

Unit 2a: LASER

Q2a.1. What is the full form of LASER? Distinguish between laser source and ordinary source.

(M.U. May 2012; Nov. 2018) (7m)

Full form of LASER is **L**ight **A**mplification by **S**timulated **E**mission of **R**adiation.

Light Laser Source	Ordinary source
Monochromatic in nature	Polychromatic in nature
Coherent waves are in phase.	Waves have no definite phase relation.
Highly focused has low divergence hence very intense.	Highly divergent hence diffuse because intensity decreased due to spreading.
Laser light is directional, it is emitted in one direction.	Emitted in all directions.
eg. Nd-YAG laser, He- Ne	eg. candle, LED, bulb

Q2a.2. Explain main three processes involved in production of LASER with appropriate diagrams.

(M.U. Dec 2006, 12; May 2009) (7m)

Radiation consists of photons and Matter consists of atoms and molecules. Thus, Interaction of radiation with Matter means interaction of photons with atoms and molecules. The three processes that coexist at all temperatures whenever radiation interacts with matter are absorption, emission and stimulated emission.

Absorption:

The transition of atoms from lower energy ground state E_1 to a higher energy excited state E_2 after acceptance of an incident photon is known as stimulated absorption as shown in [Figure 2a.2.1](#). The incident photon should be of energy $E = h\nu = E_2 - E_1$.

Absorption can be expressed as $A + h\nu \rightarrow A^*$

Where, A = atom in ground state and A^* = atom in excited state.

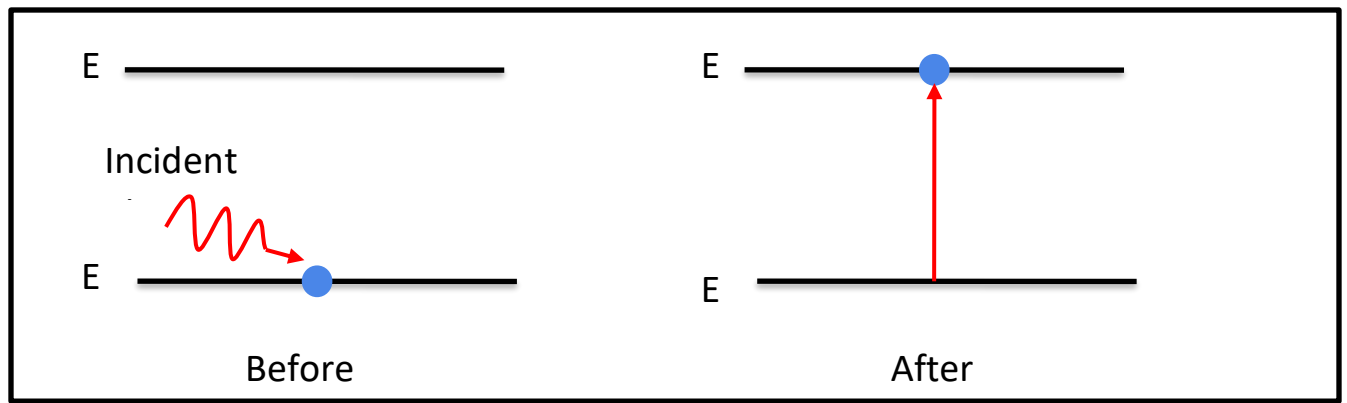


Figure 2a.2.1: Absorption

Spontaneous Emission:

If an excited atom returns to the ground state on its own accord by releasing an energy equivalent to $E = h\nu = E_2 - E_1$, then the process is known as spontaneous emission as shown in [Figure 2a.2.2](#).

It can be expressed as $A^* \Rightarrow A + h\nu$

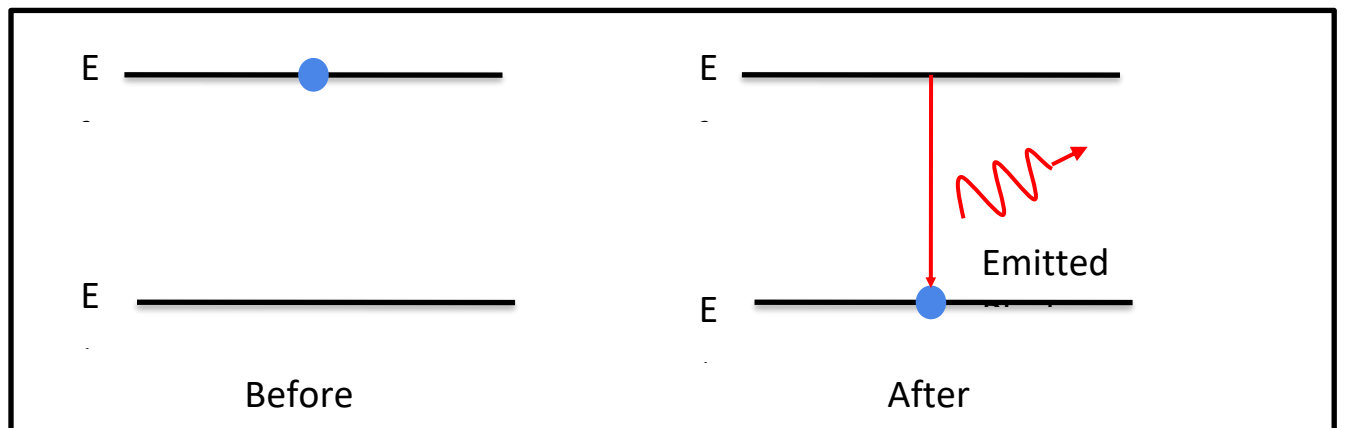


Figure 2a.2.2: Spontaneous

Stimulated Emission:

If an atom in the excited state E_2 returns to the ground state E_1 in presence of an external photon of energy $h\nu = E_2 - E_1$ giving out another photon of same energy the process is called stimulated emission as shown in [Figure 2a.2.3](#).

