



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

DESIGN AND OPTIMIZATION OF FTTH ARCHITECTURE

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FK 2002 10

DESIGN AND OPTIMIZATION OF FTTH ARCHITECTURE

By

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**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

February 2002



To my mom & dad, wife & daughter



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

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By

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February 2002

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Recently, the growth of Internet and uses of digital contents have significantly increased the demand for high-speed access network. Similar cases are also seen for the use of intranet and extranet services. The limitation of current access network such as the asymmetric digital subscriber line (ADSL) in terms of low bit rate and short of coverage span resulted in the exploration on fibre access scenario. Fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) brings the broadband access network capabilities directly to the customer premises with high splitting ratio and wide fibre span. It is seen as the linchpin technology to enable the future applications such as voice, video and data run, satisfying the ever-increasing need for bandwidth.

This thesis shows the study of FTTH access network based on passive optical network (PON). The two types of FTTH; A-PON and Super-PON have been studied thoroughly to optimize their architecture to help network engineers in designing the system. The cost analysis is also carried out. The simulation is done using OptSim 3.0 and the result is verified with the experiment in the laboratory. It is found that the optimum configuration of a A-PON FTTH access systems with the bit rate of 2Gb/s with the use of 32 branching number is at the distance of 20 km. The power



enhancement offered by Erbium-doped Fibre Amplifier (EDFA) provides for large distribution branches (thus the subscribers) and the length of fibre span can be extended up to 100 km.

The relationship in design parameters namely the bit rate, transmit power, branches, and distance are well studied in view of their effects to the performance parameters namely BER, eye-opening, jitter and Q value. It is shown here that the BER improves with the transmit power, and deteriorates with the bit rate, distance and branch number. The optimization can be achieved by increasing the power level since the increment of the power level will reduce the BER. The normalized jitter must be verified in order to get the absolute performance indication rather than the jitter itself. The cost incurred with the S-PON system is practical if there is an adequate customer sharing the same line.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

REKA BENTUK DAN PENGOPTIMUMAN SENIBINA FTTH

Oleh

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Kebelakangan ini, pertumbuhan Internet dan penggunaan kandungan digital telah meningkatkan permintaan terhadap rangkaian capaian kelajuan tinggi. Kes yang sama juga dikenalpasti dalam perkhidmatan intranet dan extranet. Kekangan rangkaian capaian semasa seperti Laluan Pendaftaran Digital Asimetri (ADSL) dari segi kadar bit yang rendah dan liputan yang terhad menjurus kepada senario pencarian capaian fiber. *Fibre-to-the-Home* (FTTH) berupaya menawarkan rangkaian capaian jalur lebar secara terus ke kediaman pelanggan dengan kadar pecahan yang tinggi dan rangkuman fiber yang luas. Ia dilihat sebagai teknologi pelengkap untuk membolehkan aplikasi masa depan seperti suara, video dan data memenuhi keperluan jalur lebar yang sentiasa meningkat.

Tesis ini menunjukkan kajian tentang rangkaian capaian FTTH yang berasaskan kepada rangkaian optik pasif (PON). Dua jenis FTTH; A-PON dan Super-PON telah dikaji secara mendalam untuk mengoptimumkan senibinanya. Analisa kos juga diambil kira. Simulasi dijalankan dengan menggunakan OptSim 3.0 dan keputusannya disahkan secara ujikaji. Adalah didapati bahawa konfigurasi optimum

bagi sistem capaian A-PON FTTH dengan kadar bit sebanyak 2 Gbps menggunakan 32 cabang adalah dalam jarak 20 km. Peningkatan kuasa yang ditawarkan oleh Erbium-doped Fiber Amplifier (EDFA) menyediakan pembahagian cabang yang luas (iaitu pengguna) dan jarak fiber boleh dipanjangkan hingga 100 km.

