# 4. Control Rod Worth Measurement (Reactivity Measurement)

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#### **1. Positive Period Method**



#### **Point Kinetics Equation**

 The reactor kinetics equations based on one-point reactor approximation with oneenergy-group theory are as follows:

where n(t) = neutron density or total neutron population,

- $C_i(t) = i$ -th group delayed neutron precursor density,
- $\lambda_i$  = decay constant of the *i*-th group delayed neutron precursor,
- $\Lambda$  = prompt neutron generation time, which is the prompt neutron lifetime *l* divided by  $k_{eff}$ ,
- $\beta_{eff}$  = effective delayed neutron fraction
- $\beta_{i,eff}$  = effective delayed neutron fraction of *i*-th delayed neutron precursor group

#### **Inhour Equation**

- All of the coefficients in Eq. (1) are physical constants, in practice, except the reactivity, which can be changed by variation of a operation parameter.
- In the case where reactivity does not vary, the system is a "constant coefficient" differential equation system, and its solution can be found by merely seeking exponential solutions of the form

where  $\omega$ , a, and  $b_i$  are constants.

• Insertion of Eq. (2) into Eq. (1) gives

$$\omega b_i \exp(\omega t) = \frac{\beta_{i,eff}}{\Lambda} a \exp(\omega t) - \lambda_i b_i \exp(\omega t) \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, 6). \quad (3b)$$

#### **Inhour Equation (Contd.)**

By substituting b<sub>i</sub> derived from Eq. (3b) into Eq. (3a), we can obtain a characteristic equation as

$$\rho = \omega \left[ \Lambda_{eff} + \sum_{i=1}^{6} \frac{\beta_{i,eff}}{\lambda_i + \omega} \right]$$
(4a)

• Because  $\Lambda_{eff} = l/k_{eff}$ , Eq. (4a) can be expressed as

$$\rho = \omega \left[ -l \left( 1 - \frac{1}{k_{eff}} \right) + l + \sum_{i=1}^{6} \frac{\beta_{i,eff}}{\lambda_i + \omega} \right]$$
  
$$\Rightarrow \rho = \frac{\omega l}{\omega l + 1} + \frac{\omega}{\omega l + 1} \sum_{i=1}^{6} \frac{\beta_{i,eff}}{\lambda_i + \omega}$$
(4b)

• Eq. (4) is called the "inhour equation" because it gives a quantity that can be expressed in hour<sup>-1</sup> (inverse hour).

#### **Inhour Equation (Contd.)**

When step-wise reactivity ρ is inserted into a reactor in the critical state, the neutron level n(t) after the insertion of reactivity can be expressed as a summation of exponential functions as follows:

$$n(t) = \sum_{j=1}^{7} A_j \exp(\omega_j t)$$
 (5)

where  $\omega_i$  should satisfy Eq. (4).



#### **Positive Period Method**

From the figure of < Relation between reactivity ρ and ω>, when positive reacitvity ρ is inserted into the core, only one positive ω<sub>j</sub> is obtained and the rest of six ω<sub>j</sub> are negative values; this means that after the terms with negative ω<sub>j</sub> components of Eq. (5) vanish, the reactor power increases as:

$$n(t) \cong A_1 \exp(\omega_1 t) \tag{6}$$

• The inverse of  $\omega_1$ , *T*, is known as the stable reactor period (or, merely, the period), which satisfies the following equation:

$$\rho = \frac{\omega l}{\omega l + 1} + \frac{\omega}{\omega l + 1} \sum_{i=1}^{6} \frac{\beta_i}{\lambda_i + \omega}$$
$$\Rightarrow \rho = \frac{l}{l+T} + \frac{T}{l+T} \sum_{i=1}^{6} \frac{\beta_i}{\lambda_i T + 1} \qquad (7)$$

• For measuring positive reactivity, the reactivity  $\rho$  is calculated from Eq. (7) using a measurement of the positive period *T*.



### 2. Rod Drop Method



SNU Monte Carlo Lab.

