



# Bison Verification and Validation Activities for TRISO

November 2023

*Changing the World's Energy Future*

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# **Bison Verification and Validation Activities for TRISO**

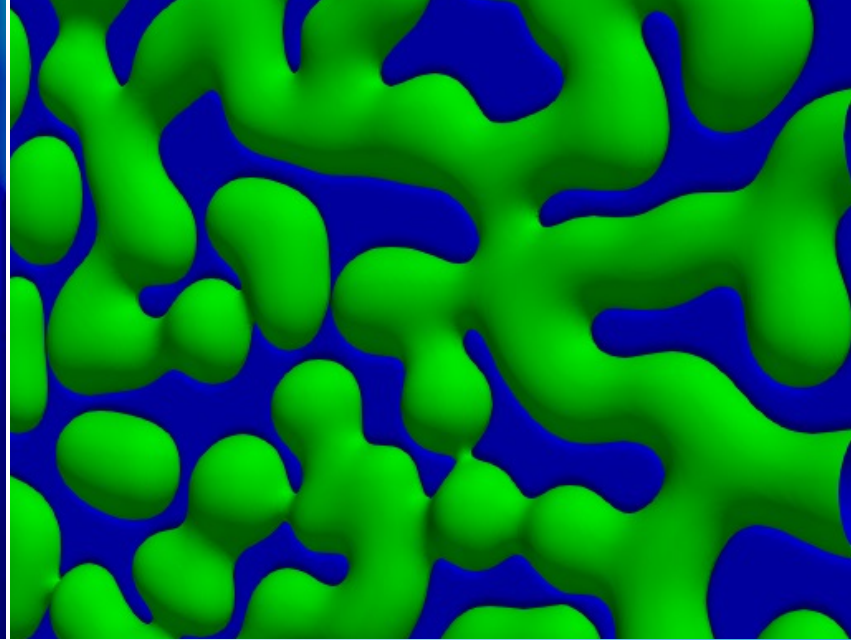
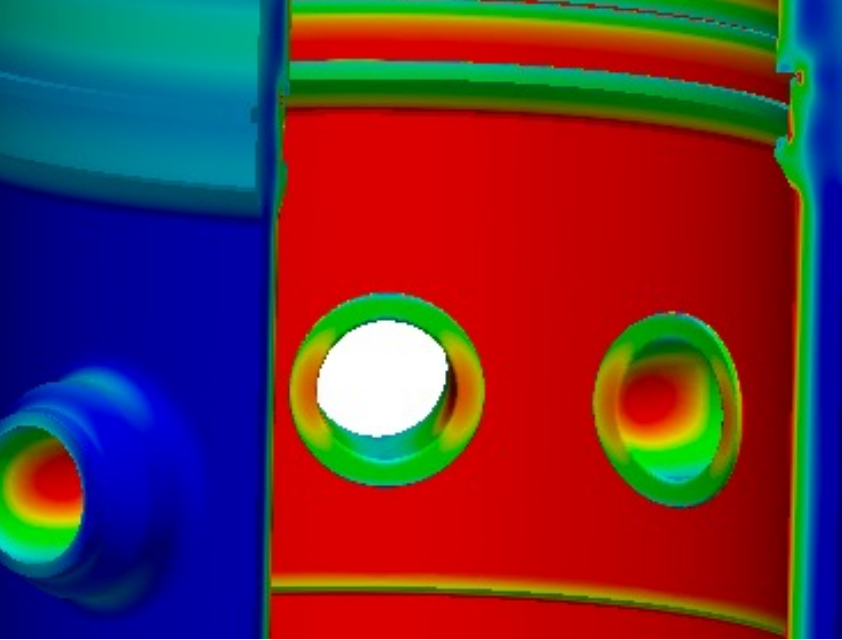
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**November 2023**

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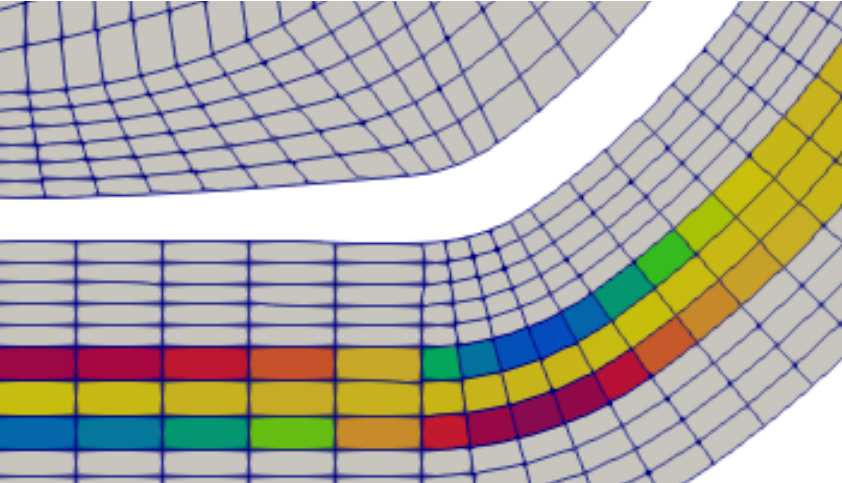
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**Jason Hales**

Idaho National Laboratory



# Bison Verification and Validation Activities for TRISO

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# Acknowledgements

- Aysenur Toptan
  - Former INL employee
  - Now at Westinghouse
  - Primary author of this paper
  - Focused on verification and validation
- Wen Jiang
  - Former INL employee
  - Now at North Carolina State University
  - Focused on tristructural isotropic (TRISO) capability development in Bison

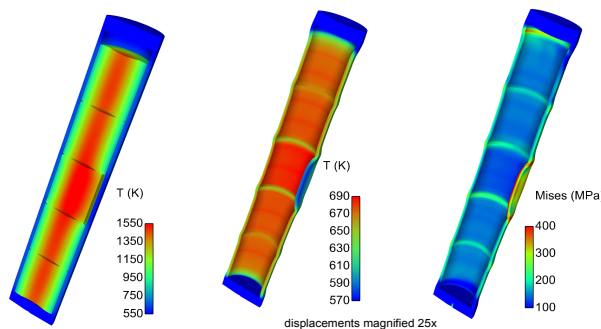


And many others

# Bison



## Results – Missing Pellet Surface

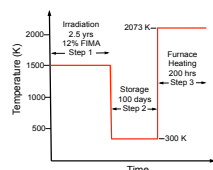
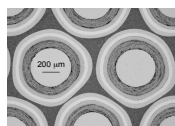


