Contents

Foreword xxi

About the Author xxiii

Part I Fundamentals of neutron physics

Chapter 1: Introduction: general facts about nuclear energy

1.1. A brief history 3
1.1.1. Fermi's pile 3
1.1.2. The end of a long search... 4
1.1.3. ... and the beginning of a great adventure 6
1.2. Principle of a nuclear power plant 8
1.3. Fission 9
1.4. Principle of chain reactions 10
1.5. Main moderators and coolants; types of reactor 11
1.6. Monitoring and control of reactors 13
1.7. Nuclear fuel cycle 14
1.8. Nuclear safety and radiation protection 16
1.9. Nuclear programmes: prospects 17

Exercises

Chapter 2: Nuclear physics for neutron physicists

A. Structure of matter and nuclear binding energy 26
2.1. Structure of matter 26
2.1.1. The classical atomic model 26
2.1.2. Elements and isotopes 26
2.1.3. Nuclide notation 27
2.1.4. Stable and unstable nuclei 27
2.1.5. Pattern of stable nuclei 28

2.2. Nuclear binding energy 29
2.2.1. Mass defect and nuclear binding energy 29
2.2.2. Nuclear units 30
2.2.3. Nuclear forces 30
2.2.4. Liquid drop model 31
2.2.5. Magic numbers and the layer model 32
2.2.6. Spin and parity 32
2.2.7. Excited levels of nuclei (isomeric states) 33
2.2.8. Other nuclear models 34
2.3. Principle of release of nuclear energy 34
2.3.1. Nuclear recombination 34
2.3.2. Reaction energy 35
2.3.3. Principle of fusion and fission 35
2.4.1. Regions of instability 38
2.4.2. Main types of radioactivity 39
2.4.3. Law of radioactive decay 40
2.4.4. Examples of radioactive decay 42
2.4.5. Alpha instability 43
2.4.6. Beta instability 44
2.4.7. Gamma instability 45
2.4.8. Radioactive series 45
2.4.9. Radioactive series equations 45
2.5. General information about nuclear reactions 47
2.5.1. Spontaneous reactions and induced reactions 47
2.5.2. Nuclear reaction examples 47
2.5.3. Laws of conservation 48
2.5.4. Cross-section 48
2.5.5. Macroscopic cross-section 50
2.6. Neutron reactions 51
2.6.1. General remarks 51
2.6.2. Scattering and "real" reactions 52
2.6.3. Main reactions induced by neutrons in reactors 52
2.6.4. Partial cross-sections and additivity of cross-sections 53
2.6.5. Neutron cross-section curves 54
2.7. Why resonances? 57
2.7.1. Resonant cross-sections: Breit–Wigner law 60
2.7.2. Resonant cross-sections: statistical aspects 64
2.7.3. Cross-sections in the thermal domain 65
2.8. Neutron sources 66
2.8.1. Spontaneous sources 66
2.8.2. Reactions induced by radioactivity 67
2.8.3. Fusion reactions 67
2.8.4. Spallation reactions 67
2.9. Spontaneous fission and induced fission 69
2.9.1. The fission barrier 69
2.9.2. Fission-related thresholds 70
2.9.3. Parity effect 71

2.9.4. Quantum effects: tunnel effect and anti-tunnel effect 72
2.10. Fission products 73
2.10.1. Neutrons 73
2.10.2. Fission fragments 75
2.10.3. Energy 77
2.11. Measuring basic neutron physics data 78
2.11.1. Neutron sources 78
2.11.2. Detection of neutrons 79
2.11.3. Measurement of total cross-section 79
2.11.4. Measurement of partial cross-sections and number of neutrons emitted per fission 79
2.11.5. Integral measurements 80
2.12. Evaluation and libraries of nuclear data 80
2.13. Processing of nuclear data for neutron physics codes 81

