



# **Computer Vision**

## **Thermal Imaging and Infrared**

Developed by Klaas Dijkstra & Henry van Arem

Copyright © 2001 – 2008 by  
Noordelijke Hogeschool Leeuwarden and Van de Loosdrecht Machine Vision  
All rights reserved

[j.van.de.loosdrecht@tech.nhl.nl](mailto:j.van.de.loosdrecht@tech.nhl.nl), [jaap@vdlmv.nl](mailto:jaap@vdlmv.nl)

## **Infrared Theory**

**Electromagnetic spectrum**

**Color Temperature**

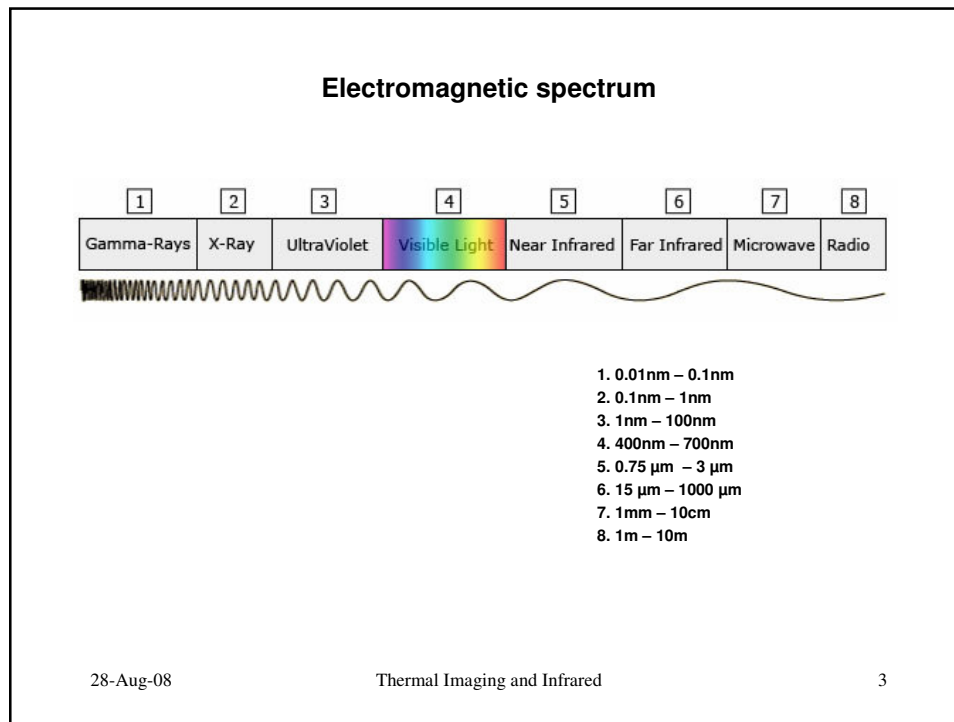
**Emissivity**

**BlackBody**

28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

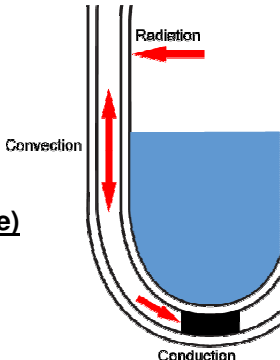
2



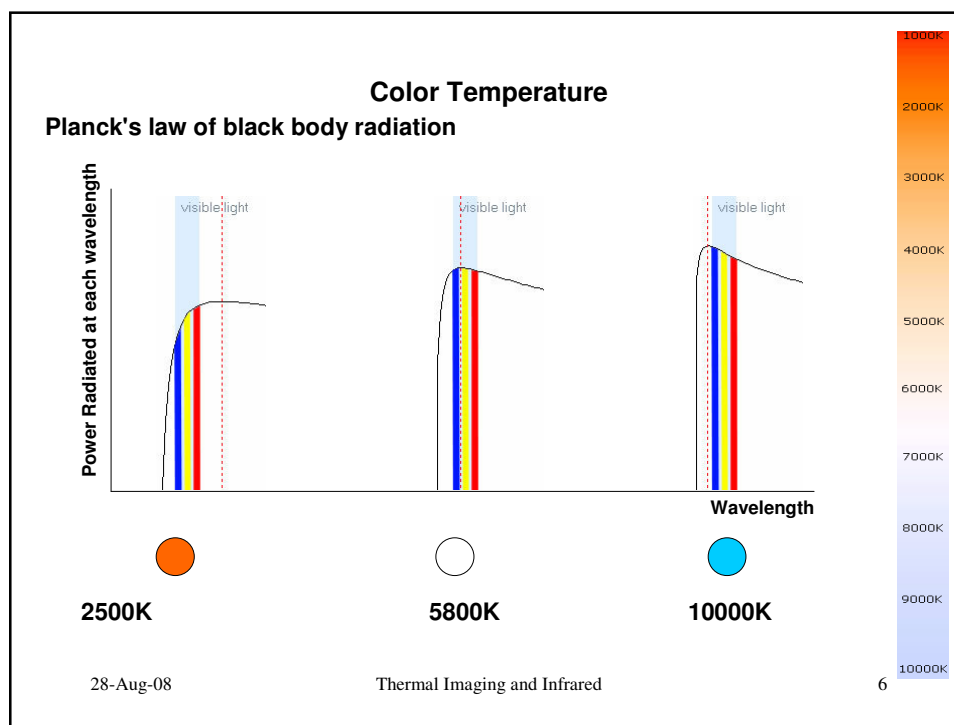
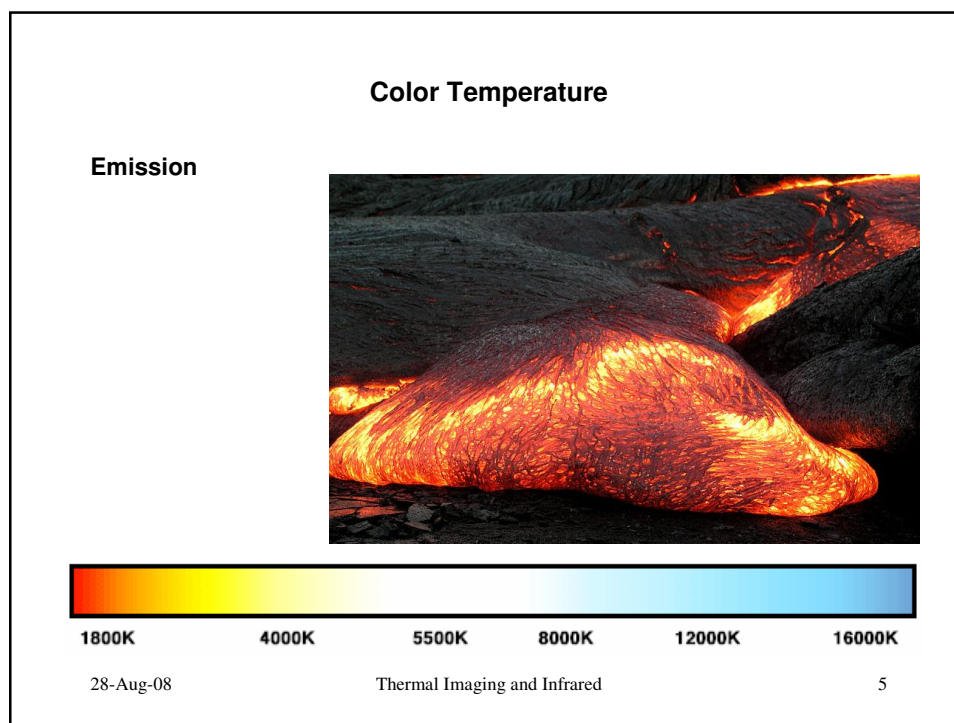
### Energy flows

