ORNL/SUB/99-XSZ175V-2



OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY

LOCKHEED MARTIN

Neutronics Benchmarks for the Utilization of Mixed-Oxide Fuel: Joint U.S./Russian Progress Report for Fiscal Year 1997

Volume 4, Part 7—Homogeneous Mixtures of Polystyrene-Moderated Plutonium and Uranium Oxides



MANAGED AND OPERATED BY LOCKHEED MARTIN ENERGY RESEARCH CORPORATION FOR THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ORNL-27 (3-96)

Fissile Materials Disposition Program

This report was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an agency of the United States Government. Neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness or any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency thereof. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government or any agency thereof.

ORNL/SUB/99-XSZ175V-2

NEUTRONICS BENCHMARKS FOR THE UTILIZATION OF MIXED-OXIDE FUEL: JOINT U.S./RUSSIAN PROGRESS REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997

Volume 4, Part 7—Homogeneous Mixtures of Polystyrene-Moderated Plutonium and Uranium Oxides

Musa Yavuz

Date Published: May 1999

Report Prepared by LOCKHEED MARTIN ENERGY RESEARCH CORP. P.O. Box 2008 Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-6363 Under Subcontract Number 85B99398V

> Funded by Office of Fissile Materials Disposition United States Department of Energy

> > Prepared for

Computational Physics and Engineering Division Oak Ridge National Laboratory Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831 managed by LOCKHEED MARTIN ENERGY RESEARCH CORP. for the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY under contract DE-96OR22464

HOMOGENEOUS MIXTURES OF POLYSTYRENE-MODERATED PLUTONIUM AND URANIUM OXIDES

Evaluator

Musa Yavuz Department of Mechanical Engineering The University of Texas at Austin

Internal Reviewer

Naeem M. Abdurrahman Department of Mechanical Engineering The University of Texas at Austin

External Reviewers

M. E. Dunn R. Trenton Primm III Oak Ridge National Laboratory

HOMOGENEOUS MIXTURES OF POLYSTYRENE-MODERATED PLUTONIUM AND URANIUM OXIDES¹

1. Detailed Description

1.1 Overview of Experiment

In the 1970s at the Battelle Pacific Northwest Laboratory (PNL), a series of critical experiments using a remotely operated Split-Table Machine was performed with homogeneous mixtures of $(Pu-U)O_2$ -polystyrene fuels in the form of square compacts having different heights. With respect to Pu enrichments and moderation [H/(Pu+U) atomic] ratios (MR), four-different homogeneous (Pu-U)O₂-polystyrene mixtures were considered: Mixture 1) 7.6 wt% Pu with 19.5 MR, Mixture 2) 7.89 wt% Pu with 51.8 MR, Mixture 3) 14.62 wt% Pu with 30.6 MR, and Mixture 4) 30.0 wt% Pu with 47.4 MR. The Pu²⁴⁰ isotopic contents in Pu were 23 wt% for Mixture 1 and 8 wt% for Mixtures 2-4. In all mixtures, the uranium was depleted to about 0.151 wt% U²³⁵. The critical geometric dimensions for both fully PlexiglasTM reflected and unreflected configurations were reported for Mixture 3 and 4 experiments. The dimensions for Mixture 1 and 2 experiments were given for fully-reflected assemblies.

This evaluation contains a total of 39 critical (fully reflected and bare) experimental configurations as well as 3 slab geometry critical dimensions.

1.2 Description of Experimental Configuration

A large glove box within a heavily shielded cell located at the PNL Critical Mass Laboratory (CML) was used for the experiments. The floor surface of CML was 1067 cm square, with 152-cm-thick side walls (except for a 91-cm-thick south wall) and a 61-cm-thick roof and floor [Smolen 1994]. A remotely operated Split-Table Machine (STM) shown in Fig. 1 was used for performing the experiments. Each half of the split table, one stationary and the other movable, had a steel frame. One of the table halves formed a surface of 76-cm wide and 61-cm long, and the other formed a surface of 76-cm wide and 46-cm long. The table surface was 51-cm above the floor level.

A 30-cm thick aluminum honeycomb material (effective Al density of 0.037 g/cm³) covered both table halves [Richey 1965]. For Mixture 1 [Lloyd 1974], the geometric dimensions of compacts, including the uncertainties in the measurements for fuel, clad and stacking void are given in Table 1. For Mixtures 2–4

[Bierman 1973], the length and width of solid fuel compacts were in the range of 5.08–5.09 cm, and the height having dimensions of 5.08, 5.09, 3.81 and 1.27 cm was variable. Each of the fuel compacts was clad with a 6-mil-thick #471 tape manufactured by Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing (3M) Company.

In Table 2, the experimentally corrected critical dimensions of the fuel assemblies are given for Mixture 1. For this mixture, Table 3 contains the number of compacts used in the experiments with the specified length, width, and height. The heights are given in number of compacts plus a compact of smaller size. Smaller size compacts should be treated as full layers of thinner fuel compacts having a thickness equal to the fractional layer "times" the thickness indicated for the compacts. The measured (corrected) critical

¹Evaluator - Musa Yavuz, The University of Texas at Austin.

Internal Reviewer - Naeem M. Abdurrahman, The University of Texas at Austin.

