

# Multi-Domain Multi-Level Optical Encryption Transmission Scheme Based on Memristor Rulkov Neuron Chaos

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**Abstract**—This paper proposes a multi-domain multi-level (MDML) orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) optical encryption transmission scheme based on memristor Rulkov neuron chaos. In this scheme, the masking factors generated by the memristor Rulkov neuron chaos are used to encrypt the information of the digital modulation process, so as to improve the anti-malicious attack performance of the system. Among them, the memristor unit constructs a simple discrete map to capture the complex nonlinear neuronal behavior, and the generated masking factors encrypt the data in the digital modulation process. In addition, the proposed scheme introduces the encryption depth control parameters (EDCP), which can make up for the information damage caused by the complexity of encryption. The selection of EDCP can not only encrypt the data, but also change the distribution of the uniformly distributed constellation points position, reduce the average power of the constellation points, and improve the transmission performance of the fiber communication system. A 9.41 Gb/s OFDM signal transmission over 25 km standard single-mode fiber (SSMF) is experimentally demonstrated. The introduction of memristor Rulkov neurons makes the key space reach  $10^{16}$ . The introduction of the EDCP makes the key space expand  $10^{36}$  times. When the bit error rate (BER) is  $10^{-2}$ , the receiving sensitivity of the EDCP with 0.2, 0.4, 0.8 is 6 dB higher than that of the EDCP with 0.9, 0.3, 0.1. The results show that the encryption scheme can effectively resist illegal attacks and improve the security performance of the system.

**Index Terms**—Memristor Rulkov neuron chaos, chaotic encryption, physical layer security, flexible optical access.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

WITH the continuous development of optical networks and modern communication technologies, new network services such as digital twins, virtual reality/augmented reality, and meta-universe are emerging. More and more devices are connected to the Internet, and the traffic of the communication network shows an explosive growth trend [1], [2]. Orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) has been widely studied in optical communication because of its high spectral efficiency, high robustness to channel dispersion and high flexibility [3]. At the same time, due to the exponential growth of communication capacity and the increase of accessibility, there will inevitably be corresponding security risks. At present, a large number of optical communication links are deployed in financial and government business, and the security of communication systems becomes particularly important [4], [5], [6]. Therefore, increasing the information transmission capacity while effectively ensuring information security is a very important research direction for future optical communication systems.

The randomness in wireless communication systems comes from spatial multiple paths that cannot be captured by all listeners [7]. Unlike wireless communication systems, all the randomness in fiber communication systems is contained in the signals transmitted inside the fiber. Illegal personnel can cause trace optical signals to leak by bending fibers, monitoring redundant strings of adjacent channels, etc., and then achieve the purpose of cracking information [8], [9]. To solve the problem of information leakage and cracking in optical communication links, researchers have proposed different types of encryption methods. The proposed encryption methods mainly focus on the advanced encryption protocol of the network, such as the encryption protocol used in the media access control layer. However, the security encryption protocol of the upper layer has the danger of exposing the data frame header [10]. With the arrival of the era of quantum computing, the possibility of cracking the above encryption scheme has also risen rapidly [11], [12]. In contrast, the encryption of the physical layer of data can effectively improve the security of data. The encryption mode of the physical layer can transparently encrypt the data transmitted at high speed, and can adapt to the development trend of large-capacity and high-rate optical communication [13], [14], [15].

Two typical methods of physical layer encryption are quantum key distribution and chaotic encryption [16], [17]. Quantum key distribution faces certain challenges in coding, digital signal processing (DSP) and parallel operation, and it is difficult to meet the demand of large-capacity and high-rate data transmission [18]. Chaotic physical layer encryption technology is a potential solution to enhance physical layer security with the characteristics of high sensitivity, high randomness, large bandwidth and low delay of initial value [19]. Chaotic physical layer encryption is mainly divided into analog domain encryption and digital domain encryption. Analog domain encryption is an optical chaos encryption using feedback laser, which is costly and complex, and is difficult to be compatible with the existing optical communication system architecture. Digital domain chaotic encryption can be combined with DSP to realize high-speed data security transmission. The technology is highly reliable and flexible, and is compatible with existing optical communication system architectures [20], [21]. Reference [22] after the QAM constellation point distribution is disturbed, the modulated FBMC bits and symbols are interleaved and encrypted to realize the improvement of the FBMC/OQAM system physical layer security performance. A hybrid secure method based on improved deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) encoding encryption and spiral scrambling is proposed to improve the physical layer security of chaotic OFDM-PON [23]. In reference [24], A high-security and reliable self-homodyne coherent system based on the constellation shaping technique and the digital chaos is described. The chaotic sequence is generated by a four-dimensional hyperchaotic system, which is used respectively for exclusive or operation, chaotic constant composition distribution matching, phase perturbation and optical layer delay perturbation. In addition, some researchers convert the two sequences originally used to generate artificial noise into a set of phase rotation keys and complex conjugate keys, so that the encrypted symbols are still on the ideal constellation point coordinates, and realizes a sign-level encryption scheme based on phase ambiguity [25]. All the above encryption schemes avoid the cohesive operation of constellation points to achieve encryption, because the cohesive encryption of constellation points will seriously damage the transmission performance. At present, no suitable scheme has been developed to alleviate the transmission damage caused by cohesive encryption.

