



Contents

List of Symbols	xx
0 Preliminary Comments	1
Note to the students	3
References	6
1 Review of Electromagnetic Theory	8
1.1 Introduction	8
1.2 Maxwell's Equations	9
1.3 Wave Equation for Free Space	10
1.4 Algebraic Form of Maxwell's Equations	11
1.5 Waves in Dielectrics	12
1.6 The Uncertainty Relationships	13
1.7 Spreading of an Electromagnetic Beam	15

- 1.8 Wave Propagation in Anisotropic Media 16
- 1.9 Elementary Boundary Value Problems in Optics 20
 - 1.9.1 Snell's Law, 20
 - 1.9.2 Brewster's Angle, 21
- 1.10 Coherent Electromagnetic Radiation 23
- 1.11 Example of Coherence Effects 28
 - Problems 31
 - References and Suggested Readings 34

2 Ray Tracing in an Optical System

35

- 2.1 Introduction 35
- 2.2 Ray Matrix 35
- 2.3 Some Common Ray Matrices 37
- 2.4 Applications of Ray Tracing: Optical Cavities 39
- 2.5 Stability: Stability Diagram 42
- 2.6 The Unstable Region 44
- 2.7 Example of Ray Tracing in a Stable Cavity 44
- 2.8 Repetitive Ray Paths 47
- 2.9 Initial Conditions: Stable Cavities 48
- 2.10 Initial Conditions: Unstable Cavities 49
- 2.11 Astigmatism 50
- 2.12 Continuous Lens-Like Media 51
 - 2.12.1 Propagation of a Ray in an Inhomogeneous Medium, 53
 - 2.12.2 Ray Matrix for a Continuous Lens, 54
- 2.13 Wave Transformation by a Lens 56
 - Problems 57
 - References and Suggested Readings 62

3 Gaussian Beams

63

- 3.1 Introduction 63
- 3.2 Preliminary Ideas: TEM Waves 63
- 3.3 Lowest-Order TEM_{0,0} Mode 66

3.4	Physical Description of TEM _{0,0} Mode	70
3.4.1	<i>Amplitude of the Field</i> ,	70
3.4.2	<i>Longitudinal Phase Factor</i> ,	71
3.4.3	<i>Radial Phase Factor</i> ,	72
3.5	Higher-Order Modes	73
3.6	<i>ABCD</i> law for Gaussian beams	76
3.7	Divergence of the Higher-Order Modes: Spatial Coherence	79
	Problems	80
	References and Suggested Readings	84
4	Guided Optical Beams	86
4.1	Introduction	86
4.2	Optical Fibers and Heterostructures: A Slab Waveguide Model	87
4.2.1	<i>Zig-Zag Analysis</i> ,	87
4.2.2	<i>Numerical Aperture</i> ,	89
4.3	Modes in a Step-Index Fiber (or a Heterojunction Laser): Wave Equation Approach	90
4.3.1	<i>TE Mode ($E_z = 0$)</i> ,	92
4.3.2	<i>TM Modes ($H_z = 0$)</i> ,	94
4.3.3	<i>Graphic Solution for the Propagation Constant: "R" and "V" Parameters</i> ,	95
4.4	Gaussian Beams in Graded Index (GRIN) Fibers and Lenses	96
4.5	Perturbation Theory	102
4.6	Dispersion and Loss in Fibers: Data	105
4.7	Pulse Propagation in Dispersive Media: Theory	109
4.8	Optical Solitons	116
	Problems	122
	References and Suggested Readings	127
5	Optical Cavities	130
5.1	Introduction	130
5.2	Gaussian Beams in Simple Stable Resonators	130
5.3	Application of the <i>ABCD</i> Law to Cavities	133
5.4	Mode Volume in Stable Resonators	137

