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Reduction in Higher Order Effects on Logic Functions of Asymmetric Nonlinear Optical Fiber Couplers by Bandwidth Limited Amplification

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Abstract—Higher order effects such as third-order dispersion, shock effect, and soliton self-frequency shift on all-optical logic gates that use asymmetric nonlinear optical fiber couplers are investigated with the beam propagation method, and it is found that third-order dispersion seriously affects the operations of logic devices. In contrast to the case of nonvanishing third-order dispersion, the radiation is stimulated, and consequently the operations of the logic devices are degraded. In order to diminish the degradation, the bandwidth limited amplification is introduced. The logic functions can be improved by trapping only the soliton components in the finite gain-bandwidth.

Index Terms—All-optical logic gate, nonlinear directional coupler, optical soliton.

I. INTRODUCTION

SOLITON pulses in optical fibers [1]–[3] whose transmission loss is effectively compensated by an erbium-doped fiber amplifier (EDFA) [4] are currently a subject of great interest, because of their potential applications in optical signal processing and transmission [5]. Optical solitons are also being considered for potential use in all-optical switching and logic. The phenomenon of nonlinear directional coupling has been widely investigated for applications to all-optical ultrafast switching [6]–[15], and recently, all-optical ultrafast logic functions that use an asymmetric nonlinear directional coupler (NLDC) have been numerically demonstrated [16]. Moreover, the switching response of asymmetric nonlinear couplers has been experimentally investigated [17]–[19]. In such an asymmetric coupler, the output power tends to appear in the waveguide with the stronger Kerr effect when only one waveguide is excited. When both waveguides are excited, the power distribution at the output end depends on the relative phase of the input signals. The asymmetric nonlinear directional couplers make it possible to implement various logic gates such as AND, OR, and XOR gates [16], but the coupler length becomes long when picosecond solitons are used. To reduce this coupler length, shorter solitons must

be used. However, when subpicosecond-femtosecond solitons are used, higher order effects such as third-order dispersion (TOD), shock effect, and soliton self-frequency shift (SSFS) may degrade the operations of the logic devices. Although the effects of TOD on symmetric NLDC's have been investigated recently [11], the higher order effects on asymmetric NLDC's have not been discussed yet.

In this paper the higher order effects on all-optical logic gates that use asymmetric nonlinear optical fiber couplers are investigated with the beam propagation method (BPM), and it is found that TOD strongly affects the operations of logic devices. In contrast to the case of nonvanishing TOD, the radiation is stimulated, and consequently the operations of logic devices are degraded. In order to diminish the degradation, the bandwidth limited amplification [9], [20], [21] is introduced. It has been shown that the higher order effects can be suppressed by the bandwidth limited amplification. The logic functions can be improved by trapping only the soliton components in the finite gain-bandwidth. The effects of fiber loss and walk-off are also discussed.

II. THEORETICAL MODEL

Coupled nonlinear Schrödinger equations (NLSE's) with higher order effects that describe subpicosecond-femtosecond soliton-propagation in two channels are given by

$$-j \frac{\partial u}{\partial \xi} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \tau^2} + |u|^2 u + \kappa v + jG \left(u + \mu \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial \tau^2} \right) - j\Gamma u + j\nu_1 \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial \tau^3} - j\nu_2 \frac{\partial(|u|^2 u)}{\partial \tau} - \nu_3 \frac{\partial|u|^2}{\partial \tau} u = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$-j \frac{\partial v}{\partial \xi} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial \tau^2} + q|v|^2 v + \kappa u + jG \left(v + \mu \frac{\partial^2 v}{\partial \tau^2} \right) - j\Gamma v + j\nu_1 \frac{\partial^3 v}{\partial \tau^3} - j\nu_2 \frac{\partial(|v|^2 v)}{\partial \tau} - \nu_3 \frac{\partial|v|^2}{\partial \tau} v = -j\delta \frac{\partial v}{\partial \tau} \quad (2)$$

where u and v are the normalized pulse amplitudes of the two channels, κ is the coupling coefficient, and the normalized coordinates, ξ , τ , the normalized gain and bandwidth of EDFA, G , μ , and the coefficients Γ , ν_1 , ν_2 , ν_3 , and δ which are, respectively, related to the fiber loss, TOD, shock effect, SSFS,

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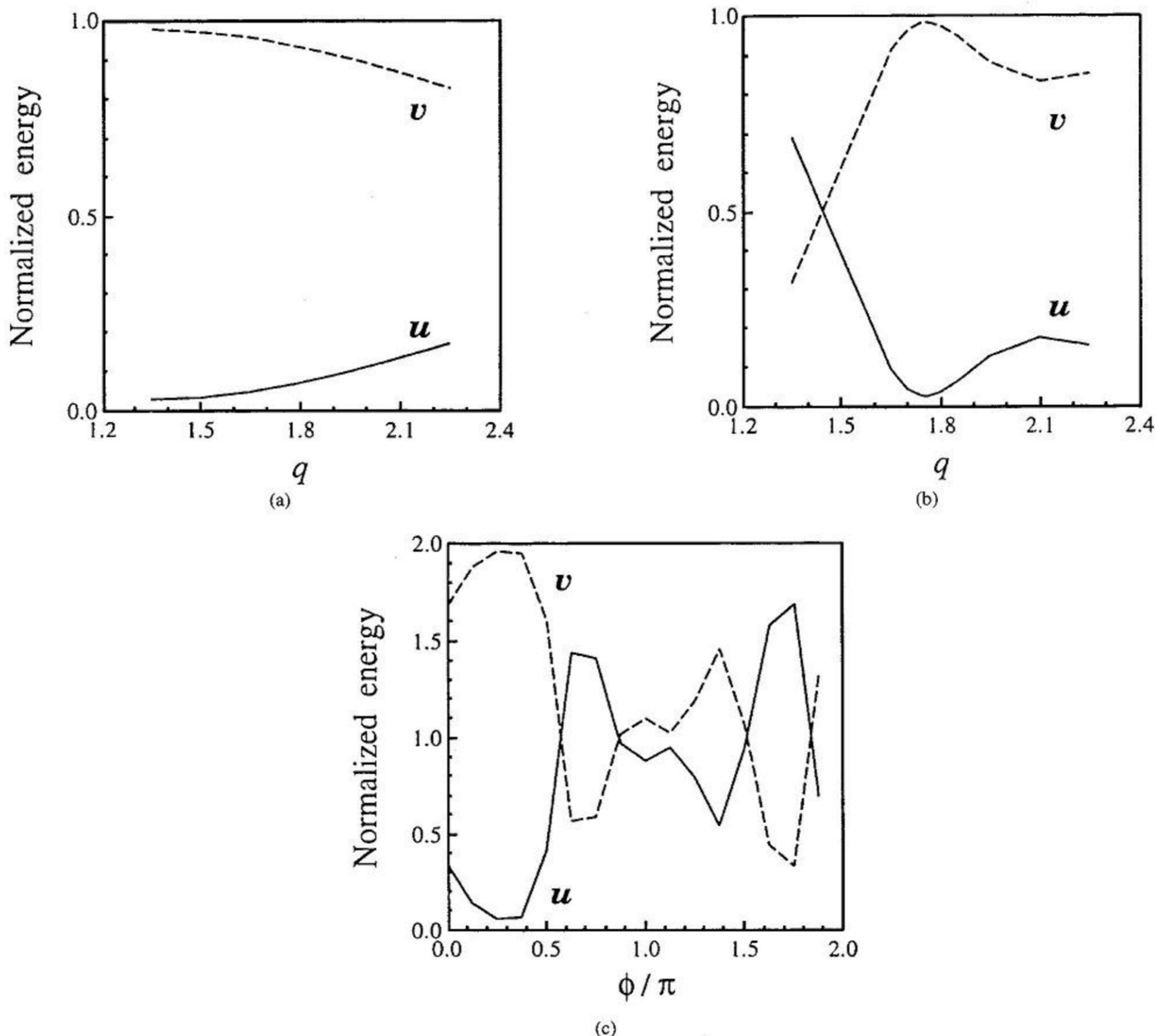


