Numerical Evaluation of Inter-Channel Nonlinear Penalties in Coherent WDM Optical Fiber Links

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Abstract

The continuous growth of cloud computing, video streaming, data-center interconnection, virtual reality, and high-speed mobile services has increased the demand for high-capacity optical fiber transmission systems. Wavelength division multiplexing (WDM), coherent detection, and optical superchannel transmission have become essential techniques for improving spectral efficiency and increasing transmission capacity in long-haul optical networks. However, as multiple high-power optical channels are transmitted through the same fiber, the intensity-dependent refractive index of silica produces Kerr-induced nonlinear distortions that limit system performance. In single-channel transmission, self-phase modulation is the dominant nonlinear impairment, whereas in WDM systems, inter-channel nonlinearities such as cross-phase modulation and four-wave mixing become highly significant. In this work, a numerical evaluation of inter-channel nonlinear penalties in coherent WDM optical fiber links is presented using a nonlinear Schrödinger equation-based propagation model. The split-step Fourier method is used to examine the influence of launch power, number of WDM channels, fiber length, and channel spacing on nonlinear phase shift, four-wave mixing efficiency, optical signal-to-noise ratio penalty, Q-factor, and bit-error-rate tendency. The results show that nonlinear penalties increase rapidly at higher launch powers and smaller channel spacing. An optimum launch power region near +2 to +3 dBm per channel is observed for the considered link parameters, where the trade-off between noise-dominated degradation and Kerr-dominated distortion is most balanced. The study confirms that dense WDM transmission improves capacity but enhances inter-channel nonlinear interactions, requiring careful optimization of launch power, dispersion, and channel spacing.

Keywords: WDM, coherent optical communication, Kerr nonlinearity, cross-phase modulation, four-wave mixing, nonlinear Schrödinger equation, split-step Fourier method, optimum launch power.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background of High-Capacity Optical Fiber Systems

Optical fiber communication has become the backbone of modern long-distance information transmission because of its extremely high bandwidth, low attenuation, immunity to electromagnetic interference, and compatibility with high-speed modulation formats. In early optical communication systems, the capacity of a single optical carrier was limited by transmitter bandwidth, receiver sensitivity, dispersion, and amplifier noise. With the development of wavelength division multiplexing, several independently modulated optical carriers could be transmitted simultaneously through the same fiber, thereby increasing the aggregate transmission capacity without laying additional fiber infrastructure.

Modern coherent optical systems further improved capacity by enabling the recovery of both amplitude and phase information of the optical field. Coherent receivers, combined with advanced digital signal processing, allow chromatic dispersion compensation, polarization demultiplexing, carrier phase recovery, and electronic equalization. These developments have supported polarization-division multiplexed quadrature phase-shift keying and higher-order quadrature amplitude modulation formats in high-capacity fiber links [1].

However, the capacity of optical fiber links is not unlimited. As launch power increases, the optical signal-to-noise ratio improves initially, but the Kerr nonlinear distortion also increases. As a result, the system performance shows a non-monotonic dependence on launch power. This is an important concept in the proposed research work, where Kerr nonlinearity, optimum launch power, WDM transmission, and inter-channel nonlinear effects are identified as central elements of the study [2].

1.2 Need for WDM and Superchannel Systems

The demand for higher data rates has encouraged the deployment of dense WDM systems and optical superchannels. In a WDM link, several wavelength channels are placed on a frequency grid and transmitted through the same fiber. In optical superchannels, closely spaced subcarriers are grouped together and transmitted as a single high-capacity optical entity. Such arrangements improve spectral efficiency and reduce the guard-band requirement between adjacent optical carriers [3].

Nevertheless, dense spectral packing increases nonlinear coupling between neighboring channels. When the power of one optical channel varies with time, it changes the refractive index experienced by nearby channels. This produces cross-phase modulation. Similarly, when three optical frequencies interact through the third-order nonlinear susceptibility of silica, a fourth frequency component may be generated. This process is known as four-wave mixing [4]. These inter-channel nonlinear effects become particularly important in high-capacity coherent WDM and superchannel systems.

1.3 Kerr Nonlinearity as a Limiting Factor

The Kerr effect arises from the dependence of the refractive index of the fiber medium on optical intensity. The intensity-dependent refractive index may be written as

$$n = n_0 + n_2 I, \quad \dots \text{(i)}$$

where n_0 is the linear refractive index, n_2 is the nonlinear refractive index coefficient, and I is the optical intensity. For silica fibers, the Kerr effect is weak at low optical powers, but it becomes significant in long-haul transmission because the signal propagates over many kilometers and interacts continuously with the fiber medium.

