



CONNECTOR TEMPERATURE RISE AND DERATING

Goetz Schattmann FAE eiCan

WÜRTH ELEKTRONIK MORE THAN YOU EXPECT

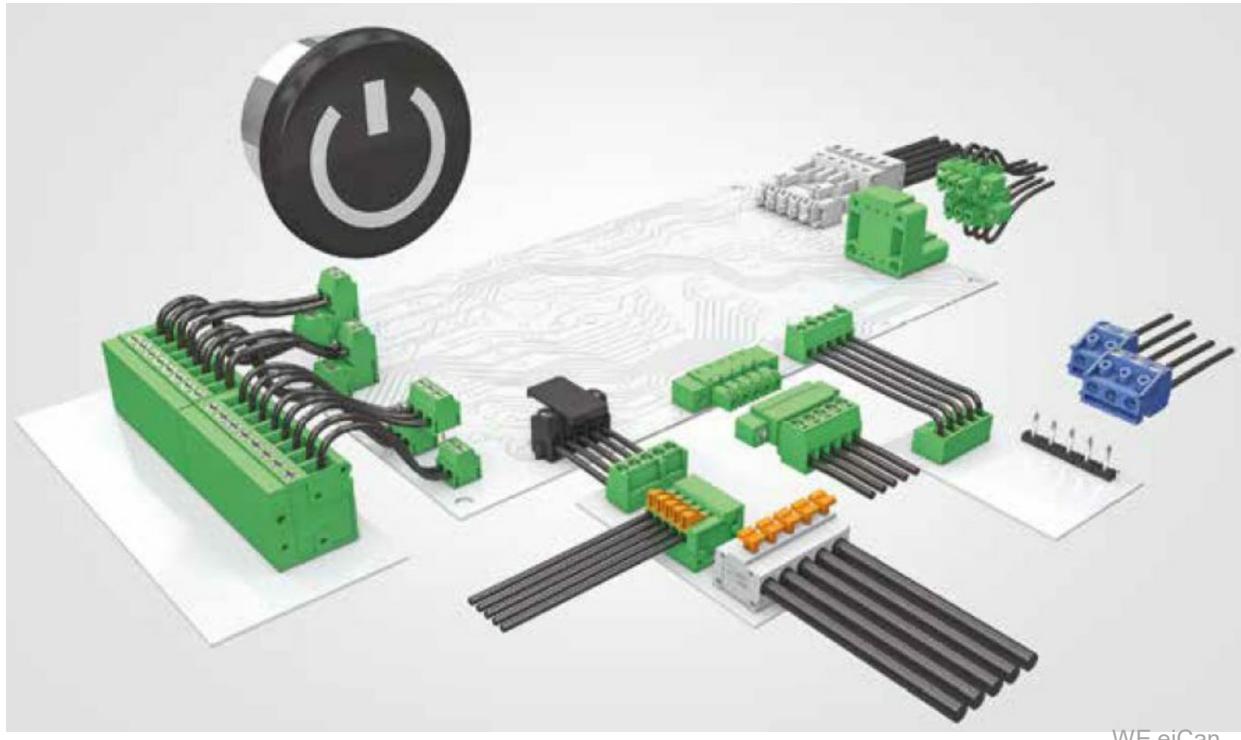


Agenda

- Current design for connectors
- Consequences of a too high temperature
- Temperature rise rule
- How heat is dissipated
- Heat in a cable
- Some tricks
- Derating curve
- Inrush current
- Connector horror show
- Finally what to remember



Basic connector use



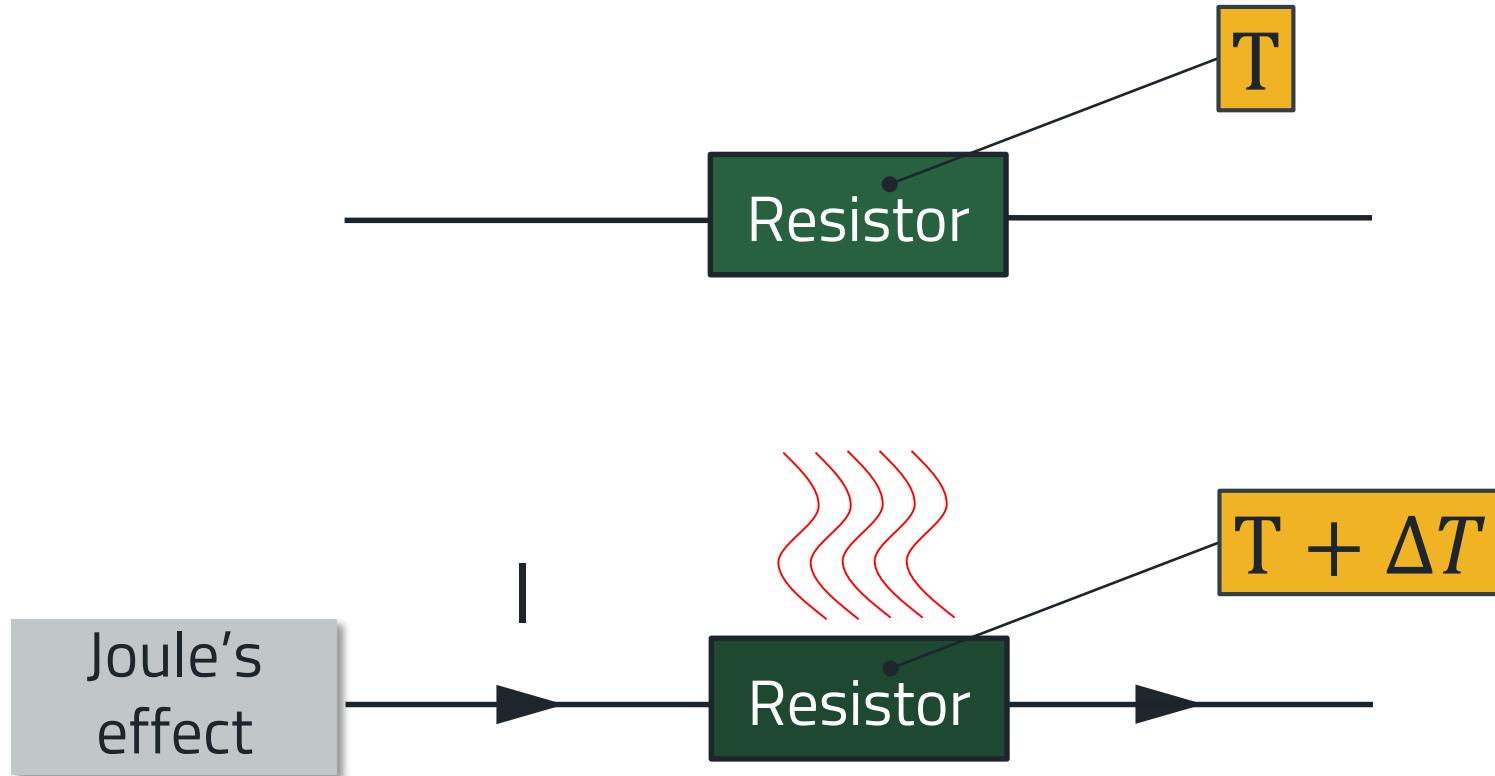
ENVIRONMENTAL

OPERATING TEMPERATURE: -40 UP TO 105°C
COMPLIANCE: LEAD FREE AND ROHS

ELECTRICAL

CURRENT RATING:	cULus 20 A
WORKING VOLTAGE:	300 VAC
WITHSTANDING VOLTAGE:	1.6 KV
CONTACT RESISTANCE:	20 mOhm max

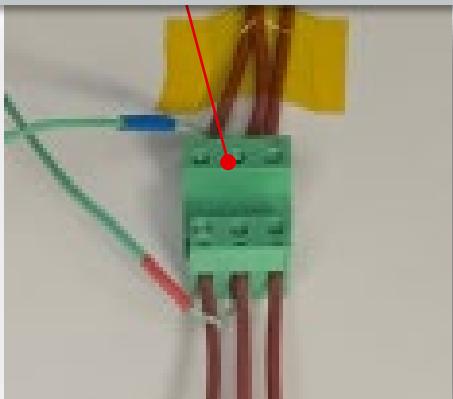
Electricity and temperature rise



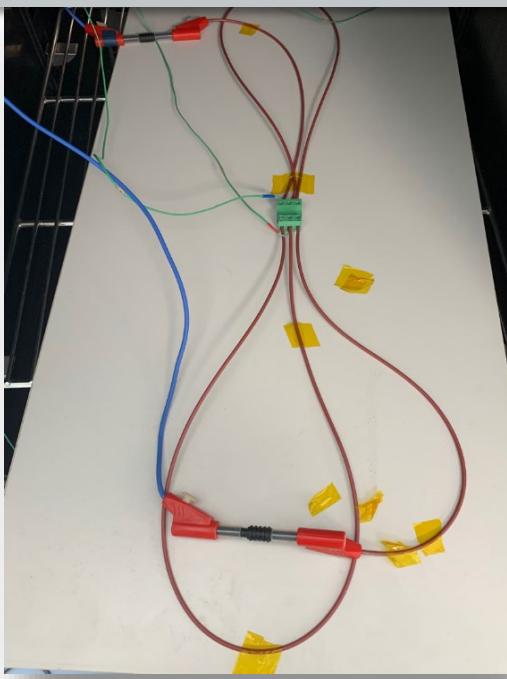
How working current is designed in WE

■ Testmethod

Hottest point



Electrical assembly



$\Delta T < 30K$ at the hottest point



Ambient = 21,7 °C

$\rightarrow \Delta T=24,8K$

Agenda

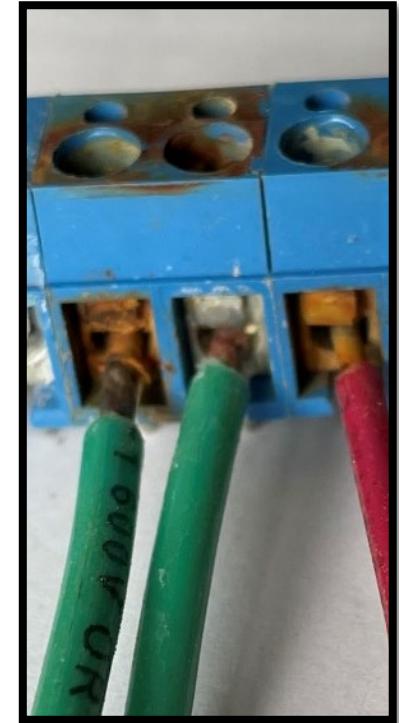
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Temperature increase and connectors

Consequences of high temperature:

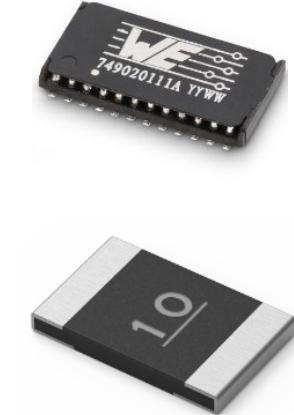
- Naturally increase contact resistance
- Increase corrosion speed and consequently increase contact resistance
 - > Corrosion speed ~ doubles each 10°C
- Degrade solder joint
- Accelerate plastic aging
- Metal relaxation



Temperature increase and connectors

Consequences of high temperature:

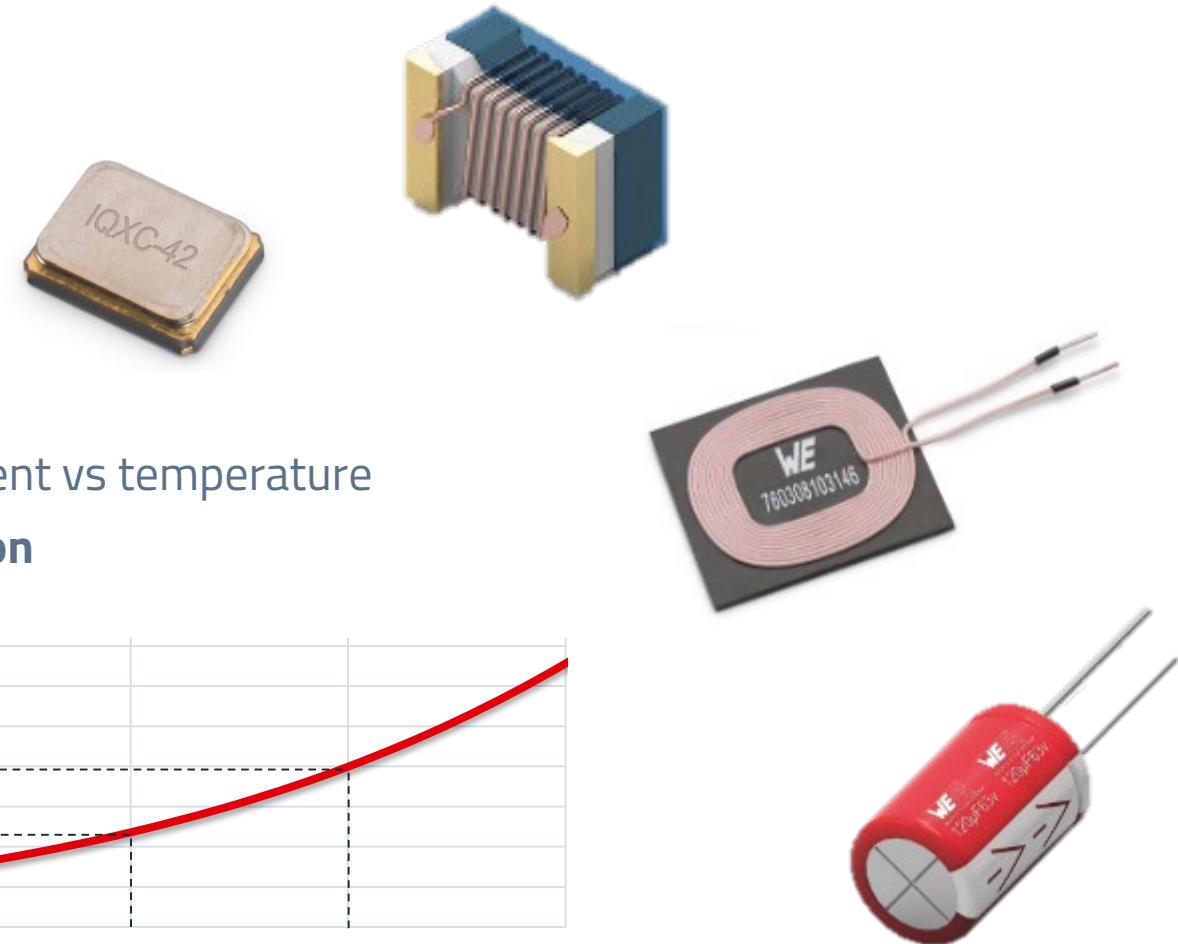
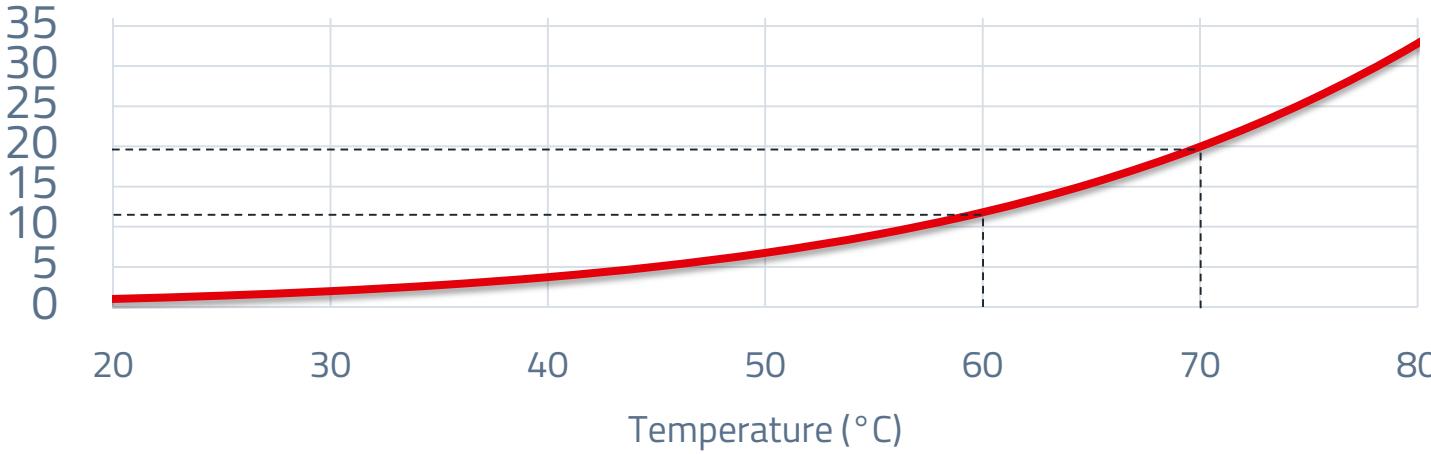
- ❑ Electronic devices lifespan



Lifespan division coefficient / 20°C

Image of lifespan reduction coefficient vs temperature

Arrhenius equation

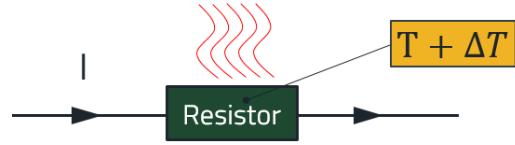


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Electricity and temperature rise



Joule's law

$$P = R \cdot I^2$$

$$\Delta T = k \cdot R \cdot I^2$$

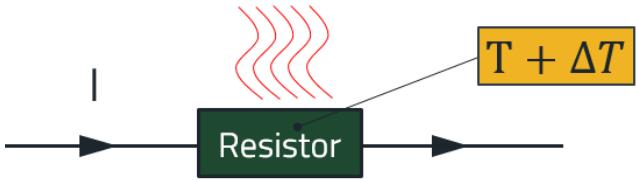


WE eiCan

- P (W): power dissipated by the resistor
- R (Ω)
- I (A)
- ΔT (K): data given usually in Kelvin
- k : constant defined by resistance material and environment

Temperature rise is proportional to the square of the current

Theoretical calculation

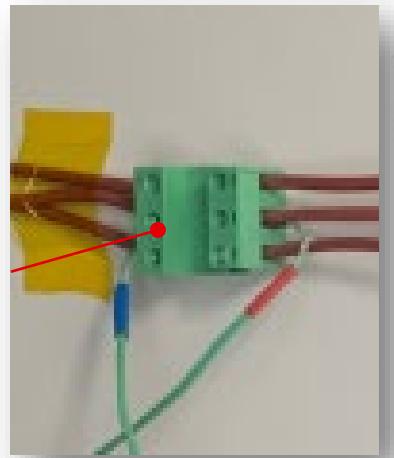


Example:

- Measurement: $I_1 = 15\text{A}$ gives $\Delta T_1 \approx 15\text{K}$

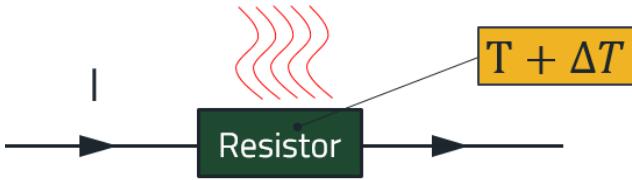
$$\Delta T = k \cdot R \cdot I^2$$

- At $I_2 = 30\text{A} \rightarrow \Delta T_2 \approx \frac{30^2}{15^2} \cdot 15 \approx 60\text{K}$



$$\frac{\Delta T_1}{\Delta T_2} \approx \frac{I_1^2}{I_2^2}$$

Theoretical calculation



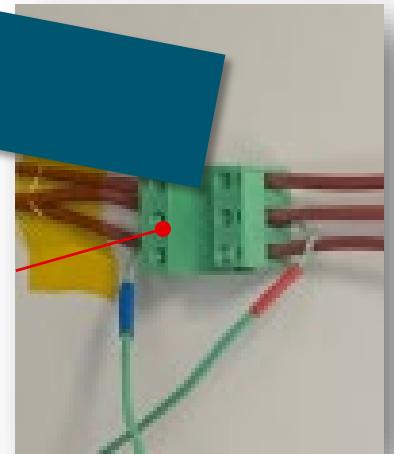
Example:

- Measurement: $I_1 = 15\text{A}$ gives $\Delta T \times 2 \rightarrow \Delta T \times 4$

$$\Delta T = k \cdot R \cdot I^2$$

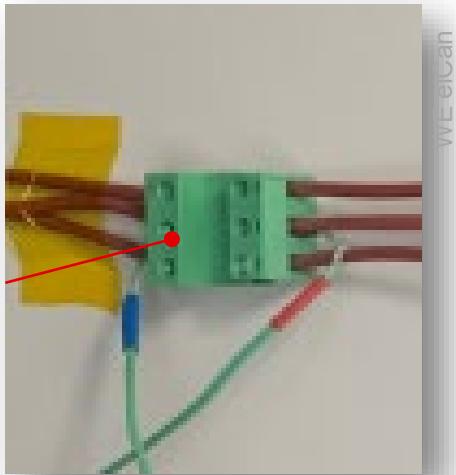
- At $I_2 = 30\text{A} \rightarrow \Delta T_2 \approx \frac{30^2}{15^2} \cdot 15 \approx 60K$

$$\frac{\Delta T_1}{\Delta T_2} \approx \frac{I_1^2}{I_2^2}$$

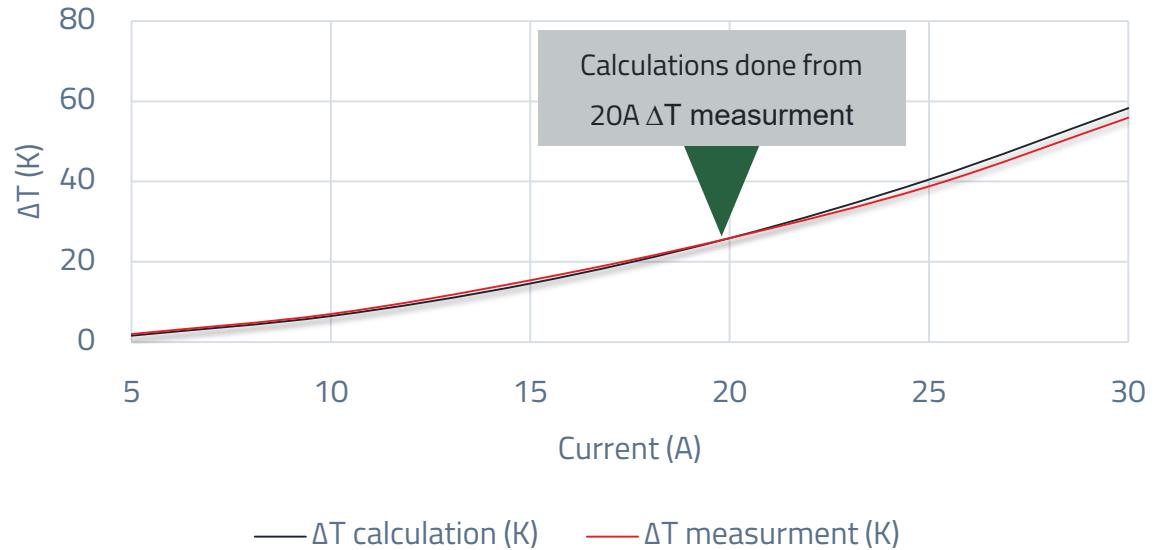


Theoretical calculation: is it really true ?

