A Dynamic Control Rod Decusping Method for the $2\mathrm{D}/1\mathrm{D}$ Scheme

Ph.D. Prospectus

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Introduction

Motivation

- The 2D/1D Method solves the transport equation for 3D problems
 - Faster than direct 3D transport calculations
 - More accurate than traditional nodal methods
- Control rod cusping can occur in 2D/1D
 - Occurs when control rods are partially inserted in a 2D plane
 - Causes large errors due to volume homogenization
 - Current decusping methods have trade-off between speed and accuracy
- \bullet New decusping methods are needed for 2D/1D
 - Transport-based methods that are efficient and accurate
 - \bullet New methods can reduce the computing resources required for 2D/1D
 - Other axial components (spacer grids, burnable poison inserts, axial fuel blankets, etc.) could also be simulated more efficiently using advanced decusping methods

Introduction

Overview

- Implementation of sub-plane scheme
 - Captures sub-plane axial information for each 2D plane
 - Allows coarsening of axial mesh without runtime increase
- New decusping methods
 - Sub-plane scheme modified to use heterogeneous rodded/unrodded cross-sections
 - 1D Collision probabilities introduced to improve sub-plane cross-sections
- Proposed work "sub-ray" Method of Characteristics
 - Modification to 2D MOC to resolve axial heterogeneities
 - Should resolve transport effects caused by partially inserted rods
 - Minimal runtime increase

Steady-State Multi-Group Transport Equation

- Time-dependence removed
- Formulated as eigenvalue problem
- Discretized in energy

$$\begin{split} & \boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \boldsymbol{\nabla} \psi_{g} + \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{t,g} \left(\boldsymbol{x} \right) \psi_{g} \left(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{\Omega} \right) \\ & = \frac{1}{4\pi} \sum_{g'=1}^{G} \int_{4\pi} \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{s,g' \to g} \left(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{\Omega}' \to \boldsymbol{\Omega} \right) \psi_{g'} \left(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{\Omega}' \right) d\boldsymbol{\Omega}' \\ & + \frac{1}{k_{eff}} \frac{\chi_{g}}{4\pi} \sum_{g'=1}^{G} \int_{4\pi} \nu \boldsymbol{\Sigma}_{f,g'} \left(\boldsymbol{x} \right) \psi_{g'} \left(\boldsymbol{x}, \boldsymbol{\Omega}' \right) d\boldsymbol{\Omega}' + \frac{Q_{g} \left(\boldsymbol{x} \right)}{4\pi} \\ & \psi_{g} \left(\boldsymbol{x}_{b}, \boldsymbol{\Omega} \right) = \int_{E}^{E_{n-1}} \psi^{b} \left(\boldsymbol{x}_{b}, \boldsymbol{E}, \boldsymbol{\Omega} \right) d\boldsymbol{E} , \quad \boldsymbol{\Omega} \cdot \boldsymbol{n} < 0 \end{split}$$

Discrete Ordinates Approximation

Apply quadrature to approximate integrals

$$\int_{4\pi} f(\mathbf{\Omega}) d\mathbf{\Omega} \approx \sum_{n=1}^{N} f(\mathbf{\Omega}_n) w_n$$

• Pick a set of unique angles Ω_n

$$\begin{split} &\Omega_{n} \cdot \nabla \psi_{g,n} + \Sigma_{t,g}\left(\mathbf{x}\right) \psi_{g,n}\left(\mathbf{x}\right) \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \sum_{g'=1}^{G} \sum_{n'=1}^{N} \Sigma_{g' \to g,n' \to n}\left(\mathbf{x}\right) \psi_{g',n'}\left(\mathbf{x}\right) w_{n'} \\ &+ \frac{1}{k_{eff}} \frac{\chi_{g}}{4\pi} \sum_{g'=1}^{G} \sum_{n'=1}^{N} \nu \Sigma_{f,g'}\left(\mathbf{x}\right) \psi_{g',n'}\left(\mathbf{x}\right) w_{n'} + \frac{Q_{g,n}\left(\mathbf{x}\right)}{4\pi} \\ &\qquad \qquad \psi_{g,n}\left(\mathbf{x}_{b}\right) = \psi_{g}^{b}\left(\mathbf{x}_{b}, \Omega_{n}\right) \;, \quad \Omega_{n} \cdot \mathbf{n} < 0 \end{split}$$

