Short-Pulse Dense Wavelength-Division-Multiplexed Optical Interconnects

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Summary

WDM interconnects between silicon chips

- short-pulse WDM
- dense receiver/transmitter arrays

Synchronization with short pulses

- data resynchronization
  - *skew and jitter removal*

Ultrafast optoelectronic gate

- possible time-division demultiplexing and wavelength conversion component,
  - *controllable by electronics*

GaInAsN for high uniformity long-wavelength devices

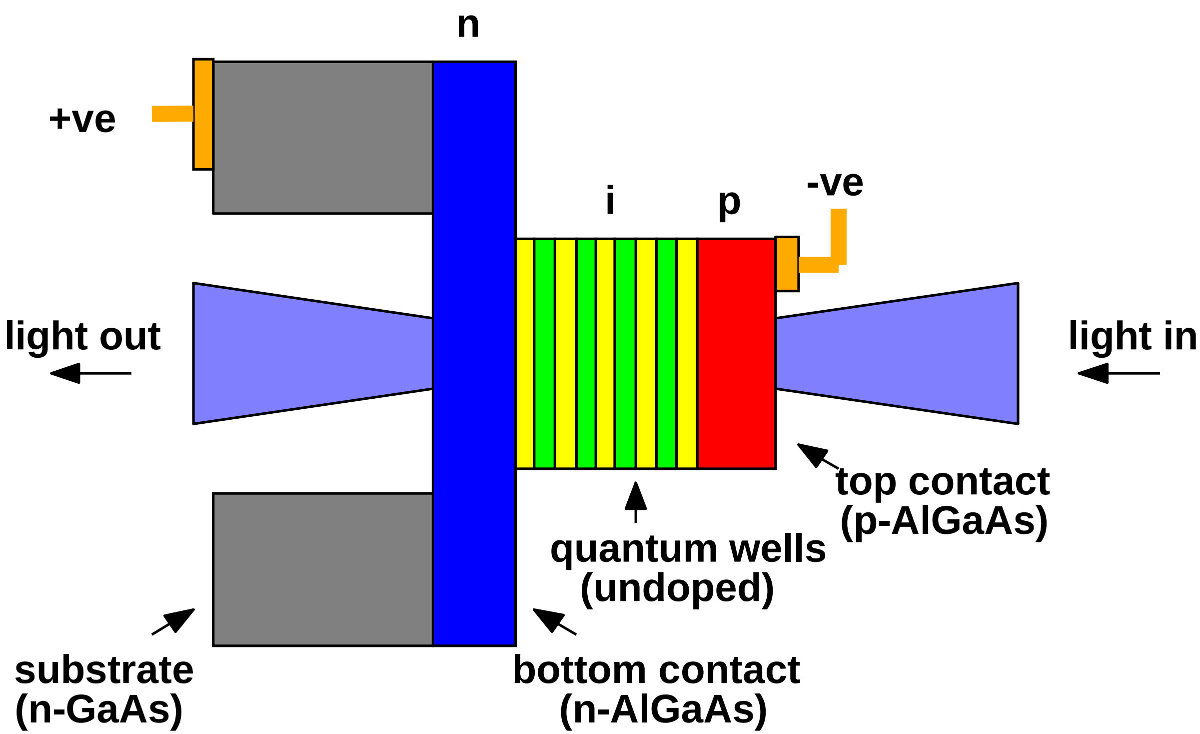
- unity sticking coefficient of N should allow high uniformity devices for long wavelengths
- potentially usable in long wavelength WDM systems

Modulator-Based Interconnects

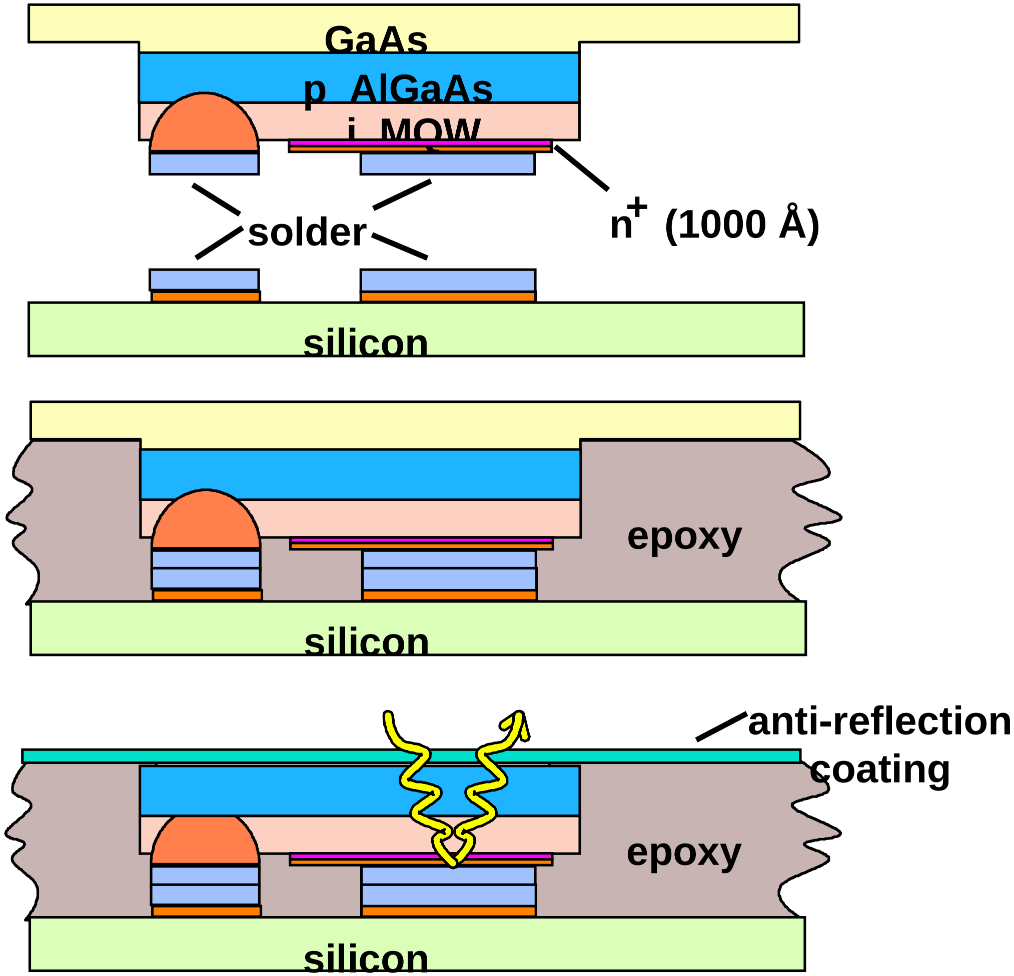
quantum well reflective modulators

- **solder bonded to silicon integrated circuits**
- **can function either as photodetector or output modulator (depending on circuit)**
- **can be made successfully in large numbers**
- **can be used with short pulse sources**
- **can be used with WDM sources (usable range ~ 6 - 10 nm)**

Quantum Well Modulator

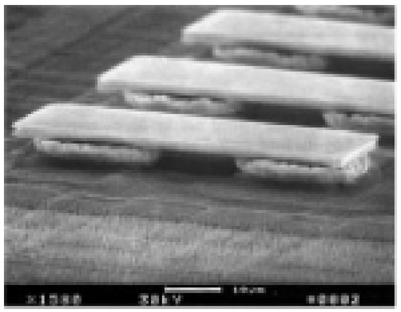


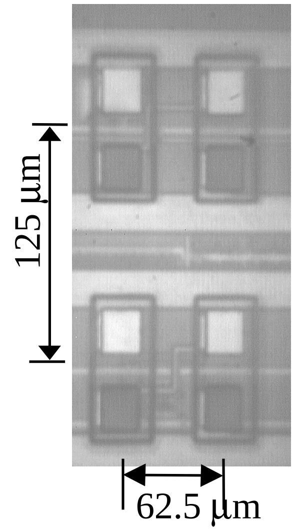
Quantum Well Modulators Solder-Bonded to Silicon Circuits - Hybrid SEED (Self Electro-optic Effect Device)

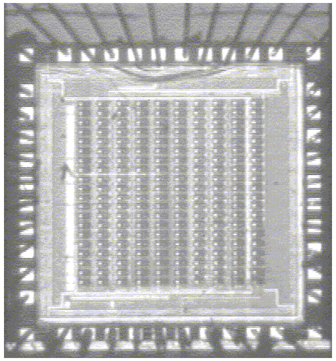


K. W. Goossen et al., IEEE Photonics Tech. Lett. 7, 360 - 362 (1995)

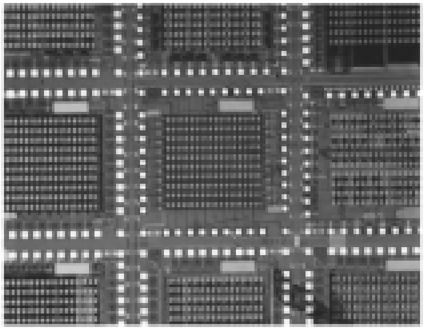
Bell Labs Multiproject OE-VLSI Wafer

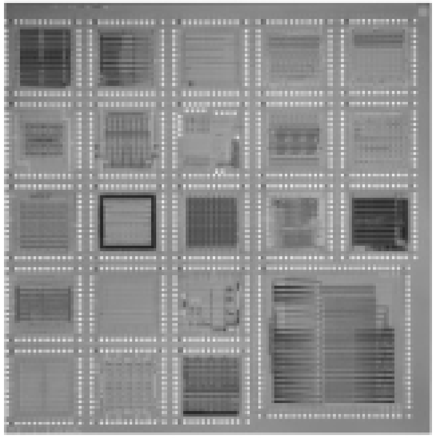


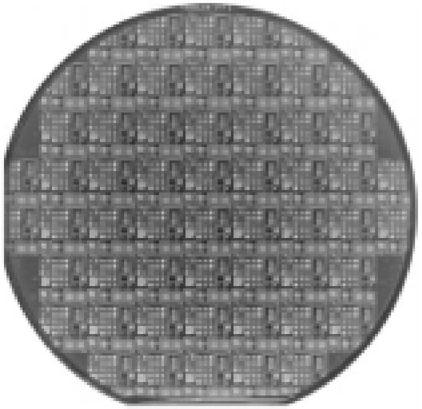




Arrays of solder-bonded multiple quantum well modulator/detector diodes on 0.5 µm Si CMOS

