

SINBAD – Radiation shielding benchmark experiments

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 8 January 2021

Received in revised form 5 March 2021

Accepted 9 March 2021

Keywords:

Benchmark experiments

Shielding

Sensitivity-uncertainty analysis

Nuclear data

ABSTRACT

The creation of an international shielding benchmark database was presented in 1988 at the International Reactor Shielding Conference (ICRS7) in Bournemouth, UK.

M. Salvatores was among the authors of the proposal and had promoted and contributed to the project since the first initiatives, showed continued interest and encouraged the development of the database. He was Chairman of the Committee of Reactor Physics (NEACRP) for 2 years (1984–1985) and Chair of the Shielding benchmark group (1982–1988). In particular, he chaired two annual meetings in 1984 and 1985, called to initiate the collaborative programme on the analysis of shielding benchmarks for the validation of the JEF data files where the need to organize shielding benchmark was recognized and the presentation at ICRS7 defined the overall project.

SINBAD officially started in the early 1990's as a collaboration between the OECD/NEA Data Bank and RSICC with the goal to preserve the information on the performed radiation shielding benchmark experiments and make these available in a standardised form to the international community. One key point concerned the sensitivity and uncertainty analyses required to define their quality and figures of merit. The database comprises now 102 shielding benchmarks, divided into three categories, covering both low and inter-mediate energy particles applications: fission reactor shielding (48 benchmarks), fusion blanket neutronics (31), and accelerator shielding (23) benchmarks. The database is intended for different users, including nuclear data evaluators, computer code developers, experiment designers and university students. SINBAD is available from RSICC and from the NEA Data Bank. The database was extensively used within the scope of numerous national and international projects, such as PWR Pressure vessel surveillance, fusion programme (ITER reactor studies), different OECD Working Parties on Evaluation Cooperation (WPEC) Subgroups, nuclear data validation, IAEA nuclear data projects, etc.

The history of the database and few examples of its use are illustrated, for cross-sections, response functions and covariance matrix validation.

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1. Background

The value of benchmark experiments lies in verifying the quality of nuclear data evaluations and providing guidance to data evaluators on the choices among different experimental data and physics model parameters to be used for the evaluation to better capture the target quantity. Validation against benchmark experiments gives the confidence/assurance to the users in the performance of the data and computer codes for applications reasonably similar to the benchmark configurations.

2. History

The first visible sign of international cooperation in radiation shielding dates back to 1958, when the first international symposium on the topic was held in Cambridge, UK ([Papers of the European Atomic Energy Society Symposium VI-58 on Radiation Shielding \(ICRS1\), 1958](#)) (followed by 12 more over a period of 60 years). Most of the important seeds for research in this field were presented then, based on formerly restricted information, leading to multilateral research contacts and cooperation. First sets of valuable data were assembled in shielding handbooks and manuals ([Theodore Rockwell, 1956](#)). Much effort was then devoted to “reactor shielding” in particular shielding from neutron and gamma radiation sources. Water was about the best and cheapest shielding material for neutrons and “water has no cracks” was one of the arguments in its favour as it prevented radiation streaming.

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The first methods were based on “educated guess”, leading to overdesign especially for neutrons as the complex interaction processes were not yet reasonably well understood. In short, the shield design methods needed to be based on experiments in order to become optimal, efficient and economic, requirements for the further development of reactors. Basic nuclear data was then poor or inexistent and many radiation shielding methods and codes were in their infancy. Results from calculations compared to experiments agreeing within one or more orders of magnitude for deep penetration were considered then as state of the art.

Shielding mock-up experiments were designed and carried out in particular in the USA, UK, Japan, Italy and France. The results from the various experiments were published in the open literature. As time went by, it was recognized that the role of the experimentalist was to devise and perform experiments that will test the emerging calculation techniques. Computers began to rapidly play an essential role in the reactor shielding programme. Information Centres were established to collect, analyse and disseminate the data and tools relevant for radiation shielding.

The Radiation Shielding Information Center (RSIC(C)) was established in 1962 under the auspices of the U.S. Army Environmental Command (USAEC) Reactor Physics Branch, soon joined by DASA (Defense Atomic Support Agency) for weapons shielding and NASA for support of the APOLLO flights. In 1962 also heralded the first discussions between OECD Nuclear Energy Agency ((E)NEA) and RSIC(C) as well as with the Argonne Code Center(ACC/NESC). A collaboration between these Centres and the OECD/NEA Computer Programme Library (CPL) then located in the premises of the EURATOM research centre, Ispra, Italy was established. Under an USAEC/OECD-NEA Agreement, work was carried out closely to establish standards in programming practices. There was little trustworthy nuclear data in the early days needed for use with the fast growing computing technology. The Cross Section Evaluation Working Group (CSEWG) became reality at Brookhaven (BNL) in 1966 as well as others in Europe, Japan and the Soviet Union (e.g. UKNDL, KEDAK, JENDL, BROND etc). ENDF and other nuclear data formats were established. The OECD/NEA Committee on Reactor Physics (NEACRP) (REACTORPHYSICS-62-91, 1973) played a key role in establishing co-operation at international level in particular in radiating shielding: agreements with laboratories as to who would carry out specific experiments, the work for joint interpretation, analysis and sharing of results in specialists' meetings, and providing recommendations for further work.

In the early seventies the definition of a shielding benchmark experiment was considered a difficult task, further complicated by the inclusion of energy deposition studies in reactor cores. There was a general agreement on the importance of identifying those experiments which would be accepted as benchmarks for testing combinations of data and methods, as opposed to those which were specifically designed to measure cross-sections directly. These were called also integral experiments, but it was generally agreed that the term “integral” was misleading: most shielding experiments included the measurement of a differential energy spectrum and, when such measurements were carried out with a monoenergetic source then the only distinction between a differential cross-section measurement and a benchmark experiment lay in the size of the sample. Penetration (or migration) then, was a key word for a benchmark, not only in conventional shielding experiments but also in core energy-deposition studies where photon migration between regions of markedly different source strength give rise to the heating problems.

A series of specialists' meetings on sensitivity studies and shielding benchmarks (Experiments and Joint, 1974; NEA, 1975; Butler et al., 1975) were organised in the seventies. Topics discussed concerned the role of integral and differential measure-

ments in improving nuclear data for shielding in which the issue of cross-section adjustment had been found to be a very controversial one for a number of years in reactor physics; there was an important area of overlap which had emerged between the “adjusters” and the “non-adjusters” leading towards a common approach to the use of integral results. Co-ordination of progress and the exchange of results and plans in the field of penetration experiments was agreed e.g. a benchmark experiment on neutron penetration in pure iron and sodium using a common set of activation detectors: with agreed cross-sections, and common methods of calculation employing a standard cross-section data set for iron. Other relevant experimental topics were the intercalibration of detectors, unfolding, and the intercomparison of result from individual laboratories.

As to the collaborative programme on sensitivity and uncertainty analysis in shielding benchmark experiments (Butler and Rief, 1979) it was recognized that considerable progress had been made in the development of both analytical and experimental techniques. The results of the first three single-material experiments in iron from AEE Winfrith, KFK Karlsruhe and the University of Tokyo had been published in a standard format together with the original ORNL iron experiment (Nicks, 1978). This format had been chosen to be consistent with that laid down by the CSEWG for the reporting of benchmark experiments in the USA. Experimental techniques were well established but there was a need for more multi-material data-testing benchmarks in order to investigate the range of validity of the adjusted data-sets which have been derived from measurements in single materials.

The NEACRP had called in the eighties a series of specialists' meeting in Paris and Saclay on shielding benchmark calculations (Specialist Meeting on Nuclear Data and Benchmarks for Reactor Shielding (Paris), 1980). The aim was to initiate a collaborative programme on the analysis of shielding benchmarks for the validation of the JEF data files. The specific objectives of the meeting were: (i) to identify published experiments which were of benchmark quality and therefore suitable for data-testing; (ii) to note plans announced for the conduct of new experiments; (iii) to review the methods available for the analysis of shielding benchmarks; (iv) to draw up a collaborative programme for the analysis of these experiments. At these meetings a compilation of shielding benchmark experiments was provided, progress in analytical methods were presented (cross-sections for both deterministic and stochastic routes) and the use of benchmark experiments for the validation and refinement of data libraries discussed. Data evaluators were invited to take account of such analyses in reviewing the quality of differential data by taking advantage of the achieved improvements in calculational techniques and the further developments of sensitivity and uncertainty methods was expressed. In Europe, in particular, one motivation came from the needs linked to the fast reactor programme and the start of the European JEF-1 evaluation efforts. At that time the ENDF/B-V nuclear data evaluation had not been released outside the USA, though it contained a number of evaluations produced abroad and in addition contained for the first time cross section covariance data for shielding materials such as Fe, required for uncertainty analysis in shielding.

Two of these meetings were chaired by Massimo Salvatores, at that time Chairman of the Committee of Reactor Physics (NEACRP) and Chair of the Shielding benchmark group (1982-1988). The identified shielding benchmark experiments were studied using deterministic (DOT, TWODANT...) and stochastic (MCNP, MCBEND, TRIPOLI...) codes. Among the outcomes of the collaborative exercise the NEACRP stressed the “value and the interest of organizing in a ‘user-friendly’ manner the integral benchmark experiment information available”.

3. The shielding benchmark database

The main purpose of establishing a shielding benchmark database was to maintain the results of an international set of neutron propagation benchmark experiments for future use by shield designers, both for data and computer code validations. The proposal for setting up the database was made at the International Shielding Conference in Bournemouth in 1988 (Miller et al., 1988); this idea was further developed by A. McCracken (McCracken, 1989). Plans for a system for collecting the data, interpreting the experiments, and assigning figures of merit and indications to data evaluators as to which data need further improvement, were outlined. This scheme, although a possible ultimate goal, was considered to be too ambitious for the first stage. Later (Engle and Ingersoll, 1990), a minimum effort required to collect the experimental data in a consistent way, which would facilitate data maintenance and distribution to users was specified. The first benchmark was compiled in 1992 by E. Sartori during a stay at RSICC/ORNL (SINBAD-ASPIS-FE).

Many of the considerations and arguments raised at that time at the specialists' meetings are still very relevant today. For illustrations here are a few highlights:

- Computational and experimental benchmarks of neutron propagation in different materials are valuable for nuclear data and method validation, in particular if combined with sensitivity analysis;
- Detailed information on how the experiments have been carried out may be lost to international community due to dismantling of experimental facilities and the retirement of experimentalists. Need to preserve the experience gained over the years on the modelling of shielding problems using different computer codes and data for the newcomers and future generations;
- Archiving of the benchmark experiments in a computer-readable form will facilitate the use of the data for the validation of nuclear data. All model hypotheses should be documented along with estimated model effects and associated uncertainties. The Database should focus in particular on geometrical specifications, experimental information (types of experiments, uncertainties, correlation amongst experiments), materials and compositions and modelling details with the respective approximations and uncertainties introduced by the modelling;
- An initial list of 10 experimental benchmarks studied within NEACRP was identified covering shielding in iron, sodium, water, graphite and water/iron configurations, among them the ASPIS, EURADOS, KFK, OKTAVIAN, PROTEUS and HARMONIE benchmarks;
- Two approaches were considered: either storing code-specific structure or code-independent structure. The second choice was expected to require considerably larger efforts;
- It was recommended that the code inputs be stored "so that a simple retrieval is all that is required to perform (repeat) the shielding calculations".

The proposal (McCracken, 1989) was for a start overly ambitious in its scope. Still, it is interesting to recall today some highlights of the proposal:

- Code-dependent strategy is recommended for practical reasons, claiming that huge effort would be required for an independent format approach,
- Sensitivity analysis should be carried out whenever practicable,
- Some automatic analysis of results should be carried out within the data base itself,

- The system should include relevant information both on measurement and calculation,
- The system should contain every significant fact about both experiment and calculation. Not all of this information need be stored in the computer; for example, the most complete description possible of an experiment is contained within appropriately written experimental report, and nothing is gained (and much may be lost) by attempting to computerise this. Any relevant matters not covered in the experimental report and making any corrections which are necessary to the report would be included in general experimental commentary report,
- External correlations with other experiments through the use of common source or common counting system should be reported in experimental commentary,
- Quality of information in measured reaction rates is likely to be much higher than that of measured spectra, which depends on the quality of the processing of pulse-heights through unfolding algorithm. The derivation of a reliable dispersion (covariance) matrix for spectra is difficult to achieve.

