UPPSC-AE 2021

Uttar Pradesh
Public Service Commission

Combined State Engineering Services Examination

Assistant Engineer

Electrical Engineering

Power Electronics and Drives

Well Illustrated **Theory** *with*
Solved Examples and **Practice Questions**

MADE EASY Publications

Power Electronics and Drives

Contents

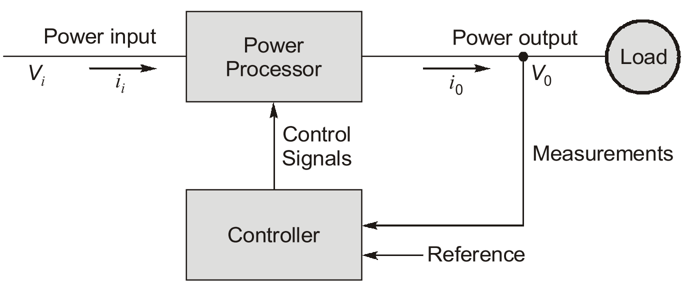
CHAPTER 1

Basics of Power Electronics Devices

1.1 Introduction

The task of power electronics is to process and control the flow of electric energy by supplying voltages and currents in a form that is optimally suited for user loads.

Block Diagram of Power Electronic Systems:



Power electronics may be defined as the application of solid state electronics for the control and conversion of electric power.

1.2 Scope and Applications of Power Electronics

- The development of computers, communication equipment and consumer electronics, all of which require regulated dc power supplies and often uninterruptible power supplies.
- Adjustable speed motor drives, load proportional, capacity modulated heat pumps and air conditioners are examples of applying power electronics to achieve energy conservation.
- In many countries, electric trains have been in widespread use for a long time. Now, there is also a possibility of using electric vehicles in large metropolitan areas to reduce smog and pollution. Electric vehicles would also require battery chargers that utilize power electronics.
- These include equipment for welding, electroplating, and induction heating.
- One such application is in transmission of power over high voltage dc (HVDC) lines.

1.3 Types of Power Electronic Circuits

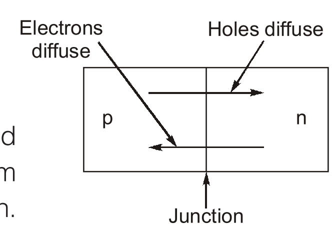
1. **AC to DC converters :**
   - A diode rectifier (uncontrolled rectifier) circuit converts ac input voltage into a fixed dc voltage.
   - Phase controlled rectifier convert constant ac voltage to variable dc output voltage. Phase-controlled converters may be fed from single-phase or three-phase source. These are used in dc drives, metallurgical and chemical industries, excitation systems for synchronous machines etc.

2. **DC to DC converters (DC Choppers):** A dc chopper converts fixed dc input voltage to a controllable dc output voltage. The chopper circuits require forced, or load, commutation to turn-off the thyristors.
3. **DC to AC converters (Inverters):** An inverter converts fixed dc voltage to a variable ac voltage. The output may be a variable voltage and variable frequency. These converters use line, load or forced commutation for turning-off the thyristors.
4. **AC to AC converters:**
   - These convert fixed ac input voltage into variable ac output voltage. These are of two types as under:
     - **AC voltage controllers (AC voltage regulators):** These converter circuits convert fixed ac voltage directly to a variable ac voltage at the same frequency.
     - **Cycloconverters:** These circuits convert input power at one frequency to output power at a different frequency through one-stage conversion. Line commutation is more common in these converters, though forced and load commutated cycloconverters are also employed.
   - The power semiconductor devices can operate as static switches or contactors. Static switches possess many advantages over mechanical and electromechanical circuit breakers. Depending upon the input supply, the static switches are called ac static switches or dc static switches.

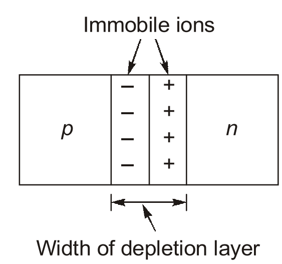
1.4 The p-n Junction

- A p-n junction is formed when p-type semiconductor is brought in metallurgical, or physical, contact with n-type semiconductor.
- A p-region has greater concentration of holes whereas n-region has more electron-concentration.
- In p-region, free holes are called majority carriers and free electrons ***minority carriers***.
- In n-region, free electrons are called majority carriers whereas free holes are called minority carriers.
- In general, p^+ indicates highly doped p-region, n^- lightly doped n-region.

