

Power Conversion Solutions for Industry e Transportation

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BOURNS

27 Maggio 2025





- INTRODUCTION
- MAGNETICS THEORY
- MATERIALS
- LOSSES IN MAGNETICS DEVICES
- PARASITICS
- SIC AND GaN MAGNETICS DESIGN APPROACH
- CUSTOMIZATIONS: REAL EXAMPLES
- **APPLICATIONS**





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Magnetics components for tomorrow's energy needs

Global Demand is exploding

- Solar PV is set to become the world's largest renewable energy source by 2029 (source)

 30% of global electricity will come from Solar PV and Wind by 2030 (source)

Electrification is everywhere

- Inverters Grid-tied, micro, string
- Battery Systems Energy Storage, backup/UPS, BMS
- EV chargers AC and DC fast chargers



World Electricity Generation, 2010-2035- World Energy Outlook 2024



Performance Killers

 Parasitic elements that degrade inductor and transformer performance — harder to ignore at high frequencies

Power Density Bottlenecks

Thermal limits, material constraints, and EMI are capping performance in compact designs

Key Challenges for Magnetics Today



Semiconductors evolve fast but magnetic losses remain stubborn demanding specialized expertise to keep up

High Frequency, Higher Risk

Higher switching shrinks size, but amplifies core and copper losses demanding smarter design and material choices





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Basic Magnetics Theory





Basic Magnetics Theory

A simple inductor



Express in terms of the average flux density $B(t) = \Phi(t)/A_c$

Faraday's law:

For each turn of wire, we can write

 $v_{turn}(t) = \frac{d\Phi(t)}{dt}$

Total winding voltage is $v(t) = n v_{turn}(t) = n \frac{d\Phi(t)}{dt}$

From Ampere's law, we have

L_m: magnetic path length



A_c: cross sectional area



 $v(t) = n A_c \frac{dB(t)}{dt}$ $v(t) = n A_c \frac{dB(t)}{dt}$ $W(t) = n A_c \frac{dB(t)}{dt}$ $H(t) l_m = n i(t)$ $W(t) = \frac{\mu n^2 A_c}{\ell_m} \frac{di(t)}{dt}$ $L = \frac{\mu n^2 A_c}{\ell_m}$



Saturation



$|I| < I_{sat}$

the device behaves as an inductor

 $|I| > I_{sat}$

the flux density B(t) = Bsat is constant Faraday's law states that the terminal voltage = 0, hence theoretically **the magnetic device behavior approaches a short circuit.**

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$$v(t) = nA_c \, \frac{dB_{sat}}{dt} = 0$$

Basic Magnetics Theory



$$v/L = di/dt$$

I > I_{SAT} L drop, di/dt increase







Basic Magnetics Theory



Hence inductance is





+

$$n \ i = \Phi \left(R_c + R_g \right)$$
$$I_{sat} = \frac{|B_{sat}A_c|}{n} \left(R_c + R_g \right)$$

Effect of air gap:

- decrease inductance
- increase saturation current
- inductance is less dependent on core permeability



- Discrete gap(s): ferrites -
- Distributed gap: powder cores -



Basic Magnetics Theory

Ideal Transformer modelling



 $\mu \rightarrow \infty$, R $\rightarrow 0$

MMF $F_c = \Phi R$ also approaches zero. We then obtain

 $0 = n_1 i_1 + n_2 i_2$

Eliminate Φ :

$$\frac{d\Phi}{dt} = \frac{v_1}{n_1} = \frac{v_2}{n_2}$$

Ideal transformer equations:

$\underline{v_1}$ =	$= \frac{v_2}{v_2}$	and	$n_{1}i_{1} + n_{2}i_{2} = 0$	0
n_1	n_2		1 1 2 2	



Transformer modelling



For nonzero core reluctance, we obtain

 $\Phi R = n_1 i_1 + n_2 i_2 \quad \text{with} \quad v_1 = n_1 \frac{d\Phi}{dt}$

Eliminate Φ:

 $v_1 = \frac{n_1^2}{R} \frac{d}{dt} \left[i_1 + \frac{n_2}{n_1} i_2 \right]$



This equation is of the form

 $v_1 = L_{mp} \frac{d i_{mp}}{dt}$ with $i = i_1$

- Models magnetization of core material
- · A real, physical inductor, that exhibits saturation and hysteresis
- If the secondary winding is disconnected:

we are left with the primary winding on the core

primary winding then behaves as an inductor

- the resulting inductor is the magnetizing inductance, referred to the primary winding
- Magnetizing current causes the ratio of winding currents to differ from the turns ratio

In practice, there is some flux which links one winding but not the other, by "leaking" into the air or by some other mechanism. This flux leads to *leakage inductance*, i.e., additional effective inductances that are in series with the windings.





