Performance Analysis of an Optical CDMA MAC Protocol With Variable-Size Sliding Window

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Abstract—A media access control protocol for optical codedivision multiple-access packet networks with variable length data traffic is proposed. This protocol exhibits a sliding window with variable size. A model for interference-level fluctuation and an accurate analysis for channel usage are presented. Both multipleaccess interference (MAI) and photodetector's shot noise are considered. Both chip-level and correlation receivers are adopted. The system performance is evaluated using a traditional average system throughput and average delay. Finally, in order to enhance the overall performance, error control codes (ECCs) are applied. The results indicate that the performance can be enhanced to reach its peak using the ECC with an optimum number of correctable errors. Furthermore, chip-level receivers are shown to give much higher performance than that of correlation receivers. Also, it has been shown that MAI is the main source of signal degradation.

Index Terms—Chip-level receiver, correlation receiver, MAC protocols, multiple-access interference (MAI), optical CDMA, shot-noise, sliding window protocol.

I. INTRODUCTION

PTICAL FIBERS have been commonly used in many communications and computer networks due to its extremely high bandwidth and its very low power losses. To utilize this bandwidth, multiple-access techniques must be used. Examples are wavelength-division multiple-access (WDMA), time-division multiple-access (TDMA), and code-division multiple-access (CDMA) techniques. The CDMA technique has many advantages over WDMA and TDMA, such as system simplicity, unnecessary synchronization, and efficient use of available bandwidth.

In optical CDMA technique, a spreading sequence [such as an optical orthogonal code (OOC)] is assigned to each user. This sequence is used for self-addressing of packets; thus, the receiver can distinguish between the time overlapped packets received from different users. Multiple-access interference (MAI) due to nonperfect orthogonality among the assigned code is the main source of signal degradation. Both thermal and shot noises have minor effects on the system performance.

Many researchers have been engaged in studying the performance of different CDMA systems [11]–[23]. Most researchers have focused on the physical layer of the optical CDMA network. However, few studies have considered the media-access-

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control (MAC) sublayer protocols, which are the main objectives of this paper. An analysis of slotted optical CDMA systems is presented by Muchenheim and Hampicke [14]. In this system, time is slotted, and users are permitted to send packets at the beginning of a slot; thus, the interference level during a packet is constant. The effect of randomized time of arrival (TOA) [12], [13] is considered by Hsu and Li [15], where packets arrive at the receiver with different delays. The effect of randomized TOA appears in a packet capture probability, where the first received packet can be captured if there is a sufficient time delay before the second packet. An unslotted system was analyzed by Hsu and Li [17], where a frequency hop/time hop (FH/TH) CDMA system is proposed. Due to the presence of a frequency hop [18], the proposed system was characterized by low correlation coefficients among the error probabilities of successive bits. As a result, the bit error probabilities of different packet bits are considered as independent events; thus, the number of errors per packet can be approximated to a Poisson distribution. While in [19], So et al. have presented a model for unslotted system that considers the case of multiple packet messages in wireless CDMA networks.

Our aim in this paper is to analyze an unslotted optical CDMA packet network and measure its performance. Each terminal in the network breaks its variable-length message into a set of constant length packets. The message length is variable. Two main indicators of the system performance have been focused upon. The first is the network throughput in packets per packet duration, which tells the average number of successfully transmitted packets per packet duration. The second indicator is the network delay, which tells, on the average, how long, in terms of packet duration, the packet is successfully received. Upon a successful reception of packets, the receiver sends a positive acknowledgment to the transmitter. Packet failure, however, is detected due to lack of positive acknowledgement.

In WDMA networks, the available bandwidth is divided into wavelengths. The main problem is to assign a wavelength to only one user. Any overlapping between two or more packets at the same wavelength will destroy all of them [1]–[5]. However, in CDMA networks [6]–[23], the collided packets will not be totally destroyed; the signal degradation depends on the interference level and its duration. In our analysis, perfect packet capture method is assumed [11], [13]; this means that the receiver can distinguish between all received packets and capture all of them, but not all of them are successfully received. In this case, the width of the correlation function is so narrow that the receiver is able to differentiate between overlapped packets arriving with a delay equal to or greater than one bit.

