

# Growth velocity and thermophysical properties of materials using Electromagnetic Levitation

Q. Champdoizeau, J. Valloton and H. Henein

Advanced Materials and Processing Laboratory, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

# Introduction

---

- Engineering degree at Ecole des Mines de Nancy – France  
Major in Energy, Environment & Process Engineering
- Phd in Materials Engineering at the University of Alberta – Canada
- 3<sup>rd</sup> year PhD candidate working on the measurement of material thermophysical properties

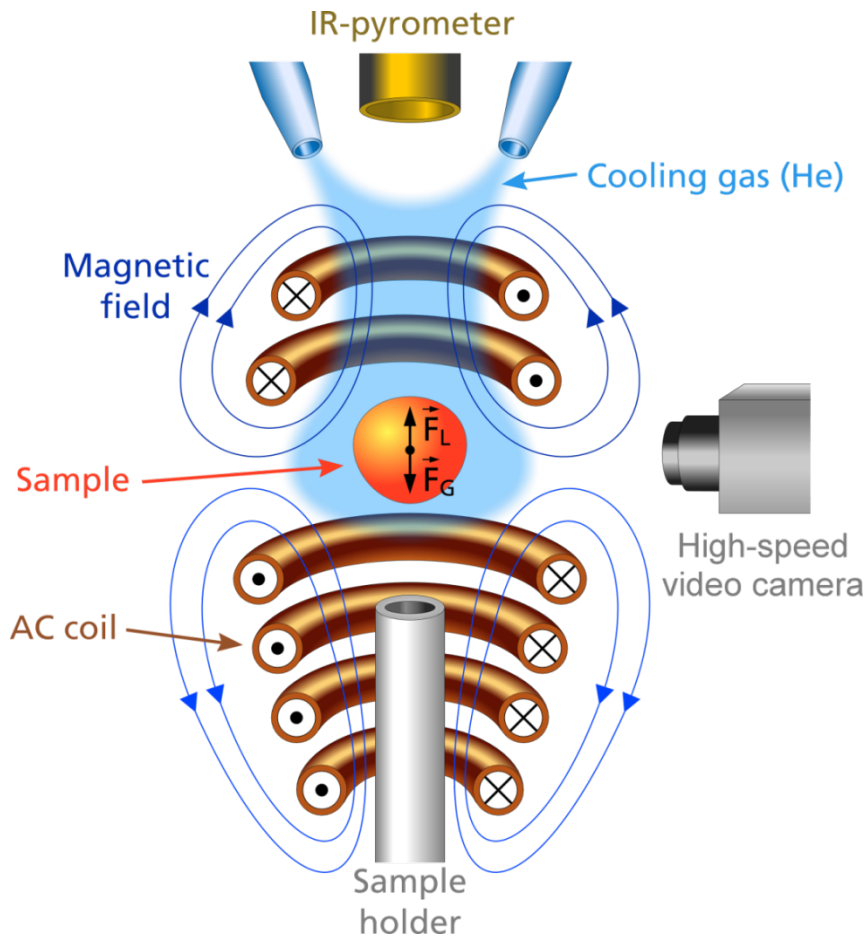


# Our research under microgravity

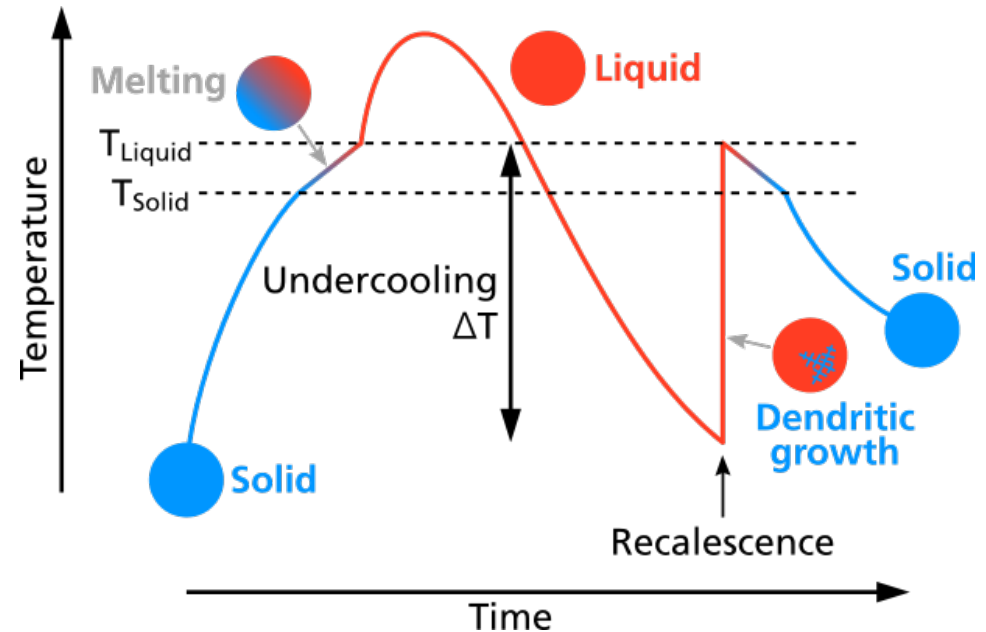
- Electromagnetic levitation to study solidification and thermophysical properties of materials
- Dendritic growth velocity and microstructure
- Density, surface tension, and viscosity



