## **Figures**

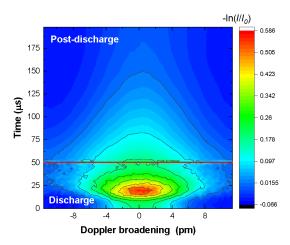


Figure 1 : 2D-image of a typical wavelength-time dependent TR-TDLAS signal measured in the ionization region (z=1.5 cm) at 5 Pa discharge pressure.

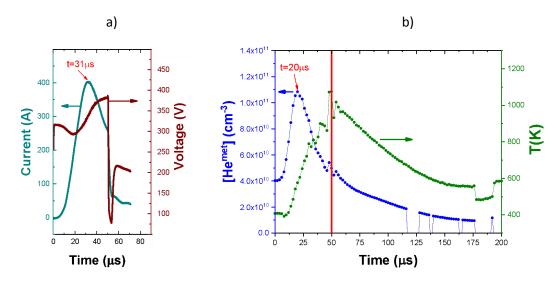


Figure 2 : a) The waveform of the cathode voltage and discharge current. b) The temporal evolution of the gas temperature and He metastable atoms density. Discharge pressure: p=5 Pa. The maximum on He metastable atoms density and the discharge current is at 20  $\mu$ s and 31  $\mu$ s respectively.