

# Optical Aberrations in a Gas Lenses

C. Mafusire<sup>1,2</sup>, A. Forbes<sup>1,2,3</sup>, M. M. Michaelis<sup>2</sup> and G. Snedden<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>CSIR National Laser Centre

<sup>2</sup>School of Physics, University of KwaZulu-Natal

<sup>3</sup>Stellenbosch University, Private Bag X1, Matieland 7602, South Africa

<sup>4</sup>CSIR Defence Peace Safety and Security

Presented at the

*Laser Beam Shaping XI,*

*2010 SPIE Optics + Photonics Annual Conference*

*San Diego Convention Centre*

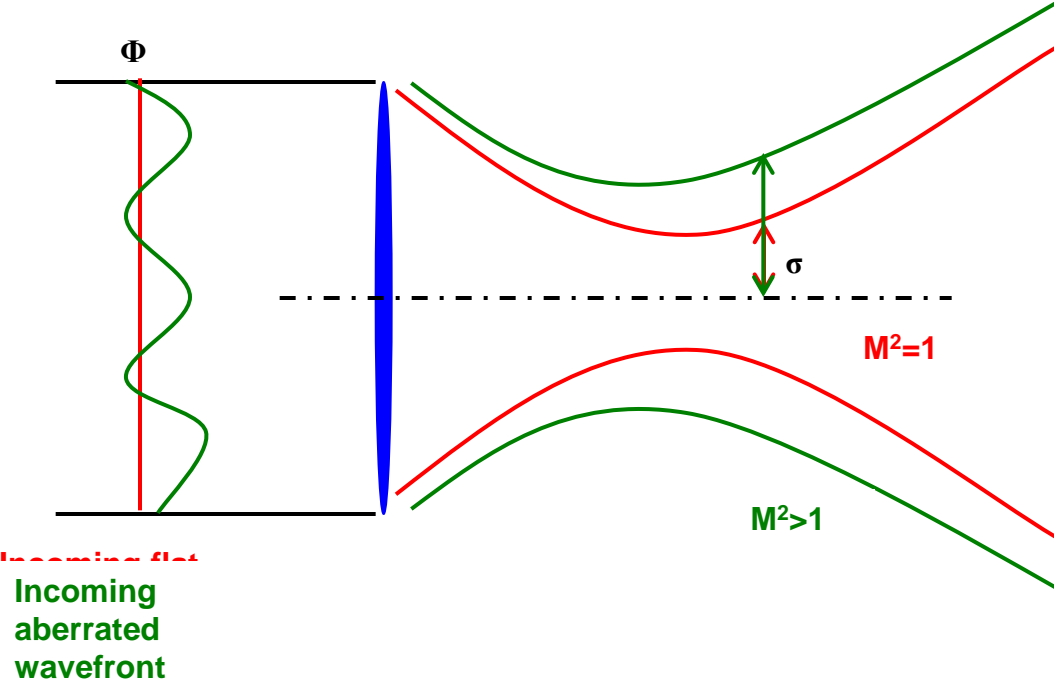
*San Diego, California*

*1-5 August 2010*

# Gas Lenses

- Gas Lenses and  $M^2$
- Spinning Pipe Gas Lens
  - CFD Model
  - Experimental Results
- Flame Lens
  - CFD Model
  - Experimental Results
- Conclusion

# Aberrations and $M^2$

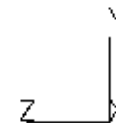
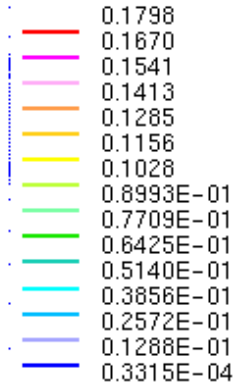
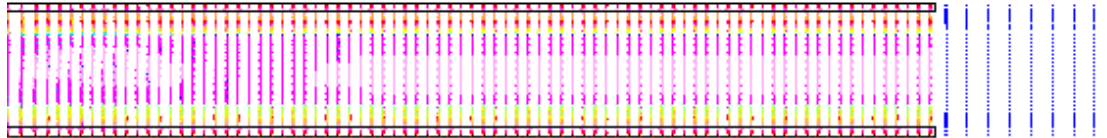


