



10

Rising water

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10. Rising water

Fill a saucer up with water and place a candle vertically in the middle of the saucer.

The candle is lit and then covered by a transparent beaker.

Investigate and explain the further phenomenon.



What does it look like?



Simple mechanism

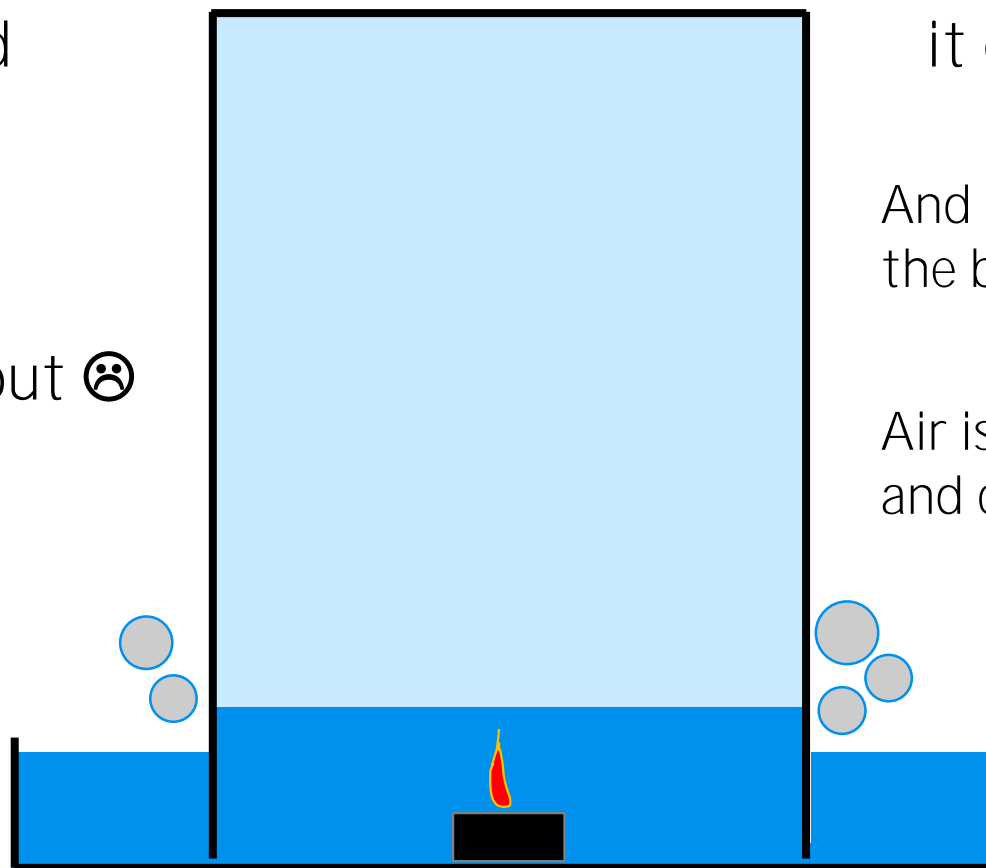
Air is heated

it expands

And is pushed outside
the beaker

Candle dies out ☹️

Air is cooled down
and contracts



WATER RISES



Important questions to answer

1. How do p , V , T change?
2. How does the amount of gas change?
 - Combustion of oxygen
3. Where does heat from the candle go?
 - Heating of the air, losses



1. IDEAL GAS LAW QUANTITIES

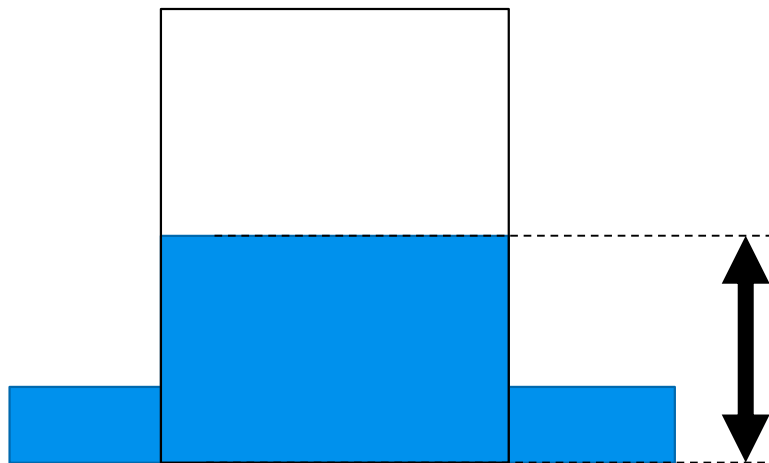
Pressure

Temperature

Volume

Pressure inside the beaker

Changes of water level (hydrostatic pressure)
compensate gas pressure changes



$$\Delta h < 0.1\text{m}$$

$$\Delta p = \Delta h \rho g < 0.01 p_{ATM}$$

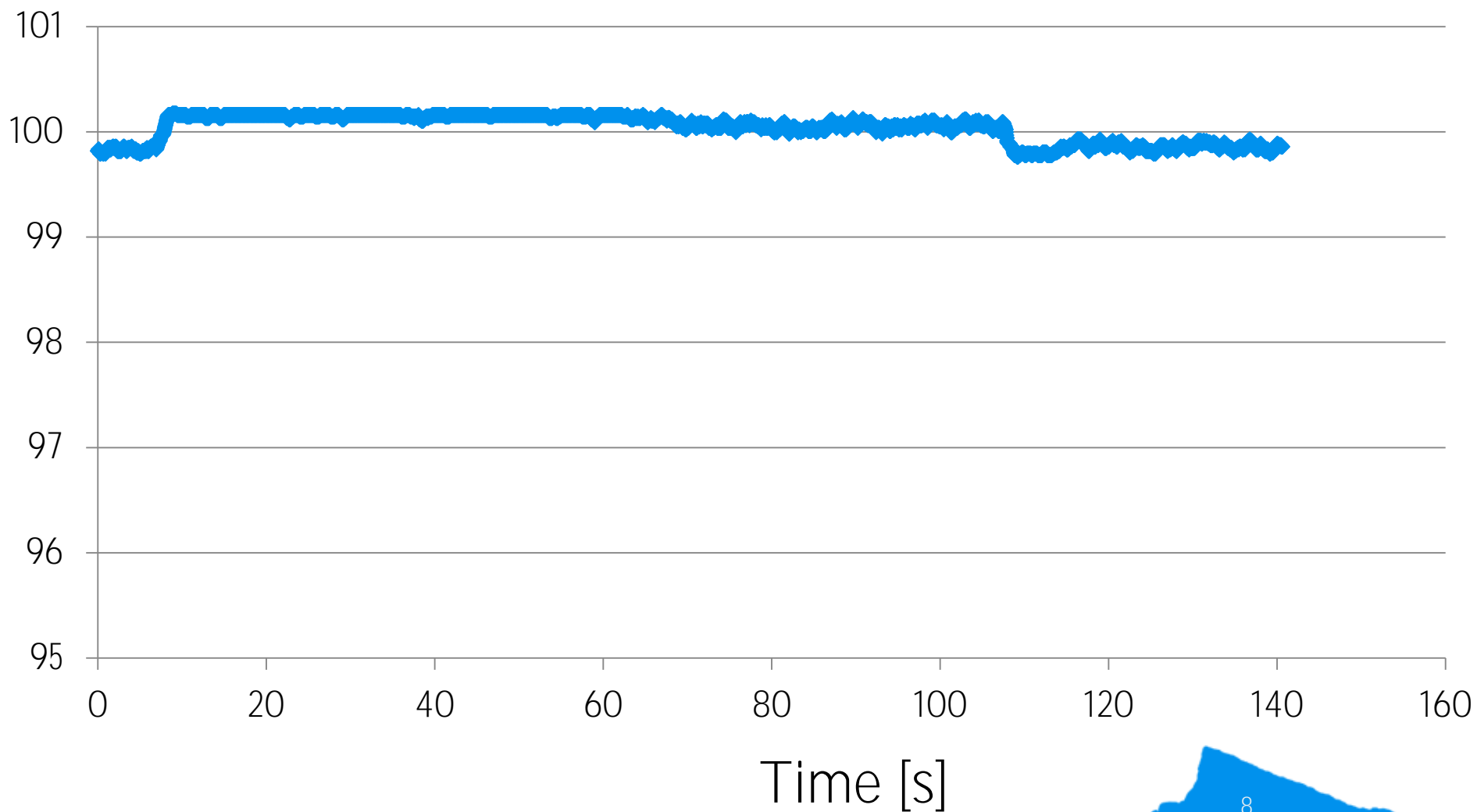
Pressure does not change significantly

→ Isobaric process, Gay-Lussac law $V \propto T$



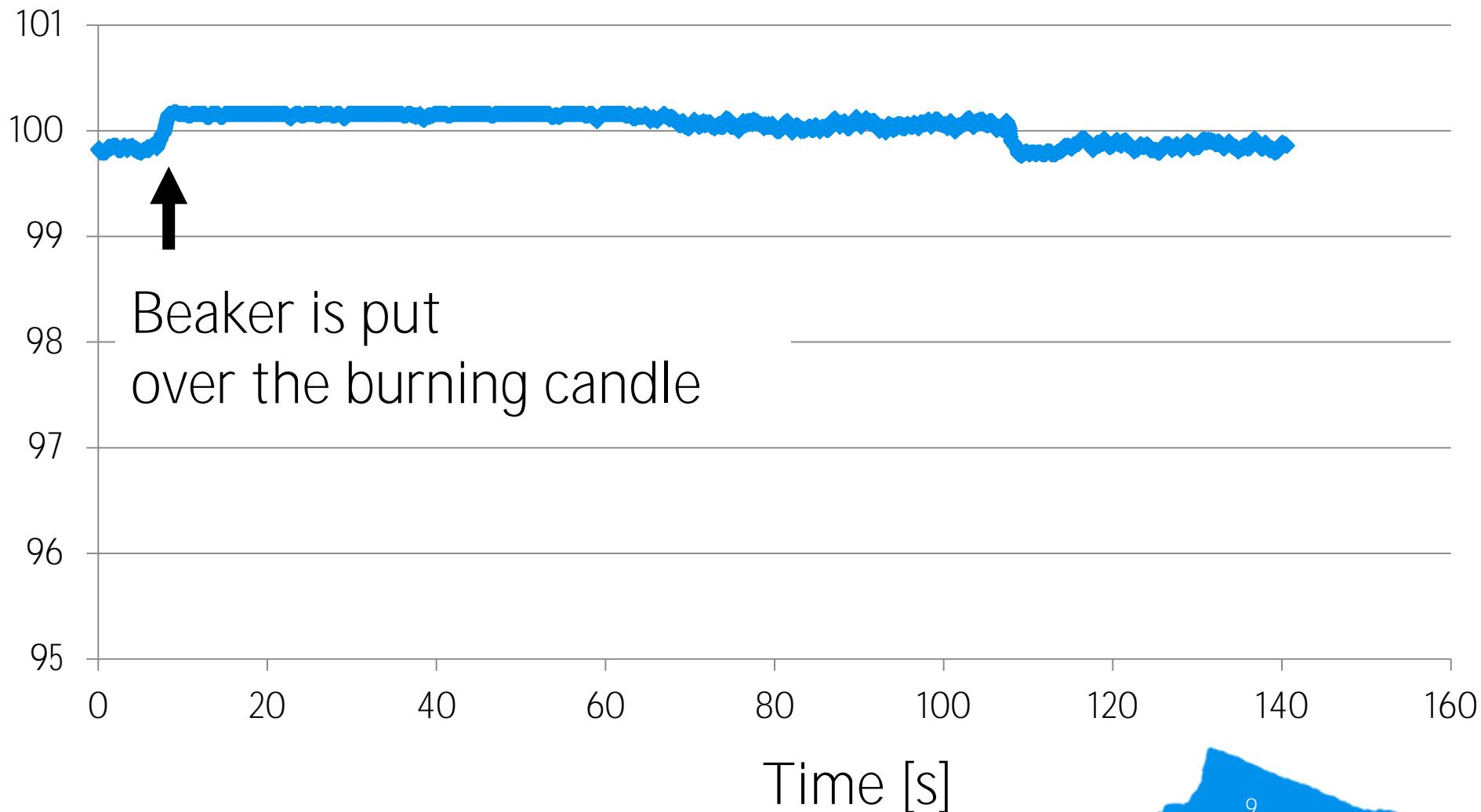
Pressure measured – changes negligibly

Pressure inside [kPa]



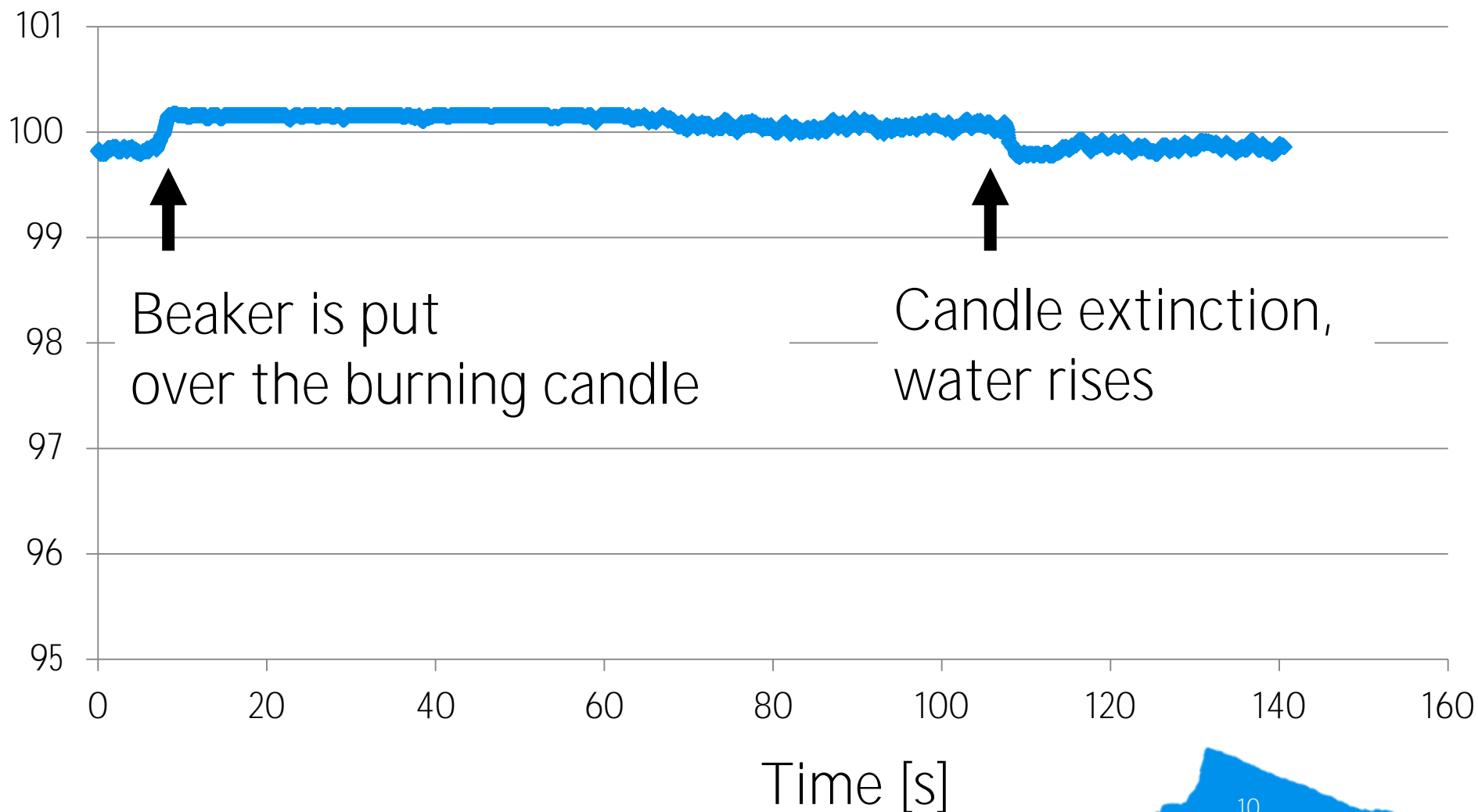
Pressure measured – changes negligibly

Pressure inside [kPa]



