

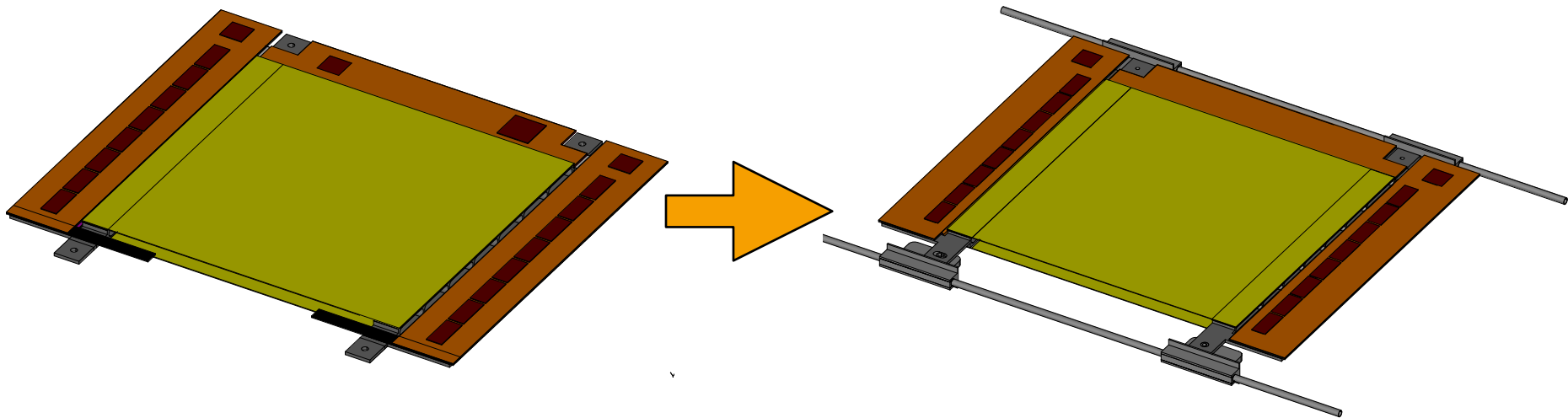
# Thoughts on Thermal Contact Resistance



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Tracker Upgrade Meeting  
26/04/2013

# Introduction

- > so far only the actual module was modeled in FEA
- > heat transfer from module to cooling blocks needs to be added
  - optimization of bridge and module side cooling contact alone might lead to the wrong conclusions
  - what is the best geometry when looking at the full picture
  - what heat transfer coefficient should be assumed / is achievable



# Thermal Contact Resistance

- thermal contact conductance can be approximated by (Yovanovich and others)

$$h_j = h_c + h_g$$

contact

$$h_c = 1.25 \lambda_s \frac{m}{\sigma} (p/H_c)^{0.95}$$

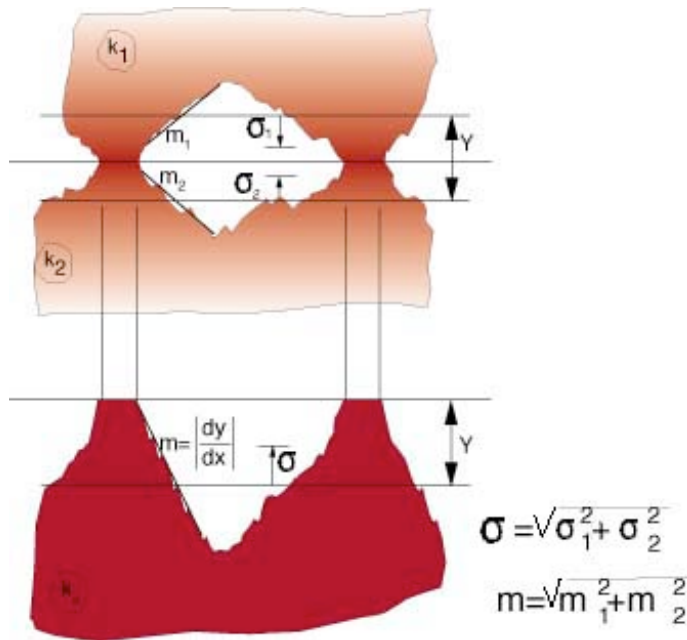
$$\lambda_s = 2\lambda_1\lambda_2/(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)$$

