

SAM SAFER

WP2 Experiments and Simulations on MSR fuel systems

Final Project meeting

Avignon

28.11.2023



Nuclear. For life.



3 Keynote Lectures

Nikolas Scuro - PhD Student of Ontario Tech., with stays at Polimi at JRC (Remote presentation)
Coupling of Thermodynamics with Multi-physics - Fluorination and overheating scenario

Thomas Dumaire - PhD Student of TUD, with work at JRC
Thermodynamics of Fuel Salt with corrosion products - Experiments and Simulations

Stefano Lorenzi - Professor at Polimi
Multi-Physics simulations with focus on 5M particle dynamics

WP2 - Task 2.1

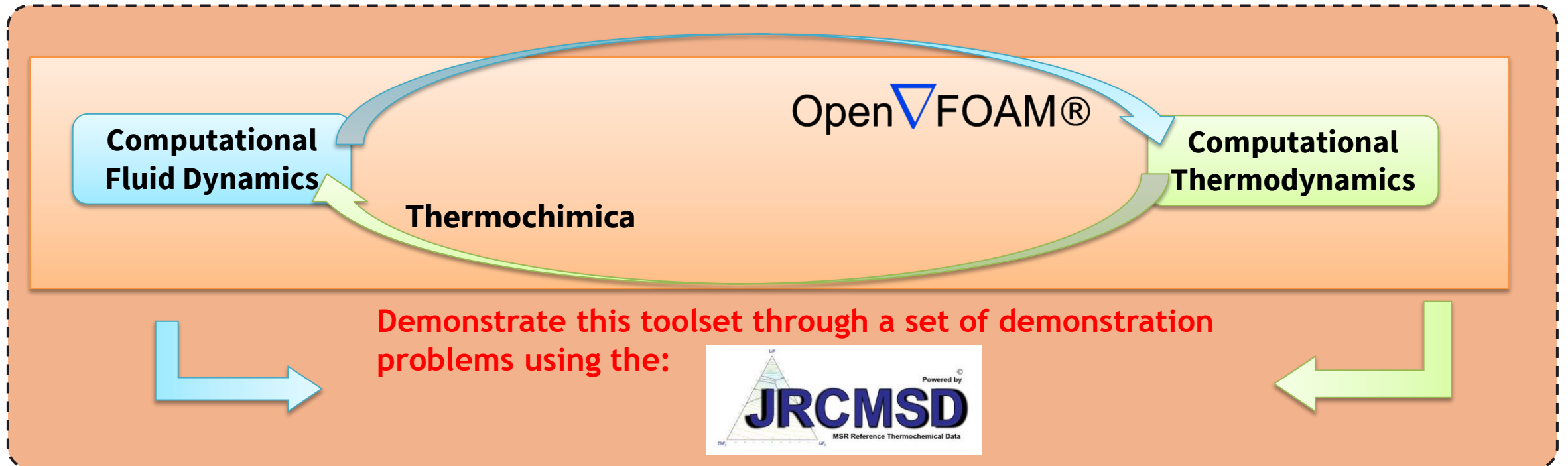
Final Results Coupling OpenFOAM and Thermochimica for MSR

Final Meeting & Exploitation Workshop
November 28-30, 2023, Avignon, France
N. L. Scuro, O. Beneš, M. H. A. Piro

Outline

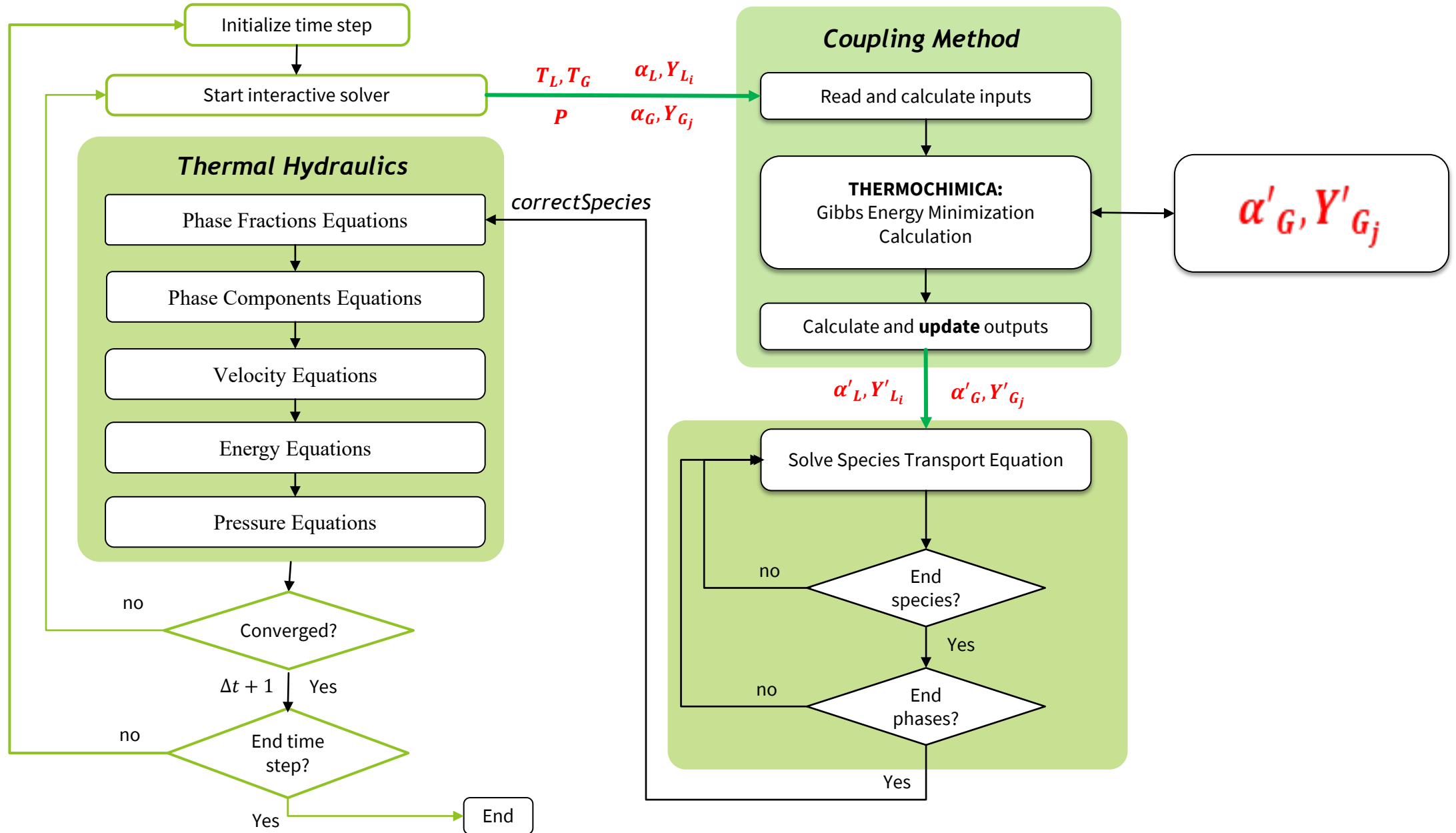
- **WP2 - Task 2.1**
- **Coupling Method**
- **Two-Way Coupling Demonstration Problems (#1 and #2)**
- **Verification and Validation (V&V)**
- **Conclusions**
- **Acknowledgments**

“To develop new **computational capabilities** to simulate **phase transformations** and **chemically reacting dynamic flows** involving **molten salts**”



Note: This project is **not** a predictive tool for industry... **Yet!**

Coupling Method



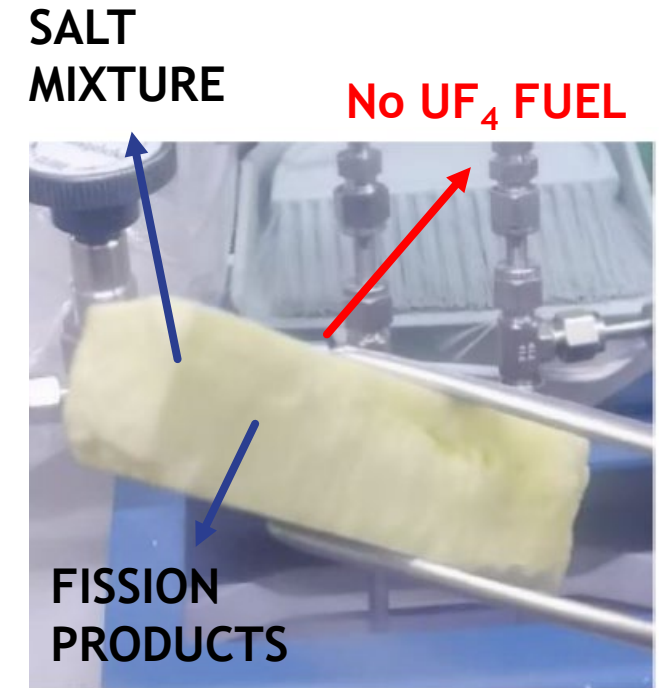
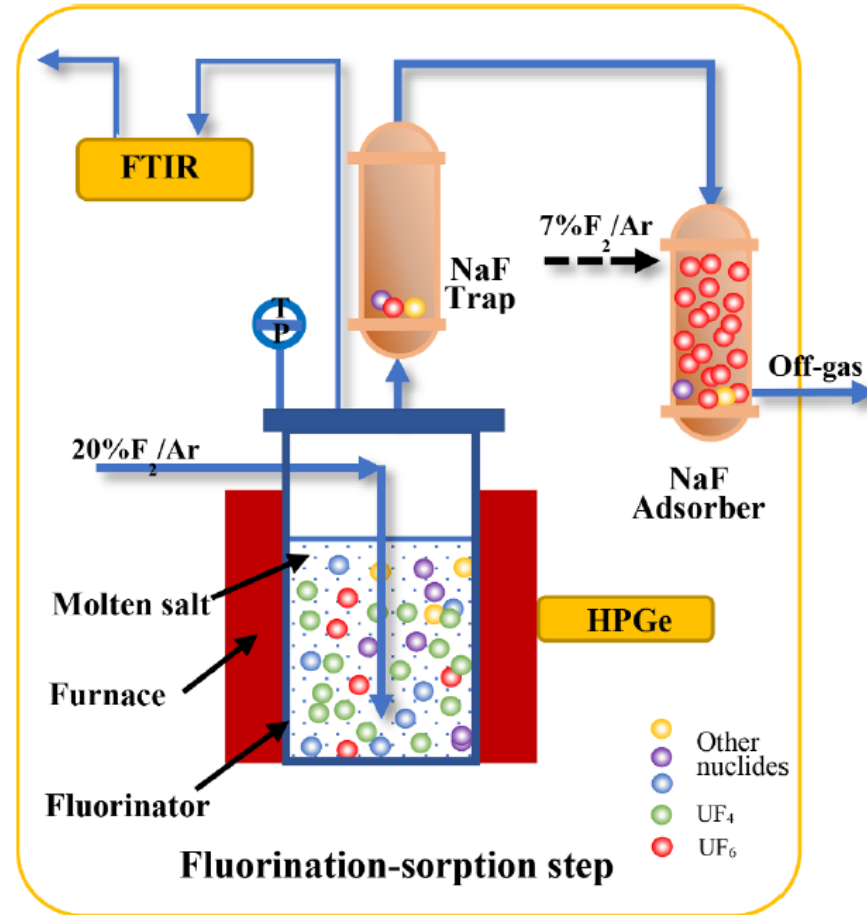
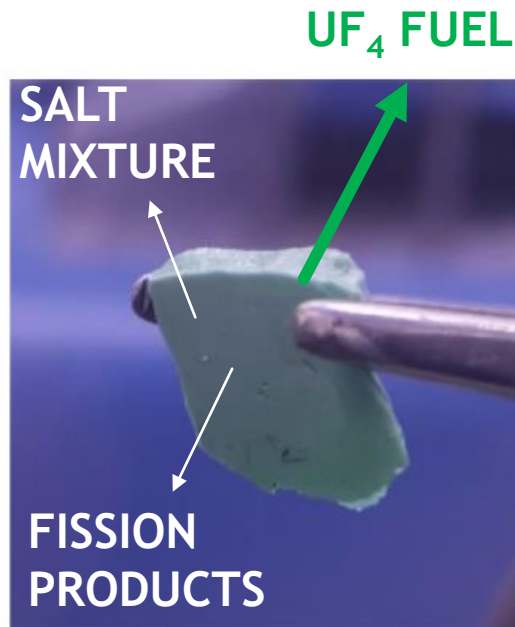
1st Demonstration Problem

Fluorination Process

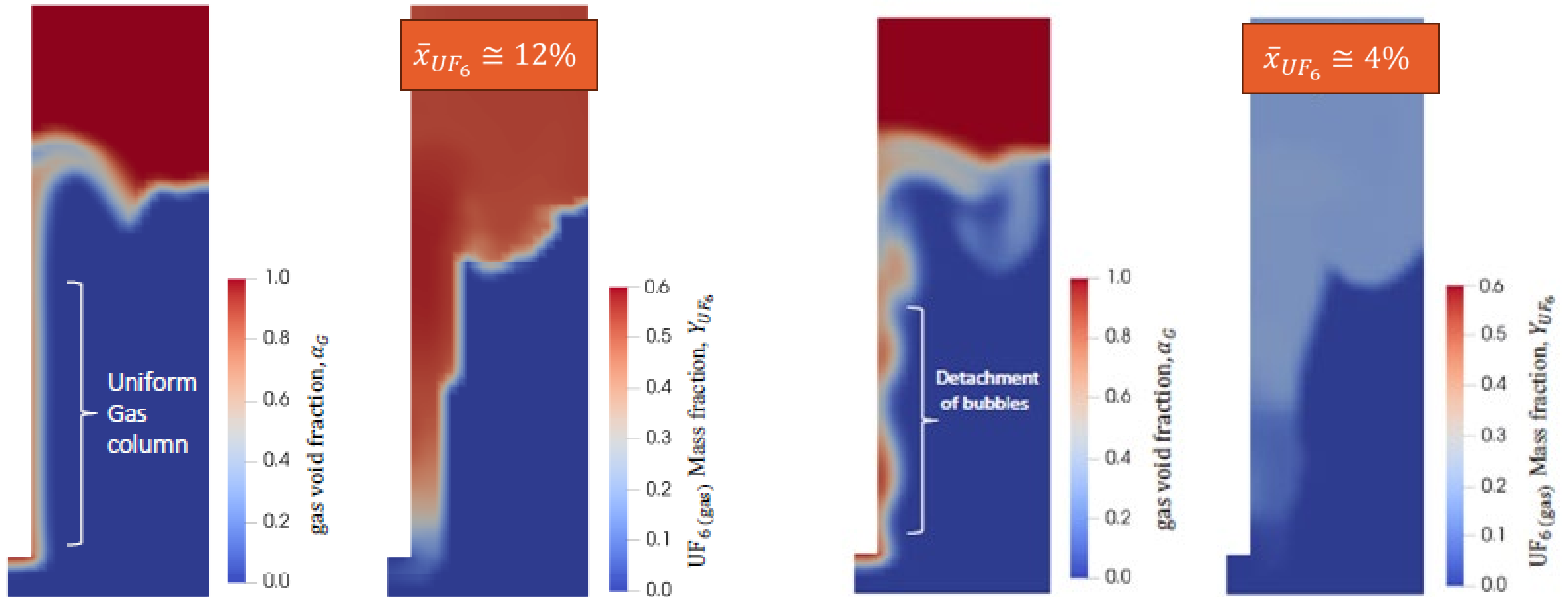


Demonstration Problem: Molten Salt Fluorination Process ($UF_4 + F_2 \rightarrow UF_6$)

Fluorination Process



Demonstration Problem: Molten Salt Fluorination Process ($UF_4 + F_2 \rightarrow UF_6$)



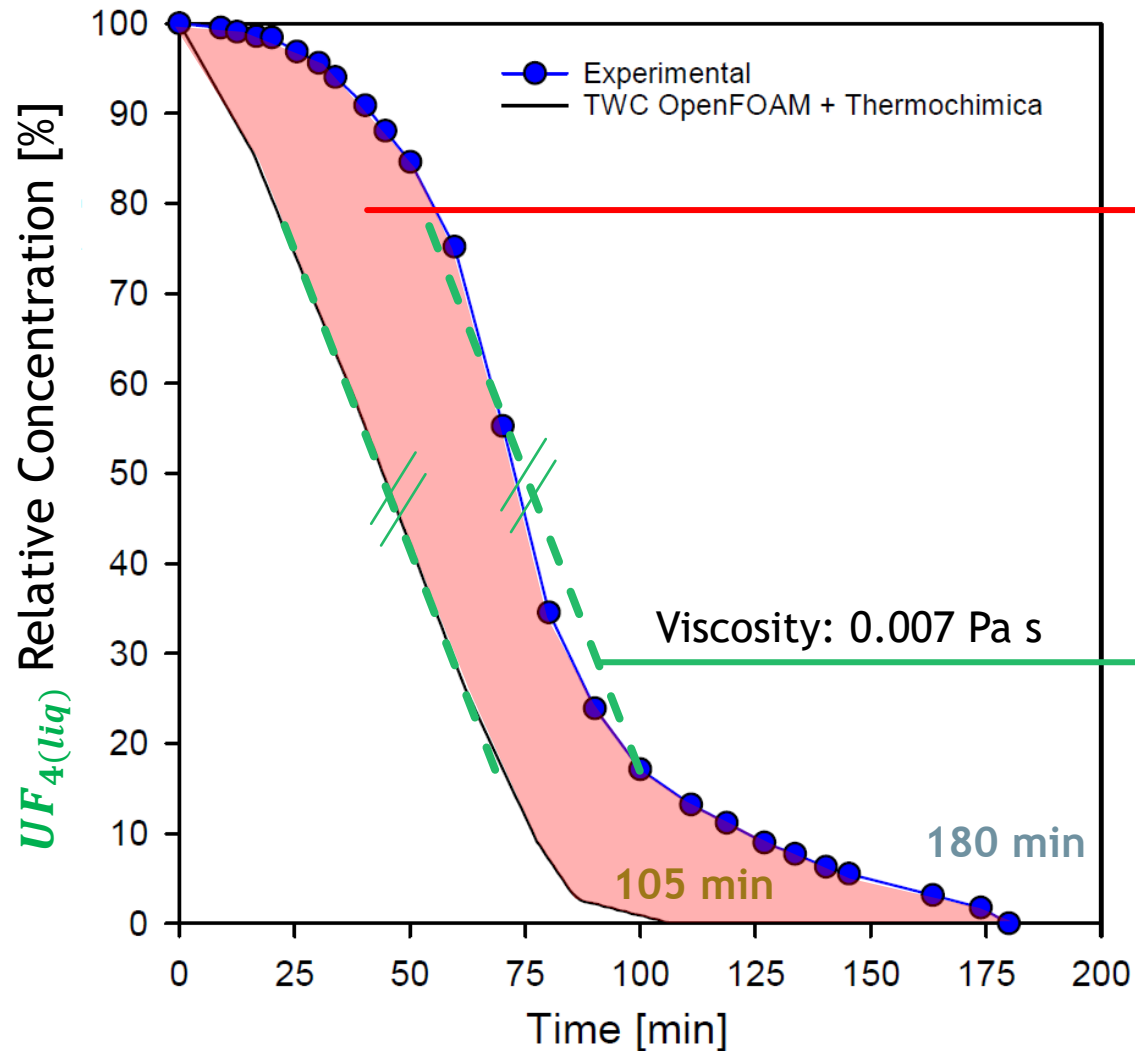
Case 1: lowest viscosity

Fluorination time: 105 min

Case 1: Highest viscosity

Fluorination time: 663 min

#2 TWC Demonstration Problem: UF_4 removal rate



Difference between TWC vs Experimental :c

1. Lack of chemical kinetics
2. Lack of chemical and temperature dependencies of thermophysical properties
3. Several uncertainties from experiments results

Very similar reaction rates at Steady-State

2nd Demonstration Problem:

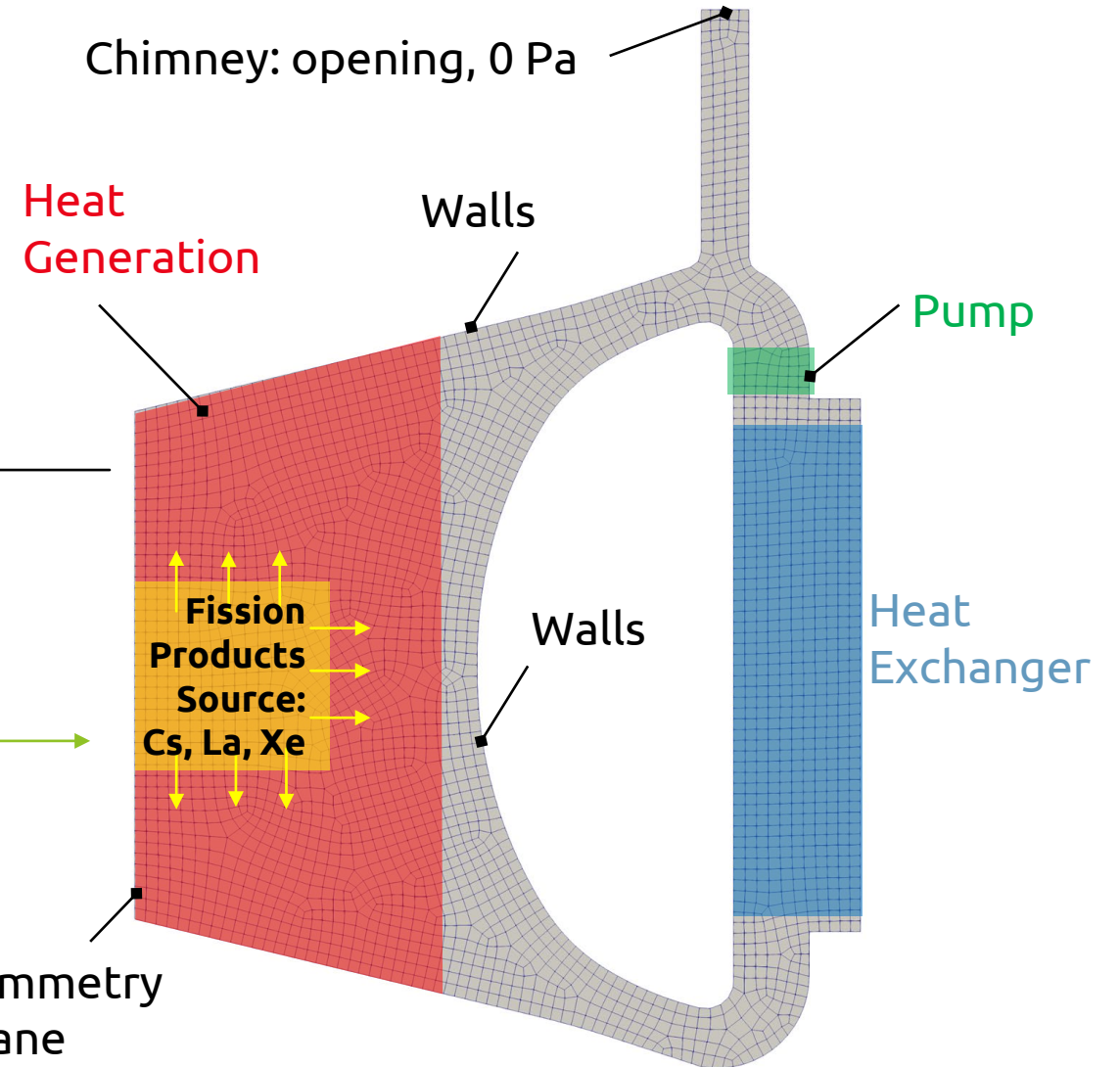
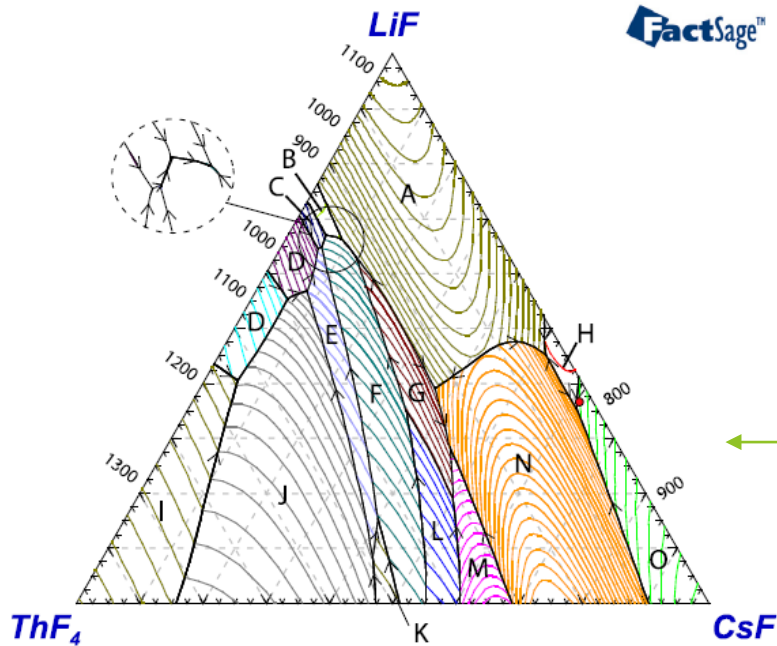
Molten Salt Fast Reactor

Normal Operation Conditions and Overheating Scenarios

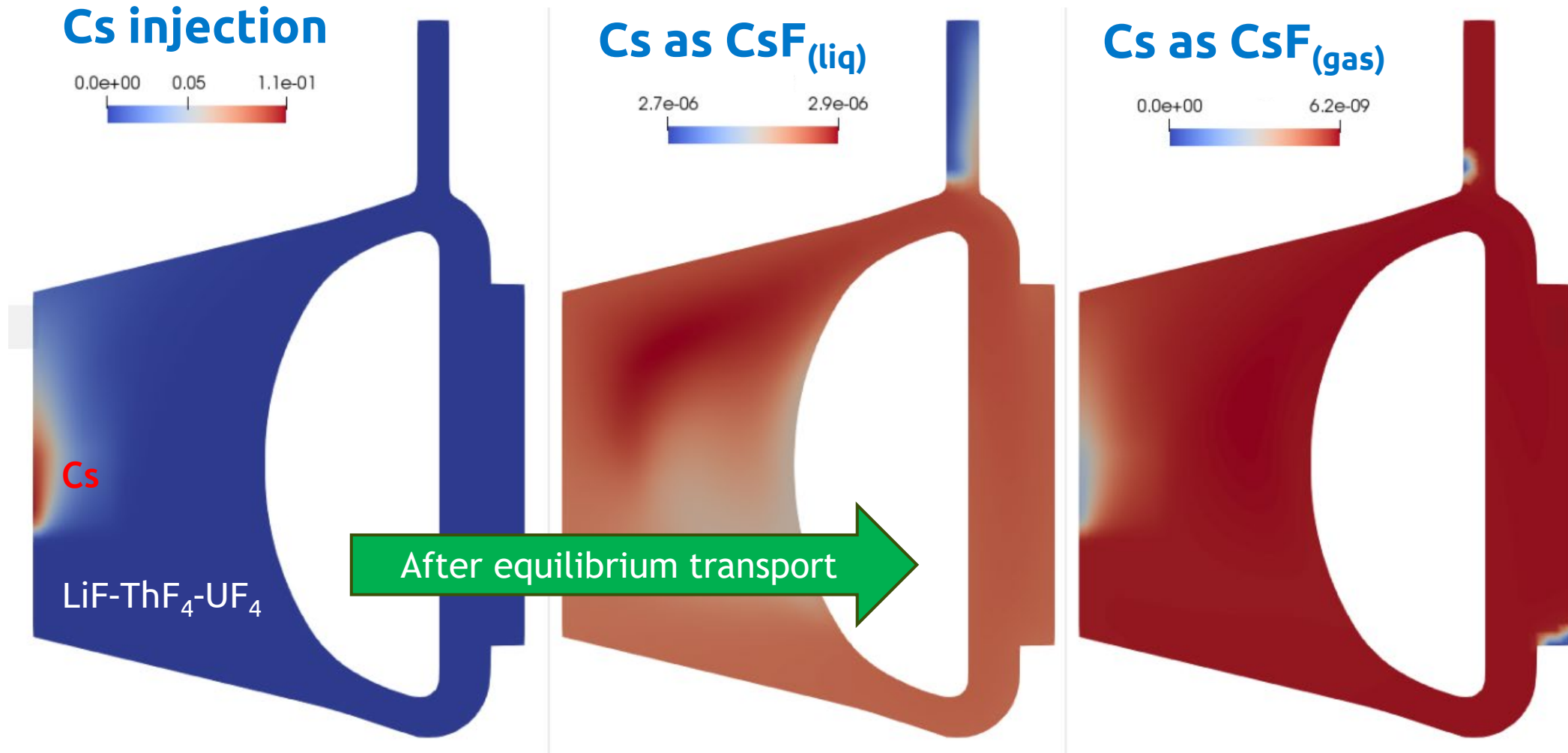
2nd Demonstration Problem - Molten Salt Fast Reactor

Salt: LiF-ThF₄-UF₄
77.5-20.0-2.5 %mol.

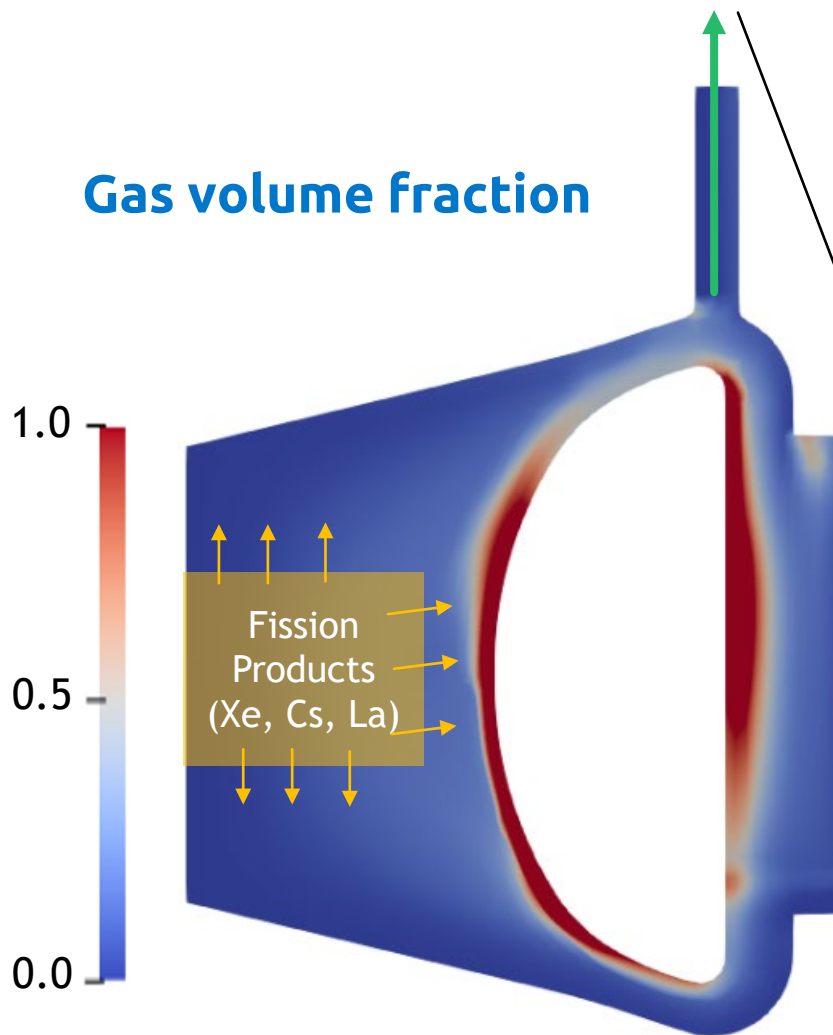
FactSage™



2nd Demonstration Problem - Molten Salt Fast Reactor



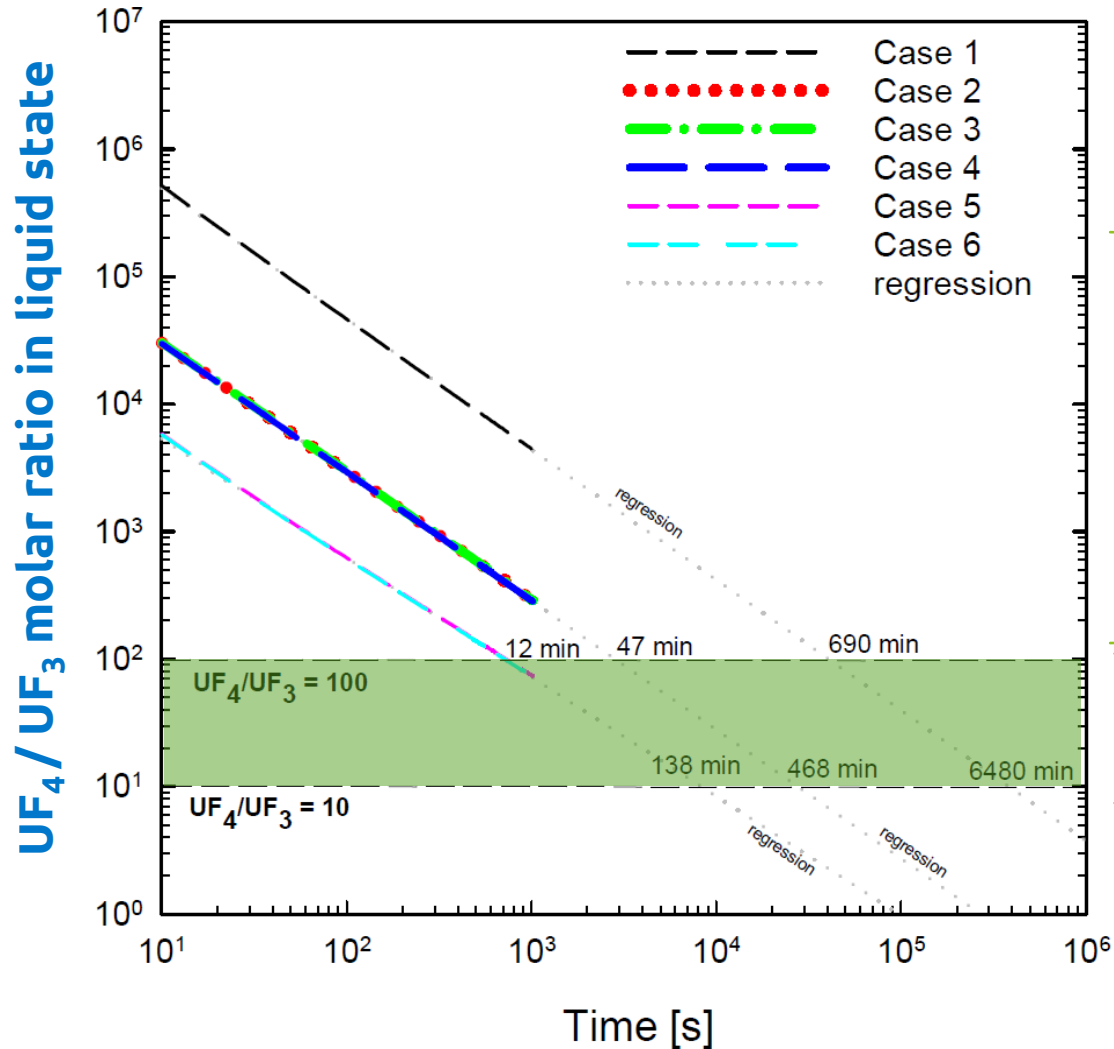
2nd Demonstration Problem - Molten Salt Fast Reactor



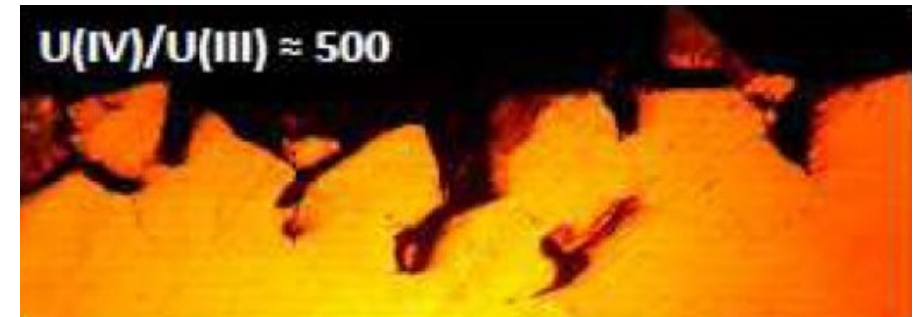
Gaseous Species accumulated in 1000 s

Species [kg]	NOC	Overheating
	3 GW _{th}	15 GW _{th}
Xe	1.011E-05	5.056E-05
FLi	1.311E-11	9.029E-08
F2Li2	5.146E-12	2.310E-08
F3Li3	7.686E-13	3.045E-09
ThF4	1.149E-13	8.338E-09
UF4	2.962E-13	5.667E-09
UF3	1.148E-19	2.124E-13
CsF	1.444E-12	2.140E-09
Cs2F2	8.957E-17	2.007E-13
Cs2	1.463E-27	2.507E-21
LaF3	2.296E-18	1.266E-12
F2	1.032E-36	4.676E-26
F	2.449E-22	1.892E-15

2nd Demonstration Problem - Molten Salt Fast Reactor

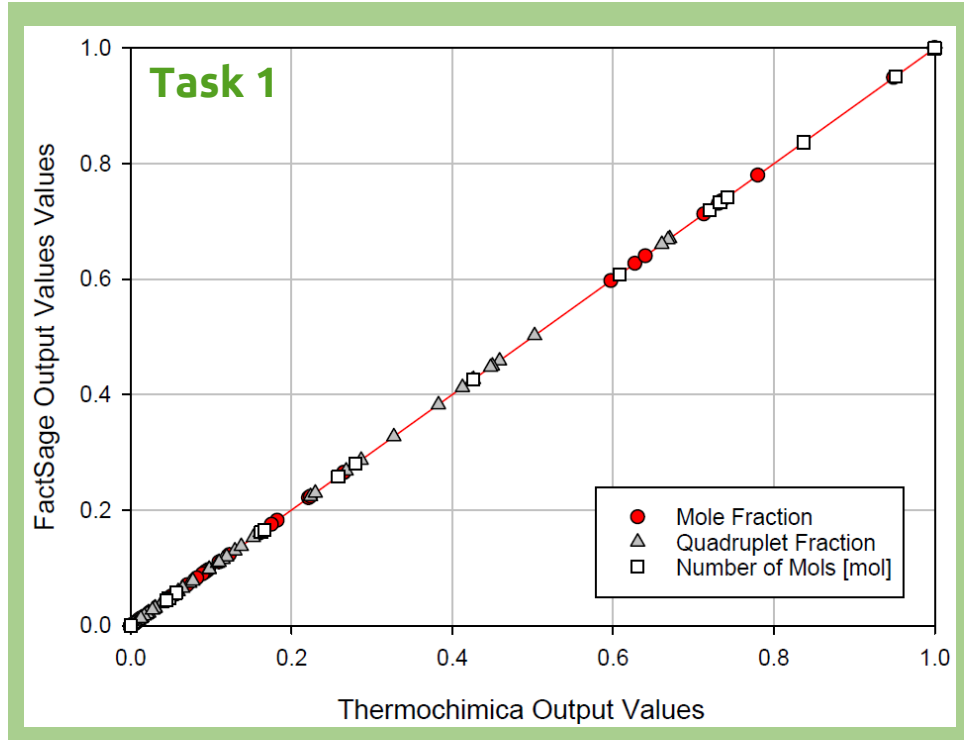


UF₄/UF₃: Corrosion Buffer




Final report summary – EVOL, Tech. Rep. Project n°249696, Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), 4, 2015.