Hubungan diantara parameter rekabentuk seperti kadar data, kuasa penghantaran, cabang dan jarak adalah dikaji secara teliti tentang kesannya kepada parameter persembahan iaitu BER, bukaan-mata, *jitter* dan nilai Q. Adalah dikenalpasti bahawa BER meningkat dengan penghantaran kuasa dan berkurang dengan kadar bit, jarak dan bilangan cabang. Pengoptimuman boleh dicapai dengan meningkatkan tahap kuasa yang mana peningkatan tahap kuasa akan mengurangkan BER. Pernormalan *jitter* mestilah dikenalpasti untuk memperolehi indikator persembahan yang mutlak berbanding *jitter* itu sendiri. Kos yang dihadapi dengan sistem S-PON adalah praktikal sekiranya pelanggan yang berkongsi laluan adalah mencukupi.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I express my sincere appreciation and deep gratitude to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohamad Khazani Abdullah, for his wise council, guidance and encouragements that made this work possible. He has gone through each chapter of this research carefully to bring out an excellent quality of work. Grateful appreciation is extended to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohamed Othman, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Borhanudin Mohd. Ali and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaharudin Dimiyati for serving as my Supervisory Committee and providing precious suggestions and comments throughout my study.

Special thanks is extended to all staff in the Photonic Laboratory who has contributed to the successful completion of this study specially Hanif, Barirah, Sarah, Peyuh, Sham, Fauzi, Amang and Kharina and countless of others whom I could not mention here.

Last, but not least, I would like to express my indebtedness to my mother and father, for their supports and encouragements, and also to my wife- Amalina for her incomparable attention and patience.



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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any degree at UPM or other institutions.



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Date: 11 APRIL 2002

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
DEDICATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	vii
APPROVAL SHEETS	viii
DECLARATION FORM	x
LIST OF TABLES	xiii
LIST OF FIGURES	xiv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xviii

CHAPTER

1	INTRODUCTION	1
	1.1 Background	1
	1.2 Statement of Problem	6
	1.3 Objectives	6
	1.4 Scope of Works.....	7
	1.5 Thesis Organization	7
2	LITERATURE REVIEW	9
	2.1 Introduction	9
	2.2 Network Hierarchy	9
	2.3 Access Network	11
	2.4 Why FTTH	17
	2.5 World Trend	20
3	METHODOLOGY	26
	3.1 Design Parameter	26
	3.1.1 Peak Power	27
	3.1.2 Branch Number	29
	3.1.3 Distance	30
	3.1.4 Bit Rate/Data Rate	35
	3.2 Performance Parameters	38
	3.2.1 Bit Error Rate(BER)	38
	3.2.2 Eye Pattern	41
	3.2.3 Q Value	43
	3.2.4 Timing Jitter	45
	3.3 Devices	46
	3.3.1 Couplers/Splitters	47
	3.3.2 Amplifier	48
	3.3.3 Amplifier Gain	49
	3.4 Optsim 3.0	50
	3.5 Experimental Works	52



4	RESULTS: A-PON FTTH ARCHITECTURE	54
4.1	The Effects of Transmission Power	54
4.1.1	BER versus Peak Power	55
4.1.2	Average Eye-opening versus Power	55
4.1.3	Q value versus Power	56
4.1.4	Jitter versus Power	57
4.2	The Effect of Transmission Bit Rate	58
4.2.1	BER versus Bit Rate	59
4.2.2	Average Eye-opening versus Bit Rate	60
4.2.3	Q value versus Bit Rate	61
4.2.4	Jitter versus Bit Rate	61
4.3	The Effect of Branching	64
4.3.1	BER versus Branch Number	64
4.3.2	Eye-opening versus Branch Number	65
4.3.3	Q value and Eye-opening versus BER	66
4.3.4	Jitter versus Branch Number	66
4.4	The Effect of Distance	67
4.4.1	BER versus Distance	67
4.4.2	Eye Opening versus Distance	68
4.4.3	Q value versus Distance	69
4.4.4	Jitter versus Distance	70
4.5	Optimization of A-PON FTTH	71
4.6	Experimental Results	75
4.6.1	The Branch and Power Effects	75
4.6.2	The Effects of Using Cascades Couplers	77
4.6.3	The Distance Effects	80
4.6.4	The Bit Rate Effects	82
5	RESULTS: S-PON FTTH ARCHITECTURE	83
5.1	S-PON Simulation Setup	83
5.2	S-PON FTTH Using EDFA as Power Amplifier	83
5.3	S-PON FTTH Using EDFA as In-line Amplifier	85
5.4	Cost Comparison Models	86
6	CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE WORKS	90
	REFERENCES	92
	VITAE	97



