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Original research article



## Relationship between topographic parameters and BRDF for tungsten surfaces in the visible spectrum

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### ABSTRACT

In metallic fusion devices, parasitic light originating from multiple reflections on the wall is a major problem for the interpretation of optical diagnostics. Strong stray light affects several optical diagnostics in ITER. One possibility to cope with this reflected light is to use photonic simulation, which can accurately predict the behavior of light within complex 3D geometry. A prerequisite is to get a good description of the reflection model, represented by the Bidirectional Reflectance Distribution Function (BRDF), based on optical measurements of in-vessel materials. To avoid complicated measurements using goniophotometer to get the BRDF, one possibility is to link surface optical properties and topography characteristics, such as roughness measurements, for example, using the classical Bennett's formula.

Measurements were performed using two experimental goniophotometers to fully characterize the BRDF of tungsten samples with different roughness values. Surface topography was measured using a three-dimensional laser scanning confocal microscope. Several parameters were extracted from these measurements including the arithmetic average roughness ( $R_a$ ), the root mean square roughness ( $RMS$ ), the Surface Inclination Angle Distribution and furthermore its mean value  $\delta_m$  and the power spectral density (PSD). The correlations of BRDF model parameters deduced from the measurements are compared with the previous topographic parameters. The initial results on several tungsten samples show that  $R_a$ , which is the usual measure of surface roughness, is not the most suitable metric to link with the reflection behavior of the surface. In contrast, the PSD and the surface inclination angle are interesting metrics for describing the reflected light.

### 1. Introduction

For fusion reactors like ITER or DEMO, plasma diagnostics and wall temperature monitoring will be crucial for the safety of these devices. In these reactors as well as in JET [1], ASDEX Upgrade [2] and WEST [3,4] the reactor first wall (FW) is entirely metallic. Strong stray light produced by reflections from the metallic FW is a primary concern for diagnostics. For ITER as an example, the first wall will be composed of tungsten (W) and beryllium (Be) and stray light will affect visible spectroscopy diagnostic

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systems [5,6], infrared imaging system [7], charge exchange recombination spectroscopy [8] and synthetic H-alpha [9]. Therefore, the consideration of the effect of the reflected light is required for ITER diagnostics. One approach is to quantitatively evaluate reflection effects using ray-tracing software. Photonic simulation codes were performed using the Monte Carlo ray-tracer and have already been investigated with LightTools [10,11], CHERAB [12,13], SPEOS [7,14] and Raysect [15–17]. All these ray-tracers are based on photon-material interaction models using experimental data or a model known as bidirectional reflectance distribution function (BRDF) [18]. The choice of the BRDF model and the relevance of the experimental surface measurement are constantly under discussion among the community. Moreover, it should be noted that the light reflection properties of FW will likely change after the following exposure to plasma. To explain these issues in more detail, we focus on a specific diagnostic, that is, the infrared (IR) imaging system. One way to determine the FW surface temperature is to use numerical methods to simulate the transport of IR radiation in the vacuum chamber and quantify the contributions of reflections according to the plasma scenario [19,20] [Part S3 in the supplementary file]. The optical radiative properties of materials are described through emissivity, temperature, and reflectance models, including the variables of the BRDF model. However, as previously explained, BRDFs are not thoroughly measured, and the models do not always represent the sample surface. Considering tungsten for the fusion environment, the first measurements were performed by Ben Yaala et al. and Natsume et al. [14,21,22]. The papers reported two different experimental methods to measure the BRDF. Ben Yaala used the most commonly adopted reference method i.e. comparing the reflected sample flux to a well-known reference reflectivity [14]. Natsume et al. obtained absolute measurement by taking the ratio of the reflected light's radiance to the incident light's irradiance (Supplementary Information part S4) [21]. Both references investigated BRDF model with Gaussian function and Natsume et al. also tested the microfacet model using the Trowbridge–Reitz distribution, often called GGX [23].

Another idea is to measure the emissivity, which is linked to the BRDF [Part S2 in the supplementary file] of the high-heat-load W area of the WEST reactor [24]. These measurements demonstrated a strong spatial emissivity variation from 0.05 to 0.85. The optical properties of W are likely to change after plasma exposure, and the erosion-deposition phenomenon occurring during the reactor lifetime will certainly modify the emissivity. According to Gaspar et al. low emissivity is related to the area eroded by ion bombardment and a high value on the deposition area (accumulation of FW eroded material) [24].

Coming back to the BRDF measurements and surface topography, the link between BRDF and surface roughness was already established [25,26]. The standard parameter in surface topography is the well-established arithmetic average of the absolute values of the profile height deviations from the mean line ( $R_a$ ) [Equation S8].  $R_a$  is expressed in  $\mu\text{m}$  or  $\text{nm}$  and contributes to the characterization of a surface in the community [14,22,24]. A few BRDF models [23,27,28] used a parameter link to the width of the reflection lobe as the roughness coefficient, which is a purely mathematical value between 0 and 1 and without dimensions. It can also be expressed as the arithmetic mean slope of a surface profile, which is the mean absolute profile slope over the measurement length ( $R_s$ ), and is not limited to the range 0–1 [Equation S10]. Moreover, theoretical models relate the roughness ( $R_a$ ) of a plane surface to its specular reflectance, roughness  $R_a$  and  $R_s$  to its reflectance [29], and power spectral density function (PSD) of the BRDF [30–33]. However, these models are classically used for smooth surfaces, which restricts their application and cannot describe the reflectivity of our samples (Figure S1).