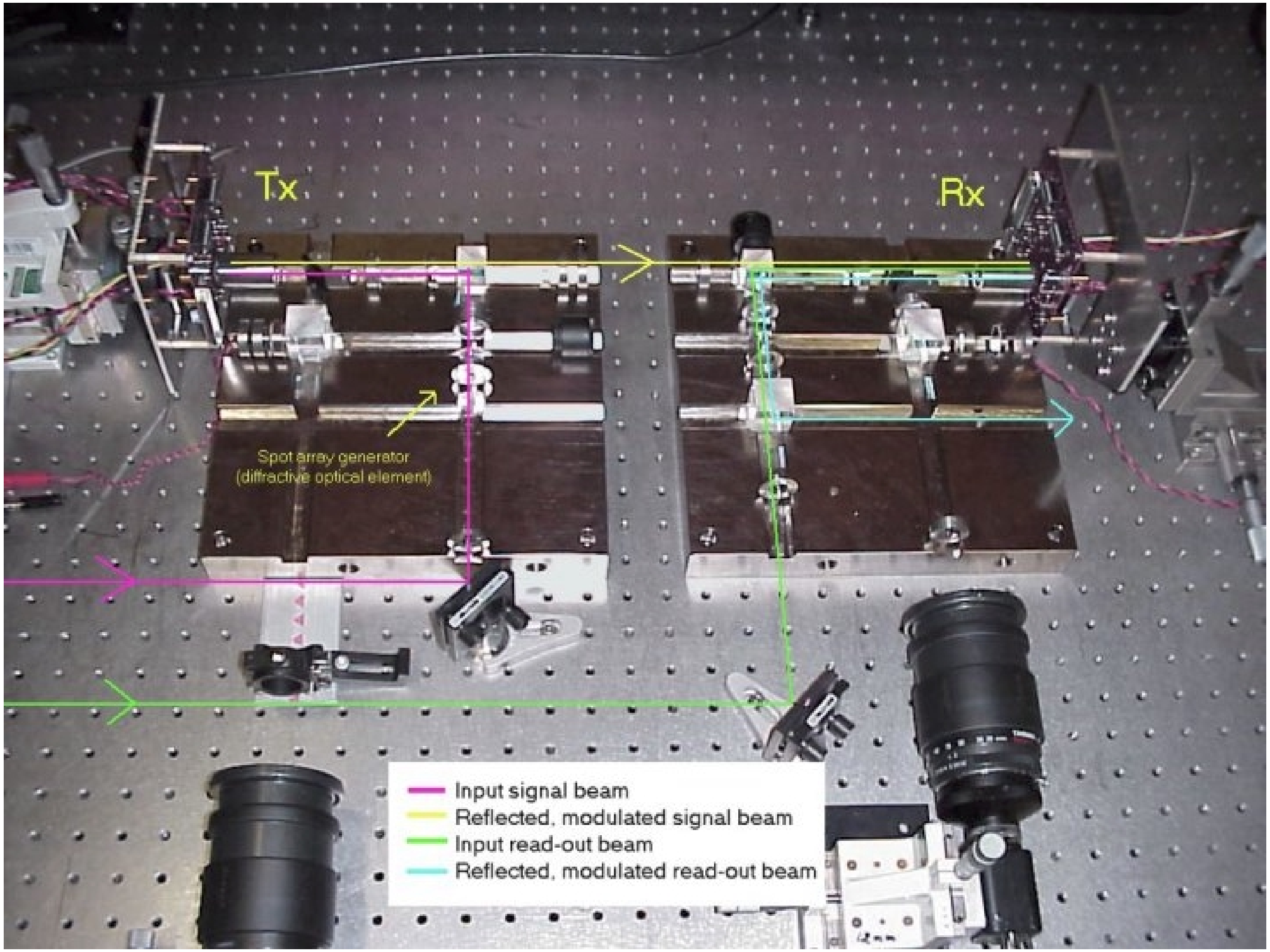






A. V. Krishnamoorthy and K. W. Goossen, IEEE J. Sel. Top. Quantum Electronics 4, 899 (1998)

Baseplate Testing Setup



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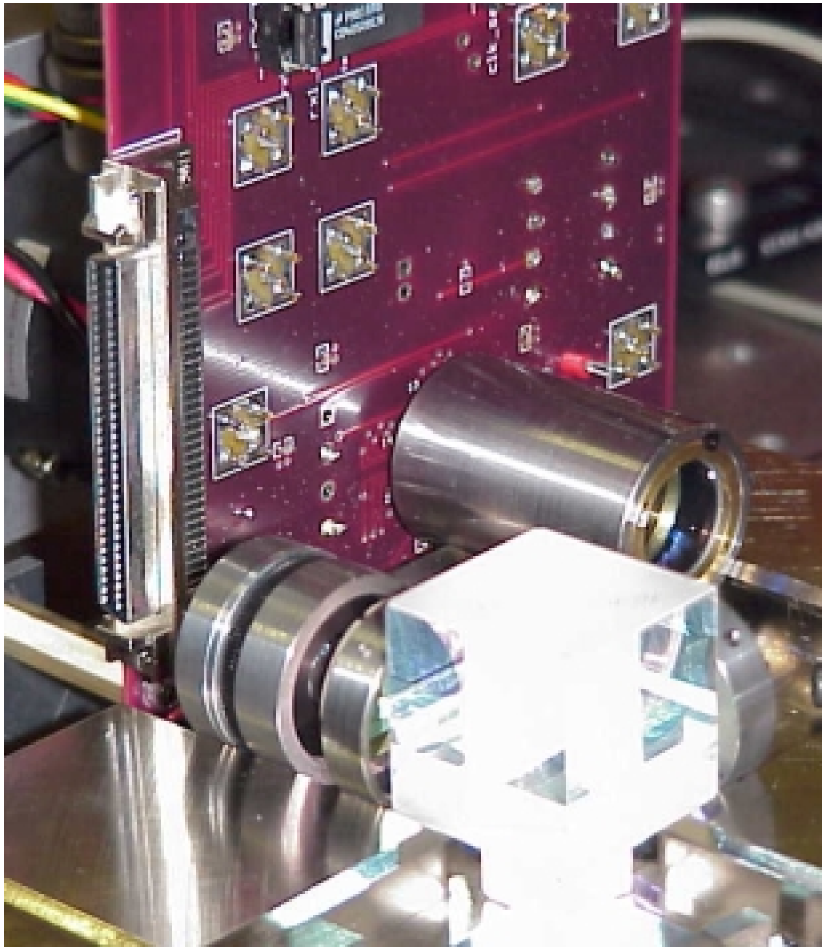
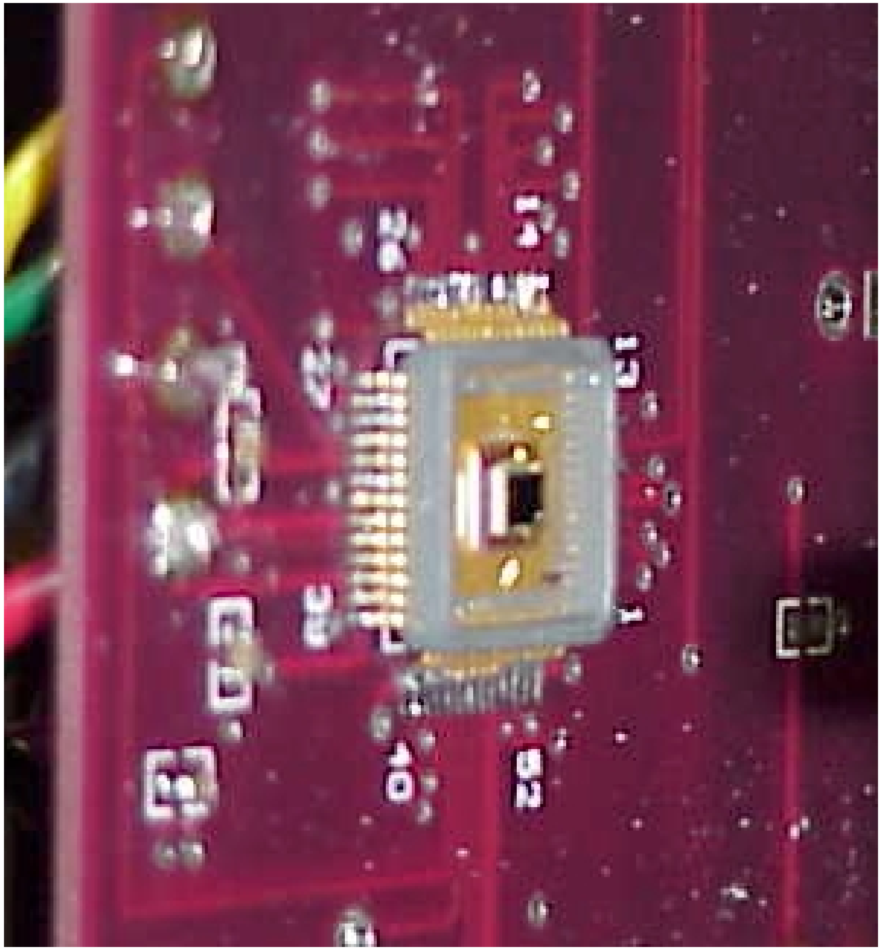
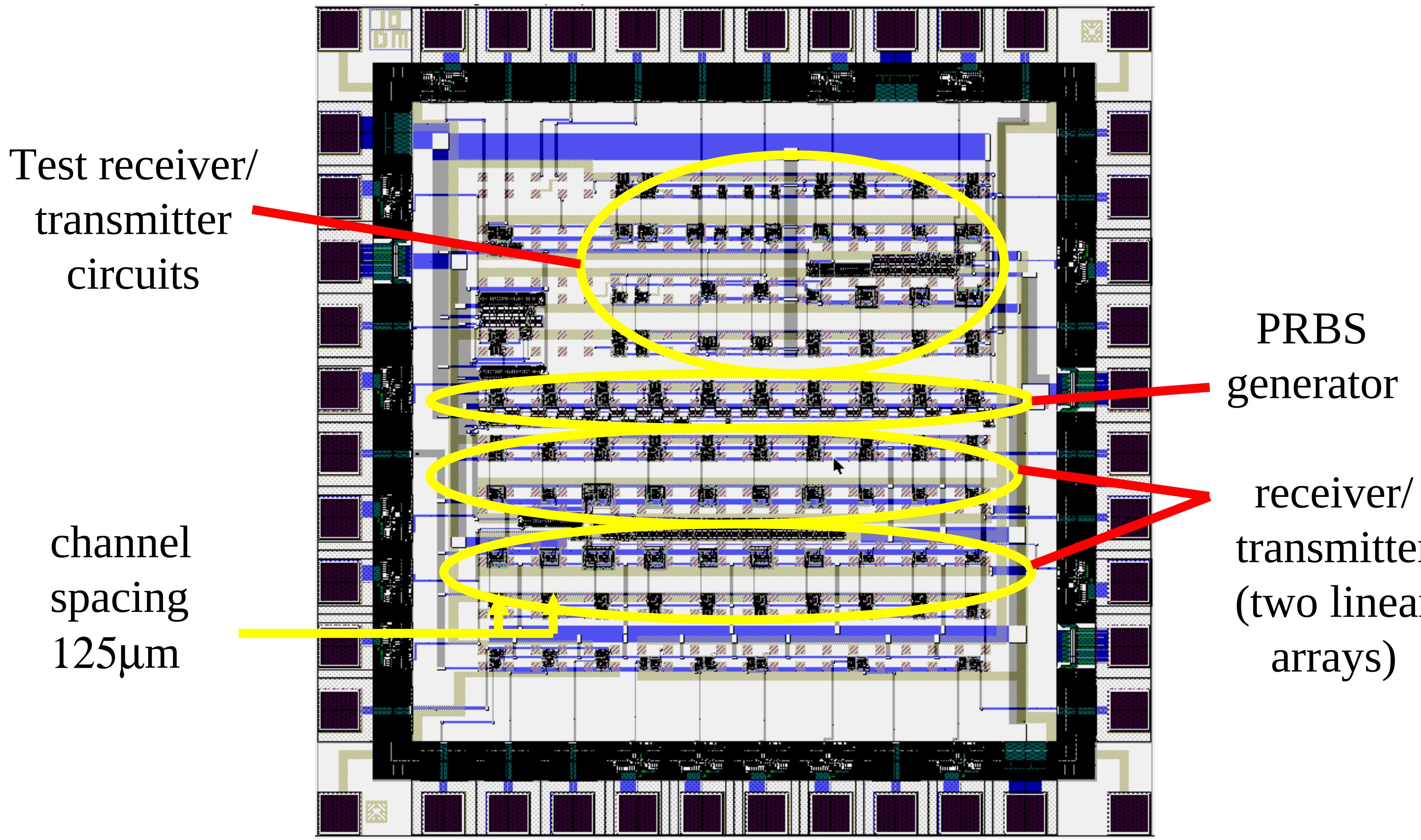
Close-up of Transmitter





