



# CONNECTOR TEMPERATURE RISE AND DERATING

Goetz Schattmann FAE eiCan

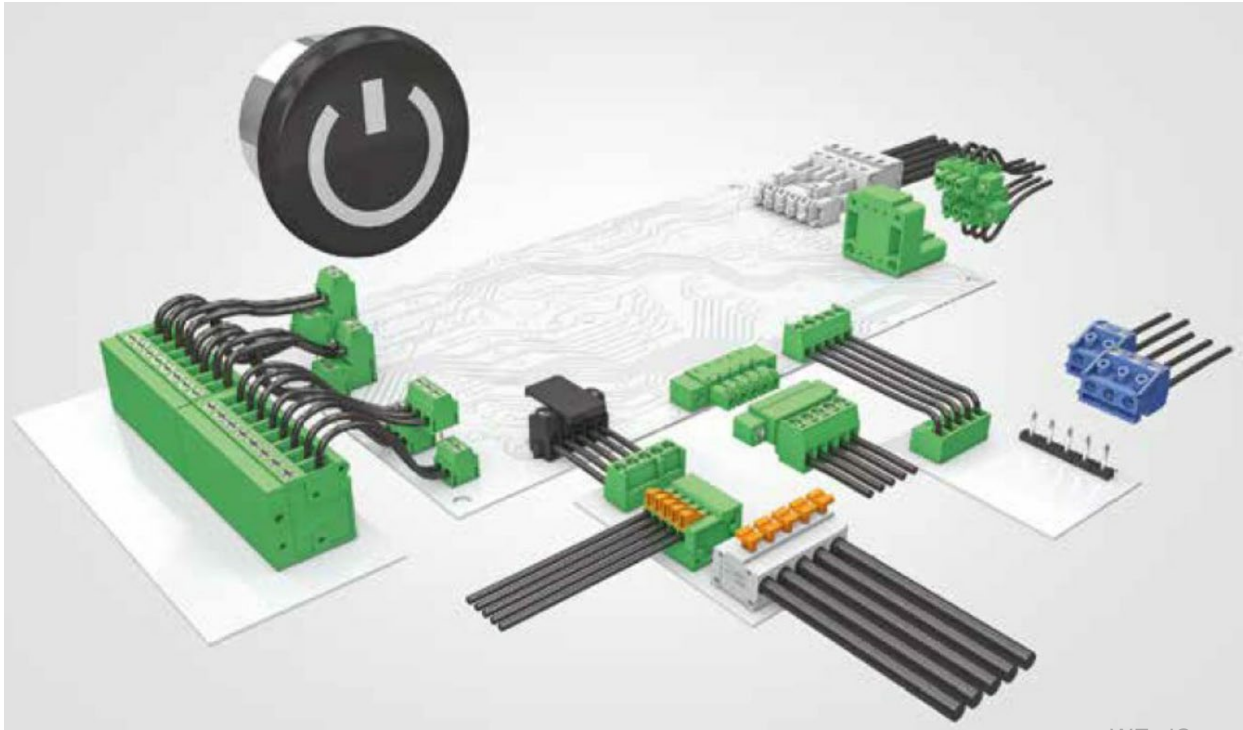


# Agenda

- 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



WE eiCan



## ENVIRONMENTAL

OPERATING TEMPERATURE: -40 UP TO 105°C

COMPLIANCE: LEAD FREE AND ROHS

## ELECTRICAL

CURRENT RATING: 20 A

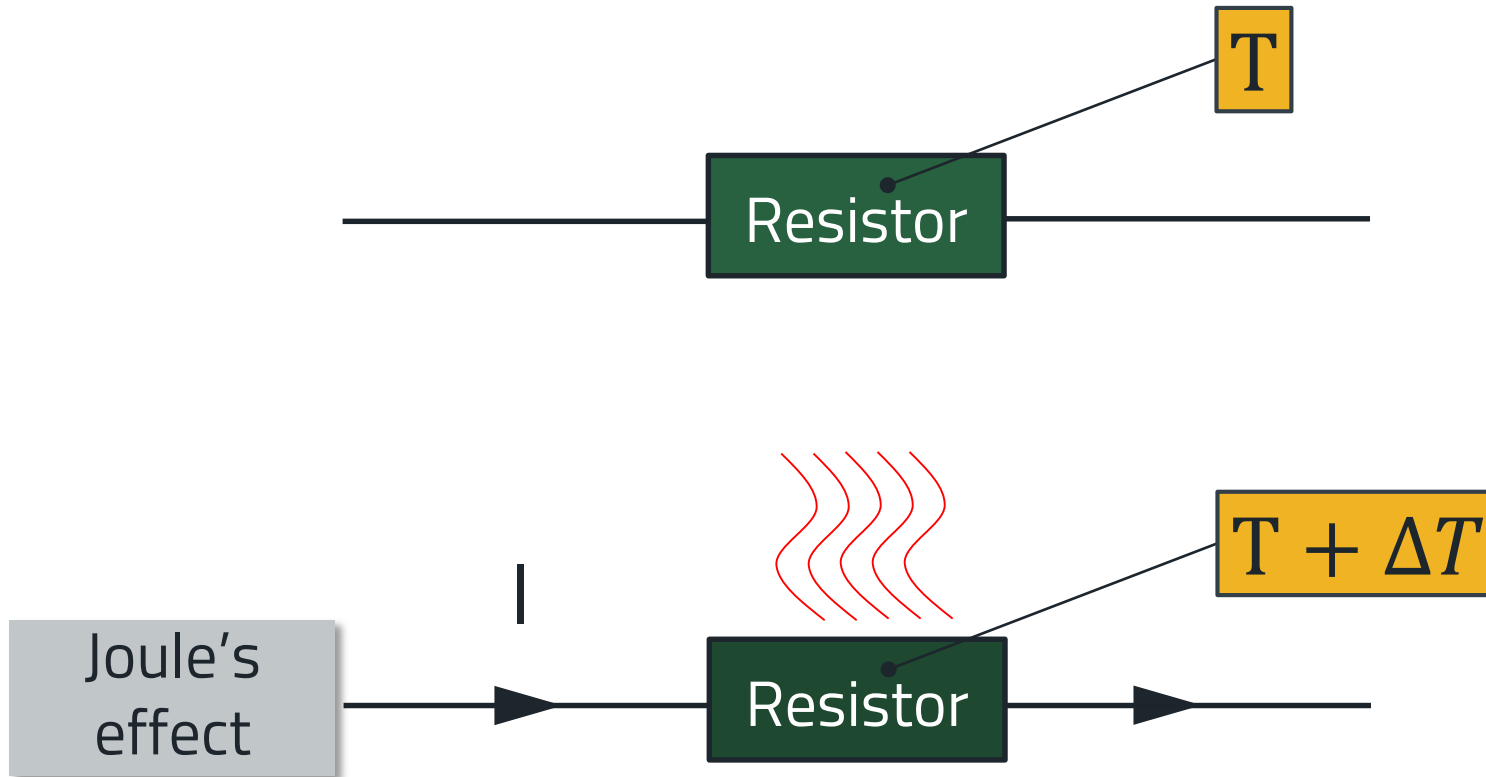
WORKING VOLTAGE: 300 VAC

WITHSTANDING VOLTAGE: 1.6 KV

CONTACT RESISTANCE: 20 mOhm max

cULus

# Electricity and temperature rise

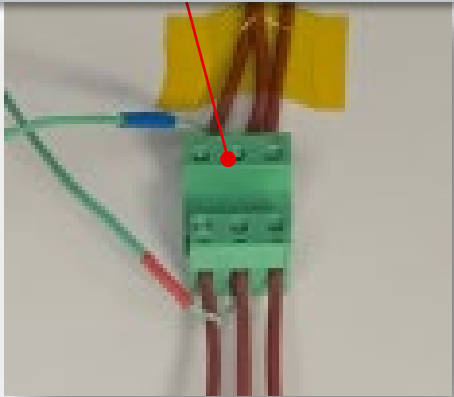




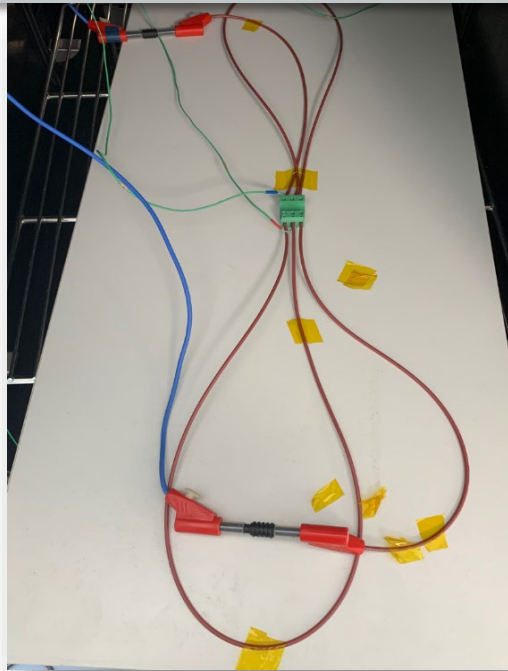
# How working current is designed in WE

## ■ Testmethod

Hottest point



Electrical assembly



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



Ambient = 21,7 °C

→  $\Delta T = 24,8K$

# Agenda

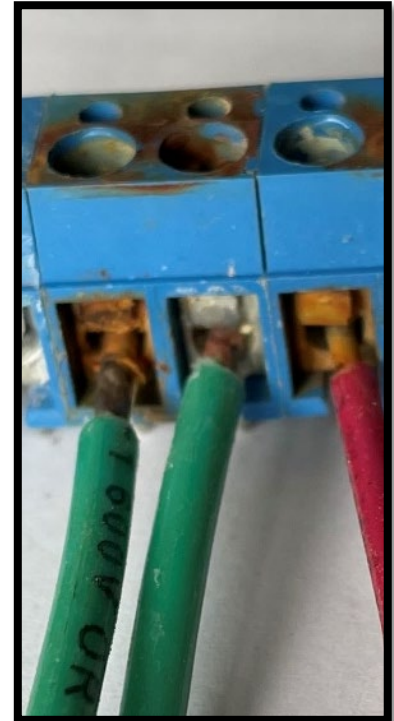
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# Temperature increase and connectors

## 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

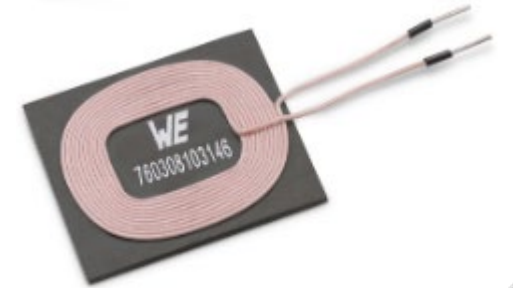
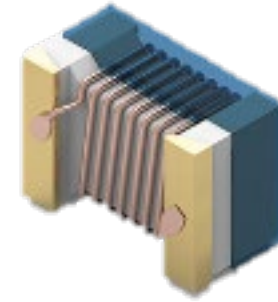
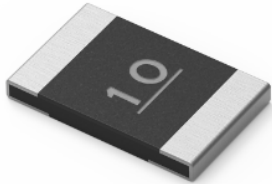
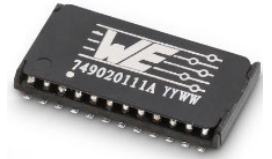
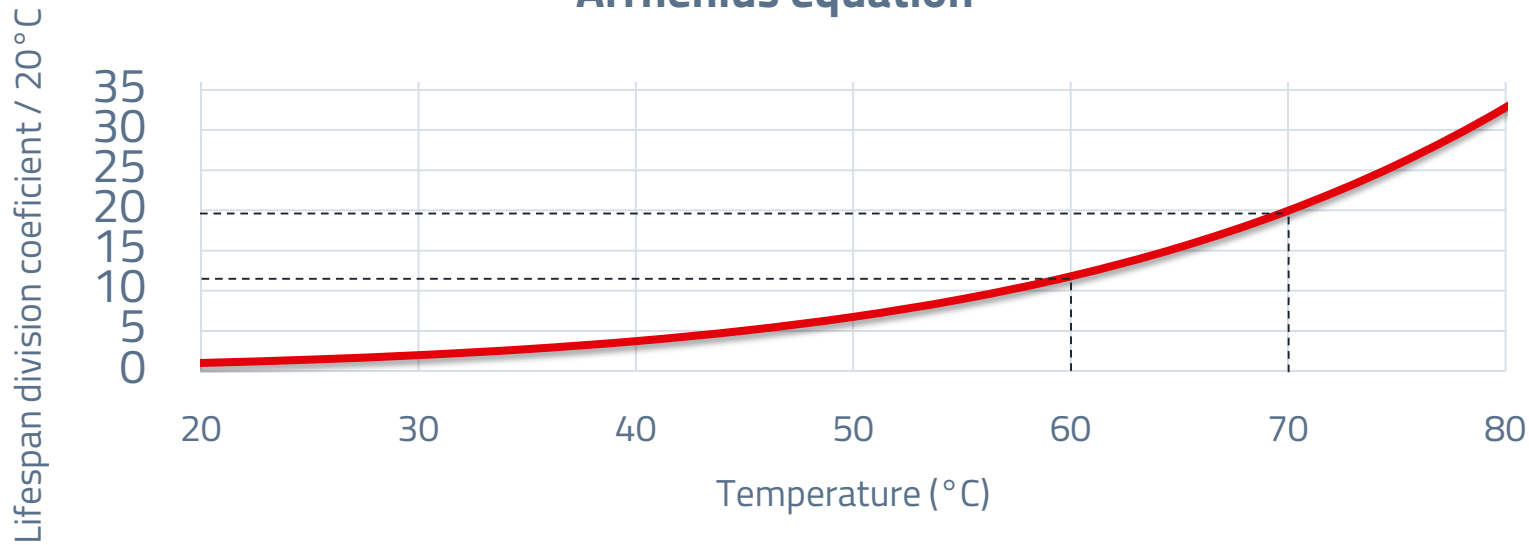


Image of lifespan reduction coefficient vs temperature

### Arrhenius equation

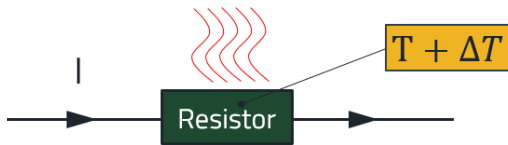


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# Electricity and temperature rise



Joule's law

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

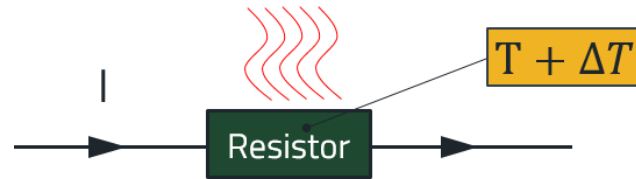
$$\Delta T = k \cdot R \cdot I^2$$



- P (W): power dissipated by the resistor
- R ( $\Omega$ )
- I (A)
- $\Delta T$  (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

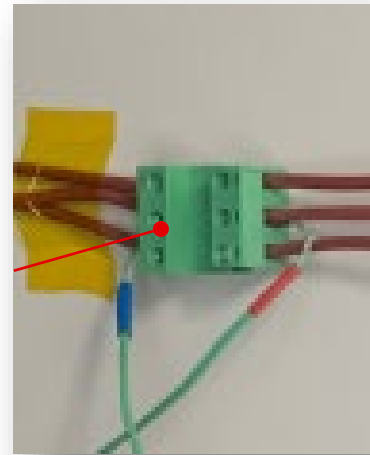


## Example:

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

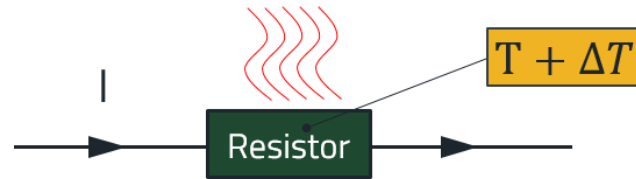
$$\Delta T = k \cdot R \cdot I^2$$

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



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

# Theoretical calculation



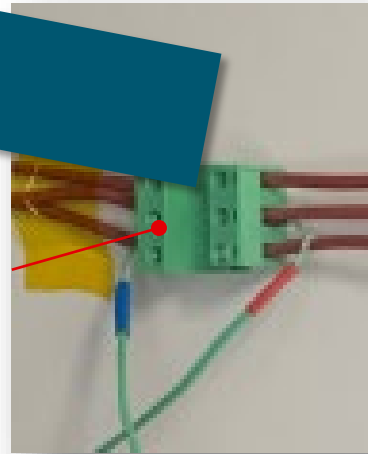
## Example:

- Measurement:  $I_1 = 15\text{A}$  gives

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

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

**Current x 2 → ΔT x 4**

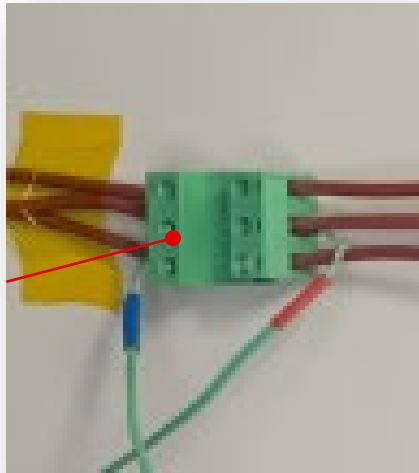


$$\frac{\Delta T_1}{\Delta T_2} \approx \frac{I_1^2}{I_2^2}$$

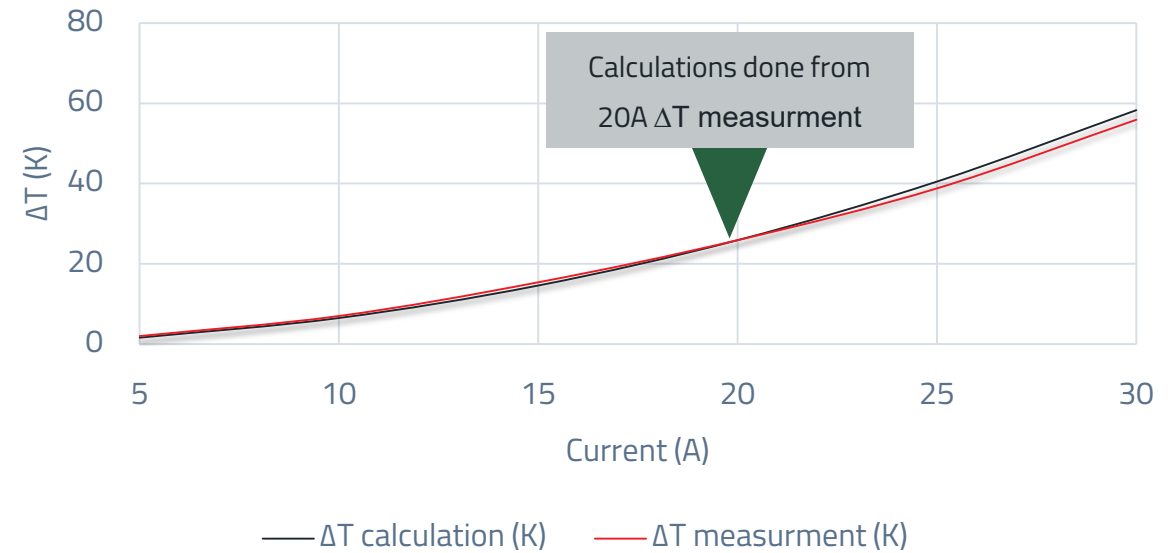


# Theoretical calculation: is it really true ?

Temperature rise test  
done at 20A



## $\Delta T$ calculation vs measurement



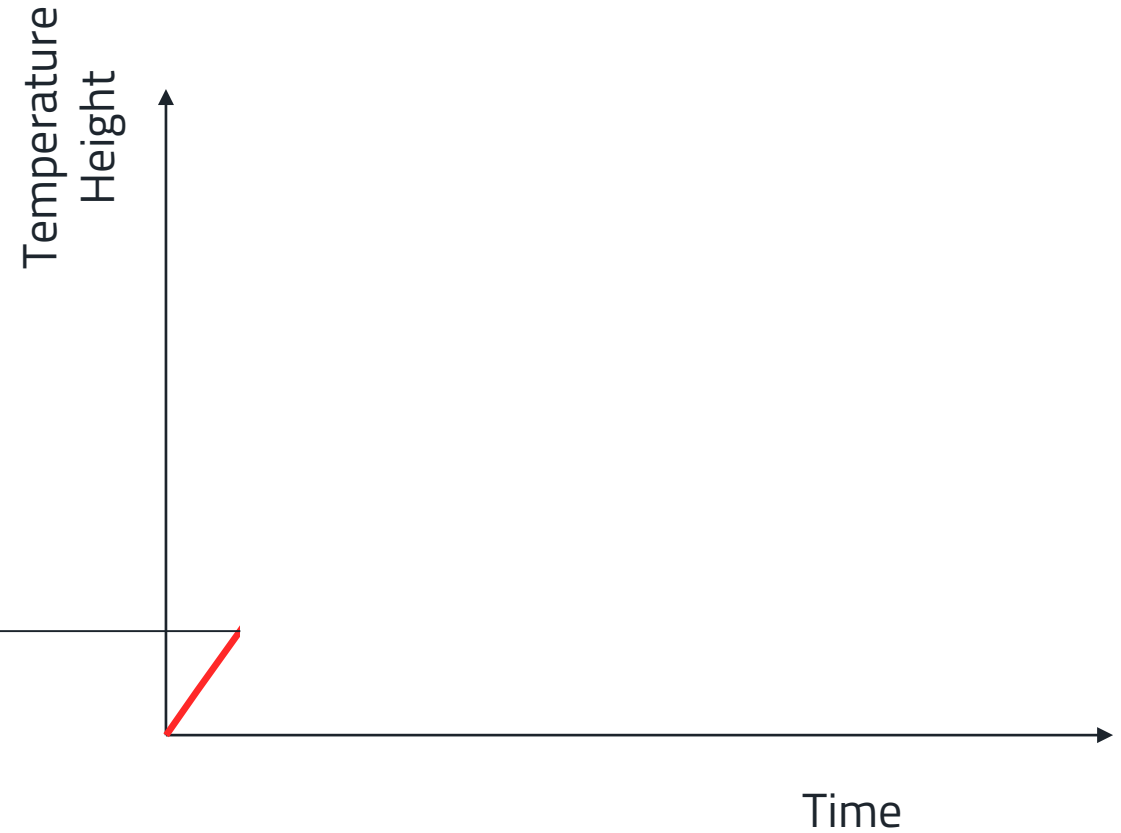
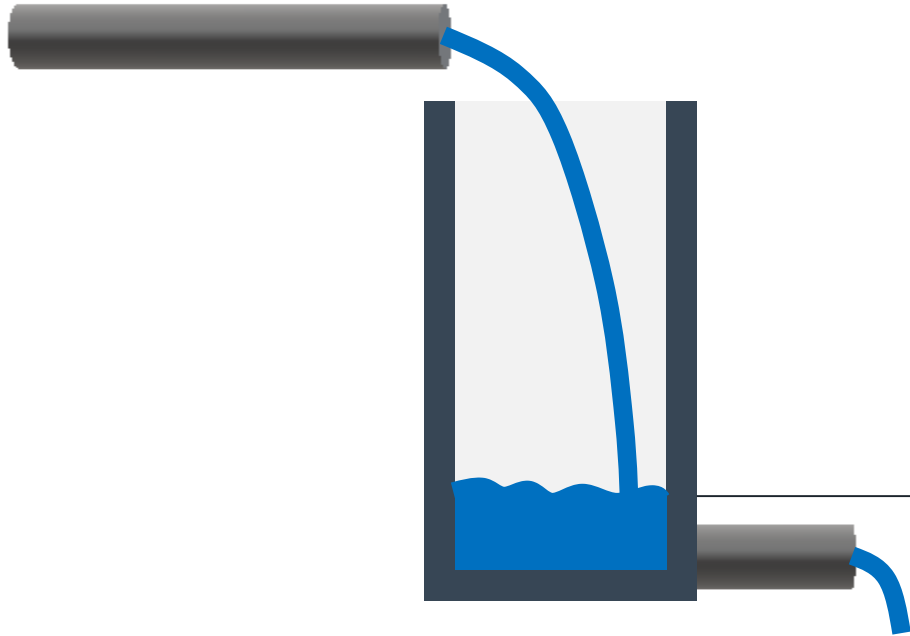
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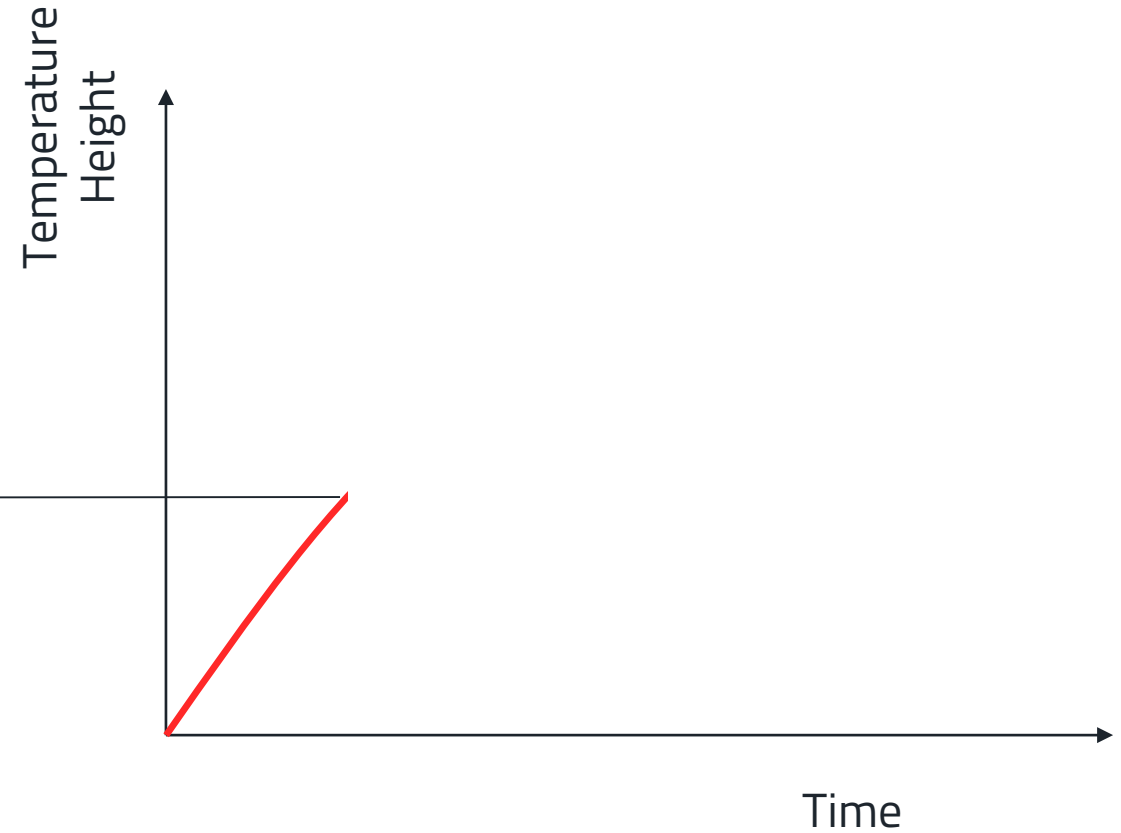
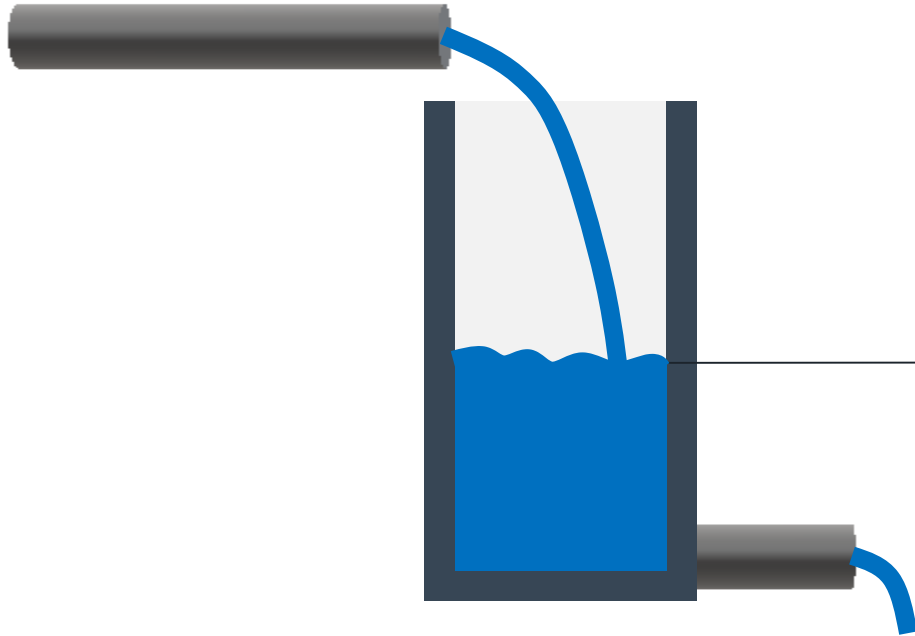
# How $\Delta T$ is dissipated

Temperature rise analogy tank filling



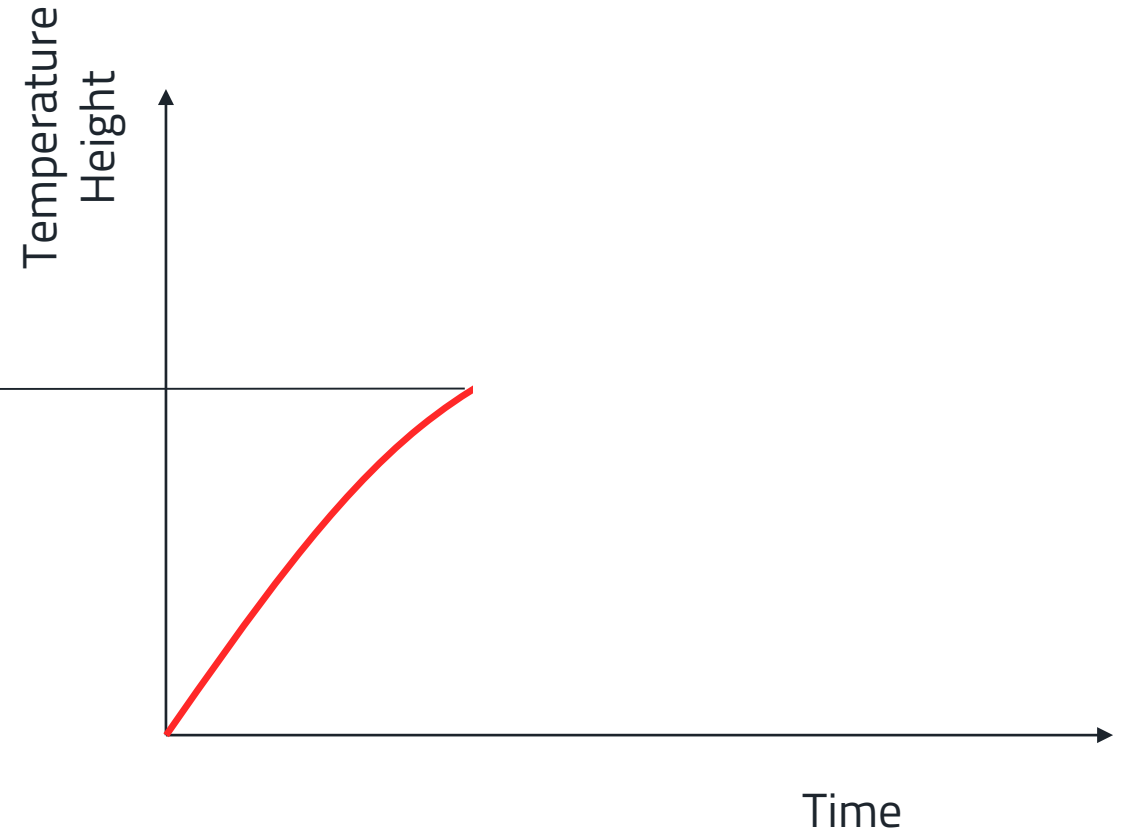
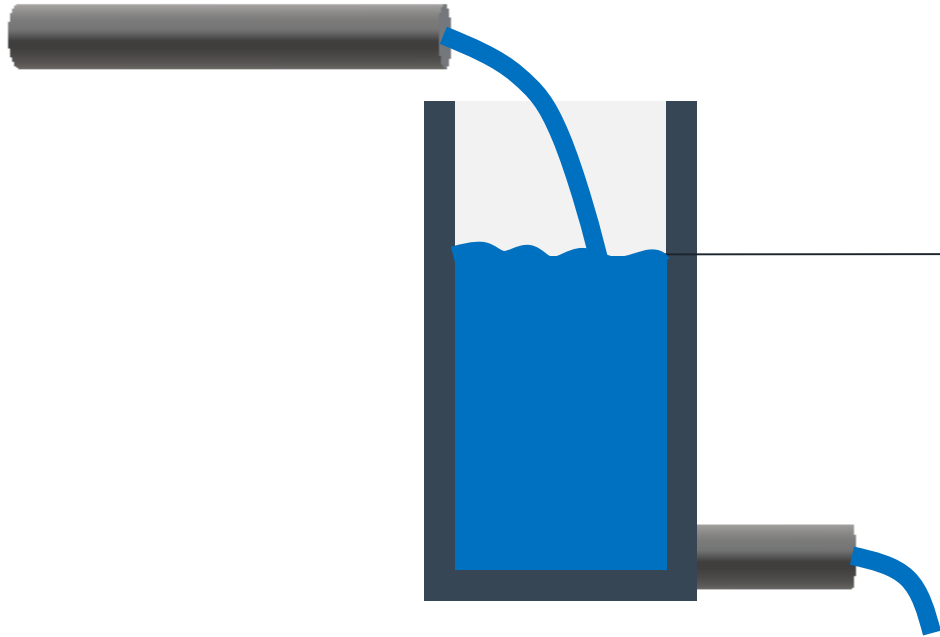
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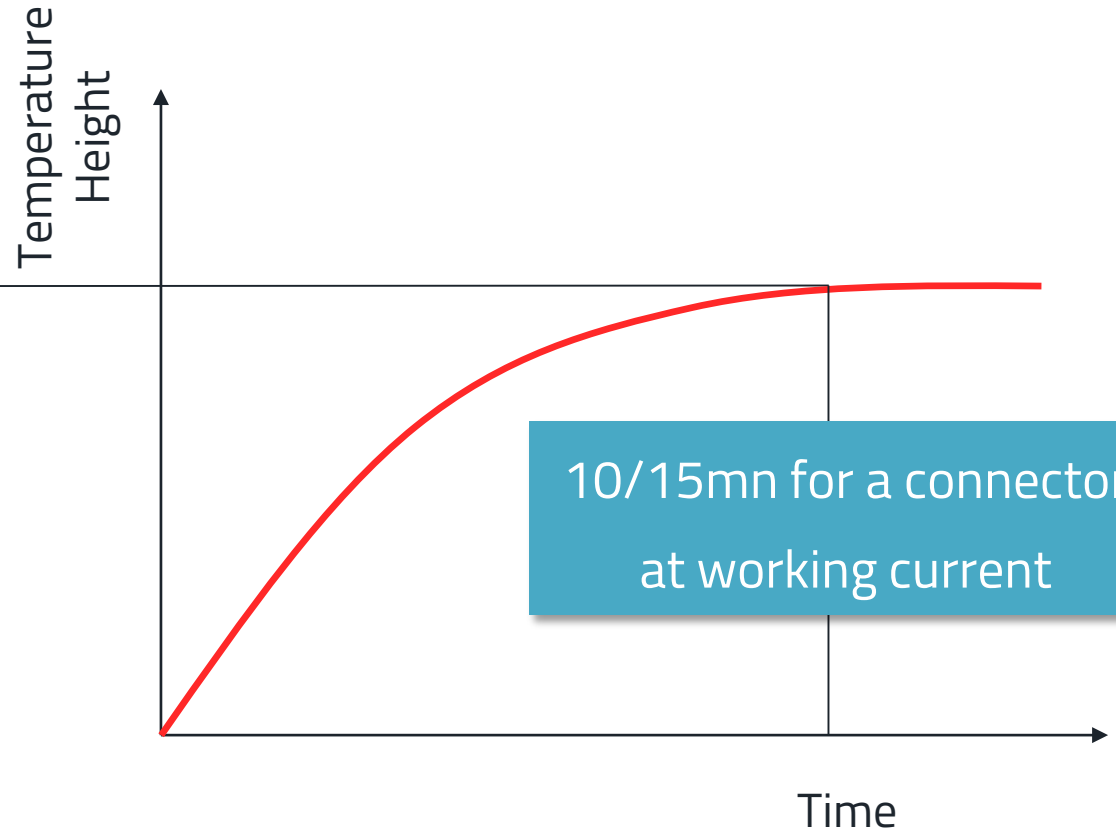
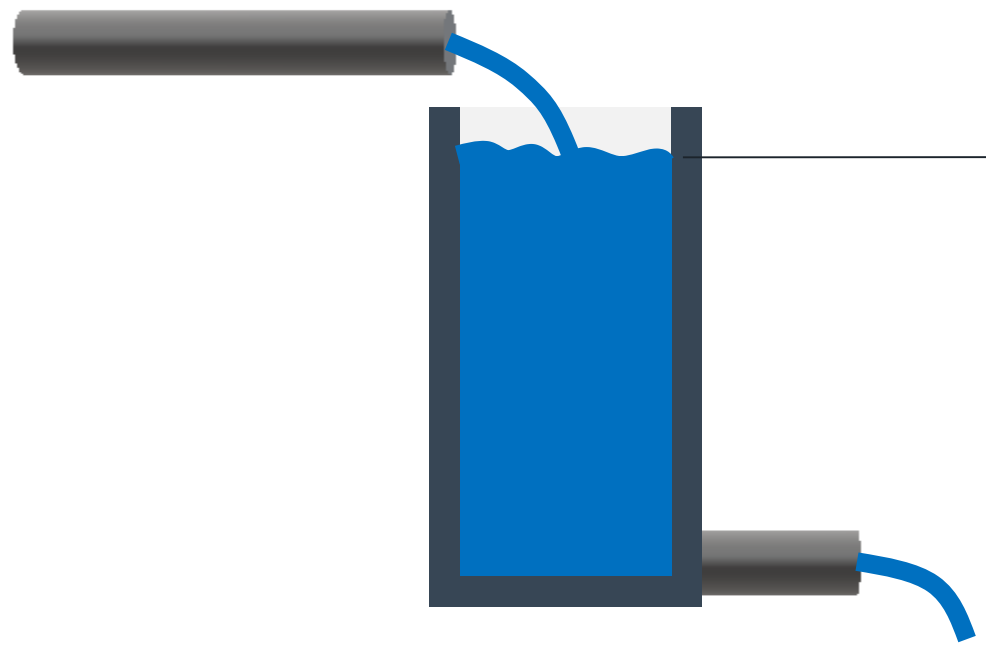
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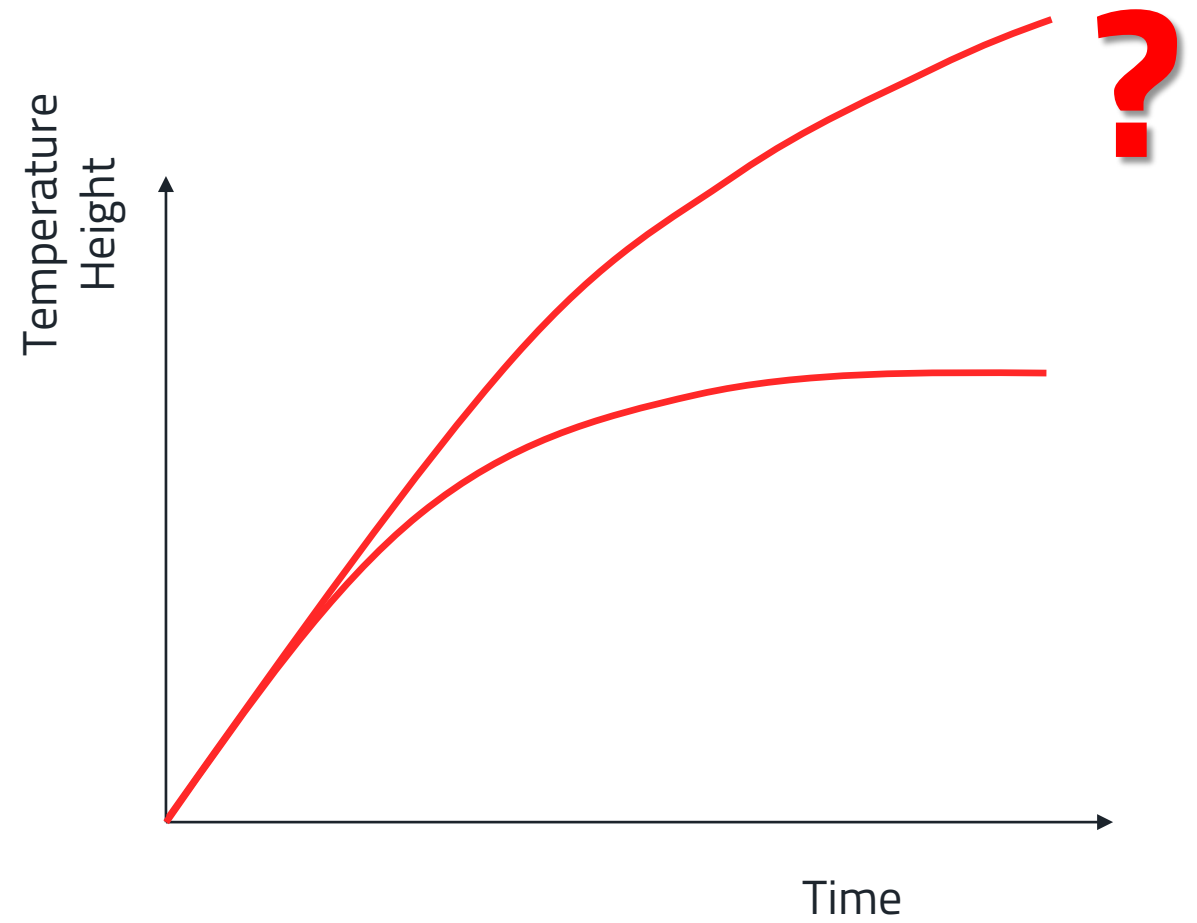
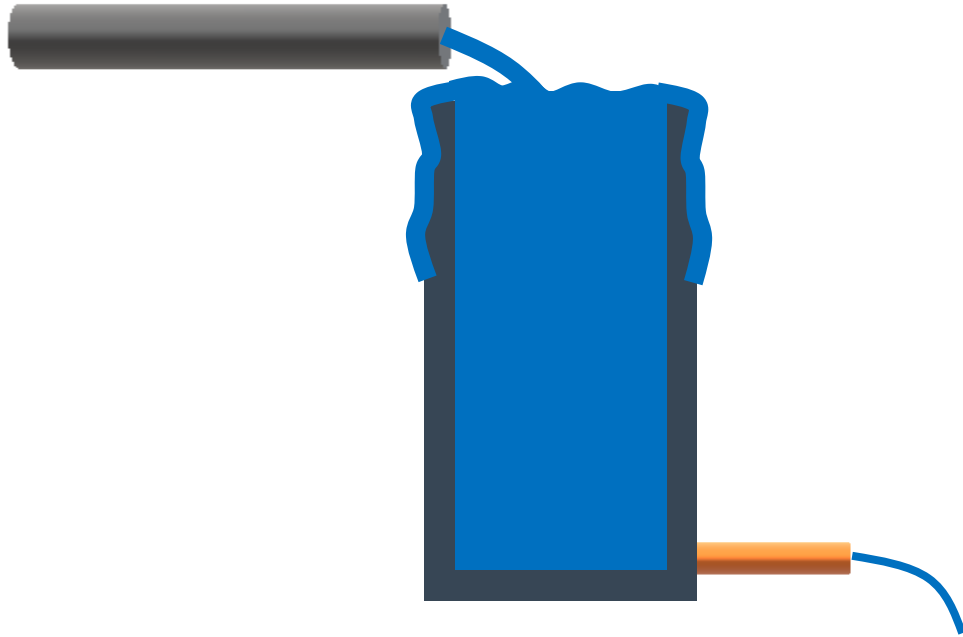
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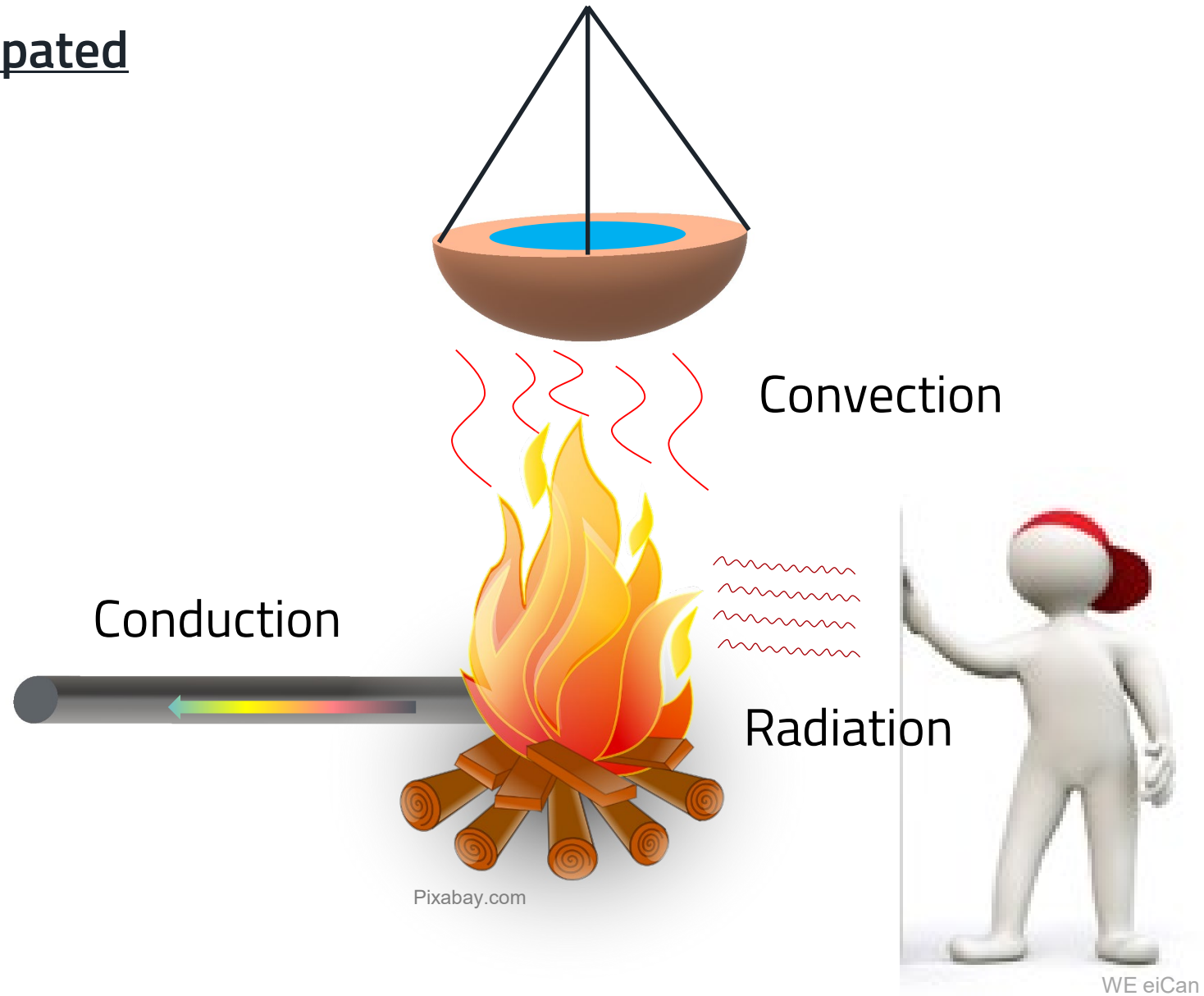