External Reviewers - M. E. Dunn and R. Trenton Primm, III, Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Keywords: critical experiment, mixed oxide fuel, Plexiglas-reflected, plutonium, polystyrene-moderated, Split-Table Machine.

dimensions and masses of fuel for Mixtures 2-4 experiments are given in Tables 4-6. In all experiments, the Plexiglas reflector had a thickness of 15 cm.

Table 1. Fuel compact dimensions for Mixture 1						
Compacts	Length (cm)	Width (cm)	Height (cm)			
Unalad	5.000 ± 0.005	5.000 ± 0.006	5.088 ± 0.018			
Unclau	5.090± 0.005	5.090 ± 0.000	1.279 ± 0.040			
Clad	5.120 ± 0.005	5.120 ± 0.005	5.148 ± 0.018			
Clau	5.120± 0.005	5.120± 0.005	1.339 ± 0.040			
Stacked	5.153 ± 0.010	5.153 ± 0.010	5.172 ± 0.025			
(clad + void)	5.155 - 0.010	5.155 ± 0.010	1.422 ± 0.043			

Table 1 Engl ama at dimonsions for Mirty .

 Table 2. Critical dimensions for Mixture 1 [843 g (Pu+U)/liter]

	Critical dimensions (cm)					
Case	Length	Width	Height ^a			
1	61.08 ± 0.06	66.17 ± 0.07	30.49 ± 0.15			
2	61.08 ± 0.06	61.08 ± 0.06	31.80 ± 0.16			
3	66.17 ± 0.07	66.17 ± 0.07	29.24 ± 0.16			
4	61.08 ± 0.06	50.90 ± 0.05	35.61 ± 0.18			
5	61.08 ± 0.06	55.99 ± 0.06	33.24 ± 0.16			
6	50.90 ± 0.05	50.90 ± 0.05	40.76 ± 0.20			
7^b	47.27 ± 0.20	47.27 ± 0.20	47.27 ± 0.20			

^{*a*} Experimentally determined corrections (12.7% reduction in critical height) accounting for the reactivity of the cladding material and the stacking voids. ^{*b*} Cube dimensions obtained by interpolation between critical assemblies.

			real contraction of the second s	
	Fuel length	Fuel width	Fuel	height
Case	5.09 cm	5.09 cm	5.088 cm	1.279 cm^{a}
1	12	13	6	3.434 ± 0.012
2	12	12	7	0.632 ± 0.004
3	13	13	6	2.317 ± 0.020
4	12	10	8	0.068 ± 0.008
5	12	11	7	1.920 ± 0.016
6	10	10	9	0.703 ± 0.028

Table 3. Critical dimensions in terms of number of compacts for Mixture 1

^{*a*}Fractional layers should be treated as full layers having the fractional indicated thickness.

	Critical dimensions (cm)			Critical 1	mass (kg)
Case	Length	Width	Height ^a	Pu	U
1	40.72 ± 0.04	45.72 ± 0.09	32.89 ± 0.12	1.74 ± 0.01	20.29 ± 0.22
2	50.90 ± 0.05	50.80 ± 0.10	26.40 ± 0.10	1.94 ± 0.02	22.63 ± 0.25
3	61.08 ± 0.06	60.96 ± 0.12	22.66 ± 0.08	2.39 ± 0.02	27.88 ± 0.31
4	61.08 ± 0.06	66.04 ± 0.13	22.09 ± 0.18	2.53 ± 0.03	29.53 ± 0.39
5	61.08 ± 0.06	55.88 ± 0.11	23.22 ± 0.08	2.25 ± 0.02	26.26 ± 0.28
6	61.08 ± 0.06	50.80 ± 0.10	24.37 ± 0.09	2.15 ± 0.02	25.06 ± 0.28
7	40.72 ± 0.05	40.64 ± 0.08	36.42 ± 0.13	1.71 ± 0.01	19.97± 0.22
8^b	39.12 ± 0.28	39.12 ± 0.28	39.12 ± 0.28	1.70 ± 0.01	19.84 ± 0.32
9 ^c	Infinite	Infinite	14.83 ± 0.60		

Table 4. Critical dimensions and masses for Mixture 2 [360 g (Pu+U)/liter]

^aExperimentally determined corrections (~15% reduction in critical height) accounting for the reactivity of the cladding material and the stacking voids.

^bCube dimensions obtained by interpolation between critical assemblies.

^cInfinite slab thickness obtained by extrapolation of data.

	Cri	Critical dimensions (cm)			mass (kg)
Case	Length	Width	Height ^a	Pu	U
1	30.54 ± 0.03	40.72 ± 0.04	29.81 ± 0.15	3.14 ± 0.04	18.35 ± 0.35
2	40.72 ± 0.04	40.72 ± 0.04	23.84 ± 0.10	3.35 ± 0.04	19.57 ± 0.37
3	45.81 ± 0.04	50.90 ± 0.05	19.82 ± 0.11	3.92 ± 0.05	22.89 ± 0.44
4	50.90 ± 0.04	50.90 ± 0.05	18.92 ± 0.09	4.16 ± 0.05	24.28 ± 0.46
5	61.08 ± 0.06	50.90 ± 0.05	17.72 ± 0.09	4.67 ± 0.06	27.28 ± 0.52
6	61.08 ± 0.06	61.08 ± 0.06	16.53 ± 0.09	5.26 ± 0.06	30.73 ± 0.59
7^b	33.30 ± 0.17	33.30 ± 0.17	33.30 ± 0.17	3.13 ± 0.05	18.28 ± 0.40
8 ^c	Infinite	Infinite	11.56 ± 0.09	_	
9^d	40.72 ± 0.04	40.76 ± 0.17	52.39 ± 0.07	7.37 ± 0.05	43.06 ± 0.82
10^d	40.72 ± 0.04	45.86 ± 0.19	45.10 ± 0.06	7.14 ± 0.08	41.70± 0.79
11^{d}	50.90 ± 0.05	45.86 ± 0.19	36.99 ± 0.05	7.32 ± 0.08	42.75 ± 0.81
12^d	43.78 ± 0.07	43.78 ± 0.07	43.78 ± 0.07	7.12 ± 0.08	41.55 ± 0.80

