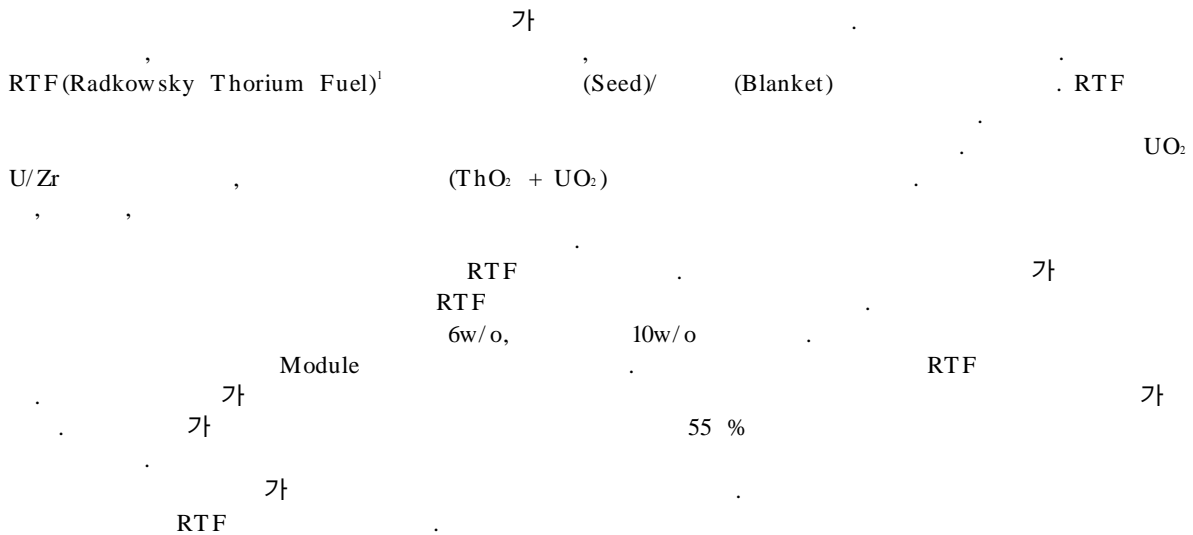


Seed/Blanket

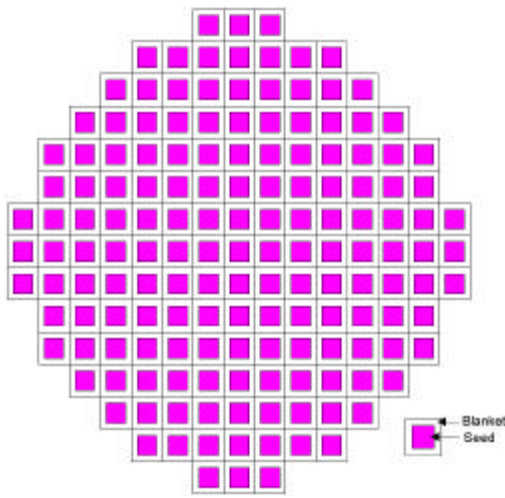
Design of Thorium Fueled Core with Seed/Blanket Concept



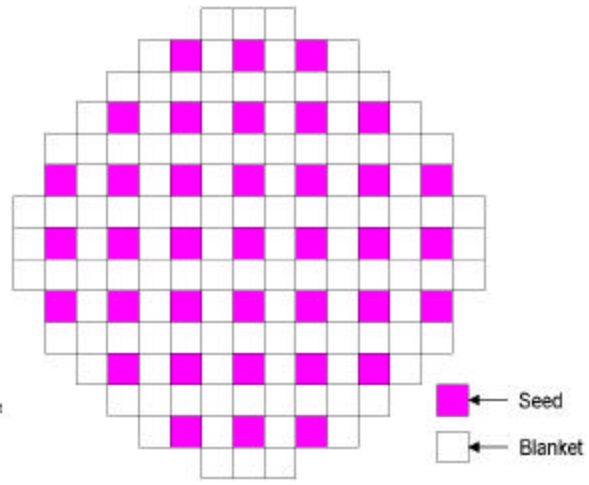
Abstract

The use of once-through thorium fuel cycle was investigated for the maximization of PWR core performance such as fuel utilization, proliferation resistance, and radio-toxicity reduction of spent fuels. In this paper, nuclear core design was done mainly for the nuclear conversion. The concept of core was based on the seed-blanket unit concept of Radkowsky Thorium Fuel (RTF or RTR)¹. An extensive parametric study including RTF design has been done for the maximization of conversion ratio. The choice of fuel materials were UO₂ ceramic and U-Zr alloy for seed, and (Th,U)O₂ MOX for blanket. Parameters in search were fuel contents, enrichment, fuel radius, and seed/blanket configuration.