Transport-Corrected Scattering Approximation

- Modifies self-scatter and total cross-sections to account for anisotropy while performing isotropic calculations
- Neutron Leakage Conservation (NLC) Method: H-1

$$\Sigma_{s0,g\to g} = \Sigma_{s0,g\to g} + \frac{1}{3D_g} - \Sigma_{t,g}$$

• In-Scatter Method: B-11, C-12, O-16

$$\Sigma_{s0,g\to g} = \Sigma_{s0,g\to g} - \frac{1}{\phi_{1,g}} \sum_{g'=1}^{G} \Sigma_{s1,g'\to g} \phi_{1,g'}$$

• Out-Scatter Method: All other isotopes

$$\Sigma_{s0,g
ightarrow g} = \Sigma_{s0,g
ightarrow g} - \sum_{g'=1}^{G} \Sigma_{s1,g
ightarrow g'}$$

Diffusion Approximation

Assumes flux is linearly anisotropic

$$\psi_{g}\left(\mathbf{x},\mathbf{\Omega}\right) pprox \frac{1}{4\pi} \left(\phi_{g}\left(\mathbf{x}\right) + 3\mathbf{\Omega} \cdot \mathbf{J}_{g}\left(\mathbf{x}\right)\right)$$

ullet Assumes relationship between scalar flux ϕ and current J

$$J(x) \approx -D(x) \nabla \phi(x)$$

$$D(x) = \frac{1}{3} \left(\Sigma_{tr,g}(x) \right)^{-1}$$

- Eliminates angle dependence
- Simplifies streaming and scattering source terms

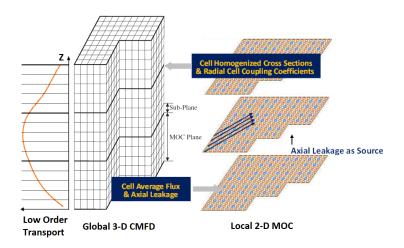
Diffusion Approximation

$$\begin{split} -\nabla \cdot \boldsymbol{D}_{g}\left(\boldsymbol{x}\right) \nabla \phi\left(\boldsymbol{x}\right) + \Sigma_{t,g}\left(\boldsymbol{x}\right) \phi_{g}\left(\boldsymbol{x}\right) &= \sum_{g'=1}^{G} \Sigma_{s0,g' \to g}\left(\boldsymbol{x}\right) \phi_{g'}\left(\boldsymbol{x}\right) \\ + \frac{1}{k_{eff}} \frac{\chi_{g}}{4\pi} \sum_{g'=1}^{G} \nu \Sigma_{f,g'}\left(\boldsymbol{x}\right) \phi_{g'}\left(\boldsymbol{x}\right) + Q_{g}\left(\boldsymbol{x}\right) \\ &\frac{1}{4} \phi_{g}\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{b}\right) + \frac{\boldsymbol{D}_{g}\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{b}\right)}{2} \cdot \nabla \phi\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{b}\right) = J_{g}^{-}\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{b}\right) \end{split}$$

Background

- Direct 3D calculations are still usually too slow for most practical calculations
- 2D/1D method was developed by researchers at Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI) and implemented in DeCART [1, 2, 3]
 - Decomposes problem into a stack of 2D planes
 - High-fidelity transport calculations used to solve 2D planes
 - Fast 1D calculations couple 2D planes together axially
 - Reactor geometry has most of its heterogeneity in the radial direction, so lower order calculations are acceptable in axial direction
- University of Michigan (UM) developed DeCART for awhile, but decided to do a new 2D/1D implementation in MPACT [4]

