

Reaction rate uncertainty quantification and propagation, variance-covariance



- Single irradiation pulse followed by cooling
- Multiple irradiation pulses
 - changing flux amplitude
 - cooling
- Multi-step
 - changing flux amplitude and spectrum
 - changing cross-section (e.g., temperature dependence)
 - cooling
- Pathways and sensitivity for all cases



- Extracts and reduces nuclear and radiological data
- Solves rate equations for time evolution of inventory
- Computes and outputs derived radiological quantities
- Identifies and quantifies key reactions and decay processes:
 - dominant nuclides
 - pathways and uncertainty
 - Monte-Carlo sensitivity and uncertainty
 - reduced model calculations
- Uncertainty calculation
 - input cross-section and decay uncertainties
 - output uncertainties for all radiological quantities



- Condense run extracts from decay files:
 - decay constant λ
 - decay constant uncertainty $\Delta \lambda$
- Collapse constructs flux spectrum weighted averages: •
- Library input
 - cross-section vs energy
 - covariances vs energy
 - flux spectrum vs energy





- Data used in code
 - collapsed cross-section XS
 - collapsed uncertainty Δ



- reactions X and Y
- energy bins i and $j \in [1,N]$ with N = 709
- uses Cov (X_i, Y_i) for $X \neq Y$ only in Monte-Carlo
- collapse Cov (X_i,X_i) to get uncertainty Δ for \overline{X}

$$var = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} W_i W_j Cov(X_i, X_j);$$
 $\Delta = \{1|3\} \sqrt{var} / \overline{X}$

- Collapse $Cov(X_i, Y_i)$ to get $Cov(\overline{X}, \overline{Y})$ for $X \neq Y$
- Cov data in ENDF file 33 & 40, NI type LB=1, 5, 6
- Cov data in wider energy bins $k \in [1, M]$, $M \sim 40$



The projection operator S_i^k maps cross-section energy bins to covariance energy bins



The ENDF style covariance data forms, different LB's are read directly without the need of pre-processing



Using S_i^k, the formula to construct estimates of the covariance matrix are as follows:

$$LB = 1: \quad Cov(X_i, X_j) = \sum_{k=1}^{M} S_i^k S_j^k F_k X_i X_j$$

$$\Rightarrow \qquad LB = 5: \quad Cov(X_i, Y_j) = \sum_{k=1}^{M} \sum_{k'=1}^{M} S_i^k S_j^{k'} F_{kk'} X_i Y_j$$

$$\Rightarrow \qquad LB = 6: \quad Cov(X_i, Y_j) = \sum_{k=1}^{M} \sum_{k'=1}^{M'} S_i^k S_j^{k'} F_{kk'} X_i Y_j$$

$$LB = 8: \quad Cov(X_i, X_j) = \sum_{k=1}^{M} S_i^k S_j^k 1000 F_k \quad (Koning)$$

$$(or = \sum_{k=1}^{M} S_i^k \delta_{ij} 1000 F_k)$$

The LB=1 case is the one that was applied to the computation of Δ for the EAF's libraries



- Given $\{\overline{XS}, \lambda\}$
 - select irradiation scenario
 - solve for radiological quantities
- Use { ΔX , $\Delta \lambda$ } to estimate uncertainties
 - method 1: pathways to dominant nuclides
 - method 2: Monte-Carlo sensitivity
 - method 3: reduced model Monte-Carlo sensitivity



- Pathways are used to identify the dominant contributors to the activation products for the specific irradiation scenario under consideration.
- This makes the calculation of uncertainties more practicable for all methods (<u>random-walk</u> approximation and <u>Monte-</u> <u>Carlo</u>).
- The standard uncertainty output uses a random-walk approximation to estimate error bounds.
- This estimate is much quicker than Monte-Carlo, but is likely to give larger bounds since it ignores many possible correlations.



