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E344 Assignment 4

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and Electronic Engineering at Stellenbosch University.

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Nomenclature

Variables and functions

V_{out}	Output Voltage
R_{sense}	Current Sensing Resistor
I_{load}	Load Current
V_{ref}	Reference Voltage
T_j	Junction Temperature
T_{amb}	Ambient Temperature

Acronyms and abbreviations

MOSFET	Metal Oxide Semiconductor Field Effect Transistors
LED	light-emitting diode
Op Amp	Operational Amplifier
PV	Photovoltaic
OC	Open Circuit
NEC	National Electrical Code
STC	Standard Test Conditions
Ah	Amp Hour
Wh	Watt Hour
CCCV	Constant Current Constant Voltage
DoD	Depth of Discharge
MOSFET	Metal Oxide Semiconductor Field Effect Transistors
IC	Integrated Circuit
CCCV	Constant Current Constant Voltage

Chapter 1

Literature

1.1. Solar photovoltaic cells and solar modules

Photovoltaic (PV) technology uses a natural source of energy in the form of sunlight and converts the sunlight into electrical energy. One PV device is called a cell, and are made from semiconductor materials such as silicon. These cells are quite small and only produce around 1-2 watts. In order to increase the power output several cells are connected together to form a module [7] [8]. Over the years the efficiency of solar PV modules have greatly improved, however polycrystalline PV modules which are going to be used in this project are not the most efficient type of PV module. Their efficiency is around 13-16% according to an article by Geotherm [9], however a practical study found it to be closer to 11% [10]

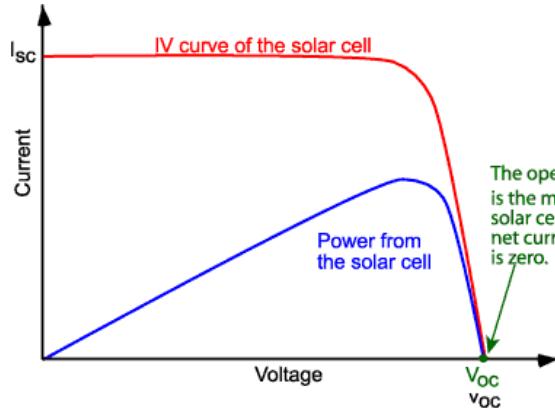
A PV module's performance is judged by its current–voltage (I–V) characteristic curve. As seen in figure 1.1a and figure 1.1b a few interesting points can be seen on the figures, namely the Open Circuit (OC) voltage and the Short Circuit (SC) Current. The open circuit voltage can be defined as the maximum available voltage from one solar cell when no load is connected (this occurs at 0 current). The OC voltage is useful when you want to calculate how many solar modules(panels) you can connect in series which will connect to your inverter or charge controller. SC Current is how much current the solar cell is pulling when the voltage across the cell is 0, this can be measured when the positive and negative terminals are connected directly to each other. This SC current will be the maximum amount of amps that the solar cell will produce and can be used to determine how many amps connected devices can handle by multiplying with a 1.25 times scaling factor according to National Electrical Code (NEC) 80% requirements [11]. Typically a single PV cell has an OC voltage of around 0.5V to 0.7V at room temperature (25°C) [12].

As shown in figure 1.2 the voltage increases and the current stays the same until a certain point. If you have too high a voltage the current will drastically drop, because of this there is a certain sweet spot where the optimal amount of power can be produced, this is called the maximum power point. The maximum power point is where the product of volts x amps gives the highest wattage possible. $P_{mpp} = V_{mpp} I_{mpp}$

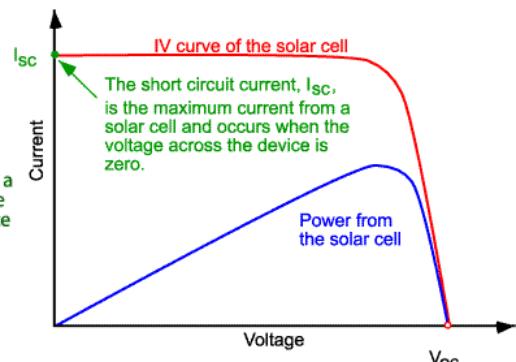
The solar module provided to us has a OC voltage of 21.6V and a SC current of 0.34A according to the ACDC Dynamics datasheet [13]. It appears to have 36 individual solar cells.

Solar PV modules are tested at a certain set of standard conditions because voltage and current varies with temperature. This set of criteria are called the Standard Test Conditions

(STC), these conditions are: the cell's temperature at 25°C, an irradiance of 1000 W/m² and the atmospheric density to be 1.5 . [11] At STC conditions the solar PV module provided to us has a rated power output of 5W. Table 1.1 shows some measurements of our PV module under certain test conditions.



(a) OC Voltage of Solar Cell [14]



(b) SC Current of Solar Cell [15]

Figure 1.1: OC Voltage and SC Current of Solar Cell

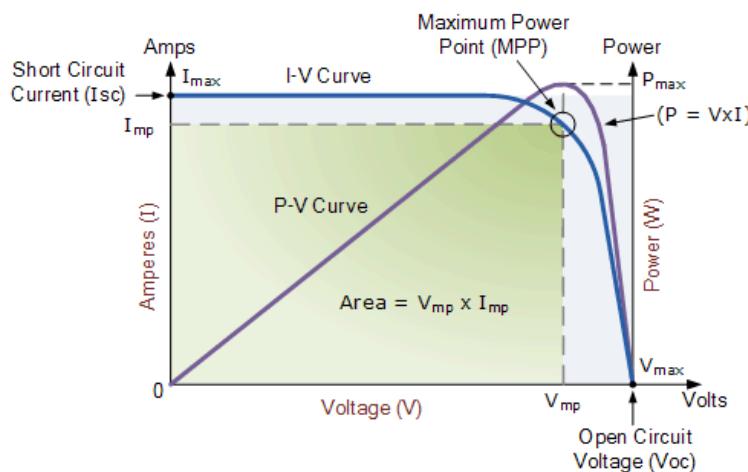


Figure 1.2: Relationship between Current and Voltage Characteristics [1]

Table 1.1: V_{OC} [V] and I_{SC} of PV module under certain test conditions

Test Condition	V_{OC} [V]	I_{SC} [mA]
Dark	0.0006	0
Upside down with sun on back	14.36	2.52
Ambient light indoors	12.46	2.32
Oblique sunlight	19.78	23.8
Perpendicular sunlight	21.8	260

1.2. Lead acid batteries

Lead acid batteries are the most common battery type that is used in PV solar systems. They are low cost, have a very long lifetime and have well documented and researched technology for recharging [16]. Batteries are given a rating based on the nominal voltage of the battery, in the case of the lead acid battery provided to us it is rated at 6V. A lead acid battery is constructed of a few individual cells connected in series. The nominal voltage of a single cell is 2V, thus our battery has a total of 3 cells. The most common way to measure the storage capacity of a battery is in amp hours (Ah), which is defined as the total number of hours at which a battery can provide the same amount of current equal to the discharge rate at the nominal voltage of the battery [17]. However, there is another measure called watt hour (Wh), which is determined by multiplying the Ah capacity with the nominal voltage of the battery. Our battery has an advertised capacity of 4Ah, thus the expected Wh capacity is $4Ah \times 6V = 24Wh$. This rated capacity is rated according to discharge rate and temperature of the specific battery, because the capacity is greatly affected by the discharge rate and temperature of the battery. As shown in figure 1.3 we can see that the battery capacity falls by roughly 1% per degree when the temperature of the battery is below 20°. Too high temperatures are not good for the battery either as this can make the battery age faster or self-discharge [2].

