

Supporting Information

Realization of advanced passive silicon photonic devices with subwavelength-grating structures developed by efficient inverse design

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Section S1. The details of the inverse-designed 6-channel mode (de)multiplexer

In Table S1, the design flow details are given. For each stage, we present the information of the electromagnetic (EM) solver, optimization data-set type, section number, as well the sample dimension which is the dimension of the optimization data-set setting. In the whole design flow, the optimization region length is fixed to 15 μm , and the *FOM* definition stays the same. The *FOMs* of the initial individual and the optimized result of each stage are given in Table S1. The computation cost details are also shown in Table S1. The total computation time of each stage is the product of generation population, simulation time of one- individual, and optimization generation.

The air-slot device was successfully designed with 6 optimization stages and total computational time of 247.1 hours. The Stage-4 optimization result of the air-slot device was used as initial individual to design the SiO₂-filled device. The SiO₂-filled device was successfully designed within extra 5 stages of optimization costing 297.1 hours. In Table S2, the detail geometric parameters of the final designed SiO₂-filled 6-channel mode (de)multiplexer is given.

Table S1 The details of the 6-channel mode (de)multiplexer design flow.

Device Type	Stage	EM Solver (mesh type) ^{a)}	Optimization data-set type ^{b)}	Section number	Sample size	FOM (dB)		Computational cost			
						Start	End	Generation population	One-individual time (hour) ^{c)}	Generations	Stage time (hour)
Air-slot	1	EME	1 [†]	6	84	10.936	0.822	17	0.012	291	59.4
	2	EME		12	156	0.822	0.424	19	0.012	93	21.2
	3	FDTD(1)*				0.977	0.801		0.021	33	13.2
	4	FDTD(1)		2	12	0.801	0.691		0.021	71	28.3
Air-slot	5	FDTD(2)	2	12	167	0.610	0.577	19	0.323	6	36.8
	6	FDTD(2)		24	323	0.577	0.548	21	0.323	13	88.2
SiO ₂ -filled	5	FDTD(1)	2	12	167	1.274	0.697	19	0.021	37	14.8
	6	FDTD(2)		24	323	0.666	0.620	21	0.323	7	47.5
	7	FDTD(1)				0.674	0.603		0.021	25	11.0
	8	FDTD(2)				0.589	0.578		0.323	4	27.1
	9	FDTD(2)				0.807	0.623		0.323	29	196.7

Notes:

- a) For the mesh of FDTD solver, Type 1: 10 mesh points per effective-wavelength scale, Type 2: 14 mesh points per effective-wavelength scale.
- b) Type 1: the data-set is defined as $S_{\text{total}} = [\mathbf{D}_1, \mathbf{D}_2, \dots, \mathbf{D}_n, \mathbf{D}_{n+1}]$, the length array is given by $\mathbf{L} = [l_1, l_2, \dots, l_n] = [1, 2, \dots, n] \cdot (L_n/n)$, $L_n = 15 \mu\text{m}$. Type 2: the data-set is defined as $S_{\text{total}} = [\mathbf{D}_1, \mathbf{D}_2, \dots, \mathbf{D}_n, \mathbf{D}_{n+1}, l_1, \dots, l_{n-1}]$, $L_n = 15 \mu\text{m}$.
- c) One-individual time was measured on the personal computer with performance parameters given in **Methods** of main text. For EME and FDTD methods, simulation of one sample needs one run and six runs of solvers, respectively.