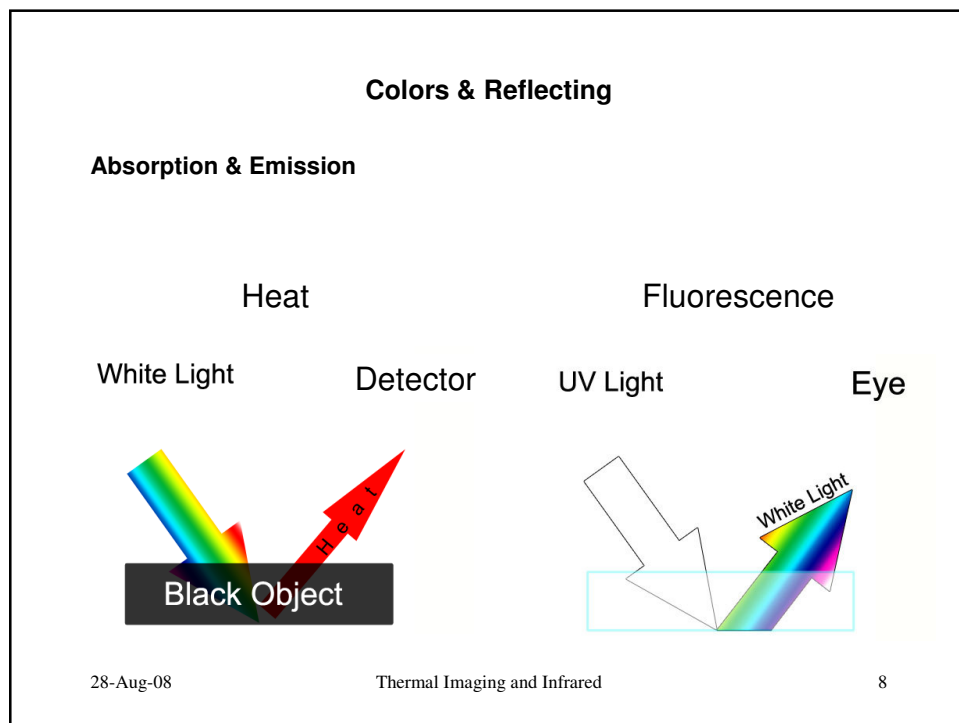
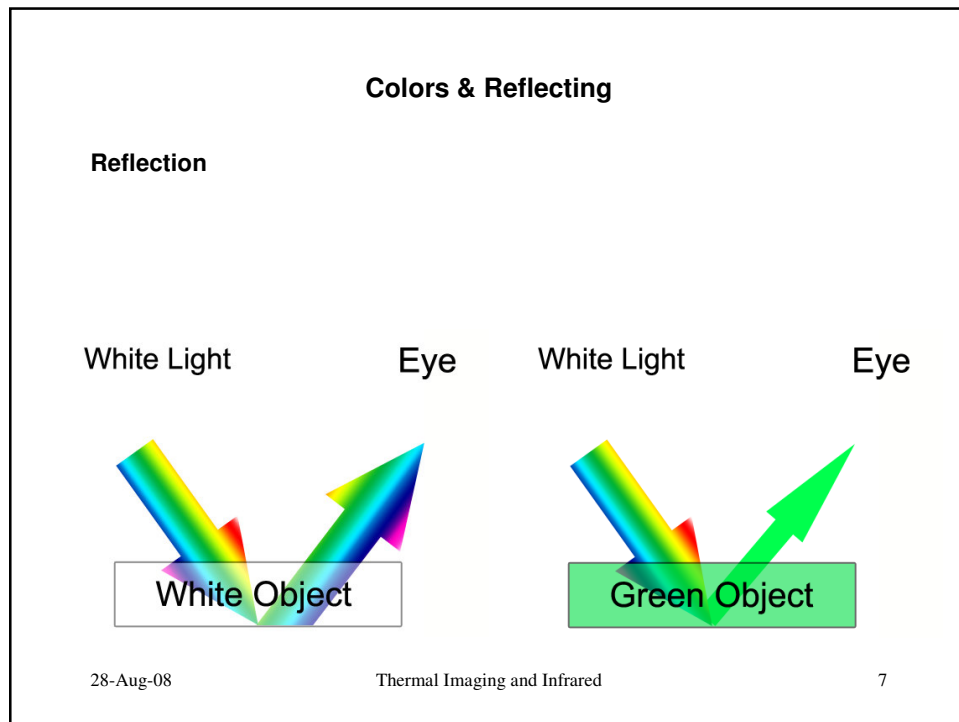
*“Every object absorbs energy and will emit the same amount of energy when objects temperature is in balance”*

