

**JOIN'EM**  
INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR ADVANCED JOINING AND  
ASSEMBLY PROCESSES FOR MULTI-MATERIALS



# **Laser Ultrasound as a tool for the characterisation of electromagnetic welded joints**

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# Agenda

- Motivation
- Process principle: Magnetic Pulse Welding (MPW)
- LUS on MP welded sheet metal specimen
  - Setup
  - Results
- LUS on MP welded tubular specimen
  - Setup
  - Results
- Summary and conclusions

# Motivation

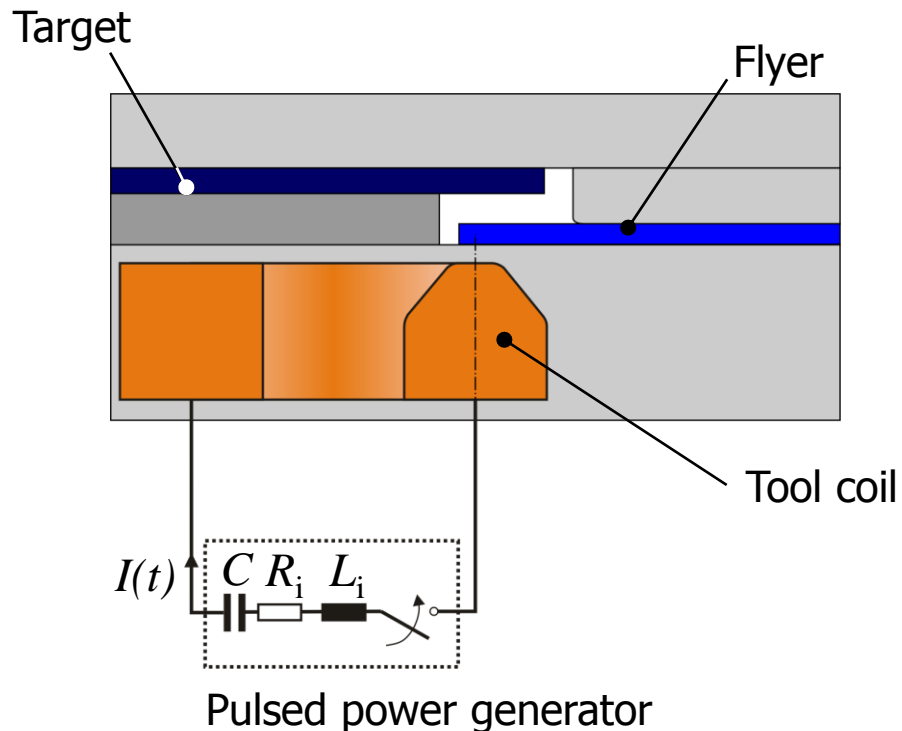
- Increasing awareness of responsibility for environmental protection and resource efficiency
- Increasing significance of product weight
- Multi-material design allows
  - Weight savings
  - Improved product performance
  - Cost reduction
- Increasing need of innovative joining technologies allowing the production of high quality joints for complex material combinations such as e.g.
  - Copper / aluminium
  - Steel / aluminium
- **New inspection methods for new joining technologies**



**Agenda 2030**

# Magnetic pulse welding - process principle

## Exemplary setup of a sheet welding process

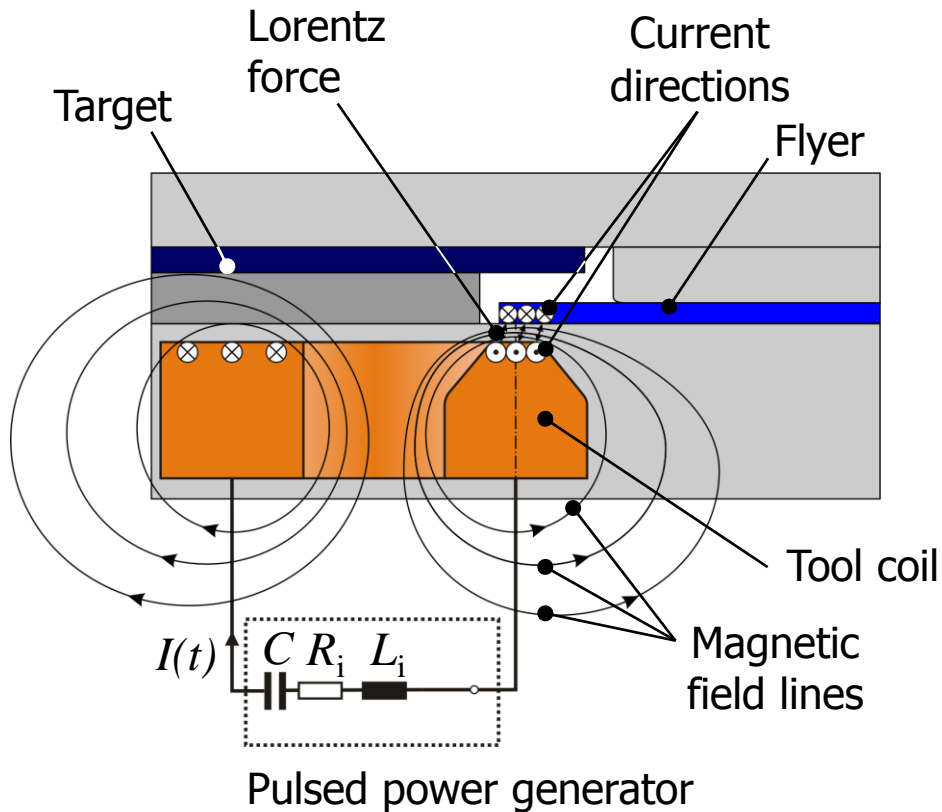


## Characteristics of MPW

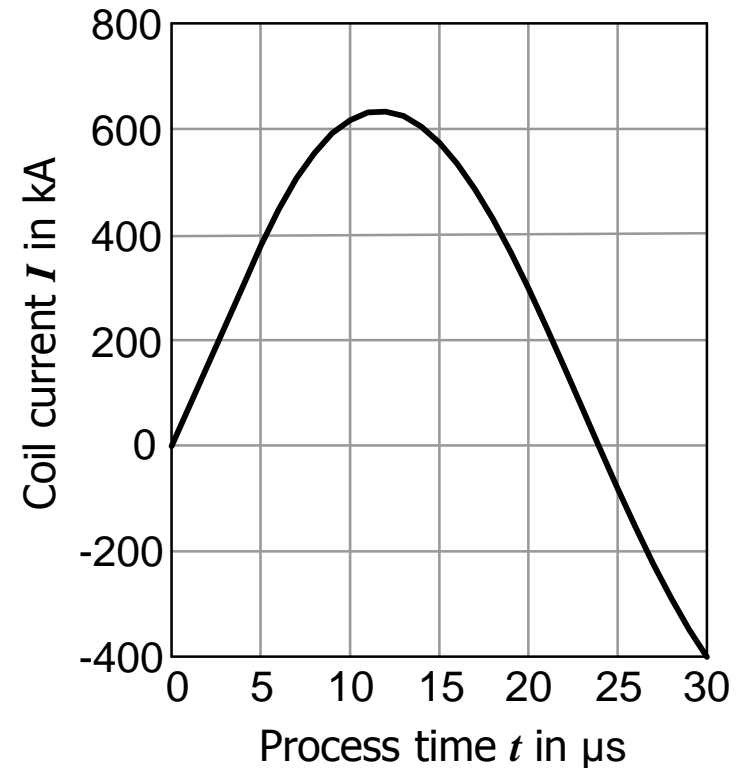
- Joint produced by high speed collision of flyer and target
- No significant heating of the parts
- No temperature induced problems (intermetallics, thermal softening, etc.)
- Conventionally non-weldable material combinations possible (e.g. Cu - Al, (stainless) steel - Al)
- High quality joints:
  - Mechanical strength
  - Electrical conductivity
- Applicable for tube and sheet metal