Chip Details



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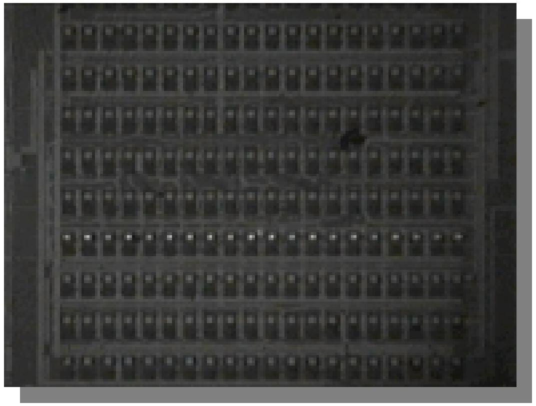
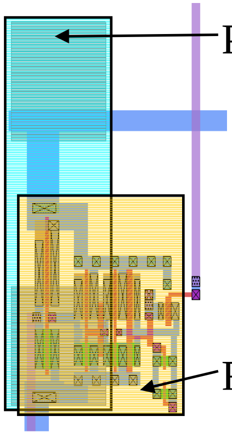
Example linear array optical interconnect

Transmitter chip

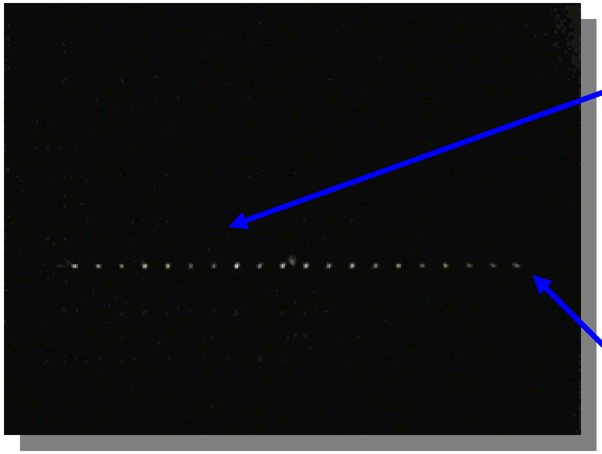
Modulator array operating with readout beams from spot array generator



Receiver layout

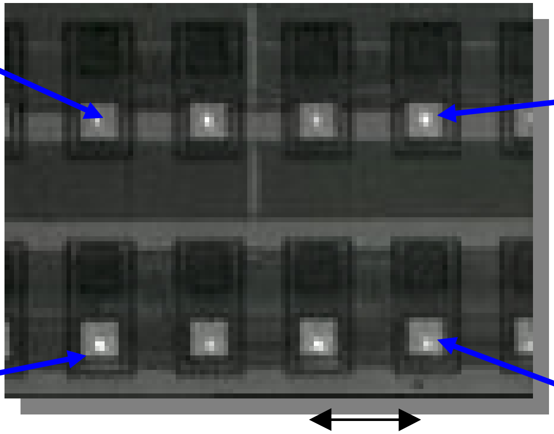


Receiver chip



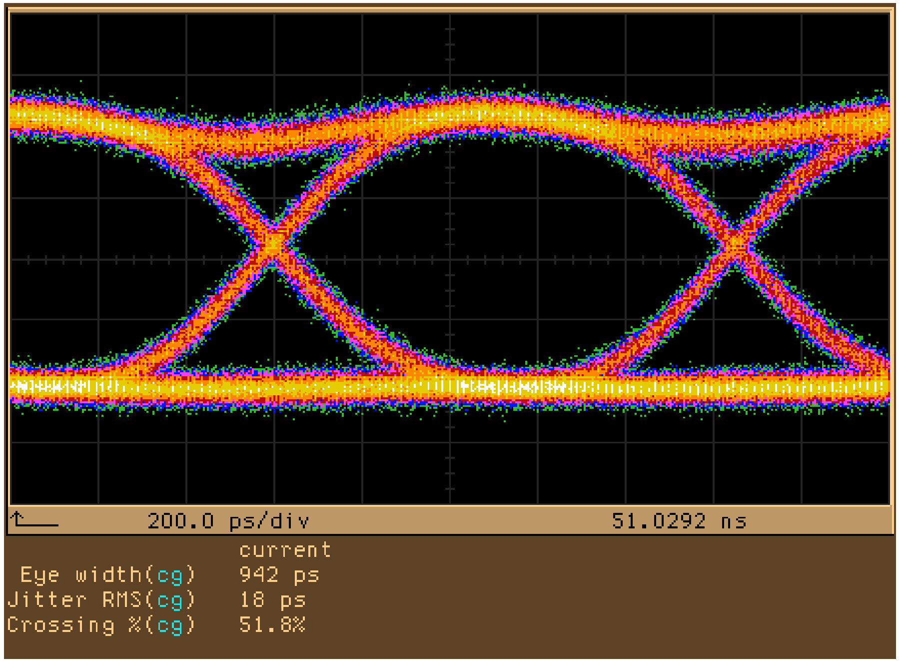
Test optical readout from modulators connected to receiver circuit outputs

Modulated optical inputs from transmitter chip

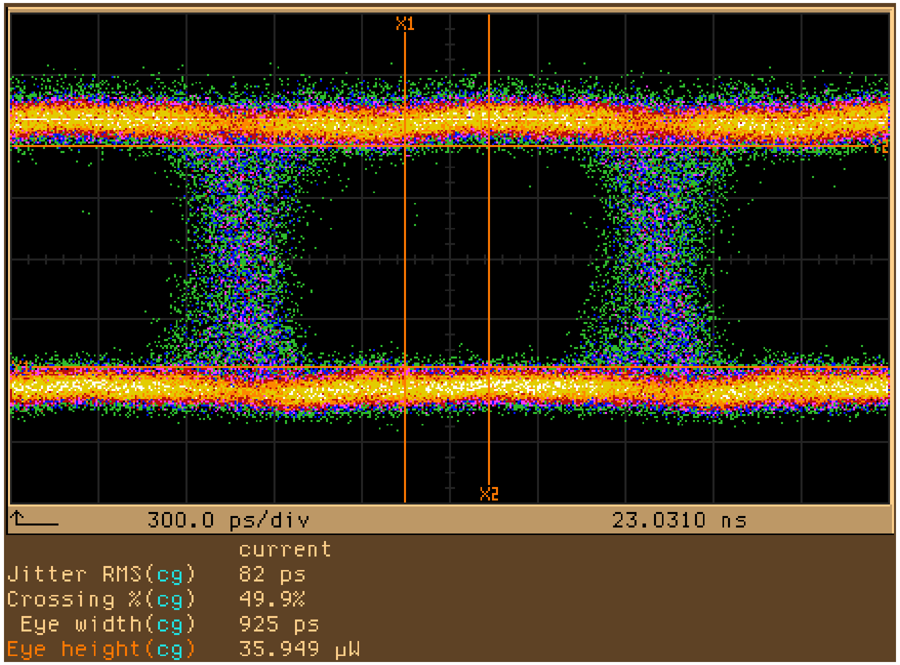


Receiver array with
- •test output modulators
- • receiver circuits (obscured by photodetectors)
- • photodetectors

