

# Diagnostics of hot anode surface by optical methods

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# Outline



- Introduction

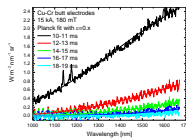


- Motivation



- Optical methods for temperature determination

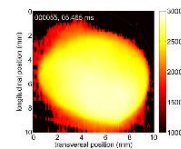
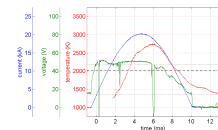
- Application examples:



- Measurements in the post-arc phase

- Measurements during the active phase

- Surface with impurities



- Summary and outlook

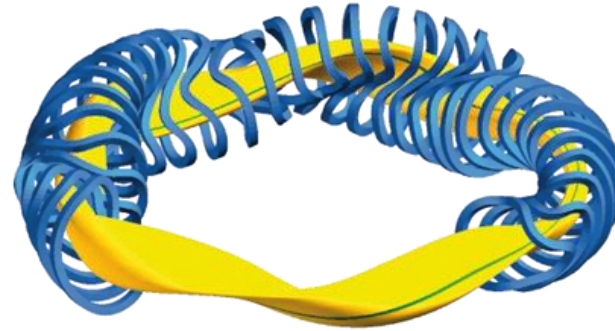
# Introduction



- 972 km from Padua
- 235 km from Berlin, 265 km from Hamburg

## Greifswald - Center of Plasma Science

Leibniz Institute for Plasma Science  
and Technology (INP)



Institute of Physics (IfP) of  
Greifswald University



Max Planck Institute for Plasma Physics (IPP)  
Nuclear fusion reactor Wendelstein 7-X





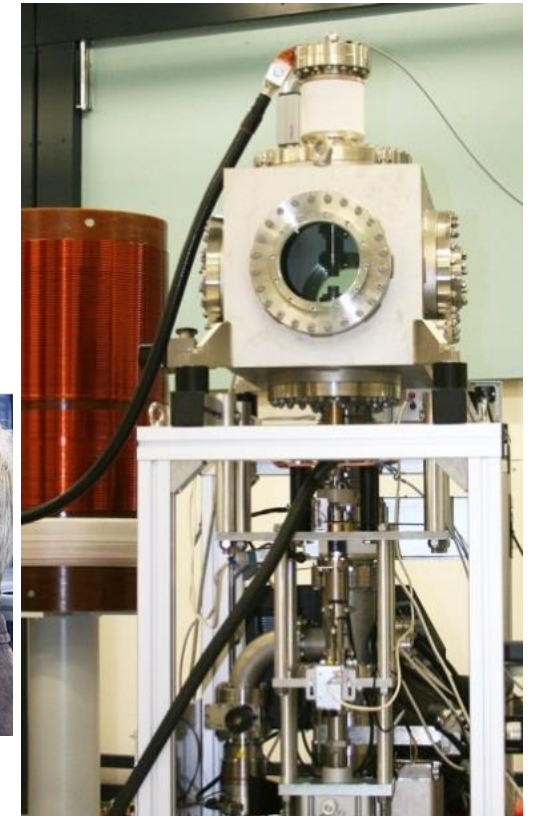
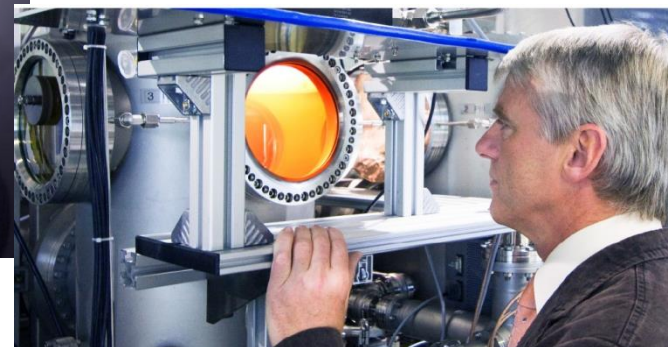
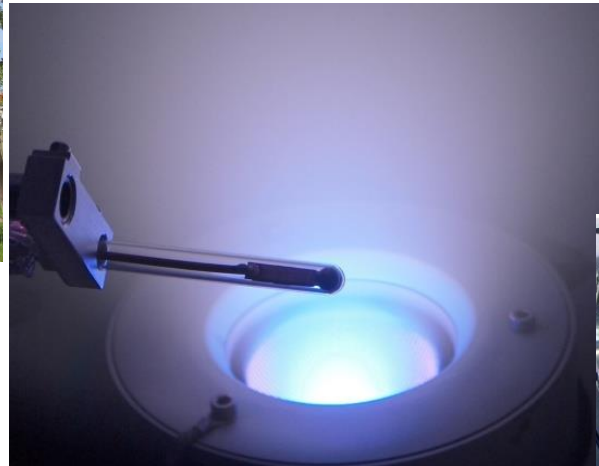
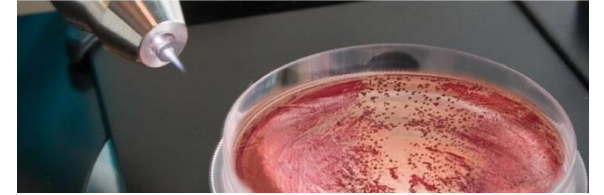
## Leibniz Institute for Plasma Science and Technology (INP)



- 49 laboratories
- 200 employees
- annual budget 20 M€

### Application-driven research

- surface modification and chemistry
- process diagnostics and monitoring
- biomaterials and surfaces
- plasma medicine, plasma decontamination
- high-voltage techniques
- switching and welding arcs



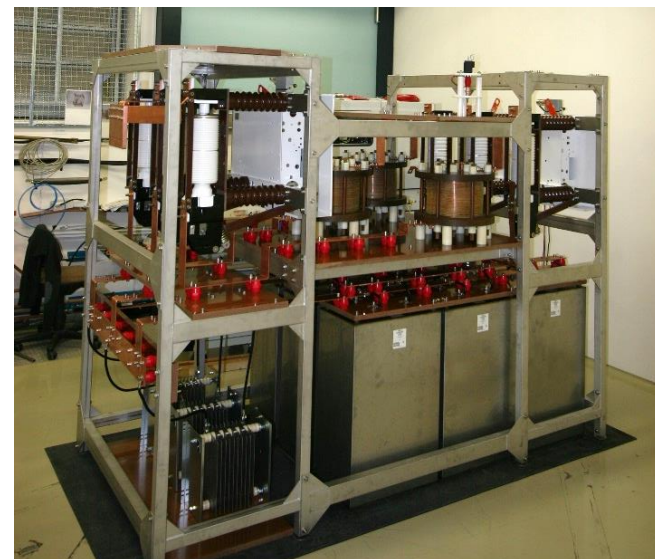
# Introduction: switching arc research

since 06.2015



Charging voltage	500 V – 18000 V
Min current	100 A @ 50 Hz
Max current	10 kA @ 50 Hz
Other features	No TRV Flexible frequency 16 Hz – 1000 Hz, pulsed DC operation

since 07.2019



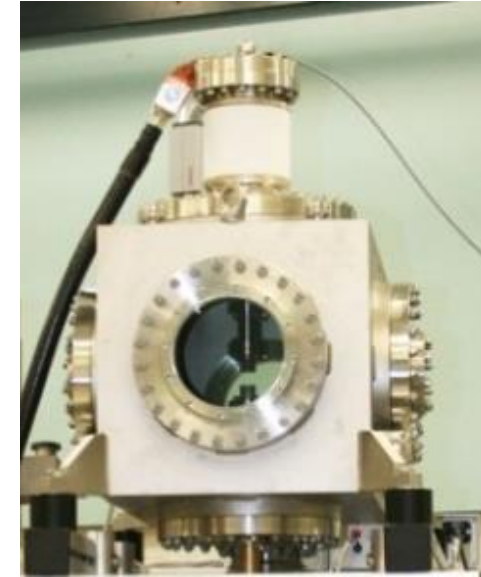
Charging voltage	50 V – 3500 V
Min current	1.3 kA @ 50 Hz
Max current	100 kA @ 50 Hz
TRV level	41.5 kV @ 1000 Hz DAC

## Introduction: switching arc research



vacuum circuit breaker

- Volume 0.003 – 10 l
- Stroke 0.5 – 25 mm
- Operation velocity 0.1 - 5 m/s



model circuit breaker

- Volume 52 l
- Mountings for various electrodes
- Stroke 0.5 - 25 mm
- Operation velocity 0.5 - 4 m/s

## Motivation

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- Electrodes in high-power applications
  - current transfer
  - interaction with substrate
  - material source (vacuum arcs, welding, coating)
  - source of problems – damage through erosion → contamination of plasma, gas, walls with electrode material, strong surface deformation → operation failure
  
- Processes to be understood, behavior to be characterized
  - heating and cooling dynamics
  - behavior of melted surface
  - erosion behavior → vapor and droplets
  - interaction with plasma
  
- Monitoring of electrode temperature is crucial for phenomena understanding and device optimization



# Motivation

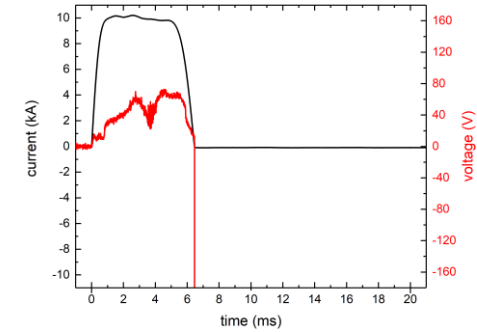
## Vacuum circuit breakers

- environmentally friendly operation

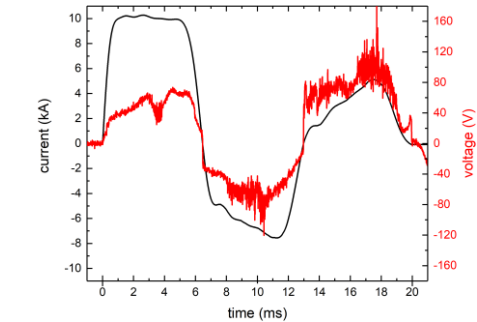
## High-current operation

- (strong) electrode melting and evaporation
- atomic vapour as possible source for restrikes
- hot anode – major source of atomic vapour

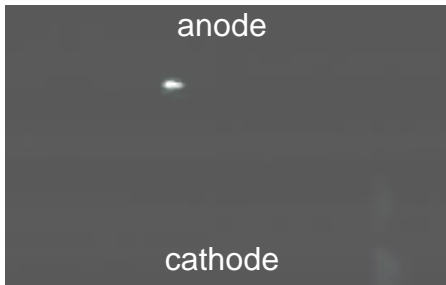
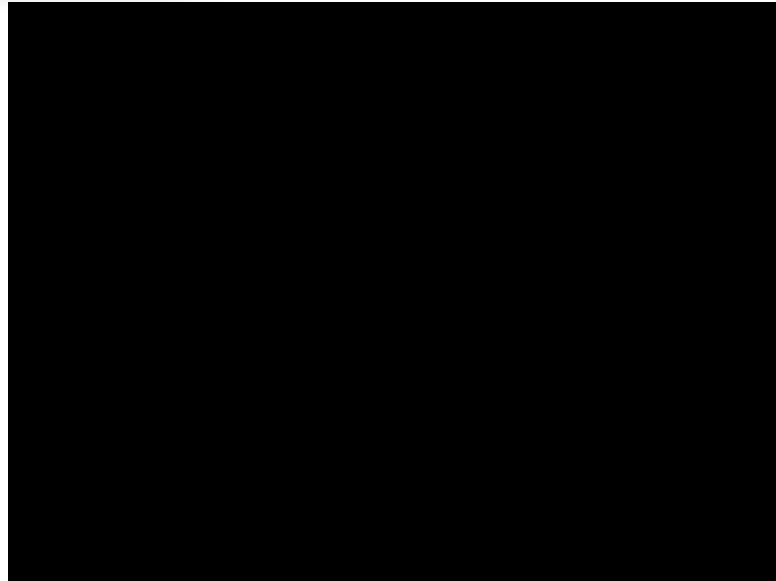
## Focus on the anode surface temperature measurements