# ElectroMagnetic Levitation (EML)

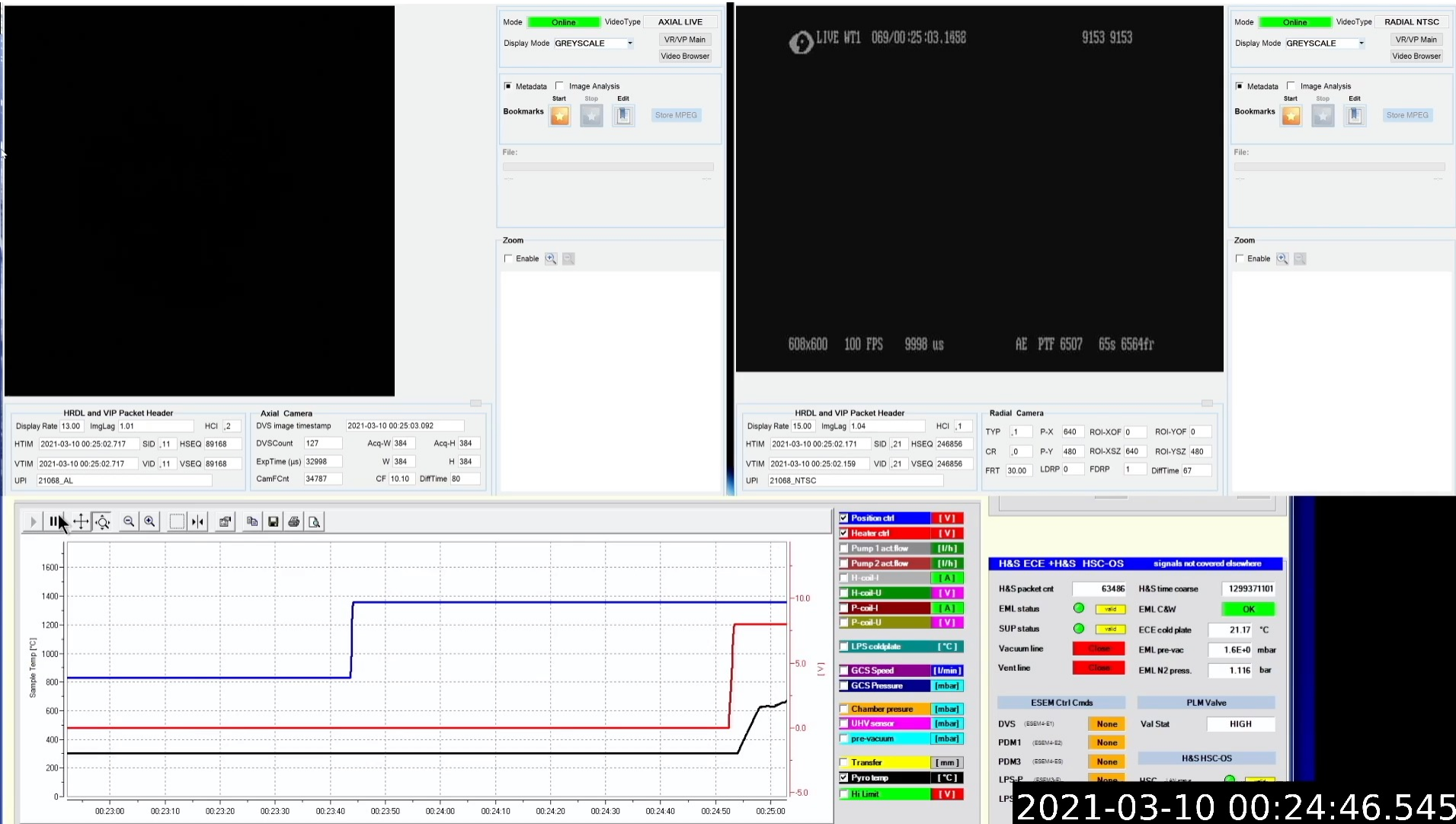


- ✓ **Direct observation** of solidification
- ✗ **Forced convection** ( $\sim 