

I.  $T = 625 \text{ K}$ ,  $t = 400 \text{ days}$ ,  $f_0 = 500 \mu\text{m}$

80

(a).  $f(\mu\text{m}) = f^* + k_L(t - t^*)$

where  $f^* = 5.1 \exp(-550/625) = 2.115 [\mu\text{m}]$  ✓

$k_L = 7.48 \exp(-12500/625) = 0.01542 [\mu\text{m/day}]$  ✓

$t^* = 6.62 \times 10^{-7} \cdot \exp(11949/625) = 113.007 [\text{day}] \approx 113 \text{ day}$

$f = 2.115 [\mu\text{m}] + 0.01542 [\mu\text{m/day}] \cdot (400 - 113)$   
 $= \underline{\underline{6.5405 [\mu\text{m}]}}$  ✓

(b).  $f_H = 0.18$ ,  $PBR = 1.56$ ,  $P_{Zr} = 6.5 \text{ g/cc}$ ,  $P_{ZrO_2} = 5.68 \text{ g/cc}$ ,  $t = 1 \text{ yr}$

$C_H = \frac{2f_H \check{f} \check{P}_{ZrO_2} \check{f}_{ZrO_2}^0 \frac{M_H}{M_0}}{(t - \frac{\check{f}}{PBR}) P_{Zr}} \times 10^6$

$\check{f}_{ZrO_2}^0 = \frac{32}{91+32} = 0.26$  ✓  $\geq 65 \text{ days}$   
 $\frac{M_H}{M_0} = \frac{1}{16}$  ✓

$(2f_H \check{f} \check{P}_{ZrO_2} \check{f}_{ZrO_2}^0 \frac{M_H}{M_0}) = 2 \cdot 0.18 \cdot 6.5405 \cdot 5.68 \cdot 0.26 \cdot \frac{1}{16}$   
 $= \underline{\underline{0.2173}}$

take this to find  $\delta$

$\delta =$  initial cladding thickness  
 $(t - \frac{\check{f}}{PBR}) = 365 - \frac{6.5405}{1.56} = \underline{\underline{360.807}}$

- right process

$C_H = \frac{0.2173}{360.807} \times 10^6 = \underline{\underline{602.26 [\text{wt ppm}]}}$

2. It is oxygen diffusion model, with following assumptions:

- ① Transport of O species is rate limiting
- 3/4 ② Transport of charged species by diffusion only
- ③ Homogeneous oxide layer
- ④ No source/sinks of ions in oxide - through the oxide layer
- ⑤ All oxygen is used to create oxide
- ⑥ No loss of oxide.

3.  $PBR = \frac{V_{oxide}}{V_{metal}}$ , The ratio of the volume per unit of the metal oxide to the volume per unit of the corresponding metal.

4/4  $PBR < 1$ : Thin oxide layer. ✓

$1 < PBR < 2$ : Oxide layer approximately swell (Passivation)

$PBR > 2$ : Too much swell.

4. Hydride occurs at crack tips. - hydride rim is main type of hydride  
Hydrogen moves from bulk material to crack tips. Due to high stress on the crack tip, ✓ Hydrogen potential on the tip becomes lower.

8/14 Hydrogen moves to the tip due to the potential difference. and they are precipitated on the tip.

Hydride effect: loss of ductility, (embrittlement) ✓

5.  $\left( \rho = \frac{R-1}{R} \right)$  ← Reactivity, RIA describes the situations where reactivity suddenly change.

10/14 RIA in PWR: Reactivity increases a lot, because of insertion or ejection of control rod. ✓

RIA in BWR: Reactivity increases a lot, because of the separation of control rod blade from its drive mechanism. ✓

RIA leads to a fast rise in fuel power & temperature ✓ - needed more here

→ Fuel failure (Radiated material leaks to the coolant)

→ Rapid steam generation → Damage reactor coolant pressure boundary → damage fuel.

6. Loss of Coolant accident (LOCA): It is one of the design basis for the reactor, define safety limits for its operations. ✓

LOCA happens due to the loss of coolant. ✓

12/14 steps: ①. loss of coolant (coolant pressure decreases) ✓

②. Inner pressure of fuel increases ✓

③. Cladding balloon out and potentially burst. ✓

In high temperature, ✓ creep strength of Zr is reduced  
→ Plastic deformation → Rupture → Ballooning ✓ block coolant flow.

LOCA's time scale is different with RIA (LOCA is longer (min))  
- still needed more

7. Burnup makes material having less ductility. (Corrosion, ✓ hydrogen embrittlement, irradiation ✓ hardening). High burnup increases  
5/5 the possibility of failure. ✓

8. Acquire coping time: The time required for the water to bail away, the fuel to melt, the molten fuel to breach the primary pressure boundary.

4/8 • It operates more time with loss of active cooling

• It operates without lower performance in normal

• Lifetime of fuel is improved. Improve safety margin

- didn't quite get there...

- good conceptual thinking



9. Corrosion happen on the Zr with high temp steam.

- 4/6
- In high temp, oxygen increases a lot ✓
  - heat cannot be distributed due to the high oxygen ✓
  - Breakaway oxygen results in increased hydrogen pickup ✓
  - Embrittle the cladding ✓
- needed more

10. ① Pallet Cladding mechanical interaction (PCMI) ✓

→ Maximum Risk for failure. Pallet fragment causes shear stress to the cladding. (Limit the hoop stress)

② Cladding elongation and assembly bow ✓

→

③ Cladding oxydation & hydrogen pickup ✓

④ Cladding wear ✓

⑤ Power to melt ✓

11. on the cladding surface, Ni, Fe and Co are precipitated. So CRUD happens.

4/6

process ⇒ It prevents heat transfer ✓ and lower the performance of fuel. ✓  
(local over heating) → Burst of cladding → prevent coolant movement.  
→ Radiation field increases - Sfty? activation of CRUD

12. In BWR: Intergranular SCC is the key Chemistry.

② Control issue - ① Injection hydrogen → ✓  
Control electro chemical potential ✓ ② Control ISCC

4/6 In PWR: ① A hydrogen overpressure on primary system ✓  
→ Corrosion Control & Increasing PH → ✓

Injection  $Zn^{+2}$  → eject  $60Co$  from CRUD ✓ Corrosion Control