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WIEN

DISSERTATION

# Cool Science

ausgeführt am Atominstitut



der Technische Universität Wien  
Fakultät für Physik

unter der Anleitung von  
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*“The Setesh guard’s nose drips.”*  
TEAL’C

## **Abstract**

Short and sweet...

# **Zusammenfassung**

Kurz und bündig...

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# 1. Cathodic Ray Tube Basics

This section features a quick explanation what a CRT is and what it's main components are, followed by a more detailed description on how these components are implemented in the CRT Heerlen D14-363GY, which was used in this project. It ends with a description of the important characteristics of the CRT and the requirements the theory poses on them.

## 1.1. Underlying Physics

Wikipedia states: "The cathode-ray tube (CRT) is a vacuum tube that contains one or more electron guns and a phosphorescent screen and is used to display images. It modulates, accelerates, and deflects electron beam(s) onto the screen to create the images."

There are three vital components to accomplish this feat: the electron gun, the electron lens and the deflection plates.

The electron gun extracts electrons from a cathode material, accelerates them onto a perforated anode and thereby produces a free electron beam (fig). One important characteristic in the selection of a cathode material is a low work function. The work function denotes the amount of energy needed to extract one electron from the material. There are two ways to overcome this energy barrier in an electron gun, one can either overcompensate it by applying a strong electric field ("field emission", "cold cathode", fig X,a) or one can heat the material until some electrons have enough thermal energy to overcome the energy barrier ("thermal emission", "hot cathode", fig X,b). For our CRT, only thermal emission is relevant, more detail on this will be added later along with the description of our cathode's design.

Short mention of Wehnelt cylinder

The electrons that leave the electron gun are still divergent and need to be focused. For our 22 keV electrons it is still possible to use an electrostatic lens. Cylindrically symmetrical pieces of conductor, like rings and tubes, can be set to an electrical potential and act as a lens for the electrons. By combining several of them, one can

Insert sketch of electron gun

Optional: Insert sketch of cold cathode

optional: sketch of hot cathode

mention Wehnelt cylinder

(theoretically) engineer an electro-optical system with any combination of desired focal lengths  $f_1$  and  $f_2$ . The field of this system is simply governed by Laplace's equation in cylindrical coordinates:

$$0 = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial r} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial r^2} + \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial y^2} \quad (1.1)$$

If we take the axis of the beam to be the z-axis, the position of the focal point in the x-y-plane can be shifted using the two pairs of deflection plates, one for the x- and one for the y-direction. The deflection is achieved by applying a voltage between the two parallel plates. (figure ) In this simple case the deflection angle is approximately (cite):

$$\delta \tan(\delta) \approx \frac{e \cdot U_z \cdot L}{2U_0 \cdot d} \quad (1.2)$$

As the angles in question are normally well below 1 degree, everything will probably be easy :)

## 1.2. Implementation in the Heerlen D14-363GY

This section describes how, the mechanisms described above are implemented in the CRT that was used in this project: the PDS/CRT Heerlen D14-363GY. Figure xxxa shows an image of said CRT, figure xxxb shows a schematic depiction. The cathode is not visible, as it is fixed inside the Wehnelt cylinder (1), just a few millimeters from the exit of the wehnelt cylinder the electrons pass through the perforated anode (2) they gain their full final kinetic energy over this short distance. The electrons that go through the perforation and enter the electrostatic lens, have 2 keV and therefore move at a speed of approximately  $0.08 c_0$ . The electrostatic lenses are realized using three conducting rings (3), that are set to the same potential but have varying radii: Each consecutive ring has a smaller radius than the previous one, this leads to...

Auswirkung

Between the electrostatic lens and the deflection plates, there is another aperture (4), which is internally connected to the anode and is thereby kept at the same potential. In our Setup, the deflection plates are not simply parallel but are shaped like funnels (5,7), between the two pairs of deflection plates, we have the final aperture (6), this ones potential can be regulated seperately (usually at x)

It is connected to the glass envelope of the CRT to prevent the glass from charging up and distorting the image. Finally the beam hits the phorsphorous-coated screen which floureces on electron impact.

