**MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING**

**EE400 – SUMMER PRACTICE REPORT**

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**Summer Practice**

**Company:** AVL Research and Engineering,

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1. **INTRODUCTION**

I have performed my third year summer practice (EE400) at AVL Research and Engineering, which is the office in Turkey of AVL List GmbH, one of the world’s leading companies in the automotive industry that produces engineering solutions, design and consultancy. I had a 13-week-long internship which started on June 19, 2017 and ended on September 22, 2017. My supervisor during the summer practice was Elif Pınar Kesik, a senior electronic hardware design engineer in the Electronic Hardware Design Team of the Software & Electronics Department.

Software & Electronics Department consists of mainly six teams: Engine Controls, Transmission Controls, Hybrid Electric Vehicle (HEV) Controls, Vehicle Controls, Electronic Hardware Design and Basic Software. I was in Electronic Hardware Design Team but as of august, I also supported the projects of HEV Controls Team.

During my summer practice, I learnt lots of things (both technical and non-technical). Topics I have dealt with and work I have done includes designing DC-DC converters (one buck-boost and one boost), PCB design, efficiency simulation and data analysis, electronic circuit simulations and tests. Besides those, I was also given several little duties such as developing parts of algorithms, doing some calculations of electrical circuits.

In this report, most of the things that I have done and learnt during my summer practice are included. Some are not included as they are confidential information in the company. The report starts with a brief description of the company with necessary information. In the main part of the report, the designs that I have made, their procedures and simulation results, some of the algorithms that I have developed are included. Finally it is concluded with a summary of the explanations and also an appendix with necessary references and datasheets is present.

1. **DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPANY**
2. **COMPANY NAME**

Global: AVL List GmbH

Local: AVL Research and Engineering Ltd.

(Turkish: AVL Araştırma ve Mühendislik San. Tic. Ltd. Şti)

1. **COMPANY LOCATION**

AVL is a global company originated in Graz, Austria.

AVL has two facilities in İstanbul: AGM-2, where I have performed my summer practice, and AGM-1.

* AGM-1: AVL Research and Engineering Turkey HQ

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1. **GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPANY**
   1. **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The company consists of three main departments: Mechanical Design, Software – Electronics and Calibration. The organizational structure of the company is indicated in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Organizational Structure of the Company

* 1. **NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES**

By the end of August 2017, there are more than 140 employees, where more than 100 of them are engineers (mostly electrical, electronics, mechanical, computer, control systems engineers).

* 1. **MAIN AREA OF BUSINESS**
     1. **AVL Global**

AVL is the world's largest independent company for the development of powertrain systems with internal combustion engines as well as instrumentation and test systems.

AVL is active in the following areas of business:

* **Powertrain Engineering**

AVL Powertrain Engineering is an expert partner to the global automotive and mobility industry for the development of innovative powertrain systems. From diesel engines to electric drives, from alternative fuels to control software, from transmissions to batteries, we have been working in partnership with companies all over the world for more than 60 years. Unique synergies with AVL Instrumentation and Test Systems and AVL Advanced Simulation Technologies enable the development of highly creative, mature and application-specific solutions for our customers in order that they meet their future market challenges.

* **Instrumentation and Test Systems**

The need for CO2 reduction, the increasing complexity of new powertrain systems, and a requirement to achieve the highest possible level of process efficiency - along with the need to quickly launch new models - are some of the key challenges facing the automotive industry now and for the foreseeable future.

* **Simulation**

Powerful multi-dimensional simulation platforms developed on the basis of AVL's engineering knowledge guide you to practical, application oriented solutions.

AVL is providing a set of comprehensive simulation tools in a flexible and open environment enabling multi-disciplinary solutions as integral part of your powertrain development process. Fully validated state-of-the-art physical simulation models embedded in application specific simulation methods enable virtual prototyping on component and system level for most efficient combination of simulation, design and testing.

