

An all optical majority gate using nonlinear photonic crystal based ring resonators

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Optical logics will play a crucial role in the next generation all optical data processing networks. Therefore an all optical majority gate will be designed by using nonlinear photonic crystal ring resonators. For realizing the proposed structure we need three nonlinear resonant rings. In order to make nonlinear resonant rings, we used chalcogenide glass as the dielectric material for the dielectric rods. The output port of the proposed structure will be active only when two or three logic input ports are active. The rise and fall time values of the proposed structure are about 2 and 1 ps, respectively. The total footprint of the proposed structure is about 1287 μm^2 .

Keywords: majority gate, photonic crystal, Kerr effect, ring resonator.

1. Introduction

High bandwidth and high bit rates are the main advantages of all optical logics compared with traditional CMOS based logics [1]. Therefore there has been a strong desire toward designing all optical structures most recently. As a result, so many various solutions and mechanisms have been proposed for realizing optical devices. One can name semiconductor optical amplifiers [2], Mach–Zehnder interferometers [3] and photonic crystals (PhCs) [4, 5] as the most common examples.

Photonic crystals have photonic band gaps (PBGs) [6–8], they are scalable and do not need electrical bias. Therefore it is possible to design different kinds of compact all optical devices. As far as we know, optical filters [9–17], demultiplexers [18–24], switches [25–31], logics [32–49], decoders [50, 51], flip-flops [52] and data convertors [53–60] have been designed previously.

A common method used for designing PhC-based logic gates is combining the nonlinear Kerr effect with the resonant properties of PhCs [61–63]. In PhCs the resonant wavelength depends on the variation of the refractive index [17, 64–67]. According to the Kerr effect, the refractive index depends on the optical power [68]. So by combining these two properties, we can perform optical switching inside PhCs [69].

AFZAL *et al.* [69] designed an all optical NOR gate by cascading two PhC-based filters. CABALLERO *et al.* [70] designed Feynman and Majority gates by using constructive and destructive optical beams inside PhCs. CHRISTINA and KABILAN [71] used self-collimated beams for designing all optical AND, NOR, XNOR and NAND gates. MEHDIZADEH and SOROOSH [45] combined nonlinear photonic crystal ring resonators (PhCRRs) with optical waveguides to design a 3-port optical NOR gate. NOR and NAND gates have been designed by ALIPOUR-BANAEI *et al.* [43].

In this paper, we are going to design and propose an all optical majority gate using nonlinear PhCRRs. A typical majority gate is a logic gate with 3 input ports and 1 output port. The output port will be active when 2 or 3 input ports are active. Plane wave expansion and finite-difference time-domain methods were used for simulating the proposed structure.

The rest of the paper will be organized as follows: in Section 2, we will discuss the design procedure of the proposed structure, Section 3 will be devoted to the simulation results and finally Section 4 will contain conclusion.

2. Design procedure

The photonic crystal structure used for designing the proposed majority gate consists of a square lattice array of chalcogenide glass rods with refractive index of 3.1. The dielectric rods are arranged in xz plane. In this structure, the background material is air. For this rods the Kerr coefficient is about $9 \times 10^{-17} \text{ m}^2/\text{W}$. The radius of the dielectric rods is $r = 0.2a$, where $a = 614 \text{ nm}$ is the lattice constant of the structure. For this structure, the band structure diagram has been calculated and obtained like Fig. 1. This PhC structure has PBG region at $0.31 < a/\lambda < 0.44$ in TM mode (blue colored area) which is equal to $1395 \text{ nm} < \lambda < 1980 \text{ nm}$.

In order to create the proposed majority gate, we need to cascade three 2-input optical OR gates. A typical optical OR gate is composed of PhCRR combined with 4 op-

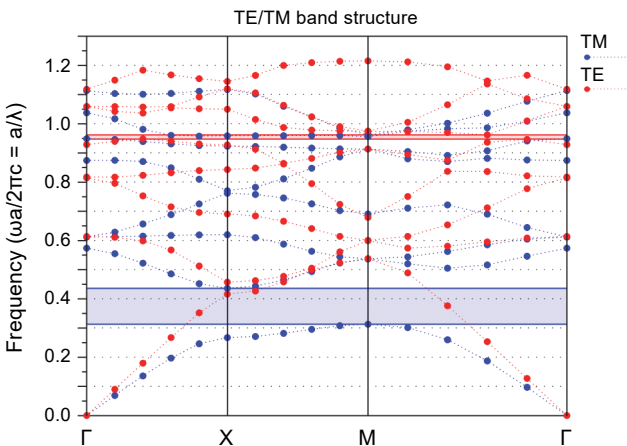


Fig. 1. Band structure diagram of the PhC.

