LA-UR-24-23446

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Title: Modeling Approaches for Depletion of a TRISO-Fueled Microreactor

- Author(s): Hoffman, Keenan Jeffrey
- Intended for: Physics of Reactors (PHYSOR), 2024-04-22 (San Francisco, California, United States)

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Modeling Approaches for Depletion of a TRISO-Fueled Microreactor

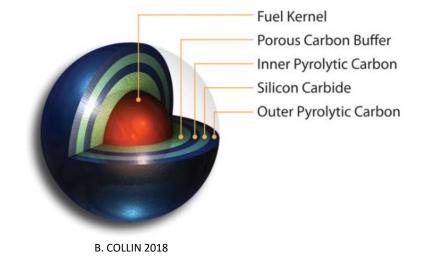
Keenan Hoffman Alexis Maldonado Todd Palmer

08/19/2024 LA-UR-24-23446



Introduction/Motivation

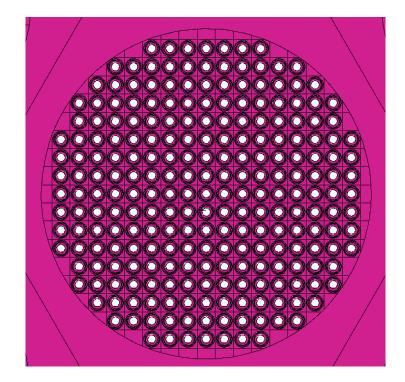
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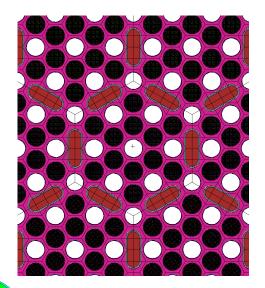
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 - Global core parameters
 - Reactivity-Equivalent Physical Transformation (RPT)
 - Homogenization technique
 - Woodcock Delta Tracking
 - Cross section and collision treatment

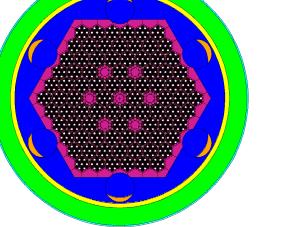




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- Flexible design developed by Los Alamos National Laboratory
 - 3.5 MWt over 3 years
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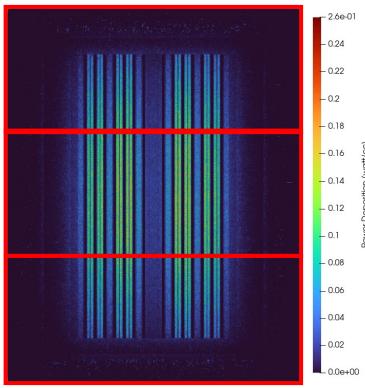


Spatial Depletion Resolution

 Why are depletion calculations inherently slow?

What is spatial depletion resolution? •

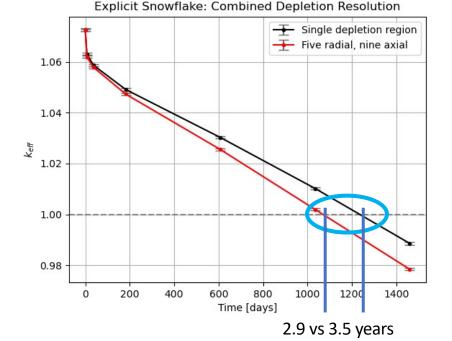
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Differences in Isotopics (1 vs 45 zones)

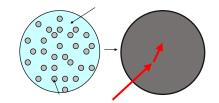
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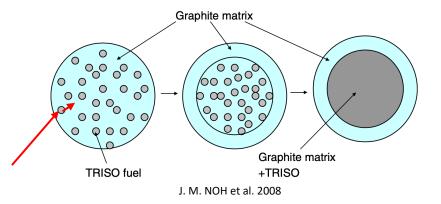


Reactivity-Equivalent Physical Transformation (RPT)

