

William C. Dawn

Education

Curriculum Vitae

- May 2022 **Doctor of Philosophy, Nuclear Engineering**, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
Research on unstructured mesh neutron transport methods and multiphysics modeling using GPUs.
Developed MEZCAL computer program using scalable finite element methods and exascale computing.
Dissertation: *Multiphysics Modeling of Microreactors with Unstructured Mesh Neutron Transport and Exascale Computing Architectures*.
Advisor: Scott Palmtag.
- May 2019 **Master of Science, Nuclear Engineering**, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
Nuclear Engineering University Program (NEUP) Fellow.
Developed LUPINE finite element simulation suite to model Sodium-cooled Fast Reactors (SFRs).
Thesis: *Simulation of Fast Reactors with the Finite Element Method and Multiphysics Models*.
Advisor: Scott Palmtag.
- May 2017 **Bachelor of Science, Nuclear Engineering**, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
Graduated as Valedictorian and Summa Cum Laude.
Led senior design team. Responsible for project management and interfacing with corporate sponsor.
Senior design project: “A Thermal Test Location in a Sodium Cooled Fast Reactor”

Professional Experience

- June 2022 - Present **Senior Nuclear Engineer**, Studsvik Scandpower Inc., Idaho Falls, ID
- Peacock lead developer.
 - New, continuous energy Monte Carlo code developed entirely from scratch.
 - Developed in C++23 with modern software best-practices (e.g., GitLab version control, unit tests, continuous integration, etc.).
 - Responsible for implementing all neutron physics including thermal scattering, resolved and unresolved resonances, and depletion.
 - Coordinating team of developers for nuclear data processing and development of input/output processing tools.
 - SIMULATE5/SIMULATE5-K developer.
 - Added capabilities for modeling Pellet-Cladding Mechanical Interaction (PCMI) during transients to support NRC Regulatory Guide 1.236.
 - Implemented and benchmarked SIMULATE5-K-VVER for modeling transients in VVER-1000s and VVER-440s.
 - Developed internal tools for software testing and project management.
- May 2019 - **NEUP Intern**, Idaho National Laboratory, Idaho Falls, ID
- August 2019
- Added fast neutron cross section library capabilities to Rattlesnake neutron transport code based on MC²-3 and ISOTXS file format.
 - Used Rattlesnake to investigate effects of higher-order neutron scattering in fast reactor systems.
 - Implemented isotopic fission spectrum mixture into Rattlesnake.
 - Authored two technical reports related to work:
 - “Comparison of Higher-Order Neutron Scattering Cross Sections” (INL/EXT-19-54899)
 - “An Analytic Benchmark for the Solution to the Isotopic Fission Spectrum Mixture Problem” (INL/EXT-19-54998).

- May 2018 - **CASL Graduate Assistant**, *Consortium for Advanced Simulation of LWRs (CASL)*, Raleigh, NC
- August 2019
- Developed lesson and lectured on CTF–MPACT coupling and use for practical reactor designs.
 - Provided technical experience and IT support for student reactor design simulations.
 - Contributed to logistical planning for CASL Institute.
- May 2017 - **NESLS Engineering Intern**, *Oak Ridge National Laboratory*, Oak Ridge, TN
- August 2017
- Added fast neutron cross section library capabilities to MPACT neutron transport code via ISOTXS file reader.
 - Simulated fast neutron chloride molten salt reactor in steady-state and depletion simulations.
 - Developed molten salt reactor models in MPACT, MCNP, and Serpent.
 - Proficient in large project coding and source control with git.
- August 2015 - **CASL Undergraduate Research Scholar**, *Consortium for Advanced Simulation of LWRs (CASL)*, Raleigh, NC
- May 2017
- Reduced computing time by 30 % by improving steam tables in CTF.
 - Performed code comparisons with MCNP to verify energy group structure in MPACT.
- May 2016 - **Edison Engineering Intern**, *GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy LLC*, Wilmington, NC
- August 2016
- PRISM
 - Drafted and submitted journal article “PRISM Reference Fuel Design.”
 - Awarded two patents relating to ESBWR and one patent related to PRISM.
 - Developed PRISM General Description Book and prepared public-facing documents describing PRISM for a general audience.
- May 2015 -
- LOCA & Containment
- August 2015
- Analyzed reactor transients using TRACG to support 10 % power uprate.
 - Created automated data visualization and animation packages using MATLAB.
- August 2014 - **Licensed Reactor Operator**, *NCSU PULSTAR Research Nuclear Reactor*, Raleigh, NC
- May 2017
- Licensed by NRC to operate all controls at NCSU reactor facility.
 - Experienced in startup, operation, and troubleshooting on 1 MW research reactor.

