

Communication **Inter-Mode Crosstalk Estimation between Cores for** *LPmn* **Modes in Weakly Coupled Few-Mode Multicore Fiber with Perturbations**

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Abstract: A novel inter-mode crosstalk (IMXT) model of *LPmn* mode for weakly coupled few-mode multicore fiber is proposed based on the coupled mode theory (CMT) with bending and twisting perturbations. A universal expression of the mode coupling coefficient (MCC) between *LPmn* modes is derived. By employing this MCC, the universal semi-analytical model (USAM) of inter-core crosstalk (ICXT) can be applied to calculate the IMXT. Simulation results show that our model is generally consistent with previous theories when stochastic perturbations are absent. Moreover, our model can work effectively when stochastic perturbations are present, where former theories are not able to work properly. It has been theoretically found that the MCC has an intimate relationship with core pitch. Our model, based on the CMT, can provide physical characteristics in detail, which has not been reported clearly by former theories. In addition, our model is applicable to phase-matching and non-phase-matching regions of both real homogeneous and heterogeneous few-mode multicore fibers (FM-MCFs) with a wider range of applications.

Keywords: inter-mode crosstalk; few-mode multicore fiber; mode coupling coefficient

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1. Introduction

Multicore fibers (MCFs) based on spatial division multiplexing (SDM) technology can greatly alleviate the capacity limitations of single-mode fiber (SMF) [\[1](#page-9-0)[–4\]](#page-9-1). Transmission media for SDM are mostly multicore fiber and few-mode fiber (FMF) [\[5\]](#page-9-2). Nowadays, few-mode multicore fibers (FM-MCFs) [\[6\]](#page-9-3) significantly enhance transmission capacity as a hybrid method of MCF and FMF. In past studies, a data rate of 5.1 Tb/s per carrier has been reached using hole-assisted FM-MCF over a 1 km single fiber with seven few-mode cores [\[7,](#page-9-4)[8\]](#page-9-5). However, inter-core crosstalk (ICXT) is one of the most important influencing factors in coupled MCF, which significantly degrades transmission performance [\[9](#page-9-6)[–12\]](#page-9-7). Therefore, quite a few researchers have focused on analyzing the characteristics of ICXT evolution caused by variations in fiber structures and external factors [\[13–](#page-9-8)[15\]](#page-9-9).

In recent years, various theoretical and experimental studies have been reported in the literature to accurately characterize and model ICXT. In [\[16\]](#page-9-10), a discrete changes model (DCM) for the longitudinal evolution of ICXT in homogeneous weakly coupled MCFs with bending and twisting perturbations was proposed based on the coupled mode theory (CMT). As a typical model for ICXT estimation, a DCM works well in the phase-matching region, but it is not applicable to the non-phase-matching region and cannot be used for heterogeneous MCFs. Although continuously enhanced DCMs have also been reported subsequently, they still cannot operate in the non-phase-matched region [\[13](#page-9-8)[–17\]](#page-9-11). In [\[18\]](#page-9-12), the coupling coefficient between cores has been derived analytically to evaluate ICXT with single mode. Based on the analytical coupling coefficient, a universal semi-analytical model (USAM) of ICXT for real coupled MCFs has been put forward, which can be utilized both in phase-matching and phase-mismatching regions [\[19\]](#page-9-13). So far, a highly mature theoretical

foundation has been developed in the study of ICXT estimation for multicore single-mode fibers. Typically, the CMT and the coupled power theory (CPT) are widely employed for investigating the estimation of ICXT [\[20,](#page-9-14)[21\]](#page-9-15).