Table S2 The detail geometric parameters of the final designed SiO₂-filled 6-channel mode (de)multiplexer (unit: μm).

d_{nn}	Optimization Region Parameters in lateral direction												Optimization Region Parameters in lengthwise direction		Else parameters																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																															
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="12">n</th> </tr> <tr> <th>1</th><th>2</th><th>3</th><th>4</th><th>5</th><th>6</th><th>7</th><th>8</th><th>9</th><th>10</th><th>11</th><th>12</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2.844</td><td>0.195</td><td>0.093</td><td>0.435</td><td>0.158</td><td>0.17</td><td>0.16</td><td>0.493</td><td>0.163</td><td>0.436</td><td>0.089</td><td>0.408</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>2.694</td><td>0.199</td><td>0.168</td><td>0.364</td><td>0.161</td><td>0.261</td><td>0.243</td><td>0.453</td><td>0.152</td><td>0.401</td><td>0.096</td><td>0.435</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>2.545</td><td>0.159</td><td>0.278</td><td>0.266</td><td>0.164</td><td>0.406</td><td>0.36</td><td>0.395</td><td>0.142</td><td>0.369</td><td>0.083</td><td>0.486</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>2.418</td><td>0.15</td><td>0.303</td><td>0.208</td><td>0.165</td><td>0.5</td><td>0.412</td><td>0.373</td><td>0.158</td><td>0.449</td><td>0.078</td><td>0.562</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>2.301</td><td>0.145</td><td>0.351</td><td>0.145</td><td>0.139</td><td>0.629</td><td>0.463</td><td>0.304</td><td>0.152</td><td>0.478</td><td>0.107</td><td>0.637</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>2.258</td><td>0.196</td><td>0.328</td><td>0.224</td><td>0.171</td><td>0.603</td><td>0.45</td><td>0.332</td><td>0.214</td><td>0.44</td><td>0.098</td><td>0.578</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>2.229</td><td>0.294</td><td>0.275</td><td>0.353</td><td>0.181</td><td>0.53</td><td>0.387</td><td>0.321</td><td>0.249</td><td>0.424</td><td>0.106</td><td>0.55</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>2.202</td><td>0.31</td><td>0.289</td><td>0.418</td><td>0.245</td><td>0.472</td><td>0.292</td><td>0.379</td><td>0.266</td><td>0.373</td><td>0.16</td><td>0.491</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>2.167</td><td>0.372</td><td>0.27</td><td>0.482</td><td>0.357</td><td>0.406</td><td>0.2</td><td>0.413</td><td>0.298</td><td>0.376</td><td>0.197</td><td>0.414</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>2.06</td><td>0.384</td><td>0.344</td><td>0.514</td><td>0.35</td><td>0.378</td><td>0.261</td><td>0.361</td><td>0.373</td><td>0.308</td><td>0.288</td><td>0.402</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>1.946</td><td>0.422</td><td>0.407</td><td>0.577</td><td>0.382</td><td>0.337</td><td>0.281</td><td>0.333</td><td>0.45</td><td>0.285</td><td>0.401</td><td>0.398</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>1.823</td><td>0.454</td><td>0.496</td><td>0.538</td><td>0.345</td><td>0.352</td><td>0.315</td><td>0.344</td><td>0.499</td><td>0.339</td><td>0.511</td><td>0.436</td></tr> <tr><td>m</td><td>13</td><td>1.723</td><td>0.499</td><td>0.58</td><td>0.496</td><td>0.298</td><td>0.322</td><td>0.354</td><td>0.35</td><td>0.595</td><td>0.42</td><td>0.632</td><td>0.444</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>1.589</td><td>0.578</td><td>0.566</td><td>0.456</td><td>0.332</td><td>0.303</td><td>0.415</td><td>0.391</td><td>0.645</td><td>0.446</td><td>0.642</td><td>0.487</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>1.475</td><td>0.585</td><td>0.563</td><td>0.398</td><td>0.385</td><td>0.322</td><td>0.48</td><td>0.384</td><td>0.747</td><td>0.492</td><td>0.652</td><td>0.489</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>1.347</td><td>0.644</td><td>0.538</td><td>0.367</td><td>0.454</td><td>0.353</td><td>0.567</td><td>0.446</td><td>0.705</td><td>0.453</td><td>0.662</td><td>0.45</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>1.268</td><td>0.682</td><td>0.527</td><td>0.317</td><td>0.486</td><td>0.381</td><td>0.626</td><td>0.49</td><td>0.694</td><td>0.452</td><td>0.648</td><td>0.427</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>1.178</td><td>0.621</td><td>0.595</td><td>0.328</td><td>0.535</td><td>0.415</td><td>0.727</td><td>0.445</td><td>0.623</td><td>0.464</td><td>0.683</td><td>0.441</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>1.068</td><td>0.574</td><td>0.669</td><td>0.359</td><td>0.574</td><td>0.414</td><td>0.793</td><td>0.471</td><td>0.587</td><td>0.492</td><td>0.716</td><td>0.435</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>0.959</td><td>0.534</td><td>0.699</td><td>0.381</td><td>0.697</td><td>0.395</td><td>0.841</td><td>0.504</td><td>0.586</td><td>0.499</td><td>0.739</td><td>0.478</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>0.853</td><td>0.544</td><td>0.743</td><td>0.369</td><td>0.776</td><td>0.382</td><td>0.887</td><td>0.535</td><td>0.603</td><td>0.51</td><td>0.751</td><td>0.511</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>0.792</td><td>0.539</td><td>0.75</td><td>0.45</td><td>0.777</td><td>0.43</td><td>0.844</td><td>0.556</td><td>0.668</td><td>0.46</td><td>0.795</td><td>0.542</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>0.728</td><td>0.535</td><td>0.751</td><td>0.528</td><td>0.788</td><td>0.464</td><td>0.818</td><td>0.589</td><td>0.76</td><td>0.426</td><td>0.837</td><td>0.541</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>0.713</td><td>0.528</td><td>0.707</td><td>0.555</td><td>0.789</td><td>0.581</td><td>0.764</td><td>0.609</td><td>0.796</td><td>0.464</td><td>0.842</td><td>0.603</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>0.716</td><td>0.519</td><td>0.702</td><td>0.564</td><td>0.806</td><td>0.655</td><td>0.712</td><td>0.65</td><td>0.82</td><td>0.466</td><td>0.818</td><td>0.654</td></tr> 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Section S2. The details of the inverse-designed 90° hybrid