# CFD Models – velocity vectors

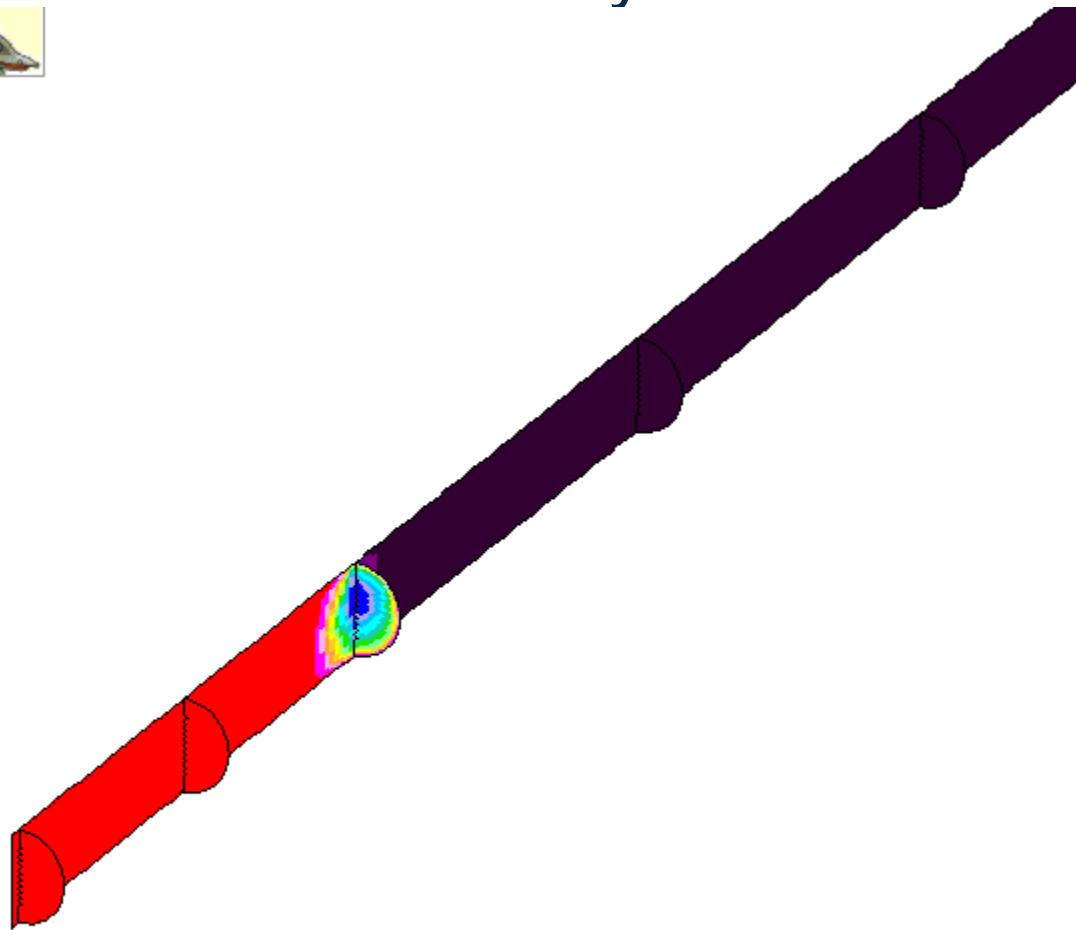


pro-STAR 3.2

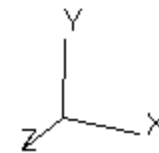
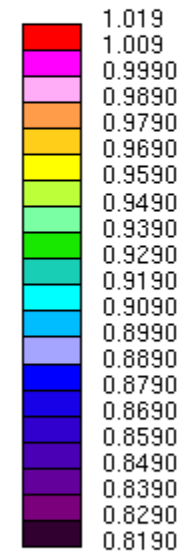
5-APR-06  
VEL. COMP V W  
M/S  
TIME = 0.100000E-02  
LOCAL MX= 0.1798  
LOCAL MN= 0.3315E-04



