List of student internships offered by new*cleo*

–academic year–

2023–2024

October 27, 2023

Preface

This document contains the internship offers supported by *new*cleo for students enrolled in the academic year 2023/2024. Each offer contains the specifications and modalities for applications and execution of the internship work. The content of this document is licensed and distributed according to Creative Commons CC-BY-NC-SA, Attribution Noncommercial Share Alike.

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List of Internships

Study of coolant heating in LFR

Daniele Tomatis*

new*cleo SrL, Via Galliano 27, 10129 Torino, Italy*

October 25, 2023

– *Internship proposal* –
(ID No. 1000484)

***Keywords* —** LFR, coolant heating, neutron-photon transport, data correlation
***Topics* —** Physical modelling, Monte Carlo calculations, statistical inference

Location	*new*cleo SrL, Via Galliano 27, 10129 Torino, Italy
Starting date	As soon as possible
Duration	4–5 months

Context

Coupled neutronics and thermal-hydraulic calculations are needed for the design and safety studies of a nuclear reactor. These calculations need proper laws and correlations for thermo-physical properties and other data at input. A new physical correlation for coolant heating is necessary for the next LFR units designed by *new*cleo. This internship work is about performing coupled neutron-photon calculations by the computer code OpenMC of several representative physical configurations of LFR fuel assemblies, in order to obtain a set of data for the derivation of a valid correlation predicting coolant heating in molten lead.

Description

This internship focuses on energy deposition in molten lead that constitutes the coolant of LFR units (pool-type reactors) [1]. A portion of the energy released from fission is not deposited in the fuel because of the transport of neutral particles, namely neutrons and photons, leaking out of the pellet where they originated by fission [2]. These particles can collide with the surrounding media (cladding, structure and coolant) transferring energy at every collision. Actually, the amount of energy deposited in the coolant is only a small fraction, but it is required for the setup

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of realistic thermal-hydraulics calculations of the sub-channels in the fuel assemblies. For instance, such fraction is about 3% in PWR (thermal reactors) [3]. For LFR, coolant heating must still be studied, with lead showing a different behavior under radiation than water.

Coupled neutron-photon calculations performed by Monte Carlo computer codes can provide reliable estimates of the coolant heating by radiation, with the possibility to use corrections accounting also for the contribution of delayed emissions from fission. In addition, heating shall consider also alpha and beta decays of radioactive nuclides arising at exposure. After studying first fresh fuel at different physical conditions, a methodology to investigate burnup effects along exposure will be addressed. The results will be analyzed to find a statistical correlation capable to provide reliable predictions of the energy deposited in the molten lead.

During this internship, the student will be introduced to LFR reactor physics and engineering, with particular attention to Monte Carlo methods and neutronics. The student will develop advanced skills as user of the Monte Carlo computer code OpenMC. The preparation of a technical report with a complete analysis of the results is requested at the end of the internship.

Work plan

1. Literature review and study of the main physical phenomena
2. Problem discussion and definition
3. Setup of OpenMC calculations
4. Validation of the approach by comparisons on existing LWR and FR problems
5. Analysis of results to obtain a physical correlation for the coolant heating
6. Preparation of the final report

Applicant profile

Master or PhD student in Nuclear Engineering. Students in theoretical Physics and applied Mathematics will also be considered for the position.
Background: *fundamentals in reactor physics and Monte Carlo methods*.
Required computer skills: Python programming, linux, LaTeX editing.

References

[1] Pierdomenico Lorusso, Serena Bassini, Alessandro Del Nevo, Ivan Di Piazza, Fabio Giannetti, Mariano Tarantino, and Marco Utili. GEN-IV LFR development: status & perspectives. *Progress in Nuclear Energy*, 105:318–331, 2018.

[2] Dan Gabriel Cacuci. *Handbook of Nuclear Engineering*. Springer Science & Business Media, 2010.

[3] Shai Kinast and Daniele Tomatis. Energy deposition in coolant of PWR under normal operation and accident conditions. *Nuclear Engineering and Design*, 384:111479, 2021.

Thermal power calculation of a closed channel of LFR

Daniele Tomatis*

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October 25, 2023

– *Internship proposal* –
(ID No. 1000393)

***Keywords* —** LFR, simplified closed channel model, multi-physics coupling
***Topics* —** Physical modelling, coupled neutronics and thermal-hydraulics, nonlinear eigenvalue problem

Location	*new*cleo SrL, Via Galliano 27, 10129 Torino, Italy
Starting date	As soon as possible
Duration	5–6 months

Context

*new*cleo is designing new LFR units for which many calculations coupling neutronics and thermal-hydraulics are needed to verify the expected performances and safety requirements. This internship work is about applying a new solution method for the coupled problem that reproduces the physical behavior of a representative sub-channel in the fuel assembly. The main goal of this new method is providing fast estimates to support preliminary studies, or providing better initialization for more advanced computer codes in order to reduce the total computational runtime when looking for high-definition numerical solutions.

Description

This internship studies the multi-physics coupling between neutronics, heat transfer and thermal-hydraulics occurring inside the fundamental element of a nuclear reactor designed on a lattice of fuel pins. This element is also called sub-channel. The coupling must reproduce the thermal feedback on the neutron reactivity of the system due to changes in the fuel temperature, in the thermo-dynamical properties of the coolant and/or in possible changes of the lattice geometry. In particular, neutrons interacting with the nuclear fuel release the thermal energy, which is computed by a neutron model derived from the Boltzmann equation. The energy transferred

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to the coolant is accounted in the conservation equations of the fluid, which is assumed as incompressible as first approximation; this approximation is often valid when liquid metals are used to cool the reactor. This work is limited to steady state conditions at normal operation and to operation under self-sustained chain reaction with fast neutron spectrum.