Fig. 1. Switching characteristics in the unperturbed case: (a) $A_u = 1$, $A_v = 0$, and $\phi = 0$, (b) $A_u = 0$, $A_v = 1$, and $\phi = 0$, and (c) $A_u = A_v = 1$, and $q = 1.75$.

and walk-off effect are defined as follows:

$$\xi = \frac{\pi z}{2 Z_s} \quad (3) \quad \text{with}$$

$$\tau = \frac{1}{T_{\text{FWHM}}} \left(t - \frac{z}{v_g} \right) \times 1.76274 \quad (4)$$

$$G = \frac{g T_{\text{FWHM}}^2}{|\sigma| \lambda^2} \times 6.9793 \times 10^{-2} \quad (5)$$

$$\mu = \left(\frac{\lambda^2}{\lambda_g T_{\text{FWHM}}} \right)^2 \times 1.75148 \quad (6)$$

$$\Gamma = \frac{2}{\pi} Z_s \frac{\alpha}{20000 \log_{10} e} \quad (7)$$

$$\nu_1 = -\frac{\sigma_\lambda \lambda^2}{|\sigma| T_{\text{FWHM}}} \times 1.5597 \times 10^{-1} \quad (8)$$

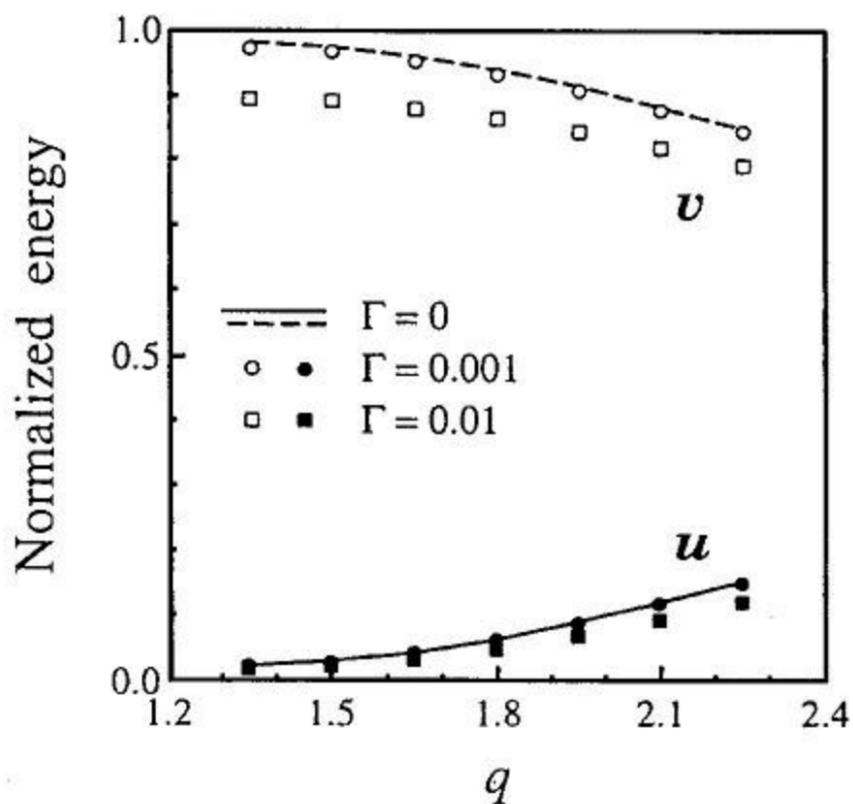
$$\nu_2 = \frac{\lambda}{T_{\text{FWHM}}} \times 1.87162 \times 10^{-3} \quad (9)$$

$$\nu_3 = \frac{T_r}{T_{\text{FWHM}}} \times 1.76274 \times 10^{-3} \quad (10)$$

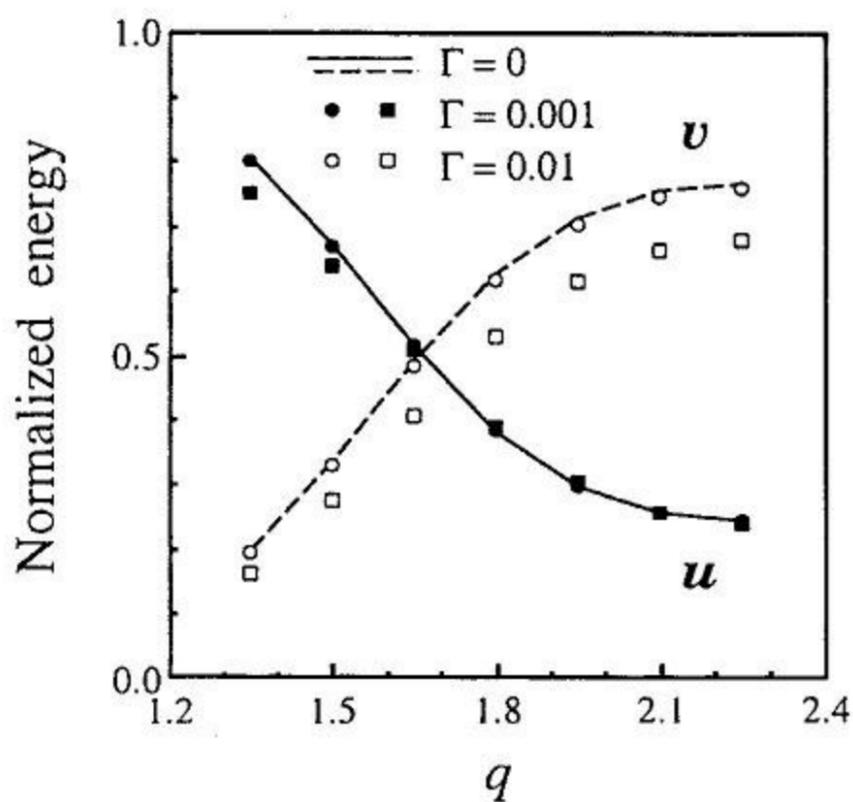
$$\delta = \frac{T_d T_{\text{FWHM}}}{|\sigma| \lambda^2} \times 3.56444 \times 10^6 \quad (11)$$

$$Z_s = \frac{T_{\text{FWHM}}^2}{|\sigma| \lambda^2} \times 9.52235 \times 10^{-1}. \quad (12)$$

Here z (km) is the spatial coordinate, t (ps) is the temporal coordinate, v_g (ps/km) is the group velocity of u pulse, T_{FWHM} (ps) is the full width at half maximum (FWHM) of the pulse intensity, λ (μm) is the carrier wavelength, σ (ps/(km·nm)) is the group velocity dispersion (GVD) and positive in the anomalous-dispersion regime, σ_λ (ps/(km·nm²)) is the third-order dispersion, g (dB/km) is the gain per unit length, λ_g (nm) is the gain bandwidth (FWHM), α (dB/km) is the fiber loss, T_r (fs) is the finite response time of the nonlinear refractive-index or the Raman process, T_d is the normalized delay time difference between u - and v -channels, Z_s (km) corresponding to $\xi = \pi/2$ is called the soliton period, and the coupling and the asymmetric natures of the two channels are.



(a)



(b)

Fig. 2. Switching characteristics in the perturbed case: (a) $A_u = 1$, $A_v = 0$, and $\phi = 0$ and (b) $A_u = 0$, $A_v = 1$, and $\phi = 0$.

respectively, expressed by the coefficients, κ and q . In (1) and (2) no GVD difference between u - and v -channels is assumed, and the asymmetry of the higher order effects is neglected.

