

# 光学学报

## 高速DP-QPSK模分复用信号在少模掺铒光纤放大器中的传输实验

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**摘要** 模分复用(MDM)与高速光传送网(OTN)相结合, 能缓解日益增长的带宽需求压力和降低已有相干通信设备的使用成本。搭建了100 Gbit/s双偏振正交相移键控(DP-QPSK)MDM信号放大传输系统, 主要包括MDM信号收发单元和少模掺铒光纤放大器(FM-EDFA), 其中FM-EDFA采用少模隔离型波分复用器(FM-IWDM)构建。三模( $LP_{01}$ 、 $LP_{11a}$ 和 $LP_{11b}$ )放大传输实验表明, 相对于无FM-EDFA的MDM系统, 各信道的接收机灵敏度(以 $10^{-2}$ 误码率为参考)分别劣化0.55 dB、1.47 dB和0.99 dB。研究了两模( $LP_{01}$ 和 $LP_{11b}$ )放大情形下模式增益差(DMG)对信道灵敏度均衡性的影响, 结果显示两者无明显的依赖关系。所得结论可为双偏振(DP)信号的MDM放大传输研究提供参考。

**关键词** 光通信; 模分复用; 少模掺铒光纤放大器; 双偏振信号

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### 1 引言

从20世纪80年代开始, 光纤通信技术经历了时分复用(TDM)、波分复用(WDM)、偏振复用(PDM)和正交幅度调制(QAM)等发展过程<sup>[1-2]</sup>, 光通信网络的传输速率和容量不断提高, 系统容量也逐渐趋近香农极限<sup>[3-4]</sup>。近年来, 为了有效地突破这种容量限制, 空分复用(SDM)技术极大地吸引了人们的关注。其中, 模分复用(MDM)技术利用一根少模光纤(FMF)实现若干个空间模式的传输, 从而大幅提高光纤容量<sup>[5-8]</sup>。少模掺铒光纤放大器(FM-EDFA)可同时放大多个光纤导模, 在延长MDM信号传输距离的同时, 还可大大降低MDM系统成本<sup>[8-12]</sup>。

现在, 双偏振正交相移键控(DP-QPSK)或QAM格式已广泛应用于相干通信系统<sup>[1]</sup>, 研究双偏振信号在FM-EDFA中的放大和传输性能更具现实意义和价值。双偏振信号在空间型FM-EDFA中的放大和传输已有报道<sup>[13-16]</sup>。例如, 2013年, Jung等<sup>[13]</sup>搭建了空间型三模EDFA, 并进行了DP-QPSK和DP-16QAM信号的传输, FM-EDFA的信号输入功率过低会导致误码率(BER)快速下降。同年, Ip等<sup>[14]</sup>开展了空间型三模EDFA的环路传输实验, 考察环路净增益对DP-QPSK三模信号BER性能的影响。2016年, Genevaux等<sup>[15]</sup>展示了DP-QPSK五模复用信号在空间型EDFA中的

传输实验。2019年, Wakayama等<sup>[16]</sup>搭建了空间型六模EDFA, 可使DP-16QAM信号在FMF中的传输距离超过90.4 km, 总容量可达266.1 Tbit/s。也有少量文献采用强度调制-直接检测(IM-DD)方式研究了二进制启闭键控(OOK)信号在光纤型FM-EDFA中的传输性能。例如, 2020年, Zhu等<sup>[17]</sup>制作出光纤型FM-EDFA, 对 $LP_{01}$ 和 $LP_{11}$ 这两个模式进行放大, 实现了10 Gbit/s OOK信号在15 km的弱耦合FMF上的传输。目前为止, 鲜有文献报道高速双偏振信号在光纤型FM-EDFA中的放大和传输结果。

本文研究100 Gbit/s DP-QPSK MDM信号在光纤型FM-EDFA中的放大和传输性能, 使用商用光传送网(OTN)收发机和模式选择性光子灯笼(MSPL)搭建MDM传输系统, 所用的光纤型FM-EDFA由自制的少模隔离型波分复用器(FM-IWDM)和少模掺铒光纤(FM-EDF)组成, 该FM-EDFA对DP-QPSK信号能够实现20 dB以上的增益。测试了FM-EDFA对MDM系统灵敏度的影响, 各模式信道的灵敏度主要与MSPL、信道的偏振相关损耗(PDL)有关。在两模( $LP_{01}$ 和 $LP_{11b}$ )放大情形下, 测量了不同模式增益差(DMG)对信道灵敏度均衡性的影响, 结果显示两者无明显的依赖关系。本文的实验结果可为双偏振(DP)信号在FM-EDFA中的放大和传输提供了参考。

