



# ENM061 - Power Electronic Converters

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## Lecture outline

### **Temperature control and component lifetime**

- Component lifetime
- The mechanisms of heat transfer
- The origin of losses
- Thermal resistance - steady-state processes
- Heat sinks and how to select a proper size
- Thermal Impedance – dynamic processes
- Summary

## Learning outcomes

- Fourier components and total harmonic distortion (THD) for basic waveforms.
- Operating principles of the most common active components (e.g. diode, thyristor, IGBT, and MOSFET) and passive components (e.g. capacitors, transformers and inductors).
- Operation of a pulse width modulation (PWM), the purpose of controlling the desired quantity and the need for a controller circuit within the power electronic converter.
- Analysis of ideal DC/DC converters (e.g. buck, boost, buck-boost, flyback, the forward, the push-pull, half-bridge and full-bridge converters) in CCM and DCM operation.
- Operating principles of single-phase and three-phase AC/DC inverters with different modulation strategies (e.g. PWM and square wave operation).
- Operation of multilevel converters (e.g. NPC, flying capacitor and MMC topologies) using current and voltage waveform analysis. Pros and Cons of the converter in terms of harmonics and losses.
- Operation of single- and three-phase diode rectifiers operating with voltage-stiff and current-stiff DC-side. Investigating the impact of line impedance within the converter circuit for current commutation.
- Operation of single- and three-phase thyristor rectifiers operating with a current-stiff DC-side and the impact of line impedance for current commutation. Investigating the use of 6/12-pulse configurations.
- Loss calculation in passive and active components. Evaluating the temperature rise in the active components and choosing an appropriate heat-sink.**
- Identify simple power electronic converter schematics. Recognizing the different parts in a physical circuit on which basic wave-shape and efficiency measurements is performed.
- Utilizing the software Cadence PSpice to simulate basic power electronic circuits and the practical labs to have a firsthand experience of how real DC/DC converters operate.

## Why Control Component Temperature?

- All components (capacitors, inductors, transformers, semiconductor devices and circuits have maximum operating temperatures specified by manufacturers.
  - Component reliability decreases with increasing temperature. Semiconductor failure rate doubles for every 10 - 15 °C increase in temperature above 50 °C
- High operating temperature has undesirable effects on components.

### Capacitors

- Significant increase in electrolyte evaporation rate with an increase in temperature and this shortens lifetime.

### Magnetic Components

- Losses (at constant power input) increase above 100°C
- Winding insulation (lacquer or varnish) degrades above 100°C

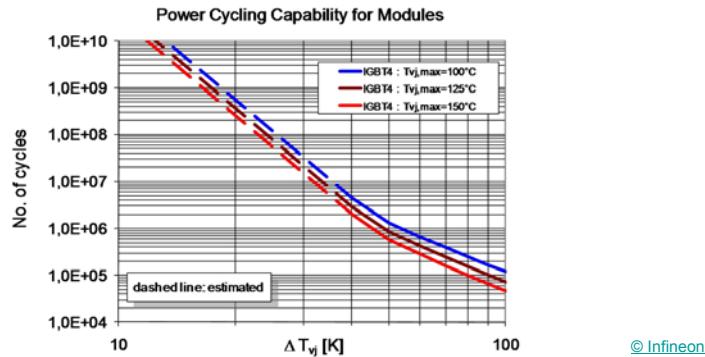
### Semconductors

- Unequal power sharing in parallel/series devices.
- Reduction in breakdown voltage in some devices.
- Increase in leakage currents



## Lifetime of Active Components

- Due to mechanical stress, the maximum allowed number of thermal cycles are often specified for an IGBT power module
- The cycling capability depends on the temperature swing ( $\Delta T_{vj}$ ) and the maximum component temperature ( $T_{vj, \max}$ )



