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Simulation of Mode-Locking by Nonlinear Polarization Rotation in a Semiconductor Optical Amplifier

Z. Li, X. Yang, E. Tangdiongga, H. Ju, G.-D. Khoe, Fellow, IEEE, H. J. S. Dorren, and D. Lenstra

Abstract—We present a theoretical investigation of a mode locked laser that has a semiconductor optical amplifier (SOA) in its ring cavity. A mode-locked train of narrow pulses is obtained by combining nonlinear polarization rotation in the SOA and a polarization filter whose polarization axis is set such that the tail of optical pulses is removed in each cavity round-trip. The pulse narrowing process is demonstrated numerically and good qualitative agreement with experiments in our previous work is achieved. The pulse performance is largely determined by the ultrafast SOA gain dynamics and the cavity dispersion. Our simulation shows that the laser can produce a pulse train of subpicosecond pulsewidth at a repetition rate of 28 GHz for a moderate SOA current level. We observe that the laser can switch itself on or off depending on the initial pulse.

Index Terms—Fiber ring laser, mode-locked ring laser, polarization switching, self-induced nonlinear polarization rotation, semiconductor optical amplifier (SOA).

I. INTRODUCTION

LIGHT sources capable of producing short optical pulses play a key role in optical communication systems [1]. Apart from applications in transmission systems, well-shaped optical pulses as short as several hundred femtoseconds may be needed for creating ultrashort switching windows in optical switches. Mode-locking is a widely used technique to generate short pulses [2]. Among the many available mode-locking schemes, nonlinear polarization rotation in optical fiber nonlinearities is often employed. Pulses as short as 42 fs have been generated by a passively mode-locked fiber ring laser based on nonlinear polarization rotation [3]. A clear disadvantage of employing fiber nonlinearities for mode-locking is the large amount of pulse energies (~50 pJ for a 500-fs pulse) which are necessary in the optical fiber in order to utilize the weak nonlinearity in the optical fiber [3]. The long optical fiber cavity, as well as the high peak power of the optical pulses, limits the system to operate only at low repetition rates.

Nonlinear polarization rotation in a semiconductor optical amplifier (SOA) for optical signal processing has been investigated theoretically by [4]–[6], and experimentally in the context of wavelength conversion [7]–[9], all-optical switching [10]–[12], and an optical flip-flop memory [13]. These experiments were performed in the continuous-wave regime [9], [13] as well as in the pulsed regime [7], [8], [11]. Self-polarization rotation, i.e., nonlinear polarization rotation caused by the pulse itself, has also been utilized for all-optical signal processing [14]–[16].

Recently, we have demonstrated mode-locked pulses in a passively mode-locked ring laser, by using nonlinear self-polarization rotation in a SOA [17]. The pulses had duration of 800 fs. Although mode-locking using self-induced nonlinear polarization rotation in an SOA was already discussed in [18], to the best of our knowledge, the work in [17] was the first demonstration of this scheme. In [18], pulse narrowing and mode-locking due to self-polarization rotation has been investigated numerically. The pulse narrowing observed in their study was not counteracted by a broadening mechanism, such as group-velocity dispersion and ultrafast carrier dynamics. This gave the model in [18] only limited validity.

In this paper, using a consistent model with ultrafast gain dynamics [6], we will describe in detail how an initially broad pulse can be shortened using nonlinear polarization rotation in the SOA and what the condition is for the pulse to acquire enough round-trip gain to build up. The value of the linewidth enhancement factor of the SOA is found to be of crucial importance in the pulse build-up process. We will show simulations of the pulse evolution process, including the evolution of the spectrum. The final pulsewidth is found to be limited by ultrafast gain dynamics in the SOA combined with the dispersion effects in the laser cavity. We will also show that the highest possible repetition rate of the output pulses can be increased by increasing the injection current, but beyond a certain current unstable pulse patterns emerge.