While the choice between code-specific and code-independent description (referring at the time in particular to geometry description) can be today at least partly resolved, e.g. by including the geometry in C(omputer)A(ided)D(esign) format as already prepared for some recent SINBAD experiments (ASPIS-Fe88, FNG-Cu) many other remarks are still relevant.

4. Quality review and classification of SINBAD benchmarks

The SINBAD database comprises 102 shielding benchmarks compiled into a standardised format (SINBAD database; Kodeli et al., 2014). This number remained almost stable over the last 10 years, with very few new data added. Since 2007 some efforts were devoted to the review and improvement of the quality of the existing SINBAD benchmark descriptions (Kodeli et al., 2009; Milocco et al., 2010a, 2010b, 2013c; Milocco, 2015; Žerovnik et al., 2015; Kos and Kodeli, 2018). The objective was to assess the completeness and consistency of the available information on the experiments by reviewing original and SINBAD documentation, and to identify the missing or incomplete data. The benchmark experiments were then classified according to the completeness and reliability of the available information thus providing users with easier choices and to help them making a better use of the experimental information. The description of the experiment, the details, the uncertainties of physical parameters (geometry, material, radiation source), and the procedure to derive data (unfolding) are the bases for the judgment of the benchmark quality.

The quality review was motivated by the need to find out how useful the benchmarks can be to validate and improve today's high quality cross section evaluations, taking into account that many of the SINBAD benchmarks are relatively old, a few of them dating back to 1960 s. The quality and completeness of the experimental data therefore varies, requiring to revisit the geometry and source description simplifications needed for modelling when using the tools available at that time, and the reliability and completeness of uncertainty information. This review is expected to provide the users with an easier choice and help them making a better use of the experimental information.

More than half of the SINBAD experiments, among them 17 fission, 25 fusion neutronics and 10 accelerator experiments, were already revised and classified (Kodeli et al., 2014, 2009; Milocco et al., 2010a, 2010b). The release of six of these reviewed SINBAD experiments is however still ongoing. The activity was slow after 2015 but restarted recently. Review involved deriving new

experimental information from the literature, refinement of the source model where possible and preparation of new models for codes such as MCNP5/X and PHITS to reproduce the experiment as exactly as reasonably possible, avoiding unnecessary approximations. Great care was devoted to use all relevant experimental information to produce as exact a computational model as reasonably possible (e.g. Time-of-Flight measurements should be interpreted by calculations in time domain (Kodeli et al., 2009; Milocco et al., 2010a, 2010b) and not to mix the description of the experiment with the benchmark model. Sensitivity studies allow one to study the impact of the approximations and uncertainties in the description of the neutron source, composition and geometry where relevant.

The benchmarks were found to be of varying quality and were ranked onto the following 3 categories:

◆◆	Valid for nuclear data and code benchmarking
◆	
◆◆	Benchmarks of intermediate quality, suitable for education and training
◆	Benchmarks of historical interest

Benchmarks not considered of benchmark quality should be used with caution when applying to nuclear data and code validation. They can however still be valuable, for example providing lessons on how to perform new benchmarks, be useful for independent verification of similar more recent and better characterised measurements and the uncertainties involved in the measurements. As an example, the PCA benchmark, performed at ORNL was later repeated in ASPIS facility under better controlled conditions as PCA Replica, but both experiments are still kept in SINBAD.

Detailed information on the quality, possible drawbacks, missing data and all other information relevant for nuclear data validation are included in SINBAD evaluation to better guide the use of the data and to invite the experimental community to provide the missing information.

Tables 1–3 provide the list of SINBAD benchmark experiments, separated into fission, fusion, and accelerator, with the main characteristics described. The benchmark experiments which already went through the revision process are identified by including the quality label. The main conclusions and drawbacks found during the quality review are briefly listed in Tables 4–6 (again separated by application).

5. Examples of nuclear data and code validation using SINBAD

The SINBAD database is being extensively used for computer code and nuclear data validation and improvement in the scope of numerous national and international projects, such as for example PWR Pressure vessel surveillance, fusion programme (ITER reactor studies), OECD/WPEC Subgroups, nuclear data validation, IAEA nuclear data projects, etc. However, its use is in recent times less widespread compared to the International Criticality Safety Benchmark Evaluation Project (ICSBEP) (NEA, 2021) and International Reactor Physics Experiment Evaluation Project (IRPhEP) (Bess et al., 2019), which comprise systematic and thorough evaluations of a large number of critical and subcritical benchmark experiments. Input data for transport code are likewise available and more complete than in the SINBAD database. Moreover, Monte Carlo methods which are today almost exclusively used because much more powerful and accurate, require considerably larger computational times for shielding as compared to criticality calculations, further limiting the use of shielding experiments. It may be even noted that shielding benchmarks were more extensively used

for data validation some 20 or 30 years ago, at the time predominantly using deterministic codes. This may explain that modern cross sections show excellent performance for critical benchmarks, but in some cases perform worse than older evaluations for shielding applications.

This situation is expected to improve with the use of efficient M/C acceleration techniques (already available in some recent and ongoing SINBAD evaluation) and through additional efforts which are invested to further develop the SINBAD database. New compilations of two FNG benchmarks (FNG Copper and HCLL) were performed in the scope of the Fusion for Energy (F4E) project of the European Commission and will be integrated in the SINBAD database (Avery and Kodeli, 2019). An updated evaluation of the ASPIS Iron88 (Kodeli et al., 2020) benchmark is under preparation. OECD/NEA Working Party on International Nuclear Data Evaluation Cooperation Subgroup 47 (WPEC SG47) (Batistoni, 2006) entitled “Use of Shielding Integral Benchmark Archive and Database for Nuclear Data Validation” was formed in spring 2018 with the main objective to contribute to the diversification of the nuclear data validation practice by including more extensively shielding benchmarks in the validation and evaluation procedure. WPEC SG47 promotes a further development of SINBAD and provides feedback and recommendations on shielding benchmark evaluations based on the experience, needs and expectations of the nuclear data community. WPEC SG47 works in close coordination with other NEA activities such as Expert Group on Radiation Transport and Shielding (EGRTS), and different WPEC Subgroups (SG45, SG46 and others), and JEFF project. Besides other activities, EGRTS monitored since the last 10 years the development of SINBAD (previously by NEA Data Bank), focusing mainly on format issues. Slight modifications of the format were adopted taking into account the experience gained within the ICSBEP and IRPhEP projects. EGRTS contributed to the formation of the joint Technical Review Group meetings of ICSBEP, IRPhEP and SINBAD which coordinate the review of new SINBAD benchmark evaluations since 2018. However, no new SINBAD evaluation was produced in the scope of the EGRTS. Most (82) evaluations were prepared by NEA Data Bank, 17 by RSICC and 3 were joint NEA DB/RSICC evaluations.

Several shielding benchmarks are included in other databases such as the Alarm systems of ICSBEP. Mirroring these data in SINBAD would represent an advantage for shielding experts and data users, like it was already done for the VENUS-3 and Baikal-1 Skyshine experiments. These data were first released to SINBAD and a more thorough evaluation done in the scope of ICSBEP are now shared with SINBAD.

SINBAD was already used in the scope of several WPEC SGs. Combined use of different benchmarks, including shielding (ASPIS Fe88) were studied within SG39 providing valuable indications on iron cross section data (Avery and Kodeli, 2019; Wright and Grimstone, 1993). Likewise, SG46 is focussing on “Efficient and Effective Use of Integral Experiments for Nuclear Data Validation” and will provide guidance and recommendations on the use of benchmarks. The use of shielding benchmarks could be on the other hand probably more optimal within some ND evaluation projects such as CIELO and JEFF-3.3 (see Section 4.3). Some warnings raised during the shielding benchmark analyses in the past (e.g. ASPIS Fe88, CIAE Iron, IPPE Iron spheres, Rez iron spheres and others) are now being taken on-board in the recent updates and new evaluations.

A few examples of nuclear data validation is presented below to demonstrate the use of SINBAD shielding benchmarks covering the fast to thermal neutron energy range:

- FNG Tungsten (2002) (Batistoni et al., 2004);
- FNG-Copper (2013–2015) (SINBAD evaluation in progress) (Angelone, 2017);

Table 1

Fission Shielding Experiments in SINBAD (48 in total). Benchmarks with quality review include quality ranking. Brackets in the last column indicate inputs available, to be included.