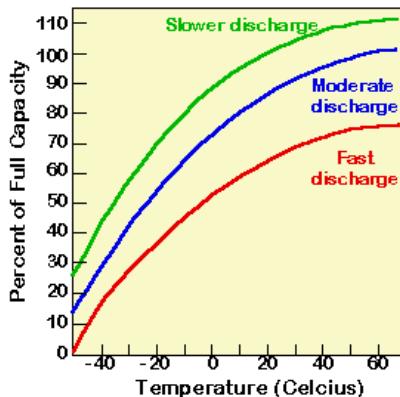


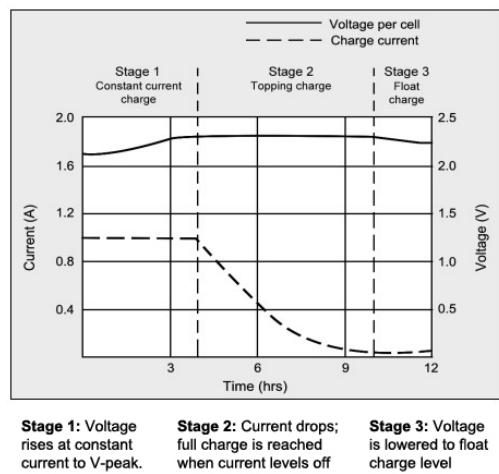
Figure 1.3: Relationship between Battery Capacity, Temperature and Discharge Rate [2]

Testing the OC voltage of the lead acid battery provided to us gives a result of 6.39V, if a load is connected to the battery, the battery will begin to discharge and the voltage of the battery will slowly begin to drop. However there will also be an instantaneous drop in voltage across the terminals of the battery, this is due to the internal resistance of the battery. Internal resistance is the resistance on the inside of the battery and determines the maximum discharge current of a battery [18].

2.1. Charging

Lead acid batteries are charged using the constant current constant voltage (CCCV) charge method. With this method the battery is charged as shown in figure 1.4 in 3 stages: constant current charge, topping charge and float charge. The constant current charge is where the

current is kept at a constant rate and the main portion (70%) of the charging is done and the voltage rises to the peak voltage. The topping charge stage slowly decreases the current, but the voltage stays at the same level. The float charge lower the voltage to the float charge level in order to compensate for the loss caused by self-discharge. The battery is considered fully charged when the current drops below a certain set level (around 3-5% of the Ah rating), for our battery the current drawn would be around 40mA when the battery is fully charged. [3]. According to the datasheet provided by RS Pro [19] the maximum constant current rate at which our battery should be charged is 1.2A when using the constant voltage method. Our battery is fully charged at a voltage of 7.2V when the charger is still connected.



2.2. Discharging

After being charged the lead acid battery is now ready to be discharged, however there are some important points to consider about discharging a lead acid battery. The amount that a battery has been discharged is measured by the depth of discharge (DoD), which is expressed as a percentage relative to the total capacity of the battery [2]. Discharging a battery to 100% DoD is not recommended as this will decrease the lifetime of the battery [20]. The recommended DoD for longevity is determined by whether your battery is a shallow-cycle or deep-cycle battery. A shallow-cycle battery like ours will get the most cycles with a DoD of 50%. According to the datasheet provided by RS Pro [19] the maximum burst discharge current that our battery can provide is 60A for 5s. If a load resistor was added it would slowly start discharging the battery. The terminal voltage of our battery is 6.35V after 1 hour at 0.05C discharge rate, 6.05V after 4 minutes at 1C discharge rate, 5.45V after 20 hours at 0.05C, and it would take around 11 hours for the battery to reach 2V per cell if it uses 200mA. At 5.4V (1.8V per cell) our battery would be considered flat without affecting longevity.

1.3. Fuse

A fuse is an electrical device that is used for safety purposes in order to protect against overcurrent. It consists of a metal wire or strip that conducts current but melts when too much current flows through it, thus disconnecting the circuit and stopping current from flowing between the two points where the fuse was connected. Fuses are rated according to a maximum continuous current that the fuse can conduct without melting. The fuse also has a maximum voltage rating, which needs to be greater than what would become open circuit (OC) voltage, otherwise an arc may occur. Fuse ratings change according to the operational temperature of the enclosure or area in which the fuse is situated. The fuse is then re-rated according to a re-rating curve of rated current vs ambient temperature as seen in figure B.1. The time it will take for a fuse to blow is determined by its time-current characteristics as shown in figure B.2. Thus, the higher the ambient temperature the lower the fuses' rated current and the lower the required time to blow.

Chapter 2

System Design

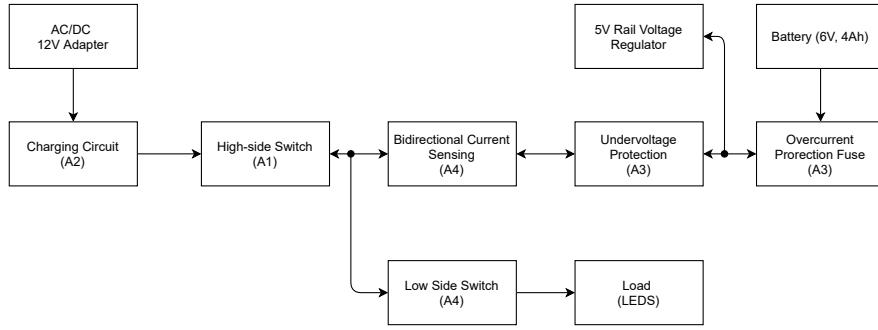


Figure 2.1: Conceptual Block Diagram of System

2.1. High-Side Switch

Metal Oxide Semiconductor Field Effect Transistors (MOSFET) are a voltage controlled field effect transistor. The gate terminal is isolated from the main current carrying channel between the drain and source, as no current flows into the gate terminal [21]. Enhancement type MOSFETs require a voltage across the gate-source terminals in order to switch the device on. Thus, the enhancement mode MOSFET acts as a normally open switch. In an NMOS (n-channel) MOSFET the device will only switch on and allow current to flow when $V_{gs} > V_{TH}$. For a PMOS (p-channel) MOSFET the opposite is true, a negative gate-source voltage will turn the transistor on, or in other words $V_{sg} > V_{TH}$. We will make use of a high-side switch on the supply side in order to control the charging of the battery. It will be controlled by a control signal which will allow the switch to turn on if the control signal is high(5V) and allow the circuit to start charging and stop charging when the control signal is set to low(0V).