Exercises

Chapter 3: Introduction to neutron physics

3.1. Neutron–matter interactions 97
3.1.1. Cross-sections (review) 97
3.1.2. Neutron density, neutron flux, reaction rate 98
3.1.3. Concept of phase flux 99
3.1.4. Concept of current 100
3.1.5. Concept of opacity 101
3.1.6. The Boltzmann equation: a first approximation 102
3.2. General representation of a neutron population 104
3.2.1. Variables to introduce 104
3.2.2. General concept of neutron flux 104
3.2.3. Boltzmann equation 104
3.2.4. Probabilistic and deterministic solutions of the Boltzmann equation 106
3.3. Neutron spectra and energy balances 107
3.3.1. Fast neutron reactors and thermal neutron reactors 107
3.3.2. Neutron balances: the four-factor formula and variants 108

Exercises

Chapter 4: Point kinetics

4.1. Kinetics without delayed neutrons 119
4.1.1. First approach 119
4.1.2. Chain reaction equations 120
4.1.3. Reactivity 121
4.2. Kinetics with delayed neutrons 121
4.2.1. Parameters of delayed neutrons 121
4.2.2. Qualitative aspects 122
4.2.3. Chain reaction equations 123

4.2.4. Inhour equation 123
4.2.5. Low reactivities 124
4.2.6. High reactivities 125
4.2.7. The "natural" unit of reactivity: the "dollar" 126
4.2.8. Effective proportion of delayed neutrons 126
4.2.9. Fast kinetics model 126
4.2.10. Slow kinetics model 127
4.3. A few specific problems 128
4.3.1. Kinetics with source term 128
4.3.2. Emergency shutdown 128
4.3.3. Reactivity window 129
4.3.4. Reactivity ramp 130

Exercises

Chapter 5: Diffusion equation

5.1. Establishing the diffusion equation 139
5.1.1. Neutron balance 139
5.1.2. Evaluating the current: Fick's law 141
5.1.3. Diffusion equation 143
5.1.4. Initial condition, boundary conditions, interface conditions 144
5.1.5. External boundary: black body extrapolation distance; extrapolated surface 144
5.1.6. Approach based on the integral equation 146
5.1.7. Conditions for validity of the diffusion approximation 146
5.1.8. Transport correction 146
5.2. Example problems 147
5.2.1. Kernels of the diffusion equation in a homogeneous, infinite medium 147
5.2.2. Generalisation: the Green function 150
5.2.3. The "albedo" concept 150
5.2.4. Calculating the albedo of a plate 151
5.2.5. Use of the albedo as boundary condition 152
5.2.6. Calculation of configurations described by a single space variable 152
5.2.7. Example of configuration where flux is factorised 152
5.2.8. Homogeneous bare reactor: eigenfunctions of the Laplace operator 153
5.2.9. Steady-state problem: flux calculation by decomposition on the eigenfunctions of the Laplace operator 155
5.2.10. Study of kinetics after injecting a burst of neutrons 156

Exercises

Chapter 6: One-group/diffusion theory

6.1. A few problems in one-group/diffusion theory 170
6.1.1. Shape of solutions 170
6.1.2. Bare homogeneous spherical pile 170
6.1.3. Other homogeneous bare pile examples 172
6.1.4. Interpretation of critical condition 173
6.1.5. Reflector saving 173
6.1.6. Reflector saving calculation for a "plate" reactor 175
6.1.7. Geometries described by a single space variable 176
6.1.8. Example of a problem where flux is factorised 177
6.2. Main numerical methods used for the diffusion equation 177
6.2.1. Introduction to numerical processing 177
6.2.2. Source problem and critical problems 178
6.2.3. Finite differences 179
6.2.4. Finite elements 180
6.2.5. Nodal methods 183
6.2.6. Synthesis methods 183