Pressure measured – changes negligibly

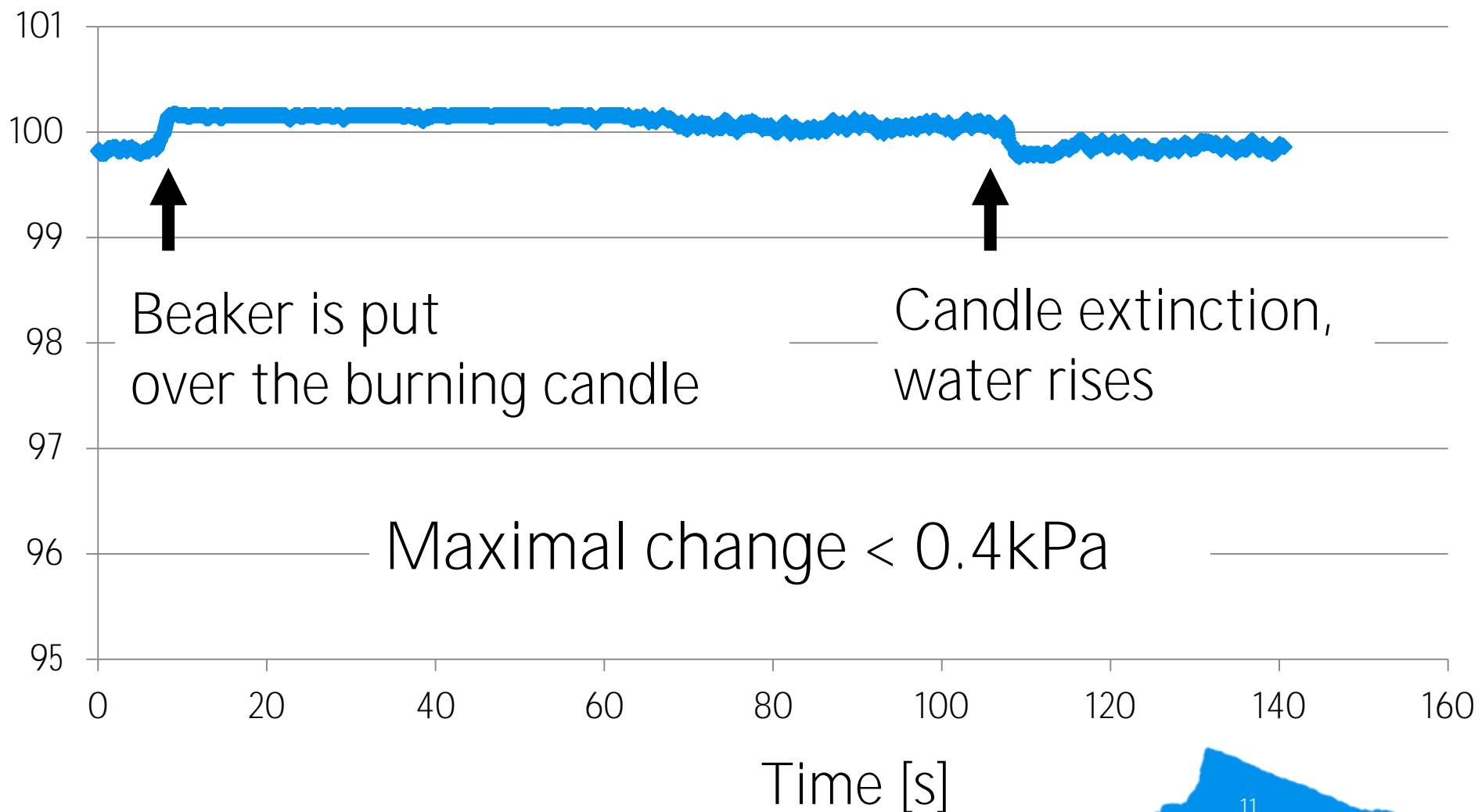
Pressure inside [kPa]





Pressure measured – changes negligibly

Pressure inside [kPa]





1. IDEAL GAS LAW QUANTITIES

Pressure

Temperature

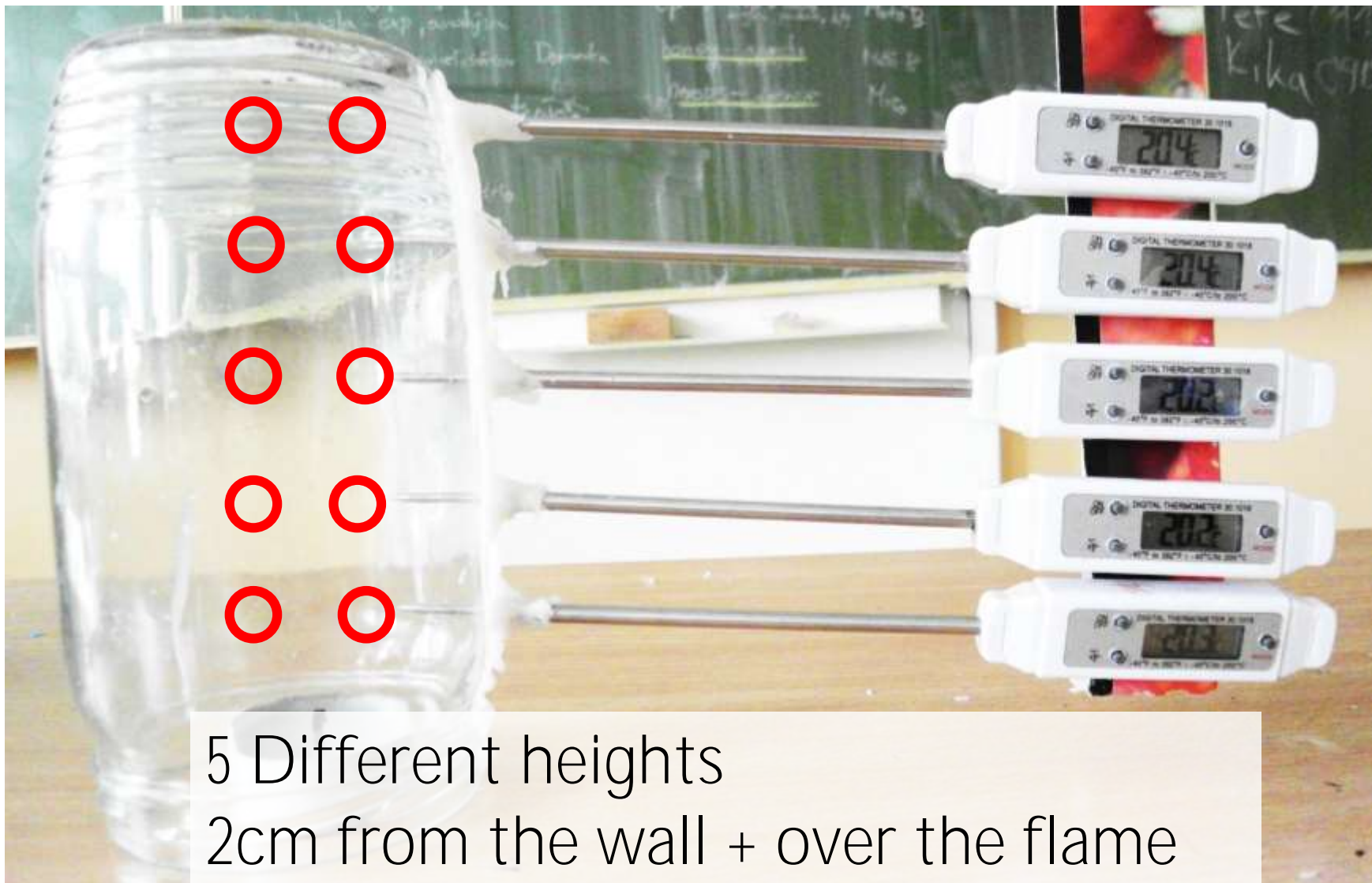
Volume



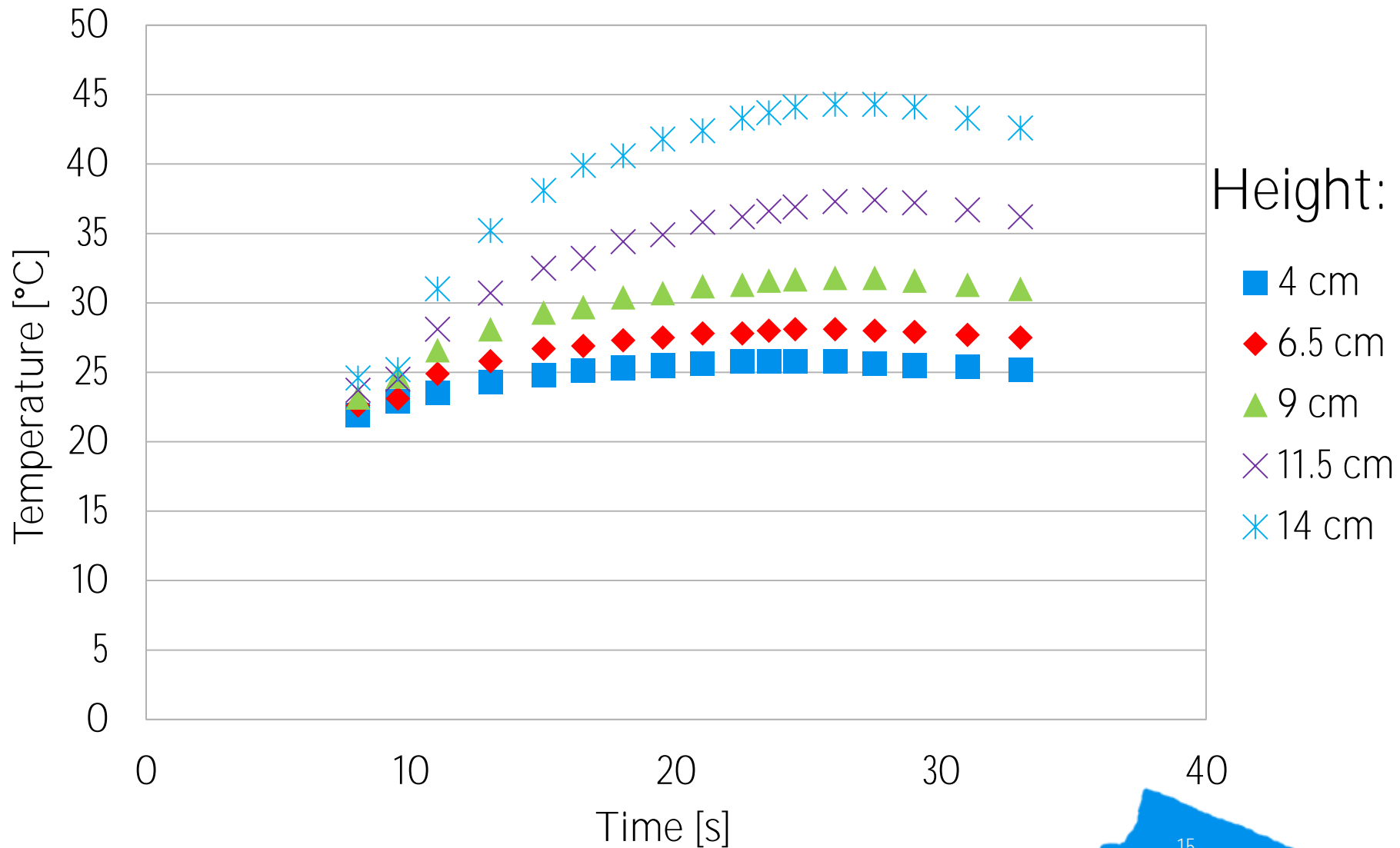
Temperature inside the beaker

- Complex temperature profile
- Observations:
 - Hot column over the candle
 - Hot air accumulates at the top
 - The rest – slightly warmer than environment

