Study of Gain Spectra in Optical Fiber under Modulation Instability

U Singh[1,a], Ramesh Kumar[2], A K Nagar[3] and O P Swami[3]

[1] *Department of Physics, SRRM Govt College, Jhujhunu, 333001, Rajasthan, India.*
[2] *Department of Physics, SNDB Govt PG College, Nohar, Hanumangarh, 335523, Rajasthan, India.*
[3] *Department of Physics, Govt Dungar college, Bikaner, 334001, Rajasthan, India*

[a] usnlphy@gmail.com

Abstract

In this paper, we consider the phenomenon of modulation instability. Due to nonlinear phenomenon of self-phase modulation, the propagation of continuous wave beam is essentially unstable. For modulation instability, we plot various curves for gain spectra and find the maximum gain which shows the gain dependence on power, group velocity dispersion parameter and nonlinearity parameter.

Keywords: Modulation Instability, Gain Spectra, Dispersion, Nonlinear.
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*** Address of correspondence**
U Singh
Department of Physics, SRRM Govt College, Jhujhunu, 333001, Rajasthan, India.

Email: usnlphy@gmail.com

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Introduction

Modulation instability (MI) is a nonlinear phenomenon in optical fibers that results from the interaction between nonlinear Kerr effects and fiber dispersion [1]. MI leads to the growth of perturbations on a continuous wave (CW), which can result in spectral broadening. This process is crucial for applications such as supercontinuum generation, optical communication, and soliton formation in fibers [2].

The MI process is strongly influenced by parameters such as the second-order dispersion coefficient β_2, the input power level P_0, and the nonlinear parameter γ. The gain spectrum associated with MI determines the range of frequencies over which perturbations grow exponentially. This paper explores the theoretical foundations of MI, the mathematical formulation of the MI gain spectrum, and presents various curves for gain spectra under various conditions [3].

Theory

MI in optical fibers can be described by the nonlinear Schrödinger equation (NLSE) under the condition of anomalous dispersion. The NLSE is given by:

$$\iota\frac{\partial A}{\partial z}+\frac{\beta_2}{2}\frac{\partial^2 A}{\partial T^2}+\gamma|A|^2A=0$$

Where symbols have their usual meaning.

In the case of a CW input, MI occurs when perturbations are introduced on the input field. The gain spectrum associated with MI is given by:

$$g(\Omega)=|\beta_2\Omega|\sqrt{\Omega_c^2-\Omega^2}$$

Where Ω is the frequency shift from the input signal and $\Omega_c^2=\frac{4\gamma P_0}{\beta_2}$ is the cutoff frequency, beyond which there is no gain. The gain $g(\Omega)$ is real and positive for $|\Omega|<\Omega_c$, and the frequency shifts outside this range do not exhibit any growth [4].

Methodology

The parameters used for the numerical study are nonlinear coefficient γ, dispersion coefficient β_2 and input powerP_0.

The gain spectrum was calculated using the formula provided in the theoretical section. We used Scilab to compute and plot the gain spectra for different parameters.

The cutoff frequency Ω_c was calculated for each power level using the relation:

$$\Omega_c=\sqrt{\frac{4\gamma P_0}{|\beta_2|}}$$

The gain $g(\Omega)$ is computed over the range of Ω and results are plotted to compare the gain spectra for various parameters.

Results and Discussion

Gain Spectra for Different Input Powers

The MI gain spectra were computed for power levels $P_0 = 1\ W, 4\ W\ and\ 7\ W$.

The results show that as the power increases, the maximum gain and the bandwidth of the MI gain spectrum also increase. This behavior is expected because higher input power leads to stronger nonlinear interactions in the fiber, thereby enhancing the modulation instability effect.

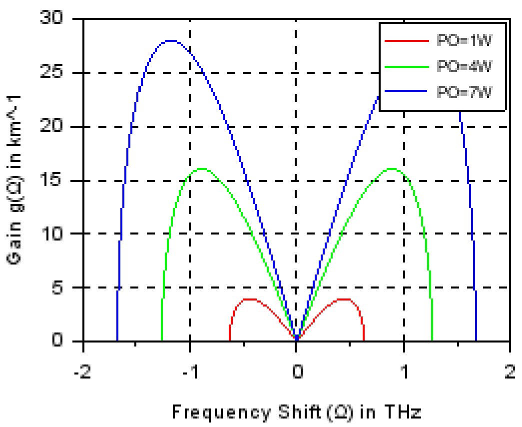

Figure 1: Gain vs Frequency Shift for different power levels

Figure 1 confirms the fact.

Impact of Dispersion Coefficient

The role of the dispersion coefficient β_2 was also analyzed. With a negative β_2 (anomalous dispersion), the MI effect is enhanced, leading to higher gains. For normal dispersion (β_2>0), MI is suppressed, and no gain is observed.

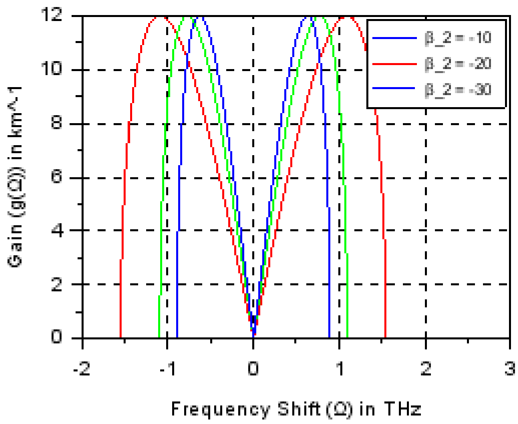

Figure 2: Gain vs Frequency Shift for different $\boldsymbol{\beta_2}$ values in ps^2.

Dependence on Nonlinearity

Here is the figure which shows the dependence of gain on nonlinearity.

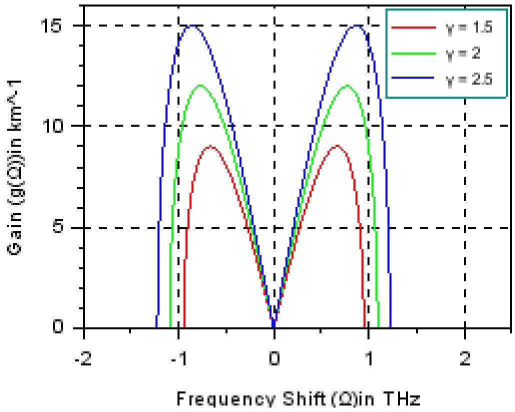

Figure 3: Gain vs Frequency Shift for different $\boldsymbol{\gamma}$ values in $W^{-1}km^{-1}$

Conclusion

The study of gain spectra under modulation instability reveals the critical role played by the nonlinear and dispersive properties. The nonlinear coefficient γ, dispersion coefficient β_2, and input power level P_0 all significantly influence the MI gain spectrum. As shown in the numerical results, higher input powers increase the gain and broaden the bandwidth of modulation instability. This has important implications for designing optical fiber systems that exploit MI for applications such as supercontinuum generation and all-optical signal processing.

These results demonstrate that the asymptotic stage of Modulation Instability is universal since the behavior of a large class of perturbations characterized by a continuous spectrum is described by the same asymptotic state. [5]

Future work may explore the interaction of MI with higher-order dispersion and Raman scattering, as well as its effects in photonic crystal fibers.

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