

**Description of DIMPLE S01A model developed with
Monte Carlo computer code MCNP4A**

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January, 1996

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1 Brief description of DIMPLE ^[2]

DIMPLE is a versatile, water moderated reactor used to investigate performance, safety and safeguards issues relevant to the entire nuclear fuel cycle. The current DIMPLE programme includes lattice studies, reactivity and neutron source measurements with samples of irradiated fuel discharged from power reactors, criticality experiments relevant to fuel manufacturing, transport, storage and reprocessing issues and the development of sub-critical monitoring techniques.

Conventional assemblies consist of fuel pins supported and precisely located, between upper and lower lattice plates inside a large aluminium primary vessel (2.6 m diameter and 4 m high). Both simple geometry fuel pin benchmarks and more complex configurations, representative of operational or accident conditions, can be built. The ability to control the reactor by means of moderator level alone permits sub-critical and critical assemblies to be studied without the complicating perturbation of control rods. Shut-down is achieved by means of a fast dump system. When the reactor is operating, a 2 m diameter stainless steel bell-jar situated approximately 25 cm below the core sustains an air cavity. By venting the cavity through a pair of large valves, the water level can be dropped by 30 cm in about one second.

The reactor's low power operation of less than 200 W and ease of access provides for efficient configuration modifications or complete assembly changes.

2 Description of the S01A assembly ^[2]

To check predictions of critical moderator level and the water height reactivity coefficient (dp/dH) at various fuel loadings five S01 configurations were studied. This report covers only the S01A the description and modelling of S01A assembly, which was first built in 1983 following a refurbishment of the DIMPLE reactor. It comprised 1565 fuel pins arranged on a square pitch of 1.32 cm to provide a cylindrical, light water moderated core. The fuel pins comprised 3 % enriched uranium dioxide pellets, 1.013 cm diameter, wrapped in adhesive aluminium foil and stacked within stainless steel cans, 1.094 cm outer diameter, to a fuel height of approximately 69 cm. The 72 cm cans were sealed at each end using aluminium end plugs, with aluminium shims making up any space between the top of the fuel and upper and plug.

The pins were supported, and precisely located, between aluminium lattice plates. A stainless steel dowel, fitted into the bottom end plug, retained each pin in the lower lattice plate. The lattice plates in DIMPLE are secured to aluminium fuel support beams, which in turn are supported by a tubular stainless steel chassis.

3 Description of DIMPLE S01A model developed with Monte Carlo computer code MCNP4A

3.1 Full reactor model

From the geometric and composition point of view, the full reactor model of DIMPLE S01A assembly developed using MCNP4A is exactly the same as proposed in Specification of the Benchmark Assemblies. Reactor core is a mesh of 54 x 54 unit cells and is divided into six segments (plates). Because of the mean deviation from the specified pin pitch of 1.3200 cm across the gaps at the extreme ends of the six top lattice and bottom lattice plates, dimensions of them were reduced exactly according to the values stated on Page 15 in the Specification. The upper and lower lattice plate have modeled all the Interstitial Drainage holes as specified on the Specifications Figure 8.

The whole model (bottom to top) is 93 cm high, because of the fuel support plate and fuel beam base under the lower lattice plate, which are modeled exactly as stated on the Figure 9 of the Specification. Between fuel support and fuel beam base elements is water.

The critical moderator height is 49.26 cm as stated in Table 6 on Page 17 in the Specification (according to the temperature corrected to 20°C). It should be emphasized that cross-section data from the ENDF/B-V

and VI, used during the calculations were evaluated at the temperature of 300 K (27°C). This temperature difference of 7°C should be kept in mind when calculating the multiplication factor of the core.

A statement is written on the Page 2 of DIMPLE S01A Models paper ^[2], that 13 cm of water forms an effectively infinite reflector. All the features more than 13 cm from the edge of the outermost pin can be ignored, therefore the biological shield, the primary vessel, the beam support chassis and radial components of the fuel support beams are not needed to be modeled. A nominal axial and radial water/air filled surround is included to give a cylinder 100 cm in radius and 93 cm high, which definitely assures infinite reflector.

Pictures 1, 2, 3, 4 and Appendix A present the details of the 3D model and its MCNP input, respectively.

3.2 Pincell Model

The geometry and composition of the DIMPLE S01A pincell model, developed using MCNP4A is exactly the same as proposed in Specification of the Benchmark Assemblies ^[1]. But there is one major difference in transport calculation itself, comparing to Monte Carlo model developed with MONK5W code: in the case of MONK5W calculation, experimental bucklings were applied to transform the k_{∞} model into a representative 1D reactor calculation giving k_{eff} .

