

Contents

Publications	viii
Introduction	1
1 Laser theory	4
1.1 Interaction of radiation with matter	4
1.1.1 Absorption	6
1.1.2 Spontaneous emission	6
1.1.3 Stimulated emission	6
1.2 Population inversion	8
2 Solid-state and semiconductor laser systems	11
2.1 Solid-state lasers	11
2.1.1 Ruby lasers	11
2.1.2 Fiber lasers	13
2.2 Semiconductor lasers	15
2.2.1 DFB lasers	15
3 Rare earth laser materials	17
3.1 Rare earth ions and host materials	17
3.2 Non-radiative relaxation	20
3.3 Ion-ion interaction	21
3.3.1 Energy transfer	21
3.3.2 Photon avalanche	25
3.3.3 Upconversion pumping process in Pr ³⁺ -doped glass	26
4 Parameters of rare-earth-doped fibers and glasses	31
4.1 C-OFDR for investigation of TDFAs	31
4.1.1 TDFA operation principle	31
4.1.2 Reflectometric measurement procedures	34
4.1.3 Applications of OFDR	36
4.1.4 OFDR measurement principle and setup	36
4.1.5 Analysis of different noise sources	41
4.1.6 Measurement results for TDFAs characterized by OFDR	47
4.1.7 Summary	52
4.2 FTF method to measure fluorescent lifetimes of Pr ³⁺ -doped fluoride glasses	53
4.2.1 Introduction	53
4.2.2 Temperature dependence of the fluorescent lifetimes	55

4.2.3	Lifetimes of the 1G_4 level and optimum dopant concentration	56
4.2.4	FTF method	57
4.2.5	Experimental setup	64
4.2.6	Fabrication of fluoride glasses	67
4.2.7	Concentration quenching	69
4.2.8	Results and discussion	69
4.2.9	Summary	71
4.3	Further spectroscopic parameters of Pr^{3+} -doped ZBLAN glasses	72
4.3.1	Spectral behavior of the refractive index	72
4.3.2	Intrinsic losses of fluoride glasses	73
4.3.3	Transition cross section	73
4.3.4	GSA measurements	77
4.3.5	ESA measurements	79
4.3.6	Emission measurements	80
4.4	Summary	82
5	Stationary model for rare-earth-doped fiber lasers and amplifiers	83
5.1	Introduction	83
5.2	Fiber laser and amplifier operation	85
5.3	Parameters for the simulation	89
5.3.1	Basic parameters	89
5.3.2	Maxwell-Boltzmann statistics for thermally coupled energy levels	90
5.4	Numerical simulation model	92
5.4.1	Model description	92
5.4.2	Simulation algorithm	95
5.4.3	Further remarks	97
5.5	Fiber laser simulation	98
5.5.1	Yb^{3+} -doped fiber laser	99
5.5.2	Pr^{3+} -doped fiber laser	102
5.5.3	Remarks on stationary simulations	109
5.6	Modeling energy transfer processes between different rare earth ions	111
5.6.1	Introduction	111
5.6.2	Energy transfer	112
5.6.3	Rate and gain equations for energy transfer processes	113
5.6.4	Numerical simulation model for cross relaxation processes	115
5.7	$\text{Pr}^{3+}/\text{Yb}^{3+}$ -doped fiber laser simulation	119
5.8	Summary	129
6	Dynamic model for rare-earth-doped fiber lasers and amplifiers	130
6.1	Introduction	130
6.2	Dynamic fiber laser and amplifier operation	131
6.3	Numerical simulation model	133

6.3.1	Model description	134
6.3.2	Simulation algorithm	138
6.4	Cross relaxation processes	139
6.4.1	Extension to model energy transfer processes	139
6.4.2	Model description	141
6.5	Remarks on computing speed	144
6.6	Relaxation oscillations	145
6.7	Fiber laser simulation	147
6.7.1	Yb^{3+} -doped fiber laser	147
6.7.2	Pr^{3+} -doped fiber laser	149
6.7.3	$\text{Pr}^{3+}/\text{Yb}^{3+}$ -doped fiber laser	151
6.8	Summary	153
Conclusions		155
Appendix A: OFDR - Analytical expressions for measurement sensitivity		157
A.1	Signal spectral density	157
A.2	Phase noise spectral density and minimum detectable reflection strength . . .	160
A.3	RBS spectral density and minimum detectable reflection strength	161
Appendix B: FTF method - Alternatives to determine fluorescent lifetimes		163
B.1	Extracting lifetimes from the magnitude of the complex FTF	163
Appendix C: Spectroscopy		165
C.1	Gauss fits for measured cross sections	165
C.2	Ladenburg-Fuchtbauer equation in frequency-, wavenumber- and wavelength-domain	166