

# Microwave Photonics (MWP) and Artificial Intelligence (AI)

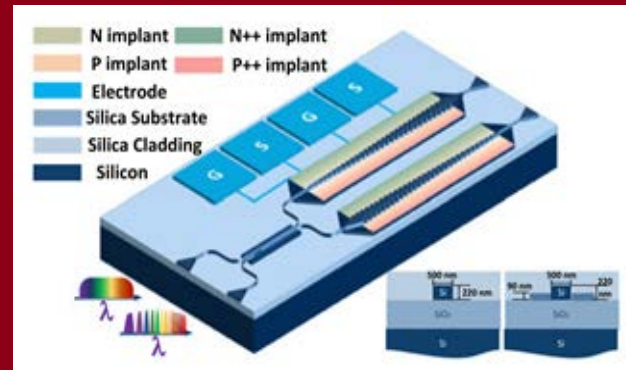
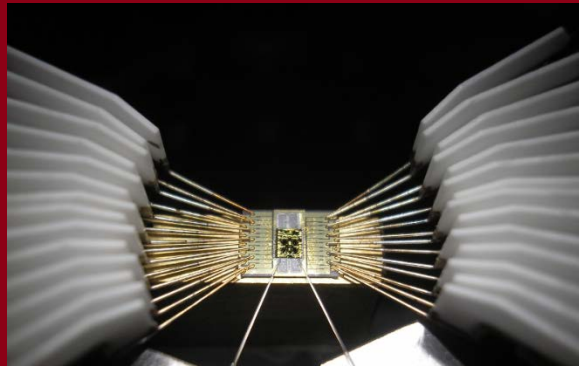
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University of Ottawa



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Chengdu 2024

# PIERS

THE ELECTROMAGNETICS ACADEMY

April 21-25, 2024

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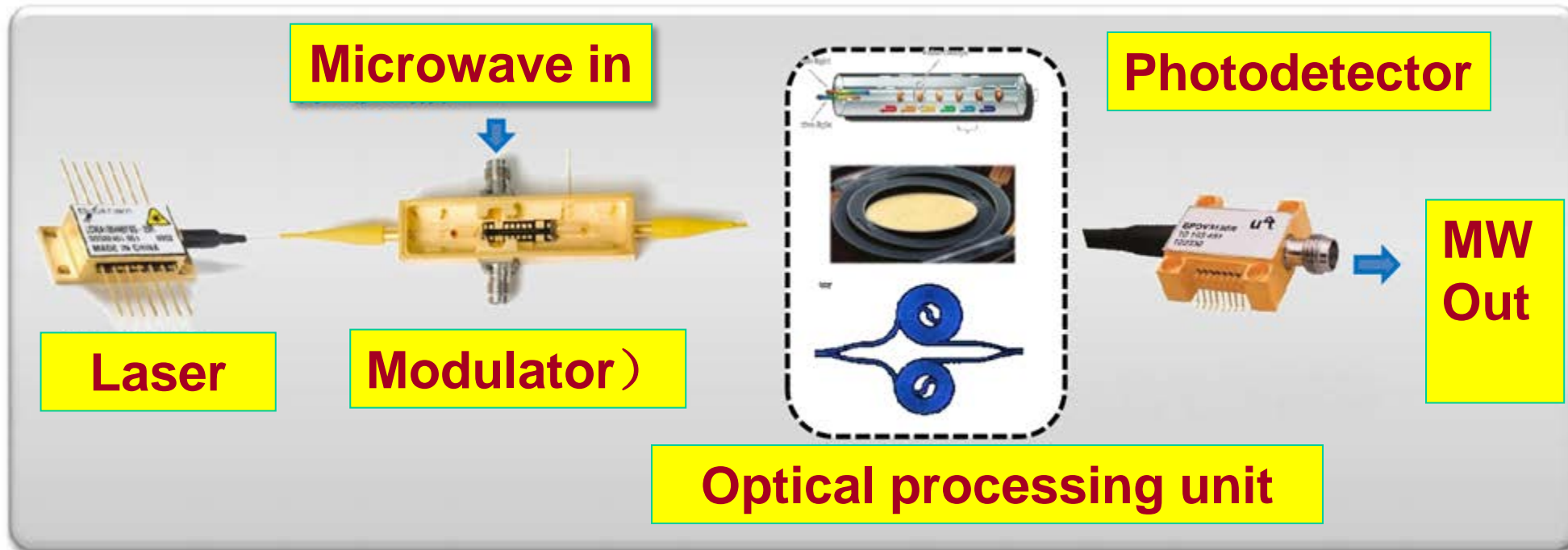
# Outline

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- **What is MWP**
- MWP and Optical Computing
- MWP and AI
  - Convolutional Neural Network
    - Fiber-optic implementation
    - Photonic integrated implementation
  - Optical Reservoir Computing
    - Fiber optic implementation
    - Photonic integrated implementation
- Conclusion

# What is MWP

Use light as a carrier and use photonic and optoelectronic devices for the **generation, transmission, control, and processing** of microwave signals, to implement microwave devices and systems with improved performance.



# Advantages of MWP

- To solve the **bottleneck problems ( limited bandwidth)**
- To make microwave devices and systems to be **higher frequency, wider bandwidth and lower loss**

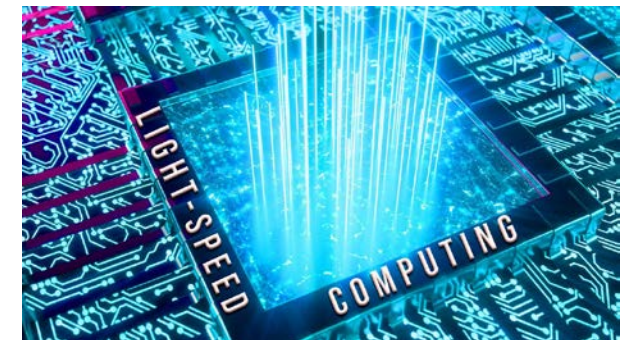
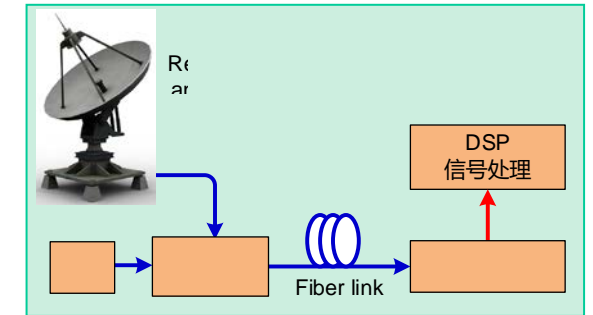
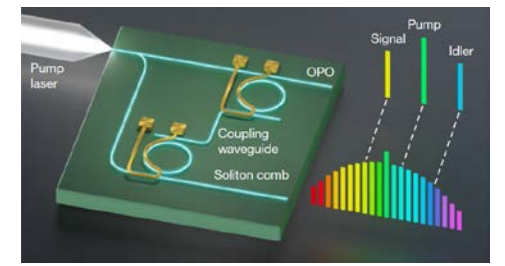
## Photonics vs Microwave:

- ✓ **Wide bandwidth:**  
2,000 ~ 10,000 wider than RF
- ✓ **Light weight:** fiber: 1.7 kg/km << copper cable 567 kg/km
- ✓ **Low loss:** fiber 0.2 dB/km << copper cable 360 dB/km
- ✓ **Immune to electromagnetic interference (EMI)**
- ✓ **Integratable and small (Photonic Integrated Circuits or PICs)**
- ✓ **Fast and parallel processing - Important for Optical Computing**

# MWP Applications

- ❑ **Low phase noise microwave generation**  
(ultra-low phase noise, -170 dBc/Hz at 10 kHz)
- ❑ **Microwave photonic links (low loss and wideband)**
- ❑ **True time delay for broadband beamforming**
- ❑ **Photonic ADC (high speed and low time jitter)**
- ❑ **MWP sensors and radar (high resolution, wide bandwidth)**

❑ **Optical computing: ultra-high speed and parallel computing**

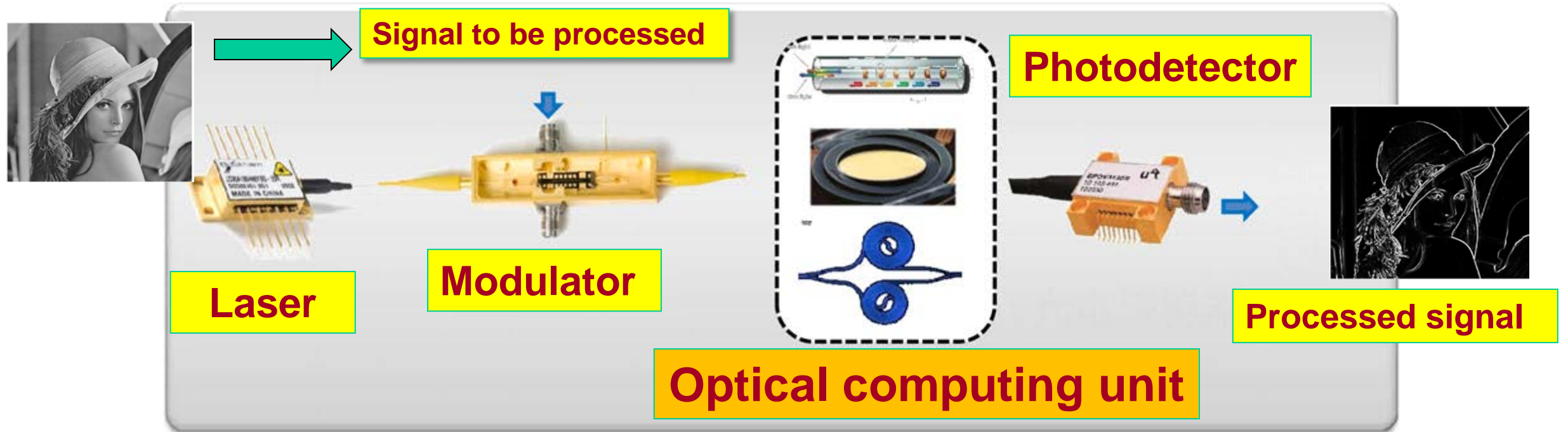


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# MWP and Optical Computing



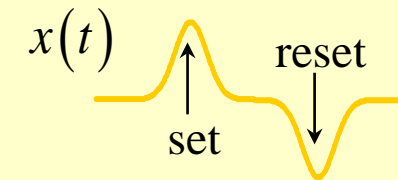
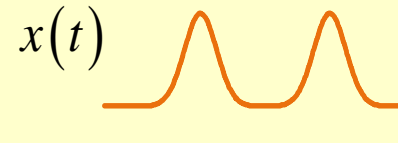
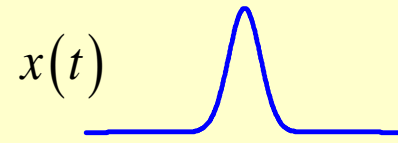
- Temporal Integrator
- Temporal Differentiator
- Temporal Hilbert Transformer
- Fourier transformer

# Temporal Integrator and Applications

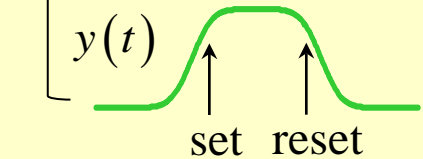
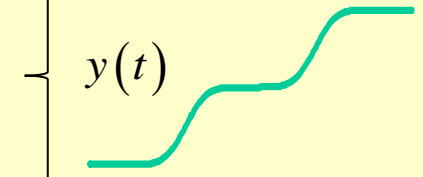
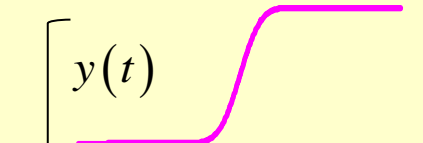
Data storage

Bit counting

Optical memory



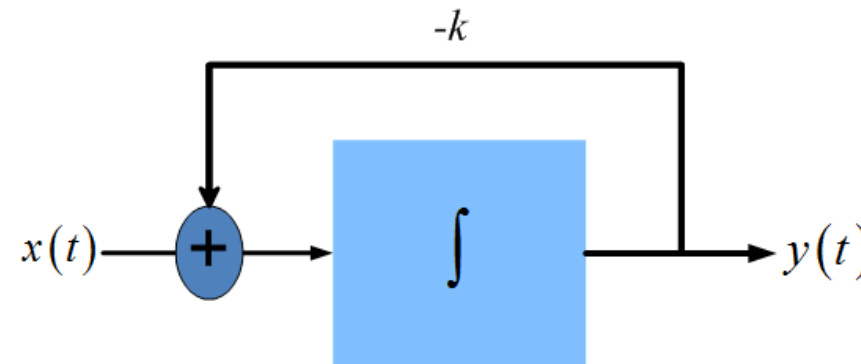
$$y(t) = \int_{\tau=-\infty}^t x(\tau) d\tau$$



Optical computing

(Linear Differential Equation)

$$\frac{dy(t)}{dt} + ky(t) = x(t)$$

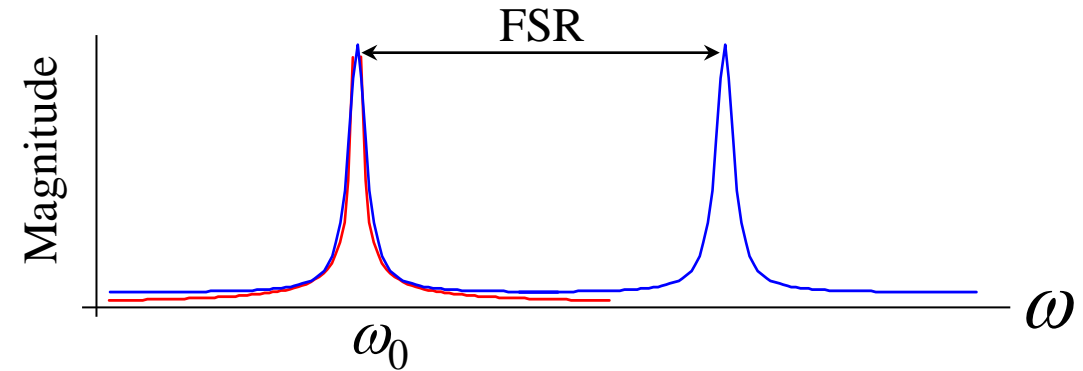




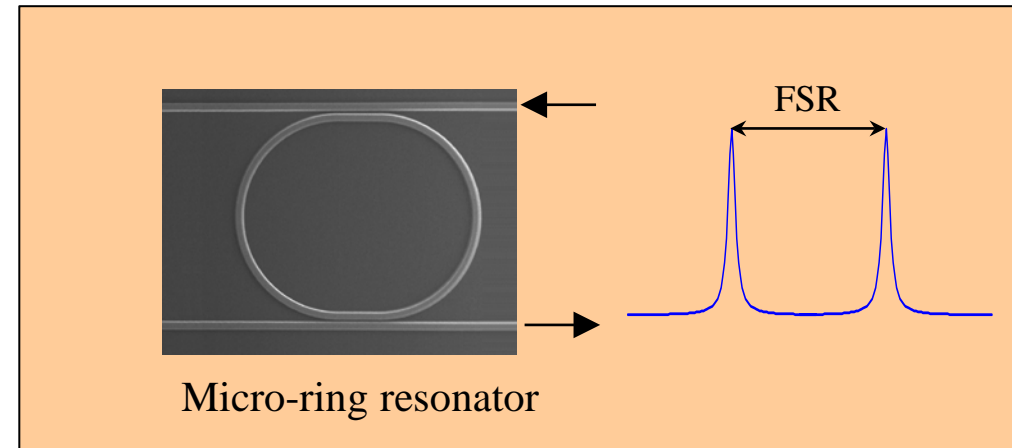
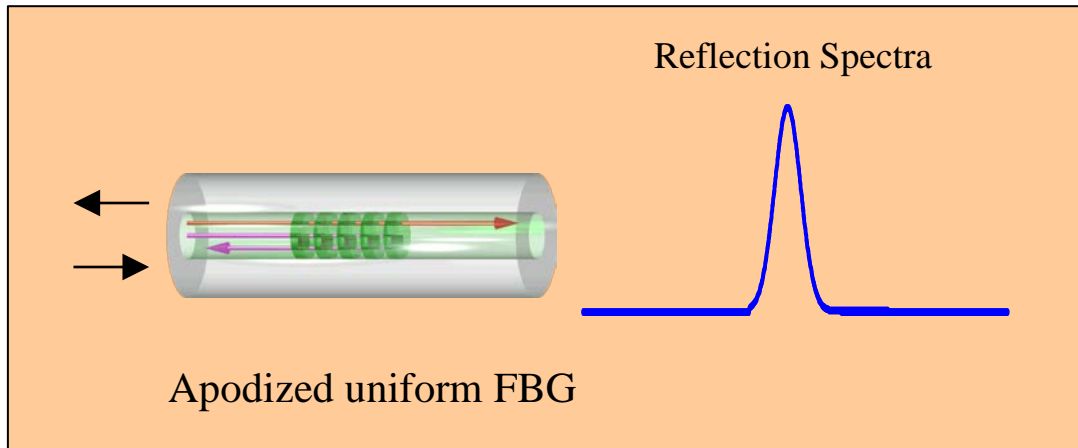
# Photonic Temporal Integrator Implementation

Mathematically, a temporal integrator can be implemented using a linear device with a transfer function given by

$$y(t) = \int_{\tau=-\infty}^t x(\tau) d\tau \quad \longrightarrow \quad H(\omega) = \frac{1}{j(\omega - \omega_0)}$$



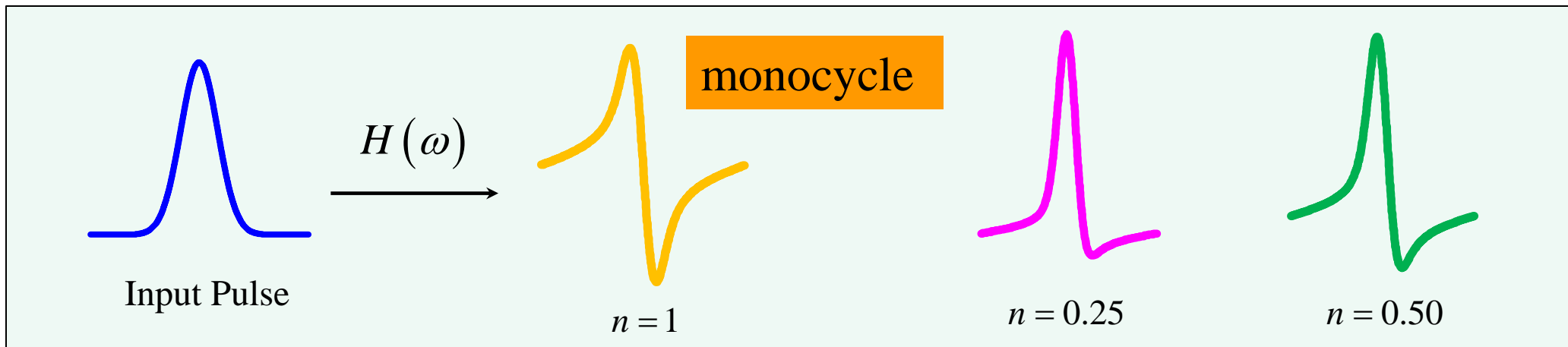
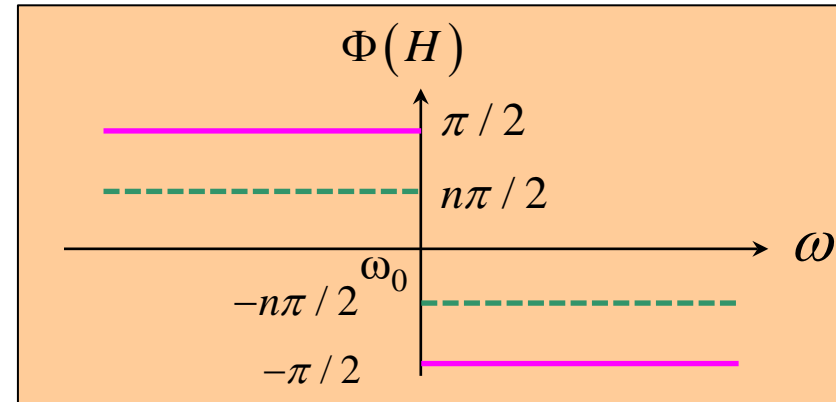
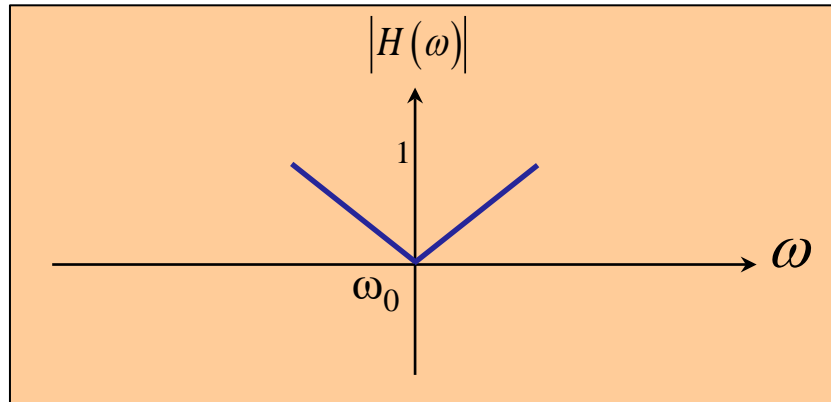
A photonic temporal integrator can be implemented using a **fiber Bragg grating (FBG)** or a **microring resonator**.



# Temporal Differentiator

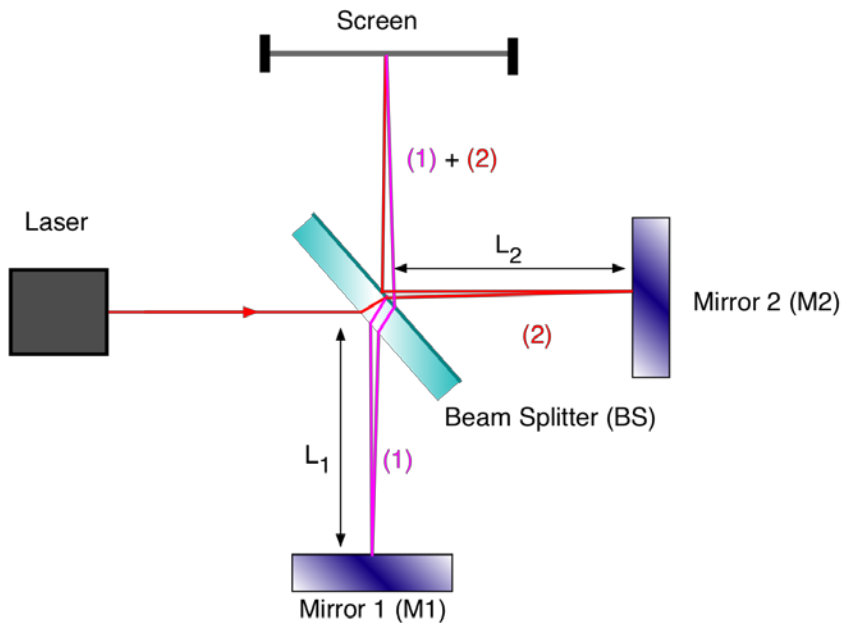
$$y(t) = \frac{d^n x(t)}{dt^n} \longrightarrow H(\omega) = [j(\omega - \omega_0)]^n$$

where  $n$  is the order of differentiation, and  $n$  can be a fractional order. When  $n = 1$ , it is a first order differentiator.