Publications

- Dawn, William C.** “Method of Manufactured Solutions for the Neutron Kinetics Equations.” In: *Nuclear Science and Engineering* (2025).
- Dawn, William C.** “A Benchmark for Neutron Kinetics Methods in Hexagonal Geometry.” In: *Nuclear Science and Engineering* 199 (5 Sept. 2024).
- Dawn, William C.,** Gerardo Grandi, and Tamer Bahadir. “Development and Benchmarking of SIMULATE5-K-VVER.” In: *Annals of Nuclear Energy* 195 (Jan. 2024).
- Dawn, William C.** and Scott Palmtag. “Solving the Neutron Transport Equation for Microreactor Modeling Using Unstructured Meshes and Exascale Computing Architectures.” In: *Nuclear Science and Engineering* 197.12 (Feb. 2023).
- Dawn, William C.** and Scott Palmtag. “A Multiphysics Simulation Suite for Liquid Metal-Cooled Fast Reactors.” In: *Annals of Nuclear Energy* 159 (Sept. 2021).

Conference Papers

- Dawn, William C.** and Charles Wemple. “Peacock: A Monte Carlo Transport Code with Depletion for Reactor Modeling.” In: *Proceedings of Advances in Nuclear Fuel Management (ANFM) 2025*. Clearwater Beach, FL, July 2025.
- Wemple, C. A., R. M Ferrer, T. T. Simeonov, J. M. Hykes, **W. C. Dawn**, and J. D. Rhodes. “Nuclear Data Usage at Studsvik Scandpower and Future Needs from ENDF/B-IX.” In: *Proceedings of Advances in Nuclear Fuel Management (ANFM) 2025*. Clearwater Beach, FL, July 2025.

- Ferrer, Rodolfo, **William C. Dawn**, and Tamer Bahadir. “Verification of CMS5 for Higher Enrichment and High Burnup PWR Core Design.” In: *Proceedings of Advances in Nuclear Fuel Management (ANFM) 2025*. Clearwater Beach, FL, July 2025.
- Dawn, William C.** “Peacock: A Monte Carlo Code with Shared Memory Parallelism for Consumer-Grade Computing Architectures.” In: *Proceedings of M&C 2025*. Denver, CO, Apr. 2025.
- Dawn, William C.**, Charles Wemple, Joshua Hykes, Rodolfo M. Ferrer, and Joel Rhodes III. “Peacock: Development of a New Continuous Energy Monte Carlo Transport Code.” In: *Transactions of the American Nuclear Society*. Vol. 131. Nov. 2024.
- Dawn, William C.**, Gerardo Grandi, and Tamer Bahadir. “Initial Validation of SIMULATE5-K and the CMS5 Reactor Modeling Suite with the SPERT-III Experiments.” In: *Proceedings of ANS PHYSOR 2024*. San Francisco, CA, Apr. 2024.
- Dawn, William C.** and Tamer Bahadir. “Development and Benchmarking of Transient Nodal Code SIMULATE5-K Neutron Kinetics Solver for VVERs and Hexagonal Geometries.” In: *Proceedings of ANS M&C 2023*. Niagara Falls, Ontario, Aug. 2023.
- Kiefer, Timothy M., **William C. Dawn**, Khaldoun Al-Dawood, and Scott Palmtag. “Control Rod Modeling in Liquid Metal-Cooled Fast Reactors.” In: *Proceedings of PHYSOR 2022*. Pittsburgh, PA, 2022.
- Dawn, William C.** and Scott Palmtag. “Simplified Thermal Expansion Modeling for Liquid Metal-Cooled Fast Reactors.” In: *Proceedings of ANS M&C 2021*. Raleigh, NC, Oct. 2021.
- Al-Dawood, Khaldoun A., **William C. Dawn**, and Scott Palmtag. “Multiphysics Simulation of Uranium-Nitride Fueled Lead-Cooled Fast Reactor.” In: *Proceedings of ANS M&C 2021*. Raleigh, NC, 2021.
- Palmtag, Scott, **William C. Dawn**, and Chase Lawing. “Fast Reactor Depletion Methods in LUPINE.” In: *Proceedings of ANS M&C 2021*. Raleigh, NC, 2021.
- Dawn, William C.** and Scott Palmtag. “A Multiphysics Simulation Suite for Sodium Cooled Fast Reactors.” In: *Proceedings of PHYSOR 2020* (Mar. 27–Apr. 6, 2020). Cambridge, UK, Apr. 2020.

