DE LA RECHERCHE À L'INDUSTRIE

Ceaden

In-core Instrumentation for MTR Experiments

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Summary

- 1. General requirements
- 2. Conditions of measurement
- 3. Examples of in-core instrumentation :
 - 3.1. Neutron and gamma flux
 - 3.2. Temperature

3.3. Innovative technologies : micro-acoustics & fiber optics

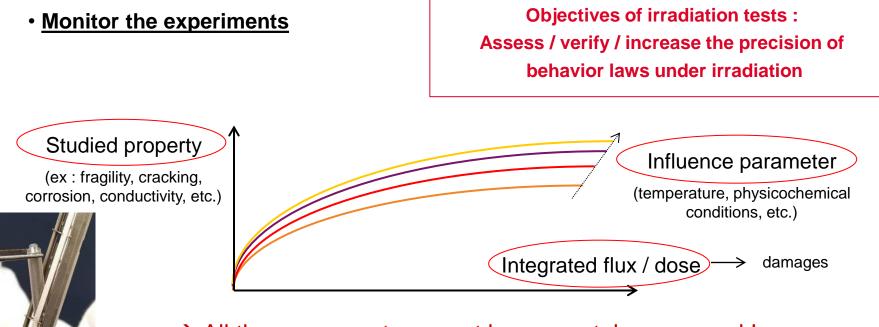
4. Review of MTR instrumentation around the World

1. General requirements



Illustration of measurement needs for material testing

In-core measurements are essential to:



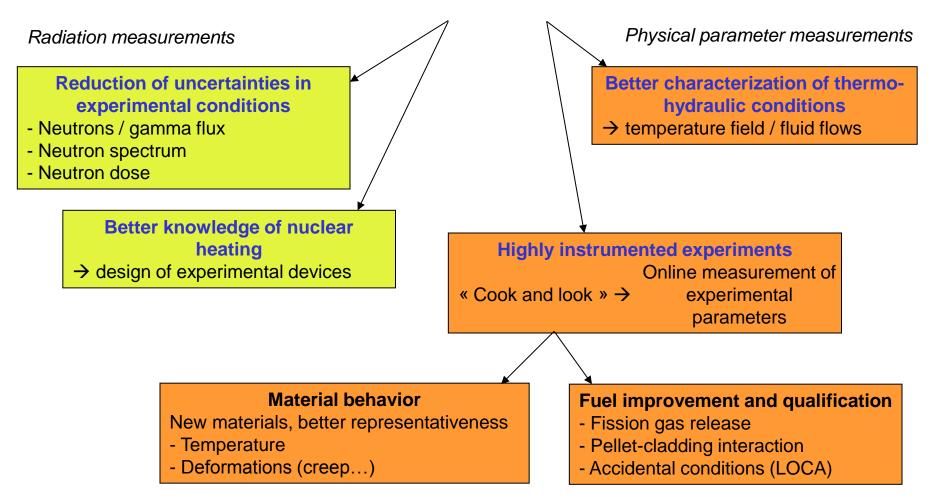
 \rightarrow All these parameters must be accurately measured !

Watch safety parameters

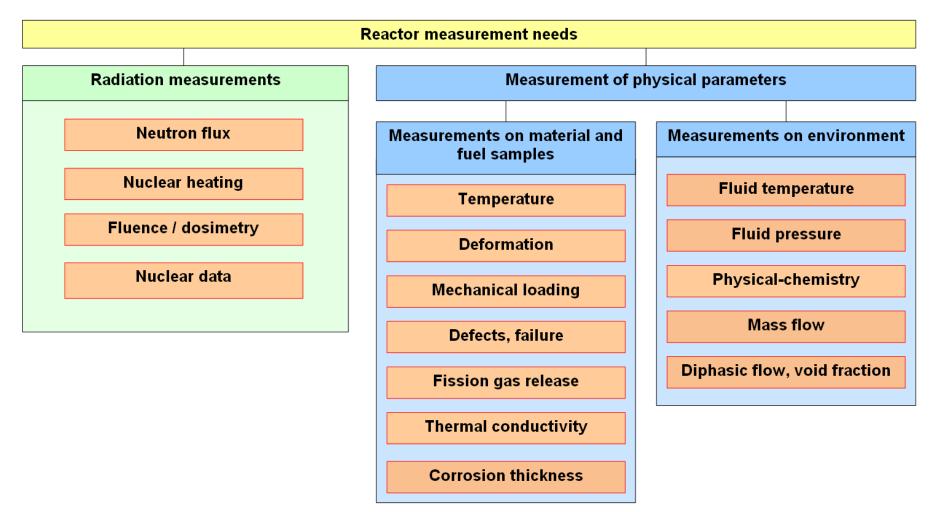
= check that some specified parameters stay in their acceptable range

(e.g. : temperature, pressure, etc.)

Main stakes for in-core instrumentation



Main reactor measurement needs and R&D programs







Ways to develop and qualify in-core instrumentation are changing

Tomorrow:

Extended field of validation Advanced signal analysis

Today:

Physician approach

Development and qualification of instrumentation modeling Improvement in related nuclear data

Yesterday:

Engineering approach Mainly empirical characterization Limited field of validation 2. Conditions of measurement
a. Physicochemical environment
b. Effects of radiations
c. Operational issues



Physicochemical environment of in-core instrumentation

High temperature:

- → LWR conditions : 300-400°C continuous (up to 1200-1800°C in transients)
- → SFR conditions : 400-500°C continuous
- → HTR-VHTR conditions, materials for fusion : 800-1200°C continuous

Various media:

- \rightarrow Pressurized water (+ bore and lithium)
- \rightarrow Liquid metals (NaK, Na...)
- \rightarrow High-temperature gas

Туре	с	Cr	Fe	Mn	Мо	Ni	Si	Zr	Others
Stainless steels									
AISI 304 L	0,03	18 à 20	reste	2		8à12	1		
AISI 316 L	0,03	16 à 18	reste	2	2à3	10 à 14	1		
Nickel alloys (Inconel)									
Alloy 600	0,05	14 à 17	6-10	1		> 72	0,5		Co < 0,1
Alloy 718	0,08	17 à 21	reste	0,35	2,8 à 3,3	50 à 55	0,35		
Zirconium alloys									
Zircaloy 4		0,1	0,2					reste	Sn = 15
Zr-Nb								reste	Nb = 1 - 0 = 0,12

