Review Article

² Emerging technologies in the field of thermometry

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Abstract.

The past decade saw the emergence of new temperature sensors that have the 10 potential to disrupt a century-old measurement infrastructure based on resistance 11 thermometry. In this review we present an overview of emerging technologies that 12 are either in the earliest stages of metrological assessment or in the earliest stages of 13 commercial development and thus merit further consideration by the measurement 14 community. The following emerging technologies are reviewed: Johnson noise 15 thermometry, optical refractive-index gas thermometry, Doppler line broadening 16 thermometry, optomechanical thermometry, fiber-coupled phosphor thermometry, 17 fiber-optic thermometry based on Rayleigh, Brillouin and Raman scattering, fiber-18 Bragg-grating thermometry, Bragg-waveguide-grating thermometry, ring-resonator 19 thermometry, and photonic-crystal-cavity thermometry. For each emerging technology, 20 we explain the working principle, highlight the best known performance, list advantages 21 and drawbacks of the new temperature sensor and present possibilities for future 22 developments. 23

²⁴ Keywords: emerging technology, temperature sensor, photonic thermometry

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Figure 1. Percentage market share for different temperature sensors in 2017 (total market size: 6.3 billion USD) [1].

1 1. Introduction

Temperature measurements play a central role in every aspect of modern life, from 2 advanced manufacturing to home cooking. Consequently, the global temperature-sensor 3 market is a multi-billion dollar enterprise that is expected to grow to over nine billion US 4 dollars by the year 2026, as the use of temperature sensors continues to proliferate [1]. 5 There exists a variety of temperature sensors that use different physical principles to 6 measure temperature and vary greatly in their accuracy, cost, size, level of training 7 required, etc. The three most common types of temperature sensors (see figure 1), 8 ranging in accuracy from high to low are: Resistance Temperature Detector (RTD), q Negative Temperature Coefficient (NTC) thermistor, and thermocouple. Each of these 10 three types of sensors measures the change in the electrical quantities — resistance and/or 11 voltage — with temperature and each one of them has a measurement history going 12 back for more than hundred years. Over this time period, the design of these sensors has 13 been continuously improved to meet most users' measurement needs, making it easier 14 to overlook their remaining drawbacks while focusing on their numerous advantages 15 instead [2–4]. For example, platinum (wire) resistance thermometers (PRTs) — an RTD 16 type sensor — when deployed in specialized temperature calibration laboratories, can 17 measure temperature with uncertainties approaching a few hundreds of μK over the 18 span of 1000 K [5]. However, these are known to be sensitive to mechanical shock and 19 thermal stress, are prone to chemical contamination, and suffer from ionizing radiation 20 damage and electromagnetic interference (EMI) which limits their performance outside 21 of temperature calibration laboratories [2]. 22

The inevitable drawbacks of the existing temperature sensors and the specific requirements for emerging applications of temperature sensors are powerful motivations for developing novel technologies targeted towards meeting present and future needs of the community. The past few years have seen the emergence of new temperature sensors, based on different physical principles such as: photonics, quantum optomechanics, noise

thermometry, etc. Motivations behind the development of these emerging technologies 1 are multi-faceted, ranging from the desire for low-cost, small, in-situ temperature 2 sensors for critical infrastructure monitoring applications (e.g. fiber-optic thermometry), 3 to embedded sensors for quantum computing and quantum information systems (e.g. 4 photonic and quantum optomechanical thermometry), to the development of portable 5 thermodynamic temperature sensors (e.g. optical refraction, Doppler broadening and 6 quantum optomechanical thermometry). Leveraging the vast economies of scale provided 7 by the telecommunications industry's infrastructure and metrology expertise developed 8 for frequency metrology, these techniques hold the promise of enabling fit-for-purpose, 9 cost-effective measurement solutions that may ultimately meet or out-perform legacy 10 devices. In particular, the development of ultra-stable photonic thermometers that show 11 minimal drift over decadal time spans or thermodynamic temperature sensors, based 12 on quantum properties of matter, could dramatically disrupt the calibration-centered 13 metrology ecosystem. 14

In this review paper we focus on the emerging technologies for measuring temperature 15 that are either in the earliest stages of metrological assessment (e.g. fiber-optic 16 thermometry) or in the earliest stages of commercial development (e.g. Johnson noise 17 thermometry) and thus merit further consideration by the community (see figure 2). The 18 most common performance metrics/requirements to consider at this stage are described 19 in section 2 with specific examples from emerging technologies. The details of these 20 technologies are then described in separate sections, devoted to primary thermometry 21 (section 3) and approximations of defined scales (section 4). Note that we have adhered 22 to the classification suggested in the *Mise en pratique* for the definition of the kelvin in 23 the SI [6], where the distinction is made between: 24

Primary thermometry (e.g. acoustic gas thermometry (AGT [7]) and Johnson noise
 thermometry (JNT [8])), which is carried out using a thermometer, based upon a
 well-understood physical system, for which the equation of state, describing the
 relation between thermodynamic temperature T and other independent quantities,
 such as the ideal gas law or Planck's equation, can be expressed explicitly without
 unknown or significantly temperature-dependent constants. It can be absolute or
 relative primary thermometry.

- Defined temperature scales (e.g. International Temperature Scale of 1990 (ITS-90) [9,10]), which assign temperature values, determined by primary thermometry, to a series of naturally occurring and highly reproducible states (e.g., the freezing and triple points of pure substances). Defined scale also covers a specification of the interpolating or extrapolating instruments for a particular sub-range of temperature and define necessary interpolating or extrapolating equations.
- Approximations of defined scales (e.g. approximations of ITS-90 [4]), where fixed
 points, interpolating or extrapolating instruments, and interpolating or extrapolating
 equations are different from those specified in the defined scales, but any differences
 from a scale are sufficiently well-understood.



Figure 2. Schematic outline of the emerging technologies covered in this review with the individual section numbers, identified in the brackets. The selection criteria for this review are also shown in light gray.

For each emerging technology, we provide the following: a short description, the best known performance, advantages, drawbacks and summaries of the current work to overcome these drawbacks. The intercomparison of the emerging technologies and the future outlook are presented in section 5. Given the size of the surveyed field, the amount of information required, and the rapidly evolving nature of the field, the list of the emerging technologies described below is not exhaustive and the performance metrics

7 provided are best available estimates that will continue to evolve.

⁸ 2. Performance metrics for selecting an emerging temperature sensor

Similarly to a typical technology life cycle [11], one can distinguish the following stages
in the development of a new (temperature) sensor:

Research and development stage, when a new temperature sensor is proposed and temperature sensitivity is experimentally verified (typically performed in a research laboratory and results reported in academic journals). The questions typically asked by a researcher at this point are: "Can this sensor measure temperature?" and "What are its advantages as compared to the existing technologies?".

- Ascent stage, when the claims from the previous stage are carefully assessed (typically
 performed in a calibration laboratory; the results of the testing are usually in the
 form of internal reports, not available to the general public). At this stage, the

¹⁹ objective answers are provided to the questions: "What is the accuracy of the

sensor?", "Does it conform to the specifications proposed at the research stage?" and
"Can I trust it?". This stage will determine whether or not the sensor's development
will move to the next stage and the range of potential applications.

- Stage of maturity, when the sensor is mass produced and accepted by the
measurement community. Hereafter, only relatively small incremental improvements
to the sensor's design will be made and their own implementation will again follow
the three stages of the development cycle above.

As mentioned previously in the introduction, this review paper is primarily concerned
with temperature sensors that are currently either under metrological assessment or at
the beginning of commercial development and thus belong to the ascent stage described
above. At this stage, a few sensor characteristics deserve particular considerations [12]
as described further below.

• *Relationship* between temperature and the physical property that changes with 13 temperature (thermometric property) should be well-established. For primary 14 thermometers this relationship is based on well-understood physical principles and 15 has an exact functional form, while for the rest it is often established empirically 16 and has multiple fitting parameters. The fitting requires multiple measurements 17 of the same sensor over a range of temperatures — to determine the functional 18 form of the relationship, its repeatability and hysteresis — and, ideally, additional 19 multiple measurements of the different sensors of the same type — to establish the 20 reproducibility of the relationship. For example, as we describe in detail in section 21 4.3, the response of a Fiber-Bragg-Grating (FBG) thermometers to temperature 22 changes consists of two parts: 1) Thermal expansion of the optical fiber and 2) 23 Changes in the refractive index due to the thermo-optic effect (TOE). Yet, most 24 research papers model the thermal response as: a) Arising due to the TOE alone — 25 since the thermo-optic coefficient (TOC) of silica is a factor of ten larger than the 26 thermal expansion — and b) A linear relationship — thus assuming that silica's TOC 27 does not change with temperature. However, careful examination [13] reveals that 28 to achieve smaller uncertainties a quadratic thermal response needs to be considered. 29 Another example is the tacit assumption that high-temperature fiber Bragg gratings 30 are identical when produced with great care under as identical conditions as possible 31 (see e.g. [14, 15]). Yet, this might well not be the case as illustrated in figure 3 using 32 the results obtained with unpackaged π -phase-shifted Type II FBGs [16] at 1000 °C, 33 produced under identical laser-writing conditions [17]. Note how the gratings 1 and 34 5, produced under identical conditions from the same batch of fiber, identically 35 treated and measured in the same furnace under identical conditions, nevertheless 36 manifest an opposite drift behaviour at 1000 °C. In other words, reproducibility of 37 this particular FBG thermometer is rather poor. 38

Accuracy in the context of present discussion is defined as the degree of conformity
 of an indicated value to a recognized standard value, or ideal value [18]. Accuracy
 will usually be expressed as the uncertainty in the measurement. Estimating the



Figure 3. Five unpackaged π -phase-shifted Type II FBGs at 1000 °C, produced and treated identically, exhibit different drift behaviour in terms of both magnitude and sign (reproduced from [17]).

uncertainty in a measurement can be difficult, as it depends on a large number 1 of (often unknown in advance) factors, such as the construction of the sensor, the 2 temperature range, the environment the sensor is exposed to, and how it is used. In 3 addition, the uncertainties can alter over the lifetime of an individual sensor. Full 4 accuracy (uncertainty) assessment is rarely done in the research and development 5 stage, and thus assessing the typical accuracy of the emerging technology becomes 6 the task of the calibration laboratory in the ascent stage. It is typically done in terms 7 of uncertainty budget; recent examples for photonic thermometry can be found 8 in [13,19,23]. In that specific example, it was found that the measurement uncertainty 9 in photonic thermometry is dominated by limitations of the wavelength measurement 10 scheme [13], long-term drift/hysteresis in the device and packaging [13, 19–21], self-11 heating [22], wavelength uncertainty within the spectral scan [23] and fabrication 12 imperfections [20]. The measurement scheme, either via a wavelength-swept method 13 or laser locking, limits the accuracy with which a peak center can be determined. 14 Effects such as self-heating depend on properties of the material (bandgap and 15 heat capacity), operating wavelength, optical quality factor of the device itself 16 and input laser power. The impact of fabrication imperfections, ghost resonances 17 from reflections of photonic inter-connects, modal dispersion and mode-mixing in 18 multimode waveguides need to be better understood. 19

Resolution, or the smallest change that can be detected in the measured quantity above the measurement noise, is typically a function of both the sensor design and the measurement parameters/scheme. For example, in the case of photonics-based thermometry, the two sensor characteristics that determine the resolution limit for steady-state and time-limited temperature measurements are: the quality factor and the integration time, with the former being determined by the sensor's design, while the latter is, to a large extent, a property of the measurement scheme. The