Benchmark	Shielding material	Detectors	Computer code input
ASPIS Iron (◆◆)	Fe 1.2 m	Au, Rh, In, S foils, NE213 scintillator	DOT3.5
ASPIS Iron 88 (◆◆◆) ¹	steel 67 cm	Au, Rh, In, S, Al foils	MCBEND, DORT, TORT, MCNPX/-5, (SERPENT)
ASPIS Graphite (◆◆◆)	graphite 0.7 m	Rh, In, S, Al foils	DOT3.5, MCNPX/-5
ASPIS PCA REPLICA (◆◆◆)	H ₂ O /Fe shield	Mn, Rh, In, S, ²³⁵ U foils, SP-2, NE213 scintillator	DOT3.5, TORT, TRIPOLI-3, -4, MCNPX/-5/-6.1
ASPIS Water (◆◆◆)	H ₂ O 50 cm	S foils, NE213 scintillator	TRIPOLI, MCNPX/-5
ASPIS n-gamma Transport (◆◆◆)	H ₂ O /steel arrays	Rh, S, Mn foils, TLD, ionization chamber	MCNPX /-5
NESDIP-2 (ASPIS) (◆/◆◆)	H ₂ O /stainless steel (SS)	S, In, Rh foils	MCNPX /-5
NESDIP-3 (ASPIS) (◆◆◆) ¹	PWR radial shield, cavity	Rh, S foils, H proportional counters, NE213 scintillator	MCBEND, MCNPX/-5
JANUS Phase I (◆◆◆)	mild & stainless steel	Mn, Au, Rh, S foils, H proportional counters, NE213 scintillator	MCBEND, MCNPX/-5
JANUS Phase VIII (◆◆◆)	mild steel and Na	Mn, Au, Rh, S foils	MCNPX /-5
Ispra Na (EURACOS) (◆◆) ¹	Na 360 cm	S, Au foils, H proportional counters	MCNP3 (MCNP5)
Ispra Fe (EURACOS) (◆◆) ¹	Fe 130 cm	S, In, Rh, Au foils, NE213, gas proportional counters	MCNP3, MCNP4C (MCNP5)
Cadarache Sodium (HARMONIE) (◆)	Na	Rh, S, Na, Mn, Au foils, SP2 proton recoil spectra (relative measurements)	ANISN, DOT3.5
Karlsruhe Iron Sphere	Fe 15–40 cm	proton recoil, He-3 spectrometers	None
Wuerenlingen Iron (PROTEUS)	Fe, stainless steel 80 cm	Rh, In, S foils, SP2 proton recoil spectra	None
Neutron Leakage from Water Spheres (NIST)	H ₂ O	fission chambers (^{235,238} U, ²³⁷ Np, ²³⁹ Pu)	MCNP
Streaming Through Ducts (IRI-TUB)	Ducts (air)	Fe, Ni, In, Mn, Au, Sc foils, TLD	DOT3.5
Gamma-ray Production Cross Sections from Thermal Neutron Capture	Fe, SS, N, Na, Al, Cu, Ti, Ca, K, Cl, Si, Ni, Zn, Ba, S	NaI (Tl) crystal	None
Gamma-ray Production Cross Sections from Fast Neutron Capture	Fe, O, Al, Cu, Zr, Ti, K, Ca, S, Si, Ni, Ba, S, stainless steel	NaI (Tl) crystal	None
JASPER Advanced Reactor Axial Shield	stainless steel, B ₄ C	Bonner balls, NE213 scintillator, proton-recoil counters, Hornyak button detector	None
JASPER Advanced Reactor Intermediate Heat Exchanger	Na	Bonner balls, NE213 scintillator, proton-recoil counters	None
JASPER Advanced Reactor Radial Shield	stainless steel, graphite, B ₄ C, boral, Na	Bonner balls, NE213 scintillator, proton-recoil counters	None
ORNL TSF Iron Broomstick	Fe	NE213	None
ORNL TSF Oxygen Broomstick	O	NE213 scintillator	None
ORNL TSF Nitrogen Broomstick	N	NE213 scintillator	None
ORNL TSF Sodium Broomstick	Na	NE213 scintillator	None
ORNL TSF Stainless Steel Broomstick	4-inch-diameter oxygen	NE213 scintillator	None
ORNL Neutron Transport Through Fe & SS - Part 1	iron and stainless steel	NE213 scintillator	None
ORNL Neutron Transport in Thick Na	Na	NE213 scintillator	None
Pool Critical Assembly-Pressure Vessel Facility	core-to-cavity region in a LWR	Np, U, Rh, In, Ni, Al foils	None
University of Illinois Iron Sphere (CF-252)	shell of iron	NE213 scintillator	None
University of Tokyo-YAYOI Iron Slab	iron slabs, up to 20-cm-thick	NE213 scintillator, spherical proportional detectors of H ₂ and CH ₄ gas	None
PV monitoring in NRI LR-0 VVER-440	VVER-440 pressure vessel neutron dosimetry	Neutron spectra by proton recoil	None
PV monitoring in NRI LR-0 VVER-1000	VVER-1000 PV neutron dosimetry	Neutron -gamma spectra using scintillation spectrometer	None
Balakovo-3 VVER-1000	VVER-1000 ex-vessel neutron dosimetry	Np, U, Nb, Ni, Fe, Ti, Cu, Nb foils	DORT
VENUS-3 LWR-PVS (◆◆◆)	3 loop Westinghouse LWR pressure vessel	Ni, In, Al foils	MCNP4B, TORT, DORT
H.B. Robinson-2 Pressure Vessel	3 loop LWR in-/ex-vessel n dosimetry	Cu, Ti, Fe, Ni, U, Np foils	DORT, MCNP
RFNC Photon Leakage Spectra	Al, Ti, Fe, Cu, Zr, Pb, ²³⁸ U spheres	stilbene scintillation	MCNP5
RFNC Photon Spectra from H ₂ O, SiO ₂ and NaCl	H ₂ O, SiO ₂ and NaCl	stilbene scintillation	MCNP5
IPPE Th shell with 14 MeV & ²⁵² Cf neut. (◆◆◆)	Th shell r = 13 cm	fast scintillator	MCNP4C
IPPE Bi shell with 14 MeV & ²⁵² Cf neut (◆◆◆)	Bi shells r = 12 cm	fast scintillator	MCNP4C
Baikal-1 Skyshine Benchmark (◆◆◆)	Heavy serpentinite concrete, 1.1–1.4 m thick; steel	several spectrometers	MCNP
NAIÁDE 1 Graphite Benchmark	Graphite (60 cm)	³² S(n,p), ¹⁰³ Rh(n,n'), ³¹ P(n,p), silicon diodes, ⁵⁵ Mn(n,γ), ¹⁹⁷ Au(n,γ), ¹¹⁵ In(n,γ)	TRIPOLI
NAIÁDE 1 Iron Benchmark	Fe (60 cm)	³¹ P(n,p), silicon diodes, ¹⁰³ Rh(n,n'), ⁵⁵ Mn(n,γ), ¹¹⁵ In(n,γ), ¹⁹⁷ Au(n,γ), fission chambers (²³⁷ Np, ²³⁵ U & ²³⁹ Pu)	TRIPOLI
NAIÁDE 1 Light Water Benchmark	H ₂ O (60 cm)	³¹ P(n,p), ¹⁰³ Rh(n,n'), silicon diodes, ³² S(n,p), photomultiplier, ¹¹⁵ In(n,γ), ¹⁹⁷ Au(n,γ), BF3 counters, ⁵⁵ Mn(n,γ)	TRIPOLI
NAIÁDE 1 Concrete Benchmark	Concrete (60 cm)	³¹ P(n,p), ¹⁰³ Rh(n,n'), silicon diodes, ¹¹⁵ In(n,γ), ¹⁹⁷ Au(n,γ), ⁵⁵ Mn(n,γ)	TRIPOLI
Photon Skyshine Benchmark	air	gamma spectra by ionization chamber	None
SNL Polyethylene Reflected Pu Metal Sphere-Subcritical Neutron and Gamma Measurements	stainless steel 304	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> gross neutron counter neutron multiplicity counter high-resolution gamma spectrometer 	None

¹ : quality evaluation performed under NEA contract, available to be included in SINBAD.

Table 2
Fusion Neutronics Shielding Experiments in SINBAD (31). Ranking is included for quality reviewed compilations. In brackets inputs available, to be included.

Benchmark	Shielding material	Detectors	Computer code input
OKTAVIAN Ni Sphere (◆◆◆)	Ni sphere r = 16 cm	NE213 scintillator (TOF)	MCNP5, (SuperMC)
OKTAVIAN Fe Sphere (◆◆)	Fe sphere r = 50.32 cm	TOF: NE213 scintillator, Li-6 glass scintillator	MCNP5, (SuperMC)
OKTAVIAN Al Sphere (~◆◆◆)	Al – 10 cm	NE218 scintillator (TOF), NaI crystal	MCNP5, (SuperMC)
OKTAVIAN W Sphere (~◆◆◆)	W – 10 cm	NE218 scintillator (TOF), NaI crystal	MCNP5, (SuperMC)
OKTAVIAN Si Sphere (~◆◆◆/◆◆)	Si – 20 and 30 cm	NE218 scintillator (TOF), NaI crystal	MCNP5, (SuperMC)
OKTAVIAN Mn Sphere (~◆◆◆)	Mn – 60 cm	NE218 scintillator (TOF)	MCNP5 (X) (SuperMC)
FNS Graphite Cylindrical Assembly (~◆◆◆)	graphite 31.4 cm × 61.0 cm	fission chambers (²³⁵ U, ²³⁸ U, ²³² Th, ²³⁷ Np), fission track detectors, Al, Ni, Zr, Nb, In, Au foils, NE213, TLD	DOT3.5, MCNP5, (SuperMC)
FNS Liquid Oxygen (◆◆◆)	liquid O 20 cm	NE213 scintillator (TOF)	DOT3.5, MCNP5, (SuperMC)
FNS Vanadium Cube (~◆◆◆)	V cube 25.4 × 25.4 × 25.4 cm ³	NE213, proton recoil counters (PRC), BF ₃ counter, Al, Nb, In, Au foils, BC537, TLD	MCNP5, (SuperMC)
FNS Tungsten (~◆◆◆)	W (2r = 62.9 cm, h = 50.7 cm)	NE213, PRC, BF ₃ counter, Al, Nb, In, W, Au foils, BC537, TLD	MCNP5, (SuperMC)
FNS Skyshine (◆◆)		rem-counters, ³ He, BF ₃ , Ge detectors, NaI crystal	MCNP5, (SuperMC)
FNS Dogleg Duct Streaming (◆◆/◆◆◆)	iron slab 170 cm × 140 cm × 180 cm	NE213 scintillator; Nb, In, Au foils,	MCNP5, (SuperMC)
FNS fusion neutronics (1983–1991, raw data, review needed)	Li, Pb-Li, Pb-Li-C, Be-Li, Be-Li-C, Li ₂ O	NE213 scintillator; foils	DOT3.5, MCNP5
FNG-SS Shield (integral) (~◆◆◆)	stainless steel 60 cm	Al, Fe, Ni, In, Mn, Au foils	MCNP5, DORT, (SuperMC)
FNG-ITER Blanket Bulk Shield (integral) (◆◆◆)	ITER inboard shield	Al, Fe, Ni, Nb, In, Mn, Au foils, TLD-300	MCNP5, DORT, (SuperMC)
FNG/TUD ITER Blanket Bulk Shield (spectra) (~◆◆◆)	ITER inboard shield	NE213 scintillator	MCNP5
FNG-ITER Neutron Streaming (integral) (◆◆◆)	ITER shielding system	Nb, Al, Ni, Au foils, TLD-300	MCNP5, DORT
FNG-ITER Dose Rate Experiment (◆◆◆)	stainless steel/ H ₂ O assembly	Ni foils, TLD-300	MCNP5
FNG Silicon Carbide (integral) (◆◆◆)	SiC (45.72 × 45.72 × 71.12 cm ³)	Au, Al, Nb, Ni foils, TLD	MCNP5, DORT, TWODANT
FNG/TUD Silicon Carbide (spectra) (~◆◆◆)	SiC (45.72 × 45.72 × 71.12 cm ³)	NE213 scintillator	MCNP5
FNG Tungsten (integral) (◆◆◆)	W block 42–47 × 46.85 × 49 cm ³	Au, Mn, In, Ni, Fe, Al, Zr, Nb foils TLD	MCNP5, DORT, TWODANT
FNG HCPB Tritium Breeder Module (◆◆◆)	metallic Be with 2 layers of Li ₂ CO ₃	Au, Ni, Al and Nb foils, Li ₂ CO ₃ pellets (T breeding), TLD-300	MCNP5, DORT-TORT
FNG/TUD W (spectra) (~◆◆◆)	W block 42–47 × 46.85 × 49 cm ³	NE213 scintillator	MCNP5
TUD Iron Slab Experiment (~◆◆◆)	iron slab 30 cm	NE213 scintillator	MCNP5
IPPE Vanadium Shells (~◆◆◆)	V spheres r = 5 & 12 cm	fast scintillator	MCNP4C
IPPE Iron Shells (◆◆◆)	Fe spheres r = 4.5–30 cm	fast scintillator	MCNP4C
ORNL 14-MeV Neutron SS/ Borated Poly Slab	stainless steel	NE213 scintillator	None
University of Illinois Iron Sphere (D-T)	Fe sphere r = 38.1 cm	NE213 scintillator	None
KANT Spherical Beryllium Shells	Be shells 5, 10, 17 cm thick	NE213, Bonner sphere	MCNP
MEPhl empty slits streaming exp.	Fe shielding with empty slits	In, Zn, Al, Fe, F, ²³³ U foils, TLD, stilbene crystals	MCNP4C2
Juelich Li Metal Blanket	stainless steel	Li ₂ CO ₃ samples in Al sample holders, TLD detectors and activation foils	MCNP

- Winfrith Iron88 (ASPI) (1988) (Avery and Kodeli, 2019; Wright and Grimstone, 1993).

The FNG benchmarks were performed at the ENEA Frascati using the Frascati Neutron Generator (FNG) 14 MeV-fusion-neutron source, and are among the most recent, reliable and precise benchmarks included in the SINBAD database. The benchmarks were performed in the scope of the fusion programmes of the European Union (Fusion for Energy and EFDA European Fusion Technology Programme and recently EUROfusion). They were analysed using Monte Carlo and deterministic transport codes, which included extensive nuclear data sensitivity and uncertainty studies (Kodeli, 2004; Kodeli et al., 2016) (using SUS3D and MCSEN codes) both in the preparation phase and for post-analysis of the

experimental results (Specialist Meeting on Nuclear Data and Benchmarks for Reactor Shielding, 1980; Miller et al., 1988; McCracken, 1989; Engle and Ingersoll, 1990; Kodeli et al., 2014, 2009). A 14 MeV neutron source is generated by deuterons on a tritium target via the T(d; n)He reaction. The strength of the d-T neutron source was determined by the associated alpha-particles (±2%).

The ASPI Iron88 benchmark was performed at AEA Technology, Winfrith, UK using the fission plate neutron source.