2.2. Charging Circuit

Our battery needs to be able to be recharged when the battery voltage is below 6V, this will be achieved with a charging circuit. The charging circuit consists of two main parts, the high-side switch and the voltage regulator. As shown in figure 2.2 the voltage regulator will receive its input from either an AC/DC power adapter or from a solar PV module. The voltage regulator will take an input and regulate it down to around 7.4-7.8V. The output from the voltage regulator will be used as the input to the high-side switch which is used

to turn the charging circuit on/off. This design will ensure that the output voltage at the battery terminals is 7.2V after all the voltage drops have been taken into account.

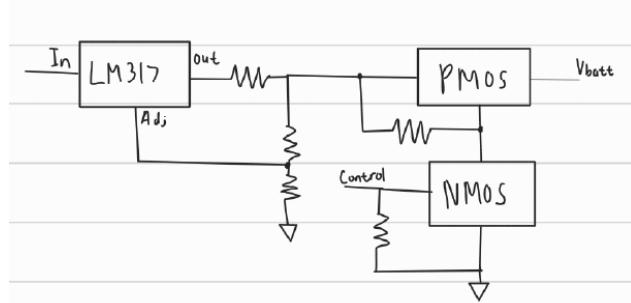


Figure 2.2: Conceptual Block Diagram Of Charging Circuit

2.3. Overcurrent Protection

A fuse was added in order to protect the battery and the rest of the circuit in case of shorts or other errors that might cause a big surge of current. In case of a current surge, the fuse will melt and prevent the battery and some of the other components to become damaged.

2.4. Undervoltage Protection

Undervoltage protection is added in order to ensure that the battery does not discharge the battery below a certain voltage level. This will ensure that the battery does not become permanently damaged. The circuit consists of two main parts, the undervoltage protection section and the 5V rail voltage regulator(discussed in section 2.5). As seen in figure 2.3 the circuit receives an input from the node "A2 Output", which is the charging voltage as designed in section 3.1.1. Three operational amplifiers (Op Amps) together with a high-side switch are used to implement the undervoltage protection circuit. The main Op Amp implements a schmitt trigger comparator with hysteresis, the comparator will switch and stop the battery from discharging when the voltage of the battery falls below 6V and only allow the battery to discharge again when the battery voltage rises above 6.2V. A voltage follower opamp is used to keep the reference voltage to the comparator constant. The output from the last Op Amp is either a 5V or 0V signal and is used to turn the PMOS MOSFET on or off to allow the battery to discharge or stop discharging.

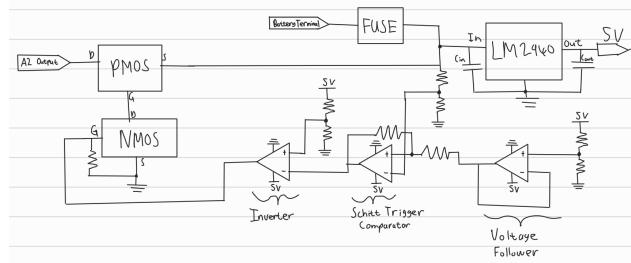


Figure 2.3: Conceptual Block Diagram Of Undervoltage Protection Circuit

2.5. 5V Rail Voltage Regulator

Our circuit needs a constant 5V output to power various elements such as the Op Amps and the current sensing circuit. The voltage regulator used is the LM2940 5V voltage regulator which takes input from the battery and provides a constant 5V output. The reason why the LM2940 regulator was chosen rather than the LM7805 regulator is because the LM2940 voltage regulator has a lower minimum input (6V) and a lower minimum voltage dropout (0.5V) [5]. The LM7805 regulator has a minimum dropout voltage of 2V [22] and thus it will not be able to provide constant voltage regulation across the whole battery voltage range. The maximum output current of the LM2940 regulator is 1A [5].

2.6. Bidirectional Current Sensing and Load Control

The circuit can be split into two sub-circuits, namely the TSC213 current sensing amplifier and the load together with its low side switch. These sub-circuits can be identified in figure 2.4 with subcircuit (a) representing the TSC213 current sensing amplifier and sub-circuit (b) the load together with its low side switch. The TSC213 is used as a current sensing amplifier, which will provide an analog output voltage proportional to the current flowing through a current sensing resistor connected at its input. This current sensing resistor is called R_{sense} and is chosen to be really small at $100m\Omega$ in order to prevent power losses.

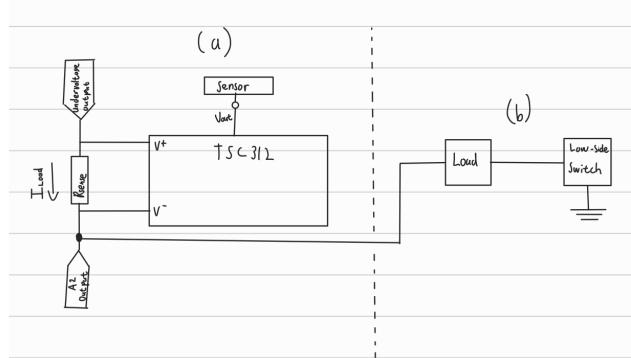


Figure 2.4: Conceptual Block Diagram Of Circuit

Chapter 3

Detail Design

3.1. Voltage Regulation

3.1.1. Charging Regulator

We will make use of the LM317 adjustable voltage regulator in this project in order to regulate the voltage to the required 7.2V at the battery terminals. Thus we can look at our datasheet for the LM317 and we can find a battery charging circuit as shown in figure 3.2. In order to set the output voltage level, voltage dividing resistors R_1 and R_2 are used and in order to limit the current resistor R_s is used. We can calculate the value of these resistors as follows:
*(for the calculation of Vout the voltage drop Vds and VRs was ignored as they are quite small.)

$$V_{out} = V_{batteryterminal} + V_{diode}$$
$$V_{out} = 7.8V$$

Picking a value for R_1 as 240Ω we can then solve for R_2 .

$$V_{out} = 1.25\left(1 + \frac{R_2}{R_1}\right)$$
$$\therefore R_2 = 1247.6\Omega$$

Solving for R_s using If as 0.4A:

$$I_f = \frac{V_{out} - 1.25\left(1 + \frac{R_2}{R_1}\right)}{-R_s\left(1 + \frac{R_2}{R_1}\right)}$$
$$\therefore R_s = 0.72\Omega$$

These resistor values were further fine tuned in LTSpice and then the nearest physically available resistor was chosen or a series/parallel combination for the physical circuit as shown in figure 3.1.