The study of neurodynamics is the key to unravel the mystery of brain function and neural network behavior. In this context, Rulkov neurons have become a fascinating area of research due to their special ability to describe nonlinear neuronal activity [26], [27]. Rulkov neurons represent a unique class of nonlinear neuron models originally proposed by Russian scientist Andrei Rulkov in 2002 [28], [29], [30]. What sets them apart is their ability to capture complex neuronal behavior using simple discrete mapping, while also simulating key features of biological neurons such as subthreshold oscillations, spike behavior, and pulse generation. This elegant and powerful modeling approach has made discrete Rulkov neurons an important tool in neuroscience research and computational neuroscience [31], [32]. The purpose of this paper is to study the dynamic properties of discrete Rulkov neurons and explore their potential applications in the field of optical communication encryption.

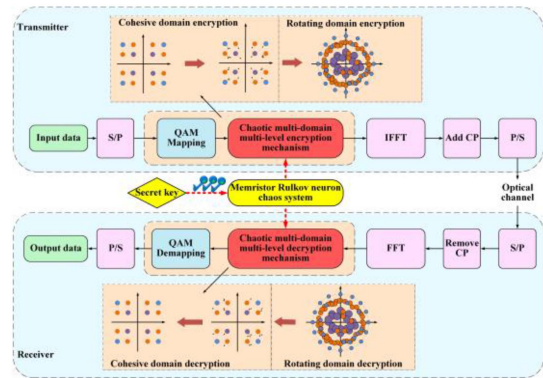


Fig. 1. Schematic diagram of MDML encryption mechanism based on memristor Rulkov neuron chaos.

In this paper, a multi-domain multi-level (MDML) encryption transmission scheme based on memristor Rulkov neuron chaos is proposed. In this scheme, the chaotic sequences generated by the chaotic system of memristor Rulkov neurons are used to encrypt the information of the cohesive domain and the rotating domain. The chaotic system of memristor Rulkov neurons maps  $x$  and  $z$  sequences to encrypt the cohesive domain constellation points. We carry out hierarchical encryption in the process of cohesive domain encryption. Taking 16QAM as an example, it is divided into three levels of encryption according to the amplitude of constellation points. In the scheme, encryption depth control parameters (EDCP)  $k_1$ ,  $k_2$  and  $k_3$  are introduced to change the position of three-levels constellation points of 16QAM respectively. When the bit error rate (BER) is  $10^{-2}$ , the receiving sensitivity of the EDCP with 0.2, 0.4, 0.8 is 6 dB higher than that of the EDCP with 0.9, 0.3, 0.1. Therefore, the scheme can change the distribution position of the uniformly modulated constellation without serious damage to the transmission performance, and enhance the signal and noise immunity. The chaotic system of Rulkov neurons maps  $y$  sequences to encrypt the rotating domain and realize 100% scrambling of constellation points. The key space of the proposed scheme reaches  $10^{116}$ . The proposed scheme is verified in a 25 km standard single-mode fiber (SSMF) transmission system with a rate of 9.41 Gb/s, and the performance of the system is analyzed. The results show that when the EDCP are  $k_1 = 0.9$ ,  $k_2 = 0.3$ ,  $k_3 = 0.1$ , the performance of the encryption system is significantly lower than that when EDCP are  $k_1 = 0.2$ ,  $k_2 = 0.4$ ,  $k_3 = 0.8$ . The proposed scheme can enhance both transmission performance and security performance, and has a good prospect in the future physical layer security optical network.

## II. PRINCIPLES

Fig. 1 shows the principle of the MDML encryption transmission scheme based on memristor Rulkov neuron chaos, which shows the schematic presentation of cohesive domain encryption and rotating domain encryption. The cohesive domain encryption means that the constellation points of the outer part are clustered towards the middle point by chaotic sequence mapping, and the number and degree of the constellation points are randomly controlled by the chaotic sequence. Rotating domain

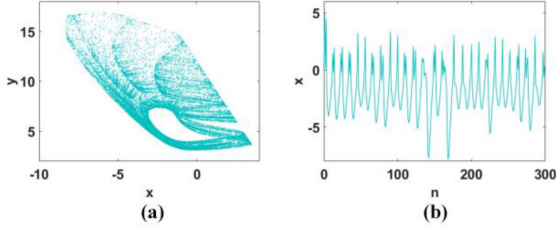


Fig. 2. Typical dynamics of the map-based memristive neuron under  $(x_0, y_0, z_0) = (0.1, 0.1, 0.1)$ , where (a)–(b) with  $a = 5, b = 0.7$ .

encryption refers to the use of chaotic sequence mapping to mask the phase information of constellation points.

At the transmitter, the pseudo-random binary sequence is generated as the original input data. After the input data is encoded by serial-to-parallel (S/P) conversion and constellation mapping, the masking factor generated by the key-driven memristor Rulkov neuron chaos system is used to encrypt the data. Firstly, the constellation points with different amplitudes are hierarchical cohesive encrypted to complete the cohesion change of constellation points. Then, all constellation points are masked by rotation so that the constellation points are 100% scrambled. Finally, the encrypted data are OFDM modulated and transmitted through SSMF system. At the receiver, the original data is obtained by the calculation method opposite to the encryption end. The keys drive the chaotic mapping of memristor Rulkov neurons and generates three chaotic vectors, which are used to determine the number of constellation points cohesive encryption, the cohesive distance and the rotation masking angle, respectively. It is worth noting that in this paper, the key is distributed in a way shared by both the transmitter and receiver.

