



# Calculating the Maximum Hop Distances for 15454 Fiber Links

[TAC Notice: What's Changing on TAC Web](#)

Document ID: 19762

## Contents

[Introduction](#)

[Prerequisites](#)

[Requirements](#)

[Components Used](#)

[Conventions](#)

[What Is Attenuation?](#)

[Wavelength](#)

[Calculate the Maximum Hop](#)

[Optical Budget Loss Equation](#)

[NetPro Discussion Forums - Featured Conversations](#)

[Related Information](#)

Help us help you.

Please rate this document.

- Excellent  
 Good  
 Average  
 Fair  
 Poor

This document solved my problem.

- Yes  
 No  
 Just browsing

Suggestions for improvement:

(256 character limit)

Send

## Introduction

This document describes how to calculate the maximum hop distance for an optical fiber and, in particular, for the Cisco ONS 15454. You can apply this methodology to all types of optical fibers in order to estimate the maximum distance that optical systems use.

## Prerequisites

### Requirements

There are no specific requirements for this document.

### Components Used

This document is not restricted to specific software and hardware versions.

The information in this document was created from the devices in a specific lab environment. All of the devices used in this document started with a cleared (default) configuration. If your network is live, make sure that you understand the potential impact of any command.

### Conventions

Refer to [Cisco Technical Tips Conventions](#) for more information on document conventions.

## What Is Attenuation?

This section explains the meaning of attenuation, and provides guidelines to calculate the maximum distance for

optical links on the basis of different wavelengths.

Attenuation is a measure of the loss of signal strength or light power that occurs as light pulses propagate through a run of multimode or single-mode fiber. Measurements are typically defined in terms of decibels or dB/km.

## Wavelength

The most common peak wavelengths are 780 nm, 850 nm, 1310 nm, 1550 nm, and 1625 nm. The 850 nm region, referred to as the first window, was used initially because this region supported the original LED and detector technology. Today, the 1310 nm region is popular because of the dramatically lower loss and lower dispersion.

The 1550 nm region also is used today, and can avoid the need for repeaters. Generally, performance and cost increase as wavelength increases.

Multimode and single-mode fiber use different fiber types or sizes. For example, single-mode fiber uses 9/125  $\mu$ m and multimode uses 62.5/125 or 50/125. The different size fibers have different optical loss dB/km values. Fiber loss depends heavily on the operating wavelength. Practical fibers have the lowest loss at 1550 nm and the highest loss at 780 nm with all physical fiber sizes (for example, 9/125 or 62.5/125).

When you calculate the maximum distance for any optical link, consider the details provided in [table 1](#) and [table 2](#):

**Table 1 – For Wavelength 1310nm**

	Attenuation/ km (dB/km)	Attenuation/optical connector (dB)	Attenuation/joint (dB)	Conditions
Min	0.30	0.40	0.02	Best conditions
Average	0.38	0.60	0.10	Normal
Max	0.50	1.00	0.20	Worst situation

**Table 2 – For Wavelength 1550nm**

	Attenuation/ km (dB/km)	Attenuation/optical connector (dB)	Attenuation/joint (dB)	Conditions
Min	0.17	0.20	0.01	Best conditions
Average	0.22	0.35	0.05	Normal
Max	0.04	0.70	0.10	Worst situation

Here is an example of a typical situation in the field:

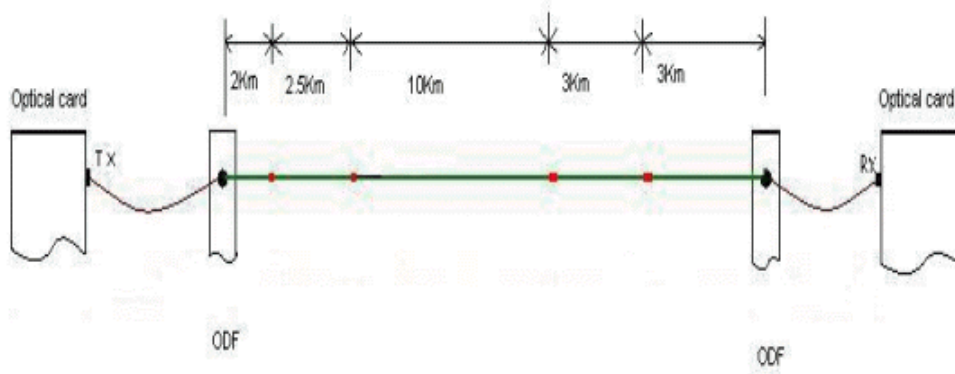


Table 3 – For ONS 15454

Card	Fiber Light Levels	
	Rx Level	Tx Level
	Max - Min	Max - Min
OC3	-8 to -28	-8 to -15
OC12	-8 to -28	-8 to -15
OC12	-8 to -28	+2 to -3
OC12	-8 to -28	+2 to -3
OC48	0 to -18	0 to -5
OC48	-8 to -28	+3 to -2
OC48	-8 to -28	0 to -2

Table 4 – For OC192 LR and STM64 LH 1550

Tx/Rx	Max	Min
Transmitter (Tx) Output Power:	Max. +10 dBm	Min. +7 dBm
Receiver (Rx) Level:	Max. -10 dBm	Min: -19 dBm

For this card, the power budget is between: 29dB and 17 dB.

