

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich



Future Challenges for Research and Teaching in Power Electronics

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Acknowledgement Florian Krismer Hans-Peter Nee

Power Electronics 2.0

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Outline

- ► Application Areas & Performance Trends
- Component Technologies
- ► Topologies & Modulation / Control
- Design & Testing ProceduresFuture CHALLENGES
- **Future Univ. Research & Education**
- **Conclusions**

- → Challenges
- **→** Challenges
- **→** Challenges
- → Opportunities (!)





Application Areas Performance Trends



Application Areas

- Industry Automation / ProcessesCommunication & Information
- TransportationLightingetc., etc.

.... Everywhere!

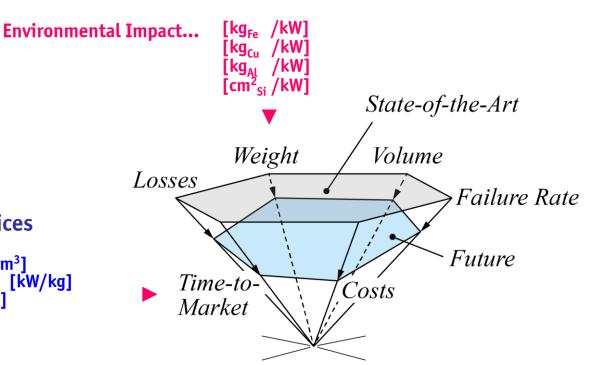








▶ Power Electronics Converters **Performance Trends**



■ Performance Indices

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

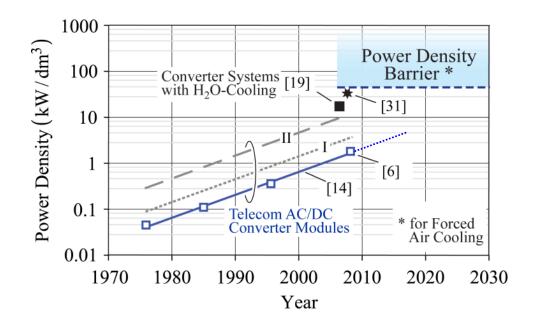




► Performance Improvements (1)



Telecom Power Supply Modules:
 Typ. Factor 2 over 10 Years





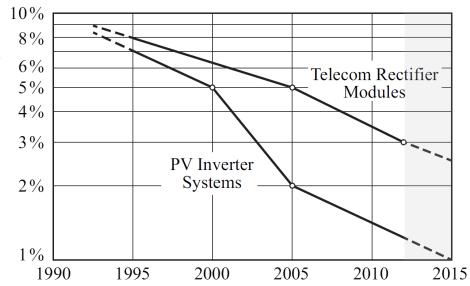


► Performance Improvements (2)

Inefficiency (Losses)... $1-\eta$

■ Efficiency

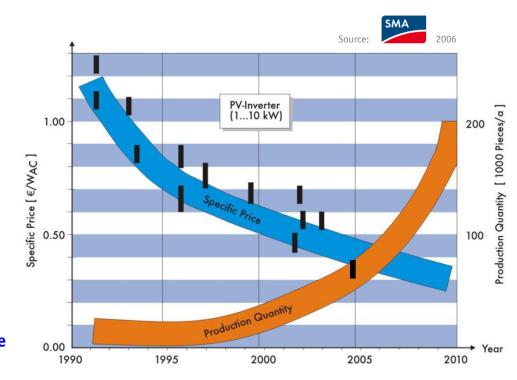
PV Inverters: Typ. Loss Reduction of Factor 2 over 5...10 Years







▶ Performance Improvements (3)



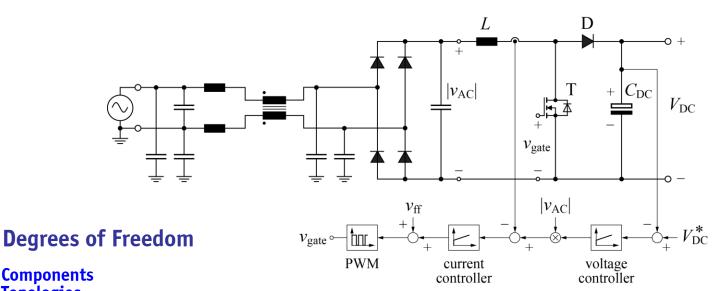
Costs

Importance of Economy of Scale



▶ Challenge

How to Continue the Dynamic Performance Improvement (?)



- **Components**
- **Topologies**
- **Modulation & Control**
- **Design Procedure**
- **Modularization / Standardization / Economy of Scale**
- **Manufacturing**
- **New Applications**





Components
→ Potentials & Limits

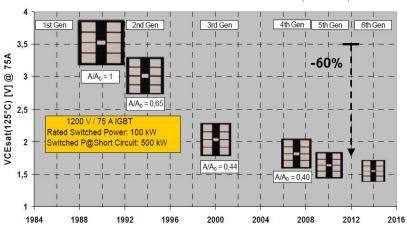


 \rightarrow Si / SiC / GaN



▶ Si Power Semiconductors

Source: Dr. Miller / Infineon / CIPS 2010

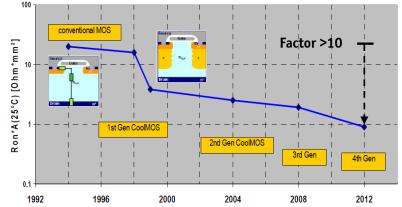






- IGBT

Trench & Field-Stop Superjunction Technology





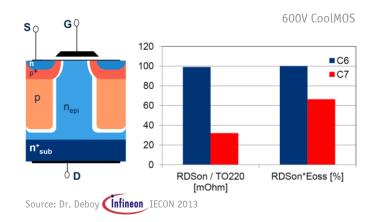


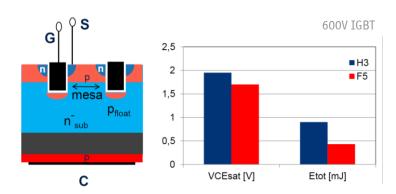
► Si Power Semiconductors

- **Continuous Further Improvement**
- Ultra Thin Wafers (Lower On-State & Sw. Losses of IGBTs)

- Higher Switching Speeds Smaller Chip Sizes (Higher R_{th} , Lower C_{th}) Long Lifetime IGBTs for T_j =200° & ΔT_j =120°

- → Wafer Handling Challenge
- ⇒ Dyn. Clamping & Low L_s Packaging ⇒ Low R_{th} Packaging ⇒ Advanced Packaging (LTJT)



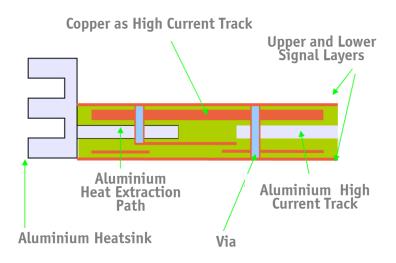


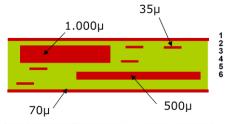
Main Challenges in Packaging (!)

