

**Rajasthan Technical University, Kota**  
**B.Tech. VI Semester ECE**  
**Fiber Optics Communication**

**Unit 5: Lecture 04**  
**Self Phase Modulation (SPM)**  
**Cross Phase Modulation (XPM)**

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# Introduction

The origin of SPM and XPM lies in Ultrafast third-order susceptibility  $\chi^{(3)}$

- The real part leads to
  - Self Phase Modulation (SPM)
  - Cross Phase Modulation (XPM)
  - Four Wave Mixing (FWM)
- Non-linearities due to Intensity dependent variations in refractive index (Kerr Effect)

# Kerr Effect

- The Kerr effect is a phenomenon observed in non-linear optic materials where the refractive index of the material changes in response to an electric field.
- The refractive index  $n$  of many optical materials has a weak dependence on optical intensity  $I$  (power/ $A_{\text{eff}}$ ) given by

$$n = n_0 + n_2 I = n_0 + n_2 \frac{P}{A_{\text{eff}}}$$

- Here  $n_0$  is the ordinary refractive index of the material and  $n_2$  is the nonlinear index coefficient.
- The value of  $n_2$  is about
  - $2.6 \times 10^{-8} \mu\text{m}^2/\text{W}$  in silica,
  - between  $1.2 - 5.1 \times 10^{-6} \mu\text{m}^2/\text{W}$  in tellurite glasses,
- The nonlinearity in refractive index is known as Kerr nonlinearity.
- The Kerr nonlinearity produces a carrier-induced phase modulation of the propagating signals which is called the Kerr Effect.

# Self-Phase Modulation (SPM)

- In single-wavelength links, the Kerr effect gives rise to self-phase modulation (SPM).
- This converts light power fluctuations in a wave to spurious phase fluctuations in the same wave.
- The magnitude of non linear effect for SPM is given by

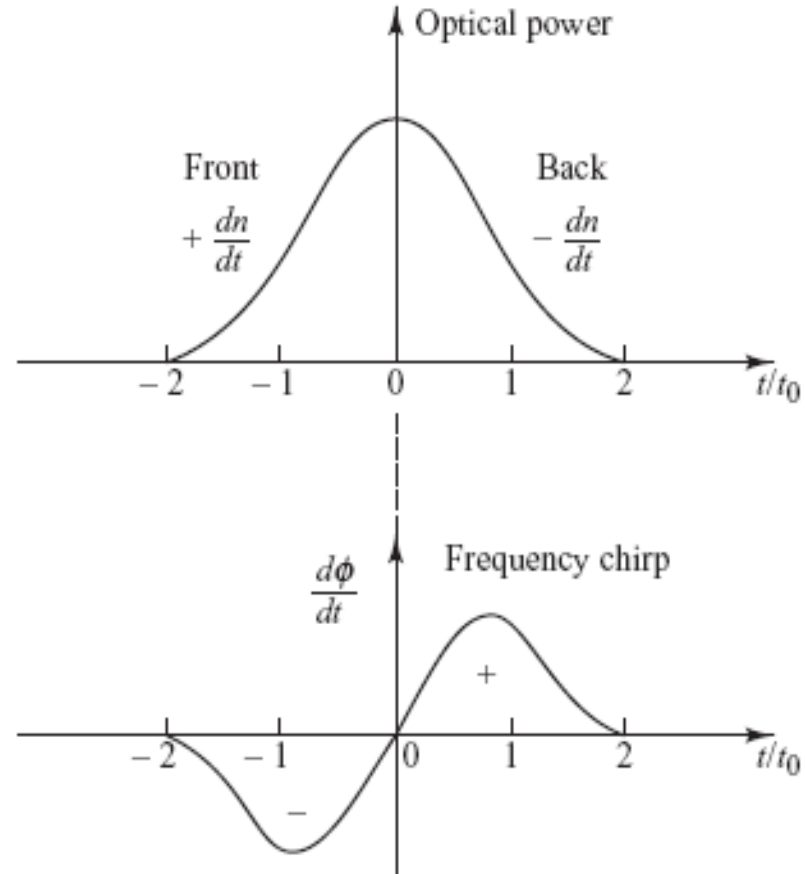
$$\gamma = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \frac{n_2}{A_{eff}}$$

- The frequency shift arising due to SPM is given by

$$\Delta\omega = \frac{d\omega}{dt} = \gamma L_{eff} \frac{dP}{dt}$$

# Self-Phase Modulation (SPM)

- In a medium having an intensity-dependent refractive index, a time-varying signal intensity will produce a time-varying refractive index.
- The leading edge of a pulse will see a positive  $dn/dt$ , whereas the trailing edge will see a negative  $dn/dt$ .
- This leads to frequency chirping, in that the rising edge of the pulse shifts toward lower frequencies, and the trailing edge toward higher frequencies.



# Cross-Phase Modulation (XPM)

- Cross-phase modulation (XPM) appears in WDM systems and has a similar origin as SPM.
- The refractive index nonlinearity converts optical intensity fluctuations in a particular wavelength channel to phase fluctuations in another copropagating channel.
- XPM only appears when the two interacting light beams or pulses overlap in space and time.
- For two copropogating wavelengths the XPM induced phase shift is given by

$$\Delta\varphi = \frac{d\varphi}{dt} = 2\gamma L_{\text{eff}} \frac{dP}{dt}$$

# Cross-Phase Modulation (XPM)

- When multiple wavelengths propagate in a fiber, the total phase shift for an optical signal with frequency  $\omega_i$  is

$$\Delta\phi_i = \gamma L_{\text{eff}} \left[ \frac{dP_i}{dt} + 2 \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{dP_j}{dt} \right]$$

First term represents SPM and second term XPM



# References

- Optical Fiber Communication, 5 e TMH by Gerd Keiser
  - Optical Fiber Communications, 2 e Pearson Education by John M. Senior
  - [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)
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- Note: Author do not claim the originality of contents. The texts referred above have been used for preparation of this lecture for instructional purpose only.

# Thank You

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