

# Updating PyRe for the Cyclus v1.6.0 Framework

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## INTRODUCTION

The United States has exclusively operated a once-through civilian fuel cycle. Over several decades, the country's many reactors have generated a stockpile of used fuel. Interest in closing the fuel cycle by reprocessing is increasing so the volume of high-level waste that requires storage is reduced, and the valuable fissionable isotopes mixed into that waste won't be discarded. To deal with proliferation concerns from reprocessing, researchers at Argonne National Laboratory developed pyroprocessing, which is a reprocessing method that uses electrochemical separation and doesn't produce a plutonium material stream. Material can be diverted at several steps in this process, thus it is important to determine which diversions pathways present significant risk.

Pyroprocessing has not been demonstrated at an industrial scale yet, which provides an opportunity to implement safeguards into the design of any proposed facility. To safeguard facilities, material tracking is required at all stages to be able to detect any diversions as soon as they happen. Limiting the amount of material diverted is of utmost importance, as the amount of material required to produce an explosive device is relatively small compared to the throughput of an industrial reprocessing facility. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) determined the significant quantities shown in Table I are defined such that the "possibility of manufacturing a nuclear explosive device cannot be excluded" [1].

TABLE I. Significant Quantities.

Nuclear Material	Significant Quantities
Plutonium (<80% <sup>238</sup> Pu)	8 kg
<sup>233</sup> U	8 kg
HEU ( <sup>235</sup> U > 20%)	25 kg
LEU	75 kg
Natural U	10 tonnes
Depleted U	20 tonnes
Thorium	20 tonnes

One way to test new fuel cycles, such as one that incorporates pyroprocessing, is by using a fuel cycle simulator. The simulator that will be used in this work to model a pyroprocessing fuel cycle is called CYCLUS.

## CYCLUS

CYCLUS [2] is an open-source nuclear fuel cycle simulation framework that tracks transactions of commodities between facilities. In CYCLUS, facilities are represented as agents that can be configured to interact with each other through the central marketplace, and the CYCLUS ecosystem is full of pre-built *archetypal* facilities which users can import into a model to simulate a variety of fuel cycle scenarios. CYCLUS is designed to be flexible and extensible, allowing users to create custom

facilities and commodities to model specific scenarios. The framework also includes a variety of tools for analyzing and visualizing simulation results, making it a powerful tool for researchers and policymakers in the nuclear energy field. Many traditional nuclear fuel cycle facilities have archetypes in CYCAMORE [3], which is maintained by the CYCLUS developers and users.

## PYRE

The standard Separations CYCAMORE archetype has a user defined efficiency and material streams, but provides little insight into the operations in the reprocessing facility. PyRe allows users to parameterize sub-processes to keep track of material balance, isotopic buildup, power draw, and other observable values that can be used to detect material diversions [4].

PyRe is a CYCLUS archetype developed by Gregory Westphal that tracks material carefully through the CYCLUS Separations archetype. PyRe was made to follow the flow of nuclear material through reprocessing facilities, and to work with data that the IAEA collects so that diversion detection can be more accurately modeled. The PRIDE facility in Korea was modeled to demonstrate PyRe's material diversion detection capabilities. Detector efficiency at each step is a useful marker of accuracy, and the data gathered with PyRe can be used to help place detectors in optimal locations to more swiftly detect proliferation risks [5].

## PURPOSE

Recently, the CYCLUS framework was updated, and the PyRe archetype is no longer functional. The purpose of this work is to update the archetype so that it can be used in CYCLUS simulations for future work. To show that the PyRe archetype has been accurately updated, the simulations will be replicated to evaluate the results generated in PyRe's introduction and extend the archetype for future work.

## REFERENCES

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