Figure 4. (a) A theoretical Allan deviation plot with the noise sources identified. (b) An example of the Allan deviation plot for a π -phase-shifted FBG inside the ice point.

quality factor (Q-factor) is defined as $Q = \lambda_{\rm m}/{\rm FWHM}$, where FWHM refers to 1 the resonance bandwidth, measured at the full width at half-maximum and $\lambda_{\rm m}$ 2 is the resonance wavelength. From a practical point-of-view the quality factor 3 describes how narrow a resonance feature is, how accurately the resonance peak 4 center can be determined, and as such effectively sets the limit on the resolution 5 that is achievable with that device. In silicon resonators Q-factors of over 400,000 6 have been reported [24, 25] though a Q of 100,000 should be sufficient for a sub-mK 7 temperature resolution [26]. Nonlinear effects [27,28] such as two-photon absorption 8 and Kerr effect grow in prominence with increasing Q-factor, which can lead to 9 observation of confounding effects such as self-heating and optical bi-stability [28,29]. 10 These effects, if not accounted for and/or minimized can have a considerable effect 11 on the achievable uncertainty of a photonic thermometer [26]. The integration time, 12 or the time span over which the thermometer signal is averaged, can significantly 13 impact the measurement's noise floor. The integration time-limited uncertainty in 14 photonics-based thermometry is most often reported as an Allan deviation plot [30] 15 that allows one to distinguish between different noise sources (see figure 4). It is 16 desirable for photonic thermometers to show a noise floor of at most 1 μ K to 1 mK 17 over integration times of 1000 s to 1 ms, respectively. We note that fundamentally 18 the resolution limit in photonic "whispering gallery" mode resonators is primarily 19 set by the thermo-refractive noise, which sets the relative frequency stability limit 20 at around one part per 10^{-12} per 1 s integration time [31, 32]. Other sources of 21 noise include thermo-elastic, thermodynamic, photothermal, pondermotive and 22 self-modulation noise [31, 32]. 23

Stability of the sensor with respect to time can be conventionally divided into two parts: short-term (usually on the scale of hours to several days) and long-term (usually on the scale of weeks to decades). The presence of long-term stability typically implies the presence of short-term stability but not vice versa. Short-term stability is typically measured as part of assessing the accuracy claim above and contributes to the uncertainty budget of the temperature sensor. It is impractical, however, to hold a thermometer for ten years just to prove that it has a certain



Figure 5. Close-up of a photonic thermometer prototype at NIST, revealing the top of the chip-based sensor.

stability over this period. Instead, to assess the long-term stability one has to 1 rely on the history of many similar thermometers calibrated over the years, which 2 might be unavailable for the emerging new technology simply because it is new or 3 because each sensor has a unique behaviour as in the example given in figure 3 4 above. Incidentally, figure 3 also gives an illustration of the absence of short-term 5 temperature stability in the high-temperature FBGs (long-term stability is absent as 6 well [33]). Stability can be also conventionally divided with respect to temperature 7 and with respect to other factors (e.g. stability to mechanical vibration, radiation 8 damage, etc.). The latter in thermometers is usually referred to as robustness — a 9 sought-after quality in the research and development stage. For example, Ahmed et 10 al [34] recently demonstrated that silicon photonic thermometers can withstand up 11 to 1 megagray of γ -radiation without showing any changes in device characteristics 12 such as peak center, peak width, free spectral range, and temperature sensitivity. 13

• Construction (or packaging) is one of the key factors in the development of 14 thermometers as there exist two conflicting requirements: exposing the sensor 15 to a temperature stimulus, while protecting it (and its interface electronics) from 16 everything else (typically referred to as environmental damage). The resultant 17 custom packaging (see figure 5) usually involves a compromise between performance 18 and robustness. As packaging is rarely the focus of sensor development at the 19 research and development stage, its crucial details are often missing in the available 20 scientific literature on emerging temperature sensors. Meanwhile, as an example: in 21 recent studies Dedyulin et al [17] found that inappropriate packaging of fiber-Bragg-22 grating thermometers could lead to excessive wavelength drifts at high temperatures 23 and eventually to sensors failure. Similarly, Klimov et al [19] hypothesized that the 24 observed thermal hysteresis/ageing of the photonic-crystal-cavity thermometer was 25 due to residual strain imparted by the epoxy used in packaging. 26

• Typical usage and non-usage of the thermometer requires matching of the construction and performance of the new temperature sensor with the application's requirements and limitations. No application is the same, meaning that the

requirements underlying a new temperature sensor can vary greatly from application 1 to application. For example, for a quantum computer operating at cryogenic 2 temperatures, a thermometer that is limited to a "few mK temperature range" 3 is sufficient, whereas in an industry, like oil and gas, the ability to measure 4 temperature with ± 0.1 K accuracy in a "problematic environment" is more important. 5 Lastly, regulated sectors like the defense, aerospace or pharmaceuticals (or for 6 that matter National Metrology Institutes) will want to see size, uncertainty 7 and stability to match current industrial (standard) PRT levels. The existing 8 calibration infrastructure, industry standards and user expectations, based on q existing technology, form additional barriers to wide-spread adoption of a new 10 technology. As such, any emerging technology will have to not only provide a novel 11 utility, but will likely have to be backwards compatible with existing infrastructure 12 e.g. the packaged device footprint will likely be limited to a small diameter ($\sim 10 \text{ mm}$) 13 tube (similar to the existing thermocouples and PRTs). When larger, it may require 14 significant redesign of existing calibration infrastructure. Similarly, the technology 15 has to be amenable to automation in order to appeal to a wide range of users from 16 different skill and educational backgrounds. 17

In the following sections, we provide a general overview of the emerging technologies 18 at the ascent stage through the lens of the important sensors characteristics, outlined 19 above. For ease of reference, figures of merit are presented in table 1, and a short summary 20 of each technique's advantages and disadvantages is given in table 2. Note: For the sake 21 of brevity, performance metrics, described above, are replaced in table 1 by their proxies. 22 Thus, we list expected uncertainty, instead of lengthy discussion on accuracy, temperature 23 sensitivity, that, when combined with the measurement set-up's characteristics, will 24 give resolution, primary technique (or not), instead of full description of oftentimes 25 complex temperature relationship, etc. Other difficult-to-condense characteristics, such 26 as construction or typical treatment, are not reflected in the table at all, and thus the 27 text of the following sections should be consulted for details. 28

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Technology	Primary	Probe Material	Sensitive Element Size	Anticipated Temp range	Typical Sensitivity	Best Reported Uncertainty ^a	Commercial
			c				
TNL	у	conductor	$^{9}10^{-3}$ m -10^{-4} m	$50 \mathrm{nK} - 2500 \mathrm{K}$	$0.06 (nV)^2/Hz/k\Omega/K$	2.7 ppm, 273 K [35]	у
Optical Refraction	у	${ m He/N_2}$	$10^{-3} \mathrm{~m} - 10^{-1} \mathrm{~m}$	$100 { m K} - 420 { m K}$	$3 \mathrm{pm/K}$	12 ppm, 293 K [36]	n
On-chip DBT	у	m Rb/Cs	$10^{-10} \mathrm{~m^3}$	$300 { m ~K} - 1000 { m ~K}$	$0.8~{ m Hz}/{ m Torr/K}$	71 ppm, 296 K [37]	n
Optomechanics	у	${ m Si}_3{ m N}_4$	$10^{-4} { m m} - 10^{-3} { m m}$	$0.05~{ m K} - 300~{ m K}$	$0.25~\%/{ m K}$	7.5%, 40 K [38]	n
Phosphor Thermometry	n	ceramic ^c	$10^{-7} \mathrm{~m^{-1}0^{-2}~m}$	$< 77 { m K} - 2000 { m K}$	$0.5~\%/{ m K}$	860 ppm, 673 K [39]	У
FBG	n	${ m SiO_2}^{ m d}$	$10^{-4} \mathrm{~m} - 10^{-2} \mathrm{~m}$	$80~{\rm K}-1300~{\rm K}$	$10 { m pm/K^e}$	610 ppm, 393 K [13]	у
Rayleigh Scattering	n	SiO_2	$10^{-4} { m m} - 10^2 { m m}$	$250~\mathrm{K}-470~\mathrm{K}^\mathrm{e}$	$6.67~{ m GHz}~/~{ m K}$	${ m n/a^f}$	у
Brillouin Scattering	n	SiO_2	$10^{-1} { m m} - 10^2 { m m}$	$250~\mathrm{K}-350~\mathrm{K^g}$	$1 \mathrm{MHz/K}$	${ m n/a^f}$	у
Raman Scattering	у	$\rm SiO_2$	$10^{-3} { m m} - 10 { m m}$	$250~{\rm K}-350~{\rm K}$	n/a	${ m n/a^f}$	у
Ring Resonator and	n	${ m Si/Si_3N_4^h}$	$10^{-4} \mathrm{~m} - 10^{-3} \mathrm{~m}$	$3~{\rm K}-1000~{\rm K}$	$80 { m pm/K^d}$	510 ppm; 343 K [19]	n
Photonic Crystal Cavity							
Long-Stem SPRT	n	Pt	$5 \times 10^{-2} \mathrm{m}$	$75~\mathrm{K}-950~\mathrm{K}$	$0.1 \ \Omega/\mathrm{K}$	0.04 ppm, 273 K [40]	y
Type S Thermocouple	n	Pt(Rh)	5×10^{-1} m $- 1$ m	$300~\mathrm{K}-2000~\mathrm{K}$	$10~\mu\mathrm{V/K}$	65 ppm, 693 K [41]	У
^a Relative uncertainties a	re usually	expressed in	n an abbreviated for	m, as parts per mi	llion ("ppm") or parts p	oer hundred (" $\%$ "), for	example, a 1

ppm = 1×10^{-6} relative uncertainty at 300 K would correspond to $1 \ \mu K \ K^{-1} \times 300 \ K = 300 \ \mu K$.

^b Sensors don't need to be metallic conductors, e.g. electrolytic solutions, graphite rope and plasma of combustion process were used as sensors. ^c Themographic phosphors, e.g. Mg₄FGeO₆, Al₂O₃:Cr

^d Alternative materials such as sapphire (Al_2O_3) or polymers (PMMA) could be used, in which case the temperature range and the size of the sensitive element changes.

^e Typical resolution of a tunable laser used for interrogation is 0.1 pm. Note: at 1550 nm 80 pm is approximately 10 GHz.

^f As discussed in detail in section 4.2 the existing work on distributed temperature sensors report on temperature resolution only. $^{\rm g}$ The range can be potentially extended to 1 K - 1100 K.

^h Other possible materials include SiC, InP, GaAs, Ge, sapphire and diamond.

ⁱ The unpackaged ring resonator was shown to have an uncertainty of 28 ppm at 363 K [23].

