# ENGINEERING PHYSICS

1117 - 4

# LASERS



Feedback/corrections: vibha@pesu pes edu

# LASER

- Einsten's idea

- · Light Amplification by stimulated Emission of Radiation
- Took ~50 years to design MASER (microwave)
  Only then, LASER (gas laser)

# Radiation Interacting with Matter • Even in BBR

- · In thermal equilibrium, 3 processes



# (2) spontaneous emission





- · coherent, monochromatic
- if the excited states have longer lifetimes of the order of  $10^{-3}$  s, such states are called metastable states.
- will not spontaneously de-excite; requires photon of energy  $E = E_2 - E_1 - h\nu$  in vicinity to stimulate emission

Einstein's Energy Density Expression - Einstein Coefficients

Let us consider an atomic system with only 2 energy levels, E, and Ez

Let N, and N<sub>2</sub> be the populations of  $E_1$  and  $E_2$ 





Let us supply energy density U, to the system Cradication)

Under normal conditions,  $N_1 > N_2$ 

(1) Induced Absorption

rate of induced 2 is no of atoms in level 1 (N,) absorption ii) energy density (U2)

$$R_{abs} = B_{12} N_1 U_2 - (1)$$

where B12 is called Einsten's coefficient of induced absorption

(2) Spontaneous Emissim



where Az is called Einsten's coefficient of spontaneous emission

Photons are emitted in random directions

(3) stimulated emission pertobation + every

when a photon of energy  $hv = E_2 - E_1$  is in the vicinity of an excited atom (E2), it is vulnerable to de-excitation

It de-excites and emits a photon of E = hv  $10^{-3}$   $\longrightarrow 0$  0 4 2 photons are perfectly coherent  $10^{-3}$  0 0 4 2 photons are perfectly coherent  $10^{-3}$  0 0  $10^{-3}$ 

# (if the energy state is a metastable state)

rate of stimulated  $\propto$  is no of atoms in level 2 (N<sub>2</sub>) emission (i) energy density (U<sub>2</sub>)

× N2Uv

# $= B_{21} N_2 V_2 - (3)$

# where B21 is called Einsten's coefficient of stimulated emission

At thermal equilibrium

rate of absorption = rate of emission

$$B_{12}N_1V_{12} = B_{21}N_2V_{12} + A_{21}N_2$$

$$V_{y} = \frac{A_{21} N_{1}}{(B_{12}N_{1} - B_{21}N_{2})}$$

$$U_{y} = \frac{A_{21}N_{1}}{B_{21}N_{2}\left(\frac{B_{12}N_{1}}{B_{21}N_{2}}-1\right)} = \frac{A_{21}/B_{21}}{\left(\frac{B_{12}/B_{21}}{B_{21}N_{1}}-1\right)}$$

Boltzmann equation

$$\frac{N_1}{N_2} = e^{\frac{E_2 - E_1}{k_1}}$$



compare Einstein's energy density expression with Planck's energy density expression.

Einstein's expression

$$U_{\mathcal{V}} = \underbrace{\left(\frac{A_{21}}{B_{21}}\right)}_{\begin{pmatrix} B_{12}\\ B_{21} \end{pmatrix}} c \frac{h\dot{\nu}}{\mu I} - 1$$

Planch's expression

$$U_{y} = \frac{8\pi h v^{3}}{C^{3}} \left( \frac{1}{e^{h y_{kT}} - 1} \right)$$

 $\frac{B_{12}}{B_{21}} = 1$ 

$$B_{12} = B_{21} = B$$

Probability of rate of induced absorption is equal to probability of rate of stimulated absorption.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A_{21} &= A \\ \hline A \\ \hline A \\ \hline B \\ \hline \end{array} &= \frac{\vartheta \ln \nu^3}{c^3} \end{array}$$