- given initial inventory and irradiation scenario
- sort dominant nuclides at end of irradiation phase
 - topxx (=20) controls number
 - 8 categories activity, heat production, dose, etc.
- construct pathways from initial to dominant nuclides
 - path_floor (=0.005) and loop_floor (=0.01)
 - iterate on single-visit breadth-first search tree
- compute inventory contributions of pathways
- construct error estimate





- keep pathways providing > path_floor of target inventory
- keep loop providing > loop_floor of pathway inventory

Error estimate

2



$$Q = \sum_{t \in S_t} q_t; \quad (\Delta Q)^2 = \sum_{t \in S_t} \left(\frac{\Delta N_t}{N_t}\right)^2 q_t^2$$

$$(\Delta N_t)^2 = \sum_{p \in S_o} \Delta_{tp}^2 N_{tp}^2 + \sum_{a \in s_{sa}} \left(\sum_{p \in S_a} |\Delta_{tp}| N_{tp} \right)$$

$$\Delta_{tp}^{2} = \sum_{e \in S_{e}} \sum_{r \in S_{r}} \left[\frac{R_{r} \Delta_{r}}{R_{e}} \right]^{2} + \sum_{e \in D_{e}} \left[\frac{\Delta \lambda_{e}}{\lambda_{e}} \right]^{2}$$

- N_t (atoms) and q_t (radiological quantity) from rate equation
- Δ_{tp} , N_{tp} , ΔN_t from pathways
- R_r and R_e pulse averaged reaction rates
- reactions uncorrelated, fission correlated



. . .

UNCERTAINTY ESTIMATES (cross sections only)

Uncertainty estimates are based on pathway analysis for the irradiation phase Total Activity is 1.25070E+14 +/- 8.52E+11 Bq. Error is 6.81E-01 % of the total. Total Heat Production is 3.60059E-02 +/- 3.09E-04 kW. Error is 8.60E-01 % of the total. Total Gamma Dose Rate is 5.63098E+04 +/- 5.04E+02 Sv/hr. Error is 8.95E-01 % of the total. Total Ingestion Dose is 1.38528E+05 +/- 1.17E+03 Sv. Error is 8.45E-01 % of the total. ...

Target nuclide Sc 4499.557% of inventory given by 8 paths

path 1 20.048% Ti 46 ---(R)--- Sc 45 ---(R)--- Sc 44 ---(S)---98.16%(n,np) 100.00%(n,2n) 1.84%(n,d)

path 2 12.567% Ti 46 ---(R)--- Sc 45 ---(R)--- Sc 44m---(b)--- Sc 44 ---(S)---98.16%(n,np) 100.00%(n,2n) 100.00%(IT) 1.84%(n,d) 0.00%(n,n)

path 3 11.143% Ti 46 ---(R)--- Sc 45m---(d)--- Sc 45 ---(R)--- Sc 44 ---(S)---96.62%(n,np) 100.00%(IT) 100.00%(n,2n) 3.38%(n,d)



- The TENDL library contains MF=33, LB=6 data for different reactions X₁, X₂, ... for a given parent, i.e., p(n, X₁)d₁, p(n, X₂)d₂,
- These covariance data $cov(X_1, X_2)$ for X_1 , X_2 are stored as fractional values f^{X1X2} and are tabulated in the same energy bins as used respectively for the LB=5 covariance data f^{X1X1} , f^{X2X2} for reactions X_1 , X_2
- If the COVARIANCE keyword is used, FISPACT-II reads these data for all energy bins k and I and corrects for any instances where

$$\frac{f_{kl}^{X_1X_2}}{\sqrt{f_{kk}^{X_1X_1}f_{ll}^{X_2X_2}}} > 1$$



- Then the code uses the corrected data to compute collapsed covariance cov(X₁,X₂). Covariances are mapped to MF=10 by assuming that all isomeric daughters of a given pair of reactions with rates X₁, X₂ have the same collapsed correlation function, corr(X₁,X₂).
- Tables of all reactions which have covariance data and their collapsed covariances and correlations are printed by the collapse run. Inspection of these data will show those cases where the assumption of zero correlation between reactions of a given parent is not good.
- The effect of non-negligible correlations on uncertainties may be introduced into Monte-Carlo sensitivity calculations by choosing distributions of sample cross-sections to have the same variances and covariances as given by the TENDL data.



