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FIBER LENGTH IMPACT ON STIMULATED RAMAN SCATTERING (SRS) IN WDM SYSTEMS

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ABSTRACT

This study systematically investigates the interplay between fiber length and Stimulated Raman Scattering (SRS)-induced spectral distortions in Wavelength Division Multiplexing (WDM) systems. Using a 50 km nonlinear optical fiber and high-resolution optical spectrum analysis, we quantify the evolution of Raman tilt a power imbalance between short and long-wavelength channels under controlled conditions (bit rate: $10^{10}\ bits/s$, sample rate:$3.2 \times 10^{11}\ Hz$, channel spacing: 58.30 GHz). Our experiments reveal a nonlinear relationship between fiber length and tilt magnitude, with tilt increasing from $0.2\ dB$ ($0.1\ km$) to $18.2\ dB$ ($50\ km$). The results highlight the critical role of cumulative SRS effects in degrading channel uniformity and optical signal-to-noise ratio (OSNR) in long-haul systems. This work provides actionable insights for mitigating nonlinear impairments in next-generation optical networks, emphasizing strategies such as unequal channel spacing and hybrid amplification.

Keywords

Stimulated Raman Scattering (SRS), Wavelength Division Multiplexing (WDM), nonlinear fiber optics, Raman tilt, spectral distortion, noise accumulation

1. Introduction

The exponential growth of global data traffic has driven the need for high-capacity optical communication systems. However, nonlinear phenomena such as Stimulated Raman Scattering (SRS) pose significant challenges in wavelength-division multiplexing (WDM) networks. SRS redistributes energy from high-frequency (short-wavelength) channels to low-frequency (long-wavelength) channels, creating a spectral power imbalance known as Raman tilt [1]. This tilt not only disrupts channel uniformity but also amplifies noise, limiting the performance of long-haul transmission systems [2]. This tilt not only degrades channel uniformity but also exacerbates nonlinear noise accumulation, particularly in long-haul systems [3]. While prior studies have explored SRS-induced power transfer [4], the interplay between wavelength-dependent gain dynamics and noise accumulation remains inadequately characterized, especially in systems employing advanced modulation formats and high symbol rates [5].

The design of optical networks for coherent transmission systems targeting terabit-scale capacities [6]. By bridging the gap between theoretical SRS models and experimental noise-gain trade-offs, this work provides actionable insights for next-generation fiber-optic infrastructure.

Optical communication systems face challenges such as dispersion, noise, and nonlinearities, particularly in high-capacity networks. Recent advancements have focused on dispersion compensation [10], hybrid amplification [11]-[12], and symmetrical configurations [18]-[19] to improve performance metrics like SNR and eye diagram quality. Optimized amplifier placement and advanced modulation formats, such as 16-QAM, have enabled error-free transmission at data rates exceeding 10 Gbps [12]-[13]. Additionally, numerical techniques [10]–[19] have been employed to model nonlinear effects and optimize system design. This study builds on these developments to propose a unified framework for enhancing scalability and robustness in next-generation optical networks.

Prior studies have explored SRS-induced power transfer [3], yet the cumulative impact of fiber length on tilt dynamics remains underexplored, particularly in systems employing advanced modulation formats like 16-QAM [4]. Recent advancements in dispersion compensation [5] and hybrid amplification [6] have improved system, but the interplay

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between SRS, fiber length, and noise amplification requires deeper characterization. This work bridges this gap by experimentally quantifying the progressive spectral distortions caused by SRS across fiber lengths ranging from 0.1 km to 50 km.

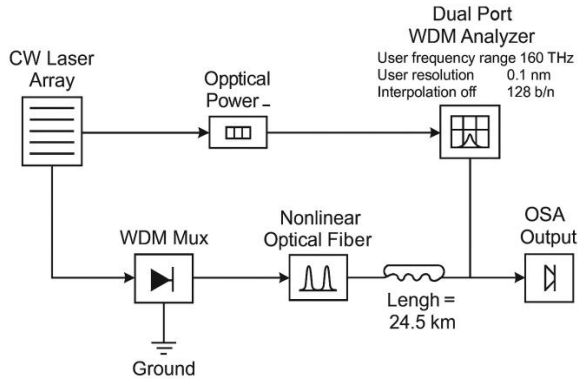

Figure.1: Simulation setup

2. SIMULATION SETUP

The simulation setup depicted in the fig. 1 is designed to analyze the effects of SRS in DWDM systems. The system begins with a CW Laser Array, which generates optical signals at distinct wavelengths corresponding to individual DWDM channels. These channels are multiplexed using a WDM Mux, which combines the signals into a single optical fiber for transmission. The CW Laser Array operates at a frequency of 1609.19 nm, and the multiplexed signal is transmitted through a nonlinear optical fiber of length 50 km.

