

LN81S-FC - December 20, 2023

Item # LN81S-FC was discontinued on December 20, 2023. For informational purposes, this is a copy of the website content at that time and is valid only for the stated product.

LITHIUM NIOBATE ELECTRO-OPTIC MODULATORS, FIBER-COUPLED (1260 NM - 1625 NM)

► Up to 40 GHz Lithium Niobate (LiNbO_3) Modulators

► Fiber-Coupled, High-Speed Modulation

► Intensity, Phase, or I/Q

► X-Cut or Z-Cut Devices

LN81S-FC
10 GHz Intensity Modulator,
X-Cut

Enlarged View

LNP6118
40 GHz Phase Modulator
with Polarizer, Z-Cut

LNLVL-IM-Z
Low V_{π} 40 GHz Intensity
Modulator, Z-Cut

OVERVIEW

Features

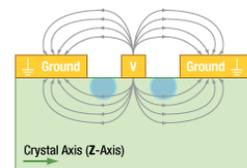
- Titanium-Indiffused Waveguides
- Low Optical Loss
- Long-Term Bias Stability
- Hermetically Sealed Packaging
- FC/PC Fiber Connectors

Thorlabs manufactures a variety of lithium niobate (LiNbO_3) optical phase, intensity, and I/Q modulators. These high-performance devices are based on titanium-indiffused waveguide technology, offer large bandwidths, and are ideal for developing high-speed modulation systems.

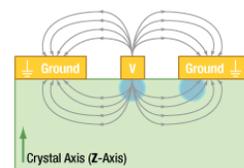
The modulators on this page are fabricated from either X-cut or Z-cut LiNbO_3 (see the example diagrams to the right). X-cut intensity modulators employ a symmetrical design that provides low frequency-chirp in the modulated signal, while Z-cut intensity modulators provide more efficient modulation (i.e., lower V_{π} or half-wave voltage) at the expense of higher frequency-chirp. Phase modulators are only offered as Z-cut devices because their single optical path does not benefit from the symmetry of the X-cut design. The I/Q modulator fully exploits the advantages of symmetry as an X-cut device.

Z-cut devices are also capable of supporting both the ordinary and extraordinary optical modes, which have different modulation efficiencies. An integrated optical polarizer, positioned before the output port of the device, is included in all of our Z-cut intensity modulators and some of our Z-cut phase modulators as only one mode is desirable for most applications. While most applications benefit from the integrated polarizer, the LN53S-FC, LNP6119, and LNP4217 Z-cut phase modulators are offered for applications where the polarizer is undesirable.

The modulators come with a polarization-maintaining (PM) input fiber pigtail and a single-mode (SM) output fiber pigtail that are terminated with FC/PC connectors. The PM fiber is keyed to the slow axis, which is also aligned to the extraordinary mode of the modulator. Please note that custom options for PM



Click to Enlarge
X-Cut LiNbO_3 Intensity Modulator
Cross-Section



Click to Enlarge
Z-Cut LiNbO_3 Intensity Modulator
Cross-Section

output fiber pigtails and FC/APC connectors are available for all LiNbO₃ modulators. For more information on custom configurations (e.g., fiber type, connectors) and quotes, please contact Tech Support.

All the fiber-coupled LiNbO₃ modulators offered below are compatible with our EO modulator drivers. Our fiber-coupled tunable lasers provide an ideal O-band, C-band, or L-band source for use with these modulators. For all-in-one solutions in high-speed fiber optic test and measurement, we offer reference transmitters, optical transmitter with phase modulators, and calibrated electrical-to-optical converters.