- MPS defect results in higher pellet temperatures and much higher clad stress; need for 3D analysis is clear

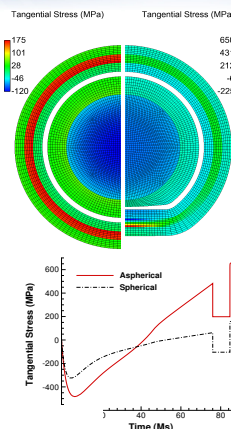
## 3D/Arbitrary Geometry

## Simulation of Aspherical TRISO Particle

- Aspherical particles are fairly common
- Single facet aspherical particle problem has been solved in BISON assuming 2D axisymmetry



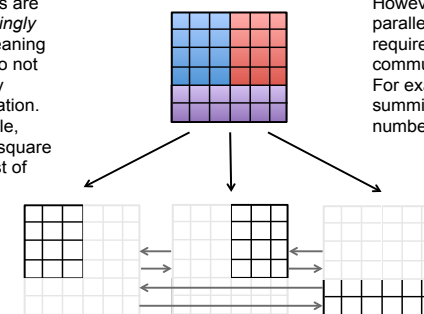
- During accident testing, asphericity raises peak tensile stress in SiC containment layer by almost 4x
- Typical run times of a few minutes on 8 processors



## Fuel Types

## Parallel Computing

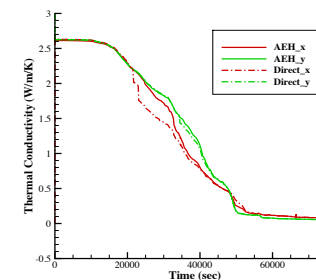
Some tasks are *embarrassingly parallel* meaning that they do not require any communication. For example, taking the square root of a list of numbers.



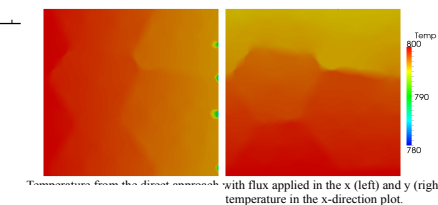
However, most parallel computing requires communication. For example, summing a list of numbers.

## Parallel Computing

## Thermal Conductivity from MARMOT



- The direct method is sensitive to bubbles on the boundary
- Boundary bubbles result in low local temperature
- This results in a low average temperature and thus a low thermal conductivity
- The AEH technique is not sensitive to local effects



## Coupling



# Bison TRISO Fuel Capabilities

## General Capabilities

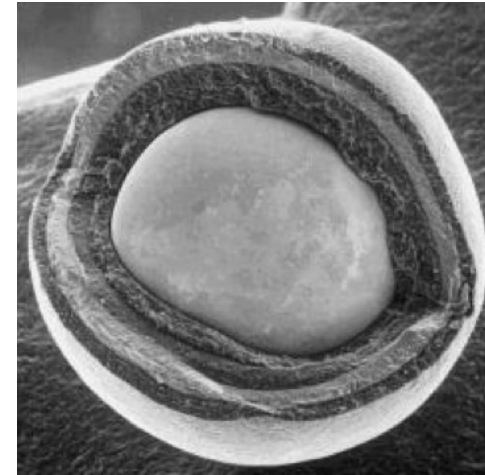
- Finite element based 1D-Spherical, 2D-RZ and 3D fully-coupled thermo-mechanics with species diffusion
- Linear or quadratic elements with large deformation mechanics
- Elasticity with thermal expansion
- Steady and transient behavior
- Massively parallel computation

## Fuel Kernel

- Temperature/burnup/porosity dependent thermal conductivity
- Solid and gaseous fission product swelling
- Densification
- Thermal and irradiation creep
- Fission gas release (two stage)
- CO production
- Radioactive decay

## Gap Behavior

- Gap heat transfer with  $k_g = f(T, n)$
- Gap mass transfer
- Mechanical contact
- Particle pressure as a function of:
  - evolving gas volume (from mechanics)
  - gas mixture (from FGR and CO model)
  - gas temperature approximation

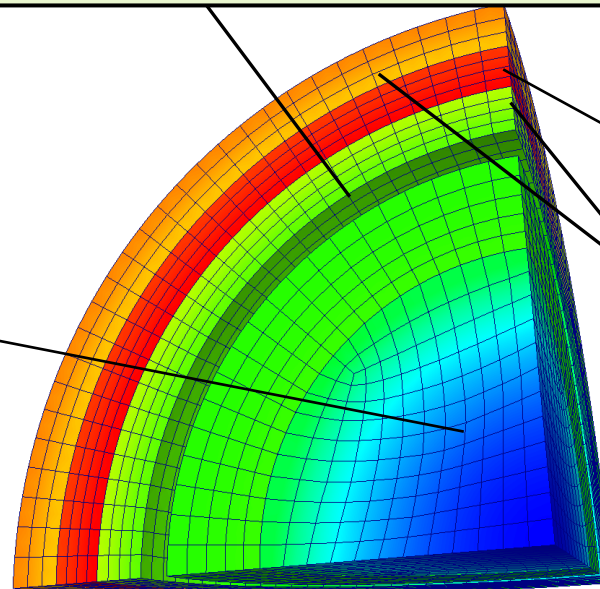


## Silicon Carbide

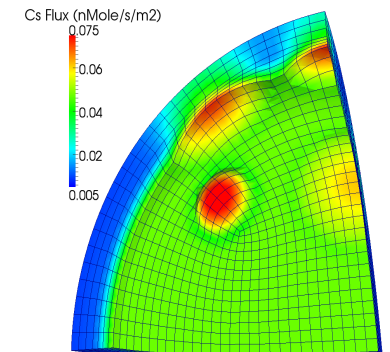
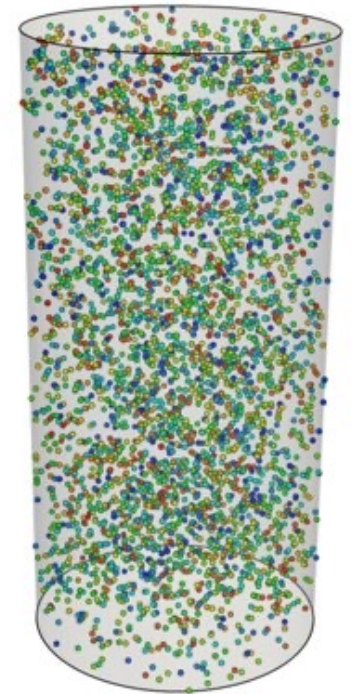
- Irradiation creep