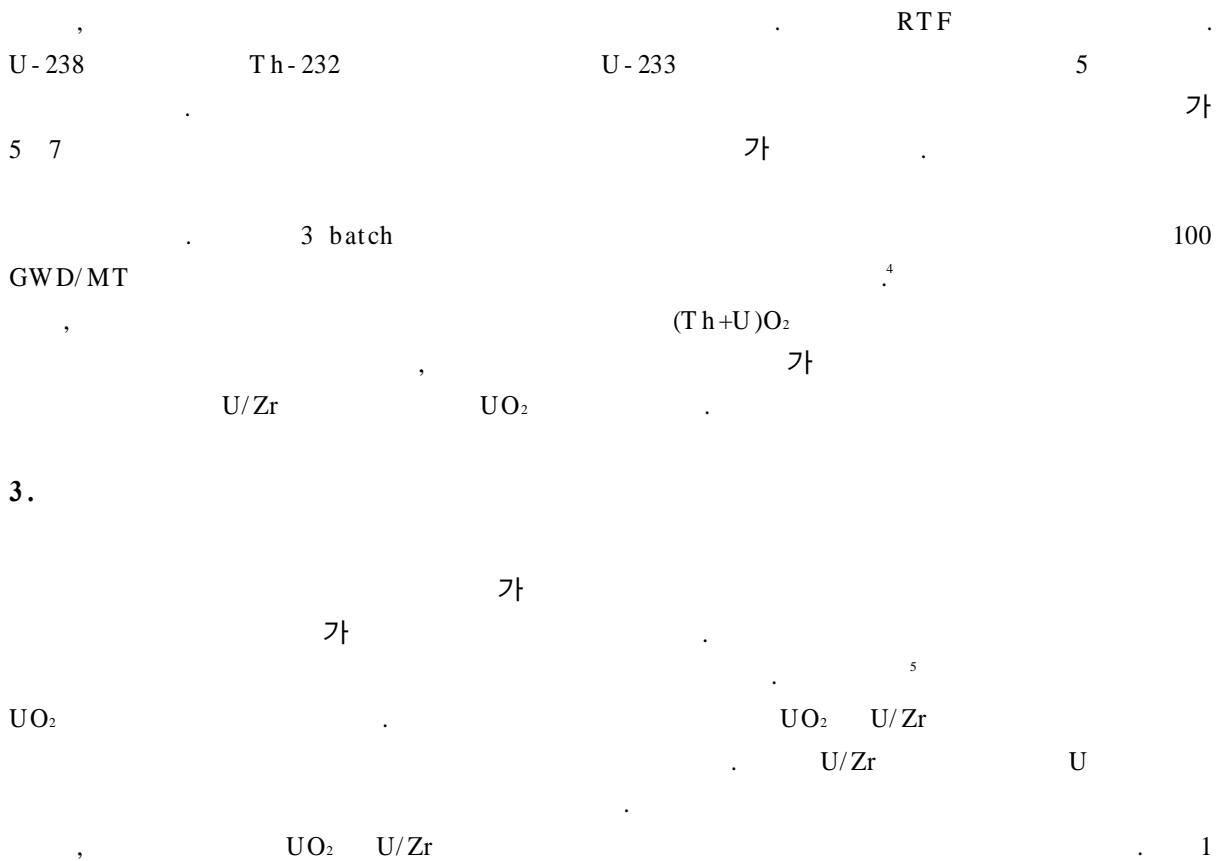
The optimized design was found to be almost same with RTF except in a few parameters. The size of seed/blanket unit are modified to be the conventional PWR assembly unit for the easiness of reloading. For the benefits in fuel cycle economics, enrichment of uranium was reduced to 6 w/o in seed and 10 w/o in blanket, and U/Zr alloy composition was also modified. Calculation was done for a unit reactor module instead of full core reloading simulation. The conversion ratio of optimized design showed similar value from RTF. Potential benefits from this core are considerable in spent fuel treatment aspects. The total amount of spent fuel could be reduced up to 55% to the conventional PWR once-through cycle. The amount of Pu and fissile contents in Pu could be reduced a lot. These findings conclude that this core gives the better standing in proliferation resistance than a conventional PWR. The thermal power unbalance between seed assemblies and blanket assemblies were high like as in RTF.