# CFD Model - density

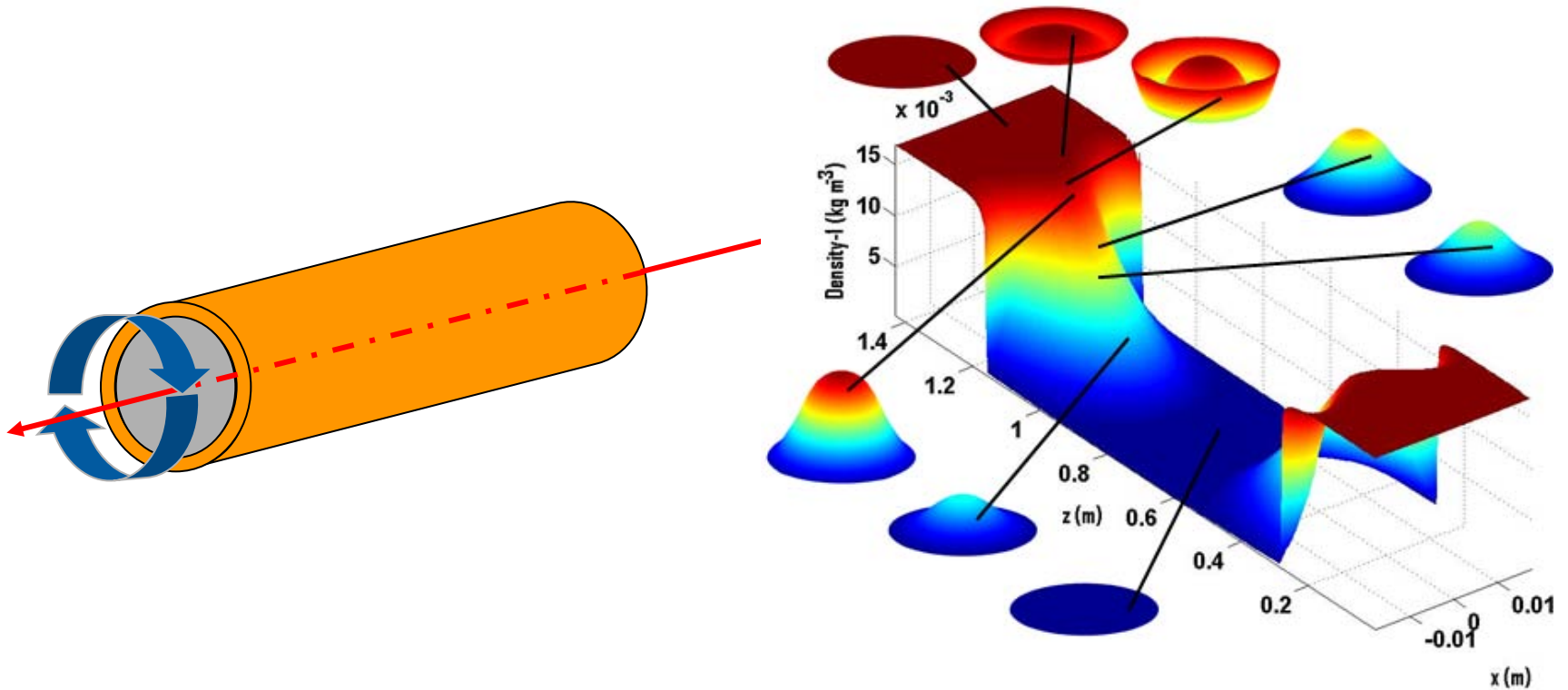


DENSITY  
KG/M\*\*3  
TIME = 0.100000E-02

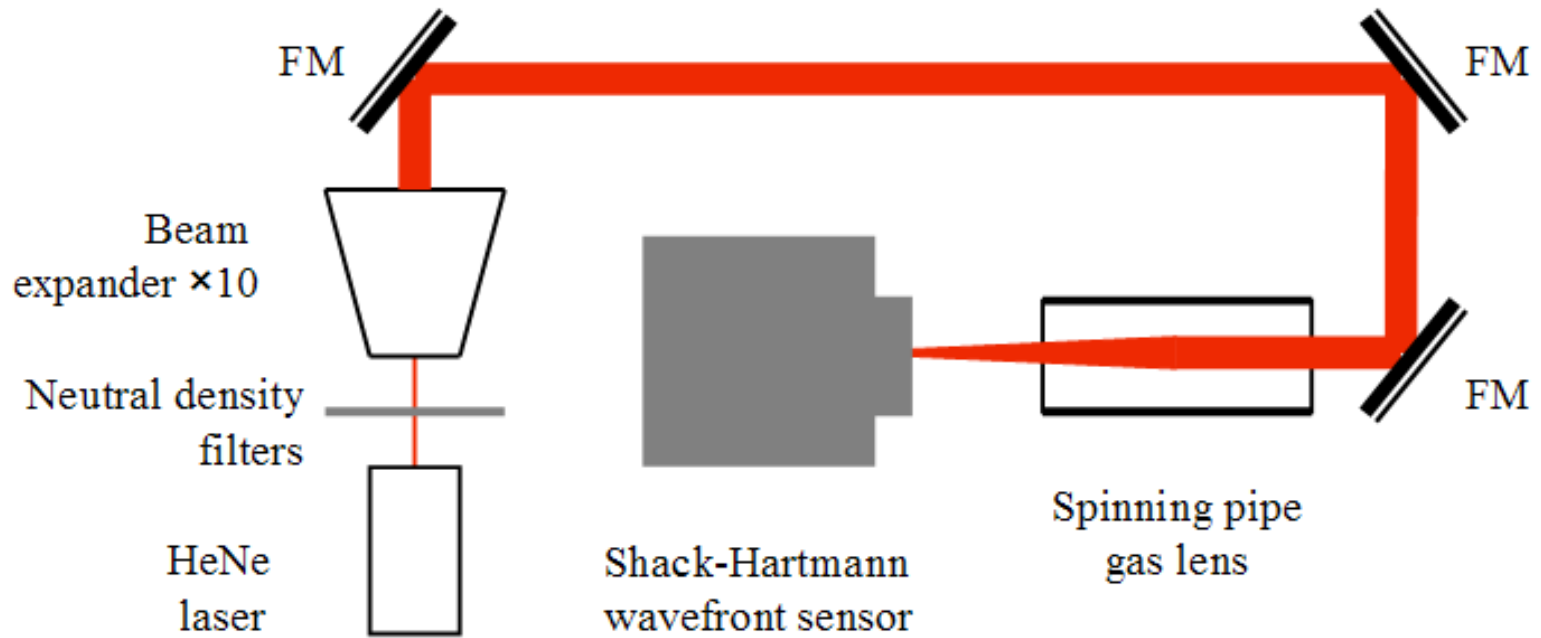


Gas Lens  
0Hz, 373K