In this work, we investigate the link between BRDF and the surface roughness of tungsten samples in the visible range. This work aims to study BRDF measurements using two experimental goniophotometers to fully characterize the BRDF of tungsten samples with different roughness values. From these measurements, we extracted several parameters, such as arithmetic height average roughness ( $R_a$ ), arithmetic slope average roughness ( $R_s$ ), root mean square height roughness ( $RM_S$ ), root mean square slope roughness ( $RM_S_s$ ), spectrally relevant roughness ( $\sigma_{rel}$ ), Surface Inclination Angle Distribution, mean value  $\delta_m$  and PSD. The correlations of the BRDF model parameters deduced from the measurements are compared with previous topographic parameters.

## 2. The bidirectional reflection distribution function

### 2.1. Definition

The bidirectional reflection distribution function [34,35] entirely describes the reflective behavior of a surface with respect to incident and reflected direction and wavelength. It is defined as the ratio between the reflected radiance  $dL_r(\omega_i, \omega_r)$  into the direction  $\omega_r$  due to the irradiation  $dE(\omega_i)$  coming from  $\omega_i$  within  $d\omega_i$  and this same irradiation:

$$\rho''(\omega_i, \omega_r) = \frac{dL_r(\omega_i, \omega_r)}{dE(\omega_i)} = \frac{dL_r(\omega_i, \omega_r)}{L_i(\omega_i) \cos \theta_i d\omega_i} \quad (1)$$

It has the dimension of the inverse of steradians and can take values greater than 1. It obeys Helmholtz reciprocity and energy conservation [Equations S1 and S2].

The most commonly used property associated with reflections is called the directional-hemispherical reflectance  $\rho'^{\circ}(\mathbf{x}, \omega_i)$  [Equations S3] which is most often simply referred to as *the* reflectance. It is typically measured by using an integrating sphere. It describes the proportion of flux leaving a surface into all directions due to the irradiation coming from one direction.

### 2.2. Model

Several different BRDF models have been reported in the literature. The most important are the cosine lobe models [36–38], and Gaussian lobe models [27,28]. Other models are also widely used like GGX [23,39,40]. The various models are currently used

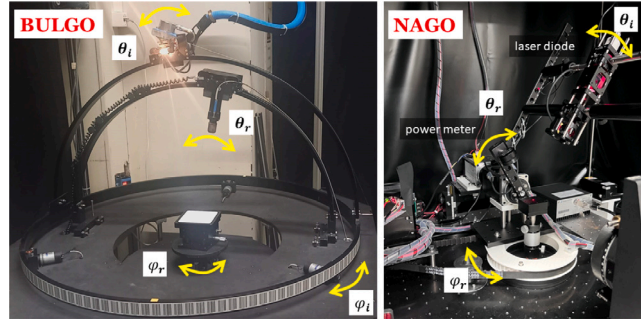


Fig. 1. Pictures of BULGO and NAGO goniophotometers.

into the micro-facet framework [41]. Their purpose is particularly to incorporate the phenomena of the evolution of the BRDF as a function of the angle of incidence as well as the visual effects due to the Fresnel coefficient (water appears as a mirror at a grazing angle and transparent otherwise). To keep things simple and because we do not focus on these phenomena, we stay outside of the micro-facet framework.

The simplest model to use is certainly the Phong model [37]:

$$\rho''(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\omega}_i, \boldsymbol{\omega}_r) = \rho_d''(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\omega}_i, \boldsymbol{\omega}_r) + \rho_s''(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\omega}_i, \boldsymbol{\omega}_r) \quad (2)$$

$$= k_d \frac{1}{\pi} + k_s \frac{n+2}{2\pi} \cos^n \alpha \quad (3)$$

where  $\alpha$  is the angle between the perfect specular reflective direction and the effective reflective direction,  $k_d$  is the diffuse reflectance, i.e. the fraction of incoming energy that is reflected diffusely,  $k_s$  is the specular reflectance, i.e. the fraction of perpendicularly incoming energy that is reflected specularly and  $n$  is the specular exponent linked to the Full Width at Half Maximum (FWHM) by the empirical expression:

$$n = f(FWHM) \quad (4)$$

This model only requires 3 parameters with a clear physical meaning and the reflectance has a neat analytical expression at normal incidence:

$$\rho'^{\ominus}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\omega}_i) = \int_S \rho''(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\omega}_i, \boldsymbol{\omega}_r) \cos \theta_r d\omega_r \quad (5)$$

$$= \int_S \left[ k_d \frac{1}{\pi} + k_s \frac{n+2}{2\pi} \cos^n \alpha \right] \cos \theta_r d\omega_r \quad (6)$$

$$= k_d + k_s \frac{n+2}{2\pi} \int_S \cos^n \alpha \cos \theta_r d\omega_r \quad (7)$$

For normal incidence  $\alpha = \theta_r$ , so the integral equal  $\frac{2\pi}{n+2}$  and

$$\rho'^{\ominus}(\mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\omega}_i) = k_d + k_s \quad (8)$$

### 3. Topographic analysis

The usual way to describe the surface roughness is to compute the arithmetic average roughness  $R_a$  (possibly the root mean square height roughness  $RMS$ ) [14] [Equations S8 and S9]. It only requires the height distribution of the surface which is easy to measure with a profilometer, confocal microscopy or atomic force microscope. But the reflection of photons on a surface is better described with the local slopes encountered because this is what determines the direction of reflection following the Snell-Descartes law. Various parameters can be computed: the arithmetic average slope roughness  $R_s$  [Equations S10], the root mean square slope roughness  $RMS_s$  [Equations S11] and the mean inclination angle:

$$\delta_m = \frac{1}{N_x N_y} \sum_{i=1}^{N_x} \sum_{j=1}^{N_y} \arctan \sqrt{\frac{\Delta z_i^2}{\Delta x_i^2} + \frac{\Delta z_j^2}{\Delta y_j^2}} \quad (9)$$

where  $N_x$  and  $N_y$  are the number of measures in the two directions of the sample measurement plan and  $\Delta z_i/\Delta x_i$  and  $\Delta z_j/\Delta y_j$  are respectively the slope due to a variation of height in the  $x$  direction and the  $y$  direction. A representation of the surface inclination angle is in figure S4.

