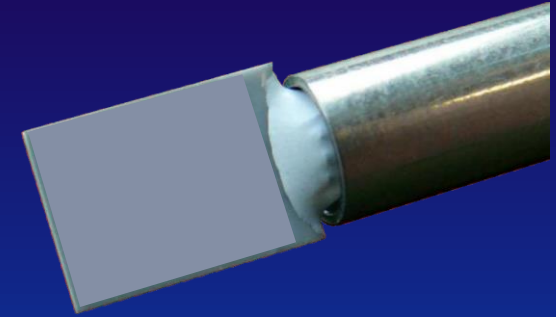


# A Probe for direction-dependent measurement of the energy influx – diagnostic and monitoring of plasma processes



XXVIII. Erfahrungsaustausch Oberflächentechnologie mit Plasma- und Ionenstrahlprozessen

Mühleithen, März 2023

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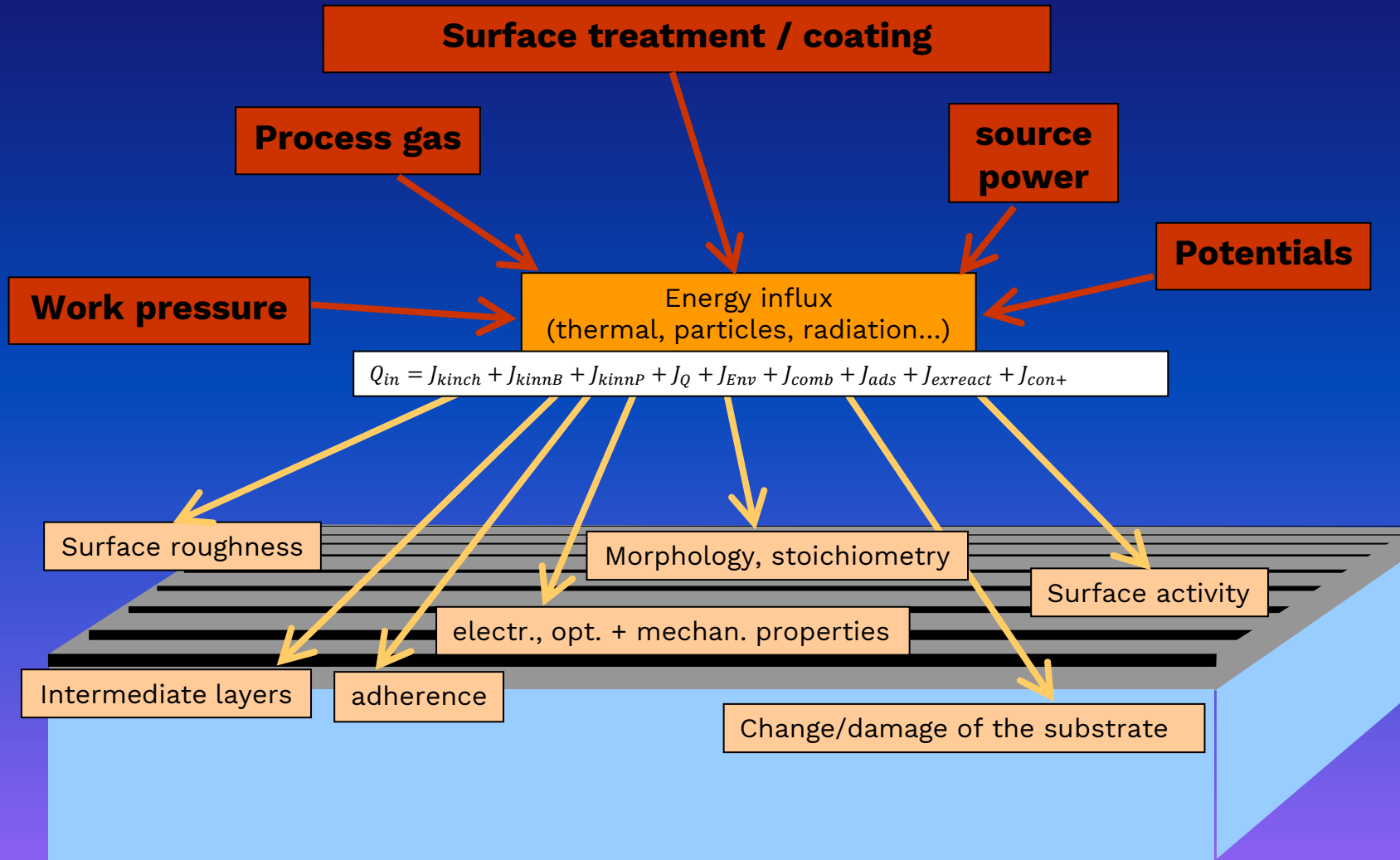


# History

- 2008 Patent
- 2008 Functional model
- market survey
- 2010 – 2011 Project E-Impact
  - Probe with bias voltage
  - Double probe (directional measurement)
- Measurements in different plasmas (Kiel, Liverpool, Leipzig)
  - Experience gained, another look at the probe
  - Comparison with other probes
- Offer from corporation Hiden
- Attempt to cooperate with Zirox
- Job at neoplas
- Feb 2022 Setting up a business

