

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Cross sections and nuclear data	5
2.1	Solid angles and spherical harmonics	5
2.2	Dealing with distributions	9
2.3	Dynamics of a scattering reaction	12
2.3.1	Collision of a neutron with a nucleus initially at rest	16
2.4	Definition of a cross section	19
2.5	Formation of a compound nucleus	22
2.5.1	The single level Breit-Wigner formulas	28
2.5.2	Low-energy variation of cross sections	31
2.6	Thermal agitation of nuclides and binding effects	33
2.6.1	Numerical convolution of cross sections	34
2.6.2	Convolution of Breit-Wigner cross sections	36
2.6.3	Convolution of a constant cross section	39
2.6.4	Convolution of the differential scattering cross section	41
2.6.5	Effects of molecular or metallic binding	46
2.7	Expansion of the differential cross sections	50
2.8	Calculation of the probability tables	53
2.9	Production of an isotopic cross-section library	54
2.9.1	Photo-atomic interaction data	59
2.9.2	Delayed neutron data	60
2.9.3	An overview of DRAGR	61
	Exercises	64
3	The transport equation	69
3.1	The particle flux	69
3.2	Derivation of the transport equation	72
3.2.1	The characteristic form of the transport equation	74
3.2.2	The integral form of the transport equation	75
3.2.3	Boundary and continuity conditions	76
3.3	Source density in reactor physics	77
3.3.1	The steady-state source density	77
3.3.2	The transient source density	80
3.4	The transport correction	82
3.5	Multigroup discretization	83
3.5.1	Multigroup steady-state transport equation	85
3.5.2	Multigroup transient transport equation	87
3.6	The first-order streaming operator	89
3.6.1	Cartesian coordinate system	89

3.6.2	Cylindrical coordinate system	91
3.6.3	Spherical coordinate system	93
3.7	The spherical harmonics method	94
3.7.1	The P_n method in 1D slab geometry	95
3.7.2	The P_n method in 1D cylindrical geometry	99
3.7.3	The P_n method in 1D spherical geometry	104
3.7.4	The simplified P_n method in 2D Cartesian geometry	106
3.8	The collision probability method	108
3.8.1	The interface current method	110
3.8.2	Scattering-reduced matrices and power iteration	113
3.8.3	Slab geometry	113
3.8.4	Cylindrical 1D geometry	118
3.8.5	Spherical 1D geometry	125
3.8.6	Unstructured 2D finite geometry	126
3.9	The discrete ordinates method	133
3.9.1	Quadrature sets in the method of discrete ordinates	133
3.9.2	The difference relations in 1D slab geometry	138
3.9.3	The difference relations in 1D cylindrical geometry	140
3.9.4	The difference relations in 1D spherical geometry	144
3.9.5	The difference relations in 2D Cartesian geometry	146
3.9.6	Synthetic acceleration	148
3.10	The method of characteristics	150
3.10.1	The MOC integration strategy	151
3.10.2	Unstructured 2D finite geometry	157
3.10.3	The algebraic collapsing acceleration	162
3.11	The multigroup Monte Carlo method	167
3.11.1	Mathematical background	167
3.11.2	Rejection techniques	172
3.11.3	The random walk of a neutron	176
3.11.4	Criticality calculations	184
3.11.5	Monte Carlo reaction estimators	189
	Exercises	191
4	Elements of lattice calculation	195
4.1	A historical overview	196
4.2	Neutron slowing-down and resonance self-shielding	199
4.2.1	Elastic slowing down	201
4.2.2	A review of resonance self-shielding approaches	204
4.2.3	The Livolant-Jeanpierre approximations	205
4.2.4	The physical probability tables	209
4.2.5	The statistical subgroup equations	212
4.2.6	The multigroup equivalence procedure	215
4.3	The neutron leakage model	217
4.3.1	The B_n leakage calculation	218
4.3.2	The homogeneous fundamental mode	219
4.3.3	The heterogeneous fundamental mode	224
4.3.4	Introduction of leakage rates in a lattice calculation	227
4.3.5	Introduction of leakage rates with collision probabilities	229
4.3.6	Full-core calculations in diffusion theory	231
4.3.7	Full-core calculations in transport theory	232
4.4	The SPH equivalence technique	234
4.4.1	Definition of the macro balance relations	235

4.4.2	Definition of the SPH factors	236
4.4.3	Iterative calculation of the SPH factors	240
4.5	Isotopic depletion	241
4.5.1	The power normalization	244
4.5.2	The saturation model	245
4.5.3	The integration factor method	247
4.5.4	Depletion of heavy isotopes	249
4.6	Creation of the reactor database	252
4.6.1	Selected information	252
4.6.2	Database information structure	254
4.7	A presentation of DRAGON	255
4.7.1	A DRAGON tutorial	256
	Exercises	259
5	Full-core calculations	271
5.1	The steady-state diffusion equation	274
5.1.1	The Fick law	274
5.1.2	Continuity and boundary conditions	276
5.1.3	The finite homogeneous reactor	278
5.1.4	The heterogeneous 1D slab reactor	280
5.2	Discretization of the neutron diffusion equation	284
5.2.1	Mesh-corner finite differences	285
5.2.2	Mesh-centered finite differences	288
5.2.3	A primal variational formulation	290
5.2.4	The Lagrangian finite-element method	292
5.2.5	The analytic nodal method in 2D Cartesian geometry	296
5.3	Generalized perturbation theory	303
5.3.1	Mathematical background	303
5.3.2	State variables and reactor characteristics	306
5.3.3	Computing the Jacobian using the implicit approach	308
5.3.4	Computing the Jacobian using the explicit approach	309
5.4	Space-time kinetics	310
5.4.1	Point-kinetics equations	311
5.4.2	The implicit temporal scheme	316
5.4.3	The space-time implicit scheme	318
	Exercises	321
	Answers to Problems	327
A	Tracking of 1D and 2D geometries	335
A.1	Tracking of 1D slab geometries	335
A.2	Tracking of 1D cylindrical and spherical geometries	337
A.3	The theory behind sybt1d	340
A.4	Tracking of 2D square pincell geometries	341
A.5	The theory behind sybt2d	346
B	Special functions with Matlab	349
B.1	Function taben	349
B.2	Function akin	350

C Numerical methods	353
C.1 Solution of a linear system	353
C.1.1 Gauss elimination	353
C.1.2 Cholesky factorization	355
C.1.3 QR factorization	358
C.1.4 Iterative approach	360
C.2 Solution of an eigenvalue problem	367
C.2.1 The inverse power method	368
C.2.2 The inverse power method without inversion	374
C.2.3 The preconditioned power method	380
C.2.4 The Hotelling deflation	381
C.2.5 The multigroup partitioning	383
C.2.6 Convergence acceleration	385
C.3 Solution of a fixed-source eigenvalue problem	388
C.3.1 The inverse power method	389
C.3.2 The preconditioned power method with variational acceleration	391
Bibliography	394
Index	405