Contents

Acknowledgements V
Preface XI

1 Introduction 1
1.1 Definition and Characteristics of Single-Photon Sources 1
1.2 Single-Photon Generation with Atom-Like Systems 2
1.3 Applications of Single Photons 6
1.3.1 Quantum Erasure through Optical Interference 6
1.3.2 Secure Communication 8
1.3.3 Creating Entanglement between Matter Qubits 9
1.4 History of Single-Photon Generation 12
1.5 Outline 15

2 Single Photon Generation from a Two-Level Quantum Emitter in a Cavity 17
2.1 The Jaynes–Cummings Hamiltonian 17
2.1.1 Electromagnetic Field Quantization 18
2.1.1.1 3D Translational Symmetry: Uniform Dielectric 20
2.1.1.2 2D Translational Symmetry: Slab Waveguide 21
2.1.1.3 1D Translational Symmetry: Waveguide 22
2.1.2 Light-Matter Interaction 23
2.1.2.1 Minimal Coupling Hamiltonian and Multipole Expansion 23
2.1.2.2 Jaynes–Cummings Hamiltonian, Rotating Wave Approximation 24
2.2 Quantum Emitter Coupling to a Radiation Continuum 25
2.2.1 General Case 26
2.2.2 One-Dimensional Continuum 28
2.3 Cavity Coupling to a Radiation Continuum 28
2.4 Quantum Emitter Decay via a Cavity 31
2.5 The Strong and Weak Coupling Regime, Purcell Effect 37
2.5.1 Strong Coupling Regime 38
2.5.2 Weak Coupling Regime, Purcell Factor 39
2.5.3 Comparison of the Purcell Effect from a 3D Cavity, 1D Waveguide and Homogeneous Dielectric 40
## Contents

2.6 Single-Photon Source Based on a Two-Level Quantum Emitter 42  
2.6.1 Emitted Photon Waveform 42  
2.6.2 Efficiency 43  
2.7 Interaction of Single Photons with Loaded or Unloaded Cavities 43  
2.7.1 Description of the Problem 44  
2.8 No Atom Present 45  
2.8.1 Atom Present 45  
2.8.2 Differential Transmission between the “Atom” and “No Atom” Case 46  
2.8.2.1 Small Detuning 47  
2.8.2.2 Large Detuning 48  

3 Coherent Photon Emission from a Three-Level Lambda System in a Cavity 49  
3.1 Coherently Driven $\Lambda$-Systems: Background 50  
3.2 Adiabatic Approximation 51  
3.3 Control Pulse Engineering for Fast Single-Photon Generation/Trapping 53  
3.4 Non-ideal Systems: Trapping/Generation Efficiency 56  
3.4.1 Claims 58  
3.4.2 Proof 59  
3.5 $\Lambda$-System with Several Excited States 61  

4 Effects of Decoherence 65  
4.1 Introduction 65  
4.2 Decoherence Processes Affecting Solid-State Single-Photon Sources 66  
4.3 $T_1$, $T_2$ and $T_2^*$ 67  
4.3.1 Definition of the Random Process 67  
4.3.2 A Pure Dephasing ($T_2$) Process 68  
4.3.3 A Population Relaxation ($T_1$) Process 70  
4.4 Example: A Fluctuating Electric Field from Charge Traps 72  
4.5 Photons Emitted by a Two-Level System with Pure Dephasing 74  
4.6 Time-Jitter Process 77  
4.7 Nonradiative Decay 82  
4.8 Relaxation between Two Excited States 83  
4.9 Pure Dephasing in the Three-Level Raman Scheme 86  
4.10 Phonon Sidebands and Broadening 94  
4.10.1 Franck–Condon Picture 94  
4.10.2 Continuum of Phonon Modes 97  
4.10.3 Implications of Phonon Sidebands for Applications 99  
4.10.4 Phonon Broadening and Relaxation 101  

