

Advanced Ultra-sharp Fano filter resonances in integrated photonic resonators with coupled Sagnac loop reflectors

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Abstract: We investigate Fano resonances in integrated photonic resonators formed by coupled Sagnac loop reflectors (CSLR). Mode splitting in the CSLR resonator is tailored to achieve multiple Fano-like resonances with ultrahigh extinction ratios and slope rates.

1. Introduction

Fano resonances feature an asymmetric profile in resonant lineshape that are a fundamental phenomenon induced by interference between a discrete localized state and a continuum state [1-3]. It was first reported early in the 20th century [4, 5], and has been widely used in atom spectroscopy since then [2]. Recent progress in photonics and nanotechnology has led to many optical phenomena analogous to Fano resonances, which have found wide applications in optical switching, sensing, light focusing beyond the diffraction limit, data storage, topological optics, and many others [1, 3, 6-8]. To date, these optical phenomena have been demonstrated in various types of resonant cavities such as dielectric rods, disordered structures, integrated photonic resonators, lattices of nanospheres, and metasurfaces [1-3, 7-9]. Amongst them, integrated photonic resonators fabricated via complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (CMOS) technology provide competitive advantages of compact device footprint, high stability, high scalability, and low-cost mass production.

Recently [10,11] we fabricated devices based on this approach in silicon-on-insulator (SOI) nanowires formed by coupled Sagnac loop reflectors (CSLR). Here, we theoretically investigate more advanced filter structures using similar principles. By adjusting the reflectivity of the Sagnac loop reflectors (SLRs) as well as the coupling strength between the SLRs and bus waveguides, we tailor mode splitting in the CSLR resonators to achieve multiple Fano resonances with ultrahigh slope rates (SRs) and extinction ratios (ERs). We theoretically show that a high ER of ~ 64 dB and a corresponding slope rate of ~ 751 dB/nm can be achieved for a CSLR resonator with three coupled SLRs. These results highlight the strong potential of using CSLR resonators to achieve high-performance Fano-like resonances.

2. Device configuration

The CSLR resonators are illustrated in Figs. 1(a) and (b). The first device consists of two parallel SLRs coupled to a top bus waveguide and is termed a parallel CSLR resonator, while the second device consists of three inversely coupled SLRs and is termed a zig-zag CSLR resonator. To simplify the comparison, we assume that the SLRs are identical, and that each SLR is formed by a self-coupled SOI nanowire waveguide with a length of L_{SLR} . Here, t_1 and κ_1 are the field transmission and cross coupling coefficients of the directional coupler in the SLRs, respectively, while t_2 and κ_2 are the field transmission and cross coupling coefficients of the directional coupler formed by the SLRs and the bus waveguides. The lengths of the bus waveguides between the SLRs are denoted by L_i ($i = 1, 2, 3, 4$). For the SOI nanowires with a cross section of $500 \text{ nm} \times 260 \text{ nm}$ (Fig. 1(c)). We use a waveguide group index for TE polarization of $n_g = 4.3350$ and a propagation loss of $\alpha = 55 \text{ m}^{-1}$, or 2.4 dB/cm, based on our fabricated devices [10, 11]. The scanning electron microscope (SEM) image of a fabricated SLR is shown in Fig. 1(d). In the CSLR resonators, the bus waveguides introduce additional feedback paths for coherent optical mode interference, which yield the Fano resonances. The transmission spectra of the CSLR resonators can be tailored by changing the reflectivity of the SLRs and the coupling strength between the SLRs and bus waveguides. This enables flexible spectral engineering with the CSLR resonators for many applications.

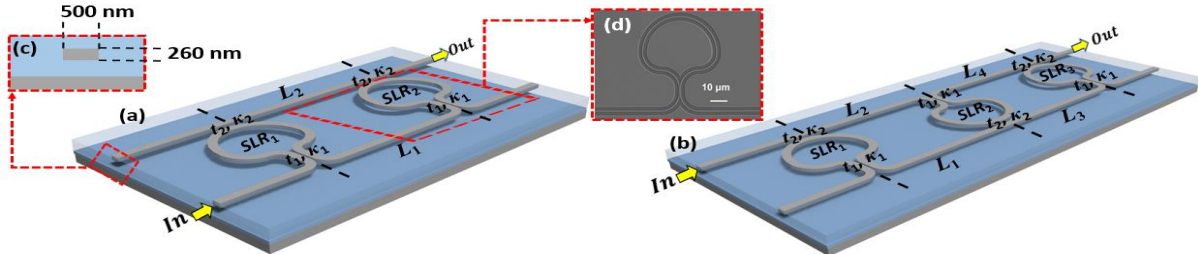


Fig. 1. (a)–(b) Schematic configuration of parallel CSLR resonator and zig-zag CSLR resonator, respectively. (c) Schematic illustration of the cross-section of the SOI nanowire waveguide. (d) SEM image of the fabricated SLR on an SOI wafer.

3. Results and discussion

We use the scattering matrix method [10, 11] to calculate the transmission spectra of the proposed CSLR resonators. Figure 2(a) shows the calculated power transmission spectrum of the parallel CSLR resonator when $L_{SLR} = L_1, 2 = 113.75 \text{ μm}$, $t_1 = 0.74$, and $t_2 = 0.94$. As can be seen, there are multiple Fano resonances with asymmetric resonant lineshapes. As shown in Figs. 2(b) and (c), the transmission spectrum can be tailored by changing t_1 and t_2 , which allows us to optimize the filter shape. Figures 2(d) and (e) show the calculated SR and insertion loss (IL) as functions of t_1 and t_2 , reflecting the trade-off between SR and IL.

