

# **Developments of HCP**

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- Introduction of the HTR Code Package (HCP)
- Progress in the research project KONHCP I
  - Implementation of control rod
  - IT work
- Outlook for the research project KONHCP II
  - Implementation of molten salt coolant
  - Implementation of prismatic geometry
  - Further integration of the STACY module
- Advances in Independent Research
  - Conductive heat transfer calculation
  - LibGen fixing and I/O improvement
  - Benchmark and safety analysis
- HCP Demonstration, Application, and User Forum
- Summary

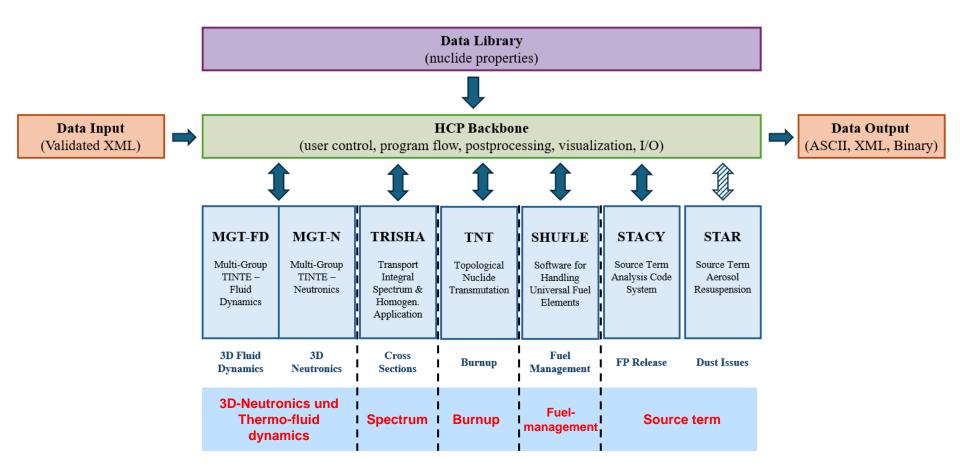


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# Introduction of the HTR Code Package (HCP)



# A unique integrated code system for the numerical simulation of the core of the high-temperature reactor (HTR)





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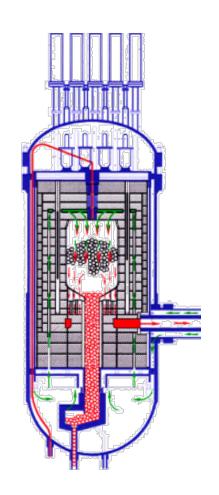
Reactor	PR500	HTR10	PBMR	MHTR250	
TP (MW)	500	10	400	2*250	
ASS	S1	S2	S2	S2	
Reactor	<u>AVR</u>	<u>THTR</u>	HTR-100	HTR-PM	
TP (MW)	50	750	100	2*250	
ASS	Rods in noses	S1	S2	S2	

TP: Thermal power

ASS: Shut down system

S1: Reflector rods + core rods

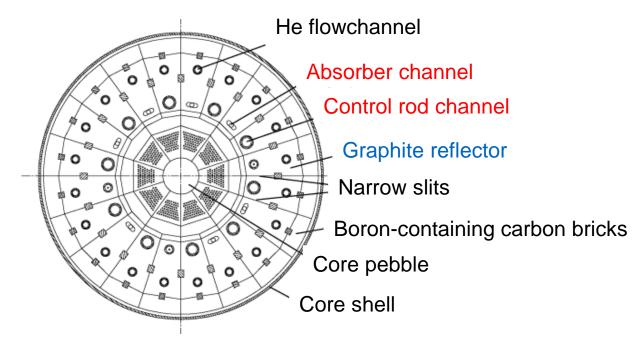
S2: Reflector rods + reflector small absorber pebbles



**HTR-10** 



#### The cross-section of the reactor core

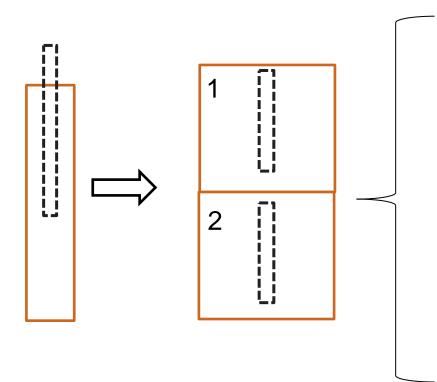


#### **Rod insert logic:**

Introducing reactivity by changing the nuclide amount or add new nuclides in the node



#### Control rod movement simulation



#### Model.xml

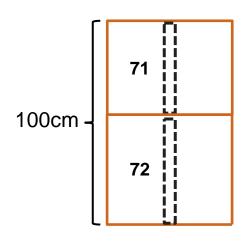
Definition of a component type, mainly to enable

- the user to define the position of the control rod channel in the core
- 2. the user to define the insertion depth
- Define the shape, material composition of the rod

#### Scenario.xml

Define rod insertion depth and time for transient as an action





#### Method 1

#### Method 2

Identify nodes automatically



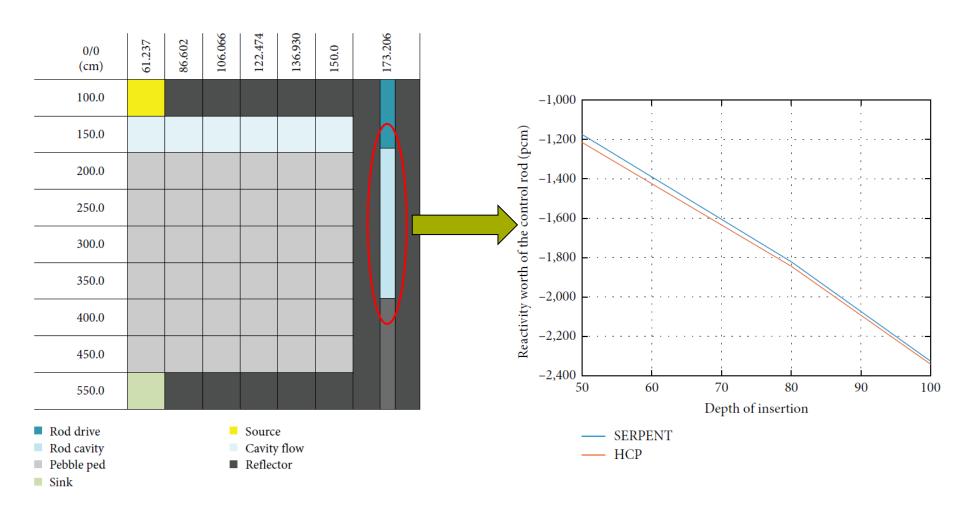
Each mesh in the control rod region is composed of three batches: two solid batches: the unmovable reflector (batch\_1) and the control rod hole to be inserted (batch\_2), and one fluid batch (batch\_3) representing the remaining cavity space.