Details on several FNG and ASPI benchmarks are available in the SINBAD database and in literature (Batistoni, 2006; Batistoni et al., 2004; Angelone, 2017; Wright and Grimstone, 1993). The FNG-Cu evaluation (Kodeli and Angelone, 2019) is under final review and an extended review of the ASPI Fe88 benchmark is

Table 3
Accelerator Shielding Experiments in SINBAD (23). Benchmarks with quality review include ranking.

Benchmark	Shielding material	Projectile	Detectors	Computer code input
Transmission of n & γ Generated by 52 MeV p (◆◆)	C (<64.5 cm thick), Fe (<57.9 cm), H ₂ O (<101 cm), concrete (<115 cm)	52 MeV protons on C target	NE213 scintillator	MCNPX
Transmission of n & γ generated by 65 MeV p	concrete, Fe, Pb, graphite (10–100 cm thick)	65 MeV protons on Cu target	NE213 scintillator	None
AVF75-Transmission of Medium Energy Neutrons Through Concrete Shields (1991) (◆◆) ¹	concrete	75-MeV proton beam incident n a stopping-range Cu assembly	7.6-cm-diameter \times 7.6-cm-long NE-213 scintillator	MCNPX ¹
Neutron Production from Thick Targets of C, Fe, Cu, Pb by 30 & 52-MeV Protons (1982)	stainless steel 316	30- and 52-MeV protons incident on C, Fe, Cu, and Pb targets	NE 213 scintillator	MCNPX
TIARA 40 and 65 MeV Neutron Transmission (◆◆◆) ¹	Fe (130 cm), concrete (<200 cm), polyethylene (<180 cm)	43 and 68 MeV protons on Li-7 target	BC501A, Bonner ball, fission counters, TLD, SSNTD	MORSE-CG, HETC-KFA2, DORT, MCNP4B, LAHET
Radioactivity Induced by GeV-Protons & Spallation Neutrons (2001)	B, C, Al, Fe, Cu, Nb, HgO, Pb, Pb, acrylic resin, SS-316, Inconel	2.83 and 24 GeV protons on mercury target	HPGe	None
Intermediate and High-Energy Accelerator Shielding Benchmarks ROESTI I, II and III	C, Al, and Fe	113 and 800 MeV protons	BC-418 plastic scintillators	None
CERF Bonner Sphere response to charged hadrons	Fe and Pb (100 cm thick)	200 GeV/c hadrons (2/3p ⁺ , 1/3 π^+) (Roesti I&III), 24 GeV/c p ⁺ (Roesti II)	In, S, Al, C foils, RPL	FLUKA92
CERF Radionuclide Production (~2003)	polyethylene/Cd/Pb	120 GeV/c positive hadrons (1/3p and 2/3 π^+)	Bonner sphere - a SP9 3He counter	FLUKA
CERF Residual Dose Rates (2003)	steel, Cu, Ti, concrete, light materials (e.g. C composites, B-nitride)	120 GeV/c mixed hadrons (1/3p, 2/3 π^+)	Germanium (HPGe) for gammas	FLUKA
CERF shielding experiment at CERN (2004)	Al, Cu, Fe, Ti, concrete	120 GeV/c mixed hadrons (1/3p, 2/3 π^+)	NaI crystal	FLUKA
CERN 200 and 400 GeV/c protons activation experiments (1983)	cylindrical Cu target	200 GeV/c mixed hadron (1/3p, 2/3 π^+)	NE213 organic liquid scintillator	MARS15
RIKEN Quasi-monoenergetic Neutron Field (70–210 MeV)	Cu targets	200 GeV/c and 400 GeV/c extracted protons	Thermo-, photo-luminescent & optical absorption glass dosimeters, Al, Au, S, Cu foils & plastic scintill.	None
KENS p-500 MeV shielding experiment at KEK	air	70 – 210 MeV protons on ⁷ Li	NE213 scintillator (TOF)	None
HIMAC He, C, Ne, Ar, Fe, Xe and Si ions on C, Al, Cu and Pb targets (◆◆◆)	concrete	500 MeV protons on thick W target	Activation of Bi, Al, In and Au foils	MARS14
HIMAC/NIRS High Energy Neutron (up to 800 MeV) (◆◆)	C, Al, Cu and Pb targets	100–800 MeV/ nuc. He, C, Ne, Ar, Fe, Xe & Si ions	NE213 & NE102A scintillators	MCNPX
HIMAC/NIRS High Energy Neutrons (<800 MeV) (◆◆)	Fe (up to 100 cm)	400 MeV/nucleon C ions on Cu target	Neutron spectra by Self-TOF, NE213	MCNPX
BEVALAC Experiment - Nb Ions on Nb & Al Targets (◆◆◆) ¹	Concrete (up to 250 cm)	400 MeV/nucleon C ions on Cu target	Self-TOF, NE213, Bi and C foils	MCNPX
MSU 155 MeV/ nucleon He & C ions on Al target (◆◆◆)	Nb (0.51 and 1 cm thick) and Al (1.27 cm thick)	272 & 435 MeV/nuc. Nb ions	NE-102 scintillator	MCNPX ¹
PSI - High Energy Neutron Spectra Generated by 590-MeV Protons on Pb Target (◆/◆◆) ¹	Al (13.34 cm)	155 MeV/nucleon He and C ions	BC-501, NE213 (TOF)	MCNPX
ISIS Deep Penetration of Neutrons through Concrete & Fe (◆◆◆)	Pb target (60 cm)	590 MeV protons	NE213 (TOF)	MCNPX ¹
TEPC-FLUKA Comparison for Aircraft Dose (◆/◆◆)	Concrete (120 cm) and Fe (60 cm)	800 MeV protons on Ta target	C, Bi, Al, In ₂ O ₃ foils, n & γ dosimeters	MCNPX
	Air	⁶⁰ Co (γ), 0.5 MeV n source, AmBe source, CERN/ CERF (120 GeV p & π on Cu)	TEPC	None

¹ : quality evaluation performed under NEA contract, available to be included in SINBAD.

under preparation. SINBAD compilations include the complete description of the source, geometry, measurements and examples of the transport and cross section sensitivity and uncertainty analysis and inputs. Reaction rates measured in these benchmarks are listed in Table 7.

The reference analyses were performed using the MCNP-5 (X-5 Monte Carlo Team, 2004) Monte Carlo code. The codes inputs are provided in the SINBAD database.

Since the MCNP transport code does not yet allow an explicit modeling of the DT reaction, the MCNP code inputs presently available in the SINBAD database make use of the DT neutron

source subroutine. As alternatives, the new FNG-Cu evaluation contains also the inputs for the MCUNED code, an extension of MCNPX, and the neutron source energy-angular distribution provided using the SDEF cards (Kodeli and Cufar, 2020). The activation reaction rates were calculated using the track length estimator (tally f4 of MCNP).

The transport calculations of FNG and ASPIS benchmarks were complemented with the cross-section sensitivity/uncertainty (S/U) analyses (Kodeli, 2004, 2018; Kodeli et al., 2016). Combined use of transport and S/U analysis provides valuable insight into the quality and deficiencies of different transport cross section

Table 4
SINBAD fission benchmarks with quality review completed (17 in total).

Benchmark / quality	New data added & Additional information needed on
ASPIS Iron ~ ◆◆	neutron source description, positioning / dimension uncertainty, some specifications inconsistent or not complete
ASPIS Iron-88 ~ ◆◆◆ ¹	New MCNP model added. Missing information on detectors arrangement (e.g. stacking), gaps between the slabs and effect of the cave walls
ASPIS Graphite ◆◆◆	New MCNP model added. Additional information needed such as detector arrangement in the slots (some dimensions are inconsistent)
ASPIS Water ◆◆◆	New MCNP model added. Supplementary information needed on NE-213 spectrometer, water tank dimensions (container, bowing effects) and experimental room
ASPIS n/γ water/steel arrays ~ ◆◆◆	Supplementary information needed on detectors arrangement, bowing of the water tanks, background subtraction and cave walls effect
ASPIS PCA REPLICA◆◆◆	Supplementary information needed on set-up of the activation foils and rear wall of the ASPIS cave
NESDIP-2 ◆ / ◆◆	New MCNP5(X) model added. Supplementary information needed on activation foils positioning & housing, background subtraction method, absolute calibration, water tanks bowing, effect of the NESTOR reflector.
NESDIP-3 ◆◆◆ ¹	New MCNP5(X) model added. Supplementary information needed on activation foils arrangement, effect of the NESTOR reflector (pending review).
JANUS-1 ◆◆◆	New MCNP5(X) models added. Information missing on detectors arrangement.
JANUS-8 ◆◆◆	New MCNP5(X) models added. Information missing on set-up of the activation foils and rear wall of the ASPIS cave
EURACOS Iron ~ ◆◆◆ ¹	New MCNP5 model, source model and uncertainty added. Supplementary information needed on: source (spectrum, spatial distribution), energy structure of the proton recoil spectra, neutron spectrometers response functions, additional details on the geometry (room return), on geometry and material composition uncertainties. Limited applicability – fast neutron attenuation in iron only.
EURACOS Na ~ ◆◆◆ ¹	- same as above -
HARMONIE ◆	too simplified description of geometry, materials and neutron source
VENUS-3 ◆◆◆	Data 1st released to SINBAD, detailed evaluation done in ICSBEP
BAIKAL-1 ◆◆◆	- same as above -
IPPE Th shell with 14 MeV & ²⁵² Cf neutron source ~ ◆◆◆	More details on collimator duct and detector needed, experimental bare ²⁵² Cf source spectra not available
IPPE Bi shell with 14 MeV & ²⁵² Cf neutron source ~◆◆◆	More details on collimator and detector housing needed, bare ²⁵² Cf source spectra not available

¹ : quality evaluation performed under NEA contract, available to be included in SINBAD.

data. S/U analysis presented here were performed using the SUSD3D (Kodeli, 2001; Kodeli and Slavič, 2017) perturbation code, based on the direct and adjoint neutron flux moments calculated by the DORT (2D) and TORT (3D) (Rhoades, 1998) deterministic discrete ordinates transport codes. Standard S₁₆/P₅ approximations were adopted and for FNG benchmarks the ray effects in the voids were mitigated using the un-collided and first collision source pre-

Table 5
SINBAD fusion neutronics benchmarks with quality review completed (25 in total).

Benchmark / quality	Additional information needed on
OKTAVIAN W n/γ spec. ~ ◆◆◆	More information would be useful on background subtraction method, γ source measurements, γ detector response function
OKTAVIAN Al ~ ◆◆◆	More information would be useful on neutron flight path parameter, background subtraction method, γ source measurements & γ detector response function
OKTAVIAN Fe~ ◆◆◆ or ◆◆	very large uncertainties of the measurements
OKTAVIAN Si 60 cm~ ◆◆◆, Si 40 cm ◆◆	Si 60 cm: More information would be useful on background subtraction method, γ source measurements & detector response function Si 40 cm: neutron flux measurements only available in graphical form
OKTAVIAN Ni ◆◆◆ OKTAVIAN Mn ◆◆◆	/ supplementary information would be needed on background subtraction method and gamma source measurements
FNG SiC ◆◆◆ FNG/TUD SiC ~ ◆◆◆	/ Supplementary information needed on neutron & γ flux point-wise uncertainties, original pulse-height distributions. Inconsistencies with FNG-SiC benchmark results
TUD Iron slab ~ ◆◆◆	Supplementary information needed on neutron source and pulse height spectrum
FNG Stainless Steel~ ◆◆◆ FNG ITER Dose Rate◆◆◆ FNG/TUD ITER Bulk Shield ~ ◆◆◆	A comprehensive geometry description would be helpful / Supplementary information needed on neutron and gamma flux point-wise uncertainties and original pulse-height distributions
FNG ITER Bulk Shield ◆◆◆ FNG ITER Neutron streaming ◆◆◆ FNG W ◆◆◆ FNG/TUD W ~ ◆◆◆	/ / Supplementary information needed on neutron & γ flux point-wise uncertainties; measured pulse-height distributions not available to repeat/verify spectra unfolding; inconsistencies with FNG-W (integral) benchmark results
FNG HCPB ◆◆◆ FNS Graphite ~ ◆◆◆	/ Supplementary information needed on unfolding technique, activation foils positioning, uncertainty & housing
FNS V ~ ◆◆◆	Supplementary information needed on unfolding technique, activation foils positioning, uncertainty & housing
FNS W ~ ◆◆◆	Supplementary information needed on unfolding technique of Ne-213 measurements, activation foils positioning, uncertainty & housing
FNS Iron dogleg-duct◆◆	Supplementary information needed on neutron source spectrum and neutron detector response function
FNS Oxygen ◆◆◆ FNS Sky-shine ◆◆◆	Ambiguity on neutron effective flight path parameter Supplementary information needed on neutron source spectrum
IPPE-V shells, 14 MeV n source ~ ◆◆◆ IPPE-Fe shells, 14 MeV n source ◆◆◆	New 3D MCNP5 model prepared;More details on collimator duct needed Supplementary experimental information needed (collimator duct)

pared by the GRTUNCL code. Different multi-group transport cross sections were used (such as those based on FENDL-3 (FENDL-3.1, xxxx), JEFF-3.3 (Plompen, et al., 2020), ENDF/B-VII.1 (Chadwick, 2011), VIII.0 (Brown, 2018), JENDL-4.0 (Shibata, 2011) evaluations) and processed by the TRANSX-2.1 (MacFarlane, 1995) code to obtain problem dependent self-shielded cross sections.