In the design flow, we used two versions of *FOM* definition. The version 1 FOM_{v1} consists of a transmission term FOM_T and a phase term FOM_{phase} , which are respectively given by

$$FOM_T = \frac{-10 \log_{10} \left(1 - \sqrt{\sum_{i=3}^6 (|S_{i1}|^2 - 25\%)} \right) - 10 \log_{10} \left(1 - \sqrt{\sum_{i=3}^6 (|S_{i2}|^2 - 25\%)} \right)}{2}, \quad (\text{S1})$$

$$FOM_{\text{Phase}} = \min \left\{ -10 \log_{10} (1 - \|[\theta_3 - \theta_6, \theta_4 - \theta_6, \theta_5 - \theta_6] - V_p\|) \right\}, \quad (\text{S2})$$

where V_p is the reference phase vector, $V_p \in \{[-90^\circ, 90^\circ, 180^\circ], [-90^\circ, 180^\circ, 90^\circ], [90^\circ, -90^\circ, 180^\circ], [90^\circ, 180^\circ, -90^\circ], [180^\circ, -90^\circ, 90^\circ], [180^\circ, 90^\circ, -90^\circ]\}$. One has

$FOM_{v1} = FOM_T + FOM_{\text{phase}}$. Here only the central wavelength of 1.55 μm is considered. In an improved version, the excess loss term FOM_{EL} and the imbalance term FOM_{IM} are used to replace FOM_T :

$$FOM_{EL} = -10 \log_{10} \frac{\sum_{i=3}^6 (|S_{i1}|^2 + |S_{i2}|^2)}{2}, \quad (\text{S3})$$

$$FOM_{IM} = -10 \log_{10} \left(\frac{\min \{ |S_{ij}|^2 \}}{\max \{ |S_{ij}|^2 \}} \right), (i=3,4,5,6, j=1,2). \quad (S4)$$

