



# PROGRESS IN OPTICS

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E. WOLF

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**PROGRESS IN OPTICS**

**VOLUME XL**

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## PREFACE

With the publication of the fortieth volume of *Progress in Optics*, a significant milestone has been reached. The first volume was published in 1961, a year after the invention of the laser, an event which triggered a wealth of new and exciting developments. Many of them have been reported in the 228 review articles published in this series since its inception.

The present volume contains six review articles on a variety of subjects of current research interests. The first, by T.R. Woliński, is concerned with polarimetric optical fibers and sensors. These devices have created a novel generation of powerful sensory-oriented techniques. The article reviews the main efforts and achievements in this field within the last two decades. It discusses the physical origin of polarization phenomena in birefringent fibers, both at the fundamental and the applied levels, and various deformation effects due to pressure, strain, twist and temperature on propagation of the lowest-order mode in fibers.

The second article, by J. Tanida and Y. Ichioka, presents a review of recent researches on digital optical computing. After introducing the basic concepts needed for understanding the developments in this field, some feasibility experiments as well as software studies are discussed.

The article by V. Peřinová and A. Lukš which follows, deals largely with photodetection from the standpoint of the theory of open systems, bordering on novel techniques for testing irreversibility via quantum trajectories. Both destructive and non-destructive models of the process of photodetection are discussed.

The fourth article, by Z. Zalevsky, D. Mendlovic and A.W. Lohmann, presents an account of modern theories of resolution in optical systems, based on the concepts of communication theory.

The next article, by J. Turunen, M. Kuittinen and F. Wyrowski, is concerned with the design of microstructured optical elements by the use of electromagnetic diffraction theory. Such an approach is required when the paraxial approximation is inadequate to describe their performance, or when it becomes necessary to take into account the state of polarization of the light. Diffractive elements based on linear or modulated gratings which operate in zero-order, first-order and multi-order modes are discussed.

The concluding article by Z. Ficek and H.S. Freedhoff deals with the theory underlying the interaction of an atom with an intense polychromatic driving field, with particular reference to certain experiments. Several different systems which have been studied to date are discussed, including subharmonic resonances in the absorption spectrum of a strong probe, the fluorescence, near-resonance absorption and the Autler–Townes absorption by the entangled driven systems.

In publishing this fortieth volume it is appropriate to acknowledge the substantial help which I have received over the years. There are too many persons to acknowledge individually. Three of them, however, deserve special mention: Mr. Jeroen Soutberg, director of ISYS Prepress Services in the Netherlands, is largely responsible for the production of these volumes. He must be credited for consistently maintaining the highest possible standards. I wish to thank Dr. M. Suhail Zubairy, one of my former students and now Professor at a University in Islamabad, Pakistan for preparing, for many years, the subject indexes for these volumes. I also wish to express my appreciation to Dr. Joost Kircz, a former publisher of Elsevier, who provided much help and advice with the publication of earlier volumes in this series. Finally, I wish to thank members of the Editorial Advisory Board of Progress in Optics for their part in having made this series such a successful enterprise.

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October 1999

# CONTENTS

## I. POLARIMETRIC OPTICAL FIBERS AND SENSORS

by TOMASZ R. WOLIŃSKI (WARSAW, POLAND)

