

**М. Р. Щербина\*, К. О. Щербина, В. О. Тарасов,  
С. І. Косенко, С. А. Чернєженко**

*Національний університет «Одеська політехніка», Одеса, Україна*

\*Відповідальний автор: mykhailo.shcherbyna@yahoo.com

**ЧИСЛОВИЙ АНАЛІЗ САМОЖИВИЛЬНОЇ РУХОМОЇ ХВИЛІ ЯДЕРНОГО ПОДІЛУ,  
ПРОПАГОВАНОЇ НАДТЕПЛОВИМИ НЕЙТРОНАМИ В СЕРЕДОВИЩІ УРАНУ ДІКАРБІДУ**

Досліджено саможивильну рухому хвилю ядерного поділу в середовищі урану дікарбіду через чисельне розв'язання системи диференціальних рівнянь. Основна увага приділяється рівнянню дифузії нейtronів та рівнянням балансу нуклідів, які є ключовими для розуміння поведінки хвиль поділу. Метою дослідження є визначення характеристик поширення та перевірка стабільності хвиль ядерного поділу. Числовий аналіз надає глибокі уявлення про динаміку розподілу нейtronів та зміну нуклідного складу, що є корисним у проектуванні реакторів рухомої хвилі ядерного поділу.

**Ключові слова:** реактор рухомої хвилі ядерного поділу, надтеплові нейtronи, уран дікарбід, рівняння дифузії нейtronів, конструкція реактора, саможивильна хвиля поділу.

**M. R. Shcherbyna\*, K. O. Shcherbyna, V. O. Tarasov,  
S. I. Kosenko, S. A. Chernezhenko**

*Odesa Polytechnic National University, Odesa, Ukraine*

\*Corresponding author: mykhailo.shcherbyna@yahoo.com

**NUMERICAL ANALYSIS OF THE SELF-SUSTAINING TRAVELING WAVE  
OF NUCLEAR FISSION PROPAGATED BY EPITHERMAL NEUTRONS  
IN URANIUM DICARBIDE MEDIUM**

This study investigates the self-sustaining traveling wave of nuclear fission in a uranium dicarbide medium by numerically solving a system of partial differential equations. The primary focus is on the neutron diffusion equation and nuclide balance equations, which are crucial for understanding the behavior of fission waves. By solving these equations, we aim to determine the propagation characteristics and assess the stability of nuclear fission waves in uranium dicarbide. Numerical analysis provides significant insights into the dynamics of neutron distribution and nuclide evolution, enhancing our understanding of the underlying physical processes and their implications for traveling wave reactor design.

**Keywords:** traveling wave reactor, epithermal neutrons, uranium dicarbide, neutron diffusion equation, reactor design, self-sustaining fission wave.

**REFERENCES**

1. L.P. Feoktistov. Neutron-fission wave. *Doklady Akademii Nauk SSSR* 309 (1989) 864. (Rus)
2. L.P. Feoktistov. Safety is key to the revival of nuclear power. *Uspekhi Fizicheskikh Nauk* 163(8) (1993) 89. (Rus)
3. E. Teller et al. Completely automated nuclear reactors for long-term operation II: Toward a concept-level point-design of a high-temperature, gas-cooled central power station system. Part II. In: Proceedings of the International Conference on Emerging Nuclear Energy Systems (ICENES'96), Obninsk, Russian Federation, 1996, p. 123.
4. V.Ya. Goldin, D.Yu. Anistratov. Fast neutron reactor in a self-regulating neutron-nuclear mode. *Matematicheskoye Modelirovaniye* 7(10) (1995) 12. (Rus)
5. V.Ya. Goldin, N.V. Sosnin, Yu.V. Troschiev. Fast reactor in self-regulation mode of the 2nd kind. *Doklady Rossiyskoy Akademii Nauk, Matematicheskaya Fizika* 358(6) (1998) 747. (Rus)
6. A.I. Akhiezer et al. On the theory of propagation of chain nuclear reaction in diffusion approximation. *Yadernaya Fizika* 62 (1999) 1567. (Rus)
7. H. Sekimoto, K. Ryu, Y. Yoshimura. CANDLE: The new burnup strategy. *Nuclear Science and Engineering* 139 (2001) 306.
8. H. Sekimoto, K. Ryu. A new reactor burnup concept “CANDLE.” In: Proceeding of PHYSOR 2000, Pittsburgh, May 7-11, 2000.
9. V.D. Rusov et al. Geoantineutrino spectrum and slow nuclear burning on the boundary of the liquid and solid phases of the Earth’s core. *arXiv:hep-ph/0402039* (2004).
10. V.D. Rusov et al. Geoantineutrino spectrum and slow nuclear burning on the boundary of the liquid and solid phases of the Earth’s core. *J. Geophys. Res.* 112 (2007) B09203.
11. S.P. Fomin et al. Study of self-organizing regime of nuclear burning wave in fast reactor. *Problems of Atomic Science and Technology* 6(45) (2005) 106.
12. S. Fomin et al. Self-sustained regime of nuclear burning wave in U-Pu fast reactor with Pb-Bi coolant. *Problems of Atomic Science and Technology* 3(1) (2007) 156.
13. N. Takaki, H. Sekimoto. Potential of CANDLE Reactor on Sustainable Development and Strengthened Proliferation Resistance. *Prog. Nucl. Energy* 50 (2008) 114.