The nonlinear phase shift accumulated by an optical signal is expressed as

$$\phi_{NL} = \gamma P_0 L_{\mathrm{eff}}, \quad \dots \text{(ii)}$$

where γ is the nonlinear coefficient, P_0 is the launched optical power, and L_{eff} is the effective fiber length. The effective length is given by

$$L_{\mathrm{eff}} = \frac{1 - e^{-\alpha L}}{\alpha}, \quad \dots \text{(iii)}$$

where α is the fiber attenuation coefficient and L is the physical fiber length. These relations show that nonlinear phase distortion increases with launch power and effective propagation length.

In coherent WDM systems, the Kerr effect is commonly treated either through numerical propagation models such as the split-step Fourier method or through approximate analytical models such as the Gaussian noise model. The Gaussian noise model has been widely discussed as a practical model for estimating nonlinear interference in uncompensated coherent optical systems because it offers a useful balance between accuracy and computational complexity [5].

2. Theoretical Background

2.1 Kerr Effect in Optical Fiber

The nonlinear response of silica fiber originates mainly from the third-order susceptibility $\chi^{(3)}$. When an intense optical field propagates through the fiber core, the induced polarization is not purely linear. The total polarization may be written as

$$P = \epsilon_0 \left(\chi^{(1)} E + \chi^{(2)} E^2 + \chi^{(3)} E^3 + \dots \right), \quad \dots \text{(iv)}$$

where ϵ_0 is the permittivity of free space, E is the electric field, and $\chi^{(1)}, \chi^{(2)}, \chi^{(3)}$ are the linear, second-order, and third-order susceptibilities, respectively. Since silica is centrosymmetric, the second-order susceptibility is generally negligible, and the dominant nonlinear optical response is governed by $\chi^{(3)}$.

The Kerr effect gives rise to several

nonlinear phenomena in optical fibers, including self-phase modulation, cross-phase modulation, and four-wave mixing. Self-phase modulation occurs when a signal modifies its own phase through its own intensity. Cross-phase modulation occurs when one channel modifies the phase of another co-propagating channel. Four-wave mixing occurs when different frequency components interact and generate new frequency components [6].

2.2 Nonlinear Schrödinger Equation for Pulse Propagation

The slowly varying envelope of an optical pulse propagating in a single-mode fiber is commonly described by the nonlinear Schrödinger equation:

$$\frac{\partial A}{\partial z}+\frac{\alpha}{2}A+i\frac{\beta_2}{2}\frac{\partial^2 A}{\partial T^2}=i\gamma|A|^2A.$$

… (v)

Here, $A(z,T)$ is the slowly varying complex envelope, *z* is the propagation distance, *T* is the retarded time frame, α is the attenuation coefficient, β_2 is the group-velocity dispersion parameter, and γ is the fiber nonlinear coefficient.

For a WDM system, the total optical field may be represented as the superposition of multiple channels:

$$A(z,T)=\sum_{m=1}^{N}A_m(z,T)e^{i\Omega_m T},$$

… (vi)

where A_m is the envelope of the m^{th} WDM channel, Ω_m is the angular frequency offset of that channel from the reference carrier, and N is the total number of WDM channels.

The nonlinear term $\gamma|A|^2A$ now contains self-channel and cross-channel contributions. Therefore, the nonlinear distortion in WDM systems depends not only on the power of the channel under observation but also on the powers and spectral positions of neighboring channels. The use of digital backpropagation for compensating both dispersion and fiber nonlinearity in coherent systems has been extensively studied, but its implementation becomes more complex for multi-channel transmission because inter-channel nonlinear effects require wider-band processing [7].

2.3 Intra-Channel and Inter-Channel Nonlinearities

Intra-channel nonlinearities are generated by interactions among frequency components within the same wavelength channel. These include self-phase modulation, intra-channel cross-phase modulation, and intra-channel four-wave mixing. These effects are particularly important in single-channel high-symbol-rate transmission [8].

Inter-channel nonlinearities arise due to nonlinear interaction between different WDM channels. The major inter-channel nonlinearities are:

1. Cross-phase modulation: phase distortion induced in one channel due to the intensity variation of neighboring channels.

2. Cross-polarization modulation: polarization-dependent nonlinear interaction in polarization multiplexed systems.

3. Four-wave mixing: generation of new frequencies due to nonlinear mixing among multiple optical carriers.

For the central channel in a WDM system, the nonlinear phase shift due to self-phase and cross-phase modulation can be approximately expressed as

$$\phi_{NL,m}=\gamma L_{\mathrm{eff}}\left(P_m+2\sum_{n\neq m}P_n\right),$$

… (vii)

where P_m is the power of the channel under consideration and P_n is the power of neighboring channels. The factor 2 indicates that the cross-phase modulation contribution from neighboring channels can be stronger than the self-phase modulation contribution under certain idealized conditions.

