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IEC TR 61292-6

Edition 2.0 2023-01
REDLINE VERSION

TECHNICAL REPORT

colour inside

Optical amplifiers –
Part 6: Distributed Raman amplification

INTERNATIONAL
ELECTROTECHNICAL
COMMISSION

ICS 33.160.10; 33.180.30

ISBN 978-2-8322-6366-2

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CONTENTS

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OPTICAL AMPLIFIERS –

Part 6: Distributed Raman amplification

FOREWORD

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This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition published in 2010. This edition constitutes a technical revision.

This edition includes the following significant technical changes with respect to the previous edition:

a) correction of the formula for noise figure;

b) correction of errors in Figure 10.

The text of this Technical Report is based on the following documents:

Draft	Report on voting
86C/1822/DTR	86C/1831/RVDTR

Full information on the voting for its approval can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

The language used for the development of this Technical Report is English.

This document was drafted in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2, and developed in accordance with ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1 and ISO/IEC Directives, IEC Supplement, available at www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs. The main document types developed by IEC are described in greater detail at www.iec.ch/standardsdev/publications.

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INTRODUCTION

Distributed Raman amplification (DRA) describes the process whereby Raman pump power is introduced into the transmission fibre, leading to signal amplification within the transmission fibre though stimulated Raman scattering. This technology has become increasingly widespread in recent years due to many advantages that it offers to optical system designers, including improved system optical signal-to-noise ratio (OSNR) and the ability to tailor the gain spectrum to cover any or several transmission bands.

A fundamental difference between distributed Raman amplification and amplification using discrete amplifiers, such as erbium-doped fibre amplifiers (EDFAs), is that the latter can be described using a black box approach, while the former is an inherent part of the transmission system in which it is deployed. Thus, a discrete amplifier is a unique and separate element with well-defined input and output ports, allowing rigorous specifications of the amplifier performance characteristics and the methods used to test these characteristics. On the other hand, a distributed Raman amplifier is basically a pump module, with the actual amplification process taking place along the transmission fibre. This means that many of the performance characteristics of distributed Raman amplification are inherently coupled to the transmission system in which ~~it~~ a Raman amplifier is deployed.

This document provides an overview of DRA and its applications. It also provides a detailed discussion of the various performance characteristics related to DRA, as well as some of the methods that can be used to test these characteristics. Information is also provided on some of the operational issues related to the distributed nature of the amplification process, such as the sensitivity to transmission line quality and eye-safety.

The material provided is intended to provide a basis for future development of specifications and test method standards related to DRA.

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OPTICAL AMPLIFIERS –

Part 6: Distributed Raman amplification

1 Scope

This part of IEC 61292, which is a Technical Report, relates to distributed Raman amplification (DRA). Its main purpose is to provide background material for future standards related to DRA, such as specifications, test methods and operating procedures. This document covers the following aspects:

– general overview of Raman amplification;
– applications of DRA;
– performance characteristics and test methods related to DRA;
– operational issues relating to the deployment of DRA.

As DRA is a relatively new technology, and still rapidly evolving, some of the material in this document ~~may~~ can become obsolete or irrelevant in a fairly short period of time. This document will be updated frequently to minimize this possibility.

2 Normative references

~~The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.~~

~~IEC 60825-2, *Safety of laser products – Part 2: Safety of optical fibre communication systems (OFCS)*~~

~~IEC 61290-3, *Optical amplifiers – Test methods – Part 3: Noise figure parameters*~~

~~IEC 61290-3-1, *Optical amplifiers – Test methods – Part 3-1: Noise figure parameters – Optical spectrum analyzer method*~~

~~IEC 61290-3-2, *Optical amplifiers – Test methods – Part 3-2: Noise figure parameters – Electrical spectrum analyzer method*~~

~~IEC 61290-7-1, *Optical amplifiers – Test methods – Part 7-1: Out-of-band insertion losses – Filtered optical power meter method*~~

~~IEC 61291-1, *Optical amplifiers – Part 1: Generic specification*~~

~~IEC/TR 61292-3, *Optical amplifiers – Part 3: Classification, characteristics and applications*~~

~~IEC/TR 61292-4, *Optical amplifiers – Part 4: Maximum permissible optical power for the damage-free and safe use of optical amplifiers, including Raman amplifiers*~~

~~ITU-T G.664, *Optical safety procedures and requirements for optical transport systems*~~

~~ITU-T G.665, *Generic characteristics of Raman amplifiers and Raman amplified subsystems*~~

~~NOTE A list of informative references is given in the Bibliography.~~

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CONTENTS

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