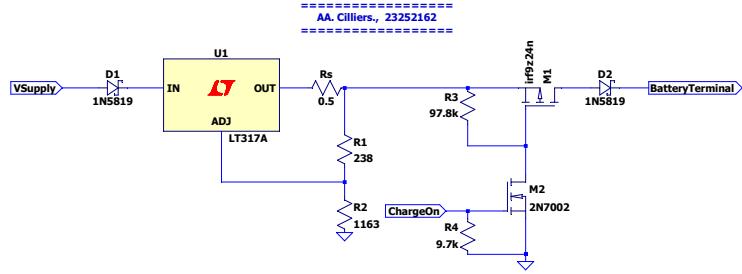


Figure 3.1: Full Circuit Diagram of Voltage Regulator and High-Side Switch

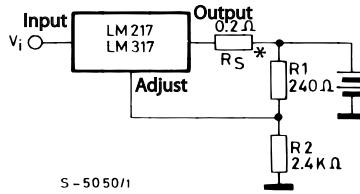


Figure 3.2: Voltage Regulator Battery Charger [4]

Current limit

If the battery is charged at too high a current it will cause decomposition of the water in the electrolyte and cause premature battery aging and may even permanently damage the battery. According to the RS components battery datasheet [19] the charging rate limit for our charging method is 0.1C, which in our case is $0.1(4Ah) = 400mA$. This current limit will be implemented with the use of Resistor R_s shown in figure 3.1. See section 3.1.1 for the calculation of the value of R_s .

Thermal Analysis

According to the LM317 datasheet [4] the maximum junction temperature is $T_j = 125^\circ C$. This means that without a heatsink on an average day at an ambient temperature of 45° Celsius (inside an enclosure in direct sunlight) and using the 12 DC power supply the maximum power that the regulator can dissipate is:

$$P_{max} = \frac{(T_j - T_{amb})}{\theta_{j-a}} \quad \text{with } \theta_{j-a} = 50^\circ C/W$$

$$P_{max} = 1.6W$$

When adding a small TO-220 package heatsink the maximum power dissipated becomes:

$$\theta_{j-c} = 5^\circ C/W; \theta_{c-s} = 1.64^\circ C/W; \theta_{s-a} = 24.4^\circ C/W$$

$$P_{max} = \frac{(T_j - T_{amb})}{\theta_{j-c} + \theta_{c-s} + \theta_{s-a}}$$

$$P_{max} = 2.58W$$

Thus we can see that adding a heatsink we can dissipate an extra 1W of power.

Without a heatsink:

$$P_{dissipated} = (V_{in} - V_{out})I_{out}$$

$$\therefore T_j = P_{dissipated}(\theta_{j-a}) + T_{amb}$$

Using the 12V DC supply:

$$P_{dissipated} = 1.68W$$

$$T_j = 129^\circ C$$

Using the Solar PV Module (21.6V):

$$P_{dissipated} = 3.68W$$

$$T_j = 229^\circ C$$

With a heatsink:

Using the 12V DC supply:

$$P_{dissipated} = 1.68W$$

$$\therefore T_j = P_{dissipated}(\theta_{j-c} + \theta_{c-s} + \theta_{s-a}) + T_{amb}$$

$$T_j = 97.15^\circ C$$

Using the Solar PV Module (21.6V):

$$P_{dissipated} = 3.68W$$

$$T_j = 159.23^\circ C$$

Thus we can see that adding a heatsink greatly improves the performance of the voltage regulator and keeps the junction temperature cool when using the 12 DC supply. However if we were to use the solar PV module the voltage regulator would still burn out, so we would need to implement some overvoltage protection in order to limit the amount of voltage the solar PV module can provide.

3.1.2. 5V Rail Regulator

Our circuit needs a constant 5V output to power various elements such as the Op Amps and the current sensing circuit. The voltage regulator used is the LM2940 5V voltage regulator

which takes input from the battery and provides a constant 5V output. Two capacitors were added, one at the input and one at the output. These capacitors are used in order to filter out high frequency noise and to ensure a steady and constant 5V output voltage. C_{in} was chosen as 0.47uF and C_{out} as 22uF and are placed as close as possible to the input and output ports as per the recommendations from the LM2940 datasheet [5].

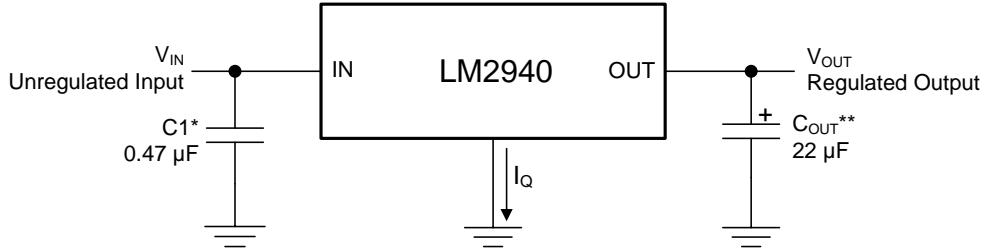


Figure 3.3: Circuit Diagram of LM2940 5V Voltage Regulator [5]

3.2. High-Side Switch

In order to design a high-side switch that uses logic level voltages (0-5V or 0-3.3V) we need to make use of a complementary pair of PMOS and NMOS MOSFETs. Pullup resistor R3 is added to keep the p-channel MOSFET off in unknown floating voltage states and to provide a large enough voltage drop over V_{gs} in order to fully turn the PMOS on when required. Similarly a pulldown resistor R4 is added to the gate of the n-channel MOSFET to keep it off in unknown states. Resistor R3 in figure 3.4 is also used to limit the amount of current that flows through the n-channel MOSFET. If the control voltage ChargeOn is at a high of 5V the n-channel MOSFET will be turned on, thus pulling the gate of the p-channel MOSFET to ground and allowing current to flow. According to the 2N7000 n-channel MOSFET datasheet [23] the maximum current that can flow through the drain-source channel is 200mA, thus the minimum resistor value for R3 can be calculated as:

$$R3_{min} = \frac{7.8V}{200mA} = 39\Omega$$

This value was designed for extremities and would most likely not work in the physical circuit as it is a very small resistor and it is the minimum resistance value that R3 can be, I chose a value of $100k\Omega$ as a design choice in order to limit the amount of current flowing through the resistor. Resistor R4 was also arbitrarily selected as $10k\Omega$.