Background



Radial Equations

- Average transport equation axially from $z_{k-\frac{1}{2}}$ to $z_{k+\frac{1}{2}}$
- Assume cross-sections are axially constant in region of integration

$$\Omega_{x} \frac{\partial \psi_{g}^{Z}}{\partial x} + \Omega_{y} \frac{\partial \psi_{g}^{Z}}{\partial y} + \Sigma_{tr,g}(x,y) \psi_{g}^{Z}(x,y,\Omega) = q_{g}^{Z}(x,y,\Omega) + L_{g}^{Z}(x,y,\Omega_{z})$$

$$\begin{split} q_{g}^{Z}\left(x,y,\Omega\right) &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \sum_{g'=1}^{G} \int\limits_{4\pi} \Sigma_{s,g' \to g}^{Z} \left(x,y,\Omega' \cdot \Omega\right) \psi_{g'}^{Z}\left(x,y,\Omega'\right) d\Omega' \\ &+ \frac{1}{k_{eff}} \frac{\chi_{g}^{Z}}{4\pi} \sum_{g'=1}^{G} \int\limits_{4\pi} \nu \Sigma_{f,g'}^{Z}\left(x,y\right) \psi_{g'}^{Z}\left(x,y,\Omega'\right) d\Omega' + \frac{Q_{g}^{Z}\left(x,y\right)}{4\pi} \end{split}$$

$$L_{g}^{Z}\left(x,y,\Omega_{z}\right) = \frac{\Omega_{z}}{\Delta z_{k}} \left(\psi_{g,z_{k-\frac{1}{2}}} - \psi_{g,z_{k+\frac{1}{2}}}\right) \approx \frac{J_{g,z_{k-\frac{1}{2}}} - J_{g,z_{k+\frac{1}{2}}}}{4\pi\Delta z_{k}}$$

Axial Equations

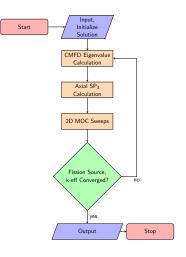
- Average transport equation over x from $x_{i-\frac{1}{2}}$ to $x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}$ and over y from $y_{j-\frac{1}{2}}$ to $y_{j+\frac{1}{2}}$
- Assume cross-sections are radially constant in region of integration

$$\Omega_{z} \frac{\partial \psi_{g}^{XY}}{\partial z} + \Sigma_{tr,g}^{XY}(z) \psi_{g}^{XY}(z, \Omega) = q_{g}^{XY}(z, \Omega) + L_{g}^{XY}(z, \Omega_{x}, \Omega_{y})$$

$$L_g^{XY}(z, \Omega_x, \Omega_y) \approx \frac{J_{g, x_{i-\frac{1}{2}}, y_j} - J_{g, x_{i+\frac{1}{2}}, y_j}}{4\pi\Delta x_i} + \frac{J_{g, x_i, y_{j-\frac{1}{2}}} - J_{g, x_i, y_{j+\frac{1}{2}}}}{4\pi\Delta y_j}$$

Calculation Flow

- 3D CMFD [5]
 - Determines global flux shape to scale fine mesh solution
 - Calculates radial currents for 1D axial solver
- 1D NEM-SP₃ [6, 7]
 - Calculates improved axial currents for 2D solver
- 2D MOC [8, 9]
 - Solves for fine mesh scalar flux
 - Calculates updated radial currents for CMFD calculation



3D CMFD

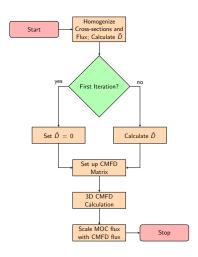
- Diffusion-based acceleration
- Homogenize fine mesh flux, cross-sections, χ into coarse mesh cells
- Calculate \hat{D} coupling coefficients

$$\hat{D}_{g,s} \! = \! \frac{J_{g,s}^{MOC,k-1} \! + \! \tilde{p}_{g,s} \! \left(\phi_{g,p}^{CMFD,k} \! - \! \phi_{g,m}^{CMFD,k} \right)}{\left(\phi_{g,p}^{CMFD,k} \! + \! \phi_{g,m}^{CMFD,k} \right)}$$