# Spinning Pipe Gas Lens (SPGL)

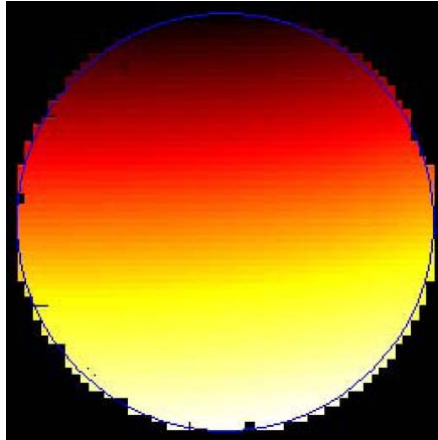


# Experimental set-up

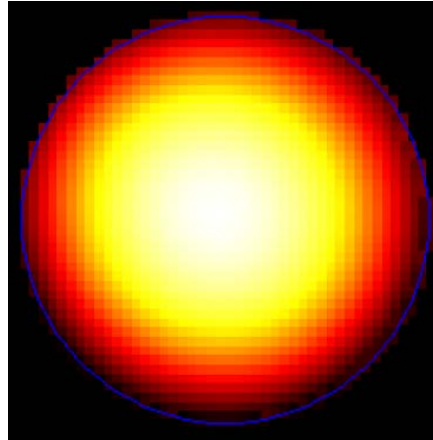


# Model and experiment

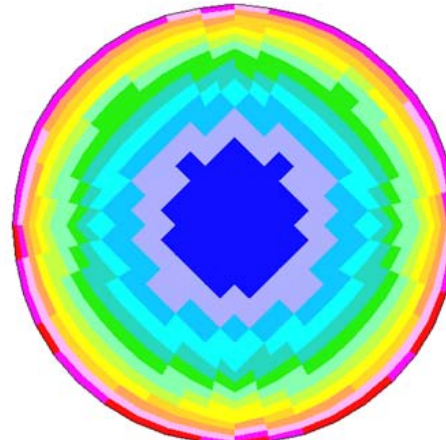