* + 1. **AVL Turkey**

AVL Turkey was established in 2008 to provide advanced technology engineering solutions for domestic and international companies in the automotive, defense industry and transportation sectors. AVL Turkey team, consisting of more than 100 engineers more than half of whom have been trained at master and doctorate level and has international experience, has extensive experience in field experience with many domestic and international projects for serial production. They are working on the development of various intelligent control system algorithms, such as internal combustion engine (ICE) design, ICE calibration, control of exhaust gas processing systems, automatic transmission control, electric vehicle control, battery management systems, hardware and software of electric motors and drives.

* + 1. **Departments of AVL Turkey**
       - **Software & Electronics**

AVL's globally recognized department of software and electronics with its expertise, is developing control systems for internal combustion engines, gearboxes, electric motors, batteries and control systems for hybrid and electric vehicles. The department has a wide range of knowledge and experience on system level analysis, simulation, identification of requirements, algorithm and software development, design of electrical and electronic hardware equipment, testing of real-time simulators (HiL) for approval of designs. An important part of the dynamic and flexible team consisting of more than 70 experts has international training and work experience.

* + - * **Mechanical Design**

Design Department of AVL Turkey, offers advanced engineering solutions with expert staff working on the design and analysis of internal combustion engines, gearboxes and power transmission systems. With AVL's 70 years of experience, it is able to combine the best designs with the latest technologies for the different needs of the customers. Design teams work on a wide range of products ranging from automobiles to trains, tractors to ships, provide local support to producers around the world, and compete in competitive projects. In today's conditions where emission regulations are tightened and fuel consumption becomes more and more challenging day by day, using AVL's product development know-how and methodologies, it can produce faster and clearer solutions.

* + - * **Calibration**

Calibration Department of AVL Turkey is Turkey's pioneer in diesel engine calibration, working in partnership with the world's leading engine control unit providers, working in a wide range of projects ranging from light and heavy duty trucks to road and ground vehicles. With its extensive portfolio of local and global producers and international training and experience, Calibration Department provides solutions for emissions and fuel economy, performance and driving development, and integrated diagnostic enhancement. The team is also increasing its quality of the work with a facility where the motor, power line, chassis tests and virtual tests can be conducted.

1. **BRIEF HISTORY OF THE COMPANY**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1946 | Prof. Dr. Hans List started up as an independent engineer. |
| 1948 | A team of diesel engine construction experts headed by Prof. Dr. Hans List got together to set up IBL ("Ingenieurbüro List" or List Engineering). |
|  |  |
| 1951 | IBL became AVL - "Anstalt für Verbrennungskraftmaschinen", Prof. Dr. Hans List (or Institute for Internal Combustion Engines). |
|  |  |
| 1960 | AVL initially became involved in engine instrumentation for its own purposes, manufacturing such instruments as quartz pressure transducers, monitoring and control units, instruments for engine indicating etc. So it was that the group's second division - AVL Engine Instrumentation - was born. |
| 2007 | AVL introduces the i60 series of Emission measurement systems. Setting a new industry standard in usability, accuracy and reliability.  AVL expands electronics portfolio: With the newly tailored „Powertrain Software Strategy" AVL is looking to increase their focus on the area of calibration software for powertrain control units which includes for example engine, transmission, hybrid and exhaust gas after-treatment control.  AVL takes over Le Moteur Moderne. As a local contact for the French automobile industry, LMM will represent the global AVL engineering network and will also integrate services from the global tech centers of AVL. |
| 2008 | AVL amplifies its activities in the fields of application and software development in Germany and founds the wholly owned subsidiary "AVL Software and Functions GmbH" in Regensburg.  AVL presents its new image: kaleidoscope pictures which are intended to symbolize the unique business of AVL and a new logo guarantee a new strong brand image of the globally present company.  60 Years of Innovation: Providing an essential and continuous contribution to the developments in the automotive industry on the basis of technical innovations, that characterizes the high-tech company AVL for the previous 60 years. |

1. **WORK CONDUCTED AT AVL**
2. **DESIGN OF A DC/DC CONVERTER**

Automotive manufacturers increase the electrification in vehicle powertrains in the form of hybrid electric vehicles and electric vehicles. As the vehicles with these type of architectures are based on high voltage battery systems, the number and need of switched mode power supplies have also increased further, compared to the vehicles with conventional powertrains.

