Nuclear engineering and the technology developed by this discipline began and reached an amazing level of maturity within the past 60 years. Although nuclear and atomic radiation had been used during the first half of the twentieth century, mainly for medical purposes, nuclear technology as a distinct engineering discipline began after World War II with the first efforts at harnessing nuclear energy for electrical power production and propulsion of ships. During the second half of the twentieth century, many innovative uses of nuclear radiation were introduced in the physical and life sciences, in industry and agriculture, and in space exploration.

The purpose of this book is two-fold as is apparent from the table of contents. The first half of the book is intended to serve as a review of the important results of “modern” physics and as an introduction to the basic nuclear science needed by a student embarking on the study of nuclear engineering and technology. Later in this book, we introduce the theory of nuclear reactors and its applications for electrical power production and propulsion. We also survey many other applications of nuclear technology encountered in space research, industry, and medicine.

The subjects presented in this book were conceived and developed by others. Our role is that of reporters who have taught nuclear engineering for more years than we care to admit. Our teaching and research have benefited from the efforts of many people. The host of researchers and technicians who have brought nuclear technology to its present level of maturity are too many to credit here. Only their important results are presented in this book. For their efforts, which have greatly benefited all nuclear engineers, not least ourselves, we extend our deepest appreciation. As university professors we have enjoyed learning of the work of our colleagues. We hope our present and future students also will appreciate these past accomplishments and will build on them to achieve even more useful applications of nuclear technology. We believe the uses of nuclear science and engineering will continue to play an important role in the betterment of human life.

At a more practical level, this book evolved from an effort at introducing a nuclear engineering option into a much larger mechanical engineering program at Kansas State University. This book was designed to serve both as an introduction to the students in the nuclear engineering option and as a text for other engineering students who want to obtain an overview of nuclear science and engineering. We
believe that all modern engineering students need to understand the basic aspects of nuclear science engineering such as radioactivity and radiation doses and their hazards.

Many people have contributed to this book. First and foremost we thank our colleagues Dean Eckhoff and Fred Merklin, whose initial collection of notes for an introductory course in nuclear engineering motivated our present book intended for a larger purpose and audience. We thank Professor Gale Simons, who helped prepare an early draft of the chapter on radiation detection. Finally, many revisions have been made in response to comments and suggestions made by our students on whom we have experimented with earlier versions of the manuscript. Finally, the camera copy given the publisher has been prepared by us using \LaTeX, and, thus, we must accept responsibility for all errors, typographical and other, that appear in this book.

J. Kenneth Shultis and Richard E. Faw
Contents

1 Fundamental Concepts
   1.1 Modern Units
      1.1.1 Special Nuclear Units
      1.1.2 Physical Constants
   1.2 The Atom
      1.2.1 Atomic and Nuclear Nomenclature
      1.2.2 Atomic and Molecular Weights
      1.2.3 Avogadro's Number
      1.2.4 Mass of an Atom
      1.2.5 Atomic Number Density
      1.2.6 Size of an Atom
      1.2.7 Atomic and Isotopic Abundances
      1.2.8 Nuclear Dimensions
   1.3 Chart of the Nuclides
      1.3.1 Other Sources of Atomic/Nuclear Information

2 Modern Physics Concepts
   2.1 The Special Theory of Relativity
      2.1.1 Principle of Relativity
      2.1.2 Results of the Special Theory of Relativity
   2.2 Radiation as Waves and Particles
      2.2.1 The Photoelectric Effect
      2.2.2 Compton Scattering
      2.2.3 Electromagnetic Radiation: Wave-Particle Duality
      2.2.4 Electron Scattering
      2.2.5 Wave-Particle Duality
   2.3 Quantum Mechanics
      2.3.1 Schrödinger's Wave Equation
      2.3.2 The Wave Function
      2.3.3 The Uncertainty Principle
      2.3.4 Success of Quantum Mechanics
   2.4 Addendum 1: Derivation of Some Special Relativity Results
      2.4.1 Time Dilation
2.4.2 Length Contraction
2.4.3 Mass Increase

2.5 Addendum 2: Solutions to Schrödinger’s Wave Equation
2.5.1 The Particle in a Box
2.5.2 The Hydrogen Atom
2.5.3 Energy Levels for Multielectron Atoms

3 Atomic/Nuclear Models
3.1 Development of the Modern Atom Model
  3.1.1 Discovery of Radioactivity
  3.1.2 Thomson’s Atomic Model: The Plum Pudding Model
  3.1.3 The Rutherford Atomic Model
  3.1.4 The Bohr Atomic Model
  3.1.5 Extension of the Bohr Theory: Elliptic Orbits
  3.1.6 The Quantum Mechanical Model of the Atom
3.2 Models of the Nucleus
  3.2.1 Fundamental Properties of the Nucleus
  3.2.2 The Proton-Electron Model
  3.2.3 The Proton-Neutron Model
  3.2.4 Stability of Nuclei
  3.2.5 The Liquid Drop Model of the Nucleus
  3.2.6 The Nuclear Shell Model
  3.2.7 Other Nuclear Models

