
Contents

List of Figures	xi
List of Tables	xxv
Preface	xxvii
Introduction	xxix
Author	xxxi

1. What Is Light?	1
1.1 The Classical Description of Light.....	2
1.1.1 500 to 0 B.C.E.	2
1.1.2 0–200 A.D.	7
1.1.3 801–873 A.D.	8
1.1.4 965–1039 A.D.	9
1.1.5 1175–1294 A.D.	10
1.1.6 1300–1519 A.D.	12
1.1.7 1550–1655 A.D.	14
1.2 The Mathematical Era Begins	16
1.2.1 1600–1710 A.D.	16
1.2.2 1710–1840 A.D.	21
1.2.2.1 Huygens–Fresnel Principle	22
1.2.2.2 The Fourier Transform	28
1.2.2.3 Parseval’s Theorem	33
1.2.3 1840–1899 A.D.	33
1.2.3.1 The Hankel Transform	33
1.2.3.2 Maxwell’s Equations	38
1.2.3.3 The Wave Equation	42
1.2.3.4 The Poynting Vector	46
1.2.3.5 The Aether or Not?	49
1.2.4 1899–1930 A.D.	50
1.2.4.1 Max Karl Ernst Ludwig Planck	50
1.2.4.2 Albert Einstein.....	51
1.2.5 1930–2018 A.D.	63
1.2.5.1 Entanglement.....	67
1.3 Chapter Summary.....	72
1.4 Questions and Problems	73
2. What Is Amplification?	77
2.1 Amplifier Basics	77
2.1.1 Gain.....	77
2.1.2 Saturation.....	80
2.1.3 Frequency Response.....	80

2.1.4	Bandwidth.....	82
2.1.5	Noise.....	83
2.1.5.1	Johnson–Nyquist Noise.....	83
2.1.5.2	Schottky Noise.....	84
2.1.5.3	Noise Is Incoherently Considered.....	89
2.2	Multiple Amplifiers	89
2.2.1	Amplifiers in Series	89
2.2.2	Amplifiers in Parallel	90
2.2.3	Feedback Loops.....	92
2.2.4	An Ensemble of Amplifiers	95
2.3	Chapter Summary.....	98
2.4	Questions and Problems	98
3.	What Is the Stimulated Emission of Radiation?	101
3.1	The Bohr Model of the Atom.....	102
3.1.1	The Quantum Leap	102
3.1.2	Singlet, Doublet, and Triplet States	105
3.2	Absorption, Stimulated Emission, and Spontaneous Emission....	107
3.2.1	The Einstein Coefficients	107
3.2.2	An Aside on Spontaneous Emission.....	110
3.2.3	Excited State Decay Rate.....	113
3.3	A More Realistic Model.....	115
3.3.1	The Two- and Three-Level Models	115
3.3.2	The Four-Level Model.....	116
3.4	Chapter Summary.....	118
3.5	Questions and Problems	119
4.	What Are Lasers?	121
4.1	Laser Basics	121
4.1.1	Components.....	121
4.1.2	Gain, Population Inversion, and Saturation.....	124
4.1.2.1	Gain.....	124
4.1.2.2	Population Inversion.....	127
4.1.2.3	Saturation	129
4.2	The Rate Equation.....	131
4.2.1	The Four-Level Laser.....	131
4.3	The Cavity	138
4.3.1	Some Common Cavity Configurations.....	139
4.3.2	Cavity Stability	141
4.3.3	Q-factor.....	144
4.4	Chapter Summary.....	146
4.5	Questions and Problems	147
5.	What Are Some Types of Lasers?	149
5.1	Solid-State Lasers	149

5.1.1	Ruby Laser	149
5.1.2	The Neodymium-Doped Yttrium Aluminum Garnet Laser.....	151
5.1.2.1	Second-Harmonic Generation	152
5.1.3	The Diode-Pumped Solid-State Laser.....	154
5.1.4	The Fiber Laser	154
5.2	Dye Lasers	156
5.2.1	The Flashlamp-Pumped Liquid Dye Laser.....	156
5.2.2	Laser-Pumped Liquid Dye Lasers.....	158
5.2.3	Solid-State Dye Lasers.....	160
5.2.4	Continuous Wave Output Dye Lasers	161
5.3	Semiconductor Lasers	162
5.3.1	Diode Lasers	162
5.3.2	Vertical-Cavity Surface-Emitting Laser.....	163
5.4	Gas Lasers	164
5.4.1	The Helium–Neon Laser.....	164
5.4.2	The Carbon Dioxide Laser.....	165
5.4.3	The Nitrogen Laser.....	166
5.4.4	The Gas Dynamic Laser.....	168
5.4.5	The Excimer Laser	169
5.5	Chemical Lasers	169
5.5.1	The Hydrogen Fluoride Laser.....	169
5.5.2	The Deuterium Fluoride Laser.....	170
5.5.3	The Chemical Oxygen Iodine Laser.....	171
5.6	Metal Vapor Lasers	172
5.6.1	The Copper Vapor Laser	172
5.6.2	The Helium–Cadmium Laser	172
5.6.3	Other Metal Vapor Lasers.....	173
5.7	Ion Lasers	173
5.7.1	The Argon Ion Laser.....	173
5.7.2	The Krypton Ion Laser.....	173
5.8	More Exotic Lasers.....	173
5.8.1	The Free-Electron Laser	173
5.8.2	The Nuclear Bomb-Pumped Laser.....	174
5.8.3	The Positronium Gamma Ray Laser.....	175
5.9	Chapter Summary.....	176
5.10	Questions and Problems	177
6.	How Do We Describe Lasers?	179
6.1	Continuous Wave or Pulsed	179
6.1.1	Continuous Wave Laser Beams	179
6.1.2	Pulsed Laser Beams.....	180
6.2	Laser Modes.....	182
6.2.1	Longitudinal Modes.....	182
6.2.1.1	Longitudinal Modes in Pulsed Lasers.....	185