### 1.2.1. The Cathode

As already mentioned, we are using a hot cathode, where the electrons are excited thermally until some of them acquire enough energy to leave the material. Compared to cold cathodes, which work by field emission, this leads to a broader energy distribution. In fields like electron microscopy, where a high resolution is the goal, this is undesirable, as it leads to some degree of chromatic aberration in the electron optics, for our purposes, this should not be a problem. On the other hand, hot cathodes normally allow for higher current densities (cite), which is very important to us. The electron current from this kind of emission is described by (cite) :

$$I = A \cdot T^2 \cdot e^{-b/T} \quad (1.3)$$

Where  $b$  is proportional to the work function of the material,  $T$  is temperature and  $A$  is a material-dependent constant. It is clear from this formula, that a low work function and a high melting point are important characteristics for a good cathode material. A brief comparison of the most commonly used candidates is given in table XXX .

The cathode from one of our Heerlen D14-363GY-tubes has been removed and examined with EDX (Energy-dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy). Nickel, barium, and strontium have been found, which suggests that it is a metal oxide cathode with barium-, strontium-, and possibly aluminum-oxide. This type of cathode is very common in low power electron tubes.

add figure (citation) describes a typical oxide cathode as a coating of barium and strontium oxides on a structure made from nickel alloys. Nickel is chosen for its strength and toughness, which it retains even at high temperatures. These cathodes are normally made by coating a case structure with a mixture of barium and strontium carbonates (typically 60 % Ba and 40 % Sr), suspended in a binder material and then baking the structure, causing the carbonates to be reduced to oxides.

These metal oxide cathodes normally operate at 700 °C to 820 °C and are capable of average emission densities of 100 mA cm<sup>-2</sup> to 500 mA cm<sup>-2</sup>. Still higher peak emissions are possible for shorter periods of time, as already mentioned, one of the advantages of this type of cathode is its high emission current capability compared to cathodes made from other materials. Downsides to this cathode type are its greater susceptibility to so-called oxygen poisoning and to ion bombardment. The literature therefore recommends to avoid prolonged exposure to oxygen, this will be expanded upon in section (reference) . Also the material from the oxide cathode will evaporate during the



## 1. Cathodic Ray Tube Basics

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lifetime of the tube and will travel to other parts of the tube. The literature (citation "powertubes") therefore also advises against exceeding the design value for the heater voltage, as this reduces the lifetime of the cathode significantly. (however during the course of our project, we did drive the cathode with higher heater voltages on various occasions in order to increase the available beam current)

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insert citation  
from "powertub  
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fine adjustments directly in the code. If you are not already using it you should go 1  
and check it out. 2

# 1 **Todo list**

2	■ Insert sketch electron gun . . . . .	1
3	■ Optional: Insert sketch cold cathode . . . . .	1
4	■ optional: sketch of hot cathode . . . . .	1
5	■ mention Wehnelt cylinder . . . . .	1
6	■ insert shetch of deflection between parallel plates . . . . .	2
7	■ how does this compare to actual value in the tube? . . . . .	2
8	■ Insert Image of CRT . . . . .	2
9	■ Insert sketch from manual . . . . .	2
10	■ Optional: Explain how this electron lens functions . . . . .	2
11	■ Where is g5 normally . . . . .	2
12	■ Should we already mention the names of the pins here? . . . . .	2
13	■ cite . . . . .	3
14	■ cite . . . . .	3
15	■ optional: get table from book . . . . .	3
16	■ insert SEM image . . . . .	3
17	■ cite . . . . .	3
18	■ This stuff is a bit different to what's on wikipedia . . . . .	3
19	■ insert ref to section on CRT handling . . . . .	3
20	■ insert citation from "powertubes" . . . . .	4

## <sup>21</sup> **List of Figures**

## <sup>22</sup> **List of Tables**

## Acknowledgements

24 Thanks to ...