The total *FOM* is $FOM_{\text{total}} = FOM_{\text{EL}} + FOM_{\text{IM}} + FOM_{\text{phase}}$ for a single wavelength. The final *FOM* is given by the mean of FOM_{total} at five wavelength points: $FOM_{V2} = \overline{FOM_{\text{total}}(\lambda)}, \lambda_i \in \{1530, 1540, 1550, 1560, 1570\} \text{ nm}$. The design flow starts from a regular linear initial structure by using an EME method. The EME method can obtain the transfer matrix by one-run costing only 36 seconds for single wavelength. To get more accurate result, the FDTD solver was used latter. In the fast-simulation-mesh, there are 10 mesh points per effective-wavelength scale. The simulation of one sample consisting of two runs of the FDTD solver costs ~ 1.63 minutes. In the high-accuracy-mesh, there are 14 mesh points per effective-wavelength scale, and the local mesh refinements were adopted. In this case, the total simulation time of one sample is ~ 13.23 minutes. The performance confirmation of the final designed device was carried by FDTD solver with very dense meshes (34 mesh points per effective-wavelength scale); The simulation results are shown in Fig. 4(b)-4(d).

First, the air-slot device was designed. After total 299 generations of iterations, the *FOM* reaches 0.392 dB within total simulation time of ~ 199.4 hours. Then a SiO₂-filled device was designed using this result as initial sample. The design flow includes total 165 generations of iterations, costing total simulation time of ~ 278.83 hours. The final *FOM* is 1.189 dB.

The geometric parameters of the final device are given in Table S3. As Fig. 2(a) shows, d_{mn} denotes the spacings in yz -cross-sections of the optimization region. The final device has a 64-section optimization region with 65 cross-sections. $l_1 \sim l_{63}$, the length of the optimization region l_{64} is fixed to 10 μm . Since there are two input waveguides, the parameter d_{in} is added to denote the axle wire spacing of the input waveguides (Fig. 4(a)). The parameters $\{w_{in}, d_{in0}, d_{in}, w_{out}, d_{out0}, d_{out}, l_{in}, l_{out}\}$ are included in the optimization data-set. The SWG period and fill factor are respectively $P=0.2 \mu\text{m}$ and $ff=0.5$.

Table S3 The detail geometric parameters of the final designed SiO₂-filled 90° hybrid (unit: μm).

