

Design of Optical Logic Gates Using Self-collimated Beams in 2D Photonic Crystal

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Abstract: Optical logic gates are elementary components for optical network and optical computing. In this paper, we propose a structure for AND, NAND, XNOR and NOR logic gates in the two dimensional photonic crystal which utilizes the dispersion based self-collimation effect. The self-collimated beam is splitted by the line defect and interfered with other self-collimated beam. This interference may be constructive or destructive based on their phase difference. This phenomenon is employed to realize all-optical logic gates. The gates are demonstrated numerically by computing electromagnetic field distribution using the finite difference time domain (FDTD) method. The results ensure that this design can function as AND, NAND, XNOR and NOR logic gates. The size of the structure is about $10\mu\text{m}\times 10\mu\text{m}$ which in turn results in an increase in the speed and all the gates are realized in the same configuration. The ON-OFF contrast ratio is about 6dB.

Keywords: Optical computing, photonic crystal, band diagram, equifrequency contour, all-optical logic gates

1. Introduction

The development of the all-optical technology is vital to realize the future telecommunication network and optical computer, where all the functions could be carried out in the optical domain. All-optical logic gates are the key elements in optical digital information processing. Ultrafast optical AND gate devices have been proposed to increase the bit rate of an optical transmission system and to realize an optical time division demultiplexer [1]. In an optical packet switching network, the photonic routers are expected to handle XOR operations for optical label swapping and header reconfiguration [2, 3]. So the realization of various logic operations for ultrafast signals is essential for future applications. Recently, some works were reported on all-optical logic circuits. But

most of the reported works suffered from some certain fundamental limitations including big size, low speed and the difficulty in performing chip-scale integration. In the literature, some schemes of all-optical logic gates were reported by use of nonlinear effects in optical fibers [4–6], in semiconductor devices [7–11], and in waveguides [12–14].

Photonic crystal (PhC) structures have been extensively studied recently because of their unique properties such as compactness, high speed, low power consumption, better confinement and the promise in photonic integrated circuits [15, 16]. PhC is a kind of nanostructures with a periodic modulation of the permittivity. Logic functions based on the photonic crystal can be realized by nonlinear effects [17], ring resonator [18], and multimode interference [19]. These require

significant amount of the power for the nonlinear material, long interaction length and two different wavelengths for probing and input signals. The complex spatial dispersion property of the self-collimation effect in the PhC provides a mechanism to employ logic functions. In our previous work [20], OR and XOR logic functions were realized by applying only two input signals. In this paper, we propose other logic gates AND, NAND, XNOR, and NOR by applying the reference signal along with input signals with the same wavelength. Its configuration is simple and compact.

The paper is organized as follows: in Section 2, the self-collimation effect and band diagram of the proposed structure is explained; the structure of logic gates and optimum values are described in Section 3; in Section 4, the operation of logic gates on the platform of two dimensional (2D) PhC is investigated; the conclusions are drawn in Section 5.

2. Self-collimation effect and band diagram

One of the interesting confinement mechanisms of light guiding in the photonic crystal is self-collimation effect. It exploits the spatial dispersion properties of Bloch waves to achieve the electromagnetic wave without diffraction. It retains spatial width confinement without the line defect waveguide or nonlinearities [21]. The shape of the PhC dispersion surface is an essential feature for determining the self-collimation. This can be optimized and manipulated by lattice symmetry, material parameters and the geometry shape of the constituents.

A square lattice of the dielectric rod based 2D silicon PhC structure is considered here. The permittivity (ϵ_r) and the refractive index of the silicon rods are 11.97 and 3.46, respectively. The radius of the host rod (r) is taken as 105 nm. The most notable specification of the PhC is its photonic band gap. In the photonic band gap, the light with certain range of frequencies is not permitted to propagate inside the crystal. Using the plane wave

expansion (PWE) method, the energy band diagram and equifrequency contour (EFC) for E-polarized mode-electric-field is calculated and demonstrated in Figs. 1(a) and 1(b). This field is parallel to the axes of the rod.