- Homogenization scheme applied to TRISO compacts/pebbles
 - Simple volume-weighted homogenization results in lower k_{eff} due to reduced resonance self-shielding effect
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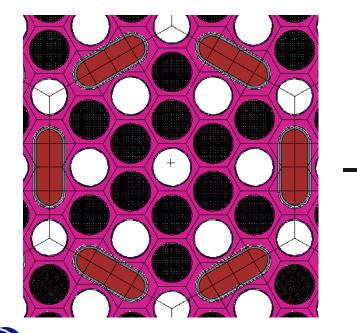
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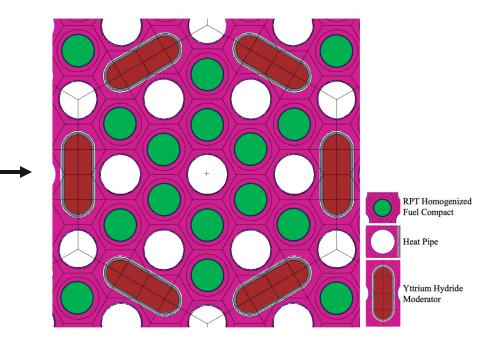






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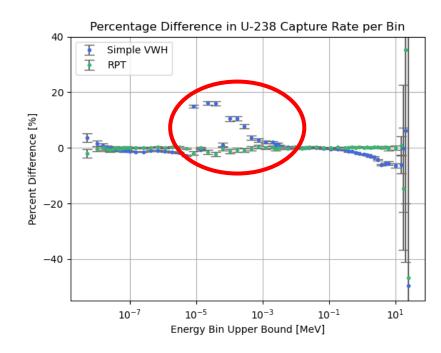




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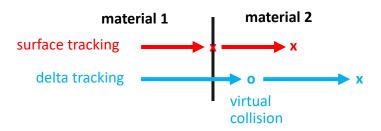
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Woodcock Delta Tracking

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 $\Sigma'_{mat1} = \Sigma_{mat1} + \Sigma_{virtual}$

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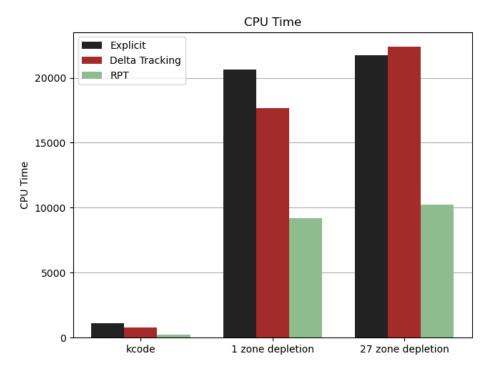
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Delta Tracking

- Prototype delta tracking module for MCNP6 developed by XCP-3 at LANL
- When enabled in individual compacts:
 - 30% speedup using kcode
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Conclusions

- Depletion resolution is very problem dependent
 - A single depletion zone overpredicted the Snowflake core lifetime by 20%
 - Average burnup and total U-235 mass can be achieved with a single step and a single zone (plutonium requires more)
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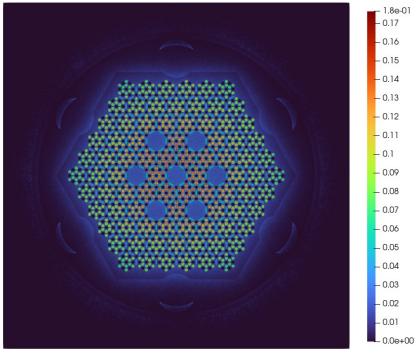
Extra Slide: Power Deposition