# Magnetic pulse welding - process principle

## Exemplary setup of a sheet welding process

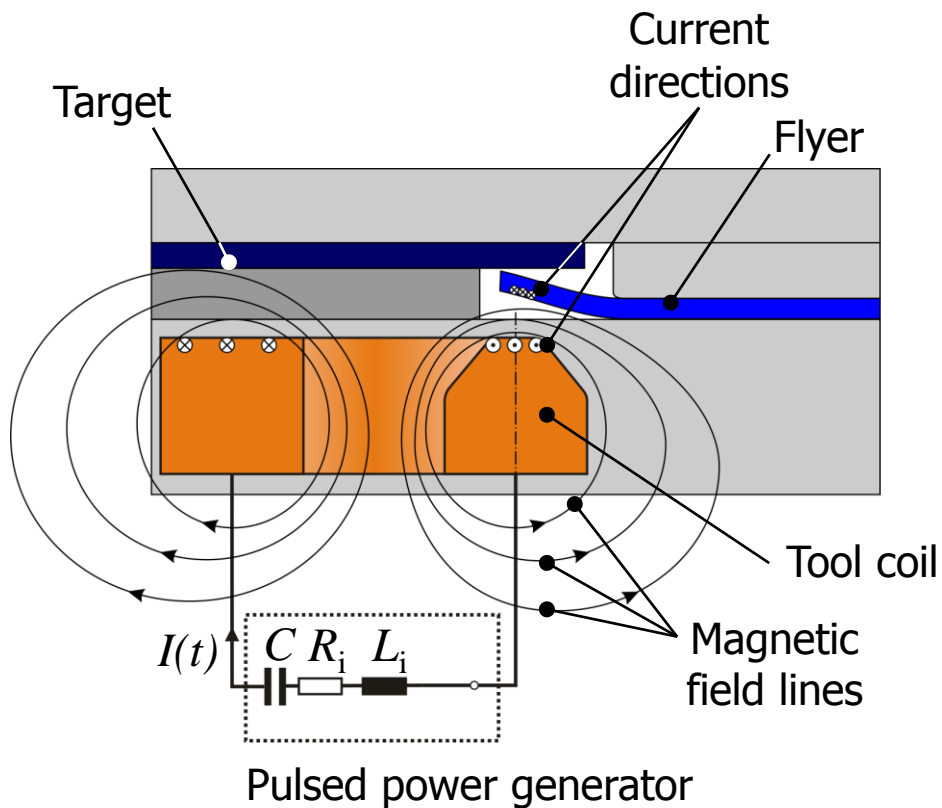


## Course of the coil current

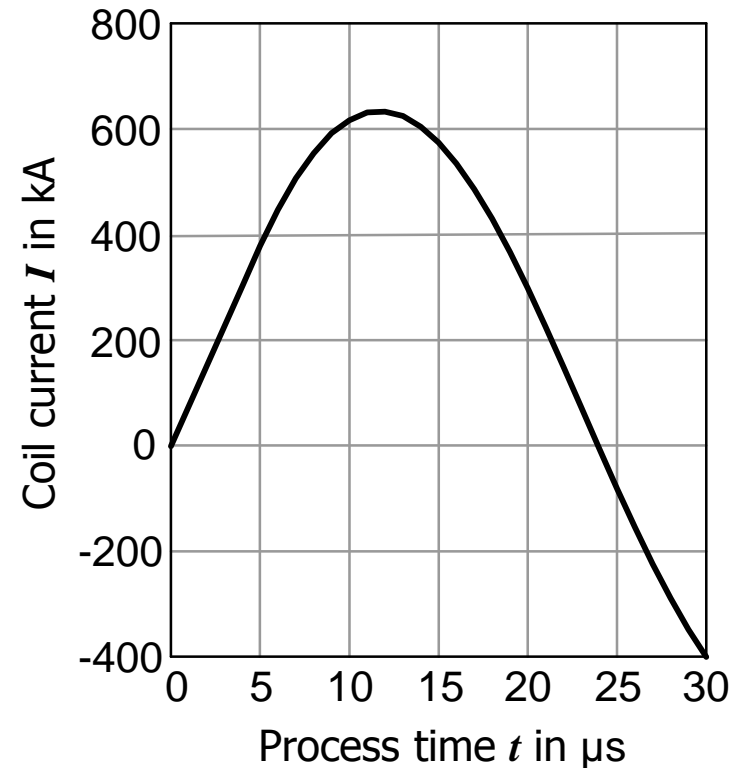


# Magnetic pulse welding - process principle

## Exemplary setup of a sheet welding process

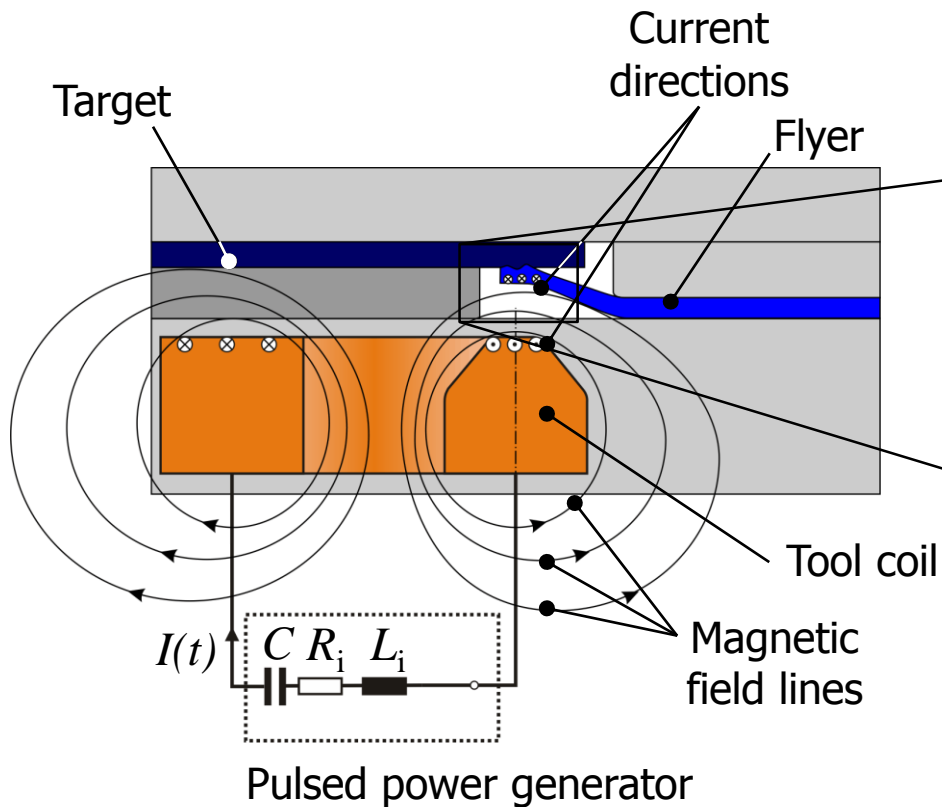


## Course of the coil current

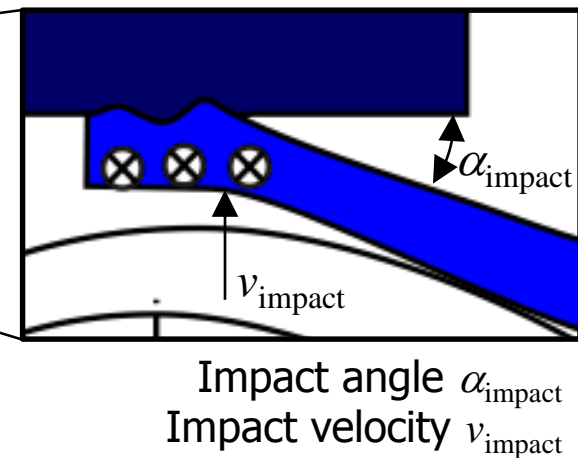


# Magnetic pulse welding - process principle

## Exemplary setup of a sheet welding process



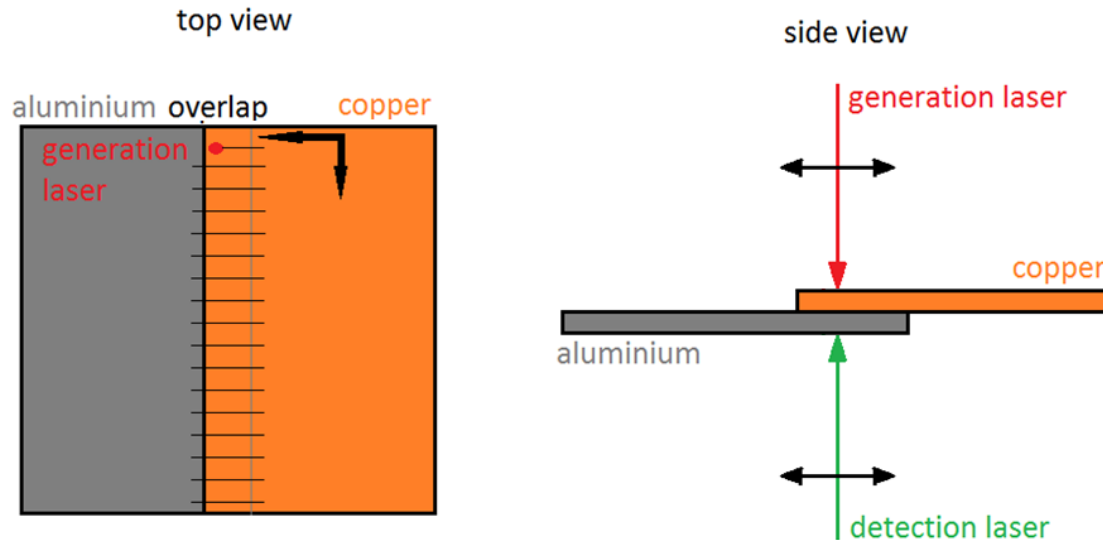
