

CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES	xvi
LIST OF FIGURES	xvi
INTRODUCTION: THE SUBJECT OF NEUTRON TRANSPORT THEORY	xvii

PART I

GENERAL ANALYSIS

I. THE PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF NEUTRONS	1
1.1. The properties underlying the concept of diffusion	1
1.2. The results of individual collisions	2
1.2.1. The relevant energy range. Thermal and non-thermal neutrons	2
1.2.2. Elastic scattering	3
1.2.3. Inelastic scattering	5
1.2.4. Fission	6
1.2.5. Prompt and delayed neutrons	8
1.3. The mean free path, the cross-section, the mean number of secondaries, etc.	8
1.3.1. Definitions and notations	8
1.3.2. General features of the energy dependence of cross-sections	10
1.4. Preview of the main problems of neutron transport theory	13
II. THE MATHEMATICAL FORMULATION OF THE LAWS OF NEUTRON MIGRATION	15
2.1. The form of the transport equation	15
2.2. Discussion of the form of the function $c_r f(v' \Omega' \rightarrow v \Omega; t')$	17
2.3. The boundary conditions	20
2.3.1. The interface between two media	21
2.3.2. The free surface of a medium	21
2.3.3. The condition at infinity	21
2.3.4. The initial conditions	22
2.4. The integral equation	22
2.5. The equivalence of the Boltzmann and integral equations	24
2.6. The case of re-entrant bodies and inhomogeneous media	26
2.7. The integral equation in the general case	27
III. STATIONARY AND TIME-DEPENDENT PROBLEMS. THE ADJOINT EQUATION	28
3.1. Stationary problems and critical-size problems	28
3.2. Time-dependent problems and their reduction to stationary problems	29
3.3. The adjoint equation and an orthogonality relation	31

3.4. The eigenfunction expansion of the solution of the inhomogeneous equation	33
3.5. Another orthogonality relation	34
3.6. The adjoint integral equation	36
3.7. Some further remarks	37

PART II

THE CONSTANT CROSS-SECTION APPROXIMATION

IV. ONE-GROUP THEORY AND ITS RANGE OF APPLICATION	39
4.1. The assumptions underlying one-group theory	39
4.2. Terminology	41
4.3. Other applications of the constant cross-section approximation	42
4.4. A note regarding thermal neutrons	43
4.5. The integral equation in the constant cross-section approximation	45
4.6. The adjoint integro-differential equation and the optical reciprocity theorem	47
4.7. The adjoint integral equation	49
V. EXACT SOLUTIONS FOR AN INFINITE MEDIUM WITH ISOTROPIC SCATTERING	51
5.1. The case of an infinite source-free medium	51
5.1.1. First method	51
5.1.2. Second method	52
5.1.3. Third method	53
5.2. The diffusion length	54
5.3. An isotropic point source in an infinite homogeneous medium	55
5.4. An anisotropic point source in an infinite homogeneous medium	59
5.5. An isotropic line or plane source in an infinite homogeneous medium	62
5.5.1. The line source	62
5.5.2. The plane source	64
VI. EXACT SOLUTIONS FOR AN INFINITE HALF-SPACE	67
6.1. Milne's problem	67
6.2. The asymptotic behaviour of the neutron flux in Milne's problem	72
6.3. The neutron current in Milne's problem	74
6.3.1. The neutron current in the deep interior	74
6.3.2. The neutron current at the free surface	76
6.4. Milne's problem in the presence of sources	77
6.5. The case of constant production	79
6.6. The albedo problem	81
6.7. The isotropic plane source case	83
6.8. The isotropic point source case	85