Typical alloys used for in-core components

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2. Conditions of measurement b. Effects of radiations

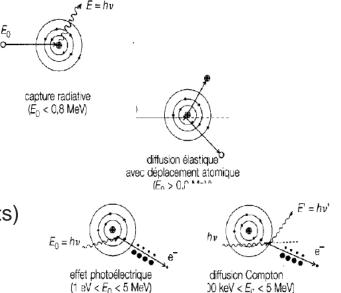
Main effects of nuclear radiations on sensors

→ transmutations : composition changes

- \rightarrow damages :
 - alteration of electric insulators
 - wires breaking
 - change in mechanical properties
- → noise current (Compton and photoelectric effects)
- \rightarrow heating

\rightarrow Precautions :

- choice of materials
 - form (metals, oxides, ceramics...)
 - elements \rightarrow nuclear properties
- remove sensor from high-radiation areas when possible
- in-situ calibration





Effects of transmutation on in-core sensors

the material X disappears under irradiation : $N(t) = N_0 e^{-\sigma \phi t}$

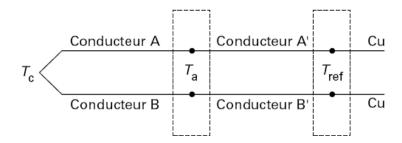


 Illustration :
 effect on thermocouples

 Change in wire composition

 → change in thermoelectric response

 = drift of the signal

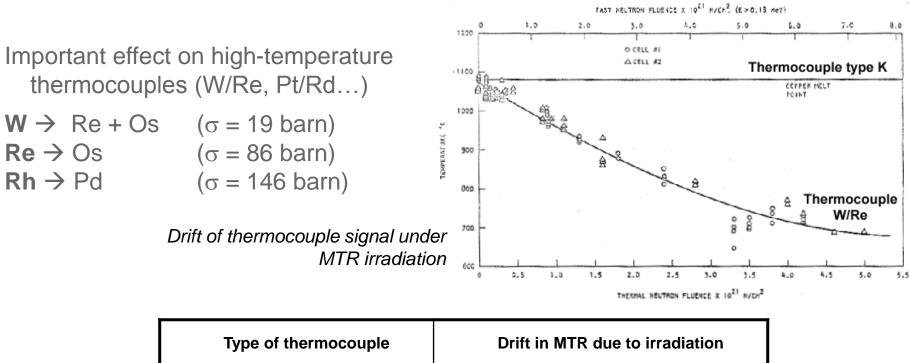
Materials of standard thermo-elements	Si	AI	Cr	Мо	Ni	Pt	Mg	w	Re	Rh	lr
σ (barn) neutron cross-section of the main isotope	0,08	0,23	0,73	2,5	4,2	10	13,5	19,2	86	150	460



2. Conditions of measurement b. Effects of radiations

Effects of transmutation on in-core sensors

Illustration : effect on thermocouples



Type of thermocouple	Drift in MTR due to irradiation			
K (Ni-Cr / Ni-Al)	Not significant			
C (W-Re5% / W-Re26%)	-1°C / 2.10 ¹⁹ n/cm ² (-0,9 °C / day)			
S (Pt-Rh10% / Pt)	-1°C / 1,4.10 ¹⁹ n/cm ² (-1,2 °C / day)			

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Operational issues

High reliability (impossible maintenance on irradiated sensors)

High accuracy (higher scientific requirements. Example : in-core deformations must be measured with ~ µm accuracy)

Miniaturization (very narrow experimental devices : a few millimeters available for instrumentation)

Large distance between sensor and electronics (tens of meters)



2. Conditions of measurement c. Operational issues

Operational issues

Fragile instrumentation in difficult conditions of implementation



Damaged cables

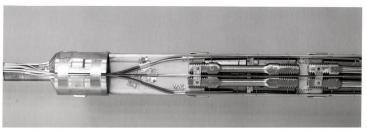


Summary of in-core measurement conditions

- High accuracy required to meet scientific and technical needs
- High constraints related to reactor conditions:
 - constraints due to <u>irradiation (high neutron and gamma flux</u>: material damages, composition changes, parasitic signal, etc.),
 - constraints due to <u>physicochemical conditions</u> in experiments (high temperature, pressurized water, liquid metals, etc.),
 - constraints due to <u>integration (miniaturized sensors because of small size devices</u>, long distance between sensors and electronics, etc.),
 - constraints due to <u>operation</u> (high reliability requirements because of difficult or impossible maintenance or replacement of irradiated instrumentation).

Innovation is necessary !





3. Examples of in-core instrumentation

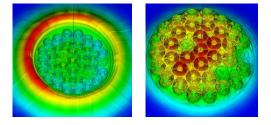
3.1. Neutron and gamma flux



Neutron and gamma measurements

Objectives :

- To measure and reduce the uncertainties on:
- Thermal and fast neutron flux
- Gamma flux and nuclear heating



State-of-the-art :

Neutron flux:

- Activation foil dosimeters and wires (post-irradiation analysis) + Unfolding techniques
- Fission chambers for thermal and fast neutron
- Self Powered Neutron Detectors

Gamma flux:

- Ionization chamber
- Self Powered Gamma Detector (with Bi emitter)

Nuclear heating:

Calorimeter (Gamma Thermometer and Differential Calorimeter)

Developments :

