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SERIES G: TRANSMISSION SYSTEMS AND MEDIA,
DIGITAL SYSTEMS AND NETWORKS

Transmission media characteristics – Characteristics of
optical components and subsystems

**Spectral grids for WDM applications:
DWDM frequency grid**

ITU-T Recommendation G.694.1

CYTEK V. BECKMAN
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ITU-T Recommendation G.694.1

Spectral grids for WDM applications: DWDM frequency grid

Summary

This Recommendation provides a frequency grid for dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM) applications.

The frequency grid, anchored to 193.1 THz, supports a variety of channel spacings ranging from 12.5 GHz to 100 GHz and wider.

Source

ITU-T Recommendation G.694.1 was prepared by ITU-T Study Group 15 (2001-2004) and approved under the WTSA Resolution 1 procedure on 13 June 2002.

FOREWORD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the United Nations specialized agency in the field of telecommunications. The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is a permanent organ of ITU. ITU-T is responsible for studying technical, operating and tariff questions and issuing Recommendations on them with a view to standardizing telecommunications on a worldwide basis.

The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA), which meets every four years, establishes the topics for study by the ITU-T study groups which, in turn, produce Recommendations on these topics.

The approval of ITU-T Recommendations is covered by the procedure laid down in WTSA Resolution 1.

In some areas of information technology which fall within ITU-T's purview, the necessary standards are prepared on a collaborative basis with ISO and IEC.

NOTE

In this Recommendation, the expression "Administration" is used for conciseness to indicate both a telecommunication administration and a recognized operating agency.

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As of the date of approval of this Recommendation, ITU had not received notice of intellectual property, protected by patents, which may be required to implement this Recommendation. However, implementors are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information and are therefore strongly urged to consult the TSB patent database.

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ITU-T Recommendation G.694.1

Spectral grids for WDM applications: DWDM frequency grid

1 Scope

The purpose of this Recommendation is to provide the definition of a frequency grid to support dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM) applications.

2 References

The following ITU-T Recommendations and other references contain provisions which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of this Recommendation. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. All Recommendations and other references are subject to revision; users of this Recommendation are therefore encouraged to investigate the possibility of applying the most recent edition of the Recommendations and other references listed below. A list of the currently valid ITU-T Recommendations is regularly published.

- ITU-T Recommendation G.671 (2002), *Transmission characteristics of optical components and subsystems*.

3 Definitions

3.1 Terms defined in this Recommendation

This Recommendation defines the following terms:

3.1.1 Frequency Grid

A frequency grid is a reference set of frequencies used to denote allowed nominal central frequencies that may be used for defining applications.

3.2 Terms defined in other Recommendations

This Recommendation uses terms defined in ITU-T Rec. G.671:

- Coarse Wavelength Division Multiplexing (CWDM).
- Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing (DWDM).

4 Abbreviations and acronyms

This Recommendation uses the following abbreviations:

CWDM	Coarse Wavelength Division Multiplexing
DWDM	Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing
WDM	Wavelength Division Multiplexing

5 Dense WDM and its applications

Dense Wavelength Division Multiplexing (DWDM), a WDM technology, is characterised by narrower channel spacing than Coarse WDM (CWDM) as defined in ITU-T Rec. G.671. In general the transmitters employed in DWDM applications require a control mechanism to enable them to meet the application's frequency stability requirements, in contrast to CWDM transmitters which are generally uncontrolled in this respect.

The frequency grid defined by this Recommendation supports a variety of channel spacings ranging from 12.5 GHz to 100 GHz and wider (integer multiples of 100 GHz). Uneven channel spacings are also allowed.

The current steps in channel spacing have historically evolved by sub-dividing the initial 100 GHz grid by successive factors of two.

6 Nominal central frequencies for dense WDM systems

For channel spacings of 12.5 GHz on a fibre, the allowed channel frequencies (in THz) are defined by:

$$193.1 + n \times 0.0125 \text{ where } n \text{ is a positive or negative integer including } 0$$

For channel spacings of 25 GHz on a fibre, the allowed channel frequencies (in THz) are defined by:

$$193.1 + n \times 0.025 \text{ where } n \text{ is a positive or negative integer including } 0$$

For channel spacings of 50 GHz on a fibre, the allowed channel frequencies (in THz) are defined by:

$$193.1 + n \times 0.05 \text{ where } n \text{ is a positive or negative integer including } 0$$

For channel spacings of 100 GHz or more on a fibre, the allowed channel frequencies (in THz) are defined by:

$$193.1 + n \times 0.1 \text{ where } n \text{ is a positive or negative integer including } 0$$

Table 1 illustrates some nominal central frequencies within the C and L bands based on the 12.5 GHz minimum channel spacing anchored to the 193.1 THz reference. Table 1 also illustrates the 25, 50 and 100 GHz grid frequencies within the same region. The endpoints shown are illustrative, not normative.

