



Subject card

Subject name and code	Atomic and nuclear physics, PG_00037282						
Field of study	Technical Physics						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject				2028/2029	
Education level	first-cycle studies	Subject group				Optional subject group Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study	
Mode of study	Full-time studies	Mode of delivery				at the university	
Year of study	3	Language of instruction				Polish	
Semester of study	6	ECTS credits				2.0	
Learning profile	general academic profile	Assessment form				assessment	
Conducting unit	Institute of Physics and Applied Computer Science -> Faculty of Applied Physics and Mathematics -> Faculties of Gdańsk University of Technology						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr inż. Piotr Grygiel					
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	15.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		2.0		18.0	50
Subject objectives	Learning the basics of nuclear physics with particular emphasis on the applications of nuclear physics in nuclear energetics, medicine and other fields of science.						
Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome			Method of verification		
	[K6_W07] is familiar with the basic economic, legal and ethical conditions of engineering activity, including principles of intellectual property protection and entrepreneurship.	Understands the basic economic, legal and ethical considerations of business operations with a view to utilising the achievements of nuclear physics.			[SW1] Assessment of factual knowledge		
	[K6_U02] is able to analyse and solve complex and non-standard scientific and technical problems using appropriate analytical, computational, numerical, simulation or experimental methods.	Using appropriate analytical and computational methods, is able to solve and analyse basic, complex and unusual problems relating to modern models of atomic nucleus structure, the course of certain nuclear reactions, the interaction of nuclear radiation with matter, the course of nuclear fission chain reactions, nuclear fusion and the fundamentals of dosimetry.			[SU1] Assessment of task fulfilment		
	[K6_W02] possesses structured knowledge of the fundamentals of physics, including mechanics, thermodynamics, electricity and magnetism, optics, atomic and molecular physics, solid-state physics, and nuclear and particle physics.	Has structured knowledge of contemporary models of atomic nucleus structure, the course of certain nuclear reactions, the interaction of nuclear radiation with matter, the course of the chain reaction of atomic nucleus fission, nuclear fusion and the basics of dosimetry.			[SW1] Assessment of factual knowledge		

Subject contents	Course content – lecture		
	<p>1. Structure and properties of the atomic nucleus, Rutherford's experiment, terminology in nuclear physics. 2. Models of the atomic nucleus: liquid drop, shell, Fermi gas. 3. Radioactive decay: alpha, beta, gamma, electron capture, internal conversion. 4. Nuclear reactions: energy balance, cross section, mechanisms, types and examples. 5. Interaction of nuclear radiation (charged particles and gamma rays) with matter: specific ionisation, stopping power, relationship between energy and particle range, absorption, scattering, photoelectric effect, Compton effect, pair formation, attenuation when passing through matter. 6. Neutrons: sources, interaction with matter, slowing down, spatial distribution and diffusion. 7. Non-energy applications of nuclear technology: radiocarbon dating, defectoscopy, medicine. 8. Nuclear fission using the example of uranium-235: cross sections, reaction mechanism, energy balance of the reaction. 9. Chain reaction using the example of uranium-235 fission: mechanism, conditions of occurrence, control, ways of utilising controlled and uncontrolled reactions. 10. Operation and control of a nuclear fission reactor. 11. Thermonuclear reactions: mechanisms, conditions of occurrence, energy balance, controlled thermonuclear fusion and prospects for its application. 13. Ionising radiation detectors: ionisation chamber, cloud chamber, spark chamber, counters: G-M, Cherenkov, scintillation, semiconductor. 14. Basic dosimetric units. 15. Radioactive isotopes and their application in medicine, science and technology.</p>		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Course content – exercises		
	<p>1. Derivation of Rutherford's formula. 2. Structure and properties of the atomic nucleus: binding energy per nucleon, energy of nuclear reactions, including fusion and fission. 3. Natural radioactivity: law of decay, radioactive activity, average lifetime, half-life. 4. Interaction of radiation with matter: linear and mass attenuation coefficients, half-thickness, range of charged particles in matter, Compton effect, photoelectric effect, pair formation. 5. Nuclear reactions: conservation principles in reactions, cross section, reaction efficiency, sample activation in a neutron flux, fission of nuclei using uranium-235 as an example, nuclear fusion.</p>		
Assessment methods and criteria	1. Basics of relativistic mechanics. 2. Basics of quantum mechanics. 3. Basics of chemistry. 4. Knowledge of physics in the field of university education.		
	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Tutorial credit	50.0%	50.0%
Recommended reading	Lecture credit	50.0%	50.0%
	Basic literature	J.S. Lilley, "Nuclear Physics and Applications", John Wiley & Sons, 2001.	
	Supplementary literature	University Physics, https://openstax.org/subjects/science	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	eResources addresses		
	<p>Give the theory of alpha decay.</p> <p>Discuss the Compton phenomenon.</p> <p>Derive the formula for the half-life of radioactive isotope.</p> <p>Discuss the operating conditions of the reactor</p> <p>Applications of radioactive isotopes in technology and medicine.</p>		
Practical activities within the subject	Not applicable		

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