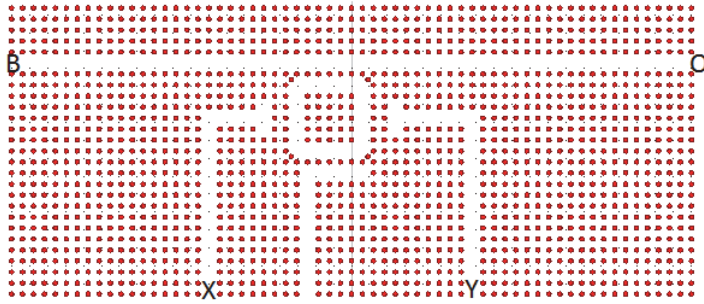


Fig. 2. All optical OR gate.

tical waveguides as shown in Fig. 2. In this structure, B is the bias port, X and Y are the input ports and O is the output port. The resonant ring was designed such that when both X and Y are inactive, it can drop the low power optical beams coming from B, so the output is active. But when one or both of X or Y ports become active, the high power optical beams from X or Y will change the resonant mode of the resonant ring so the resonant ring cannot drop the optical beam coming from B and as a result the output will be active.

The final structure for realizing the majority gate will be obtained by cascading three optical OR gates. The proposed structure is shown in Fig. 3. It consists of three resonant rings along with eight optical waveguides. The resonant rings were designed such that they can drop low power optical waves with central wavelength of 1550 nm, but they cannot drop high power optical waves. The quality factor of the resonant rings is about 500. Four rods at the corners of the resonant ring were place in order to reduce

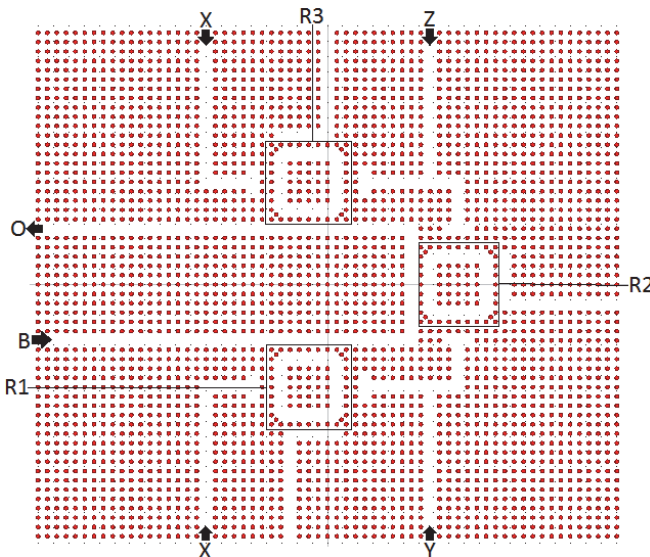


Fig. 3. All optical majority gate.

the unwanted reflection from the corners of the ring. In the proposed structure, B is the bias port, X, Y and Z are the input logic ports and O is the output port of the structure. As one can see, every resonant ring was connected to 2 of the input logic ports; R1 was connected to X and Y logic input ports, R2 was connected to Y and Z logic ports and finally R3 was connected to X and Z logic ports. The total footprint of the proposed structure is about $1287 \mu\text{m}^2$.

3. Simulation and results

When the design procedure was completed, we should test the functionality of the proposed structure by studying its optical behavior. For this purpose we used the finite-difference time-domain method. As mentioned earlier, the proposed structure has one input port for the bias beam, and three input ports for logic input ports and finally the structure has one output port. In the bias port, we used low power optical waves, however in X, Y and Z ports we used high power optical waves. For all of the input ports the central wavelength of the optical beams is 1550 nm. For proper operation of the proposed structure, the port B always should be active. There are eight different working states for the proposed structure according to different combinations of its input ports.

When all the logic input ports are inactive, all the resonant rings are in linear region. When the optical waves coming from B reach R1, R1 drops them into its corresponding drop waveguide. As a result, no optical waves reach the output port, therefore O will be inactive (Fig. 4).

When X is active but Y and Z are inactive, due to high power optical waves coming from X, R1 cannot drop the optical waves coming from B. Therefore the optical waves travel toward R2, because Y and Z are inactive, R2 is in linear region and can drop bias waves into its corresponding drop waveguide. As a result, bias waves will not reach the output port and O will be inactive (Fig. 5).