#### Batch volume test in HCP:

$$V_t \ge V_{\text{rod}}$$
  
 $V_t \ge V_{\text{batch}\_2}$   
 $V_t - V_{\text{batch}\_1} \ge V_{\text{batch}\_2} \ge V_{\text{rod}}$ 



#### Verification

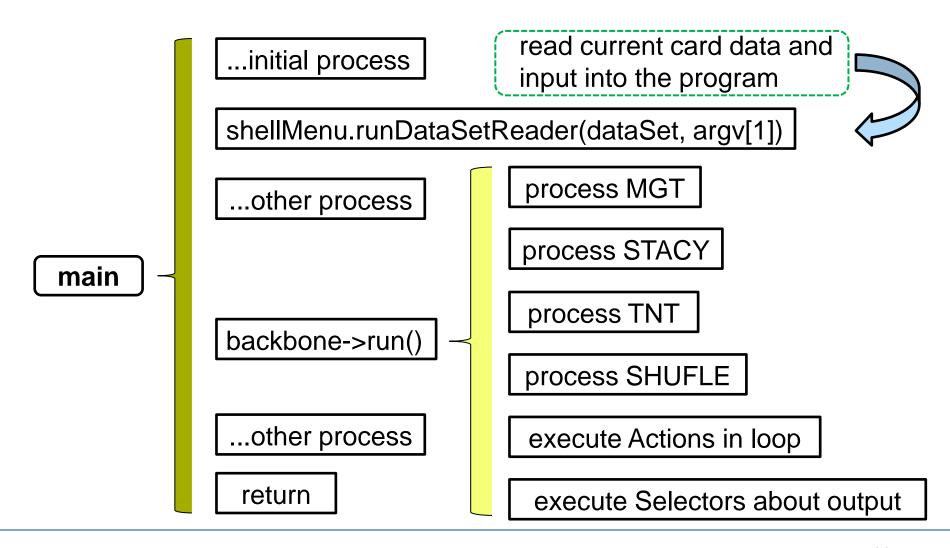




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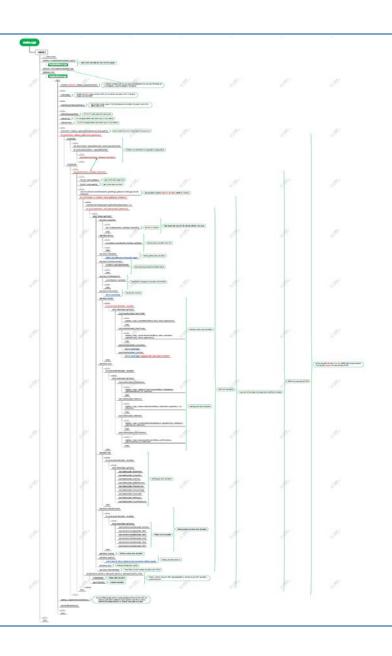


### The main code structure of HCP



# IT work

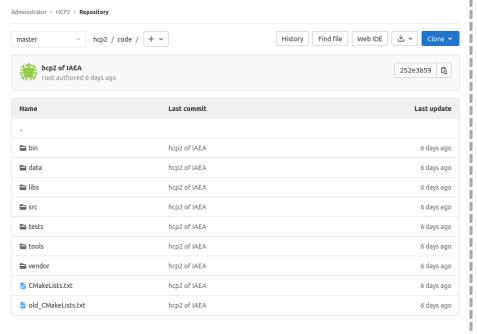




### IT work



 Construction of project hosting warehouse based on Gitlab



 Locate some memory leak points as shown below



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## NaF-ZrF4 selected: high heat transfer capability

Comparison of thermal and neutron characteristics of different fluoride salts.

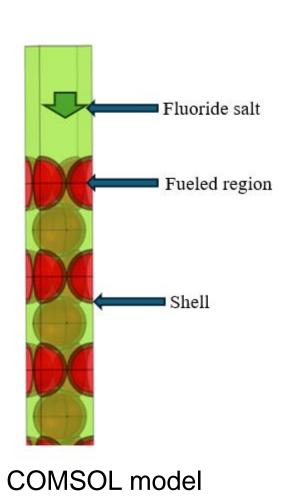
Coolant	Composition (molar ratio)	Heat transfer characteristics (700 °C)					Neutron characteristics	
		Specific heat capacity $C_p/J \cdot kg^{-1} \cdot K^{-1}$	Melting point/°C	Densityρ/ kg · m <sup>-3</sup>	Turbulent forced convection FOM <sup>a</sup>	Turbulent natural convection FOM <sup>a</sup>	Total neutron capture (per unit volume) relative to graphite	Moderating ratio ( avg. Over 0.1–10eV )
Na (550 °C)	_	1267.8	97.72	820	13.15	20	47	2
H <sub>2</sub> O(300 °C)	_	5732.1	0	720	0.20	4.8	75	246
LiF-BeF <sub>2</sub>	67:33	2414.2	460	1940	0.70	13.9	8	60
NaF-BeF <sub>2</sub>	57:43	2175.7	340	2010	0.91	16.5	28	15
NaF–ZrF₄	59.5:40.5	1171.5	500	3140	1.98	14.7	24	10
LiF–NaF–ZrF <sub>4</sub>	22:55:23	1255.2	436	2790	1.42	13.9	20	13
LiF-NaF-KF	46.5:11.5:42	1884.1	454	2020	1.13	13.3	90	2

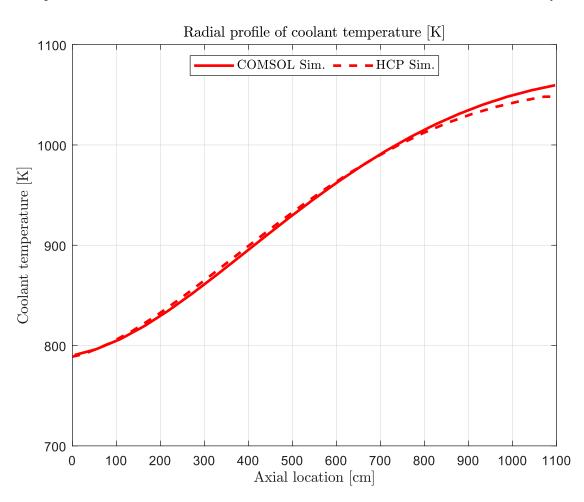
Note a: FOM is a comprehensive constant for judging the heat transfer performance of turbulent and natural convection. The larger the value, the stronger the heat transfer capacity.

Jiang, D., Zhang, D., Li, X., Wang, S., Wang, C., Qin, H., ... & Qiu, S. (2022). Fluoride-salt-cooled high-temperature reactors: Review of historical milestones, research status, challenges, and outlook. Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, 161, 112345.



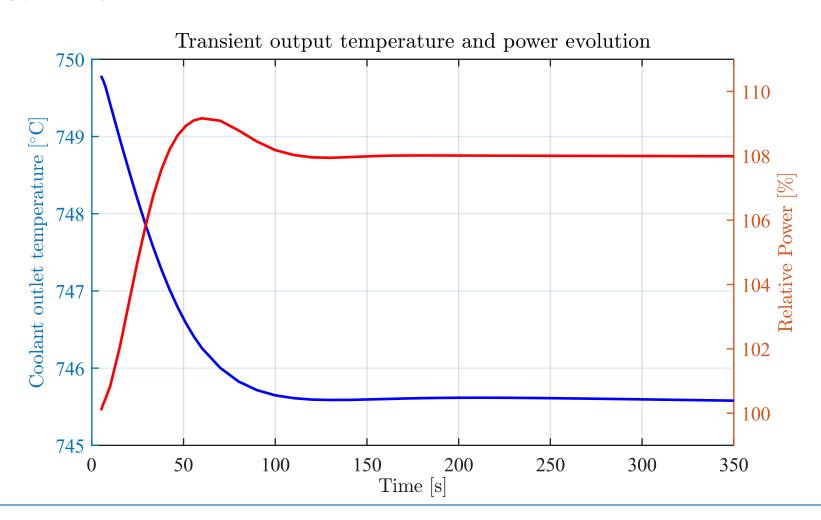
## Benchmark: coolant temperature distribution in hot channel (SS)





