
Contents

Contributors xiii
Preface xv

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Chapter 1. Quantum Cascade Lasers: Overview of Basic Principles of Operation and State of the Art | 1 |
| Carlo Sirtori and Roland Teissier | |
| 1.1 Introduction | 1 |
| 1.1.1 Historical Introduction | 1 |
| 1.1.2 Quantum Engineering | 4 |
| 1.1.3 Organization of the Chapter | 5 |
| 1.2 Fundamental Principles of Quantum Cascade Lasers | 6 |
| 1.2.1 Unipolarity and Cascading | 6 |
| 1.2.2 Rules to Get Intersubband Population Inversion | 7 |
| 1.2.3 Rate Equations | 9 |
| 1.2.4 Gain Derivation | 10 |
| 1.3 Quantum Cascade Lasers | 16 |
| 1.3.1 Summary of Present Results | 16 |
| 1.3.2 Frontiers | 21 |
| 1.3.3 Results on Different Materials | 24 |
| 1.4 Material Issues | 27 |
| 1.4.1 Fundamental Parameters m^* and ΔE_c | 27 |
| 1.4.2 Role of the Effective Mass m^* | 27 |
| 1.4.3 Role of the Conduction Band Discontinuity ΔE_c | 30 |
| 1.4.4 Lateral Valleys | 34 |
| 1.4.5 Waveguide | 36 |
| References | 39 |
| Chapter 2. Terahertz Quantum Cascade Lasers | 45 |
| Alessandro Tredicucci and Rüdiger Köhler | |
| 2.1 Introduction | 45 |
| 2.2 Terahertz Photonics | 50 |
| 2.2.1 Sources of Terahertz Radiation | 50 |

| | | |
|--|---|------------|
| 2.2.2 | Detection of Terahertz Radiation | 55 |
| 2.3 | Terahertz Quantum Cascade Laser | 56 |
| 2.3.1 | Intersubband Spontaneous Emission at Terahertz Frequencies | 56 |
| 2.3.2 | Active Region of the First Laser Structure | 59 |
| 2.3.3 | Waveguiding and Lasing | 65 |
| 2.4 | Progress in Performance | 68 |
| 2.4.1 | Optimized Fabrication and Continuous-Wave Operation | 68 |
| 2.4.2 | New Designs and Waveguides | 72 |
| 2.4.3 | High-Temperature and Long-Wavelength Operation | 77 |
| 2.5 | New Research Directions and Outlook | 83 |
| 2.5.1 | Single-Mode Devices | 83 |
| 2.5.2 | Terahertz Lasers in High Magnetic Fields | 87 |
| 2.5.3 | Open Challenges and Future Research | 91 |
| 2.6 | Acknowledgments | 91 |
| | References | 92 |
| Chapter 3. High-Speed Operation and Ultrafast Pulse Generation with Quantum Cascade Lasers | | 107 |
| Roberto Paiella, Rainer Martini, Alexander Soibel, H. C. Liu, and Federico Capasso | | |
| 3.1 | Introduction | 108 |
| 3.2 | High-Speed Modulation Properties of Quantum Cascade Lasers | 110 |
| 3.2.1 | Absence of Relaxation Oscillations and Ultrawide Bandwidth | 110 |
| 3.2.2 | Negligible Linewidth Enhancement Factor | 113 |
| 3.2.3 | Applications of High-Speed Quantum Cascade Lasers | 116 |
| 3.3 | Ultrafast Pulse Generation | 119 |
| 3.3.1 | Gain Switching | 120 |
| 3.3.2 | Active Mode Locking | 121 |
| 3.3.3 | Passive Mode Locking | 125 |
| 3.4 | Conclusions and Outlook | 129 |
| 3.5 | Acknowledgments | 130 |
| | References | 130 |
| Chapter 4. Ultrafast Dynamics of Intersubband Excitations in Quantum Wells and Quantum Cascade Structures | | 135 |
| Thomas Elsaesser | | |
| 4.1 | Introduction | 135 |
| 4.2 | Optical Intersubband Excitations in Semiconductor Quantum Wells | 137 |
| 4.3 | Experimental Techniques | 140 |
| 4.3.1 | Femtosecond Mid-Infrared Pulses | 140 |
| 4.3.2 | Spectroscopic Techniques | 143 |
| 4.4 | Coherent Intersubband Dynamics | 149 |
| 4.4.1 | Intersubband Dephasing | 149 |