### A. Chaotic Sequence Generation

When the discrete memristor is introduced into the Rulkov model, the novel map-based memristive neuron is proposed. The model generates three chaotic sequences to encrypt the information. The expression is as follows:

$$\begin{cases} x_{n+1} = \frac{a}{1+x_n^2} - 0.5 \tanh(z_n)y_n \\ y_{n+1} = 1.2y_n + bx_n \\ z_{n+1} = 1.2y_n - 0.6z_n \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Set  $(x_0, y_0, z_0) = (0.1, 0.1, 0.1)$ , chaotic bursting firing activities is observed is shown in Fig. 2. The sample entropy and maximum Lyapunov exponent with  $(x_0, y_0, z_0) = (0.1, 0.1, 0.1)$  are plotted in Fig. 3. The discrete sequences are shown in Fig. 4.

The complexity of chaotic sequences is measured by employing sample entropy [33], [34]. Set discrete sequences  $\{x(n)\} = x(1), x(2), \dots, x(N)$ . A set of vector sequences  $X_m(1), \dots, X_m(N-m+1)$  with dimension  $m$  are extracted, where  $X_m(i) = \{x(i), x(i+1), \dots, x(i+m-1)\}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq N-m+1$ . The values of  $m$  consecutive  $x$  starting from point  $i$  are represented by these vectors. Define the distance  $d[X_m(i), X_m(j)]$  between vectors  $X_m(i)$  and  $X_m(j)$  as the absolute value of the maximum difference between the corresponding elements.  $d[X_m(i), X_m(j)] = \max_{k=0, \dots, m-1} \{|x(i+k) - x(j+k)|\}$ . For the given  $X_m(i)$ , count the

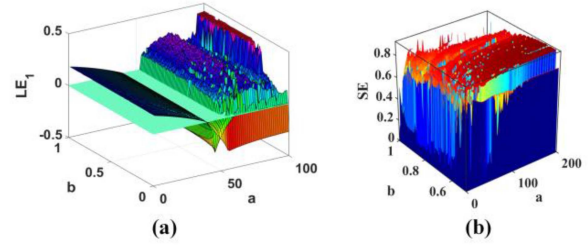


Fig. 3. The dynamical feature of the memristive Rulkov model with  $(x_0, y_0, z_0) = (0.1, 0.1, 0.1)$ , (a) sample entropy, (b) maximum Lyapunov exponent.

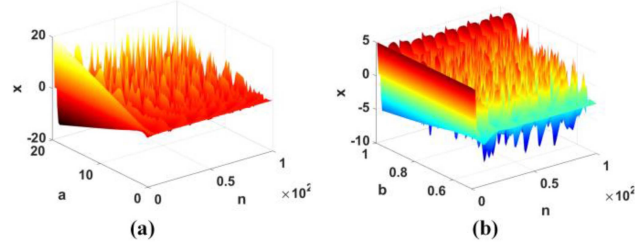


Fig. 4. The firing oscillation of the memristive Rulkov model with  $(x_0, y_0, z_0) = (0.1, 0.1, 0.1)$ .

number of  $j$  ( $1 \leq j \leq N-m, j \neq i$ ) whose distance between  $X_m(i)$  and  $X_m(j)$  is less than or equal to  $r$ , which is defined as  $B_i$ . For  $1 \leq i \leq N-m, B_i^m(r)$  is expressed as,

$$B_i^m(r) = \frac{B_i}{N-m-1} \quad (2)$$

$$B^{(m)}(r) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N-m} B_i^m(r)}{N-m} \quad (3)$$

Increase the dimension to  $m+1$ , and calculate the number of distances  $X_{m+1}(i)$  and  $X_{m+1}(j)$  ( $1 \leq j \leq N-m, j \neq i$ ) that are less than or equal to  $r$ , denoted as  $A_i$ . The  $A_i^m(r)$  is defined as,

$$A_i^m(r) = \frac{A_i}{N-m-1} \quad (4)$$

$$A^{(m)}(r) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{N-m} A_i^m(r)}{N-m} \quad (5)$$

In this way,  $B^m(r)$  is the probability of two sequences matching  $m$  points under similar tolerance  $r$ , while  $A^m(r)$  is the probability of two sequences matching  $m+1$  points. The sample entropy is defined as,

$$SE(m, r, N) = -\ln \left[ \frac{A^m(r)}{B^m(r)} \right] \quad (6)$$

### B. Encryption Mechanis

In order to ensure the security of the transmitted information, the scheme adopts the memristor Rulkov neuron chaos encryption technology to realize the physical layer encryption. The physical layer encryption scheme proposed in this scheme defines cohesive domain encryption and rotating domain encryption, as shown in Fig. 5. Cohesive domain encryption is the