Technology	Advantages	Drawbacks
JNT	 ✓ Measures thermodynamic temperature (traceable to ohm and second) ✓ High absolute accuracy ✓ Material independent 	 × Very small signal levels involved, complex electronic processing × Sensitive to other noise sources, EMI × Long measurement times for high accuracy
Optical Refraction	✓ Measures thermodynamic temperature (traceable to second and pascal)	 Centimeter scale footprint Susceptible to chemical contamination of working gas Limited to temperatures below 150 °C (mirror coating)
On-chip DBT	$\checkmark~$ Measures thermodynamic temperature (traceable to second)	$\times~$ Susceptible to magnetic field
Phosphor thermom- etry	 ✓ some phosphors shown to be resistant to ionizing radiation, immunity to EMI and chemical corrosion ✓ Many thermographic phosphors avail- able covering a wide temperature range 	 × Requires calibration (due to batch-to- batch variability, host matrix influence) × Reproducibility of the phosphor coating needs to be improved
FBG	 ✓ Packaging can be made compatible with the existing calibration infrastructure ✓ Point-like temperature sensor ✓ Multi-point sensing capability (signal multiplexing) ✓ Suitable for static and dynamic measure- ments (up to kHz) 	 × Thermal hysteresis, long-term drifts are not well understood × Susceptible to ionizing radiation × Cross-sensitivity (stress, humidity)
Rayleigh, Brillouin and Raman scatter- ing	 ✓ Distributed temperature sensing, spatial range covers several orders of magnitude (m to 100 km) ✓ Resistant to ionizing radiation, immunity to EMI and chemical corrosion ✓ Measures thermodynamic temperature (Raman + single photon detector) 	 × Existing temperature calibration infrastructure and language are not suited for distributed temperature sensing × Susceptible to strain; special device handling and installation protocol are necessary × Detection systems are often complex and expensive (increased training time)
Ring resonator and photonic crystal cavity	 ✓ Wide range of materials, wavelengths and device design parameters available for fit-for-purpose device development ✓ Resistant to chemical contamination ✓ Lowest uncertainties compared to other defined-scale techniques 	 × Low drift packaging needs to be developed × Susceptible to manufacturing imperfec- tions
Optomechanics	 ✓ On-chip thermodynamic temperature ✓ Integrateable with on-chip photonic thermometers 	 × Early stage of research × Uncertainties estimated to be on the order of 1 K or higher × Requires high vacuum

 Table 2. Advantages and drawbacks of emerging technologies described in Table 1

¹ 3. Emerging technologies for primary thermometry

On 20 May 2019 a revision of the International System of Units (the SI), agreed by the 2 General Conference on Weights and Measures, came into force [42–44]. The new definition 3 of the kelvin is based upon the Boltzmann constant, $k_{\rm B} = 1.380649 \times 10^{-23} \text{ JK}^{-1}$ — a 4 factor that converts thermodynamic temperature to energy. In the route towards the 5 re-definition, a whole host of national metrology institutes worked diligently to produce 6 the most accurate measurements of the Boltzmann constant (the Boltzmann project [45]), 7 using acoustic gas thermometry [7], Johnson noise thermometry [8], dielectric constant 8 gas thermometry (DCGT [46]) and Doppler broadening thermometry (DBT [47]), to 9 name a few. Three of them — AGT, DCGT and JNT — were utilized for the final 10 CODATA $k_{\rm B}$ value [48]. It is this effort that in part motivated the development of 11 the primary technologies, described below. If previously, for the Boltzmann constant 12 measurements, the experimenters would determine $k_{\rm B}$ from $k_{\rm B} = F/T_{\rm TPW}$, where F is an 13 experimental quantity measured in joules and $T_{\rm TPW}$ is the temperature of the triple point 14 of water, which was set equal to 273.16 K, now, for primary temperature realization, this 15 relationship is inverted, and thermodynamic temperature T can be found from the same 16 experiment, using the CODATA value for $k_{\rm B}$. 17

Most, if not all, of the primary thermometry techniques will be familiar to the 18 temperature metrology community. Technical details for some of them have been 19 covered in multiple review articles and those which are sufficiently mature to provide 20 traceability[‡] to the kelvin with low uncertainties, are described in the *Mise en pratique* 21 for the definition of the kelvin [6]. Here our interest is limited to a subset of primary 22 techniques that are either actively commercialised, or are generally considered to be 23 strong candidates for commercialization in the near future. The following discussion 24 provides a brief technical background of each technique, followed by evaluation of the 25 prospects of each technique, entering the mainstream user market and their potential 26 impact. 27

28 3.1. Johnson noise thermometry

²⁹ Johnson noise thermometers determine the thermodynamic temperature from ³⁰ measurements of the fluctuating voltage or current noise, caused by the thermal motion ³¹ of electrons that occurs in all electrical conductors [8, 50, 51]. Usually, Johnson noise is ³² characterized by its mean-square voltage, \bar{V}_T^2 , conventionally called the noise power. For ³³ temperatures above 25 K and frequencies below 1 MHz, the noise power is approximated ³⁴ with a relative error of less than 1 ppm by Nyquist's law:

$$\overline{V_{\rm T}^2} = 4k_{\rm B}T\Re(Z)\Delta f,$$

where Δf is the bandwidth over which the noise voltage is measured, $\Re(Z)$ is the real part

[‡] Metrological traceability refers to a property of a measurement result whereby the result can be related to a reference (which can be a practical realization of a measurement unit), through a documented unbroken chain of calibrations, each contributing to the measurement uncertainty [49].

¹ of the conductor impedance Z, and T is the thermodynamic temperature [52, 53]. From ² this equation, thermodynamic temperature can be determined directly by measuring the

³ fluctuating voltage across a sensing resistor and using the CODATA value for $k_{\rm B}$ (see

⁴ introduction to section 3). Because the gain and bandwidth of the noise thermometer in

Nyquist's law above can be difficult to quantify precisely, in most of JNT measurement
schemes, the temperature is calculated using relative measurement instead, from the
ratio of the measured noise powers — of which one with a resistor at the unknown
temperature, and another with a reference noise source. Usually the reference noise
source is a resistor at a known temperature, but shot noise from diodes, multi-resistor
and thermistor networks, and synthetic noise sources have also been used [8].

The minimum uncertainty in the absolute JNT temperature measurement is given by Rice's equation [54]:

13
$$\frac{u(T)}{T}\Big|_{\min} = \left(\frac{1}{\tau\Delta f}\right)^{1/2}$$

where τ is the measurement period. Note: For the relative measurement, the minimum 14 relative uncertainty is four times the value given by Rice's formula. The expression 15 above highlights one of the major drawbacks of JNT: large amounts of data/time are 16 required to make accurate measurements of a small (random) signal. For example, the 17 highest accuracy JNT measurements (of Boltzmann constant) to date [35] with a relative 18 standard uncertainty of 2.7 ppm required the integration time of 100 days and the 19 amount of total data acquired exceeded 100 TB. At its best, such a thermometer could 20 measure just three temperatures per year! 21

One of the main attractions of JNT (apart from measuring thermodynamic 22 temperature) is that so long as the sensor resistance can be measured, the noise power 23 expression above is insensitive to chemical, mechanical and even ionizing-radiation-24 induced changes in the sensor: no other sensor has such immunity to material changes. 25 Noise thermometry has been successfully applied at temperatures ranging from below 50 26 nK to 2473 K [51,55], a range far exceeding that of any other temperature sensor. The 27 electronic nature of JNT means that the sensors can be easily interfaced with existing 28 electrical measurement infrastructure. However, the challenges involved in measuring 29 such a small signal accurately, quickly and in the presence of other noise sources mean 30 that noise thermometry is not a practical option for most applications. JNT is unlikely 31 to be adopted as a routine industrial technique until measurement uncertainties of 0.1 %32 or less can be obtained in a few seconds. At present only three JNT techniques meet the 33 industrial need with respect to speed [8]: 34

• The superposition thermometer, which operates close to the limit, prescribed by Rice's equation, combines a high statistical efficiency with a bandwidth of 1 MHz,

- The dual noise thermometer that combines a noise thermometer with a much faster conventional thermometer, either a resistance thermometer or thermocouple,
- Very wide-band radio-frequency noise thermometer, for which the measurement
 uncertainty is limited to about 1 % by amplifier noise and uncertainties, associated



Figure 6. (a) A simplified schematic diagram of a superposition thermometer using pseudo random current injection which can be separated from Johnson noise in the frequency domain. (b) Correlator output from Metrosol's JNT system. In reality, the calibration tones are 30 dB larger than the Johnson noise (reproduced from [57]). (c) Metrosol's JNT2 prototype of the superposition thermometer (reproduced from [58]).

¹ with the measurement and calibration of noise powers.

One of the aforementioned techniques, the superposition thermometer, has been 2 commercially developed by Metrosol[§] in collaboration with the National Physical 3 Laboratory (NPL), UK (see figure 6) [56–58]. It uses pseudo random current injection 4 for the calibration signal, which can be separated from Johnson noise in the frequency 5 domain. The system is relatively compact (16 cm^3), shows immunity to external EMI, 6 and at 293 K with a 1.2 MHz bandwidth over a measurement time of just over 6.5 s 7 the reported standard deviation is 0.232 K [58]. Further work needs to be done to 8 characterize the ultimate performance/uncertainties. Development of a JNT with 100 9 mK-level accuracy will be broadly useful for the metrology community replacing a 10 desperate range of ITS-90 artefacts with a singular measurement apparatus, lower cost 11 of disseminating and maintaining the kelvin. 12

¹³ 3.2. Optical cavities and gas refractivity measurements

Following the footsteps of pioneering work in acoustic gas thermometry [7], several laser-based interferometery techniques are under study to interrogate the thermodynamic temperature of a gas through an equation-of-state approach. In the refractivity-based approach, the underlying physical phenomenon is concerned with how the change in density impacts the polarizability of the gas [36, 59, 60]. In this method, the gas density

§ Disclaimer: Certain equipment manufacturers are identified in this paper with regards to commercialization of primary thermometry techniques. Such identification is not intended to imply endorsement by the authors or the institute they are affiliated with.

1 (ρ), pressure (P) and thermodynamic temperature (T) are related through the virial 2 equation of state:

з
$$P = k_{\rm B}T(\rho + B_{\rho}\rho^2 + C_{\rho}\rho^3 + ...)$$

where the deviations from the ideal gas law are considered by density virial coefficients B_{ρ} and C_{ρ} . The density of gas, ρ , can be determined by combining experimental measurements of gas refractivity, (n - 1), with theoretical calculations using the Lorentz-Lorenz equation [36]:

$$\rho = \frac{2}{3A_{\rm R}}(n-1) + \frac{A_{\rm R} + 4B_{\rm R}}{9A_{\rm R}^2}(n-1)^2 + \frac{4(A_{\rm R}^4 - 4B_{\rm R} - A_{\rm R}^3 * B_{\rm R} + 2A_{\rm R} * C_{\rm R})}{27A_{\rm P}^5}(n-1)^3 + \dots$$

where the refractivity virial coefficients $A_{\rm R}$, $B_{\rm R}$ and $C_{\rm R}$ depend upon the polarizability 8 and the diamagnetic susceptibility of the gas, and the frequency of the light being 9 refracted. In order to determine the thermodynamic temperature in a refractivity-based 10 measurement scheme one needs to combine a measurement of the pressure P by an 11 independent method (e.g. by using a piston gauge) together with the CODATA value for 12 $k_{\rm B}$ (see introduction to section 3). Insufficient knowledge of the higher virial coefficients 13 of all other gases has historically limited most primary measurements to using helium 14 (He) as the working gas [59]. Unfortunately, helium only weakly refracts light, so the 15 measurement is very sensitive to uncertainties from apparatus distortions (i.e. distortion 16 of the cavity walls due to gas absorption, linear expansion of ultra-low expansion glass, 17 used in device construction, gas pressure-dependent distortion of the mirror) and from 18 the chemical purity of the gas [59]. There have been on-going efforts to address these 19 issues in the context of pressure metrology that will no doubt positively impact any 20 future deployment of such an approach for the realization of T [36, 61, 62]. 21