## Lifetime of Passive Components

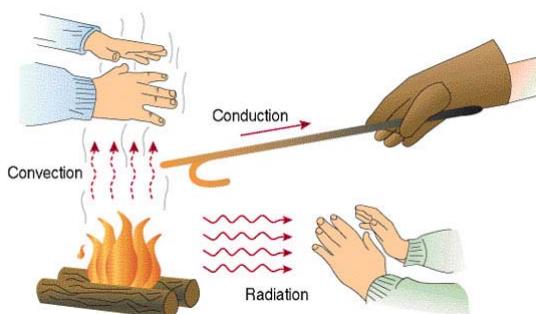
- Capacitors:
  - Dielectric breakdown due to overvoltage or aging of the dielectric (when the breakdown voltage falls below operating voltage)
  - Electrode materials migrating across the dielectric, forming conductive paths
  - Increase of dissipation factor due to contamination of capacitor materials
  - Electrolyte contamination from moisture corroding the electrodes, leading to capacitance loss and shorts
- Inductors:
  - Mainly mechanical stress due to thermal cycling
  - Also, insulation breakdown in the windings due to thermal hot-spots may occur

## Temperature Control Methods

- Control voltages and current through components
  - Snubbers may be required for semiconductor devices
- Maximize heat transfer via convection and radiation from components
  - Short heat flow paths and large component surface area
- Use of heat sinks for temperature-critical components
  - Proper design for adequate air flow so that heat sinks dissipate heat to the ambient.

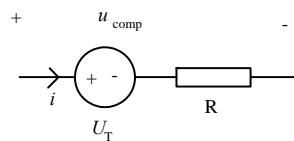
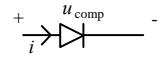
## Mechanisms of Heat Transfer Three Fundamental Principles

- Radiation
- Convection
- Conduction



## The Origin of Losses - Conduction

Steady-state is assumed  
for all calculations!



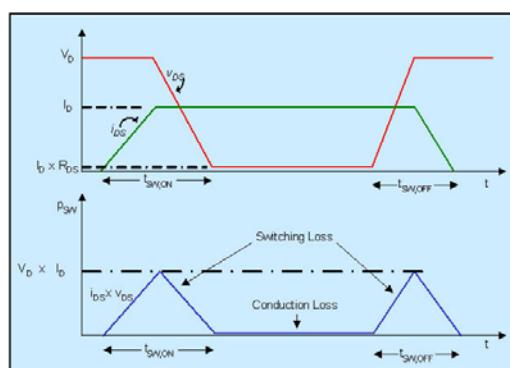
$$u_{comp}(t) = U_T + Ri(t)$$

$$P_{on} = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T p(t) dt = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T u_{comp}(t)i(t) dt = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T (U_T i(t) + R i(t)^2) dt = U_T I_{AVG} + R I_{rms}^2$$

$$I_{AVG} = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T i(t) dt \quad I_{rms} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{T} \int_0^T i^2 dt}$$

## The Origin of Losses – Switching

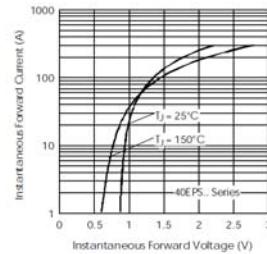
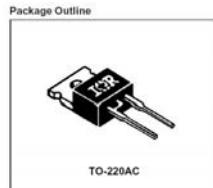
- A high voltage and current at the same time gives rise to switching losses (see simplified MOSFET switching event below)



## Practical Applications

### A Switch Diode in TO-220 Package

- Depending on the type and application, both the forward voltage drop ( $V_F$ ) and the forward resistance can be specified in the diode datasheet



Electrical Specifications

| Parameters                            | 20ETF... | Units | Conditions                      |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-------|---------------------------------|
| $V_{FM}$ Max. Forward Voltage Drop    | 1.3      | V     | @ 20A, $T_j = 25^\circ\text{C}$ |
| $r_f$ Forward slope resistance        | 12.5     | mΩ    |                                 |
| $V_{F(TO)}$ Threshold voltage         | 0.9      | V     | $T_j = 150^\circ\text{C}$       |
| $I_{RM}$ Max. Reverse Leakage Current | 0.1      | mA    | $T_j = 25^\circ\text{C}$        |
|                                       | 5.0      |       | $T_j = 150^\circ\text{C}$       |
|                                       |          |       | $V_R = \text{rated } V_{RRM}$   |

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## Practical Applications

### A MOSFET in TO-220 Package

- For a MOSFET, the most important parameter  $R_{DS(on)}$  is specified.
- The switching losses are determined by the switching times and depend on the operating conditions.