LIST OF TABLES

TABLES	Page
1.1 ITU-T G.983 Specification	4
2.1 Different vendor setup for FTTH architecture	20
3.1 Characteristic of the SMF	34



LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURES	Page
1.1 Growth in the number of users on the Internet (adopted from Copley, 2000)	2
1.2 Evolution of FTTH architecture from A-PON to S-PON (adopted from Van de Voorde et al., 1996).....	6
2.1 Network hierarchy (modified from Beyda, 2000).....	10
2.2 Telecommunication network hierarchy (modified from Hecht, 1999)	10
2.3 ADSL architecture (modified from Kumar 1996).....	13
2.4 IDLC/FTTC architecture (adopted from Kumar, 1996).....	14
2.5 HFC architecture (modified from Perry et al., 1996).....	16
2.6 FTTH-PON architecture a recommended by FSAN (modified from David et al., 1997).....	17
2.7 Trend for fibre prices in the residential sector (adopted from Nichols et al., 2000)	19
2.8 FTTH FOA architecture (modified from Kettler et al., 2000)	22
2.9 The logical diagram of PLANET project (modified from Van de Voorde and Martin, 2000)	23
2.10 Enhancement made to the systems by using a WDM PON (modified from Koonen et al., 1997)	24
2.11 WOTAN Project (modified from Chidgey, 1996)	25
3.1 The light source spectrum shown by electrical probe at transmitter through the simulation	28
3.2 The light source spectrum used in the experiment.....	29
3.3 Losses versus fibre length with different attenuation coefficient (α)	31
3.4 The comparisons between the loss and attenuation experienced in the fibre	32
3.5 Dispersion versus fibre length at different signal wavelength with same linewidth; 07 nm	33



3.6	Dispersion occurs when the pulse interfere each others; shifted the bit 0 to 1	34
3.7	Relationship between clock rate, data rate and bandwidth for NRZ and RZ codes (modified from Palais, 1998).....	37
3.8	The probability of the output voltage is y , given that an x was transmitted	40
3.9	Plot of the BER (P_e) versus the factor Q	41
3.10	Eye diagram	42
3.11	The jitter measurement (modified from Keiser, 2000)	45
3.12	FBT coupler (modified from Mynbaev and Scheiner, 2001).....	47
3.13	The applications of amplifiers in regular setup (modified from Hecht, 1999)	48
3.14	FTTH system simulation layout	51
3.15	S-PON FTTH system simulation layout with in-line amplifier	52
3.16	Experiment configuration at the laboratory	53
4.1	Simulation result for Bit error rate versus power launch.....	55
4.2	Simulation result of average eye opening versus power at 622 Mbps for 32 FTTH branches	56
4.3	Simulation result for Q value versus power at 622 Mb/s for 32 FTTH branches.....	57
4.4	Simulation result of jitter versus power at 622Mb/s for 32 FTTH branches	58
4.5	Simulation result of the BER versus transmission bit rate at 0dBm transmit power at 32 FTTH branches.....	59
4.6	Simulation result of average eye opening versus bit rate for 32 FTTH branches at 622Mbps	60
4.7	Simulation result of Q value versus Bit rate at 32 FTTH branches	61
4.8	Simulation result of Jitter versus bit rate at 0 dBm transmit power and 32 FTTH branches	62
4.9	BER versus the jitter to pulse width ratio	63