## Pyrolytic Carbon

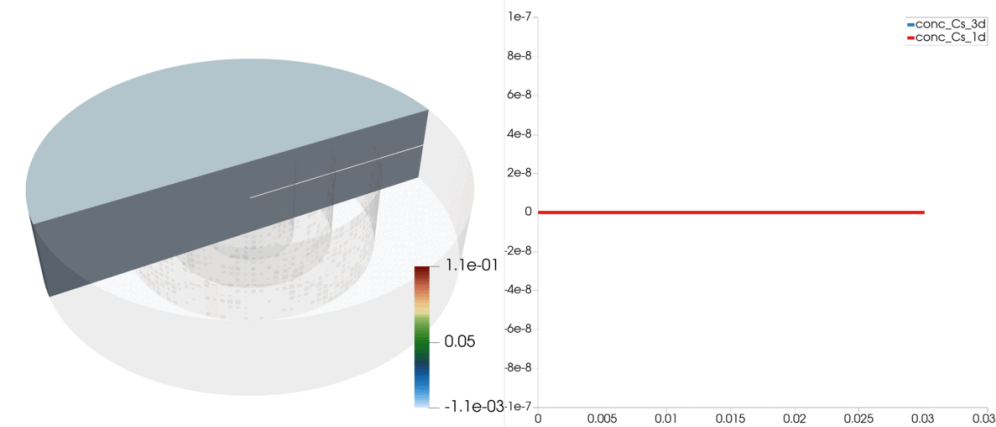
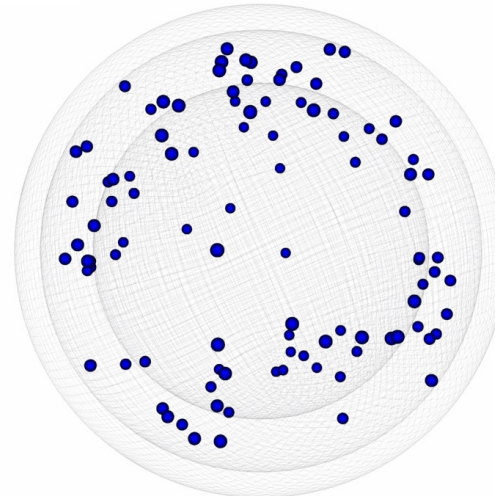
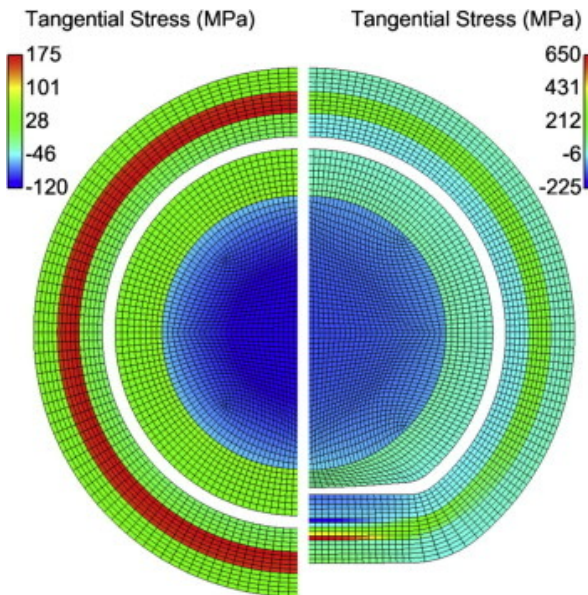
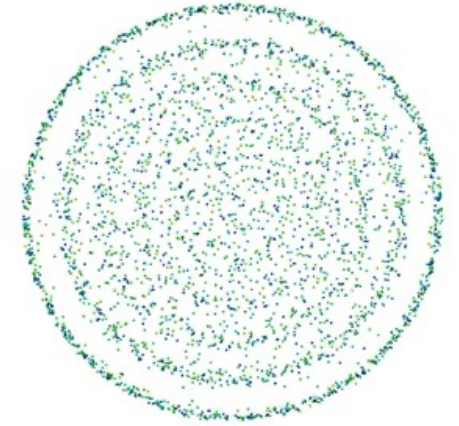
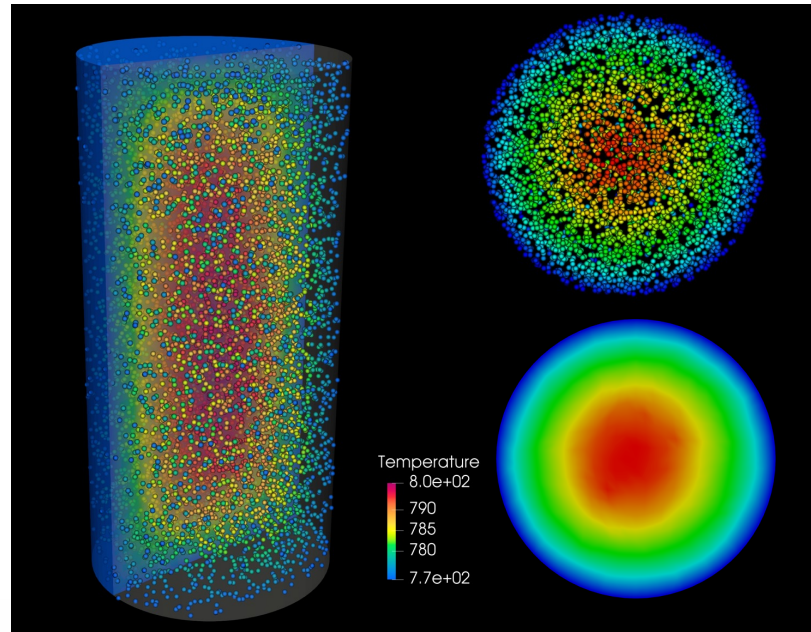
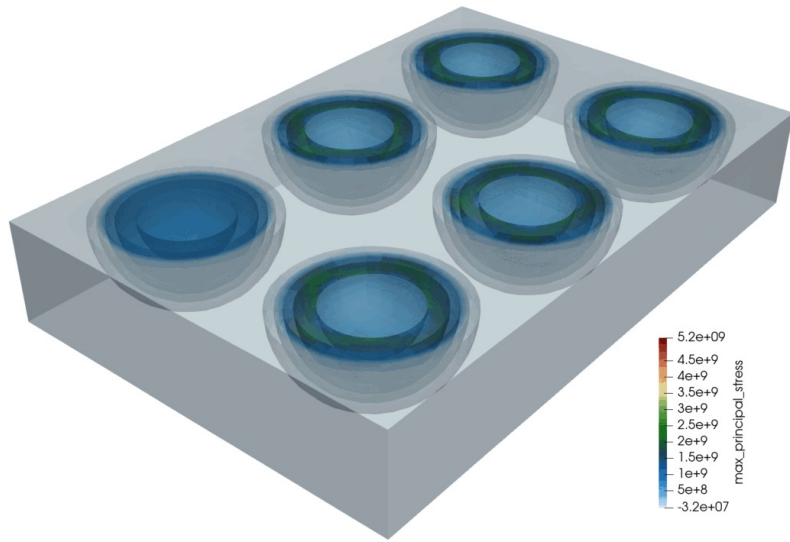
- Anisotropic irradiation-induced strain
- Irradiation creep