1. RTF Core



2. Desegined Reactor Core



1.

			UO ₂	UO ₂		Pin Pitch
UO ₂	20 w/o	0.413 cm	20 w/o	10 %	0.413 cm	1.285 cm
U/Zr alloy						

가 , 3 가

가

4

U-233

FIR

FIR

가

가

U-233

가

가 가

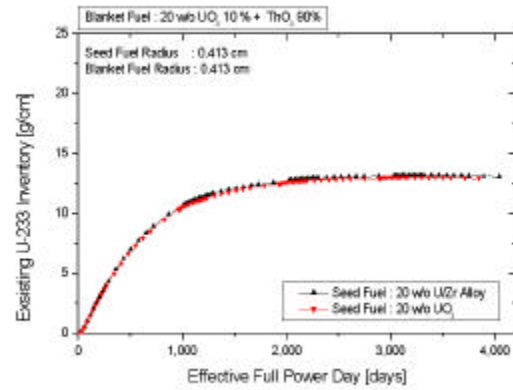
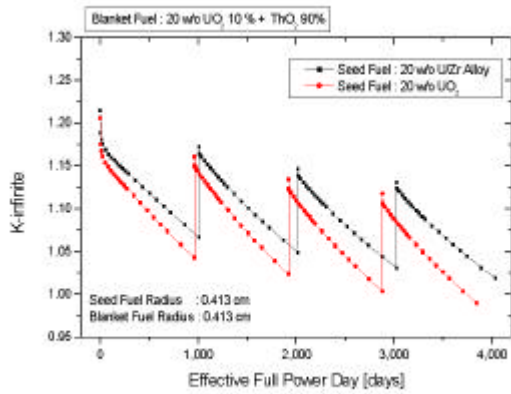
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3.

4.

U-233

2.

FIR

Seed Material	Blanket					Module				
	Seed Refueling #				Average FIR	Seed Refueling #				Average FIR
	1	2	3	4		1	2	3	4	
UO ₂	0.901	0.962	1.003	1.002	0.96	0.737	0.743	0.743	0.741	0.74
U/Zr	0.908	0.967	1.000	1.001	0.96	0.782	0.787	0.786	0.783	0.78

RTF

Seed

20 30%

U/Zr

20 w/o

RTF

3. RTF PWR SWU

	U Weight (Ton H.M)	Enrichment U-235 w/o	Natural U (Ton)	Separative work (kg SWU)	Loaded total number of fuel rods
RTF*	36.8	20	1,337	1,570,591	92,316
PWR*	256.6	3.3	1,516	1,215,243	165,792

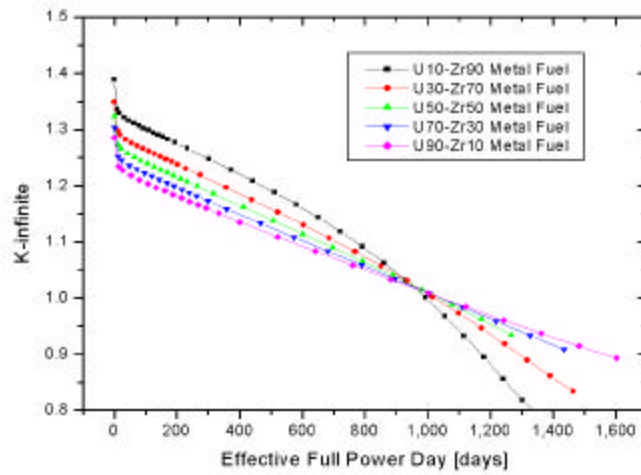
* 2,775 Mwth, 157 Assembly or SBU

3 RTF PWR
 RTF PWR
 RTF RTF가 PWR SWU
 RTF
 U/Zr U/Zr
 U 가 U/Zr U
 U-235 4 U/Zr U
 U/Zr

4. U/Zr U

U to Zr volume ratio	Avg. Density [g/cm ³]	Converted Weight Percent (w/o)		
		U-235 (Fissile w/o)	U-238	Zr
10 : 90	7.70	14.81 (60)	9.28	75.31
30 : 70	10.21	11.17 (20)	44.67	44.16
50 : 50	12.72	8.96 (12)	65.72	25.32
70 : 30	15.23	7.48 (8.57)	79.84	12.68
90 : 10	17.74	6.43 (6.67)	89.85	3.62