The main interest of  $\delta_m$  is that it is bounded between 0 and  $\pi$ . It can thus be normalized  $\bar{\delta}_m = \delta_m/\pi$  so that it can be used in BRDF models with a mathematical parameter used as roughness with value between 0 and 1 already commonly used in models [23,27,28].

It is also possible to take into account the spectrum of the radiation being studied. A material can be smooth at long wavelengths and rough at short wavelengths [35]. To do so, the PSD of the height distribution is produced and the relevant roughness  $\sigma_{rel}$  is calculated [32]:

$$\sigma_{rel} = \sqrt{2\pi \int_{f_{min}}^{f_{max}} PSD(f) f df} \quad (10)$$

where  $f_{min}$  and  $f_{max}$  define the range of wavelength of interest and  $PSD(f)$  is the PSD at the frequency  $f$ . This makes it possible to describe the surface irregularities that are of the same order of magnitude as the radiation and that have the greatest impact on it.

To explore how the roughness of the sample affects the measured BRDF, the surface roughness of the samples was also measured using a three-dimensional laser scanning confocal microscope (3D LSCM, VK-X1100, Keyence). An objective lens of 20 times magnification was used to reconstruct the surface topography. The arithmetical mean height of the surface is calculated over an area of  $531 \times 708 \mu\text{m}^2$ .

## 4. Experimental

### 4.1. Setup

The BRDF is a function of four geometric variables, namely the angles defining the directions of incidence ( $\theta_i, \varphi_i$ ) and reflection ( $\theta_r, \varphi_r$ ) (see Figure 2a of Ref. [14]). The measurement of a BRDF requires a device capable of traversing all pairs of directions which is called a gonireflectometer.

There are several types of gonireflectometers, depending on the type of detector or the shape of the sample. The main purpose of these different versions is to reduce the measurement time which is intrinsically important. The general principle remains the same. For each pair of position of the lamp and the detector, the signal from the reflection on the sample  $I_{sample}$  is compared to a reference signal  $I_{ref}$  whose BRDF  $\rho''_{ref}$  is known. A third measurement is necessary to subtract the dark current  $I_{dark}$ , measured by obstructing the detector. If these three measurements are made at different integration times, this must be taken into account by relating each of the signals to their respective integration times (label as  $t_{sample}$ ,  $t_{ref}$  and  $t_{dark}$ ).

$$\rho''_{sample}(\theta_i, \varphi_i, \theta_r, \varphi_r) = \frac{I_{sample} - I_{dark}}{I_{ref} - I_{dark}} \frac{\rho''_{ref}(\theta_i, \varphi_i, \theta_r, \varphi_r) t_{sample}}{t_{ref}} \quad (11)$$

The only BRDF easily accessible in their entirety are those of diffuse materials. In this case, it is constant whatever the angles of incidence and reflection and directly deducible from the reflectance  $\rho_{ref}$ :

$$\rho''_{ref}(\theta_i, \varphi_i, \theta_r, \varphi_r) = \frac{\rho_{ref}}{\pi} \quad (12)$$

Thus:

$$\rho''_{sample}(\theta_i, \varphi_i, \theta_r, \varphi_r) = \frac{\rho_{ref}}{\pi} \frac{I_{sample} - I_{dark}}{I_{ref} - I_{dark}} \frac{t_{sample}}{t_{ref}} \quad (13)$$

The material used for the reference is an extremely Lambertian high-density polyethylene Spectralon®. It is a very diffuse and highly reflective standard for the 250 to 2500 nm range and its reflectance is known. The Basel University Laboratory GOniospectrophotometer (BULGO) we use is well described in Ben Yaala et al. [14] as the NAgoya GOniophotometer (NAGO) [42] and presented in Fig. 1. The 0° incidence normal reflectance was measured using a UVvis-near infrared (NIR) spectrophotometer Varian Cary 5 equipped with a 110 mm diameter integrating sphere under nearly normal incidence (3° 20') in the wavelength range of 0.25–2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  [13].

### 4.2. Fitting methodology

As the samples were supposed to be isotropic and to reduce the measurement time, only one incident plane was measured. The data were analyzed and fitted as shown in Fig. 2. The lower part of Fig. 2 shows an example of a Phong function in spherical coordinates view from above. The blue spot is the reflection peak related to the specular part and the pale green disk is the offset value related to the diffuse part. A cross section on the incident plane is plotted on the top graph of Fig. 2 showing the characteristic Gaussian/cosine lobe aspect.

In Fig. 3, a BRDF is plotted in one plane and the parameters of Eq. (3) are indicated.  $k_d$  is extracted from the minimal value,  $n$  is extracted from the measured fwhm and  $k_s$  is extracted from the maximal value and the  $n$  value.