## Collision parameters





# Sheet metal specimen - Setup

## Measurement configuration

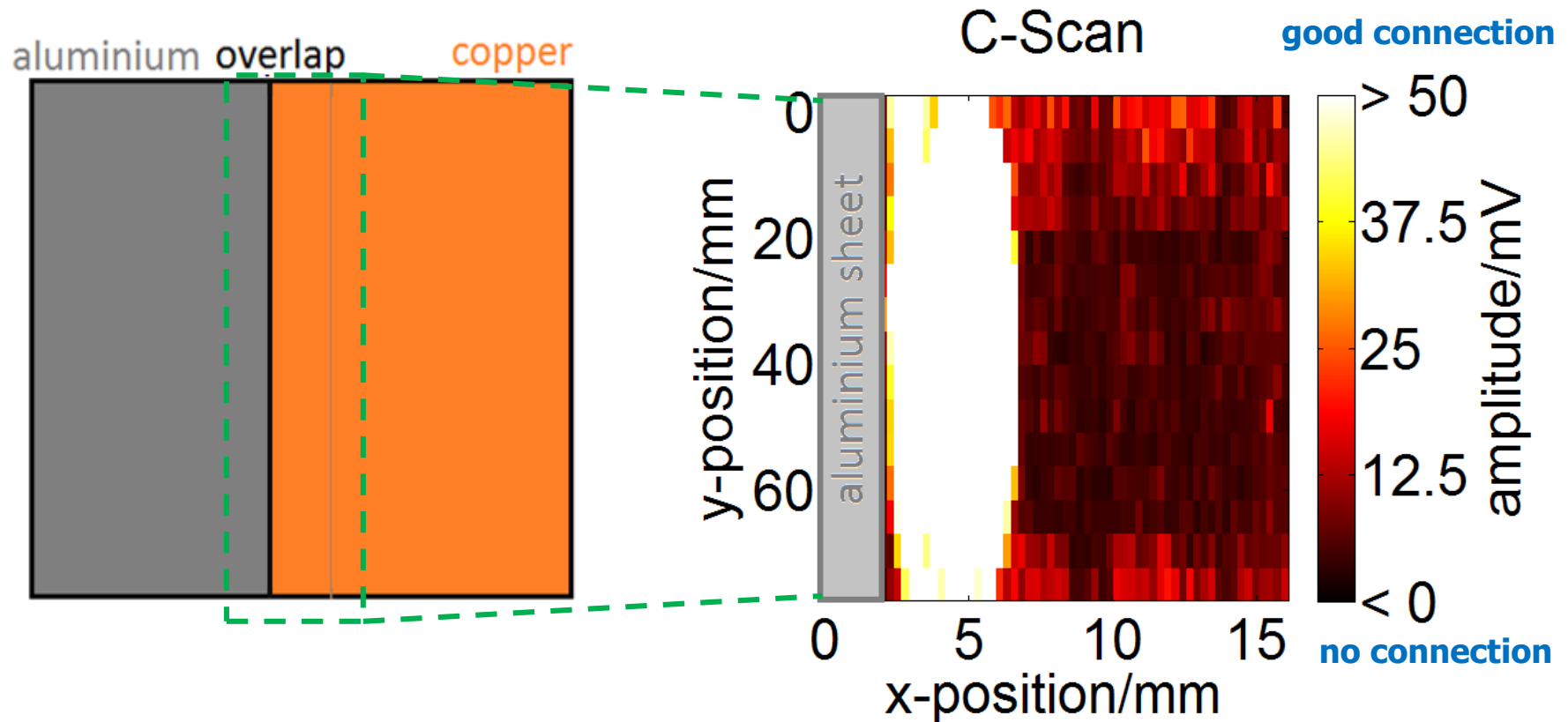


### Experimental parameters:

- Generation laser: nanosecond Q-switched pulse laser (wavelength: 1064nm, 1ns pulse duration, <2mJ/pulse, <2kHz repetition rate)
- Detection unit: two-wave-mixing (TWM) interferometer using a cw laser with 532 nm wavelength



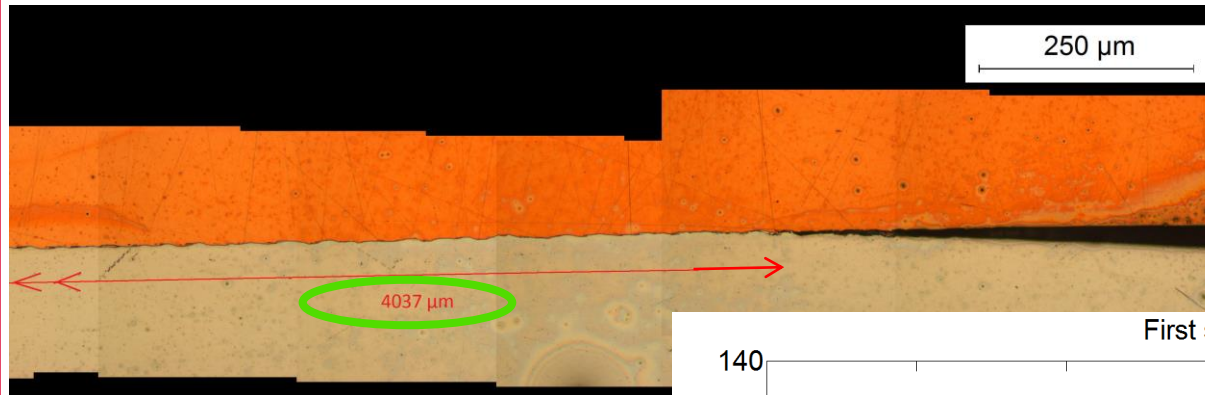
# Sheet metal specimen - Results



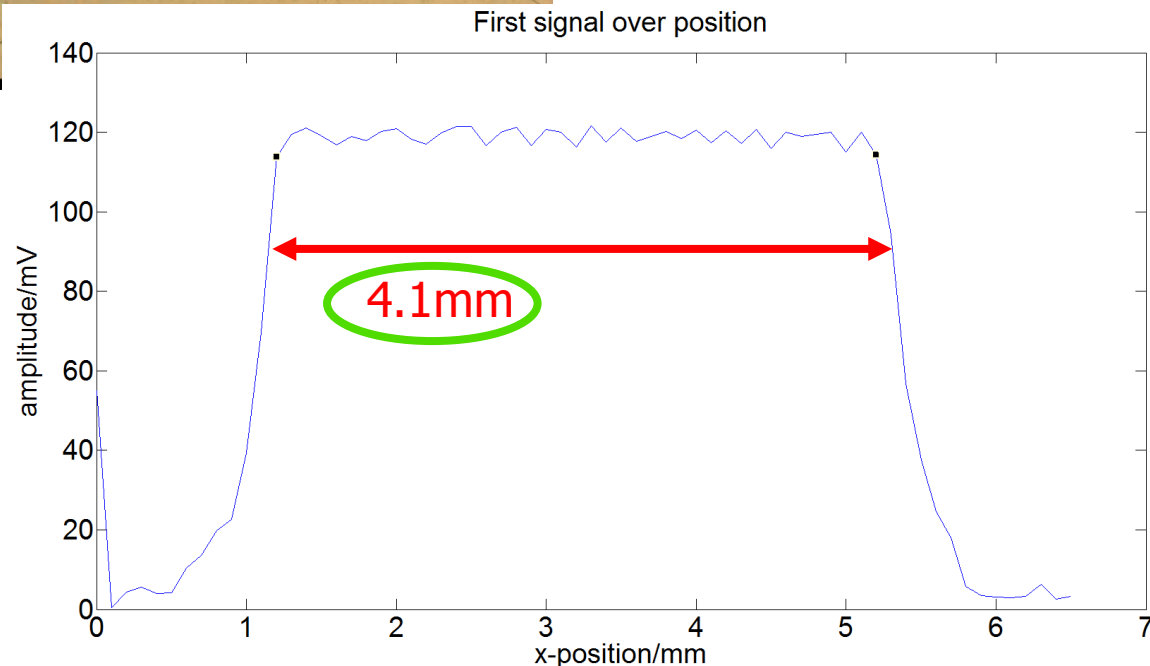
Spatial resolution for LUS scanning:  
 $\Delta x \leq 0.25 \text{ mm}$ ,  $\Delta y = 5 \text{ mm}$

