

3<sup>rd</sup> Joint ICTP-IAEA Workshop on Physics and Technology of Innovative Nuclear Energy Systems 12 – 16 December 2022, Trieste, Italy

## Thermal Hydraulics of Innovative Nuclear Energy Systems

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Fast Reactor Technology Development Team Nuclear Power Technology Development Section Department of Nuclear Energy

## Outline



- Reactor Classification and Innovative Fast Neutron Systems
- Main Reactor Components
  - Reactor Core
  - Fuel Rod Bundle (Subassembly)
  - Fuel Rod (Pin)
- Comparison of Coolant Physical Properties
- TH Calculations on Design Temperature Limits
- Simulation of Real S/A under Irradiation
- Transient Analysis



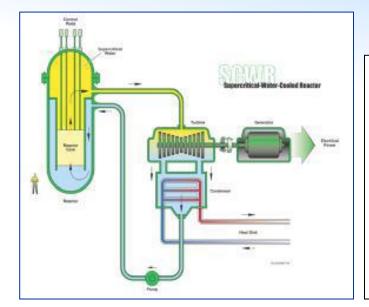
## **General Reactor Classification**

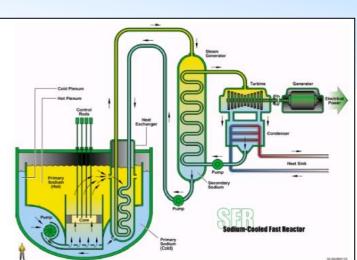


#### • Moderator

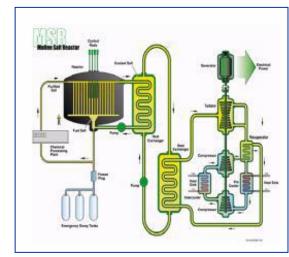
- Water / Heavy Water
- Graphite
- None (fast neutron systems)
- Coolant
  - Water/Heavy Water
  - Liquid Metal
    - Sodium / Lead / Lead-Bismuth Eutectic (LBE)
  - Gas
    - Air / CO<sub>2</sub> / Helium
  - Molten Salt
- Fuel
  - UO2
  - MOX  $(UO_2 + PuO_2)$
  - Metallic
  - Molten Salt
- Purpose
  - Electricity/Non-Electric Application
- Power
  - Low/Middle/High

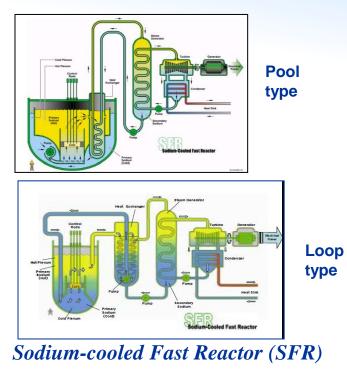






#### **GEN-IV Reactors (GIF)**



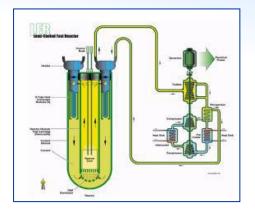


Supercritical-Watercooled Reactor (SCWR)

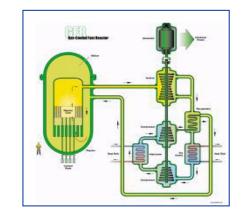
#### **Six Generation IV Reactor systems**



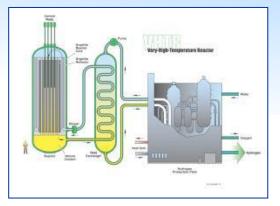
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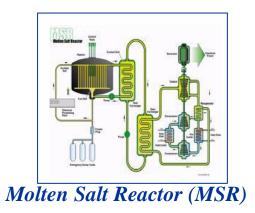
Lead-cooled Fast Reactor (LFR)



Gas-cooled Fast Reactor (GFR)



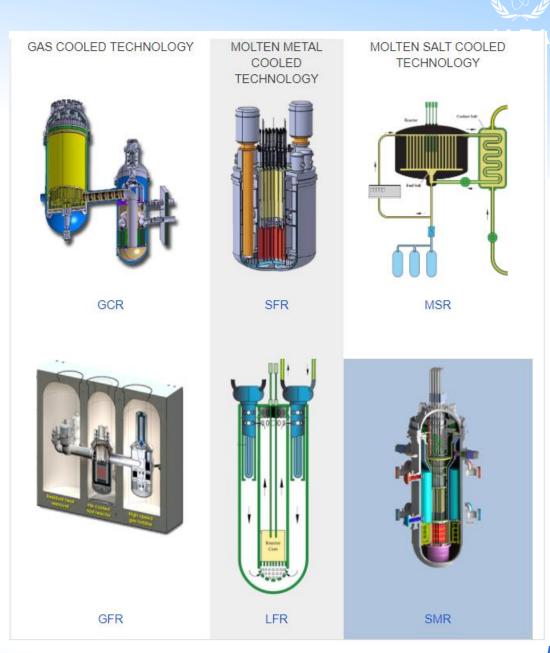
Very-High-Temperature Reactor (VHTR)



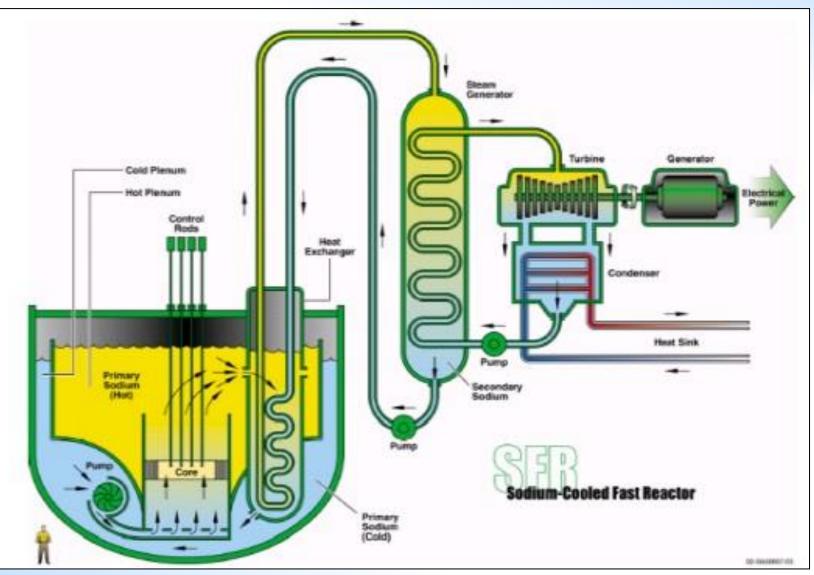
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## IAEA and GIF Terminology

- Early Prototypes and
   Demonstration Plants Gen I
- Current Fleet Gen II-III
- Advanced Nuclear Reactors
  - Evolutionary designs Gen III and III+
  - Innovative designs Gen IV
  - SMRs can be either evolutionary or innovative
- ARIS: IAEA Advanced Reactors Information System: https://aris.iaea.org/



