

Title:	Re-evaluation of cladding failure criteria in LOCA within H2020 project
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Outline

- R2CA project
- Implementation of new burst criteria in U.S.NRC's FRAPTRAN code
- Modification of FRAPTRAN's mechanical models
 - Phase transition
 - High-temperature creep laws
 - Burst criteria
- Results of LOCA validation matrix re-simulation
- Application of modifications to EPR LB-LOCA





R2CA Project



- The Reduction of Radiological Consequences of design basis and extension Accidents (R2CA) is an EU H2020 project coordinated by IRSN running from 2019 to 2023. The project is mainly funded by the European Commission, brings together 17 different organizations based in 12 countries.
- The aim of the R2CA project is to develop new calculation methodologies and updated computer codes in order to produce more realistic evaluations of radioactive releases resulting from such accidents.
- The purpose of VTT study is to improve the evaluation of the number of failing fuel rods in a whole core during the LOCA transient.

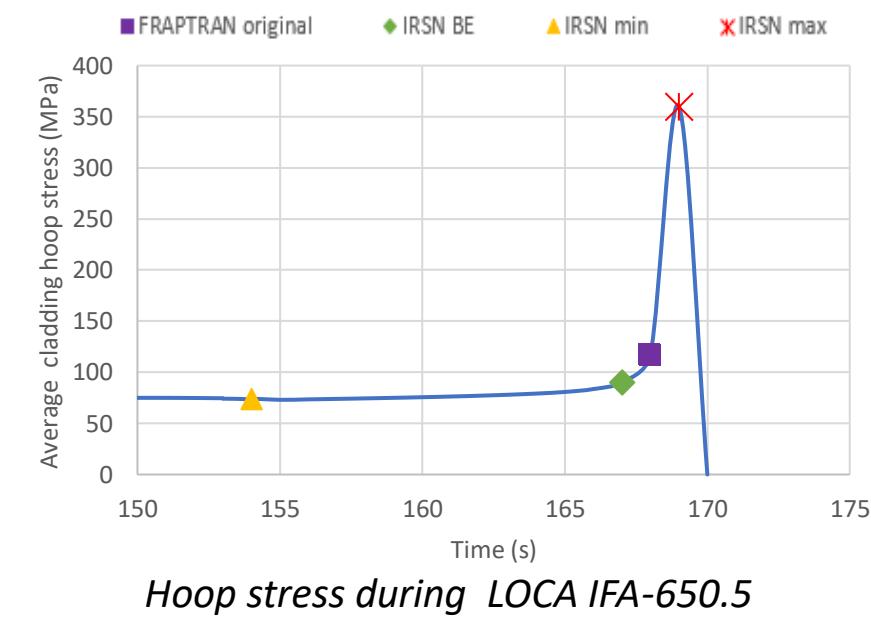


Implementing IRSN's new burst criteria

- Work was started by implementing new cladding burst criteria developed by IRSN
- 7 FRAPTRAN LOCA validation cases were simulated to compare the effect of implemented correlations (IRSN best estimate, min, max)
- Results showed that the code predictions (e.g., failure time) are not so sensitive in terms of failure criteria when the cladding hoop stress starts to increase exponentially
 → Update of cladding mechanical models

Test	Time to failure (s)				
	FRAPTRAN original	IRSN BE	IRSN min	IRSN max	Measured value
IFA-650.5	169	168	155	169	179 s
IFA-650.6	423	419	359	425	525 s
IFA-650.7	152	152	145	152	247 s
TREAT rod 16 and 17	26,4	26,4	26,3	26,4	30.3-37.5
LOC-11C rod 3	No Failure	No Failure	No Failure	No Failure	No Failure
LOC-11C rod 2	14,4	14,4	10,8	14,4	No Failure
LOC-11C rods 1 and 4	No Failure	No Failure	No Failure	No Failure	No Failure

FRAPTRAN LOCA validation matrix results with various failure criteria





New models and criteria from open literature

- New models have been implemented in FRAPTRAN for Zry-4 and Zr-1%Nb claddings
 - Updated models for Zr-1%Nb are utilised in EPR simulation with M5 cladding
-
- A phase transformation model by Massih, 2009[1]
 - Two separate high temperature creep models Kaddour et al, 2004[2] and Rosinger, 1984[3]
 - Two new burst criteria:
 - A new temperature burst limit by Meyer and Wiesenack 2022[4]
 - Optimized Rosinger best estimate stress limit by Quantum Technologies 2021[5]
 - The new models for phase transition and creep, and the burst limits have been verified by re-simulating the FRAPTRAN LOCA validation matrix



Code modifications: Mechanical deformation

- The modifications were implemented in *cstrni* subroutine that is used by the mechanical model *FRACAS-I* under open gap condition and *BALON2* model. This subroutine is relevant for high strain rates conditions.
- Plastic strain has been replaced by a high temperature creep law which is used in combination with the phase transformation model to calculate the strain rate according to equations (1) and (2).

$$\dot{\varepsilon} = \frac{A}{T} \sigma^n \exp\left(-\frac{Q}{RT}\right) \quad (1)$$

Parameters (A, Q, n) in the alpha and beta phase are provided by (Kaddour et al, 2004) for both Zr-4 and Zr-1%Nb claddings, and only for Zry-4 claddings in (Rosinger, 1984) model

- In the mixed phase region (alpha + beta), linear interpolation is used:

$$\dot{\varepsilon}_{\alpha\beta} = \dot{\varepsilon}_\alpha(1 - y) + \dot{\varepsilon}_\beta y \quad (2)$$



Code modifications: Phase transformation

- Massih (2009) phase transformation model was implemented in FRAPTRAN. The model solves the differential equation (3) to obtain the volume fraction of cladding beta phase y after the onset temperature

$$\frac{dy}{dt} = k(T)[y_s(T) - y] \quad (3)$$

$k(T)$ is the rate parameter, y_s is the equilibrium b-phase volume fraction

- The onset temperature for the phase transition is a function of temperature and hydrogen content
 - For example: Zircaloy-4 under heating conditions:

$$T_{\alpha \rightarrow \alpha+\beta} = \begin{cases} 1083 - 0.152w & \text{for } 0 \leq Q < 0.1 \text{K/s} \\ (1113 - 0.156w)Q^{0.0118} & \text{for } 0.1 \leq Q \leq 100 \text{K/s} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

Q is the heating rate and w is the hydrogen content in wppm (weight parts per million)



Implemented burst criteria from open literature

- Temperature limit by Meyer and Wiesenack (2022):

$$T_{burst} = 1385\sigma^{-0.129} - 0.0057H^{1.49} + 1.845R - 29$$

T is temperature in [°C], σ is hoop stress [N/mm²], H is hydrogen content [wppm], and R is the heating rate in [°C/s]