- Convection
- Conduction
- Radiation
  - Absorption / Emission (Temperature)
  - Reflection
  - Transmission (not discussed)

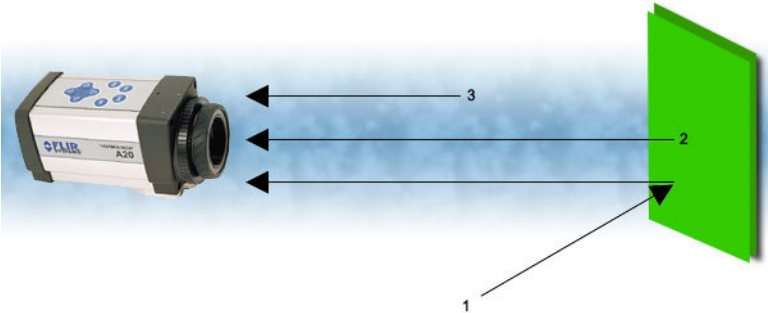


28-Aug-08
Thermal Imaging and Infrared
4





### Infrared signals setup



1 Reflection  
2 Object Temperature  
3 Atmosphere

28-Aug-08 Thermal Imaging and Infrared 9


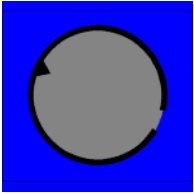
### BlackBody

A theoretical *blackbody* absorbs all radiation of all wavelengths, it does not reflect any radiation.

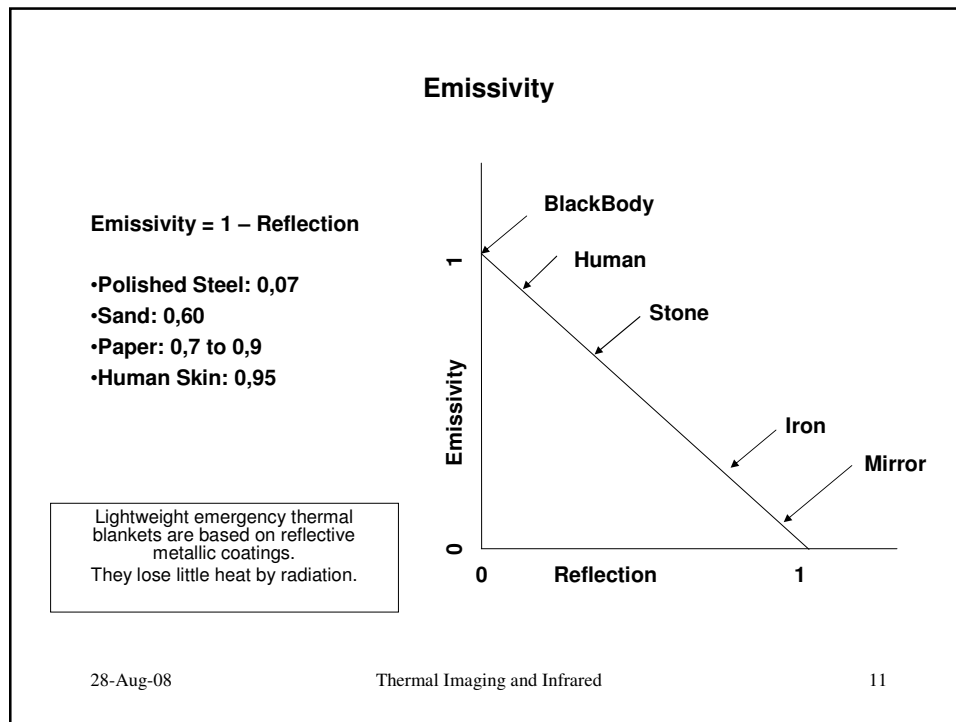
Emissivity = 1

An eye is a practical example of a blackbody  
(It is not a perfect *blackbody*, but a *graybody*)

Higher emissivity is better



28-Aug-08 Thermal Imaging and Infrared 10



**IR Camera Parameters**

**Object Emissivity:**  
A value between the 0 and 1 for calculating the temperature

28-Aug-08 Thermal Imaging and Infrared 12

### Retrieve Images

5 different type of images.

- **Absolute Image Pixels (IntImage)**
  - Absolute values from the sensor
- **Object Signal Pixels (FloatImage)**
  - Corrected values for influence by atmosphere and for Reflected Temperature.
- **Temperature (FloatImage)**
  - Temperatures in Kelvin
- **Relative Temperature (IntImage)**
  - Temperature relative to the high and lower scale limit
- **Relative Temperature Image Lut (IntImage)**
  - Image based on a Lut

28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

13

### Emissivity Calculation

3 ways of determining the emissivity of an object

- Look the material up in an emissivity table
- Change the emissivity value until the temperature indicated by the camera is the same as the temperature of the object
- Use the reversed temperature measurement formula (Supported by the FLIR A20 Camera)

28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

14

### Emissivity Calculation

**IREmissCalc <CameraName> <Xpos> <YPos> <Temperature>**

The function IREmissCalc uses the reversed formula to determine the emissivity of an object.