S P E C S

Maximum Ratings for LiNbO ₃ Modulators	
Optical Input Power	100 mW
Input RF Power	24 dBm
Operating Temperature Range	0 °C to 70 °C
Storage Temperature Range	-40 °C to 85 °C

Intensity Modulator Specifications

Item #	LN81S-FC	LN82S-FC	LNA6213	LNA6112	LNLVL-IM-Z
Optical					
Operating Wavelength ^a	1525 nm - 1605 nm	1525 nm - 1605 nm	1260 nm - 1625 nm	1525 nm - 1605 nm	1525 nm - 1605 nm
Optical Insertion Loss	≤5.0 dB (4.0 dB Typ.)	≤5.0 dB (4.0 dB Typ.)	≤6.5 dB (5.0 dB Typ.) @ 1310 nm ≤5.5 dB (4.5 dB Typ.) @ 1550 nm	≤5.0 dB (4.0 dB Typ.)	≤5.5 dB (4.5 dB Typ.)
Optical Return Loss	≥40 dB	≥40 dB	≥40 dB	≥40 dB	≥40 dB
Optical Extinction Ratio (@ DC, 1550 nm)	≥20 dB	≥20 dB	≥20 dB	≥20 dB	≥20 dB
Optical Input Power (Extraordinary Mode)	≤100 mW				
Optical Input Power (Ordinary Mode)	-	≤10 mW ^b			
Electrical (@ 1550 nm)					
E/O Bandwidth (-3 dB)	≥10 GHz (14 GHz Typ.)	≥10 GHz (14 GHz Typ.)	≥30 GHz (35 GHz Typ.)	≥30 GHz (35 GHz Typ.)	10 GHz (Typ.)
Operating Frequency Range	DC to 15 GHz (Min)	DC to 15 GHz (Min)	DC to 40 GHz (Min)	DC to 40 GHz (Min)	DC to 40 GHz (Min)
RF V _π (@ 1 GHz)	≤6.5 V (5.6 V Typ.)	≤6.5 V (5.2 V Typ.)	≤6.0 V (5.5 V Typ.)	≤6.0 V (5.5 V Typ.)	2.2 V (Typ.)
RF V _π (@ 20 GHz)	-	-	-	-	≤3.9 V (3.5 V Typ.)
RF V _π (@ 40 GHz)	-	-	-	-	≤6.0 V (5.0 V Typ.)
DC Bias V _π (@ 1 kHz)	≤10.0 V (6.5 V Typ.)	≤3.0 V (2.7 V Typ.) ^c	≤5.0 V (3.5 V Typ.)	≤11.0 V (8.5 V Typ.)	≤11.0 V (9.0 V Typ.)
S11	-12 dB (-10 dB Max), DC to 10 GHz		-12 dB (-10 dB Max), DC to 25 GHz -8 dB (-6 dB Max), 25 to 40 GHz		
RF Input Power	24 dBm Maximum				
Photodetector					
Reverse Bias Voltage	-5.5 V to -3.0 V		N/A		
Responsivity	0.1 mA/mW to 0.5 mA/mW		N/A		
Output Optical Power Monitoring Range	-5 dBm to 10 dBm		N/A		
Mechanical					
Crystal Orientation	X-Cut	Z-Cut	Z-Cut	Z-Cut	Z-Cut
RF Connection	Male SMP (GPO ^{®†} Compatible), Full Detent		Female 1.85 mm (V)	Female 1.85 mm (V)	Female 2.92 mm (K)
Fiber Type	Input: PANDA Polarization Maintaining Output: SMF-28 ^{®‡} Single Mode				

Fiber Lead Length	1.5 m Typ.				
Internal Polarizer	N/A ^d	N/A ^e	Aligned with the Extraordinary Mode of the Chip	Aligned with the Extraordinary Mode of the Chip	Aligned with the Extraordinary Mode of the Chip
Environmental					
Operating Case Temperature	0 °C to 70 °C				
Storage Temperature	-40 °C to 85 °C				

a. These modulators are designed for use at the specified wavelengths. Using the modulator at other wavelengths may cause an increase in the optical loss that is not covered under warranty. In some cases, this loss can be temporary; for instance, the increase in loss caused by shorter wavelengths can usually be reversed by heating the modulator to 80 °C for an hour.

b. Extra care should be taken while aligning the polarization state of the optical input to avoid excess optical power from being launched into the ordinary mode, which will be absorbed by the polarizer and can damage the modulator.

c. The LN82S-FC includes a bias circuit that couples the DC bias onto the RF drive electrode. Depending on the application, an external DC block may be needed at the RF input.

d. The LN81S-FC does not have an internal polarizer. Only extraordinary mode is supported.

e. The LN82S-FC does not have an internal polarizer. Both ordinary and extraordinary modes are supported. Optimal modulation is achieved with the extraordinary mode.

