Contents

Abstract v

Resum vii

Resumen ix

Contents xi

List of Figures xv

List of Tables xix

1 Introduction 1
- 1.1 Motivation and objectives . . . 3
- 1.2 Thesis outline . . . 4

2 State of the art 5
- 2.1 Uncertainty quantification and sensitivity analysis . . . 5
  - 2.1.1 Propagation of input uncertainties . . . 5
  - 2.1.2 Extrapolation of output uncertainty . . . 12
  - 2.1.3 Recommendations for UQ method selection . . . 12
  - 2.1.4 Code adequacy for BEPU . . . 13
  - 2.1.5 Source of uncertainty . . . 16
  - 2.1.6 Quantifying sensitivity . . . 18
- 2.2 Reactor physics . . . 21
  - 2.2.1 Nuclear data . . . 21
  - 2.2.2 Transport methods . . . 21
  - 2.2.3 Diffusion equation . . . 24
  - 2.2.4 Cross section collapse and homogenization . . . 29
  - 2.2.5 Core depletion . . . 32
  - 2.2.6 Reactivity Control . . . 34
- 2.3 Transient and accident analysis . . . 36
  - 2.3.1 Design basis accidents . . . 38
  - 2.3.2 Initiating events . . . 39
  - 2.3.3 Reactivity initiated accident . . . 40

3 Tools **45**
3.1 Codes . . . 45
3.1.1 Lattice physics codes . . . 46
3.1.2 Thermohydraulic system codes . . . 56
3.1.3 Core physics codes . . . 64
3.1.4 Uncertainty propagation codes . . . 70
3.2 Coupling of thermohydraulic and 3D neutronic codes . . . 74
3.2.1 TRACEv5.0/PARCSv3.0 coupled code . . . 75
3.3 Cross section library generation for neutron diffusion codes . . . 78
3.3.1 Cross section library formats . . . 80
3.3.2 Covariance libraries . . . 81
3.4 Thesis overview . . . 82

4 Models **87**
4.1 Lattice physics model . . . 87
4.1.1 NEMTAB library generation . . . 96
4.1.2 MCDancoff module . . . 100
4.2 Thermohydraulic model for system codes . . . 101
4.2.1 Bypass flow adjustment . . . 110
4.2.2 Nomenclature . . . 112
4.3 Core neutronic physics model . . . 114
4.4 Verification . . . 115
4.4.1 Lattice physics model . . . 115
4.4.2 NEMTAB generation . . . 119
4.4.3 Thermohydraulic model . . . 122

5 Methodology **127**
5.1 Cross section propagation . . . 129
5.1.1 Perturbation library generation . . . 129
5.1.2 Propagate cross section uncertainty . . . 131
5.2 Thermohydraulic parameter propagation . . . 135
5.2.1 Input parameters . . . 135
5.2.2 Uncertainty propagation through TRACE5.0P3-PARCSv3.0 . . . 136

6 Results **139**
6.1 Cross section propagation . . . 139
6.1.1 Propagation through SCALE6.2 . . . 139
6.1.2 Propagation through PARCSv3.2 . . . 146
6.2 Thermohydraulic parameter propagation . . . 153
6.2.1 Maximum response approach . . . 153
6.2.2 Index dependent approach . . . 157

7 Conclusions **163**
7.1 Conclusions . . . 163
7.2 Remarks . . . 164
7.3 Future work . . . 167

A List of MT reactions **169**

B NEMTAB format **171**

C Uncertainty of output parameters **179**

D Sensitivity of neutronic parameters **211**

E Sensitivity of thermohydraulic parameters **219**

F List of publications **223**

Acknowledgments **227**

Agraïments **229**

Agradecimientos **231**

Bibliography **233**

Abbreviations **239**