

# Silicon photonic transmitter for polarization-encoded quantum key distribution: supplementary material

CHAOXUAN MA<sup>1,†,\*</sup>, WESLEY D. SACHER<sup>1,3,†</sup>, ZHIYUAN TANG<sup>2,†</sup>, JARED C. MIKKELSEN<sup>1</sup>, YISU YANG<sup>1</sup>, FEIHU XU<sup>1,4</sup>, TORREY THIESSEN<sup>1</sup>, HOI-KWONG LO<sup>1,2</sup>, AND JOYCE K. S. POON<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Toronto, 10 King's College Road, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 3G4, Canada

<sup>2</sup>Department of Physics, University of Toronto, 60 St. George St., Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1A7, Canada

<sup>3</sup>Departments of Physics & Applied Physics, California Institute of Technology, 1200 E. California Blvd., Pasadena, California 91125, USA

<sup>4</sup>Research Laboratory of Electronics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, USA

<sup>†</sup>These authors contributed equally to this work.

\*Corresponding authors: [chaoxuan.ma@mail.utoronto.ca](mailto:chaoxuan.ma@mail.utoronto.ca), [joyce.poon@utoronto.ca](mailto:joyce.poon@utoronto.ca)

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This document provides supplementary information to “Silicon photonic transmitter for polarization-encoded quantum key distribution,” <http://dx.doi.org/10.1364/optica.3.001274>. Details on the refractive index and absorption change as well as the electroluminescence in the forward-biased silicon (Si) PIN diodes are described. © 2016 Optical Society of America

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## 1. REAL AND IMAGINARY REFRACTIVE INDEX CHANGE IN SI WAVEGUIDE PIN DIODES

The modulation of the refractive index in silicon (Si) is typically through the plasma dispersion effect. The carrier density changes both the real and imaginary parts of the refractive index, which can cause, for example, a reduced extinction ratio in an optical attenuator or modulator, and polarization dependent loss in a polarization controller. According to [1], the changes in the refractive index  $\Delta n$  and absorption  $\Delta\alpha$  of Si near a wavelength of 1550 nm are

$$\Delta n = - \left[ 8.8 \times 10^{-22} \Delta N_e + 8.5 \times 10^{-18} (\Delta N_h)^{0.8} \right], \quad (\text{S1a})$$

$$\Delta\alpha = 8.5 \times 10^{-18} \Delta N_e + 6.0 \times 10^{-18} \Delta N_h, \quad (\text{S1b})$$

where  $\Delta N_e$  and  $\Delta N_h$  are changes in the free electron density and free hole density measured in  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ . By incorporating both  $\Delta n$  and  $\Delta\alpha$  into a mode-solver, the coupled changes in the real and imaginary parts of the effective index as a function of carrier density can be modelled.

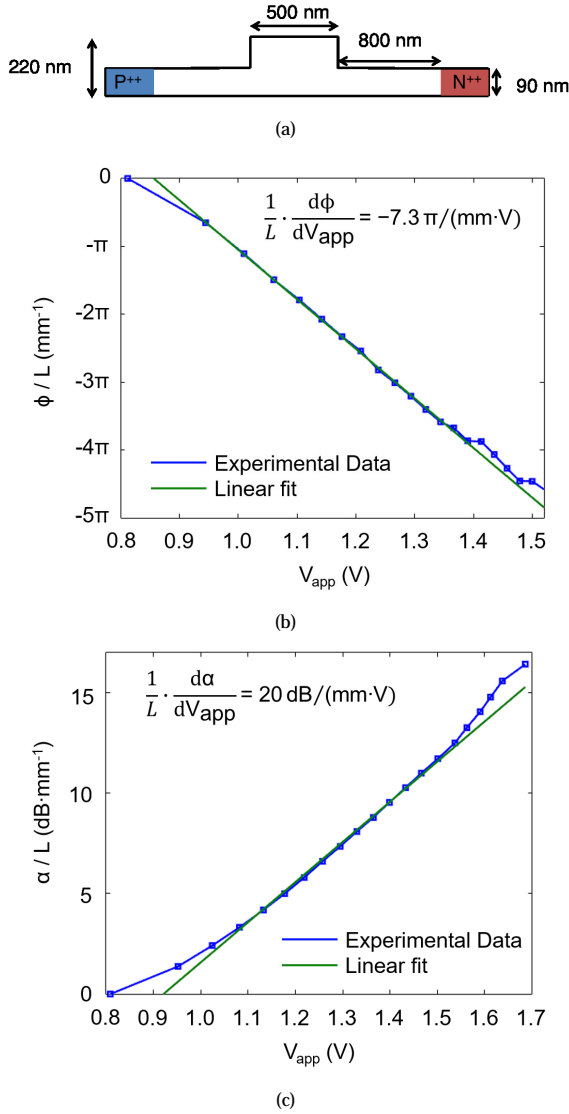
Experimentally, for the Si waveguide PIN diode with the cross-section illustrated in Fig. S1(a), which is similar to the one