Tangential Stress



# Bison for TRISO Fuel Analysis





# Software Quality Assurance

- Software engineering procedures such as revision control, issue tracking, peer review, defect analysis, automated testing (see <https://github.com/idaholab/civet>), and creation of online documentation help ensure the development of a high-quality code.
- Bison uses a GitHub server internal to INL for revision control, issue tracking, and peer review.
- Automated testing occurs with every pull request.
- Online documentation is at <https://mooseframework.inl.gov/bison/>

## LCOV - code coverage report

Current view: **top level**

Test: **idaholab/bison: #5644 (f54bdd) with base 6ba5c9**

Date: **2023-10-18 13:52:54**

	Hit	Total	Coverage
Lines:	41803	45438	92.0 %
Functions:	3879	4410	88.0 %

Legend: Rating: low: < 75 % medium: >= 75 % high: >= 90 %

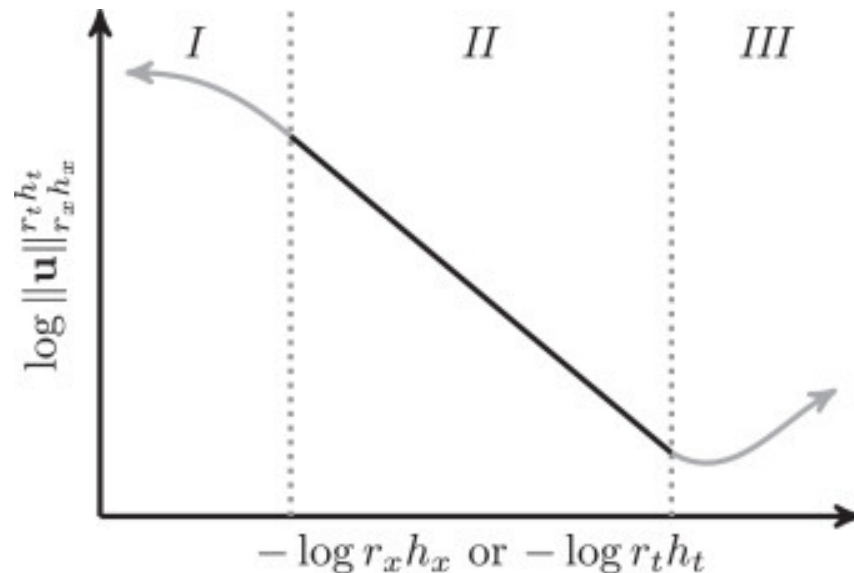
Directory	Line Coverage ↕		Functions ↕	
<a href="#">include/actions</a>	<div><div></div></div>	94.1 %	48 / 51	22.5 %
<a href="#">include/auxkernels</a>	<div><div></div></div>	100.0 %	19 / 19	50.0 %
<a href="#">include/bcs</a>	<div><div></div></div>	100.0 %	6 / 6	50.0 %
<a href="#">include/functions</a>	<div><div></div></div>	82.8 %	48 / 58	5.0 %
<a href="#">include/interfaces</a>	<div><div></div></div>	25.0 %	4 / 16	40.0 %
<a href="#">include/materials</a>	<div><div></div></div>	72.4 %	21 / 29	38.7 %
<a href="#">include/materials/tensor_mechanics</a>	<div><div></div></div>	70.8 %	46 / 65	78.8 %
<a href="#">include/meshgenerators</a>	<div><div></div></div>	93.3 %	28 / 30	80.0 %
<a href="#">include/postprocessors</a>	<div><div></div></div>	100.0 %	22 / 22	85.2 %
<a href="#">include/userobject</a>	<div><div></div></div>	61.3 %	19 / 31	61.5 %
<a href="#">include/utils</a>	<div><div></div></div>	93.3 %	28 / 30	57.1 %
<a href="#">include/vectorpostprocessors</a>	<div><div></div></div>	100.0 %	7 / 7	75.0 %
<a href="#">src</a>	<div><div></div></div>	100.0 %	5 / 5	100.0 %
<a href="#">src/actions</a>	<div><div></div></div>	91.3 %	7522 / 8236	99.7 %
<a href="#">src/auxkernels</a>	<div><div></div></div>	92.5 %	1153 / 1246	100.0 %
<a href="#">src/base</a>	<div><div></div></div>	76.1 %	35 / 46	54.5 %
<a href="#">src/bcs</a>	<div><div></div></div>	93.7 %	667 / 712	96.3 %
<a href="#">src/constraints</a>	<div><div></div></div>	87.1 %	182 / 209	100.0 %
<a href="#">src/cxxmatpro</a>	<div><div></div></div>	93.6 %	132 / 141	90.6 %
<a href="#">src/dirackernels</a>	<div><div></div></div>	100.0 %	20 / 20	100.0 %
<a href="#">src/functions</a>	<div><div></div></div>	91.2 %	1405 / 1540	96.4 %
<a href="#">src/interfacekernels</a>	<div><div></div></div>	91.0 %	71 / 78	87.5 %
<a href="#">src/interfaces</a>	<div><div></div></div>	100.0 %	13 / 13	100.0 %
<a href="#">src/kernels</a>	<div><div></div></div>	90.8 %	687 / 757	87.9 %
<a href="#">src/materials</a>	<div><div></div></div>	92.8 %	11517 / 12404	90.1 %
<a href="#">src/materials/tensor_mechanics</a>	<div><div></div></div>	93.2 %	7567 / 8117	89.6 %
<a href="#">src/meshgenerators</a>	<div><div></div></div>	95.7 %	4488 / 4692	96.6 %
<a href="#">src/parser</a>	<div><div></div></div>	100.0 %	78 / 78	100.0 %
<a href="#">src/postprocessors</a>	<div><div></div></div>	92.3 %	1624 / 1759	97.7 %
<a href="#">src/timesteppers</a>	<div><div></div></div>	75.0 %	21 / 28	100.0 %
<a href="#">src/userobject</a>	<div><div></div></div>	86.3 %	2408 / 2791	93.8 %
<a href="#">src/utils</a>	<div><div></div></div>	89.2 %	1210 / 1356	77.4 %
<a href="#">src/vectorpostprocessors</a>	<div><div></div></div>	83.0 %	702 / 846	89.4 %