Similarly, inter-mode crosstalk (IMXT) plays the same role in FM-MCF [\[22\]](#page-9-16). Research on IMXT for FM-MCF is still in its initial stages. In [\[23\]](#page-9-17), the effect of inter-core polarization mode dispersion (PMD) on IMXT was studied, and a closed expression for the correlation length of the birefringence vector was given. In [\[24\]](#page-9-18), IMXT was derived from stochastic differential equations (SDEs) based on the CPT, which considered both deterministic and stochastic inter-core coupling. That work found that when the deterministic coupling strength was sufficiently strong, it could suppress the influence of the PMD on IMXT for *LP*mn modes. However, the IMXT method in [\[24\]](#page-9-18) did not consider the impact of bending and twisting perturbations on crosstalk. In addition, the impact of random perturbations on crosstalk was not considered in [\[24\]](#page-9-18), which re-characterizes IMXT in practical FM-MCF transmission [\[25,](#page-9-19)[26\]](#page-9-20).

In this paper, we derive a universal expression of the mode coupling coefficient (MCC) for *LPmn* modes between cores based on the CMT and Maxwell equations to estimate the IMXT in FM-MCF. The theoretical derivation of the MCC allowed us to precisely define the relationship between the deterministic coupling effect and the stochastic coupling effect mentioned in [\[24\]](#page-9-18), and to obtain accurate IMXT values, whereas previous models have used mode coupling coefficient (*Kmn*) approximation, which leads to large errors. In addition, we analyzed the optimal line segment length for IMXT estimation in theory. In the next simulation, we found that the value of IMXT is greatly affected by stochastic perturbations, which cannot be estimated by previous theories. Therefore, our theory can provide a quite reliable model for the IMXT simulation of weakly coupled FM-MCF with random perturbations. Additionally, our model is influenced by physical parameters like core pitch and optical wavelength, which has not been addressed in previous theories. Generally, this paper is structured as follows. In Section [2,](#page-1-0) we discuss the derivation of the MCC and IMXT in detail. In Section [3,](#page-4-0) firstly, we present numerical simulations conducted to verify our theory. Next, we investigate the influence of IMXT on stochastic perturbations and physical characteristics. In Section [4,](#page-7-0) we present our conclusion.

2. Analysis and Methods

In this section, firstly, the MCC for the modes is derived from Maxwell equations. Next, an expression for IMXT estimation is obtained by employing the CMT. In *LPmn* mode, *m* means that the pattern satisfies a Bessel function of order *m*, and *n* means that there are *n* solutions of that order. Our model can be applied to estimate the IMXT not only for *LPo*1, but also for higher order modes.

2.1. Mode Coupling Coefficient of LPmn Mode

The definition of mode coupling coefficient for *LPmn* modes between cores can be written as [\[27\]](#page-9-21):

$$
k_{mn} = \frac{\omega \varepsilon_0 \iint (n_1^2 - n_2^2) E_m^* \cdot E_n^* dx dy}{\iint e_z \cdot (E_m^* \times H_m) + E_m \times H_m^* dx dy}
$$
(1)

where ω is the angular frequency, ε_0 is the free-space permittivity, and n_1 and n_2 represent indexes of core and cladding, respectively. *e^z* represents a unit vector for x-polarization. E_m and H_m are electric and magnetic fields in the core domain, respectively, and E_n is the electric field in the cladding domain. The symbol * indicates the conjugate transform. According to [\[27\]](#page-9-21), the denominator of (1) is related to the optical power.

$$
\iint e_Z \cdot (E_m^* \times H_m) + E_m \times H_m^*) dx dy = 4P
$$
 (2)

2.2. Electric Field of LPmn Mode Based on Maxwell Equations

As the fiber is a cylindrical structure, in column polar coordinates the electric field of the LP mode can be written as [\[27\]](#page-9-21):

$$
E = e_r E_r + e_\varphi E_\varphi + e_z E_z \tag{3}
$$

where E_x denotes the electric field component in the x-direction and e_x denotes the unit vector in the x-direction. The transverse electric field component E_r and E_φ is difficult to obtain, but the longitudinal component can be solved by the chi-squared Helmholtz equation in [\[27\]](#page-9-21) as follows:

$$
E_{z1} = AJ_m\left(\frac{U}{a}r\right)\cos(m\varphi), 0 \le r \le a \tag{4-1}
$$

$$
E_{Z2} = A \frac{J_m(U)}{K_m(W)} K_m\left(\frac{W}{a}r\right) \cos(m\varphi), r \ge a \tag{4-2}
$$

$$
E_{r1} = -j\frac{a^2}{U^2} \left[\frac{\beta UA}{a} J'_m \left(\frac{U}{a} r \right) + \frac{\omega_0 mB}{r} J_m \left(\frac{U}{a} r \right) \right] \cos(m\varphi), 0 \le r \le a \tag{5-1}
$$

$$
E_{r2} = j\frac{a^2}{W^2}\frac{J_n(U)}{K_n(W)}\left[\frac{\beta WA}{a}K'_m\left(\frac{W}{a}r\right) + \frac{\omega_0 m}{r}K_m\left(\frac{W}{a}r\right)\right]\cos(m\varphi), r \ge a \tag{5-2}
$$

$$
E_{\varphi 1} = -j\frac{a^2}{U^2} \left[-\frac{\beta m A}{r} J_m \left(\frac{U}{a} r \right) - \frac{\omega_0 U B}{a} J'_m \left(\frac{U}{a} r \right) \right] \sin(m\varphi), 0 \le r \le a \tag{5-3}
$$

$$
E_{\varphi 2} = j\frac{a^2}{W^2} \frac{J_m(U)}{K_m(W)} \left[-\frac{\beta m A}{r} K_m\left(\frac{W}{a}r\right) - \frac{\omega_0 W B}{a} K'_m\left(\frac{W}{a}r\right) \right] \sin(m\varphi), r \ge a \tag{5-4}
$$

where $J_m(x)$ means the *m* order Bessel function of the first kind and $K_m(x)$ means the *m* order modified Bessel function of the second kind. *U* and *W* are the normalized transverse phase and attenuation parameters, respectively. $U = a\sqrt{k^2n_1^2 - \beta^2}$ and $W = a\sqrt{\beta^2 - k^2n_2^2}$, where β is the propagation constant, *a* is the core radius, and $k = 2\pi/\lambda$ is the wave number, where λ is wavelength. $A = jU C / a\beta$, where C is a system constant mentioned in [\[27\]](#page-9-21). $B = -jUC/\omega u_0a$, where $J'_m(x)$ is the first derivative of $J_m(x)$ and $K'_m(x)$ is the first derivative of $K_m(x)$.

The electric field of *LPmn* behaves as a superposition of three dimensions:

$$
I_{m} = E_{z1}^{*}E_{z2} + E_{r1}^{*}E_{r2} + E_{\varphi1}^{*}E_{\varphi2} = \frac{J_{m}(U)}{K_{m}(W)}J_{m}\left(\frac{U}{a}r\right)K_{m}\left(\frac{W}{a}r\right)
$$

$$
\left(A^{2}cos^{2}(m\varphi) - \frac{m^{2}a^{4}\omega^{2}\mu_{0}^{2}B^{2}}{U^{2}W^{2}r^{2}}cos^{2}(m\varphi) - \frac{m^{2}a^{4}\beta^{2}A^{2}}{U^{2}W^{2}r^{2}}sin^{2}(m\varphi)\right)
$$

$$
-\frac{J_{m}(U)}{K_{m}(W)}J'_{m}\left(\frac{U}{a}r\right)K'_{m}\left(\frac{W}{a}r\right)\left(\frac{a^{2}\beta^{2}A^{2}}{UW}cos^{2}(m\varphi) + \frac{a^{2}\omega^{2}\mu_{0}^{2}B^{2}}{UW}sin^{2}(m\varphi)\right)
$$

$$
-\frac{J_{m}(U)}{K_{m}(W)}J'_{m}\left(\frac{U}{a}r\right)K_{m}\left(\frac{W}{a}r\right)\frac{a^{3}\beta A m\omega\mu_{0}B}{UW^{2}r}
$$

$$
-\frac{J_{m}(U)}{K_{m}(W)}J_{m}\left(\frac{U}{a}r\right)K'_{m}\left(\frac{W}{a}r\right)\frac{a^{3}\beta A m\omega\mu_{0}B}{U^{2}Wr}
$$
(6)

