

Saturation of Resonant Frequency Conversion Processes in Cadmium Vapour

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We have investigated two-photon resonant up conversion of 375—159 nm coherent radiation using the four-frequency process $\omega_{159} = 2\omega_{375} + \omega_{1040}$ in cadmium vapour, where the ir component (1040 nm) is internally generated by the 375 nm pump tuned to the Cd two-photon transition $5s^2 1S_0 \rightarrow 5s6s^1 S_0$. Scaling laws and tuning behaviour of both the 159 and 1040 nm output power were measured up to $1 \times 10^8 \text{ W cm}^{-2}$ pump intensity and $2 \times 10^{17} \text{ cm}^{-3}$ Cd number density. The results are compared to numerical calculations based on semiclassical theory in a stationary perturbation approximation up to third order. Here, in accordance with experimental results, the ir component was assumed to originate from a superposition of stimulated emission and parametric generation. The observed saturation effects turned out to be mainly due to population changes of the atomic levels involved and are qualitatively reproduced by calculations. Discrepancies with respect to absolute output levels are discussed in terms of the approximations in the theoretical formalism.

Intense Laser Generation from an Atomic-Fluorine Laser

I. G. Koprnikov, K. V. Stamenov, K. A. Stankov (Bulgaria)

An intensive generation of radiation from a discharge-pumped atomic-fluorine gas laser is reported. A peak power exceeding 330 kW and a total energy of more than 2 mJ is obtained for a number of lines in the red, using a $\text{NF}_3\text{:He}$ (1:100) gas mixture at total pressure of 500 Torr. The circuitry optimization is described and the conditions for effective operation of the atomic-fluorine laser are discussed. The temporal and the spectral characteristics of the laser emission are also presented.

Detection of Free NH_2 (X^2B_1) Radicals by CARS Spectroscopy

T. Dreier, J. Wolfrum (F. R. Germany)

CARS spectra of NH_3 and the free NH_2 -radical in the NH stretch region at 3334 and 3220 cm^{-1} have been obtained, respectively. The NH_2 radicals were generated by laser photolysis of 0.5 mbar NH_3 at 193 nm with an ArF-excimer laser and detected by time resolved CARS spectroscopy.

Applications of Two-Photon Absorption for Detection of CO in Combustion Gases

M. Aldén, S. Wallin, W. Wendt (Sweden)

Laser-induced fluorescence has been used for detection of CO in different environments. The fluorescence light was obtained by using a two-photon transition between the $X^1\Sigma^+$ and the $B^1\Sigma^+$ electronic states around 230 nm. Cell measurements indicate a detection limit lower than 0.1 ppm. Measurements in a CH_4 /air flame and in a low pressure dc discharge were realized with a diode-array detector, which was used in an imaging mode, permitting single-shot CO distributions to be captured.

Picosecond Gain Dynamics of KrF^*

S. Szatmári, F. P. Schäfer (F. R. Germany)

We describe the generation of excimer-laser pulses of $< 10 \text{ ps}$ pulse width and up to 40 mJ pulse energy at 248.5 nm and their use in the measurement of ps gain dynamics in a KrF amplifier. Small-signal gain of $> 2 \times 10^4$, saturation energy density of 2.0 mJ/cm^2 , and gain recovery time of 4 ns were measured. In contrast to XeCl^* no short-gain recovery time was found in KrF^* and the stored inversion could be fully depleted by a single ps pulse.

Surface Studies with Lasers

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The physics and chemistry of surfaces is becoming more and more important as an exciting field in basic research as well as in devices and technology. The diagnoses and the conditioning of surfaces and studies of molecular interactions with surfaces have made large advancements by using laser techniques.

The present book represents the proceedings of the European Physical Society Quantum Electronics Division in Mauterndorf, Austria from March 9th to March 11th, 1983. The wide range of topics (General surface spectroscopy, surface-enhanced optical processes, laser surface spectroscopy, laser-induced processes at surface) was deliberately chosen to provide an opportunity for specialists from one field to get acquainted with the techniques and results from others.



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Invited Paper

P. Sigmund, M. Szymonski
Temperature-Dependent Sputtering of Metals and Insulators 141

Contributed Papers

A. Mandelis, E. Siu, S. Ho
Photoacoustic Spectroscopy of Thin SiO_2 Films Grown on (100) Crystalline Si Substrates. A Thermal Interferometric Technique Complementary to Optical Interferometry 153

U. Gerlach-Meyer
Asymmetric Joule Heat Production at a Point Contact 161

A. J. Barcz, M.-A. Nicolet
Ion Mixing in Al, Si, and Their Oxides 167

G. Falcone, A. Oliva
Sputtering of Multicomponent Materials. Numerical Solution of the Balance Equation 175

A. Reule
Resolving Power of Gratings in Planar Multimode Waveguides 179

A. Qadeer, J. Reed, F. J. Bryant
Time Delays in Lead-Salt Semiconductor Diode Lasers 181

E. F. Schubert, K. Ploog, H. Dämbkes, K. Heime
Selectively Doped $n\text{-Al}_x\text{Ga}_{1-x}\text{As}/\text{GaAs}$ Heterostructures with High-Mobility Two-Dimensional Electron Gas for Field Effect Transistors. Part II. Hot Electron Effects 183

S. Rice, K. Jain
Direct High-Resolution Excimer Laser Photoetching 195

L. Holmlid, K. Möller
Experimental Thermionic Energy Converter Without Enclosure: A Molecular Beam Supplied Converter 199

N. M. Miskovsky, P. H. Cutler, T. E. Feuchtwang
An Exact Solution of Laplace's Equation for Cuspoidal Geometry. Application to Liquid Metal Ion Sources 205

N. Baber, Z. Strugalski
A New Method for Solid Surface Topographical Studies Using Nematic Liquid Crystals 209