Probability of rate of absorption a 23

A & B are called Einstein coefficiente

**G**: An emission system has 2 levels giving raise to an emission  $\lambda = 546.1$  nm (green). If the population of the lower state is  $4 \times 10^{22}$  at 600 k, estimate the population of higher energy state

$$\frac{N_{1}}{N_{2}} = e \frac{hv}{vi} = e \frac{hc}{hvi} = e^{43.91}$$

$$\frac{N_{1}}{N_{2}} = 1.175 \times 10^{11}$$

$$\frac{N_{1}}{N_{2}} = 1.175 \times 10^{11}$$

$$N_2 = 3403.3$$

9. The ratio of population of higher energy state to lower energy state is  $5 \times 10^{-19}$  at T = 400 k. Find emission  $\lambda$  and  $\frac{4}{8}$ homework:  $\frac{N_2}{N_1} = 5 \times 10^{-19} = e^{-\frac{he}{heI}}$ ? hap to dv  $\frac{hc}{N_1} = 42.1397$ ? hap to dv  $\lambda = 853.6 \text{ nm}$  $v = 3.512 \times 10^{14}$  $\frac{A}{B} = \frac{8\pi 1h v^3}{c^2}$  $= 2.68 \times 10^{-14}$  Q: A hypothetical atom has uniformly-separated energy levels at a separation of 1-2eV. Find the ratio of no of atoms in 7<sup>th</sup> excited state to that of the 5<sup>th</sup> excited state at 300 k.

$$\frac{N_{e}}{N_{b}} = e^{-\frac{(E_{8} - E_{b})}{ki}}$$
$$= e^{-\frac{2hv}{ki}} = e^{-\frac{2\times1.2eV}{ki}}$$

$$\frac{N_{e}}{N_{c}} = 4.81 \times 10^{-41} (521 \times 10^{-41})$$

Q: If R. - sate of stimulated emission and R2 = rate of spontaneous emission between 2 energy levels, then show that



 $\frac{8\pi h v^3}{C^3} \left(\frac{1}{e^{h v/u \tau} - 1}\right) \left(\frac{R_1}{R_1}\right) = \frac{8\pi h v^3}{C^3}$ 

 $\frac{hv}{kl} = \frac{hc}{\lambda kl} = ln\left(\frac{R_2}{R_1} + 1\right)$ 

$$\lambda = \frac{hc}{kT} \frac{l}{l} \frac{l}{k_i} + 1$$

# Principle of LASER

Population inversion — making higher levels more populated than the lower levels



Acheive by pumping (providing external energy)

# Pumping Mechanisms

- 1. Optical solid-state lasers (ruby laser)
- 2. Electrical gas lasers
- 3 Forward-biasing 4 Chemical
- s- Nuclear



Condition:  $N_2 > N_1$ 

$$\frac{N_{1}}{N_{1}} = e^{-\frac{(E_{2}-E_{1})}{K_{1}}} > | = 2 - \frac{(E_{2}-E_{1})}{K_{1}} > 0$$

- T should be -ve => not possible
- in of possible to construct laser with 2 levels

# 3-Level Laser System



Transitions from E2 to E3 is very fast and therefore nonradiative Cgenerally heat)

# Ns > N, >> population inversion achieved

If a photon with  $E = E_3 - E_1 = hv$  is spontaneously emitted from  $E_3$ , stimulated emission can occur claser transition)

uses optical pumping (Xe flashtube)

Requires heavy pumping Coopulation inversion hard to achieve; partially decoupled system)

Ground state E, common to both absorption and emission processes

Ground state gets depleted quickly

Discontinuous stimulated emission and pumping in 3level lasers

Creates pulse laser



4-Level Laser System

Gas Laser CHE-Ne, CO2-N2-HE)



Electrical pumping (input energy is continuous)

Continuous lasers

Transition from Ez to Ez is non-radiative (small energy gap)

If a photon of  $E = E_2 - E_4 = hv$  is spontaneously emitted, stimulated emission starts claser transition)

Transition from E4 to E, should be non-radiative

the absorphism and emission processes are completely decoupled Emore efficient laser)

N, replenished => allows for continuous pumping and N3 always > N4 Coopulation inversion)

# Designing a Laser



1) Active Medium 2) Pumping Cexternal energy) 3) Resonant Cavity

#### ACTIVE MEDIUM

- Consists of active material, which supports population inversion (metastable state)
- · For He-Ne LASER, active species are He and Ne
- For CO2 LASER, active species are CO2, N2 and He

#### PUMPING

- · Providing external energy based in type of LASER designed
- Pumping mechanisms can be electrical (gas), optical (solid state) etc.