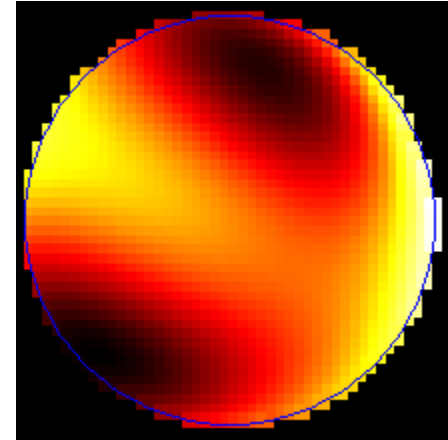
Tilt (heated but stationary)



Defocus (steady state rotation)



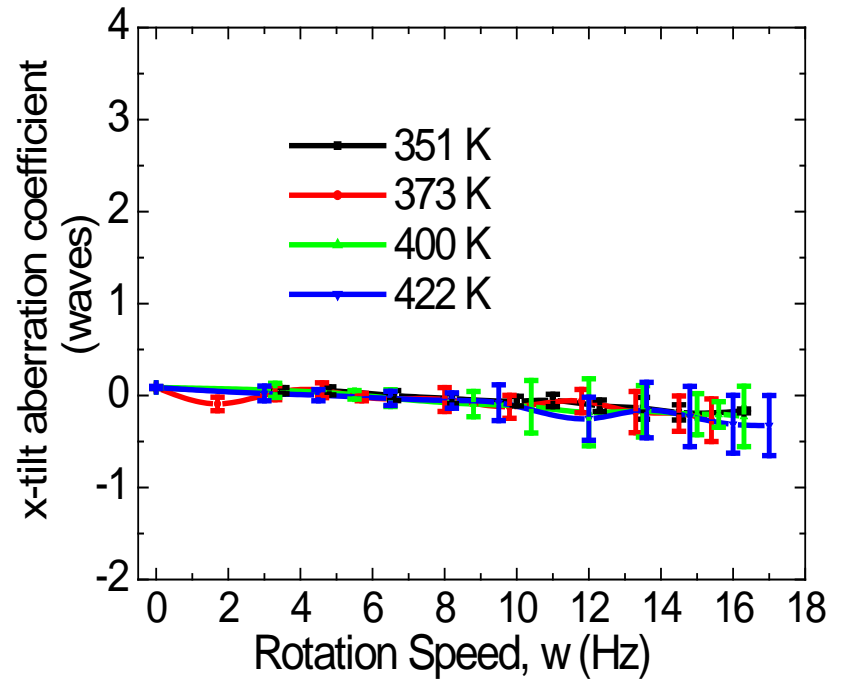
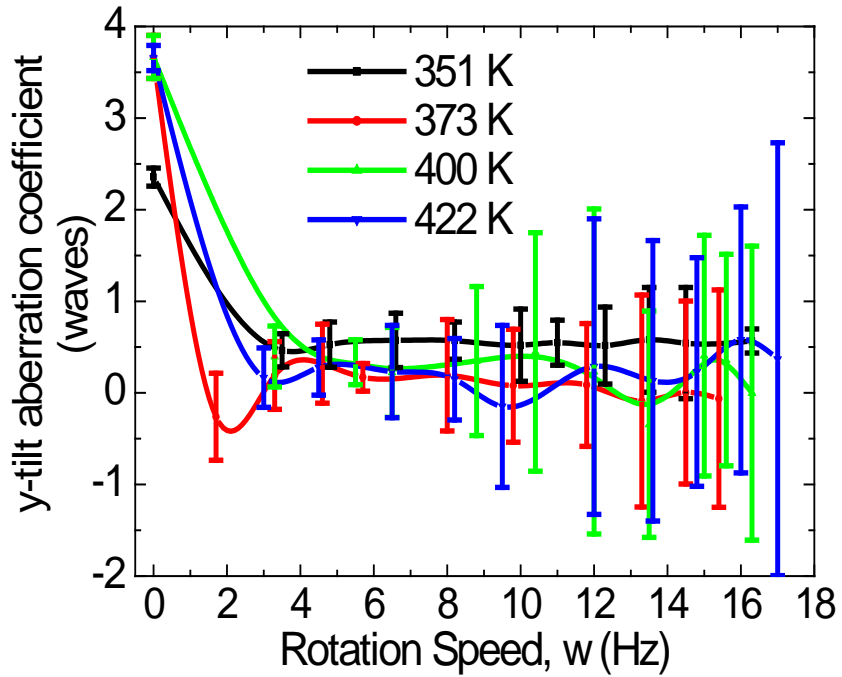
Phase minus defocus + tilt