As shown in Fig. 1, a reasonable agreement was observed between the results using the DORT/TORT and MCNP codes, in general within ~ 10%, validating in this way the computational model

Table 6
SINBAD accelerator benchmarks with quality review completed (10 in total).

Benchmark	Summary of quality assessment
MSU 155 MeV /nucleon He & C ions on Al targets (◆◆◆)	MCNPX model prepared
Tokyo Uni. transmission of 52 MeV protons through C, Fe, H ₂ O & concrete (◆◆)	MCNPX prepared model, experimental information should be recovered; experimental uncertainty needed on: proton energy, density, H content in concrete, unfolding process MCNPX model prepared
ISIS 800 MeV protons (120 cm Concrete & 60 cm Iron) (◆◆◆)	
HIMAC 400 MeV/nucleon. C ions on concrete shield (◆◆)	PHITS model, experimental information needed, reduction in unfolding uncertainty, estimate of experimental uncertainty should be obtained before these experiments could be used for benchmarking processes
HIMAC 400 MeV/ nucleon C ions on Fe shield (◆◆)	PHITS model prepared, large measurement uncertainties, unfolding uncertainty and parameter uncertainties needed, not adequate for benchmarking purposes
HIMAC 100–800 MeV /nucleon heavy ions (◆◆◆)	New MCNPX model prepared
AVF75-Transmission of Medium Energy Neutrons Through Concrete Shields (1991) (◆◆◆) ¹	New MCNPX model prepared. Shortcomings: - complete lack of uncertainty information on the measured data - lack of information about the collimator geometry and materials - large uncertainty in results for 50 and 100 cm concrete.
TIARA 40 and 65 MeV Neutron Transmission (◆◆◆) ¹	New MCNPX models prepared. New review underway.
BEVALAC Experiment - Nb Ions on Nb & Al Targets (◆◆◆) ¹	New MCNPX models prepared.
PSI - High Energy Neutron Spectra Generated by 590-MeV Protons on Pb Target (◆/◆◆) ¹	New MCNPX models prepared. Found inadequate for the benchmarking due to complete lack of uncertainty information on the measured data.

¹ : quality evaluation performed under NEA contract, available to be included in SINBAD.

Table 7
Dosimetry reactions measured at the benchmark experiments considered in this study.

Reactions	FNG W	FNG Cu	ASPIS Fe88
⁹³ Nb(n,2n) ^{92m} Nb	X	X	
¹⁹⁷ Au(n,2n) ¹⁹⁶ Au		X	
⁵⁸ Ni(n,2n) ⁵⁷ Ni	X		
⁹⁰ Zr(n,2n) ⁸⁹ Zr	X		
²⁷ Al(n,α) ²⁴ Na	X	X	X
³² S(n,p) ³² P			X
⁵⁶ Fe(n,p) ⁵⁶ Mn	X		
⁵⁸ Ni(n,p) ⁵⁸ Co	X	X	
¹¹⁵ In(n,n') ^{115m} In	X	X	X
¹⁰³ Rh(n,n') ^{103m} Rh			X
¹⁸⁶ W(n,γ) ¹⁸⁷ W		X	
⁵⁵ Mn(n,γ) ⁵⁶ Mn	X	X	
¹⁹⁷ Au(n,γ) ¹⁹⁸ Au	X	X	X

and cross-section treatment, and in particular giving confidence in the results of the deterministic S/U codes.

5.1. FNG tungsten benchmark

The FNG Benchmark Experiment on Tungsten (Batistoni et al., 2004) is one in a series of the high quality fusion relevant benchmarks performed using the FNG 14 MeV neutron source. It was

performed in 2001 in order to validate tungsten cross sections in the European Fusion File. Tungsten is a candidate material for high flux component in the fusion reactor and its development is pursued in the European Fusion Technology Program. The mock-up consisted of a block of tungsten alloy with a size of about 42–47 cm large, 46.85 cm high and 49 cm in thickness. The neutron flux was measured using ²⁷Al(n,α)²⁴Na, ⁹³Nb(n,2n)⁹²Nb, ⁹⁰Zr(n,2n), ⁵⁶Fe(n,p)⁵⁶Mn, ⁵⁸Ni(n,2n)⁵⁷Ni, ⁵⁸Ni(n,p)⁵⁸Co, ¹¹⁵In(n,n')^{115m}In, ⁵⁵Mn(n,γ)⁵⁶Mn and ¹⁹⁷Au(n,γ)¹⁹⁸Au activation foil reactions. The comparison of the measured and the calculated neutron reaction rates at the four detector positions (Batistoni et al., 2004) demonstrated severe deficiencies of tungsten cross section evaluations of the time (FENDL-2, JENDL-3.3), both to predict high threshold reaction rates (like ⁵⁸Ni(n,2n) and ⁹⁰Zr(n,2n)) and lower epithermal and thermal reaction rates (⁵⁸Ni(n,p) and ¹⁹⁷Au(n,γ)).

As customary the FNG benchmark pre- and post-analysis were complemented by the cross-section sensitivity/uncertainty analyses. They were found valuable for guiding the benchmark design and interpretation of the measured and computational results. Deterministic transport and cross section sensitivity/uncertainty analyses using the DORT, TWODANT and SUS3D codes are presented in (Kodeli, 2004). Good agreement, generally within ± 5%, was observed between the MCNP and DORT results (Fig. 1) demonstrating the suitability of DORT discrete ordinates model for the sensitivity and uncertainty analysis in spite of the geometry simplifications and multigroup approximations.

Integral measurements often depend, in a complex way, on many different input parameters, reactions and materials. The above S/U analyses on the other hand suggested that the tungsten block measurements can be very efficiently used to improve nuclear data. The sensitivities, summaries in Table 8, reveal that the FNG W benchmark, although integral in nature, is in some aspects similar to differential measurements, each activation foil being rather selectively sensitive to few important reactions on tungsten. We see that the most important nuclear reaction in the high energy range (>10 MeV, i.e. for high threshold Al, Nb and Zr foil measurements) is the (n,2n) reaction on tungsten. In the range between 1 and 5 MeV, covered by the ⁵⁸Ni(n,p) and ¹¹⁵In(n,n') reaction rates, the inelastic and elastic scattering become increasingly important. Finally, the thermal energy reactions (¹⁹⁷Au(n,γ) and ⁵⁵Mn(n,γ)) are on the other hand predominantly sensitive to the tungsten capture (n,γ) cross-section. The sensitivities, together with the observed C/E values, give us thus a clear indication on how to improve the cross-section evaluations which resulted in improved C/E predictions using recent nuclear data (Fig. 1). High discrepancy was also found in ⁵⁵Mn(n,γ) which motivated the work in improving the IRDFF (International Reactor Dosimetry and Fusion File, xxx) response function in the resonance range, however some questions remain (see Section 4.4). Note that due to the low thermal flux the Mn foils were in this particular case mostly activated by epi-thermal flux.

5.2. FNG Copper benchmark

The FNG-Copper benchmark (Angelone, 2017), partly funded by the European Fusion Program (Fusion for Energy - F4E), is one of the first SINBAD evaluations being prepared after a long pause. The benchmark was performed between end 2014 and beginning 2015 at the Frascati neutron generator (FNG) with the objective to provide the experimental database needed for the validation of the copper nuclear cross-section data relevant for ITER design calculations, including the related uncertainties. The experiment was the result of the cooperation between ENEA Frascati, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and JSI.

A block of Oxygen-free Copper (99.90 wt%) 60 × 70 × 70 cm³ of the total weight of 2.2 t was irradiated using FNG 14 MeV d-T neu-

neutron source located 5.3 cm in front of Cu block. Reaction rates, neutron flux spectra and doses were measured at 8 locations inside the Copper block using $^{197}\text{Au}(n,\gamma)$, $^{186}\text{W}(n,\gamma)$, $^{55}\text{Mn}(n,\gamma)$, $^{115}\text{In}(n,n')$, $^{58}\text{Ni}(n,p)$, $^{27}\text{Al}(n,\alpha)$, $^{93}\text{Nb}(n,2n)$, $^{197}\text{Au}(n,2n)$ activation foils, NE213 scintillator and thermo-luminescent detectors.

The SINBAD evaluation (Kodeli and Angelone, 2019) of the experimental configuration, measurement system and results was performed as part of the EC Fusion for Energy (F4E) programme with a particular focus on a realistic, complete and consistent estimation of uncertainties involved in the measurements and the calculations. For the convenience of nuclear data validation and improvement, the SINBAD compilation includes in addition also the following data:

- CAD file with the reference detailed 3D benchmark model,
- reference MCNP5 Monte Carlo transport code inputs are provided using different neutron source modelling, i.e. using neutron source subroutine, SDEF description of the 14 MeV source and input for MCUNED explicit d-t modelling
- DORT (S_N) and MCNP5 (M/C) code inputs using simplified but representative and neutronicly equivalent 2D model. The input models for the SUS3D sensitivity /uncertainty codes.
- sensitivity profiles of the detector reaction rates with respect to nuclear cross-sections.

Both nuclear data S/U analysis, and comparisons of the calculations (C) and experiment (E) (Angelone, 2017; Kodeli et al., 2016) pointed out severe deficiencies in the presently available copper nuclear data such as JEFF-3.2, -3.3, FENDL-3, ENDF/B-VII.1, JENDL-4.0, with discrepancies as large as a factor of 2 to 3 (Table 9). The calculational uncertainties as predicted using

the cross section covariance matrices were found to be in reasonable agreement with the observed C/E discrepancies. On the other hand, the uncertainties in the measured reactions rates are of the order of 5–10%, which suggests that the benchmark experiment can substantially contribute to the improvement of future copper nuclear data, both cross-section and covariance data.

5.3. ASPIS Iron-88

The ASPIS Iron-88 benchmark (Wright and Grimstone, 1993) consists of a 67-cm thick iron block irradiated with ^{235}U fission neutrons. Several reaction rates were measured and calculated using the MCNP code: $^{27}\text{Al}(n,\alpha)$, $^{103}\text{Rh}(n,n')$, $^{115}\text{In}(n,n')$, $^{32}\text{S}(n,p)$, $^{197}\text{Au}(n,\gamma)$. ASPIS-Iron88 was among the first benchmarks to be included in the SINBAD database around 1997. An updated SINBAD evaluation providing more detailed modelling and quality evaluation is under preparation (Milocco, Dec., 2015; Kos and Kodeli, Sept., 2018). The Iron88 benchmark was recently re-analysed (Kodeli, 2018) using the MCNP-6 code and the sensitivities with respect to the cross sections, ^{235}U prompt fission spectrum and secondary angular distributions were calculated using the SUS3D (Kodeli, 2001; Kodeli and Slavič, 2017) perturbation code, based on the direct and adjoint neutron flux moments calculated by the DORT code (Rhoades, 1998) – see Table 10.