gap

$$h_g = \lambda_g / (Y + M)$$

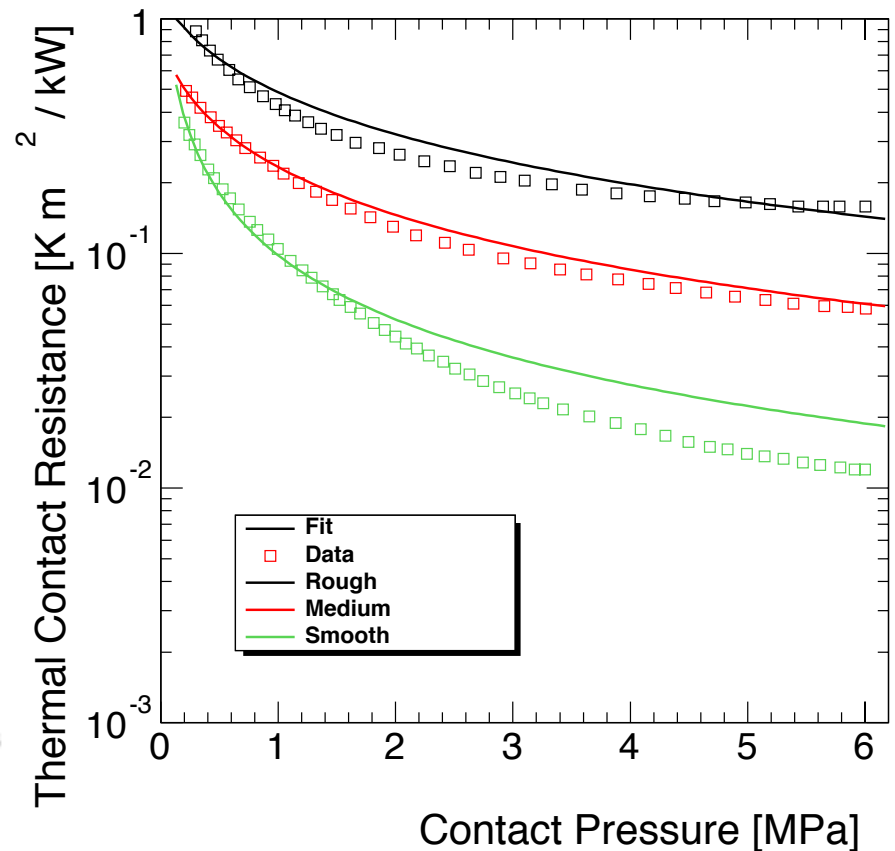
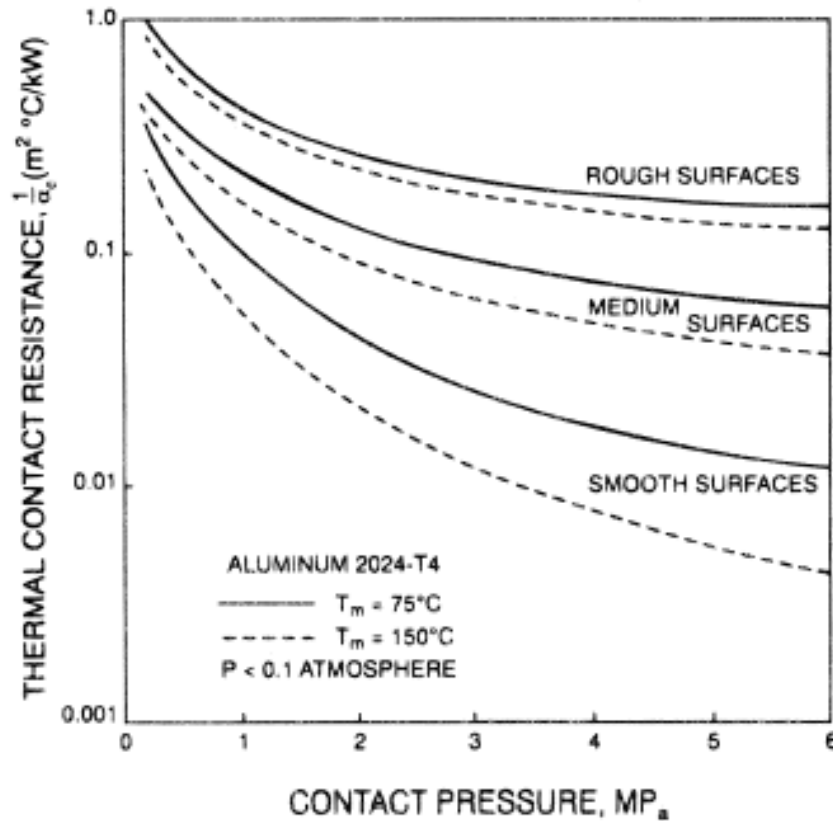
$$Y = 1.53 \sigma (p/H_c)^{-0.097}$$

