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Hybrid numerical calculation method for bend waveguides

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Abstract

The knowledge of how the light will behave in a waveguide with a radius of curvature becomes more and more important because of the development of integrated photonics, which include ring micro-resonators, phasars, and other devices with a radius of curvature. This work presents a numerical calculation method to determine the eigenvalues and eigenvectors of curved waveguides. This method is a hybrid method which uses at first conform transformation of the complex plane generating a new and modified index profile that represent the curvature. Then, on this modified index profile, we use a matrix multilayer formalism; we divide the profile in virtual layers of various indices to calculate both the propagation constants (eigenvalues) and the optical field (eigenvectors) into each of such virtual layers.





Figure 1 : Conformal transformation of the complex plane used in the calculations onto non-bended waveguides generating new modified index profiles ; the wave equation becomes :

$$\Delta_{u,v} + k_0^2 n^2(u) e^{\frac{2u}{R_2}} \psi(u,v) = 0$$

Multilayer Matrix Formalism

Matrix M_i are associated to each virtual layer, then the matrix associated to the whole structure is defined by :

 $\overline{M} = \prod_{i=1}^{n} M_{i} = \begin{pmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} \end{pmatrix}$

The eigenvalue $\beta = k_0 n_{eff}$ of such a structure is given by :

$$\begin{cases} m_{11} - jr \ m_{12} + \frac{j}{p} m_{21} + \frac{r}{p} m_{22} = 0 & \text{TE mode} \\ \frac{p}{n_p^2} m_{11} - j \frac{r}{n_r^2} \frac{p}{n_p^2} m_{12} - j \ m_{21} + \frac{r}{n_r^2} m_{22} = 0 & \text{TM mode} \end{cases} \text{ with:} \begin{vmatrix} p = \sqrt{\beta^2 - k_0^2 n_p^2} \\ r = \sqrt{\beta^2 - k_0^2 n_p^2} \\ r = \sqrt{\beta^2 - k_0^2 n_r^2} \end{vmatrix}$$

(The terms m_{ii} are function of the effective propagation constant β)

Results





Figure 2 : The dashed line represents the field in a nonbended waveguide ($R \rightarrow \infty$) and the continuous one represents the field in a bended waveguide with a radius of curvature of 5µm. These tables represent the eigenvalues of the modes for various width (W) of the guide and different indices concerning the cladding (n_{clad}) and the core (n_{core}). These values can be compared to those given by COMSOL-3D software respectively for R=10µm and R $\rightarrow \infty$.

R (µm)	W (/λ₀=1μm)	(n _{core} ; n _{clad})	n _{eff-TE} (programm)	n _{eff-TE} (COMSOL3D)
10	1	(2;1)	1.68439	1.9529
		(2.5; 1.5)	2.19253	2.0021
		(2;1.5)	1.74436	1.9571
	2	(2;1)	1.77214	1.9850
		(2.5; 1.5)	2.25812	1.9938
		(2;1.5)	1.79303	1.9856
R	W	(n _{core} ; n _{clad})	n _{eff-TE}	n _{eff-TE}
<mark>(µm)</mark>	(/λ₀=lµm)		(programm)	(Analytic)
8	1	(2;1)	1.76183	1.81055
		(2.5; 1.5)	2.29139	2.34775
		(2;1.5)	1.81608	1.83543
	2	(2;1)	1.91241	1.94671
		(2.5; 1.5)	2.42604	2.45654
		(2;1.5)	1.92386	1.94978

Conclusion

This method of calculation associating conformal transformation of the complex plane and multilayer matrix formalism provides a good

approximation of the effective index in a bended waveguide without requiring a long time of calculation on a personal computer, unlike the other methods already existing. The values of the effective indices determined by this method give a good approximation of the actual values, and their general evolution in function of the radius of curvature and the indices is conform to COMSOL3D simulation, and analytical case for $R \rightarrow \infty$.

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