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### NUCLEAR PIN SIMULATION ANALYSIS

#### Presented at the

#### SIXTH WATER REACTOR SAFETY RESEARCH INFORMATION MEETING

#### November 6-9, 1978

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- NOTICE ----

by

R. C. Hagar

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#### NUCLEAR PIN SIMULATION ANALYSIS

The PINSIM-MOD1 computer code has been developed and is being used at ORNL to investigate the relationships between thermal-hydraulic transients involving nuclear fuel pins and similar transients involving electrically-heated fuel pin simulators. PINSIM-MOD1 is currently being used to (1) predict the thermal response of specified nuclear and/or electric pin models to power and/or hydraulic transients; (2) determine transient electric pin power required to simulate a nuclear pin transient; (3) analyze and evaluate electric pin simulator transients; and (4) optimize the design and operation of electric pin simulators.

This presentation discusses some differences between electric and nuclear pins, provides an overview of the PINSIM-MOD1 computer code, and presents some typical results from three types of PINSIM-MOD1 problems.

Differences between nuclear fuel pins and electric pin simulators arise because the two are constructed of different materials. Included in the presentation are plots, for each type of pin, of typical radial temperature distributions, radial stored energy distributions, and radial variations in thermal diffusivity.

PINSIM-MOD1 is described in the presentation as a modular computer code. Simplified overall major module interaction is diagrammed and each of the five major modules is briefly described.

The first type of PINSIM-MOD1 problems presented had as its objective predicting the thermal response of an idealized nuclear pin model to a hydraulic transient similar to that of a typical THTF test. The problem is briefly described, and a problem model diagram is presented. Examples of PINSIM-MOD1 results (temperature distributions, surface heat flux, and heat transfer coefficient transients) are presented.

An electric pin power programming problem is presented as the second type of PINSIM-MOD1 problem. The problem is briefly described, and example results are presented. The results illustrate the ideal power program, compare the desired surface heat flux transient with the predicted surface heat flux, and present the corresponding internal electric pin temperature distributions. Also discussed is a scheme by which PINSIM-MOD1 results are processed to meet THTF power programming requirements.

A third type of problem solved by PINSIM-MODI is presented in a discussion of evaluation of electric pin transients. Analysis in this area is intended to provide information which will assist in determining whether a specified electric pin transient has simulated, or will simulate, a conceivable nuclear pin transient. Several types of PINSIM-MODI problems generate information which addresses this question; several of these problems are discussed in the presentation. Each problem is briefly described, and sample results are presented. The problems discussed include those which were intended to (1) determine the nuclear system transient which is equivalent to an electric pin transient defined by surface temperature and surface heat flux transients; (2) determine the corresponding "closertypical" nuclear system transient; and (3) contrast the predicted n pin response with the corresponding electric pin thermal response.



ORNL PWR-BDHT PROGRAM

## NUCLEAR PIN SIMULATION ANALYSIS

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G. M. MAXWELL J. L. BARTLEY

PRESENTED AT

SIXTH WATER REACTOR SAFETY RESEARCH INFORMATION MEETING

NOVEMBER 6-9, 1978

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#### GENERAL AREA OF ANALYSIS

THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THERMAL-HYDRAULIC TRANSIENTS INVOLVING NUCLEAR FUEL PINS AND SIMILAR TRANSIENTS INVOLVING ELECTRICALLY-HEATED PIN SIMULATORS

PRIMARY ANALYSIS TOOL

THE PINSIM-MOD1 COMPUTER CODE

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THE PINSIM-MODI COMPUTER CODE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED AND IS BEING USED AT OWNL TO ADDRESS QUESTIONS WHICH ARISE WHEN ELECTRICALLY-HEATED PINS ARE USED TO SIMULATE NUCLEAR FUEL PINS DURING HYDRAULIC TRANSIENTS

- HOW AND WHY DO THE TRANSIENT RESPONSES OF NUCLEAR FUEL PINS AND ELECTRIC PIN SIMULATORS DIFFER?
- HOW CAN AN ELECTRICALLY-HEATED PIN BE USED TO APPROXIMATE THE THERMAL RESPONSE OF THE NUCLEAR FUEL PIN?
- HOW WELL HAVE ELECTRIC PIN SIMULATOR TRANSIENTS ACTUALLY SIMULATED CONCEIVABLE NUCLEAR FUEL PIN TRANSIENTS?