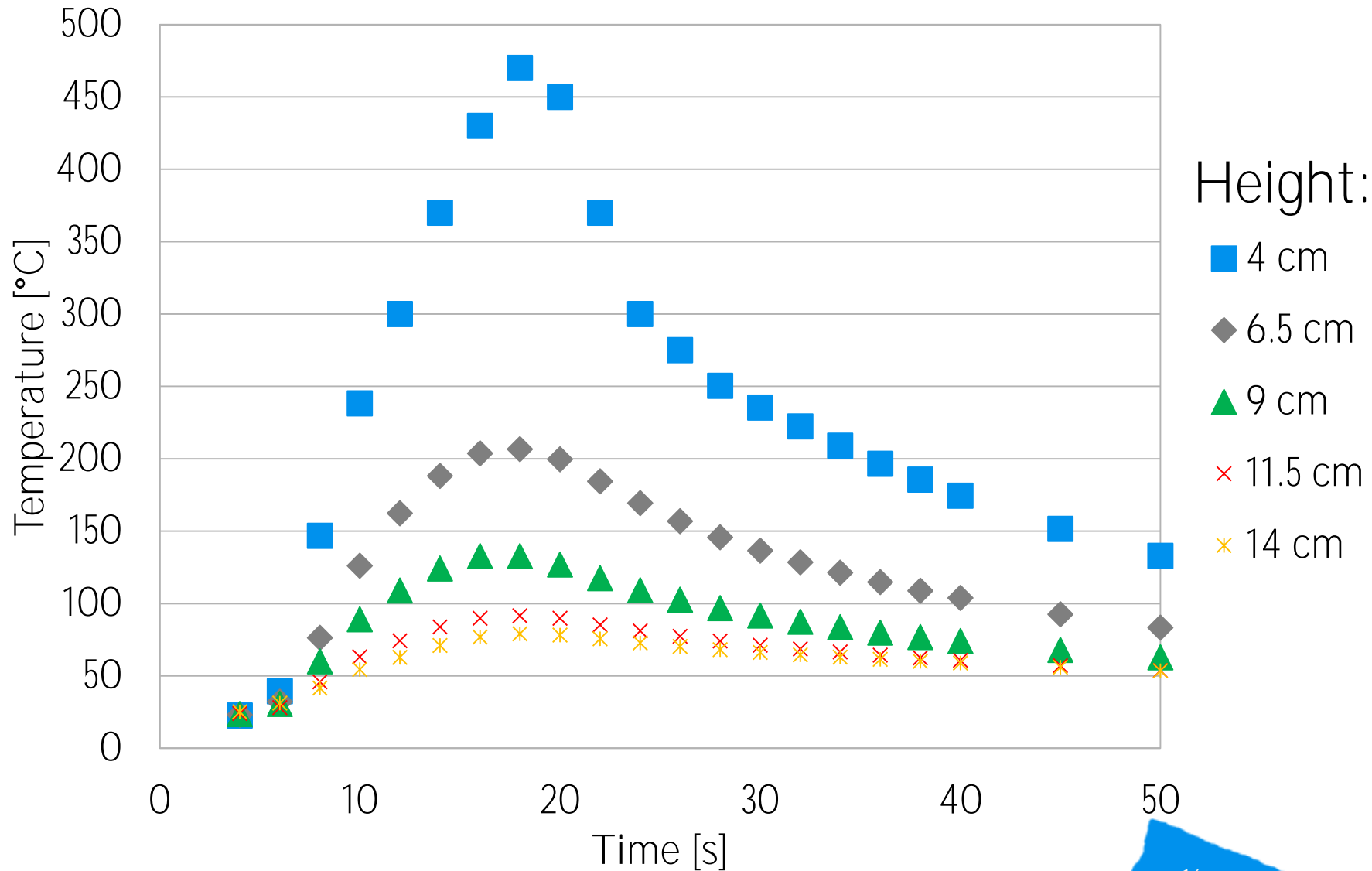
Temperature measurements



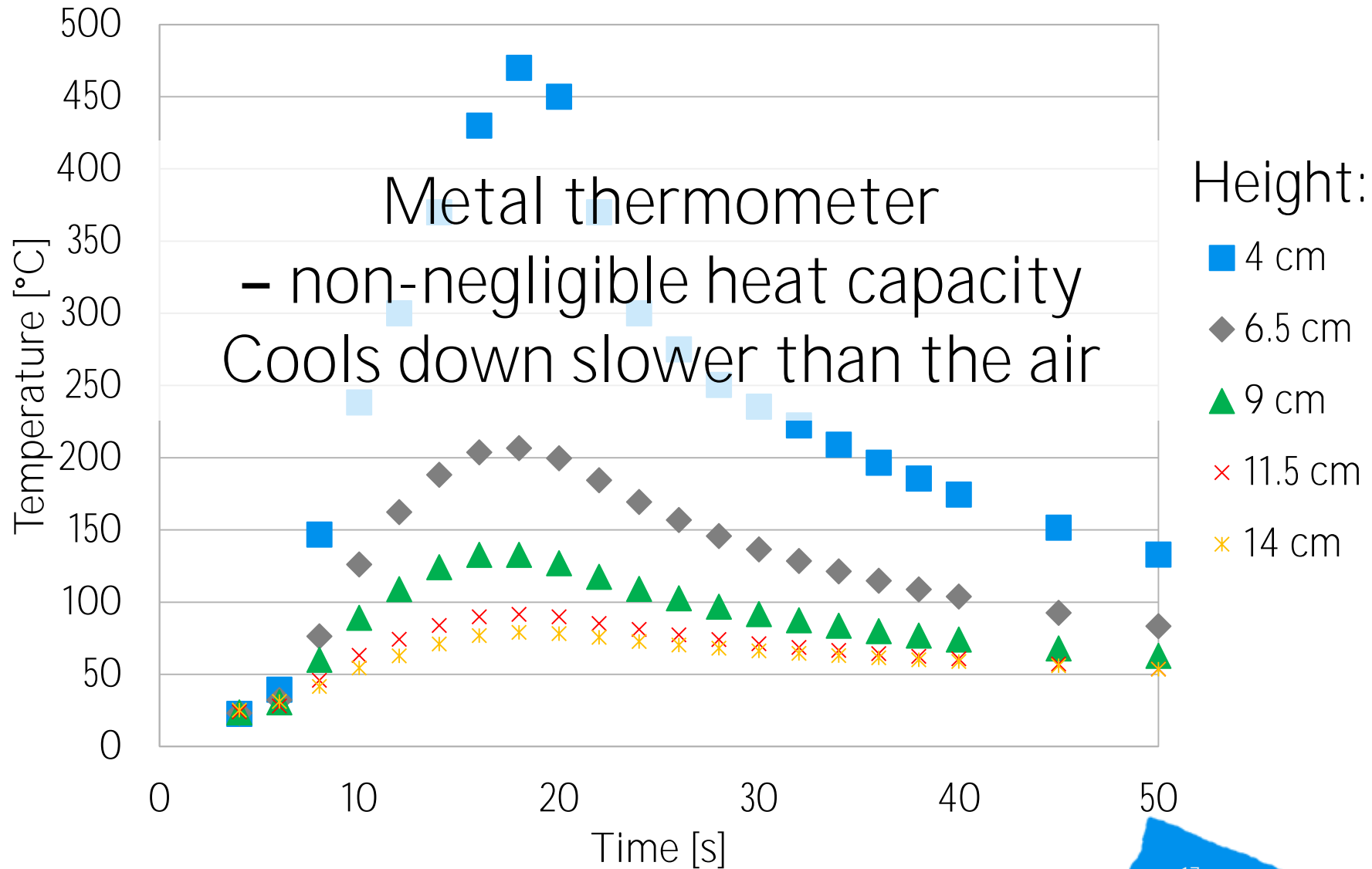
Temperatures – 2cm from the wall



Temperatures – over the flame



Temperatures – over the flame





1. IDEAL GAS LAW QUANTITIES

Pressure

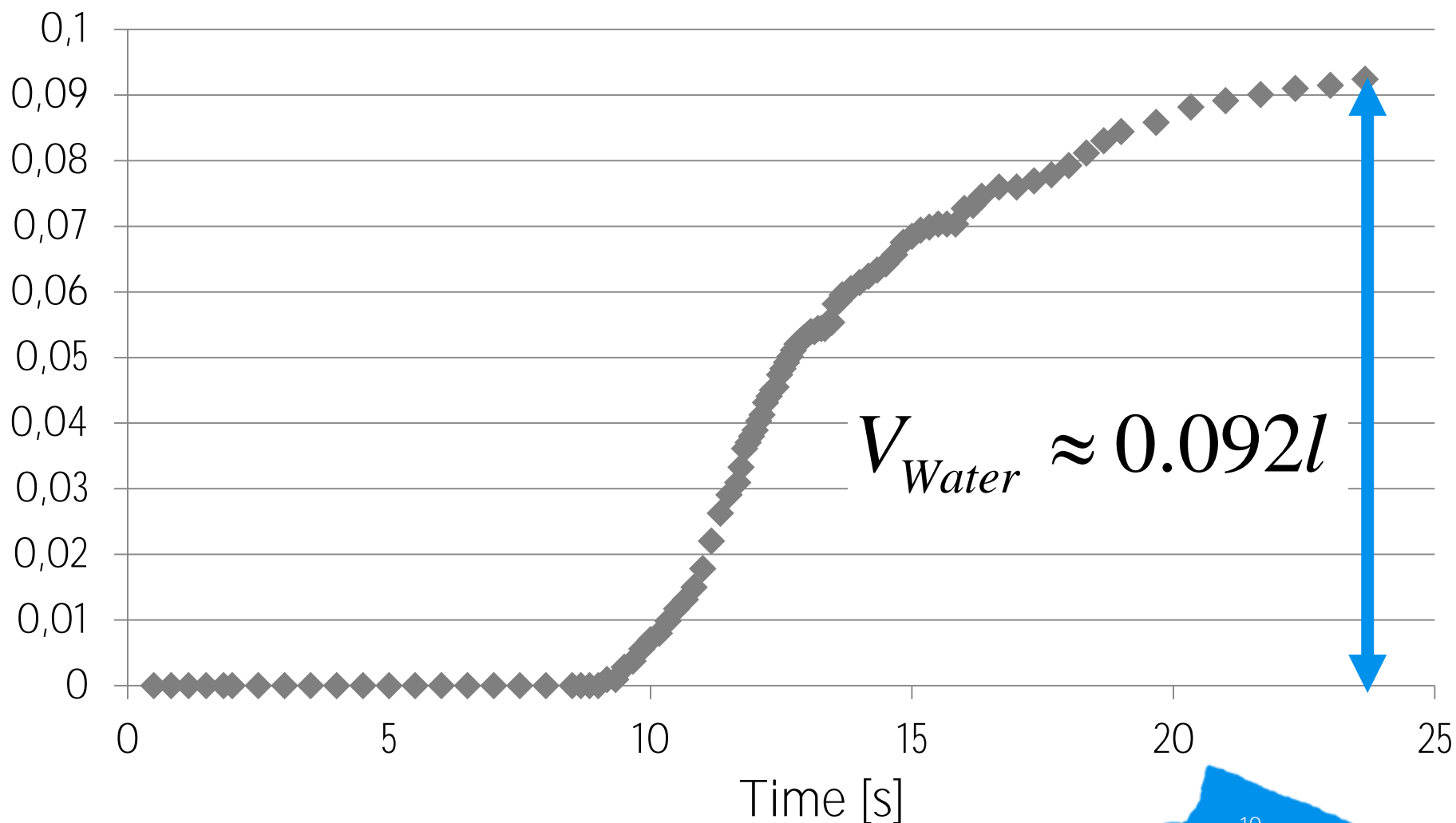
Temperature

Volume



Water volume inside the beaker

Water volume [l]





Volume of water rise

Isobaric process – Gay-Lussac law: $V \propto T$

Before the candle extinction: V_{Beaker}, T_{Max}

After the water rise: $V_{Beaker} - V_{Water}, T_{Env}$

Resulting volume:
$$V_{Water} = V_{Beaker} \left(1 - \frac{T_{Env}}{T_{Max}} \right)$$



Volume of water rise

$$V_{Water} = V_{Beaker} \left(1 - \frac{T_{Env}}{T_{Max}} \right)$$

- Maximal average temperature measured: 55°C
- Experiment: $V_{Water} = 0.092l$
- Based on maximal temperature: $V_{Water} = 0.075l$
 - Difference due to unknown exact temperature profile



2. NUMBER OF MOLECULES

How much oxygen actually burns?

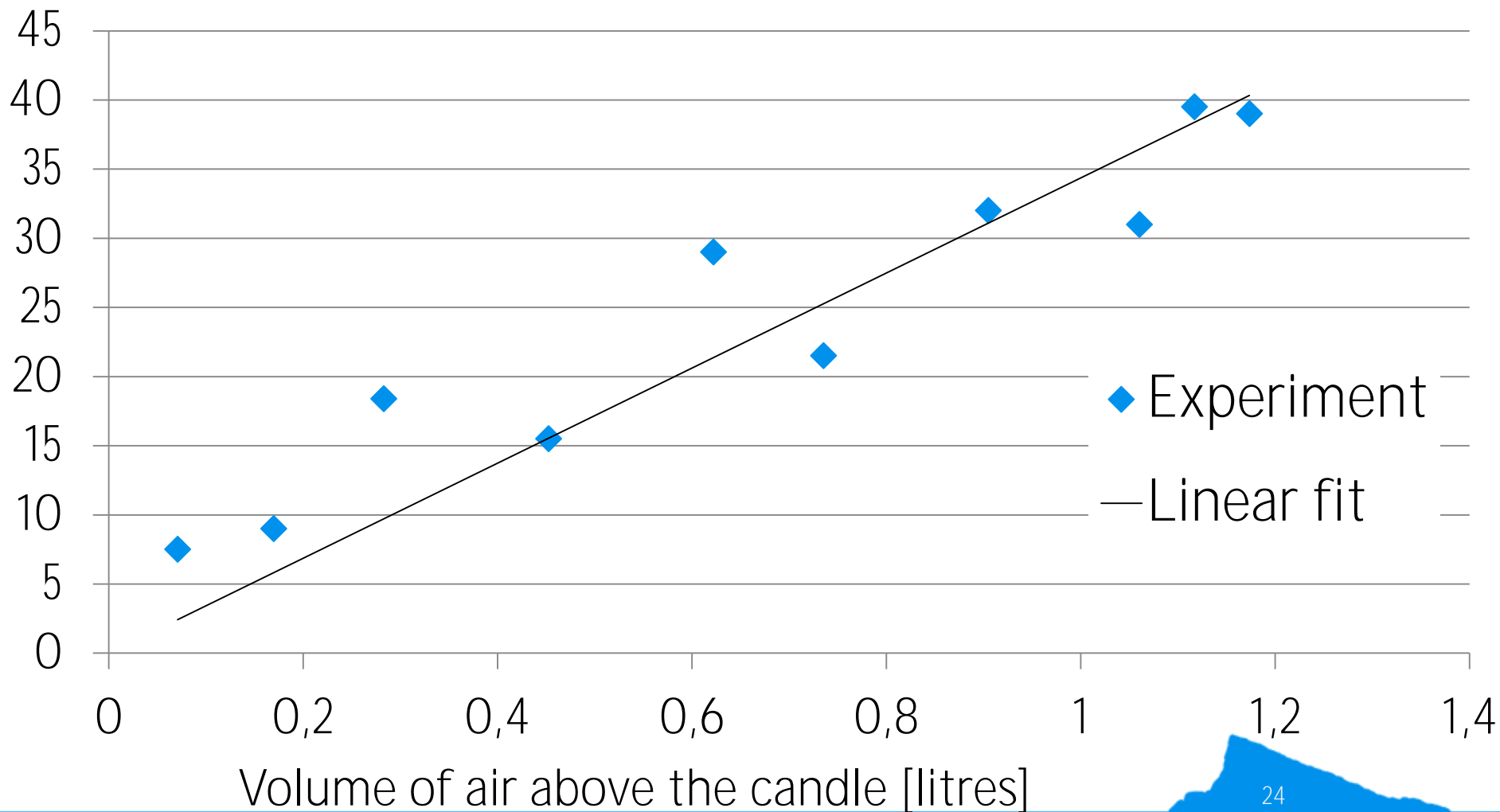
- Measuring cylinder, changing height of the candle
- Changing volume of air above the candle





Time of burning vs. volume of air

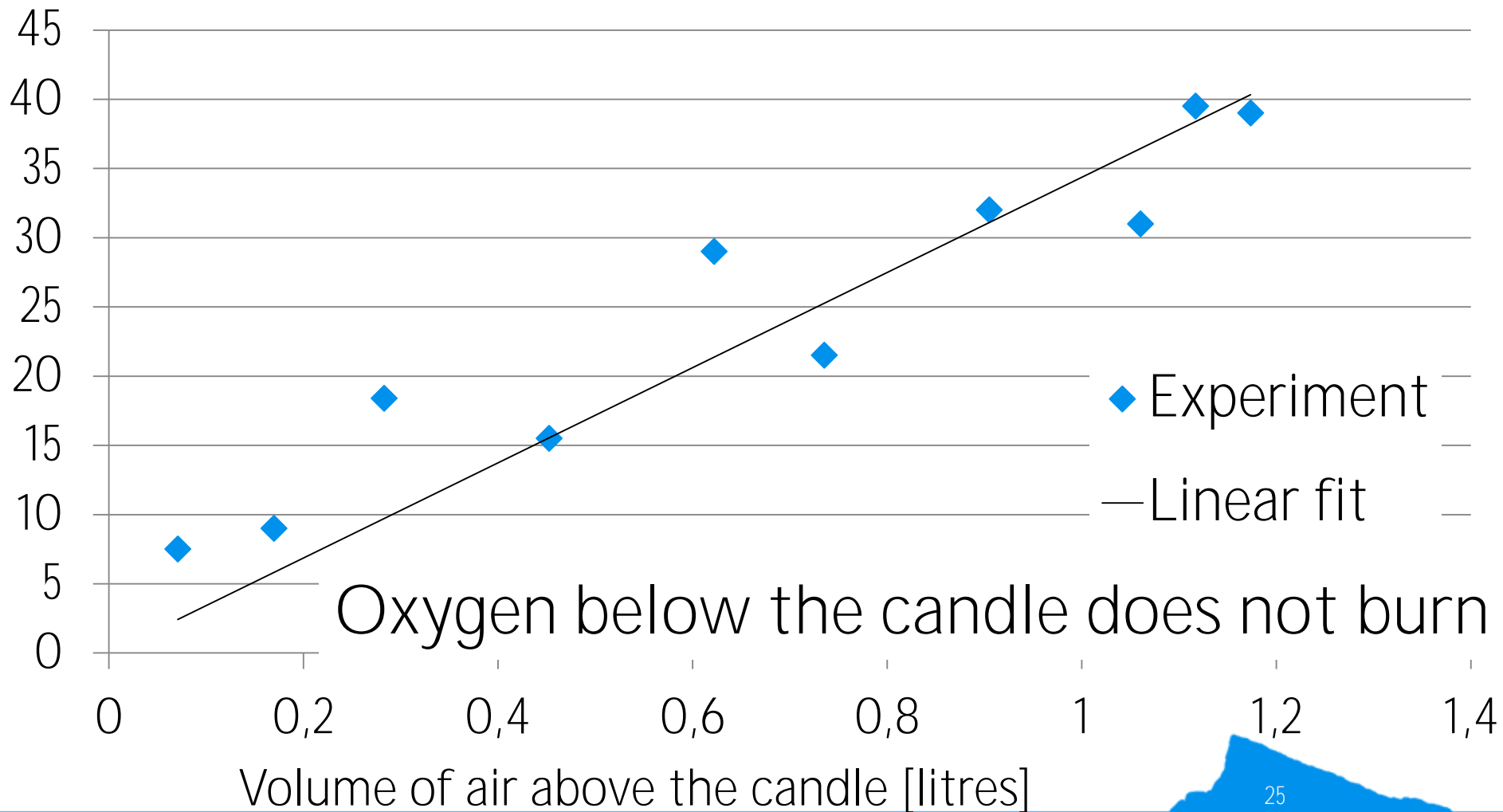
Time of burning [s]





