## **Introduction to Neutron Transport**

Determination of the <u>neutron distribution</u> in the reactor system, leading to analysis of the <u>fission power</u> in the reactor.

The <u>Neutron Transport equation</u> describes the precise behavior of  ${}_{0}^{1}n$  in system (Boltzmann transport Eqn (BTE)). In some reactor systems, the diffusion equation offers an <u>approximation</u> to the <u>transport equations</u>.

 $\rightarrow$  "Diffusion" from high density to low density

 $\rightarrow$  Limited validity.

mfp for materials  $\begin{pmatrix} 1/\\ \Sigma_t \end{pmatrix}$  are 0(cm) also, PWR fuel pins <0(cm)



Neutron Transport equation fully describes neutron population elegantly. But it is difficult to solve by hand!

 $\therefore$  we define a number of simplifying assumptions to make it treatable.

Transport  $\Leftrightarrow$  common sense...

<u>Neutron diffusion</u> has been used for years to solve for neutron population; but it is <u>inaccurate</u> in places where the <u>flux can change radically</u>,

e.g.

- i) where two different materials meet
- ii) strong absorbers (control rods)
- iii) boundary of system

Many times diffusion cross sections are "tuned" to give "transport-corrected" fluxes, rxn rates.

Why? Diffusion equation is easier (cheaper) to solve.

Neutron Density

$$\xrightarrow{c m^3} \xrightarrow{c m^3} N(\vec{r}, t) d^3 r = \xrightarrow{c m^3} expected \# neutrons in differential volume d^3 r about \vec{r} at time t.$$

Consider the case where all neutrons in the system have speed v...

Recall the interaction frequency

$$(\nu\Sigma) \rightarrow (\frac{cm}{s}\frac{1}{cm}) \rightarrow \frac{1}{s}$$

Consider reaction rate density  $F(\vec{r},t)$  #Rxns in  $d^3r$  about  $\vec{r}$  at time t

$$F(\vec{r},t)d^{3}r = v\Sigma N(\vec{r},t)d^{3}r = \phi(\vec{r},t)\Sigma d^{3}r \quad (D\&H p.105, Eq 4-3)$$

$$vN(\vec{r},t) \Rightarrow \phi(\vec{r},t)$$

$$\frac{Cm}{s} \frac{\#}{cm^{3}} \qquad Ref Fig 4-1$$

$$\frac{\#}{cm^{2}s} \qquad p.106$$

$$\phi(\vec{r},t)\Sigma \left\{ \frac{\# Rxns}{cm^{3}s} \right\}$$

Consider a neutron traveling with speed vRecall that the direction is  $\hat{\Omega}$ 

$$\frac{1}{2}m_nv^2 = E \qquad \text{so} \qquad v = \left(\frac{2E}{m}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

## Angular Neutron Density

$$n(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t)d^{3}r dE d\hat{\Omega} =$$
 expected  $\frac{\# \text{ of } _{0}^{1}n^{2}s}{about \underline{E}}$  in  $d^{3}r$  about  $\underline{\vec{r}}$  with energy  $dE$  about  $\underline{E}$  with direction  $d\hat{\Omega}$  about  $\underline{\Omega}$  at time  $\underline{t}$ .

recognize that this is a <u>distribution function</u>



"Vector" Angular current density: 
$$\begin{bmatrix} \vec{j}(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) = v\hat{\Omega}n(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) \\ = \hat{\Omega}\psi(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) \end{bmatrix}$$

Now, Considering these definitions, Eq (4-11) D&H States:

$$\left|\vec{j}\right| = \left|\hat{\Omega}\right|\psi = 1 \cdot \psi = \psi$$



$$\left(\left|\vec{j}\left(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t\right) \cdot d\vec{A}\right| dE d\hat{\Omega}\right) = \exp \operatorname{cted} \# \operatorname{of} {}_{0}^{1}n \operatorname{passing} \operatorname{an} \operatorname{area} dA$$
  
per unit time with energy  $dE$  about  $E$   
direction  $d\hat{\Omega}$  about  $\hat{\Omega}$ , at time  $t$ 

Angular Reaction Rate

$$f(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) = v\Sigma(\vec{r}, E)n(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) = \Sigma(\vec{r}, E)\psi(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t)$$

