

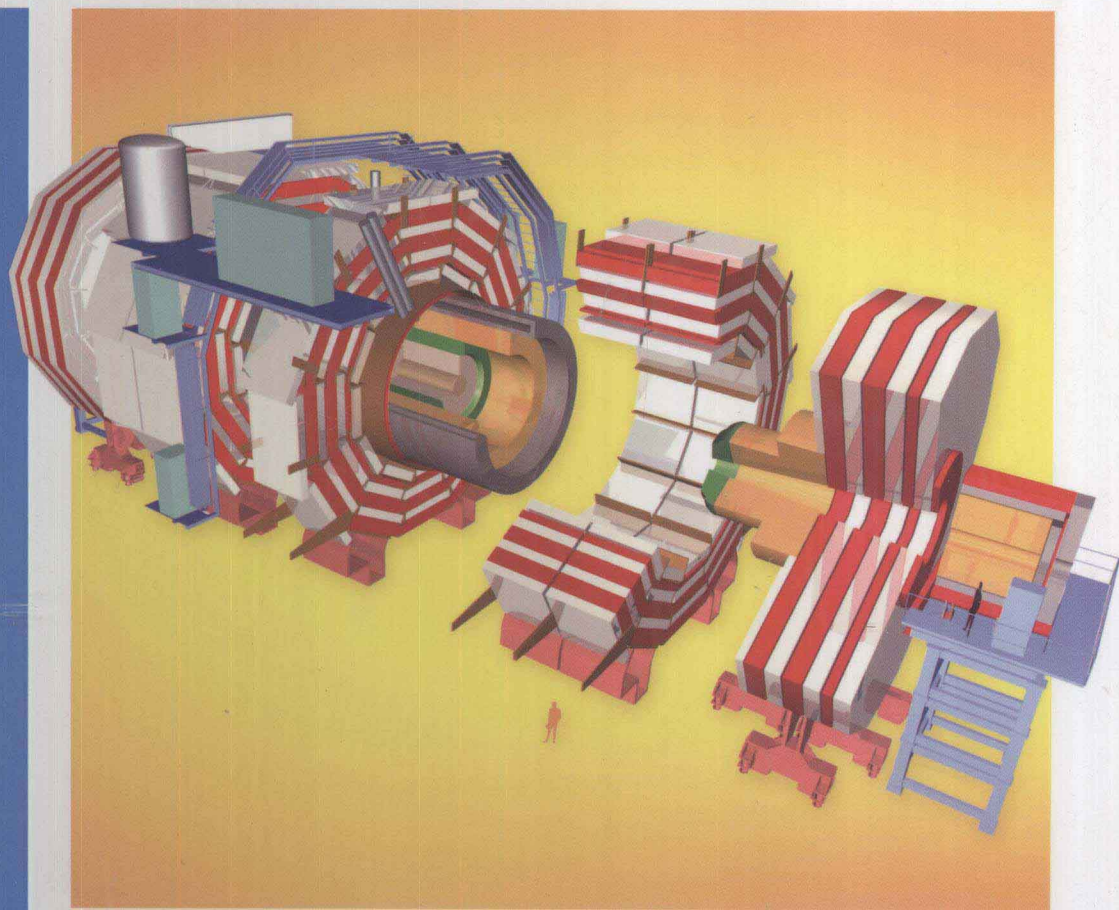
Joseph John Bevelacqua

 WILEY-VCH

# Contemporary Health Physics

Problems and Solutions

Second, Updated and Enlarged Edition



*Joseph John Bevelacqua*

# **Contemporary Health Physics**

Problems and Solutions

Second, Updated and Enlarged Edition



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#### **Cover**

3-D cutaway view of the compact muon solenoid  
(CMS) at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN  
(CMS) detector

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*This book is dedicated to  
my wife, Terry. Her love and  
understanding have been of great  
assistance to the completion  
of this text.*

## Preface to the Second Edition

The second edition of *Contemporary Health Physics: Problems and Solutions* has several new features. There is a new chapter on nonionizing radiation and four new appendixes. The new appendixes provide a compilation of key health physics relationships, a discussion of production equations and their applications, a mathematical review, and a set of radionuclides of health physics significance and their associated data. The text also incorporates a more extensive use of SI units. New problems are cast within an SI format, and a number of first edition problems are converted to SI units.