It can be written as $A^* + h\nu \Rightarrow A + 2h\nu$.

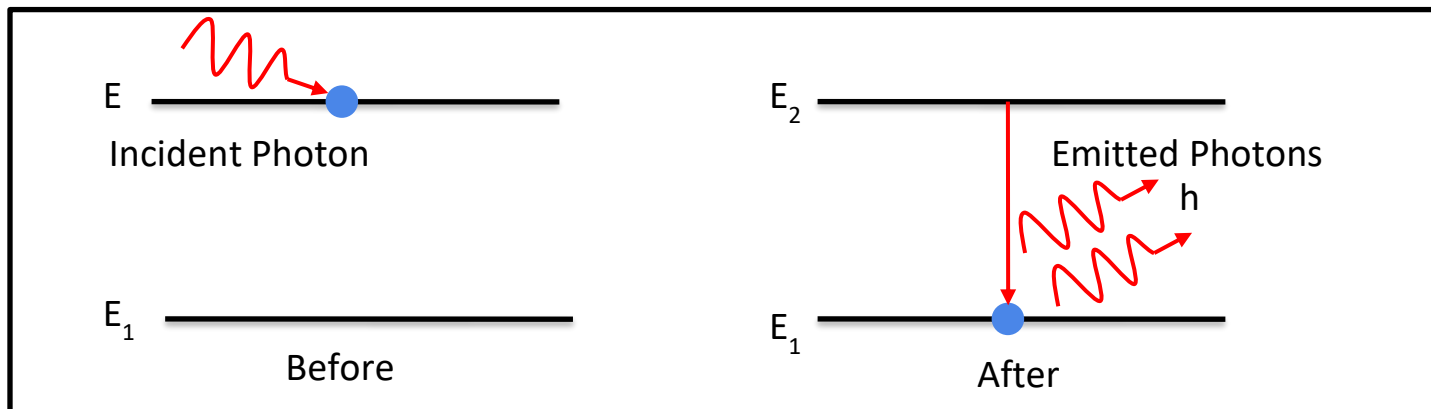


Figure 2a.2.3: Stimulated

Characteristics of stimulated emission:

- The emitted photon and the incident photon are identical in all respects and have the same frequency.
- Both photons travel in the same direction.
- Multiplication of photons takes place in the process.

Q2a.3. Explain the terms population inversion, Active medium, meta stable state, pumping.

(M.U. Dec. 2008,09,10,17) (8m)

Population inversion: Every system in nature tries to achieve minimum potential energy. Thus, naturally majority of atoms in every system lie in the ground state and a very few are present in excited state, this is called the natural population. In order for the stimulated emission to occur we require majority of atoms to be present in the excited state and very few in the ground state i.e., just inverse of the natural population. Once this condition is achieved. The state of population inversion is said to be achieved.

Active medium: The medium in which light gets amplified is called active medium. It may be solid, liquid or gases. Out of all atoms present in medium only few are responsible for stimulated emission and consequent light amplification, they are called active centres.

Meta stable state: The state which has energy in between that of ground state and excited state is called meta stable state. This is a partially stable state. The life time of atoms is in between their respective life time is ground state and excited states.

Pumping: To obtain and maintain a state of population inversion atoms have to be raised continuously to excited state. It requires energy to be supplied to

the system. The process of supplying energy to the medium with a view to transfer it into the excited state is pumping.

Techniques for pumping are,

1. **Optical pumping:** Light source used for pumping.
2. **Electric pumping:** Electric field is applied to medium producing ionisation creating excitation.
3. **Chemical pumping:** When chemical reaction is used for excitation.

Q2a.4. Derive expression for Einstein's coefficients.

Consider a two level laser system with ground state E_1 and excited state E_2 . Let N_1 and N_2 be the numbers of atoms in E_1 and E_2 respectively. Let $Q(x)$ be the density of photons incident on this system two level laser system. Let the probability absorption i.e. the probability of N_1 atoms to get excited to E_2 state be denoted by ' P_{12} '. This probability will depend on number of atoms in the ground state ' N_1 ' and the density of photons ' Q ' and can be written as:

Probability of stimulated absorption: $P_{12} = B_{12}N_1Q$ -----(1)

where B_{12} is constant.

The probability of emission will have two terms, one corresponding to stimulated and other corresponding to spontaneous emission. Let the total emission probability be denoted by ' P_{21} '. This can be written as :

Probability of emission : $P_{21} = P_{21sp} + P_{21st}$ -----(2)

The probability of spontaneous emission i.e. N_2 atoms to go to ground state without any stimulus is $P_{21sp} = A_{21}N_2$ -----(3a)

The probability of stimulated emission i.e. N_2 atoms to go to ground state with stimulus is $P_{21st} = B_{21}N_2Q$ -----(3b)

Using equation (2) and (3) we get,

$$P_{21} = N_2(B_{21}Q + A_{21}) \text{ -----(4)}$$

Here B_{21} , Q are constant coefficients.

At Equilibrium the probability of absorption i.e atoms going from E_1 to E_2 will be equal to the probability of emission i.e. atoms coming back from E_2 to E_1

Therefore, $P_{21} = P_{12}$ -----(5)

Putting Equation (1) and (4) in (5) we get:

$$B_{12}N_1Q = N_2(B_{21}Q + A_{21})$$

After simplifying the above equation for Q we obtain:

$$Q = \frac{A_{21}N_2}{\left(\frac{B_{12}N_1}{B_{21}N_2} - 1\right)N_2B_{21}} \text{-----}(6)$$

Maxwell distribution gives the relation between N_1 and N_2 , it is given as:

$$N_1 = N_2 e^{\frac{h\nu}{kT}} \text{-----}(7)$$

Using (7) in equation(6) we have:

$$Q = \frac{A_{21}}{\left(\frac{B_{12}e^{\frac{h\nu}{kT}}}{B_{21}} - 1\right)B_{21}} \text{-----}(8)$$

Planck's law gives us the expression for energy density given as:

$$Q = \frac{8\pi h\nu^3}{c^3} \left(\frac{1}{e^{\frac{h\nu}{kT}} - 1} \right) \text{-----}(9)$$

Comparing equation (8) and equation (9) we get expressions:

$$B_{21} = B_{12} \text{ and}$$

$$\frac{A_{21}}{B_{21}} = \frac{8\pi h\nu^3}{c^3}$$

Where B_{12} , B_{21} and A_{21} are called Einstein's coefficients.