Phase Modulator Specifications

Item #	LN65S-FC	LN53S-FC	LNP6118	LNP6119	LNP4216	LNP4217
Optical						
Operating Wavelength^a	1525 nm - 1605 nm		1260 nm - 1625 nm		1260 nm - 1625 nm	
Optical Insertion Loss	≤4.5 dB (3.0 dB Typ.)		≤5.5 dB (5.0 dB Typ.) @ 1310 nm ≤4.5 dB (4.0 dB Typ.) @ 1550 nm		≤7.25 dB (6.0 dB Typ.) @ 1310 nm ≤5.75 dB (5.0 dB Typ.) @ 1550 nm	
Optical Return Loss	≥40 dB					
Optical Input Power (Extraordinary Mode)	≤100 mW					
Optical Input Power (Ordinary Mode)	≤10 mW ^b	≤100 mW	≤10 mW ^b	≤100 mW	≤10 mW ^b	≤100 mW
Electrical (@ 1550 nm)						
S11	-12 dB (-10 dB Max), DC to 10 GHz		-12 dB (-10 dB Max), DC to 25 GHz -8 dB (-6 dB Max), 25 to 40 GHz			
E/O Bandwidth (-3 dB)	10 GHz Typ.		35 GHz Typ.		10 GHz Typ.	
Operating Frequency Range	DC to 15 GHz (Min)		DC to 40 GHz (Min)		DC to 40 GHz (Min)	
RF V_π (@ 10 GHz)	6.5 V (Typ.)		-		3.5 V (Typ.)	
RF V_π (@ 30 GHz)	-		≤9.5 V (8.5 V Typ.)		≤5.5 V (4.6 V Typ.)	
RF Input Power	24 dBm Maximum					
Low-Frequency Modulator Specifications (@ 1550 nm)						
Operating Frequency Range	N/A		DC to 1 MHz (Typ.)		DC to 1 MHz (Typ.)	
V_π	N/A		10 V (Typ.) @ 1 kHz		13 V (Typ.) @ 1 kHz	
Mechanical						
Crystal Orientation	Z-Cut					
RF Connection	Male SMP (GPO [®] Compatible), Full Detent		Female 1.85 mm (V)		Female 2.92 mm (K)	
Fiber Type	Input: PANDA Polarization Maintaining Output: SMF-28 [®] Single Mode					
Fiber Lead Length	1.5 m Typ.					
Internal Polarizer	Aligned with the Extraordinary Mode of the Chip	N/A ^c	Aligned with the Extraordinary Mode of the Chip	N/A ^c	Aligned with the Extraordinary Mode of the Chip	N/A ^c
Environmental						
Operating Case Temperature	0 °C to 70 °C					
Storage Temperature	-40 °C to 85 °C					

- a. These modulators are designed for use at the specified wavelengths. Using the modulator at other wavelengths may cause an increase in the optical loss that is not covered under warranty. In some cases, this loss can be temporary; for instance, the increase in loss caused by shorter wavelengths can usually be reversed by heating the modulator to 80 °C for an hour.
- b. Extra care should be taken while aligning the polarization state of the optical input to avoid excess optical power from being launched into the ordinary mode, which will be absorbed by the polarizer and can damage the modulator.
- c. These devices do not have an internal polarizer. Both ordinary and extraordinary polarization modes are supported. Optimal modulation is achieved with the extraordinary mode.

