

# Important Specifications of Optical Amplifiers



## Overview

Generally, amplifiers do not only amplify any intensity or phase noise of the input, but also add some excess noise. This applies not only to laser amplifiers, where excess noise can partly be explained as the effect of spontaneous emission, but also to nonlinear amplifiers. The noise figure e.g. of a fiber amplifier is a measure for how much excess noise is added. Amplifiers of different kinds may also be used for amplifying ultrashort pulses. In some cases, a high repetition rate pulse train is amplified, leading to a high average power while the pulse energy remains moderate. In other cases, a much higher gain is applied to pulses at lower repetition rates, leading to high pulse energies and correspondingly high peak powers. For high values of the input light intensity or fluence, the amplification factor of a gain medium saturates, i.e., is reduced ( $\rightarrow$  gain saturation). This is a natural consequence of the fact that an amplifier cannot add arbitrary levels of energy or power to an input signal. However, as laser amplifiers (particularly those based on solid-state gain), parasitic reflections can cause parasitic lasing, i.e., oscillation without an input signal, or additional output components not caused by the input signal. This effect then limits the achievable gain. Even without any parasitic reflections, amplified spontaneous emission may extract a significant power from an amplifier.

## Article Content

Optoamplifier Basics: Types, Specifications, and ...

Explore optoamplifiers: EDFA, SOA, and Raman amplifiers. Understand their specifications, gain, bandwidth, and applications in optical communication systems.

Optical Amplifiers: A Comprehensive Guide

Discover the fundamentals and applications of optical amplifiers in optical communications, including their types, working principles, and benefits.

Introduction to Semiconductor Optical Amplifiers (SOAs)

Chapter 2 Introduction to Semiconductor Optical Amplifiers (SOAs) This chapter is dedicated to the basics and key parameters of semiconductor optical amplifiers (SOAs). The beginning of Sect. 2.1 ...

Various Optical Amplifiers (EDFA, FRA, and SOA)

This page describes the principles of optical amplifiers, the difference between an OFA (Optical Fiber Amplifier) and SOA (Semiconductor Optical Amplifier), and the features of EDFA.

Optical Amplification

Optical amplification is defined as the process of increasing the intensity of an optical signal using various types of optical amplifiers, such as semiconductor optical amplifiers, erbium-doped fiber ...

Optical Amplifiers

Optical Amplifiers :: Characteristics An optical amplifier is characterized by:

Lecture 8: Intro to Optical Amplifiers

In-line amplifiers: Periodically amplify signal due to fiber attenuation, high G, high Psat. An illustration of the effective gain is given below. Note the presence of a gain peak around 1530nm and a semi-flat ...

OPTICAL AMPLIFIERS

Placing an amplification device immediately after the optical transmitter gives a boost to the light level right at the beginning of a fiber link, and serves to increase the transmission distance by 10 to 100 km ...

Chapter 11 OPTICAL AMPLIFIERS

The amplifiers used in lightwave system applications, either as preamplifiers in front of a receiver or as in line amplifiers as a replacement of regenerators, must also exhibit equal optical gain for all ...

## Optical Fibers and Cables

OPA: A nonlinear process, require materials with high optical nonlinearity. Require very high peak power. Less practical.

## Contact Us

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