# Sheet metal specimen - Results

## Comparison with destructive tests - metallography

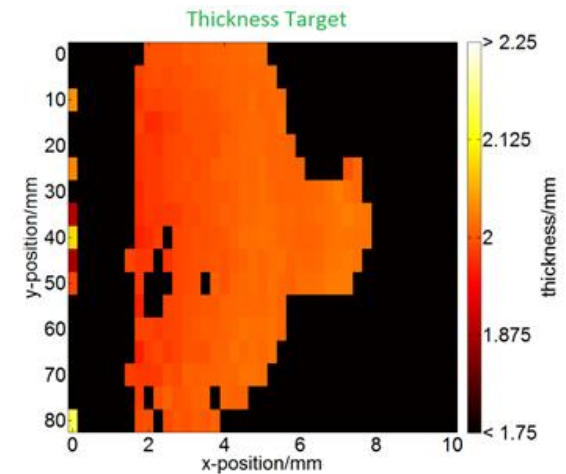
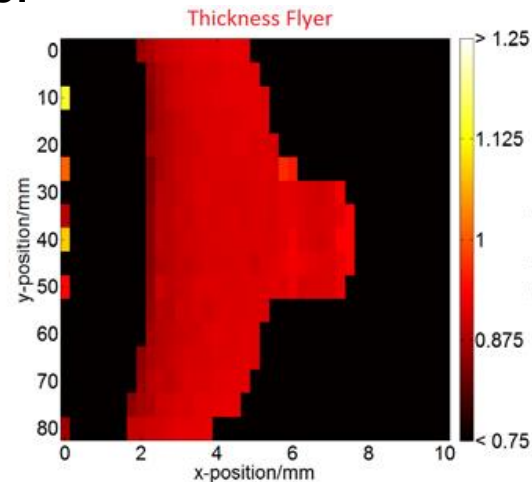
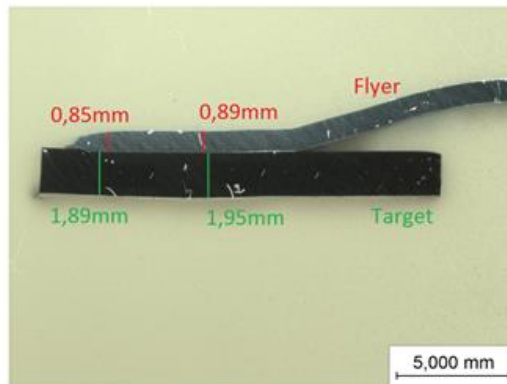


- Micrograph:
  - Micrographs show a quite good agreement with LUS measurements
  - Definition of threshold level at 75% of maximum amplitude.

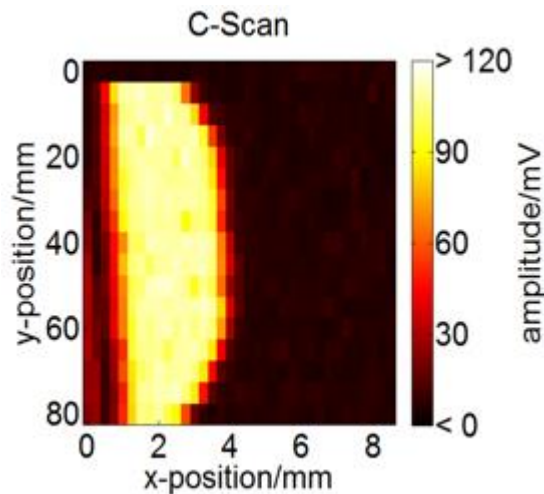


# Sheet metal specimen - Results

## Thickness measurements:



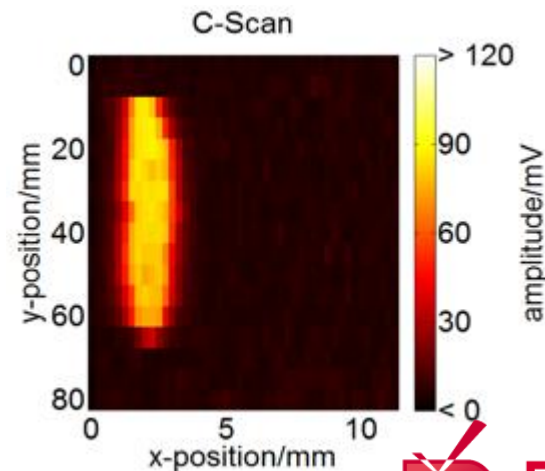
## Lap-shear test:



Results from lap shear test:

**1500N** shear strength

Failure of the base material



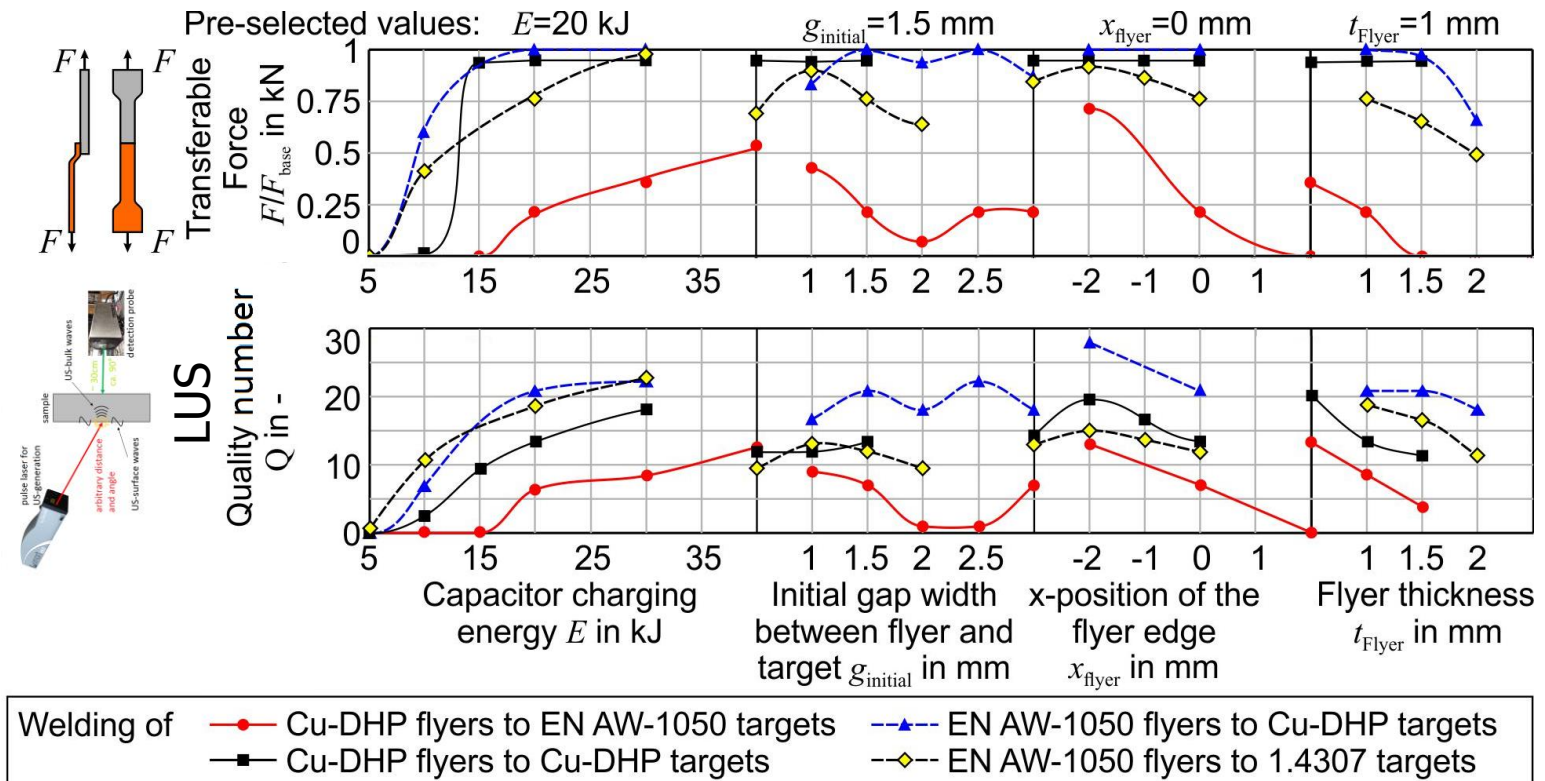
Results from lap shear test:

**<1000N** shear strength

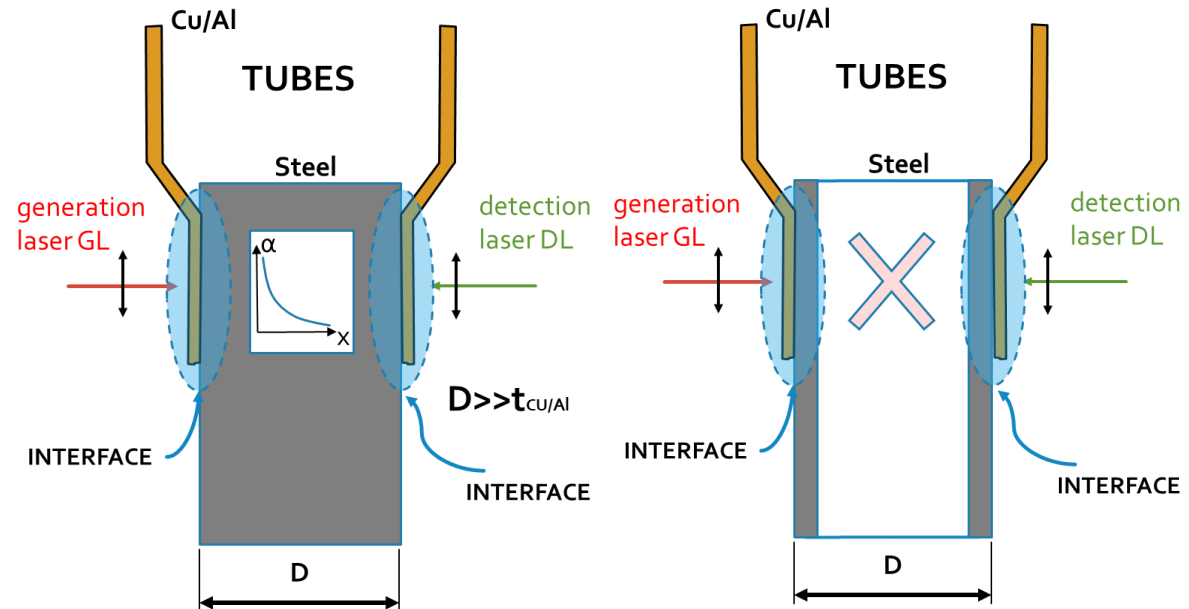
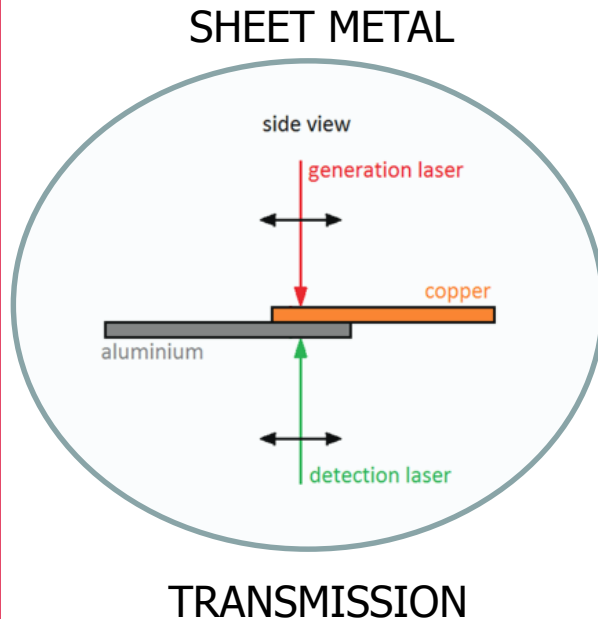
Failure of the joint

# Sheet metal specimen - Results

- Check validity of LUS determined quality number:
  - Very good qualitative agreement of transferable force and quality number



# Tubular specimen - Setup

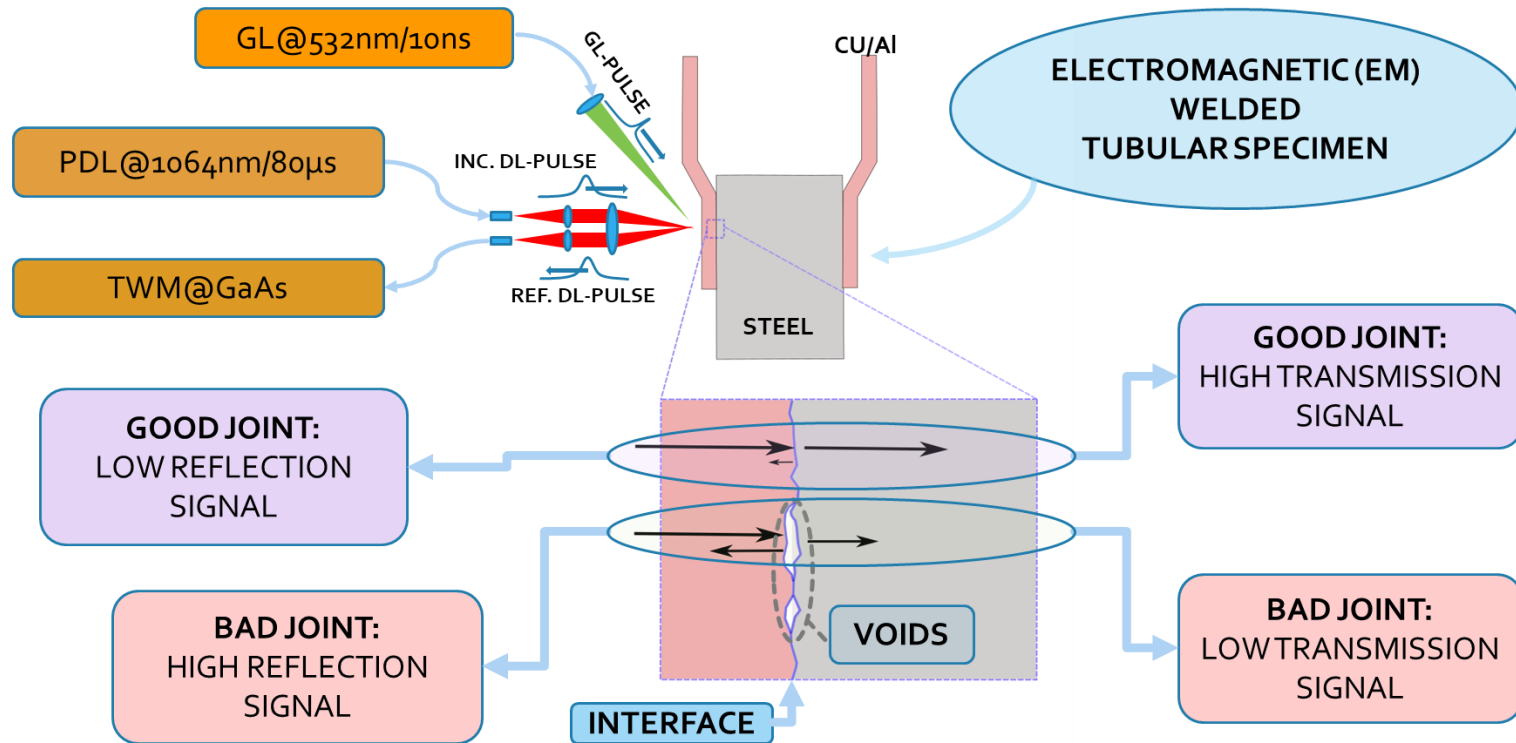


- Due to high absorption  $\alpha$  ( $D \gg t$ ) only a weak transmitted US-signal is available on tubular samples
- 2 interfaces cannot be distinguished
- No transmitted US-signal for hollow inner parts

