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# MIT ESRDC Mini-Symposium

MIT Sea Grant College Program  
Electric Ship Research and Development Consortium

May 21, 2025



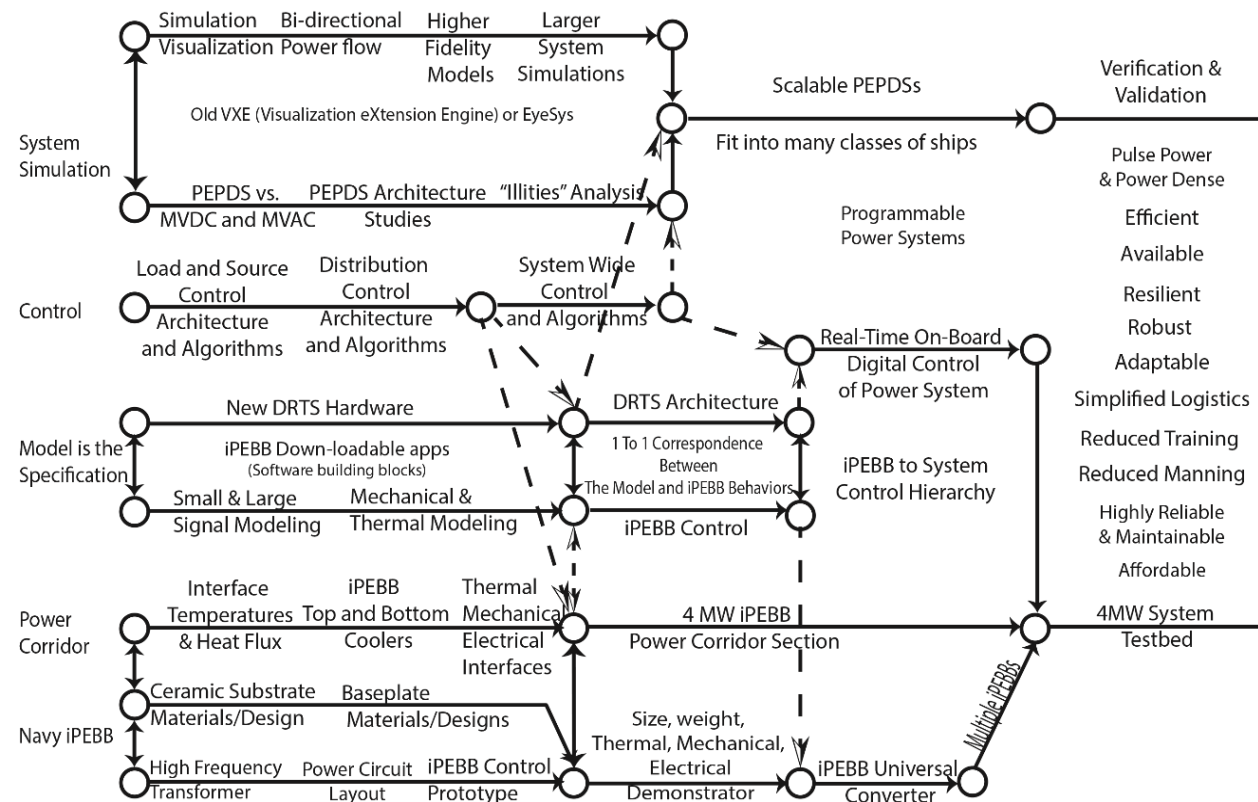
# Agenda

|             |                                                                                                                                    |                                                          |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1200</b> | Welcome, Opening Remarks                                                                                                           | Dr. Julie Chalfant<br>CAPT L.J. Petersen, USN, Ret (ONR) |
| <b>1210</b> | Navy Integrated Power and Energy Corridor (NiPEC) Overview                                                                         | Dr. Julie Chalfant                                       |
| <b>1230</b> | A Multi-Objective Design for PEBB-Based Power Corridors in Shipboard Applications                                                  | Marco Gallo,<br>University of Genova, IT                 |
| <b>1250</b> | Metaheuristic Optimization for Automatic Arrangement of Power Electronics Components in a Shipboard Electrical Distribution System | Sebastien Lohier                                         |
| <b>1310</b> | Enhancing Heat Sink Efficiency in MOSFETs using Physics Informed Neural Networks                                                   | Dr. Aniruddha Bora,<br>Brown University                  |
| <b>1330</b> | NiPEC-PEBB Latching Mechanism                                                                                                      | MIDN 1/C Jack Dirig, USN                                 |
| <b>1350</b> | NiPEC PEBB Latching: A Clamping Paradigm Shift                                                                                     | Jacob Film                                               |
| <b>1420</b> | BREAK                                                                                                                              |                                                          |
| <b>1440</b> | Shipboard Power Systems                                                                                                            | Prof. Steve Leeb                                         |
| <b>1545</b> | Wrap-up, Closing Remarks/Discussion                                                                                                | ALL                                                      |





# Multi-year Multi-university Research Program



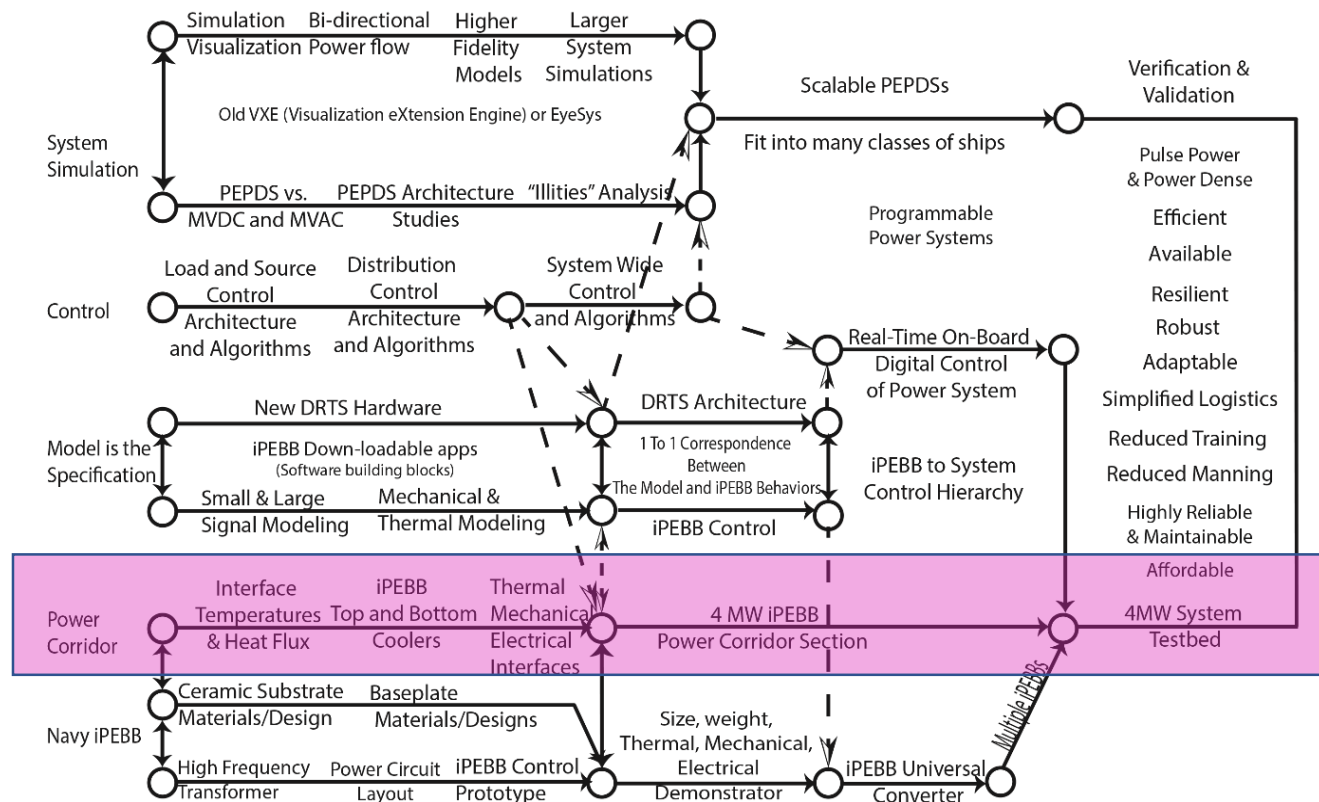
## Areas of study:

- Controls
- Energy Storage
- Dielectrics/EMI
- Thermal Management
- PEBB
- Electrical/Thermal/Mechanical Interfaces
- Health Monitoring
- Ship Integration





# Multi-year Multi-university Research Program

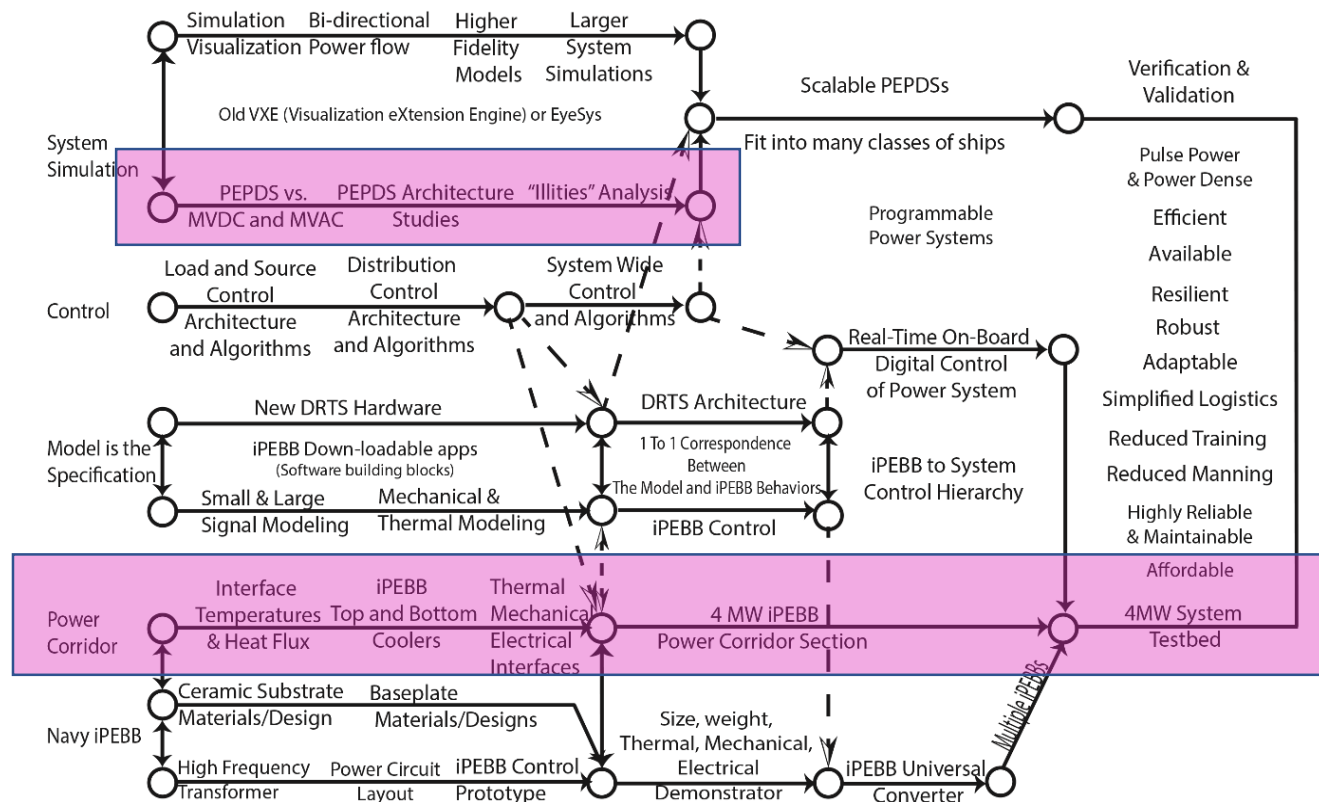


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# Multi-year Multi-university Research Program

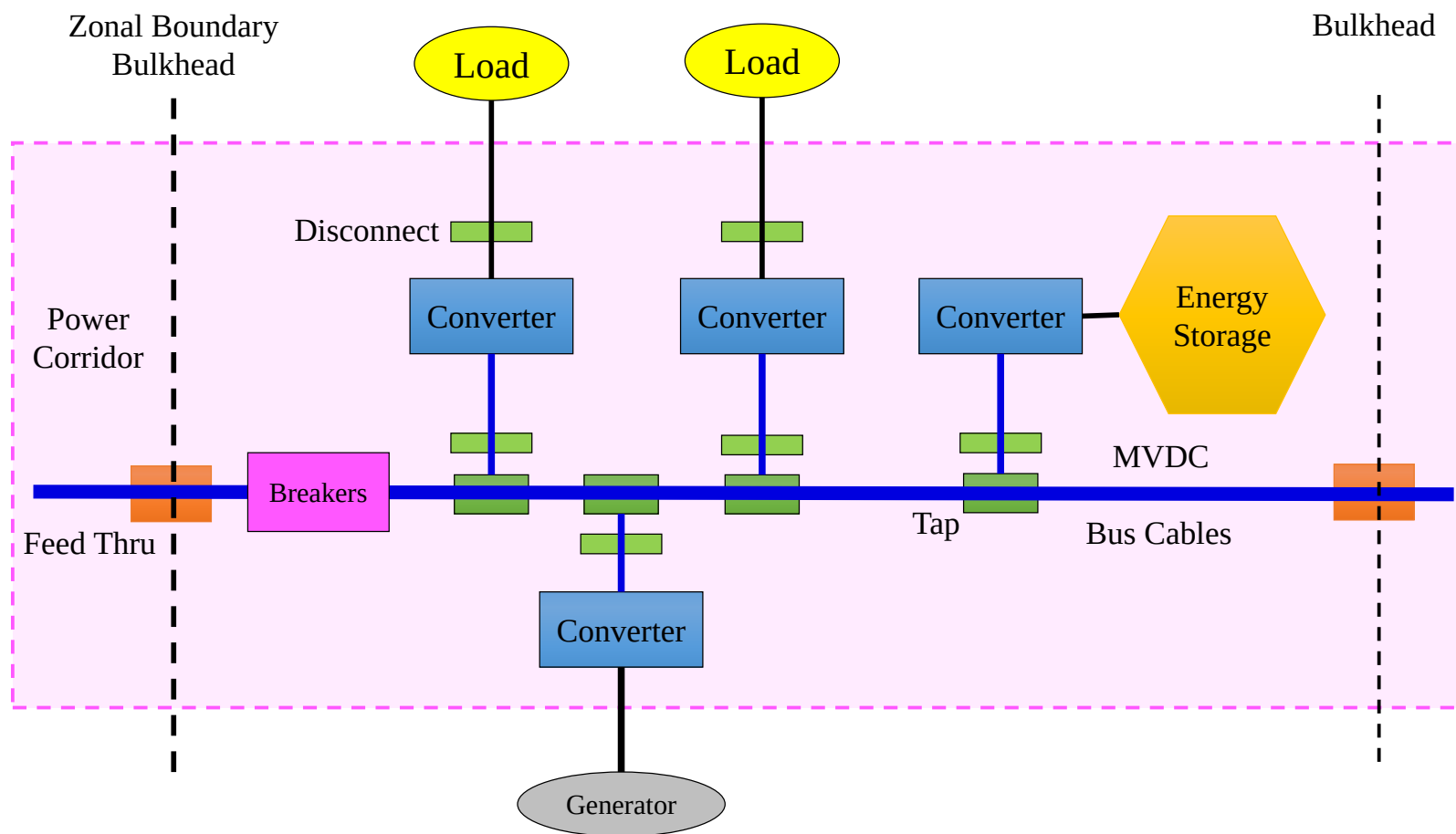


## Areas of study:

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# Navy integrated Power and Energy Corridor (NiPEC)



## The concept:

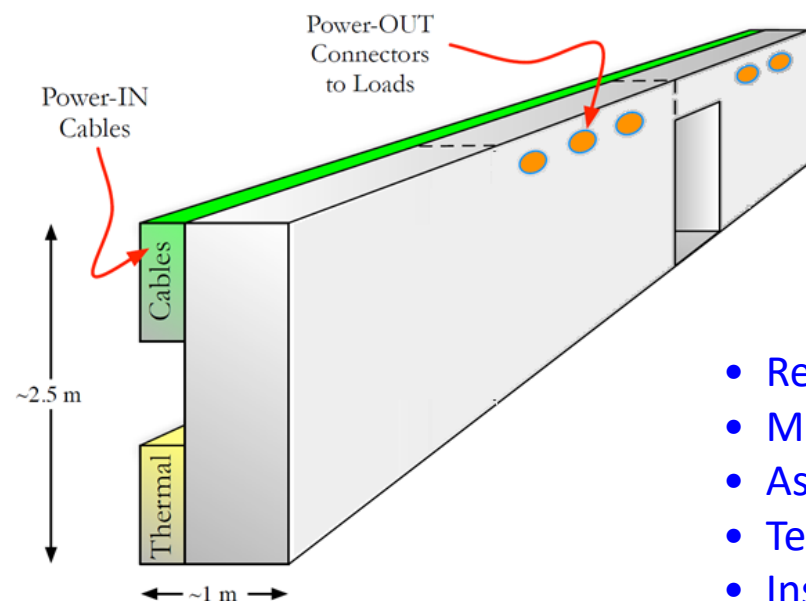
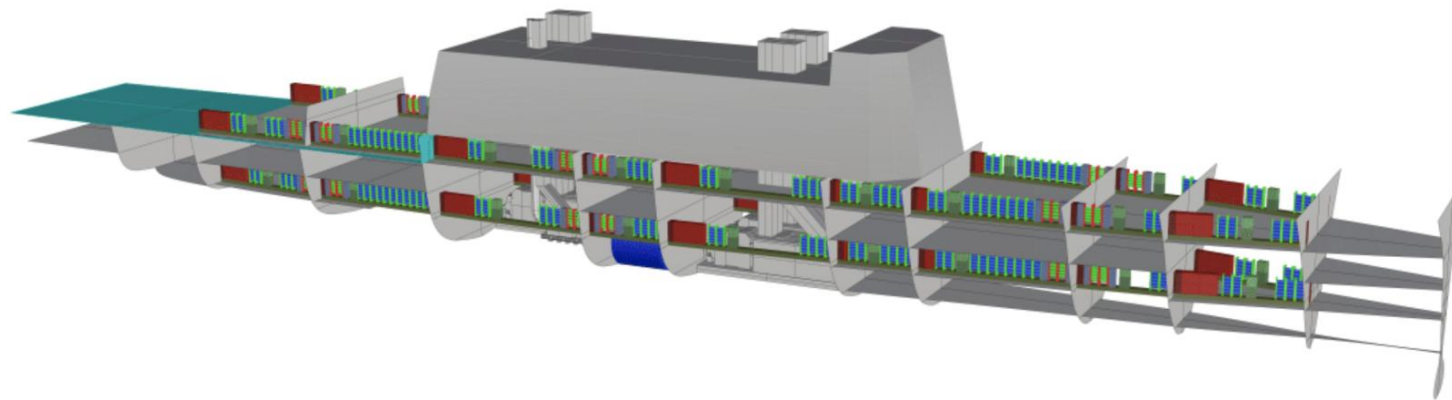
Incorporate in a single modular entity all the components of the electrical distribution system:

- Main bus cables
- Conversion
- Protection
- Isolation
- Control
- Energy Storage

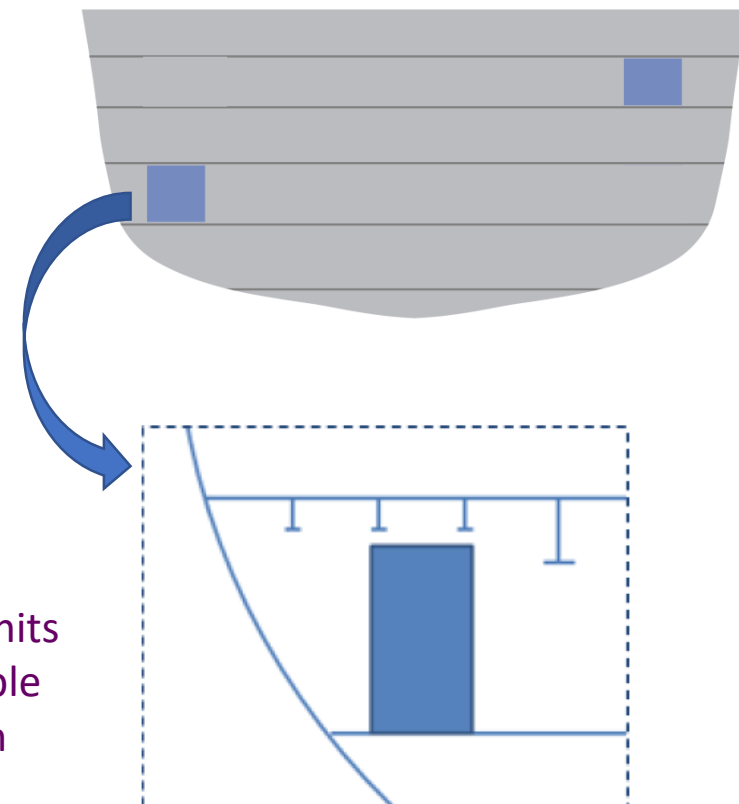
for the main bus power throughout the ship.



# NiPEC Concept



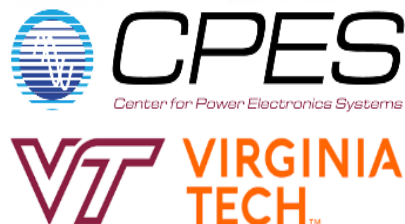
- Reserved space, early in design
- Modular construction, repeated units
- Assembled off-hull, clean, accessible
- Tested off-hull, sensitive, thorough
- Install into ship, as an assembly







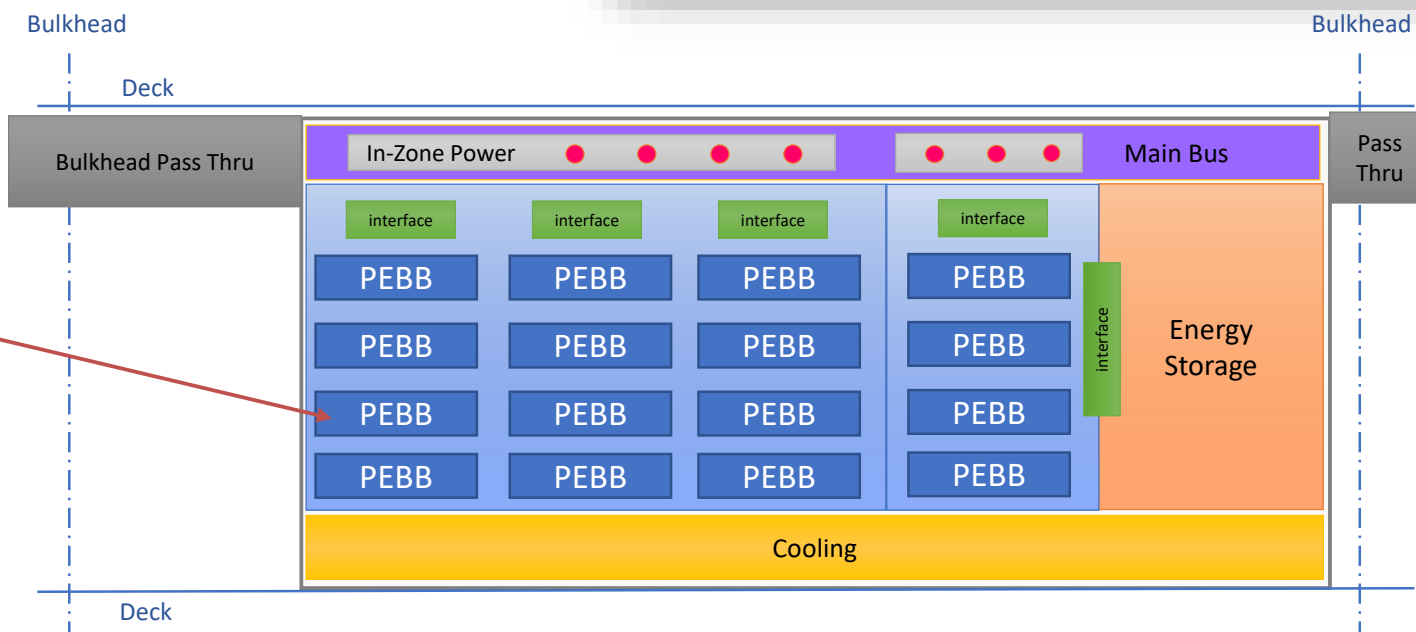
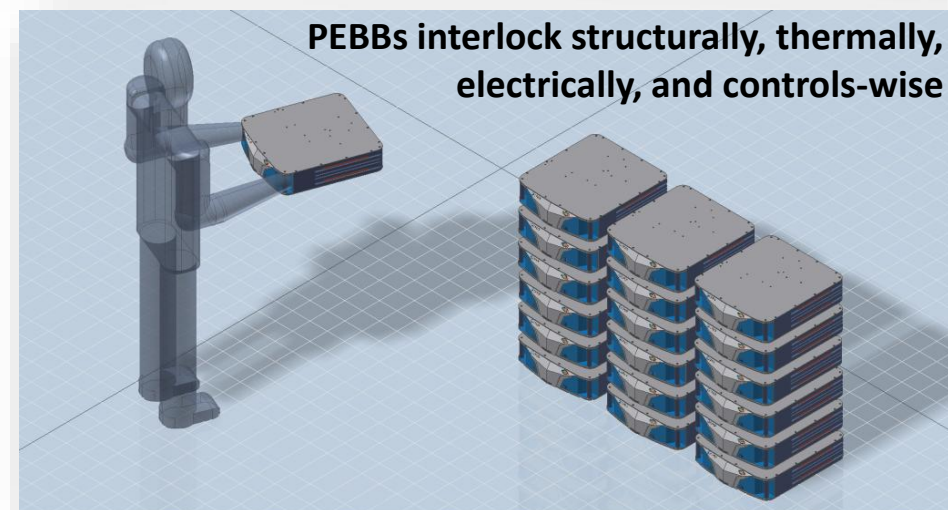
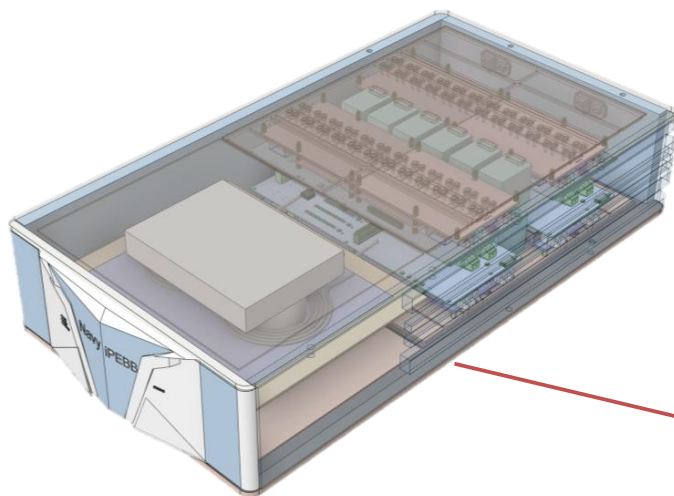
# PEBB-Based NiPEC



## Least Replaceable Unit (LRU):

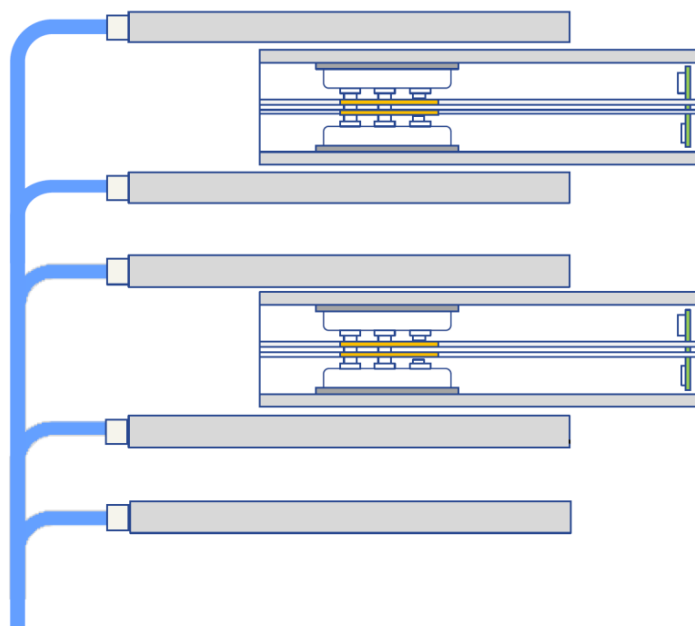
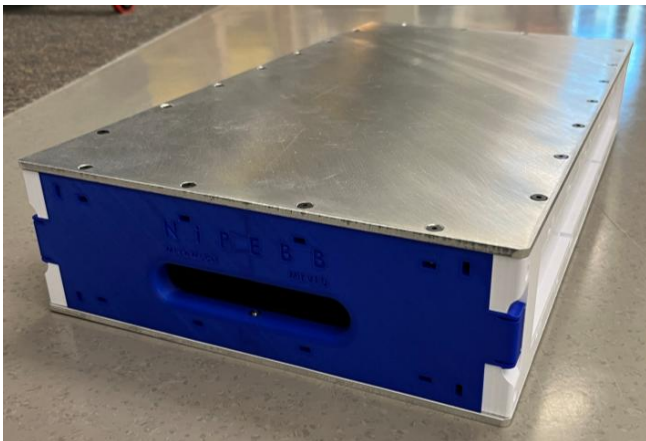
### Power Electronics Building Block (PEBB) -

A modular, repeatable, programmable, sailor-carriable universal converter





# Indirect Liquid Cooling



- **PEBB Cooling options**
  - Air cooling
  - Single-phase direct liquid cooling
  - Two-phase cooling
  - Indirect liquid cooling
- **Constraints**
  - No external connections
  - Minimize leak potential onto electronics
  - Weight
- **Indirect liquid cooling**
  - Liquid cooling via cold plate
  - Cold plate is built into the NiPEC structure
  - Thermal pad improves heat transfer between iPEBB and cold plate
  - iPEBB is inserted then mechanically forced into contact with cold plate

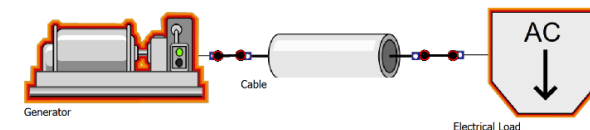


# Smart Ship Systems Design (S3D)

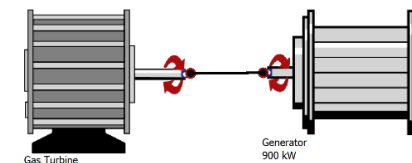
- **Early-stage tool for the design, simulation and analysis of ship systems**
  - Discipline-specific 2D views for electrical, mechanical, piping, and HVAC
    - Each discipline has its own view/abstraction of the system model
  - Extensive equipment catalog populated with mathematical models and properties for equipment pertinent to the appropriate systems
- **Performs power flow analyses**
  - Power demands, generation, and loss estimation
  - Thermal management
  - Connection validity checks
- **Integrated with LEAPS**
  - Navy's data repository
  - Available to all LEAPS-compatible tools
- **Developed by ESRDC**



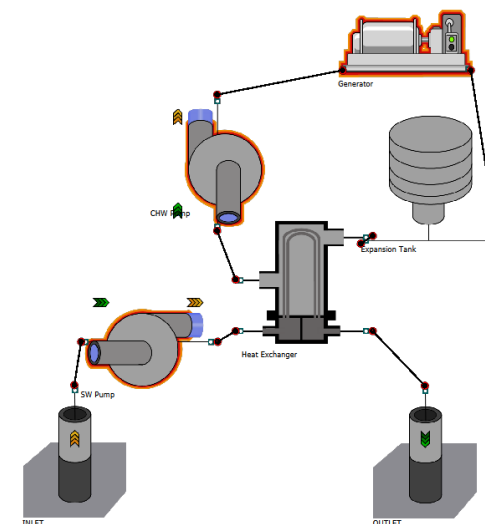
## Electrical View



## Mechanical View



## Piping View





# MIT Focus: Navy integrated Power and Energy Corridor (NiPEC)

## Technical Approach:

- Building on previous research into the electrical/thermal/mechanical interfaces to the iPEBB: design, prototype and test a NiPEC/PEBB interface.
- Develop design of NiPEC segments.
- Perform ship-wide analysis and ship design impacts of NiPEC concepts.
- Develop design tools for PEPDS/NiPEC, integrated with S3D.
- Develop methods for condition monitoring and grid stabilization.



## NiPEC-related Topics

|             |                                                                                                                                    |                                          |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>1230</b> | A Multi-Objective Design for PEBB-Based Power Corridors in Shipboard Applications                                                  | Marco Gallo,<br>University of Genova, IT |
| <b>1250</b> | Metaheuristic Optimization for Automatic Arrangement of Power Electronics Components in a Shipboard Electrical Distribution System | Sebastien Lohier                         |
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| <b>1330</b> | NiPEC-PEBB Latching Mechanism                                                                                                      | MIDN 1/C Jack Dirig, USN                 |
| <b>1350</b> | NiPEC PEBB Latching: A Clamping Paradigm Shift                                                                                     | Jacob Film                               |





# Papers

M. Gallo, C. M. Cooke, J. S. Chalfant, F. D'Agostino, “**A Multi-Objective Design for PEBB-Based Power Corridors in Shipboard Applications**”, IEEE Electric Ship Technologies Symposium (ESTS) 2025, submitted.

M. Gallo, C. M. Cooke, J. S. Chalfant, F. D'Agostino, F. Silvestro, “**Linearization Techniques for Optimizing PEBB-Based DC Power Corridor Using Mixed-Integer Linear Programming**”, 2025 AEIT HVDC, accepted.

Lohier, Sebastien and Julie Chalfant, “**Metaheuristic Optimization for Automatic Arrangement of Power Electronics Components in a Shipboard Electrical Distribution System**”, *ASNE Intelligent Ships Symposium*, accepted.

Hernandez, David and Julie Chalfant, “**Lightweight Heat Pipe Cooling Solution for High-Frequency Transformer in Power Electronics Building Block**”, *ASME Journal of Thermal Science and Engineering Applications*, accepted.

Robert M. Cuzner, David C. Gross, Hamed Shabani, Naqash Ali, Julie Chalfant and Mischa Steurer, “**Determining Parameter Objectives for MBSE Approach to Early Ship Design Exploration**”, *IEEE Transactions on Transportation Electrification*. Accepted.

A. Lemmon, R. Khanna, J. Chalfant, A. Davoudi and A. M. Bazzi, “**Guest Editorial Special Issue on Electrified Ship Technologies**,” in *IEEE Transactions on Transportation Electrification*, vol. 10, no. 4, pp. 7645-7650, Dec. 2024, doi: 10.1109/TTE.2024.3510993.

Andrea Alessia Tavagnutti, Hayden Atchison, Julie Chalfant, Chrysostomos Chrysostomidis, David Wetz, Giorgio Sulligoi, “**Incorporating Energy Storage in the Design of an All-electric Naval Vessel**”, *IEEE Transactions on Transportation Electrification*, vol. 10, no. 4, pp. 7907-7917, Dec. 2024, doi: 10.1109/TTE.2024.3455896.

J. C. Ordonez, C. Sailabada, J. Chalfant, C. Chrysostomidis, C. Li, K. Luo, E. Santi, B. Tian, A. Biglo, N. Rajagopal, J. Stewart, C. DiMarino, “**Thermal Management for Ship Electrification - Approaches for Power Electronic Building Blocks and Power Corridors**”, *IEEE Transactions on Transportation Electrification Special Issue on Electrified Ship Technologies*, vol. 10, no. 4, pp. 7918-7929, Dec. 2024, doi: 10.1109/TTE.2024.3391209.



# Next Steps



# PEPDS Tech Candidate Demonstrations

- 1. 1 MW Power Corridor- like demonstration platform at NSWCPD utilizing legacy IFTP equipment
- 2. Physical comparison of legacy PEBBS to NiPEBB demonstrating SWAP improvements, connectivity and differences in installation
- 3. Demonstrate a prototype PEBB tray with locking mechanism and visualize the reduced footprint from legacy equipment (*Note: Ideally this would be a physical demonstrations, but we may need to default to CAD drawings*)
- 4. Show a “full-scale” demonstration of the use-cases in the legacy demo using NiPEBB in RT simulation (*electro-thermal model*). *Note: Model design, requirements, documentation and V&V will leverage processes developed during RCPC FNC*
- 5. Show a “full-scale” demonstration of the use-cases in the legacy demo using NiPEBB CHIL with RT simulation (*electro-thermal model*). *Note: This would include at least two physical NiPEBB controllers.*
- 6. Show a “reduced-scale” demonstration of the use-cases in the legacy demo using NiPEBB PHIL with RT simulation (*electro-thermal model*).
- 7. Demonstrate tools for design of PEPDS/NiPEB/PEBB

Research areas are mapped directly to technical risks outlined in the TC proposal in order to be addressed/mitigated.

| # | Baseline | Threshold | Objective |
|---|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1 | X        | X         | X         |
| 2 | X        | X         | X         |
| 3 | X        | X         | X         |
| 4 | X        | X         | X         |
| 5 |          | X         | X         |
| 6 |          |           | X         |



# Projects/Tasks

## Tech Candidate

- PEBB Thermal Management
  - Cold plate design
  - Rack-level cooling design
  - Prototype cooling system for single NiPEBB
- PEBB Interfaces
  - Establish connector parameters.
  - Design or evaluate appropriate connectors
  - Prototype or purchase as necessary and arrange for test
- PEBB Latching
  - Establish latching mechanism parameters
  - Design and prototype latching mechanism

## ESRDC

- Ship System Design based on NiPEC/PEPDS
  - Sizing for NiPEC segment:
    - Sizing/arrangement algorithm for NiPEC segment.
    - Sizing functions for non-LRU electrical components within NiPEC segment
    - Sizing functions for non-electrical components within NiPEC segment
- Ship Designs for Application of NiPEC
- PEBB-based Converter Design



# Thank you

Support from  
the Office of Naval Research under Grant No. N00014-21-1-2124  
is quite gratefully acknowledged.





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# PEBB-based Power Corridor Sizing Algorithm

Project Presentation

**PhD. Student: Marco Gallo**

**Supervisors: Julie S. Chalfant and Chathan M. Cooke**

**Date: 21/05/2025**

UniGe | DITEN

# Background & Motivations

1. Modern ships totally dependent on **electric power**
  - For example, power corridors for electric power distribution
2. Power electronic modules provide conversion from HV bus to load
  - Called **PEBBs** (Power Electronic Building Blocks)
  - Example designs presently under development at VT (**PEBB 1000**, **PEBB 6000**, and **iPEBB**)
3. Challenge: What power capability should these modules have?
  - Is one size sufficient?
  - Different loads may require different power ratings and flexibility.
4. This work proposes an **optimization algorithm** to find the best number and size of PEBBs.

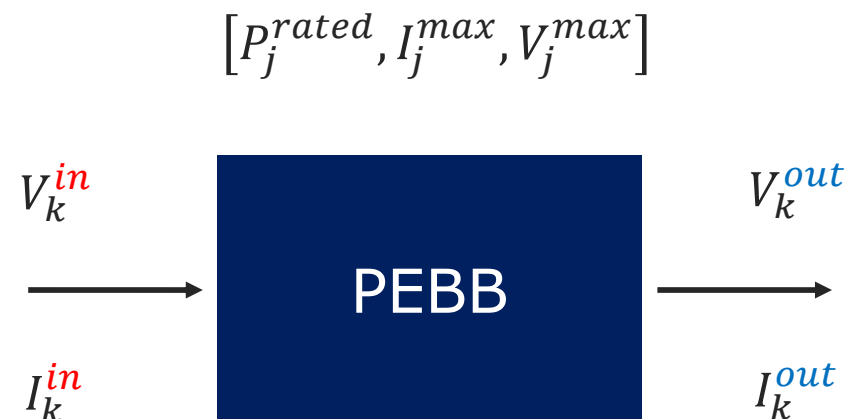
# System Description – PEBB definition

Each PEBB is characterized by three key parameters:

- **Rated power:**  $P_j^{rated}$  [MW]
- **Maximum current:**  $I_j^{max}$  [kA]
- **Maximum voltage:**  $V_j^{max}$  [kV]

The dc power is defined as:

- **Input**  $\rightarrow P_k^{in} = V_k^{in} I_k^{in}$
- **Output**  $\rightarrow P_k^{out} = \eta_k V_k^{out} I_k^{out} \rightarrow$  efficiency dependence



## Modelling Assumptions

- **dc power system:** Only dc bus distribution and dc loads are modeled; ac behavior can be included in the future.
- **Uniform PEBB parameters:** Each PEBB cluster operates at the same rated power, voltage, and current.
- **Converter model:** PEBBs are modeled as ideal buck converters ( $V^{in} \geq V^{out}$ ).

# System Description – Cluster definition

A PEBB **cluster** is defined as: “A group of PEBBs, each with the same rated power, voltage and current, that interfaces the power corridor with a load or a group of loads.”

A PEBB cluster adapts bus and load requirements through:

- $n_k^{s,in}$  PEBBs in **series** on the **input** side

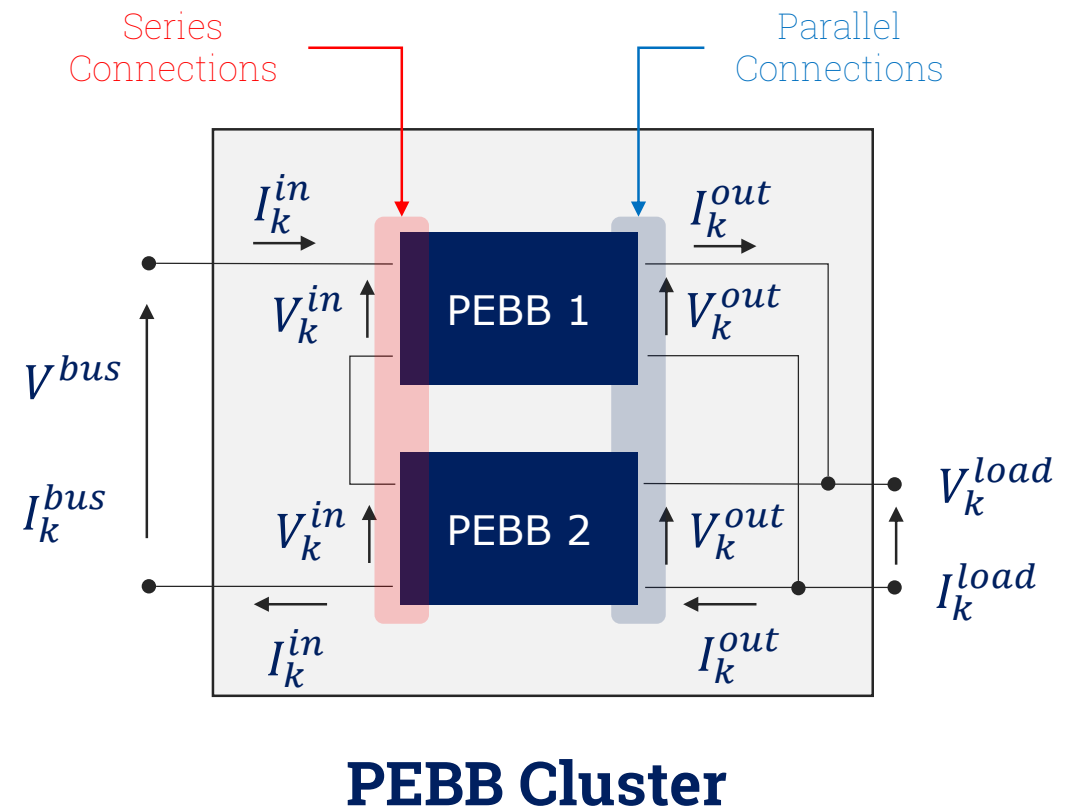
$$\rightarrow V^{bus} = n_k^{s,in} V_k^{in}$$

- $n_k^{p,in}$  PEBBs in **parallel** on the **input** side

$$\rightarrow I_k^{bus} = n_k^{p,in} I_k^{in}$$

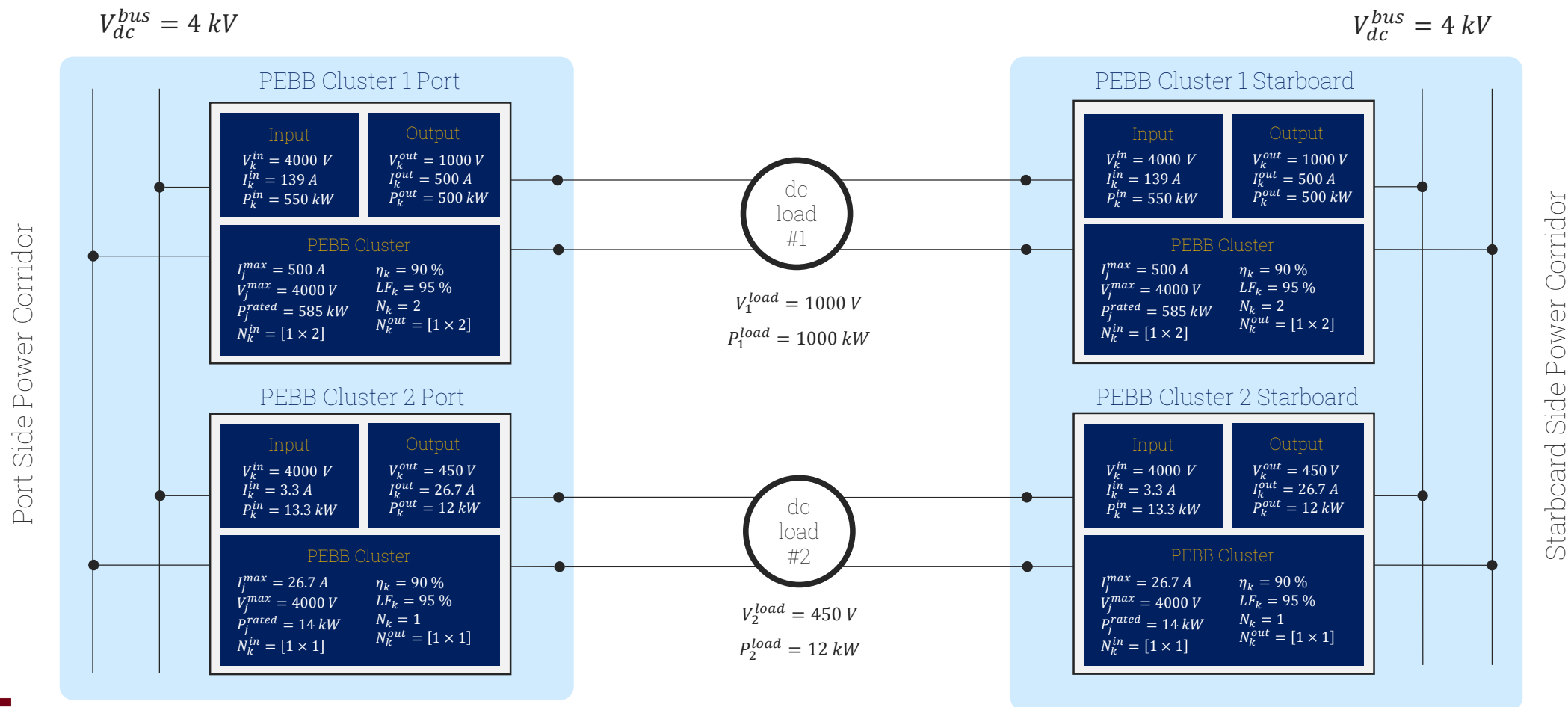
- On the **output** side

$$\rightarrow V_k^{load} = n_k^{s,out} V_k^{out}, I_k^{load} = n_k^{p,out} I_k^{out}$$



# Power Corridor Example

PEBBs interface loads with the **power corridor**, ensuring voltage and current are properly matched. In the example, **two dc loads** are connected through **redundant** PEBB clusters → need for **optimization**



# Metric Definition

To explore trade-offs in PEBB selection, three key metrics are defined:

- **Rated Power** -  $J_P$  - affects how many PEBBs are needed, too many or too few can affect system design.
- **Efficiency** -  $J_\Omega$  - varies with load and is modeled using B-spline curves shaped by key operating points.
- **Volume** -  $J_\eta$  - relates to power level but follows a non-linear trend; realistic fitting functions are used to capture this.
- **Penalty Function** -  $J_\gamma$  - if the total PEBB volume inside a bulkhead region exceeds the limit, a penalty is applied.

$$J = \frac{1}{w_P + w_\Omega + w_\eta + w_\gamma} (J_P w_P + J_\Omega w_\Omega + J_\eta w_\eta + J_\gamma w_\gamma)$$

$$J_P = \frac{1}{P^{max} J} \sum_{j=1}^J P_j^{rated}$$

- Maximum allowable power  $P^{max}$
- Maximum number of PEBB ratings  $J$

$$J_\Omega = \frac{1}{N^{max} \Omega^{max} K} \sum_{k=1}^K \Omega_k^{tot}$$

- Maximum allowable volume  $\Omega^{max}$
- Maximum number of PEBB  $N^{max}$
- Total PEBB cluster volume  $\Omega_k^{tot}$

$$J_\eta = \frac{1}{K(1 - \eta^{min})} \sum_{k=1}^K (1 - \eta_k)$$

- Minimum PEBB efficiency  $\eta^{min}$
- PEBB efficiency  $\eta_k$
- Total number of clusters  $K$

$$J_\gamma = \frac{1}{B} \sum_{b=1}^B \Gamma_b$$

- Total number of bulkhead regions  $B$
- Related bulkhead penalty  $\Gamma_b$

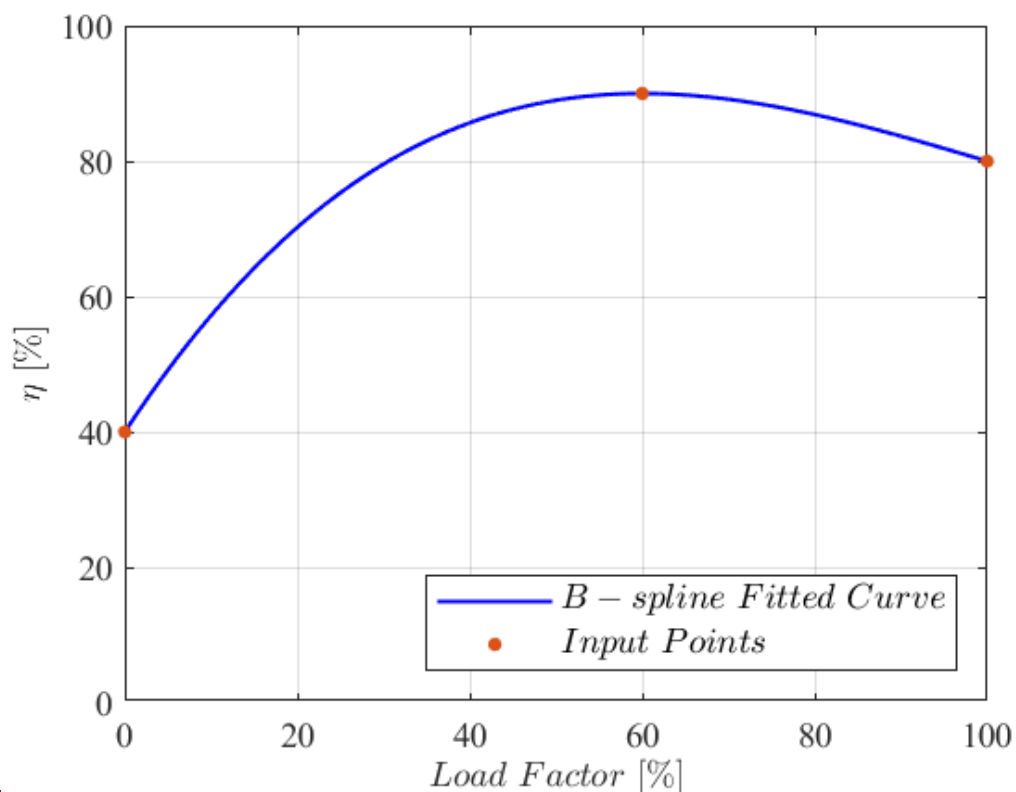


# Efficiency and Volume

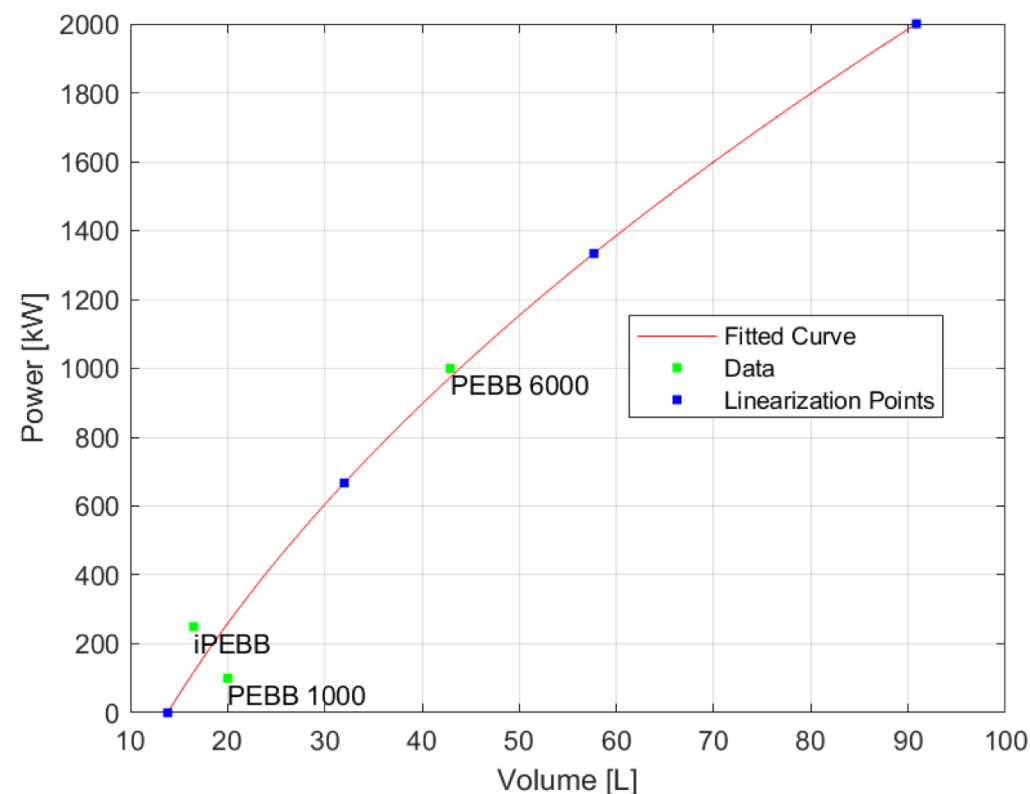
Efficiency and volume are related to the working point of the single PEBB and the rated power, respectively.

- **Efficiency** → a B-spline fit three points (initial, maximum efficiency and final). Knots can be adapted to change the shape.
- **Volume** → regression based on the 3 existing PEBBs data using a defined input function →  $p^{\text{rated}} = a\sqrt{\Omega_k} + b$

## Efficiency Curve



## Volume Curve



# Matlab & GAMS Integrated Tool

What is **MATLAB**? 

- High-level programming language and environment
- Designed for numerical computing, data analysis, and visualization
- Widely used in engineering, science, and finance
- Supports matrix operations, algorithm development, and simulation

What is **GAMS**? 

- General Algebraic Modeling System (GAMS)
- High-level language for mathematical optimization
- Focused on linear, nonlinear, and mixed-integer programming
- Used in energy systems, economics, supply chain, and logistics.

## PEBB-based power corridor Tool (v.04)

*Tool Version date: 27 December 2024*

*Author: Marco Gallo*

Given an input load distribution, the Tool:

1. aims to find the optimal size of the PEBBs for each PEBB stack;
2. optimizes the configuration of series and parallel PEBB connections.

It is based on a optimization process where constraints and an objective function are defined. The formulation is based on a Mixed Integer Linear Programming (MILP) problem.