Table 5. Critical dimensions and masses for Mixture 3 [580 g (Pu+U)/liter]

^{*a*} Experimentally determined corrections (~4% reduction in critical height) accounting for the reactivity of the cladding material and the stacking voids.

^bCube dimensions obtained by interpolation between critical assemblies.

^cInfinite slab thickness obtained by extrapolation of data.

^{*d*}Bare (unreflected) critical dimensions.

	Cri	Critical dimensions (cm)			nass (kg)
Case	Length	Width	Height ^a	Pu	U
1	30.54 ± 0.03	30.54 ± 0.03	30.89 ± 0.02	3.23 ± 0.05	7.53 ± 0.12
2	35.63 ± 0.04	35.63 ± 0.04	23.95 ± 0.10	3.40 ± 0.05	7.94 ± 012
3	40.72 ± 0.04	40.72 ± 0.04	20.22 ± 0.05	3.75 ± 0.05	8.76 ± 0.13
4	50.90 ± 0.05	45.81 ± 0.05	17.14 ± 0.07	4.48 ± 0.06	10.44 ± 0.16
5	61.08 ± 0.06	50.90 ± 0.05	15.53 ± 0.11	5.44 ± 0.08	12.69 ± 0.20
6	61.08 ± 0.06	55.99 ± 0.06	15.16 ± 0.02	5.80 ± 0.09	13.51 ± 0.21
7	66.17 ± 0.06	61.08 ± 0.06	14.43 ± 0.10	6.53 ± 009	15.24 ± 0.22
8	50.90 ± 0.02	50.90 ± 0.05	16.49 ± 0.04	4.78 ± 0.08	11.14 ± 0.18
9^b	30.60 ± 0.02	30.60 ± 0.02	30.60 ± 0.02	3.21 ± 0.05	7.49 ± 0.12
10^c	Infinite	Infinite	10.80 ± 0.11	_	
11^{d}	45.81 ± 0.05	40.72 ± 0.04	37.98 ± 0.06	7.93 ± 0.12	18.51 ± 0.78
12^d	40.72 ± 0.04	40.72 ± 0.04	42.24 ± 0.03	7.84 ± 0.11	18.30 ± 0.77
13^d	45.81 ± 005	50.90 ± 0.05	32.49 ± 0.02	7.84 ± 0.12	19.80 ± 0.84
14^d	41.20 ± 0.05	41.20 ± 0.05	41.20 ± 0.05	7.83 ± 0.11	18.28 ± 0.77

Table 6. Critical dimensions and masses for Mixture 4 [373 g (Pu+U)/liter]

^{*a*} Experimentally determined corrections ($\sim 2\%$ reduction in critical height) accounting for the reactivity of the cladding material and the stacking voids.

^bCube dimensions obtained by interpolation between critical assemblies.

^c Infinite slab thickness obtained by extrapolation of data.

^{*d*}Bare (unreflected) critical dimensions.

1.3 Description of Material Data

The number densities of nuclides contained in fuel (MOX+polystyrene), clad (#471 3M tape) and reflector (methacrylate plastic or Plexiglas) are given in Table 7 for Mixtures 1–4. The ²³⁹Pu content in Pu was 68% for Mixture 1, and 91% for Mixtures 2–4.

	Table 7. Composition of fuel, clad and reflector					
		1	Atomic density (l	$E+24 \operatorname{atom/cm}^{3})^{a}$		
	Mixture 1	Mixture 2	Mixture 3	Mixture 4		
	[843 g	(408 g	(660 g	(426 g	Clad	Reflector
Nuclide	(Pu+U)/liter]	Oxide/liter)	Oxide/liter)	Oxide/liter)	(3M tape)	(plexiglas)
Am^{241}	3.766E-07	1.741E-07	4.036E-07	3.511E-07		
Pu ²³⁸	9.535E-07	0.0	0.0	0.0		
Pu ²³⁹	1.092E-04	6.528E-05	1.954E-04	2.578E-04		
Pu^{240}	3.688E-05	5.941E-06	1.702E-05	2.257E-05		
Pu^{241}	8.945E-06	3.481E-07	1.211E-06	1.756E-06		
Pu ²⁴²	4.689E-06	0.0	0.0	0.0		
U^{235}	2.897E-06	1.285E-06	1.904E-06	1.008E-06		
U^{238}	1.968E-03	8.376E-04	1.252E-03	6.604E-04		
Ο	4.348E-03	1.830E-03	3.023E-03	1.974E-03		1.428E-02
Н	4.155E-02	4.719E-02	4.489E-02	4.468E-02	4.489E-02	5.712E-02
С	4.287E-02	4.540E-02	4.412E-02	4.537E-02	3.110E-02	3.570E-02
Cl					7.24E-03	

Table 7 Composition of fuel alad and reflect

^{*a*}Read E+24 as 10^{24} .