The ASPIS Iron-88 benchmark proved useful for the validation of iron cross sections, starting from JEF-2.2 in the 1980 s to the recent JEFF-3.3 and ENDF/B-VIII.0 evaluations (Kodeli, 2018). Furthermore, the ASPIS-Iron88 benchmark was used in the scope of the WPEC SG39 “Methods and approaches to provide feedback from nuclear and covariance data adjustment for improvement of

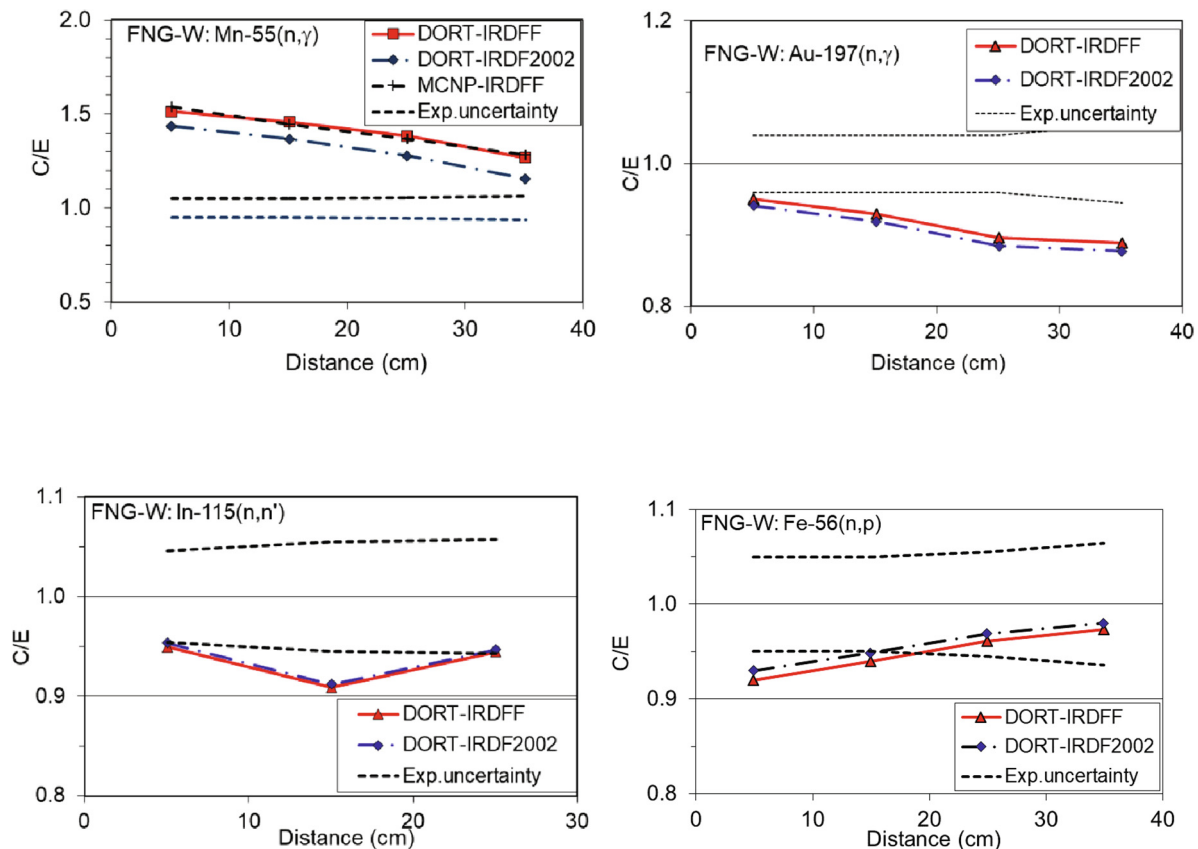


Fig. 1. C/E ratios for the FNG Tungsten experiment analysed using the MCNP and DORT computer codes, FENDL-3 transport cross sections and different dosimetry libraries (IRDF, IRDF2002). Dashed lines delimit the $\pm 1\sigma$ standard deviations of the measurements.

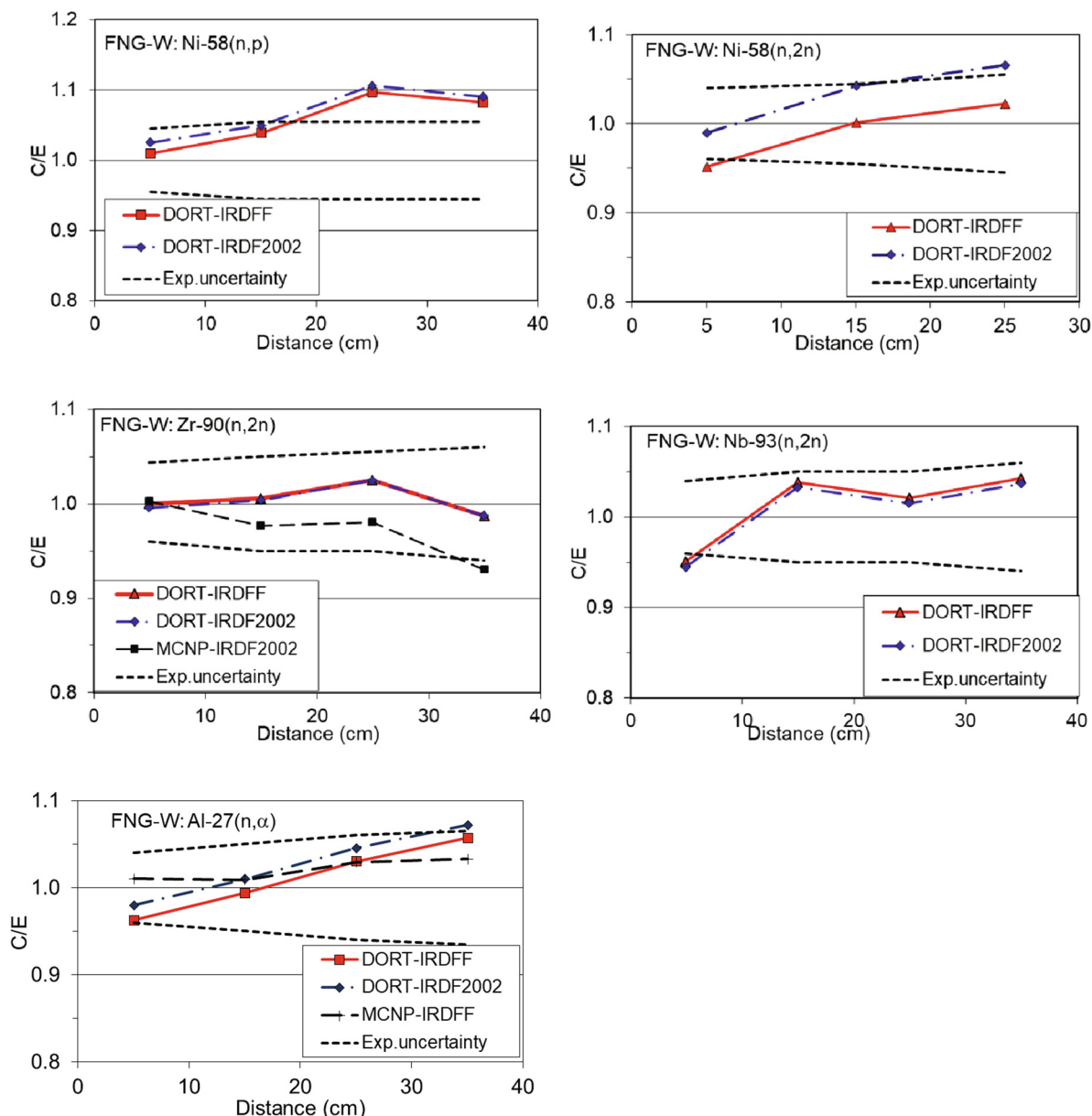


Fig. 1 (continued)

Table 8

Energy integral sensitivities of the detector responses to the main tungsten cross-section, for the deepest position in the tungsten block (35 cm inside the block). Sensitivities are expressed in %/%, i.e. as % change of detector reaction rate per 1% change in W cross sections.

Cross section reaction	Sensitivity (%/%)						
	⁹³ Nb(n,2n)	⁹⁰ Zr(n,2n)	²⁷ Al(n,α)	⁵⁸ Ni(n,p)	¹¹⁵ In(n,n')	¹⁹⁷ Au(n,γ)	⁵⁵ Mn(n,γ)
Total	-4.52	-4.48	-4.52	-4.54	-4.42	-1.81	-1.58
Elastic	-0.26	-0.28	-0.25	-0.30	-0.58	+0.01	+0.19
Inelastic	-0.59	-0.65	-0.61	-1.34	-2.29	-0.06	+0.04
(n,2n)	-3.55	-3.43	-3.53	-2.80	-1.41	-0.15	-0.13
(n,3n)	-0.11	-0.12	-0.11	-0.09	-0.06	+0.006	+0.006
(n,γ)	-0.002	-0.002	-0.002	-0.011	-0.071	-1.60	-1.70
(n,p)	-0.007	-0.007	-0.007	-0.006	-0.004	-0.002	-0.002
(n,d)	-0.001	-0.001	-0.001	-0.001	-0.001	-4·10 ⁻⁴	-3·10 ⁻⁴
(n,α)	-0.003	-0.003	-0.003	-0.002	-0.002	-8·10 ⁻⁴	-8·10 ⁻⁴

nuclear data files" for data adjustment studies (Palmiotti et al., 2017; Kodeli and Plevnik, 2018). Testing of several older and recent cross-section evaluations such as ENDF/B-V, -VI, -VII.1, -VIII.0, JENDL-4.0u and JEFF-3.3 revealed a few improvements using new

evaluations for some reaction rates (²⁷Al(n,α) and ¹⁹⁷Au(n,γ) using ENDF/B-VIII.0), but also many cases of much worse C/E agreement using ENDF/B-VIII.0 and JEFF-3.3 comparing to the older iron evaluations, such as ENDF/B-VI and -VII.1. One such example is ³²S(n,p)

Table 9

FNG-Copper benchmark: computational uncertainty due to transport cross-sections (ΔC) compared to the C/E values and experimental uncertainties (ΔE). ΔC was calculated using different cross-section covariance evaluations (ΔC_{TR} and ΔC_D represent uncertainties due to uncertainties in transport cross sections and dosimetry cross sections, respectively). Note that ^{63}Cu and ^{65}Cu data of FENDL-3.1 were taken from ENDF/B-VII.4. n.c. means not calculated.

Reaction	Pos. (cm)	ΔC_{TR} (%)			ΔC_D (%)		C/E		ΔE (%)
		JEFF-3.3	ENDF/B-VI.8	TENDL-2013	IRDFF	FENDL3	JEFF3.3		
$^{58}\text{Ni}(n,p)$	35	4.8	13.7	22.9	1.3	1.03	1.07	5.4	
	57	9.1	27.2	41.9	1.3	1.03	1.04	9.8	
$^{115}\text{In}(n,n')$	35	8.2	9.4	12.1	2.1	0.78	0.78	4.8	
	57	12.7	18.7	23.5	2.2	0.69	0.74	5.5	
$^{27}\text{Al}(n,\alpha)$	57	12.5	33.2	51.9	0.3	0.88	1.18	11.3	
$^{93}\text{Nb}(n,2n)$	45	13.3	34.7	53.4	0.8	0.92	1.10	5.3	
$^{197}\text{Au}(n,\gamma)$	57	15.3	19.9	18.6	0.2	0.58	0.54	4.6	
$^{186}\text{W}(n,\gamma)$	57	23.2	28.6	27.3	3.8	0.41	0.45	5.1	
$^{55}\text{Mn}(n,\gamma)$	57	n.c.	24.9	18.8	4.9	0.41	0.37	5.1	

shown in Fig. 2 with differences of as much as a factor of ~ 2 between JEFF 3.3 and ENDF/B-VIII.0 at deep positions pointing to the deficiencies in high energy inelastic and elastic cross sections (as indicated by the sensitivities in Fig. 3). Reaction rates of $^{115}\text{In}(n,n')$ are likewise underestimated using ENDF/B-VIII.0. Note that these deficiencies were not spotted in the analyses of critical benchmarks used for the validation (and probably evaluation) of these cross-sections, since little and/or not sufficiently (or specifically) sensitive to the different components of the iron cross sections. This suggests that a larger variety of benchmarks is needed for the validation of general-purpose nuclear data and the lessons learned in the past should be recalled.