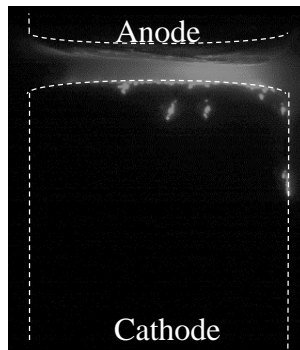
success



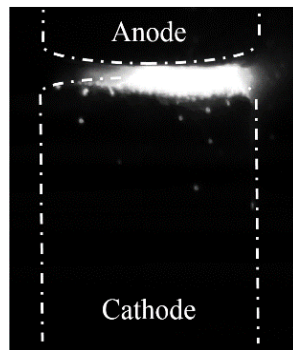
failure



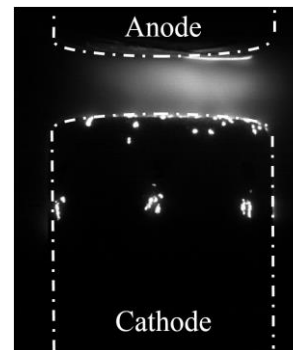
diffuse



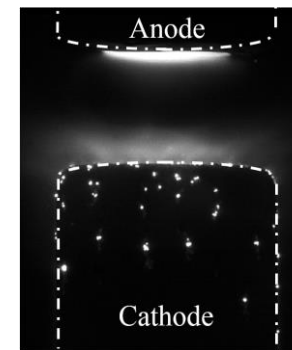
intense mode



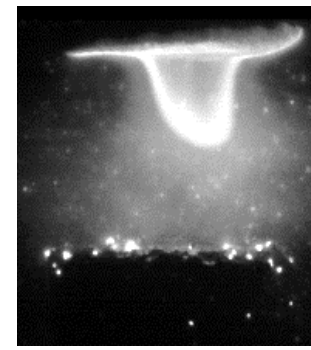
footpoint



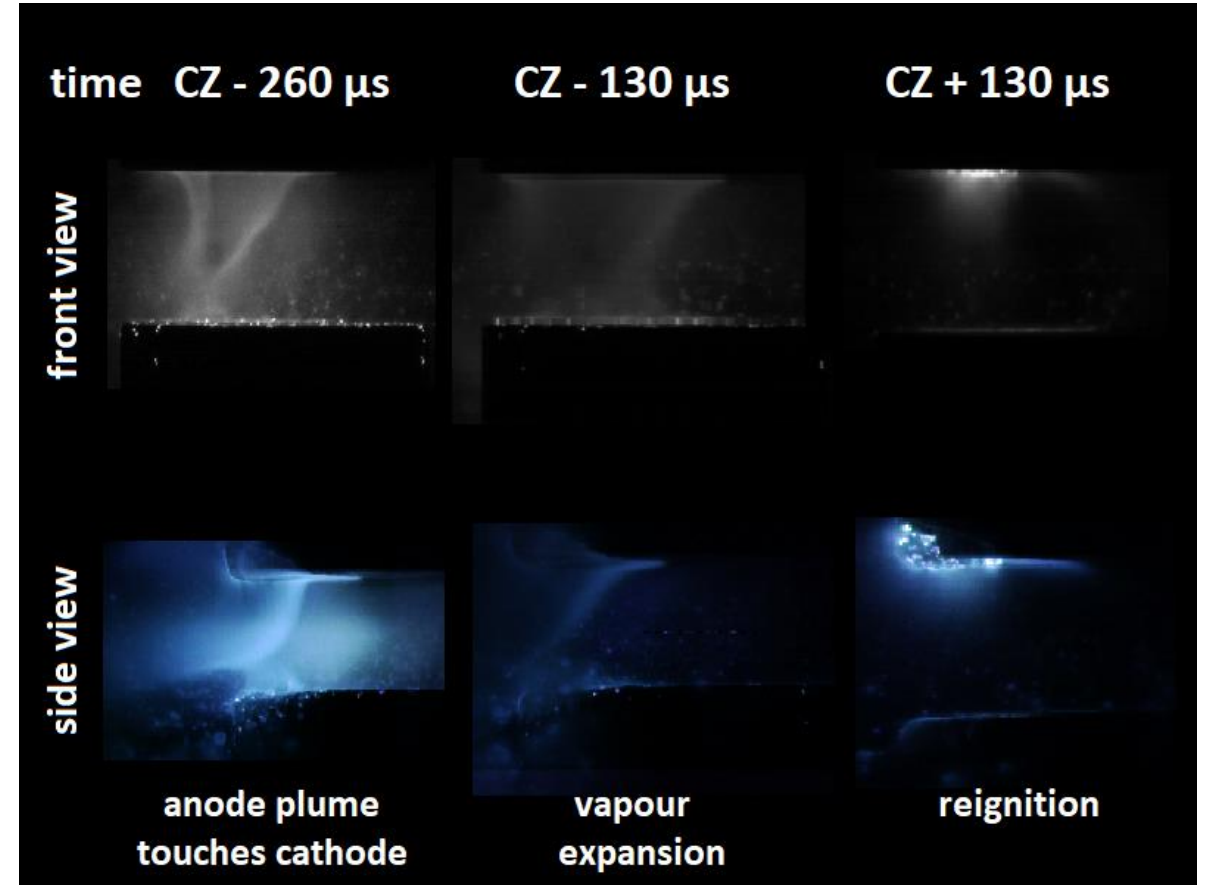
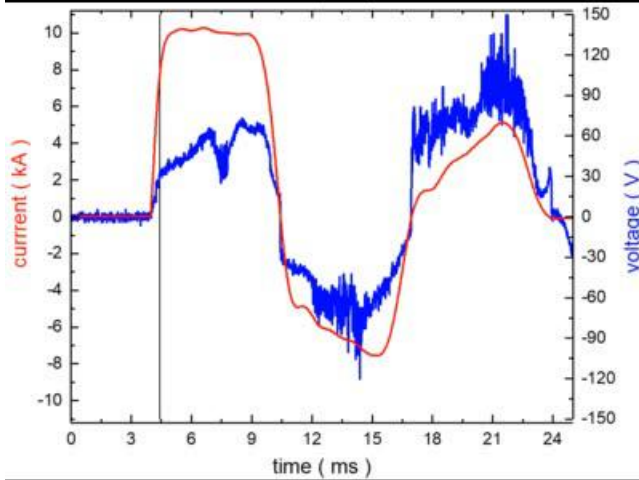
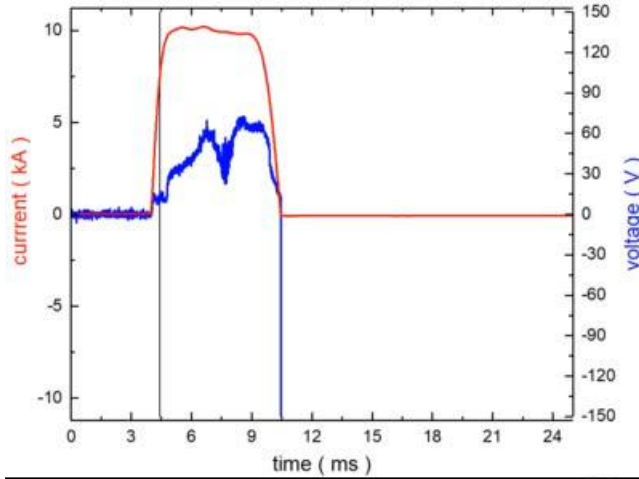
anode spot



anode plume



# Motivation



# Optical diagnostics: advantages and disadvantages

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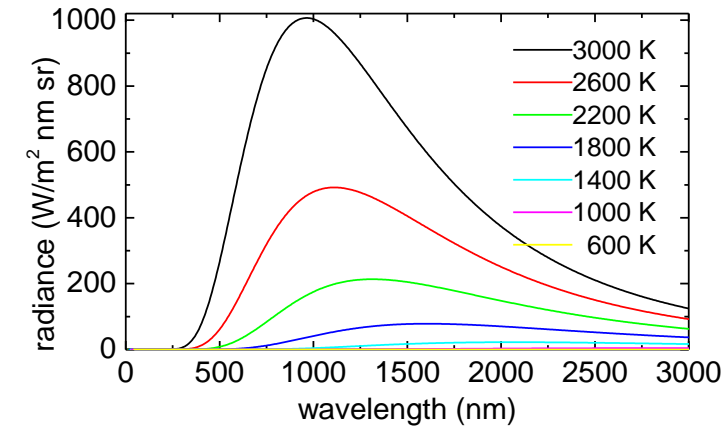
- “Classical” method (thermocouple) fails
  - probes will be damaged when placed within the region of interest
  - signal distortion due to EM fields
  - high spatial (and temporal) resolution required
  
- Clear advantages of optical methods
  - non-invasive
  - qualitative and quantitative measurements possible
  - high spatial resolution – local properties
  - high temporal resolution – dynamics
  - applicable in a wide parameter range due to variability of methods
  
- Some disadvantages of optical measurements
  - optical access to the object necessary
  - radiation intensity must be sufficient
  - distortions in the optical pathway through hot fluxes and plasma itself
  - costs of the devices, complex apparatus and evaluation methods

# Optical diagnostics: basics of temperature determination

- Black-body radiation acc. to Planck's law

$$B_{\lambda}(T) = \varepsilon(\lambda, T) \frac{2hc^2}{\lambda^5} \cdot \frac{1}{e^{\frac{hc}{\lambda \cdot kT}} - 1}$$

- One measured value, but two unknowns – standard solution ways
  - known emissivity from other measurements or theory
  - measurements at two different wavelengths

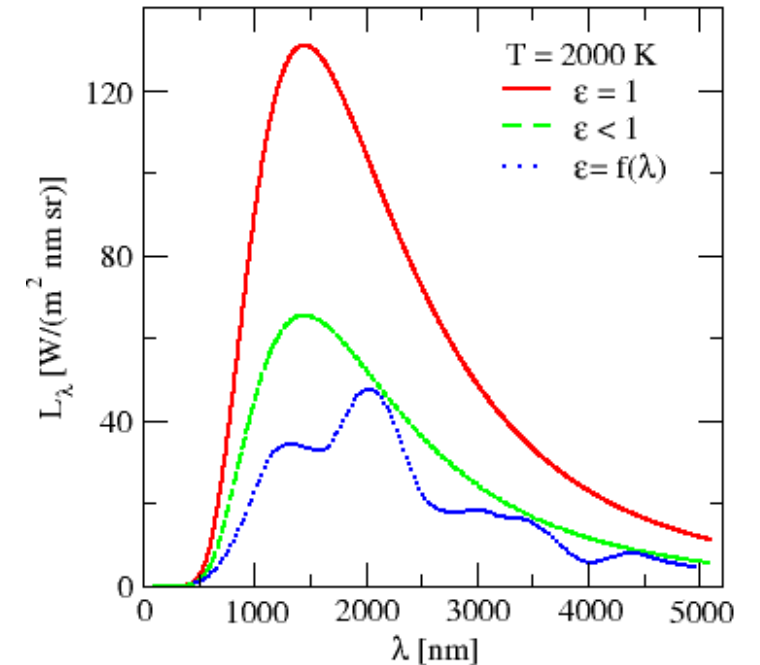




## Optical diagnostics: basics of temperature determination

$$B_{\lambda}(T) = \varepsilon(\lambda, T) \frac{2hc^2}{\lambda^5} \cdot \frac{1}{e^{\frac{hc}{\lambda \cdot kT}} - 1}$$

