

perturbing laser parameters can lead to pulsing - for instance pump modulations \Rightarrow output becomes resonant if pump modulation matches relaxation oscillations!

- Q-switching a cavity ~~losses~~ (and hence the Q-factor) by inserting a "shutter" in the cavity. When closed there's no feedback for stim. em. \Rightarrow pump can achieve inversion far beyond N_c , open shutter \rightarrow losses stored energy will be released as pulse that grows until losses match gain (which decreases due to stim. em. depopulating upper level). Fast switching (faster than the time it takes for the pulse to reach its peak value in 10-100 ns) the losses match the gain when $N=N_c$. Slow switching the pulse grows until the losses at the current opening matches the losses - when it opens further it can give rise to additional pulses (Fig. 8.4)
- Q-switched pulses are comparable to photon lifetime in the cavity in ns
- To get high-energy pulses a long upper level lifetime is needed to store the energy, if pumped by a pulse it should be shorter or comparable to the lifetime - otherwise spontaneous emission will deplete upper level before the pump pulse ends!
- Active Q-switch uses acousto-optic or electro-optic modulators
- Passive Q-switch uses saturable absorber = absorbs laser light (closed) but transmits more the more it absorbs, eventually it will be "open", it ~~decreases~~ (closes) as the inversion is depleted and the pulse does out and the pump starts repopulate inversion, it takes many passes to bleach the absorber \Rightarrow gain for different modes becomes more pronounced \Rightarrow easier to obtain single longitudinal mode operation

ch. 8.4.4 considers active Q-switching (fast switch) for 4-level laser, assumes single mode operation such that E_{in} 7.2.1b can be used: $\frac{dN}{dt} = R_p t + B \phi N - \frac{N}{\tau_c}$ assumes switching happens when the maximal inversion has been accumulated \rightarrow $\frac{d\phi}{dt} = (B V_n N - \frac{1}{\tau_c}) \phi$ \rightarrow $\frac{dN}{dt} = 0 \quad \phi = 0$ because the shutter has initially been ~~closed~~ \rightarrow $N_i = \epsilon R_p t$, assume $R_p t$ always looks the same \rightarrow \rightarrow $R_p(t) \propto R_p(0)$ and $R_p(t) dt \propto E_p$ \rightarrow $E_p \propto R_p(t) dt$ \rightarrow $E_p \propto \int R_p(t) dt$ \rightarrow $E_p \propto \frac{N_i}{M_f + E_p}$ beam area

assume that $N(t) \approx \phi(t)$ evolve much faster than the pump rate & spontaneous emission so:

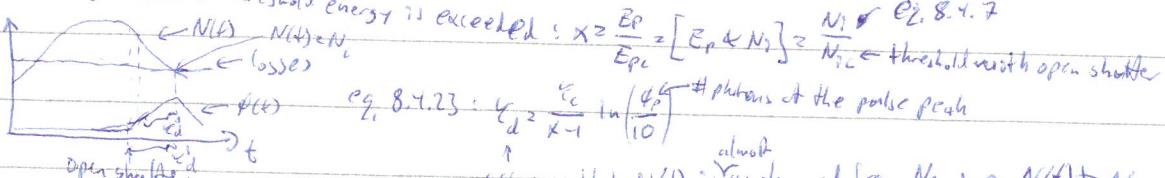
$$\frac{dN}{dt} = B \phi N \quad \text{when the switch is open} \Rightarrow E_{\text{out}} = \int P(t) dt = \frac{\tau_c}{2 \tau_p} \frac{N_i}{N_f} \frac{Ab h \nu}{\tau_c} \ll \epsilon g_2 \cdot 8.4.20$$

$$\frac{d\phi}{dt} = (B V_n N - \frac{1}{\tau_c}) \phi \quad \uparrow \text{influence inversion}$$

the peak of the pulse happens when the inversion has depleted until the gain closes, i.e. at $N=N_c = N_i \frac{\tau_c}{\tau_p}$ \rightarrow inversion at peak \rightarrow $N_f = N_i - \frac{\tau_c}{\tau_p}$ \rightarrow $N_f = N_i$ after pulses \rightarrow $\tau_p = \text{inversion lifetime}$ goes into the next inversion that

assume square pulse $\Rightarrow \Delta E_p = \frac{E_p}{P_p} \Rightarrow \Delta E_p = E_p \frac{N_i / N_f \cdot \tau_p}{N_i / N_p - \ln(N_i / N_f)} \approx \epsilon g_2 \cdot 8.4.21$

amount by which the threshold energy is exceeded: $\propto \frac{E_p}{E_{\text{th}}} = \left[E_p / N_i \right] = \frac{N_i}{N_i - \text{threshold with open shutter}}$ \rightarrow $\epsilon g_2 \cdot 8.4.7$