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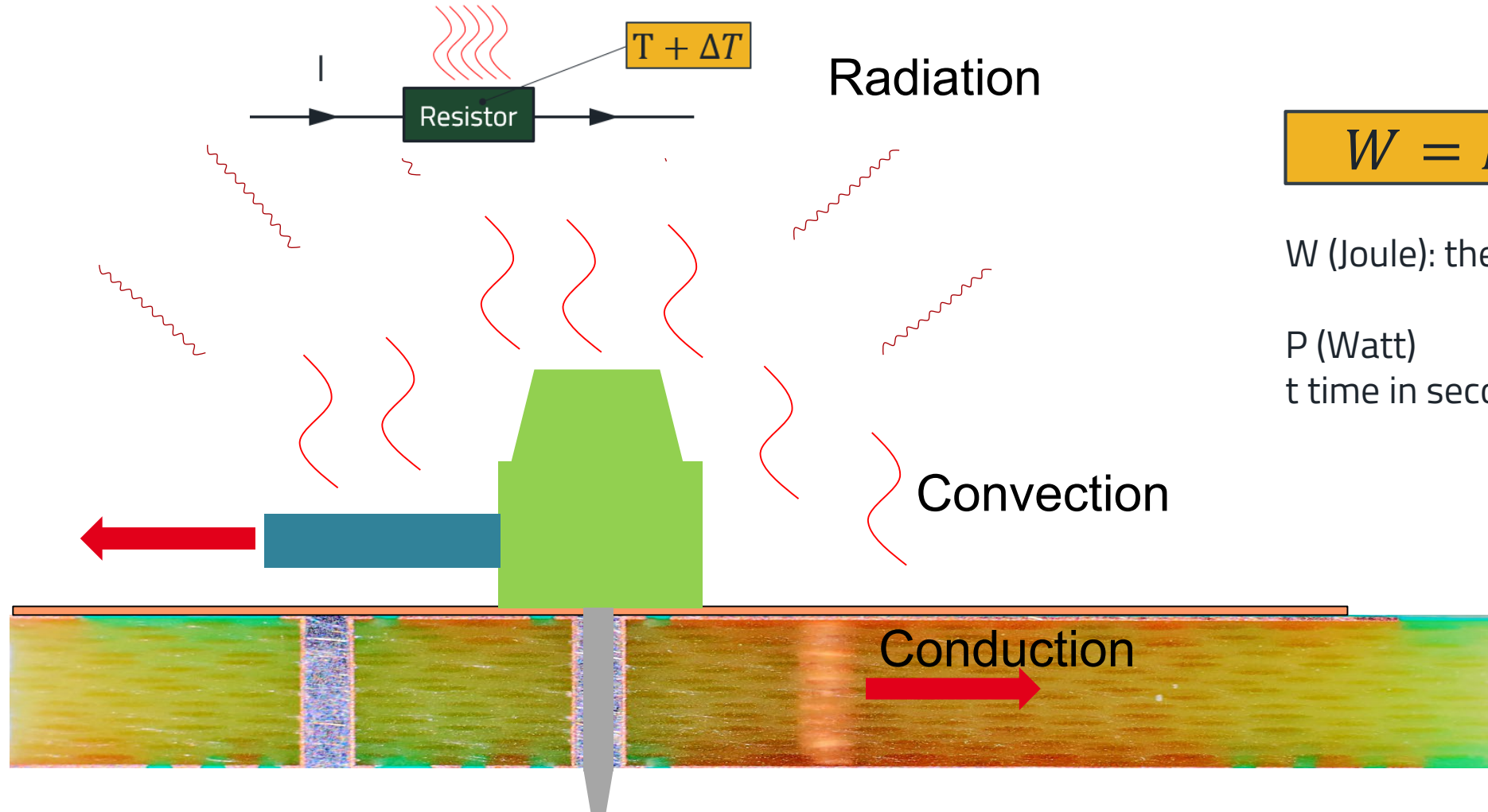
Temperature rise analogy tank filling



# How $\Delta T$ is dissipated



# How $\Delta T$ 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 be stabilized after 10/15mn

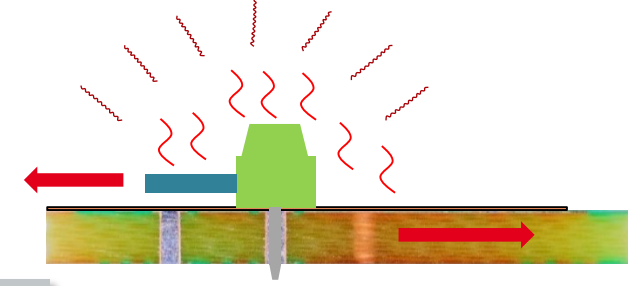
### ➤ Radiation:

- 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

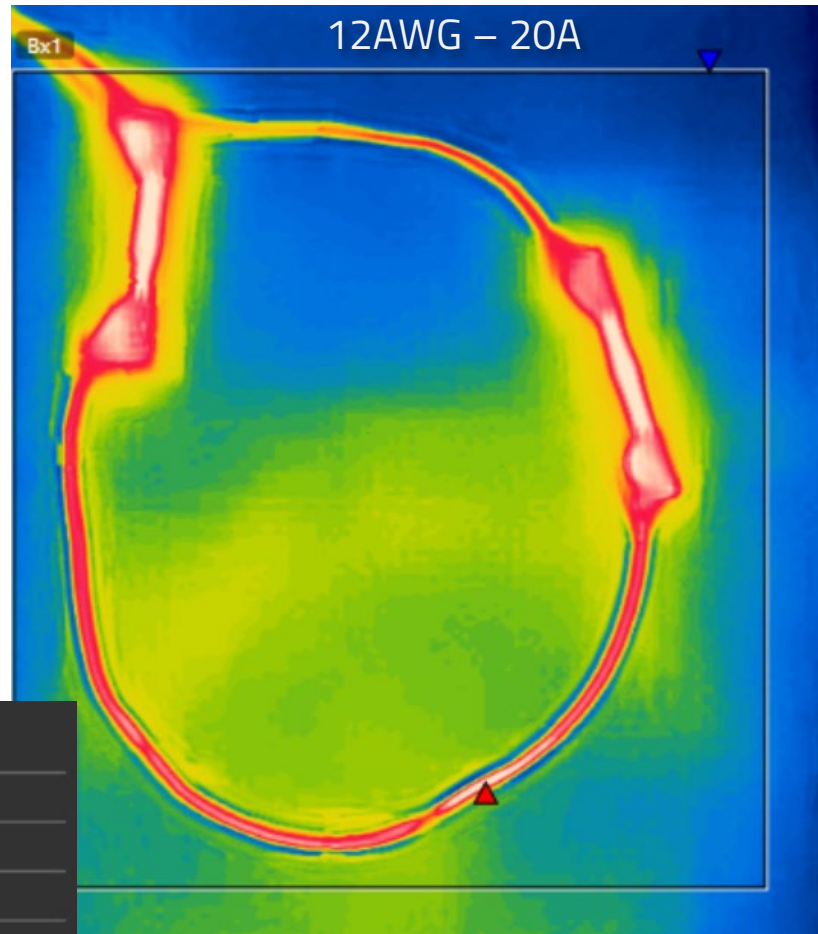
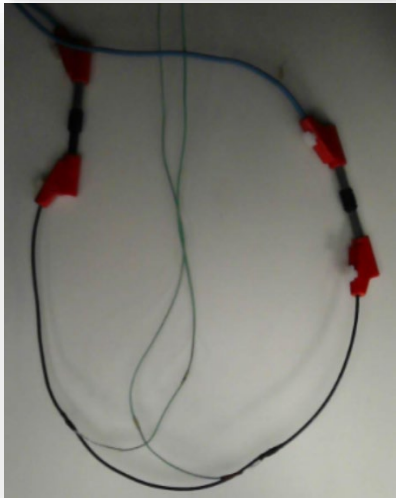
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# What is the temperature rise with wires ?

## Test: **AWG**

- $\Delta T$  of 50cm wire
- 2 thermocouples stucked on the copper conductor



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

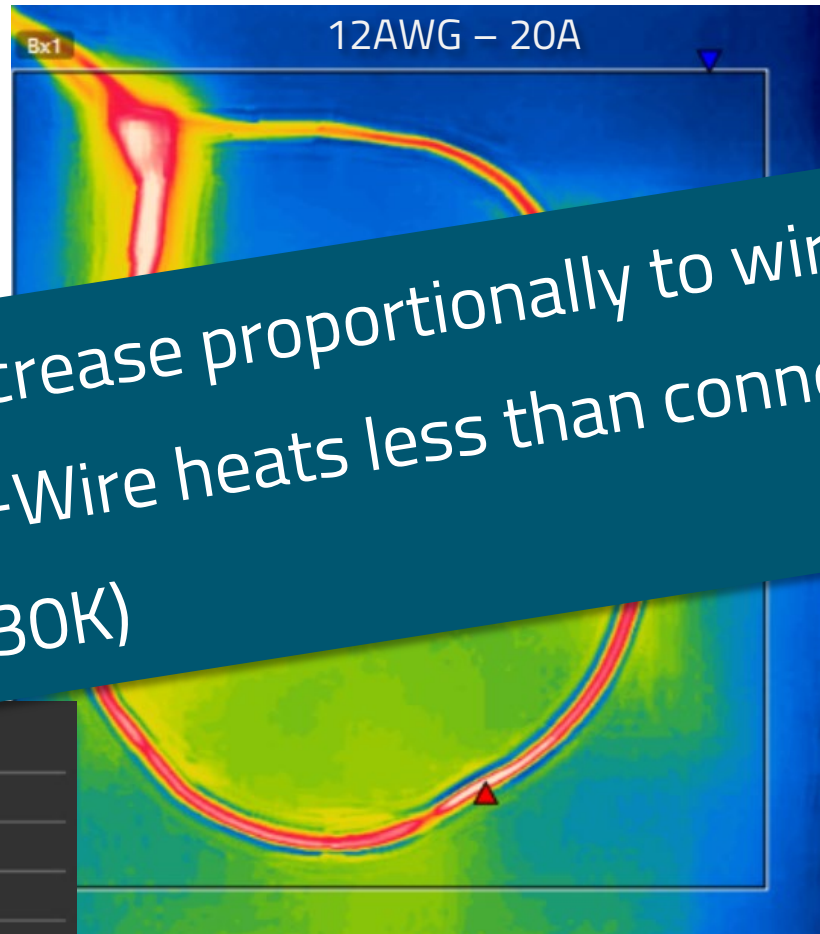
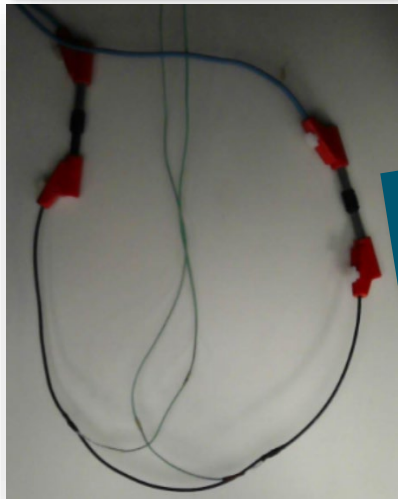
Wire size (AWG)	Current (A)	$\Delta T$ (K)
20	5	5
18	7	6
16	10	7
14	15	10
12	20	11
10	30	16
8	50	20
6	65	20

All pictures: WE eiCan

# What is the temperature rise with wires ?

## Test: **AWG**

- $\Delta T$  of 50cm wire
- 2 thermocouples sticked on the copper conductor



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

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

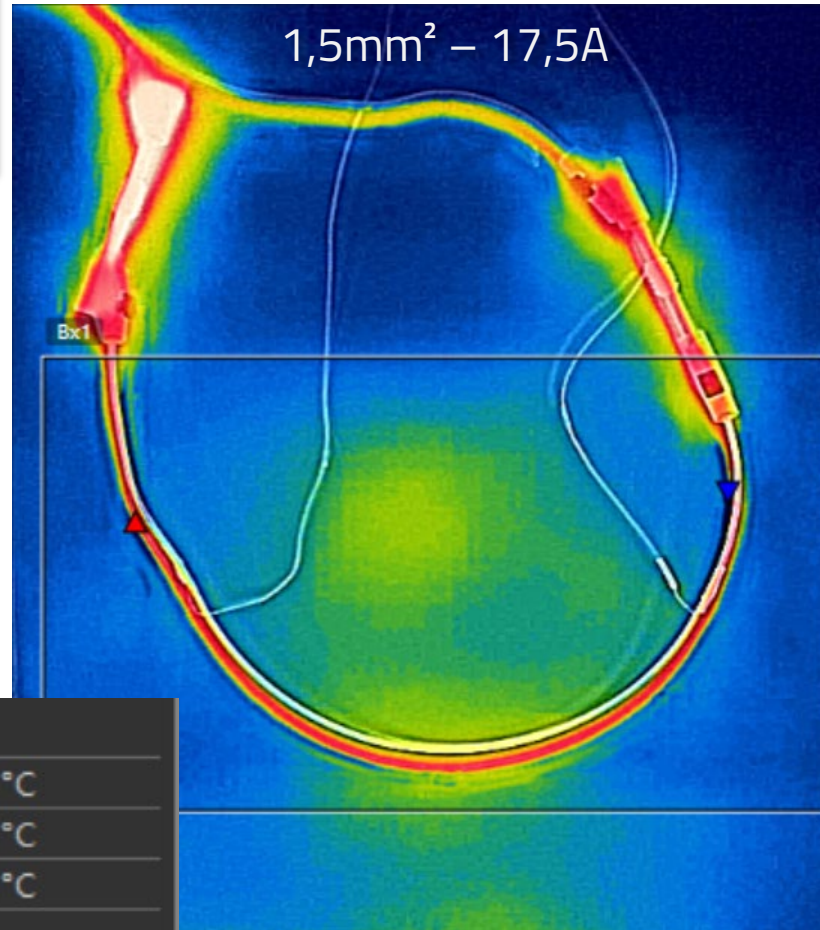
Wire (AWG)	Current (A)	$\Delta T$ (K)
15	5	5
17	7	6
20	10	7
25	15	10
12	20	11
10	30	16
8	50	20
6	65	20

All pictures: WE eiCan

# What is the temperature rise with wires ?

Test: **mm<sup>2</sup>**

- $\Delta T$  of 50cm wire
- 2 thermocouples stucked on the copper conductor



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

Wire size (mm <sup>2</sup> )	Current (A)	$\Delta T$ (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



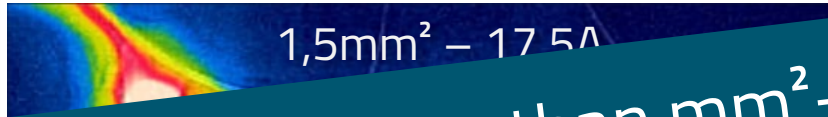
# What is the temperature rise with wires ?

**Test:** **mm<sup>2</sup>**

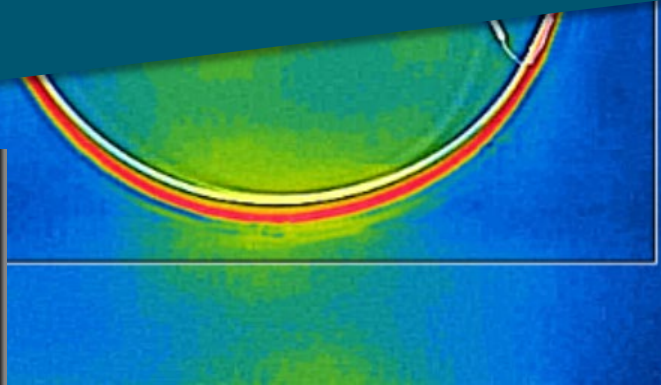
- $\Delta T$  of 50cm wire
- 2 thermocouples sticked on the copper conductors



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



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



Current (A)	$\Delta T$ (K)
4	8
6	7
9	10
13,5	15
17,5	17
2,5	24
4	32

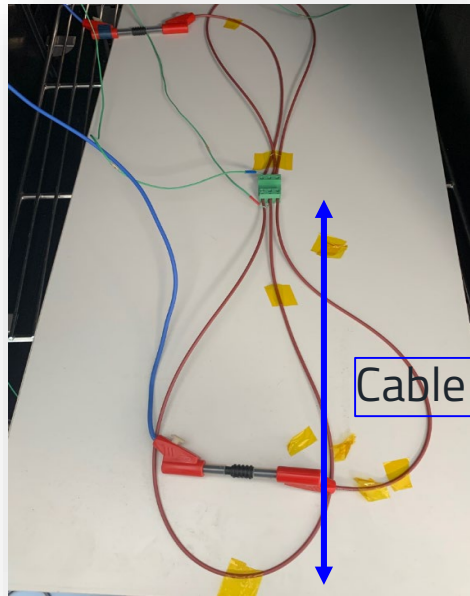
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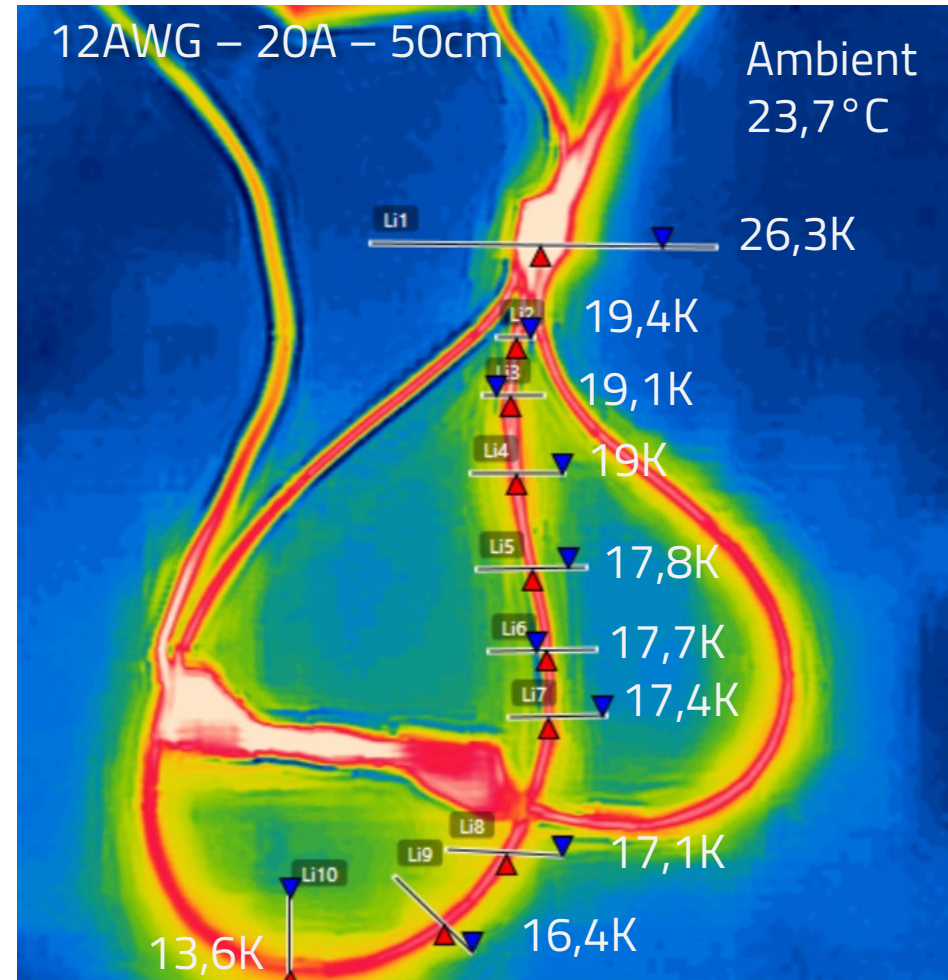
# Wire heat dissipation: the right length ?

