

Table of Contents

EYE DIAGRAMS & BIT ERROR RATES IN OPTICAL COMMUNICATIONS – BER(COM)

STUDENT MANUAL

| | |
|--|----|
| 1. INTRODUCTION..... | 1 |
| 2. THEORY..... | 2 |
| 2.1 <i>Threshold Detection and BER</i> | 2 |
| 2.2 <i>BER, SNR, Sensitivity and Power Penalties</i> | 5 |
| 2.3 <i>Eye Diagrams</i> | 7 |
| 2.4 <i>Measurement and estimation of BER</i> | 11 |
| 3. APPARATUS DESCRIPTION..... | 12 |
| 4. LASER SAFETY..... | 13 |
| 4.1 <i>Operational Hazard - Semiconductor Laser Diode</i> | 13 |
| 5. OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS..... | 14 |
| 5.1 <i>Before Switching On</i> | 14 |
| 5.2 <i>Care of Optical Fibres</i> | 14 |
| 5.3 <i>Operation of the PRBS to generate Eye Diagrams from ED-COM Transmission Links</i> | 14 |
| 5.4 <i>Acquisition of Signal Variation Histograms, Noise Variance Q-factor and BER</i> | 15 |
| 5.5 <i>Switching Off</i> | 19 |
| 6. EXPERIMENTAL EXERCISES..... | 20 |
| 6.1 <i>Eye Diagrams for the direct output of the PRBS generator</i> | 20 |
| 6.2 <i>Eye Diagrams for transmission of the LED signal over a 1m patchcord</i> | 20 |
| 6.3 <i>Investigation of the variation of fibre length for the LED transmitter – Risetime, 80% Pulse Width and Jitter</i> | 20 |
| 6.4 <i>Investigation of the variation of fibre length for the LED transmitter – Noise, Q-factors and BER</i> | 21 |
| 6.5 <i>Investigation of the eye diagrams for the laser transmitter</i> | 21 |
| 6.6 <i>Investigation of Q-factor and BER as a function of increasing link length</i> | 22 |
| 6.7 <i>Investigation of Q-factor and BER as a function of increasing bit rate</i> | 22 |
| APPENDIX A: PRBS Specification..... | 23 |
| A.1 <i>PRBS Specification</i> | 23 |
| APPENDIX B: FIBRE LINK LENGTH MEASUREMENT USING BER(COM)..... | 24 |
| B.1 <i>Theory</i> | 24 |
| B.2 <i>Measurement of Fibre Length with BER(COM) – Method 1</i> | 24 |
| B.3 <i>Measurement of Fibre Length with BER(COM) – Method 2</i> | 25 |
| B.4 <i>Calculation of the Fibre Attenuation per km for the Optical Sources</i> | 26 |
| APPENDIX C: Result Table Templates..... | 27 |
| C.1 <i>Table Templates for Risetime, 80% Pulse Width and Jitter Results</i> | 27 |
| C.2 <i>Table Templates for Q-Factor and BER Results</i> | 28 |
| REFERENCES..... | 29 |