

Fission reactors



The reactor is started by a **neutron-emitting source**; it is stopped by inserting the control rods more deeply into the reactor core at the site of the fission.

The reactor core also contains a **moderator**, which acts to slow down neutrons so that they can be captured more readily by the fuel. Graphite is commonly used as a moderator.

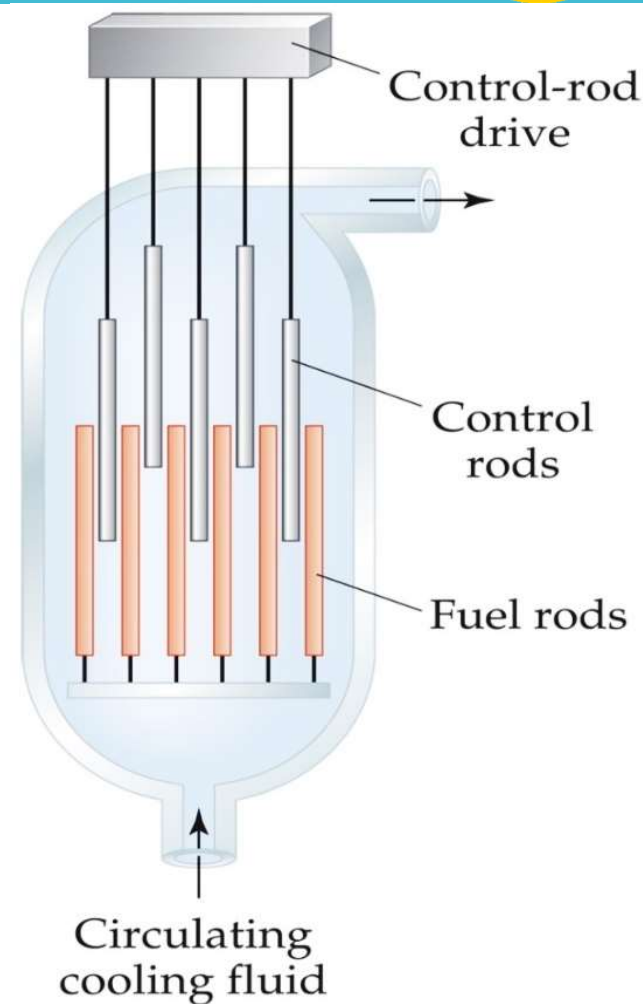


Diagram of a reactor core. The diagram shows fuel elements, control rods, and cooling fluid. A moderator, used to slow the neutrons, is also present.