

Contents

	Introduction	v
Chapter 1	Radioactive Decay	1
	Radiations emitted	1
	<i>Alpha particle</i>	1
	<i>Beta particle</i>	3
	<i>Gamma photon</i>	5
	<i>Conversion electron</i>	5
	<i>X-ray photon</i>	5
	<i>Positron</i>	6
	<i>Annihilation radiation</i>	6
	<i>Electron capture</i>	7
	<i>Fission products</i>	7
	<i>Delayed neutron</i>	7
	Decay schemes	7
	Decay rate	13
	Half-life	14
	Specific activity	16
	The curie	19
	Dose rate	20
	Inverse square law	22
	Decay heat	22
	Problems	23
Chapter 2	Interaction of Radiation with Matter	25
	Alpha particles	25
	<i>Ion pair formation</i>	26
	<i>Range vs energy</i>	27
	Beta particles	28
	<i>Ion pair formation</i>	29
	<i>Secondary ionization</i>	29
	<i>Bremsstrahlung</i>	30
	<i>Half-thickness</i>	31

Gamma photons	31
<i>Photoelectric effect</i>	31
<i>Compton scattering</i>	31
<i>Pair production</i>	32
<i>Exponential absorption</i>	33
<i>Mass absorption coefficient</i>	33
<i>Linear absorption coefficient</i>	33
Neutrons	37
<i>Thermal neutrons</i>	37
<i>Epithermal neutrons</i>	37
<i>Fast neutrons</i>	37
<i>Nuclear interaction</i>	38
<i>Scattering</i>	38
<i>Capture</i>	38
<i>Cross section</i>	39
<i>Exponential absorption</i>	39
Problems	40
Chapter 3 Detection of Radiation	41
Gas filled detectors	41
<i>Gas ionization</i>	42
<i>Electric field gradient</i>	45
<i>Gas amplification</i>	46
<i>Voltage pulse</i>	46
<i>Ionization chamber</i>	47
<i>Proportional counter</i>	47
<i>Geiger-Muller counter</i>	47
<i>Pulse spectrum</i>	49
<i>Voltage plateau</i>	53
<i>Resolving time</i>	54
<i>Counting efficiency</i>	57
<i>Physical geometry</i>	58
<i>Backscattering</i>	59
<i>Intrinsic efficiency</i>	59
Gamma spectrometry using sodium iodide crystals	61
<i>Differential pulse height spectrum</i>	62
<i>Single channel analyzer</i>	62
<i>Multichannel analyzer</i>	63
<i>Photopeak resolution</i>	65
<i>Representative spectra</i>	68
<i>Counting efficiency</i>	72
Gamma spectrometry using germanium crystals	74
<i>Resolution</i>	74
<i>Counting efficiency</i>	74

	<i>Homogeneous detectors</i>	75
	<i>Junction detectors</i>	75
	<i>Statistical limitation on resolution</i>	80
	Neutron detectors	82
	<i>Boron interaction</i>	83
	<i>Proton scattering</i>	83
	<i>Fission</i>	83
	<i>Helium-3</i>	84
	<i>Scintillation techniques</i>	84
	<i>Activation of foils</i>	85
	Problems	86
Chapter 4	Quantitative Measurement of Radiation	88
	Counting efficiency	88
	Precision	89
	Standard deviation	89
	Variance	89
	Poisson distribution	90
	Normal distribution	91
	Confidence level	93
	Confidence limits	93
	Control chart	94
	Precision of net count	96
	Chi square test	97
	Precision vs accuracy	98
Chapter 5	The Literature of Radiation Detection	101
	Appendix	105
	Index	109