
   EM Waves: Propagation in Waveguides 93
Chapter 5
Singlemode Fibers—Basics 139

5.1 How a Singlemode Fiber Works 139
   The Principle of Action 139
   Gaussian Beam 140
   Core, Cladding, and Mode-Field Diameter (MFD) 142
   Cutoff Wavelength 143

5.2 Attenuation 144
   Bending Losses 144
   Scattering 146
   Absorption 146

5.3 Dispersion and Bandwidth 147
   Chromatic Dispersion 147
   Conventional, Dispersion-Shifted, and Dispersion-Flattened Fibers 153
   Polarization-Mode Dispersion (PMD) 155
   Bandwidth (Bit Rate) of a Singlemode Fiber 158

5.4 Reading a Data Sheet 160
   General Section 160
   Specifications Section 160

Summary 165
Problems 166
References 167
Chapter 6
Singlemode Fibers—A Deeper Look 168

6.1 Mode Field 168
  Gaussian Model and Real Mode-Field Distribution 168
  Cutoff Wavelength and V-number 171

6.2 More About Attenuation in a Singlemode Fiber 172
  Intrinsic and Extrinsic Losses 173

6.3 Coping with Dispersion in a Singlemode Fiber 178
  Chromatic Dispersion 178
  Compensation for Chromatic Dispersion with Dispersion-Compensating Fiber 181
  Dispersion-Compensating Gratings (DCG) 185
  Dispersion Compensation: The System Viewpoint 187
  Coping with PMD 188
  Polarization-Dependent Loss (PDL) 194
  Brief Summary 195

6.4 Nonlinear Effects in a Singlemode Fiber 195
  Nonlinear Refractive Effects 195
  Four-Wave Mixing (FWM) 200
  Stimulated Scattering 202

6.5 Trends in Fiber Design 204
  Summary 206
  Problems 207
  References 208

Chapter 7
Fabrication, Cabling, and Installation 210

7.1 Fabrication 210
  Two Major Stages 211
  Vapor-Phase Deposition Methods 213
  Coating 218

7.2 Fiber-Optic Cables 220
  Cables 220
  Reading Data Sheets 242

7.3 Installation—Placing the Cable 244
  Classification 244
  Installation Procedure 244

  Summary 246
  Problems 246
  References 247

Chapter 8
Fiber Cable Connectorization and Testing 248

8.1 Splicing 248
  Connection Losses 248
  Splicing Procedure 252
  Conclusion 257

8.2 Connectors 257
  Connectors—A Basic Structure 258
  Major Characteristics 259
Contents

Connector Styles—Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow 261
Standards 265
Reading Data Sheets 266
Termination Process 266
Receptacles, Adapters, and Special Connectors 267
Tests and Measurements 267

8.3 Installation Hardware 270
Why Installation Hardware 270
Hardware Systems and Components 272
Conclusion 283

8.4 Design of Local-Area-Network Installation 283
Link Consideration—Power Budget and Rise-Time Budget (Bandwidth) 284
Local Area Network—General Considerations 288
Cabling of Local Area Networks 291
Basic Recommendations 293
Plastic (Polymer) Optical Fiber (POF) 295

8.5 Testing, Troubleshooting, and Measurement 296
Test Equipment 296
What We Need to Test 304
Testing Network Attenuation 304
Testing Network Bandwidth 307
Connector and Splice Testing 307
Troubleshooting 310

Summary 310
Problems 311
References 312

Chapter 9
Light Sources and Transmitters—Basics 313

9.1 Light-Emitting Diodes (LEDs) 313
Light Radiation by a Semiconductor 314
General Considerations 318
Reading Data Sheets—Characteristics of LEDs 324

9.2 Laser Diodes (LDs) 332
Principle of Action 333
Superluminescent Diodes (SLDs) 347

9.3 Reading Data Sheets—The Characteristics of Laser Diodes 347
Broad-Area Laser Diodes 347
Reading the Data Sheet of a DFB Laser Diode 354