1.4.1 Depletion Layer



Direction of holes and electrons diffusion



Depletion region

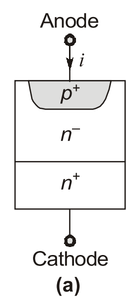
- When physical contact between p and n regions is made, free electrons in n-material diffuse across the junction into p material.
- Diffusion of each electron from n to p, leaves a positive charge behind in the n-region near the junction. Similarly, diffusion of each hole from p to n, leaves a negative charge behind in the p region near the junction.
- As a result of this diffusion, n-region near the junction becomes positively charged and p region in the vicinity of junction becomes negatively charged.
- These charges establish an electric field across the junction. When this field grows strong enough, it stops further diffusion and charge carriers don't move. As a consequence, opposite charges on each side of the junction produce immobile ions.
- The region extending into both p and n semiconductor layers is called ***depletion region***.
- The width of depletion region, or depletion layer, is of the order of 5×10^{-4} mm.
- There is a potential difference of 0.7 V across the depletion region in silicon and it is 0.3 V in germanium. This potential is called ***barrier potential***.

NOTE

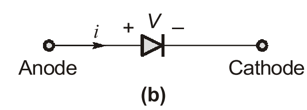
- The barrier potential depends on width of the depletion layer and it decreases with rise in junction temperature.
- A junction with lightly doped layer on its one side requires large breakdown voltage.
- A junction with highly doped layers on its both sides requires low breakdown voltage.

1.5 Power Diodes

- A high-power diode, called power diode, is also a pn-junctiondevice but with constructional features somewhat different from a signal diode.
- The voltage, current and power ratings of power diodes are much higher than the corresponding ratings for signal diode.
- Power diode operate at lower switching speeds whereas signal diodes operate at higher switching speeds.
- Power diodes consists of heavily doped n^+ substrate. On this, a lightly doped n^- layer is exptexially grown. Now heavily doped p^+ layer is diffused into n^- layer to form the anode.



Structural features of power diode

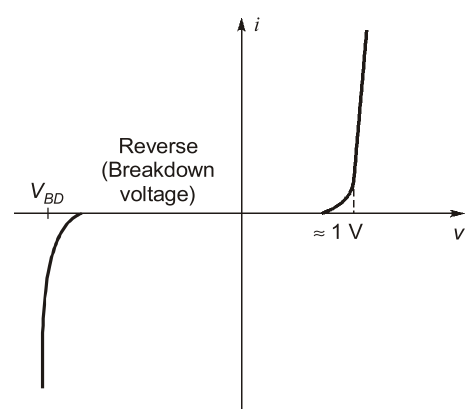


Circuit symbol

- The break-down voltage needed in a power diode governs the thickness of n^- layer. Greater the breakdown voltage, more the n^- layer thickness.
- The drawback of n^- layer is to add significant ohmic resistance to the diode when it is conducting a forward current.

1.5.1 V.I. Characteristics of Power Diodes

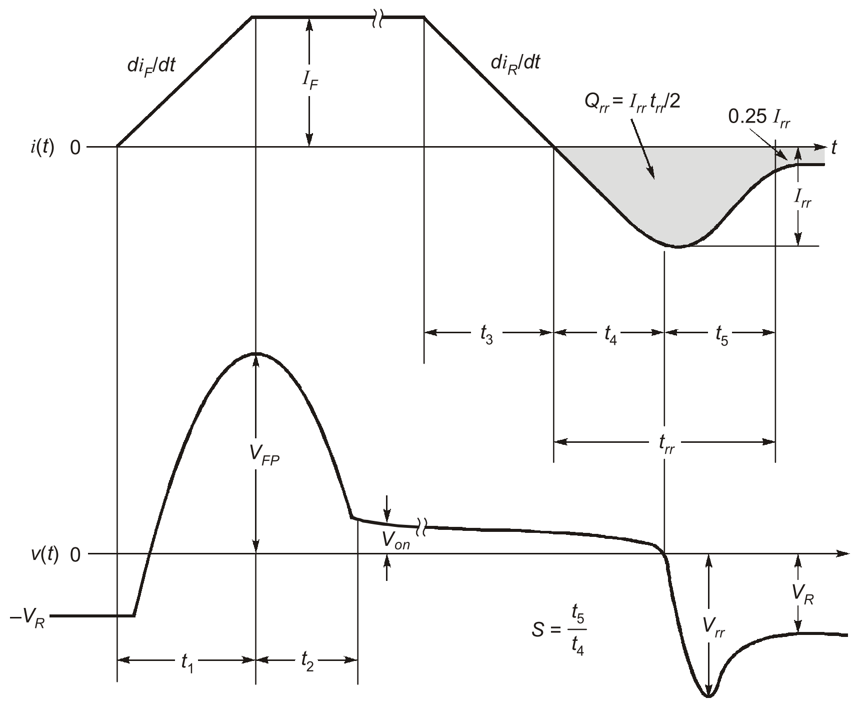
- With increase of the source voltage V_s from zero to cut-in voltage, the forward-diode current is very small.
- Cut-in voltage is also known as ***threshold voltage*** or ***turn-on voltage.***
- Beyond cut-in voltage, the diode current rises rapidly and the diode is said to conduct.
- For silicon diode, the cut-in voltage is around 0.7 V. When diode conducts, there is a forward voltage drop of the order of 0.8 to 1 V.