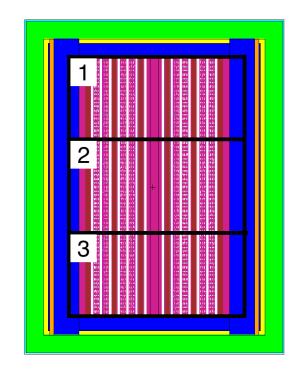
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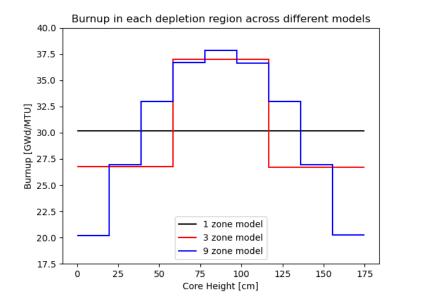
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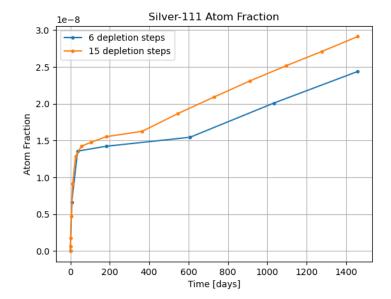






Extra Slide: Burnup Resolution Plots



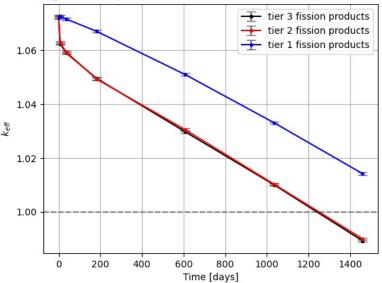




Extra Slide: Tracked Isotopes

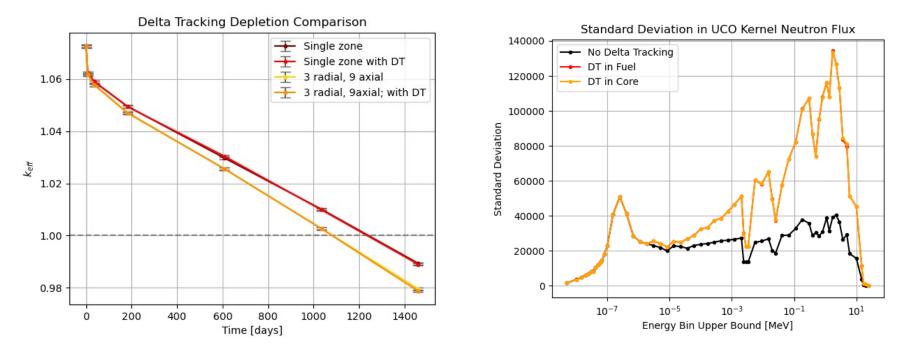
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Single zone depletion with different MCNP fission product tiers



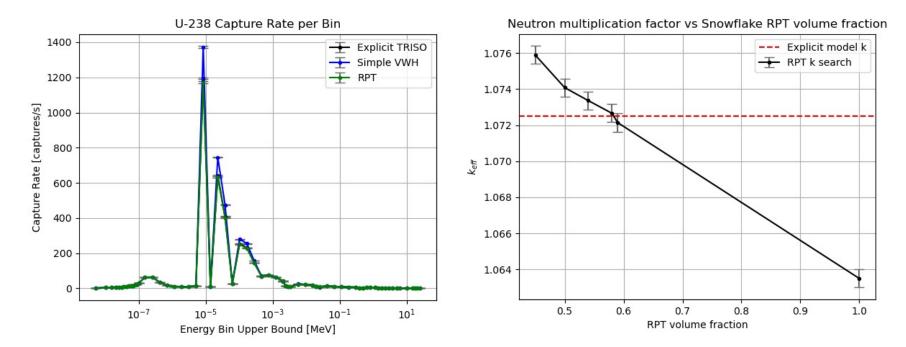


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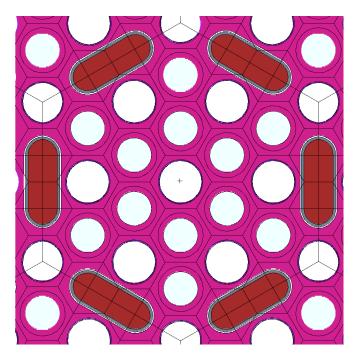