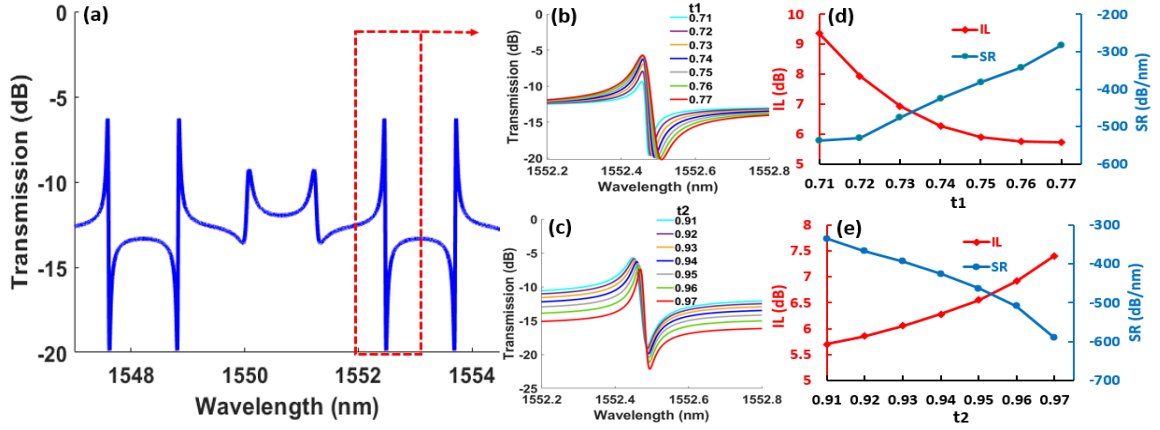


Fig. 2. (a) Calculated power transmission spectrum of the parallel CSLR resonator. (b)-(c) Transmission spectra of the Fano resonance around 1552.5 nm versus field transmission coefficients t_1 and t_2 , respectively. (d)-(e) SR and IL as functions of t_1 and t_2 , respectively.

Figure 3(a) shows the calculated power transmission spectrum of the zig-zag CSLR resonator. The structural parameters ($L_{SLR} = L_{1,2,3,4} = 113.75 \mu\text{m}$, $t_1 = 0.74$, $t_2 = 0.994$) are designed to achieve a free spectral range (FSR) of about 100 GHz for adjacent resonance peaks (FSR1=100.01 GHz and FSR2=102.78 GHz). The transmission spectrum also has periodic Fano resonances. Figures 3(b) and (c) show the transmission spectra for different t_1 and t_2 , respectively. The calculated SR and IL as functions of t_1 and t_2 are depicted in Figs. 3(d) and (e), respectively. Table I compares the ERs, Q factors, ILs, and SRs of the two CSLR resonators in Figs. 2(a) and 3(a). As compared with the parallel CSLR resonator, the zig-zag CSLR resonator shows a better SR, indicating stronger coherent optical mode interferences in the resonant cavities with more SLRs.

Table 1. Performance comparison of the CSLR resonators.

Device	ER (dB)	Q factor	IL (dB)	SR (dB/nm)
Parallel CSLR resonator	64	76017	3.81	± 751
Zig-zag CSLR resonator	13.6	37120	6.28	± 425

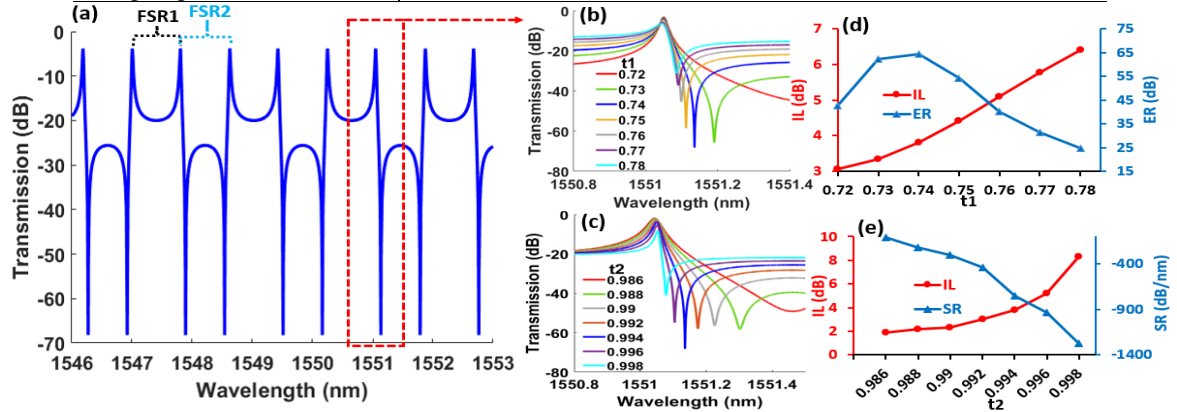


Fig. 3. (a) Calculated power transmission spectrum of the zig-zag CSLR resonator. (b)-(c) Transmission spectra of the Fano resonance around 1551 nm versus field transmission coefficients t_1 and t_2 , respectively. (d)-(e) SR and IL as functions of t_1 and t_2 , respectively.

4. Conclusions

We investigate Fano resonances in integrated CSLR resonators. By tailoring mode splitting in the CSLR resonators, Fano-like resonances with ultrahigh ERs and SRs are achieved.

5. References

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