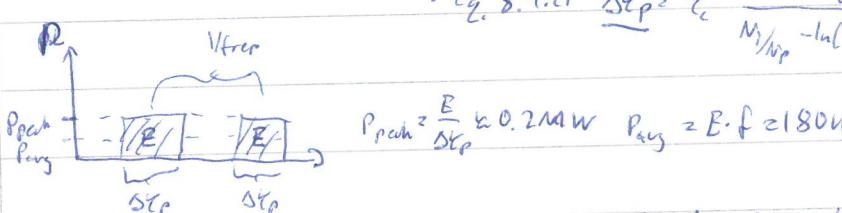


$$\epsilon g_2 \cdot 8.4.23: \frac{\tau_c}{\tau_p} \frac{E_p}{X-1} \ln\left(\frac{E_p}{X-1}\right) \# \text{photons at the pulse peak}$$

assumes that $N(t) = N_i$ unchanged from N_i , i.e. $N(t) \approx N_i$ which is at the pulse peak, the real delay between the opening of the shutter and the pulse peak is τ_p , τ_p is the time from opening of the shutter until $\frac{1}{10}$ of the peak value!

$R_1 = 100\%$ $R_2 = 20\%$
 $L = 18\text{cm}$
 from Eq. 8.4! $\sigma = 2.8 \cdot 10^{-19} \text{ cm}^2$ $E_{in} = 10\text{J}$ $E_{pmb}, B_{out}, \Delta E_p?$
 threshold
 High power Nd:YAG
 pulsed!
 $\eta_B = 22\text{cm} \leftarrow \text{accounts for retractive index in Nd:YAG!}$
 $E_{pca} = 3.4\text{J} \leftarrow \text{with } R_2 = 30\%$
 $\tau_a = 0.765$
 $\text{Eq. 8.4.7: } X = \frac{N_1}{N_2} \cdot \frac{E_p}{E_{pca}} \Rightarrow \frac{\tau_b}{\tau_a} = \left[N_1 \text{ & } E_{pca} \text{ which is the same in both cases} \right] = \frac{\frac{N_1}{N_2} \cdot \frac{E_p}{E_{pca}}}{\frac{N_1}{N_2} \cdot \frac{E_{pca}}{E_{pca}}} = \frac{E_p}{E_{pca}} = \frac{\eta_B}{\eta_a}$
 $\rightarrow \frac{\tau_b}{\tau_a} = \frac{E_p}{E_{pca}} = 2.3$
 $\rightarrow \eta_B (2.3) = 0.85$
 $\rightarrow E_{out} = \frac{\eta_B}{2} \frac{N_1}{N_p} \eta_a \frac{A_b}{\sigma} h\nu = [\text{assume } \lambda = 1.06\text{nm}] = 14\text{J}$
 $\text{Eq. 7.7.12: } \frac{1}{\tau_c} = \frac{\tau_{1c}}{L_e} + \frac{\tau_{2c}}{2L_e} + \frac{\tau_{2c}}{2L_e} = \frac{\tau_c}{L_e}, \frac{\Delta \tau_p}{\tau_c} = \frac{1}{\tau_c}$
 $\rightarrow \tau_c = 0.76\text{ns}$
 $\text{Eq. 8.4.21: } \frac{N(t)}{N_0} = 1 - e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_c}}$
 $\rightarrow \text{time from when was closed, see Eq. 8.4.20} \rightarrow$
 $\text{threshold is exceeded}$
 $\rightarrow \frac{N_p}{N_0} (1 - e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_c}}) = 1 - \frac{N_f}{N_0} e^{-\frac{t}{\tau_c}}$
 $\rightarrow \text{amount}$
 $\rightarrow \text{in Eq. 8.4.14} \rightarrow \text{approximates closed-open with rep. rate}$
 $\rightarrow \text{Eq. 8.4.31: } f = 2f = \left[f = \frac{1}{\tau_p} \right] = \frac{1}{\tau_p}$
 $\rightarrow \text{corresponds to time between closed and opened shutter \& time between two pulse peaks \& is shown in Fig. 8.10!}$