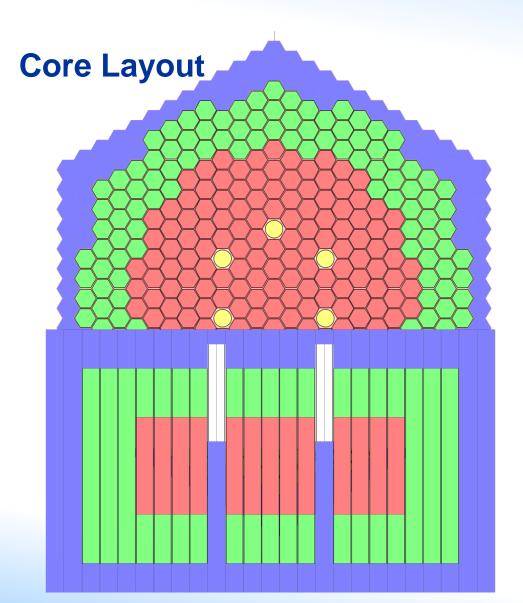
## **Sodium Cooled Fast Reactor (SFR)**



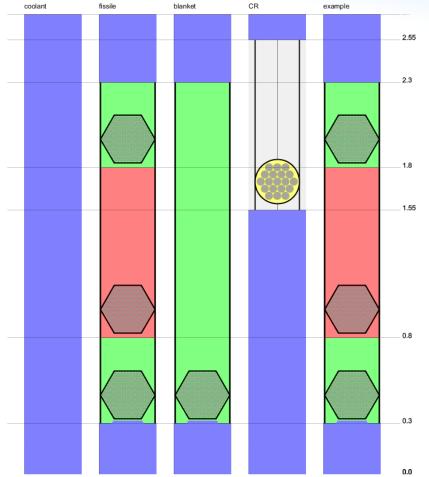


## **Reactor Core**

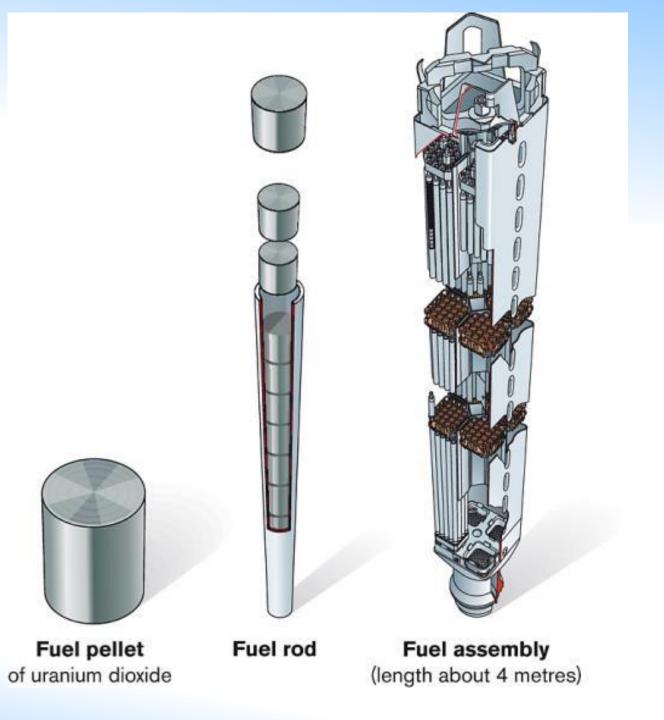




#### Sub-Assemblies (S/A)



## LWR Fuel Assembly (Rod Bundle)

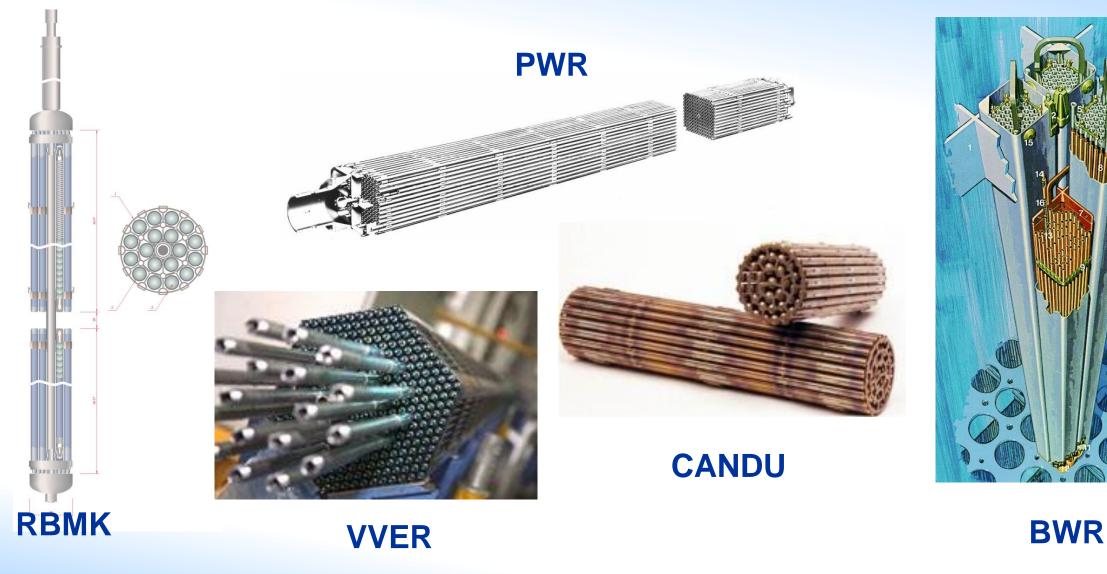


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## WCR Rod Bundles



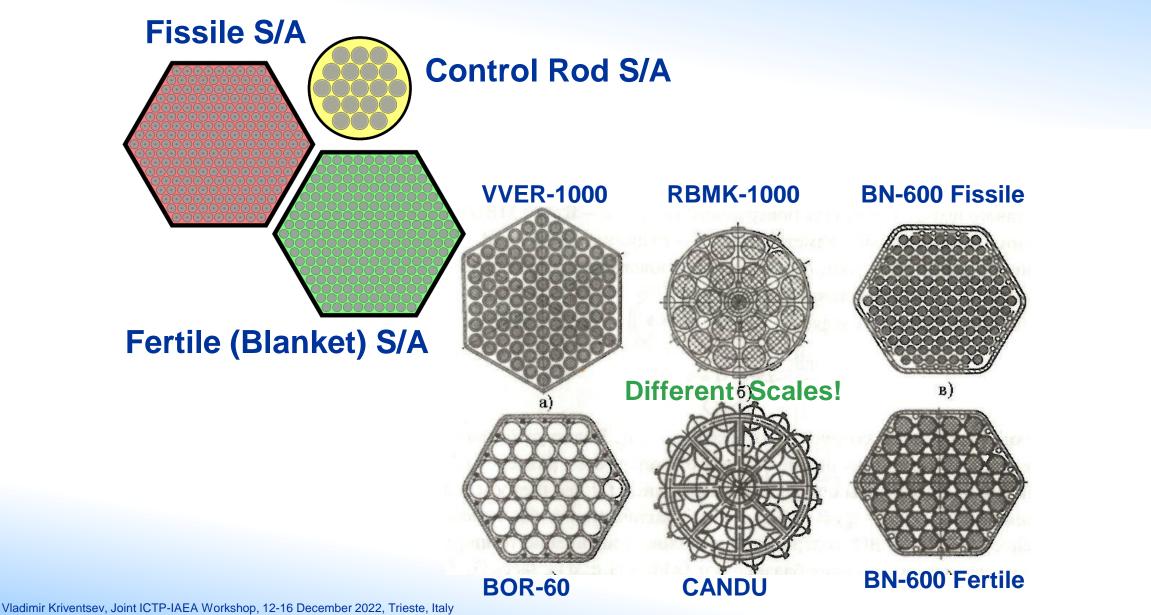




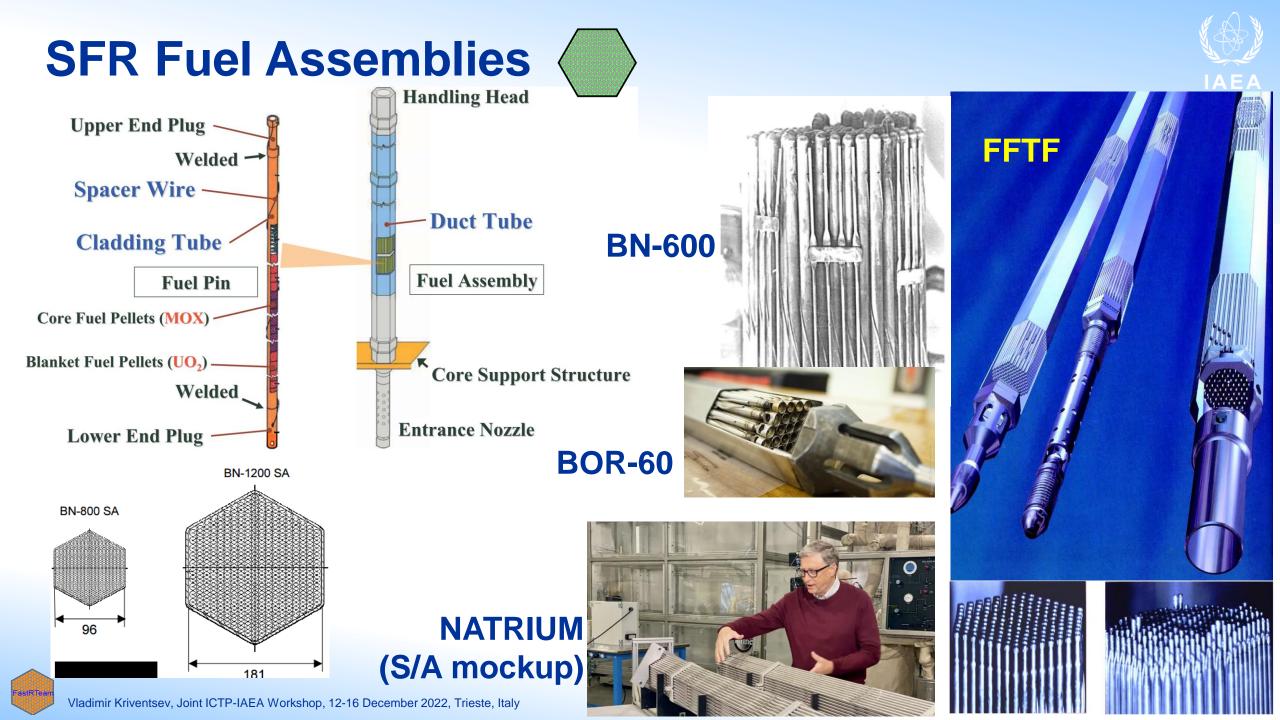


## **Sub-Assembly Types**



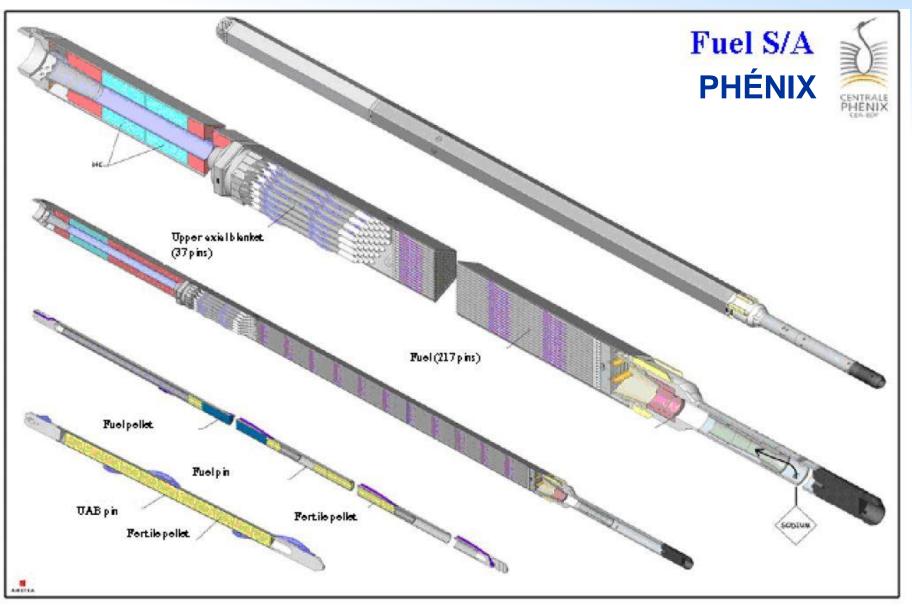


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## **Phenix SFR Fuel Sub-Assembly**





## **Fuel S/A: Pin Arrangement**

	PWR/BWR	LMFNS
Fuel Pin/Rod OD, mm	9 - 14	6 - 9
Cladding Wall, mm	0.6 - 1	~0.5
Fuel Pellet Diameter, mm	7 - 10	5 - 7
Pitch-to-Diameter Ratio	1.4 - 1.6	1.1 - 1.3
Fuel Fraction	15 - 30 %	40 - 50 %
Coolant Fraction	50 - 70 %	35 - 50 %

#### **Large Fuel Fraction:**

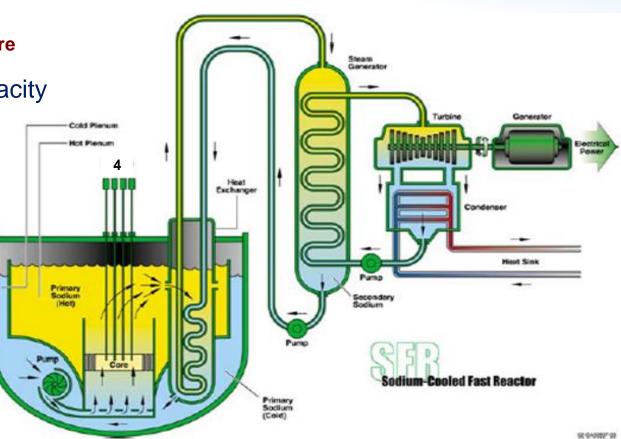
- Triangular Array (in HexCan)
- Smaller P/D Ratio (in SFRs)
  - Cannot use grid spacers in SFRs
  - >> wire wrap
  - Both wire and grid spacers in LFRs





## Sodium Properties: several advantages

- Low melting point (97.8° C at 1 bar)
- ➤ Large temperature range of the liquid phase (97.8° C 881.5° C at 1 bar)
- Low saturation vapor pressure
- Low density and viscosity
- Very high thermal conductivity and good heat capacity
- Excellent electrical conductivity
- Low activation and no alpha emitters
- No specific toxicity
- Cheap and largely available
- Perfectly compatible with steels
- Very limited amount of particles in sodium
- Low oxygen and hydrogen solubility
- Very good wetting







Primary system at atmospheric pressure

## Sodium Properties: three main disadvantages



#### Important: Violent reaction with water

- ✓ possible deleterious effects in Steam Generator Units (SGU), in case of pipe rupture
- $\checkmark\,$  Na-H<sub>2</sub>O interaction must be avoided or mitigated by design
  - Selection of a modular SGU
- ✓ Na-H<sub>2</sub>O interaction must be detected,
  - Thanks to the production of hydrogen
  - Risk of hydrogen explosion has to be mitigated

#### Important: Chemical reactivity with air

- ✓ Can induce Na fire
- ✓ Need inert zones and confinement
- ✓ Need early detection