## Test:

- $\Delta T$  12AWG-20A
- TBL plug 3 poles 7,62
- Different wire length
- 2 thermocouples in 2 TBL clamps



Cable length



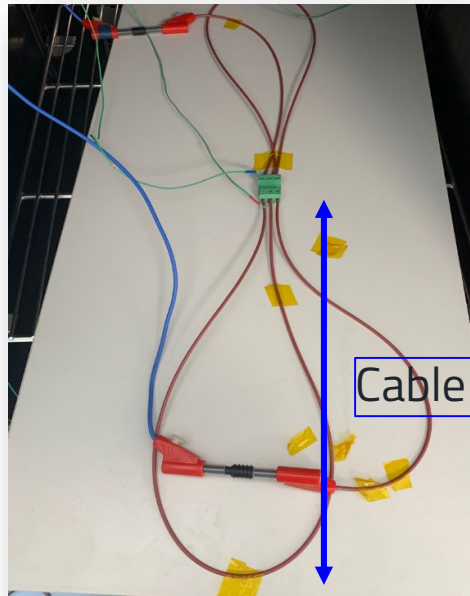
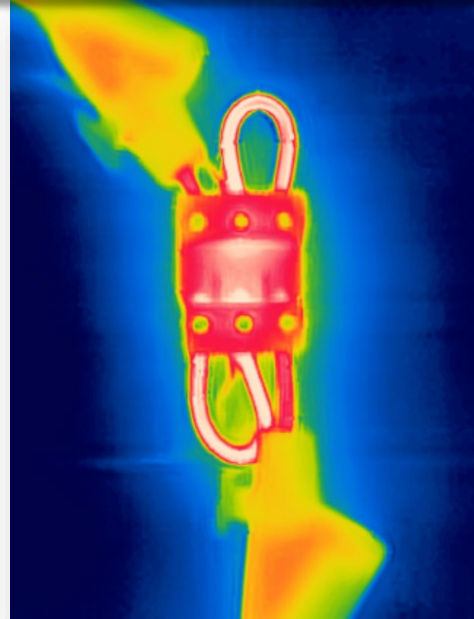
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# Wire heat dissipation: the right length ?

## Test:

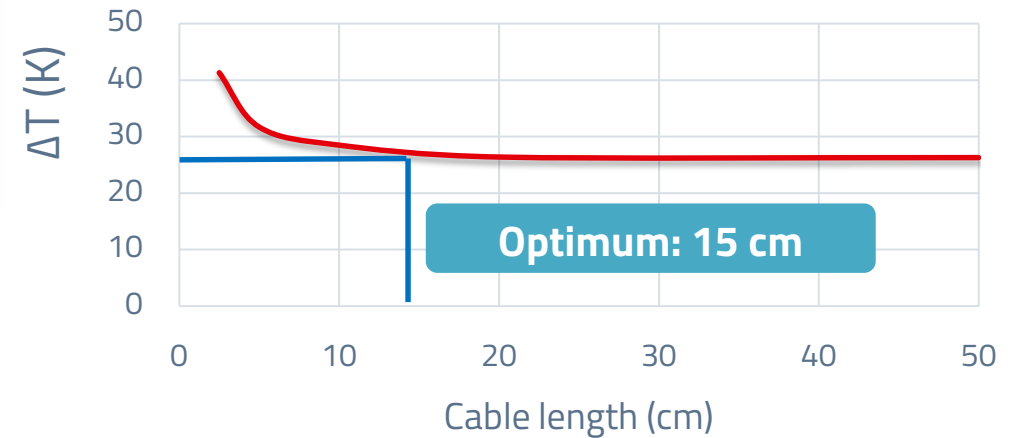
- $\Delta T$  12AWG-20A
- TBL plug 3 poles 7,62
- Different wire length
- 2 thermocouples in 2 TBL clamps

12AWG – 20A – 2,5cm



Cable length

## Connector $\Delta T$ versus cable length



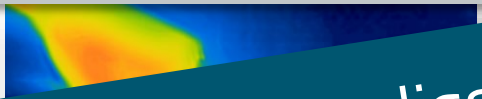
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# Wire heat dissipation: the right length ?

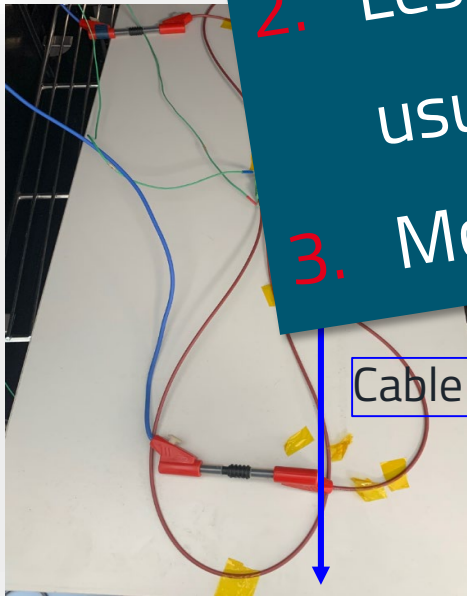
## Test:

- $\Delta T$  12AWG-20A
  - TBL plug 3 poles 7,62
  - Different wire length
  - 2 thermocouples
- clamps

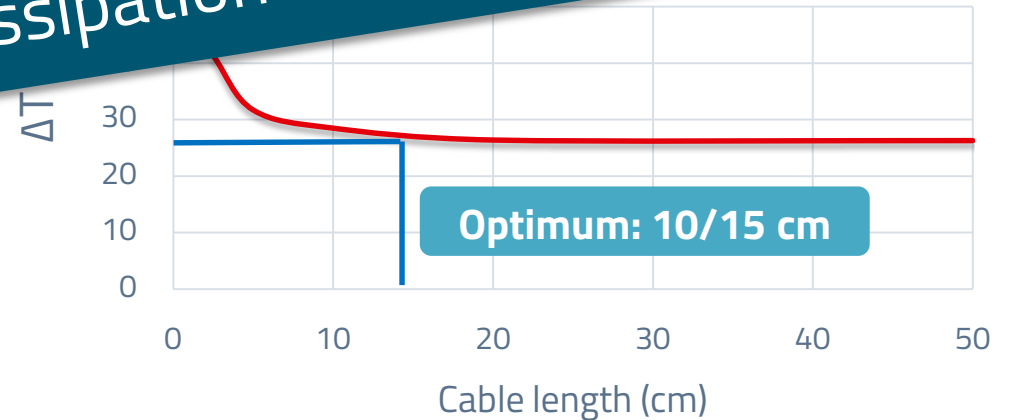
12AWG – 20A – 2,5cm



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



Cable length



All pictures: WE eiCan



# Agenda

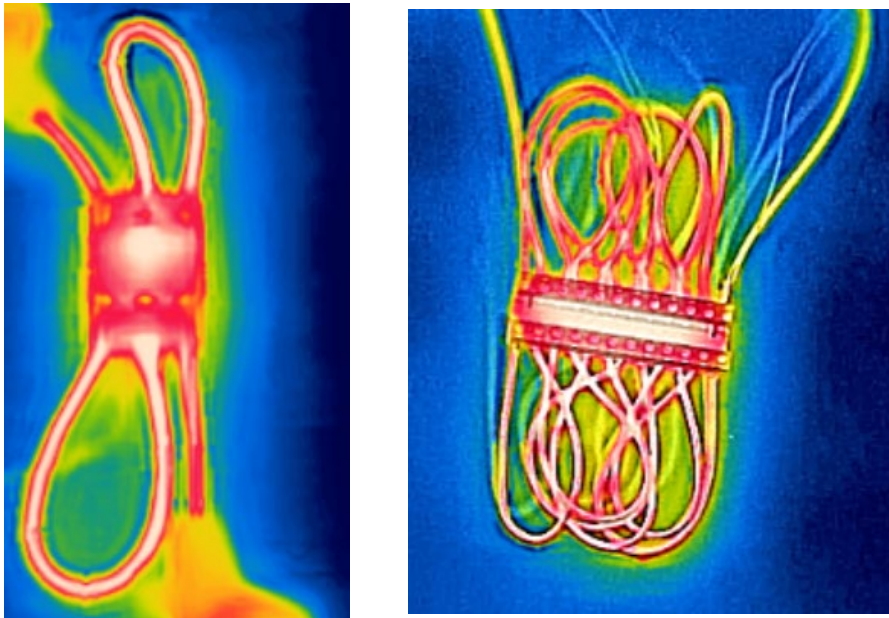
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## $\Delta T=30K$ ok, but only with 3 poles ?

### Test:

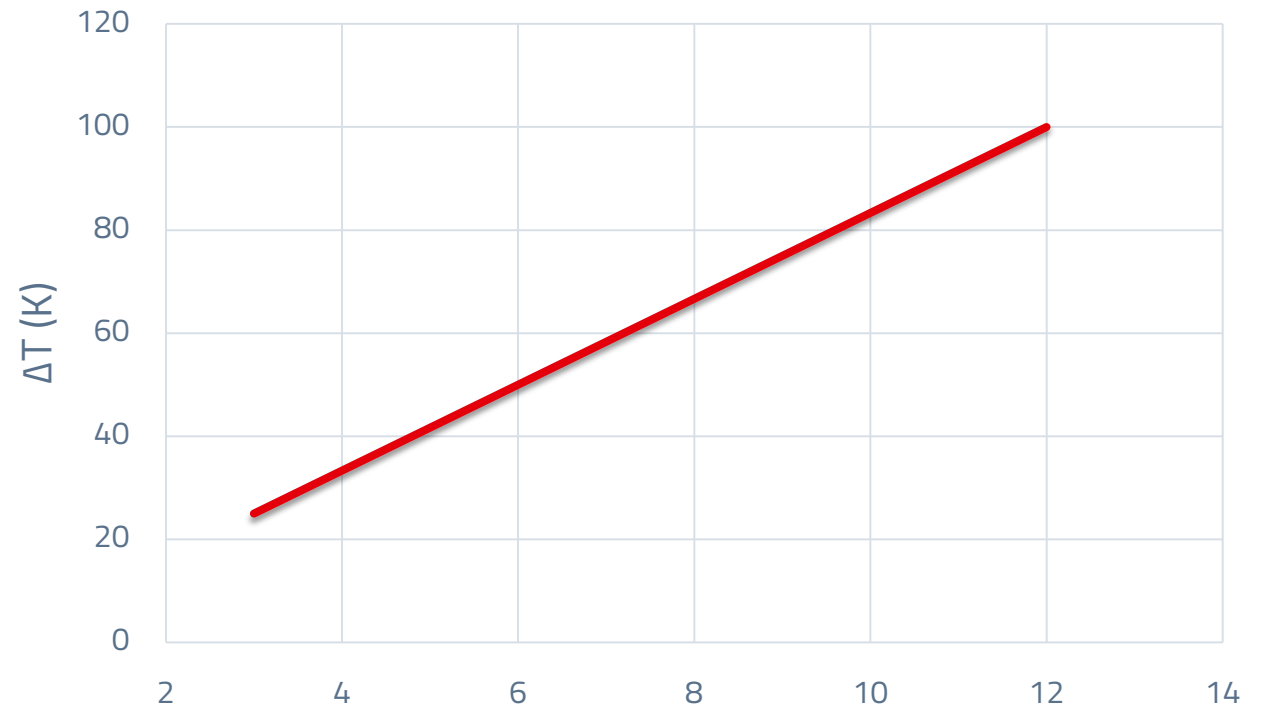
- Working current is tested at 3 poles
- Should we decrease current with more ?



12AWG – 20A – 10cm

This is what you expect ?

### TBL $\Delta T$ versus nb of poles

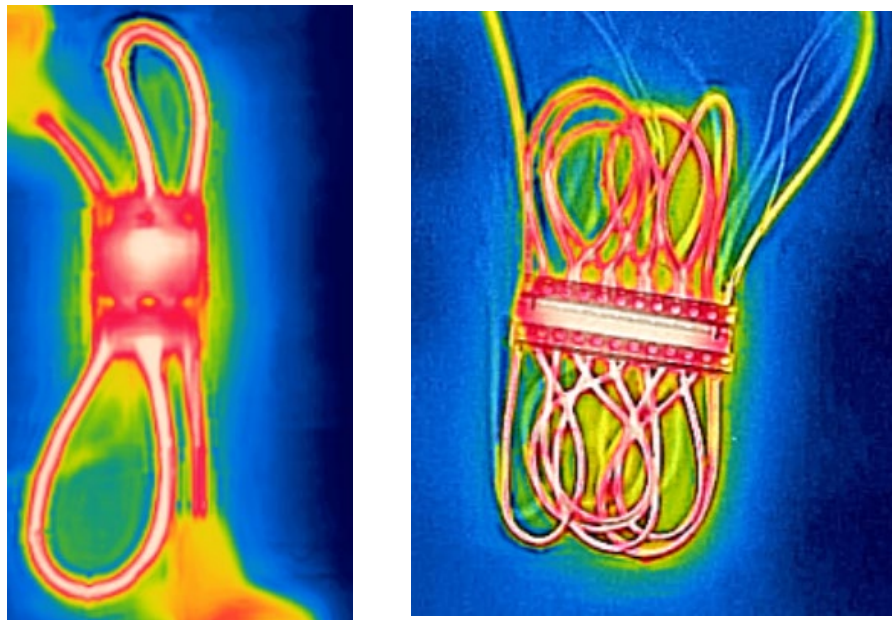


All pictures: WE eiCan

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

## Test:

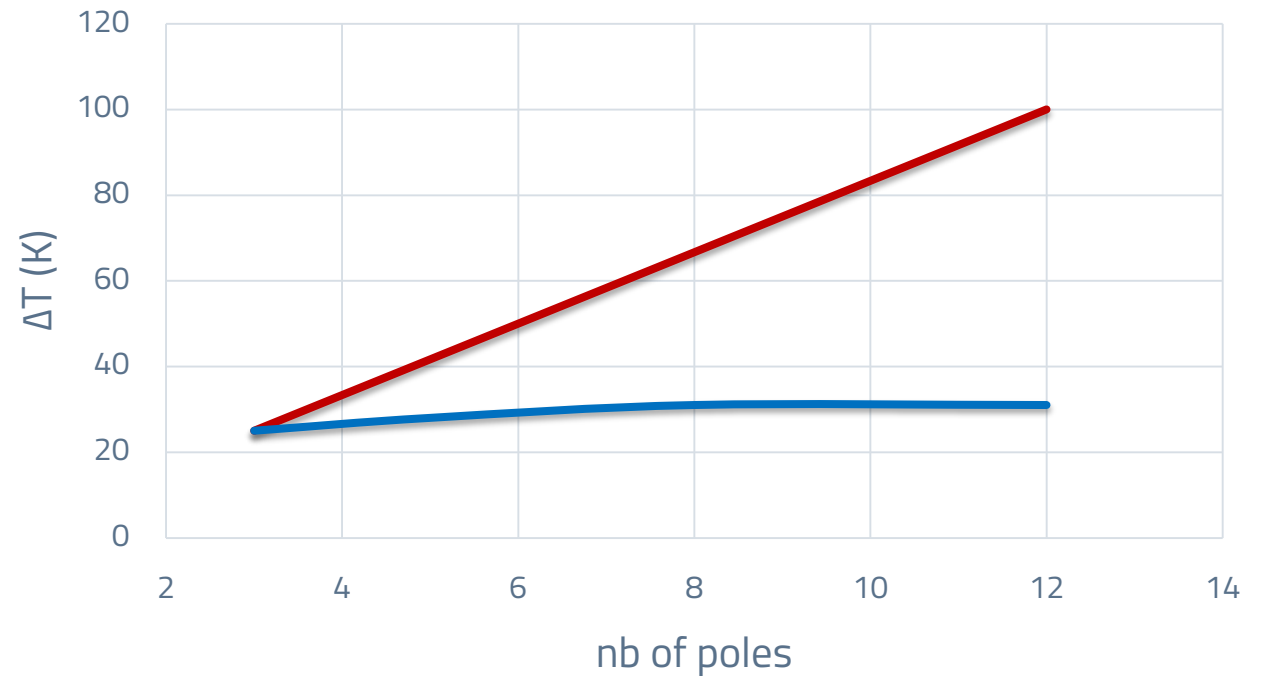
- Working current is tested at 3 poles
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12AWG – 20A – 10cm

## Expectation vs reality

### TBL $\Delta T$ versus nb of poles



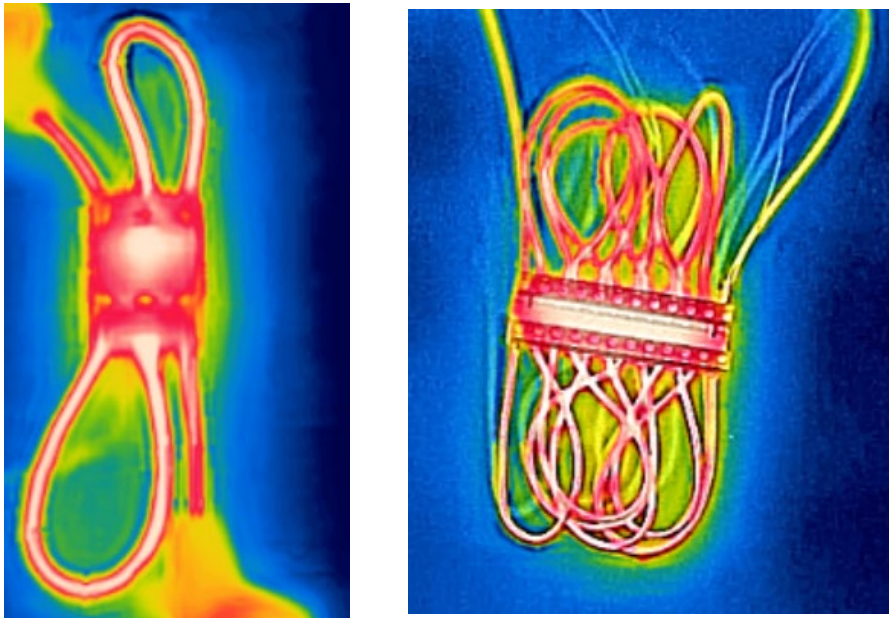
— What you expect — Reality

All pictures: WE eiCan

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

## Test:

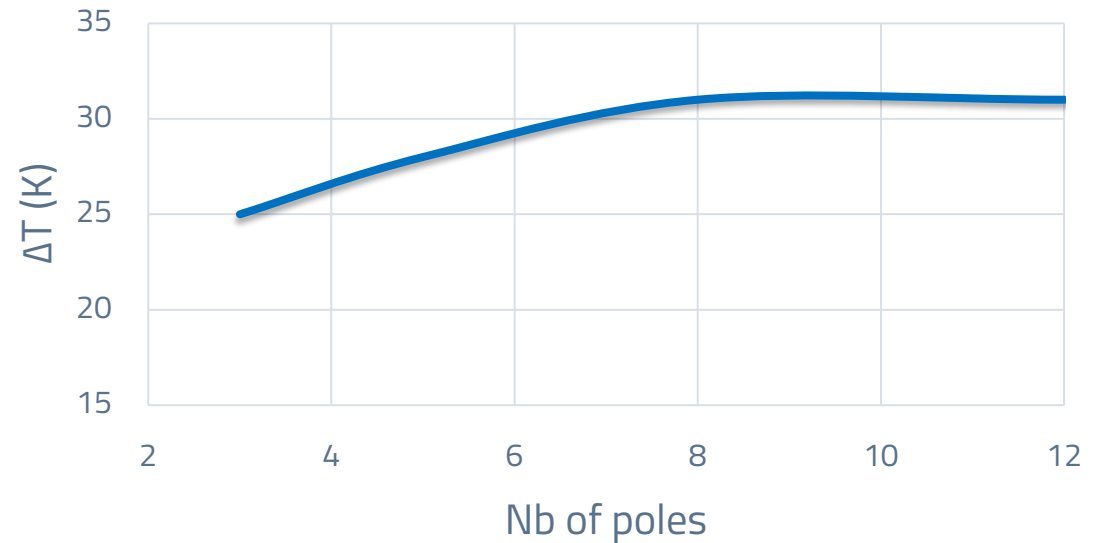
- Working current is tested at 3 poles
- Should we decrease current with more ?



12AWG – 20A – 10cm

## Reality

### $\Delta T$ versus nb of poles



All pictures: WE eiCan

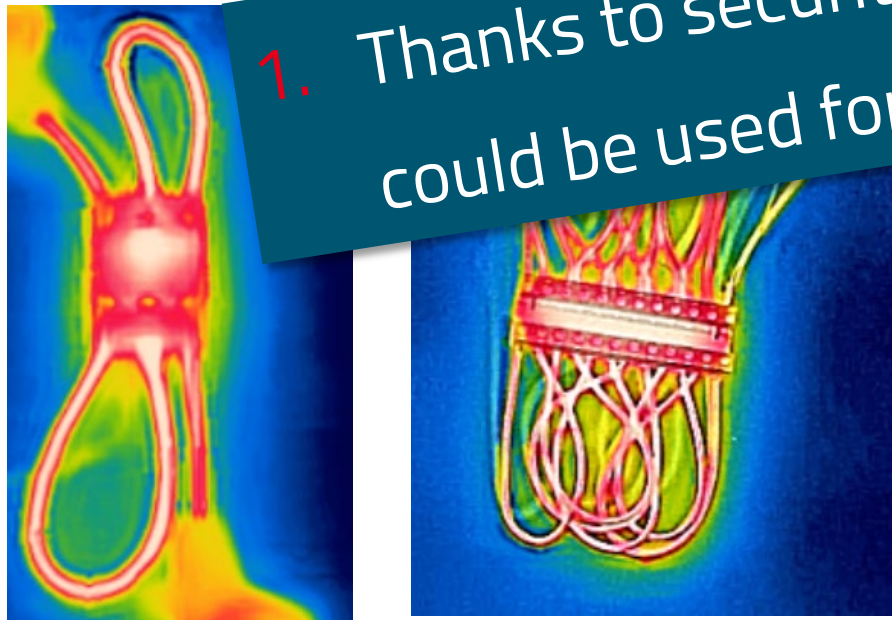
# $\Delta T=30K$ ok but only with 3 poles ?

## Test:

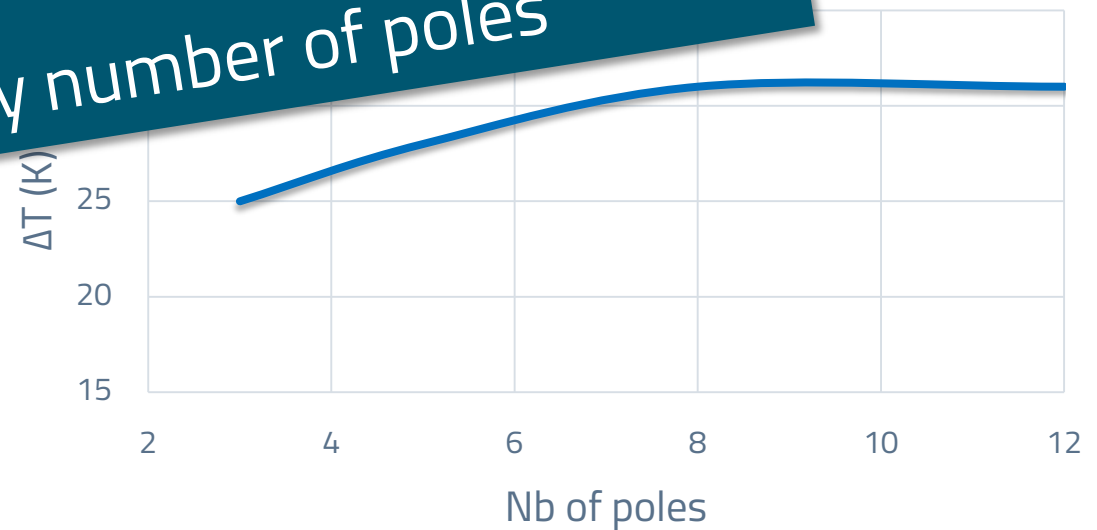
- Working current is tested at 3 poles
- Should we decrease current with more ?