- For low-power diodes, current in the forward direction increases first exponentially with voltage and then becomes almost linear as shown in figure. For power diodes, the forward current grows almost linearly with voltage.
- In the reverse biased condition, a small reverse current called ***leakage current***.
- The leakage current is almost independent of the magnitude of reverse voltage until this voltage reaches breakdown voltage. At this reverse breakdown, voltage remains almost constant but reverse current becomes quite high-limited only by the external circuit resistance.
- Reverse breakdown must be avoided by operating it below the peak reverse repetitive voltage V_{RRM}.
- **Peak Inverse Voltage** is the largest reverse voltage to which a diode may be subjected during its working. PIV is the same as V_{RRM}.

1.5.2 Reverse Recovery Characteristics

- After the forward diode current decays to zero, the diode continues to conduct in the reverse direction because of the pressure of stored charges in the depletion region and the semiconductor layers.



- The diode regains its blocking capability unit reverse recovery current decays to zero.
- The time from forward diode current is zero to reverse recovery current decays to 25% of its reverse peak value I_{RM} is known as reverse recovery time.
- The reverse recovery time is composed of two segments of time t_a and t_b (i.e. $t_{rr} = t_a$ and t_b), as shown in above figure and time t_a is the time between zero crossing of forward current and peak reverse current I_{RM}.

NOTE
- During the time t_a, charge stored in depletion layer is removed.
- During t_b, charge from the semiconductor layers is removed.

- The shaded area in above figure represents the stored charge, or reverse recovery charge, Q_R which must be removed during the reverse recovery time t_{rr}.
- The ratio t_b/t_a is called the softness factor or S-factor. It is a measure of the voltage transients that occur during the time diode recovers.
- If S-factor is small, diode has large oscillatory over voltages.
- A diode with S-factor equal to one is called *soft-recovery diode* and a diode with S-factor less than one is called *fast-recovery diode*.
- The product of v_f and i_f gives the power loss in a diode and average value gives the total power loss.
- Major power loss in a diode occurs during the period t_b.

Example - 1.1 A power diode is in the forward conduction mode and the forward current is now decreased. The reverse recovery time of the diode is t_r and the rate of fall of the diode current is di/dt. What is the stored charge?

(a) $\sqrt{\left(\frac{di}{dt}\right) \cdot t_r}$ (b) $\left(\frac{di}{dt}\right) \cdot t_r$

(c) $\left(\frac{di}{dt}\right) \cdot t_r^2$ (d) $\frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{di}{dt}\right) \cdot t_r$

Solution: (b)

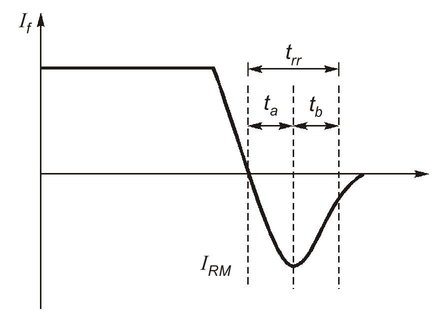
From figure, $I_{RM} = t_a \frac{di}{dt}$

Assuming reverse recovery characteristics to be triangular, storage charge Q_R

$$Q_R = \frac{1}{2} I_{RM} t_{srr} = \frac{1}{2}\left(t_a \frac{di}{dt}\right) t_{rr}$$

If $t_a \approx t_{rr}$

$$Q_R = \frac{1}{2}\left(\frac{di}{dt}\right) t_{rr}^2$$



Reverse Recovery Characteristic

1.5.3 Peak Inverse Current and Storage Charge

- Assume the reverse recovery characteristics is triangular in shape.
- Peak inverse current; $I_{RM} = t_a \frac{di}{dt}$

  where $\frac{di}{dt}$ is the rate of change of reverse current.
- Storage charge; $Q_R = \frac{1}{2} I_{RM} \cdot t_{rr}$

  If $t_{rr} \cong t_a$ then $t_{rr} = \left[\frac{2Q_R}{(di/dt)}\right]^{1/2}$

  and $I_{RM} = \frac{2Q_R}{t_{rr}} = \left[2Q_R\left(\frac{di}{dt}\right)\right]^{1/2}$
- Reverse recovery time t_{rr} and peak inverse current I_{RM} depends on storage charge and rate of change of current di/dt.
- The storage charge depends upon the forward diode current I_f.

