

Conceptualization and Multi-Objective Optimization of the Electric System of an Airborne Wind Turbine

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Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich
Power Electronic Systems Laboratory
www.pes.ee.ethz.ch





Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

Pareto-Optimal Design of Airborne Wind Turbine Power Electronics

J. W. Kolar, T. Friedli, F. Krismer, A. Looser, M. Schweizer, P. Steimer, J. Bevirt

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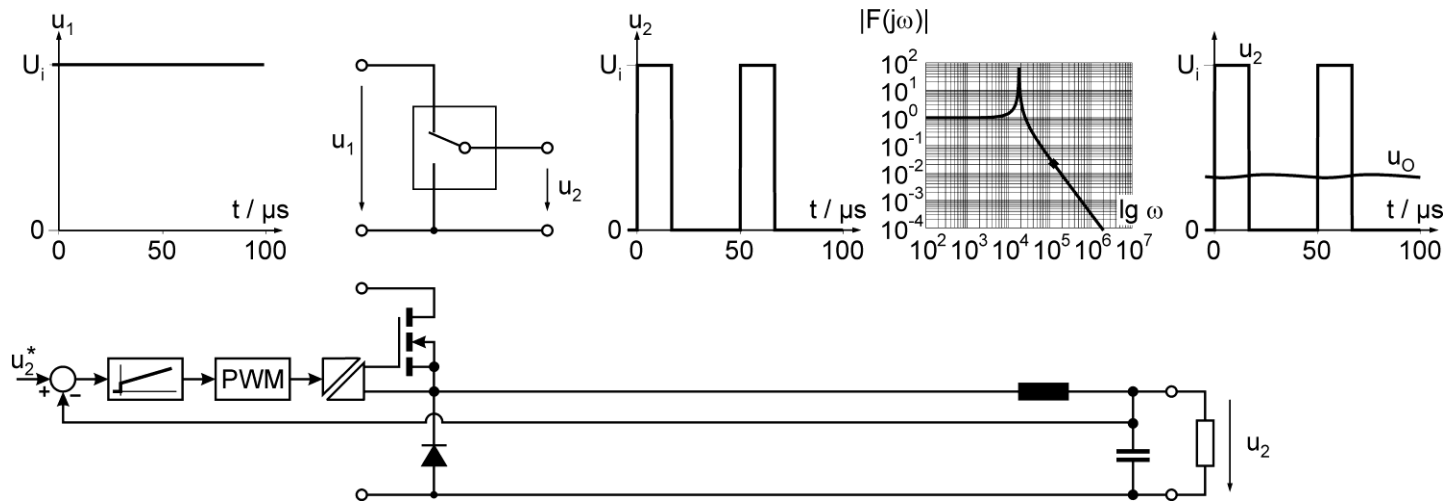
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Basics

Electronic Power Processing
Power Electronics Performance Trends
Design Process
Multi-Objective Optimization

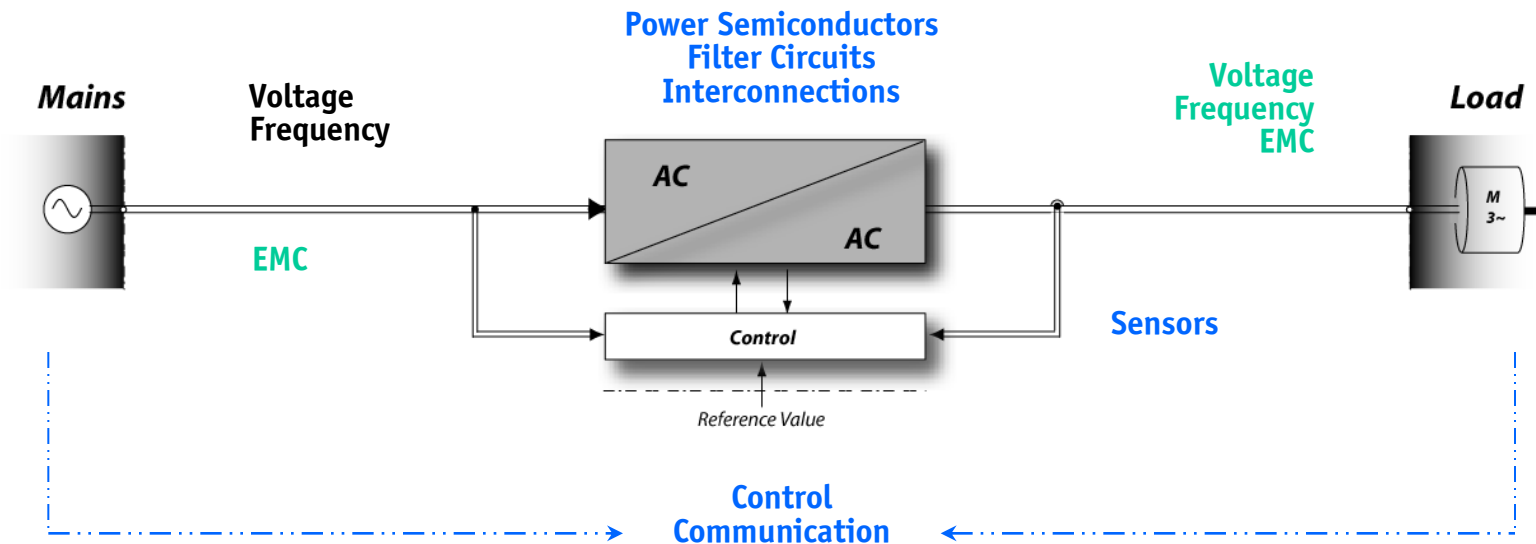
Basic Electronic Power Processing System



- Electronic Switches / Power Semiconductors
- Filter Circuits / Inductors, Capacitors
- Heat Management / Heatsink
- Sensor Circuits
- Digital Signal Processing

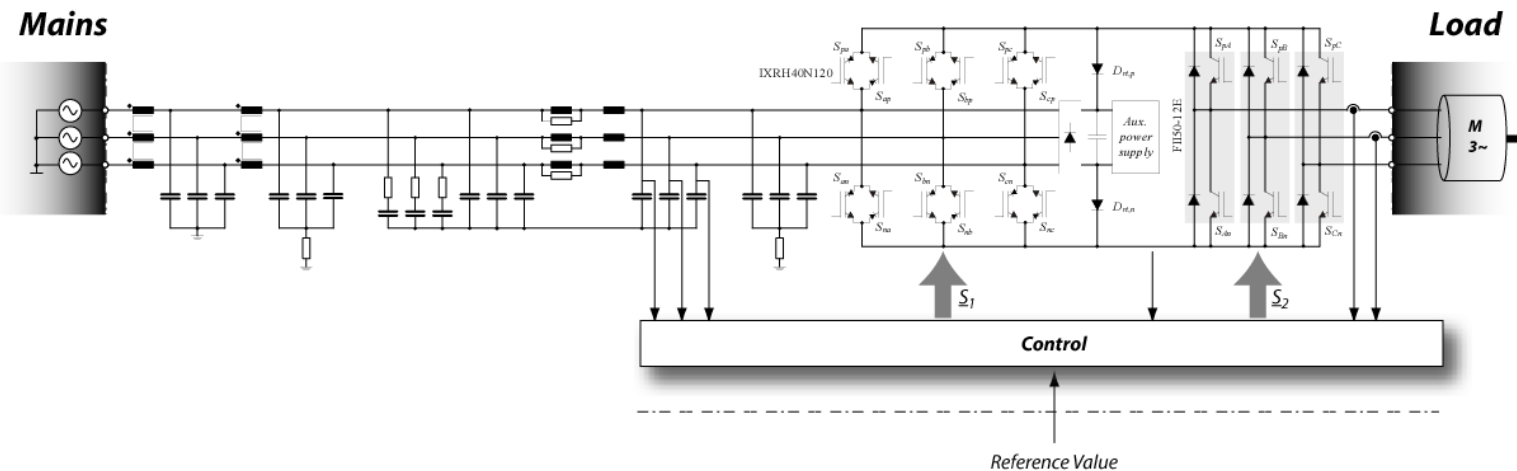
Basic Electronic Power Processing System

- Highest Efficiency
- Highest Dynamics
- Highest Compactness
- Highest Compatibility
- Highest Reliability



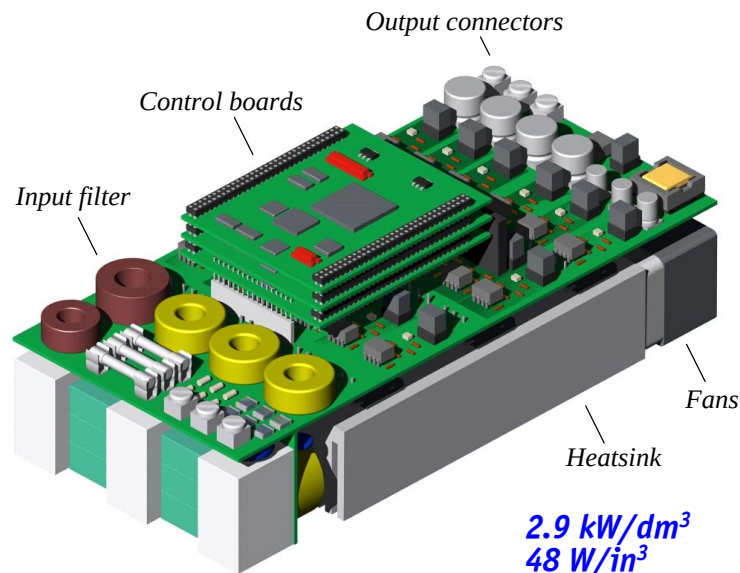
Basic Electronic Power Processing System

- Highest Efficiency
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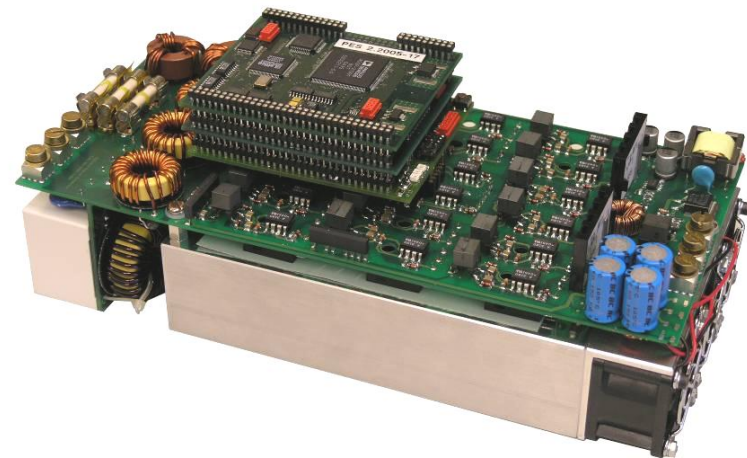


► Example of a Three-Phase AC/AC Matrix Converter

Three-Phase AC/AC Matrix Converter Prototype



Efficiency 95.5%



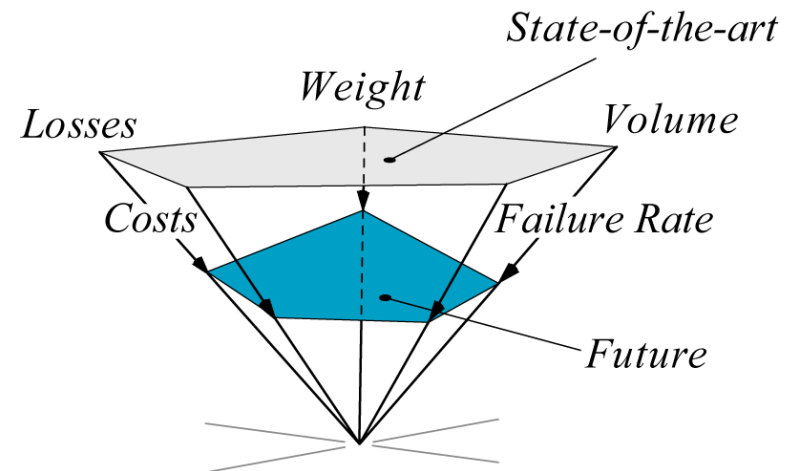
Input RMS voltage	400V
Output Power	6.8 kVA
Rectifier Switching Frequency	12.5 kHz
Inverter Switching Frequency	25 kHz

Power Electronics Performance Trends

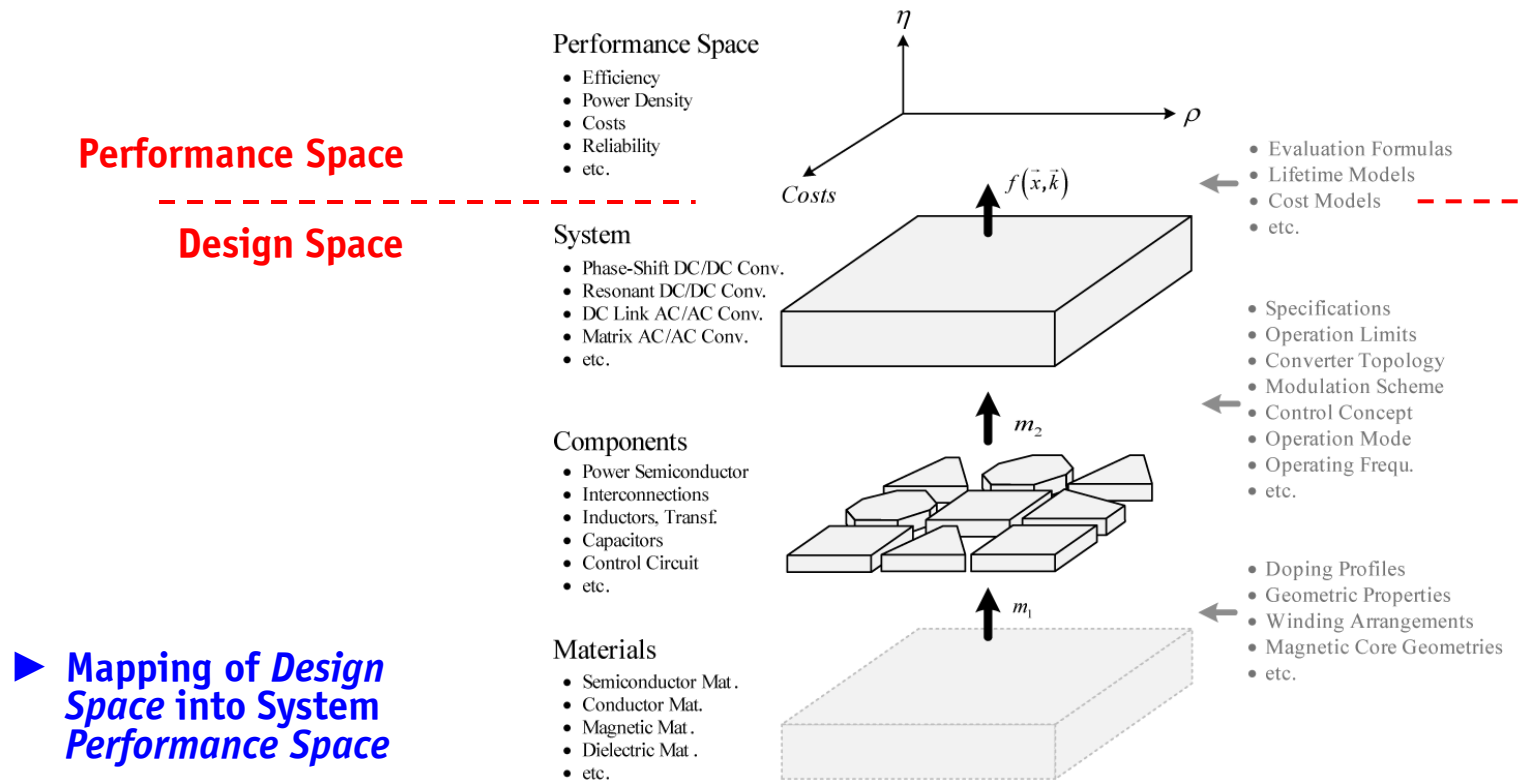
■ Performance Indices

- Power Density [kW/dm³]
- Power per Unit Weight [kW/kg]
- Relative Costs [kW/\$]
- Relative Losses [%]
- Failure Rate [h⁻¹]