Exercises

Chapter 7: Neutron slowing down

7.1. Scattering collision laws 200
7.1.1. Elastic and inelastic scattering 200
7.1.2. Laws of elastic collision 201
7.1.3. Laws of elastic and isotropic collision 203
7.1.4. Lethargy 204
7.1.5. Evaluating the number of collisions required to slow down a neutron 205
7.1.6. Comparison of the main moderators 206
7.1.7. Laws of inelastic collision 207
7.1.8. Slowing down equation 208
7.1.9. First form of the slowing down equation 209
7.1.10. Second form of the slowing-down equation 210
7.2. Analysis of a few specific problems 211
7.2.1. General remarks 211
7.2.2. Decay of the neutron spectrum by successive scattering events 211
7.2.3. Slowing down without absorption 213
7.2.4. Slowing down in hydrogen 215
7.2.5. Slowing down in the presence of resonance traps 216
7.2.6. Slowing down in the presence of low, slowly varying absorption 218
7.2.7. Space-energy coupling: Age Theory 220

Exercises

Chapter 8: Resonant absorption of neutrons (physical aspects)

8.1. Resonant absorption in a homogeneous case by a purely absorbent material ... 233
8.1.1. Self-shielding in a homogeneous case ... 233
8.1.2. Interpretation of the resonance escape probability formula ... 234
8.1.3. Flux factorisation and the concept of effective cross-section ... 235
8.1.4. Practical formula for the resonance escape probability in a homogeneous situation ... 236
8.2. Slowing down by the absorbing material ... 237
8.2.1. Equation for the fine structure of the flux in a homogeneous situation ... 237
8.2.2. Slowing-down models for resonant nuclei ... 238
8.3. Resonant absorption in a heterogeneous situation ... 239
8.3.1. Flux and fine structure equations in the heterogeneous case ... 239
8.3.2. Wigner and Bell-Wigner approximations: the concept of homogeneous-heterogeneous Equivalence ... 242
8.3.3. Fuel containing a mixture ... 242
8.3.4. The Dancoff effect ... 244
8.3.5. Formula for the resonance escape probability in a heterogeneous situation ... 245
8.4. Doppler effect ... 246
8.4.1. Importance of the Doppler effect ... 246
8.4.2. Origin of the Doppler effect ... 246
8.4.3. Doppler effect calculation ... 247
8.5. Future prospects: problems that a resonant absorption theory will have to solve ... 249
8.5.1. Evaluating the Bell factor ... 250
8.5.2. Continuous-multigroup equivalence ... 250
8.5.3. Allowing for complicated geometries ... 250
8.5.4. Cases with several resonant nuclei ... 250
8.5.5. Definition and calculation of effective temperatures ... 250

Exercises

Chapter 9: Thermalisation of neutrons

9.1. Qualitative aspects of thermalisation ... 259
9.1.1. What distinguishes the thermal domain from the slowing-down domain? ... 259
9.1.2. Maxwell spectrum ... 261
9.1.3. Principle of microreversibility ... 262
9.1.4. Scattering equations ... 262
9.1.5. Thermalisation equation ... 263
9.2. Appearance and characterisation of the thermal spectrum ... 264
9.2.1. Difference between the thermal neutron spectrum and the Maxwell spectrum ... 264
9.2.2. Examples ... 266

9.2.3. Average cross-sections ... 268
9.2.4. Processing a heterogeneous situation ... 268
9.3. Balance of thermal neutrons ... 269
9.3.1. General considerations ... 269
9.3.2. Thermal utilisation factor ... 270
9.3.3. Reproduction factor ... 271
9.3.4. Optimum moderation ... 271
9.3.5. Problem of using a boron solution in the primary circuit of PWRs 274
9.3.6. Problem of using plutonium in PWRs ... 274

Exercises

Chapter 10: Multigroup theory

10.1. Principle of multigroup theory ... 285
10.2. Implementation of multigroup theory ... 285
10.3. Examples of multigroup partitioning ... 287
10.4. Multigroup diffusion theory ... 289
10.5. Two-group theory calculation of a reflected cylindrical pile ... 289