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Magnetics Materials

 $L = \frac{\mu n^2 A_c}{\ell}$



Hysteresis loop for Soft and Hard magnetic material

Soft

	Material	Permeability	Bsat	Core Loss	Cost
Powder	Ni Fe Mo	14-550	0.7	Lowest	High
	Fe SiB C	60	1.0	Low	Medium
	Ni Fe	14-160	1.5	Moderate	Medium
	Fe Si Al	26-125	1.0	Low	Low
	Fe Si Al Ni	14-125	1.3		Medium
	Fe Si	26-90	1.6	High	Low
	Fe	10-100	1.2	High	Lowest
Lamination	Fe Si	1,500-10,000	2.0	High	Lowest
or strip	Amorphous	10k-100,000	1.5	Low	Medium
	NanoCrystalline	15k-100,000	1.2	Low	High
Ceramic	Ferrite	15-20,000	0.45	Lowest	Lowest

Hard

- NdFeB
- AlNiCo
- Cobalt alloys



Magnetics Materials



Magnetic Saturation





Power Application Frequency Ranges











- Size

- Material
- Temperature rating
- UL flammability (e.g. UL94 V1 or V2)
- UL Insulation System

UL1446 rating

- Class A 105°C
- Class B 130°C
- Class F 155°C
- Class H 180°C







Bobbins





Chosen wire depends on safety grade and dielectric requirements

- Single insulation magnet wire
- Heavy insulation magnet wire
- Basic / Supplementary insulation
- Triple Insulated Wire (TCA3 or TEX-E)
- Fully Insulated Wire
- Litz Wire
- Flat Wire



Single	\bigcirc
Heavy	\bigcirc
TCA3	
Supplemen	itary
TEX-E	
Litz	

Planar Magnetics



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Features:

- 1. Very low profile;
- 2. Excellent thermal characteristics;
- 3. Low leakage inductance;
- 4. High efficiency;
- 5. Wide working frequency ;
- 6. High reliability;
- 7. Low radiation interference

Typical Application:

- 1. Communications Base Station
- 2. Telecom Power
- 3. Fast Charger
- 4. Networking Equipment Module Power

Examples



Working	Input	Output	Output	Inductance	Turn	L*W*H
Frequency(KHZ)	Voltage(V)	Voltage(W)	Power(W)	(uH)	Ratio(Turns)	(mm)
300	36~57	1.2	100	100+/-15%	Pri-Sec: 16TS:1TS	24*21.2 *12









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Losses in Magnetics





Copper Losses

DC losses



 $R_{dc}=rac{4
ho_cNl_w}{\pi sd^2}$

 $\rho_c = \text{resistivity of annealed copper}$ N = number of turns $l_w = \text{mean length of one turn [m]}$ s = number of wire strands

d = wire strand diameter [m]

Ohm's Law Calculator



AC losses



When the alternating current flows through the wire, it tends to concentrate more on the outer surface due to the skin effect. This results in an underutilization of the inner part of the wire that, leads to energy losses.

Litz wire is a type of stranded wire designed to mitigate the skin effect, a phenomenon where alternating current (AC) tends to flow primarily on the surface of a conductor, increasing resistance at higher frequencies. Litz wire achieves this by using many small, insulated wire strands twisted together, allowing the current to distribute more evenly across the cross-section, reducing resistance and losses.

Skin and proximity effect



When multiple windings are near each other, their magnetic fields interact, resulting in energy losses





Core losses: Hysteresis losses



 $W = \left(A_c l_m\right) \int_{\text{one cycle}} H dB$

The term *Ac Im* is the volume of the core The integral is the area of the *B*-*H* loop.