Case of Isotropic Flux

Isotropic  $\equiv$  uniformly distributed in all directions



So 
$$\int_{\Omega} d\hat{\Omega} = \int_{0}^{2\pi} \int_{-1}^{1} d\mu d\varphi = 4\pi$$

If the Angular Neutron Density is isotropic, then

$$\begin{bmatrix} n(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi} N(\vec{r}, E, t) \end{bmatrix} \qquad D\&H (Eq 4-16)$$
accounts for all directions

Usually,  $n(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t)$  is <u>not</u> the same in all directions, especially near interfaces, localized absorbers, etc...

$$\left[\phi(\vec{r}, E, t) = \int_{4\pi} d\hat{\Omega} \psi(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t)\right] \qquad \text{D&H (Eq 4-17)}$$
$$\left[\phi(\vec{r}, t) = \int_{0}^{\infty} \int_{4\pi} d\hat{\Omega} dE \psi(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t)\right] \qquad \text{D&H (Eq 4-18)}$$

The Formalism is now established for defining the Neutron Transport Equation



Recall angular neutron density 
$$\left[\int_{\forall} n(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) d^3 r\right] dE \, d\hat{\Omega}$$
 (8.1)

The time differential applied to this gives us a time rate of change...



Now consider G (gain) in  ${}_{0}^{1}n$  population due to:

#### D&H

- (1) G1) Neutron sources in  $\forall$  (fission & independent)
- (2) G2) Neutrons crossing  $S \text{ into } \forall$  (leaking in)
- (3) G3) Collisions in  $\underbrace{E', \Omega'}_{\substack{\text{some "other"}\\ energy \& angle}} \xrightarrow{E, \hat{\Omega}} dEd\hat{\Omega}$  energy & angle of "interest"

<u>Consider L (loss) of  ${}_{0}^{1}n$  population due to:</u>

#### D&H

- (4) L1) Neutrons crossing S out of  $\forall$  (leaking <u>out</u>)
- (5) L2) Any collision in  $(E, \hat{\Omega})$  removing a neutron. (Absorption or scatter) out of energy, angle of interest

## Independent Sources

**Collisions** 

$$\int_{\forall} \left[ n(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) v \Sigma_{t}(\vec{r}, E) \right] d^{3}r \, dE \, d\hat{\Omega}$$

$$(5) = \int_{\forall} \left[ \psi(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) \Sigma_{t}(\vec{r}, E) \right] d^{3}r \, dE \, d\hat{\Omega}$$

$$(8.2)$$

<u>Scatter into</u> dE <u>about</u> E  $d\hat{\Omega}$  <u>about</u>  $\hat{\Omega}$ 

"In scattering" into dE about E,  $d\hat{\Omega}$  about  $\hat{\Omega}$ 

$$\begin{bmatrix} \int_{\tau} \left[ \int_{4s} \left[ \int_{0}^{\infty} \psi\left(\vec{r}, E', \hat{\Omega}', t\right) E_{s}\left(E' \rightarrow E, \hat{\Omega} \rightarrow \hat{\Omega}\right) dE' \right] d\Omega' \right] d^{3}r \end{bmatrix} dE d\hat{\Omega}$$
  
$$\hat{\langle} \\ double \ differential \\ s \ cattering \ cross \ section \end{bmatrix}$$

<u>Leakage into or out of volume</u>  $\forall$ .

Consider a differential surface  $d\vec{S}$ 

$$\vec{j}(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) \cdot d\vec{S} = \psi(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) \hat{\Omega} \cdot d\vec{S}$$
(8.3)

Net leaking is (4) - (2) or...

Consider just surface & volume for a moment ...

$$\begin{cases} \int_{\delta} \psi(\vec{r}, E, \Omega, t) \hat{\Omega} \cdot d\vec{S} = \int_{\nabla} \nabla \cdot \hat{\Omega} \psi(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) d\forall \\ \\ \underline{\text{Aside, Recall Gauss' Divergence Theorem}} \\ \int_{\delta} \vec{A} \cdot d\vec{S} = \int_{\nabla} \nabla \cdot d\vec{A} \, d\forall \quad d\forall = d^{3}r \\ \\ \\ \underbrace{\text{Surface}}_{\text{integral}} volume \\ \\ \\ \end{aligned}$$