III. ANALYSIS METHOD

Coupled NLSE's are solved by using the BPM with initial pulse forms given by

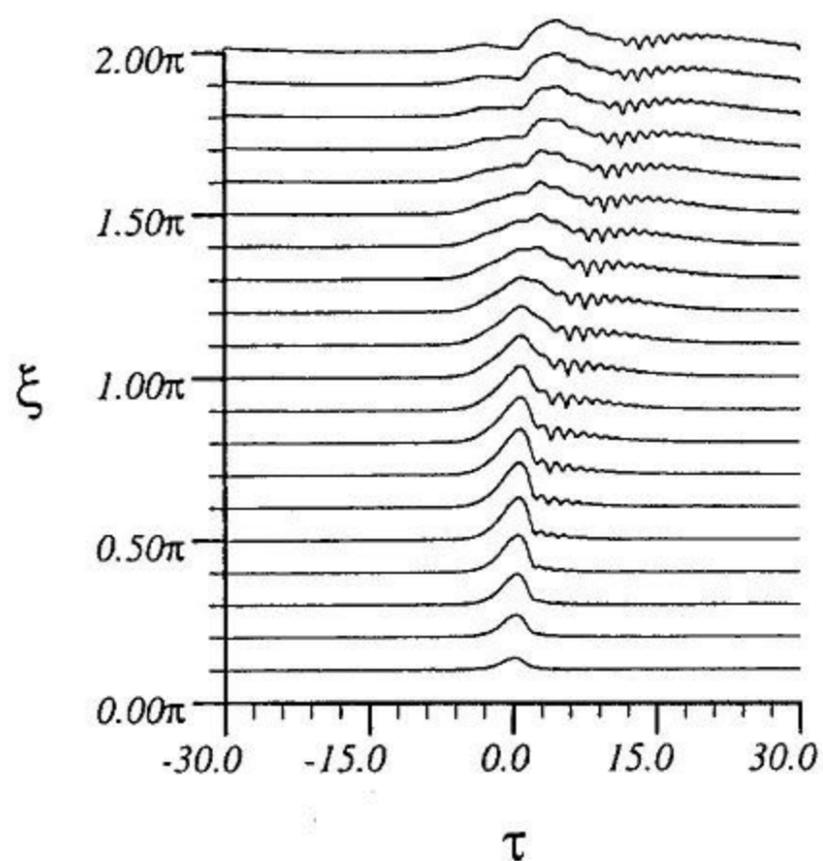
$$u(\xi = 0, \tau) = A_u \operatorname{sech} \tau \quad (13)$$

$$v(\xi = 0, \tau) = A_v \exp(j\phi) \operatorname{sech} \tau \quad (14)$$

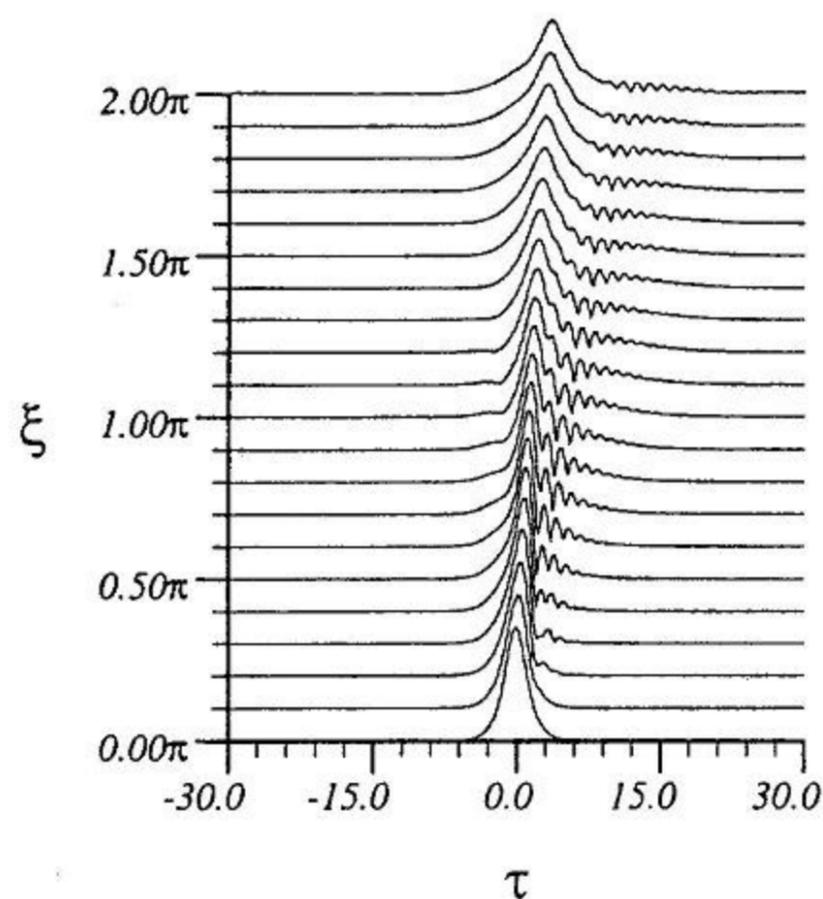
where A_u and A_v are the amplitudes of u and v pulses, respectively, and ϕ is the relative phase of the two pulses.

To apply the BPM to coupled NLSE's, we rewrite (1) and (2) as

$$\frac{\partial u}{\partial \xi} = (D_u + N_u)u - j\kappa v \quad (15)$$



(a)



(b)

Fig. 3. Waveform changes in the perturbed case ($A_u = 0$, $A_v = 1$, and $\phi = 0$): (a) u -channel and (b) v -channel.

$$\frac{\partial v}{\partial \xi} = (D_v + N_v)v - j\kappa u \quad (16)$$

with

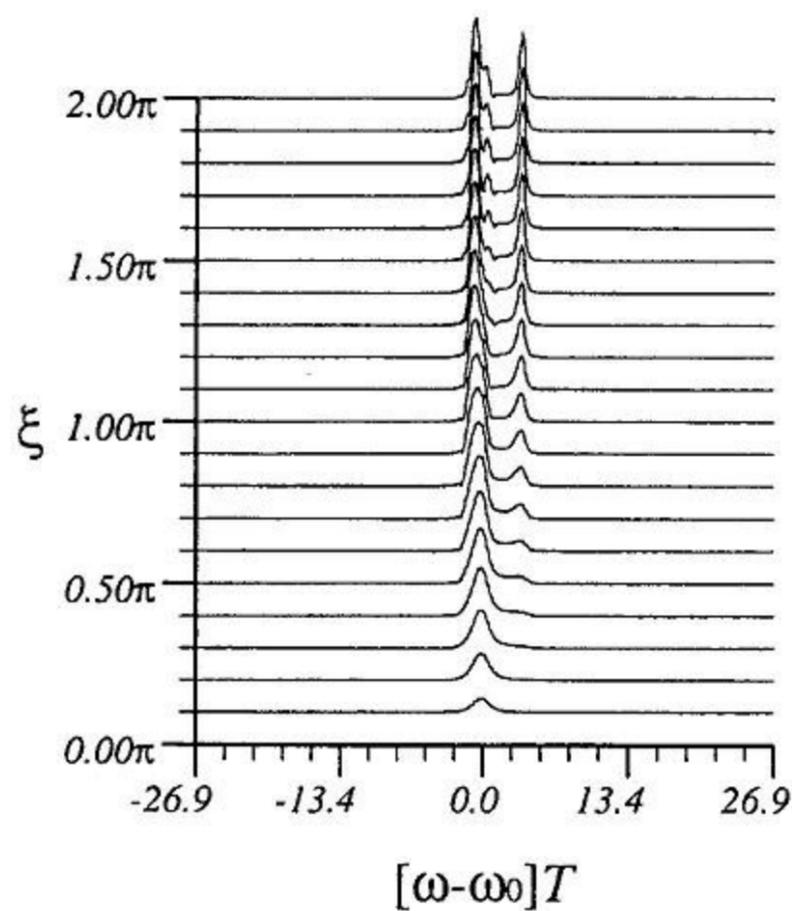
$$D_u = -j\frac{1}{2}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \tau^2} + G\mu\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \tau^2} + \nu_1\frac{\partial^3}{\partial \tau^3} \quad (17)$$

$$D_v = -j\frac{1}{2}\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \tau^2} + G\mu\frac{\partial^2}{\partial \tau^2} + \nu_1\frac{\partial^3}{\partial \tau^3} + \delta\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \quad (18)$$