|   |    |
|---|----|
| § 1. INTRODUCTION . . . . .   | 3  |
| § 2. POLARIZATION PHENOMENA IN OPTICAL FIBERS . . . . .                                 | 4  |
| 2.1. Modes of optical fiber . . . . .   | 5  |
| 2.2. Polarization of the modes . . . . .  | 6  |
| 2.3. Optical fibers sensitive to polarization effects . . . . .                         | 9  |
| 2.3.1. Low-birefringence polarization-maintaining fibers . . . . .                      | 10 |
| 2.3.2. Highly birefringent polarization-maintaining fibers . . . . .                    | 10 |
| 2.4. Polarization evolution in the lowest-order modes of a birefringent fiber . . . . . | 12 |
| 2.4.1. The Jones formalism . . . . .  | 14 |
| 2.4.2. The Mueller-Stokes formalism . . . . .   | 18 |
| 2.4.3. The Poincaré representation . . . . .  | 20 |
| § 3. BIREFRINGENCE IN OPTICAL FIBERS . . . . .  | 22 |
| 3.1. Intrinsic birefringence . . . . .  | 22 |
| 3.2. Induced (extrinsic) birefringence . . . . .  | 24 |
| 3.3. Nonlinear birefringence . . . . .  | 24 |
| 3.3.1. Optical Kerr effect . . . . .  | 25 |
| 3.3.2. Pulse shaping . . . . .  | 26 |
| 3.4. Basic measurements: birefringence and polarization mode dispersion . . . . .       | 27 |
| § 4. DEFORMATION EFFECTS IN HIGHLY BIREFRINGENT FIBERS . . . . .                        | 28 |
| 4.1. Symmetrical deformation effects . . . . .  | 28 |
| 4.2. Hydrostatic pressure . . . . .   | 30 |
| 4.3. Axial strain . . . . .   | 34 |
| 4.3.1. Differential phase evolution and birefringence changes . . . . .                 | 35 |
| 4.3.2. Optical fibers under strain . . . . .  | 36 |
| 4.3.2.1. Birefringence changes under strain . . . . .                                   | 36 |
| 4.3.2.2. Strain sensitivity of HB fibers . . . . .                                      | 37 |
| 4.4. Nonsymmetric deformation effect: twist . . . . .                                   | 39 |
| 4.4.1. Theory of coupled local modes . . . . .  | 40 |
| 4.4.1.1. Expansion in terms of local normal modes . . . . .                             | 40 |
| 4.4.1.2. Continuum condition . . . . .  | 41 |
| 4.4.1.3. Weak mode coupling . . . . .   | 41 |
| 4.4.1.4. Strong mode coupling . . . . .   | 42 |
| 4.4.2. Mode coupling in a twisted HB fiber . . . . .                                    | 43 |
| 4.4.2.1. Geometrical effect . . . . .   | 43 |

|  |    |
|--|----|
| 4.4.2.2. Elasto-optic effect . . . . .   | 44 |
| 4.4.2.3. Coupled-mode equations . . . . .  | 45 |
| 4.5. Twist under pressure/strain . . . . .   | 47 |
| 4.5.1. Birefringence measurement under stress . . . . .                                | 47 |
| § 5. APPLICATION OF POLARIZATION EFFECTS . . . . .                                     | 52 |
| 5.1. Polarimetric fiber-optic sensors and systems . . . . .                            | 52 |
| 5.1.1. Single-mode regime of operation: the truly polarimetric sensor . . . . .        | 53 |
| 5.1.2. Two-mode regime of operation: the intermodal interference sensor . . . . .      | 54 |
| 5.1.3. Polarimetric all-fiber sensor . . . . .   | 56 |
| 5.1.4. Polarimetric strain-gauge manometer . . . . .                                   | 57 |
| 5.2. The influence of temperature . . . . .  | 58 |
| 5.2.1. Methods of temperature compensation . . . . .                                   | 59 |
| 5.2.1.1. Temperature compensation in a polarimetric sensor . . . . .                   | 59 |
| 5.2.1.2. Temperature compensation in a two-mode interferometric sensor . . . . .       | 63 |
| 5.3. Polarimetric fiber-optic sensors with partially polarized laser sources . . . . . | 64 |
| 5.4. Polarimetric smart structures . . . . .   | 65 |
| 5.5. Dynamic polarimetric optical fiber sensing . . . . .                              | 68 |
| § 6. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES . . . . .                                     | 69 |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS . . . . .   | 70 |
| REFERENCES . . . . .   | 70 |