# Motivation

process parameter → energy influx → layer properties

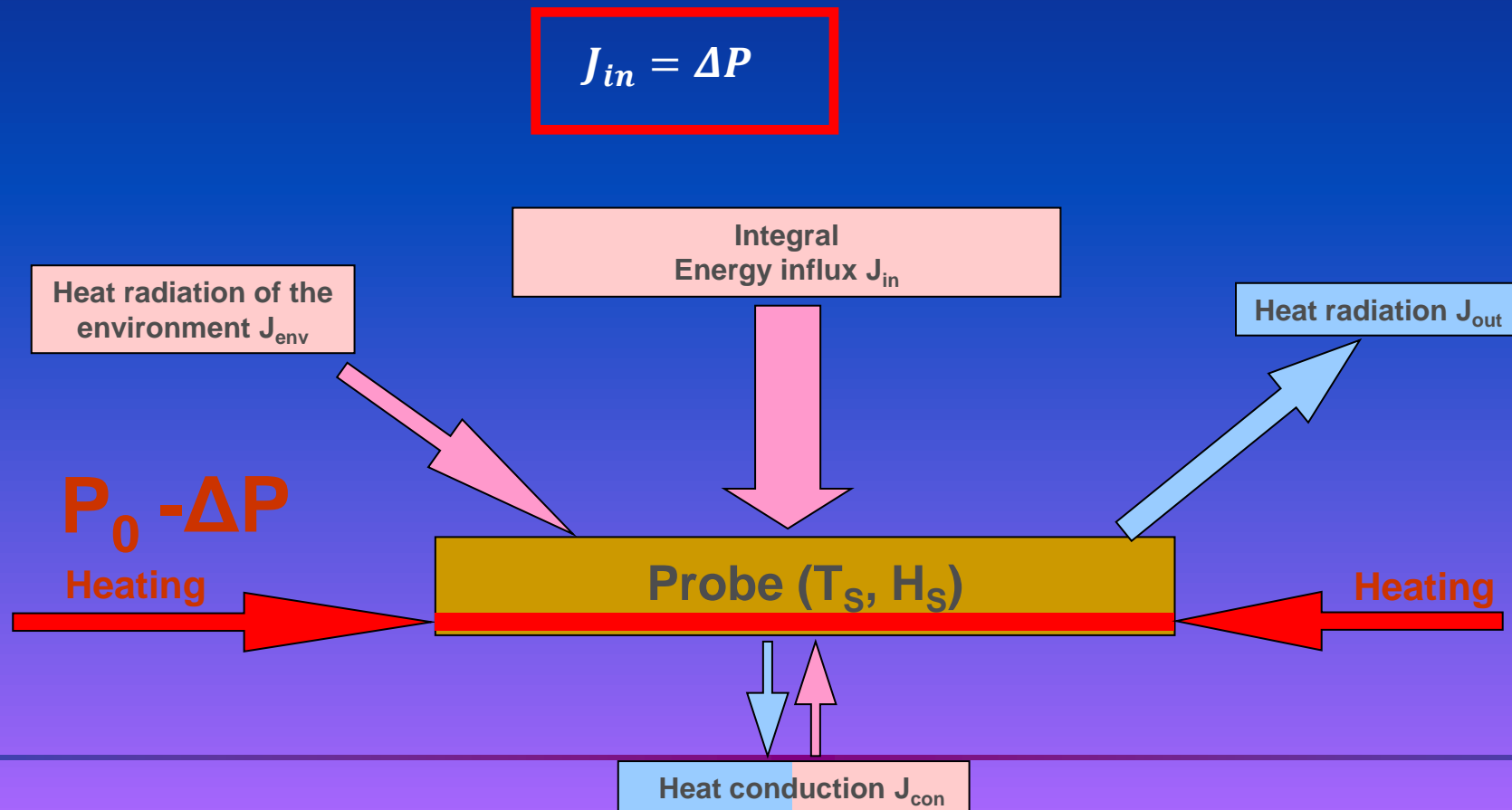


# Measurement principle of the Active Thermal Probe

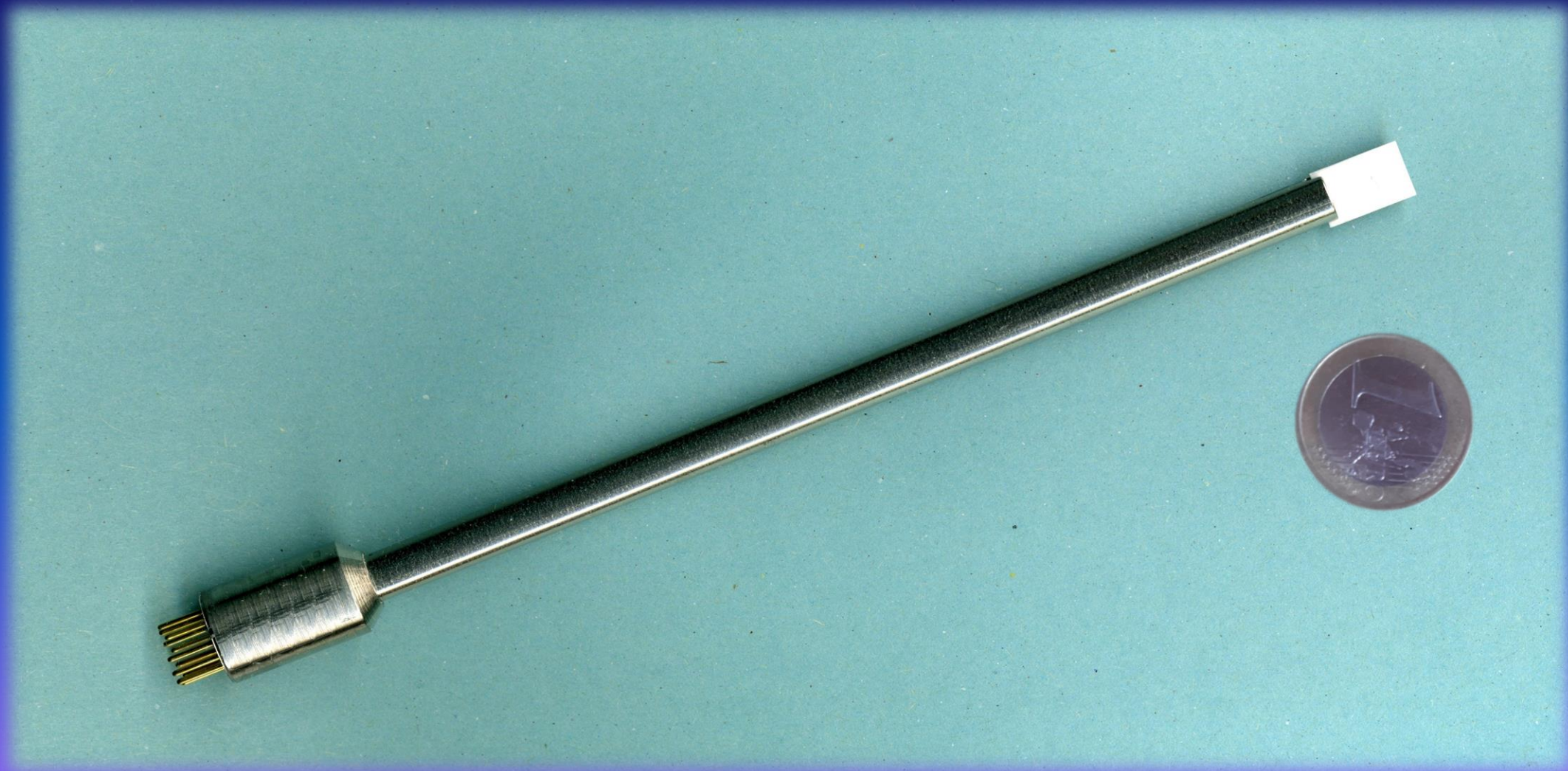
$$\dot{H}_S(\text{cool}) = J_{\text{env}} - J_{\text{out}} \pm J_{\text{con}}(T_S - T_c)_{\text{cool}} + P_0 = 0$$

$$\dot{H}_S(\text{heat}) = J_{\text{in}} + J_{\text{env}} - J_{\text{out}} \pm J_{\text{con}}(T_S - T_c)_{\text{heat}} + P_0 - \Delta P = 0$$

$$T_S = \text{const} \quad \curvearrowright \quad \dot{H}_S = m \cdot c \cdot \frac{dT_S}{dt} = 0$$



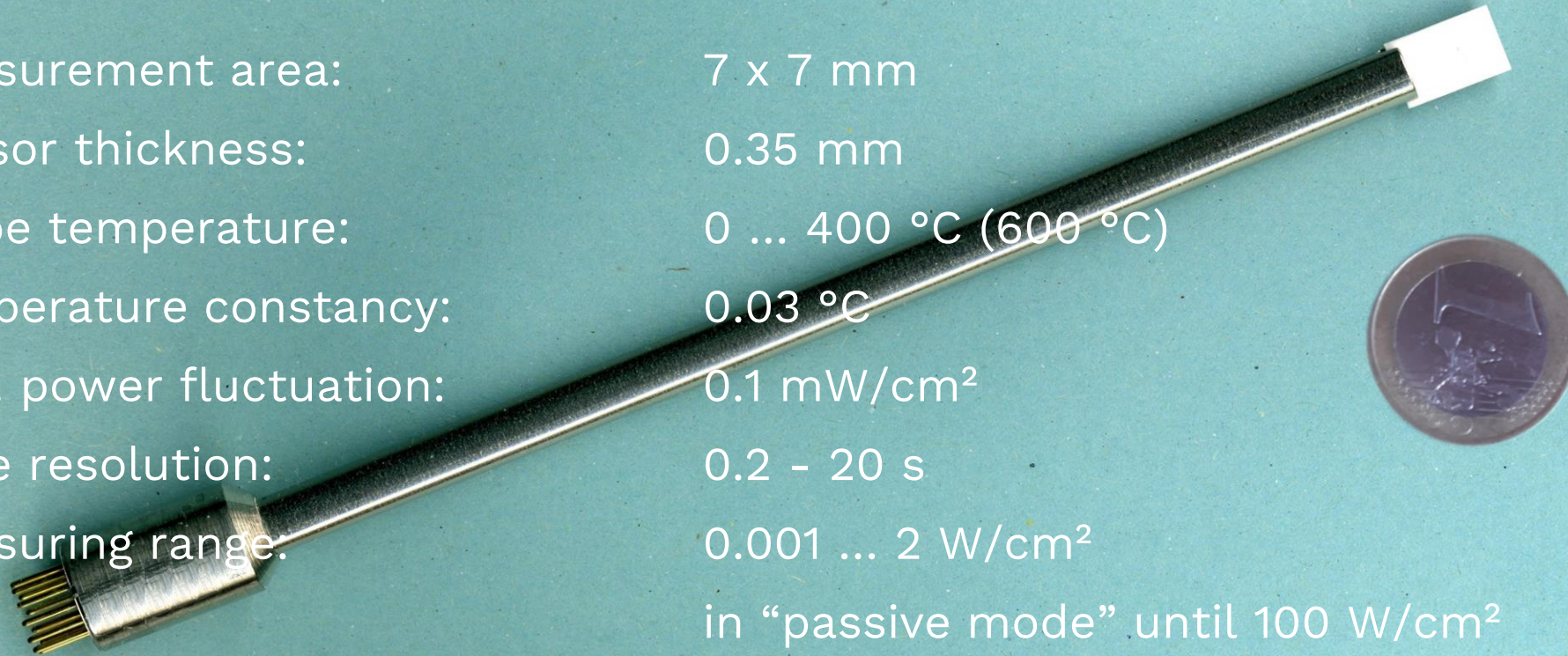
# Measurement principle – parameters achieved



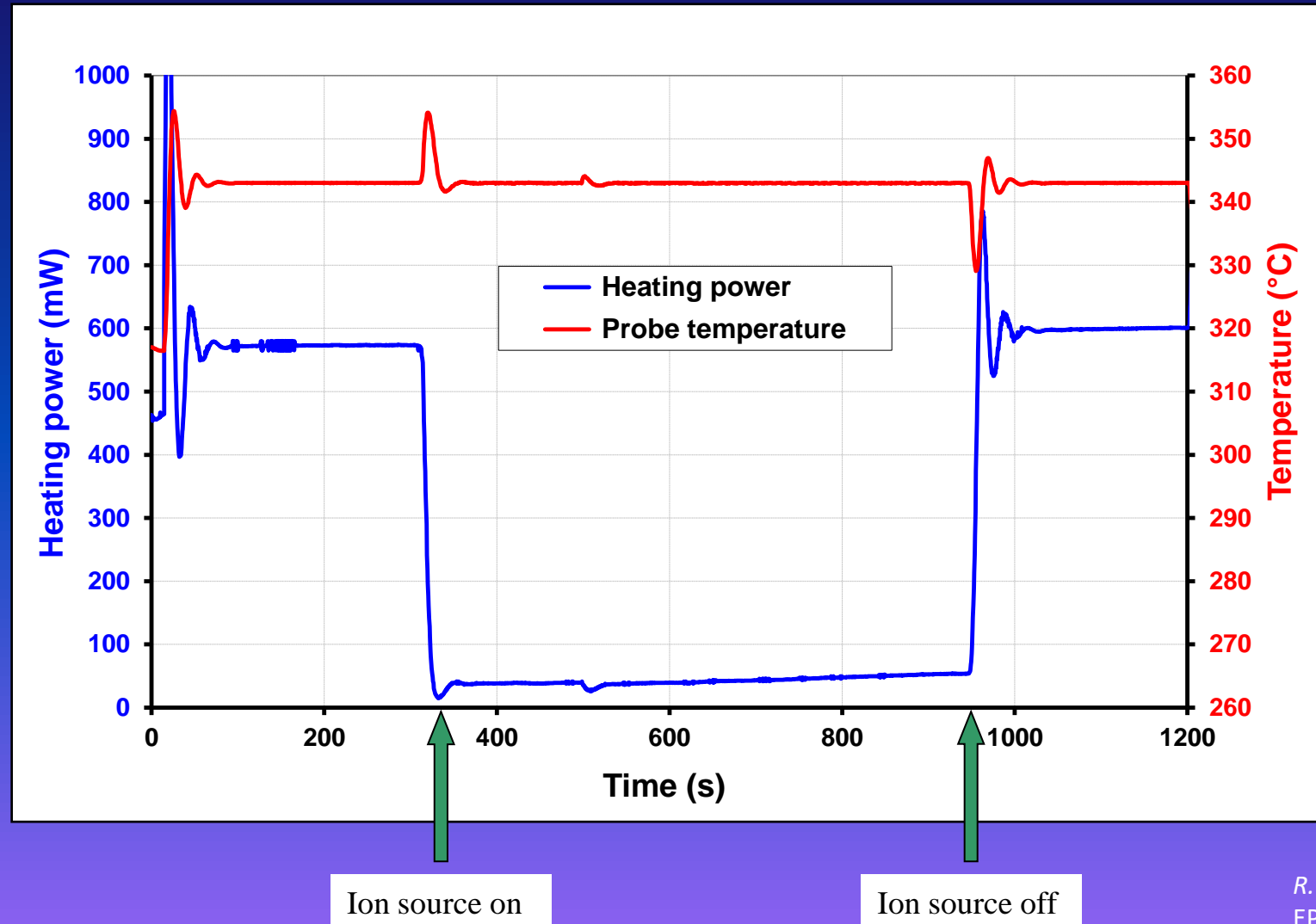


# Measurement principle – parameters achieved

- Measurement area: 7 x 7 mm
- Sensor thickness: 0.35 mm
- Probe temperature: 0 ... 400 °C (600 °C)
- temperature constancy: 0.03 °C
- Max. power fluctuation: 0.1 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>
- Time resolution: 0.2 - 20 s
- Measuring range: 0.001 ... 2 W/cm<sup>2</sup>  
in “passive mode” until 100 W/cm<sup>2</sup>
- Accuracy/measurement error : 1 mW/cm<sup>2</sup>