1.5.4 Classification of power diodes

Diodes are classified according to their reverse recovery characteristics. These are three types.

General Purpose Diodes:

- These diodes have relatively high reverse recovery time, of the order of about 25 μs.
- Current ratings vary from 1 A to several thousand amperes.
- Voltage rating vary form 50 V to about 5 kV.

  Application: Battery charging, electric traction, electroplating and welding.

Fast-recovery Diodes:

- Low reverse recovery time, of about 5 μs or less.
- Current rating vary from about 1A to several thousand amperes.
- Voltage rating vary from 50 V to about 5 kV.

Application: These are used in choppers, commutation circuits, switching mode power supplies, induction heating etc.

NOTE

- For voltage ratings below about 400 V, the epitaxial process is used for diode fabrication. These diodes have fast recovery time, as low as 50 ns.
- For voltage ratings above 400 V, diffusion techniques used for the fabrication of diodes.
- To shorten the reverse-recovery time, platinum or gold doping is carried out, but this doping may increase the forward voltage drop in a diode.

Schottky Diodes:

- This class of diodes use metal to semi-conductor junction for rectification purpose instead of p-n junction.
- These are characterized by very fast recovery time and low forward voltage drop.
- Their reverse voltage ratings are limited to about 100 V and forward current ratings vary from 1 A to 300 A.
- When Schottky diode is forward biased, free electrons in n material move towards the Al-n junction and then travel through the metal (aluminium) to constitute the flow of forward current.
- Forward current in schottky diodes is due to the movement of electrons only.
- As the metal has no holes, there is no storage charge and no-reverse recovery time.
- As compared to p-n junction diode, a Schottky diode has
  - lower cut-in voltage
  - higher reverse leakage current
  - higher operating frequency.

Application: High frequency instrumentation and switching power supplies.

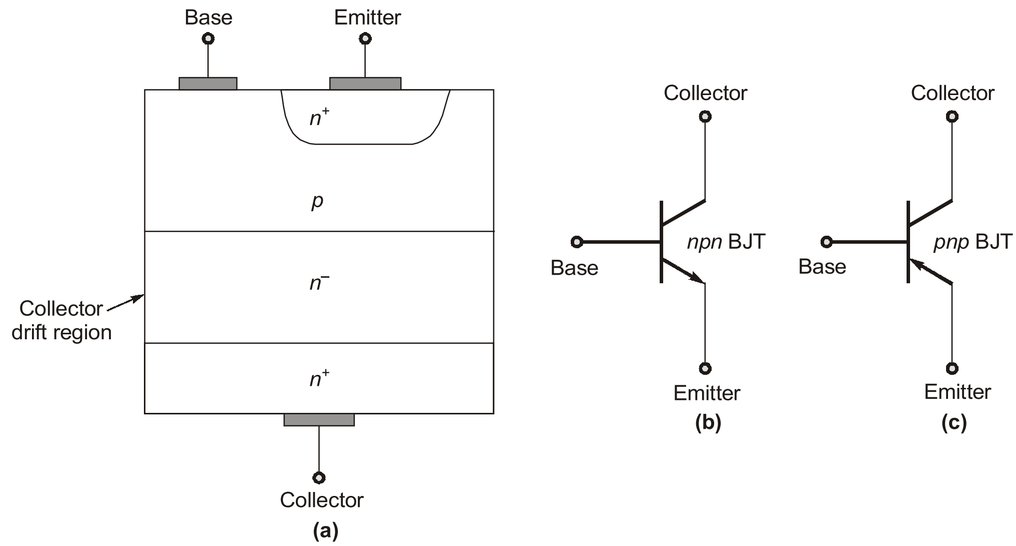
1.6 Power Transistors

- Power transistors have controlled characteristics while power diodes are uncontrolled devices.
- Power transistors are turned-on when a current signal is given to base, or control terminal. The transistor remains in the on-state so long as control signal present. When this control signal is removed, a power transistors is turned-off.

NOTE: Power transistors, used as a switching device in power-electronic circuit, must operate in the saturation region in order that their on-state voltage drop is low. Their applications as switching elements include dc choppers and inverters.

1.7 Bipolar Junction Transistors

- A bipolar transistor is a three-layer, two junction *n-p-n* or *p-n-p* semiconductor device.