14. J. Gilleland et al. Novel reactor designs to burn non-fissile fuels. In: *Proceedings of the International Conference on Advances in Nuclear Power Plants (ICAPP 2008)*, Anaheim, CA, USA, June 8 - 12, 2008, p. 2278.
15. K.D. Weaver et al. A Once-Through Fuel Cycle for Fast Reactors. *J. Eng. Gas Turbines and Power* 132 (2010) 102917.
16. T. Ellis et al. Traveling-wave reactors: A truly sustainable and full-scale resource for global energy needs. In: *Proceedings of the International Congress on Advances in Nuclear Power Plants (ICAPP 2010)*, San Diego, CA, USA, June 13 - 17, 2010, Paper No. 10189.
17. C.E. Ahlfeld et al. Traveling wave nuclear fission reactor, fuel assembly, and method of controlling burnup therein. Patent No.: US 8942338 B2. Date of Patent: Jan. 27, 2015.
18. X.-N. Chen, W. Maschek. Transverse buckling effects on solitary burn-up waves. *Annals of Nuclear Energy* 32 (2005) 1377.
19. V.D. Rusov et al. Traveling wave reactor and condition of existence of nuclear burning soliton-like wave in neutron-multiplying media. *Energies* 4(9) (2011) 1337.
20. X.-N. Chen et al. Fundamental solution of nuclear solitary wave. *Energy Conversion and Management* 59 (2012) 40.
21. A.G. Osborne, M.R. Deinert. Neutron damage reduction in a traveling wave reactor. In: *Proceedings of the Conference on Advances in Reactor Physics (PHYSOR 2012)*, Knoxville, TN, USA, April 15 - 20, 2012.
22. V.D. Rusov et al. *Traveling Wave Nuclear Reactor* (Kyiv: Publishing group "A.C.C.", 2013) 156 p. (Rus)
23. A.G. Osborne, M.R. Deinert. Comparison of neutron diffusion and Monte Carlo simulations of a fission wave. *Annals of Nuclear Energy* 62 (2013) 269.
24. V.D. Rusov et al. On some fundamental peculiarities of the traveling wave reactor. *Science and Technology of Nuclear Installations* (2015) 703069.
25. S. Qvist, J. Hou, E. Greenspan. Design and performance of 2D and 3D-shuffled breed-and-burn cores. *Annals of Nuclear Energy* 85 (2015) 93.
26. J. Hou et al. 3D in-core fuel management optimization for breed-and-burn reactors. *Progress in Nuclear Energy* 88 (2016) 58.
27. V.M. Khotyayintsev, V.M. Pavlovych, O.M. Khotyayintseva. Travelling-wave reactor: velocity formation mechanisms. In: *Proceedings of the International Conference on the Physics of Reactors: Advances in Reactor Physics to Power the Nuclear Renaissance (PHYSOR 2010)*, Pittsburgh, PA, USA, May 9-14, 2010.
28. V.M. Khotyayintsev et al. Velocity characteristic and stability of wave solutions for a CANDLE reactor with thermal feedback. *Annals of Nuclear Energy* 85 (2015) 337.
29. O.M. Khotyayintseva V.M. Khotyayintsev, V.M. Pavlovych. Reactivity in the theory of stationary nuclear fission wave. *Nucl. Phys. At. Energy* 17(2) (2016) 157. (Ukr)
30. V.D. Rusov et al. Fast traveling-wave reactor of the channel type. *Interdisciplinary Studies of Complex Systems* 9 (2017) 36.
31. S.P. Fomin et al. Influence of the radial neutron reflector efficiency on the power of fast nuclear-burning-wave reactor. *Annals of Nuclear Energy* 148 (2020) 107699.
32. V.D. Rusov et al. Ultraslow wave nuclear burning of uranium-plutonium fissile medium on epithermal neutrons. *Progress in Nuclear Energy* 83 (2015) 105.
33. D. Ray et al. Build-up and characterization of ultraslow nuclear burnup wave in epithermal neutron multiplying medium. *ASME J. of Nucl. Rad. Sci.* 8(2) (2022) 021501.
34. A.E. Pomysukhina, Yu.P. Sukharev, G.N. Vlasichev. Reactor based on nuclear burning wave in U-Th fuel cycle. Trudy Nizhegorodskogo Gosudarstvennogo Tekhnicheskogo Universiteta (Proceedings of Nizhny Novgorod State Technical University) 2(125) (2019) 136. (Rus)
35. A.O. Kakaev et al. Simulation of the nuclear burning wave of  $^{232}\text{Th}$  in the  $^{239}\text{Pu}$  enrichment for the neutron energy thermal area. *Journal of Physical Studies* 24(1) (2020) 1201.
36. M.R. Shcherbyna, V.O. Tarasov, V.P. Smolyar. Wave nuclear burning in spherical geometry. *Journal of Physical Studies* 25(2) (2021) 2202.
37. V. Tarasov et al. Simulation of the traveling wave burning regime on epithermal neutrons. *World Journal of Nuclear Science and Technology* 13(4) (2023) 73.
38. V.D. Rusov et al. Neutron moderation theory with thermal motion of the moderator nuclei. *The European Physical Journal A* 53 (2017) 179.
39. V.P. Smolyar et al. Geant4 simulation of the moderating neutrons spectrum. *Radiation Physics and Chemistry* 212 (2023) 111151.
40. V.L. Aksenov et al. On the limit of neutron fluxes in the fission-based pulsed neutron sources. *Phys. Part. Nucl. Lett.* 14(5) (2017) 788.
41. E.P. Shabalin et al. High-intensity pulsed neutron research reactor based on neptunium. Preprint JINR P13-2017-57 (Dubna, 2017) 18 p.
42. A.V. Arapov et al. Results of the physical start-up of the BR-1M reactor. In: *Problems of High Energy Density Physics. XII Kharitonov Thematic Scientific Readings. Reports* (Sarov: Publishing House "Russian Federal Nuclear Center - All-Russian Research Institute of Experimental Physics", 2010) 553 p.