4.10	Pulse width with different bit rate compared to the sampling time	63
4.11	Simulation result of BER versus branch number at 622 Mbps and 20 km distance	65
4.12	Simulation result of eye-opening versus branch number at 622 Mbps	66
4.13	Simulation result of the jitter versus branch number	67
4.14	Simulation result of BER versus distance at 622 Mbps for 32 branches	68
4.15	Simulation result of average eye-opening versus fibre length at 622 Mbps for 32 branches FTTH	69
4.16	Simulation result of Q value versus fibre length at 622 Mbps and 32 FTTH branches	70
4.17	Simulation result of jitter versus transmission distance at 622 Mbps and 32 FTTH branches	71
4.18	Simulation result of bit rate, branching number fibre length and transmit power versus BER	72
4.19	Simulation result of transmit power versus bit rate at the BER= 10^{-10}	73
4.20	Simulation result of branch number versus bit rate at the BER= 10^{-10}	73
4.21	Simulation result of distance versus bit rate at the BER = 10^{-10}	74
4.22	Simulation result of branch number versus transmit power at the bit rate = 2.5Gbps	75
4.23	Experimental result of BER versus power transmit at 20 branches	76
4.24	Experimental result of transmit power versus branches number at BER= 10^{-10}	76
4.25	Experimental result of loss versus branch number in the coupler itself	77
4.26	A single coupler with M input leg and N output leg	77
4.27	Three 1×2 couplers to make-up for a 1×4 splitting	78
4.28	Experimental result of power transmit versus branch number with cascaded and single splitter/branching at BER= 10^{-10}	79



4.29	Experimental result of power received versus branches at 0 dBm-transmitted power	79
4.30	Experimental result of log BER versus branch number at 0 dBm transmitted power	80
4.31	Experimental result of eye pattern of STM-1 at 25 km distance at 32 branches	81
4.32	Experimental result of eye pattern of STM-1 at 50 km distance at 32 branches	81
4.33	Experimental result of eye pattern of STM-4 at 25 km distance	82
5.1	Simulation result of BER versus branches number with 30 dB gain at 100 km of fibre span	84
5.2	Simulation result of BER versus number of branches at 100 km fibre span without an amplifier	84
5.3	Simulation result of received optical power versus branch number at fixed and saturable gain	85
5.4	Simulation result of log BER versus received optical power at fixed and saturable gain	86
5.5	Cost comparison; Break-even number of branches versus fibre length	89



ABBREVIATIONS

ACTS	Advanced Communications, Technologies and Services
ADSL	Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line
AN	Access Network
AN-SMF	Access Network Systems Management Function
A-PON	Asynchronous Transfer Mode-Passive Optical Network
ATM	Asynchronous Transfer Mode
BER	Bit Error Rate
BT	British Telecommunications
CATV	Cable TV
CF	Core Function
COO	Cost of Ownership
DCD	Duty Cycle Distortion
DDJ	Data-Dependent Jitter
DS	Digital Signal
EDFA	Erbium Doped Fibre Amplifier
FBT	Fibre Biconical Taper
FITL	Fibre to the Loop
FOA	Fibre Office Application
FSAN	Full Service Access Network
FT	France Telecom
FTTC	Fibre-to-the-Curb
FTTH	Fibre-to-the-Home
FTTx	Fibre to the x
HDSL	High bit rate Digital Subscriber Line
HFC	Hybrid Fibre/Coax
IDLC	Integrated Digital Loop Carrier
ISDN	Integrated Service Digital Network
ITU-T	International Telecommunication Union-Telecommunication
NRZ	Non-Return to Zero
NTT	Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation
OC	Optical Channel
ONT	Optical Network Termination
ONU	Optical Network Unit
OSA	Optical Spectrum Analyzer
OSNR	Optical Signal to Noise Ratio
OTN	Optical Transport Network
PE	Phase-encoded
PLANET	Photonic Local Access NETWORK project
PON	Passive Optical Network
POTS	Public Old Telephone System
PRBS	Pseudo Random Binary Sequence
RJ	Random Jitter
RZ	Return to Zero
SDH	Synchronous Digital Hierarchy
SDH/PDH	Synchronous Digital Hierarchy/Plousynchronous Digital Hierarchy
SDSL	Single/Symmetrical line Digital Subscriber Line
SMF	Single Mode Fibre
SOA	Semiconductor Optical Amplifier