I/Q Modulator Specifications

Item #	LNQ4314
Optical	
Operating Wavelength ^a	1525 nm - 1575 nm
Optical Insertion Loss	≤9.0 dB (7.0 dB Typ.)
Optical Return Loss	≥40 dB
Optical Extinction Ratio	≥20 dB
Optical Input Power	≤100 mW
Electrical	
S11	-12 dB (-10 dB Max), DC to 25 GHz -8 dB (-6 dB Max), 25 to 30 GHz
E/O Bandwidth (-3 dB)	≥20 GHz (25 GHz Typ.)
Operating Frequency Range	DC to 30 GHz
RF V _π (@ 1 GHz)	≤7.5 V (6.0 V Typ.)
DC Biases V _π (@ 1 kHz)	≤10.0 V (8.0 V Typ.)
RF Input Power	24 dBm Maximum
Mechanical	
Crystal Orientation	X-Cut
RF Connections (Two)	Male SMPM (GPPO [†] Compatible), Full Detent
Fiber Type	Input: PANDA Polarization Maintaining Output: SMF-28 [‡] Single Mode
Fiber Lead Length	1.5 m Typ.
Environmental	
Operating Case Temperature	0 °C to 70 °C
Storage Temperature	-40 °C to 85 °C

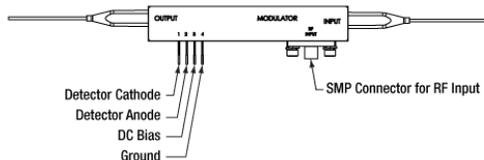
a. This modulator is designed for use at the specified wavelengths. Using the modulator at other wavelengths may cause an increase in the optical loss that is not covered under warranty. In some cases, this loss can be temporary; for instance, the increase in loss caused by shorter wavelengths can usually be reversed by heating the modulator to 80 °C for an hour.

[†] GPO and GPPO are registered trademarks of Corning Optical Communications RF.

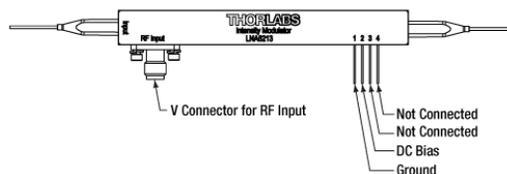
[‡] SMF-28 is a registered trademark of Corning.

PIN DIAGRAMS

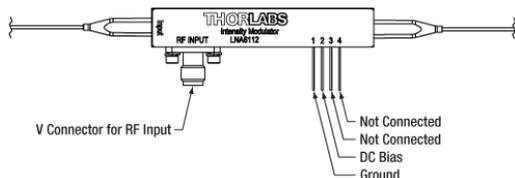
Intensity Modulator Pin Diagrams



Click to Enlarge
10 GHz Intensity Modulator Pin Diagram

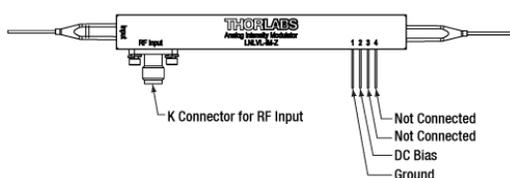


Click to Enlarge
LNA6213 40 GHz Intensity Modulator Pin Diagram



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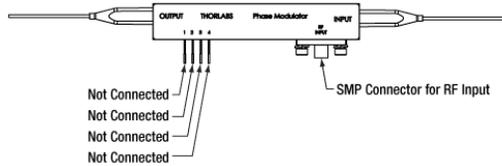
LNA6112 Small Form Factor Housing 40 GHz Intensity Modulator Pin Diagram



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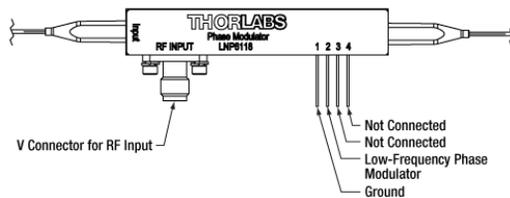
LNLVL-IM-Z Low V_n 40 GHz Intensity Modulator Pin Diagram

Phase Modulator Pin Diagrams



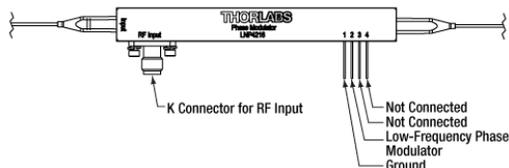
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10 GHz Phase Modulator Pin Diagram