| 4.4.2 | Coherent Dynamics of Intersubband Polarizations | 153 |
| 4.5 | Intersubband Relaxation Processes | 157 |
| 4.6 | Quantum Transport in Quantum Cascade Structures | 168 |
| 4.7 | Conclusions | 174 |
| | References | 175 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| Chapter 5. Optical Nonlinearities in Intersubband Transitions and Quantum Cascade Lasers | 181 |
| Claire Gmachl, Oana Malis, and Alexey Belyanin | |
| 5.1 Introduction to Nonlinear Intersubband Optical Transitions | 181 |
| 5.1.1 Introduction | 181 |
| 5.1.2 Intersubband Transitions and Optical Nonlinearities | 183 |
| 5.1.3 Theoretical Model | 187 |
| 5.2 Application of Intersubband Optical Nonlinearities to Quantum Cascade Lasers | 190 |
| 5.2.1 Monolithic Integration of Nonlinearity and Pump Laser | 190 |
| 5.2.2 Phase (Mis)Match and Nonlinear Optical Power | 193 |
| 5.3 Sum-Frequency Generation in Quantum Cascade Lasers Using Resonant Intersubband Nonlinearities | 195 |
| 5.4 Second Harmonic Generation in Quantum Cascade Lasers Using Resonant Intersubband Nonlinearities | 201 |
| 5.4.1 SHG in QC Lasers with Three-QW Active Regions | 203 |
| 5.4.2 SHG in QC Lasers with Two-QW Active Regions | 204 |
| 5.4.3 Temperature Performance of Nonlinear Quantum Cascade Lasers | 210 |
| 5.4.4 Single-Mode Emission and Tunability in Nonlinear Quantum Cascade Lasers | 212 |
| 5.5 Third Harmonic Generation in Quantum Cascade Lasers Using Resonant Intersubband Nonlinearities | 213 |
| 5.6 Nonlinear Light Generation in Quantum Cascade Lasers Using Lattice Nonlinearities | 217 |
| 5.7 Phase-Matching Considerations in Nonlinear Quantum Cascade Lasers | 217 |
| 5.7.1 Modal Phase Matching | 218 |
| 5.7.2 Other Methods of Phase Matching | 224 |
| 5.8 Other Nonlinear Effects in Quantum Cascade Lasers | 224 |
| 5.8.1 Resonant Raman Up-Conversion Scattering | 225 |
| 5.8.2 Intersubband Nonlinearities in Mode-Locked QC Lasers | 227 |
| 5.9 Conclusions and Outlook | 229 |
| 5.10 Acknowledgments | 229 |
| References | 230 |
| Chapter 6. Raman Injection and Inversionless Intersubband Lasers | 237 |
| Alexey Belyanin, Mariano Troccoli, and Federico Capasso | |
| 6.1 Introduction | 237 |
| 6.2 Theoretical Framework | 242 |
| 6.2.1 Electromagnetic Modes | 242 |
| 6.2.2 Material Equations | 246 |
| 6.3 Raman QC Laser | 249 |
| 6.3.1 Gain in the Resonant Λ Scheme | 251 |
| 6.3.2 General Properties of the Nonlinear Dynamics of Raman Lasing | 255 |
| 6.3.3 Experimental Realization of Raman QC Laser | 259 |
| 6.3.4 Theoretical Modeling of Raman QC Laser | 264 |
| 6.3.5 Anti-Stokes Raman Laser | 269 |
| 6.3.6 Optically Pumped Laser | 270 |
| 6.4 Vertical Cascade Schemes | 272 |
| 6.5 Practical Considerations and Benefits | 276 |
| 6.5.1 Frequency Down-Conversion to the Terahertz Region | 277 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| 6.5.2 Frequency Up-Conversion | 279 |
| 6.5.3 Tunability Issues | 279 |
| 6.6 Acknowledgments | 281 |
| References | 281 |
| Chapter 7. Quantum Well Infrared Photodetector: High-Absorption and High-Speed Properties, and Two-Photon Response | 285 |
| H. C. Liu and Harald Schneider | |
| 7.1 Introduction | 285 |