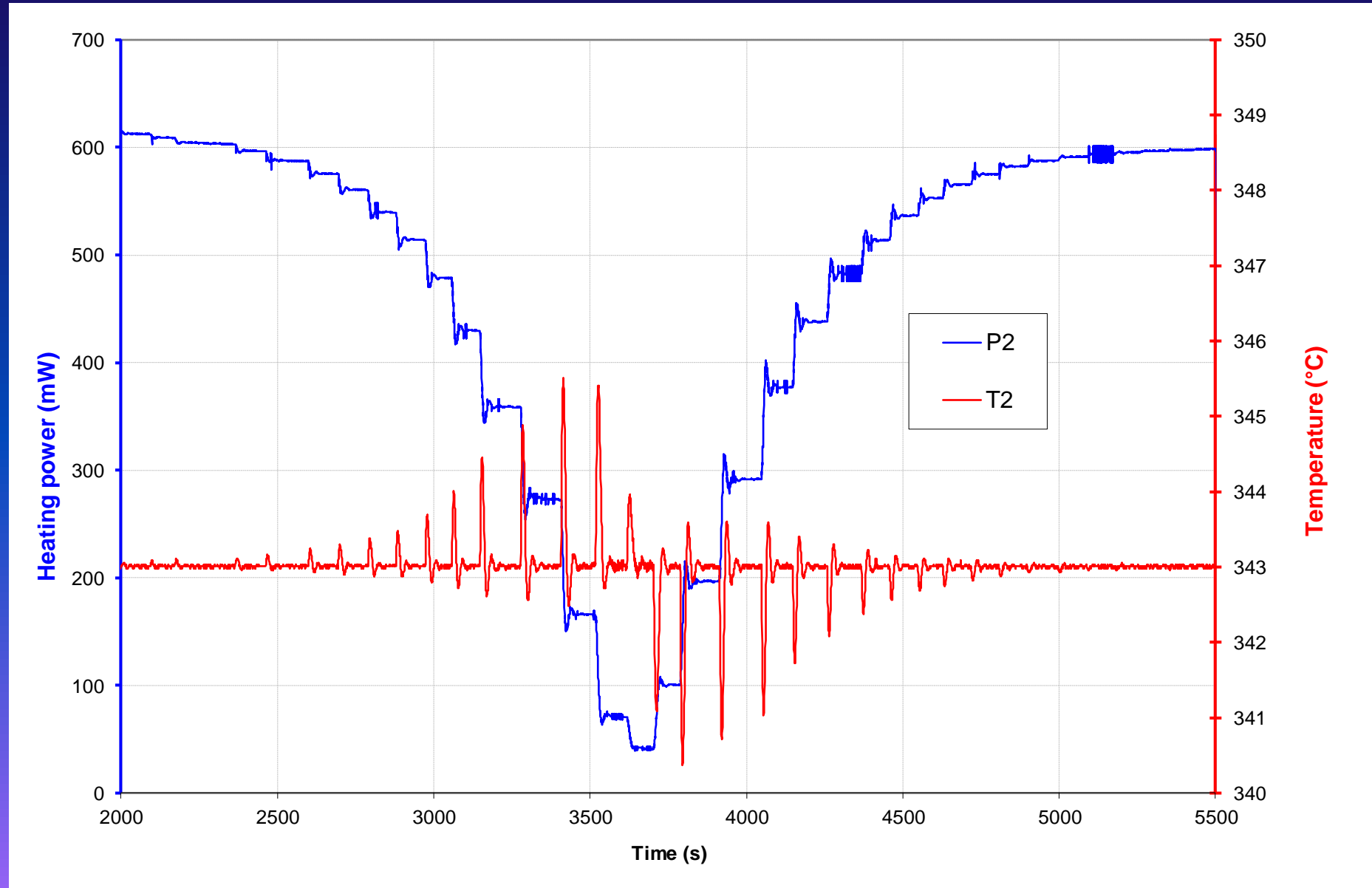


# Measurement principle of the Active Thermal Probe



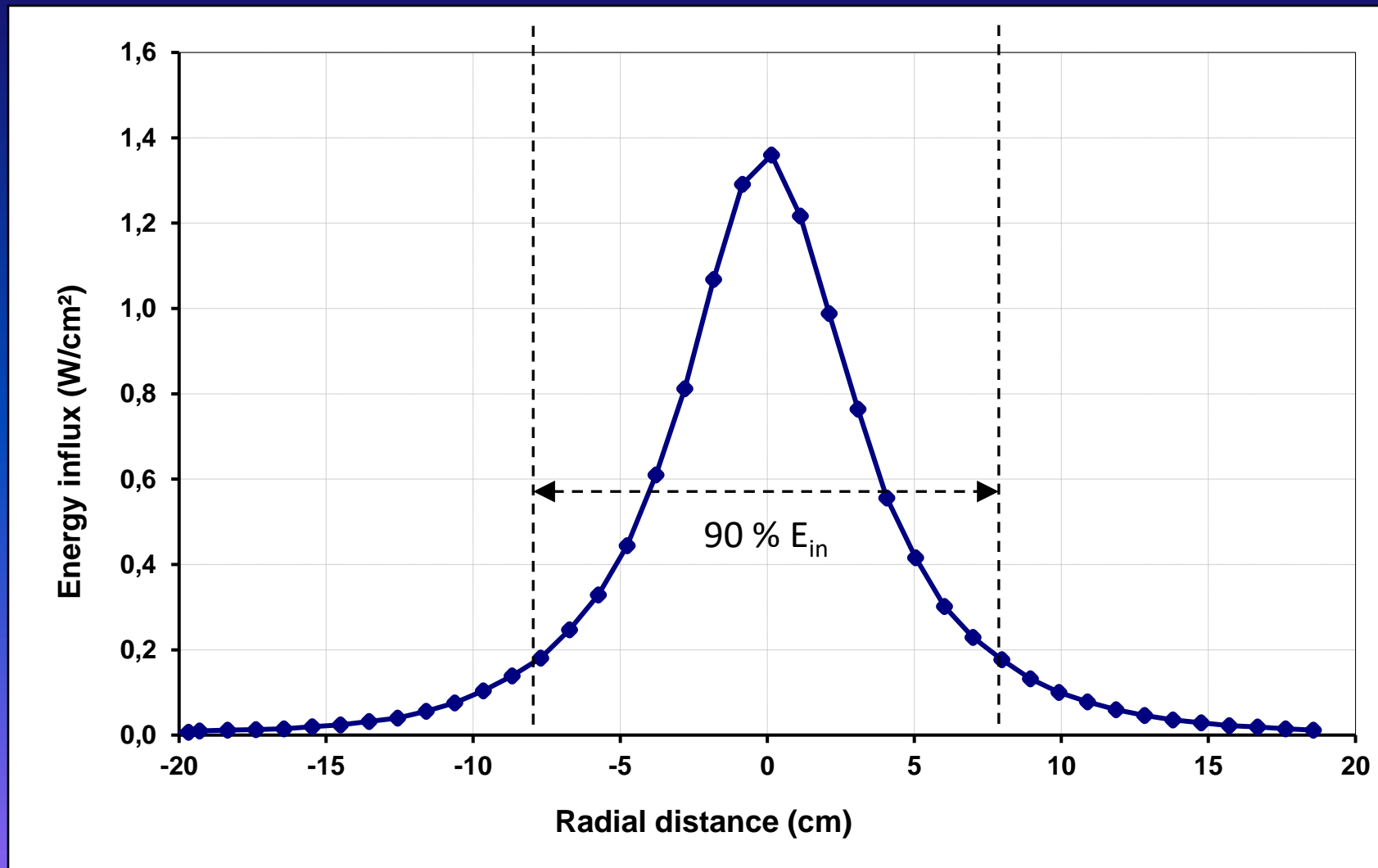
R. Wiese, H. Kersten, G. Wiese, R. Bartsch,  
EPJ Techniques and Instrumentation,  
Volume 2, Issue 1, 2015