- Optimized Rosinger best estimate stress limit by Quantum Technologies (2021):

$$\sigma_{burst} = A_b e^{-B_b T} e^{-\left(\frac{x_{Met}}{C_b}\right)^2}$$

x_{Met} is the cladding metal excess oxygen concentration; this parameter is calculated by the oxidation model

Temperature region (K)	A_b (Pa)	B_b (K^{-1})	C_b
873 to 1075	7.3757×10^{10}	5.9298×10^{-3}	5.888×10^{-4}
1075 to 1250	5.1513×10^{12}	9.8798×10^{-3}	5.888×10^{-4}
1250 to 1873	2.3301×10^7	3.4814×10^{-5}	5.888×10^{-4}

This burst limit was tested with Rosinger (1984) creep model since the limit was developed from the same experimental data





Calculations results: FRAPTRAN original deformation model

Burst failure criterion Test Parameters	FRAPTRAN original plastic strain model					Failure trigger in FRAPTRAN original	Measured value
	FRAPTRAN original burst criteria (stress +strain)	IRSN BE	IRSN min	IRSN max	Temperature limit (Meyer 2022)		
IFA-650.5							
Time to cladding rupture (s)	169	168	155	169	166	Stress limit	179 1023 16 %
Burst Temperature (K)	1005	1001	954	1005	994		
Max hoop strain %	30	23	5	32	11		
Rod pressure (MPa)	10.2	10.6	10.6	10.2	10.8		
IFA-650.6							
Time to cladding rupture (s)	423	419	359	425	419	Stress limit	525 1103 36 %
Burst Temperature (K)	1069	1067	1020	1071	1067		
Max hoop strain %	38	29	5	40	29		
Rod pressure (MPa)	8.3	8.6	8.4	8.3	8.6		
IFA-650.7							
Time to cladding rupture (s)	152	152	145	152	152	Stress limit	247 1373 24 %
Burst Temperature (K)	1221	1221	1197.2	1221	1221		
Max hoop strain %	36	35.7	5	35.7	36		
Rod pressure (MPa)	1.98		2.1		1.98		
TREAT rod 16 and 17							
Time to cladding rupture (s)	26.4	26.4	26.3	26.4	26.5	Strain limit	30.3-37.5 1478 to 1589 58 % and 33 %
Burst Temperature (K)	1263.5				1260.8		
Max hoop strain %	68.6	117	9.6	248	99606		
Rod pressure (MPa)	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97		
LOC-11C rod 3	No Failure	No Failure	No Failure	No Failure	No failure	N/A	No Failure
LOC-11C rod 2							
Time to cladding rupture (s)	14.4	14.4	10.8	14.4	14.4	Strain limit	No Failure
Burst Temperature (K)	1017.7	1017.7	973.4	1017.7	1017.7		
Max hoop strain %	90.4	38.156	5	1954	1960.9		
Rod pressure (MPa)	8.4	8.4	11.3	8.4	8.4		
LOC-11C rods 1 and 4	No Failure	No Failure	No Failure	No Failure	No failure	N/A	No Failure

In terms of failure time, FRAPTRAN orig, IRSN BE and IRSN max have similar results

Note!
FRAPTRAN strain limit was enabled in these simulations





Calculations results: Phase transformation + Kaddour et al. (2004) creep model

Test Parameters	Phase transition + Kaddour et al 2004 creep model Zy-4 and Zr1NbO					Measured value
	Burst failure criterion	FRAPTRAN original stress limit	IRSN BE	IRSN min	IRSN max	
IFA-650.5						
Time to cladding rupture (s)	184	182	166	184	167	179
Burst Temperature (K)	1057	1048	994	1054	998	1023
Max hoop strain %	32	22	5	32	5	16 %
Rod pressure (MPa)	10.5					
IFA-650.6						
Time to cladding rupture (s)	453	453	371	455	431	525
Burst Temperature (K)	1087	1087	1032	1087	1074	1103
Max hoop strain %	31	31	5	40	15	36 %
Rod pressure (MPa)	8.837					
IFA-650.7						
Time to cladding rupture (s)	175	175	173	175	156	247
Burst Temperature (K)	1298	1298	1292	1298	1234	1373
Max hoop strain %	31	36	5	36	36	24 %
Rod pressure (MPa)	2.2					
TREAT rod 16 and 17						
Time to cladding rupture (s)	46.5	45.5	45.5	46	29	30.3-37.5
Burst Temperature (K)	1601	1528	1602	1602	1369	1478 to 1589
Max hoop strain %	80.2	5	5	9	104	58 % and 33 %
Rod pressure (MPa)	0.80					
LOC-11C rod 3	No failure	No failure	No failure	No failure	No Failure	No Failure
LOC-11C rod 2						
Time to cladding rupture (s)						
Burst Temperature (K)	No failure	No failure	14.2	No failure	No failure	No Failure
Max hoop strain %			1015			
Rod pressure (MPa)			5			
LOC-11C rods 1 and 4	No failure	No failure	No failure	No failure	No failure	No Failure

In terms of failure time, FRAPTRAN orig, IRSN BE and IRSN max have similar results