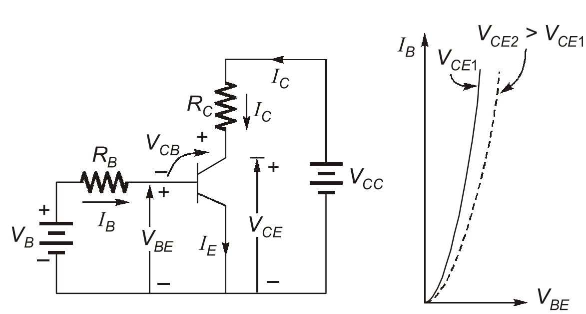


- Term bipolar means the current flows in the device is due to movement of both holes and electrons.
- A BJT has three terminals named collector (C), emitter (E) and base (B).
- In n-p-n Transistor one p-region is sandwiched by two n-regions.
- In p-n-p Transistor one n-region is sandwiched by two p-region.
- An emitter is indicated by an arrowhead indicating the direction of emitter current.
- Power transistors of npn type are easy to manufacture and are cheaper also.
- Use of power npn transistors is very wide in high-voltage and high-current applications.

1.7.1 Steady State Characteristics

Input characteristics:

- A graph between base current I_B and base emitter voltage V_{BE} gives input characteristics of a transistor.
- As the base-emitter junction of a transistor is like a diode, I_B versus V_{BE} graph resembles a diode curve.

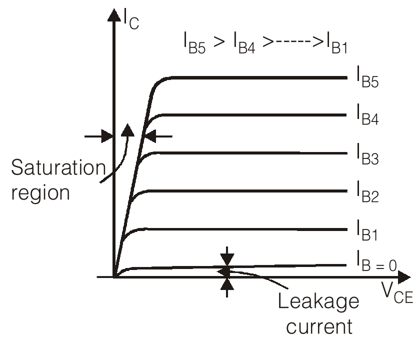


Common emitter circuit *Input characteristics*

- When collector-emitter voltage V_{CE2} is more than V_{CE1}, base current, for the same V_{BE}, decreases.

Output characteristics:

- A graph between collector current I_C and collector-emitter voltage V_{CE} gives output characteristics of a transistor.

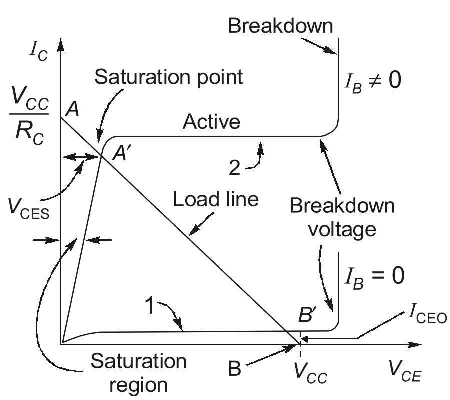


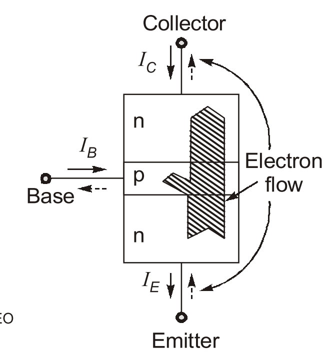
Output characteristics

- For zero base current, as V_{CE} is increased, a small leakage (collector) current exists as shown figure. As base current is increased from $I_B = 0$, the collector current also increases.

Analysis of Output Characteristics:

- We sketch two of the output characteristics curves, one for $I_B = 0$ and other for $I_B \neq 0$.





Output Characteristics and load line *Electron flow in an npn transistor*

- The initial port of curve 2, characterised by low V_{CE}, is called the ***Saturation region***. In this region the transistor acts like a switch.
- The flat part of curve 2, indicated by increasing V_{CE} and almost constant I_C, is the ***active region***. A load line is a locus of all possible operating point.
- Almost vertically rising curve is the ***breakdown region*** which must be avoided at all costs. In this region, transistor acts like an amplifier.
- Ideally, when transistor is on, V_{CE} is zero and $I_C = V_{CC}/R_C$.
- When the transistor is off, or in the cut-off region, V_{CC} appears across collector-emitter terminals and there is no collector current.
- Most of the electrons, proportional to I_E, given out by emitter reach the collector as shown in electron flow diagram.
- Collector current I_C, is almost equal to I_E.

- Forward current gain; $\alpha = \frac{I_C}{I_E}$.
- Value of α varies from 0.95 to 0.99.
- Current gain; $\beta = \frac{I_C}{I_B}$
- β is much more than unity; its value varies from 50 to 300.
- Emitter current is the largest of the three currents, collector current is almost equal to, but less than, emitter current. Base current has the least value.
- Relation between α and β