- Simulation tools for FC and SPND signal
- Dosimetry for epithermal flux





Activation dosimetry

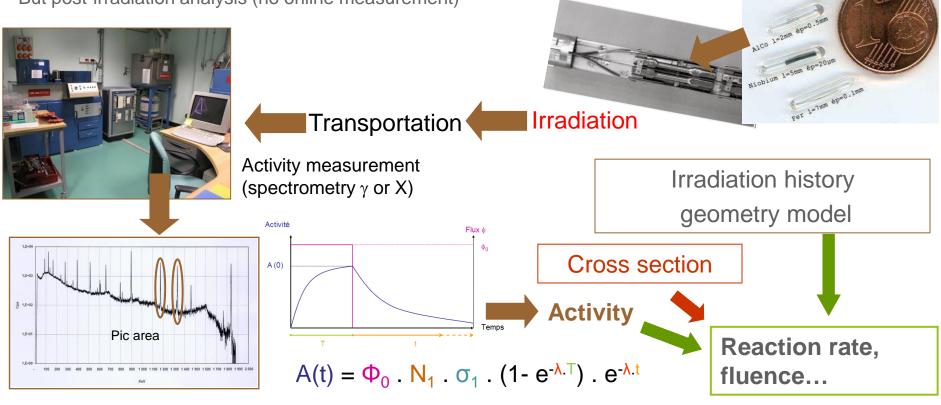
= measurement of the radioactive activity of an irradiated material sample (dosimeter)

- Reference measurement for neutron flux and fluence
- High accuracy
- Selection of the neutron energy domain (thermal, epithermal, fast...)

But post-irradiation analysis (no online measurement)

Dosimeters

1=5mm 6p=0.5m





Activation dosimetry

Short-life materials for dosimeters

Dosimeter	Au197	59Co	55Mn	115In	103Rh	115In
Reaction	n,γ	n,γ	n,γ	n,γ	n,n'	n,n'
Daughter	198Au	60 Co	56Mn	116m In	103 m Rh	115m In
т	2,6944days	5,271 years	2,57878 hours;	54,20 minutes	56.1 minutes	4.486 hours
Spectrum energy area covered (MeV)	th+ épi	th + épi	th + épi	th + épi	E > 0,7	E > 1,3

Dosimeter	58Ni	64Zn	54Fe	24Mg	27AI	51V
Reaction	n,p	n,p	n,p	n,p	n,a	n,α
Daughter	58C0	64Cu	54Mn	24Na	24Na	48Sc
Т	70.82 days	12,701 hours	312,13days	14,9574 hours	14,9574hours	43.67 hours
Spectrum energy area covered (MeV)	E > 2,7	E > 2,8	E > 3	E > 6,1	E > 7,3	E > 11



Activation dosimetry

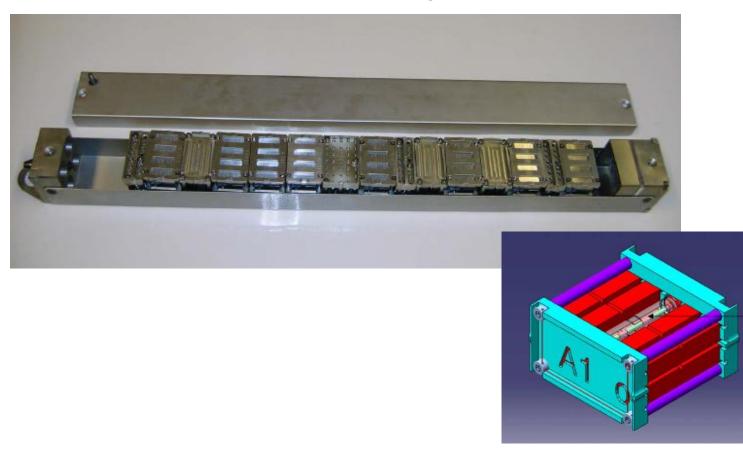
Long-life materials for dosimeters

Isotope (Number)	shape	Container	Réaction	Effective Threshold (MeV)	Measured radio-isotope	Decay period
Cobalt (3)	Al-0,5%Co Wire Ø 1,0 mm		59 _{Co(n,γ)}	Thermal +Epithermal	60 _{Co}	5,27 y
Cobalt (3)	id.(b)		59 Co(n,γ)	Epithermal	id.	5.27 y
237 _{Neptunium} (1)	NpO ₂ + MgO	Cd filter Ti box	237 _{Np(n,f)}	0,6 MeV	137 _{Cs}	30 y
238 _{Uranium} (1)	Powder U3O8	Cd filter Ti box	238U(n,f)	1,5 MeV	137 _{Cs}	30 y
Ni (3)	Wire Ø 1,3 mm		58 _{Ni(n,p)}	2,8 MeV	58 _{Co}	70,8 d
Fe (3)	Wire Ø 1,0 mm		54Fe(n,p)	3,1MeV	54 _{Mn}	313 d
Cu (3)	Wire Ø 0,8 mm		63Cu(n,α)	6,8 MeV	60Co	5,27 y



Activation dosimetry

Illustration of dosimeter implementation : neutron fluence monitoring for material testing experiments

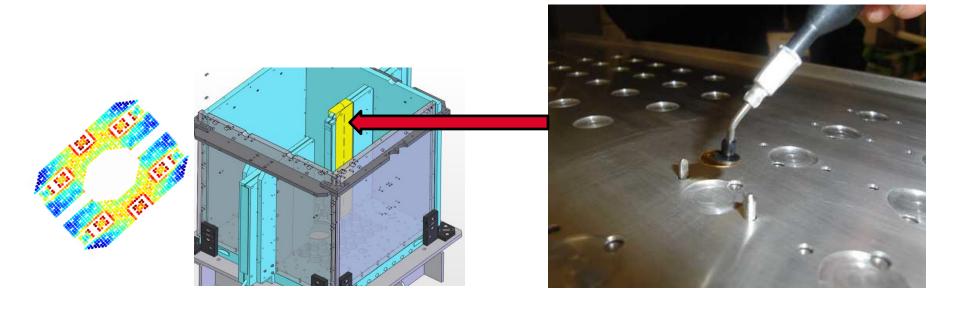


Dosimeter location



Activation dosimetry

Illustration of dosimeter implementation : flux mapping





Activation dosimetry

Illustration of measurement facility : MADERE Platform at CEA Cadarache



Performs reactor dosimetry measurements for research reactors and for the Surveillance Program of French PWRs

- \rightarrow Measurement of γ and X activity of solid samples
- → Range : 0.1 Bq to 10⁸ Bq / dosimeter
- \rightarrow Uncertainties : 1% à 5% (k=1)