- First photon that is emitted is spontaneous Crandom direction)
- Pair of micrors provide optical feedback (part of output fed as input)
- Optical feedback is necessary for sustained, amplified stimulated emission (gain x e<sup>2</sup> where L is the distance travelled by the photon)
- · Only harmonic waves can maintain constant phase (others die out)



 $L = \frac{n\lambda}{2}$  - reconant condition

n=Longitudinal mode number

· Length of cavity should be properly designed

# LOSSES in Laser Beam Intensity

- 1. Reflection at the micror Al reflectivity ~ 85%
- 2 Absorption/scattering due to impurities

# Threshold Round Trip Gain





 $I_0 \rightarrow I_1$  trip (0 to L):

$$I_1 = T_1 e^{(g-\alpha)}$$

 $I_1 \rightarrow I_2$  trip Creflection at  $M_2$ ):

$$I_2 = R_2 I_1$$
  
= R\_2 I\_0 (g-1) L

$$I_2 \xrightarrow{} I_3 \xrightarrow{} I_1 (g - \alpha) L$$

$$I_3 = I_2 e^{(g - \alpha) L}$$

$$= R_2 I_1 e^{(g - \alpha) 2 L}$$

 $I_3 \longrightarrow I_4$  Creflection at M.):

$$y = R_1 I_3$$
  
= R\_1 R\_2 Loe (g-x) 21

)

For hain

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For Minimum (Threshold) Gain

$$\frac{1_{4}}{1_{0}} = 1$$
 (constant 0/P)



A The ratio of populations of 2 energy levels is 1.5×10<sup>-30</sup> The upper level corresponds to metastable state Find X of light emitted at 330 K

$$\frac{N_{i}}{N_{2}} = e^{\frac{hv}{k_{1}}}$$

$$\frac{N_{L}}{N_{2}} = e^{-\frac{hv}{k_{1}}} = e^{-\frac{hc}{k_{1}}}$$

$$\frac{N_{L}}{N_{i}} = e^{-\frac{hv}{k_{1}}} = e^{-\frac{hc}{k_{1}}}$$

# Properties of LASER

- \* Properties of a photon Navelength

  - phase
    direction

1. Highly monochromatic (wavelength)

$$\epsilon_2$$
  $\epsilon_2$   $\epsilon_2$ 

Uncertainty in time spent by e in metastable state is in the order of T (relaxation time)

In a spontaneously emitting system

$$\tau \sim 10^{-9}$$
 s  $\Delta t \sim 10^{-9}$  s

$$\Delta E = \left| \Delta \left( \frac{hc}{\lambda} \right) \right| = \left| \frac{hc}{\lambda^2} \right| \Delta \lambda$$



$$\Delta \lambda_{st} = \frac{\lambda^2}{4\pi c} \times 10^9$$

In a stimulated emission system

$$\tau \sim 10^{-3}$$
  
 $Dt \sim 10^{-3}$  s

$$\Delta E \sim \frac{h}{4\pi T} = \frac{h}{4\pi} \times 10^{3}$$

$$\Delta E = \left| \frac{hc}{\lambda^{2}} \right| \Delta \lambda_{sp}$$

$$\Delta \lambda_{\rm sp}^2 = \frac{\lambda^2}{4\pi c} \times 10^3$$

Ratio of  $\Delta \lambda_{sp}$  to  $\Delta \lambda_{st}$   $\Delta \lambda_{sp} \sim 10^{6}$  $\Delta \lambda_{st} \sim 10^{6} \Delta \lambda_{sp}$ 

The spread in  $\lambda$  due to stimulated photon is at least a million times smaller than that of a spontaneously emitted photon.