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## 2 模分复用放大传输系统

### 2.1 模分复用放大传输系统的搭建

实验中搭建的MDM放大传输系统包括MDM发送单元、FM-EDFA和MDM接收单元,结构如图1所示。

MDM信号发送单元由OTN、光发射机(TX)、可调光衰减器(VOA)、MSPL和少模偏振控制器(FMPC)组成。在TX中,激光源经偏振分束器(PBS)分为两束正交的偏振光,每束偏振光经同相/正交(I/Q)调制器产生高阶调制信号光;两路调制信号光再由

偏振合束器(PBC)合成DP信号光。实验中,TX连续发送伪随机比特序列(PRBS),软判决前向纠错(SD-FEC)开销占15%;信号调制格式设置为DP-QPSK,速率设为100 Gbit/s,实际线路速率为125.52 Gbit/s。VOA用于衰减和调整各信道上的光功率值,由于MSPL的各单模端口到复用端口的插入损耗不一致,需分别调整每一模式信号的VOA来保证输入到FM-EDFA的光功率一致。MSPL(Phoenix Photonics,英国)作为模式复用器件,在FMF中激发LP<sub>01</sub>、LP<sub>11a</sub>和LP<sub>11b</sub>模式并完成复用。FMPC由三环偏振控制器绕制而成,用于MDM信号光斑的控制和调整。

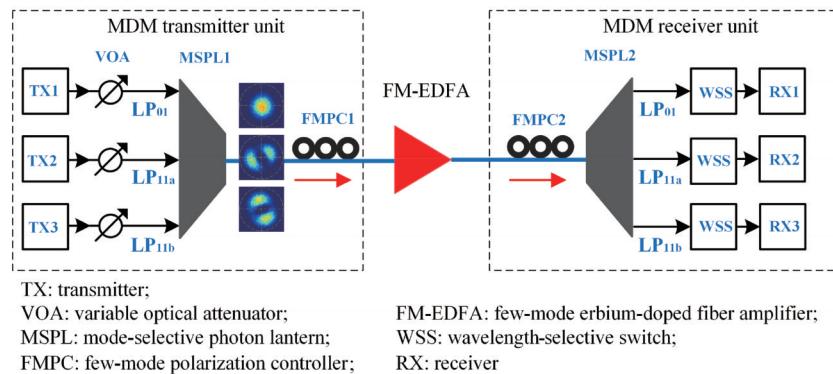


图1 模分复用放大传输系统

Fig. 1 Mode division multiplexing amplification and transmission system

MDM信号经FM-EDFA放大后输入MDM信号接收单元,完成模式解复用和接收。MDM信号接收单元由FMPC、MSPL、波长选择开关(WSS)和OTN光接收机(RX)组成。这里的FMPC用于控制MDM信号到MSPL解复用器各单模端口的功率分配,以均衡各信道的通信质量。该MSPL用作模式解复用器件,完成LP<sub>01</sub>、LP<sub>11a</sub>和LP<sub>11b</sub>模式到基模(LP<sub>01</sub>)的转换。解复用的模式信号经WSS滤波后,由RX相干检测,并通过监控软件获取信道的BER、PDL和光信噪比

(OSNR)等性能参数。

### 2.2 基于隔离型波分复用器的少模掺铒光纤放大器

所用的FM-EDFA由两个自制的FM-IWDM和一段FM-EDF构成<sup>[11]</sup>,如图2(a)所示。两个FM-IWDM分别作复用器和解复用器。FM-IWDM复用器将信号光和泵浦光一起注入FM-EDF,完成信号光的放大;FM-IWDM解复用器将放大的信号光和同向传输的泵浦光分离。实验中采用1480 nm的两模(LP<sub>11a</sub>和LP<sub>11b</sub>模)同向泵浦方式。

