

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page ix</i>
1 Light Waves	1
1.1 Maxwell's Equations	1
1.2 Huygens' Principle	2
1.3 The Paraxial Approximation	6
1.4 Coherence	9
2 Components and Methods	13
2.1 Safety	13
2.1.1 Laser Safety	13
2.1.2 Good Safety Habits	15
2.1.3 Non-Beam Hazards	16
2.2 Optical Components	16
2.2.1 Light Sources	17
2.2.2 Lenses	21
2.2.3 Mirrors, Reflective Prisms, and Non-Polarizing Beamsplitters	22
2.2.4 Polarizers, Wave Plates, and Optical Isolators	24
2.2.5 Electro-Optic and Acousto-Optic Modulators	25
2.2.6 Cameras and Photodetectors	26
2.2.7 Optomechanics	30
2.3 Measurement Error	32
2.3.1 Propagating Uncertainties	33
2.3.2 Testing Models against Data	35
2.4 Experiment: Components of an Optics Chain	44
3 Geometric Optics	49
3.1 The Geometric Optics Approximation	49
3.2 Refraction	49
3.3 Basic Imaging	52
3.3.1 Principal Rays	54
3.3.2 A Simple Model of the Eye	55
3.3.3 Magnifying Devices	55
3.4 Paraxial Geometric Optics	58
3.4.1 Effect of an Optic on Rays Emanating from a Point	62
3.5 Experiment: Imaging Optics	66

4 Physical Optics	73
4.1 Paraxial Physical Optics	73
4.1.1 Self-Similar Beams Propagating in Free Space: TEM _{mn} Modes	74
4.1.2 Propagating a Beam through an ABCD Optic in the Paraxial Approximation: A Fourier Transform	78
4.2 Gratings and Spectrometers	81
4.3 Experiment: Diffraction and Spectroscopy	85
5 Interferometry	91
5.1 Interferometer Types	91
5.1.1 Two-Beam Interferometers	91
5.1.2 Multiple-Beam Interferometers	96
5.2 Selected Applications of Interferometers	99
5.2.1 Fourier-Transform Spectroscopy	99
5.2.2 Gravitational Wave Astronomy	103
5.3 Experiment: The Michelson Interferometer	110
6 Lasers	115
6.1 How Lasers Work	115
6.1.1 Stimulated Emission	115
6.1.2 The Two-level Model	116
6.1.3 A Four-level Laser: The HeNe	121
6.1.4 Rate Equations	122
6.1.5 Lasing Threshold	124
6.2 Etendue and Radiance	124
6.3 Experiment: Helium–Neon Laser	129
7 Optical Cavities	133
7.1 Use of Optical Cavities	133
7.2 Plane-Wave Cavity	133
7.3 Resonant Modes of a Cavity	138
7.3.1 Cavity Stability	139
7.3.2 Spatial Modes	142
7.4 Experiment: Resonant Optical Cavity	146
8 Polarization	152
8.1 Polarized Light	152
8.2 Fresnel Equations	153
8.3 Jones Vectors	156
8.3.1 Linear, Circular, and Elliptical Polarization	158
8.4 Jones Matrixes	158
8.4.1 Optical Isolators	160
8.5 Experiment: Investigation of Polarized Light	164

9 Optical Noise	168
9.1 Characterizing Noise	168
9.1.1 Power Spectral Density	168
9.2 Quantum Fluctuations in Optical Power Measurements	170
9.3 Technical Sources of Optical Noise	175
9.3.1 Parasitic Interferometers and Scattering	176
9.3.2 Intrinsic, Noise-generating, Laser Dynamics	178
9.4 Experiment: Shot Noise	183
Appendix A Analyzing and Displaying Data with Matlab and Python	187
A.1 Matlab versus Python	187
A.2 Basic Coding	188
A.3 Loops and Branching	191
A.4 Functions	193
A.5 Putting It Together	194
Appendix B Computer Code	200
B.1 Image Processing Functions	200
B.2 Miscellaneous Functions	202
B.3 Curve Fitting	204
B.4 Fourier Propagation	207
<i>References</i>	211
<i>Index</i>	213