 $\Delta v = \frac{c}{\lambda^2} \Delta \lambda$ 



- $D\lambda_{st} \neq 0$ ; there is a finite line width
- · LASER systems are highly monochromatic
- No emitting process is truly monochromatic (for more than a single photon)

Reasons for spread in Wavelength

- 1. Uncertainty principle
- 2 Spectral broadening due to Doppler effect

  - sources are moving
    movement of atoms and molecules inside the cavity
  - · instantaneous T of gas molecules could be very hìgh

3. Energies of transitions not fully discrete; small bands

2. High coherence (phase correlation between photons)



· if interference pattern is well-defined Csharp dark fringes), phase correlation is goud (coherence)

# (a) Temporal Coherence

· phase is periodic at the same point

$$y(x, t_0+T) - y(x, t_0) = constant$$

- · correlation between phase at one time and phase at another time for the same point (constant)
- · source not 100% monochromatic; there is a limit to temporal coherence spread in frequency of photon • Coherence time  $T_{c} = \frac{1}{\Delta v} \left( \Delta v = \frac{c}{\lambda^{2}} \Delta \lambda \right)$
- For truly mono chromatic sources,  $Y_c = \infty$  as  $\Delta v = 0$  (phase correlation holds true for an infinite amount of time)
- If the spread in 2 is more, a common period can be found only for a short amount of time
- · As time increases, phase diff. changes
- · Coherence length: largest distance for which interference is well-defined

· Few kms for LASERS (YC is us)

# (b) Spatial Coherence

Phase difference between two points in space of a wave front is constant over any time t

• B

. 6

 $\left( \right)$ 

#### phase diff b/w A&B

- Two different beams from different atom sources are spatially incoherent
- · Limit of AB (max) -> coherence width



- · Highly coherent source
- · For holograms, interference patterns used
- · Interference patterns used for encoding information
- 3. Directionality



#### 4 Intencity

- contribution of monochromaticity, coherence and low divergence
- · high intensity beam for low power
- 5 mW laser over diameter of 1 mm is comparable to cunlight (should not directly view LASER)
- · look up Q-smitched lasers

#### TYPES OF LASERS

- 1. Atomic LASER
  - transitions between e energy levels

#### 2. Molecular LASER

transitions between molecular energy states

#### 3. Semiconductor LASER

transitions between VB and CB

#### Atomic LASER --- He-Ne LASER System

- · Second LASER ever built (first Ruby)
- · Emission: 632.8 nm (red)
- · Four-level laser, continuous



- · Evacuated glass tube
- · I torr pressure
- He Ne = 10:1 partial pressure => 10:1 ratio of atoms
  Brewster windows: polarise and absorb IR
  Fast-moving e in gas
  Pumping mechanism: electron discharge .

- · ~10 mW power

Energy Level Diagram



- · energy levels are of levels
- · Any state with Z > 10<sup>-8</sup>c is metastable

Collision of D kind



Collision of (1) kind



- Energies of 2s and 3s energy states in Ne very close to energies of 2<sup>3</sup>S and 2<sup>3</sup>S states of He
- He atoms excited so that Ne higher states can be populated
- · For red laser, 3s2 2p4 of Ne (632.8 nm)
- · 3ez -> 2py is strongest transition (3.39)um most seen) and 2sz -> 2py strong (1.152,um)
- Brewster windows absorbs some FR (reduction in Dulput by 40-50%)
- · Ctly gas absorbe more IR cadded in small amounts)
- To depopulate is quickly, tube is made narrow to increase probability of collision with walls of tube
- · Air cooling system; no need water

Why is He Added?

- . Ne is active species, not He
- He is added to act as buffer (2's and 2's act as virtual metastable states for population inversion in Ne)
- If e<sup>\*</sup> collide with Ne, most favourable transition is to 1s, not as and 3s
- · merefore, collision of II kind required

#### Molecular LASER- CO2 LASER system

- · very powerful laser (can cut through steel)
- · transitions between molecular Vibrational states of a molecule
- · from few W to kW cused in heavy-energy industries)



#### 0=0=0





· N2 used for victual metastable states

- · 001 of 102 similar to 100 of N2
- · 10.6 µm main emission
- · He used to de-excite 010 state of coz as 010 is unfortunately metastable
- CO2 molecules collide with the atoms to go from 010 (bending) to 000 and increase he of the
- · Lots of heat released, water for cooling
- · Ratio of  $N_2$ :  $CO_2 \approx 2:1$  (more  $N_2$ )
- · Mirrors have to withstand high temp; made of semiconductors (Znse, Au) and expensive
- · Relevant for industry