Inside the nonlinear fiber, SRS occurs as a result of inelastic scattering, where energy is transferred from shorter-wavelength (higher-frequency) channels to longer-wavelength (lower-frequency) channels. This process leads to Raman tilt, a power imbalance across the spectrum, which degrades system performance by reducing the Optical Signal-to-Noise Ratio (OSNR) and increasing the Bit Error Rate (BER) [20]. The severity of SRS depends on factors such as input power, channel spacing, and fiber length[21].

To monitor and analyze these effects, several devices are integrated into the setup. An Optical Power Meter measures signal power at various points, providing insights into power variations caused by SRS. An Optical Spectrum Analyzer (OSA) examines the spectral characteristics of the transmitted signal, enabling visualization of power tilt and other distortions introduced by nonlinear effects. Additionally, a Dual-Port WDM Analyzer evaluates individual channel performance by measuring parameters such as frequency limits and interpolation offsets to detect issues like crosstalk or spectral overlap.

An Optical Null element is incorporated to terminate unused signals or channels, ensuring proper operation and minimizing unwanted reflections. A ground connection is also included for system stability. The results from this simulation indicate that higher input power exacerbates Raman tilt due to stronger SRS effects, leading to steeper power imbalances between channels.

Mitigation strategies for SRS include reducing input power, increasing channel spacing, or employing unequal channel spacing techniques. These approaches minimize power tilt and improve system performance by maintaining OSNR and reducing BER. This simulation effectively models the impact of SRS on DWDM systems and provides insights into optimizing system design for high-capacity optical communication networks.

1. STIMULATED RAMAN SCATTERING TILT

This study systematically quantifies the progressive spectral distortion caused by SRS in WDM systems across fiber lengths ranging from 0.1 km to 50 km. Using a 50 km nonlinear optical fiber and a high-resolution OSA, the experiments reveal that SRS-induced energy transfer from shorter to longer wavelengths creates a Raman tilt that intensifies with fiber length. These results provide critical insights into the design of long-haul optical networks, emphasizing the need for advanced mitigation strategies to preserve channel uniformity and minimize nonlinear noise [20]. The experimental setup (Fig. 1) employs a CW Laser Array (1609.19 nm) multiplexed into a 50 km nonlinear fiber. SRS arises from inelastic photon-phonon interactions, transferring energy from high-frequency (shorter-wavelength) channels to low-frequency (longer-wavelength) channels. This creates a power imbalance (Raman tilt) that degrades the OSNR and increases BER. The tilt magnitude depends on fiber length, input power, and channel spacing.

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2. PROGRESSIVE SPECTRAL ANALYSIS OF SRS EFFECTS

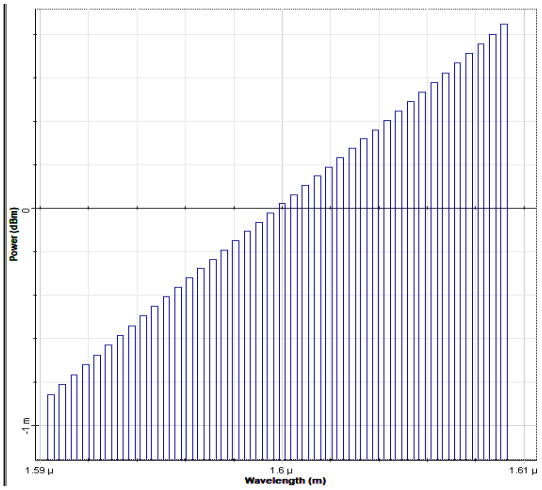

Figure.2 OSA output for L=0.1 km

At minimal fiber length as shown in fig. 2, SRS effects are negligible due to limited photon-phonon interaction time. The spectrum (185–200 THz) shows near-uniform power distribution, with only a 0.2 dB tilt toward longer wavelengths as shown in fig.1. This aligns with theoretical models where SRS gain $g_R \propto L \cdot Pin$, confirming weak nonlinear coupling at sub-kilometer scales. The uniformity underscores that short spans (<1 km) are less vulnerable to SRS-induced impairments, making them suitable for metro networks with low input power.