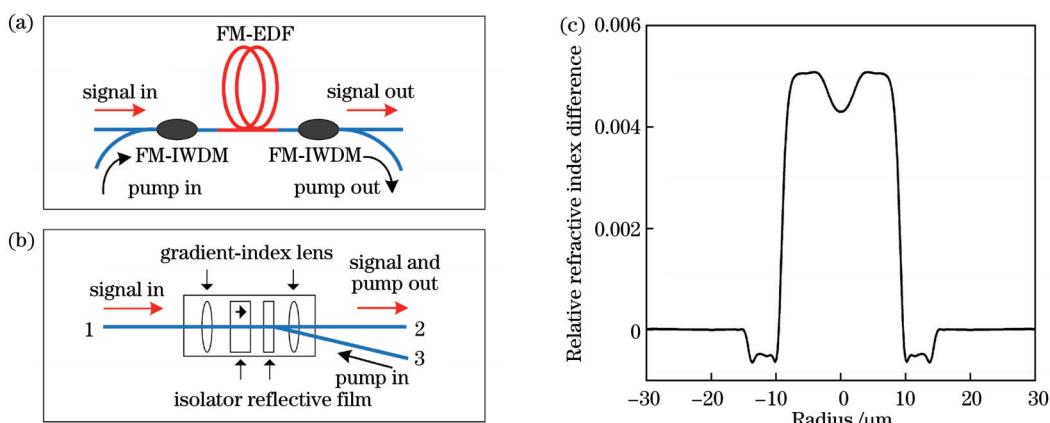


图2 基于FM-IWDM的FM-EDFA原理图。(a) FM-EDFA实验装置;(b)自制的FM-IWDM器件结构图;(c) FM-EDF的相对折射率差分布

Fig. 2 Schematic diagrams of FM-EDFA based on FM-IWDM. (a) FM-EDFA experimental device; (b) structure of homemade FM-IWDM component; (c) relative refractive index difference of FM-EDF

FM-IWDM 复用器的结构如图 2(b)所示,它由自聚焦(GRIN)透镜、隔离器和反射薄膜构成。GRIN 透镜起扩束准直作用,隔离器用于抑制光的反射,反射薄膜用于反射泵浦光并完成与信号光的复用。FM-IWDM 的三个端口均与 FMF 耦合,端口 1~3 分别用于信号光输入、复用光输出和泵浦光(1480 nm)输入。将上述元件密封在直径为 5.5 mm、长度为 38 mm 的金属管中,形成紧凑型光学器件。FM-IWDM 器件的插损(端口 1 至 2)小于 1.6 dB。FM-IWDM 解复用器的结构与 FM-IWDM 复用器类似,只是隔离器的方向相反。所用 FM-EDF 的长度为 3.25 m,其相对折射率差如图 2(c)所示,它支持 LP<sub>01</sub>、LP<sub>11a</sub> 和 LP<sub>11b</sub> 模式传输。

### 3 DP-QPSK 三模复用信号的增益及放大传输性能

#### 3.1 DP-QPSK 三模复用信号的增益

为了测量 FM-EDFA 对 DP-QPSK 三模复用信号的放大性能,使用波长映射法<sup>[11, 18]</sup>,即以波长来区分模式,通过光谱分析仪(OSA)(AQ6370C, YOKOGAWA, 日本)测量光谱并计算增益。文献研究表明<sup>[19-20]</sup>,若采用相干检测,在接收端使用完整的多进多出(MIMO)可完全补偿任何模式耦合。也就是说,波长映射法的测试结果与相同波长情形下使用 MIMO 技术的评估结果等效。实验中,首先将发射频率为 193.4 THz、193.3 THz 和 193.2 THz 的 3 路单模信号光通过 MSPL 转换成 LP<sub>01</sub>、LP<sub>11a</sub> 和 LP<sub>11b</sub> 模式,并