So that Net Leakage is...

$$\left[\iint_{4\pi 0}^{\infty} \int_{\delta} \psi(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) \hat{\Omega} \cdot d\vec{S} \, dE \, d\hat{\Omega}\right] = \left[\iint_{4\pi 0}^{\infty} \int_{\forall} \nabla \cdot \hat{\Omega} \,\psi(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) d\forall \, dE \, d\hat{\Omega}\right]$$
(8.4)

### Combining all terms:

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Time rate} \\ \text{of change} \end{array} = \ (+ \text{ source s}) \qquad (+\text{in-scatter}) \\ \\ \int_{4\pi} \int_{0}^{\pi} \int_{\nabla} \left( \frac{\partial n}{\partial t} = q(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) + \int_{0}^{\pi} dE' \int_{4\pi} d\hat{\Omega}' \psi(\vec{r}, E', \hat{\Omega}', t) \Sigma_{s} \left( E' \rightarrow E, \hat{\Omega}' \rightarrow \hat{\Omega} \right) \end{array}$$

(-Net leakage) (-Collisions)  

$$-\hat{\Omega} \cdot \nabla \psi \left(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t\right) - \sum_{i} (\vec{r}, E) \psi \left(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t\right) d^{3}r dE d\hat{\Omega}$$

Since our chosen volume was completely arbitrary, the expression inside the integral (the "integrand") <u>must hold true</u> at each point in  $\forall$ .

Also, recall 
$$n(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t)v = \psi(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t)$$
 (8.5a)  
 $n(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) = \frac{1}{v}\psi(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t)$  (8.5b)

So, we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{v} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} + \hat{\Omega} \cdot \nabla \psi (\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) + \Sigma_t (\vec{r}, E) \psi (\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) \\ = \int_0^\infty dE' \int_{4\pi} d\hat{\Omega}' \psi (\vec{r}, E', \hat{\Omega}', t) \Sigma_s (E' \to E, \hat{\Omega}' \to \hat{\Omega}) + q(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) \end{bmatrix}$$
(8.6)

Then, the Integro-differential form of the neutron transport equation is

$$\begin{split} \frac{1}{\nu} \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} + \hat{\Omega} \cdot \nabla \psi (\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) + \Sigma_t (\vec{r}, E) \psi (\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) \\ &= \int_0^\infty dE' \int_{4\pi} d\hat{\Omega}' \psi (\vec{r}, E', \hat{\Omega}', t) \Sigma_s (E' \to E, \hat{\Omega}' \to \hat{\Omega}) + q(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) \end{split}$$

Recall

$$\phi(\vec{r}, E, t) = \int_{4\pi} d\hat{\Omega} \psi(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t)$$
(8.7)

But wait...

$$\overset{}{\times}$$
 Let us expand the "source" term  $q(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t)$ 

For independent sources and fission:

$$q(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) = \begin{bmatrix} q_{ind}(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) + & \text{The "Delayed"}_{0}n \\ \frac{x(E)}{4\pi} \int_{0}^{\infty} dE' \int_{4\pi} d\hat{\Omega} \underbrace{v(E') \Sigma_{f}(\vec{r}, E')}_{v\Sigma_{f}(\vec{r}, E')} \psi(\vec{r}, E', \hat{\Omega}, t) \end{bmatrix}$$



# Solving the NTE

Assuming steady state write the <u>one energy transport</u> equation with <u>no scattering</u>, <u>no</u> <u>fission</u>  $q_{IND}$  is <u>a uniform constant angular src</u>.

$$\hat{\Omega} \cdot \nabla \psi + \sigma_{t} \psi = \frac{q_{IND}}{4\pi}$$
(9.1)

In SLAB (x) geometry  $\hat{\Omega} = \langle \mu, \not{h}, \not{g} \rangle$ 

$$\mu \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} + \sigma_t \psi = \frac{q_{IND}}{4\pi} \Rightarrow \left(\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} + \frac{\sigma_t}{\mu} \psi = \frac{q_{IND}}{4\pi\mu}\right)$$

Given (A const) 
$$\left[ J_{INC_L} = \int_{0}^{2\pi} \int_{0}^{1} \mu \psi_L d\mu d\varphi \right]$$

Usually, we <u>must consider scattering</u>. For "Real" applications...