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

Reality



12AWG – 20A – 10cm

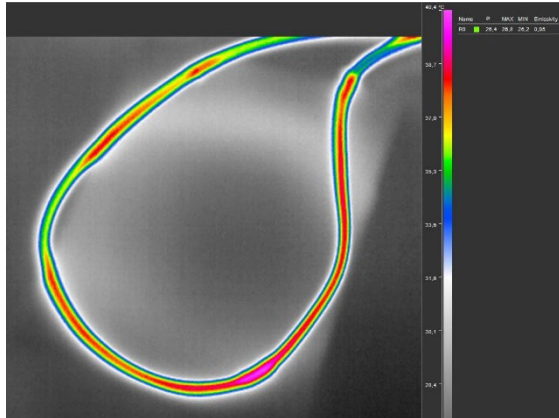


All pictures: WE eiCan

# Cable loop – additional heat ?

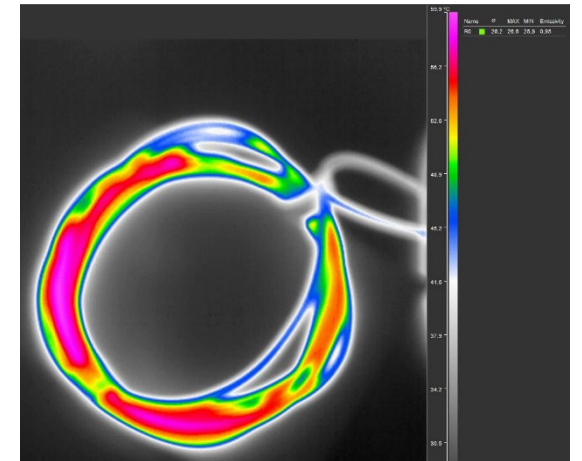
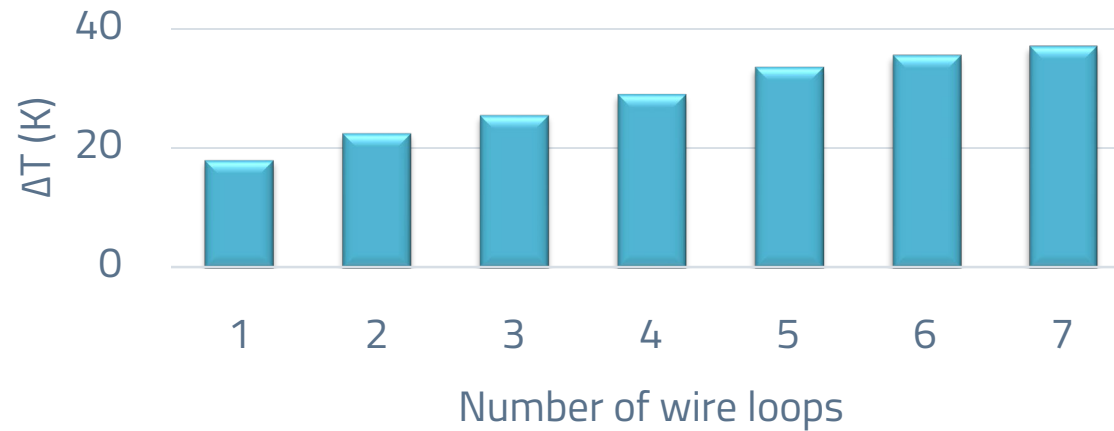
## Test:

- Cable loop influence
- $6^2$
- 41A



## Temperature rise vs wire loops

$6^2$  41A

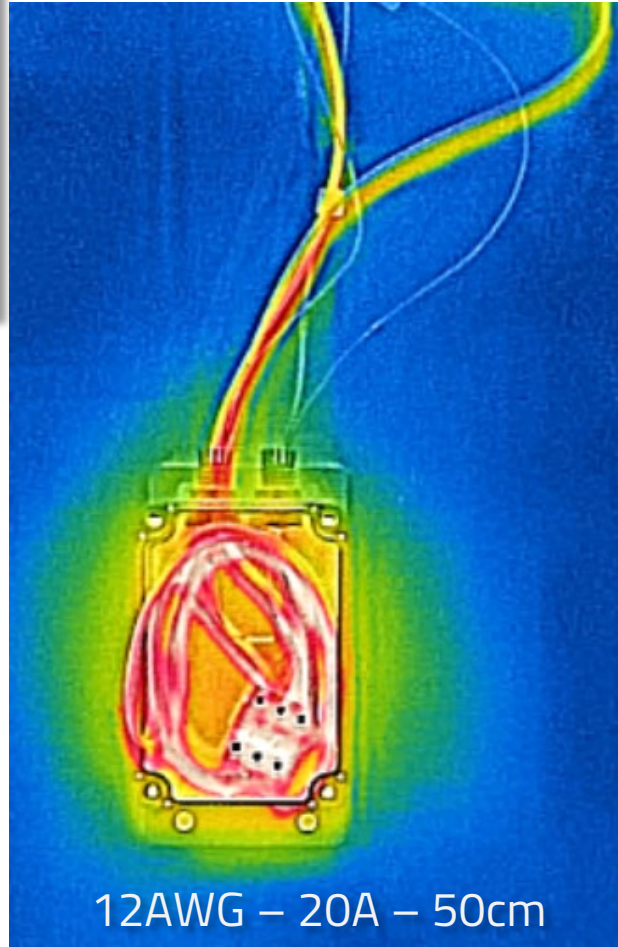
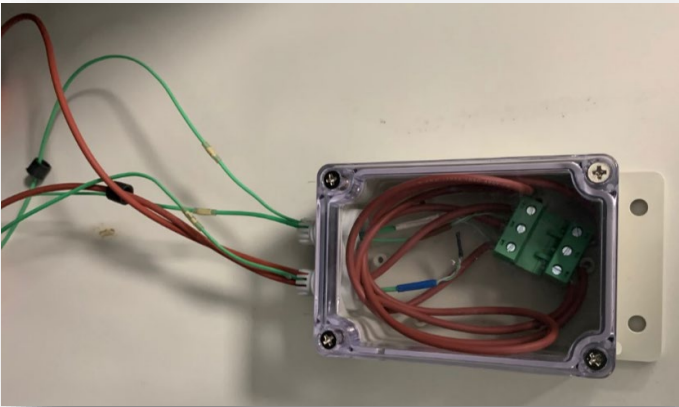




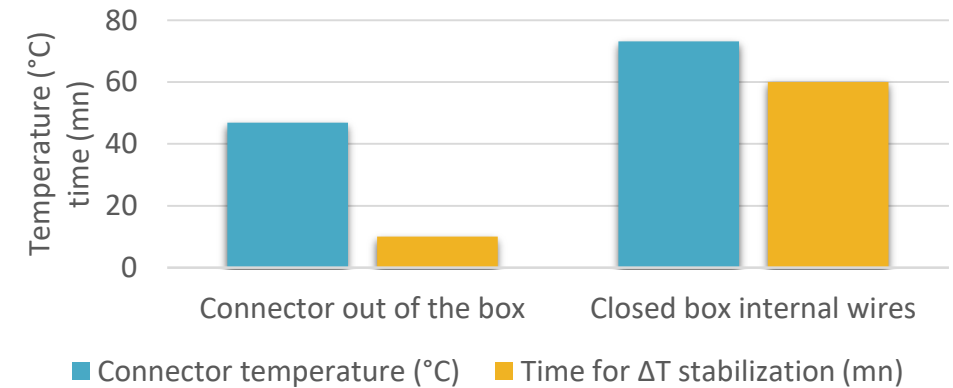
# A connector in a closed box

## Test:

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



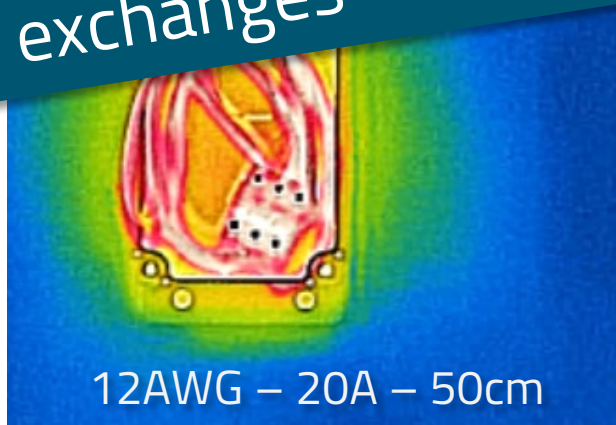
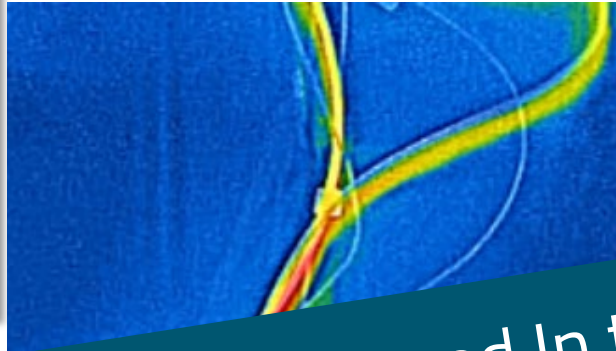
## Thermal behaviour of a connector inside of a closed box



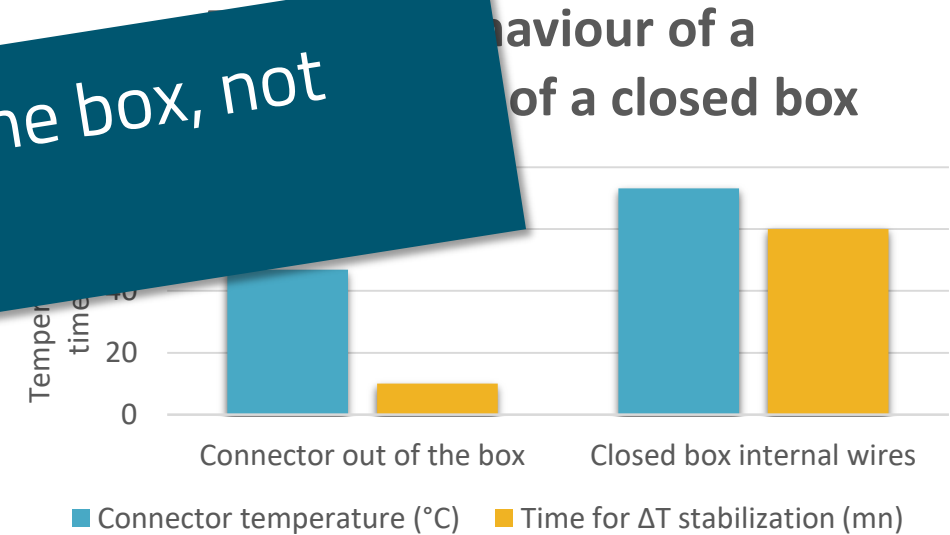
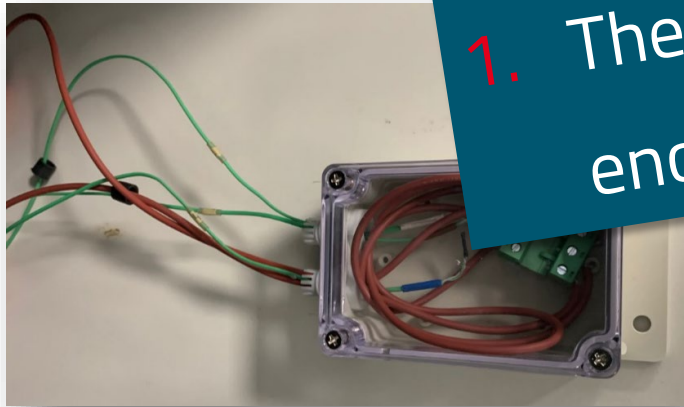
# A connector in a closed box

## Test:

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



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

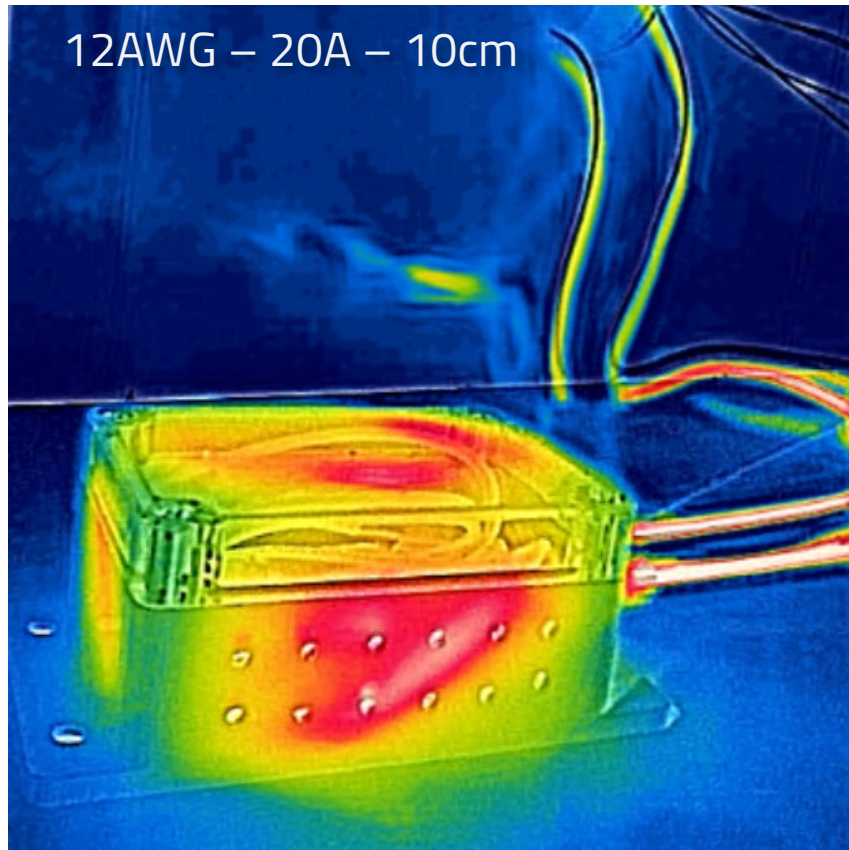




# A connector in a closed box

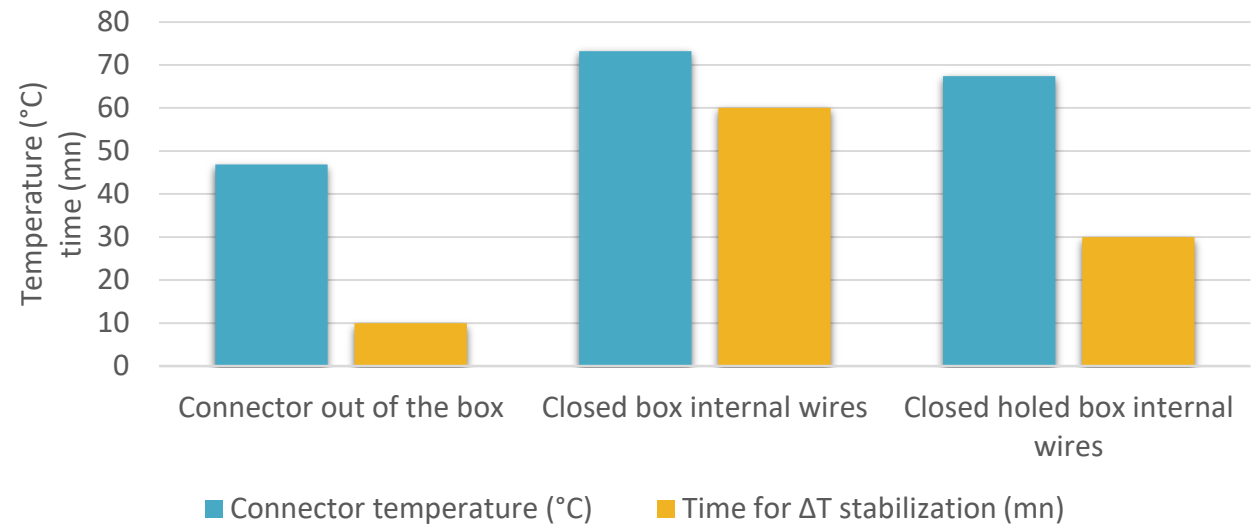
## Test:

- Same with closed box with holes



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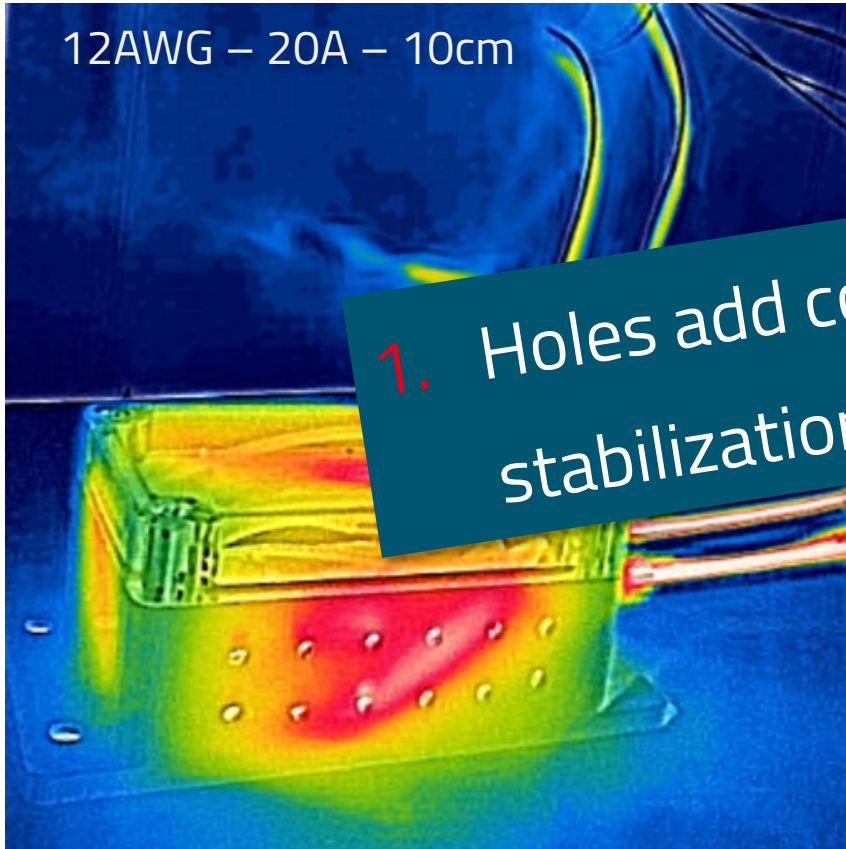
## Thermal behaviour of a connector inside of a closed box



# A connector in a closed box

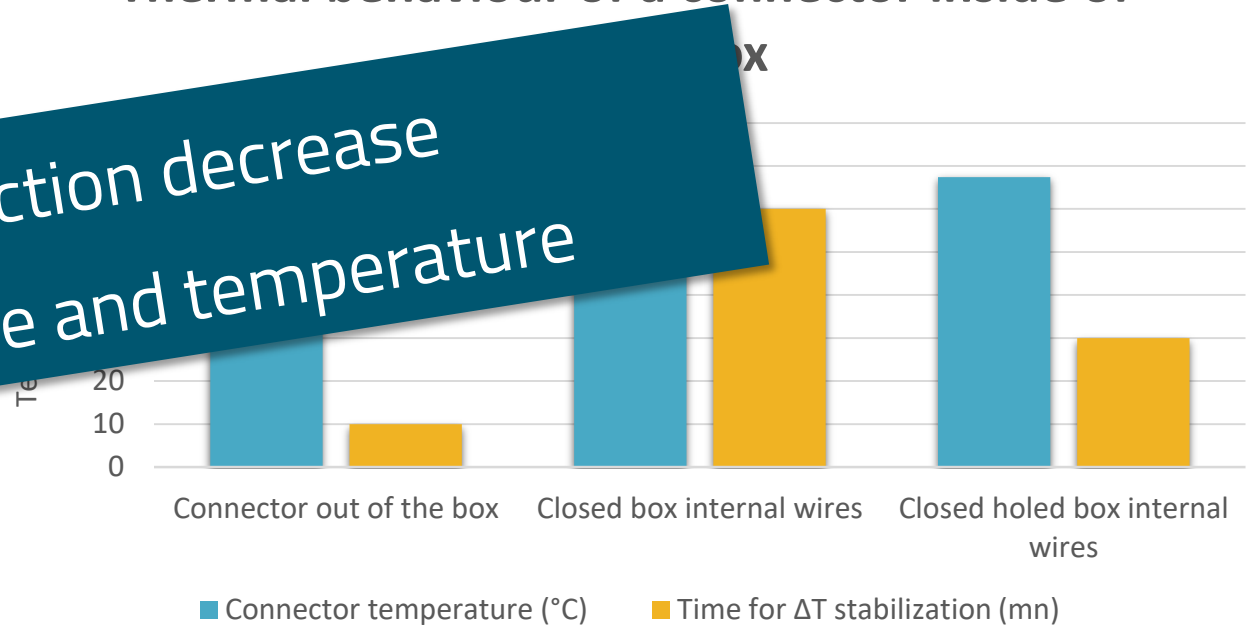
## Test:

- Same with closed box with holes



WE eiCan

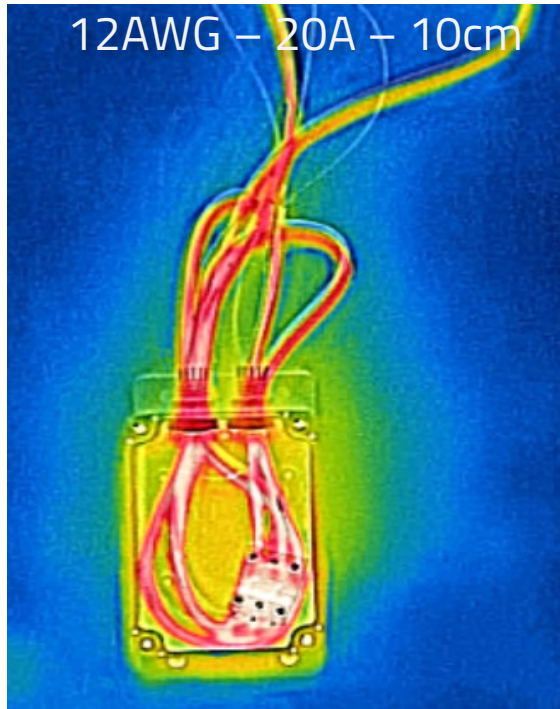
## Thermal behaviour of a connector inside of



