

# Modelling of induction heating in steel reheating furnaces

Ted Sjöberg - PhD

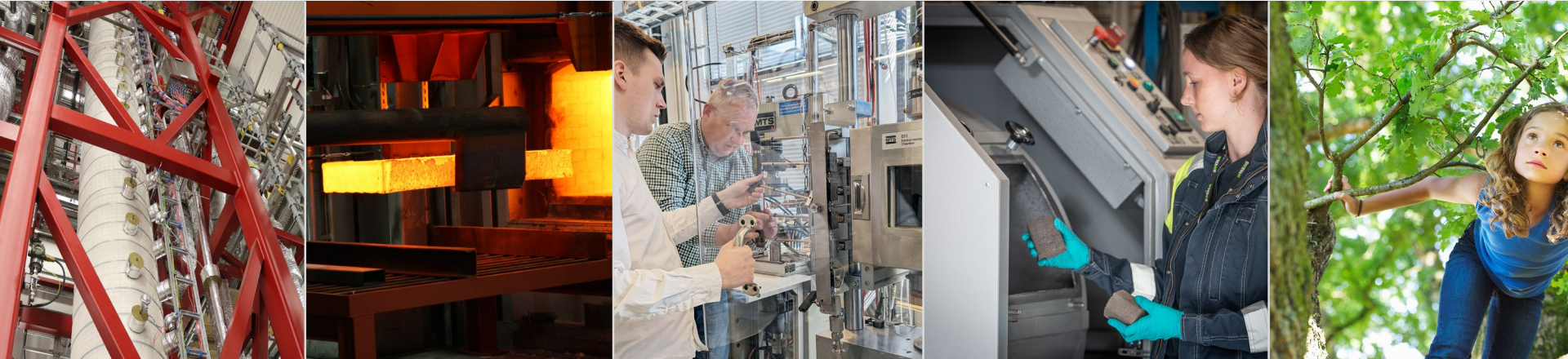
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# Outline

- Swerim in short
- Pilot experiments
- Simulation setup
  - Geometry
  - Physics interfaces
- Results
  - Super Duplex 2507
  - Low carbon steel
- Conclusions & next step

Swerim conducts needs-based industrial research and development concerning metals and their route from raw material to finished product.

Our vision is a fossil-free and circular industry.



# Swerim in short

- Independent research institute
- Unique pilot, test and demonstration facilities (Customized experimental equipment)
- Customers from all over the world
- Long-term strategic partner
- Three research councils with industry representatives
- 190 employees
- Turnover approximately SEK 250 million



*Long tradition – the oldest part established in 1921 (Metallografiska institutet) and MEFOS (1963)*

# Pilot experiments

## Induction furnace

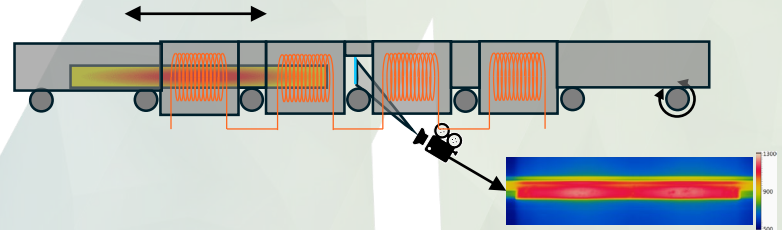
- Max power 900kW (material and shape specific)
- 4 induction coils (counter-wound)
- Frequency range 350 – 600 Hz
  - Set by capacitor bank in an IC-circuit
- Length 3.4 m
  - Ceramic inner lining
  - Hydraulic rollers for oscillation of workpieces
  - Insulated gaps and hoods at sides
- Max temperature 1300 °C
- Capacity 2.5 ton/h (20 to 1250 °C)
- Geometries
  - Workpieces 125-300 x 60-125 x 1600-1700 mm

