

contents

Preface ix

Chapter 1. INTRODUCTION	1
Chapter 2. A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LASER	9
Chapter 3. LASER THEORY AND PRINCIPLES	18
Chapter 4. ENHANCEMENTS TO LASER OPERATION	37
Chapter 5. EXTERNAL OPTICS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS	50
Chapter 6. VARIATIONS ON THE LASER THEME: A CLASSIFICATION OF MAJOR TYPES	77
Chapter 7. HELIUM-NEON LASERS	87
Chapter 8. NOBLE GAS ION LASERS	103
Chapter 9. HELIUM-CADMIUM LASERS	121
Chapter 10. CARBON DIOXIDE LASERS	132
Chapter 11. CHEMICAL LASERS	150
Chapter 12. COPPER AND GOLD VAPOR LASERS	163
Chapter 13. EXCIMER LASERS	174
Chapter 14. NITROGEN LASERS	193
Chapter 15. FAR-INFRARED GAS LASERS	203
Chapter 16. OTHER COMMERCIAL GAS LASERS	215
Chapter 17. DYE LASERS	222
Chapter 18. NEAR-INFRARED SEMICONDUCTOR DIODE LASERS	246

viii **Contents**

Chapter 19. LEAD-SALT AND OTHER LONG-WAVELENGTH INFRARED SEMICONDUCTOR DIODE LASERS	271
Chapter 20. NEODYMIUM LASERS	284
Chapter 21. RUBY LASERS	303
Chapter 22. VIBRONIC SOLID-STATE LASERS	314
Chapter 23. COLOR-CENTER LASERS	326
Chapter 24. OTHER SOLID-STATE LASERS	337
Appendix A GLOSSARY	341
Appendix B TYPES OF LASERS	367
Index	369