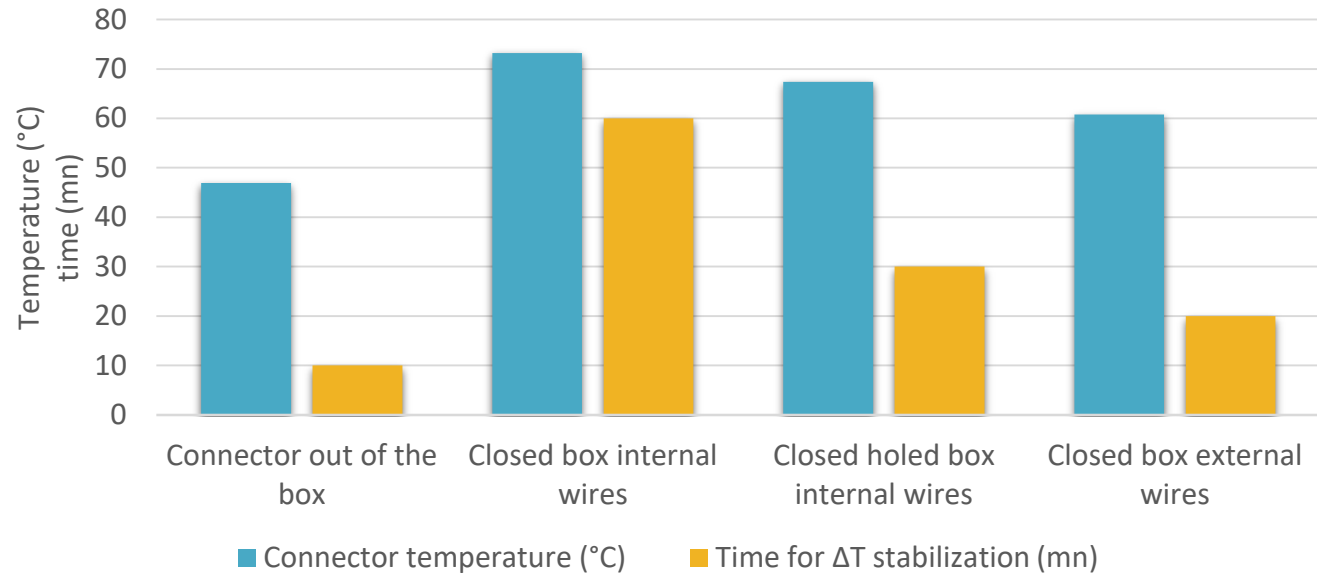
# A connector in a closed box

## Test:

- Same with closed box with holes and external wires



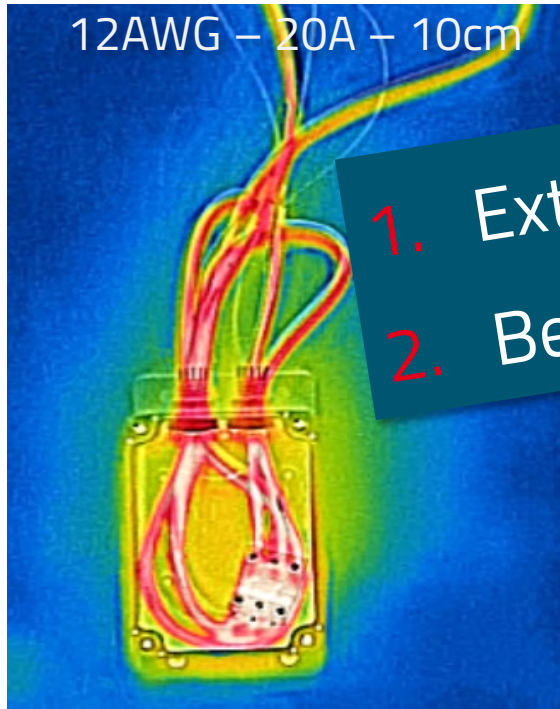
## Thermal behaviour of a connector inside of a closed box



# A connector in a closed box

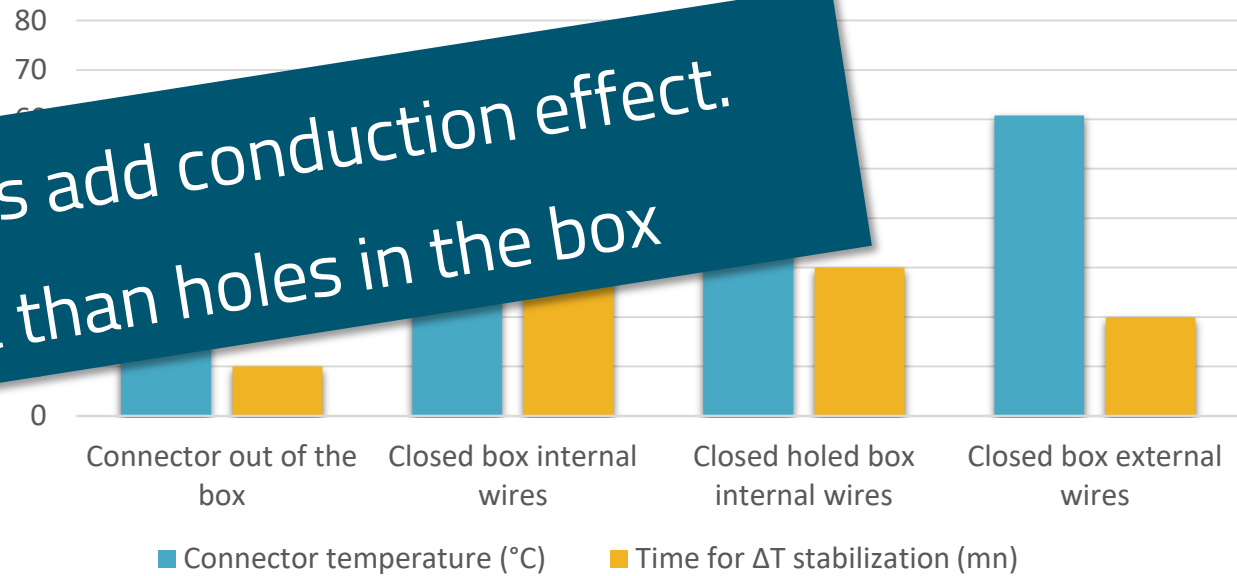
## Test:

- Same with closed box with holes and external wires



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

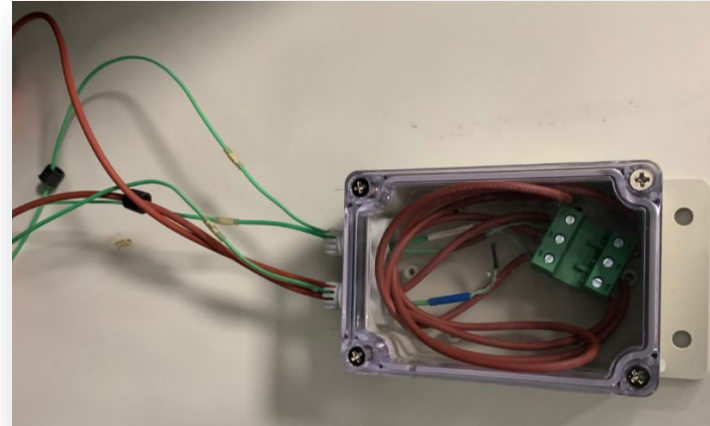
### Thermal behaviour of a connector inside of a closed box



# A connector in a closed box

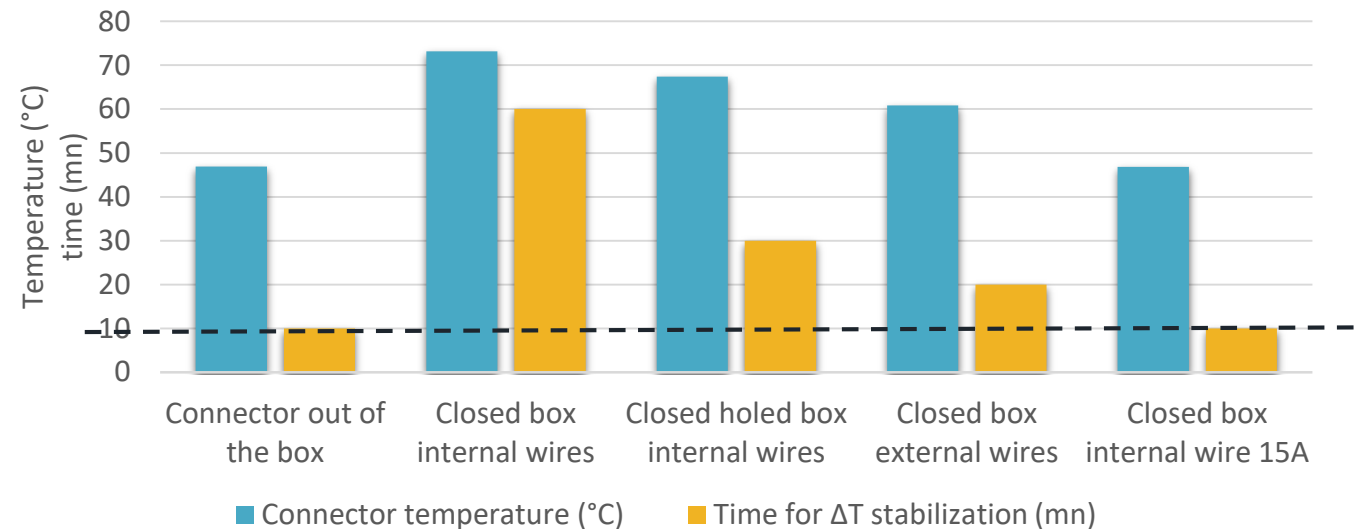
## Test:

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



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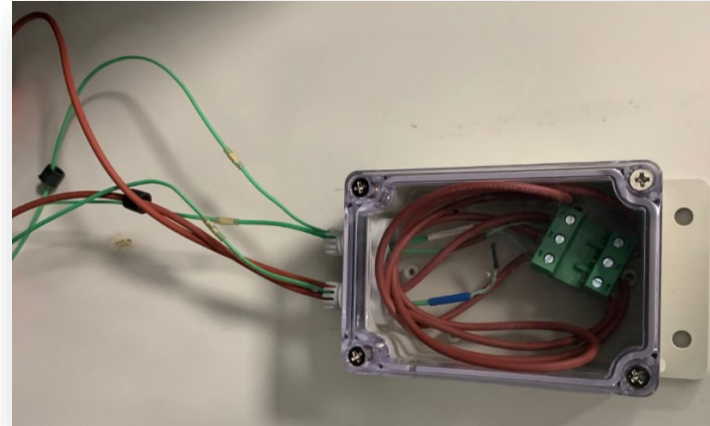
## Thermal behaviour of a connector inside of a closed box



# A connector in a closed box

## Test:

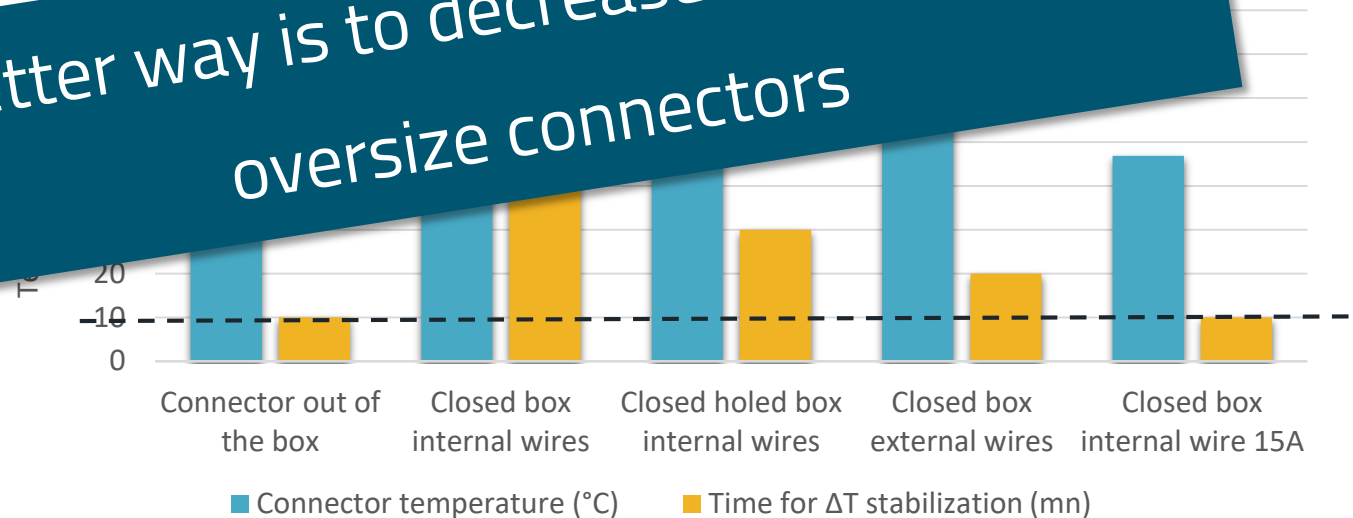
- Closed box
- Internal wires
- No holes
- 15A instead of 20A



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## Thermal behaviour of a connector

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

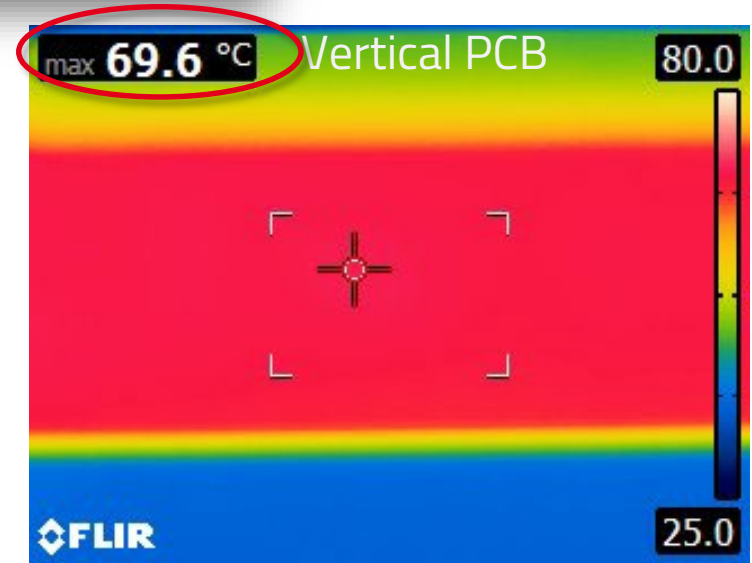
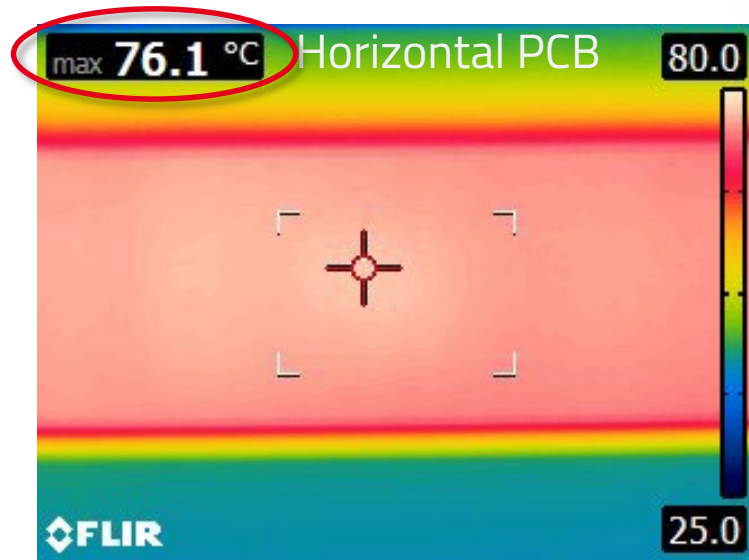
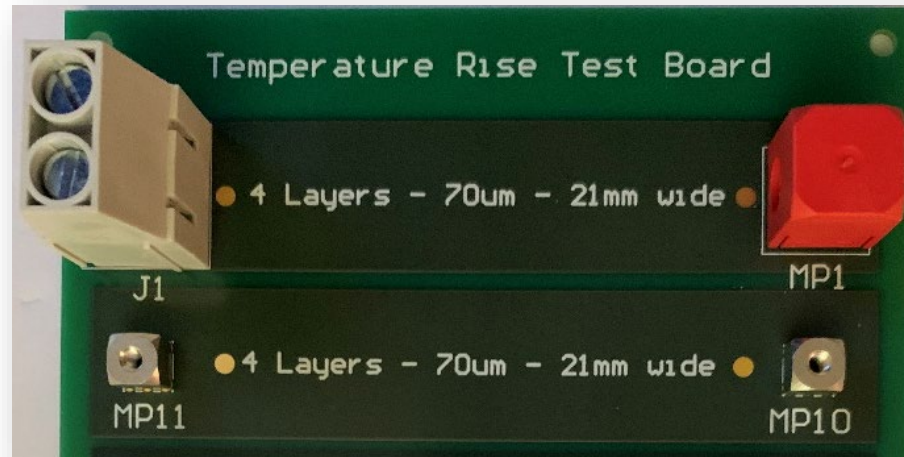




# How to naturally cool down a PCB ?

## Test:

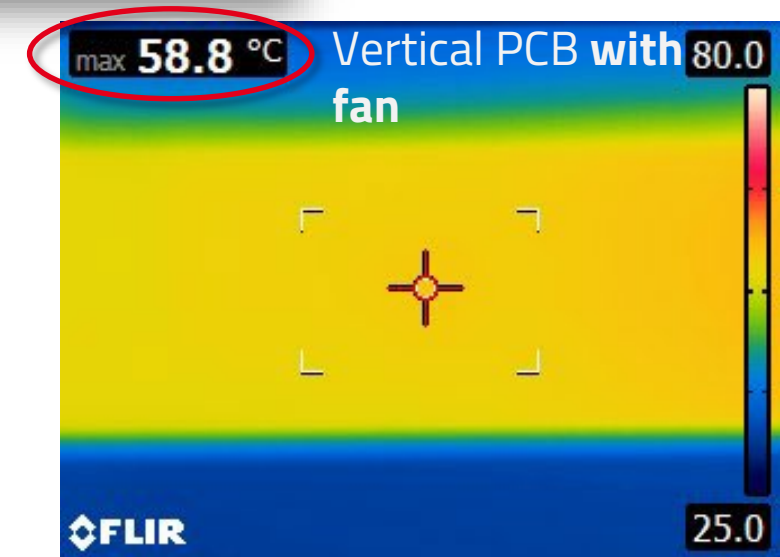
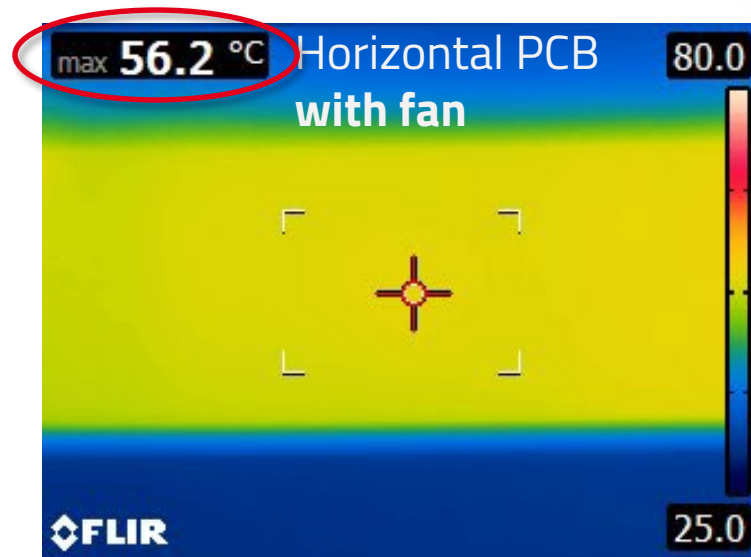
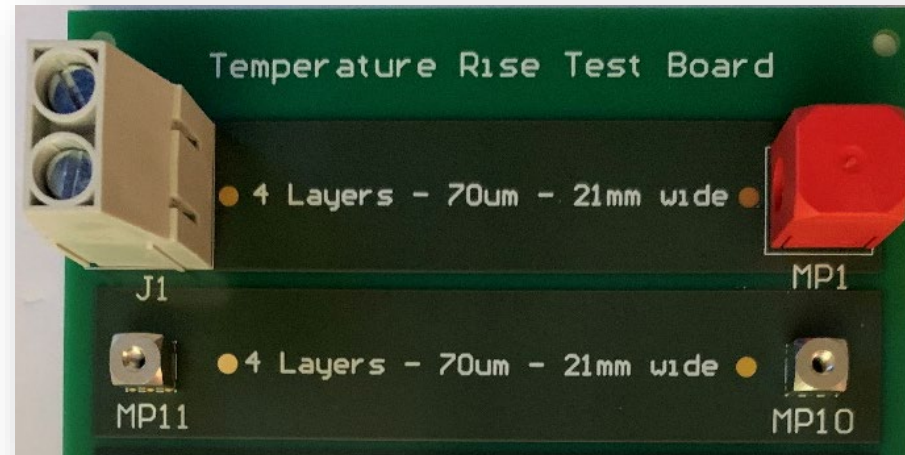
- PCB redcube
- 100A
- Horizontal and vertical PCB



## And now with a fan ?

### Test:

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





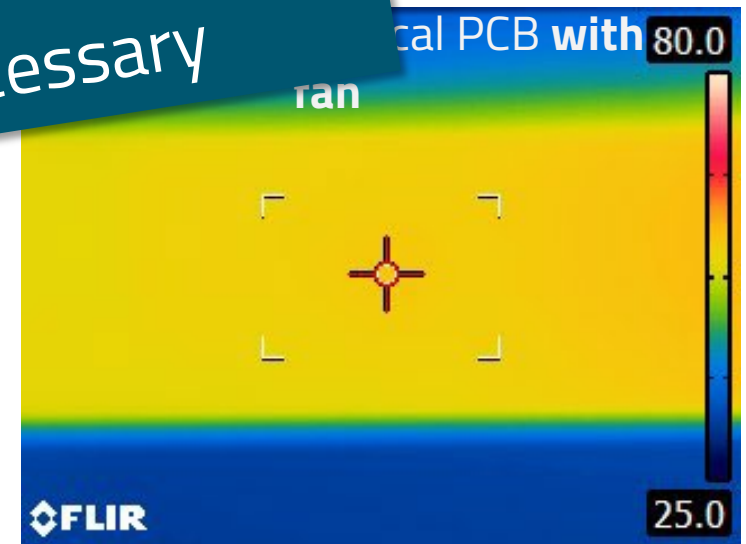
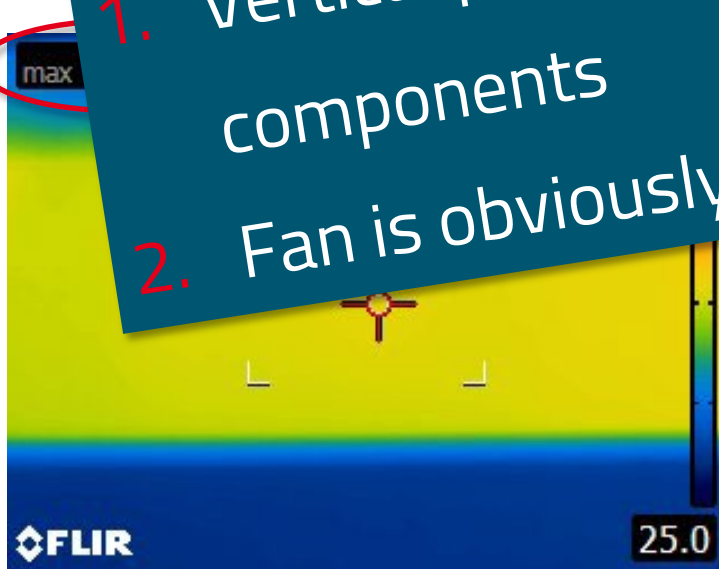
## And now with a fan ?