Q2a.5. Describe action of resonant cavity.

(M.U. May 2012) (3 m)

When stimulated emission is generated in medium it has to be sustained in the desired direction and suppressed in remaining direction. This goal can be achieved by resonant cavity. Resonant Cavity consist of two oppositely facing parallel mirrors with active medium placed in between them as shown in [Figure 2a.5.1](#).

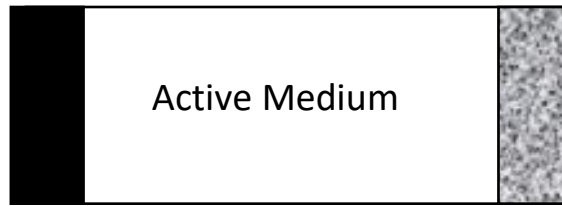


Figure 2a.5.1: Resonant Cavity

The action of such a cavity can be explained as follows:

1. Ground state: Initially active centres are in ground state as shown in *Figure 2a.5.2*.

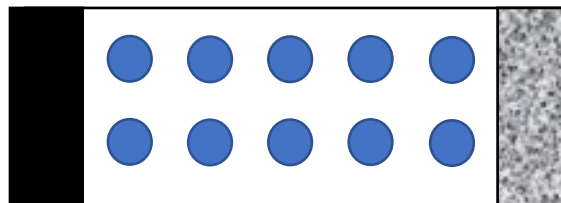


Figure 2a.5.2: Non excited state

2. Optical pumping: By optical pumping the material is taken to a state of population inversion as shown in *Figure 2a.5.3*.

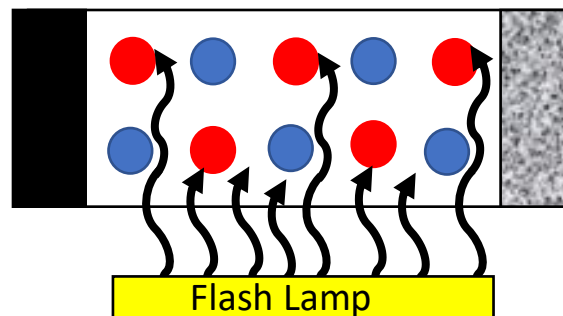


Figure 2a.5.3: optical pumping

3. Spontaneous and stimulated emission: Spontaneous occur in random direction and they thus produce stimulated emission as shown in *Figure 2a.5.4*.

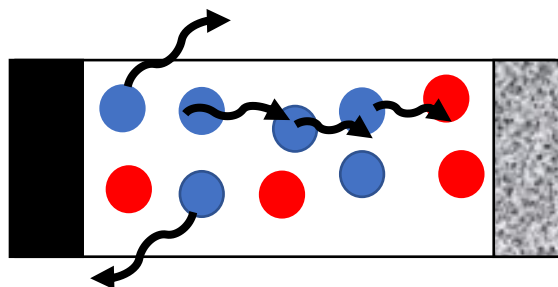


Figure 2a.5.4: Spontaneous and Stimulated emission

4. Optical feedback: Due to reflecting mirrors photons in favourable direction are feedback as shown in *Figure 2a.5.5*.

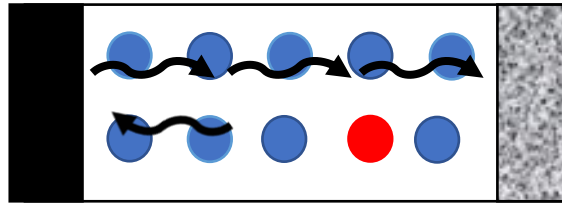


Figure 2a.5.5: Optical Feedback and light oscillation

5. Light amplification: Feedback from mirrors combined with stimulated emissions will lead to light multiplication and then light amplification.
6. Light oscillation : Light beam in the cavity begins to oscillate when the amount of amplified light becomes equal to the total amount of light lost through the sides of the resonator as shown in *Figure 2a.5.5*. Then waves propagating in the cavity take the standing wave pattern. If L is the length of the cavity.

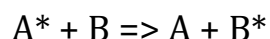
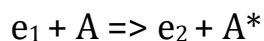
$$2L = m\lambda; \quad 2L = \frac{mc}{\nu} ; \nu = \frac{mc}{2L} \text{-----(1)}$$

A resonator may support several standing waves of slightly different wavelength, these are called longitudinal modes. Each mode has distinct frequency (ν) as in equation (1).

Q2a.6. Explain the working of He-Ne laser along with Principle.

(M.U. May 2007, 08, 13, 15, 18; Nov. 2018; Dec. 2007, 14, 15)

Principle: Gas lasers employ electrical pumping of gas mixtures where electron impact excites A gas . Then A gas molecules transfer their energy in collisions to B Gas molecules that are the actual active centres. It can be expressed as



Note: A^* is metastable state and B^* is excited state.

Construction :

He-Ne laser comprises of long and narrow tube that is filled with He and Ne gas in the ratio 10:1 at a pressure of 1 mm of mercury. Tube length is 50cm and 1cm in diameter. Electrodes are provided to produce discharge in the gas and they are connected to a high voltage power supply. Tube ends are sealed at ends using silica windows inclined as Brewster's angle. This tube is placed between two mirrors; one is fully reflecting, the other is partially reflecting. This forms the resonant cavity of He-Ne laser as shown in [Figure 2a.6.1](#).