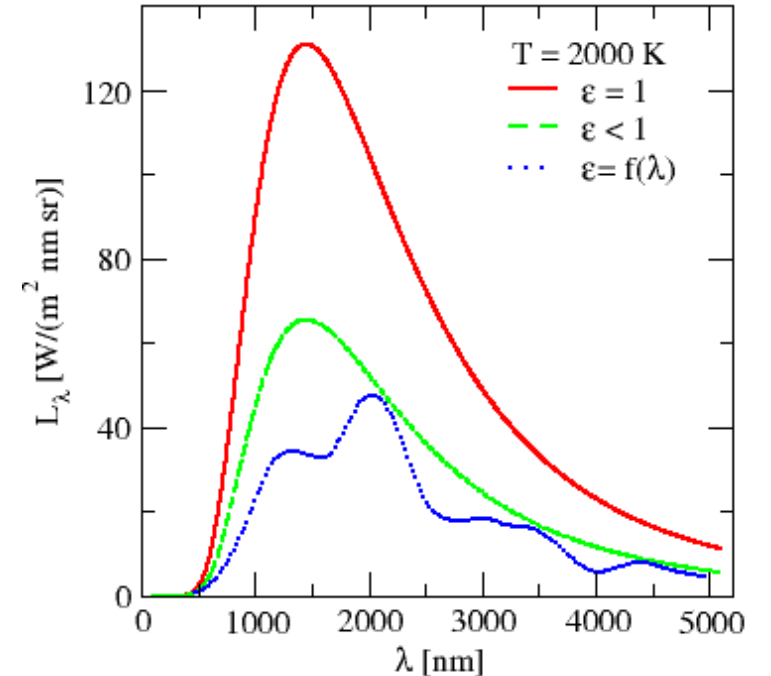
- Data for emissivity
  - Mostly known for “clean” surfaces
  - measured at idealized conditions
  - however emissivity depends on
    - chemical composition
    - surface roughness
    - surface “state” – solid, liquid, boiling, phase transition...
    - view angle
- Best solution – *in-situ* measurements simultaneously with temperature measurements



# Optical diagnostics: basics of temperature determination

$$B_{\lambda}(T) = \varepsilon(\lambda, T) \frac{2hc^2}{\lambda^5} \cdot \frac{1}{e^{\frac{hc}{\lambda \cdot kT}} - 1}$$

- Two-colour pyrometry
  - Assumption  $\varepsilon(\lambda, T) = \varepsilon(T)$  and Wien approximation
 
$$\frac{1}{T} = \frac{k}{hc} \left( \frac{1}{\lambda_2} - \frac{1}{\lambda_1} \right) \ln \left( \frac{B_1 \lambda_1^5}{B_2 \lambda_2^5} \right)$$
  - Assumption could be too rough due to
    - complex chemical composition
    - surface roughness
    - surface “state” – solid, liquid, boiling, phase transition...
  - Best solution – small difference between the wavelengths, but (!) significant errors  
→ careful choice of wavelength range necessary



## Optical diagnostics: methods

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- Selected methods
  - Pyrometry (commercial)
  - Thermography (commercial)
  - Optical Emission Spectroscopy (OES) (scientific)
  - High-speed camera (HSC) techniques enhanced by filter (scientific)
- Method choice and requirements
  - sensitivity → surface should emit radiation (T high enough)
  - possible distortions
    - plasma radiation is either absent or can be excluded from consideration
    - oxides and surface impurities influences the results
    - smooth surfaces/low roughness preferable

## Optical diagnostics: pyrometry

### Advantages

- Commercially available devices (pyrometer)
- Acquisition time between 10 $\mu$ s and 1s
- Temperature range 200-4000 K
- Simple setup and arrangement
- Determination of the cooling dynamics possible

### Disadvantages/ restrictions

- Emissivity of the surface must be known (exception two-colour pyrometer)
- Special optics (windows) depending on the temperature and spectral range necessary
- Time resolved measurements with rough spatial resolution (min spot size 0.5 - 1mm)



Kleiber Pyroskop



## Optical diagnostics: thermography

### Advantages

- Commercially available devices
- 2D temperature distribution at one shot
- Temperature range 200-5000 K
- Simple setup and arrangement
- Determination of the cooling dynamics possible

### Disadvantages/ restrictions

- Emissivity of the surface must be known (exception – two color cameras)
- Special optics (windows) depending on the temperature and spectral range necessary
- Time resolved measurements with full size typically with 60 -125 Hz, but (!) temporal resolution with reduced number of pixels possible (up to 10 kHz)



IR camera  
VarioCAM with 60  
Hz techniques



IR camera FLIR  
with 125 Hz  
techniques

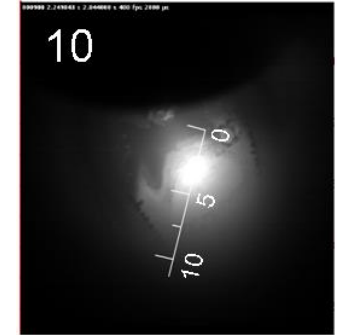
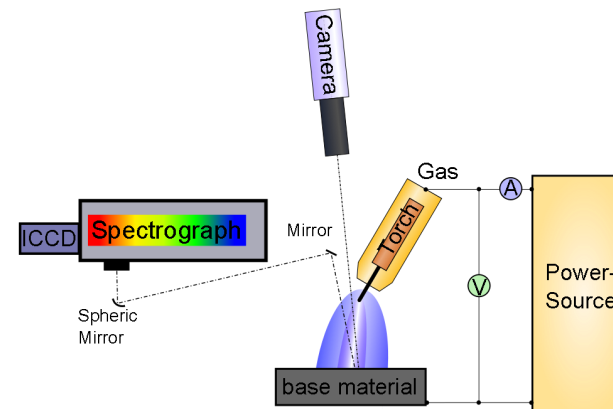
# Optical diagnostics: emission spectroscopy

## Advantages

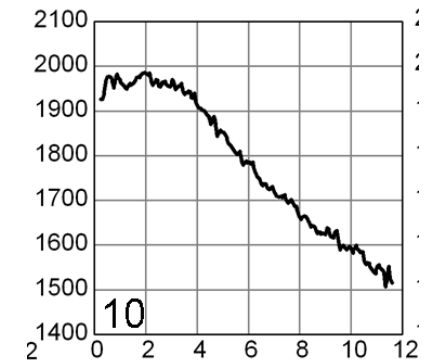
- Time resolve measurements possible
- Simultaneous determination of surface emissivity possible
- Flexibility by choice of spectral range
- Characterization of surface impurities possible

## Disadvantages/Restrictions

- Light intensity calibration necessary (tungsten strip lamp)
- Space resolved measurements along the slit
- Additional optical setup necessary



Projection of the entrance slit



Temperature distribution

# Optical diagnostics: high-speed camera techniques

## Advantages

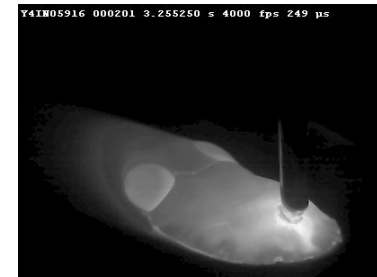
- Time resolved measurements
- 2D picture of the surface
- Manageable effort for setup

## Disadvantages/Restrictions

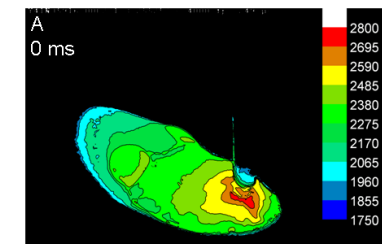
- Special optical filters (MIF, narrow band)/ optical modules necessary
- Light intensity calibration necessary
- Possible impurities of the surface should be taken into account



HSC MotionPro Y4

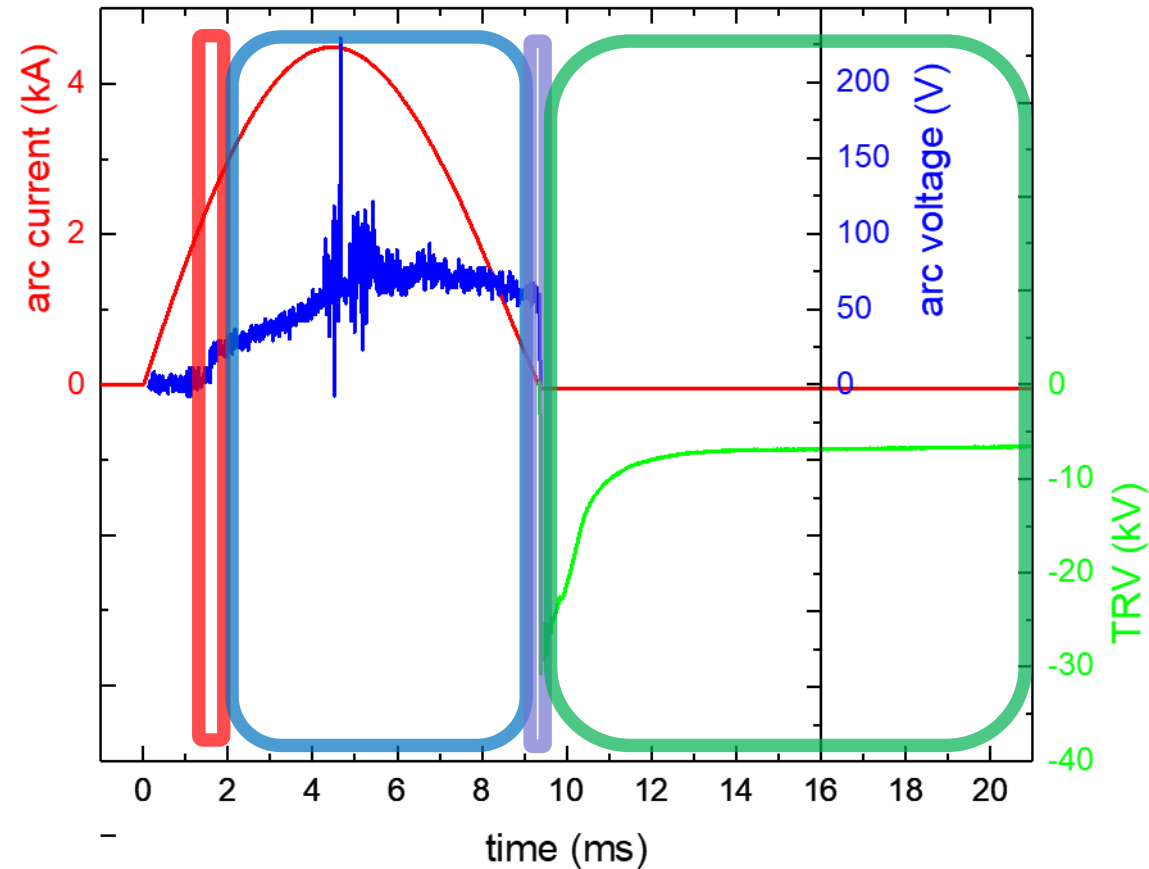


HSC image



Temperature distribution

# Optical diagnostics: method applicability



- Ignition phase
- High-current phase (active phase)
- Current zero crossing
- Post-arc phase

T measurement possible

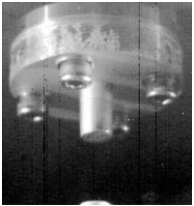
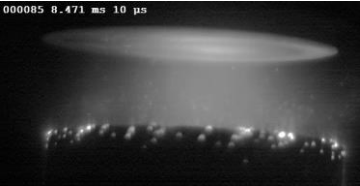
	ignition	High-current	CZ	post-arc
pyrometry	-	(+)	+	-
thermography	-	(+)	+	-
OES	-	(+)	+	+
HSC	-	(+)	+	-