**BUZ10**  
N - CHANNEL 50V - 0.06Ω - 23A TO-220  
STripFET™ MOSFET



ON (\*)

| Symbol       | Parameter                         | Test Conditions                              | Min. | Typ. | Max. | Unit |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--|------|------|------|------|
| $V_{GS(th)}$ | Gate Threshold Voltage            | $V_{DS} = V_{GS}$ $I_D = 1 \text{ mA}$       | 2.1  | 3    | 4    | V    |
| $R_{DS(on)}$ | Static Drain-source On Resistance | $V_{GS} = 10 \text{ V}$ $I_D = 14 \text{ A}$ |      | 0.06 | 0.07 | Ω    |

SWITCHING

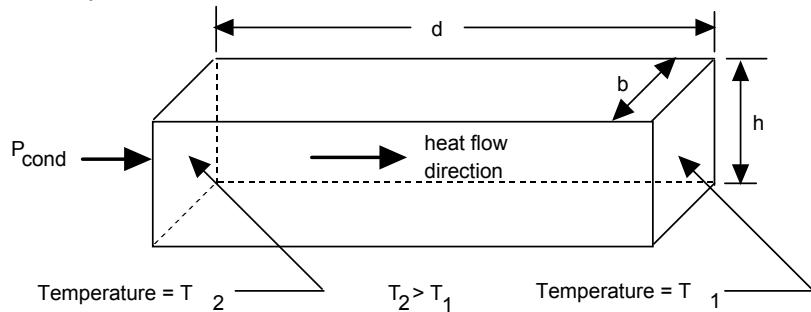
| Symbol       | Parameter           | Test Conditions                                  | Min. | Typ. | Max. | Unit |
|--------------|---------------------|--|------|------|------|------|
| $t_{d(on)}$  | Turn-on Time        | $V_{DD} = 30 \text{ V}$ $I_D = 10 \text{ A}$     |      | 20   |      | ns   |
| $t_r$        | Rise Time           | $R_{GS} = 4.7 \text{ Ω}$ $V_{GS} = 10 \text{ V}$ |      | 45   |      | ns   |
| $t_{d(off)}$ | Turn-off Delay Time |  |      | 48   |      | ns   |
| $t_f$        | Fall Time           |  |      | 10   |      | ns   |

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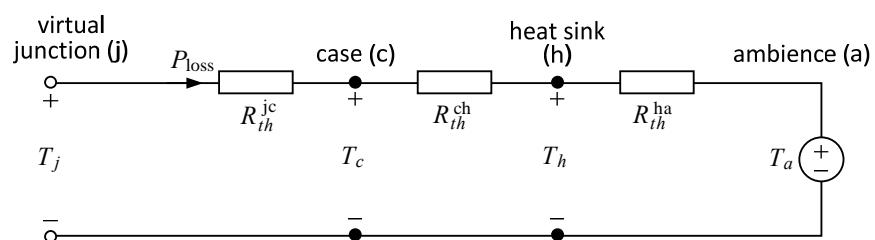
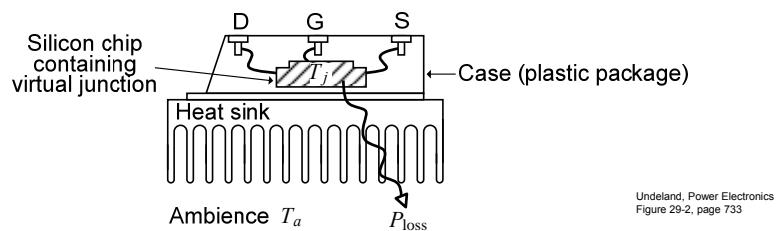
## Thermal Model of a Semiconductor in Steady-State