#### > Opacity

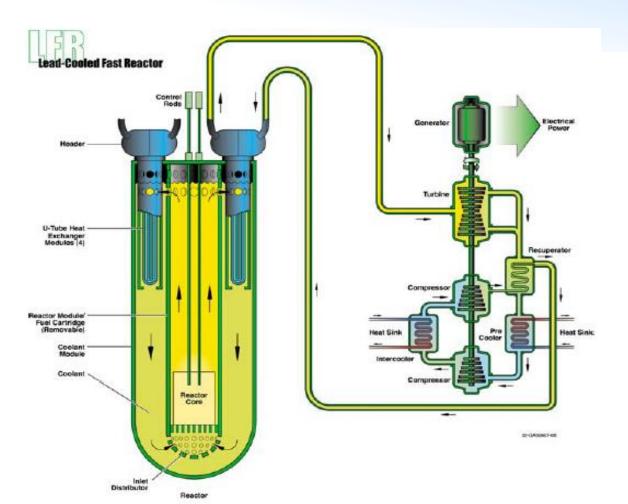
✓ Need specific equipments for under-sodium viewing and measurements





# Lead/LBE Properties: several advantages

- Low absorption and elastic scattering cross-sections (neutrons just diffuse in lead)
- Effective gamma-rays shielding
- High retention of fission products
- High boiling point (1749/1670 °C at 1 bar)
- Very low vapor pressure Primary system at
  - Primary system at atmospheric pressure
- High thermal capacity
- Good heat transfer properties
- Chemically inert, in particular with water and air (allows elimination of intermediate circuit)
- No hydrogen formation
- Cheap and largely available



# Lead/LBE Properties: *three main disadvantages*



#### Material compatibility: erosion, corrosion

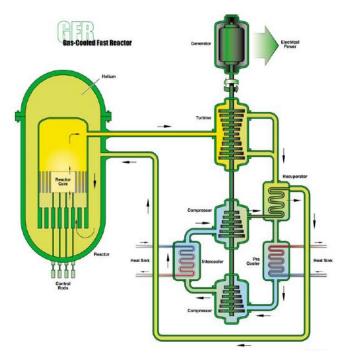
- ✓ Low coolant velocity
- ✓ Limit in cladding Tmax
- ✓ Hydrogen and oxygen control
- ✓ New steels
- ✓ Coatings
- High density (also an advantage due to reduced risk of re-criticality in case of core melting)
- > Opacity
  - ✓ Need specific equipment for under-lead viewing and measurements

#### Very limited operational experience (Alpha-class submarines)



## Gas (He) Properties: advantages

- Completely transparent to neutron (very hard neutron spectrum)
- Low reactivity insertion due to voiding of the coolant
- Chemically inert
- Single phase behavior
- Optical transparency
- Electrically non-conducting
- Possibility to adopt direct gas turbine cycle
- Very high temperature applications



## Gas (He) Properties: four main disadvantages



#### Low density creating requirement for pressurization

✓ Likelihood and severity of a LOCA

#### Inability to adopt a pool configuration

✓ Core remains uncovered in case of breached primary circuit

#### Non-condensable

✓ Pressure loading the containment building in case of LOCA

#### Low-thermal inertia

 $\checkmark$  The reactor core heat up rapidly if forced cooling is lost

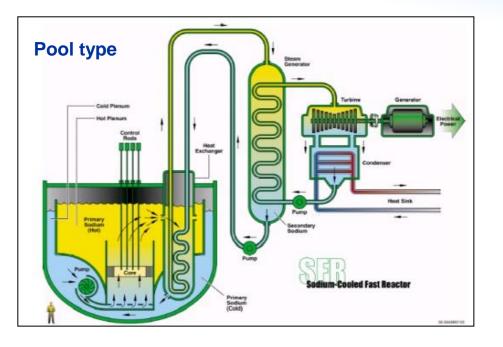
#### No operational experience



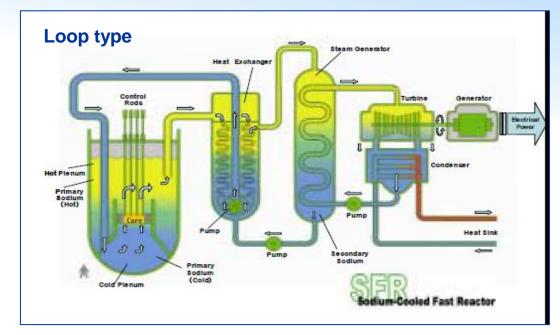
## **Sodium Cooled Fast Reactor (SFR)**



GIF website: www.gen-4.org

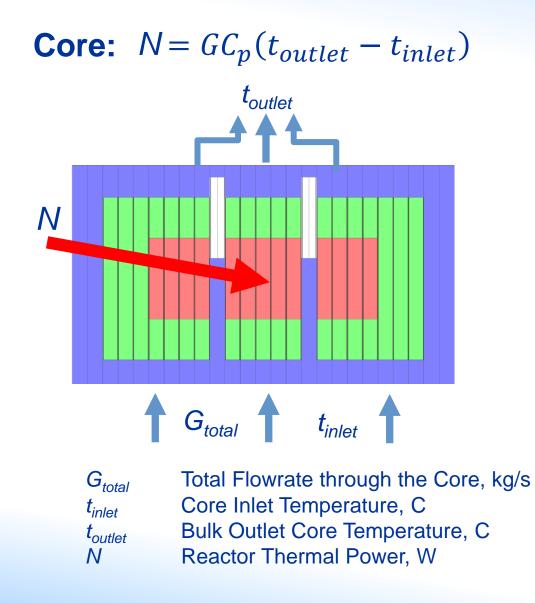


- ✓ Relatively low melting point; relative high boiling point:
   97.8°...881.5° C at 1 bar
- ✓ Low density and viscosity
- ✓ Very high thermal conductivity and good heat capacity
- ✓ Excellent electrical conductivity
- Low activation and no alpha emitters
- ✓ Cheap and largely available
- ✓ Perfectly compatible with steels



- Aggressive chemical **reaction with water**
- Reaction with air: self-ignited sodium fires
- Void reactivity effect
- Not transparent: Need special equipment for control and inspections

## **Reactor Core Power Balance**



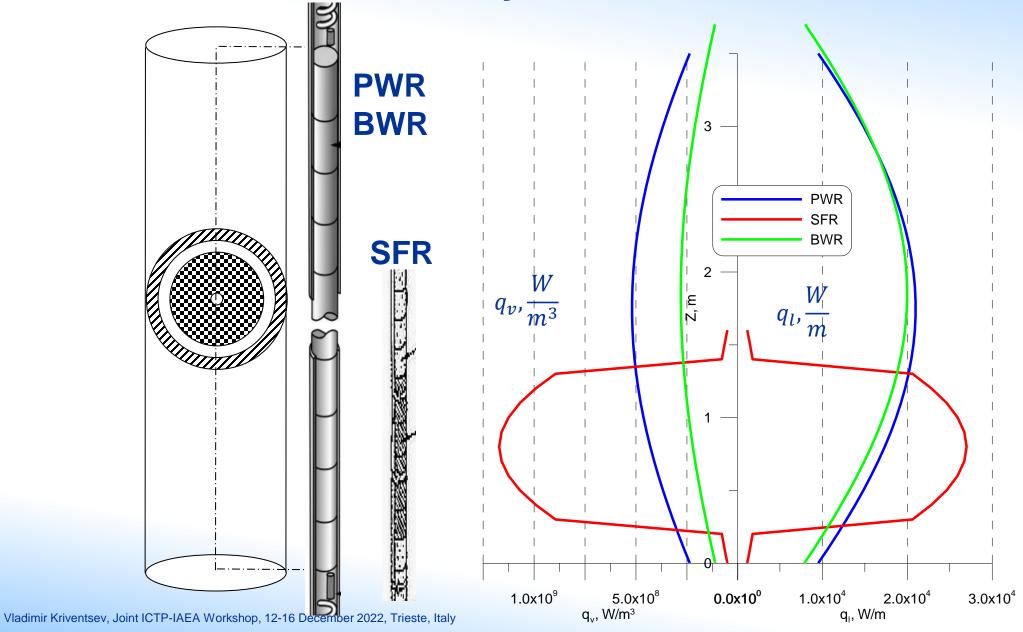
S/A: 
$$N_i = G_i C_p (t_i - t_{inlet})$$
  
 $t_i$   
 $t_outlet = \frac{\sum G_i t_i}{G}$   
 $N = \sum N_i$   
 $G = \sum G_i$   
 $Q_l = \frac{dN}{dz}$   
 $Q_v = \frac{dN}{dV}$ 