One of the projects that I was involved in was the design and manufacturing of a device that can be connected between the Engine Control Unit (ECU) and the battery of a vehicle which can simulate the possible failures of the battery (e.g. short circuit and open circuit cases between different channels of the ECU).

As the device is between two buses with different voltage and current levels (and also, as the different subsystems of the device operate with the different voltage and current levels), numerous switched mode power supplies (SMPS) are needed to be used. One of those necessary SMPS’s is the one with the following specifications:

* 9-36 VDC input voltage range
* 24 VDC output voltage
* 5 ADC output current
* 120 W output power
* High efficiency
* Compatibility with automotive standards

Because of the limited time due to the schedule of the project, a DC-DC converter module which can be seen on Figure 2 and whose datasheet is accessible by the link given in



Figure 2: DC-DC Converter, RSD-60G-24

References is bought. However, as buying these modules is costly, I was given the task of designing a DC-DC converter which has the same specifications.

To satisfy the given requirements, a buck-boost converter topology had to be used obviously, as the input voltage range is wide that it can be both below and above of the output voltage. For an SMPS design, heating and cooling is an important issue and as the voltage and current ratings of the buck-boost converter that I had to design should be quite high, efficiency also had to be as high as possible. For that reason, I decided to use a four-switch buck-boost converter topology. [1]

Four-switch buck boost converter is a synchronous converter. In this topology, two additional MOSFETs are used instead of freewheeling diodes. The lower voltage drop of the power MOSFET compared to the power diode enhances the efficiency as it decreases the power dissipation, which makes this topology more preferable compared to a conventional one unless the cost of the design is an issue.

1. **Operation**

For the sake of completeness, basic operation principles of a buck-boost converter can be explained as below [2].

In power converters, conservation of the energy principle is used and the electrical energy is stored on the inductor of the circuit. When the switch is open, the inductor stores energy from in the form of magnetic energy and discharges it when switch is closed. The positions of the switches and their duty cycles define their characteristics (whether it is a buck or boost converter and the output voltage).

Basic topology of a buck-boost converter and its voltage and current waveforms in buck and boost regions are provided on the Figures 3, 4 and 5 below.

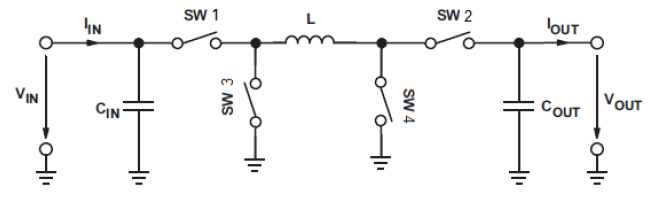
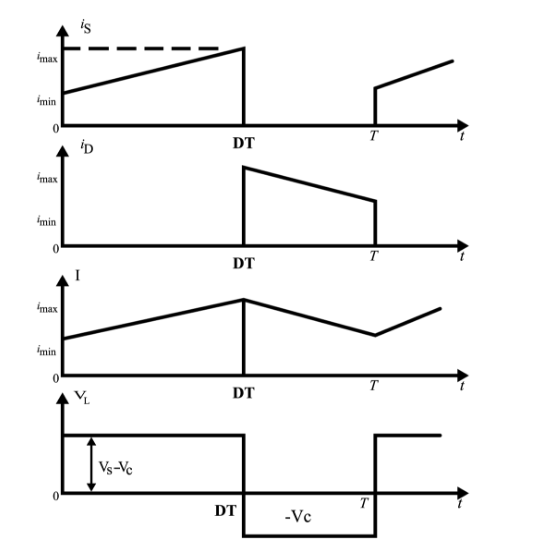


Figure 3: Buck Boost Converter Circuit Topology

In conventional topologies, SW1 and SW4 are MOSFETs where SW2 and SW3 are diodes. However in the design that will be explained later on, all four of them are MOSFETs.