## Practical examples

Clean surface with known chemical composition – CuCr contacts for vacuum arcs

- Measurements in post-arc phase by
  1. NIR spectrometer
- Measurement in the active phase
  2. pyroscopic measurements
  3. 2D temperature profiles by enhanced high-speed camera techniques
  4. use of current cut-off techniques
- Surface with impurities
  5. characterization of cold metal transfer welding by OES and HSC



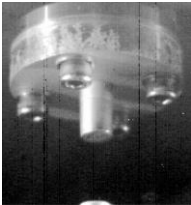
## Practical examples

Operation conditions:

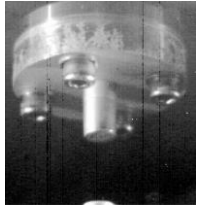
- Pulsed current, sinusoidal, 10 ms, 1- 20 kA
- Electrodes diameter 10-60 mm; maximum distance 10 mm
- Rough unpolished surface
- Electrodes are moving from closed position (1 m/s)
- Arc initialization (“breakdown”) from bridge explosion
- Arc plasma separates the electrode from diagnostic setup

Simplification:

- Anode is fixed, cathode is moving



# Measurements in post-arc phase by NIR



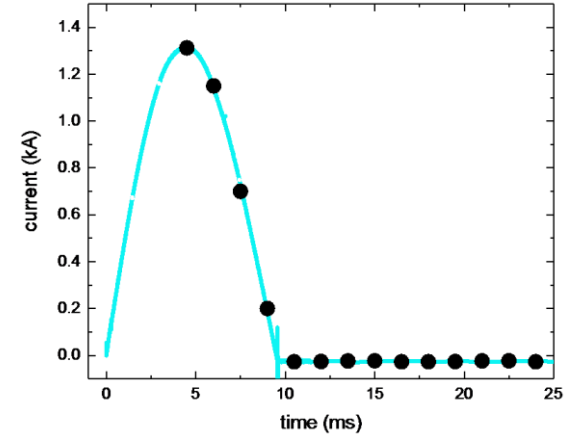
NIR 900-1600 nm

+

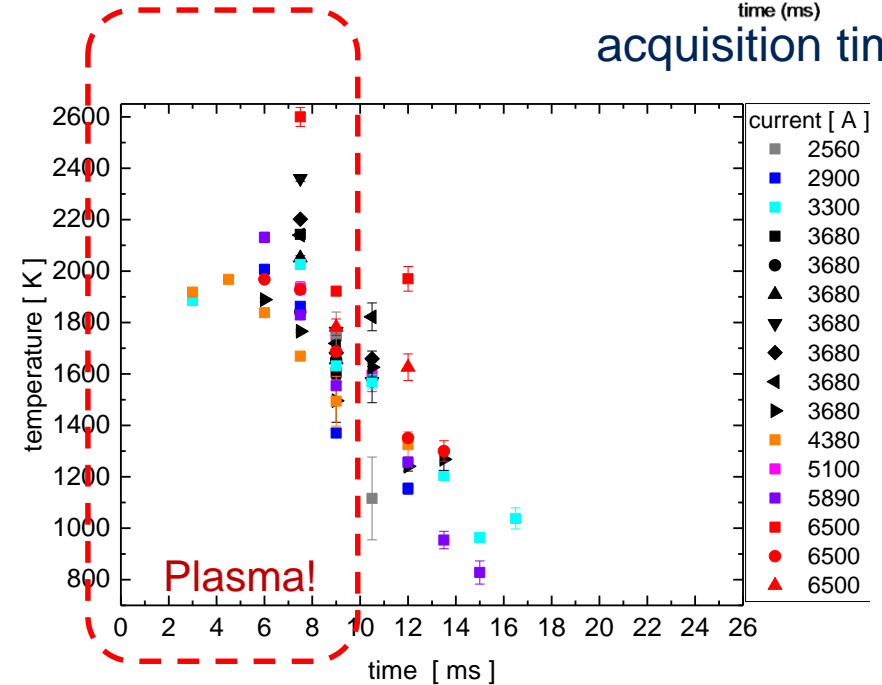
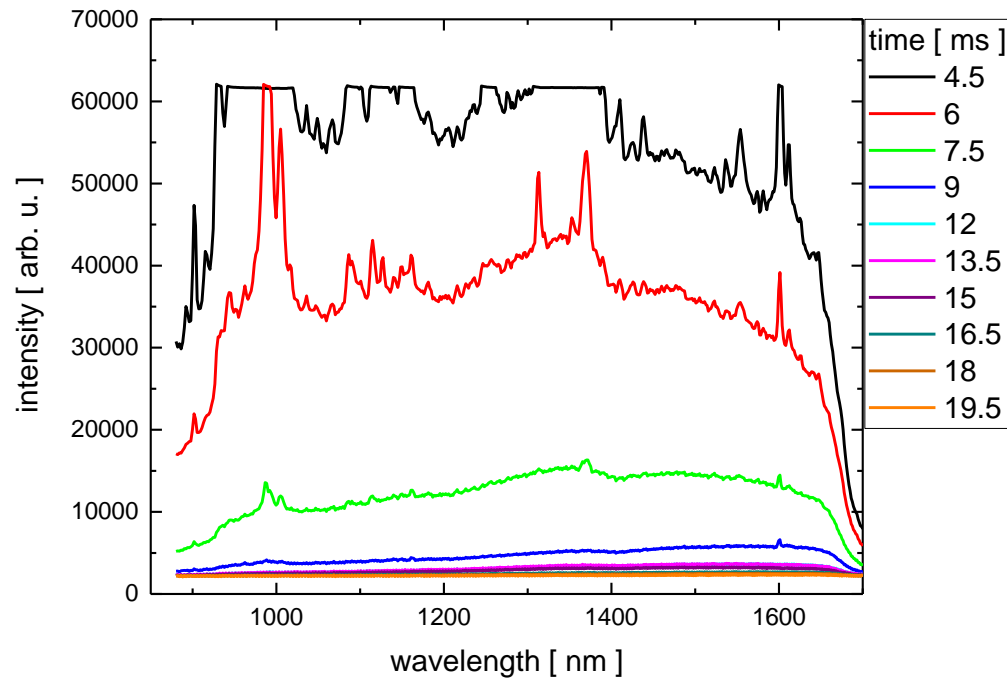


NIR optics

=



acquisition times

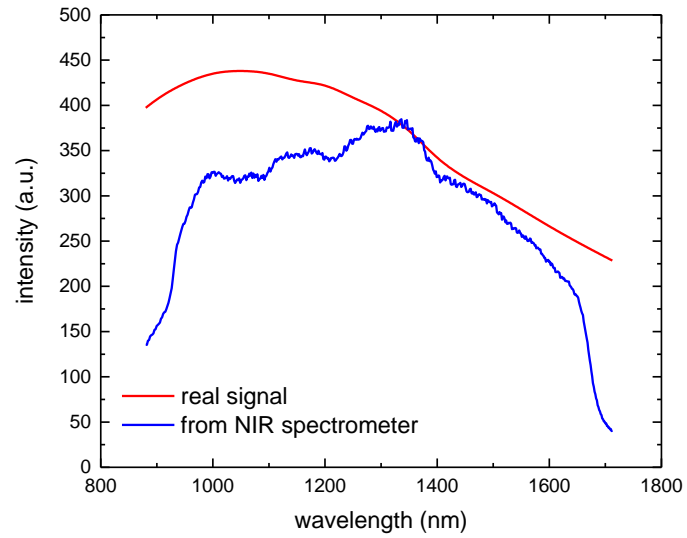


# Measurements in post-arc phase by NIR

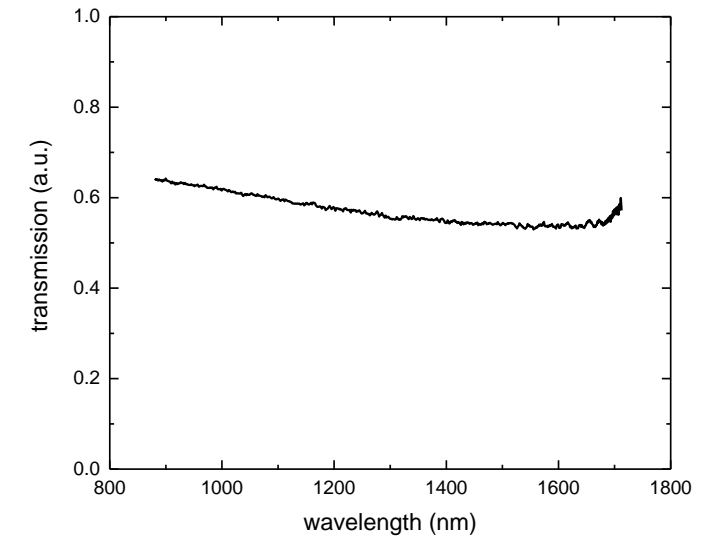
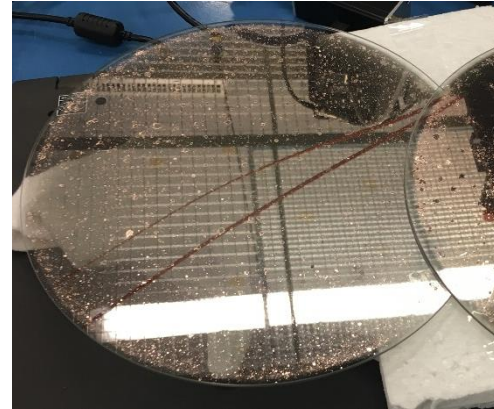