Note!
FRAPTRAN strain limit was **disabled** in these simulations





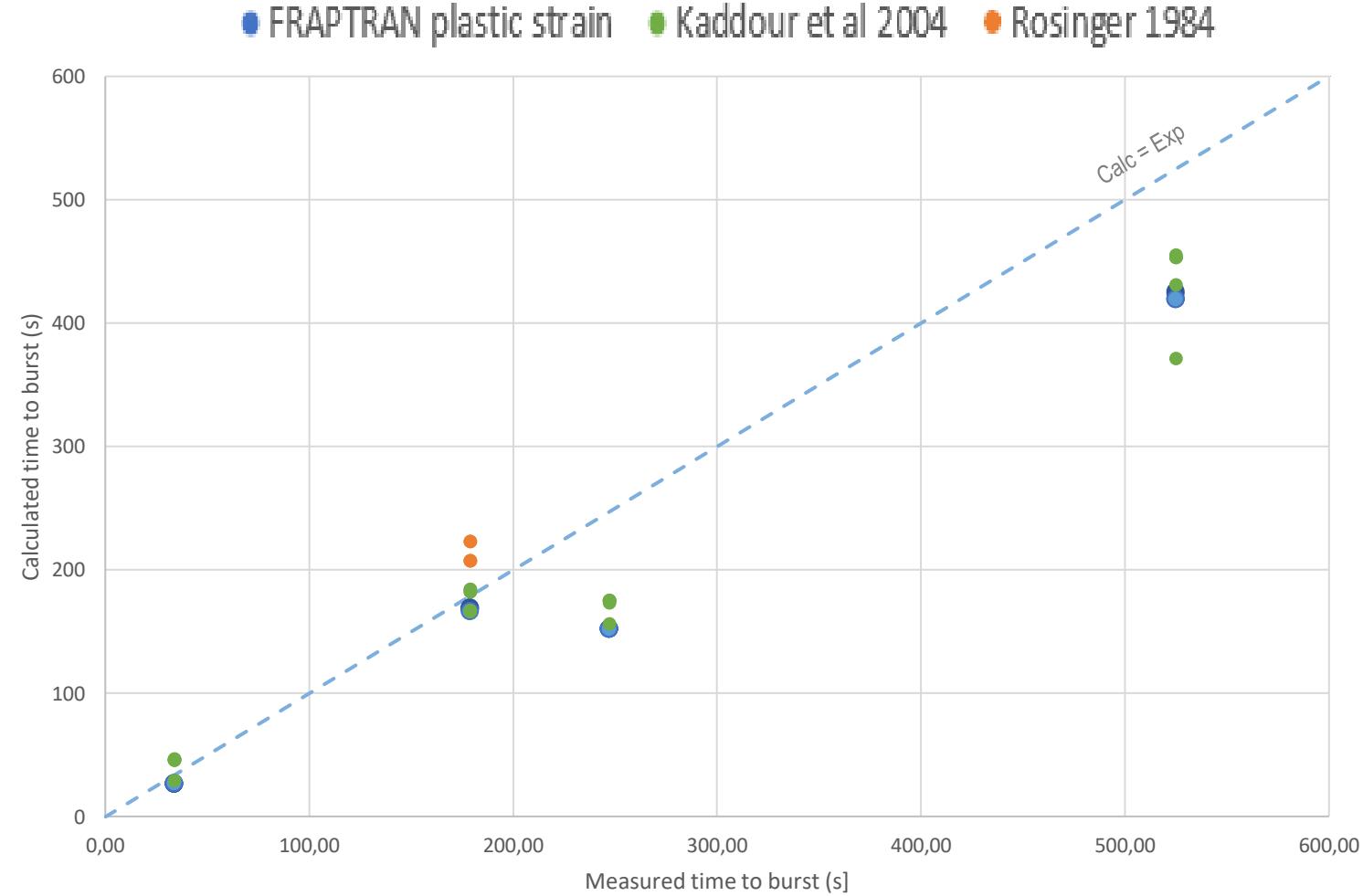
Calculations results: Phase transformation + Rosinger (1984) creep model

Test Parameters	Phase transition + Rosinger 1984 creep model Zy-4						Measured value
	Burst failure criterion	FRAPTRAN original stress limit	SSM Zy-4 burst criterion 2021	IRSN BE	IRSN min	IRSN max	
IFA-650.5							
Time to cladding rupture (s)	223	207	207	207	223	207	179
Burst Temperature (K)	1160.5	1122	1122	1122	1160.5	1122	1023
Max hoop strain %	31.5	5	5	5	31.5	5	16 %
Rod pressure (MPa)		12.5					
IFA-650.6							
Time to cladding rupture (s)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	525
Burst Temperature (K)							1103
Max hoop strain %							36 %
Rod pressure (MPa)							
IFA-650.7							
Time to cladding rupture (s)	No failure	No failure	No failure	No failure	No failure	248	247
Burst Temperature (K)						1391	1373
Max hoop strain %						5	24 %
Rod pressure (MPa)							
TREAT rod 16 and 17							
Time to cladding rupture (s)	No failure	No failure	No failure	No failure	No failure	No failure	30.3-37.5
Burst Temperature (K)							1478 to 1589
Max hoop strain %							58 % and 33 %
Rod pressure (MPa)							
LOC-11C rod 3	No failure	No failure	No failure	No failure	No failure	No failure	No Failure
LOC-11C rod 2							
Time to cladding rupture (s)	No failure	No failure	No failure	No failure	No failure	No failure	No Failure
Burst Temperature (K)							
Max hoop strain %							
Rod pressure (MPa)							
LOC-11C rods 1 and 4	No failure	No failure	No failure	No failure	No failure	No failure	No Failure