### Notes

- AC modelling is not implemented in the algorithm;
- The power corridor bus distribution is modelled for DC systems;
- For each PEBB stack, the power, voltage and current level is the same;
- PEBB are modelled as buck converter;
- The input voltage of the PEBB is equal to the rated voltage;

Select what is your operating system

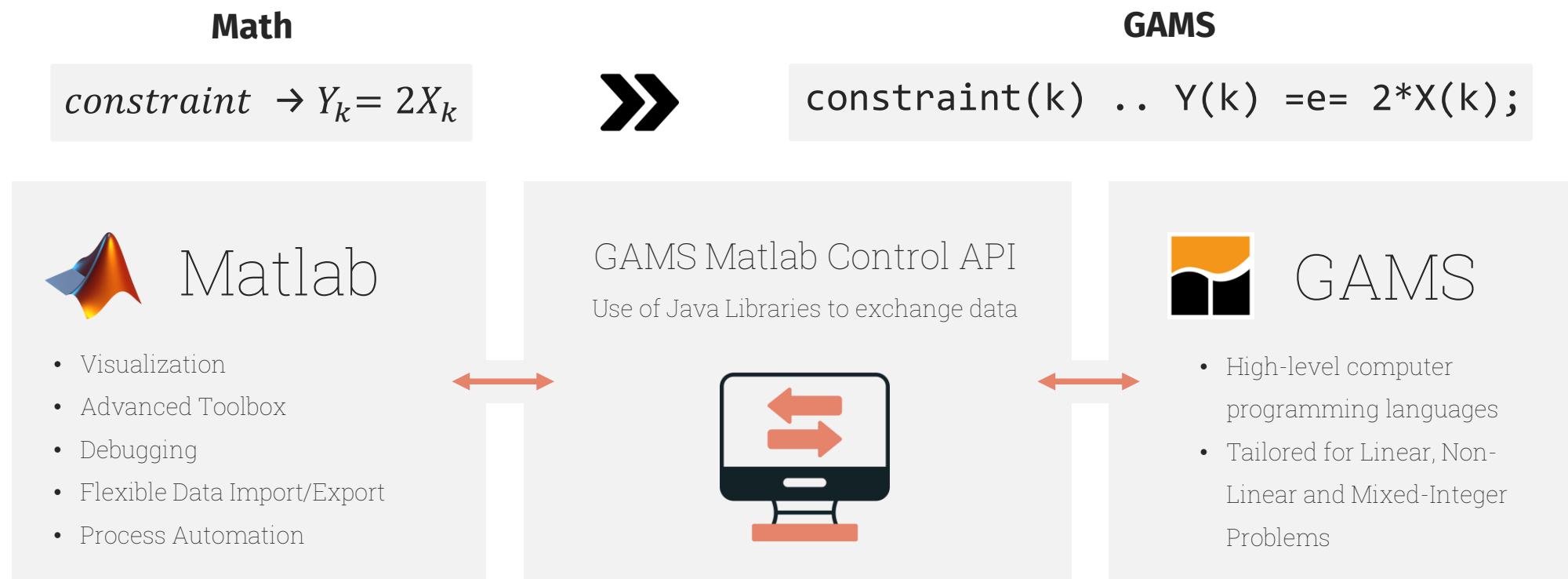
Operating System

GAMS Version

# Why Matlab into GAMS?

Each environment is used for what it does best:

- **Matlab** : flexible scripting, data manipulation, and plotting.
- **GAMS**: efficient and clear optimization modeling



# Mixed Integer Linear Programming (MILP)

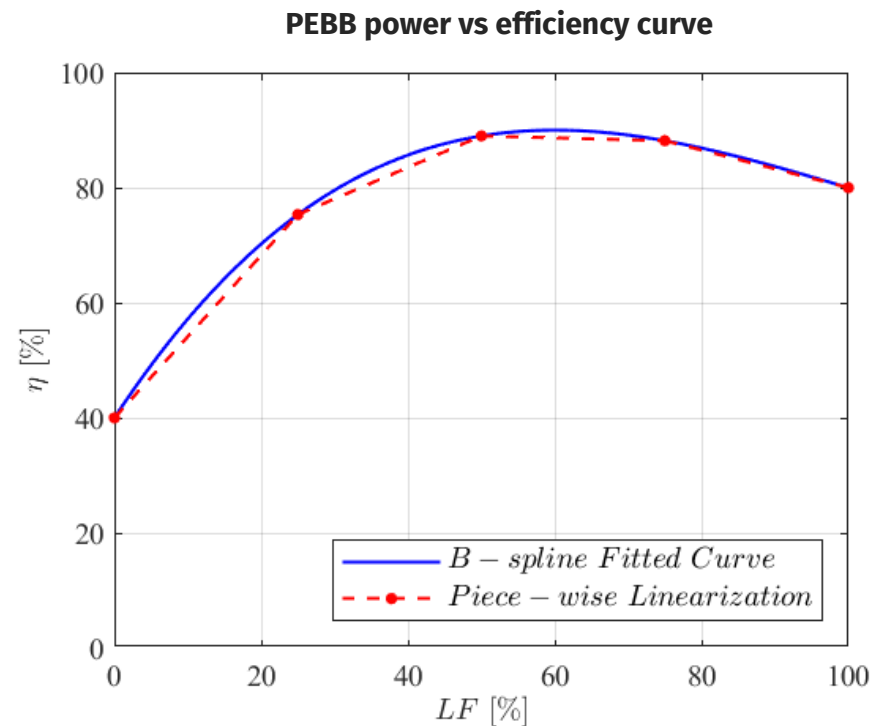
The PEBB configuration problem has been formulated and solved as a Mixed-Integer Linear Programming (**MILP**) problem.

The original formulation includes several **non-linear** relationships arising from **power-efficiency** curve, power definition, and PEBB connections.

To enable MILP solvers, these non-linearities were reformulated using linearization techniques such as:

- **Piecewise** linear approximations
- **Binary** encoding strategies
- **Auxiliary** variable substitutions

The full methodology, including mathematical details and formulation steps, is thoroughly presented in the **HVDC** conference.



## Linearization Techniques for Optimizing PEBB-Based DC Power Corridor Using Mixed-Integer Linear Programming

M. Gallo\*, C. M. Cooke†, J. S. Chalfant†, F. D'Agostino\*, F. Silvestro\*

\*IEES Laboratory, DITEN, University of Genova, Genova, Italy

†Design Laboratory, MIT Sea Grant College Program, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, MA, USA  
email: marco.gallo@edu.unige.it, cmcooke@mit.edu, chalfant@mit.edu, fabio.dagostino@unige.it, federico.silvestro@unige.it

Genova, May 29-30



# Multi-objective function weighting factors



To analyze how objective weights influence the optimal solution, a simplified test case was considered:

- **Single DC load:** 100 kW @ 1 kV
- **DC power corridor:** 4 kV



Washington, Aug 5-8

By varying the weights in the **multi-objective function** (power, efficiency, volume), the algorithm generates **different optimal PEBB configurations**, balancing performance according to design priorities.

This example highlights the core value of a multi-objective approach: it enables the exploration of trade-offs, helping designers balance different performance criteria. The PEBB sizing methodology and this analysis will be presented at the **IEEE ESTS Conference in Washington, August 2025**, titled “A Multi-Objective Design for PEBB-Based Power Corridors in Shipboard Applications”

| Weighting Factors |            |        | Results     |           |                      |                |                 |                  |
|-------------------|------------|--------|-------------|-----------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Power             | Efficiency | Volume | Prated [kW] | Vmax [kV] | I <sub>max</sub> [A] | Efficiency [%] | Number of PEBBs | Total Volume [L] |
| ✓                 | ✓          | ✓      | 64.3        | 4000      | 100                  | 90.9           | 2               | 30.5             |
| ✗                 | ✓          | ✗      | 87.7        | 4000      | 100                  | 95             | 2               | 31.6             |
| ✗                 | ✗          | ✓      | 127.4       | 4000      | 100                  | 90.5           | 1               | 16.7             |
| ✓                 | ✗          | ✗      | 32.5        | 2000      | 50                   | 91.3           | 4               | 58.2             |

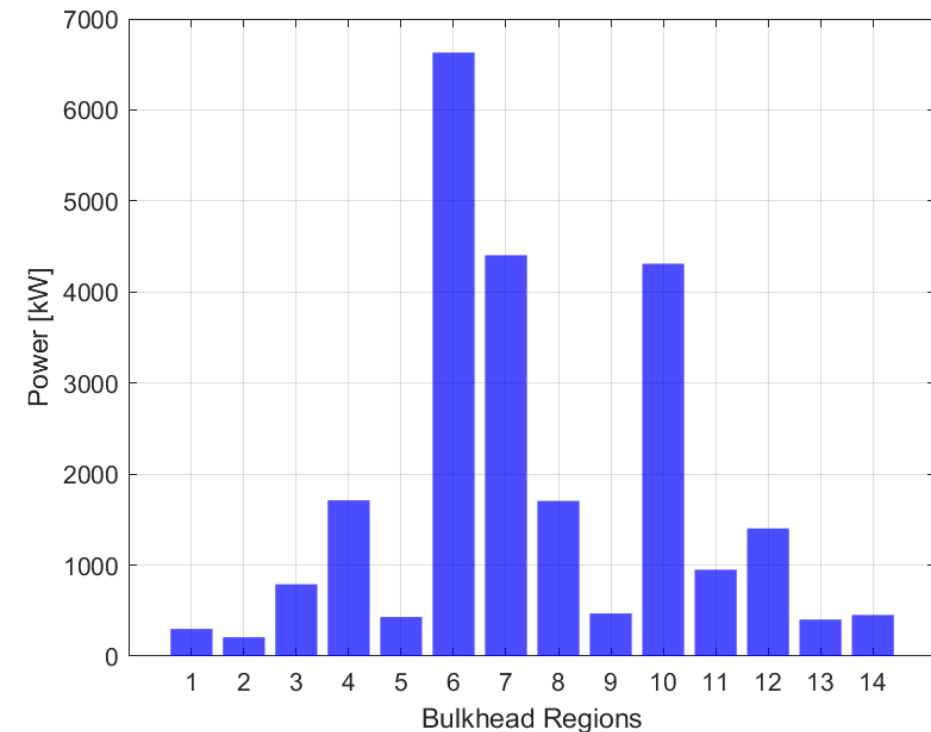
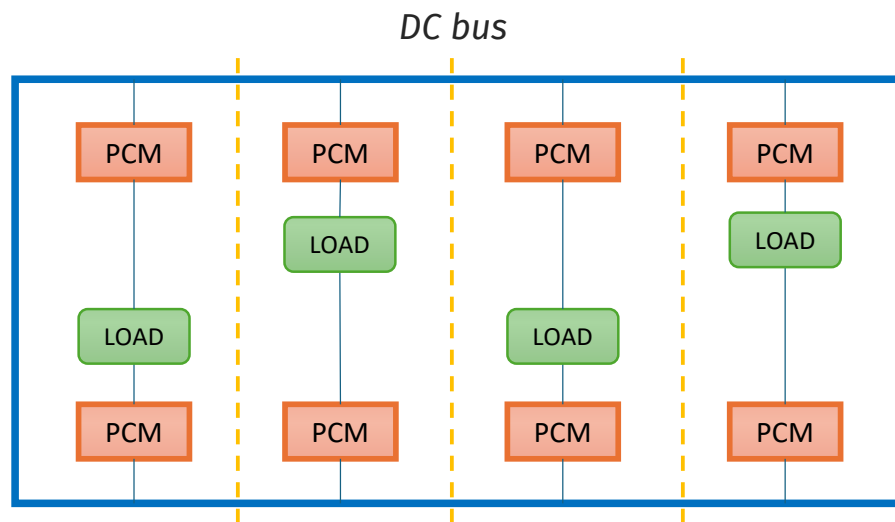
# Ongoing Work

**Objective:** Test the algorithm performance on a realistic scenario

**System:** Notional Ship (as in [1])

## Load Selection

- Only **dc loads** > **100 kW** considered
- **Grouped** into clusters within a bulkhead region



[1] J. Chalfant, M. Ferrante, C. Chrysostomidis, "Design of a Notional Ship for Use in the Development of Early-Stage Design Tools," in IEEE Electric Ship Technologies Symposium, IEEE ESTS 2015, Alexandria, VA, June 21-24, 2015



# Results Comparison (for specific weighting and loads)

1 PEBB rating vs 2 PEBB ratings

☑ Pros

- Improved average efficiency (+1.8%)
- Number of PEBBs decreased (-5)
- Lower volume

✗ Cons

- More components to manage

| PEBB   | Power Rating [kW]      | Maximum Voltage [V]    | Maximum Current [A] | Volume [L]   |                   |
|--------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|
|        | 795.5                  | 4000                   | 600                 | 36.4         |                   |
| Metric | Average Efficiency [%] | Sum Power ratings [kW] | Total volumes [m3]  | Total number | Number of ratings |
|        | 91.2                   | 795.5                  | 1.637               | 45           | 1                 |

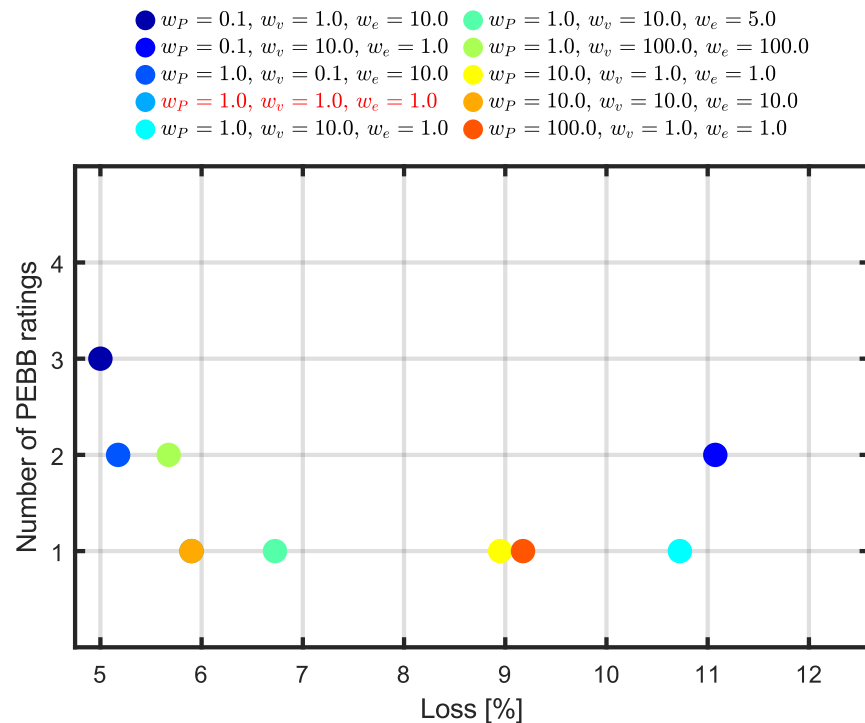
VS

| PEBB   | Power Rating [kW]      | Maximum Voltage [V]    | Maximum Current [A] | Volume [L]   |                   |
|--------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|
|        | 1028.5                 | 4000                   | 733.3               | 45           |                   |
|        | 296.2                  | 4000                   | 200                 | 21           |                   |
| Metric | Average Efficiency [%] | Sum Power ratings [kW] | Total volumes [m3]  | Total number | Number of ratings |
|        | 93.0                   | 1324.7                 | 1.632               | 40           | 2                 |

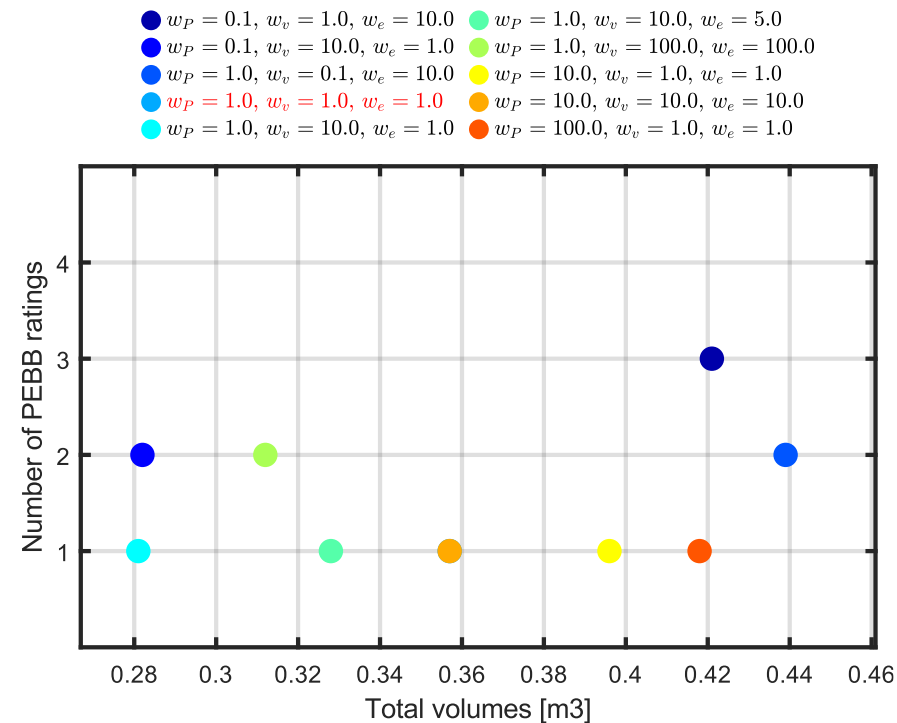


# Bulkhead Region #10 Focus

What's the effect on the **weighting factors** on a singled bulkhead region (e.g. bulkhead #10)?



&



- Multiple solutions show that increasing the number of PEBB ratings can lead to **reduced losses**.
- A similar trend is observed for the **total volume** under varying weight configurations.

# Conclusions

- A **PEBB-based power corridor** architecture has been proposed and modeled.
- A **multi-objective** formulation was developed to optimize PEBB power, voltage, and current.
- Key metrics have been defined: PEBB **rated power, efficiency,** and **volume.**
- The impact of different objective weights was analyzed, showing **trade-offs** among metrics.
- Preliminary results show that using **two distinct PEBB ratings** leads to **better** performance, with higher efficiency and lower volume compared to using a **single rating.**



# Thank you for the attention!

Any questions?

**PhD. Student: Marco Gallo**

**Supervisors: Julie S. Chalfant and Chathan M. Cooke**

**Date: 21/05/2025**

UniGe | DITEN



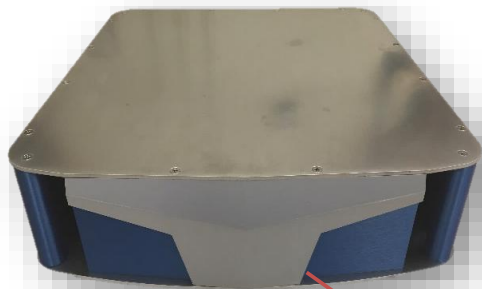
The views expressed are those of the authors and do not reflect the official policy or position of the U.S. Department of Defense or the U.S. Government.

# **Metaheuristic Optimization for Automatic Arrangement of Power Electronics Components in a Shipboard Electrical Distribution System**

Sebastien Lohier  
Julie Chalfant



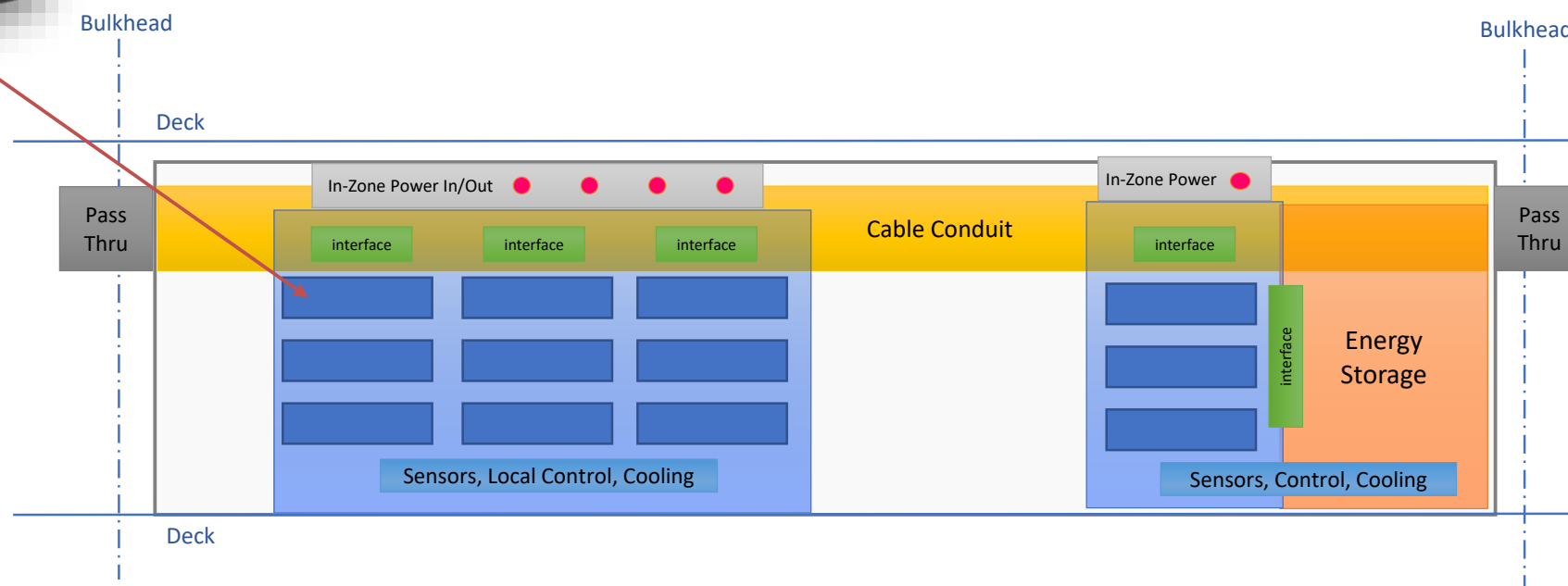
# Motivation



## Least Replaceable Unit (LRU):

### Power Electronics Building Block (PEBB) -

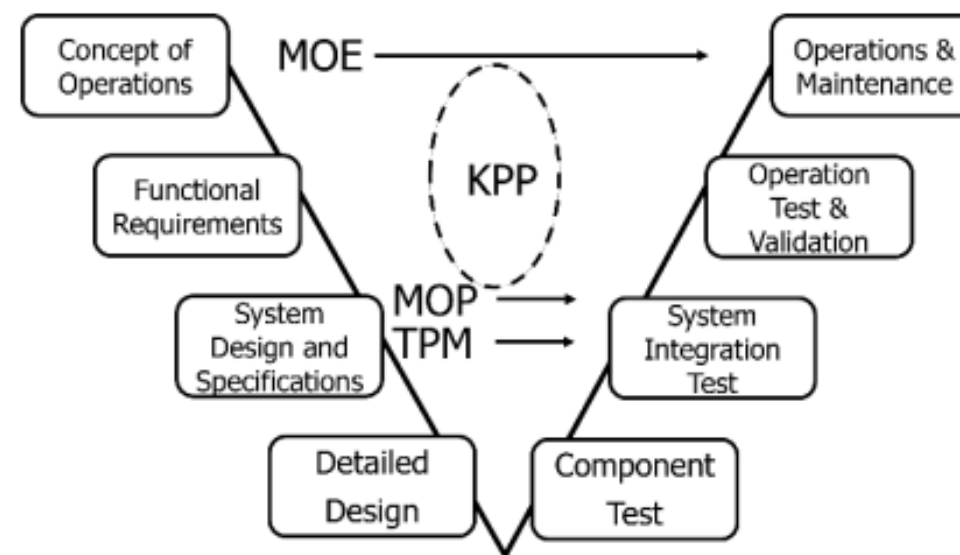
A modular, repeatable, programmable, sailor-carryable universal converter





# Motivation

- Early-stage ship design requires thousands of experiments to characterize the design space
- Want a method to do this quickly and accurately enough to make broad design choices





# The Problem

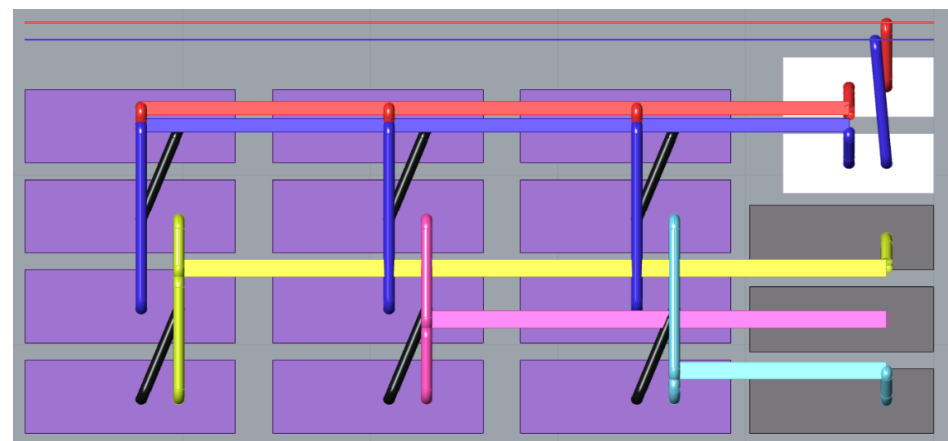
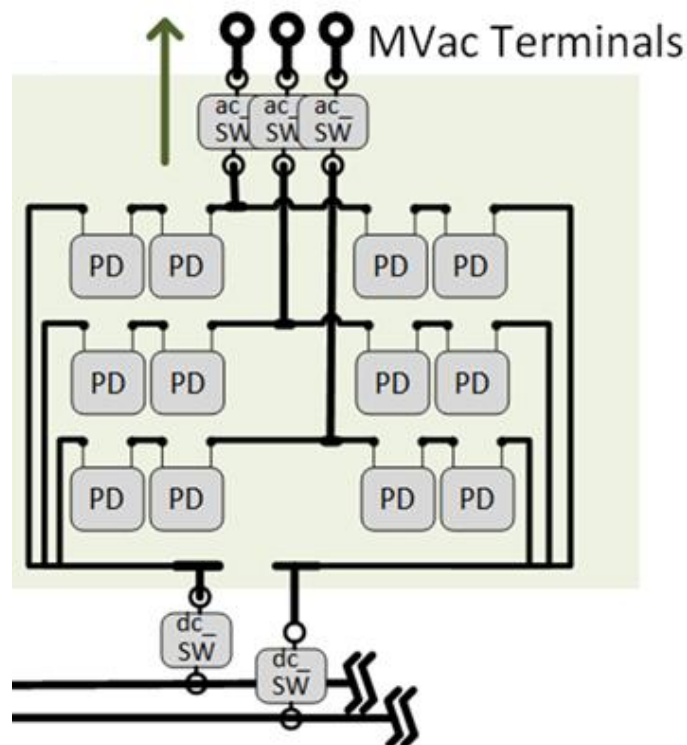
**Problem Statement:** Accomplish a *rapid* arrangement to give ballpark sizing/cable length at level of fidelity appropriate to early-stage design. Target is S3D model statistics for dimensions, weight, power and cooling.

## Input:

- Power
- Voltage (in/out)
- LRU Sizes

## Output:

- LRU Arrangement
- Total Volume
- Total Weight

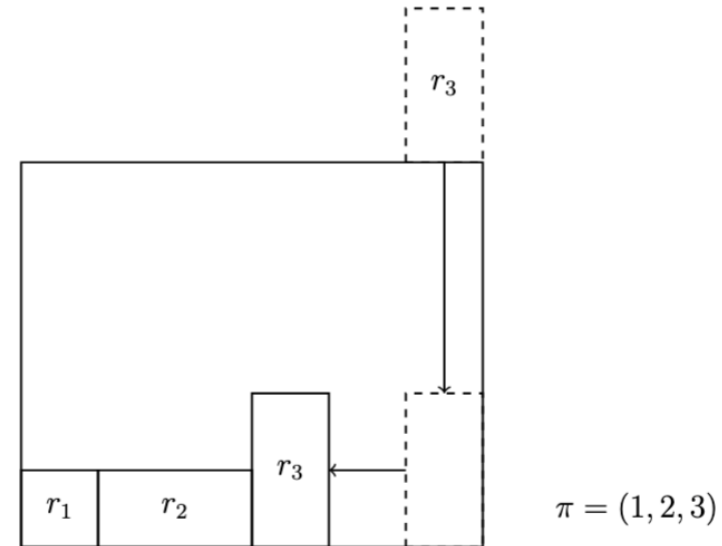






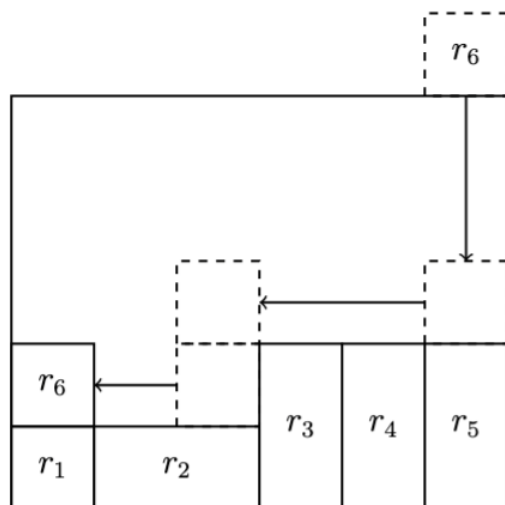
# Placement Function

- To minimize volume, we utilize a modified Bottom-Left (BL) placement algorithm
- Additionally, a placement can be described purely from the ordering of blocks

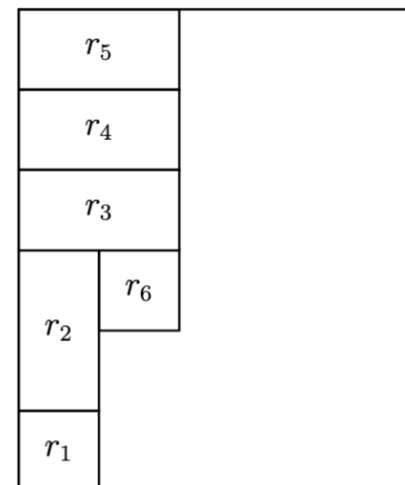
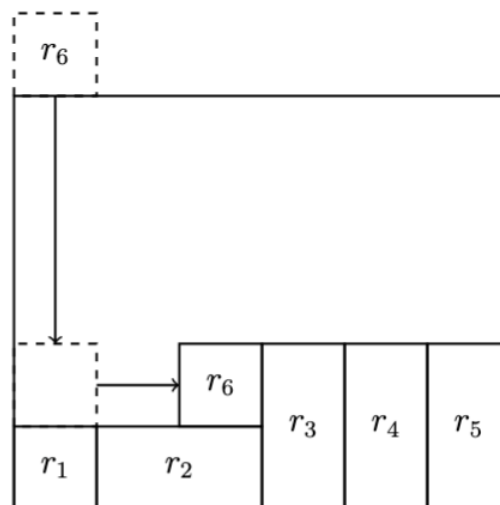




# Placement Continued



$$\pi = (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)$$

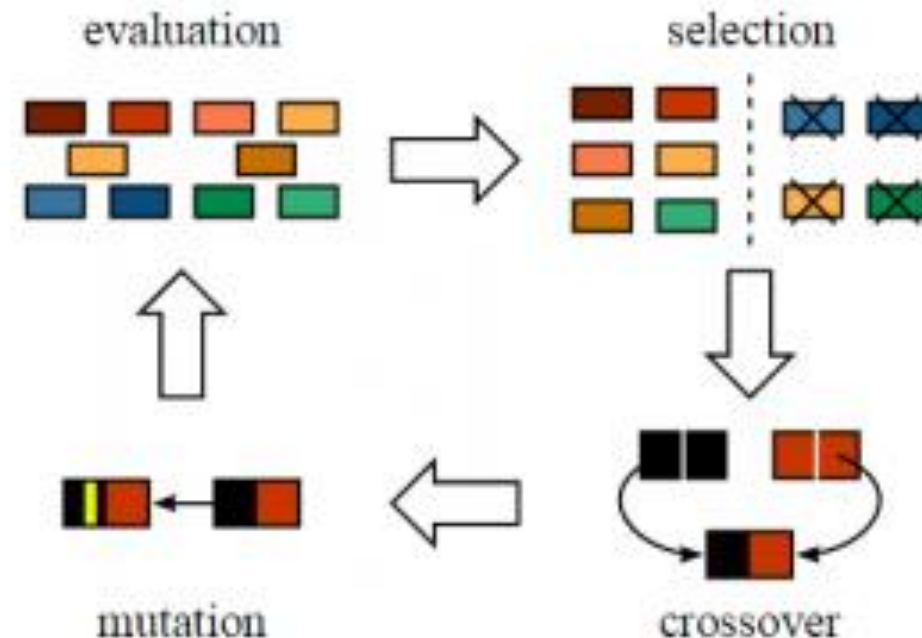


$$\pi = (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)$$



# Genetic Algorithm

- Computer algorithm aiming to simulate the evolutionary process of animals
- Successive generations are generated from the most evolutionary fit parents



Scholz, Jan. "Genetic algorithms and the traveling salesman problem a historical review." *arXiv preprint arXiv:1901.05737* (2019).



## Genetic Algorithm Cont.

- Fitness Function– This determines the metric by which individuals in a population is graded
- Crossover Operator – This is the function which given an input of two parents, will generate an offspring
- Mutation Operator– Some random process which creates a random change for each offspring



# Fitness Function

$$F(\pi) = \left( \frac{1}{\text{Busbar Routing Distance}} \right)^\tau *$$

$$\left( \frac{1}{\text{Wire Routing Distance}} \right)^\alpha *$$

$$\left( \frac{1}{\text{DC Block Distance}} \right)^\beta *$$

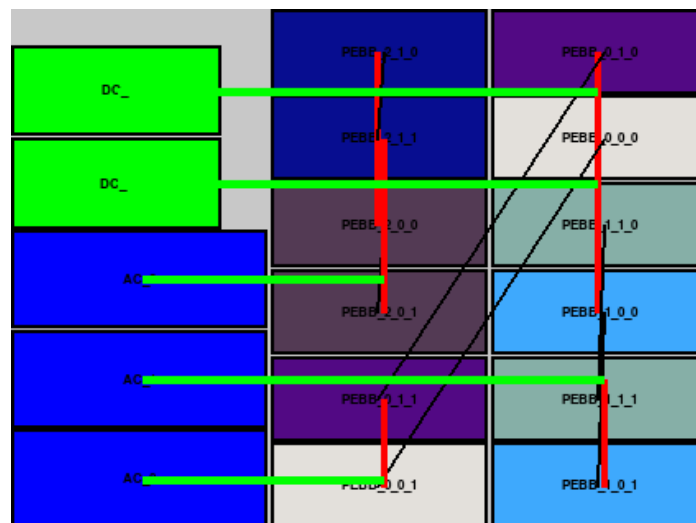
$$(\text{DC Height})^\gamma *$$

$$\left( \frac{1}{\text{AC Distance}} \right)^\epsilon *$$

$$\left( \frac{1}{\text{Volume}} \right)^\mu *$$

$$1.1^{-(\text{PEBB}/\text{Switch Overlap}) * \theta} *$$

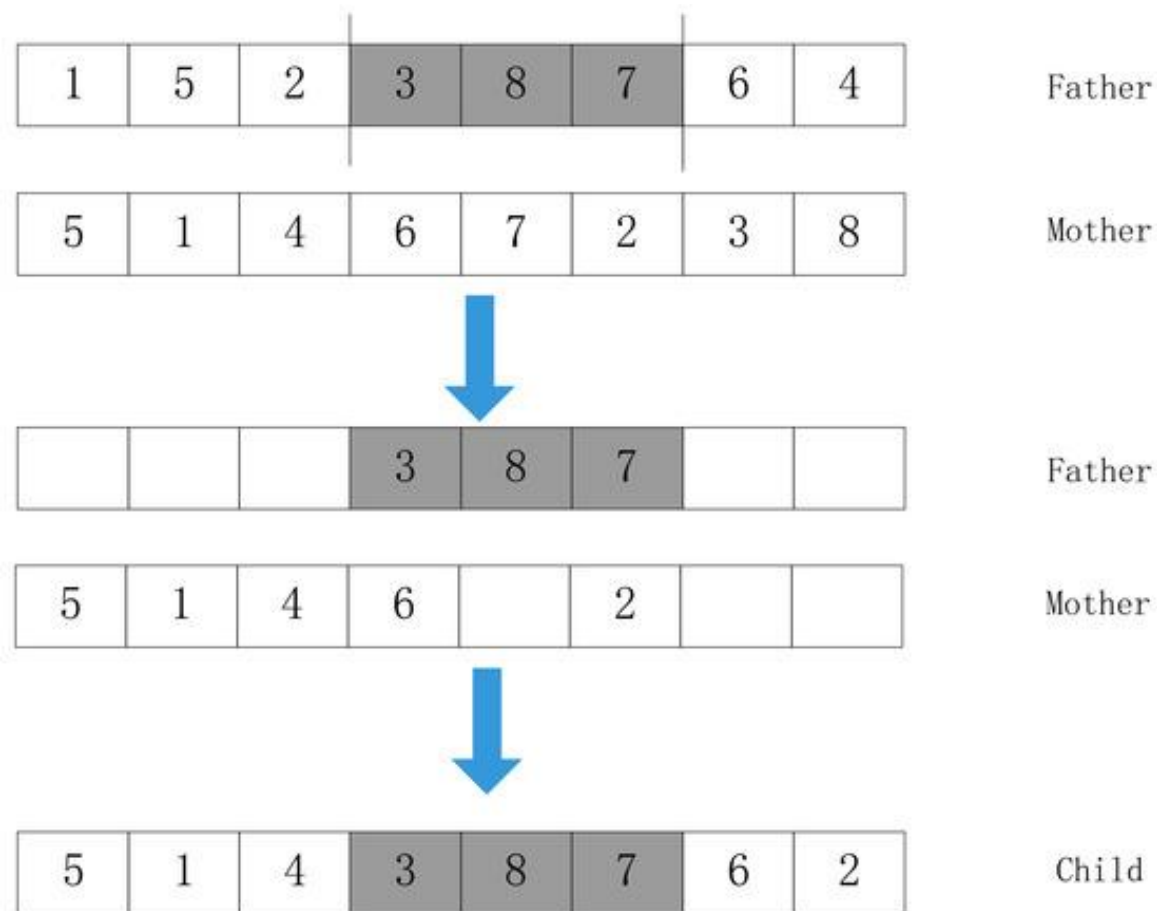
$$\left( \frac{1}{\text{Switch Width}} \right)^\lambda$$





# Breeding and Mutation

- Order Based Cross-Over is used for breeding
- For a mutation operator we slide a random subarray of the ordering by a random offset



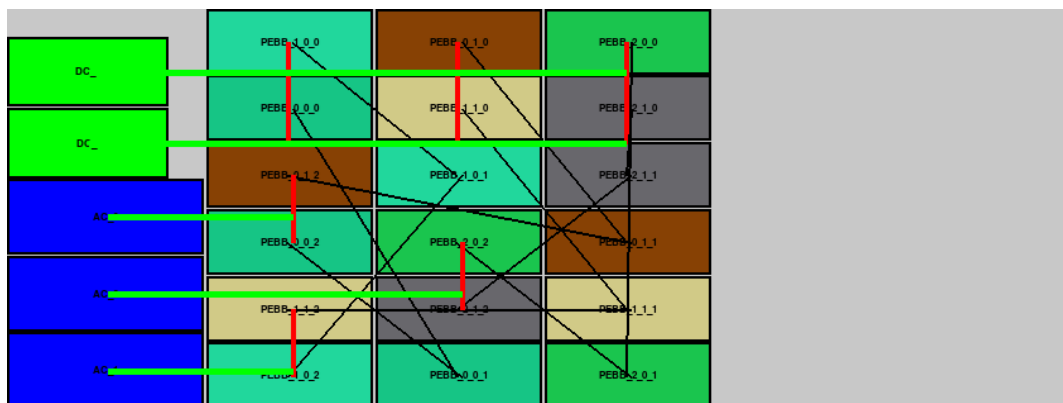
Chen, Chien-Ming, et al. "A genetic algorithm for the waitable time-varying multi-depot green vehicle routing problem." *Symmetry* 15.1 (2023): 124.



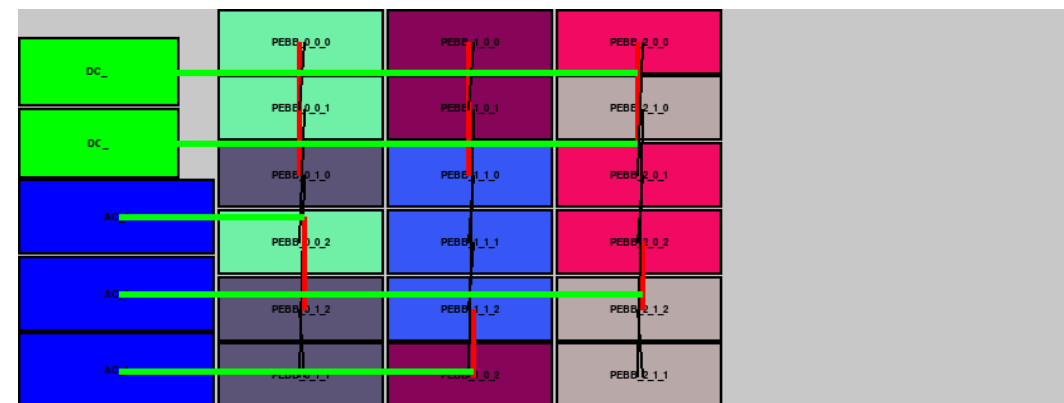
# Hybrid Approach

- Genetic Algorithm is used to find a placement which best satisfies all our metrics
- Then Simulated Annealing is used to fine tune the placements of PEBB's to reduce routing distance

Before



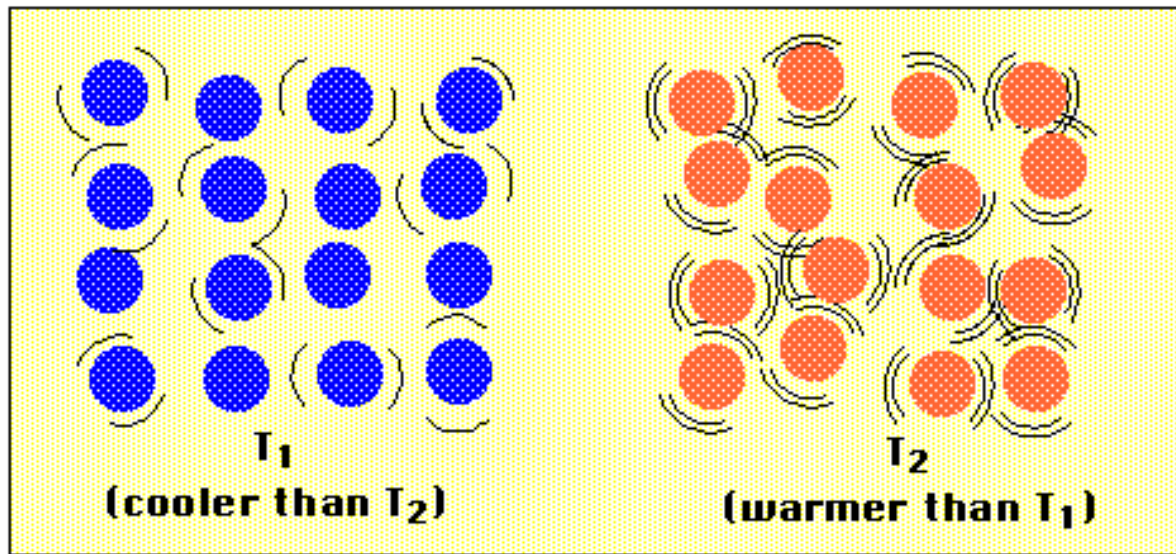
After





# Simulated Annealing

- Aims to simulate the annealing process in metallurgy
- Solutions begin very “**hot**” allowing for suboptimal changes
- As the algorithm continues it cools down only allow more and more conservative changes



$$P(\text{accept}) = e^{\frac{-\Delta E}{T}}$$

“Hands-On-Physics” - <https://hop.concord.org/htu/htu.concepts.flow.html>





# Simulated Annealing

$$E(\pi) = \alpha * (\text{Wire Routing Distance}) + \beta * (\text{Busbar Routing Distance})$$

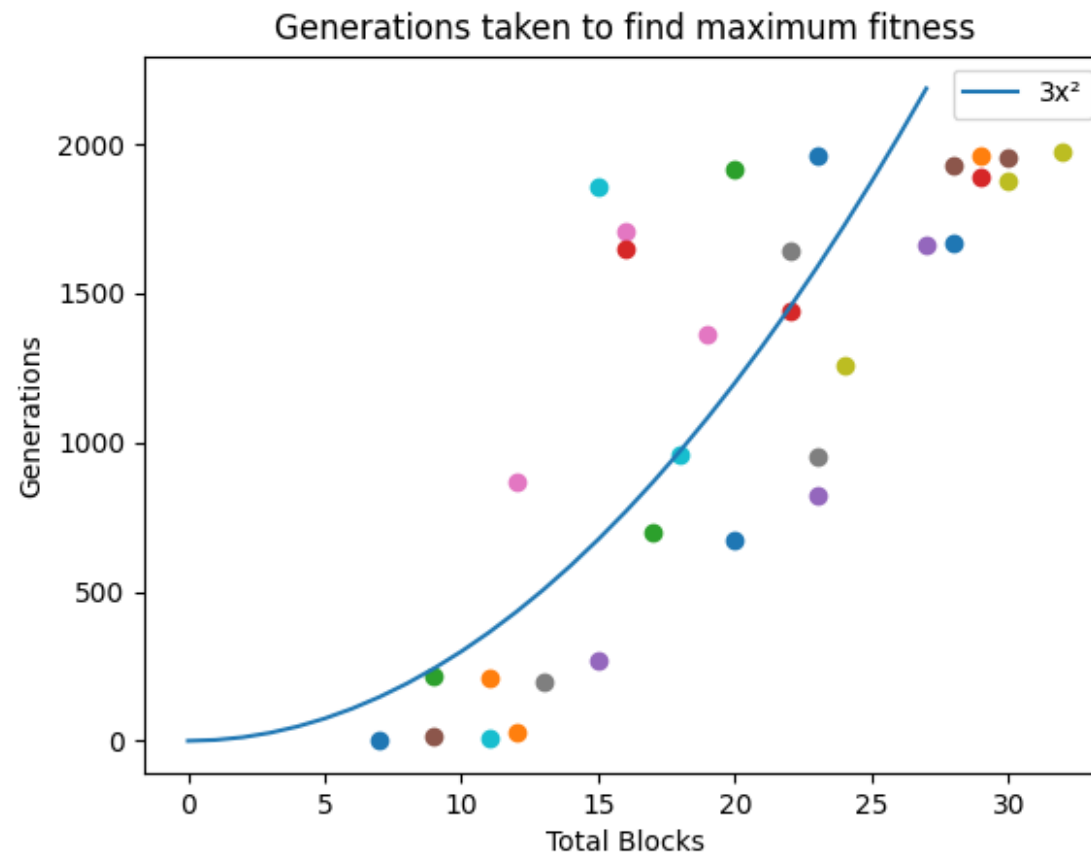
- This process only considers the routing distance of a given placement.
- In this stage changes are made only in position of PEBBS. Using the mutation operator from the Genetic Algorithm



# Parameter Optimization

| Genetic Algorithm Parameters |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Population Size              | 100   |
| Mutation Probability         | 0.75  |
| Busbar Routing Distance      | 3     |
| Wire Routing Distance        | 5     |
| DC Block Distance            | 3     |
| DC Height                    | 1     |
| AC Distance                  | 3     |
| Volume                       | 1     |
| PEBB/Switch Overlap          | 6.734 |
| Switch Width                 | 1     |

| Simulated Annealing Parameters |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Iterations per Temperature     | 400   |
| Start Temperature              | 50    |
| End Temperature                | 1     |
| Cooling Rate                   | 0.992 |





# Variance of Results

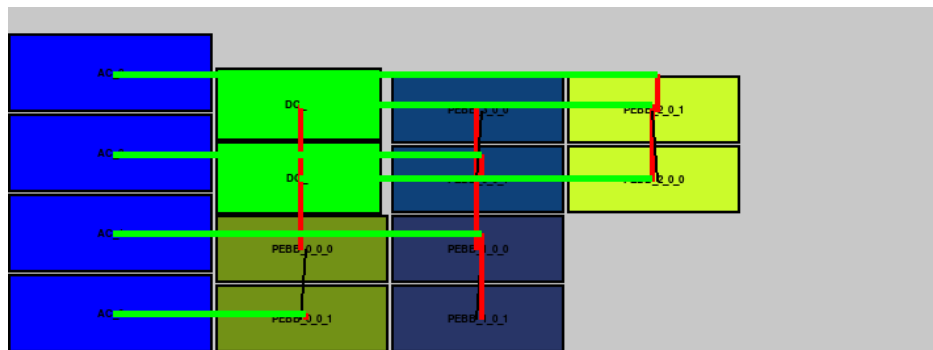
- Solutions have shown to be consistent between runs.
- The various values were calculated through 100 runs of the same problem

\*Units are in kg and decimeters

| Parameter               | Mean    | Standard Deviation | % of Mean |
|-------------------------|---------|--------------------|-----------|
| Busbar Routing Distance | 307.74  | 24.40              | 7.92%     |
| Wire Routing Distance   | 142.65  | 12.2               | 8.55%     |
| DC Distance             | 12.25   | 0                  | 0%        |
| AC Distance             | 164.04  | 13.47              | 8.21%     |
| Volume                  | 1193    | 0                  | 0%        |
| Normalized DC Height    | 0.81    | 0                  | 0%        |
| Overlap                 | 0.09    | 0                  | 0%        |
| Switch Range            | 9.80    | 0                  | 0%        |
| Weight                  | 1678.35 | 25.95              | 1.5%      |

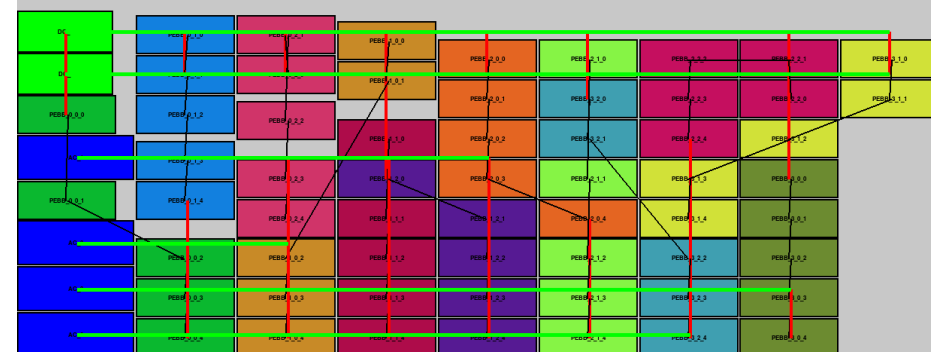
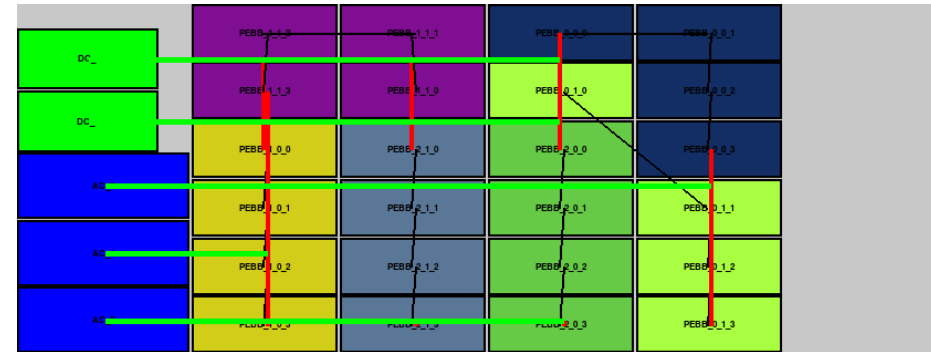
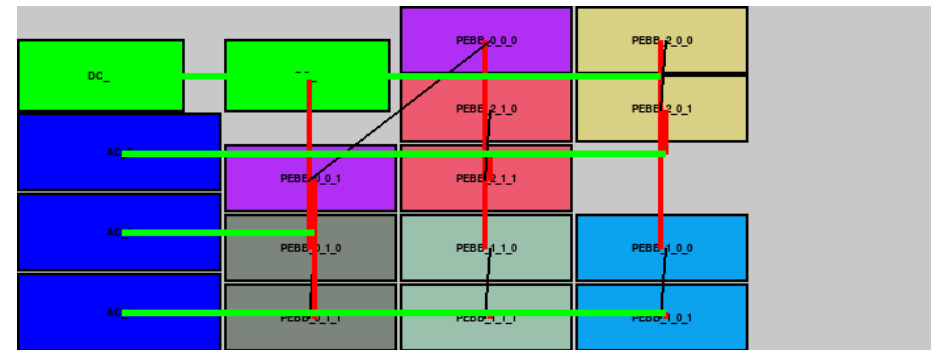
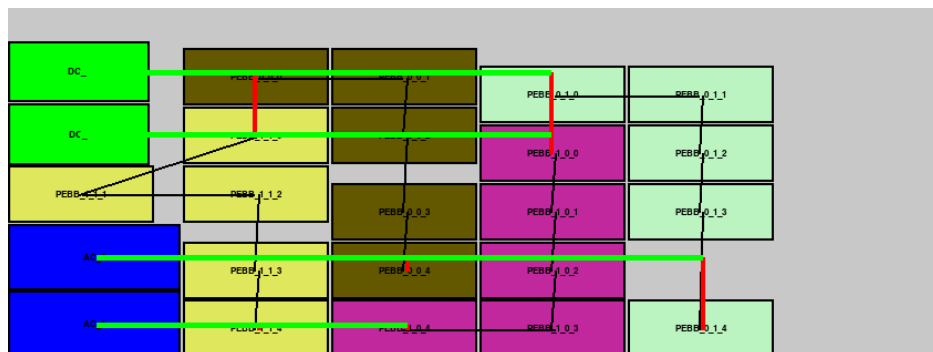
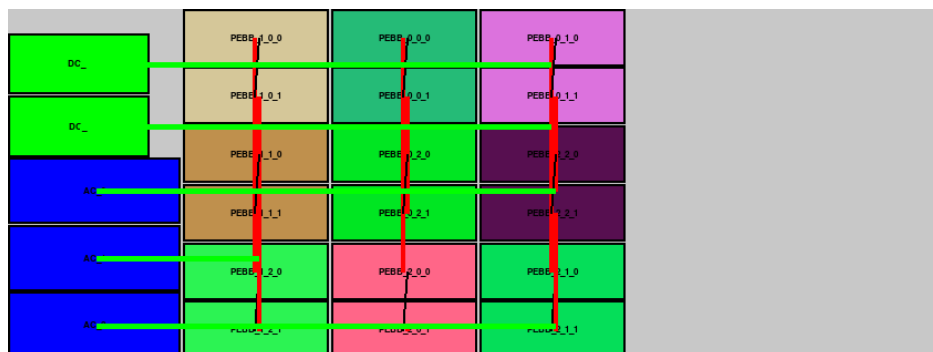


# Examples



Many random examples.