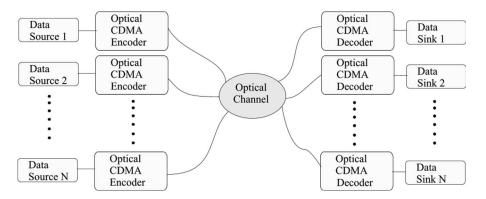


Fig. 1. Optical CDMA network.

The rest of this paper is arranged as follows. In Section II, the network architecture is presented. The mathematical model of the system is illustrated in Section III. In Section IV, the packet success probability, system throughput, and system delay are evaluated. Our numerical results are shown in Section V. Finally, this paper is concluded in Section VI.

II. NETWORK ARCHITECTURE

The proposed network consists of a large number of users that can be considered as infinite population network. The network topology is a centralized network (star topology), i.e., a hub station is connected to all terminals (Fig. 1). Spread spectrum multiple-access technique is applied with a common spreading sequence, and the receiver can distinguish between time overlapped packets if there is a time offset that is greater than the width of the autocorrelation function of the used spreading sequence. At the physical layer, we consider both chip-level and correlation receivers.

The traffic offered to the system is assumed to be Poisson with an average rate of λ messages/s. Each packet consists of a fixed number of bits (K bits/packet), and the message length B (packets/message) is geometrically distributed with average length of $B_{\rm av}$ and a maximum length of $B_{\rm max}$; then, the message length in packets is $B \times K$. An error control code is applied and can correct up to t errors/packet. The near-far effect is neglected, and all packets arrive to the receiver with equal power.

The system uses ON-OFF keying (OOK) modulation scheme and applies a spreading sequence from OOC family of $(N, w, \lambda_{\rm a}, \lambda_{\rm c})$, where N is the code length, w is the code weight, $\lambda_{\rm a}$ is the upper bound on the nonzero shift autocorrelation, and $\lambda_{\rm c}$ is the maximum values of cross-correlation function, respectively [6]–[8]. Both $\lambda_{\rm a}$ and $\lambda_{\rm c}$ are bounded to one, therefore, any interferer cannot interfere with more than one chip pulse.

It has been shown that the average bit error probability for the correlation receiver under the influence of MAI only is given by [7]

$$P_{\rm b}(m) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \sum_{i=w}^{m} {m \choose i} \cdot \left(\frac{w^2}{2N}\right)^i \cdot \left(1 - \frac{w^2}{2N}\right)^{m-i} \tag{1}$$

where m is the number of interferers.

As for the chip-level receiver, the bit error probability with a shot noise and MAI is written as follows [9]:

$$P_{b}(m) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left[1 + \sum_{i=1}^{w} (-1)^{i} \cdot {w \choose i} \right) \cdot \left(1 - e^{-Qi} \right) \cdot \left[1 - i \cdot \frac{w}{2 \cdot N} + i \cdot \frac{w}{2 \cdot N} \cdot e^{-Q} \right]^{m} \right]$$
(2)

where Q is the average photons per a chip pulse. When $Q \to \infty$, the bit error probability reduces to [9]

$$P_{\rm b}(m) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left[1 + \sum_{i=1}^{w} (-1)^i \cdot {w \choose i} \cdot \left[1 - i \cdot \frac{w}{2 \cdot N} \right]^m \right]. \quad (3)$$

III. SYSTEM ANALYSIS AND MATHEMATICAL MODEL

In this section, we illustrate the mathematical model in order to evaluate both the system throughput and delay versus the system offered traffic. First, we evaluate the traffic offered to the system, then the transition of the interference level, and, finally, the packet success probability.

A. Average Offered Traffic (G)

The system average offered traffic is defined as the average number of generated packets in packet duration

$$G = \lambda \cdot T_p \cdot B_{\text{av}} \tag{4}$$

where T_p is the packet duration.

Since the length of a message is assumed to be geometrically distributed, the probability of a message to be of length x is given by

$$P_B(x) = \alpha \cdot p \cdot (1 - p)^{x - 1} \tag{5}$$

where: $x \in \{1, 2, \dots, B_{\text{max}}\}, p = 1/B_{\text{av}}$, and

$$\alpha = \frac{1}{1 - (1 - p)^{B_{\text{max}}}}. (6)$$

In our system, the message length is limited to $B_{\rm max}$, and the factor α is a normalizing factor for the truncated geometric distribution.