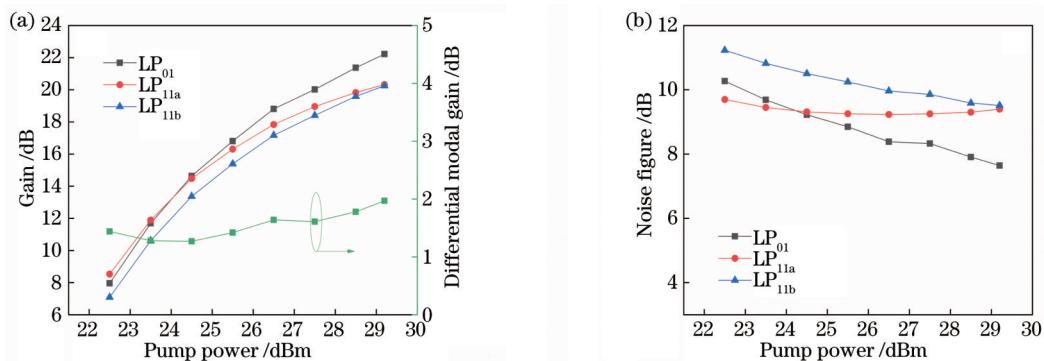


图 3 LP<sub>01</sub>、LP<sub>11a</sub> 和 LP<sub>11b</sub> 信道的增益和噪声系数随泵浦功率的变化。(a)增益和模式增益差;(b)噪声系数

Fig. 3 Gain and noise figure versus pump power of LP<sub>01</sub>, LP<sub>11a</sub>, and LP<sub>11b</sub> channels. (a) Gain and differential modal gain; (b) noise figure

#### 3.2 DP-QPSK 三模复用信号的误码率性能

为了评估 FM-EDFA 对 MDM 系统的影响,分别测试了有、无 FM-EDFA 放大时 MDM 系统各信道的灵敏度曲线。实验中仍将各输入模式光功率固定为 -20 dBm,两个泵浦模式的光功率设置为 27.5 dBm;放大后的信号进入 MDM 接收单元,调整其中的 FMPC 状态以优化均衡各信道的通信质量。测试结果如图 4(a)所示,以 BER 为 10<sup>-2</sup>(该值略低于 SD-FEC 后无误码传输阈值)作为参考,比较各信道灵敏度的劣

化。由图 4(a)可知,无 FM-EDFA 时,LP<sub>01</sub>、LP<sub>11a</sub> 和 LP<sub>11b</sub> 信道的灵敏度分别为 -36.85 dBm、-36.10 dBm 和 -35.75 dBm,LP<sub>01</sub> 信道的灵敏度略高于 LP<sub>11a</sub> 和 LP<sub>11b</sub> 信道,这种差异主要由 MSPL 模式(解)复用器造成;加入 FM-EDFA 后,LP<sub>01</sub>、LP<sub>11a</sub> 和 LP<sub>11b</sub> 信道的灵敏度分别是 -36.30 dBm、-34.63 dBm 和 -34.76 dBm,各信道的灵敏度分别劣化了 0.55 dB、1.47 dB 和 0.99 dB,其中 FM-EDFA 对 LP<sub>01</sub> 信道的劣化程度最小。根据放大后信号的光谱,可计算各信道

的OSNR,它们分别为22.6 dB、20.6 dB和20.8 dB,与相应信道的灵敏度有一定的对应性。

由图4(a)所示的信道灵敏度曲线可知,LP<sub>11</sub>信道的灵敏度低于LP<sub>01</sub>信道,同时根据增益性能,LP<sub>11</sub>信道的增益也低于LP<sub>01</sub>信道。因此,从光功率余量角度来说,LP<sub>11</sub>信道限制了MDM系统的传输距离。在本文的实验条件下,输入到FM-EDFA的DP-QPSK信号光功率为-20 dBm,经FM-EDFA后LP<sub>11</sub>信道的信号光功率放大约18 dB,经MSPL解复用器的4 dB衰减后的光功率为-6 dBm;若以-35 dBm作为接收机的

灵敏度,LP<sub>11</sub>信道还有约29 dB的光功率余量。

测量各信道灵敏度的同时,分别测试了有、无FM-EDFA放大时MDM系统各信道的PDL,结果如图4(b)所示。无FM-EDFA时,LP<sub>11a</sub>和LP<sub>11b</sub>信道的PDL约为2.8 dB,高于LP<sub>01</sub>信道的PDL(约0.5 dB),表明MSPL(解)复用器引起的PDL对DP-QPSK信号的通信质量造成了影响。加入FM-EDFA后,各信道的PDL均有不同程度的增加。比较LP<sub>11a</sub>和LP<sub>11b</sub>两个信道,发现FM-EDFA对LP<sub>11a</sub>信道PDL的影响较大,导致了其信道灵敏度更大程度的劣化。

