



Contents

1. Introduction	11
2. Narrow Linewidth Semiconductor Lasers	13
2.1. Applications	13
2.1.1. Coherent Optical free-space Communication	13
2.1.2. Further Applications	16
2.2. State of the Art	18
3. Semiconductor Laser and Linewidth Theory	21
3.1. Semiconductor Lasers	21
3.1.1. Radiative Transitions	21
3.1.2. p-n Junction and Carrier Confinement	22
3.1.3. Semiconductor Laser Structure and Optical Confinement	23
3.1.4. Frequency Stabilization of Lasers by Bragg Gratings	24
3.1.5. Theoretical Model	26
3.2. Linewidth Theory	29
3.2.1. Schawlow-Townes-Henry Linewidth	29
3.2.2. Linewidth Broadening Mechanisms	30
3.2.3. Technical Noise	32
3.2.4. Re-Broadening of the Linewidth	32
3.2.5. Small Signal Response	33
3.2.6. Line-shape of Semiconductor Lasers	34
3.2.7. Simulations	34
3.2.8. Optical Feedback Effect	38
3.3. Importance of the Noise Contributions	39
3.4. Master Oscillator Power Amplifier	41
3.4.1. Principle Setup	41
4. Measurement Technique and Measurement Setup	43
4.1. Basic Characterization	43
4.1.1. Power-Current-Voltage Characteristics	43
4.1.2. Basic Characterization of the Spectral Properties	43
4.1.3. Measurement of the Emission Wavelength	44
4.2. Narrow Linewidth Measurement Techniques	45
4.2.1. Fabry-Perot Interferometers	45
4.2.2. Beat Note Linewidth Measurements	45
4.2.3. Analysis of the Beat Note Spectrum	52



4.3. Linewidth Measurement Setup	61
4.3.1. Limitation of the Measurement Setup	65
5. Solitary Semiconductor Lasers	69
5.1. Fabrication, Processing, Coating and Mounting.	69
5.2. Distributed Feedback Lasers	71
5.2.1. Device Structure	71
5.2.2. Basic Characteristics	72
5.2.3. Linewidth	75
5.3. Distributed Bragg Reflector Lasers	78
5.3.1. Device Structure	78
5.3.2. Basic Characteristics	78
5.3.3. Linewidth	82
6. Master Oscillator Power Amplifier System	85
6.1. Design and Realization	85
6.1.1. Optical Design	85
6.1.2. Design of the System	87
6.1.3. Realization of the System	87
6.2. Basic Characteristics	93
6.2.1. Power-Current Characteristics	93
6.2.2. Spectral Characteristics	94
6.3. Linewidth	96
6.4. Long Term Frequency Stability	98
6.5. Beam Quality	100
6.6. Lifetime Tests	102
6.7. Vibrational Tests	103
7. Conclusion and Outlook	105
7.1. Conclusion	105
7.2. Outlook	106
A. List of Publications	109
B. Modes of a DFB laser	111
C. MOPA Linewidth Compared to NPRO	113
D. Vibration and Shock Loads	115
E. List of Abbreviations and Symbols	117
F. List of Lasers and Laser Systems	119