Additional discussion has been added to Chapters 2–7 to reflect new health physics recommendations, new reports, and emerging technologies. In the Medical Health Physics chapter, discussion has been added regarding neutron and heavy-ion therapy and the use of alpha-emitting radiopharmaceuticals. Recent recommendations of the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP) regarding shielding in imaging and therapy facilities, and management of radionuclide therapy patients are incorporated into the second edition.

A section on research reactors and an expanded presentation of fusion energy have been added to the University Health Physics chapter. Discussion of open and closed fuel cycles and the Tokai Mura criticality were added to the Fuel Cycle chapter. The Power Reactor chapter has been enhanced by including a description of Generation I, II, III, and IV reactors, major instrumentation systems, updated radioactive waste processing approaches, and new NCRP hot-particle recommendations.

The Environmental Health Physics chapter has been expanded to address the isotopes and pathways associated with reprocessing options in open and closed fuel cycles and the intentional dispersal of radioactive material. A presentation of muon colliders and associated neutrino doses, synchrotron light sources, cascade reactions, the Large Hadron Collider, and ALARA aspects of shielding high-energy accelerators have been added to the Accelerator Health Physics chapter.

The problem and solution set was expanded from 375 to over 500 entries including nonionizing radiation questions. This expansion further develops the text material and provides additional practical application examples. These problems also attempt to capture the evolving nature of the Part II American Board

of Health Physics Certification Examination. Detailed solutions are provided for all problems.

In addition to new NCRP and International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) Reports, a discussion of updated internal dosimetry models, including the human alimentary tract and the human respiratory tract models, have been incorporated into Appendix IV. Appendix IV has also been revised to include a discussion of the 2007 Recommendations of the ICRP. Appendix V has been expanded to incorporate a discussion of the BEIR VII Report that evaluates health risks from exposure to low levels of ionizing radiation.

Since one of the purposes of this text is to maintain the technical focus for students preparing for the American Board of Health Physics Certification Examinations, the majority of the problems were derived from questions that appeared on previous examinations. As a prior panel member, vice chair, and chair of the Part II Examination Panel, I would like to thank my panel and all others whose exam questions have been utilized in formulating questions for this textbook.

The author is also fortunate to have worked with colleagues, students, mentors, and teachers who have shared their wisdom and knowledge, provided encouragement or otherwise influenced the content of this text. The following individuals are acknowledged for their assistance during the author's career: Dick Amato, John Auxier, Lee Booth, Ed Carr, Paul Dirac, Bill Halliday, Tom Hess, Gordon Lodde, Bob Nelson, John Philpott, Lew Pitchford, John Poston, John Rawlings, Don Robson, Bob Rogan, Mike Slobodien, Jim Tarpinian, Jim Turner, and George Vargo. The continuing encouragement of my wife Terry is gratefully acknowledged.

I would also like to thank the staff of Wiley-VCH with whom I have enjoyed working, particularly Anja Tschörtner, Ulrike Werner, Hans-Jochen Schmitt and Dr. Alexander Grossmann. The advice and encouragement of George Telecki of John Wiley and Sons, Inc. is also acknowledged.

Richland, Washington USA  
June 15, 2008

*Joseph John Bevelacqua, PhD, CHP*  
President,  
Bevelacqua Resources



## Preface to the First Edition

This book contains over 375 problems in health physics and discusses their practical applications. It assumes that the reader is familiar with the science of radiation protection and is either an active participant in that field or interested in learning more about the health physics profession. In particular, this text is particularly useful to individuals preparing for the American Board of Health Physics Certification Examination.

The first part of this book provides an overview of the scientific basis for the field of health physics. The reader is provided with a comprehensive set of references supplemented by appendices that outline selected concepts required to fully appreciate the specialized Part II material. Over 130 problems and their solutions are provided to permit the reader to demonstrate a sound knowledge of health physics fundamentals. The problems are set within scenarios that are intended to enhance the reader's existing knowledge by demonstrating the basic principles in complex situations requiring a sound knowledge of both theoretical health physics principles and good judgment.

Part II provides the reader with examples of the concepts and calculations frequently encountered in the various fields of health physics. Chapter titles are selected to loosely conform to the various subfields of the health physics profession – that is, medical, university, fuel cycle, power reactor, environmental, and accelerator health physics. The problems are intended to illustrate general concepts within the framework of specific areas such as medical or power reactor health physics.