## Measurements

S type thermocouples for continuous temperature measurements

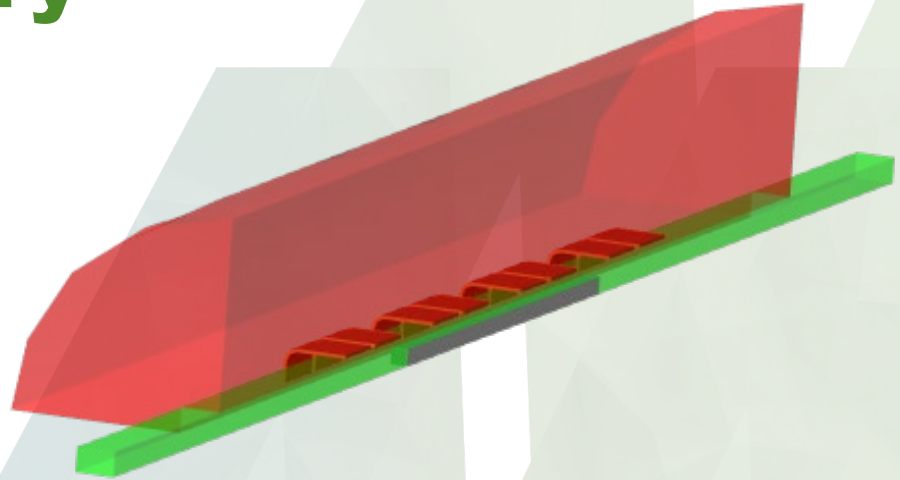
Thermographic imaging camera for scanning of workpiece sidewalls

Line scanning at 10 Hz as billet travels



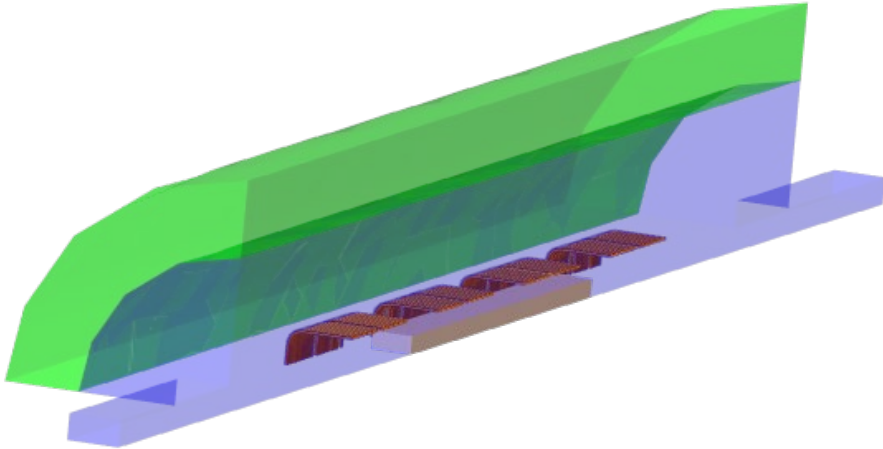
# Simulation geometry

- Four coil pairs
  - 24 turns per pair
    - 12 turns + 12 turns reverse
- Quarter symmetric geometry
- Two-part air domain
  - Stationary red domain
  - Oscillating green domain



# Simulation setup

## Magnetic fields

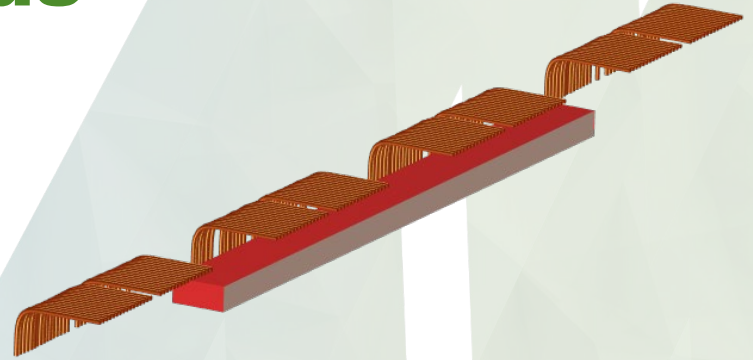


- Rectangular workpiece
  - Simple relative permeability
$$B = \mu_0 \mu_r(B, T)H$$
  - Temperature dependent conductivity
- Two air domains
  - Stationary + Moving
- Eight coils
  - Homogenized multiturn
  - External coil excitation using circuit voltage
- Infinite Element Domain