0.3 \text{ m/s}^*$ )  
→ Influence on heat and mass transport

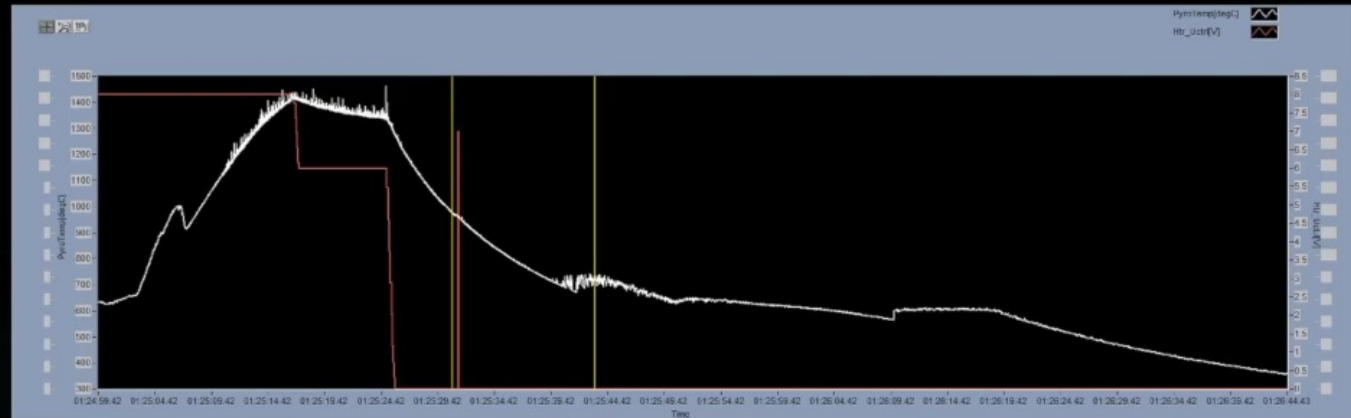
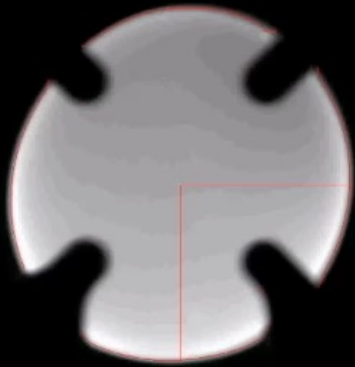