Numerical Verification



* **N. L. Scuro, et al**, (2023) "D2.2 – Description of thermodynamic database implemented in Thermochemica", SAMOSAFER, EURATOM, 847527

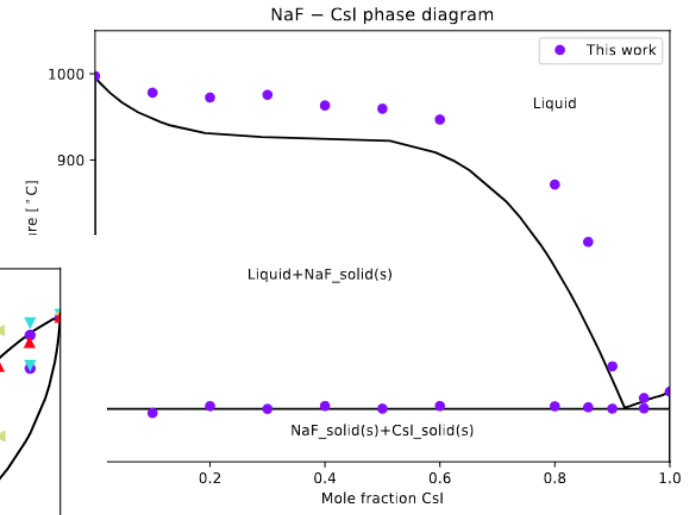
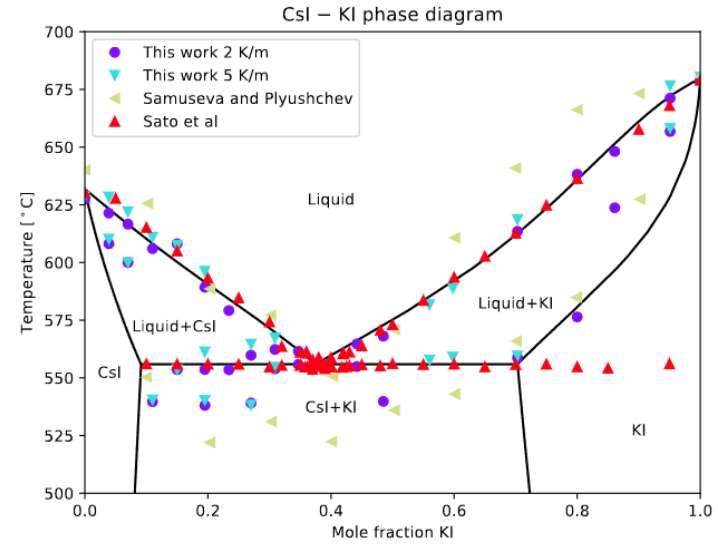
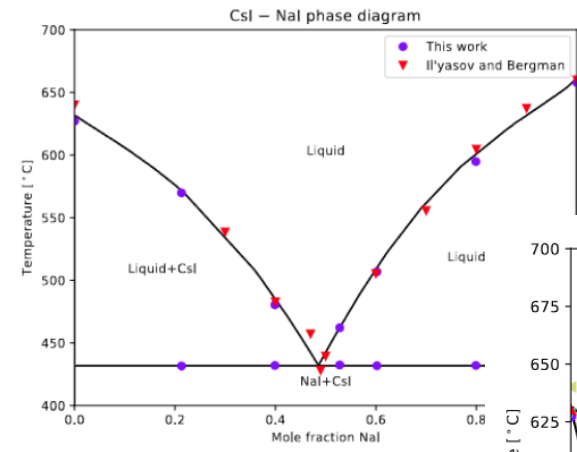
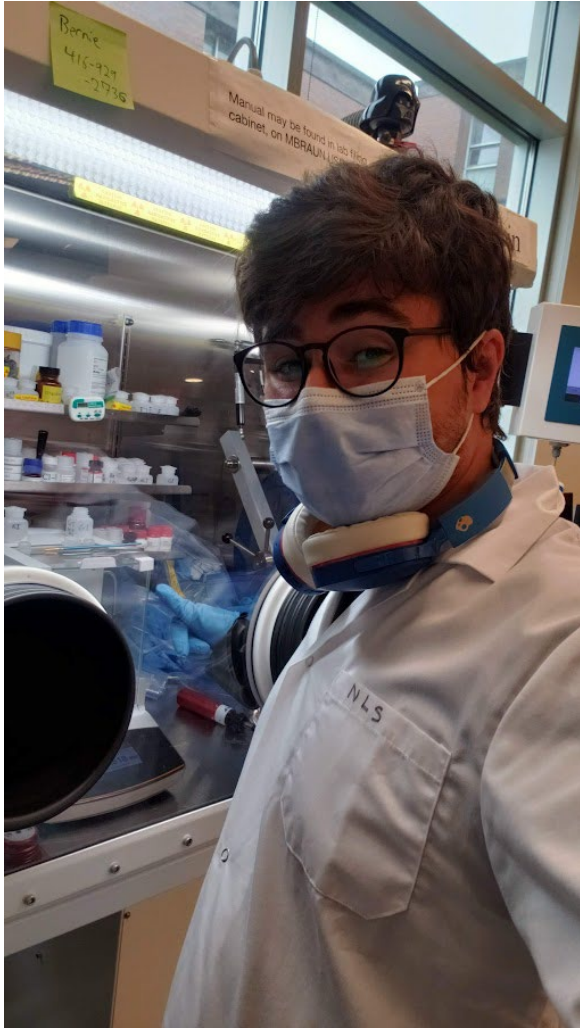
- Benchmark report of Thermochemica vs  for the SAMOSAFER was made in Fall 2021*

- CFD model itself follows the best guidelines^{1,2} to achieve numerical convergence (mesh sensitivity, track residuals, appropriate numerical schemes, turbulence model, etc.)

¹ Oberkampf, W. L., & Trucano, T. G. (2002). Verification and validation in CFD. *Progress in aerospace sciences*, 38 (3), 209-272

² Mahaffy, J. et. al (2015). No. NEA-CSNI-R--2014-11, OECD

Numerical Validation



Corroborated by JRC

N.L. Scuro et al. "Thermodynamic investigations of the KI-CsI, NaI-CsI, NaF-CsI pseudo-binary systems" [to-be-submitted]

- All thermodynamic calculations are based on experimental inputs.
- OTU has been corroborating with JRC on the development of salt systems:
- KI-CsI, CsI-NaI, NaI-CsI, NaF-CsI, KF-CsI, MgCl₂-SrCl₂

Conclusions

- Can provide **time required** for molten salt reactions (i.e., fluorination)
- Can provide **how thermophysical properties can affect reactions** (i.e., viscosity)
- Can provide **how much and which rate fission products are retained or released**
- Can provide inputs for **UF₄/UF₃ corrosion buffer lost**

Acknowledgements

- This research was undertaken, in part, thanks to funding from the Canada Research Chairs program (950-231328) of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.
- To the SAMOSAFER project for the travel grant (SAMOSAFER Mobility Scheme) at PoliMi and JRC!
- I'd like to thank, A. Di Ronco (PoliMi), S. Lorenzi (PoliMi), T. Dumaire (JRC/TUD), O. Benes (JRC), Sophie Deanesi (PoliMi), Milica Krstovicfor (PSI) and Jiri Krepel (PSI) for technical discussions and support.



Grenoble



Milan

PoliMi



JRC - Karlsruhe - Germany



Grenoble



It was a pleasure to work at this project!

Questions and inputs are welcome!

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Genoa

SAM SAFER

Thermodynamics of Fuel Salt with corrosion products - Experiments and Simulations

T. Dumaire, O. Beneš, O. Walter, R. Konings, A.L. Smith

Final Project meeting

Avignon

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Outline

Corrosion studies

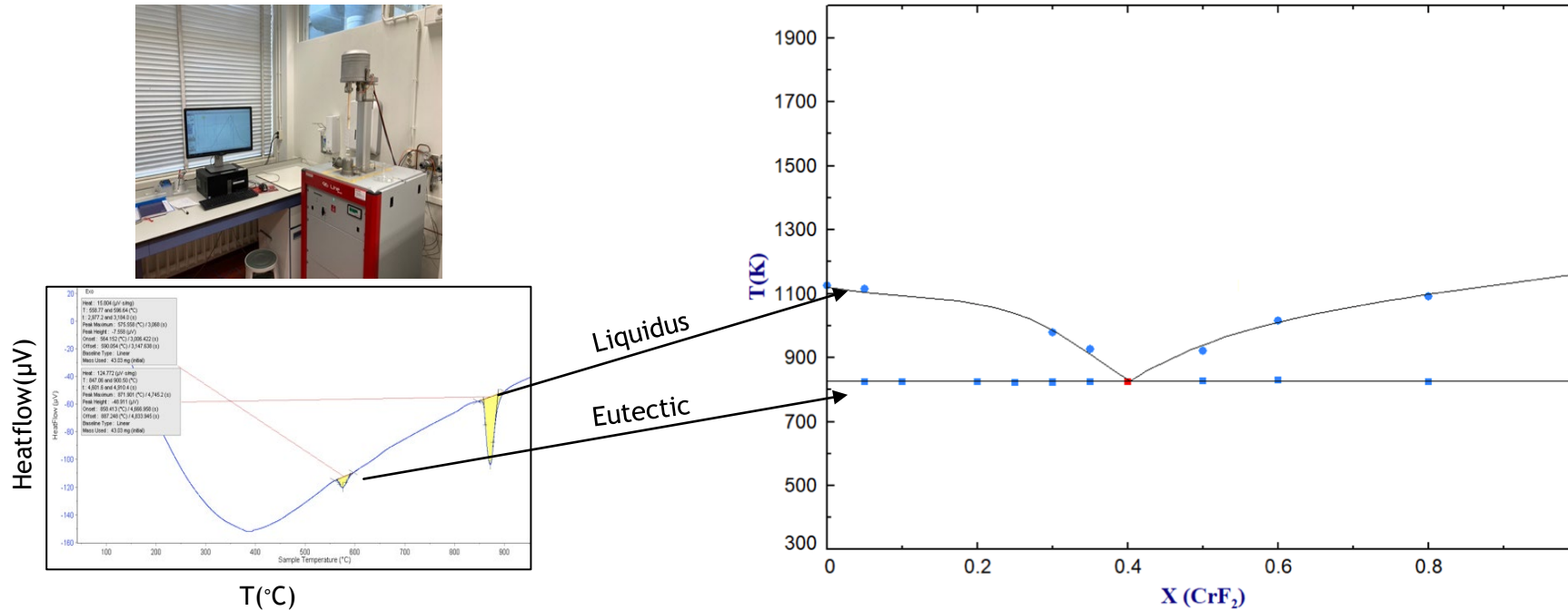
- Chemical speciation of Cr in molten salt
- LiF-CrF₃, NaF-CrF₃, KF-CrF₃ thermodynamic assessments
- CrF₂-CrF₃ thermodynamic assessment
- CrF₂ synthesis
- LiF-CrF₂-ThF₄ thermodynamic assessment

Fission products studies

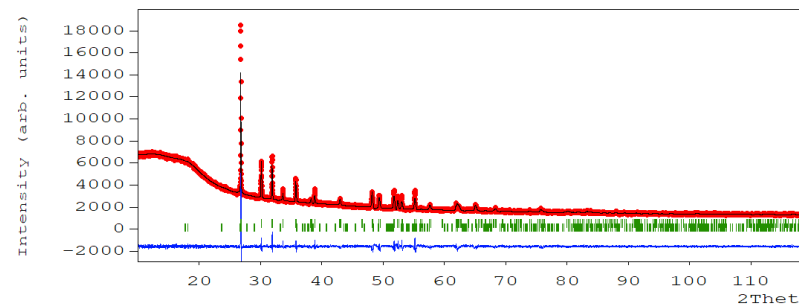
- Study case
- Impact on the fuel thermodynamical properties
- LiF-BaF₂-ZrF₄ thermodynamic assessment

Modeling method - Experimental data collection

- Phase diagram measurements: Differential Scanning Calorimetry



- Phase identification: X-ray Diffraction



XRD spectra of the synthesized CrF_2 with a purity >99% determined by Rietveld refinement

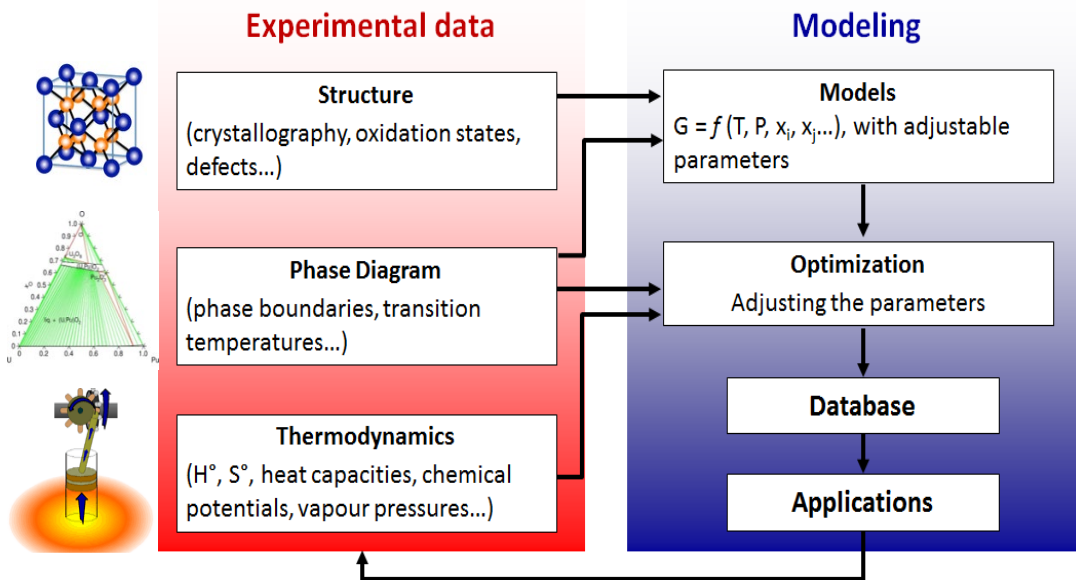
LiF-NaF-KF-CrF₃ systems thermodynamic modeling

- CALPHAD**

Least-square minimization of the total Gibbs energy G of the system to find the thermodynamic equilibrium at given conditions (T, P, x_i).

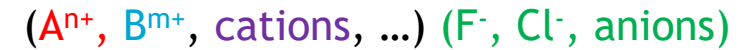
G is expressed as a linear combination of the G for all phases:

$$G(T, P, x_i) = \sum N^\alpha G_m^\alpha(T, P, x_i^\alpha)$$

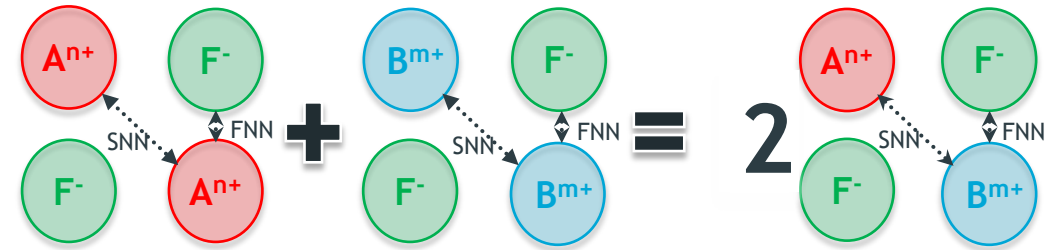


- Modified quasichemical model in quadruplet approximation**

- Formalism well-adapted to ionic liquids
- Two sub-lattices



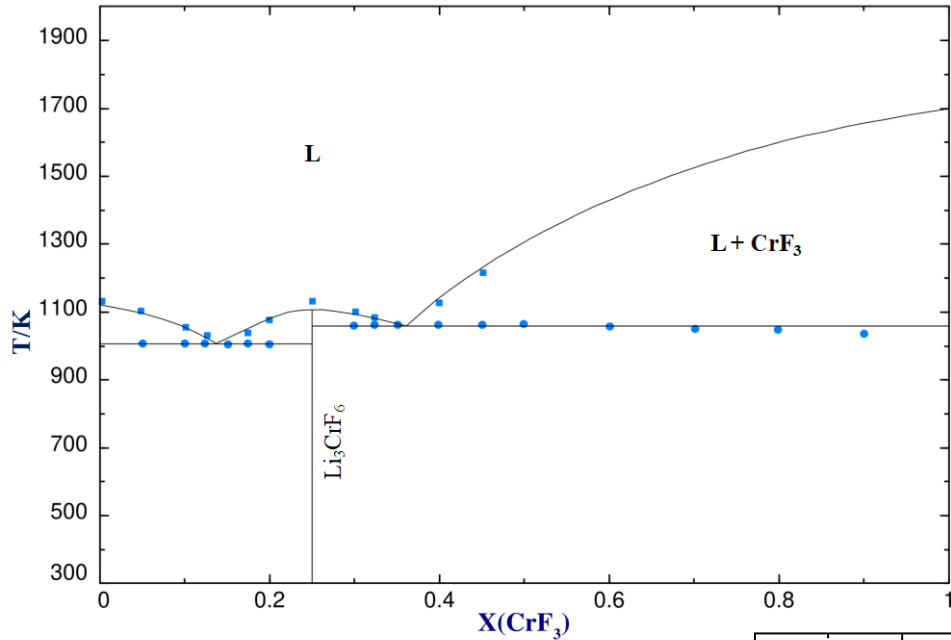
- Basic unit = quadruplet composed of 2 anions and 2 cations



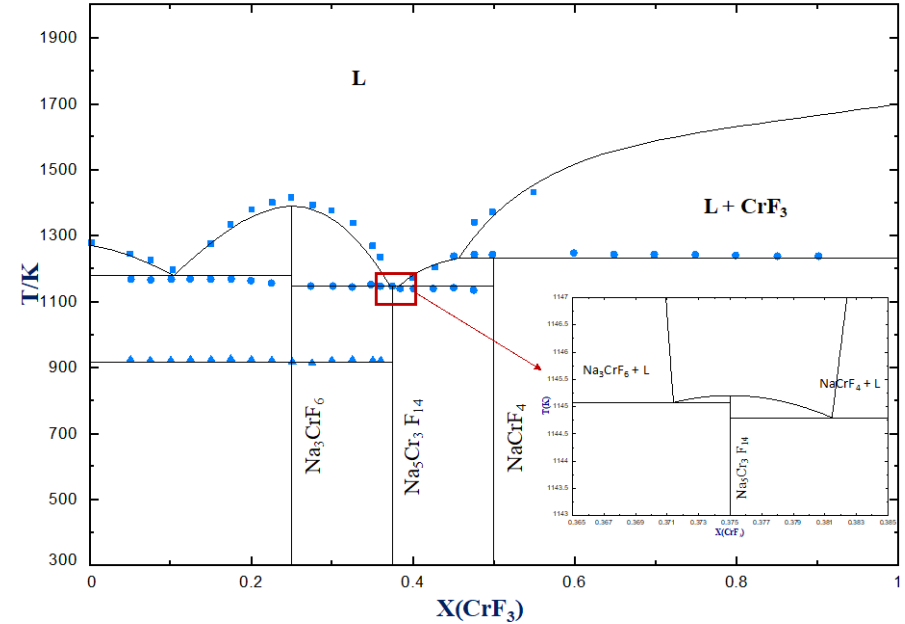
- Optimized excess parameters linked to SNN exchange reaction

$$\Delta g_{AB/F} = \Delta g_{AB/F}^0 + \sum_{i \geq 1} g_{AB/F}^{i0} \chi_{AB/F}^i + \sum_{j \geq 1} g_{AB/F}^{j0} \chi_{AB/F}^j$$

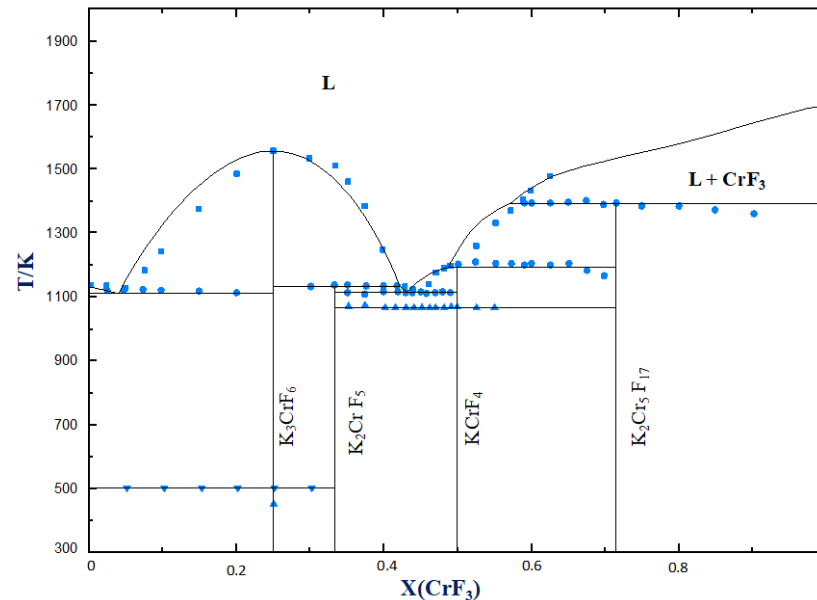
LiF-NaF-KF-CrF₃ systems thermodynamic modeling