Extra Slide: RPT figures

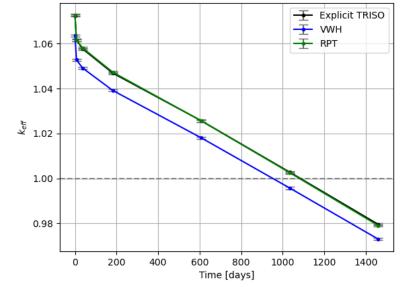




Reactivity-Equivalent Physical Transformation

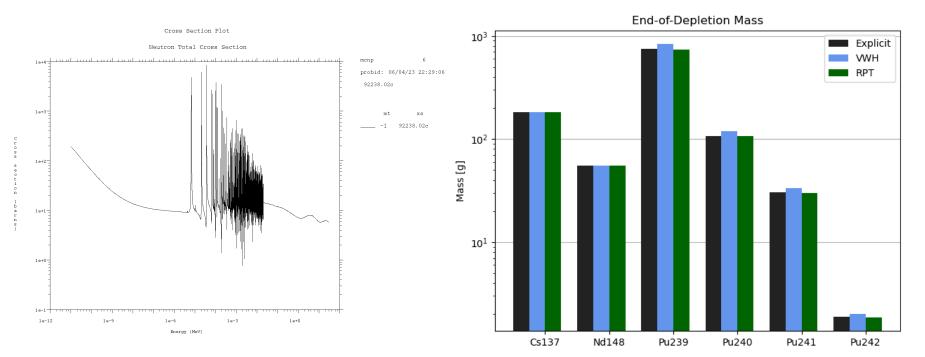


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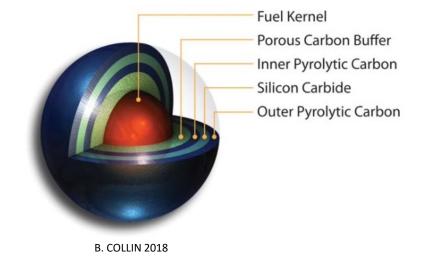
Extra Slide: U-238 Total Cross Section





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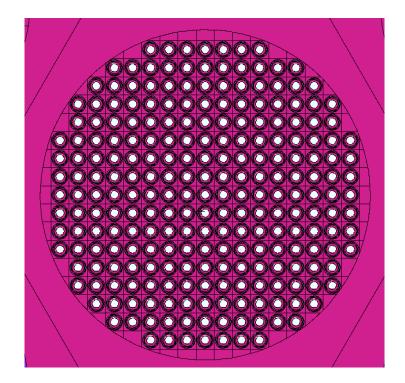
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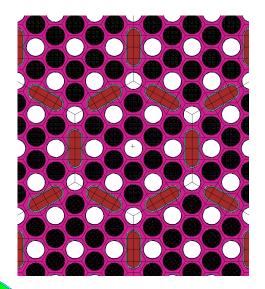
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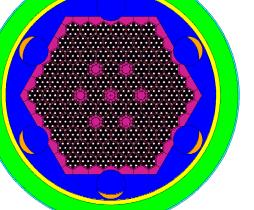




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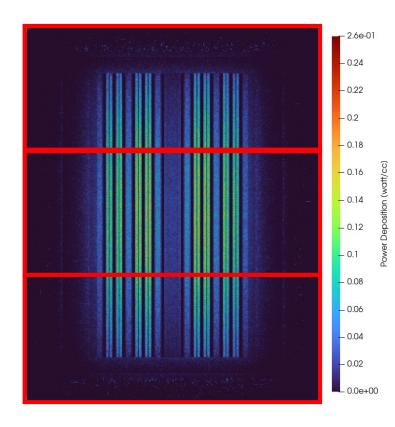


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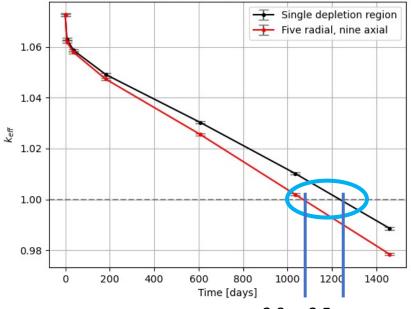
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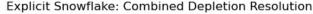




