
Module Leader

Dr E Shwageraus [1]

Lecturers

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Timing and Structure

Lent term. 16 lectures, 4 examples papers, 2 examples classes in support of coursework. Assessment: 100% coursework

Prerequisites

4M16

Aims

The aims of the course are to:

• provide an understanding of advanced systems, why they are being pursued, what are their advantages and their difficulties in becoming commercially viable designs.

Content

Further aims:

• What are the factors that are driving the development of advanced systems?
• Overview of fast reactor development & Gen IV reactor systems, including accelerator driven sub-critical reactors;
• Introduce the principles of fusion energy physics and the current status of research;
• Explain how the principles of fusion energy are to be applied for the design of future fusion energy systems;
• Re-cycle fuel studies, including reprocessing and re-fabrication;
• Status, issues and what would be needed to bring advanced reactor systems to a commercial standard with safety and economics as good as current Generation III+ designs

Fission Systems

• Design objectives, drivers & alternatives (2l)
• Advanced Thermal systems – example high temperature gas reactor(2l)
• Fast Spectrum Reactor systems – including external Dr A Judd(4l)
• Transmutation and Advanced Fuel cycles (2l)

Fusion Systems

Introduction & Physics of fusion systems - CCFE (2l)
• Fusion reactions: cross sections and reactivity
• Magnetic and inertial approaches to fusion
• Equilibrium, transport, instabilities and power balance

Physics & Materials - CCFE (2l)

• Heating systems and current drive
• Layout of a fusion power plant
• Fusion reactor components and materials requirements

Performance Safety and Design CCFE (2l)

• Safety of a fusion
• Radiological hazards and waste products
• Fusion in the market and timescale to fusion
• Designing a fusion power plant

Examples papers

- Thermal reactor systems (High Temperature Gas-cooled Reactors)
- Fast Reactors
- Fusion: plasma physics and reactor engineering

Coursework

Coursework #1

Group project (3-4 students) researching into a particular advanced reactor design.

This part will be assessed by a group presentation to the rest of the class.

The presentations will be scheduled at a convenient time outside the normal lectures schedule.

Learning objective:

• Research in depth one of the advanced reactor systems
• Familiarise with a broad range of advanced systems, their strengths and weaknesses

Coursework #2

Fast reactor transient analysis using provided computer models.

This part of coursework will be preceded by an examples class, where these models will be introduced and demonstrated.

Learning objective:

• Understand fundamentals of fast reactors transient behaviour and safety

Coursework #3

Problem set on advanced fission reactors, plasma physics and fusion technology.

Learning objective:

- Understand fundamentals of fusion power systems physics and engineering

Booklists

Please see the Booklist for Group I Courses [2] for references for this module.

Examination Guidelines

Please refer to Form & conduct of the examinations [3].

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Links
[1] mailto:es607@cam.ac.uk