- reference run + S inventory calculations
- independent { X^s_i; i = 1,...,I; s = 1,...,S}
- dependent { Y^s_j; j = 1,...,J; s = 1,...,S}
- independent variables selected using random numbers
 - normal, log-normal, uniform, log-uniform
 - means $\langle X_i \rangle$ and standard deviations $\langle \Delta X_i \rangle$
- compute summary results:
 - means
 - standard deviations
 - Pearson correlation coefficients
- output full data for post-processing



• output mean and standard deviation



• Pearson correlation coefficient

$$r_{ij} = \frac{\sum_{s} X_i^s Y_j^s - S \bar{X}_i \bar{Y}_j}{\Delta X_i \Delta Y_j}$$

 controlled by keywords SENSITIVITY, MCSAMPLE, MCSEED, COVARIANCE



Sample sensitivity output

Base	cross secti	on dat	a					
index		parent		daughter		sigma	sigma_unc	
i	zai n	uc_no	name	i zai	nuc_no 1	name	cm**2	
1	220460	233	Ti 46	210460	219 \$	Sc 46	0.39039E-25	0.35942E-01
2	220460	233	Ti 46	210461	220	Sc 46m	0.10142E-25	0.35942E-01
3	220480	235	Ti 48	210480	222	Sc 48	0.11049E-25	0.87272E-02
•••								
Outpu	t nuclides							
j	zai n	uc_no	name					
1	210460	219	Sc 46					
2	210470	221	Sc 47					
3	210480	222	Sc 48					
• • •								
Norma	l, x cutoff	= [-	3.0000	, 3.0000] std o	dev 🗲	 Normal rand 	om sampling
j	atoms_bas	se at	oms_mean	atoms_un	IC			
1	2.50290E+2	20 2.4	9955E+20	2.46164E-0)2			
2	7.99801E+1	.8 7.9	9665E+18	1.68690E-0)3			
3	9.91006E+1	.8 9.9	0588E+18	8.55649E-0)3			
•••								
Corre	lation coef	ficien	ts				-	
j\i	1		2	3	2	1	F reacti	lons
1	9.66468E-	-01 -						
2		-			9.998:	10E-01		
3		-		1.00000E+	-00			
4		-		9.9993E-	-01			
5		-			-9.9993	11E-01		
6		-		-9.60898E-	-01			
7	-9.66478E-	-01 -						
	output n	uclida	c					
1	• output III		3					



- UKDD-2012 decay 3873 nuclides
- calculation includes all nuclides in master index
- INDEXPATH generates reduced master index from pathways
 - typically few 10s of nuclides
 - number adjustable by pathway parameters
- reduced master index run vs full run to validate discards
- Monte-Carlo sensitivity for reduced master index runs
 - faster + comparable answers



Self shielding of resonant channels

- Probability tables, sub-group method
 - High fidelity resonances



CALENDF probability tables are used to model dilution effects in the computation of the effective cross-sections

cal-mt	description	mt in set
2	elastic scattering	2
101	absorption (no outgoing neutron)	$102 \ 103 \ 107$
18	fission total	18
4	inelastic scattering (emitting one neutron)	4 11
15	multiple neutron production (excluding fission)	$5\ 16\ 17\ 37$

 $\sigma_{\text{eff}}(x, n) = \sigma_{\text{eff}}(g, x, n) \text{ and } p(x, n) = p(g, x, n)$

where

- g = energy group number
- x = macro-partial (or total) index
- n = quadrature index