II. PRINCIPLE OF OPERATION

The system setup is given in Fig. 1. The ring laser is composed of an SOA, followed by a polarization controller (PC), an optical isolator, an optical filter, an optical asymmetric output coupler,
and a polarizer. The isolator is introduced in the cavity to keep the signal to propagate in one direction. The coupler is used to monitor the signal in the ring cavity. When the input optical intensity (point A in Fig. 1) is sufficiently low, the SOA operates in the linear regime. The polarization state at point A in Fig. 1 is linear and is set to 45° to the transverse electric (TE) and transverse magnetic (TM) axes of the SOA. The two orthogonal polarization components in the amplifier collect different phases and gains. This causes intensity-independent polarization conversion at the SOA output. Note, in passing by, that in this context one often uses the word polarization rotation. However, this may not be a correct description because in general the TE and TM components will collect different phase shifts while propagating. Therefore an initial linear polarization state will not only rotate, but in general also assume a certain degree of ellipticity.

Now suppose the input optical intensity becomes high enough to saturate the amplifier. Then, TE and TM component collect different intensity-dependent phases and amplitudes. This implies that different parts of the output pulse assume different polarization states and this property makes it possible to cut away the pulse part that has the same polarization as in the low input intensity case. To realize this, one uses a combination of the PC and the polarizer, which are adjusted properly to achieve the required functionality: the PC is adjusted in such a way that for small signal case the polarization of the pulse (point C in Fig. 1) is orthogonal to the axis of the polarizer, while the latter has been oriented at 45° to the TE and TM axes of the SOA. By doing so, a low-intensity input signal to the SOA will be removed from the ring, preventing the signal from building up. On the other hand, for a sufficiently strong input pulse, the self-induced nonlinear polarization rotation of the high-intensity part of the pulse will create a nonzero but shortened pulse behind the polarizer. If the SOA has enough gain, a net round-trip gain for pulses can be established. In fact, the nonlinear polarization rotation, combined with the PC and the polarizer, has the same functionality as a saturable absorber. This provides the basic mechanism for our mode-locking system.

In agreement with the above description, we found that the system is by itself bistable in the sense that either an output train of short strong pulses or no output at all occurs in the system depending on the initial conditions. Therefore, this mode-locked ring laser could act as a basic element for a flip-flop memory system, and may find its application in optical signal processing systems.

In the experiment in [17], one usually starts in the nonoptimized setting with a quasi-continuous oscillation in the laser. Then during the adjustment of PC, the system is disturbed to generate optical pulses randomly in the cavity. Some pulses happen to satisfy the conditions that are set by the PC and the polarizer such that they can pass through the polarizer and reach the SOA again after one round-trip in the cavity. After each round-trip those pulses become narrower and converge toward a stable pulse train.

III. MODEL

The nonlinear optical pulse propagation in the SOA is simulated using the model developed in [6]. This model is based on the decomposition of the polarized optical field into TE and TM components that interact via the gain saturation. The extensive description given in [6] will not be repeated here. It accounts for the influences of two-photon absorption, free-carrier absorption, self- and cross-phase modulation, carrier heating, and spectral and spatial hole burning. SOAs with unstrained bulk active material have much larger TE amplification than TM, which is due to the different confinement factors. Therefore, the SOAs active material is often strained in order to enhance the gain of TM with respect to TE, making the SOA less polarization dependent. In our model the strain-induced gain anisotropy is taken into account by introducing the separate hole populations for TE and TM and corresponding valence subband structures for the TE and TM transitions [19]. According to the pulse phase evolution equations given in [6], TE and TM components experience exactly the same phase due to two-photon absorption. Within that approximation two-photon absorption has no direct influence on the evolution of the pulse polarization.

The PC and polarizer are modeled according to [20]. By representing the electrical field as the Jones vector, the functions of the PC and the polarizer can be written in 2 × 2 matrices which act on the electrical field vector.

Suppose at point A in Fig. 1, a weak electric field is present with normalized polarization vector given by

\[
\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}.
\]

Equation (1) represents linearly polarized light under 45° with respect to the TE and TM axes of the SOA. After propagation through the SOA, the TE and TM components acquire different amplitudes and phases. Hence, we can write the field at B as

\[
\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{bmatrix} \tau_0^{TE} e^{i\phi_0^{TE}} \\ \tau_0^{TM} e^{i\phi_0^{TM}} \end{bmatrix}
\]

(2)

where \(\tau_0^{TE}\) and \(\tau_0^{TM}\) are the linear amplifications and \(\phi_0^{TE}, \phi_0^{TM}\) the linear phase shifts. Now, the PC is adjusted in such a way that the polarization state at C is orthogonal to that at A

\[
\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \beta \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}
\]