# Measurement principle of the Active Thermal Probe





# Sample measurements - ion source profile



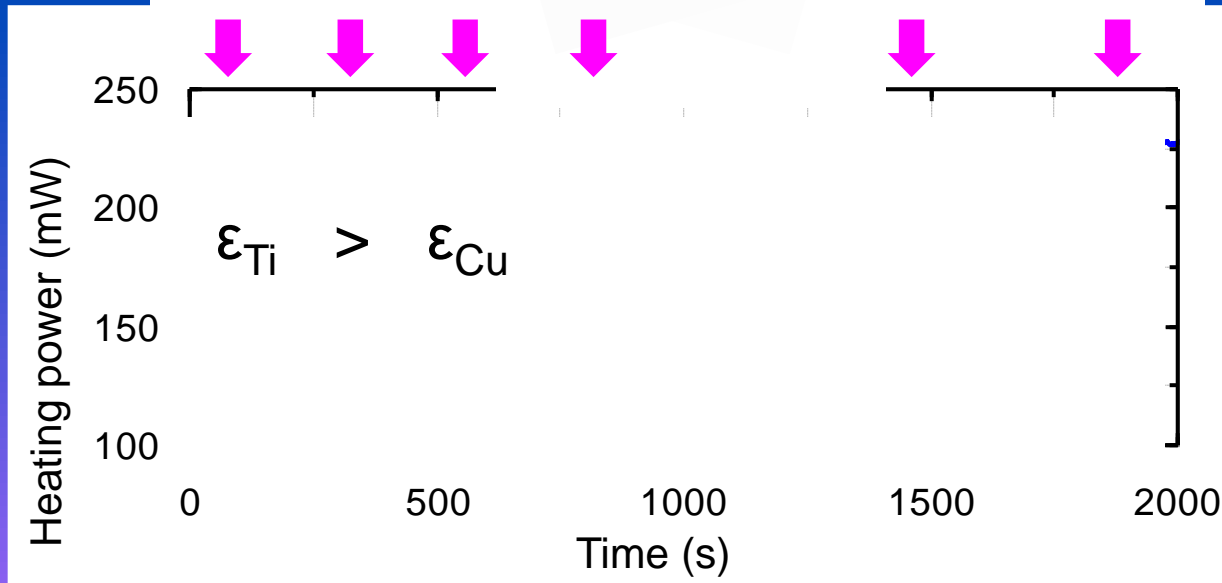
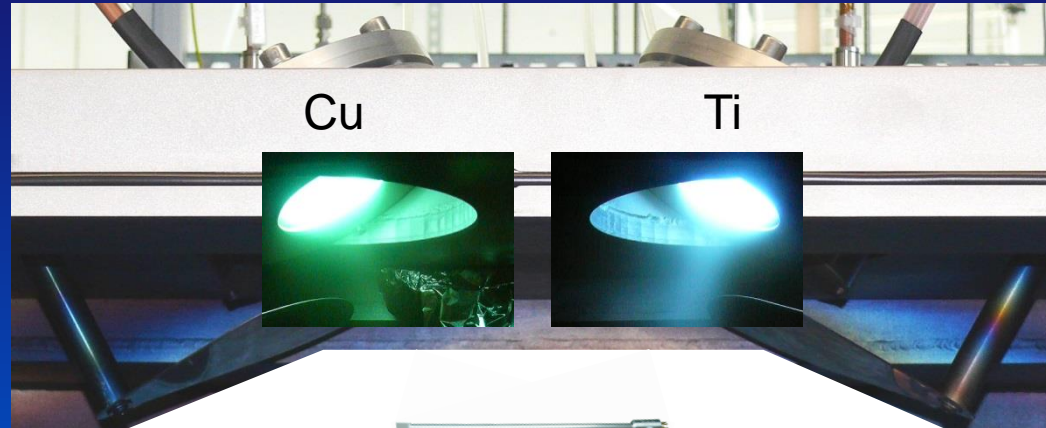
$p = 4 \cdot 10^{-2} \text{ Pa}$   
Working gas: Ar  
Beam voltage: 500 V  
Source distanz: 22,5 cm  
Source diameter: 16 cm

R. Wiese, H. Kersten, G. Wiese, R. Bartsch,  
EPJ Techniques and Instrumentation,  
Volume 2, Issue 1, 2015

# Sample measurement: Energy influx during coating

$$Q = \varepsilon \cdot \sigma \cdot A \cdot T_S^4$$

$$T_S = 320 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}$$

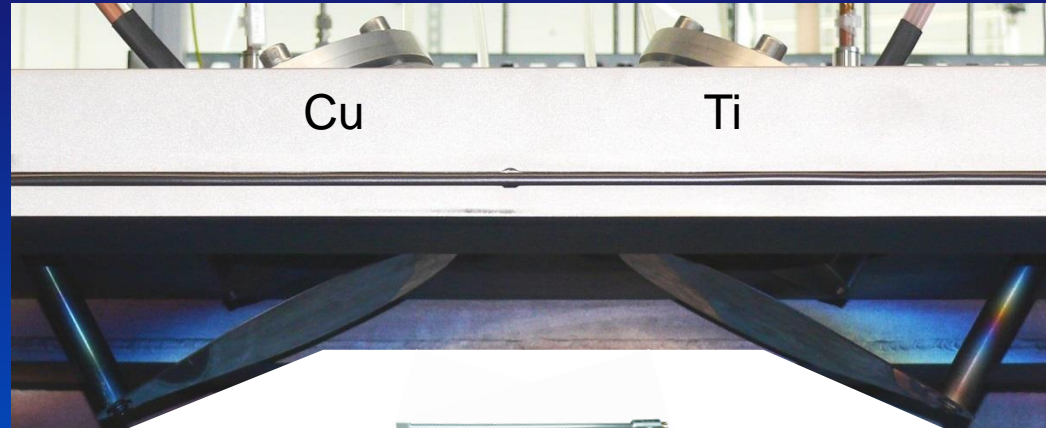


R. Wiese, H. Kersten, G. Wiese, R. Bartsch,  
EPJ Techniques and Instrumentation,  
Volume 2, Issue 1, 2015

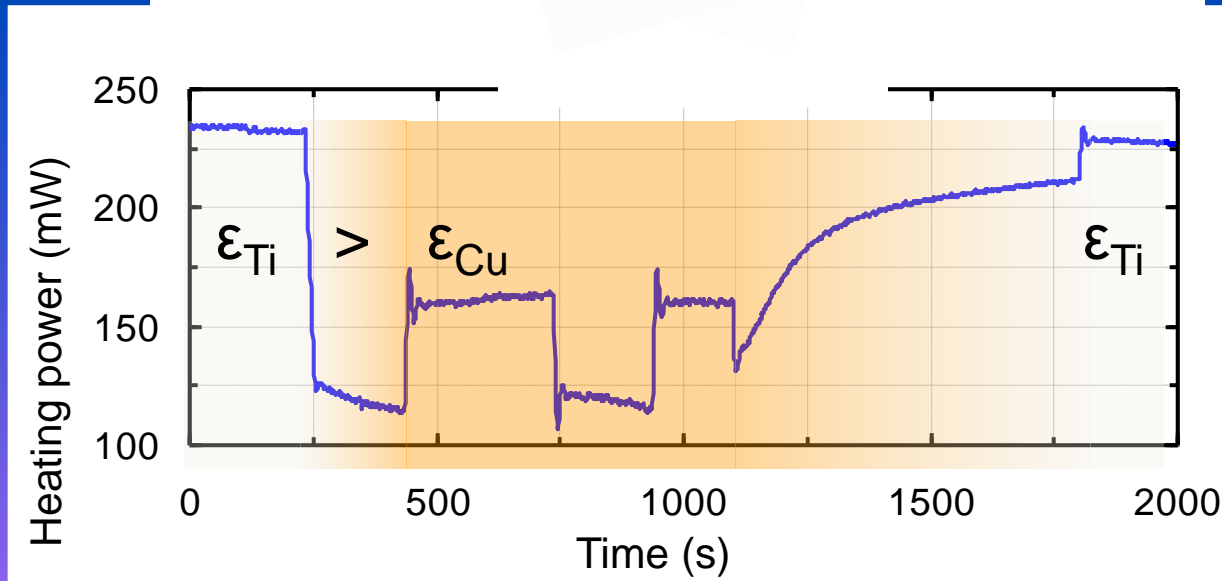
# Sample measurement: Energy influx during coating

