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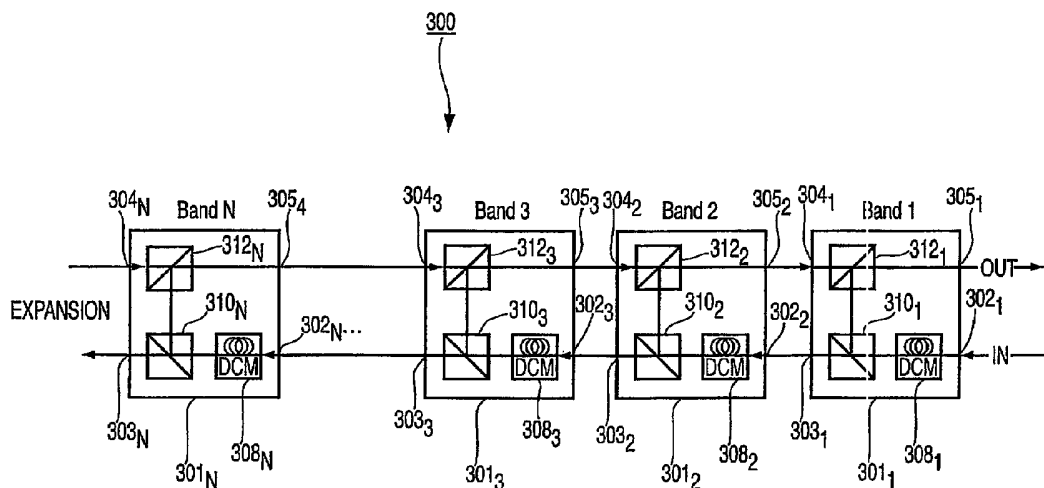
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(54) Title: MODULAR DISPERSION COMPENSATOR



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus is provided to compensate for dispersion of a WDM optical signal. The method begins by directing a WDM optical signal having a prescribed bandwidth to a first dispersion compensating element and substantially compensating, with the first dispersion compensating element, each wavelength in the WDM optical signal for dispersion at a prescribed wavelength within a first sub-band of the prescribed bandwidth. The method continues by directing to a second dispersion compensating element wavelengths received from the first dispersion compensating element outside the first sub-band and substantially compensating, with the second dispersion compensating element, each wavelength received from the first dispersion compensating element for dispersion at a prescribed wavelength within a second sub-band of the prescribed bandwidth; The wavelengths received from the second dispersion compensating element are combined within the second sub-band of the prescribed bandwidth with the wavelengths received from the first dispersion compensating element within the first sub-band.

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International application No.

PCT/US04/22106

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7) : G02B 6/26 US CL : 385/27, 24 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 385/27, 24; 398/79, 81, 147, 148, 158 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched NONE Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) Please See Continuation Sheet		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6,122,418 A (ELLIS) 19 September 2000 (19.09.2000), Figures 1, 3; column 3, line 45 - column 5, line 9.	1-10, 13-26
A	US 2003/0007725 A1 (FUKE et al) 09 January 2003 (09.01.2003), see entire document.	1-36
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer JOSE G. DEES Telephone No. (571) 272-1607 	

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Continuation of B. FIELDS SEARCHED Item 3:

EAST: US-PGPUB; USPAT; EPO; JPO; DERWENT

search terms: (dispers\$8 near3 compensat\$7) and ("WDM" or (wavelength\$6 near3 multiplex\$6)) and ((concat\$8 or series or cascad\$8) near7 (dispers\$6 near5 compensat\$6))