# GENERAL TASKS IN NUCLEAR PIN SIMULATION ANALYSIS

- PREDICTING THE THERMAL RESPONSE OF SPECIFIED NUCLEAR FUEL PIN AND ELECTRIC PIN SIMULATORS TO POWER AND/OR HYDRAULIC TRANSIENTS
- PROGRAMMING OF TRANSIENT ELECTRIC PIN SIMULATOR POWER
- ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION OF ELECTRIC PIN SIMULATOR TRANSIENTS
- OPTIMIZATION OF ELECTRIC PIN SIMULATOR DESIGN AND OPERATION



# NUCLEAR PIN SIMULATION ANALYSIS: TOPICS

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NUCLEAR FUEL PINS AND ELECTRIC PIN SIMULATORS

**DESCRIPTION OF PINSIM-MOD1** 

PRINCIPAL APPLICATIONS OF PINSIM-MOD1

- PIN/CHANNEL SIMULATION
- ELECTRIC PIN POWER PROGRAMMING
- EVALUATION OF ELECTRIC PIN TRANSIENTS

71.5000



# NUCLEAR PIN SIMULATION ANALYSIS: TOPICS

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71.5%

# NUCLEAR FUEL PINS AND ELECTRIC PIN SIMULATORS ARE CONSTRUCTED OF DIFFERENT MATERIALS

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URANIUM DIOXIDE FUEL GAS GAP ZIRCALOY CLADDING ELECTRIC PIN SIMULATOR STAINLESS STEEL SHEATHS BORON NITRIDE INCONEL/CUPRO-NICKEL HEATER MAGNESIUM OXIDE THERMOCOUPLES



## AT STEADY STATE, A NUCLEAR FUEL PIN OPERATES AT A HIGHER TEMPERATURE THAN DOES AN ELECTRIC PIN SIMULATOR



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## ORNL AT STEADY STATE, A NUCLEAR FUEL PIN CONTAINS MORE STORED ENERGY (PCpT) THAN DOES AN ELECTRIC PIN SIMULATOR



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ORNL THE TRANSIENT THERMAL RESPONSES OF NUCLEAR FUEL PINS AND ELECTRIC PIN SIMULATORS DIFFER, IN PART BECAUSE OF DIFFERENT RADIAL "THERMAL DIFFUSIVITY (K/pCp) DISTRIBUTIONS"



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## NUCLEAR PIN SIMULATION ANALYSIS. TOPICS

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PINSIM-MOD1 CAN BE DESCRIBED AS A MODULAR COMPUTER CODE. MAJOR CODE MODULES INCLUDE:

- PIN MODEL HEAT TRANSFER MODULE
- -- COOLANT HYDRAULICS AND WATER PROPERTIES MODULES
- SYSTEM POWER AND ASSOCIATED MODULES
- MATERIAL PROPERTIES MODULE
- INPUT/OUTPUT MODULES

PINSIM-MOD1 WAS DEVELOPED AND IS OPERATIONAL ON AN IBM360/195.

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A MODULE IS A SECTION OF THE CODE WHICH OPERATES ON SPECIFIED PARAMETERS



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CARBIDF ORIAL PINSIM-MOD1 SIMPLIFIED MODULE INTERACTION

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## THE PIN HEAT TRANSFER MODULE SOLVES THE TRANSIENT, ONE-DIMENSIONAL CONDUCTION EQUATION



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## ORNL ORNL PINSIM-MOD1 PIN MATERIAL PROPERTIES MODULE





 $O^{RNL}$  THE MATERIAL PROPERTIES MODULE DETERMINES PIN MODEL THERMO-PHYSICAL PROPERTIES (k,  $\rho$ ,  $c_p$ ), BASED ON PIN THERMAL CON-DITIONS, FOR USE BY THE PIN HEAT TRANSFER MODULE







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THE HYDRAULICS MODULE SOLVES THE EQUATIONS OF CONSERVATION OF MASS, ENERGY, AND MOMENTUM TO DETERMINE LOCAL FLUID CONDITIONS







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### THE POWER SYSTEMS MODULES DETERMINE SYSTEM POWER AND PIN MODEL POWER IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PIN HEAT TRANSFER MODULE