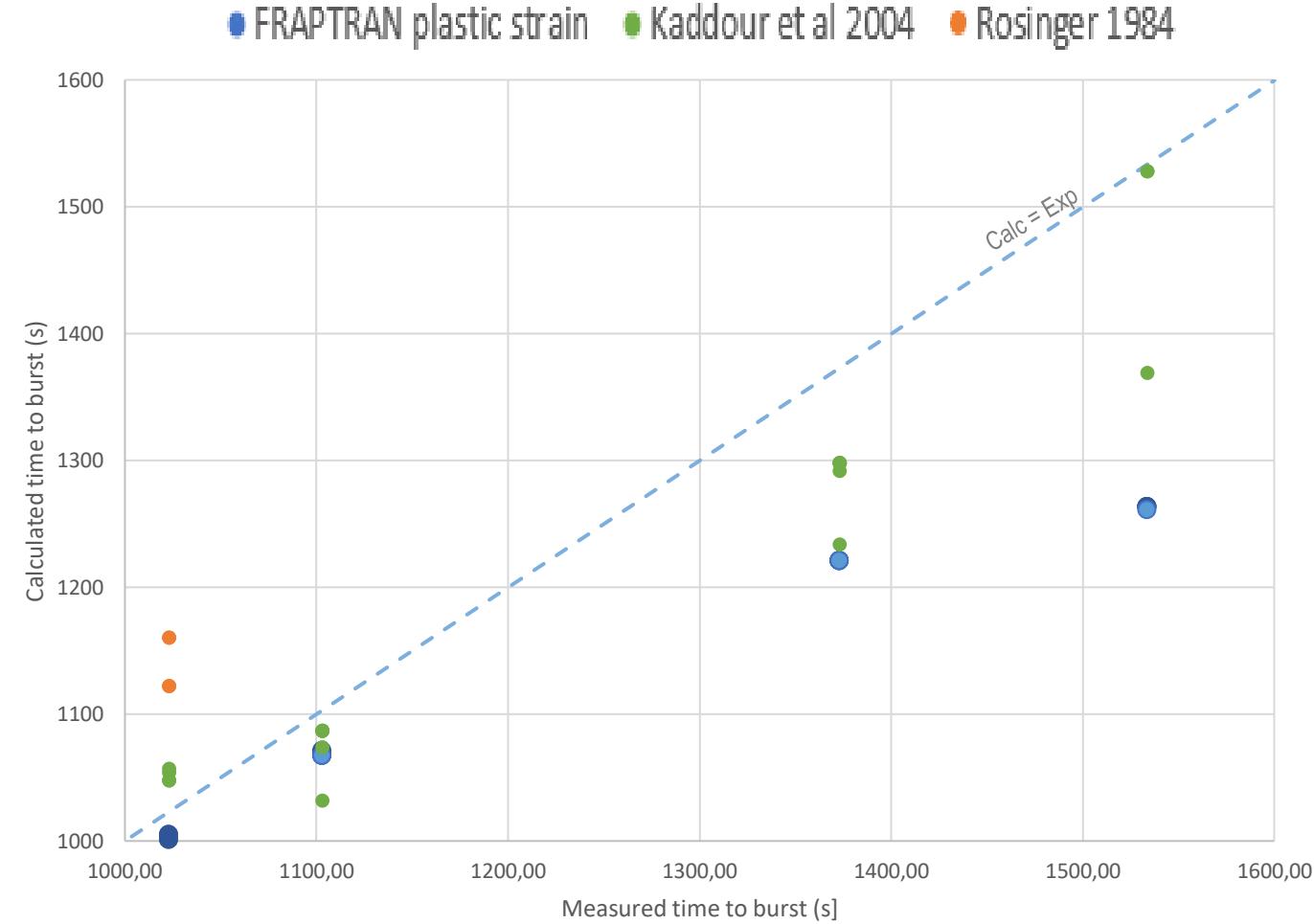
False non-failures were predicted

Note!
FRAPTRAN strain limit was disabled in these simulations

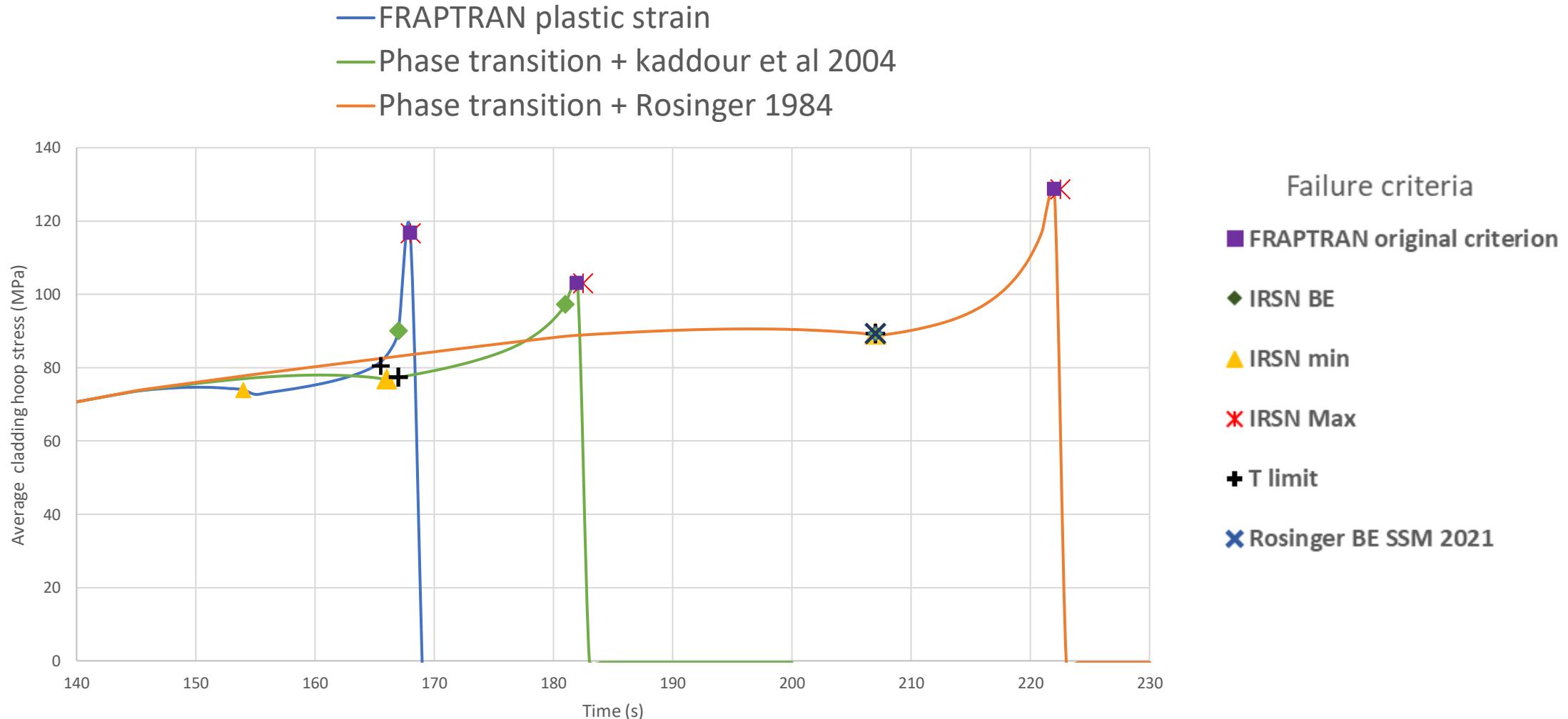
Calculations results: Time to burst



Calculations results: Burst temperature

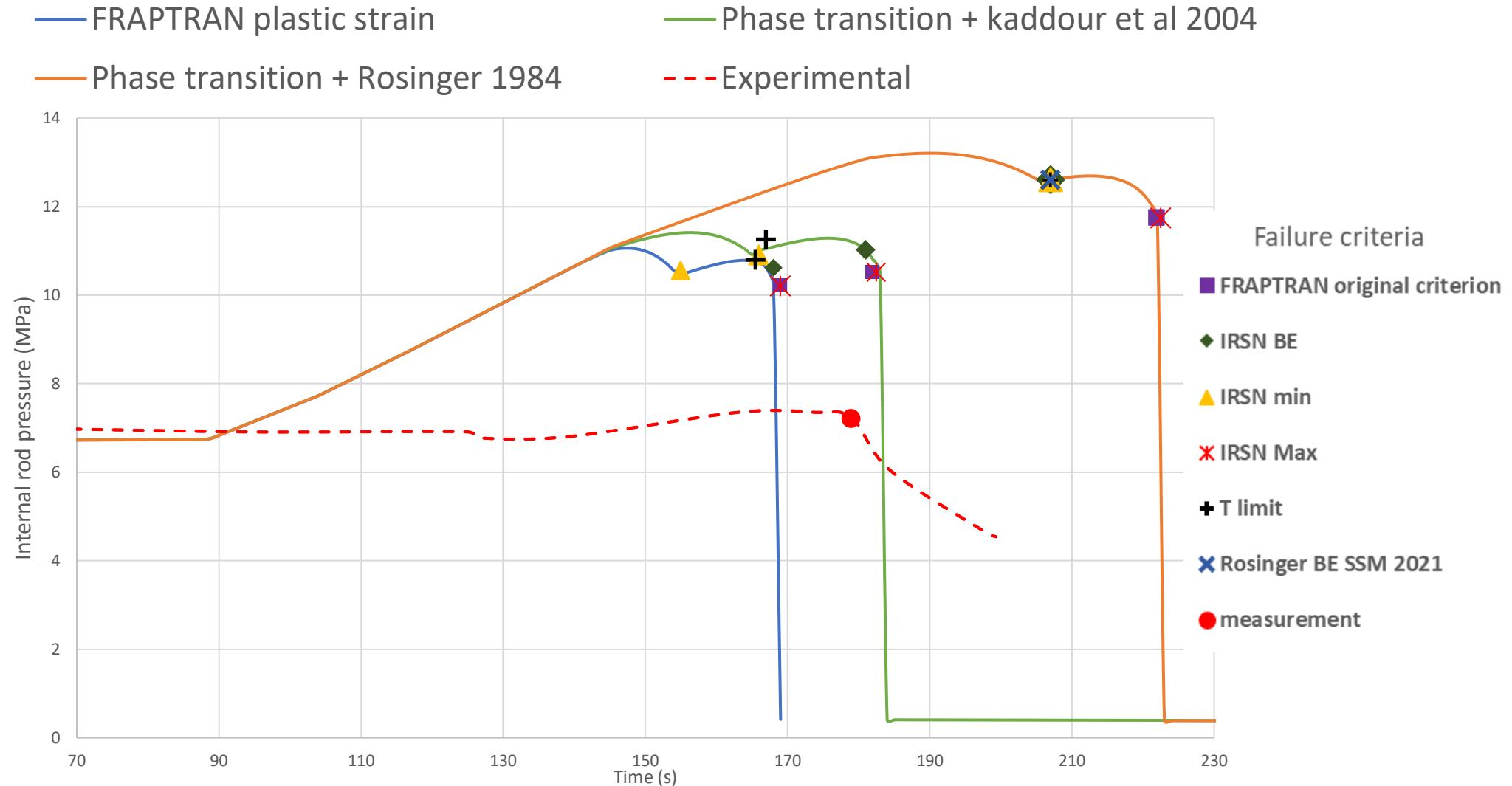


IFA-650.5 LOCA results: hoop stress



NOTE! Plotted value is *averaged* over the ballooning node. Local calculations in the ballooning model divide the node into 16 x 16 subnodes, so the stress that triggers the failure criterion is different than in the average stress plot.

IFA-650.5 LOCA results: rod internal press



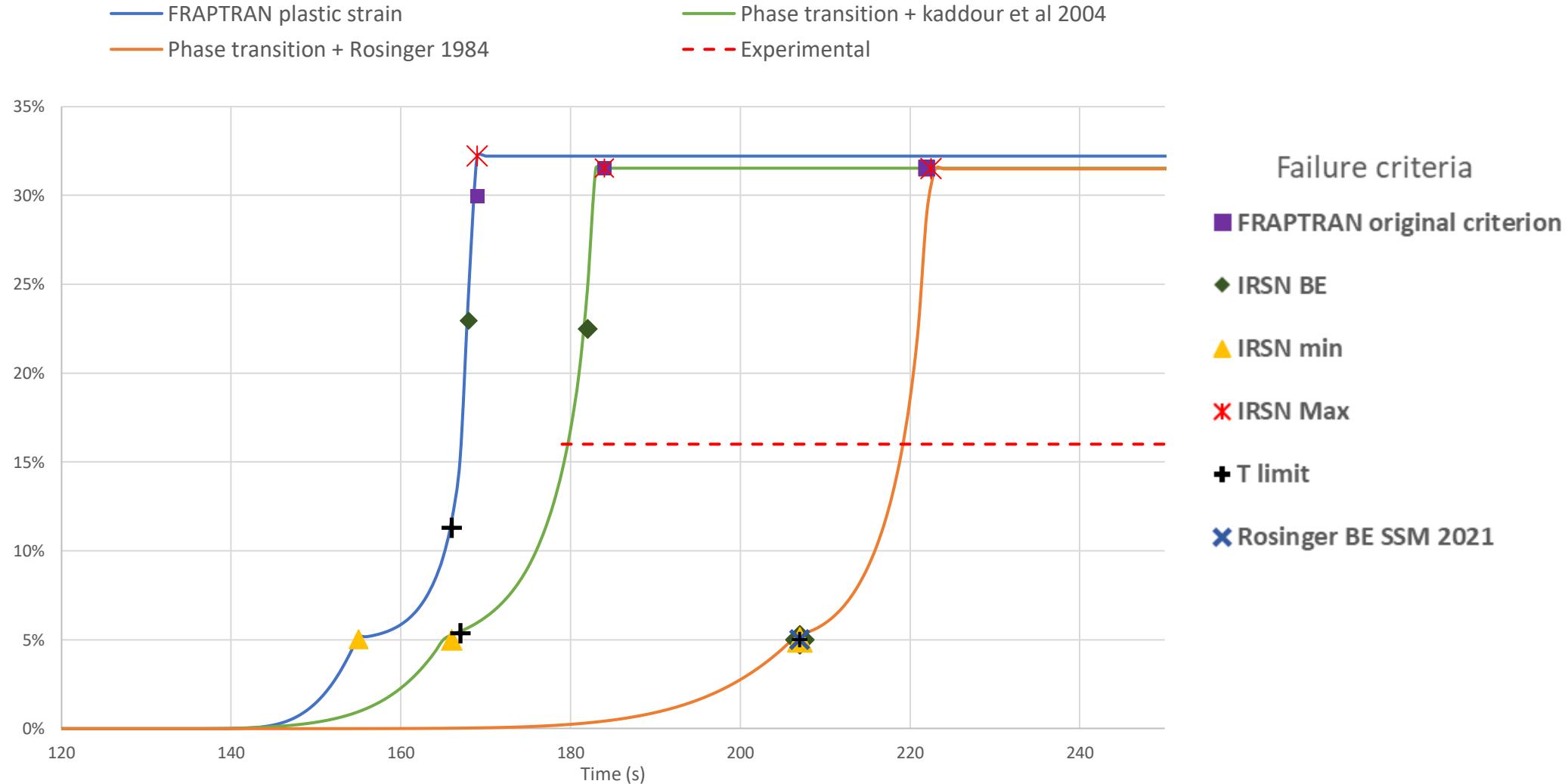


IFA-650.5 LOCA results: plastic hoop strain



REDUCTION OF RADIOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES
OF DESIGN BASIS & DESIGN EXTENSION ACCIDENTS

Permanent hoop strain





Comparison of original and modified mechanical deformation models

Test		Average error	
		Phase transition + Kaddour et al 2004	FRAPTRAN original mechanical deformation
IFA-650.5	Time	-1.3 %	-7.6 %
	Temperature	0.7 %	-3.0 %
IFA-650.6	Time	-17.6 %	-22.1 %
	Temperature	-2.7 %	-4.0 %
IFA-650.7	Time	-30.9 %	-39.0 %
	Temperature	-6.5 %	-11.4 %
TREAT rod 16 and 17	Time	25.4 %	-22.1 %
	Temperature	-0.6 %	-17.7 %
LOC-11C rod 3		No Failure	No Failure
LOC-11C rod 2		No Failure (False failure prediction only with IRSN min)	Incorrect failure prediction in all cases
LOC-11C rods 1 and 4		No Failure	No Failure