Note:



- PEBB clustering
- DC switches high in space
- Minimize length
- Use full height

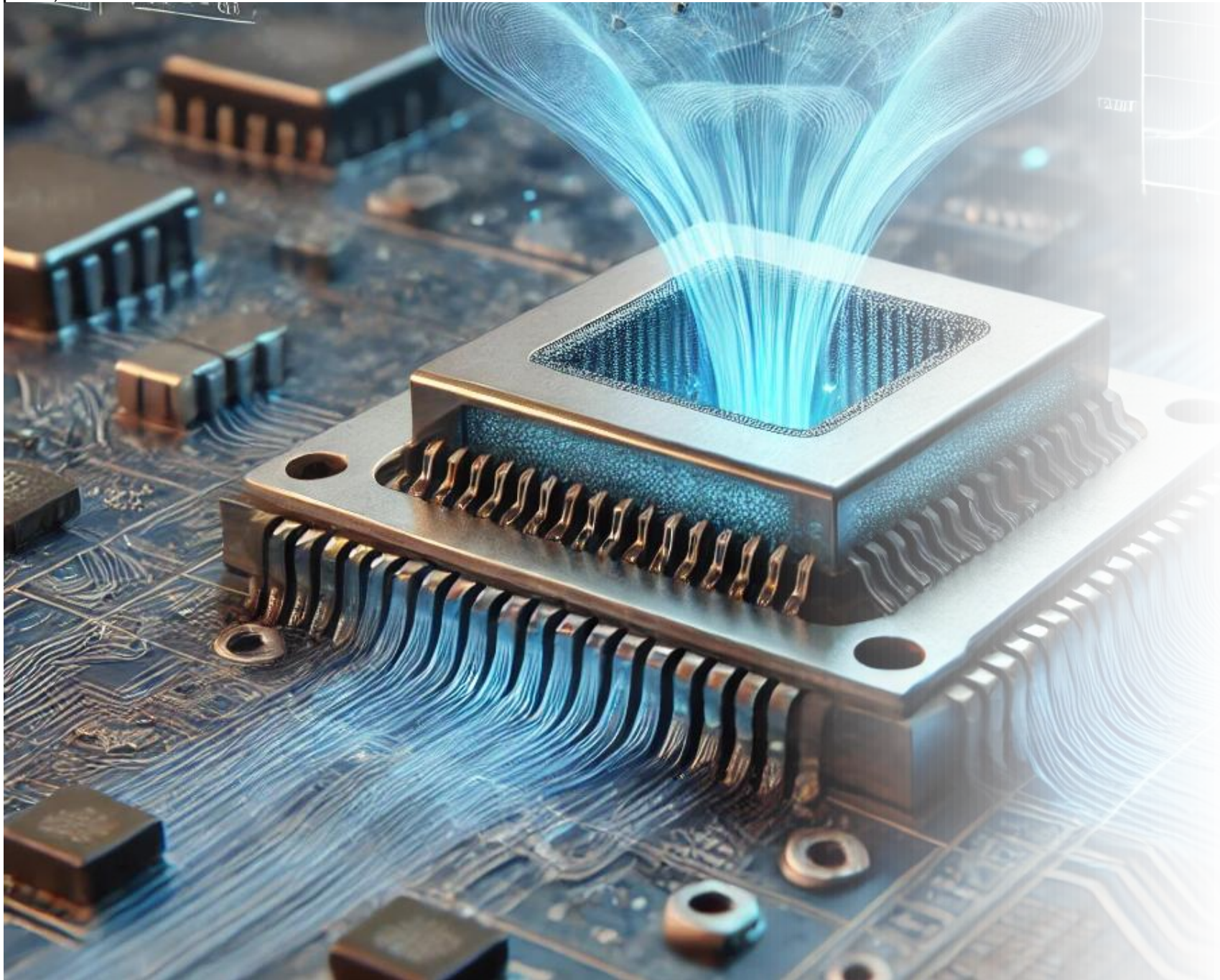


# Thank you

This work is supported by:

- the Office of Naval Research Grant No. N00014-21-1-2124
- the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Grant No. NA22OAR4170126





The views expressed are those of the authors and do not reflect the official policy or position of the U.S. Department of Defense or the U.S. Government.

## Enhancing Heat Sink Efficiency in MOSFETs using Physics Informed Neural Networks

Aniruddha Bora  
Postdoctoral Research Associate  
Brown University

# Enhancing Heat Sink Efficiency in MOSFETs using Physics Informed Neural Networks: A Systematic Study on Coolant Velocity Estimation



Isabel K. Alvarez



Dr. Julie Chalfant



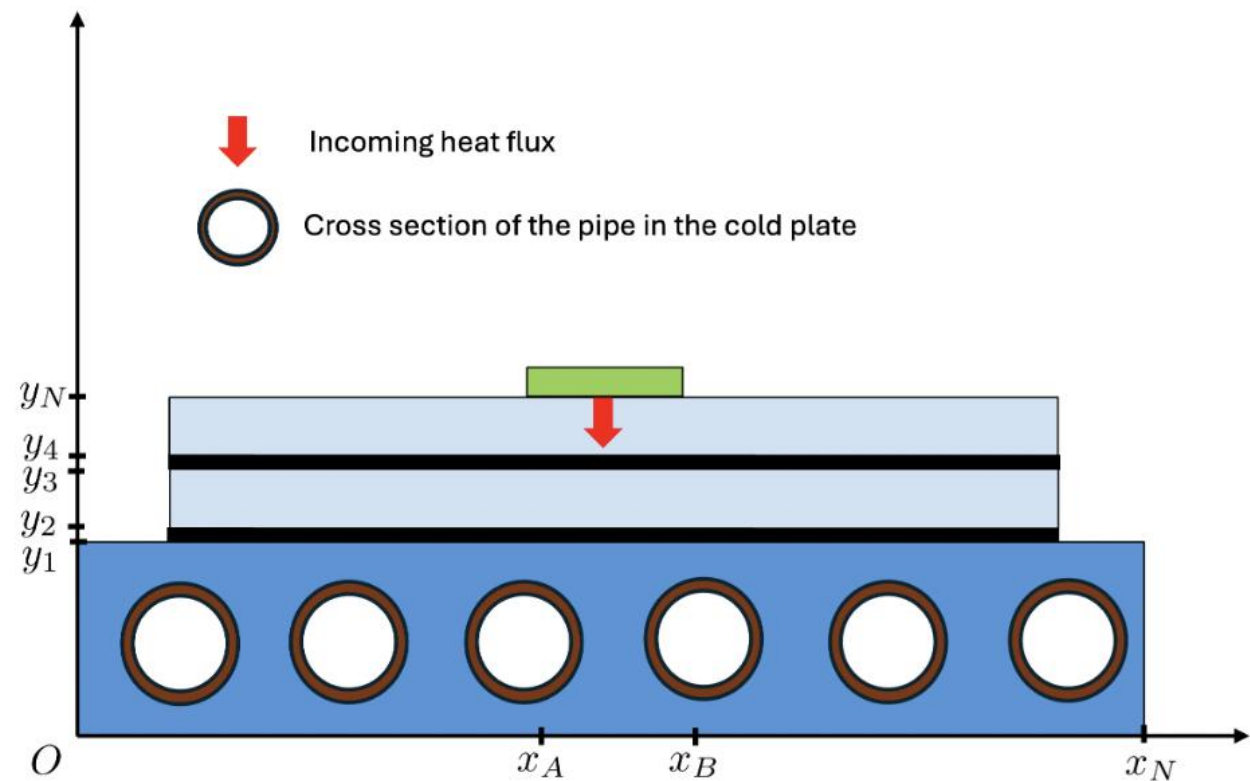
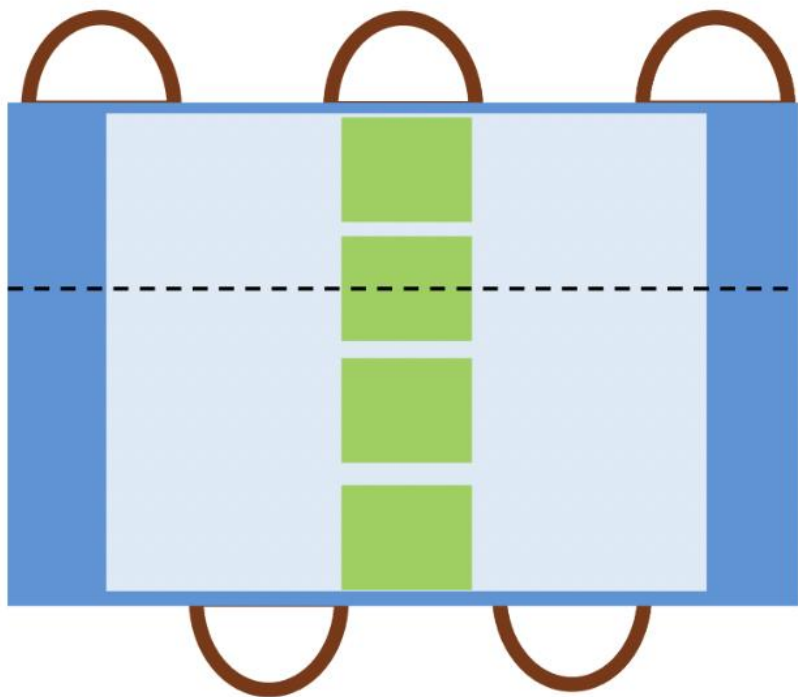
Dr. Chrysostomos Chrysostomidis

MIT Sea Grant Design Laboratory Massachusetts Institute of Technology Cambridge, MA, USA

**Bora A, Alvarez I, Chalfant J, Chrysostomidis C. Enhancing Heat Sink Efficiency in MOSFETs using Physics Informed Neural Networks: A Systematic Study on Coolant Velocity Estimation.**



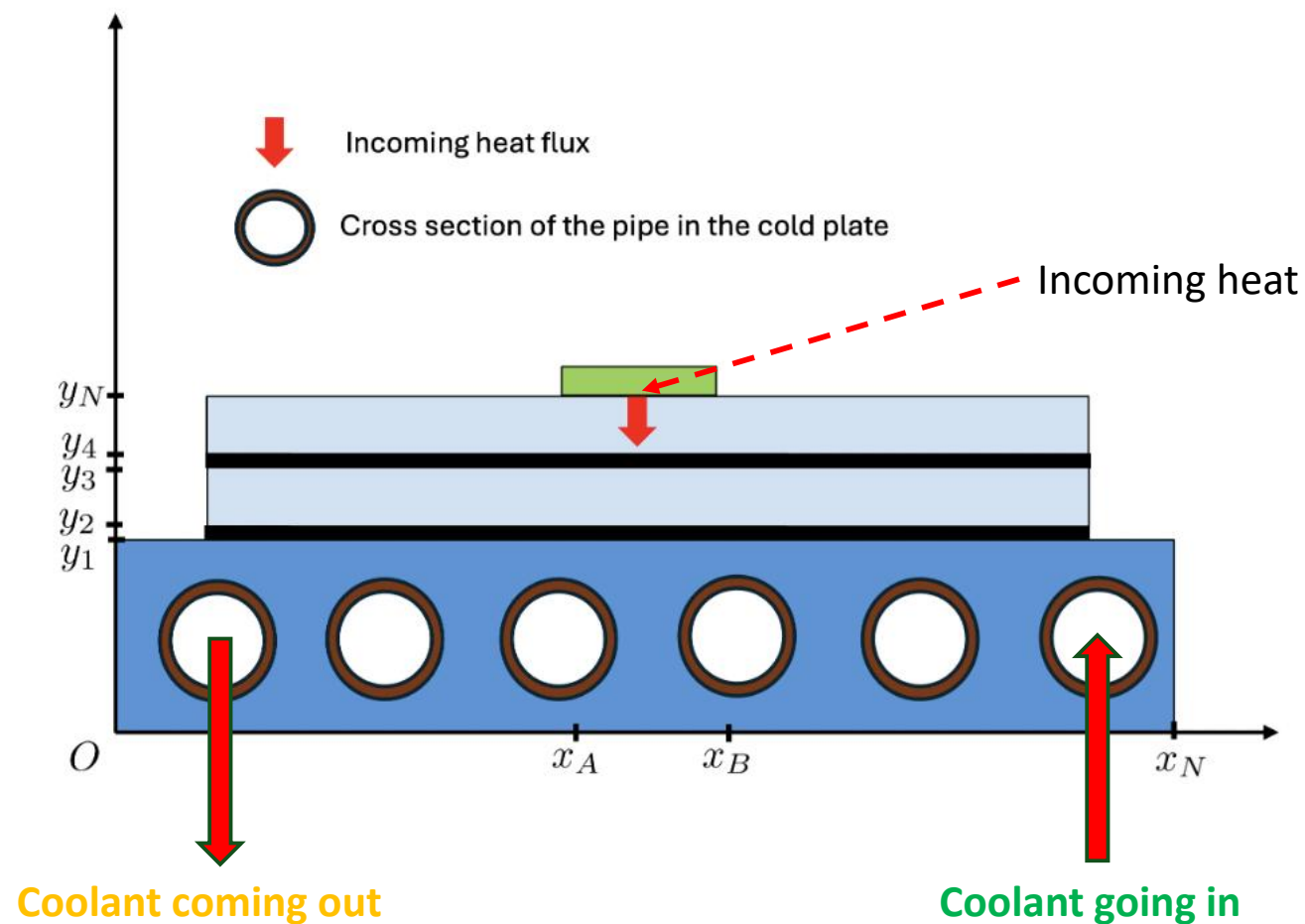
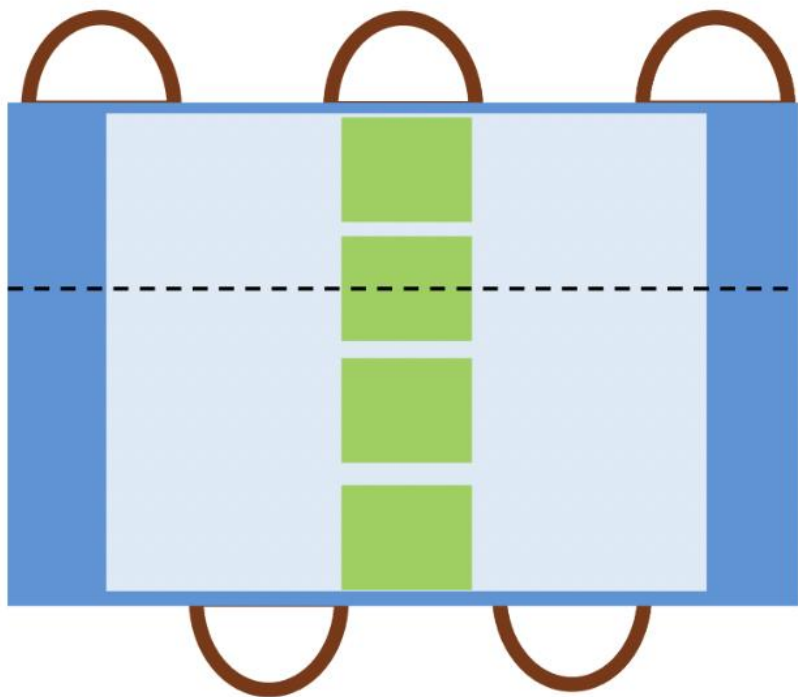
# Problem Statement



**Bora A**, Alvarez I, Chalfant J, Chrysostomidis C. Enhancing Heat Sink Efficiency in MOSFETs using Physics Informed Neural Networks: A Systematic Study on Coolant Velocity Estimation.



# Problem Statement



# Problem Statement

$$k_i(u_{xx}^i + u_{yy}^i) = 0, \quad 0 \leq x \leq x_N, \quad 0 \leq y \leq y_N,$$

where  $u^i$  and  $k_i$  are the temperature and thermal conductivity for the  $i^{th}$  layer, respectively

$$\frac{\partial u(x, y_L)}{\partial y} = \alpha, \quad x_A \leq x \leq x_B, \quad y = y_N,$$

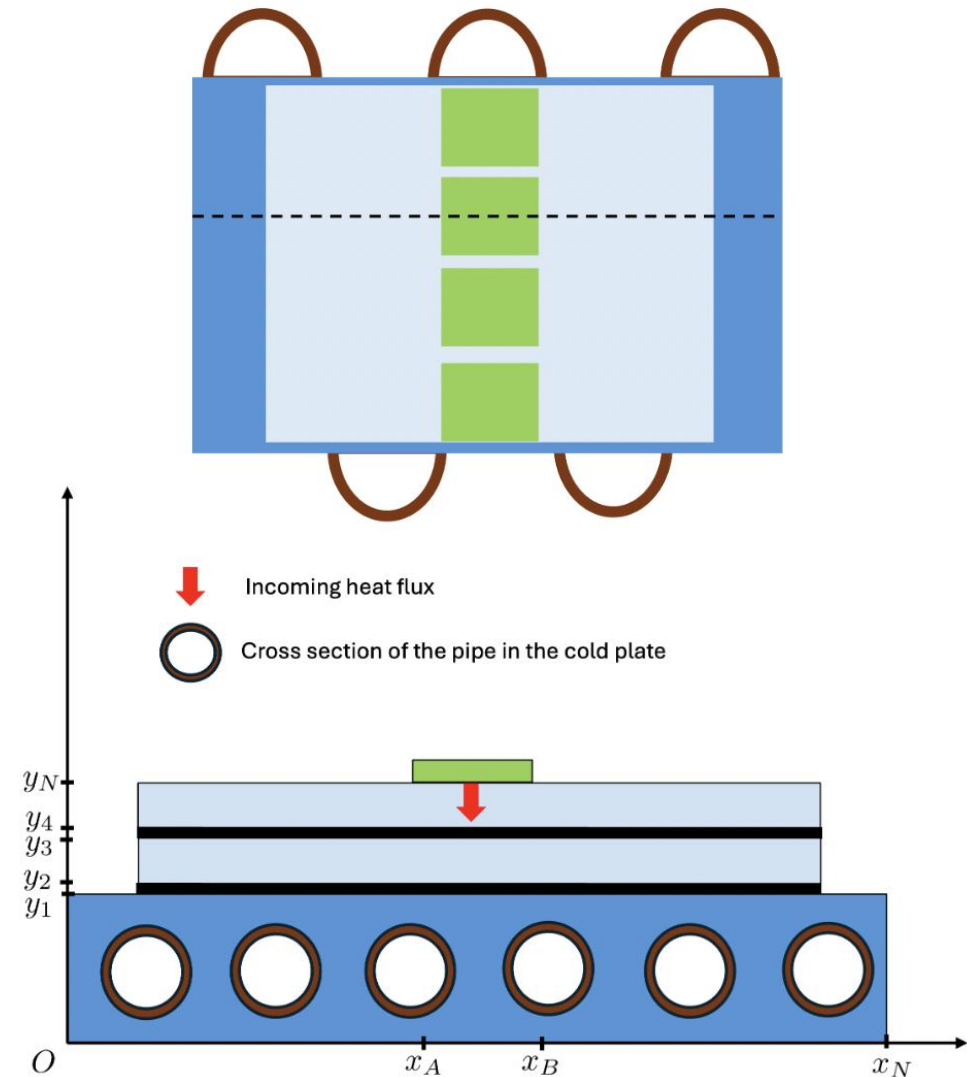
perfectly thermal interface conditions which imply that there is no heat lost when it moves from one layer to the next,

$$u^i(x, y) = u^j(x, y), \quad (x, y) \in \text{interface}$$

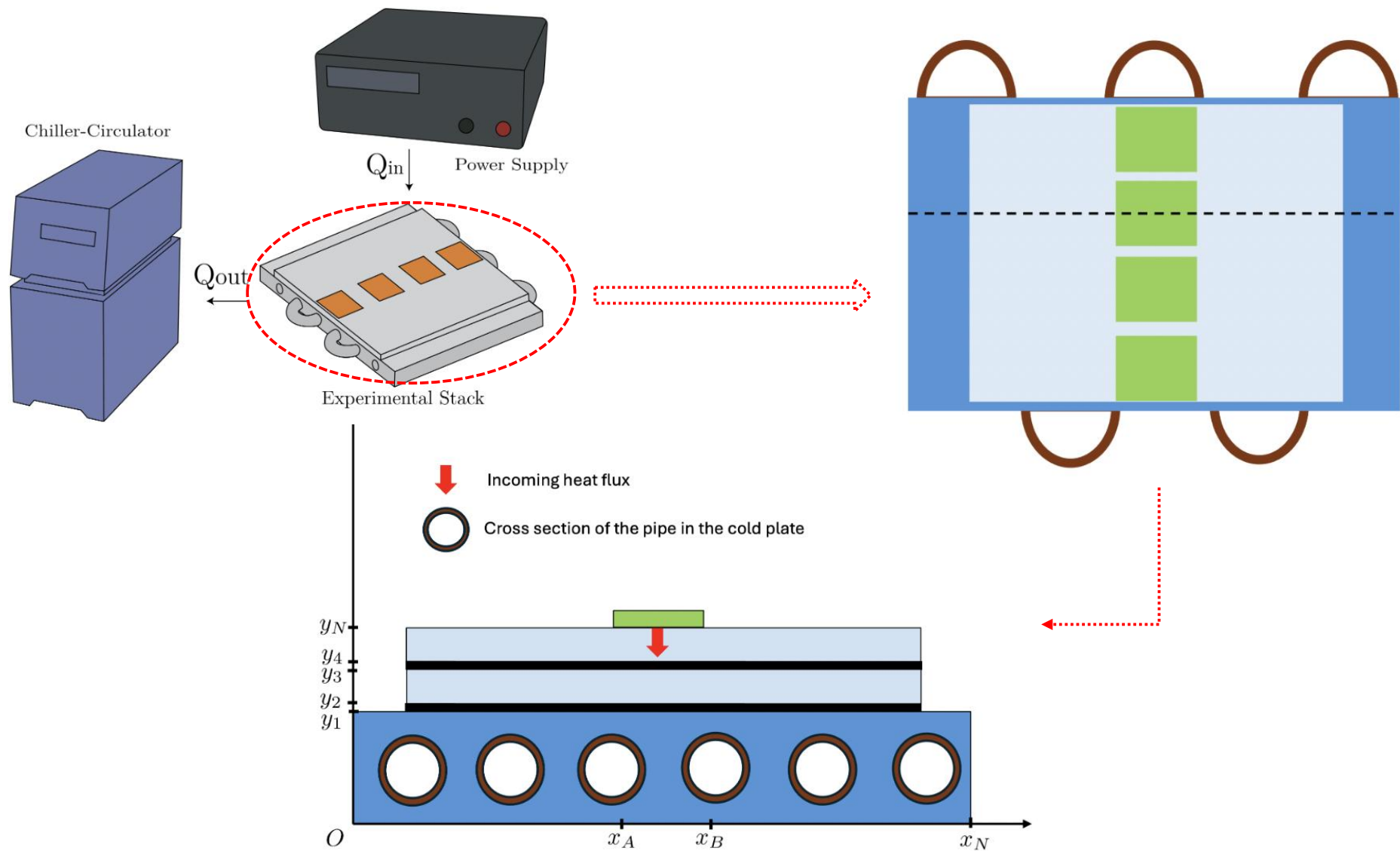
$$k_i \frac{\partial u^i(x, y)}{\partial n} = k_j \frac{\partial u^j(x, y)}{\partial n}, \quad (x, y) \in \text{interface}$$

The convective boundary condition

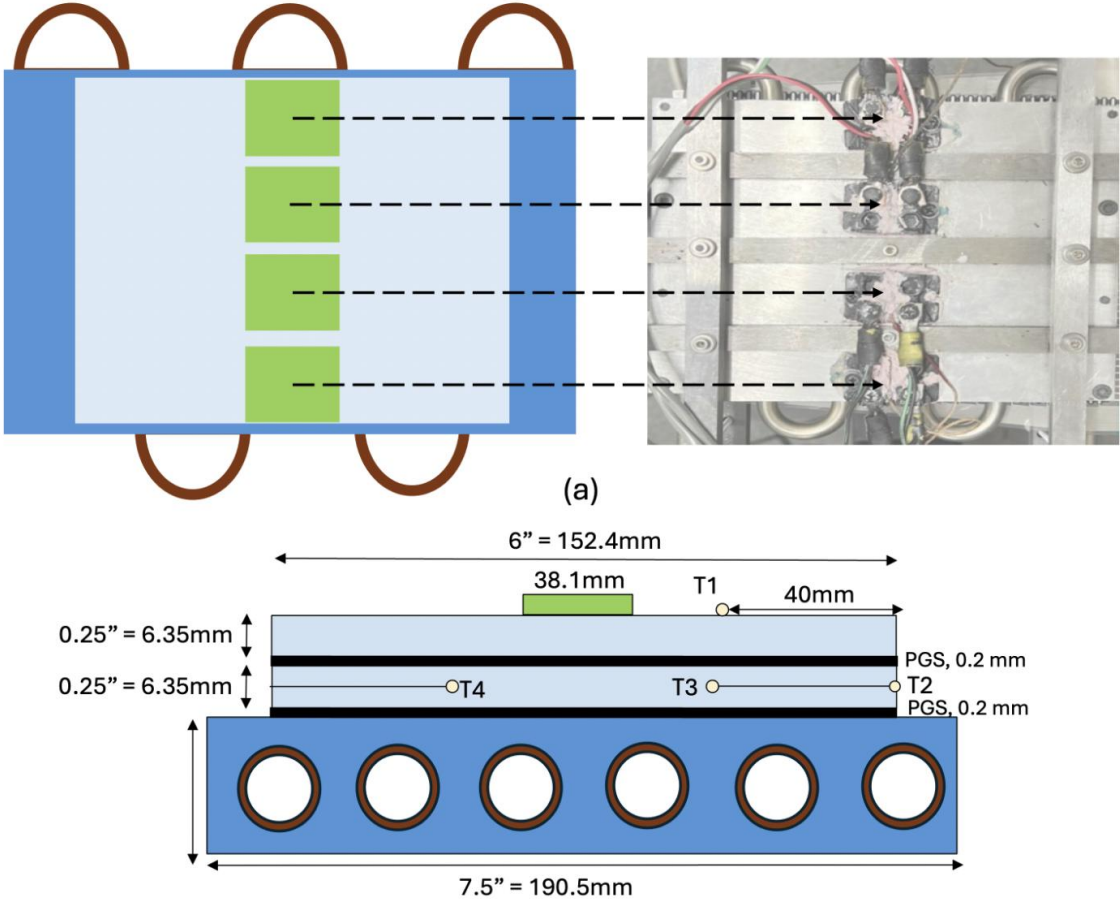
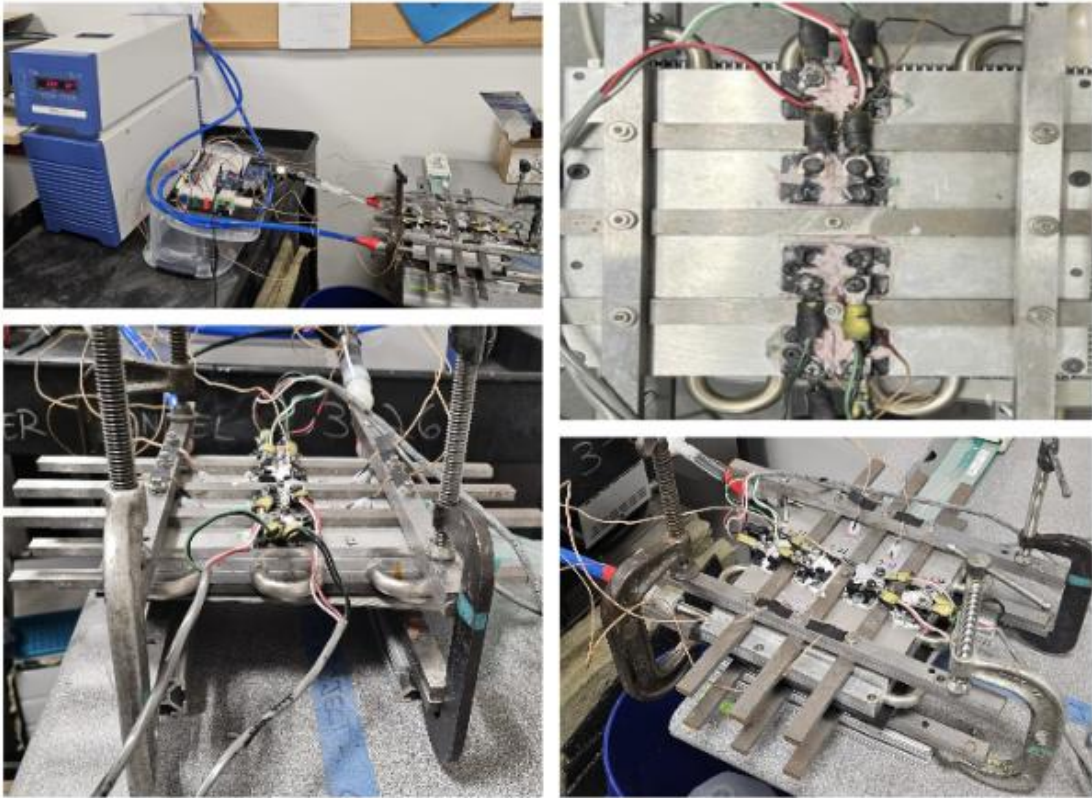
$$-k_i \frac{\partial u^i(x, y)}{\partial n} = h(u^i - u^j), \quad (x, y) \in \text{inner surface of pipes}$$



# Experimental Setup



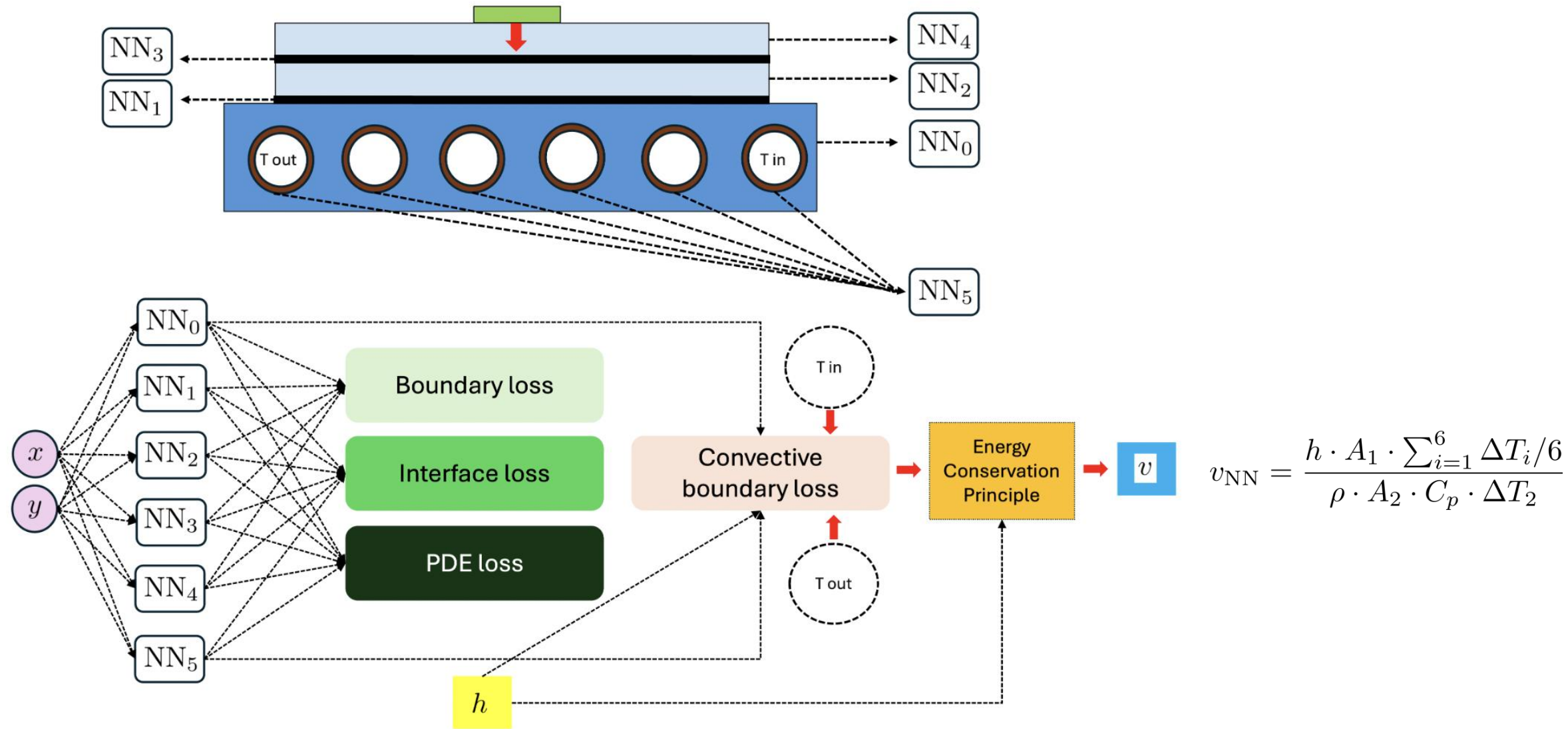
# Experimental Setup



**Bora A**, Alvarez I, Chalfant J, Chrysostomidis C. Enhancing Heat Sink Efficiency in MOSFETs using Physics Informed Neural Networks: A Systematic Study on Coolant Velocity Estimation.



# PINNs Setup



**Bora A**, Alvarez I, Chalfant J, Chrysostomidis C. Enhancing Heat Sink Efficiency in MOSFETs using Physics Informed Neural Networks: A Systematic Study on Coolant Velocity Estimation.

# An analytical example: to validate prediction of h

Let us consider the steady-state heat conduction equation in two dimensions

$$\frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} = 0, \quad \text{for } 0 < x < W, \quad 0 < y < H$$

with Dirichlet boundary condition

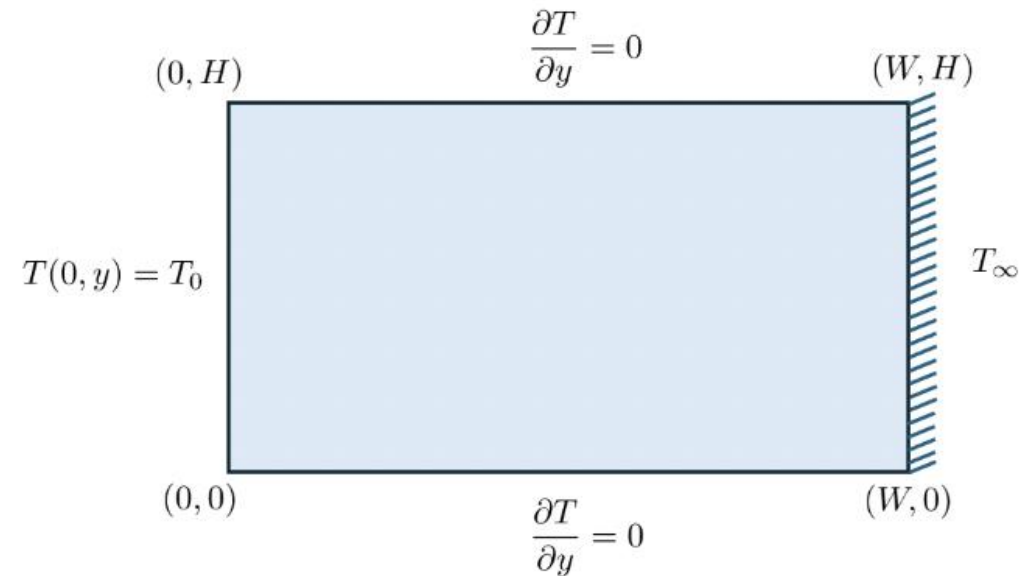
$$T(0, y) = T_0, \quad \text{for } 0 \leq y \leq H$$

insulated boundary condition

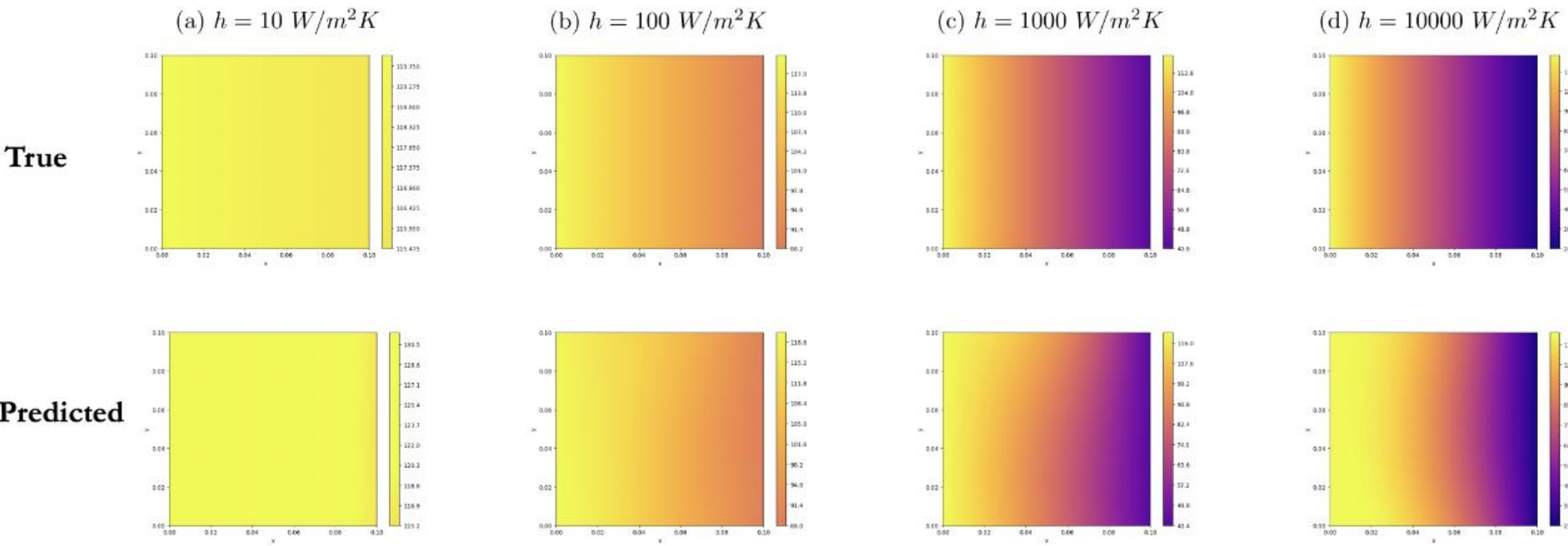
$$\left. \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \right|_{y=0} = 0, \quad \left. \frac{\partial T}{\partial y} \right|_{y=H} = 0, \quad \text{for } 0 \leq x \leq W$$

and convective boundary condition

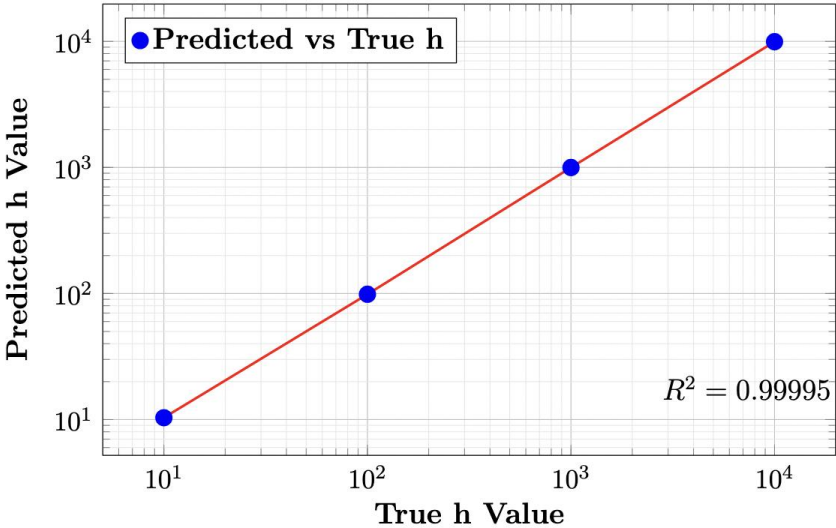
$$-k \left. \frac{\partial T}{\partial x} \right|_{x=W} = h[T(W, y) - T_\infty], \quad \text{for } 0 \leq y \leq H$$



# Results: Analytical Example

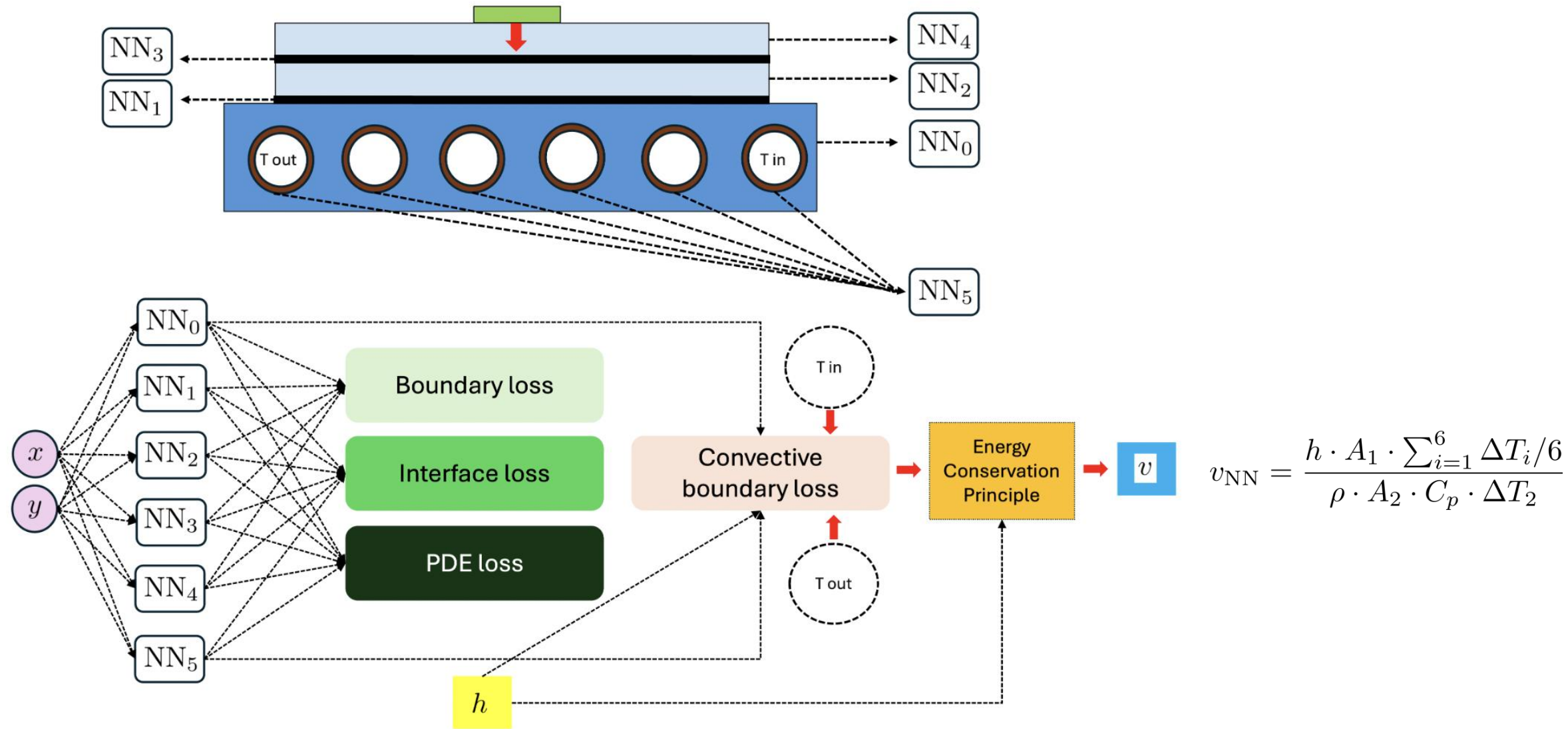


| h ( $\text{W/m}^2\text{K}$ ) value predicted | true h ( $\text{W/m}^2\text{K}$ ) value | error % |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------|
| 10.35                                        | 10                                      | 3.5     |
| 98.731                                       | 100                                     | 1.269   |
| 998.26                                       | 1000                                    | 0.174   |
| 9942.24                                      | 10000                                   | 0.5776  |



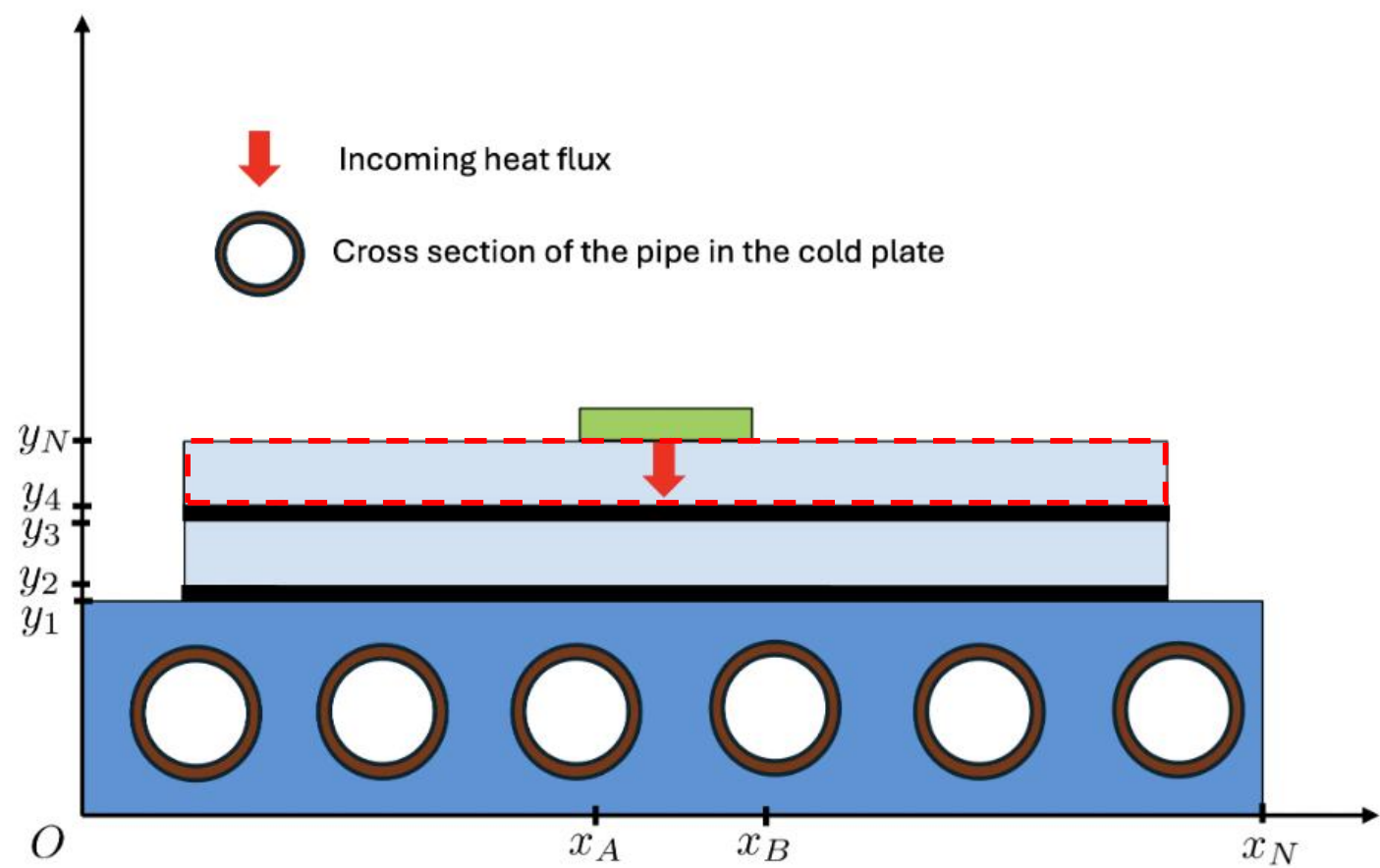


# Coming back to original PINNs Setup



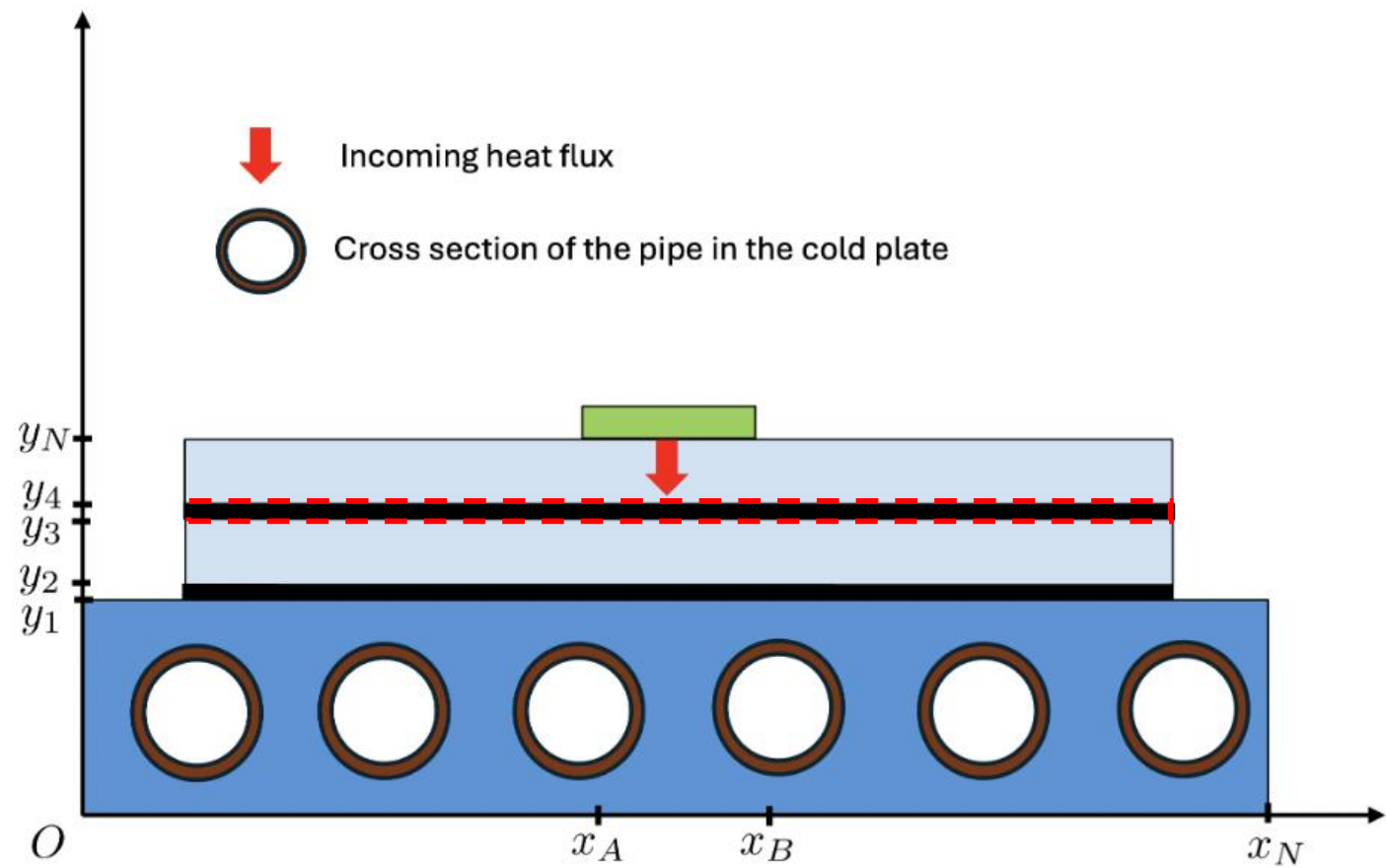
Bora A, Alvarez I, Chalfant J, Chrysostomidis C. Enhancing Heat Sink Efficiency in MOSFETs using Physics Informed Neural Networks: A Systematic Study on Coolant Velocity Estimation.

# Training strategy



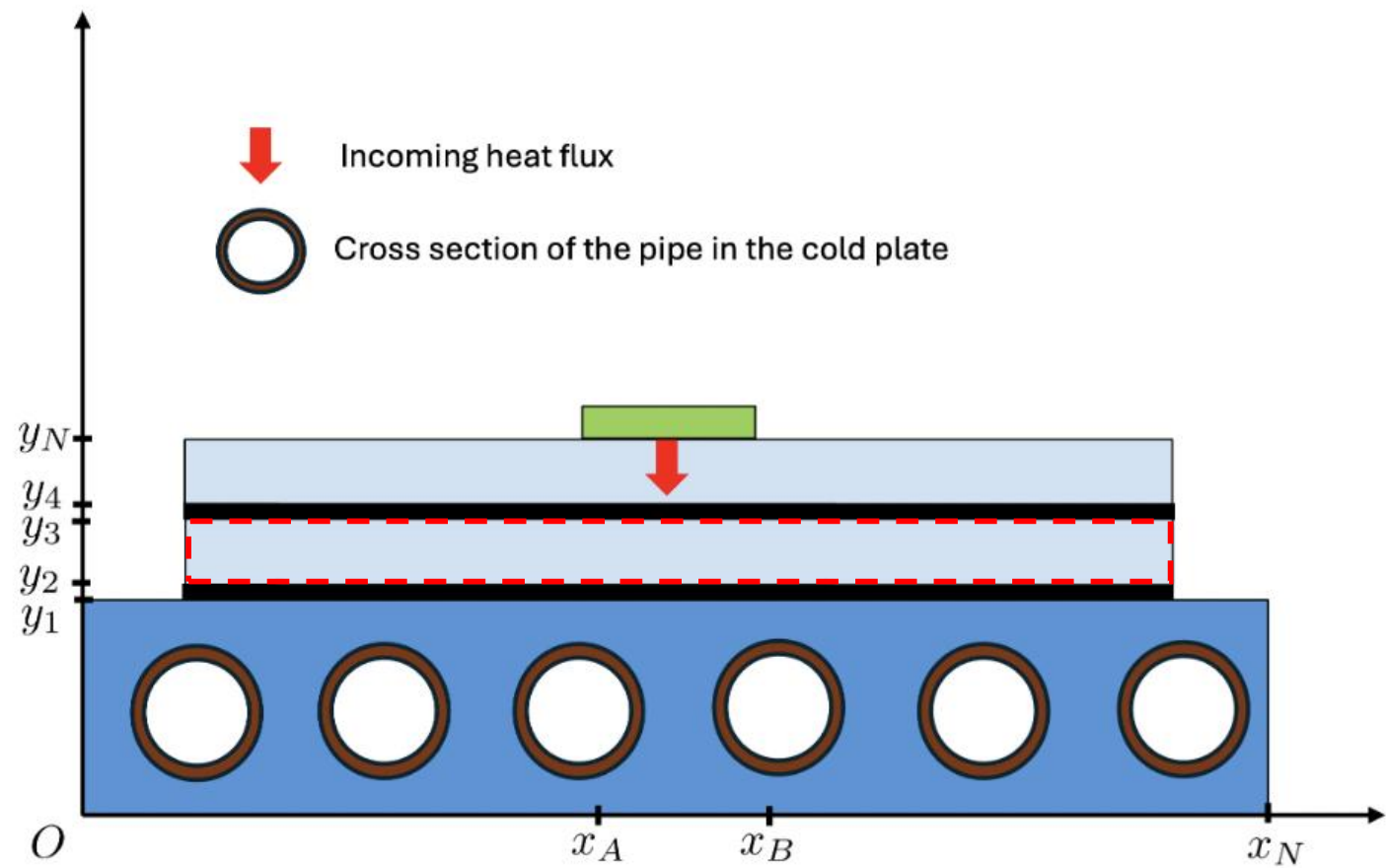
**Bora A**, Alvarez I, Chalfant J, Chrysostomidis C. Enhancing Heat Sink Efficiency in MOSFETs using Physics Informed Neural Networks: A Systematic Study on Coolant Velocity Estimation.

# Training strategy



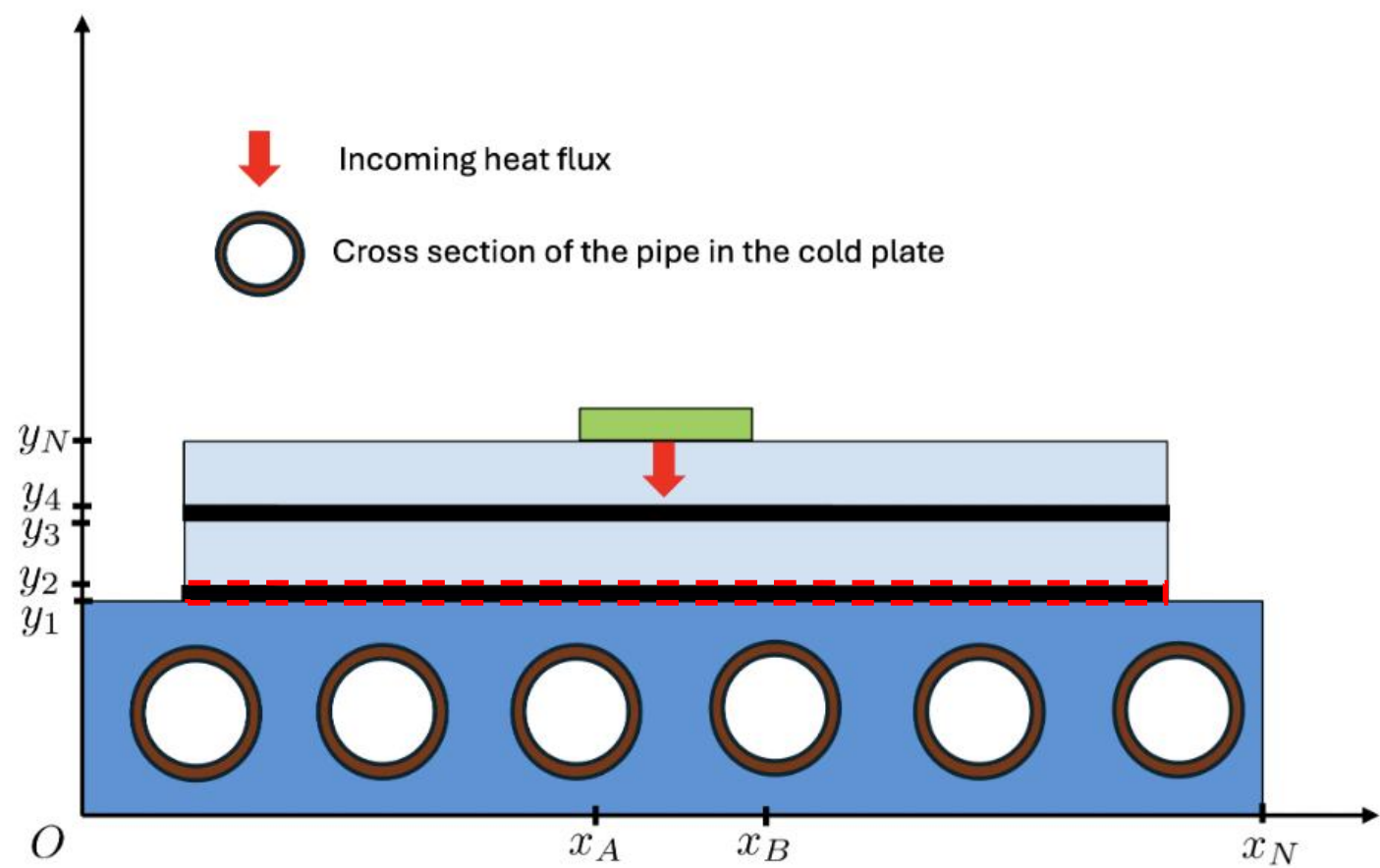
**Bora A**, Alvarez I, Chalfant J, Chrysostomidis C. Enhancing Heat Sink Efficiency in MOSFETs using Physics Informed Neural Networks: A Systematic Study on Coolant Velocity Estimation.