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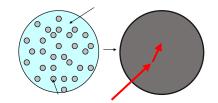
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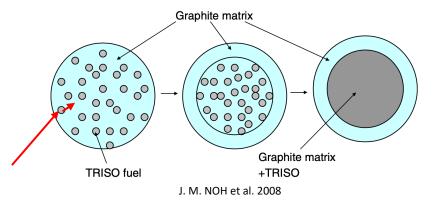


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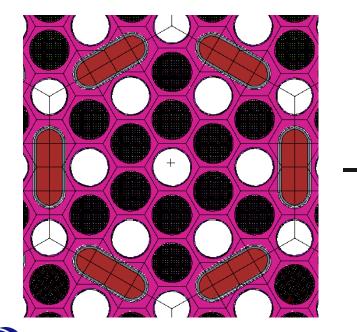
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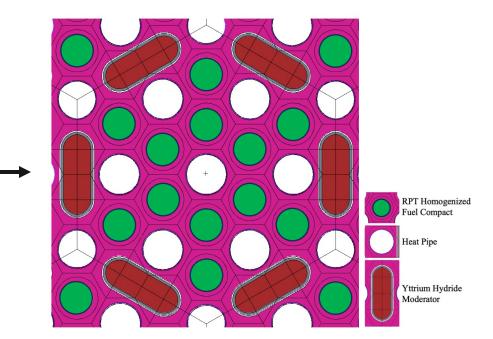






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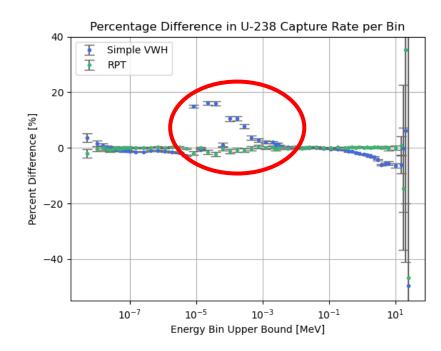




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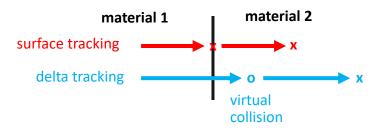
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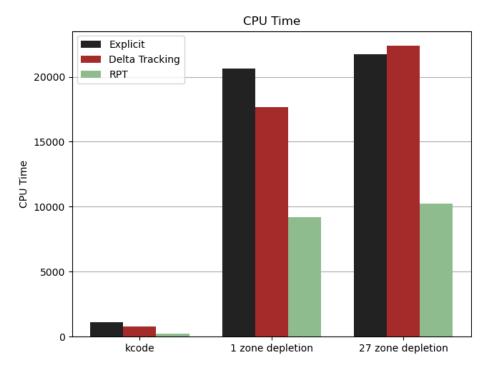
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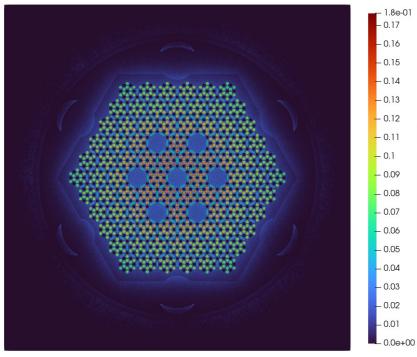
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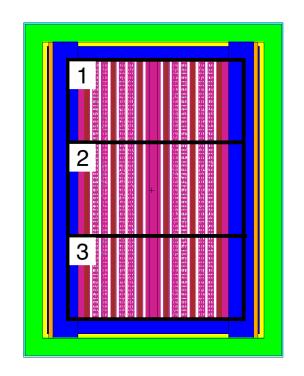
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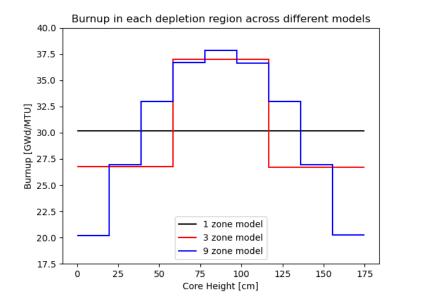
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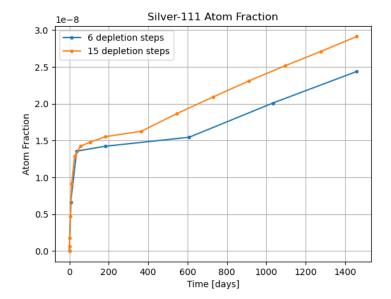