Exercises

Chapter 11: Poisoning by fission products

11.1. Fission products ... 298
11.1.1. Equations governing fission products ... 298
11.1.2. Fission pseudo-products ... 299
11.1.3. Concept of poisoning ... 301
11.2. The xenon effect ... 301
11.2.1. The xenon 135 series ... 301
11.2.2. Simplified equations for the xenon 135 series ... 302
11.2.3. Reactor start-up, equilibrium, and shutdown ... 302
11.2.4. Spatial instabilities due to xenon 135 ... 304
11.3. The samarium effect ... 305
11.3.1. Samarium 149 series ... 305
11.3.2. Simplified equations in the samarium 149 series ... 305
11.3.3. Reactor start-up, equilibrium and shutdown ... 306

Exercises

Chapter 12: Fuel evolution (heavy nuclei)

12.1. Evolution series and equations ... 317
12.1.1. Evolution series ... 317
12.1.2. Evolution equations ... 321
12.1.3. Neutron fluence ... 322
12.1.4. Variation of cross-sections ... 323
12.1.5. Burn-up and combustion rate ... 324

12.1.6. Example of heavy nucleus balance (pressurised water reactor) ... 325
12.2. Evolution of the multiplication factor ... 326
12.2.1. Evolution of the infinite multiplication factor ... 326
12.2.2. Multiple-frequency core management ... 327
12.2.3. Other core management problems (pressurised water reactors) ... 329
12.3. Conversion and recycling of materials ... 332
12.3.1. Fissile, fertile, and sterile nuclei ... 332
12.3.2. Conversion factor and regeneration gain ... 333
12.3.3. Recycling plutonium ... 334
12.3.4. Thorium-uranium 233 cycle ... 336
12.3.5. Incineration of nuclear waste in reactors ... 336

Exercises

Chapter 13: Temperature effects

13.1. Counter-reaction loop ... 347
13.2. Definition of temperature coefficients ... 348
13.3. Physical effects that contribute to temperature coefficients ... 349
13.4. Effects of temperature on reactivity in pressurised water reactors ... 351
13.5. Overview of counter-reaction effects in pressurised water reactors ... 353
13.6. Temperature effects in other reactors ... 356

Exercises

Part II Elements of neutron physics calculations

Chapter 14: Boltzmann equation

14.1. The two forms of the Boltzmann equation ... 370
14.1.1. Incoming density, outgoing density, and neutron flux ... 370
14.1.2. Collision operator ... 371
14.1.3. Transport operator (integral form) ... 371
14.1.4. Transport operator (differential form) ... 372
14.1.5. Equivalence between the two forms of the transport operator ... 373
14.1.6. The two deterministic approaches to the Boltzmann equation ... 374
14.1.7. Probabilistic approach to the Boltzmann equation ... 374
14.2. Processing the collision operator ... 375
14.3. Treatment of the integral form of the transport operator ... 376
14.3.1. Isotropic collision assumption ... 376
14.3.2. Transport correction ... 377
14.3.3. First collision probabilities ... 378
14.3.4. Reciprocity and complementarity relationships between the first collision probabilities ... 380
14.3.5. Probabilities involving a surface ... 381

14.3.6. Reciprocity and complementarity relationships between probabilities involving a surface ... 381
14.3.7. First collision probabilities for a homogeneous convex body ... 382
14.3.8. Calculation of collision probabilities in x Geometry and $x - y$ Geometry ... 383
14.3.9. Calculation of probabilities on an infinite lattice of identical cells 385
14.3.10. Cylindrisation of cells ... 387
14.3.11. Principle of "multicell" geometry calculations ... 388
14.4. Handling the differential form of the transport operator ... 390
14.4.1. Handling the diffusion operator ... 390
14.4.2. Spherical harmonic method ... 392
14.4.3. Diffusion approximation and transport correction ... 394
14.4.4. Method of simplified spherical harmonics ... 396
14.4.5. Method of discrete ordinates ... 396
14.4.6. Ray effects ... 397
14.4.7. Handling the space variable ... 398
14.5. Concept of fundamental mode ... 402
14.5.1. Why is the fundamental mode of interest? ... 402
14.5.2. A few analytical solutions of the Boltzmann equation in monokinetic theory ... 402
14.5.3. Concept of fundamental mode in a homogeneous medium in monokinetic theory ... 405
14.5.4. Physical interpretation of the fundamental mode ... 407
14.5.5. Existence and calculation of the leakage coefficient ... 407
14.5.6. Balance in fundamental mode ... 409
14.5.7. Generalisation to the spectrum case ... 411
14.5.8. Concept of fundamental mode in a regular lattice ... 412
14.6. Use of Monte Carlo techniques in neutron physics ... 413
14.6.1. Outline of the Monte Carlo method ... 413
14.6.2. Analogous simulation and non-analogous simulation ... 413
14.6.3. Overview of sampling problems ... 415
14.6.4. Analogous simulation of a neutron path ... 417
14.6.5. Estimating the multiplication factor ... 417
14.6.6. Semi-analogous simulation of neutron paths ... 419