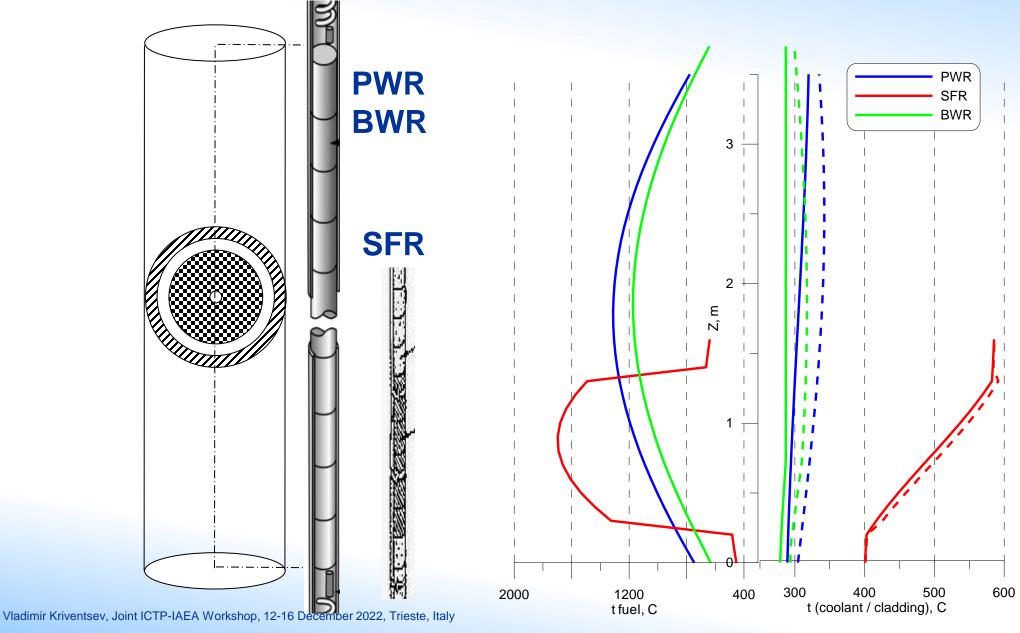
## **Fuel Pin: Power Density**





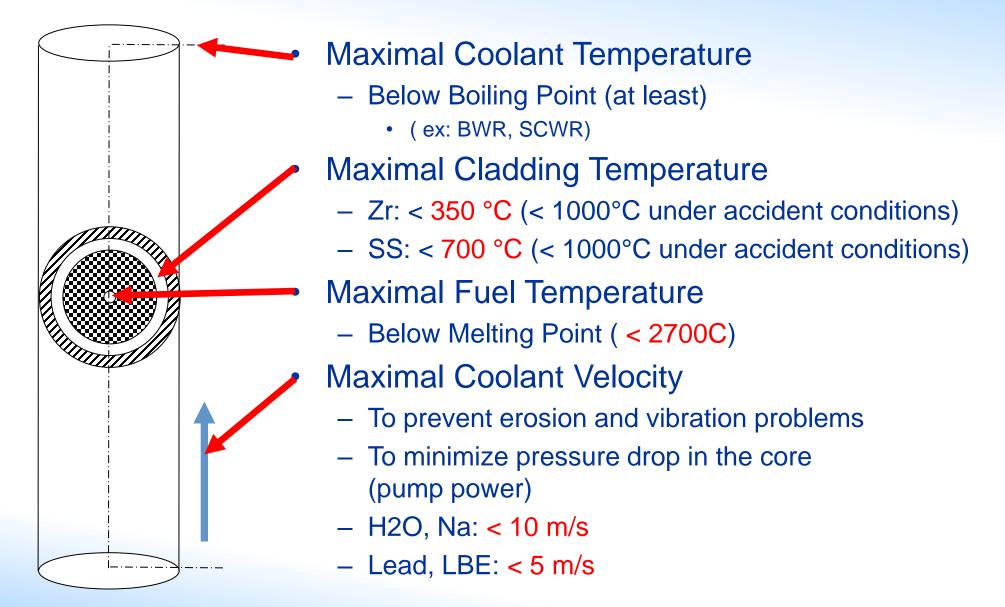
## **Fuel Pin: Temperature Profiles**





### **TH Limiting Parameters**

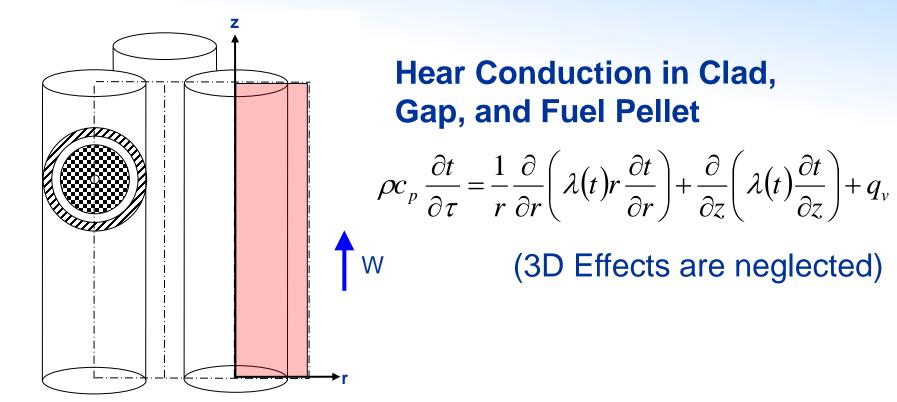




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#### **Governing Equations**



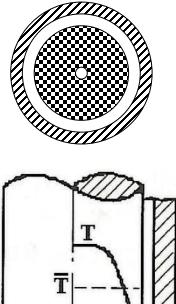


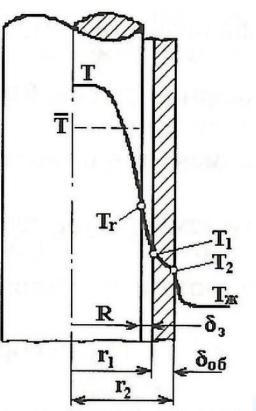
#### **Energy Conservation in Coolant**

$$\rho c_{p} \frac{\partial t}{\partial \tau} + \rho c_{p} W(r) \frac{\partial t}{\partial z} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( \left( \lambda + \lambda_{turb}^{r}(r) \right) r \frac{\partial t}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \left( \lambda + \lambda_{turb}^{z}(r) \right) \frac{\partial t}{\partial z} \right)$$

#### **Steady Temperature Profiles: Inside Pin**







 $\rho c_{p} \frac{\partial t}{\partial \tau} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial}{\partial r} \left( \lambda(t) r \frac{\partial t}{\partial r} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left( \lambda(t) \frac{\partial t}{\partial z} \right) + q_{v}$ 

- No transient term
- Axial heat conduction can be neglected **Easy to Solve in 1D** (Analytically)

$$t_{\max}(z) = t_{coolant}(z) + \Delta t_{colant} + \Delta t_{clad} + \Delta t_{gap} + \Delta t_{fuel}$$

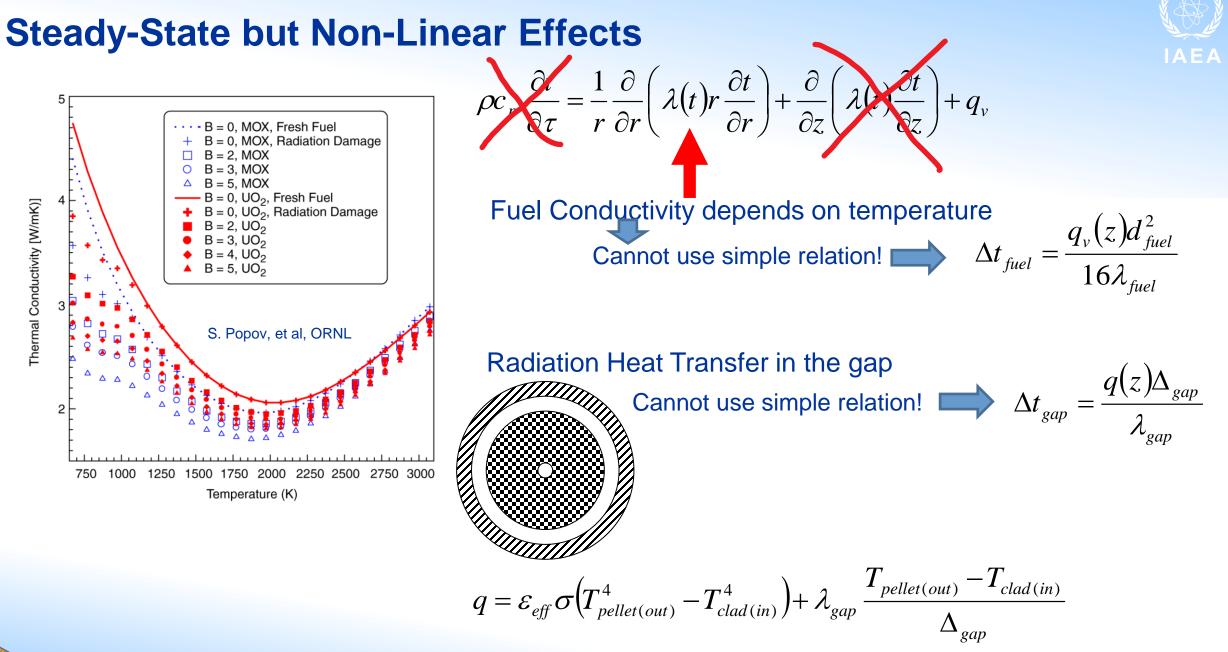
$$t_{coolant}(z) = t_{inlet} \int_{-h/2}^{z} c_p G_i q_l(z) dz$$

$$\Delta t_{coolant} = \frac{q_l(z)}{\alpha \pi d_{pin}} \qquad \Delta t_{clad} = \frac{q(z) \Delta_{clad}}{\lambda_{clad}}$$

$$\Delta t_{gap} = \frac{q(z) \Delta_{gap}}{\lambda_{gap}} \qquad \Delta t_{fuel} = \frac{q_v(z) d_{fuel}^2}{16 \lambda_{fuel}}$$



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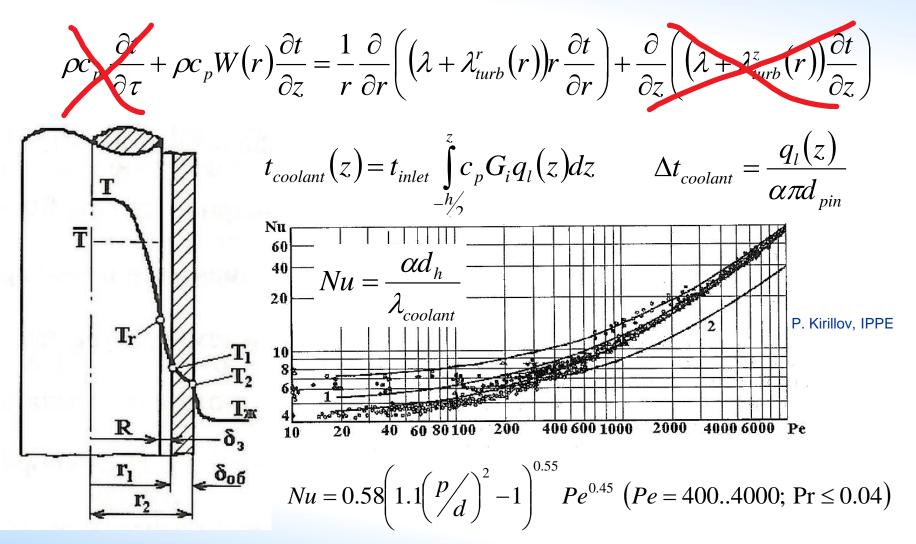


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#### **Coolant-Cladding Heat Transfer**