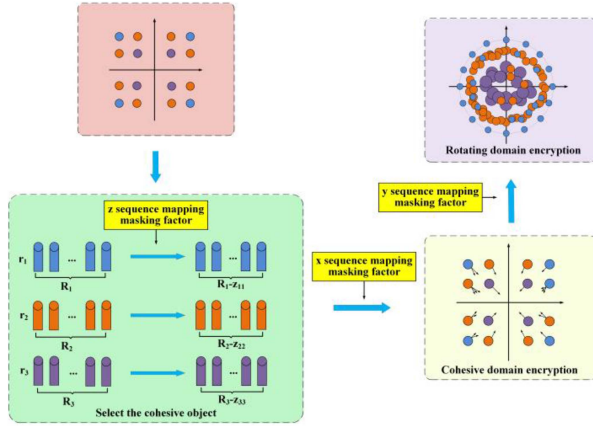


Fig. 5. Schematic diagram of MDML multilevel optical encryption mechanism.

indent encryption of constellation points towards the center by using chaotic sequence. Rotating domain encryption is to realize rotation encryption of constellation points by using chaotic sequence. It is worth noting that in the process of cohesive domain encryption, the scheme introduces the EDCP  $k_1$ ,  $k_2$ ,  $k_3$ , which are used to control the degree of cohesive encryption. The key consists of the initial state of the chaotic map of the memristor Rulkov neuron, the control parameter  $(a, b)$ , and the EDCP  $k$ . The chaotic system of memristor Rulkov neurons generates three chaotic sequences, namely  $x$ ,  $y$ , and  $z$ . The three chaotic sequences are processed into masking factors for MDML encryption. As shown in Fig. 5, the chaotic sequences  $x$  and  $z$  are used for constellation point cohesive domain encryption. The encryption method of the cohesive domain makes the constellation points no longer evenly distributed, which can reduce the average power of the constellation points. The chaotic sequences  $y$  is used for constellation point rotary domain encryption. The encryption method of the rotating field makes the constellation points achieve 100% scrambling. In addition, in the process of cohesive domain encryption, the scheme also carries out multi-level encryption. According to the different amplitude of constellation points, it is divided into three levels, and each level is successively cohesive encryption.

In the process of cohesive domain encryption, it is divided into three levels according to the amplitude of 16QAM, namely  $r_1$ ,  $r_2$ ,  $r_3$ , where  $r_1 > r_2 > r_3$ , and the three levels are successively cohesive encryption. The number of constellation points with amplitude  $r_1$  is  $R_1$ . The number of constellation points with amplitude  $r_2$  is  $R_2$ . The number of constellation points with amplitude  $r_3$  is  $R_3$ . The total number of bits produced is  $(R_1 + R_2 + R_3) \times 4$ . Specifically, the first level of encryption encrypts constellation points with amplitude  $r_1$ . Chaotic sequence  $z$  is used to select reserved constellation points, that is, constellation points without cohesion encryption. This part of constellation points is relatively small, and most constellation points are cohesion encryption. Chaotic sequence  $z$  can not be used to select constellation points directly, it needs to be preprocessed. The specific process is as follows:

$$z_1 = \lfloor \text{round}(z \times 3601) \rfloor \quad (7)$$

$$z_{11} = \text{sort}(\text{unique}(z_1)) \quad (8)$$

where round is rounded down, unique is retained as a unique value, and sort is reordered. The number of  $z_{11}$  is much smaller than  $R_1$ .

The chaotic sequence  $z$  is preprocessed into  $z_{11}$ . The  $z_{11}$  can select constellation points of amplitude  $r_1$ , while unselected data is cohesive encrypted. The first level of cohesive encryption is to use the masking factor generated after the preprocessing of chaotic sequence  $x$  for masking. The values of the generated masking factors are all greater than 0.15 and less than 1. Constellation points with amplitude  $r_1$  can effectively converge towards the center point when multiplied by the masking factor. It is worth noting that the masking factors generated by pretreatment should not be too small. If it is too small, the cohesive constellation point will be very close to the central origin, its coordinate is infinitely close to (00). It is difficult to recover the original constellation points when the reverse operation is performed at the receiver. This is also the reason why there is little research on constellation telescopic masking. The telescopic masking of constellation points will greatly affect the transmission performance, especially the multilevel telescopic masking. In the first level of cohesive encryption, the chaotic sequence  $x$  is preprocessed to generate masking factors. The masking factor encrypts the constellation points that need to be cohesive encrypted. The specific process is as follows:

$$x1'_i = \begin{cases} |x_i \cdot k_1| & |x_i \cdot k_1| \geq 0.15 \\ |x_i \cdot k_1| + 0.1 & |x_i \cdot k_1| < 0.15 \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

$$x1''_i = \begin{cases} 1 & i = z_{11} \\ x1'_i & i \neq z_{11} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

where  $k_1$  is the EDCP of the first level of cohesive encryption, and its size can determine the degree of constellation point cohesion. If the value of  $k_1$  is too small, it will be more difficult to recover at the receiver. The matrices generated by (9) are all less than 1 and greater than 0.15. The chaotic sequence is stochastic, which can be used for cohesion masking of constellation points. The function of (10) is to preserve a part of the constellation points from cohesion encryption, and its amplitude is still  $r_1$ . The selection of these constellation points is determined by  $z_{11}$ . The processed  $x$  sequence has some elements of 1 and most elements of  $x1'_i$ . Then the masking factor  $x1'_i$  is used to cohesive encrypt the constellation points with amplitude  $r_1$ . The specific encryption process is as follows:

$$w'_i = w_i \cdot x1''_i \quad (11)$$

where  $w_i$  is the original constellation point with amplitude  $r_1$ , and  $w'_i$  is the constellation point after cohesion encryption. The second and third levels of encryption in the cohesive encryption process are similar to the first level. The chaotic sequence  $z$  is preprocessed to generate  $z_{22}$  and  $z_{33}$ .  $z_{22}$  and  $z_{33}$  select constellation points with amplitude  $r_2$  and  $r_3$  respectively, and mask constellation points that need cohesion encryption. The specific processing process is as follows:

$$z_2 = \lfloor \text{round}(z \times 4831) \rfloor \quad (12)$$

$$z_{22} = \text{sort}(\text{unique}(z_2)) \quad (13)$$

$$z_3 = |\text{round}(z \times 431)| \quad (14)$$

$$z_{33} = \text{sort}(\text{unique}(z_3)) \quad (15)$$

In the process of the second and third level cohesive encryption, the masking factor generated by the preprocessing of chaotic sequence  $x$  is used to encrypt the information. At the same time, the EDCP  $k_2$  and  $k_3$  are introduced, which determine the degree of constellation point cohesion. The specific masking factor generation process is as follows:

$$x2'_i = \begin{cases} |x_i \cdot k_2| & |x_i \cdot k_2| \geq 0.15 \\ |x_i \cdot k_2| + 0.1 & |x_i \cdot k_2| < 0.15 \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

$$x3'_i = \begin{cases} |x_i \cdot k_3| & |x_i \cdot k_3| \geq 0.15 \\ |x_i \cdot k_3| + 0.1 & |x_i \cdot k_3| < 0.15 \end{cases} \quad (17)$$

$$x2''_i = \begin{cases} 1i = z_{22} \\ x2'_i \neq z_{22} \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

$$x3''_i = \begin{cases} 1i = z_{33} \\ x3'_i \neq z_{33} \end{cases} \quad (19)$$

The masked constellation points can be obtained by multiplying the processed masking factors  $x2''_i$  and  $x3''_i$  with the coordinates of the constellation points whose amplitudes are  $r_2$  and  $r_3$ . The specific encryption process is as follows:

$$u'_i = u_i \cdot x2''_i \quad (20)$$

$$p'_i = p_i \cdot x3''_i \quad (21)$$

where  $u_i$  is the constellation point with the original amplitude  $r_2$ , and  $u'_i$  is the constellation point after cohesive encryption.  $p_i$  is the original constellation point with amplitude  $r_3$ , and  $p'_i$  is the constellation point after cohesive encryption.

The chaotic sequence generated by the chaotic system in this scheme can match the numerical value in the process of digital modulation well. The traditional digital domain physical layer encryption schemes need to enlarge the chaotic sequence by  $10^n$  order, and then obtain the usable masking factor. In this scheme, the cohesive encryption process expands the chaotic sequence up to 4831 times, which effectively reduces the amount of numerical calculation.

In the encryption process of rotating domain, the masking factor is mapped by chaotic sequence  $y$  for rotation masking of constellation points. This process can complete 100% of the constellation points scrambling. The value of the masking factor generated by the chaotic sequence  $y$  is randomly distributed between 0 and 360, which can effectively rotate the constellation points randomly between 0 and 360 degrees. The value of the masking factor is generated by taking the remainder. Its specific encryption process is as follows:

$$\begin{cases} m = \text{floor}(\text{mod}(y \cdot 10^8, 360)) \\ t' = t \cdot (\cos(m) + j \sin(m)) \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

where  $t$  is the unrotated encrypted constellation coordinate and  $t'$  is the rotated encrypted constellation coordinate.

The physical layer information encryption scheme proposed in this paper is completed in DSP, which is compatible with the existing optical network and has greater flexibility. At the

receiver, data recovery only needs to be inverse operated, which can effectively decrypt and recover information.

