Design and manufacture of the IMGA system for PIE of coated fuel particles of HTR fuel element in INET

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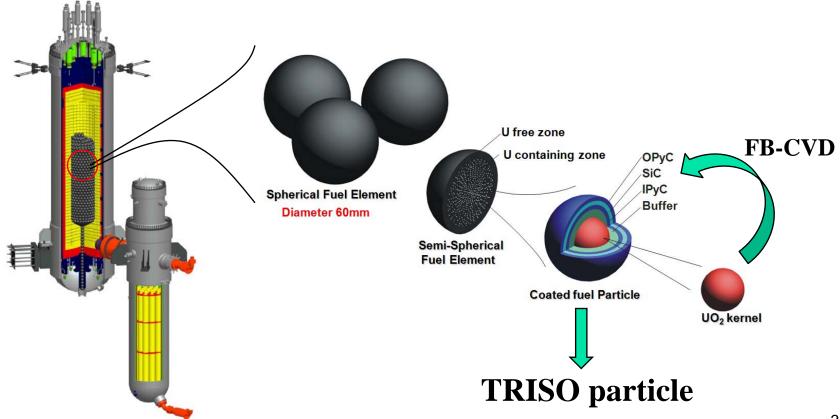
OUTLINE

- Background
- Design principle of IMGA
- IMGA system design in INET
 - Particle singularizing part
 - Automatic motion design
 - Measurement design
 - Radionuclide, Collimator, Detector
 - Process parameter design
- Conclusions



Background

- High Temperature Gas cooled nuclear Reactor
 - Helium as coolant, the ceramic coated particle as fuel



Background

- HTR development in China
 - HTR-10

1998-2004

Experimental reactor

HTR-PM

2012-2017(plan)

Commercial demonstration reactor

■ HTR-600

2020? - ?

Commercial reactor



PIE of spherical fuel element

- Irradiation test
 - Petten, Netherlands
 - **2013-2015**
 - **2015.4.21**



- PIE
 - Karlsruhe, ITU
 - **2015.10-?**



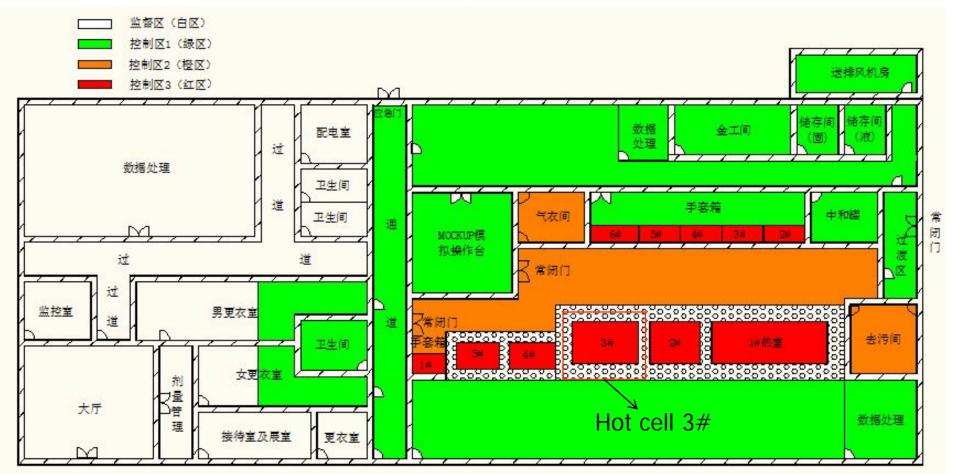


PIE LAB in INET

- Now the Post Irradiation Examination lab of HTR spherical fuel element has been designed and is being constructed in Institute of Nuclear and New Energy Technology (INET), Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, aiming at
 - developing the PIE techniques of spherical fuel element and coated fuel particles and
 - investigating properties of irradiated spherical fuel element and coated particles

PIE LAB in INET

5 hot-cells and 6 glove boxes



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IMGA

- Hot cell
 - $4\#(\text{deconsolidation}) \rightarrow 3\# \rightarrow 5\#(\text{materials test})$
- Irradiated Microsphere Gamma Analyzer (IMGA) system
 - To examine the coated fuel particles by the gamma-ray detector one by one and sorting the particles.



