



W. T. Silfvast, *Laser Fundamentals*, 2nd Ed. (Cambridge University, Cambridge, 2004). Paperback edition 2008.

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Book Review

This is a 642-page soft-cover updated and revised edition of the original version. This is a well-written clear introduction to lasers authored by a laser expert himself the discovered of numerous laser transitions. As such, this book offers a utilitarian approach to laser development and has a clear practical and experimental flavour. Of particular use to students, and scientists new to the field, are the numerous detailed numerical examples provided throughout the book. In addition to the standard laser and optical theory this book is particularly useful in its extensive description of the plethora of existing laser types including: atomic gas lasers, molecular gas lasers, X-ray plasma lasers, free electron lasers, dye lasers, solid-state lasers, fiber lasers, and semiconductor lasers. In summary: this version of *Laser Fundamentals* is highly recommended as a student text or as a guide to lasers for engineers and scientist new to the field.

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