# Simulation setup

## Heat transfer in solids

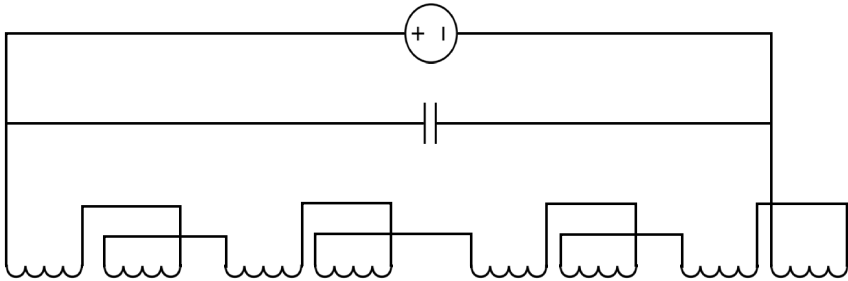
- Temperature dependent material parameters
  - Thermal conductivity
  - Heat capacity
- Simple boundary conditions
  - Constant heat flux
  - Constant surface-to-ambient radiation
  - Symmetry





# Simulation setup

## Electrical circuit

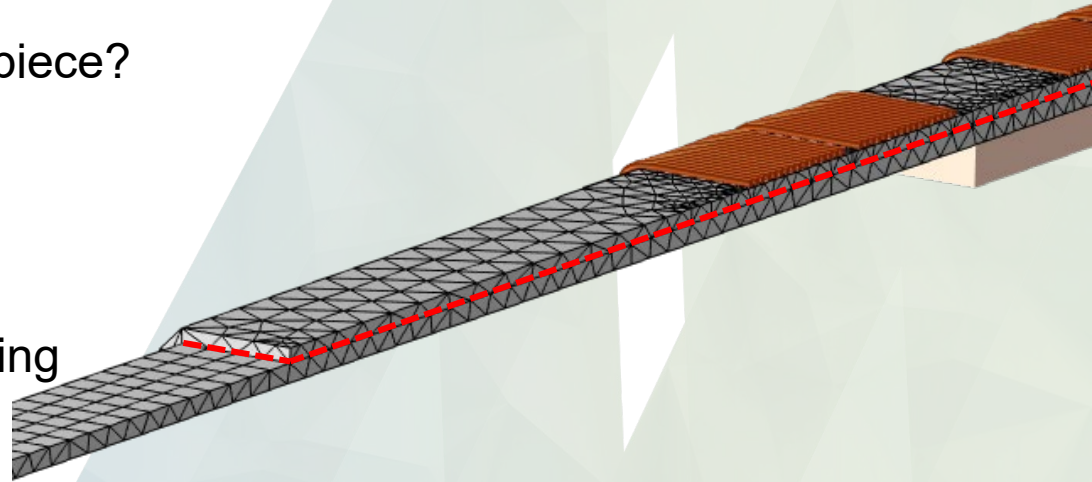


- Model behaviour of resonant circuit
  - Coils “External U vs I”
  - Capacitor bank
  - Voltage source
- Idealized circuit, no resistive losses

# Simulation setup

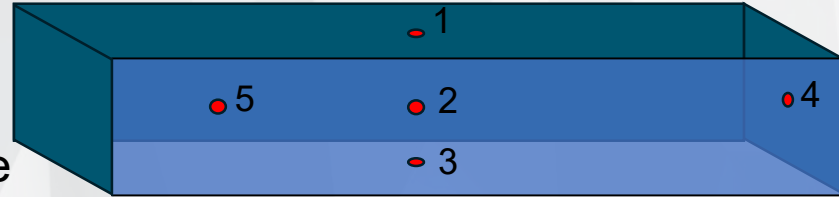
## Moving mesh

- How to model oscillating workpiece?
  - ~~Deforming mesh~~
  - Moving mesh
    - Retain continuity
    - Reasonable time-stepping
- Discrete stepping
  - Step size chosen to retain mesh continuity