#### **Extrapolation Method**

- When the reactor power is maintained at a constant value for a certain period of time, the neutron density and the delayed neutron precursor density are constants as n<sub>0</sub> and C<sub>i0</sub>, respectively.
- From Eq. (1b), the static density of precursor group *i* can be obtained as

$$\frac{dC_{i}(t)}{dt} = \frac{\beta_{i,eff}}{\Lambda} n(t) - \lambda_{i}C_{i}(t) \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, 6)$$

$$\blacktriangleright \qquad C_{i0} = \frac{\beta_{i,eff}}{\Lambda\lambda_{i}} n_{0} \quad (i = 1, 2, \dots, 6) \quad (8)$$

$$\blacktriangleright \qquad \sum_{i=1}^{6} \lambda_{i}C_{i0} = \sum_{i=1}^{6} \frac{\beta_{i,eff}}{\Lambda} n_{0} = \frac{\beta_{eff}}{\Lambda} n_{0} \quad (9)$$

Assuming that the delayed neutron precursor densities is unchanged from these static values during a very short time after a control rod of reactivity worth of ρ is suddenly inserted, Eq. (1a) for this state can be written as

$$\frac{dn(t)}{dt} = \frac{\rho - \beta_{eff}}{\Lambda} n(t) + \frac{\beta_{eff}}{\Lambda} n_0 \qquad (10)$$

#### **Extrapolation Method (Contd.)**

• One can easily solve Eq. (10) using the initial condition that  $n_0 = n_0$  as

 Because the second term in the right side of Eq. (11) decreases immediately, n(t) becomes immediately after the control rod insertion into

$$n_1 = \frac{\beta_{eff}}{\beta_{eff} - \rho} n_0 \quad ---- \quad (12)$$

Therefore reactivity can be obtained by

$$\rho = \frac{n_1 - n_0}{n_1} \beta_{eff} \quad ---- \quad (13)$$



T. Misawa, H. Unesaki and C. Pyeon, *Nuclear Reactor Physics Experiments*, Kyoto University Press (2010).

#### **Integral Counting Method**

• If one solves Eqs. (1a) and (1b) by the Laplace transform method, the following equation is obtained  $\beta_{i,eff}$ 

$$C_{i0} = \frac{\Gamma_{i,eff}}{\Lambda\lambda_{i}} n_{0} - (8)$$

$$N(s) = \frac{\Lambda\left(n_{0} + \sum_{i=1}^{6} \frac{\lambda C_{i0}}{s + \lambda_{i}}\right)}{s\Lambda - \rho + \sum_{i=1}^{6} \left(\frac{\beta_{i,eff}}{s + \lambda_{i}}\right)} = \frac{n_{0}\left(\Lambda + \sum_{i=1}^{6} \frac{\beta_{i,eff}}{s + \lambda_{i}}\right)}{s\Lambda - \rho + \sum_{i=1}^{6} \left(\frac{\beta_{i,eff}}{s + \lambda_{i}}\right)} - (14)$$

• Using the following well-known characteristic of the Laplace transform:

$$\lim_{s \to 0} N(s) = \lim_{s \to 0} \int_0^\infty e^{-st} n(t) dt = \int_0^\infty n(t) dt$$
 (15)

Eq. (14) can be expressed as

$$\int_{0}^{\infty} n(t)dt = \lim_{s \to 0} \frac{n_0 \left(\Lambda + \sum_{i=1}^{6} \frac{\beta_{i,eff}}{s + \lambda_i}\right)}{s\Lambda - \rho + \sum_{i=1}^{6} \left(\frac{\beta_{i,eff}}{s + \lambda_i}\right)} = -\frac{n_0}{\rho} \left(\Lambda + \sum_{i=1}^{6} \frac{\beta_{i,eff}}{\lambda_i}\right) \quad (16)$$

## **Positive Period Method Experiment in Kyoto Univ. Critical Assembly**



## **ITRC Experiments for KUCA C-core with D<sub>2</sub>O Tank**

- Experiment for C-core w/ D2O Tank: Aug. 28-31, 2012
   Experiment for C-core w/o D2O Tank: Jan. 14-18, 2013
- Reactor: Kyoto University Critical Assembly of Koyto University Research Reactor Institute
- Participants: C. H. Pyeon, H. J. Shim, S. H. Choi, B. K. Jeon, E. H. Ryu