► Understand the Mutual Coupling of Performance Indices

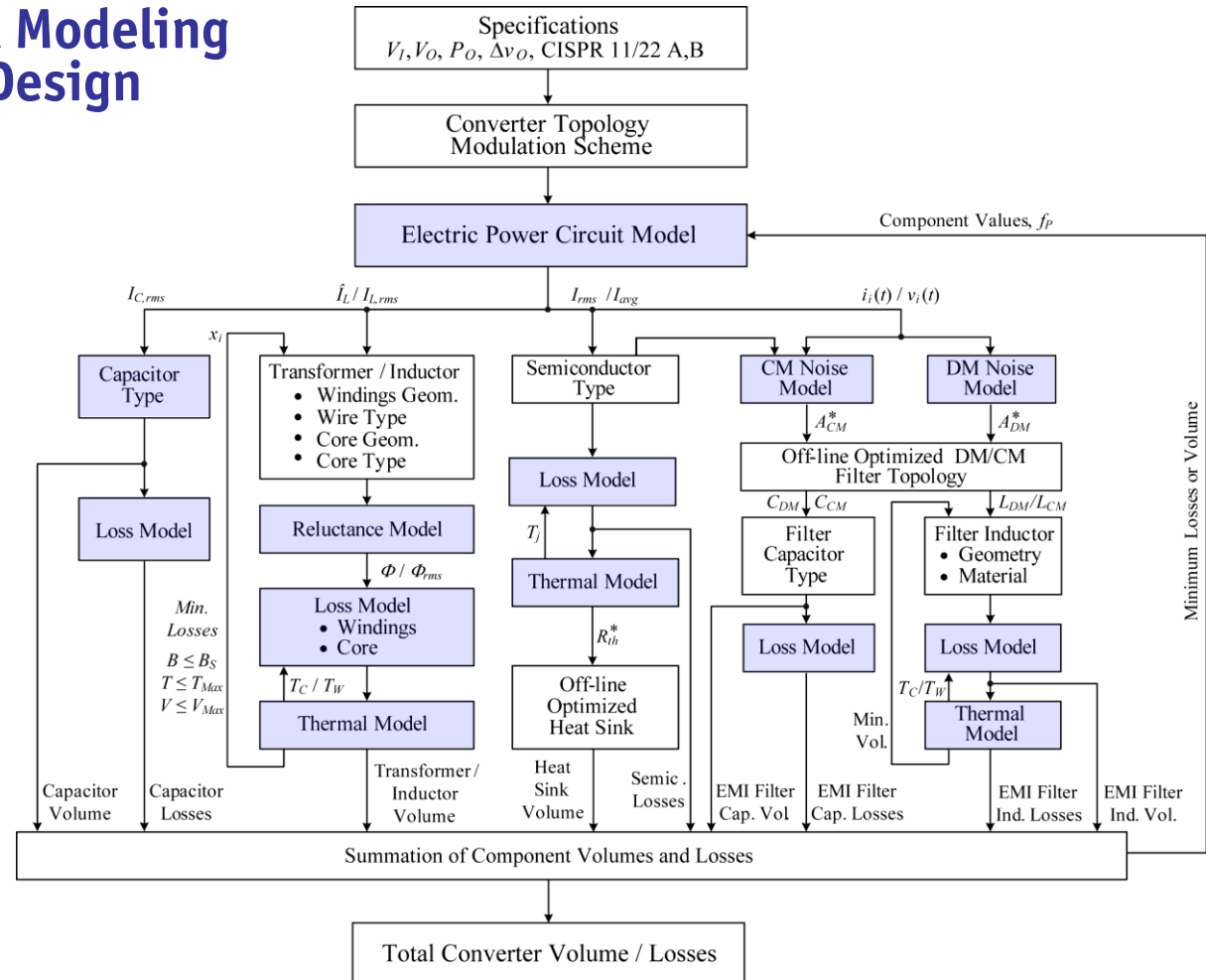


Abstraction of Power Converter Design Process



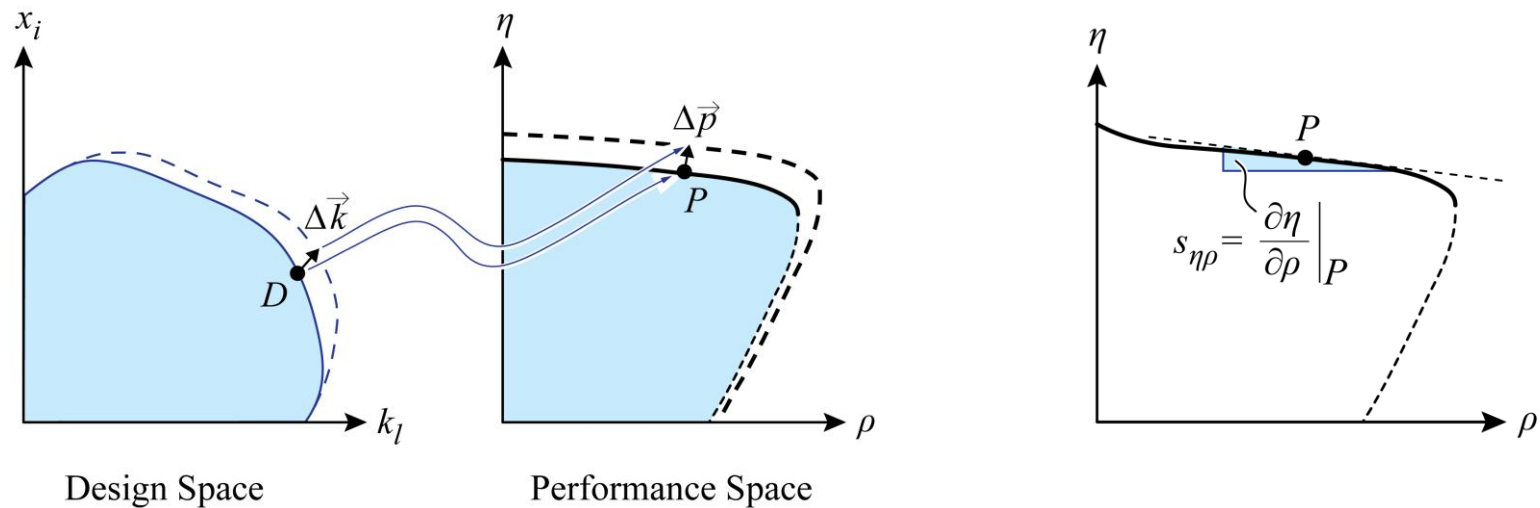
Mathematical Modeling of Converter Design

► Multi-Objective Optimization



Multi-Objective Design Optimization/ PARETO-Front

- ▶ Sensitivity to Technology Advancements
- ▶ Trade-off Analysis



Example → Efficiency / Volume Trade-off of Inductors

Operating Conditions
and Parameters

$$L, f_p, I \quad \Phi \propto L I$$

■ Scaling of Core Losses

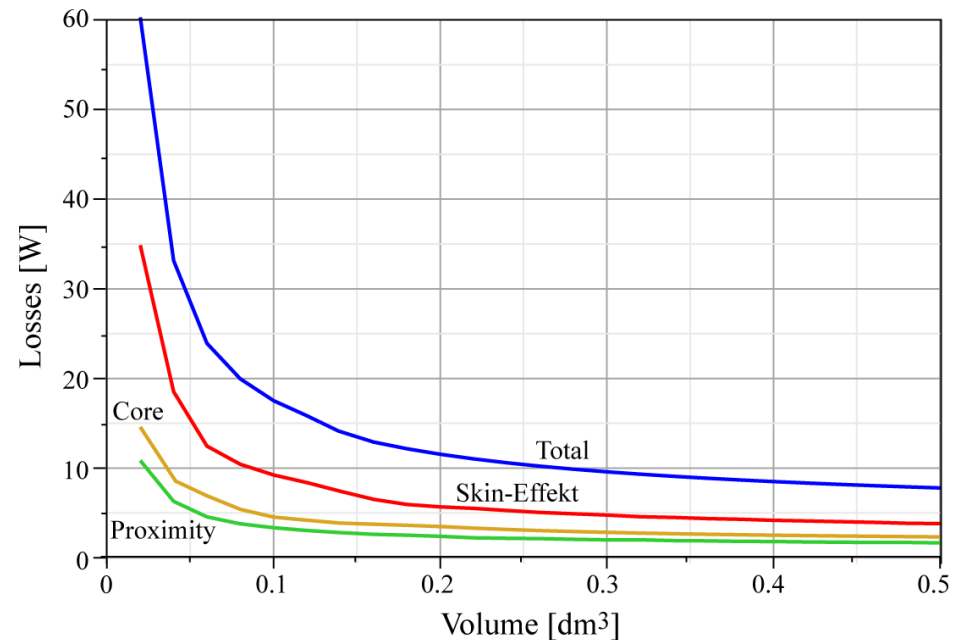
$$P_{Core} \propto f_p \left(\frac{\Phi}{A} \right)^2 V$$

$$P_{Core} \propto \left(\frac{1}{l^2} \right)^2 l^3 \propto \frac{1}{l}$$

■ Scaling of Winding Losses

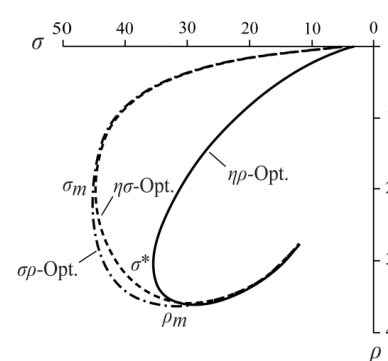
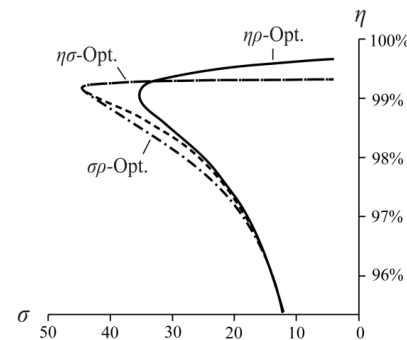
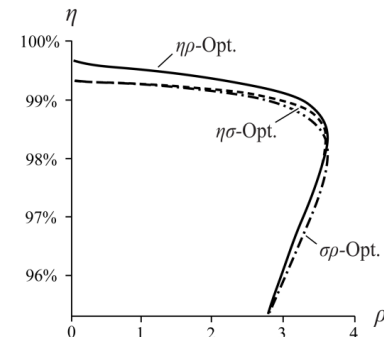
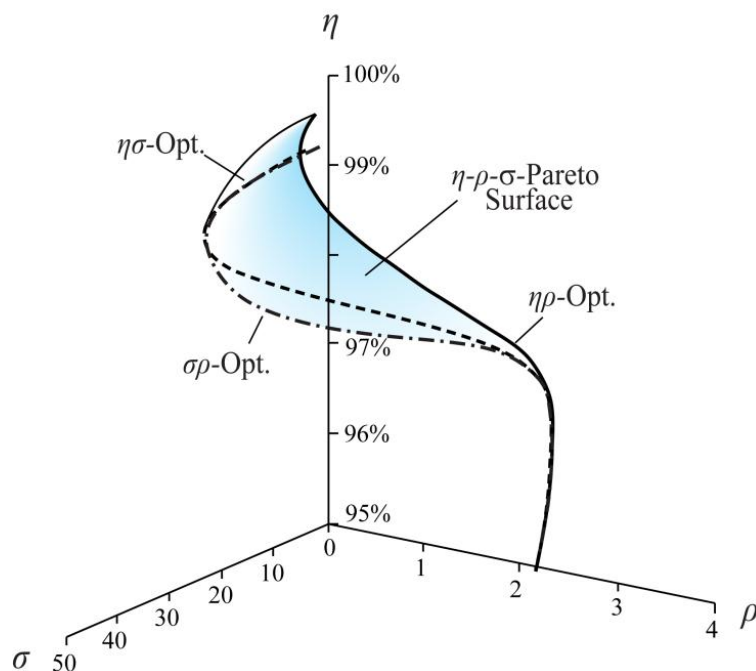
$$P_{Wdg} \propto I^2 R \propto I^2 \frac{l_{Wdg}}{\kappa A_{Wdg}}$$

$$P_{Wdg} \propto \frac{1}{l}$$



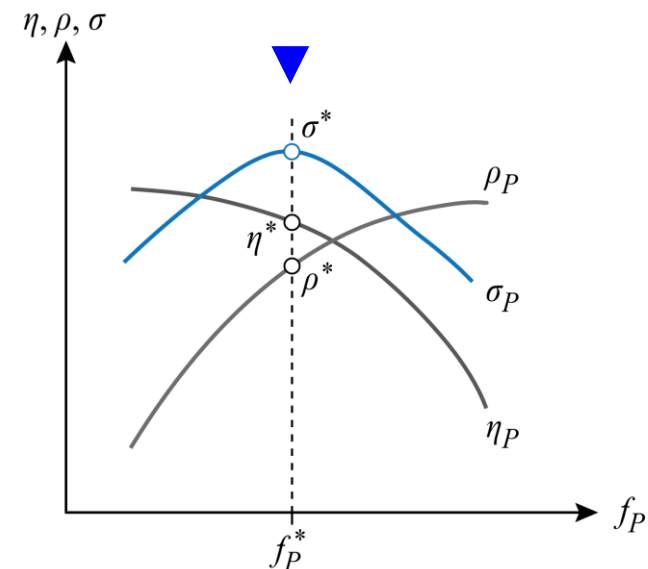
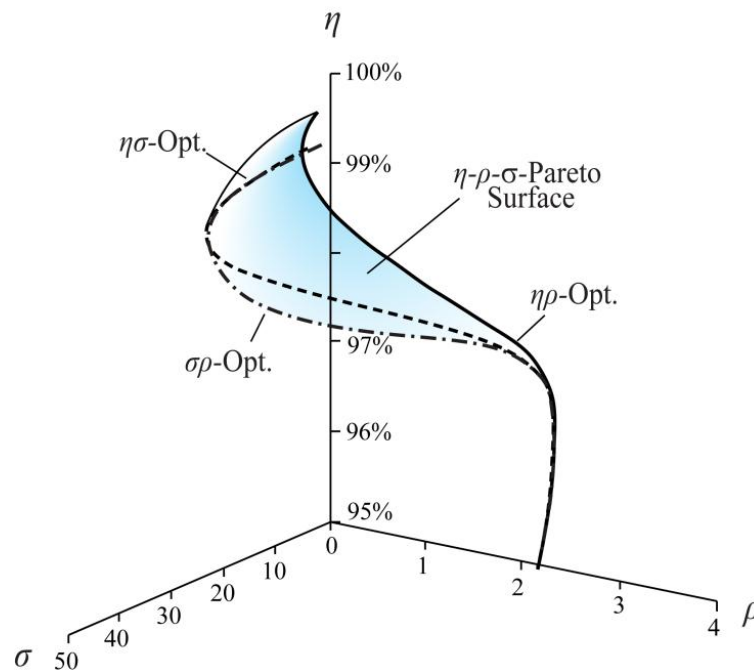
Converter Performance Evaluation Based on η - ρ - σ -PARETO Surface

► σ : kW/\$



Converter Performance Evaluation Based on η - ρ - σ -PARETO Surface

► 'Technology Node'



Technology Node: $(\sigma^*, \eta^*, \rho^*, f_P^*)$

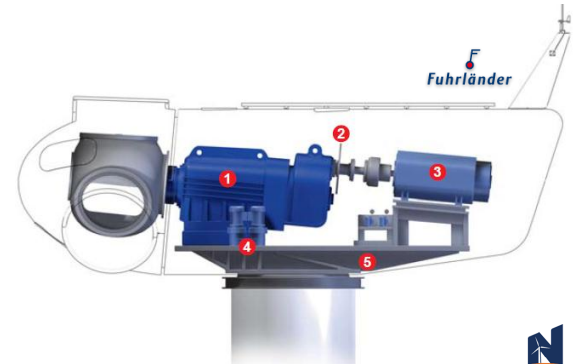
“Out-of-the-Box” Wind Turbine Concepts

Power Kite & *Ground-Based* EE-Generation
Power Kite & *On-Board* EE-Generation

Conventional 100kW Wind Turbine

► Characteristics

- Tower 35m/18 tons
- Rotor 21m / 2.3tons
- Nacelle 4.4 tons



▼

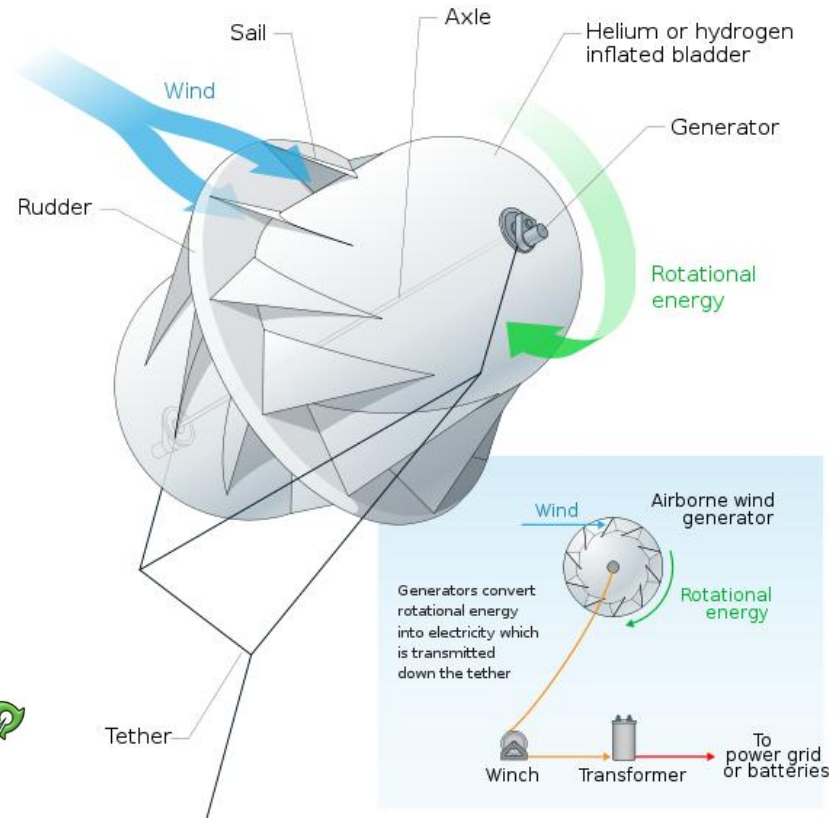
$$v_W(h) = v_W^* \left(\frac{h}{h^*} \right)^{\alpha_H}$$

- Large Fraction of Mechanically Supporting Parts / High Costs



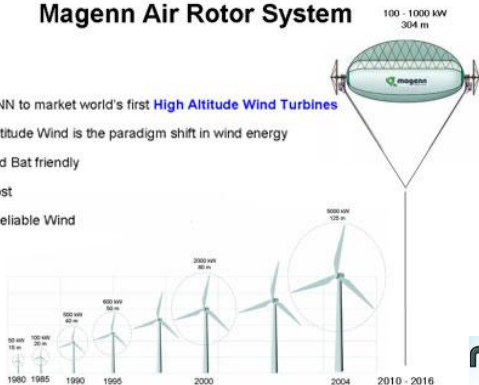
Air Rotor Wind Generator

- Helium or Hydrogen Inflated
- Magnus Effect - Additional Lift



Magenn Air Rotor System

- ❖ MAGENN to market world's first **High Altitude Wind Turbines**
- ❖ High Altitude Wind is the paradigm shift in wind energy
- ❖ Bird and Bat friendly
- ❖ Low Cost
- ❖ More Reliable Wind



magenn
wind power anywhere

Revolutionize Wind Power Generation Using Kites / Tethered Airfoils

[2] M. Loyd, 1980

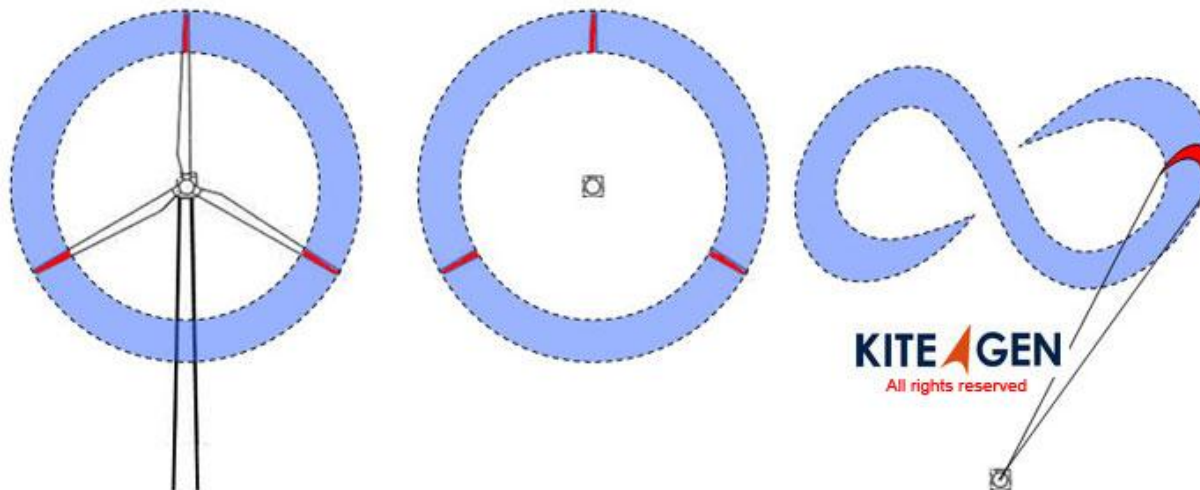


- Wing Tips / Highest Speed Regions are the Main Power Generating Parts of a Wind Turbine

Controlled Power Kites for Capturing Wind Power

- ▶ Replace Blades by Power Kites
- ▶ Minimum Base Foundation etc. Required
- ▶ Operative Height Adjustable to Wind Conditions

M. Loyd, 1980

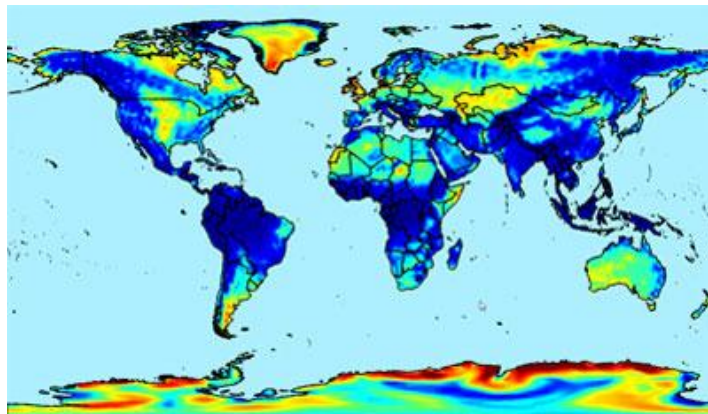


- Wing Tips / Highest Speed Regions are the Main Power Generating Parts of a Wind Turbine