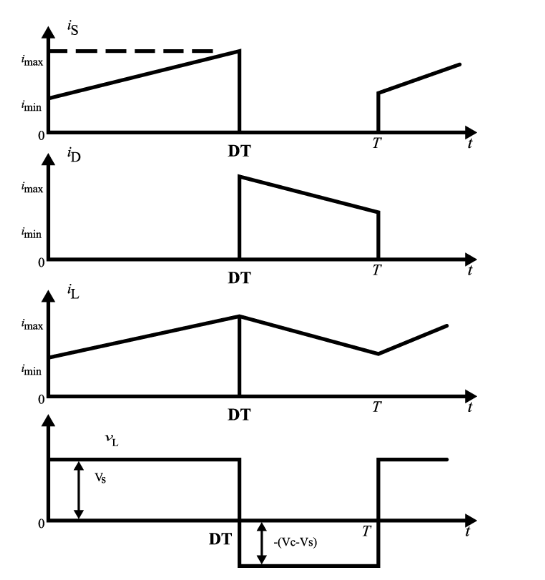
Figure 4: Voltage and Current Waveforms of Buck Operation

Figure 5: Voltage and Current Waveforms of Boost Operation

1. **Design Specifications**

The converter that I had to going to design would be used in real life applications and it would be printed on a PCB. Therefore, calculating the inductance, capacitance and the values of the other primary elements in the main topology would not be sufficient for the design. For that reason, I started my design by choosing an appropriate microcontroller. LT8390 [3] was quite convenient due to its compatibility with four-switch buck boost converter topology, its high efficiency, wide input voltage range and high output current capability. Unfortunately, a solution with that chip would be costly (since the products of Linear Technology are more expensive and four MOSFETs are needed). However as LT’s controllers are included in the library of LTspice, one can get more accurate simulation results, which improves the reliability of the design.

In order to make an accurate and reliable design, the following specifications had to be determined:

* Switching frequency selection
* Inductor selection
* selection
* MOSFET selection
* and selection
* Input & output current limit and UVLO limit
* Feedback
* Power dissipation and efficiency calculations
  + 1. **Switching Frequency Selection**

The switching frequency of the circuit is adjusted by the internal oscillator of the controller. With a resistance connected to the RT pin of the LT8390, the oscillation frequency of the circuit can be set. This resistance can be determined by the values given on the Table 1 given below which is retrieved from the datasheet of the controller.

Table 1: Switching Frequency vs. Resistance

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **fOSC (kHz)** | **R (kΩ)** |
| 150 | 309 |
| 200 | 226 |
| 300 | 140 |
| 400 | 100 |
| 500 | 75 |
| 600 | 59 |
| 650 | 51.1 |

Selecting the switch frequency has a trade-off: Switching frequency determines the inductance value and also it affects the switching losses. High switching frequency results in low inductance and capacitance values (hence smaller inductors and capacitors) however it causes a significant increase in the switching losses. For a lower frequency, this case is vice versa.

As high efficiency is an important requirement of my design and dimensions of the overall circuit is not an important issue, a lower switching frequency is more preferable. I chose the switching frequency as 150 kHz and the resistance connected to RT around 300 kΩ (with 1% tolerance).

* + 1. **Inductor and Rsense Selection**

As the inductor is the main element that stores the energy, its value is directly determined by the current and voltage characteristics of the converter. Inductance value can be calculated for buck and boost operation modes differently by the given formulae below.

A 15 µH inductor is suitable for this design.

Rsense is the resistance between inductor current sense pins (LSP and LSN) and its value can be determined using:

* + 1. **MOSFET selection**
    2. **C\_in and C\_out selection**
    3. **Input & output current limit and UVLO limit**
    4. **Feedback**
    5. **Power dissipation and efficiency calculations**

1. **CONCLUSION**
2. **REFERENCES**

[1] “Synchronous vs. Asynchronous Buck Regulators” <http://www.ti.com/lit/an/slyt358/slyt358.pdf>

[2] Kazimierczuk, M.K. “Pulse-width Modulated DC-DC Power Converters”, Wiley, 2008.

[3] “LT8390 Buck-Boost Controller Datasheet” <http://cds.linear.com/docs/en/datasheet/8390f.pdf>

1. **APPENDICES**