

Contents

Preface IX

References XII

- 1 A Scenic Route through the Laser 1**
 - 1.1 The Meaning of »Laser« 1
 - 1.2 Radiation from an Atom 9
 - 1.3 The Anatomy of a Laser 15
 - 1.4 Some Examples of Lasers 20
 - 1.5 Pulsed Lasers 34
 - 1.6 Properties of a Laser Beam 41
 - 1.7 How to Make the Shortest Laser Pulse 45
 - 1.8 Ultrashort Ultraintense Laser Pulses 61
 - 1.9 Ultrashort Ultraprecise Laser Pulses 66
 - 1.10 Ultrashort Ultrasensitive Laser Pulses 69
 - 1.11 The Nonlinear Wizard: Juggling with Frequencies 70
 - References 79
- 2 Laser Coherence at Home 81**
 - 2.1 The Laser Printer 81
 - 2.2 The Laser Scanner 83
 - 2.3 The Laser in Data Storage 87
 - 2.4 Miscellaneous Applications 90
- 3 The Laser in Medicine 93**
 - 3.1 Introduction 93
 - 3.2 The Laser in Dentistry 94
 - 3.3 The Laser and Vision 96
 - 3.4 Lasers and the Neural Network 102
 - 3.5 Lasers for the Skin and Cosmetics 104
 - 3.6 Lasers in Surgery 110
 - 3.7 Biostimulation Lasers for Ulcer Treatment 113

	3.8 Lasers in Diagnostics	113
	3.9 Ultrafast Peeking	125
	References	131
4	Lasers in Industry	133
	4.1 Laser Machining	133
	4.2 Laser Cutting/Drilling	134
	4.3 Cutting the Forest	136
	4.4 Nanostructure with Lasers	137
	References	140
5	Laser Time Capsule	141
	5.1 Introduction	141
	5.2 Ultrashort Pulses in Microscopy	142
	5.3 Communication	144
	5.4 Frequency Combs	149
	References	158
6	Light in Matter	159
	6.1 Attosecond Science	161
	6.2 Lasers in Nuclear Physics and Accelerators	170
	6.3 Laser Cooling	177
	References	179
7	High Power Lasers (Tazer/Teaser)	181
	7.1 Filaments	181
	7.2 Laser-Induced Lightning	191
	7.3 Laser Tazer–Teaser	198
	References	199
8	Laser Sensors	203
	8.1 Passive Sensors	203
	8.2 Active Sensors	217
	References	224
9	Future Perspectives	227
	References	231
	Index	232
	Color Plates	237