

Radiation Safety

(Credits: 02)

Theory: 30 Lectures

The aim of this course is for awareness and understanding regarding radiation hazards and safety. The list of laboratory skills and experiments listed below the course are to be done in continuation of the topics

Basics of Atomic and Nuclear Physics: Basic concept of atomic structure; X rays characteristic and production; concept of bremsstrahlung and auger electron, The composition of nucleus and its properties, mass number, isotopes of element, spin, binding energy, stable and unstable isotopes, law of radioactive decay, Mean life and half life, basic concept of alpha, beta and gamma decay, concept of cross section and kinematics of nuclear reactions, types of nuclear reaction, Fusion, fission. (6 Lectures)

Interaction of Radiation with matter: Types of Radiation: Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Neutron and their sources, sealed and unsealed sources, Interaction of Photons - Photo-electric effect, Compton Scattering, Pair Production, Linear and Mass Attenuation Coefficients, Interaction of Charged Particles: Heavy charged particles – Bethe-Bloch Formula, Scaling laws, Mass Stopping Power, Range, Straggling, Channeling and Cherenkov radiation. Beta Particles- Collision and Radiation loss (Bremsstrahlung), Interaction of Neutrons- Collision, slowing down and Moderation. (7 Lectures)

Radiation detection and monitoring devices: Radiation Quantities and Units: Basic idea of different units of activity, KERMA, exposure, absorbed dose, equivalent dose, effective dose, collective equivalent dose, Annual Limit of Intake (ALI) and derived Air Concentration (DAC). Radiation detection: Basic concept and working principle of gas detectors (Ionization Chambers, Proportional Counter, Multi-Wire Proportional Counters (MWPC) and Geiger Muller Counter), Scintillation Detectors (Inorganic and Organic Scintillators), Solid States Detectors and Neutron Detectors, Thermo luminescent Dosimetry. (7 Lectures)

Radiation safety management: Biological effects of ionizing radiation, Operational limits and basics of radiation hazards evaluation and control: radiation protection standards, International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) principles, justification, optimization, limitation, introduction of safety and risk management of radiation. Nuclear waste and disposal management. Brief idea about Accelerator driven Sub-critical system (ADS) for waste management. (5 Lectures)

Application of nuclear techniques: Application in medical science (e.g., MRI, PET, Projection Imaging Gamma Camera, radiation therapy), Archaeology, Art, Crime detection, Mining and oil. Industrial Uses: Tracing, Gauging, Material Modification, Sterilization, Food preservation. (5 Lectures)

Experiments:

1. Study the background radiation levels using Radiation meter
- Characteristics of Geiger Muller (GM) Counter:
- 2) Study of characteristics of GM tube and determination of operating voltage and plateau length using background radiation as source (without commercial source).
- 3) Study of counting statistics using background radiation using GM counter.
- 4) Study of radiation in various materials (e.g. K₂SO₄ etc.). Investigation of possible radiation in different routine materials by operating GM at operating voltage.
- 5) Study of absorption of beta particles in Aluminum using GM counter.
- 6) Detection of α particles using reference source & determining its half life using spark counter
- 7) Gamma spectrum of Gas Light mantle (Source of Thorium)

Reference Books:

1. W.E. Burcham and M. Jobes – Nuclear and Particle Physics – Longman (1995)
2. G.F.Knoll, Radiation detection and measurements
3. Thermoluminescence Dosimetry, Mckinlay, A.F., Bristol, Adam Hilger (Medical

Physics Handbook 5)

4. W.J. Meredith and J.B. Massey, "Fundamental Physics of Radiology". John Wright and Sons, UK, 1989.
 5. J.R. Greening, "Fundamentals of Radiation Dosimetry", Medical Physics Hand Book Series, No.6, Adam Hilger Ltd., Bristol 1981.
 6. Practical Applications of Radioactivity and Nuclear Radiations, G.C. Lowental and P.L. Airey, Cambridge University Press, U.K., 2001
 7. A. Martin and S.A. Harbisor, An Introduction to Radiation Protection, John Willey & Sons, Inc. New York, 1981.
 8. NCRP, ICRP, ICRU, IAEA, AERB Publications.
 9. W.R. Hendee, "Medical Radiation Physics", Year Book – Medical Publishers Inc. London, 1981
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