**Solution: using backscattered US-signal on the first interface (pulse echo)!**



# Tubular specimen - Setup



## Experimental parameters:

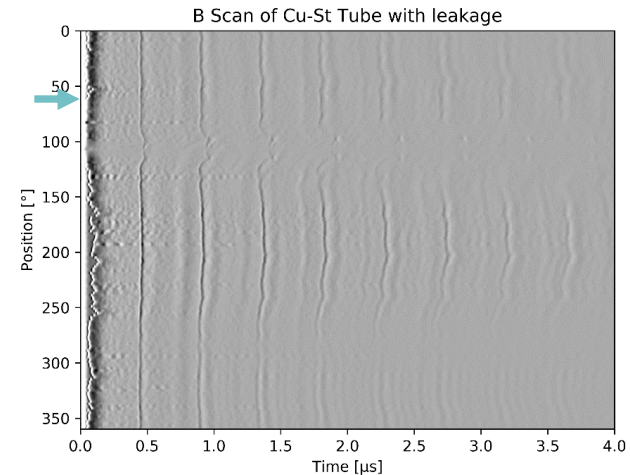
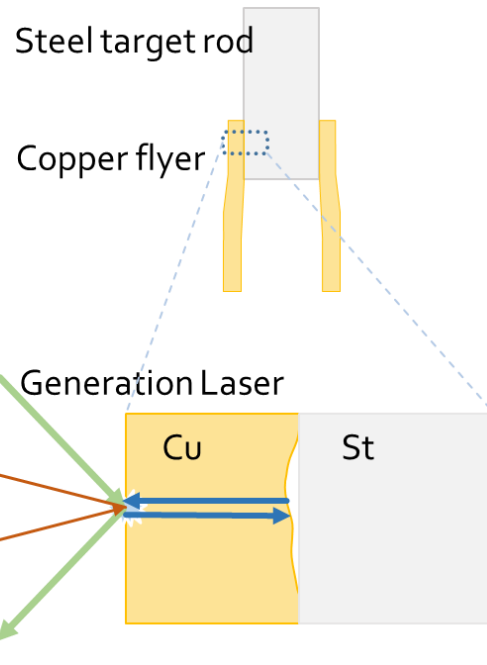
- Generation laser: fiberized nanosecond Q-switched pulse laser (wavelength: 532nm, 10ns pulse duration, energy of 30mJ)
- Detection unit: a pulsed detection laser (PDL, wavelength: 1064nm, 10µs pulse duration, <500 Watts peak power) and a TWM interferometer with GaAs photorefractive crystal

# Tubular specimen - Results

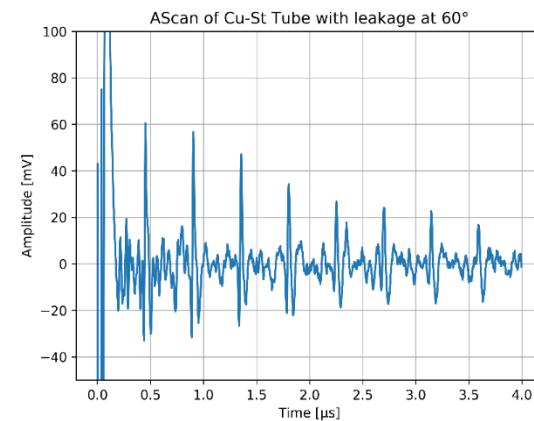
## CU-STEEL specimen with large leakage



BAD SAMPLES: LARGE NUMBER OF PULSE ECHOES FROM THE FIRST INTERFACE!