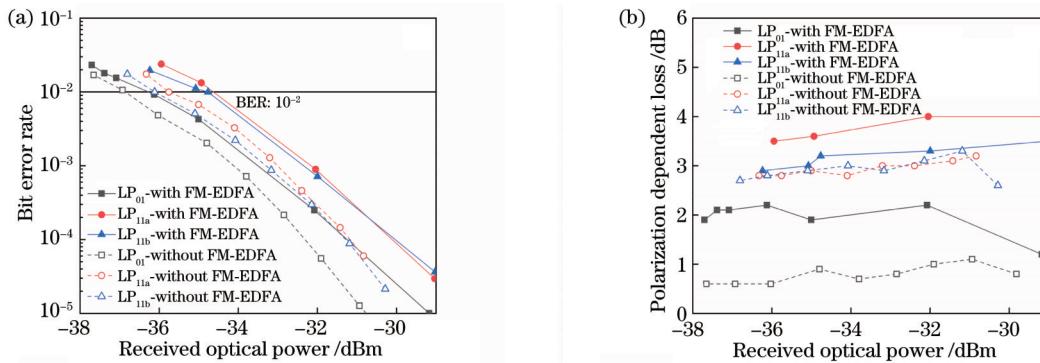


图4 有、无FM-EDFA时模分复用系统各信道的传输性能。(a)误码率;(b)偏振相关损耗

Fig. 4 Transmission performance of mode division multiplexing channels with and without FM-EDFA. (a) Bit error rate;  
(b) polarization dependent loss

#### 4 模式增益差对模分复用系统传输性能的影响

为了分析DMG对各信道灵敏度的影响,考虑到FM-EDFA对两个模式的放大特性,通过调节泵浦功率来改变DMG,研究它们与信道灵敏度的关联性。与DP-QPSK三模复用信号的测试过程类似,首先测试了DP-QPSK两模复用信号的增益随泵浦功率的变化,如图5所示。由图5可知,LP<sub>01</sub>和LP<sub>11b</sub>信道增益和DMG随泵浦功率的升高而增大,大体呈线性变化趋势,DMG最大为2.28 dB,最小为0.57 dB。与三模放大情形相比,由于缺少了LP<sub>11a</sub>信道,在相同泵浦功率激励下,两模放大情形下可获得更高的增益。

测试了泵浦功率分别为29.2 dBm、27.5 dBm、25.5 dBm和23.5 dBm时FM-EDFA对MDM系统两个信道的接收机灵敏度劣化程度,如图6(a)所示,可以看出,LP<sub>01</sub>和LP<sub>11b</sub>两信道的灵敏度劣化程度几乎同步地随泵浦功率的升高而降低。两个信道的灵敏度劣化程度相差很小(低于0.4 dB),泵浦的变化基本不影响信道灵敏度的均衡性;换句话说,高泵浦功率所导致的较大DMG并没有明显改变两信道灵敏度劣化的差值,即DMG基本不影响信道灵敏度的均衡性。在BER为10<sup>-2</sup>时,LP<sub>01</sub>和LP<sub>11b</sub>信道的PDL随泵浦功率的变化曲线如图6(b)所示。由图5和图6(b)可知,随着泵浦功率的升高,在两信道增益提高的同时,其PDL

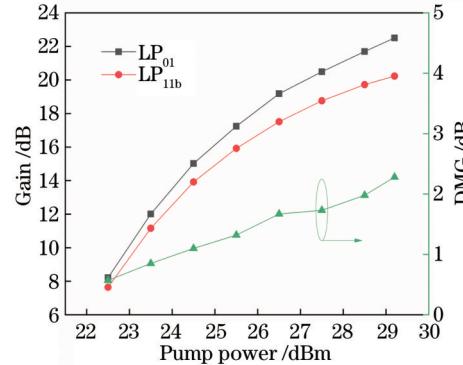


图5 LP<sub>01</sub>和LP<sub>11b</sub>信道的增益和DMG随泵浦功率的变化  
Fig. 5 Gain and DMG versus pump power of LP<sub>01</sub> and LP<sub>11b</sub> channels