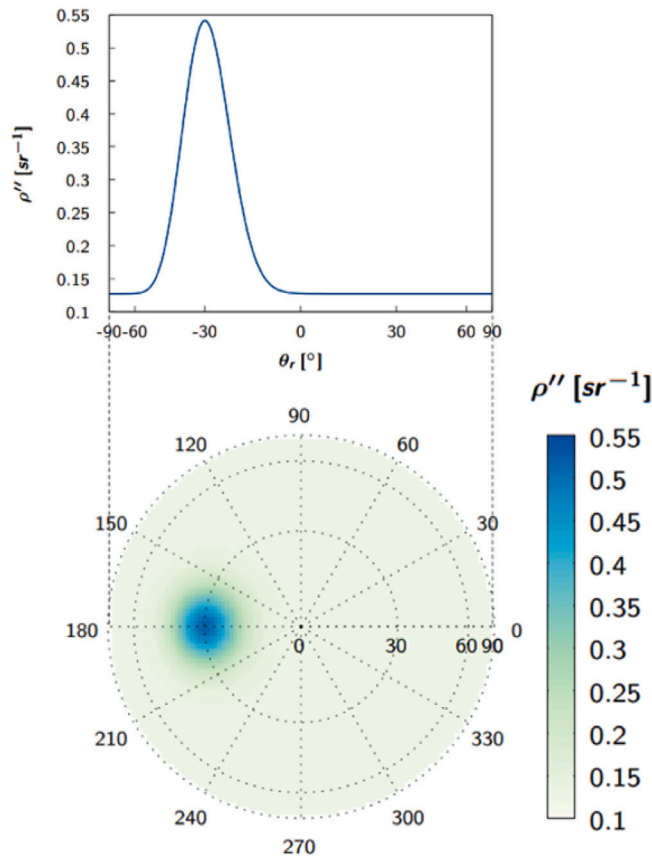


Fig. 2. Top view of a Phong function in spherical coordinates (bottom) associated to its incident plane (top).

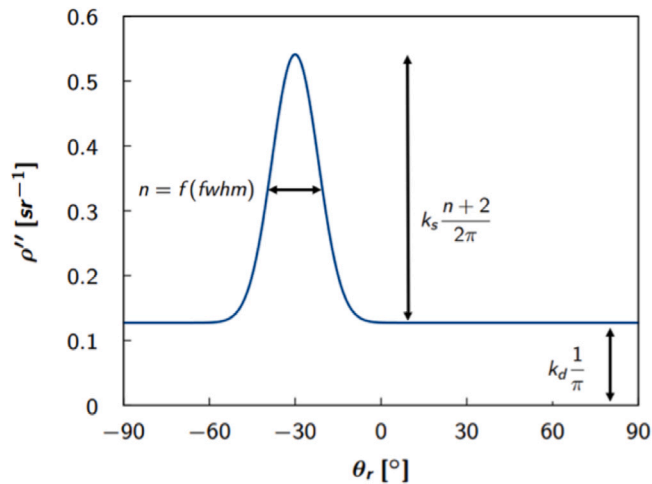


Fig. 3. Classical BRDF profile is presented and the parameters of the Phong model (Eq. (3)) are indicated.

### 5. Results and discussions

Optical properties and surface topography were investigated for all tungsten samples presented in Fig. 4. The samples M100-103 were described by Ben Yaala et al. [14], M104 was selected for its high roughness. Tungsten plates produced by Nilaco Corp. were used for M105-107. No additional surface treatment was added to M105, but M106 and M107 were sputtered by ions in helium and argon plasmas, respectively.

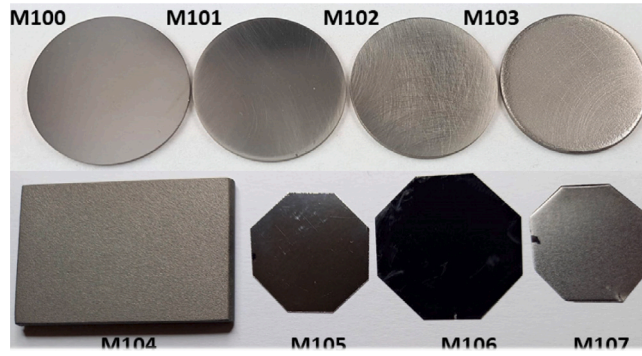


Fig. 4. Pictures of tungsten samples M100-M107.

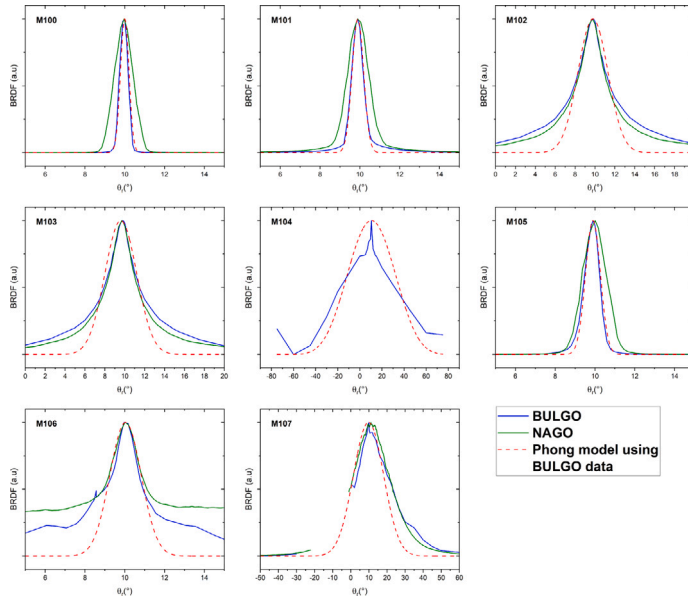


Fig. 5. Normalized BRDF of samples M100-107 measured with BULGO and NAGO. The dashed line is the Phong model fitted with BULGO data.

The BRDF was measured using both goniometers and plotted for  $\theta_i$  and  $\theta_r = 10$  degrees in Fig. 5. Moreover, other reflection angles ( $\theta_r$ ) were also measured and are presented in figure S3. From 10 to 60°, the FWHM does not vary significantly. This was also demonstrated in previous measurements of samples M100 to M103 [14] and also with beryllium samples measured with BULGO and NAGO [42].