**Demonstration Code:**

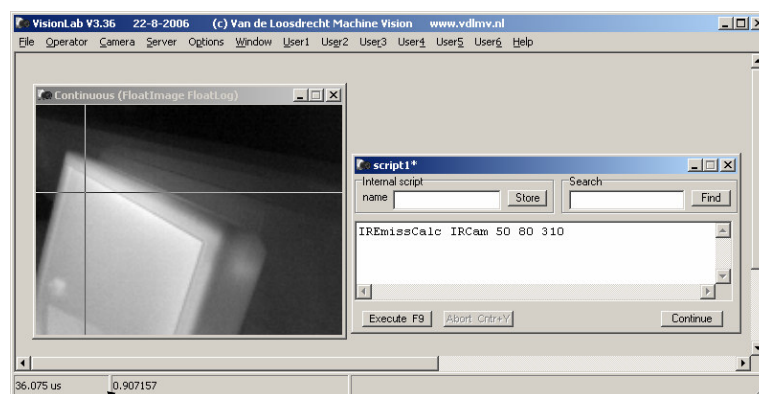
- ImageMode set at 0
- ImageType Temperature Float
- IREmissCalc IRCam 50 80 310

28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

15

### Emissivity Calculation



**Emissivity**

28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

16



### EmissivityMap

**An emissivity map is used to give every pixel a different emissivity value.**

- **Not using a single emissivity**
- **Used when monitoring different materials in a single image**
- **Emissivitymap is a DoubleImage with the same size as the infrared snapshot.**

28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

17

### EmissivityMap

**IRSetEmissMap <CameraName> <EmissMap>**

**The function sends an emissivitymap to the camera.**

**Demonstration Code**

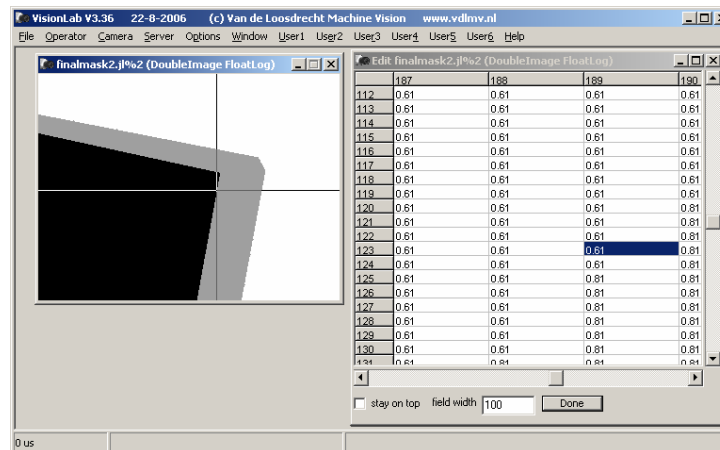
- **Create a new DoubleImage with the same size as the IR Image**
- **Enter pixel values between 0.01 and 1**
- **IRSetEmissMap IRCam EmissMask**

28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

18

### EmissivityMap



28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

19

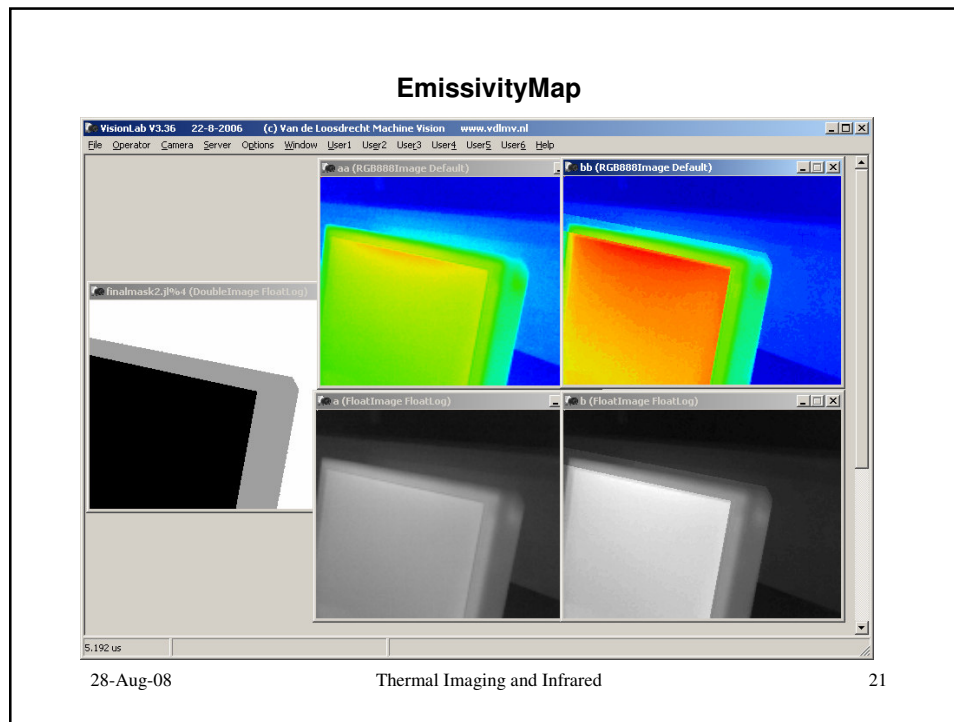
### EmissivityMap

- **Create an EmissivityMap first**
- **IRSetEmissMap**
- **Camera setparam IRCam EmissivityCorrection 0**  
Standard global Emissivity value will be used
- **Make a snapshot**
- **Camera setparam IRCam EmissivityCorrection 1**  
IR Camera is using the Emissivitymap just created
- **Make a snapshot**

28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

20



### TemperatureMap

**A TemperatureMap is used to calculate emissivity values in an image.**

#### **The TemperatureMap**

- **An image of an arbitrary size**
- **Every pixel contains the known temperature of the pixel in the infrared image**
- **The same as IREmissCalc only then for multiple pixels**
- **Returns an image with the emissivity values**

**Calculating will take some time, the whole image would take approximately 25 minutes.**

## TemperatureMap

**IRTemperatureMap <CameraName> <TemperatureMap>  
<ReturnEmissivityMap> <Left> <Top> <Width> <Height>**

The function uses the camera to calculate multiple emissivity values for known temperature pixels. The return value is an image.