$$\text{Average error (Parameter)} = \frac{\text{Average } (P_{\text{FRAPTRAN burst criterion}} + P_{\text{IRSN BE}} + P_{\text{IRSN min}} + P_{\text{IRSN max}} + P_{\text{T limit}}) - P_{\text{measured}}}{P_{\text{measured}}}$$



On-going work



- A new validation case for M5 cladding is being simulated to validate the implemented models for M5
 - IFA-650.15 with M5 cladding





*REDUCTION OF RADIOLOGICAL CONSEQUENCES
OF DESIGN BASIS & DESIGN EXTENSION ACCIDENTS*

Application of updated models to EPR LB-LOCA full core simulations



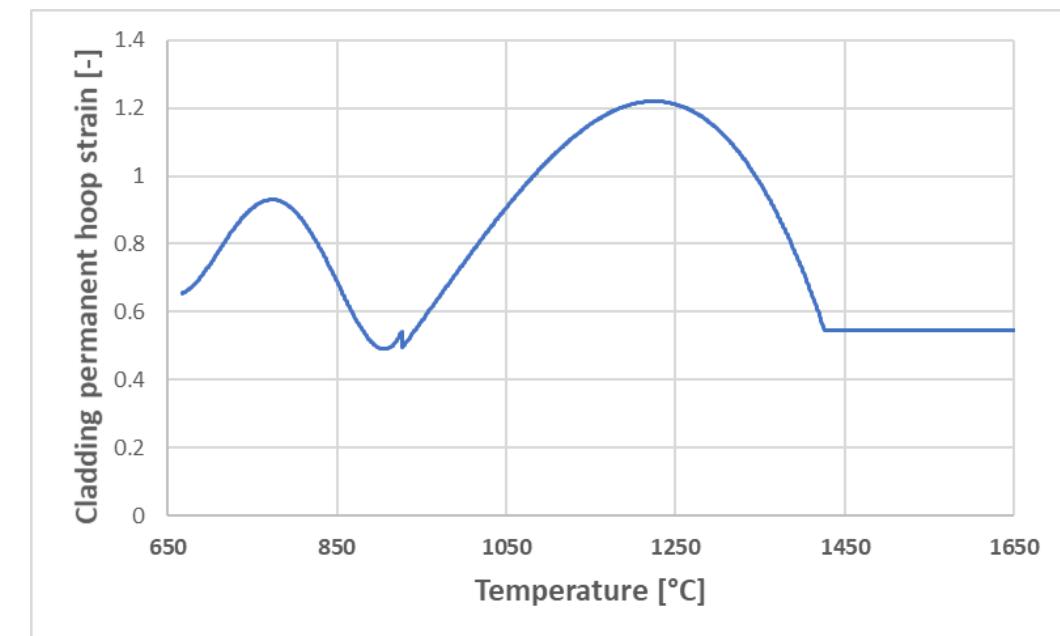
EPR LB-LOCA simulations

- EPR LB-LOCA analysis with the fuel performance code is performed to see the effect with various power histories and burnups.
- The original EPR LB-LOCA analysis used in the R2CA has not been done within this project. Analysis results are discussed in publications [1-3] (publication [3] contain some error corrections and is therefore the most up-to-date reference)
 - No other changes between initial calculations other than those mentioned earlier to FRAPTRAN, i.e., the same inputs and boundary conditions are used, and the same FRAPTRAN code version (V1.4)
- FRAPTRAN is coupled at VTT with VTT's in-house subchannel TH code GENFLO, and the original EPR simulations were done with that → new simulations also with FRAPTRAN-GENFLO
- **Note!** All the aforementioned modifications were done and tested with the as-received version of FRAPTRAN V1.4
- For the purpose of the EPR simulations, the developments were transferred into the coupled FRAPTRAN-GENFLO code



Results

- After implementing the new phase transformation + Kaddour et al. creep model, no failures were detected with the IRSN BE criterion in 59 000 simulations (FRAPTRAN strain-based back-up failure criterion was disabled)
- After that, the scenario #1 was simulated with IRSN min. criterion (strain based criterion was disabled) → no cladding failures
- After that, strain based criterion was enabled and all the 59 scenarios simulated again → 1-2 failed rods per scenario
 - It thus appears that the failures are triggered by the secondary strain based criterion, not the stress based