4 Nuclear Energetics
4.1 Binding Energy
  4.1.1 Nuclear and Atomic Masses
  4.1.2 Binding Energy of the Nucleus
  4.1.3 Average Nuclear Binding Energies
4.2 Nucleon Separation Energy
4.3 Nuclear Reactions
4.4 Examples of Binary Nuclear Reactions
  4.4.1 Multiple Reaction Outcomes
4.5 Q-Value for a Reaction
  4.5.1 Binary Reactions
  4.5.2 Radioactive Decay Reactions
4.6 Conservation of Charge and the Calculation of Q-Values
  4.6.1 Special Case for Changes in the Proton Number
4.7 Q-Value for Reactions Producing Excited Nuclei

5 Radioactivity
5.1 Overview
5.2 Types of Radioactive Decay
5.3 Energetics of Radioactive Decay
  5.3.1 Gamma Decay
  5.3.2 Alpha-Particle Decay
  5.3.3 Beta-Particle Decay
5.3.4 Positron Decay
5.3.5 Electron Capture
5.3.6 Neutron Decay
5.3.7 Proton Decay
5.3.8 Internal Conversion
5.3.9 Examples of Energy-Level Diagrams

5.4 Characteristics of Radioactive Decay
5.4.1 The Decay Constant
5.4.2 Exponential Decay
5.4.3 The Half-Life
5.4.4 Decay Probability for a Finite Time Interval
5.4.5 Mean Lifetime
5.4.6 Activity
5.4.7 Half-Life Measurement
5.4.8 Decay by Competing Processes

5.5 Decay Dynamics
5.5.1 Decay with Production
5.5.2 Three Component Decay Chains
5.5.3 General Decay Chain

5.6 Naturally Occurring Radionuclides
5.6.1 Cosmogenic Radionuclides
5.6.2 Singly Occurring Primordial Radionuclides
5.6.3 Decay Series of Primordial Origin
5.6.4 Secular Equilibrium

5.7 Radiodating
5.7.1 Measuring the Decay of a Parent
5.7.2 Measuring the Buildup of a Stable Daughter

6 Binary Nuclear Reactions
6.1 Types of Binary Reactions
6.1.1 The Compound Nucleus
6.2 Kinematics of Binary Two-Product Nuclear Reactions
6.2.1 Energy/Mass Conservation
6.2.2 Conservation of Energy and Linear Momentum

6.3 Reaction Threshold Energy
6.3.1 Kinematic Threshold
6.3.2 Coulomb Barrier Threshold
6.3.3 Overall Threshold Energy

6.4 Applications of Binary Kinematics
6.4.1 A Neutron Detection Reaction
6.4.2 A Neutron Production Reaction
6.4.3 Heavy Particle Scattering from an Electron

6.5 Reactions Involving Neutrons
6.5.1 Neutron Scattering
6.5.2 Neutron Capture Reactions
6.5.3 Fission Reactions

6.6 Characteristics of the Fission Reaction
6.6.1 Fission Products
6.6.2 Neutron Emission in Fission
6.6.3 Energy Released in Fission

6.7 Fusion Reactions
6.7.1 Thermonuclear Fusion
6.7.2 Energy Production in Stars
6.7.3 Nucleogenesis

7 Radiation Interactions with Matter
7.1 Attenuation of Neutral Particle Beams
  7.1.1 The Linear Interaction Coefficient
  7.1.2 Attenuation of Uncollided Radiation
  7.1.3 Average Travel Distance Before an Interaction
  7.1.4 Half-Thickness
  7.1.5 Scattered Radiation
  7.1.6 Microscopic Cross Sections
7.2 Calculation of Radiation Interaction Rates
  7.2.1 Flux Density
  7.2.2 Reaction-Rate Density
  7.2.3 Generalization to Energy- and Time-Dependent Situations
  7.2.4 Radiation Fluence
  7.2.5 Uncollided Flux Density from an Isotropic Point Source
7.3 Photon Interactions
  7.3.1 Photoelectric Effect
  7.3.2 Compton Scattering
  7.3.3 Pair Production
  7.3.4 Photon Attenuation Coefficients
7.4 Neutron Interactions
  7.4.1 Classification of Types of Interactions
  7.4.2 Fission Cross Sections
7.5 Attenuation of Charged Particles
  7.5.1 Interaction Mechanisms
  7.5.2 Particle Range
  7.5.3 Stopping Power
  7.5.4 Estimating Charged-Particle Ranges