VII. THE CASE OF TWO ADJACENT HALF-SPACES	87
7.1. The extension of the Wiener-Hopf method	87
7.2. The asymptotic behaviour of the neutron flux	88
7.3. The angular distribution, flux, and current at the interface	90
7.4. The effects of sources	91
VIII. THE DIFFUSION APPROXIMATION	94
8.1. The basic ideas of diffusion theory	94
8.2. The problem of spherical systems	96
8.3. The boundary conditions at a free surface	97
8.4. The boundary conditions at an interface	98
8.5. Black bodies	100
8.6. Cavities and gaps	102
8.6.1. Cases where the presence of cavities has no effect	102
8.6.2. The case of a plane slit	103
8.6.3. Gaps and cavities of other shapes	105
8.7. The effects of sources	106
8.8. A remark on orthogonality	107
IX. THE SERBER-WILSON METHOD	109
9.1. Serber's formulation of the method	109
9.2. Wilson's formulation of the method	110
9.3. The explicit form of the Serber-Wilson conditions	112
9.4. The accuracy and limits of applicability of the method	113
X. THE SPHERICAL HARMONICS METHOD FOR PLANE GEOMETRIES	116
10.1. A general outline of the spherical harmonics method	116
10.2. The coefficients and exponents involved in the method	118
10.2.1. Auxiliary functions	118
10.2.2. Properties of the roots of the determinantal equation	122
10.2.3. Behaviour of the roots of the determinantal equation in high-order approximations	124
10.3. The boundary conditions	126
10.3.1. Conditions at an interface between media	126
10.3.2. Odd-order and even-order approximations	127
10.3.3. Conditions at infinity	128
10.3.4. Conditions at a free surface. Mark's lemma and boundary conditions	129
10.3.5. The application of Mark's boundary conditions	130
10.3.6. Conditions at a free surface (continued). Marshak's boundary conditions	133
10.3.7. Conditions at a surface exposed to neutrons	134
10.3.8. A thin absorbing slab at an interface between media	135
10.4. Multi-layer problems	137
10.5. The P_1 approximation	139
10.6. A remark on orthogonality	142

XI. THE SPHERICAL HARMONICS METHOD FOR SPHERICAL GEOMETRIES	146
11.1. The differential equations and their solution	146
11.2. Discussion of the solution	148
11.2.1. The reappearance of the functions $G_n(\nu)$	148
11.2.2. The asymptotic angular distribution	149
11.3. The boundary conditions	151
11.3.1. Conditions at the origin	151
11.3.2. Boundaries already encountered in the plane case	152
11.3.3. Conditions at the surfaces of a gap	153
XII. THE SPHERICAL HARMONICS METHOD FOR OTHER GEOMETRIES	157
12.1. The general formulation of the spherical harmonics method	157
12.1.1. Preliminary	157
12.1.2. Notations and properties of spherical harmonics	158
12.1.3. The differential equations	159
12.1.4. The method of successive elimination	160
12.2. The reduction of the differential equations	163
12.2.1. The determination of the neutron flux	163
12.2.2. The neutron current and higher moments	164
12.2.3. The complementary functions	165
12.2.4. The boundary conditions	166
12.3. Cylindrical geometries	169
12.3.1. The choice of representation	169
12.3.2. The expressions for the moments	170
12.4. Yvon's modification of the spherical harmonics method	171
XIII. THE METHOD OF DISCRETE ORDINATES	174
13.1. General outline of the method	174
13.2. The roots of the characteristic equation	175
13.3. The boundary conditions. Elimination	177
13.4. The evaluation of the spherical harmonic moments	178
13.5. The solution for general μ . The iterated angular distribution	179
13.6. The choice of the summation formula	180
13.7. Comparison of the spherical harmonics and discrete ordinates methods	181
13.7.1. Plane geometries	181
13.7.2. Other geometries	181
XIV. THE PERTURBATION METHOD	183
14.1. First-order perturbations in critical-size problems	183
14.2. The variation	184
14.3. The transformation of the integrals	185
14.4. The statistical weight theorem and its form in the diffusion approximation	187
14.5. Applications of the statistical weight theorem	189

