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**B.E. / B.TECH. DEGREE  
EXAMINATIONS, MAY 2024**

Seventh-Semester

**EC18702 – OPTICAL COMMUNICATION AND NETWORKS**

*(Electronics and Communication Engineering)***(Regulation 2018 / 2018A)****TIME: 3 HOURS****MAX. MARKS: 100**

COURSE OUTCOMES	STATEMENT	RBT LEVEL
CO 1	Evaluate the transmission characteristics and classify the structures of Optical fiber and types	5
CO 2	Investigate the various signal degradation factors associated with optical fiber	4
CO 3	Evaluate the various optical sources and optical detectors and their use in the optical communication system	5
CO 4	Examine the digital transmission and its associated parameters on system performance with the optical fiber measurements and various coupling techniques	4
CO 5	Enrich their knowledge on design of optical fiber networks such as SONET/SDH and optical CDMA systems	5

**PART- A (10 x 2 = 20 Marks)**

*(Answer all Questions)*

		CO	RBT LEVEL
1.	Compare and contrast when to use step index versus graded index optical fibers.	1	3
2.	Mention the merits and demerits of optical fiber communication, considering factors such as bandwidth, attenuation, and cost-effectiveness.	1	3
3.	Describe the various types of losses that occur in optical fibers.	2	2
4.	List out the causes of dispersion in optical fibers.	2	2
5.	Interpret the three requirements for laser action, which involve a gain medium, an optical cavity, and a pumping mechanism.	3	3
6.	Justify why silicon is not suitable for fabricating LEDs or laser diodes.	3	2
7.	Point out the common parameters to evaluate the performance of a digital receiver.	4	3

<b>8.</b>	Write the advantages of using a trans-impedance amplifier in optical communication systems.	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>9.</b>	Outline about the advantages of link budget in optical communication system design.	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>10.</b>	Mention the challenges involved in establishing optical networks.	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>

**PART- B (5 x 14 = 70 Marks)**

		Marks	CO	RBT LEVEL
<b>11. (a)</b>	<b>(i)</b> Construct a diagram illustrating the elements of an optical communication system, and apply your understanding of the evolution of optical fiber systems to explain the key advancements in each generation.	<b>(8)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>(ii)</b> Given a step-index silica fiber with a core refractive index of 1.52 and a cladding refractive index of 1.49 calculate: (a) the critical angle at the core-cladding interface, (b) the numerical aperture for the fiber, (c) the acceptance angle in air for the fiber.	<b>(6)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>(OR)</b>				
<b>(b)</b>	<b>(i)</b> Apply the propagation characteristics of different rays and explain how these rays are effectively guided and transmitted through the fiber with relevant diagrams.	<b>(6)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>(ii)</b> Apply Snell's law to explain the light refraction at the interface between two media with different refractive indices, and demonstrate the significance of the numerical aperture in determining the light-gathering ability of an optical fiber.	<b>(8)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>

**12. (a)** Analyze the causes of attenuation in optical fibers due to scattering losses and bending losses, and illustrate these mechanisms with appropriate diagrams. **(14) 2 4**

**(OR)**

**(b)** Explain the mechanisms of material dispersion and waveguide dispersion in optical fibers, applying the necessary mathematical expressions to quantify their contributions to overall dispersion. **(14) 2 4**

**13. (a)** Compare and contrast the structures and operating principles of surface emitter LEDs and edge emitter LEDs, and recommend the most suitable type for a specific applications. **(14) 3 4**

**(OR)**

**(b)** Derive the equations for external quantum efficiency and external power generated in an LED, and apply them to calculate the expected performance of an LED. **(14) 3 4**

**14. (a)** Discuss the different techniques available for measuring dispersion in optical fibers, considering their respective advantages, limitations, and suitability for specific applications. **(14) 4 3**

**(OR)**

**(b) (i)** Construct a step-by-step procedure to measure the total fiber attenuation and numerical aperture of an optical fiber. **(8) 4 3**

**(ii)** Discuss the various error sources in a fiber optic receiver, and propose strategies to mitigate their impact on the system's performance. **(6) 4 3**

**15. (a)** Construct the SONET (Synchronous Optical Network) frame structure, and analyze its components and their respective functions in enabling efficient data transmission over optical networks. **(14) 5 4**

(OR)

- |            |             |  |            |          |          |
|------------|-------------|--|------------|----------|----------|
| <b>(b)</b> | <b>(i)</b>  | Explain the principle of Wavelength Division Multiplexing (WDM) by designing a simple WDM system that combines multiple wavelengths onto a single optical fiber. | <b>(6)</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>4</b> |
|            | <b>(ii)</b> | Explain the detailed notes on Optical CDMA with its applications   | <b>(8)</b> | <b>5</b> | <b>4</b> |

**PART- C (1 x 10 = 10 Marks)**

(Q.No.16 is compulsory)

- |            |  | Marks       | CO       | RBT<br>LEVEL |
|------------|--|-------------|----------|--------------|
| <b>16.</b> | Using the basic Maxwell's equations for a source-free condition, derive the mode equations for the cylindrical fiber | <b>(10)</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>4</b>     |

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