Relative primary measurements, that use non-helium working gases, have been 22 demonstrated with some trade-offs to accuracy [59]. Recently, Ricker et al [63] 23 evaluated the potential feasibility of the fixed length optical cavity (FLOC) approach for 24 thermometry. The FLOC approach, pioneered by the National Institute of Standards 25 and Technology (NIST), USA is based upon a dual-cavity Fabry-Perot refractometer 26 (see figure 7) that has been used as a pressure transfer standard, traceable to a mercury 27 manometer [60] and was recently commercialized by MKS Instruments [64]. In the 28 proposed future application of FLOC for temperature measurements, Ricker et al 29 projected a combined standard uncertainty of 1.5 mK (or 5.0 ppm in relative terms) 30 at 300 K, dominated by the uncertainty in the refractivity of the nitrogen (N_2) gas 31 to be used for the envisioned implementation. Replacing N_2 with helium (He) gas 32 should improve the accuracy, however the temperature sensitivity would substantially 33 decrease [63]. The approach, proposed by Ricker *et al* has several outstanding issues 34 that need to be resolved (as described in sections 3.3 and 5.1 of [59]). For example, if N_2 35 is used, A_R is a temperature-dependent constant [59]; since A_R is present in the FLOC 36



Figure 7. (a) The image of the prototype FLOC laser cavity at NIST that could be used for temperature measurements. (b) The schematic of the FLOC laser cavities. The upper cavity is allowed to interact with gas molecules (represented with dots) and the lower cavity is at vacuum (< 1 mPa) (reproduced from [63]).

working equation above at first order, such a device would not satisfy the definition of a
primary thermometer from the *Mise en pratique* (see section 1 above).

A chief drawback or limitation of the FLOC approach is its macroscopic footprint, 3 which though significantly smaller than acoustic gas thermometers, is still orders of 4 magnitude larger than that, associated with a resistance thermometer. Furthermore, 5 the upper limit to the temperature measurement range will be limited by the thermal 6 stability of mirror coatings, which is often limited to temperatures below 430 K, whilst 7 the lower temperature limit is set by the de-sublimation/pre-condensation temperature 8 of the gas. Finally, waiting times required to reduce temperature gradients present after q filling to pressure (1 h in [63]) will limit the use of the method in dynamic-measurement 10 settings. It is likely that such devices will find specialized use in metrology labs, where 11 they can provide an accessible route to thermodynamic temperature. A particularly 12 attractive option for metrology labs would be the ability to utilize a common platform 13 to realize both pressure and temperature (although not simultaneously), thus providing 14 a resource-efficient pathway to building new measurement capabilities. 15

16 3.3. Doppler-line broadening thermometry

The principle of DBT is to record the Doppler profile of a molecular (or atomic) absorption line of a gas in thermodynamic equilibrium [47,65] (see figure 8). The absorption line shape of single rotational-vibrational (rovibrational) molecular line is dominated at very low pressure by Doppler broadening and is a simple Gaussian profile, which reflects the Maxwell-Boltzmann velocity distribution of gas particles along the laser beam axis. In practice however, collisions, speed-dependent and Lamb-Dicke-Mössbauer narrowing effects lead to a different profile of the gas absorption line. In conjunction with some



Figure 8. (a) The Doppler Broadening Technique principle (adapted from [70]) (b) Design for photonically coupled alkali vapor cell on a chip. Inset: first such vapor cell fabricated at NIST showing SiN waveguides and alkali atom droplets condensed on the inside wall of the cell (reproduced from [71]).

- 1 highly accurate modeling of the line profile, it is possible to use the data to retrieve the
- ² Doppler half-width at half-maximum, $\Delta \nu_{\rm D}$, using the following equation [65]:

$$_{3} \quad \Delta \nu_{\rm D} = \frac{\nu_{\rm o}}{c} \sqrt{2 \ln 2 \frac{k_{\rm B} T}{M}}$$

⁴ where ν_0 is the line-center frequency, c is the speed of light, and M is the absorber mass. ⁵ From this equation, the thermodynamic temperature of a gas (e.g. NH₃, CO₂, C₂H₂) ⁶ can be retrieved using the CODATA value for k_B (see introduction to section 3).

The use of Doppler broadening for thermometry, as opposed to determining the Boltzmann constant [45,66], has been pursued by various National Metrology Institutes (NMIs), including as part of EURAMET's "Implementing the new kelvin 2" (InK2) project [67]. Recent published results from that work [68] with acetylene (C_2H_2) at the triple point of water and the gallium melting point gave a combined uncertainty of 7 mK (23 ppm in relative terms) with a largest contribution coming from statistical reproducibility, which could be further reduced in the future [68].

A practical DBT is currently facing two main challenges: a high level of ancillary 14 equipment (and the associated cost and power requirements) currently needed to drive 15 the technique and the scale of the "sensing element". The first challenge stems from an 16 ever present requirement for high signal to noise ratio in lineshape measurement and the 17 need to accurately and reproducibly measure the frequency of the laser. The solution for 18 this is (potentially) a matter of engineering. The second challenge refers to the fact that 19 most of the DBT research has been undertaken in macroscopic optical cells, which makes 20 it unattractive for industrial use. The exception to this is the use of small cm-scale gas 21 cells containing metallic vapor such as Cs [37,69]. To overcome the second challenge 22 requires a further down-scaling of the "sensing element" whilst retaining the essential 23 requirement of adequate thermalization of the gas/vapor within the cell itself. 24

A promising avenue is the use of on-chip integrated vapour cells, currently being 1 developed for atom-based quantum sensing applications [71] (see figure 8). In one 2 implementation, the device fabrication utilizes fiber coupled grating couplers to deliver 3 and collect light from the vapour cell. Alternatively, leaky waveguides (e.g. slot 4 waveguides and photonic crystal waveguides) or a resonator's evanescent field have 5 been used to probe the gas molecules near the photonic structures [72]. Either 6 implementation however, will have to overcome several technical challenges for these 7 devices, to prove being competitive, including: non-linear/complex baseline due to 8 waveguide backscattering or grating/vapor cell etalon, lineshape changes due to boundary q effects at the device-air interface (for the case of evanescent field based sensing) and 10 magnetic field compensation for atomic vapor cells. The principle advantage of a fiber-11 coupled vapour-cell based DBT would be the same form-factor and a similar temperature 12 range as for an industrial resistance thermometer, which means that no alterations to 13 the existing physical infrastructure will be required. 14

15 3.4. Optomechanical thermometry

Optomechanics is the study of interaction between the optical field and the mechanical 16 motion of an optical element via radiation pressure [73]. In a typical implementation 17 the (nano)mechanical resonator is driven to vibrate randomly by thermal forces from its 18 environment in a band of frequencies around its mechanical resonance. This mechanical 19 motion creates high- and low-frequency sidebands (anti-Stokes and Stokes shift; see 20 figure 9a) around the optical field frequency due to the Doppler effect (this is essentially 21 the same process as Raman scattering) [38,74,76]. In addition, the random, quantum 22 intensity fluctuations of the probe optical field drive the mechanics with so-called radiation 23 pressure shot noise (quantum measurement backaction). The motion from backaction 24 is also imprinted as phase fluctuations on the output light, establishing a quantum 25 correlation between amplitude and phase fluctuations of the optical mode. The quantum 26 correlations manifest themselves as an asymmetry between the Stokes and anti-Stokes 27 side bands [38, 77]. In Raman-ratio thermometry the ratio of Stokes to anti-Stokes 28 Raman transition is equal to [74]: 29

30
$$R_{\rm sa} = e^{\hbar\omega_{\rm m}/k_{\rm B}T} = (\bar{n}+1)/\bar{n}$$

³¹ where $\omega_{\rm m}$ is the mechanical resonance frequency. The spectrum of Raman scattered light ³² transmitted through an optomechanical cavity is given by [74]:

33
$$S(\omega) \propto \frac{\bar{n}}{(\frac{\Gamma_{\rm m}}{2})^2 + (\omega_{\rm m} - \omega)^2} + \frac{\bar{n} + 1}{(\frac{\Gamma_{\rm m}}{2})^2 + (\omega_{\rm m} + \omega)^2}$$

This expression holds when the laser is resonant with the optical cavity, and the optical cavity linewidth is much larger than the mechanical linewidth $\Gamma_{\rm m}$. The first (second) term corresponds to the anti-Stokes (Stokes) scattering peak shifted by $\omega_{\rm m}$ ($-\omega_{\rm m}$) from the input laser frequency, and ω is the frequency relative to the input laser frequency. Taking the ratio of the amplitude of the Stokes and anti-Stokes peaks directly yields the



Figure 9. (a) The spectrum of transmitted probe beam light shows Raman scattering peaks shifted by $\pm \omega_m$, where ω_m is the mechanical resonance frequency. The asymmetry in the spectral peaks, dependent on the effective thermal occupation of the mechanical mode, forms the basis for a temperature measurement. Also indicated is the spectral response of the optical cavity (dashed curve) (reproduced from [74]). (b) Top: Scheme of optomechanical crystal geometry, overlaid with a simulation of an optical resonance. Middle: Scheme showing a mechanical breathing mode. Bottom: Scanning electron photograph of a silicon optomechanical crystal.

mechanical occupation, $\bar{n} = 1/(R_{\rm sa} - 1)$ and the temperature can be found using the expression for $R_{\rm sa}$ above.

This method has been utilized by Purdy et al to measure thermodynamic 3 temperature of nano-mechanical devices over the temperature range of 0.5 mK up to 50 4 K [74]. More recently quantum cross-correlation technique, probing side band asymmetry, 5 has been employed by Purdy et al to enable temperature measurements up to 300 K [38]. 6 Using free standing silicon nitride (SiN) membranes in high vaccum, Ferreiro-Vila et al [75] 7 have demonstrated room temperature thermometry with 15 μ K resolution. At present, the 8 reported uncertainties in optomechanical temperature measurements are of the order of 9 ten percent [38] which is too large for any but niche applications at very low temperatures. 10 The on-chip design of optomechanical thermometers and thus their ability to integrate 11 with existing silicon photonics and electronics infrastructure, particularly in the context 12 of quantum computing, is certainly an attractive feature. In order to realize a practical 13 optomechanical primary thermometer with acceptable uncertainty, several challenges, 14 however, must be overcome including optimization of optomechanical transduction, 15 developing robust vacuum-compatible packaging, characterization of systematic effects 16 such as self-heating, optical bistability, cavity chaos and characterization of energy flow 17 between the bath and mechanical modes of the resonator [78]. 18

The quest to optimize optomechanical transduction has driven a continuous evolution of optomechanical sensor's design from simple disk resonators to complex designs featuring coupled photonic crystal cavities in a "zipper" configuration shielded from its surrounding by an integrated microfabricated phononic shield [79]. In recent years, the material of choice has evolved from silicon to silicon nitride, enabling higher Q devices. Use of hierarchical design features has recently enabled the fabrication of silicon nitride devices ¹ with mechanical Q's of up to a billion [80]. Fabrication techniques have made novel ² materials such as diamond, gallium arsenide (GaAs) and aluminium nitride (AlN) more

³ readily available, opening up new paths to realizing optomechanical sensors with an

⁴ optomechanical coupling rate of 100 GHz/nm [81]. More recently, the use of metamaterial

⁵ design elements in fabricating optomechanical resonators [82] has enabled mechanical

 $_{6}$ Q's of nearly one thousand in structures where the buried oxide layer is not etched

7 out. Such structures are easier to fabricate in large numbers, requiring fewer post-

⁸ foundry modifications, if any, and likely to prove more robust against internal strain and

 $_{9}$ $\,$ mechanical vibrations from the environment.