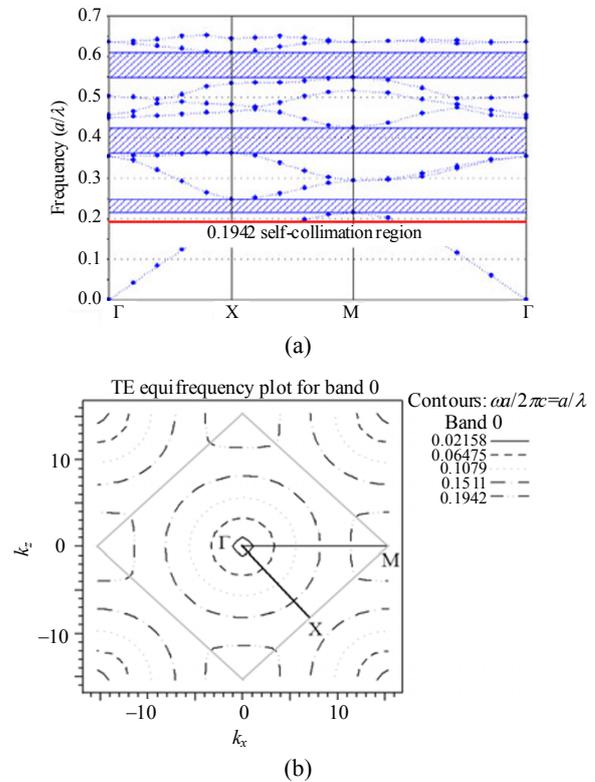


Fig. 1 Band structure and contour map: (a) band diagram of the square lattice PC structure for E-polarized mode and (b) equifrequency contours of the PhC dispersion surface in the first Brillouin zone.

In the band diagram, x axis is divided into regions representing the line segments connecting the Γ - X - M - Γ points in the wave vector space corresponding to $(0, 0)$, $(\sqrt{2}\pi/a, 0)$ and $(\sqrt{2}\pi/a, \sqrt{2}\pi/a)$, respectively. In the EFCs, the curves of the frequencies around $0.194(a/\lambda)$ can be identified as squares with round corners centered at M point, where λ is the wavelength of the incident radiation whose value is 1555.1 nm. In the flat square, the direction of light propagation in the PhC is identical to the direction of the group velocity given by $v_g = \nabla_k \omega(k)$, where $\omega(k)$ is the optical frequency at the wave vector k . It means that the group velocity is perpendicular to the EFCs, and the waves are

collimated. Hence, the self-collimation phenomenon occurs, when the E-polarized light of the frequencies around $0.194(a/\lambda)$ propagates along the Γ -M direction.

3. Structure of logic gates and its optimum value

Figure 2(a) exemplifies the 2D PhC lattice used for designing logic gates. The circles represent the silicon rods whose radii are 105 nm. The distance between two rods which is known as the lattice constant “ a ” is 302 nm. In this structure two line defects are created by reducing the radius of 15 rods in the Γ -X direction, and the distance between them is “ $10a$ ”. When the self-collimated beam is incident on the line defect, it is partially reflected and partially transmitted. The power splitting ratio at the line defect and phase difference between the transmitting and reflecting signals are depending on the radius of the defect rod.

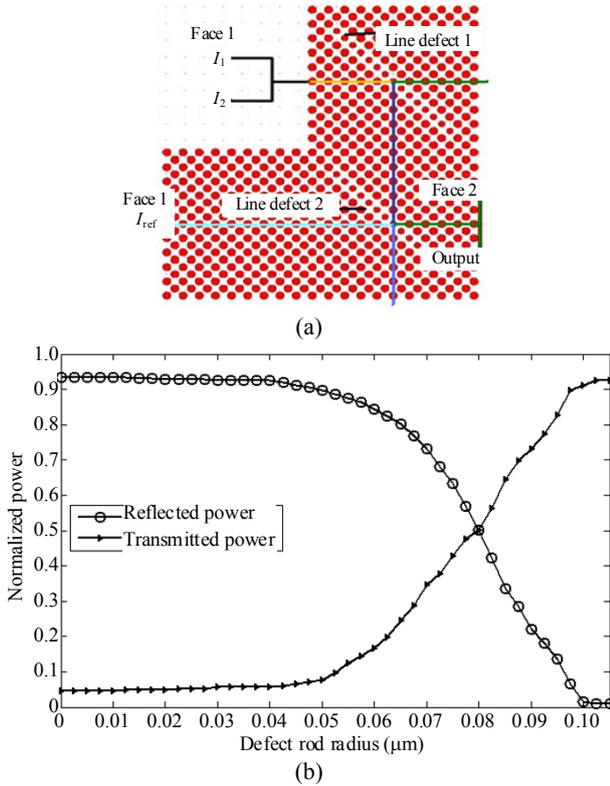


Fig. 2 Logic gate structure and power ratio: (a) the proposed structure of logic gates and (b) the normalized transmitted power and reflected power with respect to the defect rod radius.