In Table 7, the number density for U^{235} of Mixture 4 is an order of magnitude lower than what was given in [Bierman 1973]. The reason for this is explained in Section 2 (Evaluation of Experimental Data). For Mixture 1, the cladding material per compact was 3.175 g and the cladding density was 1.12 g/cm³. Uranium density per compact was 0.779 ± 0.006 g/cm³, the plutonium density was 0.064 ± 0.001 g/cm³ and the total fuel density was 1.884 ± 0.015 g/cm³. For Mixtures 2-4, the cladding properties were not given because of the reported critical dimensions that account for the reactivity effect of the cladding and stacking void. The measured critical masses of plutonium and uranium are given in Tables 4–6. Particle size distributions which indicate the homogeneity are presented in Table 8 for Mixtures 1–4.

Table 8. Particle size distributions				
		Particle diar	meter (μm)	
Distribution	Mixture 1	Mixtur	es 2–4	
(%)	PuO ₂ -UO ₂	PuO ₂	UO_2	Polystyrene
95		<20	<40	<225
90	<20			
50	<5	<5	<9	<150
10	<0.8			—
5		<0.5	<3	<50

1.4 Supplemental Experimental Measurements

Inverse multiplication measurements to determine the critical dimensions were performed for both unreflected and fully Plexiglas-reflected configurations for Mixtures 3 and 4. Measurements for Mixtures 1 and 2 were only considered for fully reflected assemblies because of the large volume requirement for unreflected assemblies.

For Mixtures 2–4, critical dimensions in length, width, and experimentally corrected heights were reported. Also, experimentally corrected critical masses of solid fuel assemblies were presented. The corrections on the critical dimensions and masses were made to account for the reactivity effect of cladding and the presence of voids in the assembly of stacked compacts. These corrections were obtained by observing the change in critical mass due to varying the number of layers of cladding on the fuel compacts. For Mixture 1, the experimental assemblies were provided both in terms of fuel compacts and corrected critical dimensions of fuel only. For bare assemblies, an additional correction was also made to account for the reactivity effect of the structural material. The correction was an increase of 0.05% in the critical mass of each bare assembly.

Buckling measurements were performed for six bare critical assemblies. The extrapolation distances of 2.56 cm for Mixture 4 and 2.49 cm for Mixture 3 were calculated. The critical buckling values together with critical dimensions are shown in Table 9 for Mixtures 3 and 4.

Table 9. Critical buckling for Mixtures 3 and 4							
	Mixture 4 [373 g/(Pu+U)/liter]						
Critical d	imensions (cm), $\lambda = 2.56 \pm$	0.08 cm*	\mathbf{p}^2 (-2)				
Width	Length	Height	$B_g (m^2)$				
45.81 ± 0.05	40.72 ± 0.04	37.98 ± 0.06	138.16 ± 1.34				
40.72 ± 0.04	40.72 ± 0.04	42.24 ± 0.03	137.94 ± 1.28				
45.81 ± 0.05	50.90 ± 0.04	32.49 ± 0.03	139.27 ± 1.54				
	138.46 ± 1.39						
	Mixture 3 [580	g/(Pu+U)/liter]					
Critical d	imensions (cm), $\lambda = 2.49 \pm$	0.07 cm*	\mathbf{p}^2 (\mathbf{r}^2)				
Width	Width Length Height						
40.76 ± 0.17	40.72 ± 0.04	52.39 ± 0.07	124.42 ± 1.47				
45.86 ± 0.19	40.72 ± 0.04	45.10 ± 0.06	124.79 ± 1.36				
45.86 ± 0.19	50.90 ± 0.05	36.99 ± 0.05	125.82 ± 1.43				
	Average		125.01 ± 1.43				

*Extrapolation length.

2 Evaluation of Experimental Data

Material densities for fuel compacts (Mixtures 1-4) were documented in detail. However, the MR for Mixture 4 is not 47.4. Also, the U^{235} enrichment in U does not correspond to the reported 0.151 wt%. The number density for U^{235} given in [Bierman 1973] is an order of magnitude high. The corrected number density of $1.008 \leftrightarrow 10^{-6}$ is used in Table 7, rather than $1.008 \leftrightarrow 10^{-5}$. With this correction, the MR becomes 47.35 which is in agreement with the reported 47.4. Also, the enrichment of U^{235} becomes about 0.151 wt%. The rest of the material densities were correctly presented.

The geometric units of compacts were given in inches in [Bierman 1973], but the SI units were used in presenting the critical dimensions. In this evaluation, we use the SI units to be consistent with the critical dimensions.

Although the geometric (fuel-clad-void) compact data for Mixture 1 is well presented, this is not the case for Mixtures 2-4. Cladding compositions for Mixtures 2-4 compacts were not given although it is defined by #471 3M tape. The #471 3M tape composition [Bierman 1996] is the same as the Mixture 1 compacts. The stacking void per compact was not provided for these mixture experiments. Instead, the critical sizes and masses were given for solid assemblies of fuel only. Experimentally determined corrections were applied in each case to account for the reactivity effect of the cladding material and the presence of voids in the assembly of the stacked blocks.