Device performance

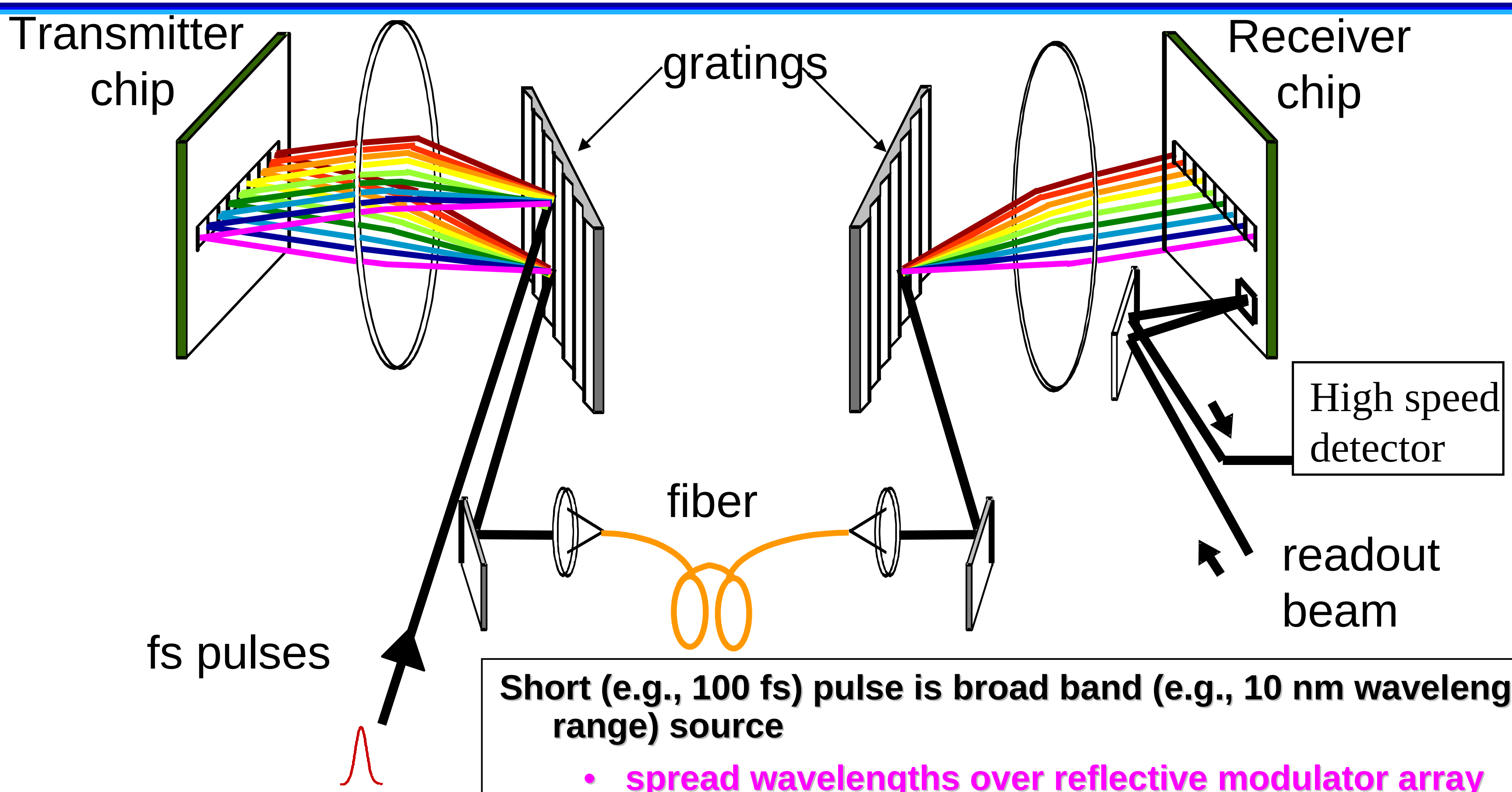


950 Mb/s modulator output with cw readout



700 Mb/s receiver eye diagram using cw laser drive (100 µW optical power per diode)

Short Pulse WDM Interconnect System



Short (e.g., 100 fs) pulse is broad band (e.g., 10 nm wavelength range) source

- **spread wavelengths over reflective modulator array**
  - **send reflected signals over single fiber to receiver array**

Multiple channel interconnect with single fiber and single laser

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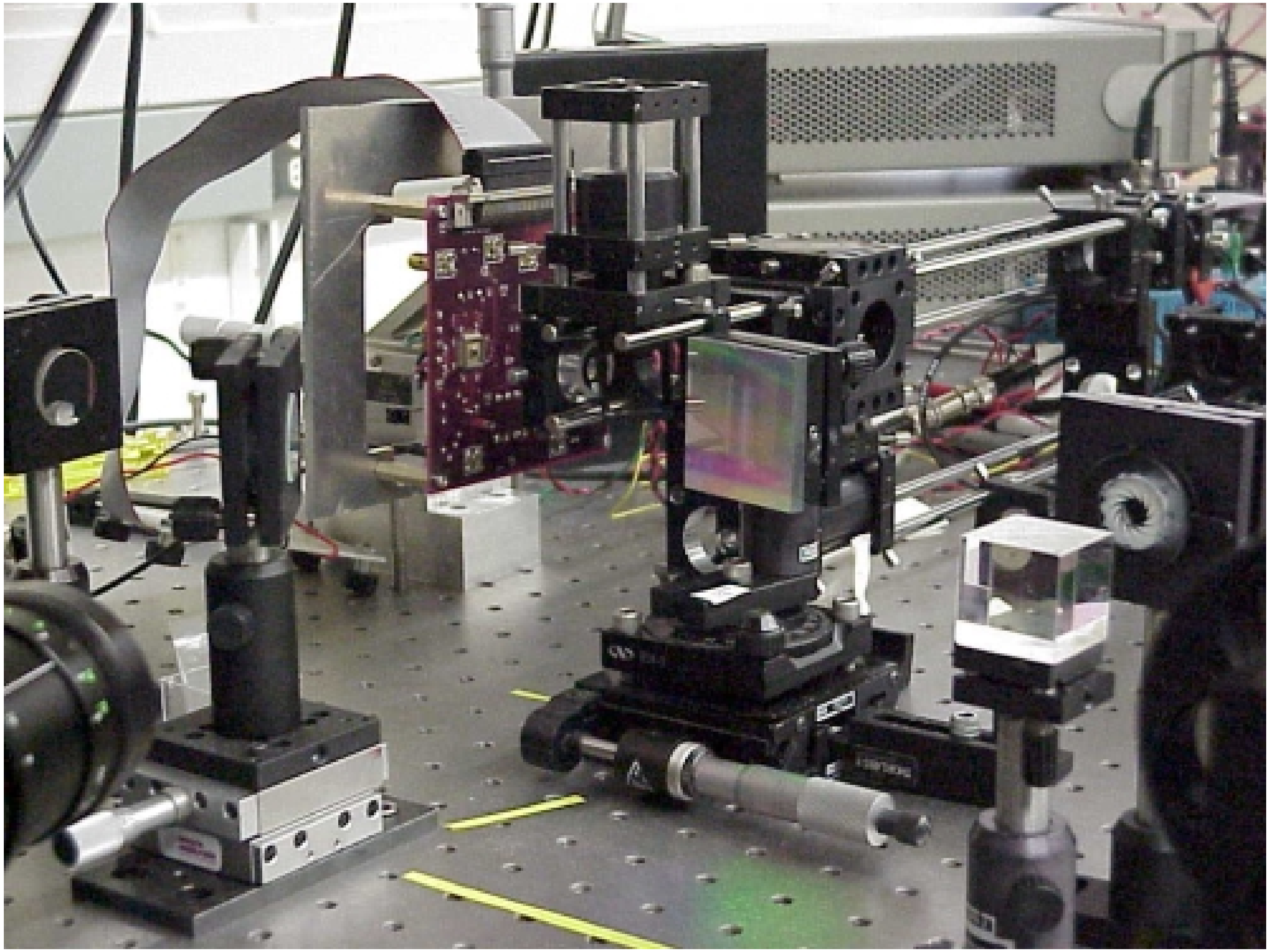
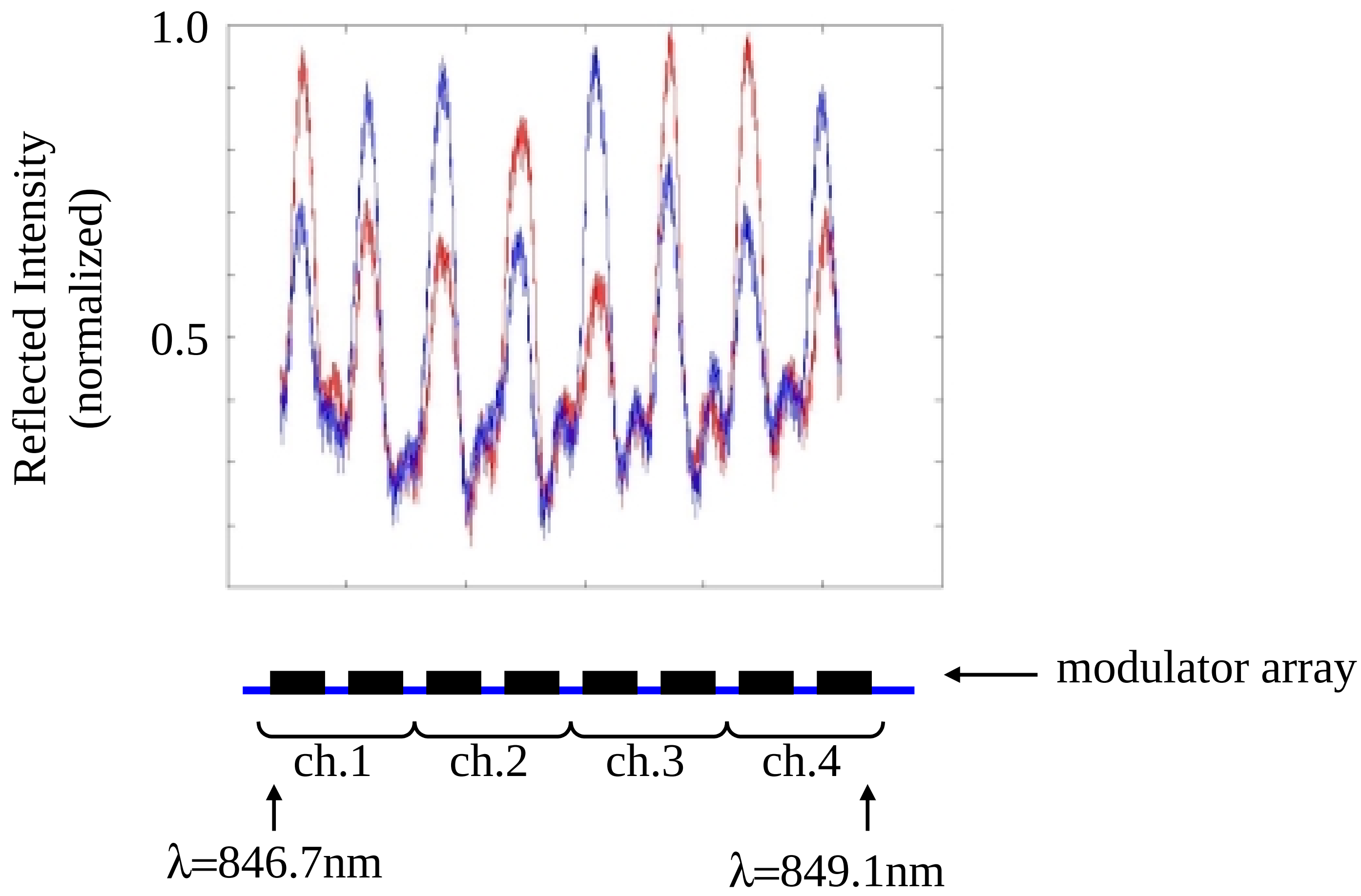
WDM Interconnect Setup