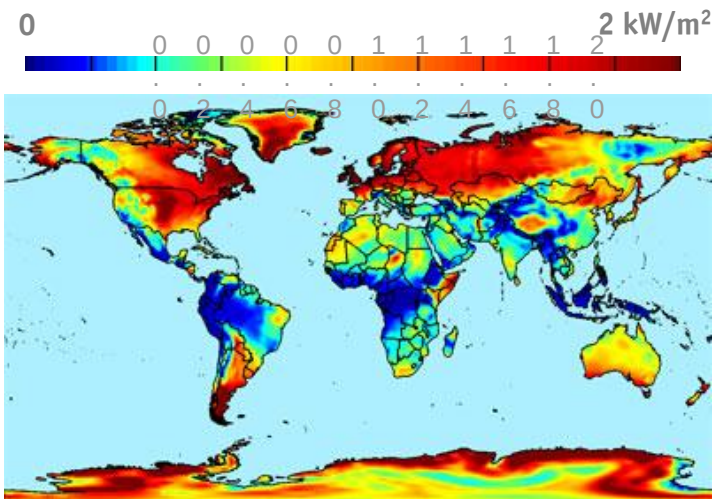
Controlled Power Kites for Capturing Wind Power

- ▶ Wind at High Altitudes is Faster and More Consistent
- ▶ Operate Kites at High Altitudes or Even in the Jet Stream

Source: **JOB**Y
ENERGY



120m



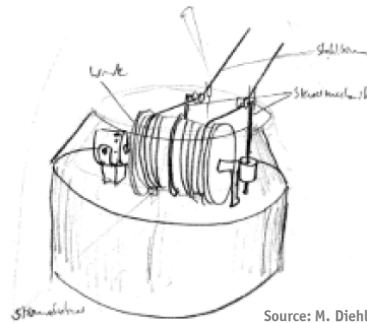
700m

Controlled Power Kites for Capturing Wind Power

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- ▶ Operate Kites at High Altitudes or Even in the Jet Stream



Pumping Power Kites



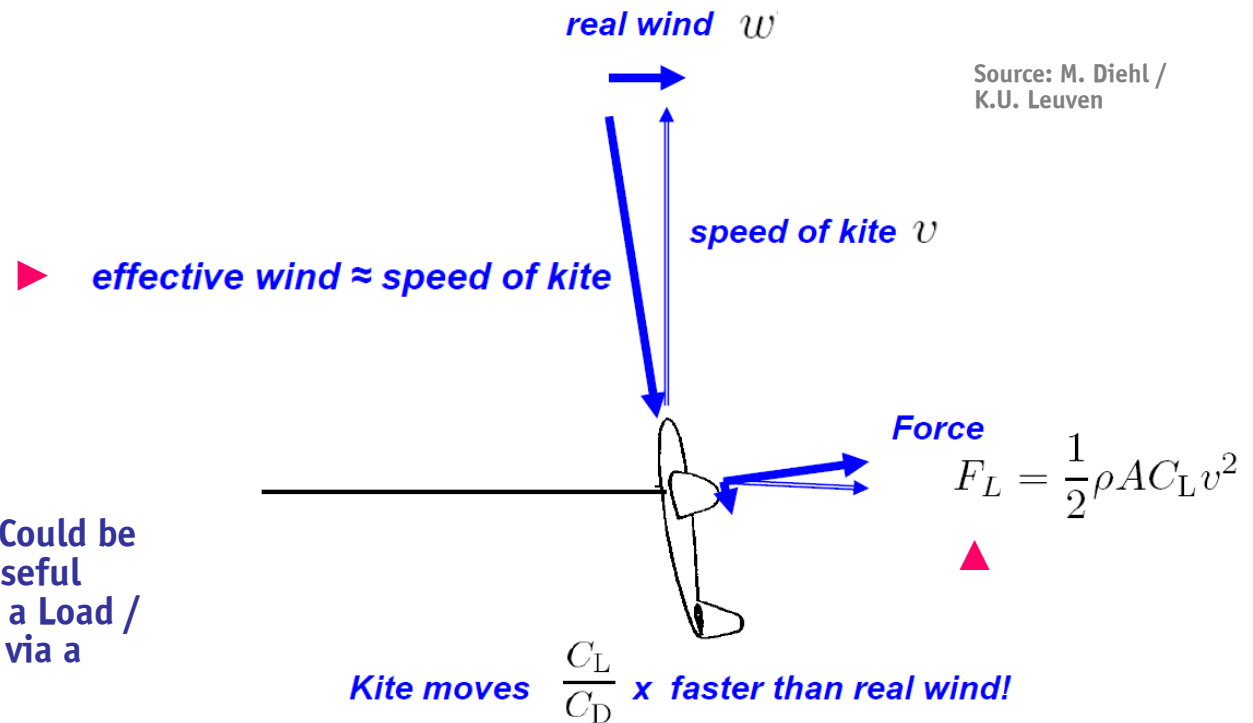
Source: M. Diehl /
K.U. Leuven

Ground-Based EE-Generation

Basics of Power Kites

► Kite's Aerodynamic Surface Converts Wind Energy into Kite Motion

- Generated Force Could be Converted into Useful Power by Pulling a Load / Driving Turbines via a Tether



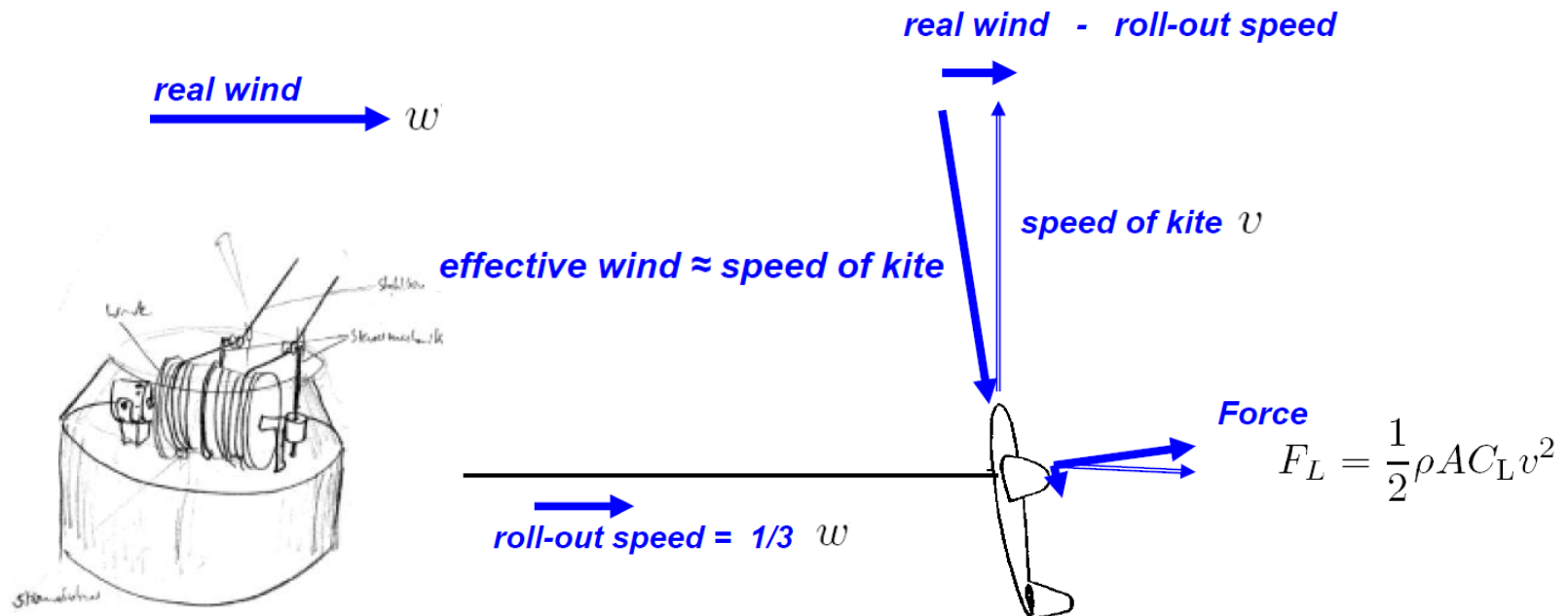
Pumping Power Kites

► Maximum Power

$$P = \frac{2}{27} \rho A w^3 C_L \left(\frac{C_L}{C_D} \right)^2$$

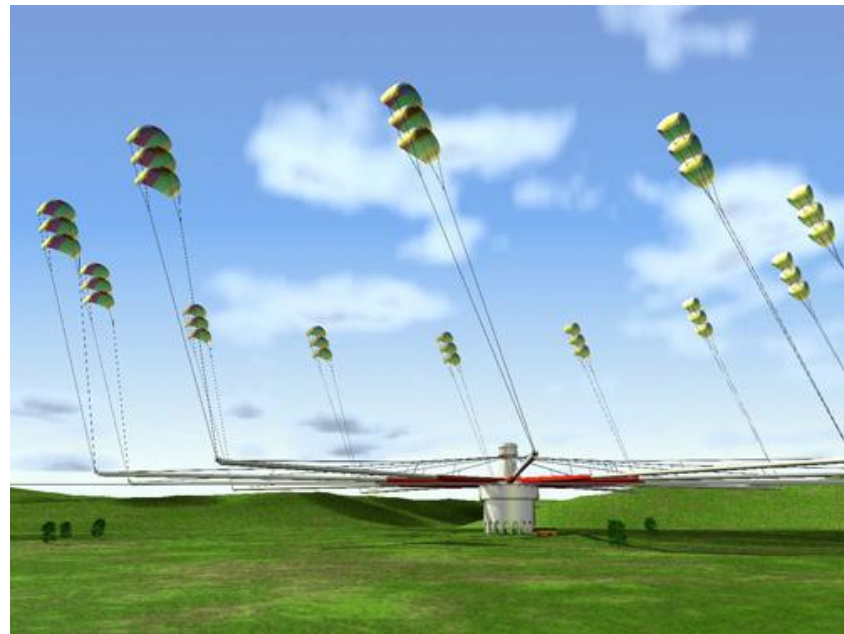
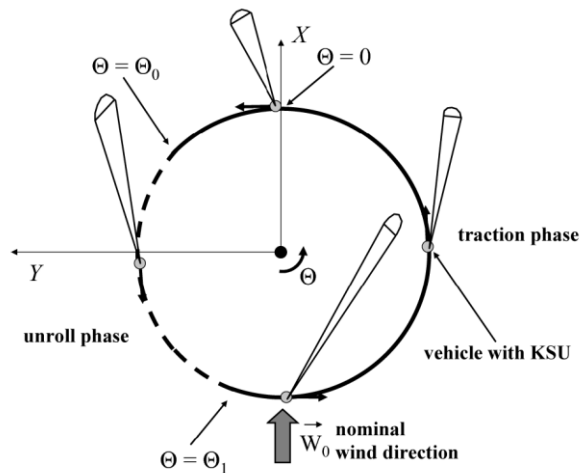
M. Loyd, 1980

Source: M. Diehl /
K.U. Leuven



Pumping Power Kites for Capturing High Altitude Wind Power

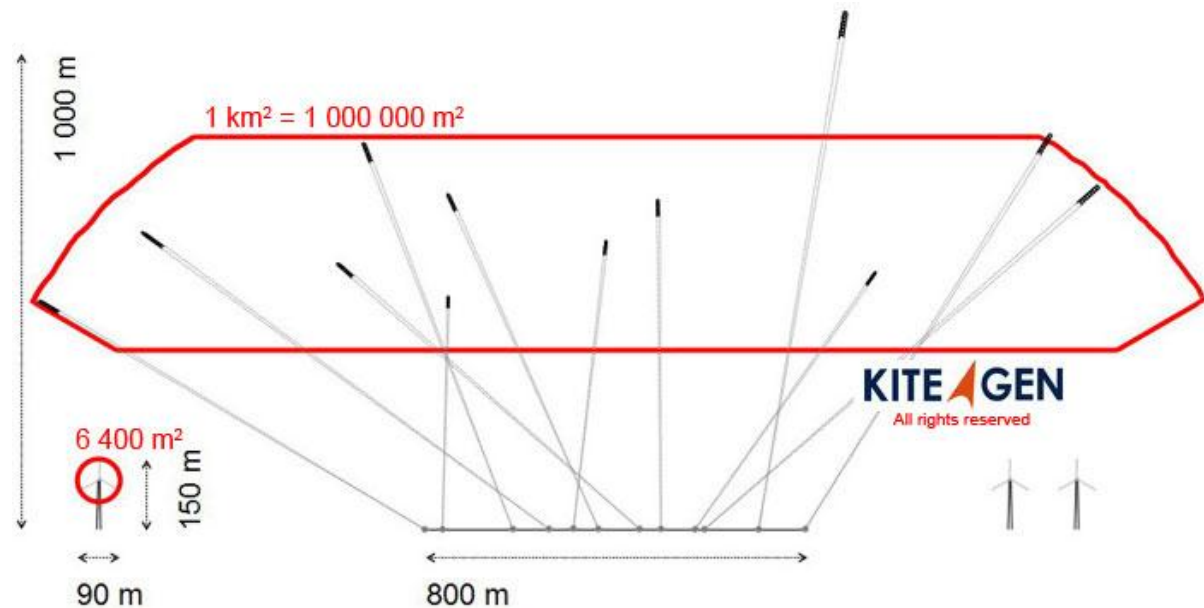
- ▶ Lower Electricity Production Costs than Current Wind Farms
- ▶ Generate up to 250 MW/km², vs. the Current 3 MW/km²
- ▶ Research at the  POLITECNICO DI TORINO



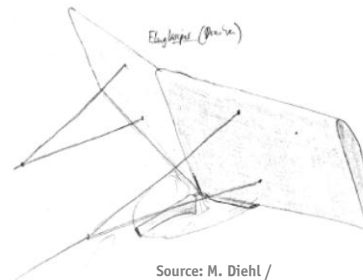
Pumping Power Kites for Capturing High Altitude Wind Power

- ▶ Lower Electricity Production Costs than Current Wind Farms
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Carousel
Configuration



Airborne Wind Turbine



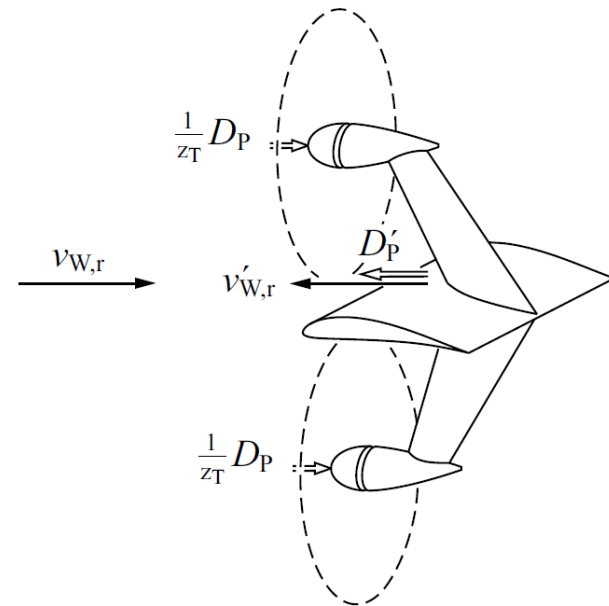
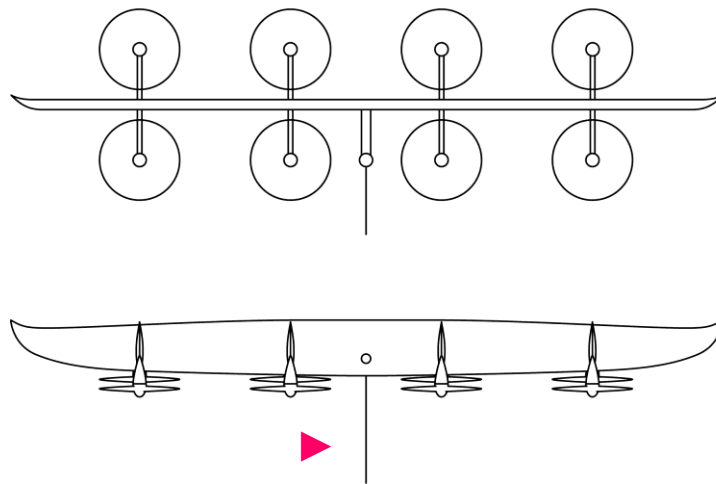
Source: M. Diehl /
K.U. Leuven

On-Board EE-Generation

Alternative Concept – Airborne Wind Turbine

- ▶ Power Kite Equipped with Turbine / Generator / Power Electronics
- ▶ Power Transmitted to Ground Electrically

M. Loyd, 1980

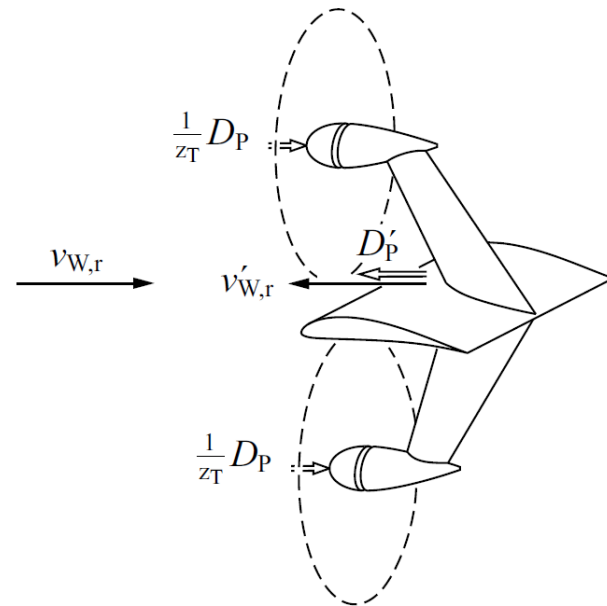


Alternative Concept – Airborne Wind Turbine

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- ▶ Power Transmitted to Ground Electrically

