

25. Let P_0 be the initial power output, P be the final power output, k be the multiplication factor, t be the time for the power reduction, and t_{gen} be the neutron generation time. Then, according to the result of Problem 22,

$$P = P_0 k^{t/t_{\text{gen}}} .$$

We divide by P_0 , take the natural logarithm of both sides of the equation and solve for $\ln k$:

$$\ln k = \frac{t_{\text{gen}}}{t} \ln \frac{P}{P_0} = \frac{1.3 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}}{2.6 \text{ s}} \ln \frac{350 \text{ MW}}{1200 \text{ MW}} = -0.0006161 .$$

Hence, $k = e^{-0.0006161} = 0.99938$.