Fission chambers

Measurement of the current generated by fission reactions in a fissile material deposited on an electrode Neutrons Fission product

An effective detector for measuring neutron flux

- High linearity signal (10 decades)
- Real-time online measurement

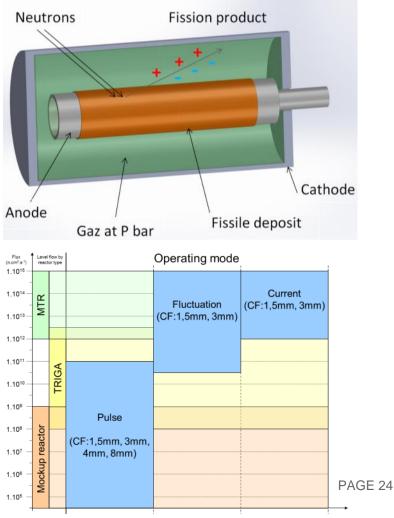
A modular detector

- Choice of fissile isotope and mass deposit
- Adaptation of technological parameters:
 geometry, nature and pressure of gas...

A multi-information signal

- Three operating modes depending on flux range
- Neutron / gamma effective discrimination







Fission chambers

Fission chamber manufacturing workshop at CEA Cadarache

- → Manufacturing specific fission chambers with various possible fissile deposits (mass/composition) : U, Pu, Th, Np, Am, Cm... and specific designs
- \rightarrow Imagery and controls (RX)



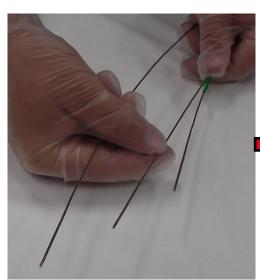


Application of fission chambers :

Neutron profile measurements between fuel plates in OPAL reactor (2013)

- **3** x Ø1.5mm Fission Chambers
- Dedicated Experimental Rig: 2mm thick aluminium plate attached to a 16 meter long pole
 Correct and repeatable positioning
 - Correct and repeatable positioning
 Precise manoeuvring within the core
- OPAL Reactor operated at stabilized power 100 kW

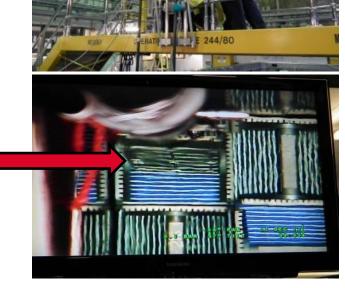




Ø1,5 mm Fission Chambers for three simultaneous neutron profiles



Experimental rig

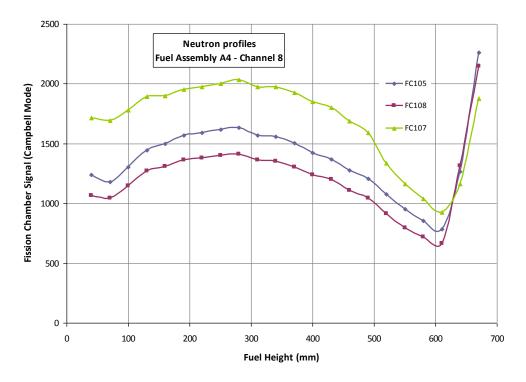


Insertion between fuel plates

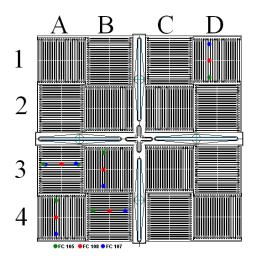


Application of fission chambers : Neutron profile measurements between fuel plates in OPAL reactor (2013)

- 400 measurement points
- Thorough investigation of 5 / 16 fuel assemblies:
 - One complete quadrant
 - One fresh fuel assembly in another quadrant
- Good agreement with expected neutron flux shapes



Measurement Locations



3. Examples of in-core instrumentation

3.2. Temperature



Temperature measurements

Objectives :

Online measurement of materials or fuels temperature Typical range : 200-400°C (PWR materials) up to 1200°C (fuel) 1000-1600°C for transient / study of incidental conditions

State-of-the-art :

- MIMS thermocouples : type K, N, C
- Expansion thermometers (LVDT)
- Melt wires, paint spots and SiC monitors (post-irradiation analysis)

Developments :

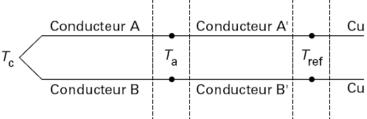
- High-temperature doped Mo/Nb alloy thermocouples
- In-situ calibration of thermocouples :
 - Noise thermometry
 - High-temperature fixed-point μ-cell
- Ultrasonic sensors
- Infrared pyrometer
- Distributed temperature measurements with Optical Fibers



Thermocouples

Principle : Seebeck effect

An electromotive force is generated in an open circuit made of 2 different conducting materials, when their junctions are at different temperatures



Characteristics of in-core thermocouples :

Couples :

type K or type N (up to 1100 °C depending on wire diameter) type C (fuel centerline temperature, for short irradiation time)

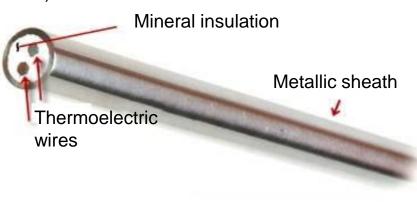
Sheath : Stainless steel (304L, 316L, 347)