In addition to illustrating the fundamental concepts of health physics, the collection includes a large number of detailed problems that are often encountered by the radiation protection professional. Some of these problems involve considerable effort, whereas others are more simplistic and can be solved from traditional lectures in health physics. In addition, there are problems which address topics not usually covered in existing texts. These problems are not presented as isolated bits of health physics knowledge, but are introduced within a scenario that stimulates an integrated professional approach to the problem. Professional judgment and sound health physics principles are emphasized.

The third part of this book provides the solutions to the problems presented in the first and second parts. Many of these are worked in considerable detail to further illustrate and emphasize the concepts introduced in Parts I and II.

The present collection of problems is largely based upon the American Board of Health Physics Comprehensive Examination. The author was privileged to serve for four years as a member, Vice-Chairman, and Chairman of the ABHP Comprehensive Panel of Examiners. The experience gained in the development of this examination and the weaknesses of candidates attempting this examination have affected the content of this work.

The author is deeply indebted to the members of the examination panels and the ABHP Board for their professional interaction which greatly expanded the author's own health physics knowledge. The opinions and interpretations reflected in this work are the author's and do not necessarily reflect those of his current or previous employers.

Wisconsin Electric Power Company

*Joseph John Bevelacqua*

## A Note on Units

In the United States many regulations, most reporting requirements, and a large portion of practicing health physicists utilize traditional units (Ci, R, rad, rem, etc.). The use of traditional units is currently in conflict with much of the international community and scientific publications which have adopted the SI system (Bq, C kg<sup>-1</sup>, Gy, Sv, etc.).

The Second Edition of *Contemporary Health Physics* utilizes both traditional and SI units. Traditional units are selected because they are what the practicing health physicist will most frequently encounter in daily assignments and they can be easily related to their SI counterparts. Traditional units are also utilized to ensure that communications between the health physicist and the health physics technician are clearly understood.

The Second Edition attempts to strike a balanced view of units. All new problems have been recast in terms of SI units. This acknowledges the inevitable adoption of the international set of units. Although many of the existing problems are in traditional units, a number of First Edition problems have been converted to the SI system.

The conflict of units will remain until the United States adopts the SI system in its regulations. This should be done over a period of years in order to ensure that all health physicists are thoroughly familiar and comfortable with the SI units.

For those that feel more comfortable with the traditional system, the following conversion factors are provided:

SI Unit	Traditional Unit
Bq	$2.70 \times 10^{-11}$ Ci
Gy	100 rad
C kg <sup>-1</sup> of air	3881 R
Sv	100 rem

As the reader can quickly note, the choice of units is more a matter of familiarity rather than scientific rigor. By using these simple factors, the reader should begin to feel more comfortable with either set of units.

# Contents

**Preface to the Second Edition** VII

**Preface to the First Edition** IX

**A Note on Units** XI

## **Part I Basic Concepts: Theory and Problems** 1

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1	Scenarios	4
	Scenario 1.1	4
	Scenario 1.2	4
	Scenario 1.3	5
	Scenario 1.4	5
	Scenario 1.5	7
	Scenario 1.6	8
	Scenario 1.7	9
	Scenario 1.8	9
	Scenario 1.9	10
	Scenario 1.10	10
	Scenario 1.11	11
	Scenario 1.12	12
	Scenario 1.13	13
	Scenario 1.14	14
	Scenario 1.15	15
	Scenario 1.16	15
	Scenario 1.17	17
	Scenario 1.18	17
	Scenario 1.19	18
	Scenario 1.20	19
	Scenario 1.21	20
	Scenario 1.22	21

Scenario 1.23	22
Scenario 1.24	23
Scenario 1.25	24
Scenario 1.26	25
Scenario 1.27	26
Scenario 1.28	28
Scenario 1.29	28
Scenario 1.30	29
Scenario 1.31	31
Scenario 1.32	33
Scenario 1.33	34
Scenario 1.34	35
Scenario 1.35	36
Scenario 1.36	37
Scenario 1.37	38
Scenario 1.38	39
References	40