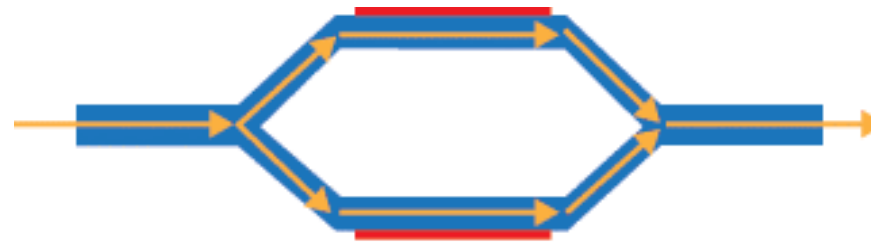
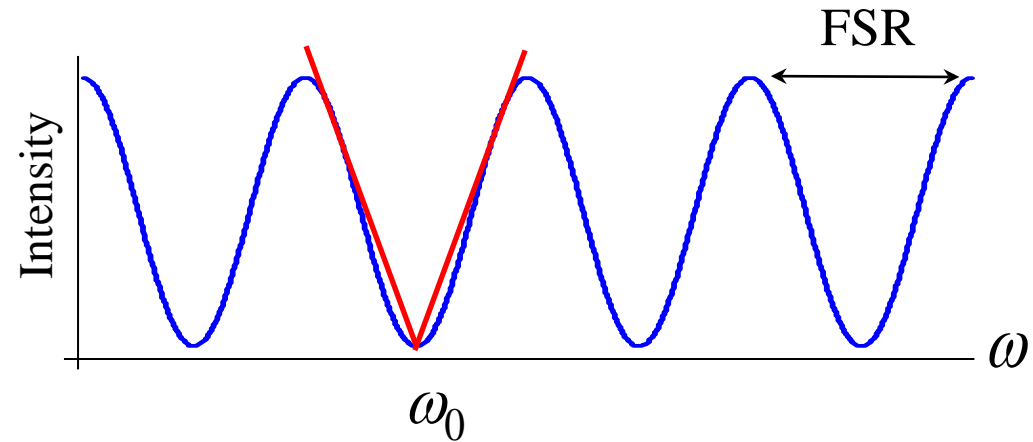


# Photonic Temporal Differentiator Implementation

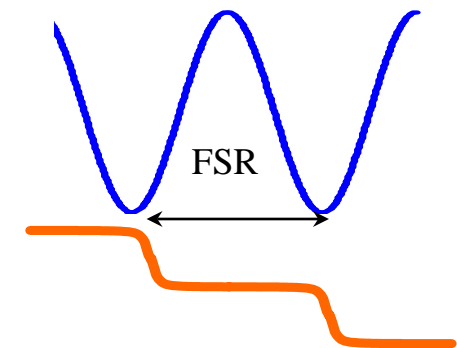
Practically, a temporal differentiator can be implemented using an optical interferometer, such as a Michelson interferometer, or a Mach-Zehnder interferometer (MZI).



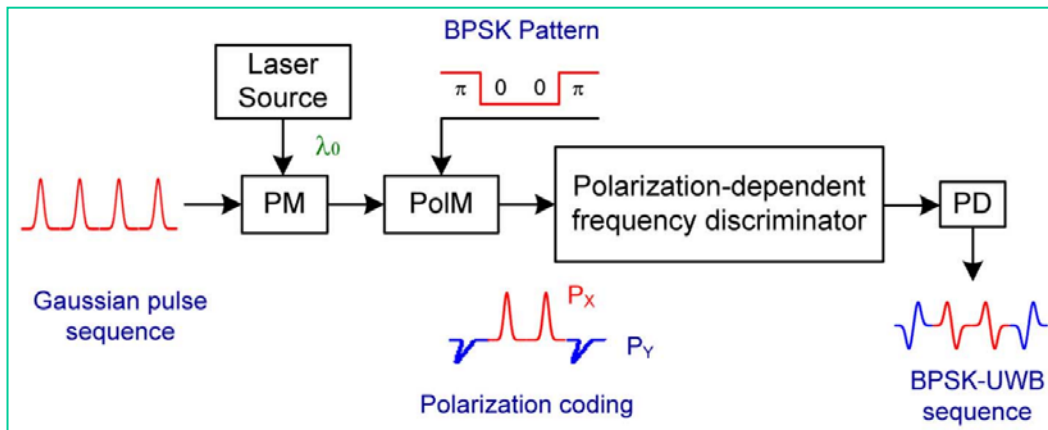
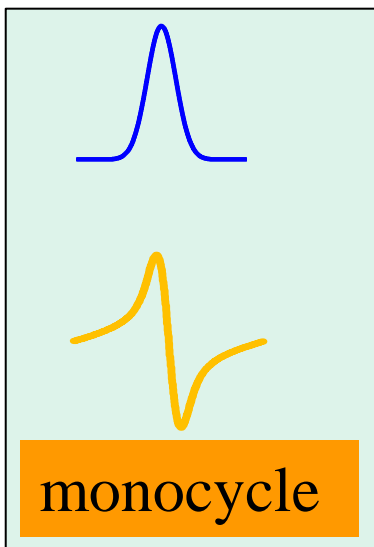
Michelson Interferometer



MZI

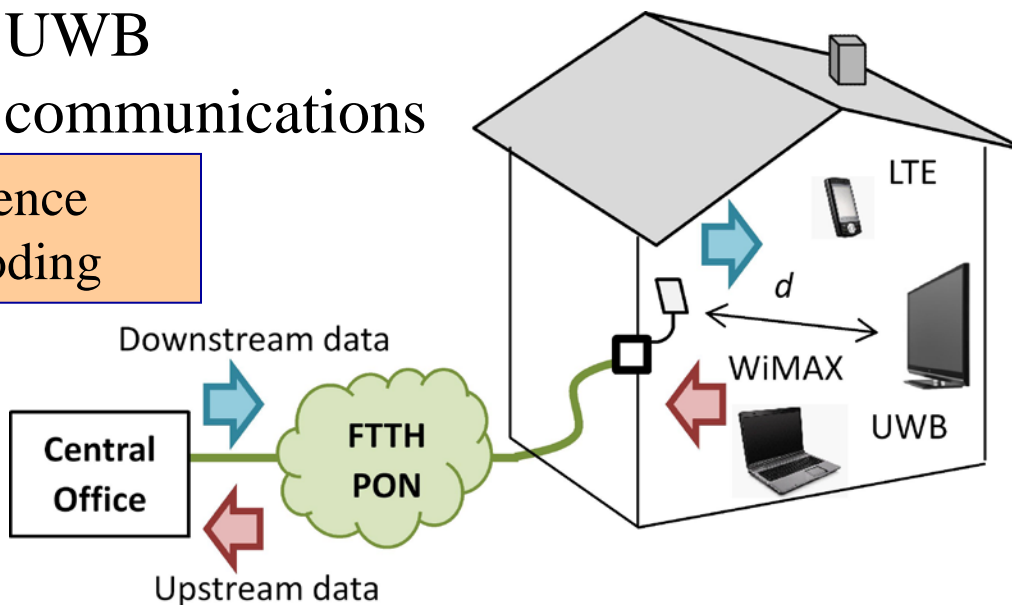


# Temporal Differentiators and Applications



UWB communications

UWB pulse sequence generation and coding

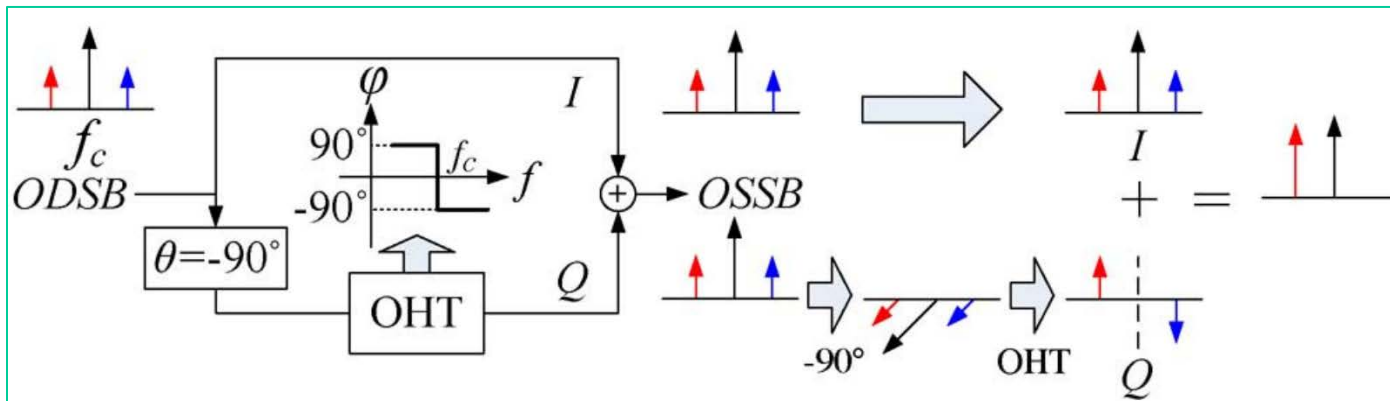
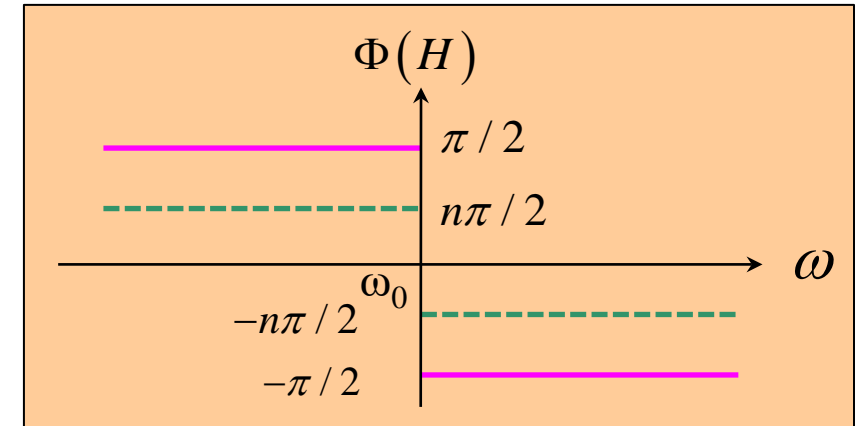
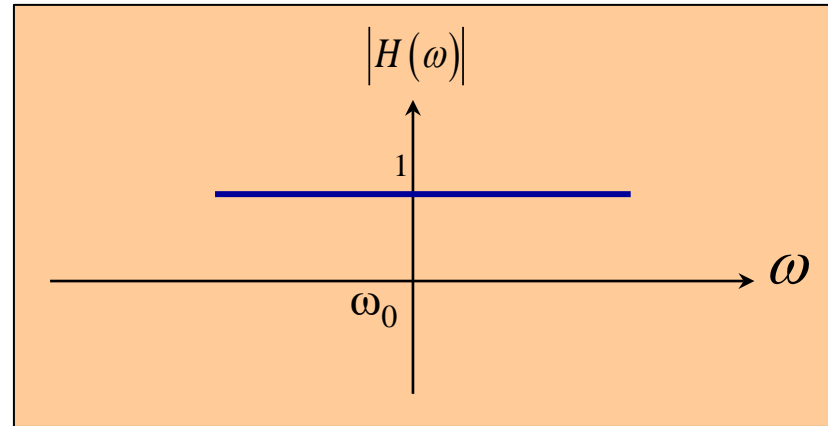


Tunable image enhancement or edge detection

# Temporal Hilbert Transformer and Applications

$$H(j\omega) = \begin{cases} e^{-jn\frac{\pi}{2}} & \omega > 0 \\ e^{+jn\frac{\pi}{2}} & \omega < 0 \end{cases}$$

where  $n$  is the order of differentiation, and  $n$  can be a fractional order. When  $n = 1$ , it is a first order differentiator.



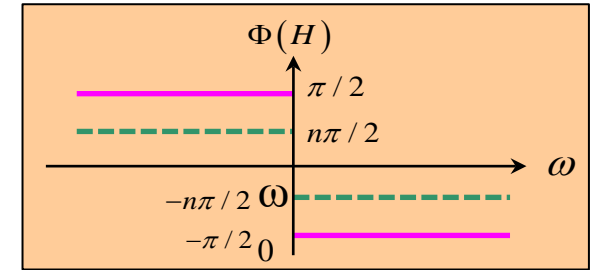
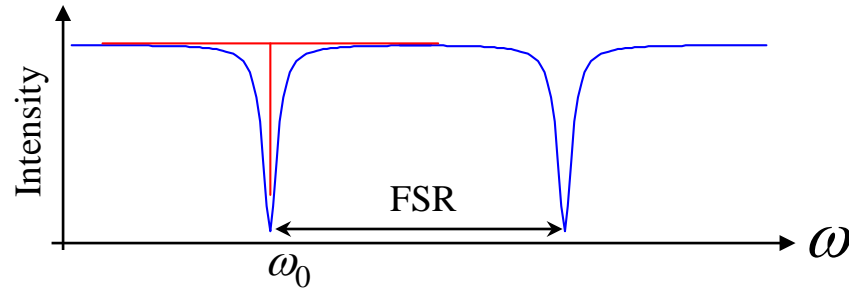
Single Sideband (SSB) Modulation



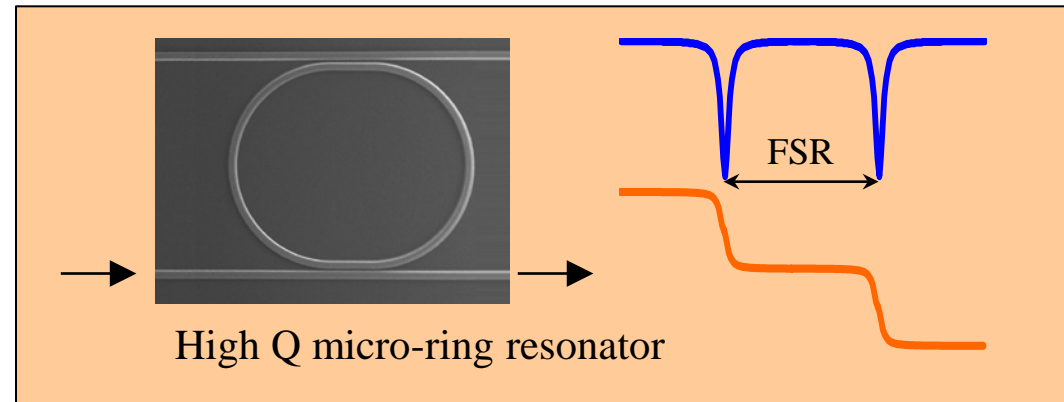
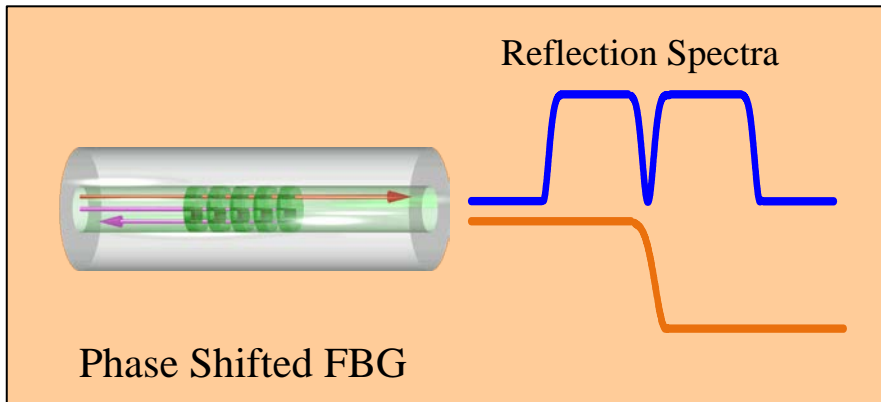
Image processing - edge detection/enhancement

# Photonic Temporal Hilbert transformer

Practically, a Hilbert transformer can be implemented using a linear optical device with an ultra-narrow notch.

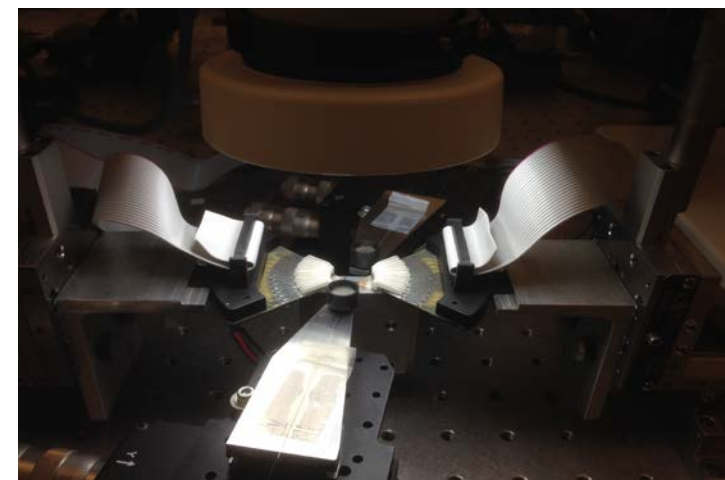
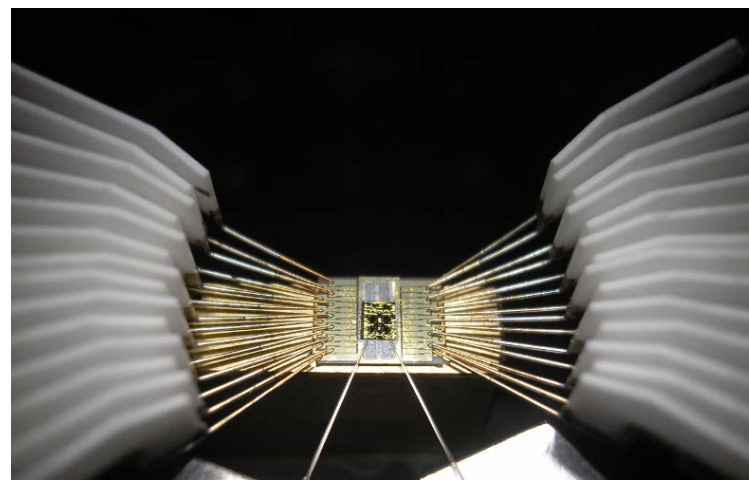
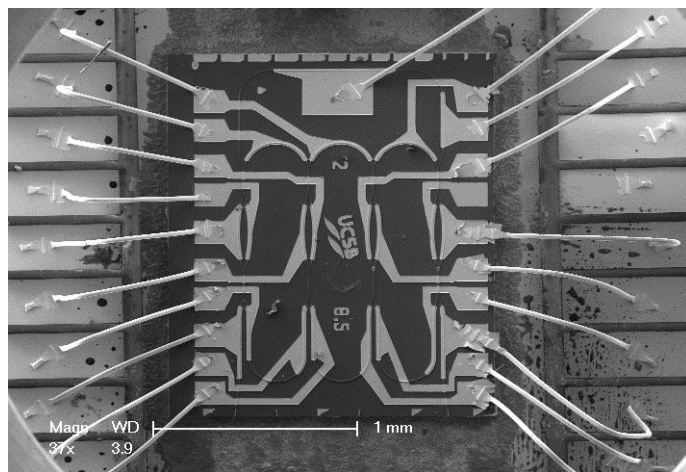


A photonic Hilbert transformer can be implemented using a phase shifted fiber Bragg grating (FBG) or a microring resonator (Ideal case, notch width is zero  $\rightarrow$  practical implementation using high Q ultra-narrow notch filter)

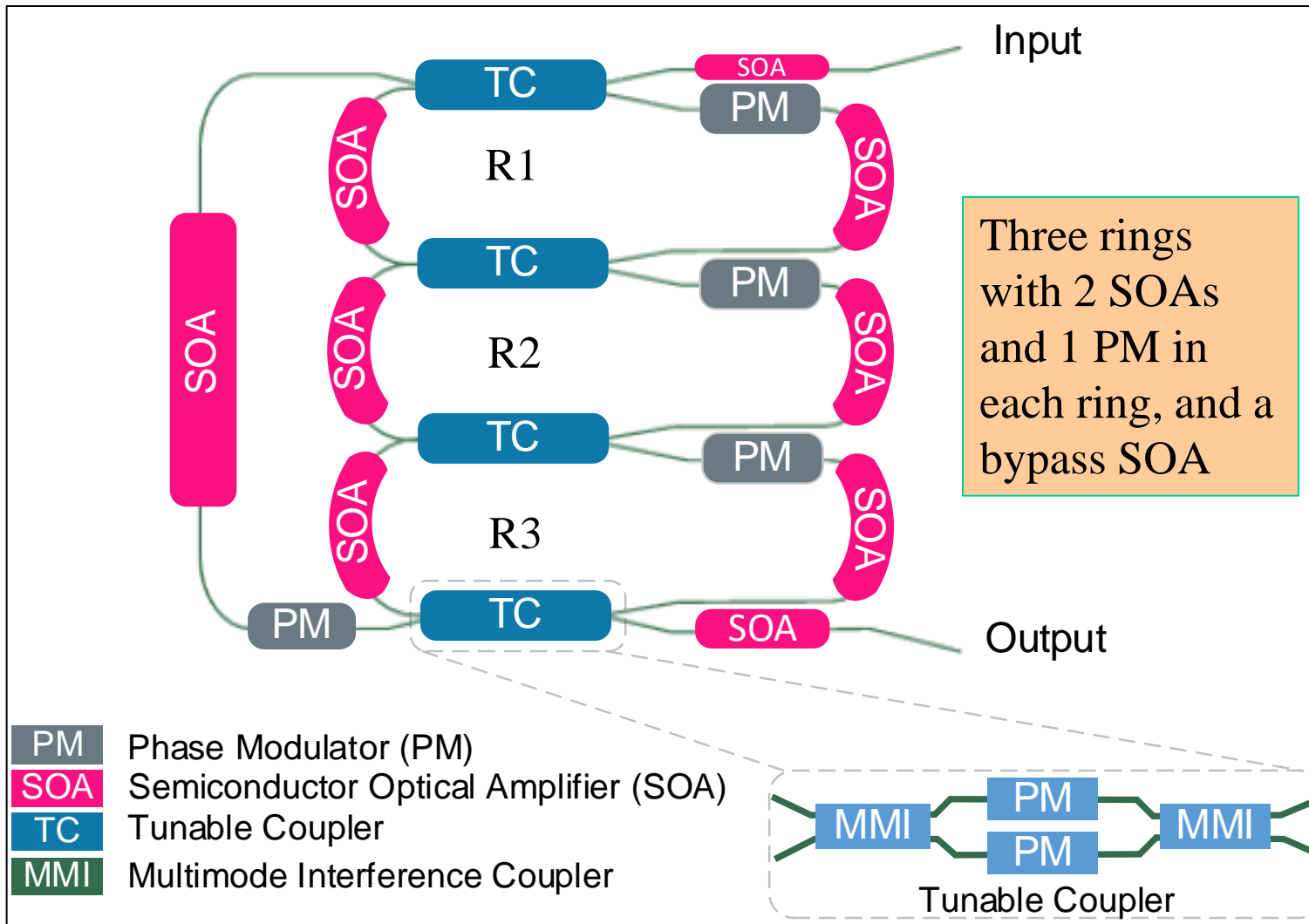


# A fully reconfigurable photonic integrated signal processor

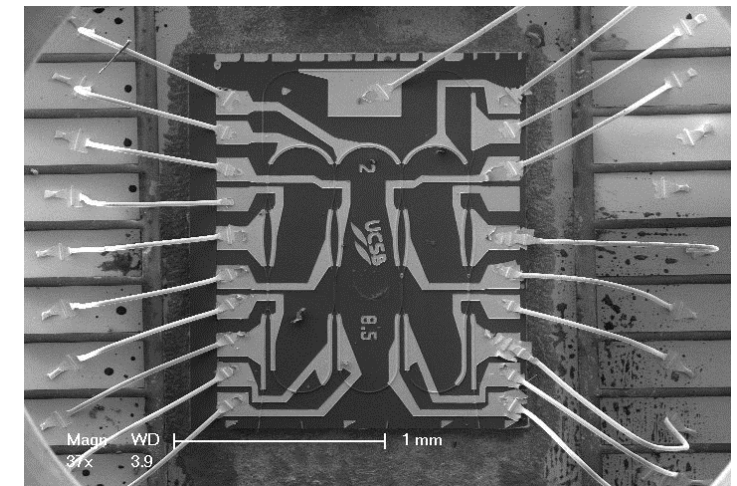
Weilin Liu<sup>1\*</sup>, Ming Li<sup>1\*</sup>, Robert S. Guzzon<sup>2\*</sup>, Erik J. Norberg<sup>2</sup>, John S. Parker<sup>2</sup>, Mingzhi Lu<sup>2</sup>, Larry A. Coldren<sup>2</sup> and Jianping Yao<sup>1\*</sup>