$R_1 = 100\%$ $R_2 = 85\%$
 $L = 7.5\text{cm}$
 $L = 50\text{cm}$
 from eq. 7.2: $\tau_c = 23\text{ns}$, $\sigma = 2.8 \cdot 10^{-19} \text{ cm}^2$, $P_{in} = 10\text{W}$, $f = 10\text{kHz}$, $B_{out}, \Delta E_p, P_{peak}, P_{avg}?$
 $A_b = 0.23 \text{ cm}^2$
 $\lambda = 1.06\text{nm}$
 $\eta_B = 0.12$
 $E_{pca} = 2.2\text{J}$
 $\tau_2 = 1 - R_2 = 0.1625$
 $\rightarrow \text{Fig. 8.4}$
 $\rightarrow \text{Eq. 8.4.20}$
 $\rightarrow \text{X for unpumped!}$



Discrepancy between exp. & theor. \rightarrow mult. mode osc. - different modes can have different build up times \rightarrow broadens pulse.
 Gain switching - creates inversion \rightarrow threshold value by short pump pulse (comparable to build up time for cavity photons to reach maximum), can get pulses $< 1\text{ns}$ if gain material has short (μns) rise times

$$\sin(k_m x - \omega_m t + \phi_m)$$

spiky

Mode-locking: in a CW-laser, the phases of different modes are random \Rightarrow intensity has a random time behavior that repeats with a period $T_p = \frac{1}{\Delta\nu}$ freq. between cavity modes (from Fourier series), the spikes have durations of $\approx \frac{1}{\Delta\nu_L}$ gain bandwidth \Rightarrow shorter pulses for broad gain - e.g. solid-state lasers

$$E(t) = \sum_{m=1}^n E_m e^{j(\omega_m t + \phi_m)} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{doubly} \\ \text{coupled} \\ \text{modes} \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{small} \\ \text{size} \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{large} \\ \text{size} \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{small} \\ \text{size} \end{matrix} \quad \begin{matrix} \text{large} \\ \text{size} \end{matrix}$$

\Rightarrow what we get in time depends on the phases between the cavity modes!

$$\text{if } \phi_m = m\varphi \rightarrow \phi_m = \omega_m t \Rightarrow \int E(t) e^{j\phi_m} dt = E(t+\varphi) \in \text{shotted time profile but the same shape at t=0}$$

for Gaussian $E(t) \approx$ Gaussian time profile! if $\phi_m = m\varphi_1 + m^2\varphi_2 \rightarrow \phi_m = \omega_1 t + \omega_2^2 t^2 \Rightarrow E(t) \propto e^{-at^2/(2\omega_1 t + \beta\omega_2^2)}$

\Rightarrow instantaneous freq. $\omega(t) = \frac{d}{dt}(\omega_1 t + \beta\omega_2^2) = \omega_1 + 2\beta\omega_2 \in$ varies with time - chirped pulse

time-bandwidth product $\Delta\tau \Delta\nu \geq K$ \in depends on pulseshape $K \approx 0.441$ Gaussian

$$\text{Pulse at pulsed freq. at time } t \text{ equal sign if the pulse is unchirped - "transform-limited"}$$

Time domain picture: $0.2 \approx C \Delta\nu \approx [0.441 \text{ ps}] \approx 10 \text{ m} \ll$ cavity length \Rightarrow can view it as a single pulse circulating the cavity that hits the output mirror once every repetition period, the pulse is setup by using a fast shutter that only lets the short spikes pass through

- 1 circulating pulse \Rightarrow fundamental mode-locking \in circulating pulses \Rightarrow harmonic mode-locking

Active ML: synchronously pumped \Rightarrow match pump modulation to fundamental freq.

OS for laser - only for gain media with long relaxation times

- difficult to match very precise or nips pulse durations

Phase modulation = modulate the refractive index with a period (equal to mode separation) somewhere in the cavity \Rightarrow modes coupled to each other, can be viewed as changing cavity length - i.e. position of 1 mirror so pulses jump back and forth between \Rightarrow unstable

Amplitude modulation = modulate losses at freq. \approx mode separation \Rightarrow modes get coupled, pulses arriving before or after minimum loss at modulator will have their leading or trailing edges cut \Rightarrow approaches point of minimum loss \Rightarrow shorter pulse and broader spectrum - limited by gain bandwidth - the whole gain bandwidth is essentially oscillating for above threshold in hom. materials whereas only the modes closest to the peak are oscillating in hom. materials \Rightarrow cannot support as broad pulses for the same gain bandwidth!

