

Contents

Preface

One: BASIC NEUTRON PHYSICS CONCEPTS 1

1-1	Introduction	1
1-2	Engineering Requirements of Reactor Physics	2
1-3	The Fission Process	5
1-4	Fluxes, Currents, and Sources	10
1-5	Microscopic Cross Sections and Other Nuclear Data	17
1-6	Reaction Rate Densities and Macroscopic Cross Sections	20
1-7	The Basic Theoretical Approach	23
1-8	Summarizing Remarks	25
	Homework Problems	26
	Review Questions	28
	References	29

Two: NEUTRON BALANCE EQUATIONS AND THE FUNDAMENTAL NEUTRONICS PROBLEMS 30

2-1	Introduction	30
2-2	The Static Balance Equations of Neutron Transport and Diffusion	31
2-2A	The Differential Form of the Transport Equation (Boltzmann Equation)	32
2-2B	The Integral Transport Equation	36
2-2C	The Diffusion Theory Equation	39
2-2D	Few-Group Diffusion Equations	43
2-2E	Boundary Conditions for Transport and Diffusion Equations	50
2-2F	The One-Group Diffusion Equation for a One-Region Assembly	57
2-3	Operators in Reactor Applications	59
2-3A	Definition of Operators	59

2-3B	Neutron Balance Equations in Operator Form	62
2-4	Fundamental Neutronics Problems	63
2-4A	Introduction	63
2-4B	Source-Sink Problems	65
2-4C	Subcritical Reactors with an Independent Source	66
2-4D	The Critical Reactor	67
2-4E	The Static Off-Critical Reactor Problem and the Static Multiplication Constant	69
2-4F	The Time-Dependent Flux and the Dynamic Reactivity	73
2-5	Estimates of Criticality for Thermal Reactors	74
2-6	Separation of Space and Energy Dependencies	78
2-6A	Balance Equations Resulting from Flux Separation	78
2-6B	General Types of Solutions for the Separated Balance Equations	81
2-6C	Separation of Problems with Distributed Independent Sources	87
2-6D	Separation of Problems with Localized Independent Sources	88
2-7	Flux Separability Applications for Two Groups	90
2-7A	Separation of the Two-Group Diffusion Equation	91
2-7B	Fundamental and Higher Material Bucklings and Spectra	93
2-7C	The Space-Dependent Flux Components	95
2-8	Summarizing Remarks	96
	Homework Problems	97
	Review Questions	99
	References	103

Three: THE SPACE DEPENDENCE OF THE NEUTRON FLUX 104

3-1	Introduction	104
3-2	Basic Considerations	105
3-3	Flux Shapes in Homogeneous Single Regions	107
3-3A	Infinite Slab Reactor	108
3-3B	Spherical Bare Core	111
3-3C	Infinite Cylindrical Core	113
3-3D	Finite Cylindrical Core	115
3-3E	Rectangular Parallelepiped Reactor	117
3-3F	Summary of One-Region-Reactors Flux Shapes	119

3-3G	Power Peaking Factors and Optimum One-Region Geometries	119
3-4	One-Group Flux Solutions in Source-Sink Problems and in Subcritical Reactors	124
3-4A	Point Neutron Source in an Infinite Region	125
3-4B	Plane Neutron Source in an Infinite Medium	127
3-4C	Physical Interpretations of Diffusion Length	128
3-4D	Flux Distributions in Subcritical Systems	129
3-4E	The Exponential Pile	136
3-5	Multiregion Flux Shape Problems	139
3-5A	General Features of Reflected Cores	140
3-5B	Reflected Infinite Slab Core	142
3-5C	Reflector Savings	146
3-6	Analytical Two-Group Flux Solutions in Subcritical Systems	151
3-6A	Two-Group Fluxes in a Superproductive Medium	151
3-6B	Two-Group Flux Distributions in a Subproductive Medium	155
3-7	Summarizing Remarks	156
	Homework Problems	157
	Review Questions	159
	References	161

Four: NEUTRON ENERGY DEPENDENCY DURING SLOWING DOWN 162

4-1	Introduction	162
4-2	Scattering Processes	164
4-2A	Elastic Scattering at Epithermal and High-Neutron Energies	164
4-2B	The Lethargy	174
4-2C	Elastic Scattering Cross Sections	179
4-2D	Inelastic Scattering	182
4-3	Numerical Calculation of Slowing Down Spectra	186
4-3A	Preliminary Form of the Multigroup Equations	186
4-3B	Solution of the Source-Sink Problem	188
4-3C	Solution of the Eigenvalue Problems	189
4-4	Fast Fission	191
4-5	Slowing Down in Hydrogen	194
4-5A	The Balance Equations	194
4-5B	Slowing Down in Hydrogen with a Constant σ_s	196