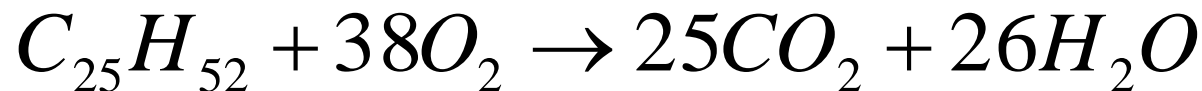
Time of burning vs. volume of air

Time of burning [s]





Burned oxygen depending on time



Heat of combustion of paraffin

H = 46MJ/kg

Power of the candle

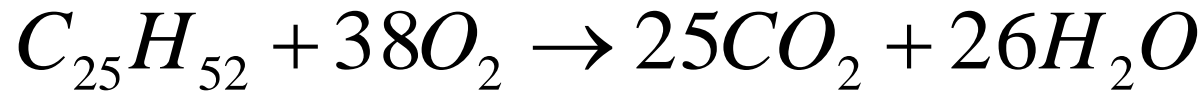
P = 30W

Ratio of paraffin and O₂ burned

1/38 molecules



Burned oxygen depending on time



Heat of combustion of paraffin

$H = 46 \text{ MJ/kg}$

Power of the candle

$P = 30 \text{ W}$

Ratio of paraffin and O_2 burned

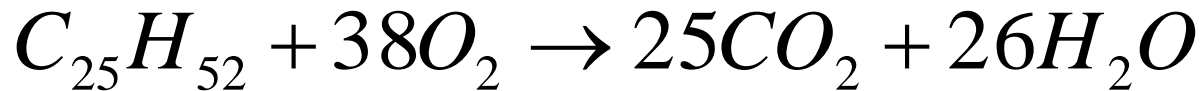
1/38 molecules

$$t = \frac{Hm_{par}}{P} \quad m_{par} = M_{m_{par}} \frac{n_{O_2 \text{ burned}}}{38}$$

$$n_{O_2 \text{ burned}} = 38 \frac{Pt}{HM_{m_{par}}}$$



Burned oxygen depending on time



Heat of combustion of paraffin

$H = 46 \text{ MJ/kg}$

Power of the candle

$P = 30 \text{ W}$

Ratio of paraffin and O_2 burned

1/38 molecules

$$t = \frac{Hm_{par}}{P} \quad m_{par} = M_{m_{par}} \frac{n_{O_2 \text{ burned}}}{38}$$

$$n_{O_2 \text{ burned}} = 38 \frac{Pt}{HM_{m_{par}}}$$

What fraction of the oxygen burns?



Time of burning vs. volume of air

$$n_{O_2 \text{ burned}} = 38 \frac{Pt}{HM_{m \text{ par}}}$$

Fraction of O₂ in air

21%



Time of burning vs. volume of air

$$n_{O_2 \text{ burned}} = 38 \frac{Pt}{HM_{m \text{ par}}}$$

Fraction of O₂ in air 21%

Fraction of O₂ burned k



Time of burning vs. volume of air

$$n_{O_2 \text{ burned}} = 38 \frac{Pt}{HM_{m \text{ par}}}$$

Fraction of O_2 in air 21%

Fraction of O_2 burned k

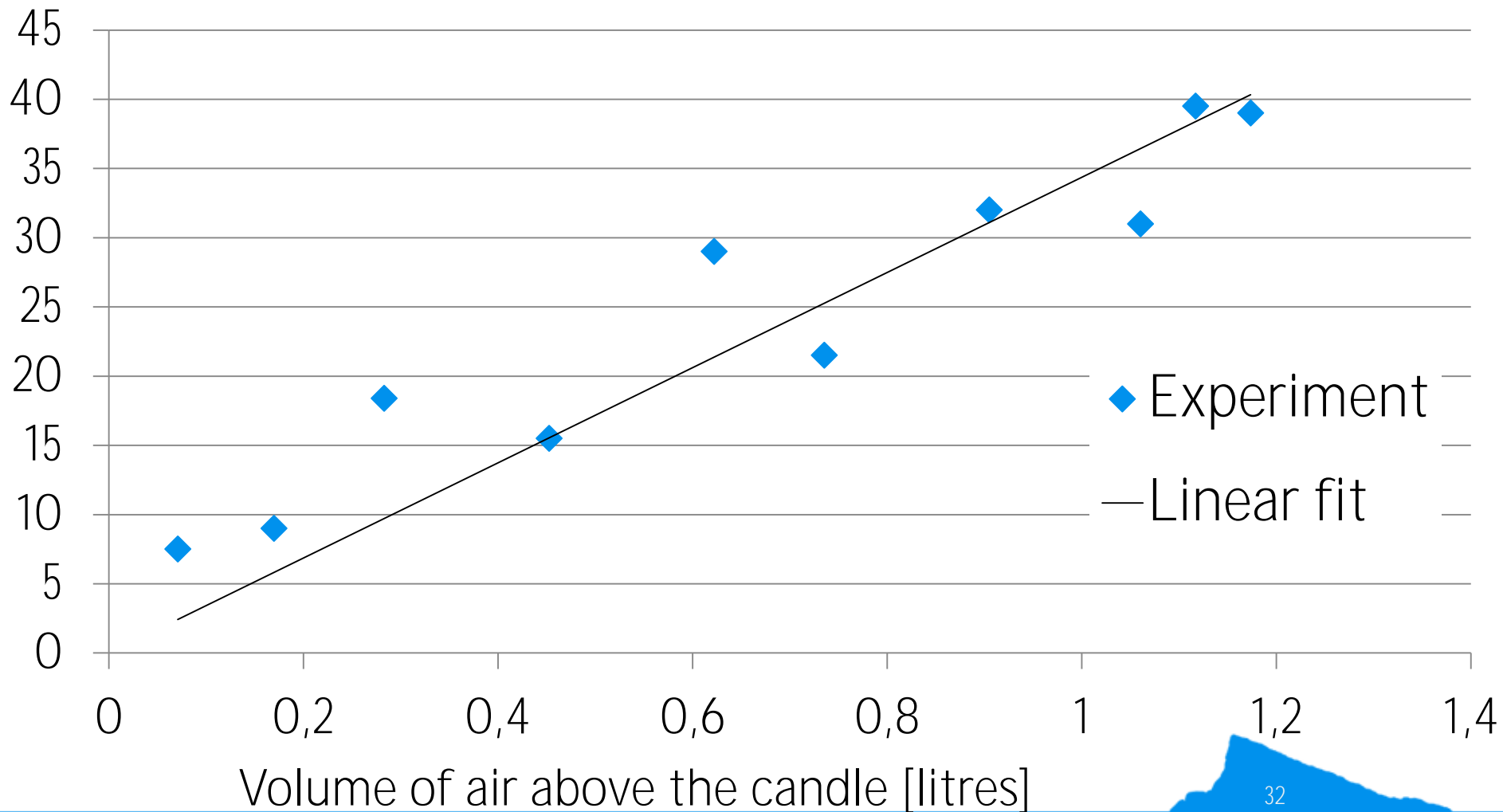
$$n_{O_2 \text{ burned}} = k \frac{21}{100} \frac{pV}{RT}$$

$$t = k \frac{21}{3800} \frac{HM_{m \text{ par}} P}{PRT} V$$



Time of burning vs. volume of air

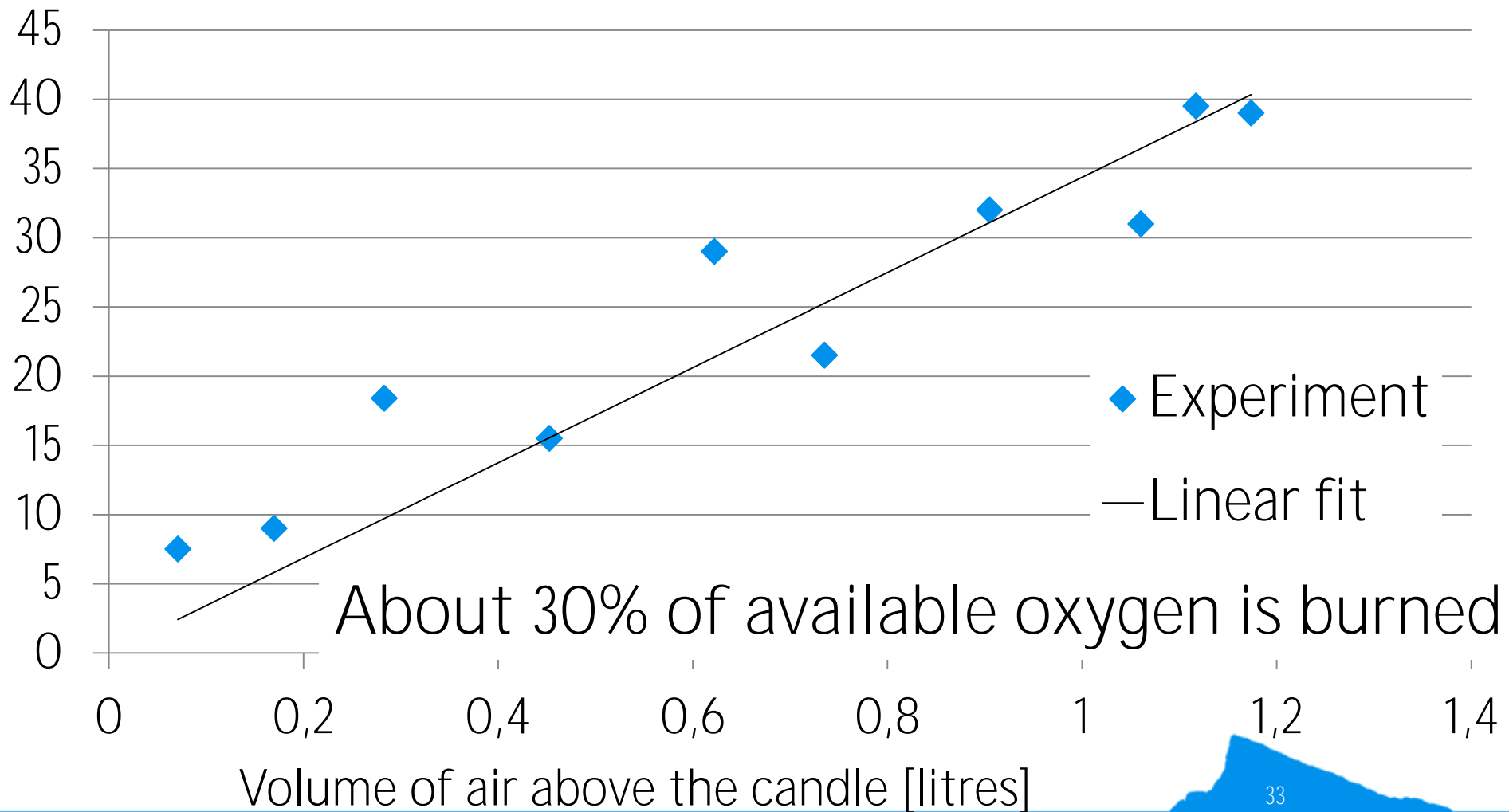
Time of burning [s]





Time of burning vs. volume of air

Time of burning [s]





Molar number change

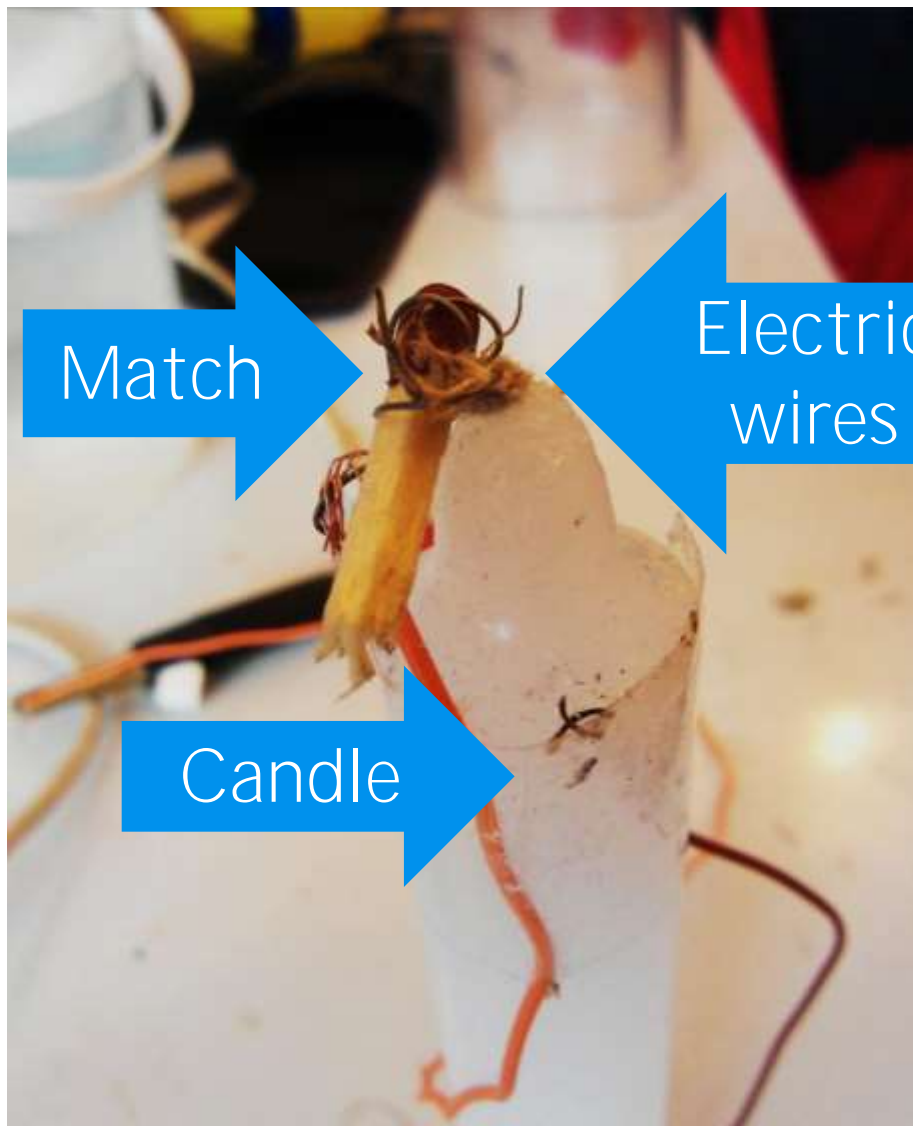
Approximately 30% of oxygen burns
(oxygen comprises about 21% of air)