Temperature rise test
done at 20A



ΔT calculation vs measurement



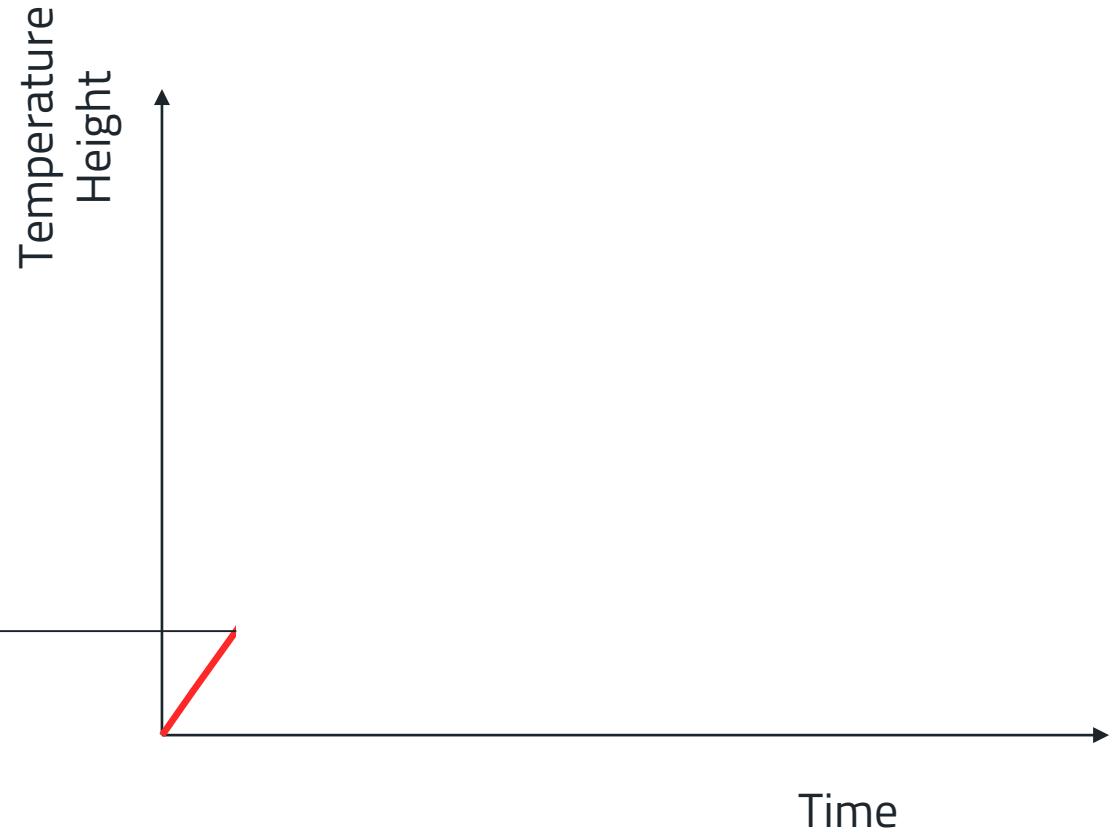
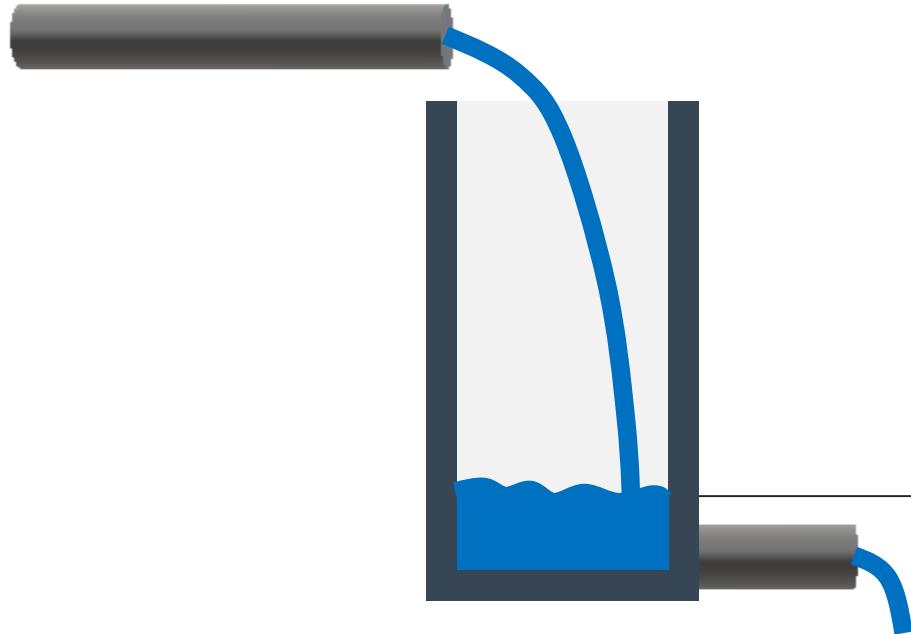
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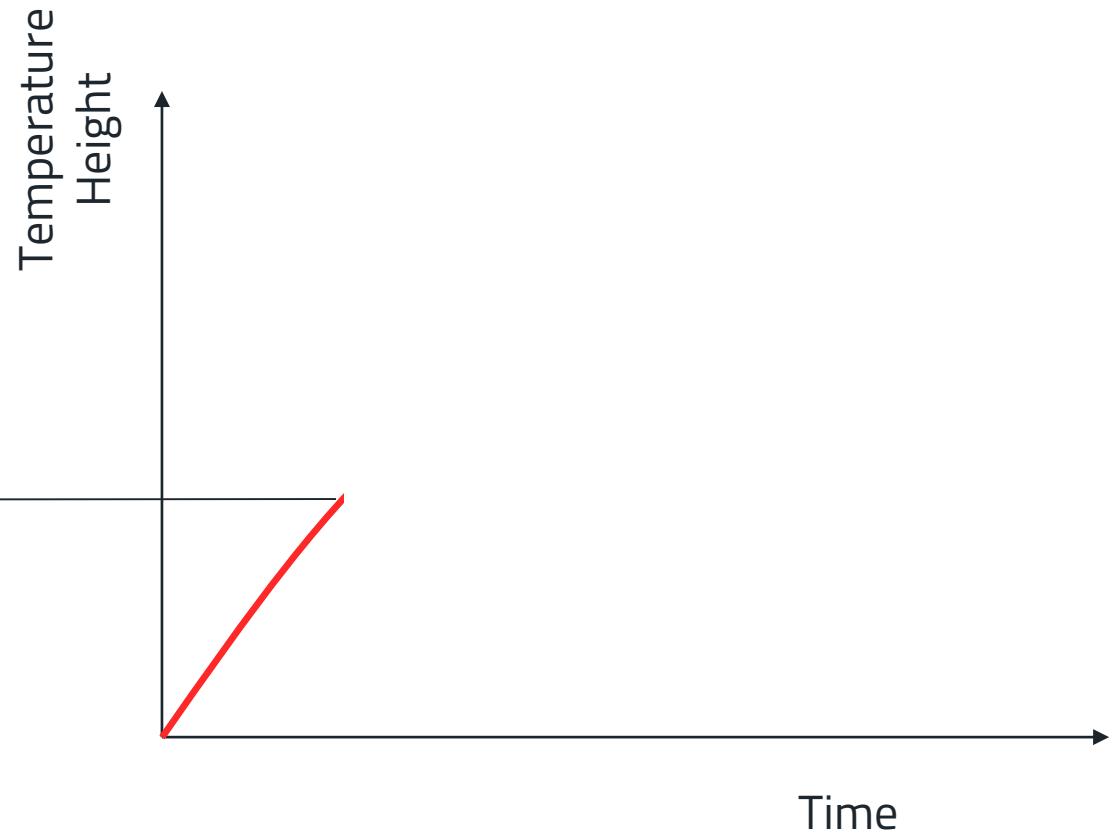
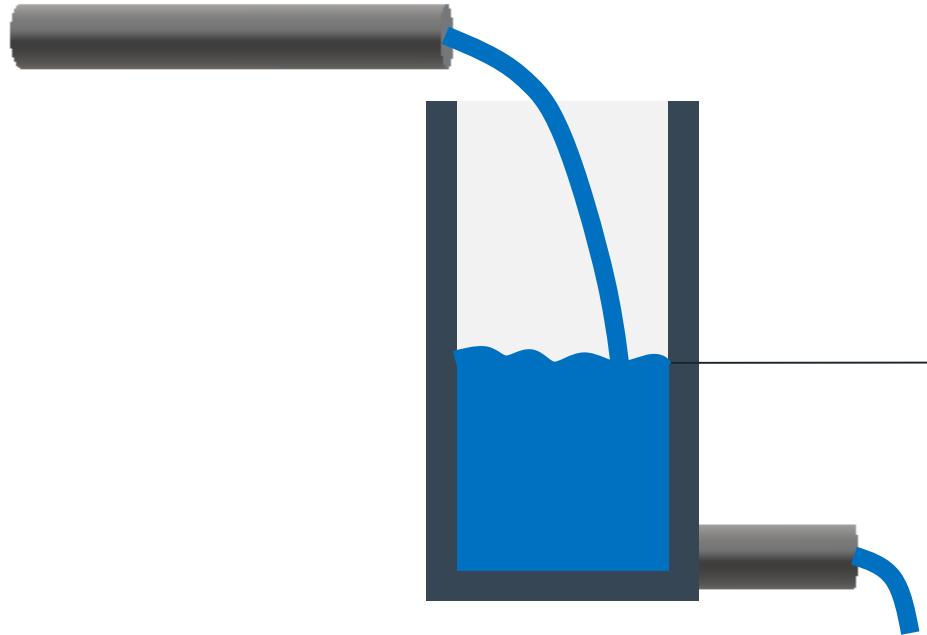
How ΔT is dissipated

Temperature rise analogy tank filling



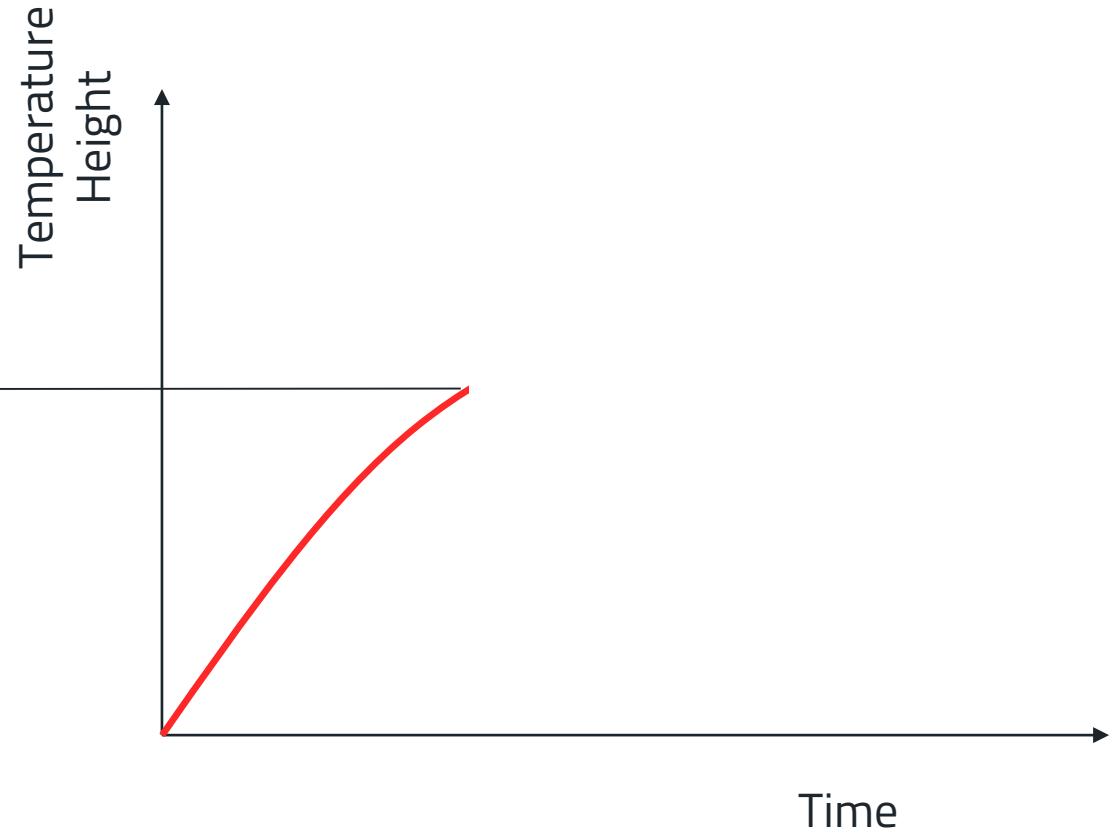
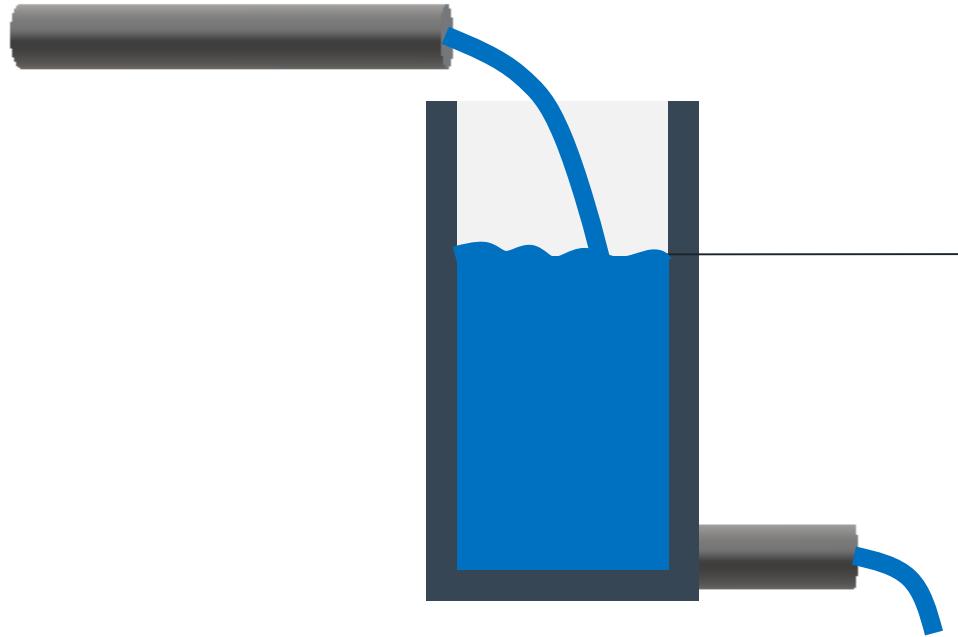
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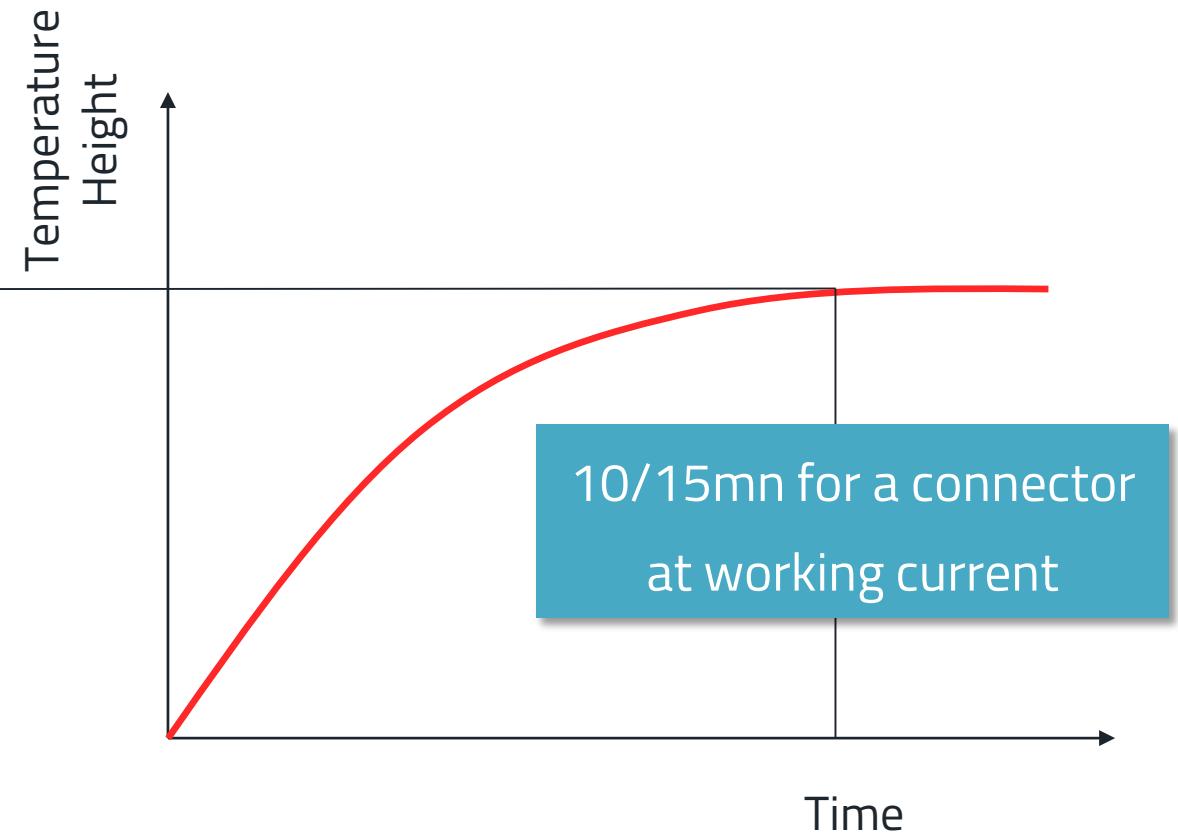
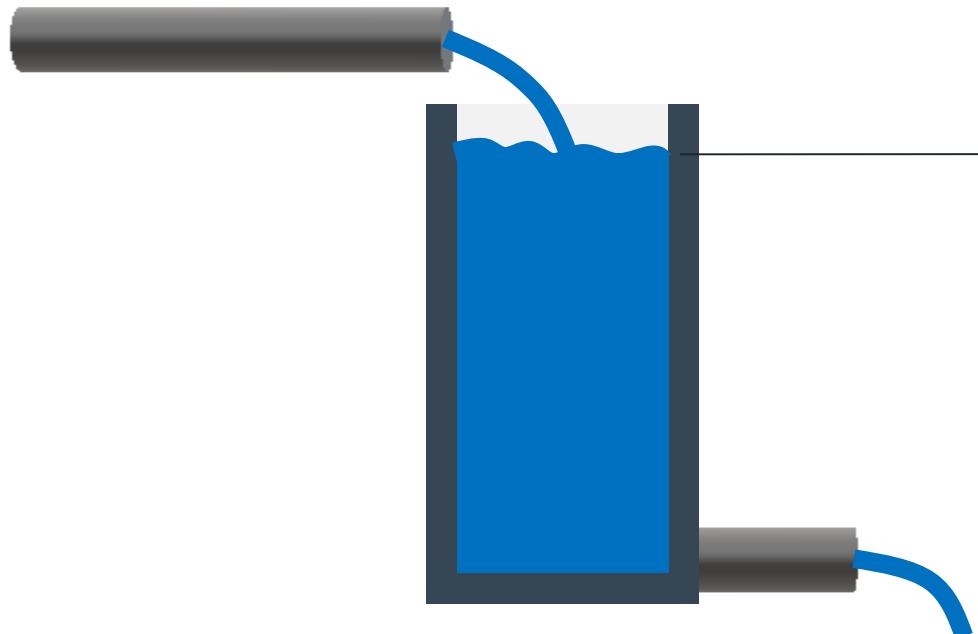
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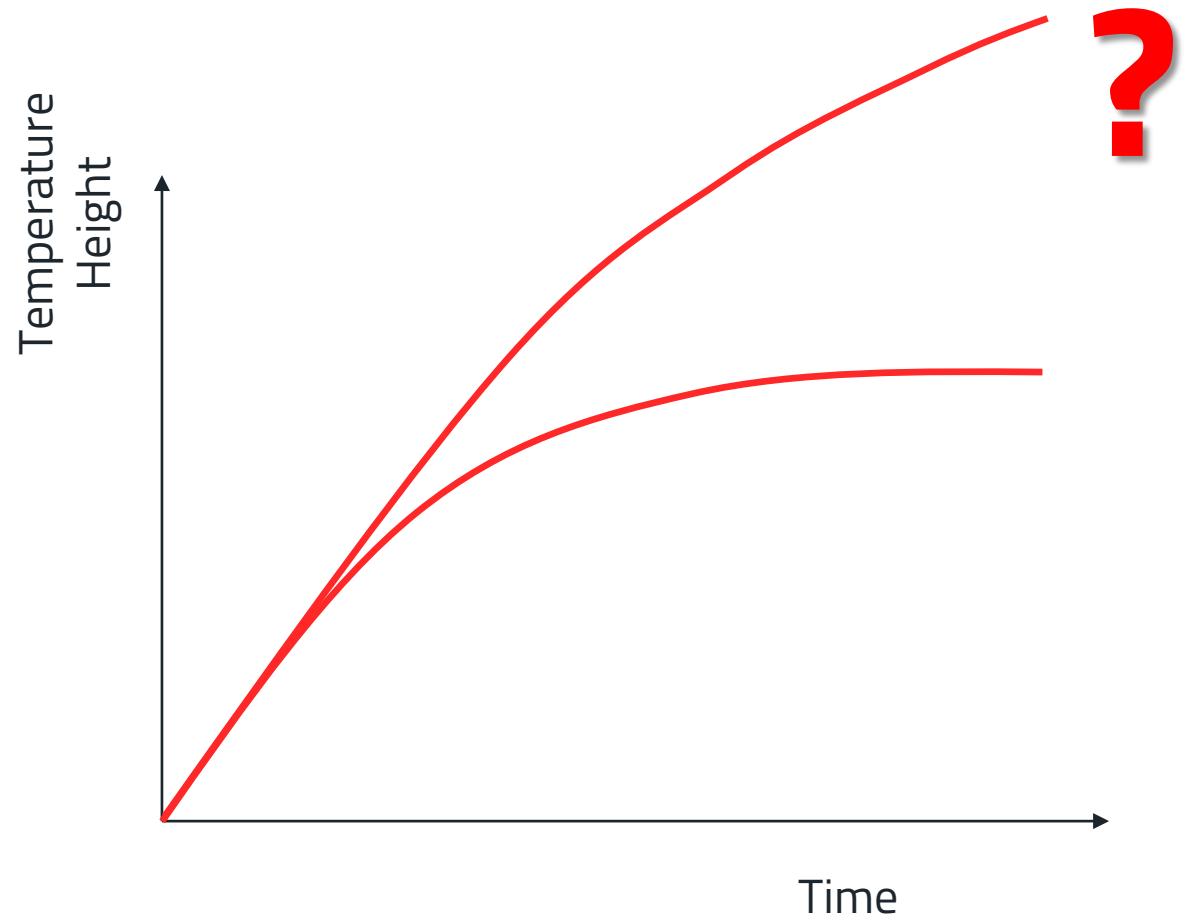
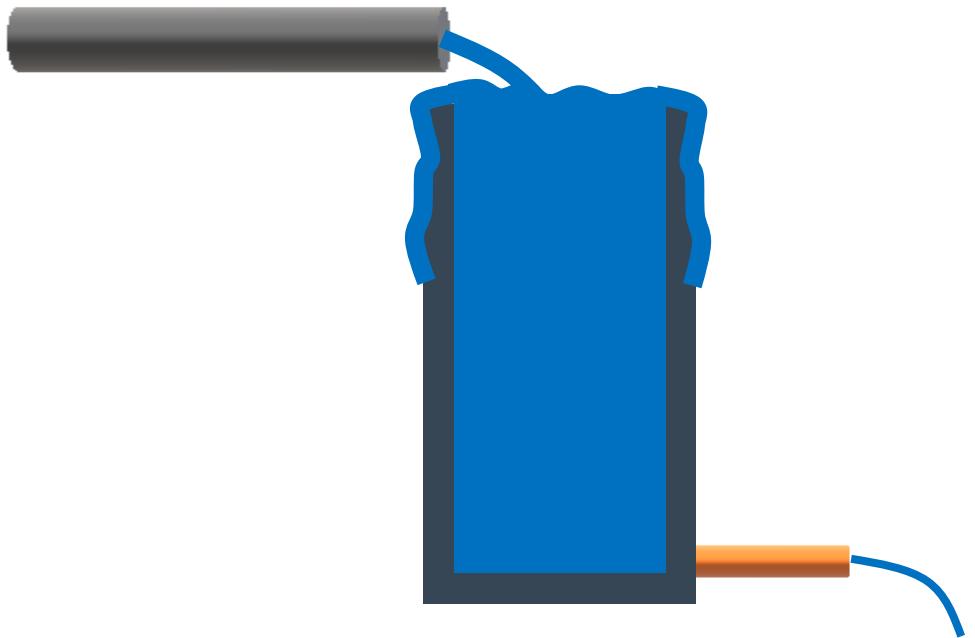
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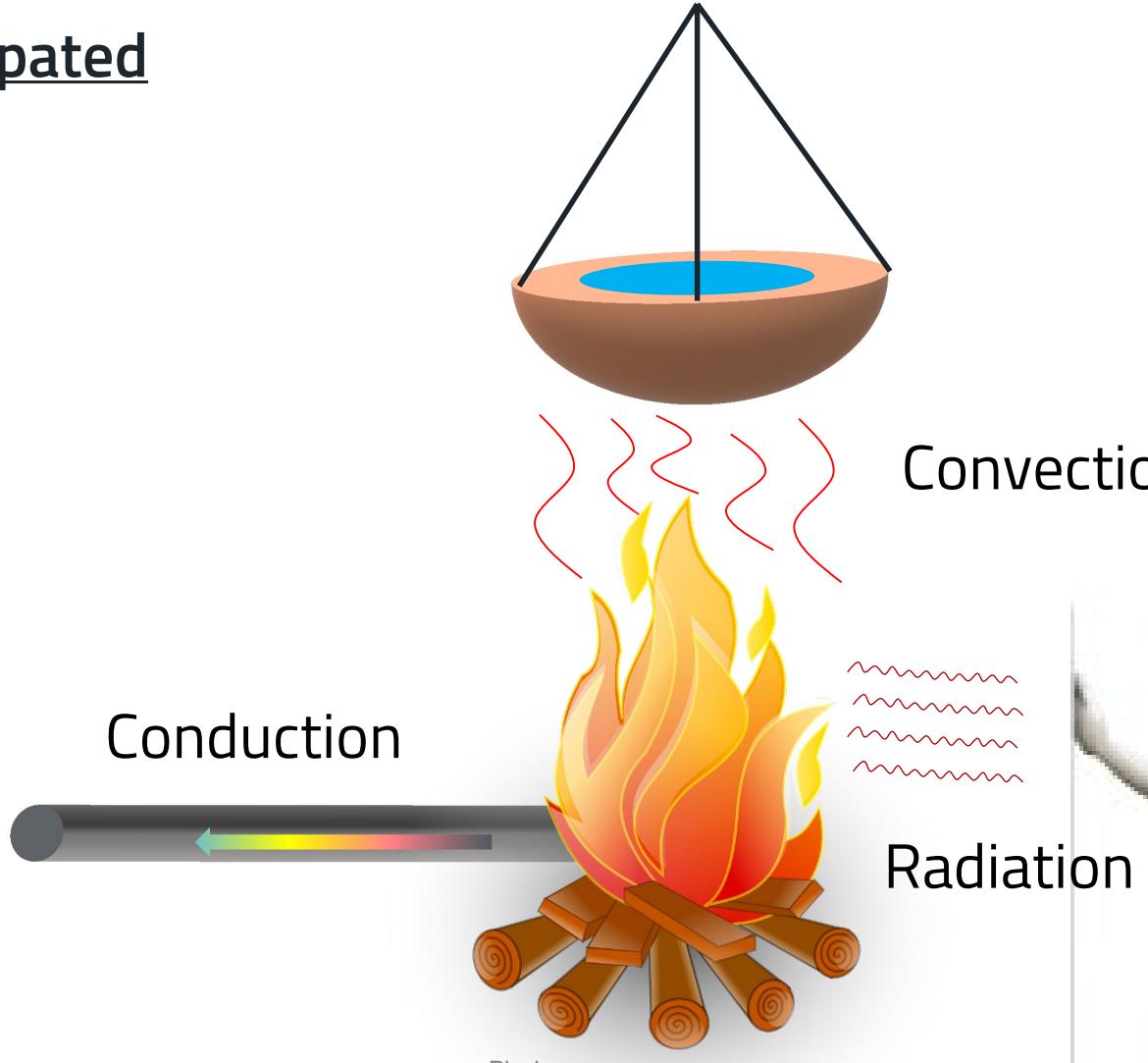