Exercises

Chapter 15: Theory of Resonant Absorption of Neutrons

15.1. Energy scales of different neutron physics problems ... 455
15.2. The heterogeneous-homogeneous equivalence: choice of Bell factor ... 456
15.2.1. Principle of pre-tabulations (review) ... 456
15.2.2. Principle of heterogeneous-homogeneous equivalence ... 457
15.2.3. Definition of the simplified problem ... 457
15.2.4. Implementation with the "narrow resonance" model ... 458
15.2.5. Implementation with the "wide resonance" model ... 458
15.2.6. Examining the width of resonances: example of uranium 238 ... 459
15.2.7. Macrogroup-by-macrogroup equivalence ... 459

15.3. Continuous-multigroup equivalence 459
15.3.1. Why calculate the real flux rather than the macroscopic flux? 459
15.3.2. Principle of continuous-multigroup equivalence 460
15.4. "One-by-one" handling of situations with several resonant nuclei 462
15.4.1. The need to handle situations with several resonant nuclei 462
15.4.2. Principle of "one-by-one" handling 462
15.5. Extensions of the Livolant-Jeanpierre theory 463
15.5.1. Allowing for capture in the moderator 463
15.5.2. Self-shielding in the thermal domain 464
15.5.3. Other slowing-down models 464
15.5.4. Handling geometries with several moderator zones 465
15.5.5. Handling of cases with several resonant zones 465
15.5.6. Treatment of the general case 467
15.5.7. Problem of interference between resonances 467
15.6. Method of probability tables 468
15.6.1. Introduction 468
15.6.2. Principle of a probability table 468
15.6.3. Table of partial cross-sections 470
15.6.4. Mixtures 471
15.6.5. Conclusion 472
15.7. Treatment of the Doppler effect 472
15.7.1. Calculating the Doppler widening of resonances 472
15.7.2. Allowing for temperature gradients 473
15.8. Prospects 473
15.8.1. Validation of self-shielding calculations 473
15.8.2. Problems still pending 474

Exercises

Chapter 16: Perturbation theory

16.1. Concept of adjoint flux 483
16.1.1. Importance in neutron physics 483
16.1.2. Mathematical definition of adjoint flux 484
16.1.3. Examples 485
16.1.4. Physical definition of adjoint flux 485
16.2. Perturbation formulae 486
16.2.1. Associated critical reactor 486
16.2.2. Exact perturbation formula 487
16.2.3. First-order perturbation equation 488
16.3. Application examples 488
16.3.1. Plutonium 239 equivalent 488
16.3.2. Differential and integral efficiency of a control rod 491
16.3.3. Error due to nuclear and technological uncertainties 491
16.4. Generalised perturbation theory 493

Exercises

Chapter 17: Overview of the "Calculation Scheme"

17.1. Nuclear data 498
17.2. Tabulation for the processing of resonance self-shielding 498
17.3. Assembly calculations 499
17.4. Reflector calculation 502
17.5. Core calculation 503
17.6. Problem of homogenisation and condensation 505
17.7. Transport-diffusion equivalence 507
17.8. Generalisation: the concept of equivalence in neutron physics 507
17.9. Evolution and counter-reactions 509
17.10. Fast kinetics 510
17.11. Summary of the main approximations of the calculation scheme 511
17.12. Validation of calculation schemes 513
17.13. Qualification of calculation schemes 514
17.14. Tendency search 514
17.15. Conclusions 518