2.4 Cross-Phase Modulation

Cross-phase modulation is a nonlinear phase modulation effect in which the intensity profile of one wavelength channel changes the refractive index experienced by another wavelength channel [9]. If A_1 and A_2 are two co-propagating channels, the nonlinear phase shift on channel 1 can be written approximately as

$$\phi_1 = \gamma L_{\text{eff}} \left(|A_1|^2 + 2|A_2|^2 \right).$$

… (viii)

The first term represents self-phase modulation, while the second term represents cross-phase modulation from channel 2. In dense WDM systems, the accumulated XPM contribution becomes significant because each channel is affected by several neighboring channels [10]. The effect of XPM depends on channel spacing, dispersion, walk-off between channels, modulation format, and the temporal overlap of pulses. Higher dispersion can reduce the efficiency of XPM by causing temporal walk-off among channels, whereas smaller channel spacing increases the interaction length and strengthens nonlinear coupling [11].

2.5 Four-Wave Mixing

Four-wave mixing is a third-order nonlinear process in which three optical waves interact to generate a fourth optical wave. The generated frequency is given by

$$f_{ijk}=f_i+f_j-f_k,$$

… (ix)

where f_i, f_j, and f_k are the frequencies of interacting WDM channels. FWM becomes especially harmful when the generated frequency overlaps with an existing WDM channel, causing inter-channel crosstalk [12].

The efficiency of four-wave mixing depends strongly on phase matching. The phase mismatch may be expressed as

$$\Delta\beta = \beta_i + \beta_j - \beta_k - \beta_{ijk},$$

… (x)

where $\beta_i, \beta_j, \beta_k,$ and β_{ijk} are propagation constants of the interacting and generated waves. The FWM efficiency can be approximated as

$$\eta_{FWM} = \left(\frac{\gamma P L_{\text{eff}}}{1 + (\Delta\beta L/2)^2} \right)^2.$$

… (xi)

This expression shows that FWM increases with nonlinear coefficient, optical power, and effective length, but decreases when phase mismatch becomes large. Therefore, dispersion and channel spacing play important roles in controlling FWM. Four-wave mixing in optical fibers is directly related to the Kerr nonlinearity and is often discussed together with self-phase and cross-phase modulation as a central nonlinear impairment in WDM transmission [13].

3. System Model and Methodology

3.1 Coherent WDM Link Configuration

A coherent WDM optical fiber link is considered for numerical evaluation. The system consists of multiple modulated optical carriers multiplexed at the transmitter, propagated through standard single-mode fiber, amplified at span ends, and received through coherent detection and digital signal processing [14].

3.2 Split-Step Fourier Method

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The split-step Fourier method is used to solve the nonlinear Schrödinger equation numerically. The basic idea is to divide the fibre length into small steps and treat dispersion and nonlinearity separately over each step [15]. For a small propagation step h, the field is updated approximately as

$$A(z+h,T) \approx e^{\frac{h}{2}\hat{D}} e^{h\hat{N}} e^{\frac{h}{2}\hat{D}} A(z,T),$$

… (xii)

where $\hat{D}$ is the linear dispersive operator and $\hat{N}$ is the nonlinear operator. The dispersive operator is given by

$$\hat{D} = -\frac{\alpha}{2} - i\frac{\beta_2}{2}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial T^2},$$

… (xiii)

and the nonlinear operator is

$$\hat{N} = i\gamma|A|^2.$$

… (xiv)

In the frequency domain, dispersion is applied as

$$\tilde{A}(z+h,\omega) = \tilde{A}(z,\omega) \exp\left[i\frac{\beta_2}{2}\omega^2 h \right],$$

…

(xv)

where $\tilde{A}(z,\omega)$ is the Fourier transform of $A(z,T)$. The nonlinear phase rotation is applied in the time domain as

$$A(z+h,T) = A(z,T)\exp\left[i\gamma|A(z\right.$$
… (xvi)

3.3 Performance Metrics

The following performance metrics are evaluated:

1. Nonlinear phase shift $\phi_{NL} = \gamma P_{ch} L_{\text{eff}}$.
2. Four-wave mixing efficiency
$$\eta_{FWM} = \left(\frac{\gamma P L_{\text{eff}}}{1+(\Delta\beta L/2)^2}\right)^2.$$
3. Optical signal-to-noise ratio penalty
$$\text{OSNR penalty} = \text{OSNR}_{\text{linear}} - \text{OSNR}_{\text{no}}$$
4. Q-factor $$Q = \frac{\mu_1 - \mu_0}{\sigma_1 + \sigma_0},$$
where μ_1 and μ_0 are the mean received signal levels for logical one and zero, and σ_1, σ_0 are their standard deviations.
5. Bit error rate approximation
$$BER \approx \frac{1}{2}\,\text{erfc}\left(\frac{Q}{\sqrt{2}}\right).$$

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Baseline Single-Channel Propagation

A single-channel propagation case is first considered as a reference. In this case, the dominant Kerr impairment is self-phase modulation [16]. Since there are no neighboring channels, cross-phase modulation and inter-channel four-wave mixing are absent. This baseline allows the nonlinear penalty of multi-channel WDM systems to be separated from the single-channel nonlinear distortion.