### Demonstration Code

- Create a new FloatImage of 50 x 50 pixels
- Enter known pixel temperatures
- IRTemperatureMap IRCam TemperatureMap EmissivityMap 10 10 50 50
- Display EmissivityMap

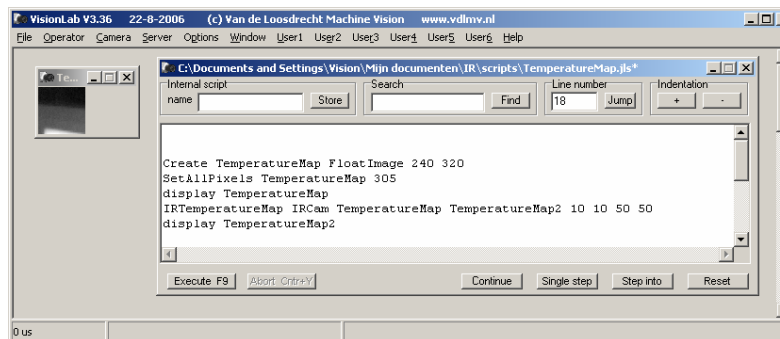
28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

23

## TemperatureMap

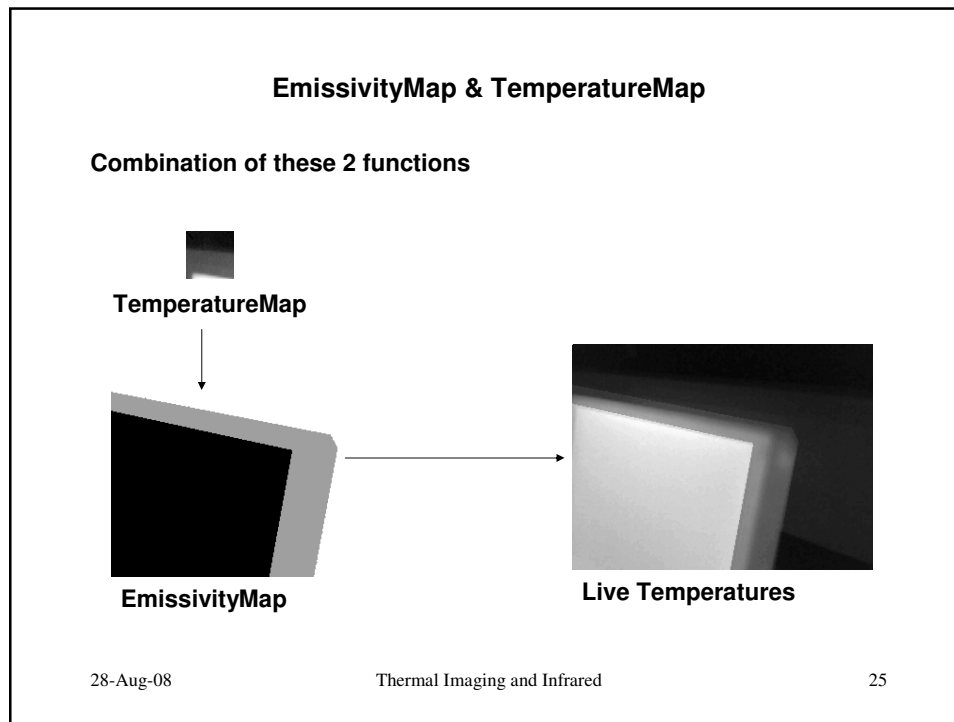
### TemperatureMap image



28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

24



### Experiments

**Measuring the temperature of shiny objects**  
(Objects with a high emissivity)

**3 methods**

- **Masking Tape**
  - Masking tape has a higher emissivity.
- **Sanding**
  - Reducing the amount of reflection of shiny objects.
- **Drilling a hole with a depth of 7 times its diameter**
  - Simulating a blackbody

28-Aug-08 Thermal Imaging and Infrared 26

### Experiment Masking Tape



28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

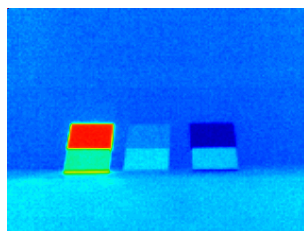
27

### Experiment Masking Tape

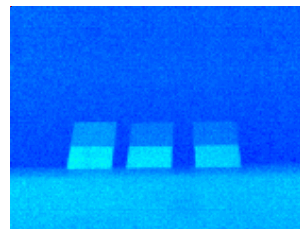
Order of temperature from left to right.

- Hot
- Room temperature
- Cold.

Masking tape is on the top half.