38 molecules → *51 molecules*

Increase of molar amount \approx **2%**

Change of molar amount is negligible

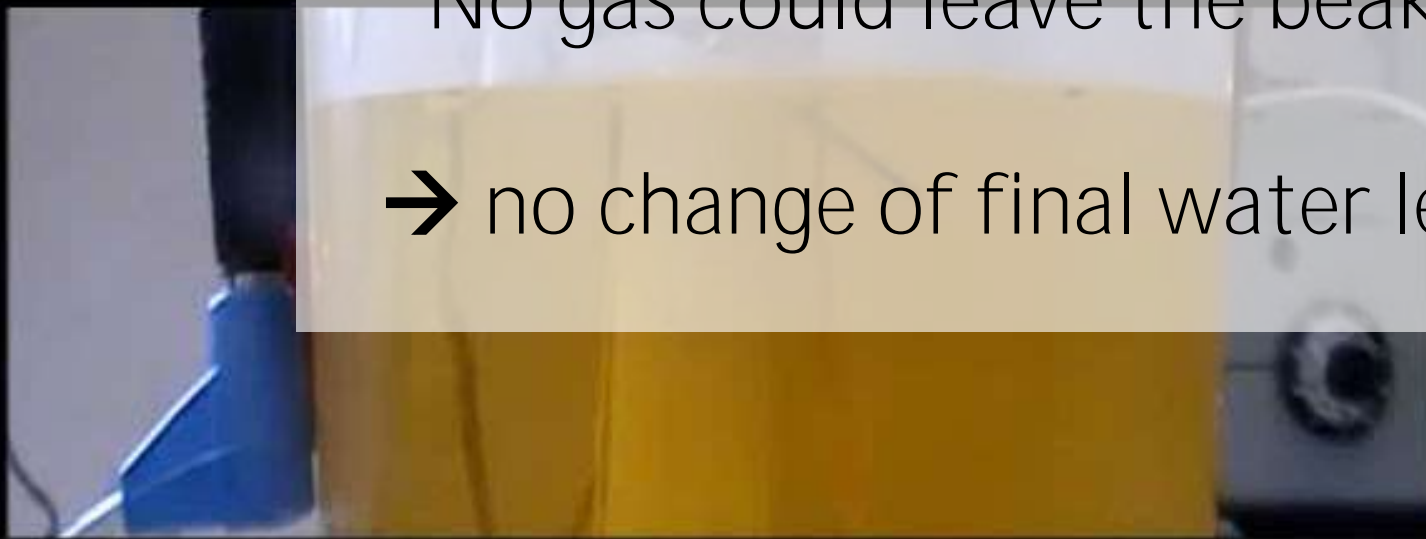
Experimental proof – no molar change



Experimental proof – no molar change

No gas could leave the beaker

→ no change of final water level





3. ENERGY ANALYSIS



Heat from the candle

- Heats up the air in the beaker
- Losses to the material of the beaker

If the candle burns long enough,
equilibrium is reached

How long does it take?



Time to heat up the air

- Power of the candle $P \approx 30 \text{ W}$
- Volume of the air inside $V \approx 0.71$
- Specific heat capacity $c_p \approx 12.47 \text{ J mol}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$
- Change of temperature $\Delta T \approx 75 \text{ K}$
 - Based on water rises during experiments

$$t \approx \frac{Q}{P} \approx \frac{V\rho c_p \Delta T}{PM_m} \approx 0.9 \text{ s}$$

The candle burns much longer
→ Equilibrium is reached

Equilibrium state





Final volume of water rise

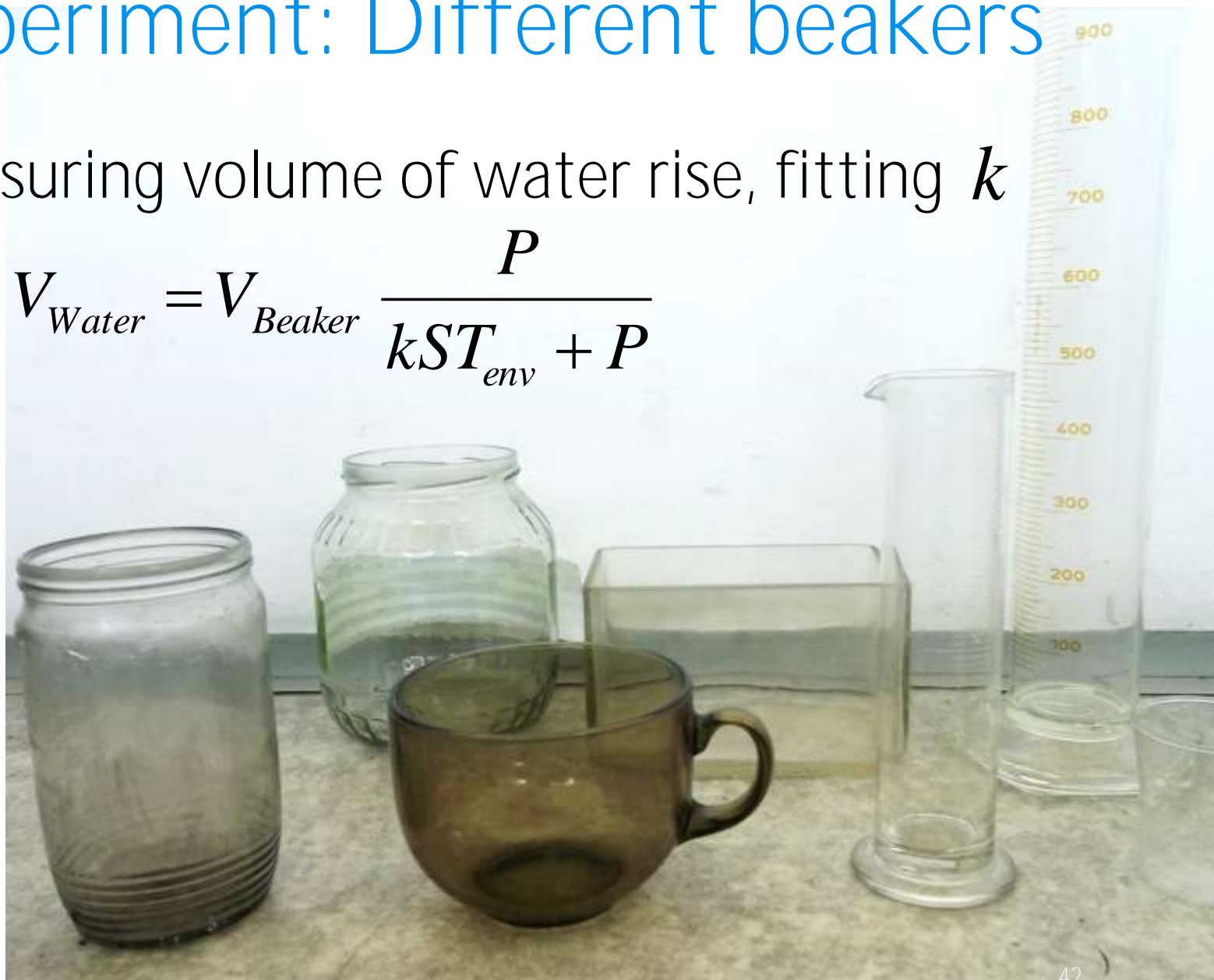
- Isobaric process:
$$V_{Water} = V_{Beaker} \frac{\Delta T}{T_{env} + \Delta T}$$
- Losses to the beaker approximation: $P = kS\Delta T$
 - ΔT ...temperature difference
between air inside and beaker

$$V_{Water} = V_{Beaker} \frac{P}{kST_{env} + P}$$

Experiment: Different beakers

Measuring volume of water rise, fitting k

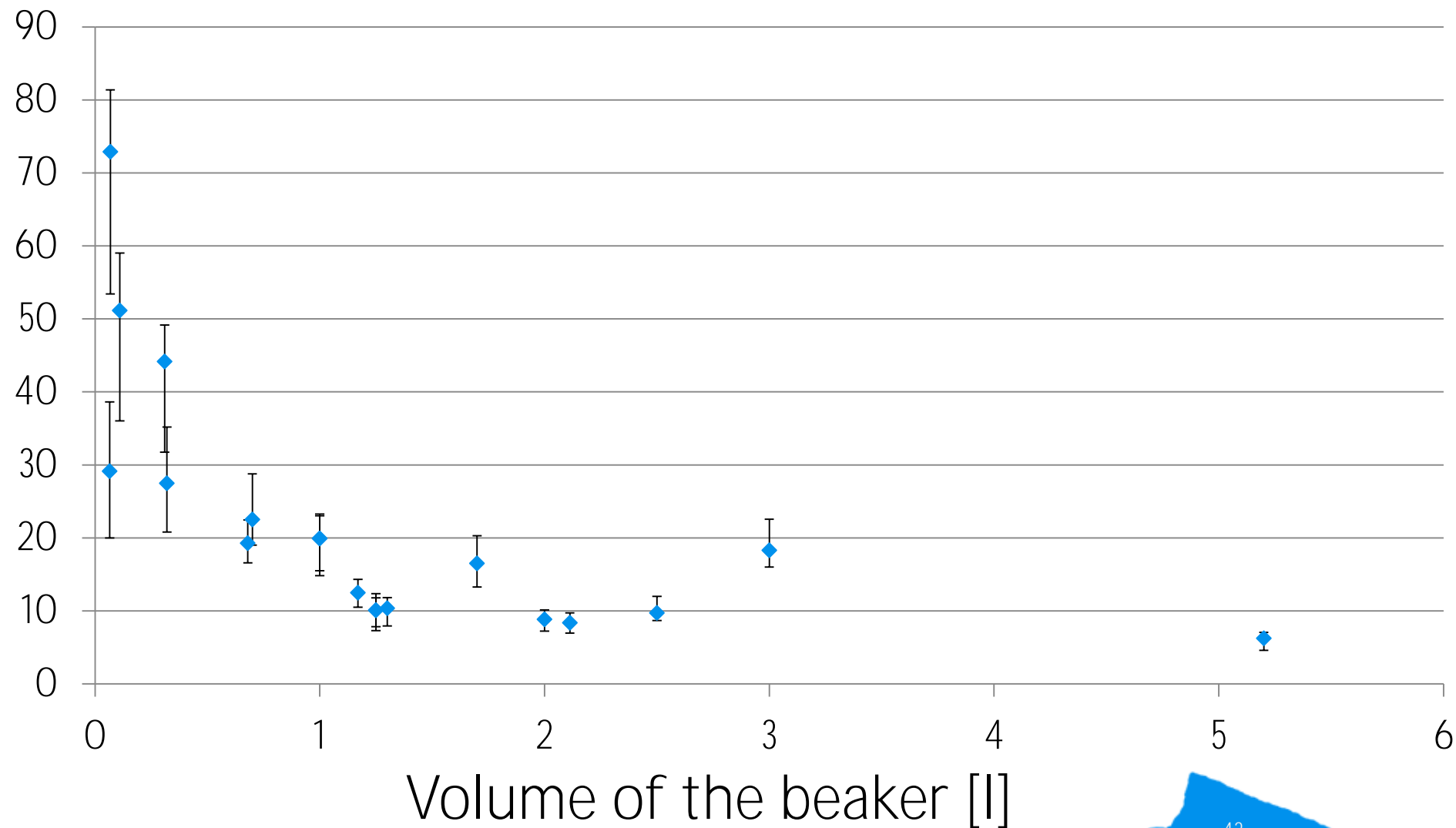
$$V_{Water} = V_{Beaker} \frac{P}{kST_{env} + P}$$





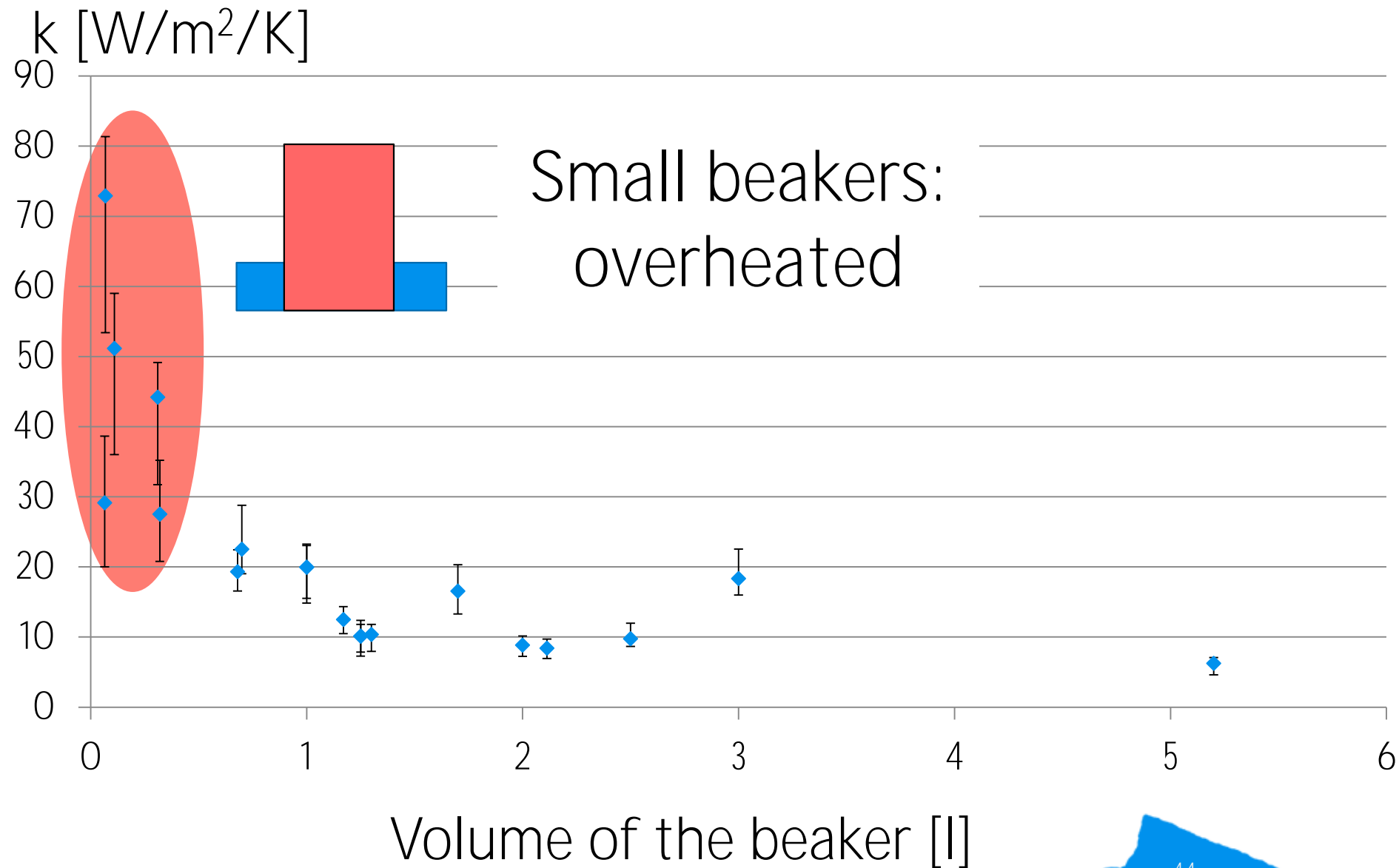
Different beakers: k vs. volume

k [W/m²/K]