Cross section, PT distribution, discretization



JK Atomic

inergy



The moments having been computed, the probability table is established:

$$I(z) = \int \frac{p(x)}{1 - zx} dx = \underbrace{M_0 + M_1 z + M_2 z^2 + \dots + M_{2N-1} z^{2N-1}}_{2N \text{ moments}} + R_{2N} z^{2N}$$

$$= \underbrace{\frac{b_0 + b_1 z + b_2 z^2 + \dots + b_{N-1} z^{N-1}}_{1 + a_1 z + a_2 z^2 + \dots + a_N z^N}}_{Q_{N,N-1} = PADE approximant} + R'_{2N} z^{2N}$$

$$= \frac{b_0 + b_1 z + \dots + b_{N-1} z^{N-1}}{\prod_{i=1}^{N} (1 - zx_i)} + R'_{2N} z^{2N} = \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{p_i}{1 - zx_i}}_{p_i, x_i = quad.table} + R'_{2N} z^{2N}$$

The second line is the Padé approximant that introduces an approximate description of higher moment order



The effective cross section can be calculated from either the pointwise cross section or the probability table as follows:

$$\sigma_{x,eff,quad.}(\sigma_d) = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{i=N} \frac{p_i \sigma_{x,i}}{\sigma_{t,i} + \sigma_d}}{\sum_{i=1}^{i=N} \frac{p_i}{\sigma_{t,i} + \sigma_d}}$$

When the dilution is infinite this formula becomes:

$$\sigma_{x,eff,quad.} = \sum_{i=1}^{i=N} p_i \sigma_{x,i}$$



Effective cross sections comparison



The probability tables from CALENDF are used in conjunction with fine 709 or 1102 group data. They are given at 3 temperatures: 293.6, 600 and 900 Kelvin





The dilution d(p; g) for a given nuclide p and energy group g is computed using a weighted sum over all the nuclides, q = 1;Q in the mixture. The first approximation for the fraction f_q uses the total cross-sections :

$$d^{(0)}(p,g) = \sum_{\substack{q=1\\p\neq q}}^{Q} \frac{f_q \sigma^{LIB-tot}(q,g)}{f_p}$$

where

$$\sigma^{LIB-tot}(p,g) = \sum_{y=1}^{Y} \sigma^{LIB}(p,g,y)$$

Over the energy range for which the probability table data are available, the above approximation is iteratively refined using:

$$S^{(i)}(g) = \sum_{q=1}^{Q} f_q \sigma^{LIB-tot}(q,g) \left(\frac{\sigma^{tot}(q,g,d^{(i)}(q,g))}{\sigma^{tot}(q,g,\infty)} \right)$$
$$d^{(i+1)}(p,g) = \frac{S^{(i)}(g)}{f_p} - \sigma^{LIB-tot}(p,g) \left(\frac{\sigma^{tot}(p,g,d^{(i)}(p,g))}{\sigma^{tot}(p,g,\infty)} \right)$$



Effective cross section: dilution effects







The effect is not negligible around the resonances



Self shielding of resonant channels

- thin and thick target yields
 - High fidelity resonance



- thin and thick target yields
- accounts approximately for target geometry
- applicable to thick targets
- handles foils, wires, spheres and finite cylinders
- uses one physical length scale to represent the target: the "effective length" y

Type ID	Geometry	Dimension(s)	Y
1	foil	thickness (t)	y=1.5t
2	wire	radius (r)	y=2r
3	sphere	radius (r)	y=r
4	cylinder	radius (r), height (h)	y=1.65rh(r+h)



- theory of radioisotope production
- production rates and cross-sections
- saturation factors and practical yields
- model uses resonance parameters from the Resolved Resonance Range
- model includes the effects of neutron loss through radiative capture
- model includes effects of neutron energy diffusion through elastic scattering



- one resonance in a pure target
- dimensionless parameter to combine the physical effective length with the nuclear parameters

$$z = \sum_{tot} (E_{res}) y \sqrt{\frac{\Gamma_{\gamma}}{\Gamma}}$$

- where
 - Σ_{tot}(E_{res}) is the macroscopic cross-section at the energy E_{res} of the resonance peak
 - Γ_v is the radiative capture width
 - Γ is the total resonance width
 - y "effective length"
- Self-shielding factor G_{res} is defined in terms of z only