The intensity of the BRDF was normalized for the comparison. The shape of the BRDF was similar for the two goniophotometer for all samples. The main difference is the larger FWHM for specular samples measured with NAGO, and also reported in table S1. In the case of low specular reflectivity (Fig. 6), the width of the BRDF is comparable. The data from Fig. 5 were fitted with the Phong model (Eq. (3)) and the relevant parameters  $k_s$ ,  $k_d$ ,  $n$  and FWHM (from Fig. 3) were extracted. Comparing optical properties measured with the spectrophotometer (Fig. 6) and the BRDF measured with BULGO, there is a linear trend between the specular reflectivity and  $k_s$  and for the diffuse reflectivity and  $k_d$  as presented in Fig. 7.

The surface topography can also be analyzed using methods of fractal geometry, such as power spectral density (PSD) functions. The PSD of a surface is a mathematical tool that decomposes a surface into contributions from different spatial frequencies (wavevectors). The PSD is the Fourier transform of the autocorrelation function of the signal, which contains just the power (and not the phase) across a range of wavevectors. This allows the identification of spatial frequencies in the signal, which provide topographical parameters like equivalent roughness, fractal dimension and Hurst exponent. The 1D PSD represents the surface height squared (roughness power) per spatial frequency. It was calculated by integrating the 2D signal over the frequential radius  $f_r = \sqrt{f_x^2 + f_y^2}$  (Figure S2b). Fig. 8a displays in a log-lin plot the resulting 1D PSD profiles computed from confocal images. The 1D PSD was plotted as a function of the spatial frequency which is directly inversely proportional to the wavelength in the real space. PSD curves generally present the same characteristic shape: a response in the lower part of the spatial frequency spectrum and a

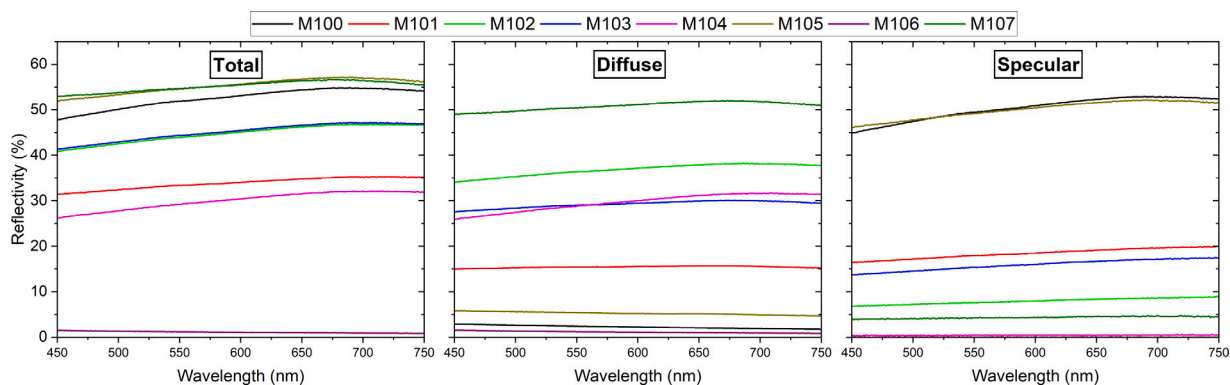


Fig. 6. Total, diffuse and specular reflectivity of all tungsten samples M100-M107.

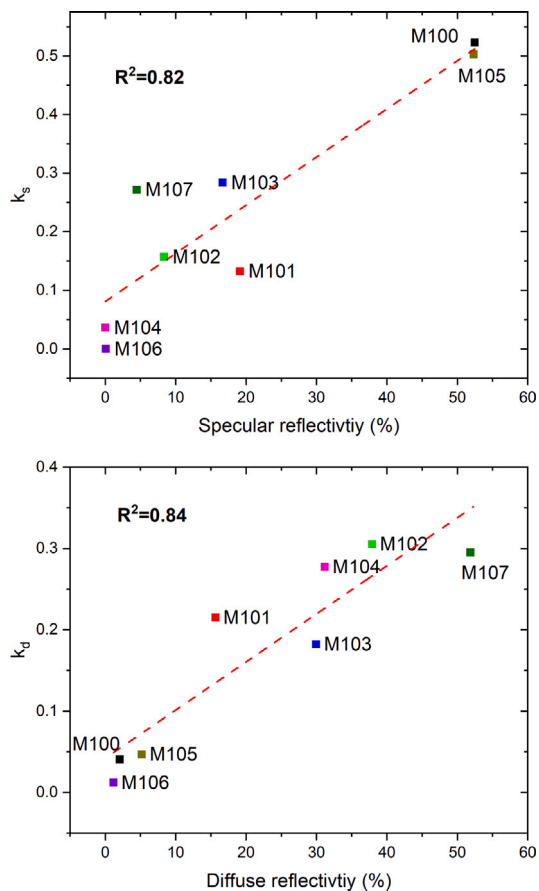


Fig. 7.  $k_s$  as function of the specular reflectivity and  $k_d$  as function of diffuse reflectivity.

power-law dependence (Supplementary Information S6) with the spatial frequency in the upper part of the spectrum corresponding to the highly correlated region.