<i>d_{mn}</i>	<i>n</i>	Optimization Region Parameters in y-direction								Optimization Region Parameters in x-direction		Else parameters	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8				
		1	1.791	0.631	0.141	0.952	0.232	0.764	0.192	0.794	<i>l</i> ₁	0.154	<i>w_{in}</i>
<i>m</i>	2	1.773	0.643	0.160	0.907	0.211	0.756	0.204	0.774	<i>l</i> ₂	0.310	<i>d_{in0}</i>	2.494
	3	1.758	0.641	0.182	0.866	0.197	0.739	0.209	0.769	<i>l</i> ₃	0.471	<i>d_{in}</i>	1.999
	4	1.739	0.653	0.199	0.832	0.180	0.728	0.219	0.758	<i>l</i> ₄	0.633	<i>w_{out}</i>	0.526
	5	1.724	0.664	0.215	0.792	0.160	0.716	0.224	0.739	<i>l</i> ₅	0.790	<i>d_{out0}</i>	1.382
	6	1.701	0.679	0.239	0.752	0.143	0.724	0.245	0.732	<i>l</i> ₆	0.949	<i>d_{out}</i>	1.396
	7	1.689	0.693	0.266	0.709	0.128	0.730	0.257	0.706	<i>l</i> ₇	1.106	<i>l_{in}</i>	2.018
	8	1.672	0.721	0.289	0.667	0.107	0.736	0.273	0.687	<i>l</i> ₈	1.260	<i>l_{out}</i>	1.012
	10	1.641	0.743	0.321	0.604	0.090	0.724	0.292	0.668	<i>l</i> ₉	1.426		
	11	1.630	0.739	0.334	0.582	0.088	0.712	0.301	0.666	<i>l</i> ₁₀	1.588		
	12	1.623	0.742	0.348	0.559	0.083	0.707	0.299	0.662	<i>l</i> ₁₁	1.756		
	13	1.624	0.744	0.360	0.526	0.083	0.694	0.300	0.663	<i>l</i> ₁₂	1.916		
	14	1.617	0.741	0.380	0.503	0.082	0.691	0.317	0.659	<i>l</i> ₁₃	2.059		
	15	1.606	0.744	0.394	0.477	0.080	0.688	0.339	0.651	<i>l</i> ₁₄	2.208		
	16	1.607	0.753	0.411	0.439	0.079	0.676	0.354	0.647	<i>l</i> ₁₅	2.349		
	17	1.599	0.755	0.426	0.412	0.081	0.665	0.366	0.639	<i>l</i> ₁₆	2.489		
	18	1.591	0.728	0.421	0.441	0.114	0.670	0.399	0.640	<i>l</i> ₁₇	2.650		
	19	1.593	0.710	0.415	0.469	0.154	0.679	0.431	0.642	<i>l</i> ₁₈	2.811		
	20	1.592	0.689	0.410	0.504	0.181	0.684	0.452	0.646	<i>l</i> ₁₉	2.963		
	21	1.592	0.669	0.402	0.534	0.228	0.696	0.476	0.641	<i>l</i> ₂₀	3.118		
	22	1.588	0.656	0.392	0.560	0.261	0.692	0.508	0.658	<i>l</i> ₂₁	3.277		
	23	1.579	0.634	0.384	0.592	0.290	0.694	0.533	0.672	<i>l</i> ₂₂	3.427		
	24	1.581	0.615	0.383	0.627	0.320	0.688	0.561	0.673	<i>l</i> ₂₃	3.573		
	25	1.573	0.589	0.385	0.665	0.352	0.686	0.586	0.690	<i>l</i> ₂₄	3.722		
	26	1.537	0.585	0.408	0.682	0.400	0.686	0.587	0.699	<i>l</i> ₂₅	3.881		
	27	1.502	0.577	0.431	0.703	0.443	0.689	0.592	0.710	<i>l</i> ₂₆	4.021		
	28	1.461	0.567	0.459	0.731	0.508	0.685	0.591	0.711	<i>l</i> ₂₇	4.179		
	29	1.418	0.551	0.488	0.752	0.556	0.672	0.596	0.713	<i>l</i> ₂₈	4.328		
	30	1.384	0.534	0.509	0.790	0.605	0.660	0.596	0.721	<i>l</i> ₂₉	4.492		
	31	1.353	0.517	0.521	0.820	0.642	0.647	0.597	0.727	<i>l</i> ₃₀	4.657		
	32	1.324	0.498	0.541	0.849	0.692	0.642	0.588	0.726	<i>l</i> ₃₁	4.812		
	33	1.287	0.476	0.556	0.880	0.736	0.627	0.588	0.727	<i>l</i> ₃₂	4.971		
	34	1.303	0.474	0.583	0.841	0.730	0.616	0.590	0.717	<i>l</i> ₃₃	5.127		
	35	1.320	0.472	0.605	0.809	0.713	0.605	0.600	0.699	<i>l</i> ₃₄	5.293		
	36	1.335	0.481	0.632	0.777	0.697	0.599	0.611	0.688	<i>l</i> ₃₅	5.446		
	37	1.349	0.474	0.658	0.742	0.687	0.591	0.621	0.672	<i>l</i> ₃₆	5.604		
	38	1.369	0.474	0.669	0.717	0.673	0.565	0.635	0.641	<i>l</i> ₃₇	5.768		
	39	1.394	0.464	0.679	0.676	0.665	0.543	0.656	0.610	<i>l</i> ₃₈	5.934		
	40	1.425	0.458	0.705	0.641	0.646	0.531	0.676	0.589	<i>l</i> ₃₉	6.095		
	41	1.447	0.453	0.719	0.615	0.635	0.509	0.705	0.558	<i>l</i> ₄₀	6.249		
	42	1.443	0.458	0.762	0.588	0.621	0.523	0.704	0.562	<i>l</i> ₄₁	6.394		
	43	1.438	0.467	0.807	0.557	0.615	0.521	0.711	0.569	<i>l</i> ₄₂	6.541		
	44	1.435	0.470	0.851	0.524	0.605	0.526	0.711	0.568	<i>l</i> ₄₃	6.691		
	45	1.424	0.479	0.890	0.498	0.604	0.518	0.720	0.575	<i>l</i> ₄₄	6.843		
	46	1.406	0.493	0.930	0.460	0.601	0.530	0.720	0.576	<i>l</i> ₄₅	7.005		