Insulator : Al₂O₃, MgO, HfO₂

Standard sheath diam. : 1 mm Standard wire diam. : ~ 0,2 mm

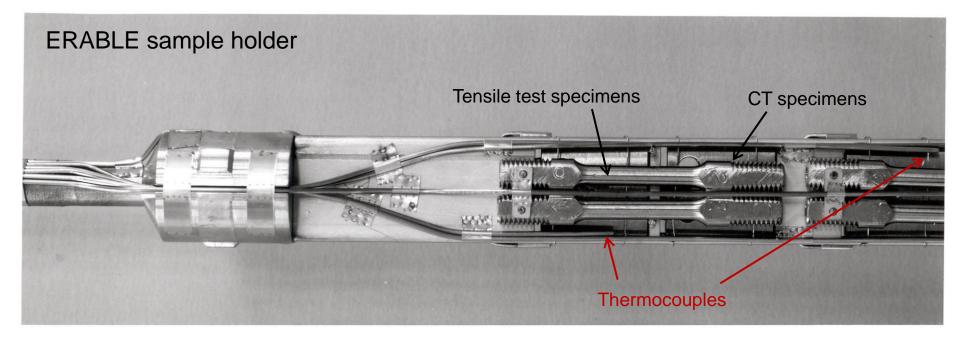
Hot junction insulated from sheath

Length : tens of meters





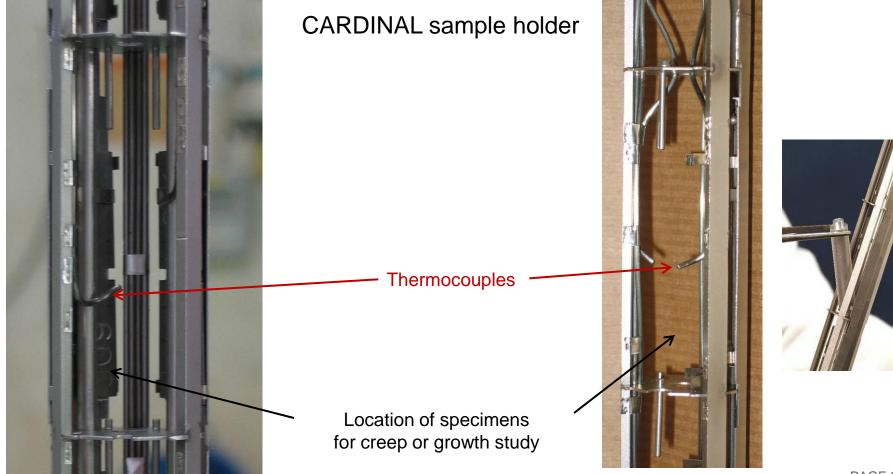
Thermocouples Examples of implantation in MTR experiments





3. Examples of in-core instrumentation 3.2. Temperature

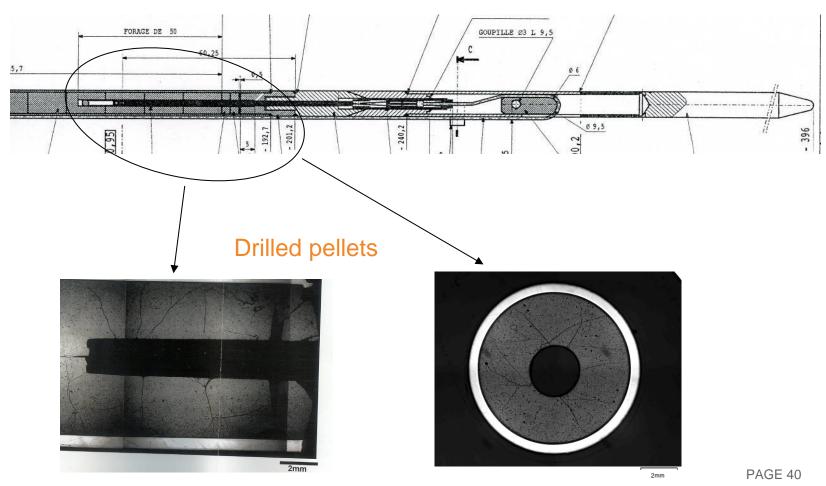
Thermocouples Examples of implantation in MTR experiments



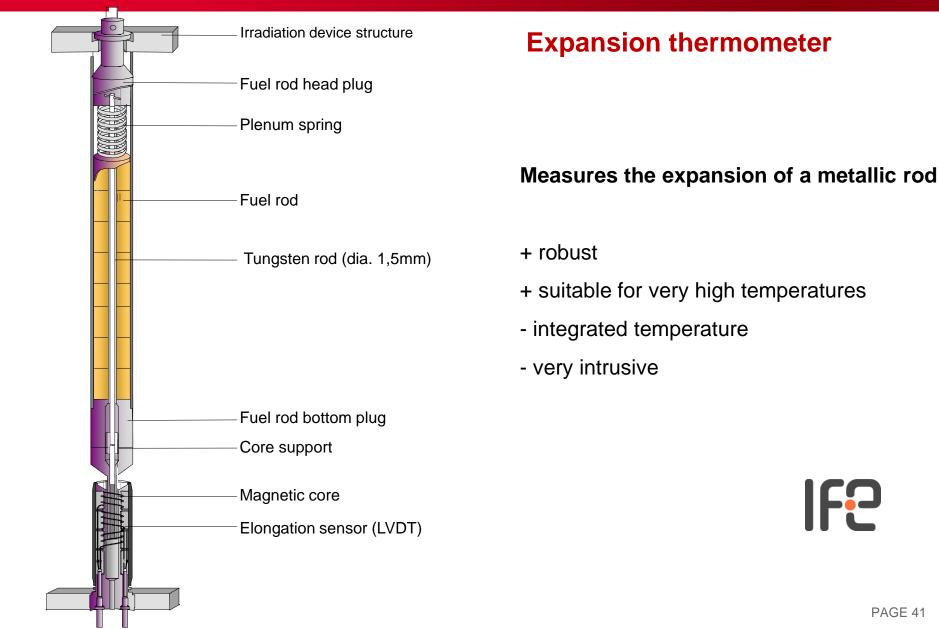


Thermocouples

Examples of implantation in MTR experiments for fuel centreline temperature measurements