Model development, first step (1)

Baumann, 1963; Yamamoto and Yamamoto, 1965; Lopes, 1991





$$G_{res}(z) = \frac{A_1 - A_2}{1 + \left(\frac{z}{z_0}\right)^p} + A_2$$

- this is the "universal sigmoid curve" for the model
- the parameters have been determined empirically to be a good fit to experimental data
- preferred values are:
 - A1 = 1.000 ± 0.005
 - A2 = 0.060 ± 0.011
 - $Zo = 2.70 \pm 0.09$
 - $p = 0.82 \pm 0.02$



- extend model to a group of separated resonances
- still considering a pure target: one nuclide
- assign a weight to each resonance

$$w_i = \left(\frac{\Gamma_{\gamma}}{E_{res}^2} \cdot \frac{g\Gamma_n}{\Gamma}\right)_i$$

where

- Γ_n is the neutron scattering width
- g is the statistical factor, (2J + 1)/(2(2I + 1))
- J is the spin of the resonance state
- I is the spin of the target nucleus
- form an average self-shielding factor from all resonances of interest

$$\left\langle G_{res}\right\rangle = \frac{\sum w_i G_{res}\left(z_i\right)}{\sum w_i}$$



- extend $\langle G_{res} \, \rangle$ to form the average for resonances of a mixture of nuclides
- assume the resonances of different nuclides do not overlap significantly
- make (G_{res}) energy dependent by taking averages separately for each energy bin used for the group-wise cross-sections
- use Fröhner's simple expression for the peak cross-section of each resonance (not available from the GENDF data)



- universal curve model provides an alternative to probability table self shielding
- use (G_{res})(E) to scale down energy-dependent crosssections before cross-section collapse
- $\langle G_{res} \rangle (E)$ reduces the neutron flux, so apply it to all cross-sections
- target geometry specified with

SSFGEOMETRY type length₁ < length₂ >

- use resonances from mixture specified with SSFFUEL or SSFMASS
- PRINTLIB 6 now generates a table of all cross-sections with $\langle G_{res} \rangle$ reduction factors



Neutron-irradiated tungsten:

comparison between experiment and simulation







- W irradiated in the high-flux reactor (HFR) @ NRG, Petten
- Has been cooling for a number of years (see later)
- Only now is it starting to be analyzed
- Full of defects & voids, and some percentage of transmutation products – mostly rhenium



EDX & TEM images: M. Klimenkov et al., KIT, submitted to J. Nucl. Mater.



HFR Petten



Petten Single Crystal (1.2wt% Re measured)



Petten Polycrystalline (1.4wt% Re measured)



- W irradiated under EXTREMAT-II in 2008 & 2009
- Target of 282 days of irradiation (10 cycles), but in fact only irradiated in 8 cycles & in two different positions:

Position	Cycle	EFPD	Start date	End date
C7	08-May	30.72	22-May-08	22-Jun-08
	08-Jun	29.71	28-Jun-08	28-Jul-08
C3	09-Jan	27.69	12-Feb-09	12-Mar-09
	09-Feb	24.99	01-Apr-09	26-Apr-09
	09-Mar	30.77	29-Apr-09	30-May-09
	09-Apr	24.71	02-Jun-09	27-Jun-09
	09-May	17.61	30-Jun-09	18-Jul-09
	09-Jun	22.06	17-Aug-09	08-Sep-09
Total		208.26		