Project coarse mesh solution to fine mesh

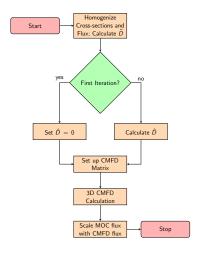
$$\phi_{g,j}^{MOC,k} = c_{g,i}^{k} \phi_{g,j}^{MOC,k-1}$$

$$c_{g,i}^{k} = \frac{\phi_{g,i}^{CMFD,k}}{\phi_{g,i}^{CMFD,k-1}}$$



3D CMFD - Sub-Plane Scheme

- Split CMFD cells axially into multiple cells
 - Calculate shaping factor for each sub-plane cell based on previous solution
 - Apply shaping factor to fine mesh fluxes during homogenization
 - φ and χ have axial shape;
 cross-sections are axially constant
- Calculate \hat{D} for entire MOC plane; apply to all sub-planes
- Modify projection to fine mesh to account for sub-planes



1D SP₃-NEM

• SP₃ [6] used to handle angular shape

$$-\nabla \cdot D_{0,g}(x)\nabla \Phi_{0,g}(x) + [\Sigma_{tr,g}(x) - \Sigma_{s0,g}(x)]\Phi_{0,g}(x)$$

= $Q_g(x) + 2[\Sigma_{tr,g}(x) - \Sigma_{s0,g}(x)]\Phi_{2,g}(x)$

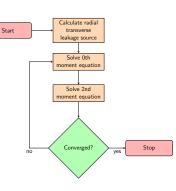
$$\begin{aligned} & -\nabla \cdot D_{2,g}(\mathbf{x}) \nabla \Phi_{2,g}(\mathbf{x}) + [\Sigma_{tr,g}(\mathbf{x}) - \Sigma_{s2,g}(\mathbf{x})] \Phi_{2,g}(\mathbf{x}) \\ &= \frac{2}{5} \{ [\Sigma_{tr,g}(\mathbf{x}) - \Sigma_{s0,g}(\mathbf{x})] [\Phi_{0,g}(\mathbf{x}) - 2\Phi_{2,g}(\mathbf{x})] - Q_g(\mathbf{x}) \} \end{aligned}$$

• NEM [7] used to handle spatial shape

$$\int_{-1}^{1} P_n(\xi) \left(-\frac{D}{h^2} \frac{d^2}{d\xi^2} \phi(\xi) + \sum_{r} \phi(\xi) - Q(\xi) \right) d\xi = 0, \ n = 0, 1, 2$$

$$\phi_L(1) = \phi_R(-1), \quad J_L(1) = J_R(-1)$$

 $Q(\xi) = \sum_{i=0}^{2} q_i P_i(\xi)$, $\phi(\xi) = \sum_{i=0}^{4} \phi_i P_i(\xi)$



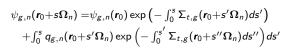
2D MOC

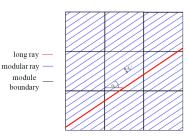
• Solve along a specific direction Ω_n

$$r=r_0+s\Omega_n \Rightarrow \begin{cases} x(s) = x_0 + s\Omega_{n,x} \\ y(s) = y_0 + s\Omega_{n,y} \\ z(s) = z_0 + s\Omega_{n,z} \end{cases}$$

 Problem reduces from PDE to ODE that can be solved analytically

$$\frac{\partial \psi_{g,n}}{\partial s} + \sum_{t,g} (\mathbf{r}_0 + s\Omega_n) \psi_{g,n} (\mathbf{r}_0 + s\Omega_n) = q_{g,n} (\mathbf{r}_0 + s\Omega_n)$$





module

boundary

2D MOC

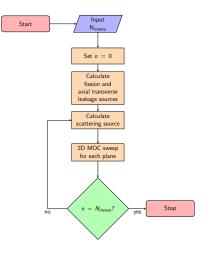
• Assume flat source, cross-section along track with length L_j and spacing δx

$$\begin{split} \psi_{g,i,n,j}^{\text{out}} &= \psi_{g,i,n,j}^{\text{in}} e^{-\Sigma_{t,g,i} L_j} \\ &\quad + \frac{q_{g,i,n}}{\Sigma_{t,g,i}} \left(1 - e^{-\Sigma_{t,g,i} L_j} \right) \\ \overline{\psi}_{g,i,n,j} &= \frac{q_{g,n,i}}{\Sigma_{t,g,i}} \\ &\quad + \frac{1 - e^{-\Sigma_{t,g,i} L_j}}{L_j \Sigma_{t,g,i}} \left(\psi_{g,i,n,j}^{\text{in}} - \frac{q_{g,n,i}}{\Sigma_{t,g,i}} \right) \\ \overline{\psi}_{g,i,n} &= \frac{\sum_j \overline{\psi}_{g,i,n,j} \delta^{\chi_l} L_j}{\Sigma_j \delta^{\chi_l} J_j} \end{split}$$