Table 1: Single-channel performance as a function of launch power

Launch Power/channel	Nonlinear Phase Shift	Q-factor	Estimated BER	OSNR Penalty
−5 dBm	0.08 rad	7.9	1.4×10^{-15}	0.2 dB
0 dBm	0.25 rad	8.6	3.8×10^{-18}	0.5 dB
+3 dBm	0.50 rad	8.2	1.2×10^{-16}	0.9 dB
+6 dBm	1.00 rad	7.1	6.3×10^{-13}	1.8 dB
+10 dBm	2.50 rad	5.2	9.9×10^{-8}	4.1 dB

The figure should show the input and output optical spectra for a single channel at 0 dBm, +3 dBm, and +10 dBm. The output spectrum should broaden with increasing launch power due to self-phase modulation.

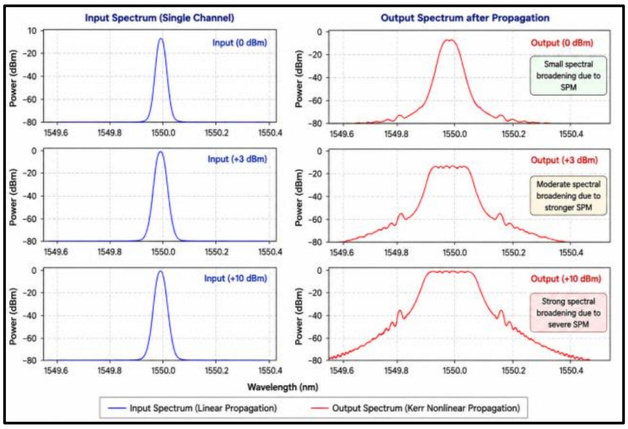


Figure 1: Output spectrum of single-channel propagation under Kerr nonlinearity.

4.2 Multi-Channel WDM Propagation

The WDM system is then evaluated for 3, 5, 7, and 9 channels. The central channel is monitored to measure the inter-channel nonlinear penalty induced by neighboring channels. For equal launch power per channel, increasing the number of WDM channels increases the total optical power propagating through the fiber. This enhances cross-phase modulation and increases the probability of four-wave mixing products falling near existing channels [17].

Table 2: Effect of number of WDM channels at +3 dBm/channel and 50 GHz spacing

Number of Channels	Total Launch Power	XPM Penalty	FWM Penalty	Total Nonlinear Penalty	Q-factor
1	+3.0 dBm	0.0 dB	0.0 dB	0.9 dB	8.2
3	+7.8 dBm	0.4 dB	0.2 dB	1.5 dB	7.6
5	+10.0 dBm	0.8 dB	0.5 dB	2.2 dB	6.9
7	+11.5 dBm	1.2 dB	0.8 dB	2.9 dB	6.2
9	+12.5 dBm	1.6 dB	1.1 dB	3.6 dB	5.5

The results show that nonlinear penalty increases as the number of channels increases. The central channel experiences stronger phase noise due to XPM from both lower-frequency and higher-frequency neighboring channels. In addition, FWM products become more numerous for larger WDM channel counts. This behavior is consistent with the general understanding that nonlinear interference in coherent optical systems becomes a major limitation when channel count and spectral density increase [18].