In general, the coupled problem is solved numerically through successive calls to different computer codes, which are solving separately the physics under coupling (Picard iterations). Specifically, the partial solution from a given solver is used to linearize the other problems solved by the other codes, and the convergence on all output quantities is sought iteratively. Other techniques using the gradient-like methods have been proposed in literature to achieve the solution with fewer calls to the separate codes. However, the existing methods can incur into the problem of false convergence, and they demand remarkable computational resources. Recently, a new method suggested to reformulate the problem by combining the coupled equations in a new form, in order to cope with these disadvantages [1]. This method was applied in the simple case of PWR sub-channel under the assumption of incompressible fluid. The goal of the current internship is to apply this technique to the typical sub-channel of a lead-cooled fast reactor, where the fluid incompressibility is a valid assumption.

During this internship, the student will be introduced to the reactor physics fundamentals, contributing actively to research with mathematical methods' development, scientific programming and technical editing of documents.

Work plan

1. Literature review and retrieval of the existing work
2. Problem discussion and definition
3. Generation of nuclear data at different physical conditions by OpenMC
4. Implementation and verification of the numerical solution
5. Analysis of results
6. Preparation of the final report

Applicant profile

Master or PhD student in Nuclear, Mechanical or Aeronautical Engineering. Students in theoretical Physics and applied Mathematics will also be considered for the position.
Background: *fundamentals in thermal-hydraulics and heat transfer, reactor physics*.
Required computer skills: Python programming, linux, LaTeX scientific editing.

References

[1] Daniele Tomatis. Reformulation of the coupled problem for the simplified closed channel. *Annals of Nuclear Energy*, 130:377–387, 2019.

[2] N. E. Todreas and M. S. Kazimi. *Nuclear systems Volume I: Thermal hydraulic fundamentals*. CRC press, 2021.

[3] N. E. Todreas, M. S. Kazimi, and M. Massoud. *Nuclear systems Volume II: Elements of thermal hydraulic design*. CRC press, 2021.

[4] Alain Hébert. *Applied reactor physics*. Presses inter Polytechnique, 2009.

Modelling of the DHR heat exchanger using the computer code AC^2-ATHLET

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October 25, 2023

– Internship proposal –
(ID No. 1001150)

***Keywords* —** Bayonet tube, LFR, DHR, flow boiling, ATHLET
***Topics* —** Physical modelling, two-phase thermal-hydraulics, system code modeling

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Location	*new*cleo SrL, Via Galliano 27, 10129 Torino, Italy
Starting date	As soon as possible
Duration	5–6 months

Context

*new*cleo has planned an experimental campaign with external partners in order to optimize the design of components for lead-cooled fast reactors. In this framework, the use of thermal-hydraulic system codes is very important to reproduce the physical behavior during transients, and so to make decisions in design studies. New heat exchangers of the bayonet-shell type for the Decay Heat Removal system [3] are currently under development as passive components to remove the residual heat and to cool down the molten lead after shutdown. These heat exchangers will be installed in the reactor pool, being fed with water as secondary fluid that falls by gravity from a tank placed on top of the pool.

An experimental program is starting in the second half of 2023 at the thermal-hydraulic laboratory of the Energy Department of the Politecnico di Torino, Italy, with the goal of testing the mechanical and thermal-hydraulic performances of the prototypes for DHR heat exchangers. The current internship is proposed to students attending the last year of the Master program in Nuclear Engineering with particular interest in thermal-hydraulics. This internship work is in support of the experimental activities, and could possibly continue with a PhD program.

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Description

The components under study are heat exchangers made up of coaxial tubes immersed in the liquid lead pool [1]. During transients, subcooled water enters the inner tube and flows downwards. Then, it enters the outer tube where it is heated up by the surrounding lead, eventually leaving the system as superheated steam. The liquid lead is not in direct contact with the outer tube because they are separated by a helium-filled gap flowing in a surrounding gap between the component walls. The full technical details will be provided during the internship, after acceptance of the candidate.

The internship work will focus on the transient simulations of the two-phases boiling heat transfer occurring inside the component, by using the code AC^2-ATHLET 3.3 [2]. A complete literature review is required to find the most appropriate physical correlations to characterize the flow and heat transfer in the channels. These correlations will be compared with those available in the code, and if appropriate, used for the simulations by ATHLET using plugin functions. The setup of the calculations will make use of specific ATHLET's tools for processing input and output data. The student is expected to write a technical report at the end of the internship to describe the work done and to compile the analysis of the numerical results.

Work plan

During this internship, the student will be introduced to the system code AC_2-ATHLET for the modeling and design of thermal-hydraulics components and loops in steady state and transient conditions.

The student will develop the knowledge required for the description of hydraulic systems by means of control volumes and ATHLET's own specific fluid and solid objects. The acquired skills will be used to characterize and study an element of the Decay Heat Removal system.

The expected working plan is detailed in the following:

a) Literature review of the phenomena occurring in the bayonet-tube DHR
b) Discussion of the problem
c) ATHLET introduction and training
d) DHR modeling
e) Setup of the calculations
f) Analysis of results by taking advantage of ATHLET tools
g) Preparation of a technical report

Applicant profile

Master student in Nuclear, Mechanical or Aeronautical Engineering; Applied Mathematics and Physics.
Background: *Fundamentals in thermal-hydraulics and heat transfer, multiphase flow.*
Computer skills: Linux, bash, LaTeX, Python.

