

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Optics in Telecom and Datacom and the role of VCSELs	2
1.3	Moore's Law in Datacom	7
1.4	Recent Progress on High Speed VCSELs	9
1.4.1	State-of-the-art of 850 nm VCSELs	10
1.4.2	State-of-the-art of 980 nm VCSELs	11
1.4.3	State-of-the-art of 1100 nm VCSELs	12
1.5	Dissertation Contribution and Overview	13
	References	14
2	Physical Processes in Lasers and VCSEL Design	19
2.1	Optical Properties	20
2.1.1	Transfer Matrix Method and 1D Simulations	21
2.1.2	Eigenmode Expansion Technique for 3D VCSEL Modeling	28
2.1.3	Mode Structure of Oxide-Confined VCSELs	33
2.1.4	Calculation of the Lasing Mode Parameters	35
2.2	Electrical Properties	41
2.2.1	Carrier Dynamic in Semiconductor Lasers	41
2.2.2	Electrical Design of the DBR Mirrors	44
2.2.3	Design of the Active Region	48
2.2.4	Equivalent Circuit and Electrical Parasitics of a VCSEL	53
2.2.5	Design of Impedance Matched High Frequency Contact Pads	56
2.3	Thermal Properties	59
2.3.1	Heat Generation and Thermal Resistance of Oxide-Confined VCSELs	59
2.3.2	Temperature Dependence of the Basic Laser Parameters	64

2.4	The Rate Equations	67
2.4.1	Rate Equation Model and Steady-State Solutions	67
2.4.2	Small-Signal Frequency Response.	74
	References	82
3	VCSEL Growth and Fabrication	85
3.1	Growth of the VCSEL Epitaxial Structure	85
3.2	VCSEL Fabrication Technology	88
	References	93
4	High Temperature Stable 980 nm VCSEL Results	95
4.1	VCSELs with the SML Active Region.	95
4.1.1	Device Structure	95
4.1.2	Static Characteristics	96
4.1.3	Small Signal Modulation Analysis	101
4.1.4	Large Signal Modulation Characteristics	107
4.1.5	Summary of the 980 nm SML-VCSEL Results.	109
4.2	VCSELs with the QW Active Region	111
4.2.1	Device Structure	111
4.2.2	Static Characteristics	112
4.2.3	Small Signal Modulation Analysis	117
4.2.4	Large Signal Modulation Characteristics	127
4.2.5	Summary of the 980 nm QW-VCSEL Results	130
	References	132
5	High Speed 850 nm VCSEL Results	133
5.1	Device Structure	134
5.2	Static Characteristics	135
5.3	Small Signal Modulation Analysis.	138
5.4	Large Signal Modulation Characteristics	144
5.5	Summary of the 850 nm QW-VCSEL Results.	149
	References	150
6	Conclusions and Outlook	151
6.1	Summary	151
6.2	Future Works	153
	References	156
	Appendix	159
	Curriculum Vitae	163
	List of Publications and Conference Presentations	165