- 1. Core tank
- 2. Handl for the core separation mechanism
- 3. Core assembly
- 4. Core separation mechanism
- 5. Float switch to detect the core overflow
- 6. Overflow tube
- 7. Water level switch
- 8. Dump valve
- 9. Dump tank
- 10. High-flow feed pump
- 11. Low-flow feed pump
- 12. Supporting structure of the scaffold
- 13. Supporting structure of the core tank
- 14. Water feed tank for brecision control

T. Misawa, H. Unesaki and C. Pyeon, *Nuclear Reactor Physics Experiments*, Kyoto University Press (2010).

McCARD

#### **Fuel Frame**



#### **C35R80D2O** Configuration



Frame	Num. of plates
3501~3508	40
3509~3512	16
Total	384



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Safety UIC #6

D2O tank

26.2mm spacer

#### **Core Configurations**



#### C35G0(4) (Light water medanated)

(Light water moderated)										
Fuel Frame	Num. of plates									
3501~3508	40									
3509~3512	27									
Total	428									

# C35R80D2O(4) (Light water moderated with $D_2O$ tank)

Num. of plates	
40	
16	
384	1
	40 16 <b>384</b>

# C35R80D2O Layout



*McCARD* 

### **Procedure of Experiments**

- Conditions: The experiments were conducted in the power-level less than 0.01W.
- Procedures
- ① The desired temperature of light water is mainly achieved in the dump tank by heaters or radiator. Then the heated or cool-downed water is fed into the core tank.
- 2 The criticality was adjusted by using the C3 rod in the condition that the other control rods and all the safety rods were withdrawn to the upper limit at the desired temperature condition:

Case	CT 5 <sup>a)</sup>	CT 6 <sup>a)</sup>	DT center <sup>b)</sup>	DT upper <sup>b)</sup>
27	26.7	26.7	27.3	27.5
38	38.1	38.1	38.0	38.0
40	40.1	40.2	39.9	40.2
45	44.9	45.0	44.9	45.1
50	50.4	50.4	50.1	50.3
55	55.2	55.1	54.6	54.8
58	58.5	58.4	58.2	58.6

<	C35R80D2O	(4)	>

< C35G0(4) >	
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Case	CT 5 <sup>a)</sup>	CT 6 <sup>a)</sup>
19	19.3	19.2
27	27.0	27.0
30	30.1	30.1
40	39.4	39.4
45	45.3	45.2
50	49.2	49.2
55	53.2	53.3
60	61.0	61.0

a) The CT 5 and 6 are the light water temperatures of lower and upper positions, respectively.

b) The DT center and upper are temperatures of the heavy water in the  $D_2O$  tank.

③ The reactivity worth of the inserted rod was measured by the **positive period method**.

#### **Positive Period Method**

• The reactivity worth of the inserted C3 rod was measured by withdrawing the rod and timing the doubling time. Then from the double time  $t_2$ , the reactor period  $t_e$  can be calculated by

$$t_e = t_2 / \ln 2$$

### **Positive Period Method Exp. in KUCA (Cont.)**

From a measured doubling time  $T_2$ , the *e*-folding time can be calculated by

$$e^{\omega T_2} = 2$$
  
$$\Rightarrow \omega = \frac{\ln 2}{T_2}$$
  
$$\Rightarrow T = \frac{T_2}{\ln 2}$$

炉心名	称		
日付			Run. No.
$\beta_{eff} =$	7,611×10-3		$\ell = 4,92 \times 10^{-5}$
i	<i>a</i> <sub>i</sub>	$\lambda_i$ (sec <sup>-1</sup> )	$\frac{a_i}{1+\lambda_i T} \qquad (T = \frac{1}{6} \cdot \frac{1}{89} \text{ sec})$
1	0.033	0.0124	0.0180
2	0.219	0.0305	0,0720
3	0.196	0.111	0,0233
4	0.395	0.301	0,0187
5	0.115	1.14	0,00149
6	0.042	3.01	0,000 208
	$\sum_{i=1}^{6} \frac{a_i}{1+\lambda_i T}$		0,1337
	$\sum_{i=1}^{6} \frac{a_i}{1 + \lambda_i T} \times \mu_i$	Beff	0,00101757
	$\frac{\ell}{T+\ell}$		7,35 × 107
	$\frac{T}{T+\ell}$	2011 - D.2. NG	
$\frac{\ell}{T+\ell}$	$+\frac{T}{T+\ell} \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_i}{1+\lambda_i T}$	$\times \beta_{eff}$ ( $\Delta k/k$ )	1.018×10-3
20			SNU Monte Carlo Lab.