References

[1] D. Rozzia, A. Toti, M. Tarantino, L. Gramiccia, D. Vitale Di Maio, and F. Giannetti. Doublewall bayonet tube steam generator for LFR application - preliminary characterization. *Technical Report NNFISS-LP3-032*, ENEA Ricerca Sistema Elettrico, 2011.

[2] A. Schaffrath, M. Sonnenkalb, and A. Wielenberg. Grs code system AC2. *Kerntechnik*, 84(5):356-356, 2019.

[3] N. E. Todreas and M. S. Kazimi. *Nuclear systems Volume I: Thermal hydraulic fundamentals*. CRC press, 2021.

Development of a Python package with thermal-hydraulic correlations for LMFR – lmth23

Daniele Tomatis[*] and Daniele Panico

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October 25, 2023

– *Internship proposal* –
(ID No. 1000378)

***Keywords* —** LMFR, physical correlations, heat exchange, friction factor, fuel bundles, Python
***Topics* —** Heat transfer, thermal-hydraulics, frictional pressure loss, python programming

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Location	*new*cleo SrL, Via Galliano 27, 10129 Torino, Italy
Starting date	First or second quarter of 2024
Duration	4–5 months

Context

*new*cleo is preparing a large experimental campaign of thermal-hydraulic experiments to support the design activities for new LFR units. A compilation of the available empirical correlations from literature in a single and comprehensive library is currently on-going to characterize heat transfer and thermal-hydraulic phenomena with liquid metals. This library will also collect the results from the future experiments. This internship position focuses on the literature review about the existing correlations and supports the development of this library.

Description

Several empirical correlations are available in literature to describe heat transfer, thermal-hydraulics and pressure drop phenomena occurring in presence of liquid metals, which are used as coolant for nuclear fast reactors. Every physical correlation comes with its validity range given in terms of dimensionless numbers, flow conditions, and for particular geometrical configurations. The use of a correlation outside the validity range does not guarantee accurate predictions of the quantity of interest. So a careful check about the correlation's appropriateness must be done before use.

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Some correlations yield directly dimensionless numbers, expressing the importance of a given phenomenon with respect to other competing ones, like in the case of the Nusselt number that measures the ratio between heat transfer by convection and heat transfer by conduction alone. Indeed, heat transfer and pressure drop correlations (Darcy factor for instance) are fundamental for the design of heat exchangers, which constitutes a large part of the forthcoming experimental program planned by *new*cleo.

Unfortunately, it is difficult to find a comprehensive and compact tool to make such correlations readily available for engineers when designing LFR components. For this reason, *new*cleo is implementing a Python package as unique and standardized entry point for evaluating all the empirical correlations needed for general LMFR applications. Moreover, this package will be used to support the next experimental campaign, including possible implementation of the new correlations arising from it.

During this internship the student will participate to the development of the Python package lmth23 (Liquid-Metal Thermal-Hydraulics).

In particular, the correlations for the friction factor and for the Nusselt number in LMFR fuel bundles and once-through heat exchangers with cross-flow will be considered. A wide list of correlations for the friction factor can be found in [1]. Instead, correlations for the Nusselt number are given in [2]. The first release of the package will provide the desired quantity given the characteristic geometric parameters and coolant velocity at input to calculate the Reynolds number appropriately. In addition to reviewing and implementing the physical correlations, the student will focus on implementation techniques and high quality standards for code development. This will make the package easier to maintain and extend in the future, serving both uses in industry and research. Therefore, the student will develop/consolidate skills in the following aspects of software engineering in Python:

- Object-Oriented programming based on SOLID principles;
- Python Dynamic programming;
- design patterns (template and factory patterns in particular);
- CI/CD pipelines (including regression tests);
- write well-documented code for scientific applications.

The internship will be supervised by an engineer from R&D team of *new*cleo.

Work plan

1) Literature review and identification of the main correlations to implement
2) Code architecture design
3) Code implementation
4) Definition and implementation of tests
5) Preparation of a technical report

Applicant profile

Master student in Nuclear, Mechanical or Aerospace Engineering; Applied Physics; Informatics and Computational Sciences.

Skills:

- Fundamentals in thermal-hydraulics and heat transfer
- Basic knowledge of software programming (previous experience in Python is very appreciated)
- Basic knowledge of Linux operative system

Nice to have: experience using git, basic knowledge on liquid metal-cooled fast reactors.

References

[1] S.K. Chen, N.E. Todreas, and N.T. Nguyen. Evaluation of existing correlations for the prediction of pressure drop in wire-wrapped hexagonal array pin bundles. *Nuclear Engineering and Design*, 267:109–131, 2014.

[2] Konstantin Mikityuk. Heat transfer to liquid metal: Review of data and correlations for tube bundles. *Nuclear Engineering and Design*, 239(4):680–687, 2009.

[3] Giridhar Chetan. *Learning Python Design Patterns*. Packt Publishing, Birmingham - Mumbai, 2 edition, 2016.

[4] Mariano Anaya. *Clean Code in Python: Refactor your legacy code base*. Packt Publishing, Birmingham, 2018.

[5] Lutz Mark. *Learning Python: Powerful Object-Oriented Programming*. O'Reilly Media, Sebatopol, USA, 5 edition, 2013.