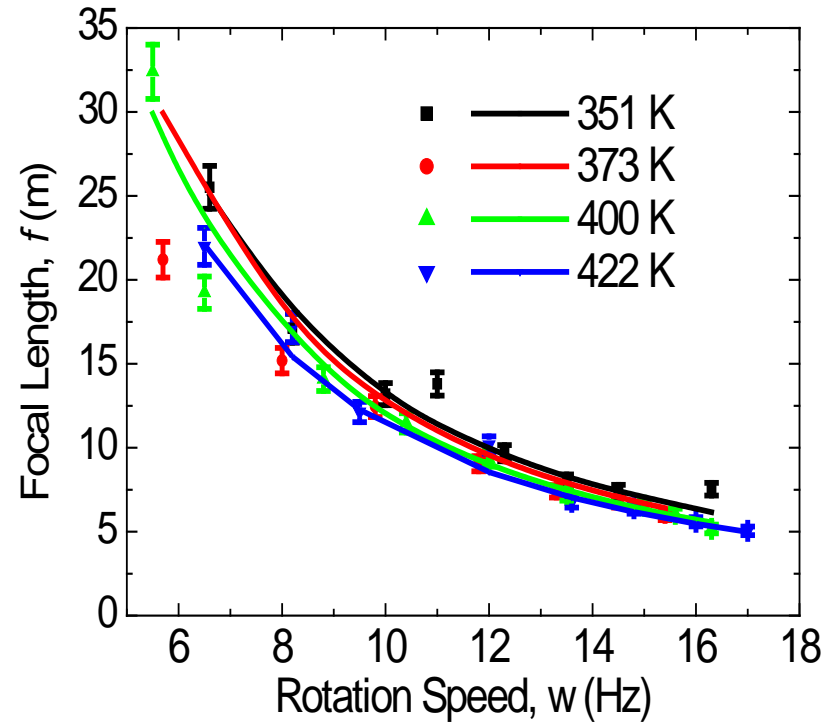
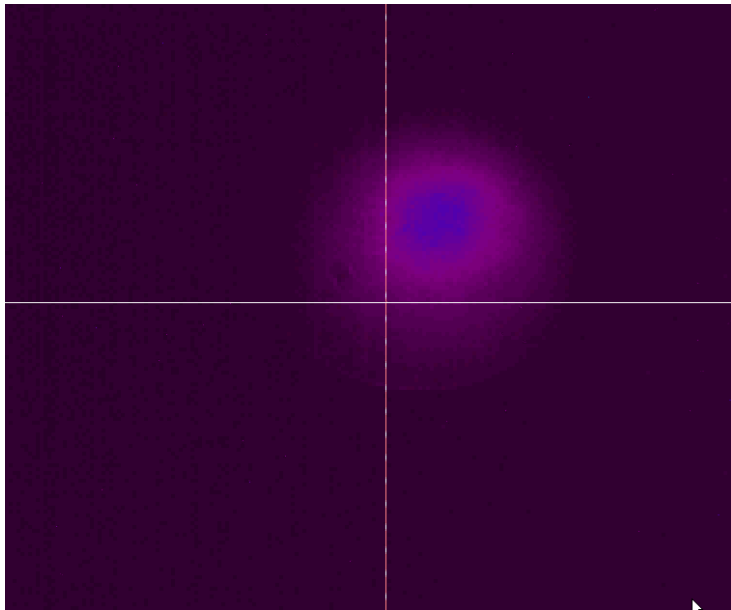
C. Mafusire, et al., *Optics Express* 16 (4), 9850–79856, 2008