8.10 $\Delta\nu_L \approx 1 \text{ GHz}$ $\Delta\nu \approx 100 \text{ MHz}$, transmission spectrum, inhomogeneous broadening in He-Ne-Laser, OS?

$$\text{inhom. eq. 8.6.18: } \Delta\tau \approx \frac{0.441}{\Delta\nu_L} \text{ Gaussian}$$

$$\text{it is a hom. material eq. 8.6.14: } \Delta\tau \approx \frac{0.45}{\sqrt{\gamma_m \Delta\nu_L}} \cdot 2 [\gamma_m = \Delta\nu \text{ to couple the modes}] \approx 1.4 \text{ ns}$$

\approx modulation freq.

passive ML: additive pulse ML - 2 cavities coupled together (with equal lengths) - pulses from them meet & interfere

slow saturable absorber (SA) - leading edge of pulse saturates SA \Rightarrow losses \Rightarrow gain & trailing part of pulse saturates gain (losses) \Rightarrow pulse shortens, SA must recover before the next pulse come (within a round trip), need short lifetime of the medium

fast SA - low saturation intensity \Rightarrow relaxation time comparable to ML pulse, gain media with long life time \Rightarrow pulse duration \approx relaxation time \approx nips \approx 10 fs

\Rightarrow gain doesn't change much across the pulse, give less losses for high intensity \Rightarrow pulsed operation, semiconductors have relaxation rates in temps - sumens that help short pulsing, and shorter relaxation times nips \approx 10 fs which help shortening the pulse.

gain medium has higher saturation fluence than SA
 \Rightarrow more of pulse needs to pass before it saturates

$\sigma \propto g \propto \frac{1}{\Delta Y_L}$ line shape threshold pump power $\propto \frac{1}{\Delta Y_L}$ \Rightarrow media that can support short pulses tend to have high pump thresholds!

Kerr lens ML (KLM) - refractive index is intensity dependent, for Gaussian beam \Rightarrow more phase aggregated along the optical axis: $\frac{2\pi}{\lambda} L n_2 I_p e^{-\frac{2r^2}{w_0^2}} \propto \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} L n_2 (1 - \frac{r^2}{w_0^2})$ \leftarrow quadratic phase variation over beam acts as a positive lens if $n_2 > 0$ \Rightarrow self-focusing, condense aperture in cavity - high intensity parts are focused and pass more \Rightarrow less losses, very fast response time in few fs

8.6.6 Ti:ssa KLM, roundtrip losses $\approx 2\delta_f = 2\delta - kP$ $k = 5 \cdot 10^{-8} \text{ W}^{-1}$, saturated roundtrip gain $g_s = 0.1$

$\Delta Y_L \approx 100 \text{ THz}$, intracavity energy $E = 40 \text{ mJ}$, neglect SPM & dispersion $\Delta \epsilon$?

$$\text{no SPM dispersion use eq. 8.6.22: } \Delta \epsilon = \frac{0.79}{\Delta Y_L} \sqrt{\frac{g_s}{\gamma} \frac{\Delta Y_L}{I_p}} = [\Delta \epsilon P] = \frac{0.79}{\Delta Y_L} \sqrt{\frac{g_s}{\gamma} \frac{P_s}{I_p}}$$

Saturated intensity I_p \propto peak power

$$\text{compare (a) to eq. 8.6.20: } 2\delta_f = 2\delta - 2\delta \frac{P}{I_p} \leftarrow \text{KLM}$$

$$2\delta_f = 2\delta - kP \leftarrow k = \frac{2\delta}{P_s} \Rightarrow \Delta \epsilon = \frac{0.79}{\Delta Y_L} \sqrt{\frac{2g_s}{kP_s}}$$

$$\text{for Sech: } E^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} I_p \operatorname{sech}^2(t/\tau_0) dt = 2P_{\text{pump}} = [t_0 = \frac{\Delta \epsilon}{1.7627}] \Rightarrow P_p = \frac{E \cdot 1.7627}{2\Delta \epsilon} \Rightarrow \Delta \epsilon = \frac{0.79}{\Delta Y_L} \sqrt{\frac{2g_s}{kP_p}} \leftarrow$$

$$\hookrightarrow \Delta \epsilon = \left(\frac{0.79}{\Delta Y_L} \right)^2 \frac{4g_s}{hE \cdot 1.7627} \approx 3.5 \text{ fs}$$

$$\text{compare } \Delta \epsilon = \frac{0.315}{\Delta Y_L} \approx 3.2 \text{ fs}$$