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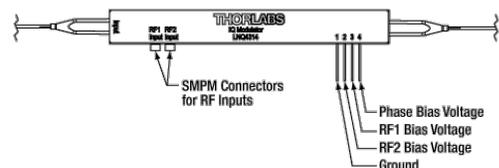
40 GHz Phase Modulator Pin Diagram



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Low V_n 40 GHz Phase Modulator Pin Diagram

I/Q Modulator Pin Diagram



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25 GHz I/Q Modulator Pin Diagram

LAB FACTS

Driving an Electro-Optic Phase Modulator with the Amplified Output of a Function Generator

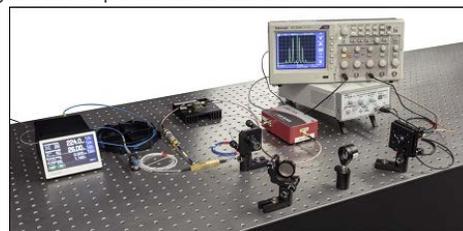
Lab Facts

Thorlabs offers a selection of fiber-coupled electro-optic (EO) modulators, which are ideal for modulating light from fiber-coupled laser sources. Applications frequently require EO modulators to be driven at rates of 1 GHz or higher, which places significant demands on the driving radio frequency (RF) voltage source. We investigated whether it would be possible to use a basic setup built around a function generator to drive a fiber-coupled EO phase modulator. The experimental setup we designed and implemented to test this possibility included instrumentation to record the spectrum of the modulated optical signal. By analyzing the modulated optical spectrum, we confirmed this basic RF source is a viable option for driving a fiber-coupled EO phase modulator. Our approach and results are documented in this Lab Fact.

Click for Full Lab Facts Summary

Experimental Design and Setup

The design of the RF voltage source portion of the setup required first determining the power the RF source should supply to drive the fiber-coupled EO phase modulator. The power requirements were calculated after we made an estimate of the driving voltage needed to achieve the modulation depth desired for this application. Details describing our process for selecting a modulation depth, the relationship between modulation depth and driving voltage, and the calculations we used to estimate the power required from the RF voltage source are included in the Lab Facts document. From our investigations, we determined the power from the function generator alone would not be sufficient for our application. Our solution was to insert a low noise amplifier between the function generator and EO modulator. We also included an electrical low pass filter before the modulator to remove signal distortion that appeared to originate with the function generator. We drove the EO phase modulator with a sinusoidal RF voltage, which imparted a sinusoidal phase modulation on the 1550 nm CW laser signal.



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Figure 1: Experimental Setup Used to Evaluate Whether a Basic RF Source Built Around a Function Generator Could be Sufficient to Drive a Fiber-Coupled EO Phase Modulator

A scanning Fabry-Perot interferometer, whose output was sent to an oscilloscope, was placed after the EO phase modulator and used to measure and monitor the spectrum of the modulated optical signal. It was necessary to use the Fabry-Perot interferometer for this purpose as it has the ability to resolve the very fine spectral features of the phase-modulated optical spectra: at a wavelength of 1550 nm, a frequency difference of 1 GHz is equivalent to a wavelength difference of 0.8 pm. The measured spectra were recorded as functions of scan time. In the Lab Facts document, we describe a straight-forward method to convert from units of Fabry-Perot scan time to units of relative optical frequency. For this work, we estimate $\Delta f = (1.17 \text{ GHz/ms})\Delta t$.

Experimental Results

As is described in the Lab Facts document, theory predicts the spectra of our phase modulated optical signals would include sets of symmetric sidebands arranged around the laser carrier peak at frequency f_o . The sidebands are displaced from the laser carrier peak frequency at integer multiples of the modulation frequency f_m ($f_o \pm Nf_m$ with $N = 1, 2, \dots$). The relative heights of the sidebands are a function of the modulation depth, which is in turn a function of the peak-to-peak value of the RF driving voltage. Given the modulation depth, the relative amplitudes of the laser carrier peak and modulation sidebands can be calculated. This makes it possible to tailor the power distribution across the various peaks to meet an application's needs. We used the predictive power of this model to confirm our RF source was adequately driving the EO modulator.