CALPHAD modeling of the LiF-CrF₃ system



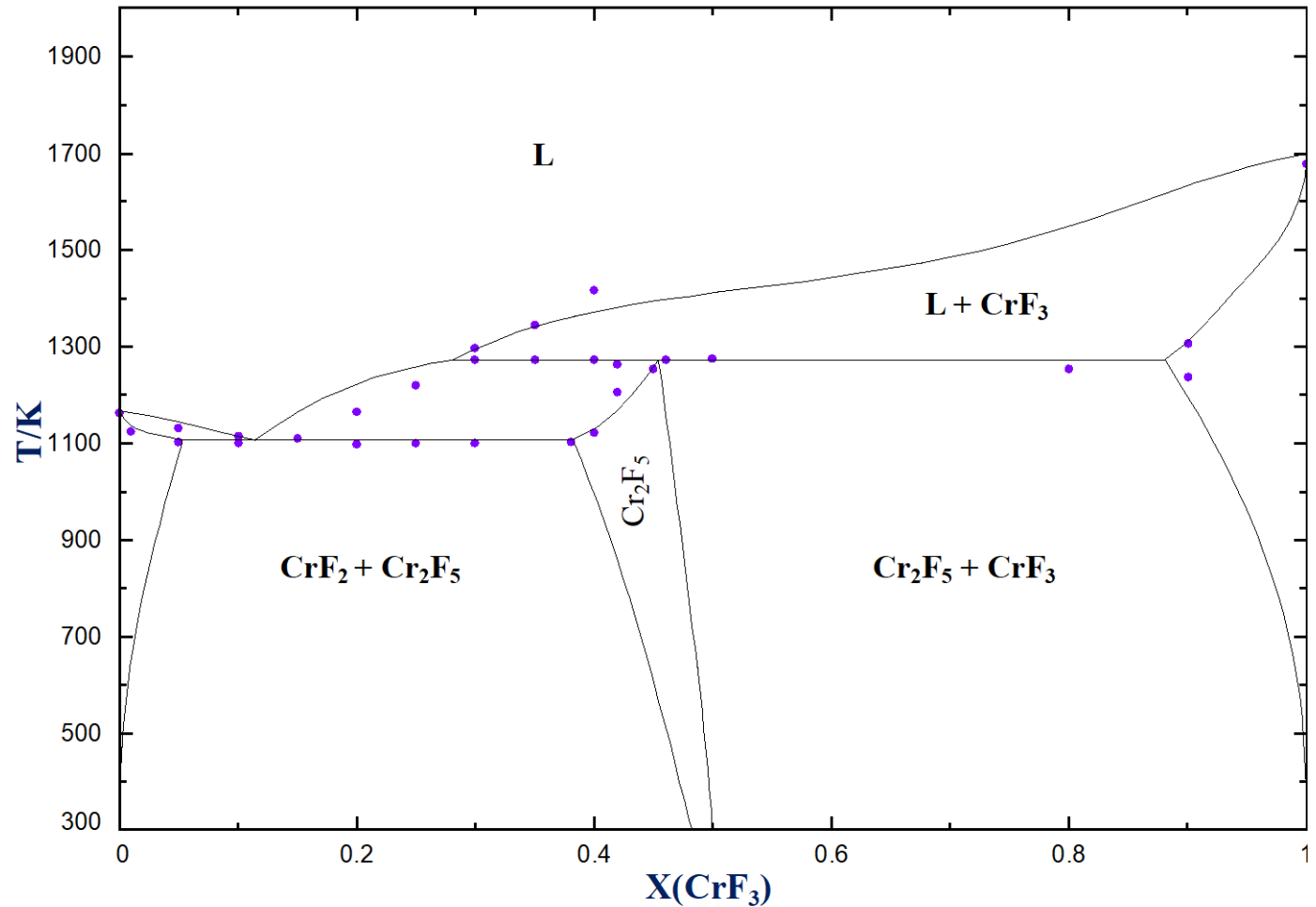
CALPHAD modeling of the NaF-CrF₃ system



CALPHAD modeling of the KF-CrF₃ system

[1] Dumaire, T., Konings, R. J., & Smith, A. L. (2021). Thermodynamic Assessment of the AF-CrF₃ (A= Li, Na, K) and CrF₂-CrF₃ Systems. Thermo, 1(2), 205-219

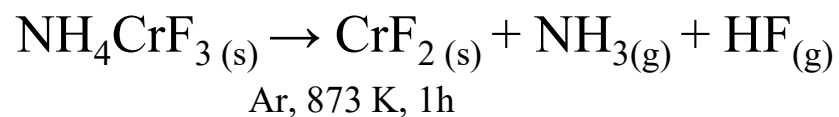
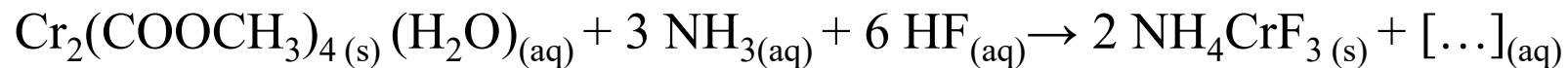
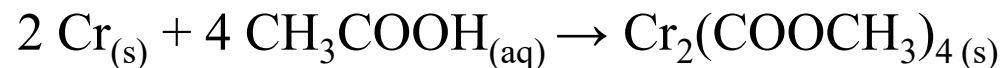
CrF₂-CrF₃ system thermodynamic modeling



- System highly instable in Molten Salt Conditions
- CrF₃ likely to decrease in CrF₂ [1]

CALPHAD modeling of the CrF₂-CrF₃ system

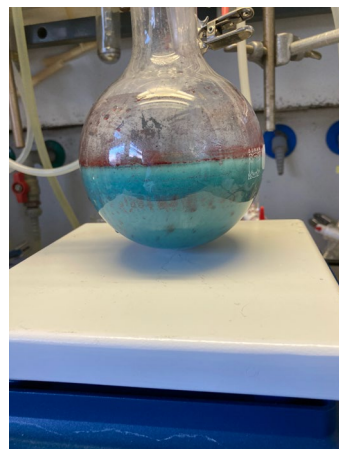
Synthesis of CrF₂



Chromium
powder



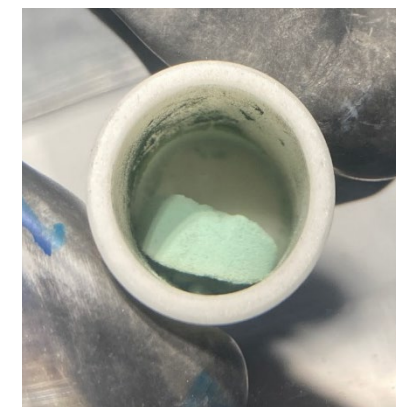
$\text{Cr}_2(\text{COOCH}_3)_4$



NH_4CrF_3

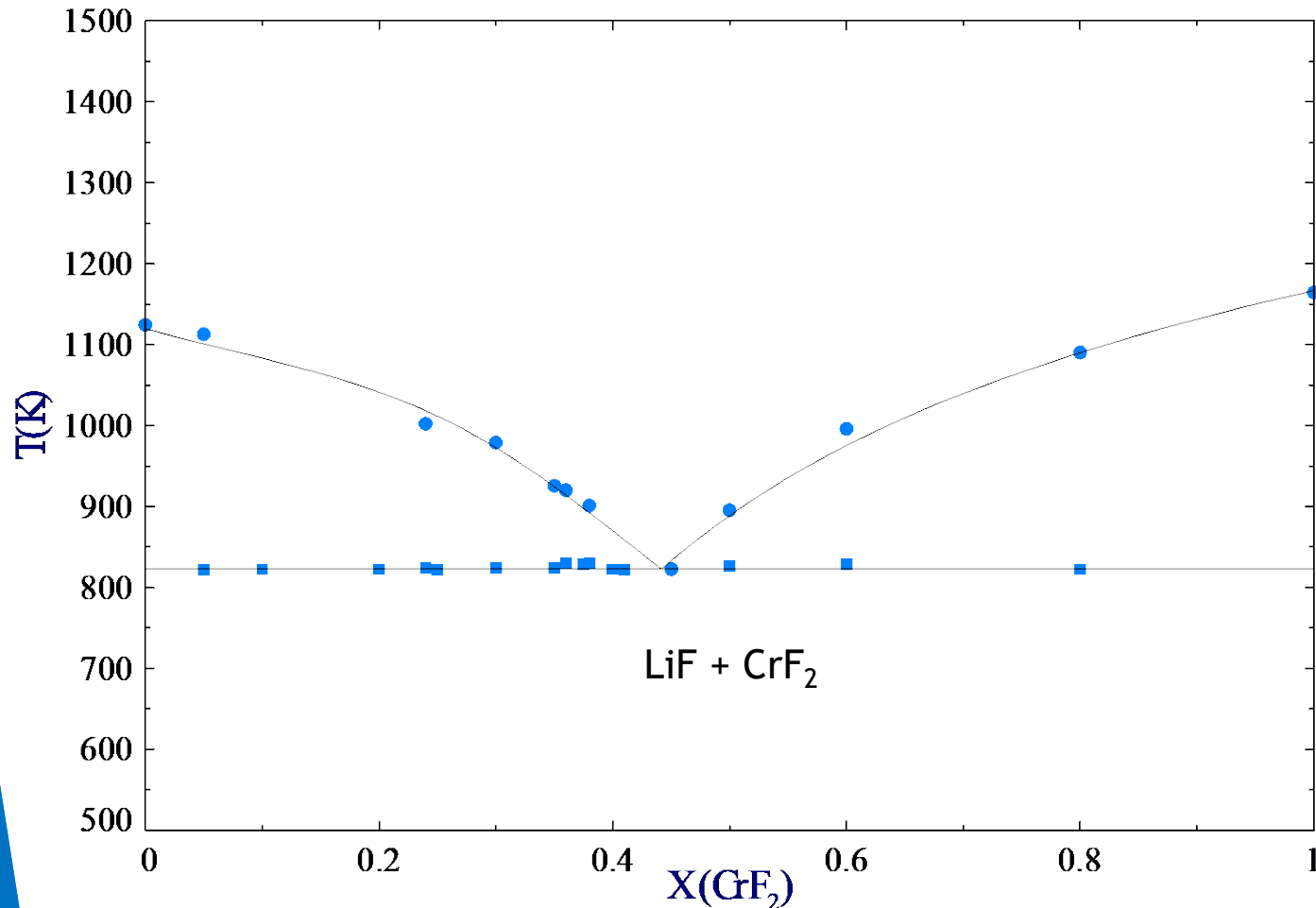


NH_4CrF_3 powder



CrF_2 powder

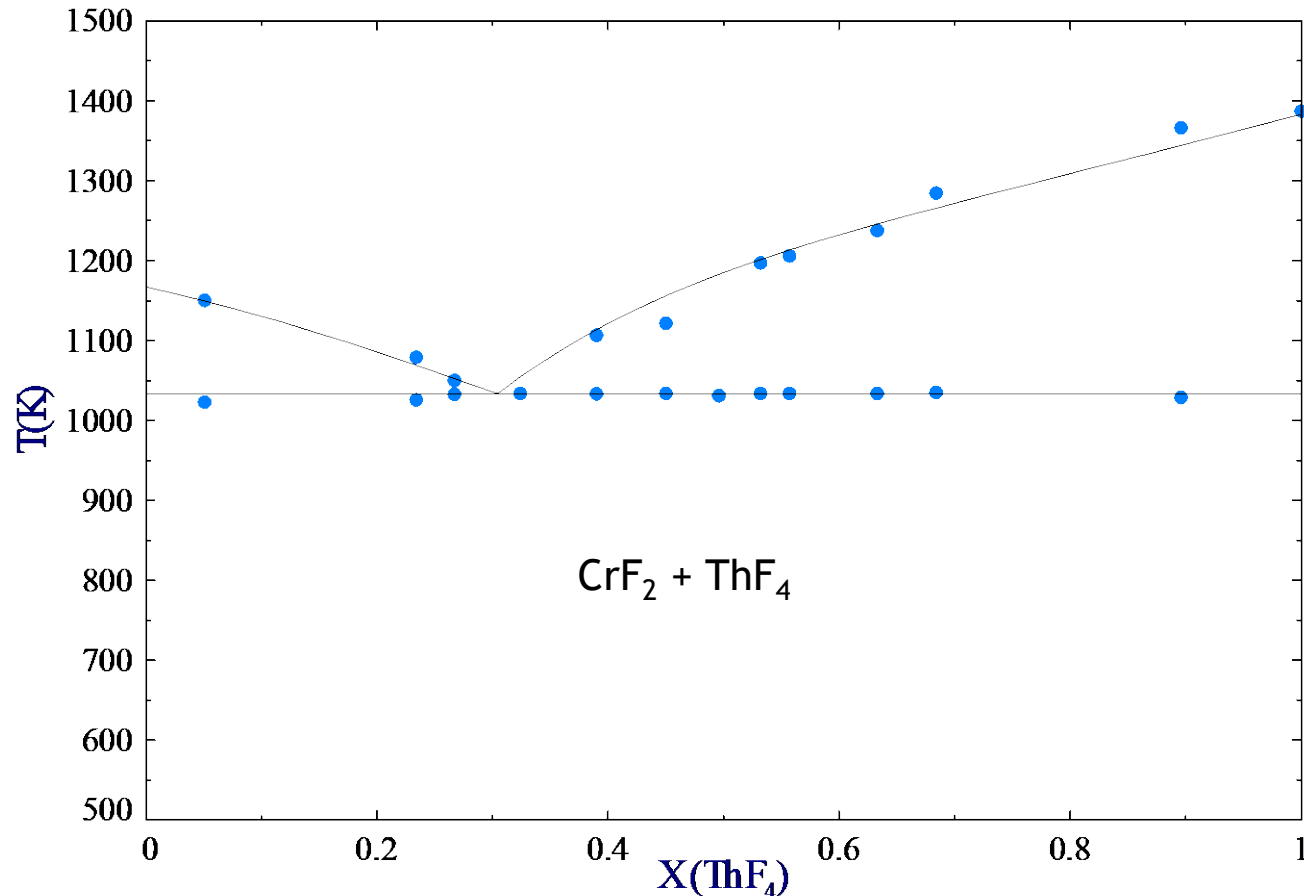
LiF-CrF₂ system



CALPHAD modeling of the LiF-CrF₂ system

- Optimization of the thermodynamic model based on collected phase diagram data by DSC and XRD

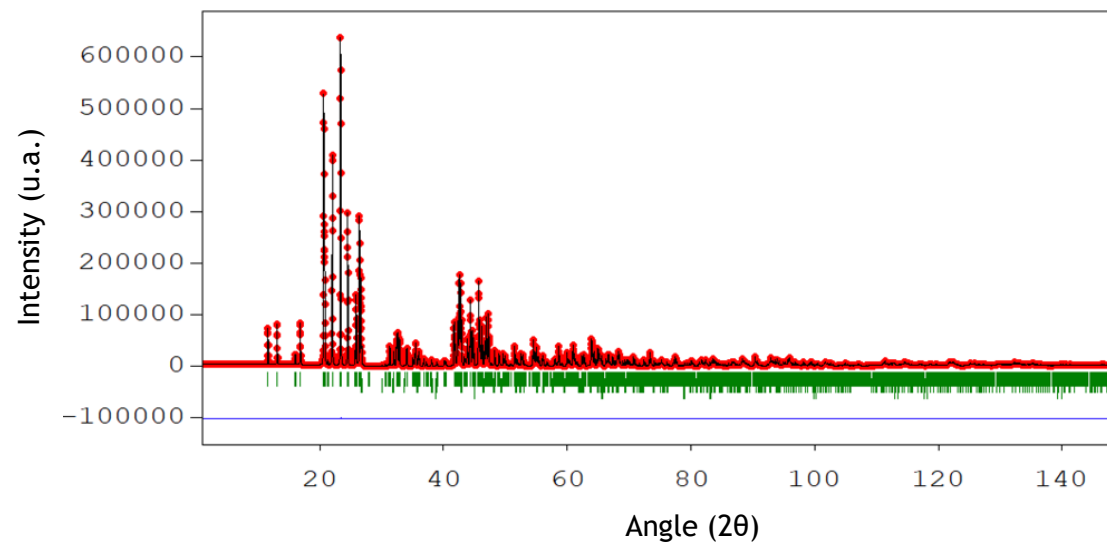
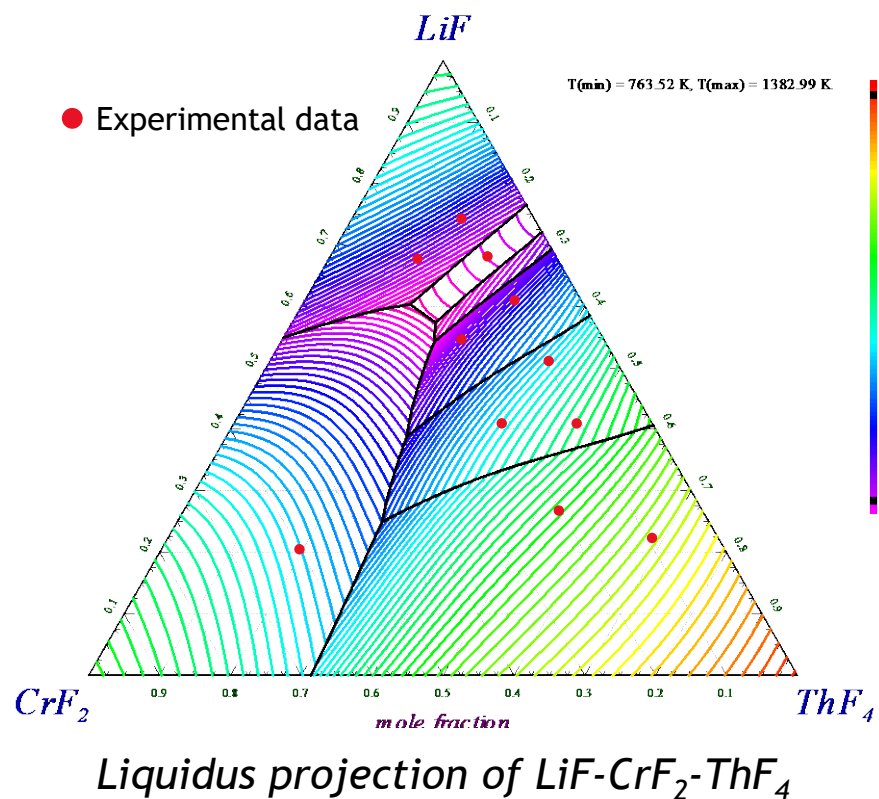
CrF₂-ThF₄ system



CALPHAD modeling of the CrF₂-ThF₄ system

- Optimization of the thermodynamic model based on collected phase diagram data by DSC and XRD

