SH2704 Monte Carlo Methods and Simulations in Nuclear Technology 6.0 credits

Monte Carlo metoder och simuleringar i kärnteknik

This is a translation of the Swedish, legally binding, course syllabus.

Establishment

Course syllabus for SH2704 valid from Autumn 2012

Grading scale

A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

Education cycle

Second cycle

Main field of study

Engineering Physics

Specific prerequisites

Familiarity with computer programming.

Language of instruction

The language of instruction is specified in the course offering information in the course catalogue.

Intended learning outcomes

The Monte Carlo method is a stochastic way of solving various problems through numerical simulations utilizing sequences of random numbers. The method is commonly used when the solution cannot be derived easily in any other way. In reactor physics, the method is, practically, the only one capable of giving detail insight into neutron transport problems in complex fissile systems. Monte Carlo methods are today very widely used in different fields of physics and engineering ranging from astrophysics to e.g. nuclear medicine, particular in modeling of radiation treatment of cancer.

After completed course, the student should be able to:

- apply various Monte Carlo techniques, such as the simple sampling, control variates, correlated sampling, stratified sampling and importance sampling, in solving various mathemetical and physical problems.
- program and choose a generator or pseudo-random and quasi-random sequences.
- interpret and evaluate the results of statistical nature.
- master the theory behind the Monte Carlo simulation of neutron transport in fissile systems and non-fissile systems with an extrenal source of neutrons.
- activiely use Monte Carlo codes established in reactor physics. The student should be able to create a mathemetical model of any fissle system, prepare point-wise nuclear data libraries for specific conditions, choose appropriate values for a number of free parameters that influence the statistical and systematic errors, run the simulation, and derive, interpret and evaluate the results of interest.

Course contents

Theory of Monte Carlo methods.

General variance reduction techniques.

Pseudo-random and quasi-random sequences.

Monte Carlo simulation of particle transport.

Monte Carlo simulation of nuclear reactors.

Variance reduction techniques in Monte Carlo reactor physics.

Trends in Monte Carlo reactor physics.

Monte Carlo in other fields like nuclear medicine, radiation protection etc.

Course literature

The literature consists of lecture handouts.

Examination

- INL1 - Home Assignments, 3.0 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F
- LAB1 - Computer Laboratory, 3.0 credits, grading scale: A, B, C, D, E, FX, F

Based on recommendation from KTH's coordinator for disabilities, the examiner will decide how to adapt an examination for students with documented disability.

The examiner may apply another examination format when re-examining individual students.

If the course is discontinued, students may request to be examined during the following two academic years.

Computer laboratory, 3 cr.

Written home assignments, 3 cr.

Ethical approach

- All members of a group are responsible for the group's work.
- In any assessment, every student shall honestly disclose any help received and sources used.
- In an oral assessment, every student shall be able to present and answer questions about the entire assignment and solution.