$$M = M_0 \frac{T}{T_0} \frac{p_{g,0}}{p_g}$$



$p$	pressure
$\sigma$	effective RMS surface roughness
$m$	effective mean absolute asperity slope
$H_c$	surface microhardness
$\lambda_s$	harmonic mean thermal conductivity of interface
$Y$	effective gap thickness
$M$	gas parameter

# Thermal Contact Resistance - Al-Al-Interface



- effective RMS surface roughness  $\sigma$  and surface microhardness  $H_c$  are fit parameters
- fit is not really good  $\Rightarrow$  will use fit and interpolation in the following

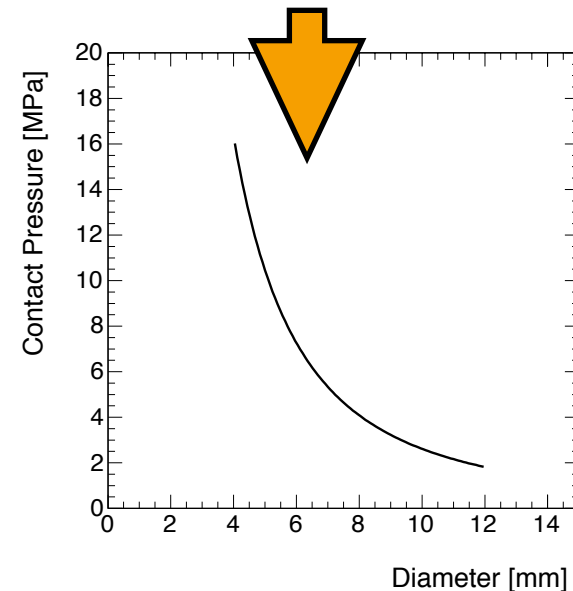
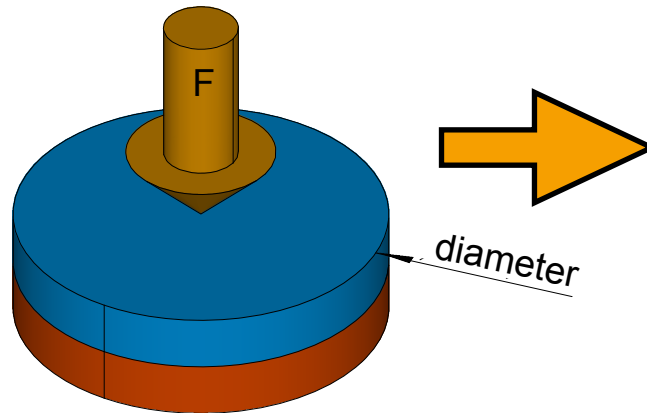
# Estimates for Module to Cooling Block Heat Transfer

- > module is mounted with a M1.4 screw
  - slope 0.3mm per turn
- > screw is tightened with 1000 g x cm torque
  - 90% of torque is lost due to friction (40% in thread, 50% under head)