8 Detection and Measurement of Radiation
8.1 Gas-Filled Radiation Detectors
  8.1.1 Ionization Chambers
  8.1.2 Proportional Counters
  8.1.3 Geiger-Mueller Counters
8.2 Scintillation Detectors
8.3 Semiconductor Ionizing-Radiation Detectors
8.4 Personal Dosimeters
  8.4.1 The Pocket Ion Chamber
  8.4.2 The Film Badge
  8.4.3 The Thermoluminescent Dosimeter
8.5 Measurement Theory
8.5.1 Types of Measurement Uncertainties
8.5.2 Uncertainty Assignment Based Upon Counting Statistics
8.5.3 Dead Time
8.5.4 Energy Resolution

9 Radiation Doses and Hazard Assessment
9.1 Historical Roots
9.2 Dosimetric Quantities
9.2.1 Energy Imparted to the Medium
9.2.2 Absorbed Dose
9.2.3 Kerma
9.2.4 Calculating Kerma and Absorbed Doses
9.2.5 Exposure
9.2.6 Relative Biological Effectiveness
9.2.7 Dose Equivalent
9.2.8 Quality Factor
9.2.9 Effective Dose Equivalent
9.2.10 Effective Dose
9.3 Natural Exposures for Humans
9.4 Health Effects from Large Acute Doses
9.4.1 Effects on Individual Cells
9.4.2 Deterministic Effects in Organs and Tissues
9.4.3 Potentially Lethal Exposure to Low-LET Radiation
9.5 Hereditary Effects
9.5.1 Classification of Genetic Effects
9.5.2 Summary of Risk Estimates
9.5.3 Estimating Gonad Doses and Genetic Risks
9.6 Cancer Risks from Radiation Exposures
9.6.1 Dose-Response Models for Cancer
9.6.2 Average Cancer Risks for Exposed Populations
9.7 Radon and Lung Cancer Risks
9.7.1 Radon Activity Concentrations
9.7.2 Lung Cancer Risks
9.8 Radiation Protection Standards
9.8.1 Risk-Related Dose Limits
9.8.2 The 1987 NCRP Exposure Limits

10 Principles of Nuclear Reactors
10.1 Neutron Moderation
10.2 Thermal-Neutron Properties of Fuels
10.3 The Neutron Life Cycle in a Thermal Reactor
10.3.1 Quantification of the Neutron Cycle
10.3.2 Effective Multiplication Factor
10.4 Homogeneous and Heterogeneous Cores
10.5 Reflectors
10.6 Reactor Kinetics
10.6.1 A Simple Reactor Kinetics Model
10.6.2 Delayed Neutrons
10.6.3 Reactivity and Delta-k
10.6.4 Revised Simplified Reactor Kinetics Models
10.6.5 Power Transients Following a Reactivity Insertion
10.7 Reactivity Feedback
10.7.1 Feedback Caused by Isotopic Changes
10.7.2 Feedback Caused by Temperature Changes
10.8 Fission Product Poisons
10.8.1 Xenon Poisoning
10.8.2 Samarium Poisoning
10.9 Addendum 1: The Diffusion Equation
10.9.1 An Example Fixed-Source Problem
10.9.2 An Example Criticality Problem
10.9.3 More Detailed Neutron-Field Descriptions
10.10 Addendum 2: Kinetic Model with Delayed Neutrons
10.11 Addendum 3: Solution for a Step Reactivity Insertion

11 Nuclear Power
11.1 Nuclear Electric Power
11.1.1 Electricity from Thermal Energy
11.1.2 Conversion Efficiency
11.1.3 Some Typical Power Reactors
11.1.4 Coolant Limitations
11.2 Pressurized Water Reactors
11.2.1 The Steam Cycle of a PWR
11.2.2 Major Components of a PWR
11.3 Boiling Water Reactors
11.3.1 The Steam Cycle of a BWR
11.3.2 Major Components of a BWR
11.4 New Designs for Central-Station Power
11.4.1 Certified Evolutionary Designs
11.4.2 Certified Passive Design
11.4.3 Other Evolutionary LWR Designs
11.4.4 Gas Reactor Technology
11.5 The Nuclear Fuel Cycle
11.5.1 Uranium Requirements and Availability
11.5.2 Enrichment Techniques
11.5.3 Radioactive Waste
11.5.4 Spent Fuel
11.6 Nuclear Propulsion
11.6.1 Naval Applications
11.6.2 Other Marine Applications
11.6.3 Nuclear Propulsion in Space

12 Other Methods for Converting Nuclear Energy to Electricity
12.1 Thermoelectric Generators
12.1.1 Radionuclide Thermoelectric Generators