## Part II Specialized Areas: Theory and Problems 45

<b>2</b>	<b>Medical Health Physics</b>	<b>47</b>
2.1	Historical Perspective	47
2.2	Medical Accelerator Physics	48
2.3	Diagnostic Nuclear Medicine	51
2.3.1	X-rays	51
2.3.2	Nuclear Medicine	52
2.3.3	Computed Tomography	52
2.3.4	Tracer Studies and Radioisotope Administration	53
2.4	Therapeutic Nuclear Medicine	53
2.4.1	Radionuclide Administration	53
2.4.2	External Beam Therapy	55
2.4.3	Brachytherapy	57
2.5	Facility Design	58
2.6	Shielding Design	59
2.7	X-ray Shielding	60
2.8	NCRP-49	61
2.8.1	Primary Barrier	61
2.8.2	Secondary Barrier	62
2.8.3	Leakage Radiation	63
2.9	NCRP-147	64
2.9.1	Unshielded Air Kerma	64
2.9.2	Shielding Calculations	65
2.10	NCRP-151	66
2.10.1	Primary Barrier	67

2.10.2	Secondary Barriers	68
2.10.3	Scattering	68
2.10.4	Leakage	68
2.11	Management of Radionuclide Therapy Patients	69
2.12	Ventilation Considerations	70
2.13	Scenarios	71
	Scenario 2.1	71
	Scenario 2.2	72
	Scenario 2.3	73
	Scenario 2.4	75
	Scenario 2.5	76
	Scenario 2.6	76
	Scenario 2.7	77
	Scenario 2.8	78
	Scenario 2.9	79
	Scenario 2.10	82
	References	82
<b>3</b>	<b>University Health Physics</b>	<b>87</b>
3.1	Research Utilizing Radionuclides	87
3.1.1	H-3	88
3.1.2	C-14	88
3.1.3	P-32	88
3.1.4	Co-60	89
3.1.5	I-125/I-131	89
3.1.6	Cf-252	90
3.2	Engineering Considerations	90
3.2.1	Engineering Controls	90
3.3	Sample Counting	91
3.4	Intake of Radionuclides	92
3.5	Other Research Activities	93
3.6	Agricultural/Environmental Research	93
3.7	Research Reactors	94
3.7.1	Operational Characteristics	94
3.7.2	Reactor Systems and Associated Radionuclide Production	96
3.7.3	Reactor Effluents	96
3.7.4	Gaseous Effluents	96
3.7.5	Liquid Effluents	97
3.8	Particle Accelerators	97
3.9	Materials Research Via X-ray Diffraction Techniques	97
3.10	Fusion Energy Research	98
3.11	Overview of an Initial Fusion Power Facility	100
3.11.1	General Radiological Characteristics	101
3.11.2	ALARA-Confinement Methods and Fusion Process Types	102
3.12	Scenarios	103

Scenario 3.1	103
Scenario 3.2	105
Scenario 3.3	106
Scenario 3.4	108
Scenario 3.5	110
Scenario 3.6	111
Scenario 3.7	112
Scenario 3.8	113
Scenario 3.9	113
Scenario 3.10	114
Scenario 3.11	115
References	116

<b>4</b>	<b>Fuel Cycle Health Physics</b>	<b>119</b>
4.1	Radiation in Fuel Cycle Facilities	119
4.1.1	Occupational Exposure	120
4.2	Nuclear Fuel Cycle	121
4.3	Uranium Fuel Cycle	121
4.3.1	Open and Closed Fuel Cycles	123
4.3.2	Uranium Ore and Chemical Processing	124
4.3.3	Enrichment	125
4.3.4	Gaseous Diffusion	125
4.3.5	Gas Centrifuge	127
4.3.6	Laser Isotope Separation	128
4.3.6.1	MLIS	130
4.3.6.2	AVLIS	130
4.3.7	Spent Power Reactor Fuel	131
4.4	Thorium Fuel Cycle	131
4.5	Radioactive Waste	132
4.5.1	High-Level Wastes	133
4.6	Criticality	133
4.6.1	Tokaimura Criticality	134
4.6.2	Critical Mass	135
4.6.3	Geometry or Shape	136
4.6.4	Enrichment of the Fissile Isotope	136
4.6.5	Moderation and Reflection	136
4.6.6	Neutron Absorbers or Poison Material	137
4.6.7	Consequences of a Criticality Event	138
4.7	Dispersion of Radioactive Gas from a Continuous Source	138
4.8	Dispersion of Radioactive Particulates from a Continuous Source	140
4.9	Fuel Cycle Facilities	140
4.10	Detection of Fuel Cycle Facility Activity	142
4.11	Scenarios	143
	Scenario 4.1	143
	Scenario 4.2	144