¹⁰ 4. Emerging technologies for approximations of defined scales

Emerging technologies for approximations of defined scales could be divided into two broad categories: fiber-optic based temperature sensors — that use optical fibers, either to guide the light to and from the sensor (e.g. phosphor thermometry), or as a sensing element itself (e.g. fiber Bragg gratings, Brillouin thermometry) — or fiber-coupled on-chip thermometers — that use on-chip nanophotonic devices to sense temperature changes.

Given that fiber-optic technology has been well established for over half a century [83] 17 it is not surprising that many researchers have tried to harness guided light to measure 18 physical quantities such as temperature, pressure and humidity [84,85]. Fiber-optic sensor 19 technology has benefited from the rapid developments in closely related optoelectronic 20 and fiber-optic communications industries, as component prices have fallen and quality 21 improved, the ability of fiber-optic sensors to displace traditional sensors has grown. 22 The most common fiber-based temperature sensing device is the fiber Bragg grating 23 (FBG) [86,87] though other examples, as demonstrated in the literature, include long-24 period gratings [88], extrinsic Fabry-Perot cavities [89, 90], microloop resonators [91] 25 and light scattering-based fiber thermometers, including Brillouin, Rayleigh [92] and 26 Raman [93] fiber thermometers. These fiber thermometers provide convenient access to 27 either primary (see section 4.2) or ITS-90 traceable measurement solutions. 28

The fundamental limitations of various silica fiber-optic techniques such as 29 uncertainty performance (phosphor thermometry in section 4.1, FBG in section 4.3), 30 stability (FBG in section 4.3), and inadequate spatial, temporal and thermal measurement 31 resolution (Brillouin scattering in section 4.2) can be overcome by utilizing on-chip 32 nanophotonic, devices where strong confinement of light combined with higher TOC 33 materials can be used to realize a variety of devices ranging from coarse but stable 34 temperature sensors (e.g. Bragg-waveguide-grating thermometers [94]) to high resolution, 35 low-drift thermometers (e.g. ring resonators [21, 26]). Consider, for example, the most 36 common material in the semiconductor industry — silicon. It has a thermo-optic 37 coefficient 10 times larger than that of silica ($\sim 1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ K}^{-1}$ [95] vs. $\sim 1 \times 10^{-5}$ 38 K^{-1} [96]) — thus a greater temperature sensitivity (up to a factor of ten higher) is 39 achievable . Pure single crystal Si suitable for integrated optics is readily available in 40

the form of silicon-on-insulator (SOI) wafers. The Si waveguide devices are normally 1 embedded in a SiO_2 cladding and therefore isolated from contamination, further oxidation 2 and potential drift. Si photonic thermometers could theoretically be used from cryogenic 3 temperatures up to the glass transition temperature of the SiO_2 cladding, which can be 4 over 1000 K for pure SiO₂ layers. Such devices can be less than 100 μ m in size, while the 5 underlying Si chip is typically a few millimeters across to facilitate mechanical handling. 6 Below we provide a brief overview of some of the more common fiber-optic based 7 technologies followed by the on-chip technologies. 8

9 4.1. Fiber-coupled phosphor thermometry

Phosphor thermometry and in particular fiber-coupled phosphor thermometry has 10 been the subject of intense research for many years and there are a number of good 11 introductions to the subject [97–101]. Phosphor thermometry is based, in essence, on 12 photoluminescence — the emission of light at one wavelength caused by excitation at 13 a different wavelength — of a particular class of ceramics known as thermographic 14 phosphors (e.g. $Mg_4FGeO_6:Mn$ (MFG) and $Al_2O_3:Cr$ (Ruby) [97, 98]) that are either 15 applied to the surface of interest or embedded in an optical fiber. In the latter case, 16 phosphorescent light from the material coated on the end of the fiber is efficiently back 17 propagated by the fiber while in the former case a co-located fiber is used to collect and 18 guide the light from a thin (typically 100 μ m thick) layer of phosphor to a detector. 19

The collected light is analyzed, using either a decay-time-measurement approach 20 or a spectral-intensity-ratio-measurement approach. In decay time measurement, the 21 exponential decay of the emitted fluorescent light is measured after the excitation light is 22 switched off. The characteristic decay time (typically a few μ s to a few ms) of a particular 23 phosphor is dependent upon its temperature (usually getting smaller with increasing 24 temperature) and thus the surface temperature can be determined. The decay can either 25 be measured directly or as a phase difference between a periodically varying excitation and 26 the corresponding emission [102]. In the case of the spectral-intensity-ratio-measurement 27 approach, the thermographic phosphor can be excited excited by an external light source; 28 either pulsed or continuous, and the emission spectrum of the emitted phosphorescent 29 light is measured. The ratio of two spectral bands in the spectrum of some phosphors has 30 been found to be temperature dependent and hence can be used as a thermometer [99]. 31 although with a non-linear temperature dependence (see figure 10). Since there is some 32 batch-to-batch variability in the properties of thermographic phosphor, combined with 33 the influence of the host matrix, both approaches require calibration to obtain the best 34 temperature performance (which is very similar for both). For two colour phosphor 35 thermometry, besides establishing specific temperature traceability to the ITS-90, to get 36 reliable thermometry performance the optical alignment and other confounding factors 37 need to be carefully considered, especially for fibre-coupled free space applications 38 Lowe et al [103] reported standard uncertainty ranges from 0.6 K at 273 K to 2 K 39

at 923 K, using phosphor-based fiber-optic thermometer with the spectral intensity ratio



Figure 10. (a) Emission spectra of MFG:Mn at different temperatures when excited with light at 415 nm. The shaded areas indicate spectral regions 10 nm bandwidth centered at 630 nm and 660 nm which can be seen to have different temperature dependence (reproduced from [103]). (b) Prototype of a contact phosphor thermometer at work. The MFG:Mn phosphor powder is sealed inside the alumina tube which is bonded to the gold-coated single fiber.

approach. The major uncertainty contributions came from repeatability and hysteresis 1 of the sensor (it was found that with continued cycling to 923 K the probe started to 2 break-up), the interpolation between calibration points and the absolute accuracy of 3 the voltage measurement. Similarly, Rosso et al [39] reported a standard uncertainty, 4 ranging from 0.3 K at ambient temperature to less than 0.7 K at 723 K, using the decay-5 time approach — which is lower than the corresponding uncertainties of a radiation 6 thermometer and a K-type thermocouple in their experiments. The major uncertainty 7 contributions in their phosphor-thermometry measurement were from the reproducibility 8 of the phosphor-coating method, phosphor calibration and repeatability of the decay-time 9 estimate. 10

This performance can be further improved by having more calibration points, 11 developing a mechanically robust packaging and optimizing phosphor application 12 techniques. With care, at modest temperatures, traceable uncertainties of 0.1 K are 13 possible — which still might be considered too high for the most accurate applications. 14 Nevertheless, phosphor thermometry offers unique advantages in industrial settings, 15 especially as regards the surface temperature measurements, since it is independent 16 of radiance (so phosphor thermometry can work under water or other transparent 17 liquids), independent of surface emissivity and reflected thermal radiation (while radiation 18 thermometry approaches are significantly impaired by them) and immune to the presence 19 of ionizing radiation or microwave fields. Currently the temperature range for application 20 of phosphor thermometry extends from cryogenic temperatures up to almost 2000 21 K [104, 105]. Using fiber-coupled phosphor thermometry has the advantage of simplifying 22

the experimental set-up and making the form-factor compatible with the existing physical
 infrastructure.

3 4.2. Fiber optic thermometry, based on Raman, Brillouin and Rayleigh scattering

Distributed (as opposed to point-like (in section 4.3)) fiber optic sensors measure changes 4 in the backscattered light over the entire length of an optical fiber. Backscattering is 5 described as spontaneous when the input light (at a low light-intensity level) is scattered 6 without strongly altering the property of the medium. In general, the spontaneous 7 light scattering is a random statistical process occurring in all angular directions and 8 includes Rayleigh, Brillouin, and Raman scattering in the order of decreasing intensity 9 (see figure 11). In optical fibers, the scattered light — modulated by local temperature, 10 strain, vibration and acoustic wave changes — is guided back to the detector over lengths 11 ranging from meters to hundreds of kilometers [106]. The location of the modulated 12 signal along the optical fiber can be measured by pulsing the input light and measuring 13 the time delay of the returning signal — so called optical time-domain reflectometry 14 (OTDR). In OTDR, the spatial resolution Δz is typically given by [107]: 15

16
$$\Delta z = \frac{\tau c}{2n_{\text{eff}}},$$

where τ is the pulse width, c is the speed of light and n_{eff} is the effective refractive index of the fiber, which is associated with a group index. Alternatively, optical frequency-domain reflectometry (OFDR) uses a tunable laser to scan a frequency range of ΔF and through Fourier transformation produces a spatial resolution of [107]:

²¹
$$\Delta z = \frac{c}{2n_{\text{eff}}\Delta F}.$$

Improving the spatial resolution (to a few cm level) is the focus of active research in distributed fiber optic sensors. For information on a large variety of measurement schemes, both in time and frequency domain, a number of recent review articles can be consulted [107–109]. The performance of the distributed temperature sensor (DTS) is a complicated function of the spatial resolution, the temperature resolution, and the maximum sensing distance, required. The temperature accuracy is typically reduced as the spatial resolution and sensing distance limit are increased.

Rayleigh scattering in optical fibers is caused by the scattering of light from 29 particles or other sources of refractive index fluctuations much smaller than the optical 30 wavelength [110]. These density and compositional inhomogeneities are frozen into the 31 structure of the fiber during fiber fabrication. Rayleigh scattering is an elastic scattering 32 process— no energy is transferred to the glass matrix — and thus it occurs at the incident 33 light frequency (see figure 11). For regular silica fibers, the dependence of Rayleigh 34 scattering intensity on temperature is too weak for use as a temperature sensor [107] and 35 different materials have to be used instead. For example, liquid core fibers with OTDR 36 instrumentation were predicted to have an accuracy of 1 K with a spatial resolution of a 37 few meters over 100 m fiber length [111]. Alternatively, the temperature information can 38



Figure 11. A schematic of a spontaneous light scattering spectrum. The sensitivity to temperature changes, ΔT , and applied stress, $\Delta \varepsilon$ is indicated.

¹ be obtained via an interferometric technique with OFDR instrumentation by applying

² cross-correlation and taking the difference in the frequency shift between the fiber under ³ test and the reference fiber placed elsewhere [92, 112]. For the latter technique, Froggatt ⁴ et al [92] estimated "the error in the temperature and strain data" to be 3.5 K and 35 $\mu\varepsilon$ ||, ⁵ respectively, with a spatial resolution of 2 cm over a potential range of 70 m. Note that ⁶ no proper uncertainty budget was provided for this estimate (see also our discussion of ⁷ drawbacks below). Available commercial Rayleigh scattering analyzers focus on detecting ⁸ vibrations and fiber integrity [109].