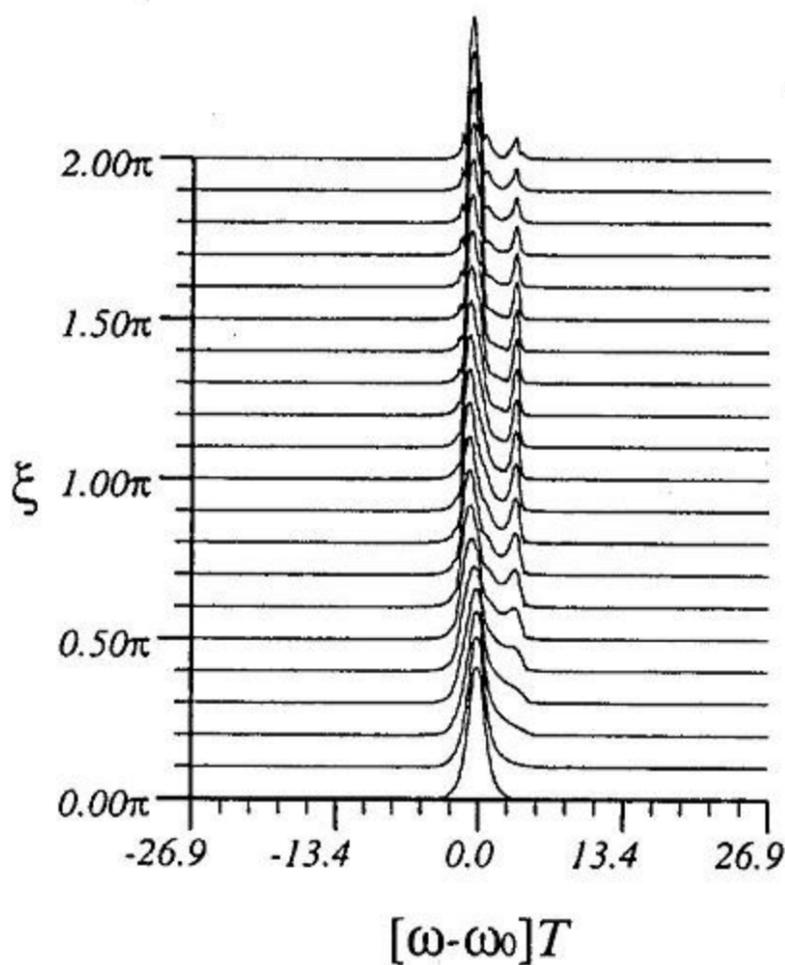
$$N_u = -j|u|^2 + G - \Gamma - \nu_2[(|u|^2)_\tau + u^*(u)_\tau] + j\nu_3(|u|^2)_\tau \quad (19)$$

$$N_v = -jq|v|^2 + G - \Gamma - \nu_2[(|v|^2)_\tau + v^*(v)_\tau] + j\nu_3(|v|^2)_\tau \quad (20)$$

where $(\cdot)_\tau$ means the numerical differentiation with respect to τ .



(a)



(b)

Fig. 4. Spectrum changes in the perturbed case ($A_u = 0$, $A_v = 1$, and $\phi = 0$): (a) u -channel and (b) v -channel.

From (15) and (16) the following successive equations are derived:

$$u(\xi + \Delta\xi, \tau) = \exp(D_u \Delta\xi/2) \exp(N_u \Delta\xi) \exp(D_u \Delta\xi/2) \times u(\xi, \tau) - j\kappa v(\xi + \Delta\xi/2, \tau) \quad (21)$$

$$v(\xi + \Delta\xi, \tau) = \exp(D_v \Delta\xi/2) \exp(N_v \Delta\xi) \exp(D_v \Delta\xi/2) \times v(\xi, \tau) - j\kappa u(\xi + \Delta\xi/2, \tau). \quad (22)$$

In the BPM, the pulse forms at $\xi = \xi + \Delta\xi$ can be predicted from those at $\xi = \xi$.

TABLE I
LOGIC FUNCTIONS

Parameters	Input		Output	
	E_u	E_v	E_u	E_v
$\nu_1 = \nu_2 = \nu_3 = 0$	0	0	0	0
$G = \mu = \Gamma = 0$	1	0	0 (0.06)	1 (0.94)
$q = 1.75$	0	1	0 (0.02)	1 (0.98)
$\phi = 0.865\pi$	1	1	1 (1.00)	1 (0.99)
$\nu_1 = 0.2, \nu_2 = 0.01, \nu_3 = 0.04$	0	0	0	0
$G = 0.07, \mu = 1.5, \Gamma = 0$	1	0	0 (0.22)	1 (1.19)
$q = 1.95$	0	1	0 (0.19)	1 (0.96)
$\phi = 0.800\pi$	1	1	1 (1.12)	1 (1.12)
$\nu_1 = 0.2, \nu_2 = 0.01, \nu_3 = 0.04$	0	0	0	0
$G = 0.07, \mu = 1.5, \Gamma = 0.01$	1	0	0 (0.17)	1 (1.14)
$q = 1.95$	0	1	0 (0.21)	1 (0.85)
$\phi = 0.820\pi$	1	1	1 (1.06)	1 (1.04)

IV. LOGIC FUNCTIONS

In this section, we show the logic functions that use asymmetric nonlinear fiber couplers, and assume $\kappa = 0.331$ [16] which yields the normalized coupling length, $\xi_c = \pi/2\kappa \simeq 1.5\pi$. To investigate the operation principle of asymmetric nonlinear fiber couplers, in Sections IV-A to -D we assume no walk-off effect, $\delta = 0$.

A. Unperturbed Case

In order to confirm the validity of our analysis method, we consider the unperturbed case; $\nu_1 = \nu_2 = \nu_3 = G = \mu = \Gamma = 0$.

Fig. 1 shows the normalized energy in u -channel denoted by the solid line and in v -channel denoted by the dashed line at the coupling length. In Fig. 1(a) or (b), the fundamental soliton is inputted to u - or v -channel, respectively, and we assume $\phi = 0$.

In the former case, the optical soliton input to u -channel is coupled to v -channel, irrespective of the values of q . In the latter case, on the other hand, as the values of q become larger, the soliton inputted to v -channel remains in v -channel without being coupled. The contrast of output levels between u - and v -channels becomes maximum when $q \simeq 1.75$. In Fig. 1(c), the fundamental solitons are inputted to both channels, and we assume $q = 1.75$. The output levels in u - and v -channels are sensitive to the values of ϕ and are almost the same when $\phi = 0.570\pi, 0.865\pi, 1.510\pi$, and 1.808π .

From these results it is found that, when $q = 1.75$ and $\phi = 0.865\pi$, u - and v -channels act like AND and OR gates, respectively, as shown in Table I, where the numbers in parentheses reflect the real simulation results. These results agree well with those of Yang [16].

B. Perturbed Case

Here, we investigate the higher order effects on the operations of lossless ($\alpha = 0$) logic devices without EDFA and assume $T_{FWHM} = 0.25$ ps, $\lambda = 1.55$ μm , and $T_r = 5.9$ fs.