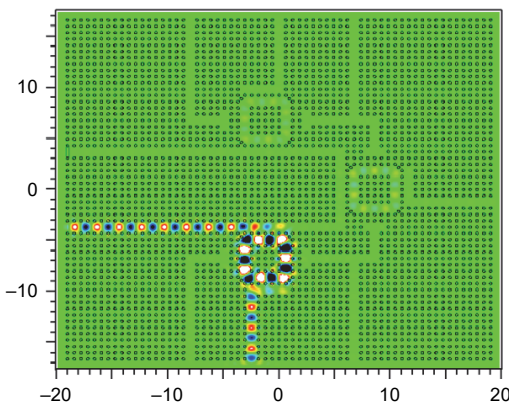


Fig. 4. Optical behavior of the proposed structure when X, Y and Z are inactive.

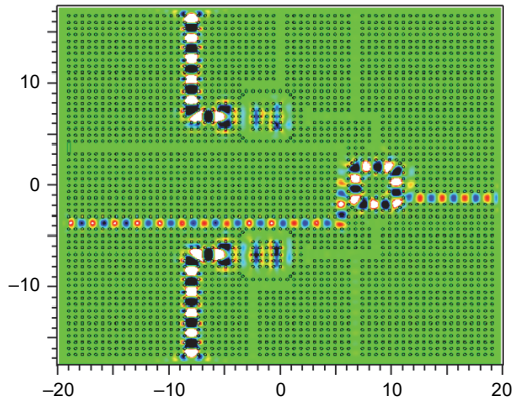


Fig. 5. Optical behavior of the proposed structure when X is active but Y and Z are inactive.

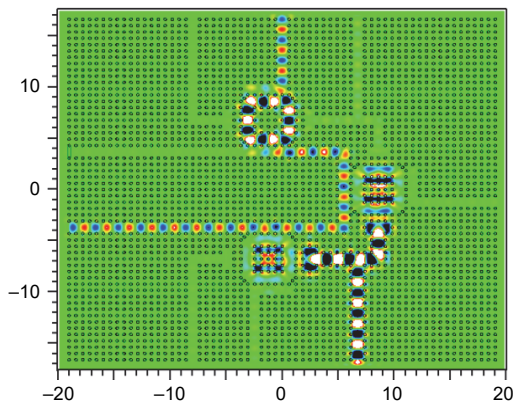


Fig. 6. Optical behavior of the proposed structure when Y is active but X and Z are inactive.

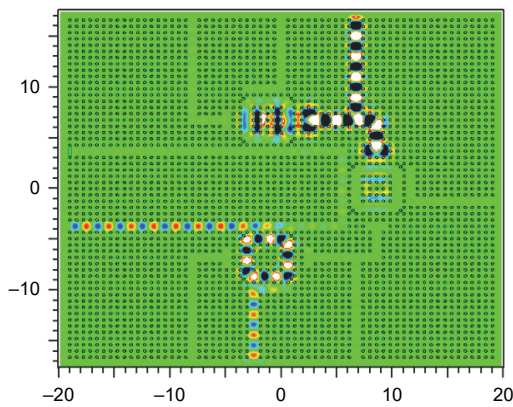


Fig. 7. Optical behavior of the proposed structure when Z is active but X and Y are inactive.

When Y is active but X and Z are inactive, due to high power optical waves coming from Y, R1 and R2 are in nonlinear region and they cannot drop the optical waves coming from B. Therefore the optical waves travel toward R3, because X and Z are inactive, R3 is in linear region and can drop bias waves into its corresponding drop waveguide. As a result, bias waves will not reach the output port and O will be inactive (Fig. 6).

When Z is active but X and Y are inactive, due to the lack of high power optical waves near R1, it is in linear region and it can drop the optical waves coming from B. Therefore the optical waves travel toward R3, because X and Z are inactive, R3 is in linear region and can drop bias waves into its corresponding drop waveguide. As a result, bias waves will not reach the output port and O will be inactive (Fig. 7).

When X and Y are active but Z is inactive, due to high optical power coming from X and Y, all the three resonant rings are in nonlinear region and none of them can drop the bias waves. As the result, the bias waves travel toward the output power and O will be active (Fig. 8).

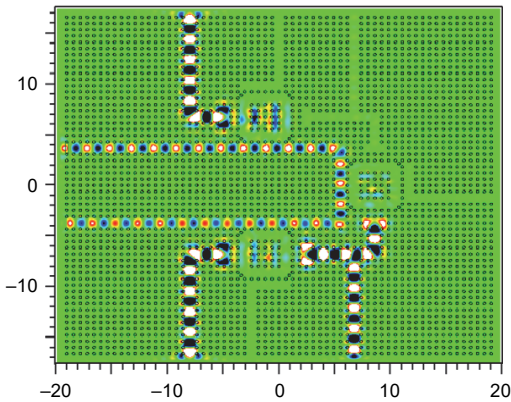


Fig. 8. Optical behavior of the proposed structure when X and Y are active but Z is inactive.