W strip lamp

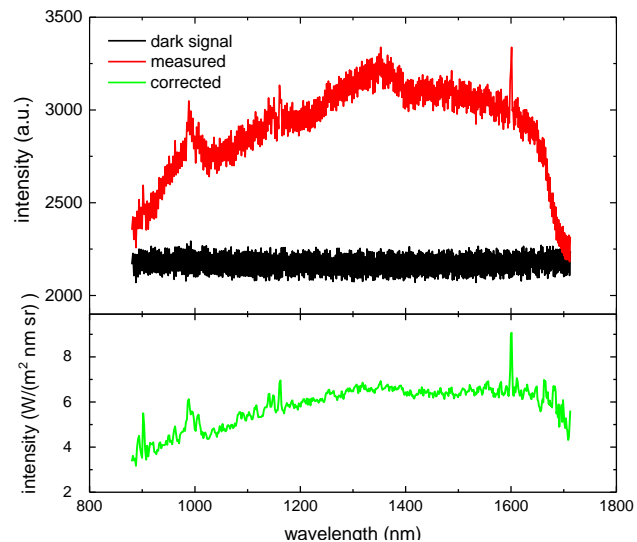
calibration



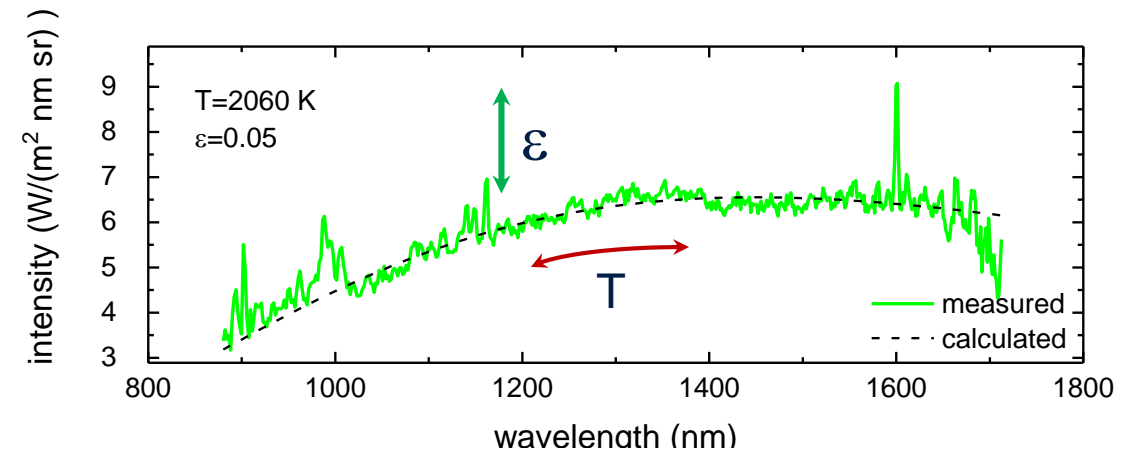
window transmission



background correction

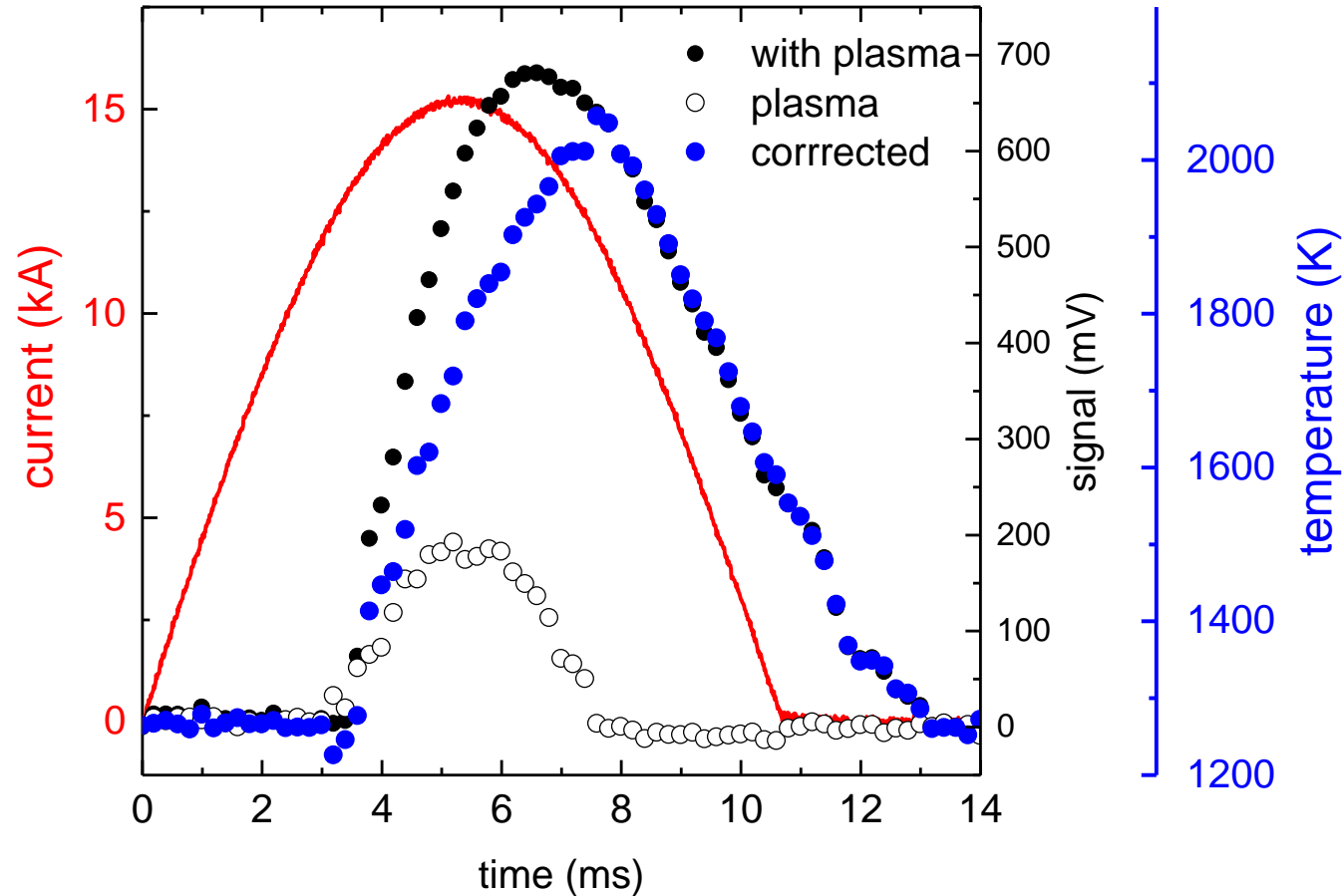
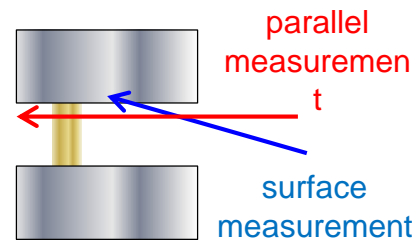
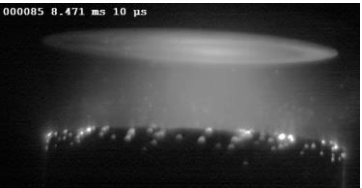


determination of T and  $\epsilon$



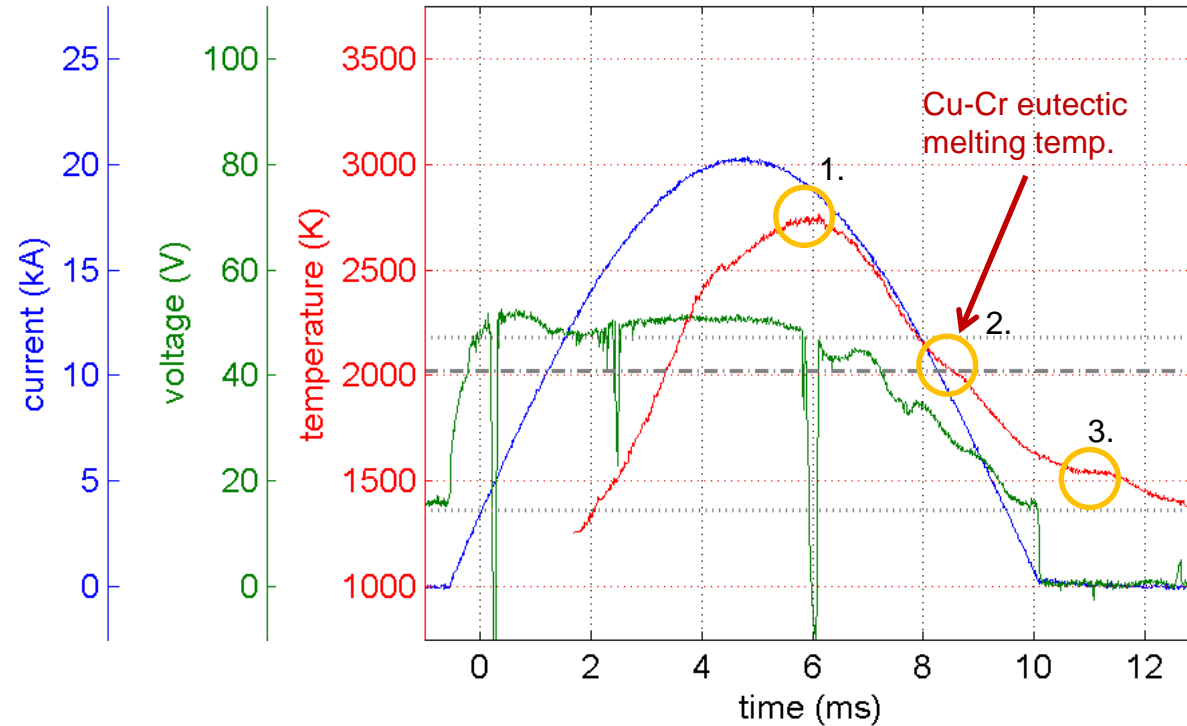


# Measurements in active phase by pyroscope



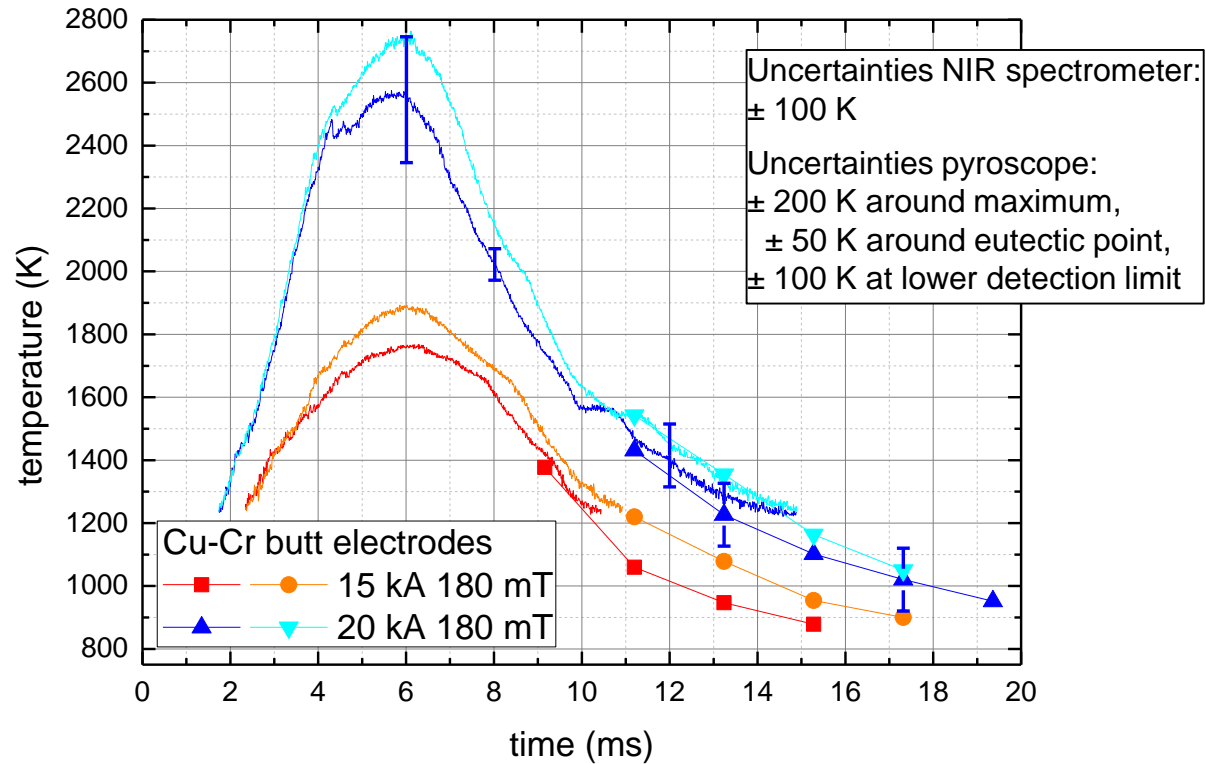
- Measurements parallel to surface for approximation of plasma contribution
- Plasma contribution sufficiently low
- Corrected signal gives reasonable temperature