How ΔT is dissipated

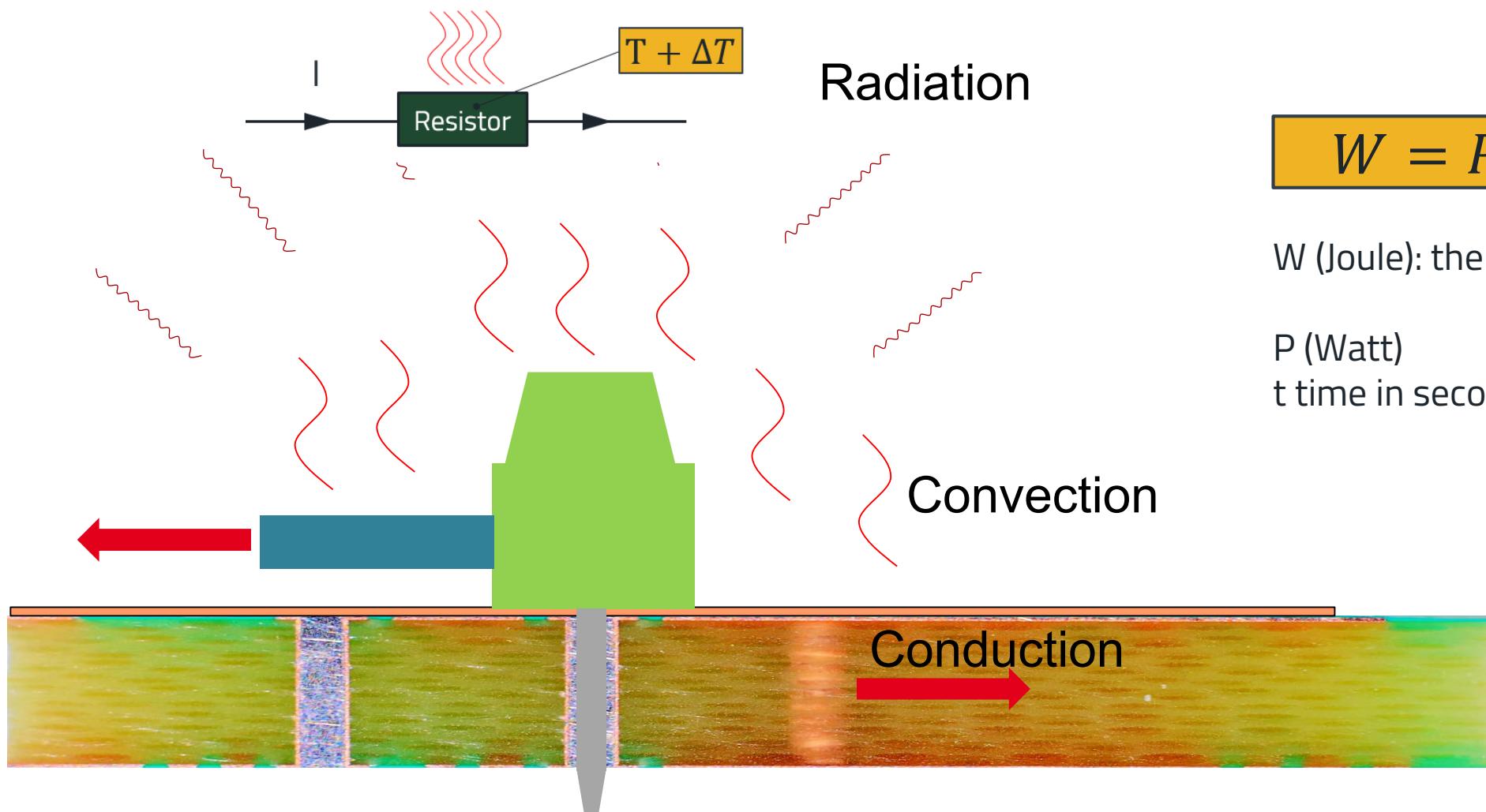
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How ΔT is dissipated



How ΔT is dissipated

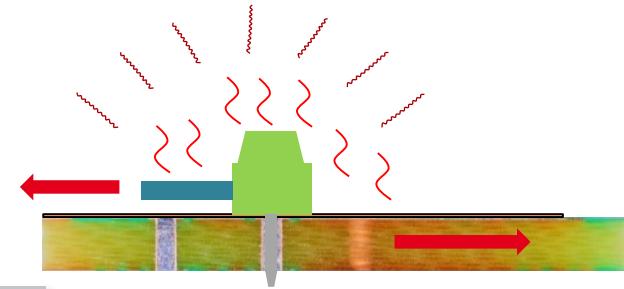


$$W = P \cdot t$$

W (Joule): thermal energy

P (Watt)
 t time in second

What to remember ?



- An electrical system **must** have thermal exchanges
- Under current, temperature should stabilized after 10/15mn

➤ Radiation:

- Plastic is better than metal
- Rough metal surface is better than polished

➤ Convection: increase surface in contact with air

➤ Conduction:

- Copper is the best metal for conduction dissipation
- Increase section optimize exchange

Agenda

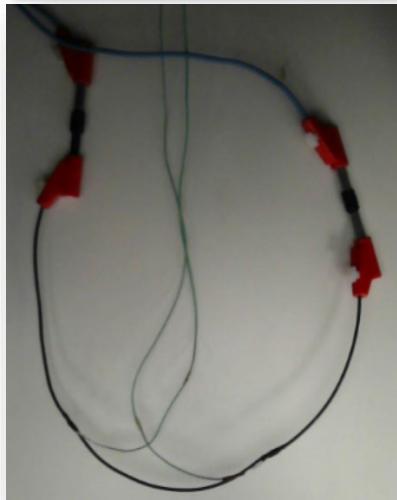
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- **Heat in a cable**
- Some tricks
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What is the temperature rise with wires ?

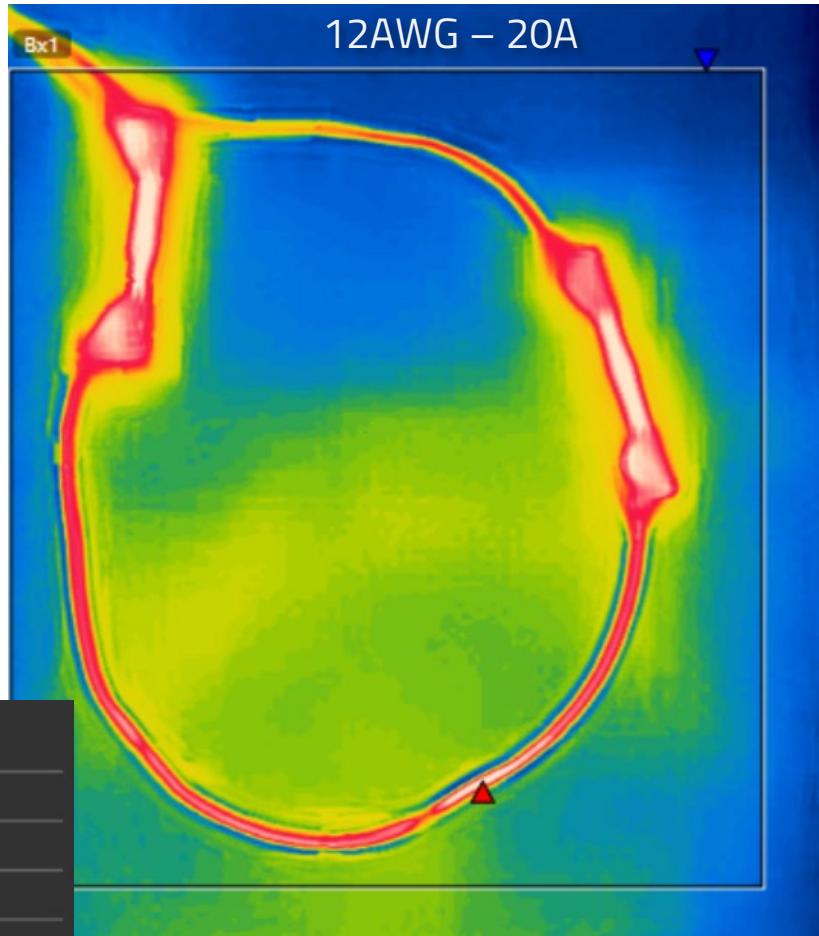
Test: AWG

- ΔT of 50cm wire
- 2 thermocouples sticked on the copper conductor



Mesures

Bx1	Max	34,7 °C
	Min	23,5 °C
	Average	25,2 °C



Wire size (AWG)	Current (A)	ΔT (K)
20	5	5
18	7	6
16	10	7
14	15	10
12	20	11
10	30	16
8	50	20
6	65	20

All pictures: WE eiCan

What is the temperature rise with wires ?

Test: AWG

- ΔT of 50cm wire
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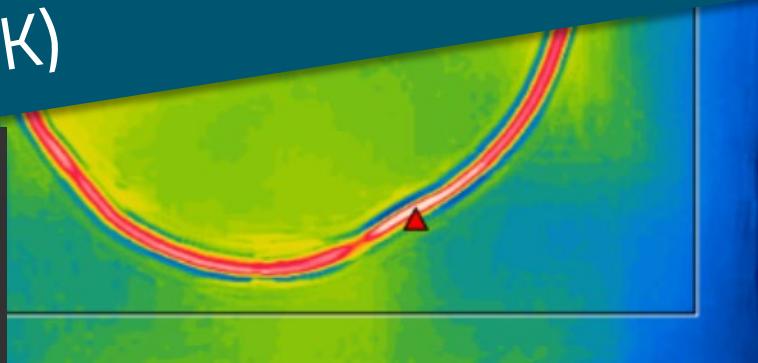


Mesures

Bx1	Max	34,7 °C
	Min	23,5 °C
	Average	25,2 °C



1. ΔT decrease proportionally to wire size
2. AWG-Wire heats less than connector
 $(\Delta T < 30K)$



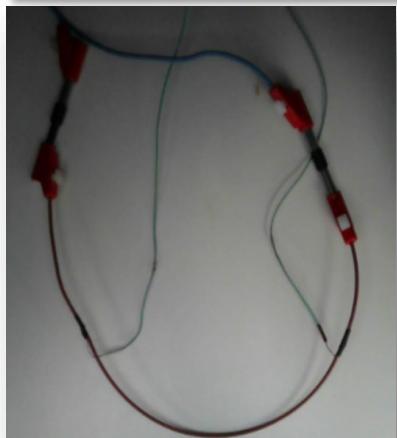
Wire	Current (A)	ΔT (K)
12AWG	5	5
12AWG	7	6
12AWG	10	7
12AWG	15	10
12AWG	20	11
10AWG	30	16
8AWG	50	20
6AWG	65	20

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What is the temperature rise with wires ?

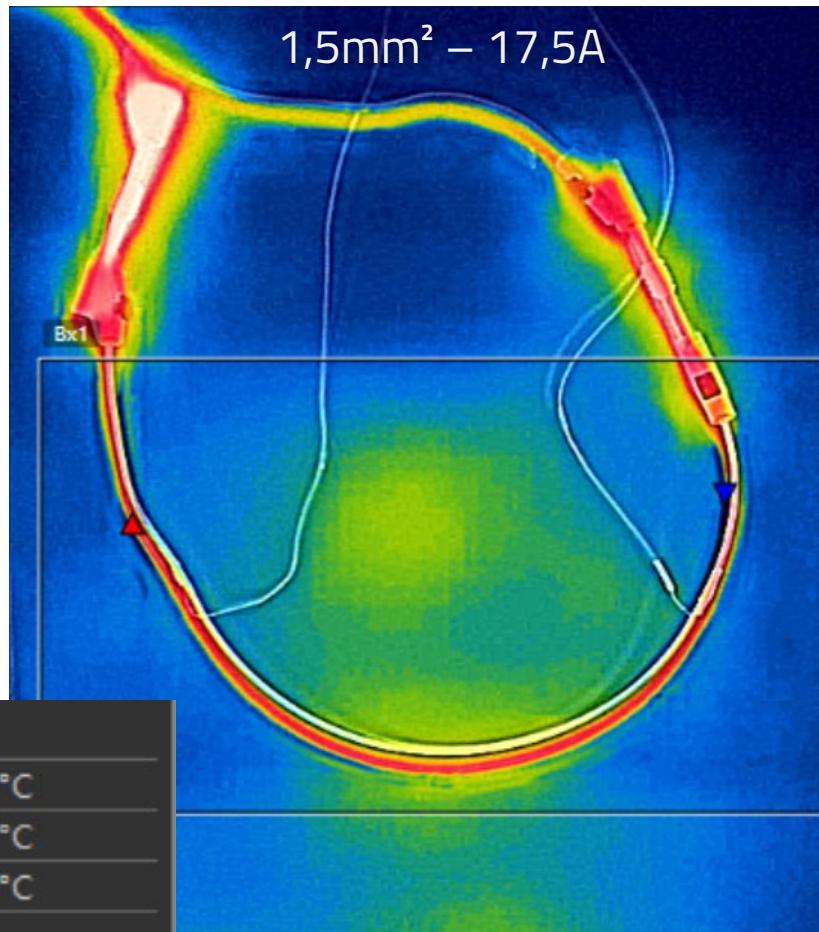
Test: **mm²**

- ΔT of 50cm wire
- 2 thermocouples sticked on the copper conductor



Mesures

Bx1	Max	32,5 °C
	Min	16,1 °C
	Average	19,8 °C



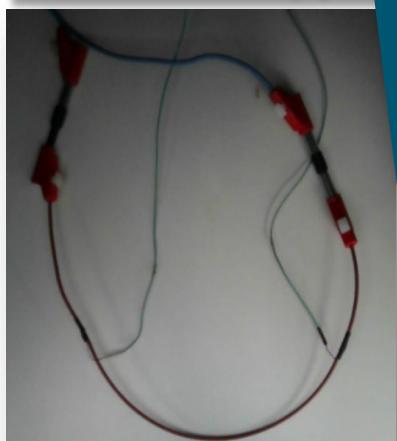
Wire size (mm ²)	Current (A)	ΔT (K)
0,2	4	8
0,5	6	7
0,75	9	10
1	13,5	15
1,5	17,5	17
2,5	24	18
4	32	19
6	41	18
10	57	18
16	76	18

All pictures: WE eiCan

What is the temperature rise with wires ?