KUCA反応度計算シート

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#### **ITRC Estimation**

• From the excess reactivities measured at the different temperatures  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ , the ITRC at the mid-temperature point,  $\alpha_{iso}$ , can be directly calculated by

$$\alpha_{\rm iso}\left(\frac{T_1+T_2}{2}\right) \cong \frac{\rho_{ex}(T_2)-\rho_{ex}(T_1)}{T_2-T_1}$$

• To enhance the smoothness of the ITRC estimations, the excess reactivity can be fitted to a quadratic curve [1,2]:

$$\rho_{\rm ex}\left(T\right) \cong aT^2 + bT + c$$

where *a*, *b*, and *c* are fitting constants.

• Then  $\alpha_{iso}$  can be determined by

$$\alpha_{\rm iso}(T) \cong 2aT + b$$

[1] M. Mori, S. Shiroya and K. Kanda, "Temperature Coefficient of Reactivity in Light-Water Moderated and Reflected Cores Loaded with Highly-Enriched-Uranium Fuel," *J. Nucl. Sci. Technol.*, 24[8], 653, 1987.
[2] S. Shiroya, *et al.*, "Experimental Study on Temperature Coefficient of Reactivity in Light-Water-Moderated and Heavy-Water-Reflected Cylindrical Core Loaded with Highly-Enriched-Uranium or Medium-Enriched-Uranium Fuel," *J. Nucl. Sci. Technol.*, 32[11], 1081, 1995.

# **Comparison of ITRCs**

• Comparison of the excess reactivities and ITRC for the two core configurations



- ✓ The quadratic polynomial is observed fairly well fit in the excess reactivity according to the system temperature.
- ✓ The ITRCs calculated from  $\rho_{ex}^{McCARD}$  agree with those from  $\rho_{ex}^{exp.}$  within 95% confidence intervals.



## Control Rod Worth Measurement at AGN-201K



### **Method #1: Positive Period Method**

• For the method #1 of positive period method, a fine control rod (FR) is inserted from 0 to the certain level as shown in the following figure at each step.



Myung Hyun Kim, Reactor Experiment, Reactor Research & Education Center, Kyung Hee University (2018).

### **Method #1: Procedure of Positive Period Method**

- 1. Student operator should read all reactor conditions and write down at the worksheet first. They are temperatures at various locations, source position, neutron and gamma radiation dose in the reactor hall. Once steady state condition is confirmed, he should be ready to measure the time for power increase by **1.5 times**.
- 2. SRO (as experiment instructor) asked a student commander to remind the whole procedures.
- 3. According to the request of student commander, RO is ready to move FR as his/her request. Then RO move the FR quickly in order to simulate step-wise movement. When he finished, he gives sign of start.
- 4. After the time of start sign, each student should measure twice the time of power increase by 1.5 times. Then he gives a sign of finish to commander. During this period commander should read period and reactivity from DMC and DDRCS.
- 5. When a commander recognize all measurement was done twice, he gives order to power decrease with FR and CR to make a reactor to the original steady state. The positions of FR and CR should be the same as the initial condition. Power level should be the same with the initial condition.
- 6. The procedure mentioned above should be repeated until FR is inserted upto the full length.

### **Worksheet of Method 1**

#### <1> Positive Period Method

		Rod Po	osition	Channel	#	Channel #	Channel #		
#	Time	CR	FR	Time for Increase by 1.5 Times	$T = \frac{\Delta t}{\ln 1.5}$	Time for Increase by 1.5 Times	$T = \frac{\Delta t}{\ln 1.8}$	Record from DDRCS	
Initial Criticality			0	-	-	-	-		
-	$\setminus$		4cm	1)	8	1)			
1	$\times$	"		2)	с. 	2)			
	$/ \setminus$			Avg.=	2	Avg.=			
Recriticality	5		0	-	-	-	-		
	$\setminus$	2	7cm	1)		1)		42	
2	$\times$	× "		2)	8	2)			
	$/ \setminus$		12:	Av <mark>g</mark> .=		Avg.=			
Rec <mark>riti</mark> cality			0	-	-	-	-		
	$\setminus$		10cm	1)		1)		4-1 -	
3	$\times$	"		2)		2)			
	$/ \setminus$		12	Av <mark>g</mark> .=		Avg.=			
Recriticality			0	-	-	-	-		

### **Method #2: Compensation Method**

• For the method #2 of compensation method, a FR is inserted by certain distance at every step after achieving the critical state.