## Measurements in active phase by pyroscope

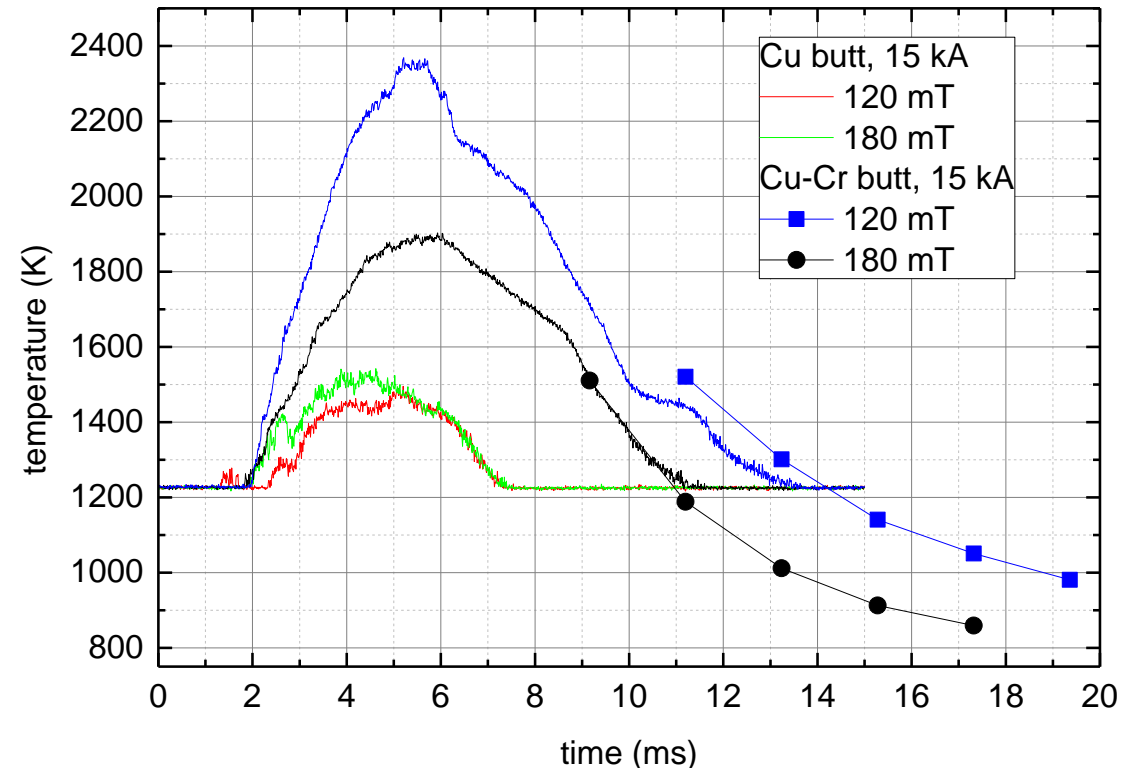


- Temperature maximum around 6 ms, i.e. after current maximum
- Accelerated temperature decay after 6 ms up to Cu-Cr eutectic melting point (at 2020 K).
- Plateau closely after current zero (occurs at different temperatures)

# Measurements in active phase by pyroscope

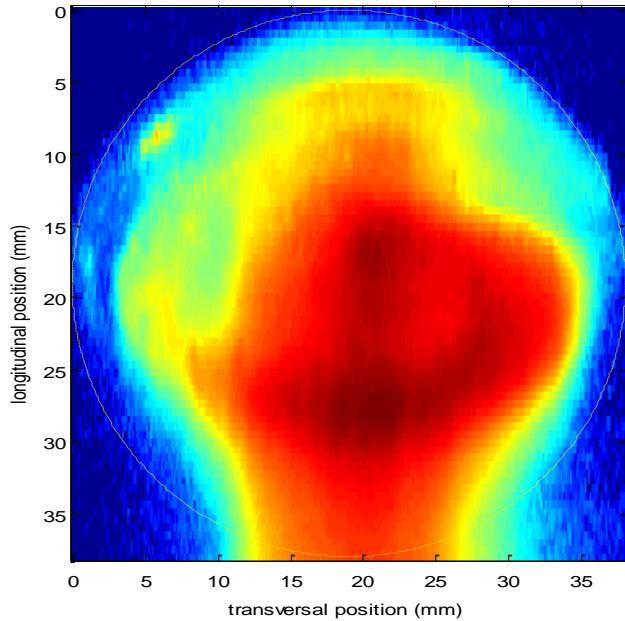
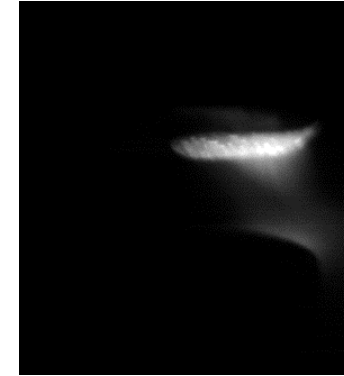
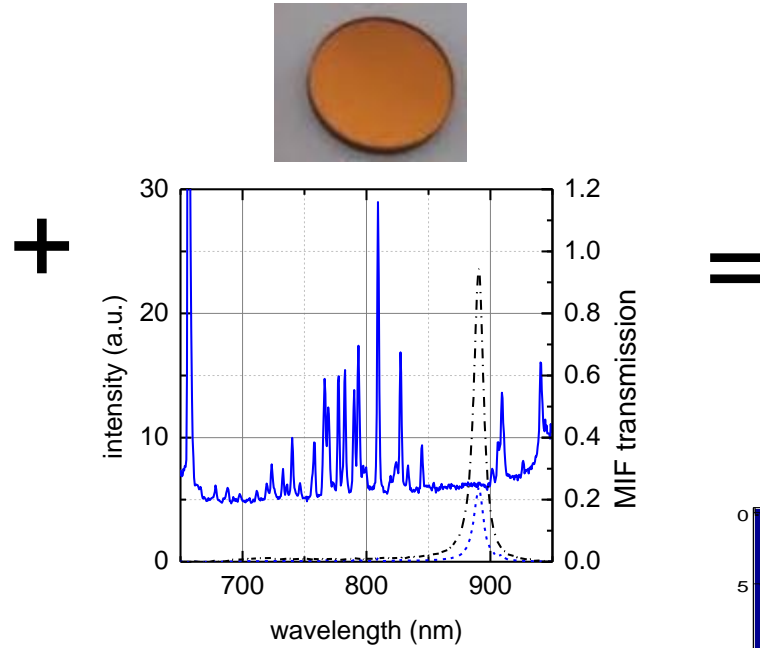


- Good agreement between temperatures from pyroscope and from NIR spectra
- Higher currents lead to higher anode surface temperatures

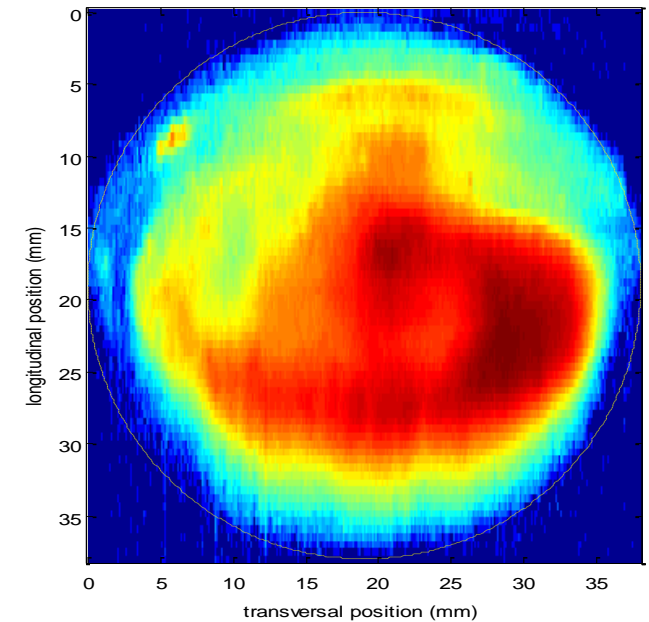
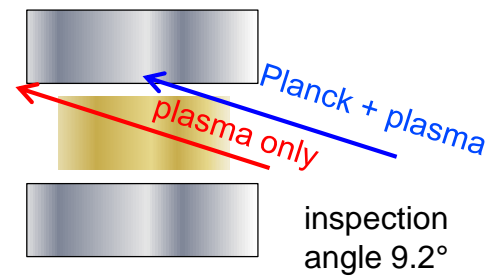


- Lower thermal radiation for Cu
- No continuum emission observed after CZ with NIR
- Due to comparable emissivity the anode surface temperatures for Cu should be considerably lower than for Cu-Cr

# Measurements in active phase by HSC



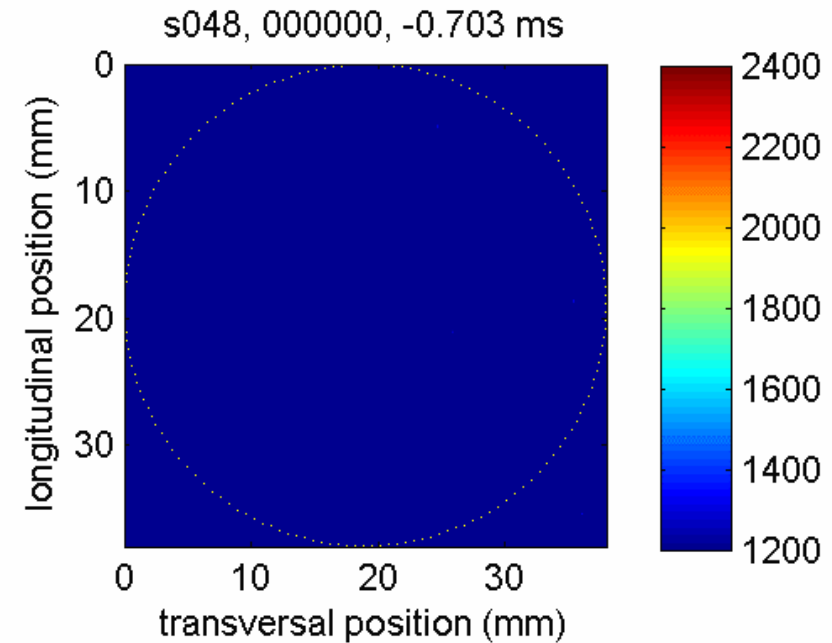
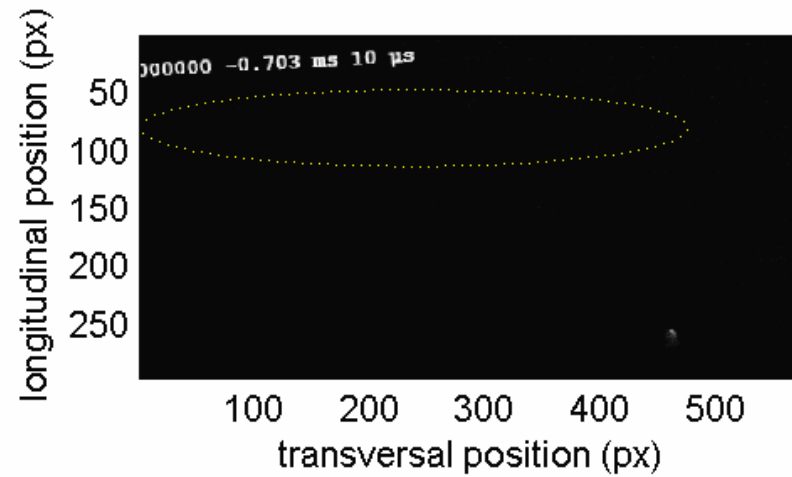
Without correction for plasma background radiation.