The experimentally corrected dimensions of solid fuels were determined graphically. In these graphs, the critical height was plotted as a function of layers of cladding material. Using the data points in these plots, the critical height was extrapolated to zero cladding to determine the critical height of solid fuels only. These plots indicate that for Mixture 4 experiments, there were 3 data points (1, 2, and 3 layers of clad). However, for Mixtures 1-3, there were 2 data points in the reported figures (1 and 2 layers of clad). The fitted curve for Mixture 4 appears to be linear.

For bare assemblies, it is reported that there was only 0.05% increase in critical masses due to structural supports, but the descriptions of these were not given. Also, the exact location of the split table machine (STM) in the heavily shielded cell was not described. In addition, the critical dimensions were determined for slab by extrapolation of data and cube by interpolation between critical assemblies.

The critical dimensions reported in [Bierman 1973] for $(Pu-U)O_2$ -polystyrene and $(Pu^{239}-U)O_2$ -water mixtures in spherical, cylindrical, and slab geometries are not included in this evaluation. These dimensions were calculated by extrapolating one, two or three experimental data points.

For Mixtures 2–4, the experimentally corrected dimensions of solid fuels were given. However, for Mixture 1, the critical dimensions were provided both in terms of number of compacts and the experimentally corrected dimensions of solid assemblies of fuel only. Thus, for Mixture 1:

- (a) the corrected dimensions in Table 2 can be calculated from those in Table 3, and
- (b) if the k_{eff} of the experiments both in terms of number of compacts and the experimentally corrected dimensions are within the statistical uncertainty, then the corrected dimensions can directly be used for simplifying the computational modeling.

To check "a", the corrected dimensions in Table 2 are calculated using Table 3 dimensions. (The length and the width dimensions of compacts agree each other as seen in Tables 2 and 3.) The corrected critical height given in Table 2 is a 12.7% reduction (accounting for the reactivity effect of the clad and the stacking voids) of the critical height given in Table 3. To verify this, for example, the total fuel height of Case 1 in Table 3 is $6\leftrightarrow 5.088+3\leftrightarrow 1.279 + (5.12/5.088)^2\leftrightarrow 1.279\leftrightarrow 0.434 = 34.927$ cm. Considering a 12.7% experimental reduction, the critical height is $(1.0-0.127)\leftrightarrow 34.927 = 30.491$ cm, which agrees with the Case 1 dimension of 30.49 cm given in Table 2. Also, all the other dimensions in Tables 2 and 3 agree each other in this manner.

To verify "b", MCNP calculations were performed. Polyethylene (poly.01t) thermal cross sections both in Fuel and Plexiglas was used. The calculated k_{eff} are 0.98210 ± 0.00154 for the Case 1 of Table 2 and 0.98264 ± 0.00094 for the Case 1 of Table 3. Also, the calculated k_{eff} are 0.98635 ± 0.00125 for the Case 2 of Table 2, and 0.98634 ± 0.00139 for the Case 2 of Table 3. Thus, k_{effs} agree each other within the statistical uncertainty. This suggests that the experimentally corrected critical dimensions can directly be used in modeling the experiments. The input listings for these cases are given in Section 6. (Sample MCNP Input Listings.)

3 Benchmark Specifications

3.1 Description of Model

In the benchmark models, experimentally corrected solid fuel critical dimensions accounting for the reactivity effect of the cladding and the stacking voids are considered in calculating k_{effs} . Plexiglas surrounding the assemblies is used as reflector.

3.2 Dimensions

The corrected critical dimensions given in Tables 2, 4, 5, and 6 are used for Mixtures 1-4 experiments, respectively. In all assemblies, a 15-cm-thick Plexiglas reflector is used.

3.3 Material Data

The number densities of Mixtures 1–4 are given in Table 7.

3.4 Temperature Data

Because temperature data was not reported, a room temperature of 300K is assumed.

4 Results of Sample Calculations

The sample k_{eff} calculations were performed using the MCNP4A continuous cross section library based on the ENDF/B-VI data. Polyethylene thermal cross sections (poly.01t card) are used for both fuel mixtures and Plexiglas. In the calculations, 4000 particle histories, 100 active and 25 skipped generations were used. However, additional particle histories were made if k_{eff} had not attained a constant level after 400000 active particle histories. In Table 10, the calculated k_{eff} are listed for the critical dimensions given in Tables 2, and 4–6 for Mixtures 1–4, respectively.

	Table 10.	. WICHI Keff IUI Cases I	ii 1 abies 2, 4, 5, aliu 0	
Case	Table 2	Table 4	Table 5	Table 6
1	0.98210 ± 0.00154	1.02956 ± 0.00140	1.01503 ± 0.00155	1.00690 ± 0.00155
2	0.98635 ± 0.00125	1.02315 ± 0.00136	1.01885 ± 0.00133	1.00819 ± 0.00134
3	0.98532 ± 0.00123	1.02144 ± 0.00124	1.01331 ± 0.00135	1.00699 ± 0.00145
4	0.98645 ± 0.00142	1.02099 ± 0.00212	1.01105 ± 0.00139	1.00310 ± 0.00148
5	0.98858 ± 0.00134	1.01867 ± 0.00122	1.01567 ± 0.00159	1.00470 ± 0.00148
6	0.99110 ± 0.00130	1.02351 ± 0.00137	1.01549 ± 0.00138	1.00243 ± 0.00154
7	0.99372 ± 0.00062	1.02940 ± 0.00125	1.02286 ± 0.00143	1.00846 ± 0.00131
8		1.02813 ± 0.00130	1.00208 ± 0.00126	1.00565 ± 0.00141
9		0.99725 ± 0.00116	1.01234 ± 0.00151	1.00539 ± 0.00137
10			1.01033 ± 0.00158	1.01431 ± 0.00122
11			1.00995 ± 0.00151	0.99572 ± 0.00177
12			1.01396 ± 0.00159	0.99302 ± 0.00183
13				0.99148 ± 0.00152
14				0.99545 ± 0.00155