# Training strategy



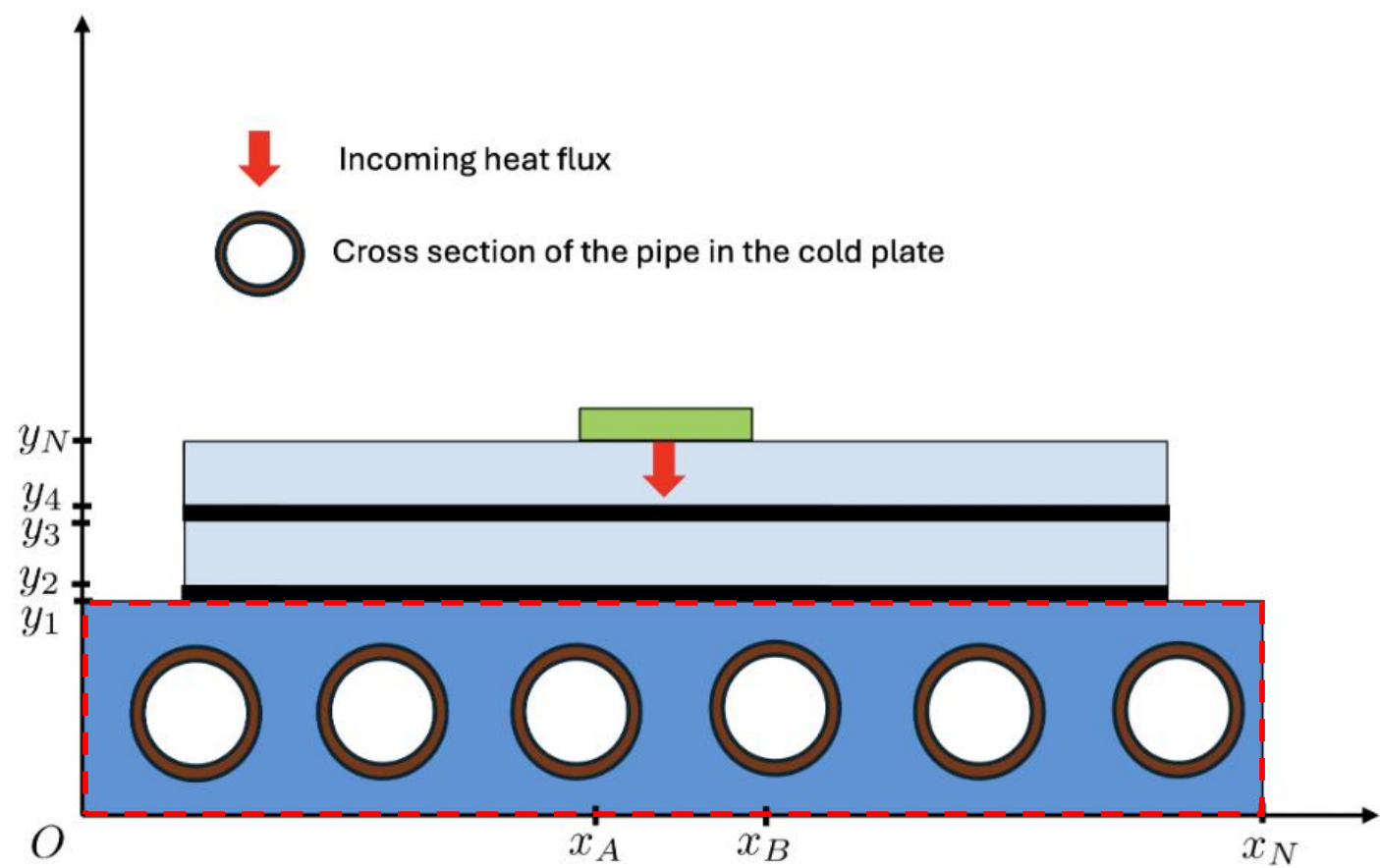
**Bora A**, Alvarez I, Chalfant J, Chrysostomidis C. Enhancing Heat Sink Efficiency in MOSFETs using Physics Informed Neural Networks: A Systematic Study on Coolant Velocity Estimation.

# Training strategy



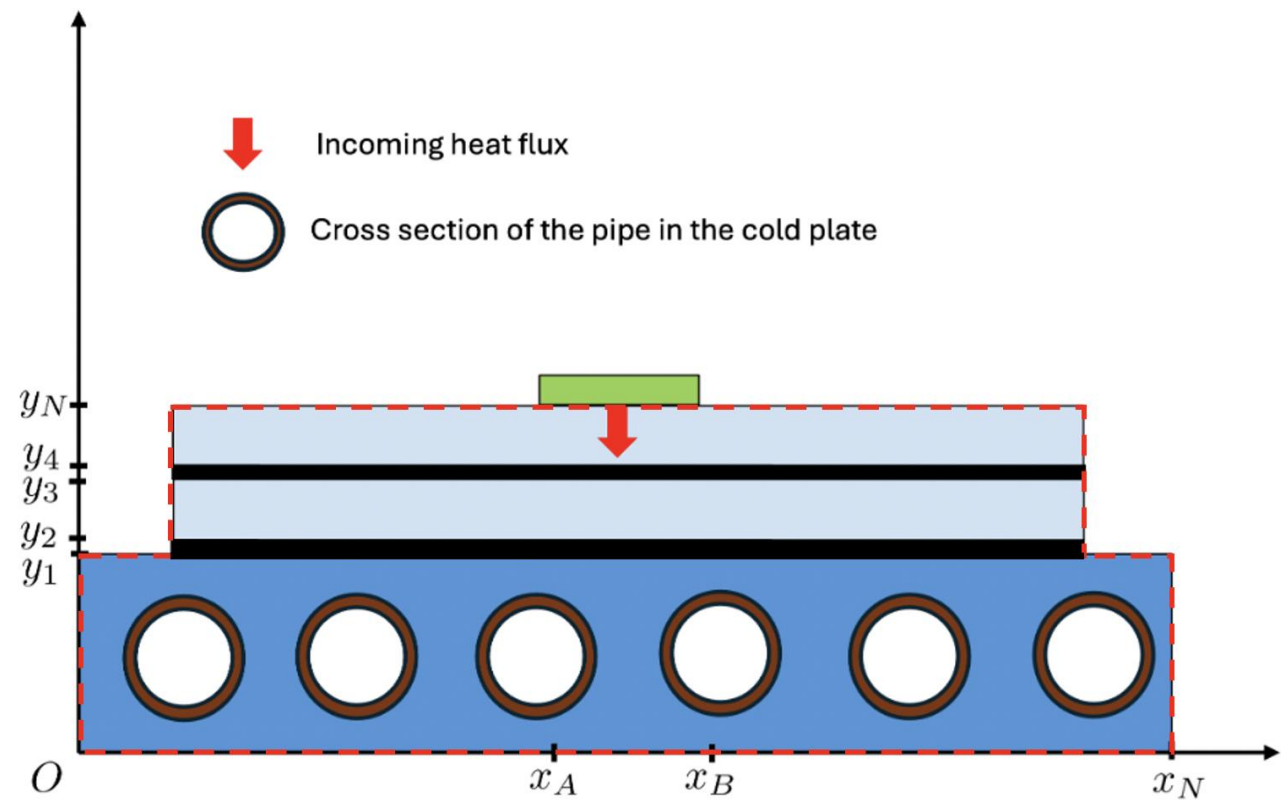
**Bora A**, Alvarez I, Chalfant J, Chrysostomidis C. Enhancing Heat Sink Efficiency in MOSFETs using Physics Informed Neural Networks: A Systematic Study on Coolant Velocity Estimation

# Training strategy



**Bora A**, Alvarez I, Chalfant J, Chrysostomidis C. Enhancing Heat Sink Efficiency in MOSFETs using Physics Informed Neural Networks: A Systematic Study on Coolant Velocity Estimation. (Submitted to International Journal of Heat and Mass Transfer. 2025.)

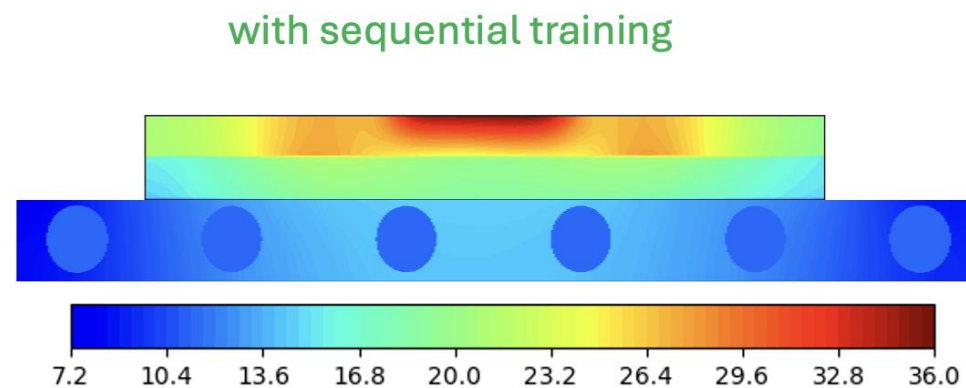
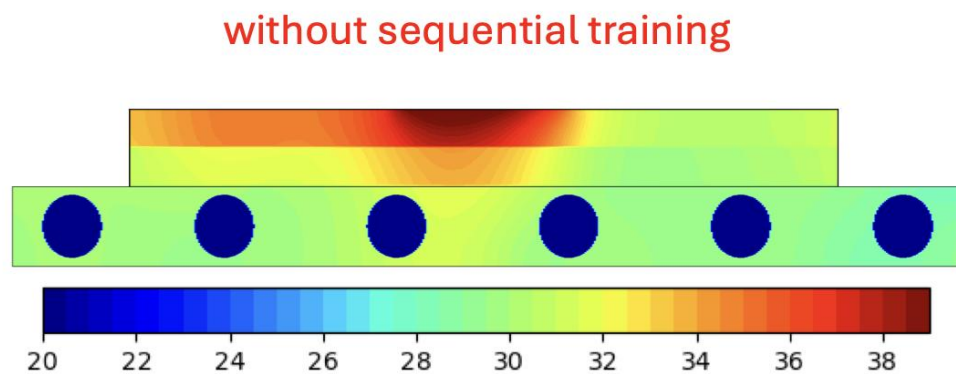
# Training strategy



**Bora A**, Alvarez I, Chalfant J, Chrysostomidis C. Enhancing Heat Sink Efficiency in MOSFETs using Physics Informed Neural Networks: A Systematic Study on Coolant Velocity Estimation.



# Comparison between with and without sequential training



- Better temperature agreement
- Less sensitive to initialization

# Results (without any data)

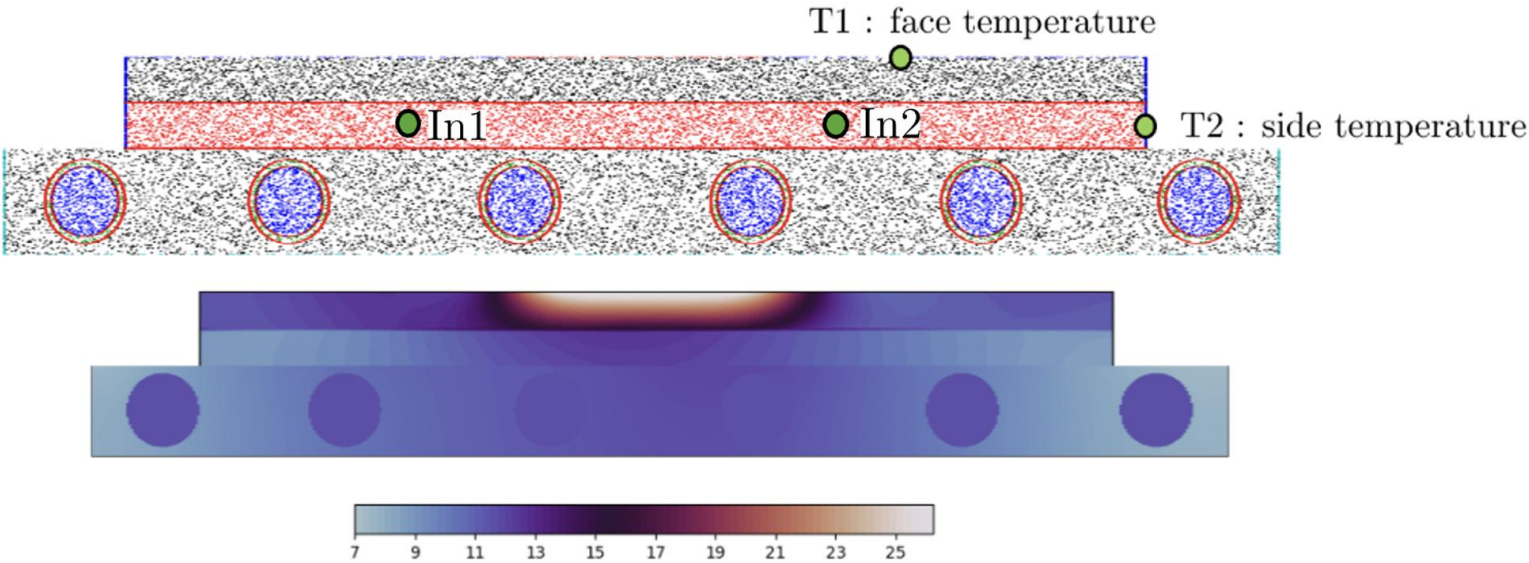


Table 2: Case A13\_4 (No data used,  $r = 0.005\text{ mm}$ ,  $C_p = 4188.5\text{ J/Kg} - K$ ,  $\rho = 999.1\text{ Kg/m}^3$ )

| Trial | $h_{nn}$ (W/m <sup>2</sup> K) | $v_{nn}$ (m/s) | $v_{exp}$ (m/s) | Side (°C) |       | Face (°C) |       | In1 (°C) |       | In2 (°C) |       |
|-------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|
|       |                               |                |                 | Pred      | Exp   | Pred      | Exp   | Pred     | Exp   | Pred     | Exp   |
| 1     | 3170.89                       | 0.33           | 0.296           | 13.52     | 23.57 | 14.65     | 27.48 | 13.56    | 25.85 | 13.89    | 25.90 |
| 2     | 3281.05                       | 0.32           | 0.296           | 13.65     | 23.57 | 13.91     | 27.48 | 13.10    | 25.85 | 13.35    | 25.90 |
| 3     | 3165.11                       | 0.34           | 0.296           | 14.65     | 23.57 | 14.21     | 27.48 | 14.23    | 25.85 | 13.47    | 25.90 |
| Mean  | 3205.68                       | 0.33           | 0.296           | 13.94     | 23.57 | 14.25     | 27.48 | 13.63    | 25.85 | 13.57    | 25.90 |
| Std   | 65.34                         | 0.01           |                 | 0.62      | -     | 0.37      | -     | 0.56     | -     | 0.28     | -     |

**Bora A**, Alvarez I, Chalfant J, Chrysostomidis C. Enhancing Heat Sink Efficiency in MOSFETs using Physics Informed Neural Networks: A Systematic Study on Coolant Velocity Estimation.

# Results (with data)

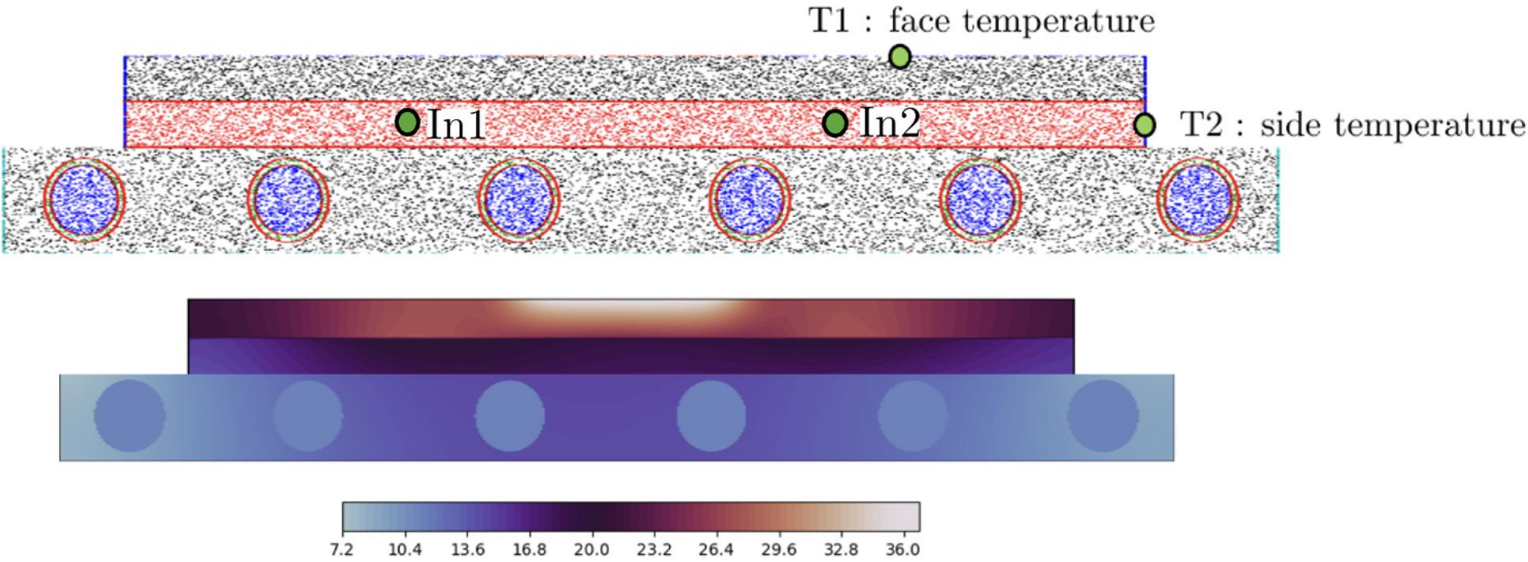
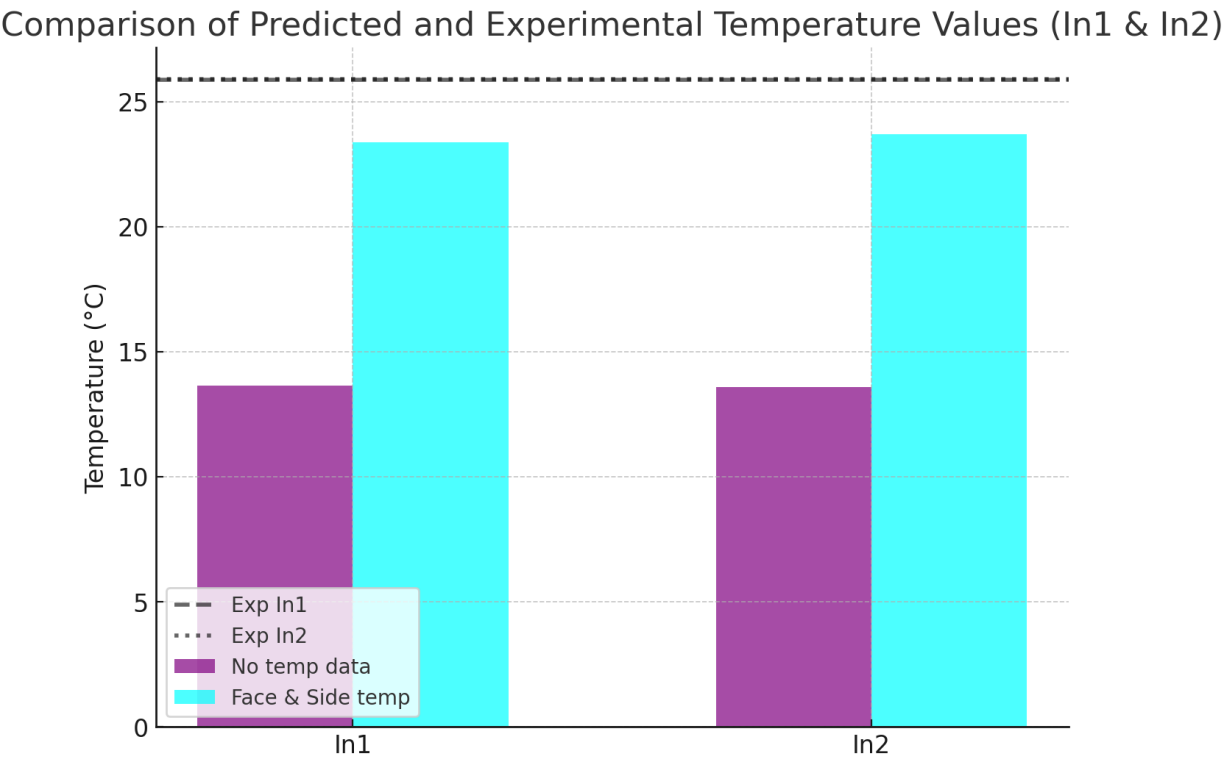
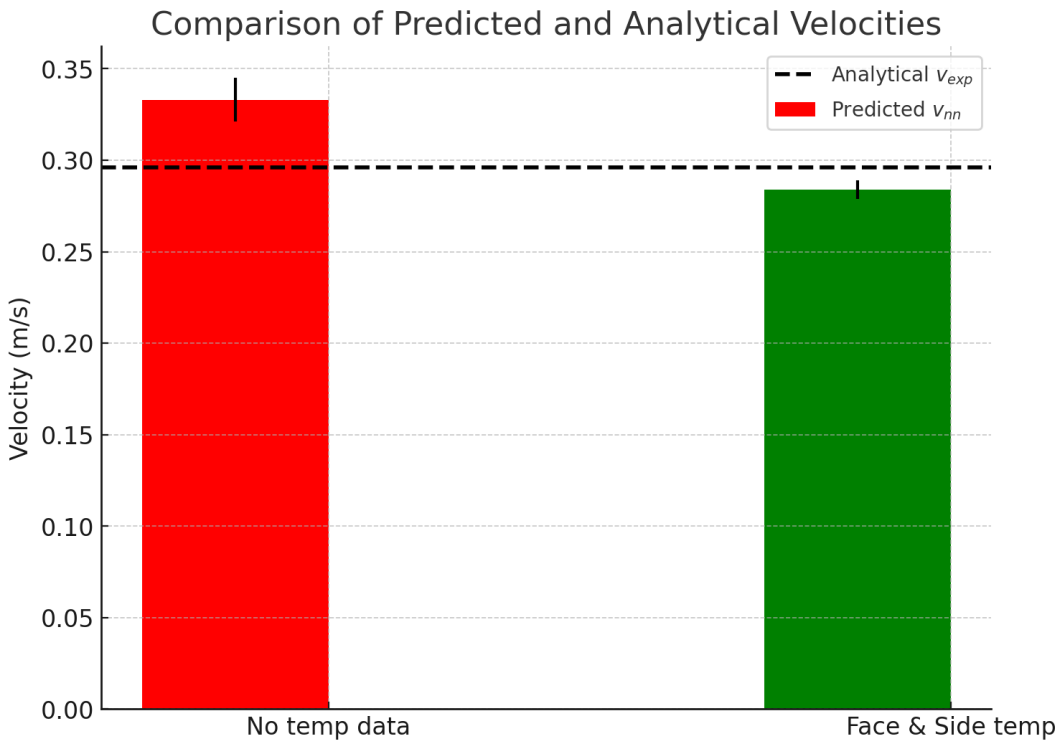


Table 3: Case A13\_4 (Face and Side temp data used,  $r = 0.005$  mm,  $C_p = 4188.5 J/Kg - K$ ,  $\rho = 999.1 Kg/m^3$ )

| Trial | $h_{nn}$ (W/m <sup>2</sup> K) | $v_{nn}$ (m/s) | $v_{exp}$ (m/s) | Side (°C) |       | Face (°C) |       | In1 (°C) |       | In2 (°C) |       |
|-------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|
|       |                               |                |                 | Pred      | Exp   | Pred      | Exp   | Pred     | Exp   | Pred     | Exp   |
| 1     | 2913.79                       | 0.28           | 0.296           | 22.41     | 23.57 | 26.77     | 27.47 | 23.01    | 25.86 | 23.54    | 25.90 |
| 2     | 2957.04                       | 0.29           | 0.296           | 22.35     | 23.57 | 27.11     | 27.47 | 22.81    | 25.86 | 22.99    | 25.90 |
| 3     | 2918.29                       | 0.28           | 0.296           | 23.11     | 23.57 | 26.42     | 27.47 | 24.32    | 25.86 | 24.51    | 25.90 |
| Mean  | 2929.71                       | 0.28           | 0.296           | 22.62     | 23.57 | 26.76     | 27.47 | 23.38    | 25.86 | 23.68    | 25.90 |
| Std   | 23.77                         | 0.005          | -               | 0.422     | -     | 0.345     | -     | 0.82     | -     | 0.78     | -     |

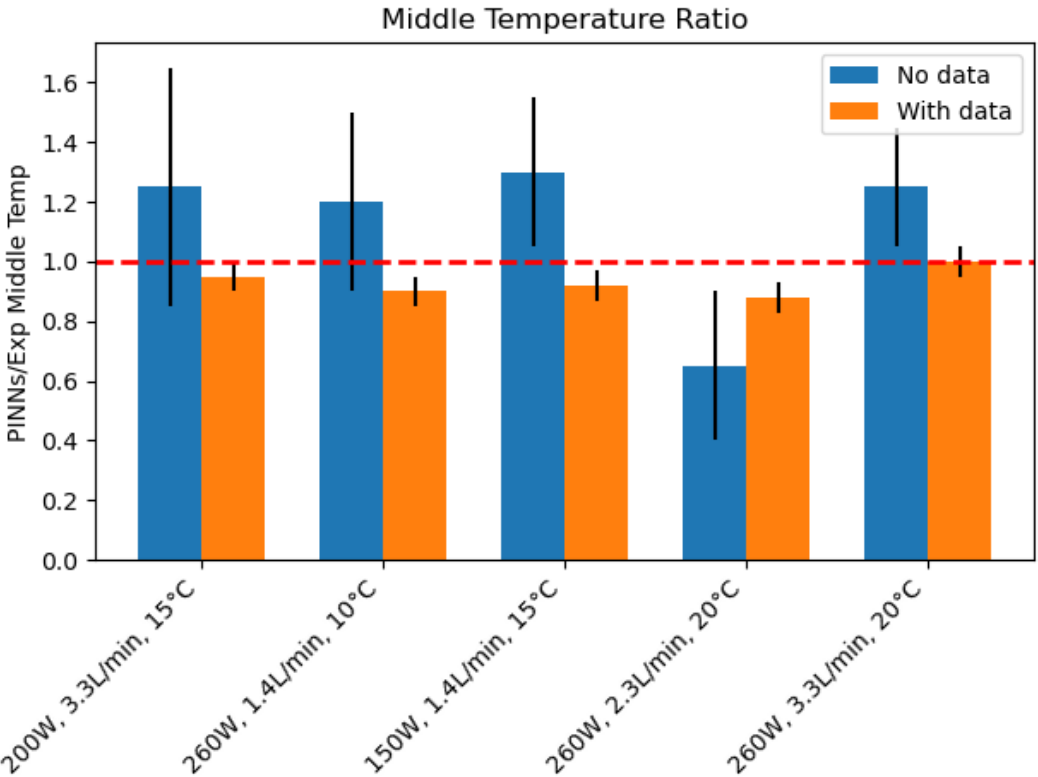
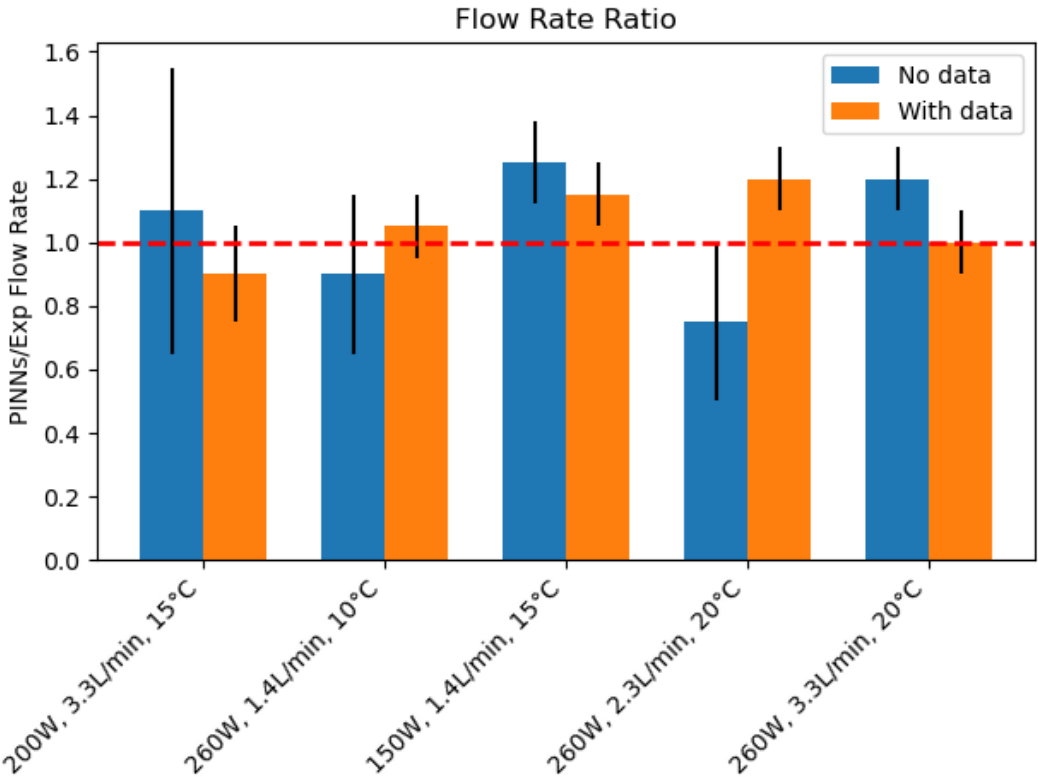
**Bora A**, Alvarez I, Chalfant J, Chrysostomidis C. Enhancing Heat Sink Efficiency in MOSFETs using Physics Informed Neural Networks: A Systematic Study on Coolant Velocity Estimation.

# Results Comparison



# Verification on varied experimental conditions

| File  | Power (W) | Flow Rate (L/min) |
|-------|-----------|-------------------|
| A13_4 | 259.2     | 1.39              |
| A12_2 | 259.2     | 2.34              |
| A13_7 | 259.2     | 3.25              |
| A11_1 | 151.8     | 1.39              |
| A14_2 | 151.8     | 3.25              |
| A13_3 | 201.4     | 3.25              |



# Conclusion

- We have formulated a PINNs framework for the effective determination of coolant velocity for heat sink.
- We define a convective boundary loss to infer the heat transfer coefficient for the system and use it along with energy conservation principle to estimate the coolant velocity.
- We introduce a novel layer-wise training strategy that enhances the accuracy and effectiveness of our proposed approach.
- We validate our method based on experimental results.



# Thank you





The views expressed are those of the authors and do not reflect the official policy or position of the U.S. Department of Defense or the U.S. Government.

Jack Dirig

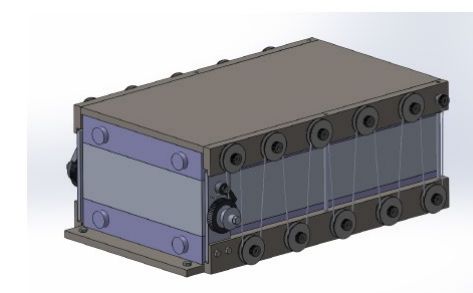
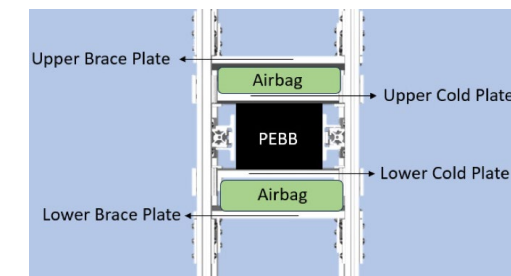
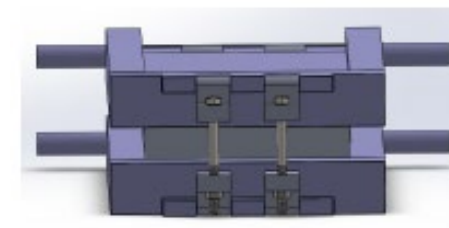
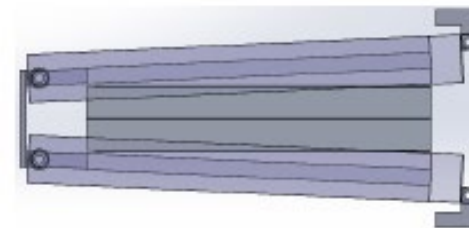
# Lever-Actuated PEBB Clamping Mechanism

# Overview

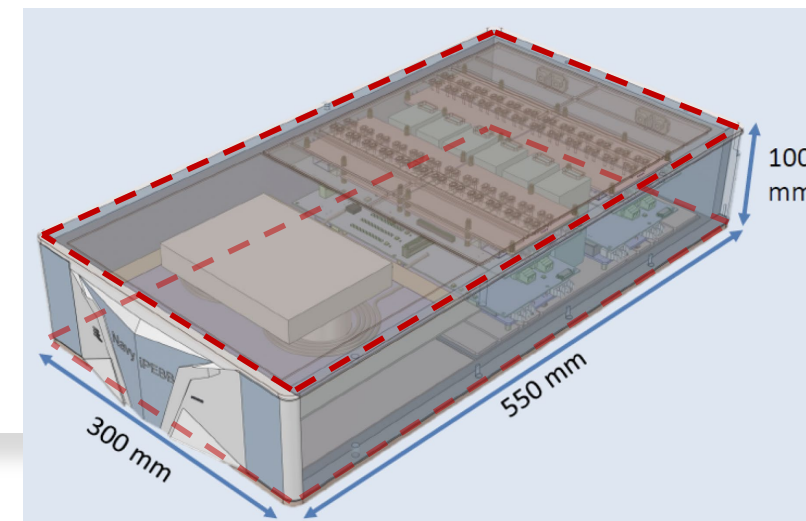
- To stay under 35 lbs, NiPEBBs require indirect water cooling
- NiPEBBs are designed to be frequently moved, installed, and uninstalled by the sailor
- Thermal interface material (TIM) thermal resistance depends heavily on contact pressure
- Our aim is to develop a system to apply and release this pressure as intended while maintaining high power density

# Previous Designs

- Clamshell: Requires tools, not power dense
- Pneumatic: Requires pressurized air support system, power density could be improved
- Block and Tackle Pulley System: Many moving parts, does not allow easy insertion, inexact pressure solution



# Design Objectives



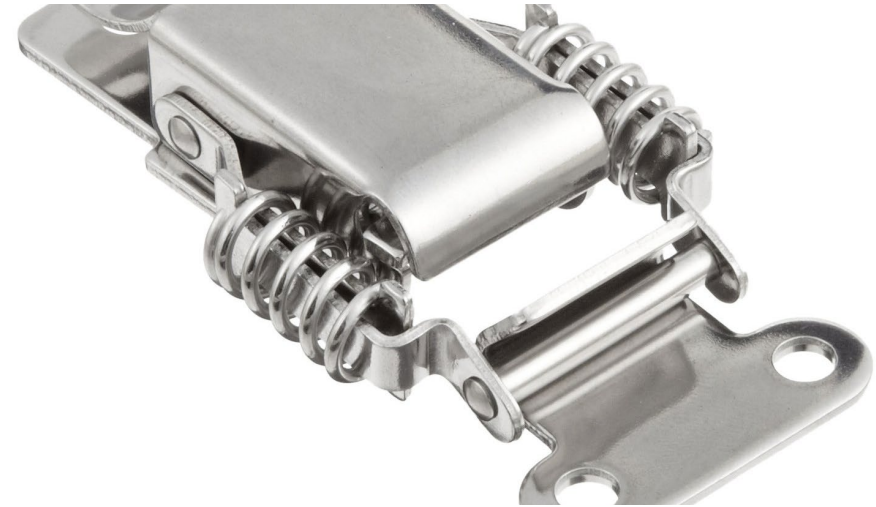
Source: VT CPES Oct. 26, 2023 ESRDC NiPEBB  
Presentation

- Apply 10 psi (2560 lb total) of pressure across the PEBB to ensure sufficient heat transfer to cold plates
- Do so without systems that require additional support (i.e. electrical, air, etc.)
- Make the actuation ergonomic for a sailor
- Maintain high power density (make the system low profile)

# Mechanical Concepts

In a typical latch, pulling it causes some spring or elastic material to stretch out, creating tension and storing energy.

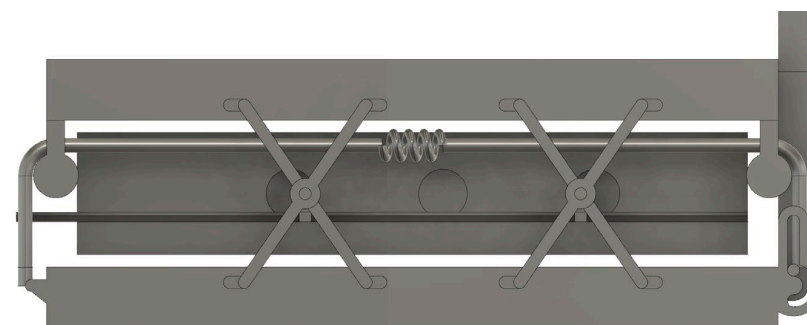
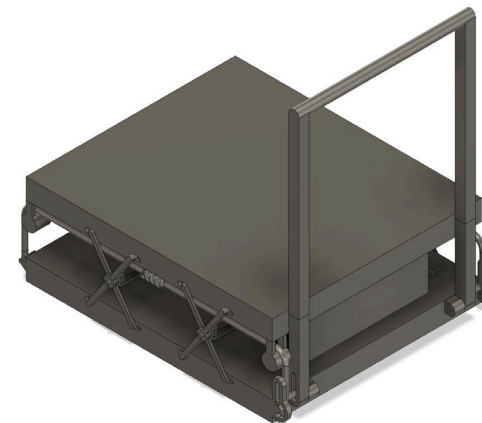
Pulleys can be used in series to create mechanical advantage.

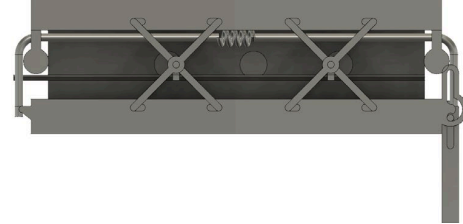
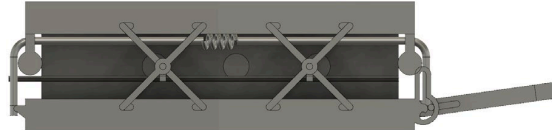
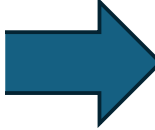
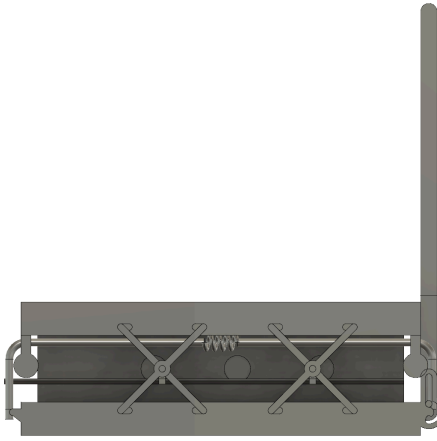


# Overall Design

---

- When stretched, cable pulls cold plates together and applies pressure on PEBB
- Plates are connected via X-brackets and remain in open position without tension
- Lever is removable to improve power density
- Minimal height added to each PEBB (only cold plates and clearance to insert PEBB)

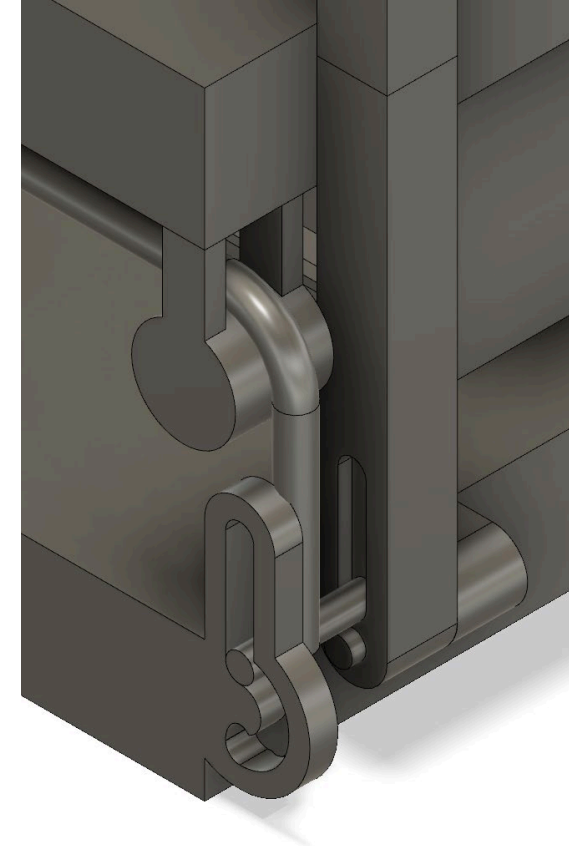






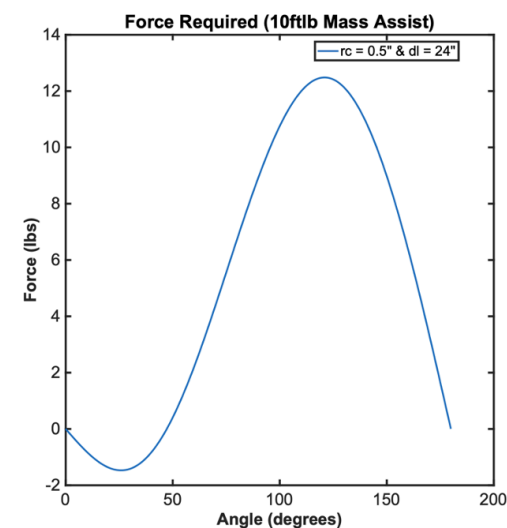
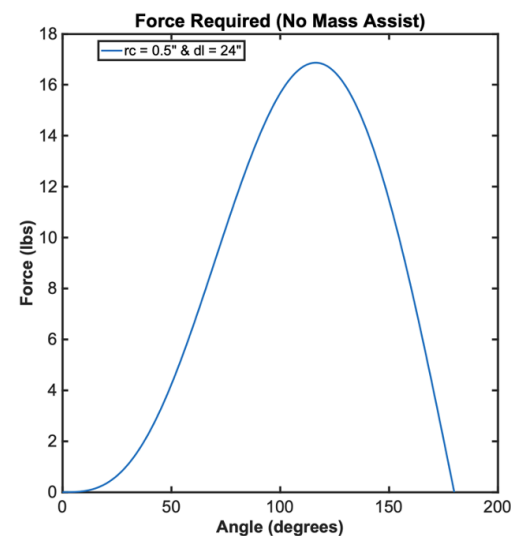
## Single Tool/Motion

- Inserting the full lever brings plates to the closed position
- Pulling lever around tightens spring
- Pin slides into notch at the bottom to lock position



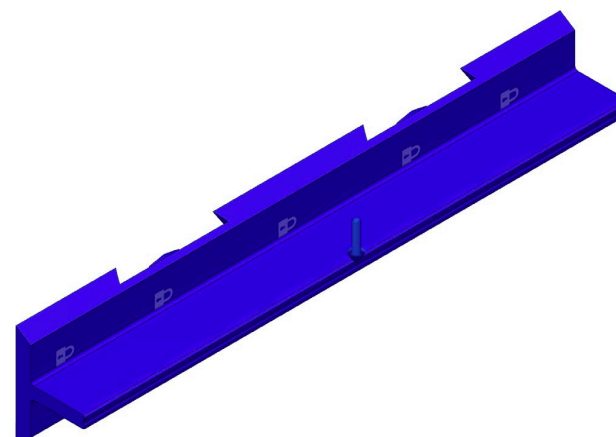
# Easy Actuation

- Single lever motion closes plates and loads spring
- 180° of motion, 2 ft radius
- Maximum force of 13-17 lbf required
- Dampers to slow down lever release



# Connections

- PEBB slides into rails fixed to the ship, allowing easy rear electrical connection
- Rails support PEBB and connect to X-brackets; are sufficiently strong to handle additional forces in rough seas
- Flexible liquid cooling connections required for plate movement



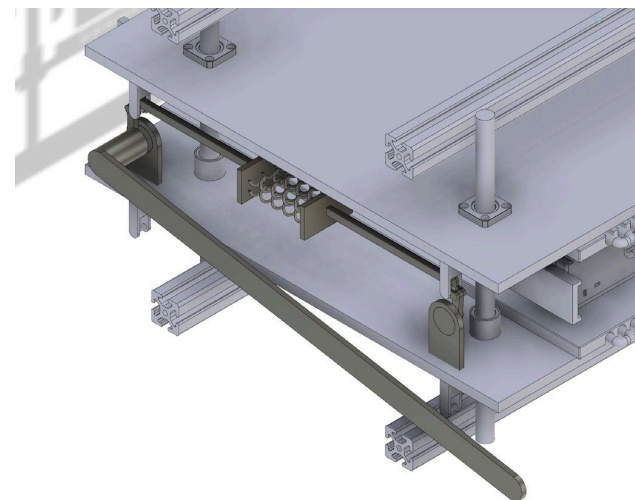
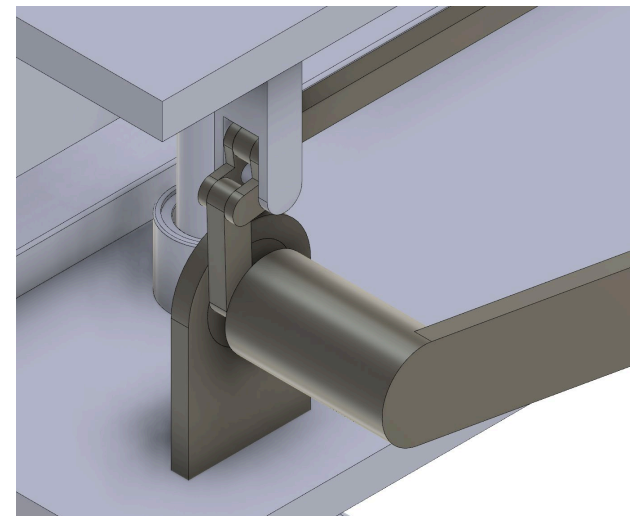
# Future Improvements

- No-tool design
- Easier to service
- Smaller inward forces – smaller bending moment on the plate

# Future Design

---

- Design that replaces cables with solid linkages
  - Requires shorter range of motion
  - Removes need for removable lever
  - Less work input by the sailor
  - Improved force transfer at joints reduces bending moment on plate



The views expressed are those of the authors and do not reflect the official policy or position of the U.S. Department of Defense or the U.S. Government.