Technical Reports

- Dawn, William C.**, Javier Ortensi, Mark D. Dehart, and Scott P. Palmtag. *Comparison of Higher-Order Neutron Scattering Cross Sections*. Tech. rep. INL/EXT-19-54899. Idaho National Laboratory, 2019.
- Dawn, William C.** *An Analytic Benchmark for the Solution to the Isotopic Fission Spectrum Mixture Problem*. Tech. rep. INL/EXT-19-54998. Idaho National Laboratory, 2019.

Patents

- Loewen, Eric P., James P. Sineath, Dean D. Molinaro, **William C. Dawn**, Robin D. Sprague, Theron D. Marshall, and Joel P. Melito. “Intermixing Feedwater Sparger Nozzles and Methods for Using the Same in Nuclear Reactors.” Pat. 20180277265 (Wilmington, NC). Feb. 2020.
- Loewen, Eric P., James P. Sineath, Dean D. Molinaro, **William C. Dawn**, William J. Garcia, Oscar L. Meek, and Patrick K. Day. “Acoustic Flowmeter and Methods of Using Same.” Pat. 20180277267 (Wilmington, NC). May 2020.
- Sineath, James P., Dean D. Molinaro, **William C. Dawn**, and Eric P. Loewen. “Systems and Methods for Airflow Control in Reactor Passive Decay Heat Removal.” Pat. US10937557B2 (Wilmington, NC). Mar. 2021.

Poster Presentations

- Dawn, William C.** and Scott Palmtag. “Multiphysics Modeling of Microreactors with Unstructured Mesh Neutron Transport and Exascale Computing Architectures.” In: NEDAC Poster Session (Apr. 29, 2022). Raleigh, NC, 2017.

- Dawn, William C.** “MC2 for High Energy Neutron Cross Sections in MPACT for Molten Salt Fueled Reactors.” In: ORNL Intern Poster Session (Aug. 8, 2017). Oak Ridge, TN, 2017.
- Dawn, William C.** and Scott P. Palmtag. “Increasing Computational Efficiency of Fluid Property Calculations in CTF.” In: Office of Undergraduate Research Symposium (Apr. 12, 2017). Raleigh, NC, 2017.
- Dawn, William C.,** Rebeka S. Gottfried, Matthew T. Ingram, Zachary D. Morey, and Charles W. Tait. “A Thermal Test Location in a Sodium Cooled Fast Reactor.” In: Office of Undergraduate Research Symposium (Apr. 12, 2017). Awarded Sigma Xi Best Undergraduate Engineering Poster. Raleigh, NC, 2017.
- Awarded Sigma Xi Best Undergraduate Engineering Poster for “A Thermal Test Location in a Sodium Cooled Fast Reactor”.

Technical Skills

Programming Languages	C++, Fortran, C, Python, MATLAB, L ^A T _E X.	Simulation Packages:	CASMO, SIMULATE, MFEM, DIF3D, MC ² -3, REBUS, MCNP, Serpent, MPACT, CTF.
General Proficiencies	Bash scripting, Github & GitLab Project Management.		

Professional Development and Achievements

- 2021 Alan F. Henry/Paul A. Greebler – American Nuclear Scholarship.
- 2021 American Nuclear Society Mathematics & Computation Conference – Student Program Committee Co-Chair.
- 2019 College of Engineering Master’s Scholar of the Year.
- 2017-2020 Nuclear Engineering University Program (NEUP) Fellowship.
 - Full funding for three years of graduate school.
 - Nationally recognized Department of Energy (DOE) fellowship.
- 2014-2017 Nuclear Engineering University Program (NEUP) Undergraduate Scholarship.
- 2017 College of Engineering Outstanding Senior Award for Scholarly Achievement Nominee.
- 2017 Awarded Sigma Xi Best Undergraduate Engineering Poster for “A Thermal Test Location in a Sodium Cooled Fast Reactor”.
- 2014-2018 American Nuclear Society Scholarship.
- 2012 Eagle Scout.