$$Q = \varepsilon \cdot \sigma \cdot A \cdot T_S^4$$

$$T_S = 320 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$$



↪ **Measurement of the energy influx during coating is possible!**

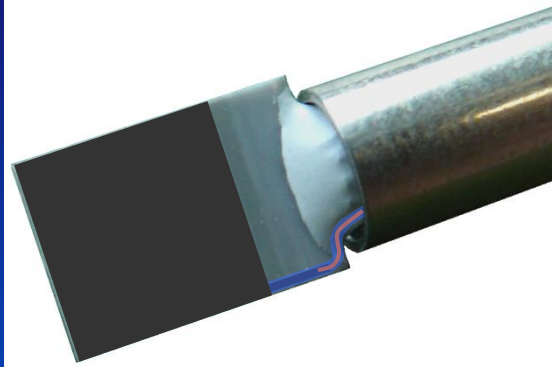


R. Wiese, H. Kersten, G. Wiese, R. Bartsch,  
EPJ Techniques and Instrumentation,  
Volume 2, Issue 1, 2015

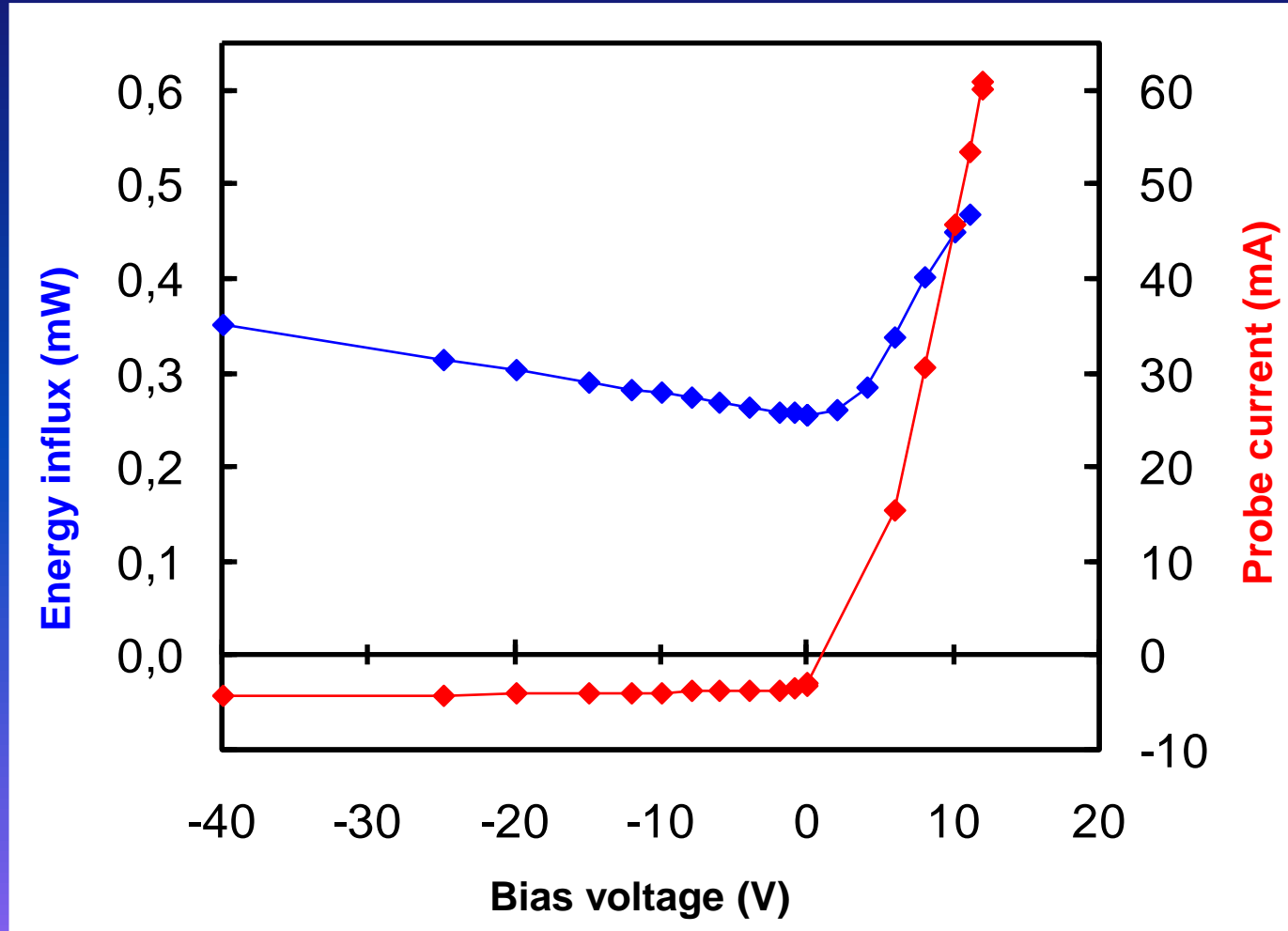
What else is new??



# Design: Probe with bias voltage

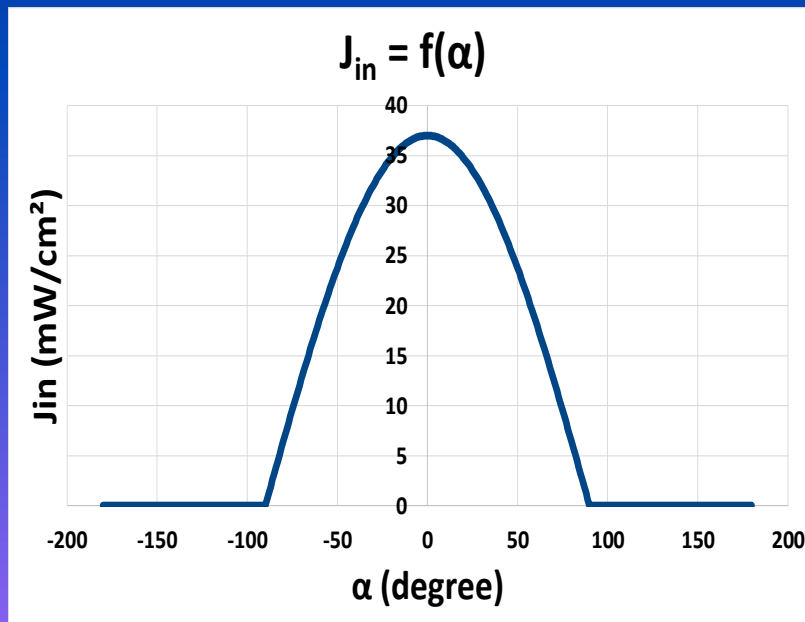
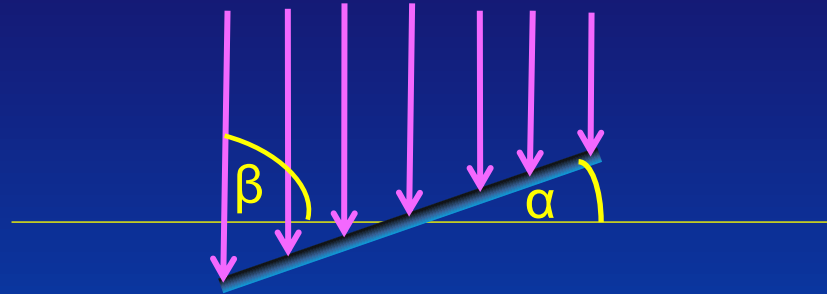


*RF-discharge*  
*p = 10 Pa*  
*Working gas: Argon*  
*P = 150 W*

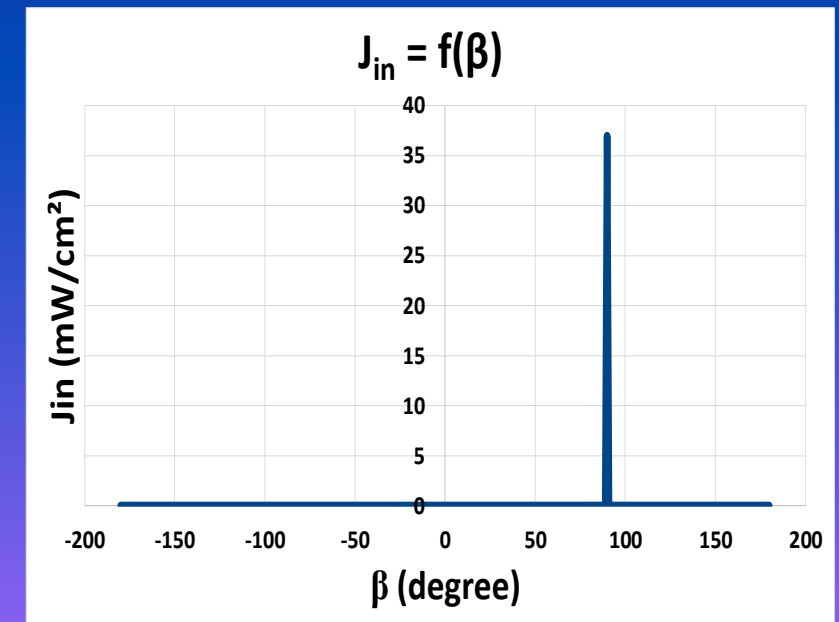


# Design: Double probe for directional measurements

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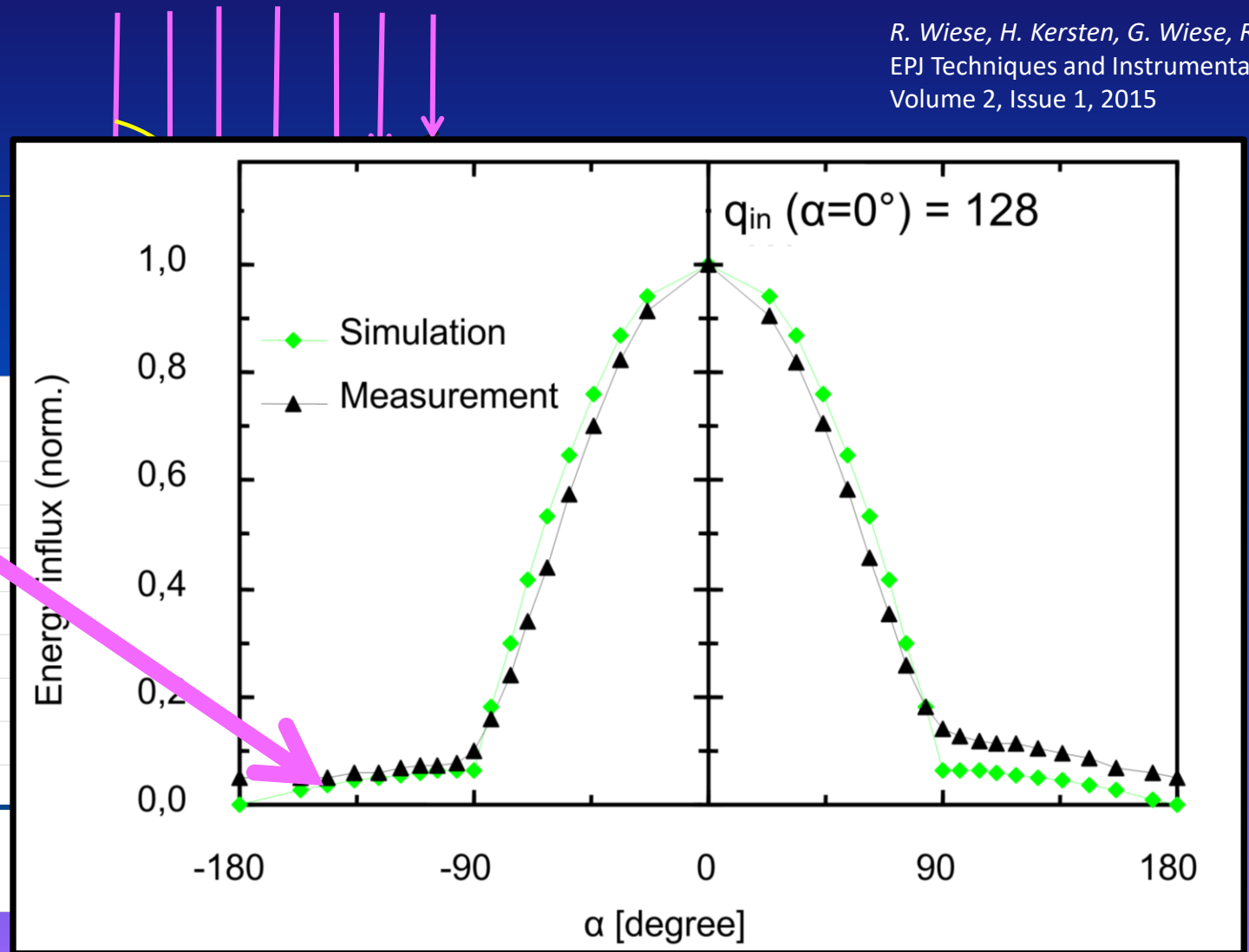
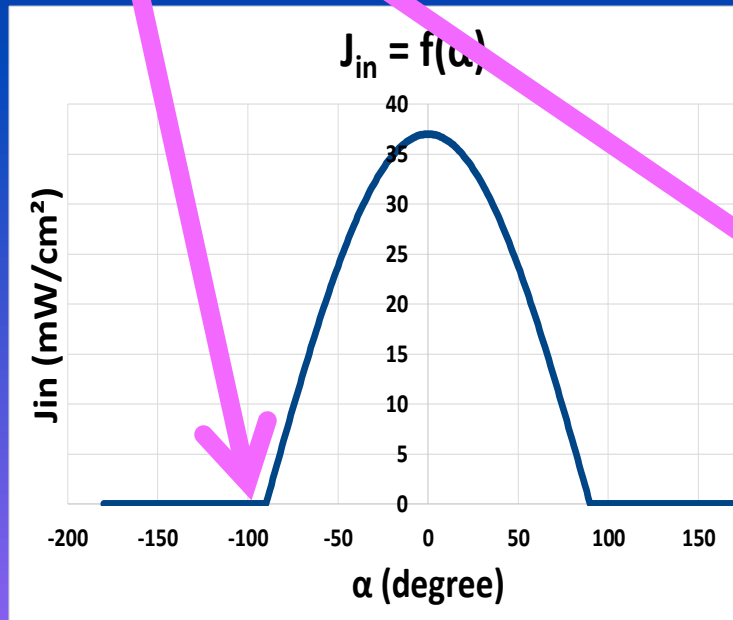