IMGA design principle

The primary function

- measure accurately the immobile and mobile radioisotope in individual coated particles obtained from irradiated fuel elements by detecting gamma radiation from individual coated particles.
- → the ratio of the activity of the immobile and mobile radioisotope can be calculated, the irradiation coated fuel particle can be sorted by the ratio.



mobile radioisotope release or not



IMGA system design in INET

- One by one?
 - Particle singularizing part

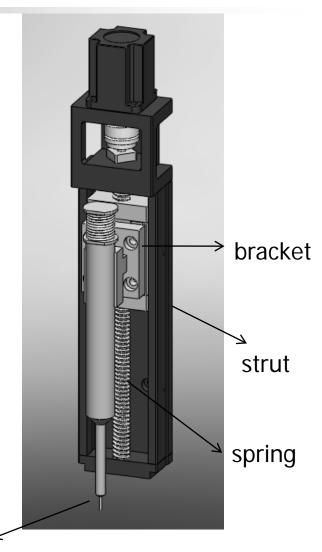
- Huge amount particles?
 - Automatic motion part

- Mobile (release)/immobile(not release)?
 - Measurement part



Particle singularizing part

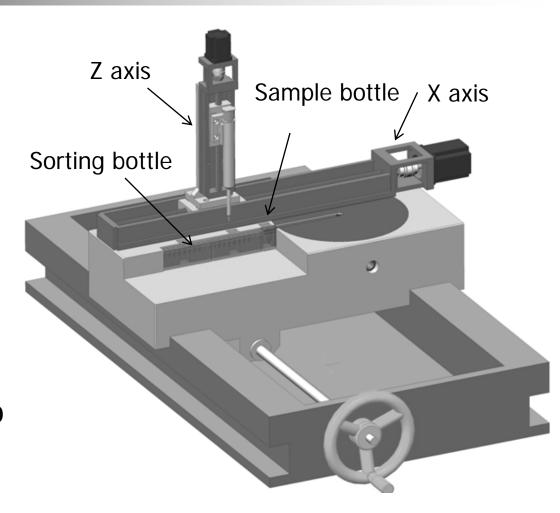
- The pickup system
 - buffer spring
 - strut
 - vacuum suction cup
 - bracket
 - displacement sensor
 - other components





Automatic motion design

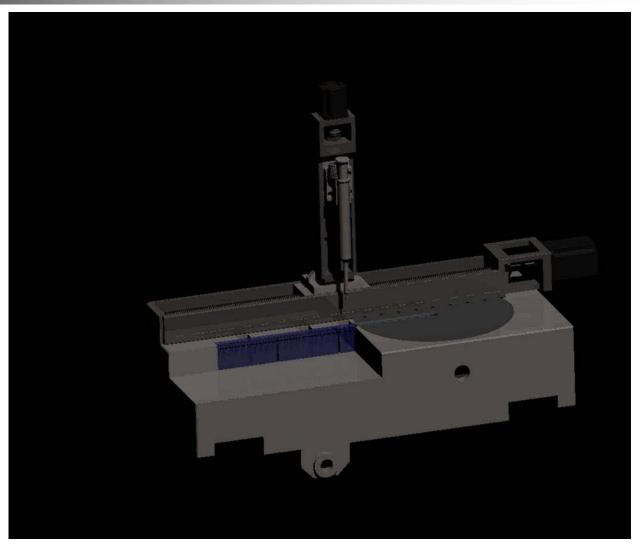
- The X axis
 - Horizontal
 - mounted on the base
- The Z axis
 - Vertically
 - mounted on the X-axis
 - perpendicular to the plane of the X-axis.