14.6. The perturbation in the neutron flux	190
14.7. The multiplication	192
14.8. Higher-order perturbations	193
XV. THE VARIATIONAL METHOD	195
15.1. Critical-size problems: the general theory	195
15.2. Examples of applications	198
15.3. Simplifications for slowly varying trial functions	200
15.4. Problems with inhomogeneous equations: the general theory	202
15.4.1. Finite systems	202
15.4.2. Infinite systems. The edge of the continuous spectrum	204
15.4.3. An alternative functional	207
15.5. Examples of applications	209
15.5.1. LeCaine's variational solution of Milne's problem	209
15.5.2. Marshak's determination of the linear extrapolation length of a black sphere	210
15.5.3. The neutron flux near a free surface	213
15.6. Miscellaneous remarks	215
XVI. THE ITERATION AND MONTE CARLO METHODS	218
16.1. The iteration method: a general survey	218
16.2. The combination of the iteration method with the discrete ordinates method or the spherical harmonics method	219
16.3. Iteration depending on a parameter. Miscellaneous remarks	220
16.4. The Monte Carlo method: a general survey	221
16.5. Comparison of the Monte Carlo and iteration methods	224
16.6. Statistical fluctuations and the choice of c'	225
16.7. Reduction of numerical work by using the symmetry of the system, etc.	225
16.8. Reduction of numerical work by the use of analytical methods	226
16.9. Reduction of sample sizes. Importance sampling	228
16.10. An alternative procedure	229
16.11. Conclusion	231
XVII. ANISOTROPIC SCATTERING	232
17.1. Preliminary results	232
17.2. The integral equation for the neutron flux	235
17.3. An infinite source-free medium	239
17.3.1. The formal solution	239
17.3.2. The case where c is close to unity. The transport mean free path and cross-section	240
17.3.3. The case where c is not close to unity	241
17.3.4. The number of roots of the equation for the diffusion length	242
17.4. Other exact solutions	243
17.4.1. An infinite medium containing sources	243
17.4.2. An infinite source-free half-space	244

17.5. Approximate methods	246
17.5.1. The diffusion approximation and the Serber-Wilson method	246
17.5.2. The spherical harmonics method	247
17.5.3. The discrete ordinates method	248

PART III

ENERGY-DEPENDENT PROBLEMS WITH SPECTRUM REGENERATION

XVIII. A GENERAL SURVEY OF ENERGY-DEPENDENT PROBLEMS	251
18.1. Slowing-down and spectrum-regenerating media	251
18.2. Media which do not degrade the spectrum	252
18.3. Spectrum-regeneration problems and slowing-down problems	253
18.4. The main methods of solution of spectrum-regeneration problems	254
 XIX. MULTI-GROUP THEORY	 255
19.1. A general survey	255
19.2. The assumptions and basic equations of multi-group theory	255
19.2.1. The formal derivation of the equations	255
19.2.2. The validity of the multi-group approximation for an infinite source-free medium	257
19.2.3. The validity of the multi-group approximation for finite systems. General conclusions	258
19.2.4. The matrix form of the multi-group equations	261
19.2.5. The adjoint equations	262
19.3. Infinite and semi-infinite media	263
19.3.1. An infinite source-free medium	263
19.3.2. 'Solutions' which do not satisfy the conditions at infinity	267
19.3.3. An infinite medium containing sources	269
19.3.4. Semi-infinite media	270
19.4. The diffusion approximation and the Serber-Wilson method	272
19.4.1. General remarks	272
19.4.2. The case where the infinite-medium equation has enough solutions	273
19.4.3. The case where the infinite-medium equation has not enough solutions	274
19.5. The spherical harmonics method and the discrete ordinates method	277
19.5.1. The spherical harmonics method for plane geometries	277
19.5.2. The spherical harmonics method for other geometries	279
19.5.3. The P_1 approximation and a comparison of it with the diffusion approximation	280
19.5.4. The discrete ordinates method	281
19.6. The perturbation method	282
19.7. The Monte Carlo method and anisotropic scattering	283