## Calculate the Maximum Hop

With the information provided in the [What Is Attenuation?](#) section, you can calculate all the attenuation for any span, including the maximum hop distance for the Cisco ONS 15454.

### Optical Budget Loss Equation

**A<sub>total</sub>** = (wavelength λ loss dB/km x fibre length) + (connector loss x number of connectors) + (splice loss x number of splices).

## Kilometer to Mile Conversion

$\text{Km} \times .6214 = \text{miles}$  (1mile = 1.60km)

Here is an example to calculate the maximum hop distance for the OC48 LR 1550 card. For this card:

- Min Rx level is -28dB and Min Tx level is -2dB
- Max Rx level is -8dB and Max Tx level is +3dB

For this card, the power budget is between: 31dB and 6 dB.

Given that the maximum Rx level is -8dB, this means that if the laser power source is "hotter", the board can suffer damage. Also, because the Min Rx level = -28dB, you cannot receive beyond this limit.

With this in mind, assume that:

- The minimum attenuation on line must be at least:

$$A(\text{min}) = \text{Max Tx level} - \text{Max Rx level} = +3\text{dB} - (-8\text{dB}) = 11\text{dB}$$

- The maximum attenuation on line must be:

$$A(\text{max}) = \text{Min Tx level} - \text{Min Rx level} = -2\text{dB} - (-28\text{dB}) = 26\text{dB}$$

You also need to take a system margin into consideration. Patch cords, cable bend, unpredictable optical attenuation events, and so on, require around 3dB. In addition, a number of splices in elementary cable section some external connectors (you can have at least two at of possibly 0.7dB so you can consider this to be around 1.5 dB).

On the basis of this information, you can estimate that the new values for calculation are:

$$A(\text{min}) = 11\text{dB} - 4.5\text{dB} = 6.5\text{dB}$$

$$A(\text{max}) = 26\text{dB} - 4.5\text{dB} = 21.5\text{dB}$$

With these results, you can conclude that the maximum attenuation for optical cable (TA) must be maximum 26dB for one link with OC48 LR 1550, and cannot be less than 11 dB.

This takes these conditions into account:

- The minimum length for the optical fiber on a cable is:

$$L(\text{min}) = A(\text{min}) / a = 6.5\text{dB} / 0.22\text{dB/km} = 29.5\text{km}$$

- The maximum length for the optical fiber on a cable is:

$$L(\text{max}) = A(\text{max}) / a = 21.5\text{dB} / 0.22\text{dB/km} = 97.72\text{km}$$

where, **a** = attenuation for the optical cable (dB/km).

On the basis of this calculation, the maximum hop distance for the OC48 LR 1550 card is between 29.5km and 97.72km.

With this procedure as a basis, you can now calculate all others spans.

## NetPro Discussion Forums - Featured Conversations

Networking Professionals Connection is a forum for networking professionals to share questions, suggestions, and information about networking solutions, products, and technologies. The featured links are some of the most recent conversations available in this technology.

NetPro Discussion Forums - Featured Conversations for Optical
Service Providers: Optical Networking
<a href="#">PA-MC-STM1 card configuration for full bandwidth</a> - Mar 7, 2006
<a href="#">Studying cisco optical specialist</a> - Mar 7, 2006
<a href="#">Question POS point to point with no APS</a> - Mar 6, 2006
<a href="#">Dark Fiber Solution</a> - Mar 1, 2006
<a href="#">10 Gigabit module for 6500</a> - Feb 26, 2006
Service Providers: Metro
<a href="#">Metro E design question</a> - Mar 9, 2006
<a href="#">confused between the vlan mode and switch mode AToMPLS</a> - Mar 8, 2006
<a href="#">Sup 720 3xlb and ATOMPLS</a> - Mar 8, 2006
<a href="#">Metro Switches</a> - Mar 8, 2006
<a href="#">pppoe limit max-sessions</a> - Mar 7, 2006

---

## Related Information

- [Technical Support & Documentation - Cisco Systems](#)

---

<a href="#">Home</a>	<a href="#">How to Buy</a>	<a href="#">Login</a>	<a href="#">Profile</a>	<a href="#">Feedback</a>	<a href="#">Site Map</a>	<a href="#">Help</a>
----------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------

All contents are Copyright © 1992-2006 Cisco Systems, Inc. All rights reserved. [Important Notices](#) and [Privacy Statement](#).

Updated: Mar 08, 2006

Document ID: 19762

---