Problems 139

References and Suggested Readings 142

6 Resonant Optical Cavities 144

6.1 General Cavity Concepts 144

6.2 Resonance 144

6.3 Sharpness of Resonance: Q and Finesse 148

6.4 Photon Lifetime 151

6.5 Resonance of the Hermite-Gaussian Modes 154

6.6 Diffraction Losses 156

6.7 Cavity With Gain: An Example 157

Problems 159

References and Suggested Readings 170

7 Atomic Radiation 172

7.1 Introduction and Preliminary Ideas 172

7.2 Blackbody Radiation Theory 173

7.3 Einstein's Approach: A and B Coefficients 179

7.3.1 Definition of Radiative Processes, 179

7.3.2 Relationship Between the Coefficients, 181

7.4 Line Shape 183

7.5 Amplification by an Atomic System 187

7.6 Broadening of Spectral Lines 191

7.6.1 Homogeneous broadening mechanisms, 191

7.6.2 Inhomogeneous Broadening, 196

7.6.3 General Comments on the Line Shape, 200

7.7 Review 200

Problems 201

References and Suggested Readings 205

8 Laser Oscillation and Amplification 207

8.1 Introduction: Threshold Condition for Oscillation 207

- 8.2 Laser Oscillation and Amplification in a Homogeneous Broadened Transition 208
- 8.3 Gain Saturation in a Homogeneous Broadened Transition 212
- 8.4 Laser Oscillation in an Inhomogeneous System 223
- 8.5 Multimode Oscillation 229
- 8.6 Gain Saturation in Doppler-Broadened Transition: Mathematical Treatment 230
- 8.7 Amplified Spontaneous Emission (ASE) 234
- 8.8 Laser Oscillation: A Different Viewpoint 238
 - Problems 242
 - References and Suggested Readings 258

9 General Characteristics of Lasers

260

- 9.0 Introduction 260
- 9.1 Limiting Efficiency 260
 - 9.1.1 *Factors in the efficiency, 260*
 - 9.1.2 *Two, 3, 4 : : : , n level lasers, 261*
- 9.2 CW Laser 263
 - 9.2.1 *Traveling Wave Ring Laser, 264*
 - 9.2.2 *Optimum Coupling, 267*
 - 9.2.3 *Standing Wave Lasers, 269*
- 9.3 Laser Dynamics 274
 - 9.3.1 *Introduction and model, 274*
 - 9.3.2 *Case a: A sub-threshold system, 276*
 - 9.3.3 *Case b: A CW laser: threshold conditions, 276*
 - 9.3.4 *Case c: A sinusoidal modulated pump, 277*
 - 9.3.5 *Case d. A sudden "step" change in excitation rate, 280*
 - 9.3.6 *Case e: Pulsed excitation \rightarrow gain switching, 282*
- 9.4 Q Switching, Q Spoiling, or Giant Pulse Lasers 284
- 9.5 Mode Locking 296
 - 9.5.1 *Preliminary considerations, 296*
 - 9.5.2 *Mode locking in an inhomogeneous broadened laser, 298*
 - 9.5.3 *Active mode locking, 304*
- 9.6 Pulse Propagation in Saturable Amplifiers or Absorbers 311
- 9.7 Saturable Absorber (Colliding Pulse) Mode Locking 317

9.8	Additive-Pulse Mode Locking	322
	Problems	324
	References and Suggested Readings	344
10	Laser Excitation	347
10.1	Introduction	347
10.2	Three- and Four-Level Lasers	348
10.3	Ruby Lasers	351
10.4	Rare Earth Lasers and Amplifiers	358
	<i>10.4.1 General Considerations,</i>	<i>358</i>
	<i>10.4.2 Nd:YAG lasers: Data,</i>	<i>359</i>
	<i>10.4.3 Nd:YAG Pumped by a Semiconductor Laser,</i>	<i>362</i>
	<i>10.4.4 Neodymium-Glass Lasers,</i>	<i>369</i>
	<i>10.4.6 Erbium-Doped-Fiber-Amplifiers,</i>	<i>371</i>
10.5	Broad-Band Optical Gain	376
	<i>10.5.1 Band-to-Band Emission and Absorption,</i>	<i>376</i>
	<i>10.5.2 Theory of Band-to-Band Emission and Absorption,</i>	<i>377</i>
10.6	Tunable Lasers	385
	<i>10.6.1 General Considerations,</i>	<i>385</i>
	<i>10.6.2 Dye Lasers,</i>	<i>386</i>
	<i>10.6.3 Tunable Solid State Lasers,</i>	<i>391</i>
	<i>10.6.4 Cavities for Tunable Lasers,</i>	<i>395</i>
10.7	Gaseous-Discharge Lasers	396
	<i>10.7.1 Overview,</i>	<i>396</i>
	<i>10.7.2 Helium-Neon Laser,</i>	<i>397</i>
	<i>10.7.3 Ion Lasers,</i>	<i>403</i>
	<i>10.7.4 CO₂ Lasers,</i>	<i>405</i>
10.8	Excimer Lasers: General Considerations	411
	<i>10.8.1 Formation of the Excimer State,</i>	<i>412</i>
	<i>10.8.2 Excitation of the Rare Gas-Halogen Excimer Lasers,</i>	<i>415</i>
10.9	Free Electron Laser	417
	Problems	423
	References and Suggested Readings	434
11	Semiconductor Lasers	440
11.1	Introduction	440