47	1.392	0.506	0.962	0.418	0.601	0.534	0.733	0.575	l_{46}	7.168		
48	1.366	0.530	0.998	0.381	0.594	0.550	0.745	0.583	l_{47}	7.337		
49	1.350	0.549	1.027	0.353	0.596	0.553	0.757	0.589	l_{48}	7.502		
50	1.343	0.540	1.028	0.358	0.625	0.533	0.738	0.554	l_{49}	7.655		
51	1.343	0.537	1.020	0.379	0.655	0.509	0.723	0.523	l_{50}	7.811		
52	1.340	0.522	1.004	0.394	0.674	0.482	0.699	0.502	l_{51}	7.963		
53	1.343	0.511	0.990	0.401	0.694	0.453	0.673	0.469	l_{52}	8.124		
54	1.342	0.512	0.975	0.411	0.719	0.440	0.666	0.443	l_{53}	8.282		
55	1.337	0.513	0.956	0.414	0.745	0.422	0.655	0.415	l_{54}	8.440		
56	1.333	0.509	0.938	0.429	0.766	0.415	0.648	0.391	l_{55}	8.598		
57	1.331	0.513	0.924	0.438	0.787	0.401	0.633	0.367	l_{56}	8.753		
58	1.306	0.504	0.923	0.472	0.809	0.393	0.643	0.367	l_{57}	8.916		
59	1.298	0.487	0.917	0.500	0.821	0.388	0.643	0.358	l_{58}	9.077		
60	1.277	0.477	0.912	0.528	0.842	0.371	0.645	0.348	l_{59}	9.233		
61	1.265	0.473	0.908	0.565	0.856	0.358	0.647	0.342	l_{60}	9.387		
62	1.242	0.458	0.902	0.586	0.868	0.362	0.642	0.337	l_{61}	9.543		
63	1.225	0.445	0.898	0.601	0.890	0.369	0.646	0.330	l_{62}	9.693		
64	1.204	0.438	0.889	0.621	0.906	0.375	0.644	0.317	l_{63}	9.845		
65	1.185	0.423	0.889	0.641	0.933	0.376	0.646	0.303	l_{64}	10.000		

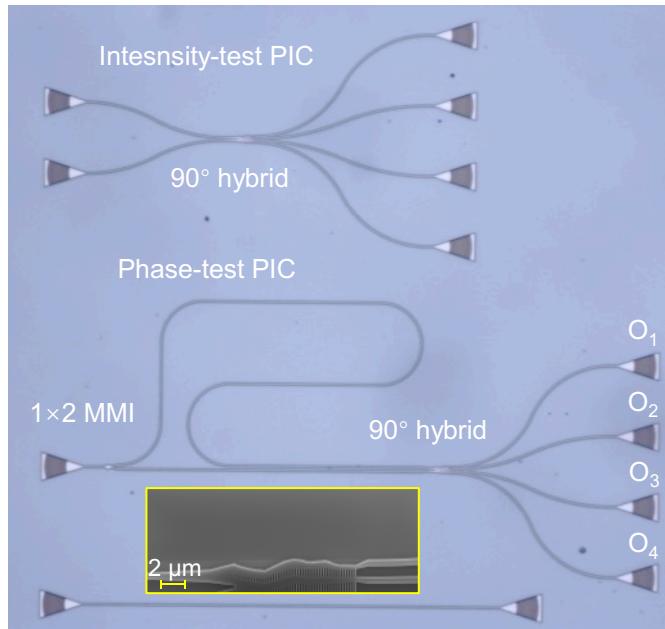


Fig. S1 The fabricated PICs for SiO₂-filled 90° hybrid. Microscope picture for the fabrication silicon intensity-test PIC and phase-test PIC with the SiO₂-filled 90° hybrid, inset: SEM image of a 90° hybrid.