(3)
where by assuming lossless propagation from B to C, \( \beta \) can be written as
\[
\beta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{(\tau_{0}^{\text{TE}})^2 + (\tau_{0}^{\text{TM}})^2}. \tag{4}
\]

The unitary matrix \( U \), representing the PC, can be written as
\[
U = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \begin{array}{cc}
\tau_{0}^{\text{TE}} + \tau_{0}^{\text{TM}} e^{-i\phi_{0}^{\text{TE}}} & \tau_{0}^{\text{TM}} - \tau_{0}^{\text{TE}} e^{-i\phi_{0}^{\text{TM}}} \\
\tau_{0}^{\text{TM}} - \tau_{0}^{\text{TE}} e^{-i\phi_{0}^{\text{TE}}} & \tau_{0}^{\text{TE}} + \tau_{0}^{\text{TM}} e^{-i\phi_{0}^{\text{TM}}}
\end{array} \right) \tag{5}
\]
which can be easily checked from the requirement
\[
U \left[ \begin{array}{c}
\tau_{0}^{\text{TE}} e^{i\phi_{0}^{\text{TE}}} \\
\tau_{0}^{\text{TM}} e^{i\phi_{0}^{\text{TM}}}
\end{array} \right] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sqrt{(\tau_{0}^{\text{TE}})^2 + (\tau_{0}^{\text{TM}})^2} \left[ \begin{array}{c}
1 \\
-1
\end{array} \right]. \tag{6}
\]

It should be noted in (5) that \( U \) is calculated from simulations in the linear amplification regime. The polarizer is adjusted such that the field component along (1, 1) will be passed through and that along (1, -1) will be blocked.

Now suppose that the input intensity to the SOA increases to values that are large enough to induce polarization-dependent nonlinear gain saturation. Then, after the PC some field component will be generated along (1, 1), which can be expressed as
\[
\frac{1}{2} \left[ \begin{array}{cc}
1 & 1 \\
1 & 1
\end{array} \right] U \left[ \begin{array}{c}
\gamma_{\text{TE}} \\
\gamma_{\text{TM}}
\end{array} \right] \tag{7}
\]
where \((\gamma_{\text{TE}}, \gamma_{\text{TM}})\) represents the field at B. The field, represented by (7), will enter the SOA again.

A spectral filter is included in the simulations in order to account for dispersion effects in the experiment. This filter also accounts partly for the gain dispersion. The filter in the system is modeled as a Lorentzian filter with a full-width at half-maximum (FWHM) of 2\( D \). The transfer function of the filter is
\[
f(\omega) = \frac{D}{D - i(\omega - \omega_{0})} \tag{8}
\]
where \(\omega_{0}\) is the central angular frequency of the filter. The filter is implemented in the frequency domain using a fast Fourier transform (FFT) algorithm while an eventual filter-induced change of the pulse polarization is included in the unitary matrix \( U \).

### IV. Simulation Results and Discussion

The SOA has a strained bulk active region of 250 \( \mu \text{m} \) and active volume of 50 \( \mu \text{m}^3 \) [6]. Other parameters are listed in Table I. All calculations were performed for 160-mA injection current except stated otherwise. The parameter values of the SOA were chosen in such a way that stable mode locking occurs. This is not an easy task because the region in the parameter space that yields stable mode-locking appears to be quite small. For these values, the small-signal gain for TE and TM components are 16.8 and 14.8 dB, respectively.

Since the polarization rotation necessary for pulse narrowing is mainly due to nonlinear phase shifts, it is obvious that the linewidth enhancement factor \( \alpha \) plays an important role. In our simulation, we use \( \alpha = \alpha_{\text{TE}} = \alpha_{\text{TM}} \). The net pulse round-trip gain will increase with higher values of \( \alpha \). Therefore, for a given injection current, \( \alpha \) should be larger than some threshold value to cause the ring to build up optical pulse and to converge to a stable pulse train. The threshold is determined by the SOA parameters and the round-trip losses. If \( \alpha \) is smaller than the threshold value, the pulse will be attenuated, irrespective of the intensity value of the initial pulse. This follows from the computation of the round-trip gain, which is taken as the ratio between the current optical intensity at point A in Fig. 1 and its previous intensity, shown in (9) at the bottom of the page, where \( \tau_{\text{TE}}^{\text{TM}}, \tau_{0}^{\text{TE}}, \varphi_{0}^{\text{TE}}, \gamma_{\text{TE}}, \varphi_{\text{TM}}, \gamma_{\text{TM}}, \varphi^{\text{TE}}, \varphi^{\text{TM}} \) are the single-pass transmission and the phase of the pulse for TE and TM components in the low-input intensity case while \( \tau^{\text{TE}}, \tau^{\text{TM}}, \varphi^{\text{TE}}, \varphi^{\text{TM}} \) are the time-dependent single-pass transmission and phase of the pulse for TE and TM components in the nonlinear regime at point B in Fig. 1. The \( \beta \)-dependence in (9) originates from the fact that different parts of the pulse have different phase and intensity. The round-trip gain should be larger than 0 dB for the pulse to build up.