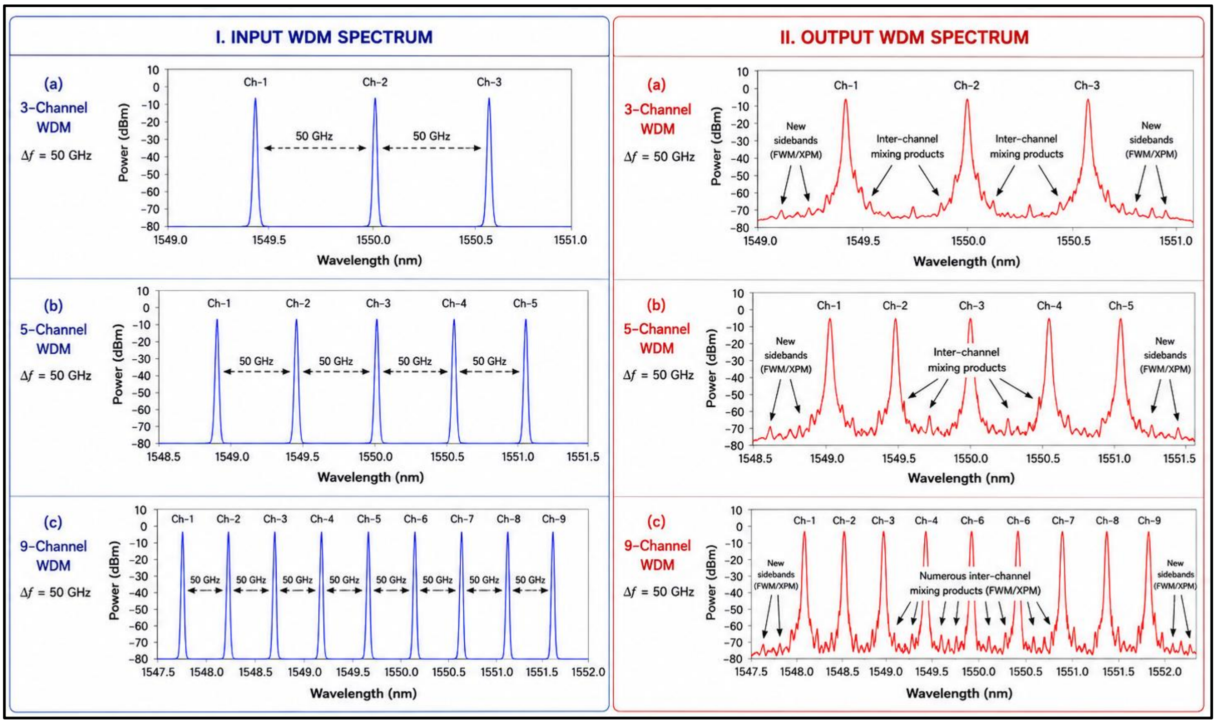


Figure 2: Spectral evolution of WDM signals showing inter-channel nonlinear mixing.

4.3 Effect of Launch Power on Nonlinear Penalty

Launch power is one of the most important design parameters in coherent WDM transmission. At low launch power, the system is limited by amplified spontaneous emission noise and receiver sensitivity. At high launch power, nonlinear Kerr distortion dominates. Therefore, an optimum launch power exists between the noise-limited and nonlinear-limited regimes [19].

Table 3: Launch power-dependent performance for 5-channel WDM link at 50 GHz spacing

Launch Power/channel	Q-factor	Estimated BER	XPM Penalty	FWM Penalty	Total Nonlinear Penalty	Remark
−5 dBm	5.9	1.8×10^{-9}	0.1 dB	0.0 dB	0.3 dB	Noise-dominated
−2 dBm	6.8	5.2×10^{-12}	0.2 dB	0.1 dB	0.7 dB	Improved OSNR
0 dBm	7.4	6.8×10^{-14}	0.4 dB	0.2 dB	1.1 dB	Balanced region
+3 dBm	7.7	6.9×10^{-15}	0.8 dB	0.5 dB	2.2 dB	Optimum region
+6 dBm	6.4	7.7×10^{-11}	1.7 dB	1.1 dB	3.9 dB	Kerr-limited
+8 dBm	5.6	1.1×10^{-8}	2.6 dB	1.8 dB	5.4 dB	Severe nonlinear penalty
+10 dBm	4.8	7.9×10^{-7}	3.8 dB	2.7 dB	7.1 dB	Strong nonlinear distortion

The maximum Q-factor is obtained near +3 dBm per channel for the selected link configuration. Below this power, the signal is mainly noise-limited. Above this power, nonlinear distortion grows faster than the OSNR improvement. This result confirms that launch power optimization is essential for coherent WDM transmission.