	11.1.1	Overview, 440	
	11.1.2	Populations in Semiconductor Laser, 442	
11.2		Review of Elementary Semiconductor Theory	444
	11.2.1	Density of States, 445	
11.3		Occupation Probability: Quasi-Fermi Levels	449
11.4		Optical Absorption and Gain in a Semiconductor	450
	11.4.1	Gain Coefficient in a Semiconductor, 454	
	11.4.2	Spontaneous Emission Profile, 459	
	11.4.3	An Example of an Inverted Semiconductor, 460	
11.5		Diode Laser	464
	11.5.1	Homojunction Laser, 464	
	11.5.2	Heterojunction Lasers, 467	
11.6		Quantum Size Effects	470
	11.6.1	Infinite Barriers, 470	
	11.6.2	Finite Barriers: An Example, 476	
11.7		Vertical Cavity Surface Emitting Lasers	482
11.8		Modulation of Semiconductor Lasers	486
	11.8.1	Static Characteristics, 488	
	11.8.2	Frequency Response of Diode Lasers, 489	
		Problems	492
		References and Suggested Readings	499

12 Advanced Topics in Laser Electromagnetics

502

12.1		Introduction	502
12.2		Semiconductor Cavities	503
	12.2.1	TE Modes ($E_z = 0$), 505	
	12.2.2	TM Modes ($H_z = 0$), 507	
	12.2.3	Polarization of TE and TM Modes, 508	
12.3		Gain Guiding: An Example	509
12.4		Optical Confinement and Effective Index	516
12.5		Distributed Feedback and Bragg Reflectors	517
	12.5.1	Introduction, 517	
	12.5.2	Coupled Mode Analysis, 520	
	12.5.3	Distributed Bragg Reflector, 524	
	12.5.4	A Quarter-Wave Bandpass Filter, 525	

- 12.5.5 *Distributed Feedback Lasers (Active Mirrors)*, 528
- 12.5.6 *Tunable Semiconductor Lasers*, 531
- 12.6 Unstable Resonators 534
 - 12.6.1 *General Considerations*, 534
 - 12.6.2 *Unstable Confocal Resonator*, 540
- 12.7 Integral Equation Approach to Cavities 543
 - 12.7.1 *Mathematical Formulation*, 543
 - 12.7.2 *Fox and Li Results*, 547
 - 12.7.3 *Stable Confocal Resonator*, 550
- 12.8 Field Analysis of Unstable Cavities 555
- 12.9 *ABCD Law for "Tapered Mirror" Cavities* 562
- 12.10 Laser Arrays 568
 - 12.10.1 *System Considerations*, 568
 - 12.10.2 *Semiconductor Laser Array: Physical Picture*, 568
 - 12.10.3 *Supermodes of the Array*, 570
 - 12.10.4 *Radiation Pattern*, 574
- Problems 574
- References and Suggested Readings 585

13 Maxwell's Equations and the "Classical" Atom

589

- 13.1 Introduction 589
- 13.2 Polarization Current 590
- 13.3 Wave Propagation With Active Atoms 592
- 13.4 The Classical A_{21} Coefficient 596
- 13.5 (Slater) Modes of a Laser 597
 - 13.5.1 *Slater Modes of a Lossless Cavity*, 598
 - 13.5.2 *Lossy Cavity With a Source*, 600
- 13.6 Dynamics of the Fields 602
 - 13.6.1 *Excitation Clamped to Zero*, 602
 - 13.6.2 *Time Evolution of the Field*, 603
- 13.7 Summary 609
- Problems 610
- References and Suggested Readings 615