- The most important form of heat flow for cooling of electronic components is conduction



$$P_{cond} = \frac{\lambda b h}{d} (T_2 - T_1) \Rightarrow \Delta T = P_{cond} \frac{d}{\lambda b h} = P_{cond} R_{th}$$

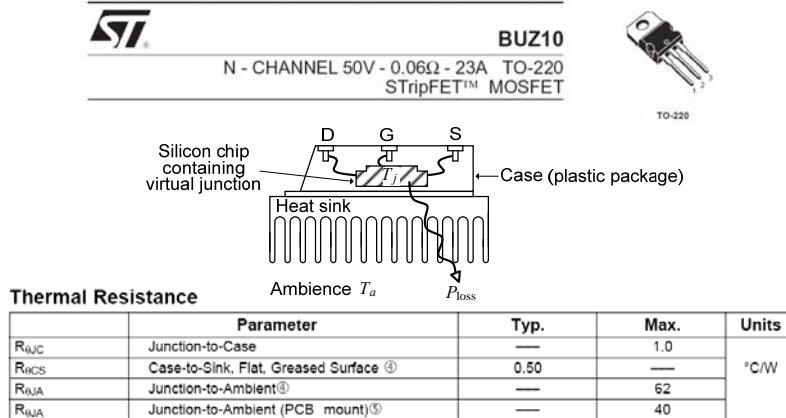
## Thermal Model of a Semiconductor in Steady-State



## Practical Applications

### A MOSFET in TO-220 Package

- The thermal performance is determined by the thermal resistance of the components which in turn depends on the mounting conditions



## Heat Sinks – Selection Criteria

- Choice of heat sink depends on required thermal resistance,  $R_{\theta sa}$ , which is determined by several factors.
  - Maximum power,  $P_{diss}$ , dissipated in the component on the heat sink.
  - Component's maximum internal temperature,  $T_{j,max}$
  - Component's junction-to-case thermal resistance,  $R_{\theta jc}$ .
  - Maximum ambient temperature,  $T_{a,max}$ .
- $R_{\theta sa} = \{T_{j,max} - T_{a,max}\}/P_{diss} - R_{\theta jc}$ 
  - $P_{diss}$  and  $T_{a,max}$  determined by particular application.
  - $T_{j,max}$  and  $R_{\theta jc}$  set by component manufacturer.

## Heat Sinks – Datasheet Values

- In the datasheet for the heat sink, the thermal resistance at a specific power dissipation is specified
- The given figure also assume no forced convection and correct mounting/direction.

TO220 heatsink



Thermal resistance: 16 °C/W at 5 W

**Mfr. Aavid**

Heatsink with spring-loaded (no screws), four point clamp to package.  
Black matt anodised aluminium

TO220, TOP3 heatsink



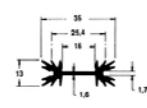
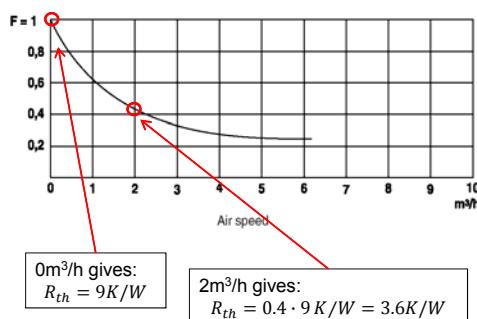
**Mfr. Aavid**  
Heatsink with spring-loaded clamp to package for easier installation.  
Includes solder pin to attach the heatsink.

| Type                    | Thermal resistance °C/W | Height mm | Stock number | Price / items 1- 25- 100- |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------|---------------------------|
| 1 <b>Buy!</b> 5332B 220 | 9.0 at 6 W              | 50.8      | 75-612-93    | 4.87 3.60 2.77            |