In Fig. 2, the gain at the pulse peak in the first round-trip is shown as a function of the initial pulse energy for different injection currents of 160 mA. Throughout the paper “initial pulse” means the pulse in the zeroth round-trip, referring to the

\[
G(t) = \frac{(\tau_{0}^{\text{TM}} \tau_{\text{TE}}^{\text{TM}}(t))^2 + (\tau_{0}^{\text{TE}} \tau_{\text{TM}}^{\text{TM}}(t))^2 - 2(\tau_{0}^{\text{TM}} \tau_{\text{TE}}^{\text{TM}}(t) \tau_{\text{TM}}^{\text{TM}}(t)) \cos \{((\varphi_{\text{TM}}(t) - \varphi_{\text{TE}}(t)) - (\varphi_{0}^{\text{TM}} - \varphi_{0}^{\text{TE}}))\}}{2(\tau_{0}^{\text{TE}})^2 + (\tau_{0}^{\text{TM}})^2) \tag{9}}
\]
initial values set in the computer code. One readily observes that the linewidth enhancement factor $\alpha$ plays a crucial role in the pulse built-up process. For the pulse to be amplified and narrowed, $\alpha$ should be larger than 4. For a given $\alpha$, the loop gain can be increased by pumping larger current into the active region. That is shown in Fig. 3 for $\alpha = 4$. However, for very small $\alpha$ it may become impossible to obtain $G > 0$ dB because of gain saturation at higher currents. In Figs. 2 and 3, initial pulses were taken to be Gaussian pulse with a root mean square (rms) width of 2 ps.

The simulations show that initial pulses with insufficient intensity cannot induce large enough phase shifts between TE and TM components for the pulse to acquire positive round-trip gain. This is shown in Fig. 4, where a 2-ps 0.22-pJ Gaussian initial pulse is seen to decrease after each round-trip. When the initial pulse intensity is increased beyond a threshold value, the pulse is amplified and narrowed in every loop. After several tens of round-trips the pulse has evolved into a stable shape. This is shown in Fig. 5 for a 2-ps duration and 0.66-pJ energy. A filter of 3.2 THz (FWHM) was used. The dispersion in the laser cavity, simulated by the filter, is estimated to be 0.235 ps/nm. One can observe in Fig. 5 that after about 25 round-trips the stable state is achieved, which is characterized by a 537-fs (rms) duration output pulse train. The energy of each pulse is 2.33 pJ.

The evolutions of the pulse peak power and the pulse rms width are presented in Fig. 6, in which the solid line corresponds to the above mentioned case of Fig. 5 and the dotted line corresponds to an initial pulse of 4 ps, unchirped Gaussian pulse with the energy of 1.33 pJ. Two other cases are also shown in Fig. 6, i.e., the dot-dashed line, which corresponds to a super Gaussian pulse [21] (order $m = 3$) with white intensity noise, and the dashed line, which corresponds to a pulse with non-Gaussian shape. Fig. 6 illustrates that the system with different initial pulses evolves into the same final state, i.e., a stable identical pulse train. In Fig. 7, the pulse evolution is shown for the case of the noisy super-Gaussian initial pulse.
Evolution of the width and the peak power in the pulse built-up process. The solid line corresponds to a 2-ps Gaussian initial pulse; the dot-dashed line corresponds to a super-Gaussian pulse (order $m = 3$) with white intensity noise; the dotted line corresponds to a 4-ps Gaussian initial pulse, and the dashed line corresponds to an arbitrary non-Gaussian pulse. The peak power in all the cases is the same, except for the super-Gaussian case due to the contribution of noise. The filter bandwidth is 3.2 THz.