• EFPD – effective full power days



- Samples were positioned next to another experiment with very strong thermal neutron absorption properties
 - W exposed to a lower than normal (for HFR) fraction of thermal neutrons creating reduced transmutation
- 10¹⁴ **New spectra** Flux (n/cm²/s) per lethargy calculated for the approximate axial 10¹³ position of origina EXTREMAT-II, averaged over 10¹²radial extent of Total fluxes for three spectra: 5.3 experiment and x 10¹⁴, 6.61 x 10¹⁴, 6.83 x 10¹⁴ n over around 4 cm cm⁻² s⁻¹, for original, C7, and C3, of height respectively 10¹¹ $10^{-3} 10^{-2} 10^{-1} 10^{0} 10^{1} 10^{2} 10^{3} 10^{4} 10^{5} 10^{6}$ Energy (eV) 42



- To correctly account for self-shielding in all isotopes of W
 - During collapse:

```
PROBTABLE 1 1
SSFCHOOSE 1 0 W
SSFMASS 1.0 1
W 100.0
GETXS 1 709
```

 Other option (SSFFUEL) allows explicit specifications of isotopes to self-shield



- Main Re isotopes produced during irradiation are ¹⁸⁵Re and ¹⁸⁷Re
 - Produced via (n,γ) reactions on ¹⁸⁴W and ¹⁸⁶W, followed by β-decay of ¹⁸⁵W (T_{1/2}=75 days) and ¹⁸⁷W (24 hours), respectively.
- Raw total collapsed reaction rate (RR) for these (n,γ) reactions and self-shielding (SS) corrected values:

Reaction	Original sp	ectrum	C7		C3	
	Raw RR	SS RR	Raw RR	SS RR	Raw RR	SS RR
$^{186}W(n,\gamma)^{187}W$	22.5 (0.01)	17.2	6.21 (0.09) (-72%)	4.67	5.54 (0.1) (-75%)	4.13
$^{184}W(n,\gamma)^{185}W$	0.92 (0.71)	0.60	0.63 (1.8) (-32%)	0.29	0.64 (1.8) (-30%)	0.29

(all RR in barns, black bracket values are +/- errors, green bracket values are % reduction in RR relative to original spectrum)



Collapsed reaction rates





Collapsed reaction rates





- Inventory simulation with FISPACT-II of pure tungsten with fully detailed irradiation schedule (including gaps and change in position) and new spectra
 - TENDL 2014 nuclear libraries in 660 energy groups
 - Self-shielding correction of reaction cross sections included (2% Re predicted without correction)
- Results after 208.26 effective full power days:
 - 1.4 atomic % Re (and 0.1% Os)
 - good agreement with 1.2-1.4% values from measurements
 - And much better than ~4% prediction based on usual HFR neutron spectrum
 - 1.6 effective dpa in the tungsten (using $E_d = 55 \text{ eV}$)



- A proper characterization of the neutron spectra for irradiated samples is vital to get even close to real transmutation rate in simulations
 - Without this correct treatment of the neutron fields the reaction rates (and hence transmutation rates) for key capture reactions are much greater
 - The thermal part of the neutron spectrum is very important and must be correctly predicted
- Simulations in W with more realistic neutron spectra give Re production rates that are in very good agreement with experimental measurements
- Further explorations:
 - Properly corrected neutron spectra for W at the sample positions may cause further refinement of results
 - Variation (of Re %) with depth due to self-shielding



LWR simulation validation

- Collaboration with PSI, using modern CASMO-SIMULATE to compare inventory predictions for variety of assemblies:
 - BWR and PWR with mix of UO2, MOX, Gd
 - Includes Takahama, Atrium-10, TMI-1, Beznau





- Added 586 CASMO data for ENDF/B-VII.1, with CALENDF PTs for self-shielding. Applied to major actinides, but can in principle apply to any nuclide
- Left: U8 capture RR and SSFs Right: U5 fission RR+SSFs Note: CASMO 586 treatment of <10 eV requires no SSFs! No so for >10 eV, where significant SS occurs and must be accounted for.





- In all examples, normalisation using POWER keyword of FISPACT-II (normalising flux based on full Kerma) to CASMO power density, converted to W/cc.
- Ratios are to CASMO simulation, following the spectra changes over 40 GWd/te, below: BWR MOX simulation