# Semiconductor LASERs

- Very efficient -low power
  Beam quality not great
- · si, he cannot be used (indirect band gap sc)

Indirect Band Gap SC



Direct Band Gap sc



K

light emission not possible as there is a large Dk that cannot be carried by photons.

happens through collisions (DE and Sk)

band gap not in visible range

Die is small

transition can give out radiation

# (1) HOMO JUNCHON LASER



# Heavily Doped



- 1. Active material
  - · GaAs p-n
  - · Keavily doped sc diode => thin depletion region
  - · Fermi level of a type is in CB and Fermi level of p type in VB
  - · Spontaneous emission CLED) at low currents and stimulated at excessive FB current

2 Energy pump

excessive FB warrent

- 3. Cavity
  - needs micrors ptt all directions
  - · sc properly cleaved in direction -> reflectivity of crystal
  - · front q back reflective, others rough
  - L= <u>n</u>

# operating conditions

- Very high I required
  Very low temperatures
- · At T=40K, I=10A, 10MJ LASER
- · Not very practical

#### Drawballs

- · e, ht conc in active layer is very low
- · photons lost; all directions

# (1) Hetero Junction LASER

- fixed problems of homo
  multilayered heterojunction (many layers)
- · Albaas doped Gaas with M (higher Eg)
- · A doped at 'ha sites







- GaAs has lower band gap
  e in cB of n and ht in VB of p

# 1 Charge confinement

- · In normal sc diode, charges are diffused and recombination not necessarily achieved
- · Artificial population inversion in the active layer
- High concentrations of e and ht in active layer, allowing for recombination in FB and stimulated photon emission



#### 2 Photon confinement

· MhaAs has a lower refractive index than GaAs



· Similar kind of TIR occurs in Hetero junction LASER; Layer in which all photons are going to be contained



# Operating conditions

- · room temperature
- 1500 A  $un^2$  to 600 A  $un^2$
- · 5mW-10mW LASER hystenn



B: A laser emission from a certain laser has an output power of 10 mW. X = 6328 nm, find rate of emission of stimulated photons.



emissims per sec

$$10 \times 10^{-3} = 1 \times hc}{632.8 \text{ nm}}$$

Q: A pulsed laser has a power of 1mW and lasts for lons. If no of photons emitted is 3.491×107, x=?

$$power = Tate \times \frac{hc}{\lambda}$$

$$10^{-3} = \frac{3.491 \times hc \times 10^7}{2 \times 10 \times 10^7}$$

λ = 693 nm

Q Find the ratio of the rate of stimulated emission to the rate of spontaneous emission for a system emitting a wavelength of 632 8 nm at 300k.

 $R_1 = rate of stimulated$  $<math>R_2 = rate of spontaneous$   $\lambda = 632.8 nm$ T = 300 k



Q:  $B_{10} = 2.7 \times 10^{19} \text{ m}^3 / \text{W} \cdot \text{s}^3$  for a particular atom, find the lifetime of the 1 to 0 transition at (a) 550 nm (b) 55 nm

rate of = 
$$B_{10} N_2 U_2$$
  
emission  
 $T \approx \frac{1}{A}$   
 $\frac{A_{10}}{B_{10}} = \frac{8\pi h}{\lambda^2}$ 

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 $\frac{B_{10}}{A_{10}} = 2.7 \times 10^{6} \text{ m}^{3}/\text{W}^{-3}$ 

 $\dot{(1)}$   $A_{10} = 2.7 \times 10^9$ 

Q: The energy levels in a 2-level atom are separated by 2 eV There are  $3 \times 10^{16}$  atoms in the upper level and 1.7×10<sup>18</sup> atoms in the lower level. Coefficient of stimulated emission is  $3.2 \times 10^5$  m<sup>3</sup>/Ws<sup>3</sup> and the spectral radiance is 4 Wm<sup>-2</sup>Hz. Calculate rate of stimulated emission.

$$N_2 = 3 \times 10^{16}$$
  $N_1 = 1.7 \times 10^{16}$   $hv = 2 eV$ 

 $U_{1} = 4 W m^{-2} s^{-1} B = 3.2 \times 10^{5} m^{3} / Ws^{3}$ 

