Neutron Detection & Measurement

Since neutrons are, primarily, detected based on photons and charged particles produced by neutron interactions, a neutron detection course should cover the fundamental concepts of neutron interactions as well as those of gammas and charged particles. In addition to interactions, the course will cover all methods of neutron detection; methods for determination of neutron energy; basic concepts of radiation counting statistics; principles and operation of common neutron detectors; specialized neutron detectors, and neutron dosimetry and dosimeters. The course stresses the development of a basic understanding of the principles of operation of neutron detectors and dosimeters, and helps develop an ability to inter-compare and select instrumentation best suited for different applications. It will provide an opportunity for those new to the field to gain a broad perspective of measurement options, and for practitioners to refresh their knowledge in areas outside their own specialties.

TOPICS

- **Review of Nuclear Physics**
  - a. Reactions
  - b. Basic Radiation Units and Quantities
  - c. Gamma-ray Interactions
  - d. Neutron Interactions
    - i. Scattering
    - ii Reactions of importance in detection
    - iii. Reactions of importance in applications
    - iv. Reactions of importance in dosimetry and radiation protection
  - e. Charged Particle Interactions
    - i. Review of stopping power and range
    - ii. Energy loss in materials
  - f. Neutron Sources
    - i. Radioisotope Based
    - ii. Reactors
    - iii. Accelerators
- **Review of Counting Statistics and Uncertainty Propagation**
- **Electronic Instrumentation Associated with Radiation Detection – General Overview**
- **Neutron Dose Concepts and Dose Conversion Coefficients**
- **Detection Principles**
  - a. Scintillation Detector Operation
  - b. Semiconductor Detector Operation
  - c. Gas-Filled Counters
  - d. Thermoluminescence Detectors (TLD)
- **Overview of Neutron Detection**
- **Detecting Neutrons with (n,charged particle) reactions**
- **Measurement of the neutron energy spectrum**
  - a. General Problem
  - b. Folding and Unfolding
  - c. Response Functions
  - d. Methods Used For Unfolding
- **Gas-filled Detectors for Neutron Detection**
  - a. Total Count Systems
  - b. Ionization Chambers
    - i. Dosimetry Applications
    - ii. Other Uses
  - c. Proportional Counters and Spectral Measurements
  - d. Tissue Equivalence in Radiation Dosimetry
- **Moderating Detection Systems**
  - a. Bonner spheres
  - b. Remmeters
  - c. Moderated Detector Applications
- **Activation and Threshold Foils**
- **Scintillation Detectors**
  - a. Pulse Shape Discrimination
  - b. Spectral Determination
- **More Advanced Techniques**
  - a. Time-of-Flight
    - i. Research Applications
    - ii. Instrument Applications
  - b. Proton Recoil
- **Other Measurement Techniques**
- **Instruments Used in Health Physics for Neutron Measurements**
- **Monte Carlo Simulation for Instrument Response**
  - a. Calibration Techniques for Health Physics Instruments
- **Neutron Techniques and Detection for Homeland Security**
- **New Directions in Neutron Detection and Neutron Dosimetry**

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American Academy of Health Physics
AAHP

The American Academy of Health Physics (AAHP) has awarded this course 32 continuing education credits.
Assigned ID Number: 2011-00-010

For further information or assistance, please contact:

Technical Management Services
Phone: 1-860-738-2440
Fax: 1-860-738-9322
info@tmscourses.com
www.tmscourses.com