## II. DIGITAL OPTICAL COMPUTING

by JUN TANIDA AND YOSHIKI ICHIOKA (OSAKA, JAPAN)

|   |    |
|---|----|
| § 1. INTRODUCTION . . . . .                       | 79 |
| § 2. BASIC CONCEPTS . . . . .                     | 79 |
| 2.1. Logical operation . . . . .                  | 80 |
| 2.2. Logic gate array . . . . .                   | 80 |
| 2.3. Free-space optical interconnection . . . . . | 81 |
| 2.4. Methodology for logic construction . . . . . | 82 |
| 2.5. Smart pixels . . . . .                       | 82 |
| 2.6. Optical computing system . . . . .           | 83 |
| 2.7. Software for problem solving . . . . .       | 83 |
| § 3. LOGIC GATES . . . . .                        | 83 |
| 3.1. Optical logic devices . . . . .              | 83 |
| 3.2. Coded pattern processing . . . . .           | 85 |
| 3.3. Optical procedural techniques . . . . .      | 87 |
| § 4. METHODS FOR LOGIC CONSTRUCTION . . . . .     | 88 |
| 4.1. Holographic interconnection . . . . .        | 89 |
| 4.2. Multistage interconnection network . . . . . | 90 |
| 4.3. Reconfigurable functional module . . . . .   | 91 |
| § 5. DEMONSTRATION SYSTEMS . . . . .              | 93 |
| 5.1. TSE computer . . . . .                       | 93 |
| 5.2. Free-space flip-flop and DOCIP . . . . .     | 94 |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 5.3. Bell Laboratories systems              | 95  |
| 5.4. O-CLIP                                 | 95  |
| 5.5. OPALS                                  | 96  |
| 5.6. SPE-4k                                 | 97  |
| 5.7. Smart pixel systems                    | 98  |
| 5.8. OAL-NC                                 | 100 |
| § 6. SOFTWARE RESEARCH                      | 101 |
| 6.1. Parallel logic systems for programming | 101 |
| 6.1.1. Cellular logic                       | 101 |
| 6.1.2. Symbolic substitution                | 102 |
| 6.1.3. Optical array logic                  | 102 |
| 6.1.4. Binary image algebra                 | 103 |
| 6.1.5. Image logic algebra                  | 104 |
| 6.2. Applications of parallel logic systems | 105 |
| 6.2.1. Image processing                     | 105 |
| 6.2.2. Numerical processing                 | 106 |
| 6.2.3. Emulation of parallel processes      | 107 |
| 6.2.4. Non-numerical processing             | 108 |
| § 7. FURTHER DIRECTIONS                     | 110 |
| § 8. CONCLUSION                             | 110 |
| REFERENCES                                  | 111 |