XX. THE METHOD OF POLYNOMIAL APPROXIMATIONS	285
20.1. The type of problem for which the method is intended	285
20.2. The transformation of the Boltzmann equation	286
20.2.1. Simplifications made in the presentation of the method	286
20.2.2. The application of the spherical harmonics method	287
20.3. The method of polynomial approximations	288
20.3.1. The basic idea of the method	288
20.3.2. The application of Mellin transforms	289
20.3.3. The determinantal equation	292
20.4. Extensions and modifications of the method	293
20.4.1. The behaviour of the exact solution for small energies	293
20.4.2. The extension of the method to cases where low-energy neutrons predominate	295
20.4.3. The modification of the method to take account of thermal neutrons	297
XXI. FEYNMAN'S METHOD	302
21.1. A single homogeneous body with isotropic scattering	302
21.1.1. General outline of the method	302
21.1.2. The coefficients $A_{j \rightarrow j'}(v' \rightarrow v)$ in (21.6)	304
21.1.3. The energy-dependent factors $p_j(v)$	305
21.1.4. The critical-size problem	307
21.1.5. A remark on the solution of the auxiliary one-group problem	307
21.2. A reactive core in an elastically scattering reflector	308
21.2.1. Formulation of the problem	308
21.2.2. The application of the eigenfunction expansion	309
21.3. An inelastically scattering reflector	310
21.4. Feynman's method for anisotropic scattering	314
21.4.1. The case of a bare slab. Transformation of the equations	314
21.4.2. The application of the eigenfunction expansion	316
21.4.3. The solution of the auxiliary one-group problem	317
21.4.4. Bodies of other shapes and those surrounded by a reflector which scatters only elastically	318

PART IV

SLOWING-DOWN PROBLEMS

XXII. A GENERAL SURVEY OF SLOWING-DOWN PROBLEMS. THE SPATIAL MOMENTS OF THE NEUTRON DISTRIBUTION AS FUNCTIONS OF ENERGY	321
22.1. General survey	321
22.1.1. The main types of slowing-down problem	321
22.1.2. The form of the Boltzmann equation in slowing-down problems	323
22.1.3. The lethargy and the collision interval	326
22.1.4. The slowing-down density	327

22.2. The integral of the neutron energy spectrum over all space	329
22.2.1. A single element with no capture	329
22.2.2. A mixture with no capture	333
22.2.3. The effects of capture	334
22.2.4. The case of $1/v$ capture	338
22.3. The spatial moments of the neutron distribution. The slowing-down length	340
22.3.1. Definitions	340
22.3.2. The equations for the spatial moments	342
22.3.3. The second spatial moment in a single element without capture	344
22.3.4. The case of a mixture and the higher spatial moments	345
XXIII. AGE THEORY	346
23.1. The assumptions underlying age theory	346
23.2. The basic equation of age theory	348
23.2.1. The reduction of the Boltzmann equation	348
23.2.2. The equation for the slowing-down density	350
23.2.3. The age of the neutrons	352
23.2.4. Modified age theory. The effects of resonance capture	353
23.3. The range of applicability of age theory	355
23.4. The boundary conditions and methods of solution of the age equations	357
23.4.1. The boundary conditions	357
23.4.2. Analytical methods of solution of the age equations	358
23.4.3. Numerical methods; the direct approach	359
23.5. Application of age theory to spectrum-regeneration problems	360
23.5.1. Modified two-group theory: general considerations	360
23.5.2. Modified two-group theory: the form of the equations	361
23.5.3. The infinite-medium solution	364
23.5.4. A comparison with ordinary multi-group theory	365
23.6. Improvements in age theory. Other methods for moderate distances	368
XXIV. SLOWED-DOWN NEUTRONS AT LARGE DISTANCES FROM THE SOURCE. THE CASE OF CONSTANT CROSS-SECTIONS	370
24.1. A qualitative discussion	370
24.2. The formal solution	372
24.2.1. The method of Fourier-Mellin transforms	372
24.2.2. The inversion of the Fourier transform	373
24.2.3. The inversion of the Mellin transform. The method of steepest descent	374
24.2.4. Discussion. An alternative form of the results	376
24.3. Preliminary survey of the more effective analytical methods available	377
24.4. Bethe's method	378
24.4.1. General outline of the method	378
24.4.2. The evaluation of the residue	380
24.4.3. A single fairly heavy element	382
24.4.4. The connexion with age theory	383