Laplace



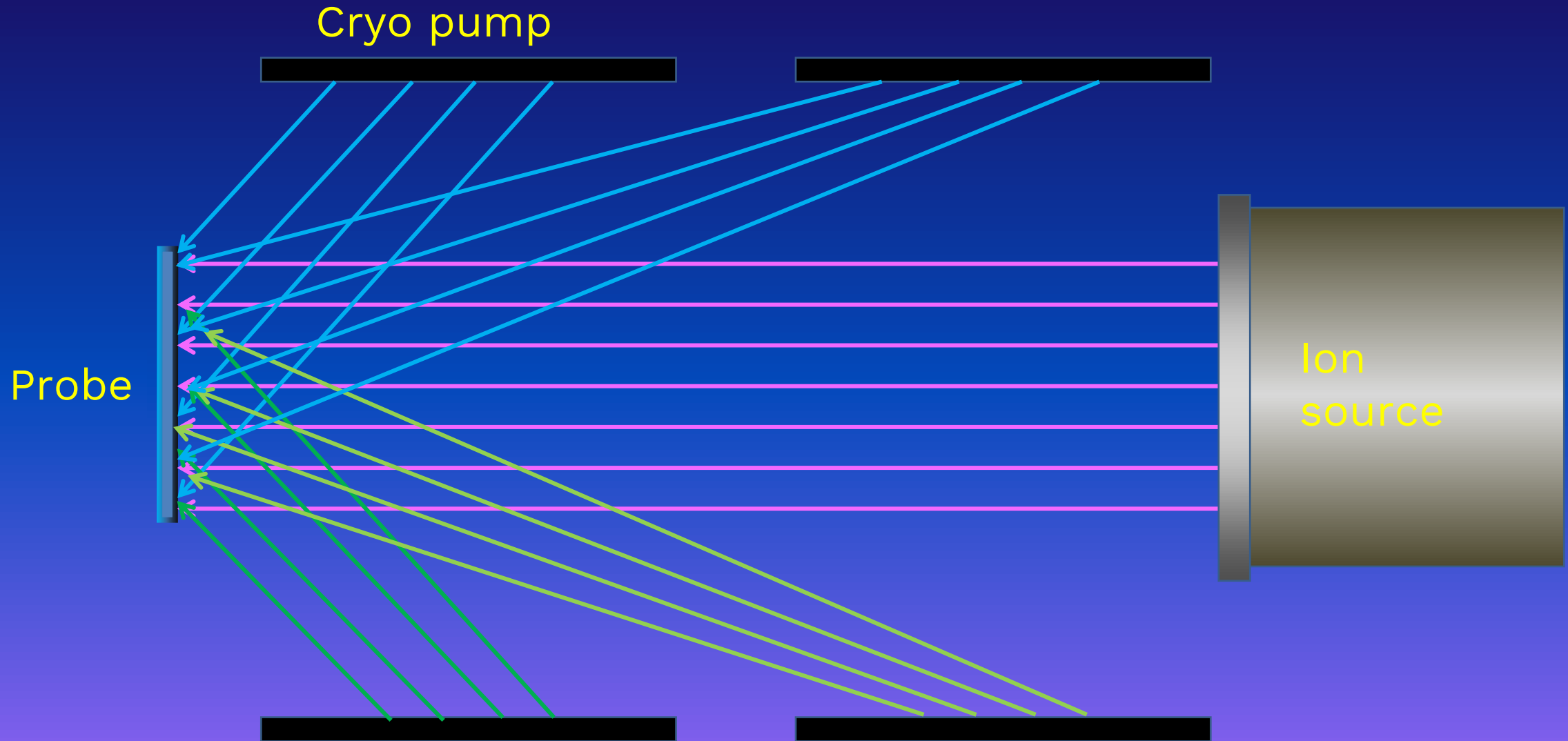
# Design: Double probe for directional measurements

**Energy influx is (almost) zero on the back. Without shielding!**



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EPJ Techniques and Instrumentation,  
Volume 2, Issue 1, 2015

# Application: Double probe





- **Determination of  $dT/dx$  :**  
*spatial gradient*

# Tandian, N.P., Pfender, E., PCPP **17**(1997), 353.  
# Steffen, H., Kersten, H., Wulff, H., JVST **A12**(1994), 2780.  
# Kersten, H., Snijkers, R., Schulze, J., Kroesen, G.M.W.,  
Deutsch, H., deHoog, F.J., APL **64**(1994), 1496.  
# Gardon, R., RSI **24**(1953), 366

- **Measurement  $dTs/dt$  :**  
*Time derivative*  
*(passive), PTP*

# Thornton, J.A., JVST **11**(1974), 666.  
# Wendt, R., Ellmer, K., Wiesemann, K., JAP **82**(1997), 2115.  
# Ekpe, S.D., Dew, S.K., JVST **A22**(2004), 1420.  
# Thomann, A.L., Semmar, N., Dussart, R., Mathias, J., Lang, V., RSI **77**(2006), 033501.  
# Čada, M., Bradley, J., Clarke, G., Kelly, P.J., JAP **102**(2007), 063301  
# Kersten, H., Kroesen, G.M.W., Contrib. Plasma Phys. **30**(1990), 725.

- **Measurement  $T_p$**   
*Particle fluorescence*

# Swinkels, G., Kersten, H., Kroesen, G., Deutsch, H. JAP **88**(2000), 1747.  
# Maurer, H., Basner, R., Kersten, H., RSI **79**(2008), 093508.



$$I_{th} = ?(J_{in})$$

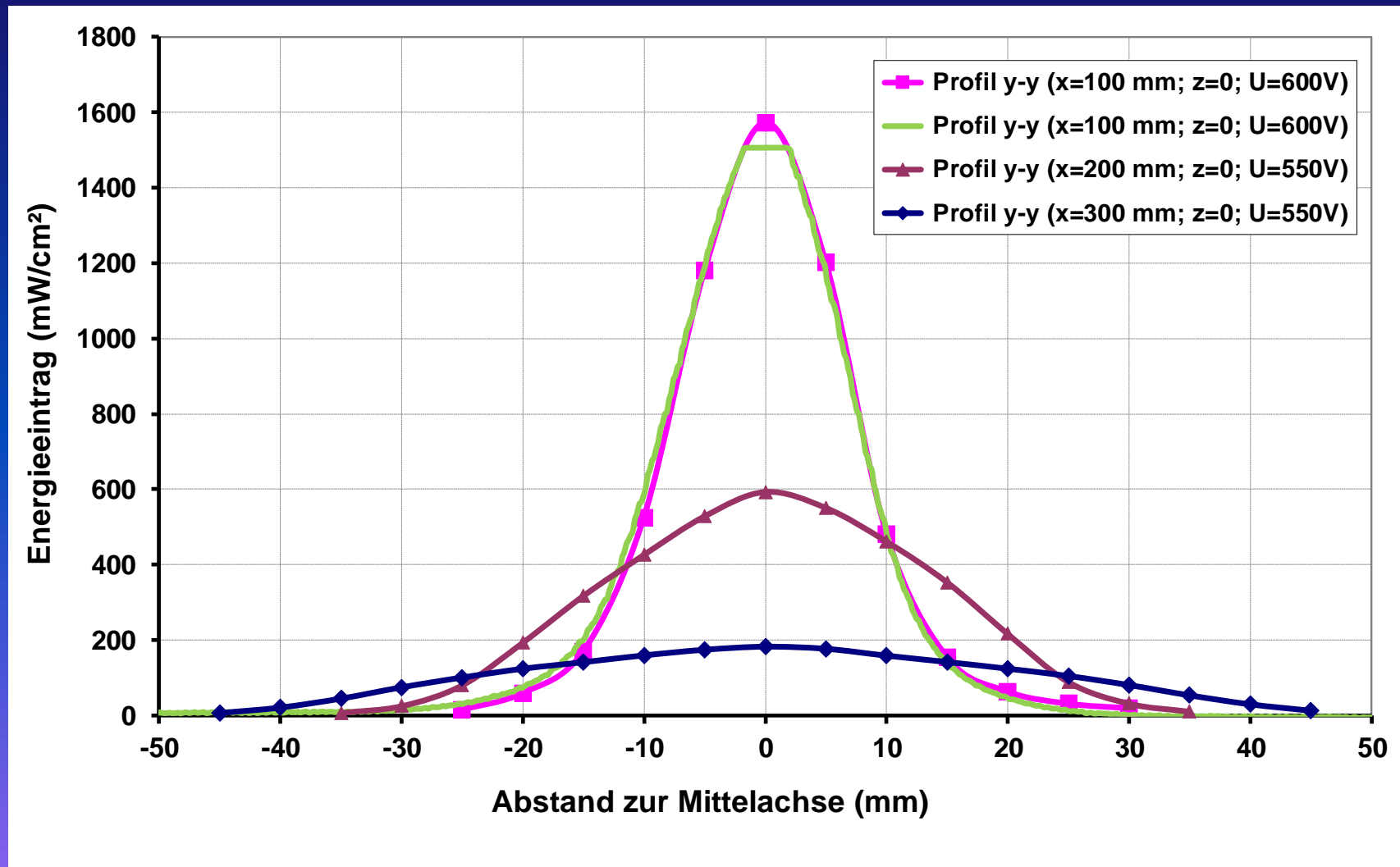
- no calibration is necessary
- continuous measurement
- Result of the simulation:  
3% deviation between simulation and measured value