# Verification

- Verification comes in two parts:
  - Code verification: ensures the code represents the underlying mathematical model. Does it match analytical solutions?
  - Solution verification: assesses sources of numerical errors like round-off, tolerances, and truncation error for a specific application problem, which likely does not have an analytical solution. Does the code reduce error at the expected rate with mesh refinement?

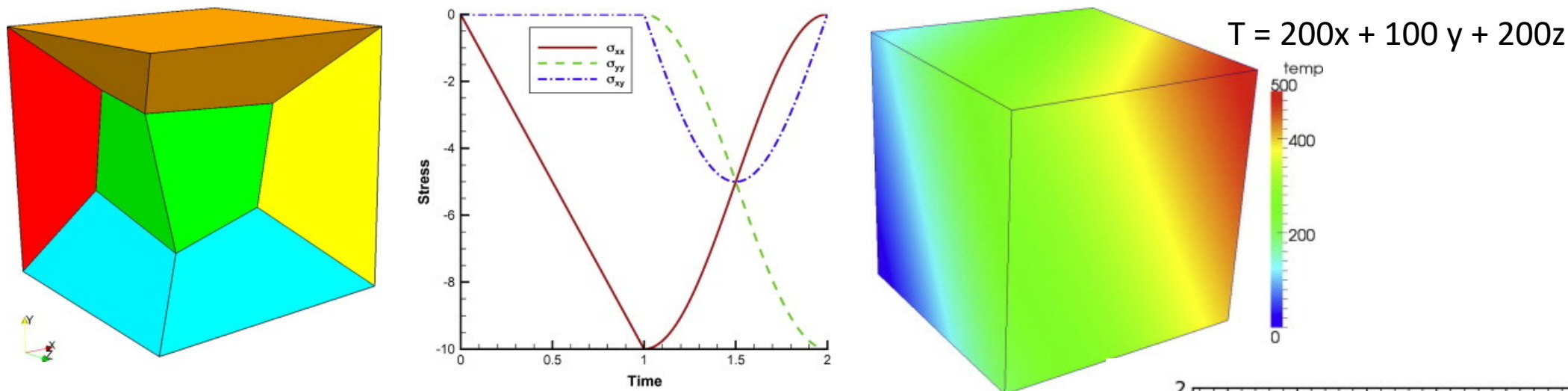
$$||u - \tilde{u}|| = \left[ \int_{\Omega} (u - \tilde{u})^2 d\Omega \right]^{1/2}$$

$$||u_{\text{refined}} - \tilde{u}_{\text{coarse}}|| = \left[ \int_{\Omega} (u_{\text{refined}} - \tilde{u}_{\text{coarse}})^2 d\Omega \right]^{1/2}$$

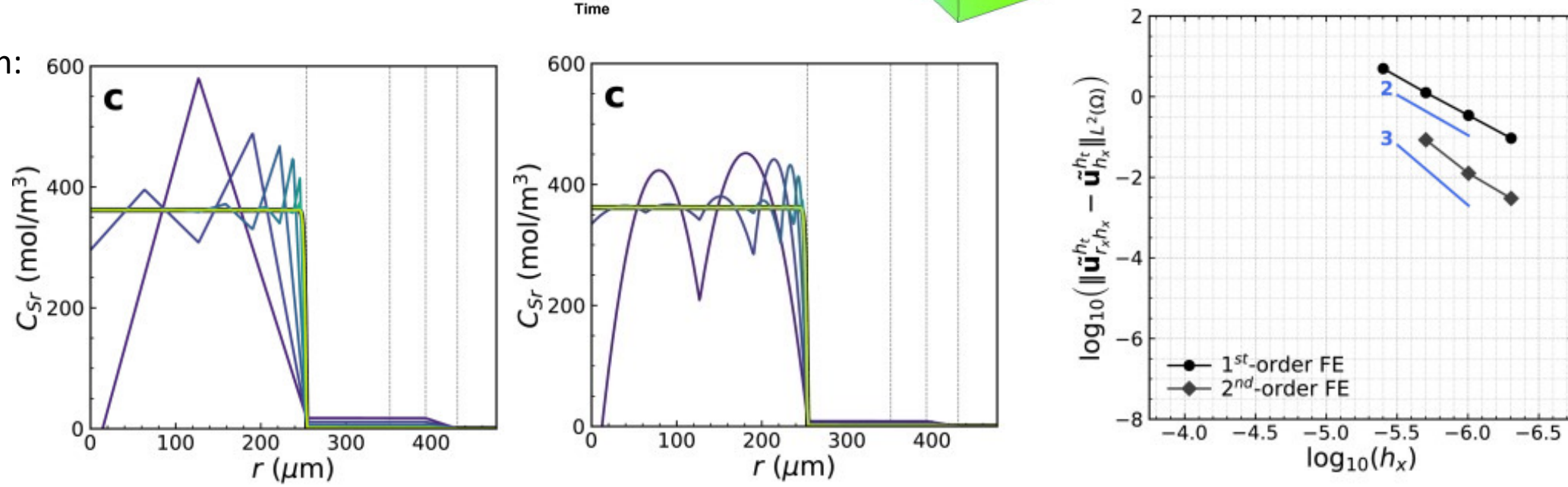


# Bison Verification of TRISO Capabilities

Foundational code verification:

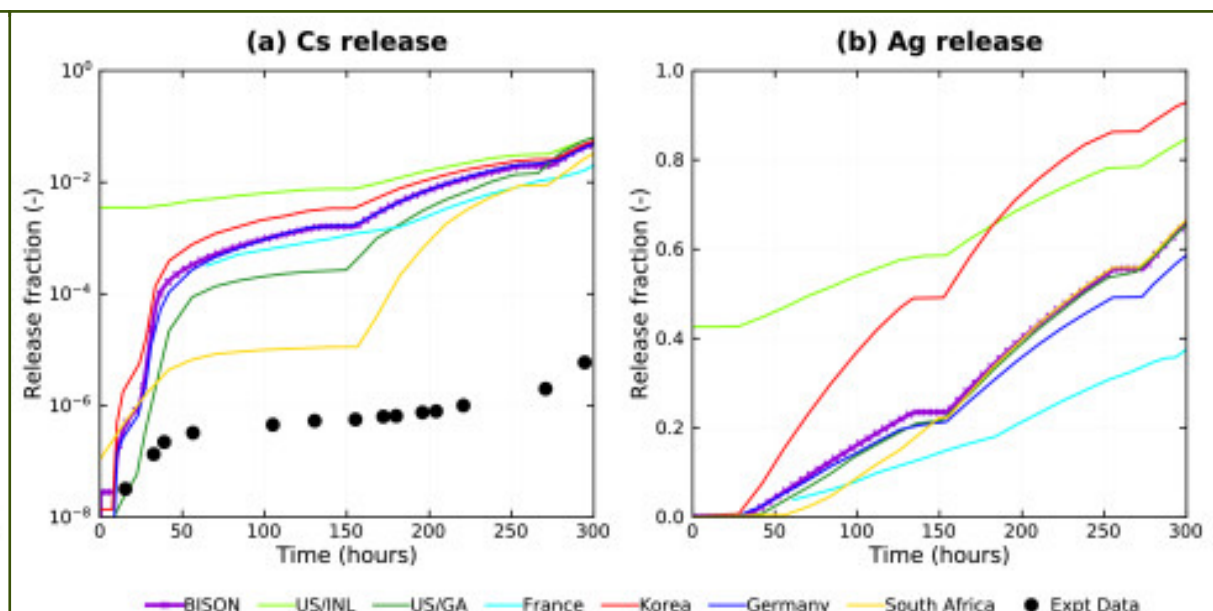
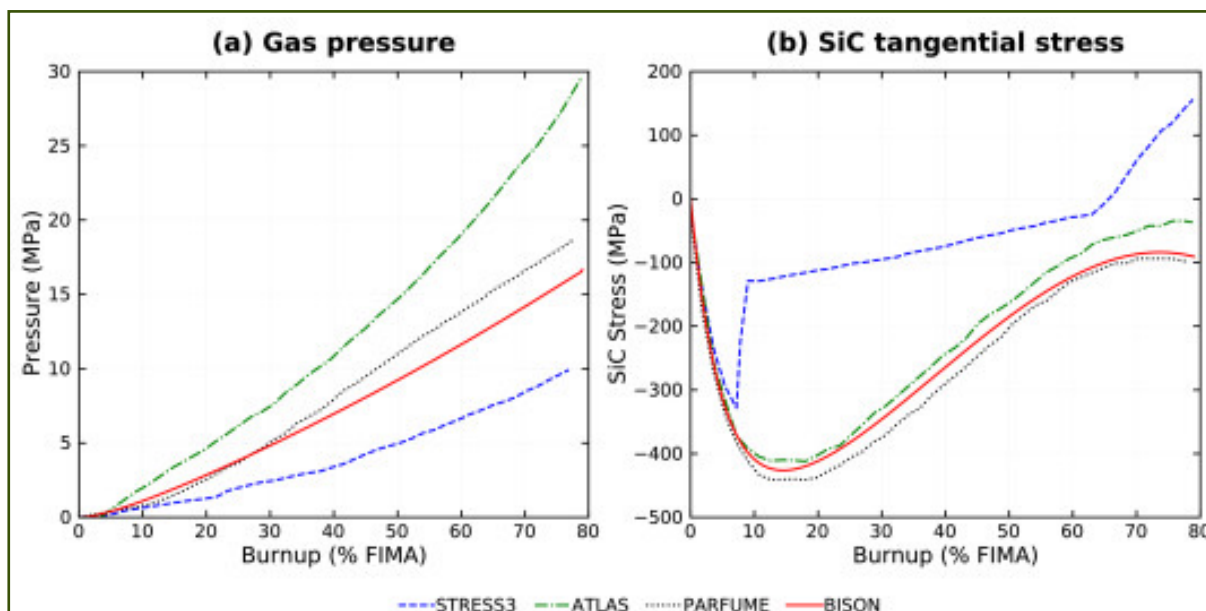
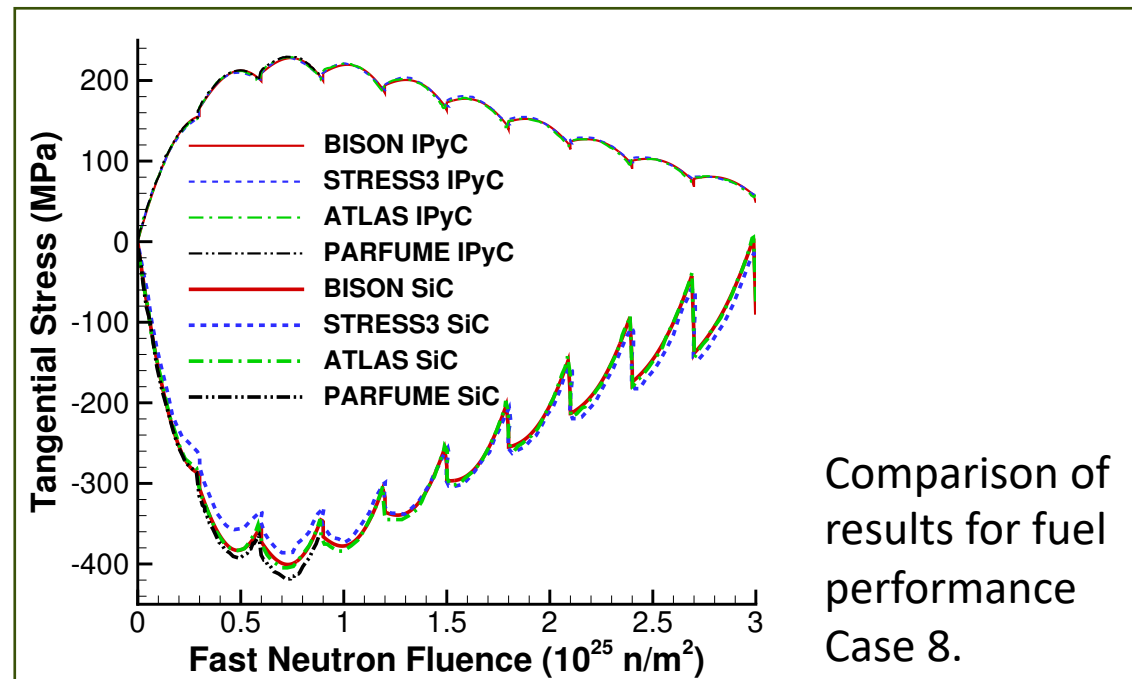