On the other hand, the C/E discrepancies are still within $1-2\sigma$ of the total (experimental and computational) uncertainty proving the consistency between the cross section and covariance matrix evaluations. The covariance matrices seem therefore, on the average, relatively realistic, with no clear trends of over- or underestimations. This is demonstrated in Table 10 and Fig. 2 comparing the C/E values with the nuclear data and experimental uncertainties. Table 11 provides further details on the different components of nuclear data uncertainties assessed using the SUS3D code and the covariance matrices from the JEFF-3.3, ENDF/B-VII.1, -VIII.0 and JENDL-4.0u evaluations for several thicknesses in the experimental block. The largest contributions to the uncertainties in reaction rates come from the uncertainty in the ^{56}Fe inelastic, elastic and capture cross-sections (see (Kodeli, 2018)). Reasonable agreement can be observed between different covariance matrix evaluations.

The contribution of the uncertainty in the secondary angular and energy distributions (SAD/SED) was also studied using the MF34 (P₁ Legendre term) and MF35 covariance data for the ^{56}Fe elastic scattering and ^{235}U prompt fission neutron spectrum (PFNS). They were found significant for the high threshold reaction rates (^{32}S and ^{27}Al) and could be responsible for the systematic discrepancy (around 30%) of ^{27}Al at all detector positions.

5.4. Validation of dosimetry libraries

The discrepancies between the calculation and benchmark experiment measurements can mask the contributions of the uncertainties of several parameters, such as of the measurements, the transport and dosimetry cross-sections, geometry model simplifications, method approximations, etc. Therefore, benchmarks serve as a global verification which in particular does not account for the possible compensation effects, which are likely to be present between e.g. measurements, cross-section evaluations (for different nuclear reactions, dosimetry data), and modelling defects. This makes the separation of different defects difficult, meaning that the conclusions on the quality of specific data based on C/E comparison is not completely reliable. The above is true for the interpretation of the transport cross section deficiencies. It was found to be even more difficult to conclude on the quality of the dosimetry data (such as IRDFF library) since the uncertainties in the dosimetry data represent in general a minor contribution compared to the impact of the uncertainties in the transport cross sections (see Tables 9,11,12) (Kodeli, 2015).

Comparing the results using the International Reactor Dosimetry and Fusion File (IRDFF) (<https://www-nds.iaea.org/IRDFF/>) and the previous IRDF-2002 library (Fig. 1; Table 12) we see that in most cases no conclusive statement could be drawn on the possible improvements between the measured and calculated reaction rates. A controversy still persists concerning the discrepancy of $\sim 50\%$ between the measured and calculated $^{55}\text{Mn}(n,\gamma)$ reaction rates in the FNG-W benchmark (Fig. 1). Mn reaction rates were found to be in good agreement with the calculations for the FNG Bulk shield and FNG-HCLL benchmarks (Fig. 4). However, as shown in Fig. 5, in the FNG-W experiment the most sensitive energy is situated in the resonance range, which is quite different from the Bulk shield and HCLL measurements. It is still uncertain if the cause for the discrepancy is to be attributed to the nuclear data

Table 10

ASPIS IRON-88 benchmark: computational vs. experimental uncertainties (ΔC and ΔE , respectively).

Reaction & position (cm)	ΔE (%)	ΔC (%)				C/E				
		JEFF3.3	ENDF/B-VII.1	JENDL4	ENDF/B-VIII.0	JEFF3.3	ENDF/B-VII.1	JENDL4	ENDF/B-VIII.0	
$^{197}\text{Au}(n,\gamma)$	26	4.2	5.3	9.9	9.2	3.9	1.10	1.08	1.09	1.05
	46	4.2	4.3	8.8	8.8	3.8	1.11	1.11	1.10	1.01
	62	4.2	3.7	8.1	8.5	3.6	1.14	1.14	1.10	1.04
$^{103}\text{Rh}(n,n')$	26	5.1	6.4	7.8	8.6	7.2	1.13	1.05	1.03	1.00
	62	5.1	11.7	18.7	14.9	10.5	1.06	1.10	1.00	0.98
$^{115}\text{In}(n,n')$	26	4.5	6.6	10.5	14.8	9.4	1.04	0.95	0.92	0.84
	46	4.7	10.5	15.0	17.8	12.4	1.04	0.94	0.88	0.81
$^{32}\text{S}(n,p)$	26	6.5	13.3	11.5	17.2	12.4	1.13	0.98	0.94	0.79
	52	6.5	25.0	20.8	35.0	23.1	1.22	0.95	0.92	0.69
	62	8.6	29.3	25.1	42.9	27.1	1.30	0.92	0.90	0.66
$^{27}\text{Al}(n,\alpha)$	26	4.7	18.8	31.5	29.5	16.9	1.32	1.30	1.21	1.09

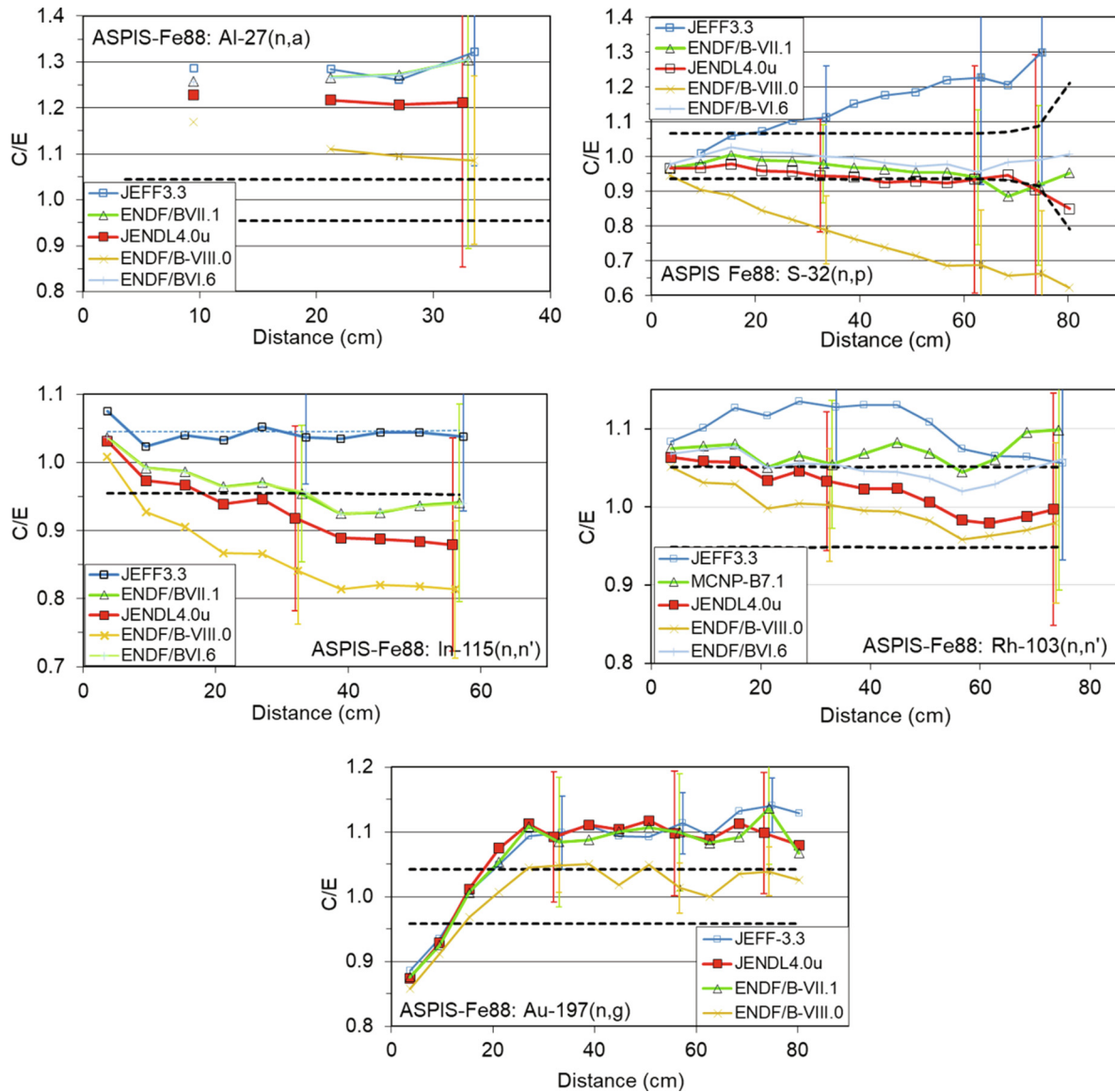


Fig. 2. C/E ratios for the $^{27}\text{Al}(n,\alpha)$, $^{32}\text{S}(n,p)$, $^{115}\text{In}(n,n')$, $^{103}\text{Rh}(n,n')$ and $^{197}\text{Au}(n,\gamma)$ reaction rates measured in the ASPIS-Iron 88 benchmark. The calculations were done using the MCNP code with iron cross sections from the JEFF-3.3, ENDF/B-VII.1, -B-VIII.0 and JENDL-4.0u evaluations. Dashed lines delimit the $\pm 1\sigma$ standard deviations of the measurements. Examples of $\pm 1\sigma$ computational uncertainties due to the nuclear data are also shown for a few detector positions (note that for a better visibility on the graphs some positions were slightly shifted).

in the resonance range or to the measurements (normalisation, Mn mass/content, etc.).

6. Perspectives

The SINBAD project emerged in the 1980 s from the nuclear data validation needs for some specific reactor projects. The authors strongly believe that this and other benchmark databases can be valuable for the optimisation and design of future nuclear facilities. A few examples of the use of these benchmarks was demonstrated in this paper. To promote and facilitate their use the database needs constant improvement and maintenance. Future work should focus on extending the database to new experiments, in particular the recent ones, completing the rigorous quality review of older experiments and complementing the database with new features. As already done for the recent evaluations (FNG-Cu) features such as variance reduction cards, sensitivity profiles and CAD geometry-material description shall be included.

Among the experiments included in the priority list for future evaluations are e.g. several FNS and OKTAVIAN ([Collection of Experimental Data for Fusion Neutronics Benchmark, 1994](#)) benchmarks performed in Japan, US series of LLNL sphere measurements ([Wong, et al., 1971](#)), Chinese CIAE Leakage TOF neutron spectra from different samples (Fe, Be, SiC, graphite, U, Polythene, W, etc.) ([Nie, 2020](#)), IPPE TOF experiments in Russia and many others.

Among the reasons for the slow progress are lack of funding, reduced activity within the project of the organisations in charge of the project, legal issues and restrictions preventing or limiting the availability of some experimental data (ASPIS, FNS, OKTAVIAN).

As an example of good practice could serve the present policy of the experimental fusion programme of the European Commission (F4E, EUROfusion), where SINBAD evaluation is presently considered as an integral part of the excellent benchmark experiments performed at the FNG facility. The approach that the experiment is only finished when the related information is evaluated in detail and safely stored should be encouraged.