### III. CONTINUOUS MEASUREMENTS IN QUANTUM OPTICS

*by V. PEŘINOVÁ AND A. LUKŠ (OLOMOUC, CZECH REPUBLIC)*

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| § 1. INTRODUCTION   | 118 |
| § 2. THE MANDEL AND SRINIVAS–DAVIES APPROACHES TO MODELING PHOTODETECTION | 121 |
| 2.1. Semiclassical approach to photodetection                             | 121 |
| 2.2. Quantum optical approach to photodetection                           | 125 |
| 2.3. Generalized Srinivas–Davies model                                    | 128 |
| 2.4. Bunching and antibunching  | 132 |
| § 3. REVERSIBILITY AND IRREVERSIBILITY OF PHOTOCOUNTING                   | 135 |
| 3.1. Scheme of successive measurements                                    | 135 |
| 3.2. Unraveling the master equation                                       | 138 |
| 3.3. Logical reversibility in quantum measurement                         | 146 |
| 3.4. Reversibility of quantum jumps                                       | 148 |
| § 4. MODELS OF CONTINUOUS MEASUREMENT                                     | 148 |
| 4.1. Stochastic representation of detection theory                        | 149 |
| 4.2. Destructive and nondemolition measurements                           | 158 |
| 4.3. Microscopic models and observation of atoms                          | 162 |
| § 5. PROBABILITY-DENSITY FUNCTIONAL FOR QUANTUM PHOTODETECTION PROCESSES  | 169 |
| 5.1. Generating functionals for random-point process                      | 169 |
| § 6. QUASICONTINUOUS SCHEMES OF PHOTODETECTION                            | 173 |
| 6.1. Measurement with beam splitters                                      | 173 |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 6.2. Analogy to continuous measurement . . . . .  | 177 |
| 6.3. Measurement by means of parametric amplifiers and four-wave mixers . . . . .                                       | 179 |
| § 7. SPECIAL STATES OF AN OPTICAL MODE BY MEANS OF CONTINUOUS AND NEARLY CONTINUOUS MEASUREMENTS ON THIS MODE . . . . . | 182 |
| § 8. PRODUCTION OF CORRELATED PHOTONS . . . . .   | 185 |
| § 9. CONDITIONAL GENERATION OF SPECIAL STATES USING IDEAL STATE REDUCTION OF ENTANGLED FIELDS . . . . .                 | 189 |
| 9.1. Correlated photons . . . . .   | 190 |
| 9.2. Entanglement via other techniques . . . . .  | 218 |
| § 10. SPECIAL STATES OF ONE OR TWO OPTICAL MODES BY MEANS OF CONTINUOUS MEASUREMENT ON A DIFFERENT MODE . . . . .       | 226 |
| 10.1. Continuous state reduction . . . . .  | 226 |
| 10.2. Destructive continuous photon-number measurement on the idler mode . . . . .                                      | 230 |
| 10.3. Nondemolition continuous photon-number measurement on the idler mode . . . . .                                    | 237 |
| § 11. EIGENVALUE PROBLEMS FOR INTELLIGENT STATES GENERATED IN IDEAL AND CONTINUOUS MEASUREMENTS . . . . .               | 241 |
| 11.1. Ideal state reduction . . . . .   | 241 |
| 11.2. Continuous state reduction . . . . .  | 251 |
| § 12. CONCLUSION . . . . .  | 257 |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS . . . . .  | 258 |
| APPENDIX A. SUPEROPERATOR-VALUED MEASURE AND RELATED CONCEPTS . . . . .   | 258 |
| APPENDIX B. ITÔ'S CALCULUS WITHOUT ITÔ'S DIFFERENTIAL . . . . .   | 261 |
| REFERENCES . . . . .  | 262 |

#### IV. OPTICAL SYSTEMS WITH IMPROVED RESOLVING POWER

by ZEEV ZALEVSKY, DAVID MENDLOVIC (TEL-AVIV, ISRAEL)

AND ADOLF W. LOHMANN (ERLANGEN, GERMANY)