SOHO	Small Office Home Office
SPF	Service Port Function
SPT	Spectral Propagation Technique
STS	Synchronous Transport Signal
TDM	Time Division Multiplexing
TDMA	Time Division Multiple Access
TF	Transport Function
TOBASCO	Towards Broadband Access System for CATV Optical Network Project
UPF	User Port Function
VBS	Variable Bandwidth Simulation
VDSL	Very high rate Digital Subscriber Line
VOD	Video on Demand
WDM	Wavelength Division Multiplexing
WOTAN	Wavelength-agile Optical Access Network
WWW	World Wide Web
XDSL	x-Digital Subscriber Line



CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The emergence of the broadband age has begun with the explosive growth of World Wide Web (WWW) and increasing of digital contents to the customer premises. The demand for high-speed Internet access has thus increased dramatically. Figure 1.1 shows the trend of the worldwide demand for Internet. Many access network (AN) technologies are subsequently introduced. Among them, Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) with the capabilities of 1.5 Mbps to 8 Mbps is well liked (Chen, 1999). However, it will not be able to reach the customer's need beyond 2004 when the access bandwidth is expected to be in excess of 10 Mbps. It is expected that there will be 2.8 million connections to support the increasing users of 550 million by 2005 (Copley, 2000). Thus it is crucial to discover an access network with high bit rate and low cost.

Asynchronous Transfer Mode-Passive Optical Network (ATM-PON or A-PON) seems to be the most suitable choice to satisfy the user's requirement in the future (Steve et al., 1998). The help of low loss silica fibre makes it possible. Today, optical fibre has been installed at a rate of about 3,000 miles per hour. Commercial systems of 400 Gbps over a single fibre are now available (Alastair et al., 1990).



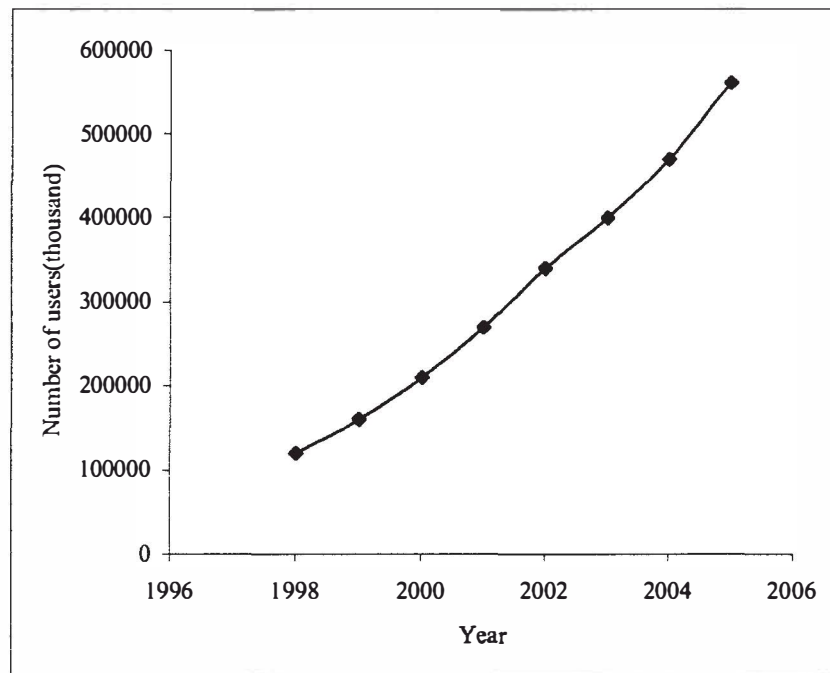


Figure 1.1: Growth in the number of users on the Internet (adopted from Copley, 2000)

Many trials have been in place to implement the fibre to the home (FTTH) since 1970's (Paul and Snelling, 1991). In the recent years, the high demand of bandwidth due to the use of heavy multimedia data type to the customer premises for entertainment, small office home office (SOHO) such as video on demand (VOD), high definition television (HDTV), real time transaction, medical online require unlimited medium capabilities to transmit at higher bit rates to support the applications. The medium includes copper wire, coaxial cable, microwave transmission and optical fibre. FTTH is the best candidate to accommodate the whole solution to the customers (Van der Plas et al., 1995).