- Measurement  $Q_{in}$  :  
*Compensation*  
*(active), ATP*

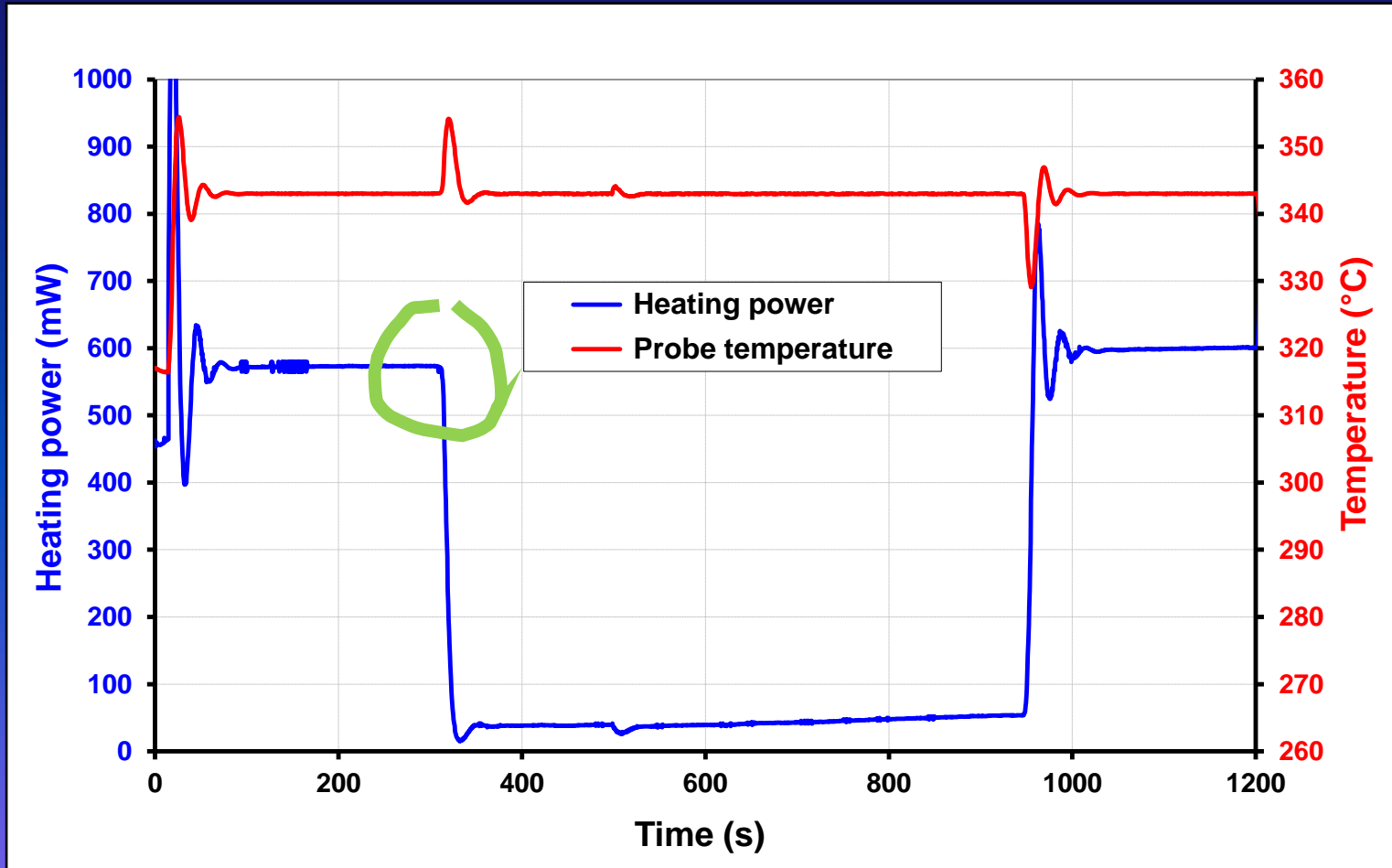
# Wiese, R., Kersten, H., *Galvanotechnik* 99(2008), 1502.

# Wiese, R., Kersten, H., Wiese, G., Bartsch, R., *EPJTI* 2(2015), 2.

# Continuos Measurement



# Suitable for process control ?



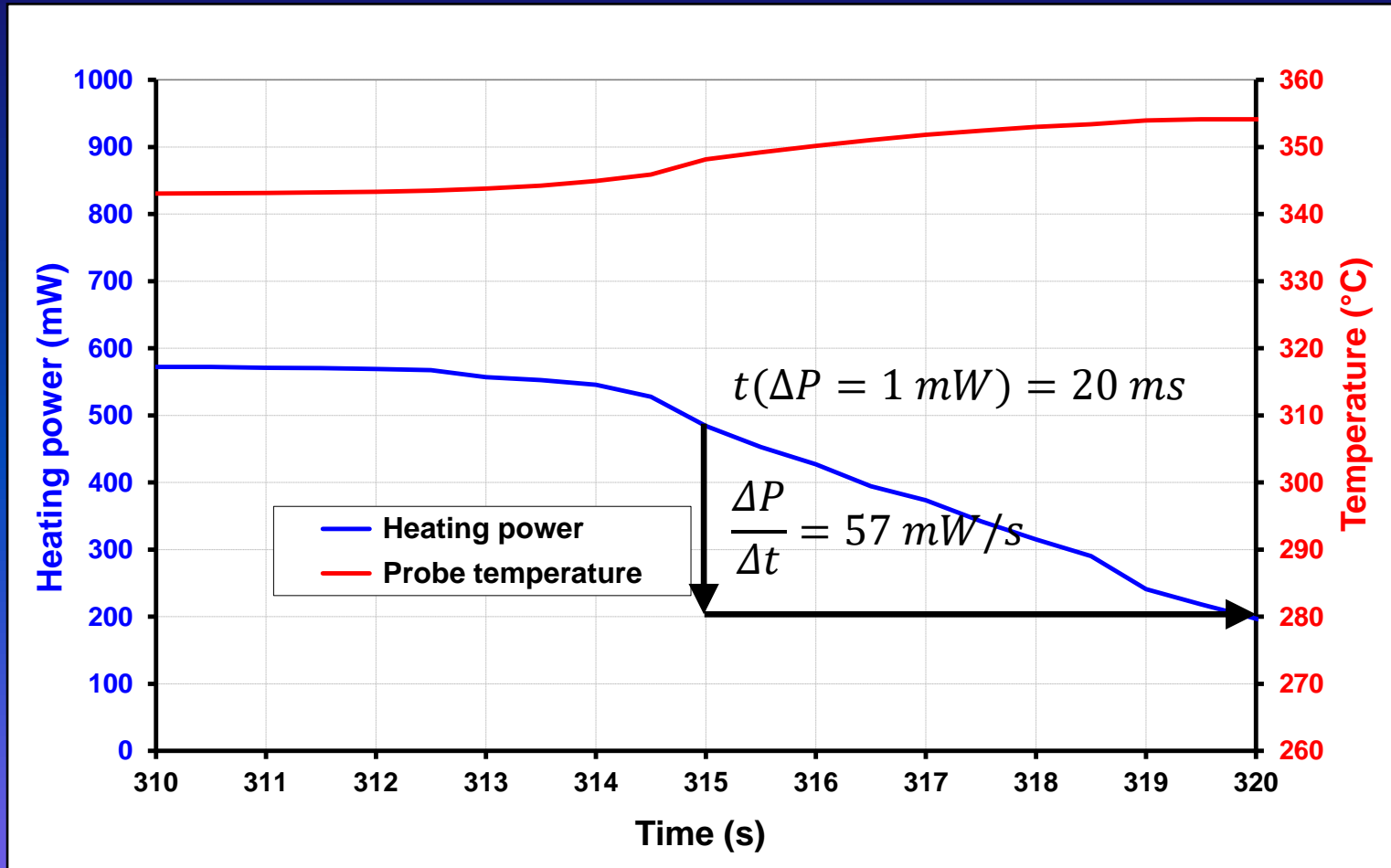
Are the values constant?

Yes

Is the reaction speed sufficient ?



