

①  $T = 650 \text{ K}$      $t = 300 \text{ days}$      $\delta = 300 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$

②

$$t^* = 6.62 \times 10^{-7} \exp\left(\frac{11949}{650}\right) = 63.8 \text{ days} \quad \checkmark$$

$t > t^*$  we are in the <sup>linear</sup> oxidation rate

$$\delta^* = 5.1 \exp\left(\frac{-550}{T}\right) = 2.19 \text{ }\mu\text{m} \quad \checkmark$$

↳ critical thickness of the transition

linear oxidation rate

$$K_L = 7.48 \times 10^6 \exp\left(\frac{-12500}{T}\right) = 0.033 \frac{\text{mm}}{\text{d}} \quad \checkmark$$

oxidation thickness

$$\delta = \delta^* + K_L (t - t^*) \quad \checkmark$$

$$= 2.19 + 0.033 (300 - 63.8)$$

$$= \boxed{9.9246 \text{ }\mu\text{m}} \quad \checkmark$$

③

$$C_H = \frac{2 \times f \times f_{\text{oxid}} \times f_{\text{ZrO}_2}^0 \times \frac{M_H}{M_O} \times 10^6}{\left(t - \frac{\delta}{\text{PBR}}\right) \times f_{\text{Zr}}} \quad \checkmark$$

$$= \boxed{10.36 \text{ wt-ppm}} \quad \checkmark$$

$$f_{\text{ZrO}_2}^0 = \frac{2 \times 16}{91 + 32} = 0.26 \quad \checkmark$$

$$f = 0.18 \quad \checkmark$$

$$f_{\text{oxid}} = 5.68 \text{ glcc} \quad \checkmark$$

$$f_{\text{Zr}} = 6.5 \text{ glcc}$$

$$\frac{M_H}{M_O} = \frac{1}{16} \quad \checkmark$$

$$t = 300 \text{ }\mu\text{m} \quad \checkmark$$

$$\text{PBR} = 1.56 \quad \checkmark$$

→ need to add initial hydrogen

off by factor  
of 10

②

$$s = .005 \text{ cm} = .0005 \text{ dm} = 50 \mu\text{m}$$

$$\text{Area} = 2.5 \times 2.5 \text{ cm}^2 = .25 \times .25 = .0625 \text{ dm}^2$$

$$S = \frac{w}{14.7} \quad \checkmark$$

$$.005 \text{ cm} = 50 \mu\text{m}$$

$$\therefore w = 735 \text{ mg/dm}^2 \quad \checkmark$$

$$m_2 - m_1 = w \cdot \text{Area} = 735 \times .0625 \quad \checkmark$$

$$= \boxed{45.94 \text{ mg}}$$

### ③ metallic fuel redistribution

Zr diffuses via solute diffusion up the temperature gradient and also possesses different solubilities in each U phase.

4/6 which leads to different content of Zr in radial rings.

Ⓐ gamma phase → high Zr content.

Ⓑ beta phase → low Zr content

Ⓒ  $\delta/\alpha$  phase → as fabricated Zr content

and each phase has different elastic and thermal properties.

④ material → plutonium + uranium, highly irradiation tolerant  
→ clad is steel

8/8

→ Operates at higher linear heat generation rate  
twice higher than LHR in LWR

→ Smaller diameter than LWR fuels

→ with stands higher damage, higher mechanical stability  
environmental

→ Sodium is coolant in SFRS

→ higher neutron flux.

→  $T_{\text{center line}}$  reaches  $2000^{\circ}\text{C}$  higher than  
thermal LHR

Pu bearing display 4 regions of a restricted pellet

- central void

- columnar grain growth region

- equiaxed grain growth region

- as-sintered region

## - Chemically

- O/M ratio. in the range of 1.95 - 2 ✓  
oxygen redistributed radially - migrating down the thermal gradient
- O/M become very low at Hot areas ✓
- O potential increases until Mo start to oxide leaving metallic inclusions  
- near the periphery → depleted Pu } irradiated MOX  
- in the central area → enriched Pu } ✓
- Achieve very high burn up and the most common fission element precipitates Mo, Ru, Tc, Rh, Pd ✓
- Formation of JOG happens in MOX due to the migration of the fission products to the cold region of the pellet ✓  
and then accumulate between the fuel and the cladding
- all correct, probably provided more info than necessary

8/8 ⑤ ① The central void forms due to the accumulation of voids and pores existing in the fuel along a thermal gradient. ✓

② The columnar grain

- The pores filled with gas and has higher temperature gradient fuel evaporating from hot face and condense on the cold face ✓

which induces an inverse displacement of the lenticular pores

that climb the thermal gradient to the center of the pellet ✓

This transition destroy the initial fuel in elongated columnar grain and this happens at  $T_{\text{evapor}} \sim 1800^\circ\text{C}$  ✓

③ - Below  $T = 1800^\circ\text{C}$  equiaxed region

have grains undergo significant growth ✓

- At the periphery of the fuel pellet  $T$  are low to limit grain growth so the microstructure doesn't undergo rapid changes. ✓

④ as - Fabricated

initial O/M is 1.93 - 2.00 ✓

the oxygen is redistributed radially migrating down and bringing the composition <sup>close</sup> to stoichiometry near the periphery

## ⑥ RIA

Large rapid insertion of reactivity caused by inadvertent ejection.  
(PWR) or drop (BWR) of control rod ✓

8/8

### effects

lead to fast rise in fuel power ✓ and T, lead to failure of fuel rods and release ✓ radioactive material into fuel or coolant which cause rapid steam generation ✓ and pressure pulses ✓ damage in the core if this hot fuel released into the water.

## ⑦ in LOCA

the coolant flow is reduced or lost ✓ (like pipe break)  
when this happens (pressure drops, and the Emergency shutdown system is engaged) ✓, ECCS removes the heat

7/8

### At LOCA

cladding plastically deform due to ✓ decrease of system pressure outside the fuel and decrease in cladding strength ✓  
Zr alloy  $\rightarrow$  transforms from  $\alpha$  to  $\alpha + \beta \rightarrow T > 800^\circ\text{C}$   
and to  $\beta \quad T > 1000^\circ\text{C}$  ✓  
creep strength of Zr falls.

• oxidation is key here also



⑧

① pellet clad mechanical interaction ✓

4/4

② cladding elongation and assembly bow. ✓

① equality of water, including minimizing oxygen ✓  
to reduce electrochemical corrosion potential and oxygen  
and to control pH ✓  
to control corrosion

8/8

H serves as getter for O

water chemistry is the component of water O, H  
and controlling them.

⑩ pressure build up ✓

9/8 fission liberate oxygen which binds the carbon  
layer buffer and form CO ✓

irradiation growth ✓

fuel kernel swell as a function of time and  
buffer will shrink ✓

pyc layers will initially shrink under irradiation. ✓

(11)

#11  $\frac{0}{10}$

#12  $\frac{0}{4}$

(13)

$< 1$  oxidation is thin ✓ and will be broken

$\frac{1}{4}$   $> 2$  oxidation chips off ✓ and not protective

$1 < PRR < 2$  oxidation is passivating and provides  
a protecting effect against further substance ✓

$$PRR = \frac{\text{Volume per unit of metal oxide} \quad \checkmark}{\text{Volume per unit of metal} \quad \checkmark}$$