 Modular ray tracing can be used to minimize storage requirements by tracing only portions of problem geometry

2D MOC

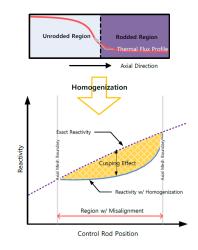
- Perform ray tracing and store segment information up front
- Set up scattering, fission, and axial transverse leakage sources
 - Multi-group sweeping
 - 1-group sweeping
- Parallel Decomposition
 - Spatial (Planar and Radial)- MPI
 - Angle MPI
 - Ray OpenMP



Rod Cusping

Background

- Nodes must be axially homogeneous
- Control rod positions often do not align with node boundaries, requiring homogenization of control rod and moderator
- Volume homogenization preserves material volume/mass, but not reaction rates
- Two approaches to prevent rod cusping:
 - Refine mesh to align with all control rod positions
 - Decusping method to improve homogenization



Rod Cusping

2D/1D Decusping Methods

- Neighbor Spectral Index Method CRX-2K [10]
 - Spectral index is defined as the ratio of the fast flux to the thermal flux
 - Spectral index is used in top and bottom neighbor nodes to estimate partially rodded node flux profile
 - This estimate is used to update cross-sections each iteration
- nTRACER Method [11]
 - Solves local problem to generate CMFD constants
 - Performs CMFD calculations on fine mesh to obtain axial flux profiles
 - Uses axial flux profiles during full core calculation to homogenize cross-sections
- Polynomial Decusping MPACT [12]
 - A series of 3x3 assembly cases were run with partially rodded nodes in the center assembly
 - Results were used to generate polynomials of decusping error as function of rod insertion
 - Polynomials are used to reduce the control rod volume fraction when homogenizing

Sub-Plane Decusping

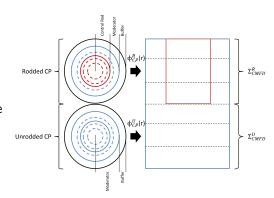
- Modifications made to sub-plane scheme¹ to treat axial effects of rod cusping
 - Homogenization still uses MOC flux with axial shape factor, but with heterogeneous rodded or unrodded cross-sections
 - Projection re-homogenizes cross-sections in partially rodded nodes after CMFD calculation

$$\overline{\Sigma_{i}} = \frac{\phi_{rad,i}^{R} \phi_{ax,i}^{R} \Sigma_{i}^{R} h^{R} + \phi_{rad,i}^{U} \phi_{ax,i}^{U} \Sigma_{i}^{U} h^{U}}{\phi_{rad,i}^{R} \phi_{ax,i}^{R} h^{R} + \phi_{rad,i}^{U} \phi_{ax,i}^{U} h^{U}}$$

¹Two M&C 2017 papers submitted on sub-plane and decusping methods [13, 14]

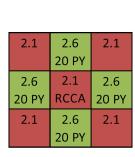
Collision Probabilities Decusping

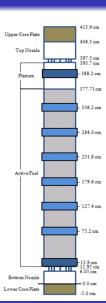
- Sub-plane modifications only capture axial effects
 - MOC uses homogenized cross-section
 - Radial shape does not accurately reflect either region
- 1D collision probabilities (CP) introduced to generate radial shapes
 - Generates radial flux profile for rodded and unrodded region
 - Radial profiles used in CMFD homogenization
 - Very efficient calculation



VERA Problem 4

- Center 3x3 assembly cluster in Watts Bar Unit 1
- AIC control rod in center assembly placed at 257.9 cm
- Test cases used 57 planes, with rod inserted 50% into a plane
- Reference used 58 planes, with extra plane boundary aligned with rod tip
- All simulations used 1 core per plane