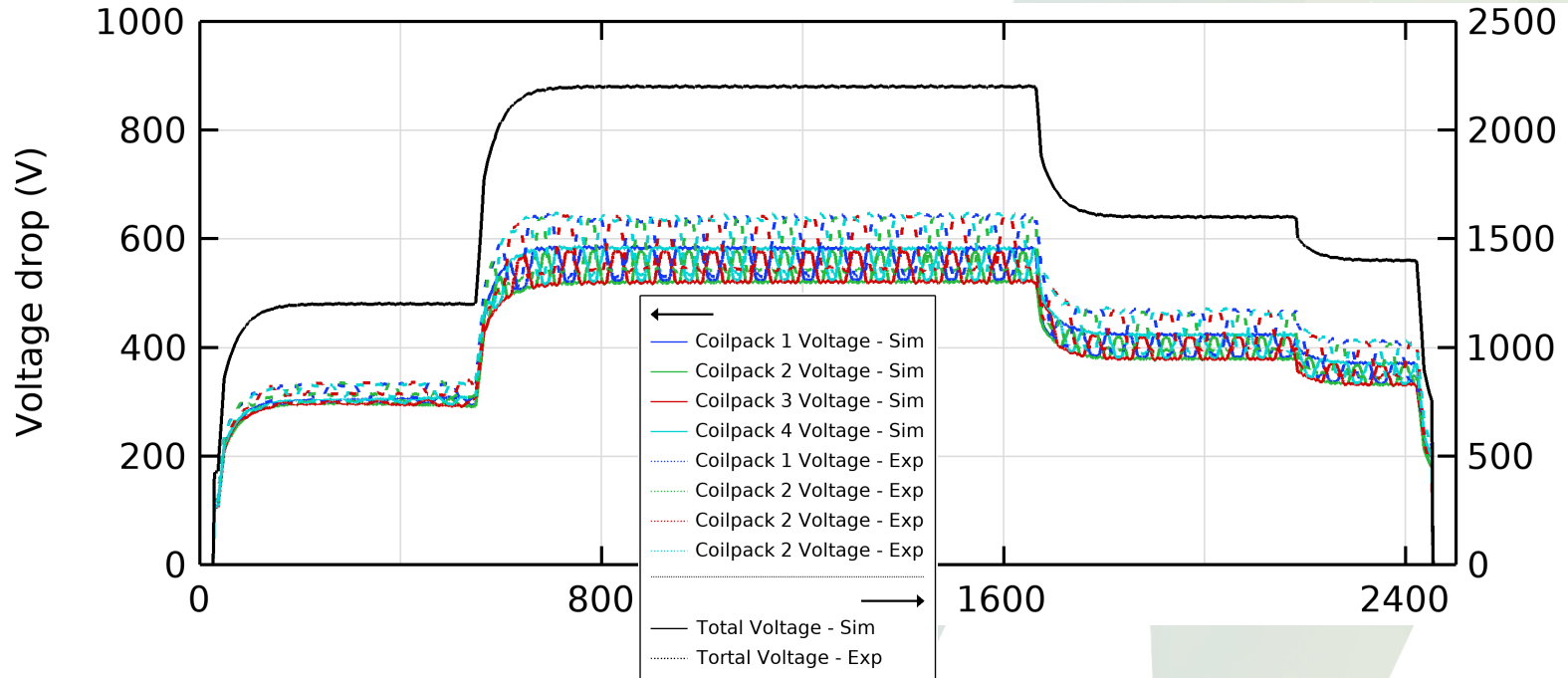
# Results

- Pilot experiment workpiece was equipped with thermocouples
- Thermal imaging was used along one side of workpiece
- Pilot induction furnace is equipped with multiple measurement systems
  - Coils: power, current, voltage drop
  - Cooling water in- & outgoing temperature