Exercises

Chapter 18: Overview of core design problems

18.1. General elements of core design 537
18.1.1. Reactor target 537
18.1.2. Choice of reactor type 538
18.1.3. Elements required for lattice sizing 539
18.1.4. Elements for core sizing and choice of reflector 540
18.2. General remarks about core control and management 541
18.2.1. Control concepts 542
18.2.2. Reactivity balance 544
18.2.3. Core management 545
18.2.4. Plutonium recycling 545
18.3. Prospects for nuclear energy 549
18.3.1. Strategic considerations 549
18.3.2. Use of nuclear fuel 549
18.3.3. Multirecycling of plutonium in reactors 550
18.3.4. Next-Generation reactor types 553
18.3.5. Hybrid reactors 554
18.3.6. The problem of waste management 560
18.3.7. Nuclear energy and sustainable development 565

Exercises

Appendice A: Annotated Bibliography

A.1. Introduction to nuclear energy and context 576

A.1.1. General texts 576
A.1.2. Historical aspects 577
A.1.3. Risks, safety and accidents 577
A.1.4. Communication 577
A.1.5. Fuel cycle 577
A.1.6. Nuclear defence and risk of proliferation 578
A.1.7. Nuclear fusion 578
A.1.8. The Oklo phenomenon 578
A.1.9. The world needs of energy and the possible contribution of the nuclear energy 578
A.2. General works on reactor physics 578
A.3. Works by the present author on neutron physics 579
A.4. Nuclear physics, nuclear data and qualification 580
A.4.1. General information on nuclear physics 580
A.4.2. Radioactivity and radiation protection 580
A.4.3. Fission 580
A.4.4. Nuclear Physics for Use in Neutron Physics 580
A.4.5. Measurement of nuclear data 581
A.4.6. Compilation and processing of nuclear data 581
A.4.7. Integral measurements and their use for the qualification of nuclear data 581
A.4.8. General approach to the qualification of nuclear data 582
A.4.9. Database of integral experiments 582
A.5. Reactor kinetics 583
A.6. Slowing down, thermalisation and resonant absorption of neutrons 583
A.6.1. General information on resonant absorption 583
A.6.2. The method of effective reaction rates 583
A.6.3. The method of probability tables 584
A.6.4. Doppler effect 584
A.6.5. Validation and qualification 585
A.6.6. Thermalisation of neutrons 585
A.7. Processing the neutron spectrum – multigroup theory 586
A.8. Transport operator 587
A.8.1. General publications 587
A.8.2. A few references about the French approach 587
A.9. Monte Carlo method 588
A.9.1. General works 588
A.9.2. Examples of Monte Carlo codes 589
A.9.3. A few French developments 589
A.10. Equivalence, homogenisation and calculation of reflectors 590
A.10.1. Homogenisation 590
A.10.2. Reflector calculation 591
A.11. Neutron leakage 591
A.12. Perturbation calculations 592
A.13. Mathematical methods and numerical analysis 592
A.14. Software development 593
A.14.1. Calculation of first collision probabilities 594

A.14.2. The APOLLO 1 and APOLLO 2 codes 594
A.14.3. Simplified transport core calculations 594
A.14.4. Deterministic calculations for radiation protection 595
A.15. Validation of software and calculation schemes 595
A.16. Design and applied research 596

Appendice B: Physical tables and constants

B.1. Table of the elements 599
B.2. Physical constants 599
B.2.1. Units used in nuclear physics 599
B.2.2. Main physical constants used in neutron physics 599
B.3. Selection of nuclear data 601
B.3.1. Data concerning the Elements 601
B.3.2. Data concerning nuclides 604
B.3.3. Energy released by fission 606