24.5. Wick's asymptotic solution for constant cross-sections	384
24.5.1. The approximate form of the equation	384
24.5.2. The application of Bessel transforms	387
24.5.3. The solution of the transformed equation: the homogeneous case	388
24.5.4. The evaluation of the residue. Final results	390
XXV. SLOWED-DOWN NEUTRONS AT LARGE DISTANCES FROM THE SOURCE. THE CASE OF VARIABLE CROSS-SECTIONS	392
25.1. Preliminary survey	392
25.2. Singularities of the Fourier-Mellin transform of the density when the cross-section varies monotonically	394
25.3. The method of Verde and Wick	396
25.3.1. The singularities	396
25.3.2. The evaluation of the coefficients	398
25.3.3. The inversion of the Fourier transforms	399
25.4. Wick's asymptotic solution	401
25.4.1. The reduction of the equations	401
25.4.2. An eigenvalue problem	403
25.4.3. Final results	404
25.5. Hydrogenous media: the method of Spencer and Fano	407
25.5.1. Introduction	407
25.5.2. Spatial moments and orthogonal polynomials in spatial coordinates	408
25.5.3. The choice of the weight function	410
25.5.4. The polynomials $U_s(y)$ and $V_s(y)$	412
25.5.5. The equations for the moments	415
XXVI. HOLTE'S METHOD	417
26.1. Holte's method	417
26.2. The case of constant mean free path	417
26.2.1. The determination of the transforms	417
26.2.2. The neutron density	422
26.3. The case of variable mean free path	423
26.3.1. A survey of the singularities	423
26.3.2. The determination of the transform of the solution, for small p	425
26.3.3. The case of moderate distances from the source when the mean free path varies only slightly	426
26.3.4. The application of the method of steepest descent	428
26.4. The case where the mean free path decreases with the velocity	429
26.4.1. Preliminary transformations	429
26.4.2. The behaviour of the integrand	430
26.4.3. The evaluation of the integral	431
APPENDIX A: Some remarks regarding the completeness of the sets of eigenfunctions $N_{l,n}(\mathbf{r}, v\Omega)$ and $\bar{N}_{e,n}(\mathbf{r}, v\Omega)$	435
APPENDIX B: Carlson's method	437
BIBLIOGRAPHY	439
INDEX OF SYMBOLS	442
INDEX OF NAMES	444
INDEX OF SUBJECTS	445

LIST OF TABLES

I. Comparison of critical radii as given by various approximate methods	114
II. Values of ν_i for $N = 1, 3, 5, 7$	119
III. Values of $G_n(\nu_i)$ for $N = 1, 3, 5, 7$	120
IV. Values of the functions used in Bethe's method	383

LIST OF FIGURES

1. Energy spectrum of fission neutrons	7
2a. Variation of the total cross-section of indium with energy	12
2b. Variation of the total cross-section of hydrogen (in paraffin) with energy	12
3. Path of integration used in deriving (5.25)	57
4. Neutron density for an isotropic point source in an infinite homogeneous medium with $c = 1$ (A), $c = 0.81$ (B), $c = 0.5$ (C)	58
5a, 5b. Paths of integration used in deriving (6.9)	70
6. Variation of extrapolation length with radius for a black sphere (A) and for a black cylinder (B)	102