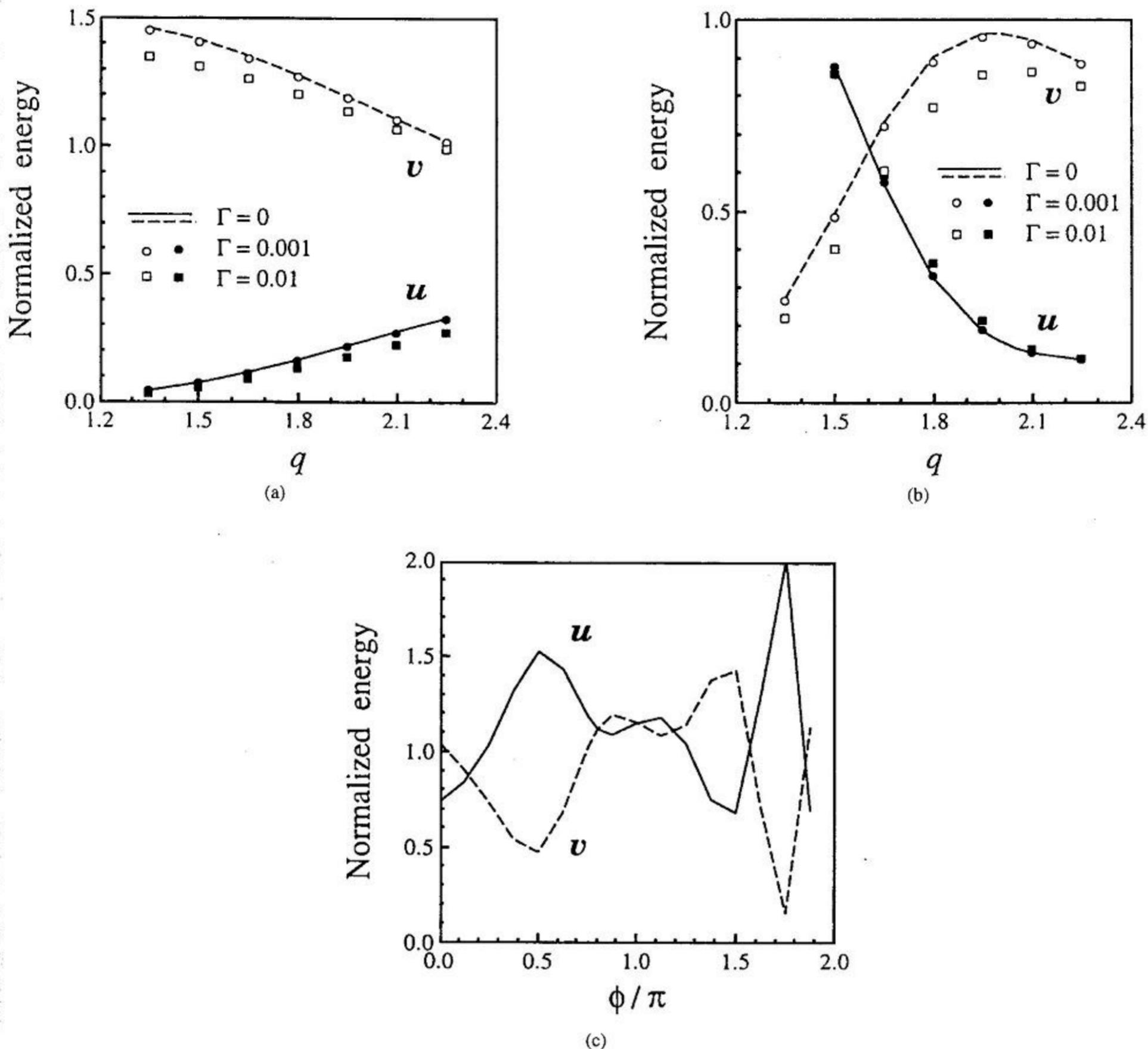


Fig. 5. Switching characteristics in the perturbed case using EDFA: (a) $A_u = 1, A_v = 0$, and $\phi = 0$, (b) $A_u = 0, A_v = 1$, and $\phi = 0$, and (c) $A_u = A_v = 1$ and $q = 1.95$.

When using a fiber with $\sigma = 0.45$ ps/(km·nm) and $\sigma_\lambda = 0.06$ ps/(km·nm²) [2], [3], the coefficients related to the higher order effects are $\nu_1 = 0.20$ [22]–[24], $\nu_2 = 0.01$, and $\nu_3 = 0.04$.

Fig. 2 shows the normalized energy at the coupling length, where the results for lossy cases are also plotted by circles and squares and are discussed later (in Section IV-D). In Fig. 2(a) or (b), the fundamental soliton is inputted to u - or v -channel, respectively, and we assume $\phi = 0$. The contrast of output levels is degraded when the soliton is inputted to v -channel. The results shown in Fig. 2 are almost the same as those obtained by taking only TOD into account; $\nu_1 = 0.20$ and $\nu_2 = \nu_3 = 0$, and therefore, the above contrast degradation of output levels is mainly due to TOD.

Fig. 3 shows the waveform changes when the optical soliton is inputted to v -channel, where $q = 2.0$. It is found that small pulses are generated in the slow group velocity region in consequence of radiation caused by TOD, and that the

contrast of output levels at the coupling length $\xi_c \approx 1.5\pi$ is degraded. Fig. 4 shows the spectrum changes, where ω_0 is the carrier frequency, and $T = T_{\text{FWHM}}/1.762724$. It can be seen that the spectrum corresponding to the radiation is generated at a frequency $(\omega - \omega_0)T \approx 1/2\nu_1$ [25], and that the spectrum corresponding to the soliton component shifts to lower frequency region in consequence of SSFS.

In the present case, the coupling length given by $L_c = Z_s/\kappa$ becomes 166 m. When picosecond pulses are used, the coupling length increases, and the coefficient related to the higher order effects decrease. For example, when a 1 ps pulse is used, we obtain $L_c = 2661$ m, $\nu_1 = 0.05$, $\nu_2 = 3.0 \times 10^{-3}$ and $\nu_3 = 0.01$. If higher dispersion fibers are used, the coupling length and the TOD coefficient are reduced compared with the case of using lower-dispersion fibers. For example, when a fiber with $\sigma = 3.0$ ps/(km·nm) and $\sigma_\lambda = 0.05$ ps/(km·nm²) [20] is used, we obtain $L_c = 25$