6.2.2	Transverse Modes	187
6.2.2.1	Transverse Electromagnetic Modes.....	188
6.3	Spectral Content	189
6.3.1	Linewidth.....	189
6.3.1.1	Measuring the Linewidth of a Laser	190
6.3.2	Tunability	193
6.4	Collimation, Divergence, Beam Expansion, and Beam Reduction	195
6.5	Output Energy, Power, Irradiance, and Beam Quality	196
6.5.1	Instantaneous versus Average	196
6.5.2	Power in the Bucket	198
6.5.3	Beam Quality.....	199
6.6	Efficiency	201
6.6.1	Wall-Plug Efficiency	201
6.6.2	Power Conversion and Coupling Efficiencies.....	202
6.6.3	Quantum Efficiency, Quantum Defect, and Slope Efficiency	203
6.6.4	Cavity Efficiency	204
6.6.5	The Laser Efficiency Calculation and Measurement.....	204
6.7	Chapter Summary.....	205
6.8	Questions and Problems	206
7.	How Do We Use Lasers Safely?	209
7.1	The Laser Safety Basics	209
7.1.1	ANSI Z136.1	209
7.1.2	Laser Classes	210
7.1.2.1	Class 1 Laser System.....	210
7.1.2.2	Class 1M Laser System	211
7.1.2.3	Class 2 Laser System.....	211
7.1.2.4	Class 2M Laser System	211
7.1.2.5	Class 3R Laser System	212
7.1.2.6	Class 3B Laser System.....	212
7.1.2.7	Class 4 Laser System.....	213
7.1.3	Accessible Emission Limit and Maximum Permissible Exposure	214
7.1.4	Nominal Ocular Hazard Distance and Nominal Skin Hazard Distance	214
7.1.5	Nominal Hazard Zone.....	215
7.1.6	Threshold Limit and Optical Density.....	216
7.1.7	The Laser Safety Officer and the Standard Operating Procedure	216
7.2	Types of Injuries Possible from Laser Beams.....	217
7.2.1	Visual.....	217
7.2.2	Skin	219
7.3	Other Safety Considerations with Laser Systems	220

7.3.1	Electrical Hazards.....	220
7.3.2	Fire Hazards	221
7.3.3	Asphyxiation Hazards	222
7.3.4	Toxic Hazards	222
7.3.5	Explosive Hazards	222
7.4	Practical Safety Considerations.....	222
7.4.1	Specular Reflections from Common Attire and Objects.....	222
7.4.2	Even Diffuse Reflections Can Be Dangerous!.....	226
7.4.3	Beam Stops.....	227
7.4.4	Apparatus Height and Stray Light	229
7.4.5	Invisible Beams	229
7.4.6	Discharging and Disconnecting the Power	229
7.4.7	High Voltage, Don't Point Your Fingers!.....	229
7.4.8	Fires Can Be Invisible!.....	230
7.5	Chapter Summary.....	230
7.6	Questions and Problems	230
8.	What Are Some Laser Applications?	233
8.1	Lasers Used in Experiments.....	233
8.1.1	Alignment	233
8.1.2	Probes	235
8.1.3	Precision Measurements.....	236
8.2	Lasers in the Field	239
8.2.1	Laser Imaging, Detection, and Ranging	239
8.2.2	Leveling and Surveying.....	240
8.2.3	Laser Communications	242
8.2.4	Laser Listening.....	242
8.3	The HELs.....	245
8.3.1	Laser Cutting, Drilling, and Welding.....	245
8.3.2	Advanced Physics Research	247
8.3.3	Directed-Energy Weapons.....	248
8.4	Some Other Applications.....	252
8.4.1	Medical Uses.....	252
8.4.2	Entertainment.....	252
8.4.3	Printing.....	252
8.4.4	Too Many Applications to Count	253
8.5	Chapter Summary.....	254
8.6	Questions and Problems	254
	Suggested Reading for Laser Scientists and Engineers.....	257
	Index	259