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| § 1. INTRODUCTION . . . . .  | 273 |
| 1.1. Diffraction Resolution (DR) . . . . .   | 274 |
| 1.2. Geometrical Resolution (GR) . . . . .   | 274 |
| 1.3. Noise Equivalent Resolution (NER) . . . . .                                       | 275 |
| § 2. THE SPACE-BANDWIDTH PRODUCT (SW) AS A TOOL FOR SUPER RESOLUTION STUDIES . . . . . | 275 |
| 2.1. The Wigner distribution function . . . . .  | 276 |
| 2.2. The space-bandwidth product of signals: SWI . . . . .                             | 278 |
| 2.2.1. The SWI-number . . . . .  | 278 |
| 2.2.2. The SWI area . . . . .  | 279 |
| 2.3. The space-bandwidth product of a system – SWY . . . . .                           | 279 |
| 2.3.1. The SWY number . . . . .  | 279 |
| 2.3.2. The SWY area . . . . .  | 280 |
| 2.4. The SW as a 2D function . . . . .   | 280 |
| 2.4.1. The SW in a hyper space . . . . .   | 281 |
| § 3. SUPER RESOLUTION AS SW ADAPTATION . . . . .                                       | 282 |
| 3.1. Lossless transmission through a system . . . . .                                  | 282 |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 3.2. Super-resolution strategy . . . . .  | 283 |
| 3.3. Hyper space adaptation . . . . .   | 284 |
| 3.4. Generalizations . . . . .  | 286 |
| 3.5. Survey of the exploited signal constraints . . . . .   | 286 |
| 3.5.1. Restricted object shape . . . . .  | 286 |
| 3.5.2. Temporally restricted signals . . . . .  | 289 |
| 3.5.3. Wavelength-restricted signals . . . . .  | 290 |
| 3.5.4. One-dimensional signals . . . . .  | 291 |
| 3.5.5. Polarization-restricted signals . . . . .  | 291 |
| § 4. SUPER RESOLUTION BASED ON TEMPORAL CONSTRAINTS . . . . .   | 293 |
| 4.1. 1D time multiplexing super resolution . . . . .  | 294 |
| 4.1.1. System analysis: incoherent . . . . .  | 294 |
| 4.1.2. System analysis: coherent . . . . .  | 299 |
| 4.1.3. Experimental verification . . . . .  | 301 |
| 4.2. 2D time multiplexing super resolution in $x$ and in $y$ . . . . .  | 304 |
| 4.2.1. System analysis . . . . .  | 304 |
| 4.2.2. Experimental verification . . . . .  | 306 |
| 4.3. High-frequency enhancement by means of a super-resolution optical system for temporally restricted objects . . . . . | 308 |
| 4.4. Related topics . . . . .   | 311 |
| § 5. THE GENERALIZED WIGNER FUNCTION FOR THE ANALYSIS OF SUPER-RESOLUTION SYSTEMS . . . . .                               | 312 |
| 5.1. Motivation . . . . .   | 312 |
| 5.2. Quasi-monochromatic and polychromatic Wigner function . . . . .  | 312 |
| 5.3. Wigner function of a signal superimposed by a grating . . . . .  | 314 |
| 5.4. Fourier transforming and passing through a slit . . . . .  | 316 |
| § 6. SUPER RESOLUTION FOR OBJECTS WITH FINITE SIZE . . . . .  | 320 |
| 6.1. The setup and the layout of the theory . . . . .   | 320 |
| 6.2. Theory of the coherent case . . . . .  | 322 |
| 6.3. Ghost images . . . . .   | 327 |
| 6.4. Theory of the incoherent case . . . . .  | 328 |
| § 7. WAVELENGTH-MULTIPLEXING SUPER RESOLUTION . . . . .   | 329 |
| 7.1. The suggested system . . . . .   | 330 |
| 7.2. Theoretical analysis of the system . . . . .   | 334 |
| 7.3. Experimental results . . . . .   | 336 |
| § 8. CONCLUSIONS . . . . .  | 338 |
| LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS . . . . .   | 339 |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS . . . . .  | 339 |
| REFERENCES . . . . .  | 340 |

## V. DIFFRACTIVE OPTICS: ELECTROMAGNETIC APPROACH

by JARI TURUNEN, MARKKU KUITTINEN (JOENSUU, FINLAND) AND FRANK WYROWSKI (JENA, GERMANY)

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| § 1. INTRODUCTION . . . . .                           | 345 |
| § 2. SOME RESONANCE-DOMAIN EFFECTS . . . . .          | 346 |
| 2.1. Total absorption of light by a grating . . . . . | 346 |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| 2.2. Phase retardation by a reflection grating . . . . .         | 347 |
| 2.3. Bragg effect in a binary grating . . . . .                  | 347 |
| 2.4. Guided-mode resonance effect . . . . .                      | 348 |
| 2.5. Binary beam deflector for normal incidence . . . . .        | 348 |
| § 3. ELECTROMAGNETIC THEORY OF GRATINGS . . . . .                | 349 |
| 3.1. Grating-diffraction geometry . . . . .                      | 349 |
| 3.2. Rayleigh expansions and grating equations . . . . .         | 350 |
| 3.3. Diffraction efficiencies . . . . .                          | 352 |
| 3.4. Exact eigenmode model for binary gratings . . . . .         | 352 |
| 3.5. Other methods of grating analysis . . . . .                 | 355 |
| 3.6. Models for non-periodic geometries . . . . .                | 356 |
| 3.7. Thin-element approximation . . . . .                        | 357 |
| 3.8. Effective media . . . . .                                   | 357 |
| § 4. LINEAR GRATINGS OPERATING IN FIRST-ORDER MODE . . . . .     | 359 |
| 4.1. Binary gratings . . . . .                                   | 359 |
| 4.2. Multilevel gratings . . . . .                               | 362 |
| § 5. LINEAR GRATINGS OPERATING IN ZEROth-ORDER MODE . . . . .    | 364 |
| 5.1. Metallic subwavelength transmission gratings . . . . .      | 365 |
| 5.2. Grating antireflection surfaces . . . . .                   | 367 |
| 5.3. Grating retarders . . . . .                                 | 368 |
| 5.4. Guided-mode resonance filters . . . . .                     | 370 |
| § 6. MODULATED GRATINGS OPERATING IN FIRST-ORDER MODE . . . . .  | 371 |
| 6.1. High-carrier-frequency diffractive elements . . . . .       | 371 |
| 6.2. High-numerical-aperture diffractive lenses . . . . .        | 372 |
| § 7. MODULATED GRATINGS OPERATING IN ZEROth-ORDER MODE . . . . . | 374 |
| 7.1. Spatially variable effective media . . . . .                | 374 |
| 7.2. Subwavelength-structured diffractive lenses . . . . .       | 375 |
| 7.3. Polarization multiplexing with effective media . . . . .    | 376 |
| 7.4. Spatially variable polarization components . . . . .        | 376 |
| § 8. GRATINGS OPERATING IN MULTI-ORDER MODE . . . . .            | 377 |
| 8.1. Two-beam splitters . . . . .                                | 378 |
| 8.2. Array illuminators . . . . .                                | 379 |
| § 9. CONCLUSIONS . . . . .                                       | 383 |
| REFERENCES . . . . .   | 384 |

