

Contents

1. Introduction to Photonic Quantum Dot Nanomaterials and Devices	1
1.1 Physical Properties of Quantum Dots	1
1.2 Active Semiconductor Gain Media	2
1.3 Quantum Dot Lasers	4
1.3.1 Heterostructure lasers	4
1.3.2 Active nanomaterials	5
1.4 Laser Cavities	6
1.4.1 In-plane edge-emitting lasers	7
1.4.2 Vertical-cavity surface-emitting lasers	8
1.4.3 High-power laser amplifiers	9
1.4.4 Coupled-cavity systems	10
1.4.5 Optically excited nano systems	11
1.4.6 QD metastructures	11
References	12
2. Theory of Quantum Dot Light–Matter Dynamics	15
2.1 Rate Equations	19
2.2 Maxwell–Bloch Equations	24
2.2.1 Mesoscopic two-level approach	25
2.2.2 Mesoscopic Maxwell–Bloch description of multi-level quantum dot systems	29
2.2.2.1 Optical field dynamics	30

2.2.2.2	Carrier dynamics within a quantum dot	34
2.3	Quantum Luminescence Equations	38
2.4	Quantum Theoretical Description	42
	References	43
3.	Light Meets Matter I: Microscopic Carrier Effects and Fundamental Light–Matter Interaction	45
3.1	Dynamics in the Active Charge Carrier Plasma . . .	46
3.1.1	Intra-dot carrier scattering	47
3.1.2	Phonon induced carrier scattering between quantum dots and wetting layer	48
3.1.3	Auger scattering processes involving 0D and 2D carriers	49
3.1.4	Level and gain dynamics	51
3.1.5	Dynamics of carrier scattering rates	54
3.2	Dynamic Level Hole Burning	57
3.3	Ultrashort Nonlinear Gain and Index Dynamics . . .	62
3.4	Conclusion	69
	References	69
4.	Light Meets Matter II: Mesoscopic Space-Time Dynamics	71
4.1	Introduction: Transverse and Longitudinal Mode Dynamics	71
4.2	Influence of the Transverse Degree of Freedom and Nano-Structuring on Nearfield Dynamics and Spectra	72
4.3	Longitudinal Modes	77
4.4	Coupled Space-Time Dynamics in the Active Area	78
4.4.1	Influence of injection level and geometry . .	79
4.4.2	Influence of disorder: the spatially inhomogeneous quantum dot ensemble . . .	83

4.4.3	Light fluctuations and mode competition in quantum dot cavities	86
4.5	Conclusion	97
	References	97
5.	Performance and Characterisation: Properties on Large Time and Length Scales	101
5.1	Introduction	101
5.2	Spatial and Spectral Beam Quality	102
5.3	Dynamic Amplitude Phase Coupling	105
5.4	Conclusion	113
	References	113
6.	Nonlinear Pulse Propagation in Semiconductor Quantum Dot Lasers	115
6.1	Dynamic Shaping of Short Optical Pulses	116
6.2	Nonlinear Femtosecond Dynamics of Ultrashort Light Pulses	118
6.2.1	Self-induced propagation control: tunable propagation speed	118
6.2.2	Propagation control by a second pulse	123
6.3	Conclusion	125
	References	125
7.	High-Speed Dynamics	127
7.1	Mode-Locking in Multi-Section Quantum Dot Lasers	127
7.2	Dependence of Pulse Duration on Injection Current, Bias Voltage and Device Geometry	129
7.3	Radio Frequency Spectra of the Emitted Light	132
7.4	Short-Pulse Optimisation	134
7.5	Conclusion	136
	References	137

8.	Quantum Dot Random Lasers	139
8.1	Spatially Inhomogeneous Semiconductor Quantum Dot Ensembles	139
8.1.1	Gain spectra	141
8.1.2	Spatial and spectral hole burning	142
8.2	Coherence Properties	145
8.3	Random Lasing in Semiconductor Quantum Dot Ensembles	150
8.3.1	The physics of random lasing	150
8.3.2	Lasers with strong disorder: incoherent feedback	152
8.3.3	Lasers with weak disorder: coherent feedback	155
8.4	Conclusion	157
	References	157
9.	Coherence Properties of Quantum Dot Micro-Cavity Lasers	159
9.1	Introduction	159
9.2	Radial Signal Propagation and Coherence Trapping	161
9.3	Influence of Disorder	168
9.4	Conclusions	170
	References	170