

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Theoretical background of high power, high efficiency diode lasers</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1	Basic principles of AlGaAs / InGaAs based diode lasers . . . . .	7
2.1.1	Lasing threshold . . . . .	10
2.1.2	Optical output power . . . . .	12
2.1.3	Electro-optical conversion efficiency . . . . .	13
2.1.4	Waste heat . . . . .	14
2.1.5	Influence of laser parameters on output power and efficiency . . . . .	15
2.2	Semiconductor properties at reduced temperatures . . . . .	19
2.2.1	Bulk conductivity at lower temperatures . . . . .	20
<b>3</b>	<b>Measurement Setup</b>	<b>23</b>
3.1	Room temperature measurement setups . . . . .	23
3.1.1	Electro-optical and spectral characterization . . . . .	24
3.1.2	Histogram of diode laser bars . . . . .	26
3.1.3	Low temperature prototype setup . . . . .	27
3.2	Low temperature measurement setup: first generation . . . . .	29
3.2.1	Physical setup of low temperature measurement station . . . . .	29
3.2.2	Power calibration . . . . .	31
3.3	Final Cryo-measurement setup . . . . .	33
3.3.1	Changes to the physical setup . . . . .	33
3.3.2	QCW power calibration by pulse shape analysis . . . . .	33
<b>4</b>	<b>Benchmark Designs (Iteration 0)</b>	<b>37</b>
4.1	Performance of established vertical designs . . . . .	37
4.1.1	High power room temperature optimized designs . . . . .	38
4.1.2	Performance of thick waveguide Asloc configuration at decreasing temperature . . . . .	39
4.1.3	Performance of Asloc configuration with changing waveguide composition at decreasing temperature . . . . .	43
4.1.4	Performance of Edas configuration at decreasing temperature . . . . .	46
4.1.5	Selection of benchmark designs . . . . .	49
4.2	Low temperature performance of benchmark designs . . . . .	50
4.2.1	Fabrication of high power, high efficiency single emitters and bars .	50



4.2.2	Design1: Impact of lateral layout and length on performance . . . . .	51
4.2.3	Design2: Performance up to high currents . . . . .	57
4.3	Conclusions from Iteration 0 . . . . .	62
<b>5</b>	<b>Low Al-content Structures (Iteration 1)</b>	<b>65</b>
5.1	Design and Optimization of Low Resistance Structures . . . . .	66
5.1.1	Options to reduce series resistance . . . . .	66
5.1.2	Vertical design of low resistance structures . . . . .	68
5.1.3	Short pulse measurements of designs with low Al-content in the waveguide . . . . .	71
5.1.4	Low Temperature Length-Dependent Measurements . . . . .	73
5.1.5	Measurement of Al-content Matrix . . . . .	77
5.2	High power operation of low series resistance designs . . . . .	84
5.2.1	Selection of promising designs . . . . .	84
5.2.2	Fabrication of low operation temperature lasers . . . . .	85
5.2.3	Characterization of single emitters . . . . .	87
5.2.4	Characterization of bars . . . . .	93
5.2.5	Estimation of loss mechanisms . . . . .	103
5.3	Conclusions from Iteration 1 . . . . .	105
<b>6</b>	<b>Low Al-content, thin waveguide designs (iteration 2)</b>	<b>107</b>
6.1	Al-variation in thin waveguide designs . . . . .	108
6.1.1	Vertical design of thin WG structures . . . . .	108
6.1.2	Internal parameters at room temperature . . . . .	111
6.1.3	Electrical properties and behavior at low temperatures . . . . .	113
6.2	High power operation of bars and single emitters . . . . .	117
6.2.1	Fabrication of high power bars and single emitters . . . . .	117
6.2.2	Comparison of short loop and fully processed diodes . . . . .	119
6.2.3	Temperature dependent performance of bars and single emitters . . . . .	120
6.2.4	High power performance of bars with thin, asymmetric wave-guide designs . . . . .	123
6.2.5	Estimation of loss mechanisms . . . . .	128
6.3	Conclusions from iteration 2 . . . . .	130
<b>7</b>	<b>Summary and Outlook</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Appendix</b>		<b>135</b>
<b>List of figures</b>		<b>137</b>
<b>List of tables</b>		<b>139</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>		<b>140</b>