FRAPTRAN strain based cladding failure criterion

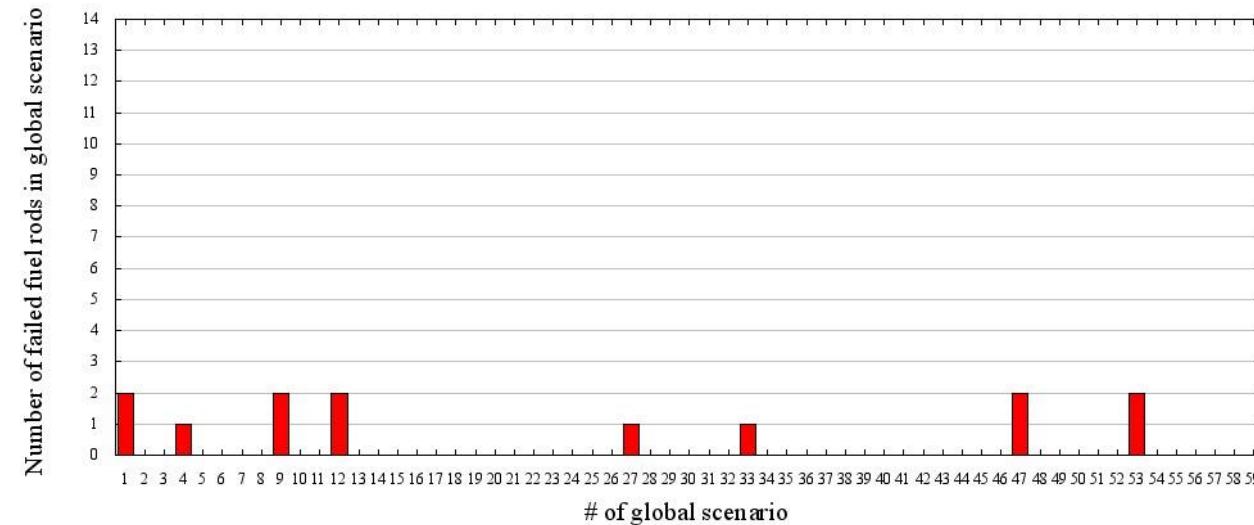
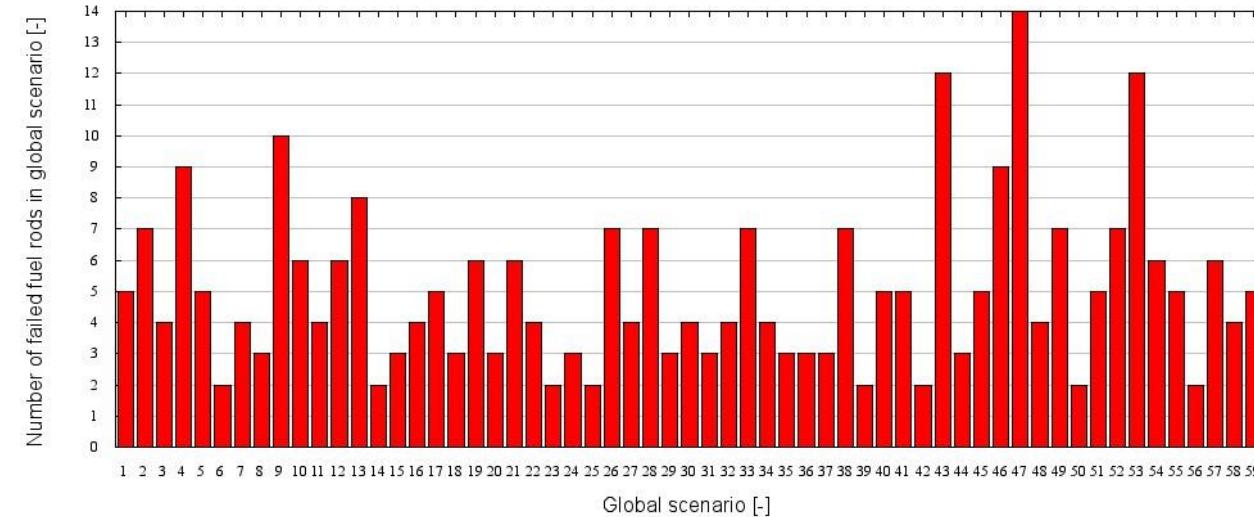


Note! There were also calculation errors as in previous EPR simulations, resulting from both FRAPTRAN and GENFLO. Max. error percentage was 6.6% of simulations (in global scenario #3)

Numbers of failing fuel rods in 59 global scenarios

Original analysis
results (with stress
and strain based
criteria)

Phase transformation +
Kaddour et al. creep
model + IRSN min failure
criterion + orig. strain
based criterion



1000 FRAPTRAN-GENFLO simulations per each global scenario, same rods were simulated in each scenario

Summary and Conclusions

- Original FRAPTRAN mechanical model produces more conservative results than the new models
- New deformation models produce overall better predictions compared to the measured burst time and temperature.
- Bigger change in predictions is seen when moving from one mechanical model to another than when changing between various failure criteria
- EPR LB-LOCA full core simulations used Zy-4 deformation models, these will be updated to use specific M5 correlations.
- Further updates in the code will be applied only to BALON2 model in future. FRACAS-I model will be excluded from modifications.





References

- [1] A.R. Massih (2009) , Transformation kinetics of zirconium alloys under non-isothermal conditions, *Journal of Nuclear Materials* 384 (2009) 330-335
- [2] D. Kaddour, S. Frechinet, A.F. Gourgues, J.C. Brachet, L. Portier, A. Pineau, Experimental determination of creep properties of zirconium alloys together with phase transformation. *Scr. Mater.* 51 (2004) pp. 515–519.
- [3] Rosinger, H.E., 1984. A Model to predict the failure of Zircaloy-4 fuel sheathing during postulated LOCA conditions. *Journal of Nuclear Materials* 120, 41. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-3115\(84\)90169-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/0022-3115(84)90169-7)
- [4] R. O. Meyer and W. Wiesenack, “A critique of fuel behavior in LOCA safety analyses and a proposed alternative,” *Nuclear Engineering and Design*, vol. 394, Aug. 2022, doi: 10.1016/j.nucengdes.2022.111816.
- [5] L. Olof Jernkvist and A. R. Massih, “Calibration of models for cladding tube high-temperature creep and rupture in the FRAPTRAN-QT-1.5 program 2021:04,” 2021. Available: www.ssm.se
- [6] Arkoma, A., Hänninen, M., Rantamäki, K., Kurki, J., Hämäläinen, A., 2015. Statistical analysis of fuel failures in large break loss-of-coolant accident (LBLOCA) in EPR type nuclear power plant. *Nuclear Engineering and Design*, Vol. 285, pp. 1–14
- [7] Arkoma, A., Ikonen, T., 2016. Sensitivity analysis of local uncertainties in large break loss-of-coolant accident (LB-LOCA) thermo-mechanical simulations. *Nuclear Engineering and Design*, Vol. 305, pp. 293-302
- [8] Arkoma, A., Ikonen, T., 2016. Statistical and sensitivity analysis of failing rods in EPR LB-LOCA. In proceedings of: TopFuel 2016, Boise, Idaho, USA, September 11-15, 2016, Paper 17570



Thank you!



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Extra slides



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Remark on FRAPTRAN vs. FRAPTRAN-GENFLO

- By using GENFLO thermal hydraulics with FRAPTRAN, the validation result presented in previous slides change
- FRAPTRAN-GENFLO results on the IFA-650 validation cases with the original FRAPTRAN V1.4 mechanical models and failure criteria can be found in:
Manngård, T., Stengård, J.-O., 2014. Evaluation of the Halden IFA-650 loss-of-coolant accident experiments 5, 6, and 7. Report number: 2014: 19 ISSN: 2000-0456

Table 4: Comparison of calculated and measured results for the IFA-650 tests 5, 6 and 7.