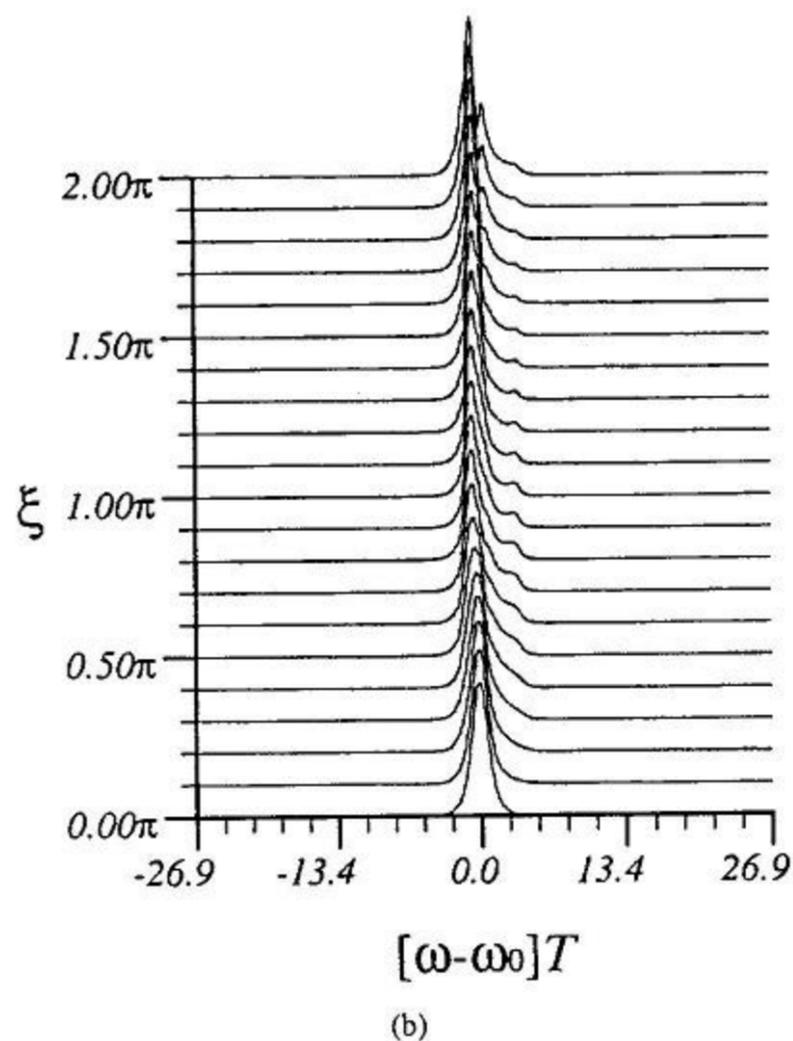
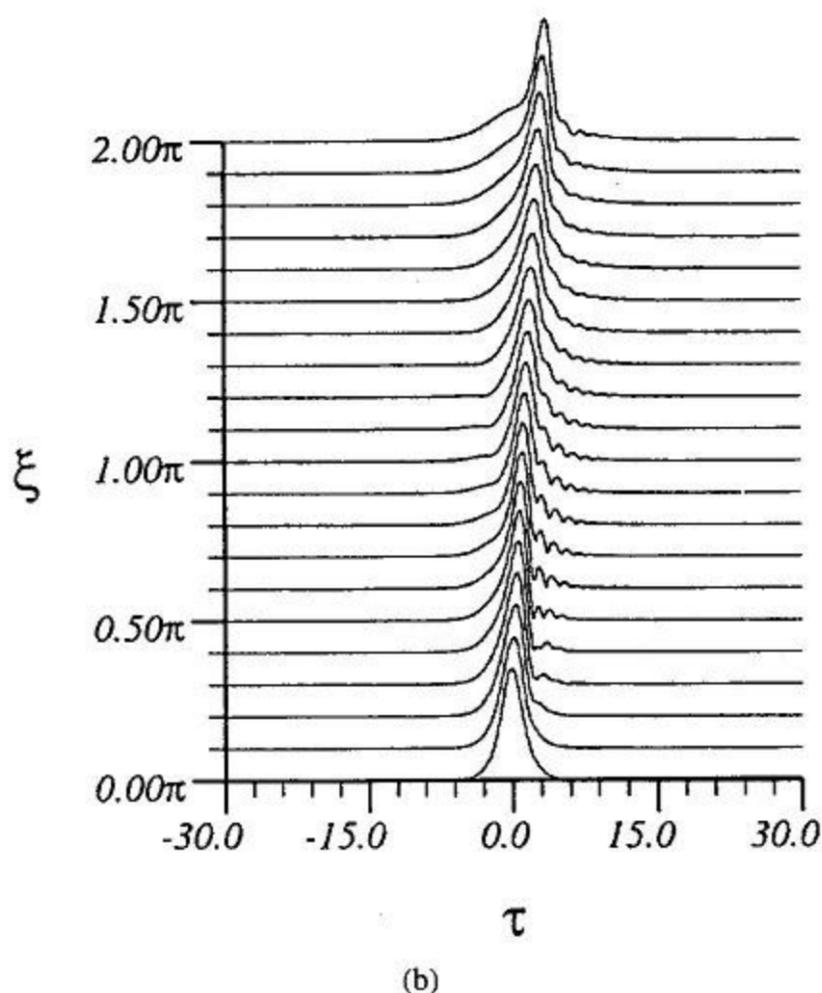
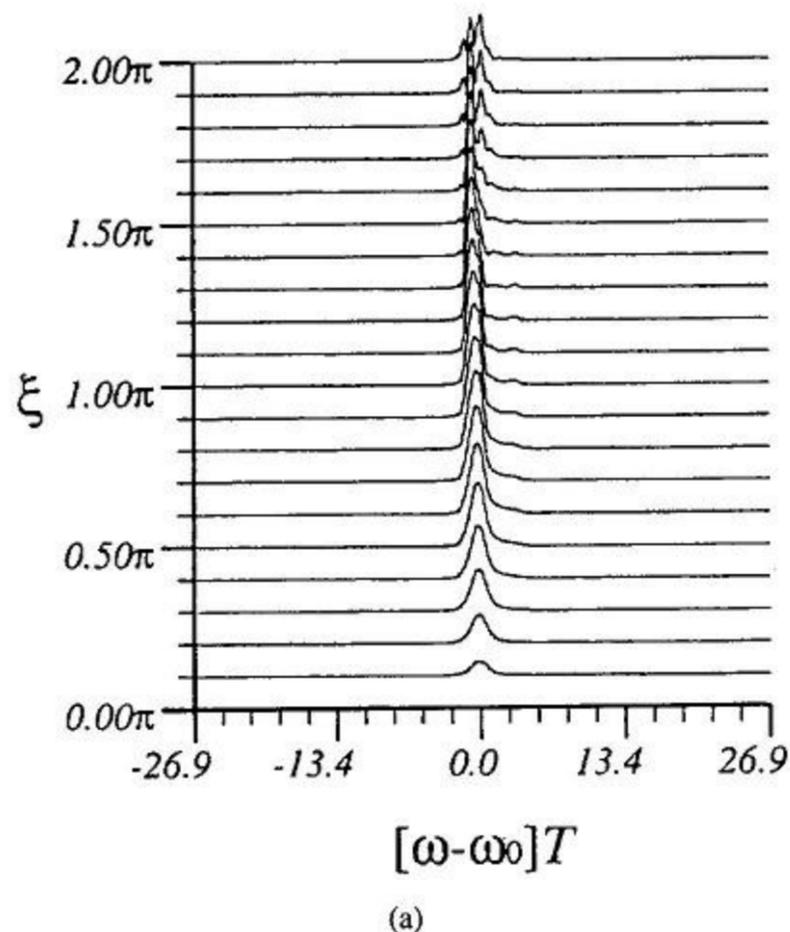
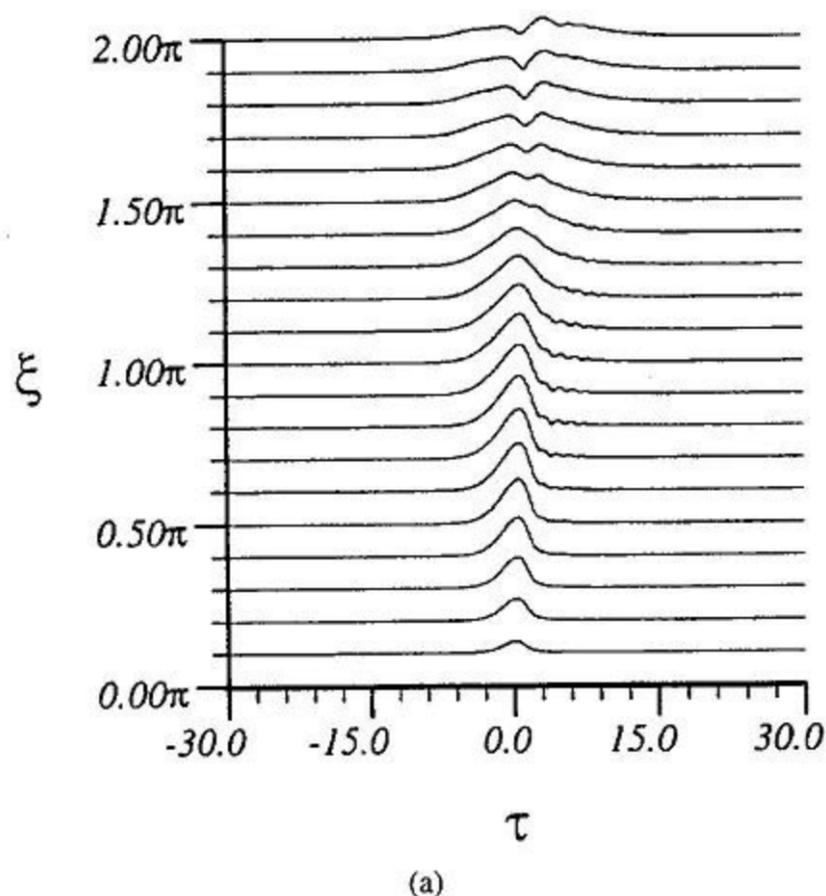


Fig. 6. Waveform changes in the perturbed case using EDFA ($A_u = 0$, $A_v = 1$, and $\phi = 0$): (a) u -channel and (b) v -channel.