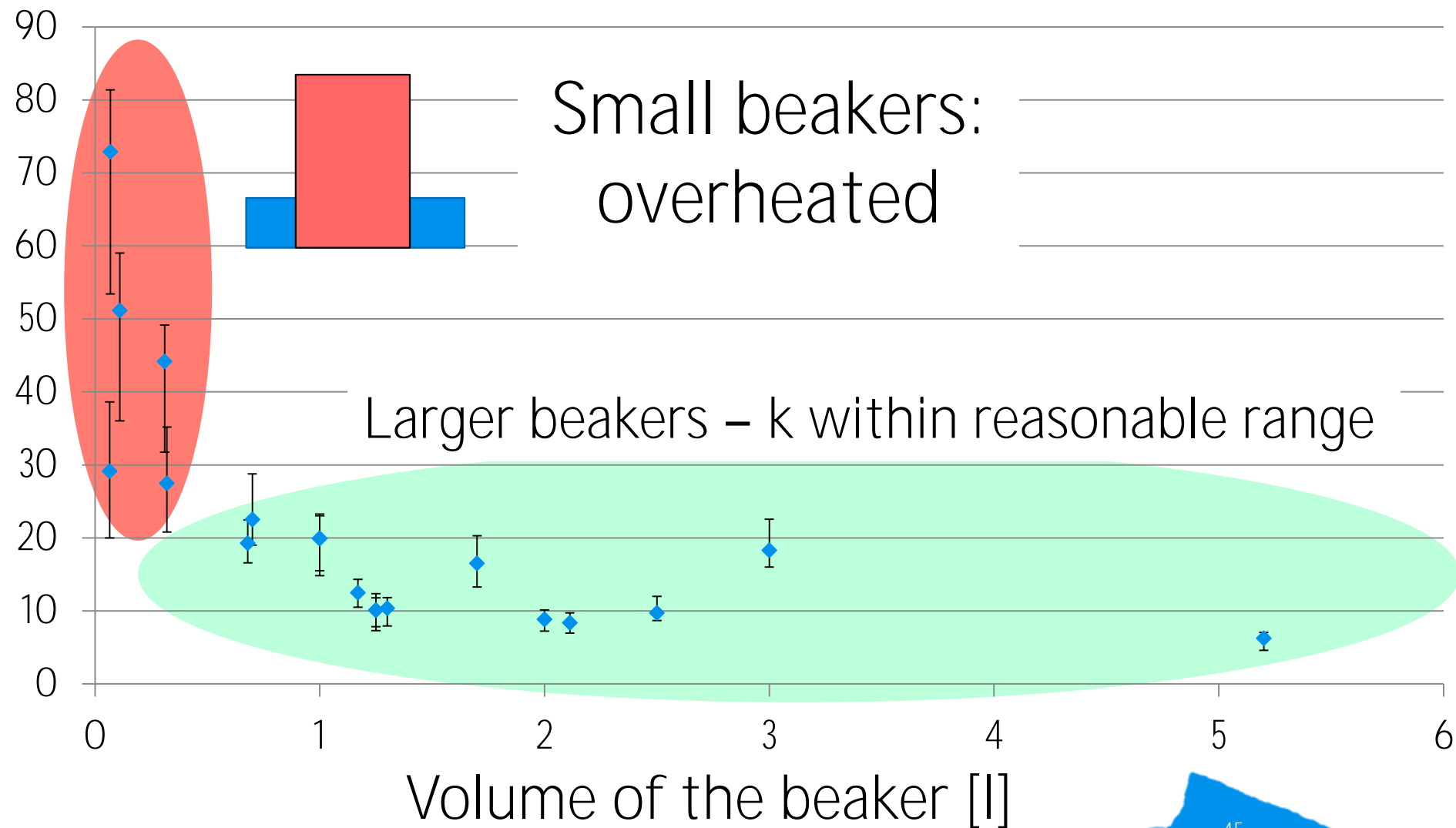
Different beakers: k vs. volume





Different beakers: k vs. volume

k [W/m²/K]





Experiment: changing power

- Using “Pepo,” solid fuel instead of a candle to achieve high powers
- Measuring volume of water rise



High power

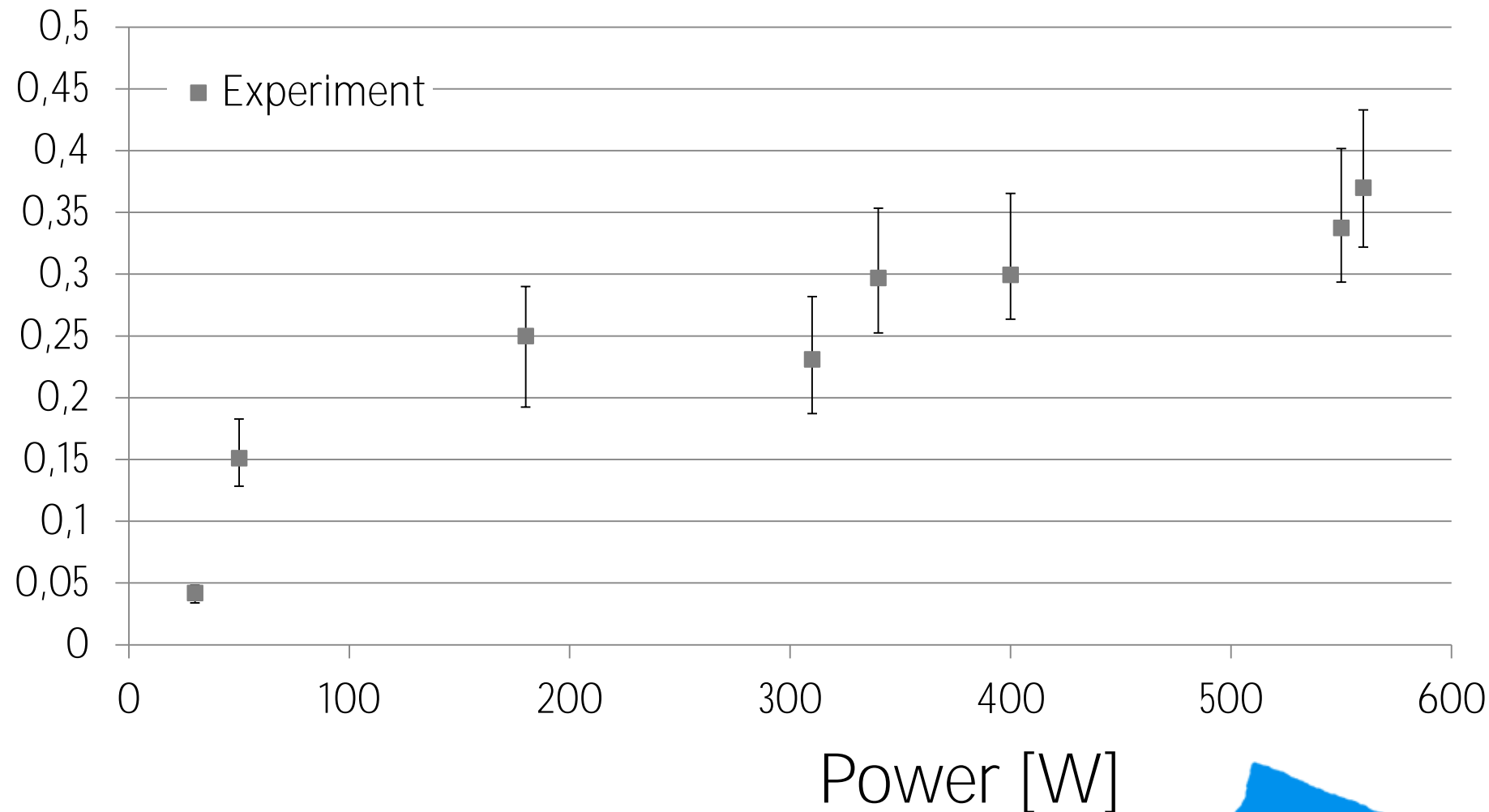




Power dependence – glass jar

Volume of water rise [l]

$$V_{Beaker} = 0.71$$

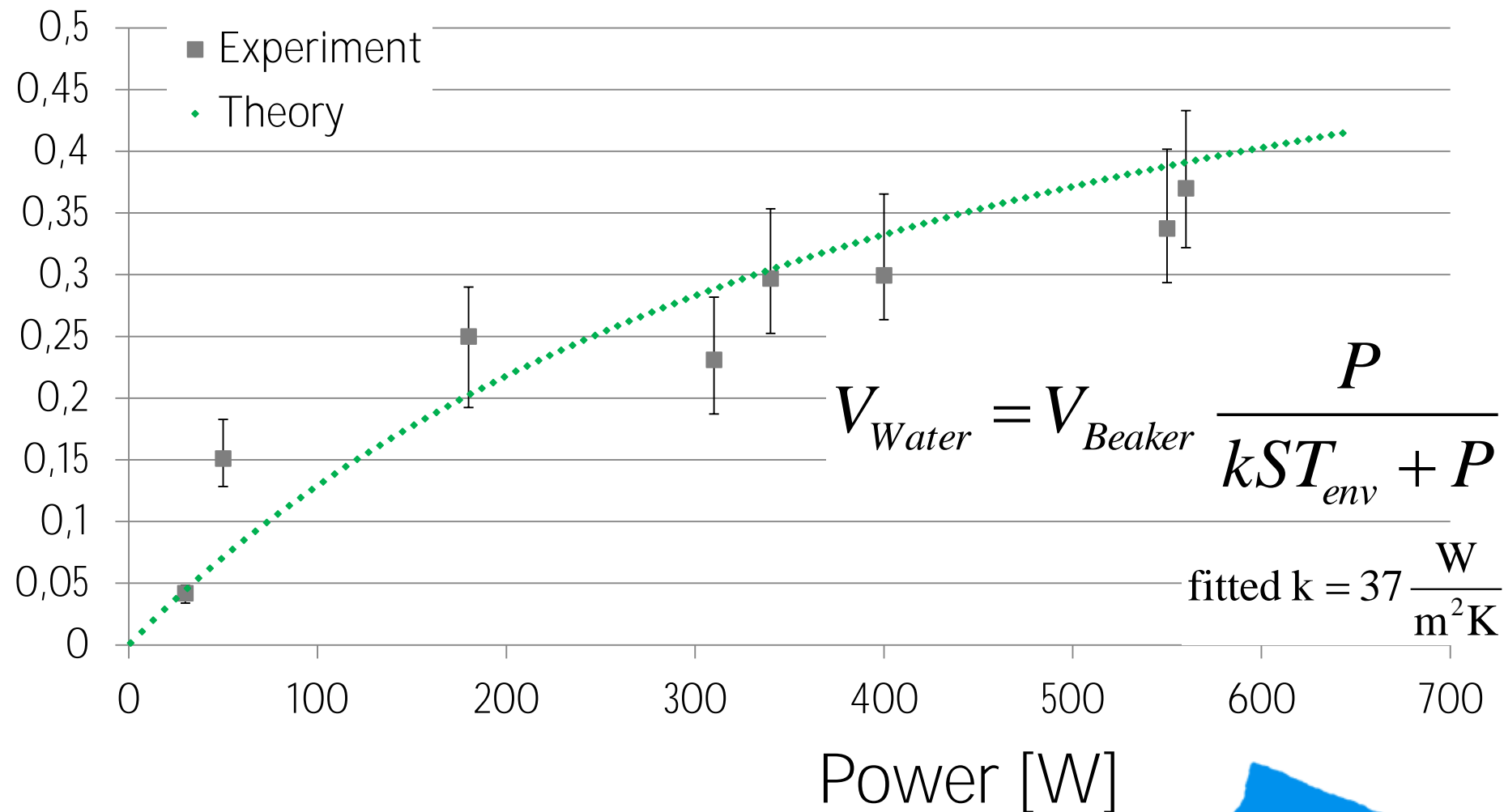




Power dependence – glass jar

Volume of water rise [l]

$$V_{Beaker} = 0.71$$

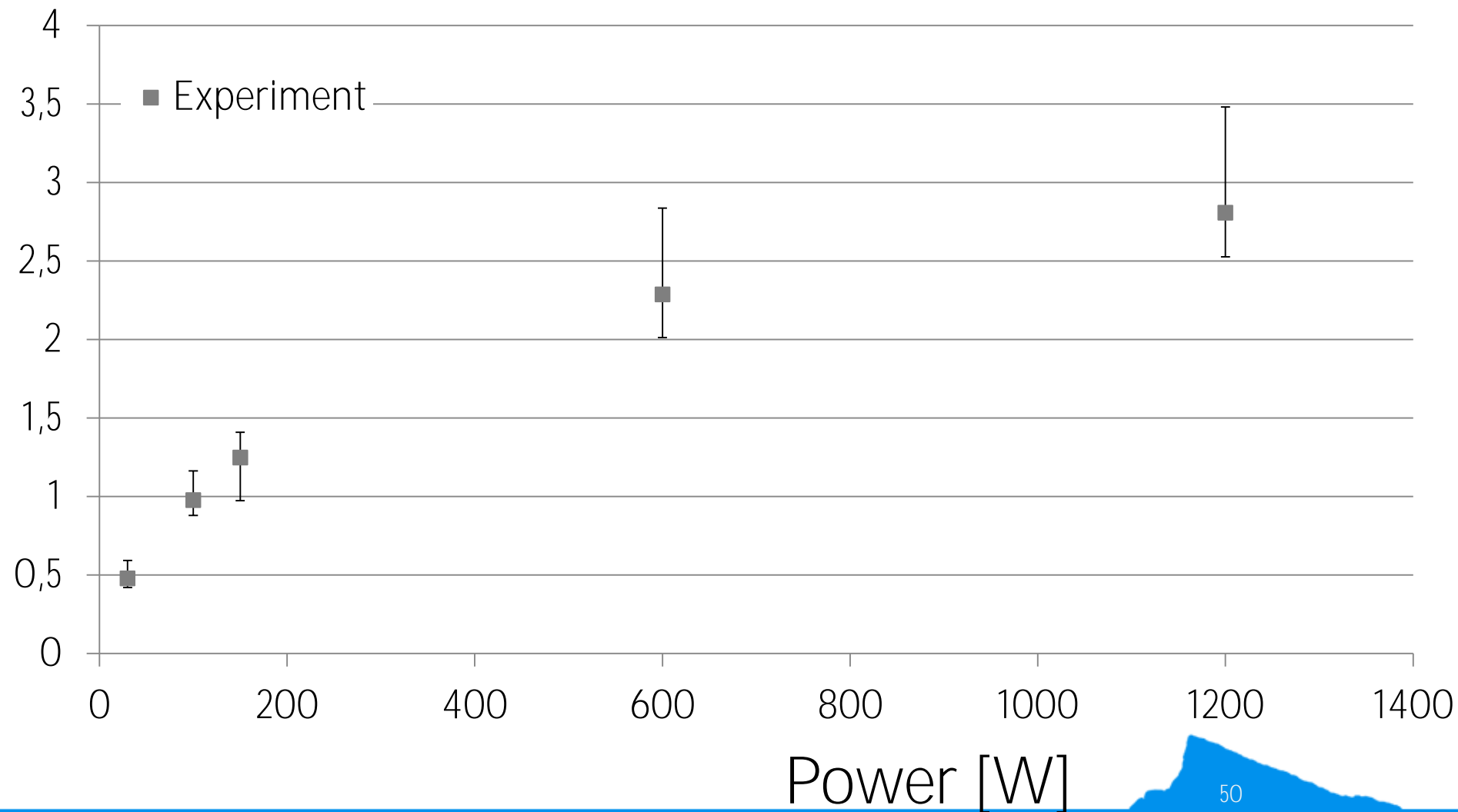




Power dependence – plastic bottle

Volume of water rise [l]