3. Examples of in-core instrumentation 3.2. Temperature



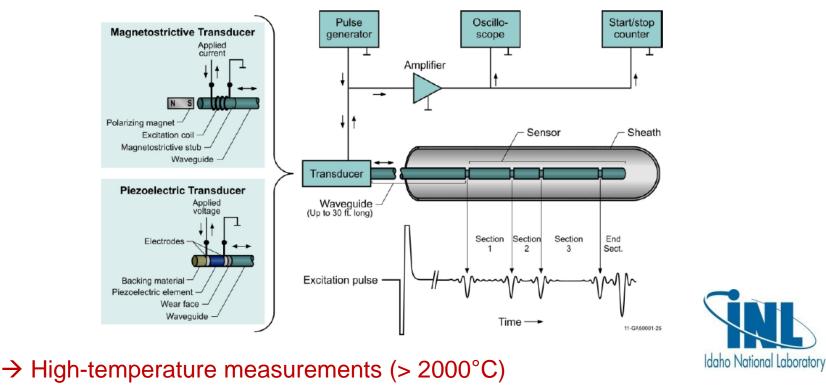


Ultrasonic sensors

Measures the acoustic wave velocity in a metallic rod or wire

Notches \rightarrow wave reflection (echoes)

 \rightarrow Detection of acoustic wave velocity changes between notches



→ Distributed measurements



Melt wires

Based on the detection of wire melting

Material Composition, %	Melting Temperature, ^o C
100 Pb	327.5
94 Zn-6 Al	381.0
85 Te-15 Sn	401.0
100 Zn	419.6
80 Sb-20 Zn	507.8-514.3



 \rightarrow Easy implementation (no cable)

- But post-irradiation measurement
 - only indicates that melting temperature has been reached



3. Examples of in-core instrumentation

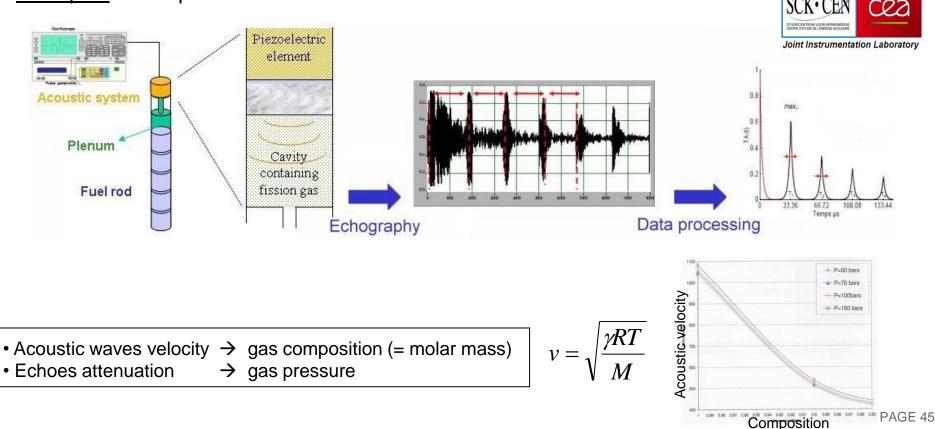
3.3. Innovative technologies : micro-acoustics & fiber optics



Acoustic measurement of fission gas release

<u>Objective</u>: Online measurement of fission gas release in a pressurized fuel rod with discrimination between fission gas release –mainly Xe and Kr and He discharge This distinction is not possible using only pressure and temperature measurements.

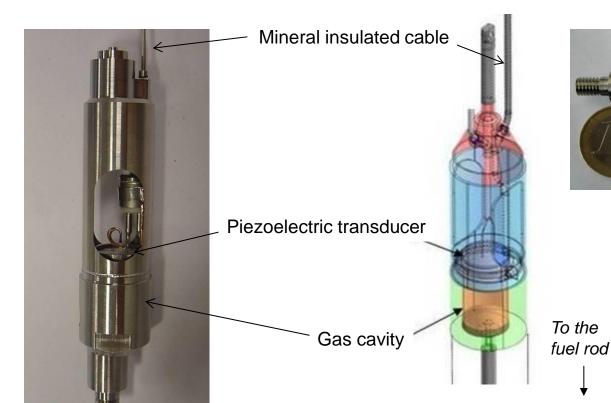






Acoustic measurement of fission gas release

 \rightarrow An original sensor was designed for MTR irradiation







The sensor is designed to be implemented on a pre-irradiated fuel-rod

S a



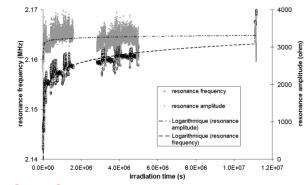


3. Examples of in-core instrumentation 3.3. Innovative technologies : micro-acoustics

Acoustic measurement of fission gas release

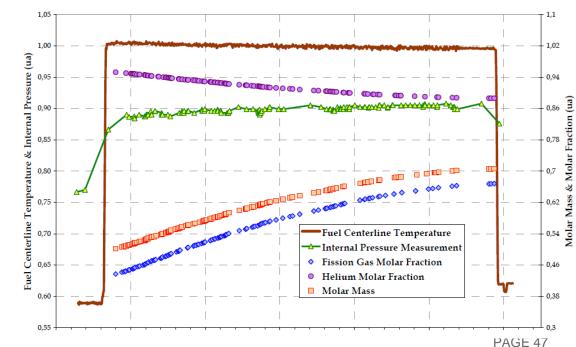
\rightarrow Successive tests performed :

- Tests of piezoelectric transducers in BR1 reactor
- Sensor qualification test in OSIRIS reactor



→ Successful implementation in REMORA-3 experiment in OSIRIS :