MCNP4A is not capable of incorporating the buckling data into the definition of boundary conditions. Therefore the only feasible way in calculation of multiplication factor was the calculation of k_{∞} using reflecting boundary conditions on the edges of the square pin with dimensions of 1.32 cm, and no axial leakage (infinite dimensions in the way of z-axis). The pincell geometric model is presented on picture 5 and MCNP pincell input is enclosed in Appendix B.

4 Calculation of k_{eff} and Reaction rates using MCNP4A

4.1 Evaluation of k_{eff} estimators [3]

The criticality eigenvalue k_{eff} and its standard deviation is automatically estimated in every criticality calculation performed with KCODE card of MCNP code. K_{eff} and various prompt neutron lifetimes are estimated for every active cycle, as well as averaged over all active cycles. K_{eff} is estimated in three different ways: using **collision estimator**, which estimates the mean number of fission neutrons produced per cycle, using **absorption estimator**, where only the nuclide involved in the collision is used for the estimation, rather than an average off all nuclides in the material (collision estimator) and by **track length estimator**, which is accumulated every time the neutron traverses a specified distance in a fissionable material cell.

These three estimates are combined using statistical correlations to provide the optimum estimate of k_{eff} and its standard deviation. The technique of combination of individual k_{eff} values is a generalization of the inverse weighting for uncorrelated estimators, and produces the maximum likelihood estimate for the three combined k_{eff} estimators. So it is the best final estimate from an MCNP calculation.

4.2 Evaluation of Reaction Rates [3]

In general, MCNP calculates Reaction Rates in the form of equation $C \cdot \int \varphi(E) \cdot R_m(E) \cdot dE$, where $\varphi(E)$ is the energy-dependent fluence (particles/cm²) and $R(E)$ is an operator of additive and/or multiplicative response functions from the MCNP cross-section libraries or specially designed quantities. The reaction cross sections are microscopic (with units of barns) and not macroscopic. Thus, if the constant C is the atomic density (in atoms per barn-cm), the result will include the normalization "per cm³".

For the calculation of the Reaction-Rate Ratios specified in Table 7 of [1], the number of total fissions in ²³³U, ²³⁸U, ²³⁹Pu and total captures in ²³⁸U isotopes, has to be obtained first. But in the ENDF/B-V library, the cross-section data for total fission reaction (No. 18), were evaluated only for ²³⁹Pu, while in

the ENDF/B-VI library they were evaluated for the ^{235}U isotope, also. According to [4], the number of total fission reactions can also be set up by summing the number of partial fission reactions: first, second, third and fourth chance fission, which are designated with reaction numbers 19, 20, 21 and 38, respectively (in both cross-section libraries we used). Unfortunately, the cross-section data for reaction No. 38, meaning fourth chance fission were not evaluated for ^{235}U isotope in ENDF/B-V library, thus for this isotope the number of fission reactions was obtained only by adding the number of first, second and third chance fissions. For ^{238}U isotope, the partial cross-section data for all kind of fission reactions mentioned above are present in the ENDF/B-V and VI evaluations, thus there were no problems for obtaining the number of total fission reactions easy by summing them.

Considering the calculation of the number of capture reactions in ^{238}U isotope, the following should be emphasized: the cross-section for total capture reaction is a sum of partial cross-sections for (n, γ) , (n, p) , (n, d) , (n, t) , $(n, ^3\text{He})$ and (n, α) reactions, which are labeled with reaction numbers 102, 103, 104, 105, 106 and 107, respectively. But in both, ENDF/B-V and VI^[4] data libraries, actually evaluated is only radiative capture - (n, γ) reaction with No. 102. Consequently the number of capture reactions calculated in ^{238}U isotope, consists only of (n, γ) reactions.

5 Cross-section data

Two different cross-section data libraries were used for performing the calculations: ENDF/B-V and ENDF/B-VI version (including Thermal $S(\alpha, \beta)$ Cross-Section data). All the details about libraries mentioned, can be found in:

- B. L. Kirk, R. W. Roussin, T. Jordan: RSIC DATA LIBRARY COLLECTION, MCNPDAT, MCNP, Version 4, Standard Neutron Cross Section Data Library based in Part on ENDF/B-V, Contributed by LANL, New Mexico, USA.
- J. S. Hendricks, S. C. Frankle, J. D. Court: ENDF/B-VI Data for MCNP, LANL, New Mexico, USA.
- J. D. Court, J. S. Hendricks, S. C. Frankle: MCNP ENDF/B-VI Validation: Infinite Media Comparison of ENDF/B-VI and ENDF/B-V, LANL, New Mexico, USA.
- J. D. Court, J. S. Hendricks: Benchmark Analysis of MCNP ENDF/B-VI Iron, LANL, New Mexico, USA.