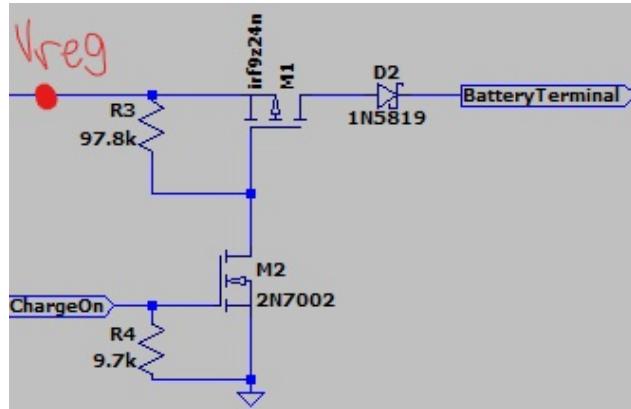


Figure 3.4: Circuit Diagram of High-Side Switch (V_{reg} is the voltage coming from the charging regulator)

3.3. Overcurrent Protection

The load which our battery will have to power will consist of 5 ultra-bright light-emitting diodes (LEDs), which will draw 100mA in total. We will also allow for 50mA of headroom in order to power some other things in our circuit like the 5V voltage regulator. The maximum current that will enter our battery is during charging which is designed as 400mA and is thus the maximum current our fuse should be able to continuously handle. Fuses should only be operated at around 75% of their rated value [24]. Our fuse will typically operate in an enclosure which will be in direct sunlight, thus we need to take temperature rerating into account. Assuming an ambient temperature of 45°C, our fuse has a temperature rerating factor of around 97% [6]. The recommended fuse size can thus be calculated as:

$$\text{Ideal Fuse Rating} = \frac{\text{Nominal Operating Current}}{\text{Temp Rerating Factor} \times 0.75} = \frac{400mA}{0.97 \times 0.75} = 0.55A$$

The next available fuse size should therefore be chosen, thus we will pick a 1A fuse. If something happens and there is a short circuit and the battery discharges 10A or more through the load the fuse will break in 0.01s as seen in figure B.2, thus protecting the circuit from damage.

3.4. Undervoltage Protection

We will make use of three Op Amps in order to design our voltage monitoring circuit. The main Op Amp (U2 in figure 3.5) will be designed as an inverting comparator with hysteresis. Our undervoltage protection circuit needs to allow the battery to discharge when the battery voltage is above 6.2V and not allow it to discharge when the voltage falls below 6V. Hence, we have two threshold switching points, giving a hysteresis deadband of 0.2V. However, because of the common mode input range of -0.3V to 5.3V and the max differential voltage of 5V [25], we need to scale the input voltage and the reference voltage to appropriate levels. We use

voltage dividing resistors R1 and R2 to divide the input voltage from the battery by 2. These resistors need to be large to limit the current through them, so they were arbitrarily chosen as $100k\Omega$. The input voltage will now vary from $3V(V_L)$ to $3.1V(V_H)$ and we need to switch at around $3.05V$, thus we can use our $5V$ supply and two voltage dividing resistors R11 and R12 to provide a reference voltage of $3.05V$. These two resistors can be calculated as follows (where V_H is the high threshold switching voltage):

*Please refer to figure 3.5 for a visual reference to the mentioned resistors.

$$\frac{R_{11}}{R_{12}} = \frac{V_{cc}}{V_{cc} - V_H} = 1.5789$$

pick $R_{12} = 10k\Omega$

$$\therefore R_{11} = 15.79k\Omega$$

Resistors R9 and R10 provide the positive feedback needed for hysteresis and are calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{R_9}{R_{12}} &= \frac{V_L}{V_H - V_L} = 30 & \therefore R_9 = 30 \times R_{12} = 300k\Omega \\ V_H &= V_{ref}(1 + \frac{R_{10}}{R_9}) & \therefore R_{10} = 5k\Omega \end{aligned}$$

A voltage follower Op Amp was implemented to ensure that the reference voltage would not change due to the hysteresis. The comparator with hysteresis was implemented as an inverting comparator, thus to ensure the required output we implemented another comparator with a reference voltage of $2.5V$, which simply inverts the signal from $0V$ to $5V$ and vice versa.

All the calculated values were slightly adjusted and the closest real resistor values were picked for the physical building of the circuit

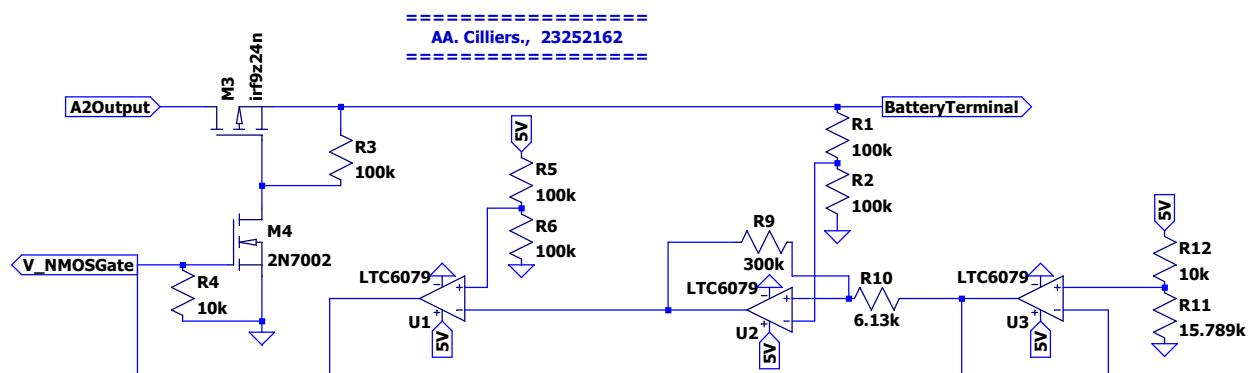


Figure 3.5: Full Circuit Diagram of Undervoltage Protection and Voltage Regulator

3.5. Bidirectional Current Sensing

The voltage drop across the R_{sense} resistor is so small that it would require an OpAmp with a very high common mode voltage. Thus, we were given a TSC213 bidirectional current sensing amplifier which has a common mode voltage of -0.3 to 26V and a gain of 50 [26]. We were required to design for a current input range of -150mA (discharging) to 450mA (charging) and the resulting output voltage had to be biased for optimal output swing.

The output voltage of the TSC213 can range from 0 to 5V, thus the reference voltage can be calculated as follows:

$$V_{out} = (R_{sense})(I_{load})(Gain) + V_{ref} \quad \text{Set } V_{out} = 0\text{V and } I_{load} = -150\text{mA}$$

$$\therefore V_{ref} = 0.75V \quad \text{Now set } V_{out} = 5\text{V and } I_{load} = 450\text{mA}$$

$$\therefore V_{ref} = 2.75V$$

Since we need optimal output swing, take the middle of the two voltage references

$$\therefore V_{ref} = 1.75V$$

This reference voltage results in an output of 1V when the current is at -150mA and an output of 4V when the output is at 450mA.