Test/ Parameter	Calculation 1)	Calculation 2)	Measurement
IFA-650.5/			
Time to cladding rupture, s	198	157	178
Rupture temperature, °C	896	801	750
Max. diametral cladding strain, %	47 ^b	84 ^b	16
Rod pressure at rupture, MPa	4.6	5.9	7.2
Outer surface oxide layer, µm (increase under LOCA)	8	5	11
IFA-650.6/			
Time to cladding rupture, s	530	455/518 [†]	525
Rupture temperature, °C	853	840/822 [†]	830
Max. diametral cladding strain, %	72 ^b	89 ^b /90 ^{b†}	36
Rod pressure at rupture, MPa	4.2	4.1/4.2 [†]	(6.4) [‡]
Outer surface oxide layer, µm (increase under LOCA)	1.5	3.5/2.5 [†]	2
IFA-650.7/			
Time to cladding rupture, s	194	213	247
Rupture temperature, °C	1056	1092	1100
Max. diametral cladding strain, %	30 ^b	29 ^b	24
Rod pressure at rupture, MPa	0.89	0.86	1.05
Outer surface oxide layer, µm (increase under LOCA)	23	29	30

¹⁾ FRAPTRAN-GENFLO

²⁾ FRAPTRAN-QT1.4c

^b Value obtained from the calculated increase of cladding outer diameter relative to initial cladding diameter of test fuel rod.

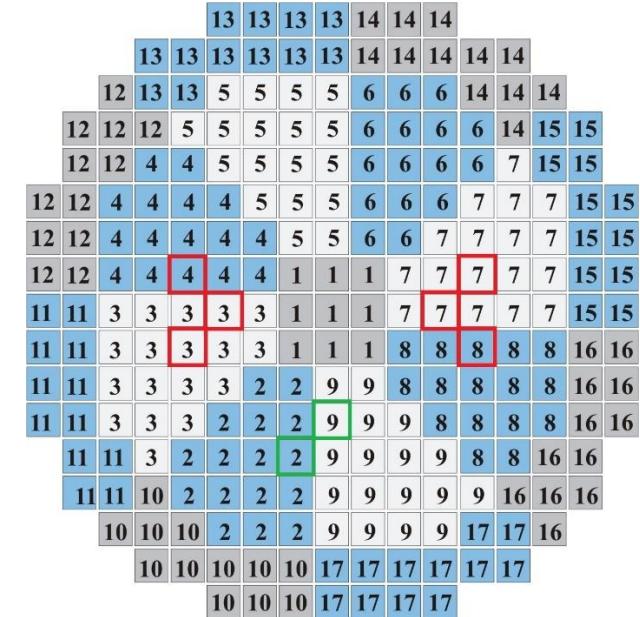
[†] Results (after the / symbol) are obtained by applying a 3% reduction on the prescribed cladding outside surface temperatures (from heat-up until end of calculation).

[‡] The level of absolute rod pressure could not be defined precisely in the IFA-650.6 test (Kekkonen 2007b).



Previous EPR analysis with FRAPTRAN-GENFLO

- Analysis results are discussed in publications [1-3] (publication [3] contain some error corrections and is therefore the most up-to-date reference)
- Analysed accident sequence in EPR is chosen based on the regulatory requirements in Finland
 - As an initiating event, a double-ended break in a cold leg opens. Due to pressure decrease, reactor and turbine trips follow. Simultaneously with the turbine trip, the offsite power is lost and the main recirculating coolant pumps start to coast down. The core is uncovered. The content of the accumulators is injected to the primary loop when the accumulator pressure is reached. After a delay, the diesel generators are started and the medium head safety injections, and later on, the low head safety injections start operation, and the core is quenched. [1]



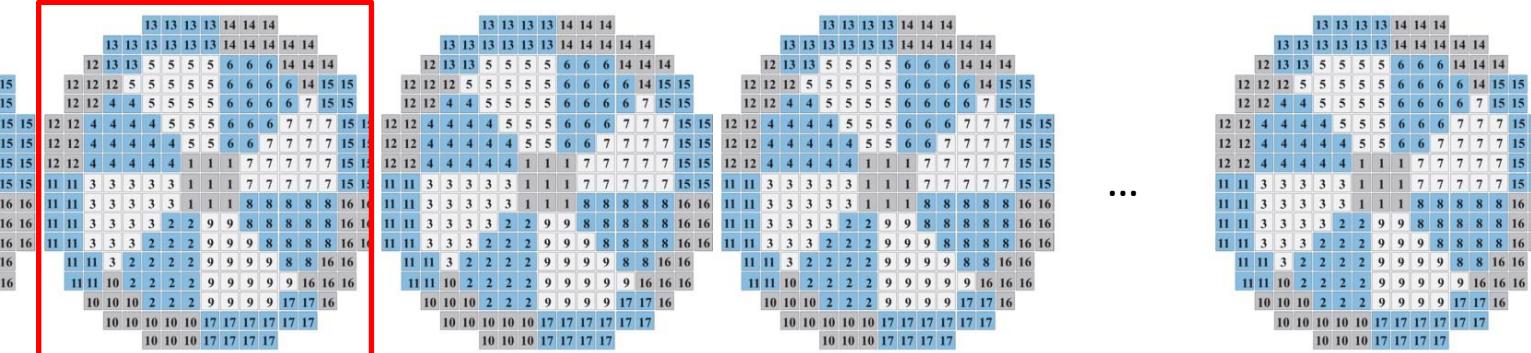
Core is divided into 17 coolant channels in Apros. Assemblies in which higher than 20% permanent cladding hoop strains were exhibited are marked with red. A few rods failed according to FRAPTRAN with less than 20% strain, and the related assemblies are marked with green. [1,3]

1. Arkoma, A., Hänninen, M., Rantamäki, K., Kurki, J., Hämäläinen, A., 2015. Statistical analysis of fuel failures in large break loss-of-coolant accident (LBLOCA) in EPR type nuclear power plant. Nuclear Engineering and Design, Vol. 285, pp. 1–14
2. Arkoma, A., Ikonen, T., 2016. Sensitivity analysis of local uncertainties in large break loss-of-coolant accident (LB-LOCA) thermo-mechanical simulations. Nuclear Engineering and Design, Vol. 305, pp. 293–302
3. Arkoma, A., Ikonen, T., 2016. Statistical and sensitivity analysis of failing rods in EPR LB-LOCA. In proceedings of: TopFuel 2016, Boise, Idaho, USA, September 11–15, 2016, Paper 17570



For each global scenario (59 in total)

- A set of sampled model parameter values for fuel performance codes
- Thermal hydraulic and power history boundary conditions during accident from APROS (thus 59 APROS simulations)



1

2

3

4

...

59

1000 randomly sampled rods were simulated in each global scenario

Local variation

- Fuel manufacturing parameter values are random sampled from their distributions
- Each rod has an own base irradiation history
- Local values remain unchanged when moving from one global scenario to another