Note that the value of "c" (speed of light in vacuum) that should be used for converting between frequency and wavelength is 2.99792458×10^8 m/s.

Table 1/G.694.1 – Example nominal central frequencies of the DWDM grid

Nominal central frequencies (THz) for spacings of				Approximate nominal central wavelengths (nm)
12.5 GHz	25 GHz	50 GHz	100 GHz and above	
•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•
195.9375	–	–	–	1530.04
195.9250	195.925	–	–	1530.14
195.9125	–	–	–	1530.24
195.9000	195.900	195.90	195.9	1530.33

**Table 1/G.694.1 – Example nominal central frequencies
of the DWDM grid**

Nominal central frequencies (THz) for spacings of				Approximate nominal central wavelengths (nm)
12.5 GHz	25 GHz	50 GHz	100 GHz and above	
195.8875	–	–	–	1530.43
195.8750	195.875	–	–	1530.53
195.8625	–	–	–	1530.63
195.8500	195.850	195.85	–	1530.72
195.8375	–	–	–	1530.82
195.8250	195.825	–	–	1530.92
195.8125	–	–	–	1531.02
195.8000	195.800	195.80	195.8	1531.12
195.7875	–	–	–	1531.21
195.7750	195.775	–	–	1531.31
195.7625	–	–	–	1531.41
195.7500	195.750	195.75	–	1531.51
195.7375	–	–	–	1531.60
195.7250	195.725	–	–	1531.70
195.7125	–	–	–	1531.80
195.7000	195.700	195.70	195.7	1531.90
195.6875	–	–	–	1532.00
195.6750	195.675	–	–	1532.09
195.6625	–	–	–	1532.19
•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•
193.2375	–	–	–	1551.42
193.2250	193.225	–	–	1551.52
193.2125	–	–	–	1551.62
193.2000	193.200	193.20	193.2	1551.72
193.1875	–	–	–	1551.82
193.1750	193.175	–	–	1551.92

**Table 1/G.694.1 – Example nominal central frequencies
of the DWDM grid**

Nominal central frequencies (THz) for spacings of				Approximate nominal central wavelengths (nm)
12.5 GHz	25 GHz	50 GHz	100 GHz and above	
193.1625	–	–	–	1552.02
193.1500	193.150	193.15	–	1552.12
193.1375	–	–	–	1552.22
193.1250	193.125	–	–	1552.32
193.1125	–	–	–	1552.42
193.1000	193.100	193.10	193.1	1552.52
193.0875	–	–	–	1552.62
193.0750	193.075	–	–	1552.73
193.0625	–	–	–	1552.83
193.0500	193.050	193.05	–	1552.93
193.0375	–	–	–	1553.03
193.0250	193.025	–	–	1553.13
193.0125	–	–	–	1553.23
193.0000	193.000	193.00	193.0	1553.33
192.9875	–	–	–	1553.43
192.9750	192.975	–	–	1553.53
192.9625	–	–	–	1553.63
•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•
184.7750	184.775	–	–	1622.47
184.7625	–	–	–	1622.58
184.7500	184.750	184.75	–	1622.69
184.7375	–	–	–	1622.80
184.7250	184.725	–	–	1622.91
184.7125	–	–	–	1623.02
184.7000	184.700	184.70	184.7	1623.13
184.6875	–	–	–	1623.24
184.6750	184.675	–	–	1623.35

**Table 1/G.694.1 – Example nominal central frequencies
of the DWDM grid**

Nominal central frequencies (THz) for spacings of				Approximate nominal central wavelengths (nm)
12.5 GHz	25 GHz	50 GHz	100 GHz and above	
184.6625	–	–	–	1623.46
184.6500	184.650	184.65	–	1623.57
184.6375	–	–	–	1623.68
184.6250	184.625	–	–	1623.79
184.6125	–	–	–	1623.90
184.6000	184.600	184.60	184.6	1624.01
184.5875	–	–	–	1624.12
184.5750	184.575	–	–	1624.23
184.5625	–	–	–	1624.34
184.5500	184.550	184.55	–	1624.45
184.5375	–	–	–	1624.56
184.5250	184.525	–	–	1624.67
184.5125	–	–	–	1624.78
184.5000	184.500	184.50	184.5	1624.89
•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•
•	•	•	•	•

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