

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page xi</i>
1 Pre-history of Large Ring Lasers	1
1.1 The Sagnac Effect and Some Early Experiments	1
1.2 The 1925 Michelson, Gale and Pearson Experiment	5
1.3 The Advent of Lasers: The 1963 Macek and Davis Ring Laser	6
1.4 Passive Optical Gyroscopes	8
1.5 Large Gyroscope Experiments in the Early 1980s	10
2 Aspects of Helium–Neon-Based Laser Gyroscopes	13
2.1 The Helium–Neon Gain Medium and Laser Oscillation	14
2.2 The Sagnac Effect in a Ring Laser Cavity	17
2.3 Cavity Stability	19
2.4 Astigmatism and TEM Modes in the Ring Laser	20
2.5 Hole Burning, Saturation, Cross- and Self- Saturation	21
2.6 Polarization	25
3 Large Scale Helium–Neon Gyroscopes	27
3.1 General Remarks	27
3.2 Hot Cavity versus Cold Cavity	28
3.3 Passive Gyro Concepts	29
3.4 Prototypes of Early High Sensitive Ring Laser Gyroscopes	31
3.5 Large Scale Helium–Neon Ring Laser Design	37
3.5.1 General Techniques Common to All Lasers	39
3.5.2 Monolithic Ring Laser Structures	40
3.5.3 Heterolithic Ring Laser Structures	42
3.5.4 Comparison of Ring Laser Concepts	46
3.5.5 Overview of Existing Constructions	49
3.6 Operational Principles and Practice	53

3.6.1	Mode Structure in Large HeNe Lasers	53
3.6.2	Single Longitudinal Mode Laser Operation	56
3.6.3	Phase Locked Multi-mode Operation	57
3.6.4	Operation on Two Different Cavity Modes	59
3.6.5	Sensor Resolution	62
3.6.6	Multi-corner Beam Recombination	66
3.6.7	Frequency Demodulation	69
3.7	Scale Factor	72
3.7.1	Angular Random Walk	77
3.7.2	Beam Wander	78
3.7.3	The Effect of Earth Strain on Large Cavities	81
3.7.4	Scale Factor Corrections from Varying Laser Gain	84
3.8	Long Term Geometric Cavity Stability	87
3.8.1	Fabry–Perot and Iodine Laser Stabilization	87
3.8.2	FSR Stabilization	90
3.8.3	Optical Frequency Comb Stabilization	95
3.9	Ring Laser Error Corrections	98
3.9.1	Toward Absolute Scale Factor Determinations	98
3.9.2	Stabilization of Diagonally Opposite Corners	106
3.9.3	Error Contributions from the Active Cavity	108
3.9.4	Backscatter Coupling	108
3.9.5	Non-reciprocal Cavity Effects	119
3.9.6	Subtle Cavity Effects	122
3.9.7	Null-shift Corrections from Non-linear Plasma Dynamics	127
3.9.8	Effects on the Interferometer from Extra-cavity Components	132
3.10	Mirrors	138
3.10.1	Modern Dielectric Super-Mirrors	139
3.10.2	The Effect of Spoiled Transmission	142
3.10.3	The Effect of Thermal Noise on the Cavity Mirrors	143
3.10.4	Crystalline Coated Mirrors	149
3.11	Laser Transition on Different Wavelengths	150
3.11.1	Ring Laser Operations at 543.3 nm	150
3.11.2	Ring Laser Operations at 594–611 nm	153
3.11.3	Ring Laser Operations on Crystalline Mirrors at 1.152 μm	155
3.12	Groups of Sensors; Networks	158
3.12.1	The ROMY Sensor Design	160
3.12.2	The Orientation of a Cluster of Ring Laser Gyros	166
3.12.3	Details on the Transformation into the Earth-Centered Earth-Fixed Frame	170

Contents

ix

4	Data Acquisition and Analysis	173
4.1	The Effect of Detector Noise in the Ring Laser	173
4.2	Time and Frequency	175
4.3	Time Series Analysis	176
4.3.1	Autoregression: AR(2)	177
4.3.2	The Buneman Frequency Estimator	178
4.3.3	The Single Tone Estimator	180
4.3.4	Instantaneous Frequency Estimation by Hilbert Transform	181
4.3.5	The Effect of Subtle Crosstalk in the Digitizer	183
4.4	Spectral Analysis	184
4.5	Filtering	187
4.5.1	Filtering the Sagnac Interferogram	187
4.5.2	Realtime Phase Shift Calibration	189
4.5.3	The Application of Filters in Rotational Seismology	190
4.6	Ancillary Hardware	192
4.6.1	Electronic Feedback Loops	192
4.6.2	Monitoring the Discharge	194
4.6.3	Tiltmeter Applications	195
4.6.4	Seismometer Applications	199
4.6.5	Observation Files	200
4.7	Sagnac Interferometry for the Geosciences	202
4.7.1	The Orientation Model	203
4.7.2	The Rotation Model	206
4.8	Ring Laser Analysis	216
4.9	Micro-seismic Background of the Earth and Wind Shear	219
4.10	Transient Rotation Signals in Ring Laser Measurements	221
4.10.1	Eigenmodes of the Earth	222
4.11	The Effect of Magnetic Fields on Large Ring Lasers	224
4.12	Effects on Open Ring Resonators	227
5	Alternative High Resolution Rotation Sensing Concepts	232
5.1	Externally Excited, Passive Cavities	232
5.2	Fiber Optic Gyroscopes	234
5.2.1	Inertial Rotation Sensing in Structural Engineering	235
5.2.2	Large Fiber Optic Gyroscope	241
5.3	Helium SQUID Gyros	244
5.4	Atom Interferometry	246
5.5	Coriolis Force Gyroscopes and Microelectromechanical Systems	248
5.6	Bi-directional Solid State Ring Lasers	251

5.6.1	Design and Operation of a Solid State Gyro based on Nd ³⁺ :phosphate Glass	253
5.6.2	Design and Operation of a Solid State Gyro based on Er ³⁺ -Yb ³⁺ :phosphate Glass	254
6	Applications	258
6.1	General Considerations	259
6.2	Microwave Frequencies Generated from a Large Ring Cavity	261
6.3	Rotational Seismology	262
6.3.1	Rotational Signals from Earthquakes	264
6.3.2	Comparison with Array Measurements and Determination of Phase Velocity	267
6.3.3	Detection of Toroidal Free Oscillations of the Earth	269
6.3.4	Rotational Signals in the P-Coda	270
6.3.5	Rotations in Microseismic Noise	271
6.3.6	Seismic Rotation Sensing at Volcanoes and the Ocean Floor	275
6.4	FOGs on Civil Engineering Structures	278
6.4.1	Ring Laser or Fiber Optic Gyro	280
6.5	Ring Lasers in Geodesy	281
6.6	Infrasound Detection with Open Cavity Ring Lasers	288
6.7	Tests of Non-reciprocal Phenomena	291
6.8	Tests of Fundamental Physics	292
6.8.1	Gyroscopic Tests at a Global Scale	292
6.8.2	Gyroscopic Tests at Laboratory Scale	295
6.9	Future Perspectives	295
	<i>Acronyms</i>	299
	<i>References</i>	303
	<i>Subject Index</i>	315