

Contents

Preface	iii
1. Introduction	1
2. Representation and Modification of Photon Beams	4
2.1 Introduction	4
2.2 Representation of Photon Beams	4
2.2.1 Tabular or Matrix Format	4
2.2.2 Beam Generating Functions	5
2.2.3 The Separation of Primary and Scattered Radiation ...	6
2.2.4 Representations Using Basic Principles	7
2.3 Photon Beam Modification	8
2.3.1 Beam Limiting Devices	8
2.3.1.1 Effective Attenuation of Radiation Through a Shield	8
2.3.1.2 Subtraction of Doses for a Shielded Region	8
2.3.1.3 Separation of Primary and Scattered Radiation .	9
2.3.2 Beam Attenuating Devices	9
2.3.2.1 Flattening Filters	9
2.3.2.2 Wedge Filters	9
2.3.2.3 Compensating Filters	10
2.4 Beam Data Acquisition	10
2.4.1 Types of Data to be Collected	10
2.4.1.1 Normalized Dose Distributions	10
2.4.1.2 Derived Dosimetric Quantities	10
2.4.1.3 Derived Mathematical Coefficients	11
2.4.2 Validity of the Data	11
3. Representation and Modification of High-Energy Electron Beams	12
3.1 Introduction	12
3.2 Representation of Electron Beams	12
3.2.1 Tabular or Matrix Format	12
3.2.2 Beam Generating Functions	12
3.2.3 Separation of Direct and Scattering Components	13
3.2.4 Representations Using Basic Principles	13
3.3 Electron-Beam Modification	14
3.3.1 Rectangular Fields	14
3.3.2 Irregular Fields	14
3.4 Beam Data Acquisition	14
4. Acquisition and Representation of Patient Data	15
4.1 Introduction	15
4.2 Acquisition of Patient Data	15
4.2.1 Analog Methods	15
4.2.2 Digital Methods	15
4.3 Representation of Patient Data	16
4.3.1 Representation of Contours in a Section	16
4.3.1.1 Polygonal Approximation	16
4.3.1.2 Curve Fitting	16
4.3.2 Representation of Surfaces in a Volume	16
4.3.3 Representation of Densities	18

5. Computation of the Absorbed Dose Distribution in a Patient	19
5.1 Introduction	19
5.2 Photon Beam Modification by the Patient	19
5.2.1 Effect of Source–Surface Distance (SSD)	19
5.2.2 Effect of External Shape	19
5.2.3 Effects of Composition and Density	19
5.2.4 Volume Irradiated	23
5.3 Electron Beam Modification by the Patient	23
5.3.1 Effect of External Shape	23
5.3.2 Effects of Composition and Density	23
5.4 Beam Combination	24
5.4.1 Stationary Beams	24
5.4.1.1 Patient Coordinate System and Patient Grid	24
5.4.1.2 Interpolation and Extrapolation	24
5.4.1.3 Weighting	24
5.4.1.4 Normalization	25
5.4.2 Special Problems Related to Moving Beam Therapy	26
5.4.3 Special Problems Related to Three-Dimensional Calculations	28
6. Practical Aspects of Treatment Planning by Computer	30
6.1 Introduction	30
6.2 Building a Beam Library	30
6.2.1 Automatic Field Scanning	30
6.2.2 Manual Dosimetry	30
6.2.3 Generating Programs	30
6.2.4 Verification and Listing of the Library	30
6.3 Input of Patient Data	30
6.3.1 Input from Mechanical Contouring Devices and Radio- graphs	31
6.3.2 Analog Input from a Video-Display	31
6.3.3 Input Using Digital Images	31
6.4 Input of Treatment Parameters	32
6.5 Absorbed Dose Computation Time	32
6.6 Treatment Plan Visualization and Output	32
6.6.1 Interactive Presentation	32
6.6.2 Permanent Output	33
6.7 Optimization	33
6.7.1 Optimization Criteria	33
6.7.2 Optimization Methods	33
6.7.2.1 Visual Procedures	33
6.7.2.2 Mathematical Procedures	34
6.7.2.3 Mixed Procedures	34
7. Presentation of Results of Calculation	35
7.1 Introduction	35
7.2 Alphanumeric Information	35
7.2.1 Identification of Patient and Dose Plan	35
7.2.2 Description of Technique	35
7.2.3 Single Values of Absorbed Dose	36
7.2.4 Distribution of Absorbed Dose	37
7.2.5 Magnitude of Areas and/or Volumes	37
7.2.6 Total Energy Imparted	38
7.3 Graphic Information	38
7.3.1 Information to be Included on Dose Distribution	38
7.3.2 Isodose Pattern—General Remarks	39
7.3.3 Type of Presentation—Two-Dimensional	39

7.3.3.1	Isodose Line Presentation	39
7.3.3.2	Printer Output	39
7.3.3.3	Grey-Scale Presentations	39
7.3.3.4	Color-Scale Presentation	39
7.3.3.5	Isometric Display	39
7.3.4	Type of Presentation—Three-Dimensional	39
7.3.4.1	Multiplane Display	39
7.3.4.2	Display of Surfaces	43
7.3.4.3	Digital Dissection	43
7.3.4.4	Stereometric Presentation	46
7.3.4.5	Beams Eye-View and Projection Through the CT Data	46
8.	Recording, Monitoring, Automatic Set-Up and Documenta- tion of Treatment	47
8.1	Treatment Preparation	47
8.2	Automatic Recording	47
8.3	Treatment Monitoring	47
8.4	Automatic Set-Up and Dynamic Treatment	47
8.5	Documentation	48
9.	Quality Assurance	49
9.1	Introduction	49
9.2	Program and System Documentation	49
9.3	Initial System Checks	49
9.4	Repeated System Checks	49
9.5	Quality Assurance Through Manual Procedures	50
9.6	<i>In vivo</i> Dosimetry	50
10.	Concluding Remarks	51
	APPENDIX A: Representation of Photon Beams	52
A.1	Representation of Central Ray Dose Distributions for Photon Beams	52
A.2	Representation of Cross-Beam Dose Distributions for Photon Beams	53
	APPENDIX B: Representation of Electron Beams	55
B.1	Representation of Central Ray Dose Distributions for Elec- tron Beams	55
B.1.1	Empirical Functions	55
B.1.2	Semi-Empirical Functions	55
B.2	Representation of Cross-Beam Dose Distributions for Elec- tron Beams	55
	References	57
	ICRU Reports	65
	Index	68