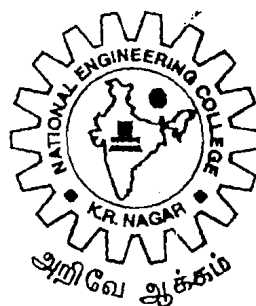


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MEMS for Optical Switching Networks

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Abstract:-Microelectro-mechanical systems (MEMS) has emerged as a killer application in telecommunication networks. Silicon-based optical MEMS offer numerous advantages over other parallel technologies in terms of cost, scalability and compactness. It also, allows, manufacturing of highly accurate miniaturized parts, and use materials with excellent mechanical and electrical properties. Applications of MEMS include tunable lasers, optical switches, tunable filters. In this paper we, discuss the technology, performance, and reliability of Dimension (2D) MEMS optical switch. Further, this paper shows that this technology meets scalability, performance, and reliability requirements for important applications in fiber networks.

Keywords: - MEMS, photonic applications, tunable laser, optical switches, tunable filters.

I. Introduction

The bandwidth concern of an optical telecommunication network can be solved by allowing the traffic grooming, routing and switching at the wavelength levels. Thus, switch plays a very important role in optical networks. The main features of optical switching is that it enables routing of optical data signals without the need for conversion to electrical signals (OEO), and therefore is independent of data rate and data types. Network protection, restoration, bandwidth provisioning, wavelength routing and network performance monitoring are applications of optical switching. Optical signal routing as a whole depends on optical interconnects, which are the basic elements for routing optical signals in an optical network or system. Though, cross connect of different configuration are possible the strictly nonblocking switch is widely in use, which means that any input can be switched to any output, and if a new connection is made, existing connections are not affected. Whereas in case of blocking switches connections cannot be established for certain choices of input and output ports.

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