Monochromatic waves $E = E_0 e^{j(\omega t - \beta z)}$

$$\frac{d\phi}{dt} = 0 \Rightarrow \omega - \beta \frac{dz}{dt} = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{dz}{dt} = \frac{\omega}{\beta} \leftarrow \text{phase velocity}$$

when the freq. ω propagation constant varies (more than 1 monochromatic wave) differentiates: $v_p \beta - \omega = 0$

$$\text{as } v_g \frac{d\beta}{d\omega} - \omega = 0 \Rightarrow v_g = \frac{d\omega}{d\beta} \leftarrow \text{group velocity - speed at which envelope (added waves) propagates}$$

$\frac{d\beta}{d\omega} = \frac{d\beta}{d\nu} \text{ how the inverse group velocity changes with freq.}$

$\frac{d\nu}{d\omega} / \text{fit to different parts of spectrum moves at different}$

the total pulse duration will depend on

group velocity dispersion \Rightarrow can broaden or compress, depends on dispersion velocities \Rightarrow can broaden or compress, depends on dispersion

• cavity dispersion \leftarrow need to propagate wavelength different lengths for short pulses

• gain band has diff.

• shortening on "shutter"

Group delay dispersion $\approx GDD = GVD \cdot (\text{length of propagation})$

$$8.17 \quad GVD = 50 \text{ fs}^2/\text{mm} \quad \Delta \epsilon = 10 \text{ fs} \quad \Delta \epsilon_2 \ll 1.2 \Delta \epsilon_1 \quad \text{after passing length } L$$

$$\text{use eq. 8.6.35} \quad \frac{\Delta \epsilon_2}{\epsilon_p} = 81.22 \frac{(\epsilon_p)^2}{\Delta \epsilon^4} \leftarrow GDD \quad \frac{GVD^2 \cdot L^2}{\Delta \epsilon^4} \Rightarrow L = \sqrt{\frac{\Delta \epsilon^4}{\epsilon_p} \frac{81.22 GVD^2}} \approx 456 \text{ nm} < 0.5 \text{ mm!}$$

Quartz plate $\epsilon_p(l) - \epsilon_p \approx 0.2$ $\epsilon_p \propto \Delta \epsilon$ \leftarrow broadens very fast!

@ $\lambda = 800 \text{ nm}$ ($Ti:SrO$)

Cavity dumping - have no (or very low) output \Rightarrow high intracavity power, this output is then coupled out by increasing the output coupling - works for CW, Q-switched ML lasers
the rep rate is set by the dumping freq.

chap. 12.3 considers amplification of pulses, for 4 level when $\gamma_1 \ll \gamma_p \ll \gamma$ $\Rightarrow N \approx 0$, we have pulsed spontaneous emission negligible during pulse propagation & homogeneous broadening $\Rightarrow \frac{dN}{dt} = -WN = -\frac{NI}{\tau}$

$$N(z,t) \approx I(z,t)$$

Eq. 12.3.9: $\frac{1}{c} \frac{\partial I}{\partial t} + \frac{\partial I}{\partial z} = \sigma NI - \alpha I$

(1) $I(z,t)$ are solved with initial condition $N(z,0) = N_0$ & boundary condition $I(z,t) \approx I_0(t)$

\rightarrow neglecting loss ($\alpha=0$) \rightarrow input pulse $I(z,t) = I_0(t)$ before pulse - assumes equal proportion throughout

\rightarrow Eq. 12.3.10: $I(z,t) = I_0(t) \cdot \left(1 - (1 - e^{-\frac{z}{\tau}}) e^{-\frac{t-t_0}{\tau}} \right)$

$P(t) = P_s \ln \left\{ 1 + \left(e^{\frac{P_{in}}{P_s}} - 1 \right) G_0 \right\}$

\rightarrow $G_0 = \frac{h\nu}{\sigma \tau c n_a}$ \rightarrow $G_0 \approx e^{h\nu/\sigma \tau c n_a}$ = unsaturated gain of amplifier

\rightarrow $P_{in} + g_0 P_s / P_{in} \gg P_s$ \rightarrow deep saturation \rightarrow contributes to the stored energy

\rightarrow $= N_0 h\nu \rightarrow$ every excited atom \rightarrow ~~contributes to the stored energy~~

for closest 3 level \rightarrow if $\gamma_p \ll \gamma$, for 4 level $P_s = \frac{h\nu}{\sigma \tau c n_a} \approx G_0 = e^{h\nu/\sigma \tau c n_a}$

\rightarrow if G_0 is too high can lead to amplified spontaneous emission (ASE) - spontaneously emitted photons \rightarrow stim. em.