# A fully reconfigurable photonic integrated signal processor

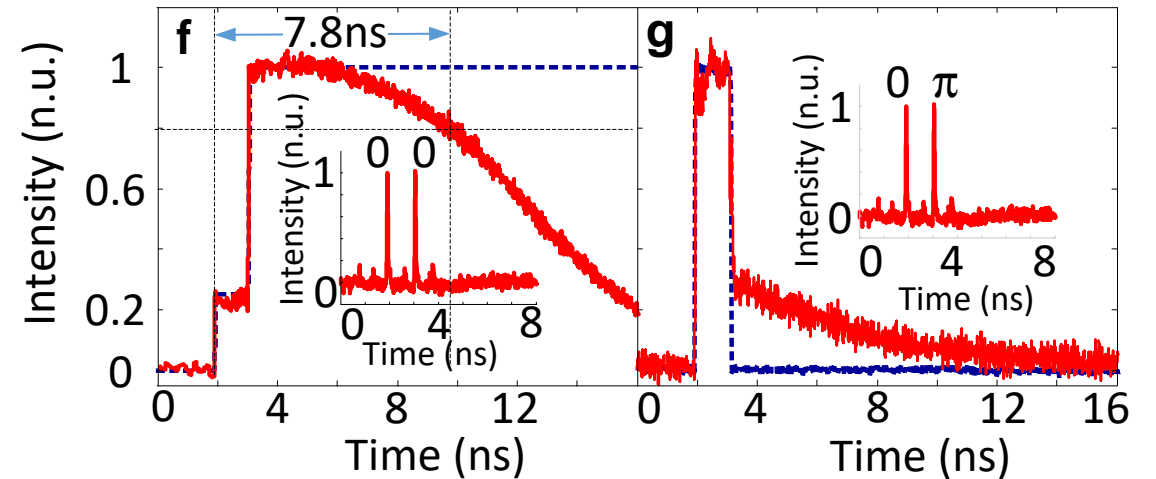
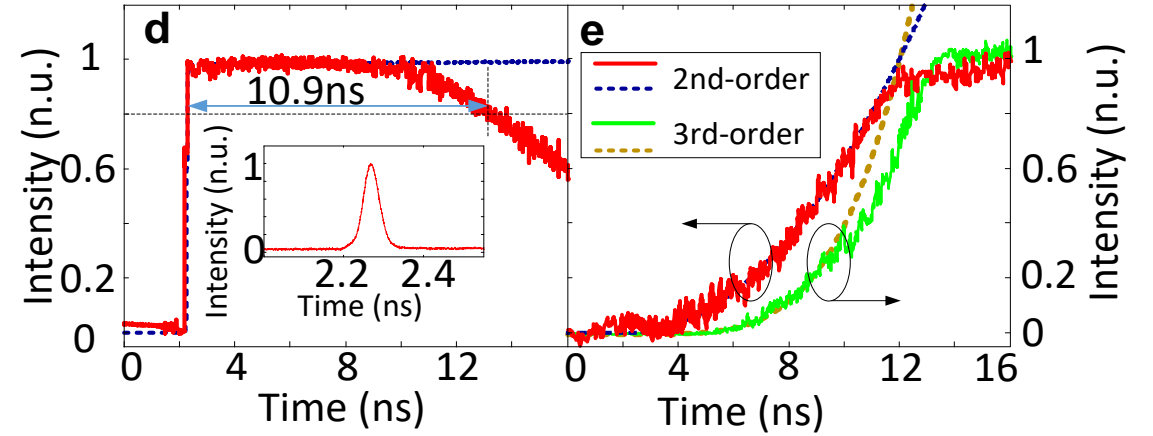
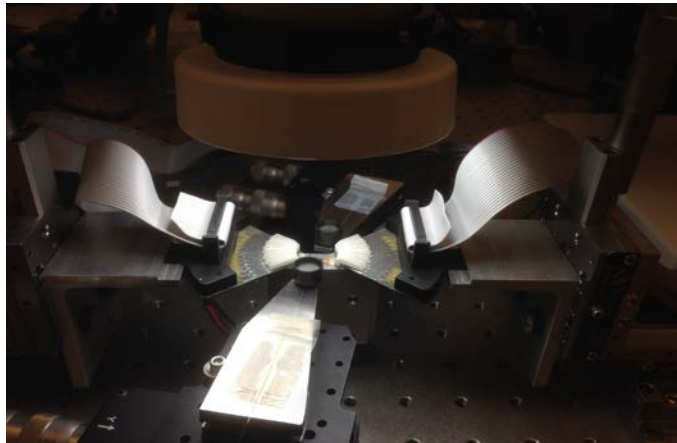
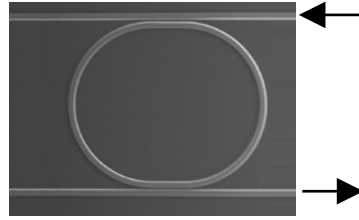
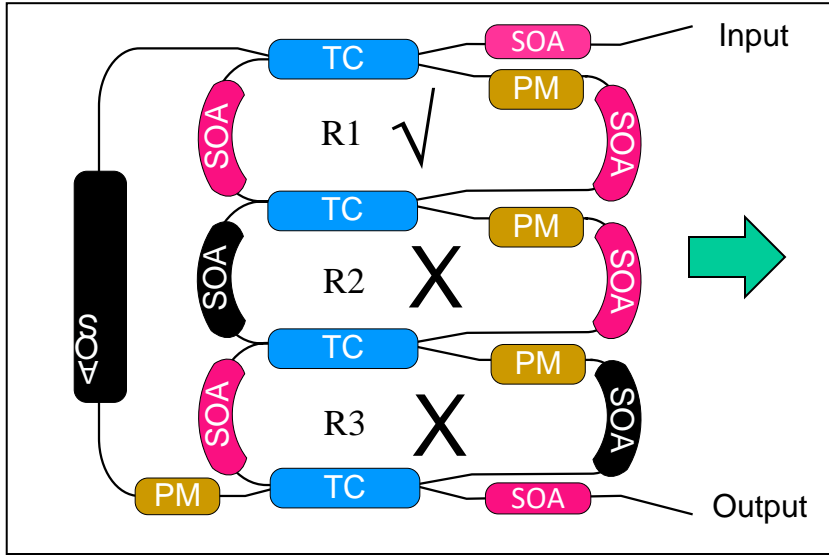


**Reconfigurable** - The reconfigurability is achieved by tuning the injection currents to the semiconductor optical amplifiers (9 **SOAs**) and current injection phase modulators (3 **PMs**) in the design, 4 tunable couplers (**TCs**).

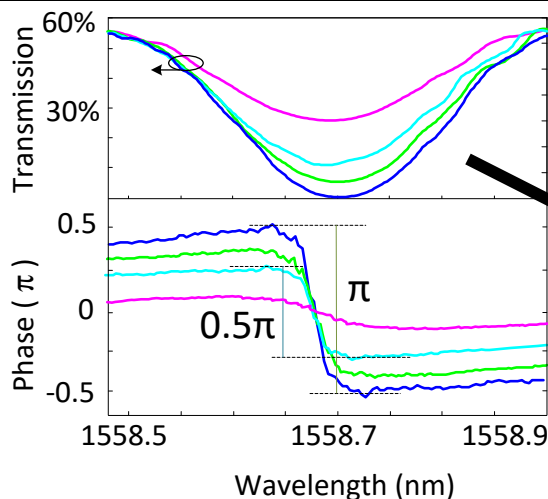
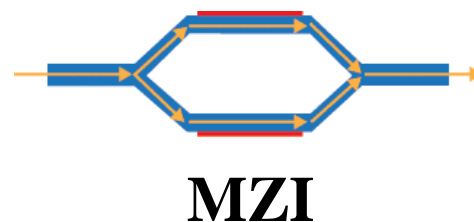
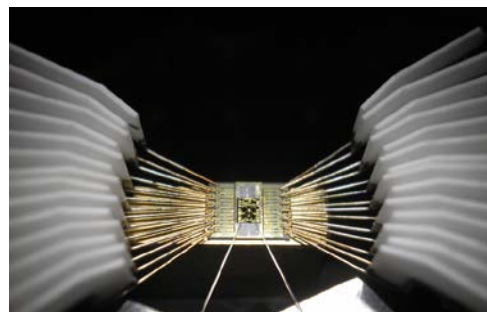
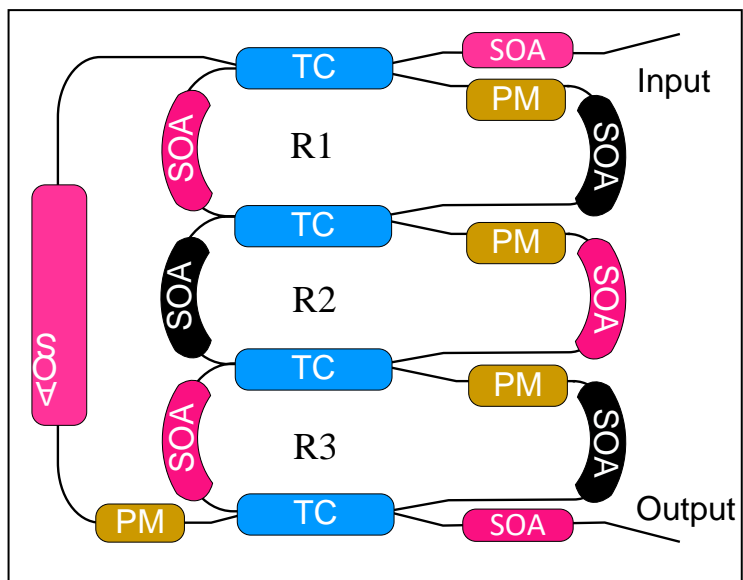




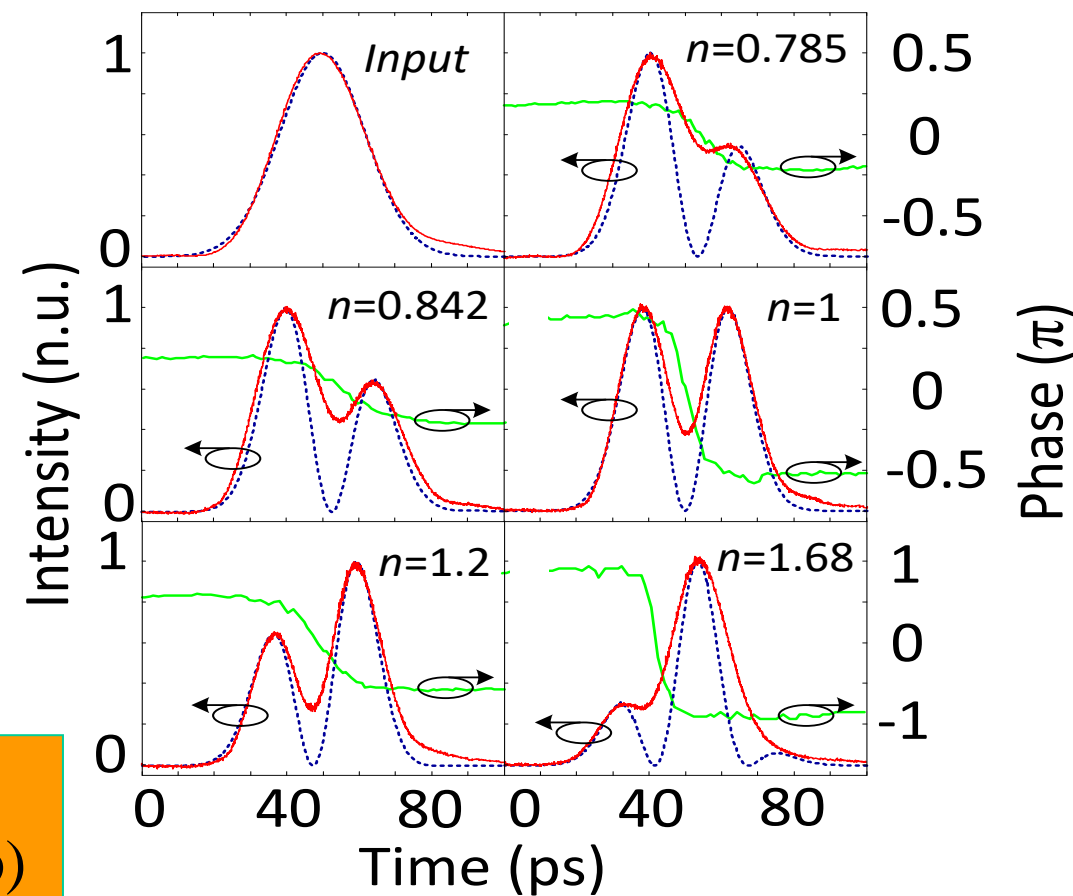
# A fully reconfigurable photonic integrated signal processor – Integrator and results



# A fully reconfigurable photonic integrated signal processor – Differentiator and results



Different coupling ratio →  
different depth (phase jump)  
→ different differentiation  
order

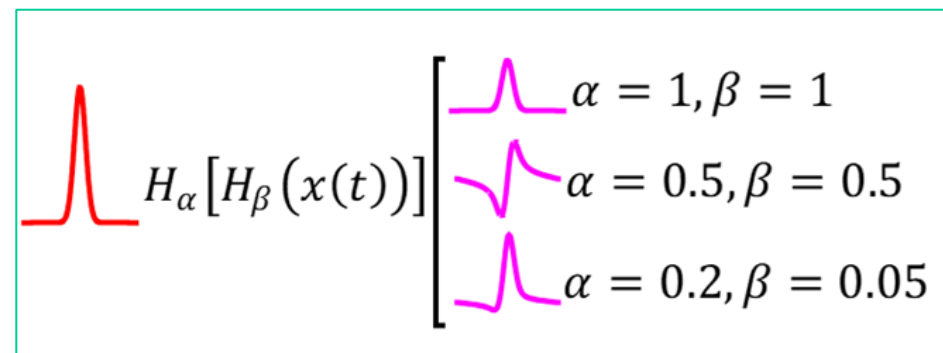
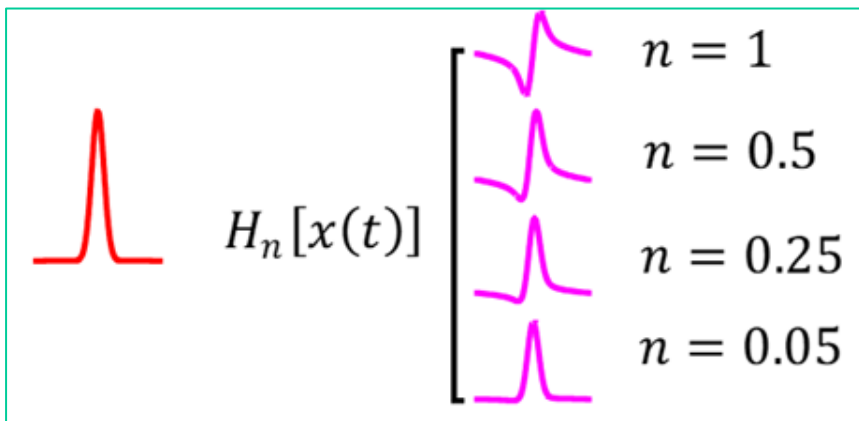
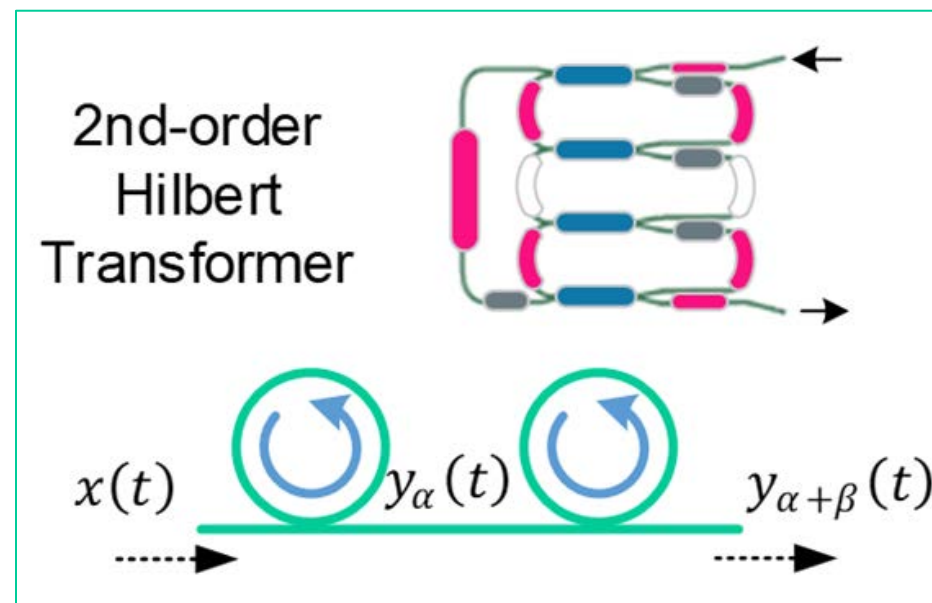
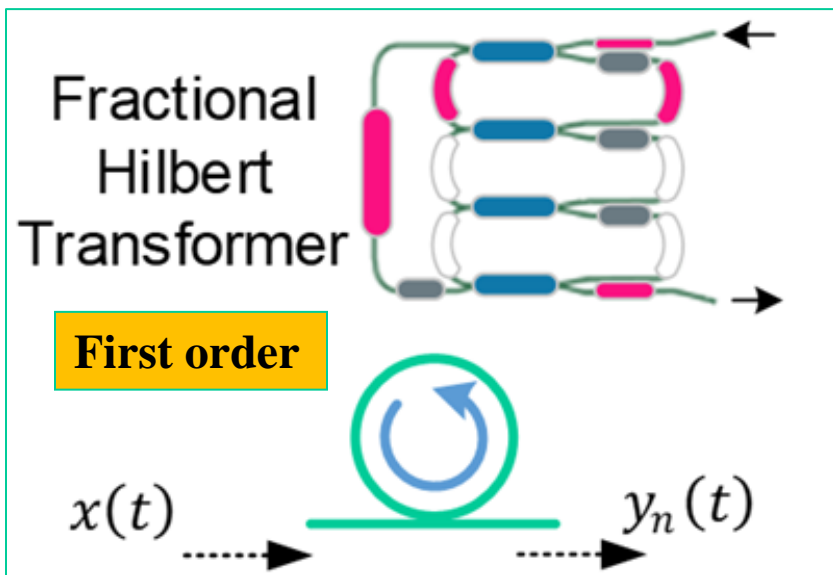
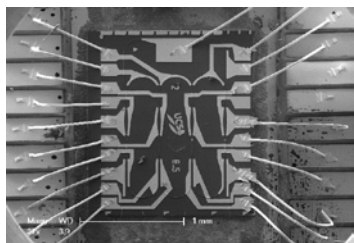


**Output with different  
differentiation order**

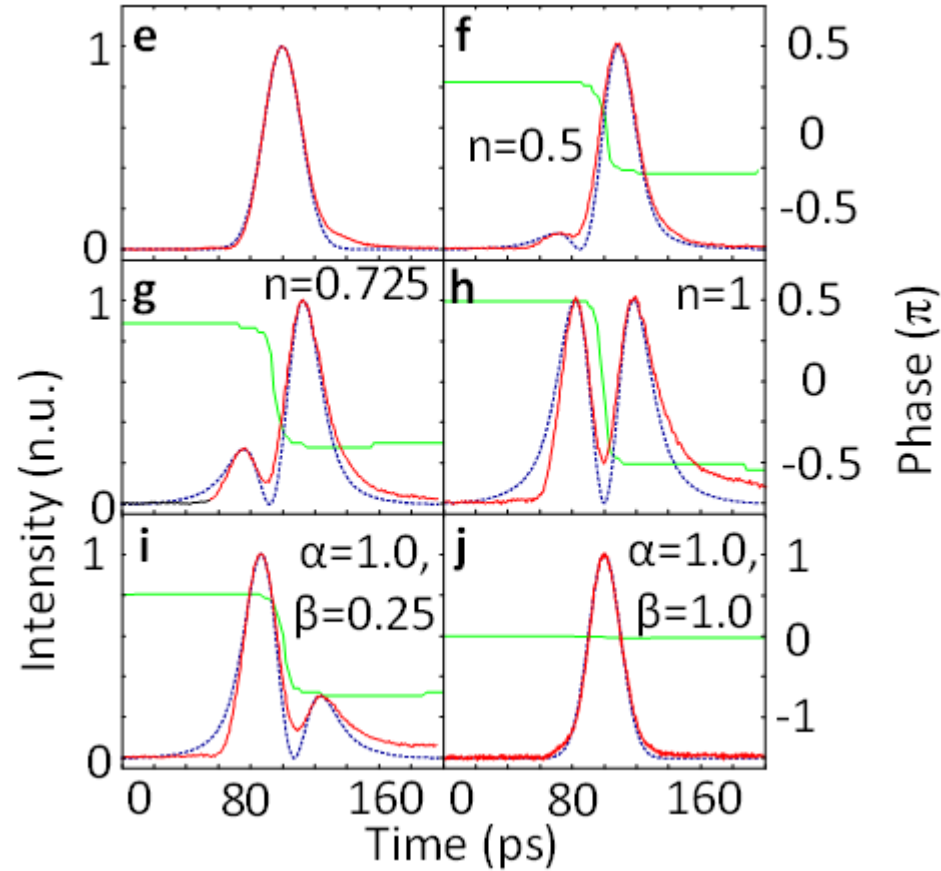
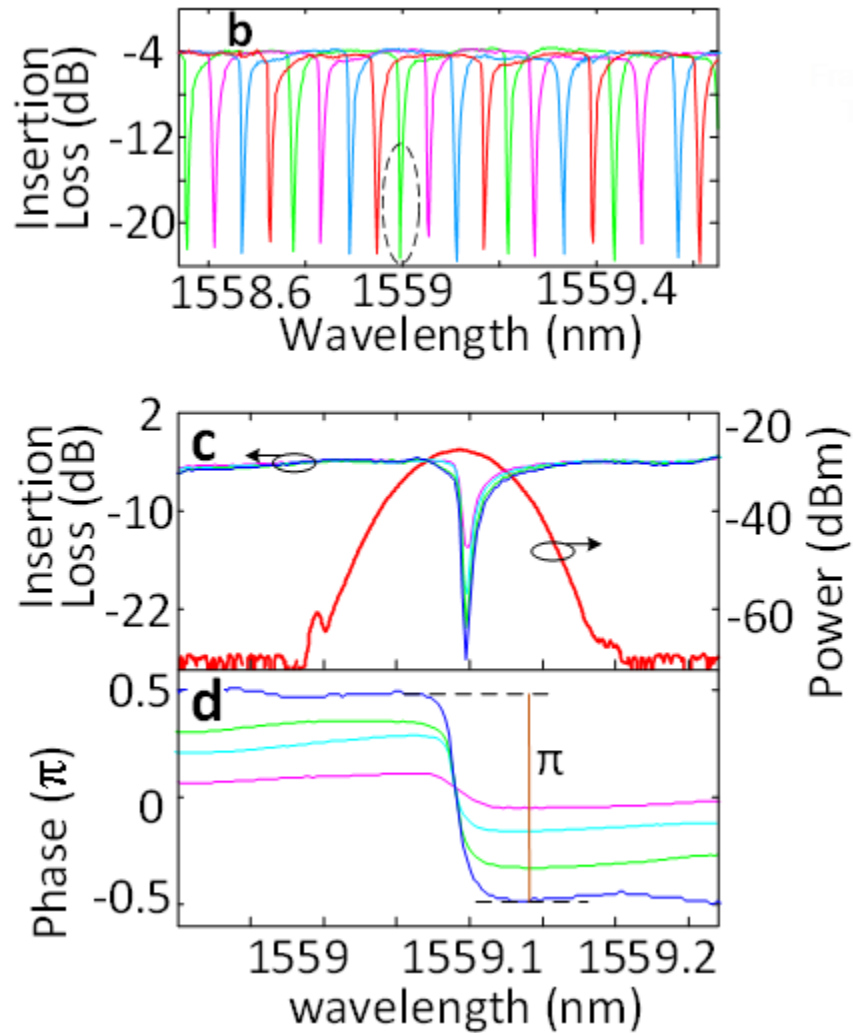
# A fully reconfigurable photonic integrated signal processor – Hilbert transformer