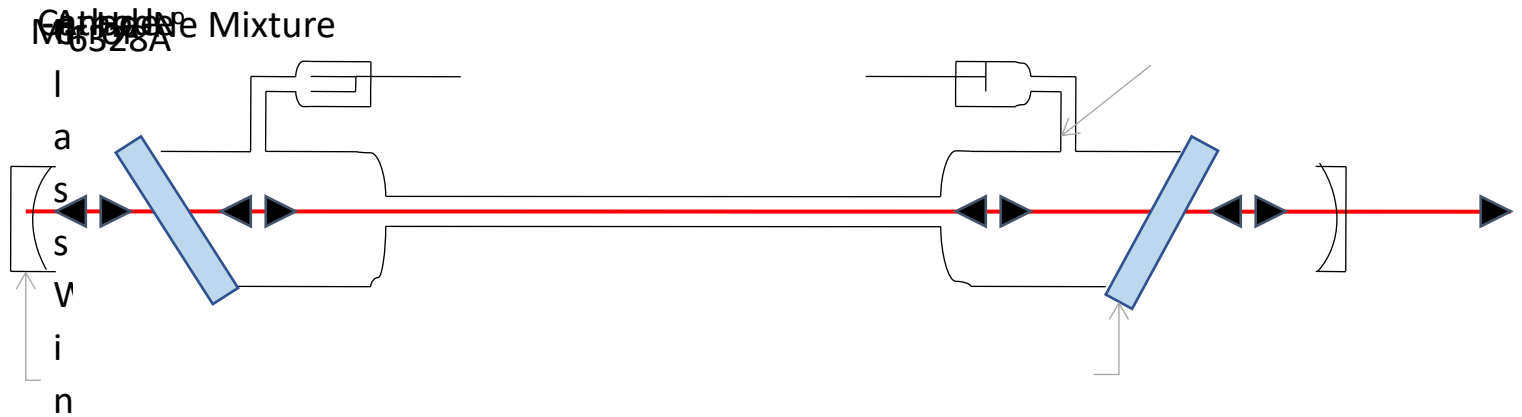
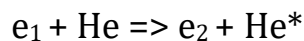


Figure 2a.6.1: Construction of He-Ne Laser

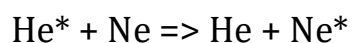
Working :

He-Ne laser employs a four level pumping scheme. When the power (1kv) is switched on, the electric field ionizes some of the gas atoms and ions move towards oppositely charged electrodes. Electrons, being lighter in weight, hence gain higher velocity and He atoms get excited more readily because they are lighter in weight.



He atoms get excited to F_2 and F_3 from F_1 where F_2 and F_3 are metastable states where atoms remain for a longer time creating population inversion.

Ne energy states E_6 and E_4 are very close to metastable states of F_2 and F_3 of He atom. Thus when He collides with Ne atom, resonant transfer of energy takes place.



Population increases rapidly in E_6 and E_4 . Thus population inversion takes place in E_6 and E_4 with respect to E_5 and E_3 as shown in *Figure 2a.6.2*

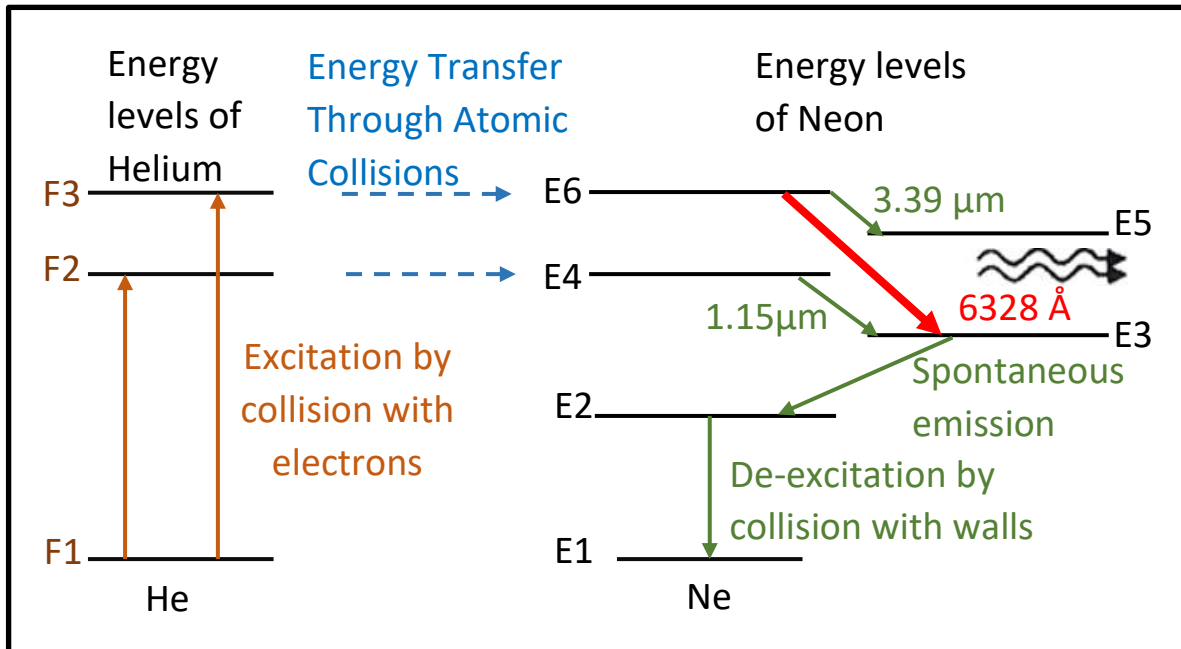


Figure 2a.6.2: Working of He-Ne Laser

three main transitions are

1. E_6 - E_5 of 3.39 μm in IR region not visible.
2. E_6 - E_3 of 6328 \AA red color visible.
3. E_4 - E_3 of 1.15 μm in IR region not visible.