Appendice C: Mathematical supplement

C.1. Dirac distribution 608
C.1.1. Intuitive definition 608
C.1.2. Mathematical definitions 608
C.1.3. Definitions as Laplace operators 608
C.1.4. Generalisations 609
C.2. Linear operators 609
C.2.1. Definition 609
C.2.2. Any linear operator is integral 609
C.2.3. Adjoint operator 610
C.2.4. Eigen elements of an operator 610
C.3. Fourier transform 612
C.3.1. Translation-invariant operators 612
C.3.2. Definitions of the Fourier transform of a function 613
C.3.3. Fourier transform of a convolution product 613
C.3.4. One-dimensional examples (convention a) 614
C.3.5. Fourier transforms in two- or three-dimensional space 614
C.3.6. Fourier transforms of symmetric functions (convention a) 615
C.3.7. Poisson summation formula 615
C.3.8. Eigenvalues of translation-invariant operators 616
C.3.9. Linear operators on an infinite, regular lattice 616
C.4. Spherical harmonics 617
C.4.1. Rotation invariance 617
C.4.2. Legendre polynomials 619
C.4.3. Spherical harmonics 621
C.4.4. Rotation-invariant operators 622
C.5. Eigenfunctions of the Laplace operator 623
C.5.1. Definition 623
C.5.2. Laplace operator 623
C.5.3. Factorised general solutions 624

C.5.4. Eigenfunctions of the Laplace operator vanishing at the surface of a domain 624
C.6. Bessel functions 626
C.6.1. Bessel equations 626
C.6.2. Expansions at the origin 627
C.6.3. Asymptotic expansions 630
C.6.4. Recurrence relations 630
C.6.5. Integrals 631
C.6.6. Wronskians 632
C.6.7. J_n generating function 632
C.6.8. Representations by a definite integral 632
C.6.9. Addition formulae 632
C.6.10. Complete basis of functions defined in the interval [0,1] 633
C.6.11. Fourier transform in a plane 633
C.6.12. Half-order functions 633
C.6.13. A few numerical values 634
C.7. Streaming operator 634
C.7.1. Cartesian coordinates 634
C.7.2. Cylindrical coordinates 634
C.7.3. Spherical coordinates 635
C.8. Peierls operator 635
C.8.1. Three-Dimensional Geometry (x, y, z) 636
C.8.2. Two-Dimensional Geometry (x, y) 636
C.8.3. One-dimensional geometry (x) 636
C.9. Integral exponential functions 637
C.9.1. Definitions 637
C.9.2. Recurrence relations 637
C.9.3. Expansions at the origin 637
C.9.4. Asymptotic expansions 638
C.9.5. Fourier cosine transforms 638
C.10. Bickley-Naylor functions 639
C.11. Quadrature formulae 640
C.11.1. General information 640
C.11.2. Constant-step formulae 641
C.11.3. Gauss formulae 643

Appendice D: Handbook

D.1. Units and constants 647
D.1.1. Units 647
D.1.2. A few physical constants 648
D.2. Nuclear physics 648
D.2.1. Characteristics of a (non-relativistic) particle 648
D.2.2. Constitution of an atom 648
D.2.3. Binding energy in nuclei 649
D.2.4. Radioactivity 649
D.2.5. Fission 649

D.2.6. Reactions involving neutrons 649
D.3. Neutron diffusion 650
D.3.1. Multiplication factor 650
D.3.2. Neutron paths 650
D.3.3. Neutron population 650
D.3.4. Transport equation 650
D.3.5. Diffusion approximation 651
D.3.6. One-group neutron theory 651
D.4. Neutron spectrum 652
D.4.1. Infinite multiplication factor of thermal neutron reactors 652
D.4.2. Elastic slowing down 652
D.4.3. Maxwell spectrum 653
D.5. Reactor kinetics 653
D.5.1. Reactivity 653
D.5.2. Supercritical situation with prompt neutrons 653
D.5.3. Evolution in the neighbourhood of criticality 654
D.6. Reactor operation 654
D.6.1. Temperature effects 654
D.6.2. Poisoning by fission products 655
D.6.3. Evolution of heavy nuclei 655

Index and glossary 657