Immediately



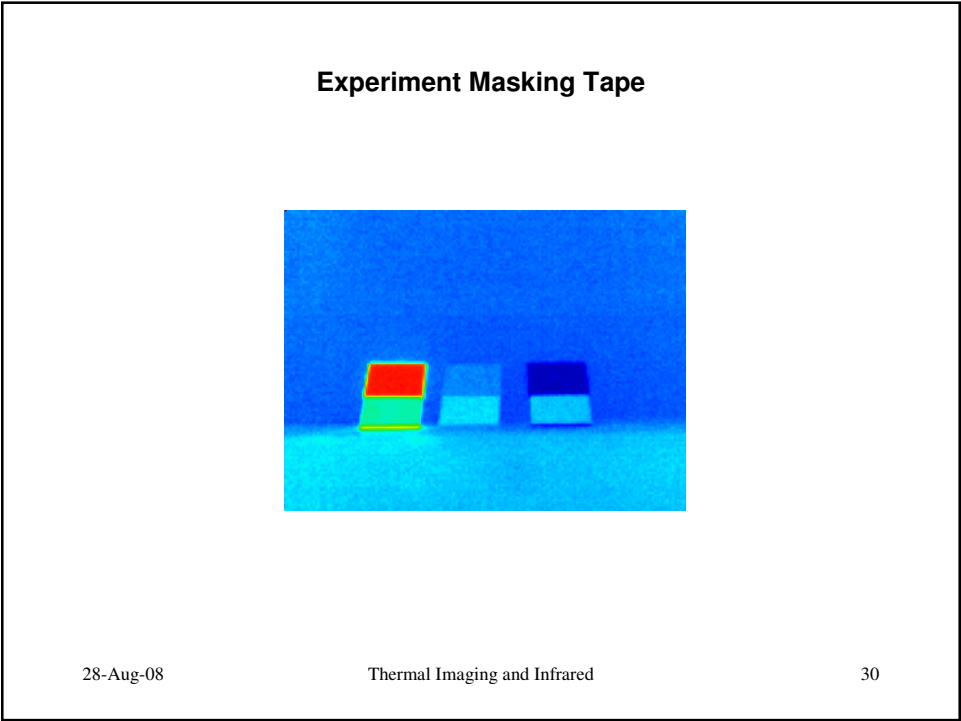
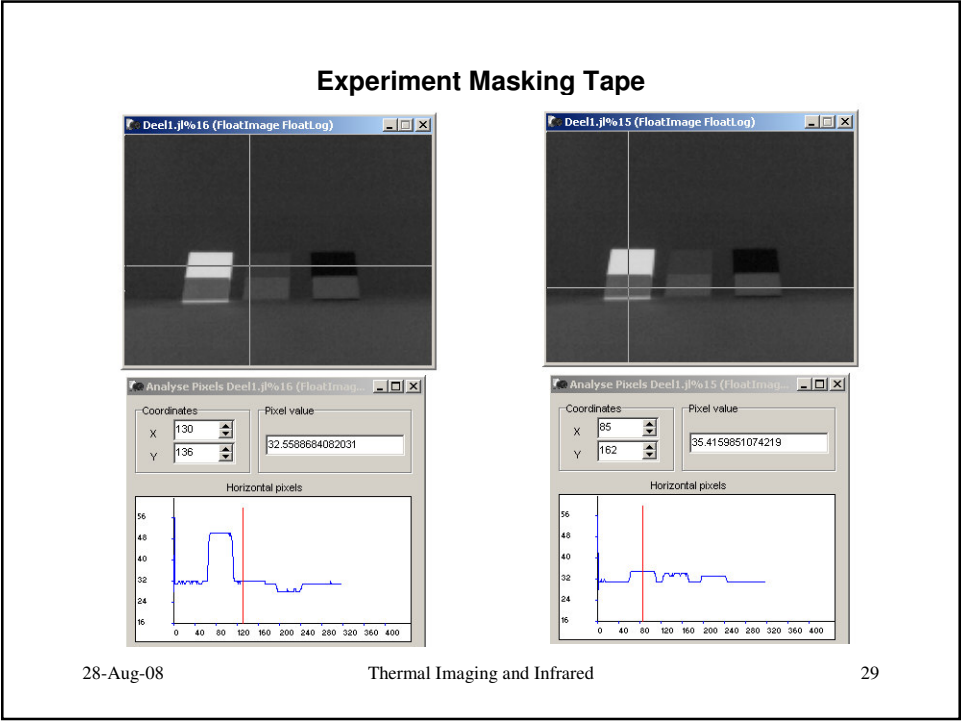
after a few minutes

- Normal background

28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

28



### Experiment Masking Tape Hot Background



28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

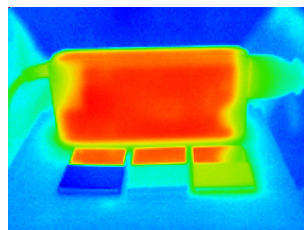
31

### Experiment Masking Tape Hot Background

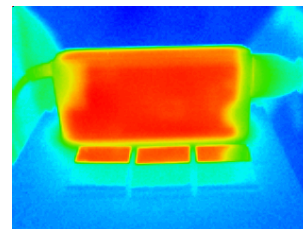
Order of temperature from left to right.

- Cold
- Room temperature
- Hot.

Masking tape is on the bottom half.



Immediately



after a few minutes

- Hot background

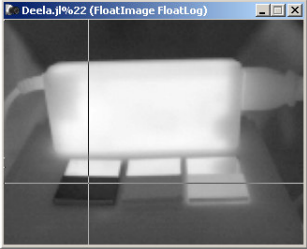

28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

32



### Experiment Masking Tape Hot Background



Analyse Pixels Deela.j%21 (FloatImage FloatLog)

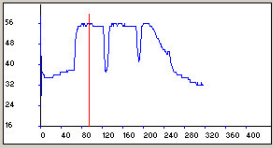
Coordinates

X: 94

Y: 157

Pixel value: 56.03955078125

Horizontal pixels



Analyse Pixels Deela.j%22 (FloatImage FloatLog)