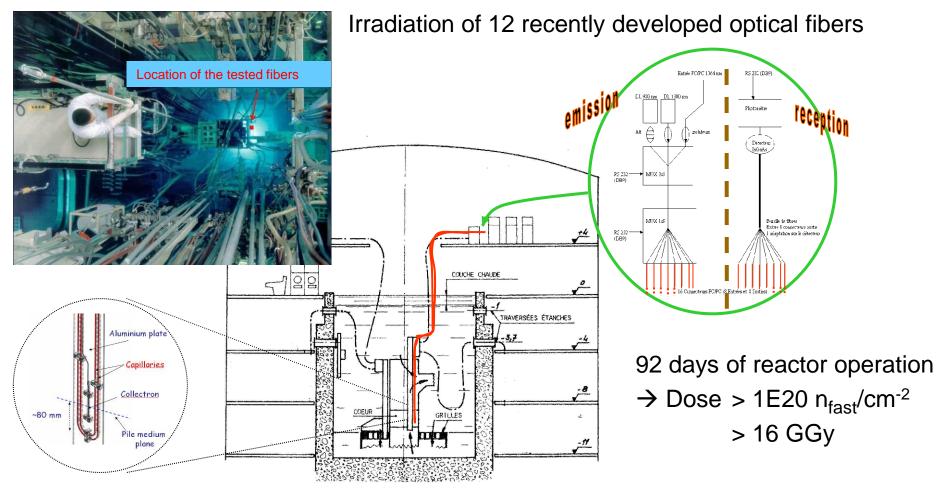
- Sensor installed on a 5 cycle pre-irradiated PWR MOX fuel rod
- World first experiment with online measurement of fission gas release in a pressurized fuel rod





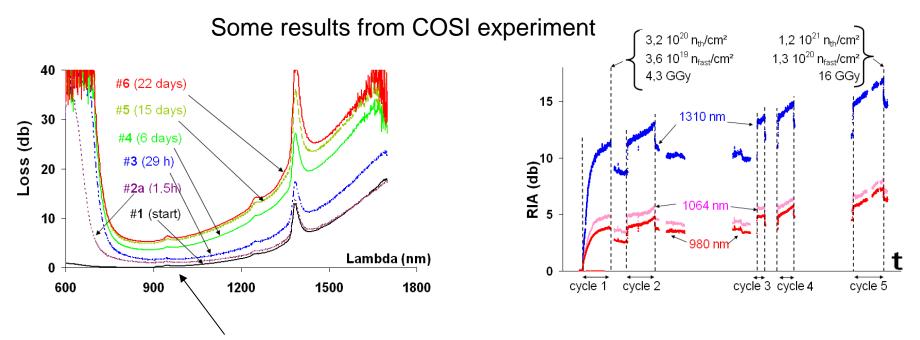
Recent results : new fibers can survive in-core

Example : COSI experiment (OSIRIS reactor, France - 2006)



3. Examples of in-core instrumentation 3.3. Innovative technologies : fiber optics

Recent results : new fibers can survive in-core



• Favorable spectral region in the 800-1200 nm range

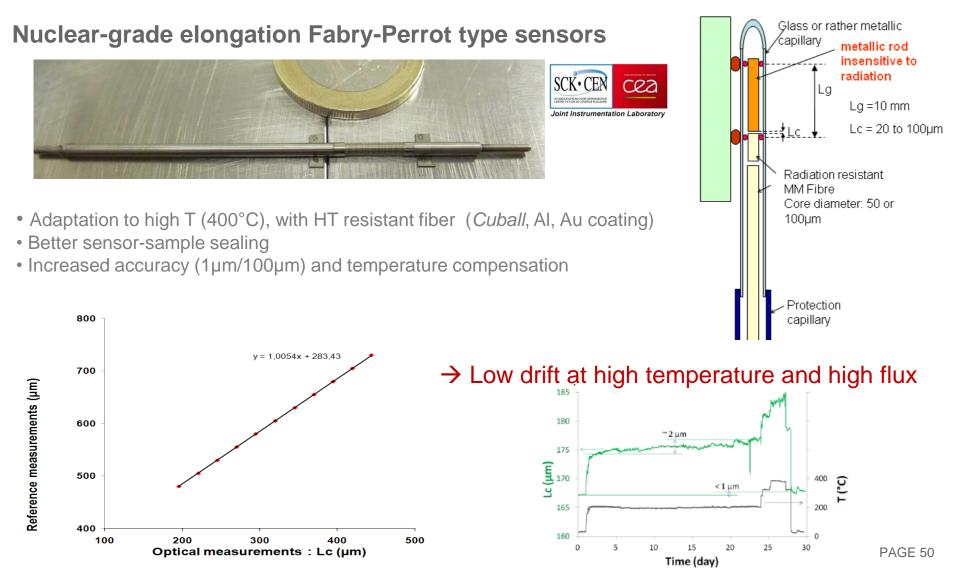
• RIA measured losses < 10 dB \rightarrow suitable multimode and single mode fibers exist for in-core applications

Better choose measurement systems that do not rely on light intensity → interferometry (Fabry-Perot, Bragg gratings...)



3. Examples of in-core instrumentation 3.3. Innovative technologies : fiber optics

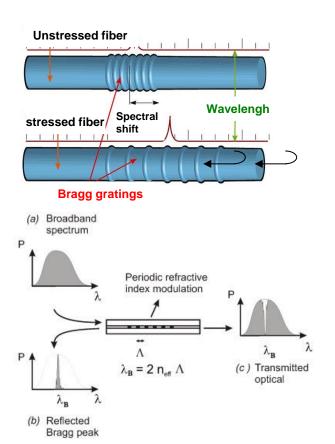
Example of fiber-based in-core sensor : optical extensometer



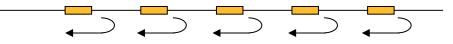


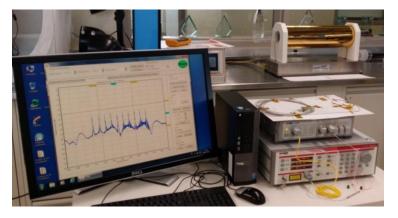
In-core optical measurements

- Fabry-Perot sensor is now in a phase of industrial transfer
- Other developments : Bragg Grating sensors



= distributed measurements of temperature / deformation





- \rightarrow On-going tests at the MITR
- \rightarrow Scheduled tests at the ATR and BR2

Instrumentation Technologies at SCK · CEN, CEA, JAEA, KAERI, IFE/HRP, INL and NRG