### C. System Encryption Complexity Calculation

In this paper, the computational complexity of the proposed scheme is evaluated. The complexity arises mainly from three parts. 1) The chaotic system of memristor Rulkov neurons generates chaotic sequences  $x, y, z$ . 2) The generation of masking factors  $z_{11}, z_{22}, z_{33}, x1''_i, x2''_i, x3''_i$  and  $m$ . 3) The specific process of encryption. In terms of the generation of chaotic sequences  $x, y, z$ , the memristor Rulkov neuron chaotic system has 4 times addition and subtraction calculations, 1 time  $\tanh(\cdot)$  calculation, 8 times multiply and divide calculations, the number of iterations is  $2 \times (R_1 + R_2 + R_3)$ . In terms of the generation of masking factors  $z_{11}, z_{22}$  and  $z_{33}$ ,  $2 \times (R_1 + R_2 + R_3)$  times multiplication and division calculations,  $2 \times (R_1 + R_2 + R_3)$  times absolute value calculations and  $2 \times (R_1 + R_2 + R_3)$  times integer calculations are carried out respectively. The process of generating masking factor  $x1''_i$  consists of  $R_1$  times multiplication and division calculations,  $R_1$  times absolute value calculations,  $R_1$  times addition and subtraction calculations, and  $2 \times R_1$  times judgment calculations. The process of generating masking factor  $x2''_i$  consists of  $R_2$  times multiplication and division calculations,  $R_2$  times absolute value calculations,  $R_2$  times addition and subtraction calculations, and  $2 \times R_2$  times judgment calculations. The process of generating masking factor  $x3''_i$  consists of  $R_3$  times multiplication and division calculations,  $R_3$  times absolute value calculations,  $R_3$  times addition and subtraction calculations, and  $2 \times R_3$  times judgment calculations. The process of generating masking factor  $m$  consists of  $(R_1 + R_2 + R_3)$  times multiplication and division calculations,  $(R_1 + R_2 + R_3)$  times  $\text{mod}(\cdot)$  calculations, and  $(R_1 + R_2 + R_3)$  times  $\text{floor}(\cdot)$  calculation. In terms of the specific process of encryption, the three-level encryption of the cohesive domain is carried out a total of  $(R_1 + R_2 + R_3)$  multiplication and division calculation. Rotating domain encryption performs  $(R_1 + R_2 + R_3)$  times  $\cos(\cdot)$  calculations,  $(R_1 + R_2 + R_3)$  times  $\sin(\cdot)$  calculations,  $(R_1 + R_2 + R_3)$  addition and subtraction calculations, and  $(R_1 + R_2 + R_3)$  multiplication and division calculations.

## III. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP AND RESULTS

### A. Experimental Setup

The experimental setup of the proposed scheme is shown in Fig. 6. In order to verify the reliability of the proposed security scheme, the receiver is divided into a legal optical network unit (ONU) and an illegal ONU. Illegal ONU does not have security key and can only obtain information by brute force. The number of OFDM subcarriers is set to 512. The number of inverse fast fourier transform (IFFT) points is set to 2048. The protection interval is set to 1/16. The arbitrary waveform generator (AWG, TekAWG70002A) has a sampling rate of 50 GSa/s. The light source information wavelength is 1550 nm. The continuous wave laser has a power of 12 dBm. The mixed signal oscilloscope (MSO, TekMSO73304DX) has a sampling rate of 50 GSa/s. First, the input data is converted into an analog radio-frequency

### III. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP AND RESULTS

#### A. Experimental Setup

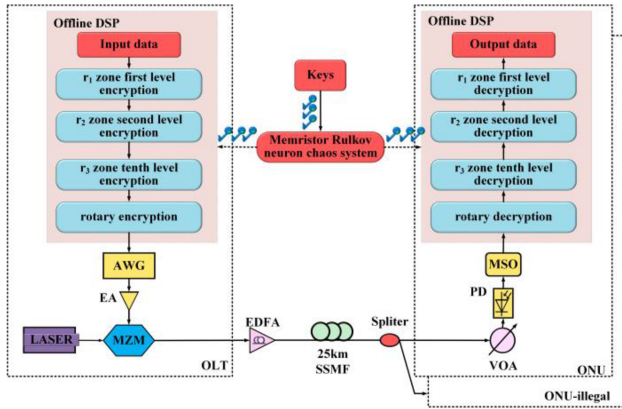


Fig. 6. Experimental setup (AWG: Arbitrary waveform generator; EA: Electrical amplifier; MZM: Mach-Zehnder modulator; EDFA: Erbium-doped fiber amplifier; VOA: Variable optical attenuator; PD: Photodiode; MSO: Mixed signal oscilloscope).

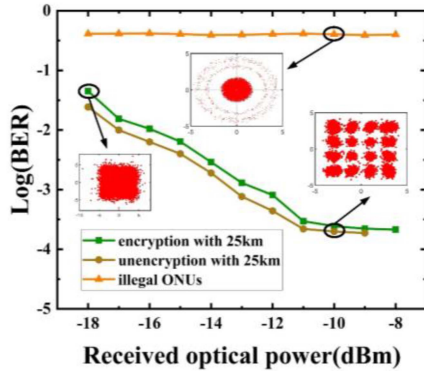


Fig. 7. BER curves of normal and illegal reception for 25 km transmission.

signal by AWG after MDML chaotic encryption. Second, the signal passes through the amplifier electrical amplifier (EA), it is loaded onto the light generated by the laser via a Mach-Zehnder modulator (MZM). Third, the optical signal is sent to the SSMF channel of 25 km for transmission. The optical signal at the receiver is converted into an electrical signal by a photodiode (PD), and then the analog-to-digital conversion is completed by an MSO. Finally, the original data is recovered by offline DSP. The function of the variable optical attenuator (VOA) is to adjust the received optical power.