U-238
 U-238 가 U-235
 5 가
 U-235 U-238
 가 U/Zr U
 U fissile



5. U/Zr U

5 U-235가 SWU

5. U/Zr U SWU

Volume ratio	Loaded U-235 (kg)	Loaded U-238 (kg)	Loaded U (kg)	Required Nat. U (kg)	SWU (kg)
U 10- Zr90	15.4	10.3	25.7	3,015	3,820
U30- Zr70		61.8	77.2	2,995	3,536
U50- Zr50		113.4	128.8	2,975	3,322
U70- Zr30		164.9	180.3	2,954	3,134
U90- Zr10		216.4	231.8	2,949	2,984

4. 가

가

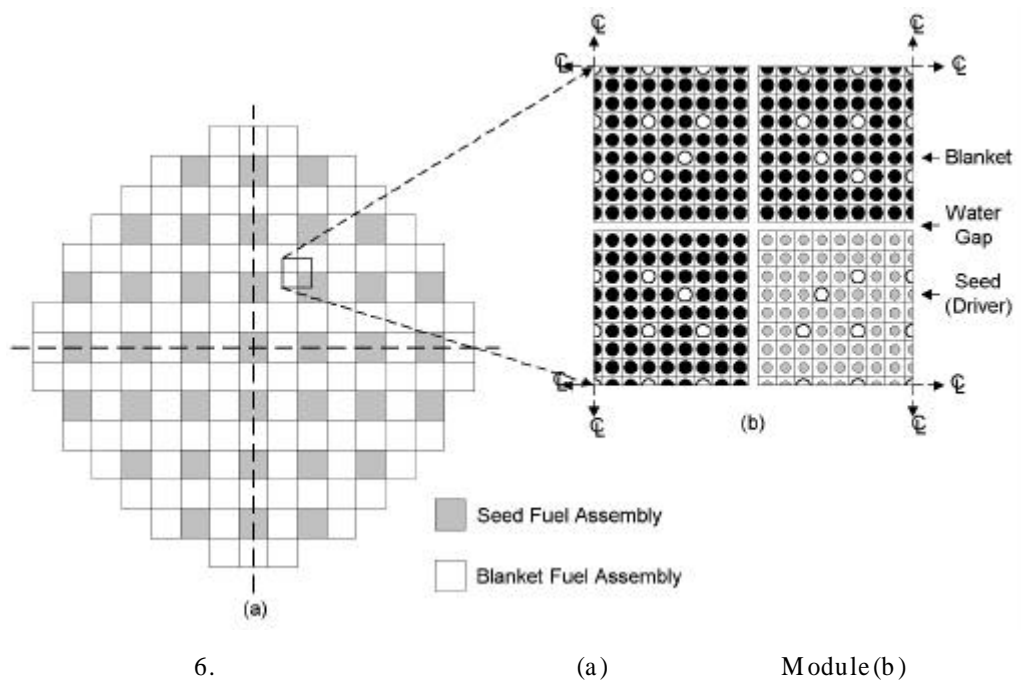
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6 가 6.0 w/o U/Zr 0.33 cm 75 %
 가 ThO₂ 80% 0.4025 cm 10 w/o UO₂ 20 %, 1.3 Checkerboard 가

6.

