NPRE412 Spring 2025 HW 10 Due 2025.04.08

- Show your work.
- This work must be submitted online as a .pdf through Canvas.
- Work completed with LaTeX or Jupyter earns 1 extra point. Submit source file (e.g. .tex or .ipynb) along with the .pdf file.
- If this work is completed with the aid of a numerical program (such as Python, Wolfram Alpha, or MATLAB) all scripts and data must be submitted in addition to the .pdf.
- If you work with anyone else, document what you worked on together.
- 1. (50 points) What is the savings in natural uranium if both uranium and plutonium are recycled in LWRs, assuming the following (Tsoulfanidis, 7.3):
 - 3% enriched fuel
 - with 0.22% tails
 - 0.78% ^{235}U in spent fuel
 - $6.9 \frac{gfPu}{kg_{SNF}}$
 - $0.90 \frac{kg_{recovered}}{kg_{fresh}}$
 - $0.8 \text{ Pu-}^{235}U$ equivalence.

Solution: For the given specifications, the fuel savings is 36.0%.

To solve, first calculate the feed factor w/ Eq. 3.6:

$$FF = \frac{x_p - x_w}{x_f - x_w} \tag{1}$$

Then use Eq. 7.12 to find the percent savings.

$$savings = \frac{u \cdot s \cdot p}{x_p - x_w} + \frac{u(x_s - x_w)}{x_p - x_w} = 36.0\%$$
 (2)

2. (50 points) What are the SWU savings for the for the conditions given in the previous problem? (Tsoulfanidis, 7.4)

Solution: By recycling used nuclear fuel, we can save 19.475% of the SWU used to fabricate the fuel from natural uranium.

To solve, use Eq 3.10 to find the separation potentials:

$$V(x) = (2x - 1) \ln \frac{x}{1 - x} \tag{3}$$

Then, find the SWU factor using Eq. 3.11:

$$SF = V(x_p) + \frac{W}{P}V(x_w) - \frac{f}{p}V(x_f)$$
(4)

Finally, find the SWU saved using Eq. 7.16:

$$savings_{SWU} = \frac{u}{x_p - x_w} \left[s \cdot p + (x_s + x_w) \left(1 - \frac{SF_s}{SF} \right) \right] = 19.475\%$$
 (5)