Atoms in E_3 collected undergo spontaneous emission to reach E_2 . E_2 is a metastable state in Neon. So, there is a chance of accumulation of atoms in this state. The atoms in E_2 are de-energized by keeping diameter of the discharge tube small. So that number of collisions with the tube walls takes away energy of atoms in E_2 and they rapidly reach ground state to get excited to E_6 and E_4 again. The discharge is maintained continuously thus this cycle of events continues, giving out a continuous laser output.

Q2a.7. Explain Nd-YAG laser, Principle, construction and working.
(M.U. May 2011,12; Dec 08,09,19) (8m)

Principle: Optically pumped Nd-YAG rod inside the resonant cavity undergoes stimulated emission and light thus produced gets amplified in the cavity to produce Nd -YAG laser.

Construction:

Nd-YAG assembly consists of an elliptically cylindrical cavity that has Nd-YAG rod along if one focal axis and Xenon flash lamp at the other as shown in *Figure 2a.7.1b*.

The cavity is silvered internally so that light leaving the lamp at one focus meets the rod at other focus after every reflection. Thus, light is focused on the rod. Two ends of the rod are polished and silvered for resonator formation as shown in *Figure 2a.7.1a*.

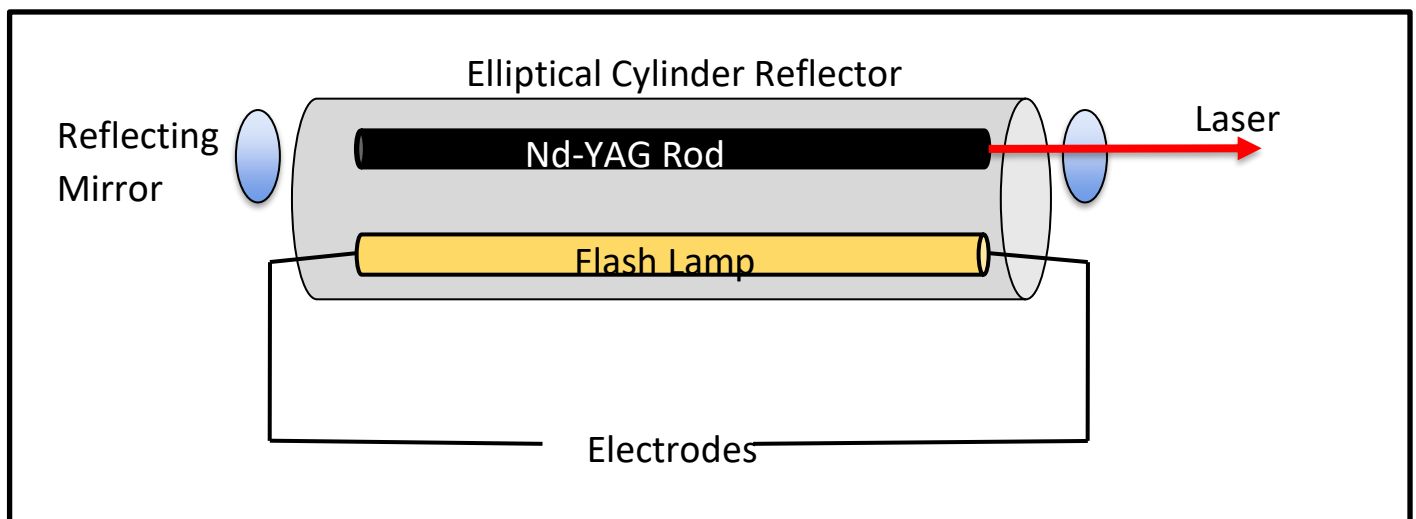


Figure 2a.7.1a: Construction of Nd-YAG Laser

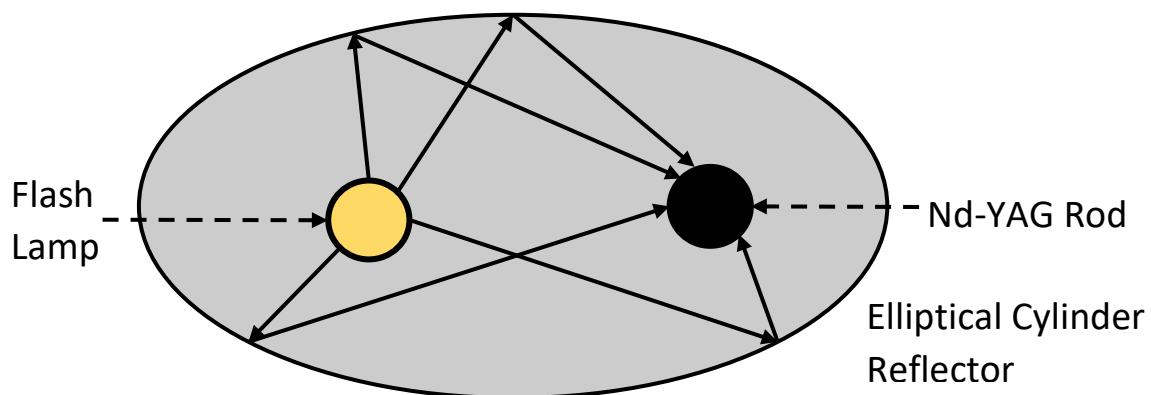


Figure 2a.7.1b: Construction of Nd-YAG Laser

Working:

As shown in [Figure 2a.7.2](#) the energy level of Nd. E_1 is the ground state and E_3 is the metastable state. Light in the range $5000-8000 \text{ \AA}$ is used to pump the Nd^{+3} ions that act as active centres to higher states.

E_3 is the metastable state that gets rapidly populated due to downward transitions from higher energy levels as none of them is metastable. Thus population inversion takes place between E_3 and E_2 . Thus by resonant cavity action with help of pumping a Continuous laser of $1.6 \mu\text{m}$ in IR region is given out between E_3 and E_2 .

