The essence of wavelength division multiplexing WDM

AI Overview

Wavelength Division Multiplexing (WDM) is a technique that combines multiple optical signals of different wavelengths onto a single optical fiber to increase data transmission capacity.

Concept and Working Principle

WDM works by assigning each data stream a unique wavelength of light, allowing multiple signals to travel simultaneously over the same fiber without interference, similar to multiple lanes on a highway carrying separate traffic streams . At the transmitting end, a multiplexer combines the different wavelength signals into a single optical fiber. At the receiving end, a demultiplexer separates the combined signal back into individual wavelengths, directing each to its respective receiver . This enables bidirectional communication and significantly increases the fiber's capacity without laying additional cables .

Types of WDM
• Coarse WDM (CWDM): Operates with fewer channels (typically 8) and wider spacing between wavelengths (around 20 nm). CWDM is cost-effective, consumes less energy, and is suitable for short-range communication .
• Dense WDM (DWDM): Supports a higher number of channels (up to 96) with narrow wavelength spacing (50–100 GHz), making it ideal for long-distance, high-capacity networks. DWDM can transmit data at speeds up to 400 Gbps per fiber and often uses erbium-doped fiber amplifiers to boost signal strength over long distances ....

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Alternate multiplexing schemes are also briefly discussed, including time-division multiplexing (TDM), space-division

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Known as wavelength division multiplexing (WDM) and later dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM), this

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WDM Multiplexers and Demultiplexers combine and separate different wavelengths (colors) of light signals on a common fiber

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This technique, also known as wavelength-division duplexing, allows bidirectional communication over a single strand

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Wavelength-division multiplexing

In fiber-optic communications, wavelength-division multiplexing (WDM) is a technology which multiplexes a

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