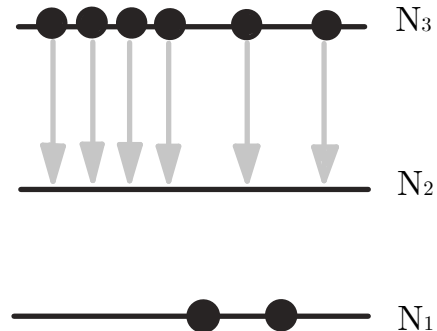
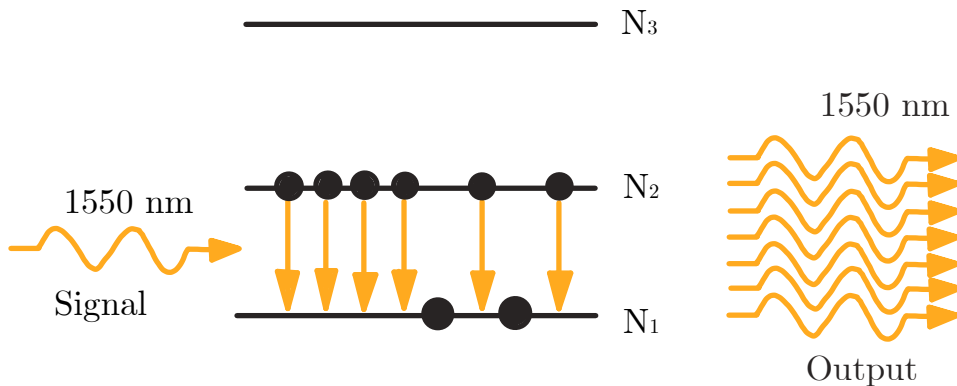


Optical pumping to higher energy levels



Rapid relaxation to “metastable” state



Stimulated emission and amplification