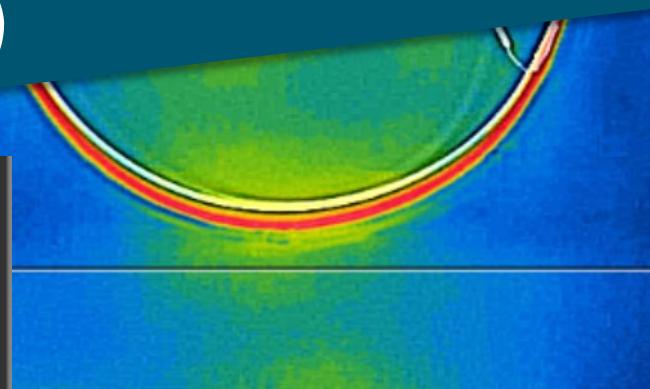
Test: **mm²**

- ΔT of 50cm wire
- 2 thermocouples sticked on the copper conductor



1. AWG-wire heats less than mm²-wire
2. ΔT decrease proportionally to wire size
3. mm²-Wire heats less than connector
($\Delta T < 45K$)

Mesures		
Bx1	Max	32,5 °C
	Min	16,1 °C
	Average	19,8 °C



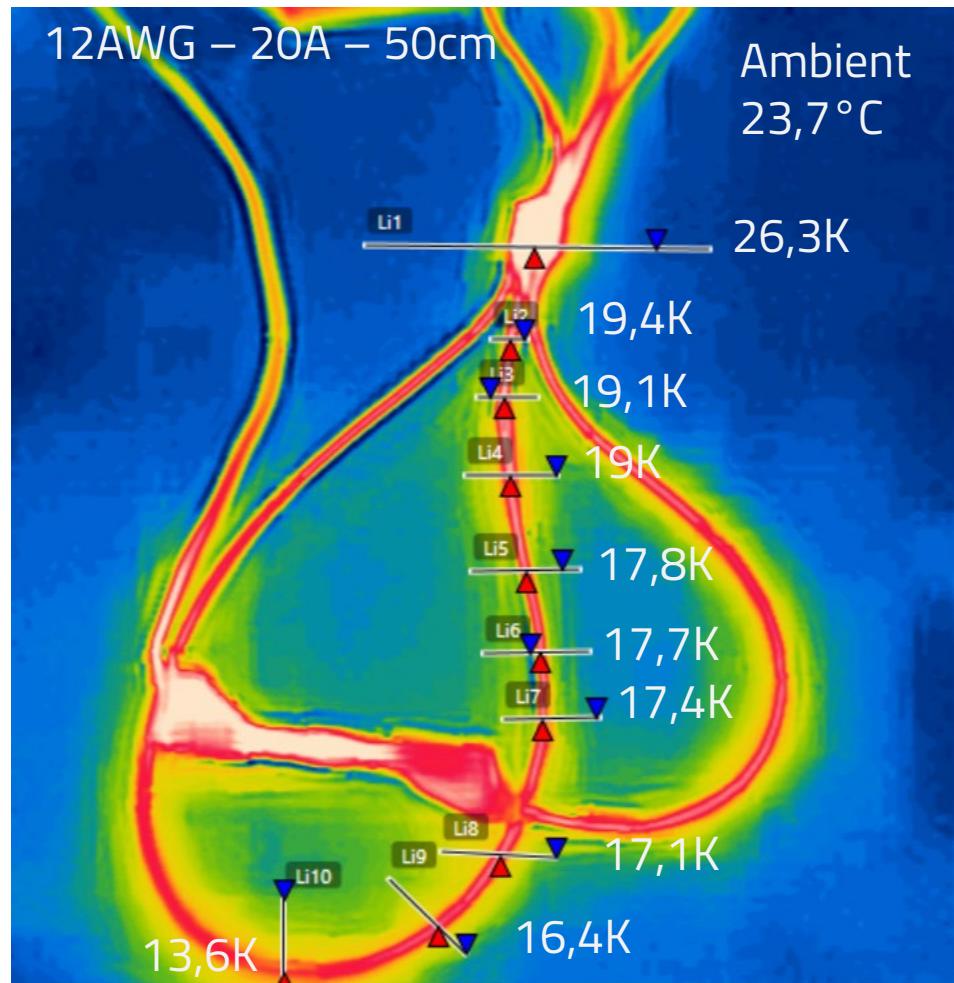
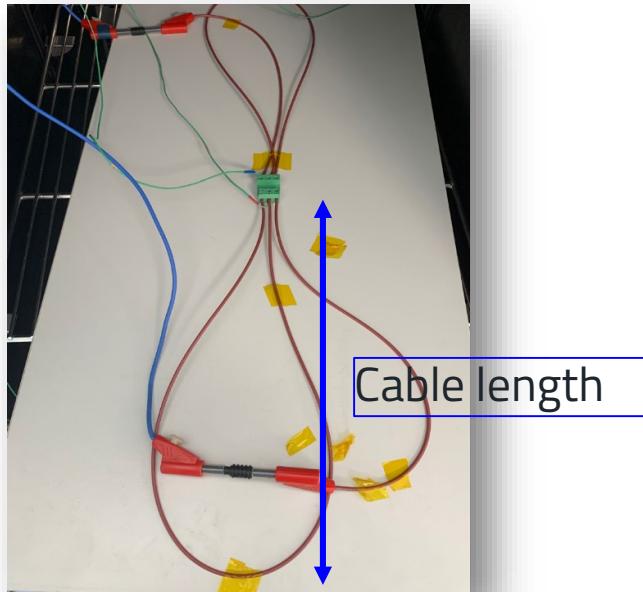
Current (A)	ΔT (K)
4	8
6	7
9	10
13,5	15
17,5	17
2,5	24
4	32

All pictures: WE eiCan

Wire heat dissipation: the right length ?

Test:

- ΔT 12AWG-20A
- TBL plug 3 poles 7,62
- Different wire length
- 2 thermocouples in 2 TBL clamps

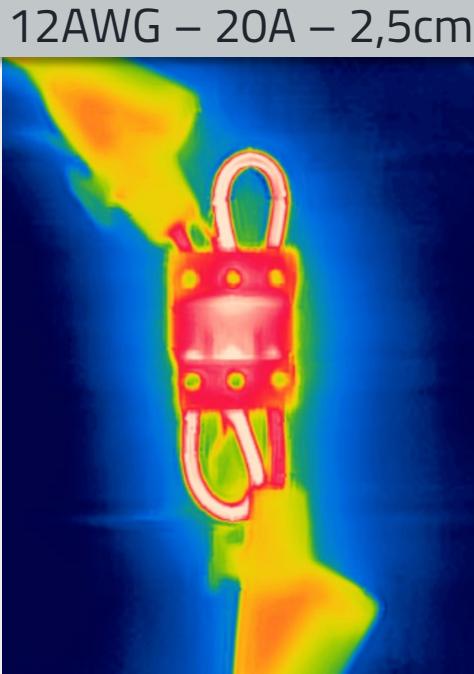
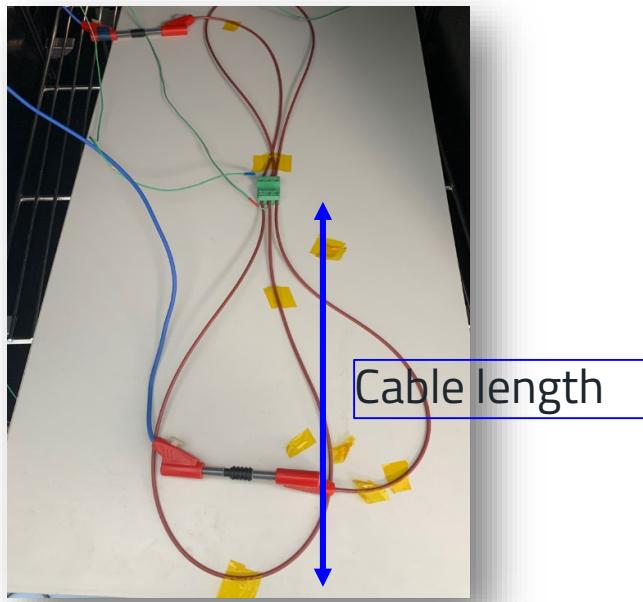


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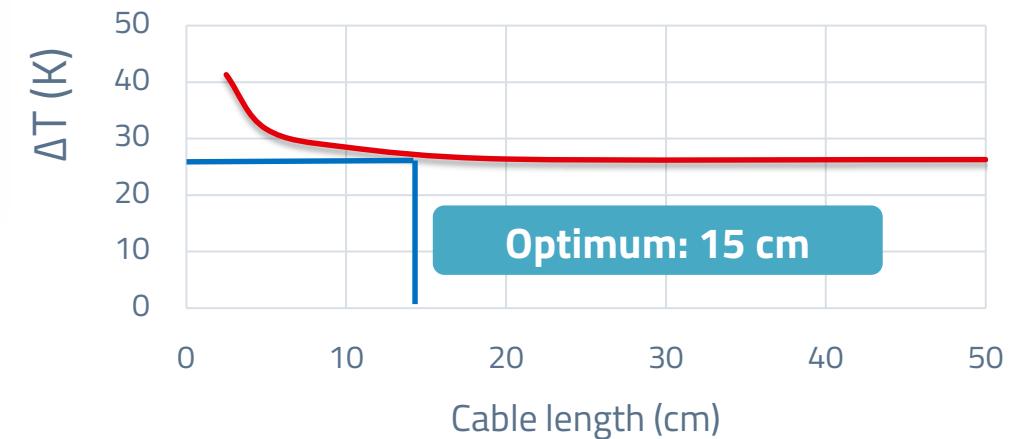
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Connector ΔT versus cable length

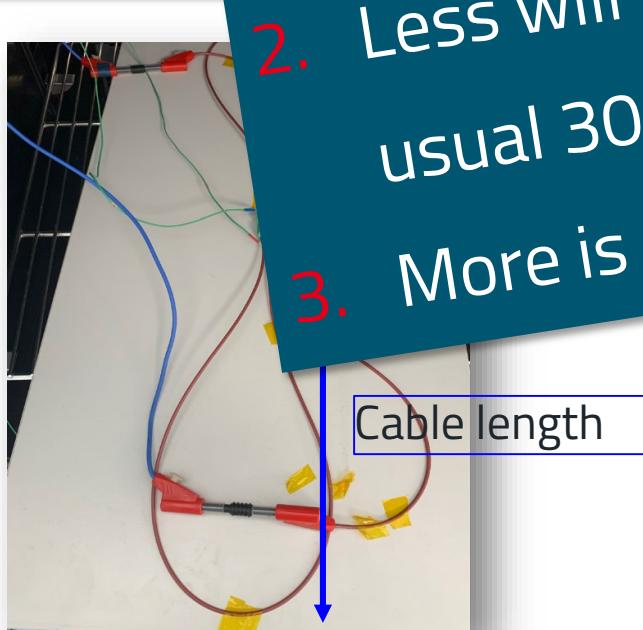


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Wire heat dissipation: the right length ?

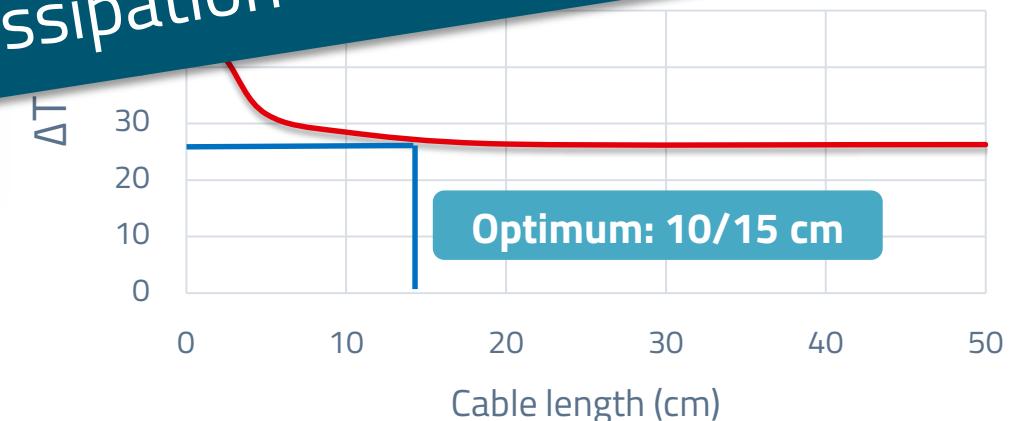
Test:

- ΔT 12AWG-20A
- TBL plug 3 poles 7,62
- Different wire length
- 2 thermocouple clamps



12AWG – 20A – 2,5cm

1. Optimized length for heat dissipation: 10/15cm
2. Less will increase internal connector temperature above usual 30K
3. More is useless for thermal dissipation



All pictures: WE eiCan

Agenda

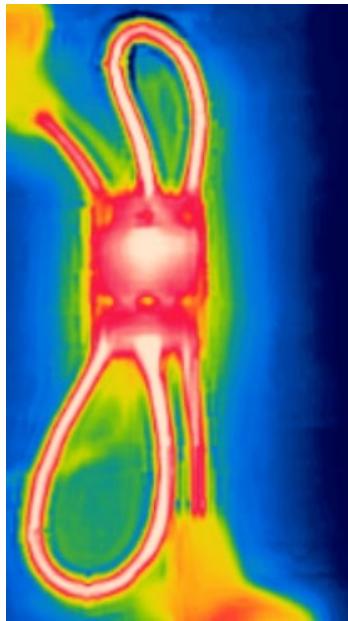
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$\Delta T=30K$ ok, but only with 3 poles ?

Test:

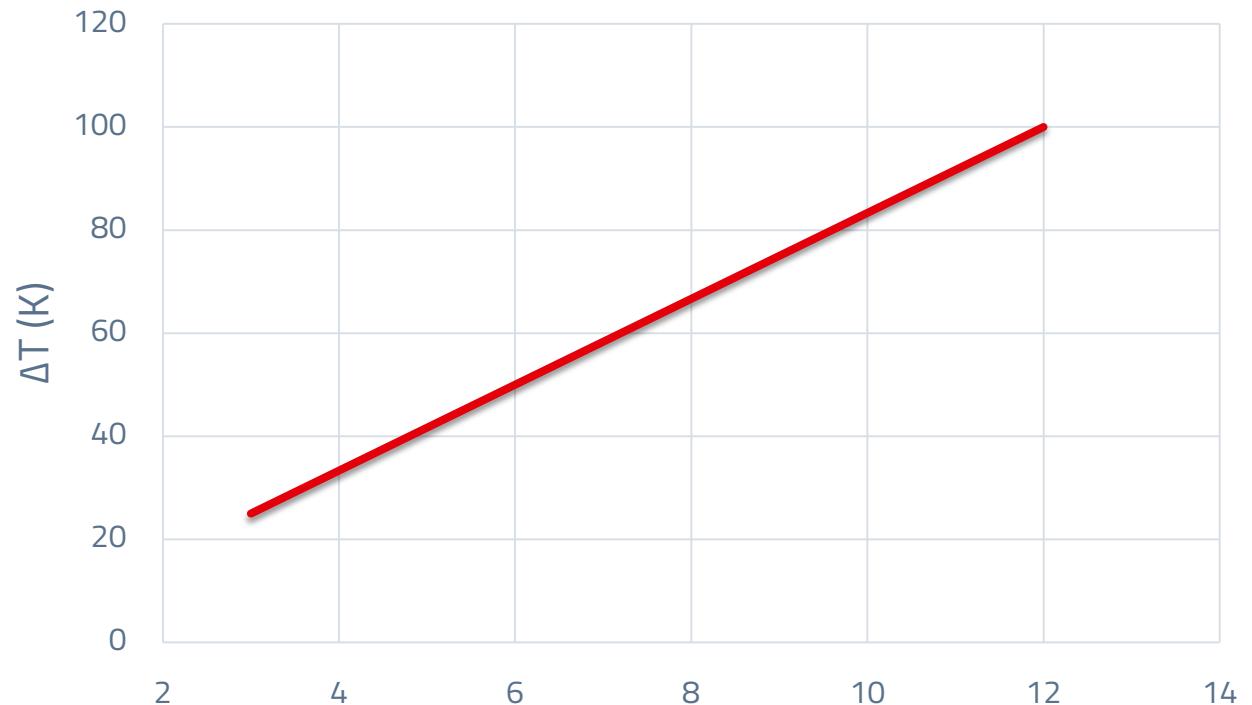
- Working current is tested at 3 poles
- Should we decrease current with more ?



12AWG – 20A – 10cm

This is what you expect ?

TBL ΔT versus nb of poles

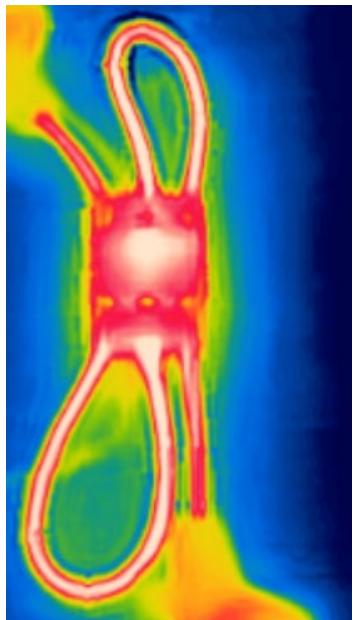


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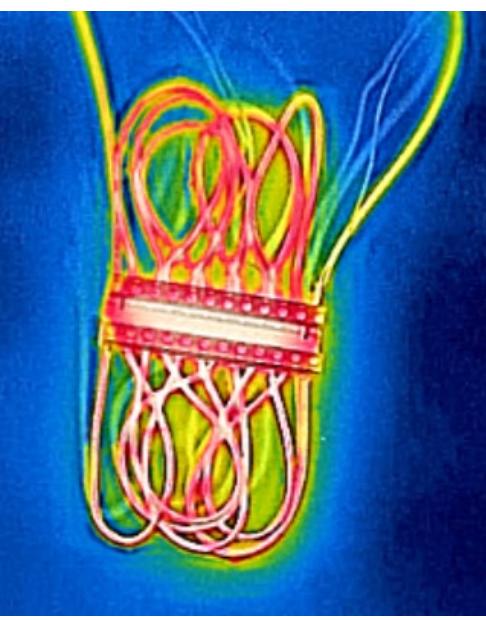
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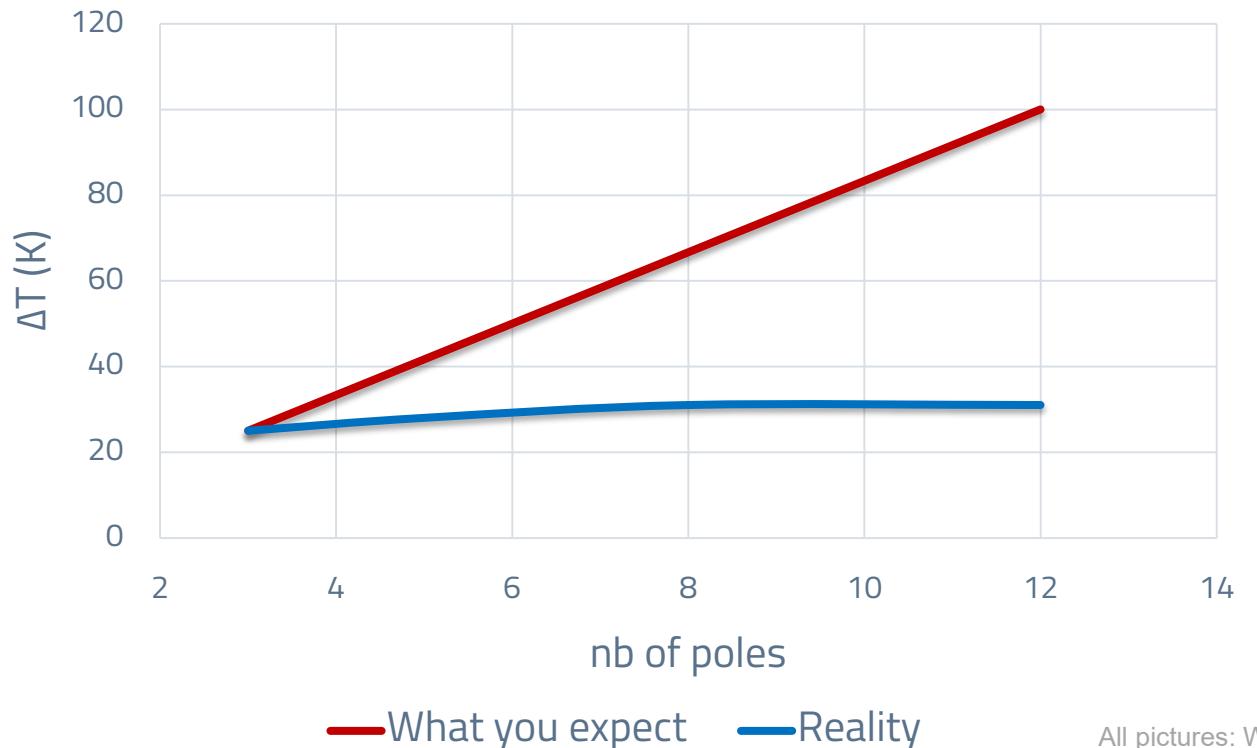


12AWG – 20A – 10cm



Expectation vs reality

TBL ΔT versus nb of poles

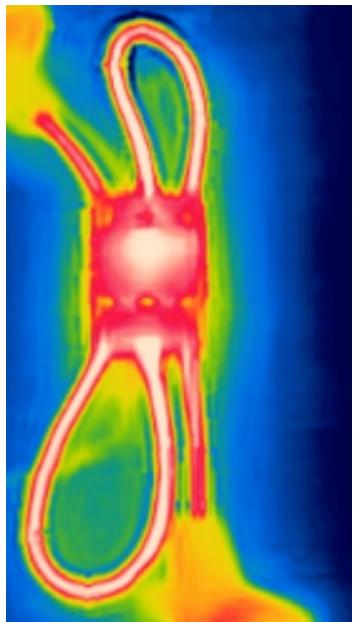


All pictures: WE eiCan

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Test:

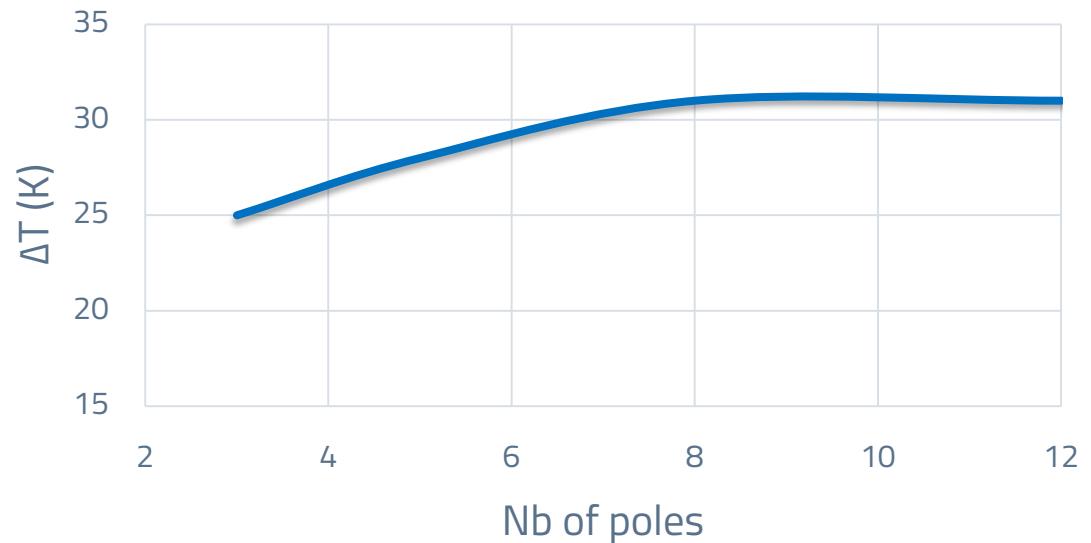
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12AWG – 20A – 10cm