	Technology		
Research Organization/Country	Sensors	Parameter Detection	Status
Studiecentrum voor Kernenergie • Centre d'Étude de	SPNDs	Thermal flux	Operational
	Fission chambers	Thermal and fast flux	Operational (fast detectors qualified in 2009 in the framework of Joint Lab with CEA)
	Fiber optics	Length	Under development (Joint Lab with CEA)
	Linear variable differential transformers (LVDTs) with unstressed bellows and stressed bellows.	Length/creep-induced elongation	Participating in qualification testing with VTT (LVDTS provided by IFE/HRP)
	Flux wires, foils, and melt wires	Fluence (neutron) and temperature	Operational
Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique et aux Energies Alterna- tives (CEA)/France	Fission chambers (down to 1.5 mm diameter)	Thermal and fast flux	Operational (fast detectors qualified in 2009 in the framework of Joint Lab with SCK•CEN)
	SPNDs	Thermal flux	Operational
	SPGDs	Gamma flux	Operational
	Activating foils	ntegral flux Operational	
	Gamma calorimeter	Nuclear heating	Operational
	Thermocouples and melt wires	Temperature	Type K, N, and C thermocouples— Operational; can be placed in previously irradiated fuel rods. Mo/Nb alloys ther- mocouples under development with French vendor (Thermocoax) (long- duration testing)
	Noise thermometry Temperature Under development	Under development	
	Counter-pressure sensor	Fission gas release (pressure in fuel rod)	Operational (placed on previously irradi- ated fuel rod)
	Acoustics	Fission gas composition and pressure	Operational (placed on previously irradi- ated fuel rod) Operational (also testing enhanced IFE/ HRP LVDTs) under development (test- ing enhanced IFE/HRP DGs)
	LVDTs	Length/creep-induced elongation Diameter gauge	
	Fiber optics	Length	Under development (Joint Lab with SCK•CEN)

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	Technology		
Research Organization/Country	Sensors	Parameter Detection	Status
Japan Atomic Energy Agency (JAEA)/Japan	Fission chambers (1.8 mm diameter)	Thermal flux (with ²³⁵ U deposits)	Operational
	SPNDs	Thermal flux (Rh, Co, and Pt-40%Rh emitters)	Operational
	Flux wires	Integral fast (Fe) and thermal (Al-Co, V-Co, and Ti-Co) flux	Operational
	Thermocouples (Type K, N, and C) and melt wires	Temperature	Operational (subject to high tempera- ture or transmutation-induced signal degradation; can place in previously irradiated fuel rods.
	LVDT (stressed with bellows and unstressed)	Pressure, length/creep-induced elongation	Operational (using Japanese-made LVDTs and bellows)
	DCPD method with CT specimens and bellows loading	Crack growth	Operational
Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI)/Korea	Thermocouples (Type K and C) and melt wires	Temperature	Operational
	Flux wires	Integral fast flux	Operational
	LVDTs	Pressure, UO ₂ elongation/creep- induced elongation	Operational for pressure and fuel elon- gation detection/under evaluation for creep testing (using IFE/HRP LVDTs)
	SPNDs (V-, Rh-emitter)	Thermal flux	Operational (using commercially- made SPNDs)
Institute for Energy Technology/Halden Reactor Project (IFE/HRP)/Norway	LVDT (stressed with bellows and unstressed)	Pressure, length/creep-induced elongation, diameter	Operational (enhancements explored with CEA and INL)
	Eddy-current probe	Oxide thickness deposited on fuel rods	Under development
	Thermocouples (Type K, N, and C) and melt wires	Temperature and thermal conductivity degradation	Operational (subject to high tempera- ture or transmutation-induced signal degradation). Can place in previously irradiated fuel rods.
	SPNDs	Thermal flux, power, fuel heat-up rate	Operational (using commercially-made and IFE/HRP-made sensors)
	Gamma thermometer	Heat generated by gamma heating	Operational (using IFE/HRP-made sensors)
	DCPD method with CT specimens and bel- lows loading	Crack growth	Operational

	Technology		
Research Organization/Country	Sensors	Parameter Detection	Status
Institute for Energy Technology/Halden Reactor Project (IFE/HRP)/Norway (continued)	Electrochemical corrosion potential probes	Water chemistry	Operational
	Flux wires	Integral fast (Fe, Ni) and thermal (Al-Co) flux	Operational
	Melt wires (peak)	Temperature	Operational
Idaho National Laboratory (INL)/U.S.	Melt wires (peak), SiC temperature monitors (range)	Temperature	Operational
	Thermocouples (Type N, K, C, and doped Mo/Nb-alloy HTIR-TC)	Temperature	Operational (HTIR-TCs developed and offered by INL)
	Hot wire probe	Thermal conductivity	Final laboratory evaluations underway; scheduled for irradiation testing in 2011.
	Ultrasonic transducers	Length/geometry	Under laboratory evaluation
	Ultrasonic thermometers	Temperature	Under laboratory evaluation
	Flux wires and foils	Fluence (neutron)	Operational
	Gas chromatography Pressure sensors Gamma detectors/sampling	Fission gas (amount, composition)	Operational
	LVDT (stressed with bellows and unstressed)	Length/creep-induced elongation	Under laboratory evaluation (using IFE/HRP LVDTs); irradiation scheduled for 2011.
	SPNDs (Rh, Gd, and Hf emitters)	Thermal flux	Under evaluation at ATR Critical (ATRC) facility
	Miniature and subminiature fission chambers	Fast and thermal flux	Under evaluation at ATR Critical (ATRC) facility
Nuclear Research & Consultancy Group (NRG)/	Flux wires (Nb, Ti, Fe, NiCo)	Fluence (neutron)	Operational
Netherlands*	SPNDs	Thermal flux, power, fuel heat-up rate	Operational (using commercially-made SPNDs)
	Thermocouples (Type K and N)	Temperature	Operational
	LVDT	Pressure	Operational (using IFE/HRP LVDTs)
	Silicon chip transducer	Pressure	Operational (using kulite semiconductor prod- ucts outside high neutron and gamma radiation locations)

French alternative energies and atomic energy commission Cadarache | F-13108 Saint-Paul-lez-Durance | France T. +33 (0)4 42 25 79 62 | F. +33 (0)4 42 25 78 76 Etablissement public à caractère industriel et commercial RCS Paris B 775 685 019 Nuclear Energy Division Reactor Studies Department Experimental Physics Section Instrumentation Sensors and Dosimetry Laborator