Ref p.121 D&H	S <sub>N</sub> approximation "Discrete ordinates"	Consider a finite # of directions on the unit sphere and discretize angular variable, other variables
	$P_{_N}$ approximations	Expand angular variable into spherical harmonics (orthogonal) moments function.

The integro-differential form of the transport equation is

$$\begin{cases} 1 \\ \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = q_{ind} (\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) + \frac{x(E)}{4\pi} \int_{0}^{\infty} dE' \int_{4\pi} d\hat{\Omega}' v \Sigma_{f} (\vec{r}, E') \psi(\vec{r}, E', \hat{\Omega}', t) \\ + \int_{0}^{\infty} dE' \int_{4\pi} d\hat{\Omega}' \Sigma_{s} (\vec{r}, E' \rightarrow E, \hat{\Omega}' \rightarrow \hat{\Omega}) \psi(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) \\ - \Sigma_{t} (\vec{r}, E) \psi(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) - \hat{\Omega} \cdot \nabla \psi(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) \end{cases}$$

Again...

To get scalar flux  $\phi(\vec{r}, E, t)$  we must integrate angular flux over  $4\pi$  steradians  $(4\pi \ st)$ 

So 
$$\phi(\vec{r}, E, t) = \int_{4\pi} \psi(\vec{r}, E, \hat{\Omega}, t) d\hat{\Omega}$$
 (9.2)

If we consider a 1-speed diffusion theory model...

Really, again we are using equations to define where neutrons in a probability dist go...

∴ any equation describes average behavior...

 $N(\vec{r},t)$  is neutron density in the reactor, related to flux by the velocity term

$$\int_{\forall} d^3 r \, N(\vec{r},t) = \int_{\forall} d^3 r \, \phi(\vec{r},t) \tag{11.1}$$

Again we assemble the terms relating to neutron balance in a control volume

$$d\forall = d^{3}r$$

$$d\vec{\nabla} = d^{3}r$$

$$d\vec{S}$$

$$\int_{\forall} dr^3 \frac{1}{v} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = \left[ \int_{\forall} dr^3 Q(\vec{r}, t) - \int_{\forall} dr^3 \Sigma_a(\vec{r}) \phi(r, t) - \int_{S} d\vec{S} \cdot \vec{J}(\vec{r}, t) \right]$$
(11.2)

Treating the leakage term using Gauss' Divergence Theorem ...

$$\int_{S} d\vec{S} \cdot \vec{J}(\vec{r},t) \Rightarrow \int_{\forall} d^{3}r \nabla \cdot \vec{J}(r,t)$$
(11.3)

Writing the balance equation as

$$\int_{\nabla} d^{3}r \left( \frac{1}{v} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} - Q(\vec{r}, t) + \Sigma_{a}(\vec{r})\phi(\vec{r}, t) + \nabla \cdot \vec{J}(\vec{r}, t) \right) = 0 \quad (11.4 a)$$
Integrand must hold at every point in  $\nabla$ 

$$\frac{1}{v}\frac{\partial\phi}{\partial t} - Q(\vec{r},t) + \Sigma_a(\vec{r})\phi(\vec{r},t) + \nabla \cdot \vec{J}(\vec{r},t) = 0 \qquad (11.4b)$$

1-speed balance equation is (omitting  $\vec{r}, t$  refs)



what are units?

Before moving, on we should address steady state radiation leaking and multiplying from a Pu mass in space...

Consider a 4 kg ball of Pu in space

- ✓ It is sub-critical, m = 4 kg✓ It has a  $(k_{eff} \cong 0.75 P_{Leak} \cong 0.76)$  From transport theory calc
- ✓ This *Pu* generates 60,000  $\frac{n}{s \ kg}$  due to S.F.

So 
$$(Q_{IND} \forall) = (60,000 \frac{n}{s \ kg})(4 \ kg) = 240,000 \frac{n}{s}$$
  
Note  $Q_{IND} \equiv \frac{\#}{cm^3 s}$  isotropic indep.  
Source density Intrinsic *n* source per unit time

If we consider the ball is stationary a long time...Then (without time dependent term)

$$-\nabla \cdot \vec{J} - \sum_{a} \phi + v \sum_{f} \phi + Q_{IND} = 0 \qquad (11.4c)$$

Note I have not assumed anything about the leakage term (e.g. diffusion app).