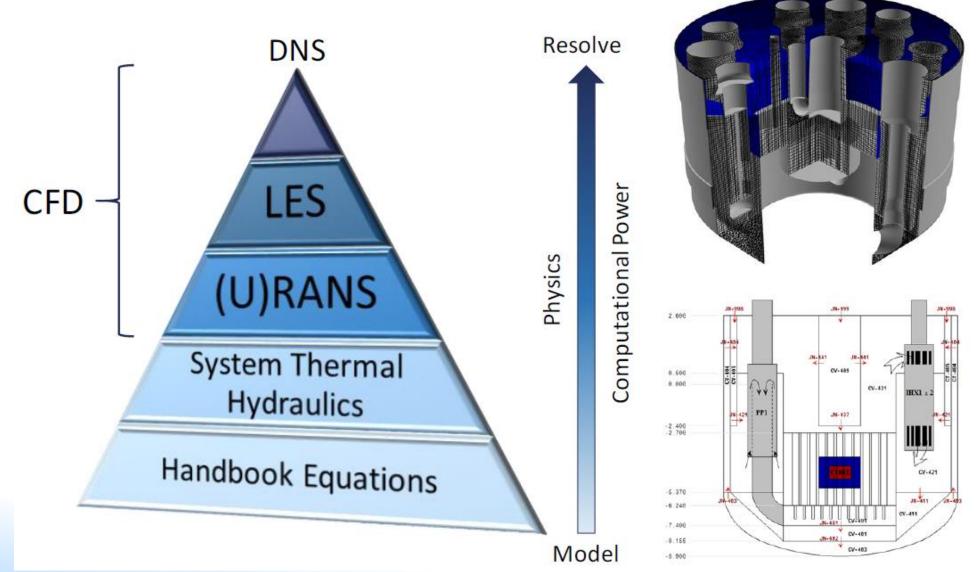


**Energy Conservation in Coolant** 



#### From simple experimental correlations to DNS



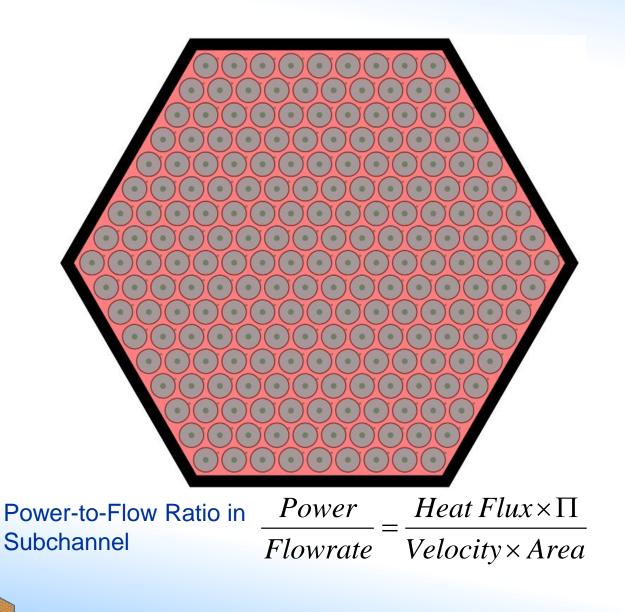


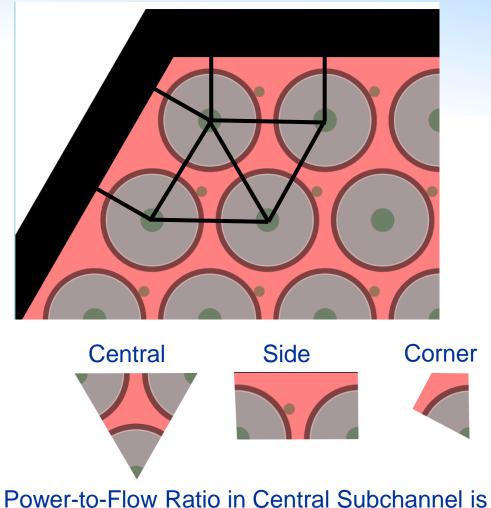
Ferry Roelofs, CFD Modelling of Liquid Metal cooled Fast Reactors, Regional IAEA Workshop on Thermal Hydraulics of LMFRS, GCNEP, India, 2022

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#### Temperature Distribution within S/A: Subchannel Analysis







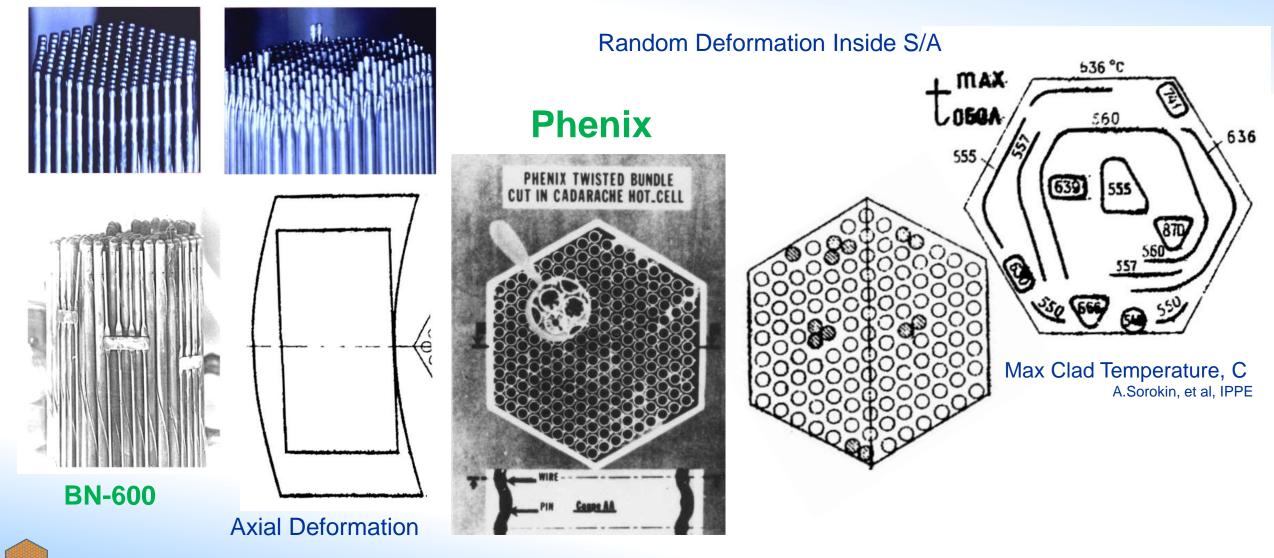
• 1.2 - 1.4 higher (if isolated)

• 1.1 - 1.15 in real S/A, thanks to mixing

### **S/A Deformation Under Irradiation**

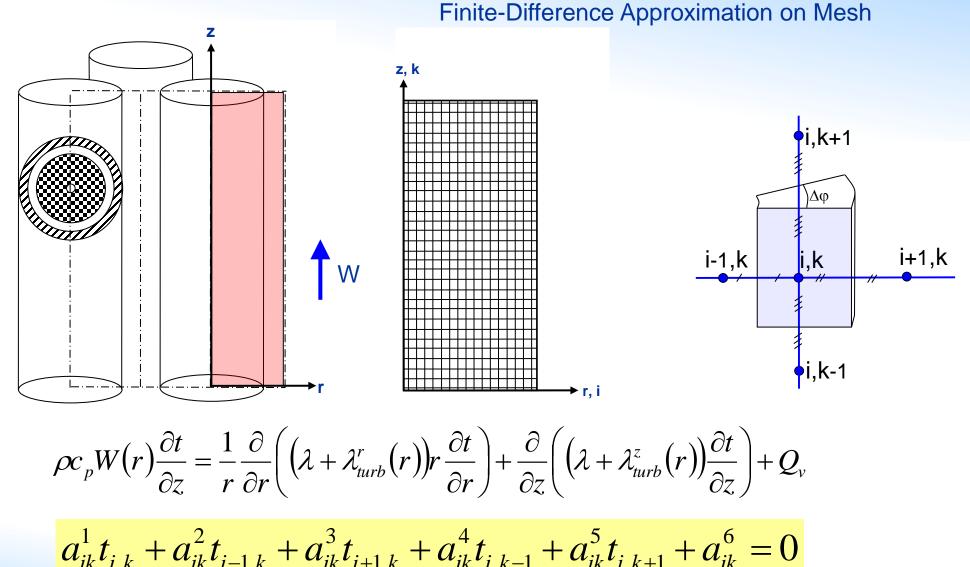


FFTF



#### **Numerical Simulation (CFD)**





## **TH Analysis: at Nominal Power**



- Core Design Verification Calculations
  - For the given core design and power, to check if temperatures and velocities are below the limits
  - Input
    - Core Design, S/A and Pin Geometry
    - Max Pin or S/A Power (number of pins/SA) (from Reactor Power Distribution)
    - Axial Power Profile (or peaking factor)
    - Inlet Coolant Temperature
    - Coolant Velocity or Flowrate/SA
  - Output
    - Outlet Coolant Temperature
    - Maximal Cladding Temperature (or Distribution)
    - Maximal Fuel Temperature (or Distribution)



## **TH Analysis: Max Nominal Power**



- Design Study Calculations
  - For the given core configuration, what can be a maximal pin/SA/core thermal power?
  - Input
    - Core Design, S/A and Pin Geometry
    - Inlet Coolant Temperature
    - Axial and Radial Power Profiles (or peaking factors)
  - Output
    - Max Pin or S/A Power; Total Reactor Power

## **TH Analysis: Transients**

**Reactor Accidental Transient Scenarios** 

- DBC (Design Basis Condition) accidents
  - Reactor shut-down normally (Protected)
  - Drop/Release of Single Control Rod
  - Loss of one or all primary pumps
- DEC (Design Extension Conditions) accidents
  - Severe Accidents, May Result in Core Melting
  - ULOF (Unprotected Loss of Flow)
    - For LMFNS, ULOF is considered as most serious accident
  - **UTOP** (Unprotected Trip of Power)
    - Drop/Release of Control Rod Bank
  - Core Flow Blockage (incl. TIB Total Instantaneous Blockage)
    - May results in core melting/damage. Simulations should reject/confirm the possibility of propagation
  - Loss of Heat Sink (LOHS)
- Required: Coupling TH/Neutronics/Mass Transfer/EOS



## **CFD Analysis: Basic Flows**

	Channels	Flow Separation	Jets	Mixed Convection	Rod Bundle
Experiment					
High Fidelity Reference Simulation (LES/DNS)		Constraints of the second seco		$ \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\ \\$	

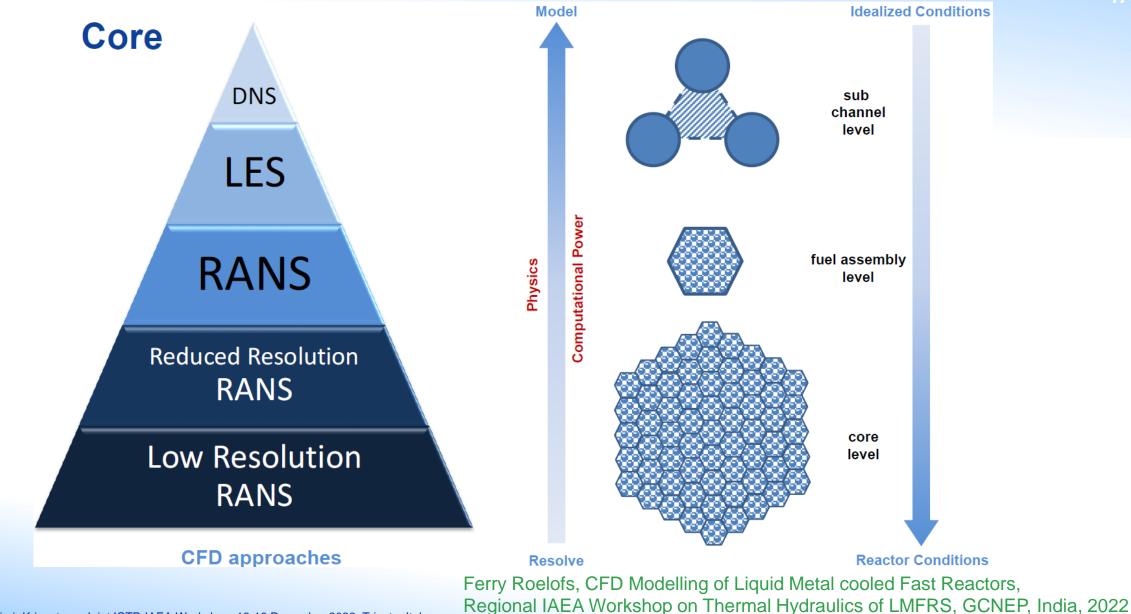
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## **CFD Analysis: Reactor Core**