From Fig. 2(b), it is evident that when the radius (r_d) of the defect rod radius is 83 nm, the transmitting power and the reflecting power are divided equally. If the radii of the defect rods are greater than those of host rods, the phase difference between the transmitting signal and the reflecting signal is “ $-\pi/2$ ”, whereas if it is less than those of host rods, the phase difference is “ $\pi/2$ ” [22].

The amplitudes of the transmission signal and the reflection signal are $e^{i\theta}/\sqrt{2}$ and $e^{i(\theta+\pi/2)}/\sqrt{2}$, respectively. When two self-collimated signals with appropriate phase difference are introduced at the line defect, these signals are interfered either constructively or destructively. The intensities of constructive and destructive signals are $2|uE|^2$ and 0, respectively, where E represents plane wave and u is a periodicity function of the PhC.

The transmitted signal and reflected signal are expressed as

$$R_{12} = \frac{uE}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i(\theta+\pi)} \quad (1)$$

$$T_{22} = \frac{uE}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i\theta} \quad (2)$$

where R_{12} is the reflected input signal 1 at line defect 2, and T_{22} is the transmitted input signal 2. The resultant signal at the output port is a linear combination of the reflected beam and transmitted beam, expressed as

$$O = R_{12} + T_{22} = \frac{uE}{\sqrt{2}} (e^{i(\theta+\pi)} + e^{i\theta}), \quad (3)$$

and its corresponding intensity is

$$I = |O|^2 = \left| \frac{uE}{\sqrt{2}} (e^{i(\theta+\pi)} + e^{i\theta}) \right|^2. \quad (4)$$

4. Operation of logic gates on the platform of the 2D PhC

To demonstrate the functions of logic gates, the numerical experiment is performed. Two Gaussian TM polarized input optical signals (I_1 and I_2) are launched at the line defect 1, and the reference optical signal (I_{ref}) is launched at the line defect 2. The wavelength of the input and the reference signals is set to be 1555.1 nm. The path lengths of

the input signal and reference signal are equal in length. The reflected input beams I_1 & I_2 and transmitted reference beam I_{ref} are interfered at the line defect 2. This interference is either constructive or destructive according to their phase difference. The destructive output signal is taken out from the face 2.

For AND logic simulation, the input signals I_1 & I_2 and reference intensities I_{ref} are taken as $2I_0$ and $0.5I_0$, respectively. Input and the reference signals are interfered constructively or destructively at the line defect 2. The destructive interfered signal is considered as an output at the output port A. When none of the input signal is given, only I_{ref} ($0.5I_0$) is incident on the line defect 2, and it is divided equally.

So the output intensity is “ $0.25I_0$ ”. If any one of the inputs is high, the input signal ($2I_0$) is divided equally as the transmitted and reflected beams by the line defect 1. The reflected input beam (I_0) will be incident on the line defect 2. In this line defect 2, the reflected input is again divided and interfered with the transmitted reference beam. It is found that the output intensity is “ $0.25I_0$ ”. When both the input signals are applied, the reflected beam from the line defect 1 is $2I_0$. At the second line defect, the reflected input beam (I_0) destructively is interfered with the transmitted reference beam ($0.5I_0$), and the output is “ $0.75I_0$ ”. The field distribution at the steady state operation of the AND logic gate is illustrated in Fig. 3.