## VI. SPECTROSCOPY IN POLYCHROMATIC FIELDS

by ZBIGNIEW FICEK (BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA) AND HELEN S. FREEDHOFF (TORONTO, CANADA)

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| § 1. INTRODUCTION . . . . .                             | 391 |
| § 2. SUBHARMONIC RESONANCES . . . . .                   | 394 |
| 2.1. Experimental studies . . . . .                     | 396 |
| 2.2. Applications of subharmonic spectroscopy . . . . . | 397 |
| 2.2.1. Two-photon laser . . . . .                       | 397 |
| 2.2.2. Lasing without population inversion . . . . .    | 397 |

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| 2.2.3. Laser cooling . . . . .                          | 398 |
| § 3. THEORETICAL METHODS . . . . .                      | 398 |
| 3.1. Floquet method . . . . .                           | 399 |
| 3.1.1. Master equation . . . . .                        | 399 |
| 3.1.2. Optical Bloch equations . . . . .                | 400 |
| 3.1.3. Recurrence relation . . . . .                    | 401 |
| 3.2. Dressed-atom method . . . . .                      | 404 |
| 3.2.1. Dressed states . . . . .                         | 404 |
| 3.2.2. Fluorescence . . . . .                           | 405 |
| 3.2.3. Populations . . . . .                            | 406 |
| 3.2.4. Coherences . . . . .                             | 406 |
| 3.2.5. Fluorescence spectrum . . . . .                  | 407 |
| 3.2.6. Near-resonance absorption spectrum . . . . .     | 408 |
| 3.2.7. Autler–Townes absorption spectrum . . . . .      | 409 |
| § 4. BICHROMATIC FIELDS . . . . .                       | 409 |
| 4.1. Symmetric excitation . . . . .                     | 410 |
| 4.1.1. Dressed states . . . . .                         | 410 |
| 4.1.2. Fluorescence spectrum . . . . .                  | 413 |
| 4.1.3. Near-resonance absorption spectrum . . . . .     | 415 |
| 4.1.4. Autler–Townes absorption spectrum . . . . .      | 417 |
| 4.2. Nearly symmetric excitation . . . . .              | 417 |
| 4.2.1. Fluorescence spectrum . . . . .                  | 417 |
| 4.2.2. Near-resonance absorption spectrum . . . . .     | 420 |
| 4.2.3. Autler–Townes absorption spectrum . . . . .      | 420 |
| 4.3. Doubly driven atom . . . . .                       | 421 |
| 4.3.1. The multiphoton ac Stark effect . . . . .        | 422 |
| 4.3.1.1. Fluorescence spectrum . . . . .                | 423 |
| 4.3.1.2. Near-resonance index of refraction . . . . .   | 424 |
| 4.3.1.3. Autler–Townes absorption spectrum . . . . .    | 425 |
| 4.3.1.4. Shifts of the subharmonic resonances . . . . . | 425 |
| 4.3.2. Two fields with equal frequencies . . . . .      | 427 |
| 4.3.3. Driving at the Rabi frequency . . . . .          | 430 |
| § 5. POLYCHROMATIC FIELDS, $p \geq 3$ . . . . .         | 431 |
| 5.1. Amplitude-modulated driving fields . . . . .       | 431 |
| 5.1.1. Floquet treatment . . . . .                      | 431 |
| 5.1.2. Dressed-atom treatment . . . . .                 | 432 |
| 5.2. Driving at successive Rabi frequencies . . . . .   | 436 |
| 5.3. Multiple fields, $p > 3$ . . . . .                 | 437 |
| ACKNOWLEDGMENTS . . . . .                               | 438 |
| REFERENCES . . . . .                                    | 439 |
| AUTHOR INDEX . . . . .                                  | 443 |
| SUBJECT INDEX . . . . .                                 | 457 |
| CONTENTS OF PREVIOUS VOLUMES . . . . .                  | 461 |
| CUMULATIVE INDEX . . . . .                              | 471 |