Assessment of neutronic data for the calculation of LFR fuel rods by TRANSURANUS

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October 25, 2023

– *Internship proposal* –
(ID No. 1000360)

***Keywords* —** LFR, TRANSURANUS, Monte Carlo
***Topics* —** Physical modelling, neutronics, fuel performance and thermo-mechanical codes

Location	*new*cleo SrL, Via Galliano 27, 10129 Torino, Italy
Starting date	As soon as possible
Duration	3–4 months

Context

*new*cleo is designing new Lead-cooled Fast Reactor (LFR) units for small and modular reactors using MOx fuel. At *new*cleo, fuel performance analysis is performed by the thermo-mechanical computer code TRANSURANUS (TU) distributed by the Joint Research Center of the European Commission based in Karlsruhe, Germany. *new*cleo has started a careful review of the code in order to ensure its suitability and fitness for the applications with LFR fuel rod types that are currently under design. Such work is also meant producing an upgraded version of the code to extend its range of applications, and in particular, to provide reliable predictions when modelling LFR fuel rods. The goal of this internship is to produce new neutronic data by Monte Carlo calculations that is needed for the TU calculations of LFR fuel rods.

Description

During this internship, the student will perform Monte Carlo calculations of LFR fuel rods by the computer code OpenMC to prepare neutronic data needed by the simplified burnup models implemented in TU. The data represent microscopic one-group reaction rates for the nuclides

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considered in the reduced decay chain of TU. The calculations are requested for both fresh and irradiated fuel, and at different exposure periods. The approach of data preparation will be validated against existing TU data used for LWR fuel types.

Among the target data, the student will have to find feasible and valid means to estimate the radial power distribution inside the hollow fuel pellets by fine tallies, still achieving narrow statistical uncertainty around the expected values in reasonable time. Approximation in the definition of the problem to match the expected critical conditions at operation will be necessary. The production of a technical report is expected at the end of the internship to describe the work done by the student and to compile the analysis of the results.

Work plan

1. Problem discussion and definition
2. Setup of calculations by OpenMC
3. Validation of the approach by comparisons with existing data
4. Analysis of results
5. Preparation of a technical report

Applicant profile

Master or PhD student in Nuclear Engineering. Students in theoretical Physics and applied Mathematics will also be considered for the position.
Background: *fundamentals in Monte Carlo methods for neutral particle transport*.
Required computer skills: Python programming, linux, FORTRAN and LaTeX scientific editing (optional).

References

[1] K Lassmann. TRANSURANUS: a fuel rod analysis code ready for use. *Journal of Nuclear Materials*, 188:295–302, 1992.

[2] K Lassmann and H Blank. Modelling of fuel rod behaviour and recent advances of the TRANSURANUS code. *Nuclear Engineering and design*, 106(3):291–313, 1988.

[3] Paul K Romano, Nicholas E Horelik, Bryan R Herman, Adam G Nelson, Benoit Forget, and Kord Smith. OpenMC: A state-of-the-art Monte Carlo code for research and development. *Annals of Nuclear Energy*, 82:90–97, 2015.

[4] Jerome Spanier and Ely M Gelbard. *Monte Carlo principles and neutron transport problems*. Dover Publications, Inc., Mineola, New York, 2008.

Modeling of once-through thermal channels with phase separation by centrifugal force

Daniele Tomatis*[1], Giuseppe Francesco Nallo[2], and Fabio Moretti[1]

[1] *newcleo, Via Galliano 27, 10129 Torino, Italy*
[2] *Politecnico di Torino, Dipartimento Energia, Corso Duca degli Abruzzi 24, 10127, Torino, Italy*

October 25, 2023

– *Internship proposal* –
(ID No. 1000073)

***Keywords* —** Bayonet tube, LFR, DHR, flow boiling
***Topics* —** Physical modelling, two-phase thermal-hydraulics, numerical mathematics

Location	*new*cleo SrL, Via Galliano 27, 10129 Torino, Italy
Starting date	As soon as possible
Duration	5–6 months

Context

*new*cleo has planned an experimental campaign with external partners in order to optimize the design of components for lead-cooled fast reactors. In this framework, mathematical models of the components are needed to reproduce accurately their physical behavior, with the aim of supporting design studies. This internship is proposed to students attending the last year of the Master program in Nuclear Engineering with particular interest in thermal-hydraulics and heat transfer. This internship work could possibly continue with a PhD program.

Description

During this internship, the student will develop a mathematical model of a once-through heat exchanger of bayonet type presenting innovative features capable of preventing possible unstable operation. Such exchangers are made of coaxial tubes, as schematically shown in Figure 1. Subcooled water enters from the top of the inner tube and flows downwards. After, it enters the outer tube, where it flows upwards while being heated by the surrounding lead, eventually leaving the system as superheated steam. The flow boiling occurs in helicoidal parallel channels

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within the outer tube, so that inertial phase separation is expected radially because of the centrifugal force. The outer tube constitutes an inert zone filled by helium to guarantee separation between water and lead. The physical model must describe the different flow boiling regimes encountered within the outer tube, accounting for the presence of inertial phase separation due to the centrifugal force. The full technical details will be provided during the internship, after acceptance of the candidate.