# PEBB Clamping Mechanism Paradigm Shift

MIT Sea Grant Design Lab

Presented by Jacob Film

Presentation Date: 5/21/25

Revisions: 5/23/25

# Motivation Review – Why are we clamping the PEBB?

“Plug & Play”  
PEBB

Quick & hassle-free  
insertion/removal

Indirect  
Liquid  
Cooling

Poor heat  
transfer at  
boundary

## Interface Requirements

Non-permanent  
installation

Reduce  
thermal  
resistance

Use a  
Thermal  
Interface  
Material

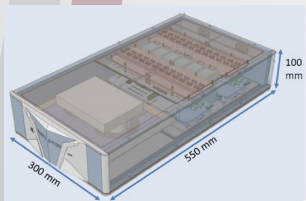
Apply  
sufficient  
pressure



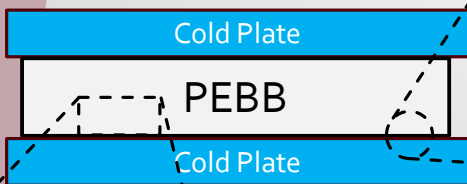


# Motivation Review – Why are we clamping the PEBB?

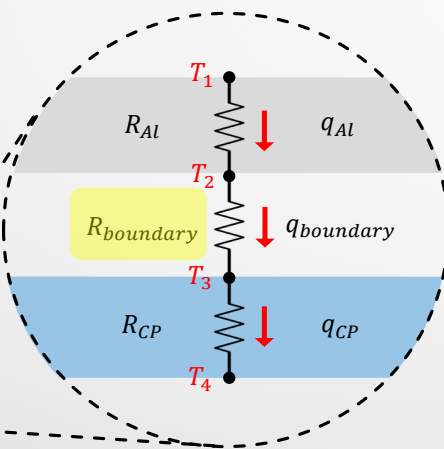
Apply sufficient pressure to reduce thermal resistance



Source: VT CPES Oct. 26, 2023 ESRDC NiPEBB Presentation

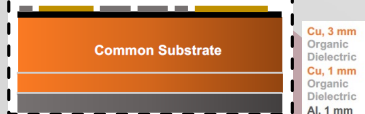


Simplified Thermal Circuit

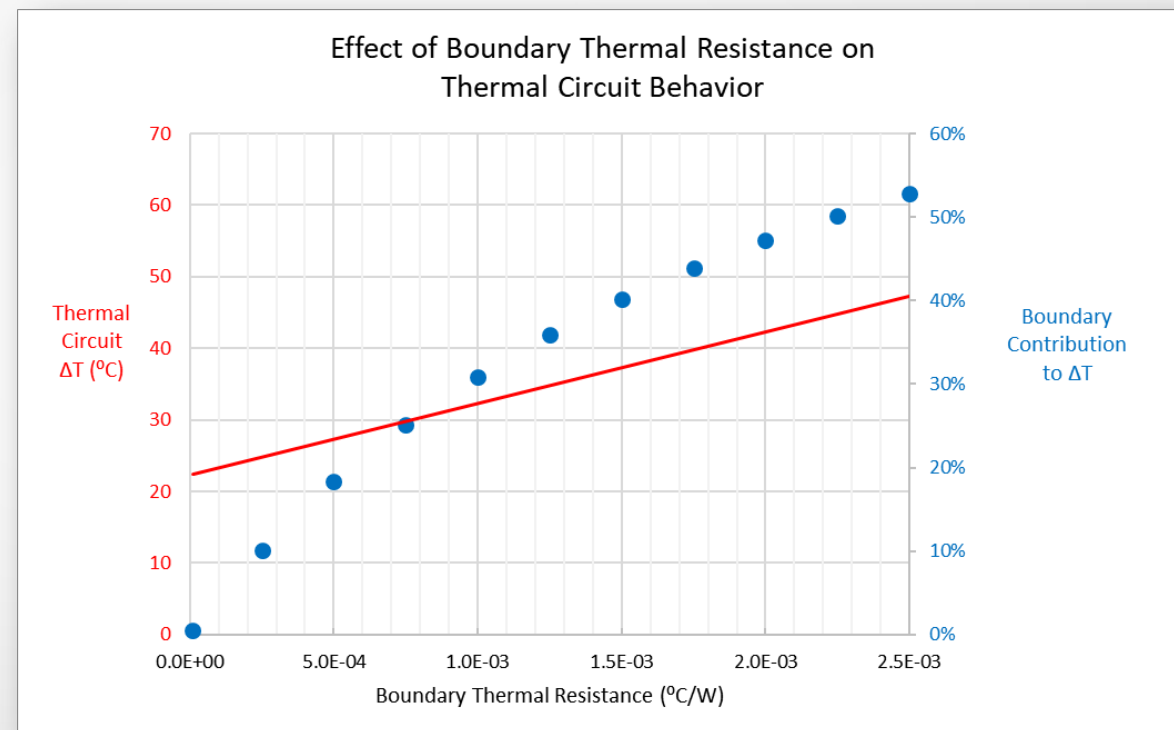


$R_{CP}$  based on Wakefield-Vette 6-Pass Buried Bottom Source 24" Cold Plate @ 0.75 gpm with engaged contact area adjustment

Navy iPEBB Common Substrate

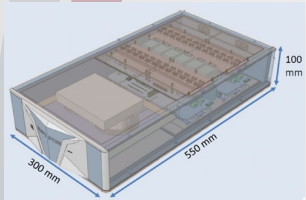


Source: VT CPES Oct. 26, 2023 ESRDC NiPEBB Presentation

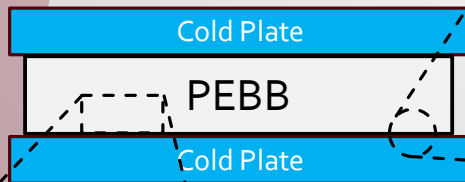


# Motivation Review – Why are we clamping the PEBB?

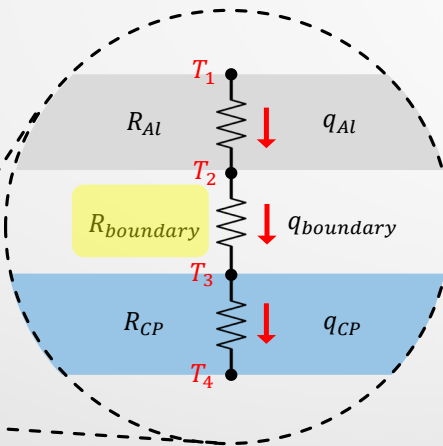
Apply sufficient pressure to reduce thermal resistance



Source: VT CPES Oct. 26, 2023 ESRDC NiPEBB Presentation

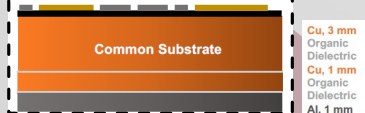


Simplified Thermal Circuit

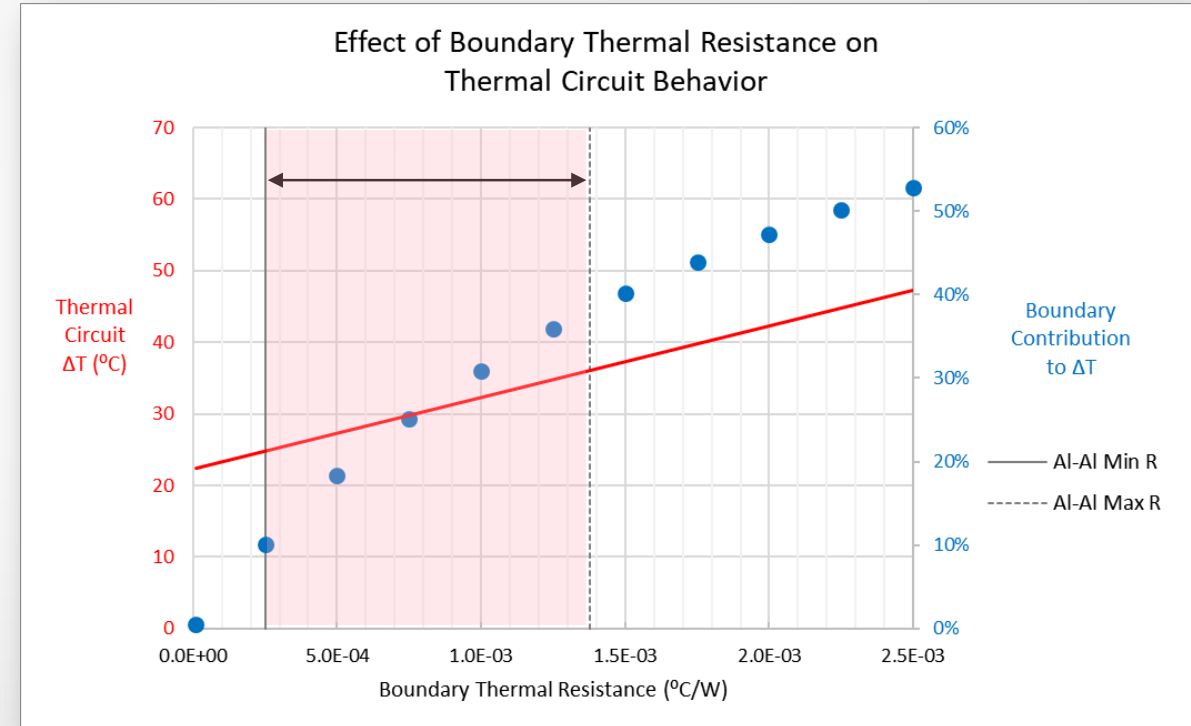


$R_{CP}$  based on Wakefield-Vette 6-Pass Buried Bottom Source 24" Cold Plate @ 0.75 gpm with engaged contact area adjustment

Navy iPEBB Common Substrate

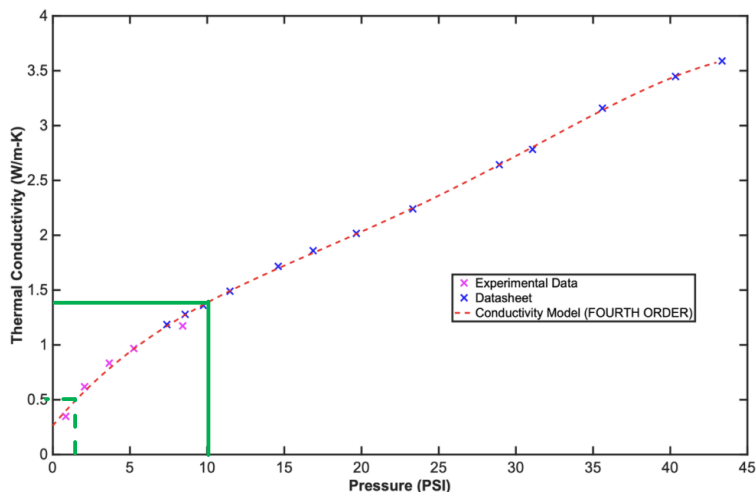


Source: VT CPES Oct. 26, 2023 ESRDC NiPEBB Presentation

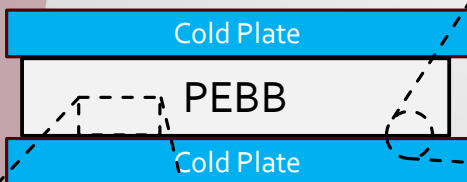


# Motivation Review – Why are we clamping the PEBB?

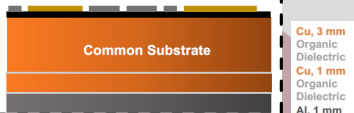
App  
press  
therm



Source: VT CPES Oct. 26, 2023 ESRDC  
NiPEBB Presentation



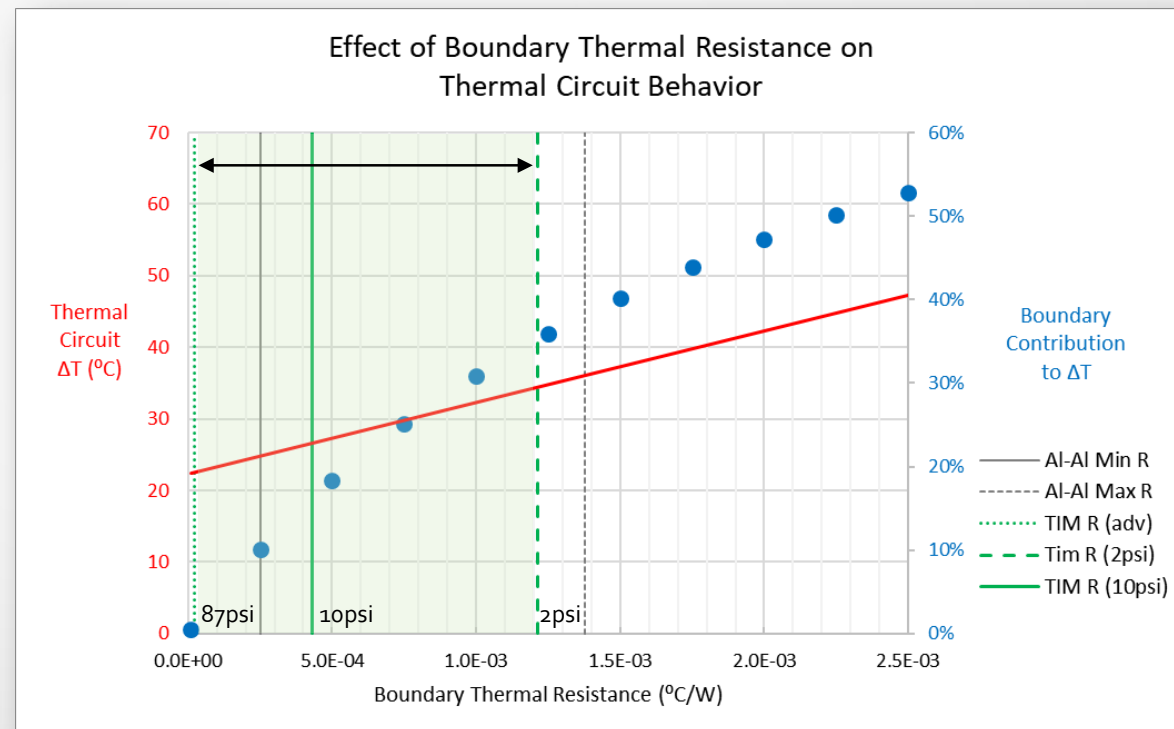
Navy iPEBB Common Substrate



Source: VT CPES Oct. 26, 2023 ESRDC  
NiPEBB Presentation

$R_{CP}$  based on Wakefield-Vette 6-Pass Buried  
Bottom Source 24" Cold Plate @ 0.75 gpm  
with engaged contact area adjustment

it



More Contact Pressure = Less Thermal Resistance

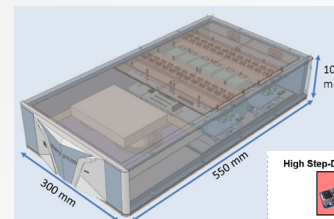
- ➔ Reduced impact on ship cooling system
- ➔ Enables PEBB operation at higher power



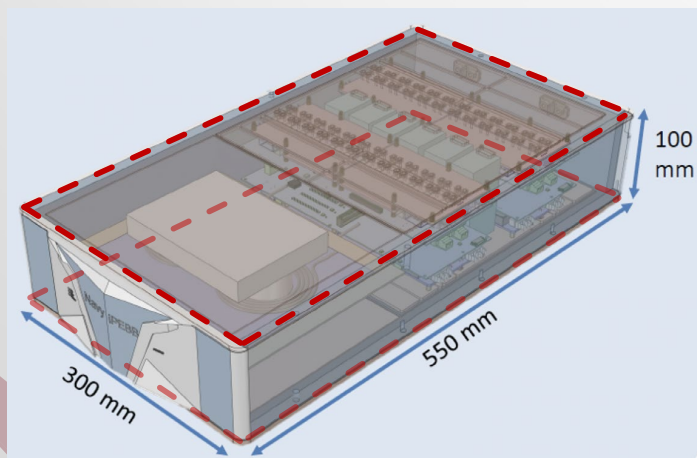
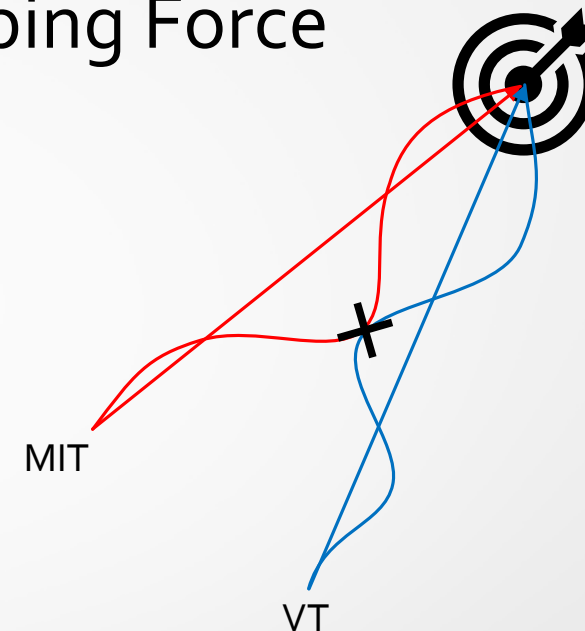
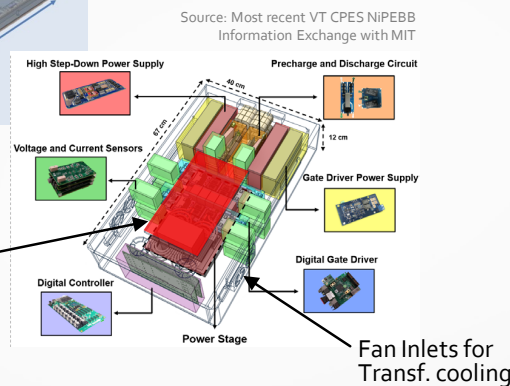
# Clamping Pressure Applied via Clamping Force

Apply sufficient pressure to reduce thermal resistance

Design Development Note



Source: VT CPES Oct. 26, 2023 ESRDC NiPEBB Presentation



Source: VT CPES Oct. 26, 2023 ESRDC NiPEBB Presentation

NiPEBB Top/Bottom Face Area:

$$550\text{mm} \times 300\text{mm} = 0.165\text{m}^2 [255.75\text{in}^2]$$

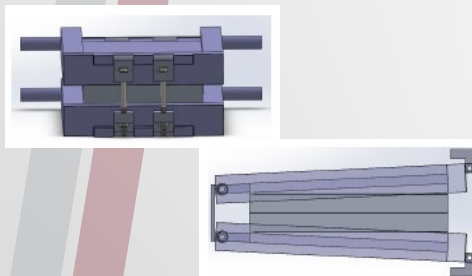
Required Force:

$$255.75\text{in}^2 \cdot 10\text{psi} = 2,557.5\text{lbs}$$

# Clamping Force Generation

All of our designs so far have sought to generate the required clamping force by storing *potential energy* and *starting from equilibrium*

## Hinged Clamp (Clamshell)



Energy  
Storage

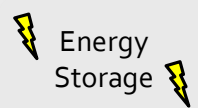
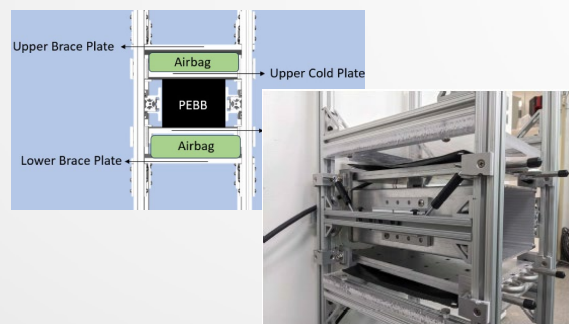
Bolt Tension



Input

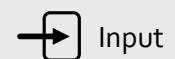
Torque via hand tools

## Pneumatic Mechanism



Energy  
Storage

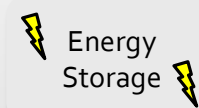
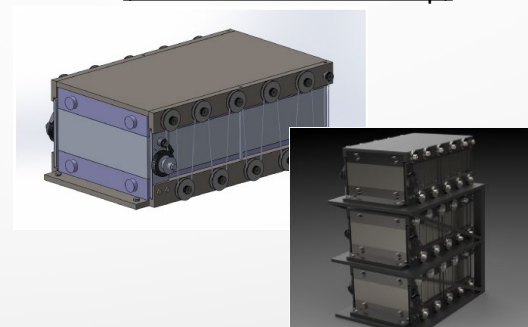
Air Pressure



Input

Compressed Air  
System

## "Block and Tackle" Pulley System (UMASS Student Group)



Energy  
Storage

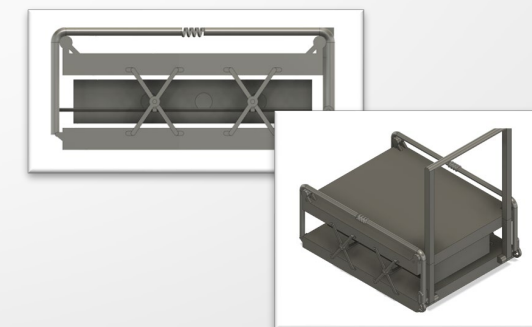
Elastic Potential –  
Cable Tension



Input

Torque via hand tools

## Spring Cable and Lever System



Energy  
Storage

Elastic Spring Energy



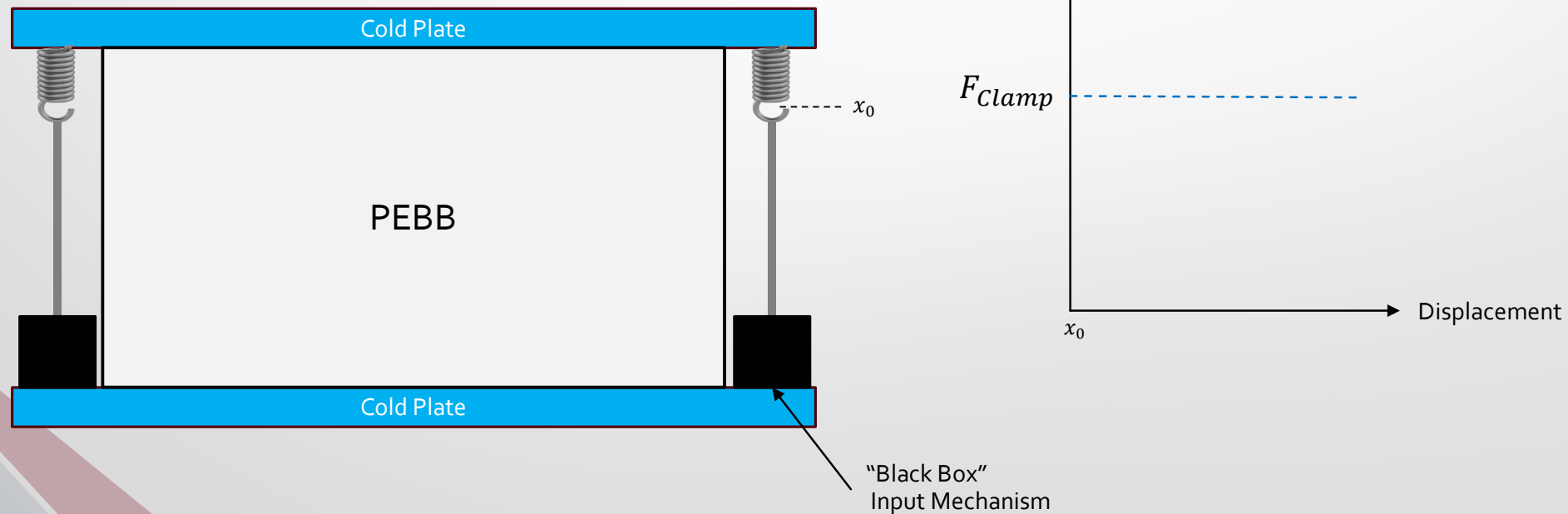
Input

Torque via built-in  
lever arm

# Clamping Force Generation

From an energy standpoint, this requires our Input Mechanism, and consequently the operator, to input all of the mechanical work required

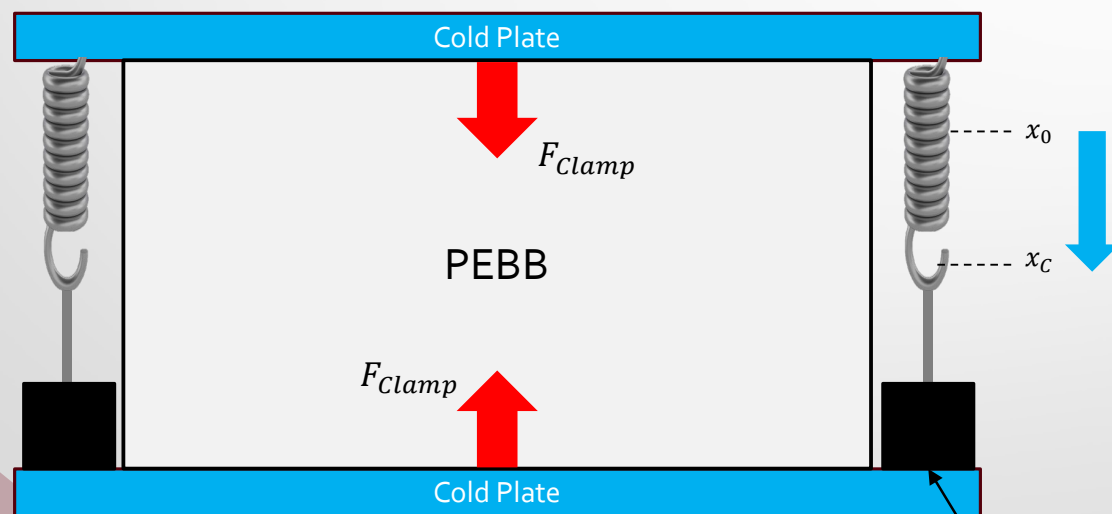
Example: Spring Cable System



# Clamping Force Generation

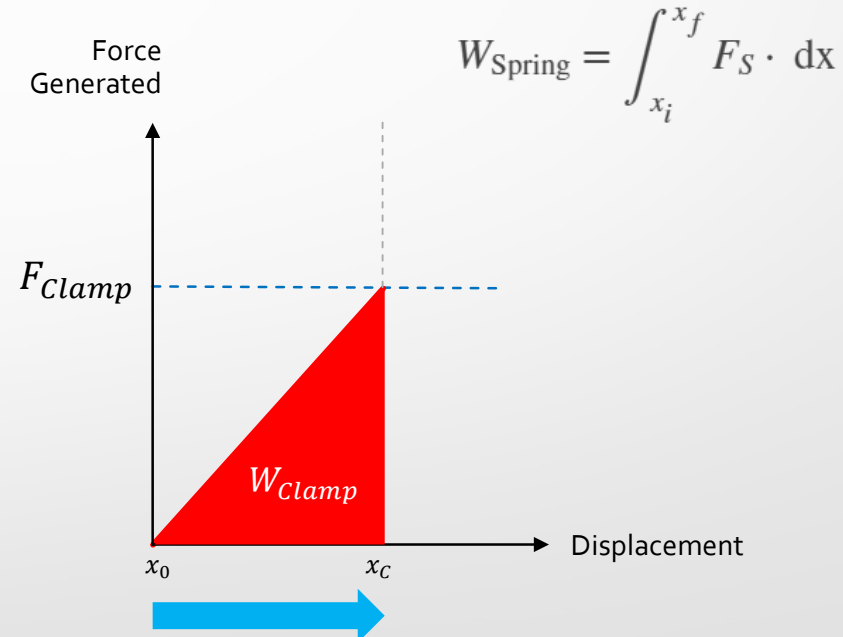
From an energy standpoint, this requires our Input Mechanism, and consequently the operator, to input all of the mechanical work required

## Example: Spring Cable System



Parallel spring displacement shown for visual intuition  
Forces in this scenario would be  $2 \cdot F_{Clamp}$

"Black Box"  
Input Mechanism

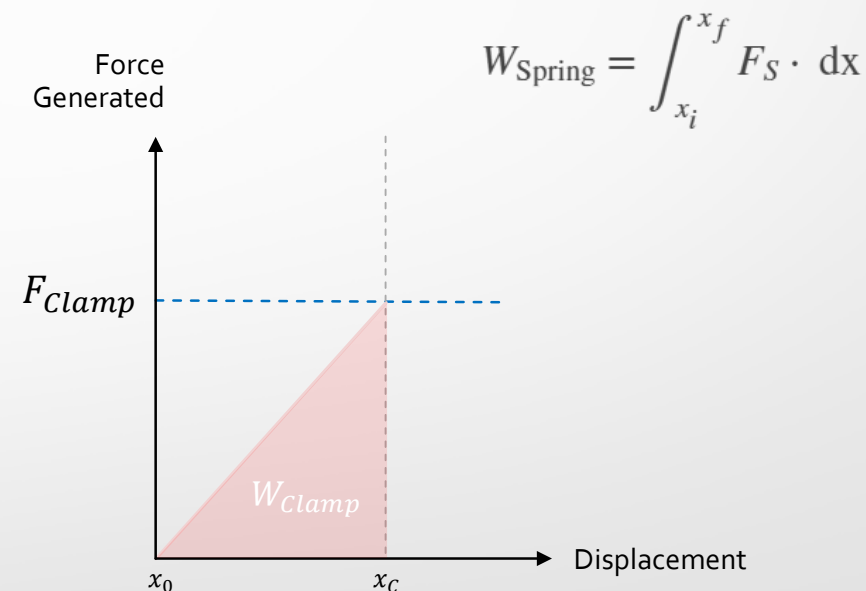
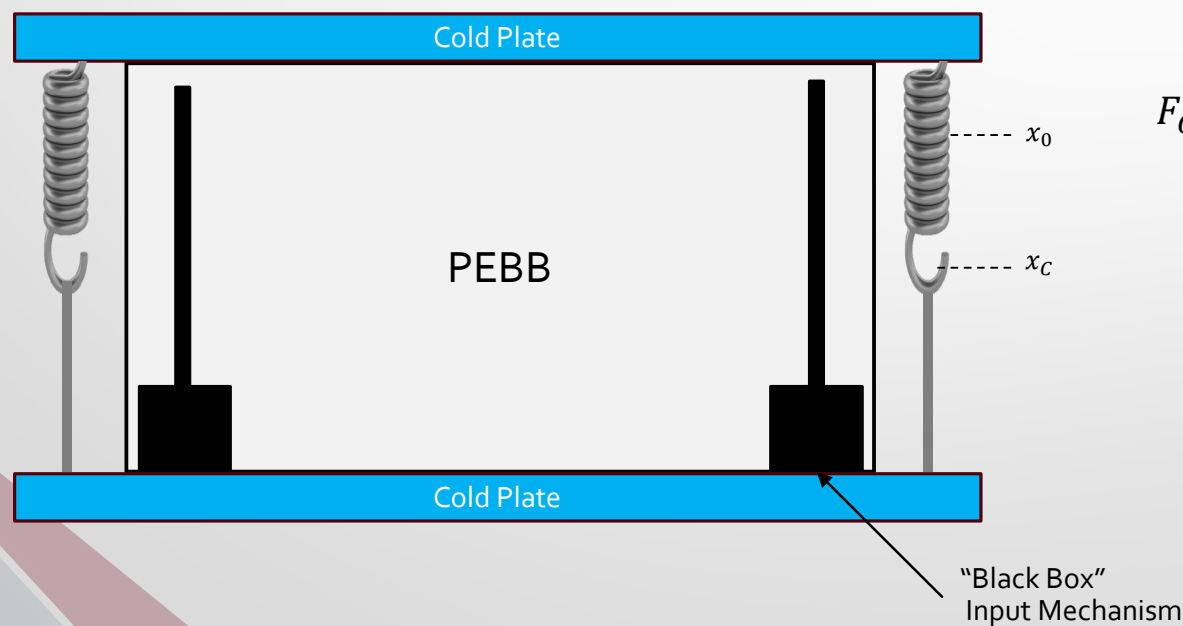




# Clamping Force Preload & Release

If instead we preload the clamping force by storing potential energy ahead of time, the only work required by our Input Mechanism / the operator is the work necessary to release the PEBB

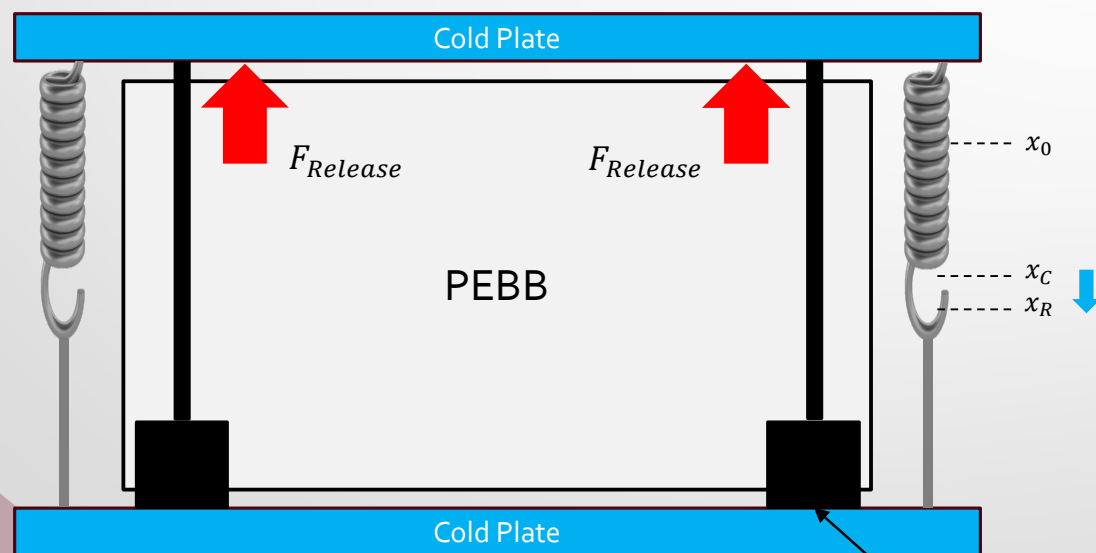
Example: Spring Cable System



# Clamping Force Preload & Release

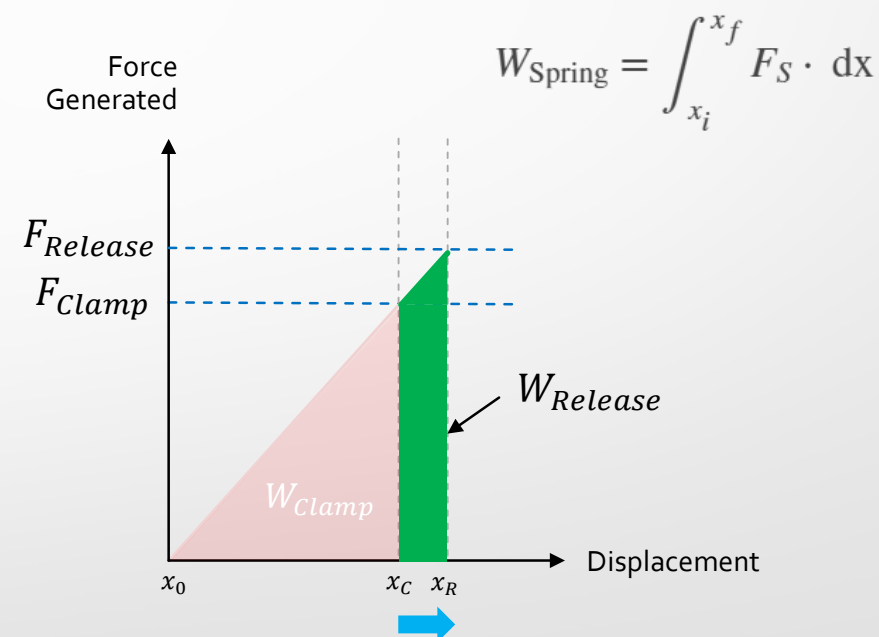
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Example: Spring Cable System



Parallel spring displacement shown for visual intuition  
Forces in this scenario would be  $2 \cdot F_{Release}$

"Black Box"  
Input Mechanism



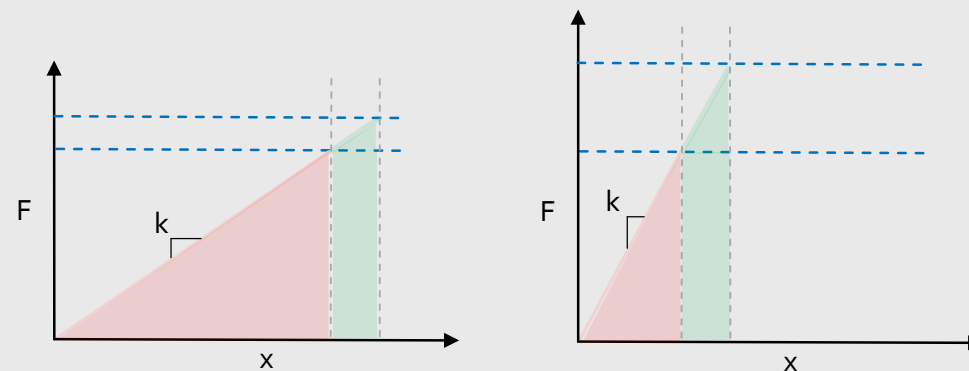
# How helpful is this?

It depends...

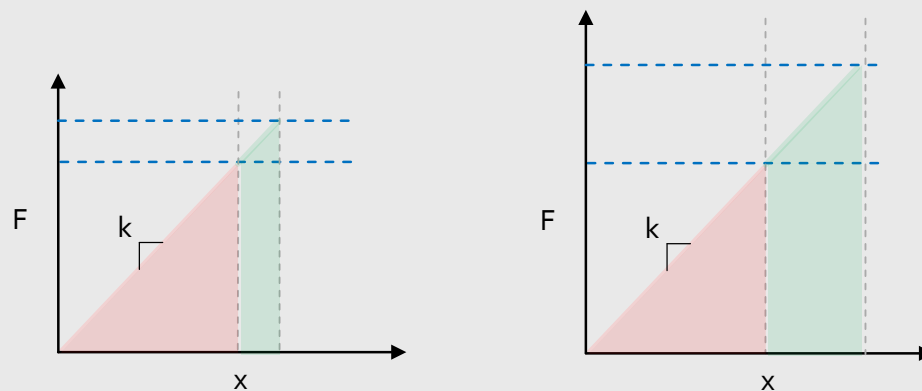
Spring  
Stiffness

Clearance  
Gap

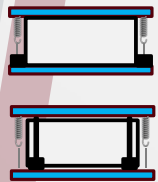
Stiffness: Low vs. High



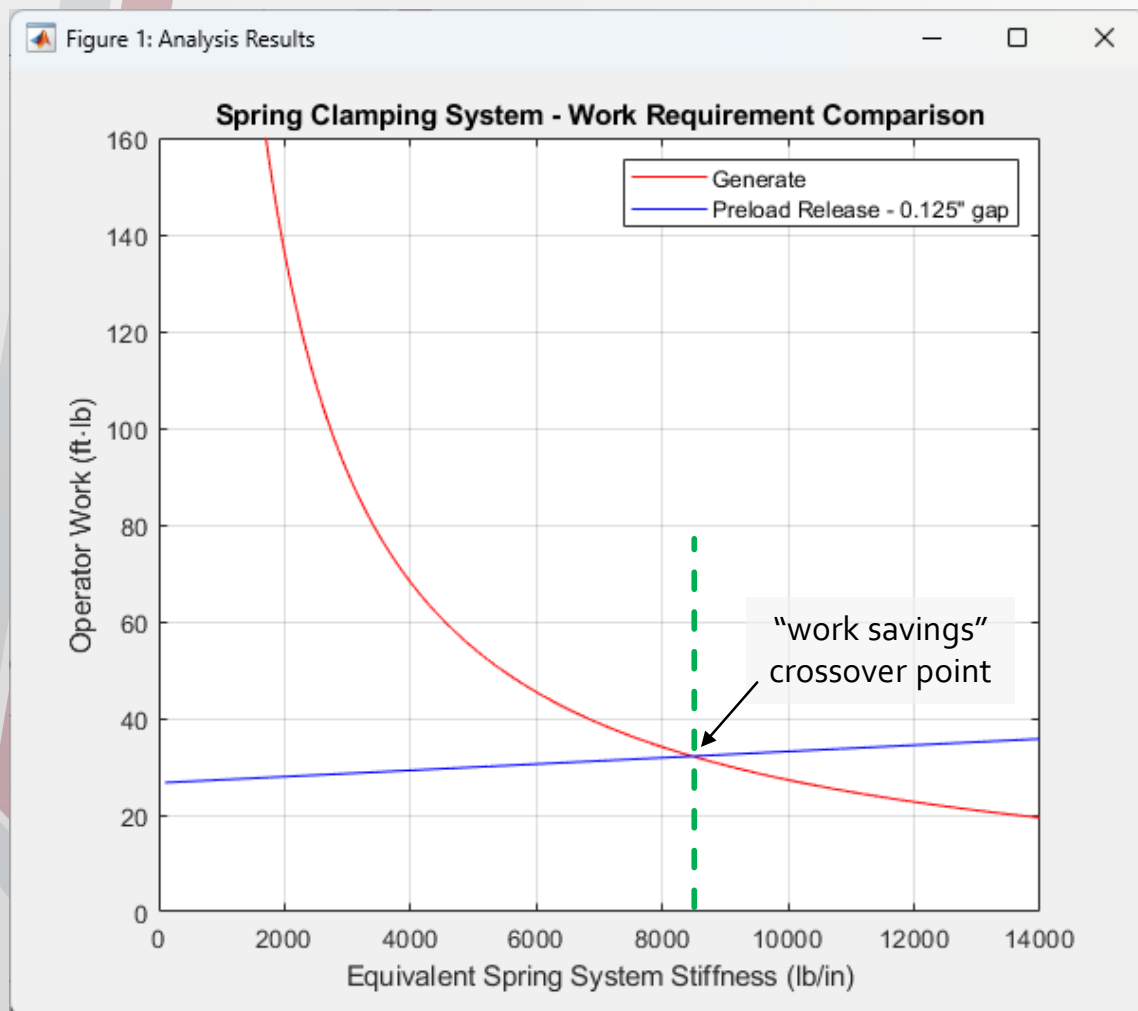
Clearance Gap: Low vs. High



Generate

Preload &  
Release

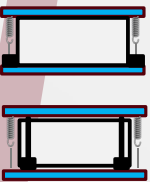
# How helpful is this?



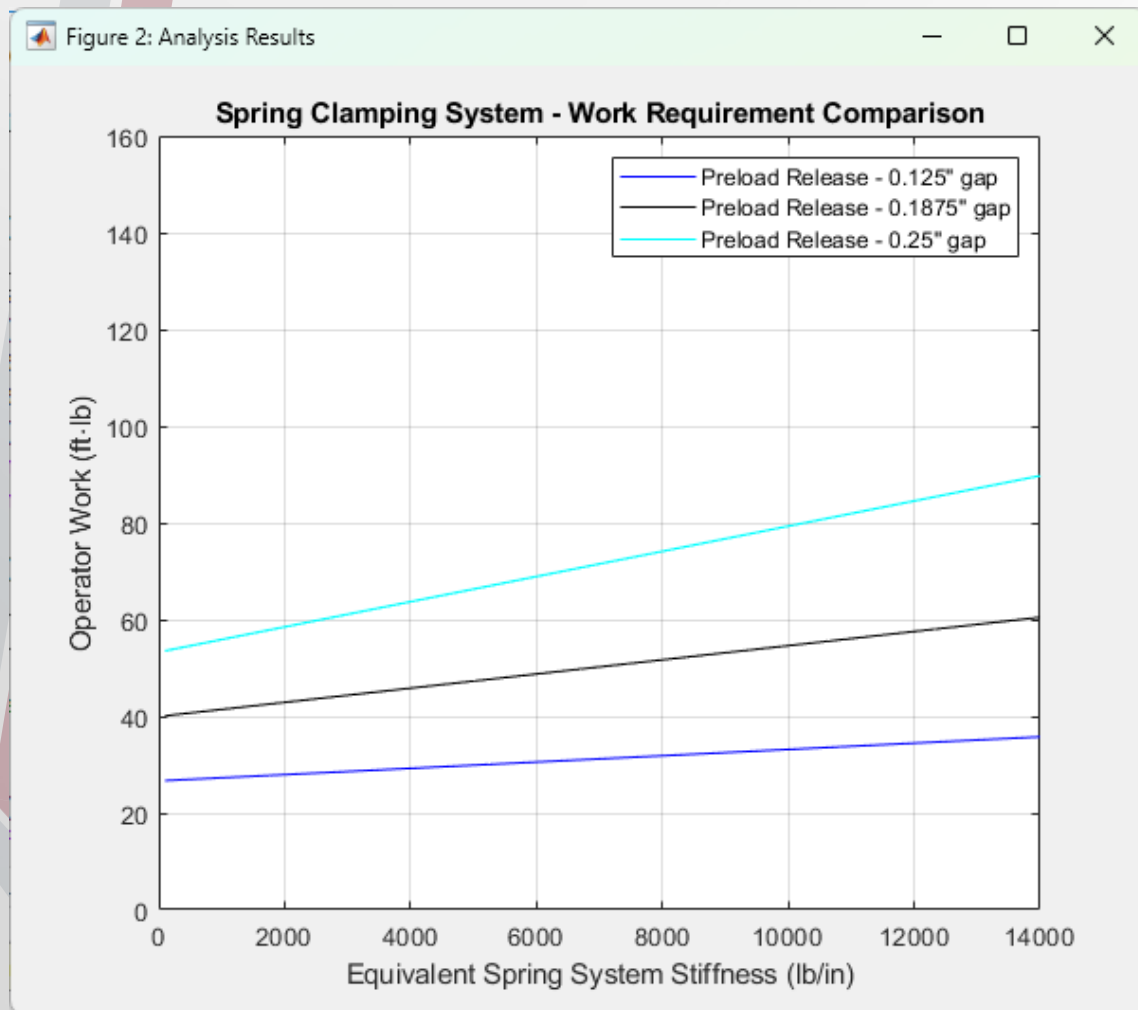
## Trends

- Lower Spring System Stiffness equates to higher “work savings” for the operator
- Note: Preload & Release is not decoupled from Generate - we still have to do this work in ‘Preloading’ the system during assembly

Generate

Preload &  
Release

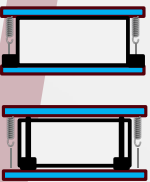
# How helpful is this?



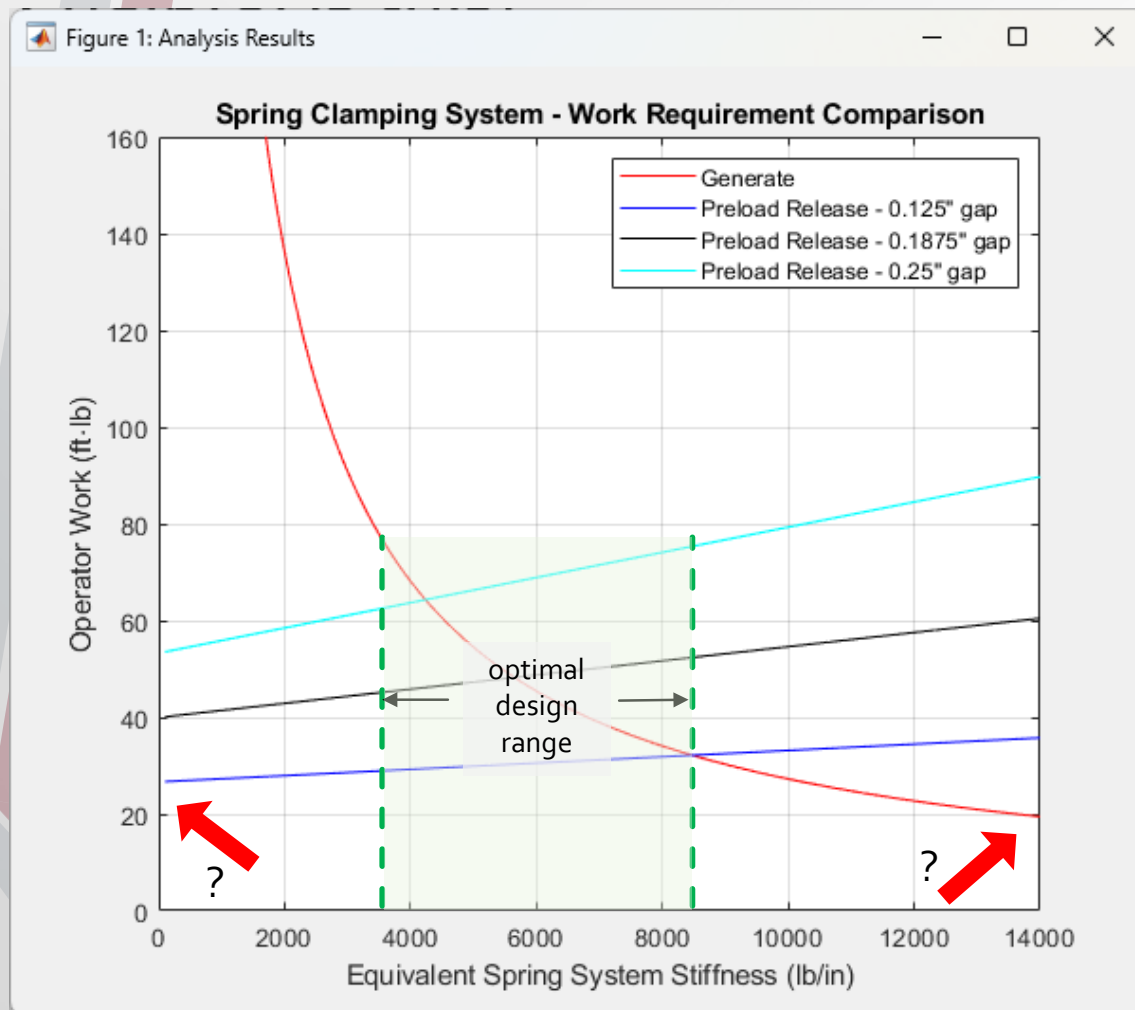
## Trends

- Lower Spring System Stiffness equates to higher “work savings” for the operator
  - Note: Preload & Release is not decoupled from Generate - we still have to do this work in ‘Preloading’ the system during assembly
- Minimizing the required clearance gap reduces the overall work required

Generate

Preload &  
Release

# How helpful is this?



## Trends

- Lower Spring System Stiffness equates to higher “work savings” for the operator
  - Note: Preload & Release is not decoupled from Generate - we still have to do this work in ‘Preloading’ the system during assembly
- Minimizing the required clearance gap reduces the overall work required

Both stiffness extremes come with certain design penalties

- High stiffness → bulkier/heavier spring array and performance is highly sensitive to tighter movement tolerances
- Low stiffness → large preload displacement reduces potential power density savings due to minimum solid spring heights



# The Paradigm Shift - What else changes?

|                      | Generate                           | Preload & Release               |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| User Input Mechanism | Forces cold plates <i>together</i> | Forces cold plates <i>apart</i> |





# The Paradigm Shift - What else changes?

|                      | Generate                           | Preload & Release               |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| User Input Mechanism | Forces cold plates <i>together</i> | Forces cold plates <i>apart</i> |
| User Input Energy    | Clamping Energy * Mech. Efficiency | < Clamping E * Mech. Eff.       |
| Total Energy Storage | Minimum required for clamping      | > than min. req.                |

# The Paradigm Shift - What else changes?

|                              | Generate                                                                   | Preload & Release                                                              |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| User Input Mechanism         | Forces cold plates <i>together</i>                                         | Forces cold plates <i>apart</i>                                                |
| User Input Energy            | Clamping Energy * Mech. Efficiency                                         | < Clamping E * Mech. Eff.                                                      |
| Total Energy Storage         | Minimum required for clamping                                              | > than min. req.                                                               |
| Reliability of P Application | Relies on input mechanism                                                  | Relies on energy storage method                                                |
| Input Mechanism Failure      | Fails "open" → loss of clamping force<br>causes cooling performance issues | Fails "closed" → loss of release force<br>causes PEBB insertion/removal issues |

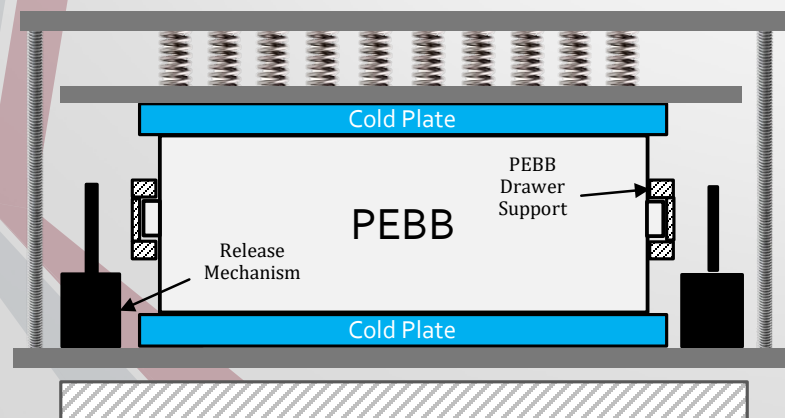
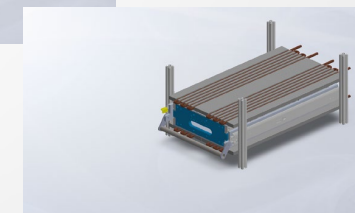
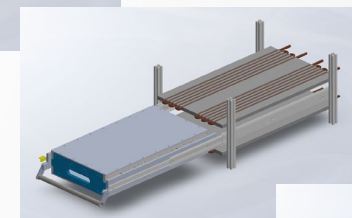
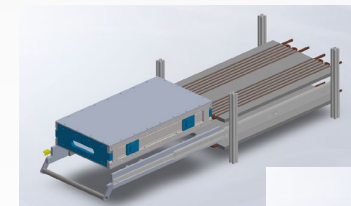
# The Paradigm Shift - What else changes?

|                              | Generate                                                                   | Preload & Release                                                    |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| User Input Mechanism         | Forces cold plates <i>together</i>                                         | Forces cold plates <i>apart</i>                                      |
| User Input Energy            | Clamping Energy * Mech. Efficiency                                         | < Clamping E * Mech. Eff.                                            |
| Total Energy Storage         | Minimum required for clamping                                              | > than min. req.                                                     |
| Reliability of P Application | Relies on input mechanism                                                  | Relies on energy storage method                                      |
| Input Mechanism Failure      | Fails "open" → loss of clamping force<br>causes cooling performance issues | Fails "closed" → loss of release force<br>causes PEBB removal issues |
| Interface Size/Weight        | ...                                                                        | ...                                                                  |

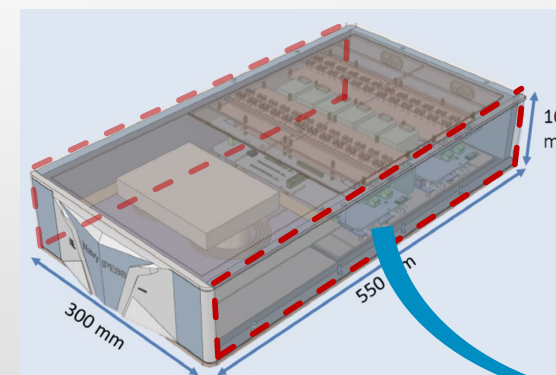
# Clamping Design - Moving Forward

## Preload & Release Paradigm

- Interaction with Insertion / Alignment of PEBB with Electrical Connection
- Exploration of different Spring System Configurations
- Optimization of the balance between operator effort, power density, cooling performance, interface complexity, etc...



Distributed  
Spring Array



Source: VT CPES Oct. 26, 2023  
ESRDC NiPEBB Presentation



Accuride 3608-5 Drawer Slides



# Clamping Design - Moving Forward

## More generally...

- Structural & Thermal Coordination with VT
  - NiPEBB design to withstand anticipated pressure
  - Understand expected deflection impacts on pressure distribution and thermal behavior
  - More granular understanding of PEBB surface heat flux distribution
- Design Evaluation & Selection
  - We are pushing a decision point via evaluation metrics for Interface Performance, Use, and Design

### Metrics for PEBB Latching & Clamping Mechanism

#### Performance (P)

1. Pressure application on PEBB top/bottom surface
  - Target: 10psi & evenly distributed
  - Benchmark: Target is required
2. Power density (kW/Volume)
  - Target: Maximize (aka minimize volume required / PEBB (250kW))
  - Benchmark: 6 PEBBs vertically stacked in 64"H x 24"W x 36"D cabinet
3. Interface Weight
  - Target: Minimize
  - Benchmark: None established yet
4. Securing PEBB to Ship
  - Target: Withstand dynamic loading (~2.1 x gravity in Z-direction)
  - Benchmark: Target is required
5. Ease of connection with Electrical System
  - Target: Automatic system mate upon PEBB insertion
  - Benchmark: Target is required
6. Ease of connection with Cooling System
  - Target: Automatic system mate upon PEBB insertion
  - Benchmark: Tool free & accessible quick-connects

#### Use Factors (U)

1. Total work required from user input (ft-lb)
  - Target: Minimize
  - Benchmark: None established yet
2. Maximum force required from user input (lb)
  - Target: Minimize
  - Benchmark: 35lb – confirm with Navy prescribed Ergonomic ranges
3. Insertion Equipment Requirements
  - Target: tool-free
  - Benchmark: Target is required
4. Duration/complexity/intuitiveness of user input
  - Target: Minimize
  - Benchmark: None established yet
5. Impact of PEBB height on user input
  - Target: Minimize
  - Benchmark: None established – confirm with Navy prescribed Ergonomic ranges

#### Design Factors (D)

1. Complexity & number of moving parts/joints
  - Target: Minimize
  - Benchmark: None established yet
2. Preventative Maintenance required
  - Target: Maintenance Free
  - Benchmark: None established – compare with Navy expectations for similar equipment
3. Anticipated Cost
  - Target: Minimize
  - Benchmark: None established yet

Thanks!  
Further Questions / Discussion?





The views expressed are those of the authors and do not reflect the official policy or position of the U.S. Department of Defense or the U.S. Government.

# Shipboard Power Systems

The Grainger Energy Machines Facility, MIT

Steven B. Leeb and Team

THANK YOU.

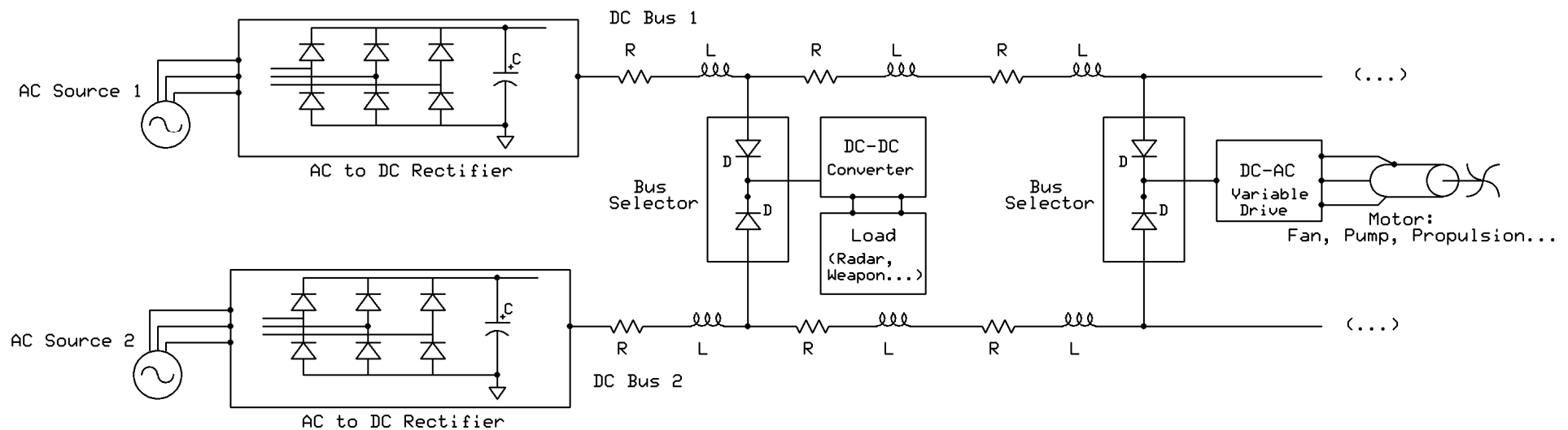


- Doubly-Fed Machine (DFM) and modeling
- Non-Intrusive Voltage Sensing
- PEBB Interface and Stabilization

- Doubly-Fed Machine (DFM) and modeling
- Non-Intrusive Voltage Sensing
- PEBB Interface and Stabilization

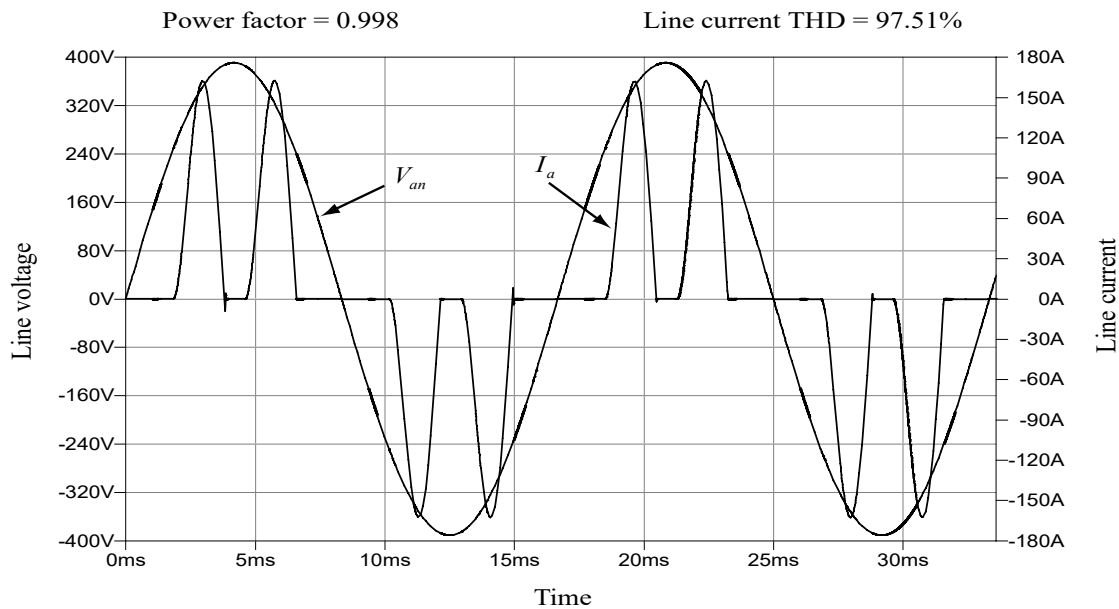
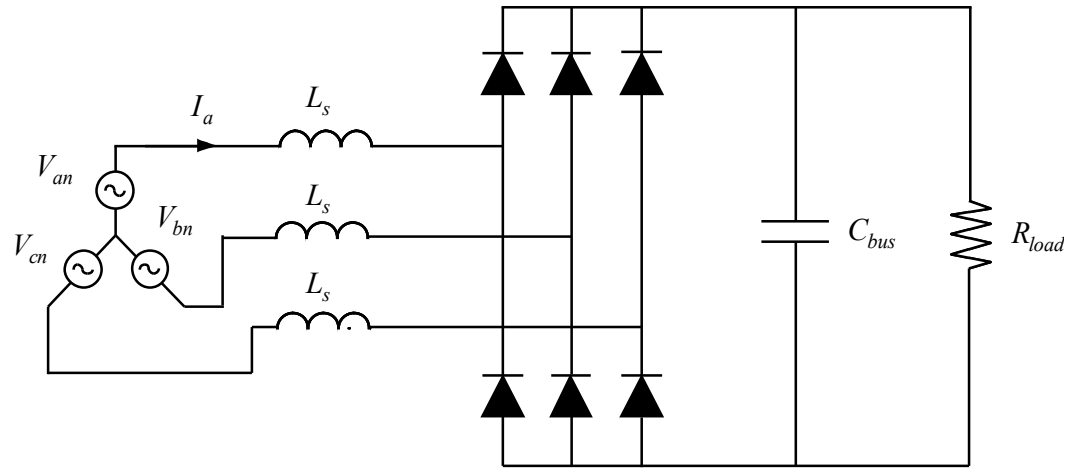
# MVDC Architecture

Cartoon:



# Power Electronics

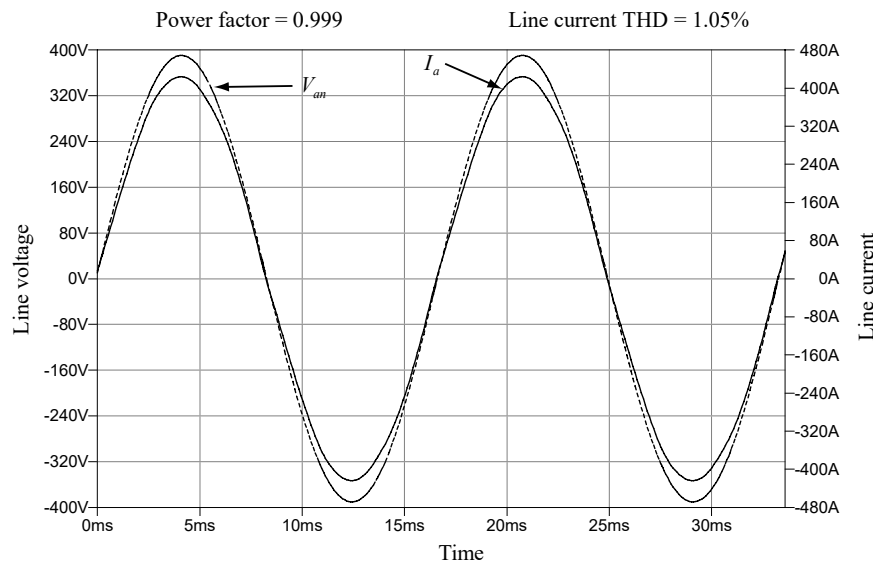
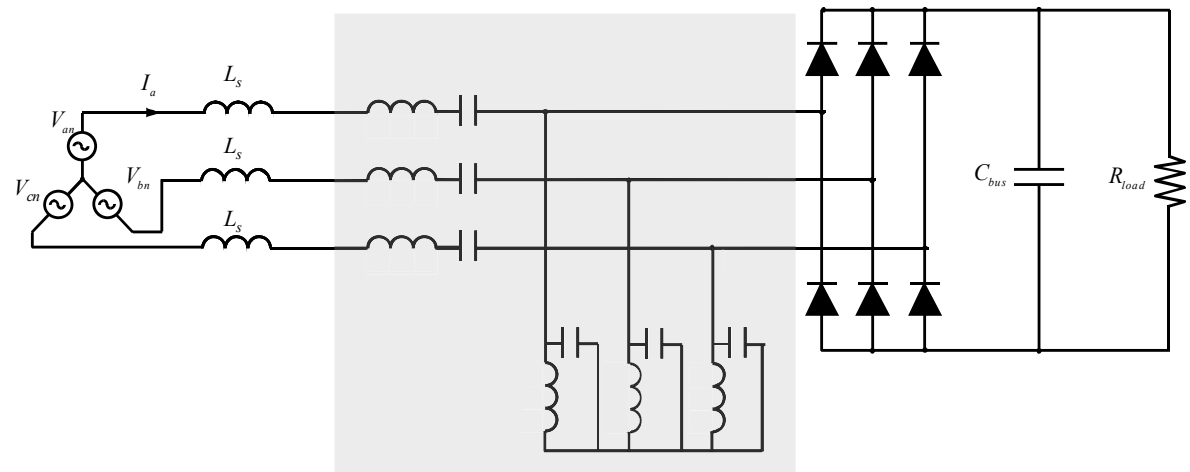
This:



...creates  
this.