Modulator Array Testing

Modulator array output in Optical Spectrum Analyzer System



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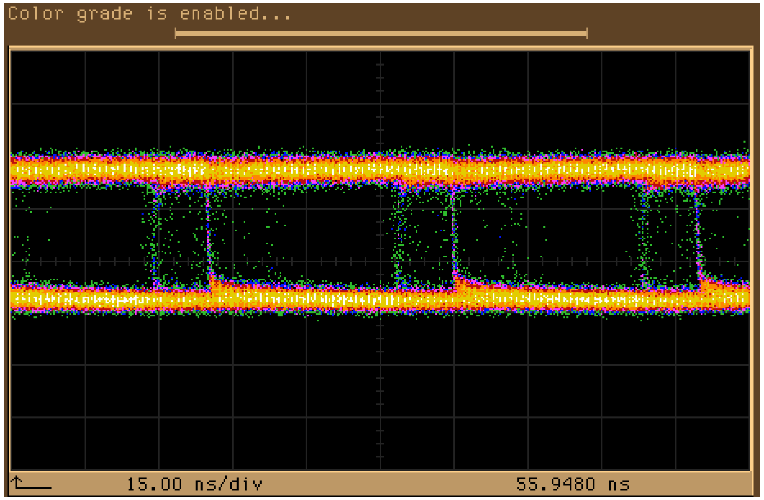
Operation of WDM Interconnect



Receiver eye with optical readout

Entire **WDM interconnect system operating at 20 Mbps**

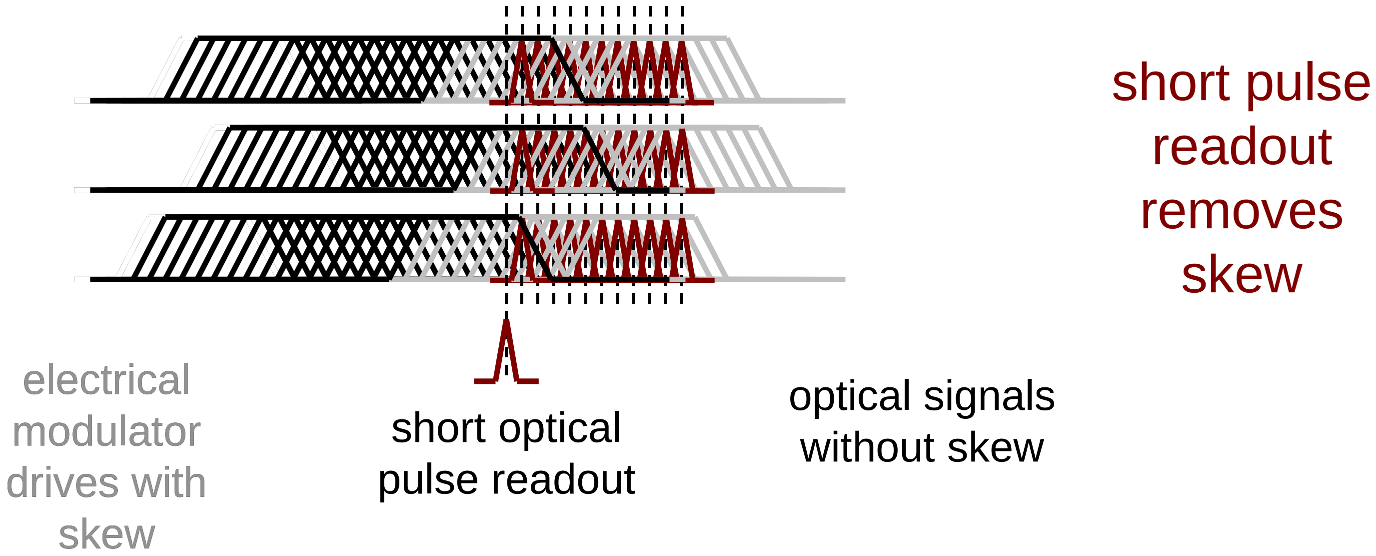
Key issues limiting system performance

- **insufficient uniformity in silicon receiver circuits**
  - ***improved circuits now in fabrication***
- **simple bench-top optomechanics not sufficiently rigid**
  - ***second generation optomechanics now under construction***

Features of short-pulse dense WDM interconnects to silicon chips

- avoids electronic multiplexing and demultiplexing
- uses single laser for multiple channels
- uses single fiber for multiple channels
- intrinsically synchronizes all channels
- exploits all other advantages of short pulse interconnects

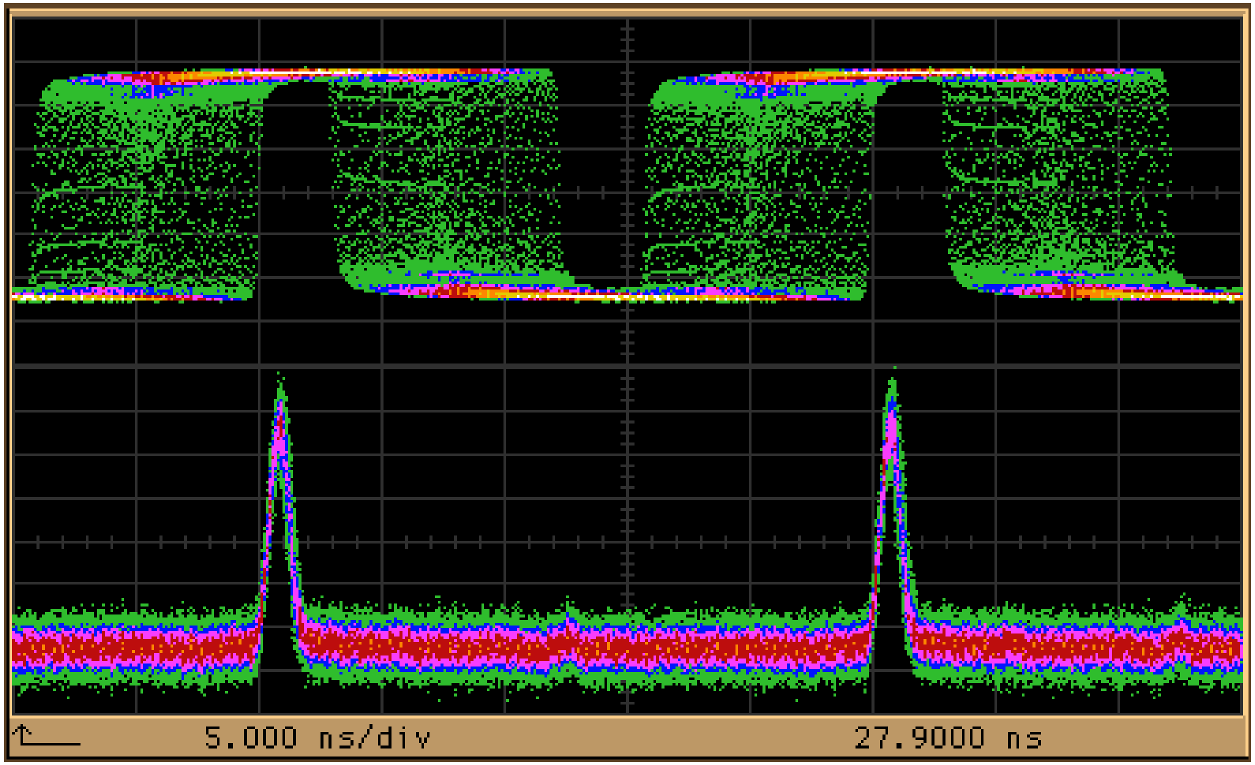
Removal of Skew By Using Short Pulses With Modulators



Effectively sampling the data on modulator

Up to one half bit of skew in modulator drive can be removed

Experimental Demonstration of Jitter Removal with Short Pulses



Electrical input signal to modulator, with jitter

Optical output signal after reading out with a short pulse, receiving the signal, and driving a second modulator

D. Agarwal, G. Keeler, B. Nelson, D. A. B. Miller (Stanford)

Demonstration of jitter removal from a single interconnect channel, at a clock rate of 82 MHz.

GaInAsN for Long-Wavelength Uniform Devices

Growth of this material by MBE shows

- unity sticking coefficient of nitrogen
  - *every nitrogen atom that lands on the surface incorporates, independent of growth rate*

contrasts with strong dependencies of InGaAsP growth on temperature and flux

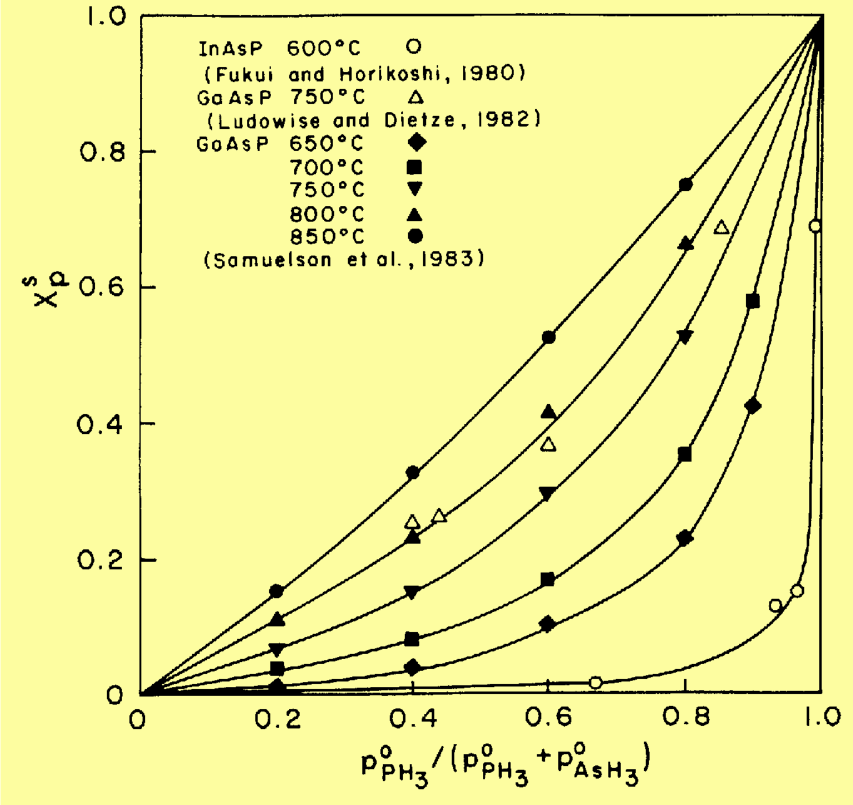
- may allow uniform, reproducible growth of long-wavelength devices

