

# Waveguide Dispersion

September 18, 2013

We first consider the normalized propagation constant, and then the group velocity, and thus the group delay and finally the spectral spread

For a complex propagation constant  $k = \gamma = \alpha + j\beta$ , where  $\beta$  is the propagation constant,  $\alpha$  is the attenuation constant

Consider the ratio  $\frac{\beta}{|\gamma|} = \frac{\beta}{k}$

Then the normalized propagation constant to  $n_{clad}$  is thus

$$b = \frac{\frac{\beta}{k} - n_{clad}}{n_{core} - n_{clad}}$$

Express  $\beta$  in terms of  $k$

$$\beta = kb(n_{core} - n_{clad}) + kn_{clad}$$

Therefore the group velocity and unit group delay

$$v_{wg} = \frac{d\omega}{d\beta} = c \frac{dk}{d\beta} \quad \tau_w = \frac{1}{v_{wg}} = \frac{1}{c} \frac{d\beta}{dk}$$

To find  $\frac{d\beta}{dk}$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\beta}{dk} &= \frac{d}{dk} [kb(n_{core} - n_{clad}) + kn_{clad}] \\ \frac{d\beta}{dk} &= n_{clad} + (n_{core} - n_{clad}) \frac{d(bk)}{dk} \end{aligned}$$

Since

$$V = \sqrt{n_{core}^2 - n_{clad}^2} ka$$

Thus

$$\frac{d(bk)}{dk} = \frac{d(bk) \sqrt{n_{core}^2 - n_{clad}^2} a}{dk \sqrt{n_{core}^2 - n_{clad}^2} a} = \frac{d(bV)}{dV}$$

Thus

$$\frac{d\beta}{dk} = n_{clad} + (n_{core} - n_{clad}) \frac{d(bV)}{dV}$$

And therefore the group delay

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_{wg} &= L\tau_w = \frac{L}{c} \frac{d\beta}{dk} \\ \tau_{wg} &= \frac{L}{c} \left[ n_{clad} + (n_{core} - n_{clad}) \frac{d(bV)}{dV} \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \frac{L}{c} n_{clad} \left[ 1 + \frac{n_{core} - n_{clad}}{n_{clad}} \frac{d(bV)}{dV} \right] \\
&= \frac{L}{c} n_{clad} \left[ 1 + \Delta \frac{d(bV)}{dV} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

Where  $\Delta = \frac{n_{core} - n_{clad}}{n_{clad}}$   
The waveguide dispersion is thus

$$\begin{aligned}
D_w &= \frac{1}{L} \frac{d\tau_{wg}}{dV} \frac{dV}{d\lambda} \\
&= \frac{1}{L} \frac{d}{dV} \left[ \frac{L}{c} n_{clad} \left[ 1 + \Delta \frac{d(bV)}{dV} \right] \right] \frac{dV}{d\lambda} \\
&= \frac{n_{clad} \Delta}{c} \frac{d^2(bV)}{dV^2} \frac{dV}{d\lambda}
\end{aligned}$$

For  $\frac{dV}{d\lambda}$

$$V = \sqrt{n_{core}^2 - n_{clad}^2} ka$$

$$V = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \sqrt{n_{core}^2 - n_{clad}^2} a$$

$$\frac{dV}{d\lambda} = \frac{-V}{\lambda}$$

Thus

$$D_{wg} = -\frac{n_{clad} \Delta}{c} \frac{d^2(bV)}{dV^2} \frac{V}{\lambda}$$

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