Thesis Project Progress Report

Development of an Improved Subgroup Method for Resonance Calculations

Guillermo Ibarra

Supervised by: Dr Gustavo Alonso Vargas

Nuclear Engineering Research Seminar, May 19th, 2020

General Objective

Develop a lattice code for high fidelity analysis.

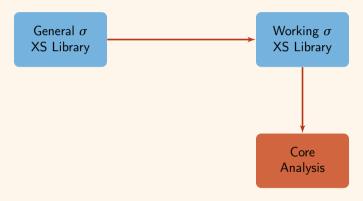
Legacy Nuclear Reactor Analysis Procedure

General σ XS Library

Legacy Nuclear Reactor Analysis Procedure



Legacy Nuclear Reactor Analysis Procedure



Develop a resonance calculation methodology capable of considering:

► Spatial self-shiedling effects,

Develop a resonance calculation methodology capable of considering:

- ► Spatial self-shiedling effects,
- Resonance interference,

Develop a resonance calculation methodology capable of considering:

- Spatial self-shiedling effects,
- Resonance interference,
- Non-uniform temperature effects, and

Develop a resonance calculation methodology capable of considering:

- ► Spatial self-shiedling effects,
- ► Resonance interference,
- Non-uniform temperature effects, and
- Self-shielding effects of cladding isotopes.

Research Questions

▶ Is the Subgroup method the *best* resonance calculation methodology?

Research Questions

- ▶ Is the Subgroup method the *best* resonance calculation methodology?
- ► How much *accuracy* is required?

Research Questions

- ▶ Is the Subgroup method the *best* resonance calculation methodology?
- ► How much *accuracy* is required?
- ▶ What is the trade off between computational resources and accuracy?

Gemma neutron transport code:

▶ 2D method of characteristics

Gemma neutron transport code:

- 2D method of characteristics
- Potential improvements: CMFD, linear source approximation, hardware acceleration, random ray tracing

Gemma neutron transport code:

- 2D method of characteristics
- Potential improvements: CMFD, linear source approximation, hardware acceleration, random ray tracing

Gemma neutron transport code:

- ▶ 2D method of characteristics
- Potential improvements: CMFD, linear source approximation, hardware acceleration, random ray tracing

Proposed work outline:

1. Incorporate a workhorse equivalence method (ie WIMS)

Gemma neutron transport code:

- ► 2D method of characteristics
- Potential improvements: CMFD, linear source approximation, hardware acceleration, random ray tracing

Proposed work outline:

- 1. Incorporate a workhorse equivalence method (ie WIMS)
- 2. More exact equivalence method, pointwise energy slowing down (Choi et al 2017)

Gemma neutron transport code:

- ► 2D method of characteristics
- Potential improvements: CMFD, linear source approximation, hardware acceleration, random ray tracing

Proposed work outline:

- 1. Incorporate a workhorse equivalence method (ie WIMS)
- 2. More exact equivalence method, pointwise energy slowing down (Choi et al 2017)
- 3. Incorporation of a basic subgroup method then add improvements

Spring 2020 Semester Overview

1. Literary review and planning process.

Spring 2020 Semester Overview

- 1. Literary review and planning process.
- 2. Gemma conditioning.

Gemma Conditioning

1. Re-code in a *TDD* style.

Gemma Conditioning

- 1. Re-code in a *TDD* style.
- 2. Code Documentation

More Specific Plans for Fall 2020

1. Module to read from a general σ cross section library

More Specific Plans for Fall 2020

- 1. Module to read from a general σ cross section library
- 2. Equivalence theory resonance calculation module.

 ${\bf 1}.$ Based on IR approximation and equivalence theory.

- 1. Based on IR approximation and equivalence theory.
- 2. Resonance integrals are tabulated as a function of temperatura and σ_0

- 1. Based on IR approximation and equivalence theory.
- 2. Resonance integrals are tabulated as a function of temperatura and σ_0
- 3. Heterogeneous media are a function of escape probability.

 ${\bf 1}.$ Based on IR approximation and equivalence theory.

- 1. Based on IR approximation and equivalence theory.
- 2. Resonance integrals are tabulated as a function of temperatura and σ_0

- 1. Based on IR approximation and equivalence theory.
- 2. Resonance integrals are tabulated as a function of temperatura and σ_0
- 3. Heterogeneous media are a function of escape probability.

- 1. Based on IR approximation and equivalence theory.
- 2. Resonance integrals are tabulated as a function of temperatura and σ_0
- 3. Heterogeneous media are a function of escape probability.

- 1. Based on IR approximation and equivalence theory.
- 2. Resonance integrals are tabulated as a function of temperatura and σ_0
- 3. Heterogeneous media are a function of escape probability.

$$\sigma_x(T,\sigma_b) \approx \frac{I_x(T,\sigma_b)}{1 - \frac{I_a(T,\sigma_b)}{\sigma_b}}$$
 (1)

Looking Ahead to PhD Pre-Defense

Work within ~ 18 months and code review article:

1. Equivalence IR approximation,

Looking Ahead to PhD Pre-Defense

Work within ~ 18 months and code review article:

- 1. Equivalence IR approximation,
- 2. More accurate Equivalence theory,

Looking Ahead to PhD Pre-Defense

Work within ~ 18 months and code review article:

- 1. Equivalence IR approximation,
- 2. More accurate Equivalence theory,
- 3. Basic subgroup resonance methodology

Thanks!

Questions?