6 Results

Calculation of k_{∞} and k_{eff}

	ENDF/B -V lib.	ENDF/B -VI lib.
Pincell Model (k_{∞})	1.25947 ± 0.00019	1.26723 ± 0.00020
3D full Core Model (k_{eff})	0.99348 ± 0.00039	0.99657 ± 0.00021

Calculation of Reaction Rate Ratios

	ENDF/B -V lib.	ENDF/B -VI lib.	Experimental res. ^[2]
^{238}U fission / ^{235}U fission	$2.74 \cdot 10^{-3} \pm 0.8 \%$	$2.73 \cdot 10^{-3} \pm 0.4 \%$	$3.02 \cdot 10^{-3} \pm 3.4 \%$
^{239}Pu fission / ^{235}U fission	$2.16 \pm 0.5 \%$	$2.16 \pm 0.4 \%$	$2.189 \pm 0.9 \%$
^{238}U capture / ^{235}U fission	$1.96 \cdot 10^{-2} \pm 0.4 \%$	$1.96 \cdot 10^{-2} \pm 0.4 \%$	$2.03 \cdot 10^{-2} \pm 0.5 \%$

References

- [1] A. D. Knipe: Specification of the DIMPLE S01 Benchmark Assemblies, AEA Technology, Technical Services Division, November 1994.
- [2] R. J. Perry, C. J. Dean: DIMPLE S01A Models, AEA Technology, Technical Services Division, March 1995.
- [3] J. F. Briesmeister, Ed.: MCNP - A General Monte Carlo N-Particle Transport Code, Version 4A, LANL, New Mexico, USA, November 1993.
- [4] Rose, P. F. (Ed.): ENDF-201, ENDF/B-VI Summary Documentation, National Nuclear Data Center, BNL, USA, October 1991.

Appendix A: MCNP 3D whole lattice model input

(6 columns)

(6 columns) 14050518

(6 columns) 2

(6 columns) 4

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44 c/z -0.66 0.66 0.32 $l.l.p. corner - right down
50 cz 100 $outer cylinder (r=100 cm)
c
c Dimensions of the new universes
105 px -5.9399999 $universe 21
110 px 5.9055
115 px -5.9055 $universe 22
120 px 5.9325
125 px -5.9325 $universe 23
130 px 5.9275
135 px -5.9275 $universe 24
140 px 5.9285
145 px -5.9285 $universe 25
150 px 5.9095
155 px -5.9095 $universe 26
160 px 5.9399999

mode n
imp:n 1 101r 0
c
c ***** Transformations of the lattice elements (#) *****
tr1 -29.6035 0 0
tr2 -17.7925 0 0
tr3 -5.9275 0 0
tr4 5.9275 0 0
tr5 17.7845 0 0
tr6 29.6035 0 0
c
c ***** Transformations of the support assembly basic element *****
tr12 10.15528571 0 0
tr13 20.31057142 0 0
tr14 30.46585713 0 0
tr15 40.62114284 0 0
tr16 50.77642855 0 0
tr17 60.93171426 0 0
c
c ***** Materials *****
m1 92234.60c -0.002169 $uranium
92235.60c -0.025465
92236.60c -0.000363
92238.60c -0.853603
13027.60c -0.000285
26056.60c -0.00008
8016.60c -0.118919
14000.60c -0.000116
m2 13027.60c -0.84744 $wrapper and gap
6000.60c -0.1276
17000.60c -0.00005
24052.60c -0.000025
29063.60c -0.00015
26056.60c -0.003
1001.60c -0.0213
12000.60c -0.000015
25055.60c -0.00006
28058.60c -0.00002
14000.60c -0.00025
50000.35c -0.00009
m3 13027.60c -0.00246 $cladding
27059.60c -0.00102
24052.60c -0.18
29063.60c -0.00152
26056.60c -0.67604
25055.60c -0.0166
42000.60c -0.0034
28058.60c -0.1118
22000.60c -0.00666
23000.60c -0.0005
m4 1001.60c -0.1119 $water
8016.60c -0.8881
m5 13027.60c -0.975006 $bottom end plug
29063.60c -0.000072
26056.60c -0.0022
12000.60c -0.0184
25055.60c -0.00285
28058.60c -0.000085
14000.60c -0.0015
22000.60c -0.000087
m6 27059.60c -0.00125 $pin dowel
24052.60c -0.1685
29063.60c -0.0028
26056.60c -0.70565
25055.60c -0.0117
42000.60c -0.00425
28058.60c -0.0565
16032.60c -0.0007
14000.60c -0.00425
22000.60c -0.0044
m7 13027.60c -0.9707 $lower lattice plate
29063.60c -0.0003
26056.60c -0.003
12000.60c -0.0212
25055.60c -0.0036
14000.60c -0.0012
m8 13027.60c -0.9701 $upper lattice plate
29063.60c -0.0001
26056.60c -0.0035
12000.60c -0.0208
25055.60c -0.0034
14000.60c -0.002
22000.60c -0.0001
m9 13027.60c -0.981891 $upper end plug
29063.60c -0.000047
26056.60c -0.002719
12000.60c -0.012032
25055.60c -0.001733
28058.60c -0.000056
14000.60c -0.001485
22000.60c -0.000057
m10 13027.60c -0.71367 $fuel support plate
6000.60c -0.0001
24052.60c -0.04729
29063.60c -0.00015
26056.60c -0.18508
12000.60c -0.01493
25055.60c -0.00653
41693.60c -0.00105
28058.60c -0.02836
15031.60c -0.00006
16032.60c -0.00003
14000.60c -0.00215
22000.60c -0.00049
m11 13027.60c -0.87406 $fuel beam base
6000.60c -0.00001
27059.60c -0.00003
24052.60c -0.01371
29063.60c -0.00016
26056.60c -0.055
12000.60c -0.00508
25055.60c -0.00155
42000.60c -0.00005
41093.60c -0.00018
28058.60c -0.00774