Fig. 7. Spectrum changes in the perturbed case using EDFA ($A_u = 0$, $A_v = 1$, and $\phi = 0$): (a) u -channel and (b) v -channel.

m and $\nu_1 = 0.025$ for a 0.25 ps pulse. The values of ν_2 and ν_3 are unchanged for the same pulse-width.

C. Soliton Trapping by EDFA

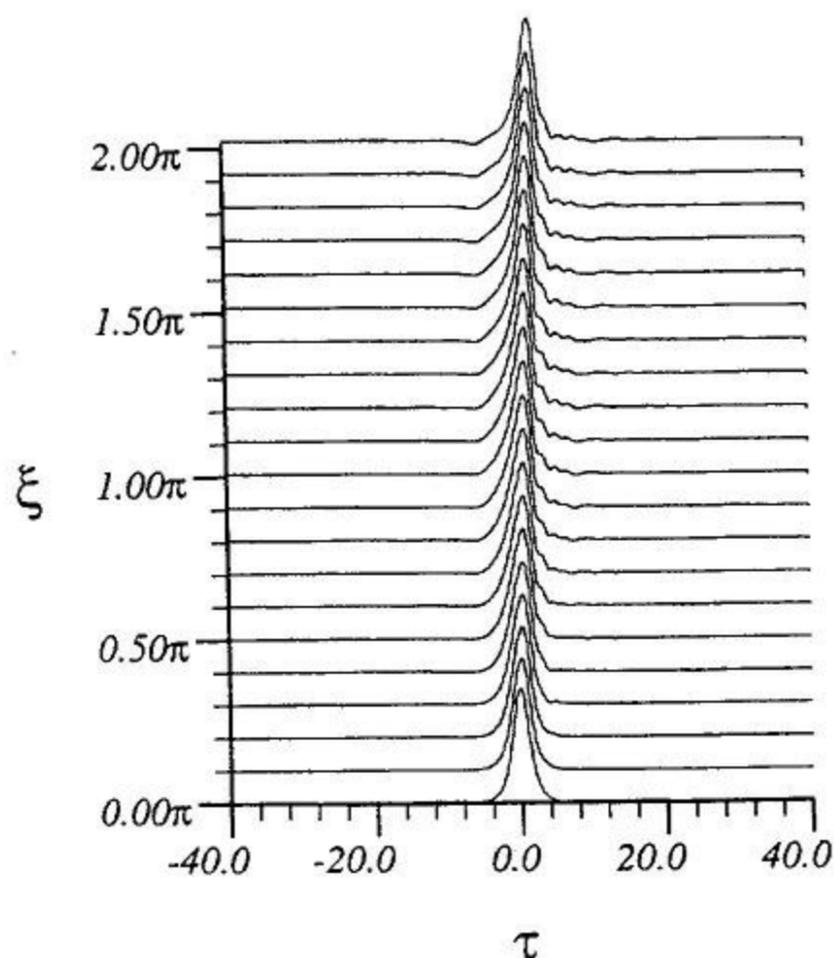
In order to remove the spectrum corresponding to radiation caused by TOD, we use a distributed EDFA and try to trap only the soliton components in the limited bandwidth of the amplifier [22]–[24], [26]–[28].

Now, we assume the gain and the bandwidth of EDFA as $G = 0.07$ and $\mu = 1.5$, respectively. Fig. 5 shows the normalized energy at the coupling length. In contrast to Fig. 2 without EDFA, the contrast of output levels is improved with $q = 1.95$ when a soliton is inputted to v -channel as shown in Fig. 5(b). It is found from Fig. 5(c) that the output

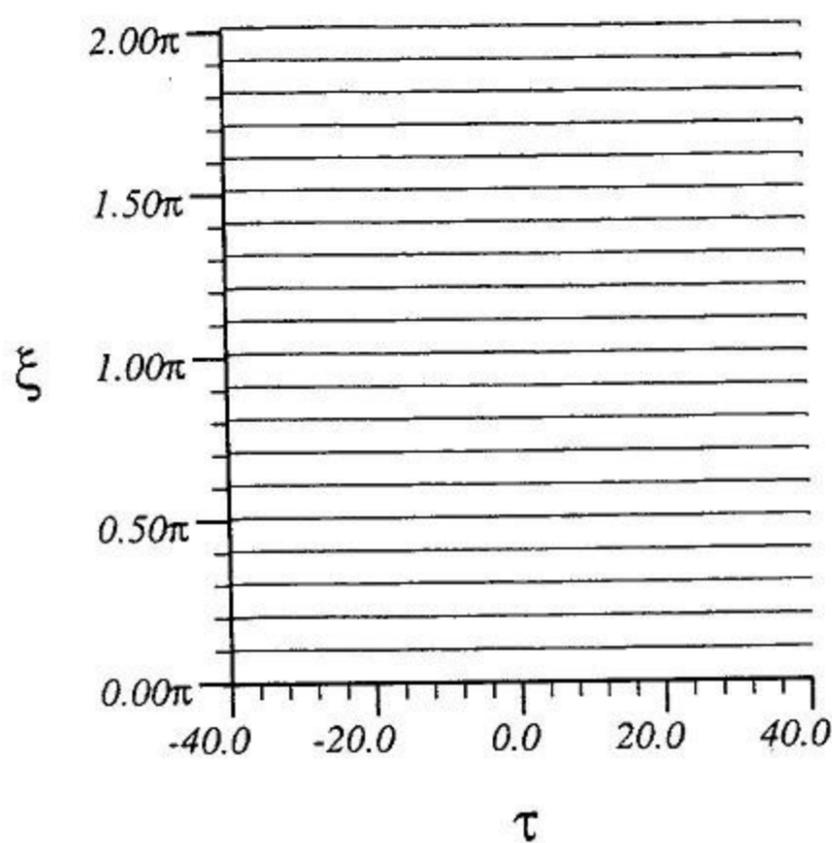
levels in u - and v -channels are almost the same when $\phi = 0.800\pi$, 1.000π , 1.200π , and 1.580π .

Fig. 6 shows the waveform changes when the optical soliton is inputted to v -channel, where $q = 1.95$. It can be seen that the contrast of output levels at the coupling length $\xi_c \simeq 1.5\pi$ is improved, and that the waveforms are less distorted. Fig. 7 shows the spectrum changes. The spectrum corresponding to the radiation caused by TOD is suppressed.

When G increases, the energy in u -channel increases more than in v -channel. And when G decreases, the energy in v -channel does not increase compared with the energy in u -channel, and thus, the contrast of output levels deteriorates. When μ increases, the bandwidth of the amplifier is narrowed,



(a)



(b)