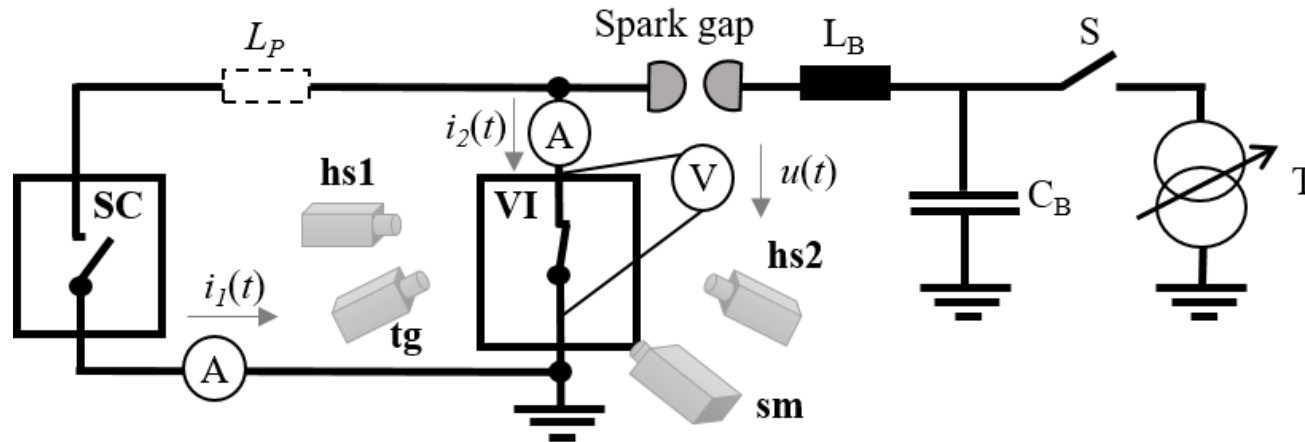
With correction for plasma background radiation

# Measurements in active phase by HSC

Quantitative temperature from calibration with addition measurements, like e.g. NIR spectroscopy



## Measurements in the active phase: current cut-off



Current flow through test object VI was switched artificially to zero by means of bypath SC

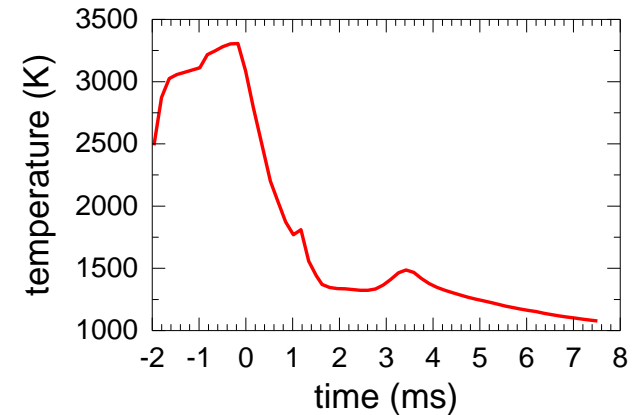
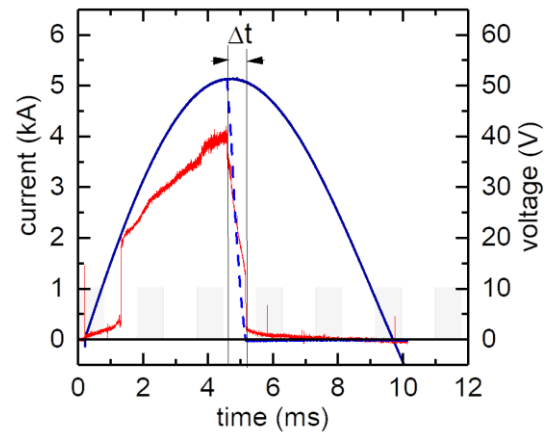
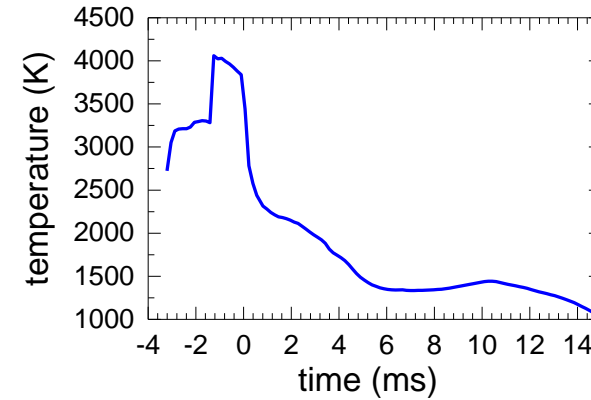
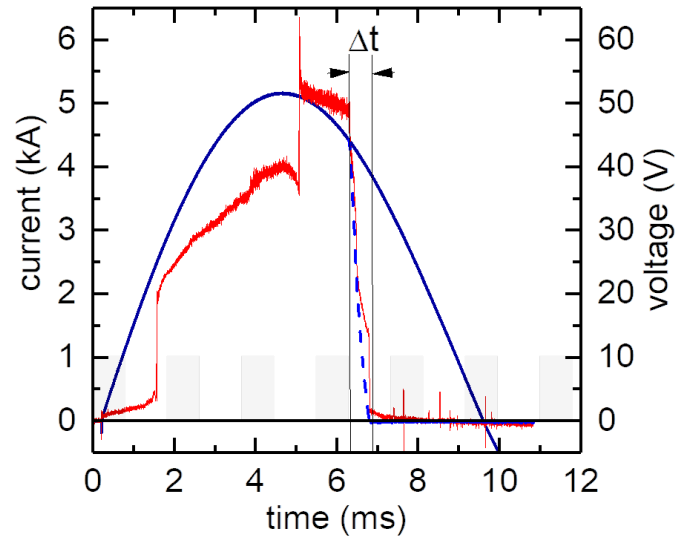
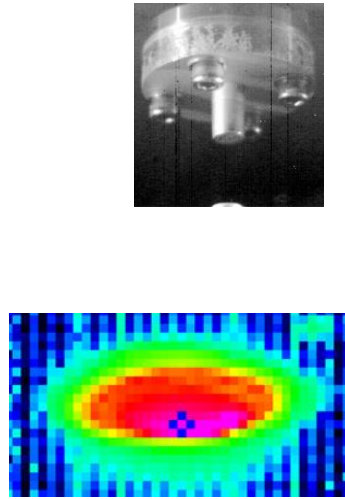
Diagnostics by

- 3 channel rackmount spectrometer  
VIS 200-1000 nm / NIR 880-1700 nm / NIR 1.6-2.4  $\mu$ m
- High-speed NIR camera  
1.5 – 1.7  $\mu$ m, 6100 fps with 128 x 24 pix resolution



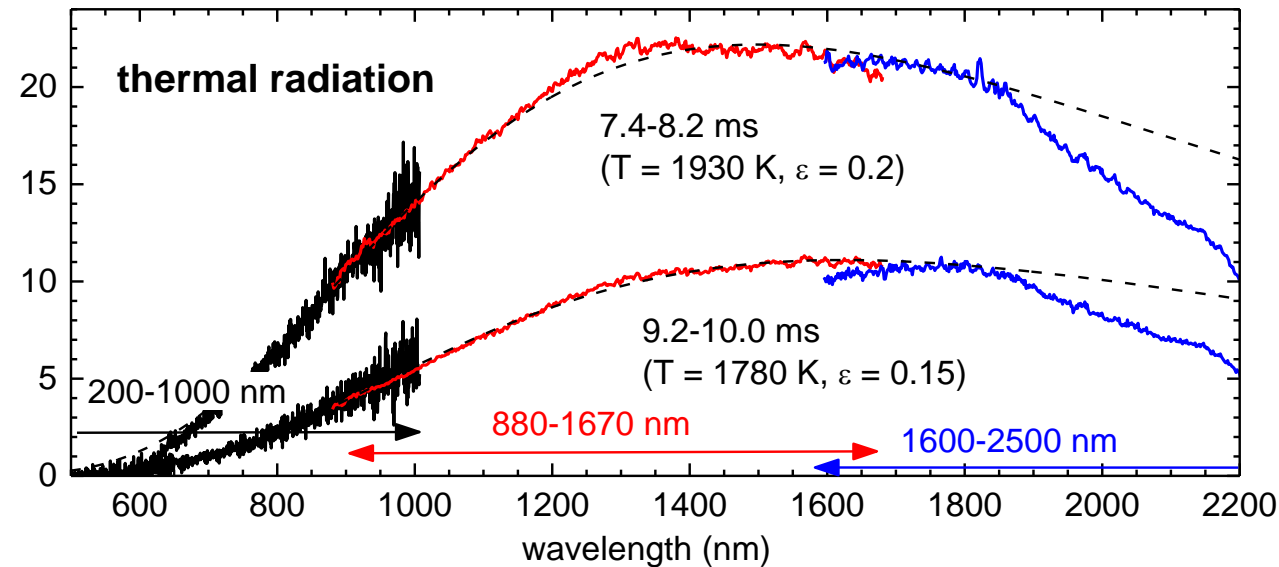
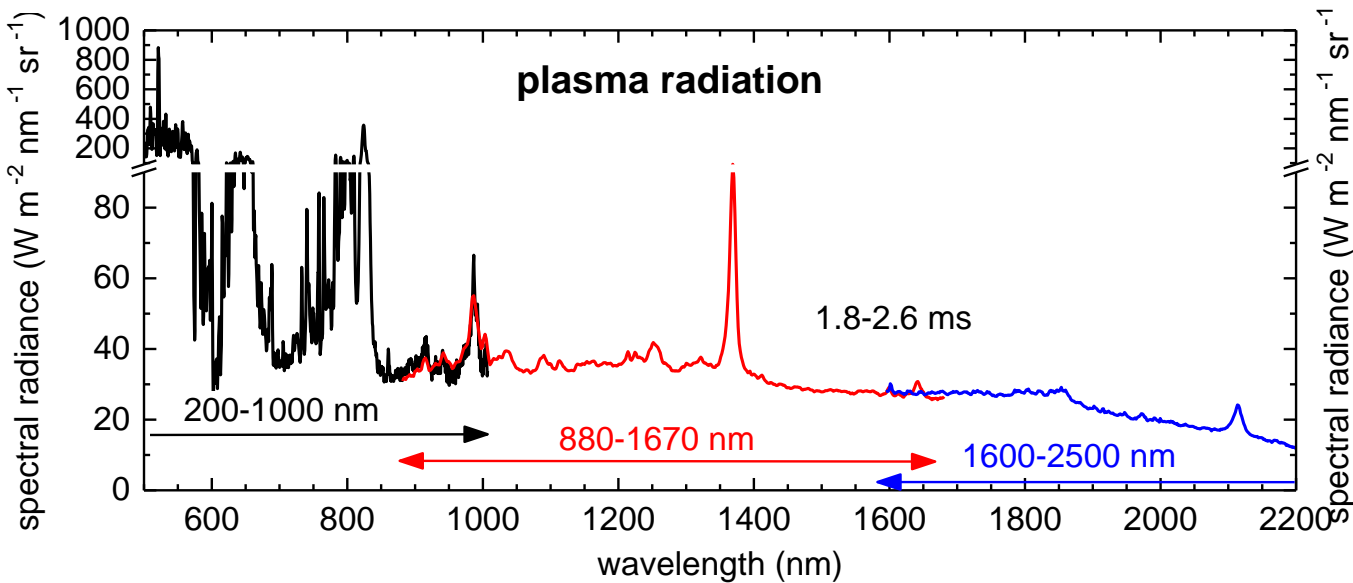


## Measurements in the active phase: current cut-off



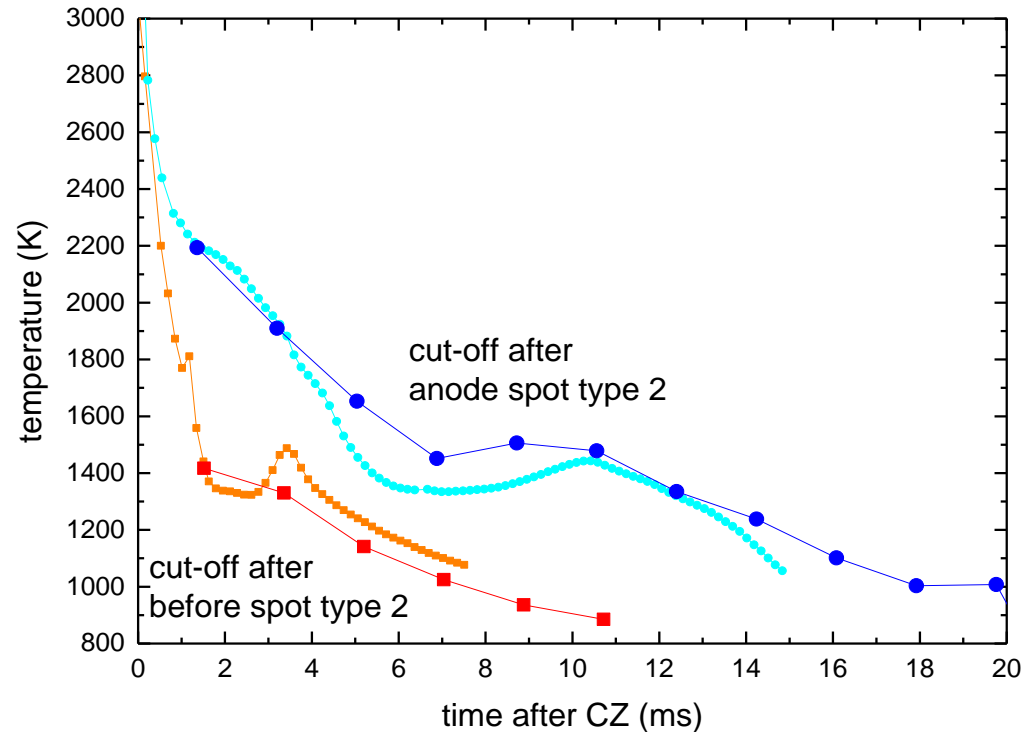
- Current cut-off within  $\Delta t \sim 0.56$  ms
- Temperature about 3300 K before and about 4000 K after anode spot type 2

