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Autore	Svelto Orazio
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Nota di contenuto	1. Introductory Concepts -- 2. Interaction of Radiation with Atoms and Ions -- 3. Energy Levels, Radiative, and Nonradiative Transitions in Molecules and Semiconductors -- 4. Ray and Wave Propagation through Optical Media -- 5. Passive Optical Resonators -- 6. Pumping Processes -- 7. Continuous Wave Laser Behavior -- 8. Transient Laser Behavior -- 9. Solid-State, Dye, and Semiconductor Lasers -- 10. Gas, Chemical, Free-Electron, and X-Ray Lasers -- 11. Properties of Laser Beams -- 12. Laser Beam Transformation: Propagation, Amplification, Frequency Conversion, Pulse Compression, and Pulse Expansion -- Appendixes -- A. Semiclassical Treatment of the Interaction of Radiation and Matter -- B. Lineshape Calculation for Collision Broadening -- C. Simplified Treatment of Amplified Spontaneous Emission -- References -- D. Calculation of the Radiative Transition Rates of Molecular Transitions -- E. Space-Dependent Rate Equations -- E.1. Four-Level Lasers -- E.2. Quasi-Three-Level Lasers -- F. Mode-Locking Theory: Homogeneous Line -- F.1. Active Mode Locking -- F.2.

Passive Mode Locking -- References -- G. Propagation of a Laser Pulse through a Dispersive Medium or a Gain Medium -- Reference -- H. Higher-Order Coherence -- I. Physical Constants and Useful Conversion Factors -- Answers to Selected Problems -- Index.

Sommario/riassunto

This book is motivated by the very favorable reception given to the previous editions as well as by the considerable range of new developments in the laser field since the publication of the third edition in 1989. These new developments include, among others, quantum-well and multiple-quantum-well lasers, diode-pumped solid-state lasers, new concepts for both stable and unstable resonators, femtosecond lasers, ultra-high-brightness lasers, etc. This edition thus represents a radically revised version of the preceding edition, amounting essentially to a new book in its own right. However, the basic aim has remained the same, namely to provide a broad and unified description of laser behavior at the simplest level which is compatible with a correct physical understanding. The book is therefore intended as a textbook for a senior-level or first-year graduate course and/or as a reference book. The most relevant additions or changes to this edition can be summarized as follows: 1. A much-more detailed description of Amplified Spontaneous Emission has been given (Chapter 2) and a novel simplified treatment of this phenomenon, both for homogeneous and inhomogeneous lines, has been introduced (Appendix C). 2. A major fraction of a new chapter (Chapter 3) is dedicated to the interaction of radiation with semiconductor media, either in a bulk form or in a quantum-confined structure (quantum-well, quantum-wire and quantum dot). 3.