Allows use of GaAs substrates

Demonstrated 1.2 micron CW VCSEL

Possibilities for other, longer wavelength devices

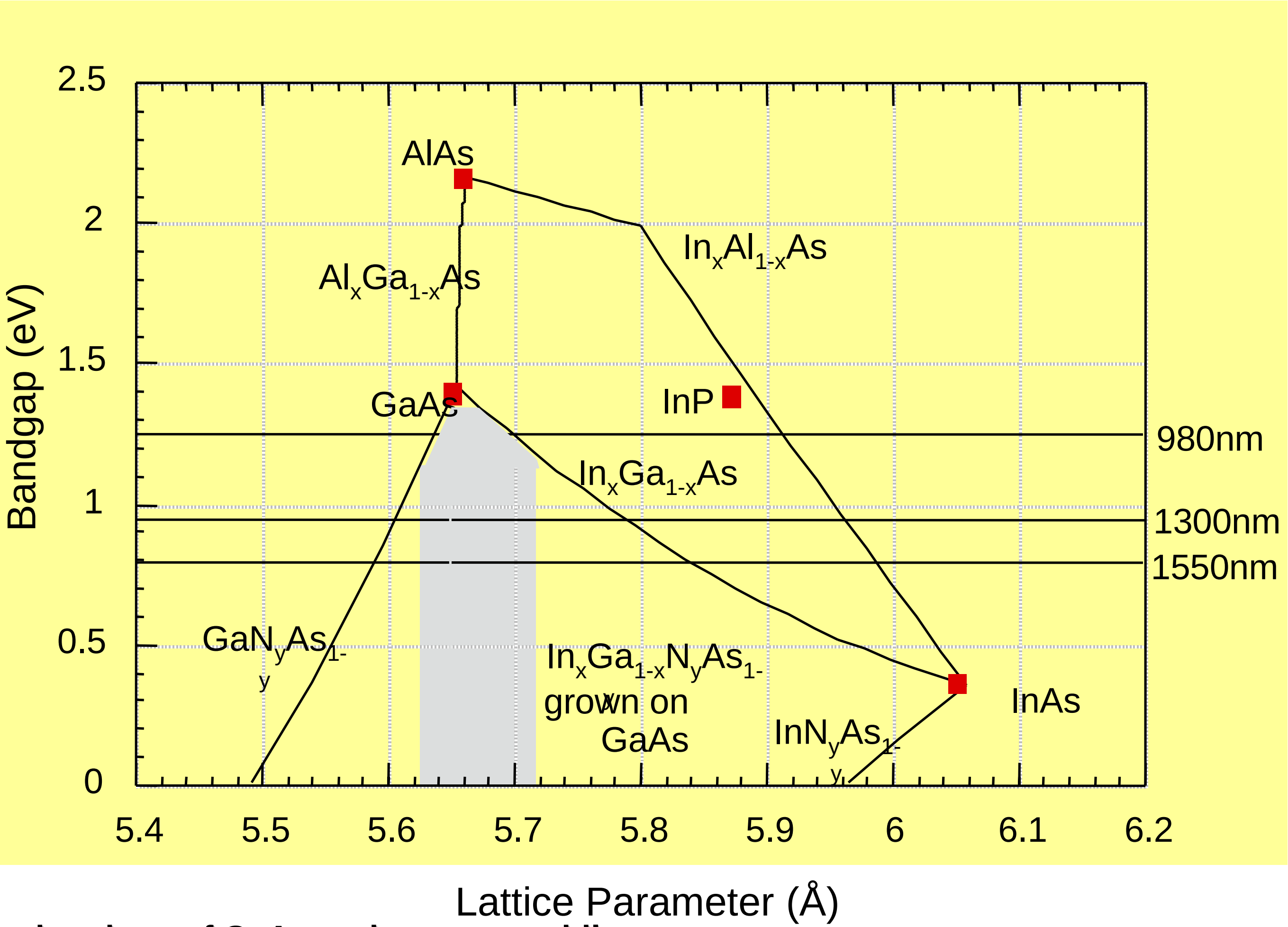
Group V concentration in Arsenide-Phosphides



Stringfellow
Organometallic Vapor-phase Epitaxy
Theory and Practice

Phosphorus concentration ($x_P{}^s$): dependent on temperature,dependent on AsH_3 and PH_3 flux because both kinetics (incomplete pyrolysis of the hydrides) and thermodynamics determine concentration.

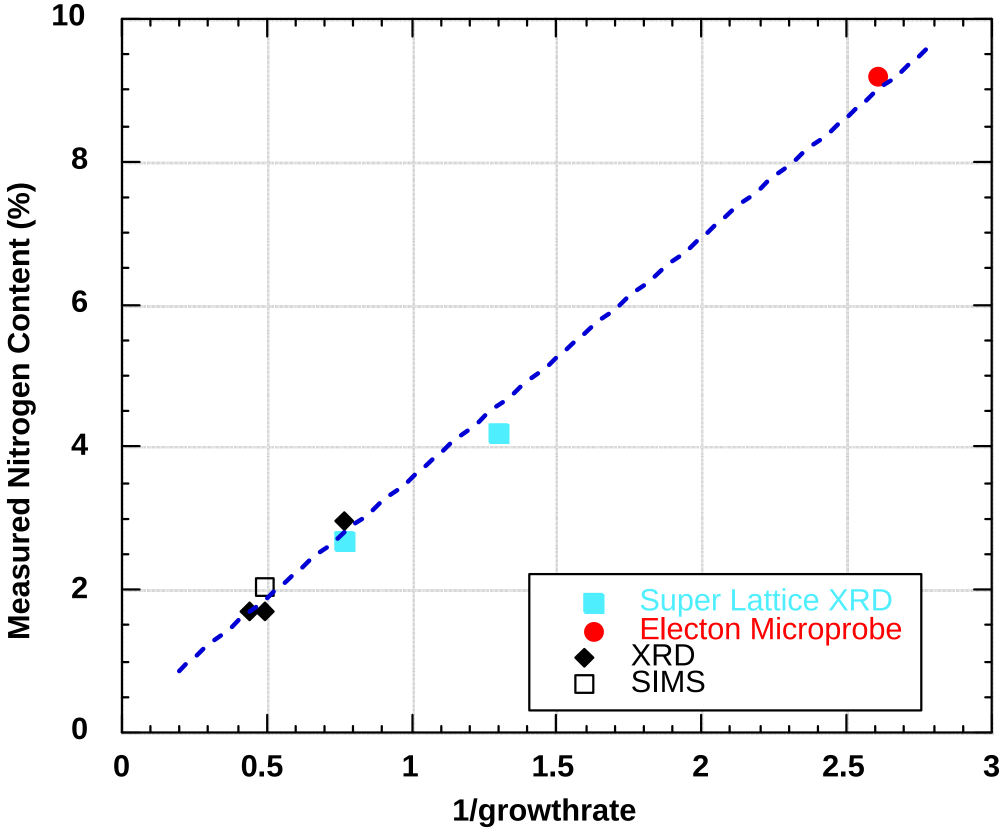
Bandgaps of III-V Alloys



N causes bandgap of GaAs to decrease rapidly.

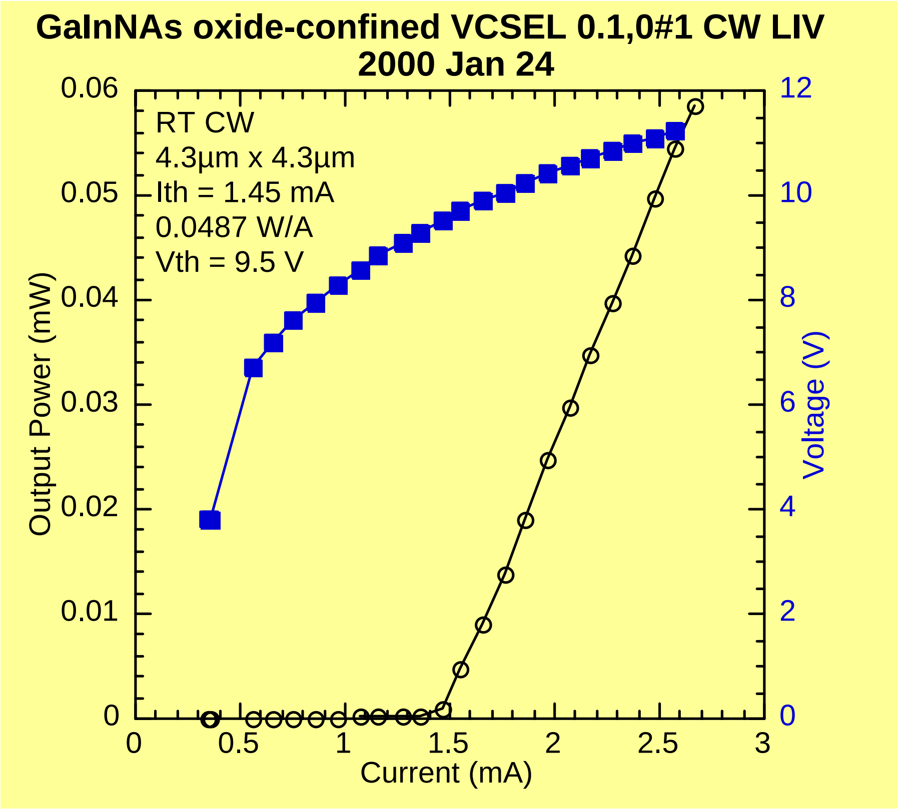
N is small and In is big ⇨ strain can be tuned from tensile to compressive when grown on GaAs.

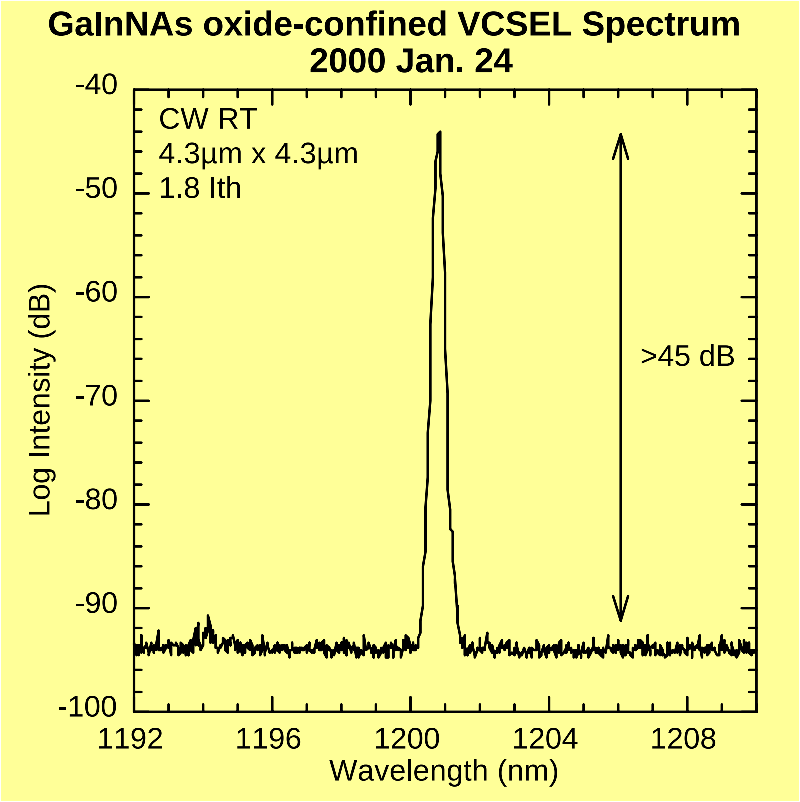
GaInNAs Elemental Source MBE



- **Low substrate temperature avoids phase segregation**
- **Atomic Nitrogen sticking coefficient ~ 1 (N mole fraction =1/growth rate)**
- **Hence expect uniform, predicable growth of this material**