M. Loyd, 1980

Source: **JOBY**
ENERGY

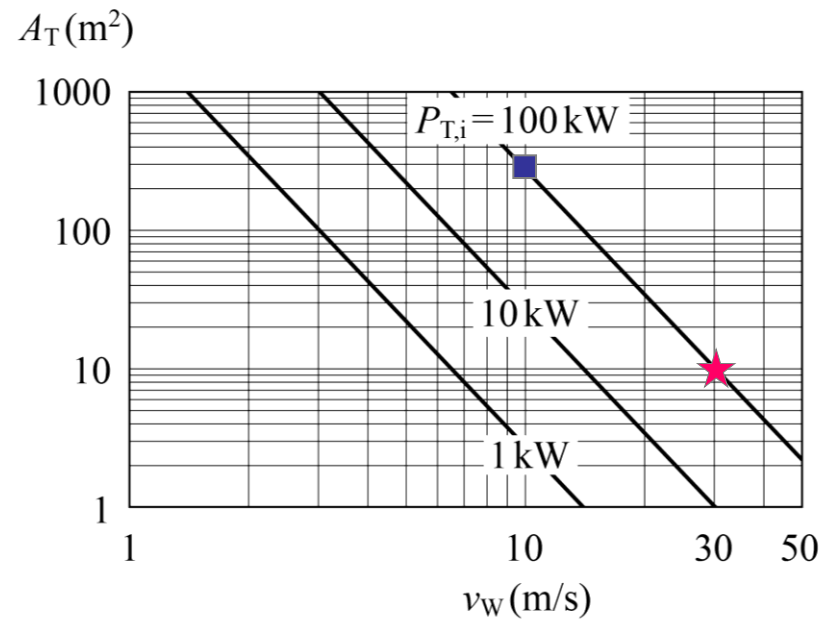
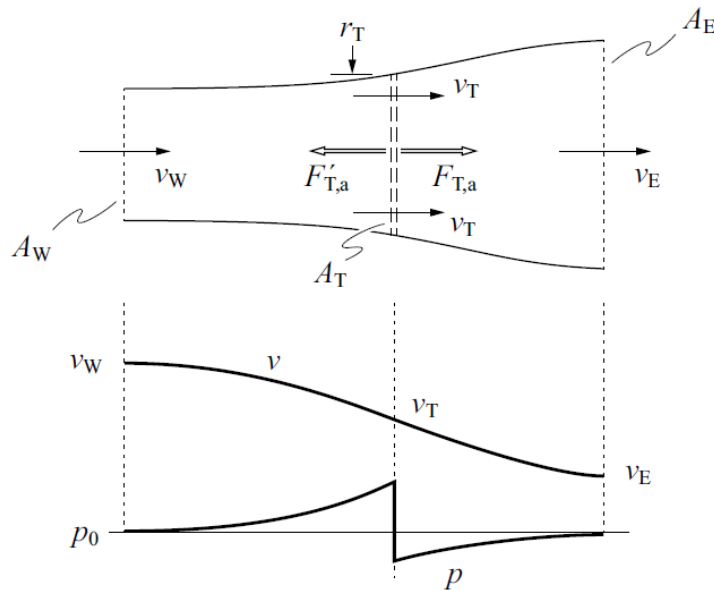


Basic Physics of Wind Turbines

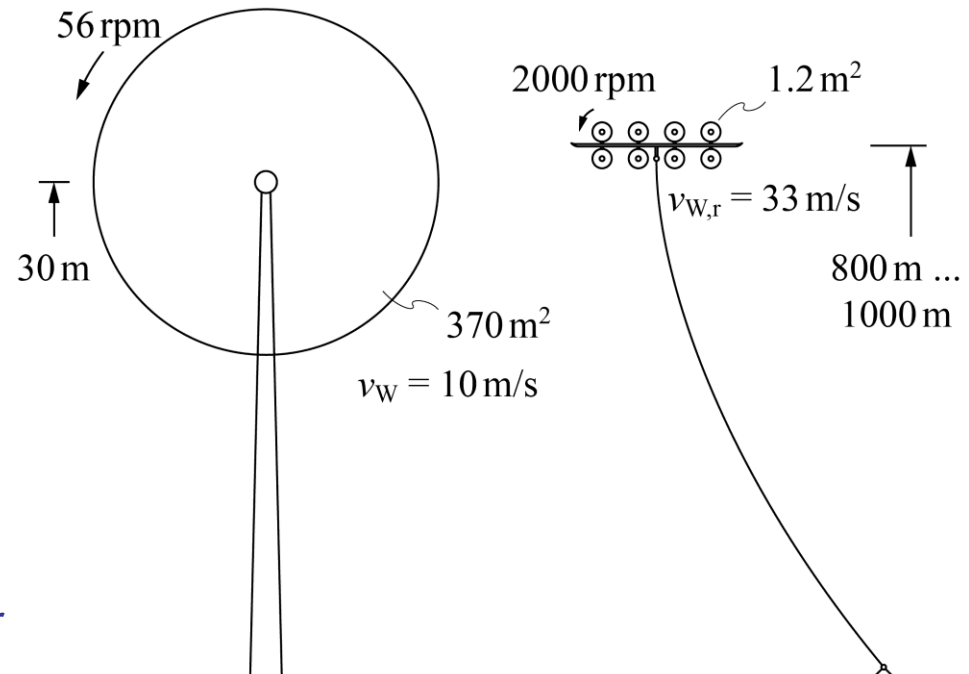
- ▶ Maximum Achievable acc. to Lanchester / Betz
- ▶ High Crosswind Kite Speed → Very Small Turbine Area

$$P_{T,i} = c_{P,i} \frac{1}{2} \rho A_T v_W^3$$

$$c_{P,i} = \frac{16}{27} \approx 0.59$$



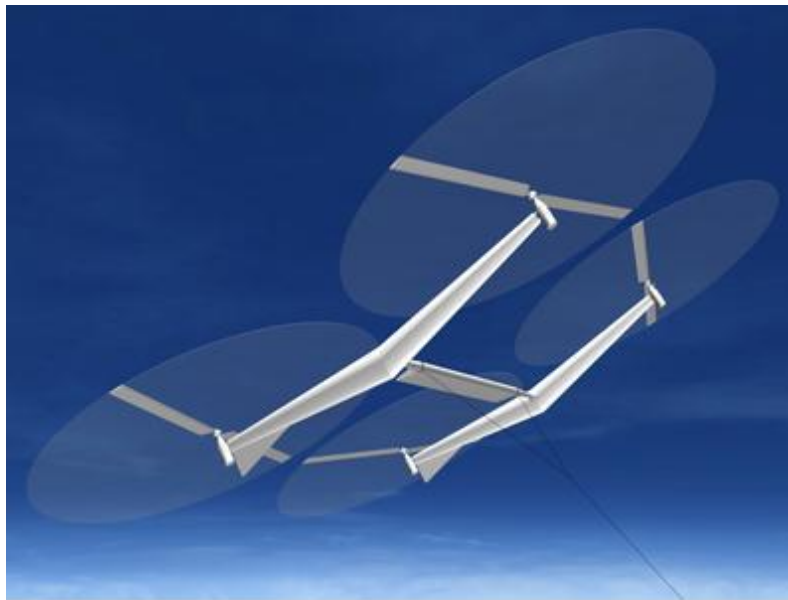
Comparison of Conventional / Airborne Wind Turbine



- Numerical Values Given for 100kW Rated Power

SkyWindPower AWT Concept

- ▶ Tethered Rotorcraft – Quadropole Rotor Arrangement
- ▶ Inclined Rotors Generate Lift & Force Rotation / Electricity Generation



Artist's Drawing of
240kW / 10m Rotor System

- Named as One of the 50 Top Inventions in 2008 by TIME Magazine

JBY AWT Concept

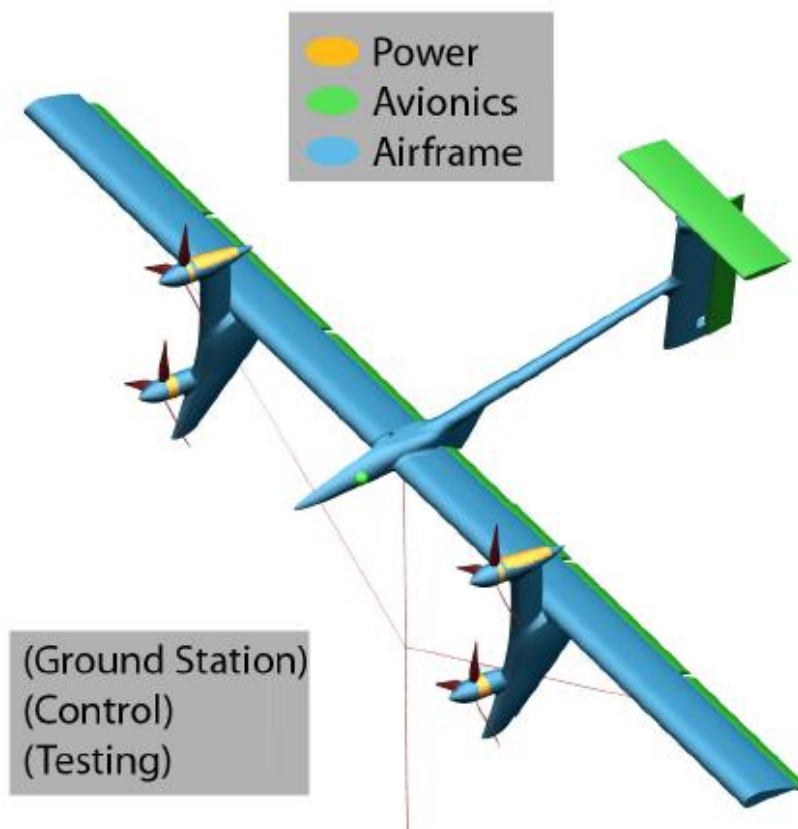
E N E R G Y



- ▶ Reinforced Tether Transfers MV-Electricity to Ground
- ▶ Composite Tether also Provides Mechanical Connection to Ground



MAKANI POWER AWT Concept



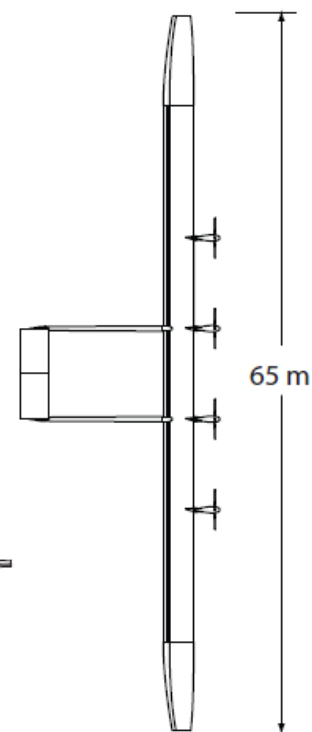
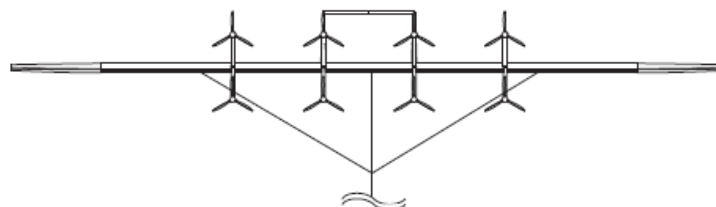
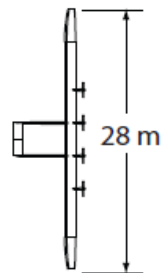
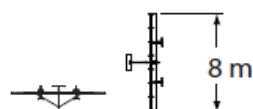


Demonstration Plan

W7
30 kW

M600
600 kW

M5
5 MW

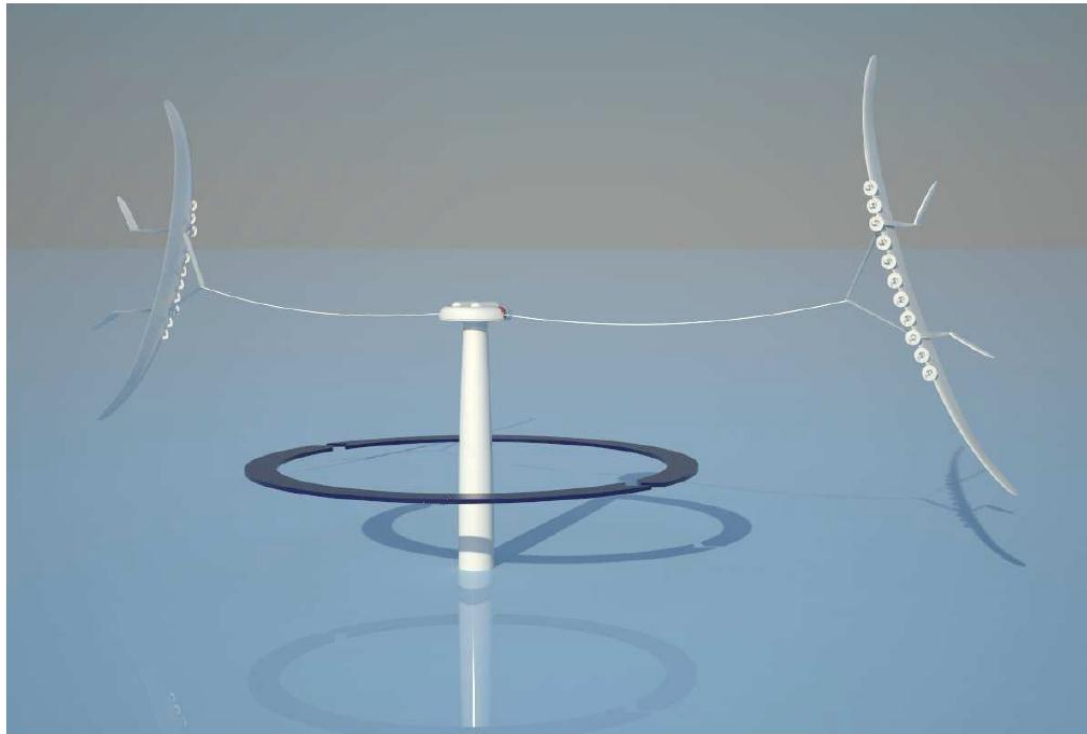




Flight Modes / Parked



Future Prospects

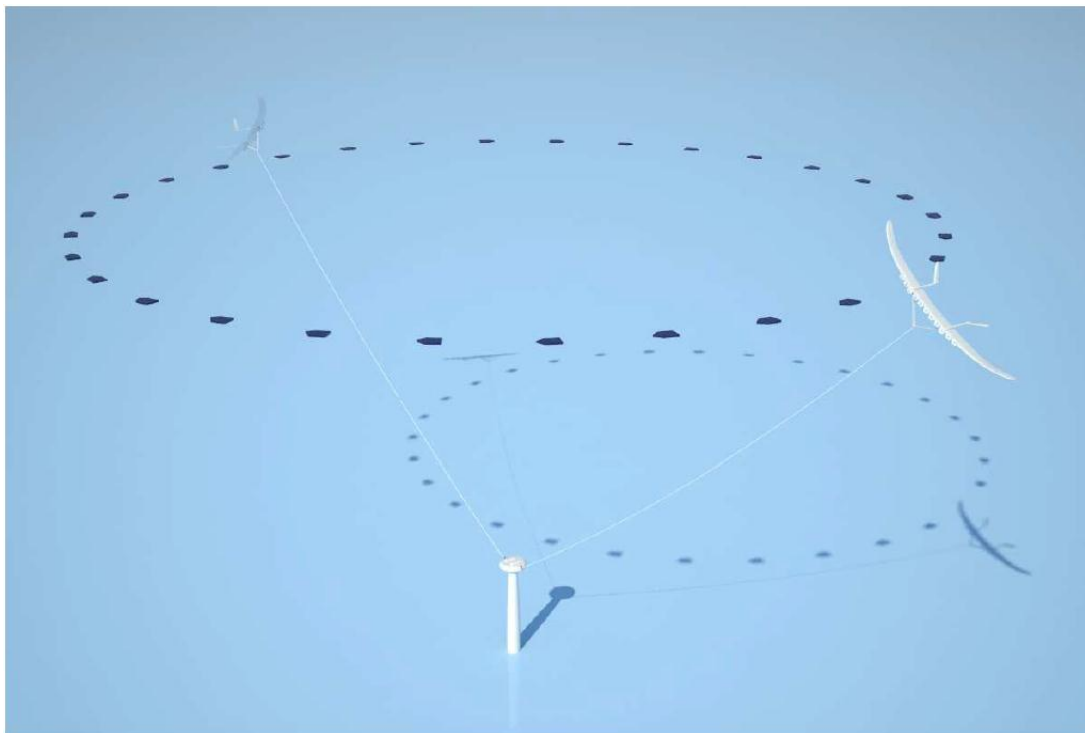


Source: M. Diehl /
K.U. Leuven

- Example for Thinking “Out-of-the-Box” !



Future Prospects



Source: M. Diehl /
K.U. Leuven

■ Example for Thinking “Out-of-the-Box” !



Technical Feasibility of AWT Electrical System

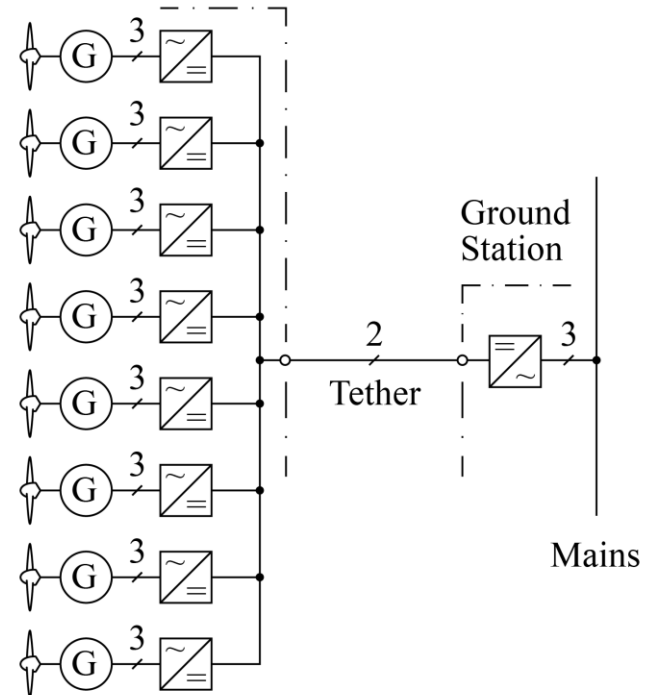
- ▶ AWT Electrical System Structure
- ▶ Multi-Objective Optimization (*Weight vs. Efficiency*)
- ▶ Controls Aspects

AWT Basic Electrical System Structure

- ▶ **Rated Power** 100kW
- ▶ **Operating Height** 800...1000m
- ▶ **Ambient Temp.** 40°C
- ▶ **Power Flow** Motor & Generator

- **El. System Target Weight** 100kg
- **Efficiency (incl. Tether)** 90%
- **Turbine /Motor** 2000/3000rpm

Airborne Wind Turbine



Turbines, Generators, and
Power Electronics

Design of Electrical Power System



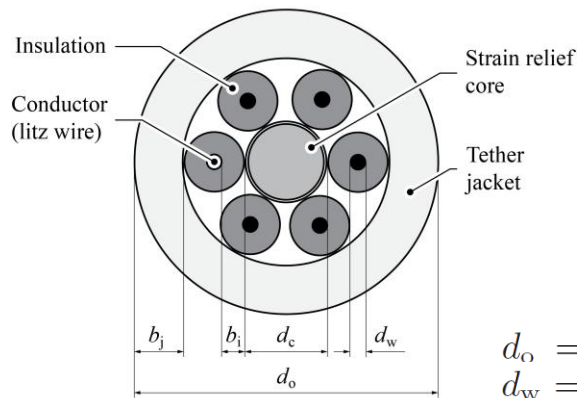
- ▶ Clarify Practical Feasibility of AWT Concept
- ▶ Clarify Weight/Efficiency Trade-off / Multi-Objective Optimization / PARETO-Front