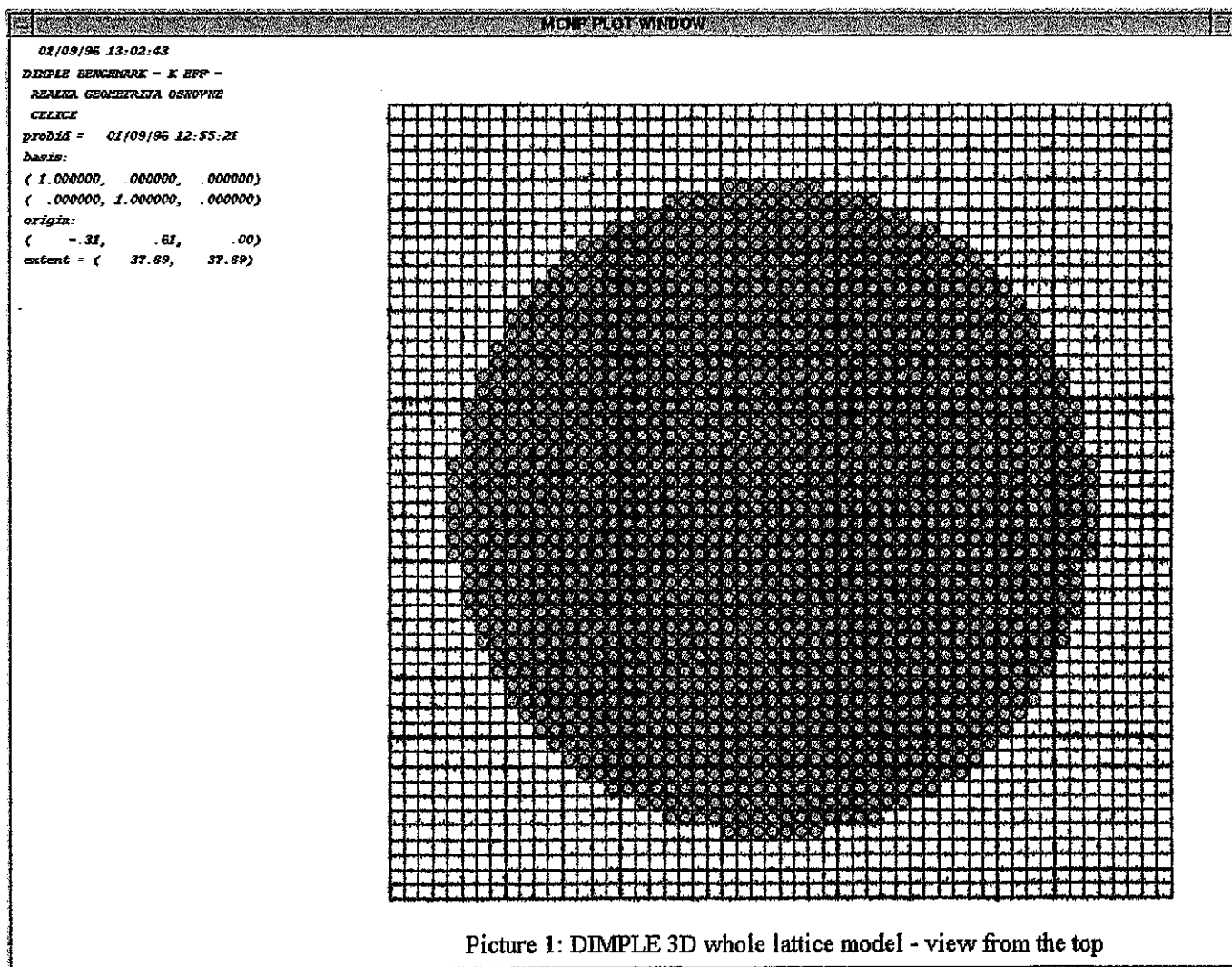
```