In Fig. 8, the optical spectra corresponding to the pulses shown in Fig. 5 are presented. The spectrum steadily broadens after each round-trip and finally the pulses achieve their stable spectrum. The initial Gaussian pulse is unchirped, and its product of the rms pulse temporal width and the rms spectral width is $\Delta t \Delta \nu \approx 0.08$ [22]. The stable output pulse has a rms temporal width of 537 fs and a rms frequency width of 0.56 THz, hence, their time–bandwidth product $\Delta t \Delta \nu = 0.3$. The relatively large value is mainly caused by the pulse shape in which the leading edge is much steeper than the trailing edge. By comparing this value with the time–bandwidth product of the same pulse but without chirp, which is 0.19, we conclude that the output pulse is moderately chirped. It is also seen from Fig. 8 that the main frequency components of the pulse are red-shifted.

According to the system principle, the polarizer blocks the pedestal in the leading edge of the pulse and this causes the leading edge to be very steep (see Fig. 5). On the other hand, the trailing edge of the output pulse has a long tail, which is caused by the incomplete recovery of SOA gain and phase difference between TE and TM components. This is shown in Fig. 9, where the phase difference between the TE and TM components in one pulse after one round-trip for different initial pulse energies is presented. The corresponding asymmetry of the pulse shape is the reason why we choose rms width as a measure for the pulsewidth instead of FWHM, similarly for the pulse spectrum. We note here that the nonlinear phase difference between TE and TM components evolves in a similar way as the corresponding gains, which explains the importance of gain dynamics in the pulse evolution process. In Fig. 10, the polarization states are shown during the first, third, and 50th round-trips, in terms of azimuth and ellipticity angles. The intensity-dependent polarization states within the pulse duration can be clearly seen. We also observe from Fig. 10 the large residual effect in the trailing edge of the final output pulse.
The output pulsewidth was found to depend on the width of the filter that is added in the model in order to account for the effect of dispersive effects. The stable pulsewidth decreased for the increased filter bandwidth, as expected. The question arises as to what determines the ultimate pulsewidth. As shown in Table II, the pulsewidth decreased to 350 fs when the carrier-phonon scattering time in the conduction band was decreased to 500 fs. The pulsewidth increased to 645 fs when the carrier-phonon scattering time was increased to 1 ps. The pulsewidth is also found to be injection current dependent. As shown in Fig. 11, the final pulsewidth increases from 0.15 to 0.82 ps when the injection current is increased from 152 to 175 mA. In the simulations, the carrier phonon relaxation time is kept as 700 fs and the FWHM of the filter bandwidth is 3.2 THz. When the injection current is below 152 mA, the system cannot build up pulses anymore because the net round-trip gain falls below 0 dB. On the other hand, when the injection current is further increased to higher than 180 mA, instabilities instead of mode-locking occur. To understand this current dependence, one should realize that the long-lived tail in Fig. 9 (or Fig. 10) also depends upon the current. In fact, for high currents the long-lived tail in the nonlinear phase shifts between TE and TM components is further away from the initial value than for low currents. This makes the pulse compression for the high currents less efficient than for the low currents.

When the filter is removed from the cavity (corresponding to the ideal dispersion-free operation), the pulsewidth decreases continuously in time, as shown in Fig. 12. Here we observe a rapid initial drop in pulsewidth, followed by a much more gradual and ultimately even linear decrease to zero. In the first 20 round-trips, the pulse peak power evolves in the same way as described in Fig. 6 while the pulse energy increases to its maximum value after its initial drop in the first several round-trips. After about 20 round-trips, the pulse peak power remains approximately constant and decreases dramatically after 110 round-trips for 152 mA and 280 round-trips for 160 mA. The pulsewidth decreased so much that the pulse energy cannot maintain the required gain saturation anymore: the pulses fade away. Note that all these behaviors refer to a situation without
TABLE III
(a) Achievable Bit Rate versus Carrier Lifetime at 160 mA.
(b) Achievable Bit Rate versus Injection Current (Carrier lifetime is 300 ps)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carrier lifetime (ps)</th>
<th>Achievable bit rate @ 160 mA (GHz)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Injection current (mA)</th>
<th>Achievable bit rate (GHz)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>160</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>170</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the pulse narrowing process in a passive mode-locking system based on nonlinear polarization rotation in a SOA was modeled and simulated. The SOA model is based on the fact that TE and TM modes interact with each other via carriers. The model includes two-photon absorption, free-carrier absorption, self- and cross-phase modulation, carrier heating, and spectral hole burning. The PC and the polarizer were modeled as transmission matrices, which is an efficient way to model polarization-dependent effects.