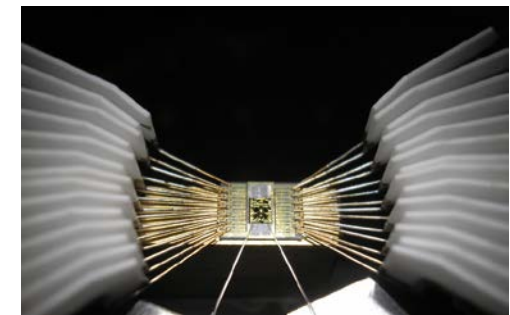
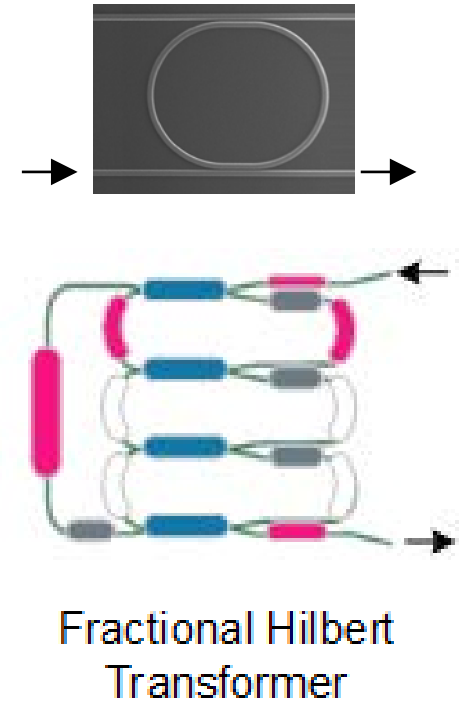
High Q micro-ring resonator 高Q值微环谐振腔



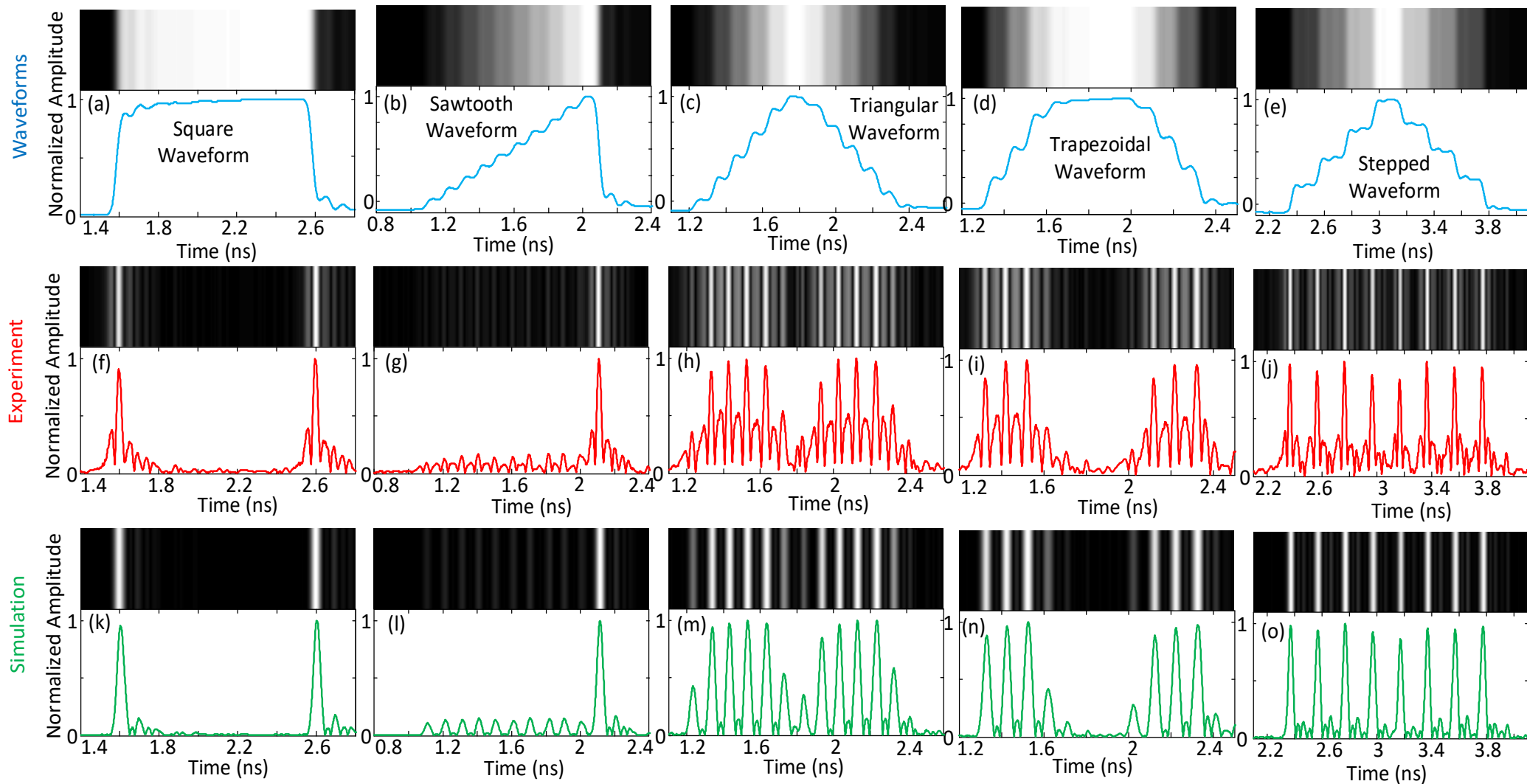
# A fully reconfigurable photonic integrated signal processor – Hilbert transformer



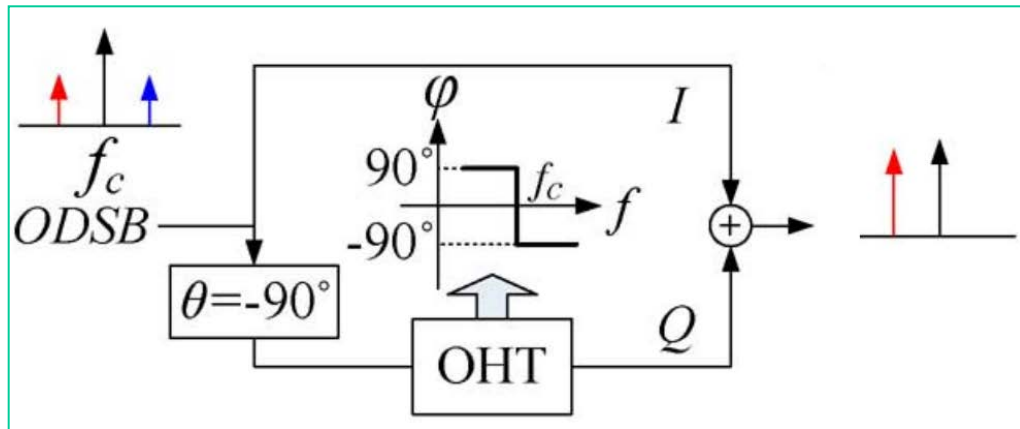
**Output with different Hilbert transform order**



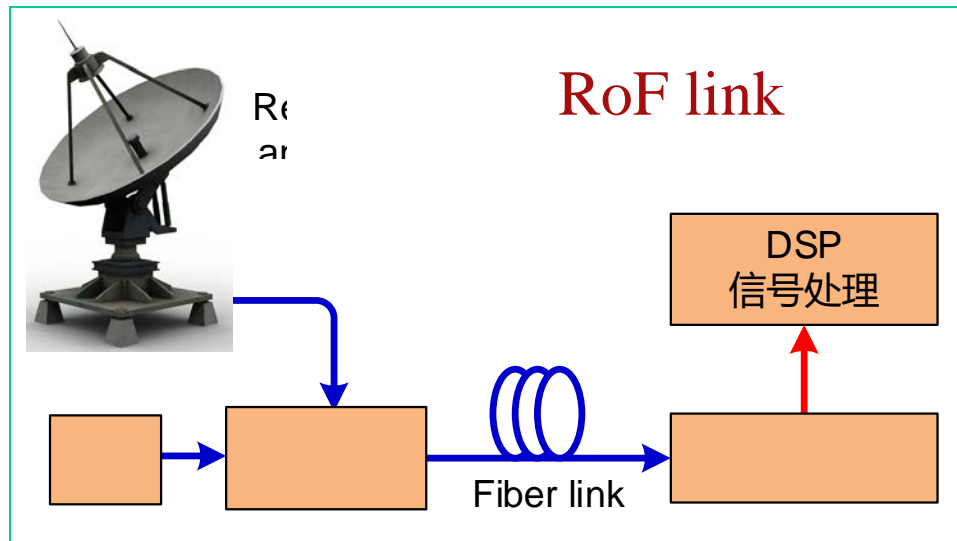
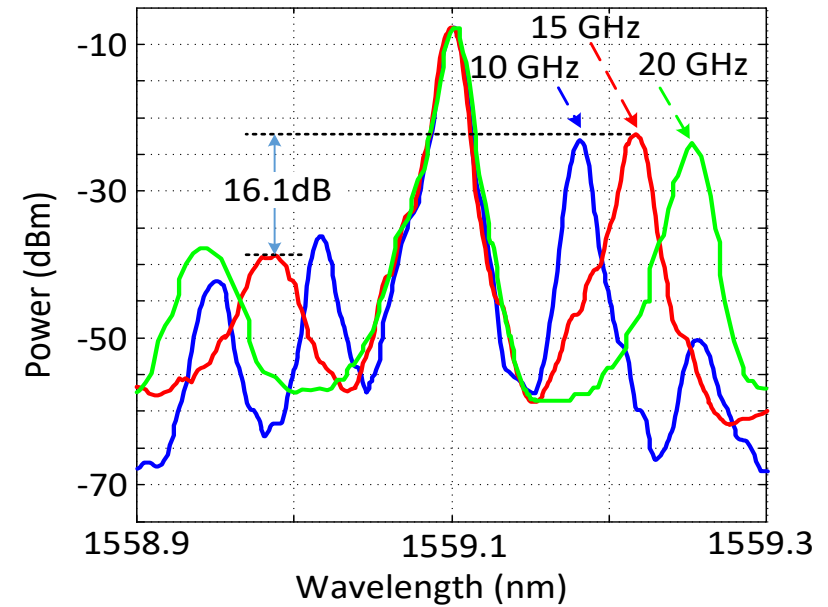
# A fully reconfigurable photonic integrated signal processor – Applications



# A fully reconfigurable photonic integrated signal processor – Applications

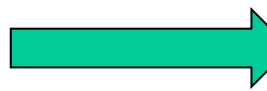


Single sideband (SSB) modulation based on Hilbert transform

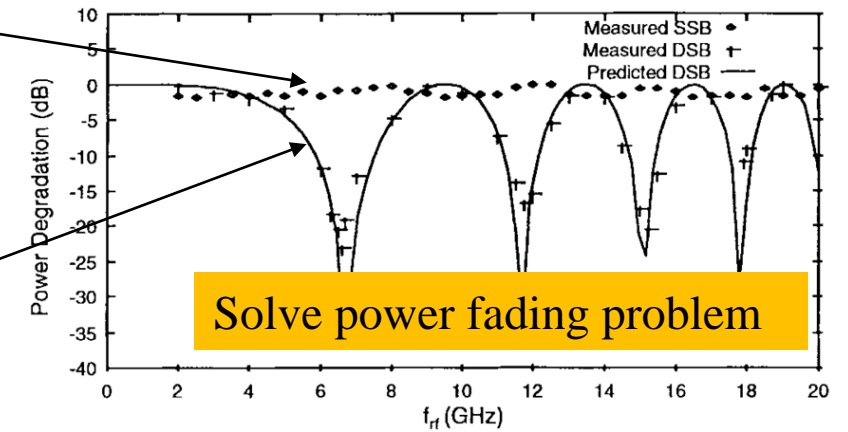


RoF link

SSB+C



DSB+C



# Integrated lithium niobate microwave photonic processing engine

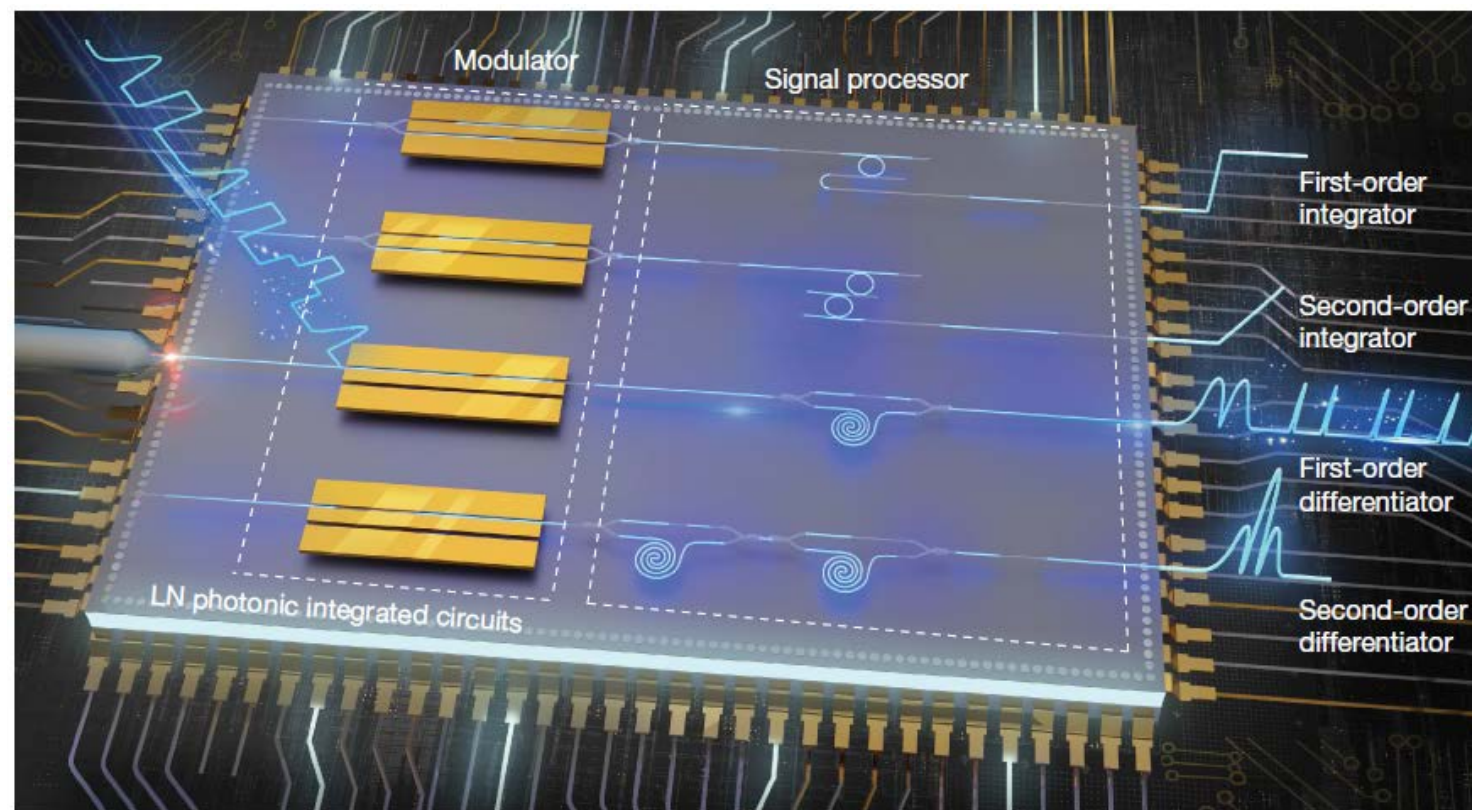
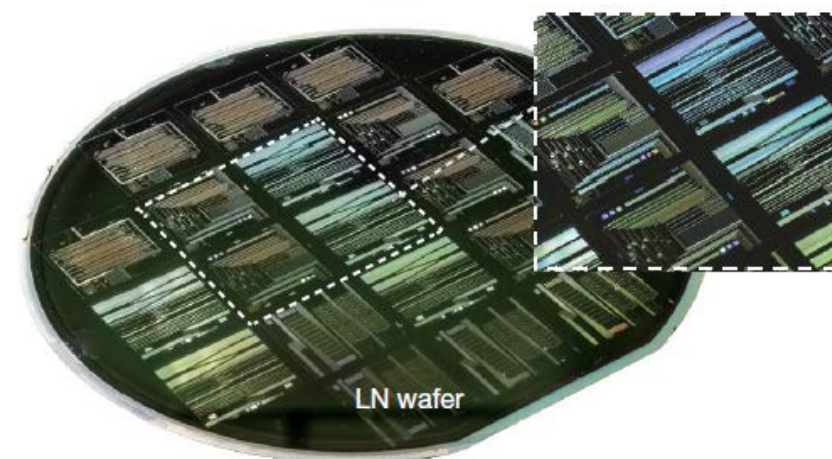
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-024-07078-9>

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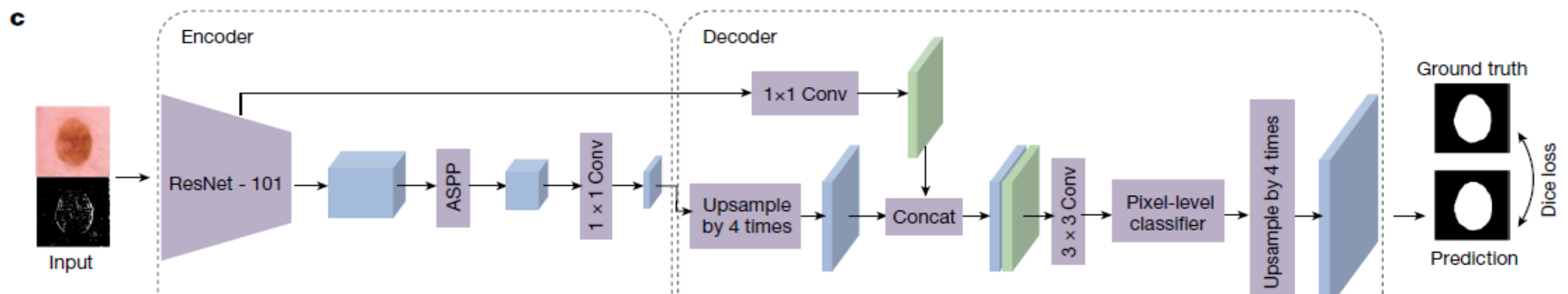
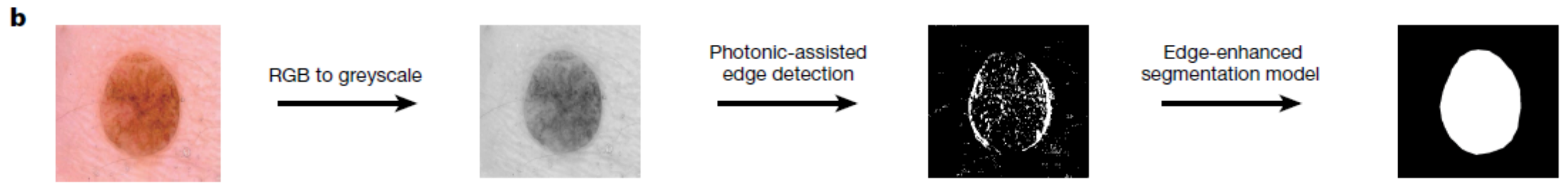
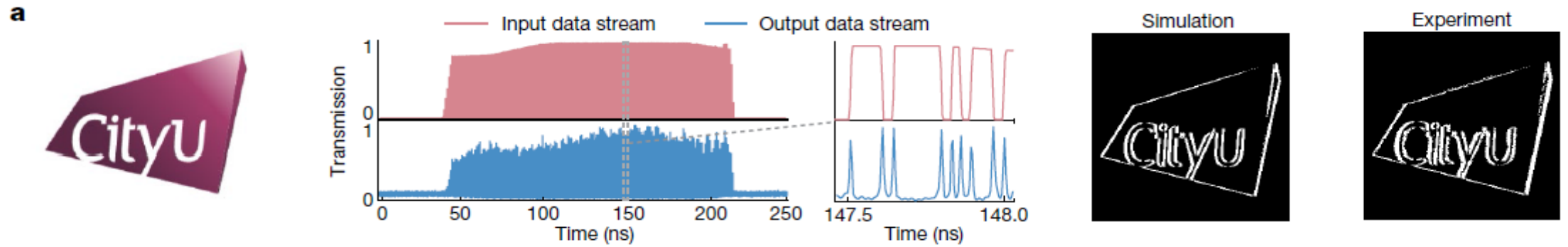
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Hanke Feng<sup>1,7</sup>, Tong Ge<sup>1,7</sup>, Xiaoqing Guo<sup>1,2</sup>, Benshan Wang<sup>3</sup>, Yiwen Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Zhaoxi Chen<sup>1</sup>, Sha Zhu<sup>1,4</sup>, Ke Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Wenzhao Sun<sup>1,5,6</sup>, Chaoran Huang<sup>3</sup>, Yixuan Yuan<sup>1,3</sup> & Cheng Wang<sup>1</sup>✉



# High-speed photonic-assisted medical image segmentation



Deep convolution neural network (DCNN)-based image segmentation model

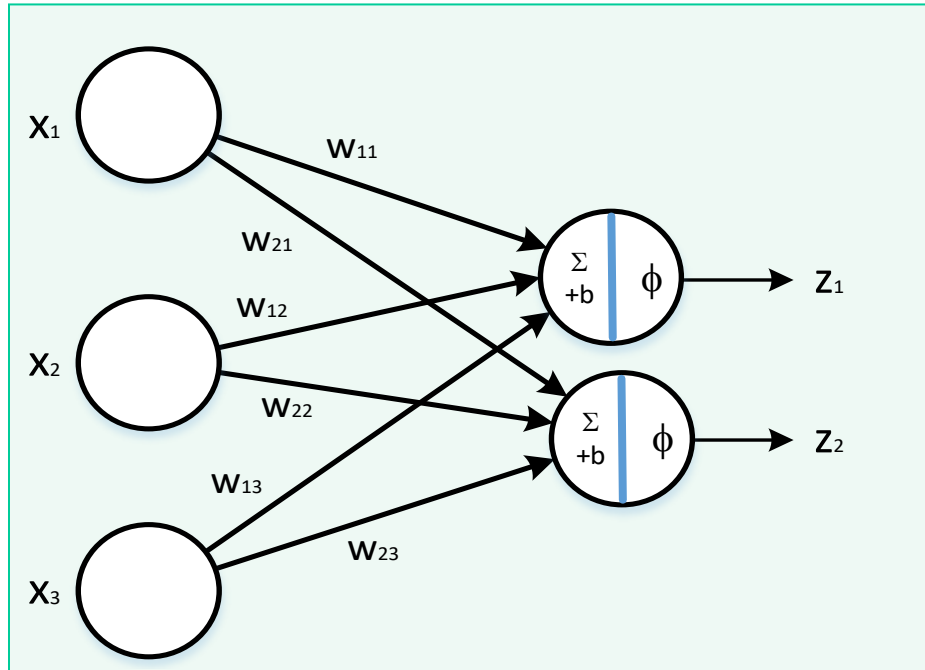


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# Artificial Intelligence – Neural Networks



Single layer NN

$$z_1 = \phi(x_1 w_{11} + x_2 w_{12} + x_3 w_{13} + b)$$

$$z_2 = \phi(x_1 w_{21} + x_2 w_{22} + x_3 w_{23} + b)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \end{bmatrix} = \phi \begin{bmatrix} w_{11} & w_{12} & w_{13} \\ w_{21} & w_{22} & w_{23} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix} + \phi \begin{bmatrix} b \\ b \end{bmatrix}$$

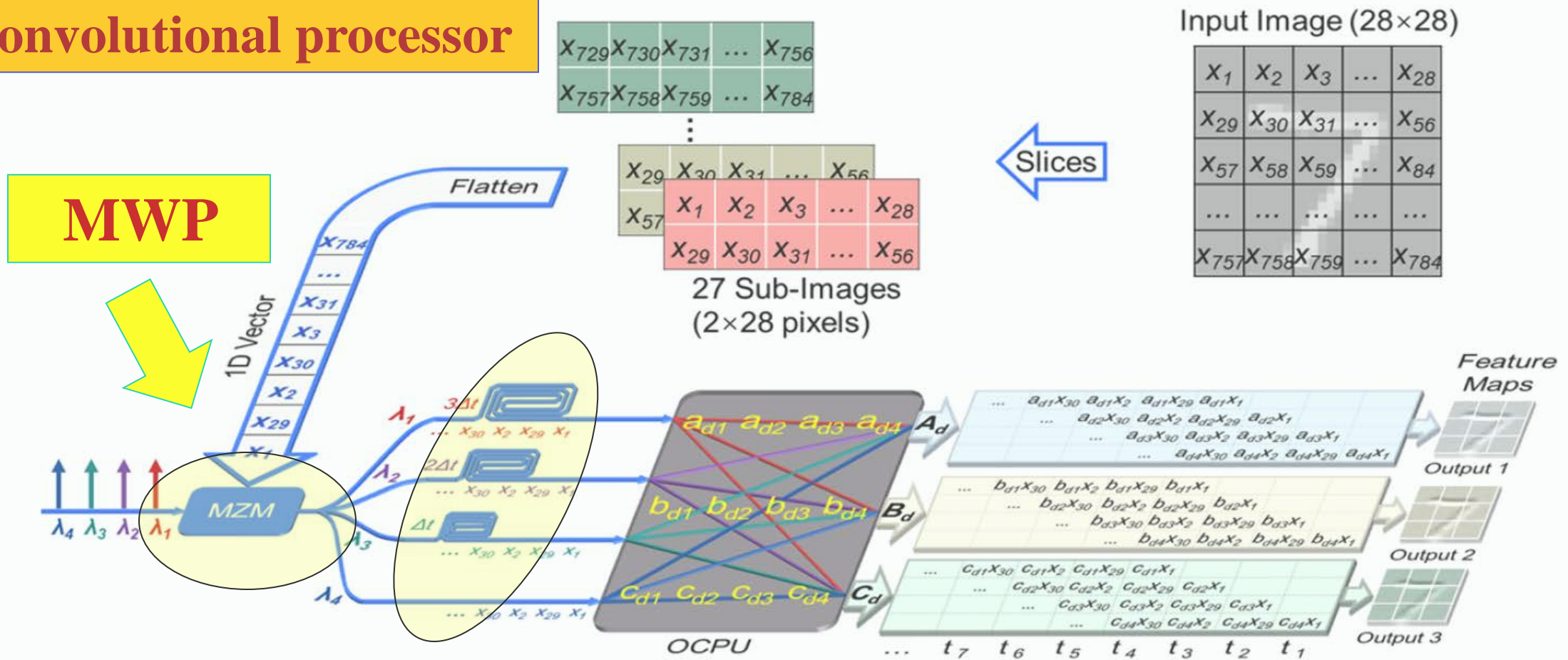
ANNs involve heavy calculations, especially matrix operations (**Multiply–Accumulate (MAC) operations**) – we may use optical processors (pass and done).