Automatic motion design

movie





Measurement design

- Radionuclide classification
 - Mobile: Cs137, Cs134, and Eu154
 - Immobile: Zr95, Ce144 and Ru106

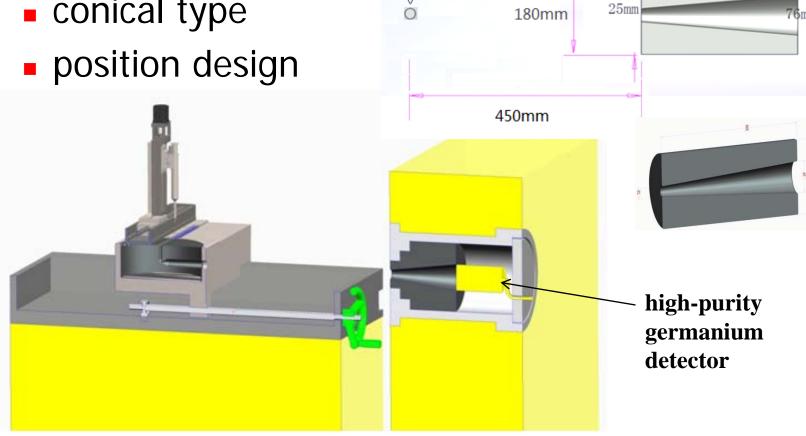
Radionuclide selection

Isotope	γ photon Energy (KeV)	Half-Life	Maximum activity(Bq)	Boling point(°C)
Cs-137	661.6	30.1y	5.61E+06	671
Ce-144	133	285d	3.69E+07	3443



Measurement design

- Collimator design
 - conical type



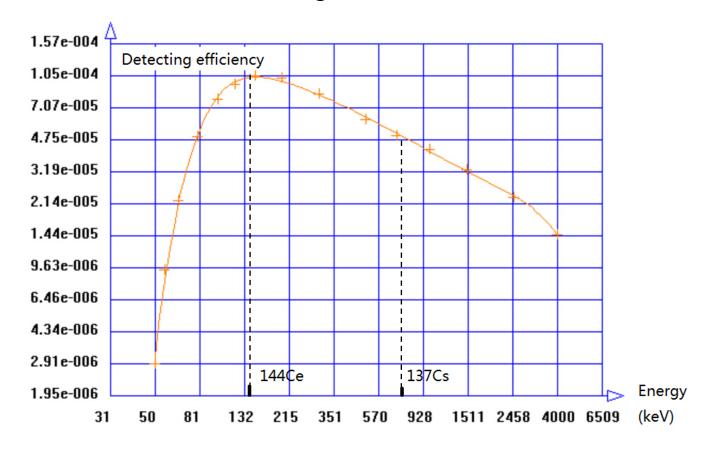
coated fuel particle

350mm

Measure

Measurement design

Detector efficiency calculation



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Process parameter design

The maximum failure rate can be calculated by the statistical equation

$$C = 1 - \sum_{i=0}^{n} {N+1 \choose i} Z_{\text{max}}^{i} (1 - Z_{\text{max}})^{N+1-i}$$

Table 2 The maximum failure rate(\times 10e-4), C (confidence coefficient)=0.95

n	5988	5989	9000	12000
0	5.00080674	4.99997209	3.32766782	2.495924
1			5.26927903	3.95227450
2				5.24511867
3				6.45956255

 $(5\times10e-4)$ 5989 or 9475 particles

It needs about 4.16 or 6.58 days to finish the whole process.



- The design principle of the IMGA was given and used to set up the first China IMGA system in INET, Tsinghua Univ., Beijing.
- The details of the IMGA design in INET are presented, including the particle singularizing part, the measuring part and the sortingcollecting part. The design parameters are given in details. The stability of the novel IMGA design will be increased.
- The measuring time of IMGA can be as quick as 40s. It will need 1min at maximum for detecting per particle. The statistical analyses of detecting process is also discussed.
- The designed IMGA system will be set up in hot-cell 3# in the PIE lab in INET, and will be completed in 2017.



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Thank you for your attention!

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