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**I**

**POLARIMETRIC OPTICAL FIBERS AND SENSORS**

BY

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## CONTENTS

|   | PAGE |
|---|------|
| § 1. INTRODUCTION . . . . .   | 3    |
| § 2. POLARIZATION PHENOMENA IN OPTICAL FIBERS . . . .               | 4    |
| § 3. BIREFRINGENCE IN OPTICAL FIBERS . . . . .                      | 22   |
| § 4. DEFORMATION EFFECTS IN HIGHLY BIREFRINGENT<br>FIBERS . . . . . | 28   |
| § 5. APPLICATION OF POLARIZATION EFFECTS . . . . .                  | 52   |
| § 6. CONCLUSIONS AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES . . . . .                  | 69   |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS . . . . .  | 70   |
| REFERENCES . . . . .  | 70   |

## § 1. Introduction

Over the last two decades significant progress has occurred in optical fiber technologies from the use of intensity (amplitude) modulation to that of modulation of the optical polarization of the electromagnetic wave propagating along a fiber. At the same time new possibilities have opened up for both optical communication and also optical fiber sensors and systems. The key to successful construction of these new sensing devices and coherent communication systems is in high-performance polarimetric optical fibers and sensors. They are mostly based on highly birefringent (HB), polarization-maintaining (PM) fibers, which have aroused great interest from both theoretical and practical points of view. Although polarization effects in optical fibers initially played a minor role in the development of lightwave systems, their importance is still growing, due to an enormous increase in optical path lengths that can be achieved with single-mode fibers and also to an increase in bit rates in digital systems, as reviewed by Poole and Nagel [1997]. These two events recently precipitated a rediscovery of polarization phenomena in lightwave systems.

Before 1980 it was impossible to exploit the polarization modulation in a fiber for sensing applications, since the conventional single-mode fibers manufactured for telecommunication use do not hold the optical wave amplitude in a particular polarization state. The appearance of HB fibers created a new generation of fiber-optic sensors known as polarimetric fiber sensors, which use polarization (phase) modulation within these fibers or at their output due to various external perturbations describing the physical environment.

The aim of this chapter is to review the foremost achievements and efforts in research activities related to the development of a new generation of polarimetric optical fibers and sensors at both fundamental and applied levels during the past twenty years. The review underlines the physical origin of the perturbations (e.g., those induced by pressure, strain, bend, twist, temperature) on the lowest-order mode propagation in HB polarization-maintaining fibers together with their impact on applications in optical fiber sensors and systems.

Several papers and chapters in textbooks have been published on polarization-maintaining fibers and polarization effects in fibers, for example, by Kaminow [1981], Payne, Barlow and Ramсков-Hansen [1982], Rashleigh [1983a], Noda,