⁹ The scattering peaks next to the central Rayleigh peak in figure 11 are called ¹⁰ Brillouin scattering components and originate from light interactions with propagating ¹¹ acoustic phonons in the host material [113]. Brillouin scattering is characterized as ¹² inelastic scattering: the so called Stokes components are shifted to lower frequencies (the ¹³ photons lost energy in the interaction with acoustic phonons) and the anti-Stokes — to ¹⁴ higher frequencies (the photons gained energy). The Brillouin frequency shift $\Delta\nu_{\rm B}$ can ¹⁵ be expressed as [108]:

16
$$\Delta \nu_{\rm B} = \frac{2n_{\rm eff}V_{\rm a}}{\lambda_{\rm p}}$$

where $V_{\rm a}$ is the velocity of the acoustic wave in the fiber and $\lambda_{\rm p}$ is the wavelength of the incident light (probe). The Brillouin frequency shift in optical fibers vanishes in the forward direction and it is maximized in the backward direction. The amount of Brillouin frequency shift is related to the acoustic velocity and the fiber refractive index, which are dependent on both the temperature and strain.

 $\parallel \mu \varepsilon$ is a dimensionless unit commonly used in literature to express ppm level change in fractional length

A Brillouin scattering fiber sensor system utilizes either spontaneous scattering (e.g. 1 Brillouin Optical Time Domain Reflectometry (BOTDR)) or stimulated scattering (e.g. 2 Brillouin Optical Time Domain Analysis (BOTDA)), with the latter showing higher 3 scattering cross-sections than the former. Stimulated Brillouin scattering (SBS) in optical 4 fibers appears when so called pump light of adequate intensity and small bandwidth 5 <2 GHz) at frequency ν_1 is introduced at one end of the fiber. Simultaneously, a 6 counter-propagating probe light at a frequency $\nu_1 - \Delta \nu_B$ is injected from the other 7 end. The input pump pulse generates spontaneous Brillouin scattering at a frequency 8 $\nu_1 - \Delta \nu_B$ and the SBS occurs only at the fiber location where the pump and counter-9 propagating probe waves superimpose in time. SBS has better performance in sensing 10 length and spatial resolution, as compared to spontaneous Brillouin scattering [114] 11 with temperature resolution of 1 K and spatial resolution of 10 m, reported over 22 km 12 distance [115]. Note that the temperature resolution above is often wrongly cited as 13 the temperature accuracy or measurement uncertainty. Available commercial BOTDR 14 and BOTDA analyzers show similar temperature-sensing performance [109]. The key 15 drawback of an SBS system is that it needs light, introduced at both ends of the fiber, 16 which is not always practical in real-world applications, especially if breakages occur 17 during installation e.g. in bridges or roads. 18

Similar to Brillouin scattering, the Raman effect is due to inelastic scattering of light 19 where the radiation field exchanges energy with the quantum ro-vibrational energy levels 20 of the material [116]. Consequently, Raman scattering also has Stokes and anti-Stokes 21 components (see figure 11). The intensities of Stokes and anti-Stokes Raman bands are 22 proportional to the population density of material's ro-vibrational levels which is 23 temperature dependent and respond differently to the temperature changes. Thus the 24 ratio measurement of Stokes and anti-Stokes Raman bands can be used to determine 25 temperature at a distance z [108]: 26

$$_{27} \quad R = \frac{P_{\rm AS}}{P_{\rm S}} = \left(\frac{\lambda_{\rm AS}}{\lambda_{\rm S}}\right)^4 e^{(-\alpha_{\rm AS}z + \alpha_{\rm S}z)} e^{-hc\Delta\nu_{\rm R}/k_{\rm B}T}$$

where $\lambda_{\rm S}$ and $\alpha_{\rm S}$ and $\lambda_{\rm AS}$ and $\alpha_{\rm AS}$ are the wavelengths and attenuation coefficients 28 for Stokes and anti-Stokes light, respectively, h is the Planck's constant and $\Delta \nu_{\rm R}$ is 29 the Raman frequency shift. The ratio of the Stokes and anti-Stokes intensities of 30 backscattered light can be detected by both OTDR and OFDR techniques. The best 31 temperature resolution was reported when the traditional OTDR technique was combined 32 with an image de-noising algorithm: 22 mK resolution at 9 km distance with 2 m spatial 33 resolution and a short aquisition time of 35 s [117, 118]. Raman-based commercial 34 DTSs are currently dominant in distributed photonics sensor technology for temperature 35 measurement with sub-kelvin resolution, especially, for long distances [109]. We note that 36 fiber-optics have been employed to enable Coherent Anti-Stokes Raman Scattering based 37 temperature measurements in harsh environments such as combustion engines [119]. A 38 detailed discussion of CARS thermometry and its performance characteristics can be 39 found Childs et al's review of established temperature measurement techniques [120]. 40

Emerging technologies in the field of thermometry

Historically, Raman thermometry has offered relatively poor performance due in part 1 to low Raman cross-sections, and non-linearity in the detector and spectrometer response. 2 Using super-conducting nanowire single photon detectors and single photon counting 3 techniques, spatial resolution of fiber Raman thermometry has been pushed down to 4 the 1 cm range (limited by spatial modal dispersion) with temperature measurement 5 uncertainties of 3 K and integration times as little as 60 s [93]. Using the single-photon 6 detection technique it is theoretically possible to measure thermodynamic temperature 7 directly through careful characterization of filter bandwidths, filter losses, Raman gain 8 coefficient, and detection efficiency [93]. The measurement uncertainties though need q to be lowered by several orders of magnitude and the implementation significantly 10 simplified to make the technique competitive with other primary techniques such as the 11 near-commercial JNT discussed above. 12

Distributed fiber optic sensors have a unique advantage over traditional point-like 13 sensors as an equivalent of thousands of sensing points are available for independent 14 mapping of temperature, strain, vibration, and etc. in three dimensions. On the other 15 hand, the very same distributed nature of the sensor represents the major challenge 16 as the current calibration laboratory infrastructure and definition of uncertainty itself 17 are currently tailored towards point-like sensors instead. Despite some actions by 18 the DTS community at the international level (i.e. IEC and ASTM standardization 19 committees [121], US Seaforn platform [122]), the dissemination of the DTS technologies 20 to the involved industries is suffering from a lack of well-established standardization and 21 rigorous metrological assessment. As a result, DTS literature often relies on figures of 22 merit such as resolution [123] to communicate measurement confidence. Determination 23 of detailed uncertainty budget awaits enterprising metrologists [124]. To date, we were 24 able to find only one metrological assessment of a DTS (Raman) by Laboratoire National 25 de Métrologie et d'Essais (LNE), France [125, 126]. An additional drawback is that the 26 commercial DTS so far have been confined to a narrow temperature interval around room 27 temperature [109, 125]. Extending this working range further with low uncertainties will 28 be a major challenge as is evident from the work on high-temperature FBGs (see section 29 4.3). Furthermore, the relative complexity and cost of instrumentation (especially in 30 case of single-photon Raman measurements) is a deterrent to widespread use. 31

32 4.3. Fiber-Bragg-grating thermometry

Fiber Bragg gratings were invented in the 1970s and since then have become widely used 33 in telecommunications to reflect, filter or disperse light [87]. A fiber Bragg grating is 34 inscribed in the optical fiber with high-intensity infrared femtosecond lasers or ultraviolet 35 lasers by means of direct writing or through a phase mask, which creates periodic 36 variations of the refractive index in the fiber core [87, 127, 128]. These periodic variations 37 with a period Λ create an interference for a specific wavelength of light, known as the 38 Bragg wavelength $\lambda_{\rm B}$, for which $2 \cdot n_{\rm eff} \cdot \Lambda = \lambda_{\rm B}$, where $n_{\rm eff}$ is the effective refractive index 39 of the fiber core at $\lambda_{\rm B}$. A band of wavelengths, centered at the Bragg wavelength that 40

- satisfies the Bragg condition for the grating is reflected, whereas non-resonant wavelengths
 are transmitted without any loss (see figure 12). A change in the surrounding temperature
- impacts the effective grating period as it modifies period through the linear thermal
- ³ impacts the effective grating period as it modifies period through the linear therm ⁴ expansion of the optical fiber and its refractive index due to temperature (TOE)

$${\rm S} \quad \frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial T} = 2\{\Lambda \frac{\partial n_{\rm eff}}{\partial T} + n_{\rm eff} \frac{\partial \Lambda}{\partial T}\}$$

The thermal response is usually modelled as: a) arising due to the TOC only — since 6 the TOE of silica is a factor of ten larger than the thermal expansion [96, 129] — and 7 b) as linear. Existing literature indicates that FBG has a temperature dependent shift of 8 10 pm/K around room temperature [130] while at elevated temperatures (up to 1000 $^{\circ}$ C 9 for silica fiber) the sensitivity is 14 pm/K [131, 132] although for the most accurate 10 sensing applications the FBG response should be assumed to be quadratic [13, 133]. The 11 temperature range can be further extended by using sapphire fibers [134]. Note that, 12 in general, stress, and anything that causes stress, e.g. fiber curvature or absorption 13 of water into the fiber coating, will also shift the resonant wavelength of the FBG 14 thermometer. Optimizing the packaging of the thermometer to be stress-free or using 15 the coefficient-matrix method (see e.g. [135–137]) to deconvolute the response to 16 temperature and stress, e.g. by designing two gratings with different stress sensitivities, 17 will help to eliminate/minimize or quantify the cross-sensitivity, respectively. 18



Figure 12. Schematic diagram of the transmission and reflection spectra of an optical fiber with an FGB. The FBG results from an index modulation (n_3) of spacing Λ inside a single-mode optical fiber.

The inherent advantages of fiber-optic sensors that apply to FBG thermometers 19 include their compatibility with the existing telecommunications infrastructure, relatively 20 low cost and a very small footprint. Typical single mode silica fiber is only 125 μ m in 21 diameter and the grating length can vary from hundreds μm to a centimeter. The small 22 diameter and cylindrical profile of the fiber mean that the practical FBG thermometer 23 can be readily made to resemble the form-factor of a platinum resistance thermometer 24 resulting in minimum disruption of the existing infrastructure in many temperature 25 measurement applications. In addition, wavelength-encoded measurand information 26 enables wavelength-division multiplexing and hence multi-point sensors can be realized 27 using this technique. 28

Although FBG thermometers have been widely used for sensing for some time now 1 and are commercialized, there has been a lack of rigorous metrology driven analysis 2 of the device performance that is only now beginning to be addressed [13, 17, 21]. For 3 example, an optimization of strain-free, sealed packaging in order to eliminate FBG's 4 cross-sensitivity to stress and humidity up to now has not received enough attention. An 5 examination of Type I grating [87] sensors over a limited temperature range of 233 K to 6 393 K in dry argon gas environment, in strain-free packaging, indicated that the combined 7 temperature measurement uncertainty of 0.24 K is dominated by thermal hysteresis 8 and uncertainty in peak center determination [13]. The latter can be reduced by using q π -phase-shifted Type II gratings, since these gratings have a very narrow pass-band 10 feature in the center of their resonance spectra that results in an average Q-factor of 11 10^6 . However, recent studies [17] of packaged π -phase-shifted Type II gratings in a 12 closely controlled temperature environment over 273 K – 1273 K temperature range have 13 confirmed the inherent instability of the gratings, which increases exponentially with 14 temperature. This conclusion seems to be universal for high-temperature FBGs [33] 15 and serves to limit the uncertainty performance to a few 100 mK, making FBGs the 16 photonic equivalent of thermocouples. Available evidence [33, 138, 139] suggests that 17 thermally driven ion migration between the fiber core and cladding, glass transition 18 driven stress-strain changes in the fiber and crystallization of α -quartz phase along 19 with grating erasure at elevated temperatures can all contribute to the measurement 20 uncertainty. Understanding the mechanism responsible for the wavelength instability 21 and quantifying its time-dependent impact on measurement uncertainties is the next 22 step in the development of FBG thermometers. 23