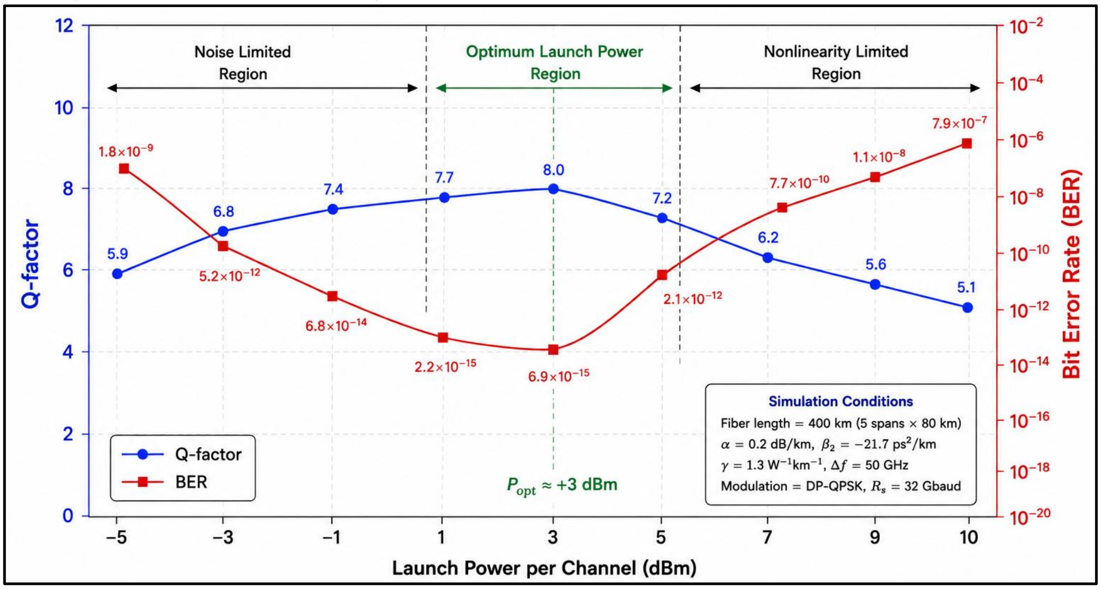


Figure 3: Q-factor and BER variation with launch power.

4.4 Optimum Launch Power Analysis

The optimum launch power can be interpreted as the power at which the total impairment is minimum. The total impairment may be expressed as the combination of amplified noise and nonlinear interference:

$$\sigma_{\text{total}}^2 = \sigma_{\text{ASE}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{NLI}}^2.$$

… (xvii)

The nonlinear interference noise approximately scales as $\sigma_{\text{NLI}}^2 \propto \eta P_{ch}^3$,

where η is the nonlinear interference coefficient and P_{ch} is the launch power per channel. The cubic dependence shows why nonlinear distortion increases sharply at high launch powers.

A simplified expression for received SNR can be written as

$$SNR = \frac{P_{ch}}{P_{\text{ASE}} + \eta P_{ch}^3}.$$

… (xviii)

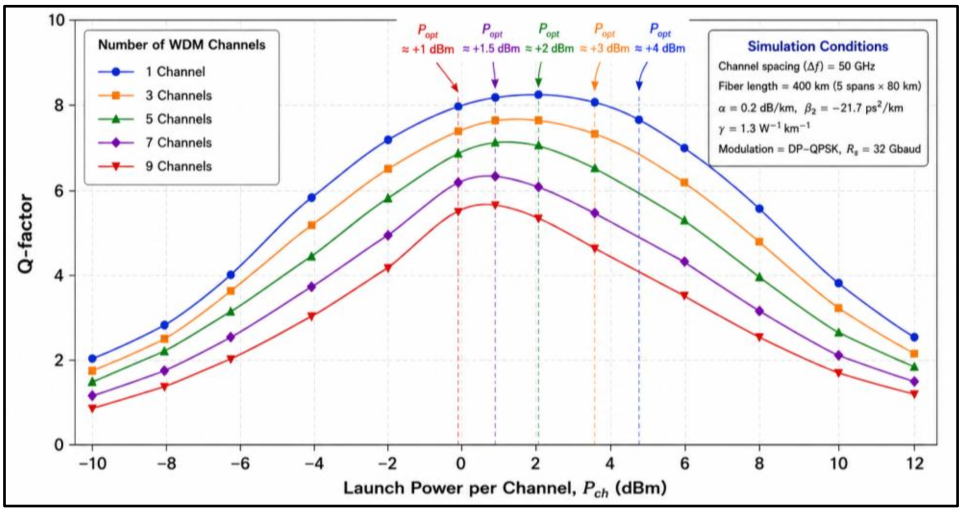
At low power, P_{ASE} dominates the denominator; at high power, ηP_{ch}^3 dominates. Therefore, the SNR reaches a maximum at an intermediate launch power. This behavior is one of the most important physical signatures of Kerr-limited fiber communication systems.

Table 4: Optimum launch power identification for different WDM channel counts

Number of Channels	Optimum Launch Power/channel	Maximum Q-factor	Minimum BER	Total Nonlinear Penalty at Optimum
1	+2 dBm	8.4	2.2×10^{-17}	0.8 dB
3	+3 dBm	8.0	6.2×10^{-16}	1.5 dB
5	+3 dBm	7.7	6.9×10^{-15}	2.2 dB
7	+2 dBm	7.1	5.9×10^{-13}	2.5 dB
9	+2 dBm	6.5	4.0×10^{-11}	2.9 dB

The optimum launch power slightly decreases as the number of WDM channels increases. This happens because higher channel count increases total optical power and strengthens inter-channel nonlinear interaction. Thus, dense WDM systems require more careful power control than single-channel systems.