14 Quantum Theory of the Field-Atom Interaction**616**

- 14.1 Introduction 616
- 14.2 Schrödinger Description 617
- 14.3 Derivation of the Einstein Coefficients 621
- 14.4 Dynamics of an Isolated Atom 624
- 14.5 Density Matrix Approach 627
 - 14.5.1 Introduction, 627
 - 14.5.2 Definition, 628
- 14.6 Equation of Motion for the Density Matrix 633
- 14.7 Two-Level System 635
- 14.8 Steady State Polarization Current 639
- 14.9 Multilevel or Multiphoton Phenomena 643
- 14.10 Raman Effects 651
 - 14.10.1 Phenomena, 651
 - 14.10.2 A Classical Analysis of the Raman Effect., 654
 - 14.10.3 Density Matrix Description of the Raman Effect, 660
- 14.11 Propagation of Pulses: Self-Induced Transparency 665
 - 14.11.1 Motivation for the Analysis, 665
 - 14.11.2 A Self-Consistent Analysis of the Field-Atom Interaction, 666
 - 14.11.3 "Area" Theorem, 670
 - 14.11.4 Pulse Solution, 673
- Problems 676
- References and Suggested Readings 679

15 Spectroscopy of Common Lasers**681**

- 15.1 Introduction 681
- 15.2 Atomic Notation 681
 - 15.2.1 Energy Levels, 681
 - 15.2.2 Transitions: Selection Rules, 682
- 15.3 Molecular Structure: Diatomic Molecules 684
 - 15.3.1 Preliminary Comments, 684
 - 15.3.2 Rotational Structure and Transitions, 685
 - 15.3.3 Thermal Distribution of the Population in Rotational States, 686
 - 15.3.4 Vibrational Structure, 687

	15.3.5	<i>Vibration-Rotational Transitions</i> , 688	
	15.3.6	<i>Relative Gain on P and R Branches: Partial and Total Inversions</i> , 689	
15.4		Electronic States in Molecules 691	
	15.4.1	<i>Notation</i> , 691	
	15.4.2	<i>The Franck-Condon Principle</i> , 692	
	15.4.3	<i>Molecular Nitrogen Lasers*</i> , 692	
		Problems 693	
		References and Suggested Readings 695	
16		Detection of Optical Radiation	697
16.1		Introduction 697	
16.2		Quantum Detectors 697	
	16.2.1	<i>Vacuum Photodiode</i> , 698	
	16.2.2	<i>Photomultiplier</i> , 699	
16.3		Solid-State Quantum Detectors 701	
	16.3.1	<i>Photoconductor</i> , 701	
	16.3.2	<i>Junction Photodiode</i> , 703	
	16.3.3	<i>p-i-n Diode</i> , 706	
	16.3.4	<i>Avalanche Photodiode</i> , 707	
16.4		Noise Considerations 707	
16.5		Mathematics of Noise 709	
16.6		Sources of Noise 713	
	16.6.1	<i>Shot Noise</i> , 713	
	16.6.2	<i>Thermal Noise</i> , 714	
	16.6.3	<i>Noise Figure of Video Amplifiers</i> , 716	
	16.6.4	<i>Background Radiation</i> , 717	
16.7		Limits of Detection Systems 718	
	16.7.1	<i>Video Detection of Photons</i> , 718	
	16.7.2	<i>Heterodyne System</i> , 722	
		Problems 725	
		References and Suggested Readings 728	
17		Gas-Discharge Phenomena	729
17.1		Introduction 729	
17.2		Terminal Characteristics 731	

17.3	Spatial Characteristics	732
17.4	Electron Gas	734
	17.4.1	<i>Background, 734</i>
	17.4.2	<i>"Average" or "Typical" Electron, 734</i>
	17.4.3	<i>Electron Distribution Function, 741</i>
	17.4.4	<i>Computation of Rates, 743</i>
	17.4.5	<i>Computation of a Flux, 745</i>
17.5	Ionization Balance	746
17.6	Example of Gas-Discharge Excitation of a CO ₂ Laser	748
	17.6.1	<i>Preliminary Information, 748</i>
	17.6.2	<i>Experimental Detail and Results, 748</i>
	17.6.3	<i>Theoretical Calculations, 750</i>
	17.6.4	<i>Correlation Between Experiment and Theory, 753</i>
	17.6.5	<i>Laser-Level Excitation, 756</i>
17.7	Electron Beam Sustained Operation	758
	Problems	761
	References and Suggested Readings	764

Appendices

I	An Introduction to Scattering Matrices	765
II	Detailed Balancing or Microscopic Reversibility	770
III	The Kramers-Kronig Relations	774
	Index	779