$$V_{Beaker} = 5l$$

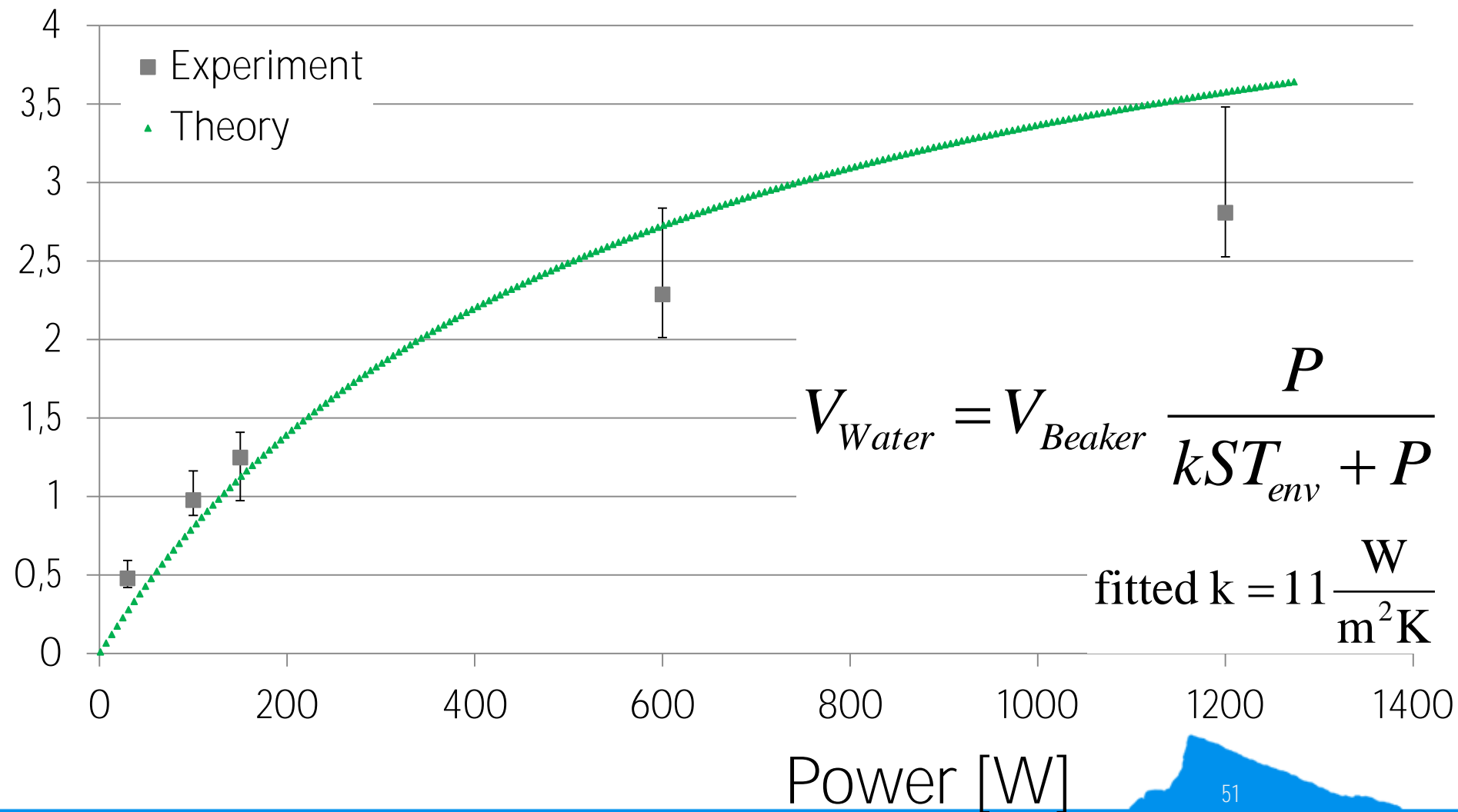




Power dependence – plastic bottle

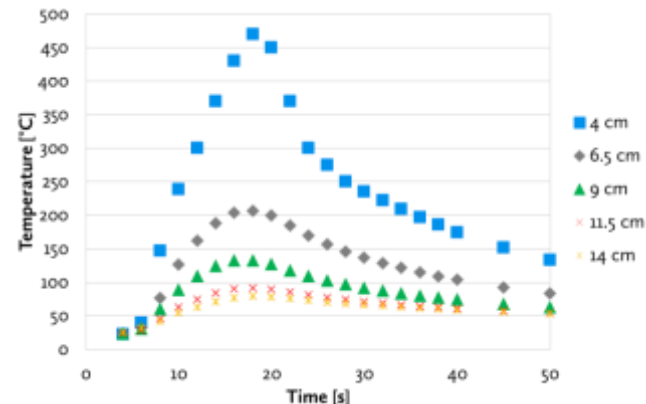
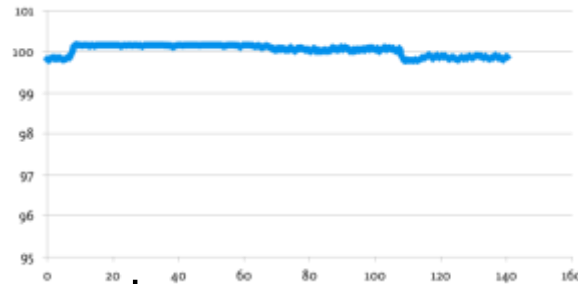
Volume of water rise [l]

$$V_{Beaker} = 51$$



Summary – ideal gas law

- Δp is negligible
- Temperature measured



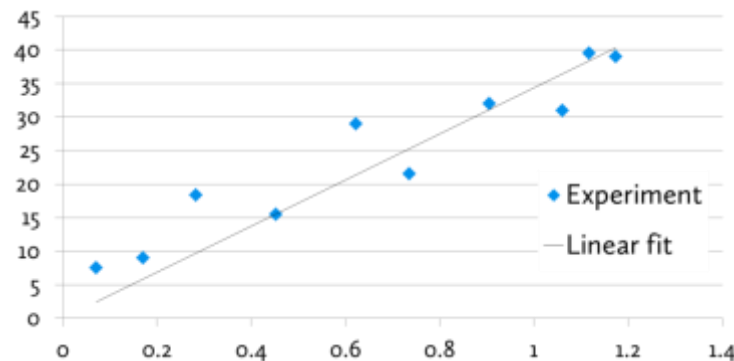
- Volume of water rise measured + calculated

$$V_{Water} = V_{Beaker} \left(1 - \frac{T_{Env}}{T_{Max}} \right)$$

Summary – molar number

Height of candle experiment

- 30% of oxygen above the candle is burned



- Molar number does not change significantly

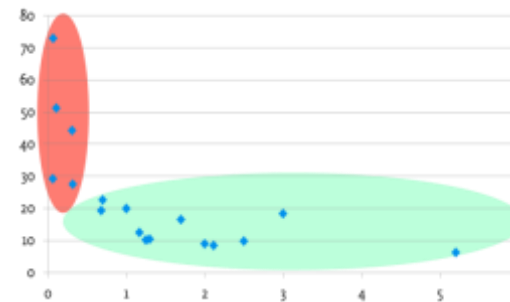


Summary – energy analysis

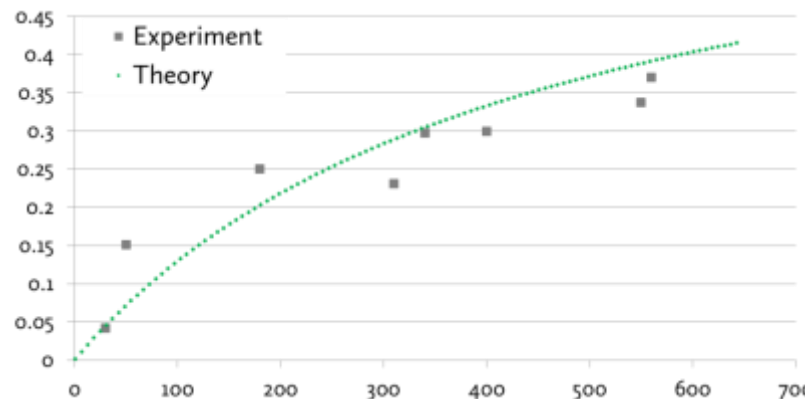
- Equilibrium state is quickly achieved

$$V_{Water} = V_{Beaker} \frac{P}{kST_{env} + P}$$

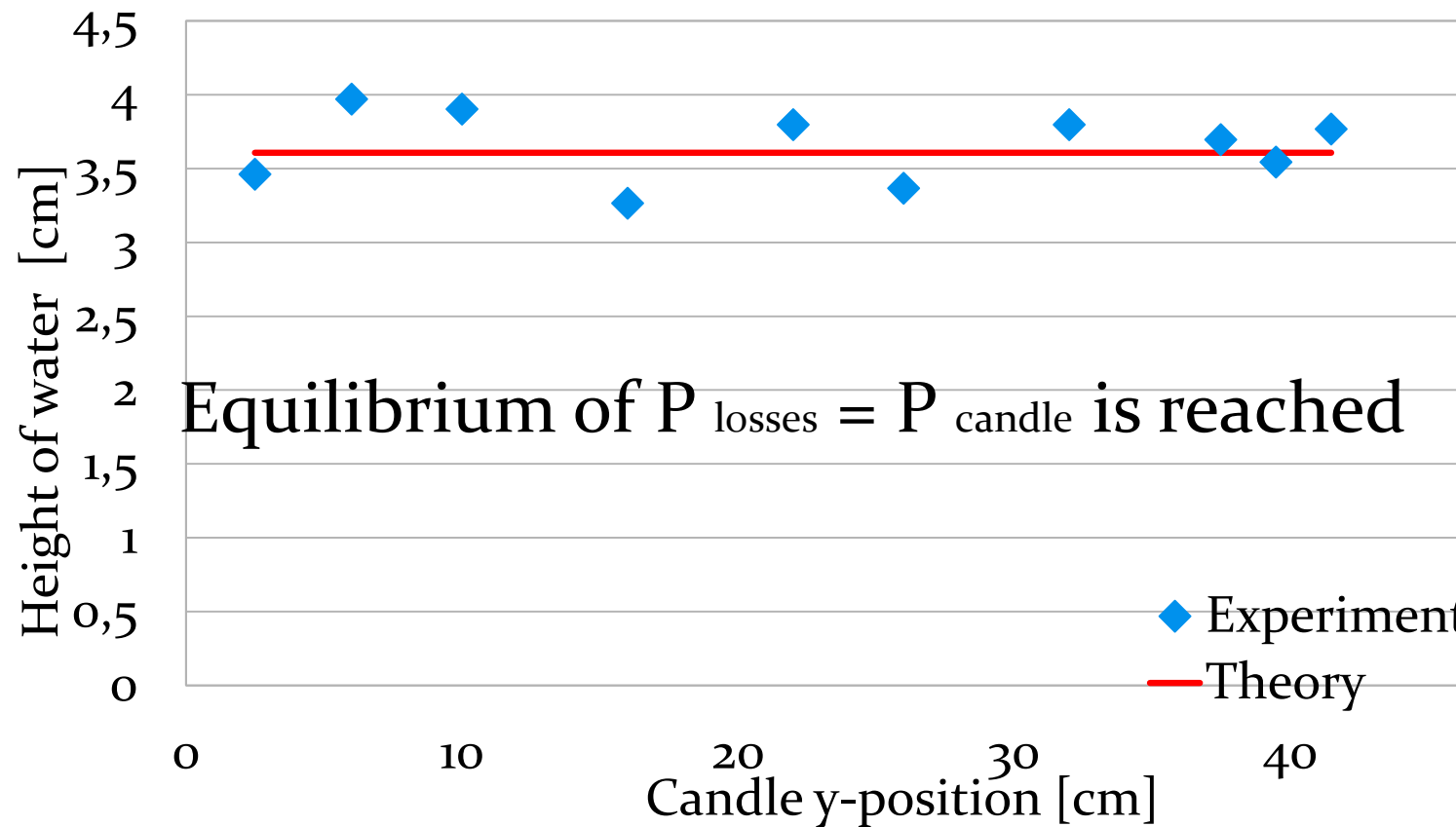
- Different beakers



- Solid fuel used to enhance power



Water rise from y-position of candle





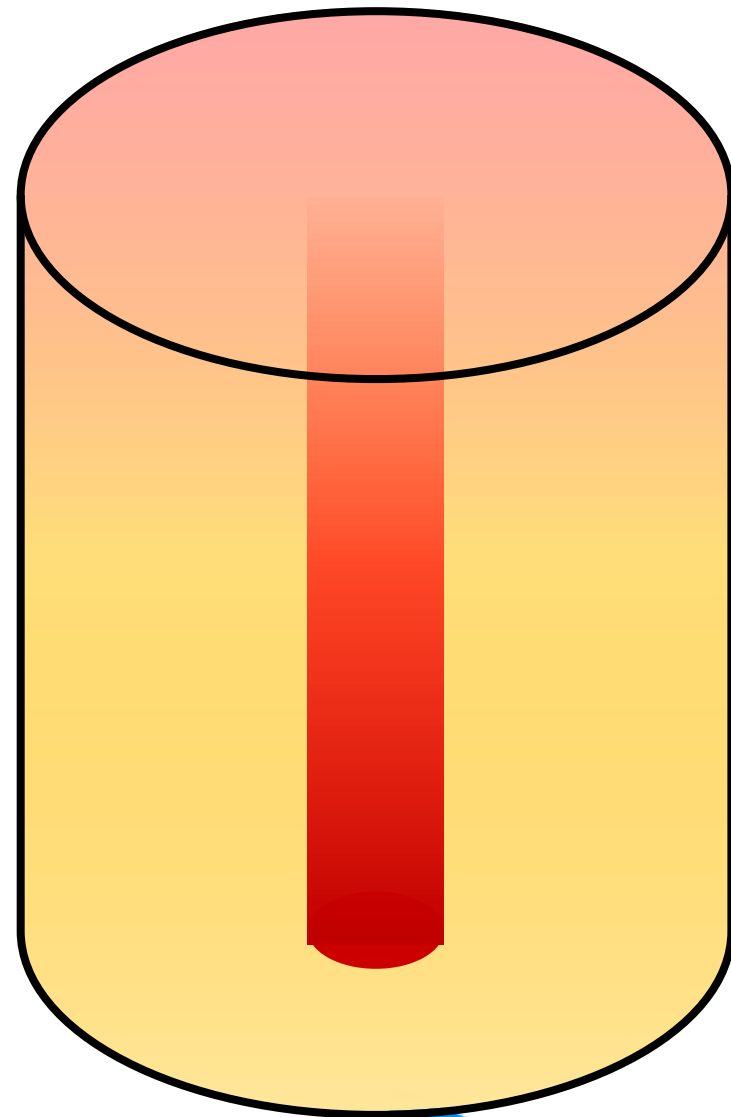
Thank you for your attention

- Theoretically and experimentally proved:
 - Gas pressure & amount changes are negligible
- Temperature changes are crucial
- Complex temperature profile measurement
- Quantitative predictions of water rise and time of burning from all relevant parameters
 - Power, beaker volume, position of candle
 - Experimentally proved