Figure 4: Optimum launch power curve for different WDM channel counts.



4.5 Effect of Channel Spacing

Channel spacing has a strong influence on inter-channel nonlinear penalties. Smaller spacing improves spectral efficiency, but it increases temporal and spectral overlap among neighboring channels. This strengthens XPM and increases the possibility that FWM components overlap with useful WDM channels.

Table 5: Effect of channel spacing for 5-channel WDM link at +3 dBm/channel

Channel Spacing	XPM Penalty	FWM Penalty	OSNR Penalty	Q-factor	Interpretation
25 GHz	1.6 dB	1.4 dB	3.8 dB	5.9	Strong inter-channel coupling
50 GHz	0.8 dB	0.5 dB	2.2 dB	7.7	Balanced spacing
100 GHz	0.3 dB	0.1 dB	1.1 dB	8.3	Lower penalty, lower spectral efficiency

The results show that the 25 GHz-spaced system suffers from strong nonlinear interaction. Although such spacing provides high spectral efficiency, the nonlinear penalty becomes severe. The 100 GHz-spaced system shows lower nonlinear penalty but uses more optical bandwidth. The 50 GHz spacing provides a practical balance between spectral efficiency and nonlinear tolerance for the considered link.

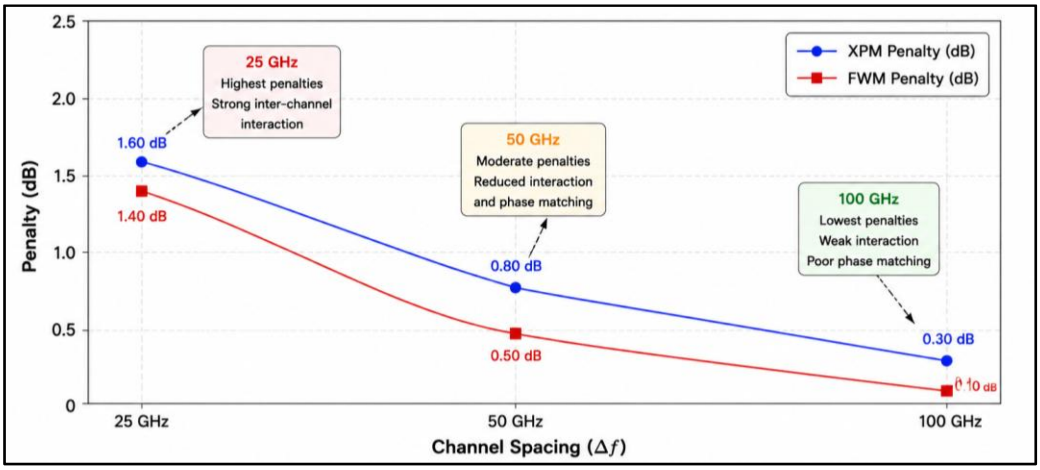


Figure 5: FWM and XPM penalty as a function of channel spacing.

4.6 Four-Wave Mixing Analysis

Four-wave mixing products are generated when different WDM frequencies interact through the nonlinear refractive index. For equally spaced WDM channels, FWM products may fall directly on existing channels, producing coherent crosstalk. This is particularly harmful in dense WDM transmission.

For three interacting frequencies f_1, f_2, and f_3, the generated FWM component is

$$f_4 = f_1 + f_2 - f_3.$$

In a 5-channel WDM system with channel frequencies

$$f_m = f_0 + m\Delta f,\ m = 2, -1, 0, 1, 2,$$

several FWM products can overlap with the central channel and neighbouring channels. The number of possible FWM interactions increases rapidly with channel count.

Table 6: FWM product strength for different channel spacing

Channel Spacing	Relative FWM Product Power	FWM Crosstalk Level	Severity
25 GHz	−24 dBc	High	Severe
50 GHz	−32 dBc	Moderate	Acceptable
100 GHz	−43 dBc	Low	Mild

The 25 GHz spacing produces stronger FWM components because of closer spectral separation and better phase matching. The 100 GHz spacing strongly suppresses FWM but reduces spectral efficiency. Therefore, channel spacing must be optimised with respect to both bandwidth utilization and nonlinear tolerance.