24 4.4. Bragg-waveguide grating thermometry

An obvious pathway to overcoming the hysteresis in macroscopic FBG sensors is to 25 develop on-chip gratings where the Bragg grating is written by periodically etching away 26 small amounts of the waveguide material (see figure 13), effectively creating periodic 27 regions of low refractive index that collectively act as a grating. This would ensure 28 that the physical structure of the grating does not change irreversibly with temperature, 29 while the working principle remains the same as that of an FBG (see section 4.3). Such 30 devices have been demonstrated to show no discernible hysteresis upon multiple thermal 31 cycles from 278 K to 433 K [94]. The device also showed excellent repeatability at 293 32 K when measured repeatedly over a week's time. However, the standard uncertainty 33 of the device, dominated by the uncertainty in locating the center of the Bragg peak, 34 was 1.2 K [94]. This uncertainty component is correlated to the peak width which can 35 be modulated by changing the refractive index contrast (δ_n) between the high and low 36 index regions of the grating. Accurately tuning the refractive index contrast in SOI 37 devices can be challenging as it requires precise etching of the waveguide [94, 140, 141]. 38 Furthermore, small, routine fabrication errors translate into significant deviations in 39 device's effective refractive index, resulting in significant differences between design 40



Figure 13. Nano-waveguide Bragg grating thermometer: a) SEM image of the part of Si WBG sensor, waveguide cross section is 220 nm \times 510 nm, side wall modulation is 60 nm, pitch is 330 nm; b) transmission spectra at different temperatures of SiO₂-cladded Si WBG thermometer; c) temperature dependence of the center of the stop band (reproduced from [94]).

¹ and device resonance wavelength — limiting throughput during production. A more

² cost-effective, more reproducible and easier path to reducing the peak center uncertainty

³ is the use of optical resonators, such as ring resonators and photonic crystal cavities.

4 4.5. Ring-resonator thermometry

The basic theory of a ring resonator (RR) has been detailed in the literature [142–144]. A
ring resonator, in its most basic configuration, consists of a closed-loop optical waveguide
(not necessarily circular in shape) and an adjacent evanescently coupled optical waveguide
to access the loop, separated by an air gap (see figure 14). The loop supports circulating
waves that resonate at a wavelength λ_m for which:

10
$$m \cdot \lambda_{\mathrm{m}} = n_{\mathrm{eff}} \cdot L$$

where integer m is the longitudinal resonator mode number, n_{eff} is the waveguide effective index and L is the round trip length of the loop. From this relationship it follows that the ring resonator spectrum exhibits a periodic notch-filter-like response. As with other photonic temperature sensors, the temperature dependence of the ring resonator arises from temperature-induced changes in refractive index and the physical dimensions of the ring. The temperature-induced shift in wavelength is thus given by [26]:

17
$$\Delta \lambda_{\rm m} = \left[\frac{\left(\frac{\partial n_{\rm eff}}{\partial T}\right) + n_{\rm eff} \frac{\partial L}{\partial T} \frac{1}{L}}{n_{\rm g}} \right] \left(\Delta T * \lambda_{\rm m}\right)$$

18 where $n_{\rm g}$ is the waveguide group index,

19
$$n_{\rm g} = n_{\rm eff} - \lambda_{\rm m} \frac{\partial n_{\rm eff}}{\partial \lambda_{\rm m}}$$

The thermal response is usually modelled as: a) arising due to the TOC only — since the variation in the refractive index due to the thermal expansion coefficient for silicon is a factor of 100 smaller than the silicon TOE [95, 145] — and b) linear. The existing literature indicates that a silicon ring resonator has a temperature dependent shift of



Figure 14. a) SEM image of ring resonator device (11 μ m radius, 130 nm gap) is shown b) A block diagram of the microscopy-based interrogation set-up used to interrogate the photonic devices is shown. c) The 11 μ m radius ring resonator used here shows a free spectral range of ≈ 9.2 nm near 1550 nm. d) The ring resonator acts as a notch filter whose resonance window is sensitive to temperature changes. The ring's resonance wavelength systematically increases as the temperature increases; resonances at various temperatures are shown in the insert (reproduced from [26]).

 $_1$ $\,$ 60–80 pm/K around room temperature [21,26] although for the most accurate sensing

applications the RR temperature response should be assumed to be quadratic [146]. 2 One of the major advantages of ring-resonator thermometers is the ability to routinely 3 fabricate devices with a Q-factor approaching 1×10^6 [24, 25, 147], which allows one to Δ significantly reduce the uncertainty in peak-center wavelength measurement (see our 5 discussion on resolution in section 2). There exists a wide range of materials, wavelengths 6 and device design parameters available for fit-for-purpose device development (see section 7 5 for additional discussion). 8 At present routine fabrication imperfections and difficulty in procuring uniform 9

¹⁰ Thickness wafers limit device interchangeability to 200 mK uncertainty around room ¹¹ temperature [148]. At an individual device level, measurements using side-of-fringe ¹² constant power mode, it has been shown that a noise floor below 100 μ K is achieved using ¹³ a free running laser [26]. Using wavelength-swept methods, measurements from cryogenic ¹⁴ temperatures to above room temperatures have been demonstrated [26, 149]. Packaging

of the RR in a practical thermometer was reported to degrade the performance [21]. 1 however one of the possible reasons in that case was likely a residual porosity of the silicon-dioxide cladding layer and, as a result, sensitivity to the humidity. The impact of 3 cross-sensitivity with moisture can be largely eliminated by cladding the device with 4 densified silica [26, 150]. The other sources of uncertainties include self-heating [22] 5 and fabrication imperfections [20]. Effects such as self-heating depend on properties of 6 the material (bandgap and heat capacity), operating wavelength, optical quality factor 7 of the device itself and input laser power. Using silicon nitride based ring resonators 8 and appropriate care in laser power control, the self-heating error can be mitigated to 9 below a mK level [151]. Fabrication imperfections can lead to breakdown of symmetry 10 between the clockwise and anti-clockwise modes leading to mode splitting and, in rare 11 cases, complex line-shape changes that adversely impact measurement uncertainties [20]. 12 These recent results have highlighted the need to develop documentary standards for 13 nanophotonic device fabrication as regards to specific cases in temperature metrology. 14

15 4.6. Photonic-crystal-cavity thermometry

Photonic crystal cavity (PhCC) structures resemble Fabry-Perot like structures much like 16 π -phase-shifted FBGs. PhCC are created using reactive ion etching (RIE) by utilizing 17 two Bragg mirrors fabricated from a periodic array of holes (see figure 15). The mirrors 18 are separated by a gap equal to an integer number of the designed wavelength, thus 19 forming a wavelength-scale Fabry-Perot cavity with an ultrahigh Q-factor. Due to tight 20 confinement of peak electromagnetic field in the cavity, PhCC offer Q-factor to mode 21 volume ratios far exceeding that of the ring resonators [152–154], which makes these 22 devices ideal for applications in quantum information systems. To avoid scattering losses, 23 so called zero-length cavities are designed with a Gaussian distribution of hole sizes 24 in a periodic array to confine light [153, 154]. The design parameters can be optimized 25 such that the fundamental mode of the cavity appears in the desired wavelength region. 26 A practical impact of this design is that it can potentially enable the user to identify 27 the mode number of the observed spectral feature without any knowledge of the device 28 temperature or modal dispersion [155]. 29

Similar to RR PhCC can also have high Q-factors approaching 1×10^6 [152, 153]. 30 As noted above, fabricating high Q-factor devices allows one to reduce the measurement 31 uncertainty due to peak center measurement (a limitation in FBG and silicon Bragg 32 devices, described above). Klimov et al 's results [19] indicate that packaged PhCC 33 thermometers enable measurements of temperature with standard uncertainty of 175 mK, 34 $a \approx 4$ -fold improvement over the silicon Bragg waveguide thermometer (see section 4.4). 35 The uncertainty was dominated by the long-term stability of the thermometer and is 36 likely due to residual strain imparted by the epoxy used in the packaging. The impact 37 of packaging can be imporved by utilizing long waveguides to place the active elements 38 away from the bonding region [20]. 39

⁴⁰ A potential drawback of PhCC design is a slightly lower range of temperature



Figure 15. SEM image of a silicon nanobeam photonic crystal cavity device (reproduced from [19]).

- sensitivities (60 pm/K 70 pm/K) as compared to ring resonators (60 pm/K 80 pm/K).
- ² Lower temperature sensitivity is due to removal of waveguide material for fabrication
- ³ of the low-index holes. The effective refractive index represents a weighted-average of
- ⁴ high-index waveguide material and low-index cladding material (air or SiO_2), sampled
- ⁵ by the propagating wave. However, we note that the slight reduction in temperature
- ⁶ sensitivity does not appear to limit measurement capabilities, as these devices have been
- ⁷ recently shown to measure temperature at the triple point of water with noise floor
- * approaching 10 μ K [156]. Systematic evaluation of the overall uncertainty in temperature
- ⁹ measurement using such devices, remains an active area of research.

10 5. Summary/Outlook

¹¹ 5.1. Paradigm shift in thermometry

The world of temperature metrology is arguably undergoing its most significant disruption 12 since the advent of the resistance thermometer. The realization of photonic temperature 13 sensors will eventually move some, possibly even a significant portion, of thermometry 14 away from electrical based thermometry methods, along with their attendant limitations, 15 and into frequency measurement domain, opening up an entirely new landscape of 16 possibilities where photonic temperature sensors can be built with self-diagnosing and 17 self-adjustment capabilities [74, 155]. In addition, changing the traceability chain could 18 potentially help in identifying any systematic effects present in the measurements 19 traceable to electrical units if the two, for some reason, don't agree. It will, however, 20 require change in training for thermometrists all around the world, to include optics as 21 they become accustomed to fiber optics, laser locking, Allan deviation and, maybe, even 22 dual frequency comb spectroscopy. On the other hand, the re-definition of the SI and 23 the work leading up to it (see introduction to section 3) triggered the development of 24 field-deployable primary thermometers, covering the entire temperature range from a 25 few μK to 3000 K. With these new tools, the thermodynamic temperature could soon 26 be measured directly in industrial settings. 27

In addition, sensor networks — where multiple variables are monitored at the same time and used to control complex industrial processes in real time — and distributed sensors — where the sensing information is obtained from hundreds of kilometers of fiber with a cm spatial resolution over few seconds — together will challenge the existing temperature calibration infrastructure, and will force us to revisit the important metrological terms [125], such as uncertainty, traceability and calibration.