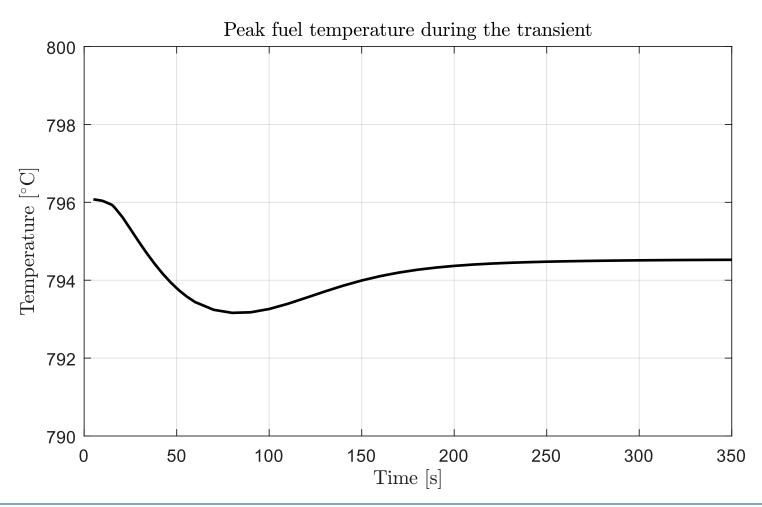


# Transient of coolant mass flow rate variation: +10% in 10 seconds



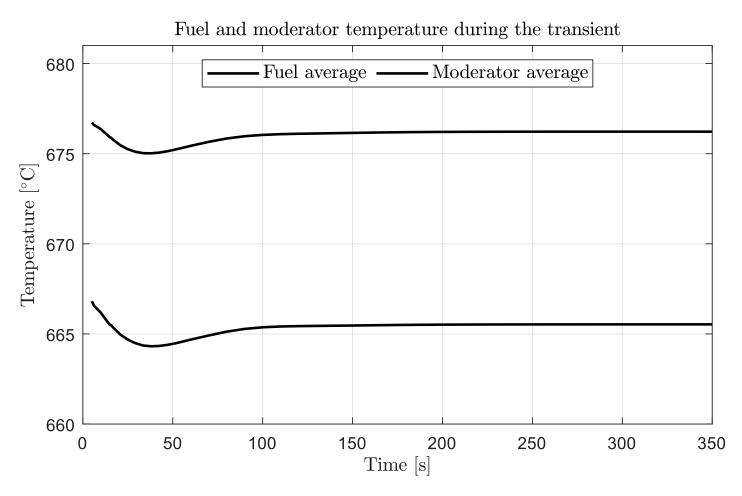


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## Implementation of prismatic geometry



## 1. Considerations for geometry

- Input reading: "prisBlock" already definded in ModelReader.cpp, but nuclide vectors cannot be assigned (only spherical supported for now), extension needed
- Class definition: extend the existing classes to include the prismatic block structure and hexagonal mesh (datamodel -> fuel element related files)
- Material properties: already defined in "SpecificHeat.f90"
- Transfer hexagonal meshes from backbone to MGT directly, high accuracy, but solver has to be adjusted
- <u>Trick</u>: implement a subroutine in backbone to map prismatic blocks between hexagonal meshes and cylindrical meshes, MGT will only see cylindrical meshes and do calculation as usual

## Implementation of prismatic geometry



#### 2. Considerations for neutronics calculation

- Governing equations unchanged
- Multiple fuel/coolant channels in one block: homogenization
- Spatial discretization of control volumes has to be adjusted for hexagonal mesh: FDM -> FEM?
- Special attention for irregular outer boundary

### 3. Considerations for thermal-hydraulics calculation

- Governing equations unchanged
- Convective heat transfer in coolant channels, conductive heat transfer between blocks
- Dedicated constitutive models have to be added
- Same issue for discretization

## Implementation of prismatic geometry



#### 4. Considerations for burnup calculation

- Take batch-wise nuclide inventory and flux distribution directly from backbone
- No modification expected

#### Considerations for control rod

- SHUFLE module for control rod movement, movable solid volume inside the prismatic block (as fuel element)
- Maybe a little modification for the fuel element volume division and a correction factor for coolant channels

### 6. Considerations for nuclear data library

- Different correction methods for geometric heterogeneities
- Some influences on the accuracy, but not urgent



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## Further integration of the STACY module



This part will be conducted at **Becker Technologies**.

- Continuation of the integration of the source term calculation module STACY
- Extension of the STACY module to the prismatic core
- Integration of the STAR module

## External components/loops



#### Plan A:

- Integrate the external components into the calculation chain of MGT-FD
- Apply the lumped parameter method to perform 0D (point-wise)
   calculation of each component, implicit coupled with the core
- Straightforward and convergent
- Low accuracy and resolution, limited capacity

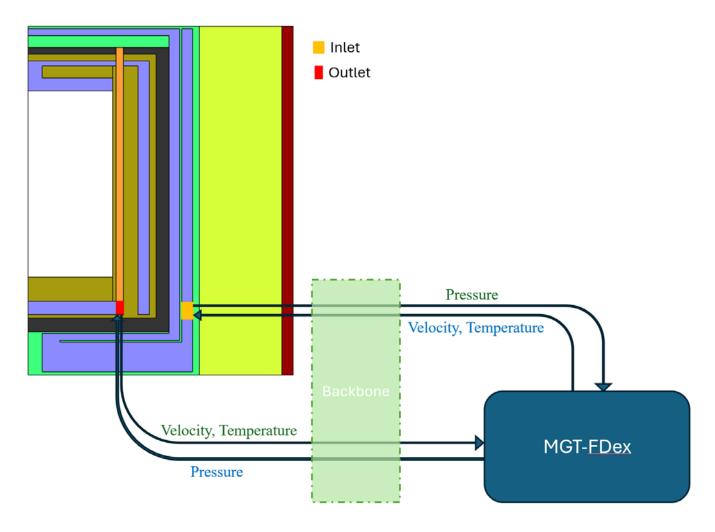
#### Plan B:

- Develop a new module: MGT-FDex
- 1D calculation, explicit coupling: exchange of boundary parameters through backbone (mesh overlapping)
- More properties of "component" needed: nodalization, junction, flow chain, thermal coupling...
- No change of MGT-FD, modular feature
- High accuracy and resolution, more flexible

# External components/loops



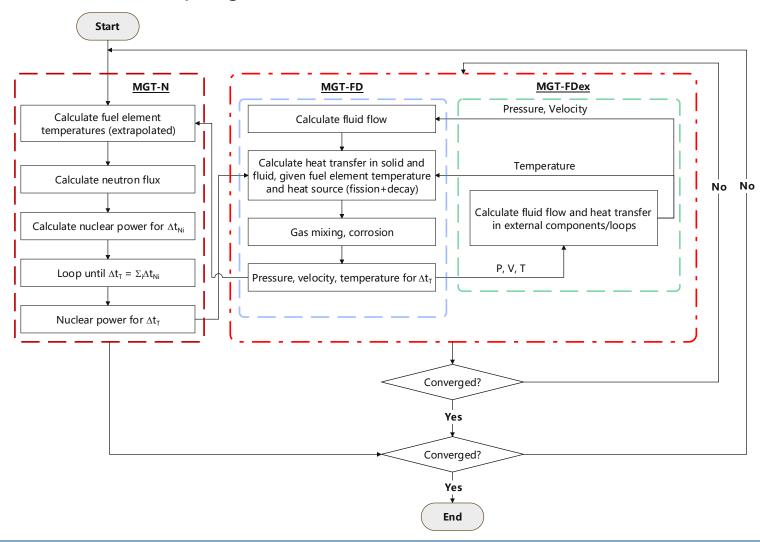
#### Schematic of mesh overlapping:



# External components/loops



#### Code structure for coupling:



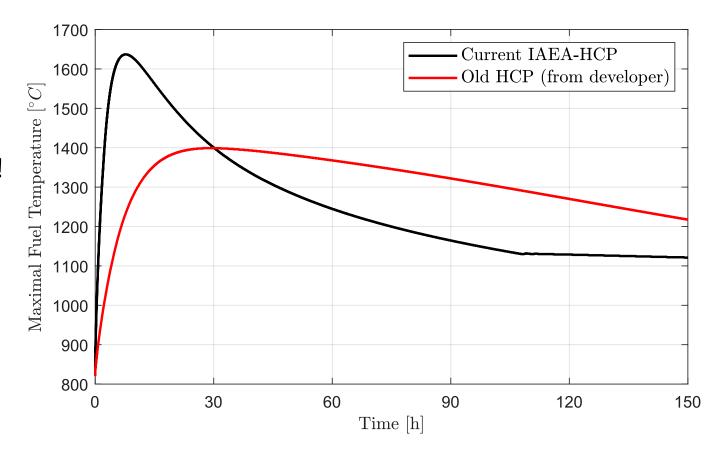


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#### **DLOFC transient: HTR-MODUL-200**

Same input deck!



#### Conductive heat transfer calculation

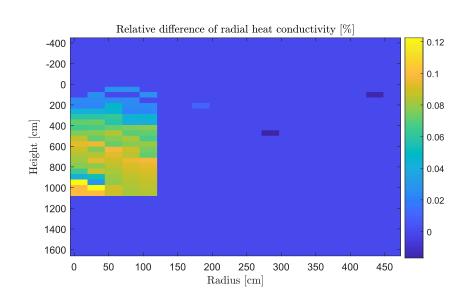


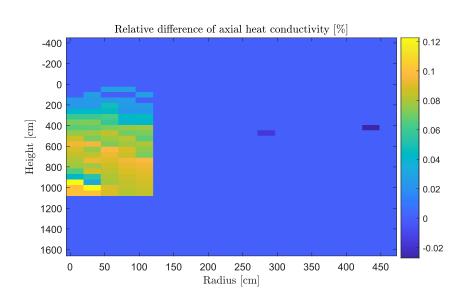
### DLOFC transient: HTR-MODUL-200, output comparison

- 1. Same or similar at t=0: Moderator temperature, fuel temperature, gas pressure, gas flow, gas conduction, gas boundary temperature, Reynolds number, heat transfer coefficient, solid temperature, fuel element temperature, power distribution
- 2. Different at t=0: Radial heat conductivity, Axial heat conductivity



# DLOFC transient: HTR-MODUL-200, output comparison Radial heat conductivity and Axial heat conductivity





In the active zone (core), the heat conductivity is underestimated by around 10% -> 8°C difference

#### Conductive heat transfer calculation



### **DLOFC transient: Meshing**

#### Heat conductivity mapping

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Heat conductivity law distribution of meshes:
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Legend:
LO3A: Maximum of Zehner/Schluender and Robold, pebble material A3-3 matrix graphite, irradiated
MO2 : V2A steel, DIN 4541 (ref: Thyssen)
R03 : Reactor graphite, Grade A (ref: company SGL)
R13 : Carbon brick, according to Lukascewicz
     : Fixed input value
```

#### Conductive heat transfer calculation



## **DLOFC transient: Meshing**

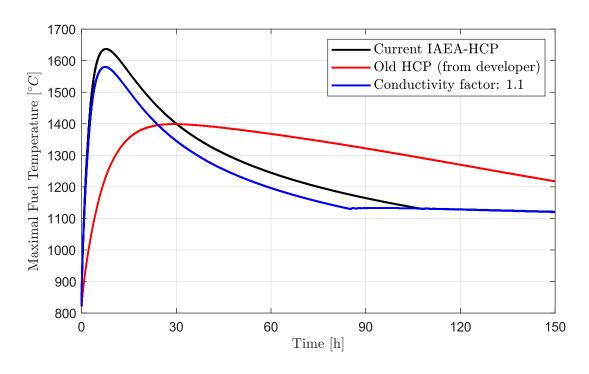
#### Heat capacity mapping

```
<Component id="1" type="PebbleBed" label="Pebble bed">
<Property type="SolidTemperature" unit="C"> 510.0 </Property>
<Property type="GasTemperature" unit="C"> 510.0 </Property>
<Property type="GasTemperature" unit="C"> 490.0 </Property>
<Property type="FuelTempCalculation"> 1 </Property> <!-- Default value is false (Material Keroperty type="GasphiteForCorrosion" kind="rule" factor="1.0"> R03 </Property> <!-- accessory type="BeatConductivity" kind="rule" unit="W/cmk" factor="1.0"> L03A </Property> <!-- For perty type="PeubElement"> 1 </Property> <!-- For a stand alone MGT run, use radius </Property type="FuelElement"> 1 </Property> <!-- For a stand alone MGT run, use radius </Property type="GraphiteInGasContact"> 0.61 </Property> </Property type="FillingFactor" unit="norm1"> 0.61 </Property> </Property>
```

