

# Contents

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| <i>Preface</i>   | v   |
| 1. Quantum Mechanics   | 1   |
| 1.1 Why Two Types of Mechanics? . . . . .                            | 1   |
| 1.2 Main Ideas and Principles of Quantum Mechanics . . . . .         | 8   |
| 1.3 Measuring the Physical Characteristics of Microobjects . . . . . | 17  |
| 1.4 Structure of Atoms . . . . .                                     | 22  |
| 1.5 Structure of Matter . . . . .                                    | 31  |
| 2. Fundamental Interactions  | 41  |
| 2.1 Gravitational Interaction . . . . .                              | 41  |
| 2.2 Electromagnetic Interaction . . . . .                            | 51  |
| 2.3 Weak Interaction . . . . .                                       | 53  |
| 2.4 Non-Conservation of Parity in Weak Interaction . . . . .         | 55  |
| 2.5 Strong Interaction . . . . .                                     | 57  |
| 3. Structure of Atomic Nuclei  | 67  |
| 3.1 Composition and Properties of Nuclei . . . . .                   | 67  |
| 3.2 Shell Model of Nuclei . . . . .                                  | 76  |
| 3.3 Collective Motions of Nucleons in Nuclei . . . . .               | 81  |
| 3.4 Superfluidity of Nuclear Matter . . . . .                        | 86  |
| 4. Radioactivity of Atomic Nuclei                                    | 89  |
| 4.1 The Law of Radioactive Decay . . . . .                           | 89  |
| 4.2 Alpha-Decay . . . . .  | 98  |
| 4.3 Beta-Decay . . . . .   | 102 |

|     |  |     |
|-----|--|-----|
| 4.4 | Gamma-Radiation of Nuclei . . . . .                          | 106 |
| 4.5 | Exotic Types of Radioactivity . . . . .                      | 107 |
| 4.6 | Application of Radioactive Isotopes . . . . .                | 109 |
| 5.  | Nuclear Reactions . . . . .                                  | 115 |
| 5.1 | Conservation Laws in Nuclear Reactions . . . . .             | 115 |
| 5.2 | Nuclear Reaction Mechanisms . . . . .                        | 119 |
| 5.3 | Nuclear Optics . . . . .                                     | 127 |
| 5.4 | Accelerators . . . . .                                       | 138 |
| 5.5 | Detectors of Particles . . . . .                             | 145 |
| 6.  | Fission of Atomic Nuclei . . . . .                           | 147 |
| 6.1 | Nuclear Fission Mechanism . . . . .                          | 147 |
| 6.2 | Chain Fission Reactions . . . . .                            | 155 |
| 6.3 | Nuclear Reactors . . . . .                                   | 159 |
| 6.4 | Man-Made Synthesized Elements . . . . .                      | 162 |
| 7.  | Nuclear Astrophysics and Controlled Nuclear Fusion . . . . . | 167 |
| 7.1 | Expanding Universe . . . . .                                 | 167 |
| 7.2 | Creation of Atomic Nuclei . . . . .                          | 171 |
| 7.3 | Evolution of Stars . . . . .                                 | 176 |
| 7.4 | Controlled Nuclear Fusion . . . . .                          | 181 |
|     | <i>Index</i> . . . . .                                       | 187 |