CONTENTS

Preface		7
Intr	oduction	
	General description of the gas laser	1
	The nature of coherent light	4
	Preliminary exercise: comparison of thermal and	
	laser sources	6
Exp	eriments	
1	Alignment of an optical bench	10
2	The transmission of noise in a coherent beam	17
3	Two-source interference	21
4	Fresnel diffraction at a straight edge	25
5	The zone plate	30
6	Reconstructed wavefronts	33
7	Fourier images	40
8	A variation on Young's experiment	46
9	Fraunhofer diffraction: single aperture	51
10	Fraunhofer diffraction: repeated apertures	55
11	The Fabry-Perot etalon	61
Index		65