```
Heat capacity law distribution of meshes:
phi layer: 0
      M02
            M02
                   MO2
                         M02
                                M02
                                      MO2
                                                   M02
                                                          M02
                                                                M02
                                                                       M02
                                                                             M02
                                                                                    MO2
                                                                                          MO2
                                                                                                 MO2
                                                                                                       R13
                                                                                                              M02
                                                                                                                           VAL
                                             M02
                                                                                                                           VAL
      M02
            M02
                   M02
                         M02
                                M02
                                      M02
                                             M02
                                                   M02
                                                          M02
                                                                M02
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                                                                                    M02
                                                                                          R13
                                                                                                 M02
                                                                                                       R13
                                                                                                              M02
      R13
            R13
                         R13
                                R13
                                      R13
                                             R13
                                                   R03
                                                          R13
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                                                                             R13
                                                                                    R13
                                                                                          R13
                                                                                                 M02
                                                                                                       R13
      R03
            R03
                   R03
                         R03
                                R03
                                      R03
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                                                          R03
                                                                       R03
                                                                             R13
                                                                                    R13
                                                                                                 M02
                                                                                                       R13
                                                                                                              M02
                                             R03
                                                                                          R13
      PO3
            D03
                   pn3
                         203
                                DU3
                                      RO3
                                             pn3
                                                   DO3
                                                          D03
                                                                       p03
                                                                             R13
                                                                                    R13
                                                                                          R13
                                                                                                 M02
                                                                                                       R13
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                                                                                                 M02
                                                                                                       R13
      BO3
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                         R03
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                                             R03
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                                                          R03
                                                                       RO3
                                                                             P13
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27
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37
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38
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                                                                                                 M02
                                                                                                       M02
                                                                                                              M02
Legend:
MO2 : V2A steel, DIN 4541 (ref: Thyssen)
RO3 : Reactor graphite SGL Grade A, NBG 10 (ref: PBMR)
R13 : Carbon brick
VAL : Fixed input value
```



## DLOFC transient: HTR-MODUL-200, output comparison



Increase the heat conductivity in the active zone (core) by a factor of 1.1, lower peak, but worse timing.



## DLOFC transient: HTR-MODUL-200, analysis

- Heat conductivity value has an influence, but not towards the right direction
- Test: Increase the formulas in SpecificHeat.f90 by a factor of 100, but no change in results, specific heat not implemented!
- Check the results:
  - Old: 10s to 60s, 822 °C to 831 °C, 9 °C/s
  - New: 10s to 60s, 830 °C to 863 °C, 33 °C/s
  - Specific heat value of R03 (graphite) material:  $2.3 \text{ to } 2.7 \text{ J/cm}^3 \text{K}$
  - Specific heat to be divided missing somewhere during the temperature calculation?



## Uncertainty quantification of R03: conductivity & capacity

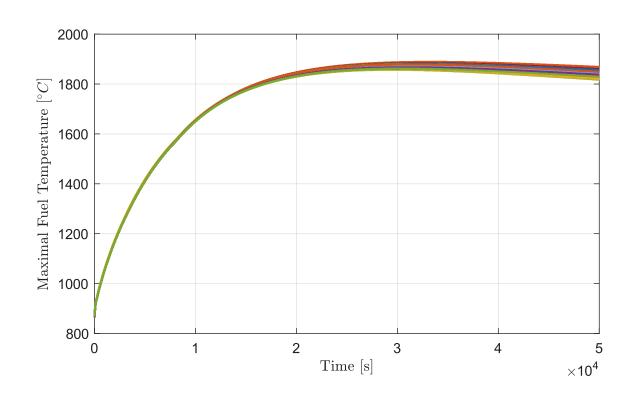
- 1. Sampling: two factor  $\sim U(0.8,1.2)$
- 2. Modification of the source code: *HeatConductivity.f90*, *SpecificHeat.f90*
- 3. Compile executable files: proto0001, proto0002, ..., proto0093
- 4. Perform simulations with same or different input decks with these executable files
- 5. Data extraction and post-processing, uncertainty/sensitivity analysis



## Uncertainty quantification of R03: conductivity & capacity

Factor of R03 heat conductivity ~ U(0.8,1.2)

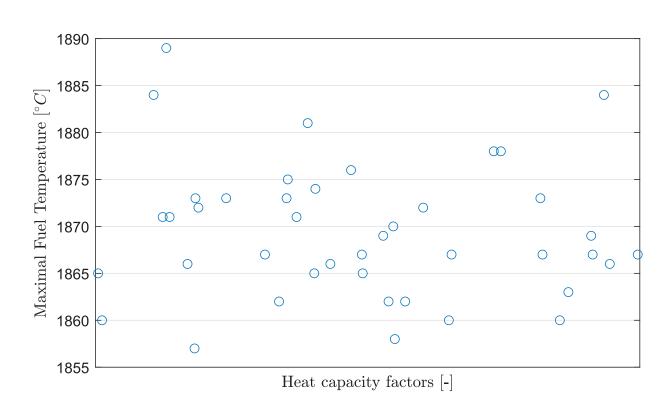
Factor of R03 heat capacity ~ U(0.8,1.2)





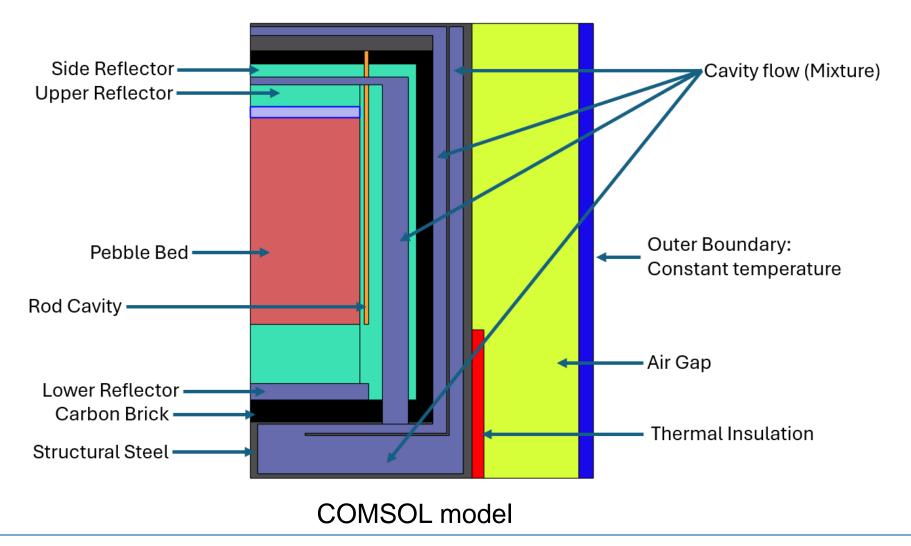
## Uncertainty quantification of R03: conductivity & capacity

Factor of R03 heat capacity -> not correlated!



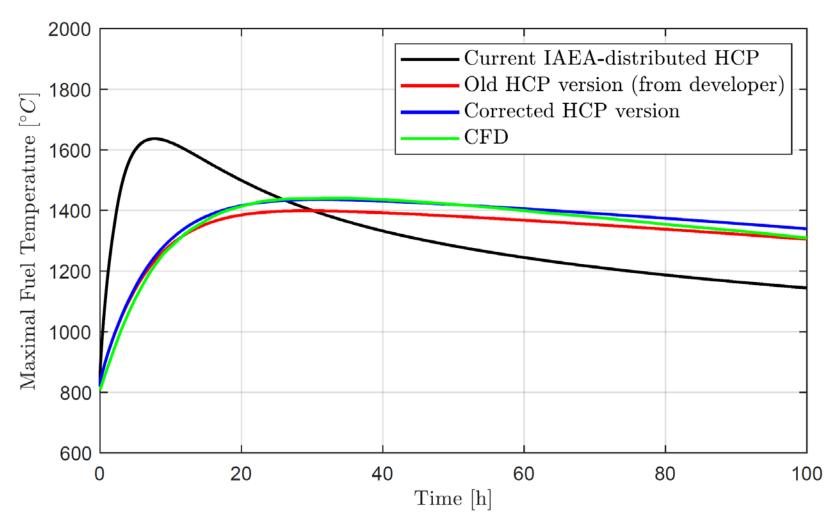