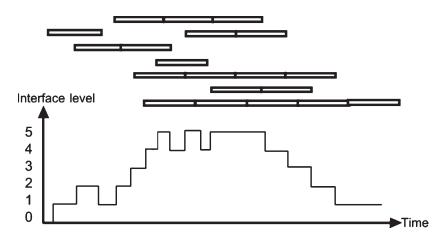


Fig. 2. Interference-level fluctuation.

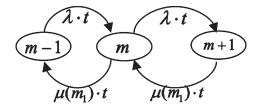


Fig. 3. Transition of the interference level.

B. Modeling of the Interference Level and Transition

The interference level of the unslotted systems is characterized by a continuous change (Fig. 2); we will study the interference level in each bit. We evaluate the probability of transition of the number of interfering messages as follows. Two sources of transition should be considered; the first is the generation of new messages, which is assumed to follow the Poisson distribution with arrival rate (λ messages/s). The second is the termination of transmitted messages.

As for the generation of new messages, the probability of generating k messages during t s is given by

$$P_{o}(k,t) = \frac{(\lambda \cdot t)^{k}}{k!} \cdot e^{-\lambda t}.$$
 (7)

We found that for a data rate R=256 kb/s, average message length $B_{\rm av}=2$, average offered traffic G=5 packets/packet duration, and a packet length K=128 bits, the probability of generating k-where k=0,1,2,3,4,5-messages in a bit duration is $\{0.98,0.019,1.8\cdot 10^{-4},1.2\cdot 10^{-6},5.9\cdot 10^{-9},2.3\cdot 10^{-11}\}$. Thus, we will neglect the probability of generating more than one bit in a bit duration, and the transition of the interference level is limited to one.

As for the termination process, it is quite difficult to evaluate its rate, however, this process is also expected to follow the Poisson distribution. In the next section, we will evaluate the average death rate $\mu(m_1)$ in terms of the number of interferers at the beginning of the tagged packet m_1 .

Next, we evaluate the interference level during the tagged packet. We assume a Markovian model in our analysis (Fig. 3).

Since the interference level can be changed by a value of one during a bit, and by assuming that the level is m at a certain bit, the level of the next bit may be m+1, m-1, or m.

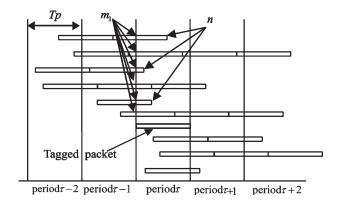


Fig. 4. Tagged packet analysis.

Thus, the transition probability can be calculated as follows:

$$q(m_{j}|m_{j-1}) = \begin{cases} \lambda \cdot T_{\mathbf{b}}, & m_{j} = m_{j-1} + 1\\ \mu(m_{1}) \cdot T_{\mathbf{b}}, & m_{j} = m_{j-1} - 1\\ 1 - \lambda \cdot T_{\mathbf{b}} - \mu(m_{1}) \cdot T_{\mathbf{b}}, & m_{j} = m_{j-1}\\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
(8)

where $\mu(m_1)$ is the death rate, which is the rate of message's termination. Now, it is required to express the average death rate, this is to be discussed in the following steps.

As shown in Fig. 4, the tagged packet method is used to analyze the system. The time axis is divided into periods each of length T_P , the tagged packet occupies the period number τ , and previous/next periods are $\tau-1$, $\tau-2\ldots/\tau+1$, $\tau+2\ldots$ Let τ_j denote the jth bit in the period τ . In the tagged packet, m_j is the interference level at jth bit. The interference level during the tagged packet is changed continuously; for simplicity, it will be considered constant during each bit, and changes occur at the bit boundaries. In order to study the interference level during the tagged packet, we should consider both the generation and termination (death) rate. The generation rate is assumed to be a Poisson process. In this model, the level of initial interference m_1 is of great importance, where the death rate depends on how many interferers among m_1 will depart during the tagged packet.

It is now required to calculate $P_{\rm I}(m_1)$; which is the probability of initial interference level to be m_1 . Define a_y as the

number of interferers existing at τ_1 that have been generated in the period $\tau - y$; $1 \le y \le B_{\text{max}}$, and $A = \{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m\}$ a_y, \ldots is the set of all interferers generated in the previous $B_{\rm max}$ periods and exists at τ_1 .

