

## mode-locked laser

A laser in which many resonant modes are coupled in phase, to yield a train of very short pulses (e.g. ps pulses). The coupling of the modes is obtained by modulation of the gain in the resonator, and can be active (electro-optic modulation of the losses or of the pump intensity), or passive (with a saturable absorber).

*See also:* free-running laser

**Source:**

PAC, 1996, 68, 2223 (*Glossary of terms used in photochemistry (IUPAC Recommendations 1996)*) on page 2254