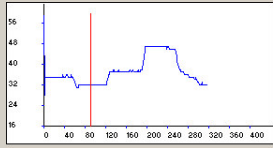
Coordinates

X: 90

Y: 174

Pixel value: 32.673828125

Horizontal pixels

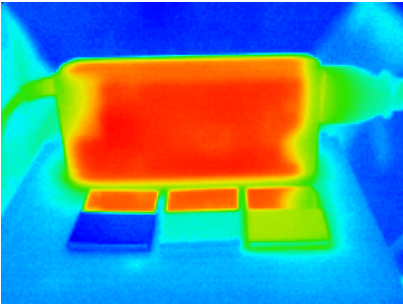


28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

33

### Experiment Masking Tape Hot Background



28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

34

**Experiment Sanded**

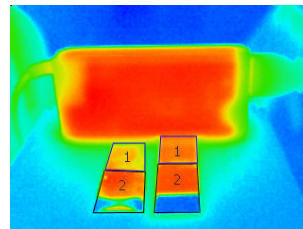
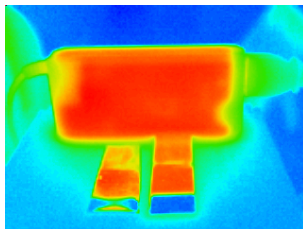
28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

35

**Experiment Sanded****Materials from left to right**

- Red Copper
- Brass

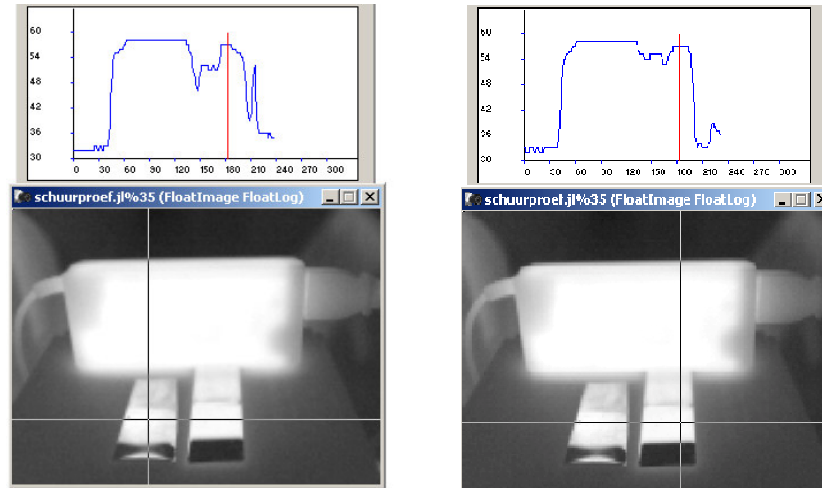


1. Sanded.
2. Not Sanded.

28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

36

**Experiment Sanded**

28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

37

**Fields of usage****Kwantitative measurement (Measuring absolute temperatures)**

- Not used a lot, due to the complex nature of temperature measurement

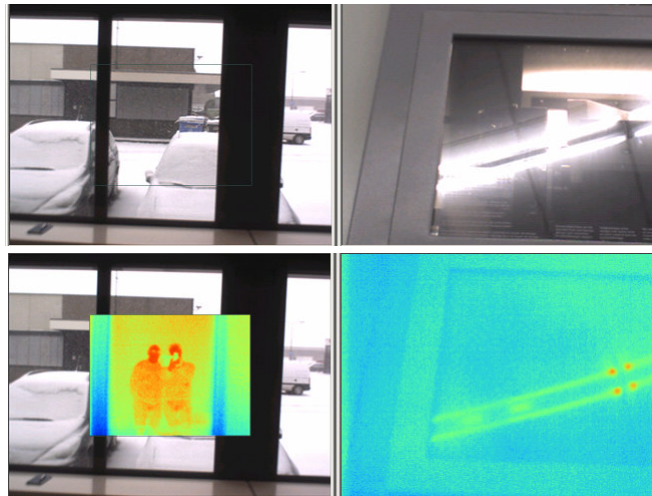
**Kwalitative measurement (Measuring relative temperatures)**

- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical engineering
- Building inspections
- Many other fields

