Table of content

1. Introduction **1**

2. Theoretical Framework **4**
2.1. The Neutron Transport Equation (NTE) . . . 4
2.1.1. General form . . . 4
2.1.2. NTE with fission neutrons as an external source . . . 5
2.1.3. K-eigenvalue form . . . 6
2.1.4. Point kinetics equations . . . 6
2.2. Prompt and delayed neutrons . . . 8
2.2.1. Importance of delayed neutrons . . . 9
2.3. Nuclear data . . . 11
2.3.1. Quantities of interest . . . 11
2.3.2. Nuclear data libraries . . . 12
2.4. Approaches to solve the Neutron Transport Equation . . . 13
2.4.1. Deterministic Methods . . . 14
2.4.2. Monte Carlo Method for solving the Transport Equation . . . 14
2.4.3. Variance reduction methods . . . 15

3. Methodology **17**
3.1. Monte Carlo simulations with OpenMC . . . 17
3.1.1. Benchmarks . . . 17
3.2. Details on the inclusion of time dependence . . . 18
3.2.1. Time evolution of the neutrons . . . 19
3.2.2. Simulation time boundary . . . 19
3.2.3. Time tally . . . 19
3.3. Delayed neutron precursors . . . 19
3.3.1. The time delay of the precursors and its consequences . . . 19
3.3.2. Individual precursors . . . 21
3.3.3. The precursor particle . . . 23
3.3.4. Precursor forced decay . . . 24
3.4. Initial transient particle source . . . 24
3.5. Population control . . . 26

4. Results and discussion **28**
4.1. Inclusion of time dependence and individual precursors in OpenMC(TD) . . . 29
4.1.1. Scoring of time dependent quantities in a fixed source calculation . . . 29
4.1.2. Transport logic in a simulation divided in time intervals . . . 30

4.1.3. Scoring of time dependent quantities in a simulation divided in time intervals . . . 30
4.1.4. Activity of individual precursors . . . 32
4.1.5. Discussion about the use of average energies from precursor delayed neutron spectra . . . 33
4.2. Monoenergetic fissile system with 1-group precursor structure . . . 34
4.2.1. Subcritical configuration . . . 35
4.2.2. Slightly supercritical configuration . . . 36
4.2.3. Reactivity insertion . . . 38
4.3. Energy-dependent ^{235}U system . . . 39
4.3.1. Subcritical configuration . . . 39
4.3.1.1. i) First group with energy distribution from JEFF-3.1.1 . . . 40
4.3.1.2. ii) First group with average energy from JEFF-3.1.1 . . . 40
4.3.1.3. iii) 1-group with average energy from ENDF-B/VIII.0 . . . 43
4.3.1.4. iv) 8-group with energy distribution from JEFF-3.1.1 . . . 44
4.3.1.5. v) 6-group with average energy from ENDF-B/VIII.0 . . . 45
4.3.1.6. vi) 50 individual precursors with average energies from ENDF-B/VIII.0 . . . 46
4.3.2. Supercritical configuration . . . 48
4.3.2.1. i) First group with energy distribution from JEFF-3.1.1 . . . 48
4.3.2.2. ii) First group with average energy from JEFF-3.1.1 . . . 49
4.3.2.3. iii) 1-group with average energy from ENDF-B/VIII.0 . . . 51
4.3.2.4. iv) 8-group with energy distribution from JEFF-3.1.1 . . . 52
4.3.2.5. v) 6-group with average energy from ENDF-B/VIII.0 . . . 55
4.3.2.6. vi) 50 individual precursors with average energies from ENDF-B/VIII.0 . . . 58
4.4. Light-water moderated energy dependent system with individual precursor structure . . . 59
4.4.1. Criticality calculation using individual precursors . . . 60
4.4.2. Slightly supercritical configuration with 50 individual precursor structure 61
4.4.3. Slightly supercritical configuration without the 10 most important precursors . . . 63

5. Summary and conclusions **67**

Glossary **70**

Bibliography **73**

Appendix A. Delayed neutron group spectra **77**

Appendix B. Solutions of the Point Neutron Kinetics Equations for 1-group precursor approximation **82**

Appendix C. Monoenergetic fissile system with 1-group precursor structure **84**

Appendix D. Summary of the simulations performed in this work **86**

Appendix E. Individual precursor data **89**

Appendix F. Results of the energy dependent ^{235}U system: Log-log plots 93