# Process control – reaction speed sufficient ?



after 20 – 100 ms  
→ **alarm signal**

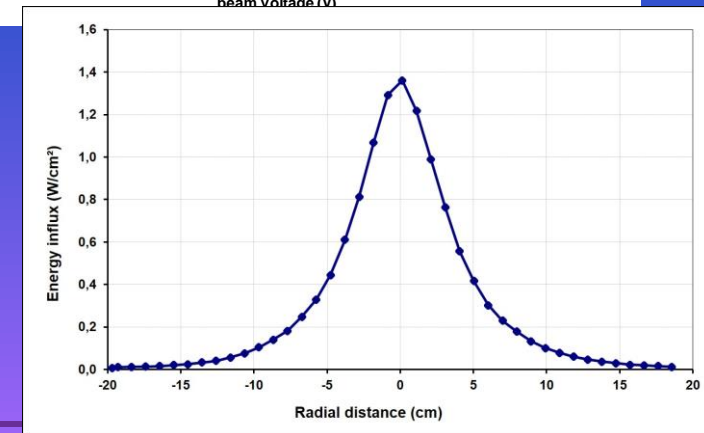
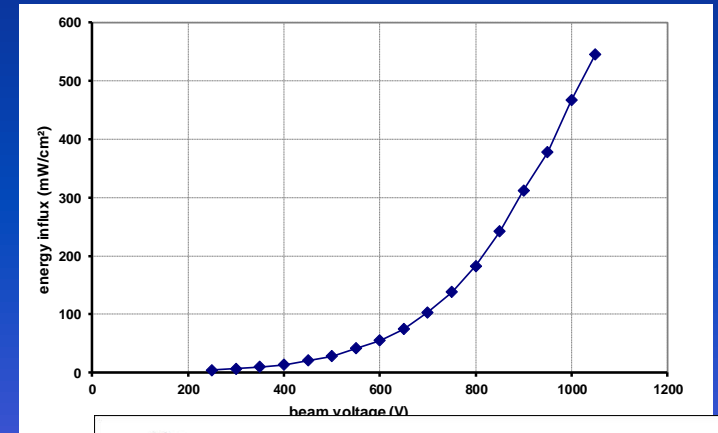
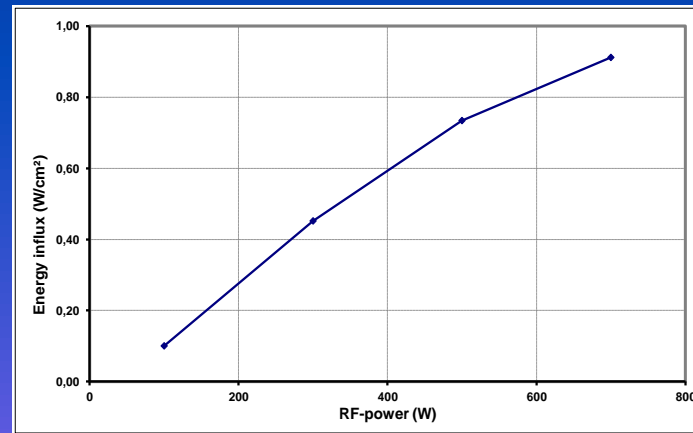
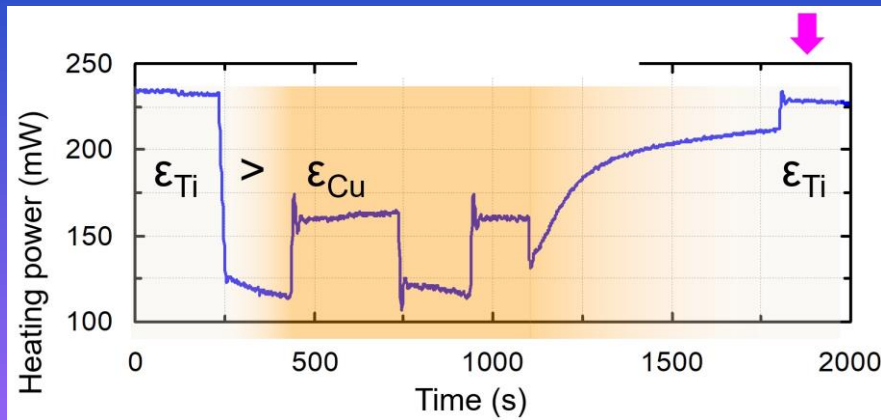
after 10 – 15 s  
→ measured value  
of the energy influx

→ **Active Thermal Probe**  
**is suitable for**  
**process control**

# Summary

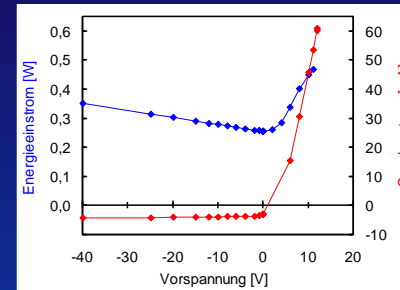
- Energy influx define the surface properties
- Conventional measurement methods  $J_{in} = f(I_{th})$
- Measuring principle of the Active Thermal Probe
- Sample measurements
  - Ion source
  - RF-plasma
  - Magnetron

$$J_{in} = \Delta P$$

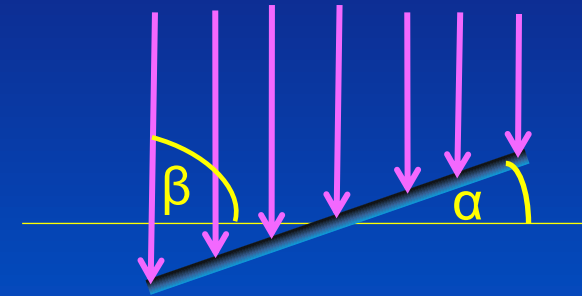


# The top results:

- Probe with bias voltage
- Double probe for directional Measurement Without any shilding !
- No calibration necessary
- Measurement during coating is possible
- **Probe suitable for:  
academic questions,  
process diagnostics and  
process control**



~~$I_{in} = f(I_{th})$~~



# Outlook

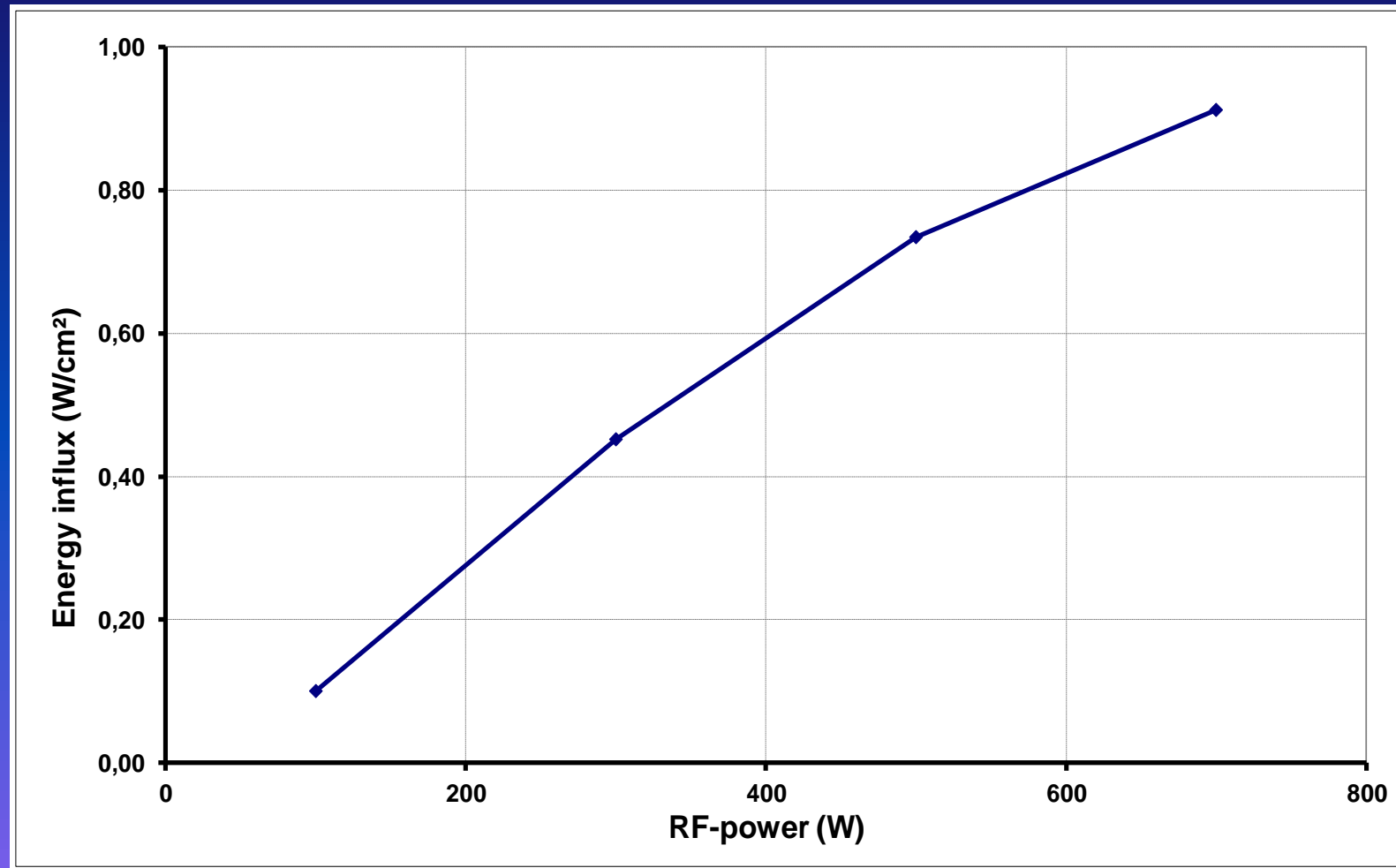
- Neue komfortable Software
- Interner AD/DA-Wandler – kein Steuerteil notwendig
- Option eines im Plasma floatenden Schutzrohres
- Mechanische Optimierung der Sonde
- Miniaturisierung der Sensorfläche
- Fertigung der Doppelsonde

# Acknowledgment



**Thank you for your attention !**

# Sample measurement: Energy influx in RF-plasma



*p = 0,5 Pa*  
*Working gas: Argon*  
*inductive coupling*

R. Wiese, H. Kersten, G. Wiese, R. Bartsch, EPJ Techniques and Instrumentation, Volume 2, Issue 1, 2015