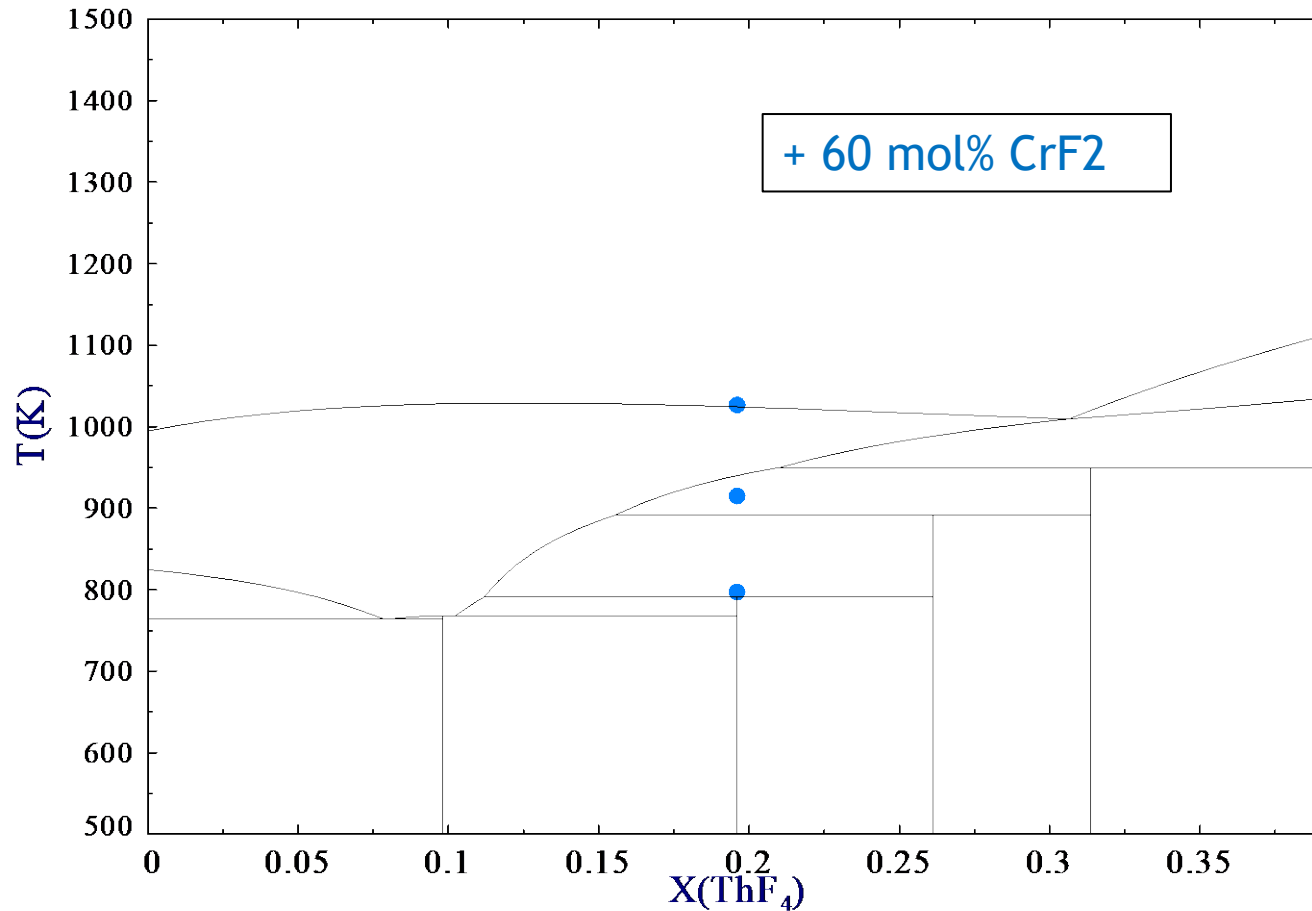
LiF-CrF₂-ThF₄ system



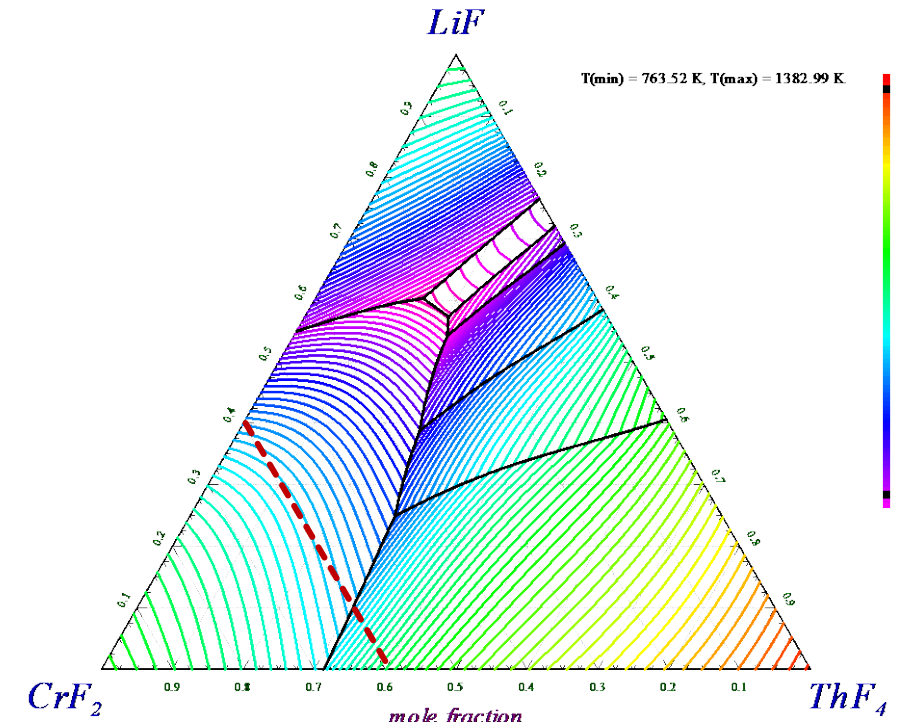
XRD pattern of the 0.2 LiF - 0.6 CrF₂ - 0.2 ThF₄ sample, no other compound than end-members are identified

LiF-CrF₂-ThF₄ system

- DSC measurement performed from X(ThF₄) = 0.2 to 0.7 and optimization with the first data

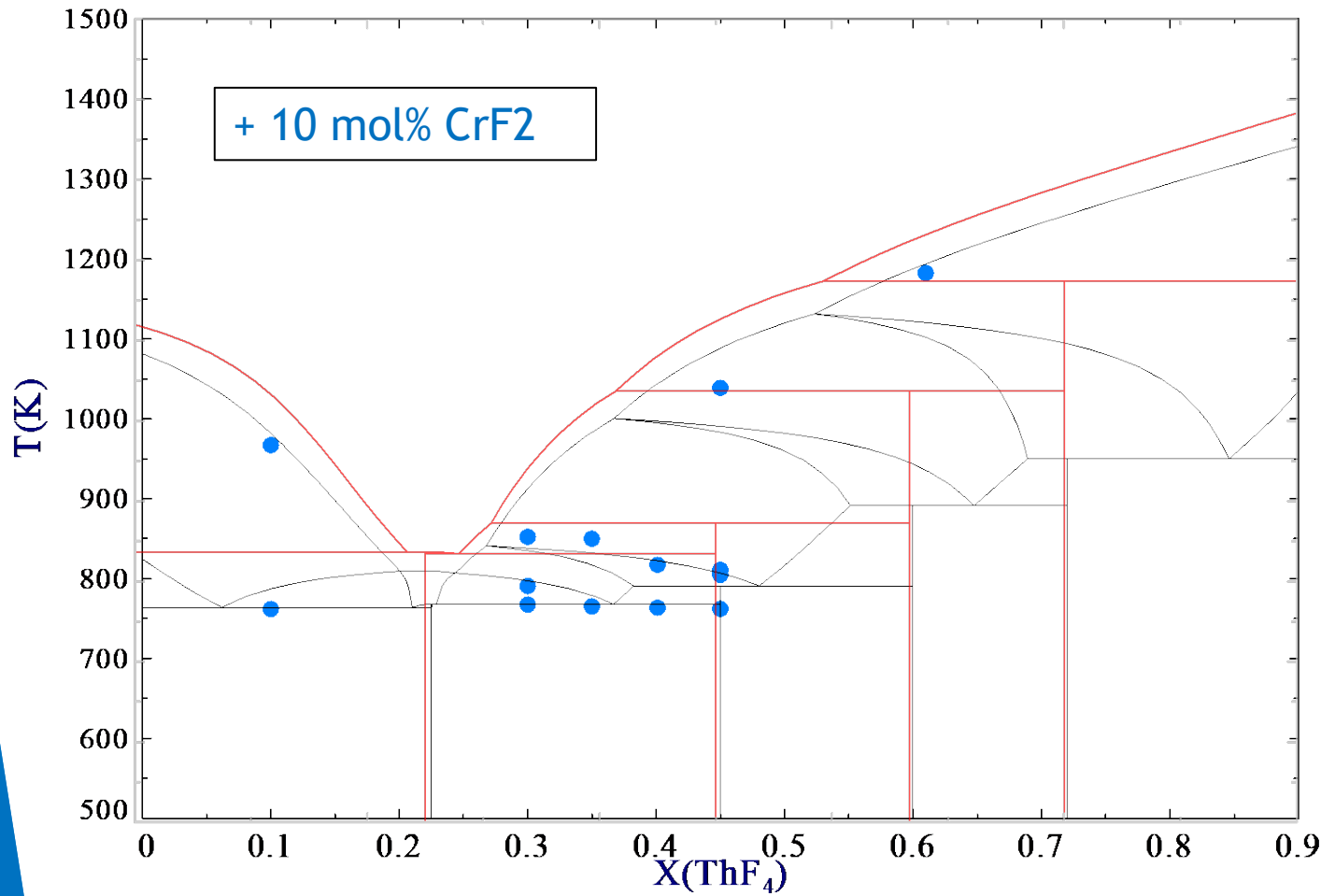


Pseudo-binary section on LiF-CrF₂-ThF₄ system at 60 mol% of CrF₂

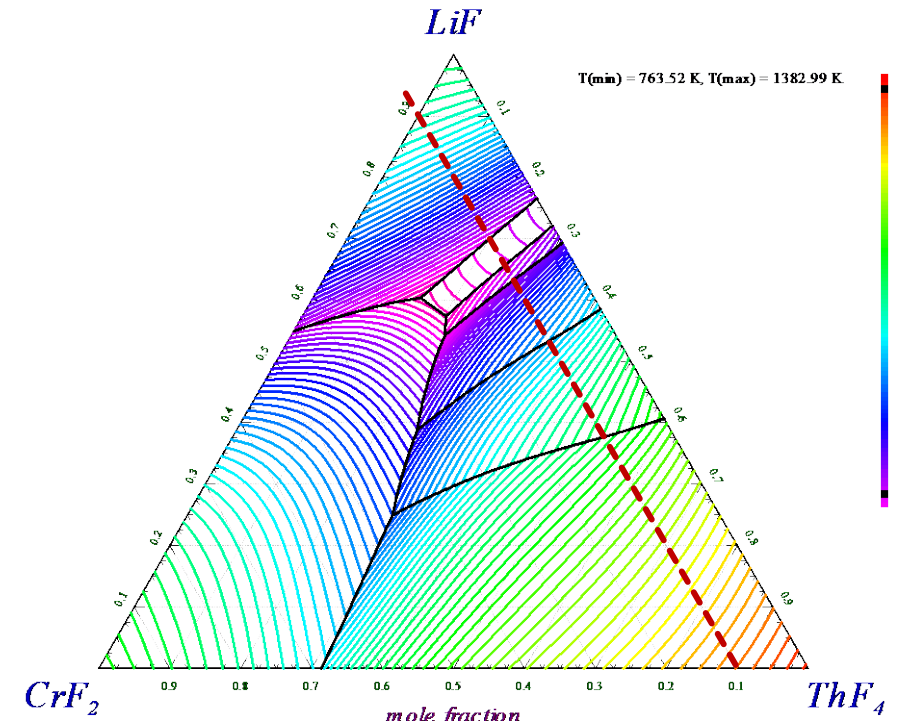


LiF-CrF₂-ThF₄ system

- Data from the DSC measurements and fitting on the ternary phase diagram.



Pseudo binary on the composition 0.9 (LiF-ThF₄) + 0.1 CrF₂

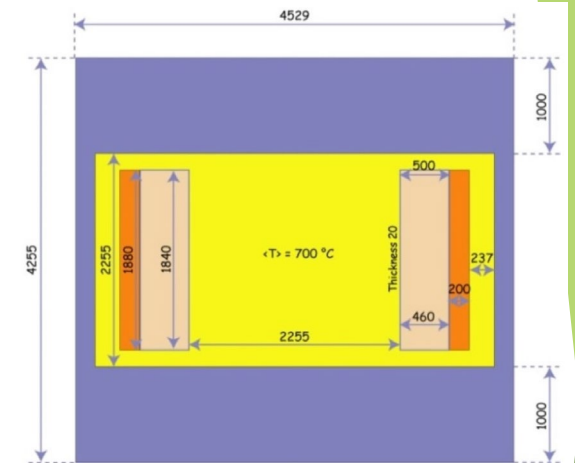


Impact of Fission products on Fuel behavior

Calculated composition of the fuel after 5 years operation:

Final fuel composition	
Nuclide(s)	Mol (%)
³ Li	71.94
⁹⁰ Th	18.14
⁹² U	2.96
Total	93.03
Other compounds	
FPs 20<Z<73	6.85
Other	0.12

Major Fission Products (more than 0.045 mol %)			
Nuclide	Z	Mol %	Chemical state(s)
Zr	40	1.107	Fluoride – ZrF ₄
Xe	54	0.726	Noble gas
Mo	42	0.656	Metal
Nd	60	0.598	Fluoride – NdF ₃
Cs	55	0.594	Fluoride – CsF Iodide – CsI
Ce	58	0.469	Fluoride – CeF ₃
Sr	38	0.405	Fluoride – SrF ₂
Ru	44	0.259	Metal
Ba	56	0.253	Fluoride – BaF ₂
Y	39	0.211	Fluoride – YF ₃
La	57	0.209	Fluoride – LaF ₃
Kr	36	0.208	Noble gas
Pr	59	0.203	Fluoride – PrF ₃
Rb	37	0.189	Fluoride – RbF
Tc	43	0.140	Metal
Te	52	0.103	Metal
Sm	62	0.084	Fluoride – SmF ₃
I	53	0.065	Iodide – CsI
Rh	45	0.047	Metal
Pd	46	0.046	Metal
SUM		6.573	



Design: MSFR, Th fertile blanket, 3000 MW_{th}

- Initial fuel: LiF - ThF₄ - UF₄ (77.5-19.5-3 mol%)
- Calculated in the framework of the SAMOSAFER project WP4 (PSI/TUD)
- Case study: no reprocessing

Impact of Fission products on Fuel behavior

Fission products mixture in fluoride fuel:

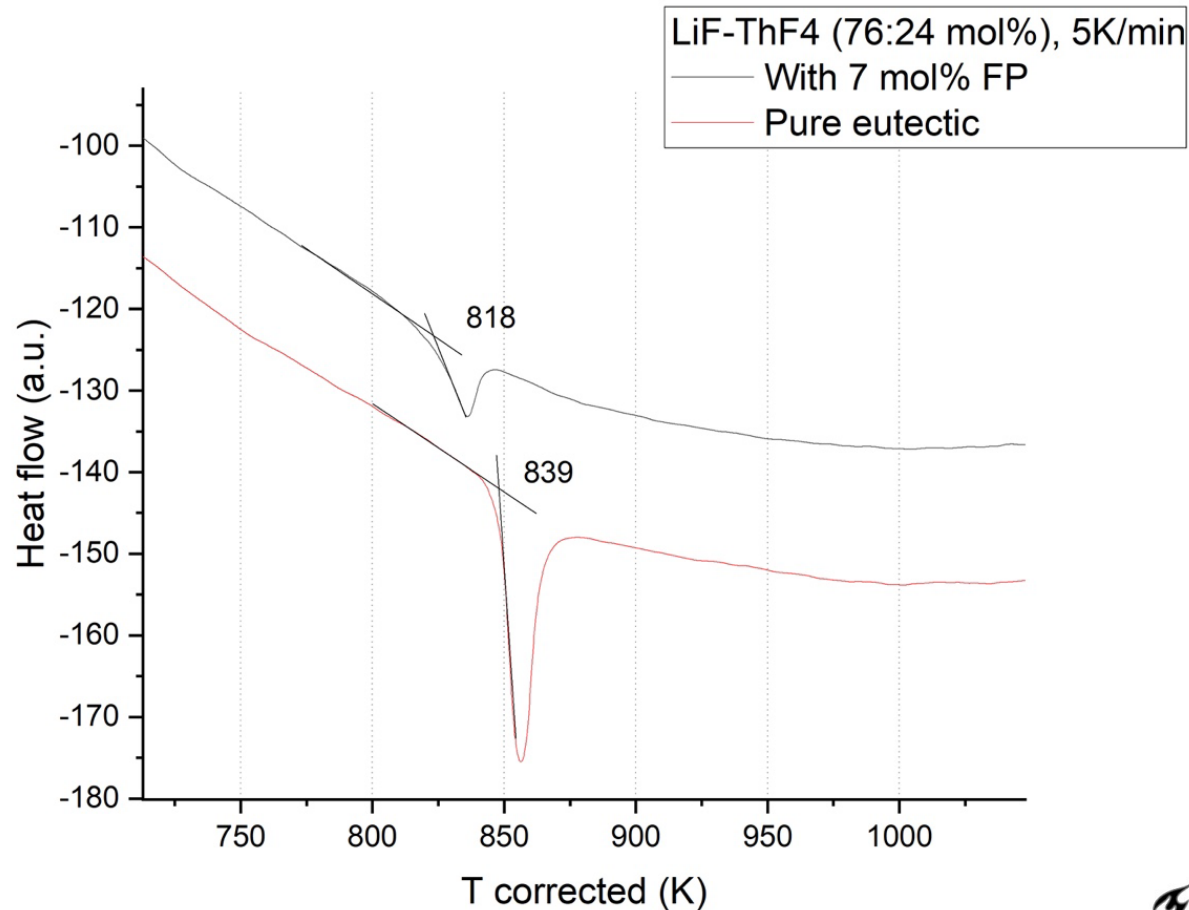
End-members	Mol %	Melting temperature
ZrF ₄	25.2	910 °C/1183 K
NdF ₃ (La,Pr,Sm)	24.9	1374 °C/1647 K
CsF	12.1	703 °C/976 K
CsI	3.0	621 °C/894 K
CeF ₃	10.7	1460 °C/1730 K
SrF ₂ (Ba)	15.0	1477 °C/1750 K
YF ₃	4.8	1387 °C/1660 K
RbF	4.3	785 °C/1068 K

- Fuels:
 - LiF - ThF₄ (76 - 24 mol%)
 - LiF - ThF₄ - UF₄ (77.5 - 19.5 - 3 mol%)
 - NaF - KF - UF₄ (50.4 - 23.2 - 26.4 mol%)
- Mixture of fuel + 7 mol% FPs (maximal accumulation of fission products)

Impact of Fission products on Fuel behavior

Impact of fission products on the fuel salt melting temperature measured by DSC:

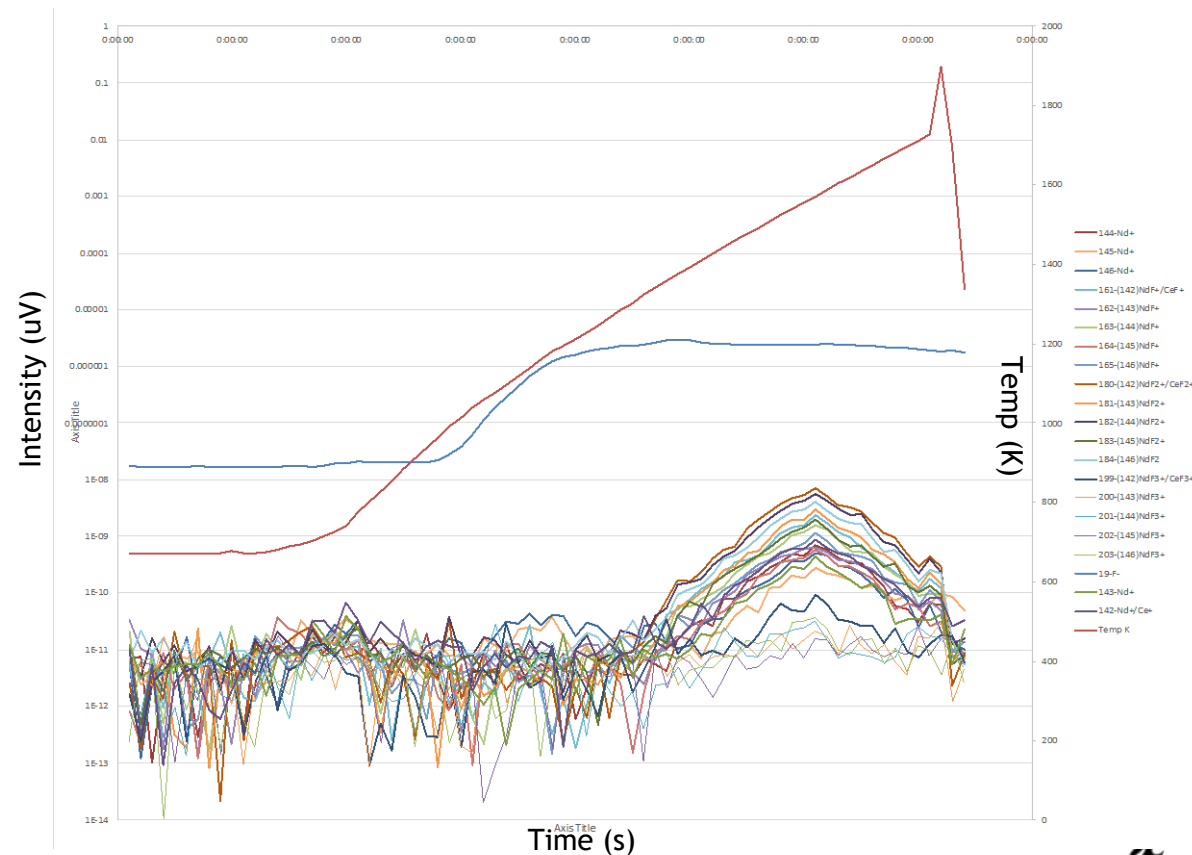
- Very low impact on the thermodynamic properties