$$\beta = \frac{\alpha}{1-\alpha} \text{ and } \alpha = \frac{\beta}{1+\beta}$$

1.7.2 Transistor Operation as a Switch

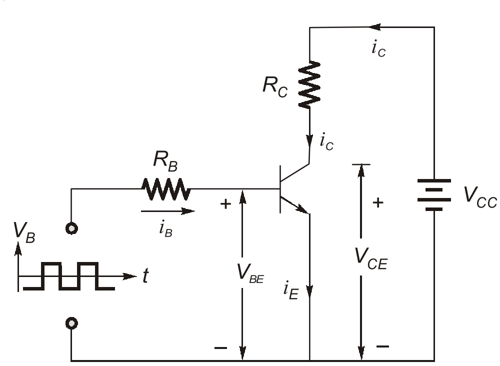
- Transistor operates either in the saturation region as closed or in the cut-off region as open switch and nowhere else on the load line.
- In practice, the large base current will cause the transistor to work in the saturation region at point A′ with small saturation voltage V_{CES}. Voltage V_{CES} represents on-state voltage drop of the transistor which is of the order of about 1 V.
- When the control, or base, signal is reduced to zero, the transistor is turned-off and its operation shifts to B′ in the cut-off region.
- A small leakage current I_{CEO} flows in the collector circuit when the transistor is off.
- If base current is less than I_{BS}, the transistor operates in the active region.
- If base current is more than I_{BS}, V_{CES} is almost zero and collector current I_{CS} is V_{CC}/R_C. i.e. collector current at saturation remains substantially constant even if base current is increased.
- The total power loss in the two junctions of a transistor

$$P_T = V_{BE}I_B + V_{CE}I_C$$

NOTE: Under saturated conditions both junctions in a power transistor are forward biased.

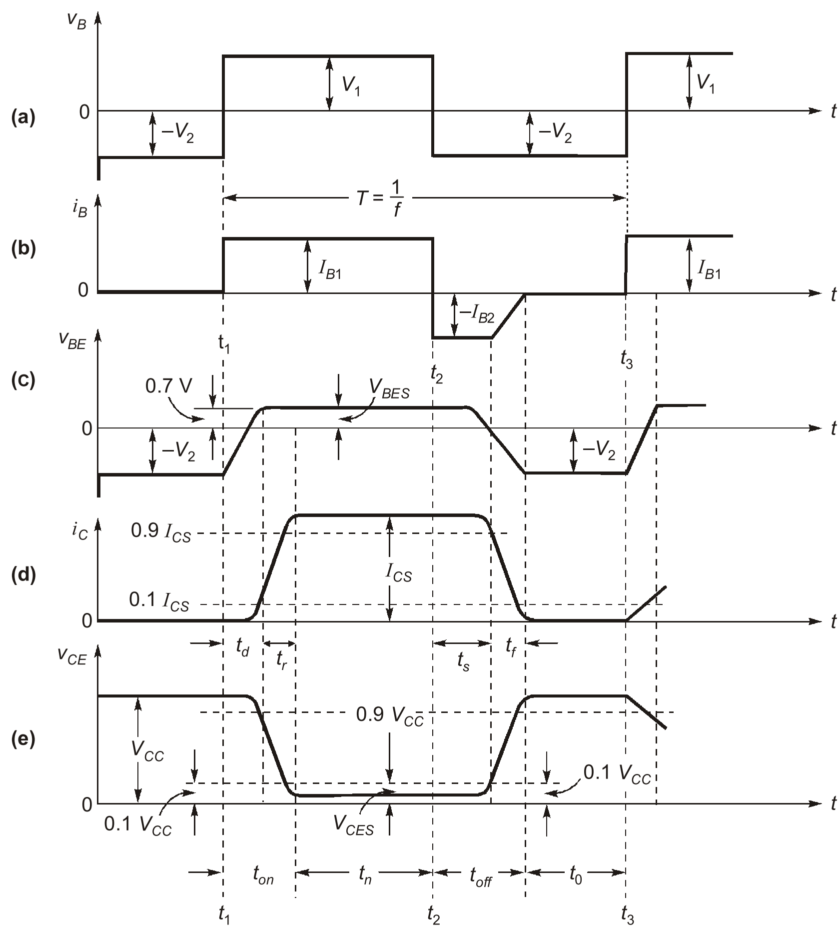
1.7.3 BJT Switching Performance

- When base current is applied, a transistor does not turn-on instantly because of the presence of internal capacitances.



npn transistor with resistive load

- Various switching waveforms for above circuits are shown below.



Switching waveforms

Delay Time (t_d): It is defined as the time during which the collector current rises from zero to 0.1 I_{CS} and collector-emitter voltage falls from V_{CC} to 0.9 V_{CC}, which depends upon transistor junction capacitances.

Rise Time (t_r):

- It is defined as the time during which collector current rises from 0.1 I_{CS} to 0.9 I_{CS} and collector-emitter voltage falls from 0.9 V_{CC} to 0.1 V_{CC}.
- Total turn-on time ($t_{on} = t_d + t_r$) is of the order of 30 to 300 nano seconds.

Storage time (t_s):

- The time required to remove these excess carriers is called storage time.
- Transistor comes out of saturation only after t_s.
- After t_s, collector current begins to fall and collector-emitter voltage starts building up.