### 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
- Temperature rise rule
- How heat is dissipated
- Heat in a cable
- Some tricks
- Derating curve
- Inrush current
- Connector horror show
- Finally what to remember



# Derating curve UL

How to decrease current when ambient temperature increase:

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



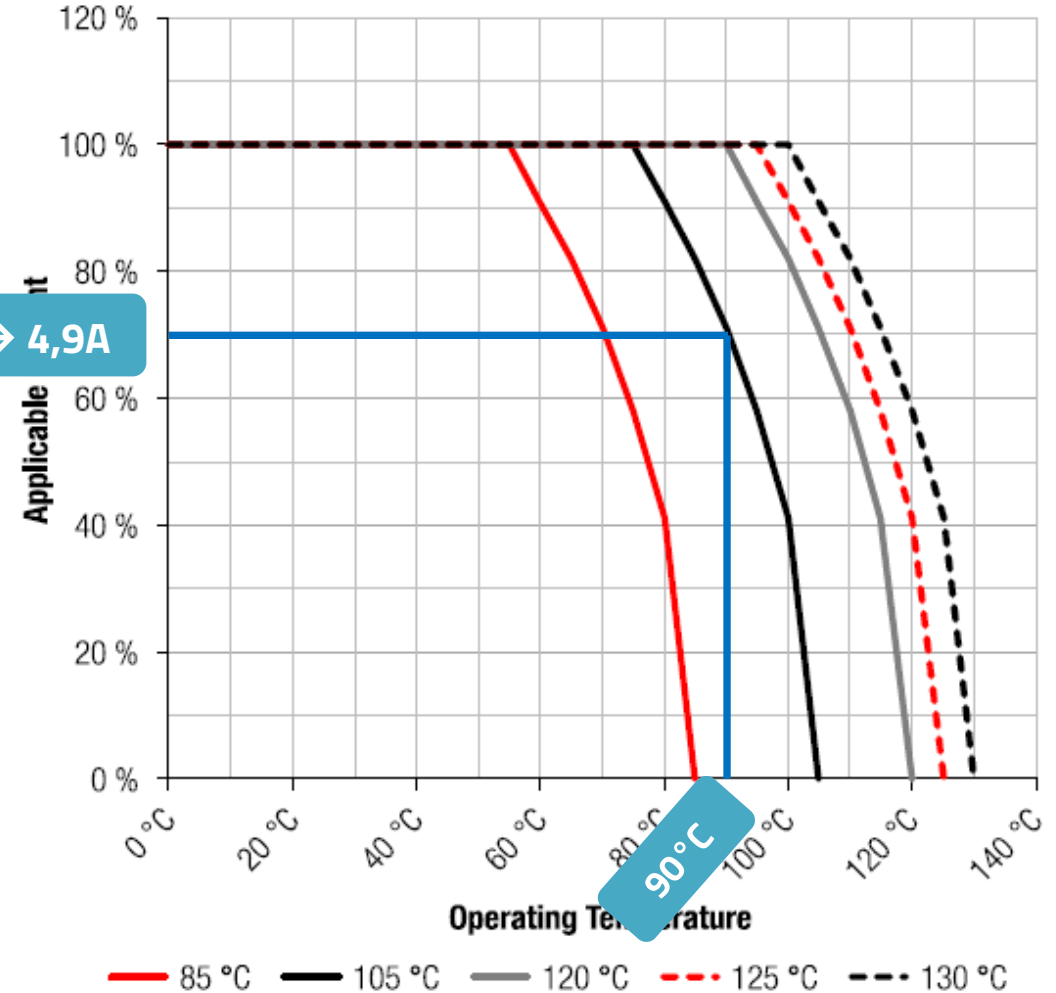
WE eiCan

**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

70% → 4,9A

UL Derating Curves



# Derating curve VDE

How to decrease current when ambient temperature increase:

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

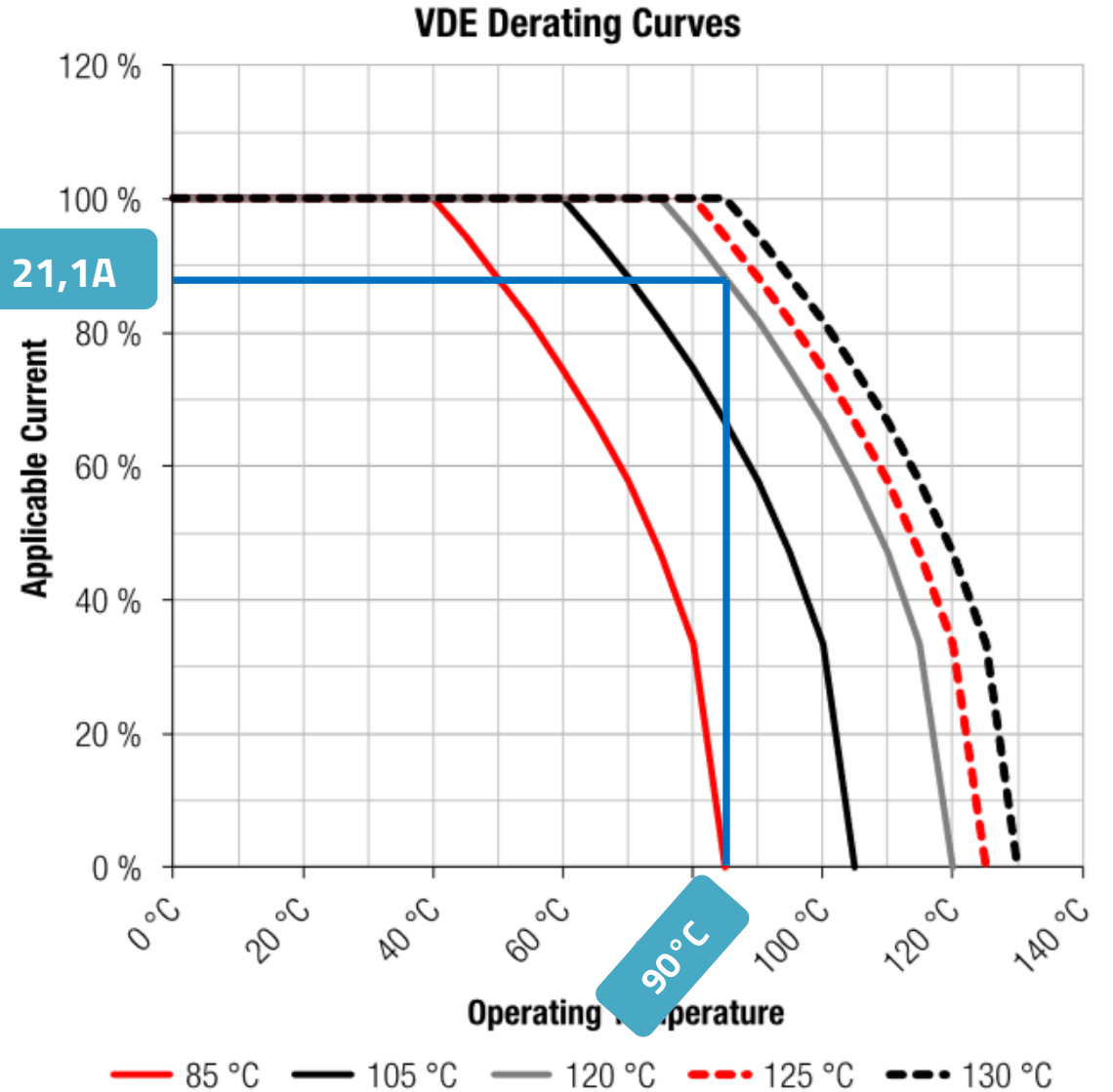


WE eiCan

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	

88% → 21,1A



# Agenda

- Current design for connectors
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# THE GOOD QUESTION

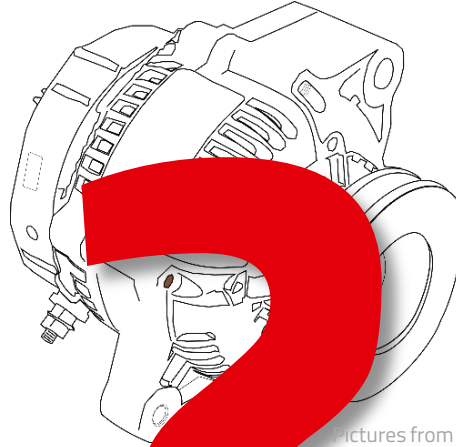
## Inrush Current



Pitch 2,54mm

€

ELECTRICAL	cJll us
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

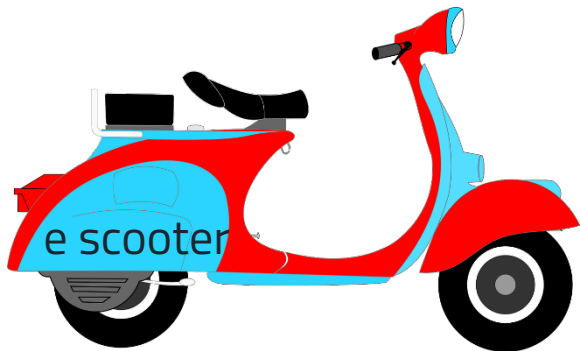
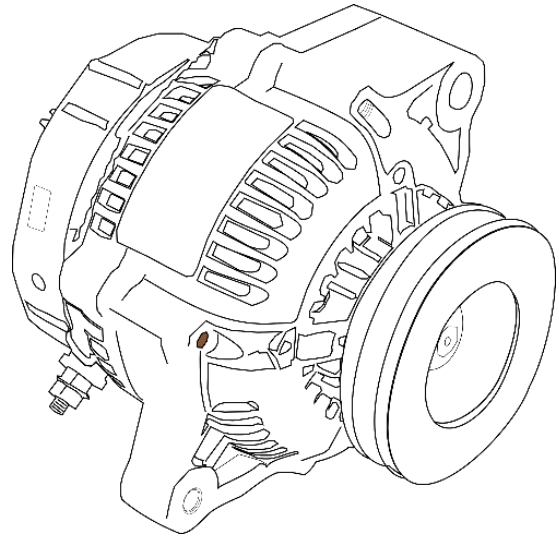
€€€

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

Pictures from WE



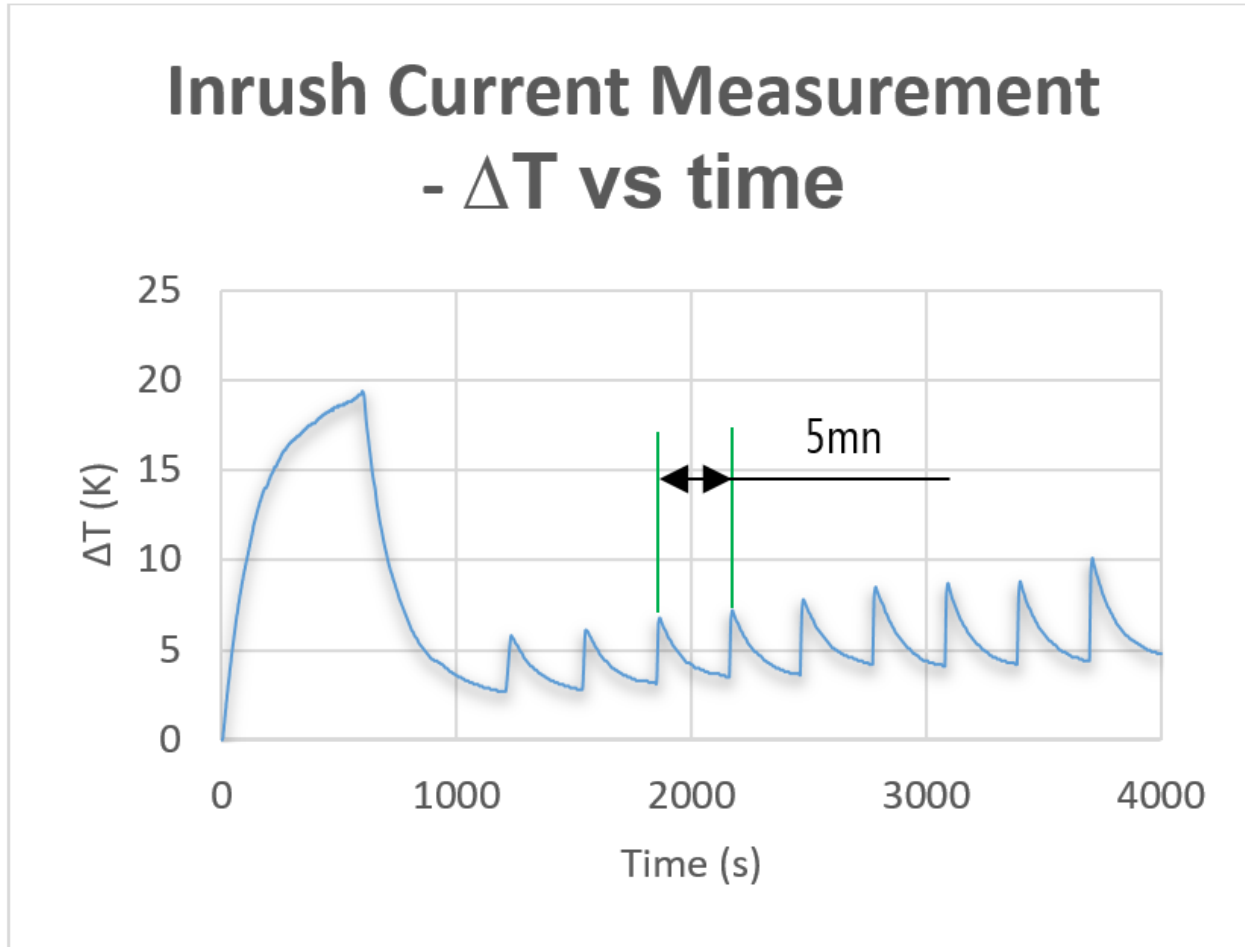
# APPLICATION ISSUE



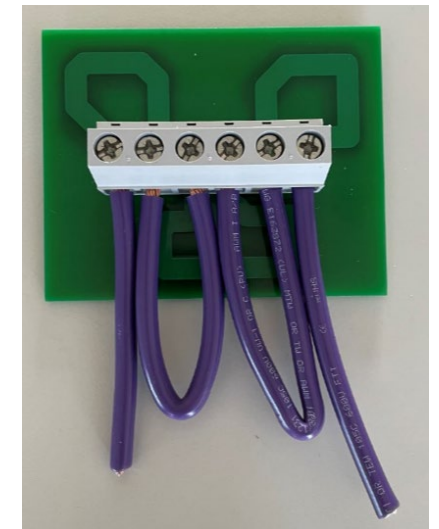
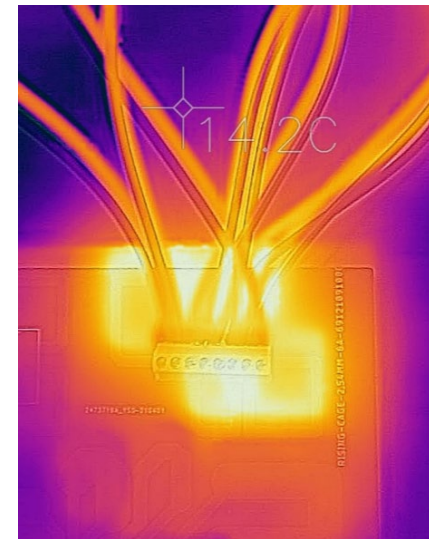
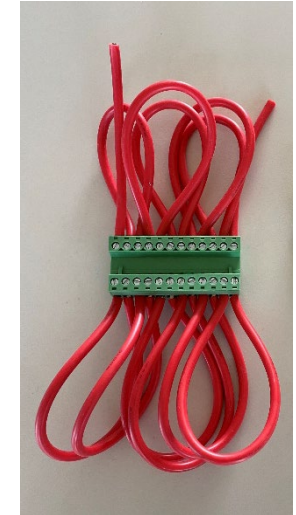
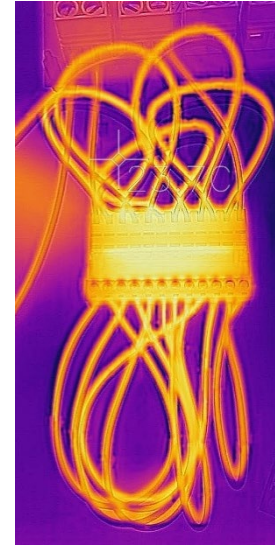
Pictures from pixabay.com

Pictures from WE

# REAL TEST



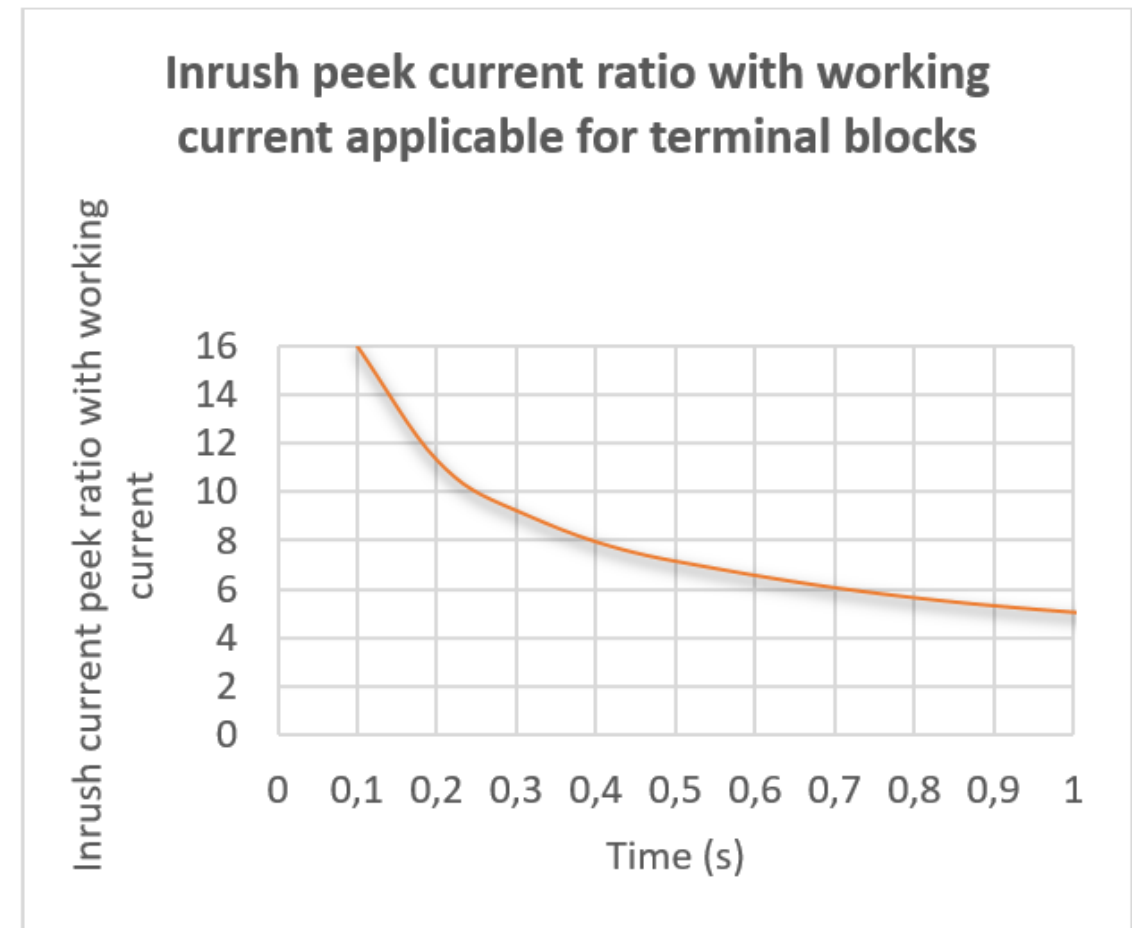
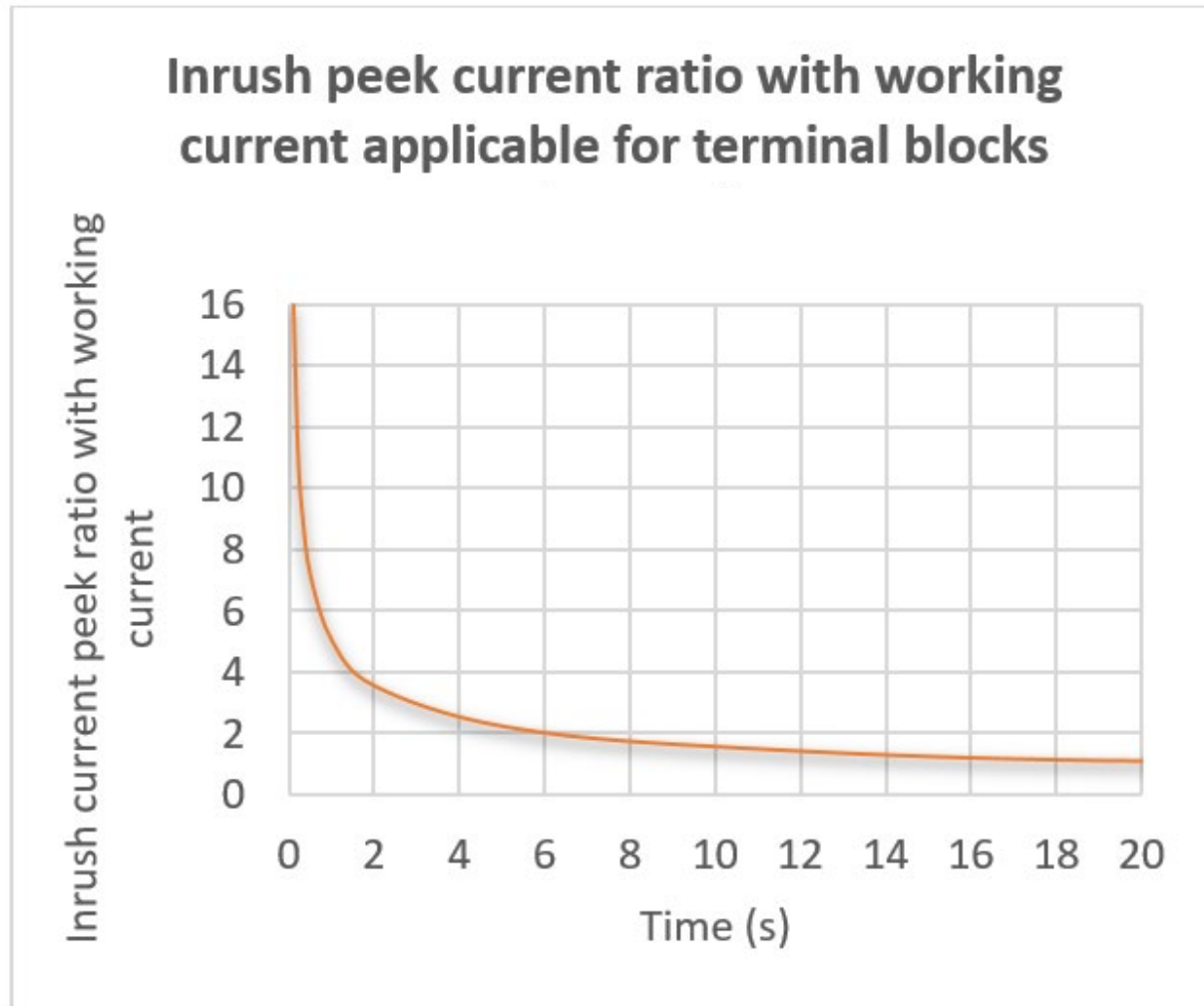
final inrush current test results