The spectra shown in Figures 2 and 4 are representative of the modulation spectra we measured. The theoretical curves in Figure 3 are a function of modulation depth and plot the expected relative powers of the laser carrier peak (solid red curve), first order sidebands (dotted blue curve), second order sidebands (dotted green curve), and third order sidebands (dotted violet curve). The black arrow points to the modulation depth corresponding to the spectrum in Figure 2, and the gray arrow points to the modulation depth corresponding to the spectrum in Figure 4. From our results, we determined our measured and applied modulation frequencies agreed, and we confirmed the spectral power distributions in our optical spectra were consistent with the peak-to-peak driving voltage of the RF source. We conclude that the good agreement between the expected and recorded results validates the use of a basic RF source built around a function generator as a driver for fiber-coupled EO phase modulators.

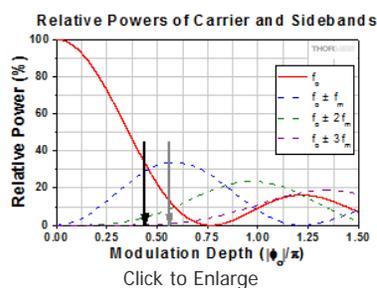


Figure 3: Curves Relating the Power in the Carrier and Several Sideband Peaks as A Function of Modulation Depth

The 0.44 modulation depth indicated by the black arrow corresponds to Figure 2, and the 0.56 modulation depth indicated by the gray arrow corresponds to Figure 4.

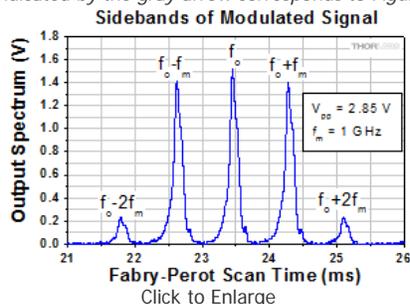


Figure 2: EO Phase Modulator Spectrum When $V_{pp} = 2.85 \text{ V}$

The carrier frequency is f_o ; the modulation frequency is $f_m = 1 \text{ GHz}$. The X-axis reports the scanning time of the Fabry-Perot interferometer and can be directly related to the signal's relative frequency spectrum.

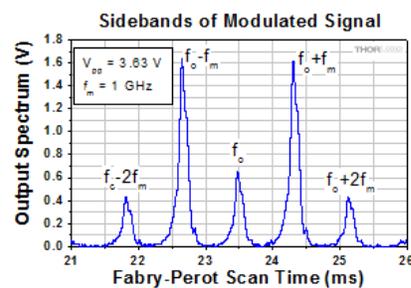


Figure 4: EO Phase Modulator Spectrum When $V_{pp} = 3.63 \text{ V}$

The carrier frequency is f_o ; the modulation frequency is $f_m = 1 \text{ GHz}$. The X-axis reports the scanning time of the Fabry-Perot interferometer and can be directly related to the signal's relative frequency spectrum.

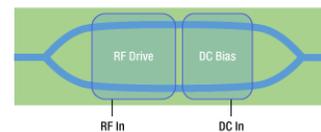
Intensity Modulators



Applications

- ▶ RF-Over-Fiber (RFOF) and Microwave Photonics
- ▶ High-Speed Telecommunications
- ▶ WDM Transmission

LiNbO_3 optical intensity modulators use a Mach-Zehnder interferometer structure to allow modulation of the optical output power of the device, as shown by the operational diagram to the right. The devices include two electrical ports: one for the modulation driving signal and one for biasing the modulator. X-cut or Z-cut



Click to Enlarge
This operational diagram of an intensity modulator shows the waveguide (blue lines) splitting into two paths embedded in the surface of the lithium niobate (green). The input light is first affected by the

devices are available. Each modulator has field-replaceable RF input connectors.