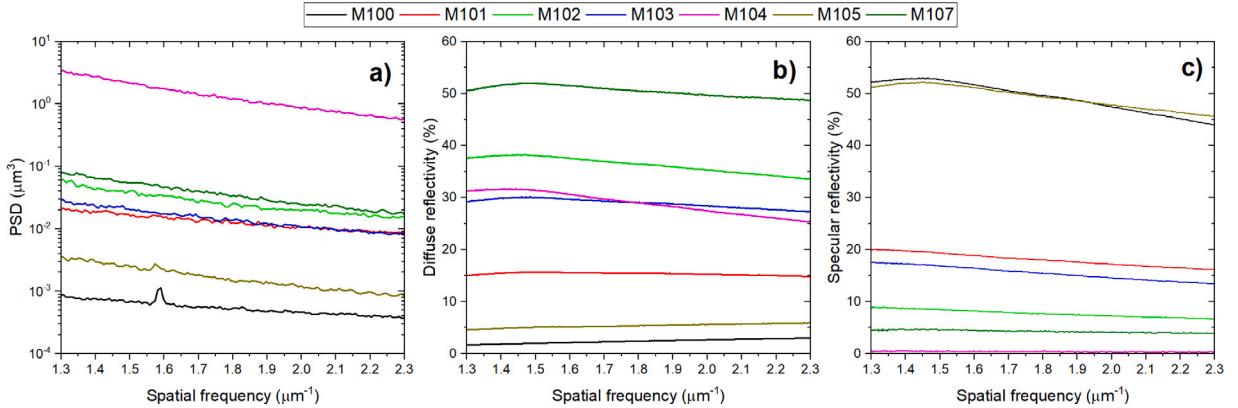
The PSD is the two-dimensional frequency space representation of the surface topography and it is directly linked to the optical scattering distribution from the sample [44]. Harvey et al. also reported careful measurements of material surface statistics [45]. The Generalized Harvey-Shack (GHS) BRDF model was used to compute the PSD from the BRDF data. In this reference, the computed PSD using GHS theory closely matched the measured statistics of the surfaces. For our data, in the range,  $1.3\text{--}2.3 \mu\text{m}^{-1}$  ( $\lambda = 400\text{--}800$  nm), the 1D PSD in Fig. 8a follow the diffuse intensity (Fig. 8b) i.e. the order of the 1D PSD is the same as the diffuse reflectivity order. Only the samples M104 (pink color) do not match previous explained trend. The total reflectivity for the M104 at 600 nm



**Table 1**

Roughness values of parameters of samples M100-105 and M107. The sample M106 has foam structure reported in [43] and it make no sense to have roughness values.

	$R_a$ [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]	$R_s$ [-]	$RMS$ [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]	$\sigma_{rel}$ [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]	$\delta_m$ [ $^\circ$ ]	$\delta_m^-$ [-]
M100	0.021	0.041	0.031	0.021	2.374	0.026
M101	0.086	0.247	0.124	0.108	13.110	0.146
M102	0.354	0.398	0.499	0.182	19.666	0.219
M103	0.447	0.257	0.724	0.134	13.133	0.146
M104	6.404	1.165	8.342	1.636	38.988	0.433
M105	0.832	0.280	1.077	0.247	14.266	0.159
M107	0.059	0.054	0.077	0.041	3.063	0.034



**Fig. 8.** (a) is power-spectra obtained using a FFT of topography image of samples M100-107. (b) diffuse, (c) specular reflectivity of the same samples.

is 30% and for a polished tungsten like M100, M105 is 55% for the same wavelength. Considering Reflection + Transmission + Absorption = 1 and assuming the metal transmission to be negligible, the absorption for M104 is around 25%. For sure, for the M104, the diffuse reflectivity cannot be higher than the total reflectivity (about 30%). However, the M102 and M107 have a total reflectivity of 45 and 55%, respectively, allowing these two samples to have a higher diffuse reflectivity than M104. Therefore, even if the roughness for M104 (Table 1) and the PSD (Fig. 8a) is logically the highest due to his topography, this led to a discrepancy in the previously explained trend. However, there is a one-to-one reverse sequential correspondence comparing the relation of the PSD and the specular reflectivity (Fig. 8c).

From the topography measurements, roughness parameters were calculated using the formula in Supplementary Information S5 and are presented in Table 1. The Phong parameters were plotted against the  $R_a$ ,  $R_s$  and  $RMS$  roughness values in Fig. 9. There was no direct correlation between these roughness values and the Phong model parameters (Fig. 3), especially for samples with a high roughness value like the M104. The  $R^2$  of the linear fit in Fig. 9 is rather low. Similarly, using the Bennett–Porteus law (Equations S15), the reflectivity of the samples was calculated using  $R_a$  from Table 1 for  $\sigma$  value and was plotted in figure S1. Even though the Bennett–Porteus formula is classically used [46], it failed to describe the samples' reflectivity with higher roughness. However, other topographic analyses described in part 3 use different parameters like  $\delta_m$  and  $\sigma_{rel}$  and were also used in several Refs. [30–32,47].

Cupak et al. and also Szabo et al. recently showed that  $\delta_m$  included all information on the roughness of Gaussian surfaces and is therefore well-suited as a characterization parameter, especially for surfaces with random roughness [48,49]. For example,  $\delta_m$  is much better suited to categorize rough surfaces in regard to their ion sputtering behavior than the RMS roughness. They achieved this using a ray-tracing simulation code for ions which can be used for photons [50]. Moreover, in 2020, it was reported that the surface inclination angle and the micrometer-scale defects affect the BRDF distribution measured using an illumination optical system and an imaging optical system called one-shot light direction color mapping imaging system [51,52].

In Fig. 10,  $k_s$ ,  $k_d$ , FWHM and  $n$  are plotted in the range of 400–800 nm as a function of the  $\sigma_{rel}$ ,  $\delta_m$  and  $RMS_s$  roughness parameters. We find a better correlation between the mean surface inclination angle distribution  $\delta_m$  and the Phong parameters ( $k_s$ ,  $k_d$ , FWHM and  $n$ ). The figure S5 confirms this trend and the link between  $\delta_m$  and  $k_s$ : the rate of occurrence of  $\delta$  follows the specular reflectivity plotted in Fig. 6 and the mean value  $\delta_m$  indicated in figure S5 is similarly higher for the lower specular sample. However, the link with Phong parameters is less clear with other metrics ( $\sigma_{rel}$  and  $RMS_s$ ): we obtain an equivalent  $R^2$  computed for  $R_a$ ,  $R_s$  and  $RMS$ . The next step should be increasing the number of samples to confirm the correlation.

