

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	II
ABSTRACT	III
CONTENTS	IV
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Introduction to dye lasers	1
1.2 Review of solid-state dye lasers	3
1.3 Hot-press moulding of dye-doped PMMA	7
1.4 The present project	9
CHAPTER 2 LOW-PRESSURE-COMPRESSION MOULDING FOR DYE-DOPED PMMA SLABS	10
2.1 Materials	10
2.1.1 PMMA	10
2.1.2 Laser dyes	12
2.1.3 Solvents	13
CHAPTER 3 EXPERIMENTAL	26
3.1 Pumping of dye-doped PMMA slabs	26
3.2 Laser spectral measurements	28

3.3	Laser output energy measurements	29
3.4	Nitrogen lasers	31
3.5	Absorption and fluorescence measurements	38
 CHAPTER 4 PERFORMANCE OF DYE-DOPED PMMA LASERS		40
4.1	Preliminary experiments	40
4.2	Effect of dye concentration, pumping energy and pumping power on laser efficiency	44
4.3	Effect of dye concentration on peak laser wavelength	49
4.4	Photo bleaching	50
4.5	Thermal degradation of dyes during fabrication	53
4.6	Summary	60
 REFERENCES		61