Reality

ΔT versus nb of poles

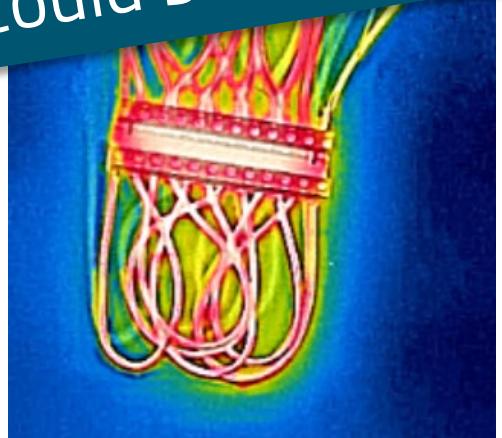
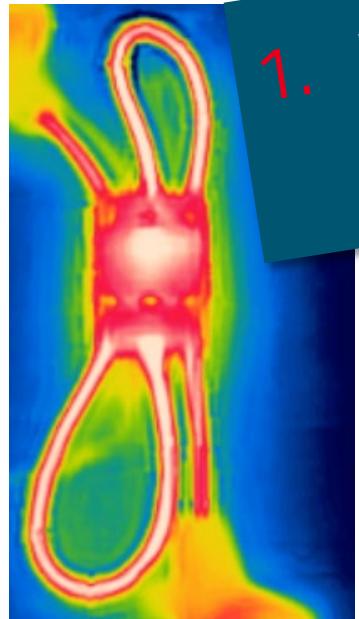


All pictures: WE eiCan

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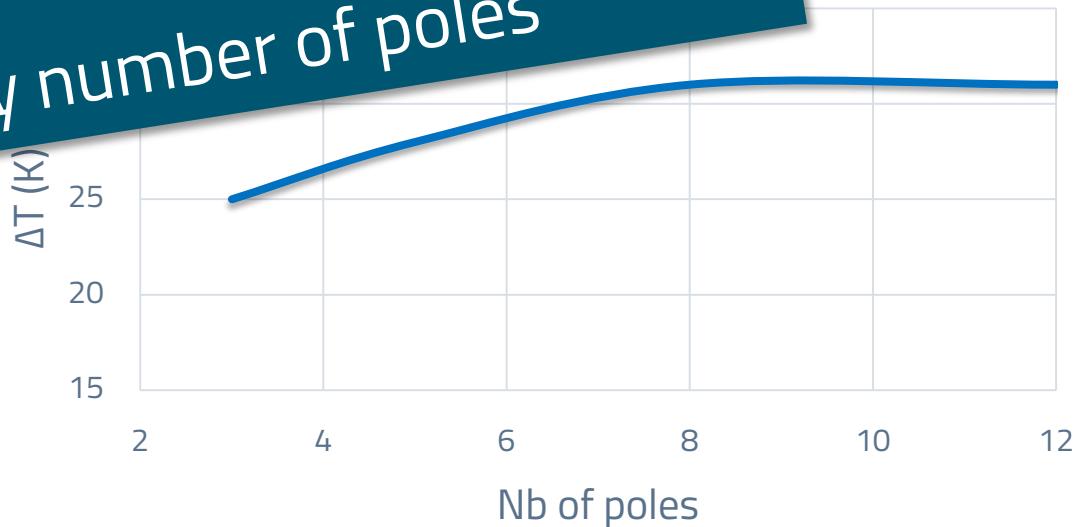
- Working current is tested at 3 poles
- Should we decrease current with more ?



12AWG – 20A – 10cm

1. Thanks to security margin, working current could be used for any number of poles

Reality



All pictures: WE eiCan

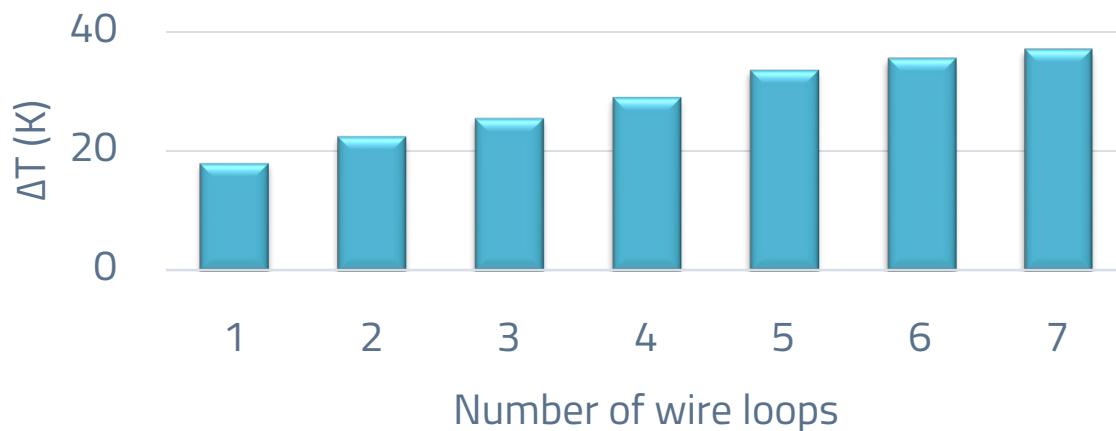
Cable loop – additional heat ?

Test:

- Cable loop influence
- 6²
- 41A

Temperature rise vs wire loops

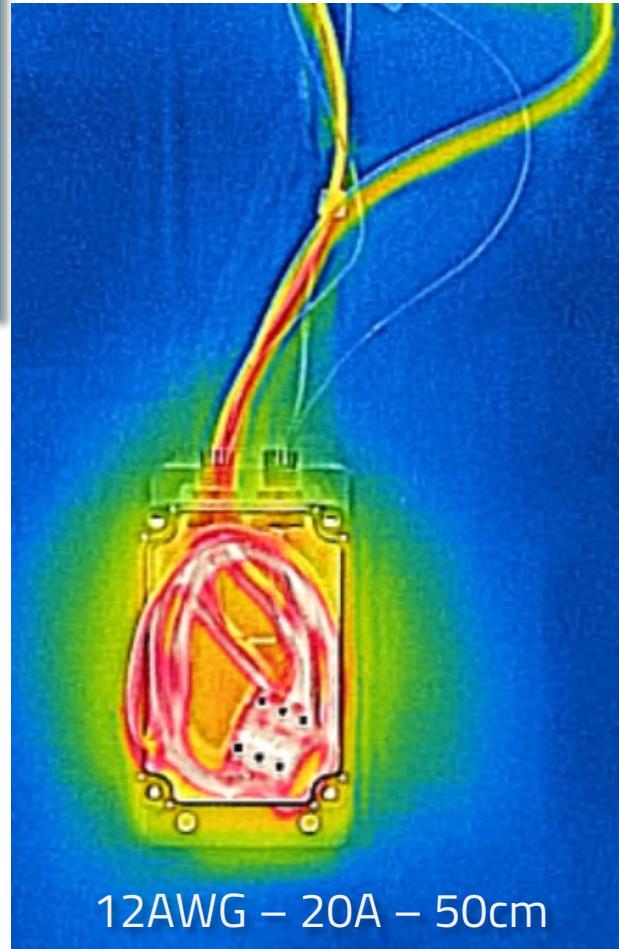
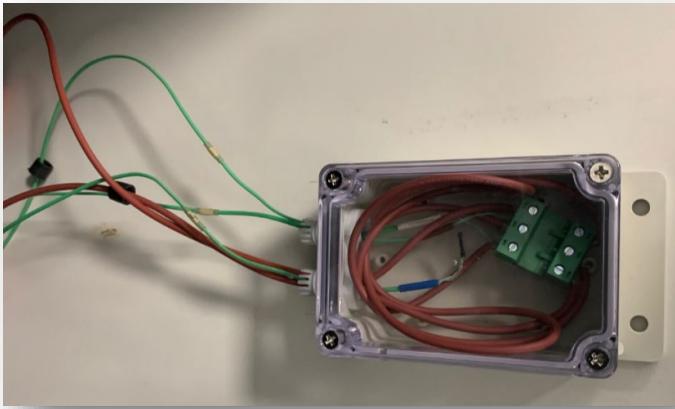
6² 41A



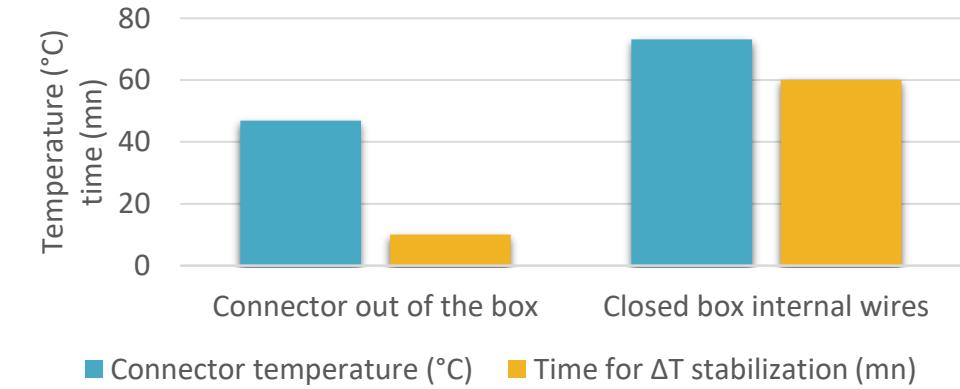
A connector in a closed box

Test:

- TBL plug 3 poles 7,62
- Initial 12AWG - 20A
- 2 thermocouples in 2 TBL clamps + 1 for box ambient air
- Wire length 10cm



Thermal behaviour of a connector inside of a closed box

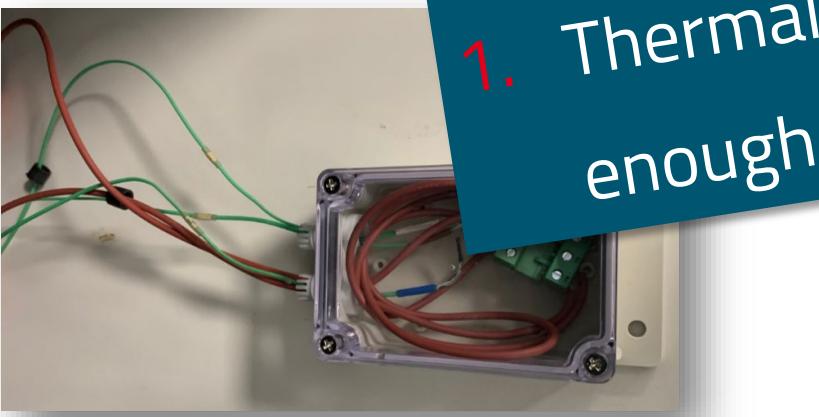


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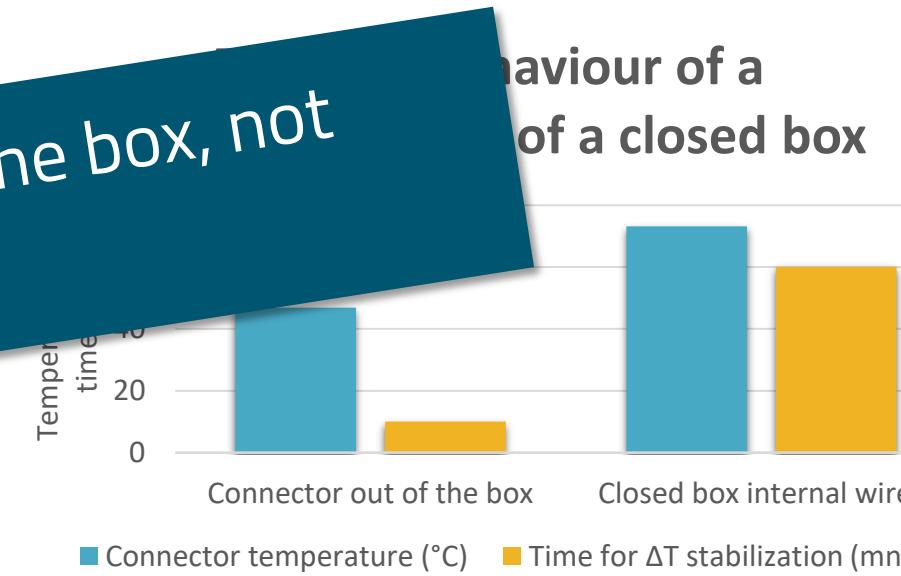
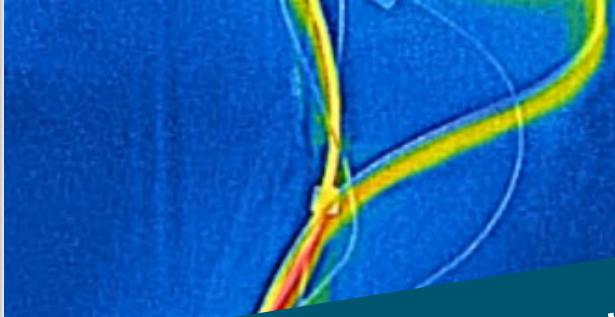
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1. Thermal energy is stored in the box, not enough exchanges

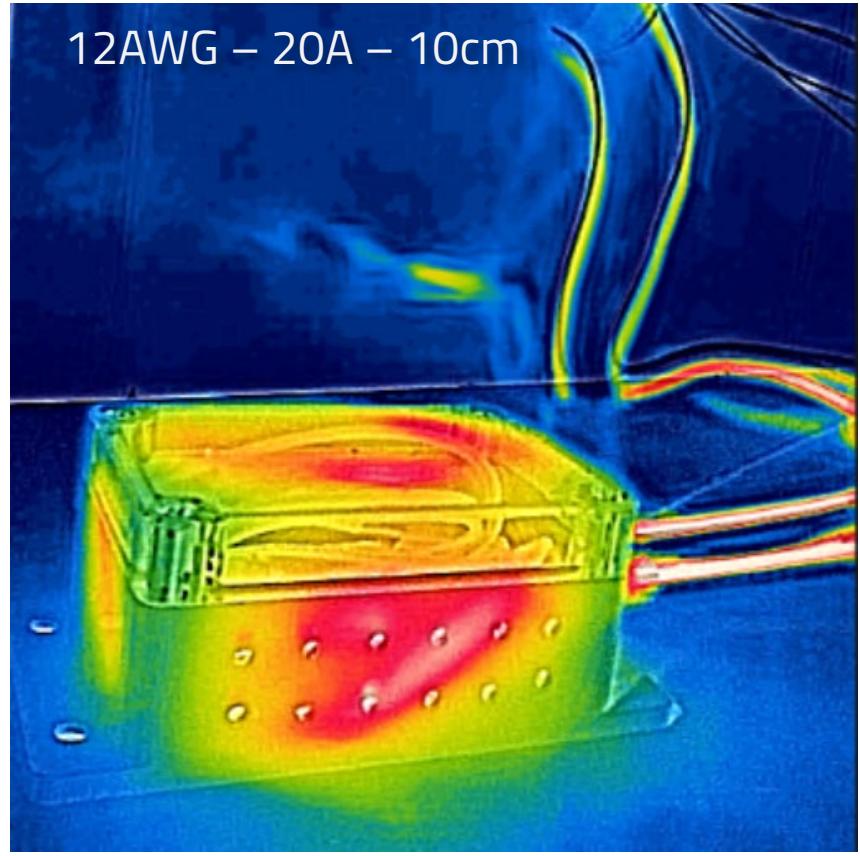


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A connector in a closed box

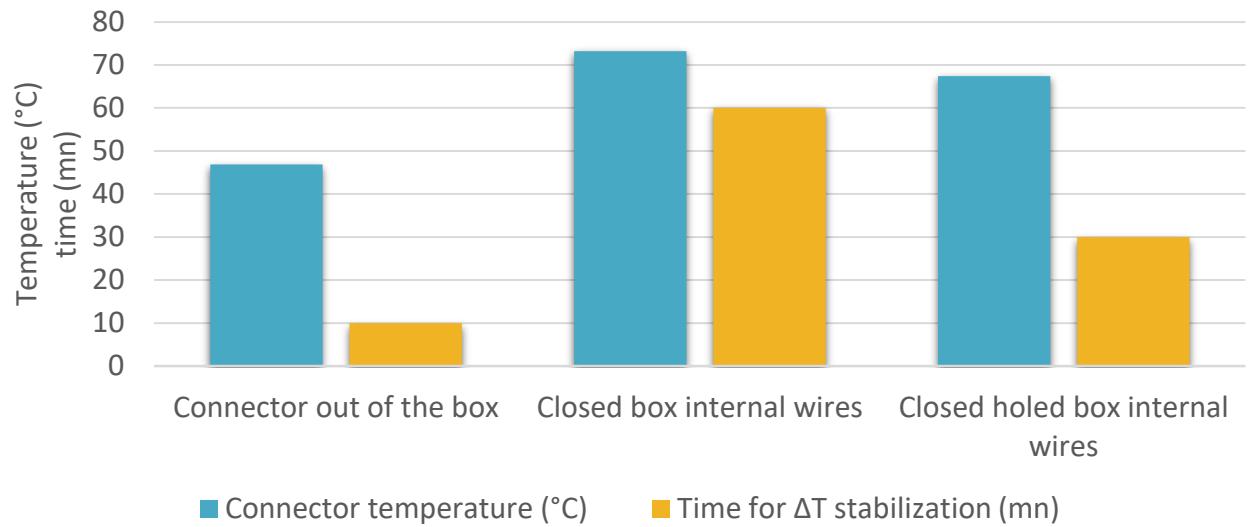
Test:

- Same with closed box with holes



WE eiCan

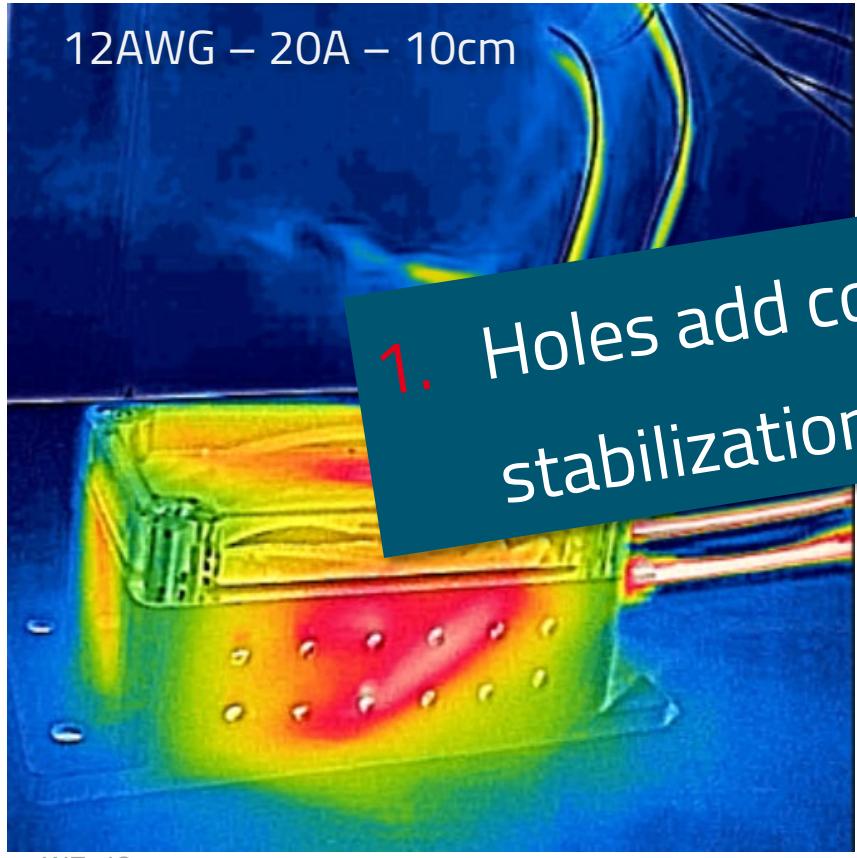
Thermal behaviour of a connector inside of a closed box



A connector in a closed box

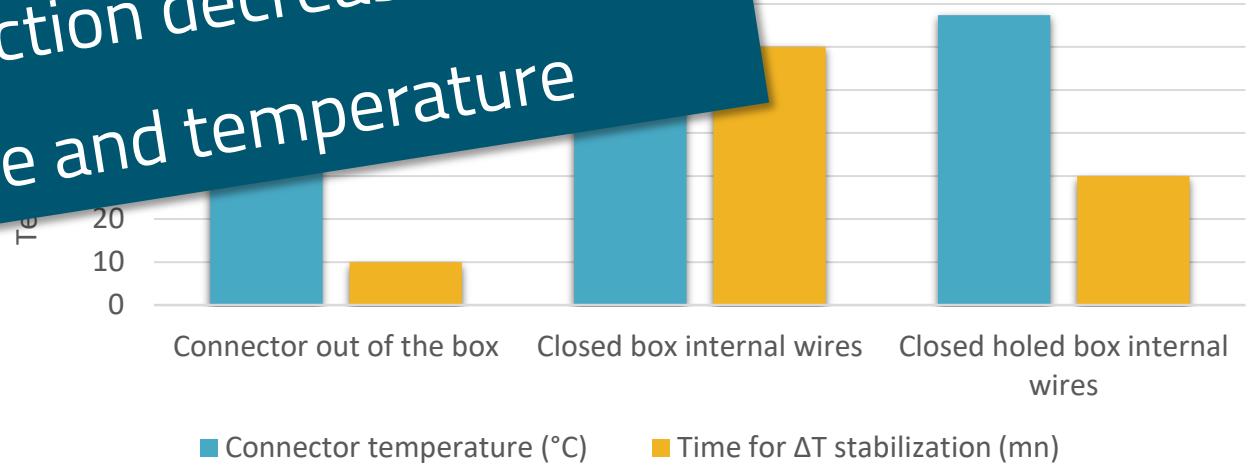
Test:

- Same with closed box with holes



1. Holes add convection decrease
stabilization time and temperature

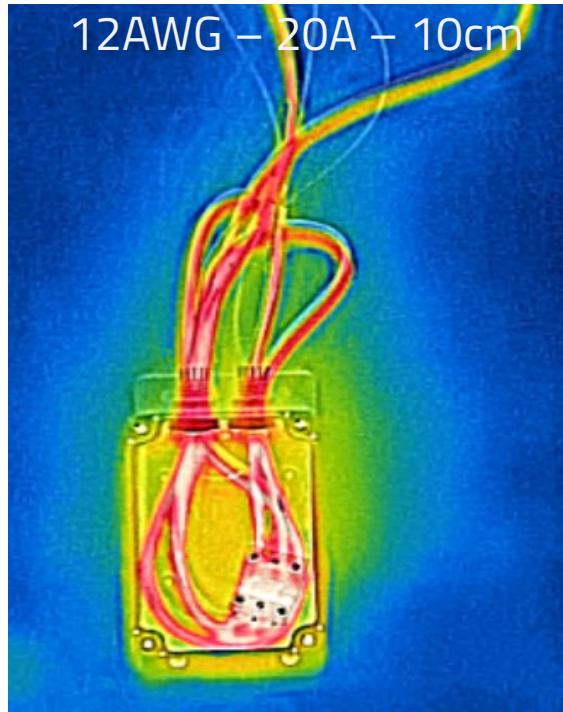
Thermal behaviour of a connector inside of a box



A connector in a closed box

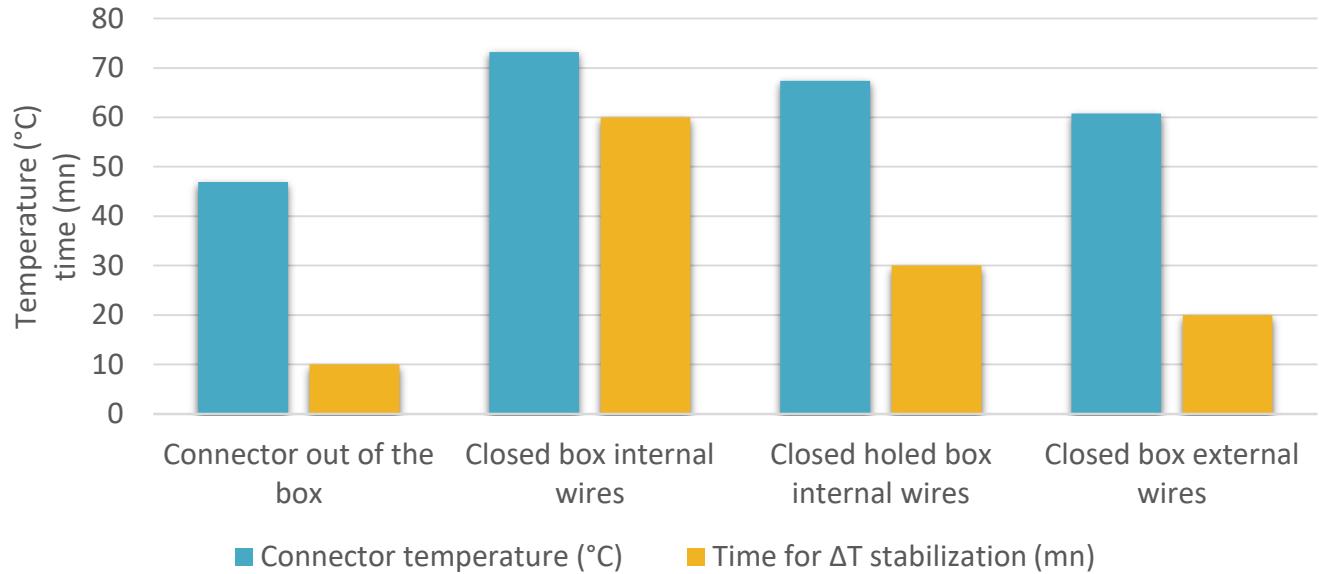
Test:

- Same with closed box with holes and external wires



WE eiCan

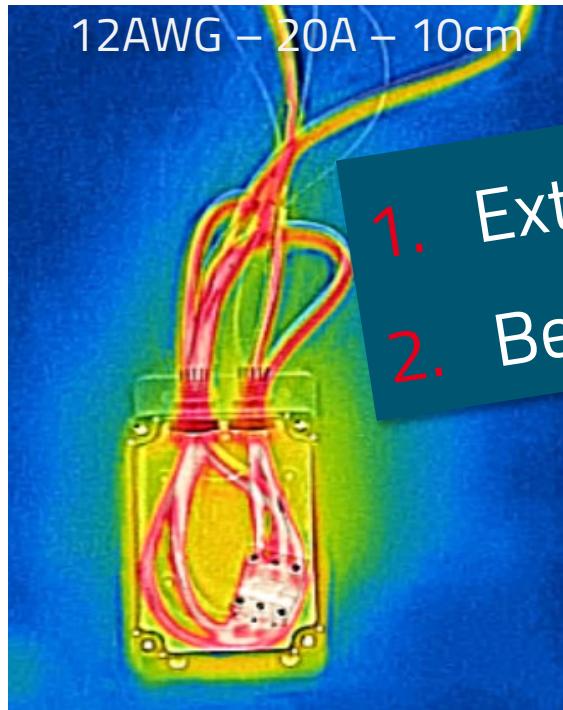
Thermal behaviour of a connector inside of a closed box



A connector in a closed box

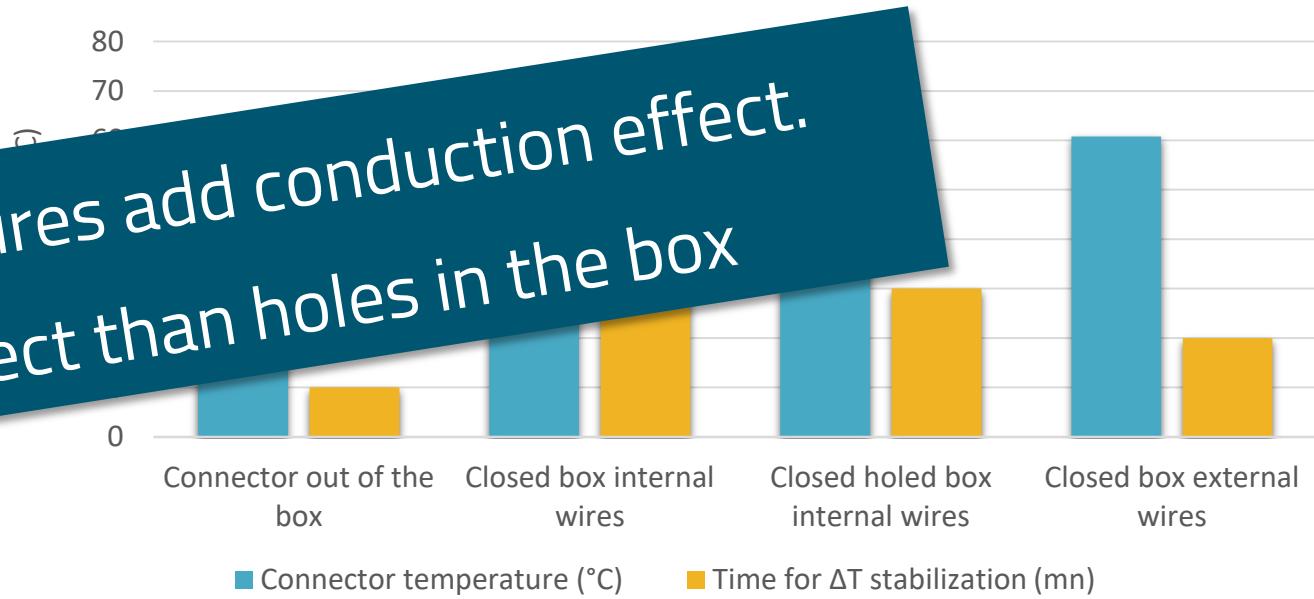
Test:

- Same with closed box with holes and external wires



1. External wires add conduction effect.
2. Better effect than holes in the box

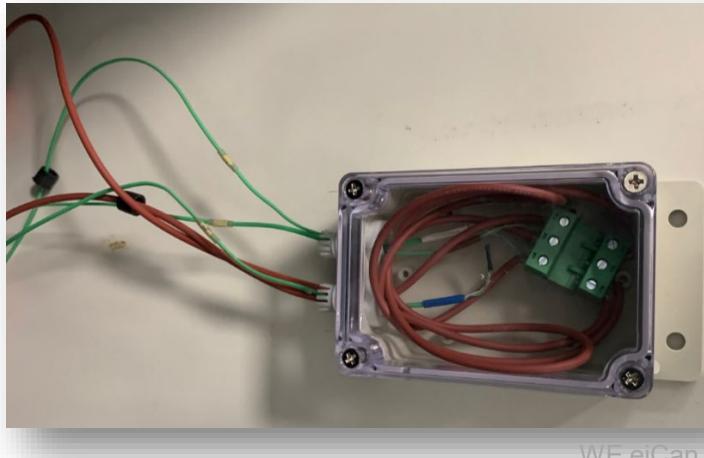
Thermal behaviour of a connector inside of a closed box



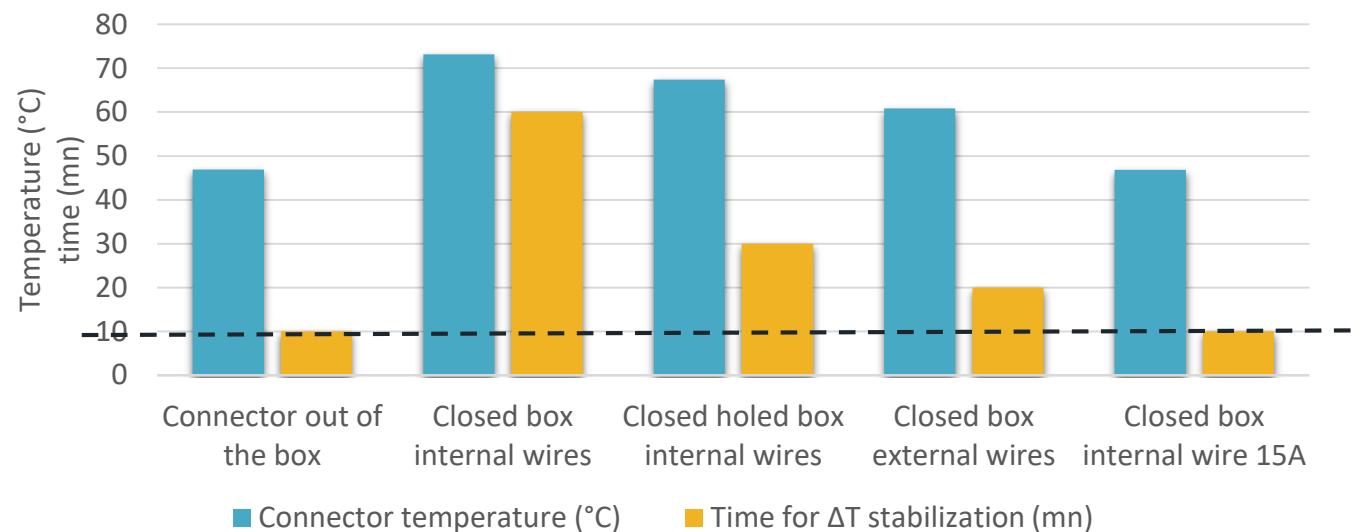
A connector in a closed box

Test:

- Closed box
- Internal wires
- No holes
- 15A instead of 20A



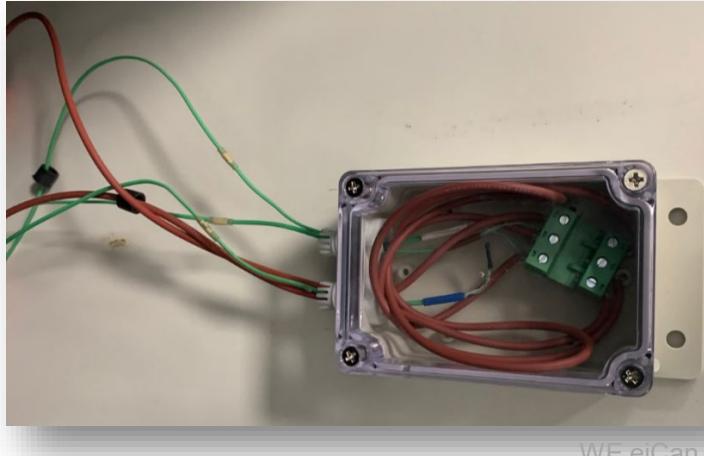
Thermal behaviour of a connector inside of a closed box



A connector in a closed box

Test:

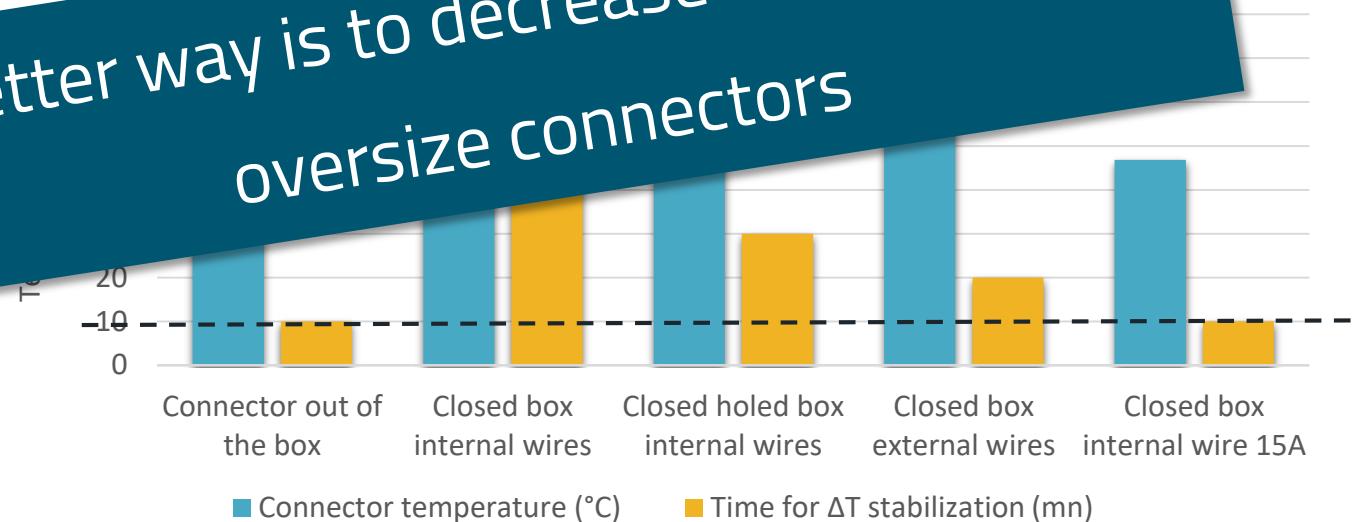
- Closed box
- Internal wires
- No holes
- 15A instead of 20A



WE eiCan

Thermal behaviour of a connector

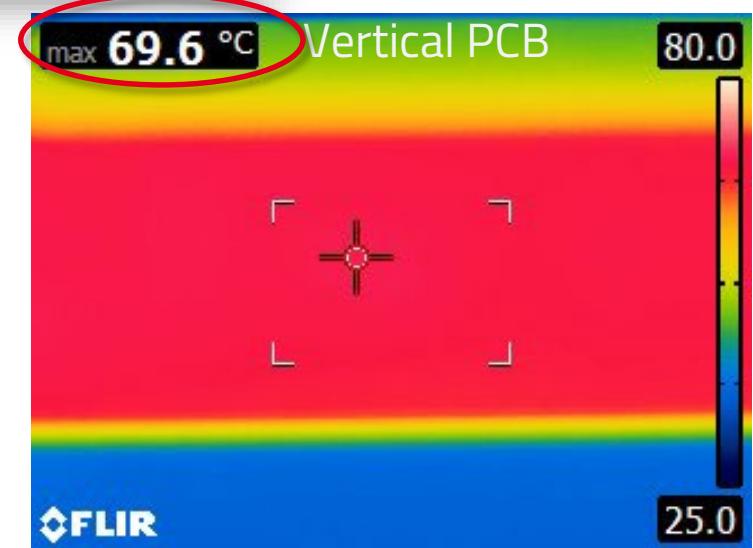
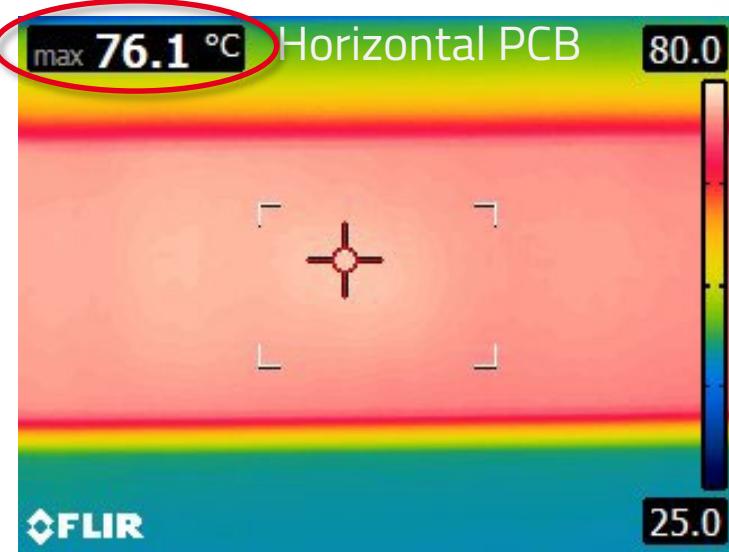
Better way is to decrease current (I^2) or
oversize connectors



How to naturally cool down a PCB ?

Test:

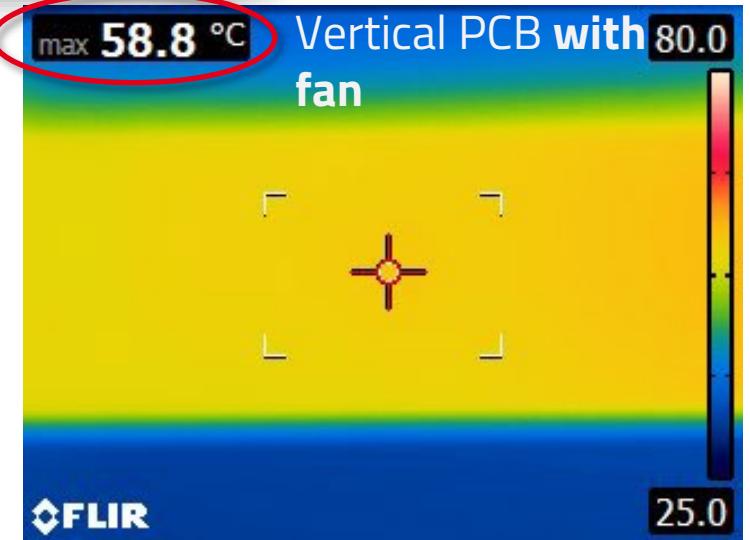
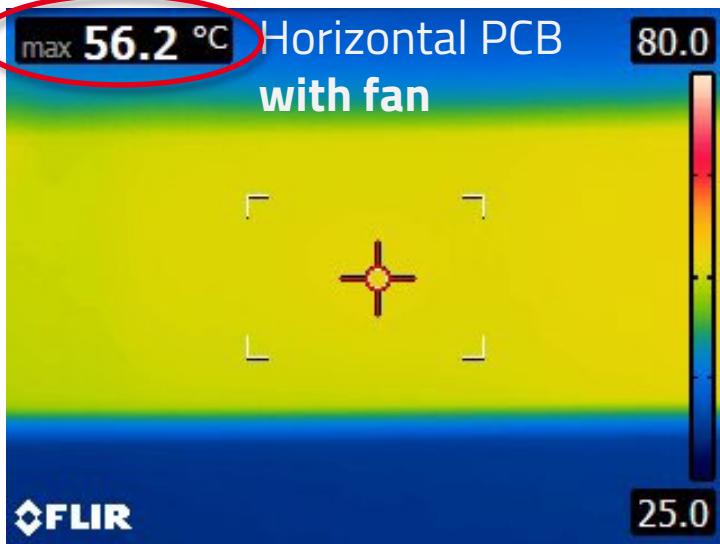
- PCB redcube
- 100A
- Horizontal and vertical PCB



And now with a fan ?

Test:

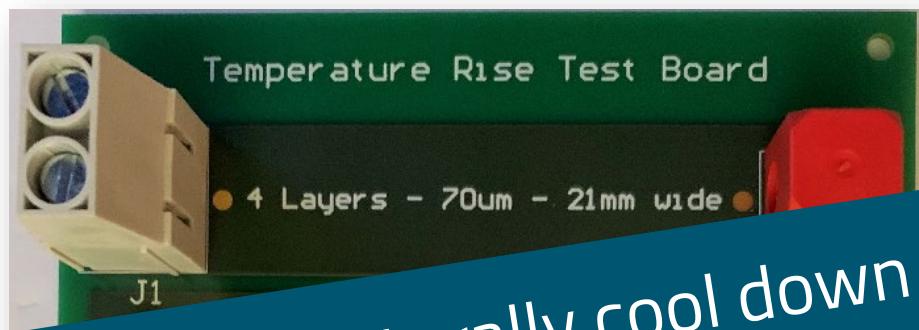
- PCB redcube
- 100A
- Horizontal and vertical PCB
- With fan



And now with a fan ?