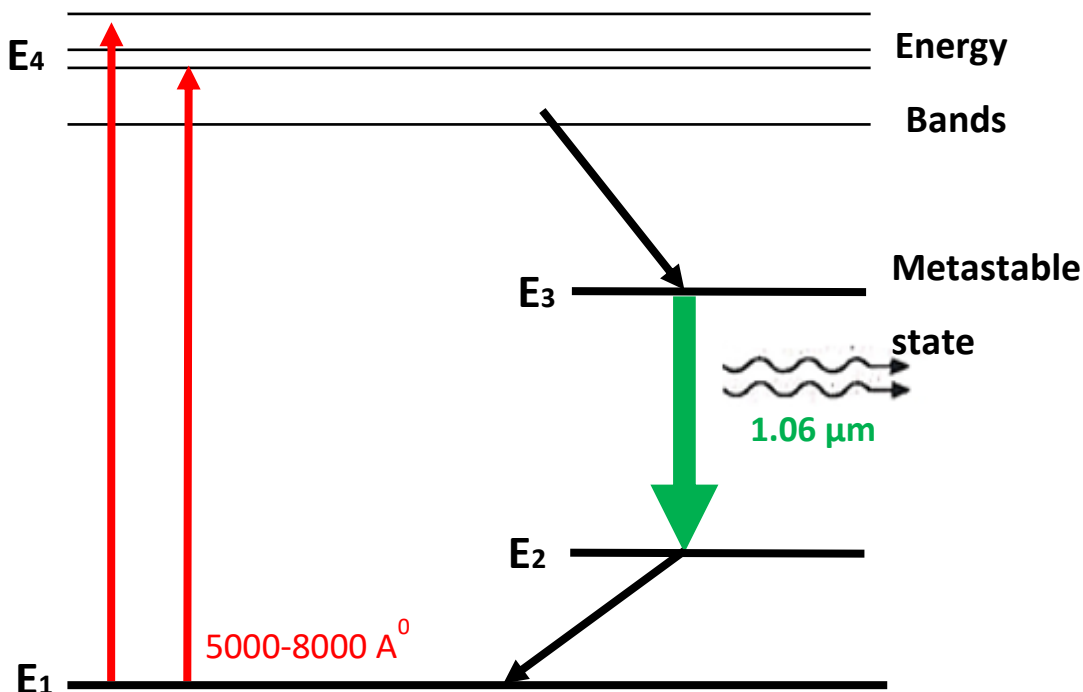


Figure 2a.7.2: Energy Level of Nd-YAG Laser

Q2a.8. Explain semiconductor diode laser on the basis of principle, construction and working . (M.U. May 2010; Dec 2012,16)(7m)

Principle: When a current higher than a Threshold value is passed in a forward bias on junction that is basically doped it emits a laser that is called semiconductor diode laser.

Construction:

A diode is heavily doped for the purpose of being used as a semiconductor diode laser. The semiconductor diode is of the order 1mm in size. The front and the rear ends of the diode are polished perpendicular to the junction in order to

create a resonator cavity. The thin junction here acts as the active region as shown in [Figure 2a.8.1](#).

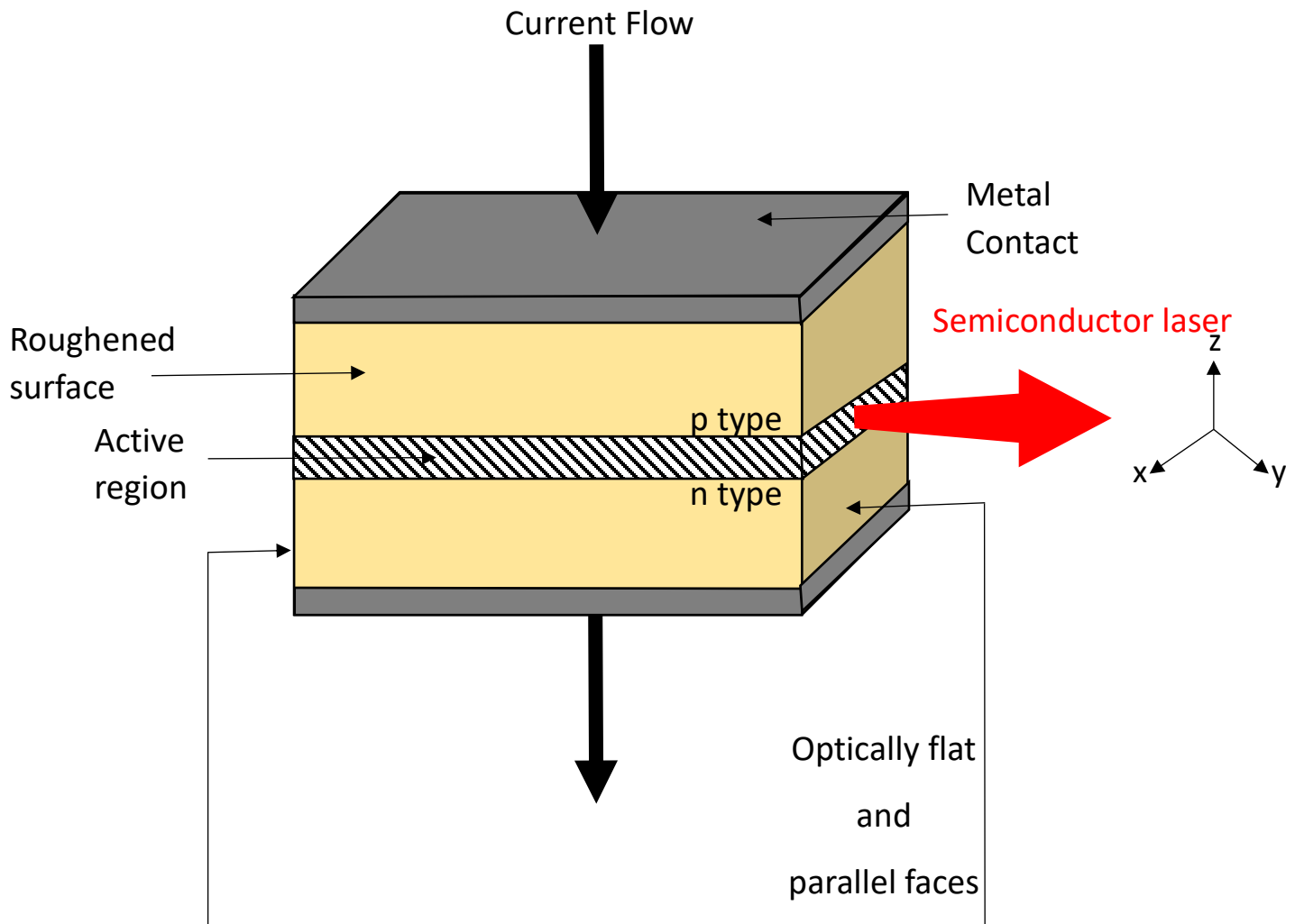


Figure 2a.8.1: Construction of Semiconductor laser LASER

Working:

A heavily doped pn junction is forward biased. This puts fermi level within conduction band. So, on heavily doped p side the acceptor levels enter with E_{fp} into the valence band creating holes in valence band. Zero bias condition is shown at the top of the adjoining [Figure 2a.8.2](#).

When a forward bias is applied zero bias changes to the condition shown below, electrons injected into depletion region hence it's holes appear in lower region. Low forward bias current causes spontaneous emissions of photons at the junction due to electron hole pair recombination.

When the forward bias current increases **threshold value** carrier concentration increases to very high value. The narrow region where this is achieved is called active region. Forward bias current plays the role of pumping agent in diode lasers. eg. In GaAs laser light of 9000 \AA in IR. GaAsP in visible region red colour 6500 \AA . Diode laser are simple, efficient low power compact, less monochromatic and highly temperature sensitive.

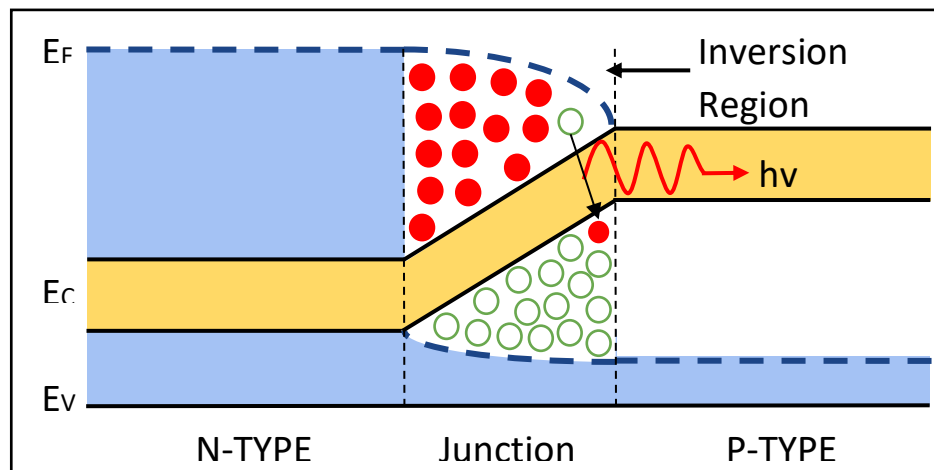
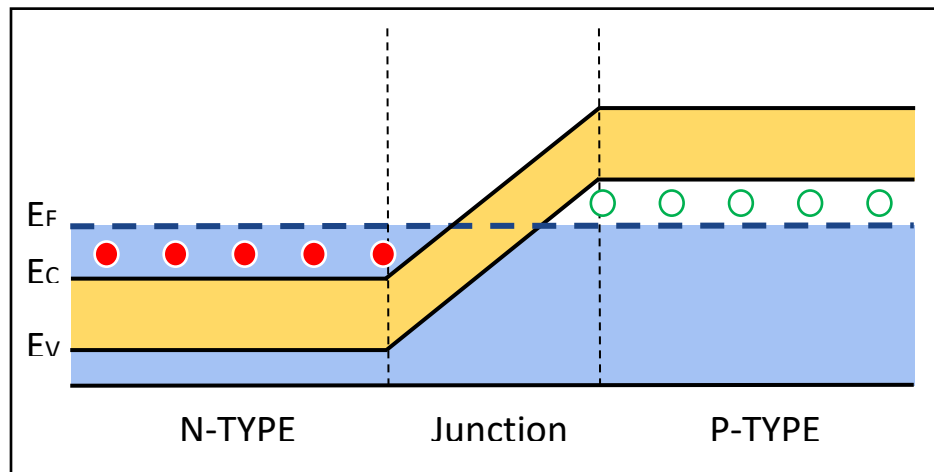


Figure 2a.8.2: Construction of Semiconductor laser LASER

Q2a.9. Write a note on Holography.

(M.U. May 2007; Dec. 2007, 10, 11, 16) (5 m)

A Photograph records a two-dimensional record of a three-dimensional scene where the information of the third dimension is lost. While a hologram is the

three-dimensional record of a three-dimensional scene. Thus, the hologram is "holos" which means "complete" and "gram" that means a "record" in greek. The process of creating a 3D image "Hologram" is called holography it has two main stages namely recording and reading they are described as follows:

Recording hologram:

A broad LASER beam is incident on the object to be recorded. The wave scattered from object called the object beam is made to interfere with a coherent unscattered wave (reference beam) to obtain interference pattern that becomes the record of phase information i.e. 3rd dimension.

The hologram thus obtained is similar to the image as in case of photograph. On the contrary, it consists of alternate bright and dark bands (interference pattern) that have phase information to give additional 3rd dimension information as shown in [Figure 2a.9.1](#).