# Passive Rectification

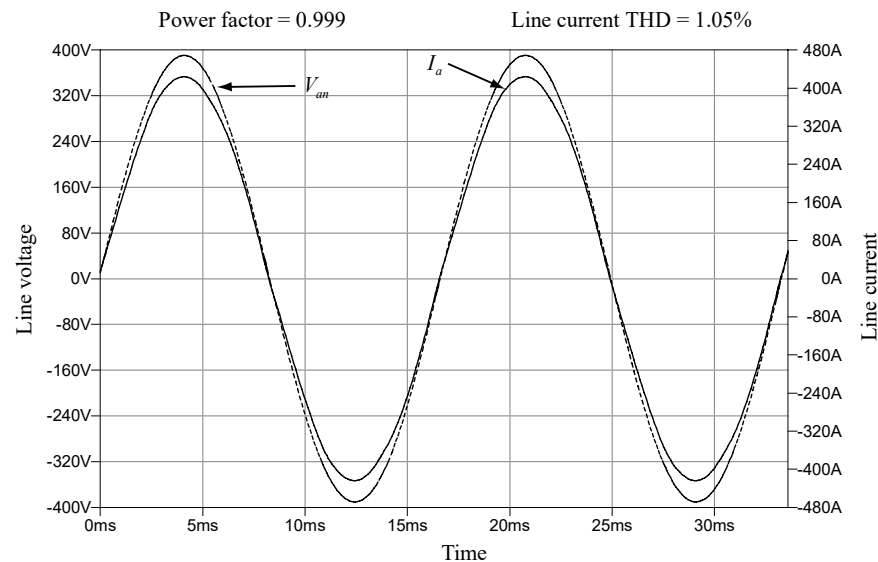
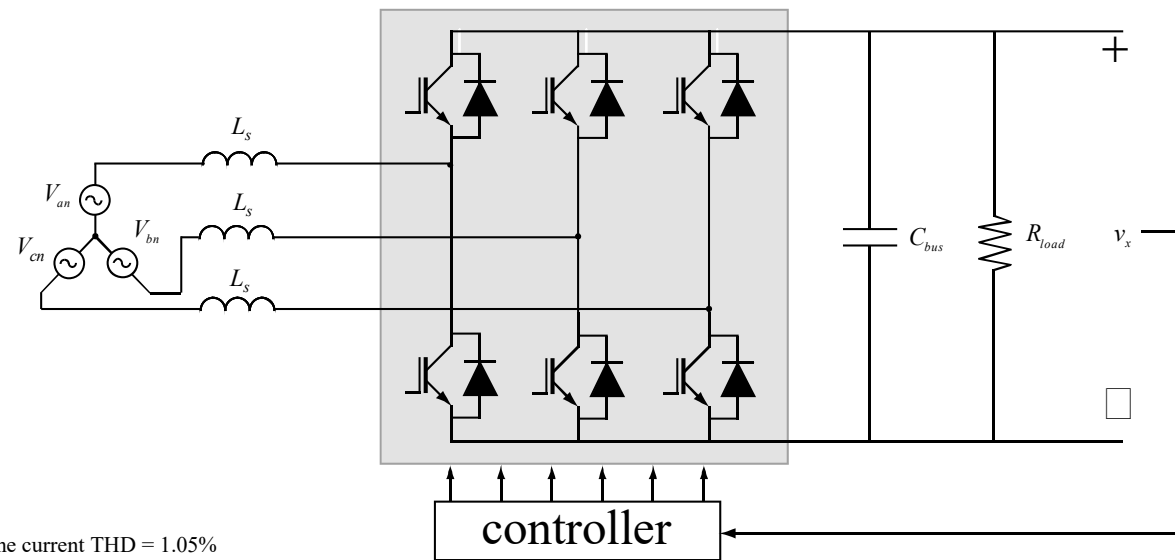
This may weigh more:



but it also works,  
and it may be  
reparable to some  
level in the field...

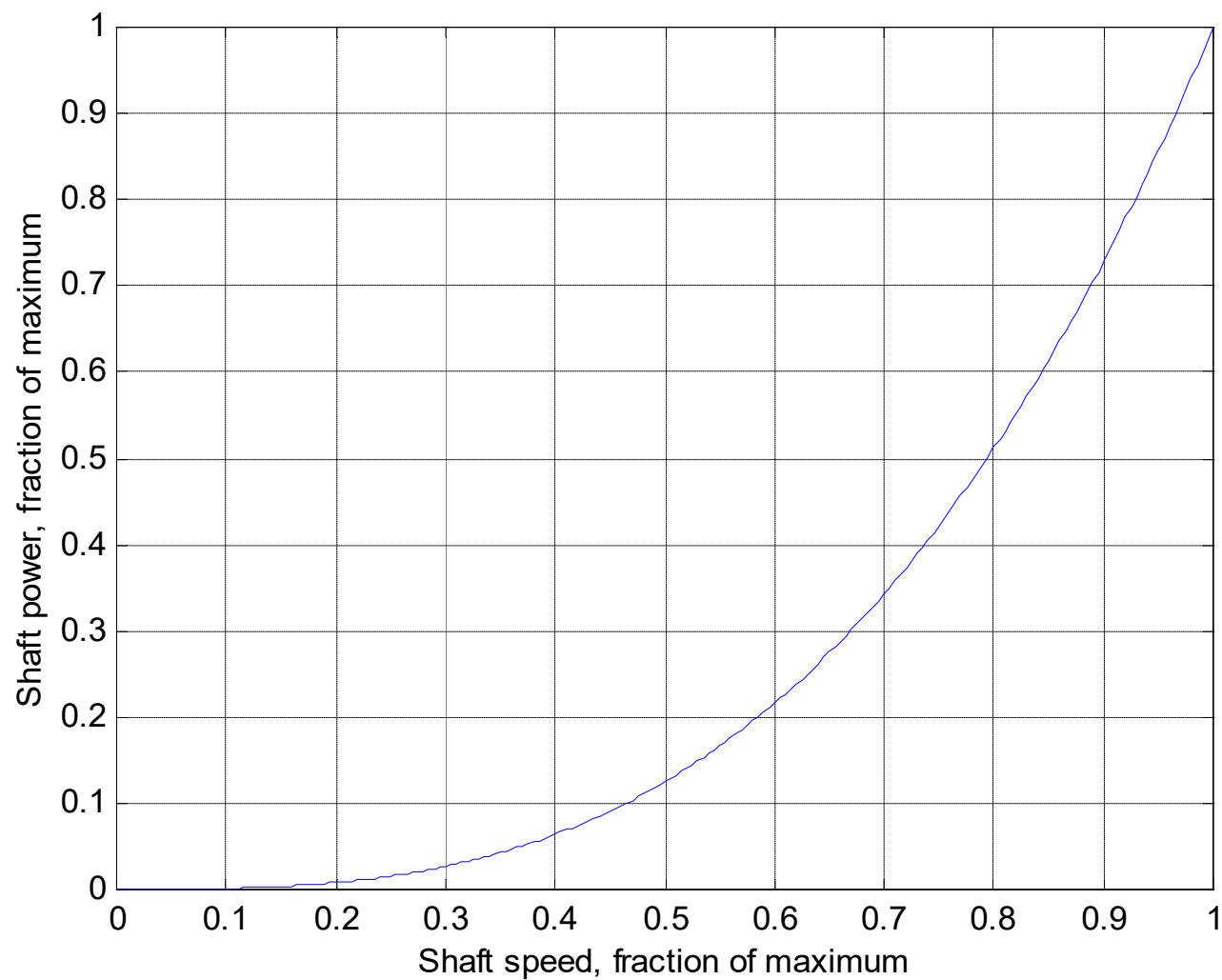
# Active Power Electronics

This:

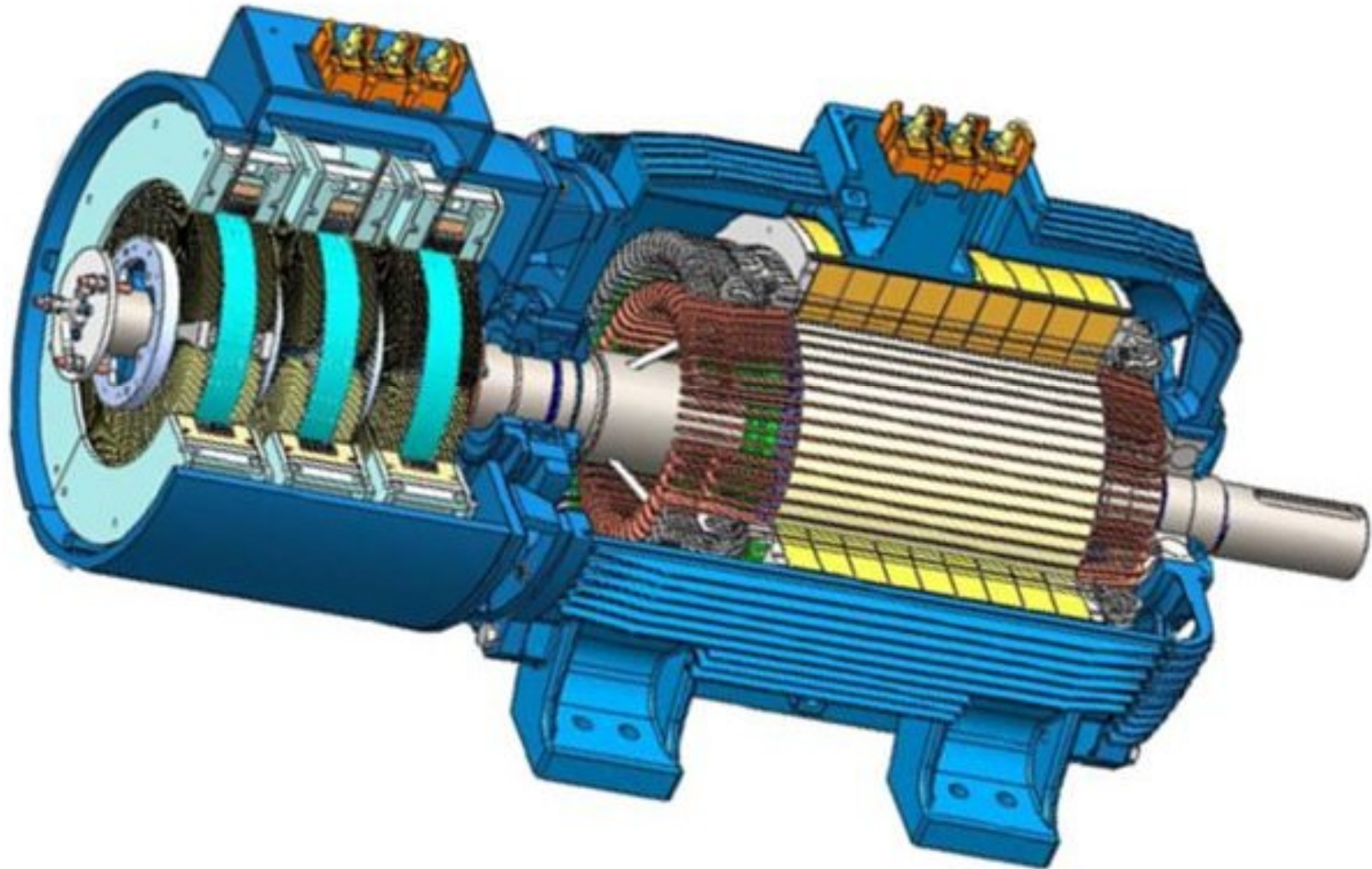


Fixes the problem,  
but may not  
“repair” easily...

# Ship Propulsion Power



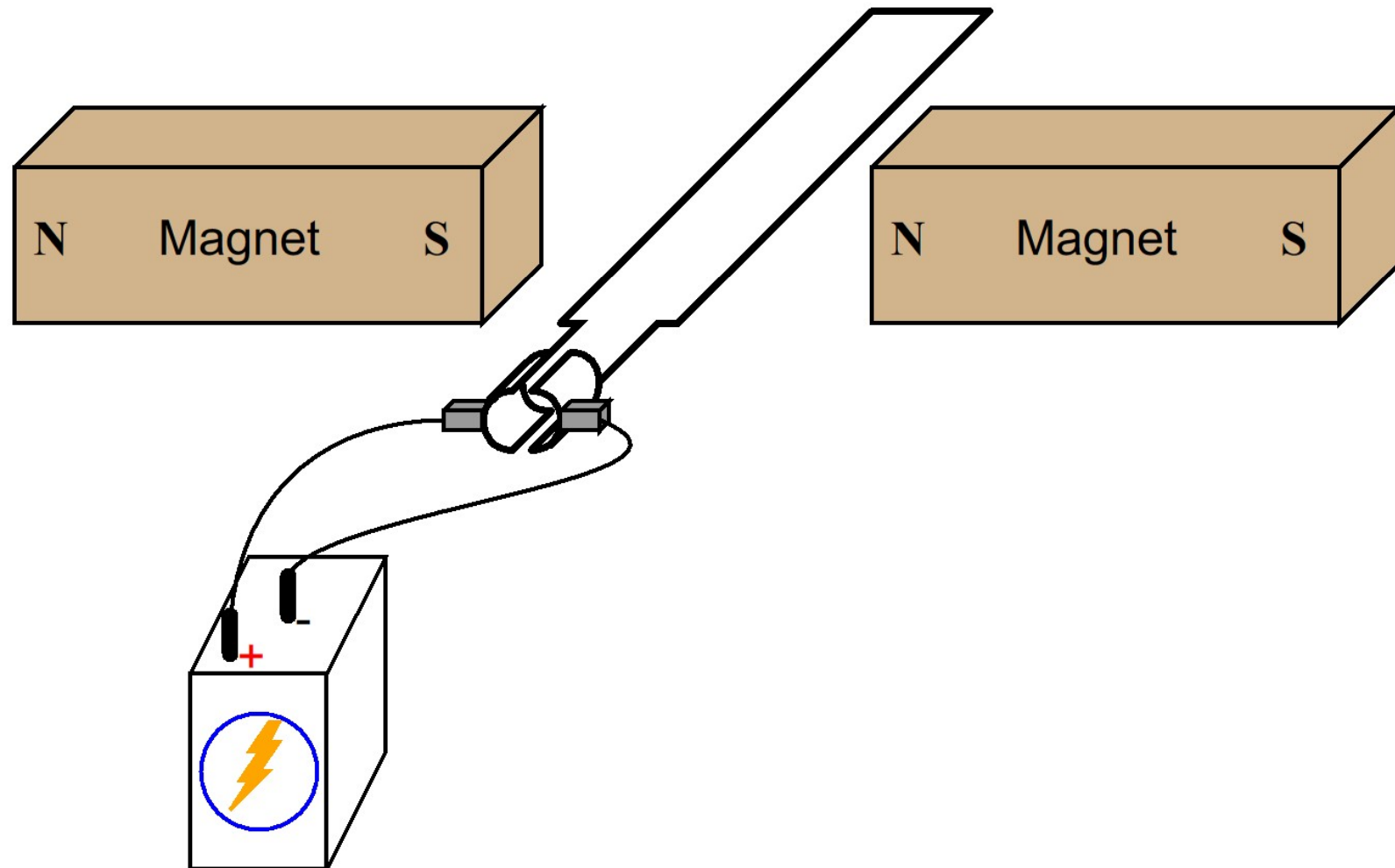
# Doubly-Fed Machine





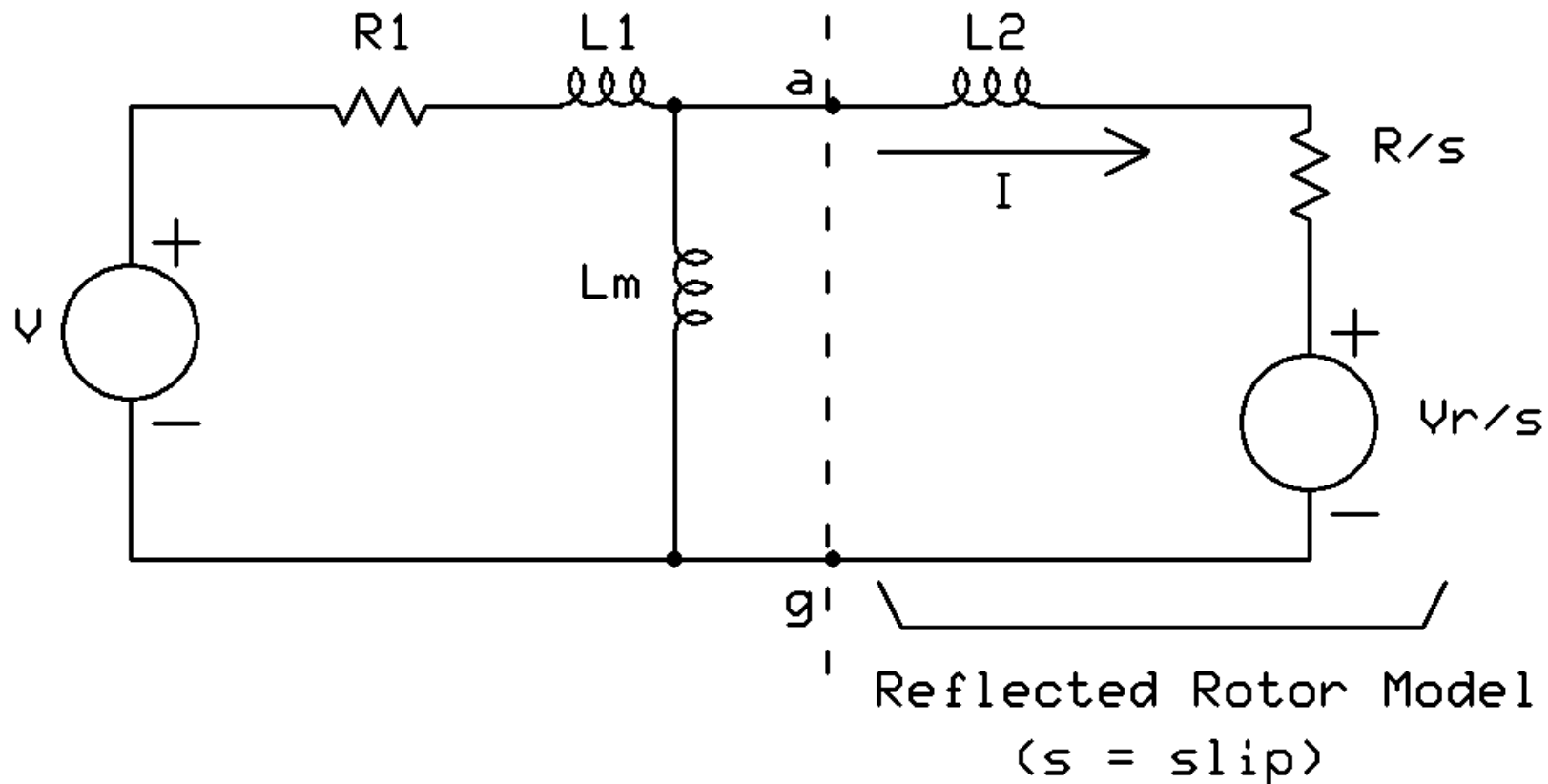
# Two Modes

In “DC-mode” (low speed), like a brushed machine, with an electronic commutator!

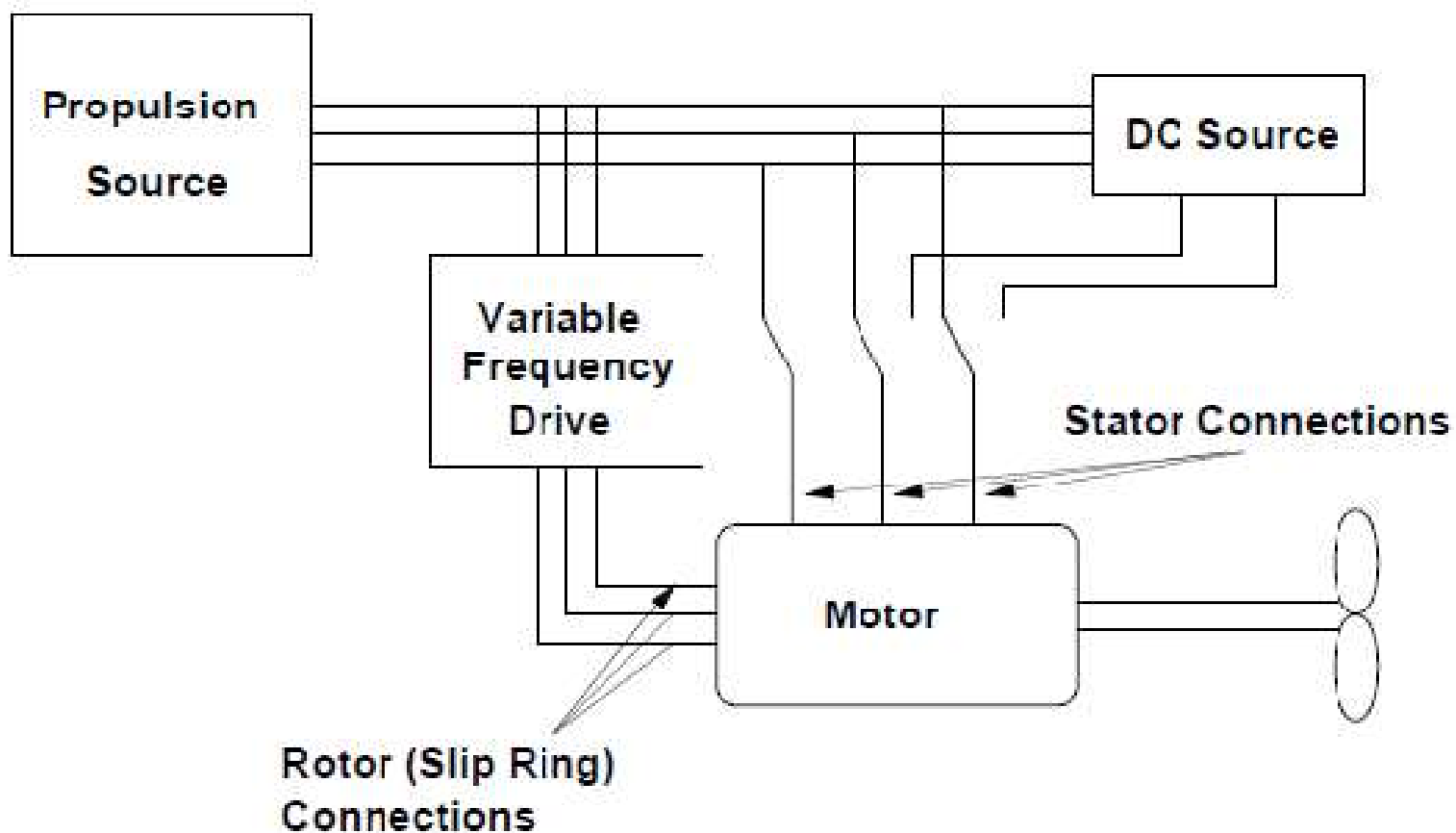


# Doubly-Fed Machine

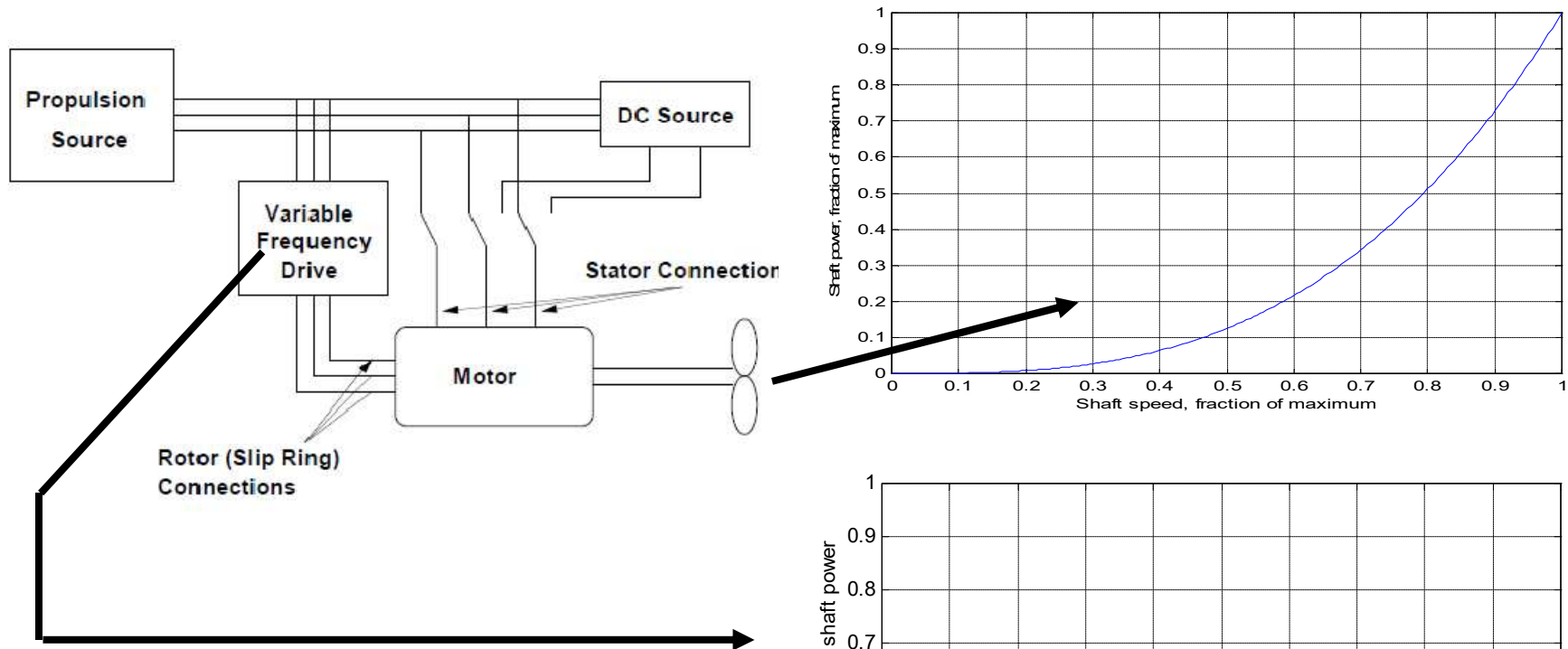
In “AC-mode” (high speed), like an induction machine, with access to the rotor voltage!



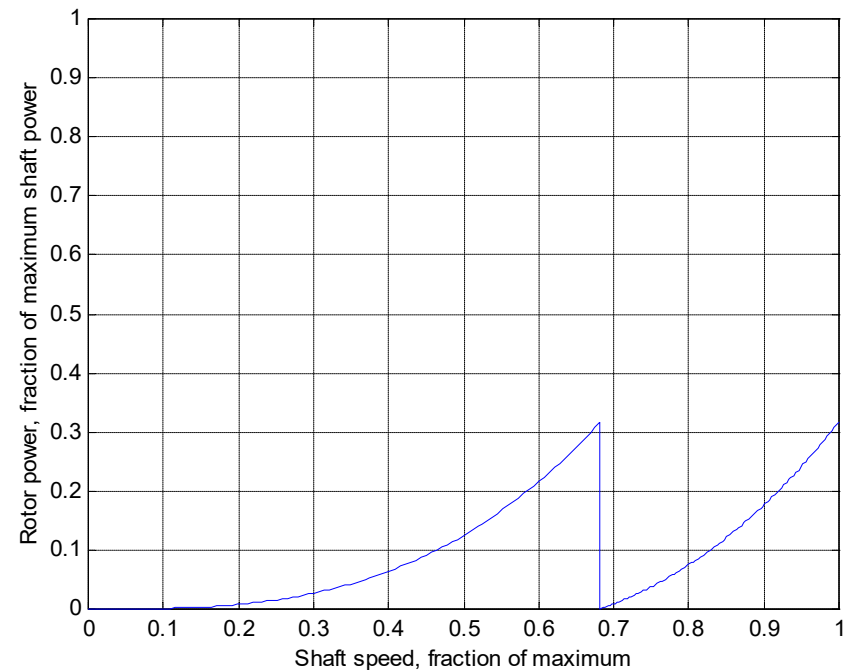
# DFM Propulsion



# DFM Propulsion

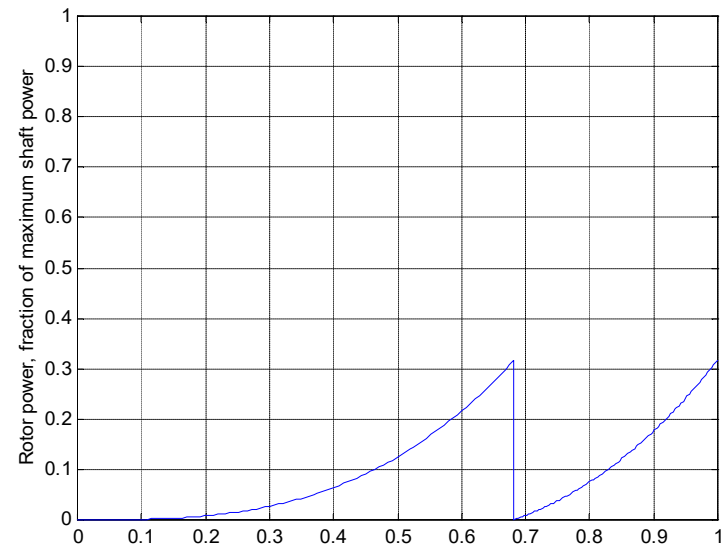


Rotor drive power  
profile:

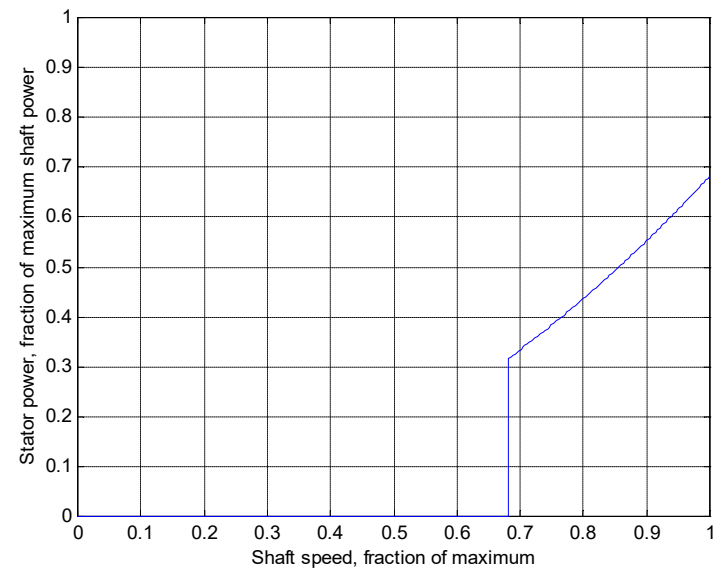


# DFM Power

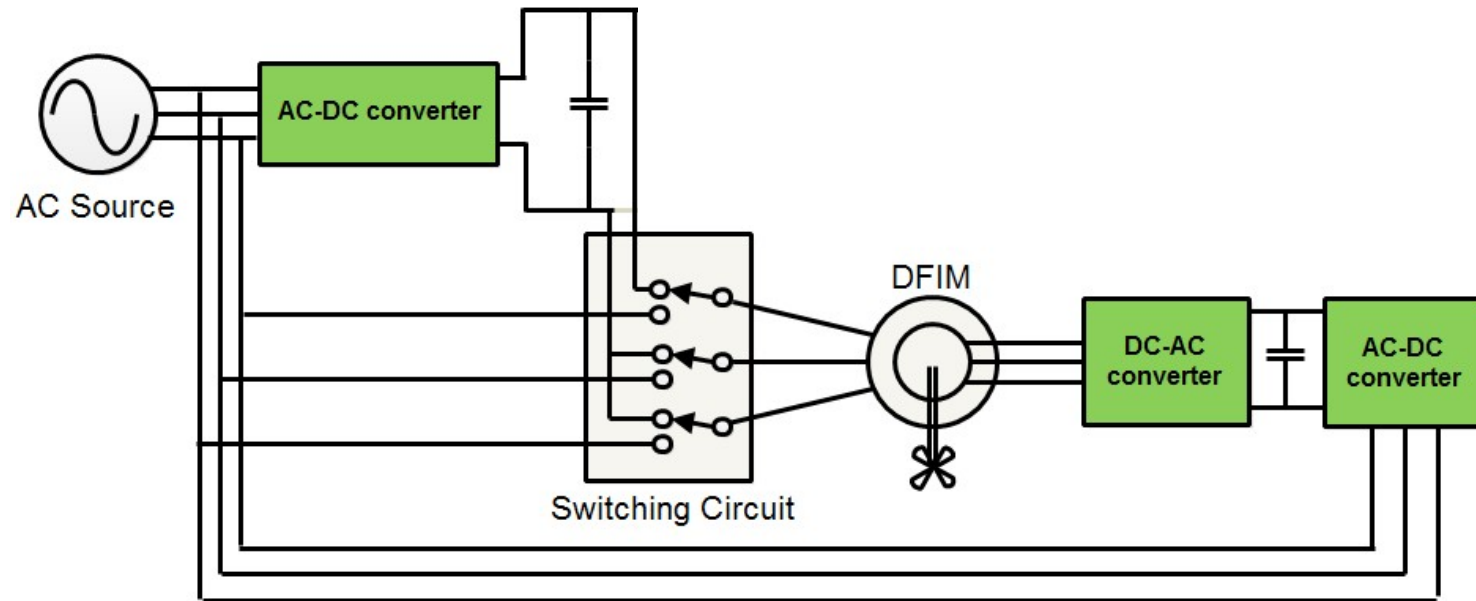
Rotor Power:



Stator Power:  
(from AC service!)



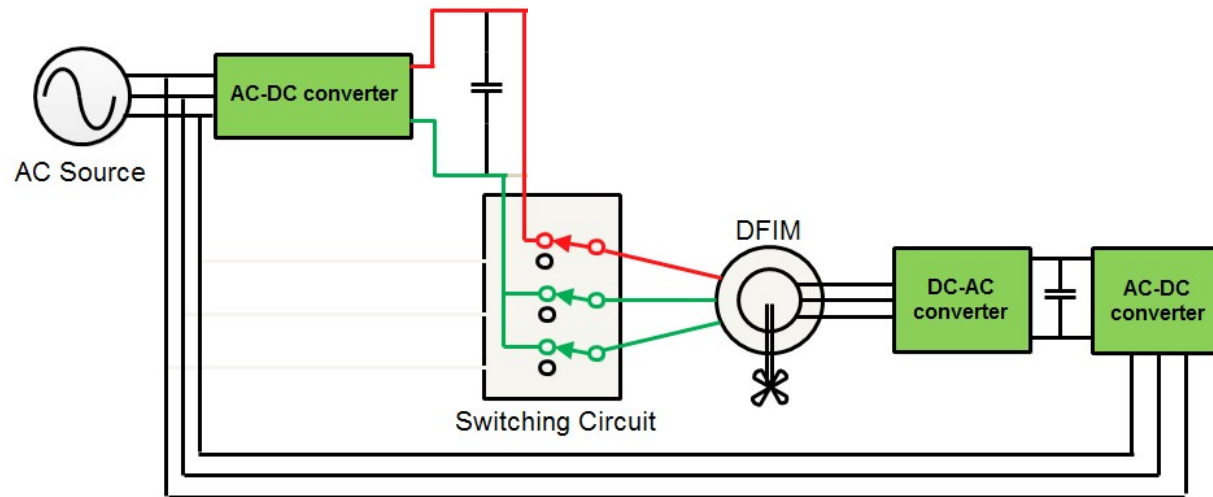
# DFM drive



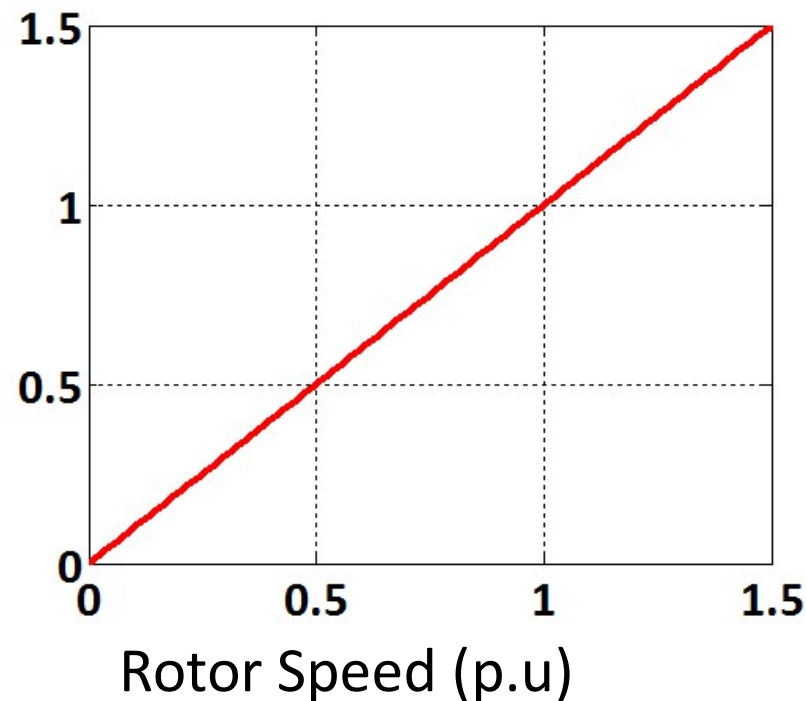
## Assumption: “Ideal DFM”

- Zero resistance
- Zero leakage inductance
- Zero magnetizing current
- Rotor current rating is identical to stator current rating

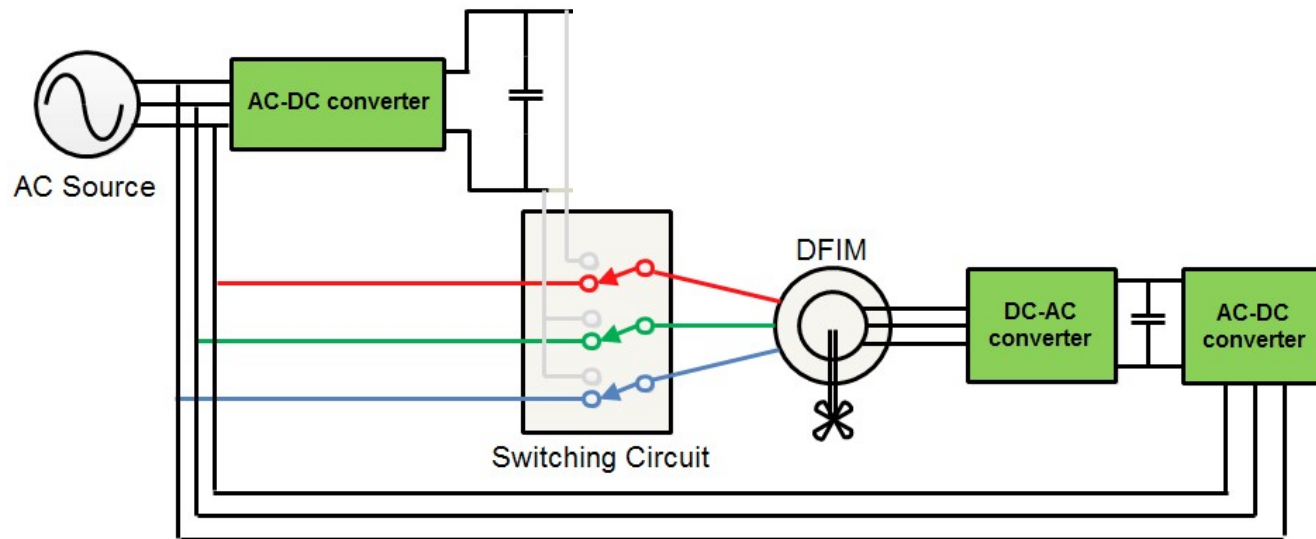
# DC Mode



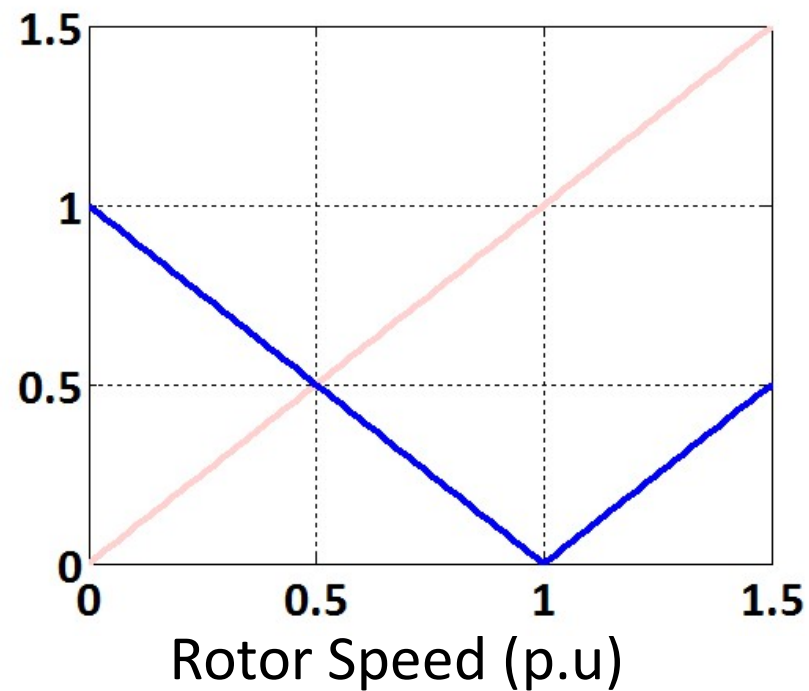
Rotor Voltage (p.u)



# AC Mode

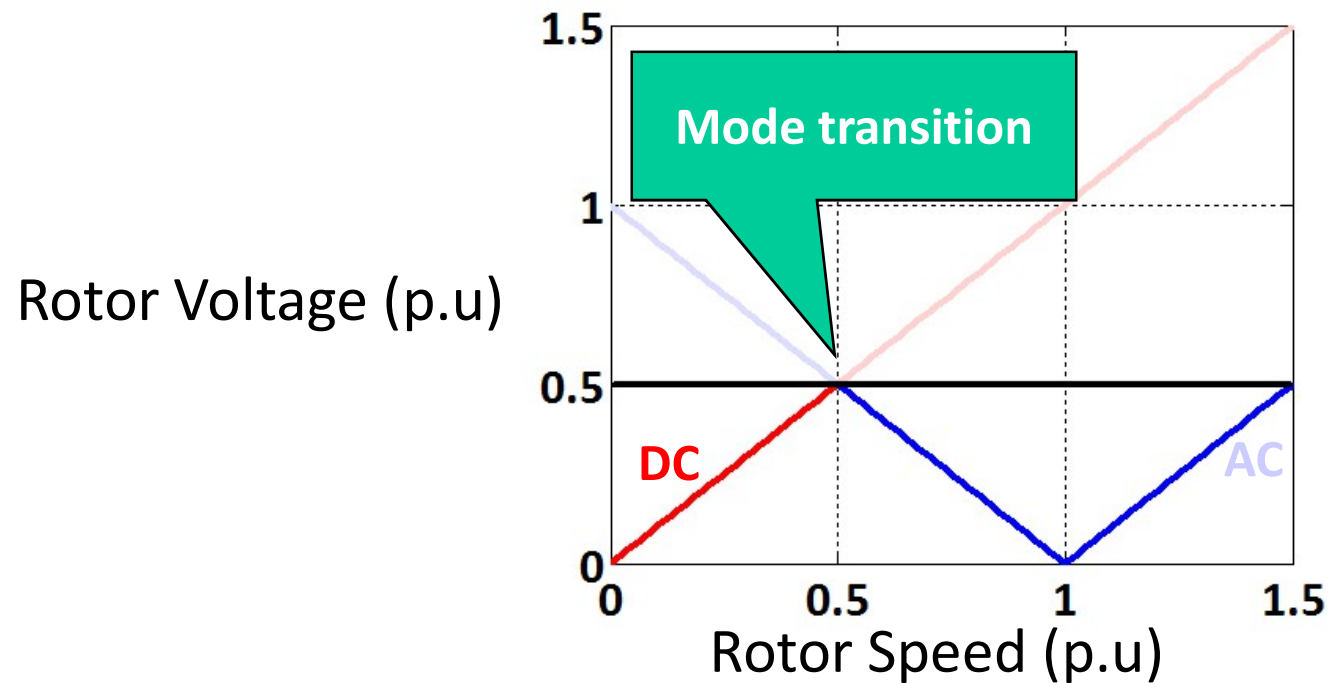
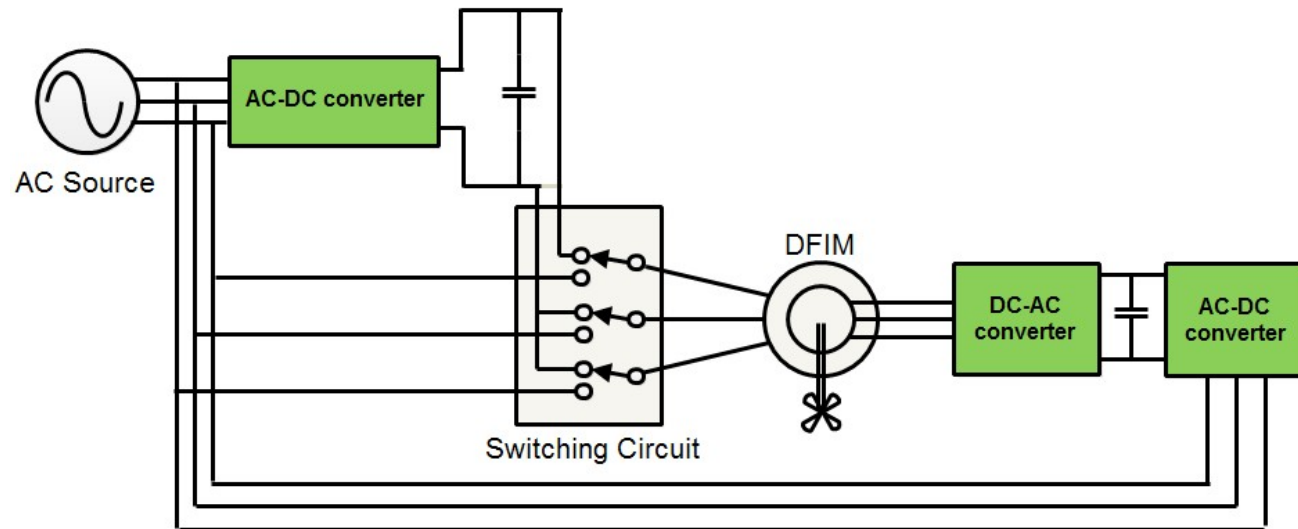


Rotor Voltage (p.u)

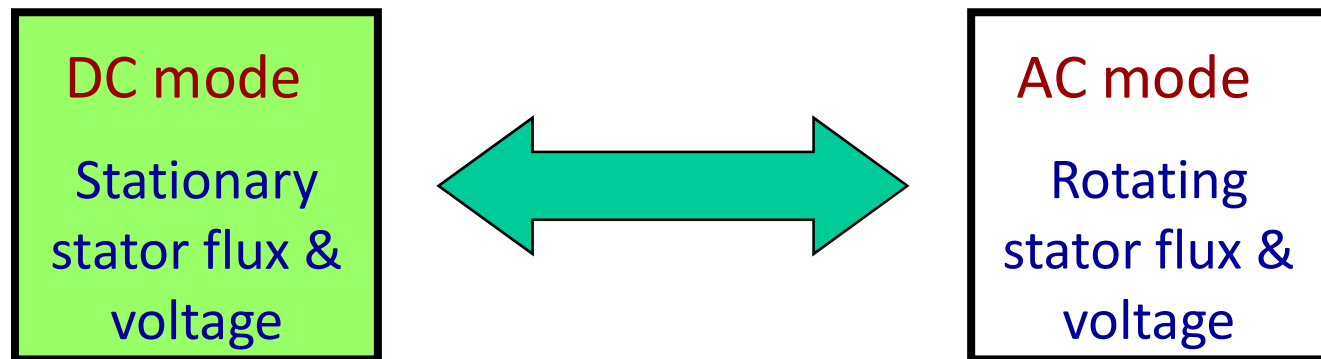




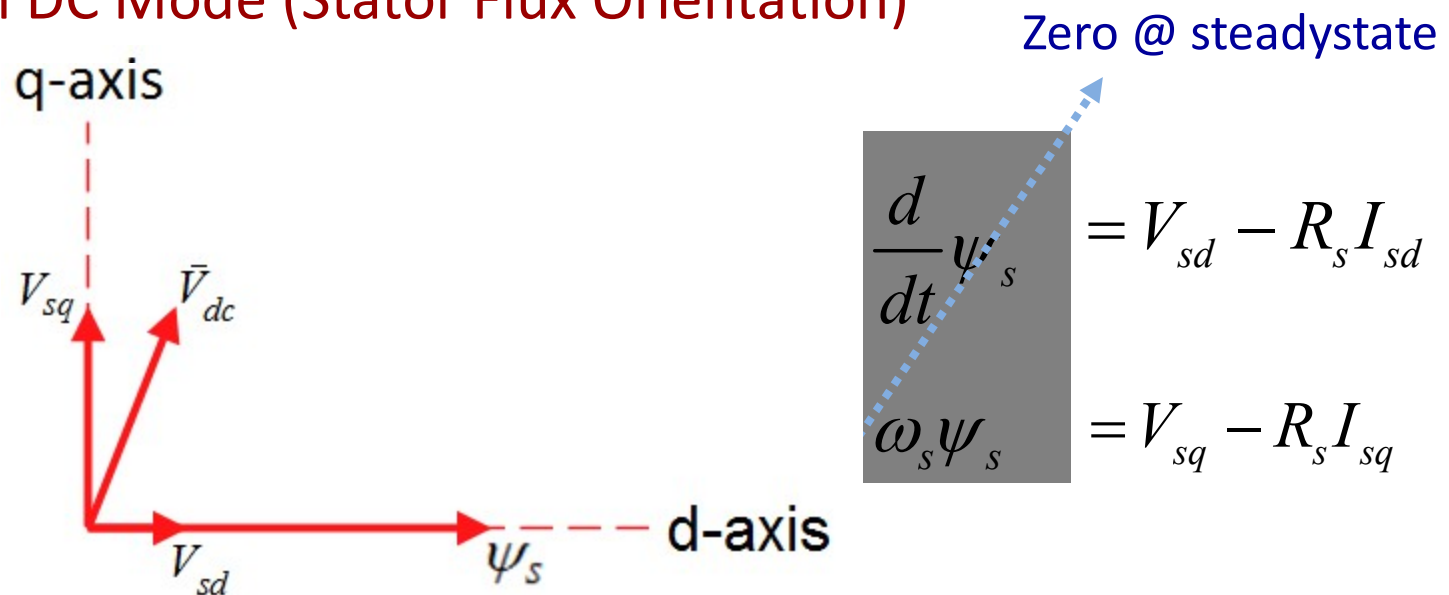
# Mode Transition



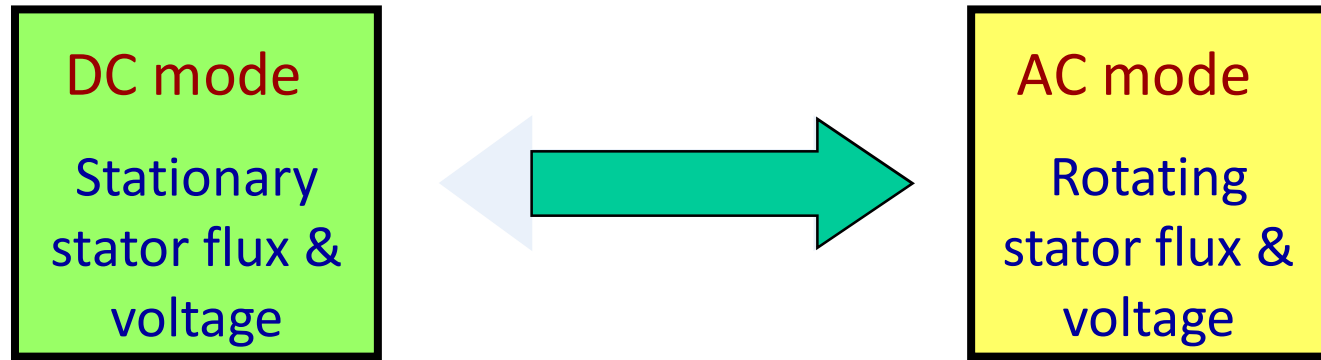
# Control: Transition between AC-DC Modes