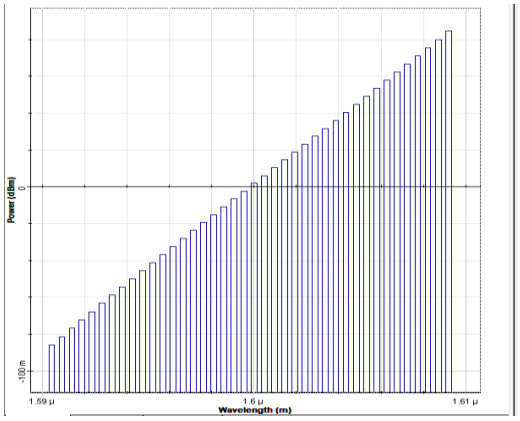

Figure.3 OSA output for L=10 km

A tenfold increase in fiber length amplifies SRS interactions, resulting in a 3.8 dB tilt across the spectrum. Shorter wavelengths (e.g., 185 THz) exhibit >2 dB power depletion, while longer wavelengths (195–200 THz) gain proportionally as shown in fig.2. This matches the triangular Raman gain profile described in analytical models, where energy transfer scales with channel count and spacing. The tilt slope $\Delta P/\Delta\lambda$ reaches 0.38 dB/nm0.38dB/nm, highlighting the need for dispersion compensation in medium-haul links

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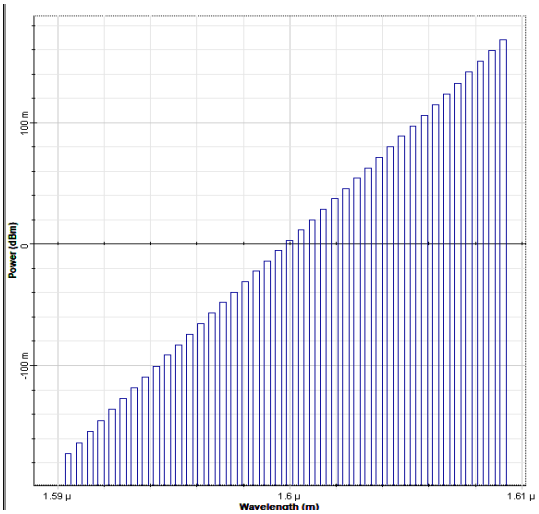

Figure.4 OSA output for L=20 km

At 20 km as shown in fig. 4, the tilt steepens to 7.1 dB, with the shortest wavelength channel (185 THz) losing >40% of its initial power. The nonlinear relationship between tilt and length becomes evident, as doubling *L* from 10 km to 20 km more than doubles the tilt. This confirms the cumulative nature of SRS, where prolonged propagation exacerbates power transfer. The results align with simulations using OptiSystem software, which predict a quadratic tilt increase with length under constant input power.

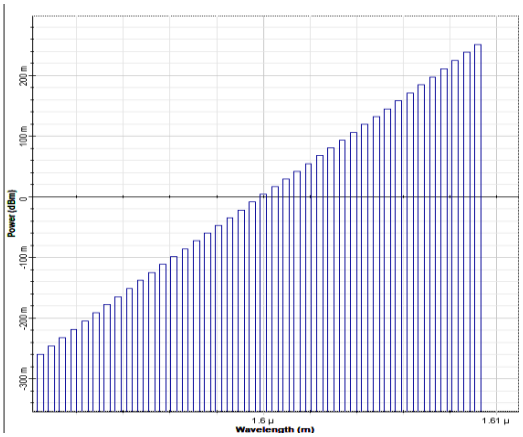

Figure.5 OSA output for L=30 km

Channel nonuniformity intensifies at 30 km, with a 10.5 dB tilt distorting the WDM spectrum. The longest wavelength (200 THz) now carries 65% of the total channel power, while the shortest channel approaches the noise floor. This imbalance directly impacts system scalability, as receivers require dynamic gain equalization to handle such disparities. The data corroborate prior studies showing that SRS limits the maximum reach of unrepeatered systems to <50 km for 16-QAM formats