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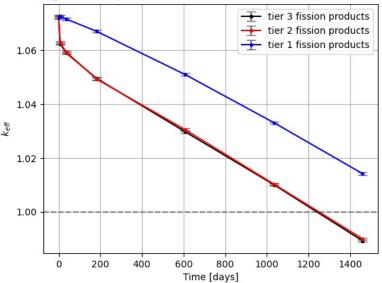




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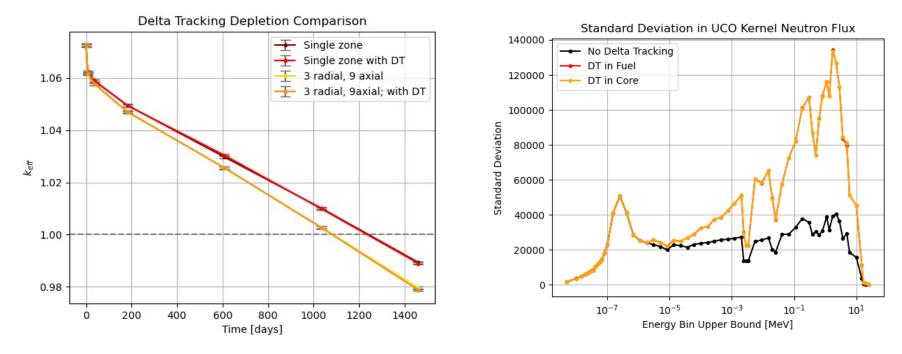
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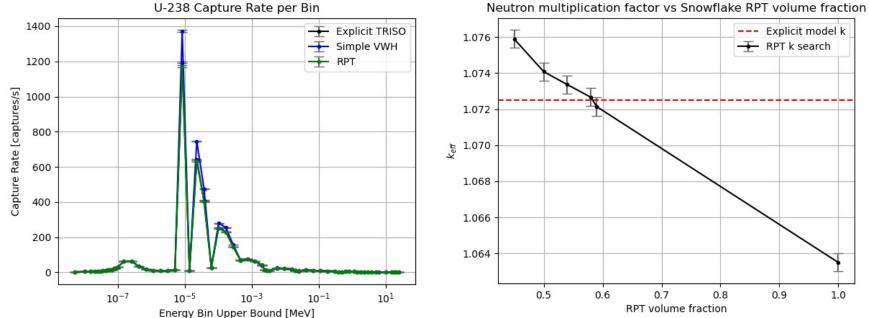


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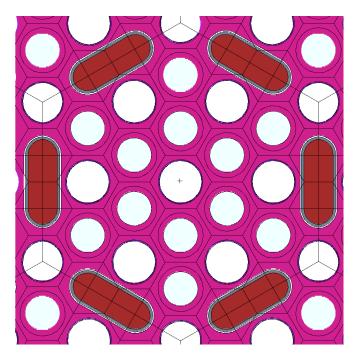
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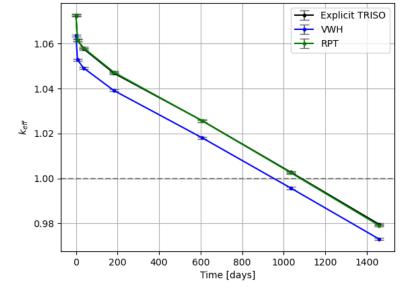




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Extra Slide: U-238 Total Cross Section