Advantages of optical processing:

- **High speed** (pass and done)
- **Parallel**

# MWP and AI 微波光子学与人工智能的关系

## Convolutional processor



**MWP: microwave modulation, true time delay, etc**

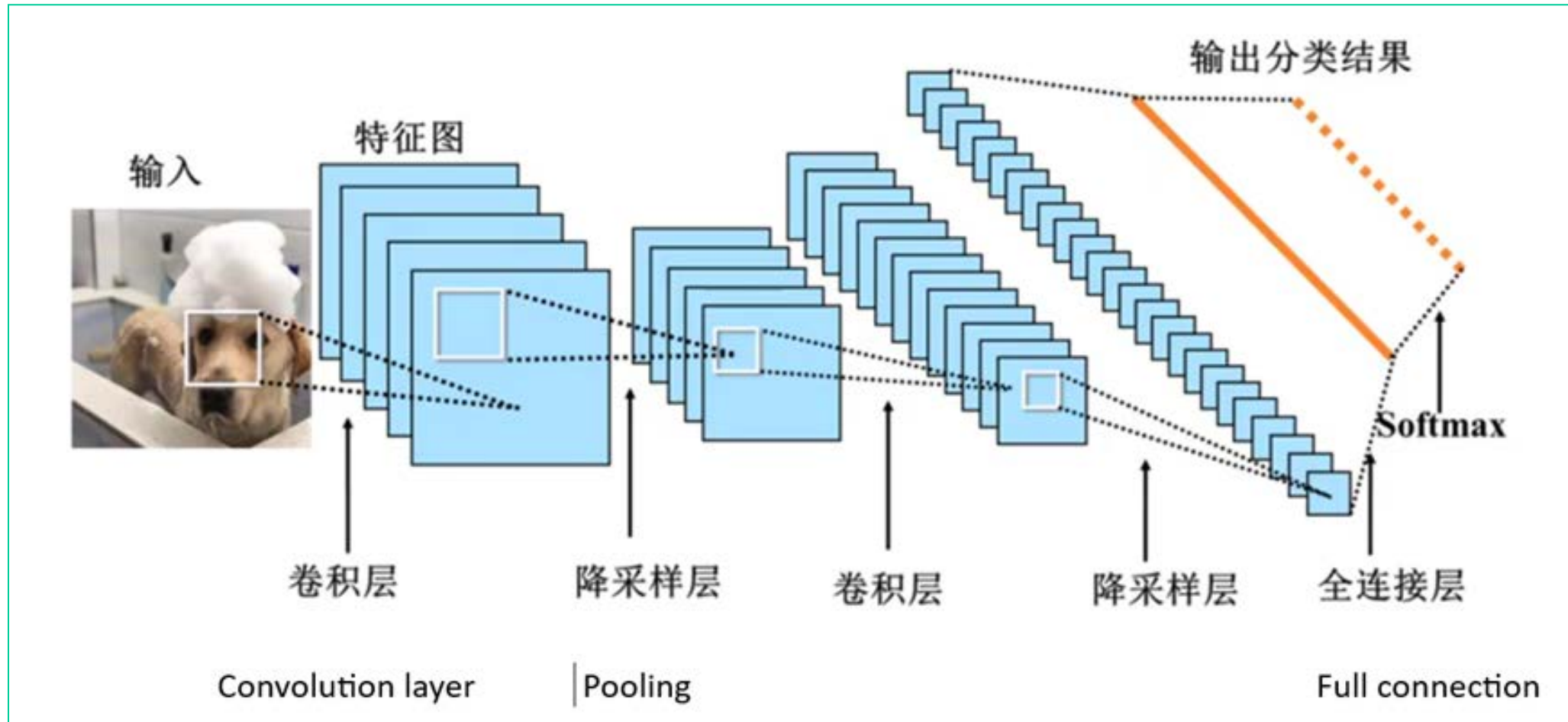
Meng, X., Zhang, G., Shi, N. *et al.*  
*Nat Commun* **14**, 3000 (2023)

# Outline

---

- What is MWP
- MWP and Optical Computing
- MWP and AI
- Convolutional Neural Network
  - Fiber-optic implementation
  - Photonic integrated implementation
- Optical Reservoir Computing
  - Fiber optic implementation
  - Photonic integrated implementation
- Conclusion

# MWP and AI – Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)



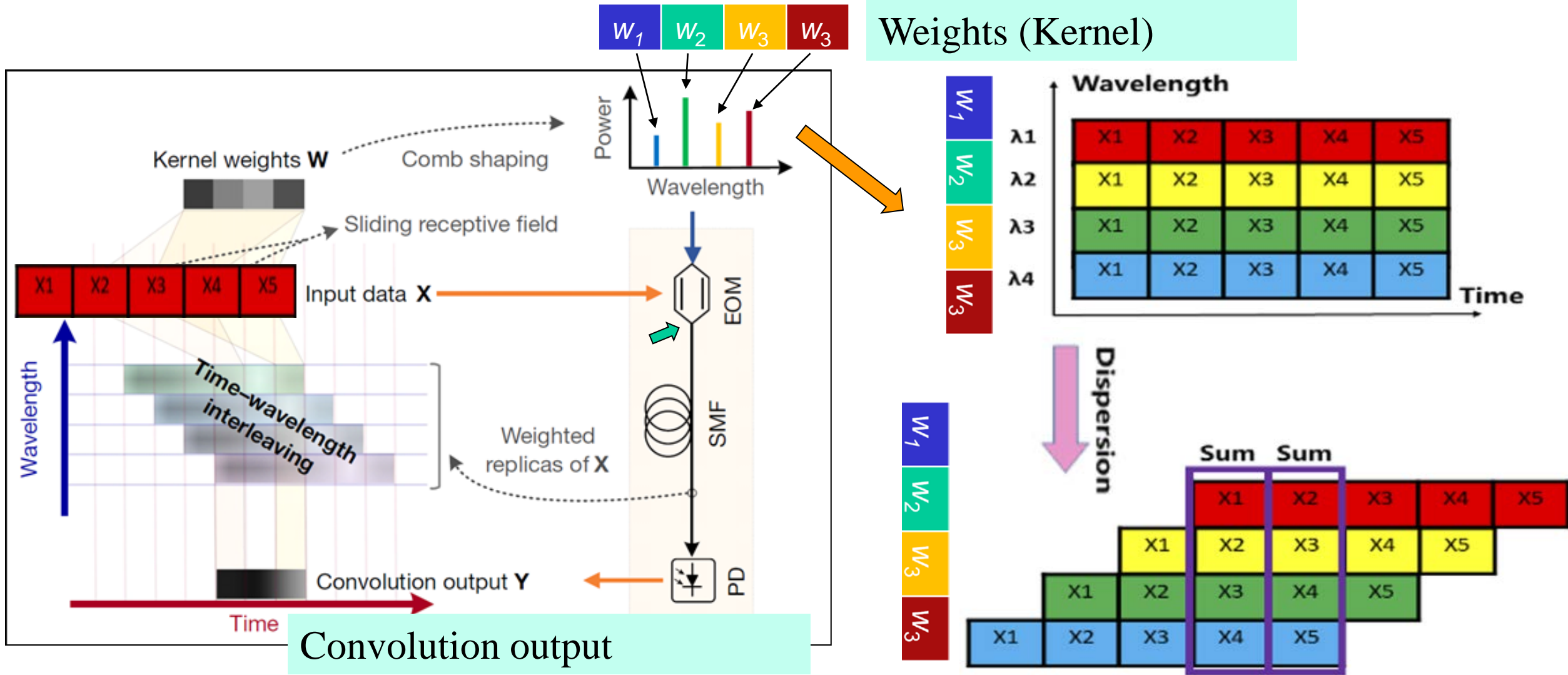
CNN: three functions **convolution**, **pooling (down-sampling)** and **activation (nonlinearity)**.

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---

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- Conclusion

# Photonic convolutional accelerator – fiber optics based



Xu, X., Tan, M., Corcoran, B. *et al.* 11 TOPS photonic convolutional accelerator for optical neural networks. *Nature* 589, 44–51 (2021)

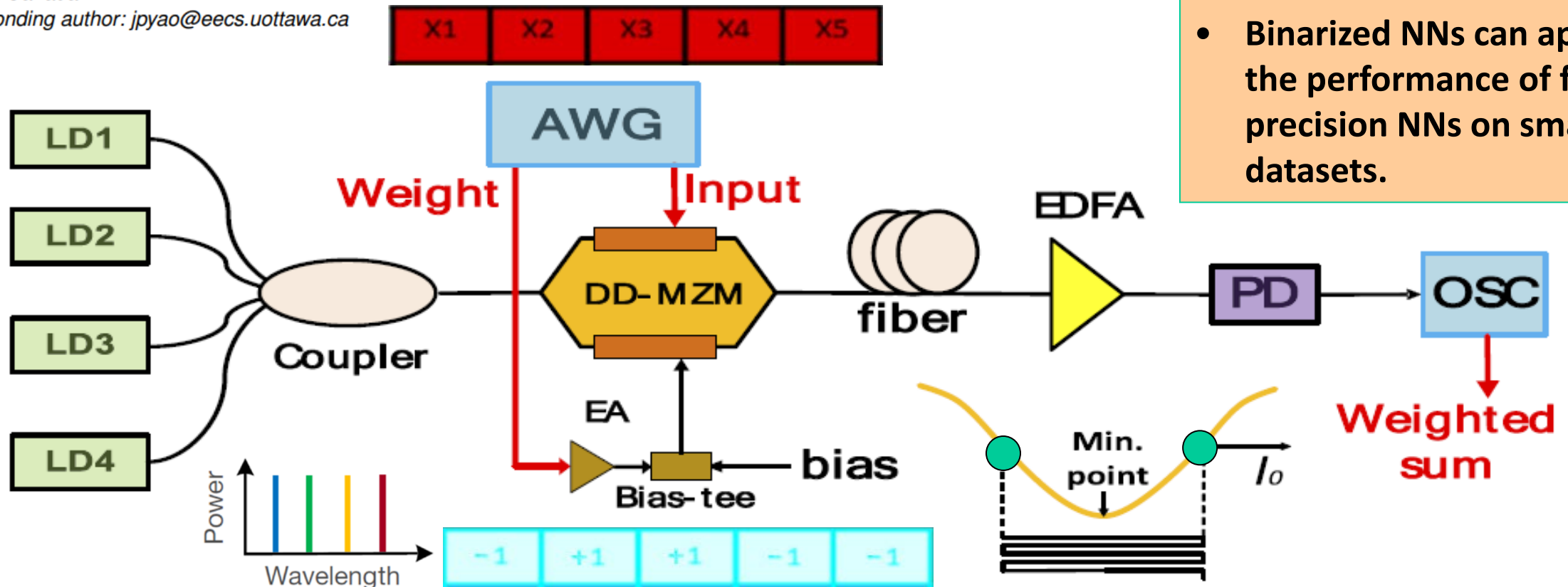
# Optics Letters

## Optical processor for a binarized neural network

LONG HUANG AND JIANPING YAO\* 

Microwave Photonics Research Laboratory, School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6N5, Canada

\*Corresponding author: [jpyao@eecs.uottawa.ca](mailto:jpyao@eecs.uottawa.ca)



- Binary weights are introduced to simplify the implementation of NNs.
- Binarized NNs can approach the performance of full-precision NNs on small datasets.



# MWP-assisted binarized neural network

Accumulate (addition) using fiber (dispersion) and PD

Multiply using MZM

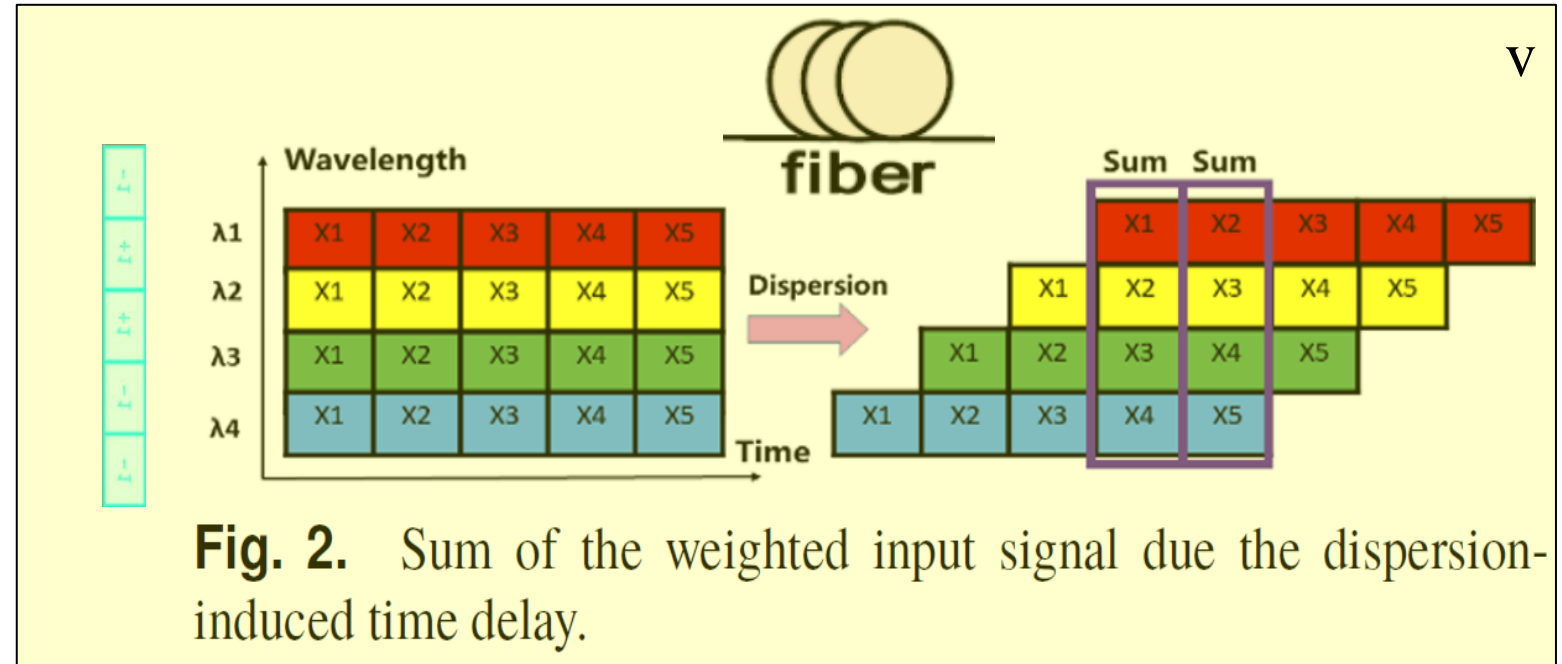
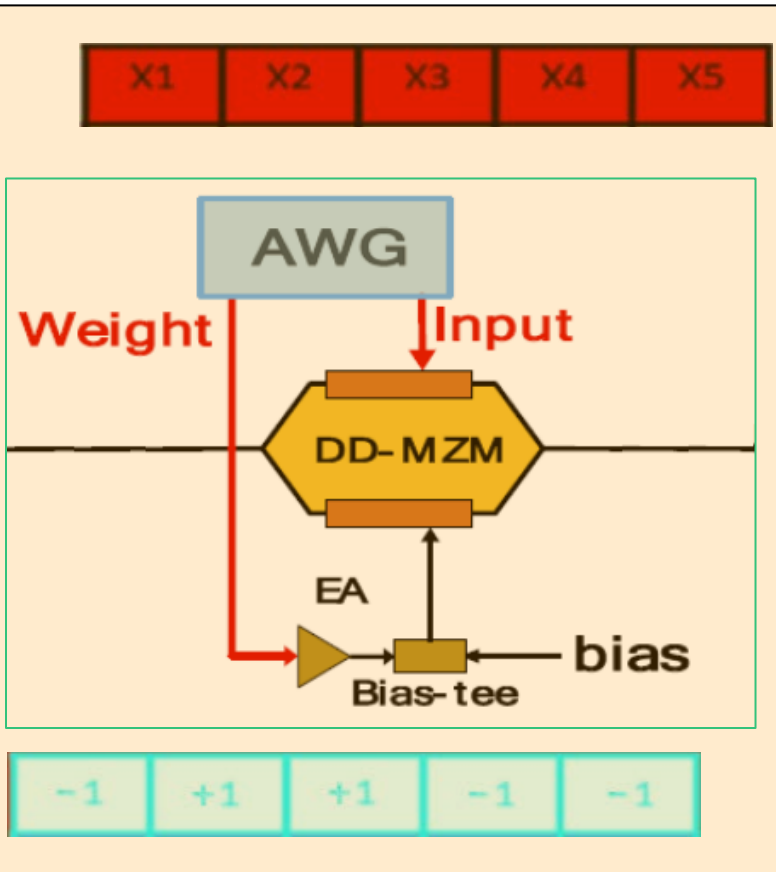
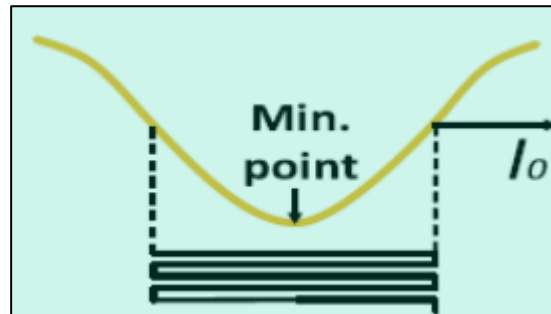


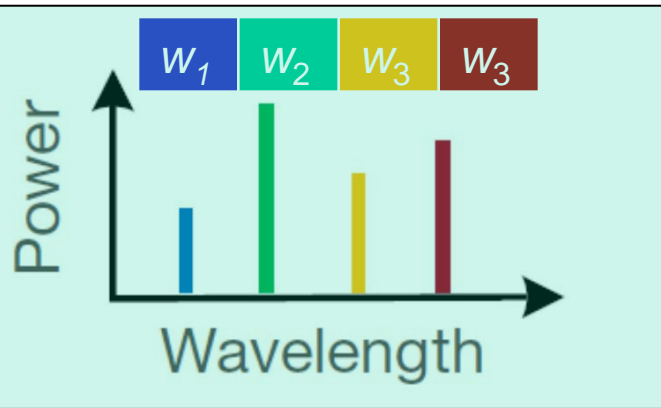
Fig. 2. Sum of the weighted input signal due the dispersion-induced time delay.



Weights control via bias switch – widely used by MWP

# MWP-assisted neural network with real-valued weights

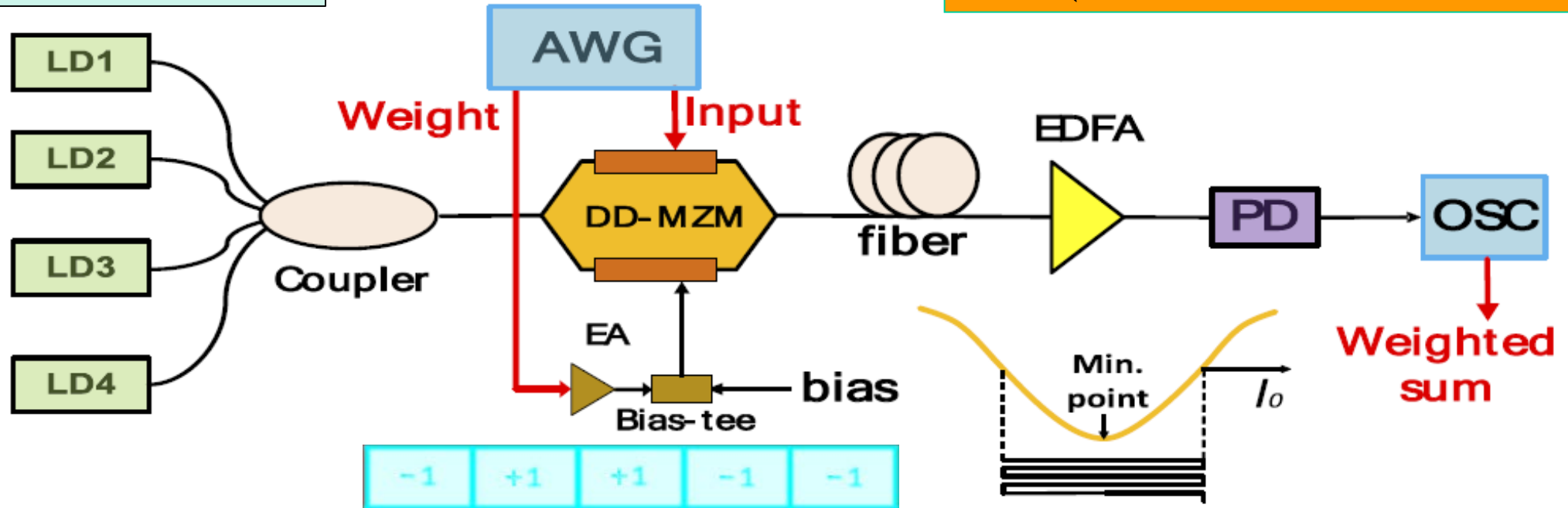
**Real-valued weights**



Weights (Kernel)