Tether Design

*DC Voltage Level
 η - γ -PARETO Front*

Tether DC Transmission Voltage Level

- ▶ $P_{th,1} = 100\text{kW} / l_{th} = 1000\text{m}$
- ▶ Strain Relief Core – Kevlar ($F_{th} = 70\text{kN}, d=5\text{mm}$)
- ▶ Cu or Al Helical Conductors - $\frac{1}{2} U_{th}$ Isolated
- ▶ Outer Protection Jacket (3mm)

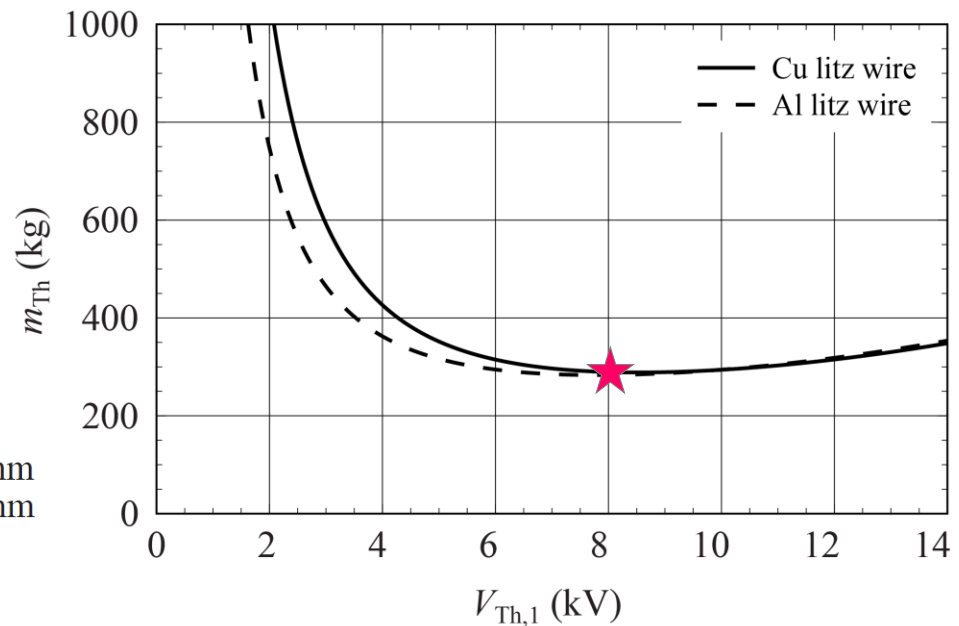


$$d_o = 19 \text{ mm}$$

$$d_w = 1.5 \text{ mm}$$

$$\eta_{Th} = 98.5\%$$

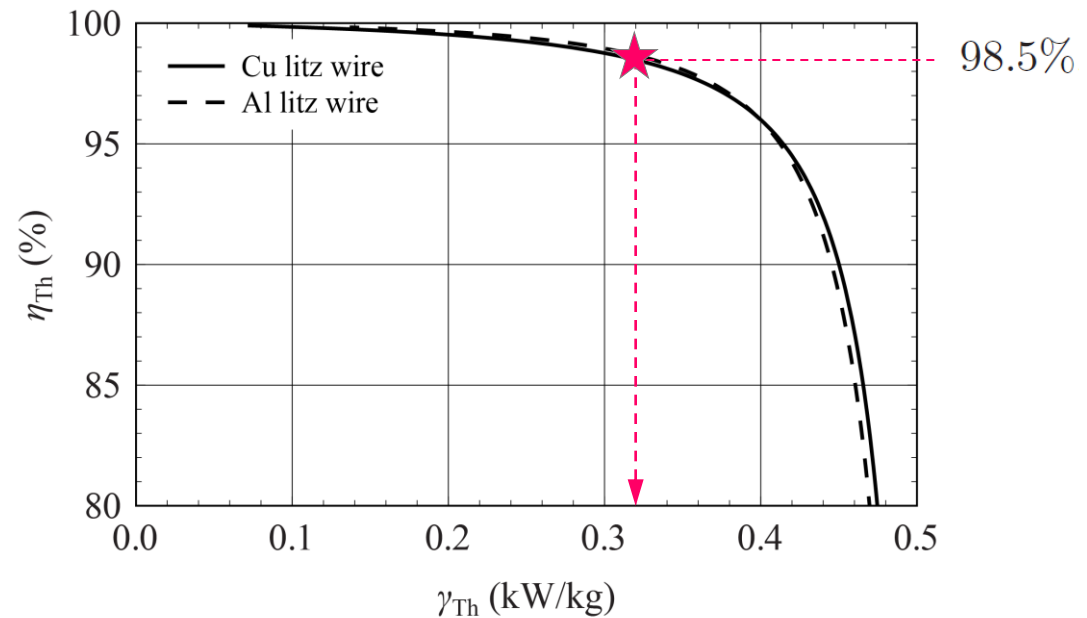
$$b_i = 0.0144 \frac{\text{mm}}{\text{kV}^2} \cdot V_i^2 + 0.1694 \frac{\text{mm}}{\text{kV}} \cdot V_i + 0.40 \text{ mm}$$



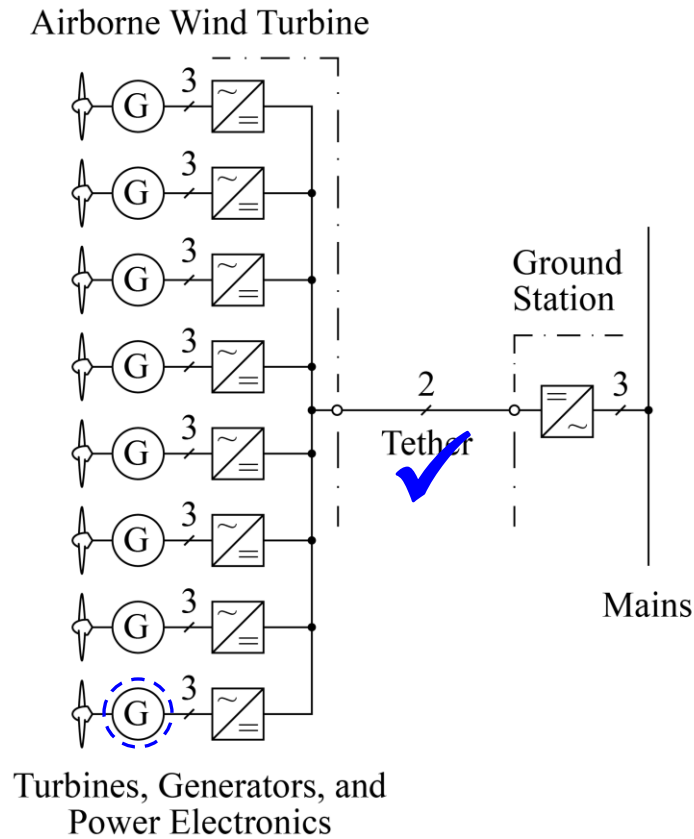
Tether η - γ -PARETO Front

► Tether Voltage $V_{th,1} = 8\text{kV}$

■ Total Weight of
Tether: 320kg

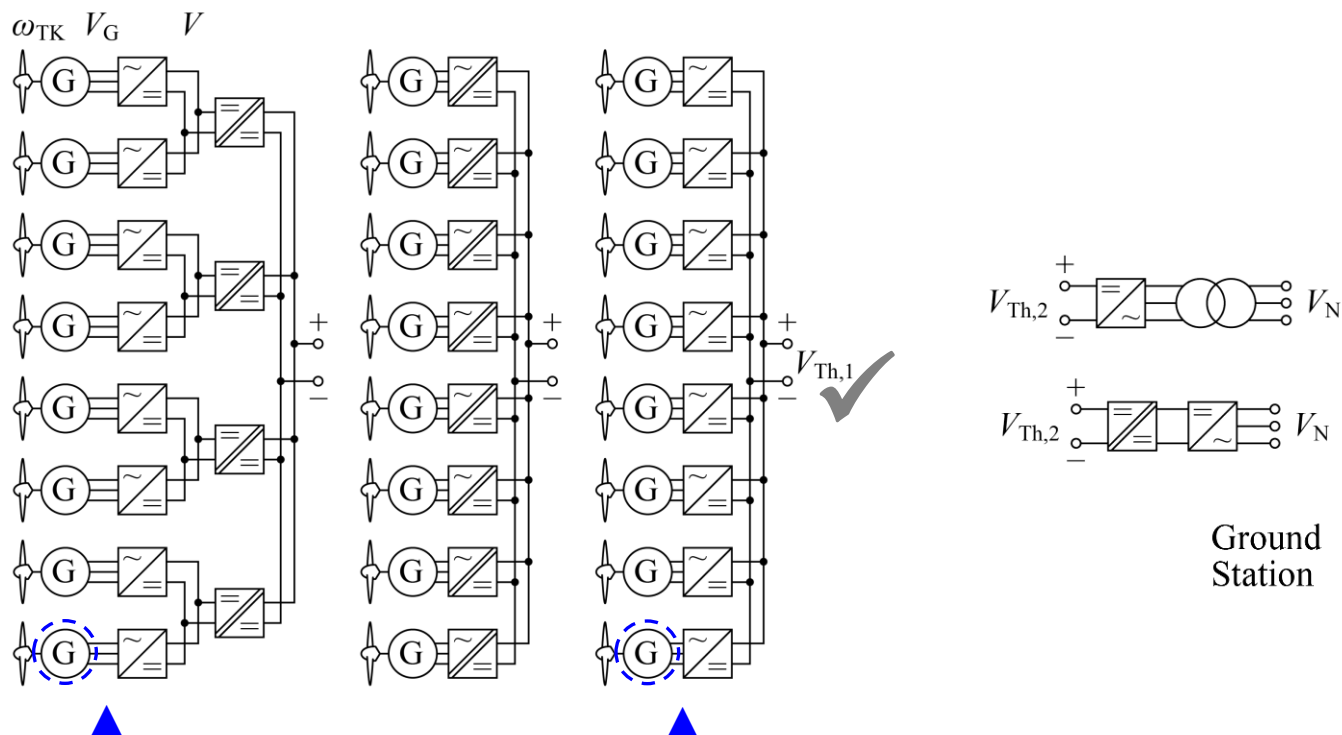


System Overview



Possible AWT Electrical System Structures

- ▶ Low-Voltage or Medium-Voltage Generators / Power Electronics
- ▶ Decision Based on Weight/Efficiency/Complexity



Generator / Motor Design

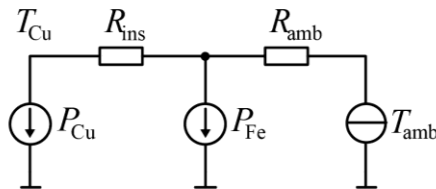
Dimensions
Number of Pole Pairs
 η - γ -PARETO Front

Generator / Motor η - γ -PARETO Front

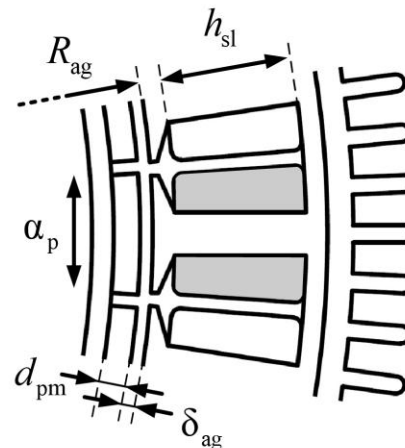
► Medium Voltage vs. Low Voltage Machine $V_{th,1} = 8kV$

- PMSM – Radial Flux – Internal Rotor - Slotted Stator / Concentrated Windings – Air Cooling
- Analytical EM and Thermal Models for Weight / Efficiency Optimization
- $P = 16kW / 2000rpm$

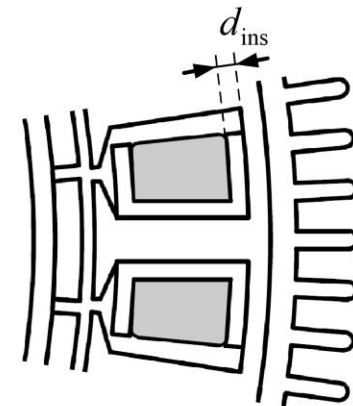
$$\eta_{mot} = \frac{P_{mech}}{P_{mech} + P_v}$$



Thermal Model



LV Machine



HV Machine

- LVG: Diameter 17cm (excl. Cooling Fins) / Width 6.0cm / $p = 20$ / $\eta = 95.4\%$ / Weight 5.1kg

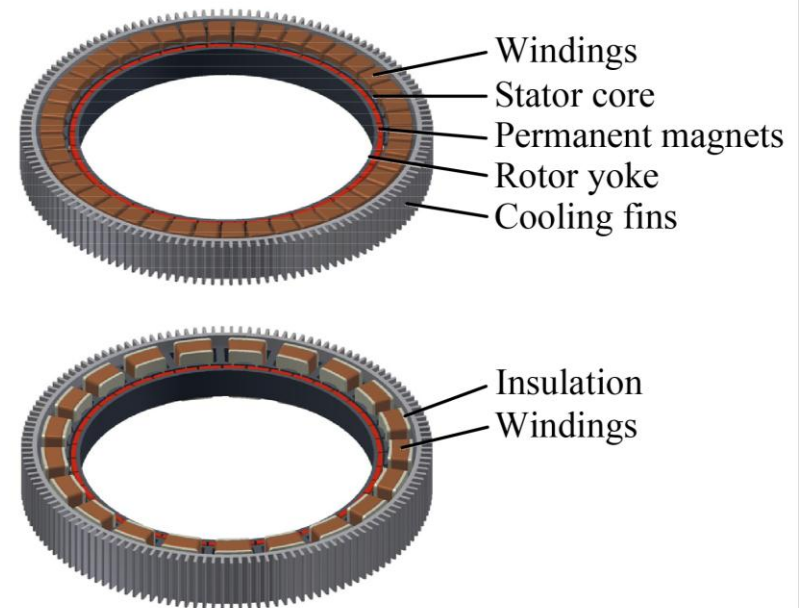
CAD Drawing of LV and MV Machine

► Fixed Parameters and Degrees of Freedom

MACHINE OPTIMIZATION PARAMETERS AND FIXED PARAMETERS

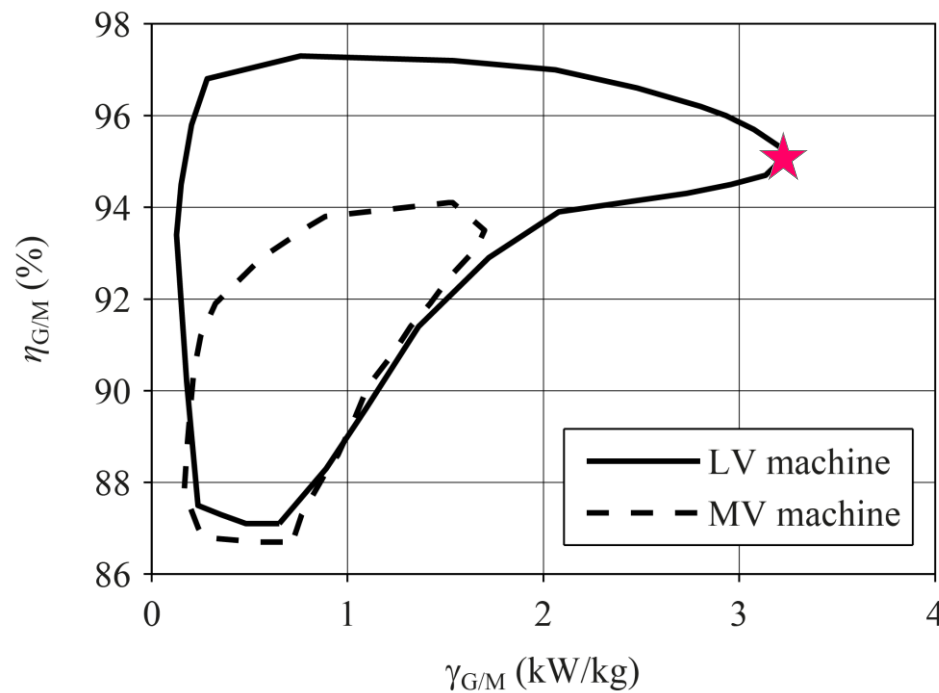
Optimization parameters	Symbol	Range
Air-gap radius	R_{ag}	50 ... 250 mm
Active length	L	10 ... 60 mm
Slot depth	h_{sl}	5 ... 20 mm
Permanent magnet thickness	d_{pm}	2 ... 8 mm
Pole coverage factor	α_p	0.8 ... 1
Number of pole pairs	p	5 ... 30

Fixed parameters	Symbol	Value
Air gap	δ_{ag}	1.5 mm
Copper filling factor	k_{Cu}	0.45
Permanent magnet remanence	B_{rem}	1.3 T
Iron saturation flux density	B_{sat}	2.2 T
Insulation thickness (MV machine only)	d_{ins}	2 mm



Generator / Motor η - γ -PARETO Front

► **Selected Design**
 $\eta = 95.4\%$
 $\gamma = 3.1 \text{ kW/kg}$



■ **Medium Voltage Machine Not Considered Further**

Comparison to Commercial Motors

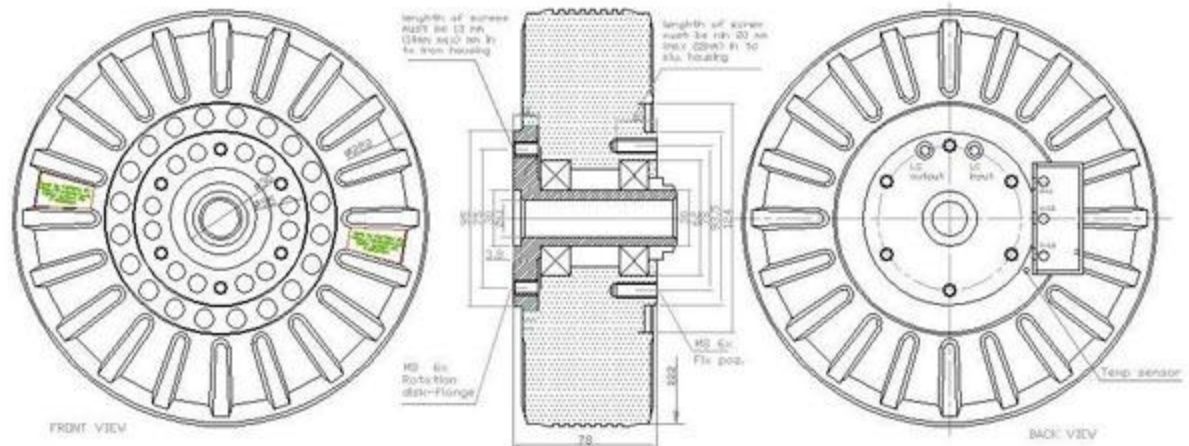
► Motors Employed for Electric Propulsion of Glider Airplane