Divide above eqn by  $v\Sigma_f \phi \neq 0$ 

ratio of 
$${}_{0}^{1}n \longrightarrow (-\nabla \cdot \vec{J} - \Sigma_{a}\phi)$$
  
loss to  $\longrightarrow (\nu \Sigma_{f}\phi)$  + 1 +  $\frac{Q_{IND}}{\nu \Sigma_{f}\phi} = 0$   
production

$$-\frac{1}{k} \left\{ -\frac{\left(\nabla \cdot \vec{J} + \Sigma_{a}\phi\right)}{\left(v\Sigma_{f}\phi\right)} + 1 + \frac{Q_{IND}}{v\Sigma_{f}\phi} = 0 \right\}$$

So we have

$$-\frac{1}{k} + 1 + \frac{Q_{IND}}{v\Sigma_f \phi} = 0$$
  
rewrite as  $\frac{k}{k}$ , rearrange

$$\frac{k-1}{k} = \frac{-Q_{IND}}{\nu \Sigma_f \phi}$$
  
reactivity  $\rho = \left(\frac{k-1}{k}\right)$ 
 $\rho = \frac{-Q_{IND}}{\nu \Sigma_f \phi}$ 
  
or
 $\nu \Sigma_f \phi = \frac{-Q_{IND}}{\rho}$ 

$$\frac{\# Fiss \ \frac{1}{0}n^*s}{cm^3s}$$

Multiply both sides by volume.

$$\nu \Sigma_f \phi \forall = \frac{-(Q_{IND} \forall)}{\rho} \qquad \text{total S.F.} \\ \& \text{ IND source} \\ \hline \rho \\ \text{per sec in sphere} \qquad \qquad \text{reactivity } \rho \equiv \left(\frac{k-1}{k}\right)$$

This only is valid for subcritical assembly (note "-" sign)

If  ${}_{0}^{1}n$ 's from  $Q_{IND}$  are pumped into a critical, supercritical assembly, there is no steady state solution...

So returning to our problem

$$\left(\nu\Sigma_{f}\phi\,\forall\right) = \left(\frac{Q_{IND}\,\forall}{-\rho}\right)$$

For our 4 kg Pu ball, k = 0.75,  $P_{Leak} = 0.75$  $(1 - P_{NL})$  $\rho = \frac{k - 1}{k} = \frac{0.75 - 1}{0.75} \Rightarrow -0.333$ 

> $-\frac{1}{\rho} = 3.0$  This is the amount of multiplication induced in the assembly (4 kg sphere)

$$-\frac{1}{\rho} = 3.0$$
 and  $(Q_{IND} \forall) = 240,000 \frac{n}{s}$ 

$$(\nu \Sigma_{f} \phi \forall) = (3.0)(240,000) \frac{n}{s} = \frac{720,000}{100} \frac{n}{s}$$

$$(210) \frac{Q_{IND} \forall}{-\rho}$$
these  $\frac{1}{0} n \text{ induced from S. F.}$ 
driven multiplication...

How many are available for detection?

Only those that leak out are 
$$n^{1}n$$
's that can be detected...  $(x, y) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1$ 

But we must account for all neutrons!

$$\Rightarrow \left(\frac{-Q_{IND}k + Q_{IND}k - Q_{IND}}{k - 1}\right) \forall$$
$$\Rightarrow \frac{-Q_{IND}}{k - 1} = \left[\frac{Q_{IND}}{(1 - k)}\right] \text{ total } {}_{_{0}}^{1}n \text{ 's available}$$

 $\therefore$  accounting for prob of leakage =  $P_L$ 

Then leakage multiplication  $M_L = \left(\frac{Q_{IND}}{(1-k)}\right) \cdot P_L = (M)P_L$ 

Where  $M = "Multiplication" = \frac{Q_{IND}}{(1-k)} = Q_{IND} (1+k+k^2+k^3+...+k^N)$ 

From previous examples  $M_L = 729,600 \frac{n}{s}$  Geometric series if convergent if k < 1

is the leakage multiplication.

Aside

Example: assemble a collection of subcritical masses Stack sub-critical masses together...



This is the experimental way to monitor for a critical mass estimate.