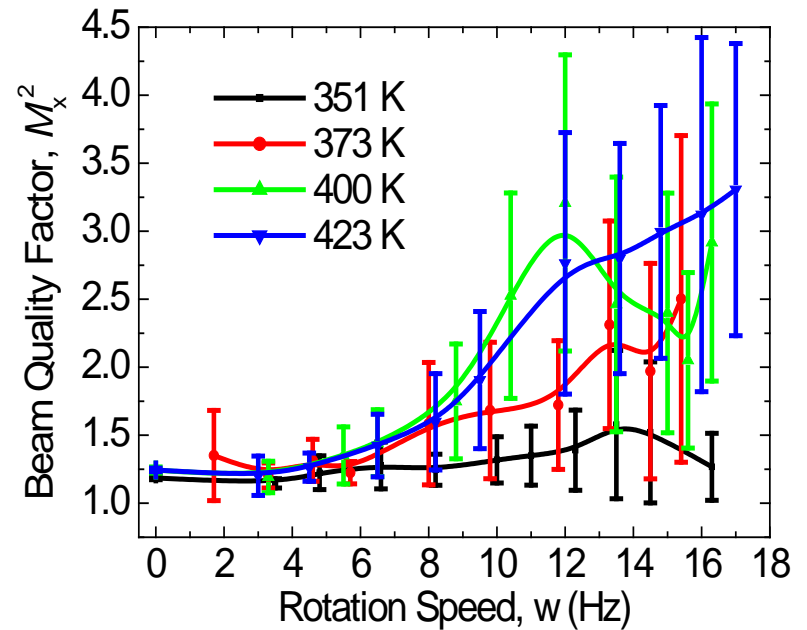
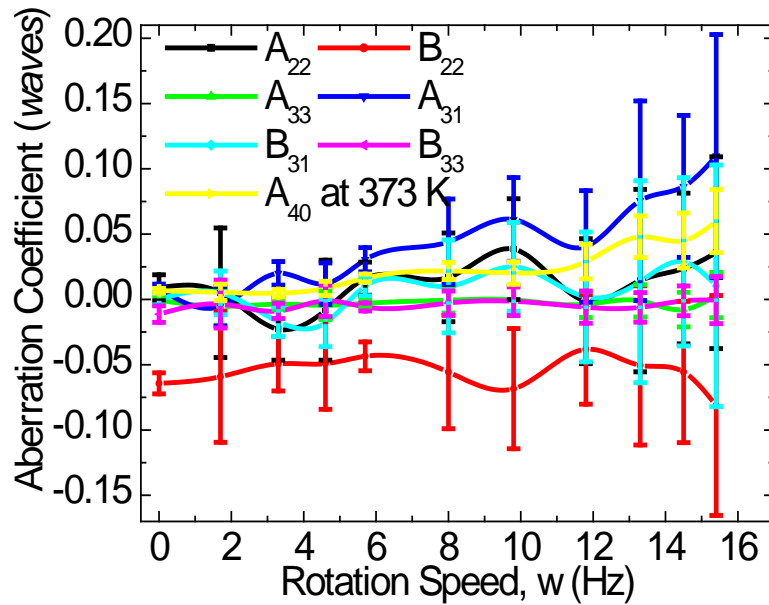
# Tilt



# Lensing



# Aberrations and $M^2$



# Future work

- Higher order aberrations leads to loss of beam quality which means we can improve  $M^2$  by eliminating aberrations
- Measurement of changes to  $M^2$  caused by selected amounts of specific aberrations

**Thank You**