As seen in the circuit diagram figure 3.1 resistors R_1 and R_2 are used as voltage dividers in order to the the reference voltage at the required level. These resistors are calculated as follows:

$$V_{ref} = \frac{R_2}{R_2 + R_1} V_{cc} \quad \text{Choose } R_2 = 10k\Omega$$

$$\therefore R_1 = 18.571k\Omega$$

The output of the TSC213 needs to be filtered in order to suppress noise. The requirement is that there is less than $2mV_{pk}$ noise on V_{out} , however the circuit must still remain responsive and be able to respond to an abrupt change in current within 2s. The choice of filtering was to make use of a decoupling capacitor on the output and the reference voltage nodes as seen in figure 3.6. Decoupling capacitors can be used as low pass filters and are used to stabilize voltages by preventing quick voltage changes, thus smoothing the output voltage [27]. The reason that the capacitor was placed at the output and not over the R_{sense} resistor is because of impedance mismatching. When selecting a decoupling capacitor for a low-pass filter a low-impedance series component should face a high impedance capacitor [28]. The current sensing resistor is very small and thus would require a very big capacitor in order to provide an appropriate level of filtering. C_2 in figure 3.6 was chosen as 10uF and C_1 was suggested in the TSC213 datasheet [26] to be used as 0.1uF.

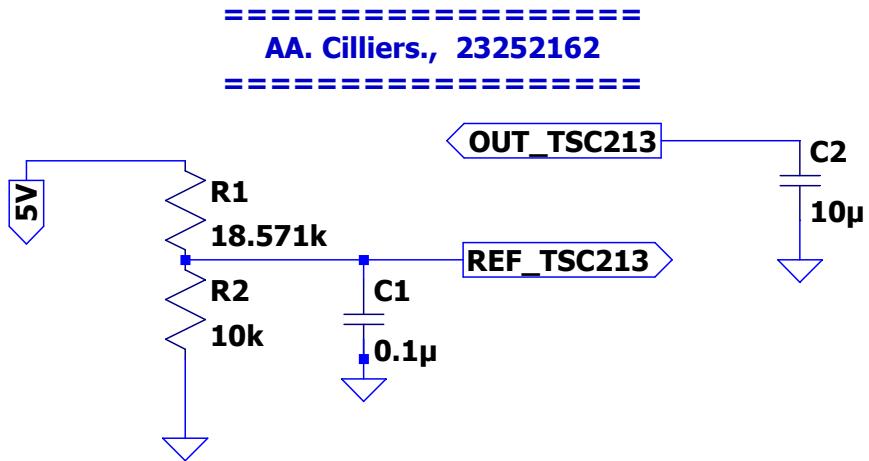


Figure 3.6: Full Circuit Diagram of Bidirectional Current Sensor Only

3.6. Low-side Switch

In order to design a low-side switch that uses logic level voltages (0-5V or 0-3.3V) we can make use of a NMOS MOSFET. Pull-down resistor R3 is added to provide a large enough voltage drop over V_{gs} in order to fully turn the NMOS on when required and to keep the NMOS off in unknown states. If the voltage at the gate of the NMOS is at a high of 5V the n-channel MOSFET will be turned on, thus allowing current to flow through the drain-source channel, which means the load is now active. If the voltage at the gate of the NMOS is at a low, the NMOS will turn off and the load will be disconnected. According to the 2N7000 n-channel MOSFET datasheet [23] the maximum current that can flow through the drain-source channel is 200mA, however the maximum current that will flow through the NMOS in our circuit is 100mA (from the 5 super-bright LEDs), thus a current limiting resistor is not required.

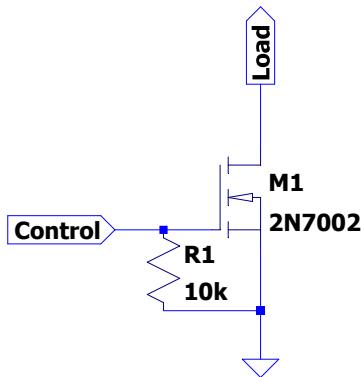


Figure 3.7: Circuit Diagram of Low-Side Switch Portion

The pull-down resistor R3 was arbitrarily selected as $10k\Omega$. Each super bright LED will be current limited by using a resistor connected in series, thus each LED will draw a maximum of 20mA each, giving a total of 100mA that will flow through the load and through the NMOS drain-source channel.

Chapter 4

Subsystem Results

4.1. Voltage Regulation

4.1.1. Simulated Results

Figure 4.1 shows the output of the simulated circuit where $V(\text{batteryterminal})$ is the voltage at the battery terminals and $I(\text{Rsensebattery})$ is the output current through the battery terminal. The charging circuit only switches on when the 5V logic control signal ($V\text{chargeon}$) is set high and the battery does not discharge when V_{supply} is switched off. The current requirement of less than $400mA$ when the battery is flat(at $6V$) is fulfilled since the circuit only pulls $326.82mA$. The final voltage when the battery is fully charged is $7.28V$, thus also meeting the required design specification of $7.2V$ (with a 5% tolerance). Thus this design is working as intended and meets all the requirements during the simulation.



Figure 4.1: Output Graphs of LTSpice Simulation

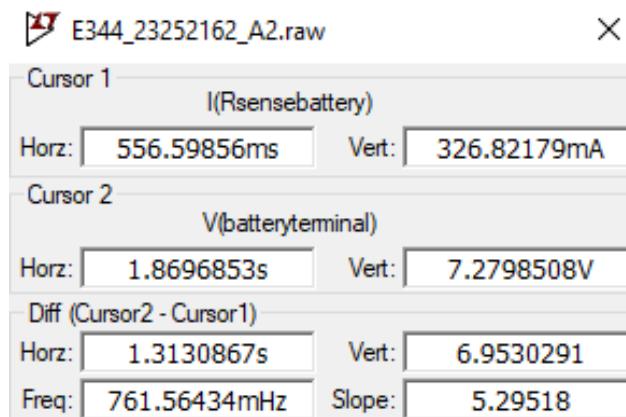


Figure 4.2: Cursor Measurements of the Output Current through Battery and the Battery Terminal Voltage

4.1.2. Measured Results

Figures 4.3 to 4.5 show the measured results of the OC voltage, the voltage over a 1k load and over a 10k load. Figure 4.6



Figure 4.3: Multimeter measurement of the Open Circuit Voltage at the Battery Terminal



Figure 4.4: Multimeter Measurement of the Voltage over a 1k Load



Figure 4.5: Multimeter Measurement of the Voltage over a 10k Load



Figure 4.6: Physical Circuit

4.2. High-Side Switch

4.2.1. Simulated Results

As shown in figure 4.7 we can see that the switch is switching an output voltage of 24.89V. It turns on when the external control signal is high (5V) and that it does not allow current to flow back from the load into the supply.