Myung Hyun Kim, Reactor Experiment, Reactor Research & Education Center, Kyung Hee University (2018).

### **Method #2: Procedure of Compensation Method**

- 1. Student operator should read all reactor conditions and write down at the worksheet first. They are temperatures at various locations, source position, neutron and gamma radiation dose in the reactor hall. Once steady state condition is confirmed, he should be ready to measure the time for power increase by 1.5 times.
- 2. SRO (as experiment instructor) asked a student commander to remind the whole procedures.
- 3. According to the request of student commander, RO is ready to move FR as his (her) request. Then RO move the FR quickly in order to simulate step-wise movement. When he finished, he gives sign of start.
- 4. After the time of start sign, each student should measure twice the time of power increase by 1.5 times. Then he gives a sign of finish to commander. During this period commander should read period and reactivity from DMC and DDRCS.
- 5. When a commander recognize all measurement was done twice, he gives order to **power decrease with only CR to make a reactor to the original steady state**. The positions of FR should not be changed after movement but the position of CR should be changed to make reactor critical at the initial steady-state condition.
- 6. The procedure mentioned above should be repeated until FR is inserted upto the full length.

### **Worksheet of Method 2**

#### <2> Compensation Method

		<b>Rod</b> Position		Channel	#	Channel	Reactivity	
#	Time	CR	FR	Time for Increase by 1.5 Times	Period $T = \frac{\Delta t}{\ln 1.5}$	Time for Increase by 1.5 Times	Period $T = \frac{\Delta t}{\ln 1.5}$	Record from DDRCS
Initial Criticality			0	<u>92</u> 1	-	-	-	
	$\setminus$		4cm	1)		1)		
1	$\times$	"		2)		2)		
	$/ \setminus$		2	Avg.=		Avg.=		
Recriticality		Ļ	"	-		-	-	
	$\setminus$ /	5	7cm	1)		1)		
2	$\times$	"		2)		2)		
	$/ \setminus$			Avg.=		Avg.=		
Recriticality	č. č	Ţ	"	9 <del>79</del> 9		-	-	
	$\setminus$ /		10cm	1)		1)		
3	Х	"		2)		2)		
	$/ \setminus$			Avg.=		Avg.=		
Recriticality		Ţ	. "	-	-	-	-	