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67.5%

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## EITHER NUCLEAR AND/OR IDEAL ELECTRIC SYSTEM POWER MAY BE BACK-CALCULATED FROM DESIRED PIN SURFACE CONDITIONS



### 63.5%

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## SYSTEM POWER IS BACK-CALCULATED FROM DESIRED SURFACE CONDITIONS USING THE ASSUMPTIONS THAT:

- THE USER-SUPPLIED NORMALIZED RADIAL POWER DISTRIBUTION IS FIXED
- THE USER-SUPPLIED NORMALIZED AXIAL POWER DISTRIBUTION IS FIXED
- THE SYSTEM POWER IS A FIXED, USER-SUPPLIED MULTIPLE OF THE PIN MODEL POWER

THUS, CALCULATED CHANGES IN LOCAL POWER ARE REFLECTED IN CORRESPONDING PROPORTIONAL CHANGES IN SYSTEM POWER

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PINSIM-MOD1 PRODUCES OUTPUT IN FOUR AREAS. THESE ARE:

- MAJOR EDITS
- MINOR EDITS
- PLOT/RESTART RECORD OUTPUT
- DEBUG OUTPUT

THE FREQUENCY AND EXTENT OF ALL OUTPUT ARE USER-SPECIFIED.

115%

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## NUCLEAR PIN SIMULATION: TOPICS

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NUCLEAR FUEL PINS AND ELECTRIC PIN SIMULATORS

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#### NUCLEAR PIN SIMULATION: TOPICS

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- PIN/CHANNEL SIMULATION

- ELECTRIC PIN POWER PROGRAMMING

+ EVALUATION OF ELECTRIC PIN TRANSIENTS

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REPRESENTATION

ORNE PIN/CHANNEL SIMULATION PROBLEM MODULAR

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PIN/CHANNEL SIMULATION PROBLEM MODELS



ORNL NUCLEAR PIN THERMAL RESPONSE CALCULATED BY PINSIM-MOD1 AT AN AXIAL LEVEL WITHIN THE HIGH-POWERED ZONE INDICATES A MAXIMUM CLADDING SURFACE TEMPERATURE BELOW 1500°F

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TRANSIENT SURFACE HEAT TRANSFER COEFFICIENTS CALCULATED BY PINSIM-MOD1 SUGGEST NEARLY UNIFORM COOLANT CONDITIONS IN THE HIGH-POWERED ZONE



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### CARBIDE ORNL SURFACE HEAT FLUX TRANSIENTS CALCULATED BY PINSIM-MOD1 INDICATE TIMES TO CHF BETWEEN 0.2 AND 0.5 SECONDS WITHIN THE HIGH-POWERED ZONE





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### THE PIN/CHANNEL SIMULATION CAPABILITY OF PINSIM-MOD1 IS CURRENTLY LIMITED

- LOCAL FLUID CONDITION PREDICTIONS CAN BE NO MORE ACCURATE THAN THE USER-SUPPLIED PLENUM CONDITIONS
- ONLY IDEALIZED NUCLEAR FUEL PIN THERMAL BEHAVIOR CAN BE PREDICTED
- AXIAL POWER DISTRIBUTIONS WITHIN THE PIN REMAIN FIXED DURING THE TRANSIENT



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### NUCLEAR PIN SIMULATION: TOPICS

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NUCLEAR FUEL PINS AND ELECTRIC PIN SIMULATORS

DESCRIPTION OF PINSIM-MOD1

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- ELECTRIC PIN POWER PROGRAMMING

- EVALUATION OF ELECTRIC PIN TRANSIENTS





### POWER PROGRAMMING PROBLEM

OBJECTIVE: DETERMINE THE OPTIMUM BEALIZABLE TRANSIENT ELECTRIC POWER REOUIRED TO FORCE AN ELECTRIC PIN SIMULATOR TO EXPERIENCE A SPECIFIED SURFACE HEAT FLUX TRANSIENT IN THE THTF

MODEL: ELECTRIC PIN MODEL REPRESENTATIVE OF A TYPICAL THTF ELECTRIC PIN

BOUNDARY SURFACE HEAT FLUX TRANSIENT CONDITIONS: CALCULATED BY RELAP4/MOD5 TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF A TYPICAL NUCLEAR PIN DURING A LOCA