Impact of Fission products on Fuel behavior

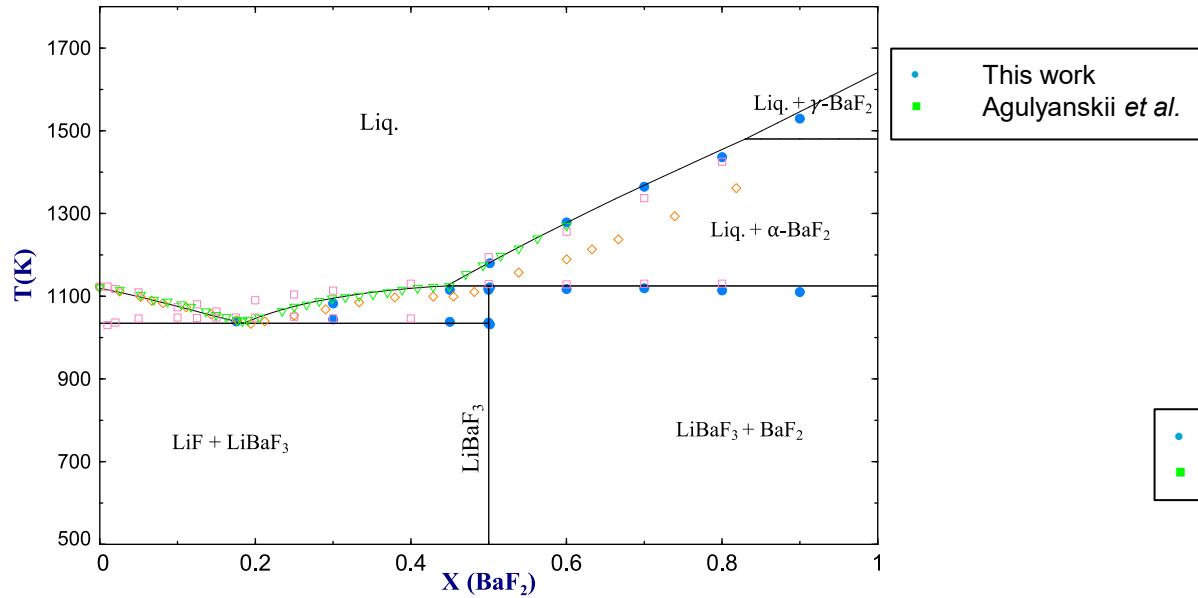
Impact of fission products on the fuel salt vapor pressure measured by KEMS

- Total vaporization behavior of the fuels is not affected by the presence of fission products
- Overall solubility of the fission products except CsI

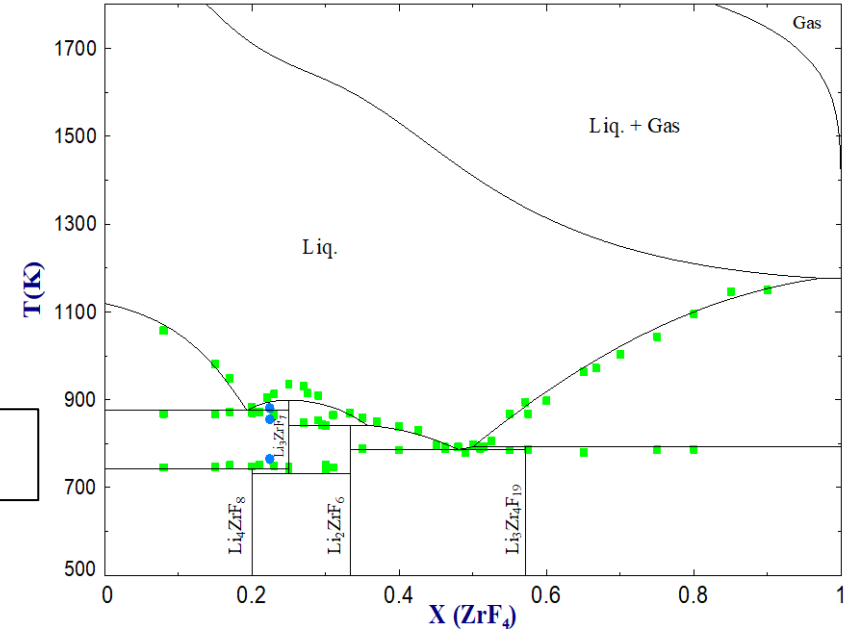


KEMS analysis of the different neodymium species

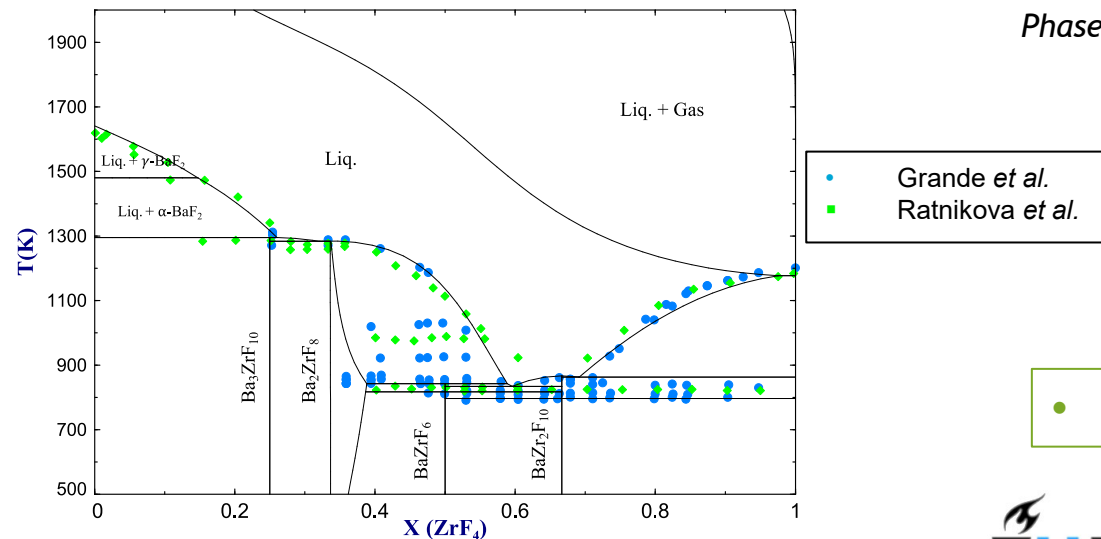
LiF-BaF₂, LiF-ZrF₄ and BaF₂-ZrF₄ systems modeling



Phase diagrams of the binary system LiF-BaF₂



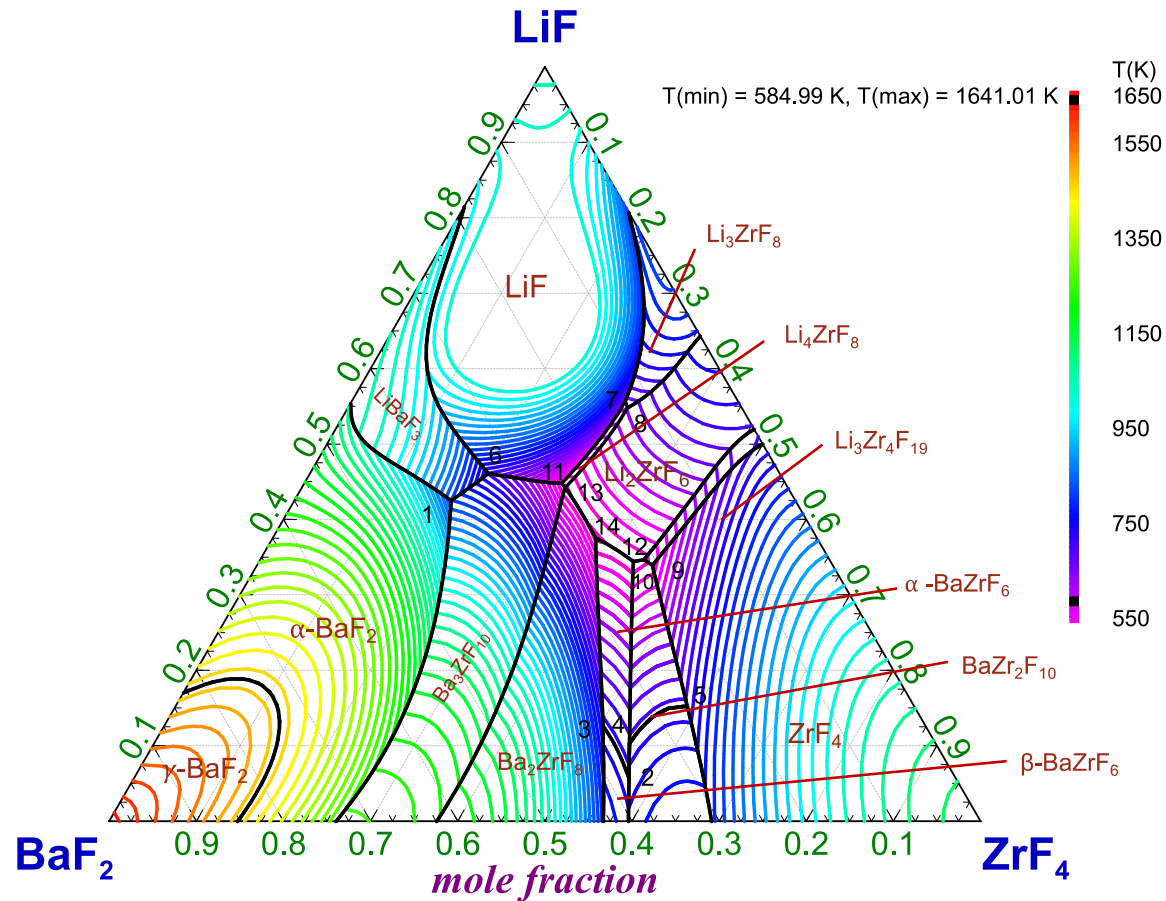
Phase diagrams of the binary system LiF-ZrF₄



Phase diagrams of the binary system BaF₂-ZrF₄

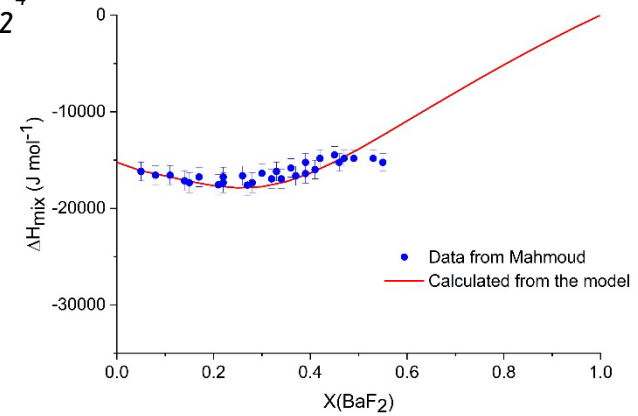
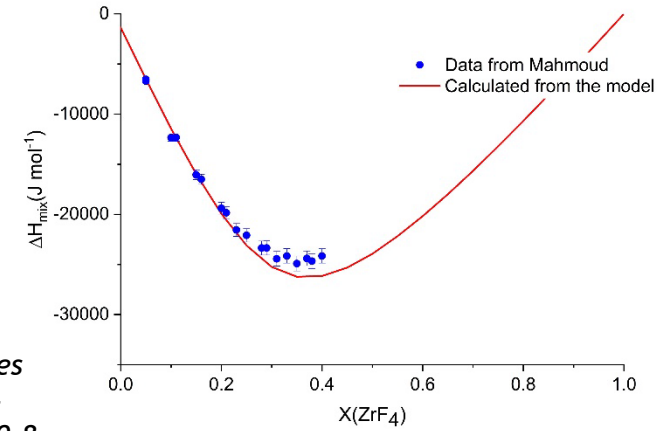
• On-going publication

LiF-BaF₂-ZrF₄ systems modeling



Liquidus projection of the ternary system LiF-BaF₂-ZrF₄, optimized in this work

Mixing enthalpies of the pseudo-binary sections (0.8 LiF+0.2 BaF₂)-ZrF₄ and (0.8 LiF+0.2 ZrF₄)-BaF₂



• On-going publication

Acknowledgement

T. Dumaire acknowledges gratefully financial support from the Nuclear Research and Consultancy Group (NRG, Petten, Netherlands) and the SAMOSAFER project which has received funding from the Euratom research and training program 2014-2018 under grant agreement N° 847527. Many thanks to the SAMOSAFER project's mobility scheme for its help during the secondment to the JRC-Karlsruhe.



Nuclear. For life.





Application of multiphysics calculations on 5M particle simulation

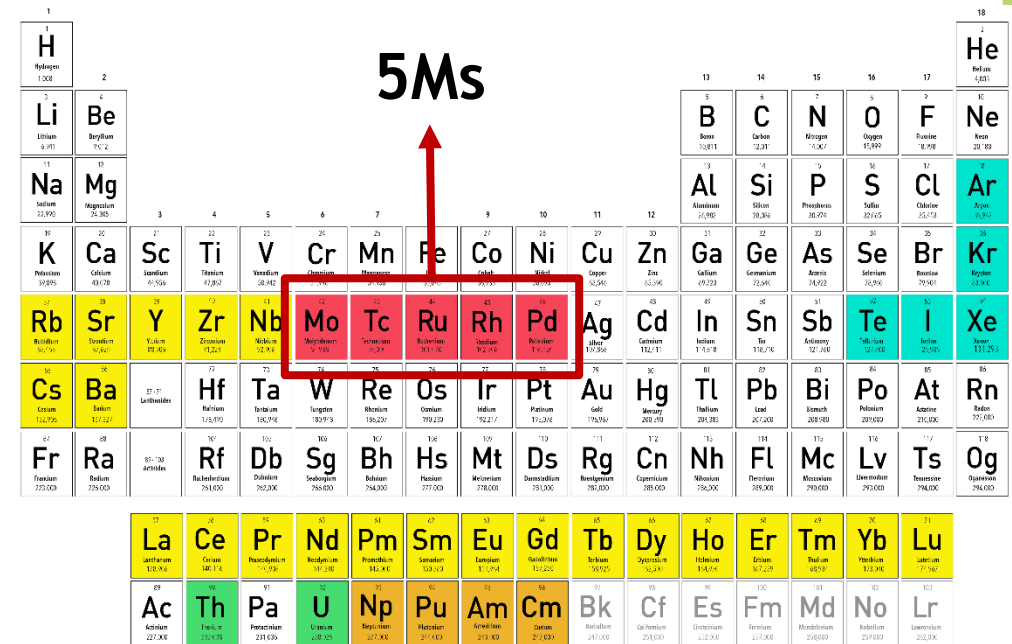
Stefano Lorenzi (PoliMi)
SAMOSAFAER Final Meeting
28 November 2023, Avignon, France

The Noble Metals Issue

- Very low solubility in the salt → behave as particles transported by the flow
- Close together on the periodic table → grouped approach in the following
- **Deposition on surfaces**
 - ↗ Deterioration of heat transfer
 - ↘ Decay hot spots
- Bubbling system for **removal** is foreseen



Need for a Multiphysics modeling approach!



Overview of the key elements expected in the salt during normal operations. In green the fuel species, in orange the TRUs, in yellow the soluble FPs, in blue the GFPs and in red the 5Ms.

Modelling approach

Transport equations for solid FP

Single-phase Eulerian advection-diffusion-decay equation

$$\frac{\partial c_i}{\partial t} = \nabla \cdot (D_{eff} \nabla c_i) - \nabla \cdot (c_i \mathbf{u}) - \lambda_i c + S_i$$

FP VOLUMETRIC CONCENTRATION (at m⁻³)

DECAY CONSTANT

Concentration-driven turbulent dispersion

$$D_{eff} = D + D_t = \frac{\nu}{Sc} + \frac{\nu_t}{Sc_t}$$

TURB. SCHMIDT NUMBER

Modelling and numerical treatment of deposition

Particle deposition on the wall

$$\frac{\partial d}{\partial t} = -\lambda d - \beta d + \gamma C$$

DEPOSITION RATE

Mixed-type boundary (wall) conditions

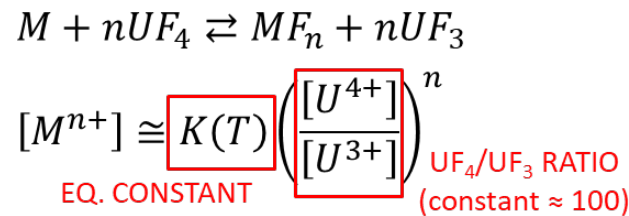
$$-D_{eff} \nabla c_i \cdot \mathbf{n} = \gamma c_i$$

FP SURFACE DEPOSITION FLUX (at m⁻² s⁻¹)

DEPOSITION VELOCITY

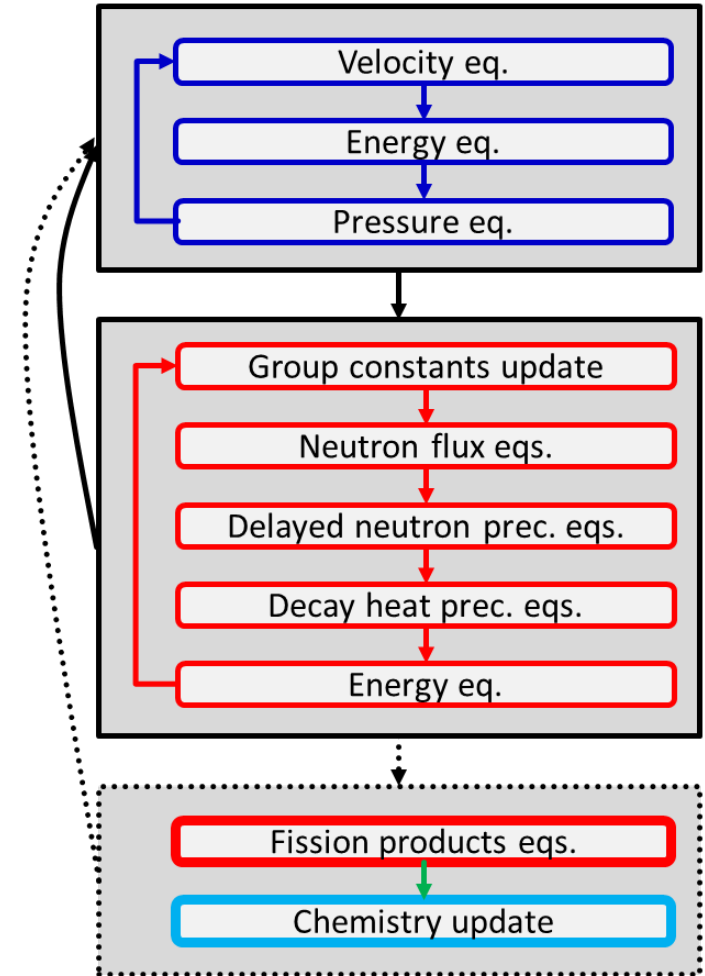
Temperature effects on precipitation-dissolution of particles

Simplified precipitation-dissolution reaction for a metal species



Van 't Hoff equation

$$\log \frac{K(T_2)}{K(T_1)} = \frac{\Delta H^\circ}{R} \left(\frac{1}{T_1} - \frac{1}{T_2} \right)$$



Modelling approach

Simulation of 5M scenario

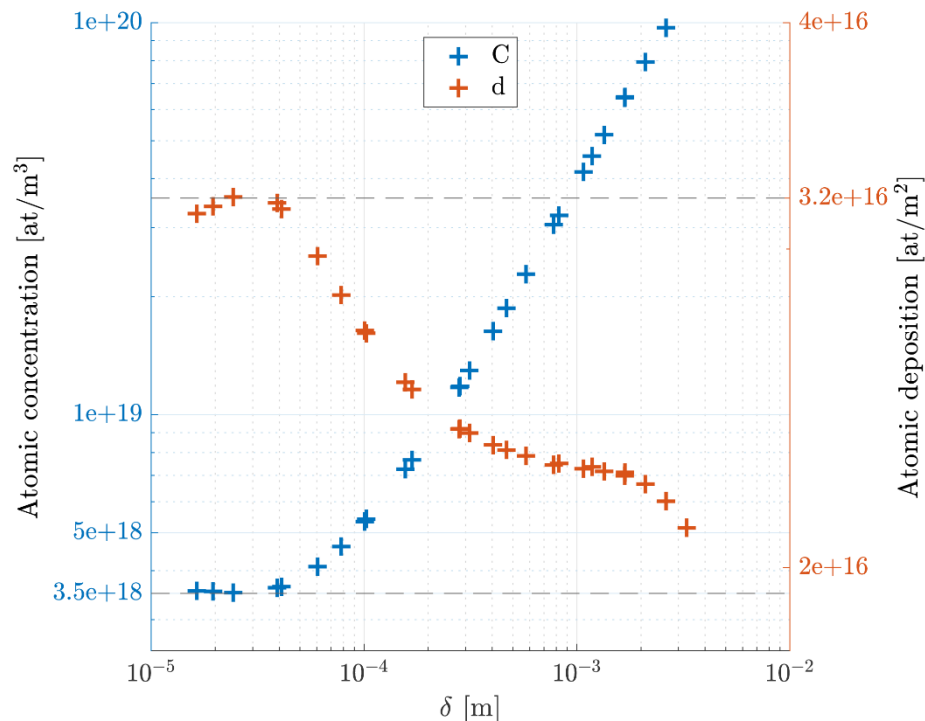
- ▶ **Aim:** Simulation of the transport of solid FPs constituted by “noble metal” species (Mo, Rh, Ru, Pd, Tc). This should include deposition on the wall and possible precipitation-dissolution effects to the temperature transients.
- ▶ **Modelling assumptions:**
 - ▶ Chemical equilibrium constant for Van't Hoff eq
 - ▶ Deposition on the wall with dep. velocity BC
 - ▶ 5M clustering to minimize the computational effort