CW operation oxide-confined VCSEL





Ultrafast Optoelectronic Gate

Device concept

- trigger top diode to give rise to temporary local voltage change in bottom diode
- voltage change in bottom diode gives temporary change in absorption, modulating beam

Optically-controlled optical gate to transfer data from one beam to another (e.g., different wavelengths)

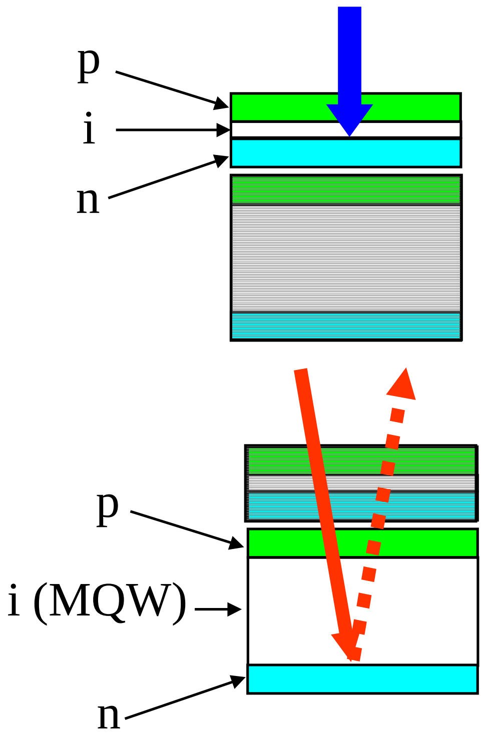
Electrically controlled - only works when diodes are biased

Top Diode

- Thin intrinsic region
- $Al_{0.3}Ga_{0.7}As$, transparent at ~850nm

Bottom Diode

- Thick intrinsic region
- GaAs multiple quantum wells
  voltage-sensitive at ~850nm



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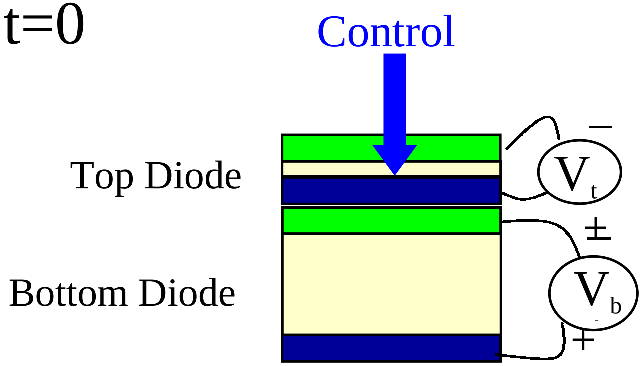
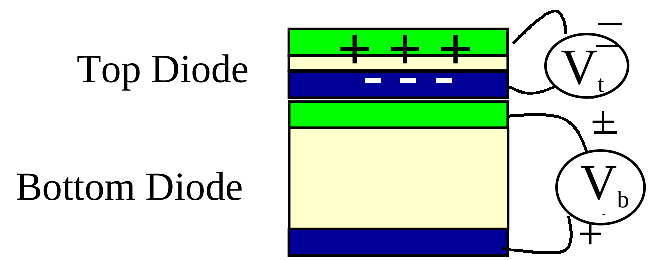
Basic Design Concept

(1) t=0



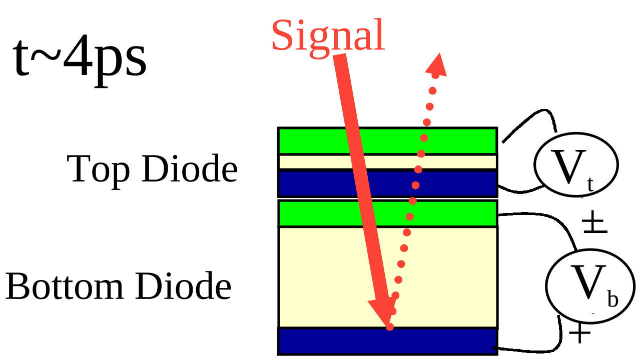
Control pulse is absorbed in top diode

(2) t=0-4ps



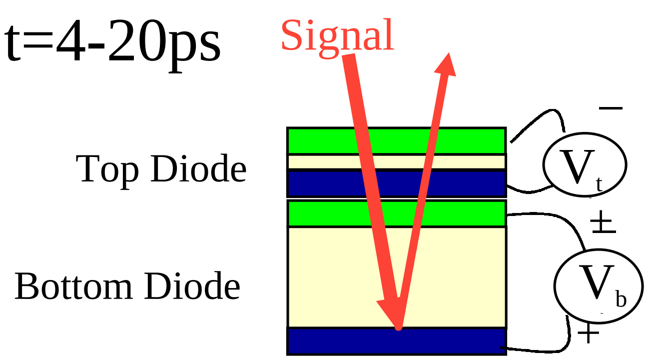
Due to separation of photogenerated carriers, voltage builds up, shielding the bias

(3) t~4ps



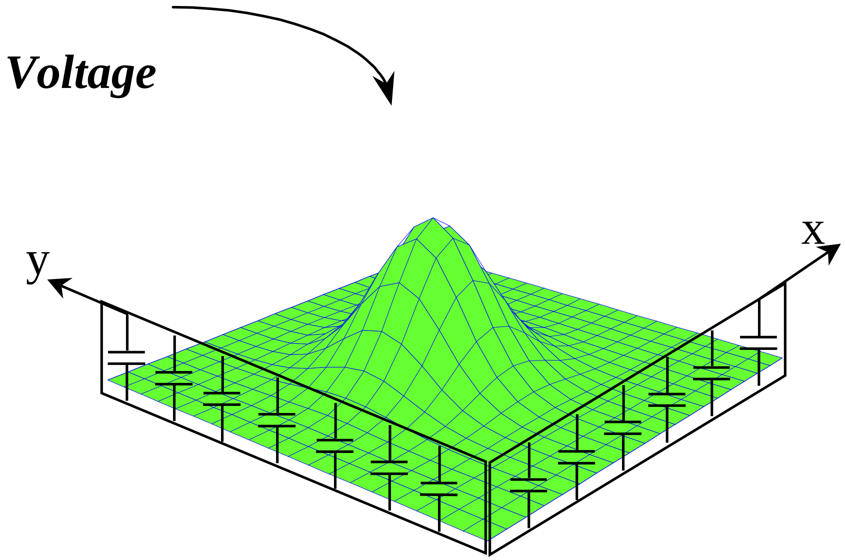
Voltage build-up changes absorption level in bottom diode: ON