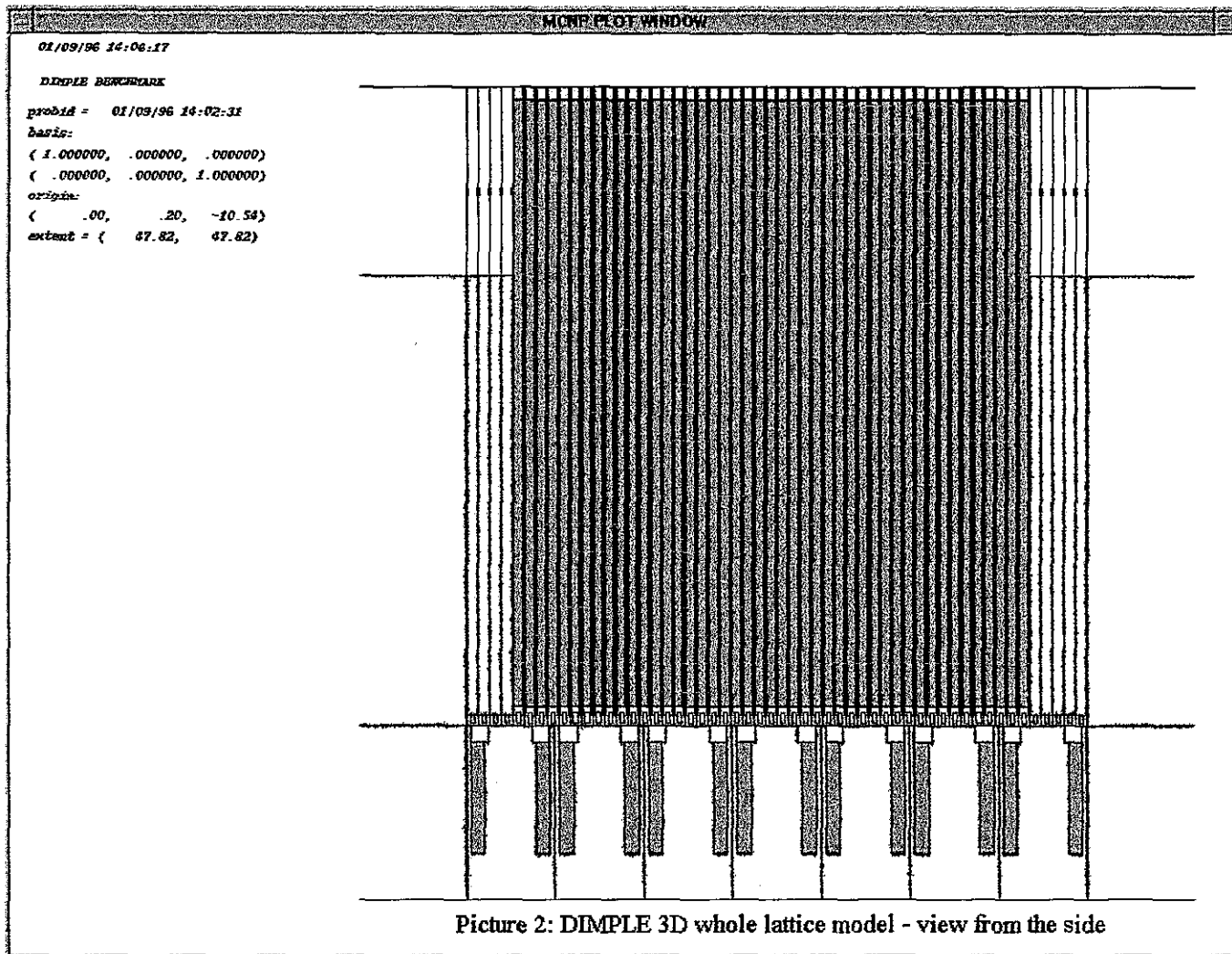
```