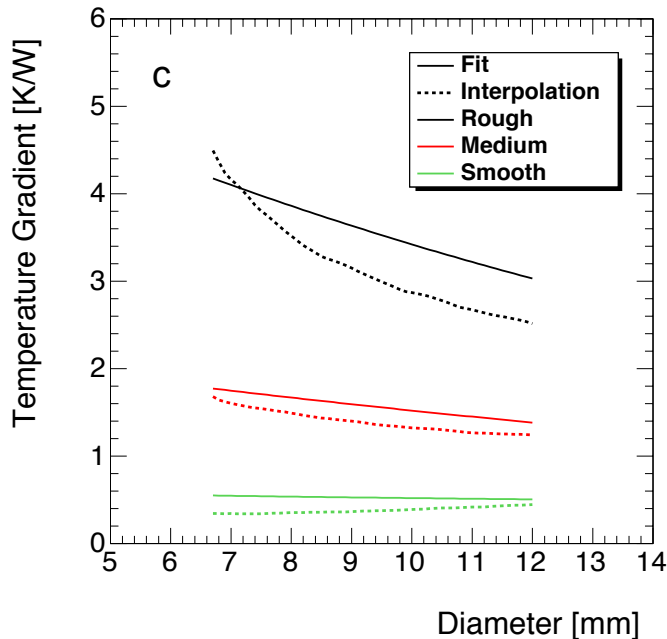
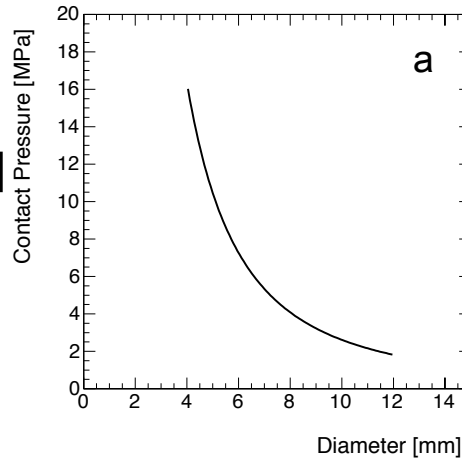
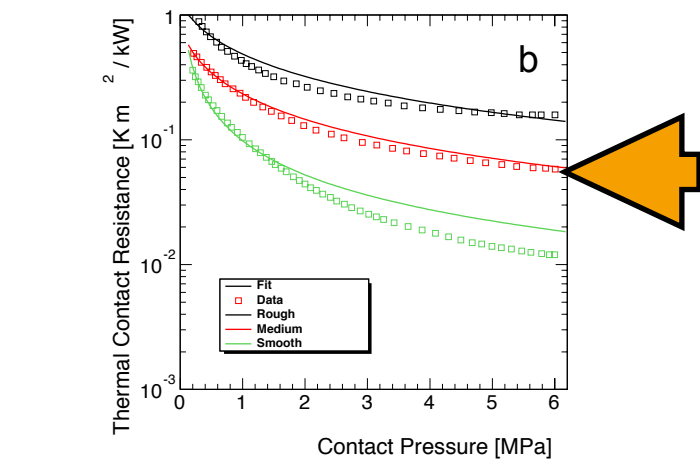
$$\tau \cdot 2\pi \cdot 0.1 = F \cdot 0.3 \text{ mm}$$

$$F = \frac{\tau \cdot 2\pi \cdot 0.1}{0.3 \text{ mm}} = 205 \text{ N}$$

- > module is mounted with a assumption: force is applied homogeneously to contact surface (circular shape)
  - has to be ensured by spring washer etc.



# Estimates for Module to Cooling Block Heat Transfer



- (a) for a given torque/force contact pressure is calculated
  - (b) thermal contact resistance  $R$  is taken from fit and interpolation for calculated contact pressure
  - (c) temperature gradient of interface is calculated from  $R$  and contact area  $\Delta T = R / A$
- only weak dependence of  $\Delta T$  on contact diameter/area present
  - benefit of increasing the contact surface is negligible (for medium and smooth surface)

# Summary

- > when looking at the module alone a large cooling contact seems to be the best choice
- > with respect to the heat transfer we do not benefit from the larger surface
  - in fact, ensuring an efficient usage of the contact surface will become tricky for larger contact areas
- > increasing the force will not change the result
  - in any case we have to make sure that 3 out of 4 contacts can slide