Table 10. MCNP k_{eff} for cases in Tables 2, 4, 5, and 6

5 References

- Bierman 1973. S. R. Bierman. E. D. Clayton, and L. E. Hansen, "Critical Experiments with Homogeneous Mixtures of Plutonium and Uranium Oxides Containing 8, 15, and 30 wt% Plutonium," *Nucl. Sci. Eng.*, **50**, 115–126 (1973).
- Lloyd 1974. R. C. Lloyd, S. R. Bierman, and E. D. Clayton, "Criticality of Plutonium-Uranium Mixtures Containing 5-8 wt% Plutonium," *Nucl. Sci. Eng.*, 55, 51–57 (1974).

Richey 1965. C. R. Richey, J. D. White, E. D. Clayton, and R. C. Lloyd, "Criticality of Homogeneous Plutonium Oxide-Plastic Compacts at H:Pu = 15," *Nucl. Sci. Eng.*, 23, 150–158 (1965).

Smolen 1994. G. R. Smolen, R. C. Lloyd, and H. Funabashi, "Critical Data and Validation Studies of Plutonium-Uranium Nitrate Solutions in Cylindrical and Slab Geometry," *Nuclear Technology*, **107**, 304 (1994).

Bierman 1996. S. R. Bierman, private communication, December 1996.

2.10.6 Sample MCNP Input Listings

CASE 1 of TABLE 2: 7.6 wt% Pu; H:(U+Pu)=19.5 Moderation Ratio C Cell Cards -Full Layer Compacts 1 1 0.0908999411 1 -2 3 -4 5 -6 imp:n=1 \$ Fuel 2 2 0.1071 7 -8 9 -10 11 -12 #1 imp:n=1 \$ Plexiglas 0 -7:8:-9:10:-11:12 imp:n=0 \$ outside of the assembly 3 C Surface Cards C Full Size Fuel Compact Dimensions pz -15.245 1 pz 15.245 \$ Fuel Height 2 3 px -30.54 4 px 30.54 \$ Fuel Length 5 py -33.085 py 33.085 \$ Fuel Width 6 C Plexiglas Reflector (15 cm-thick) 7 pz -30.245 pz 30.245 8 9 px -45.54 10 px 45.54 py -48.095 11 12 py 48.095 kcode 4000 1 25 125 ksrc 0. 0. 0. print m1 95241.60c 3.766e-7 94238.60c 9.535e-7 94239.60c 1.092e-4 94240.60c 3.688e-5 94241.60c 8.945e-6 94242.60c 4.689e-6 92235.60c 2.897e-6 92238.60c 1.968e-3 8016.60c 4.348e-3 1001.60c 4.155e-2 6000.60c 4.287e-2 \$ Fuel Composition m2 1001.60c 5.712e-2 6000.60c 3.570e-2 8016.60c 1.428e-2 \$ Plexiglas Reflector Composition m1t poly.01t m2t poly.01t

```
CASE 1 of Table 3: 7.6 wt% Pu; H: (U+Pu)=19.5 Moderation Ratio
C Cell Cards -Full Compacts (5.09 x 5.09 x 5.088)
     1 0.0908999411 1 -2 3 -4 5 -6 u=1 imp:n=1
1
                       $ (Pu+U)O_2-Polystyrene Mixture
      2 0.08323
                 7 -8 9 -10 11 -12
2
                                 u=1 imp:n=1 $ 3M-Clad
            #1
3
      0
            #1 #2
                            u=1 imp:n=1 $ Stacking Void
С
  12x13x6 Fuel Blocks
          13 -14 15 -16 17 -18
                                 imp:n=1 lat=1 u=2
4
     0
         fill=-5:0 -11:0 -12:0 1 935R $12x13x6 Fuel Blocks
5
      0 19 -20 21 -22 23 -24 fill=2 imp:n=1
C -Smaller Compacts (5.09 x 5.09 x 1.279)
     1 0.0908999411 27 -28 3 -4 5 -6 u=3 imp:n=1
6
                       $ (Pu+U)O_2-Polystyrene Mixture
      2 0.08323
7
                26 - 29 9 - 10 11 - 12
            #6
                            u=3 imp:n=1 $ 3M-Clad
     0
            #6 #7
                            u=3 imp:n=1 $ Stacking Void
8
C 12x13x3 Fuel Blocks
9
         20 -30 15 -16 17 -18 imp:n=1 lat=1 u=4
     0
          fill=-2:0 -11:0 -12:0 3 467R $12x13x3 Fuel Blocks
      0 31 -32 21 -22 23 -24 fill=4 imp:n=1
10
C Fractional Layer
11
     1 0.0908999411 32 -34 15 -22 17 -24 imp:n=1
                       $ (Pu+U)02-Polystyrene Mixture
12
     3 0.1071 #5 #10 #11 38 -39 40 -41 42 -43
                      imp:n=1 $Plexiglas Reflector
13
     0 -38:39:-40:41:-42:43 imp:n=0 $ Outside of Critical Assembly
C Surface Cards
C Full Size Fuel Compacts
1
     pz 0.042
     pz 5.13
                  $ Fuel Height
2
     px 0.0315
3
     px 5.1215
                 $ Fuel Length
4
5
     py 0.0315
                 $ Fuel Width
6
     ру 5.1215
C Clad Compacts
    pz 0.012
7
8
     pz 5.16
9
     px 0.0165
10 px 5.1365
    py 0.0165
11
    py 5.1365
12
C Stacked Compacts (Fuel+Clad+Void)
13
   pz 0.0
14
    pz 5.172
15
    px 0.0
   px 5.153
16
    py 0.0
17
   ру 5.153
18
C Window Surfaces
19
   pz 0.000001
20
   pz 31.031999
21 px 0.000001
22 px 61.835999
23 py 0.000001
24 py 66.988999
```