## Heat Sinks – The Effect of Forced Convection on a Heat Sink

- As the speed of the surrounding air increases, the thermal resistance of the heat sink decreases

TO220, TOP3 heatsink

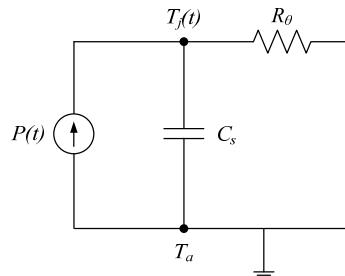


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## Transient Thermal Impedance

- For transient events, the heat capacity per volume ( $C_v$ ) of the material also needs to be considered.
- An approximate solution of the time-dependent heat diffusion equations can be obtained from the electric circuit analogy below.
- For a step input power,



$$C_v = \frac{dQ}{dT} \Rightarrow C_s = C_v A d$$

$$T_j = P_o R_\theta [t / \tau_\theta]^{1/2} + T_a$$

$$\tau_\theta = \pi R_\theta C_s / 4$$

Undeland, Power Electronics  
Figure 29-3, page 734

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## Transient Thermal Impedance Thermal Time-Dependent Impedance

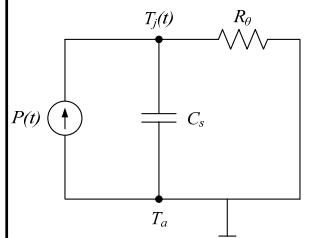
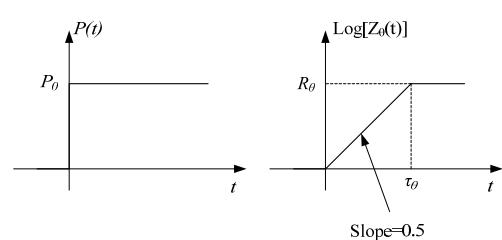
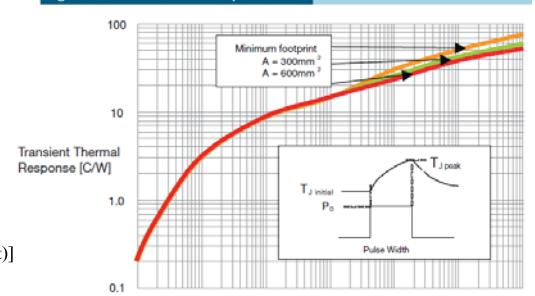


Figure 9—Transient thermal response curve



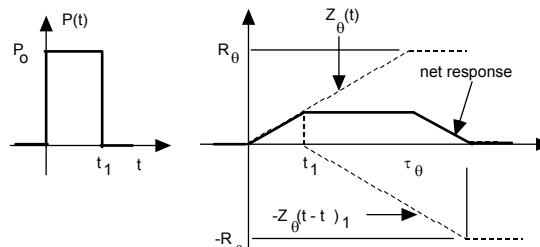
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## Transient Thermal Impedance Thermal Time-Dependent Impedance

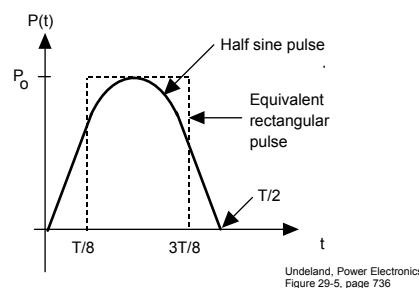
- Symbolic response for a rectangular power dissipation pulse

$$P(t) = P_0 \{ u(t) - u(t - t_1) \}.$$



- $T_j(t) = P_0 \{ Z_0(t) - Z_0(t - t_1) \}$

$$P(t) = P_0 \{ u(t - T/8) - u(t - 3T/8) \}$$



- Symbolic solution for half sine power dissipation pulse.