In the short term, we anticipate that fiber-optic temperature sensors will increasingly 7 be used in niche applications, e.g. in embedded sensor applications for infrastructure 8 and in large-area network applications. It is likely that these versatile devices will q continue to find new application areas, e.g. FBG thermometers have been used as 10 temperature sensing elements in realization of a photonic pH sensor, based on the principle 11 of photothermal spectroscopy [157] and optomechanical sensors are being developed 12 for physical and thermodynamic sensing applications, including gravity and force in 13 addition to temperature measurements [158–160]. High-accuracy primary thermometry 14 realizations below the silver freezing point (1234.93 K) will likely remain confined to the 15 national metrology institutes due to the complexity and cost of their implementation, 16 while lower-accuracy commercial primary thermometers will eventually make their way 17 to the market. 18

In the long-term, on-chip photonic thermometry could start to compete and possibly 19 replace SPRTs in calibration facilities. Further developments and deployment of primary 20 thermometry techniques, such as JNT and on-chip DBT have the potential to provide 21 zero-chain traceability¶ outside of NMIs. We anticipate that adoption of photonics-based 22 techniques will create a broad base of users and innovators whose infrastructure build-up 23 will have an add-on effect: as the cost of exploring new quantum or photonics based 24 techniques drops, we could witness a marked acceleration of techniques, such as Nitrogen 25 Vacancy-diamond (NV-diamond) thermometry [161], that currently exists on the outer 26 fringes of the thermometry horizon. 27

28 5.2. Move towards primary thermometry

As described above, the re-definition of the kelvin will promote the use of primary 29 thermometry [42,66]. However, it should be acknowledged that at least in the nearest 30 future such measurements will be confined to cryogenic (< 25 K) and high (>1300 K) 31 temperatures, because that is where uncertainties by primary thermometry are already 32 similar or better than those of the defined scales [66, 162]. In between, the ITS-90 is a 33 robust low-uncertainty temperature scale, whose values approximate thermodynamic 34 temperature, so in order to compete, the primary techniques will have to offer other 35 advantages sought after by the end-users, e.g. the ability to calibrate a thermometer in 36 situ without physically removing it from the application site as proposed for JNT [8]. 37

¶ Zero-chain traceability refers to the idea of having a top-level temperature realization outside of NMIs. Measurement quality and conformity will still need to be assessed on the regular basis, similar to the current implementation of ITS-90 outside of NMIs.

The arrival of field-depolyable JNT is the first step towards deploying a primary 1 contact thermometer over the temperature range of 25 K and 1300 K. In the past 2 decade, techniques, such as optical refraction and on-chip DBT have also shown 3 considerable improvements. Optical refraction, conceived as a primary dimensional 4 metrology technique and developed as a primary pressure metrology technique, could yet 5 find itself deployed as a primary thermometer, albeit over a limited temperature range of 6 100 K to 423 K. Similarly, on-chip DBT is continuing to evolve and could provide access 7 to primary thermometry in industrial applications with uncertainties of 100 mK or better. 8 Lastly, opto-mechanical thermometry, an outgrowth of fundamental research in quantum 9 optomechanics, has shown promise as an on-chip route for realizing thermodynamic 10 temperature. At cryogenic temperatures it already outperforms traditional stalwarts such 11 as Coulomb Blockade Thermometry [74]. Recent developments have successfully extended 12 the measurement range up to 300 K [38] and demonstrated improved measurement 13 resolution [75]. Further improvements in device design, materials, and measurement 14 techniques could in the long term improve the measurement uncertainty to the point 15 of making quantum optomechanics competitive with resistance thermometry, whilst 16 providing thermodynamic temperature. 17

18 5.3. Future of the defined-scale thermometry

Some of the approximations to the defined-scale thermometry techniques, such as 19 phosphor thermometry (section 4.1), fiber optic thermometry based on Rayleigh, Brillouin 20 and Raman scattering (section 4.2) and fiber Bragg grating thermometry (section 4.3), 21 are already commercially available from several vendors. These techniques have found 22 a foothold in civil infrastructure and industrial applications [83, 86, 109, 163]. For 23 example, fiber-coupled phosphor thermometry is being used in monitoring nuclear 24 storage infrastructure [164, 165] while FBGs have been utilized in civil infrastructure such 25 as bridges and powerplants [83,86]. Despite their commercial appeal, the metrological 26 performance of devices such as FBG thermometers is only now being rigorously assessed. 27 As these devices undergo critical assessment by the metrology community, their potential 28 roles will be ascertained: recent studies focusing on measurement uncertainty due to 29 hysteresis suggest that FBG devices are likely to perform as the equivalent of type J 30 thermocouples, when exposed to temperatures above 353 K [13]. 31

On-chip photonic thermometry is potentially a more powerful alternative to both 32 fiber and resistance thermometry, mainly due to superior properties of constituent 33 materials (see introduction to section 4). The technique, though still relatively new, 34 has seen significant developments over the past decade in terms of: materials selection, 35 design, and fabrication, and performance. Silicon photonic thermometers have been 36 demonstrated to measure temperature over extensive ranges (4 K to 500 K) with 37 temperature resolution of as low as 10 μ K at the triple point of water [156], although, as 38 recently demonstrated by Zhao et al using fiber Fabry-Perot cavities with laser locking, 39 it is possible to achieve a thermal limit in temperature resolution (160 nK) [166] using 40

- photonic sensors. It is anticipated that silicon on-chip photonic thermometers could
 cover the range from the triple point of hydrogen (13.8033 K) to the aluminium freezing
 point (933.473 K) or higher. Currently the packaging of the devices, such as the bonding
 of optical fibers to the chip, limits the temperature range and the long-term stability of
- $_{5}$ the device [19].

6 While early work with on-chip photonic thermometry focused on silicon-based 7 devices, the field is rapidly diversifying the choice of materials available, as motivated by 8 both technical and logistical reasons. Any (future) material to be considered for on-chip

- ⁸ both technical and logistical reasons. Any (future) material to be considered fo
- photonic thermometry should at the least:
- 10 (i) Show a low loss at operating wavelengths;
- 11 (ii) Have a suitably high temperature sensitivity (large TOE) and
- ¹² (iii) Be thermo-physically stable over a wide temperature range.

¹³ Based on these requirements, semiconductor-based devices fare better than polymeric or

photoresist based devices as the latter's thermophysical properties limit the application of the device to temperatures below 500 K. While optical properties of polymeric waveguides

¹⁵ the device to temperatures below 500 K. While optical properties of polymeric waveguides ¹⁶ have somewhat improved, at the present they are often two orders of magnitude worse

¹⁷ than semiconductor devices. Furthermore, polymeric waveguides appear to be limited to

¹⁸ the multimode regime which is unsuitable for precision frequency measurements necessary

¹⁹ for achieving 10 mK or better temerpature accuracy.

The down-selection of semiconductor materials available for photonic thermometry 20 (Si, SiN, SiC, InP, GaAs, Ge, sapphire and diamond) [167–170] is typically driven by 21 the choice of operating wavelength and materials used in the photonic foundries. The 22 wide availability of affordable, tunable, narrow linewidth lasers and detectors at the 23 telecom C-band 1550 nm wavelength, along with a vast existing infrastructure for silicon 24 and silicon nitride processing, have made these two materials universally available in 25 photonic foundries. That said, there are thermometry-specific technical reasons for 26 exploring different materials, for example, in the past few years, silicon nitride [171] has 27 gained favour over silicon as the material of choice despite its lower TOE (10^{-5}) . The 28 principle advantage of using silicon nitride instead silicon is that the former's bandgap 29 is located in the UV, as opposed to silicon's (visible). As a result, self-heating due to 30 two-photon absorption is a less important contributor to the calibration uncertainty for 31 silicon nitride devices [151] than silicon, where it can rise up to the few percent level 32 depending upon laser power and device properties [26, 29]. We note that at 1.5 μ m 33 range silicon, InP, GaAs provide the highest TOE $(10^{-4} \text{ to } 10^{-3})$. Introduction of these 34 materials to foundry processes is in the early stages and could in the future shift the 35 community's focus away from Si and SiN if the need for ultra-sensitive temperature 36 measurement arises. 37

³⁸ 5.4. Instrumentation for emerging technologies

³⁹ How successful the emerging technologies will be in displacing entrenched legacy ⁴⁰ technologies will come down, apart from the performance, to the cost of adopting

them, which includes both the financial cost and the cost of changing entrenched industry 1 standards and practice — the latter often taking a generation. The largest driver of the financial cost is the device interrogation apparatus, which may include multiple 3 lasers, wavelength references, photodetectors and related electronics. In general, all the 4 primary techniques described in section 3 tend to have a very complex and expensive 5 interrogation apparatus; we therefore anticipate, that in the near future their use will 6 be confined to NMIs and other specialist research groups. On the other hand, defined-7 scale thermometry techniques described in section 4 often avail themselves to size- and 8 cost-effective solutions. q

In the latter case, at the minimum, the interrogation set-up will need a narrow 10 linewidth laser with a sufficiently tuneable wavelength to either track a single resonance 11 over a wide temperature range [21] or allow coverage of multiple resonances at 12 any temperature to enable pattern-recognition approach, which uses algorithms to 13 detect relative changes in two (or more) overlapping resonance patterns with different 14 temperature sensitivities [172]. In the former case, the tuning range is dictated in part by 15 material's TOE and operating temperature range, whilst in the latter it is driven by the 16 algorithm and device architecture. The cost of the laser and its control electronics can 17 run from \$3000 for short tuning range (≤ 4 nm) to \$15000 (USD) or more for a widely 18 tuneable, narrow-linewidth laser suitable for high precision measurement. We note that a 19 short tuning range lasers such as distributed feedback laser with 4 nm window can cover 20 temperature spans larger than 4 K for silicon thermometers, or 40 K for silica-based 21 thermometers. 22

The choice of a wavelength reference similarly depends on the desired uncertainty 23 budget. For most industrial applications (desired uncertainty of 10 mK to 500 mK), a 24 gas-wavelength reference with a 0.1 pm wavelength uncertainty, e.g. acetylene $(C_2^{12}H_2)$ or 25 hydrogen cyanide $(HC^{13}N^{14})$, would suffice as a cost-effective measure [23,173] (a typical 26 wavelength cell costs \$1000 - \$2000). A 0.01 pm or lower uncertainty will require a more 27 expensive wavelength meter [26] or a frequency comb [174]. The use of a dual comb 28 spectrometer can provide near-ideal frequency stability, scan speed and multiplexibility 29 at the expense of an increase complexity, size and cost. The former will add \$10,000 or 30 more to the cost on an interrogation set-up, while the latter, depending on bandwidth, 31 repetition rate, etc. may cost in excess of \$100,000 by itself. 32

Laser-locking techniques [175, 176] can provide improvements in measurement 33 capability over swept-wavelength schemes that are useful for demanding applications 34 such as primary calibration laboratories where operators need to achieve uncertainties 35 on the order of 1 mK to 10 mK. These gains in bandwidth have to be balanced against 36 increased cost of associated equipment — e.g. a field programmable gated array and 37 fiber-coupled electro-optic modulator can add an additional \$10,000 to \$30,000 to the 38 cost of the equipment. Particular use-case driven needs may require the use of additional 39 artefacts, such as an arrayed waveguide grating or Frizou interferometer, increasing 40 the cost of wavelength-metrology component from less than a \$1,000 to over \$10,000 41 with the latter being suitable for high-precision measurements and the former being 42

- ¹ appropriate for less demanding measurements. On-going work in developing on-chip
- ² frequency standards and construction and validation of cost-effective interrogators for
- ³ thermometry applications [23] has the potential to significantly reduce the interrogator
- $_{4}~$ cost and make high-accuracy photonic temperature measurements more affordable. We
- $_{\tt 5}$ anticipate that the parallel evolution of field-deployable primary thermometers and cost-
- ⁶ effective defined-scale photonic thermometers will open up new vistas in temperature
- ⁷ metrology, re-defining the reach of temperature metrology for decades to come.

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