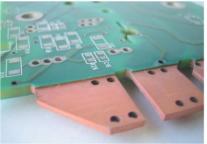


► Future Packaging - Multi-Functional PCB

- Multiple Signal and High Current Layers
- Integrated Thermal Management







- Substantial Change of Manufact. Process → "Fab-Less" Power Electronics
- Advanced Simul. Tools of Main Importance (Coupling with Measurem.)
- Testing is Challenging (Only Voltage Measurement)
- Once Fully Utilized Disruptive Change (!)



▶ 3ph. Inverter in p²pack-Technology

Rated Power 32kVA

Input Voltage

Output Frequency Switching Frequency

700V_{DC} 0 ... 800Hz

20kHz











▶ 3ph. Inverter in p²pack-Technology

Rated Power

32kVA

Input Voltage

700V_{DC} 0 ... 800Hz 20kHz

Output Frequency
Switching Frequency

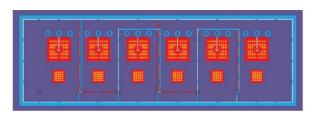
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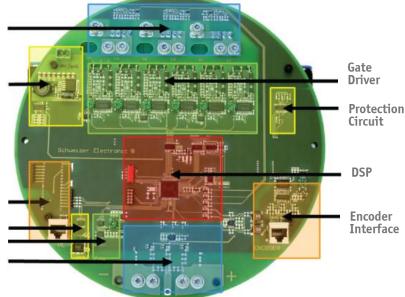
Current Measurement

Auxiliary Supply

- Power Semiconductor PCB Integration









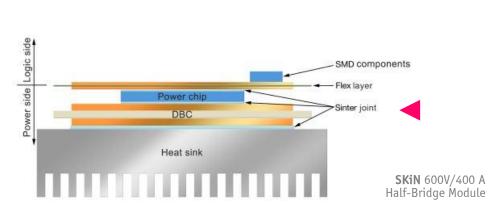


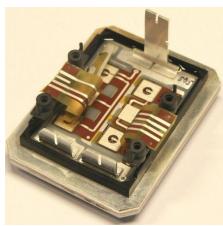
► Future Packaging - SKiN Technology

- No Bond Wires, No Solder, No Thermal Paste
- Ag Sinter Joints for all Interconnections of a Power Module (incl. Heatsink)
- **Extremely Low Inductance**
- **Excellent Thermal Cycling Reliability**



Dr. Scheuermann Dr. Beckedahl



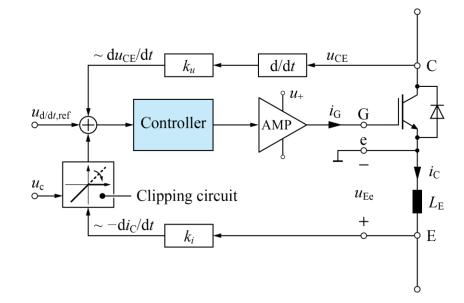


- Allows Extension to 2-Side Cooling (Two-Layer Flex-Foil)
 Allows Integration of Passive & Active Comp. (Gate Drive, Curr. & Temp. Measurem.)
- **Disruptive Improvement (!)**



► Future Active *Closed Loop* Gate Drive

- Single Contr. for $du_{CF}/dt \otimes di_{C}/dt$

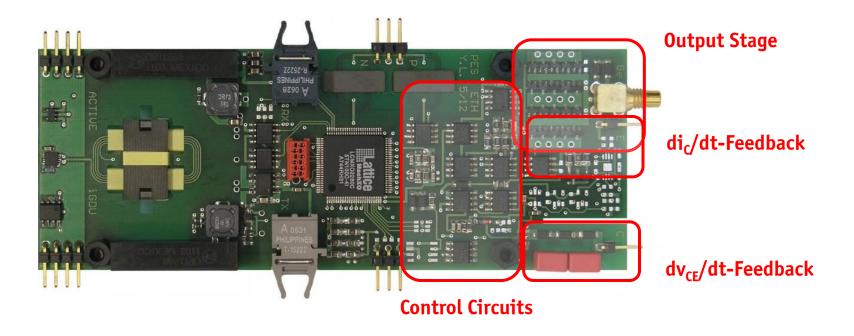


- Continuous (!) Control of the Switching Trajectory incl. Short Circuit
 Options for Monitoring / Lifetime Prediction etc.



▶ Hardware Prototype

■ PCB Dimensions 50 mm x 130 mm (2 in x 5.1 in)

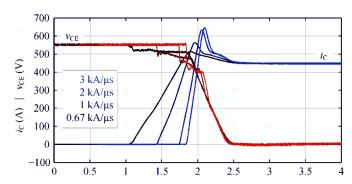




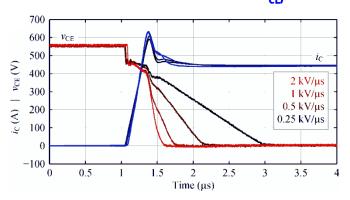


► Experimental Results – Individual Variation of References

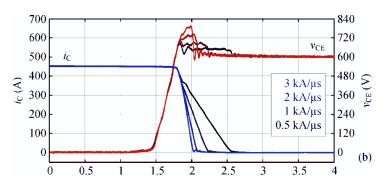
■ Turn-On: Variation of di_c/dt



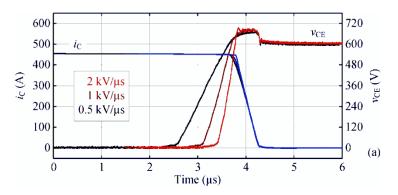
■ Turn-On: Variation of dv_{cF}/dt



■ Turn-Off: Variation of di_c/dt

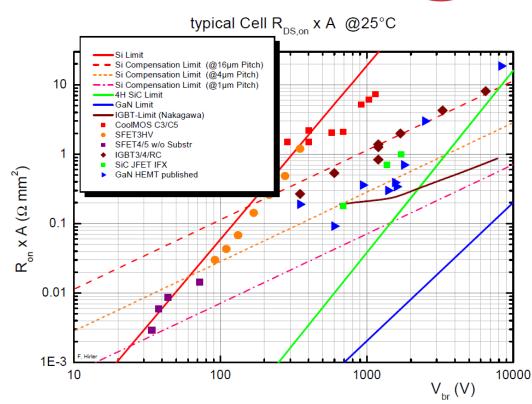


■ Turn-Off: Variation of dv_{CE}/dt









- **Disruptive Change**
- Extremely Low $R_{DS(on)}$ Very High $T_{j,max}$ Extreme Sw. Speed

Utilization of Excellent Properties → Main Challenges in Packaging (!)