Results

Problem 4 Results

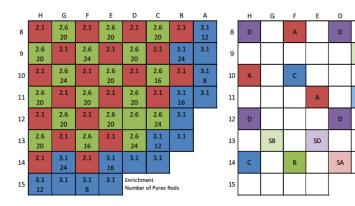
Case	k-eff	Pin Power Differences		Iterations		Runtime
	Difference (pcm)	RMS	Max	2D/1D	CMFD	(Core-Hours)
Reference	_	-	_	12	364	8.59
No Treatment	-30	3.84%	21.81%	12	352	9.23
Polynomial	-8	1.03%	6.58%	12	360	9.50
Sub-plane	-7	1.13%	7.11%	12	409	9.26
Sub-plane + 1D-CP	-2	0.54%	4.94%	12	364	9.45

 Maximum error for all cases occurs in pins neighboring the partially rodded pin cell

Results

VERA Problem 5

- Bank D inserted to 257.9 cm, other banks all out
- 57 planes for tests and 58 for reference, 16 cores per plane



SB

SC

В

SA

Results

Problem 5 Results

Case	k-eff	Pin Power Differences		Iterations		Runtime
	Difference (pcm)	RMS	Max	2D/1D	CMFD	(Core-Hours)
Reference	_	-	_	13	481	362
No Treatment	-22	6.90%	30.55%	13	523	411
Polynomial	-5	1.15%	4.85%	13	463	374
Sub-plane	-5	2.09%	10.20%	13	499	399
Sub-plane + 1D-CP	-1	0.50%	2.74%	13	529	426

 Maximum error for each comparison occurs in pins neighboring the partially rodded pin cell

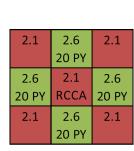
Proposed Work

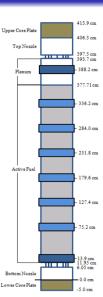
1D MOC Code

- A transport-based solution that resolves decusping directly with MOC is desired
- To aid in developing this method, a 1D MOC code was written
 - Able to visualize and analyze angular flux
 - Simulations with mixed roddded/unrodded cross-sections
 - Can perform fixed source (fission or total) and eigenvalue calculations
- Results provide insights into effects of rod cusping on angular flux

Fixed Total Source

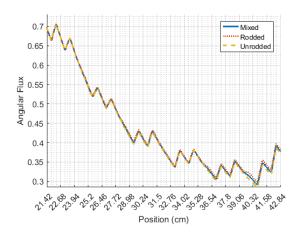
- 1D model of VERA Problem 4
 - Center row across all 3 assemblies (51 pin cells)
 - Center assembly has 4 partially rodded positions
 - C5G7 cross-sections [15, 16]
- Eigenvalue calculation performed to generate fission and scattering source distributions
- MOC sweeps used this source for 0%, 50%, and 100% rodded cross-sections





Fixed Total Source

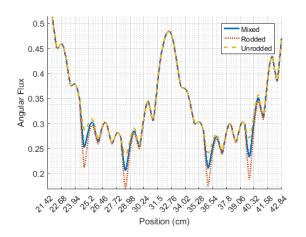
• Angular flux, Group 1



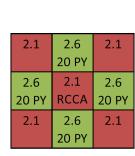
Proposed Work

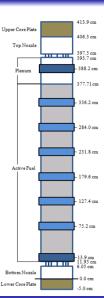
Fixed Total Source

• Angular flux, Group 7

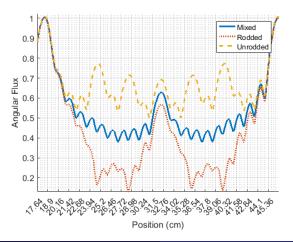


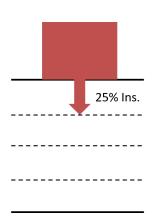
- 1D model of VFRA Problem 4
- Eigenvalue calculation performed to generate fission source
- Calculations performed using 25%, 50%, and 75% rodded cross-sections
 - Same, fixed fission source for each case
 - Multiple iterations allowed for each case to converge scattering source