A complete literature review is requested to find the most appropriate physical correlations characterizing the flow and the heat transfer in the channels. The heat exchange between neighbouring channels can be neglected as first approximation (adiabatic assumption). The student will derive the conservation equations to describe the thermal-hydraulic model of the system, and check the validity of suitable closure relations and physical correlations used in the model. The development of a Python code solving the identified equations is requested, with the verification of the numerical solution on simplified case problems. Finally, preliminary investigations about the validation of the model are expected at the end of the internship, despite the complete validation against other computer codes is postponed for future work. At the end of the internship, the preparation of a technical report is expected to describe the work done by the student and to compile the analysis of the results.

This internship will be supervised by an engineer from *new*cleo and the academic staff at PoliTo. This study supports the preparation of an experimental facility whose construction is planned in 2024.

Work plan

1. Literature review and retrieval of the existing work
2. Discussion of the problem
3. Derivation of conservation equations in the channel (adiabatic conditions among channels)
4. Assessment of the physical correlations to characterize the flow and the heat transfer
5. Implementation and verification of the numerical solution
6. Analysis of results and proposal of validation plan
7. Model upgrade with intra-channel heat exchange (optional)
8. Preparation of a technical report

Applicant profile

Master or PhD student in Nuclear, Mechanical or Aeronautical Engineering.
Fundamentals in thermal-hydraulics and heat transfer, multiphase flow.
Required computer skills: Python programming, linux (optional).

References

[1] N. E. Todreas and M. S. Kazimi. *Nuclear systems Volume I: Thermal hydraulic fundamentals*. CRC press, 2021.

[2] N. E. Todreas, M. S. Kazimi, and M. Massoud. *Nuclear systems Volume II: Elements of thermal hydraulic design*. CRC press, 2021.

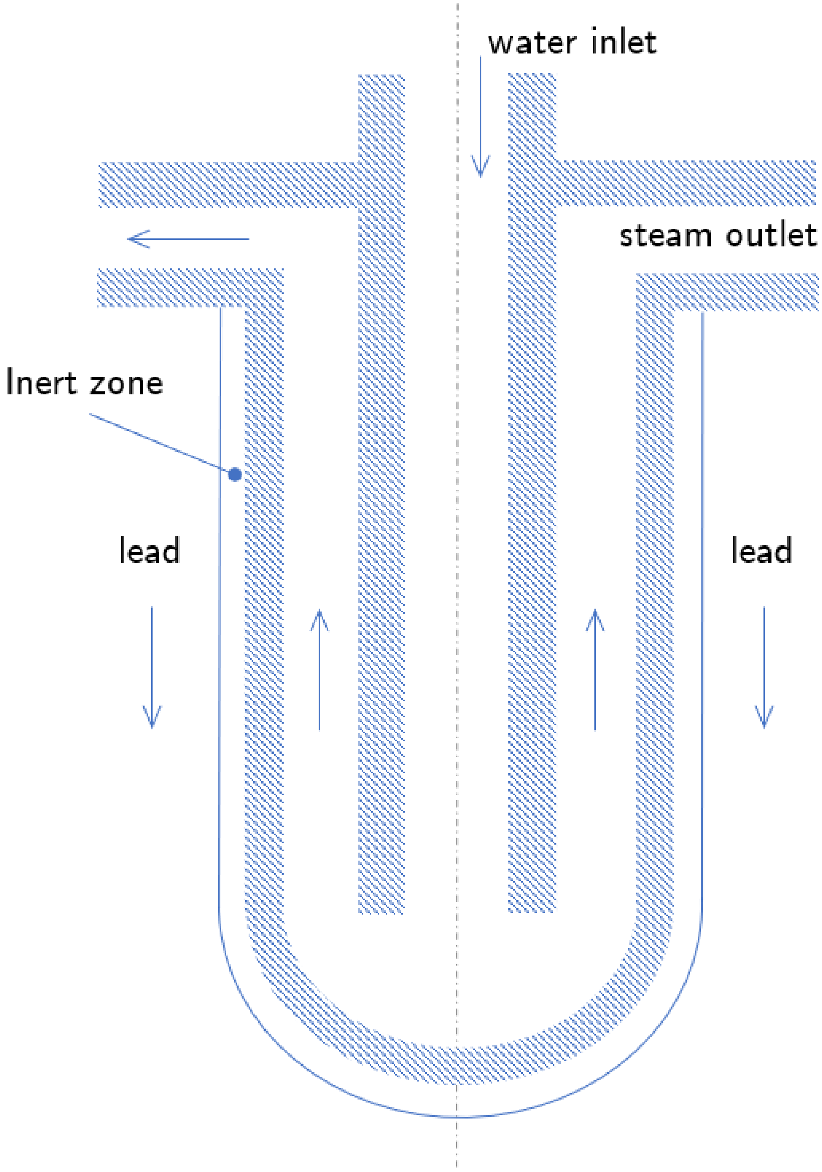

Figure 1: Schematic of a bayonet tube heat exchanger.

[3] A. Bersano, N. Falcone, C. Bertani, M. De Salve, and B. Panella. Conceptual design of a bayonet tube steam generator with heat transfer enhancement using a helical coiled downcomer. *Progress in Nuclear Energy*, 108:243–252, September 2018.

[4] D. Rozzia, A. Toti, M. Tarantino, L. Gramiccia, D. Vitale Di Maio, and F. Giannetti. Double-wall bayonet tube steam generator for LFR application – preliminary characterization. Technical Report NNFISS-LP3–032, ENEA Ricerca Sistema Elettrico, Italy, 2011.