Here, we set the value of *m* to obtain the electric field superposition of the corresponding *LPmn* mode. Next, bringing (6) to the numerator of (1), we obtain

$$
S_m = \iint (n_1^2 - n_0^2) E_m^* \cdot E_n^* dx dy = \iint (n_1^2 - n_0^2) I_m r dx d\varphi
$$
 (7)

holds, radius *R* can be approximated as = ඥଶ + ଶ − 2() ≌ − ().

Figure 1. Schematic diagram of few-mode two-core fiber. **Figure 1.** Schematic diagram of few-mode two-core fiber.

The final expression for the *LP_{<i>mn*}</sub> mode coupling coefficients is obtained by bringing $\cos(1)$. $\cos 5$ *S^m* into (1):

$$
k_{mn} = \frac{\omega \varepsilon_0 S_m}{4P} \tag{8}
$$

2.3. Inter-Mode Crosstalk Based on CMT

Based on the CMT, coupled-mode equations in coupled FM-MCFs can be expressed tively. is a mode coupling coefficient matrix made up with . A universal semi-anaas [\[27\]](#page-9-21):

$$
\frac{dE}{dz} = j\beta E + jkE\tag{9}
$$

for \mathcal{M} $\frac{1}{2}$ becomes the coupled to solve the coupled to k is a mode coupling coefficient matrix made up with k_{mn} . A universal semi-analytical ଶ where *E* and *β* are the electric field matrix and the propagation constant matrix, respectively. $\ddot{}$ model (USM) has been proposed to solve the coupled mode equation in [\[19\]](#page-9-13). Therefore, we can generally evaluate the IMXT as:

$$
IMXT = \sum_{i=1}^{N} IMXT_i = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{\frac{k_{mn,i}^2}{g_{mn,i}^2} \sin^2(g_{mn,i}d)}{\cos^2(g_{mn,i}d) + \frac{\Delta \beta_{mn,i}^2}{4g_{mn,i}^2} \sin^2(g_{mn,i}d)}
$$

=
$$
\sum_{i=1}^{N} \left[\frac{k_{mn,i}}{g_{mn,i}} \sin(g_{mn,i}d) \right]^2
$$
 (10)

 $\frac{1}{2}$

where $g_{mn,i} = \sqrt{k_{mn,i}^2 + \left(\frac{\Delta\beta_{mn,i}}{2}\right)}$ means modified mode coefficient, $k_{mn,i}$ is computed by where $\frac{v}{\sqrt{2}}$ and $\Delta\beta$ is means the equivalent phase mismatching which is defined in [19] as: (1) and $\Delta\beta_{mn,i}$ means the equivalent phase mismatching, which is defined in [\[19\]](#page-9-13) as:

$$
\Delta \beta_{mn,i}(d) = \beta_{m,i}(d) - \beta_{n,i}(d) \tag{11}
$$

where $\beta_{m,i}(d)$ and $\beta_{n,i}(d)$ are equivalent propagation constants of core m and n, respectively, defined as: ϵ intrinsic effective refractive ϵ of the fundamental mode. ϵ

$$
\beta_i(d) \approx \beta_c \beta_p [R_b + r \cos\theta(d)] / R_b \tag{12}
$$

where $\beta_e = (2\pi/\lambda)n^{(int)}$ is the unperturbed propagation constant of the fiber core, and where $\beta_c = (2\pi/\lambda)n_{eff}^{(int)}$ is the unperturbed propagation constant of the fiber core, and (mt) $n_{eff}^{(int)}$ is the intrinsic effective refractive index of the fundamental mode. $β_p$ represents the longitudinal fluctuations of propagation constants caused by inherent and external fluctuations. R_b is the bending radius. $θ(d) = γd + φ$, where $γ$ and $φ$ represent the twist rate of the core and the offset of the twist, respectively.

