Symbol	Unit	Meaning; derivatives	References
$\Delta\tilde{\epsilon}$, $\Delta\tilde{\epsilon}$	F m^{-1}	amplitude of $\Delta\epsilon$ and $\Delta\epsilon$	(8.17)
$\Delta\boldsymbol{\eta}$, $\Delta\eta$	none	variation or modulation of relative impermeability	(6.17)
$\Delta\theta$	rad	divergence angle of Gaussian beam; $\Delta\theta_{\mathrm{o}}$, $\Delta\theta_{\perp}$, $\Delta\theta_{\parallel}$	(1.137)
$\Delta\theta_{\mathrm{a}}$	rad	acoustic beam divergence	(8.108)
$\Delta\lambda$	m	spectral width	(8.151)
$\Delta\nu$	Hz	optical linewidth, bandwidth; $\Delta\nu_{\mathrm{D}}$, $\Delta\nu_{\mathrm{inh}}$, $\Delta\nu_{\mathrm{h}}$, $\Delta\nu_{\mathrm{p}}$, $\Delta\nu_{\mathrm{ps}}$	(10.4)
$\Delta\nu_{\mathrm{c}}$	Hz	longitudinal mode linewidth	(11.19)
$\Delta\nu_{\mathrm{L}}$	Hz	longitudinal mode frequency separation	(11.17)
$\Delta\nu_{\mathrm{SB}}$	Hz	stop band of DBR	(13.103)
$\Delta\nu_{\mathrm{ST}}$	Hz	Schawlow–Townes linewidth of laser mode	(11.65)
$\Delta\varphi$	rad	phase shift or retardation; $\Delta\varphi_0$, $\Delta\varphi_{\mathrm{b}}$, $\Delta\varphi_{\mathrm{NL}}$, $\Delta\varphi_{\mathrm{rec}}$	(6.49), (9.259)
$\Delta\varphi_{\mathrm{c}}$	rad	width of a resonance peak of passive cavity	(11.12)
$\Delta\varphi_{\mathrm{L}}$	rad	phase separation between neighboring longitudinal modes	(11.11)
$\Delta\boldsymbol{\chi}$, $\Delta\chi$	none	variation or modulation of electric susceptibility	(6.1)
$\Delta\omega$	rad s^{-1}	optical bandwidth, linewidth, $\Delta\omega = 2\pi\,\Delta\nu$; $\Delta\omega_{\mathrm{inh}}$, $\Delta\omega_{\mathrm{h}}$	(5.28), (10.3)f
$\Delta\Omega_{\mathrm{B}}$, $\Delta\Omega_{\mathrm{R}}$	rad s^{-1}	Brillouin and Raman spectral linewidths, $\Delta\Omega = 2\pi\,\Delta f$	(9.186)f, (9.182)f
ϵ	F m^{-1}	complex electric permittivity; ϵ_{n}, ϵ_{p}	(1.95)
ϵ_0	F m^{-1}	electric permittivity of free space	(1.1)
ϵ', ϵ''	F m^{-1}	real and imaginary parts of ϵ, $\epsilon = \epsilon' + \mathrm{i}\epsilon''$	(1.99)
ϵ_x, ϵ_y, ϵ_z	F m^{-1}	principal dielectric permittivities	(1.109)
ϵ_X, ϵ_Y, ϵ_Z	F m^{-1}	new principal dielectric permittivities	(6.12)
ϵ_+, ϵ_-	F m^{-1}	principal dielectric permittivities of circular polarizations	(7.17)
$\epsilon_{\mathrm{res}}(\omega)$	F m^{-1}	permittivity of resonant transition	(11.37)
$\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\mathbf{r}, t)$	F m^{-4} s^{-1}	real electric permittivity tensor in the time domain	(1.16)
$\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(\omega)$, $\epsilon_{ij}(\omega)$	F m^{-1}	complex electric permittivity tensor in the frequency domain	(1.55)
ε	rad	ellipticity of polarization ellipse; ε_{F}, ε_{K}	(1.65), (7.30)
ζ	none	a mode parameter for multimode fiber	(3.107)
ζ	none	linear birefringence in magneto-optics	(7.74)