Scenario 4.3	147
Scenario 4.4	149
Scenario 4.5	150
Scenario 4.6	151
Scenario 4.7	151
Scenario 4.8	153
Scenario 4.9	154
<i>References</i>	155

<b>5</b>	<b>Power Reactor Health Physics</b>	157
5.1	Overview	157
5.2	Generation I, II, III, and IV Reactors	158
5.3	Health Physics Hazards	160
5.3.1	Buildup of Filter or Demineralizer Activity	161
5.3.2	Activation of Reactor Components	162
5.3.3	Cladding Failures	163
5.3.4	Reactor Coolant System Leakage	164
5.3.5	Hot-Particle Skin Dose	165
5.4	NCRP-130 Hot Particle Recommendations	169
5.5	Health Physics Program Elements	170
5.5.1	ALARA	170
5.5.2	Effluents	171
5.5.3	Radioactive Waste	172
5.5.4	Decontamination	172
5.6	Outages	176
5.7	Major Radiation Instrumentation Systems	176
5.7.1	Primary System Monitors	176
5.7.2	Secondary System Monitors	177
5.8	Radiological Considerations During Reactor Accidents	178
5.9	Mitigation of Accident Consequences	180
5.10	Scenarios	181
	Scenario 5.1	181
	Scenario 5.2	183
	Scenario 5.3	185
	Scenario 5.4	188
	Scenario 5.5	190
	Scenario 5.6	192
	Scenario 5.7	194
	Scenario 5.8	195
	Scenario 5.9	196
	<i>References</i>	197

<b>6</b>	<b>Environmental Health Physics</b>	201
6.1	Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material	201
6.2	Radon	203



6.2.1	Buildup of Radon from Inleakage	206
6.2.2	Evolution of Radon from the Household Water Supply	206
6.2.3	Radon Risk Assessments	207
6.3	Environmental Monitoring Programs	207
6.4	Environmental Releases	208
6.5	Accumulation of Activity in Ponds and Surfaces	208
6.6	Pathways Associated with Open and Closed Fuel Cycles	210
6.6.1	High-Level Waste	210
6.6.2	Open Fuel Cycles	210
6.6.3	Closed Fuel Cycles	211
6.7	Regulatory Guidance for Effluent Pathways	211
6.8	Doses from Liquid Effluent Pathways	212
6.8.1	Potable Water	212
6.8.2	Aquatic Foods	213
6.8.3	Shoreline Deposits	214
6.8.4	Irrigated Foods	214
6.8.4.1	Irrigated Foods (Tritium)	214
6.8.4.2	Irrigated Foods (Radionuclides Other than Tritium)	215
6.9	Doses from Gaseous Effluent Pathways	216
6.9.1	Annual Gamma Air Dose from Noble Gas Releases from Free-Standing Stacks Higher than 80 Meters	216
6.9.2	Annual Air Dose from All Noble Gas Releases	217
6.9.2.1	Annual Gamma Air Dose from All Noble Gas Releases	217
6.9.2.2	Annual Beta Air Dose from All Noble Gas Releases	217
6.9.2.3	Annual Total Body Dose Equivalent from Noble Gas Releases from Free-Standing Stacks More than 80 Meters High	218
6.9.2.4	Annual Skin Dose from Noble Gas Releases from Free-Standing Stacks Higher than 80 Meters	218
6.10	Annual Doses from All Other Noble Gas Releases	219
6.10.1	Annual Total Body Dose Equivalent from All Other Noble Gas Releases	219
6.10.2	Annual Skin Dose from All Other Noble Gas Releases	219
6.11	Doses from Radioiodines and Other Radionuclides Released to the Atmosphere	220
6.11.1	Annual Organ Dose from External Irradiation from Radionuclides Deposited Onto the Ground Surface	220
6.11.2	Annual Organ Dose from Inhalation of Radionuclides in Air	220
6.11.3	Annual Organ Dose from Ingestion of Atmospherically Released Radionuclides in Food	221
6.12	Pathway Selection	222
6.13	Model Parameters	222
6.14	Intentional Dispersal of Radioactive Materials	222
6.15	Protection of the Environment	225
6.16	Scenarios	226
	Scenario 6.1	226