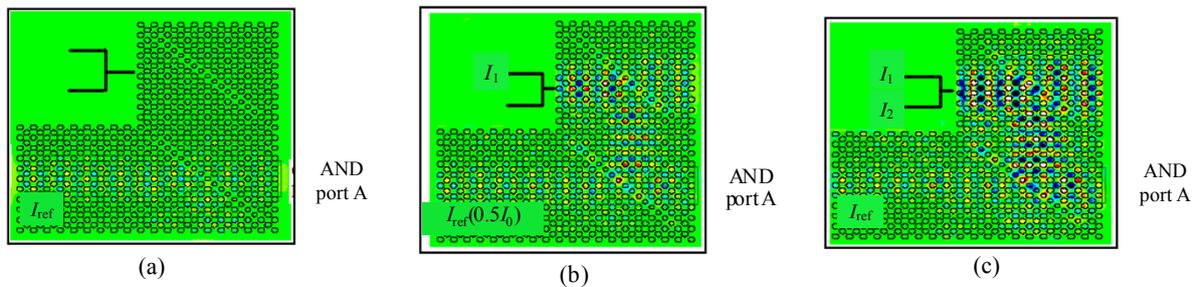


Fig. 3 Electromagnetic field distribution for the AND logic: (a) both inputs are low, (b) any one of the inputs is high, and (c) both inputs are high.

In the NAND gate analysis, input and reference signals are set as $I_1 = I_2 = I_{ref} = 2I_0$, and the behavior of the NAND logic gate is shown in Fig. 4 for various input combinations. When none of the input signals is given, I_{ref} ($2I_0$) is incident on the line defect 2. The transmitted signal of the reference signal “ I_0 ” is considered as the output. If any one of the signals is

high either 01 or 10, the partially reflected input beam ($0.5I_0$) is destructively interfered with the transmitted reference signal (I_0) at the line defect 2, and the resultant output is “ $0.5I_0$ ”. If both the inputs are high, the output is zero since reflected input signals (I_0) are destructively interfered with the transmitted reference signal (I_0).

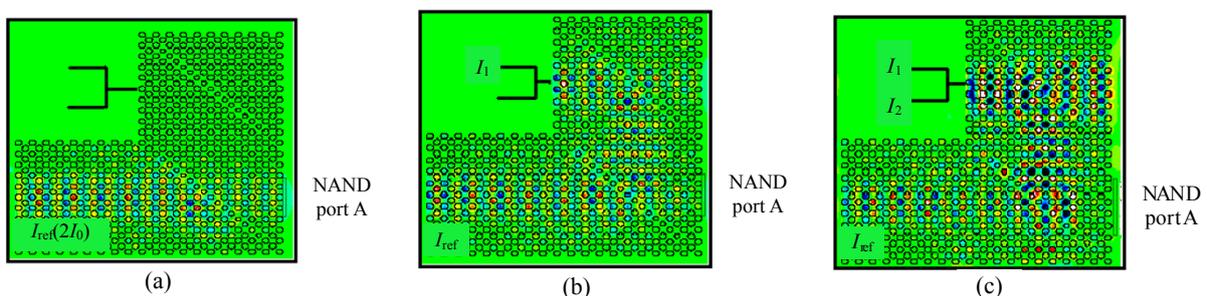


Fig. 4 Electromagnetic field distribution for NAND logic: (a) both inputs are low, (b) any one of the inputs is high, and (c) both inputs are high.

In the case of the NOR logic operation, the intensities of input and the reference signals are $I_1 = I_2 = I_{ref} = I_0$. When both the input signals I_1 and I_2 are

excited simultaneously, the partially reflected input beams ($0.5I_0$) are destructively interfered with the transmitted reference signal ($0.5I_0$) at the line defect

2, and the output is “0”. If none of the inputs is applied, the transmittance reference signal is taken as the output, and its value is “ $0.5I_0$ ”. If any one of the input signals is incident, the reflected input beam

($0.25I_0$) is interfered with the transmitted reference signal ($0.5I_0$), and the output is “ $0.25I_0$ ”. Figure 5 shows the electromagnetic field distribution of various input combinations of the NOR gate.

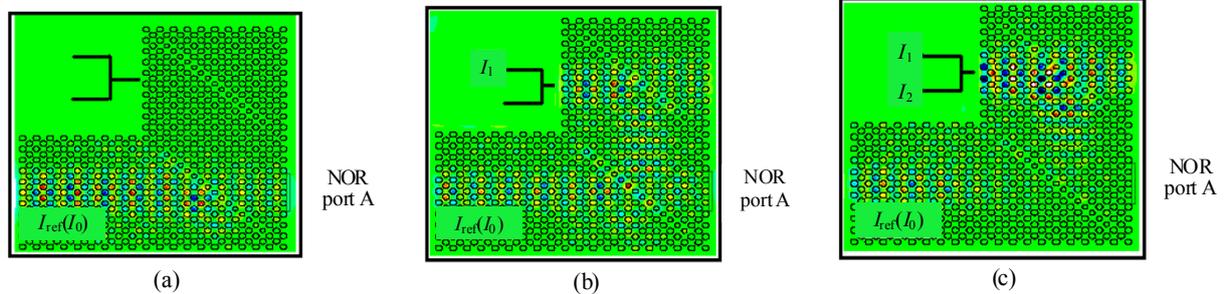


Fig. 5 Field distribution for NOR logic: (a) both inputs are low, (b) any one of the inputs is high, and (c) both inputs are high.