Based on the principle of USM, fully considering the characteristics of the stochastic perturbation, the fiber length is divided into N segments with each segment length d , as shown in Figure [2.](#page-4-1) shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Schematic of mode coupling in few-mode two-core fiber.

3. Results and Discussion

In this section, the two-core fiber in $[24]$ and [fou](#page-9-18)r-core fiber are discussed in detail. Schematic diagrams of two-core fiber and four-core fiber are shown in Figures 1 and 3, respectively. Firstly, for two-core fiber, numerical simulations were carried out without stochastic perturbations to determine the optimal segment length and verify the accuracy of our model by comparison with the Monte Carlo Simulation in [23] and the analytical ϵ pression in $[2\pi]$. In addition, the impact of physical characteristics, such as core pitch and optical wavelength, are discussed. Next, IMXT characteristics of the four-core fiber are studied. In a four-core fiber, it is assumed that one mode exists in each core, the EI_{01}^{01} mode exists in core 1, and LP_{1n} , LP_{2n} , and LP_{3n} modes exist in core 2, core 2, and core 3,
respectively. In this paper we refer to the evaluation mathed of [24] and we expand this mode-asymmetric mode inter-mode coupling to approximate the inter-mode coupling as a generic LP mode. The fundamental mode of core 1 is used as the symmetric mode, and plinted as a generic LP α and α and α and α is used as the symmetric mode. The symmetric mode of core 1 is used as the symmetric mode. other low-order modes of core 2, core 3, and core 4 are used as asymmetric modes. expression in [24]. In addition, the impact of physical characteristics, such as core pitch are studied. In a four-core fiber, it is assumed that one mode exists in each core, the LP_{01} respectively. In this paper, we refer to the evaluation method of [\[24\]](#page-9-18) and use symmetric

Figure 3. Schematic diagram of few-mode four-core fiber. **Figure 3.** Schematic diagram of few-mode four-core fiber.

Figure 3. Schematic diagram of few-mode four-core fiber. *3.1. Fiber Parameter 3.1. Fiber Parameter*

For a few-mode two-core fiber, the core radius is 2.5 um, the cladding index is 1.45, and fiber, the IMXT between core 1 and core 2, core 1 and core 3, and core 1 and core 4 are discussed. To satisfy the normalization requirement, detailed parameters for the four-core fiber are shown in Table 1. $\frac{1}{1}$ the wavelength is 1550 um, which are the same as those in $[24]$. For a few-mode four-core

Table 1. Parameters of the four-core fiber.

3.2. IMXT Analysis of Two-Core Few-Mode Fiber

The two-core fiber was simulated first. The evaluation of IMXT is shown in Figure [4.](#page-5-1) Figure [4a](#page-5-1) shows the simulation results of IMXT as a function of the FM-MCF length in Figure 4a, shows the multiple that both the Monte that bo for different segment lengths in the absence of stochastic perturbations. When segment length $d = 0.01$ m, the IMXT obtained by our theory matched well with the Monte Carlo Simulation in [\[23\]](#page-9-17) and the analytical expression in [\[24\]](#page-9-18), as shown by the purple dotted line, $\frac{1}{2}$ orange dotted dashed line, and black crosses in Figure [4a](#page-5-1). When segment length $d = 0.02$ m and $d = 0.05$ m, the IMXT obtained from our theory was strikingly different from those $\frac{d}{dx}$ and $\alpha = 0.05$ in, the intervent of the models. It is worth noting that the precision of the IMXT model is strongly α at the former models. It is worth houng that the precision of the holet is strongly dependent on segment length. It was shown that the segment length $d = 0.01$ m can be experience of segment length. It was shown that the segment length with changes over the different sequent length. So, the simulation results of our theory presented in the $\frac{d}{dt}$ of our work were obtained with segment length $d = 0.01$ m. \mathcal{L} conclusion can be obtained with twisting and bending perturbations, as shown in perturbations, as shown in the perturbation of \mathcal{L} Figure 4.2 metwo-core inter was simulated first. The evaluation of IMAT is shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4. IMXT as a function of (**a**) FM−MCF length without stochastic perturbations, (**b**) bending radius, and (**c**) FM−MCF length with bending and twisting perturbation.