Développement d'outils de calcul pour la thermohydraulique d'un RNR refroidi au plomb

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2 Octobre 2023

– *Internship proposal* –
(ID No. 1001624)

***Mots clés* —** LFR, thermohydraulique, couplage, CFD, système
***Sujets* —** Thermohydraulique, RNR, informatique

Lieu	*new*cleo SA, 9 Rue des Cuirassiers, 69003 Lyon 3e, France
Début	Février 2024
Durée	5-6 mois

Contexte

Au cœur de l'unité Plant Thermal-Hydraulics de *new*cleo, vous contribuez aux projets de R&D sur le concept de réacteur à neutrons rapides refroidi au plomb. Le couplage entre calculs CFD et thermohydraulique système permet d'améliorer la précision des simulations et de mieux contribuer la conception des installations et aux analyses de sûreté des réacteurs nucléaires.

Description

Le LFR-AS-30 de *new*cleo est un RNR refroidi au plomb de type piscine [1]. Les effets 3D ont une importance non négligeable dans ce type de réacteur, notamment dans le circuit primaire. Les simulations CFD permettent de mieux appréhender ce type de phénomène.

Le circuit secondaire est constitué de plusieurs boucles en eau-vapeur avec un cycle de Rankine. Les simulations à l'échelle système sont souvent utilisées pour rendre compte du fonctionnement de ces boucles. Pour améliorer la représentativité des simulations, des couplages CFD/système peuvent être mis en place ([2], [3]).

L'objectif de ce stage est de prendre en main les outils de calcul thermohydraulique utilisés à *new*cleo et de developper le couplage entre un code système et un code CFD.

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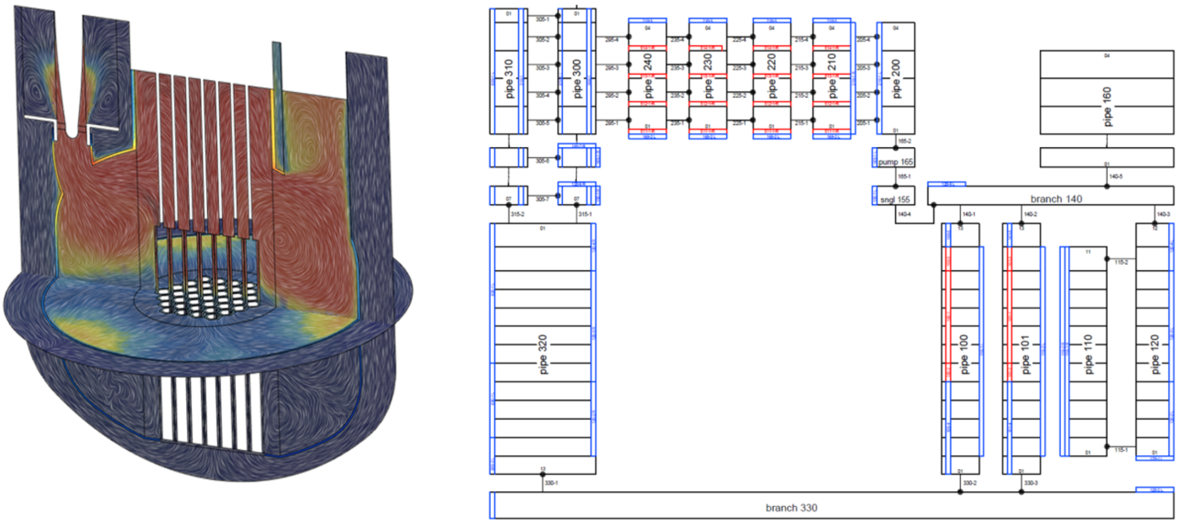

Figure 1: Modélisation CFD (gauche) et système (droite) d'un LFR.

Programme de travail

1. Bibliographie, état de l'art
2. Prise en main des outils de calcul
3. Réflexion et développement de l'architecture du couplage
4. Validation sur des cas concrets

Profil recherché

- Niveau requis : étudiant école d'ingénieur Bac+5 ou équivalent.
- Disciplines: Physique des réacteurs nucléaires, thermohydraulique, mécanique des fluides numérique, informatique.

References

[1] L. Cinotti and P. Briger. LFR-AS-200. Technical report, Hydromine Nuclear Energy Sarl., 2019. Status report.

[2] R. Bavière, N. Tauveron, F. Perdu, E. Garré, and S. Li. A first system CFD coupled simulation of a complete nuclear reactor transient using CATHARE2 and TRIO_U. Preliminary validation on the Phénix Reactor Natural Circulation Test. *Nuclear Engineering and Design*, 277, 124, 2014.

[3] B. Farges, T. Sageaux, and N. Goreaud. STAR-CD / CATHARE coupling methodology for thermal-hydraulic calculations on primary loop and heat exchangers in sodium-cooled fast reactor. *Proc. IAEA International Conference on Fast Reactors and Related Fuel Cycles: Safe Technologies and Sustainable Development (FR13),4–7 March 2013*, 2013.

Development of the thermal model of a once-through steam generator with spiral geometry and cross-flow

Daniele Tomatis*[1] and Giuseppe Francesco Nallo[2]

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[2] *NEMO group, Dipartimento Energia, Politecnico di Torino, Corso Duca degli Abruzzi 24, 10129, Torino, Italy*

October 25, 2023

– Internship proposal –
(ID No. 1000303)

Keywords **—** LFR, cross-flow heat exchanger, spiral tube, flow boiling
Topics **—** Physical modelling, two-phase thermal-hydraulics, numerical mathematics

Location	*new*cleo SrL, Via Galliano 27, 10129 Torino, Italy
Starting date	As soon as possible
Duration	5–6 months

Context

*new*cleo has planned an experimental campaign in collaboration with external partners in order to optimize the design of the components for the next units of lead-cooled fast reactors. In this framework, mathematical models of the components are needed to reproduce accurately their physical behavior, with the aim of supporting the design studies.