## 6. Conclusion and outlook

Surface roughness parameters including  $R_a$ ,  $RMS$ ,  $R_s$ ,  $\delta_m$ ,  $\sigma_{rel}$  and  $RMS_s$  were calculated using topography measurements. BRDFs of tungsten samples with different roughness were measured using two experimental goniophotometers and were fitted using

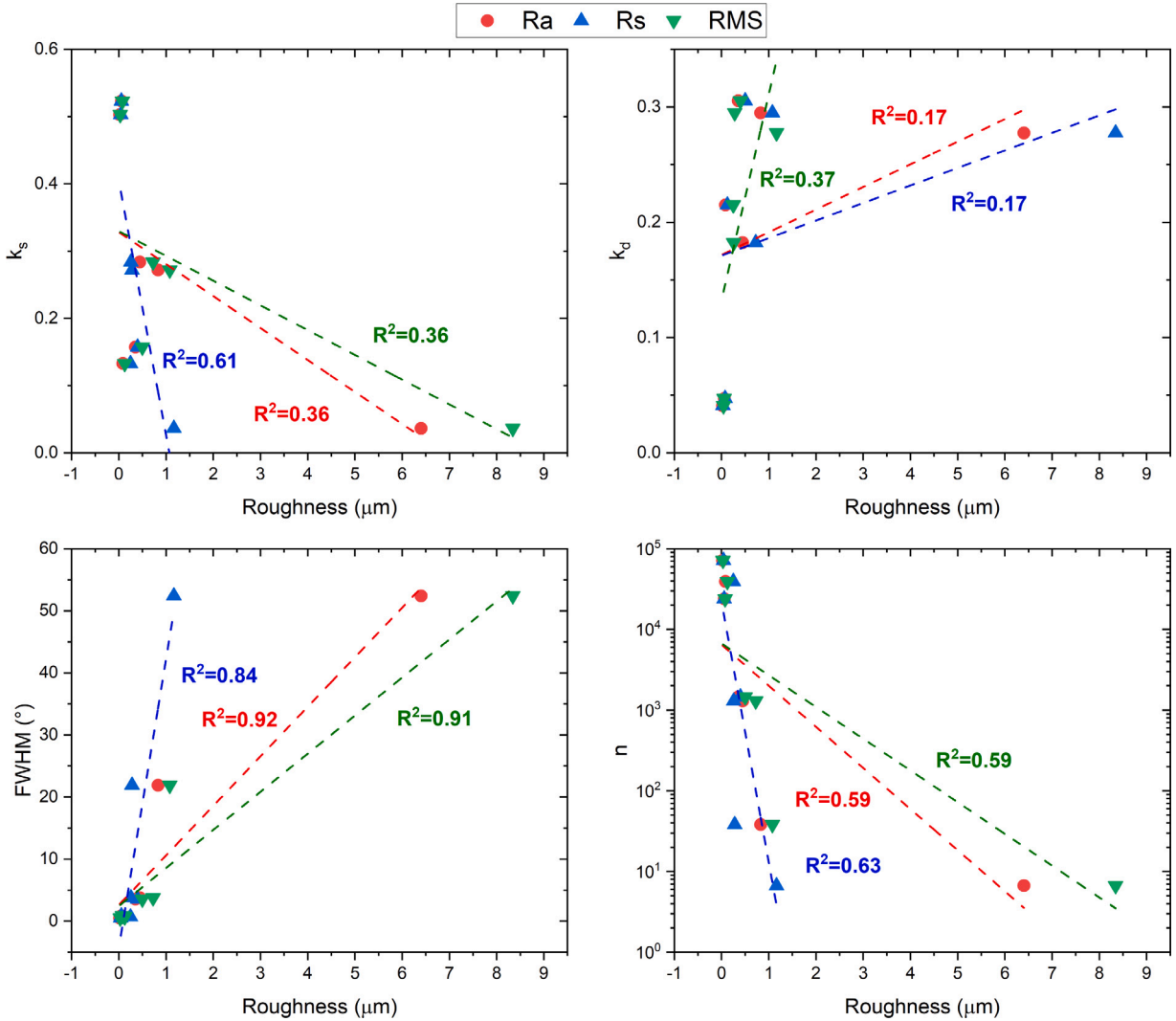


Fig. 9.  $k_s$ ,  $k_d$ , FWHM and  $n$  as a function of  $R_a$ ,  $R_s$  and  $RMS$ . The  $R^2$  of the linear fit is indicated on the graphs.

the Phong model and the four parameters,  $k_d$ ,  $k_s$ ,  $n$  and FWHM, were obtained for all samples. The relationship between the Phong parameters  $k_s$  and  $k_d$  with the specular and diffuse reflectance, respectively, is well verified. In the scope of our paper, which aims to identify the best roughness parameters related to a BRDF model, the first results on several tungsten samples show that  $R_a$ ,  $RMS$  and  $R_s$ , classically used in the community to characterize a surface, are not the most suitable metric to link the reflection behavior of the surface and topography. Even if this correlation is not perfect, on the other hand, the mean surface tilt angle distribution seems to be an interesting metric that shows a better correlation with the BRDF model (Phong parameters). The next step is to extend these studies to other samples with various roughness in order to consolidate the correlation with better statistics. As a first example, we similarly analyzed the results of 4 other samples presented by Natsume et al. [42] and then plotted in figures S6 and S7. The same trend was verified. Spectral characteristics, which were elucidated via PSD analysis, were used. PSD offers visualization of surface geometric properties at all wavelengths. Similarly, the 1D PSD follows the diffuse reflectivity trend. This is an interesting method for characterizing a surface, as topography measurements are more straightforward than BRDF measurements, especially when materials are installed in a fusion reactor. The work was carried out on tungsten surfaces, which is one material of the ITER fusion reactor and should also be verified on other material and especially on the second ITER wall material namely beryllium [42]. The next step is to investigate other theoretical models, e.g., microfacet BRDF driven by physical parameters such as microfacet normal distribution, roughness, etc [23].