Section S3. The details of the inverse-designed two-channel wavelength demultiplexer

The design details are introduced as follows. The *FOM* is initially given by

$$FOM = \frac{-10 \log_{10} \left[\prod_{i=1}^a |S_{21}(\lambda_i)|^2 \prod_{j=1}^b |S_{31}(\lambda_j)|^2 \right]}{a+b}, \quad (\text{S5})$$

$\lambda_i \in \{1470, 1490, 1510, 1530, 1550, 1570\}$ nm, $a=6$, $\lambda_j \in \{1290, 1310, 1330\}$ nm, $b=3$. To obtain the high extinction ratio performance, we introduce a crosstalk term to FOM ,

$$FOM = \frac{-10 \log_{10} \left[\prod_{i=1}^a |S_{21}(\lambda_i)|^2 \prod_{j=1}^b |S_{31}(\lambda_j)|^2 \right]}{a+b} + \frac{-10 \log_{10} \left[\prod_{i=1}^a (1 - |S_{31}(\lambda_i)|^2) \prod_{j=1}^b (1 - |S_{21}(\lambda_j)|^2) \right]}{a+b}, \quad (S6)$$

Only 3D-FDTD solver is used for electromagnetic (EM) numerical simulation. For each sample, the mode coupling coefficients at different wavelengths can be obtained by one-run of the FDTD solver. Through the design flow, two mesh configurations were used. In the fast-simulation-mesh, there are 10 mesh points per effective-wavelength scale. The simulation of one sample consisting of two runs of EM solver costs ~ 1 minutes. In the high-accuracy-mesh, there are 18 mesh points per effective-wavelength scale, and the local mesh refinements were adopted. In this case, the simulation of one sample costs ~ 10.5 minutes. The performance confirmation of the final designed device was carried by FDTD solver with very dense meshes (26 mesh points per effective-wavelength scale with local mesh refinements); The simulation results are shown in Fig. 6(b)-6(c).

The design starts from an initial symmetric Y-branch structure. First, the air-slot device was designed. The optimization region length L is initially set to 6 μm at the beginning of the design flow, and manually is changed to 9 μm by a structure extension manipulation. The final designed SiO_2 -filled device has L of 10.457 μm . The SWG period P was once set as a variable in optimization data-set, and finally set to fixed value of 0.184 μm . The SWG fill factor is $ff=0.5$.

After 380 generations of iterations, the FOM reaches 0.87 dB within total simulation time of ~ 93.6 hours. Then a SiO_2 -filled device was designed using this result as initial sample. The design flow includes 76 generations of iterations, costing total simulation time of ~ 209.0 hours. The final FOM is 0.687 dB. The geometric parameters of the final device are given in Table S4.

Table S4 The detail geometric parameters of the final designed SiO₂-filled wavelength demultiplexer (unit: μm).

