

Table of Contents

1 Principles of Laser Operation

1.1	The Nature of Stimulated Emission	1
1.2	Resonators and Pumping Processes	3
1.3	Coherent Radiation, Standing Waves and Modes	5
1.4	The Kinetics of Laser Emission	7
1.4.1	Rate Equations	7
1.4.2	Threshold Conditions	9
1.4.3	Pulsed Versus Continuous Emission	10
1.5	Transitions, Lifetimes and Linewidths	11
1.5.1	Three-level Laser	11
1.5.2	Four-level Laser	13
1.5.3	Emission Linewidths	13
1.6	Properties of Laser Light, and Their Applications	15
1.6.1	Beamwidth	15
1.6.2	Intensity	15
1.6.3	Coherence	17
1.6.4	Monochromaticity	18
1.7	Questions	19

2 Laser Sources

2.1	Solid-state Transition Metal Ion Lasers	21
2.1.1	Ruby Laser	21
2.1.2	Neodymium Lasers	24
2.2	Semiconductor Lasers	26
2.3	Atomic and Ionic Gas Lasers	28
2.3.1	Helium-neon Laser	28
2.3.2	Argon Laser	29
2.3.3	Copper Vapour Laser	31
2.4	Molecular Gas Lasers	33
2.4.1	Carbon Dioxide Laser	33
2.4.2	Nitrogen Laser	36
2.4.3	Chemical Lasers	37
2.4.4	Iodine Laser	39
2.4.5	Exciplex Lasers	40

2.5 Dye Lasers	42
2.6 Free-electron Laser	46
2.7 Questions	47

3 Laser Instrumentation in Chemistry

3.1 Polarising Optics	49
3.2 Frequency Conversion	52
3.2.1 Dye Laser Conversion	52
3.2.2 Nonlinear Optics	53
3.2.3 Raman Shifting	57
3.3 Pulsing Techniques	57
3.3.1 Cavity Dumping	57
3.3.2 Q-Switching	59
3.3.3 Mode-locking	61
3.4 Detectors	65
3.5 Pulse Detection Systems	67
3.5.1 Lock-in Amplifiers	67
3.5.2 Boxcar Integrators	68
3.5.3 Single-pulse Systems	69
3.6 Light Scattering Instrumentation	71
3.6.1 Nephelometry	71
3.6.2 Photon Correlation Measurements	71
3.6.3 Brillouin Scattering	73
3.6.4 Doppler Velocimetry	74
3.6.5 Lidar	75
3.7 Polarimetry	76
3.8 Laser Detectors in Chromatography	78
3.9 Laser Microprobe Instrumentation	79
3.10 Laser Safety	80
3.11 Questions	82

4 Chemical Spectroscopy with Lasers

4.1 Absorption Spectroscopy	84
4.2 Specialised Absorption Techniques	88
4.2.1 Excitation Spectroscopy	88
4.2.2 Ionisation Spectroscopy	91
4.2.3 Thermal Lensing Spectroscopy	91
4.2.4 Photoacoustic Spectroscopy	93
4.2.5 Optogalvanic Spectroscopy	94
4.2.6 Laser Magnetic Resonance	96
4.2.7 Laser Stark Spectroscopy	98
4.2.8 Other High-resolution Methods	99

4.3	Fluorescence Spectroscopy	101
4.3.1	Laser-induced Atomic Fluorescence	101
4.3.2	Laser-induced Molecular Fluorescence	102
4.4	Raman Spectroscopy	105
4.5	Specialised Raman Techniques	111
4.5.1	Resonance Raman Spectroscopy	111
4.5.2	Stimulated Raman Spectroscopy	113
4.5.3	Inverse Raman Spectroscopy	116
4.5.4	CARS Spectroscopy	118
4.5.5	Surface-enhanced Raman Spectroscopy	120
4.5.6	Raman Optical Activity	121
4.6	Multiphoton Spectroscopy	123
4.6.1	Single-beam Two-photon Absorption	124
4.6.2	Double-beam Two-photon Absorption	128
4.6.3	Multiphoton Absorption Spectroscopy	129
4.6.4	Hyper-Raman Spectroscopy	132
4.7	Laser Mass Spectrometry	133
4.8	References	135
4.9	Questions	136

5 Laser-Induced Chemistry

5.1	Principles of Laser-induced Chemistry	138
5.1.1	Implications of Laser Excitation	139
5.1.2	Laser-initiated Processes	139
5.2	Multiphoton Infra-red Excitation	141
5.2.1	Diatomeric Molecules	141
5.2.2	Polyatomic Molecules	143
5.2.3	Reaction Rates and Yields	145
5.3	Laser Photochemical Processes	147
5.3.1	Unimolecular Laser-induced Reactions	147
5.3.2	Bimolecular Laser-enhanced Reactions	150
5.3.3	Laser-sensitised Reactions	151
5.3.4	Laser Surface Chemistry	153
5.3.5	Ultrafast Reactions	155
5.3.6	Laser Reaction Diagnostics	160
5.4	Isotope Separation	162
5.4.1	Photoionisation	163
5.4.2	Photodissociation	165
5.4.3	Photochemical Reaction	168
5.4.4	Photodeflection	169
5.5	Miscellaneous Applications	170
5.5.1	Purification of Materials	170
5.5.2	Production of Ceramic Powders	170
5.5.3	Photoradiation Therapy	171
5.6	References	171
5.7	Questions	172

6 Appendix 1: Listing of Output Wavelengths from Commercial Lasers	174
7 Appendix 2: Directory of Acronyms and Abbreviations	175
8 Appendix 3: Selected Bibliography	179
9 Appendix 4: Answers to Numerical Problems	180
10 Subject Index	181