逐渐下降,这意味着DP-QPSK信号的两个正交偏振分量的增益更加均衡。

上述分析表明,FM-EDFA导致的模式信道灵敏度劣化与信道PDL之间有一定的正相关性,DMG对信道灵敏度均衡性的影响不明显。可见,研究高速DP信号在FM-EDFA中的放大和传输性能时,除考虑DMG外,信号的PDL也不能忽略,它们都会影响模式解复用中数字信号处理(DSP)的复杂性。若忽略PDL的影响,信道灵敏度劣化还与FM-EDFA的ASE噪声强度有关。本实验中,同一泵浦功率激励下,LP<sub>01</sub>和LP<sub>11b</sub>信道的噪声功率基本相同。因此,这两个模式

的灵敏度劣化也相同,DMG对信道灵敏度的影响不明显。但需指出的是,如上文所述,DMG会影响信道

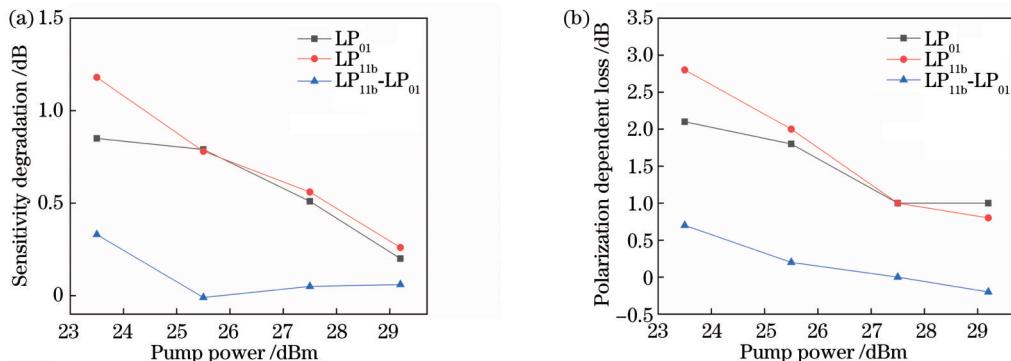


图6  $LP_{01}$ 和 $LP_{11b}$ 信道的灵敏度劣化和偏振相关损耗随泵浦功率的变化。(a)灵敏度劣化;(b)偏振相关损耗

Fig. 6 Sensitivity degradation and polarization dependent loss of  $LP_{01}$  and  $LP_{11b}$  channels versus pump power. (a) Sensitivity degradation; (b) polarization dependent loss

## 5 结 论

搭建了100 Gbit/s DP-QPSK MDM信号放大传输系统,其中光纤型FM-EDFA由两个FM-IWDM和一段FM-EDF组成。分别研究了FM-EDFA对DP-QPSK两模和三模信号的增益性能,测试了每个模式信道的接收机灵敏度曲线和相应的PDL值。相对于无FM-EDFA的MDM系统,三模EDFA导致的信道接收机灵敏度劣化分别为0.55 dB、1.47 dB和0.99 dB,此时系统仍有约29 dB的光功率余量。研究表明,FM-EDFA导致的模式信道灵敏度劣化与信道PDL之间有一定的正相关性,DMG对信道灵敏度均衡性的影响不明显。

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## Transmission Experiment of High-Speed DP-QPSK Mode Division Multiplexing Signals with Few-Mode Erbium-Doped Fiber Amplifier

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### Abstract

**Objective** Since the 1980s, optical fiber communication technology has gone through the development process of time division multiplexing (TDM), wavelength division multiplexing (WDM), polarization division multiplexing (PDM), and quadrature amplitude modulation (QAM). The transmission rate and capacity of the optical communication network are constantly improving, and the system capacity is gradually approaching the Shannon limit. In recent years, for the sake of effectively breaking through this capacity limitation, space division multiplexing (SDM) technology has attracted great attention. For example, the mode division multiplexing (MDM) technology makes it possible to simultaneously propagate several spatial modes in a few-mode fiber (FMF), which thereby greatly improves the fiber capacity. Few-mode erbium-doped fiber amplifiers (FM-EDFAs) can amplify multiple spatial modes at the same time for extending the transmission distance of MDM signals and help to greatly reduce the cost of MDM systems. The combination of the MDM technology and WDM-based optical transport network (OTN) can greatly alleviate the increasing bandwidth pressure. At the same time, dual-polarization quadrature phase shift keying (DP-QPSK) or QAM formats have been widely used in coherent communication systems. The amplification and transmission of dual-polarization signals in free-space FM-EDFAs have been reported in some references. Up to now, few papers have reported the amplification and transmission results of high-speed dual-polarization signals in all-fiber FM-EDFAs. Therefore, it is also worthwhile and practical to investigate the amplification and transmission performance of the dual-polarization signals in all-fiber FM-EDFAs.