Parameter	Seed	Blanket
Fuel Assembly Size, cm	21.61	
Fuel Material Composition	U/Zr Metal Fuel U content : 75 % U enrichment : 6.0 w/o	(Th+U)O ₂ UO ₂ content : 20 % U enrichment : 10 w/o
Initial Fuel Weight (kg H.M)	U - 460	Th - 337 U - 92
Fuel Radius, cm	0.33	0.4025
Number of Guide Tubes	24 + 1 (Central)	
Reactivity Control	Control Rod + Burnable Poisons	None

6 Module



4.1

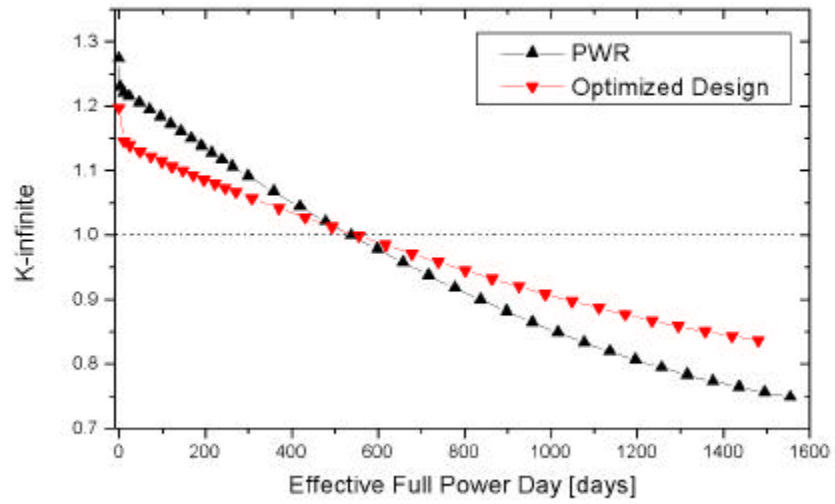
7 가 가 . 3 가 PWR 가

가 가 . 가 가

0.9 가 가

가

Effective Full Power Day 200 .



7.

7

. RTF, PWR

RTF PWR
Module
가

8

가

가

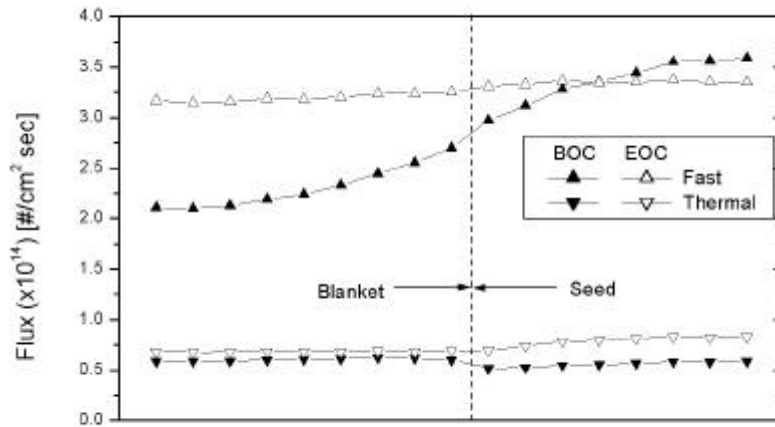
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7.

2-Group Cross Section

	RTF		PWR		Optimized Design	
	Fast	Thermal	Fast	Thermal	Fast	Thermal
D [cm]	1.48304	0.43009	1.43546	0.44825	1.44199	0.43273
a [1/cm]	7.2057E-03	7.5368E-02	8.1270E-03	7.0883E-02	8.7687E-03	7.0847E-02
f [1/cm]	4.6324E-03	1.1863E-01	5.5295E-03	1.1143E-01	4.7862E-03	1.0428E-01
r [1/cm]	2.0049E-02	-	1.8186E-02	-	1.9003E-02	-
[1/cm ² sec]	2.0516E+14	5.2953E+13	2.2458E+14	5.5910E+13	2.4115E+14	6.3484E+13
λ / λ_2	3.8743		4.0168		3.7986	
Resonance escape Probability	7.3562E-01		6.9114E-01		6.8426E-01	



8. Module

4.2 가

FIR 가 8 FIR 가
 가 9 8,325 GWD PWR , 364.33 31%
 83.17 PWR , 3,000 EFPD 111.5
 PWR 254.9 44%
 3,000 EFPD heavy metal(Th, U) 11.32 (U-235:4.2)
 PWR 9.46 (U-235:5.56) PWR 120%
 Th-232 U-233 U-233
 1.09가

8. FIR

	Seed Refueling Cycle #				Average FIR
	1	2	3	4	
Optimized Design	0.55	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.58
PWR	0.42				

