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Fibre optic communication system design guides – Part 9: Guidance on polarization mode dispersion measurements and theory

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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

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Part 9: Guidance on polarization mode dispersion measurements and theory

FOREWORD

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The main task of IEC technical committees is to prepare International Standards. However, a technical committee may propose the publication of a technical report when it has collected data of a different kind from that which is normally published as an International Standard, for example "state of the art".

IEC TR 61282-9, which is a Technical Report, has been prepared by subcommittee 86C: Fibre optic systems and active devices, of IEC technical committee 86: Fibre optics.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2006.

This second edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

a) much of the theory has been condensed – focusing only on content that is needed to explain the test method;
b) symbols have been removed, but abbreviations are retained;

c) the material in the Clause 5 has been significantly reduced in an effort to avoid repeating what is already in the actual International Standards. Instead, the focus is on explaining the International Standards;

d) measurement methods that are not found in International Standards have been removed;

e) there are significant corrections to the modulation phase shift method, particularly in regard to the Mueller set technique;

f) there are significant corrections to the polarization phase shift method;

g) the proof of the GINTY interferometric method is presented. This proof also extends to the Fixed Analyser Cosine transfer technique;

h) another Fixed Analyser method is suggested. This is based on the proof of the GINTY method and is called "spectral differentiation method";

i) Clause 6 has been renamed "Limitations" and refocused on the limitations of the test methods. This Technical Report is not intended to be an engineering manual;

j) the annexes have been removed;

k) the bibliography has been much reduced in size;

l) the introduction has been expanded to include some information on system impairments.

The text of this Technical Report is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
86C/1342/DTR	86C/1366/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this Technical Report can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

A list of all parts in the IEC 61282 series, published under the general title *Fibre optic communication system design guides*, can be found on the IEC website.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until the stability date indicated on the IEC website under "http://webstore.iec.ch" in the data related to the specific publication. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed,
- withdrawn,
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

A bilingual version of this publication may be issued at a later date.

IMPORTANT – The 'colour inside' logo on the cover page of this publication indicates that it contains colours which are considered to be useful for the correct understanding of its contents. Users should therefore print this document using a colour printer.

INTRODUCTION

This Technical Report is complementary to the International Standards describing PMD procedures (IEC 60793-1-48, IEC 61280-4-4, IEC 61290-11-1, IEC 61290-11-2 and IEC 61300-3-32) and other design guides on PMD (IEC 61282-3 and IEC 61292-5), as well as ITU-T Recommendation G.650.2.

The system power penalty associated with PMD varies depending on transmission format and bit rate. It also varies with optical frequency and state of polarization (SOP) of the light source. At the output of a link, the signal can shift from a maximum delay to a minimum delay as a result of using different SOPs at the source. The difference in these delays is called the differential group delay (DGD), which is associated with two extremes of input SOP. At these extremes, a signal in the form of a single pulse appears shifted up or down by half the DGD, about a midpoint, at the output. At intermediate SOPs, the single pulse appears as a weighted total of two pulses at the output, one shifted up by half the DGD and one shifted down by half the DGD. This weighted total of two shifted pulses is what causes signal distortion.

The system power penalty is partly defined in terms of a maximum allowed bit error rate and a minimum received power. In the absence of distortion, there is a minimum received power that will produce the maximum allowed bit error rate. In the presence of distortion, the received power should be increased to produce the maximum bit error rate. The magnitude of the required increase of received power is the power penalty of the distortion.

The term PMD is used to describe two distinctly different ideas.

One idea is associated with the signal distortion induced by transmission media for which the output SOP varies with optical frequency. This is the fundamental source of signal distortion.

The other idea is that of a number (value) associated with the measurement of a single-mode fibre transmission link or element of that link. There are several measurement methods with different strengths and capabilities. They are all based on quantifying the magnitude of possible variation in output SOP with optical frequency. The objective of this Technical Report is to explain the commonality of the different methods.

The DGD at the source's optical frequency is what controls the maximum penalty across all possible SOPs. However, in most links, the DGD varies randomly across optical frequency and time. The PMD value associated with measurements, and which is specified, is a statistical metric that describes the DGD distribution. There are two main metrics, linear average and root-mean square (RMS), that exist in the literature and in the measurement methods. For most situations, one metric can be calculated from the other using a conversion formula. The reason for the dual metrics is an accident of history. If history could be corrected, the RMS definition would be the most suitable.

For the non-return to zero transmission format, DGD equal to 0,3 of the bit period yields approximately 1 dB maximum penalty. Because DGD varies randomly, a rule of thumb emerged in the system standardization groups: keep PMD less than 0,1 of the bit period for less than 1 dB penalty. This assumes that DGD larger than three times the PMD, and that the source output SOP produces the worst case distortion, is not very likely. For 10 Gbit/s non-return to zero, this rule yields a design rule: keep the link PMD less than 10 ps. ITU-T G.sup.39 [1][1] has more information on the relationship of PMD and system penalties.

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1 Numbers in square brackets refer to the Bibliography.

FIBRE OPTIC COMMUNICATION SYSTEM DESIGN GUIDES –

Part 9: Guidance on polarization mode dispersion measurements and theory

1 Scope

This part of IEC 61282, which is a Technical Report, describes effects and theory of polarization mode dispersion (PMD) and provides guidance on PMD measurements.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

IEC 60793-1-48, *Optical fibres – Part 1-48: Measurement methods and test procedures – Polarization mode dispersion*

IEC 61280-4-4, *Fibre optic communication subsystem test procedures – Part 4-4: Cable plants and links – Polarization mode dispersion measurement for installed links*

IEC 61290-11-1, *Optical amplifier – Test methods – Part 11-1: Polarization mode dispersion parameter – Jones matrix eigenanalysis (JME)*

IEC 61290-11-2, *Optical amplifier – Test methods – Part 11-1: Polarization mode dispersion parameter – Poincaré sphere analysis method*

IEC 61300-3-32, *Fibre optic interconnecting devices and passive components – Basic tests and measurement procedures – Part 3-32: Examinations and measurements – Polarization mode dispersion measurement for passive optical components*