Furthermore, when the effects of bending and twisting perturbations in (12) are taken into account, it shows the IMXT as a function of bending radius for our model compared with former models when FM-MCF length is set to 1000 m, as shown in Figure [4b](#page-5-1). The IMXT is significantly suppressed by bending perturbation, especially at a small bending radius. However, the former models cannot work normally with bending perturbation. A similar conclusion can be obtained with twisting and bending perturbations, as shown in Figure [4c](#page-5-1), where $R_b = 0.2$ m, $\gamma = 2\pi$ rad/m. Moreover, the suppression on IMXT enhances with an FM-MCF length increase. Results in Figure [4b](#page-5-1),c illustrate that both the Monte Carlo Model [\[23\]](#page-9-17) and the analytical expression [\[24\]](#page-9-18) are not sensitive to bending and twisting perturbations. However, in Figure [4c](#page-5-1), we can see that our model reduces the IMXT value by 8 dB at 1000 m MCF length, which is because stochastic perturbations increase the effective refractive index difference between cores, which makes the IMXT computed by our theories lower than those of former theories. As the crosstalk increases significantly at the phasematching point, some fluctuations in the purple curve estimated by our model can be found with changes over the distribution of the phase-matching point [\[17\]](#page-9-11). Therefore, our model can well reflect the effects of perturbations on IMXT.

In addition, former theories have not discussed the relationship between IMXT with physical characteristics. Figure [5](#page-6-0) shows simulation results of IMXT as a function of core pitches, optical wavelengths, and twisting rates for our IMXT model and the analytical \overline{C} expression in [\[24\]](#page-9-18). Orange pentagrams represent the analytical expression based on CPT and purple dotted lines represent our IMXT model, which takes into account the impact of k_{mn} . These results indicate that the fiber parameters of our model have an effect on the estimation of IMXT under stochastic perturbations, which is similar to that of ICXT at MCF. However, the fiber parameters in the analytical expression do not have much effect on IMXT. This is because the analytical expression takes an approximation for k_{mn} , whereas hereas are all approximately the analytical expression takes an approximately our model for k_{mn} performs a detailed derivation. In addition, former theories have not discussed the relationship between IMXT with physical characteristics. Figure 5 shows simulation results of \mathbb{R}^n and \mathbb{R}^n

Figure 5. IMXT as a function of (a) core pitch, (b) optical wavelength, and (c) twisting rate for IMXT and analytical expression. and analytical expression.