28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

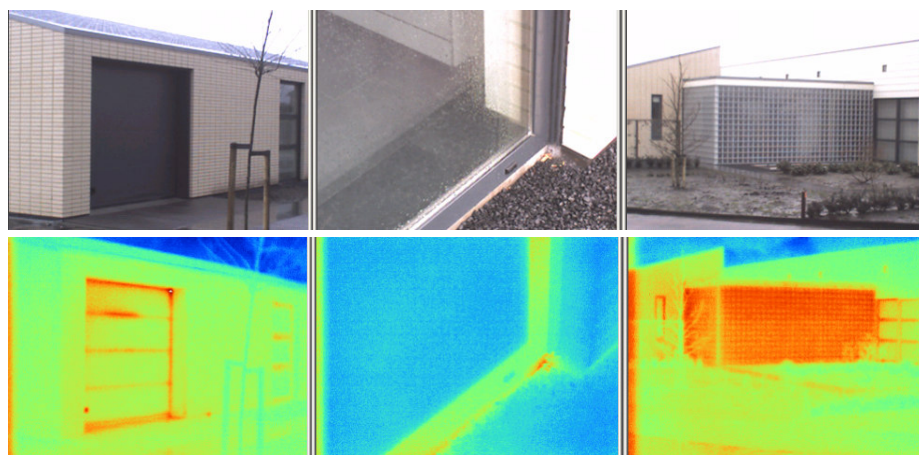
38

**Examples  
(Infrared reflection)**

28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

39

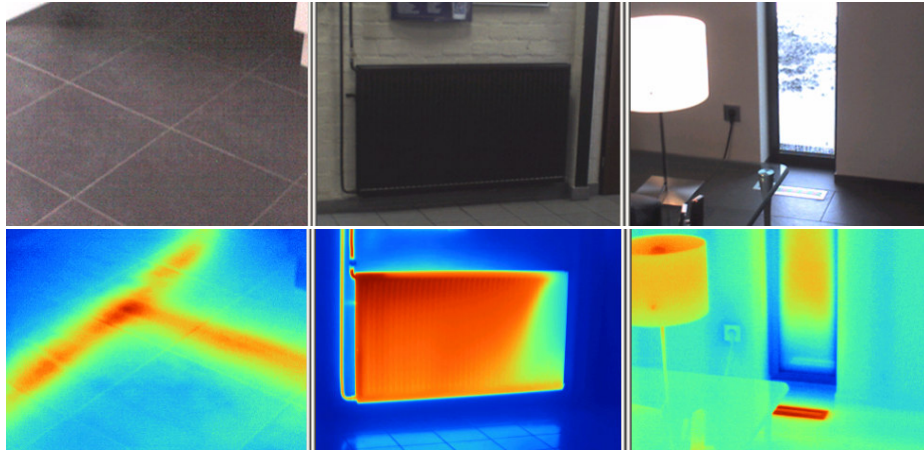
**Examples  
(Building Inspection)**

28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

40

### Examples (Building Inspection)



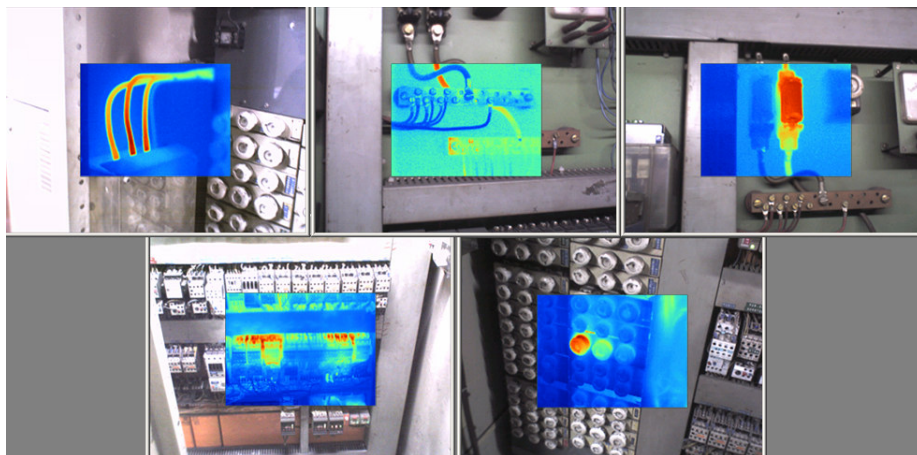
Images provided by MapTools B.V.

28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

41

### Examples (Electrical Engineering)



Images provided by MapTools B.V.

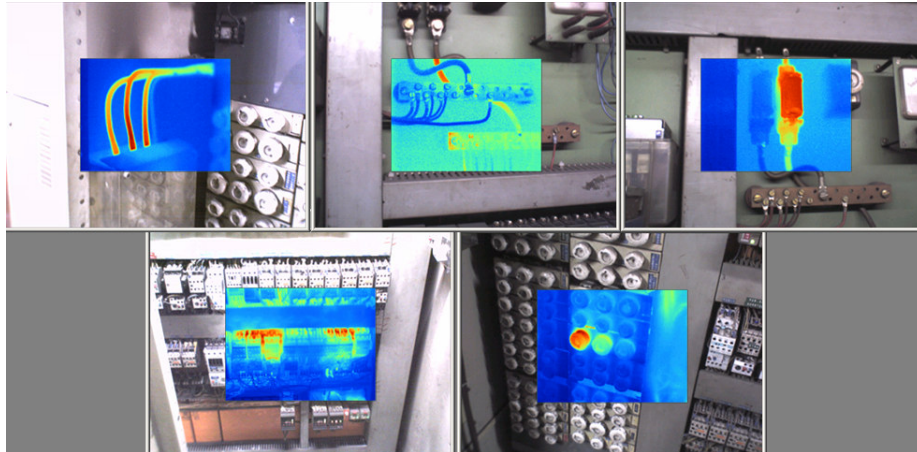
28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

42



### Examples (Electrical Engineering)



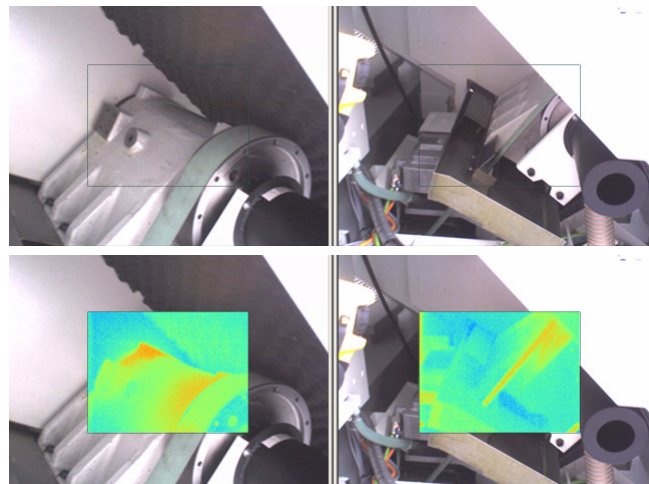
Images provided by MapTools B.V.

28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

43

### Examples (Mechanical Engineering)



Images provided by MapTools B.V.

28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

44

### **Advantages and Disadvantages**

#### **Advantages**

- **Quick measurement of object temperature**
- **Non invasive measurement**
- **Ability to use Computer Vision techniques for automating temperature measurement**

#### **Disadvantages**

- **Kwantitative measurement depends on al lot of parameters**
  - **Emissivity**
  - **Atmosphere Temperature**
  - **Object material**
- **Expensive equipment**

28-Aug-08

Thermal Imaging and Infrared

45