Description

During this internship, the student will develop a mathematical model of a once-through heat exchanger that presents innovative features to achieve a compact design. The exchanger is made of many layers, each containing a single spiral-shaped tube, arranged in a staggered lattice along the axial direction. The tubes are all immersed in molten lead, which flows outwards from the center to the periphery of the exchanger. The exchanger can be described in cylindrical geometry with the spirals representing the tubes lying in parallel polar planes. Subcooled water enters the spirals at the periphery of the exchanger, flowing inwards inside the tubes, and

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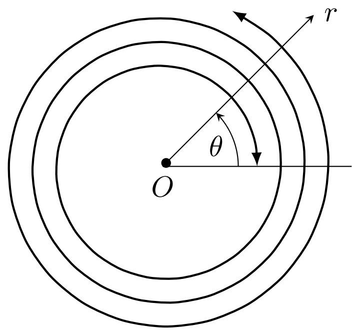

Figure 1: Archimedean spiral.

exits as superheated steam, see Figure 1. The Archimedean or arithmetic spirals are drawn according to the following equation:

$$r = a + b\theta, \tag{1}$$

where a is the centerpoint offset and b is the ratio of the pitch between two consecutive arms of the spiral (pitch) over 2π.

Molten lead flows radially outwards exchanging heat with the water that flows inside the tubes, and can be considered as uniformly distributed along the azimuthal coordinate θ when encountering the first spiral loop. Lead has a very low Prandtl number, so that thermal diffusion shall be taken into account, both radially and azimuthally. Flow-boiling occurs inside the spiral-shaped tubes, and phase separation is expected in the section of the tube because of the centrifugal force applied by the curvilinear motion. Different correlations for heat transfer between lead and water are expected at the two sides of the tube as a consequence of phase separation. Heat-transfer phenomena in presence of phase separation have been extensively studied for helical configurations in the past, but not for spiral configurations. The student will perform a review of the existing literature to find appropriate physical correlations for heat transfer between lead and water in the configuration at hand. New correlations for the distributed friction in cross-flow are expected to become available during the internship thanks to the first results of the experimental campaign.

The student will derive the conservation equations to describe the thermal-hydraulic model of the system, and check the validity of suitable closure relations and physical correlations used in the model. The development of a Python code solving the identified equations is requested, with the verification of the numerical solution in simplified case problems. Finally, preliminary investigations about the validation of the model are expected at the end of the internship, despite the complete validation against other computer codes is postponed for future work. At the end of the internship, the preparation of a technical report is expected to describe the work done by the student and to compile the analysis of the results.

This internship will be supervised by an engineer from *new*cleo and the academic staff at PoliTo. This study supports the preparation of an experimental facility whose construction is planned in 2024.

Work plan

1. Literature review and retrieval of the existing work
2. Problem discussion and definition

3. Derivation of the conservation equations in the spiral-like tube
4. Assessment of the physical correlations to characterize the flow and the heat transfer
5. Implementation and verification of the numerical solution
6. Analysis of results and proposal of validation plan
7. Preparation of a technical report

Applicant profile

Master or PhD student in Nuclear, Mechanical or Aeronautical Engineering. Students in theoretical Physics and applied Mathematics will also be considered for the position.
Background: *fundamentals in thermal-hydraulics and heat transfer, multiphase flow*.
Required computer skills: Python programming, linux, LaTeX scientific editing (optional).

References

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Validation of ECCO calculations of LFR fuel assemblies by Monte Carlo calculations

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– Internship proposal –
(ID No. 1000247)

***Keywords* —** LFR, V&V, ECCO, lattice calculations, cross section preparation
***Topics* —** Physical modeling, neutronics, fuel design

Location	*new*cleo SrL, Via Galliano 27, 10129 Torino, Italy
Starting date	As soon as possible
Duration	5–6 months

Context

*new*cleo is designing new units of lead-cooled fast reactors (LFR) aiming to increase the utilization of plutonium produced by the many light water reactors that are currently operating worldwide. The fuel elements are exposed to a fast neutron spectrum favoring fission of heavier actinides. The reactor is cooled by molten lead that shows low neutron absorption and shields radiation protecting the core vessel.

The computer code ECCO (European Cell COde) from the ERANOS 2.3N code suite is used for all the activities of fuel design. ERANOS is a system of computer codes developed in the 1990s for the calculation of fast reactors. ECCO solves the neutron transport equation by the collision probability method using the subgroup method to shield the cross sections of the resonant nuclides. This internship focuses on the validation of the results obtained by ECCO on typical hexagonal fuel assemblies using the Monte Carlo computer code OpenMC.

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Description

The fuel assemblies used in LFRs are built upon a hexagonal lattice with hollow fuel pellets inside the fuel rods. A typical fuel assembly for LFR is shown in Fig. 1. The fuel is made of mixed uranium and plutonium oxides. The rods can also contain poorly-enriched fuel along the axis that makes breeding zones for the optimization of the core cycle. A metallic wire is helically wrapped around the cladding of the fuel rods to avoid mechanical contact between neighboring rods. The assemblies are boxed and immersed in molten lead, which removes the heat released by nuclear reactions while flowing through the assemblies.