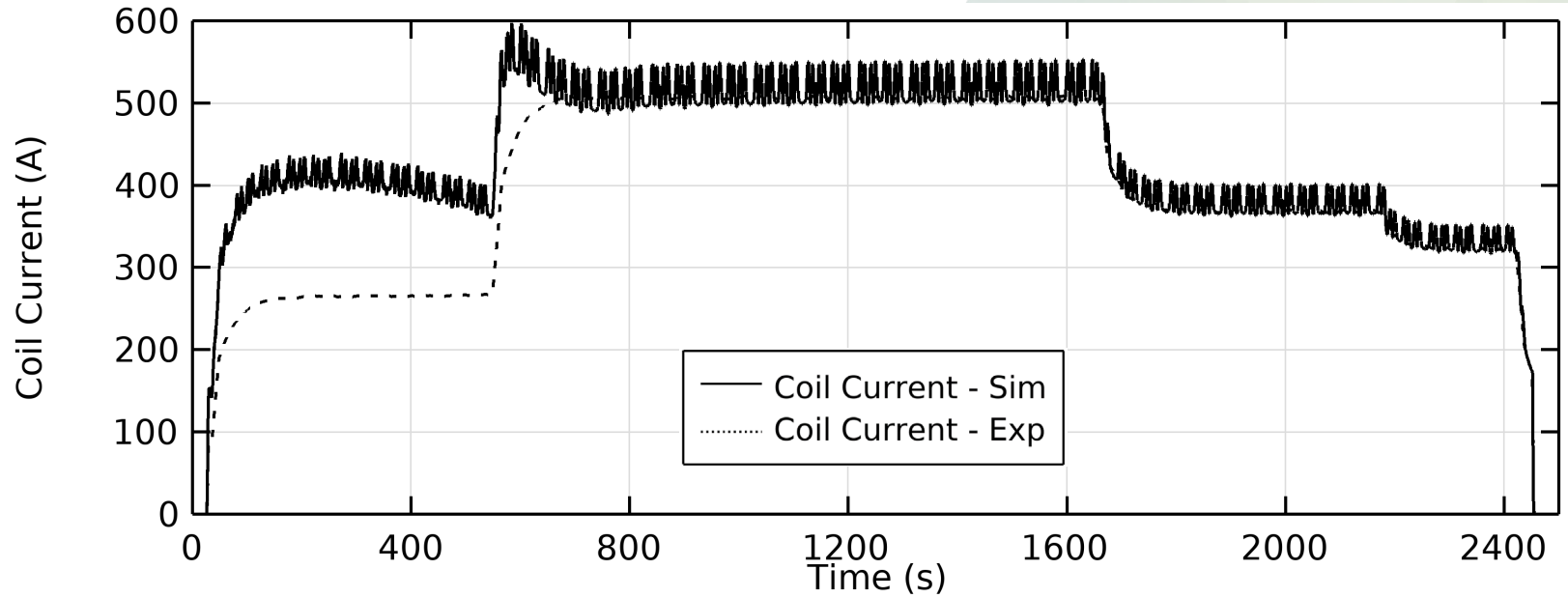
# Results - Super Duplex 2507

## Coil voltage drop



# Results - Super Duplex 2507

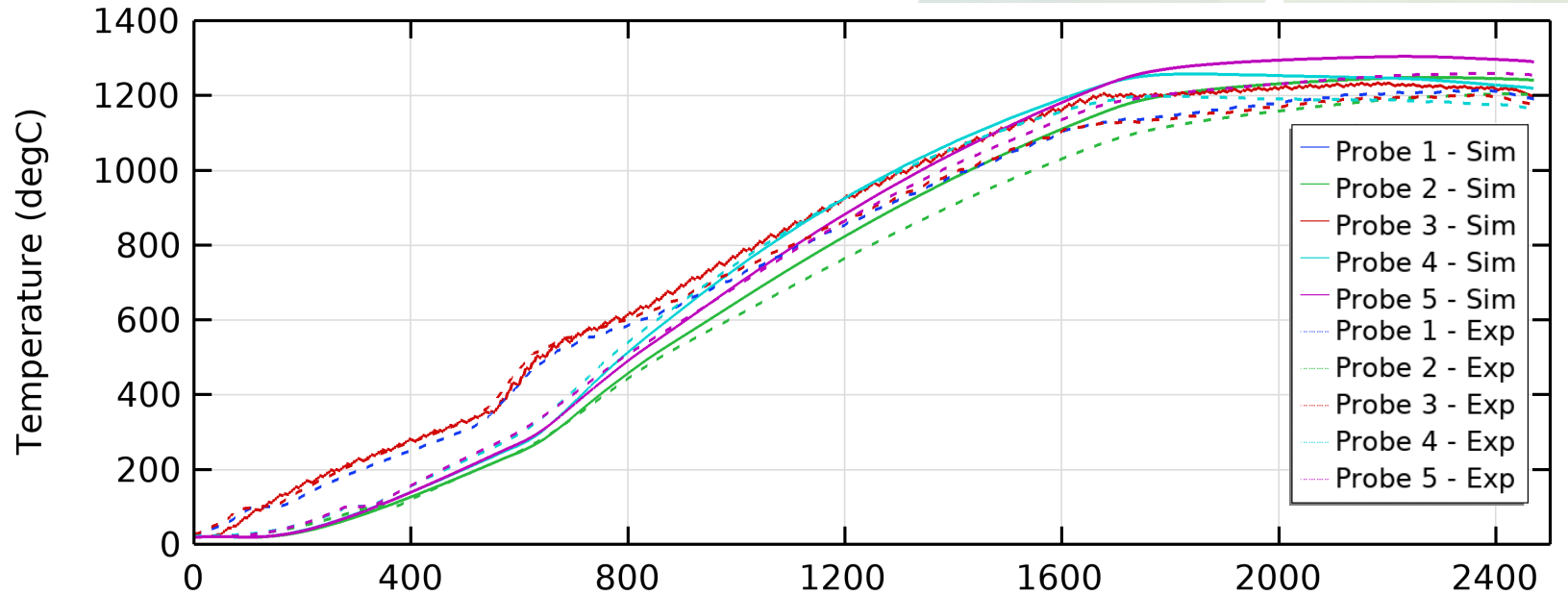
## Coil current



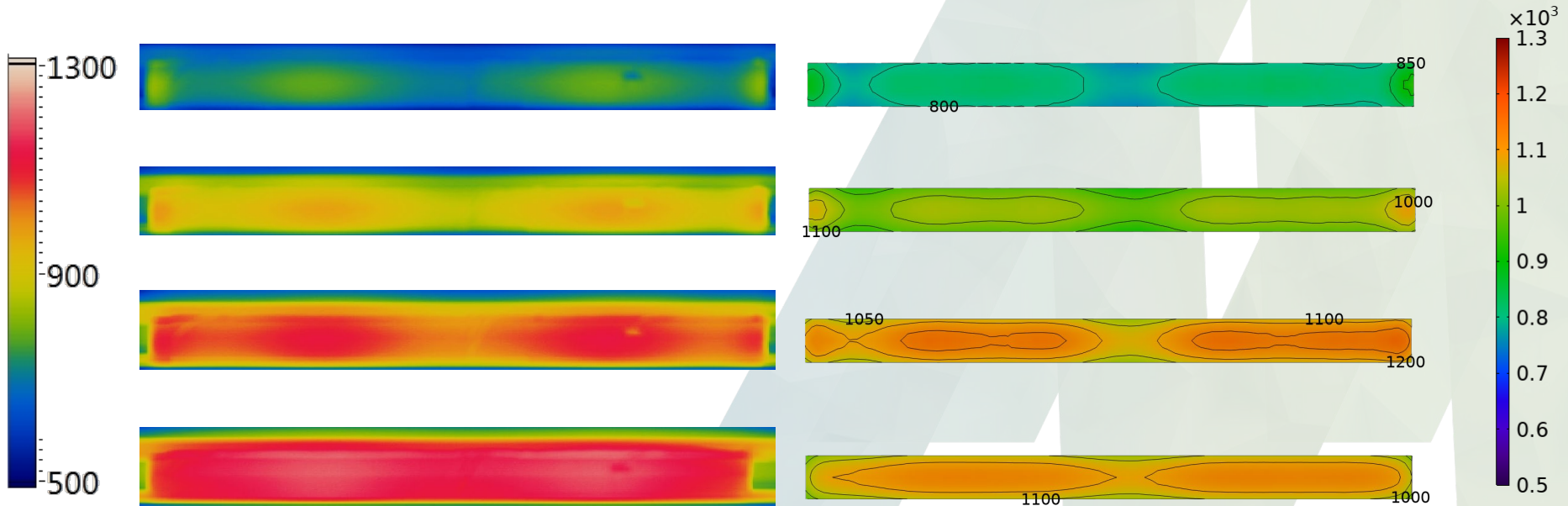


# Results - Super Duplex 2507

## Heating rate



# Results - Super Duplex 2507 Temperature

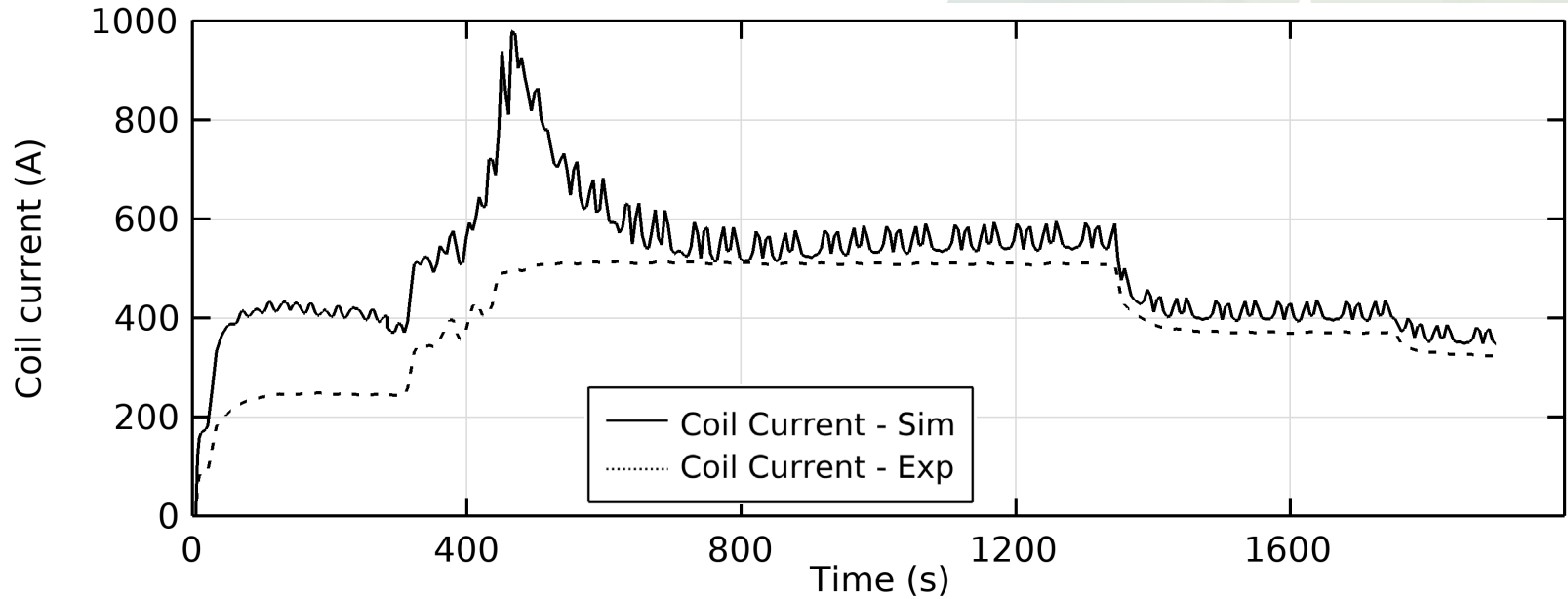