(energy lost per cycle) = (core volume) (area of *B*-*H* loop)

 $P_{H} = (f)(A_{c}l_{m}) \int_{\text{one cycle}} H dB$

Hysteresis loss is directly proportional to applied frequency

Hysteresis loss varies directly with applied frequency

- Dependence on maximum flux density: how does area of *B-H* loop depend on maximum flux density (and on applied waveforms)?
- Empirical equation (Steinmetz equation):

$$P_{H} = K_{H} f B_{\max}^{\alpha}(core \ volume)$$

The parameters K_{H} and α are determined experimentally.

Dependence of P_H on *Bmax* is predicted by the theory of magnetic domains.





Core losses: Eddy Current Losses

Magnetic core materials are, unfortunately, reasonably good conductors of electric current. Hence, according to Lenz's law, magnetic fields within the core induce currents ("eddy currents") to flow within the core.

The eddy currents flow such that they tend to generate a flux which opposes changes in the core flux $\phi(t)$. The eddy currents tend to prevent flux from penetrating the core.





$$P_e = k_e \frac{(tfB_m)^2}{\rho}$$

 P_e : Eddy current loss t: Iron plate thickness f: Frequency B_m : Maximum magnetic flux density ρ : Resistivity of magnetic substance k_e : Constant of proportionality

Losses directly proportional to square of frequency





- Finite Element Analysis
- Flexible X-Y (2D) or XYZ (3D) Modelling
- Types of Analysis Possible:
 - Static
 - Low Frequency
 - Transient Analysis
- Mechanical Analysis Possible







Simulations Tools

Magnetic effects:

- Nonlinear Materials
- Eddy Currents

Electric Field Effects:

- Varying Dimensions and Shapes
- Varying Dielectric Permittivity





Magnetic flux lines

Voltage Contours



Simulations Tools

Inductor Loss Calculator

roduct Type	Part Se	ries		Part Number		
High Current Shielded	v SRP105	SRP1050WA		SRP1050WA-100M		
Part Number Size (L x W x H mm)	Inductance in (µH)	DCR @ 25 °C (mΩ)	Current Rating (A	Saturation) Current (A)	Operating Temp Min- Max (°C)	
SRP1050WA- 100M 11 x 10 x 5.	4 10	0.023	9	13	-55 - 165	





Get Datasheet
View Design Files

iput		
Buck	Boost	
Vin		(∨)
Vout		(∨)
lout		(A)
Frequency		(kHz)

Output		
Duty	0.000	(%)
I _{ripple}	0.000	(A)
P _{core}	0.000	(\VV)
P _{dc}	0.000	(W)
P _{total}	0.000	(W)





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*Flyback Transformer Equivalent Models

- C_P: Primary Capacitance
- C_s: Secondary Capacitance
- C₁₃, C₁₄, C₂₃, C₂₄: Interwinding Capacitance
- L_{lkp:}:primary leakage inductance
- L_{lks:}:secondary leakage inductance
- L_{MP:}:primary magnetizing inductance
- L_{MS:}:secondary magnetizing inductance



Mitigating Parasitics



At high frequencies, parasitic capacitances can resonate with the transformer's inductance, leading to voltage and current oscillations.

- Resonace
- Increased Losses:
- Voltage Spikes:
- Distortion of Waveforms:

• Careful Design:

Proper winding techniques, insulation, and core selection can minimize parasitic capacitance and inductance.

• Shielding:

Shielding between windings can reduce coupling capacitance and its impact on the circuit.

• Proper Grounding:

Effective grounding can minimize the effects of stray capacitances and currents.

• Component Selection:

Choosing components with low parasitic values can help in reducing the overall parasitic effects in the circuit.

• Optimized PCB Layout:

In transformer designs, proper PCB layout can help minimize parasitic capacitance and inductance.