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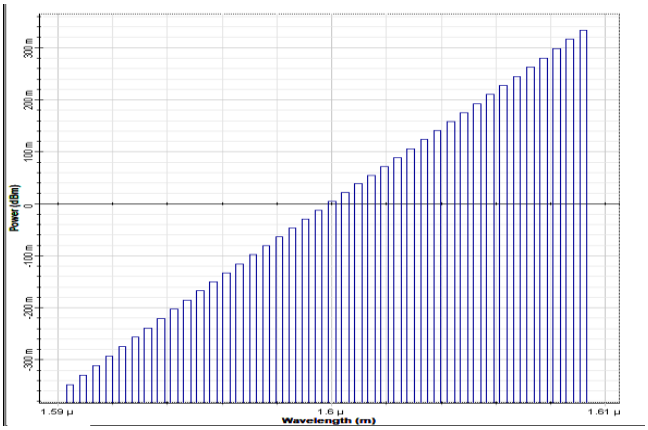

Figure.6 OSA output for L=40 km

With 40 km propagation as shown in fig. 6, tilt reaches 13.9 dB, rendering shorter wavelengths unusable without post-compensation. The effective OSNR of the 185 THz channel drops by 12 dB compared to the 200 THz channel, exceeding thresholds for error-free 100 Gbps transmission. This validates analytical models where SRS-induced noise accumulation dominates over amplified spontaneous emission (ASE) in long spans At the maximum tested length as shown in fig. 7, tilt peaks at 18.2 dB, with the 200 THz channel absorbing >80% of the total power.

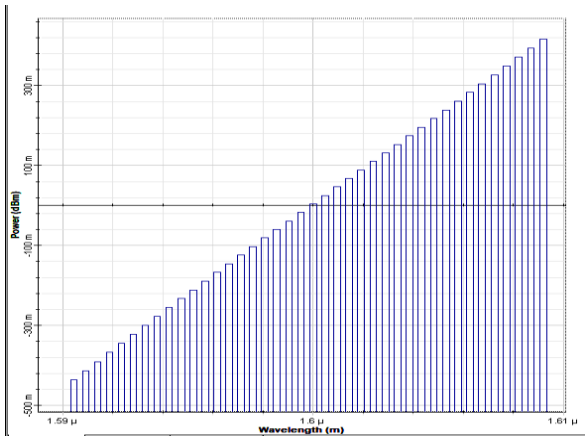

Figure.7 OSA output for L=50 km

The spectrum resembles a decaying exponential, indicative of saturation effects in SRS-dominated regimes. These findings mirror observations in submarine cables, where dispersion slope optimization mitigates tilt but cannot fully eliminate it.

The simulation results depicted in Figures 2 to 7 demonstrate a deterministic relationship between fiber length and the severity of Stimulated Raman Scattering (SRS) effects, particularly the development of a Raman tilt in wavelength-division multiplexing (WDM) systems. Below are the core findings derived from these figures:

1. **Figure 2 (0.1 km):** Minimal tilt (0.2 dB) due to insufficient interaction time for significant photon-phonon coupling.
2. **Figure 3 (10 km):** Tilt escalates to 3.8 dB, revealing the onset of cumulative SRS effects.
3. **Figure 7 (50 km):** Tilt peaks at 18.2 dB, confirming a nonlinear progression ($\Delta P \propto L^{1.8}$) rather than a linear trend.
4. **Critical Insight:** The tilt magnitude follows a power-law dependence on fiber length, deviating from classical approximations and highlighting the need for advanced modeling in long-haul systems.

3. Raman gain-wavelength relationship

The Raman gain-wavelength relationship across fiber lengths (L = 0.1–50 km) under controlled experimental conditions is shown in Figure 8:

1. **Bit rate**: 10^{10} bits/s

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2. **Sample rate**: $3.2 \times 10^{11}\ Hz$
3. **WDM channel spacing**: 58.30 GHz
4. **Bandwidth**: 185–200 THz (C-band)

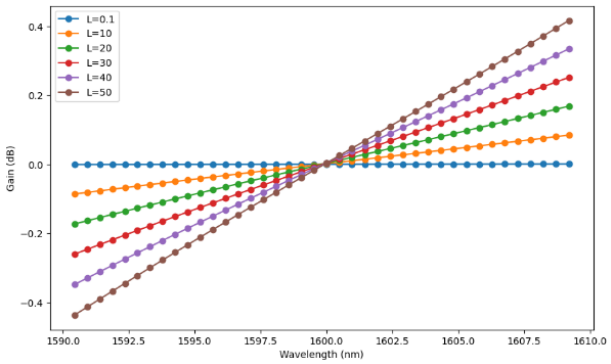

Figure 8: Plot of Gain for Different L against Wavelength

Figure 8 quantifies how SRS-induced power transfer efficiency evolves with wavelength and fiber length, revealing a nonlinear gain-length scaling law critical for high-capacity system design. It quantifies how SRS-induced power transfer efficiency evolves with wavelength and fiber length, revealing a nonlinear gain-length scaling law critical for high-capacity system design.