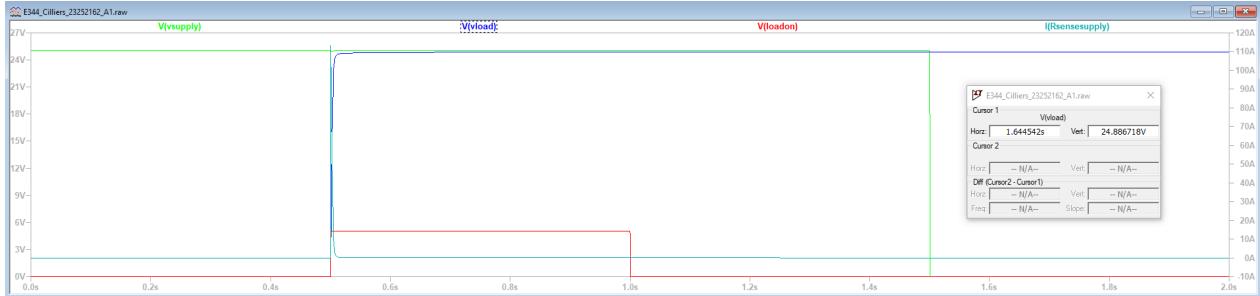


Figure 4.7: Circuit Diagram of High-Side Switch

4.3. Undervoltage Protection

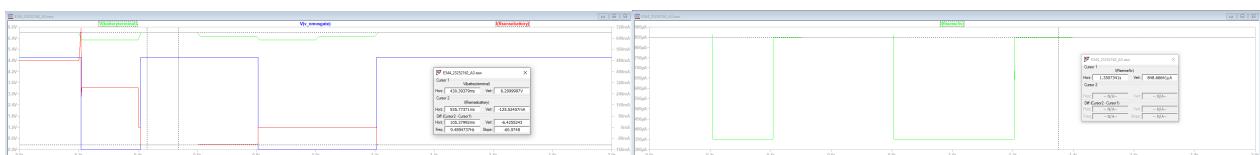
4.3.1. Simulated Results

Figure 4.8a shows the output of the simulated circuit where $V(\text{batteryterminal})$ is the voltage at the battery terminals and $I(\text{Rsensebattery})$ is the output current through the battery terminal and $V(\text{NMOSGate})$ is the output voltage from the schmitt trigger at the gate of the NMOS MOSFET. As shown the circuit is discharging when the battery voltage is higher than 6.2, this can be seen by the negative current of $I(\text{Rsensebattery})$ and stops discharging when the battery voltage is lower than 6V.

Figure 4.8b shows that the 5V regulator only draws around $849\mu\text{A}$, which meets the requirement that it should not draw more than 10mA .

Figure 4.9 shows that the circuit switches in 7.84ms after a threshold is exceeded, which is below the requirement of 10ms .

Thus this design is working as intended and meets all the requirements during the simulation.



(a) Output Graph of LTSpice Simulation Showing Voltage Switching and Discharge Current **(b)** Output Graph of LTSpice Simulation Showing Current Used by 5V Regulator

Figure 4.8: Output Graph of LTSpice Simulation

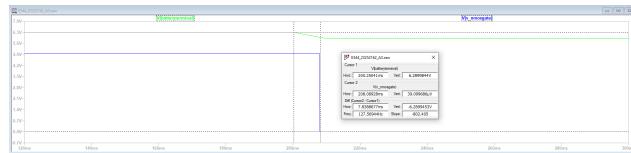


Figure 4.9: Output Graph of LTSpice Simulation Showing Voltage Switching Time

4.3.2. Measured Results

Figure 4.10a shows the voltage over the 10k load while the battery terminal voltage is above 6.3V on the left multimeter and the battery terminal voltage on the right multimeter. Decreasing the battery voltage to below 5.9V prevents the battery from discharging and causes a 0V over the 10k load as seen in figure 4.10b.



(a) Multimeter Measurement Showing Voltage Over 10k Load and Battery Terminals (Battery Voltage Above 6.2V)

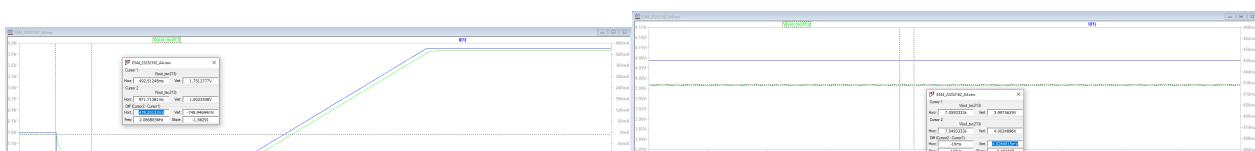
(b) Multimeter Measurement Showing Voltage Over 10k Load and Battery Terminals
(Battery Voltage Below 5.9V)

Figure 4.10: Outputs Of Multimeters Measuring Voltage over 10k Load and Battery Terminals

4.4. Bidirectional Current Sensing

4.4.1. Simulated Results

Figure 4.11a shows the output of the TSC213 versus the current I_1 flowing through R_{shunt} and it also shows the response time after an abrupt change in current as 479.20ms. Figure 4.11b shows the noise of the TSC output to be $4.93mV_{pk-pk}$, which is $2.465mV_{pk}$, which is under the $5mV_{pk}$ specification.



(a) TSC213 Output vs Current and Response Time **(b) Output Graph of LTSpice Simulation Showing Noise of TSC Output**

Figure 4.11: LTSpice Simulation Results

4.4.2. Measured Results

Figure 4.12a shows the multimeter reading of the TSC213 output while no current is flowing through the current sensing resistor and figure 4.12b shows the output while the battery is charging. Switching the load on is shown in figure 4.13a with 3 LEDs and figure 4.13b with 5 LEDs.

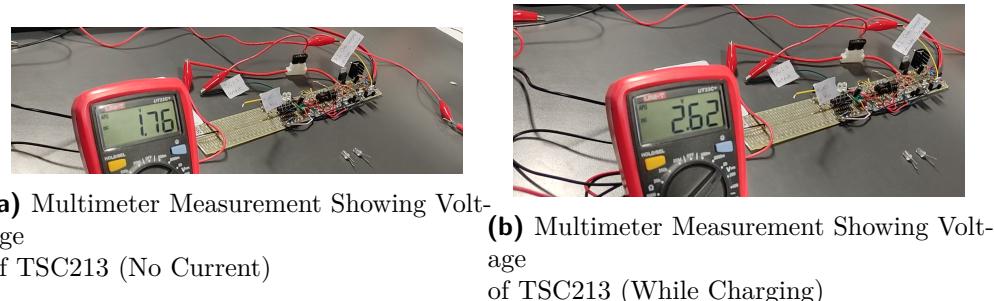


Figure 4.12: Multimeter Measurement Showing Output Voltages of TSC213 While Charging/No Current