С C Smaller Fuel Compact having height of 1.279 cm С pz 31.0735 26 pz 31.1035 27 28 pz 32.3825 29 pz 32.4125 30 pz 32.454 C Window Surfaces 31 pz 31.032 32 pz 35.297999 C Fractional layer on top 34 pz 35.853086 C Reflector pz -15. 38 39 pz 50.853086 40 px -15. px 76.836 41 42 ру -15. 43 py 81.989 kcode 4000 1 25 225 ksrc 31. 33.5 18. c print m1 95241.60c 3.766e-7 94238.60c 9.535e-7 94239.60c 1.092e-4 94240.60c 3.688e-5 94241.60c 8.945e-6 94242.60c 4.689e-6 92235.60c 2.897e-6 92238.60c 1.968e-3 8016.60c 4.348e-3 1001.60c 4.155e-2 6000.60c 4.287e-2 \$ Fuel Composition 1001.60c 4.489e-2 6000.60c 3.110e-2 17000.60c 7.240e-3 m2 \$ Clad Composition 1001.60c 5.712e-2 6000.60c 3.570e-2 8016.60c 1.428e-2 m3 \$ Plexiglas Reflector Composition m1t poly.01t m2t poly.01t m3t poly.01t

```
CASE 2 of TABLE 2: 7.6 wt% Pu; H:(U+Pu)=19.5 Moderation Ratio
C Cell Cards -Full Layer Compacts
      1 0.0908999411 1 -2 3 -4 5 -6 imp:n=1 $ Fuel
1
2
      2 0.1071 7 -8 9 -10 11 -12
            #1
                                    imp:n=1 $ Plexiglas
3
      0
            -7:8:-9:10:-11:12
                                    imp:n=0 $ outside of the assembly
C Surface Cards
C Full Size Fuel Compact Dimensions
     pz -15.9
1
      pz 15.9
2
                $ Fuel Height
3
      px -30.54
     px 30.54 $ Fuel Length
4
5
     py -30.54
     py 30.54 $ Fuel Width
6
C Plexiglas Reflector (15 cm-thick)
7
     pz -30.9
     pz 30.9
8
9
     px -45.54
10
    px 45.54
11
    py -45.54
12
     py 45.54
kcode 4000 1 25 125
ksrc 0. 0. 0.
print
      95241.60c 3.766e-7 94238.60c 9.535e-7 94239.60c 1.092e-4
m1
      94240.60c 3.688e-5 94241.60c 8.945e-6 94242.60c 4.689e-6
      92235.60c 2.897e-6 92238.60c 1.968e-3 8016.60c 4.348e-3
      1001.60c 4.155e-2 6000.60c 4.287e-2 $ Fuel Composition
      1001.60c 5.712e-2 6000.60c 3.570e-2 8016.60c 1.428e-2
m2
      $ Plexiglas Reflector Composition
     poly.01t
m1t
m2t
     poly.01t
```

```
CASE 2 of TABLE 3: 7.6 wt% Pu; H:(U+Pu)=19.5 Moderation Ratio
C Cell Cards -Full Layer Compacts
     1 0.0908999411 1 -2 3 -4 5 -6 u=1 imp:n=1
1
                            $ (Pu+U)O_2-Polystyrene Mixture
2
     2 0.08323 7 -8 9 -10 11 -12
                                 u=1 imp:n=1 $ 3M-Clad
            #1
3
     0
            #1 #2
                            u=1 imp:n=1 $ Stacking Void
C 12x12x7 Fuel Blocks
         13 -14 15 -16 17 -18
                                  imp:n=1 lat=1 u=2
4
     0
          fill=-6:0 -11:0 -11:0 1 1007R $12x12x7 Fuel Blocks
5
     0 19 -20 21 -22 23 -24 fill=2 imp:n=1
C Corrections
     1 0.0908999411 20 -25 15 -22 17 -24 imp:n=1
6
                                  $ (Pu+U)02-Polystyrene
7
     3 0.1071 #5 #6 30 -31 32 -33 34 -35 imp:n=1
                 $ Plexiglas Reflector
8
    0 -30:31:-32:33:-34:35 imp:n=0 $ Outside of Critical Assembly
C Surface Cards
C Full Size Fuel Compact Dimensions
     pz 0.042
1
2
     pz 5.13
                 $ Fuel Height
3
     px 0.0315
     px 5.1215
4
                $ Fuel Length
     py 0.0315
5
     ру 5.1215
                $ Fuel Width
6
C Clad Compacts
7
    pz 0.012
8
    pz 5.16
9
    px 0.0165
10 px 5.1365
11 py 0.0165
12 py 5.1365
C Stacked Compacts (Fuel+Clad+Void)
13
   pz 0.0
   pz 5.172
14
   px 0.0
15
16 px 5.153
17 py 0.0
18 py 5.153
C Window Surfaces
19 pz 0.000001
20 pz 36.203999
21 px 0.000001
22 px 61.835999
23 py 0.000001
24 py 61.835999
C Corrections
25 pz 37.012328
C Reflector
30 pz -15.0
31
   pz 52.012328
32 px -15.0
33 px 76.836
34 py -15.0
35 py 76.836
```

