Preface to the First Edition

Nonlinear optics is the study of the interaction of intense laser light with matter. This book is a textbook on nonlinear optics at the level of a beginning graduate student. The intent of the book is to provide an introduction to the field of nonlinear optics that stresses fundamental concepts and that enables the student to go on to perform independent research in this field. The author has successfully used a preliminary version of this book in his course at the University of Rochester, which is typically attended by students ranging from seniors to advanced PhD students from disciplines that include optics, physics, chemistry, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, and chemical engineering. This book could be used in graduate courses in the areas of nonlinear optics, quantum optics, quantum electronics, laser physics, electrooptics, and modern optics. By deleting some of the more difficult sections, this book would also be suitable for use by advanced undergraduates. On the other hand, some of the material in the book is rather advanced and would be suitable for senior graduate students and research scientists.

The field of nonlinear optics is now thirty years old, if we take its beginnings to be the observation of second-harmonic generation by Franken and coworkers in 1961. Interest in this field has grown continuously since its beginnings, and the field of nonlinear optics now ranges from fundamental studies of the interaction of light with matter to applications such as laser frequency conversion and optical switching. In fact, the field of nonlinear optics has grown so enormously that it is not possible for one book to cover all of the topics of current interest. In addition, since I want this book to be accessible to beginning graduate students, I have attempted to treat the topics that are covered in a reasonably self-contained manner. This consideration also restricts the number of topics that can be treated. My strategy in deciding what topics to include has been to stress the fundamental aspects of nonlinear optics, and to include applications and experimental results only as necessary to illustrate these fundamental

issues. Many of the specific topics that I have chosen to include are those of particular historical value.

Nonlinear optics is notationally very complicated, and unfortunately much of the notational complication is unavoidable. Because the notational aspects of nonlinear optics have historically been very confusing, considerable effort is made, especially in the early chapters, to explain the notational conventions. The book uses primarily the gaussian system of units, both to establish a connection with the historical papers of nonlinear optics, most of which were written using the gaussian system, and also because the author believes that the laws of electromagnetism are more physically transparent when written in this system. At several places in the text (see especially the appendices at the end of the book), tables are provided to facilitate conversion to other systems of units.

The book is organized as follows: Chapter 1 presents an introduction to the field of nonlinear optics from the perspective of the nonlinear susceptibility. The nonlinear susceptibility is a quantity that is used to determine the nonlinear polarization of a material medium in terms of the strength of an applied optical-frequency electric field. It thus provides a framework for describing nonlinear optical phenomena. Chapter 2 continues the description of nonlinear optics by describing the propagation of light waves through nonlinear optical media by means of the optical wave equation. This chapter introduces the important concept of phase matching and presents detailed descriptions of the important nonlinear optical phenomena of second-harmonic generation and sum- and difference-frequency generation. Chapter 3 concludes the introductory portion of the book by presenting a description of the quantum mechanical theory of the nonlinear optical susceptibility. Simplified expressions for the nonlinear susceptibility are first derived through use of the Schrödinger equation, and then more accurate expressions are derived through use of the density matrix equations of motion. The density matrix formalism is itself developed in considerable detail in this chapter in order to render this important discussion accessible to the beginning student.

Chapters 4 through 6 deal with properties and applications of the nonlinear refractive index. Chapter 4 introduces the topic of the nonlinear refractive index. Properties, including tensor properties, of the nonlinear refractive index are discussed in detail, and physical processes that lead to the nonlinear refractive index, such as nonresonant electronic polarization and molecular orientation, are described. Chapter 5 is devoted to a description of nonlinearities in the refractive index resulting from the response of two-level atoms. Related topics that are discussed in this chapter include saturation, power broadening, optical Stark shifts, Rabi oscillations, and dressed atomic states. Chapter 6 deals with applications of the nonlinear refractive index. Topics that are included are optical phase conjugation, self focusing, optical bistability, two-beam coupling, pulse propagation, and the formation of optical solitons.

Chapters 7 through 9 deal with spontaneous and stimulated light scattering and the related topic of acoustooptics. Chapter 7 introduces this area by presenting a description of theories of spontaneous light scattering and by describing the important practical topic of acoustooptics.

Chapter 8 presents a description of stimulated Brillouin and stimulated Rayleigh scattering. These topics are related in that they both entail the scattering of light from material disturbances that can be described in terms of the standard thermodynamic variables of pressure and entropy. Also included in this chapter is a description of phase conjugation by stimulated Brillouin scattering and a theoretical description of stimulated Brillouin scattering in gases. Chapter 9 presents a description of stimulated Raman and stimulated Rayleigh-wing scattering. These processes are related in that they entail the scattering of light from disturbances associated with the positions of atoms within a molecule.

The book concludes with Chapter 10, which treats the electrooptic and photorefractive effects. The chapter begins with a description of the electrooptic effect and describes how this effect can be used to fabricate light modulators. The chapter then presents a description of the photorefractive effect, which is a nonlinear optical interaction that results from the electrooptic effect. The use of the photorefractive effect in two-beam coupling and in four-wave mixing is also described.