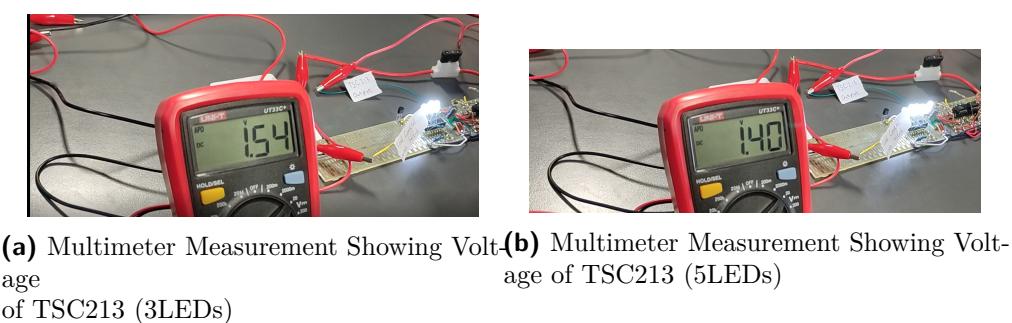


Figure 4.13: Multimeter Measurement Showing Output Voltages of TSC213 Under Load

4.5. Low-side Switch

Chapter 5

System Results

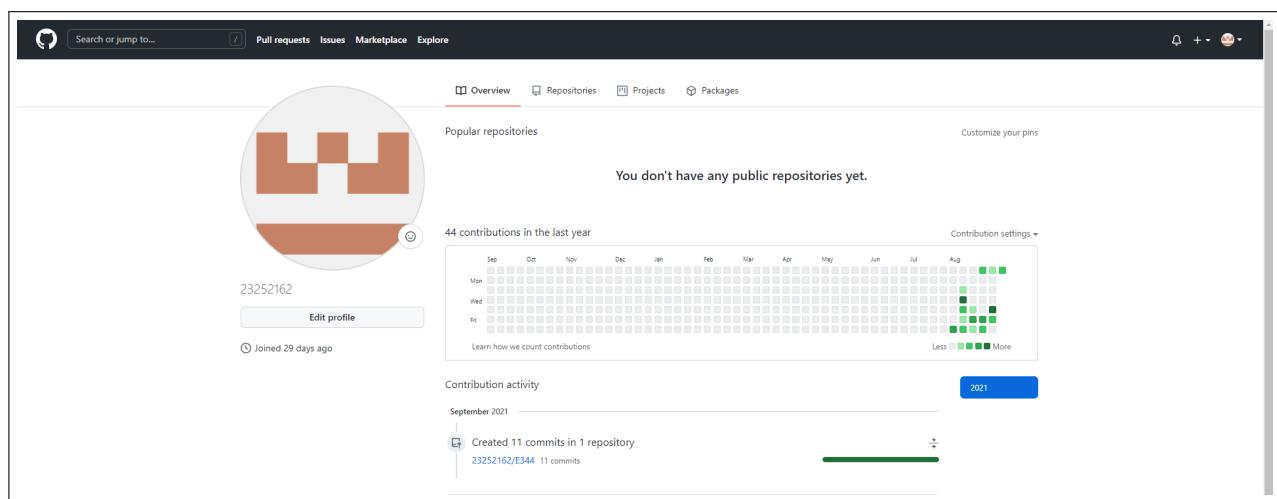
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Appendix A

GitHub Activity Heatmap



Appendix B

Additional Diagrams

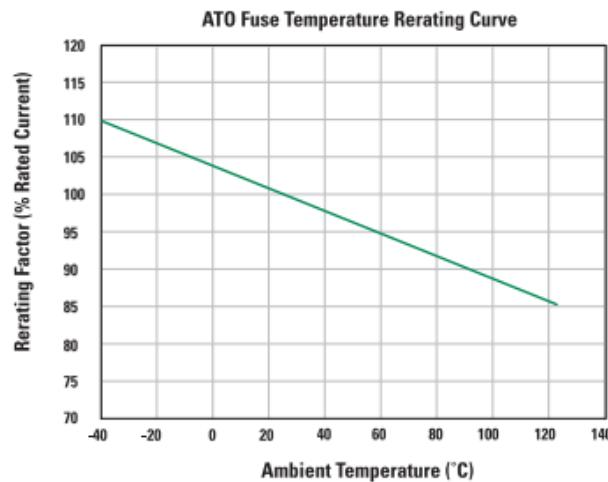


Figure B.1: Temperature Rerating Curve [6]

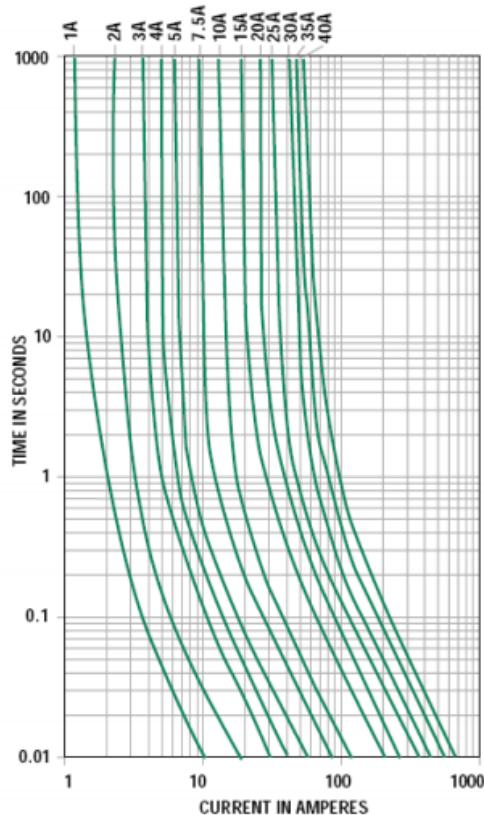


Figure B.2: Time-Current Characteristics [6]

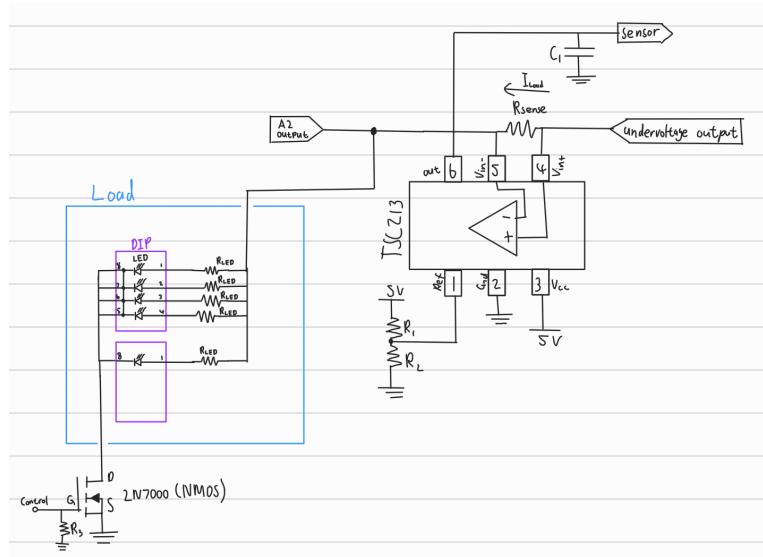


Figure B.3: Full Circuit Diagram of Bidirectional Current Sensor and Load