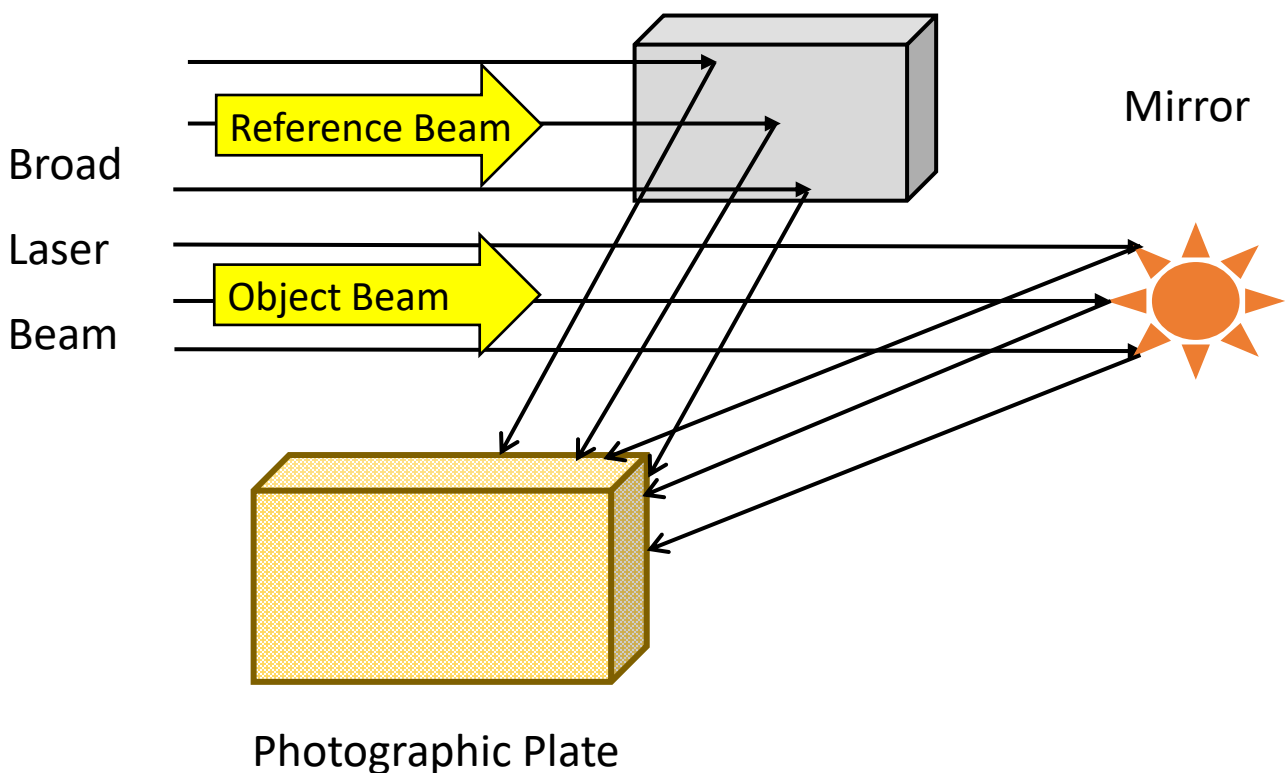


Figure 2a.9.1: Recording a Holography

Reading a hologram:

When hologram is illuminated by the reconstruction two waves are produced. One appears to diverge from the object and provides virtual image of the object and second converges to form real image as shown in [Figure 2a.9.2](#).

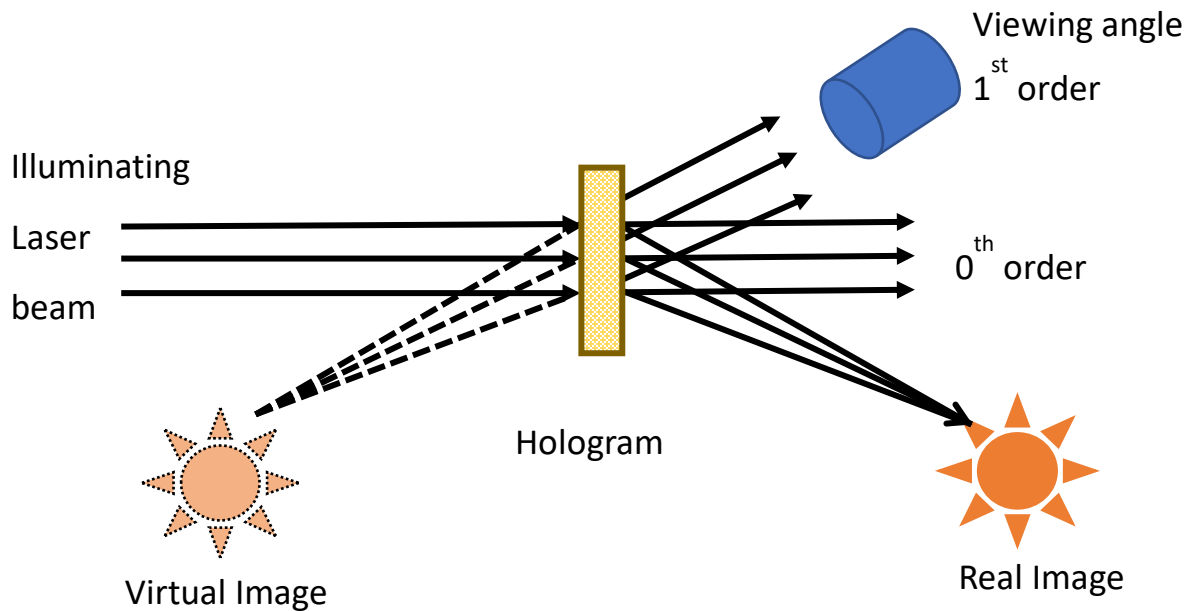


Figure 2a.9.2: Reading a Hologram

Q2a.10.Distinguish between photograph and hologram.
(M.U. May 2007, 19) (3 m)

Photograph	Hologram
2D representation of the object.	3D representation of the object.
The negative resembles the object.	The hologram is just an interference pattern that does not resemble object.
Ordinary light is used for photography.	Laser light is used for holography.
Photograph reading is not encoded	Hologram reading is encoded with the wavelength of the light used for recording it.