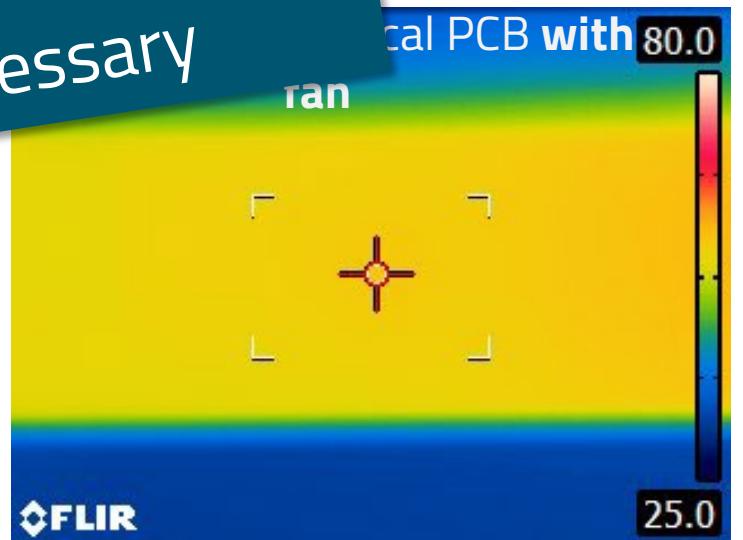
Test:

- PCB redcube
- 100A
- Horizontal and vertical PCB
- With fan



1. Vertical position for a PCB naturally cool down
components

2. Fan is obviously a good solution if necessary



Agenda

- Current design for connectors
- Consequences of a too high temperature
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- Heat in a cable
- Some tricks
- Derating curve
- Inrush current
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- Finally what to remember



Derating curve UL

How to decrease current when ambient temperature increase:

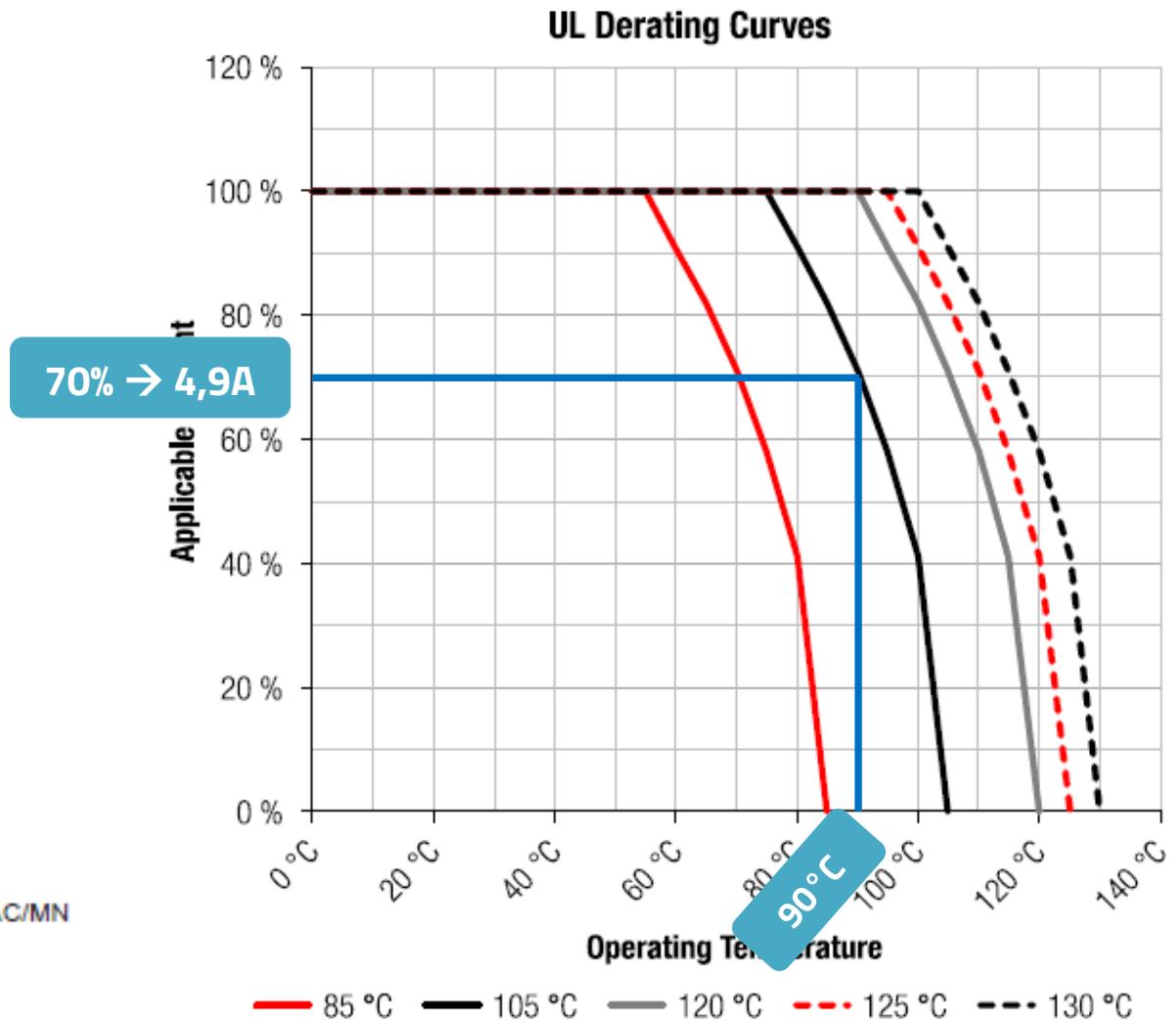
- Maximum connector temperature
- $\Delta T \leq 30K$
- ΔT proportional to I^2



WE eiCan

ENVIRONMENTAL
OPERATING TEMPERATURE: -40 UP TO 105°C
COMPLIANCE: LEAD FREE AND ROHS

ELECTRICAL
CURRENT RATING: 7 A
WORKING VOLTAGE: 250 VAC
INSULATOR RESISTANCE: >1000 MOHM
DIELECTRIC WITHSTANDING VOLTAGE: 1500 VAC/MN
CONTACT RESISTANCE: 20 mOHM MAX



Derating curve VDE

How to decrease current when ambient temperature increase:

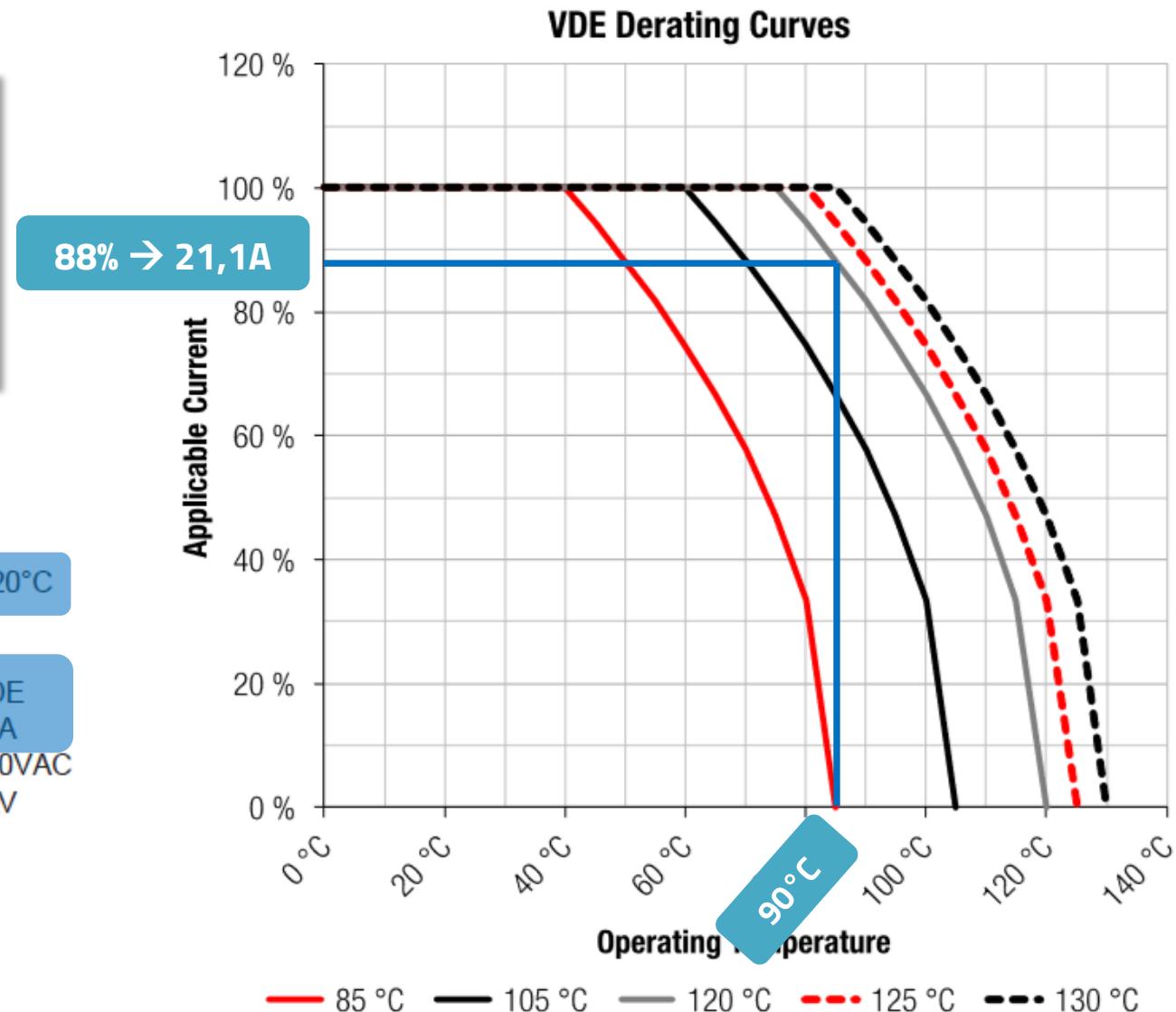
- Maximum connector temperature
 - $\Delta T \leq 45K$
 - ΔT proportional to I^2



WE eiCan

ENVIRONMENTAL
OPERATING TEMPERATURE: -30°C UP TO +120°C
COMPLIANCE: LEAD FREE AND ROHS

ELECTRICAL	UL	VDE
CURRENT RATING:	16A	24A
WORKING VOLTAGE:	300VAC	750VAC
WITHSTANDING VOLTAGE:	1,6KV	3KV
CONTACT RESISTANCE:	20 mΩ MAX	



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THE GOOD QUESTION

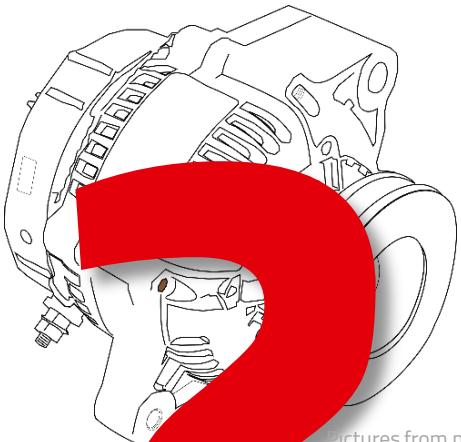
Inrush Current



Pitch 2,54mm

€

ELECTRICAL	cULus
CURRENT RATING:	6 A
WORKING VOLTAGE:	150 VAC
WITHSTANDING VOLTAGE:	1.3 KV
CONTACT RESISTANCE:	20 mOhm MAX



Pictures from pixabay

Current x 6 during short time ?

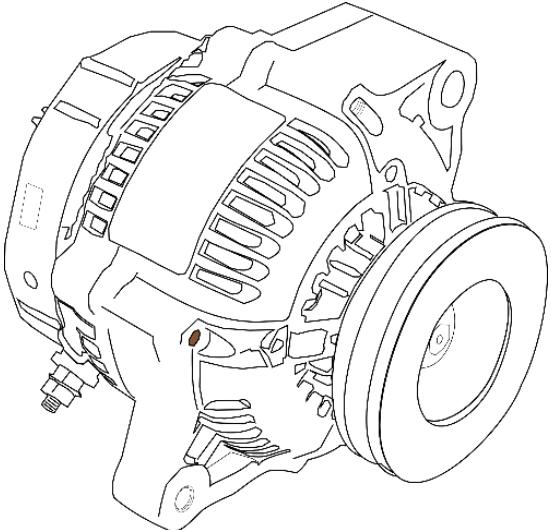
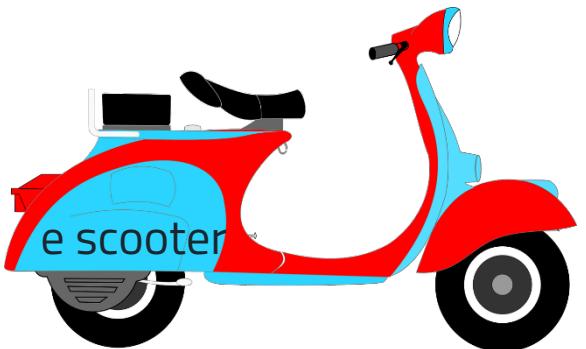


Pitch 10,16mm
€€€

ELECTRICAL	cULus
CURRENT RATING:	57 A
WORKING VOLTAGE:	300VAC
WITHSTANDING VOLTAGE:	1.6KV
CONTACT RESISTANCE:	20 mOhm max

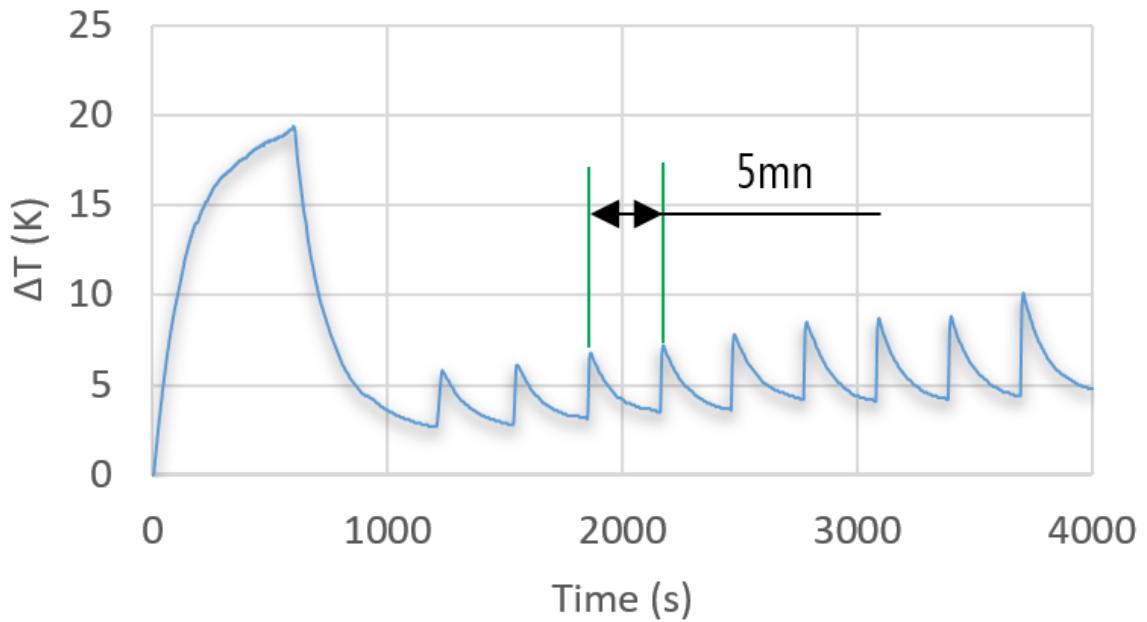
Pictures from WE

APPLICATION ISSUE

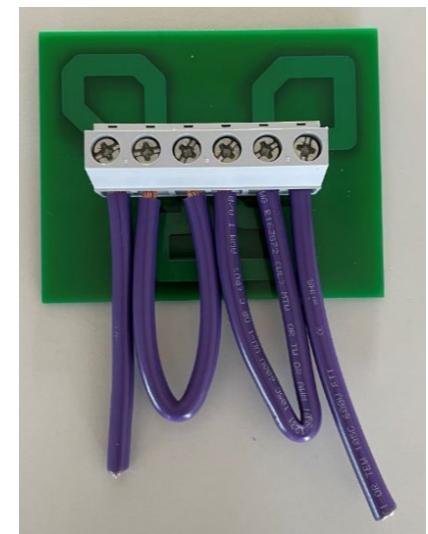
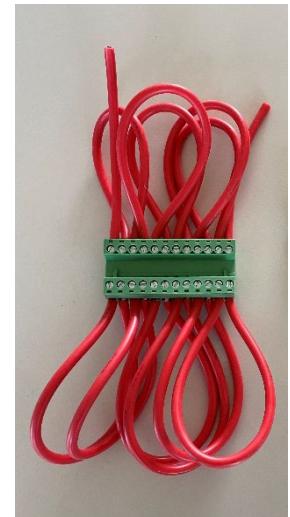
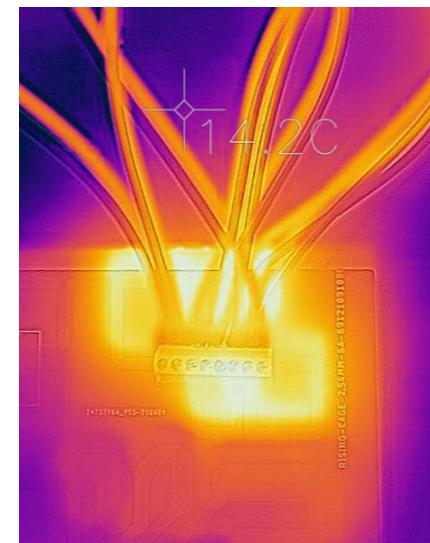
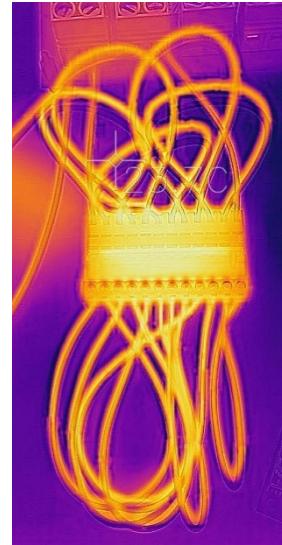