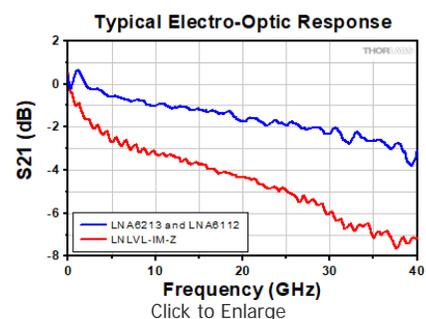
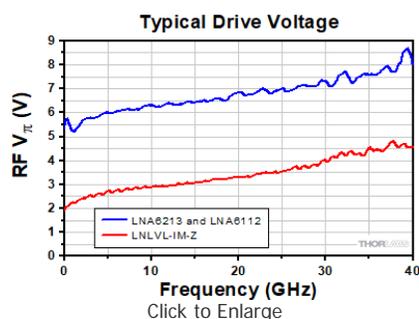
modulating RF drive voltage and then the DC bias voltage, as shown by the translucent regions.

X-cut devices allow for both arms of the Mach-Zehnder interferometer to be symmetrically modulated. This symmetry ensures that the modulated output is not also shifted in phase/frequency (chirped).

Z-cut devices have an inequality in the push-pull phase shift between the two arms of the Mach-Zehnder interferometer. This results in a phase/frequency shift (chirp) in the output in addition to the intensity modulation. Z-cut devices also have a better overlap of the electrical and optical fields in the Mach-Zehnder structure, resulting in higher drive efficiencies.

The LN81S-FC and LN82S-FC 10 GHz modulators include an integrated photodetector for optical power monitoring and modulator bias control, eliminating the need for an external fiber tap.

Thorlabs offers three high-speed intensity modulators that can operate up to 40 GHz. The LNA6213 modulator is a high bandwidth device designed to provide up to 40 GHz of modulation over the 1260 nm to 1625 nm operating range. The LNA6112 modulator provides similar performance as the LNA6213, but in the 1525 nm to 1605 nm wavelength range and has a small form factor housing that is 105.0 mm wide compared to the 135.0 mm housings of the other high-speed intensity modulators. The LNLVL-IM-Z modulator provides the lowest RF V_{π} , or half-wave voltage, at any specific frequency over the operating frequency range. The graphs below show a typical drive voltage (left) and electro-optic response (right) over the operating frequency range for these modulators. See the *Specs* tab for complete specifications.



Part Number	Description	Price	Availability
LN81S-FC	10 GHz Intensity Modulator, X-Cut, FC/PC Connectors, 1525 nm - 1605 nm	\$2,783.47	Lead Time
LN82S-FC	10 GHz Intensity Modulator, Z-Cut, FC/PC Connectors, 1525 nm - 1605 nm	\$2,783.47	Today
LNA6213	40 GHz Intensity Modulator, Z-Cut, FC/PC Connectors, 1260 nm - 1625 nm	\$5,903.96	Lead Time
LNA6112	Customer Inspired! 40 GHz Intensity Modulator, Z-Cut, FC/PC Connectors, 1525 nm - 1605 nm, Small Form Factor Housing	\$4,964.09	Today
LNLVL-IM-Z	Low V_{π} Intensity Modulator, Z-Cut, FC/PC Connectors, Operational up to 40 GHz, 1525 nm - 1605 nm	\$5,903.96	Today

Phase Modulators



Applications

- ▶ Chirp Control for High-Speed Communications
- ▶ Coherent Communications
- ▶ Optical Sensing

LiNbO_3 optical phase modulators consist of a single, through optical waveguide, as shown by the operational diagram to the right. As there is only one optical path to modulate, all of the phase modulators are Z-cut devices in order to optimize drive efficiency. Each modulator has field-replaceable RF input connectors.



Click to Enlarge
This operational diagram of a phase modulator shows the waveguide (blue line) as one through optical path embedded in the surface of the lithium niobate (green). The input light is affected only by the modulating RF drive voltage, as shown by the translucent region.