To evaluate the probability of generating a_y messages, consider that k messages are generated in the period $\tau - y$, and any arbitrary a_y messages among k have a sufficient length to survive at the beginning of the tagged packet. This means that each of these messages has a length greater than or equal to y. Thus, $Pr(a_y)$ follows the binomial distribution as follows:

$$\Pr(a_y) = \sum_{k=a_y}^{\infty} {k \choose a_y} \cdot (P_B(B \ge y)^{a_y} \cdot (1 - P_B(B \ge y)^{k-a_y} \cdot P_o(k, T_P)$$
(9)

where $P_B(B \ge y) = \sum_{B=y}^{B_{\max}} P_B(x)$. Then, the probability to have a set of interferences A: $\{a_1, a_2, \dots a_y \dots\}$ can be obtained by multiplying the probabilities of $a'_y s$, as given by

$$\Pr(A) = \prod_{y=1}^{B_{\text{max}}} \Pr(a_y). \tag{10}$$

Now, it is easy to calculate the probability of having m initial interferences; it is the sum of the probabilities of all A's whose summation is m as

$$P_{\rm I}(m) = \sum_{u} \Pr(A) \tag{11}$$

where
$$u = \{A : \forall a_y \in A; \sum_{y=1}^{B_{\text{max}}} a_y = m\}$$
.

where $u=\{A: \forall a_y \in A; \sum_{y=1}^{B_{\max}} a_y = m\}.$ In this model, it is assumed that the packet termination is a Poisson process with an average rate of $\mu(m)$ packets/s. In order to evaluate the average death rate $\mu(m)$, suppose that the number of initial interferers in the tagged packet is equal to m, and that n messages among m will depart during the tagged packet. A message will depart during the tagged packet if it was initiated in the period $\tau - y$, and its length is equal to y. Define the probability $P_{d1}(m)$ as follows: the probability of one message to be of length y and generated in the period $\tau - y$.

$$P_{d1}(m_1) = \sum_{y=1}^{B_{\text{max}}} \sum_{a_y=1}^{m_1} \Pr(a_y) \cdot a_y \cdot P_x(y) \cdot (1 - P_B(y))^{a_y - 1}.$$
(12)

Therefore, for a given value of initial interference m_1 , the probability of n messages to be terminated in the tagged period follows the binomial distribution as shown:

$$\Pr(n|m_1) = \binom{m_1}{n} \cdot (P_{d1}(m_1))^n \cdot (1 - P_{d1}(m_1))^{m_1 - n}.$$
(13)

The average value of n for a given value of m is given by

$$n_{\text{av}}(m_1) = \sum_{n=1}^{m_1} n \cdot \Pr(n|m_1).$$
 (14)

Finally, we can express the average death rate for a given value of initial interference m_1 as follows:

$$\mu(m_1) = \frac{n_{\rm av}(m_1)}{T_P}. (15)$$

IV. SYSTEM PERFORMANCE

In this section, it is required to evaluate recursively the number of errors in the packet. The packet will be successfully transmitted if the number of errors is less than or equal to t, the number of correctable bits by an error control code (ECC). Define an error counter $f_j(e, m_j, m_1)$ as follows:

- 1) In the tagged packet, the first j-1 bits are transmitted with e errors.
- The number of interferers at the jth bit is equal to m_i .
- 3) The number of initial interferers is equal to m_1 .

This function is being used to calculate recursively the number of errors (error count) in the tagged packet.

At j = 1, the first bit of the tagged packet $m_j = m_1$, and the error count should be equal to zero. This fact is used as an initial condition for the recursive calculations as follows:

$$f_1(e=0,m_1,m_1) = P_{\rm I}(m_1)$$
 (16)

$$f_1(e > 0, m_1, m_1) = 0.$$
 (17)

Now, it is required to evaluate the error count at the jth bit of the tagged packet using the f_j function. The function at the jth bit depends on its value at the previous bit (the j-1th bit). At the jth bit, the error count is equal to e; this can occur in two cases.

- 1) The error count from the first bit until the i-1th bit is equal to e-1, and an error occurred in the j-1th bit.
- 2) The error count from the first bit until the j-1th bit is equal to e, and the j-1th bit is free of errors.