REAL TEST

Inrush Current Measurement - ΔT vs time



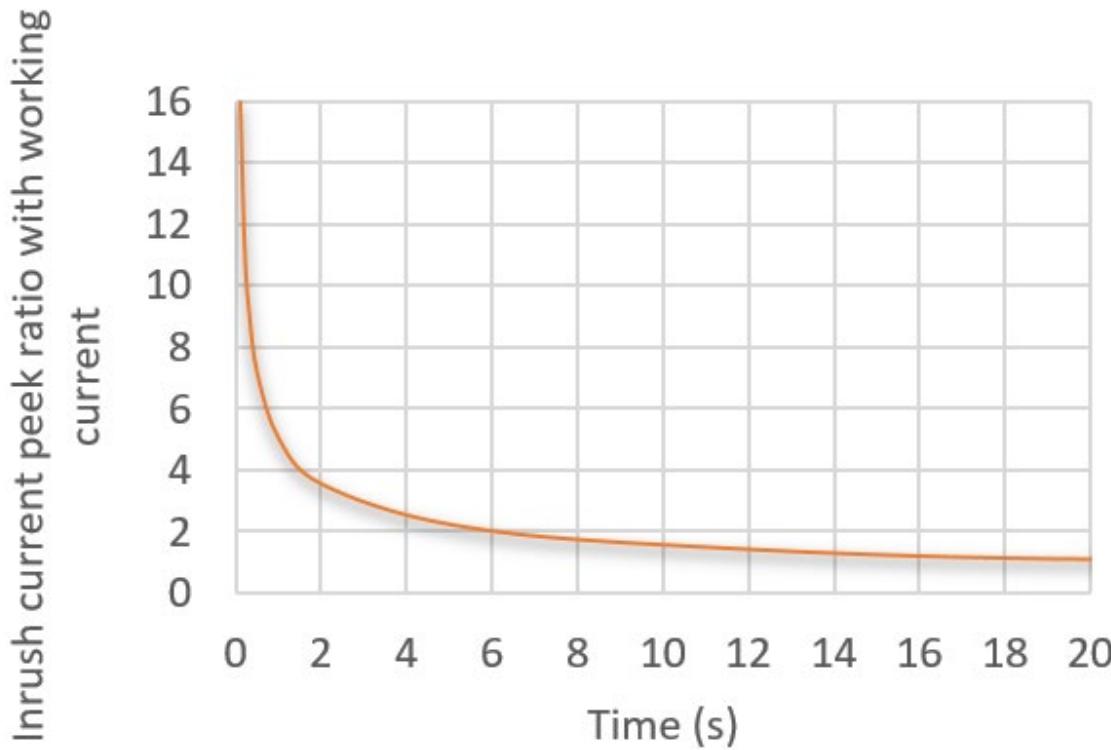
final inrush current test results



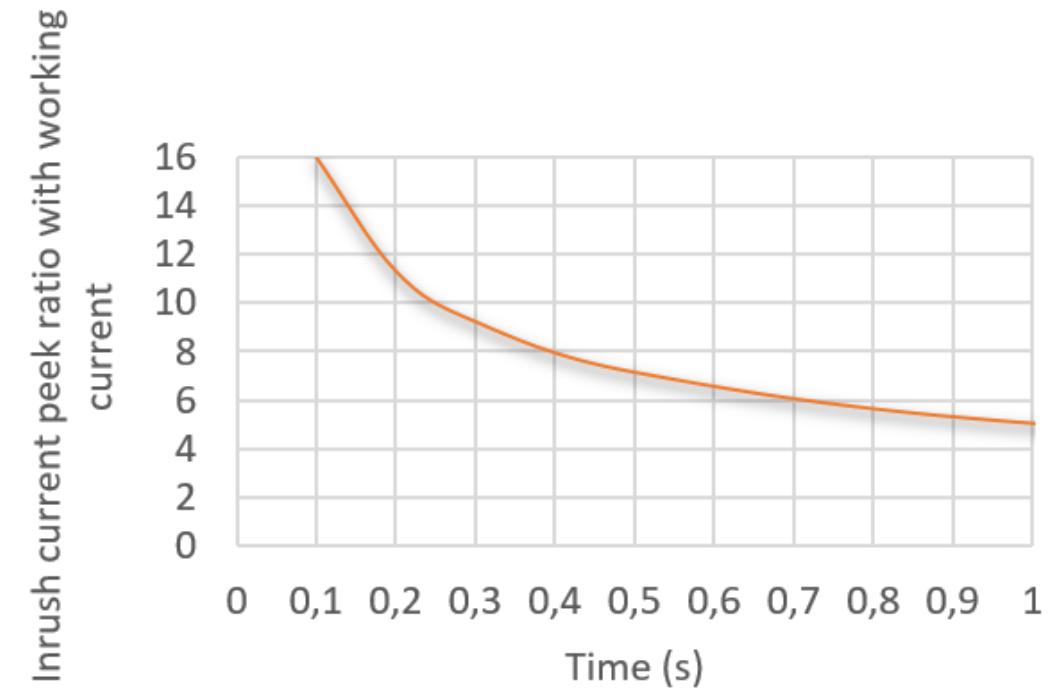
Pictures from WE

INRUSH CURRENT CURVES

Inrush peek current ratio with working current applicable for terminal blocks

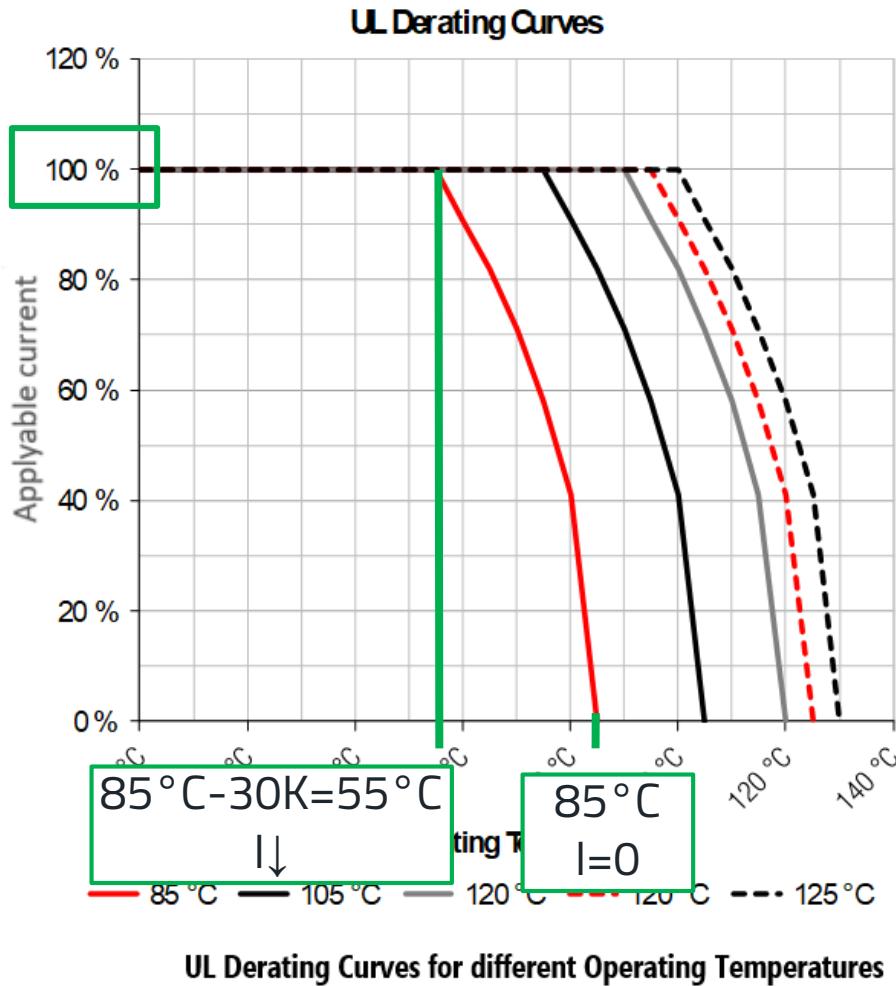


Inrush peek current ratio with working current applicable for terminal blocks



applicable inrush current for eiCan connectors. Different scales

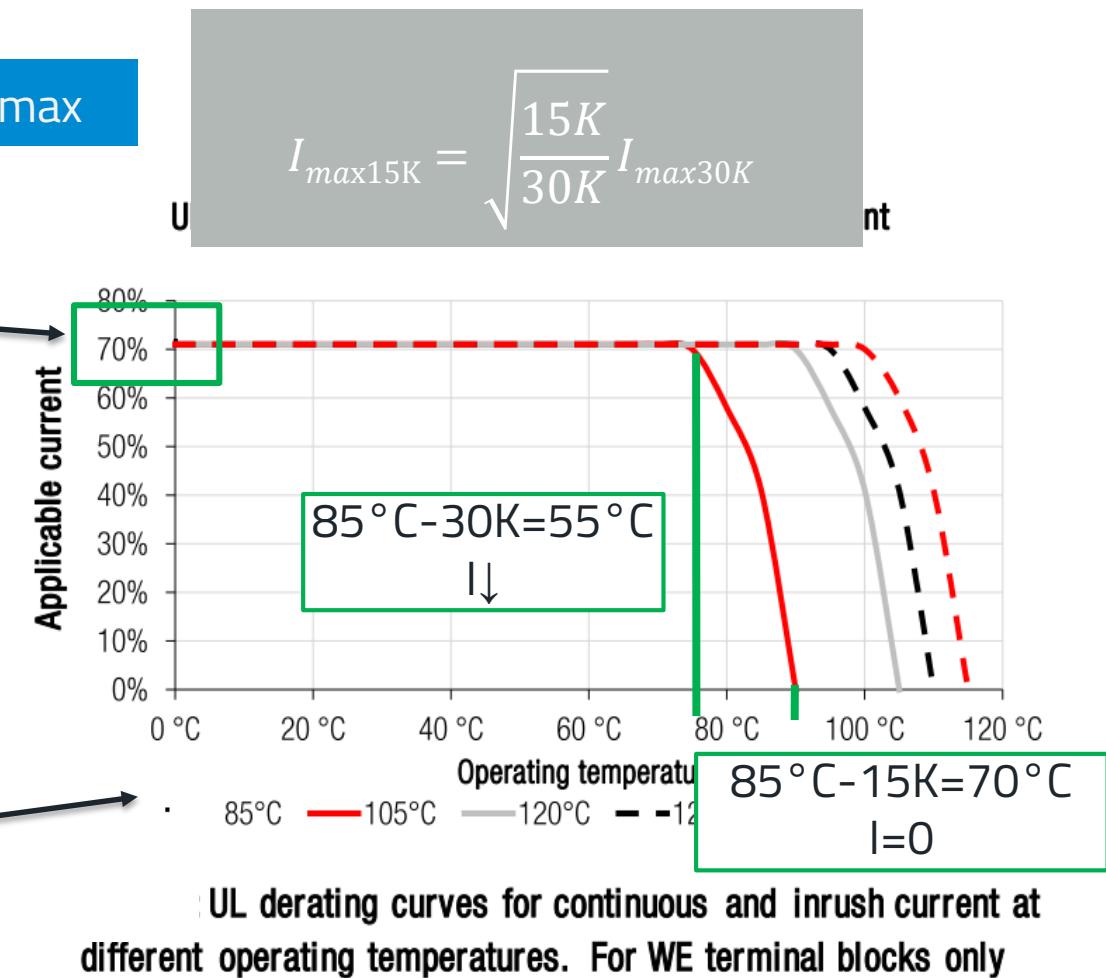
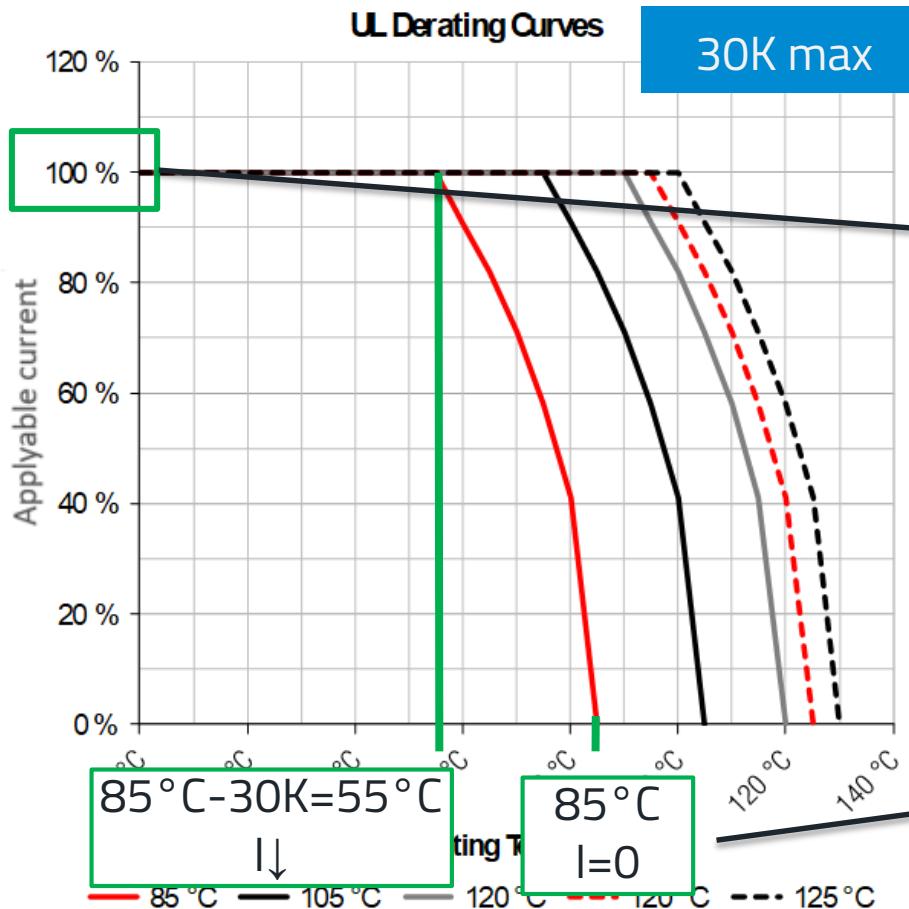
DERATING CURVE WITHOUT INRUSH CURRENT



Base principle: always $\Delta T \leq 30K$
Connector internal temperature < operating temperature

Security margin
Stable current $\leq 15K$
and
Inrush current $\leq 15K$

DERATING CURVE WITH INRUSH CURRENT

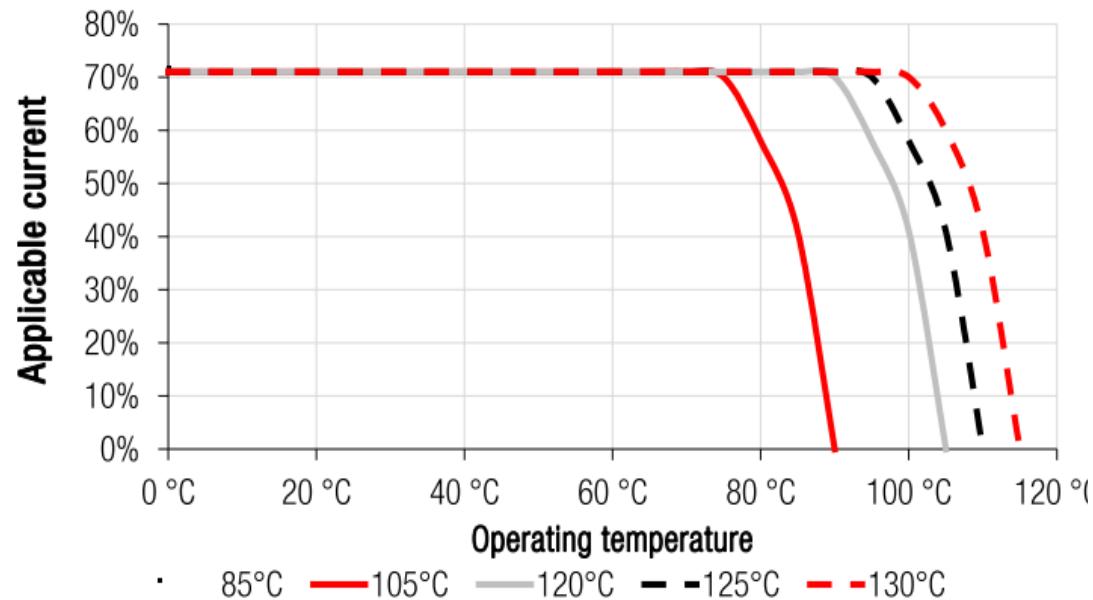


FINAL CURVES

Datasheet is guaranteed by WE

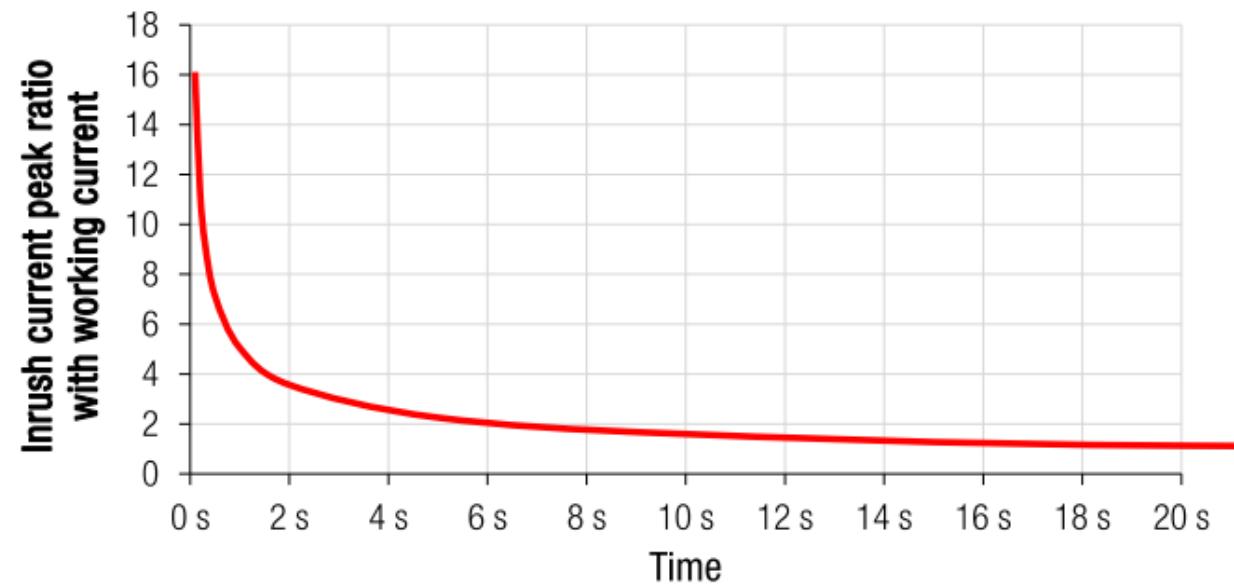
**Always do a test to check temperature of
your system**

UL derating curves: working current & inrush current



UL derating curves for continuous and inrush current at different operating temperatures. For WE terminal blocks only

Inrush peak current ratio with working current, applicable for terminal blocks



[ANE015](#)

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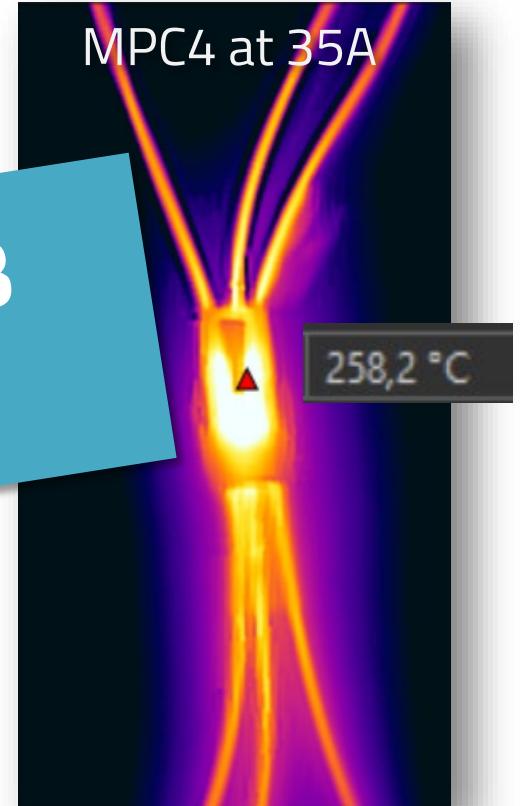
Connector horror show

What happens when you increase current ? MPC4:

9A - max +105 °C



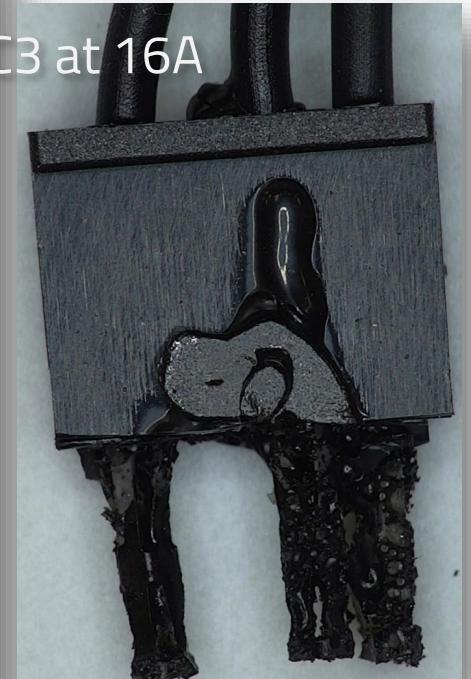
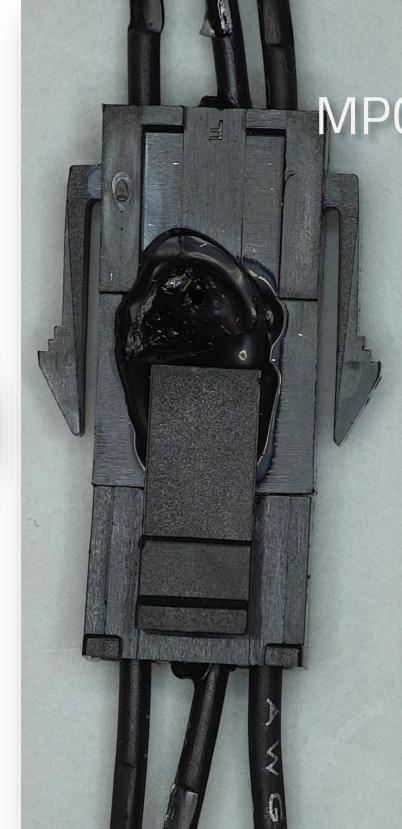
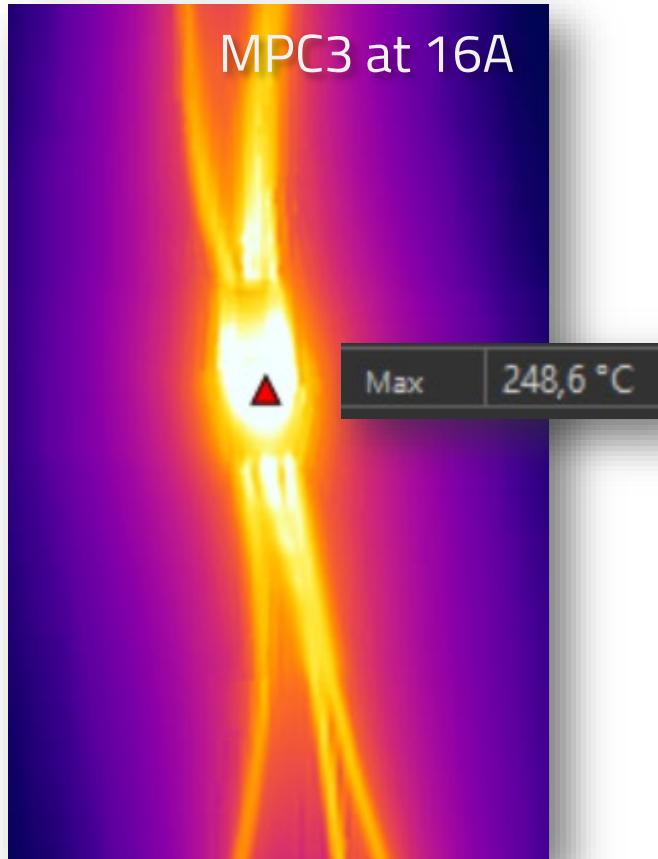
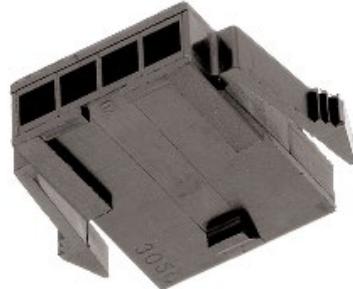
Horror current > working current x3
No fire



All pictures: WE eiCan

Connector horror show

What happens when you increase current ? MPC3:
5A - max +105°C

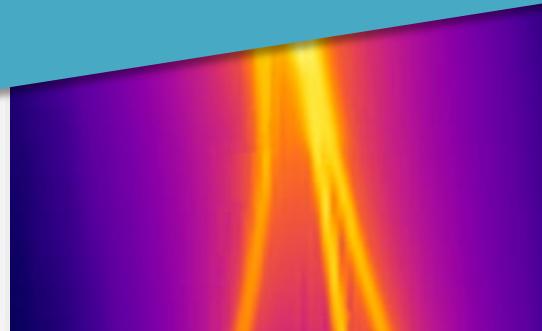
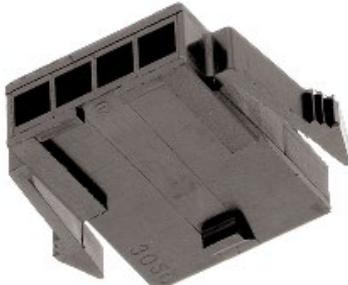


All pictures: WE eiCan

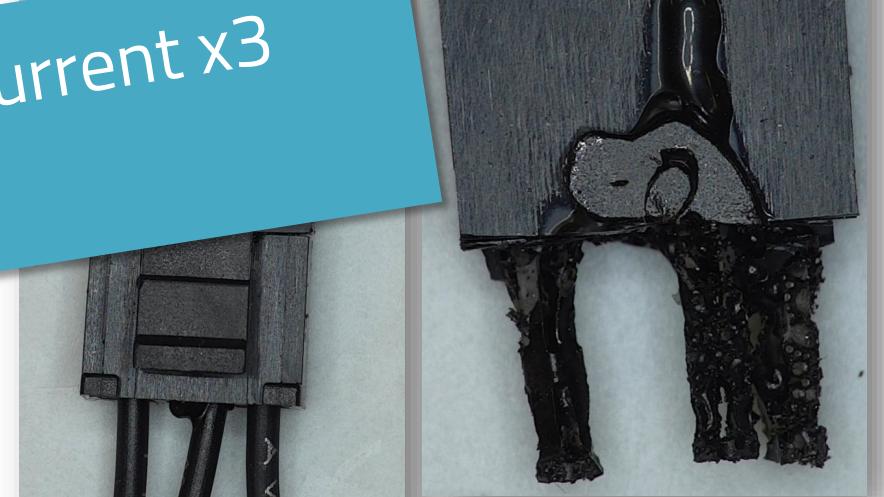
Connector horror show

What happens when you increase current ? MPC3:

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Horror current > working current x3
No fire



All pictures: WE eiCan

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