> SURFACE TEMPERATURE TRANSIENT CALCULATED BY RELAP4/MOD5 TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF A TYPICAL ELECTRIC PIN IN THE THTF DURING A BLOWDOWN EXPERIMENT

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### POWER PROGRAMMING PROBLEM: MODULAR REPRESENTATION



50%, then 96.5%



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A COMPARISON OF THE DESIRED SURFACE HEAT FLUX TRANSIENT AND THE IDEAL "CONCEIVABLE" HEAT FLUX TRANSIENT CALCULATED BY PINSIM-MOD1





**ORNL TRANSIENT INTERNAL PIN TEMPERATURES DURING THE** 

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IDEAL "CONCEIVABLE' POWER TRANSIENT DETERMINED BY PINSIM-MOD1



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- THE IDEAL "CONCEIVABLE" POWER TRANSIENT CANNOT BE APPLIED DIRECTLY TO MEET THTF POWER PROGRAMMING REQUIREMENTS
- AN INTEGRATE-SMOOTH-DIFFERENTIATE (ISD)
  SCHEME IS BEING USED TO PROCESS THE PINSIM-CALCULATED POWER TRANSIENT
- THE ISD PROCESSING OF THE POWER TRANSIENT IS PERFORMED BY A POST-PROCESSING CODE, INDEPENDENT OF PINSIM-MOD1

43

135%

### UNION CARBIDE ORNL IDEAL REALIZABLE POWER TRANSIENT DETERMINED BY PINSIM-MOD1

INTEGRATE-SMOOTH-DIFFERENTIATE (ISD) SCHEME





CARBIDE ORNL THE "TRANSLATED" IDEAL POWER TRANSIENT

INTEGRATE-SMOOTH-DIFFERENTIATE (ISD) SCHEME





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### NUCLEAR PIN SIMULATION: TOPICS

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN NUCLEAR FUEL PINS AND ELECTRIC PIN SIMULATORS

DESCRIPTION OF PINSIM-MOD1

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### **EVALUATION OF ELECTRIC PIN TRANSIENT**

GENERAL PROVIDE INFORMATION WHICH WILL OBJECTIVE: ASSIST IN DETERMINING WHETHER A SPECIFIED ELECTRIC PIN TRANSIENT HAS SIMULATED, OR WILL SIMULATE, A CONCEIVABLE NUCLEAR PIN TRANSIENT

MODELS: NUCLEAR PIN MODEL

BOUNDARY CONDITIONS: ELECTRIC PIN SURFACE HEAT FLUX TRANSIENT ELECTRIC PIN SURFACE TEMPERATURE TRANSIENT ELECTRIC PIN SURFACE TEMPERATURE

TRANSIENT

NUCLEAR PIN POWER DECAY CURVE

52.5%



75%

### OPTIONS AVAILABLE IN PINSIM-MOD1 ALLOW THE USER TO GENERATE RESULTS WHICH WILL ADDRESS A VARIETY OF QUESTIONS

- -- WHAT NUCLEAR PIN TRANSIENT IS EQUIVALENT TO A SPECIFIED ELECTRIC PIN TRANSIENT?
- HOW CLOSE WAS THE ELECTRIC PIN TRANSIENT TO A CONCEIVABLE NUCLEAR PIN TRANSIENT?
- HOW DOES THE ELECTRIC PIN'S THERMAL RESPONSE TO THE HYDRAULIC TRANSIENT COMPARE WITH THE THERMAL RESPONSE OF A NUCLEAR PIN TO A SIMILAR HYDRAULIC TRANSIENT?



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### EQUIVALENT NUCLEAR PINS TRANSIENT PROBLEM

- OBJECTIVE: DETERMINE THE NUCLEAR PIN TRANSIENT EQUIVALENT TO THE ELECTRIC PIN TRANSIENT OF THTF TEST 105, AXIAL LEVEL F
- PIN MODEL: IDEALIZED NUCLEAR PIN SIMILAR TO THAT DESCRIBED IN THE WESTINGHOUSE RESAR-1 AT B.O.L.
- BOUNDARY REPRESENTATIVE SURFACE TEMPERATURE CONDITIONS: AND SURFACE HEAT FLUX TRANSIENTS, DETERMINED BY THE ORING CODE, FOR AXIAL LEVEL F IN THTF TEST 105