| 7.2 Pictures of Intersubband Transition and Photoconductivity | 287 |
| 7.3 High-Absorption QWIPs | 291 |
| 7.3.1 Absorption Measurements | 292 |
| 7.3.2 Detector Characteristics | 293 |
| 7.4 High-Speed and High-Frequency QWIPs | 296 |
| 7.4.1 Microwave Rectification | 297 |
| 7.4.2 Heterodyne Detection | 300 |
| 7.5 Two-Photon QWIPs | 305 |
| 7.5.1 Equidistant Three-Level System for Quadratic Detection | 305 |
| 7.5.2 Autocorrelation of Sub-Picosecond Optical Pulses | 307 |
| 7.6 Conclusion | 310 |
| 7.7 Acknowledgments | 310 |
| References | 311 |
| Chapter 8. Intersubband Transitions in Quantum Dots | 315 |
| Pallab Bhattacharya, Xiaohua Su, Subhananda Chakrabarti, Adrienne D. Stiff-Roberts, and Carl H. Fischer | |
| 8.1 Introduction | 315 |
| 8.2 Molecular Beam Epitaxy of Self-Assembled Quantum Dots | 316 |
| 8.2.1 Stranski-Krastanow Growth Mode | 316 |
| 8.2.2 Standard MBE Growth Technique for InAs/GaAs QDs | 317 |
| 8.3 Quantum Dot Intersubband Transitions | 319 |
| 8.3.1 Optoelectronic Properties | 319 |
| 8.3.2 Intersubband Absorption | 324 |
| 8.3.3 Intersubband Emission | 326 |
| 8.4 Quantum Dot Intersubband Photonic Devices | 327 |
| 8.4.1 Quantum Dot Infrared Detectors | 327 |
| 8.4.2 Quantum Dot Infrared Emitters | 335 |
| 8.5 Conclusions | 339 |
| References | 339 |
| Chapter 9. Intersubband Transitions in Si/SiGe Heterojunctions, Quantum Dots, and Quantum Wells | 347 |
| Hans Sigg | |
| 9.1 Introduction | 347 |
| 9.2 Theoretical Background of Intersubband Transitions in Si/SiGe Quantum Wells | 349 |
| 9.3 Intersubband Spectroscopy | 354 |
| 9.3.1 Experimental Techniques | 354 |

| | |
|---|------------|
| 9.3.2 SiGe and SiGeC Quantum Wells | 356 |
| 9.3.3 Quantum Dots | 362 |
| 9.4 Toward Applications | 367 |
| 9.4.1 Infrared Photodetectors | 367 |
| 9.4.2 Quantum Cascade Lasers | 370 |
| 9.5 Summary and Outlook | 381 |
| 9.6 Acknowledgments | 382 |
| References | 383 |
| | |
| Chapter 10. All-Optical Modulation and Switching in the Communication Wavelength Regime Using Intersubband Transitions in InGaAs/AlAsSb Heterostructures | 389 |
| Arup Neogi | |
| 10.1 Introduction | 389 |
| 10.2 Femtosecond All-Optical Switches: The Challenge and Present Status | 390 |
| 10.3 Interband and Intersubband Transitions in Wide-Conduction-Band-Offset Materials | 394 |
| 10.3.1 Material Systems | 395 |
| 10.3.2 Properties of Antimonide Quantum Wells | 397 |
| 10.3.3 Interband Transitions in $\text{In}_{0.53}\text{Ga}_{0.47}\text{As}/\text{AlAs}_{0.56}\text{Sb}_{0.44}$ Quantum Wells | 399 |
| 10.3.4 Near-Infrared Intersubband Transitions in $\text{In}_{0.53}\text{Ga}_{0.47}\text{As}/\text{AlAs}_{0.56}\text{Sb}_{0.44}$ Quantum Wells | 405 |
| 10.4 All-Optical Modulation of Interband Resonant Light via Intersubband Resonant Light | 409 |
| 10.4.1 All-Optical Modulation and Absorption Recovery in InGaAs/AlAsSb Single Quantum Wells | 413 |
| 10.4.2 Ultrafast All-Optical Modulation in Coupled Quantum Well Structures | 414 |
| 10.5 Intersubband All-Optical Switching in Coupled InGaAs/AlAsSb Quantum Wells | 416 |
| 10.6 Enhancement of the Figure of Merit of Sb-Based Optical Modulators and Switches | 417 |
| 10.7 Conclusions | 421 |
| References | 421 |
| | |
| Index | 427 |