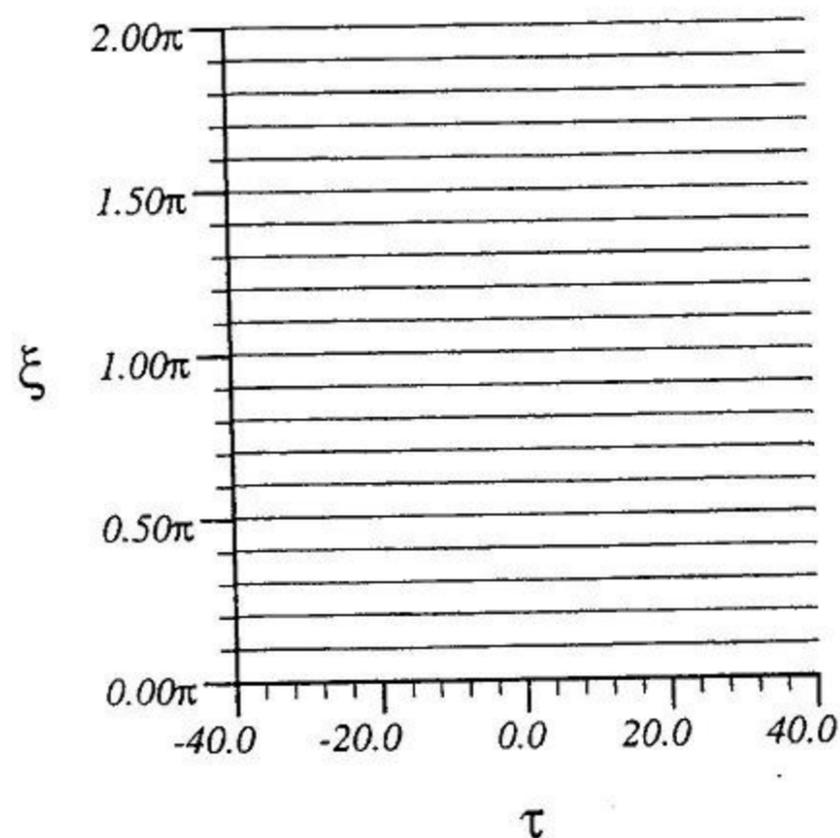
Fig. 8. Waveform changes in the perturbed case using EDFA with walk-off effect ($A_u = 1$, $A_v = 0$, and $\phi = 0$): (a) u -channel, (b) v -channel.

and even the spectrum corresponding to the soliton component is partially cut out. When μ decreases, on the other hand, the bandwidth of the amplifier is widened, and the spectra corresponding to the radiation are also amplified. Therefore, the values of G and μ should be carefully chosen.

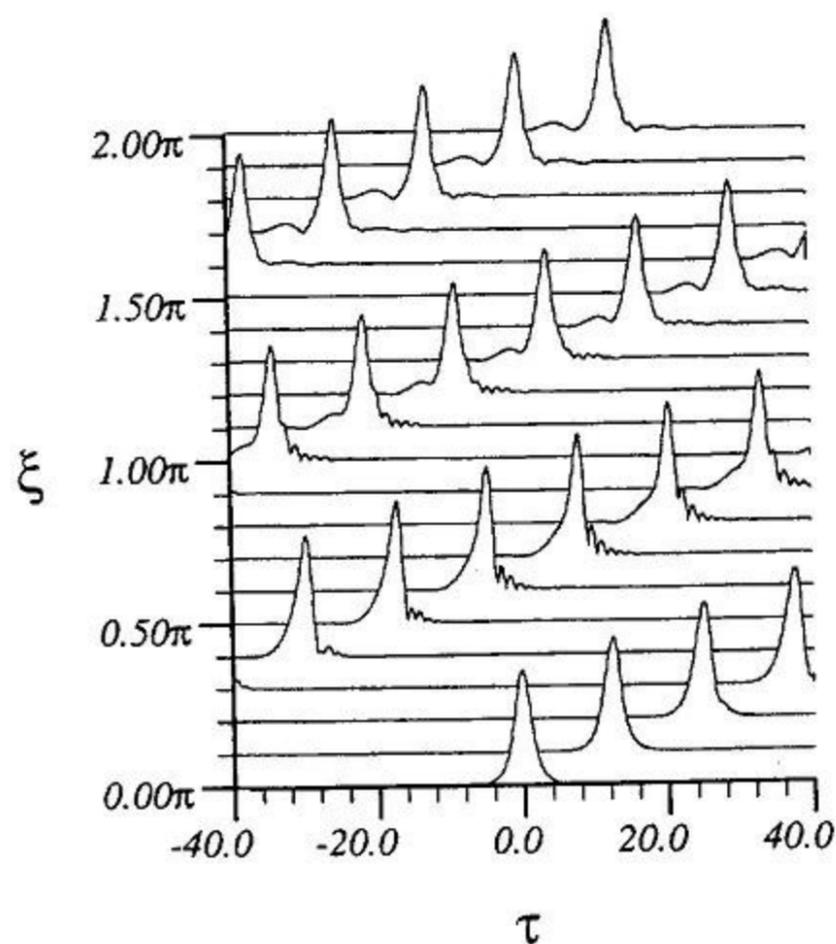
As shown in Table I, the operation of logic devices can be improved by using bandwidth limited amplification regardless of TOD.

D. Fiber Loss

Here, we investigate the effect of fiber losses and assume $\alpha = 0.25$ dB/km. The attenuation coefficient, Γ , included in coupled NLSE's becomes 0.001 for the parameters used in the



(a)



(b)

Fig. 9. Waveform changes in the perturbed case using EDFA with walk-off effect ($A_u = 0$, $A_v = 1$, and $\phi = 0$): (a) u -channel and (b) v -channel.

present calculation. In Figs. 2 and 5, the results for $\Gamma = 0.001$ are plotted by closed and opened circles, and those for an artificially larger attenuation value $\Gamma = 0.01$ are also plotted by closed and opened squares. When $\Gamma = 0.001$, the switching characteristics are almost the same as the lossless case, and EDFA may be effectively utilized. When $\Gamma = 0.01$, on the other hand, the switching characteristics are degraded, and the operation of logic devices is not always improved by EDFA.

E. Walk-Off Effect

When $q > 1$, the core radius of v -channel is larger than that of u -channel. Assuming the relative index difference of 0.55%, for example, the core radii of u - and v -channels are,

TABLE II
WALK-OFF EFFECTS ON LOGIC FUNCTIONS

Walk-off effect δ	Input		Output	
	E_u	E_v	E_u	E_v
0	0	0	0	0
	1	0	0 (0.22)	1 (1.19)
	0	1	0 (0.19)	1 (0.96)
	1	1	1 (1.12)	1 (1.12)
-0.1	0	0	0	0
	1	0	0 (0.21)	1 (1.20)
	0	1	0 (0.24)	1 (0.91)
	1	1	1 (0.95)	1 (1.01)
-1.0	0	0	0	0
	1	0	0 (0.22)	1 (1.26)
	0	1	0 (0.74)	1 (0.42)
	1	1	1 (0.79)	1 (1.21)
-10.0	0	0	0	0
	1	0	0 (1.25)	1 (0.22)
	0	1	0 (0.17)	1 (0.78)
	1	1	1 (1.43)	1 (1.04)

respectively, 1.46 and 2.42 μm for $q = 1.95$ used in Fig. 6. In this case, from (11) the walk-off effect $\delta = -4368.5$ ($T_d = 5.0 \times 10^{-3}$), and GVD's of u - and v -channels are almost the same. Fig. 8 shows the waveform changes when the optical soliton is inputted to u -channel. Higher order effects and EDFA are also included. Due to the walk-off effect, the optical soliton inputted to u -channel is not coupled with v -channel. Fig. 9 shows the waveform changes when the optical soliton is inputted to v -channel. Although the soliton inputted to v -channel remains in v -channel as in the case without the walk-off effect, the pulse shifts to the slow group velocity region. It is found from Figs. 8 and 9 that the walk-off effect makes it difficult to improve the operation of logic devices by EDFA.

When $q > 1$, the walk-off effect δ becomes negative. Table II shows the switching characteristics for different values of the walk-off effect. Higher order effects and EDFA are included. The operation of logic devices is not affected for $\delta = -0.1$, but degraded for $\delta = -1.0$. So, the walk-off effect can be suppressed by suitably designing fiber parameters, and logic devices could be constructed by asymmetric nonlinear optical fiber couplers.

V. CONCLUSION

We investigated the effects of TOD, shock effect, and SSFS on the operation of logic devices constructed by asymmetric nonlinear optical fiber couplers. It was found that in consequence of the presence of TOD, the logic functions are degraded. In order to remove the influence of TOD, a distributed EDFA with a finite bandwidth was introduced, and the logic functions were improved by trapping only soliton components in the finite gain-bandwidth. The effects of fiber loss and walk-off were also investigated.

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