We presented and discussed simulation results for the pulse built-up and narrowing as well as the pulse decay, depending on whether or not the initial pulse intensity is sufficiently high. The pulse narrowing mechanism is the self-induced nonlinear phase difference change between the TE and TM field components, which was found to be more than 1 radian when the input pulse energy is 1 pJ (2-ps Gaussian pulse). The pulse built-up condition was investigated. By increasing the linewidth enhancement factor or the injection current, the required energy for the initial pulse to acquire net round-trip gain is decreased, which indicates that it is easier for the system to evolve into a stable mode-locking state. In the unrealistic case of dispersion-free operation, there is no fundamental limit to the pulse narrowing. However, in practice, the achievable pulselength is limited by both the cavity dispersion and the ultrafast gain dynamics, which is current dependent. For currents beyond a critical value, instabilities destroy the mode locking. The highest possible pulse repetition rate is increased by increasing the injection current while finally limited by the carrier lifetime. We obtained highest possible repetition rate of 28 GHz at 200 mA.

In the experiment of [17], the pulsewidth (FWHM) and the spectral width are measured to be 800 fs and 0.62 THz, respectively. In our simulation of the experiment, those values are 960 fs and 0.53 THz, respectively. In terms of time-bandwidth product, the simulation value (0.51) is close to the experiment value (0.49). Therefore, we conclude that the simulation is in agreement with the experiment.

REFERENCES


Z. Li was born in Sichuan, China, in 1979. He received the B.Sc. degree in optoelectronics and the M.Sc. degree in optics engineering from the University of Electronic Science and Technology of China, Chengdu, China, in 2000 and 2003, respectively. He is currently working toward the Ph.D. degree at Eindhoven University of Technology, Eindhoven, The Netherlands, where he is involved in research on all-optical signal processing by employing semiconductor optical amplifier nonlinearities.

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G.-D. Khoe (M’71–SM’85–F’91) was born in Mage-lang, Indonesia, on July 22, 1946. He received the Elektrotechnisch Ingenieur degree (cum laude) from the Eindhoven University of Technology, Eindhoven, The Netherlands, in 1971.

He decided to start research at the Dutch Foundation for Fundamental Research on Matter (FOM) Laboratory on Plasma Physics, Rijnhuizen, The Netherlands, in 1973, he moved to the Philips Research Laboratories to start research in the area of optical fiber communication systems. In 1983, he was appointed as part-time Professor at Eindhoven University of Technology. He became a Full Professor in 1994 and is currently Chairman of the Department of Telecommunication Technology and Electromagnetics (TTT). Most of his work has been devoted to single-mode fiber systems and components. Currently, his research programs are centered on ultrafast all-optical signal processing, high capacity transport systems, and systems in the environment of the users. He has more than 40 U.S. Patents and has authored and co-authored more than 100 papers, invited papers, and chapters in books. His professional activities include many conferences, where he has served in technical committees, management committees and advisory committees as a member or chairman. He is one of the founders of the Dutch COBRA University Research Institute and one of the three recipients of the prestigious “Top Research Institute Photonics” grant that is awarded to COBRA in 1998 by The Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. In 2001, he brought four groups together to start a new international alliance called the European Institute on Telecommunication Technologies (eITT).

Dr. Khoe was General Co-Chair of the ECOC 2001. He has been involved in journal activities, as Associate Editor, as a Member of the Advisory Board, or as Reviewer. Currently, he is an Associate Editor of IEEE JOURNAL OF QUANTUM ELECTRONICS. In Europe, he is closely involved in research programs of the European Community and in Dutch national research programs, as Participant, Evaluator, Auditor, and Program Committee Member. He has served in the IEEE/Lasers and Electro-Optics Society (LEOS) organization as European Representative in the Board of Governors (BoG), VP Finance and Administration, BoG Elected Member, and Member of the Executive Committee of the IEEE Benelux Section. He was founder of the LEOS Benelux Chapter. He received the MOC/GRIN award in 1997. In 2004, he was the Junior Past President of LEOS.
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