kcode 4000 1 25 225 ksrc 31. 31. 18.5 c print m1 95241.60c 3.766e-7 94238.60c 9.535e-7 94239.60c 1.092e-4 94240.60c 3.688e-5 94241.60c 8.945e-6 94242.60c 4.689e-6 92235.60c 2.897e-6 92238.60c 1.968e-3 8016.60c 4.348e-3 1001.60c 4.155e-2 6000.60c 4.287e-2 \$ Fuel Composition m2 1001.60c 4.489e-2 6000.60c 3.110e-2 17000.60c 7.240e-3 \$ Clad Composition m3 1001.60c 5.712e-2 6000.60c 3.570e-2 8016.60c 1.428e-2 \$ Plexiglas Reflector Composition m1t poly.01t m2t poly.01t m3t poly.01t



Figure 1. Remote split table with faces separated.

INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

- 1-5. B. B. Bevard
- 6. J. J. Carbajo
- 7. E. D. Collins
- 8. B. S. Cowell
- 9. M. D. DeHart
- 10. F. C. Difilippo
- 11. R. J. Ellis
- 12–16. J. C. Gehin
 - 17. S. R. Greene
 - 18. T. W. Horning
 - 19. D. T. Ingersoll

- 20. H. T. Kerr
- 21. M. A. Kuliasha
- 22. G. E. Michaels
- 23. B. D. Murphy
- 24. D. L. Moses
- 25. C. V. Parks
- 26–30. R. T. Primm III
 - 31. C. C. Southmayd
 - 32. Central Research Library
- 33–34. ORNL Laboratory Records (OSTI)35. ORNL Laboratory Records–RC

EXTERNAL DISTRIBUTION

- 36. N. Abdurrahman, College of Engineering, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712
- M. L. Adams, Department of Nuclear Engineering, Texas A&M University, Zachry 129, College Station, TX 77843
- H. Akkurt, College of Engineering, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712
- 39. D. Alberstein, Los Alamos National Laboratory, MS-E502, P.O. Box 1663, Los Alamos, NM 87545
- 40. J. Baker, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition, U. S. Department of Energy, MD-3, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585
- 41. J. B. Briggs, Idaho National Environmental and Engineering Laboratory, P.O. Box 1625-3855, Idaho Falls, ID 83415-3855
- 42. L. Holgate, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition, U. S. Department of Energy, MD-1/2, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585
- 43. A. Caponiti, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition, U. S. Department of Energy, MD-3, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585
- 44. K. Chidester, Los Alamos National Laboratory, MS-E502, P.O. Box 1663, Los Alamos, NM 87545
- 45. W. Danker, U. S. Department of Energy, MD-3, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585
- 46. T. Gould, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, P.O. Box 808, MS-L186, Livermore, CA 94551
- 47. L. Jardine, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, P.O. Box 808, MS-L166, Livermore, CA 94551
- 48. Dr. Alexander Kalashnikov, Institute of Physics and Power Engineering, 1 Bondarenko Square, Obninsk, Kaluga Region, Russia 249020
- 49–53. D. E. Klein, Associate Vice Chancellor for Special Engineering Programs, The University of Texas System, 210 West Sixth Street, Austin, TX 78701
 - 54. J. O. Nulton, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition, U.S. Department of Energy, MD-3, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585
 - 55. S. L. Passman, Sandia National Laboratories, 1401 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1050, Arlington, VA 22209
- 56–60. Dr. Alexander Pavlovitchev, Russian Research Center "Kurchatov Institute," Institute of Nuclear Reactors VVER Division, VVER Physics Department, 123182, Kurchatov Square, 1, Moscow, Russia
 - 61. K. L. Peddicord, Associate Vice Chancellor, Texas A&M University, 120 Zachry, College Station, TX 77843-3133
 - 62. G. Radulescu, Framatom Cogema Fuels, 1261 Town Center Drive, MS-423, Las Vegas, Nevada 89143
 - 63. W. D. Reece, Texas A&M University, Department of Nuclear Engineering, Zachry 129, College Station, TX 77843-3133
 - 64. P. T. Rhoads, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition, U.S. Department of Energy, MD-4, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585
 - 65. J. Thompson, Office of Fissile Materials Disposition, U.S. Department of Energy, MD-4, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585
 - 66. Fitz Trumble, Westinghouse Savannah River Company, Building 730R, Room 3402, WSRC, Aiken, SC 29808
 - 67. M. Yavuz, 7201 Wood Hollow Drive, #475, Austin, TX 78731