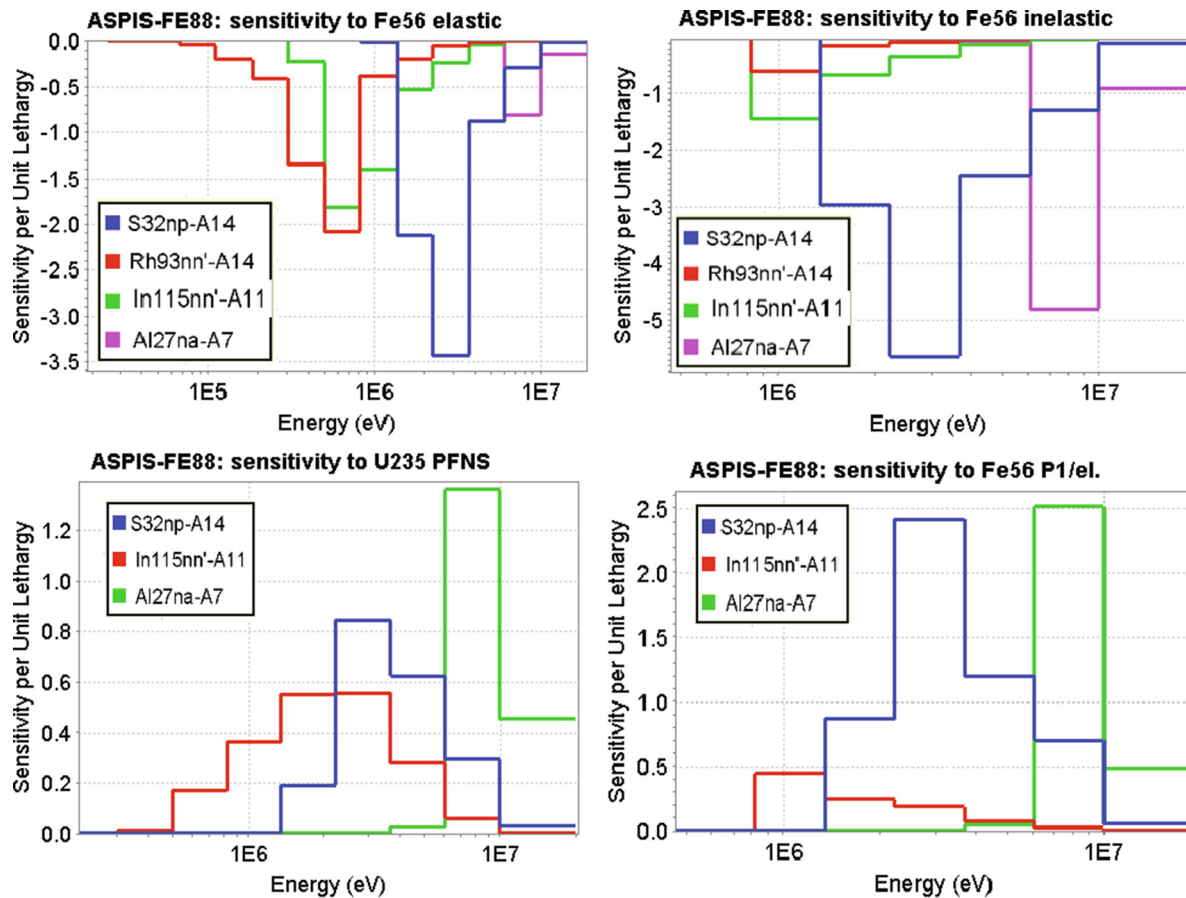


Fig. 3. Examples of sensitivity profiles for the ASPIS-Iron 88 benchmark with respect to the ⁵⁶Fe elastic, inelastic and capture cross-sections, and ²³⁵U prompt fission neutron spectrum (PFNS). Note that the sensitivities to PFNS are presented using classical and not the constrained method, since the latter depends on the spectra used (Kodeli et al., 2009).

Table 11

ASPIS IRON-88 benchmark: different components of the computational uncertainties estimated using the JEFF-3.3, ENDF/B-VII.1 and JENDL-4.0u covariance data. Σ_d represents detector response functions, Σ_{tr} stands for transport cross sections (MF33 covariance data), SAD are secondary angular distributions (MF34), and PFNS are prompt fission neutron spectra (MF35).

Reaction & position (cm)	$\Delta\Sigma_d$	$\Delta\Sigma_{tr}$				$\Delta\SAD (P_N) (\%)$				$\Delta PFNS$			
		IRDF	JEFF 3.3	ENDF VII.1	ENDF VIII.0	JENDL 4.0u	JEFF 3.3	ENDF VII.1	JENDL 4.0u	JEFF 3.3	ENDF VII.1	ENDF VIII.0	JENDL 4.0u
¹⁹⁷ Au(n, γ)	26	1.5	5.1	9.8	3.6	8.9	0.03	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.5
	46	1.5	4.0	8.7	3.4	8.7	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.3
	62	1.5	3.3	8.0	3.3	8.4	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.2
¹⁰³ Rh(n,n')	26	5.4	3.4	5.5	4.6	6.7	0.3	0.3	1.0	0.4	0.9	1.0	0.8
	62	7.9	8.7	17.0	6.9	12.7	0.3	0.3	1.1	0.3	0.7	0.8	0.6
¹¹⁵ In(n,n')	26	2.1	6.1	10.0	9.0	14.5	0.6	0.6	2.3	0.9	2.0	1.7	1.7
	46	2.8	10.1	14.7	12.0	17.6	1.0	1.0	3.2	0.6	1.4	1.4	1.2
³² S(n,p)	26	2.9	12.4	9.3	11.7	16.2	1.3	1.3	2.9	3.6	6.0	3.0	4.7
	52	3.9	24.4	19.4	22.6	34.5	2.1	2.1	6.0	3.9	6.3	3.0	4.8
	62	4.0	28.8	24.0	26.6	42.4	2.3	2.3	7.2	3.9	6.3	3.0	4.8
²⁷ Al(n, α)	26	0.7	8.2	12.4	13.5	25.8	3.4	3.4	1.4	16.9	28.9	10.2	14.2

Table 12

Uncertainty in the reaction rates due to the uncertainties in the dosimetry cross-sections calculated using IRDF-2002 and IRDF dosimetry libraries for the FNG W experiment, for the deepest position in the experimental blocks. IRDF/IRDF2002 represent the ratios of reaction rates calculated using IRDF and IRDF-2002.

Evaluation	Uncertainty (%)								
	⁵⁸ Ni(n,2n)	⁹⁰ Zr(n,2n)	²⁷ Al(n, α)	⁹³ Nb(n,2n)	⁵⁸ Ni(n,p)	⁵⁶ Fe(n,p)	¹¹⁵ In(n,n')	¹⁹⁷ Au(n, γ)	⁵⁵ Mn(n, γ)
IRDF-2002	1.7	0.8	0.4	0.9	7.4	1.3	2.1	0.7	98.5
IRDF	2.4	1.1	0.3	0.9	1.9	1.0	1.7	3.0	5.6
IRDF /IRDF2002	1.00	0.98	0.99	1.01	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.02	1.11

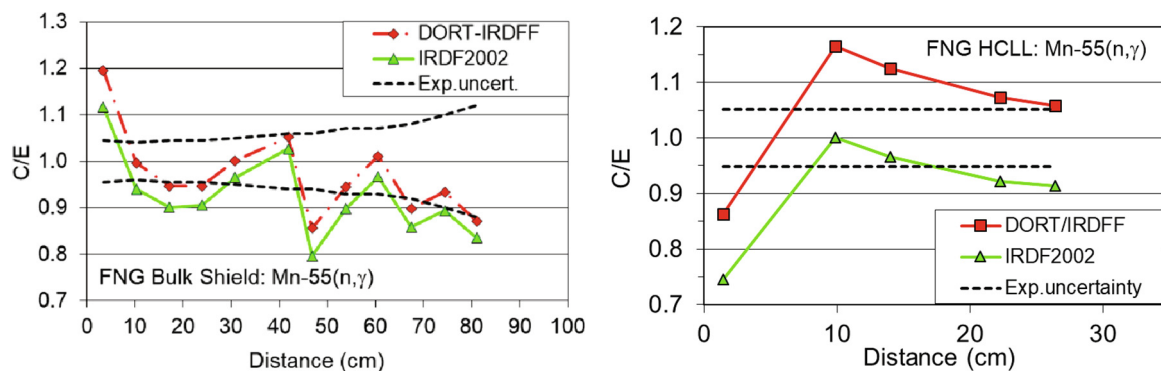


Fig. 4. Calculated/Experimental (C/E) ratios for the $^{55}\text{Mn}(n,\gamma)$ detector responses in the FNG Bulk-shield and FNG-HCLL benchmarks based on calculations with IRDF and IRDF-2002 libraries. Dashed lines delimit the $\pm 1 \sigma$ standard deviations of the measurements.

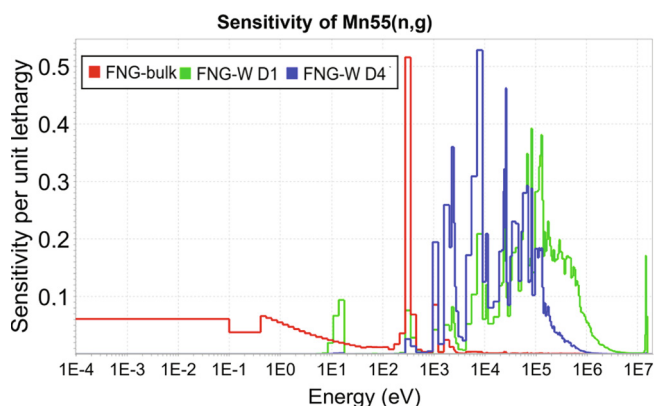


Fig. 5. Comparison of the sensitivity of the $^{55}\text{Mn}(n,\gamma)$ reaction rates measured in the FNG Bulk-shield and FNG-Tungsten benchmark to the Mn detector response function (direct sensitivity term). D1 and D4 refer to the positions 5.1 cm and 35.1 cm in the tungsten block, respectively.

7. Conclusions

The SINBAD project was started over 30 years ago and continues to represent an important experimental database for validating nuclear data, codes and nuclear design. The SINBAD database currently contains compilations and evaluations of over 100 benchmark experiments. Several experiments still need final review. Materials covered include: Air, N, O, H_2O , Al, Be, Cu, graphite, concrete, Fe, Pb, Li, Ni, Nb, SiC, Na, SS, W, V and mixtures thereof. Over 40 organisations from 14 countries and 2 international organisations have contributed data and work in support of SINBAD.

Progress was slow in the recent ~ 10 years but lately an increased interest and need in the database is observed. New benchmark evaluations are under evaluation, and many more were identified as candidates for future extensions of the database. Results of the analysis of several SINBAD benchmark experiments demonstrate that SINBAD data can be useful for modern nuclear data and code validation, provided additional effort is invested in obtaining additional information on the measurements and in developing more detailed computational models for transport calculations. Sensitivity and uncertainty analyses provide a valuable insight into the importance of different nuclear data and reactions involved in the measurements. Since the experimental data presently available in SINBAD are of varying quality, a revision and classification of the benchmark experiments according to the completeness and reliability of information is being undertaken in order to provide users with easier choices and help them make better use of the experimental information. About half of the SINBAD

shielding experiments were already, or are currently being revised and reclassified.

The WPEC Subgroup 47 of the OECD/NEA focuses on guiding the future development of SINBAD based on the needs and feedback from the users.

New benchmark evaluations, improvement of comprehensiveness of the databases, experiment re-interpretation and re-evaluation using state-of-the-art methods will require a large further effort. Further development of SINBAD relies heavily on contributions from scientists and experimentalists. Proposals and assistance in new benchmark compilations are welcome.

CRedit authorship contribution statement

Ivan A. Kodeli: Conceptualization, Writing - original draft, Formal analysis, Visualization, Investigation, Data curation. **Enrico Sartori:** Writing - review & editing, Project administration, Conceptualization, Data curation.

Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

Acknowledgements

This work has been partly funded by the RCUK Energy Programme [grant number EP/T012250/1]. To obtain further information on the data and models underlying this paper please contact PublicationsManager@ukaea.uk. Some fusion benchmark analyses were partly funded by several projects within EC fusion programme (Fusion for Energy and EUROfusion 2004 -2020).

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