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6. 2.19 88.5%

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### AXIAL LEVEL F IN THTF BUNDLE 1 IS NEAR THE CENTER OF THE BUNDLE, IN A RELATIVELY HIGH-POWERED ZONE



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# TEST 105 ELECTRIC PIN SURFACE HEAT FLUX, AXIAL LEVEL F



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SURFACE HEAT FLUX (W/M<sup>2</sup>)

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# TEST 105 ELECTRIC PIN SURFACE TEMPERATURE, AXIAL LEVEL F

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TEST 105 EQUIVALENT TRANSIENT NUCLEAR PIN TEMPERATURE DISTRIBUTIONS (AXIAL LEVEL F) CALCULATED BY PINSIM-MOD1



## CARBIDE ORNL TEST 105 EQUIVALENT NUCLEAR SYSTEM POWER TRANSIENT (AXIAL LEVEL F), DETERMINED BY PINSIM-MOD1



62%

56

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### ORNL ORNL TEST 105 EQUIVALENT NUCLEAR SYSTEM POWER (AXIAL LEVEL F), DETERMINED BY PINSIM-MOD1

### INTEGRATE-SMOOTH-DIFFERENTIATE (ISD) SCHEME



### ORNL A "TRANSLATED" NUCLEAR SYSTEM POWER TRANSIENT FOR THTF TEST 105, AXIAL LEVEL F

#### INTEGRATE-SMOOTH-DIFFERENTIATE (ISD) SCHEME

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No. Second

# ORNL THE UNFILTERED EQUIVALENT NUCLEAR POWER TRANSIENT DETERMINED BY PINSIM-MOD1



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68%

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60

# ORNL RESULTS OF DIGITAL FILTERING OF EQUIVALENT NUCLEAR POWER TRANSIENT, FOR VARIOUS WEIGHTING FACTORS



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OPTIONS AVAILABLE IN PINSIM-MOD1 ALLOW THE USER TO GENERATE RESULTS WHICH WILL ADDRESS A VARIETY OF QUESTIONS

- WHAT NUCLEAR PIN TRANSIENT IS EQUIVALENT TO A SPECIFIED ELECTRIC PIN TRANSIENT?
- HOW CLOSE WAS THE ELECTRIC PIN TRANSIENT TO A CONCEIVABLE NUCLEAR PIN TRANSIENT?
- HOW DOES THE ELECTRIC PIN'S THERMAL RESPONSE TO THE HYDRAULIC TRANSIENT COMPARE WITH THE THERMAL RESPONSE OF A NUCLEAR PIN TO A SIMILAR HYDRAULIC TRANSIENT?

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63.5%

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NUCLEAR SYSTEM POWER DECAY CURVE USED TO DETERMINE THE "CORRESPONDING TYPICAL" NUCLEAR PIN TRANSIENT



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64%

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# TEST 105 ELECTRIC PIN SURFACE TEMPERATURE, AXIAL LEVEL F ;



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A COMPARISON OF THE ACTUAL ELECTRIC PIN SURFACE HEAT FLUX TRANSIENT IN TEST 105 (AXIAL LEVEL F) AND THE "CORRESPONDING TYPICAL" NUCLEAR PIN SURFACE HEAT FLUX TRANSIENT



60 %



OPTIONS AVAILABLE IN PINSIM-MOD1 ALLOW THE USER TO GENERATE RESULTS WHICH WILL ADDRESS A VARIETY OF QUESTIONS

- WHAT NUCLEAR PIN TRANSIENT IS EQUIVALENT TO A SPECIFIED ELECTRIC PIN TRANSIENT?
- -- HOW CLOSE WAS THE ELECTRIC PIN TRANSIENT TO A CONCEIVABLE NUCLEAR PIN TRANSIENT?
- -- HOW DOES THE ELECTRIC PIN'S THERMAL RESPONSE TO THE HYDRAULIC TRANSIENT COMPARE WITH THE THERMAL RESPONSE OF A NUCLEAR PIN TO A SIMILAR HYDRAULIC TRANSIENT?