Considering the Markovian property of the interference-level transition, the f_j function can be expressed as follows:

$$f_{j}(e, m_{j}, m_{1}) = \sum_{m_{j-1}=m_{j}-1}^{m_{j}+1} f_{j-1}(e-1, m_{j}, m_{1}) \cdot q(m_{j}|m_{j-1})$$

$$\cdot P_{b}(m_{j-1}) + \sum_{m_{j-1}=m_{j}-1}^{m_{j}+1} f_{j-1}(e, m_{j}, m_{1})$$

$$\cdot q(m_{j}|m_{j-1}) \cdot (1 - P_{b}(m_{j-1})). \tag{18}$$

Finally, the packet success probability is the probability that the number of errors does not exceed t which is the maximum correctable errors by Reed-Solomon (RS) codes, at the last bit of the tagged packet using the f_j function until j = K and

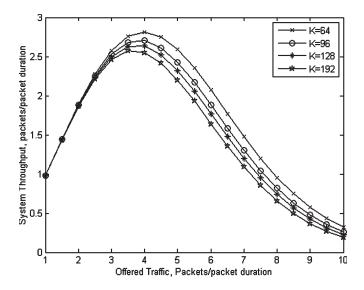


Fig. 5. System throughput versus offered traffic for the correlation receiver without ECC.

averaging over all possible values of m_K and m_1 . The packet success probability $Q_s(t)$ is expressed as follows:

$$Q_s(t) = \sum_{m_K=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m_1=0}^{\infty} f_K(t, m_K, m_1) \cdot (1 - P_b(m_k)) + \sum_{k=0}^{t-1} f_K(e, m_K, m_1).$$
 (19)

The last equation is based on the next two cases of the error count at the last bit of the tagged packet.

- 1) The error count at the last bit of the packet (Kth bit) is equal to a value up to t-1, regardless of the error probability of the last bit.
- 2) The error count at the last bit is equal to t, and the (K th) bit is free of error.

The packet success probability (Q_s) is given by (19), and the system throughput is given by

$$S_t = G \cdot Q_s(t) \cdot \frac{s}{r} = G \cdot Q_s(t) \cdot \left(1 - \frac{2 \cdot t}{K}\right). \tag{20}$$

The last factor in (20) considers the effect of bandwidth expansion by the RS coding, where s is the number of data bits/code word of length r, and the number of correctable bits is given by t=(r-s)/2. In this system, the packet is considered as one code word, i.e., r=L.

Finally, it is required to evaluate the average delay D, which can be expressed as the ratio between the system's offered traffic to the throughput. This can be expressed as follows:

$$D_t = \frac{G}{S_t}. (21)$$

V. NUMERICAL EXAMPLES

In this section, we will present some numerical results and examine the performance of the network in terms of the system throughput and average delay. The parameters used in the

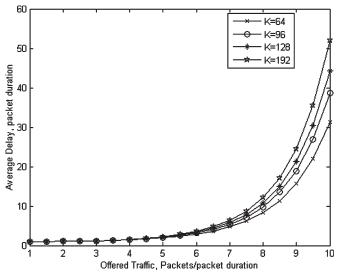


Fig. 6. Average delay versus offered traffic for the correlation receiver without ECC.

analysis are: bit rate of 256 Kb/s, average message length of two packets per message, and maximum message length of three packets per message. The used OOC is of length 127 and of weight 3.

We study the effect of varying the packet length (in bits) on the throughput and delay. Also, we apply the ECC with different correction capability. Although the use of the ECC is expected to raise the performance, we found that the increasing of the correction capability of the ECC (over optimum value) will reduce the throughput due to loosing more bandwidth.

Figs. 5 and 6 show the system throughput and delay versus the offered traffic for different values of K (without ECC). We can see from Fig. 5 that as the packet length increases, the throughput is reduced, but another factor should be considered when choosing the packet length. That is, reducing the packet length, which requires more packets to send the message. Thus, the packet length should be optimized in order to obtain the maximum system performance.

Fig. 7 illustrates the enhancement in the system performance in both throughput and delay due to the use of ECC with different values of t. The use of ECC is expected to enhance the system performance. In fact, two factors should be considered when we study the effects of using the ECC. The first is the enhancement obtained in the packet success probability. This enhancement is proportional to the number of correctable bits. The second is the bandwidth expansion due to the addition of parity bits. Thus, the effective packet length (number of data bits per packet) is reduced, i.e., more packets are required to send the same message. As shown in Figs. 7 and 8, we can see that the optimum value of t is 3. This means that when increasing t from 0 to 3, the performance is enhanced; moreover, when t exceeds the optimum value, the performance is reduced. This can be found clearly in Fig. 8, where we plotted the system throughput versus t at G = 5. From this figure, it is found that the throughput is enhanced and reached its maximum value at t=3; then, the curve will decay and the throughput is reduced.