ENSTROJ
electric motor innovation
established in 1991

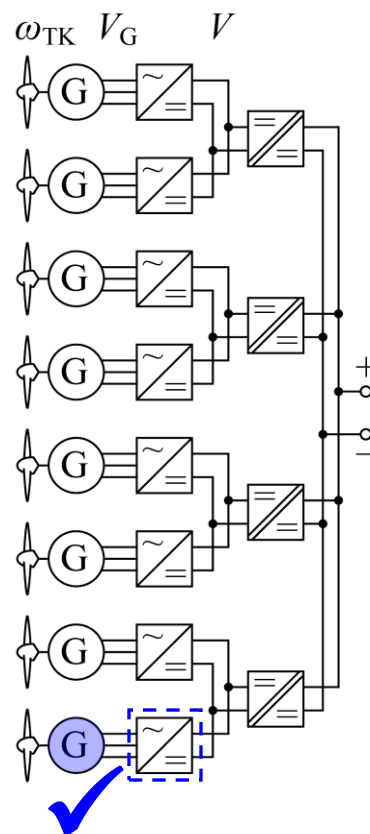


Power $P = 10\text{kW}$
Speed $n = 2200\text{rpm}$
Cooling $v_L = 25\text{m/s}$

■ Diameter 22cm
Width 8.6cm
Weight 12kg
Pole Pairs 10
Efficiency 91%



System Overview



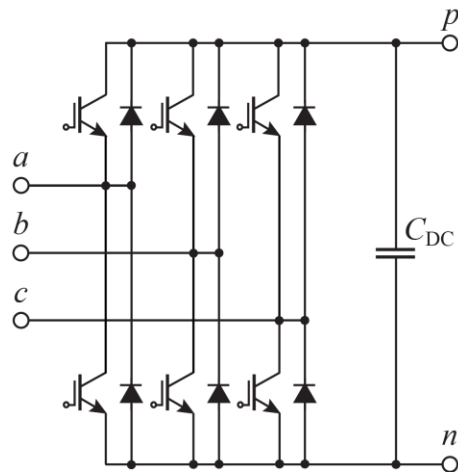
Rectifier / Inverter Design

Chip Area
Heatsink Volume
 η - γ -PARETO Front

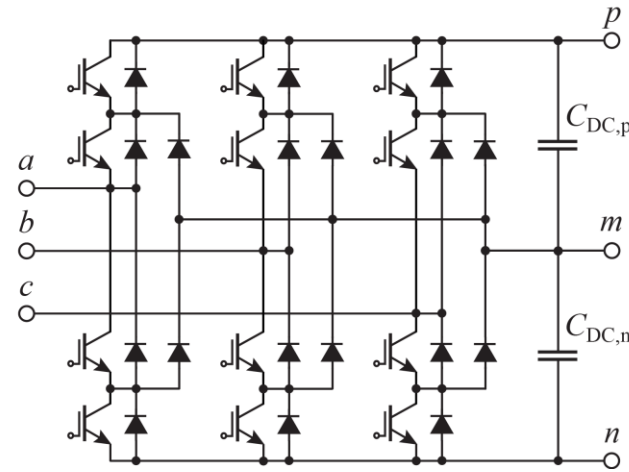
Rectifier / Inverter Design

► 2-Level or 3-Level Bidirectional Voltage Source Rectifier

- $S = 19.3\text{kVA}$
- $V_{DC} = 750\text{V}$
- $f_{S,min} = 24\text{kHz}$
- $T_J = 125^\circ\text{C}$
- Foil Capacitor DC Link



1200V T&FS Si IGBT4s /
1200V SiC Diodes

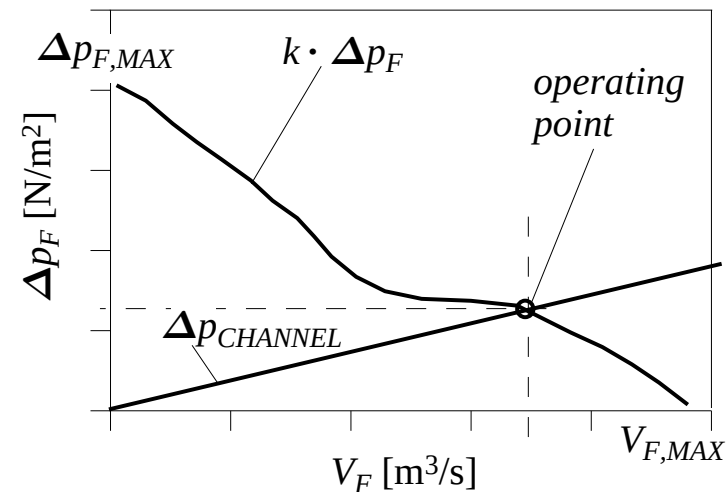
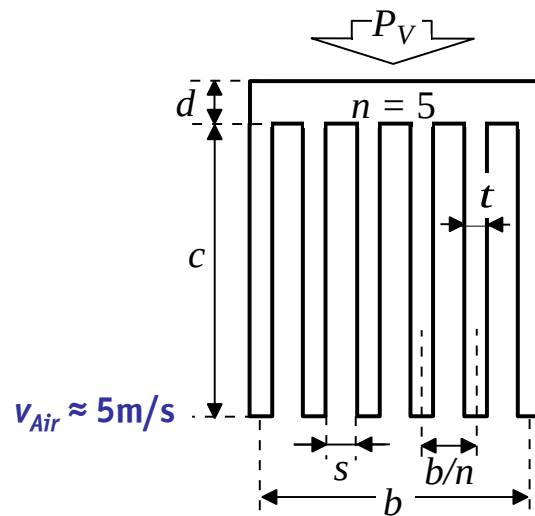


600V T&FS Si IGBT3s /
600V Si EmCon3 Diodes

■ Maximization of Heatsink Thermal Conductance / Weight (Volume) - Max. CSPI

Heatsink Optimization

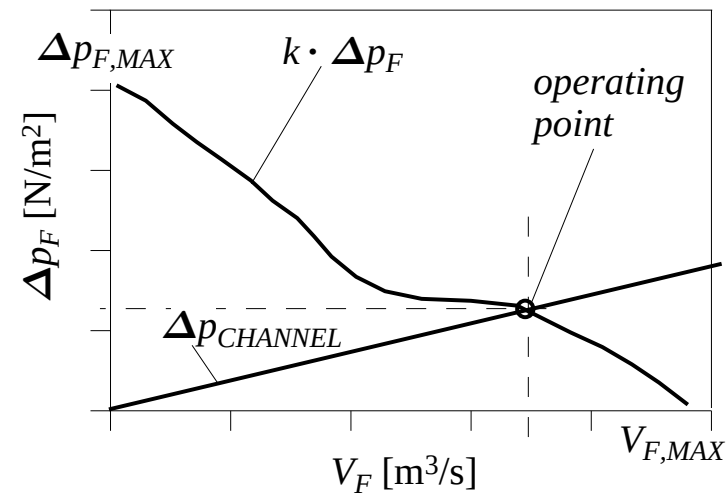
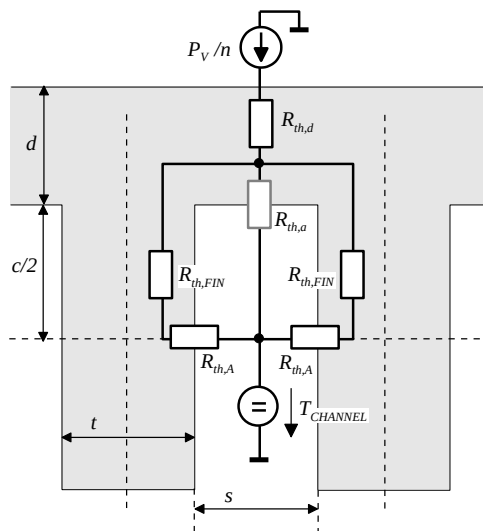
► Maximize Thermal Conductance / Weight (Volume)



- Highest Performance Fan
- Fin Thickness / Channel Width Optimization

Heatsink Optimization

► Maximize Thermal Conductance / Weight (Volume)

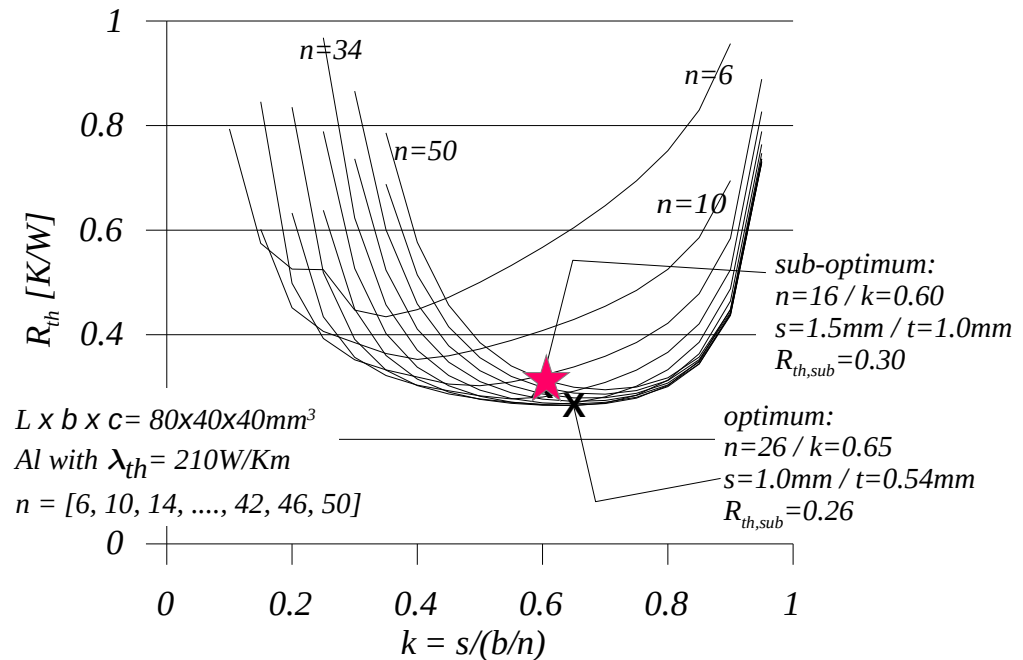


- Highest Performance Fan
- Fin Thickness / Channel Width Optimization

Heatsink Optimization

► Optimum

$$CSPI_m = 15.0 \frac{\text{W}}{\text{K kg}}$$



- Highest Performance Fan
- Fin Thickness / Channel Width Optimization

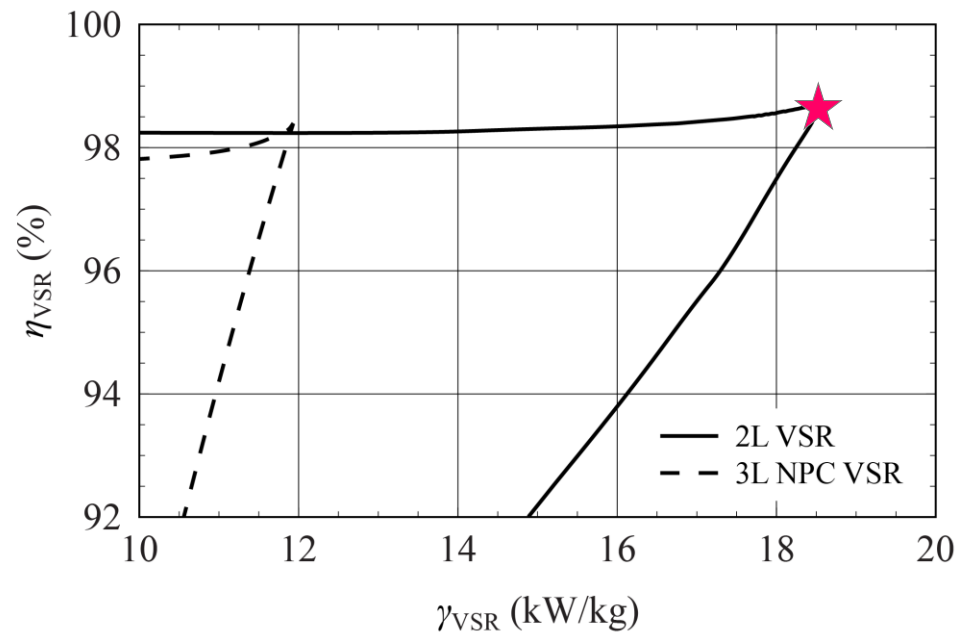
Rectifier / Inverter η - γ -PARETO Front

- Switching Frequency Range 24...70 kHz
- Heatsink Temperature Range 55...100 °C ($T_{amb} = 40^\circ\text{C}$)

► Selected Design

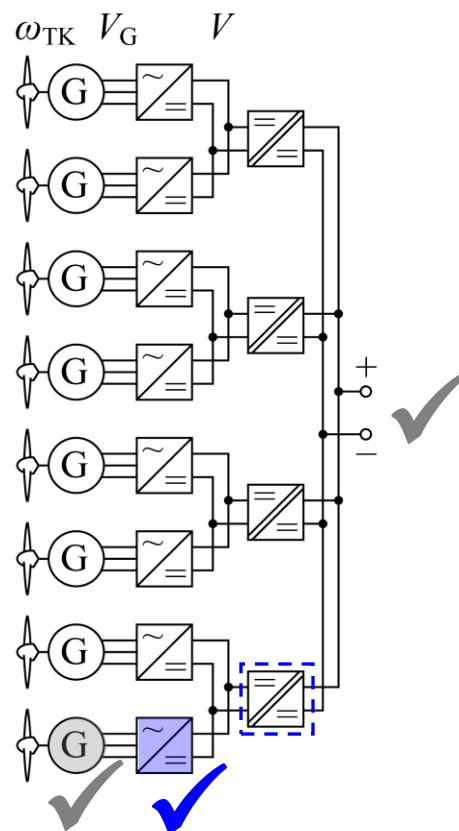
$\eta = 98.5\%$

$\gamma = 19 \text{ kW/kg}$



■ 3-Level Topology Does Not Show a Benefit

System Overview



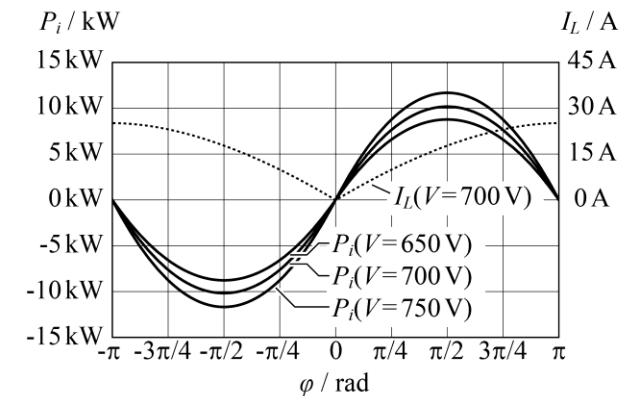
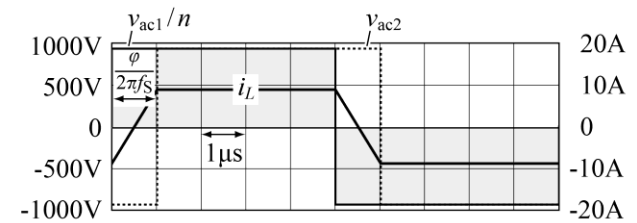
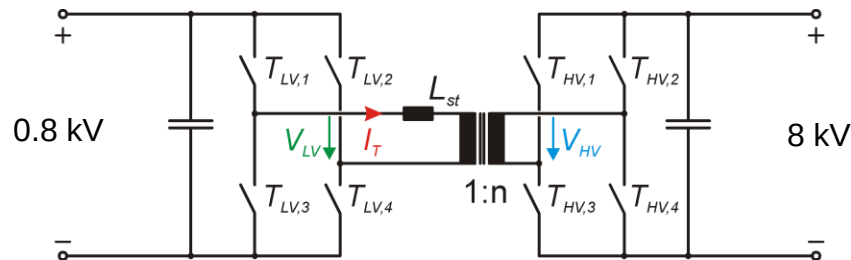
$8\text{kV}_{\text{DC}}/750\text{V}_{\text{DC}}$ DAB Converter Design

Switches / Topology
Transformer
 η - γ -PARETO Front

DC/DC Converter Topology

► Bidirectional Energy Transfer - Dual Active Bridge

- Weight $\leq 25\text{kg}$
- $f_s = 50\text{...}125\text{kHz} \rightarrow f_{s,m} = 100\text{kHz}$
- Phase-Shift Control ($\phi = \pi/4$)

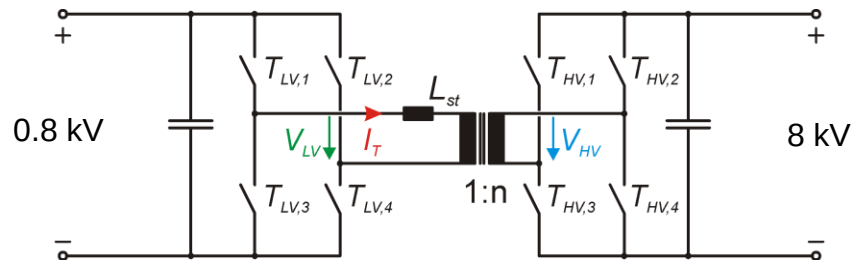


■ Implementation of Electronic Switches - SiC

DC/DC Converter Topology

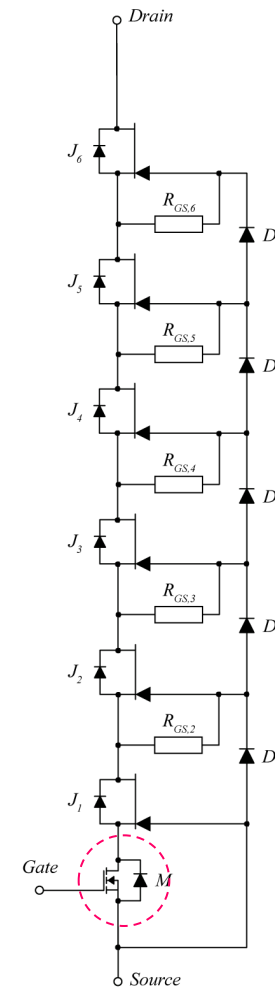
► Bidirectional Energy Transfer - Dual Active Bridge

- Weight $\leq 25\text{kg}$
- $f_s = 50\text{...}125\text{kHz} \rightarrow f_{s,m} = 100\text{kHz}$
- Phase-Shift Control ($\phi = \pi/4$)



■ Implementation of Electronic Switches - SiC

► 10kV Si/SiC SuperCascode Switch



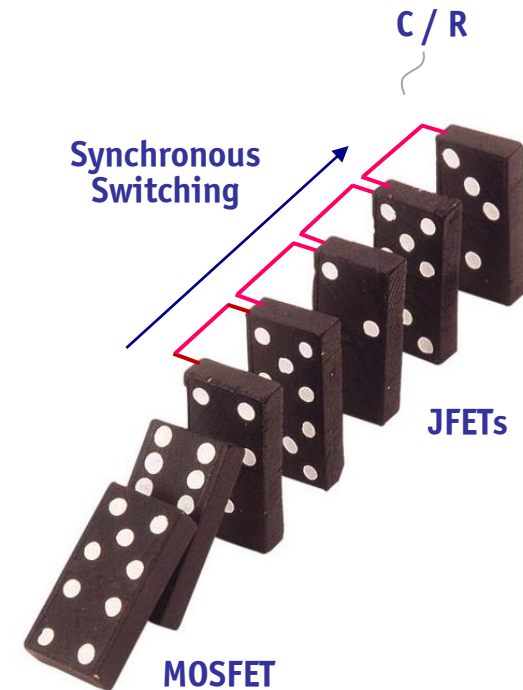
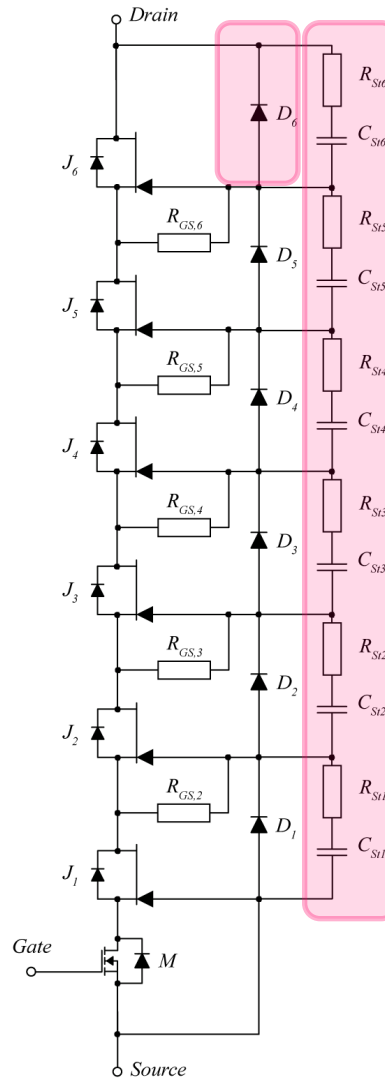
Si/SiC Super Cascode Switch