Deposition on the wall

Deposition on the wall → “Perfect sink” wall condition

$$C_i \Big|_{\partial\Omega} = 0$$

Mesh refinement down to approx. 10^{-3} m or less is needed close to walls to resolve the concentration boundary layer



Velocity deposition wall condition

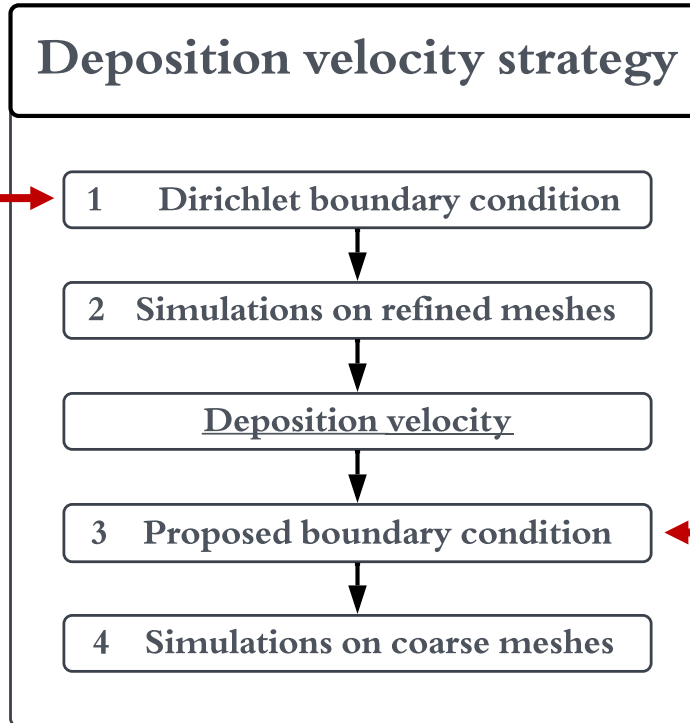
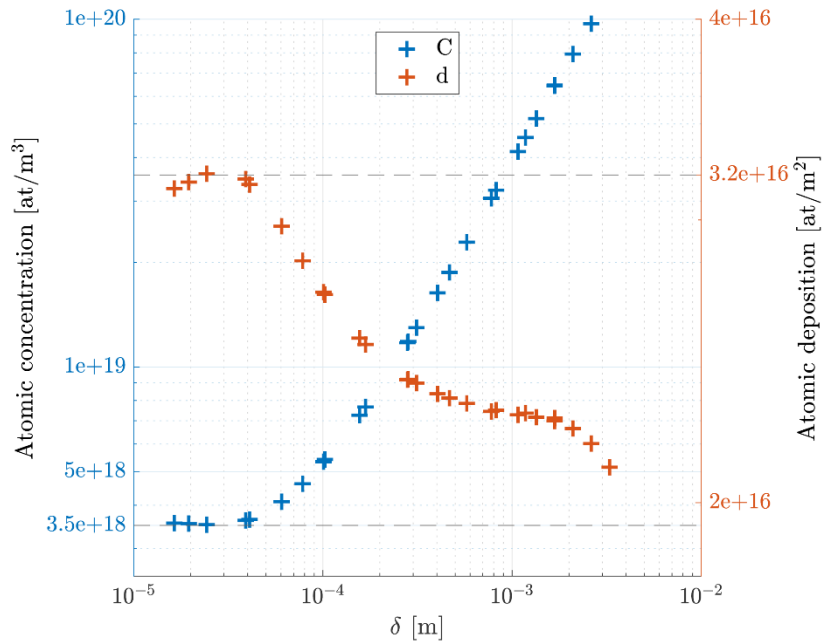
$$-D_{eff} \nabla c_i \cdot \mathbf{n} = \gamma c_i$$

γ is the velocity deposition (mm/s)

Deposition on the wall - BCs

Null Dirichlet BC

$C = 0$ @ walls



Deposition velocity BC

$$-D_{eff} \nabla C \cdot \vec{n} = \gamma C$$

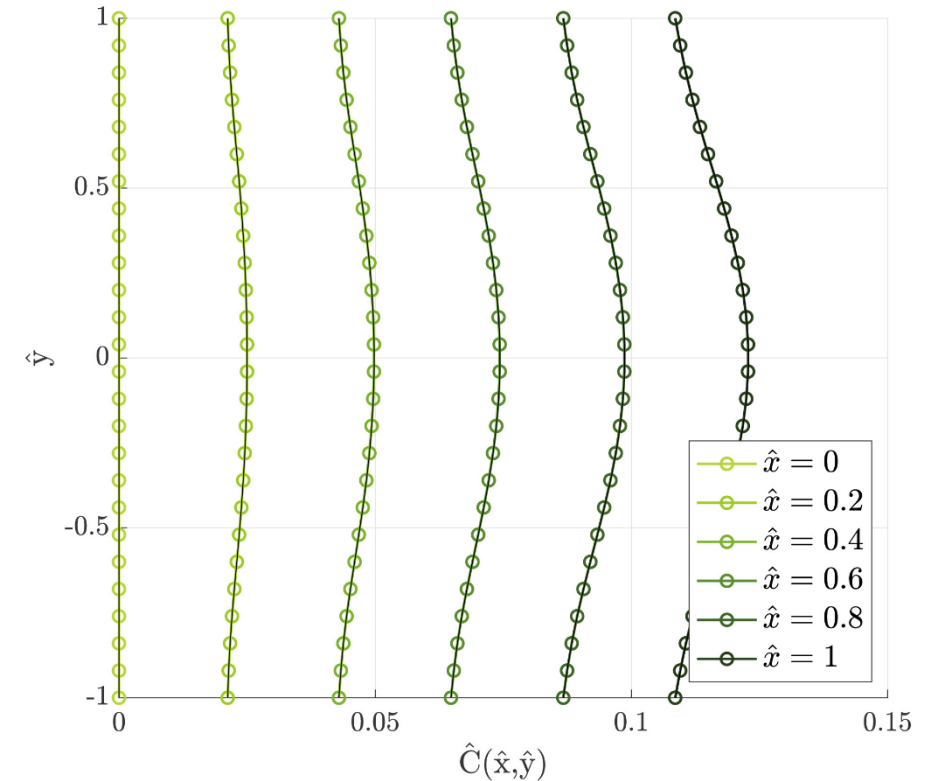
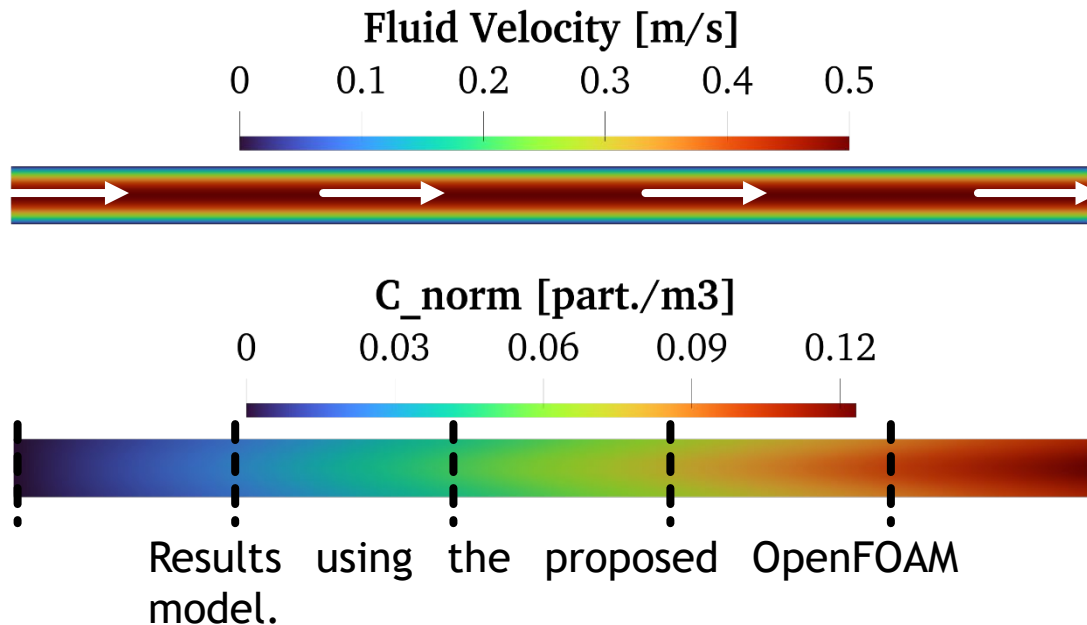
Mixed BC (Robin)
in OpenFOAM

Deposition on the wall - Verification

Available Analytical Solution



2D Laminar flow between parallel plates



Comparison of normalized concentration profiles at different normalized lengths \hat{x} , obtained with the proposed OpenFoam model (o) and the analytical solution (-).

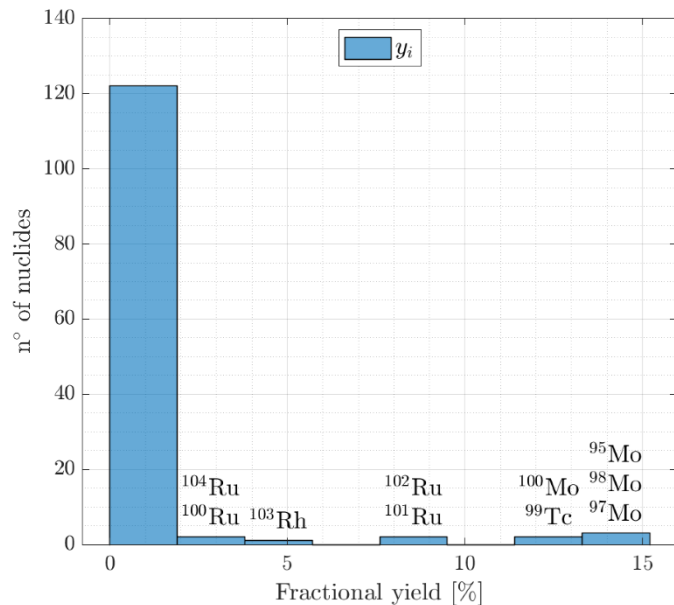
5M simulation: clustering

Clustering of the 5M according to their property to minimize the computational effort

- ▶ 5Ms are chemically and physically very similar
- ▶ Nuclear species show a broad range of λ , but the prevalent ones are rather slow-decaying
- ▶ One pseudo-nuclide to be considered as initial step

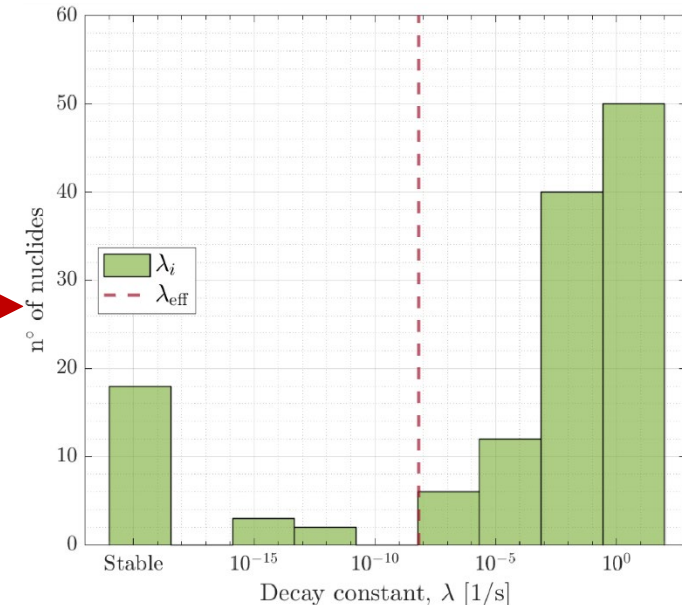
$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{u}C) = \nabla \cdot (\mathbf{D}_{eff} \nabla C) - \lambda_{eff} C + \mathbf{y}_{tot} R_f$$

ρ (kg/m ³)	d_p (m)	y_{tot} (-)	λ_{eff} (1/s)
$1.098 \cdot 10^4$	$370.3 \cdot 10^{-12}$	0.295	$6.614 \cdot 10^{-9}$

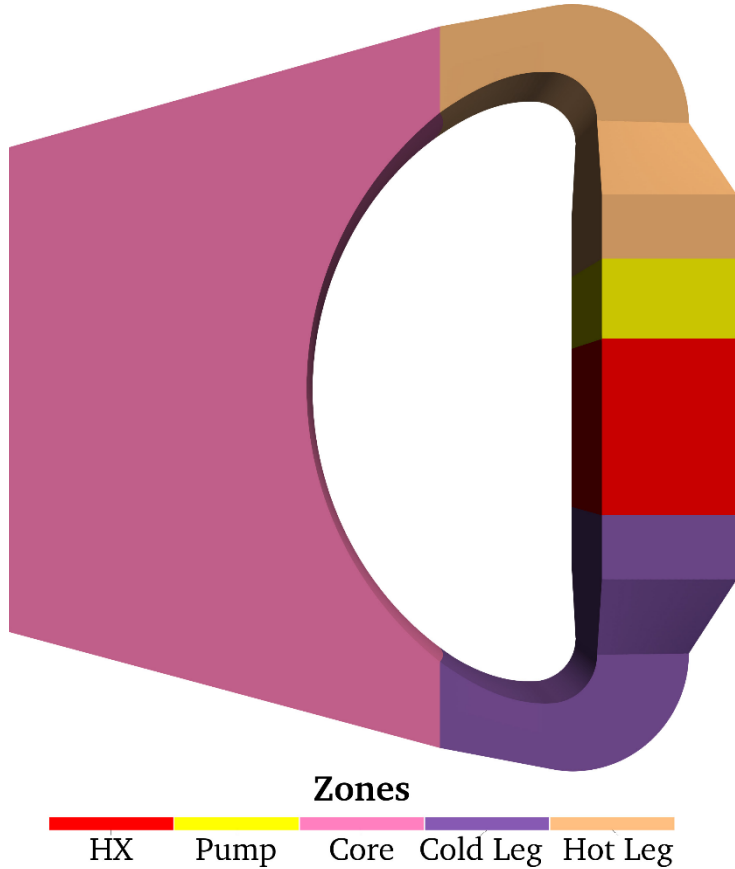


Homogeneous radioactive mixture hypothesis

$$A_{mix} = \sum_{i=1}^n \lambda_i y_i = \lambda_{eff} y_{tot}$$



5M simulation

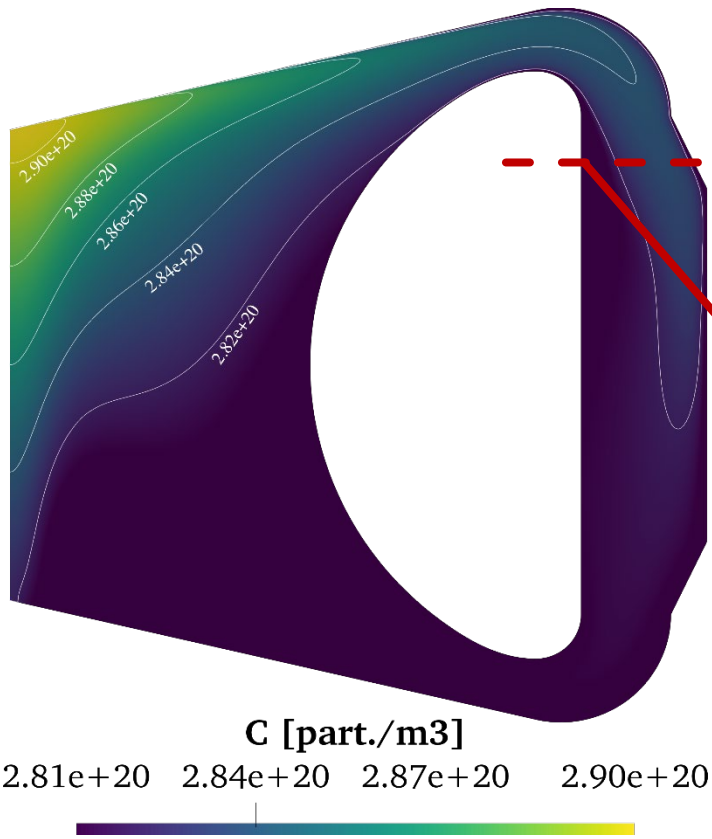


Simplified reactor zones in the employed geometry.

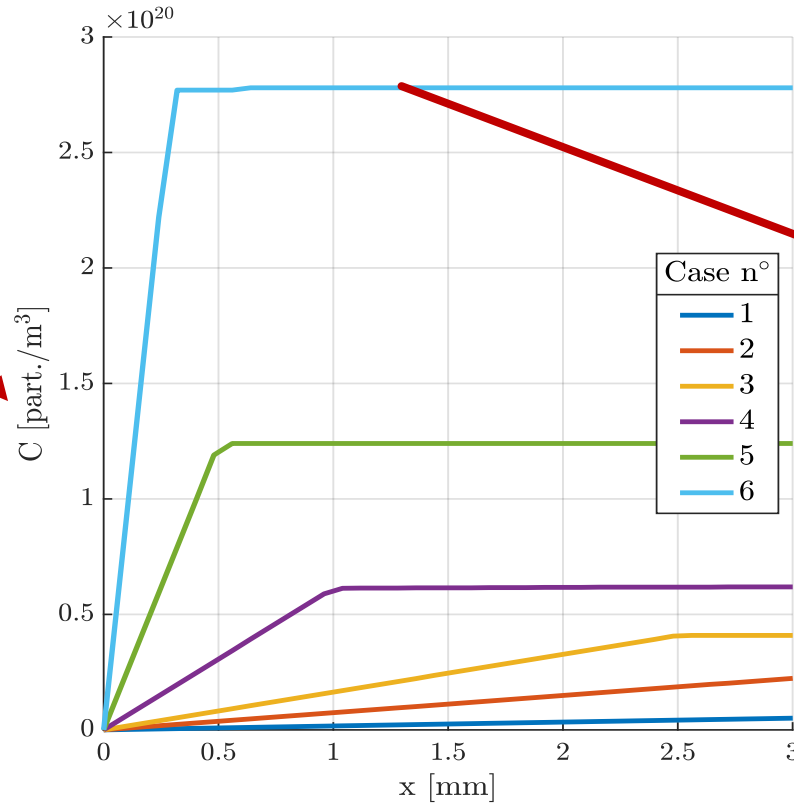
Case	n° cells	Bulk cell size (mm)	Wall cell size (mm)	Total wall faces
1	85'560	30	-	13034
2	159'624	30	5.0	13034
3	209'960	30	2.5	13034
4	543'244	20	1.0	28160
5	595'812	20	0.5	28160
6	4'345'352	9	0.3	133116

Key properties of the six meshes used for the investigation

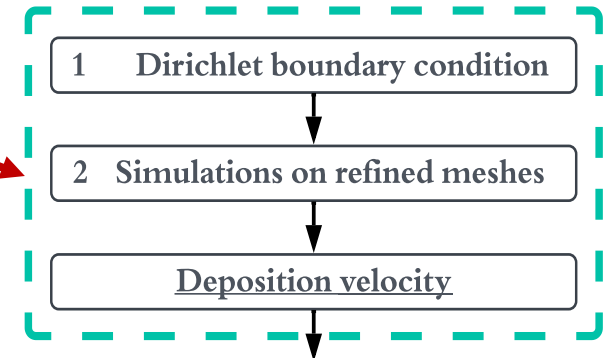
5M simulation: FP concentration with null Dirichlet BC



5Ms particle distribution shown across an axisymmetric slice, mesh case 6.