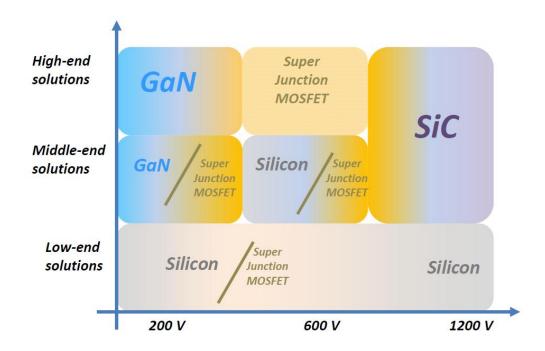




- **Disruptive Change**
- Extremely Low $R_{DS(on)}$ Very High $T_{j,max}$ Extreme Sw. Speed
- Utilization of Excellent Properties → Main Challenges in Packaging (!)



Application Perspectives



Source: Dr. Honea PEDG 2013

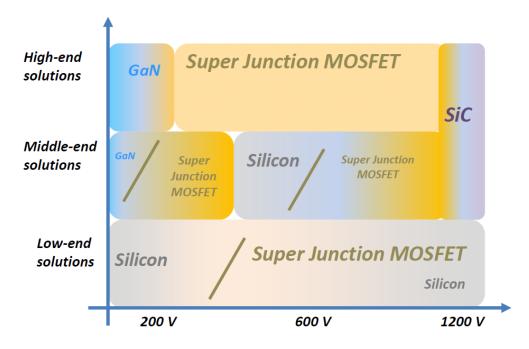
transphorm

What Yole Developement showed in 2011 as future view





Application Perspectives



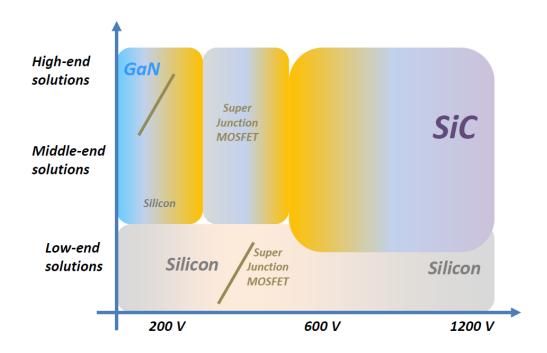
Source: Dr. Honea PEDG 2013 transphorr

A Super Junction supplier's view of future





Application Perspectives



Source: Dr. Honea PEDG 2013

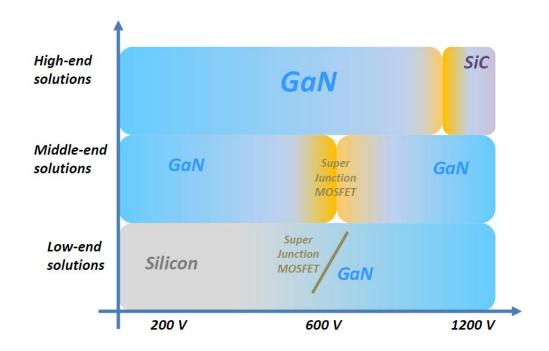
transphorm

A SiC supplier's view of future





Application Perspectives



Source: Dr. Honea PEDG 2013

transphorm

GaN solution supplier's view for future



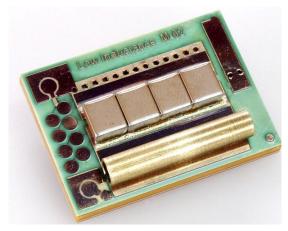


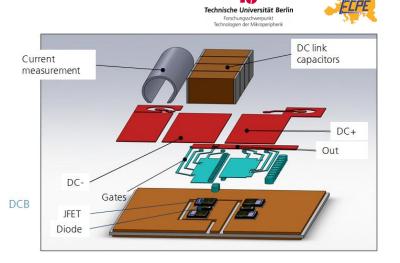
Low-Inductance Packaging Challenge

600pH DC Link Inductance

- **→** Record in Low Ind. Packaging
- "Switching Cell in the Package"
- SiC Switches on Ceramic Substrate (DCB) Embedded in Top Layer PCB 1200V J-FET Half Bridge (50A) incl. DC Link Cap. Soldered to the Module









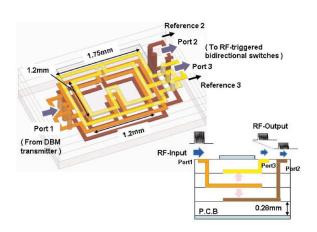


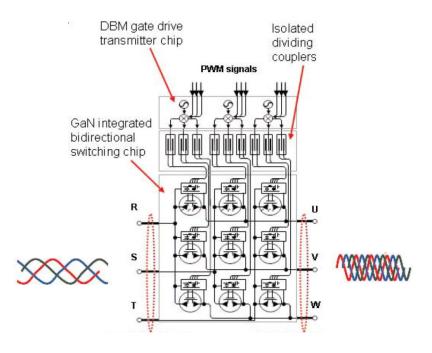
► Latest Systems Using WBG Devices → GaN

Source: Panasonic ISSCC 2014

- GaN 3x3 Matrix Converter Chipset with Drive-By-Microwave (DBM) Technology
- 9 Dual-Gate Normally-Off Gate-Injection Bidirectional Switches
- DBM Gate Drive Transmitter Chip & Isolating Dividing Couplers
- Extremely Small Overall Footprint 25 x 18 mm² (600V, 10A 5kW Motor)

5.0GHz Isolated (5kVDC) Dividing Coupler











Power Semiconductors Gate Drive Packaging

- **Disruptive Changes Happened (WBG, LTJT)**
- Cont. Further Improvements Packaging, Reliability (!)
- → Main Challenges to Module Manufacturers
- **Electromagnetically Quiet Packaging**
- **Integrated Programmable Gate Drive**
- **Ensuring Reliability Reliability Testing Procedures (!)**
- **Local Measurement and Condition Monitoring**
- Large Scale Applications of WBG (Chicken & Egg Problem)
- → Main Challenges to General Users
- Higher Level of Integration (e.g. PCB)
 Fund. Changes in Design / Manufacturing / Measurement Techniques
- **Clarification of Cost/Performance of WBG Semiconductors**