#### **DLOFC transient: HTR-MODUL-200**





#### **DLOFC transient: HTR-MODUL-200**





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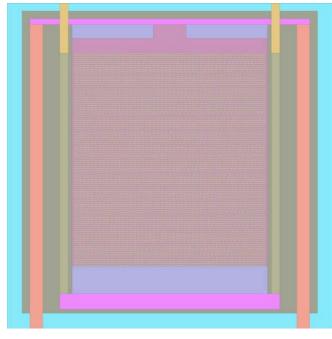
## LibGen fixing



## No input folders: reverse-engineered

## Error in subroutine "readFissionSpectrumData": rewritten

## Several libraries generated and benchmarked



Serpent model

HTR-PM keff values calculated using different nuclear data libraries

Coolant	Library	НСР	Serpent	Relative error [%]
Helium	ENDF/B-VII.0 (coarse)	1.34254	1.33417	0.627
	ENDF/B-VII.0 (fine)	1.34198	1.33417	0.585
	ENDF/B-VII.1 (fine)	1.33220	1.32555	0.502
	ENDF/B-VIII.0 (fine)	1.33792	1.32618	0.885
Air	ENDF/B-VII.0 (coarse)	1.34191	1.33041	0.864
	ENDF/B-VII.0 (fine)	1.34134	1.33041	0.822
	ENDF/B-VII.1 (fine)	1.33157	1.32236	0.694
	ENDF/B-VIII.0 (fine)	1.33730	1.32263	1.109

## I/O improvement



- Selector -> "Restart", but power history missing -> flaw in decay heat calculation! -> external preprocessing code: add power history items automatically
- "Restart.xml" very large -> not all the nuclides are crucial for reactor dynamics (maybe important for STACY) -> external preprocessing code: filter to remove low density nuclides -> 126MB to 3MB without losing accuracy, faster
- No output for burnup calculation -> several functions in subroutine "TntOutputWriter" rewritten -> output: timedependent batch-wise nuclide inventory
- Very limited transient data in "output.txt" -> binary file "data.ptr" > data extraction through reverse-engineering -> but only 1D
   data -> extended to include time-dependent 3D data

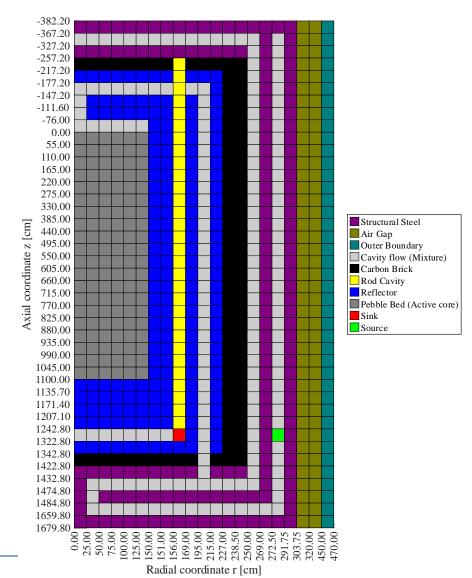


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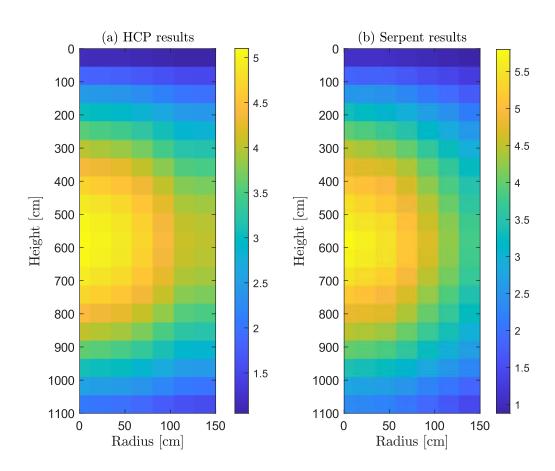


#### Core geometry of the HTR-PM model in the HCP:



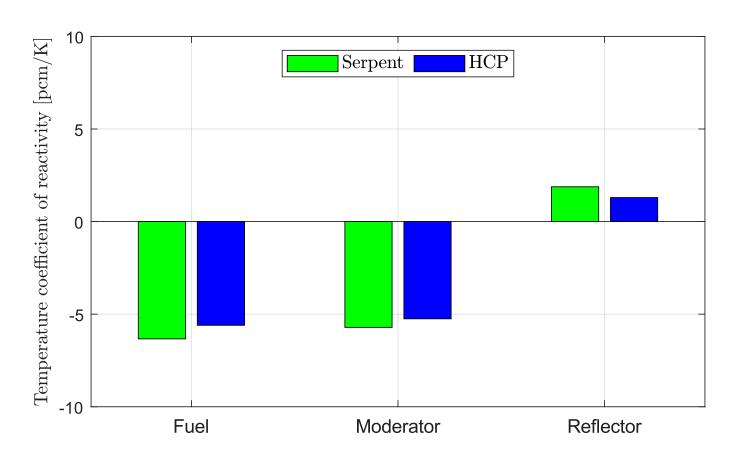


# Comparison of power distribution: (a) HCP results vs. (b) Serpent results



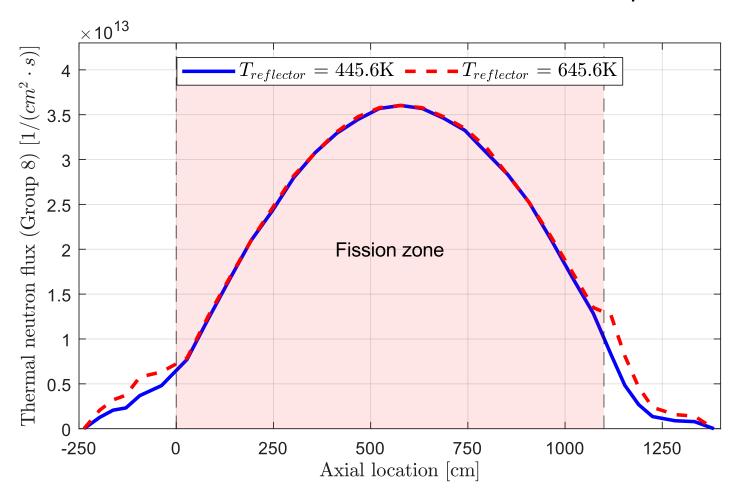


Comparisons of temperature coefficients of reactivity: fuel, moderator and reflector



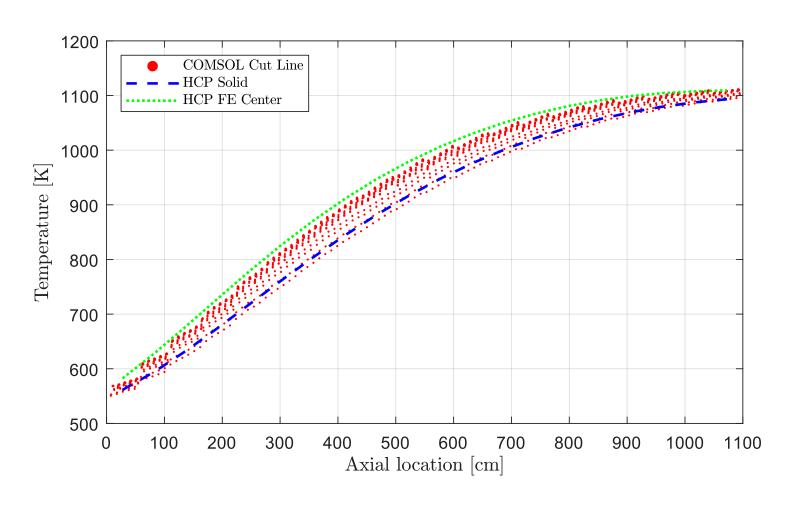


#### Neutron flux distribution at different reflector temperatures



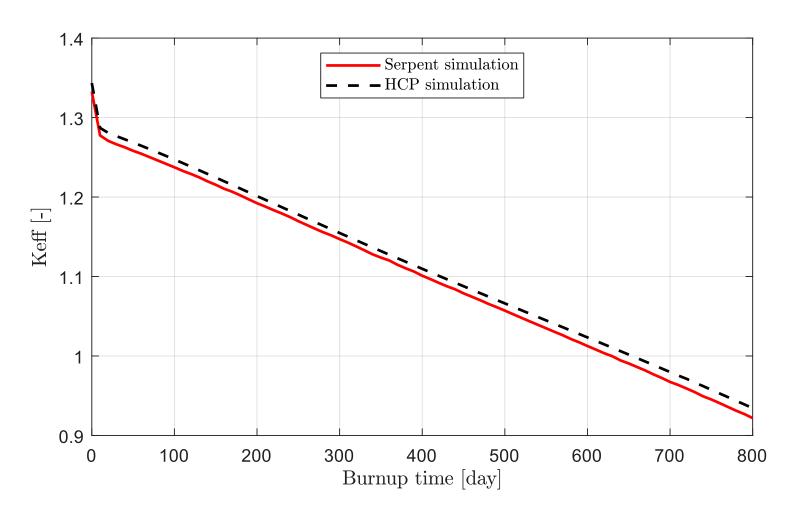


# Comparison of solid temperature distributions in the hot channel



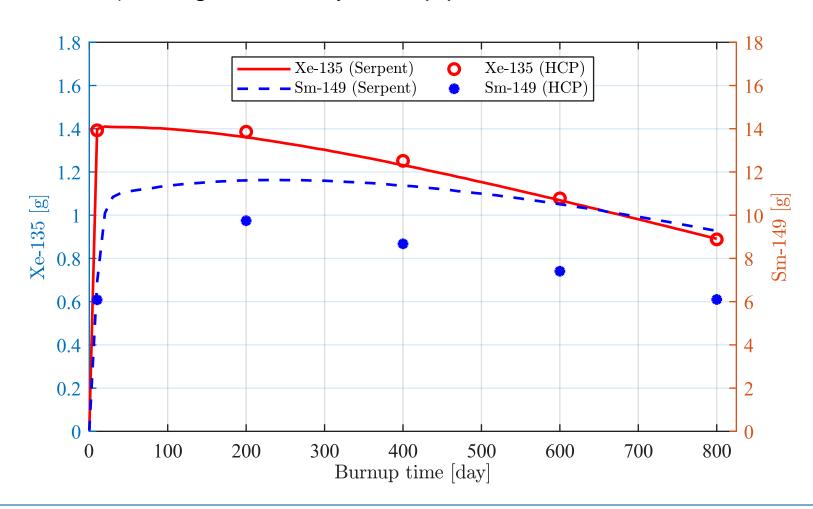


#### Evolution of keff during an 800-day burnup period



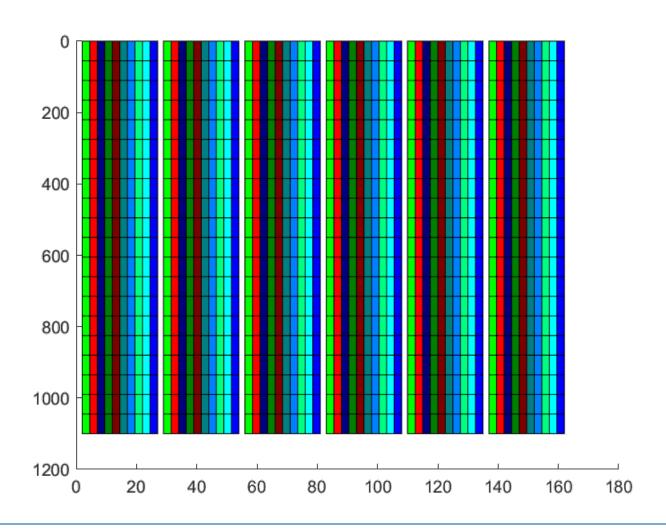


Mass evolution of poisonous fission products (Xe and Sm) during an 800-day burnup period.

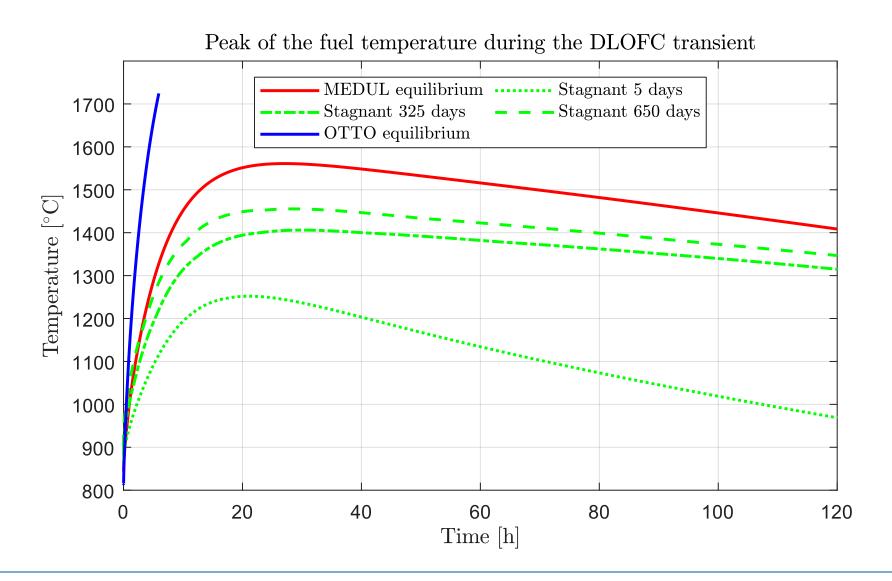




#### Equilibrium core with 1200 batches

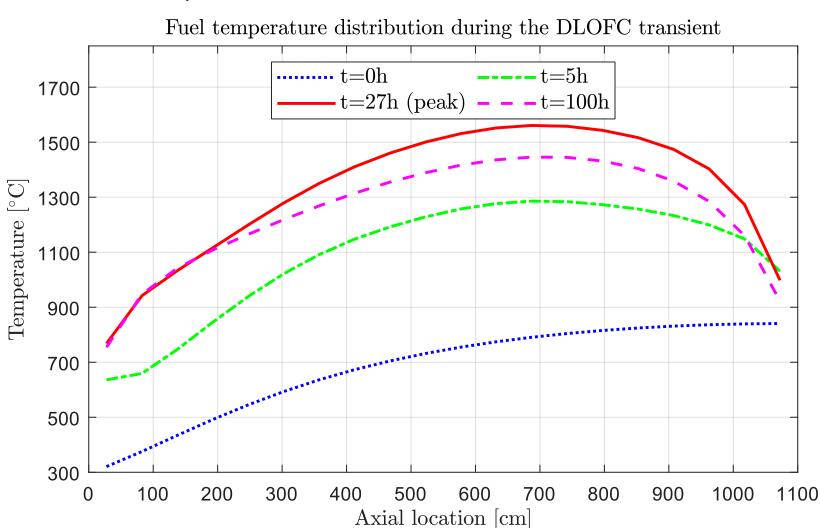








#### With the MEDUL quilibrium core:



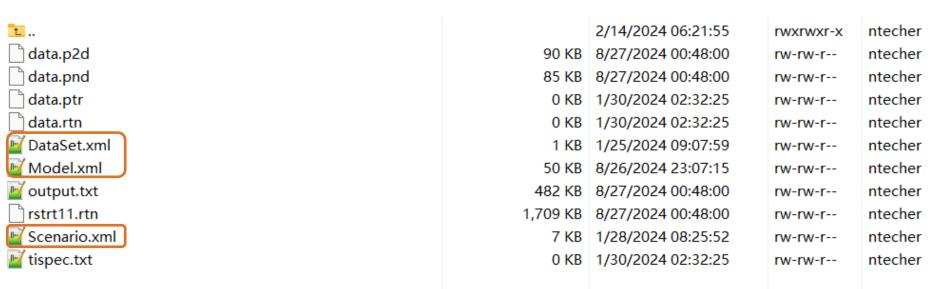


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#### Working Directory





#### DataSet.xml

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<DataSet xmlns="http://www.example.org/DataSet"</pre>
         xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
         xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.example.org/DataSet ../../.xmlschemes/DataSet.xsd">
   <Header>
     <Title> HTR-PM Fresh Fuel Steady-State </Title>
     <Info>
      HTR-PM Model with Fresh Fuel.
     </Info>
     <Date> 2024-01-17 </Date>
     \langle Users n="1" \rangle
       <User>
         <LastName> Liu </LastName>
         <FirstName> Chunyu </FirstName>
         <Mail> chunyu.liu@tum.de;luoponan@gmail.com </Mail>
         <0rq> TUM </0rq>
       </User>
     </Users>
   </Header>
    <Paths>
        <DataLibrary inputType="binary"> ../../../libs/Linux/endfb70 regtest new.bin </DataLibrary>
        <Scenario>
                                          Scenario.xml </Scenario>
        <Model>
                                          Model.xml
                                                       </Model>
        <SpecLib>
                                          ../../../libs/SPECLIBN2009.lib</SpecLib>
    </Paths>
</DataSet>
```