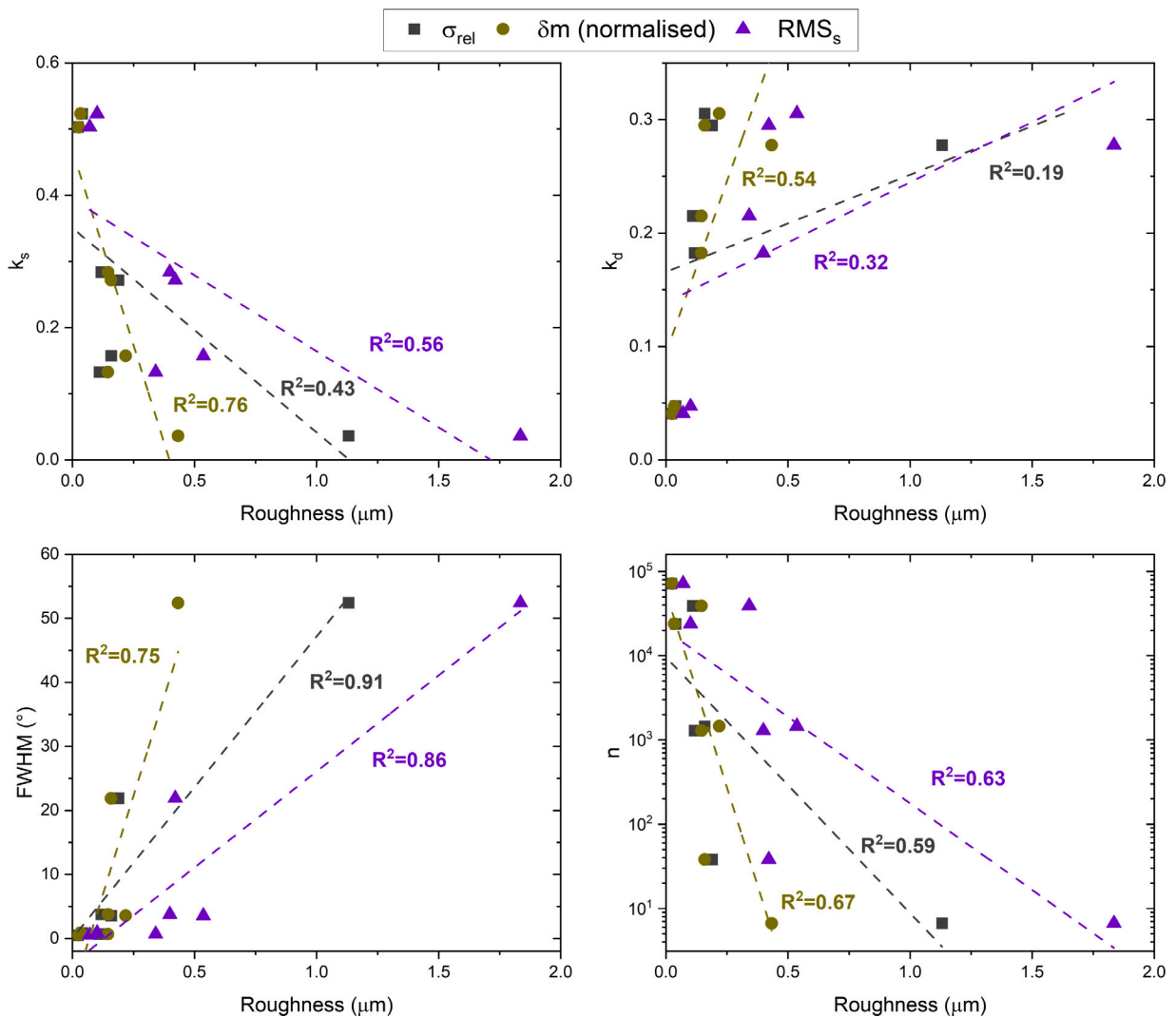


Fig. 10.  $k_s$ ,  $k_d$ , FWHM and  $n$  as a function of  $\sigma_{rel}$ , normalized  $\delta_m$  and  $RMS_s$ . The  $R^2$  of the linear fit is indicated on the graphs.

**CRedit authorship contribution statement**

**Mickaël Le Bohec:** Writing – original draft, Visualization, Validation, Methodology, Investigation. **Roland Steiner:** Resources, Methodology, Investigation, Conceptualization. **Hiroki Natsume:** Writing – review & editing, Resources, Methodology, Investigation. **Shin Kajita:** Supervision, Project administration, Funding acquisition, Conceptualization. **Marwa Ben Yaala:** Writing – review & editing. **Laurent Marot:** Writing – review & editing, Writing – original draft, Visualization, Supervision, Funding acquisition, Conceptualization. **Marie-Hélène Aumeunier:** Writing – review & editing, Supervision, Funding acquisition, Conceptualization.

**Declaration of competing interest**

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests: Laurent Marot reports financial support was provided by University of Basel. If there are other authors, they declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

**Data availability**

Data will be made available on request.

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## Appendix A. Supplementary data

Supplementary material related to this article can be found online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijleo.2024.171750>.

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