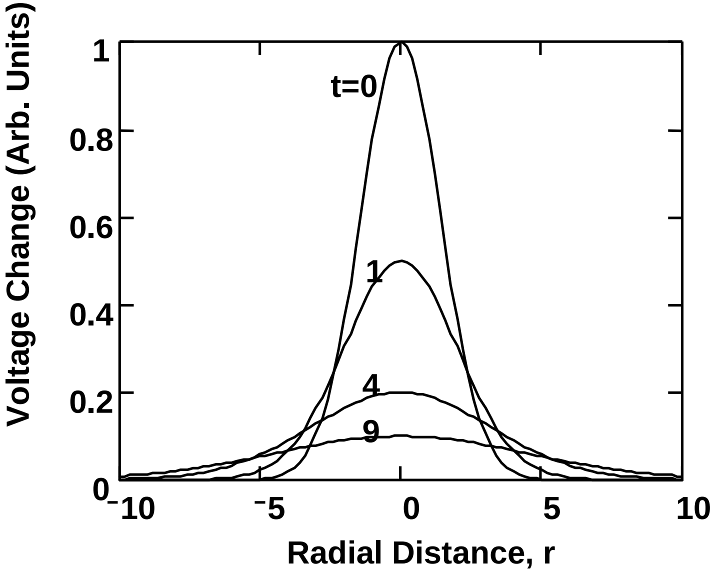
(4) t=4-20ps



Voltage build-up decays away: OFF

Diffusive Conduction





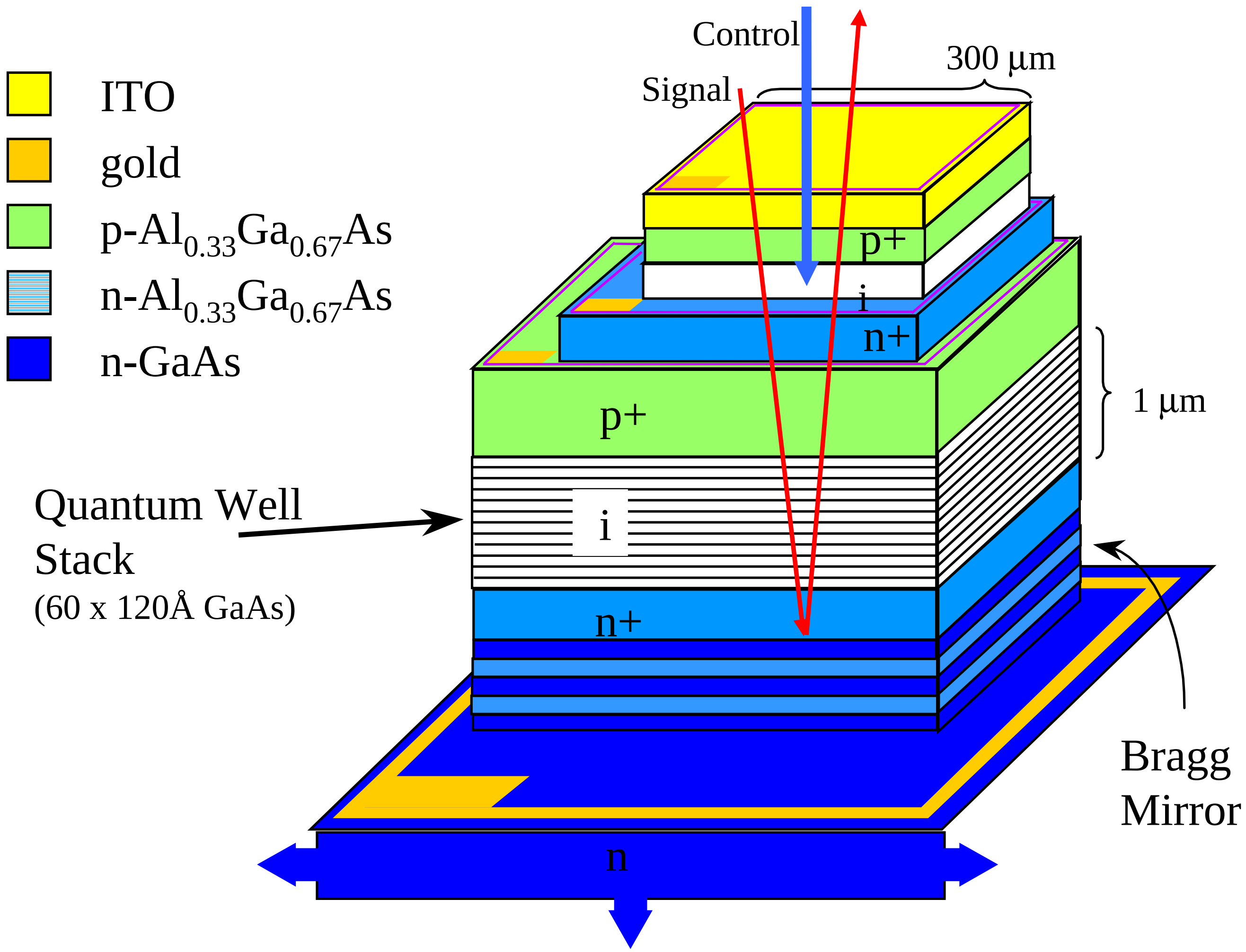
$$\frac{dV}{dt} = D\nabla^2_{xy}V$$

$$D = \frac{1}{R_{SQ}C_A}$$

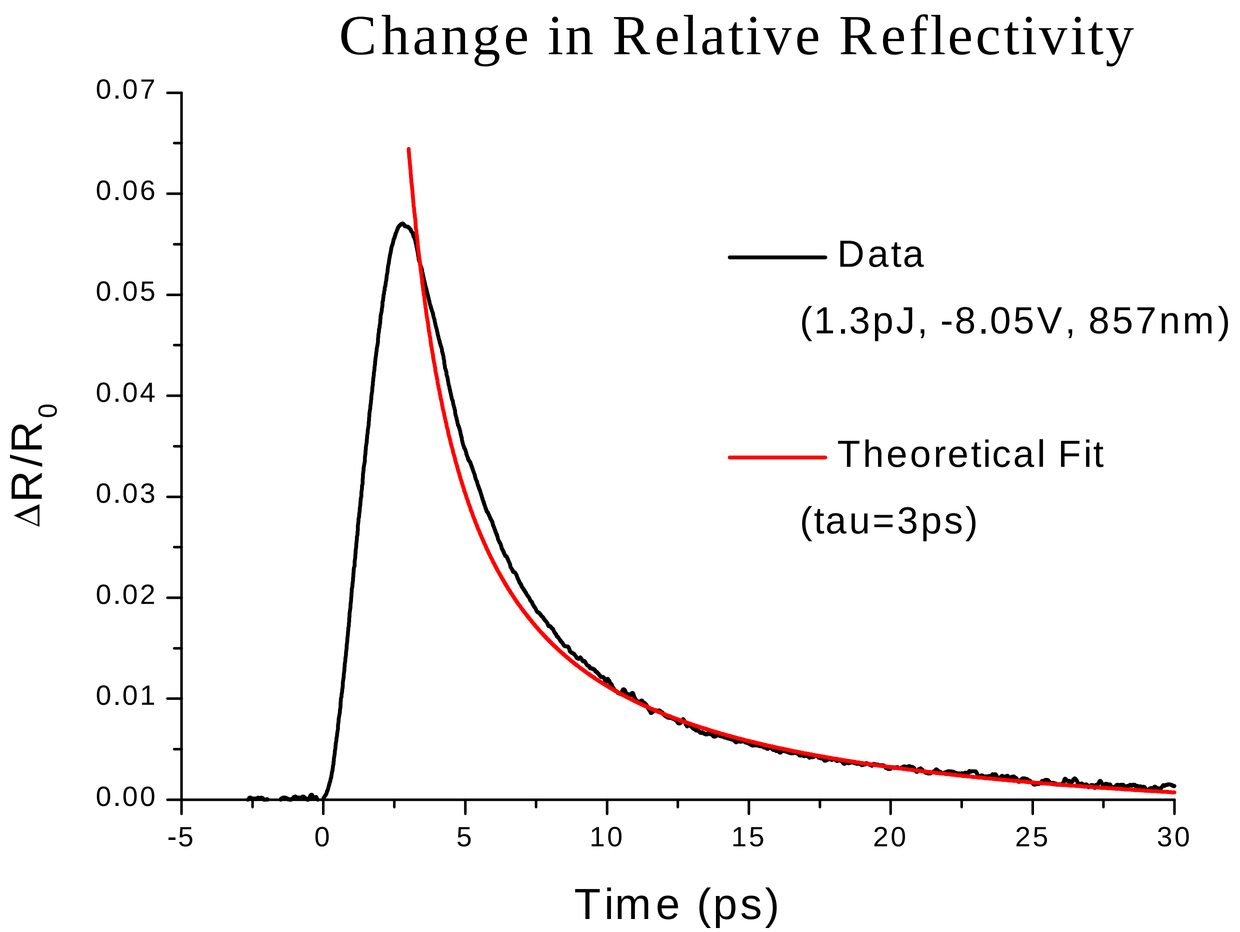
R_{SQ} = Resistance per square

C_A = Capacitance per unit area

Device Structure



Results


Change in Relative Reflectivity
0.07
0.06
0.05
0.04
0.03
0.02
0.01
0.00
ΔR/R0
-5
0
5
10
15
20
25
30
Time (ps)
Data
(1.3pJ, -8.05V, 857nm)
Theoretical Fit
(tau=3ps)

Results: Large Signal Response

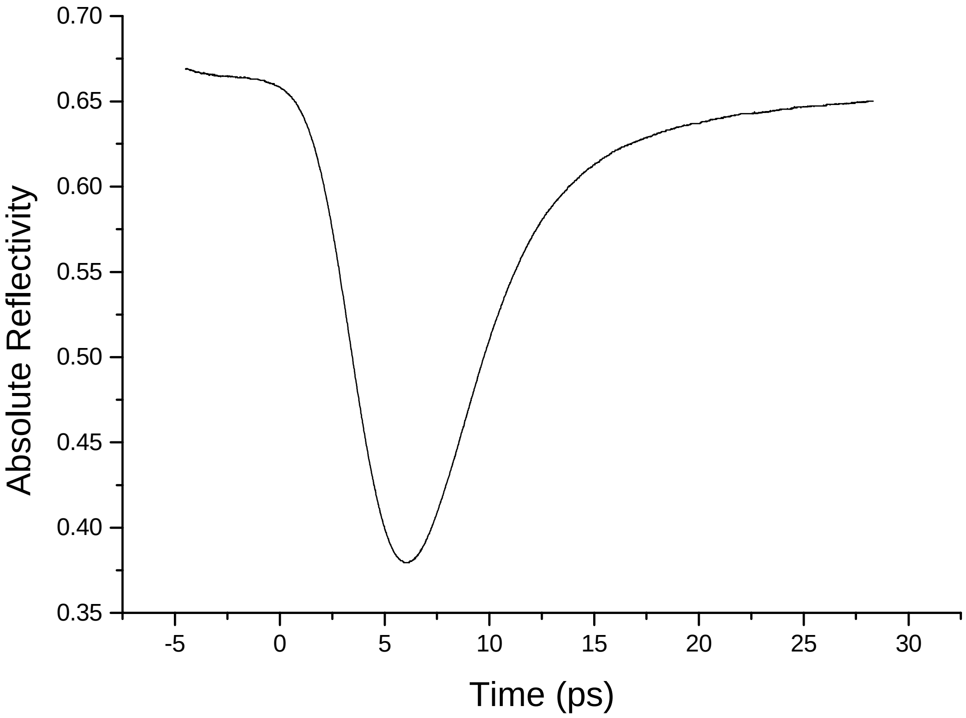
Description:

- 3.5μm spot radius
- 1.5 pJ/pulse
- 39 fJ/μm^2
- 2 ps pulse width

20 ps FW-10%M

30% Reflectivity Change

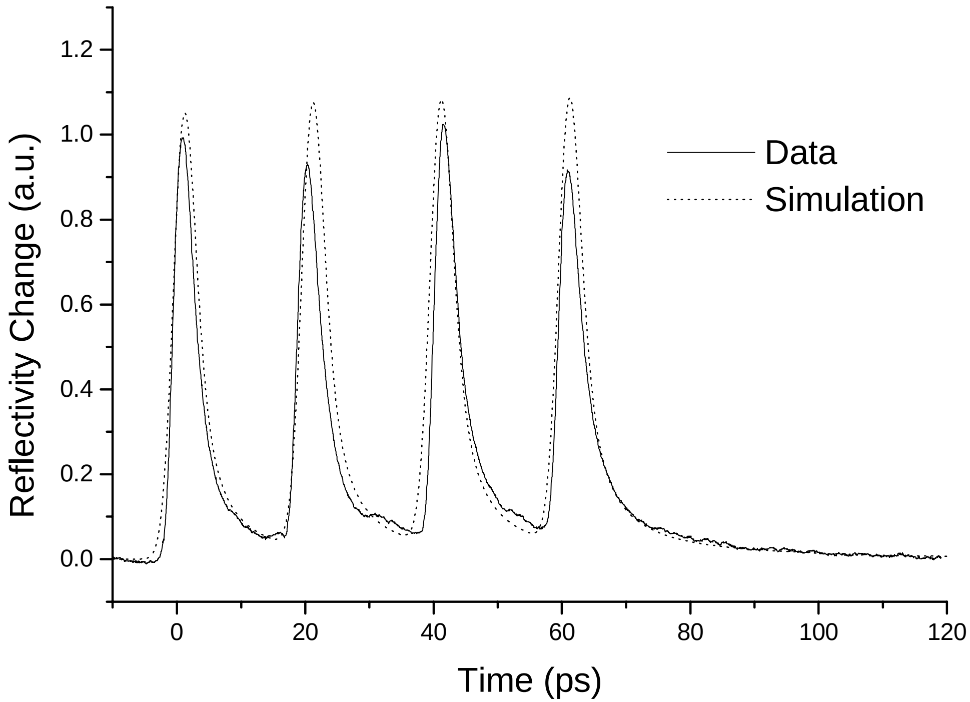
Nearly 2-to-1 Contrast Ratio



Results: Pulse Repetition Response

Description:

- 3.5 μm spot radius
- 20 ps pulse separation
- 2 ps pulse length
- ~ 70 fJ/pulse



Conclusions

WDM interconnect between silicon chips successfully demonstrated

Synchronization of signals using short optical pulses

GaInAsN promising material for uniform long-wavelength devices, with cw VCSEL demonstrated

Ultrafast optically controlled optical gate may allow fast, digital, electrially-controllable wavelength converting and switching devices