Fall Time (t_f): It is defined as the time during which collector current drops from 0.9 I_{CS} to 0.1 I_{CS} and collector-emitter voltage rises from 0.1 V_{CC} to 0.9 V_{CC}.

1.7.4 Safe Operating Area

- The safe operating area of a power transistor specifies the safe operating limits of collector current I_C versus collector-emitter voltage V_{CE}.
- For reliable operation of the transistor, the collector current and voltage must always lie within this area.

Forward Biased Safe Operating Area (FBSOA)

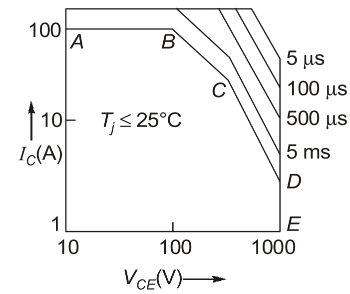
- Pertains to the transistor operation when base-emitter junction is forward biased to turn-on the transistor.

  Boundary AB: Maximum limit for dc and continuous current.

  Boundary BC: To limit the junction temperature to safe value.

  Boundary CD: Secondary breakdown limit.

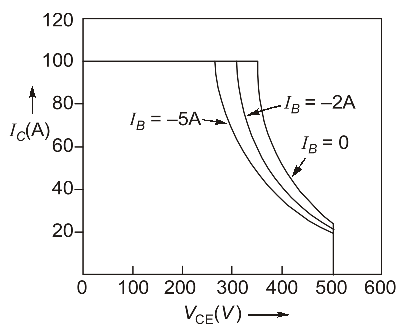
  Boundary DE: Maximum voltage capability.



FBSOA for power transistor (logarithmic scale)

Reverse Block Safe Operating Area (RBSOA)

- A plot of collector current versus collector-emitter voltage, when base-emitter junction is reverse biased to turn-off the transistor.



RBSOA for power transistor (logarithmic scale)

- Specifies the limits of transistor operation at turn-off when the base current is zero or when the base-emitter junction is reverse biased.
- With increased reverse bias, area of RBSOA decreases in size.

Example - 1.2 Turn-on and turn-off times of transistor depend on

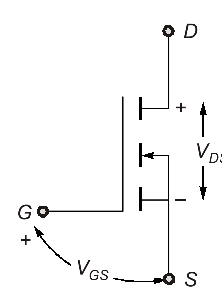
(a) static characteristic
(b) junction capacitances
(c) current gain
(d) none of the above

Solution: (b)

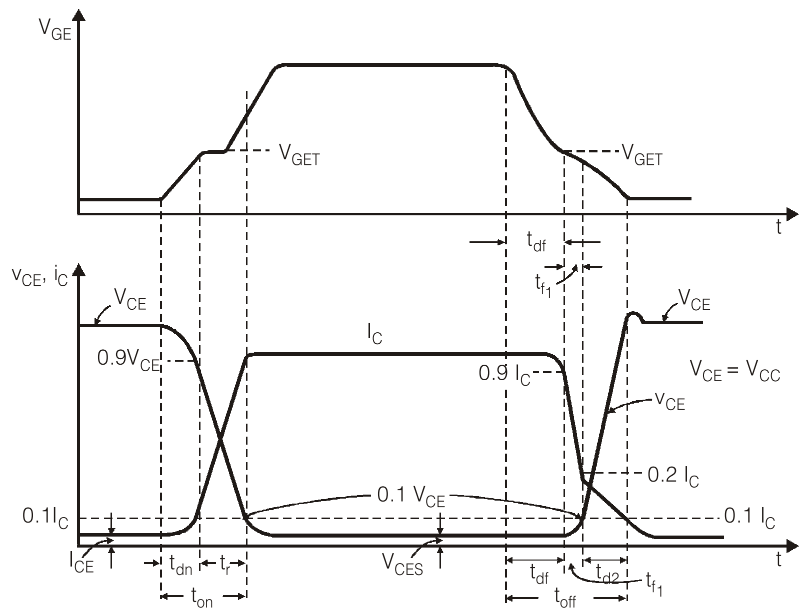
Turn-on and turn-off times of transistor depend on junction capacitance. Because of charging and discharging of junction capacitance a transistor does not turn-on and turn off instantly.

1.8 Power MOSFETS

- A metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistor MOSFET = MOS Technology + Field effect concept.
- A MOSFET has three terminals called drain, source, and gate.
- Power MOSFET is a **voltage controlled device**.
- As its operation depends upon the flow of majority carriers only, MOSFET is a **unipolar device**.
- Gate circuit impedance in MOSFET is extremely high, of the order of $10^9\ \Omega$.
- Power MOSFET are now finding increasing application in low power high frequency converters.
- *n*-channel enhancement and *p*-channel enhancements MOSFET are two types of MOSFETS, *n*-channel enhencements MOSFET is more common because of higher mobility.