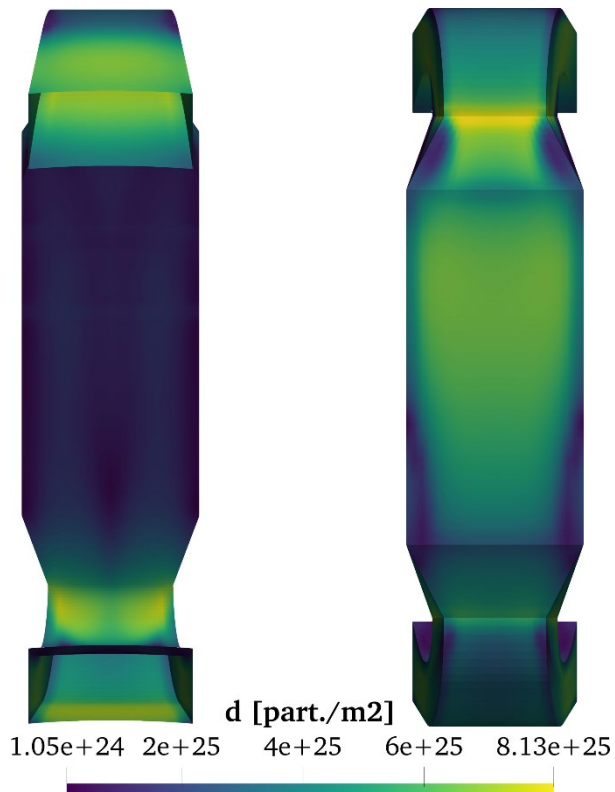


5Ms particle concentration profiles close to the left wall along an arbitrary line.

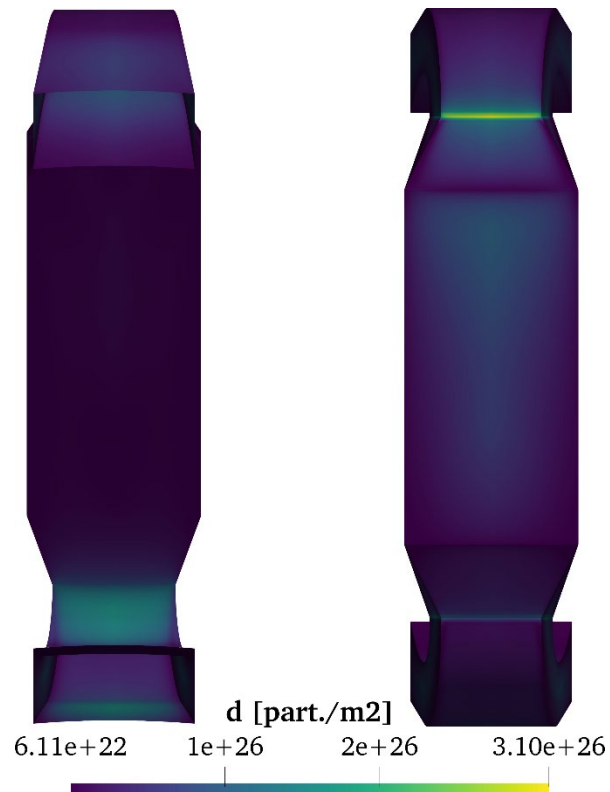


$$\gamma = \frac{-D_{eff} \nabla C \cdot \vec{n}}{C_{avg}}$$

5M simulation: FP deposition with null Dirichlet BC



5Ms particle deposition at steady state on the outer loop, inside and outside view of case 1.

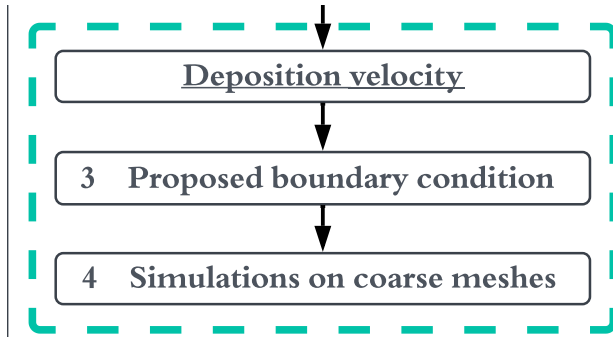


5Ms particle deposition at steady state on the outer loop, inside and outside view of case 6.

Case	Tot deposited particles	d (part./m ²)
1	2.530×10^{26}	1.07×10^{25}
2	2.533×10^{26}	5.23×10^{24}
3	2.530×10^{26}	9.62×10^{24}
4	2.532×10^{26}	1.28×10^{25}
5	2.531×10^{26}	6.60×10^{24}
6	2.452×10^{26}	4.00×10^{24}

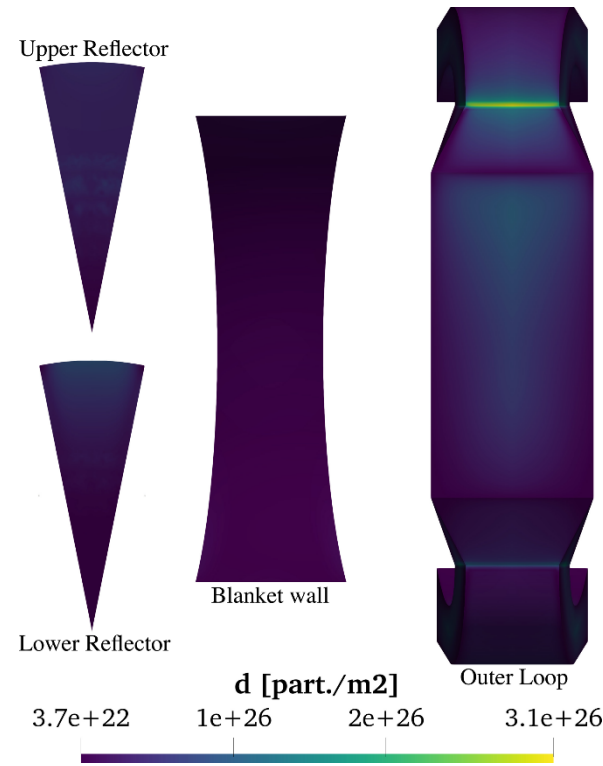
5Ms particle deposition key quantities for all the six mesh cases. “d” values are sampled at the wall on the same line previously highlighted.

5M simulation: FP concentration with velocity deposition BC

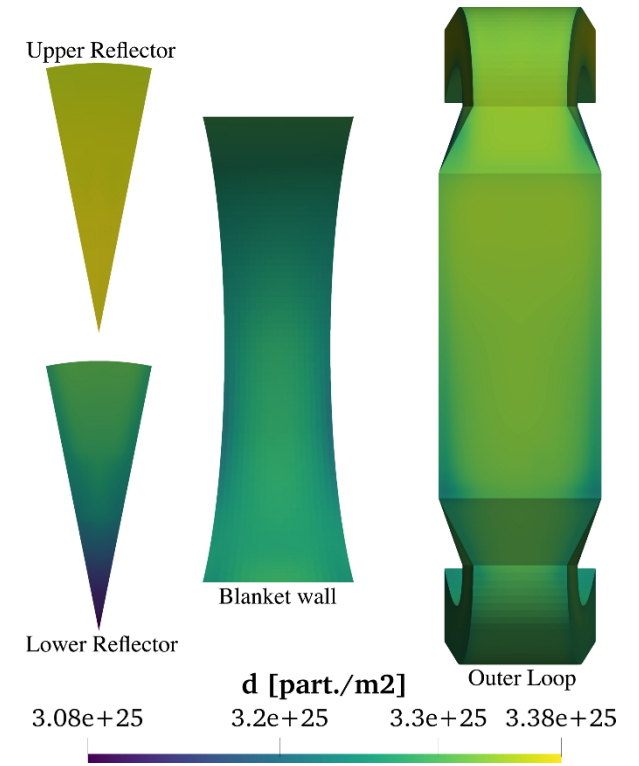


$$-D_{eff} \nabla C \cdot \vec{n} = \gamma C$$

Mixed BC (Robin)
in OpenFOAM



Reference case, mesh
6.
CPU*h: 1500

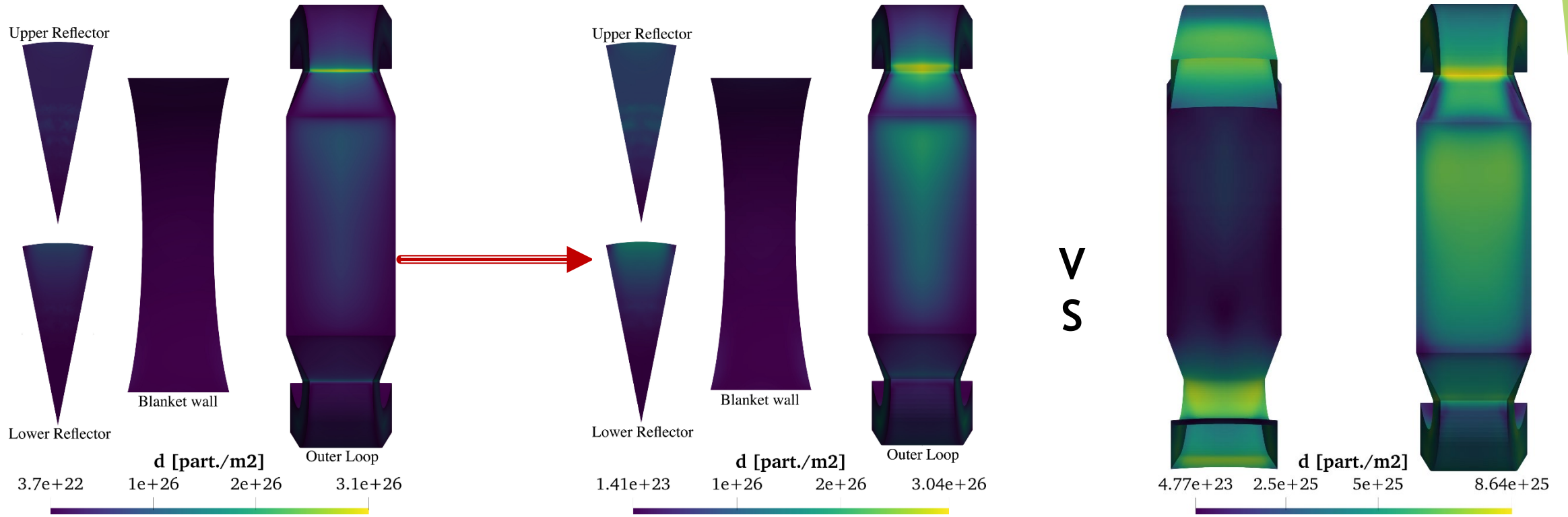


Proposed BC, mesh
2.
CPU*h: 45

What's wrong?

5M simulation: FP concentration with velocity deposition BC

What's wrong? γ is not uniform inside the reactor. Make it a field!



Reference case, mesh
6.

CPU*h: 1500

Proposed BC, mesh 2.
CPU*h: 45

Null Dirichlet, mesh
2.

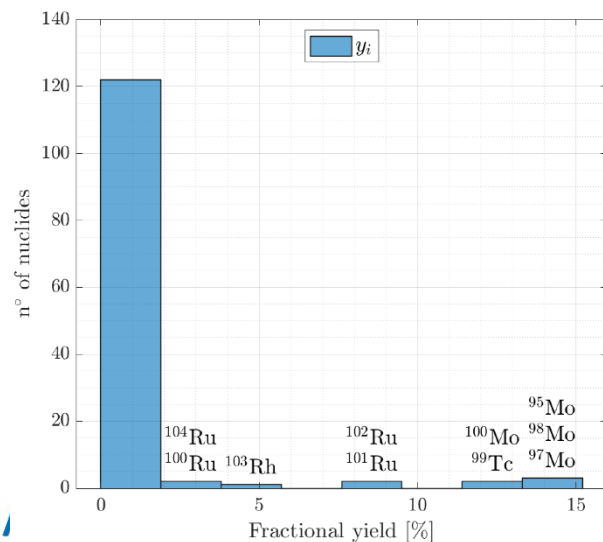
CPU*h: 45

5M simulation

What about decay heat?

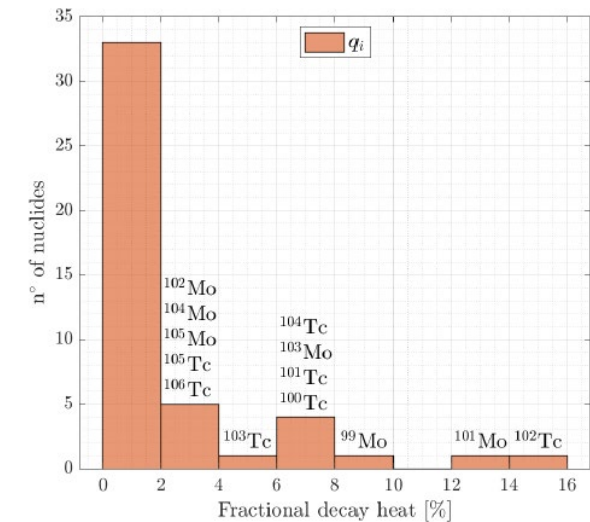
- ▶ Heat from a decay event within the deposited layer accumulating on the Fuel Circuit
- ▶ Similar approach of the 5M clustering
- ▶ 5M are not the main contributors, we should include also metal particles (but some of them could be dissolved in the salt)

	ρ (kg/m ³)	d_p (m)	y_{tot} (-)	λ_{eff} (1/s)	Q_{eff} (W/part)
5M	$1.098 \cdot 10^4$	$370.3 \cdot 10^{-12}$	0.295	$6.614 \cdot 10^{-9}$	$2.146 \cdot 10^{-21}$
Metals	$6.786 \cdot 10^4$	$436.6 \cdot 10^{-12}$	1.248	$2.336 \cdot 10^{-8}$	$9.335 \cdot 10^{-21}$



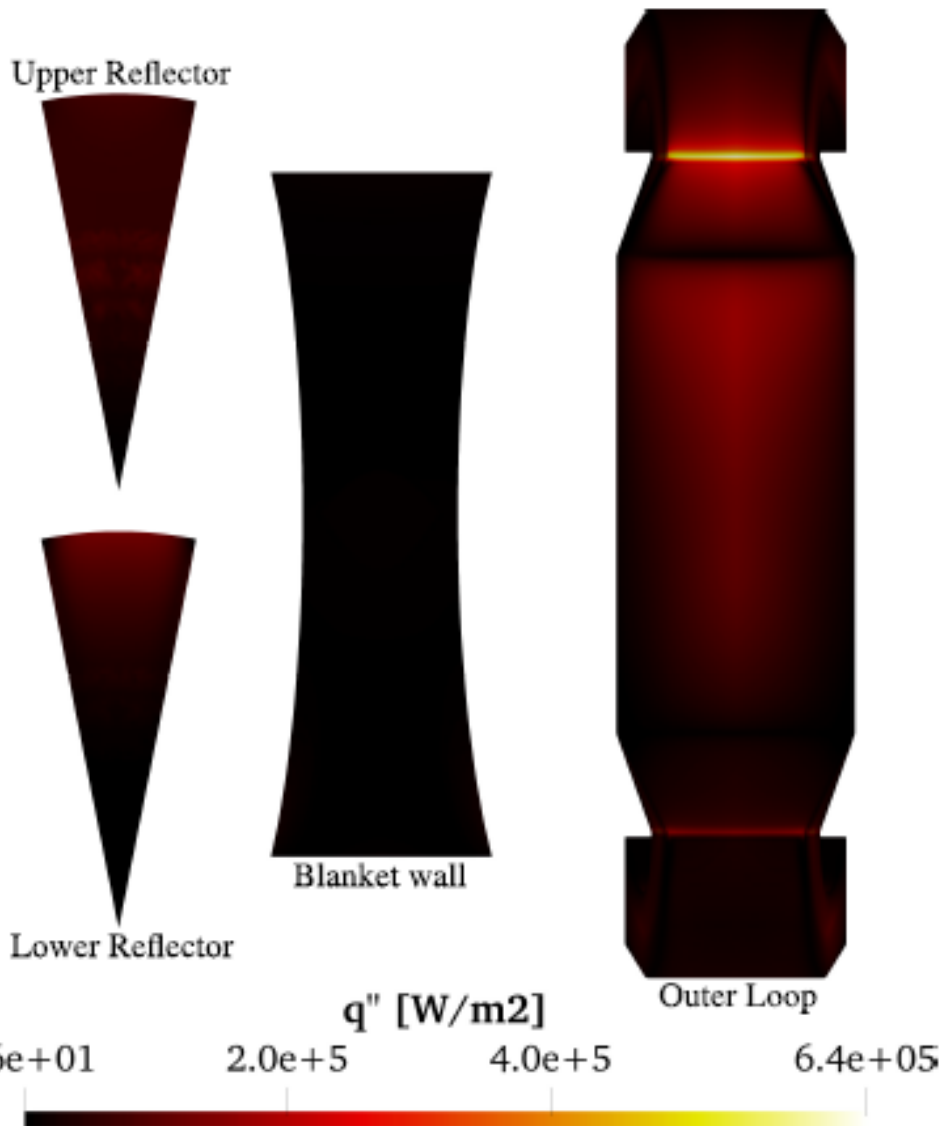
$$Q_{mix} = \sum_{i=1}^n (\lambda_i E_{d,i}) N_i$$

$$= Q_{eff} N_{tot}$$

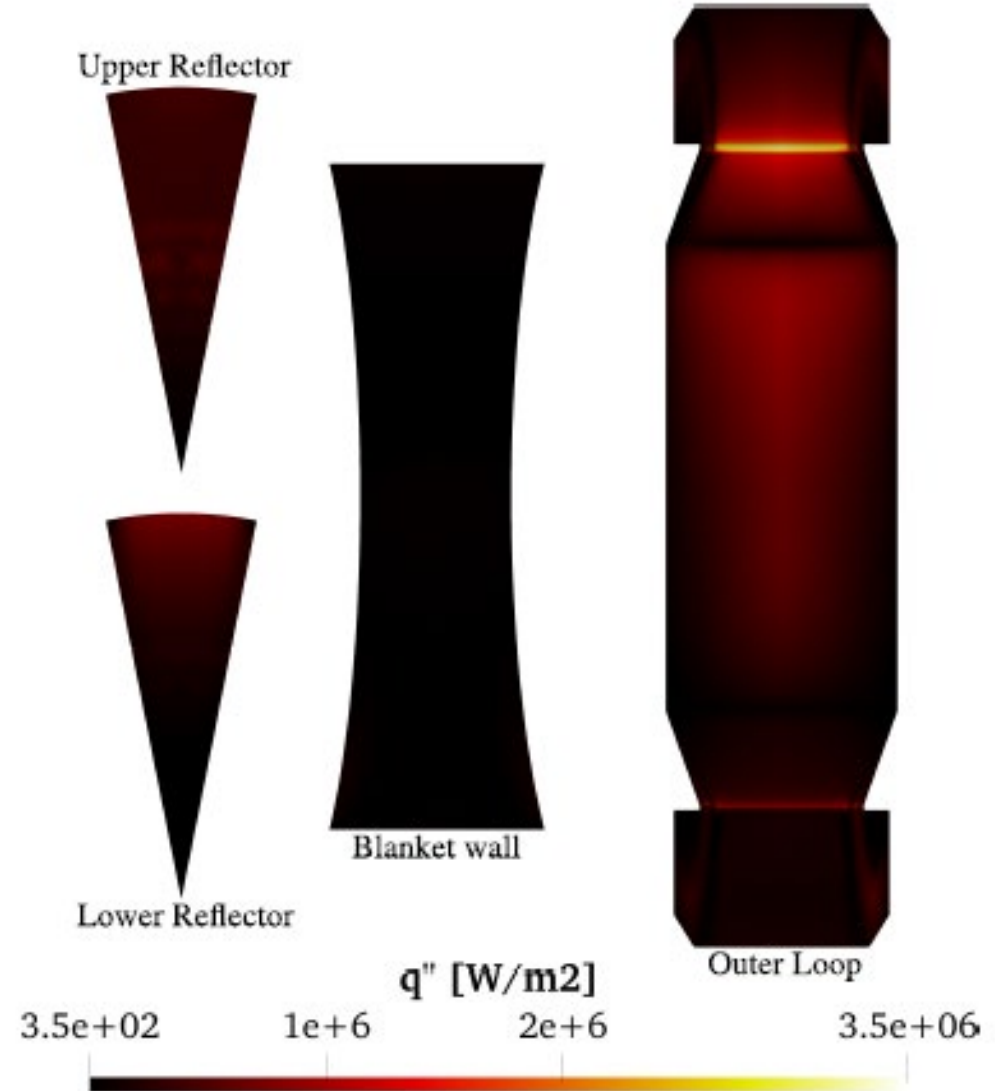


5M simulation: decay heat

5M



Metals



Conclusions

- ▶ 5M simulation: 5M concentration and deposition with clustering - both with perfect sink and deposition velocity BC
- ▶ Information on rate of deposition on the structural walls + heat decay contribution
- ▶ Steady-state approach: Deposition physics is extremely low compared to the precipitation-diffusion modelling
- ▶ Coupling with ThermoChimica can provide additional information on that since it allows to accurately reproduce the chemistry (formation and physical state of the possible species)
- ▶ But there is need to improve the database of 5M with respect to the fluoride formation species