

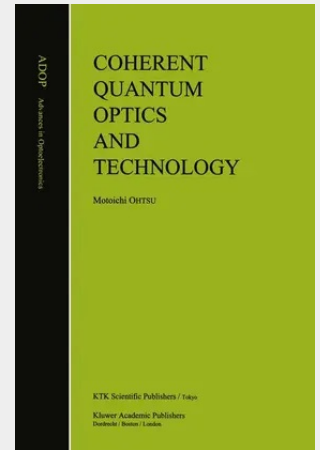
Coherent Quantum Optics and Technology

While preparing the manuscript of this book, the author was informed that Profs. H. Dehmelt, Univ. of Washington, W. Paul, Univ. Bonn and N. F. Ramsey, Harvard Univ. have won the Nobel Prize in Physics (1989; for their Nobel lectures, refer to Rev. Modern Physics, Vol. 62 (1990) pp. 525-552). Their main contributions are the pioneering works on the Ramsey resonance method, ion trap, and so on, which are the main topics to be discussed in this book.

There are two other groups previously awarded with the Nobel prize in Physics for their contributions to laser physics and quantum optics; C. H. Townes, N. G. Basov, and A. M. Prokhorov were awarded a Nobel prize for their works on the invention of masers and lasers as well as the basic studies of quantum electronics; N. Bloembergen and A. L. Schawlow, in 1981, for their works on laser spectroscopy. It is an exceptional case that a branch of physics could win the Nobel prize three times. This fact reflects and implies that laser physics and physics using lasers are important fields of basic study, which relate closely to the quantum optics and atomic physics. Furthermore, as the case of semiconductor lasers, it has become an important field for industrial applications, e.g., optical communication and optical disk memories. As shown by these examples, it can be considered that the study of laser is a universal one in science and technology, covering a wide range from basic physics to industrial applications.

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