used in the present work, the measured phase-shift and attenuation as function of the applied forward bias voltage are shown in Fig. S1(b) and Fig. S1(c), respectively [2]. The length of the Si PIN diode used for these measurements was  $500 \mu\text{m}$ . The measured differential phase-shift was about  $-7.3\pi / (\text{mm} \cdot \text{V})$  and the corresponding differential absorption change was about  $20 \text{ dB} / (\text{mm} \cdot \text{V})$ . These figures have been reproduced from [2]. The Si PIN diodes we have used in the current work had P++ and N++ regions that were  $700 \text{ nm}$  away from the waveguide core compared to  $800 \text{ nm}$  in Fig. S1. The reduced separation would lead to a slightly lower series resistance.

## 2. ELECTROLUMINESCENCE FROM SI PIN DIODES

We observed that the Si waveguide PIN diodes in forward bias could generate weak electroluminescence. Fig. S2(a) shows the electroluminescence spectrum of a  $1000 \mu\text{m}$ -long PIN diode at several forward bias voltages. The electroluminescence is broadband and centered near a wavelength of  $1150 \text{ nm}$ , close to the bandgap energy of Si ( $1.1 \text{ eV} = 1130 \text{ nm}$ ). This electroluminescence is not power efficient due to the indirect bandgap of Si. Fig. S2(b) shows the current vs. voltage relationship of the diode. Fig. S2(c) shows the total optical power collected

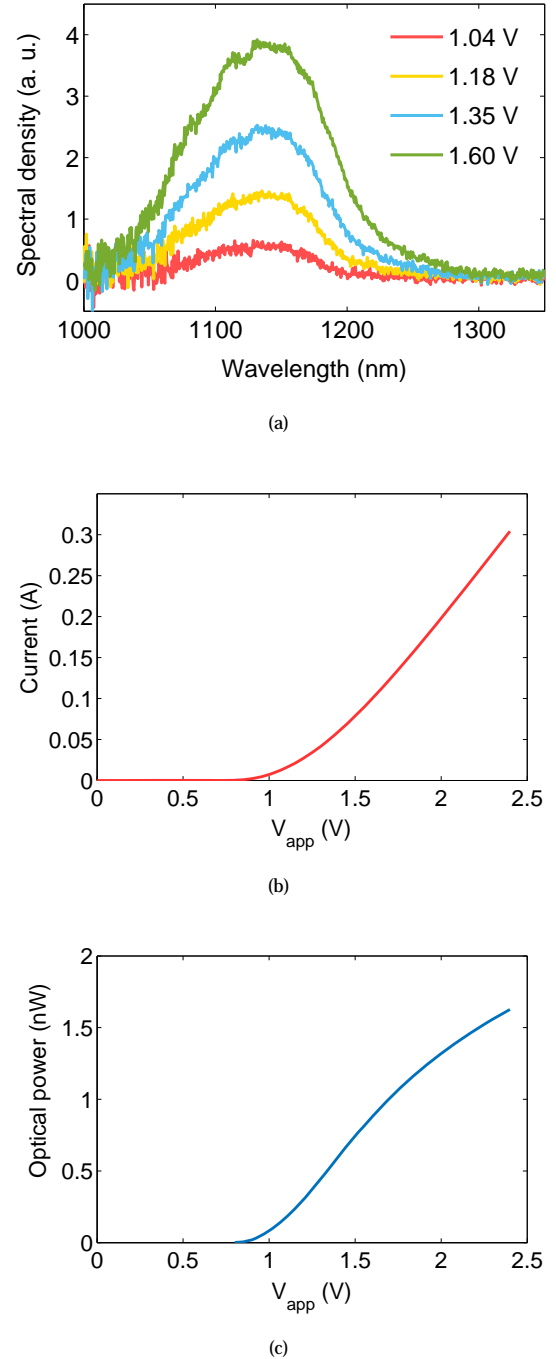
by a lensed single-mode fiber (matching the edge-coupler) as a function of the forward bias voltage. The electrical-to-optical power conversion efficiency is of the order of  $10^{-7}\%$ .



**Fig. S1.** (a) Cross-section of a Si rib waveguide PIN diode, and the corresponding (b) phase-shift and (c) attenuation as a function of the forward bias voltage applied to the Si PIN diode.  $L$  is the length of the Si PIN diode. Figures were reproduced from [2].

## REFERENCES

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2. A. W. MacKay, "Complex phase biasing of silicon machzehnder interferometer modulators," Master's thesis, University of Toronto (2014).



**Fig. S2.** (a) Electroluminescence from a 1000  $\mu\text{m}$ -long Si PIN diode under several forward bias voltages. (b) Current vs. voltage curve of the Si PIN diode. (c) The collected optical power into a lensed single-mode fiber vs. forward bias voltage.