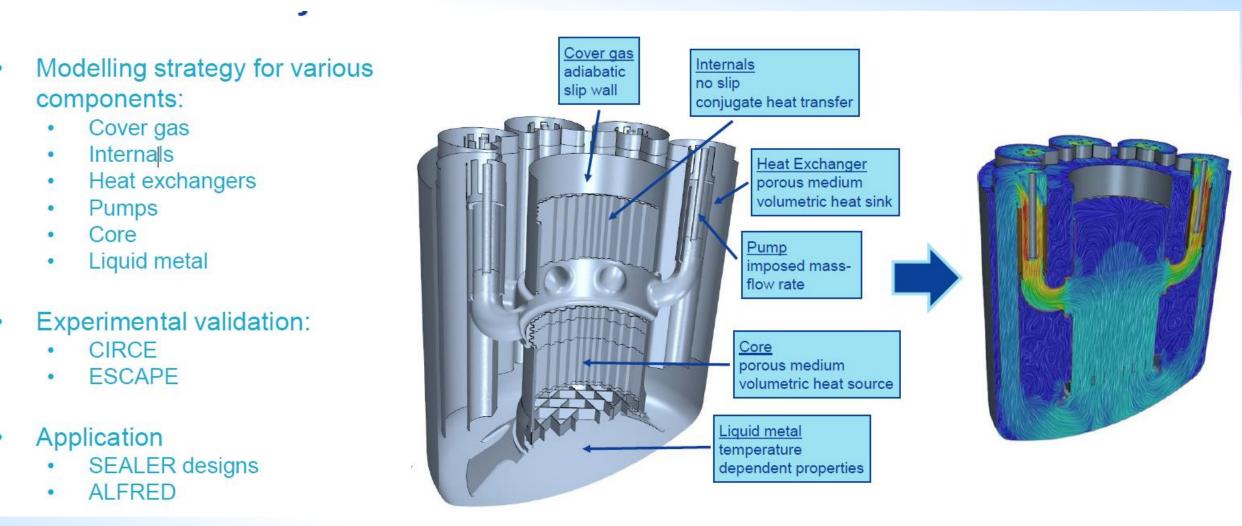




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# **CFD Analysis: LMFR Vessel and Pool**





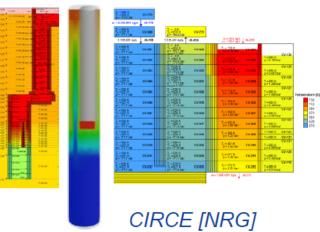
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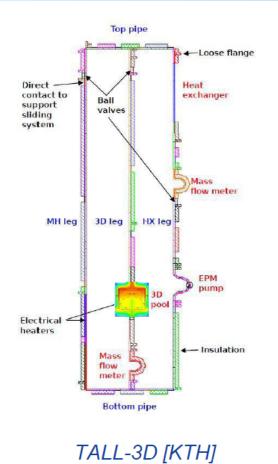
# **System Thermal Hydraulics**





- Details can be modelled in CFD
- CFD is a nice tool but...computationally very expensive
- Still there is a need of a tool which can combine sufficient details and reasonable computational costs
  - 3-D modules in system codes
  - Multi-scale modelling through coupled CFD System Thermal Hydraulics codes





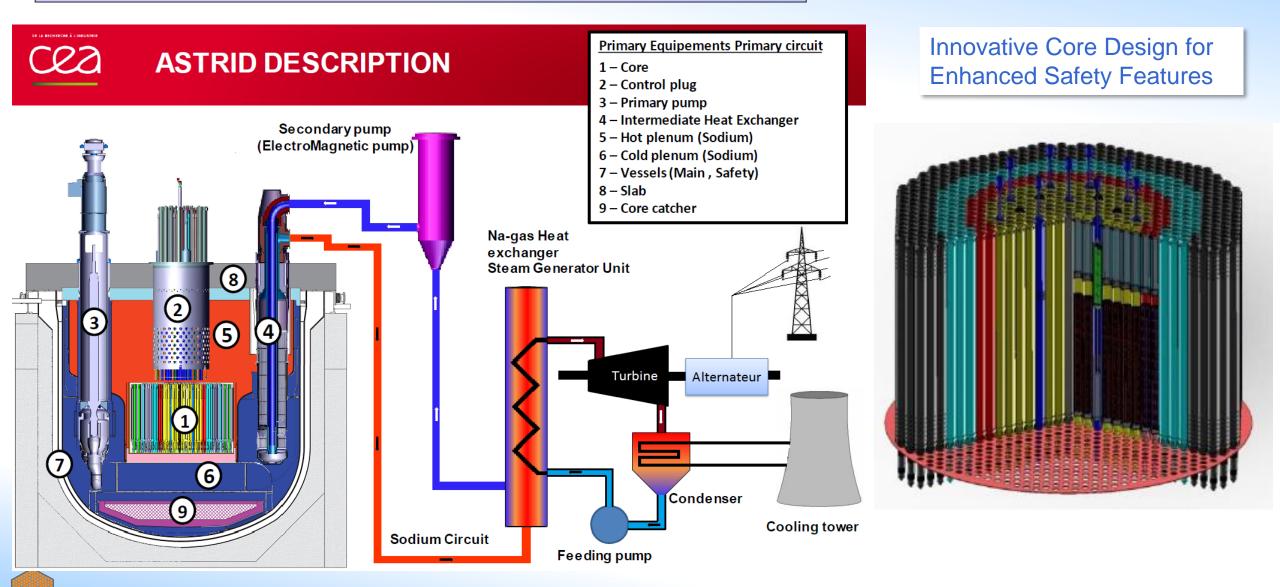


Ferry Roelofs, CFD Modelling of Liquid Metal cooled Fast Reactors, Regional IAEA Workshop on Thermal Hydraulics of LMFRS, GCNEP, India, 2022

### ASTRID: Advanced Sodium Technological Reactor for Industrial Demonstration

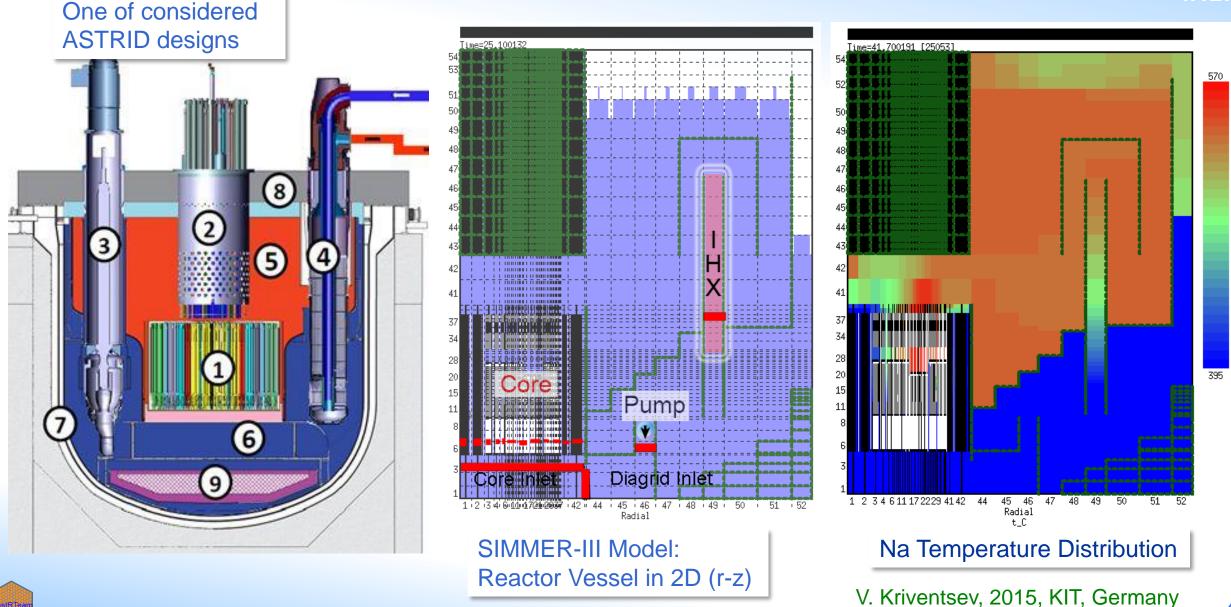
**C. Latge** at Joint IAEA-ICTP Workshop August 2016, Trieste, Italy



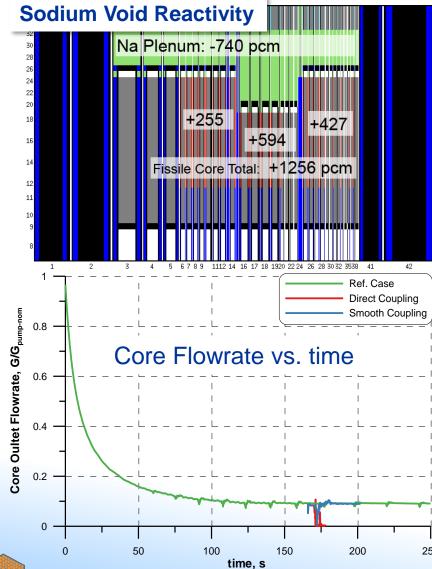


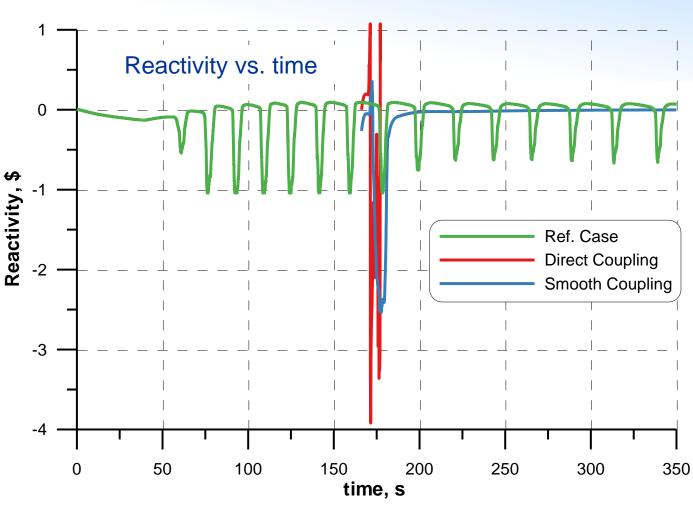
### **ASTRID: ULOF Simulations with SAS4A and SIMMER-III codes**