Now, we present some results for systems with chip-level receivers. First, we evaluate the effect of ECCs; Fig. 9 shows

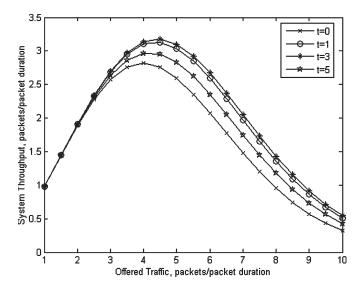


Fig. 7. System throughput versus offered traffic for the correlation receiver with different values of $t,\,K=64$.

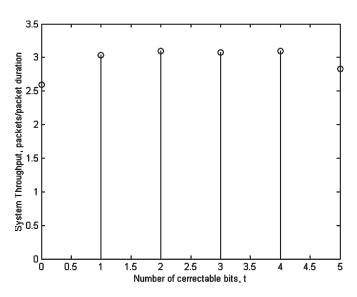


Fig. 8. System throughput versus number of correctable bits t for the correlation receiver, $G=5,\,K=64.$

that similar to the correlation receivers, the system throughput increases as t increases to reach a peak. When t increases, moreover, the system throughput decreases.

Fig. 10 compares the performance of both correlation and chip-level receivers without ECCs for different values of packet length. It is clear that the system throughput achieved by the chip-level receiver is much higher than that achieved by the correlation receiver.

Finally, Fig. 11 presents the effect of the photodetector's shot noise on the performance of chip-level receiver. We have plotted the system throughput versus the average number of photons per chip pulse for different values of t and a fixed packet length of 64 bits and offered traffic of five packets per packet duration. It is found that the system throughput reaches its maximum when Q exceeds about ten photons per chip pulse. Hence, we can conclude that MAI is the major source of the signal degradation.

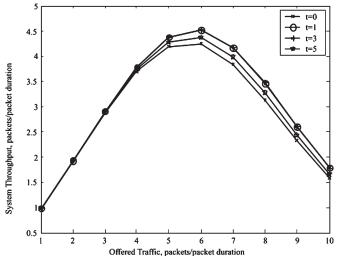


Fig. 9. System throughput versus offered traffic for chip-level receiver, K=64.

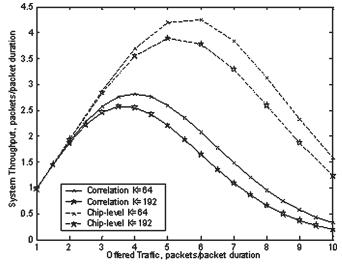


Fig. 10. System throughput versus offered traffic for both correlation and chip-level receivers.

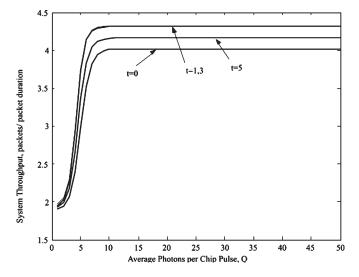


Fig. 11. System throughput versus the average number of photons per chip pulse for chip-level receiver, $G=5,\,K=64.$

VI. CONCLUSION

An accurate analysis of the MAC protocol used in optical CDMA networks is presented. The sliding window protocol with variable size is considered. The system throughput and average delay are evaluated, and an accurate description of the system state and channel usage is provided. Furthermore, the achieved enhancement by ECCs is examined. System performance is examined under the influence of both MAI and photodetector's shot noise. Results show the average system throughput and average delay versus the offered traffic and average number of photons per chip pulse as well as the effect of using ECC. Results indicate that system performance is enhanced with the increment of number of correctable bits t reaching a maximum value. Moreover, as t increases, the throughput decreases. It is also concluded that a significant improvement in performance can be achieved using the chiplevel receiver instead of the traditional correlation receiver. As for the effect of the photodetector's shot noise, we have found that it has a minor effect on the performance compared to MAI.

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