Circuit symbol



Switching characteristics of IGBT

Application of IGBTs:

- Widely used in medium power applications such as dc and ac motor drives, UPS systems, power supplies and drives for solenoids; relays and contractors.
- Lower gate-drive requirements, lower switching losses and smaller snubber circuit requirements.
- IGBT converters are more efficient with less size as well as cost, as compared to converters based on BJTs.

Student's Assignment

Q.1 Choose the correct statements:
(a) MOSFET has positive temperature coefficient (TC) whereas BJT has negative TC
(b) Both MOSFET and BJT have positive TC
(c) Both MOSFET and BJT have negative TC
(d) MOSFET has negative TC whereas BJT has positive TC

Q.2 Secondary breakdown occurs in
(a) MOSFET but not in BJT
(b) Both MOSFET and BJT
(c) BJT but not in MOSFET
(d) None of these

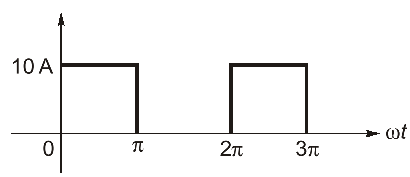
Q.3 A switched mode power supply operating at 20 kHz to 100 kHz range uses as the main switching element
(a) Thyristor (b) MOSFET
(c) Triac (d) UJT

Q.4 A bipolar junction transistor BJT is used as a power control switch by biasing it in the cut-off region (off state) or in the saturation region (ON state). In the ON state, for the BJT
(a) both the base-emitter and base-collector junctions are reverse biased.
(b) the base-emitter junction is reverse biased, and the base-collector junction is forward biased.
(c) the base-emitter junction is forward-biased, and the base-controller junction is reverse biased
(d) both the base-emitter and base-collector junctions are forward-biased.

Q.5 Which semiconductor power device out of the following is not a current triggered device?
(a) Thyristor (b) G.T.O
(c) Triac (d) MOSFET

Q.6 The MOSFET switch in its on-state may be considered equivalent to
(a) Resistor
(b) Bipolar junction transistor
(c) Capacitor
(d) Battery

Q.7 A MOSFET rated for 10 A, carries a periodic current as shown in figure. The ON state resistance of the MOSFET is 0.15 W. The average ON state loss in the MOSFET is



(a) 33.8 W (b) 15.0 W
(c) 7.5 W (d) 3.8 W

Q.8 The conduction loss versus device current characteristic of a power MOSFET is best approximated by
(a) a parabola
(b) a straight line
(c) a rectangular hyperbola
(d) an exponentially decaying function

Q.9 The most suitable device for high frequency inversion in SMPS is
(a) BJT (b) IGBT
(c) MOSFET (d) GTO

Q.10 Which of the following statements is **not** correct?
(a) Power MOSFETs are so constructed as to avoid punch through
(b) In a power MOSFET, the channel length is relatively large and channel width is relatively small
(c) Power MOSFETs do not experience any minority carrier storage
(d) Power MOSFETs can be put in parallel to handle larger currents

Q.11 Which one of the following statements is not correct for a MOSFET?
(a) Are easy to parallel for higher current
(b) Leakage current is relatively high
(c) Have more linear characteristic
(d) Overload and peak current handling capability are high

Q.12 The following is a unipolar device:
(a) BJT (b) IGBT
(c) GTO (d) MOSFET

Q.13 When cathode of a thyristor is made more positive than its anode
(a) all the junctions are reverse biased
(b) outer junctions are reverse biased and central one is forward biased
(c) outer junctions are forward biased and central one is reverse biased
(d) all the junctions are forward biased

Q.14 Which one of the following statements is correct? In order to get best results per unit cost, the heat sinks on which the thyristors are mounted, are made of
(a) aluminium (b) copper
(c) nickel (d) stainless steel

Q.15 In a power circuit of 3 kV, four thyristors each of rating 800 V are connected in series. What is the percentage series derating factor?
(a) 50 (b) 25
(c) 12.5 (d) 6.25

ANSWER KEY // STUDENT'S ASSIGNMENTS

1. (a)	**2.** (c)	**3.** (b)	**4.** (d)	**5.** (d)
6. (c)	**7.** (c)	**8.** (a)	**9.** (c)	**10.** (a)
11. (c)	**12.** (d)	**13.** (b)	**14.** (a)	**15.** (d)

HINTS & SOLUTIONS // STUDENT'S ASSIGNMENTS

1. (a)

MOSFET has positive temperature coefficient and BJT has negative temperature coefficient.

2. (c)

In MOSFETs secondary breakdown does not occur, because it has positive temperature coefficient.