### **ULOF Simulations with SAS4A and SIMMER-III Codes**





V. Kriventsev, 2015, KIT, Germany

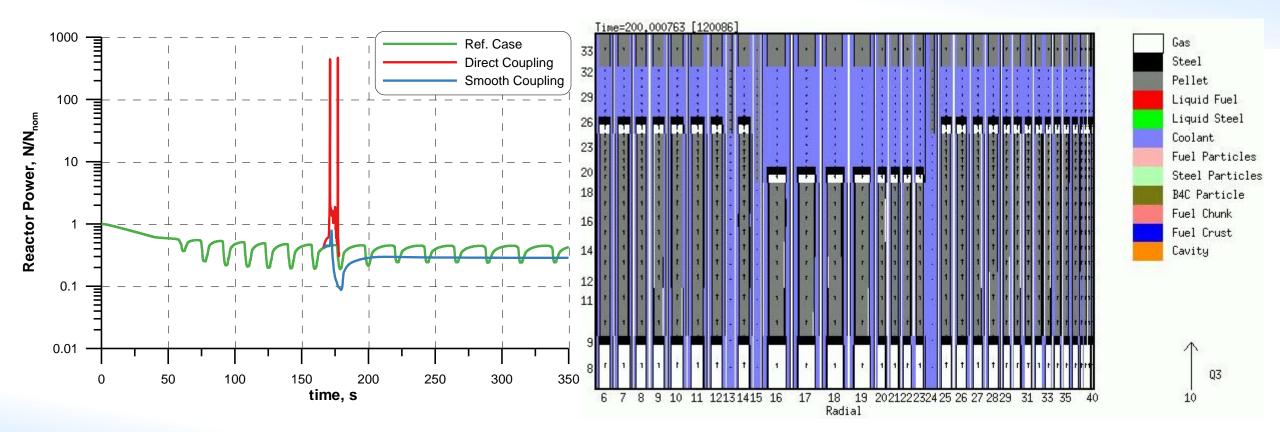


## **ULOF Simulations with SIMMER-III Code**



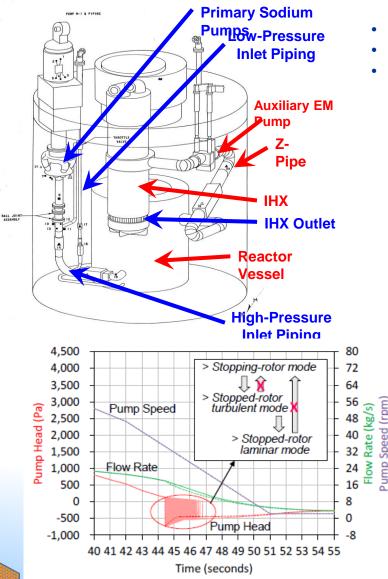
Reactor Power

Material Distribution in Core vs. Time



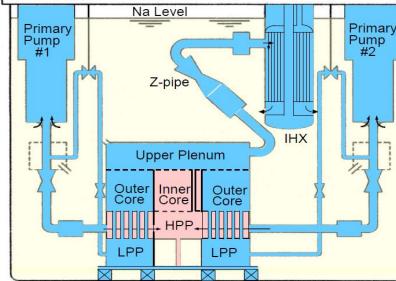
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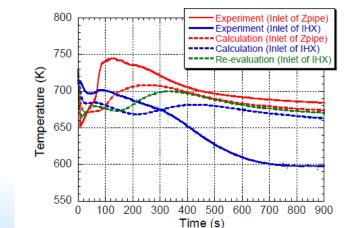
### CRP on Benchmark Analysis of *EBR-II* Shutdown Heat Removal Test (2012-2016)

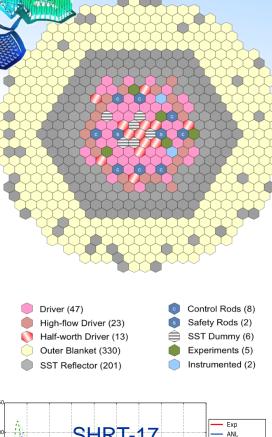


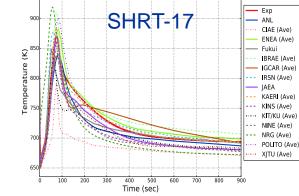
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- Coupled Neutronics and Thermalhydraulic Transient Simulations
- SHRT-17 (Protected): Loss of normal and emergency pumping
- SHRT-45 (Unprotected): Loss of normal flow, scram disabled, station
   blackout





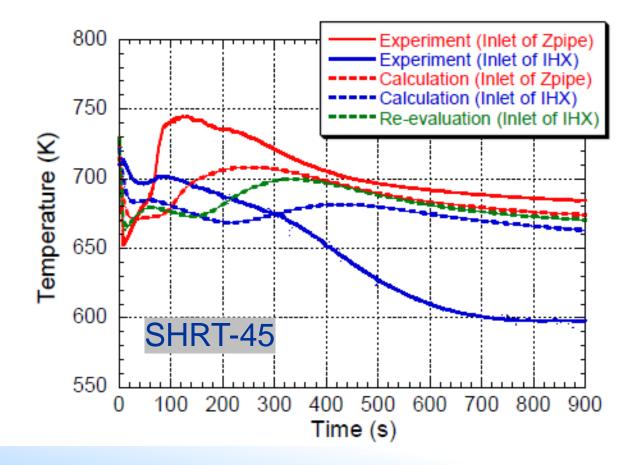


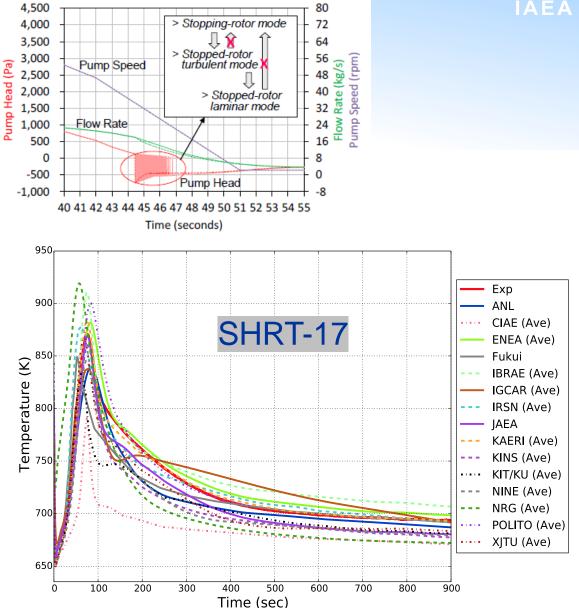


### Benchmark Analysis of EBR-II Shutdown Heat Removal Test



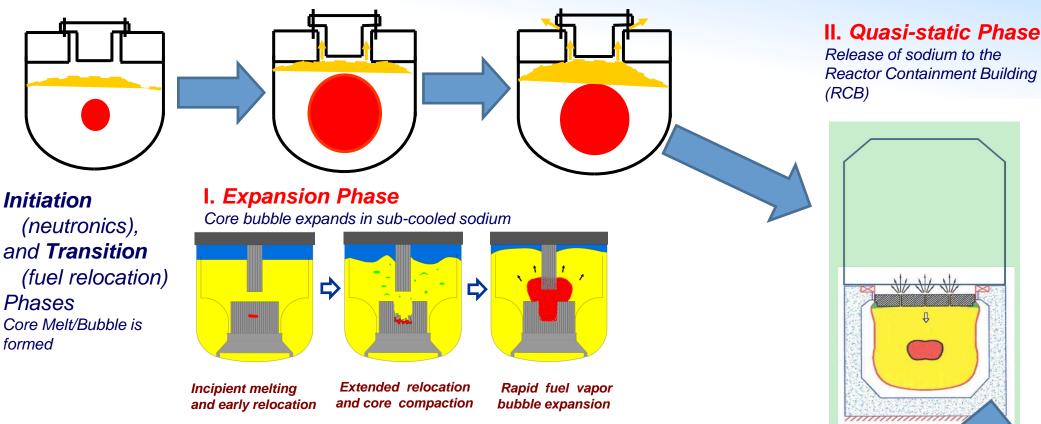
- Coupled Neutronics and Thermalhydraulic Transient Simulations
- SHRT-17 (Protected): Loss of normal and emergency pumping
- SHRT-45 (Unprotected): Loss of normal flow, scram disabled, station blackout





### CRP on Radioactive Release from Prototype SFR under Severe Accident Conditions (2016- 2020)

CDA development and propagation in pool type SFR



Reference design for the safety analysis: 500 MWe pool type PFBR

Very complicated multi-physics phenomenon Can be a Standard Benchmark for Verification of Safety Analysis Codes and Models

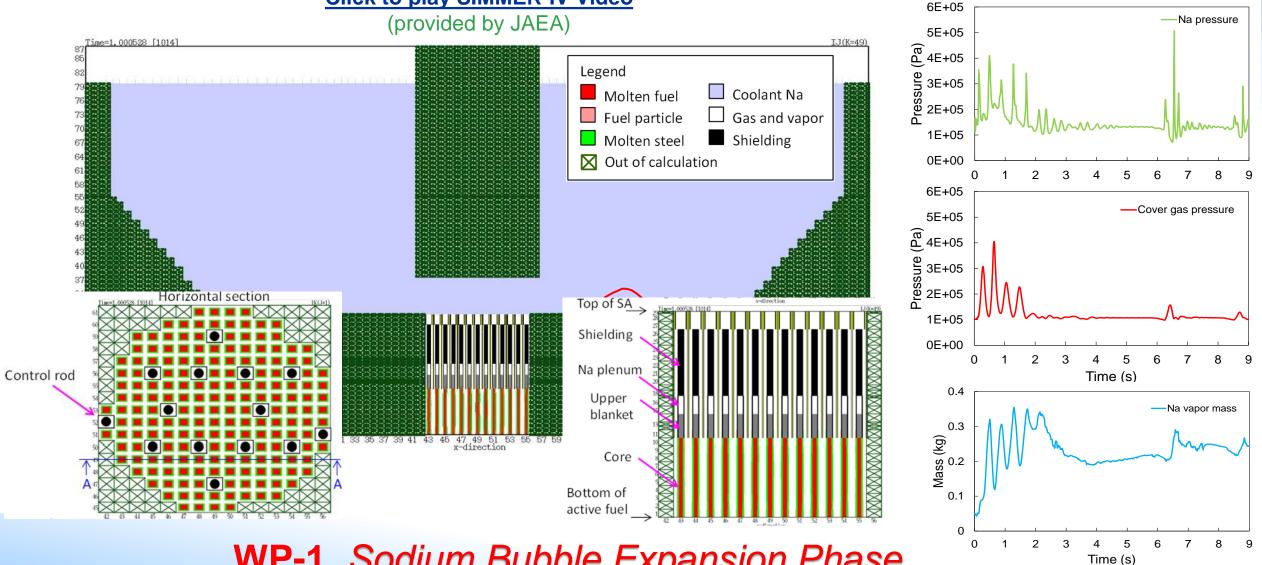
#### III. Containment Source Term

- Evaluation of multi-component aerosol evolution is required
- Two typical sodium fire accidents:
- sodium pool fire accident
- sodium spray fire accident

### **CRP on Radioactive Release from Prototype SFR under Severe** Accident Conditions (2016-2020): Expansion Phase

**Click to play SIMMER-IV Video** 

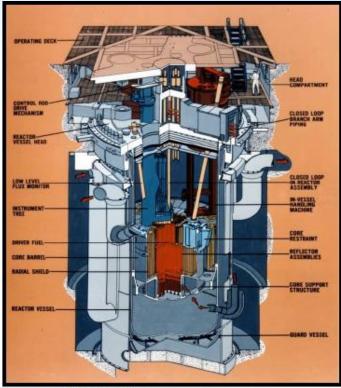




**WP-1.** Sodium Bubble Expansion Phase

## IAEA CRP: Benchmark Analysis of **FFTF Loss of Flow Without Scram Test**

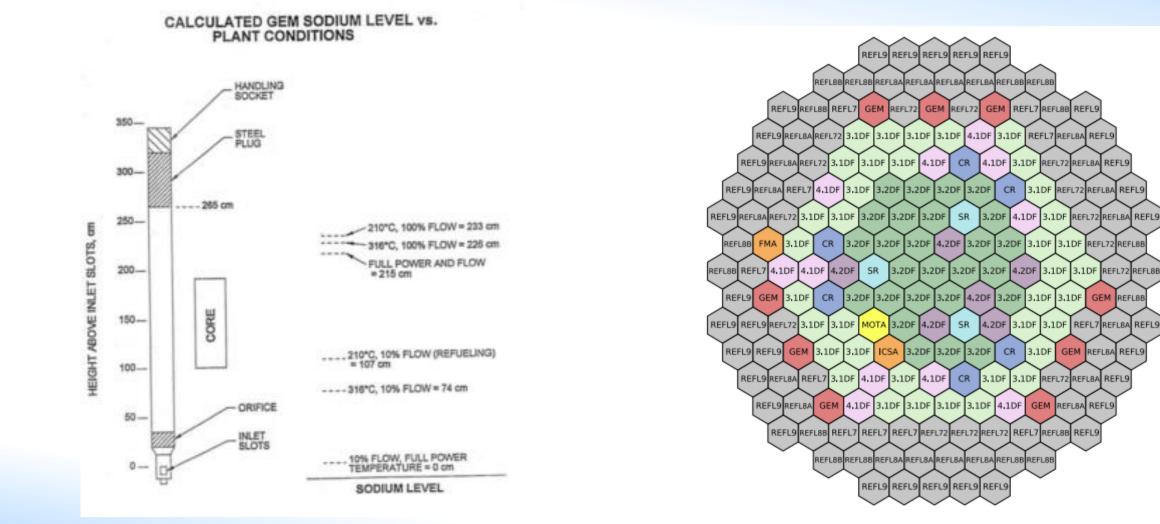
- FFTF Reactor:
  - 400 MW(th) sodium cooled fast test reactor
  - Mixed UO2-PuO2 (MOX) fuel
  - Loop type plant, axial and radial reflectors
  - Prototypic size
    - ~1m<sup>3</sup> core volume
    - ~91 cm high, ~120 cm diameter
  - Series of Passive Safety Tests
    - Demonstrated passive safety of SFRs
    - Demonstrated efficacy of negative reactivity insertion safety devises (GEMs)