Summary 359
Problems 360
References 364

Chapter 10
Light Sources and Transmitters—A Deeper Look 365

10.1 More About Semiconductors 365
Intrinsic Semiconductors: Fermi Energy and Number of Charge Carriers 365
Doped Semiconductors 368
p-n Junction 369
Biasing 371
A Closer Look at the Bandgaps 372
10.2 Efficiency of a Laser Diode 375
   Input-Output Relationship 375
   Three Types of Efficiency 377
   More About the Efficiency of Laser-Diode Operation 381

10.3 Characteristics of Laser Diodes 386
   Threshold and Operating Currents 386
   Radiating Wavelength and Spectral Width 388
   Radiation Patterns 390
   Laser Modulation 393
   Chirp 398
   Noise 399

10.4 Transmitter Modules 400
   Functional Block Diagram and Typical Circuits of a Transmitter 401
   Packaging and Reliability 410
   Reading the Transmitter's Data Sheet 413
   External Modulators 416

Summary 428
Problems 428
References 433

Chapter 11
Receivers 434

11.1 Photodiodes 434
   p-n Photodiodes: How They Work 434
   Power Relationship 437
   Bandwidth 442
   p-i-n Photodiodes 445
   Avalanche Photodiodes (APDs) 447
   MSM Photodetectors 450

11.2 Reading the Data Sheets of Photodiodes 451
   Data Sheet of a p-i-n Photodiode 451
   Data Sheet of an Avalanche Photodiode 458
   Silicon Photodiodes 459
   Conclusion 459

11.3 More About Photodetectors 460
   Noise Sources in a Photodiode 460
   Signal-to-Noise Ratio and Noise-Equivalent Power 465
   Sensitivity and Quantum Limit 470

11.4 Receiver Units 476
   Functional Block Diagram and Typical Circuits of a Receiver 476
   Decision-Circuit Design 482
   Reading a Receiver's Data Sheet 487
   Opto-Electronic IC (OEIC) 490

Summary 491
Problems 493
References 497

Chapter 12
Components of Fiber-Optic Networks 499

12.1 Fiber-Optic Networks: An Overview 499
   Point-to-Point Links 499
   Networks 501
Chapter 14

An Introduction to Fiber-Optic Networks 651

14.1 The "What" and "How" of Data Transmission 652
What to Transmit: Voice, Video, and Data 652
Telephone Networks 652
Computer Networks 662
Cable TV 669

14.2 Elements of the Architecture of Fiber-Optic Networks 673
Networks, Protocols, and Services 673
Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) Reference Model 674
SONET Networks and Layers 680
ATM Networks and Layers 683
Layered Architecture of Fiber-Optic Networks 685
Optical Layer 687

14.3 Network Management and the Future of Fiber-Optic Networks 691
The Functions of Network Management 691
How Network Management Is Implemented 692
Fiber-Optic-Network Survivability (Protection and Restoration) 694
Conclusion: The Future of Fiber-Optic Networks 700

Summary 703
Problems 707
References 709

Chapter 15

Conclusion 712

15.1 Bandwidth: The Industry's 'Holy Grail' 712
15.2 Deployment of New Fiber-Optic Lines 713
15.3 Optical Fiber: Problems Galore, Solutions Sought 714
15.4 Fiber-Optic Components 715
15.5 Wavelength-Division Multiplexing: A Dire Need Met 717
15.6 Networks 717
15.7 Wireless Communications and Fiber-Optic Networks 719
Summing Up 719

References 719

Appendix A
List of Constants, Powers of Ten, International System of Units, Decibel Units, and the Greek Alphabet 721

Appendix B
Acronyms, Abbreviations, Symbols, and Units Used in this Book 724

Appendix C
A Selected Bibliography 731

Appendix D
Products, Services, and Standards 740

Index 743