# Oscillating drop experiments $Al_{89}Cu_{11}$



# Oscillating drop experiments $\text{Al}_{89}\text{Cu}_{11}$



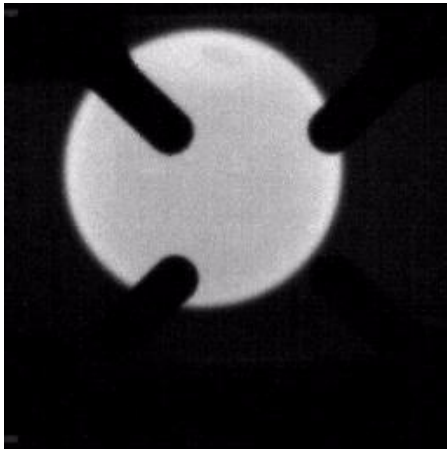
# Microgravity EML

---

TEMPUS PF campaign, Sept. 2013

30'000 FPS

Duration: 50 ms



$\Delta T \approx 130 \text{ K}$

$v \approx 0.19 \text{ m/s}$

Dendritic front

42'000 FPS

Duration: 0.6 ms

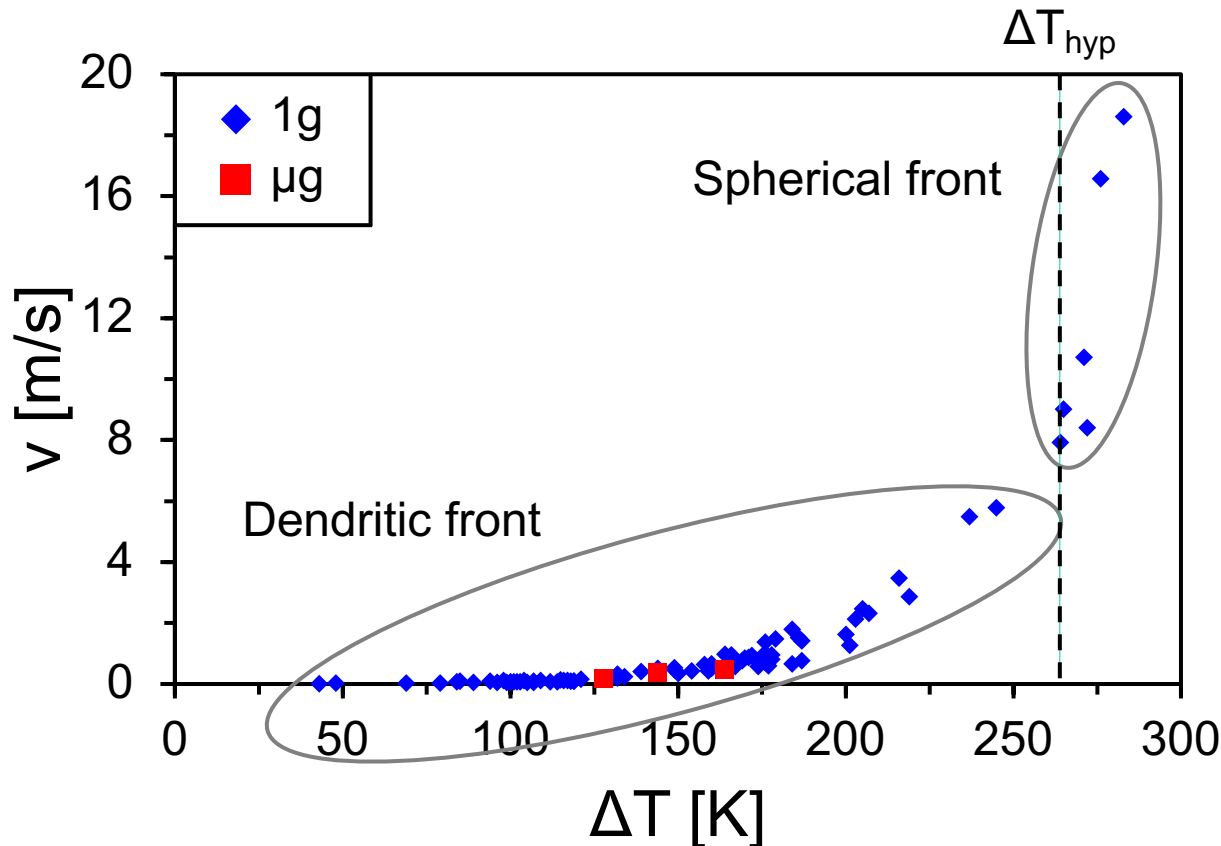


$\Delta T \approx 272 \text{ K}$

$v \approx 8.4 \text{ m/s}$

Spherical front

# Growth velocity for D2 tool steel



- Microgravity data fits with ground-based experiment
- No observed effect of convection on growth velocity
- Change of the growth front morphology observed above  $\Delta T_{hyp} \approx 264$  K



# Acknowledgments and contact

---

- ESA within the NEQUISOL and CCEMLCC projects



- DLR  Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V.  
in der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft

- Industrial partners

- Contact : [champdoi@ualberta.ca](mailto:champdoi@ualberta.ca); [hhenein@ualberta.ca](mailto:hhenein@ualberta.ca)