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 3.5. Transmitters; 3.5.1. Broad spectrum incoherent light emitting diodes; 3.5.1.1. Structures; 3.5.1.2. Near and far field patterns; 3.5.1.3. Spectral characteristics; 3.5.1.4. Electrical and optical characteristics; 3.5.2. Laser diodes: high radiant power output, coherent waves; 3.5.2.1. Structures; 3.5.2.2. "(transmitted)/(injected) characteristic": static and dynamic; 3.5.2.3. Spectra and near field patterns; 3.5.2.4. Spectral and modal instabilities and light intensity noise
 3.5.3. Use of amplifiers with "rare earth ion" doped fibers
 3.6. Photodetectors; 3.6.1. Optical spectral range and materials; 3.6.2. Principle of operation and structures; 3.6.2.1. Surface phenomena: optical reflection, charge mobility and current leakage; 3.6.2.2. Absorption and conduction: semiconductor junctions; 3.6.3. Responsivity, response time, junction capacity and dark current; 3.6.4. Photomultipliers and semiconductor avalanche photodiodes; Chapter 4. Line of Sight Propagation; 4.1. Influence of the propagation environment; 4.1.1. Atmospheric absorption; 4.1.2. Atmospheric scattering
 4.1.3. Extinction and total spectral transmission
 4.1.4. Earth's atmosphere; 4.1.4.1. Atmospheric composition; 4.1.4.2. Aerosols; 4.2. Visibility; 4.2.1. Generalities; 4.2.1.1. Definitions; 4.2.1.2. Units and scales; 4.2.1.3. Meteorology needs; 4.2.1.4. Measurement methods; 4.2.2. Visual estimate of the meteorological optical range; 4.2.2.1. General; 4.2.2.2. Estimate of the day time meteorological optical range; 4.2.2.3. Estimate of the night time meteorological optical range; 4.2.2.4. Estimate of the meteorological optical range in the absence of distant reference markers
 4.2.3. Meteorological optical range measurement instruments

Sommario/riassunto

Free space optics is a telecommunications technique which is already being used for everyday exchange of information and has many advantages over other techniques (bandwidth, low cost, mobility of the equipment, security, etc.); within the next decade, it is likely to become an integral and essential part of data-processing architectures and telecommunications. A history of wireless optical telecommunications is given, together with a recapitulation of the application of the principles of electromagnetism to free-space optics. Coverage is also given to the transmitters and receivers of opti