**Methods** This paper aims to experimentally study the amplification and transmission performance of high-speed DP-QPSK MDM signals in an all-fiber FM-EDFA. For this purpose, we build up a 100 Gbit/s DP-QPSK MDM system, including an MDM transmitter unit, the FM-EDFA, and an MDM receiver unit (Fig. 1). The MDM transmitter unit is composed of several commercial OTN optical transmitters (TXs), a serial of variable optical attenuators (VOAs), a mode-selective photonic lantern (MSPL), and a few-mode polarization controller (FMPC). The all-fiber FM-EDFA is developed from two homemade few-mode isolated wavelength division multiplexers (FM-IWDMs) and a section of few-mode erbium-doped fiber (FM-EDF) (Fig. 2). Two co-propagating  $LP_{11a}$  and  $LP_{11b}$  modes as pump lasers are excited at 1480 nm by another MSPL. The MDM signals are amplified by the FM-EDFA and then are input to the MDM receiver unit for mode demultiplexing and coherent reception. The MDM receiver unit is composed of an FMPC, an MSPL, a serial of wavelength-selective switches (WSSs), and multiple OTN optical receivers (RXs). To measure the amplification of the DP-QPSK MDM signals, this study employs the wavelength mapping method to calculate the modal gain with an optical spectrum analyzer (OSA).

**Results and Discussions** Firstly, the modal gain and noise figure of the FM-EDFA are tested (Fig. 3). When the pump power of each mode is 24.5 dBm, the minimum differential modal gain (DMG) of 1.27 dB is obtained. With the pump power of each mode increasing to 29.2 dBm, the average modal gain and the DMG are up to 21 dB and 1.97 dB, respectively. Secondly, we test the receiver sensitivity curves of each channel with and without the FM-EDFA (Fig. 4). Compared with the MDM system without the FM-EDFA, the one with the FM-EDFA shows that the receiver sensitivities of  $LP_{01}$ ,  $LP_{11a}$ , and  $LP_{11b}$  channels are degraded by 0.55 dB, 1.47 dB, and 0.99 dB, respectively. The polarization-dependent loss (PDL) of each channel is also measured. In the MDM system with the FM-EDFA, the PDL of each channel is also raised to some degree. Finally, the influence of DMG on the sensitivity equalization is studied in the

amplification experiment of two modes ( $LP_{01}$  and  $LP_{11b}$ ), in which the DMG is changed by adjusting the pump power (Fig. 6). It is found that the channel sensitivity equalization is independent of the DMG, and the channel sensitivity degradation is related to the amplified spontaneous emission (ASE) noise and the PDL from the FM-EDFA.

**Conclusions** In this paper, an amplification and transmission system is built up for 100 Gbit/s DP-QPSK MDM signals, which mainly includes the transceiver units of MDM signals and the all-fiber FM-EDFA with FM-IWDMs. According to the amplification and transmission experiment for three modes of  $LP_{01}$ ,  $LP_{11a}$ , and  $LP_{11b}$ , it is shown that the receiver sensitivity of each channel at the bit error rate of  $10^{-2}$  is, respectively, degraded by 0.55 dB, 1.47 dB, and 0.99 dB due to the introduction of the FM-EDFA. The influence of DMG on sensitivity equalization is also studied in the amplification experiment of two modes ( $LP_{01}$  and  $LP_{11b}$ ), and there is no direct correlation between them. However, the DMG will affect the optical power margin of each channel. The conclusions can provide a reference for MDM amplification and transmission of dual-polarization signals.

**Key words** optical communications; mode division multiplexing; few-mode erbium-doped fiber amplifier; dual-polarization signals