The operation of the XNOR logic gate is explained as follows: input signals and the reference signal are taken as $2I_0$ and I_0 , respectively. When both the input signals I_1 and I_2 are low, only the reference signal is divided at the line defect 2, and the transmittance reference signal “ $0.5I_0$ ” is considered as the output. If both the signals are high,

the input signals (I_0) are interfered with the reference signal ($0.5I_0$) at the second line defect. The intensity of the output signal is “ $0.5I_0$ ”. When any one of the inputs is high, the output is “0”. Figure 6 shows the steady state field distribution of the XNOR gate for various input combinations.

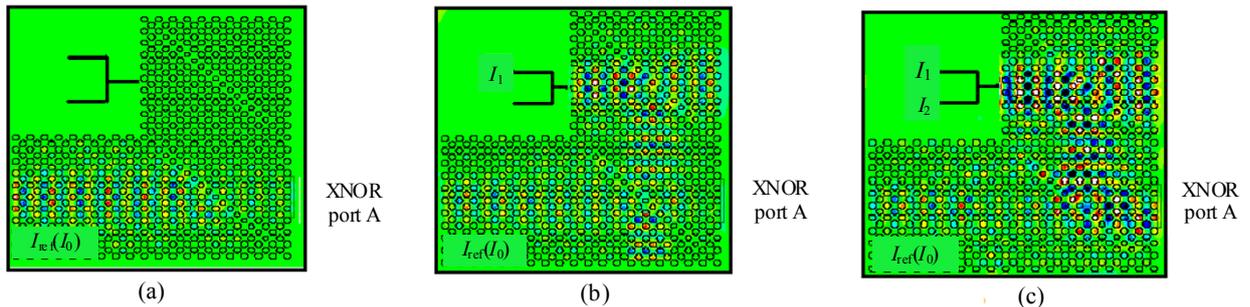


Fig. 6 Electromagnetic field distribution for XNOR logic: (a) both inputs are low, (b) any one of the inputs is high, and (c) both inputs are high.

Numerically simulated output signal levels for all the proposed logic gates are shown in Table 1. The output values of logic gates can be standardized using the threshold limiter which suppresses “0” level signals and stabilizes fluctuations of “1”

level signals.

The ON-OFF contrast ratio of the gates is defined as the logarithmic ratio of the ON and OFF power level. The contrast ratios for the exact simulated value are tabulated in Table 2.

Table 1 Output signal level for proposed gates.

Input	AND	NAND	XNOR	NOR
00	$0.25I_0(0)$	$I_0(1)$	$0.5I_0(1)$	$0.5I_0(1)$
01	$0.24I_0(0)$	$0.5I_0(1)$	$0.095(0)$	$0.25I_0(0)$
10	$0.24I_0(0)$	$0.5I_0(1)$	$0.01(0)$	$0.25I_0(0)$
11	$0.75I_0(1)$	$0.09I_0(0)$	$0.5I_0(1)$	$0(0)$

Table 2 ON-OFF contrast ratio for various logic gates.

Gate	ON-OFF contrast ratio
AND	4.9
NAND	7.4
XNOR	7.2
NOR	3.1

5. Conclusions

A versatile all-optical logic gate based on the self-collimation effect in two dimensional photonic crystals is proposed. Numerical simulations are demonstrated successfully by using the finite difference time domain (FDTD) method which shows that the structure performs AND, NAND, XNOR and NOR logic functions. The designed structure can perform the logic gate functions in the same configuration only by adjusting the input power levels. It has simple geometric and clear operating principle. It operates at the optical communication wavelength of 1.5551 μm and its ON-OFF contrast ratio is about 6dB. Because of the compactness, this device is suitable for optical computing and photonic integrated circuits.

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