The LN65S-FC and LN53S-FC phase modulators provide up to 10 GHz of modulation over the 1525 nm to 1605 nm operating range. The LNP6118 and LNP6119 modulators are high bandwidth devices that provide up to 40 GHz of modulation over the 1260 nm to 1625 nm range.

The LNP4216 and LNP4217 phase modulators provide lower RF V_{π} , or half-wave voltage, over the operating frequency range compared to the LNP6118 and LNP6119 modulators. The typical drive voltage of the LNP421x modulators is 3.5 V at 10 GHz and 4.6 V at 30 GHz, compared to the LNP611x modulators that have typical drive voltage of 7.0 V at 10 GHz and 8.5 V at 30 GHz. These devices can be operated at frequencies up to 40 GHz over the 1260 nm to 1625 nm range.

The LNP6118, LNP6119, LNP4216, and LNP4217 devices incorporate an additional low-frequency phase modulator, in series with the RF phase modulator, that can be controlled through a separate set of pins (see the *Specs* and *Pin Diagrams* tabs for details).

When only one mode is desired, the LN65S-FC, LNP6118, and LNP4216 modulators include an internal polarizer that is aligned with the extraordinary mode of the chip. For applications that require access to both the ordinary and extraordinary modes, the LN53S-FC, LNP6119, and LNP4217 Z-cut phase modulators are offered without an integrated polarizer.

Part Number	Description	Price	Availability
LN65S-FC	10 GHz Phase Modulator, FC/PC Connectors, 1525 nm - 1605 nm	\$2,550.53	7-10 Days
LN53S-FC	10 GHz Phase Modulator without Polarizer, FC/PC Connectors, 1525 nm - 1605 nm	\$2,550.53	Today
LNP6118	40 GHz Phase Modulator, FC/PC Connectors, 1260 nm - 1625 nm, Small Form Factor Housing	\$4,964.09	Today
LNP6119	40 GHz Phase Modulator without Polarizer, FC/PC Connectors, 1260 nm - 1625 nm, Small Form Factor Housing	\$4,964.09	Today
LNP4216	Low V_{π} Phase Modulator, FC/PC Connectors, Operational up to 40 GHz, 1260 nm - 1625 nm	\$5,903.96	Today
LNP4217	Low V_{π} Phase Modulator without Polarizer, FC/PC Connectors, Operational up to 40 GHz, 1260 nm - 1625 nm	\$5,903.96	Today

I/Q Modulator



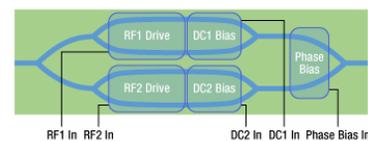
- ▶ Dual, Parallel MZIs on a Single X-Cut Lithium Niobate Chip

Applications

- ▶ Coherent Communications, Including QAM, QPSK, and DQPSK Encoding
- ▶ Single Side Band Suppressed Carrier (SSB-SC) Transmission

LiNbO_3 I/Q modulators use a dual-parallel Mach-Zehnder interferometer (MZI) structure in order to allow modulation of both the phase and amplitude of light for advanced optical transmission schemes. As shown in the operational diagram to the right, the modulator consists of two independently-controlled MZIs whose outputs are combined. The combining structure also includes a bias electrode that applies a phase delay between the two MZIs, allowing for the required phase control between the two modulator arms.

In a QPSK application, this device will allow for a 50 Gb/s link transmission rate. Two I/Q modulators can be used together in a polarization-multiplexed arrangement to double the transmission rate, e.g. two LNQ4314 devices can provide a 100 Gb/s link on the same optical channel/wavelength.



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This operational diagram of an I/Q modulator shows the waveguides (blue lines) split into four paths embedded in the surface of the lithium niobate (green). The input light is first affected by each MZI's modulating RF drive voltage (RF1 or RF2), and then by each MZI's DC bias voltage (DC1 or DC2), as shown by the translucent regions.

Part Number	Description	Price	Availability
LNQ4314	25 GHz I/Q Modulator, FC/PC Connectors, 1525 nm - 1575 nm	\$7,122.90	Lead Time