5 Experimental Techniques 103  
5.1 Microphotoluminescence Setups 103  
5.1.1 Cryostats 103  
5.1.2 Excitation Methods 105  
5.1.3 Scanning Methods 106
Contents

5.1.4 Navigation 106
5.1.5 Spectrometers 107
5.1.6 Lifetime Measurements 107
5.2 Photon Correlation Measurements 108
5.2.1 Experimental Issues 109
5.2.2 Theory 110
5.2.2.1 $g^{(2)}(0) > 1$ 112
5.2.2.2 $g^{(2)}(0) = 1$ 112
5.2.2.3 $g^{(2)}(0) < 1$ 112
5.3 Measuring Coherence Properties 113

6 Atom-Like Systems in Solids Useful for Single-Photon Generation 115
6.1 Semiconductor Quantum Dots 115
6.1.1 Introduction 115
6.1.2 Growth and Isolation 116
6.1.3 Single-Electron Energy Levels 119
6.1.4 Excitation Methods 122
6.1.5 Multi-Particle States 123
6.1.6 Exciton Fine Structure 127
6.1.7 Radiative Decay Rates 130
6.1.8 Single-Photon Generation with Quantum Dots 131
6.1.8.1 Photon Correlation Measurements 131
6.1.8.2 Quantum Efficiency 132
6.1.8.3 Indistinguishability 133
6.1.8.4 Emission Wavelength 136
6.1.8.5 Electrically Driven Devices 136
6.1.8.6 Temperature Dependence 137
6.1.9 Photon Pair Sources 137
6.1.10 Quantum Dots as Spin Qubits 139
6.1.11 Integration into Microcavities 142
6.1.12 Summary 143

6.2 The Nitrogen-Vacancy Center in Diamond 143
6.2.1 Introduction 143
6.2.2 Geometry and Single-Electron Orbitals 145
6.2.3 Detailed Level Structure of NV$^-$ 147
6.2.4 Optical Transitions and Phonon Sidebands 154
6.2.5 Single-Photon Generation Experiments 158
6.2.6 Optical Initialization, Readout, and Manipulation of Electron Spins 159
6.2.7 NV Centers as Spin Qubits 161
6.2.8 Spin Coherence Lifetimes 162
6.2.9 Coupling to Microcavities 163
6.2.10 NV Fabrication and Stability 165
6.2.11 Summary 166

6.3 Semiconductor Donors and Acceptors 166
6.3.1 Effective Mass Theory for Shallow Impurities 166
## Contents

6.3.1.1 Neutral Donor ($D_0^0$) Ground States 166  
6.3.1.2 Neutral Acceptor ($A_0^0$) Ground States 167  
6.3.2 Neutral Donor-Bound-Exciton ($D_0^{0X}$) States 168  
6.3.3 Spectroscopy of a $D_0^0$–$D_0^{0X}$ $\Lambda$-Type System 172  
6.3.4 Shallow Donors and Acceptors as Spin Qubits 173  
6.3.5 Single-Photon Generation with Shallow Donors and Acceptors 174  
6.4 Summary and Comparison Table 174  

### 7 Survey of Microcavity Geometries 177  
7.1 Planar Distributed Bragg Reflector (DBR) Microcavity 178  
7.2 Pillar Microcavities 180  
7.3 Microdisk Cavities 182  
7.4 Photonic Crystals 184  

### 8 Applications 187  
8.1 BB84 Quantum Key Distribution 187  
8.2 Quantum Repeater with Nested Purification Protocol 192  
8.3 Quantum Information Processing 193  
8.3.1 QIP in Quantum Networks 193  
8.3.1.1 Single Node Preparation and Measurement Techniques 194  
8.3.1.2 Coherent Manipulation of a Single Node 195  
8.3.1.3 Photon-Induced Controlled Phase Gates between Two Nodes 196  
8.3.2 Entanglement Distribution: Cluster State Formation 197  
8.3.3 Single Photon Nonlinear Optics 198  

References 201  
Index 219