9. 8,325GWD

	Optimized Design	PWR
Effective Operation Day	3,000	3,000
Requirement of Th-232 (Ton)	39.64	0
Requirement of U-238 (Ton)	77.74	256.62
Requirement of U-235 (Ton)	5.43	7.71
Th-232 Mass in Spent Fuel (Ton)	35.70	0
U-238 Mass in Spent Fuel (Ton)	74.57	252.72
U-235 Mass in Spent Fuel (Ton)	1.23	2.15
Pu-239 Mass in Spent Fuel (Ton)	0.42	1.11
Pu-241 Mass in Spent Fuel (Ton)	0.12	0.24
Actual Consumption of Th-232 (Ton)	3.95	0
Actual Consumption of U-238 (Ton)	3.17	3.90
Actual Consumption of U-235 (Ton)	4.20	5.56

4.3 가

가

0.72 , 0.24 0.96 PWR
 (1.88) 51%
 PWR 10 가
 가
 Pu-238, Pu-242 , Pu-239 가
 Pu-238

10. Pu

	Seed	Blanket	Seed + Blanket	PWR
Pu-238	0.03	0.09	0.07	0.01
Pu-239	0.46	0.39	0.41	0.59
Pu-240	0.28	0.17	0.21	0.21
Pu-241	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.14
Pu-242	0.09	0.20	0.16	0.05

4.4 가

11

가

가 가 가

10

가

가

11. [kg/yr]

	Seed	Blanket	Seed+Blanket	PWR
Np-239	3.9	2.9	6.8	13.1
Am-241	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.8
Am-243	1.1	2.2	3.3	6.2
Cm-242	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5
Cm-244	0.4	2.4	2.8	2.9
Total	5.7	7.7	13.4	23.5

4.5

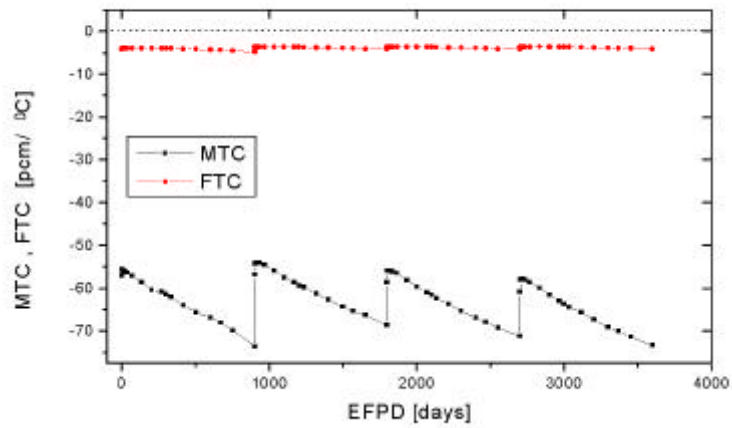
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Coefficient)

(Fuel Temperature Coefficient)

(Moderator Temperature

9



9.

MTC FTC

UO₂

10

700 1,100 w/cm³

200 300 w/cm³

UO₂

12

Peaking Factor

Peaking Factor

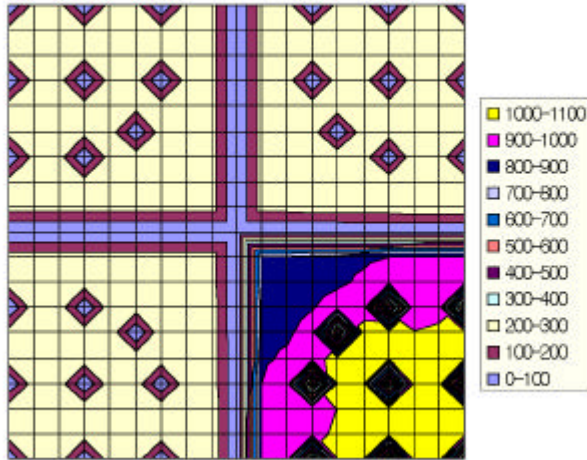
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U-233

Peaking Factor

PWR

Power Density [w/cm³]



10.

12. Peaking factor

	Seed	Blanket	Seed + Blanket	PWR
BOC	1.1228	1.1025	2.4575	1.0775
EOC	1.0148	1.0564	1.5375	1.0184

5.

가

가

RTF
SBU

RTF

. 가

U-233

가

가

가

가

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