$$z_1 = (x_1 w_1 + x_2 w_2 + x_3 w_3 + x_4 w_4)$$



# Outline


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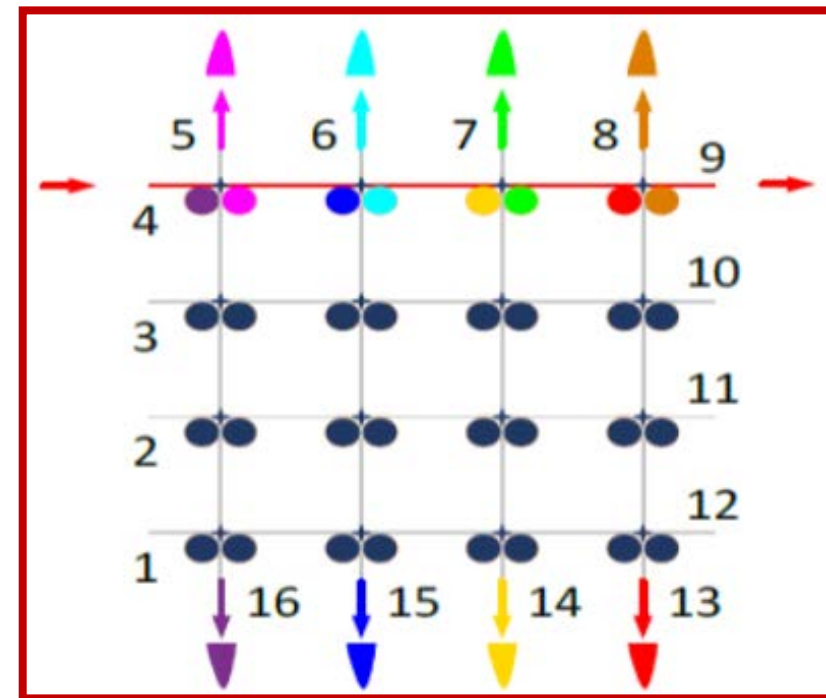
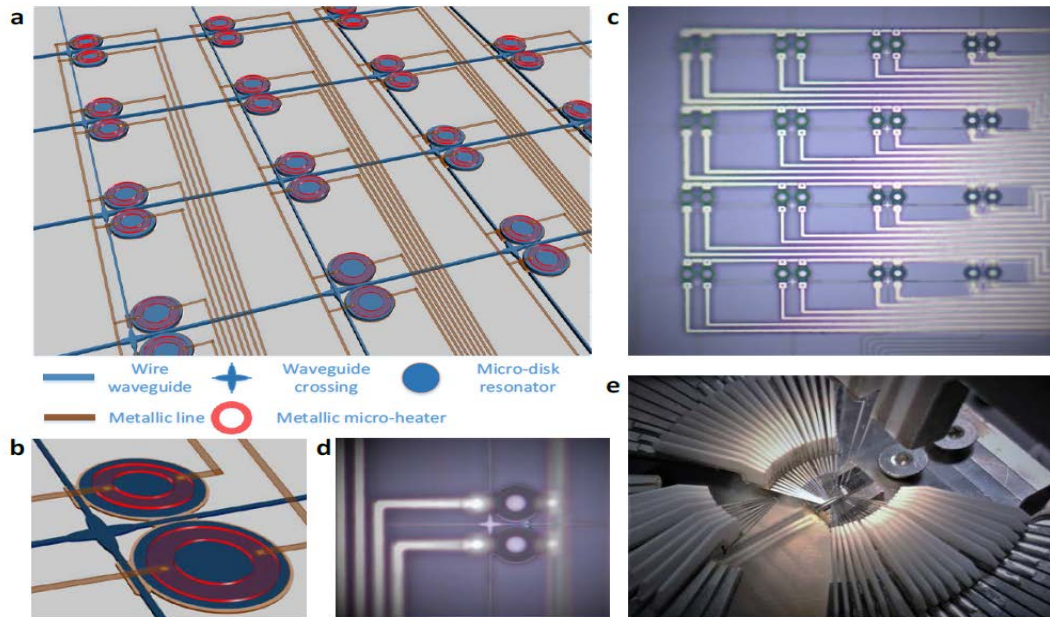
- What is MWP
- MWP and Optical Computing
- MWP and AI
- Convolutional Neural Network
  - Fiber-optic implementation
  - **Photonic integrated implementation**
- Optical Reservoir Computing
  - Fiber optic implementation
  - Photonic integrated implementation
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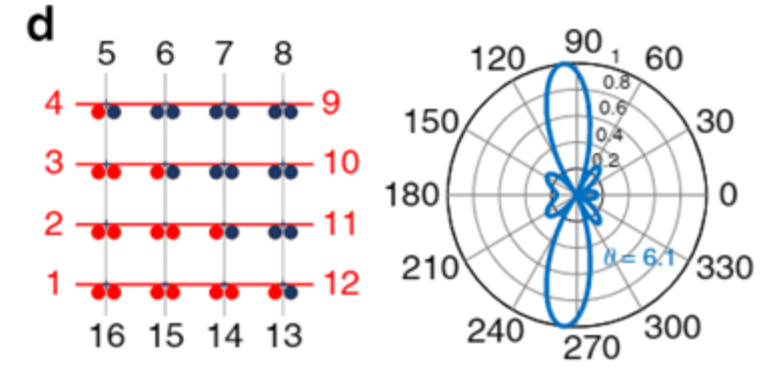
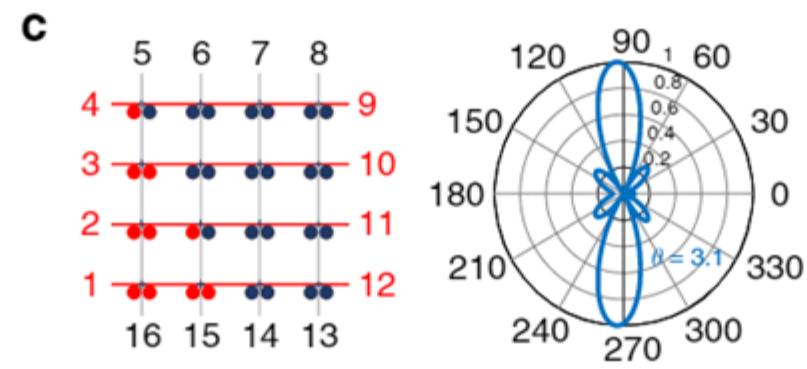
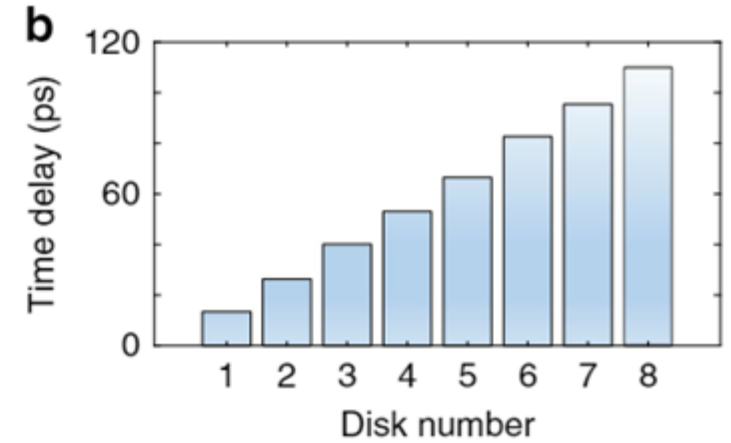
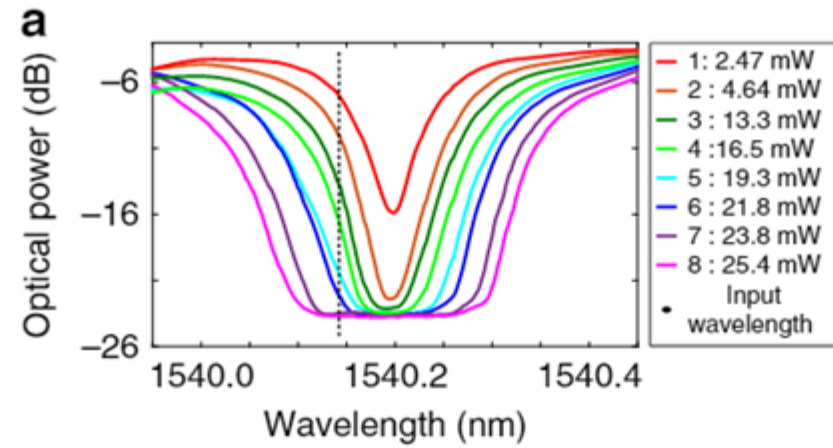
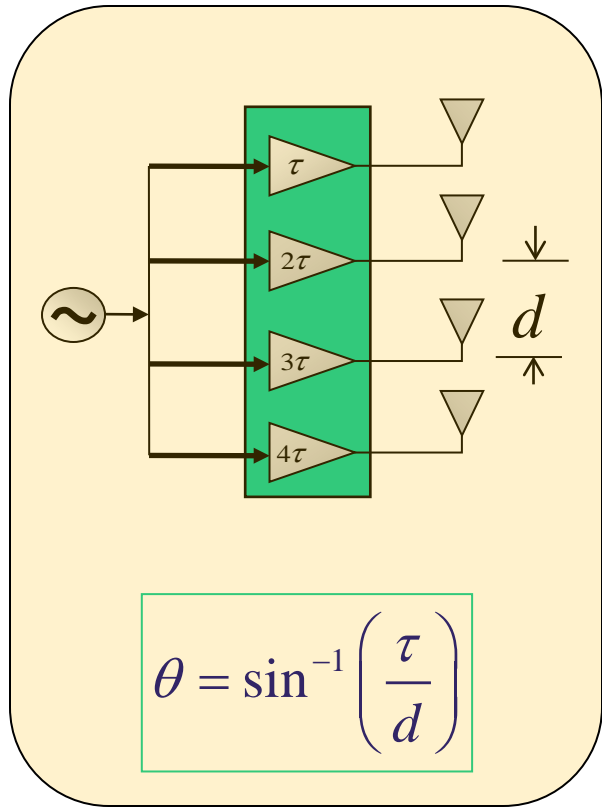
# Photonic integrated field-programmable disk array signal processor

Similar to an electronic  
FPGA

Weifeng Zhang<sup>1</sup> & Jianping Yao <sup>1\*</sup>

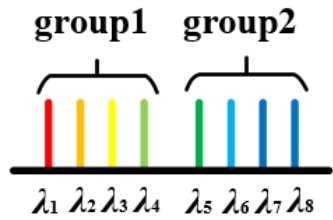
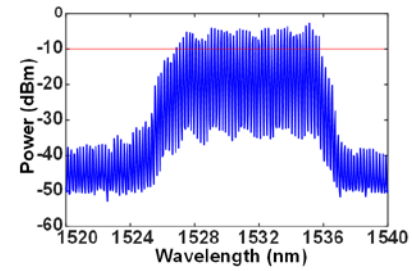


# Photonic integrated field-programmable disk array signal processor

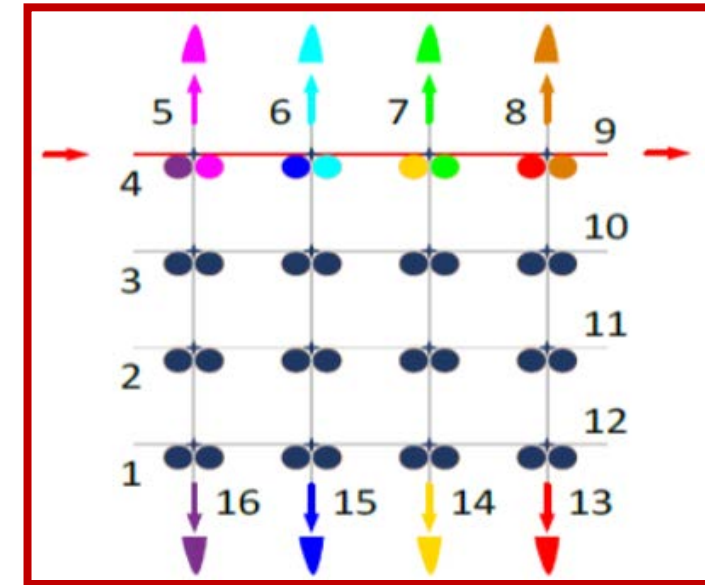
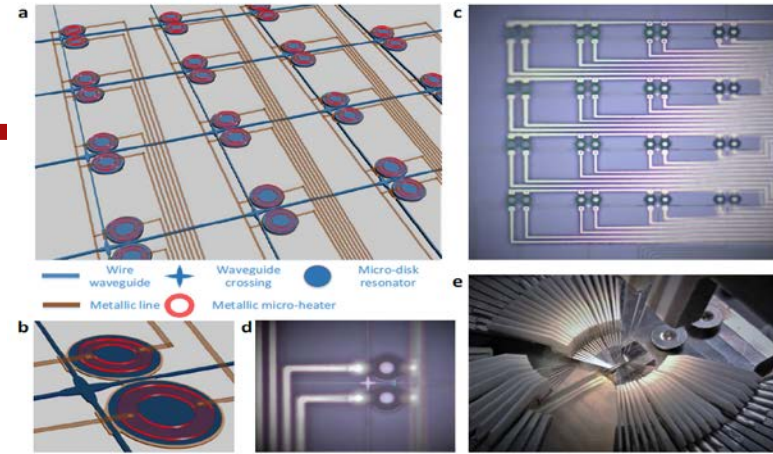
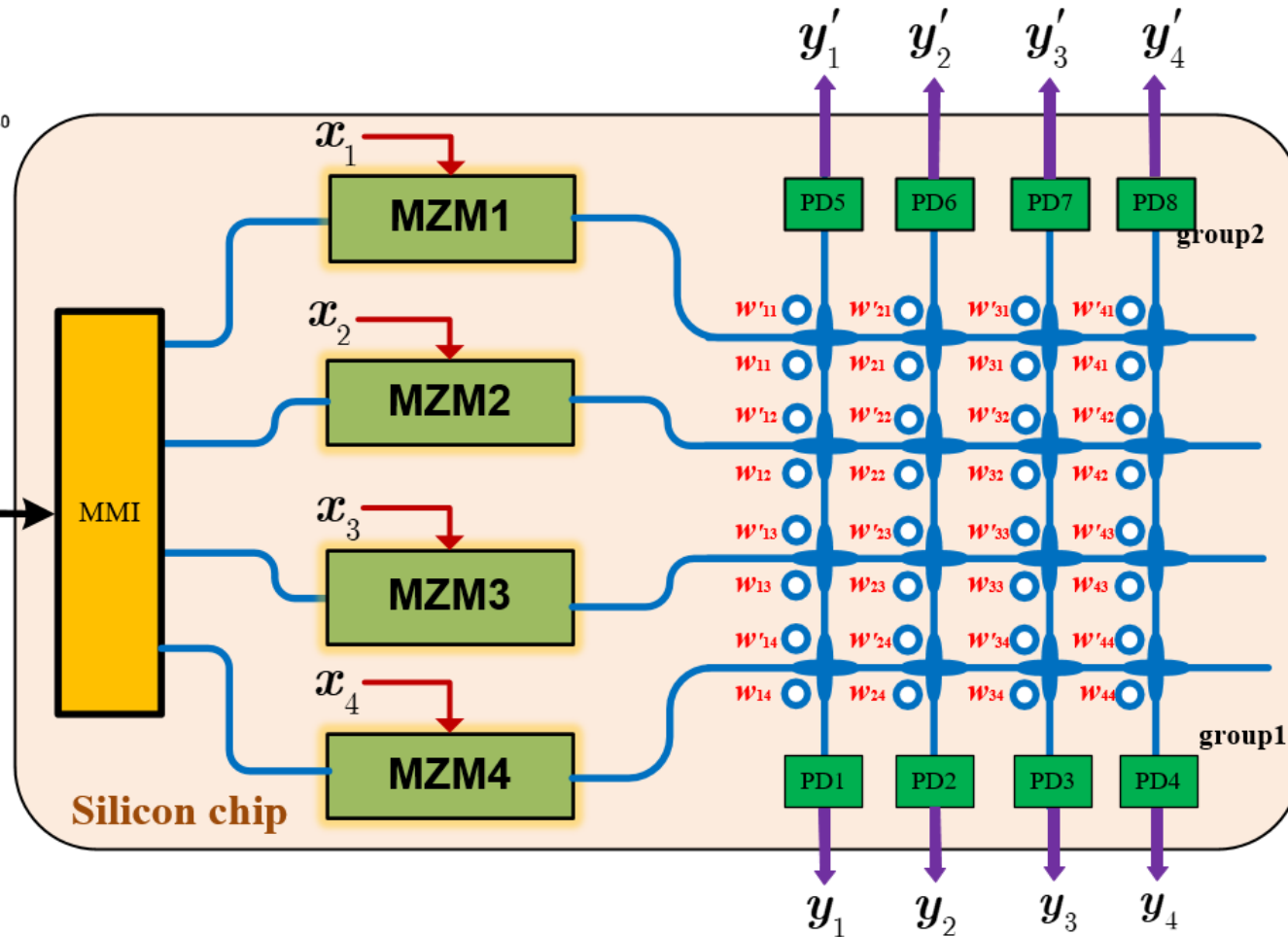


**Fig. 4 Experimental results with photonic FPDA signal processor operating as optical beamforming network.** **a** Measured transmission spectrum of the channel from port 4 to port 9 when the voltages are controlled to make resonance wavelength of each MDR aligned progressively. **b** Measured time delays with the number of the aligned MDRs increasing progressively. **c** Calculated array factors of a four-element linear PAA when the channel time delay is 13.5 ps. **d** Calculated array factors of a four-element linear PAA when the channel time delay is 26.4 ps.

# CNN based on a MRR crossbar array

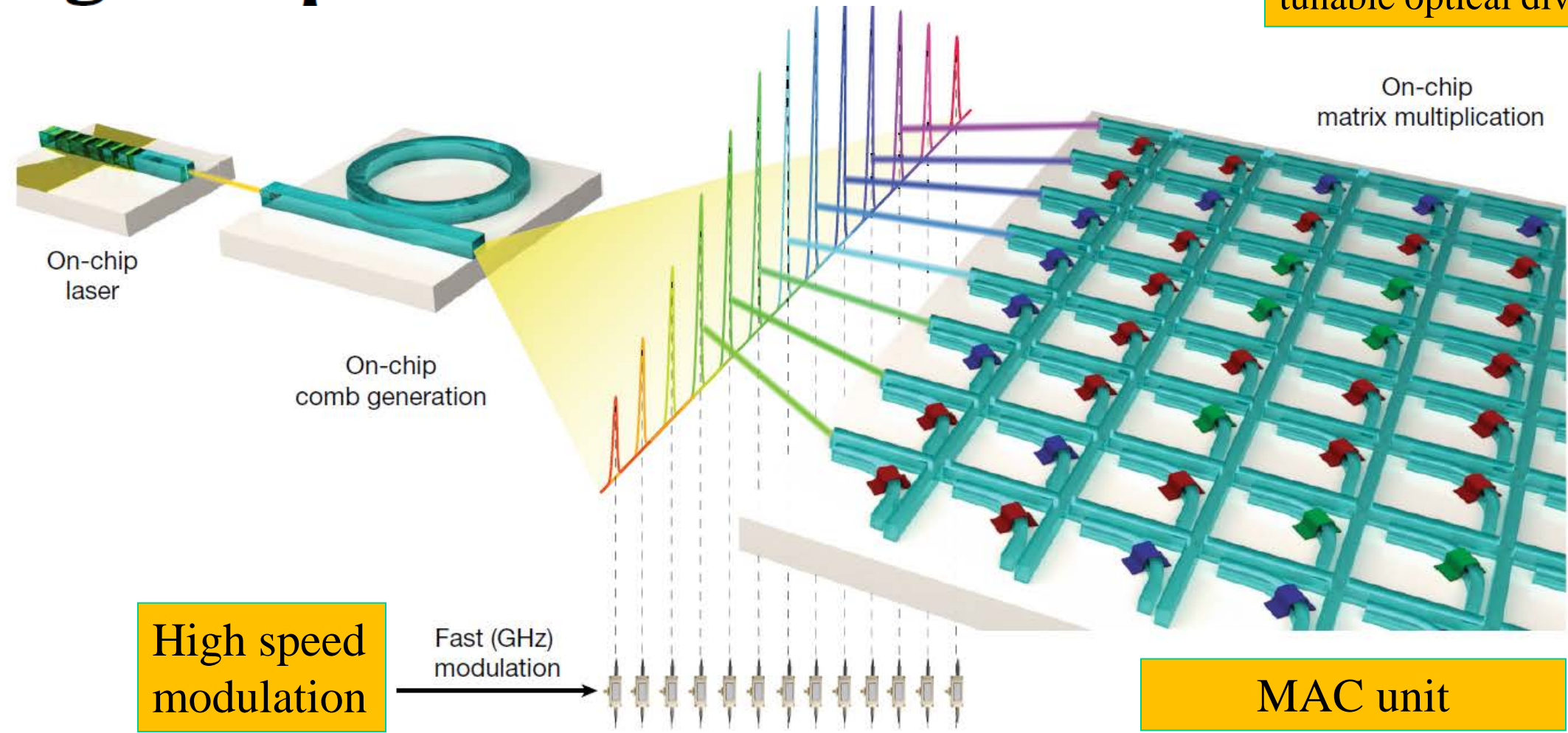


QD-MLL



# Parallel convolutional processing using an integrated photonic tensor core

Phase Change Material (PCM) tunable optical divider



High speed modulation

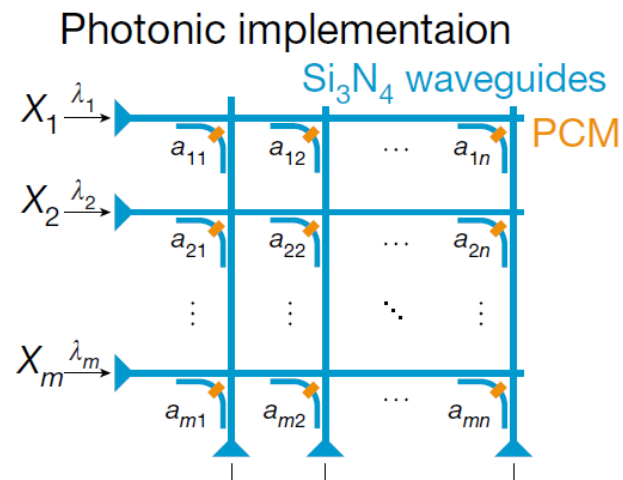
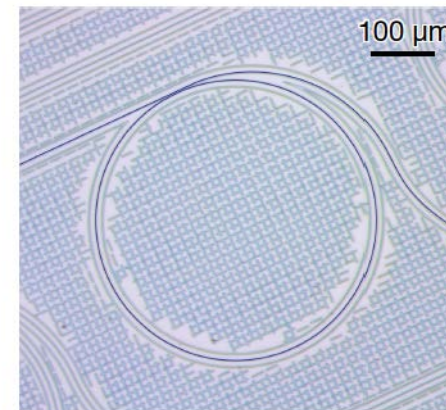
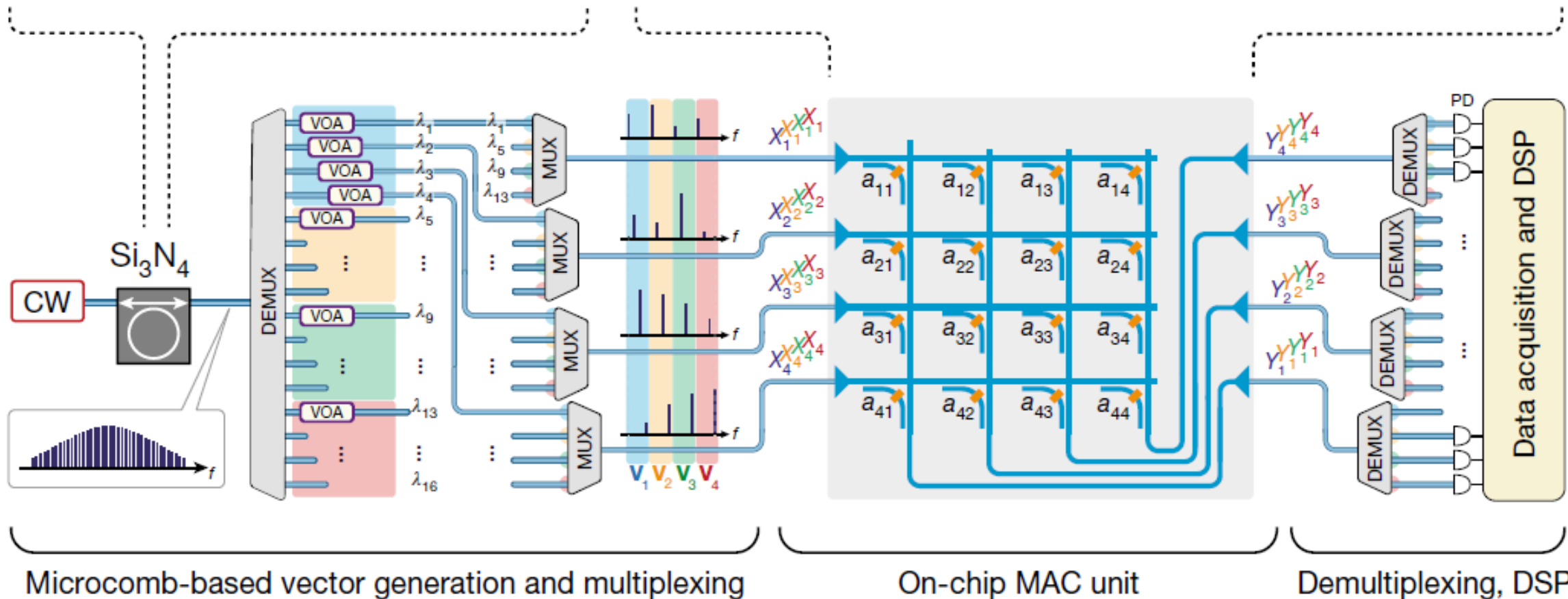
MAC unit