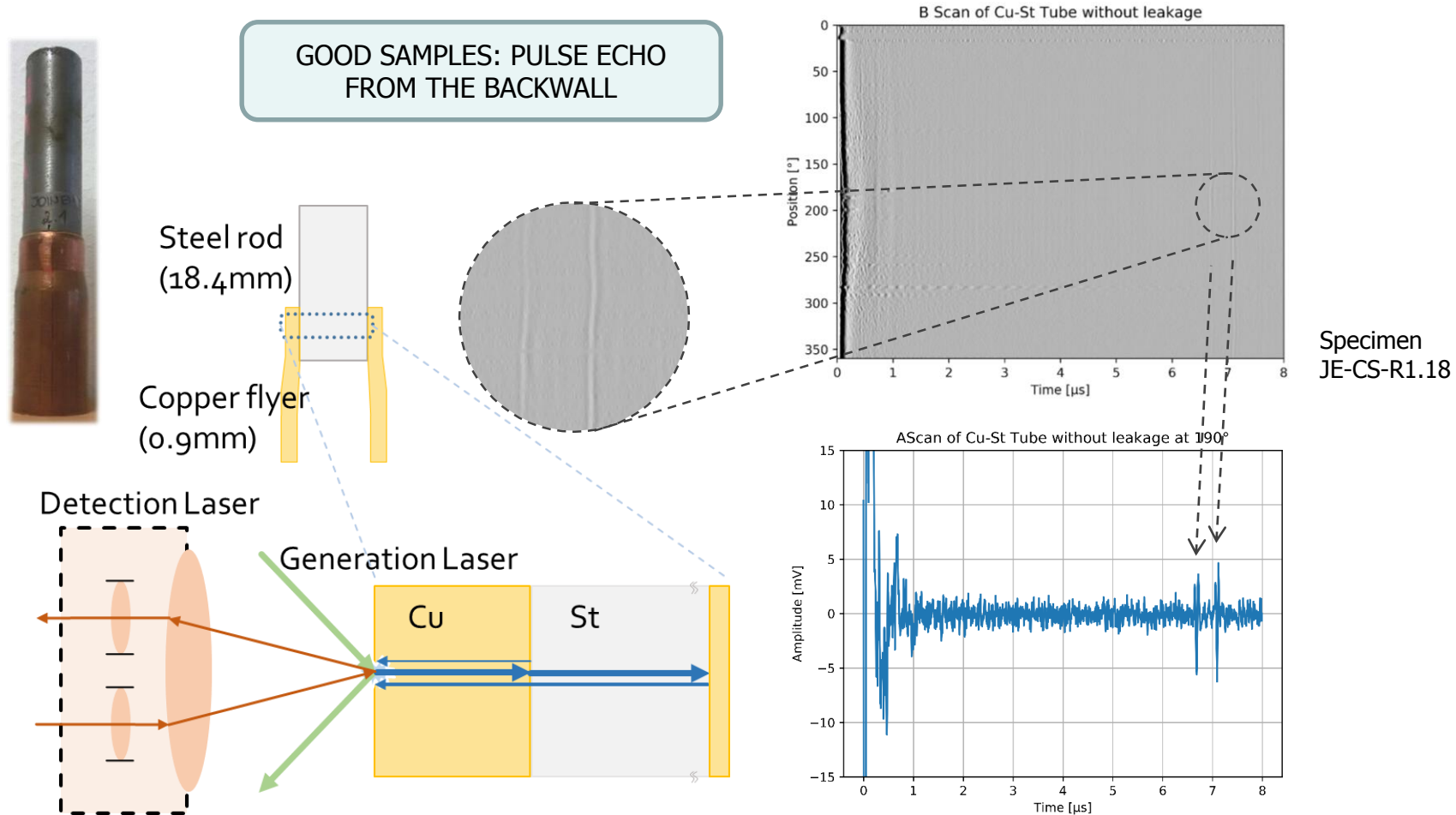
Specimen J114





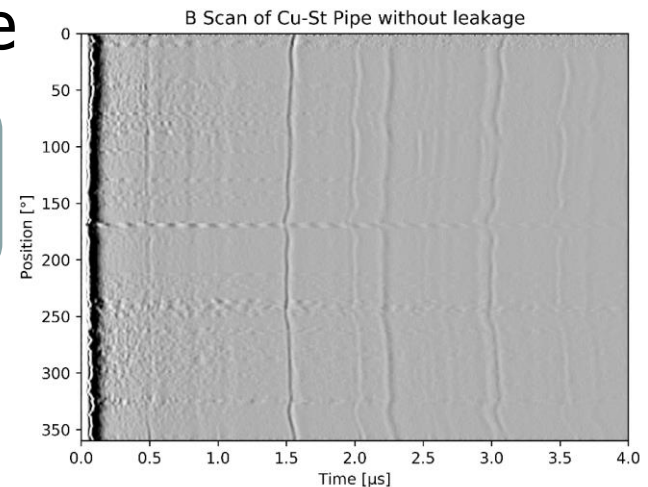
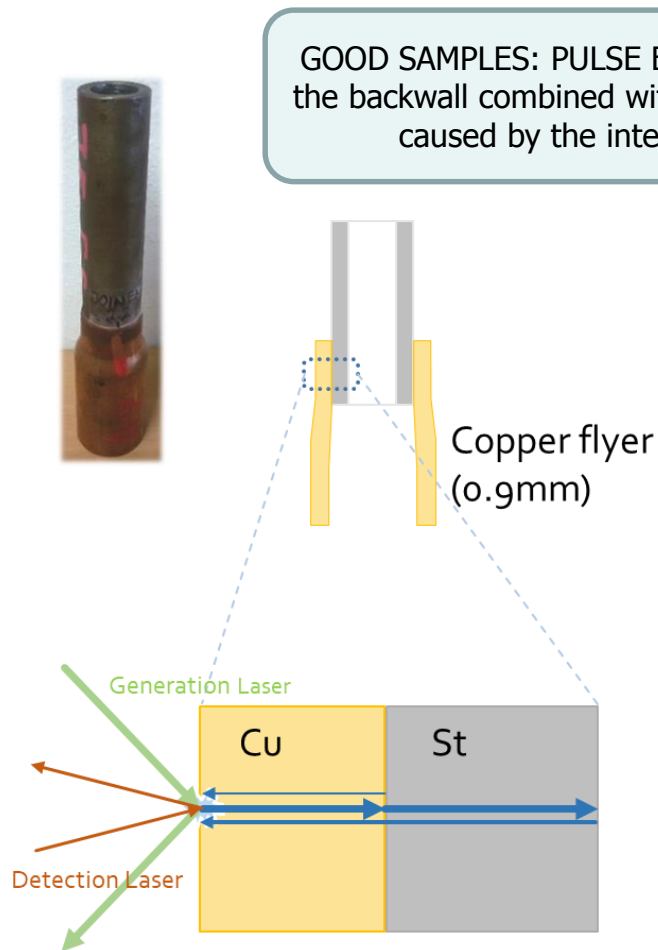
# Tubular specimen - Results

## CU-STEEL specimen without leakage

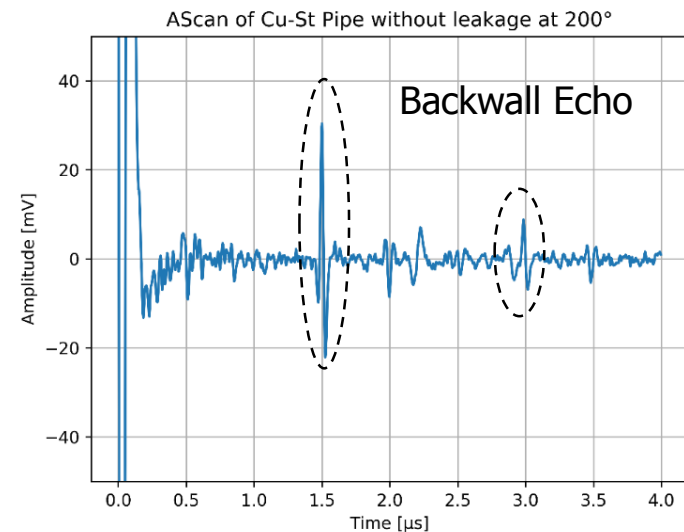


# Tubular specimen - Results

## CU-STEEL tube without leakage

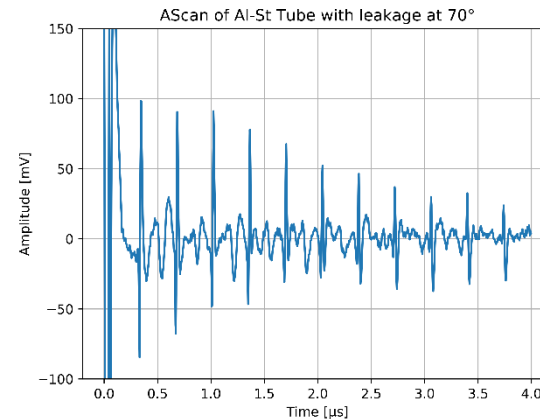
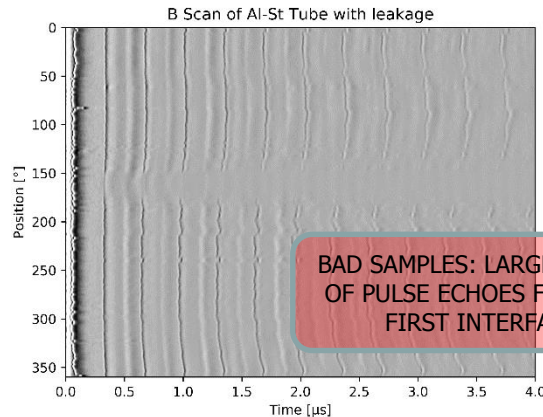


Specimen  
JE-CS-R2.4

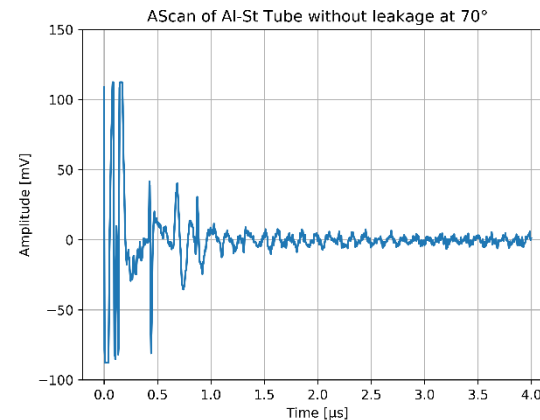
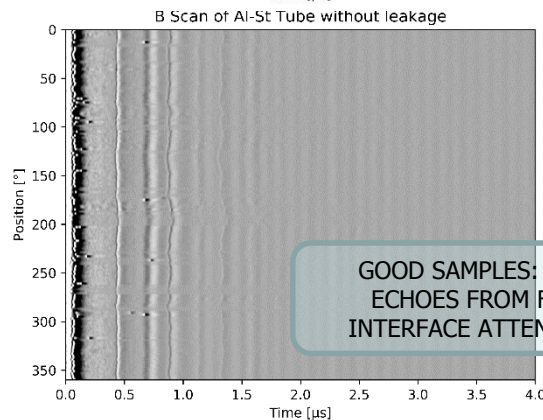