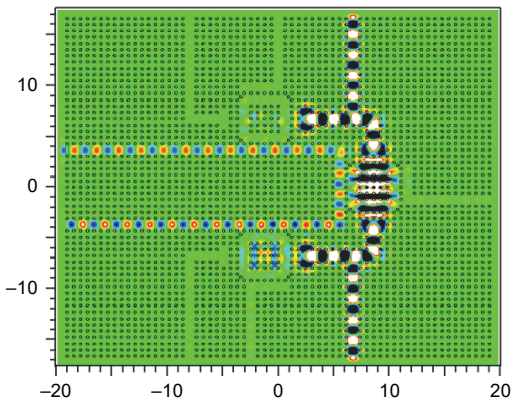


Fig. 9. Optical behavior of the proposed structure when Y and Z are active but X is inactive.

When Y and Z are active but X is inactive, due to high optical power coming from Y and Z all the three resonant rings are in nonlinear region and none of them can drop the bias waves. As the result, the bias waves travel toward the output power and O will be active (Fig. 9).

When X and Z are active but Y is inactive, due to high optical power coming from X and Z, all the three resonant rings are in nonlinear region and none of them can drop the bias waves. As the result, the bias waves travel toward the output power and O will be active (Fig. 10).

When all the input ports are active, due to high optical power coming from these ports, all the three resonant rings are in nonlinear region and none of them can drop the bias waves. As the result, the bias waves travel toward the output power and O will be active (Fig. 11).

The obtained results show that the proposed structure output port is active when 2 or 3 logic input ports are active. This means that the proposed structure can operate

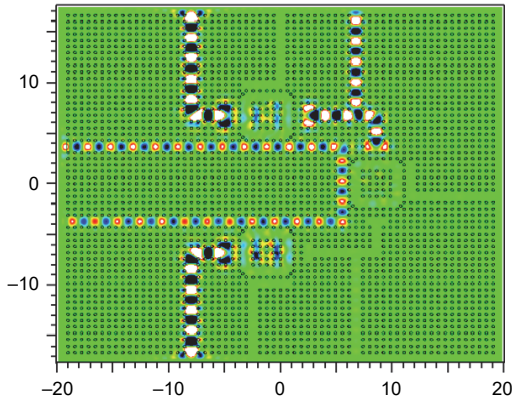


Fig. 10. Optical behavior of the proposed structure when X and Y are active but Z is inactive.

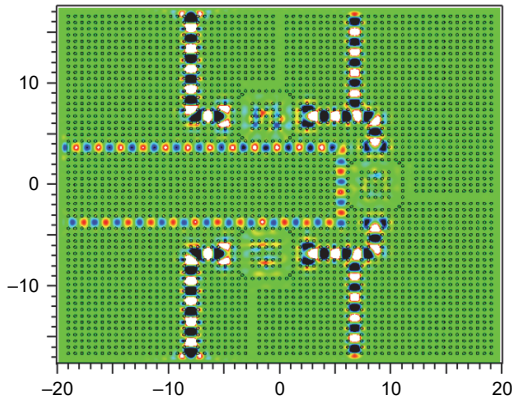


Fig. 11. Optical behavior of the proposed structure when X, Y and Z are active.

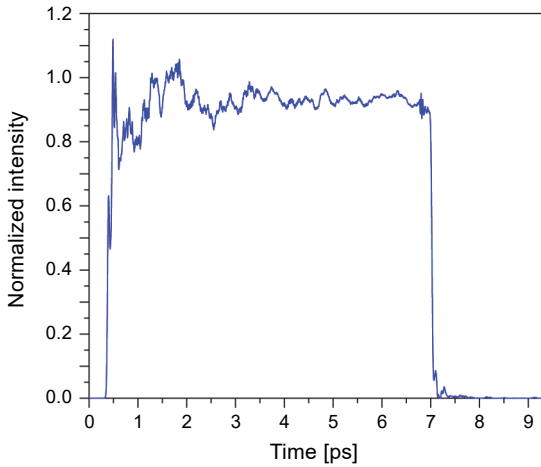


Fig. 12. Time response of the proposed structure.

as an all optical majority gate. The time response diagram of the proposed structure is shown in Fig. 12. One can observe from this figure that the rise and fall time of the proposed structure is about 2 and 1 ps, respectively.

4. Conclusion

In this paper we used a nonlinear PhCRR for designing an all optical OR gate. Then by cascading three OR gates, a novel structure was proposed for realizing an all optical majority gate. The proposed structure has a bias input port and three logic control ports. Using these logic input ports, one can control whether the bias port can reach the output port or not. The output port of the proposed structure is active only when two or three logic input ports are active. The rise and fall time of the proposed structure is about 2 and 1 ps, respectively. For the proposed structure the contrast ratio is about 19 dB.

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