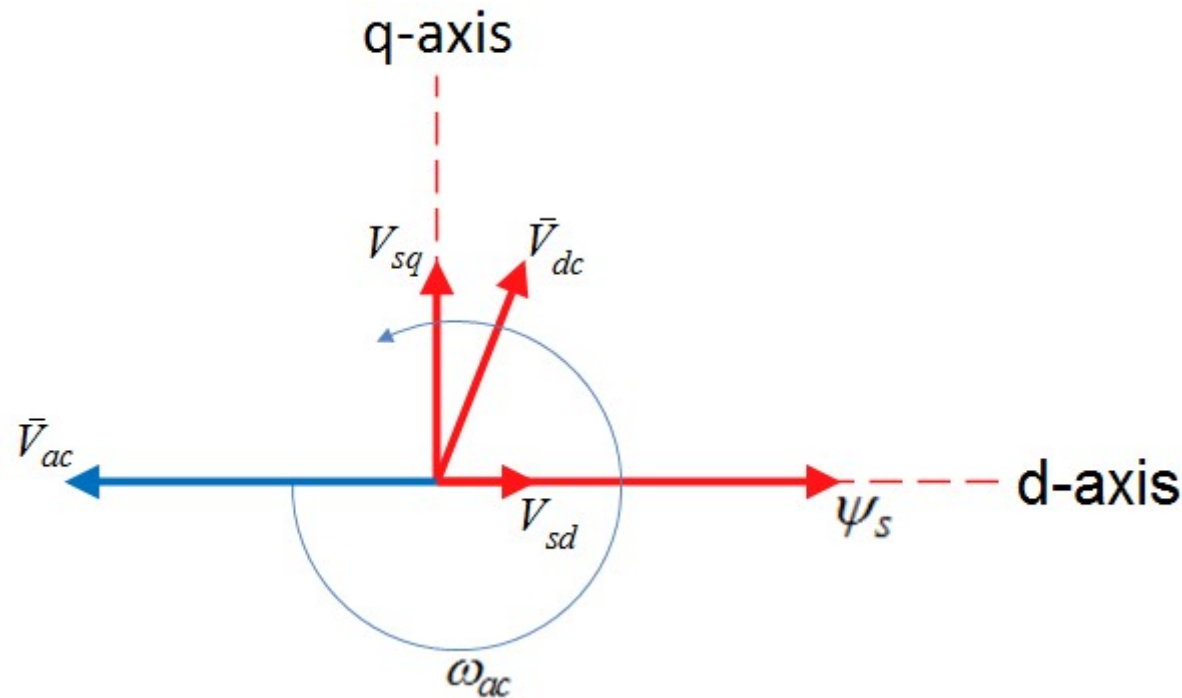
## Space vector in DC Mode (Stator Flux Orientation)



# Transition between Modes



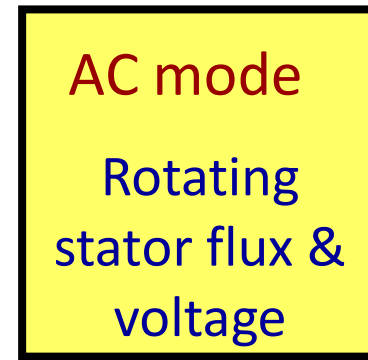
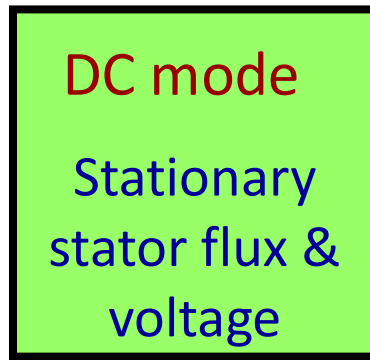
Target: To switch to AC Mode



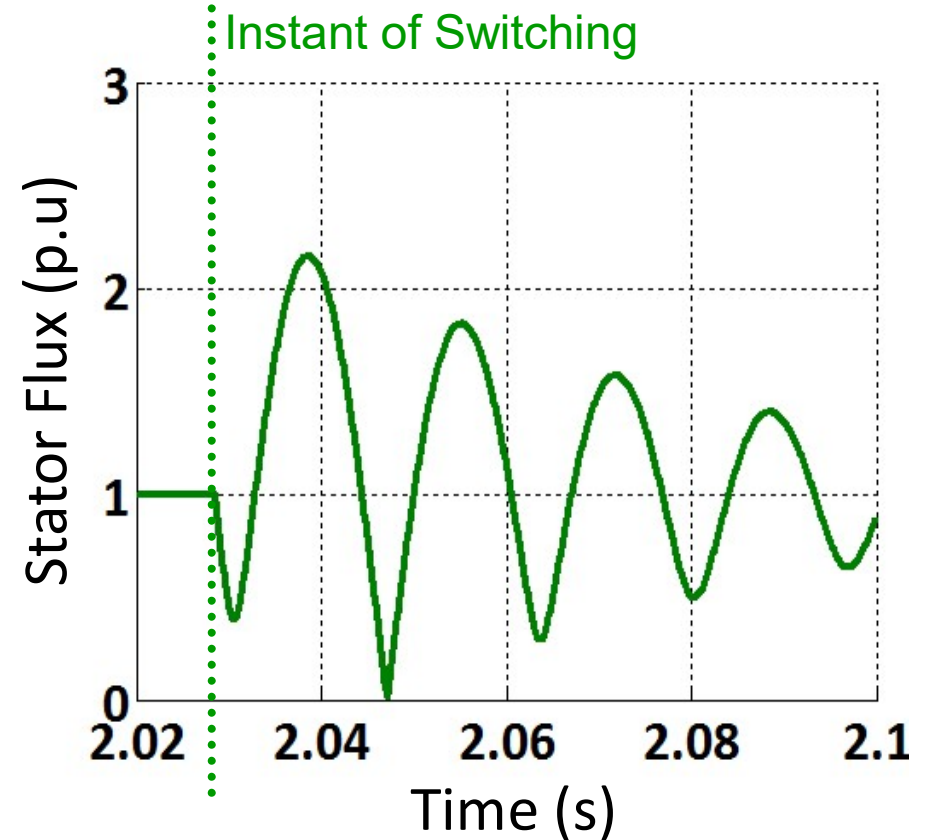
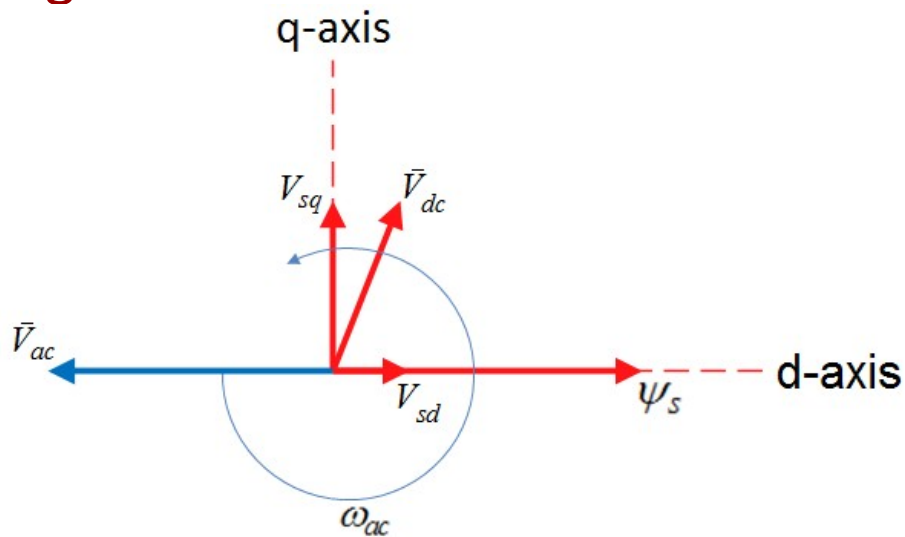
$$\frac{d}{dt}\psi_s = V_{sd} - R_s I_{sd}$$

$$\psi_s \frac{d\delta}{dt} = V_{sq} - R_s I_{sq}$$

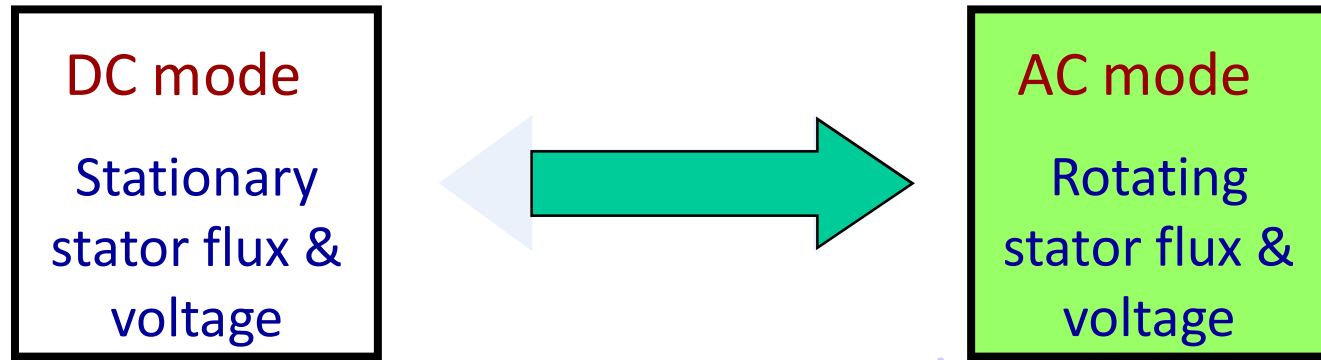
# Transition between AC-DC Modes



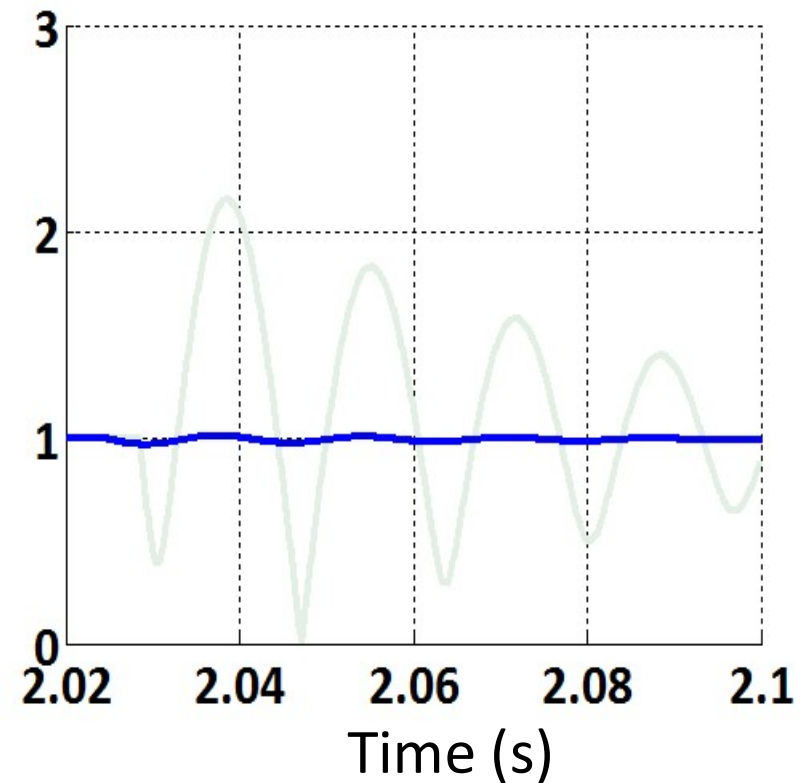
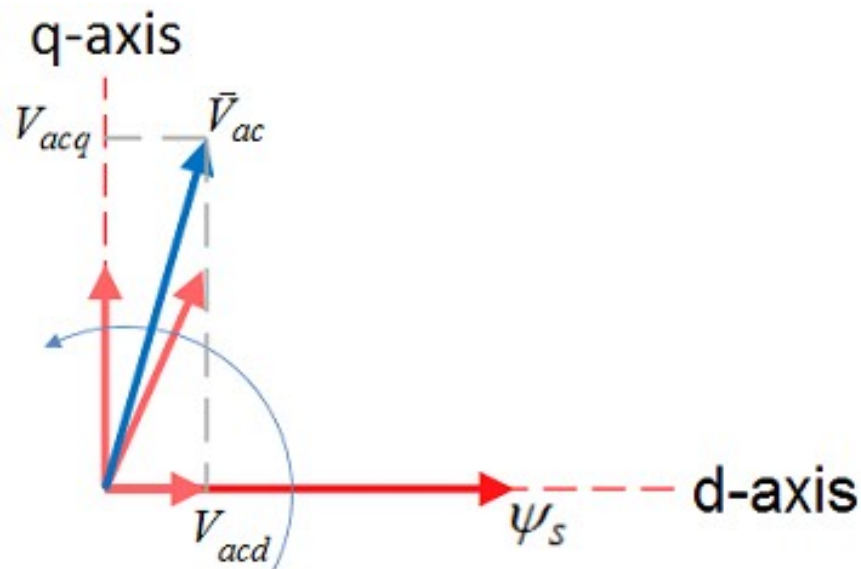
Target: To switch to AC Mode



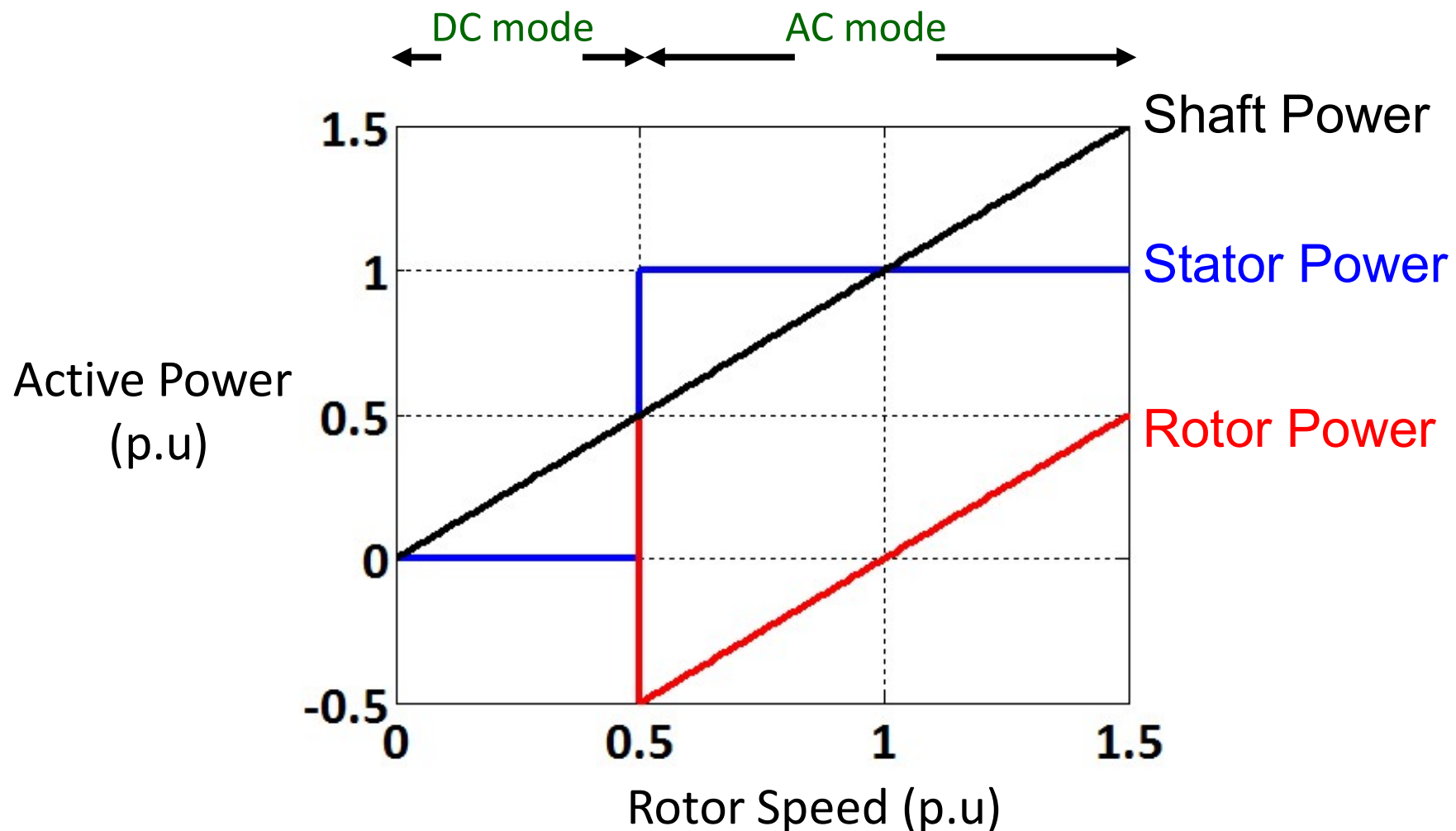
# “Bump-less” transition



## Space vector @ transition



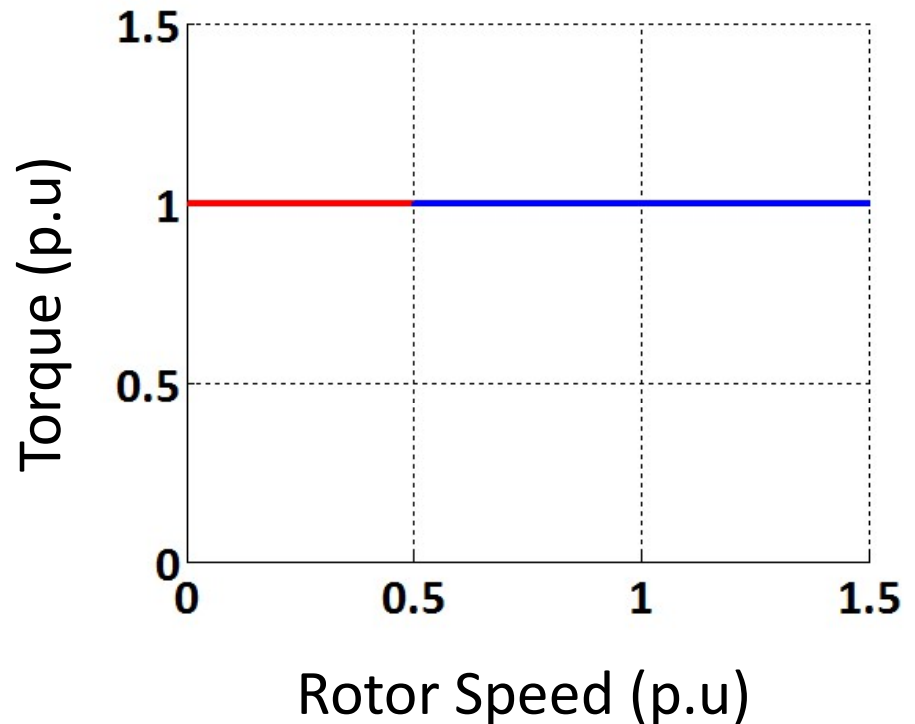
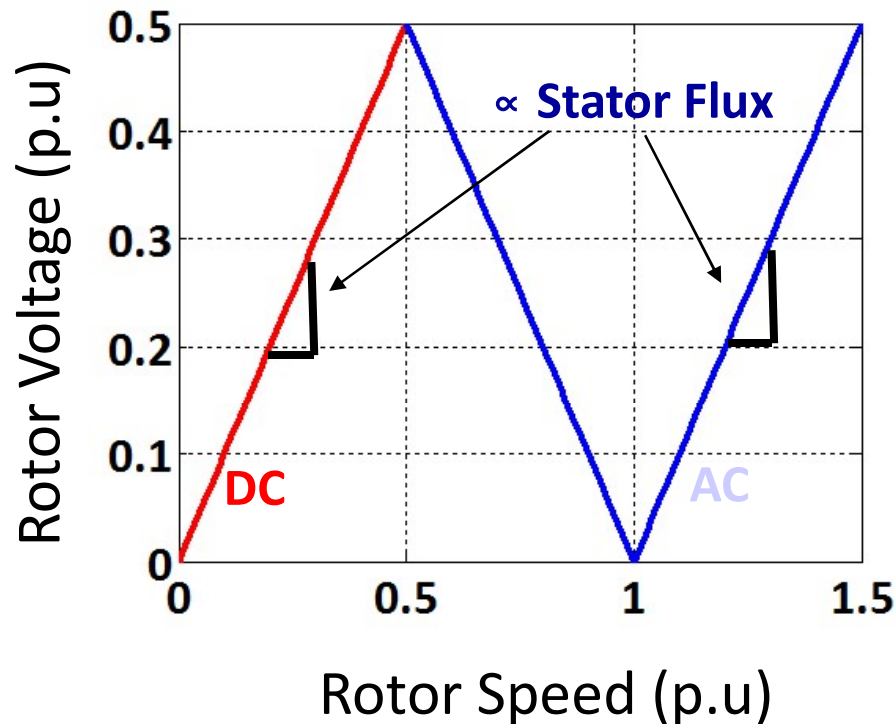
# Wide speed range with reduced power electronics



$$\frac{\text{Max. Rotor Power}}{\text{Max. Shaft Power}} = \frac{0.5}{1.5}$$

# Torque speed characteristic

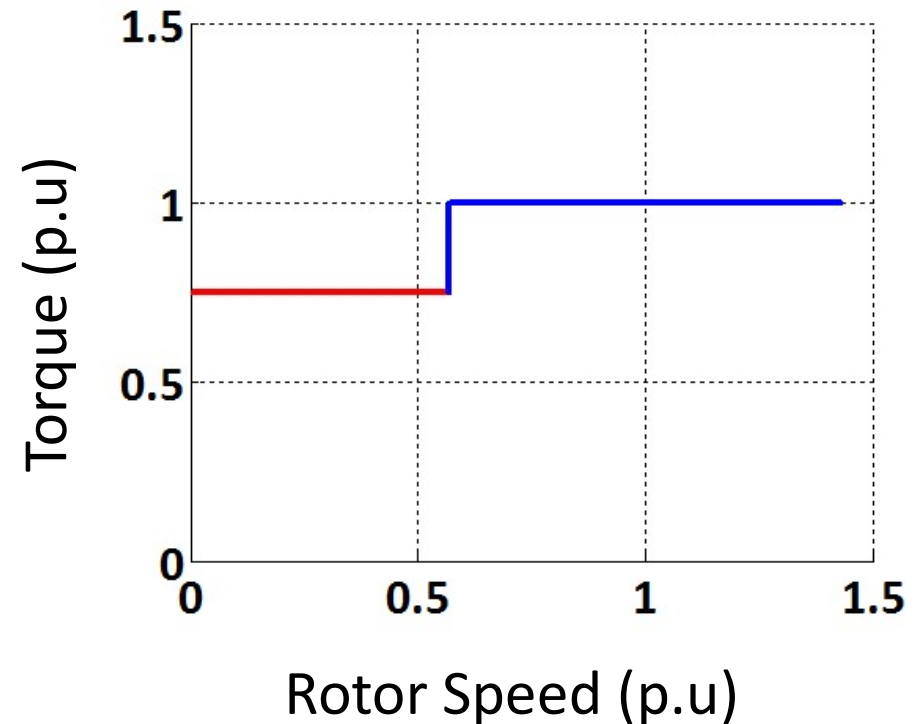
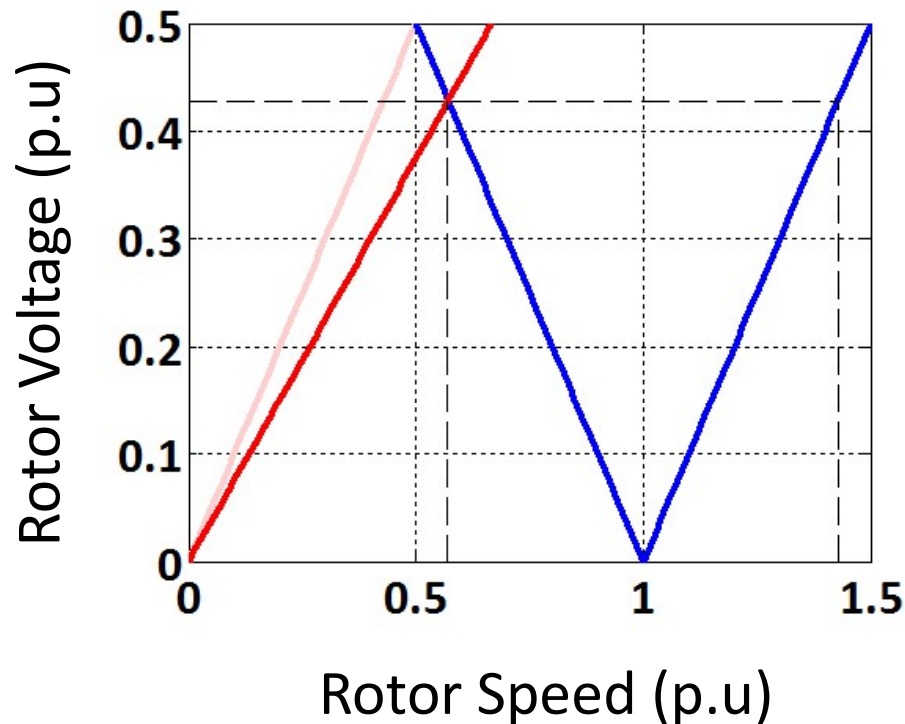
dc mode stator flux = ac mode stator flux



Rotor power electronics “**current rating**” driven by ac mode torque

# Torque speed characteristic

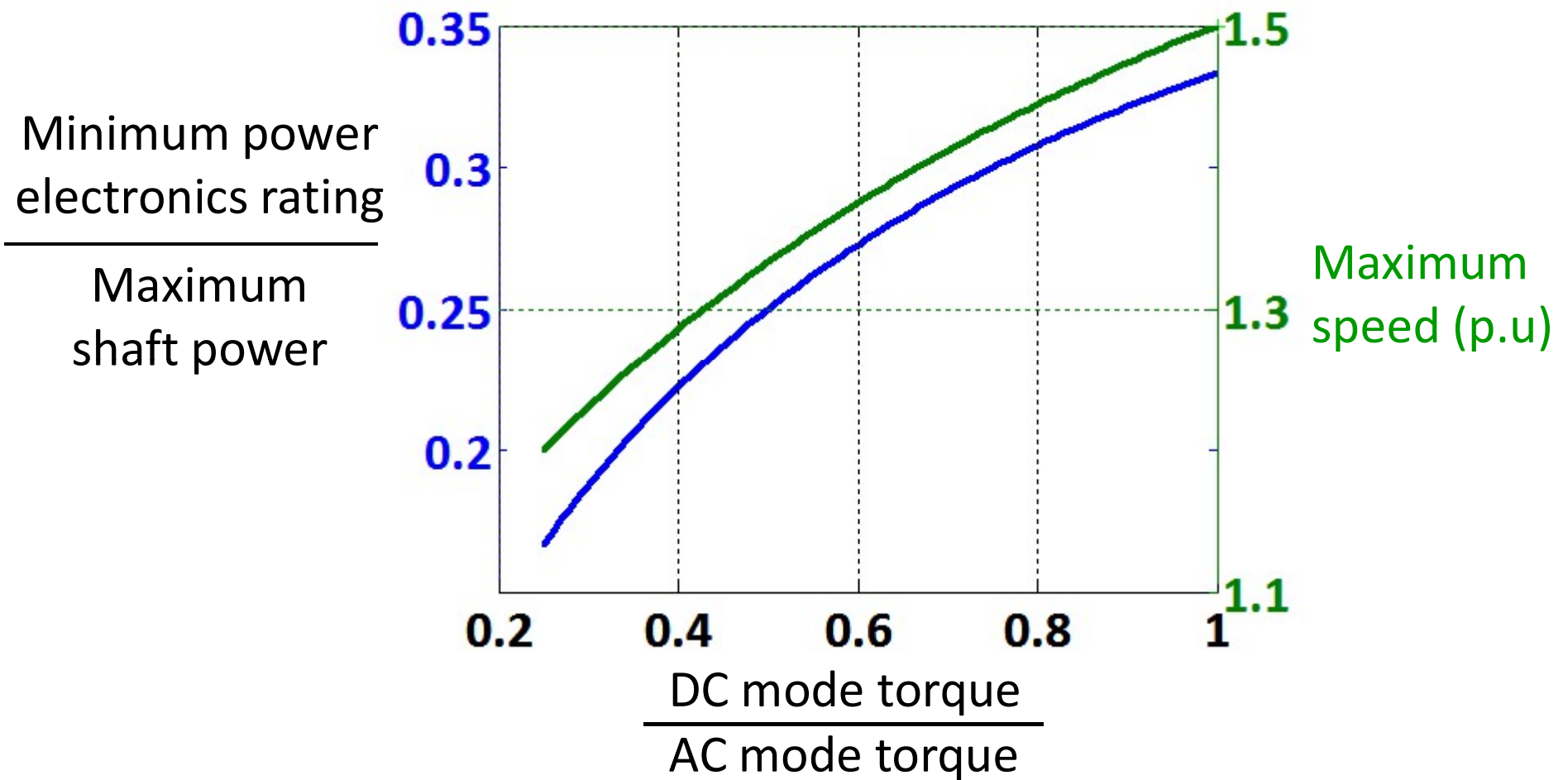
dc mode stator flux = 0.75 \* ac mode stator flux



Rotor power electronics “**voltage rating**” driven by dc mode torque

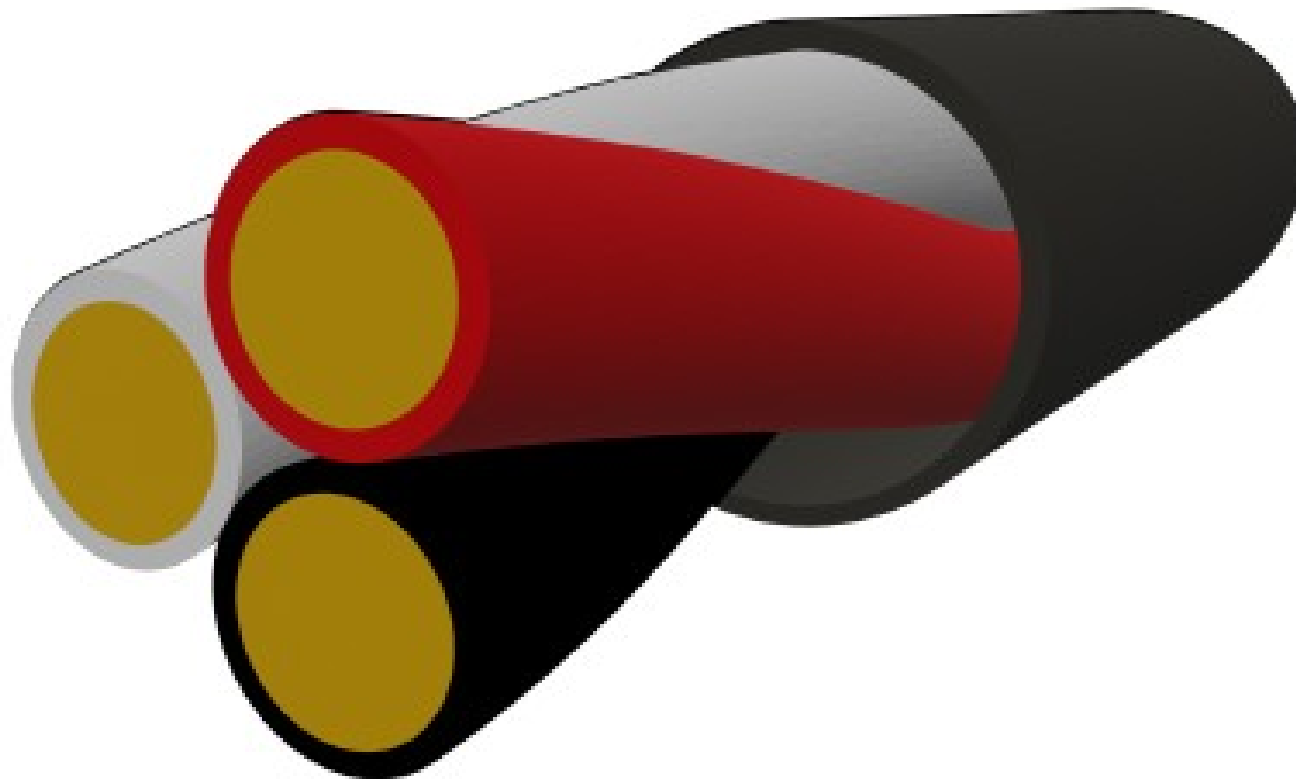


# Power electronics size

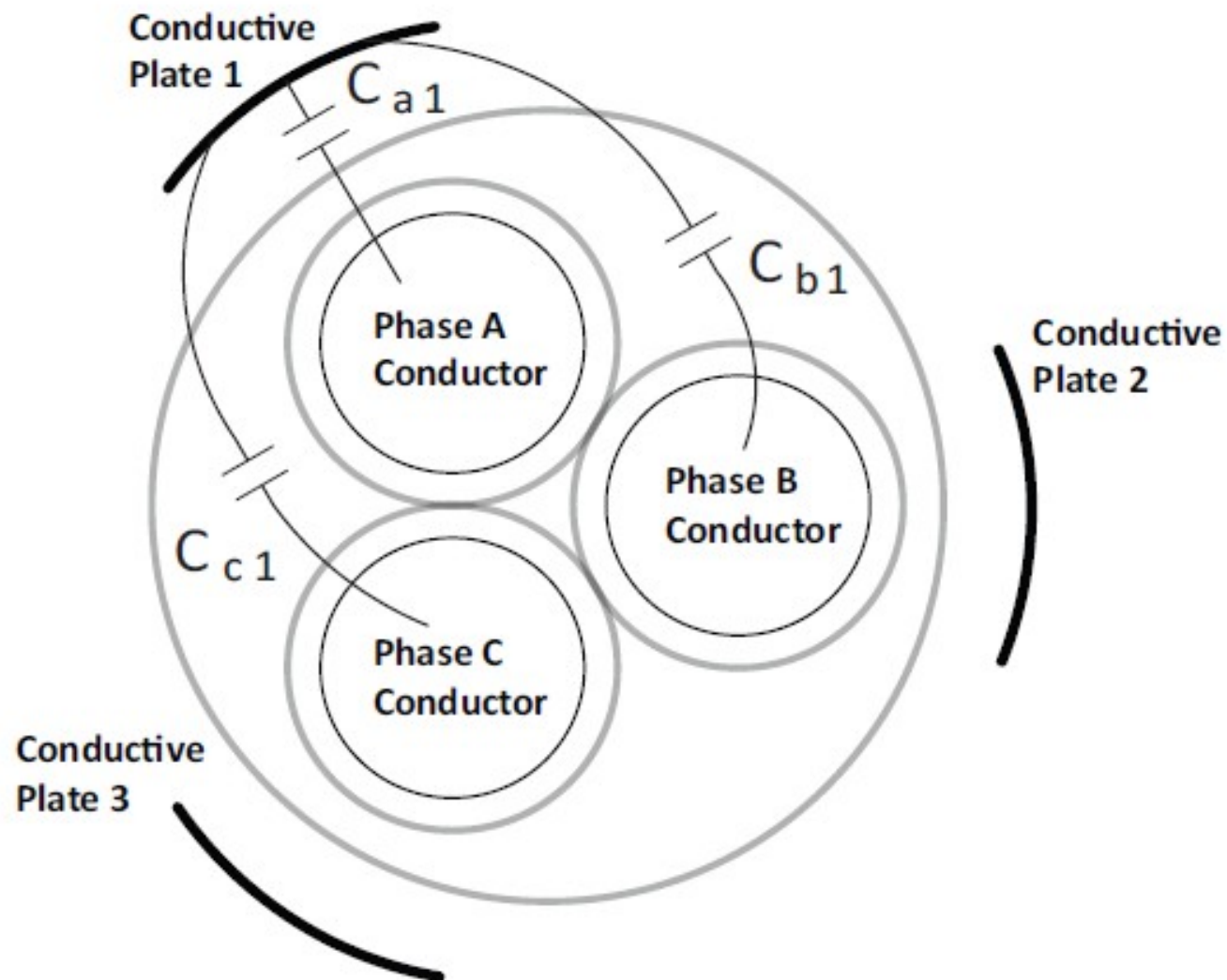


- Doubly-Fed Machine (DFM) and modeling
- Non-Intrusive Voltage Sensing
- PEBB Interface and Stabilization

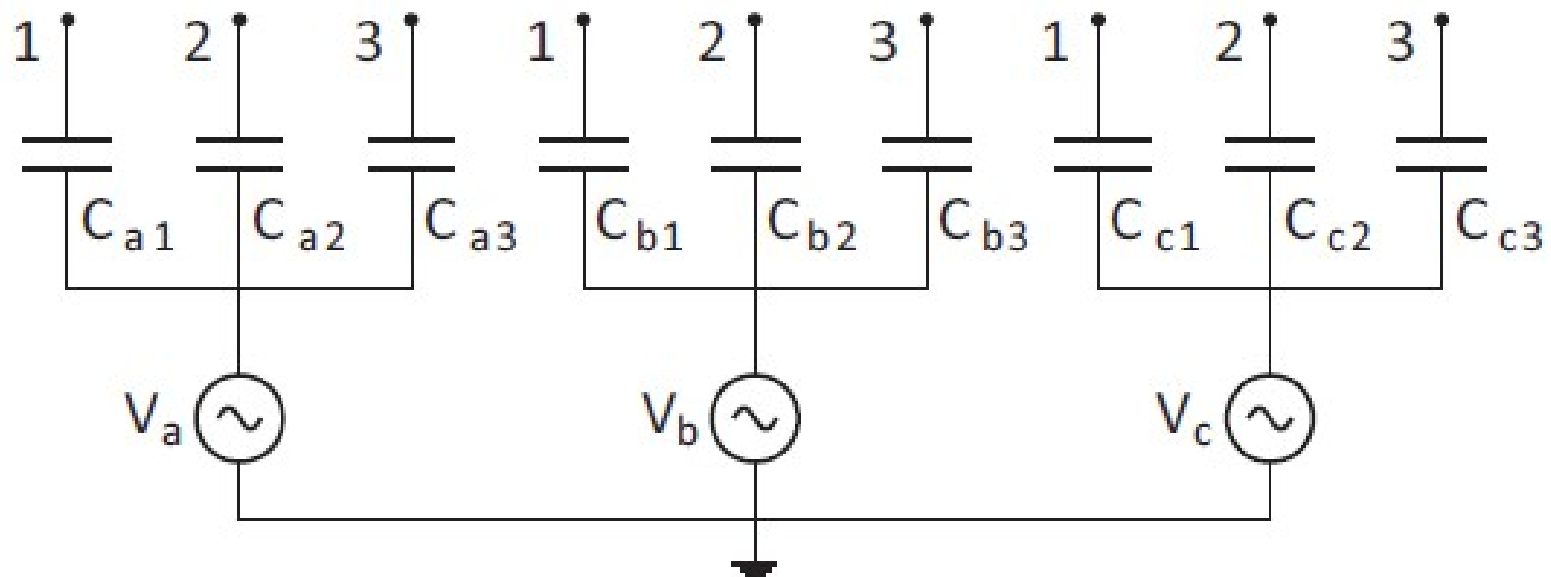
# Shipboard Power Cable



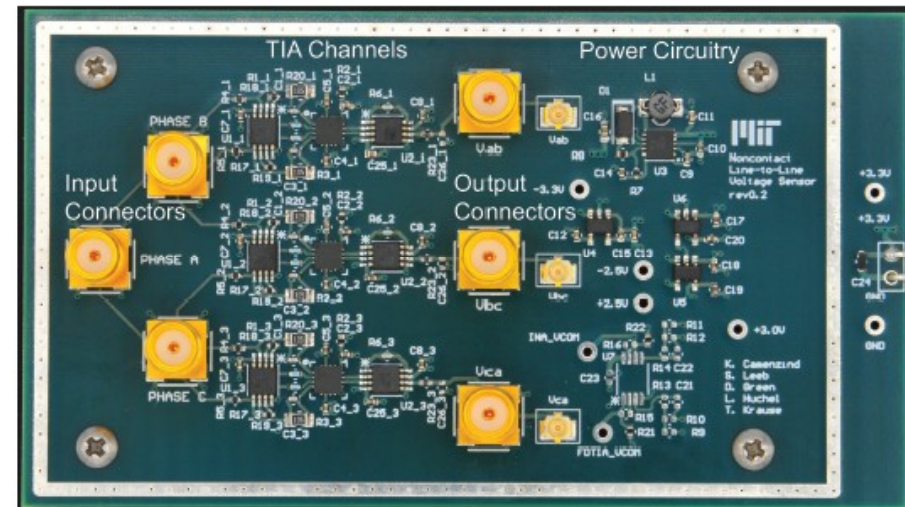
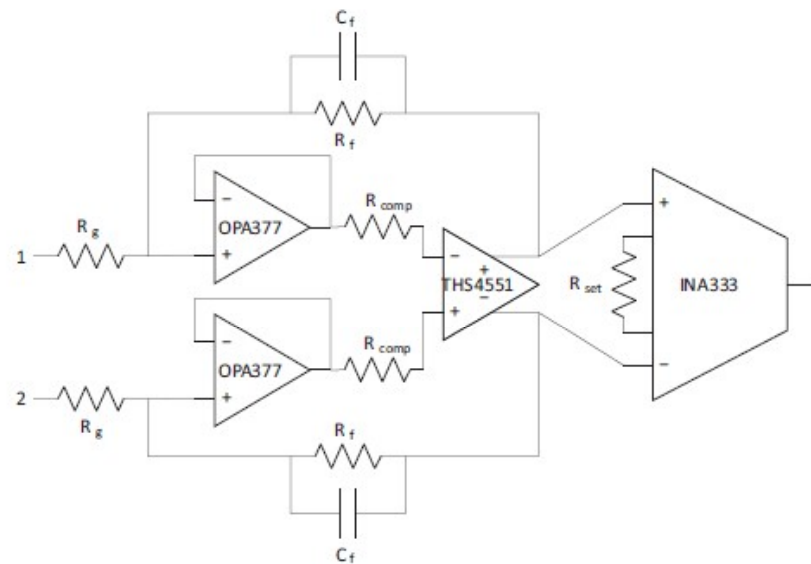
# Sensor Approach



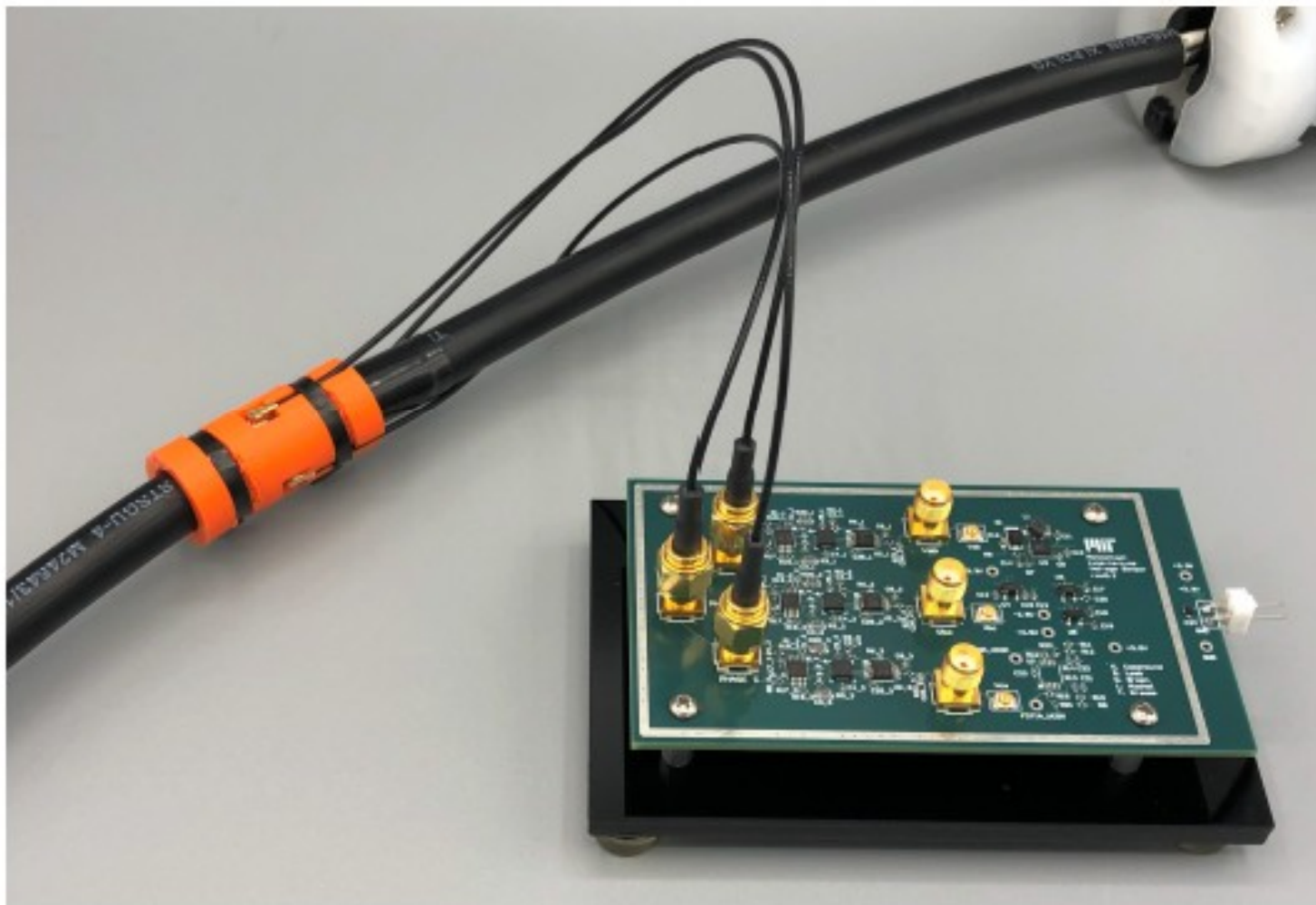
# Sensor Circuit Model



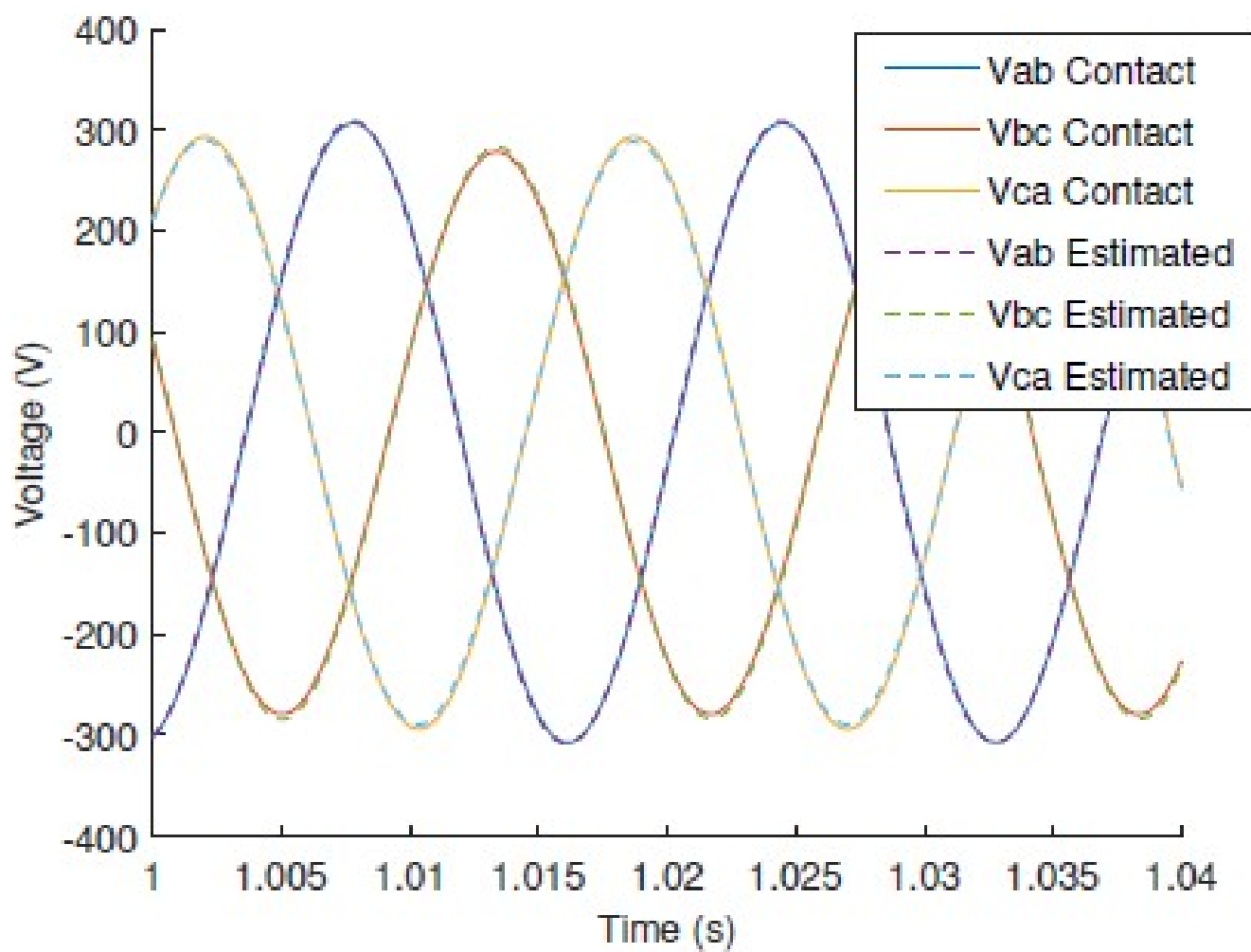
# Nonintrusive Voltage Sensing



# Test Prototype



# Results!

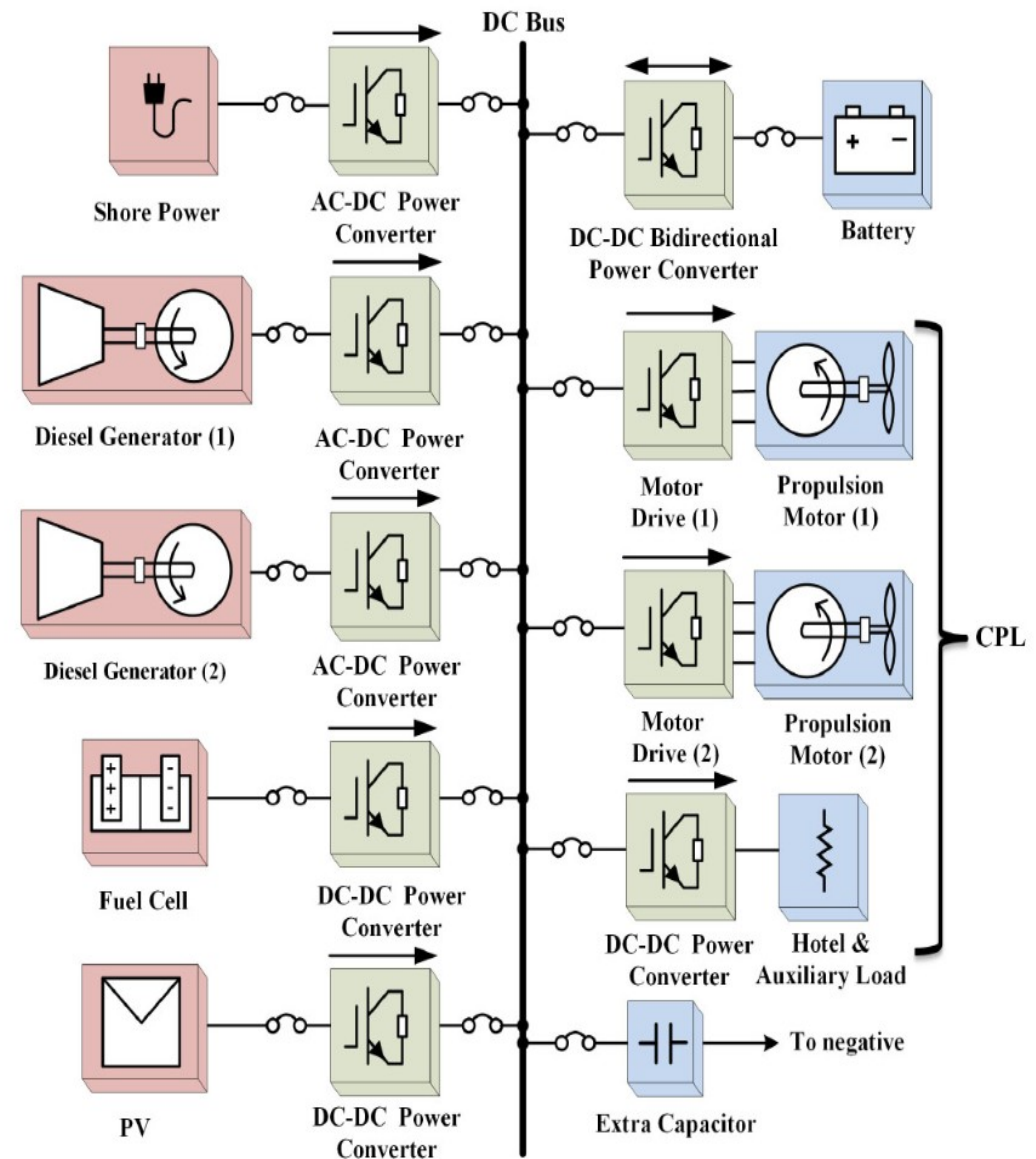




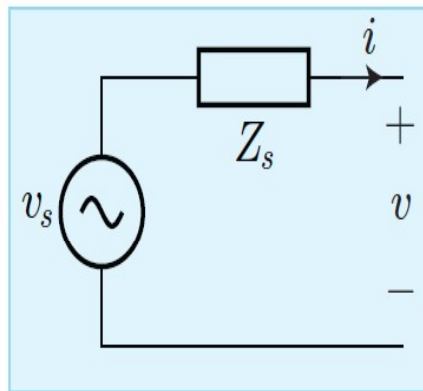
- Doubly-Fed Machine (DFM) and modeling
- Non-Intrusive Voltage Sensing
- PEBB Interface and Stabilization

# Motivation

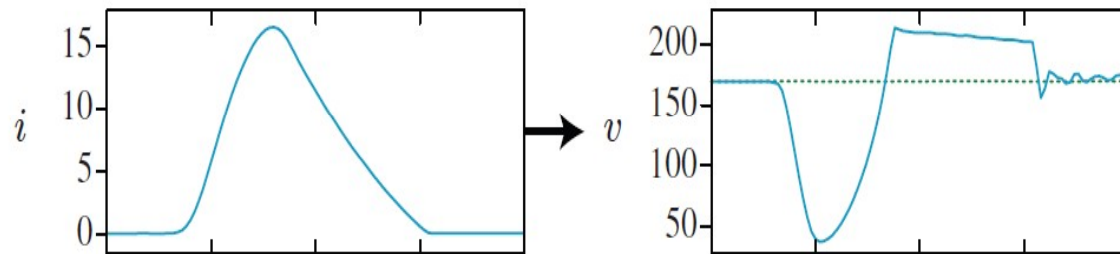
- Loads connected to either DC or AC grid through PEBBs act as constant power loads (CPL)
- CPLs are destabilizing, particularly in DC systems