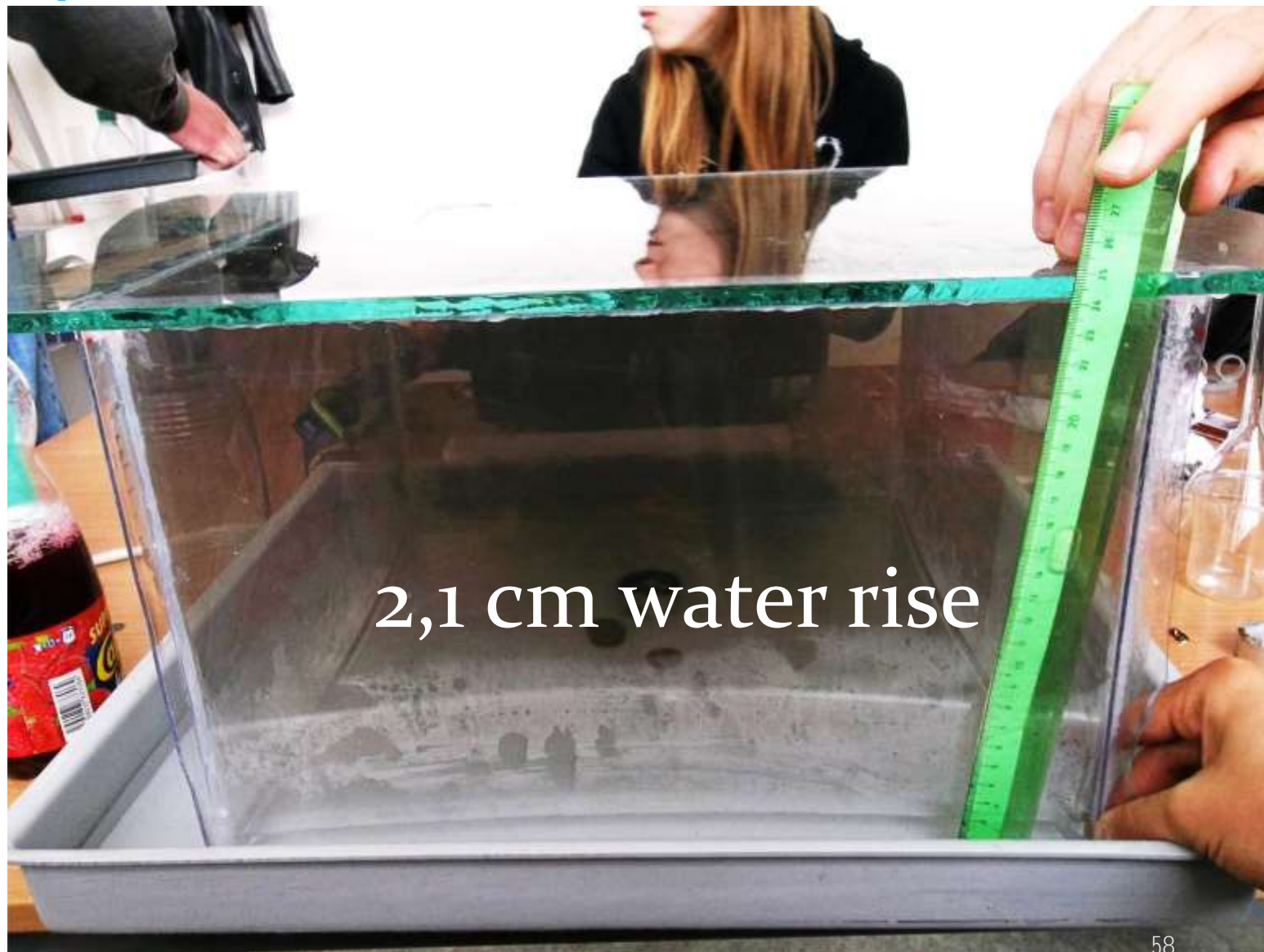


Temperature profile

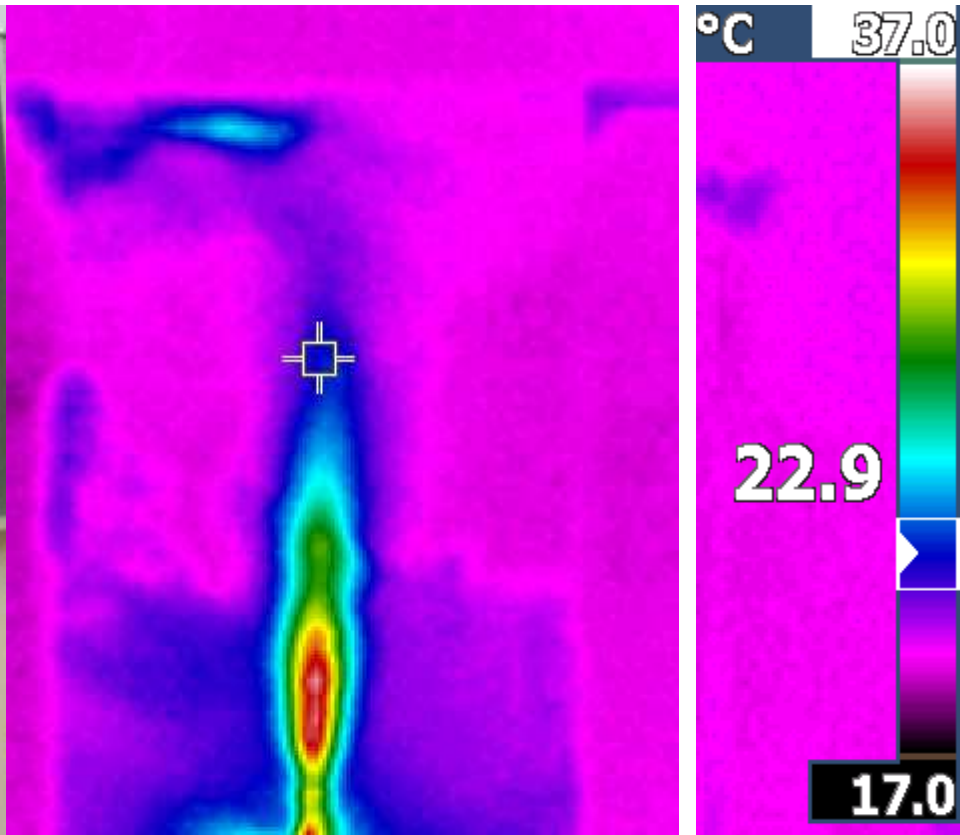
- At the top (50 °C)
 - - everywhere the same
- Over the candle (300 °C)
 - - thin column of hot air
- Everywhere else (30 °C)
 - - only a slight change



Largest “beaker” 37 x 37 x 25 cm

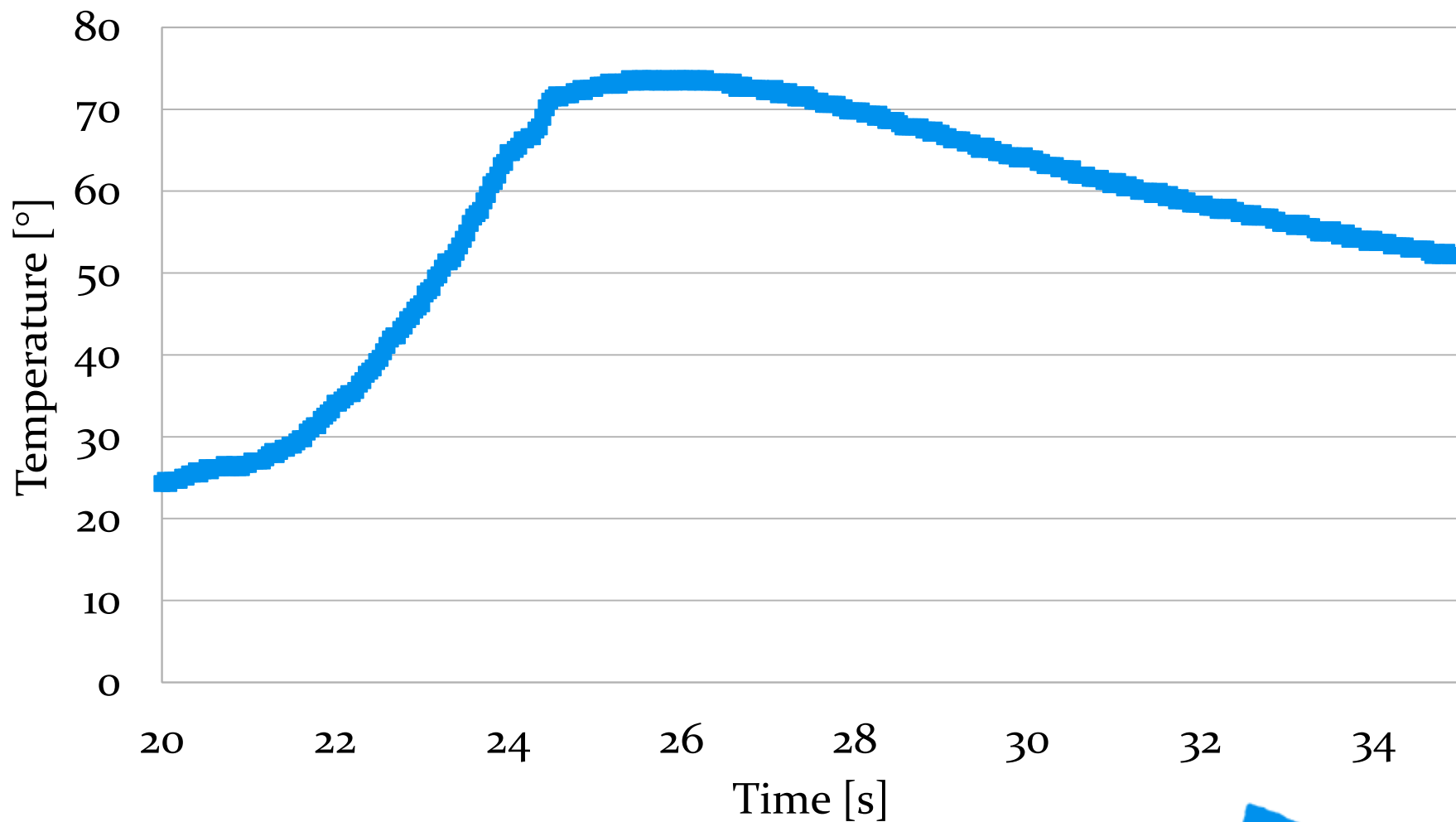


Visualization of hot column

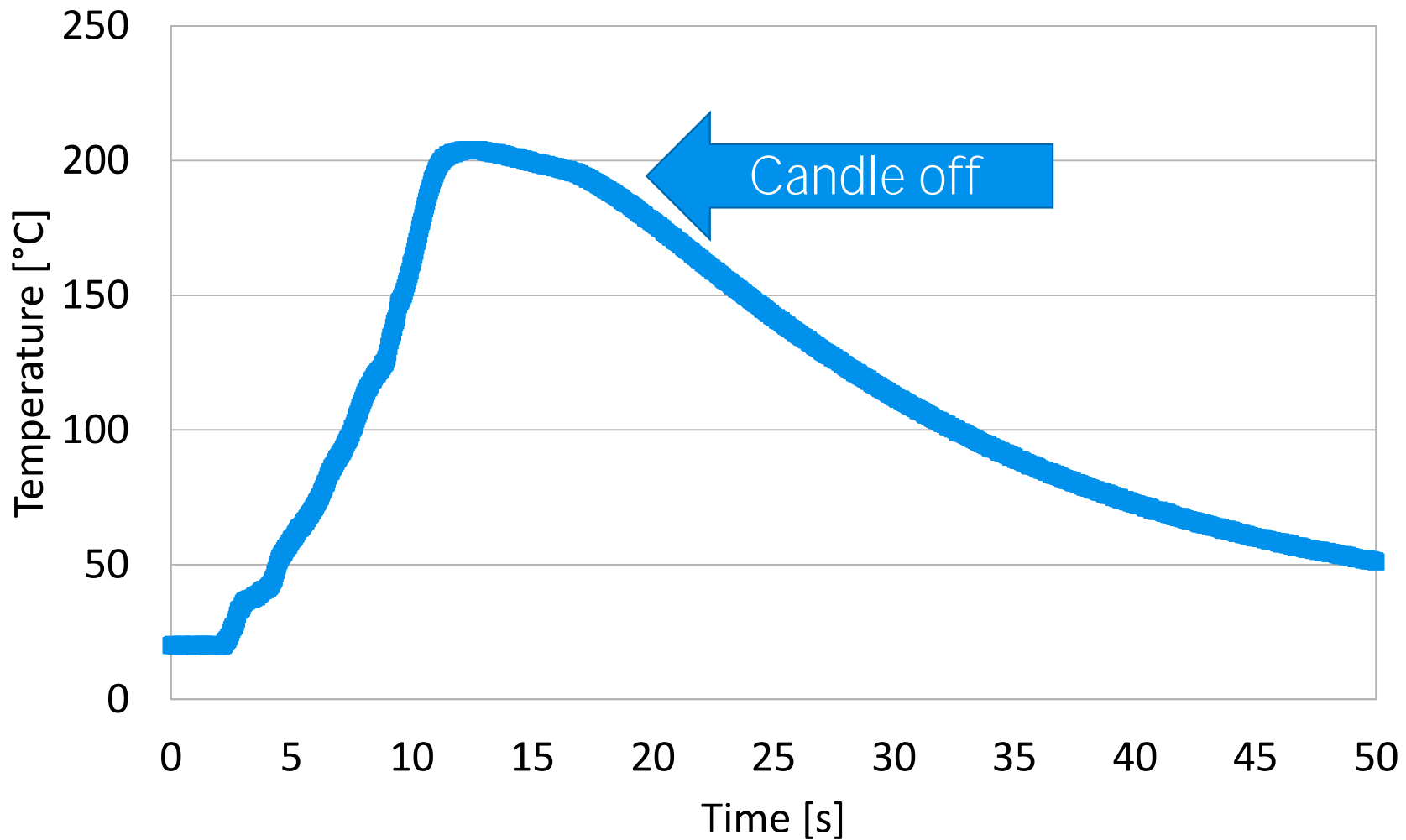




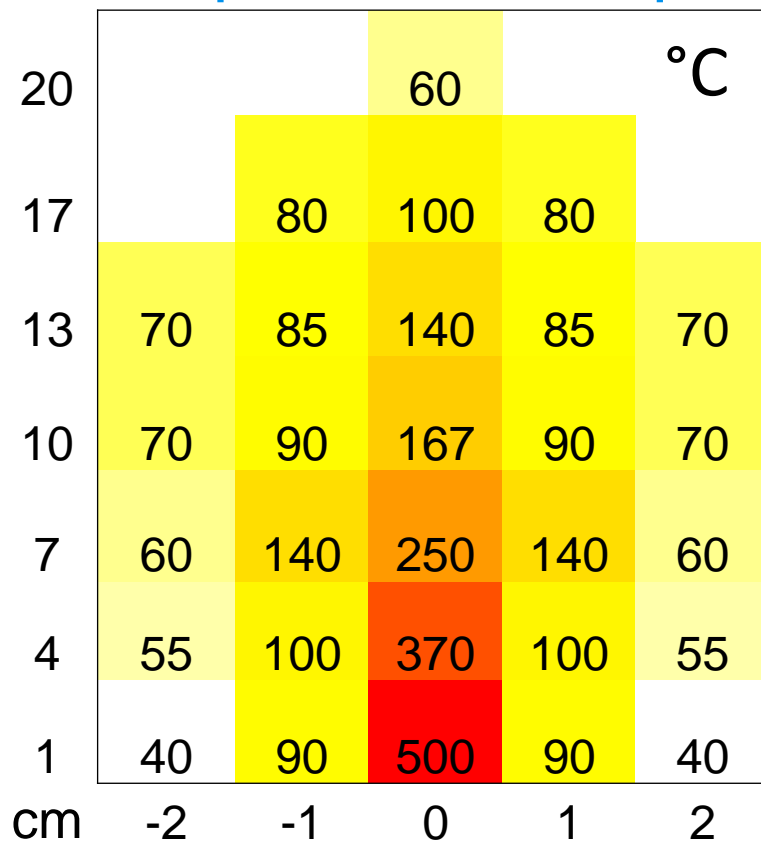
Temperature goes constant



Temperature goes constant



Temperature profile measurement



- Max. temperatures measured
- Hot air forms very thin column
- Warm air forms a cone