# Results - Low-alloyed steel

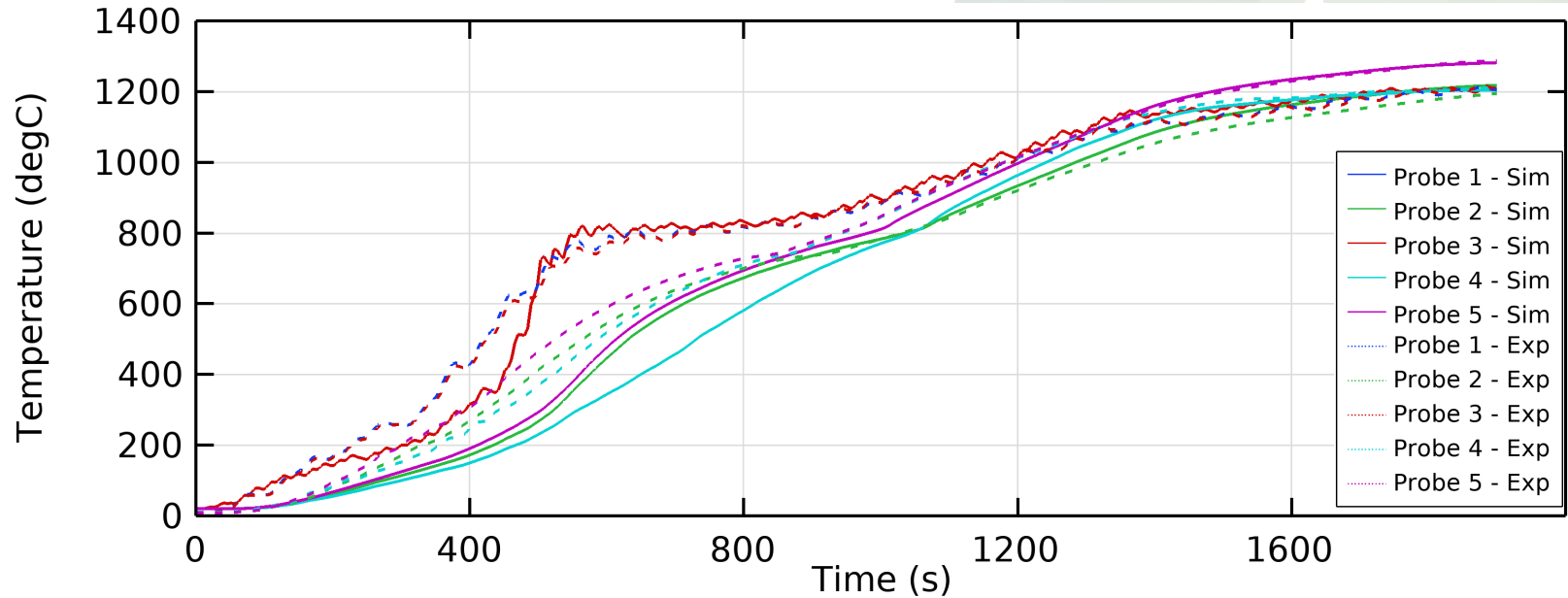
## Coil current



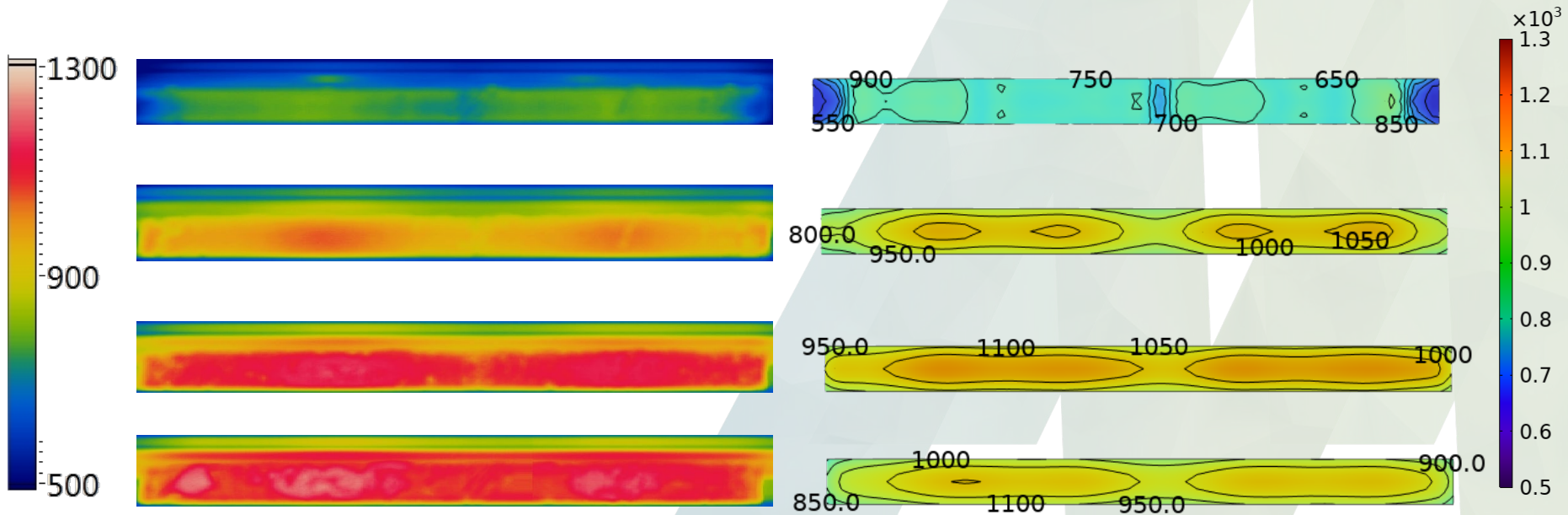


# Results - Low-alloyed steel

## Heating rate



# Results – Low-alloyed steel Temperature



# Conclusions and future work

- Used simple material models work well and give reasonable results
- Moving workpiece is simulated well using discrete stepping with conforming mesh
- Simulation of LC-circuit yields satisfactory results when compared to measurements from experiments
- Further improvement of thermal boundary conditions could increase simulation accuracy
- Simulations of more, different experiments could prove interesting.
  - Differing oscillation velocity
  - Differing coil frequency
  - More material grades

# DET STRATEGISKA INNOVATIONSPROGRAMMET

# METALLISKA

# MATERIAL

METALLISKA  
MATERIAL

**GJUTERI**  
FORENINGEN  
Swedish Foundry Association

Jernkontoret

 **Svenskt  
Aluminium**

Med stöd från

**VINNOVA**  
Sveriges innovationsmyndighet

 **Energimyndigheten**

**FORMAS** 

Strategiska  
innovations-  
program



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