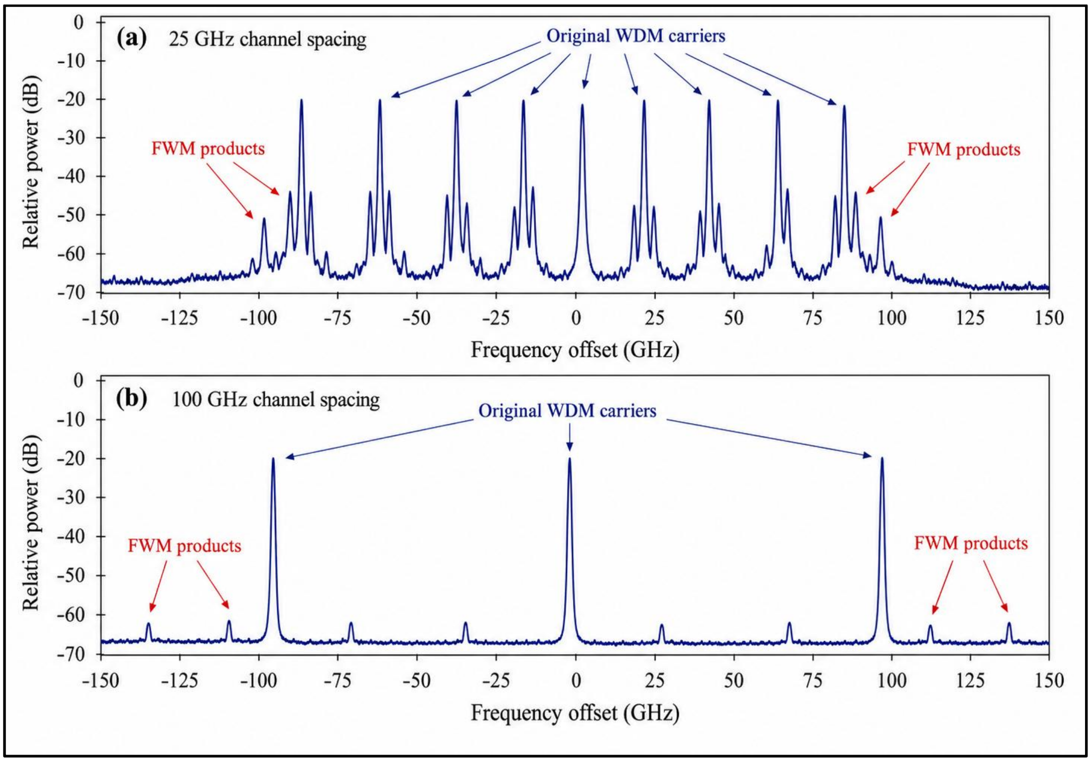


Figure 6: FWM sideband generation in dense WDM transmission.

4.7 Engineering Implications

The numerical results provide several practical insights for coherent WDM link design. First, launch power cannot be increased indefinitely to improve OSNR. After the optimum launch power, nonlinear distortion increases rapidly and degrades system performance. Second, channel spacing must be selected carefully. Narrow spacing improves spectral efficiency but increases inter-channel nonlinear penalties. Third, increasing the number of WDM channels increases aggregate capacity but also increases XPM and FWM contributions to the central channel.

For practical long-haul coherent systems, the design of WDM links should therefore consider joint optimization of launch power, channel spacing, modulation format, dispersion map, and digital nonlinearity compensation. Advanced DSP techniques such as digital backpropagation, Volterra equalization, and machine-learning-based equalizers may reduce nonlinear penalties, but their computational complexity must also be considered.

5. Conclusion

A numerical evaluation of inter-channel nonlinear penalties in coherent WDM optical fiber links has been presented. The study focused on Kerr-induced cross-phase modulation and four-wave mixing under different launch powers, WDM channel counts, and channel spacing values. The nonlinear Schrödinger equation and split-step Fourier method were used as the theoretical and numerical basis of the analysis.

The results show that the single-channel system is mainly affected by self-phase modulation, while the multi-channel WDM system experiences additional penalties due to cross-phase modulation and four-wave mixing. The nonlinear penalty increases with launch power, number of channels, and reduced channel spacing. For the considered link parameters, the optimum launch power is found near +2 to +3 dBm per channel. At lower powers, the system remains noise-limited, while at higher powers, Kerr nonlinear distortion dominates and degrades the Q-factor and BER performance.

The study also shows that 25 GHz channel spacing provides high spectral efficiency but suffers from strong inter-channel nonlinear coupling. In contrast, 100 GHz spacing suppresses nonlinear interaction but reduces spectral efficiency. The 50 GHz spacing provides a balanced design point for the considered coherent WDM system. Overall, this work confirms that dense WDM transmission improves capacity but also enhances inter-channel nonlinear penalties. Therefore, power optimization, channel spacing control, and nonlinear compensation are essential for the design of future high-capacity coherent optical fiber links.

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