



Lectures on Light: Nonlinear and Quantum Optics using the Density Matrix

Stephen C. Rand

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This book attempts to bridge in one step the enormous gap between introductory quantum mechanics and the research front of modern optics and scientific fields that make use of light. Hence, while it is suitable as a reference for the specialist in quantum optics, it will also be useful to the non-specialists from other disciplines who need to understand light and its uses in research. With a unique approach it introduces a single analytic tool, namely the density matrix, to analyze complex optical phenomena encountered in traditional as well as cross-disciplinary research. It moves swiftly in a tight sequence from elementary to sophisticated topics in quantum optics, including laser tweezers, laser cooling, coherent population transfer, optical magnetism, electromagnetically induced transparency, squeezed light, quantum information science and cavity quantum electrodynamics. A systematic approach is used that starts with the simplest systems - stationary two-level atoms - then introduces atomic motion, adds more energy levels, and moves on to discuss first-, second-, and third-order coherence effects that are the basis for analyzing new optical phenomena in incompletely characterized systems.

Unconventional examples and original problems are used to engage even seasoned researchers in exploring a mathematical methodology with which they can tackle virtually any new problem involving light. An extensive bibliography makes connections with mathematical techniques and subject areas which can extend the benefit readers gain from each section.

This revised edition includes over 40 new problems (for a total of 110 original problems with an instructor's solution manual), as well as completely new sections on quantum interference, Fano resonance, optical magnetism, quantum computation, laser cooling of solids, and irreducible representation of magnetic interactions. Literature references to current ultrafast science, nonlinear optics, x-ray and high-field physics topics have doubled at the end of chapters 5, 6, and 7; the subject index has also been significantly expanded.

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