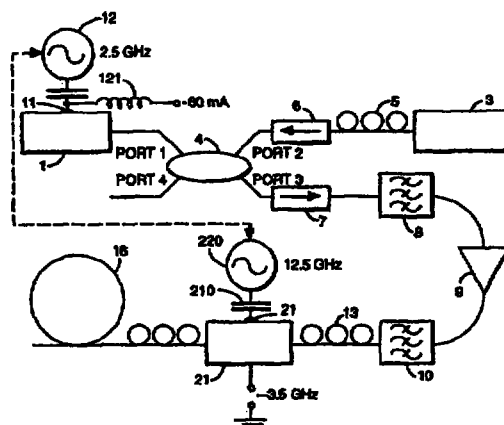




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(54) Title: OPTICAL PULSE SOURCE



(57) Abstract

An optical pulse source includes a gain-switched semiconductor laser diode (1). Light from a continuous wave source (3) is optically coupled into the laser cavity. Light output from the laser cavity passes through an electro-optic amplitude modulator (2). Synchronised modulating signals are applied to the semiconductor diode and to the amplitude modulator. The source outputs short low-jitter low-pedestal optical pulses and is suitable for use, for example, in a broadband optical network operating at high bit rates of 100Gbit/s or more, or in an optical interconnect.