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- SiC operating voltages 650 1600 V
 - Higher efficiency and power density versus Si
 - Faster switching speed versus Si IGBT
 - Si: 5 50 kHz
 - SiC: 30 300 kHz (Currently 30 150 kHz)
- High temperature range of operation
 - Greater than ETR –40 to +125 °C
- GaN operating voltages 650 100 V or less
 - Higher efficiency and power density versus MOSFET
 - Faster switching speed versus MOSFET
 - MOSFET: (80 800 kHz)
 - GaN (100 kHz MHz)
 - Economical pricing compared to SiC

	Si	GaN	4H-SiC
Bandgap (eV)	1.12	3.4	3.26
Electron mobility μ_n (cm²/V s)	1400	2000	1000
Breakdown Electric Field E _{br} (MV/cm)	0.3	3.3	2.8
Saturation electron drift velocity V_s (10 ⁶ cm/s)	10	15	22
Thermal conductivity Θ (W/cm K)	1.5	2.53	4.9

End user advantages

- Miniaturization potential
- Safer and more reliable power density

Magnetics component design challenges

- On-state performance at higher voltage
- Higher frequency and temperature operation
- Switching losses
- Safety requirements



Higher Operating Frequency

Core Material Selection

- SiC
 - Operating frequency > ~30 kHz: ferrite (MnZn) versus Fe/Ni powder or amorphous/nanocrystalline
- GaN
 - Operating frequency > ~600 kHz: ferrite (MnZn) or high frequency powder designed for low core loss
 - Limited selection
 - Typically, more expensive





Higher Operating Frequency

Faraday's Law

Bm = Operating flux density V = Voltage K_f = Scaling factor depending on waveform N = Turns A_c = core area

From the equation, *ideally*, increasing frequency:

- Reducing core area keep the operating flux density about the same
- Fewer wire turns possible, flux density about the same
- Operate at lower flux density

Actually, there are limitations due to core and wires to consider





Magnetics Design Limitations for WBG

Calculated core size may be smaller but same power density means same current level

- Copper wire size remains the same
- Wire winding area smaller
- Reduction of wire turns may not be possible
- Coil winding dynamics
 - Winding AC losses
 - Parasitics low
 - Flat wire











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Custom Magnetics





Custom Magnetics



- Magnetic FEA Analysis
- Thermal Analysis
- Mechanical/electrical simulation
- Prototypes / pre-series
- Hi-pot / impulse test





Design Verifications









Magnetics Design Limitations

Construction Requirements for Safety Standard Distances, Insulation Level, and Dielectric

- Peak working voltage
- Overvoltage category / Hi-Pot test voltage
- Specific standards to be met
- Level of insulation required (functional, basic, supplementary, reinforced)



Dielectric Test Waveform





Voltage

Level)

IEC 60664 IEC 61558



Flyback



- Turns ratio
- Inductance
- Core Shape EF, EFD, ETD, EER, EI
- Core material
- Gap length
- Bobbin
- Insulating Tape
- Insulated wire
- Varnish





Spice Model: parasitic parameter

- L_P: primary inductance
- L_s: secondary inductance
- L_κ: leakage inductance
- C_p: primary capacitance
- C_s: secondary capacitance
- C_I: interwinding capacitance



Custom Magnetics

Forward Transfomers





PFC Inductors





Push-Pull Transfomers





Gate Driver Transfomers







LLC DC/DC Converter

- DC input voltage from PFC (+100Hz AC ripple)
- DC output isolated voltage to HV battery
- H bridge: generates a square pulse waveform
- Lr: resonant inductor
- Cr: resonant capacitor
- Lm: magnetizing inductance of the isolation transformer
- LLC: Square waveform → almost-sinusoidal
- Isolation transformer:
 - Galvanic isolation input/output
 - o Block conductive EMI noise
 - Protect primary from load short circuit
- Ns/Np
 - o nominal input and output voltages
- $f_{SWITCH} < f_{RESONANCE} \rightarrow$ higher current in the resonant tank, higher conduction losses
- $f_{SWITCH} > f_{RESONANCE} \rightarrow$ higher switching losses
- $f_{SWITCH =} f_{RESONANCE} \rightarrow best working efficiency$







Common Mode Chokes





High-voltage CMC and DMC

Applications directly connected to high voltage battery (400Vdc or 800Vdc)

- EV Electronic fans
- EV PTC heaters







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PV Solar Systems



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PV Inverter





Home Appliances





From Miniaturized to High Power Magnetics





Thanks!