# Tubular specimen - Results

## AL-STEEL specimen



Specimen  
JE-AS-  
R1.9



Specimen  
JE-AS-R6-  
1.3m

Interface is visible for  
good samples:

$$Z_{ST} = 46.6 \cdot 10^6 \text{ kg/m}^2\text{s}$$

$$Z_{AL} = 17.0 \cdot 10^6 \text{ kg/m}^2\text{s}$$

$$Z_{CU} = 41.6 \cdot 10^6 \text{ kg/m}^2\text{s}$$



$$R_{CU\ ST} = 0.3\%$$

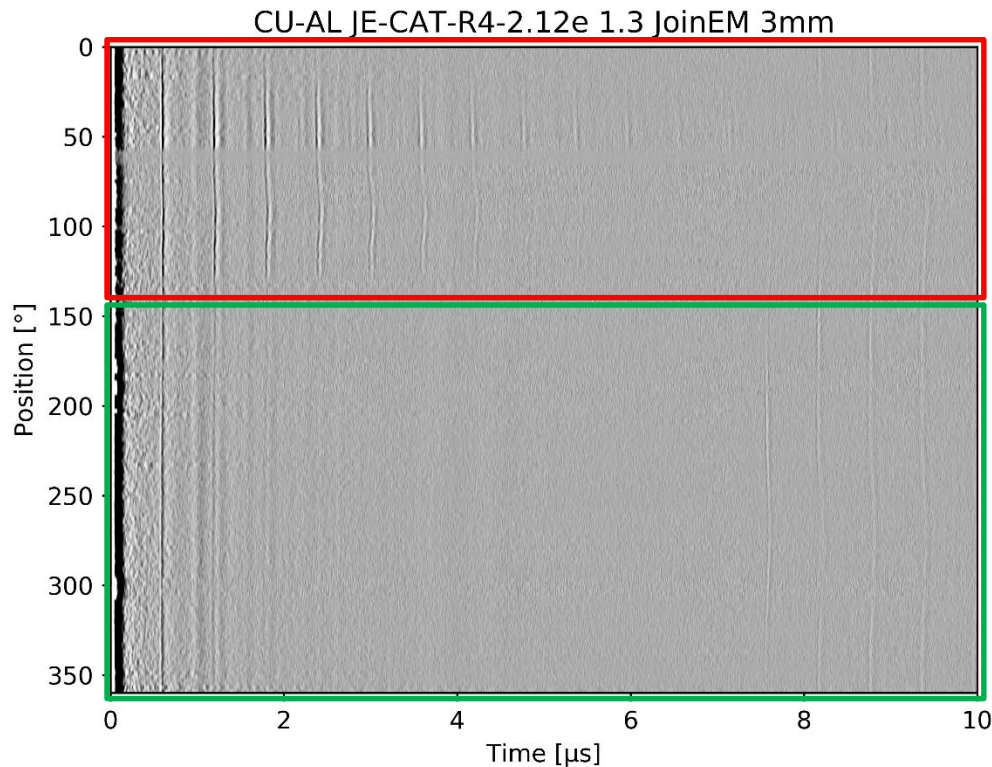
$$R_{AL\ ST} = 21\%$$



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# Tubular specimen - Results

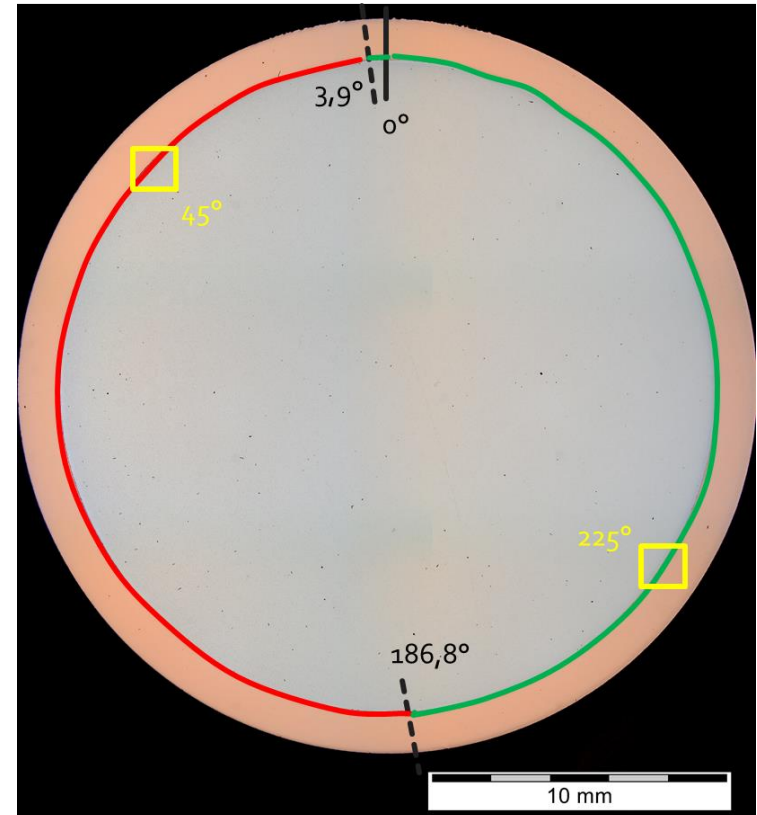
## Comparision with metallography



Color code:

green: welded zone

red: unwelded zone

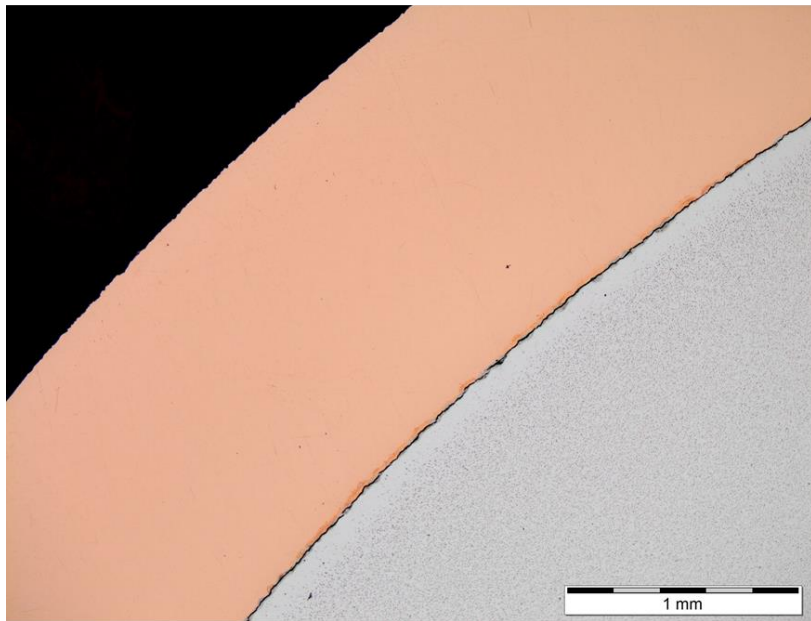




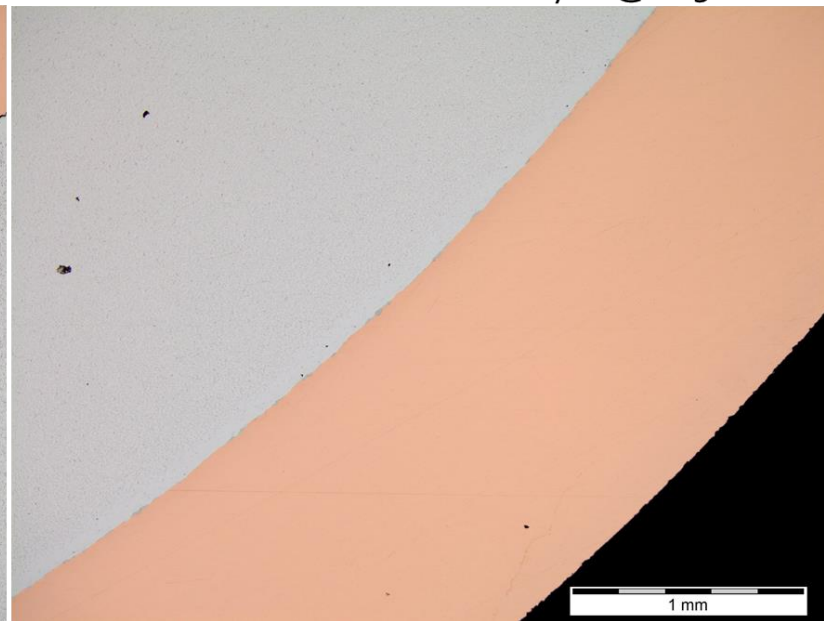
# Tubular specimen - Results

## Comparision with metallography

Unwelded zone  
with remains of interfacial layer @ 45°



Welded zone  
without interfacial layer @ 225°



# Summary and conclusion

- Magnetic pulse welding is used for e.g. joining of dissimilar materials
- Two different Laser ultrasound systems have been developed
  - transmission configuration for sheet metal
  - reflection configuration for tubular specimen
- Good and bad samples show different ultrasound signals
- Good agreement with destructive test

# Acknowledgement

- [illegible]

