

1) Principles of Fission

- a. On average, how much energy is released by a fission reaction in total?
- b. How is this energy distributed among its products?
- c. What are the two ranges of A values for prompt, thermal neutron induced fission products that you expect?
- d. Select two realistic fission products and write a reaction you would expect.
- e. What is the difference between fissile, fissionable, and fertile nuclei?
- f. What is the significance of Pu-239 in reactors? Where does it come from?

2) A material has a total microscopic neutron cross section of $2.5 \times 10^{-24} \text{ cm}^2$, and contains $5.20 \times 10^{23} \text{ nuclei/cm}^3$

a) What is the macroscopic cross section?

b) What is the mean free path of neutrons in this material?

c) If neutrons impinge perpendicularly on a slab of the material that is 2.0 cm thick, what fraction of them will penetrate the slab without making a collision?

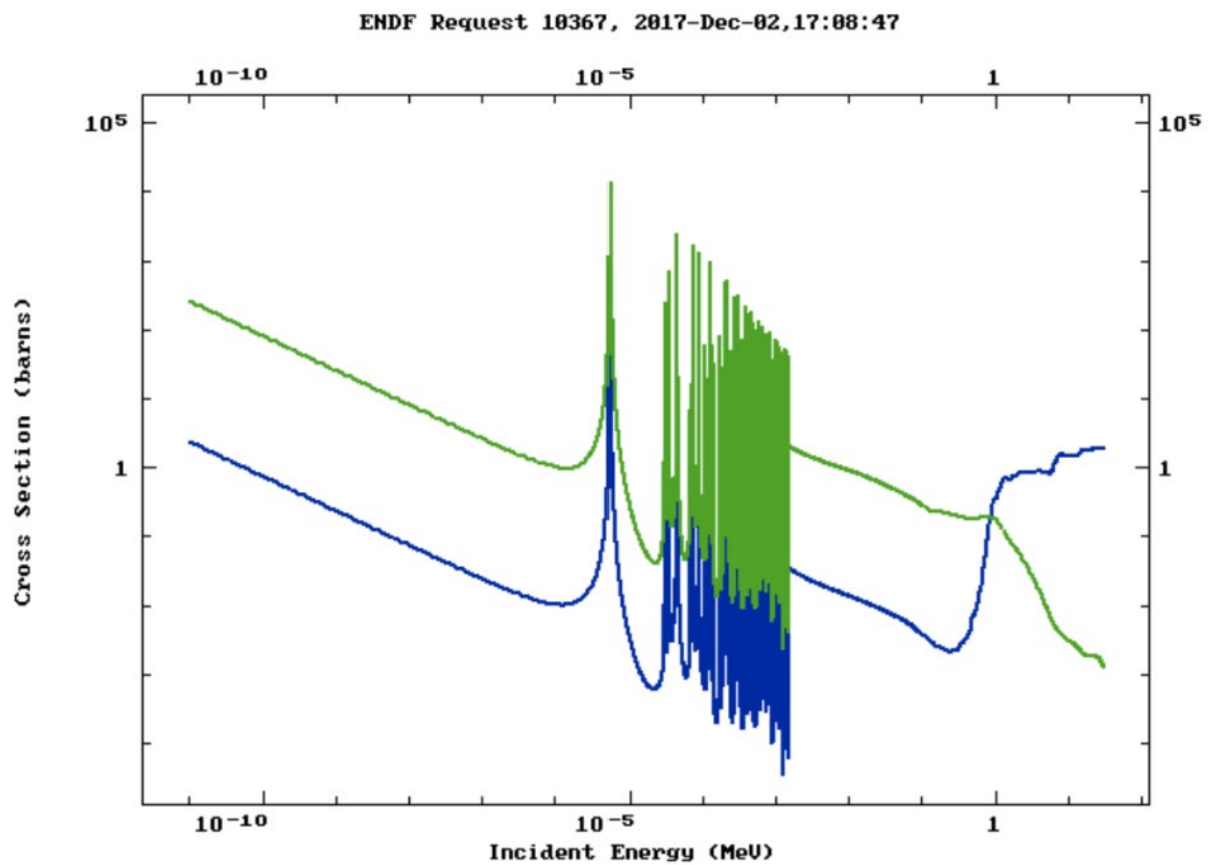
d) If the neutron beam has an intensity of $7 \times 10^7 \frac{n}{\text{cm}^2 \text{ s}}$, and a cross sectional beam area of 3 cm^2 , how many collisions per second will the neutrons undergo?

3) A light water reactor is operating at a steady state power of 1000 MWth. Assume all of the neutrons are thermal.

- a. Estimate the fission rate of the reactor.
- b. How many neutrons are being produced from fission per second?
- c. How many neutrons are either being absorbed or leaking out of the core per second?

4) Free neutrons ($mass = 1.67 \times 10^{-27} kg$) undergo β^- decay with a half life of 10.4 minutes. Determine the probability that a 5 eV neutron will decay before being absorbed in an infinite, purely-absorbing material with $\Sigma_a = 0.022 cm^{-1}$.

5) The (n, f) and (n, γ) reactions are shown below for U-236. Which cross section is which?



6) Define the following:

- a. Macroscopic cross section (definition and units)
- b. Fission reactor rate in a homogenous reactor with volume V (definition, formula, units)
- c. Neutron mean free path
- d. Fuel enrichment
- e. Natural abundance

7) Scattering

- a. What is the difference between elastic and inelastic scattering?
- b. What does it mean if scattering is isotropic?

8) Say you have a reactor that is a cube with an edge length of 0.8m composed of a homogenous fissile material. The thermal neutron flux is uniform and $1 \times 10^{15} \text{ n/cm}^2\text{s}$. The macroscopic thermal fission cross section is 0.1 cm^{-1} . What is the total reactor power in MW?

9) Fermi's Six Factor Formula

- Define each term in the six factor formula.
- Draw a diagram that shows the possible events that can happen to a neutron in a reactor.
- What are two assumptions used in the derivation of the six factor formula?
- Write down the four factor formula and state when it is applicable.
- What assumptions do you make when you express the multiplication factor as:

$$\frac{\nu \Sigma_f^{fuel} \Sigma_f^{fuel}}{\Sigma_a^{fuel} + \Sigma_a^{other}}$$