Passive Components

→ Capacitors / Magnetics / Cooling



Capacitors

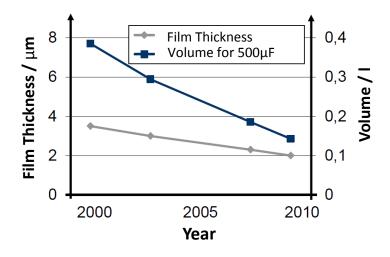
- Relatively (Slow) Technology Progress
- Recently Significant Improvement (Packaging) e.g. CeraLink

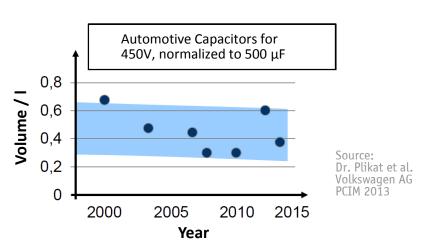
Foil Capacitors

OPP = Oriented Polypropylene PHD = Advanced OPP

COC = Cycloolefine Copolymers

				Source: EPCOS
	2000	2005	2010	2015
Energy Density	100%	100%	110%	120%
Film Material	OPP	PHD	COC	?
Max. Temperature	105 °C	115 °C	150 °C	160 °C
Self Inductance	60 nH	30 nH	15 nH	10 nH



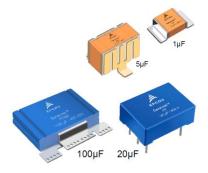






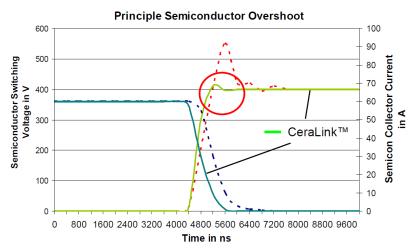
Power Chip (Foil) Capacitors

- **Targeting Automotive Applications up to 90kW**
- High Voltage Ratings / High Current Densities (>2A/ μ F) Low Volume / High Volume Utilization Factor
- **Low Ind. Busbar Connection / Low Switching Overshoot**







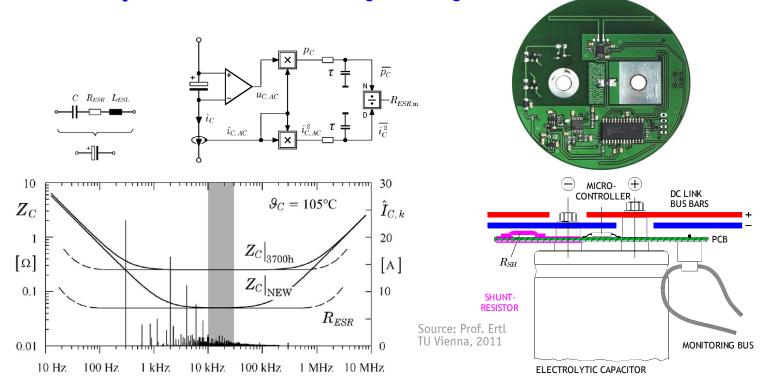






► Future - Monitoring of Electrolytic Capacitors

- On-Line Measurement of the ESR in "Frequency Window" (Temp. Compensated)
- Data Transfer by Optical Fibre or Near-Field RF Link
- Possible Integration into Capacitor Housing or PCB
- Additionally features Series Connect. Voltage Balancing







Magnetics

- → There is No "Moore's Law" in Power Electronics!
- **Example: Scaling Law of Transformers**

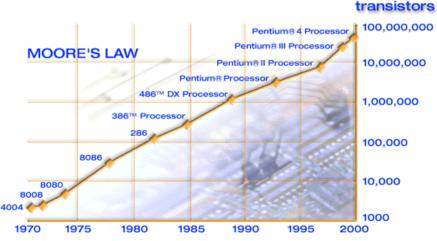
$$A_{Core}A_{Wdg} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\pi} \frac{P_{t}}{k_{W}J_{rms}\hat{B}_{max}f}$$

 \hat{B}_{max} ... Relatively Slow Technology Progress J_{rms} ... Limited by Conductivity – No Change ... Limited by HF Losses & Converter

& General Thermal Limit



→ We have to Hope for Progress in Material Science



▶ Magnetics

- → There is No "Moore's Law" in Power Electronics!
- **Example: Scaling Law of Transformers**

$$\hat{B}_{max}$$
 ... Relatively Slow Technology Progress J_{rms} ... Limited by Conductivity – No Change ... Limited by HF Losses & Converter & General Thermal Limit

$$A_{Core}A_{Wdg} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\pi} \frac{P_{t}}{k_{W}J_{rms}\hat{B}_{max}f}$$

- No Fundamentally New Concepts of
- → We have to Hope for Progress in Material Science (Magnetic, Thermal – Could take > 10Years)



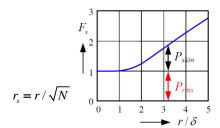
Operation Frequency Limit

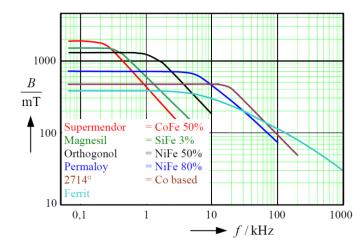
Serious Limitation of Operating Frequency by HF Losses

Source: Prof. Albach, 2011

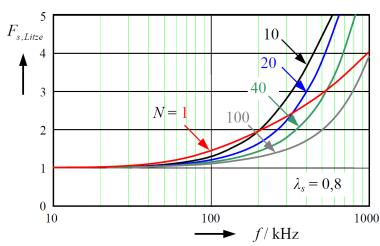
- Core Losses (incr. @ High Frequ. & High Operating Temp.)
 Temp. Dependent Lifetime of the Core
 Skin-Effect Losses

- **Proximity Effect Losses**









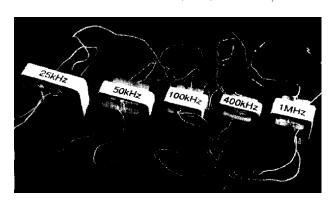
Skin-Factor F_s for Litz Wires with N Strands

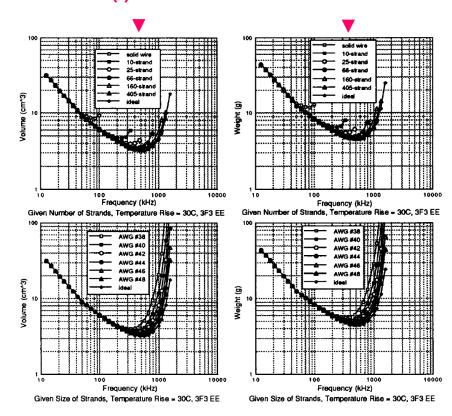
Operation Frequency Limit

- Relationship of Volume and Weight vs. Frequency
- Higher Frequency Results in Smaller Transformer Size only Up to Certain Limit Opt. Frequencies for Min. Weight and Min. Volume (!)