The FTTH brings the access network capabilities to the home with fibre connection up to optical network unit (ONU) at customer premises. Integrated services can be offered to the customer with the combination of narrowband and broadband

communications. This system also uses passive optical network (PON) by the use of passive splitters, to reduce the operation and maintenance cost. The reduced cost in the future due to the volume of the fibre communication will lead the technology to be more effective.

The FTTH comes with three opportunities (Kettler et al., 2000). First, the end-to-end optical fibre, which offers the potential to achieve the vision of being able to provide virtually unlimited bandwidth to customer premises. Second, the opportunity of customer to choose the capabilities of the interfaces provided by optical network termination. Finally, it offers the opportunity for self-provisioning communications instrument, increasing customer satisfaction and lowering provisioning cost by eliminating truck rolls.

The FTTH also comes with its challenges. The first challenge is the demand of volume production to achieve cost reduction. Secondly, the optical network termination (ONT) will be customer owned and customer-powered (power backup needed compared to public old telephone system-POTS). The third challenge is to simplify the installation process, to lower the cost, and to improve the reliability of fibre connection and splicing technology in order to reduce the losses.

A-PON systems have been standardized by G.983 Recommendation as in table 1.1 (Chand, 1999; G.983, 1998). The Full Service Access Network (FSAN) consortium has identified the A-PON as the most cost-effective architecture for broadband fibre in the loop (FITL) deployment (Tajima et al., 1999). The system consists of 32 branches and 20 km range and has proven their viability for delivery of broadband



services in several trials (Figure 1.2(a)). However the need arises to upgrade the A-PON system on the level of range, splitting factor, numbers of supported ONU and bit rates. The proposed upgrade is mainly motivated by three factors (Van de Voorde and Martin, 2000). The increase in FTTH range can support the expecting switching node consolidation in the core network and result in cost savings for the operation of the network. The Fibre-to-the-Curb (FTTC) plant can be extended to the home by inserting an optically amplified splitter. The gain in bandwidth efficiency due to statistical multiplexing increases with the number of users connected to a single line termination (G.983, 1998; Maeda, 2001; Yamashita, 1996; Wilson et al., 1999).

Table 1.1: ITU-T G.983 specification

Item	Unit	ITU-T G.983 Specification		
		Downstream		Upstream
Direction				
Branches		32		Not applicable
Distance	km	20		20
Wavelength	nm	1480-1580		1260-1360
Bit error ratio		$<10^{-10}$		$<10^{-10}$
Bit Rate	Mbps	155.52	622	155.52
Minimum mean launched optical power, Class B/C	dBm	-4/-2	-2/-2	-4/2
Minimum receiver sensitivity, Class B/C	dBm	-30/-3	-28/-33	-30/-33



The use of optical amplifier in the A-PON architecture will increase the power budget. The important advantage of using optical amplifier instead of electrical amplifier is in terms of their transparency to the format, bit rate, wavelength, and their simple management (Van de Voorde et al., 1996). The whole system is known as Super-PON (S-PON) architecture with a wide range and long fibre span. Figure 1.2(b) shows the generic architecture of a S-PON with a target of optical split at 2048 and maximum range of 100 km. A bit rate of 2.5 Gbps is distributed to the optical network unit by time division multiplexing (TDM) in the downstream direction, whereas a time division multiple access (TDMA) is used for upstream connection (Ransom, 1997).

The FTTH uses A-PON technology at the beginning years with an idea to save the cost. Because of the urge on the demand on the bit rate, high fibre span and large split, the A-PON system may no longer be the best system. The active component such as an optical amplifier is introduced to the conventional system (Morita et al., 1992; Takano et al., 2000). Thus, the higher split and wider range can be developed with high bit rate in order to cope with future trend of telecom networks. Figure 1.2 shows the characteristic and evolution of A-PON to S-PON.