Pictures from WE

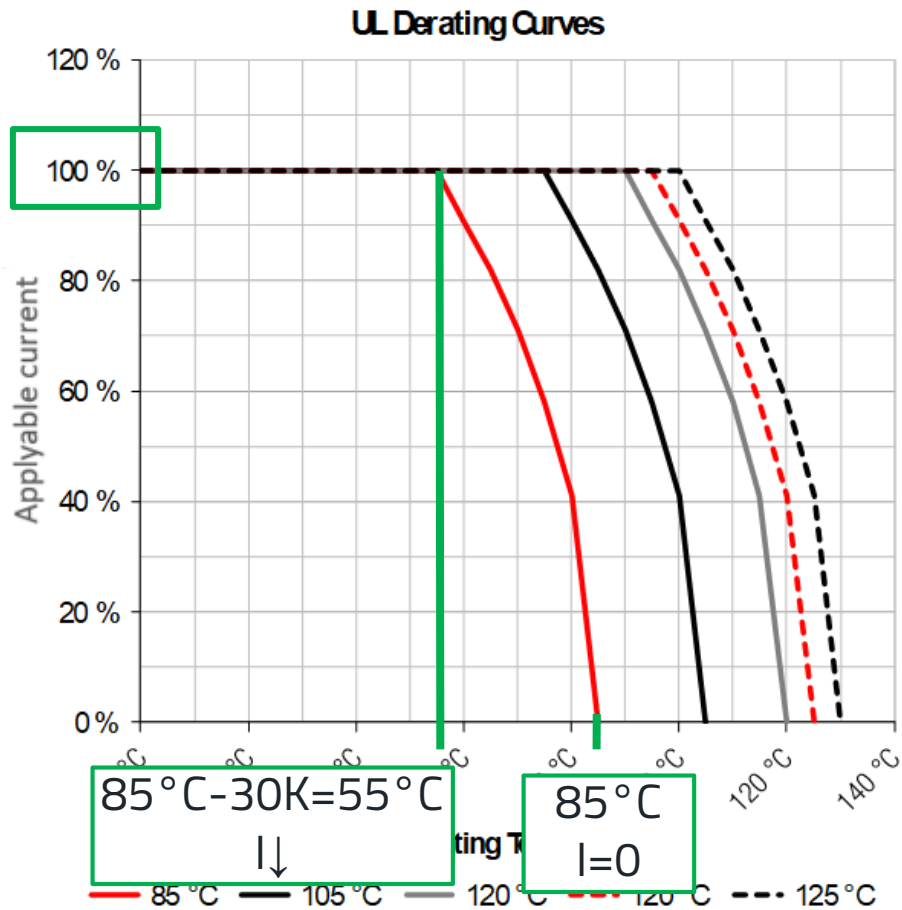


# INRUSH CURRENT CURVES



applicable inrush current for eiCan connectors. Different scales

# DERATING CURVE WITHOUT INRUSH CURRENT

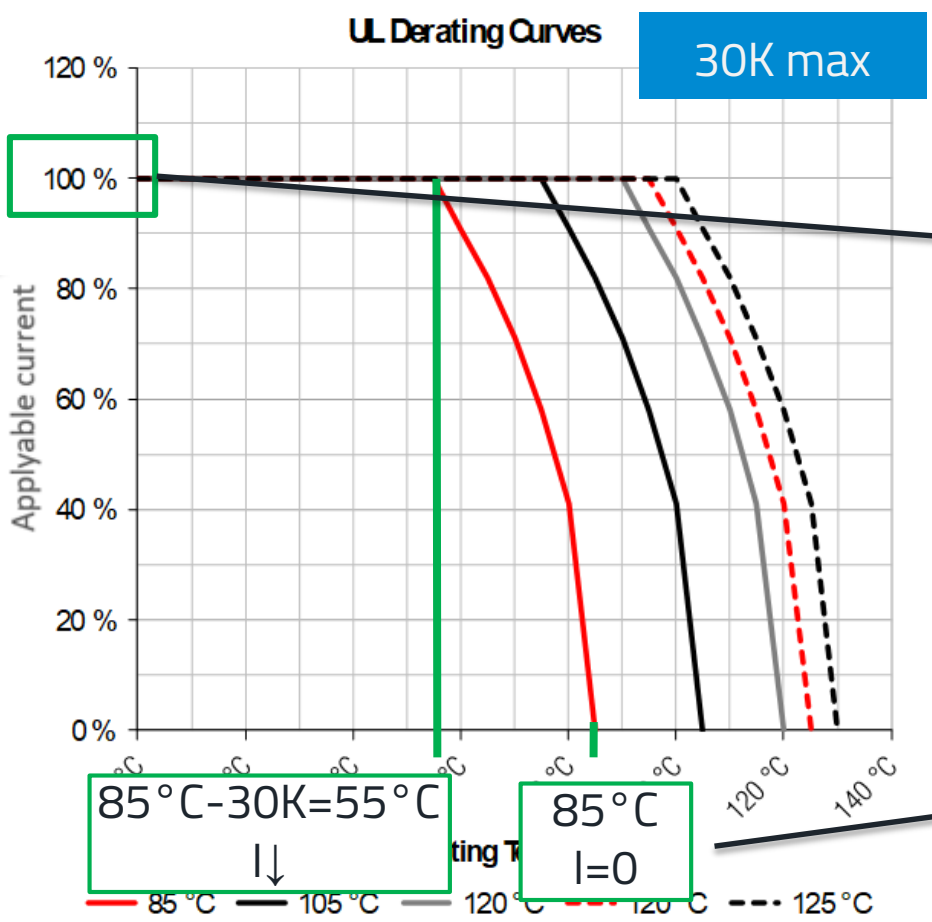


UL Derating Curves for different Operating Temperatures

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

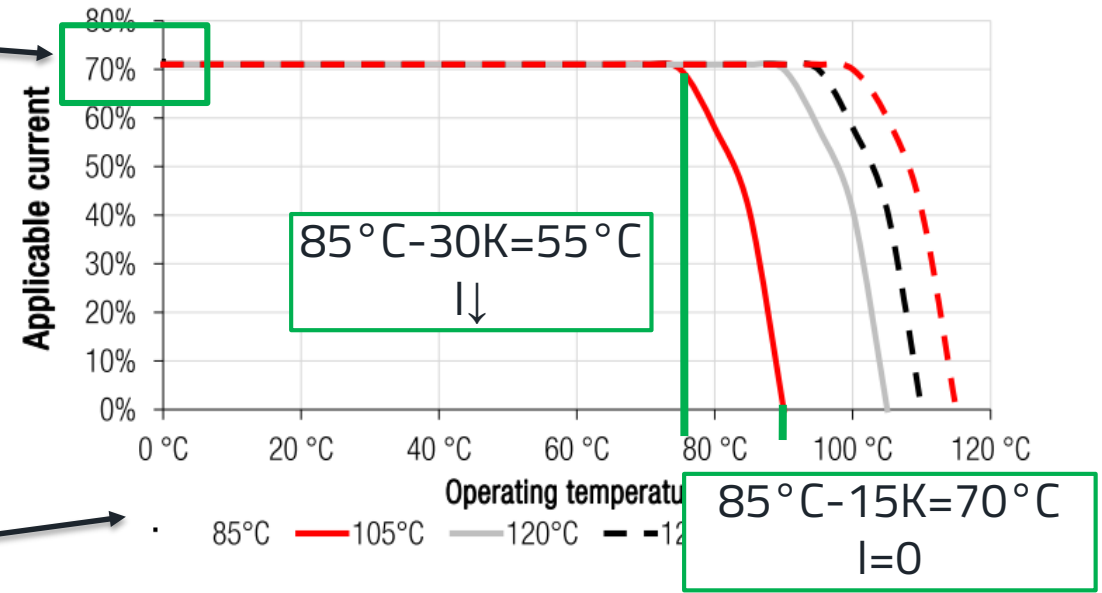
Security margin  
 Stable current  $\leq 15\text{K}$   
 and  
 Inrush current  $\leq 15\text{K}$

# DERATING CURVE WITH INRUSH CURRENT



UL Derating Curves for different Operating Temperatures

$$I_{max15K} = \sqrt{\frac{15K}{30K}} I_{max30K}$$

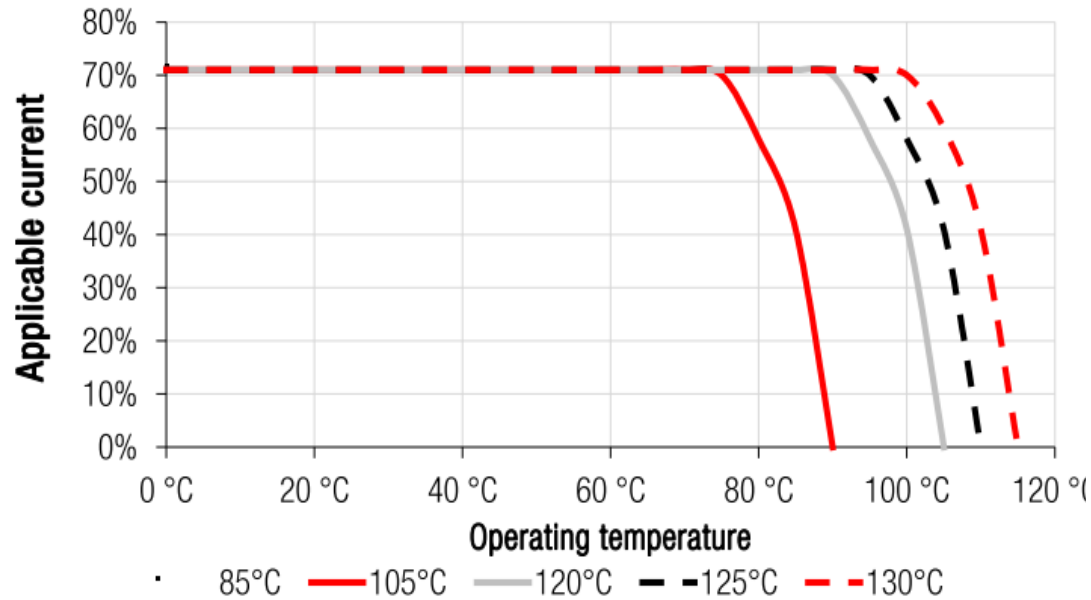


UL derating curves for continuous and inrush current at different operating temperatures. For WE terminal blocks only

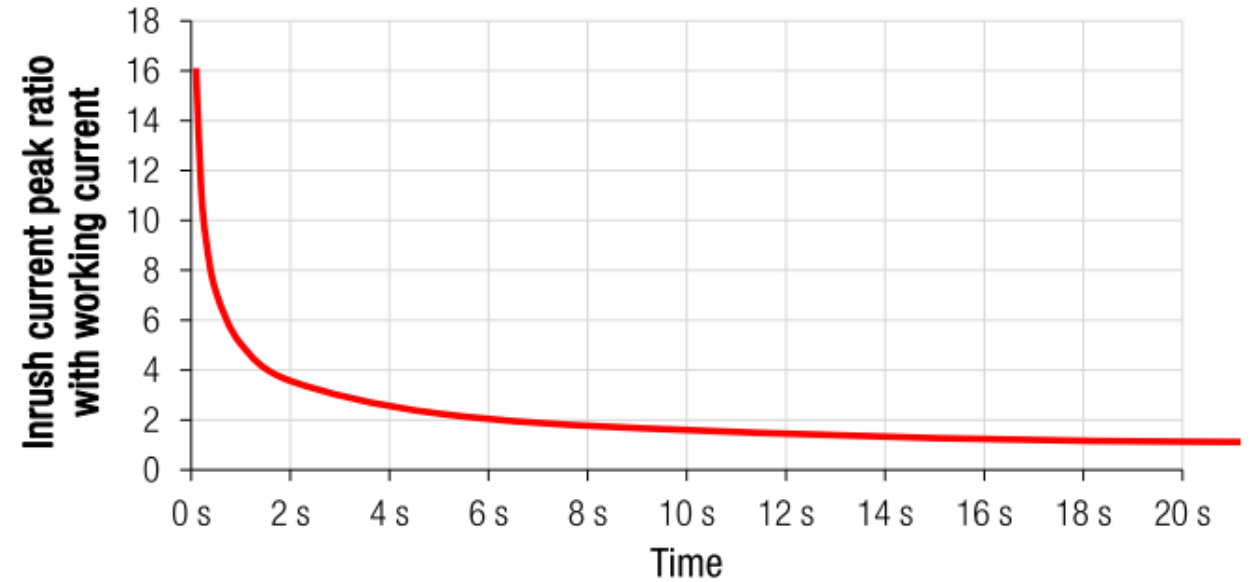
# FINAL CURVES

Datasheet is guaranteed by WE  
**Always do a test to check temperature of your system**

UL derating curves: working current & inrush current



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



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

[ANE015](#)



# Agenda

- Current design for connectors
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- Temperature rise rule
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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**

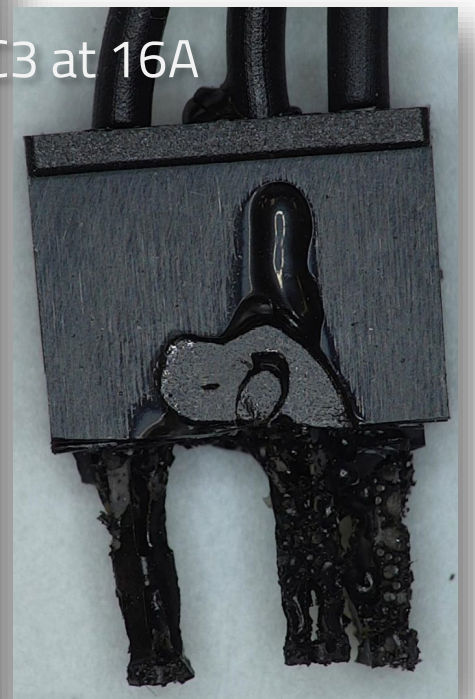
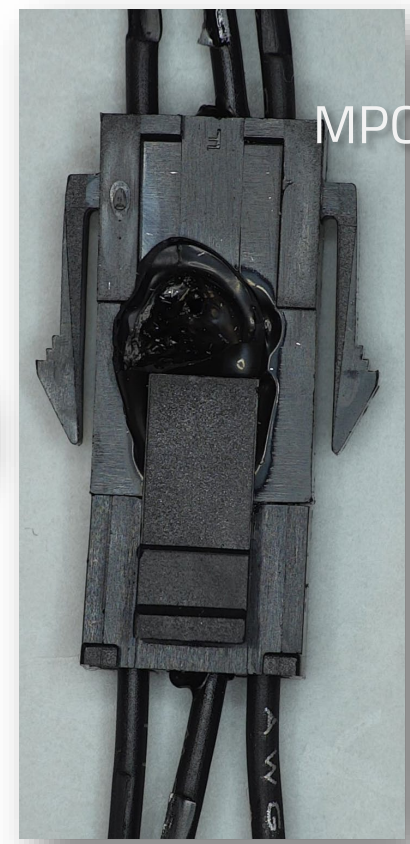
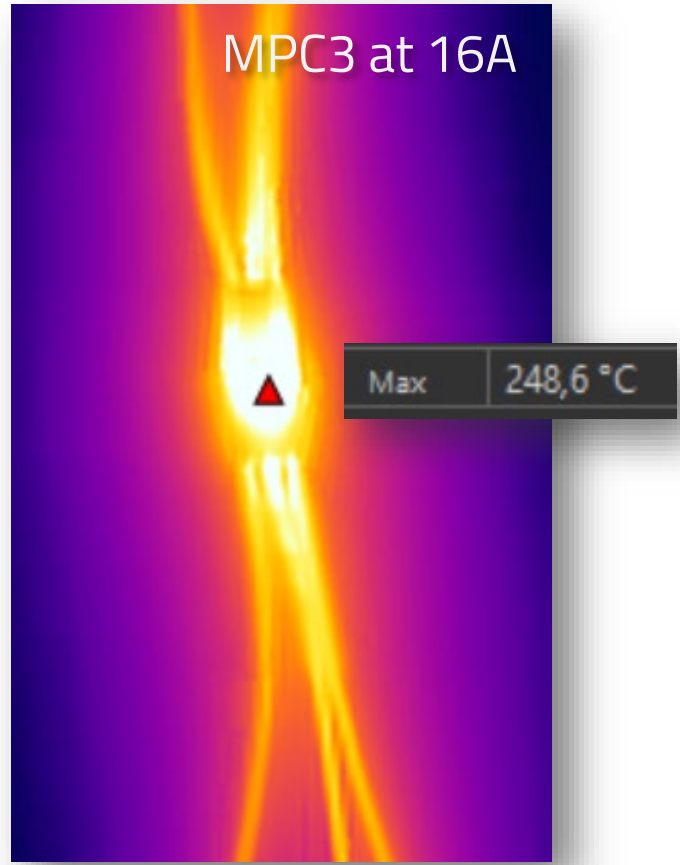
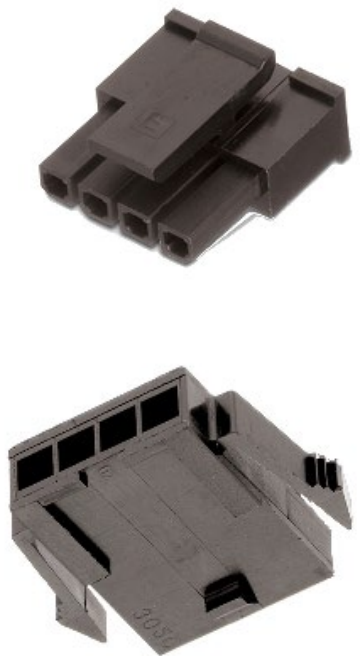


All pictures: WE eiCan



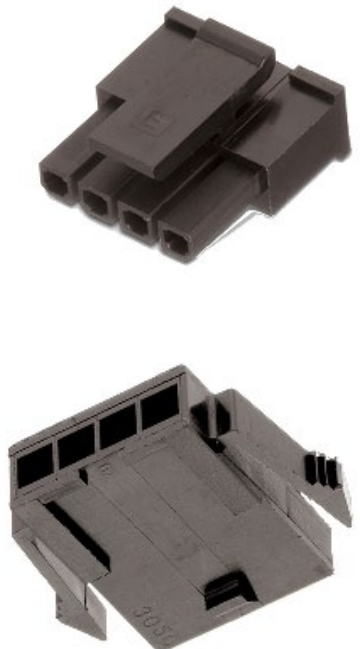
# Connector horror show

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

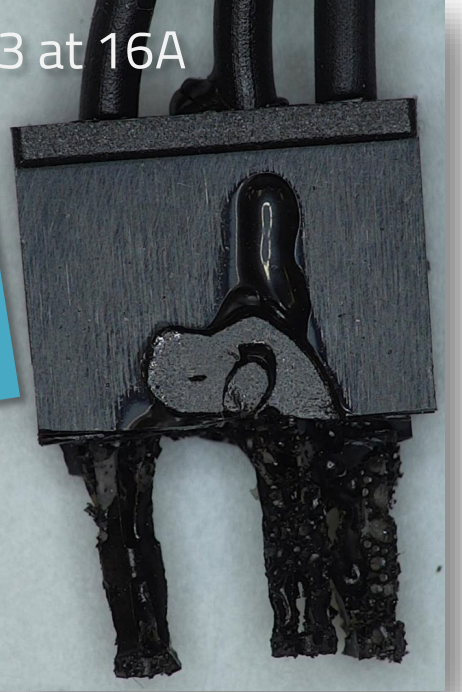
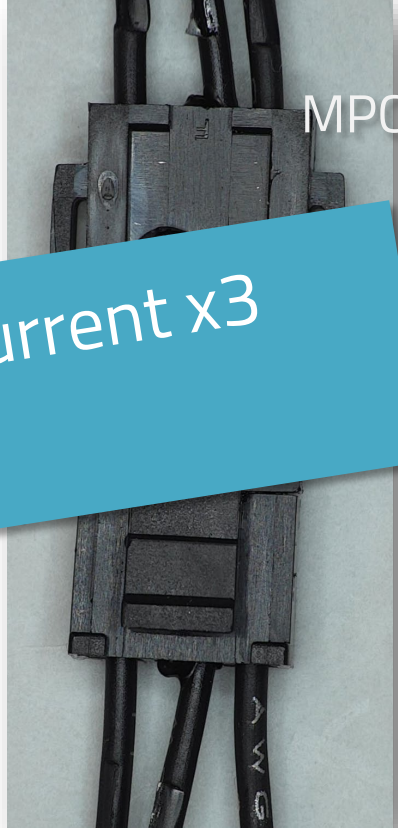


# Connector horror show

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



Horror current > working current x3  
No fire



All pictures: WE eiCan



# Agenda

- Current design for connectors
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Create thermal exchange with outside

WE eiCan