#### B. Experimental Results and Analysis

In this paper, the bit error performance of transmission schemes under different scenarios are compared. Fig. 7 describes the BER curve and constellation diagram under normal reception and illegal reception. The normal reception includes encrypted and unencrypted cases. It can be seen from the figure that the BER of the normal receiver decreases with the increase of the received optical power. When the received optical power is greater than  $-11$  dBm, the BER of the normal receiver is lower than  $3.6 \times 10^{-3}$ , and the constellation diagram is clear. When

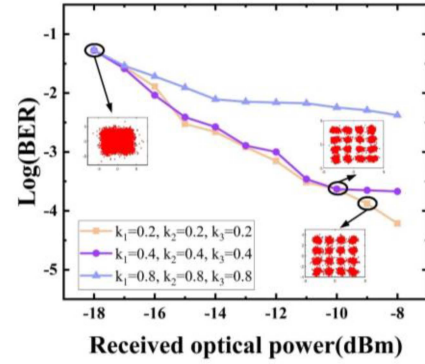


Fig. 8. BER curves of  $k_1$ ,  $k_2$ , and  $k_3$  with the same value.

the received optical power is  $-18$  dBm, the constellation image is not clear and the BER increases. However, the BER of the illegal receiver does not change with the change of the received optical power, and is stable at about 0.4. The illegal ONU mainly mimics the behavior of an eavesdropper, that is, parsing data without obtaining the correct key, the correct chaotic system, and the correct encryption mechanism. The illegal ONU mainly embodies the eavesdropper's behavior in the digital signal processing part, and performs brute force cracking of encrypted data without the correct key. The constellation diagram, as shown in the illustration, appears circular and cannot be decrypted. This is because the normal receiver has the same key as the transmitter to correctly decrypt information, and the illegal receiver without the correct key is unable to recover the interfered signal.

Compared with the unencrypted signal, the BER of the encrypted signal is slightly lower. The performance of the system in the case of encryption is slightly affected. However, this scheme can effectively protect the data, and the damage of transmission performance can be accepted. Therefore, the scheme guarantees the communication quality and performance, and can effectively resist illegal attacks.

The influence of EDCP on transmission performance is also tested. The value range of the EDCP  $k$  is  $(0, 1]$ . The smaller the value of  $k$ , the larger the cohesion degree of constellation points in multi-domain. The larger the value of  $k$ , the smaller the cohesion degree of the constellation points in the multi-domain. When  $k_1$ ,  $k_2$  and  $k_3$  values are the same, the influence on the BER of the system is analyzed. The EDCP that control the cohesion degree of MDML constellation points are set the same and are respectively 0.2, 0.4 and 0.8, and the BER curves are shown in Fig. 8. As can be seen from the figure, the BER of the system under the three parameters decreases with the increase of the received optical power generally. In the case of the same received optical power, the BER of the transmission system with the EDCP value of 0.8 is larger than that of the EDCP of 0.2 and 0.4. This is because the average power is small when the EDCP is 0.2 and 0.4. Compared with the EDCP of 0.8, the transmission performance will be improved. However, it is not the case that the smaller the EDCP, the better. When the EDCP is small, the degree of constellation points contraction increases, and the difficulty of recovery will increase. When the received optical power is greater than  $-10$  dBm, the BER of the system

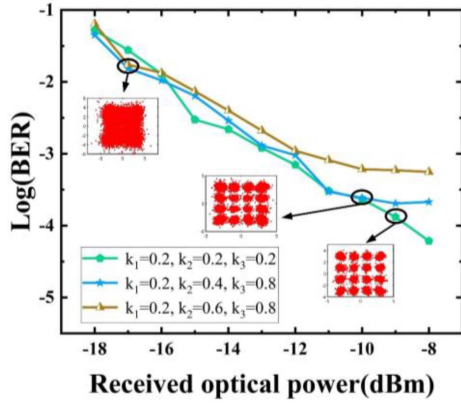


Fig. 9. BER curves with  $k_1 = 0.2$  and different values of  $k_2$  and  $k_3$ .

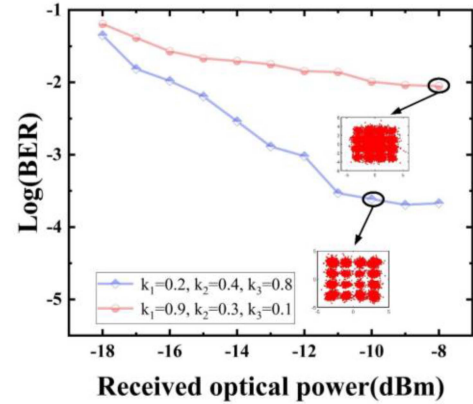


Fig. 11. BER curve with different values of  $k_1$ ,  $k_2$ , and  $k_3$ .

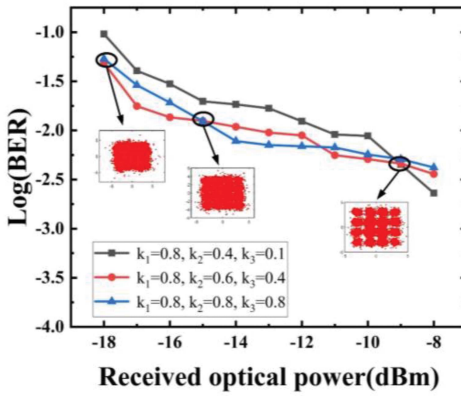


Fig. 10. BER curves with  $k_1 = 0.8$  and different values of  $k_2$  and  $k_3$ .