## Measurements in the active phase: current cut-off



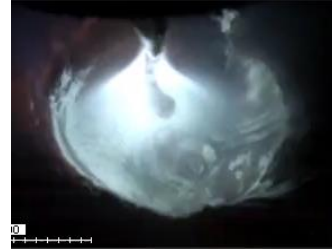
- Before CZ: plasma radiation dominates emission → no information on anode temperature
- After CZ: fit to Planck curve → anode surface temperature determinable

## Measurements in the active phase: current cut-off



- Higher anode surface temperatures and longer cooling in case of anode spot type 2
- Peaks in temperature curve from thermography (lines) due to changing emissivity during solidification process – in spectroscopic method (dots) the emissivity was adapted during Planck curve fitting

## Example 5: Surface with impurities



CMT welding – pulsed arc operation



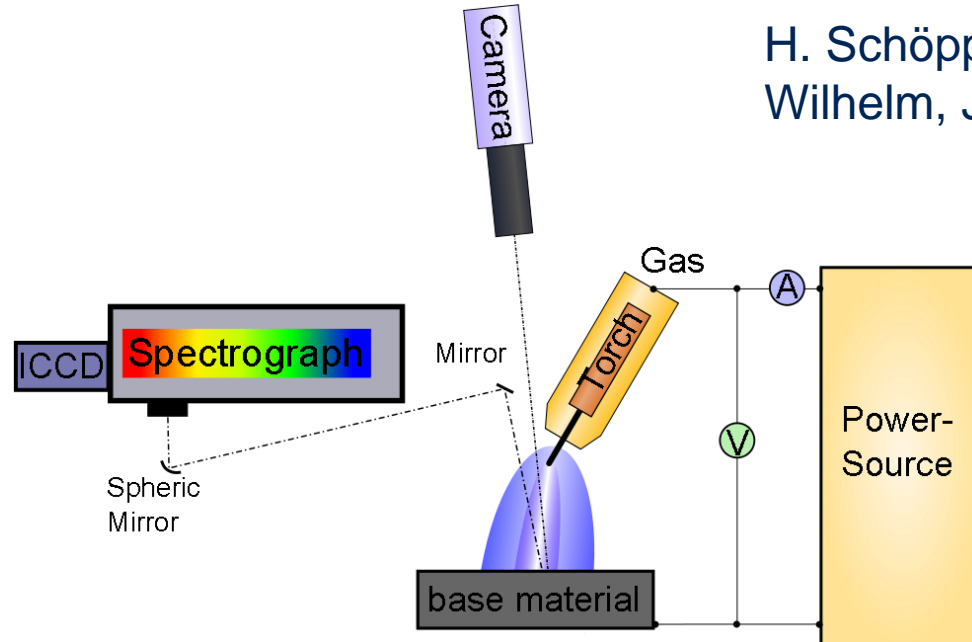
High-speed camera



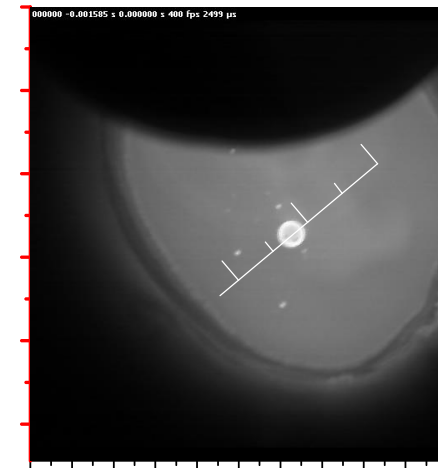
Spectrograph

## Example 5: Surface with impurities

H. Schöpp, A. Sperl, R. Kozakov, G. Gött, D. Uhrlandt, G. Wilhelm, J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys. 45(2012) 235203

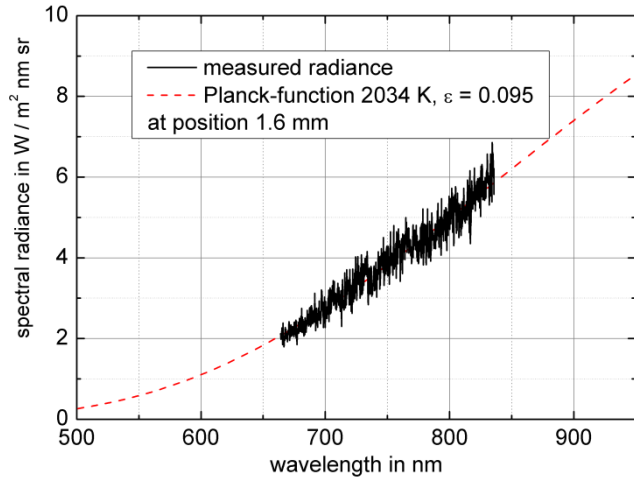


Material steel S235  
Slit length 12 mm  
Results after current cut-off

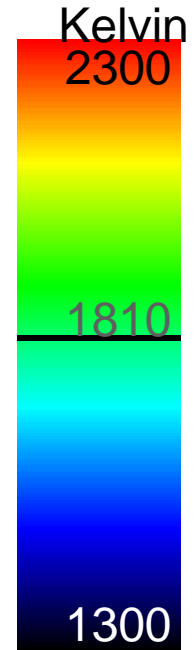
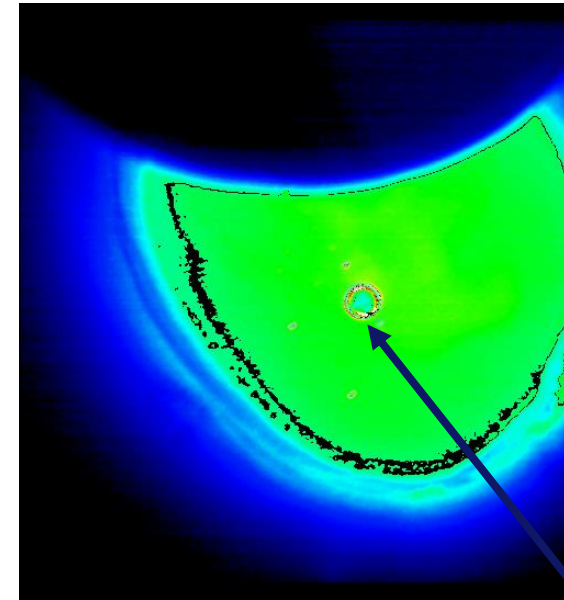
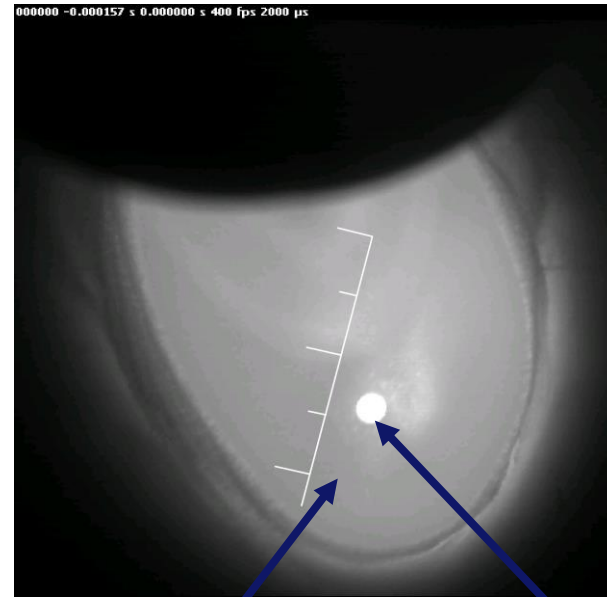


HSC image

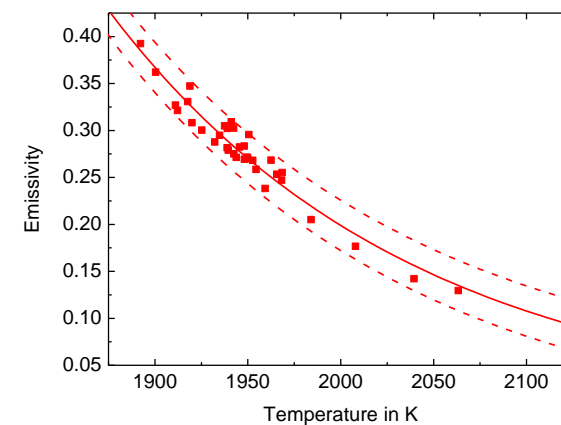
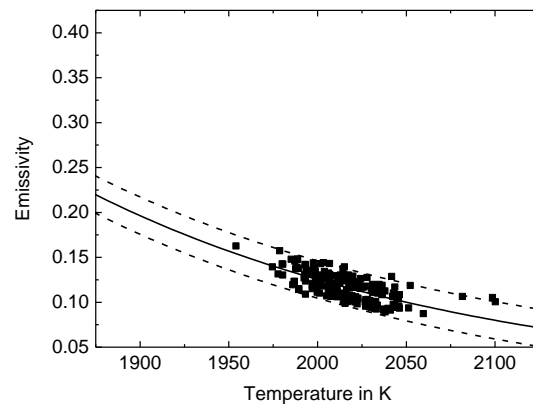
# Example 5: Surface with impurities



Planck-fit for each spatial position



Colder slag due to higher emissivity





# Summary and outlook

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## Summary

- Various of optical methods for temperature determination is available
- In case of an arc discharge:
  - “easy case” – measurements in the post-arc phase;
  - “complex case” – measurements during the active phase
- Combinations of various methods increase applicability range

## Outlook

- Further development is necessary for temperature measurements within the active phase
- Increase of temporal resolution
  
- Further results will be presented at ISDEIV2020/Padova (IT), ICEC2020/ St. Gallen (CH) and **GD2020/Greifswald**

You are kindly invited to participate in



  
**XXIII**  
**GD 2020**  
Greifswald

XXIII. International Conference  
on Gas Discharges and their Applications  
**GD 2020**  
Greifswald, Germany

**Save the Date:** 30<sup>th</sup> August – 4<sup>th</sup> September  
[www.gd2020.org](http://www.gd2020.org)

# Thank you very much for your attention!



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## Literature

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H. Schöpp, A. Sperl, R. Kozakov, G. Gött, D. Uhrlandt, G. Wilhelm, J. Phys. D: Appl. Phys. 45(2012) 235203

R. Methling, M. Kurrat, T. Pieniak, St. Franke, D. Uhrlandt, B. Weber, S. Gortschakow, Proc. of 28th ISDEIV, V 2, 2018

R. Methling, St. Franke, S. Gortschakow, M. Abplanalp, R.-P. Sütterlin, Th. Delachaux, K. O. Menzel, IEEE TPS 45 (2017)