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110%

THTF COOLANT TYPICAL CHANNEL NUCLEAR BOUNDARY SYSTEM POWER CONDITIONS DECAY TABLE THTE COOLANT NUCLEAR PINSIM-MOD1 -> 1 CHANNEL MODEL PIN MODEL TRANSIENT TRANSIENT COOLANT CHANNEL NUCLEAR PIN LOCAL FLUID THERMAL CONDITIONS RESPONSE

THE PIN/CHANNEL SIMULATION SAMPLE PROBLEM WAS A PINSIM-MOD1 PREDICTION OF THE RESPONSE OF AN

IDEALIZED NUCLEAR PIN AND ITS ASSOCIATED

COOLANT CHANNEL TO A HYDRAULIC TRANSIENT SIMILAR TO THAT OF

THTF TEST 105

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### A CORRESPONDING ELECTRIC PIN PROBLEM WOULD USE AN ELECTRIC PIN MODEL AND THE TEST 105 ELECTRIC POWER DECAY CURVE



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ELECTRIC PIN/CHANNEL SIMULATION PROBLEM MODELS



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# COMPARISONS OF PINSIM-MOD1 PREDICTIONS ALLOW THE THERMAL RESPONSES OF A NUCLEAR PIN MODEL AND AN ELECTRIC PIN MODEL TO BE CONTRASTED

CHANNEL 1 OUTLET RELATIVE POWER FEET 4 0.036 1.5 N11 11 0.051 t.10 1.125 10 -!---160 0 1.9 0.875 9 0.11 1.000 8 58 İ 0.14 1 000 7 N7 ŧ 0.14 Nß 1.000 6 -!---0.14 5 N5 1.000 ----110 N4 4 1.000 --- !----0.091 0.875 3 Ν3 0.051 1.125 ÷ 2 N2 0.036 NI 1.5 FUEL CHASSEL 1 GAS GAP -----INLET

NUCLEAR PIN/CHANNEL MODEL



50%, then 89020



AT AN AXIAL LEVEL BELOW THE MIDPOINT OF THE PIN, PINSIM-MOD1 PREDICTS A MORE RAPID SURFACE TEMPERATURE RISE FOR THE ELECTRIC PIN MODEL THAN FOR THE NUCLEAR PIN MODEL, WITH ESSENTIALLY IDENTICAL TIMES TO CHF



#### UNION CARBIDE ORNL

## AT AN AXIAL LEVEL BELOW THE MIDPOINT OF THE PIN, PINSIM-MOD1 PREDICTS NEARLY IDENTICAL SURFACE HEAT FLUX TRANSIENTS FOR THE ELECTRIC AND NUCLEAR PIN MODELS



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AT AN AXIAL LEVEL NEAR THE MIDPOINT OF THE PIN, PINSIM-MOD1 CALCULATIONS INDICATE DIFFERENT SURFACE TEMPERATURE TRANSIENTS FOR THE ELECTRIC AND NUCLEAR PIN MODELS



572



AT AN AXIAL LEVEL NEAR THE MIDPOINT OF THE PIN, PINSIM-MOD1 CALCULATIONS INDICATE DIFFERENT SURFACE TEMPERATURE TRANSIENTS FOR THE ELECTRIC AND NUCLEAR PIN MODELS



5720

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AT AN AXIAL LEVEL NEAR THE MIDPOINT OF THE PIN, PINSIM-MOD1 PREDICTS SIMILAR SURFACE HEAT FLUX TRANSIENTS FOR THE ELECTRIC AND NUCLEAR PIN MODELS



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## ORNL ORNL AT AN AXIAL LEVEL ABOVE THE MIDPOINT OF THE PIN, PINSIM-MOD1 PREDICTS A LATER TIME TO CHF FOR THE NUCLEAR PIN MODEL THAN FOR THE ELECTRIC PIN MODEL





AT AN AXIAL LEVEL ABOVE THE MIDPOINT OF THE PIN, PINSIM-MOD1 PREDICTS SIMILAR POST-CHF HEAT FLUX TRANSIENTS FOR THE ELECTRIC AND NUCLEAR PIN MODELS



520

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## DEVELOPMENTAL WORK IS PROCEEDING IN SEVERAL AREAS

- NUCLEAR FUEL PIN MECHANICAL BEHAVIOR
- BACK-CALCULATION FROM FLUID CONDITIONS
- TRANSIENT AXIAL POWER DISTRIBUTIONS

120%