Jessica S. Rehak

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INFORMATION github: https://github.com/JessicaRehak

PhD University of California, Berkeley, Nuclear Engineering

Summer 2021

A Novel Tool for the Assessment and Validation of Acceleration Methods for Solving the Neutron

Transport Equation

Advisor: Professor Rachel N. Slaybaugh

University of California, Berkeley, Nuclear Engineering

Spring 2017

Implementation of Weighted Delta-tracking with scattering in Serpent 2

MEM Old Dominion University – Norfolk VA, ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT

University of Maryland, College Park, Physics, Astronomy

Spring 2007

WORK & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

MS

BS

Kairos Energy, Alameda, CA

Reactor Analyist (Engineer III)

September 2021 – October 2023

Supervisor: Nader Satvat - satvat@kairospower.com

Developed a series of Python 3-based deployable libraries designed to work in concert to support the rapid iterative design and evaluation of novel pebble bed reactors. Some of the features included:

- conversion of material specifications provided in various formats into a standardized and shared elemental format,
- generation of a full pebble bed core model from a collection of user-defined yaml files, stored in a comprehensive Python 3 object complete with materials assigned to a polygon-based cross-sectional geometry,
- and generation of a core input file for the Serpent 2 Monte Carlo code, converting arbitrary rectangular and triangular polygons, as well as other features, into appropriate Serpent surfaces and cell definitions; evaluation of complex multi-point surfaces into a series of polygons to describe highly-detailed features or core regions; automatic determination and elimination of overlapping surfaces; and handling of regions with multiple layered universes, and distributed pebble-bed fuel materials.

University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

Graduate Student Researcher

Fall 2015 – Summer 2021

Advisor: Professor Rachel N. Slaybaugh - slaybaugh@berkeley.edu

Developed a novel finite-element-based code for the implementation and assessment of acceleration methods for deterministic solves of the transport equation that leveraged modern C++ features, documentation systems, and testing frameworks.

The Idaho National Laboratory, Idaho Falls, ID

Student Intern - Reactor physics group

Summer 2016

Advisor: Dr. Mark DeHart - mark.dehart@inl.gov

Implemented a novel delta-tracking algorithm for the Serpent 2 Monte Carlo code.

United States Navy

Submarine Officer – Honorably discharged as a lieutenant (O-3)

2008 - Fall 2015

- Coordinated submarine operations and international participation for the Rim of the Pacific 2014 naval exercise involving 23 nations, 46 ships and six submarines.
- Supported two six-month deployments while qualified Officer of the Deck and Engineering Officer of the Watch on Los Angeles class submarines.
- Certified for assignment as Engineer Officer in charge of a Naval Nuclear Propulsion Plant.
- Led divisions responsible for the maintenance and operation of reactor plant instrumentation, radiological controls, and water chemical analysis.
- TS/SCI security clearance (single scope background investigation).

Publications & Proceedings

Rehak, J.S., Slaybaugh, R.N. "Assessing the Effectiveness of Acceleration Methods for Deterministic Neutron Transport Solvers" Transactions of the American Nuclear Society Volume 122. https://doi.org/10.13182/T122-32383 June 2020.

Rehak, J.S., Kerby, L.M., DeHart, M.D., Slaybaugh, R.N. "Weighted delta-tracking in scattering media" Nuclear Engineering and Design Volume 342. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nucengdes.2018.12.006. December 2018.†

Rehak, J.S., Kerby, L.M., DeHart, M.D., Slaybaugh, R.N., Leppänen, J. "Implementation of Weighted Delta-Tracking with Scattering in the Serpent 2 Monte Carlo Code" Transactions of the American Nuclear Society Volume 116. https://escholarship.org/uc/item/6bg1s71k June 2017.†

Honors and Awards Department of Nuclear Engineering Graduate Fellowship

2015 - 2018

Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

August 2015

For exceptional service as Submarine Force Exercise Officer and Submarine Watch Officer at Commander Submarine Forces Pacific

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

August 2015

For coordination and execution of submarine operations for the Rim of the Pacific 2014 exercise

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

June 201

For service as a division officer on USS JACKSONVILLE (SSN-699) and successful completion of two six-month deployments and an extended dry-dock maintenance period.

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

April 2013

For service as Chemistry/Radiological Assistant during an eight month dry-dock period.

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

January 2011

For service as Reactor Control Assistant during a six-month deployment and Operational Reactor Safeguards Exam

Code Development

Bay Area Radiation Transport (BART)

https://github.com/SlaybaughLab/BART

A finite-element-based transport solver that supports 1/2/3D and MPI, based on the deal.II finite element library.

- Designed for developer end-users for maximum modification and support of methods analysis and implementation.
- Designed to support reproducibility, portability, and testing in codes. utilizes continuous integration, code coverage, and Docker containers.
- Uses a novel protocol-buffer format for materials.

SCIENTIFIC COMPUTING SKILLS

| Languages | |
|-----------------|---|
| Build Systems | setuptools, make, CMake |
| Testingpytest | , GoogleTest, GoogleMock, continuous integration, code coverage |
| Version Control | git, githul |
| Other | sphinx, Doxygen, LATEX, Protocol Buffers, Jupyter, Docker |