4-5C	Slowing Down with an Energy-Dependent Hydrogen Scattering Cross Section	199
4-5D	Slowing Down with Energy-Dependent Scattering and Absorption	200
4-5E	Slowing Down with $\sigma_s(E)$, Absorption, and Leakage	204
4-6	Slowing Down in Nonhydrogeneous Materials Without Absorption	206
4-7	The Thermal Neutron Spectrum	212
4-7A	General Considerations	212
4-7B	Separation of “Fast” and “Thermal” Neutrons	213
4-7C	Balance Equation for Thermal Neutrons in an Infinite Absorbing System	214
4-7D	Thermal Neutron Balance in a Source-Free Nonabsorbing Infinite System	216
4-7E	The Shape of the Thermal Neutron Spectrum	217
4-7F	The Magnitude of the Thermal Spectrum	221
4-7G	Average Thermal Absorption Cross Section $\Sigma_{a,th}$ and the η Coefficient	222
4-8	Summarizing Remarks	223
	Homework Problems	225
	Review Questions	226
	References	229
Five: NEUTRON SLOWING DOWN THEORY WITH RESONANCE ABSORPTION		231
5-1	Introduction	231
5-2	Resonance Cross Sections	232
5-2A	Basic Considerations	232
5-2B	Resolved Resonance Region	236
5-2C	Unresolved Resonance Region	238
5-3	Resonance Absorption During Slowing Down in Hydrogen in an Infinite Medium	239
5-3A	Basic Slowing Down Spectrum Features	239
5-3B	Resonance Absorption and Escape Probabilities	243
5-4	Basic Approximations for the Treatment of Resonance Absorption	247
5-4A	Illustration of the Two Basic Approximations	248
5-4B	Loss-Free Spectrum in the NR Approximation	250
5-4C	Loss-Free Spectrum in the NRIM Approximation	253
5-4D	Applicability of the NR and NRIM Approximations	256

5-4E	Resonance Integrals in Homogeneous Media	257
5-5	Improved Treatment of Resonance Absorption	261
5-5A	Slowing Down with Weak-Absorption Fermi Age Theory in an Infinite Medium	261
5-5B	The Selengut-Goertzel and the Greuling-Goertzel Approximations	262
5-5C	Individual Resonance Treatments	264
5-5D	Summary of Resonance Absorption in Homogeneous Media	265
5-6	Resonance Effects in Heterogeneous Systems	266
5-6A	General Comments	266
5-6B	Absorption Rates in Heterogeneous Media	268
5-6C	Approximate Escape Probabilities and Equivalence Relations	271
5-7	Temperature-Dependent Resonance Absorption	274
5-7A	General Discussion	274
5-7B	Temperature-Dependent Resonance Shape	275
5-7C	Temperature-Dependent Reaction Rates	278
5-8	Summarizing Remarks	280
	Homework Problems	282
	Review Questions	284
	References	286
Six:	NEUTRON TRANSPORT	289
6-1	Introduction	289
6-2	Basic Considerations	290
6-2A	Fundamental Inaccuracies of Diffusion Theory	290
6-2B	Anisotropic Scattering	293
6-3	Survey Discussion of Transport Theoretical Methods	295
6-3A	The Basic Scheme of Methods	295
6-3B	Spherical Harmonics Approach	297
6-3C	Double P_n Theory	300
6-3D	The S_n Theory	302
6-3E	One-Group Integral Transport Theory	304
6-4	P_1 Theory, Diffusion Theory, and Transport Correction	304
6-4A	Derivation of the One-Group P_1 Equations	304
6-4B	Derivation of the One-Group Diffusion Equation	311
6-5	Summarizing Remarks	313

Homework Problems	314
Review Questions	315
References	316
Seven: MULTIGROUP DIFFUSION THEORY	317
7-1 Introduction	317
7-2 The Multigroup Approach	319
7-2A General Discussion of Approaches	319
7-2B Group Intervals and Group Fluxes	321
7-2C Formal Derivation of the Multigroup Diffusion Equations	322
7-3 Definition of the Group Constants	324
7-3A Flux-Weighted Group Constants	324
7-3B The Diffusion Group Constant	327
7-4 Explicit Few-Group Theories	329
7-4A One-Group Theory for All Neutrons	330
7-4B One-Group Theory for Thermal Neutrons	331
7-4C Two-Group Theory	334
7-4D Two-Group Core Reflector Model	338
7-5 The Multigroup Model	340
7-5A Multigroup Equations	341
7-5B Overall Solution Approach	343
7-5C Finite Difference Approximation	345
7-5D Solution of Multigroup Equations	349
7-5E Outer Iteration	350
7-5F Inner Iteration	352
7-5G Multigroup Finite Difference Computer Codes	353
7-6 Nodal Methods	356
7-6A Survey of Nodal Methods	356
7-6B Two-Group Nodal Methods	358
7-7 Summarizing Remarks	360
Homework Problems	361
Review Questions	364
References	366
Appendix A: Volume Elements, Differential Operators, and the Solid Angle	370
Appendix B: Neutron Wave Terminology	373
Appendix C: The δ Function	375
Appendix D: Mathematical Formulas Useful in Reactor Theory	377
Appendix E: The Factorial and Related Integrals	379
Index	381