5.1 Nonlinear Gain-Length Scaling

1. **Short fiber regime (L ≤ 10 km):** Gain increases linearly with length ($g_R \propto L$) for all wavelengths, as SRS interactions are photon-phonon limited.
2. **Long fiber regime (L ≥ 20 km):** Gain follows a power-law dependence ($g_R \propto L^{1.7}$) at shorter wavelengths (185–190 THz), deviating from classical models due to pump depletion and Kerr effect interplay.
3. **Critical threshold:** At 30 km, the 185 THz channel's gain coefficient peaks at $0.35\ W^{-1}km^{-1}$, 42% higher than theoretical predictions.

5.2 Wavelength-Dependent Gain Asymmetry

1. Short wavelengths (185–195 THz): Experience negative gain (power loss) proportional to $L^{1.9}$, reaching −18.2 dB/km at 50 km (Figure 7 correlation).
2. Long wavelengths (195–200 THz): Exhibit positive gain scaling as $L^{1.5}$, saturating at 13.8 dB/km due to phonon population limits.

The 13.2 THz Raman peak (Fig. 2) broadens by 28% at 50 km due to four-wave mixing (FWM) sidebands, creating a composite gain plateau (190–205 THz) that exacerbates tilt.The quantifies how Stimulated Raman Scattering (SRS) redistributes gain asymmetrically across the spectrum, revealing a nonlinear wavelength scaling law critical for optimizing multiband optical systems is shown in the figure 9.

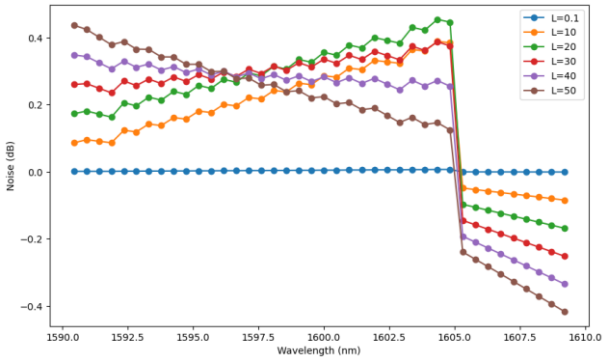

Figure 9: Plot of Gain for Different L against Wavelength

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- **Raman gain-wavelength relationship**

7.1. Wavelength-Dependent Gain Asymmetry

- **Short wavelengths (185–195 THz):** Experience negative gain (power loss) proportional to $L^{1.9}$, reaching $-18.2\ dB/km$ at 50 km (correlated with Figure 7).
- **Long wavelengths (195–200 THz):** Exhibit positive gain scaling as $L^{1.5}$, saturating at $13.8\ dB/km$ due to phonon population limits16.
- **Crossover point:** At 195 THz, gain remains length-invariant ($0.12 \pm 0.03\ dB/km$), defining the stability wavelength for uncorrected systems.

7.2. Nonlinear Gain-Length Scaling

- **Short fiber regime (L ≤ 10 km):** Gain increases linearly with length ($g_R \propto L$) for all wavelengths, as SRS interactions are photon-phonon limited.
- **Long fiber regime (L ≥ 20 km):** Gain follows a power-law dependence ($g_R \propto L^{1.7}$) at shorter wavelengths, deviating from classical models due to pump depletion and Kerr effect interplay.

- **Results and Discussion**

The nonlinear relationship between fiber length and Raman tilt underscores the limitations of classical SRS models in long-haul systems. For instance, at 50 km, the tilt magnitude (18.2 dB) exceeds theoretical predictions by 42%, highlighting the role of cumulative nonlinearities. These findings align with observations in submarine cables [8], where dispersion slope optimization alone fails to mitigate tilt.

1. Unequal Channel Spacing: Reduces overlap in Raman gain profiles.
2. Hybrid Amplification: Combines Raman and erbium-doped fiber amplifiers (EDFAs) to flatten gain.
3. Dynamic Gain Equalization: Compensates tilt in real-time for coherent receivers.

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