→ HV-Switch Controllable via Si-MOSFET

- * 1 LV Si MOSFET
- * 6 HV 1.7kV SiC JFETs
- * Avalanche Rated Diodes

→ Ultra Fast Switching → Low Losses → Parasitics

- * Passive Elements for Simultaneous Turn-on and Turn-off
- * Stabilization of Turn-off State Voltage Distribution



Si/SiC Super Cascode Switch

→ HV-Switch Controllable via Si-MOSFET

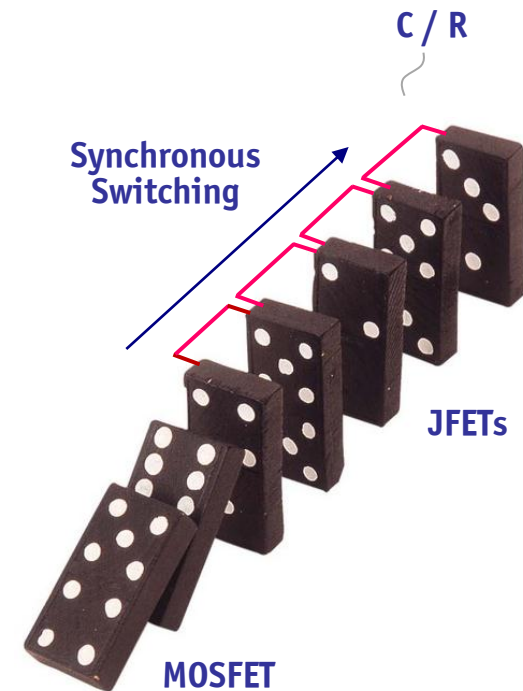
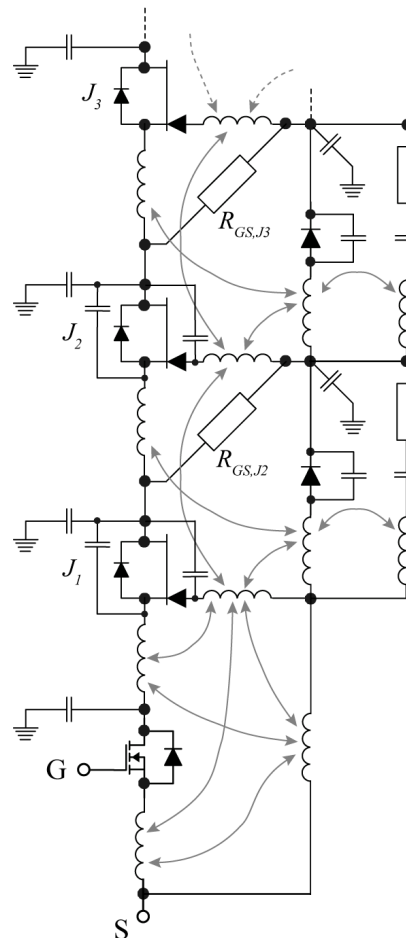
- * 1 LV Si MOSFET
- * 6 HV 1.7kV SiC JFETs
- * Avalanche Rated Diodes

→ Ultra Fast Switching

→ Low Losses

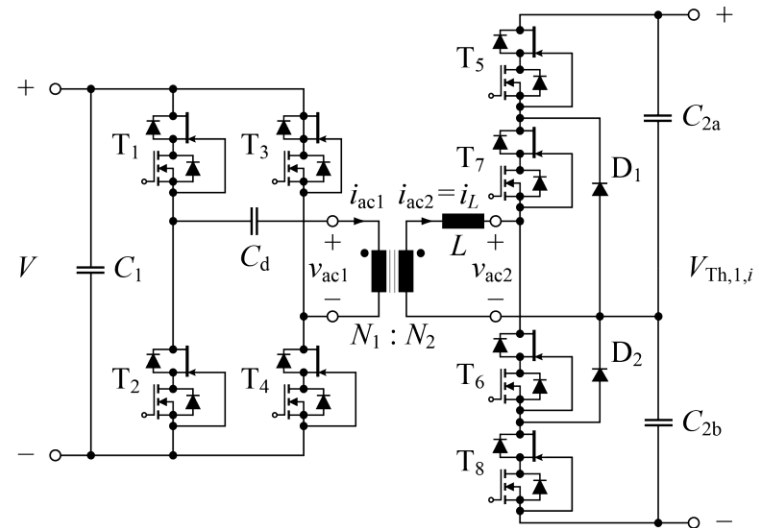
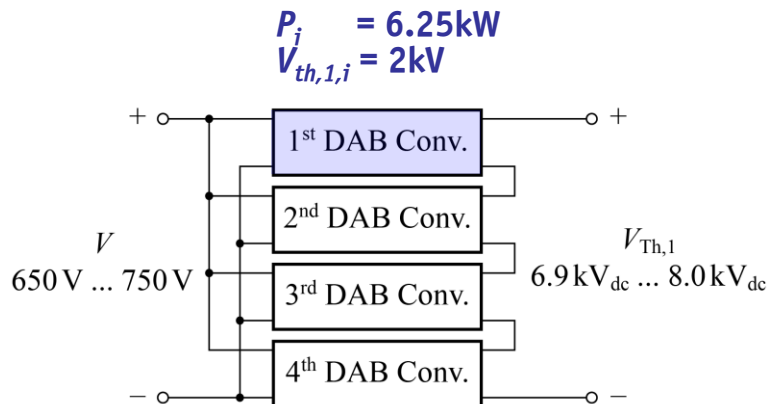
→ Parasitics

- * Passive Elements for
Simultaneous Turn-on
and Turn-off
- * Stabilization of Turn-off
State Voltage Distribution



Selected Multi-Cell Converter Topology

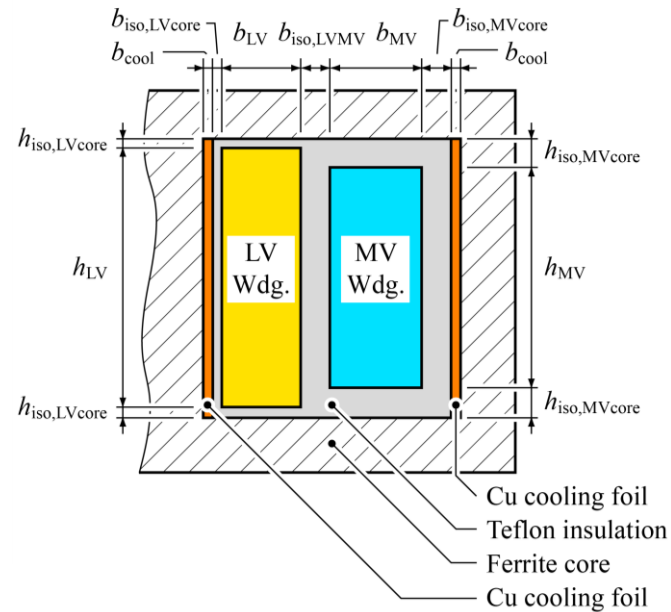
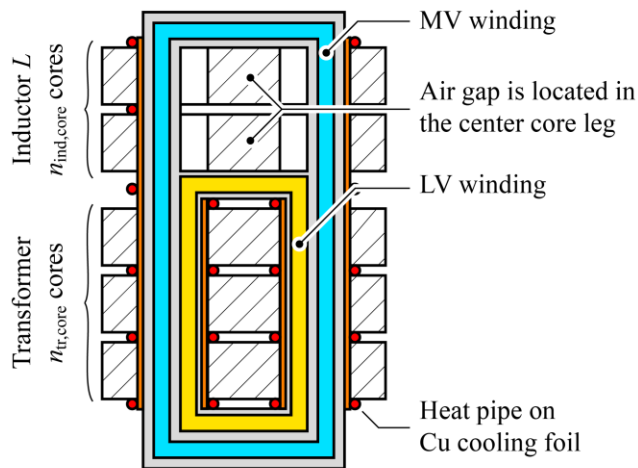
► MV-Side Series-Connection / LV-Side Parallel-Connection



■ Winding Arrangement & Efficiency / Weight Optimization of Transformer

Transformer Design

- ▶ MV-Winding Arranged Around Inductor Cores
- ▶ Cooling Provided by Heatpipes
- ▶ Stacked Cores - Scalable Arrangement



■ Optimization - Weight / Efficiency Trade-off

Transformer Optimization

► Degrees of Freedom / Parameter Ranges

$$\vec{N}_1 = [5 \ 6 \ 7 \ 8 \ 9 \ 10 \ 11 \ \dots \ 39 \ 40]^T,$$

$$\vec{N}_2 = \text{round}(\vec{N}_1 \cdot 1 \text{ kV} / 750 \text{ V}),$$

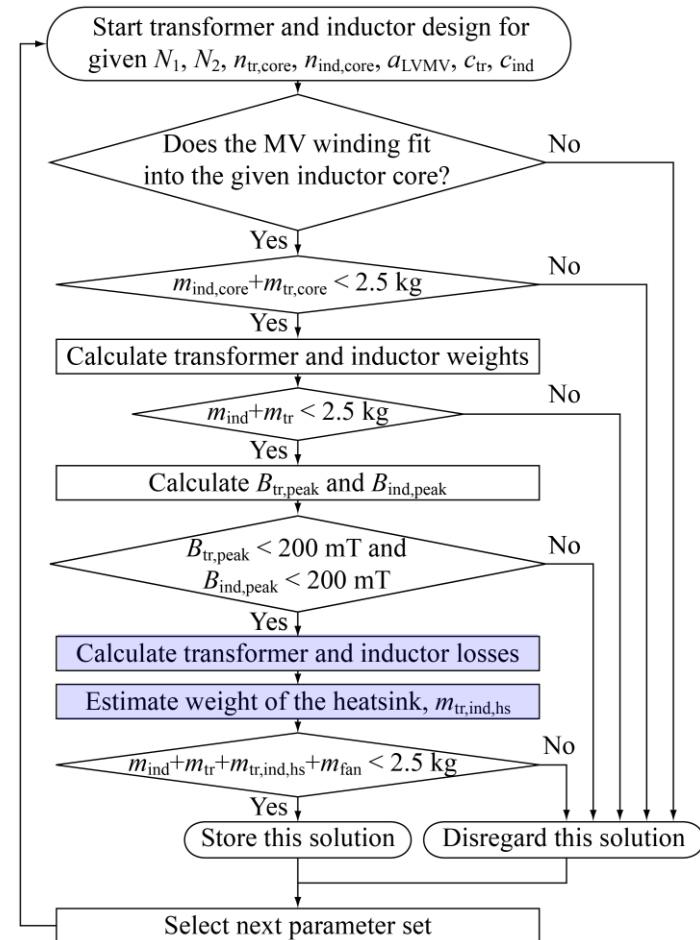
$$\vec{n}_{\text{tr,core}} = [1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5 \ 6 \ 8 \ 10 \ 12 \ 14 \ 16 \ 18 \ 20]^T,$$

$$\vec{n}_{\text{ind,core}} = [1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5 \ 7 \ 10]^T,$$

$$\vec{a}_{\text{LVMV}} = [0.75 \ 1.0 \ 1.25]^T,$$

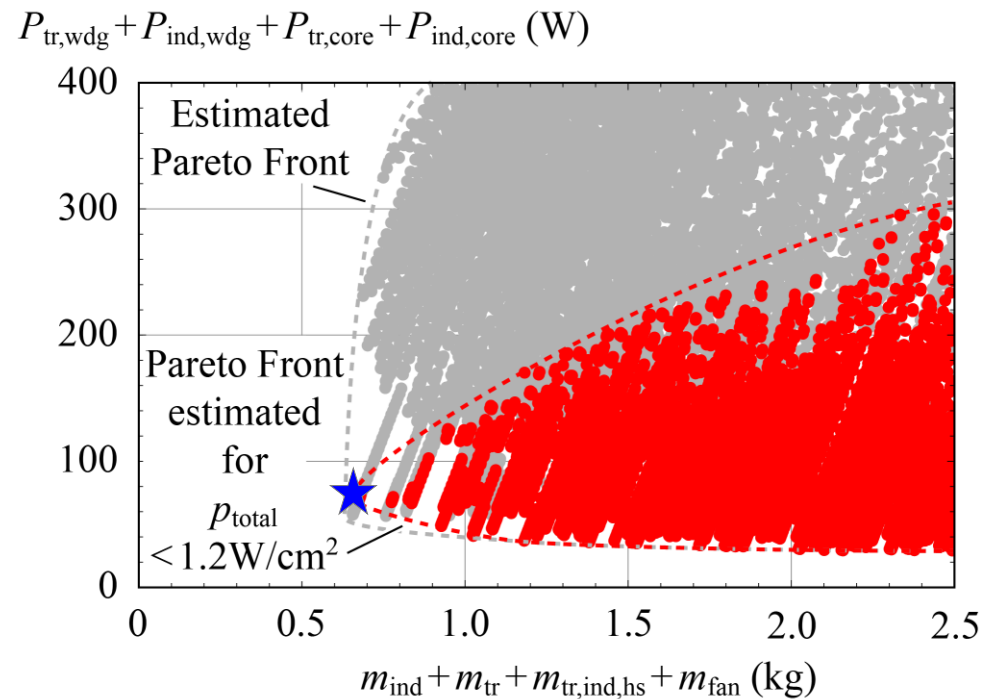
$$\vec{c}_{\text{tr}} = [\text{E30/15/7} \ \text{E32/16/9} \ \text{E42/21/20} \ \text{E55/28/21} \\ \text{E65/32/27} \ \text{E70/33/32} \ \text{UI93/76/30} \ \text{UU93/76/30}]^T$$

$$\vec{c}_{\text{ind}} = \vec{c}_{\text{tr}}$$



Transformer η - γ -PARETO Front

- **Selected Design**
 $\eta = 97\%$
 $\gamma = 4.5 \text{ kW/kg}$

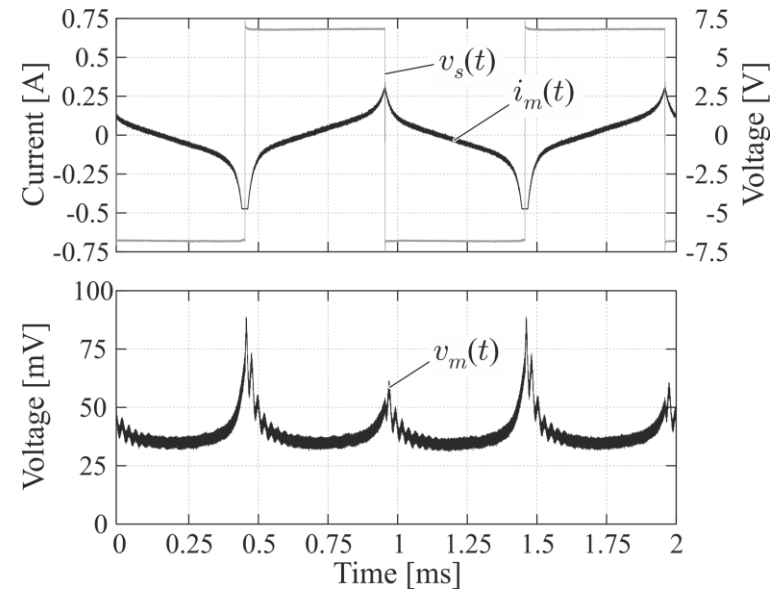
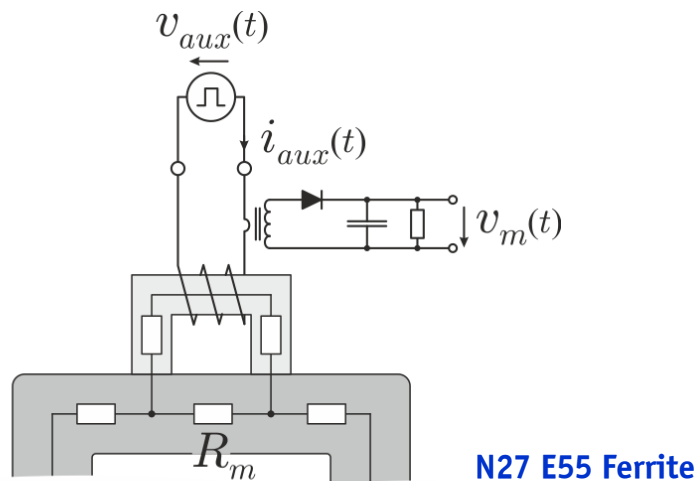


- Transformer Volt-Second Balancing - Series Capacitor or “Magnetic Ear” Control

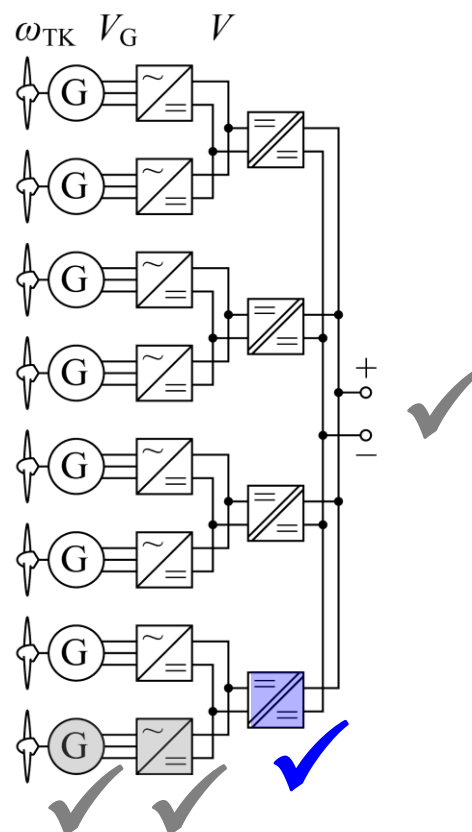
Transformer Volt-Second Balancing – “Magnetic Ear”



- **Magnetic Ear** Magnetized with 50% Duty Cycle Rectangular Voltage Winding
- Measured Aux. Current i_{aux} / Voltage v_m Indicates Flux Level
- Enables Closed-Loop Flux Control