<Scenario xmlns="http://www.example.org/Scenario"</pre>

xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>

</Preferences>

</Scenario>

<DataInput scope="default">
<DataOutput scope="default">

<TimeLine nActions="1">



```
xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.example.org/Scenario ../../xmlschemes/Scenario.xsd ">
 <Header>
   <Title> HTR-PM Fresh Fuel Steady-State </Title>
   <Info>
   HTR-PM Model with Fresh Fuel.
   </Info>
   <Date> 2024-01-17 </Date>
   <Users n="1">
    <User>
       <LastName> Liu </LastName>
       <FirstName> Chunyu </FirstName>
      <Mail> chunyu.liu@tum.de;luoponan@gmail.com </Mail>
       <Org> TUM </Org>
    </User>
   </Users>
 </Header>
<Preferences scope="default">
  <Settings type="General">
  <Settings type="Burnup">
 <Settings type="Special">
 <Settings type="FluidDynamics">
 <Settings type="Neutronics">
 <Settings type="Spectrum">
```

#### Scenario.xml



```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="no" ?>
<Model xmlns="http://www.example.org/Model"</pre>
      xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
      xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.example.org/Model ../../../xmlschemes/Model.xsd">
   <Header>
     <Title> HTR-PM Fresh Fuel Steady-State </Title>
      HTR-PM Model with Fresh Fuel.
    </Info>
     <Date> 2024-01-17 
     <Users n="1">
      <User>
        <LastName> Liu </LastName>
        <FirstName> Chunyu </FirstName>
        <Mail> chunyu.liu@tum.de;luoponan@gmail.com </Mail>
        <Org> TUM </Org>
      </User>
     </Users>
   </Header>
  <FuelCollections n="1">
 <!-- Only non default values are given!-->
  <Components>
  <FuelElements n="1">
 <ParticleCompositions n="1">
 <Particles n="1">
 <Materials n="5">
  <GeoObjects n="8">
```

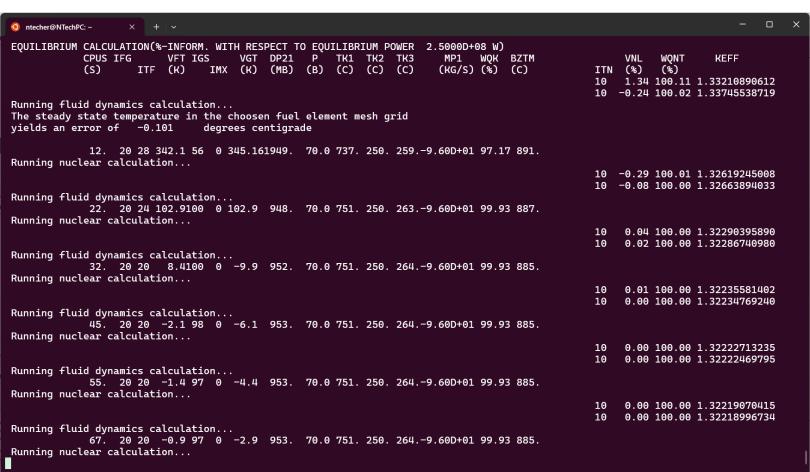
#### **Model.xml**

</Model>



#### Running the Simulation







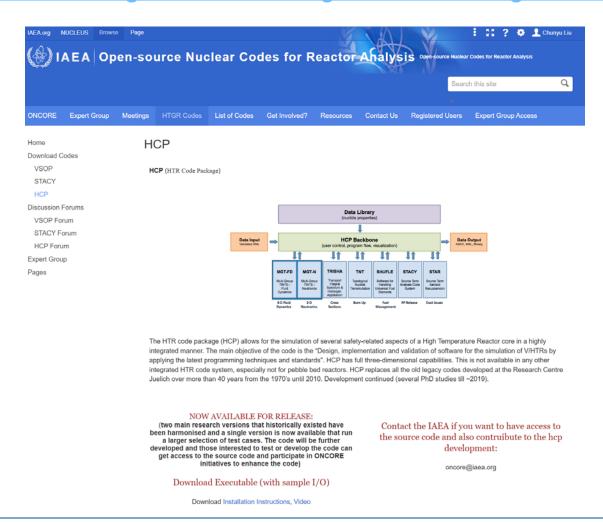
#### Simulation Finished

```
ontecher@NTechPC: ~
Model 1 contains at least one node (id = 100) holding batch 100 holding 12 nuclides.
   922350 | amount = 13.6482 mole
   80160
          amount = 316.652 mole
   80170
          amount = 0.120621 mole
   80180
          amount = 0.650717 mole
   140280
           amount = 328.05 mole
           amount = 16.6652 mole
   140290
   922380
           amount = 145.063 mole
   140300
           amount = 10.9987 mole
   60120
          amount = 84202.1 mole
    50110
           amount = 0.0892327 mole
    60130
           amount = 1022.7 mole
           amount = 0.0221689 mole
12 | 50100
Model 1 contains at least one node (id = 120) holding batch 120 holding 12 nuclides.
   922350 | amount = 16.6811 mole
   80160
          amount = 387.019 mole
   80170
           amount = 0.147425 mole
   80180
          amount = 0.795321 mole
   140280
           amount = 400.95 mole
   140290
           amount = 20.3686 mole
   922380
           amount = 177.299 mole
   140300
           amount = 13.4428 mole
   60120
          amount = 102914 mole
    50110
           amount = 0.109062 mole
    60130
           amount = 1249.96 mole
    50100
           amount = 0.0270953 mole
******************
 11:58:07 | INFO | HCP-MAIN > main
<u>*****</u>
 run finished on Wednesday, 09/24/25, 11:58:07 AM
ntecher@NTechPC:~$
```



#### Software request via IAEA:

https://nucleus.iaea.org/sites/oncore/htgr-codes/SitePages/HCP.aspx





#### **HCP User Forum:**

https://nucleus.iaea.org/sites/oncore/htgr-codes/Lists/HCP%20Discussion%20Forum/AllItems.aspx

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#### **Overview**

- Introduction of the HTR Code Package (HCP)
- Progress in the research project KONHCP I
  - Implementation of control rod
  - IT work
- Outlook for the research project KONHCP II
  - Implementation of molten salt coolant
  - Implementation of prismatic geometry
  - Further integration of the STACY module
- Advances in Independent Research
  - Conductive heat transfer calculation
  - LibGen fixing and I/O improvement
  - Benchmark and safety analysis
- HCP Demonstration, Application, and User Forum
- Summary

## Summary



#### Outcome:

- 2 PhD dissertations
- 3 journal papers, 2 conference papers
- 2 training courses organized by IAEA
- 2 batches of on-site training programs
- International collaborations

#### To be done:

- KONHCP I deliverable: new code version with manual, release notes, project report
- Update of the HCP version on ONCORE
- KONHCP II
- General coupling interface
- External components/loops



# Thanks!