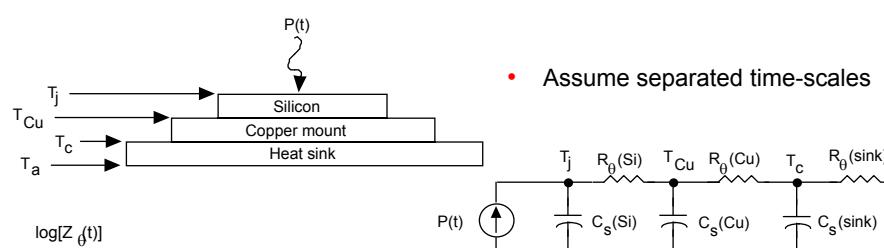
- $P(t) = P_0 \{ u(t - T/8) - u(t - 3T/8) \}$   
area under the two curves identical
- $T_j(t) = P_0 \{ Z_0(t - T/8) - Z_0(t - 3T/8) \}$

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## Transient Thermal Impedance Multiple Layers

- Assume separated time-scales

 $\log[Z_\theta(t)]$  $R_\theta(Si) + R_\theta(Cu) + R_\theta(sink)$  $R_\theta(Si) + R_\theta(Cu)$  $R_\theta(Si)$  $\tau_\theta(Si)$  $R_\theta(Cu)$  $\tau_\theta(Cu)$  $R_\theta(sink)$  $\tau_\theta(sink)$  $\log(t)$ Undeland, Power Electronics  
Figure 29-4, page 736

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## Transient Thermal Impedance GTO-Example

**Characteristic values**

| Parameter   | Symbol        | Conditions          | min | typ | max | Unit |
|---|---------------|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Thermal resistance junction to case                         | $R_{th(jc)}$  | Double side cooled  |     |     | 12  | K/kW |
|   | $R_{th(jc)A}$ | Anode side cooled   |     |     | 22  | K/kW |
|   | $R_{th(jc)C}$ | Cathode side cooled |     |     | 27  | K/kW |
| Thermal resistance case to heatsink<br>(Double side cooled) | $R_{th(ch)}$  | Single side cooled  |     |     | 6   | K/kW |
|   | $R_{th(ch)}$  | Double side cooled  |     |     | 3   | K/kW |

**Analytical function for transient thermal impedance:**

$$Z_{thJC}(t) = \sum_{i=1}^n R_i (1 - e^{-t/\tau_i})$$

| i            | 1      | 2      | 3      | 4      |
|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| $R_i$ (K/kW) | 5.400  | 4.500  | 1.700  | 0.400  |
| $\tau_i$ (s) | 1.2000 | 0.1700 | 0.0100 | 0.0010 |

**Fig. 1** Transient thermal impedance, junction to case.

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## Tutorial 12

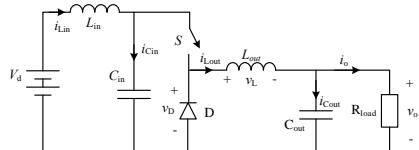
Realistic active and passive components

- Efficiency calculation
- MOSFET temperature with and without heat sink
- Efficiency comparison with linear power supply where  $V_{FET} = V_d - V_o$ . How does the loss impact on the cooling of the transistor?

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## PSpice 7



| Nominal values                   |        |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Source voltage ( $V_d$ )         | 15V    |
| Output Inductance ( $L$ )        | 2.2μH  |
| Output Capacitance ( $C$ )       | 150μF  |
| Load Resistance ( $R_{load}$ )   | 2Ω     |
| Switching frequency ( $f_{sw}$ ) | 300kHz |
| Duty ratio steady state ( $D$ )  | 0.667  |

- Current waveforms through the input and output filters
- Origins of losses in the passive and active components
- What is the impact of switching frequency and diode type on efficiency
- Junction temperature, impact of heat sink thermal resistance/impedance

## Summary

- Component lifetime
- Mechanism of heat transfer
- Origin of heat - switching and conduction losses
- Thermal resistance and the concept of thermal impedance
- Heat sinks and cooling mechanisms
- Learning outcome:
  - ❖ Loss calculation in passive and active components. Evaluating the temperature rise in the active components and choosing an appropriate heat-sink.