15031.60c -0.00001
16032.60c -0.00001
14000.60c -0.04071
50000.35c -0.00042
22000.60c -0.00126
m15 92235.60c -1.0
m16 92238.60c -1.0
m17 94239.60c -1.0
mt4 lwtr.01t $water S(alfa,beta)
c
c ***** CALCULATION OF REACTION RATES IN FUEL ISOTOPES *****
c
f4:n 1
fm4 -1 15 18 $calculation of total fission reactions U-235
c
f14:n 1
fm14 -1 16 19 $calculation of first chance fission reactions in U-238
c
f24:n 1
fm24 -1 16 20 $calculation of second chance fission reactions in U-238
c
f34:n 1
fm34 -1 16 21 $calculation of third chance fission reactions in U-238
c
f44:n 1
fm44 -1 16 38 $calculation of fourth chance fission reactions in U-238
c
f54:n 1
fm54 -1 17 18 $calculation of total fission reactions in Pu-239
c
f64:n 1
fm64 -1 16 102 $calculation of radiative capture reactions in U-238
c
c *****
kcode 3000 1.0 50 4000
ksrc -25.66 2.61 0
prtmp 2j -1
print

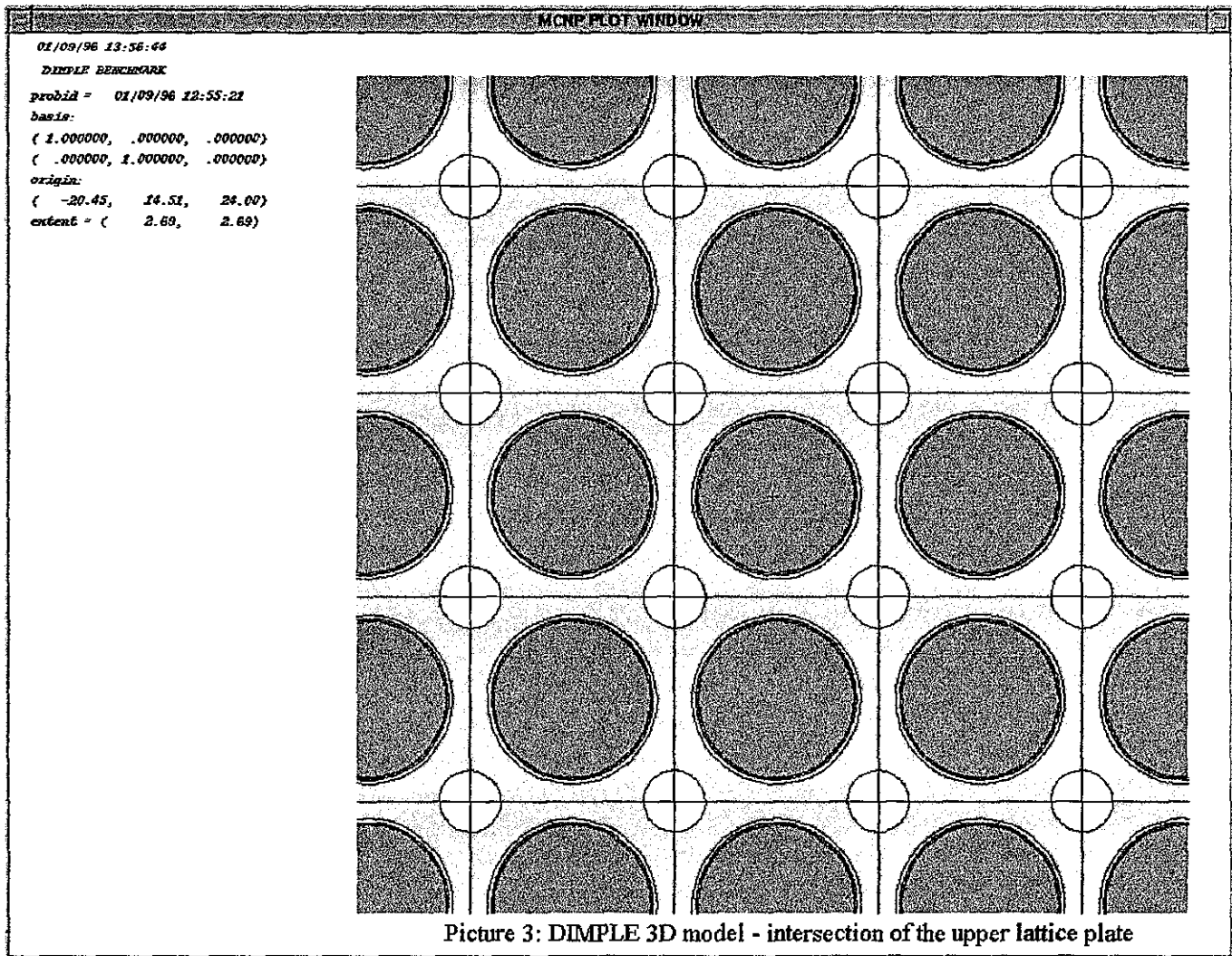
```

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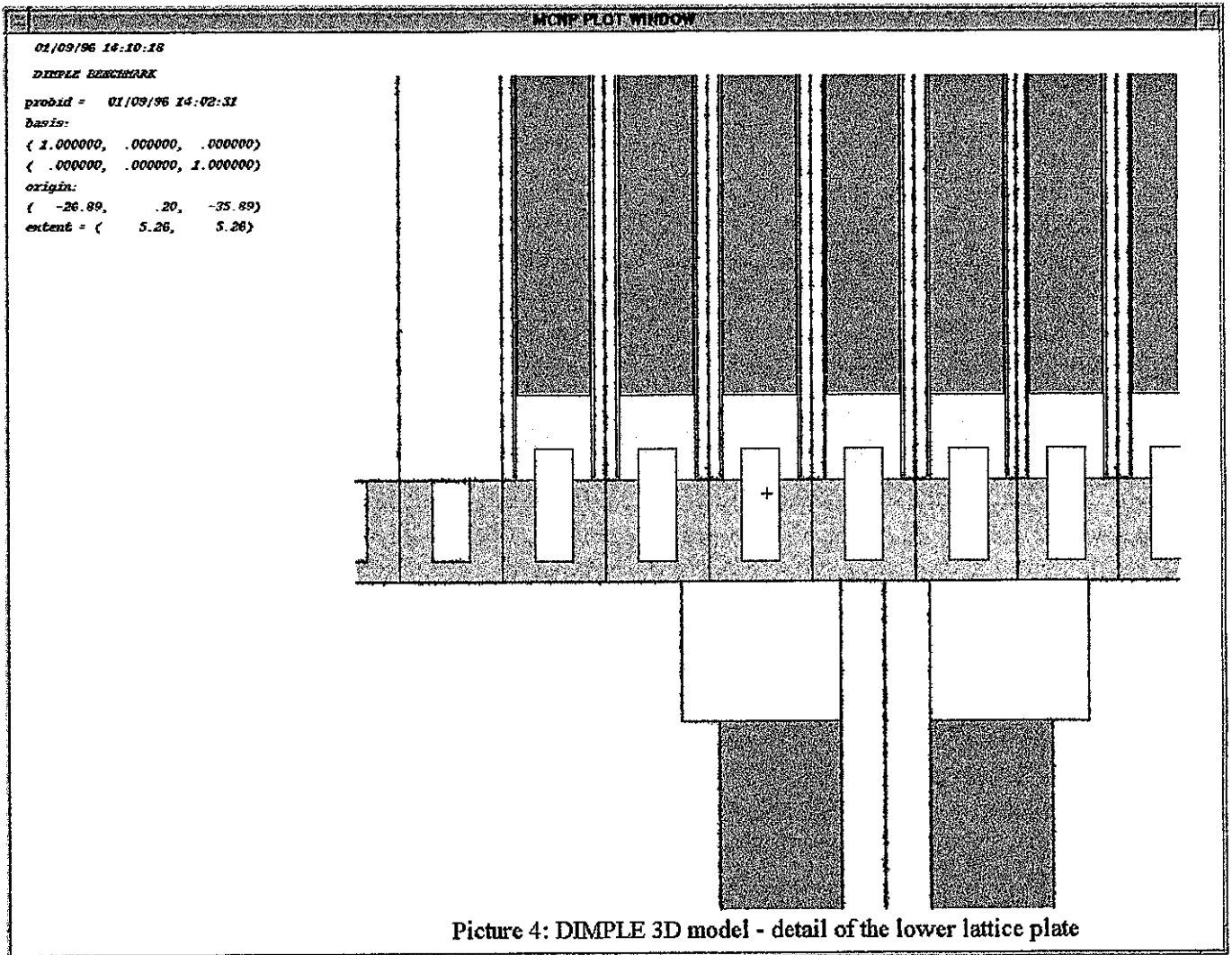




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Appendix B: MCNP pincell input

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DIMPLE BENCHMARK K INF - simplified geometry of the pin cell
c *****
c * Cross-section data from ENDF/B-VI library are used *
c * calculating of Kinf - reflecting boundaries, axially no leakage *
c *****
1 1 -10.42 -1 $uranium
2 2 -0.868 1 -2 $al wrapper and gap
3 3 -7.806 2 -3 $cladding
4 4 -0.9982041 3 -4 5 -6 7 $water up to the Horiz
5 0 4:-5:6:-7 $surround

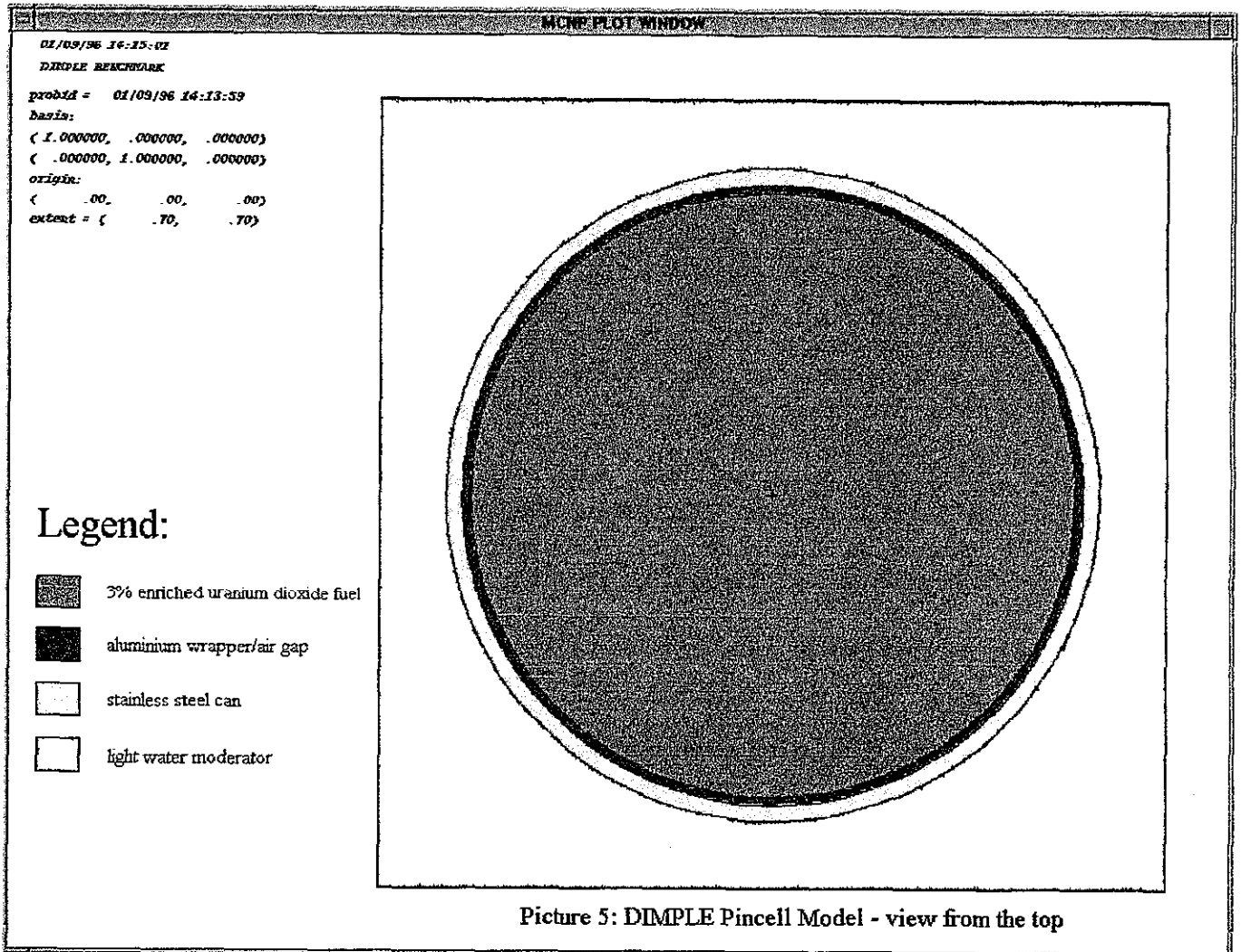
1 cz 0.5065 $uranium
2 cz 0.5199 $wrapper and gap
3 cz 0.54685 $cladding
*4 px 0.66 $water - pitch
*5 px -0.66
*6 py 0.66
*7 py -0.66

mode n
imp:n 1 3r 0
m1 92234.60c -0.000169 $uranium
92235.60c -0.026465
92236.60c -0.000363
92238.60c -0.853603
13027.60c -0.000285
26056.60c -0.00008
8016.60c -0.118919
14000.60c -0.000116
m2 13027.60c -0.84744 $wrapper and gap
6000.60c -0.1276
17000.60c -0.00005
24052.60c -0.000025
29063.60c -0.00015
26056.60c -0.003
1001.60c -0.0213
12000.60c -0.000015
25055.60c -0.00006
28058.60c -0.00002
14000.60c -0.00025
50000.35c -0.00009
m3 13027.60c -0.00246 $cladding
27059.60c -0.00102
24052.60c -0.18
29063.60c -0.00152
26056.60c -0.67604
25055.60c -0.0166
42000.60c -0.0034
28058.60c -0.1118
22000.60c -0.00666
23000.60c -0.0005
m4 1001.60c -0.1119 $water
8016.60c -0.8881
mt4 (wtr.01t $water - S(alpha,beta)
kcode 3000 1.2 50 2500
ksrc 0 0 0
prtmp 2j -1
print

```

(1 column) 1

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Picture 5: DIMPLE Pincell Model - view from the top

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