# Source Impedance

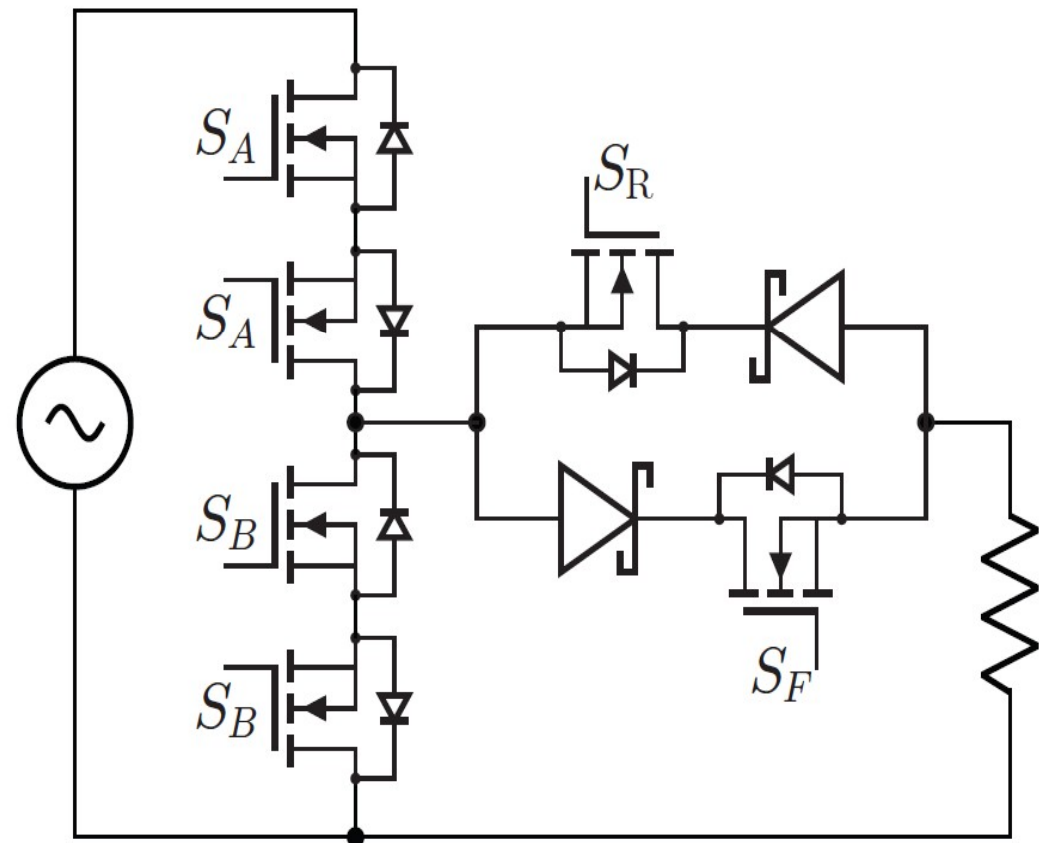


## Power Quality Issues

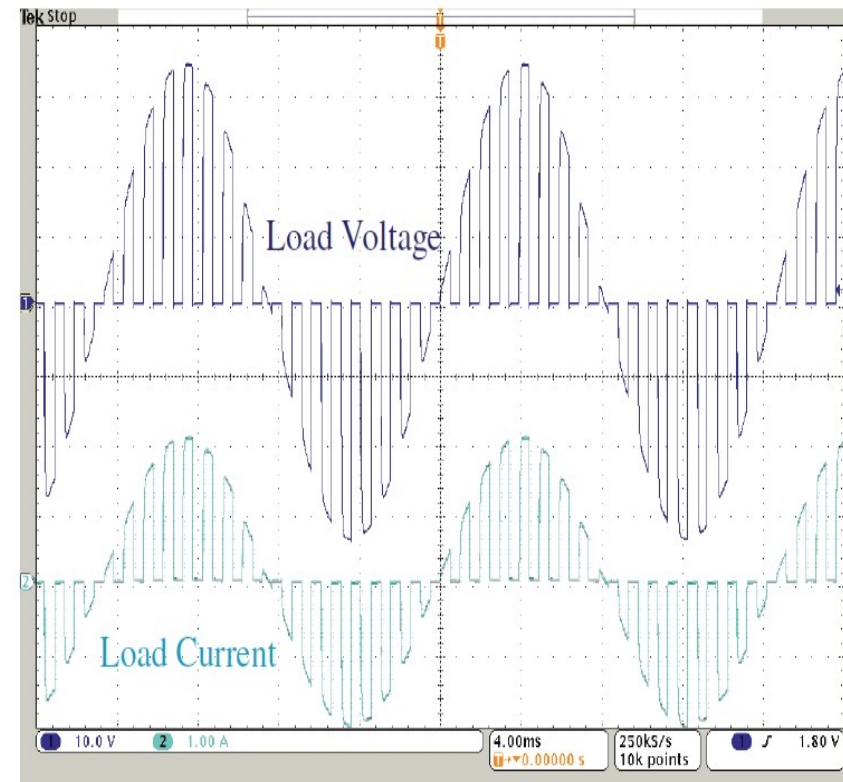
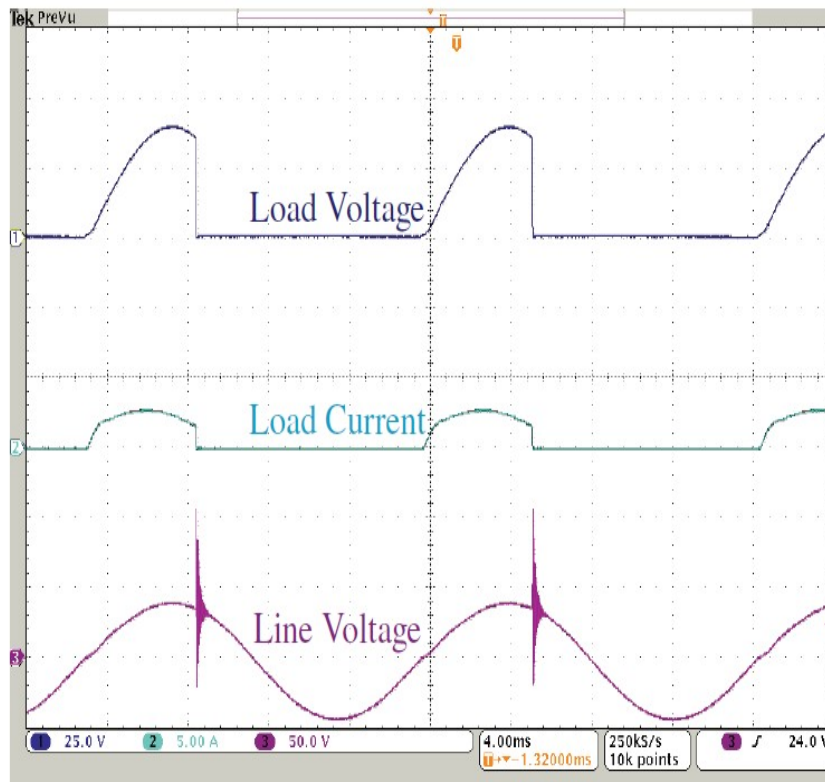


# PEBB Interface for Control, Protection, and Sys Id

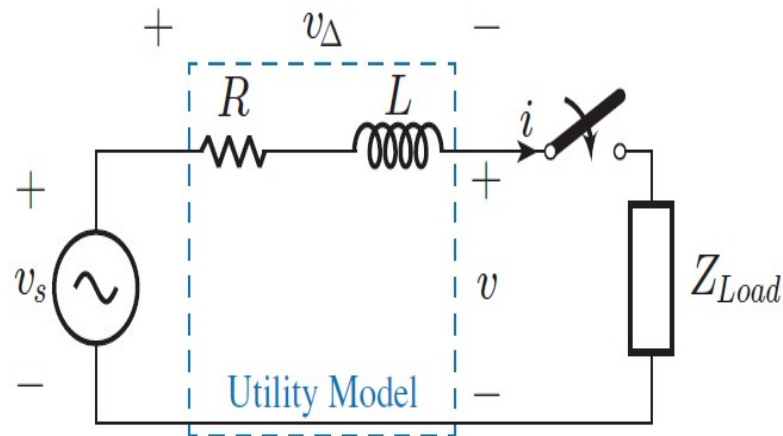
- Use four-quadrant switches for enhanced switching behavior



# Complete Control over Load/Grid Interaction

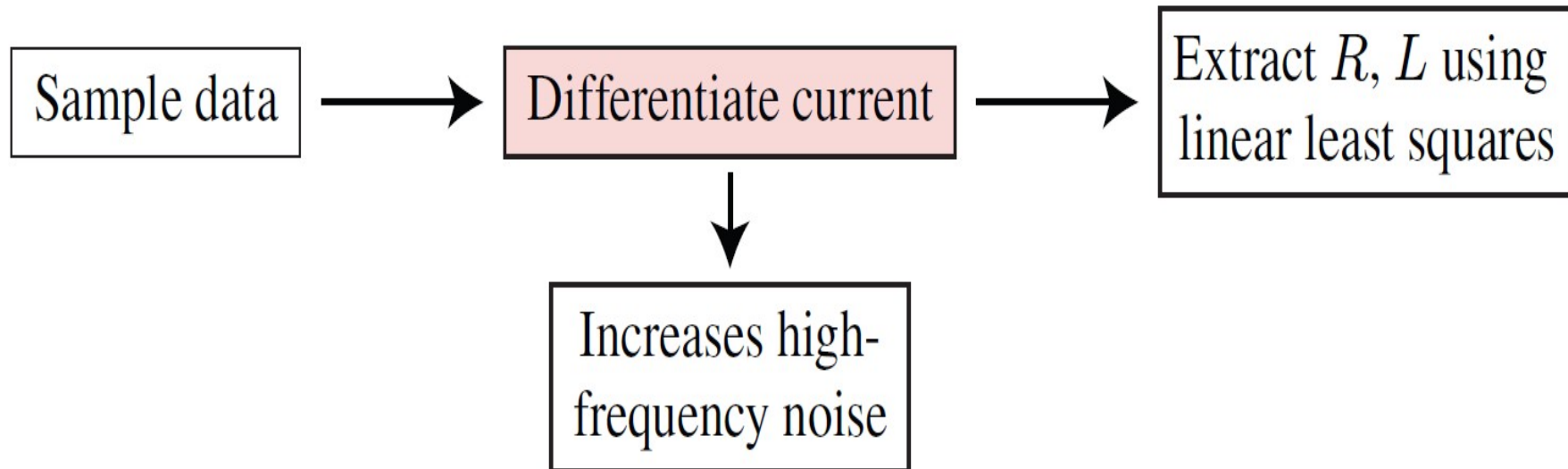


# One Approach: Parametric Identification



$$v_s - v = v_\Delta = (R + sL)i$$

$$s \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt}$$



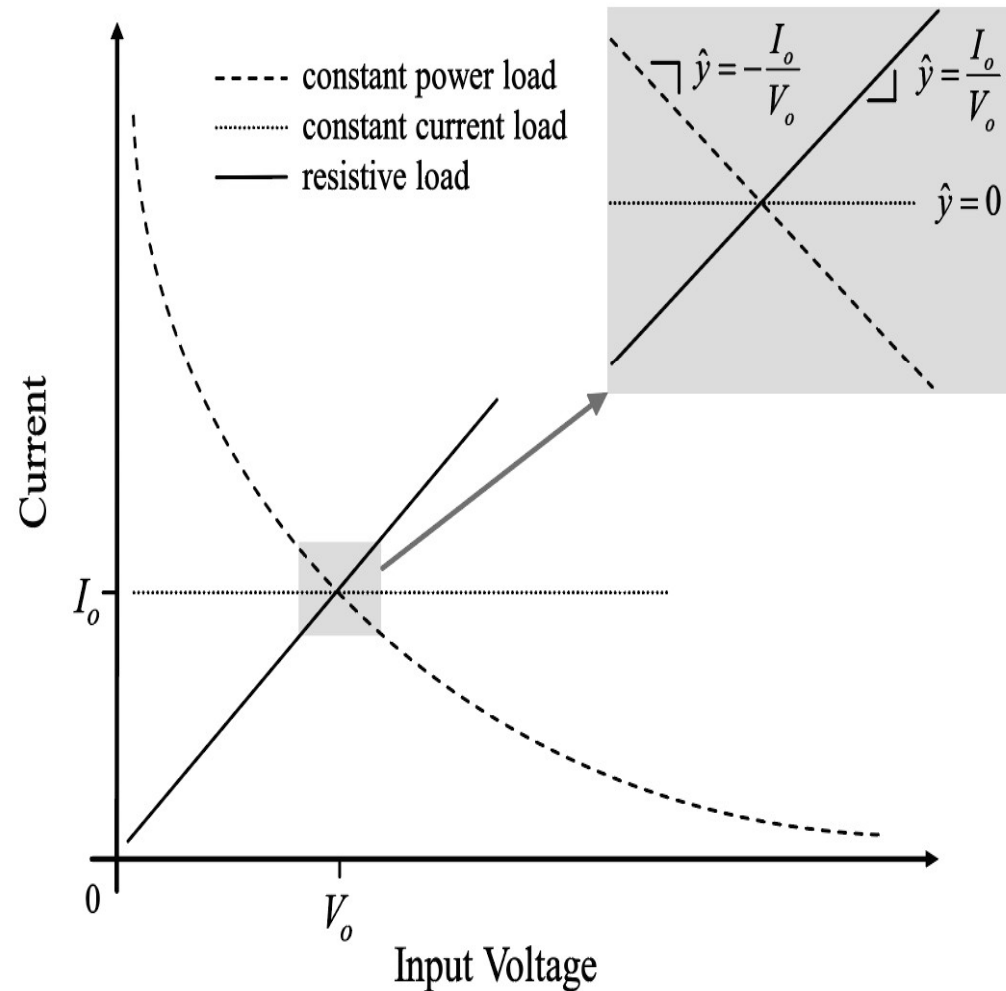
# Source/Line Parameter Identification

- Find governing circuit equation  $\rightarrow v_s - v = v_\Delta = (R + sL)i$
- Suggest a differentiation operator based on a low-pass filter  $\rightarrow \lambda_k = \frac{1}{s\tau_k + 1} \Rightarrow s = \frac{1 - \lambda_k}{\lambda_k \tau_k}$
- Perform operator substitution  $\rightarrow -\frac{R}{L}[\lambda_k i](t) + \frac{1}{L}[\lambda_k v_\Delta](t) = \frac{1}{\tau_k} (i(t) - [\lambda_k i](t))$
- Construct matrices with sampled data  $\rightarrow$ 

$$\psi = \begin{bmatrix} -[\lambda_k i](t_1) & [\lambda_k v_\Delta](t_1) \\ -[\lambda_k i](t_2) & [\lambda_k v_\Delta](t_2) \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ -[\lambda_k i](t_N) & [\lambda_k v_\Delta](t_N) \end{bmatrix} \quad \hat{\theta} = \begin{bmatrix} \hat{\frac{R}{L}} \\ \hat{\frac{1}{L}} \end{bmatrix} \quad y = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\tau_k} (i(t_1) - [\lambda_k i](t_1)) \\ \frac{1}{\tau_k} (i(t_2) - [\lambda_k i](t_2)) \\ \vdots \\ \frac{1}{\tau_k} (i(t_N) - [\lambda_k i](t_N)) \end{bmatrix}$$
- Perform LLS to obtain parameters  $\rightarrow \psi \hat{\theta} = y$  Extracted  $R, L$  values

# CPL Behavior

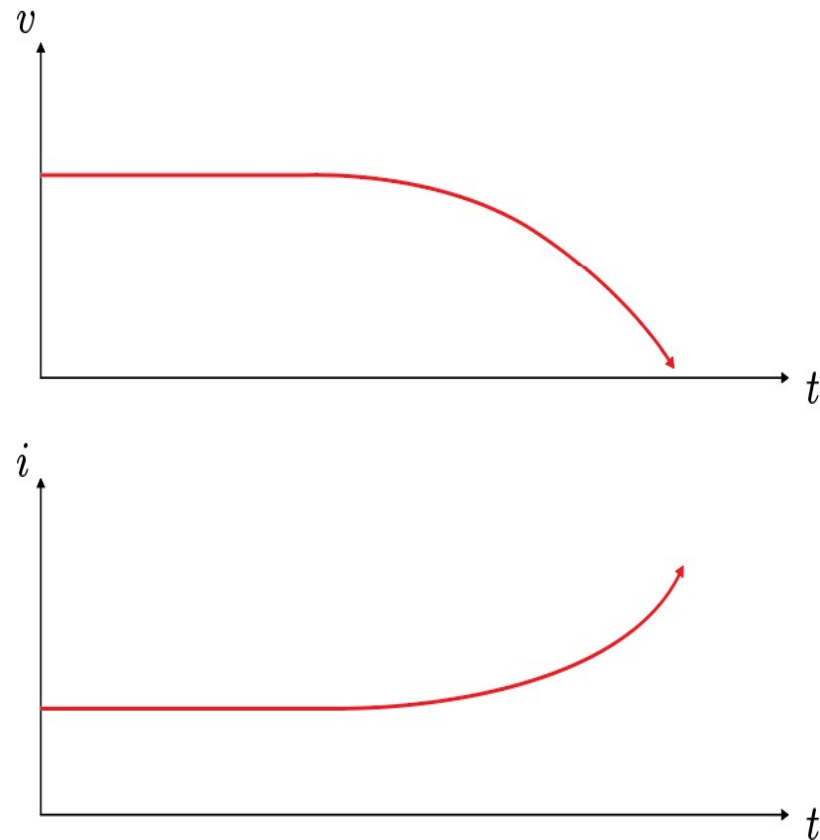
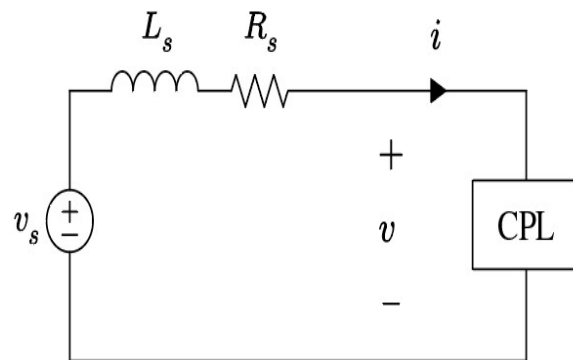
- CPLs decrease input current when input voltage increases to maintain constant power
- Presents negative incremental impedance to the bus





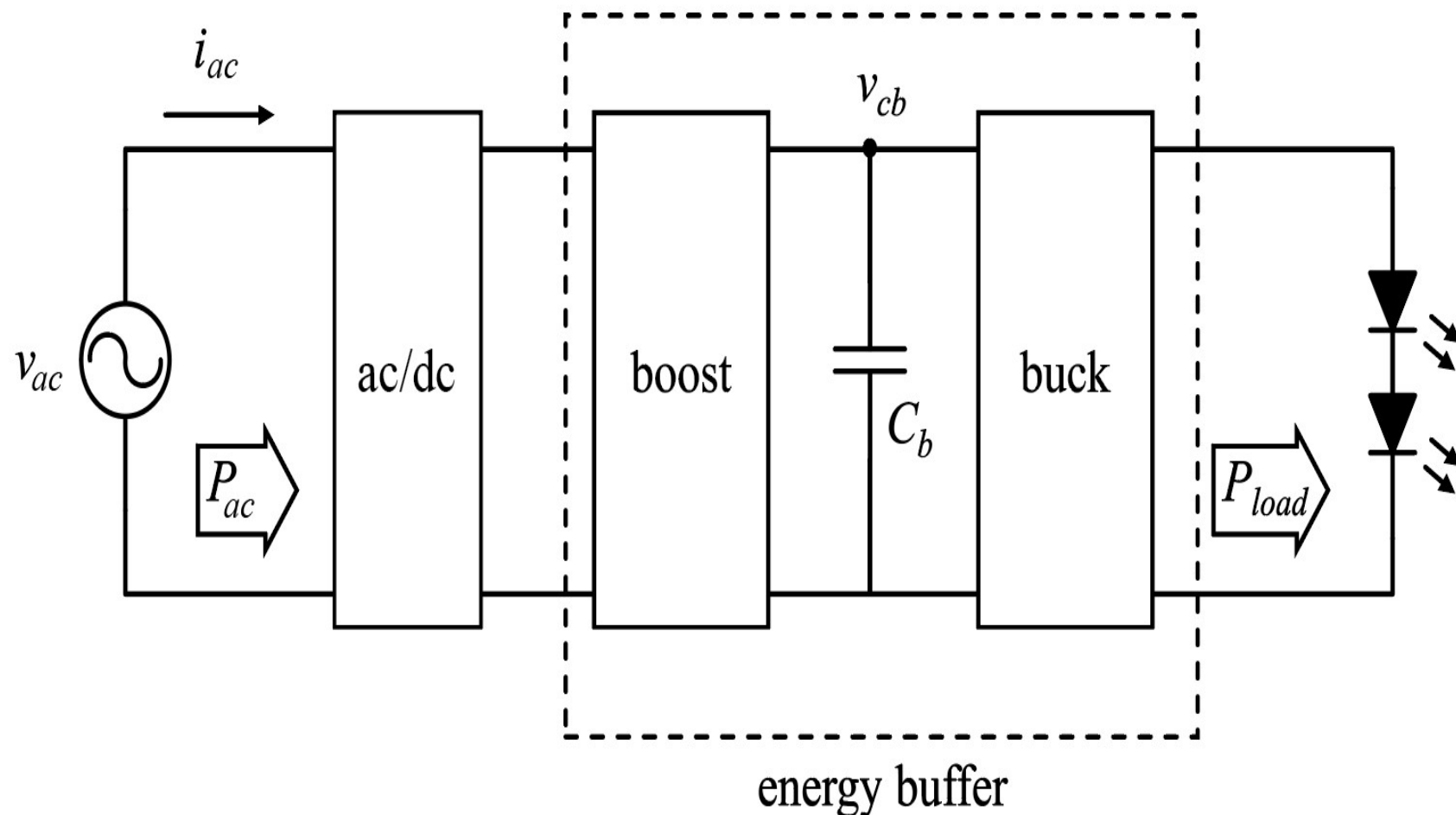
# CPL Behavior

- Without proper care, CPLs can *crash* the DC bus:



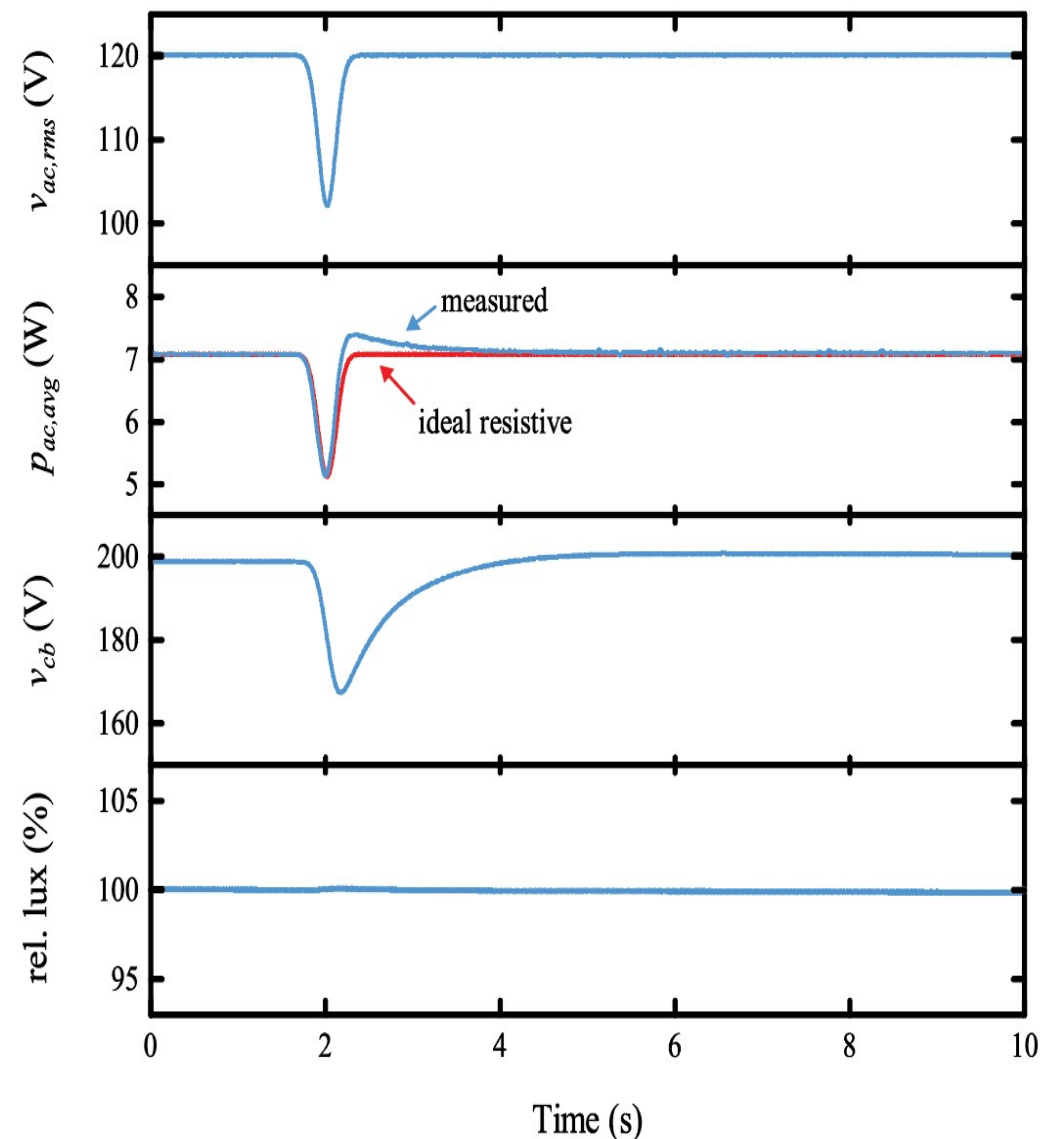
# Energy Buffered PEBB

Addition of an energy buffer allows the PEBB to deliver constant power but present an input impedance that is stabilizing



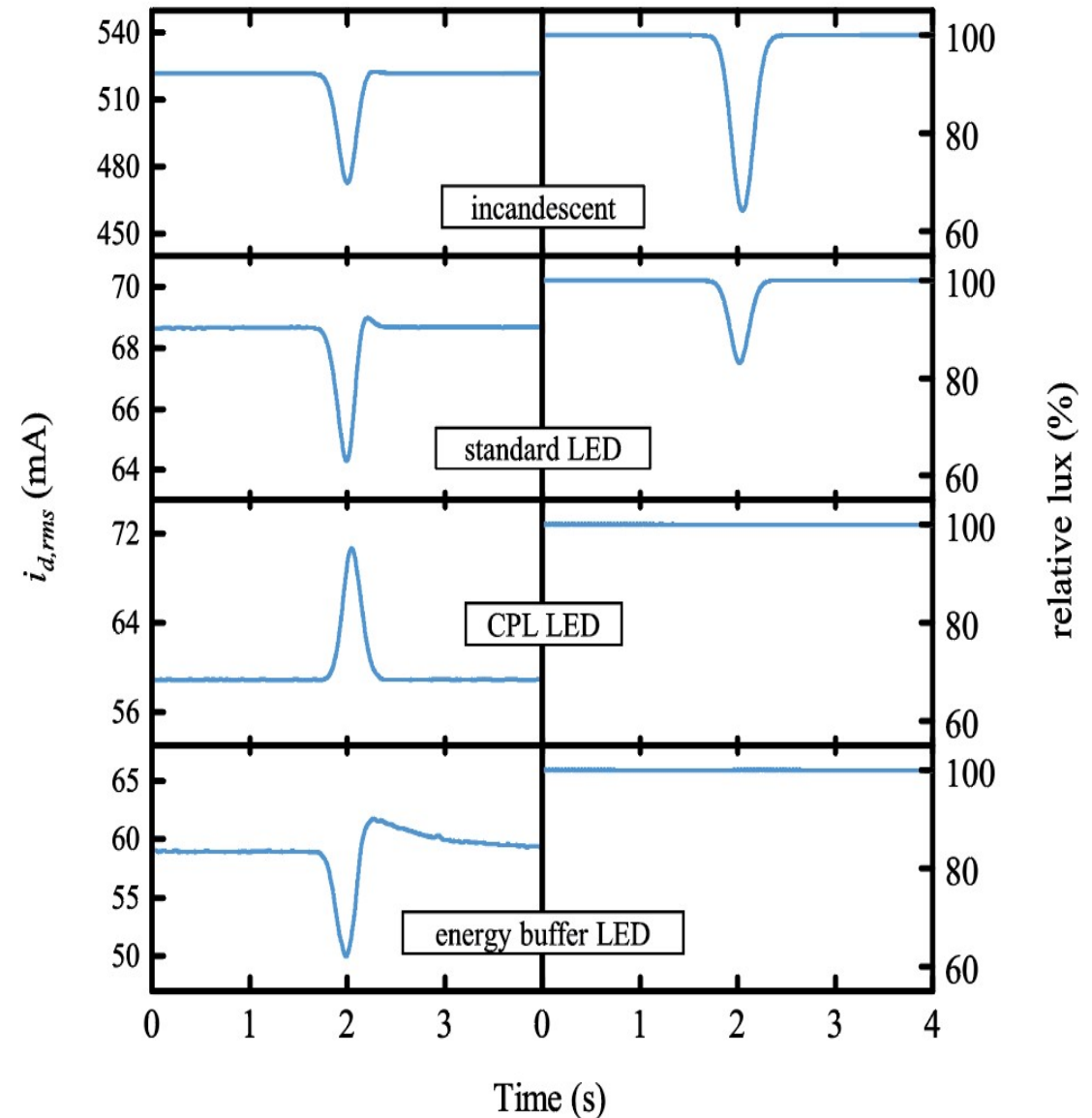
# Energy Buffered PEBB Transient Response

- Input current drops with input voltage initially, and current is gently increased to recovered energy deficit in buffer
- Input stage resembles a resistive load
- Example: for lighting applications, this converter provides constant light output



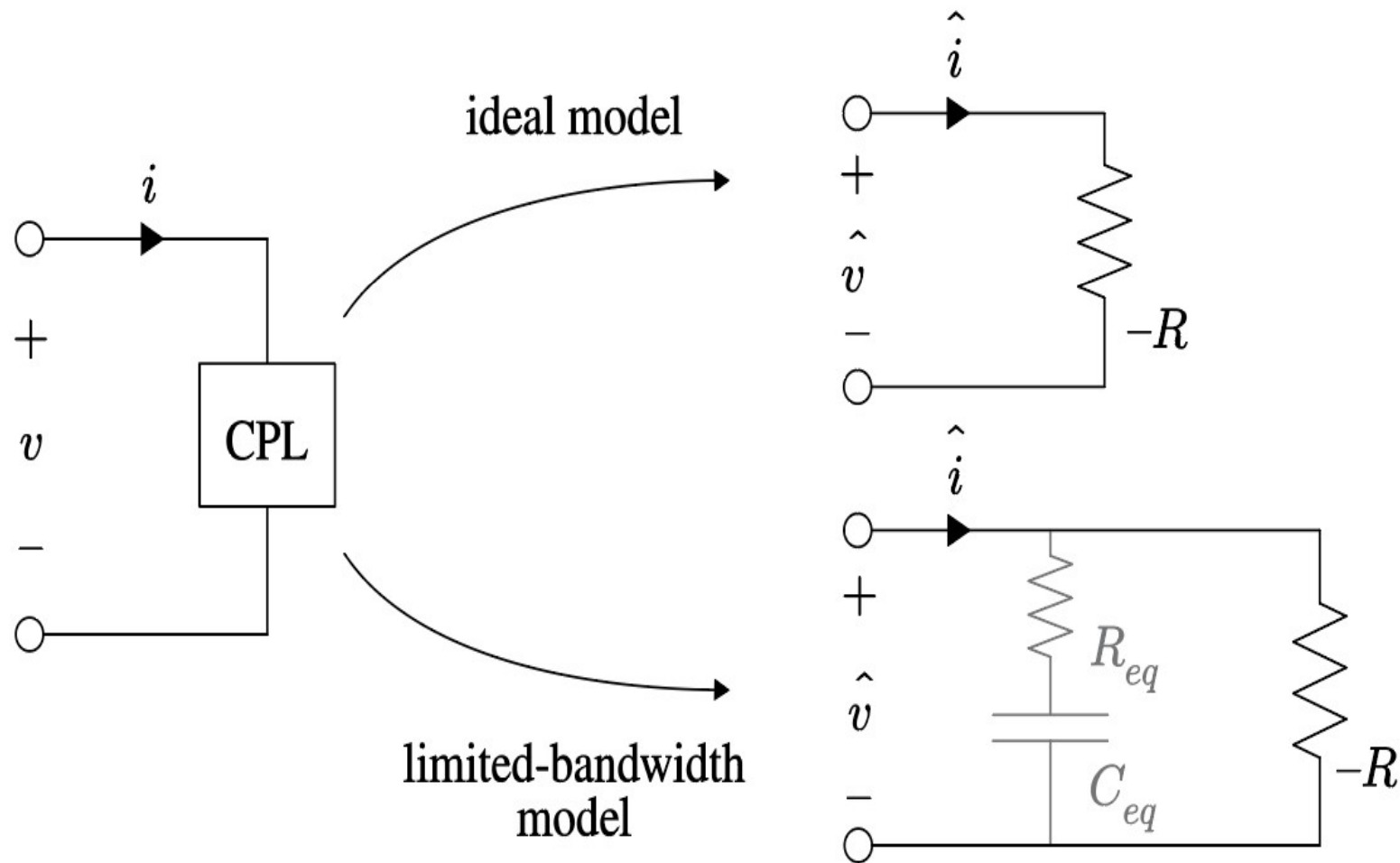
# Technology Comparison

- Energy-buffered PEBB provides constant power with the most resistive input impedance
- Translates to other loads including motors, computers, etc.



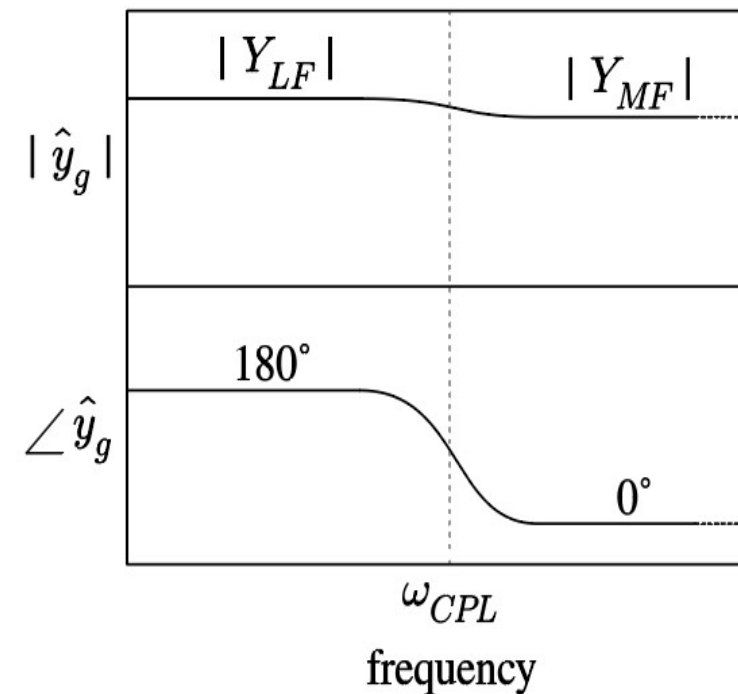
# Load Impedance Modeling

Our technique adds an equivalent branch to the input model:



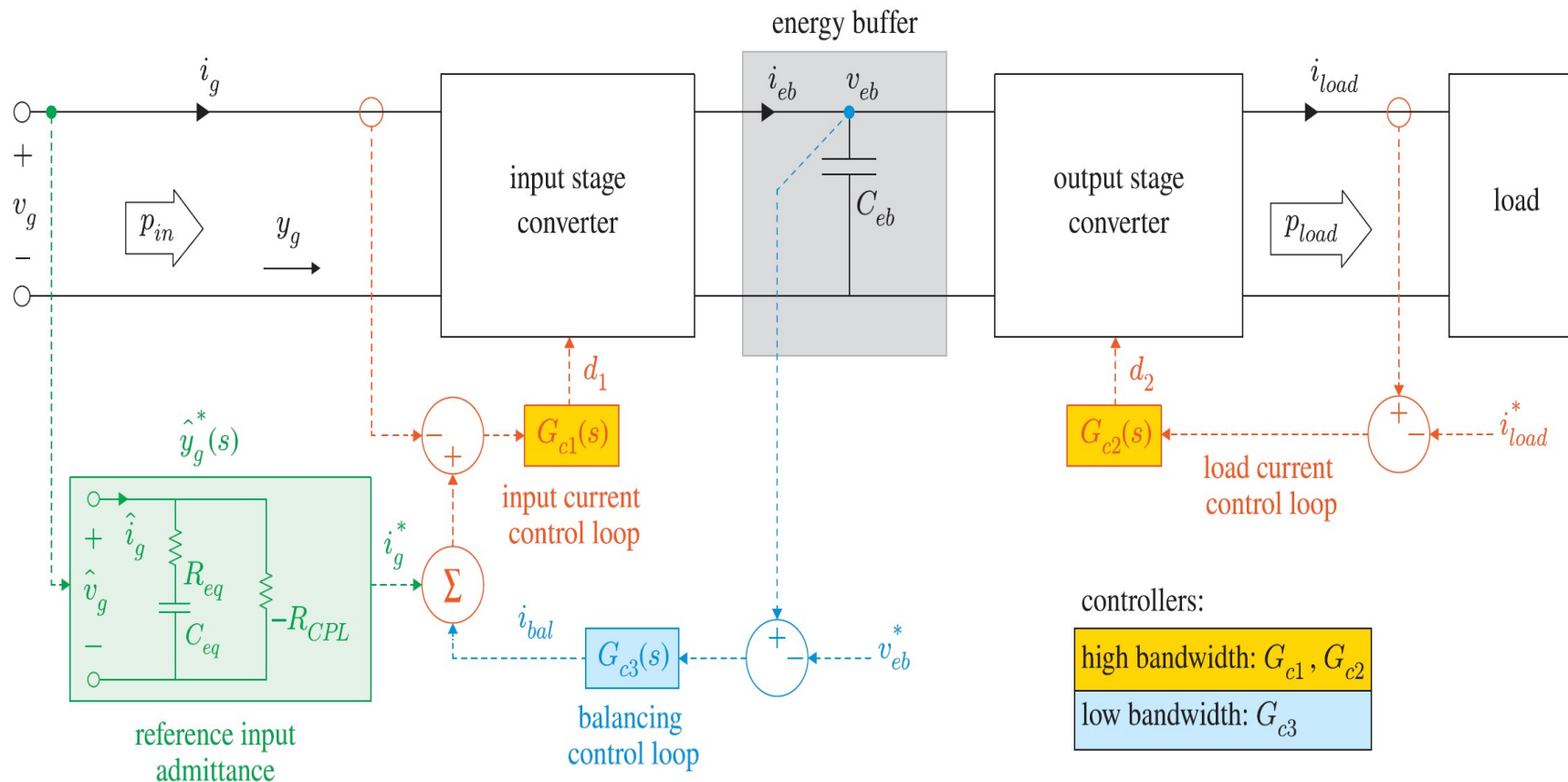
# Load Impedance Modeling

- Input admittance is negative at low frequency to achieve constant input power on a slow time scale
- Input admittance is positive (resistive) at high frequency to present stabilizing impedance in frequency range of interest
- CPL bandwidth can be modified on the fly to handle stability issues that arise



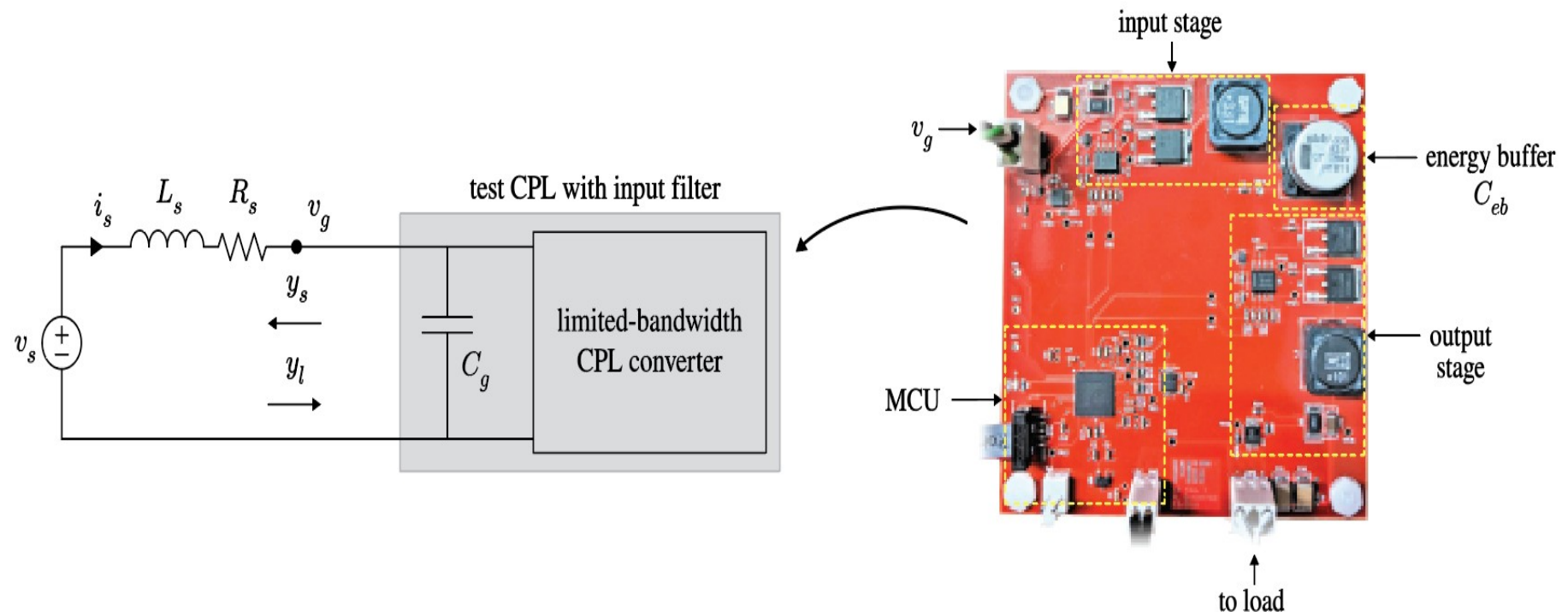
# Energy Buffered CPL Implementation

- Controllable input impedance with input current control.
- Energy buffer maintained with additional, low-bandwidth loop:



# Experimental Setup

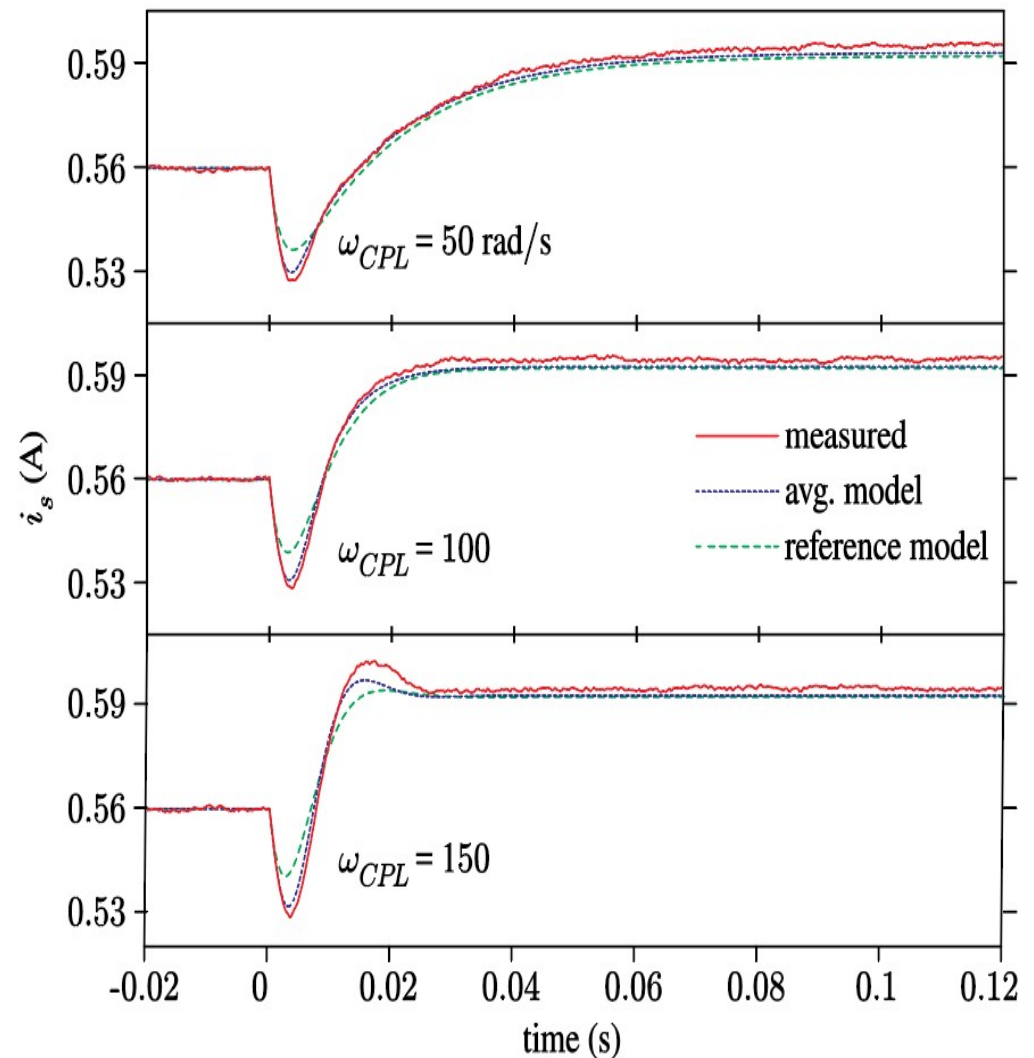
Bandwidth-limited CPL with energy buffer implemented on a 100-V DC test system:





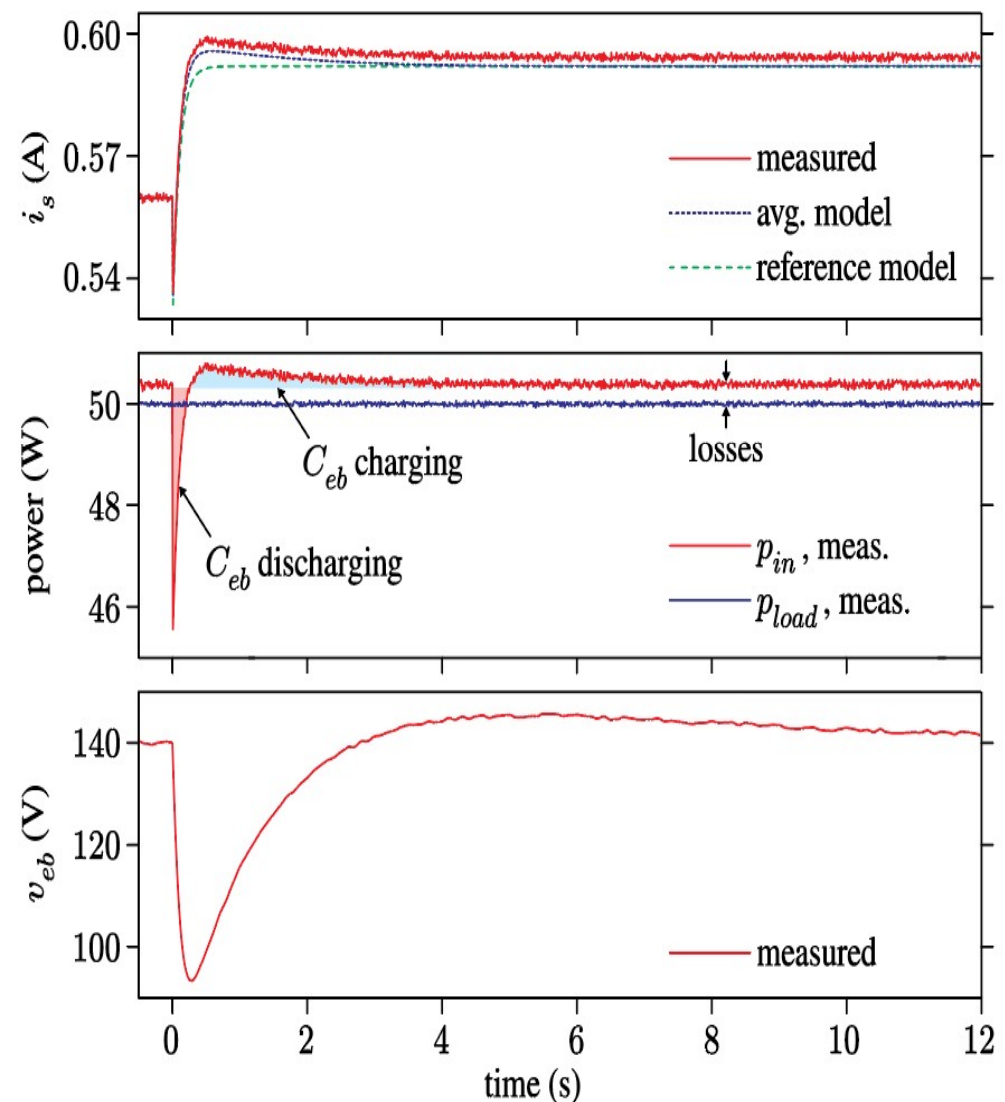
# Experimental Results

- Measured input current agrees with model and varies with CPL bandwidth
- Reducing the bandwidth improves system damping



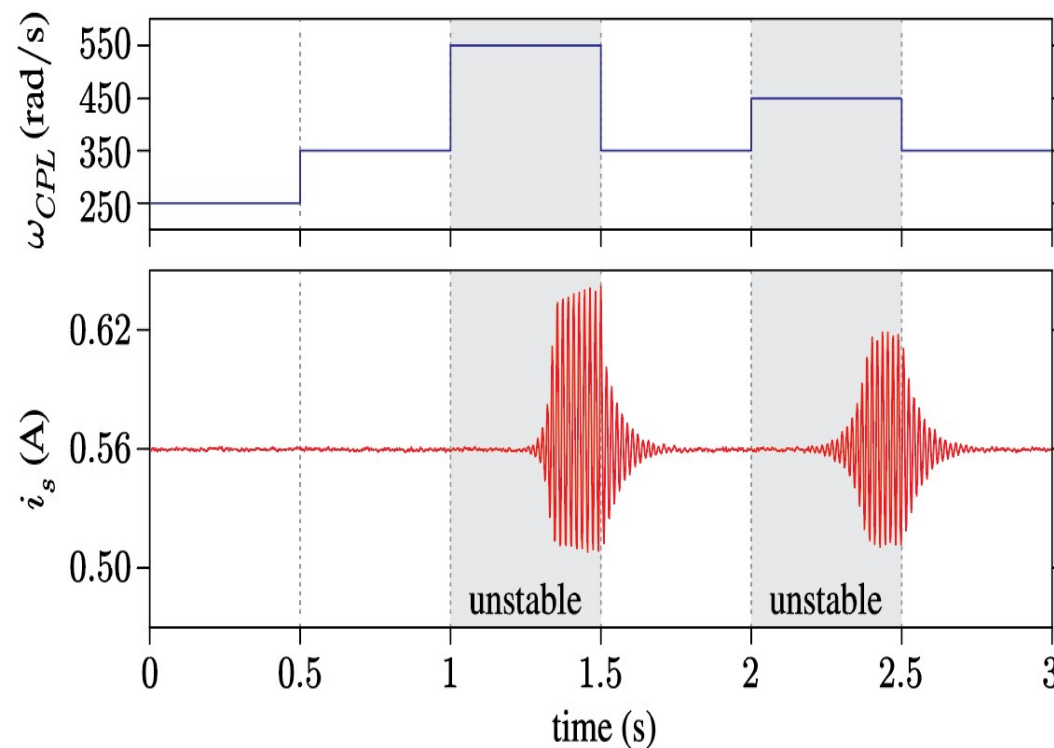
# Experimental Results

- Energy buffer discharges and recharges during the input transient
- Buffer must store enough energy to ride through the transient



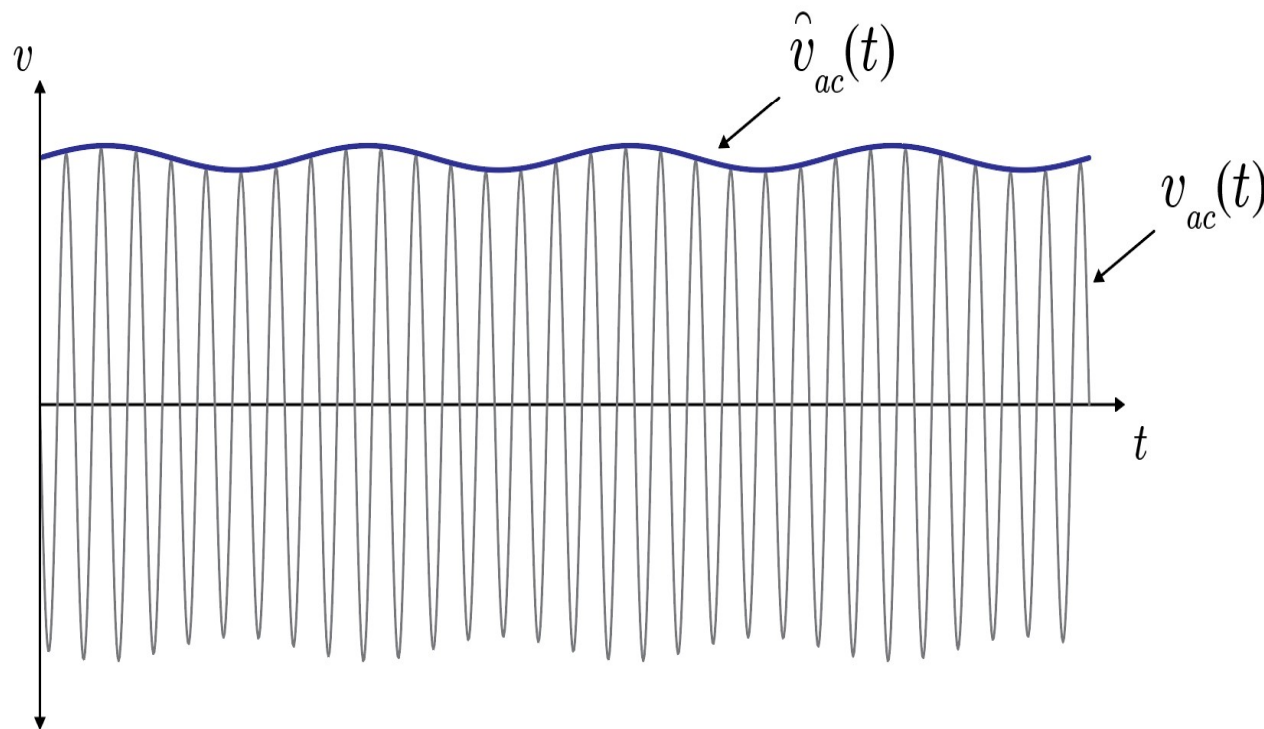
# Experimental Results: DC systems

- Stability effects of varying CPL bandwidth
- Can decrease the bandwidth to stabilize a system that has become unstable.



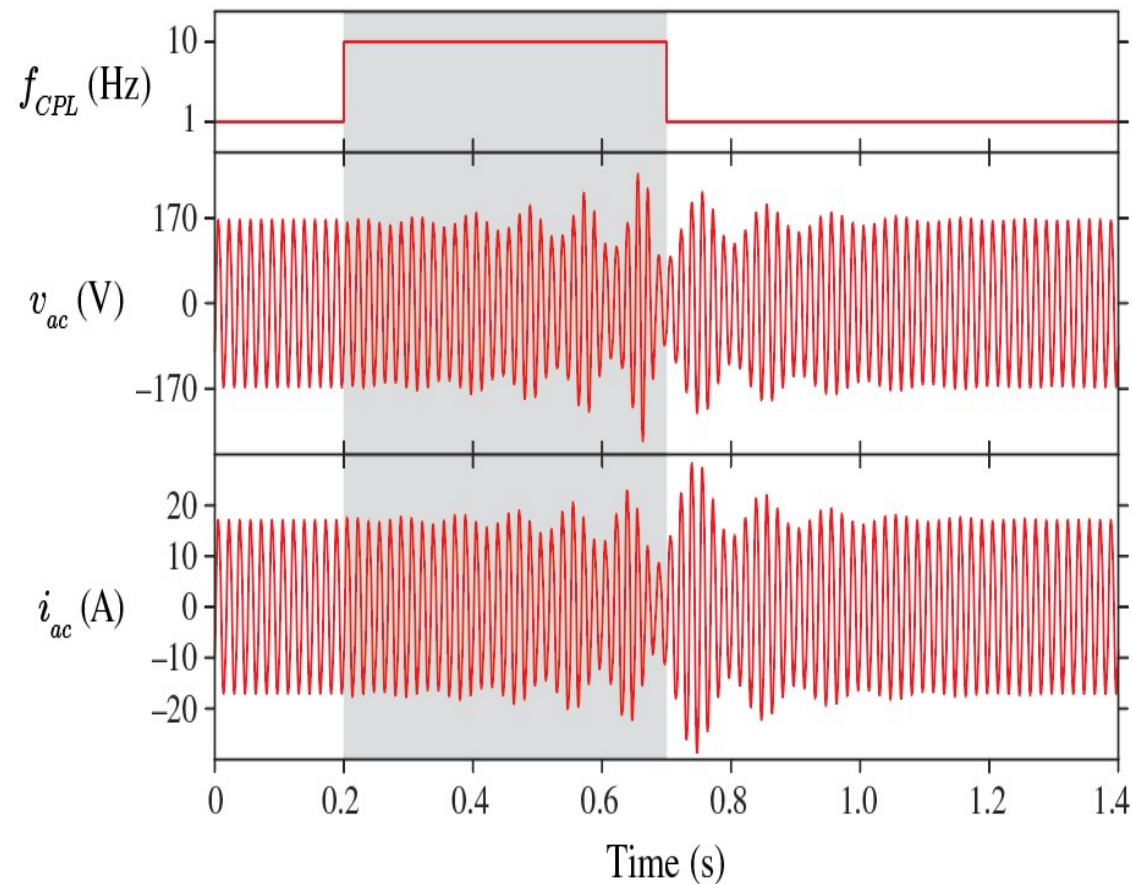
# AC System Extension

- Approach extends to AC systems, but the action of rectifiers places interest on the envelope of the voltage and current:



# AC System Results

- Have successfully demonstrated that CPL bandwidth can also both cause or correct instabilities in AC systems



# Latest Results

"Impedance Modeling for Line-Frequency Rectified Constant-Power Loads, "accepted for publication in IEEE Access

“Voltage Measurement of Multi-Wire Cables with a Noncontact Electrode-Array Sensor" is “in review”  
IEEE Transactions on Instrumentation & Measurement