- * paraxial lasers because of reflections from end facets of the amplifier
- * center part of beam (Gaussian) will experience more saturation than wings (i.e. less gain) \rightarrow distorted profile \rightarrow not as much of a problem in fibers due to the guided mode
- * Leading edge of pulse can deplete energy level so that trailing edge experiences less gain, can lead to pulse distortion - depends on the pulse shape

12.2 Q-switched Nd:YAG amplified: $E_{in} = 100 \text{ mJ}$, $\gamma_p = 20 \text{ ns}$, $D = 6.3 \text{ mm}$, $G_0 = 100$, $\gamma_1 \ll \gamma_p$, uniform beam profile $\sigma = 2.8 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^2$

\rightarrow $E_{out} = ?$ \rightarrow $E_{out} = E_{in} \cdot \frac{P_s}{P_{in}} \cdot \frac{E}{D^2} \approx 320 \text{ mJ/cm}^2 \cdot P_s \cdot \frac{h\nu}{\sigma} = [\text{united 21.06 mJ}] \approx 607 \text{ mJ}/\text{cm}^2$

output fluence: eq 12.3.12 s $P_{out} = P_s \ln \left\{ 1 + \left(e^{\frac{P_{in}}{P_s}} - 1 \right) G_0 \right\} \approx \frac{P_{in}^2}{(\frac{D}{2})^2} \cdot \frac{E}{\sigma} = \frac{320 \text{ mJ/cm}^2}{(\frac{6.3}{2})^2} \cdot \frac{100 \text{ mJ}}{2.8 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^2} = 2.76 \text{ J/cm}^2 \rightarrow E_{out} = P_{out} \cdot (\frac{D}{2})^2 = 860 \text{ mJ}$

amplification: $E_{out} = \frac{860}{100} = 8.6$ \rightarrow $E_{out} = \frac{8.6}{\sigma} \text{ mJ}$ \rightarrow $E_{out} = \frac{8.6}{2.8 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^2} = 3.07 \cdot 10^7 \text{ cm}^2$ \rightarrow $E_{out} = \frac{8.6}{\sigma} \text{ mJ}$

stored energy: $E_{stored} = h\nu N V = \left[G_0 = e^{\frac{h\nu}{\sigma \tau c n_a}} \rightarrow N L = \frac{\ln G_0}{\sigma} \right] = h\nu \frac{\ln G_0}{\sigma} \left(\frac{D}{2} \right)^2 \approx 959 \text{ mJ}$

\rightarrow $E_{extracted} = \frac{860 - 100}{959} \approx 79\%$

12.5 What is amplification in 12.2 if $\gamma_p \ll \gamma$? $P_s = \frac{h\nu}{\sigma \tau c n_a}$, $f_{13} = 0.187$, from ex. 2.10: $\sigma = \frac{e}{23} \text{ cm}^2 \approx 2.8 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^2 \rightarrow$

$\rightarrow \sigma = \frac{0.03}{0.4} = 7 \cdot 10^{-5} \text{ cm}^2$, $\sigma_3 = f_{13} \sigma = 1.3 \cdot 10^{-4} \text{ cm}^2 \rightarrow P_s = \frac{h\nu}{\sigma_3} = 0.14 \text{ J/cm}^2$

\rightarrow eq. 12.3.12: $P_{out} = 2.11 \text{ J/cm}^2 \rightarrow E_{out} = 0.66 \text{ J} \rightarrow \frac{E_{out}}{E_{in}} = \frac{0.66}{0.1} = 6.6$

(*) assume that upper level 2_0 lower level 3 have the same degeneracy $\rightarrow \sigma_{23} = \sigma_{32}$

\uparrow absorption
 \downarrow emission

effective σ

for stimulated emission from state 2 in upper to sublevel 3 in lower level