Source: Philips

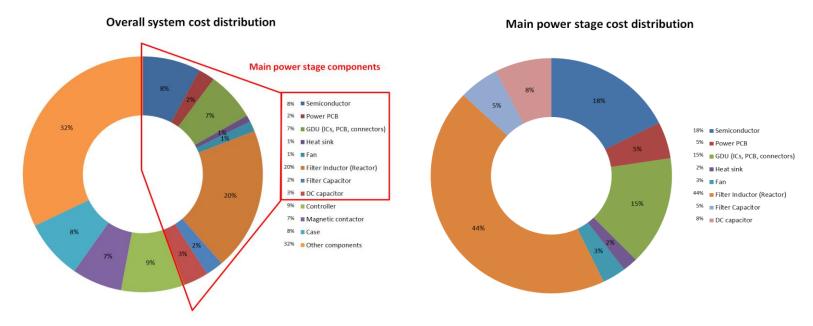
■ 100Vx1A 1.1 Transformers, 3F3, 30°C Temp. Rise





► Influence of Magnetics on System Costs

Example of 20kVA UPS System (Single-Stage Output Filter)



■ 44% of Main Power Stage Costs (!)

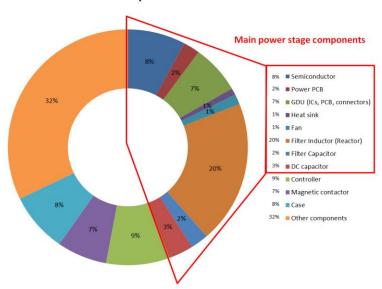




▶ Influence of Magnetics on System Costs

Example of 20kVA UPS System (Single-Stage Output Filter)

Overall system cost distribution



■ 44% of Main Power Stage Costs (!)









Capacitors Magnetics

- **Large Volume Share / Cost Factor**
- **Only Gradual Improvements**
- **Capacitors**
- High Frequ. Operation for Minim. Vol. (e.g. DC Link)
- **Hope for Adv. Dielectrics**
- **Improved Heat Management**
- **Local Lifetime Monitoring**
- → Magnetics
- Careful Design Absolutely Mandatory (!) Hope for Adv. Power Transformer Materials
- **Improved Heat Management**
- **Magnetic Integration or DCM**
- RF Air Core Inductors Shielding (!)
- **Integration of Sensors etc.**





Converter Topologies



History and Development of the Electronic Power Converter

E. F. W. ALEXANDERSON

E. L. PHILLIPI NONMEMBER AIEE

THE TERM "electronic power converter" needs some definition. The object may be to convert power from direct current to alternating current for d-c power transmission, or to convert power from one frequency into another, or to serve as a commutator for operating an a-c motor at variable speed, or for transforming high-voltage direct current into low-voltage direct current. Other objectives may be mentioned. It is thus evidently not the objective but the means which characterizes the electronic power converter. Other names have been used tentatively but have not been accepted. The emphasis is on electronic means and the term is limited to conversion of power as distinguished from electric energy for purposes of communication. Thus the name is a definition.

D-C LINK OR TRANSMISSION LINE

Figure 1. Electronic converter, dual-conversion type

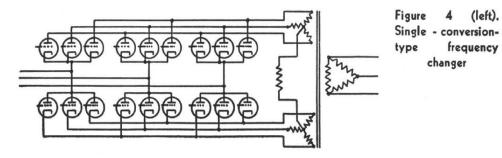


Figure 5 (below).

D-c transformer

MOTOR

HIGHVOLTAGE
TRANSMISSION

FIGURE 5 (below).

MOTOR

LOWVOLTAGE
MOTOR
CIRCUIT

Paper 44-143, recommended by the AIEE committee on electronics for presentation at the AIEE summer technical meeting, St. Louis, Mo., June 26-30, 1944. Manuscript submitted April 25, 1944 made available for printing May 18, 1944.

E. F. W. ALEXANDERSON and E. L. PHILLIPI are with the General Electric Company, Schenectady, N. Y.

1944

654 Transactions

Alexanderson, Phillipi-Electronic Converter

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING





United States Patent [19]	[11]	4,412,277	4000
Mitchell	[45]	Oct. 25, 1983	1983

[54] AC-DC CONVERTER HAVING AN IMPROVED POWER FACTOR

[75] Inventor: Daniel M. Mitchell, Cedar Rapids,

Iowa

[73] Assignee: Rockwell International Corporation,

El Segundo, Calif.

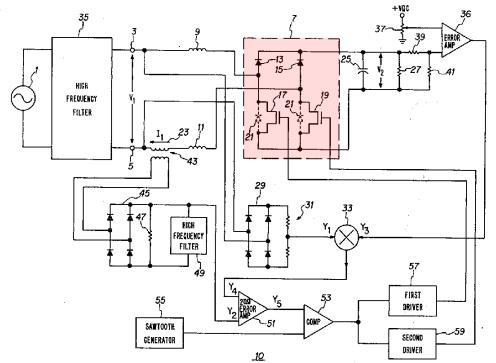
[21] Appl. No.: 414,757

[22] Filed: Sep. 3, 1982

[57] ABSTRACT

An AC to DC converter utilizes a first power converter for converting an AC signal to a DC signal under the control of a control signal. The control signal is generated by a control circuit that includes a first analog generator that provides a first signal that is analogous to the voltage of the AC signal that is to be converted. A second analog generator generates a second signal that is analogous to the current of the AC signal that is to be converted and a third analog generator generates a third signal that is analogous to the voltage of the DC output signal. The third signal and the first signal are multiplied together to obtain a fourth signal. The control signal is generated from the fourth signal and the second signal and is used to control the power converter such that the waveform of the current of the AC signal is limited to a sinusoidal waveform of the same frequency and phase as the AC signal.