Solution verification:



# Benchmarks

- Benchmarks or code-to-code comparisons can be helpful in providing confidence in a code's capabilities, but they lack the rigor of verification and validation activities.
- The International Atomic Energy Agency sponsored CRP-6, including two benchmark exercises: fuel performance (stress, 13 cases) and fission product release (diffusion, 11 cases)



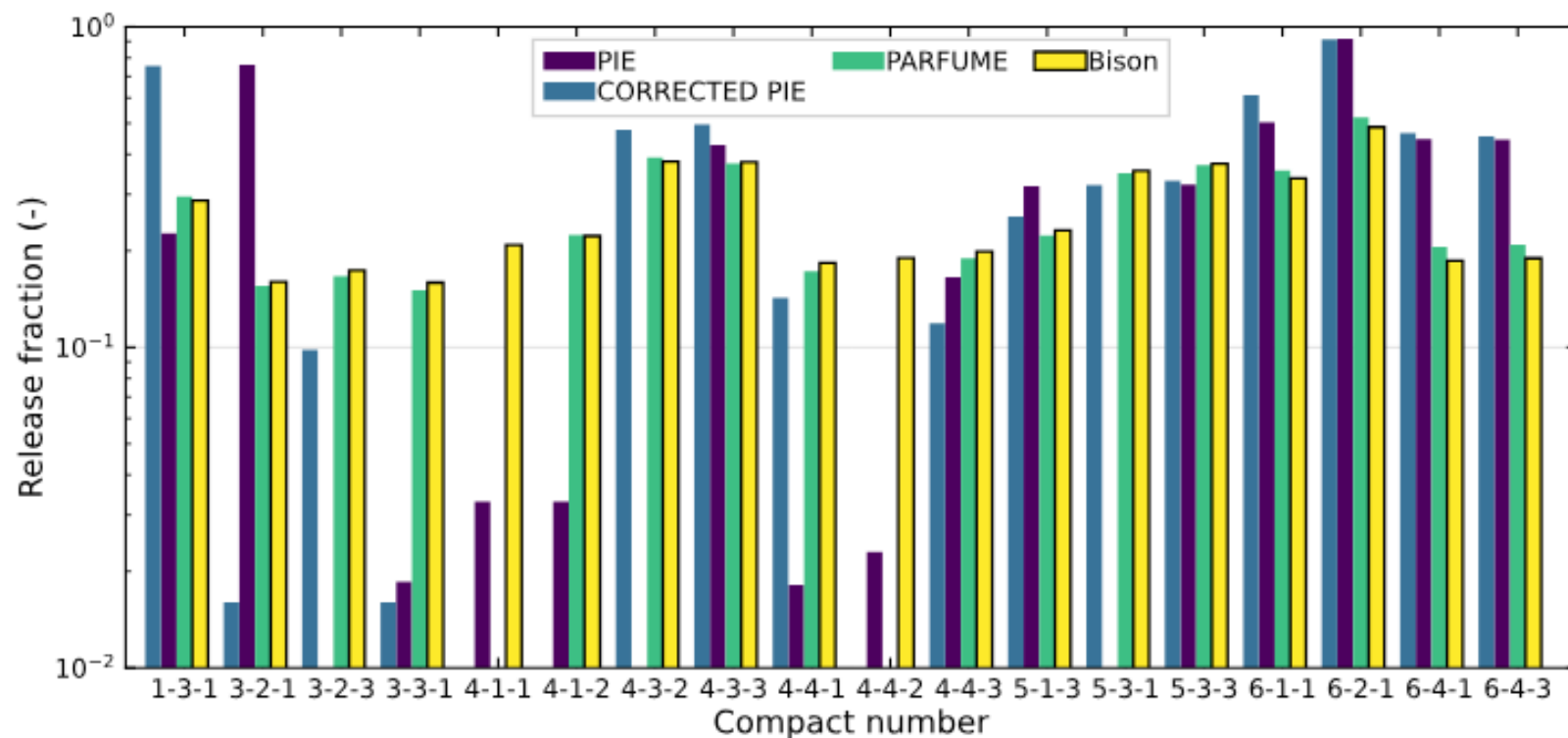


# Validation

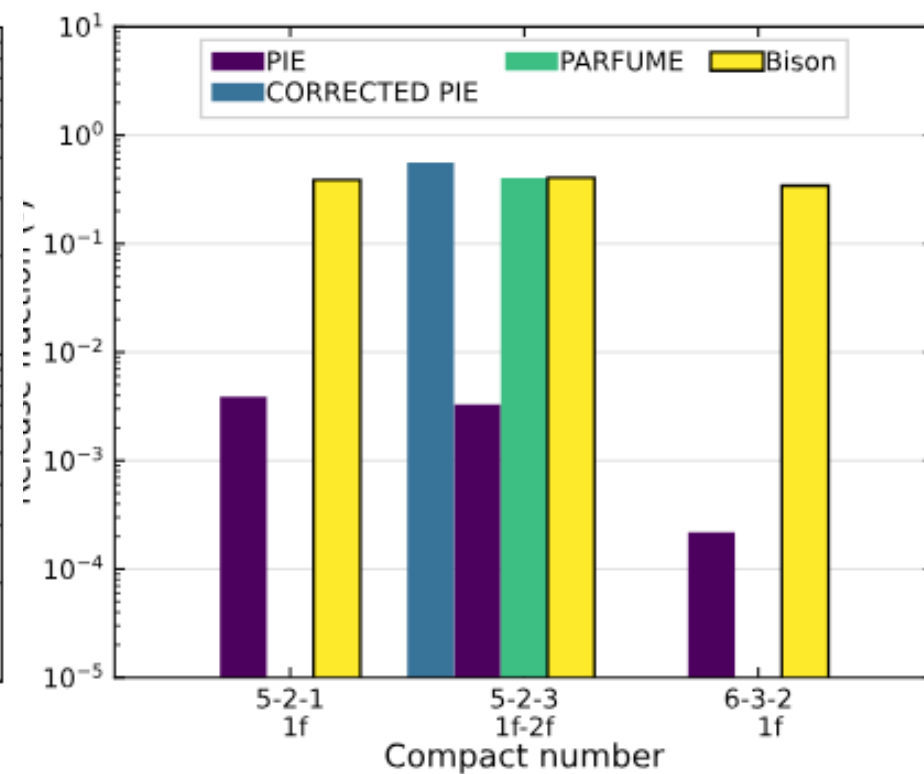