During this internship, the candidate will calculate a set of fuel assemblies by the Monte Carlo code OpenMC in order to compare pin-wise reaction rates and integral quantities like the neutron multiplication factor with the corresponding quantities obtained with the calculations performed by ECCO. Simplified calculation schemes are generally adopted with ECCO, thus introducing physical approximations in the problem to solve, but with the advantage of achieving fast calculations. Instead, Monte Carlo calculations introduce fewer approximations but at the cost of longer calculations. They are then used to validate the deterministic calculations in a representative set of cases, featuring different assembly types. Comparisons of reaction rates in the typical 33-group energy mesh of ERANOS are also requested to validate the self-shielding step done by ECCO. The validation will be performed with fresh fuel, and optionally after exposure at different burnup steps.

Finally, the student will study the anisotropy effects for this kind of assemblies, especially in presence of a central cooling tube. At the end of the internship, the preparation of a technical report is requested to describe the work done by the student and to compile the analysis of the results. This internship will be supervised by engineers from *new*cleo.

Work plan

1. Retrieval of the existing work about ECCO calculations
2. Setup and installation of OpenMC
3. Analysis of the test cases
4. Problem discussion
5. Calculation of the different cases by OpenMC
6. Analysis of results
7. Preparation of the technical report

Applicant profile

Master or PhD student in Nuclear Engineering, Theoretical or applied Physics.
Background: *fundamentals in reactor physics, neutronics and Monte Carlo methods*.
Required computer skills: Python programming (intermediate level), Linux, LaTeX scientific editing (optional).

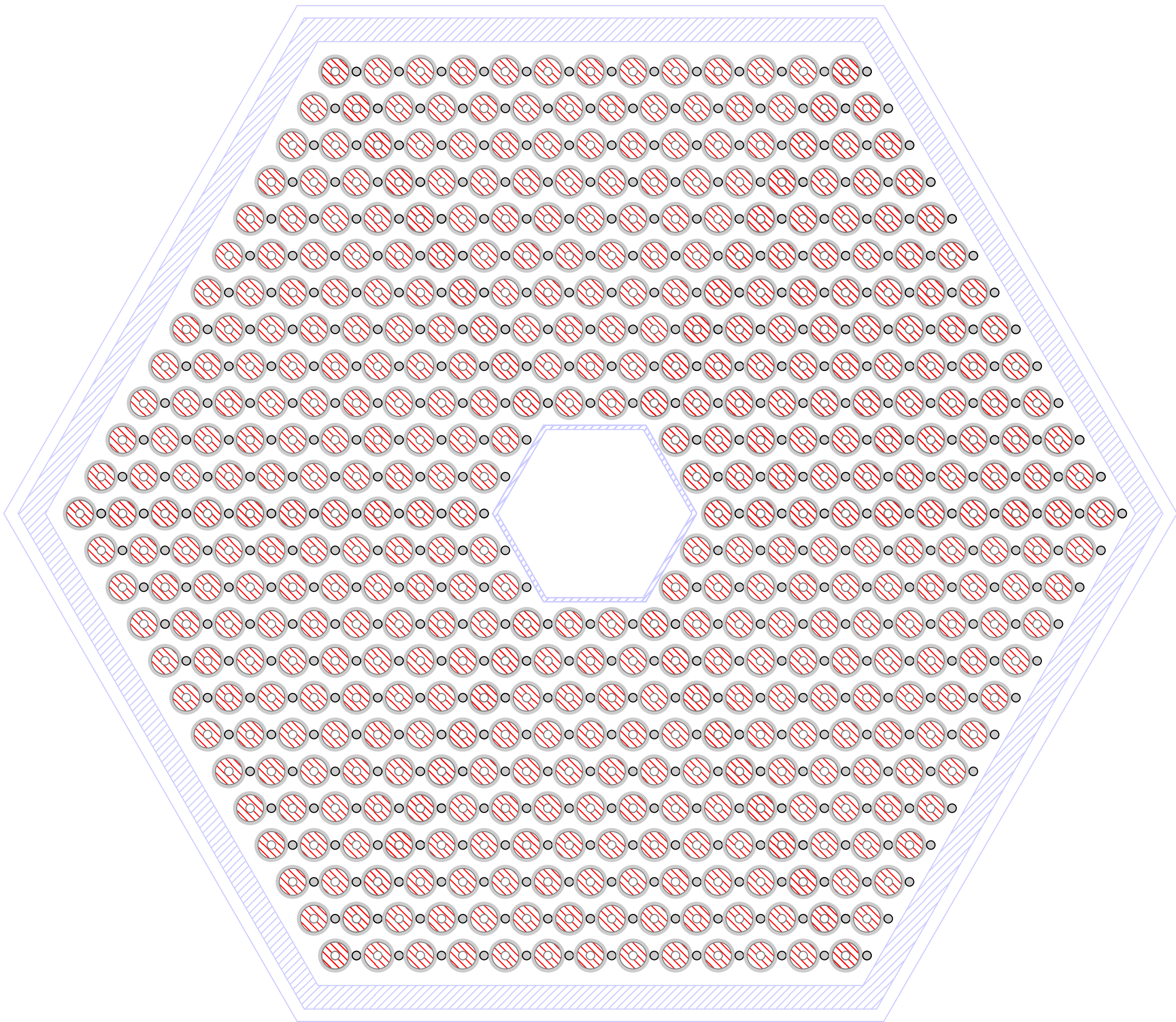

Figure 1: Section of a boxed fuel assembly with central tube.

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