**a**

Kernel matrix      Input      Output

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} & \dots & a_{1n} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} & \dots & a_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m1} & a_{m2} & \dots & a_{mn} \end{pmatrix}^T \times \begin{pmatrix} X_1 \\ X_2 \\ \vdots \\ X_m \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} Y_1 \\ Y_2 \\ \vdots \\ Y_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Kernel 1      Kernel  $n$

**b****d**










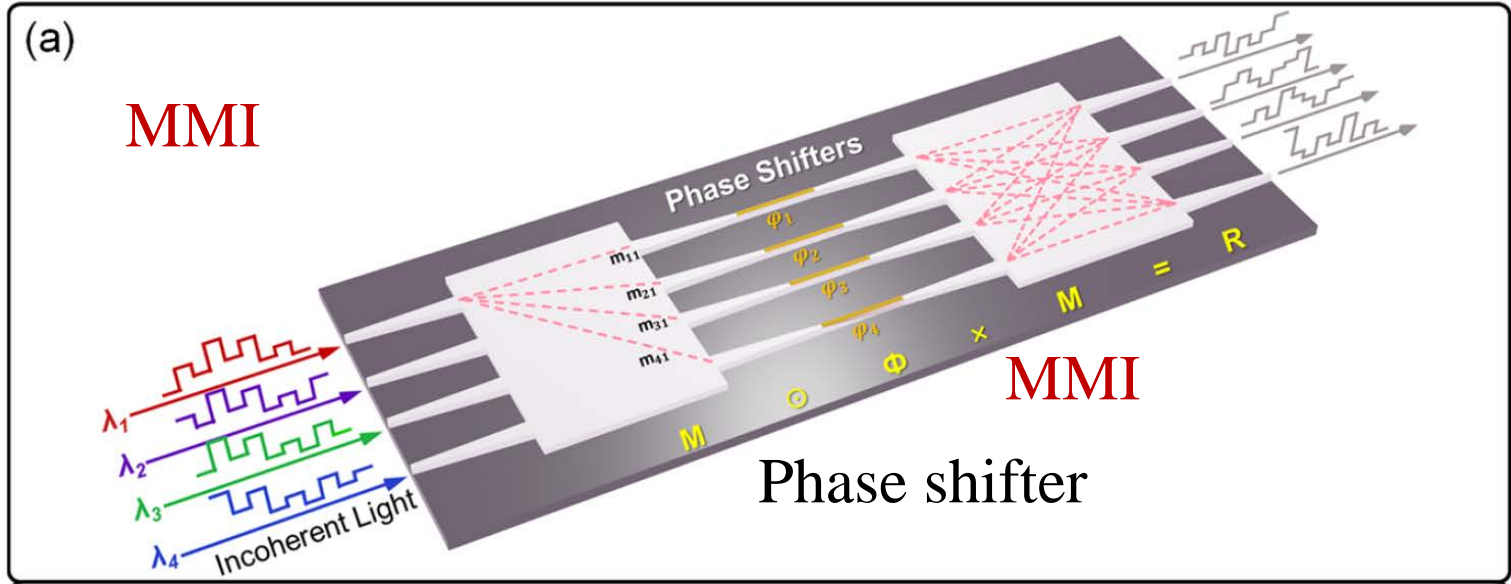
# Compact optical convolution processing unit based on multimode interference

Received: 18 October 2022

Accepted: 12 May 2023

Published online: 24 May 2023

Xiangyan Meng <sup>1,2,3,9</sup>, Guojie Zhang<sup>1,2,3,9</sup>, Nuannuan Shi  <sup>1,2,3</sup>, Guangyi Li<sup>1,2,3</sup>, José Azaña <sup>4</sup>, José Capmany <sup>5</sup>, Jianping Yao<sup>6,7</sup>, Yichen Shen<sup>8</sup>, Wei Li<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Ninghua Zhu<sup>1,2,3</sup> & Ming Li <sup>1,2,3</sup> 



$$M = \begin{bmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} & m_{13} & m_{14} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} & m_{23} & m_{24} \\ m_{31} & m_{32} & m_{33} & m_{34} \\ m_{41} & m_{42} & m_{43} & m_{44} \end{bmatrix}, \Phi = \begin{bmatrix} e^{j\phi_1} & e^{j\phi_1} & e^{j\phi_1} & e^{j\phi_1} \\ e^{j\phi_2} & e^{j\phi_2} & e^{j\phi_2} & e^{j\phi_2} \\ e^{j\phi_3} & e^{j\phi_3} & e^{j\phi_3} & e^{j\phi_3} \\ e^{j\phi_4} & e^{j\phi_4} & e^{j\phi_4} & e^{j\phi_4} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (1)$$

$$R = (M \times (\Phi \odot M)) \odot (M \times (\Phi \odot M)) = \begin{bmatrix} |r_{11}|^2 & |r_{12}|^2 & |r_{13}|^2 & |r_{14}|^2 \\ |r_{21}|^2 & |r_{22}|^2 & |r_{23}|^2 & |r_{24}|^2 \\ |r_{31}|^2 & |r_{32}|^2 & |r_{33}|^2 & |r_{34}|^2 \\ |r_{41}|^2 & |r_{42}|^2 & |r_{43}|^2 & |r_{44}|^2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (2)$$

Implementation involves MWP  
(modulation and time delay)

|           |           |           |     |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----|-----------|
| $X_{729}$ | $X_{730}$ | $X_{731}$ | ... | $X_{756}$ |
| $X_{757}$ | $X_{758}$ | $X_{759}$ | ... | $X_{784}$ |

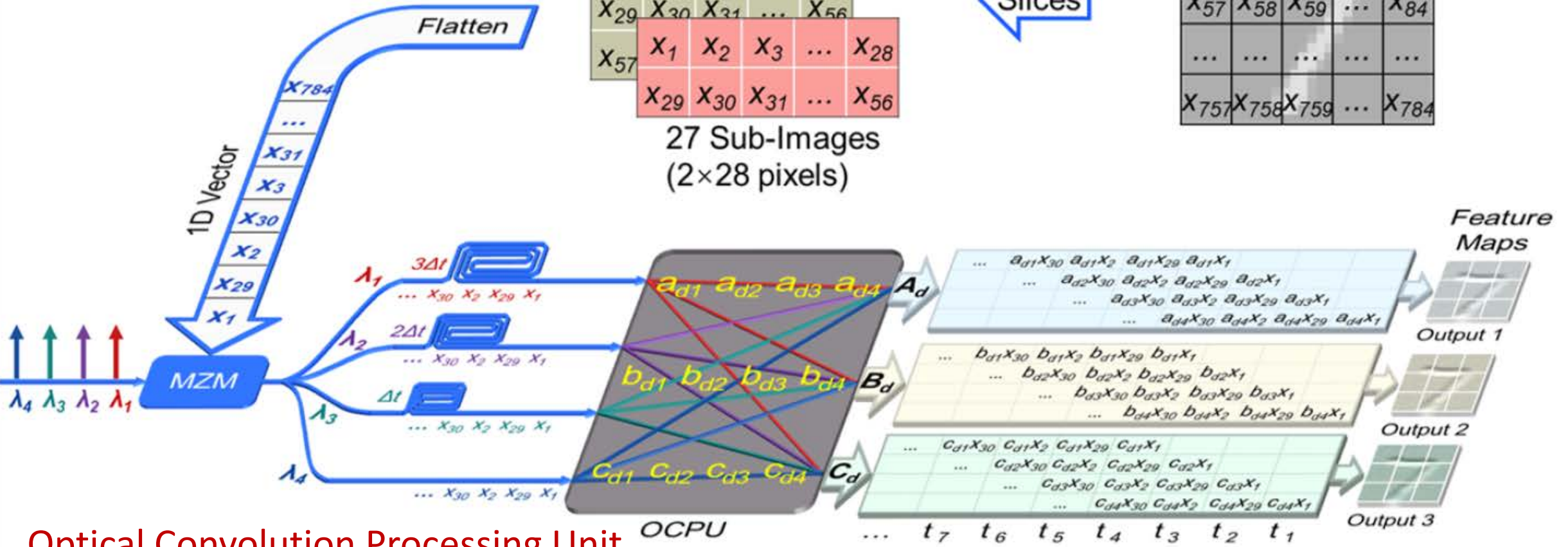
Input Image ( $28 \times 28$ )

|           |           |           |     |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----|-----------|
| $X_1$     | $X_2$     | $X_3$     | ... | $X_{28}$  |
| $X_{29}$  | $X_{30}$  | $X_{31}$  | ... | $X_{56}$  |
| $X_{57}$  | $X_{58}$  | $X_{59}$  | ... | $X_{84}$  |
| ...       | ...       | ...       | ... | ...       |
| $X_{757}$ | $X_{758}$ | $X_{759}$ | ... | $X_{784}$ |

Slices

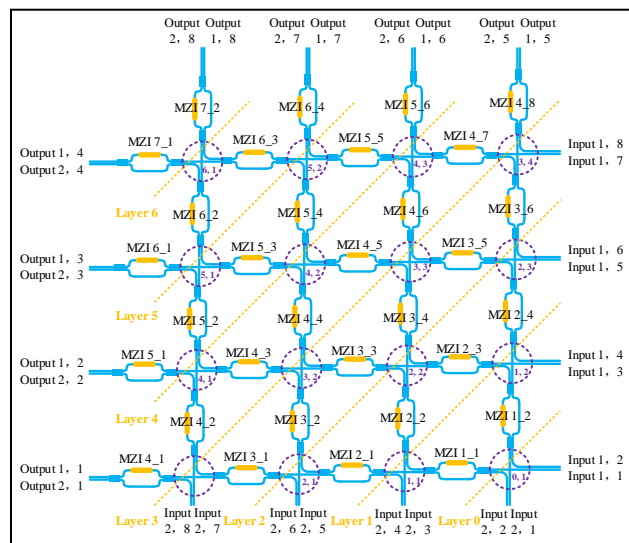
|          |          |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| $X_{29}$ | $X_{30}$ | $X_{31}$ | ...      | $X_{56}$ |          |
| $X_{57}$ | $X_1$    | $X_2$    | $X_3$    | ...      | $X_{28}$ |
|          | $X_{29}$ | $X_{30}$ | $X_{31}$ | ...      | $X_{56}$ |

27 Sub-Images  
( $2 \times 28$  pixels)

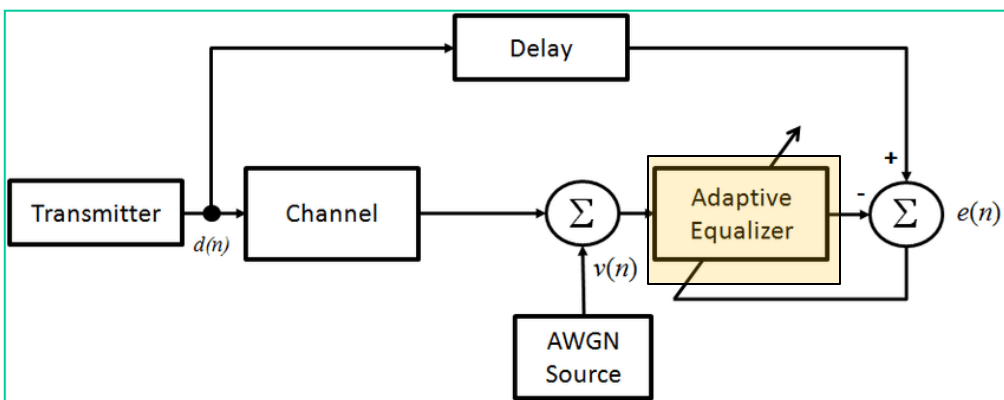


Optical Convolution Processing Unit

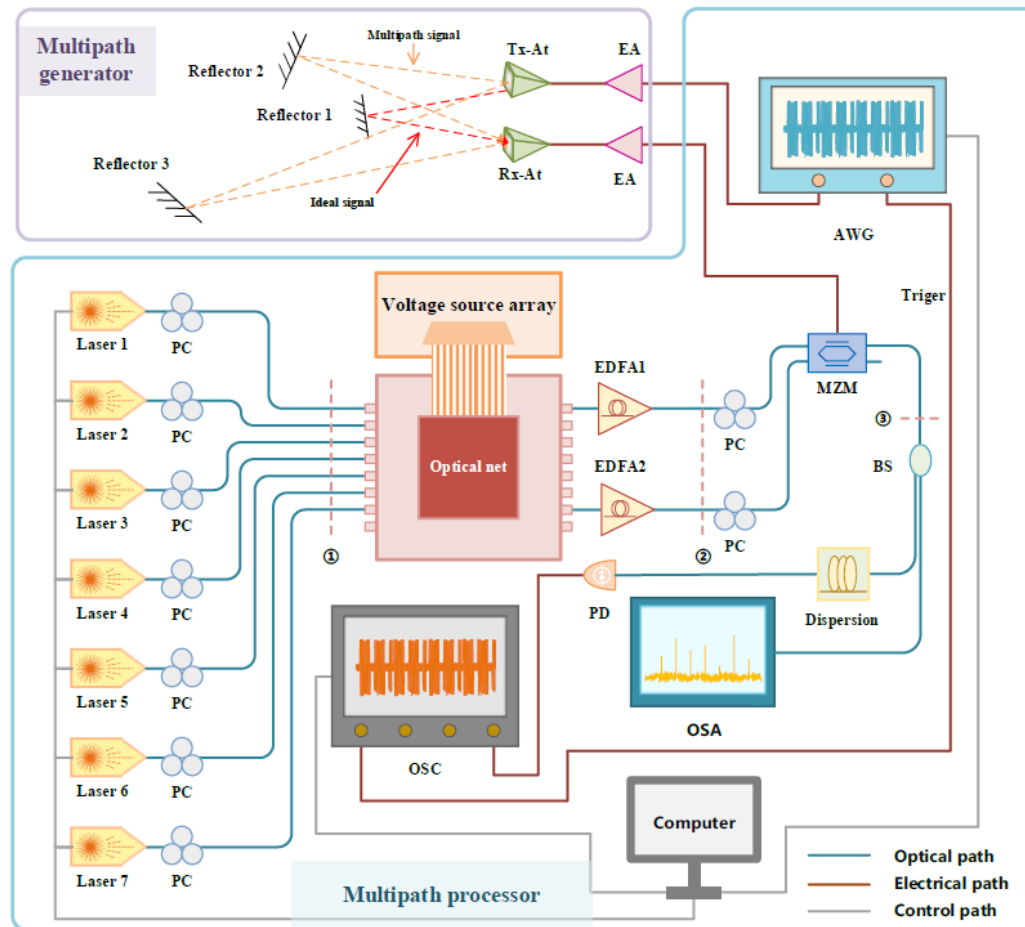
# Optical on-chip signal processor based on matrix operations



Silicon photonic chip



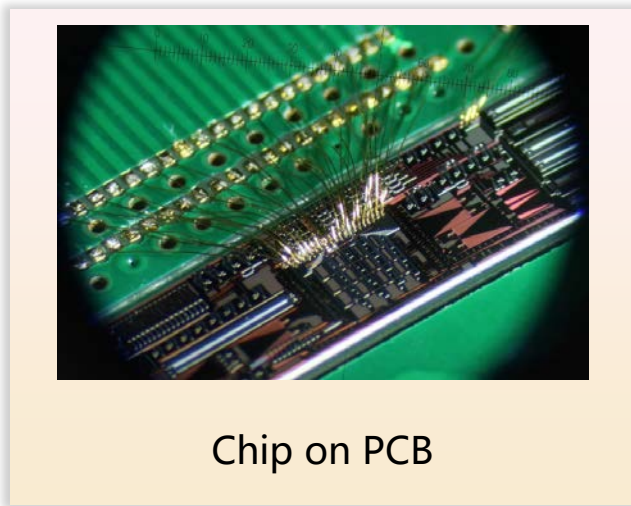
Channel equalization



An MWP system - An adaptive delay line MWP filter to equalize the channel

Adaptive on-chip multi-path decoupling (implementation of an adaptive delay line filter to equalize the channel)

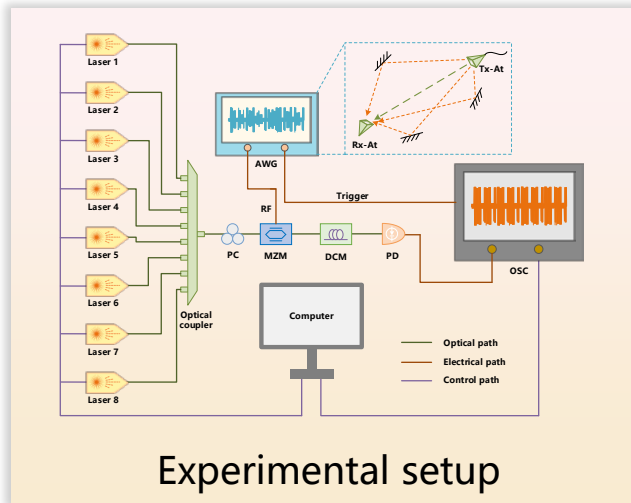
# Optical on-chip signal processor based on matrix operations



Matrix for decoupling:

$$\begin{matrix} y_{out1,1} \\ y_{out1,2} \\ y_{out1,3} \\ y_{out1,4} \\ y_{out1,8} \\ y_{out1,7} \\ y_{out1,6} \\ y_{out1,5} \end{matrix} = \begin{bmatrix} <-50 & <-50 & <-50 & -40.0 & <-50 & <-50 & <-50 & <-50 \\ <-50 & <-50 & -24.48 & -20.4 & -24.4 & -25.5 & -45.2 & -18.4 \\ <-50 & -19.7 & -31.4 & -30.8 & -30.4 & -38.9 & -19.9 & -27.9 \\ -22.26 & -17.4 & -16.8 & -18.3 & -27.2 & -25.48 & -19.7 & -34.46 \\ -46.9 & -45.2 & -40.0 & -39.2 & -46.3 & -46.2 & -25.7 & -9.25 \\ -13.96 & -21.88 & -14.07 & -26.0 & -21.9 & -27.9 & -17.05 & <-50 \\ -31.43 & -23.63 & -41.3 & -21.32 & -41.3 & -9.09 & <-50 & <-50 \\ <-50 & <-50 & <-50 & <-50 & -10.65 & <-50 & <-50 & <-50 \end{bmatrix} \begin{matrix} x_{in1,7} \\ x_{in1,5} \\ x_{in1,3} \\ x_{in1,1} \\ x_{in2,1} \\ x_{in2,3} \\ x_{in2,5} \\ x_{in2,7} \end{matrix}$$

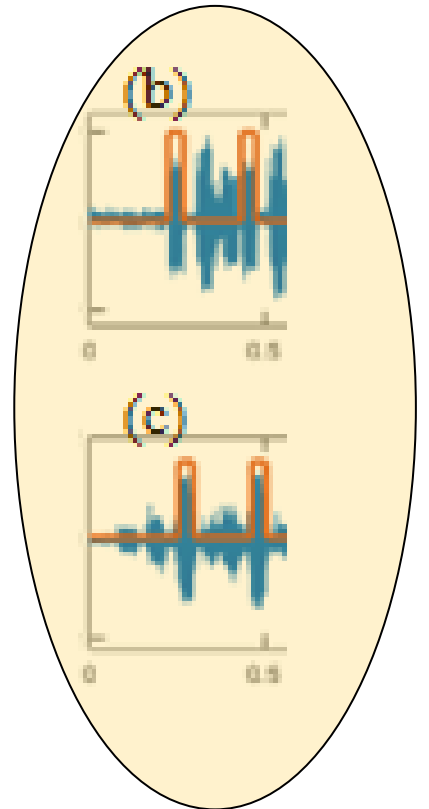
(a)



(b)

(c)

Decoupling four interferences from 4 paths, carrier frequency 2.5GHz, bit rate 500MHz, 0 bit-error.

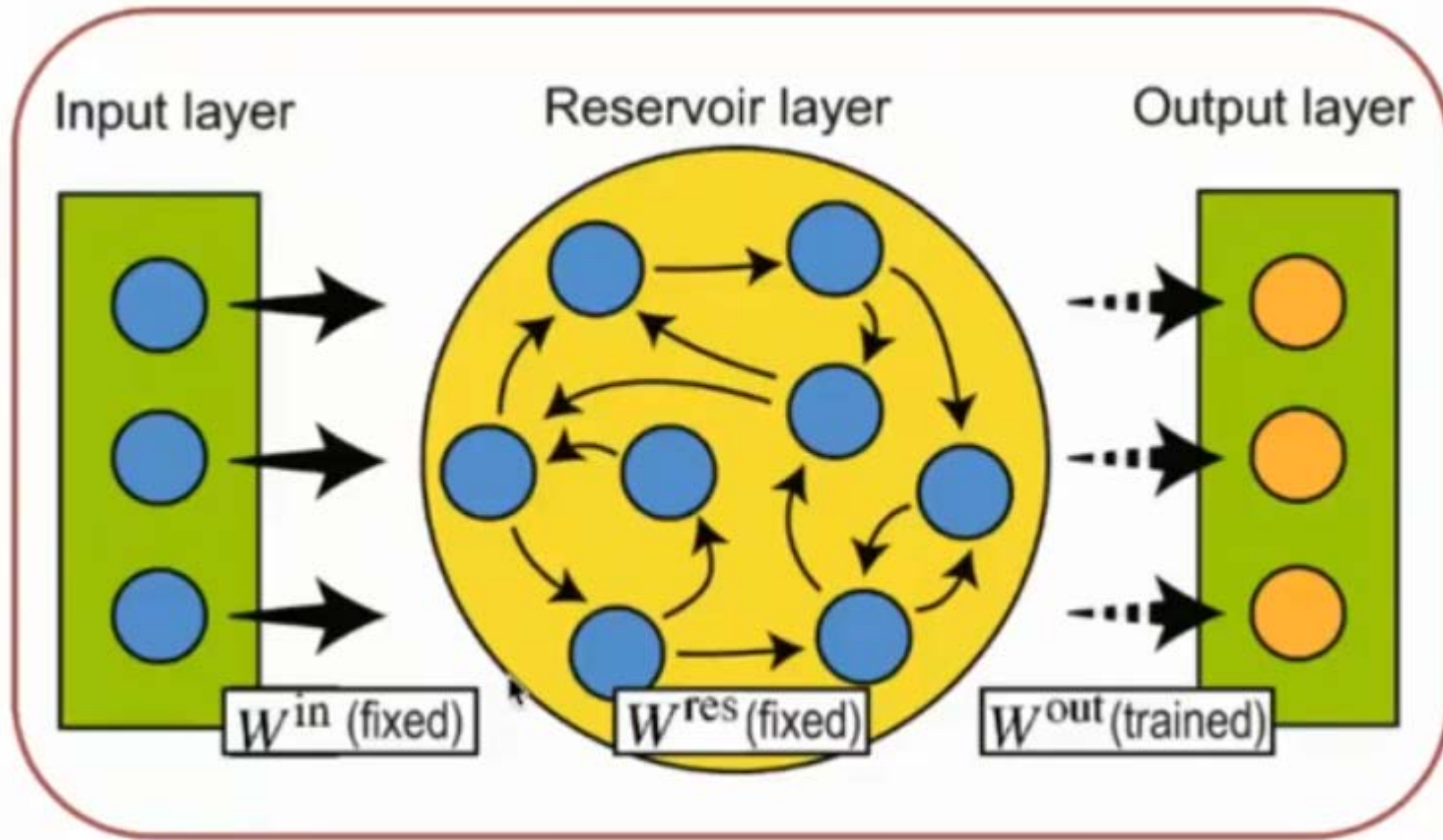


# Outline

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- What is MWP
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# Optical reservoir computing

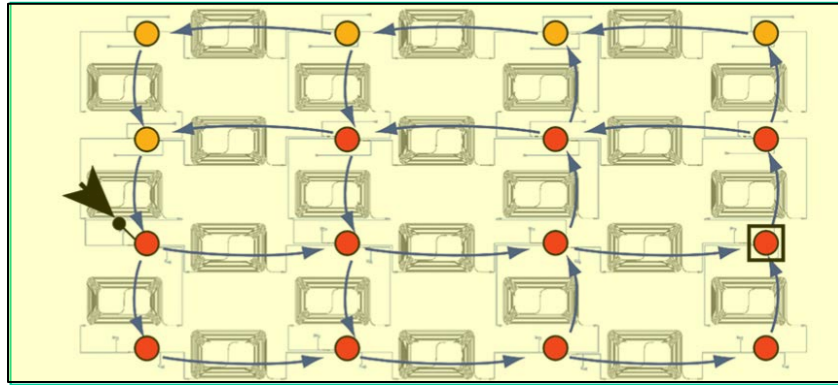


$$\mathbf{x}(t + \Delta t) = f_{NL1} [\mathbf{W}_i \mathbf{u}(t + \Delta t) + \mathbf{W}_{res} \mathbf{x}(t) + \mathbf{W}_{back} \mathbf{y}(t)]$$
$$\mathbf{y}(t + \Delta t) = \mathbf{W}_o f_{NL2} [\mathbf{x}(t + \Delta t)]$$

Training a reservoir NN, only the output layer  $W_o$  needs to be trained, and the input layer  $W_i$  and the internal interconnection weights  $W_{res}$  can remain fixed.