System Overview

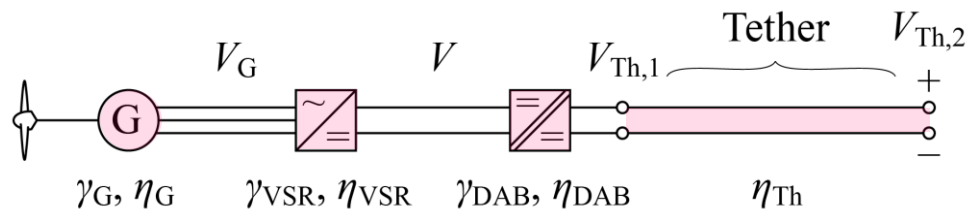


Overall System Consideration

Total Weight
Overall Efficiency
 η - γ -PARETO Front

Determination of Overall System Performance

► Consideration of the η - γ -Characteristics of the Partial Systems



$$m_G = \frac{\frac{P_D}{P_R} P_{out}}{\eta_{VSR} \eta_{DAB} \eta_{Th}} \frac{1}{\gamma_G(\eta_G)}$$

$$m_{VSR} = \frac{\frac{P_D}{P_R} P_{out}}{\eta_{DAB} \eta_{Th}} \frac{1}{\gamma_{VSR}(\eta_{VSR})}$$

$$m_{DAB} = \frac{P_{out}/\eta_{Th}}{\gamma_{DAB}(\eta_{DAB})}$$

$$m = m_G + m_{VSR} + m_{DAB}$$

► Overall η - γ -Characteristic

$$\gamma = \frac{P_{out}}{m}$$

- Efficiencies of the Partial Systems Need to be Taken into Account
- P_D/P_R = Ovrating Ratio (8x16kW/100kW)

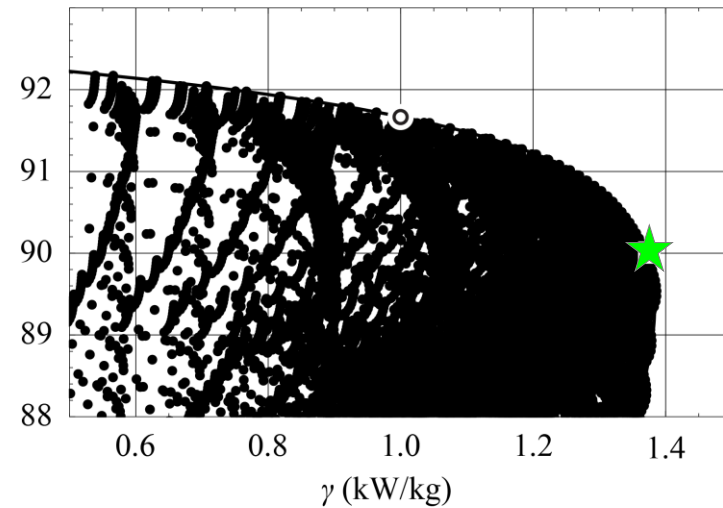
Overall System Performance

EFFICIENCIES AND POWER-TO-WEIGHT RATIOS AT THE 2 DESIGN POINTS MARKED IN FIG. 24(A) (CALCULATED FOR NOMINAL OPERATION).

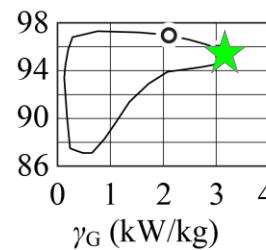
Total system	Generator, VSR, and DAB converter			
$\gamma = 1.37 \text{ kW/kg}$ $\eta = 90.0\%$	Generator:	$\gamma_G = 3.11 \text{ kW/kg}$,	$\eta_G = 95.4\%$	
	VSR:	$\gamma_{\text{VSR}} = 18.3 \text{ kW/kg}$,	$\eta_{\text{VSR}} = 98.6\%$	
	DAB:	$\gamma_{\text{DAB}} = 4.60 \text{ kW/kg}$,	$\eta_{\text{DAB}} = 97.1\%$	
$\gamma = 1.00 \text{ kW/kg}$ $\eta = 91.7\%$	Generator:	$\gamma_G = 2.14 \text{ kW/kg}$,	$\eta_G = 96.9\%$	
	VSR:	$\gamma_{\text{VSR}} = 18.3 \text{ kW/kg}$,	$\eta_{\text{VSR}} = 98.6\%$	
	DAB:	$\gamma_{\text{DAB}} = 3.53 \text{ kW/kg}$,	$\eta_{\text{DAB}} = 97.4\%$	



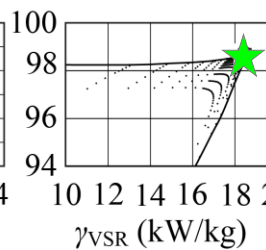
η (%)



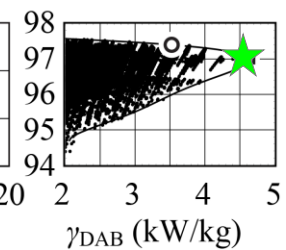
η_G (%)



η_{VSR} (%)



η_{DAB} (%)



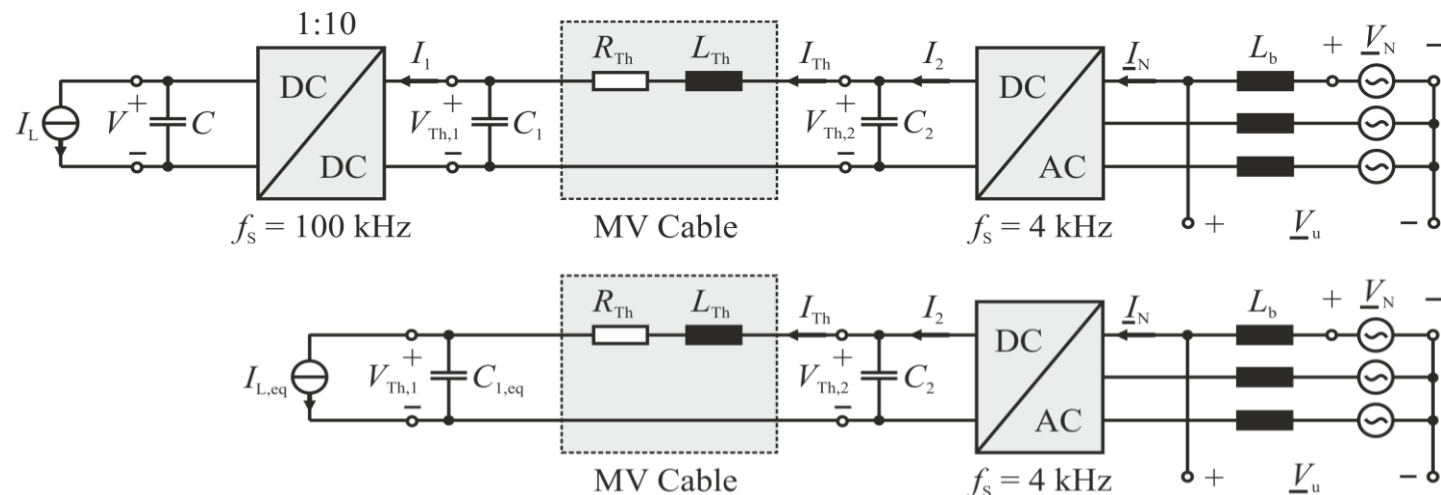
■ Final Step: System Control Consideration

Electric System Control

Stability
Reference Response
Disturbance Response

System Control

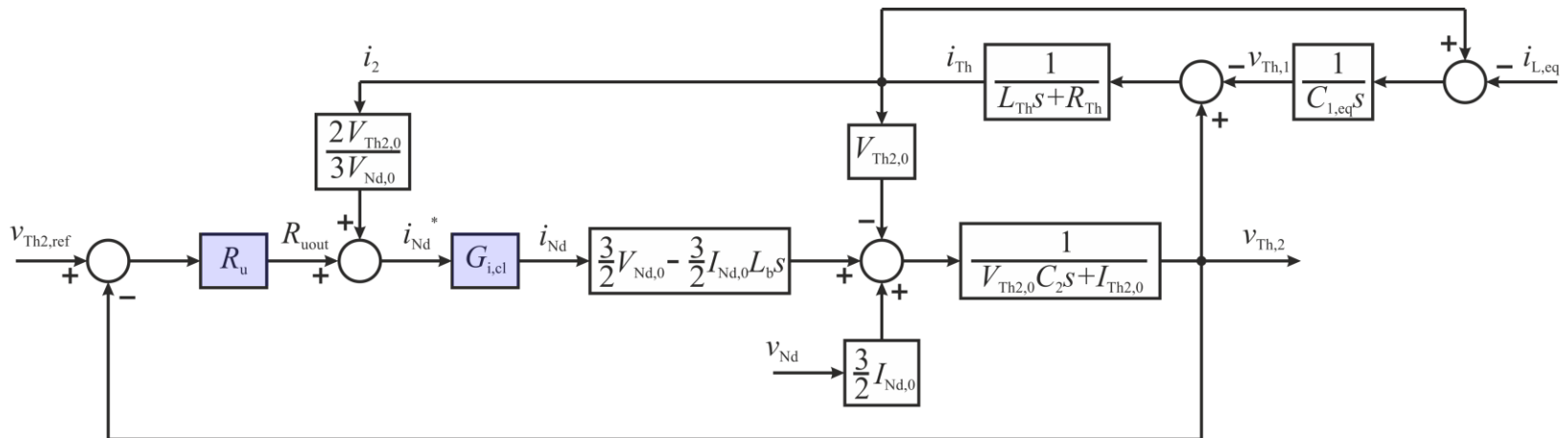
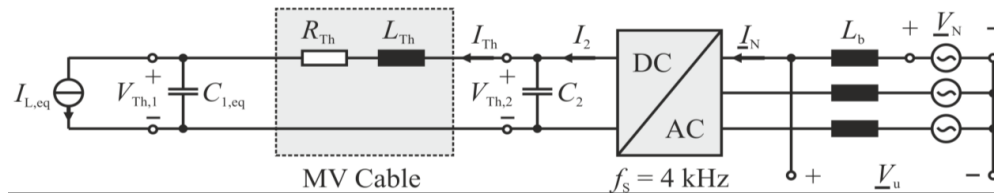
- ▶ Control of Flight Trajectory / Max. Energy Generation
- ▶ Generator (Motor) Speed / Torque Control
- ▶ etc.
- ▶ Control of DC Voltage Levels is Mandatory !



■ Simplified Control-Oriented Block Diagram of the Electric System

Control Block Diagram

- ▶ Ground Station Controls the Tether Voltage
- ▶ Control Objectives: LV DC Bus 650...750V; MV (Tether) < 8kV



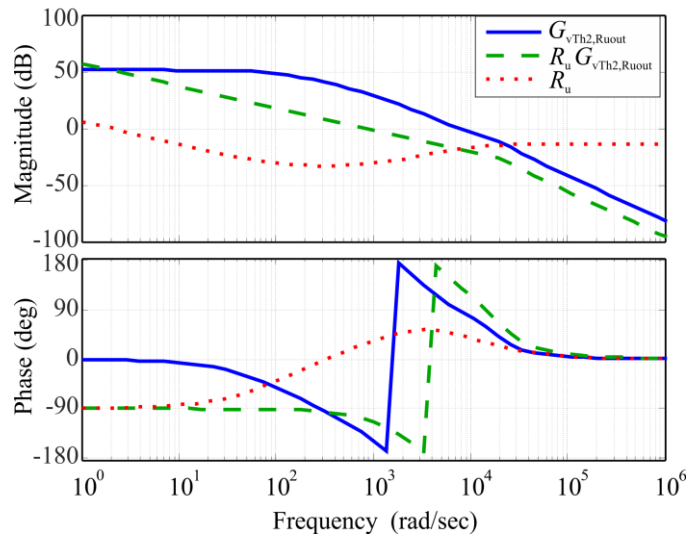
- Only Tether Voltage at Ground Station is Measured (I_{Th} Feedforward)
- Motor AND Generator Operation Must be Considered

Tether Voltage Control Plant

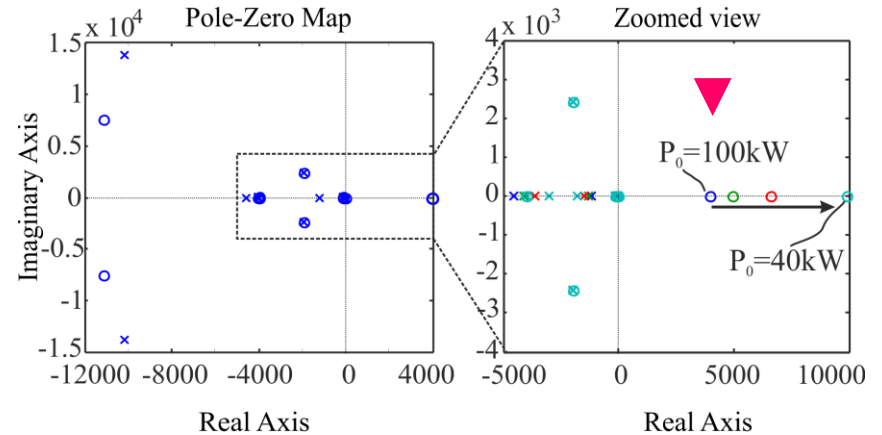
$$G_{vTh2,Ruout} = \frac{v_{Th,2}}{R_{uout}} \Big|_{v_{Nd}=0, i_{L,eq}=0}$$

Motor Operation
(100kW)

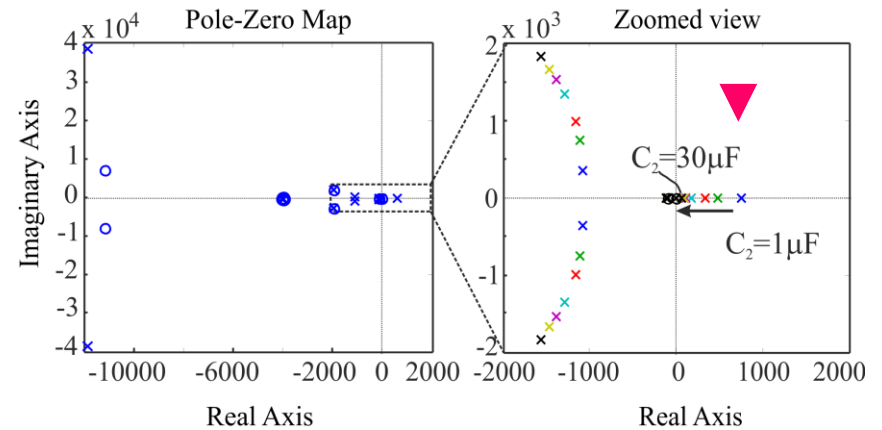
Bode Diagram



Motor Operation

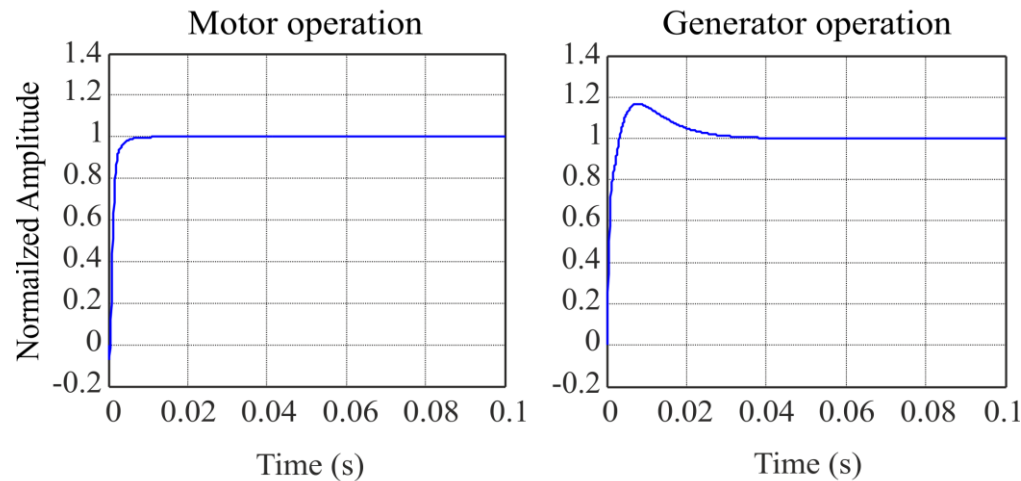


Generator Operation



Voltage Control Reference Step Response

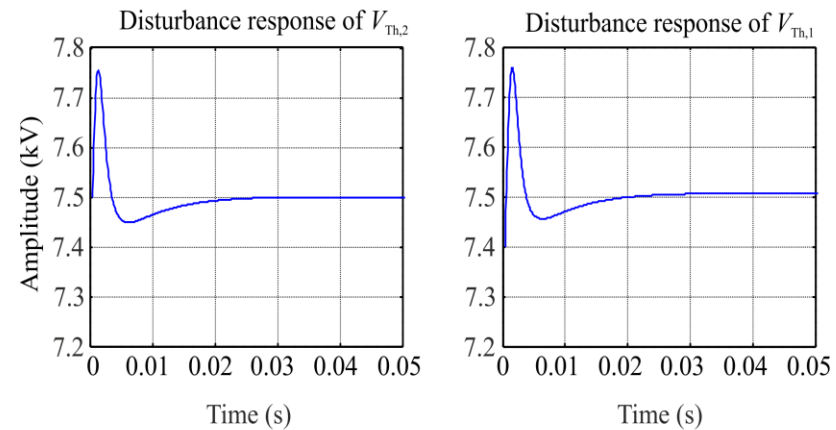
Unit step response of $V_{Th,2}$



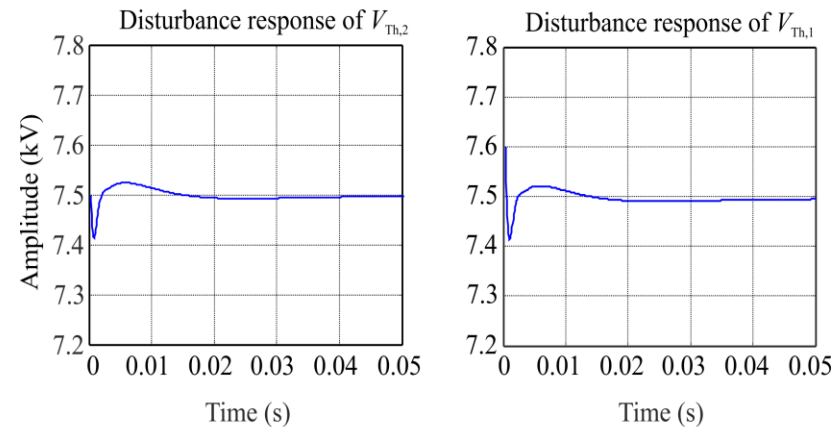
- **Overshoot Could be Avoided with Reference Form Filter**

Voltage Control Disturbance Response

Motor operation



Generator operation



- Motor Operation 100kW $\rightarrow$ 0
- Gen. Operation -100kW $\rightarrow$ 0

Conclusions

- ▶ **AWTs are Basically Technically Feasible**
- ▶ **AWTs Realization Combines Numerous Challenges**
 - Aircraft Design
 - MVDC Transmission
 - MV/HF Power Electronics
 - etc.
- ▶ **AWTs are a Highly Interesting Example for η - γ Trade-off Studies**
- ▶ **AWTs are Examples for Smart Pico Grids or MEA Power System Analysis**
- ▶ **AWTs is a Clear Example of Thinking “Out-of-the-Box” !**



Questions ?