## **FFTF: Gas Expansion Module (GEM)**



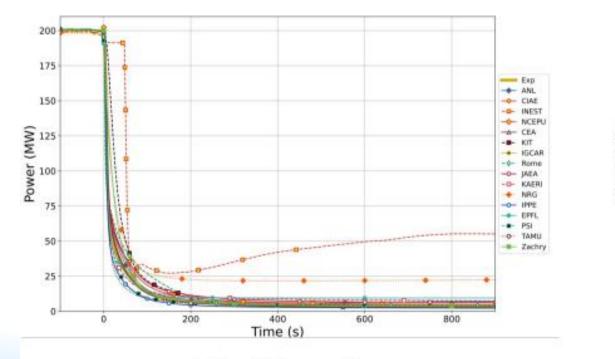




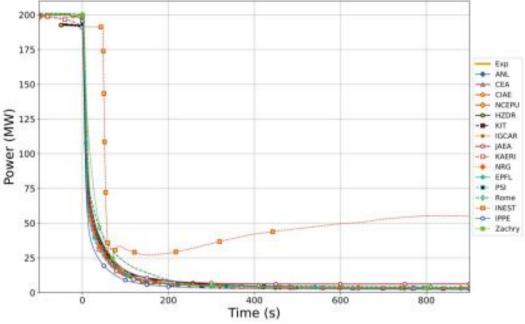




# **TOTAL POWER**



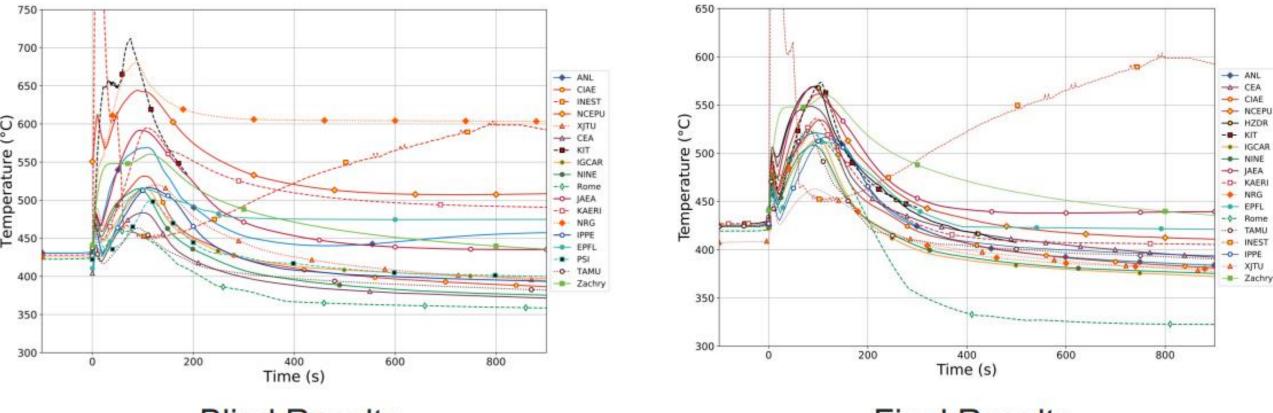
**Blind Results** 



**Final Results** 



## **FFTF: Comparing Results: Coolant Temperatures**



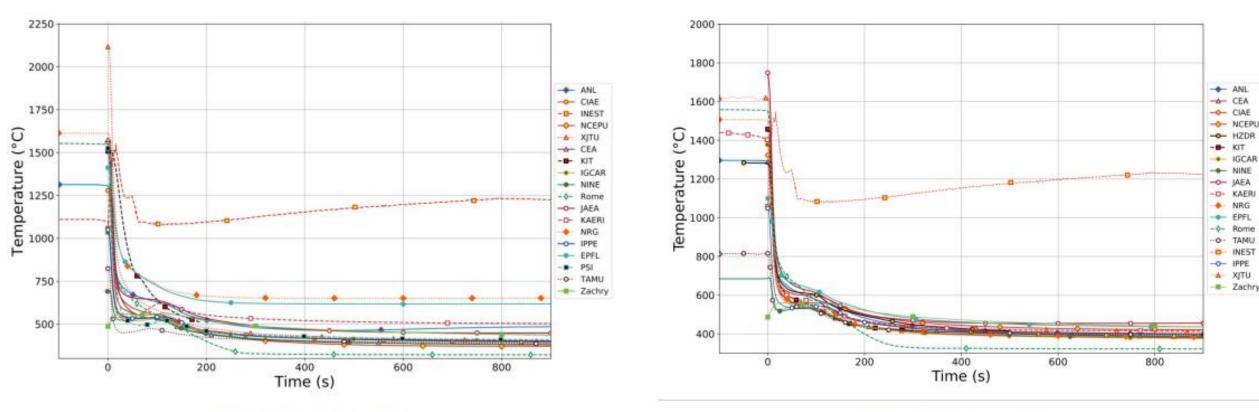
Blind Results

**Final Results** 





# **FFTF: Comparing Results: Fuel Temperatures**



**Blind Results** 

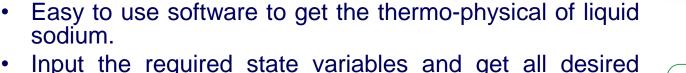
**Final Results** 



NRG

### **NAPROC** <sup>β</sup>: Sodium Properties Calculator





SCIENTIFIC REPORT SCK+CEN-BLG-1069

Please enter the following

Temperature (K): 1000

Density(kg m-3):

1.252499

780.818067960570 Cp(kJ kg-1 K-1)

Dynamic Viscosity (10/4 Pa c

- Input the required state variables and get all desired properties.
- Beta version under development. ٠

**Used for software** 

modeling

- Modelling based on the use of various correlations.
- If possible, benchmarking against available database. .

Database of thermophysical

Sodium, lead, lead-bismuth eutectic

November 2010 (rev. Dec. 2011)

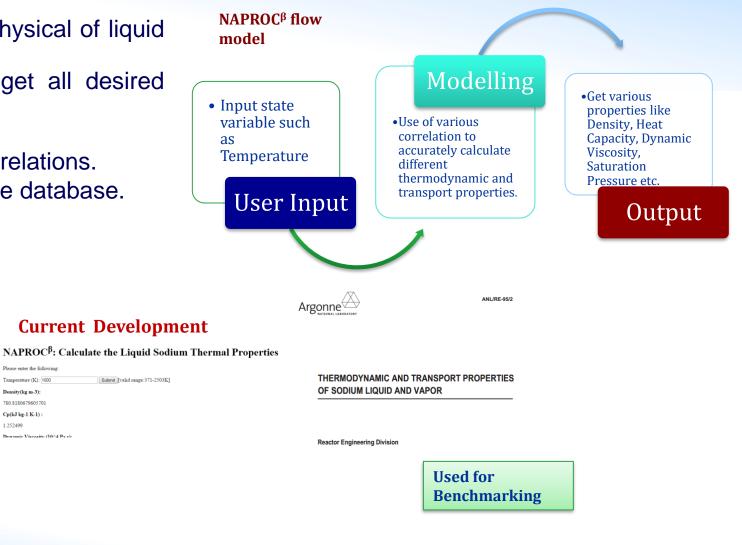
for GEN-IV

(and bismuth)

Vitaly Sobolev

SCK-CEN Boeretang 200 2400 Mol Belgium

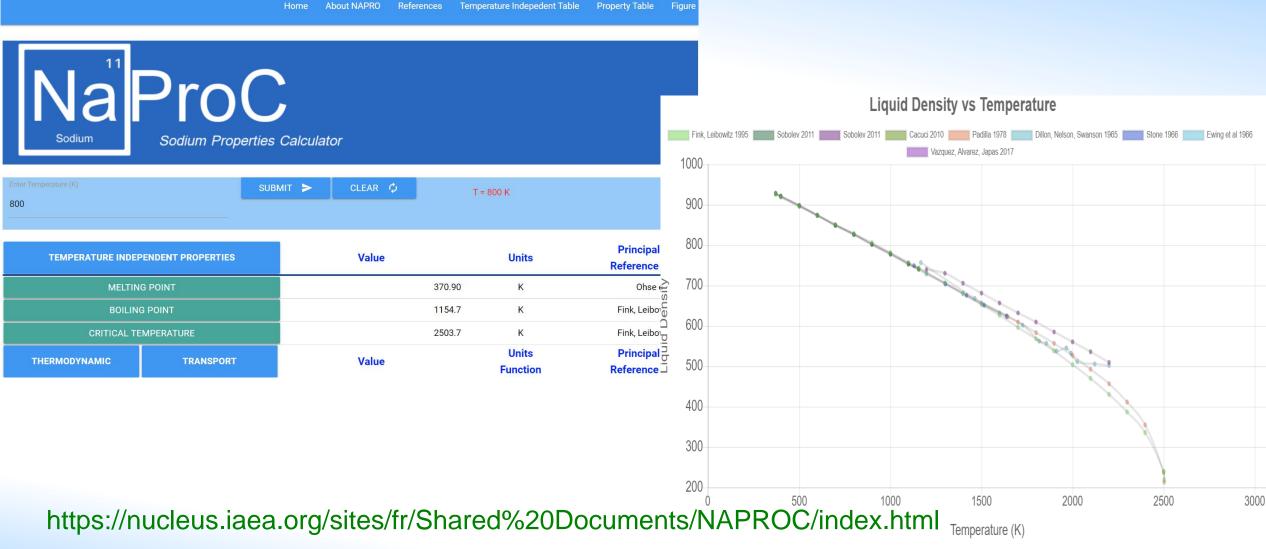
properties of liquid metal coolants



Vladimir Kriventsev, Joint ICTP-IAEA Workshop, 12-16 December 2022, Trieste, Italy

### **NAPRO: Sodium Properties Calculator**







Thank You!