### **Example of Experimental Results**

		Rod Posi	tion			Chan	nel 2					Char	nel 3					c	hannel 4			DDI	RCS
#	Time	CR	FR	분	초	초 환산	Т	Reactivity	(pcm)	분	초	초 환산	Т	Reactivity	(pcm)	분	초	초 환산	Т	Reactivity	(pcm)	Reactivit	ty (pcm)
Initial Criticality	14:47	21.87	0																			0	0
		21.87	4	5	39.00	339		#REF!	#REF!	5	3.00	303		#REF!	#REF!	5	55	355		#REF!	#REF!		
1		21.07	-	5	27.50	327.5				5	3.00	303				5	54	354					
				5	21.00	321				5	20.00	320											
					Avg=	329.1667	811.82	0.00010			Avg=	308.67	761.27	0.0001			Avg=	354.5	874.305	0.00009		9.2	9.2
Recriticality	15:08	21.67	4	1																			
		21.67	7	3	50.00	230		#REF!	#REF!	3	37.00	217		#REF!	#REF!	4	13	253		#REF!	#REF!		
2				3	50.00	230			#REF!	3	41.50	221.5			#REF!	4	18	258			#REF!		
				3	50.00	230				3	56.00	236											
	15.00				Avg=	230	567.25	0.000138			Avg=	224.83	554.51	0.00014			Avg=	255.5	630.141	0.000125		12.2	21.4
Recriticality	15:28	21.47	7	1	5450	1145		#DEEL	#DEEL	- 1	50.00	110		#DEEL	#DEEL	1	50.5	1105	1	#DEE1	#DEE1		
2		21.47	10		54.50	114.5		#KEF!	#REF!	1	50.00	110		#KEF!	#REF!	1	59.5	119.5		#KEF!	#REF!		
5					47.00	115.5			#REF!	1	51.00	112			#KEF!	2	0.5	120.5			#KEF!		
				'	47.00	111 6667	275 404	0.000269		'	33.00	111 33	274 58	0.00027			Av	120	205 056	0.000252		24.1	45.5
Pecriticality	15.36	21.05	10		Avg-	111.0007	275.404	0.000203			Avg-	111.55	214.50	0.00027			Avg-	120	235.550	0.000252		24.1	45.5
Recriticality	15.50	21.05		1	33 50	93.5		#REF!	#REF!	1	29.00	89		#REF!	#REE!	1	39	99		#REE!	#RFF!		
4		21.05	13	1	32.00	92			#RFF!	1	29.00	89			#REF!	1	34.5	94.5			#RFF!		
				1	31.00	91				1	23.50	83.5											
					Avg=	92.16667	227.311	0.000319			Avg=	87.167	214.98	0.00034			Avg=	96.75	238.615	0.000306		29.3	74.8
Recriticality	15:47	20.58	13	3																			
				1	15.50	75.5		#REF!	#REF!	1	16.00	76		#REF!	#REF!	1	18.5	78.5		#REF!	#REF!		
5		20.58	16	1	20.00	80			#REF!	1	15.50	75.5			#REF!	1	18.5	78.5			#REF!		
				1	18.50	78.5				1	15.00	75						0					
					Avg=	77.75	191.755	0.00037			Avg=	75.75	186.82	0.00038			Avg=	78.5	193.605	0.000367		33.9	108.7
Recriticality	15:56	20.05	16	5																			
		20.05	19	1	11.00	71		#REF!	#REF!	1	7.50	67.5		#REF!	#REF!	1	18.5	78.5		#REF!	#REF!		
6		20.05	15	1	9.50	69.5			#REF!	1	9.50	69.5			#REF!	1	15	75			#REF!		
				1	10.50	70.5				1	8.50												
					Avg=	70.25	173.258	0.000403			Avg=	68.5	168.94	0.00041			Avg=	76.75	189.289	0.000374		36	144.7
Recriticality	16:04	19.48	19	9																			
_		19.48	23		47.50	47.5		#REF!	#REF!		49.00	49		#REF!	#REF!		50	50		#REF!	#REF!		
7					47.00	47			#REF!		47.00	47			#REF!		51	51			#REF!		
					47.50	47.5					46.00												
					Avg=	47.25	116.533	0.00056			Avg=	48	118.38	0.00055			Avg=	50.5	124.548	0.000531		50.7	195.4

#### **Example of Rod Worth Graphs**



#### **Method #3: Rod Drop Method**

Reactor is scrammed at the time of zero. <u>All students should read and record at every 5 seconds</u>. General procedure is shown in the following figure.



### **Worksheet of Method 3**

#### <3> Rod Drop Experiment

e n	10-10-10	DID	•.•			
#	Time	Kod P	osition	Channel #	Channel #	
	(sec)	CR	FR			
Initial Criticality						
1	Rx Shutdow n0					$n_1 - n_0$
2	5	0 cm	0 cm			$\rho = \frac{1}{1} \frac{0}{1} \beta_{eff}$
3	10	0 cm	0 cm			$n_1$
4	15	0 cm	0 cm			
5	20	0 cm	0 cm			
6	25	0 cm	0 cm			$\int_{0} n(t) dt$
7	30	0 cm	0 cm			•••
8	35	0 cm	0 cm			$- n_0 \left( \Lambda + \sum_{i,eff}^{\circ} \beta_{i,eff} \right)$
9	40	0 cm	0 cm			-
10	45	0 cm	0 cm			$\mathcal{P} \setminus l=1$ $\mathcal{P}_{i}$
11	50	0 cm	0 cm			
12	55	0 cm	0 cm			
13	60	0 cm	0 cm			
14	65	0 cm	0 cm			
15	70	0 cm	0 cm			