3.3. IMXT Analysis of Four-Core Few-Mode Fiber 3.3. IMXT Analysis of Four-Core Few-Mode Fiber

Thereafter, the four-core FMF was simulated. See Appendix A for specific derivation. Thereafter, the four-core FMF was simulated. See Appendix [A](#page-8-0) for specific derivation. We took the LP_{01} mode as the longitudinal electric field distribution and other modes as the transverse electric field distribution to evaluate and analyze the crosstalk of the modes. the transverse electric field distribution to evaluate and analyze the crosstalk of the modes. Simulation results are shown in Figure [6.](#page-7-1) The dotted and dotted dashed lines in the figure Simulation results are shown in Figure 6. The dotted and dotted dashed lines in the figure represent the IMXT between the fundamental and other higher-order modes in our model represent the IMXT between the fundamental and other higher-order modes in our model and the analytical expression [24], respectively. In Figure 6a, it can be seen that crosstalk and the analytical expression [\[24\]](#page-9-18), respectively. In Figure [6a](#page-7-1), it can be seen that crosstalk between the different modes obtained by our model and the analytical expression could between the different modes obtained by our model and the analytical expression could be be well matched under no stochastic perturbations. However, in the presence of stochastic well matched under no stochastic perturbations. However, in the presence of stochastic perturbation, it can be clearly seen that crosstalk values between different modes obtained perturbation, it can be clearly seen that crosstalk values between different modes obtained by our model became significantly smaller, whereas crosstalk obtained by the analytical by our model became significantly smaller, whereas crosstalk obtained by the analytical expression had no obvious effect, as shown in Figure 6b. The trend of this simulation is expression had no obvious effect, as shown in Figure [6b](#page-7-1). The trend of this simulation is consistent with the one obtained above using two-core fiber. consistent with the one obtained above using two-core fiber.

In the above study of the physical parameters of two-core fiber, we know that in the analytical expression the fiber parameters did not have a great influence on the IMXT. So, we directly studied our model subject to the core pitch and bending radius on the IMXT as shown in Figure [7.](#page-7-2) Figure [7a](#page-7-2) shows the IMXT as a function of the core pitch for our model, and it can be seen that IMXT continued to decrease as the inter-core distance increased. When the distance between the cores increased, MCCs decreased and the coupling effect between the modes decreased, resulting in a decrease in IMXT. Figure [7b](#page-7-2),c show the IMXT as a function of the bending radius for our model in homogeneous and heterogeneous FM-MCFs. For values Δ $n_{eff,mn}^{(int)} = 0.020\%$ and Δ $n_{eff,mn}^{(int)} = 0.042\%$, the threshold bending radius $R_{PK1} = 96$ mm and $R_{PK2} = 43$ mm, respectively. Simulation results of the actual homogeneous few-mode four-core fiber are shown in Figure [7a](#page-7-2). In the phase-matching region, IMXT is proportional to the bending radius. However, in the non-phase-matching region, IMXT is inversely proportional to the bending radius. The value of the crosstalk decreased with the bending radius and tended to a stable value gradually. Next, Figure [7b](#page-7-2)

Figure 6. Estimation of crosstalk from the LP_{01} to the $LP_{11}(LP_{21}, LP_{31})$ as a function of FM-MCF length (**a**) without stochastic perturbations and (**b**) with stochastic perturbation.

Figure 7. Estimation of crosstalk from LP_{01} to LP_{11} (LP_{21} , LP_{31}) as a function of (a) core pitch, (b) bending radius in homogeneous FM $-MCF$, and (c) bending radius in heterogeneous FM $-MCF$.

Next, Figure 7b illustrates the heterogeneous few-mode four-core fiber with a larger **4. Conclusions**

In this paper, we study the model of stochastic IMXT for *LP_{mn}* mode in weakly coupled FM-MCFs with random perturbations based on the CMT and Maxwell equations. In the absence of random perturbations, our model can well match the Monte Carlo be mitigated by rationally configuring the physical structure of the fiber, which has not 2 previous studies that take into account only the approximate value of *Kmn*. In the presence Simulation [\[23\]](#page-9-17) and the analytical expression [\[24\]](#page-9-18) at optimal segment length $d = 0.01$ m, which verifies the accuracy of our model. In addition, our model calculates *Kmn* accurately, which can effectively minimize experimental error and make up for the shortcomings of of bending perturbations, our model more accurately estimates the effect of bending radius on the FM-MCF. The IMXT is about 8 dB lower than those of previous models, which is due to the fact that previous models directly ignored bending perturbations, which is not realistic. Next, we investigated the effects of physical properties, such as core pitch and optical wavelength, on IMXT. Results show that the IMXT of the fiber can

been discussed in previous models. Notably, study of the bending radius revealed that the model is applicable to both phase-matching and non-phase-matching regions of both homogeneous and heterogeneous FM-MCFs. Overall, we propose a systematic theory for IMXT estimation, which is more widely applicable and more accurately calculated in practical FM-MCF transmission with stochastic perturbations.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, S.L.; methodology, S.L.; validation, S.L. and L.X.; writing original draft preparation, S.L.; writing—review and editing, L.X. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Appendix A