8 Claims, 2 Drawing Figures



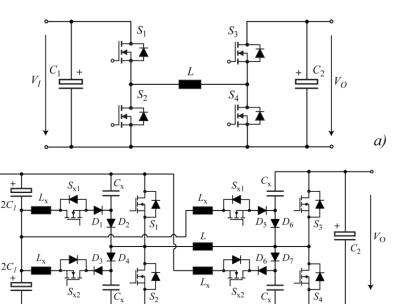


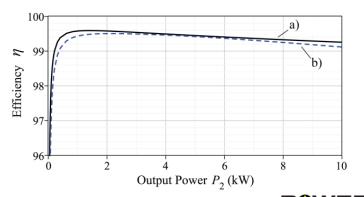
► Auxiliary Circuits

Example: Non-Isolated Buck+Boost DC-DC Converter for Automotive Applications



■ Instead of Adding Aux. Circuits
Change Operation of BASIC (!) Structure "Natural" Performance Limit





 V_I

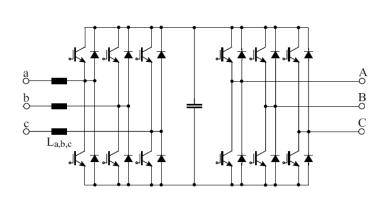


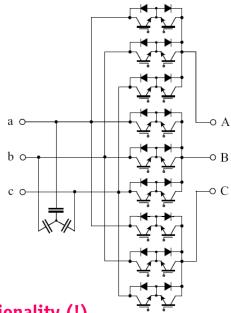


b)

Integration of Functions

- **Examples:**
- * Single-Stage Approaches / Matrix Converters
 * Multi-Functional Utilization (Machine as Inductor of DC/DC Conv.)
 * etc.





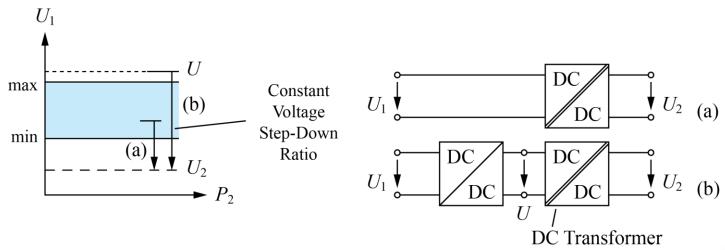
- Integration Restricts Controllability / Overall Functionality (!)
 Typ. Lower Performance / Higher Control Compl. of Integr. Solution
 Basic Physical Properties remain Unchanged (e.g. Filtering Effort)





► Extreme Restriction of Functionality

- Highly Optimized Specific Functionality → High Performance for Specific Task
- Restriction of Functionality → Lower Costs



Example of Wide Input Voltage Range Isolated DC/DC Converter





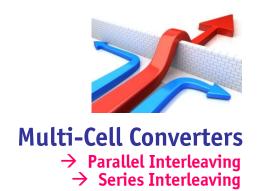


New Topologies



- **→** Some Exceptions
- Multi-Cell Converters
- 3-ph. AC/DC Buck Converter
- etc.



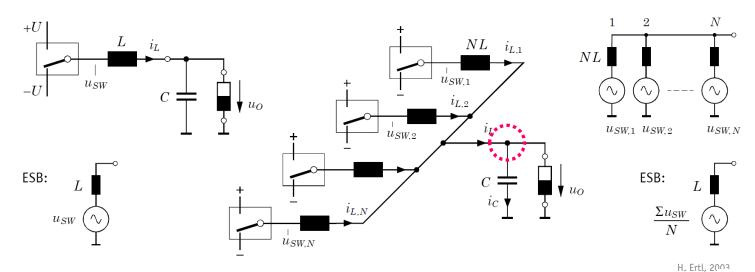




Multi-Cell Converters → "Homogeneous" Power

Example of Parallel Interleaving

- Breaks the Frequency Barrier
- Breaks the Impedance Barrier
 Breaks Cost Barrier Standardization
- High Part Load Efficiency



- Fully Benefits from Digital IC Technology (Improving in Future)
- **Redundancy** → Allows Large Number of Units without Impairing Reliability





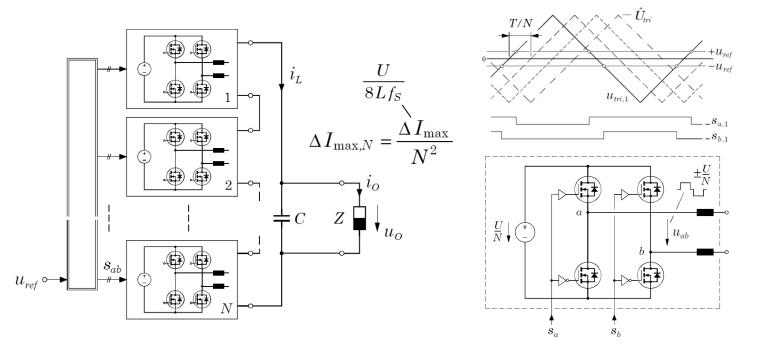


Multi-Cell Converters

Example of Series Interleaving

$$\frac{\Delta U_{\text{max},N}}{U} = \frac{\pi^2}{32} \left[\frac{f_0}{f_S} \right]^2 \cdot \frac{1}{N^3}$$

- Breaks the Frequency Barrier
 Breaks the Silicon Limit 1+1= 4 NOT 2 (!)
 Breaks Cost Barrier Standardization
- Extends LV Technology to HV





Examples of Multi-Cell Converters

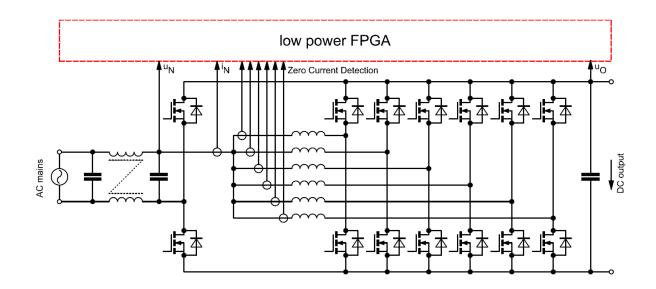
→ Ultra-Efficient 1ph. PFC→ 1ph. Telecom PFC Rectifier





► Bidirectional Ultra-Efficient 1-Ф PFC Mains Interface

★ 99.36% @ 1.2kW/dm³



■ Employs NO SiC Power Semiconductors -- Si SJ MOSFETs only





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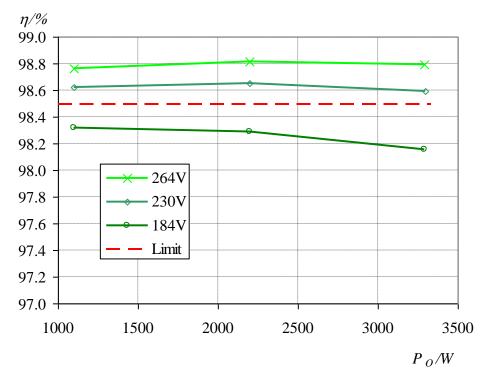