The reservoir NN consists of three layers, the input layer, the middle layer, and the output layer. The middle layer is also called the reservoir.

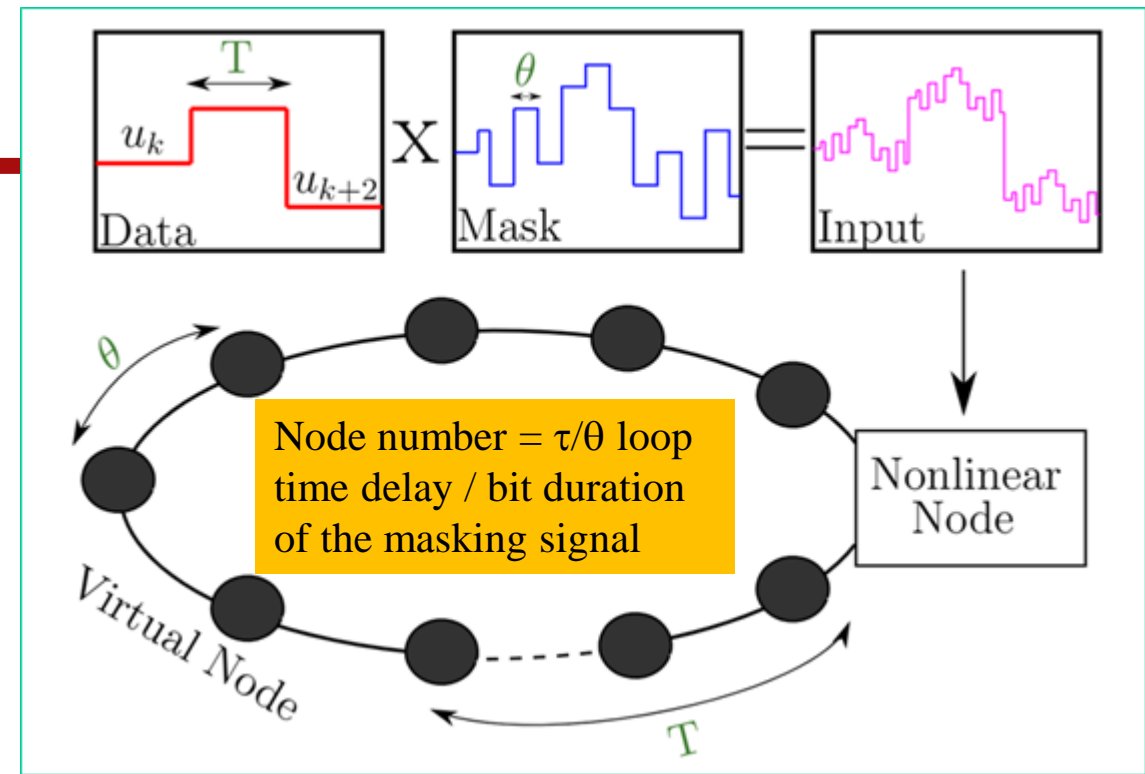
# Optical reservoir computing structure



Silicon photonic chip

**Spatially Distributed RC (SD-RC) on a silicon photonic chip:** The reservoir consists solely of on-chip low-loss waveguides, optical beam splitters, and optical beam combiners. Nonlinearity is introduced by the squared nonlinearity of the photodetectors.

Vandoorne, K. *et al.* Experimental demonstration of reservoir computing on a silicon photonics chip. *Nat Commun* **5**, 3541 (2014).



## Time-delayed RC (TD-RC) :

- Masking is done on each bit of an input signal.
- Mask is randomly generated. It determines the node interval ( $\tau/\theta$ ) and determines the weights (binary or real-valued)
- The masked signal is applied to the nonlinear node (MZM).
- The response enters the delay line and is fed back to the nonlinear node after time  $\tau$ , forming a closed loop.

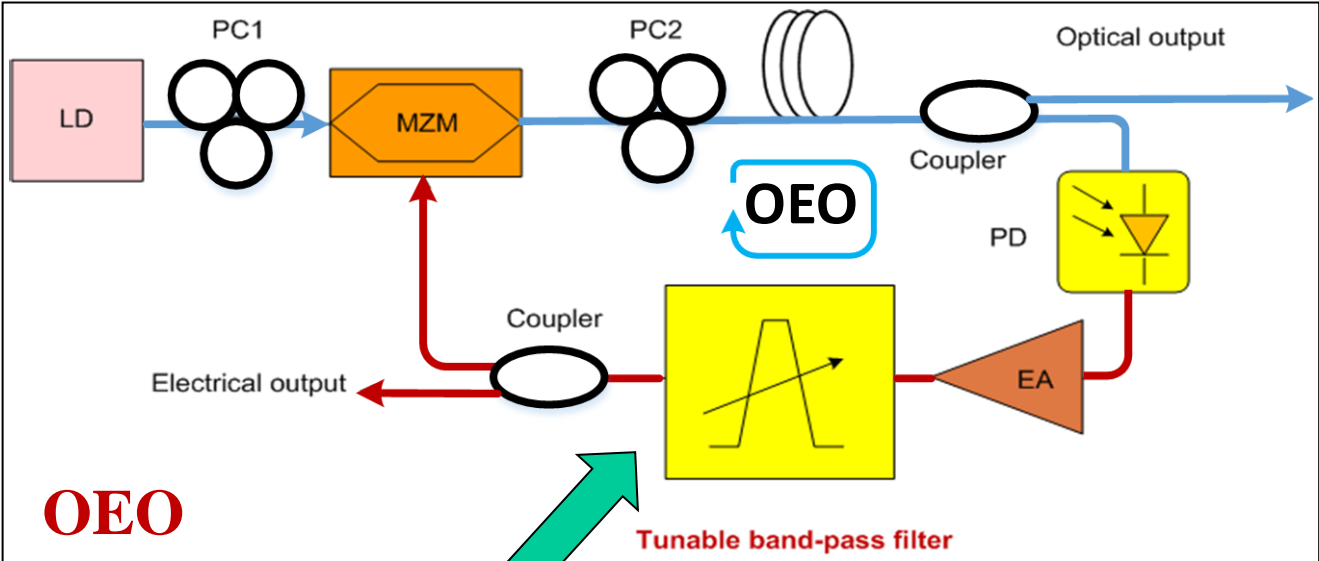
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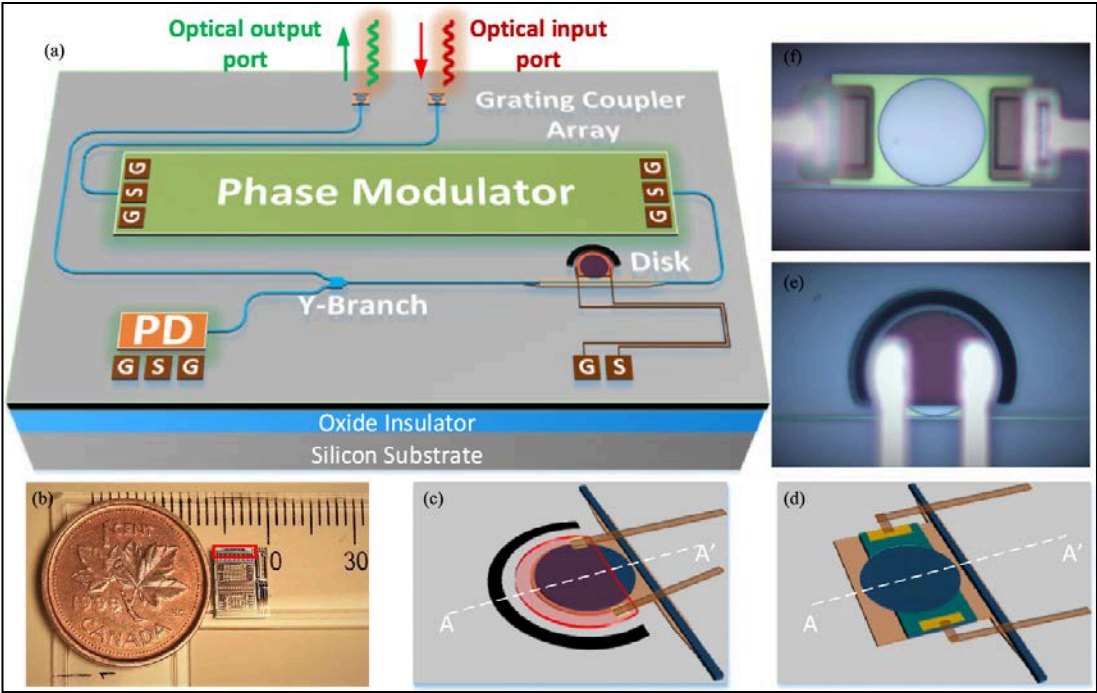
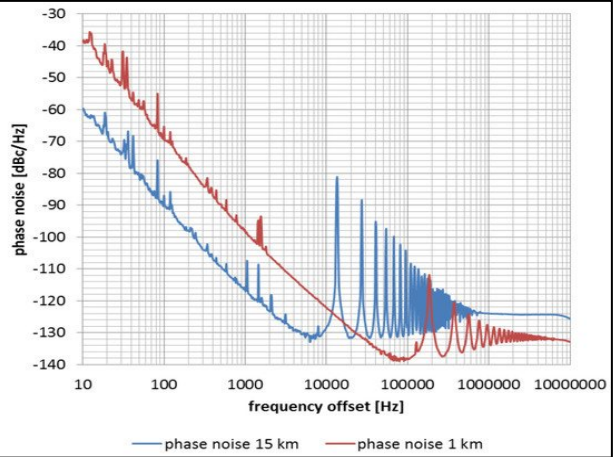
# Optical Reservoir Computing- Microwave Photonic Implementation



OEO

Tunable band-pass filter

Narrow-band tunable bandpass filter



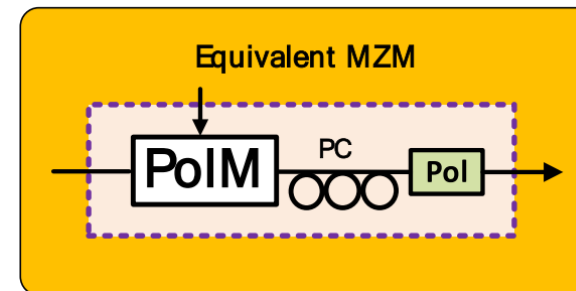
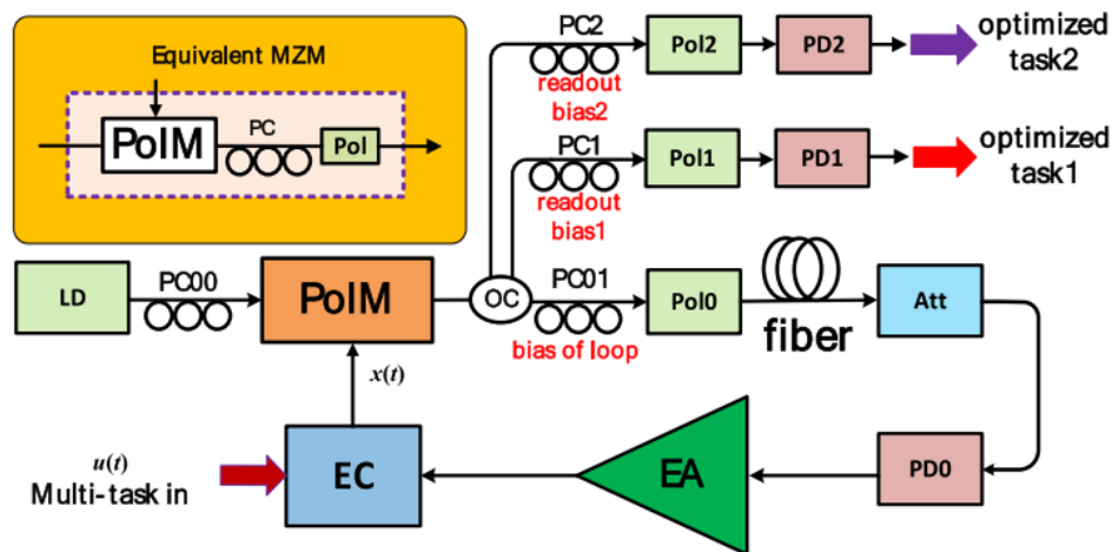
Silicon photonic integrated optoelectronic oscillator (OEO)

# Multi-task photonic time-delay reservoir computing based on polarization modulation

LONG HUANG AND JIANPING YAO\* 

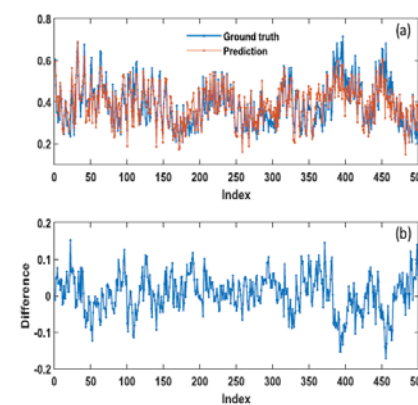
Microwave Photonics Research Laboratory, School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6N5, Canada

## Optical Reservoir Computing- MWP Implementation

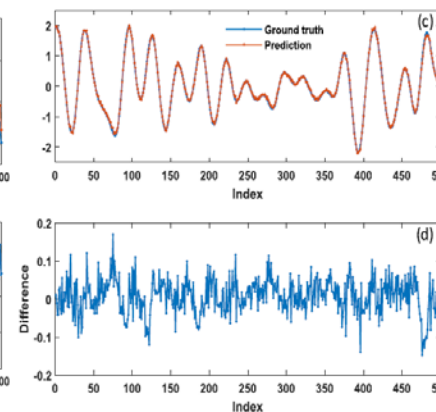


$\text{PoIM} + \text{PC} + \text{Pol} = \text{MZM}$ , bias point can be adjusted by tuning the PC  $\rightarrow$  adjustable nonlinearity

Task 1



Task 2



**Fig. 6.** Readout bias adjusted to minimize the NMSE of the IPIX radar signal prediction task. (a) True and predicted NARMA10 time series and (b) the difference between them. (c) True and predicted IPIX radar signals and (d) the difference between them.

The difference an RC from an OEO is that

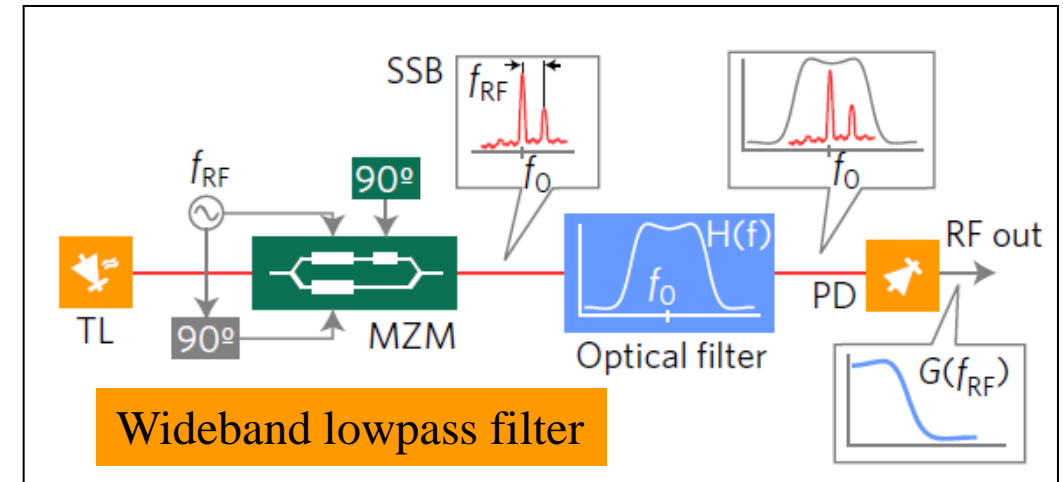
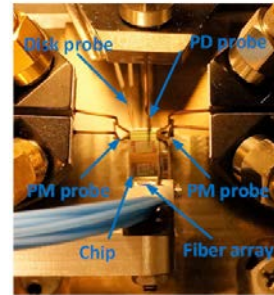
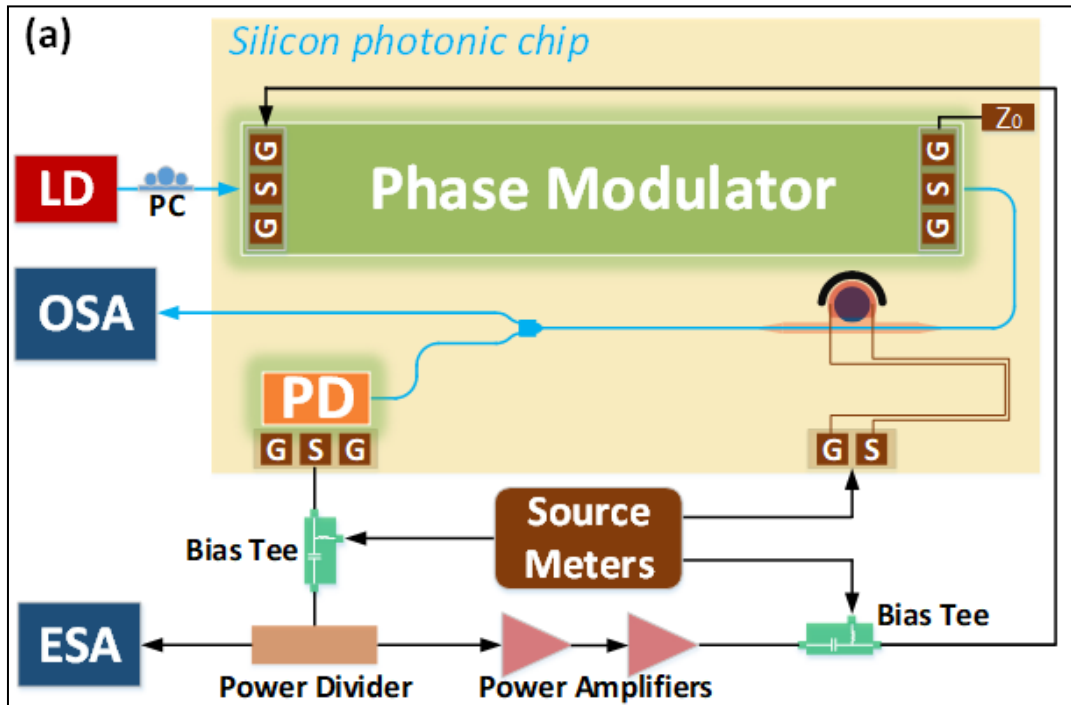
- narrowband bandpass filter to be removed
- Net gain slightly smaller than 1

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# RC implementation based on PIC



For optoelectronic reservoir computing, the bandpass filter should be changed to a wideband low-pass filter

Fandiño, J., Muñoz, P., Doménech, D. *et al.* A monolithic integrated photonic microwave filter. *Nature Photon* **11**, 124–129 (2017).

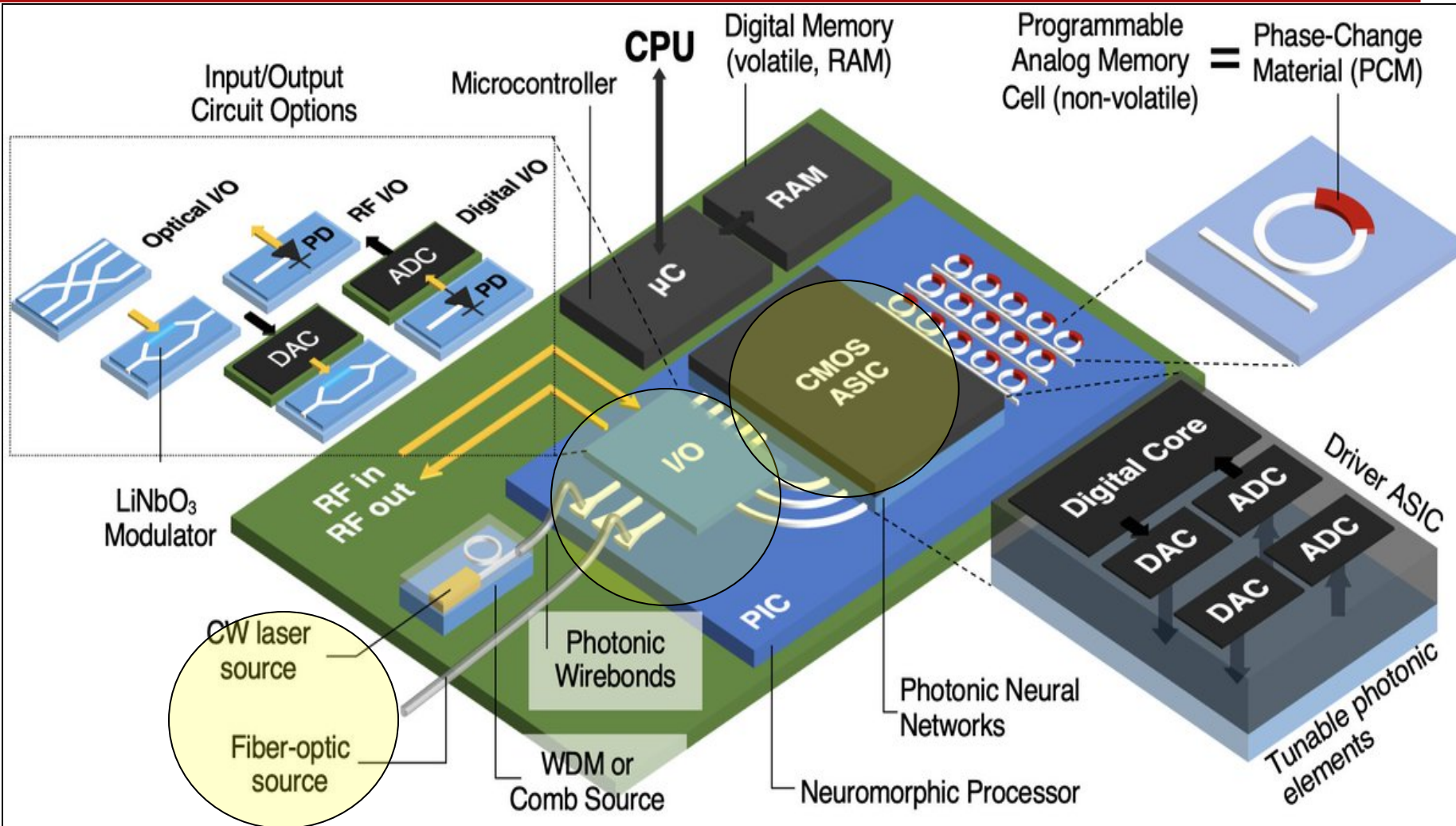
An integrated OEO for microwave generation in which a narrow passband filter is employed for frequency selection

**PIC based RC: higher speed and better stability**

## Conclusion:

- Microwave photonics enables high-speed optical computing
- High-speed optical computing can assist AI implementation at high speed (especially for neural networks)
- A fully integrated signal processor should have ICs and PICs, Analog and Digital → the architecture on next page

# Photon-assisted fully integrated signal processor architecture



## Fully hybrid integrated signal processor:

- The light source is connected to the I/O chip through “optical wire bonding”
- The I/O chip includes a modulator and a detector (MWP part) I/O
- CMOS ASIC controls optical networks, including programmable analog optical memory units (composed of phase change materials) to complete high-speed computing