In a four-core FMF, the fundamental mode is used as the longitudinal electric field distribution such that $m = 0$ in (4):

$$
E_{z1} = AJ_0\left(\frac{U}{a}r\right), 0 \le r \le a \tag{A1}
$$

$$
E_{Z2} = A \frac{J_0(U)}{K_0(W)} K_0\left(\frac{W}{a}r\right), r \ge a \tag{A2}
$$

Other modes are used as transverse electric field distributions, which are obtained by making $m = 1$ in (5) when calculating the crosstalk between the LP_{01} and LP_{11} modes:

$$
E_{r1} = -j\frac{a^2}{U^2} \left[\frac{\beta UA}{a} J_1' \left(\frac{U}{a} r \right) + \frac{\omega_0 B}{r} J_1 \left(\frac{U}{a} r \right) \right] \cos(\varphi), 0 \le r \le a \tag{A3-1}
$$

$$
E_{r2} = j\frac{a^2}{W^2}\frac{J_1(U)}{K_1(W)} \left[\frac{\beta WA}{a}K_1'\left(\frac{W}{a}r\right) + \frac{\omega_0 B}{r}K_1\left(\frac{W}{a}r\right)\right] \cos(\varphi), r \ge a \tag{A3-2}
$$

$$
E_{\varphi 1} = -j\frac{a^2}{U^2} \left[-\frac{\beta A}{r} J_1 \left(\frac{U}{a} r \right) - \frac{\omega_0 U B}{a} J'_1 \left(\frac{U}{a} r \right) \right] \sin(\varphi), 0 \le r \le a \tag{A3-3}
$$

$$
E_{\varphi 2} = j \frac{a^2}{w^2} \frac{J_1(U)}{K_1(W)} \left[-\frac{\beta A}{r} K_1\left(\frac{W}{a}r\right) - \frac{\omega_0 W B}{a} K_1'\left(\frac{W}{a}r\right) \right] \sin(\varphi), r \ge a \tag{A3-4}
$$

The electric field is then superimposed:

$$
I_m = E_{z1}^* E_{z2} + E_{r1}^* E_{r2} + E_{\varphi_1}^* E_{\varphi_2} = A^2 \frac{J_0(U)}{K_0(W)} J_0\left(\frac{U}{a}r\right) K_0\left(\frac{W}{a}r\right)
$$

\n
$$
- \frac{J_1(U)}{K_1(W)} J_1'\left(\frac{U}{a}r\right) K_1'\left(\frac{W}{a}r\right) \left(\frac{a^2 \beta^2 A^2}{UW} \cos^2(\varphi) + \frac{a^2 \omega^2 \mu_0^2 B^2}{UW} \sin^2(\varphi)\right)
$$

\n
$$
- \frac{J_1(U)}{K_1(W)} J_1'\left(\frac{U}{a}r\right) K_1\left(\frac{W}{a}r\right) \frac{a^3 \beta A \omega \mu_0 B}{UW^2 r}
$$

\n
$$
- \frac{J_1(U)}{K_1(W)} J_1\left(\frac{U}{a}r\right) K_1'\left(\frac{W}{a}r\right) \frac{a^3 \beta A \omega \mu_0 B}{U^2 W r}
$$
 (A4)

Substituting I_m into (7) to continue the theoretical derivation, we obtain the crosstalk between the modes of LP_{01} _{LP_{11}}. Following this derivation, the crosstalk between the modes of LP_{01} _{LP_{21}} and LP_{01} _{LP_{31}} can be obtained.

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