1-Ф Telecom Boost-Type TCM PFC Rectifier

1-ph. 184...264V_{AC}

Input Voltage Output Voltage Rated Power 420V_{DC} 3.3kW













Topologies Modulation Schemes Control Schemes

- **→** Topologies
- Basic Concepts Extremely Well Known Mature
- **Comprehensive Comparative Evaluations Missing (!)**
- Promising Multi-Cell Concepts (!)
- **→** Modulations / Control Schemes
- Basic Concepts Extremely Well Known Mature
- Digital Power All Diff. Kinds of Functions (!)
- PWM might be Merged with Model Pred. Control
- More "Heuristic" Control Schemes
- Model-Based Max. Utilization of Load/Line/Source
- **■** Challenge to Guarantee Stability (!)
- Challenge of Redundancy / Safety Requirements





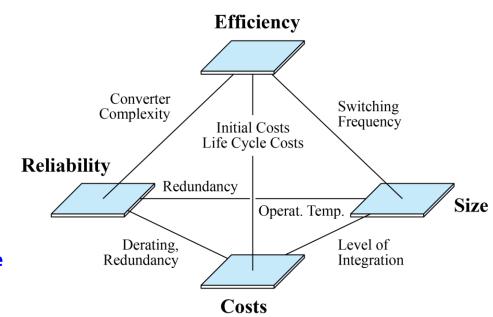
Advanced Design





Design Challenge

■ Mutual Couplings of Performance Indices → Trade-Offs



 For Optimized System Several Performance Indices Cannot be Improved Simultaneously





- Design Challenge
- Mutual Couplings of Performance Indices → Trade-Offs

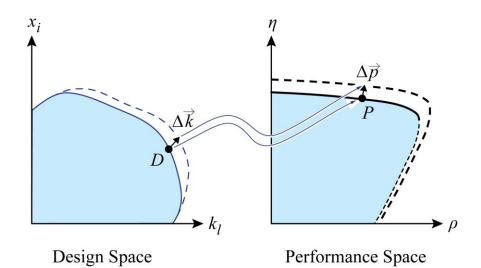
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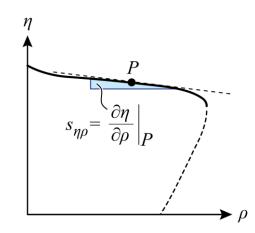




Multi-Objective Design Challenge

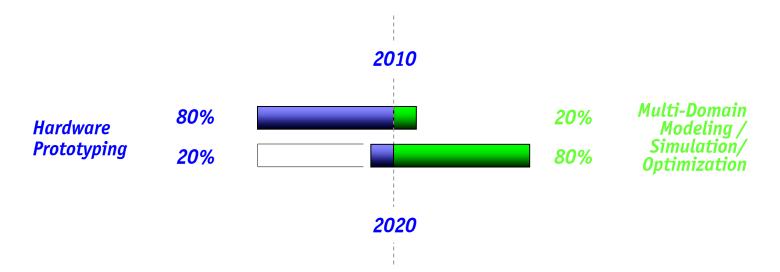
- Advanced Simulations Based Design Allows Multi-Objective Optimization Identifies Performance Limits > Pareto Front
- Sensitivities to Technology Advancements (Example: η - ρ -Pareto Front)
- **Trade-off Analysis**





► Future Design Process

Challenge: Virtual Prototyping



- Reduces Time-to-Market
- More Application Specific Solutions (PCB, Power Module, and even Chips)
- Only Way to Understand Mutual Dependencies of Performances / Sensitivities (!)
 Simulate What Cannot Any More be Measured (High Integration Level)







Virtual Prototyping

- **→** Remaining Challenges
- Comprehensive Modeling (e.g. EMI, Reliability) Model Order Reduction
- **Minimization of Simulation Time**
- **Interactive Features**

... will Take a "Few" More Years





"Power Electronics 1.0"

Maturing → Reduce Costs, Ensure Reliability (!)



"New Challenges"





► Consider Converters like "ICs"

If Only Incremental Improvements of Converters Can Be Expected

Shift to New Paradigm



$$p(t) \qquad \Rightarrow \int_{0}^{t} p(t) dt$$

- "Converter"
- → "Systems" (Microgrid) or "Hybrid Systems" (Autom. / Aircraft)
 → "Integral over Time"
 → "Energy"
- "Time"

- "Power"



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→ Shift to New Paradigm



```
p(t) \qquad \Rightarrow \int_{0}^{t} p(t) dt
```

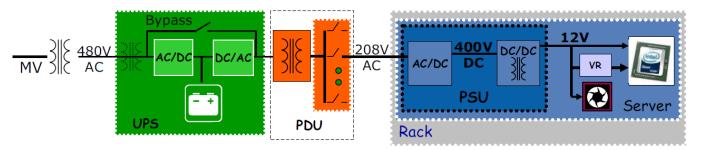
- Power Conversion → Energy Management / Distribution
- Converter Analysis → System Analysis (incl. Interactions Conv. / Conv. or Load or Mains)
- Converter Stability → System Stability (Autonom. Cntrl of Distributed Converters)
- Cap. Filtering → Energy Storage & Demand Side Management
- Costs / Efficiency → Life Cycle Costs / Mission Efficiency / Supply Chain Efficiency
- etc.



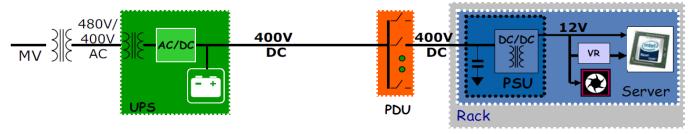
► AC vs. Facility-Level DC Systems for Datacenters

- Reduces Losses & Footprint
- Improves Reliability & Power Quality
- Conventional US 480V_{AC} Distribution





Facility-Level 400 V_{DC} Distribution

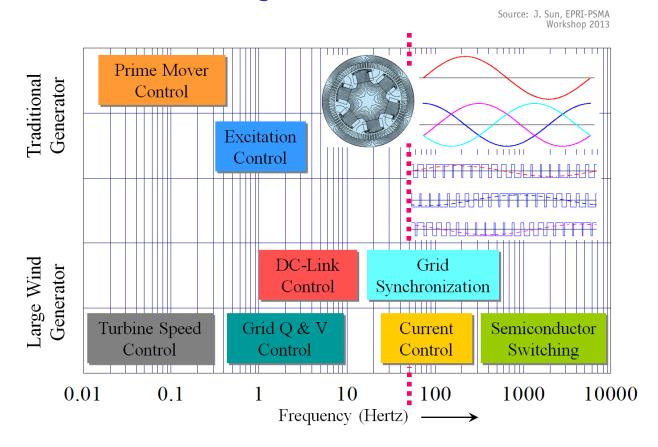


■ Proposal for Public +380V_{DC}/-380V_{DC} Systems by Philips, ♠Merge*, etc.