- Validation is the process of comparing simulation results to experimental data. How well does the code model reality?

DOE's Advanced Gas Reactor program irradiated TRISO fuel in a total of 72 cylindrical compacts as part of AGR-1. Post-irradiation examination determined the release fractions of fission products such as silver, cesium, and strontium.

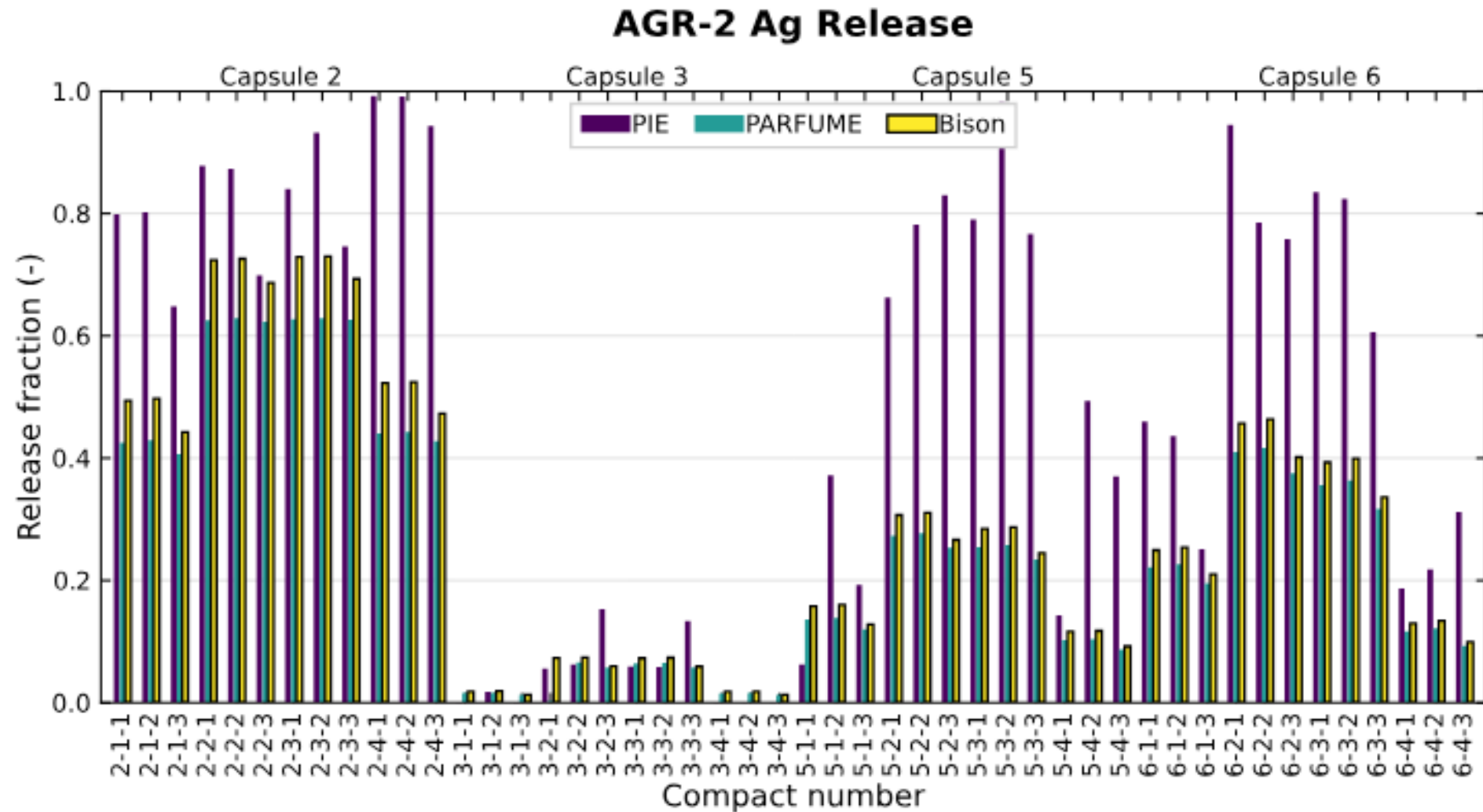
**AGR-1 Ag Release (Intact)**



**AGR-1 Ag Release (Failed)**



# Bison Validation of TRISO Capabilities



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