d_{mn}	Optimization Region Parameters in y-direction					l_1	Optimization Region Parameters in x-direction	w_{in}	Else parameters
	n				l_2				
	1	2	3	4	l_3	0.536	w_{out}	0.5	
m	1	1.371	0.953	0.267	0.459	l_4	0.692	d_{out0}	1.303
	2	1.307	0.916	0.280	0.414	l_5	0.853	d_{out}	1.699
	3	1.246	0.887	0.286	0.377	l_6	1.026	l_{in}	1.0
	4	1.194	0.809	0.299	0.433	l_7	1.195	l_{out}	1.0
	5	1.106	0.809	0.281	0.454	l_8	1.339		
	6	1.027	0.785	0.257	0.459	l_9	1.490		
	7	0.973	0.740	0.226	0.494	l_{10}	1.636		
	8	0.906	0.708	0.162	0.546	l_{11}	1.788		
	9	0.859	0.695	0.178	0.584	l_{12}	1.923		
	10	0.812	0.681	0.183	0.624	l_{13}	2.061		
	11	0.781	0.684	0.233	0.680	l_{14}	2.183		
	12	0.744	0.693	0.265	0.726	l_{15}	2.310		
	13	0.710	0.684	0.336	0.694	l_{16}	2.466		
	14	0.676	0.679	0.404	0.681	l_{17}	2.613		
	15	0.640	0.681	0.482	0.653	l_{18}	2.773		
	16	0.611	0.678	0.549	0.627	l_{19}	2.926		
	17	0.559	0.678	0.571	0.669	l_{20}	3.077		
	18	0.511	0.680	0.594	0.707	l_{21}	3.232		
	19	0.463	0.686	0.629	0.763	l_{22}	3.392		
	20	0.419	0.683	0.660	0.819	l_{23}	3.549		
	21	0.399	0.686	0.720	0.793	l_{24}	3.741		
	22	0.384	0.671	0.776	0.774	l_{25}	3.925		
	23	0.380	0.654	0.842	0.751	l_{26}	4.100		
	24	0.374	0.646	0.906	0.741	l_{27}	4.277		
	25	0.434	0.621	0.947	0.706	l_{28}	4.487		
	26	0.506	0.606	0.975	0.679	l_{29}	4.686		
	27	0.557	0.557	1.033	0.654	l_{30}	4.875		
	28	0.624	0.521	1.067	0.627	l_{31}	5.068		
	29	0.653	0.505	1.110	0.599	l_{32}	5.257		
	30	0.692	0.480	1.157	0.575	l_{33}	5.452		
	31	0.741	0.459	1.171	0.558	l_{34}	5.639		
	32	0.786	0.437	1.203	0.537	l_{35}	5.824		
	33	0.887	0.389	1.187	0.541	l_{36}	6.013		
	34	0.986	0.328	1.171	0.553	l_{37}	6.198		
	35	1.078	0.282	1.134	0.549	l_{38}	6.381		
	36	1.165	0.225	1.107	0.564	l_{39}	6.568		
	37	1.206	0.231	1.114	0.558	l_{40}	6.708		
	38	1.243	0.234	1.121	0.563	l_{41}	6.846		
	39	1.282	0.257	1.116	0.568	l_{42}	6.987		
	40	1.309	0.259	1.113	0.583	l_{43}	7.133		
	41	1.310	0.262	1.125	0.587	l_{44}	7.365		
	42	1.287	0.263	1.160	0.596	l_{45}	7.605		
	43	1.275	0.271	1.182	0.607				
	44	1.264	0.283	1.171	0.596				
	45	1.273	0.302	1.129	0.589				
	46								

47	1.273	0.309	1.118	0.597	l_{46}	7.727		
48	1.268	0.306	1.106	0.597	l_{47}	7.851		
49	1.278	0.299	1.086	0.625	l_{48}	8.105		
50	1.270	0.300	1.095	0.608	l_{49}	8.235		
51	1.278	0.313	1.092	0.588	l_{50}	8.355		
52	1.297	0.311	1.101	0.573	l_{51}	8.486		
53	1.320	0.319	1.106	0.554	l_{52}	8.623		
54	1.312	0.317	1.140	0.581	l_{53}	8.857		
55	1.302	0.309	1.158	0.620	l_{54}	9.090		
56	1.292	0.303	1.188	0.637	l_{55}	9.318		
57	1.276	0.300	1.208	0.659	l_{56}	9.544		
58	1.263	0.310	1.198	0.653	l_{57}	9.767		
59	1.247	0.319	1.192	0.637	l_{58}	9.987		
60	1.242	0.326	1.182	0.618	l_{59}	10.223		
61	1.224	0.329	1.157	0.602	l_{60}	10.457		