► Smart Grid Control Challenge



■ Dynamics → from Transient Balance by Kin. Storage (No Cntrl) to ms-Active Power Flow Control





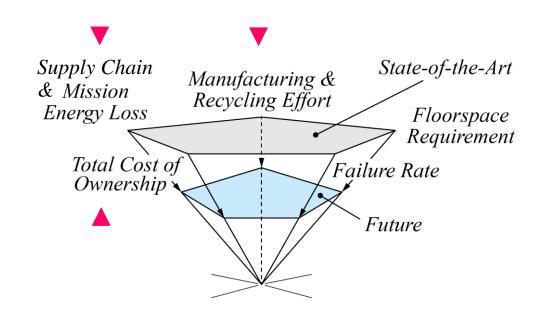
► Power Electronics Systems
Performance Figures/Trends

■ Complete Set of New Performance Indices

Power Density [kW/m²]
Environm. Impact [kWs/kW]
TCO [\$/kW]

- Mission Efficiency [%]

- Failure Rate 🏅 [ˈh-ˈ









System-Oriented Analysis

- **→** Challenges
- Get to Know the Details of Power Systems (!) Theory of Stability of Converter Clusters
- **Autonomous Control**
- **Design Tools**
- Standardization





Remarks on University Research



▶ University Research Orientation

General Observations



- **Gap between Univ. Research and Industry Needs In Some Areas Industry Is Leading the Field**





University Research Orientation

- Gap between Univ. Research and Industry Needs
- Industry Priorities
- 1. Costs
- 2. Costs
- 3. Costs



— Basic Discrepancy !

Most Important Industry Variable, but **Unknown Quantity to Universities**

- Multiple Objectives ...
- Low Complexity
- Modularity / ScalabilityRobustness
- Ease of Integration into System

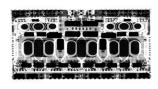




▶ University Research Orientation

In Some Areas Industry Is Leading the Field!



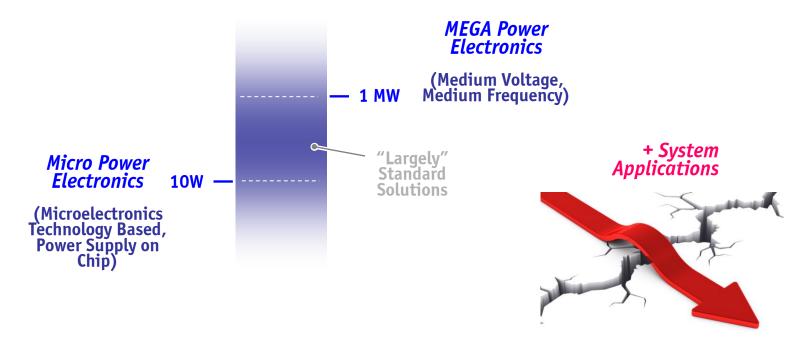


- Industry Low-Power Power Electronics (below 1kW) Heavily Integrated –
 PCB Based Demonstrators Do Not Provide Too Much Information (!)
 Future: "Fab-Less" Research
- Same Situation above 100kW (Costs, Mech. Efforts, Safety Issues with Testing etc.)
- Talk AND Build Megawatt Converters (!)





► University Research Orientation



- **Bridge to Power Systems**
- Establish (Closer) University / Industry (Technology) Partnerships Establish Cost Models, Consider Reliability as Performance





► University Education Orientation

- Need to Insist on High Standards for Education
 - **Introduce New Media (Animation)**
 - * Show Latest State of the Art (requires New Textbooks)
 * Teach Converter Design (Synthesis not Analysis)

 - **Interdisciplinarity**
 - **Lab Courses!**
- → The Only Way to Finally Cross the Borders (Barriers) to **Neighboring Disciplines!**





Finally, ...

Power Electronics 2.0



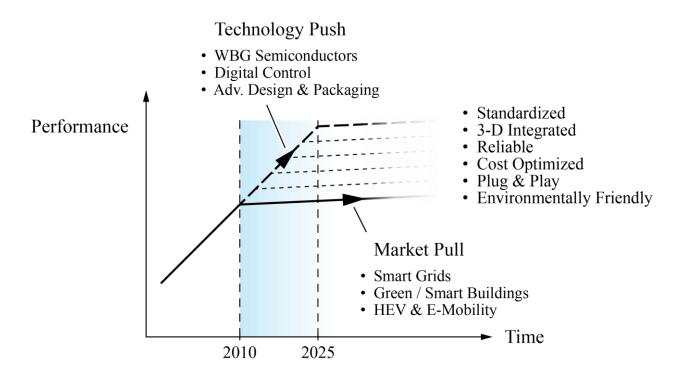
Power Electronics ... after Switches and Topologies **Technology S-Curve** "Passives"& **Advanced Design** as THE Main Challenges of the **Next Decade** + Costs + Systems ➤ Super-Junct. Techn. / WBG ➤ Digital Power Modeling & Simulation **Paradigm** Shift Power MOSFETs/IGBTs
Microelectronics Performance Replacement (Disruptive) Technology Circuit Topologies Modulation Concepts **Control Concepts** SCRs / Diodes Solid-State Devices Technology ➤ Effort / Time 2025





2014

► Future Developments



- WBG Semiconductors + Next Level of Integration
- New Applications Could Establish Mass Markets solving the WBG Chicken-and-Egg Problem





Power Electronics 2.0

New Application Areas

- Smart XXX (Integration of Energy/Power & ICT)
- Micro-Power Electronics (VHF, Link to Microelectronics)
- MEGA-Power Electronics (MV, MF)

Paradigm Shift

- From "Converters" to "Systems"
- From "Inner Function" to "Interaction" Analysis
- From "Power" to "Energy" (incl. Economical Aspects)

Enablers / Topics

- New (WBG) Power Semiconductors (and Drivers)
- Adv. Digital Signal Processing (on all Levels Switch to System)
 PEBBs / Cells & Automated (+ Application Specific) Manufaturing
- Multi-Cell Power Conversion
- Multi-Domain Modeling / Multi-Objective Optim. / CAD
- Cybersecurity Strategies





But, to get there we must ...

"Bridge the Gaps"

- Univ. / Ind. Technology Partnerships
 Power Electronics + Power Systems
 Vertical Competence Integration (Multi-Domain)
 Comprehensive Virtual Prototyping (Multi-Objective)
 Multi-Disciplinary / Domain Education







Thank You!



Questions?