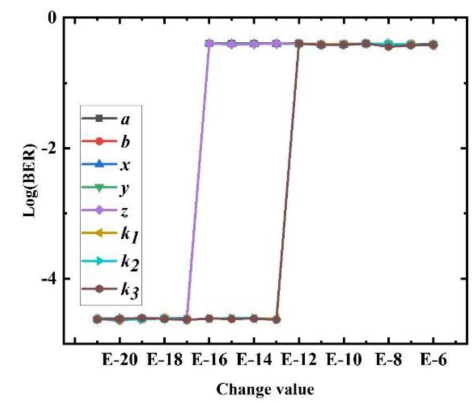


Fig. 12. BER curves of various ONUs with a tiny change in initial value.

whose EDCP  $k_1$ ,  $k_2$  and  $k_3$  are all 0.4 is lower than  $2 \times 10^{-4}$ . When the EDCP  $k_1$ ,  $k_2$  and  $k_3$  are all 0.2, the BER of the system is lower than  $2.1 \times 10^{-4}$ . The constellation diagram is shown in the illustration with the constellation points clearly visible.

In addition, the system test is carried out when the EDCP  $k_1$  is the same and small, and the EDCP  $k_2$  and  $k_3$  are different.  $k_1$  is fixed at 0.2, the EDCP of constellation points in other domains are adjusted under MDML, and then the influence of different  $k$  on the BER of the system is analyzed. When the received optical power is less than  $-17$  dBm, as shown in the illustration in Fig. 9, the constellation diagram is not clear and the BER increases. With the increase of optical power, the BER decreases. When the received optical power is less than  $-10$  dBm, the constellation diagram is clear. In addition, it can be seen from the figure that under the same received optical power, the BER of  $k = (0.2, 0.2, 0.2)$  is the lowest, and the BER of  $k = (0.2, 0.6, 0.8)$  is the highest. The selection of EDCP has a great influence on the transmission performance of the system. The introduction of the EDCP variable makes the encryption system more complex, and the difficulty for eavesdroppers to steal information increases.

Different from the test in Fig. 9, the result of the BER in Fig. 10 is to increase the value of the EDCP  $k_1$ .  $k_1$  is fixed at 0.8, the EDCP of constellation points in other domains are adjusted under MDML. Compared with the results in Fig. 9, when the EDCP  $k_1$  is set to 0.8, the transmission performance

is significantly lower than that when the EDCP  $k_1$  is 0.2, and the signal is seriously damaged. When the received optical power is less than  $-18$  dBm, as shown in the illustration, the constellation diagram appears as a cluster, very unclear, and the BER increases. When the received optical power is greater than  $-15$  dBm, the constellation diagram shows the general outline. As can be seen from the figure, under the same received optical power, the BER of  $(k_1, k_2, k_3) = (0.8, 0.6, 0.1)$  is the highest, and the BER of  $(k_1, k_2, k_3) = (0.8, 0.6, 0.4)$  is not much different from that of  $(k_1, k_2, k_3) = (0.8, 0.8, 0.8)$ .

The EDCP  $k_1$ ,  $k_2$  and  $k_3$  are used to control the cohesion degree of constellation points of different levels respectively. The EDCP from the outer domain to the inner domain are set to 0.2, 0.4, 0.8 and 0.9, 0.3, 0.1 respectively, and the BER curve is shown in Fig. 11. As can be seen from the figure, when  $(k_1, k_2, k_3) = (0.9, 0.3, 0.1)$ , its transmission performance is much lower than that when  $(k_1, k_2, k_3) = (0.2, 0.4, 0.8)$ . Therefore, the selection of appropriate EDCP can not only ensure the transmission performance of the system, but also ensure the physical layer security of data. When the BER is  $10^{-2}$ , the receiving sensitivity of the EDCP with 0.2, 0.4, 0.8 is 6 dB higher than that of the EDCP with 0.9, 0.3, 0.1.

In order to verify the sensitivity of the key in this scheme, this paper analyzes the BER curve after the key used to decrypt the ONU at the receiver is slightly changed. As shown in Fig. 12,

the horizontal coordinate indicates how finely the initial value changes the parameter. Take parameter  $z$  as an example, when the precision of the parameter is E-17, the BER is low, and it can be decrypted normally. When the precision of the parameter is changed to E-16, the BER increases sharply and can not be decrypted normally. This shows that the key in our scheme has a very high sensitivity. The key space can be expressed as  $(a, b, x, y, z, k_1, k_2, k_3)$ , which can realize the key space of  $[(10^{16})^5 \times (10^{12})^3] = 10^{116}$ . Therefore, the chaotic sequence of memristor Rulkov neurons has high sensitivity. It is difficult for the thief to extract the original data from it, which has high security.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the memristor Rulkov neuronal chaotic encryption technique, this paper proposes an encryption scheme which integrates data encryption and constellation points distribution position change. The scheme uses the memristor Rulkov neuron chaos encryption model and encryption mechanism to realize information encryption and distribution position change of constellation points, which effectively realizes information security transmission and improves system transmission performance. The scheme is verified by experiments by the signal transmission of 9.41 Gb/s in a 25 km SSMF system. The experimental results show that the key in the proposed scheme has high sensitivity. The key space is up to  $10^{116}$ , which can resist illegal attacks. When the BER is  $10^{-2}$ , the receiving sensitivity of the EDCP 0.2, 0.4, 0.8 is 6 dB higher than that of the EDCP 0.9, 0.3, 0.1. In conclusion, the MDML encryption transmission scheme based on memristor Rulkov neuron chaos proposed in this paper has great potential in future high-security and high-speed large-capacity transmission systems.

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