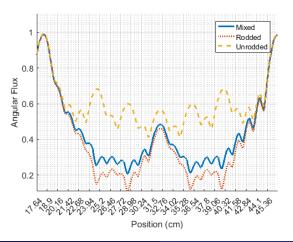


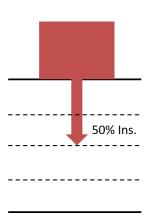
• Angular Flux, Group 7, 25% rodded



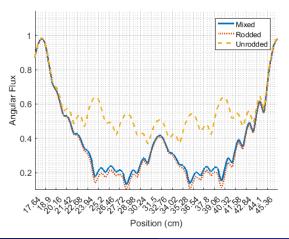


• Angular Flux, Group 7, 50% rodded





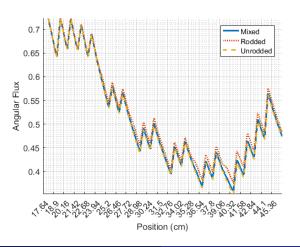
• Angular Flux, Group 7, 75% rodded

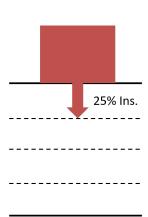




Fixed Fission Source

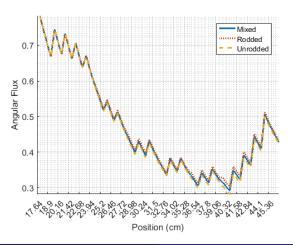
Angular Flux, Group 1, 25% rodded

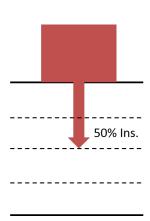




Fixed Fission Source

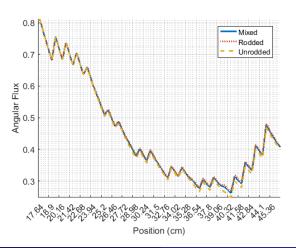
Angular Flux, Group 1, 50% rodded

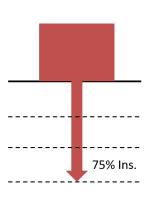




Fixed Fission Source

• Angular Flux, Group 1, 75% rodded





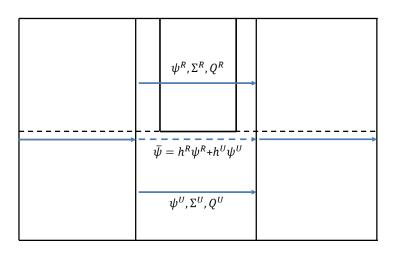
1D MOC Summary

- Fixed total source
 - Differences between rodded and unrodded thermal flux are only significant in partially rodded cell
 - Fast fluxes differences are small, but last much longer
- Fixed fission source
 - Scattering source in neighboring pins changes significantly depending on partially rodded cell
 - If angular flux exiting partially rodded cells is treated, neighboring pin cells will not be affected by cusping
 - Need to capture difference between rodded and unrodded angular flux

Sub-Ray MOC Method

- Perform standard 2D MOC calculations in pin cells with no cusping effects
- For partially rodded pin cells, use multiple "sub-rays" to capture partially rodded effects
 - Use sub-planes to determine sources for rodded and unrodded regions
 - Determine angular flux with rodded cross-section and source; repeat with unrodded values
 - Average rodded and unrodded angular flux for each ray segment
- Angular flux exiting pin cell will prevent cusping effects in neighboring cells
- Currents used for sub-plane CMFD \hat{D} can be calculated using explicit rodded and unrodded angular fluxes
- Sub-rays could be used for other reactor components such as spacer grids, burnable poison inserts, etc.

Sub-Ray MOC Method



Conclusions

- Rod cusping problem explained and demonstrated
- New decusping methods developed
 - Improved accuracy over previous methods
 - Minimal runtime increases
 - Still room for improvement
- 1D MOC results showed effects of volume homogenization on angular flux
- Sub-ray MOC method development motivated by current decusping methods and 1D MOC results

Next Steps

Task	Description	Target Date
1	Analysis of cross-section and source effects on angular flux	10/2016
2	Development of sub-ray MOC method	12/2016
3	Prototype of method in 1D MOC code	03/2017
4	Implementation of method in MPACT	06/2017
5	Testing on VERA Problem 4, 5, 9, and transient test problem	08/2017

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