



University  
of Glasgow

# Power Electronics

## Magnetic Circuit and Inductor Design

### 磁路与电感设计



# Magnetic Devices 磁性器件

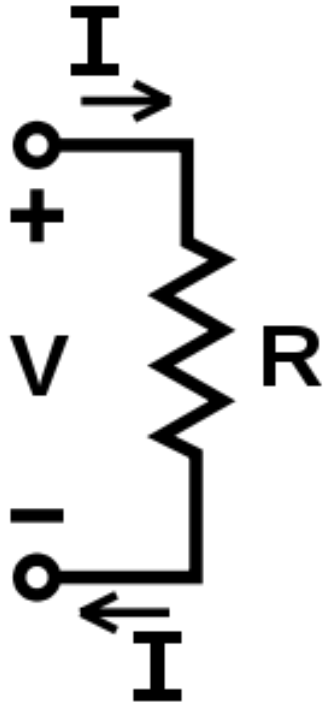
**Inductors** and **Transformers** built with magnetic materials are important components of most power electronic systems. Their design and application requires an understanding of basic magnetic circuits.

- Customized 客户定制 Device for Converter
- Magnetic Circuit Analysis
  - **Electrical Models 电路模型** for Real Devices
- Device Design and Build
  - **Nonlinear Saturation 非线性饱和** of Magnetic Materials
  - Design Method

# DC Electric Circuit

Read Chapter 3, Mohan etc.

# Ohm's Law 欧姆定理



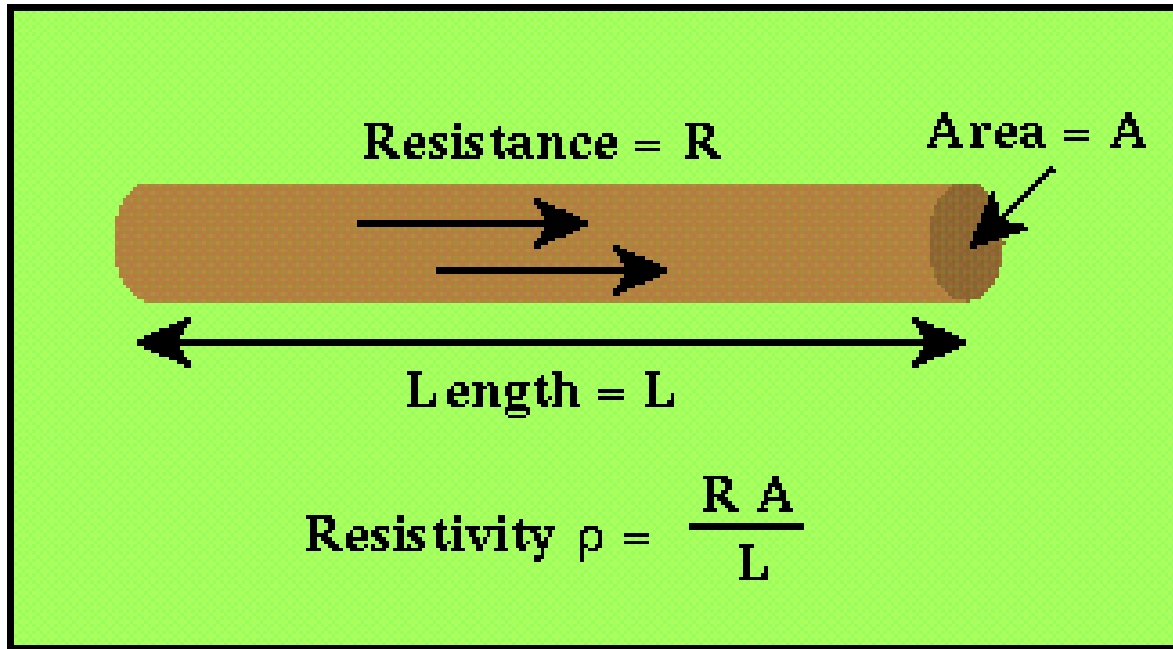
$$\frac{V}{I} = R$$

Voltage:  $V$  (Electric Potential)

Current:  $I$  (Electric Flux)

Resistance:  $R$  (Electric Reluctance)

# Resistivity of Electric Medium 介质



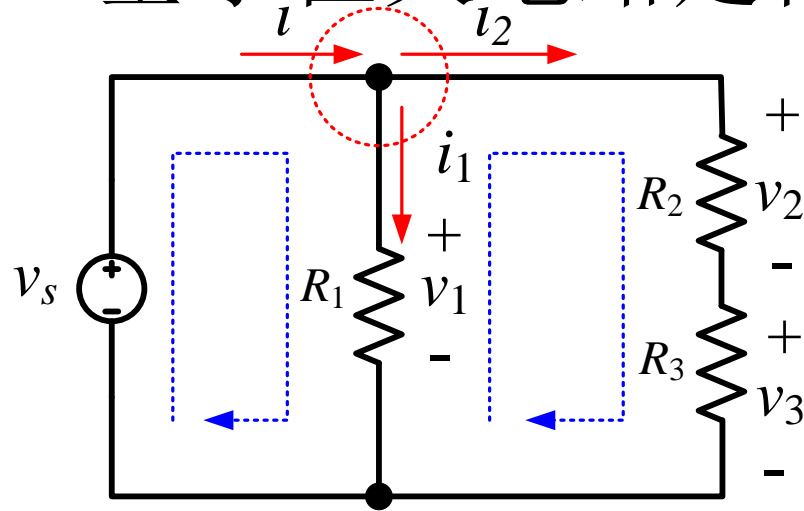
## Physical Model

**Resistance:**  $R = \frac{\rho l}{A}$  **How to design resistor R ?**

**Resistivity** 电阻率  $\rho$  is for conduction medium

# Kirchhoff's Circuit Laws

## 基尔霍夫电路定律



**KVL:**  $\sum_k v_k = 0, \quad \text{for any loop}$

**KCL:**  $\sum_k i_k = 0, \quad \text{for any node}$

# 类比/模拟的磁路

## Analogy Magnetic Circuit

### Magnetic Analogues to Electric Circuits

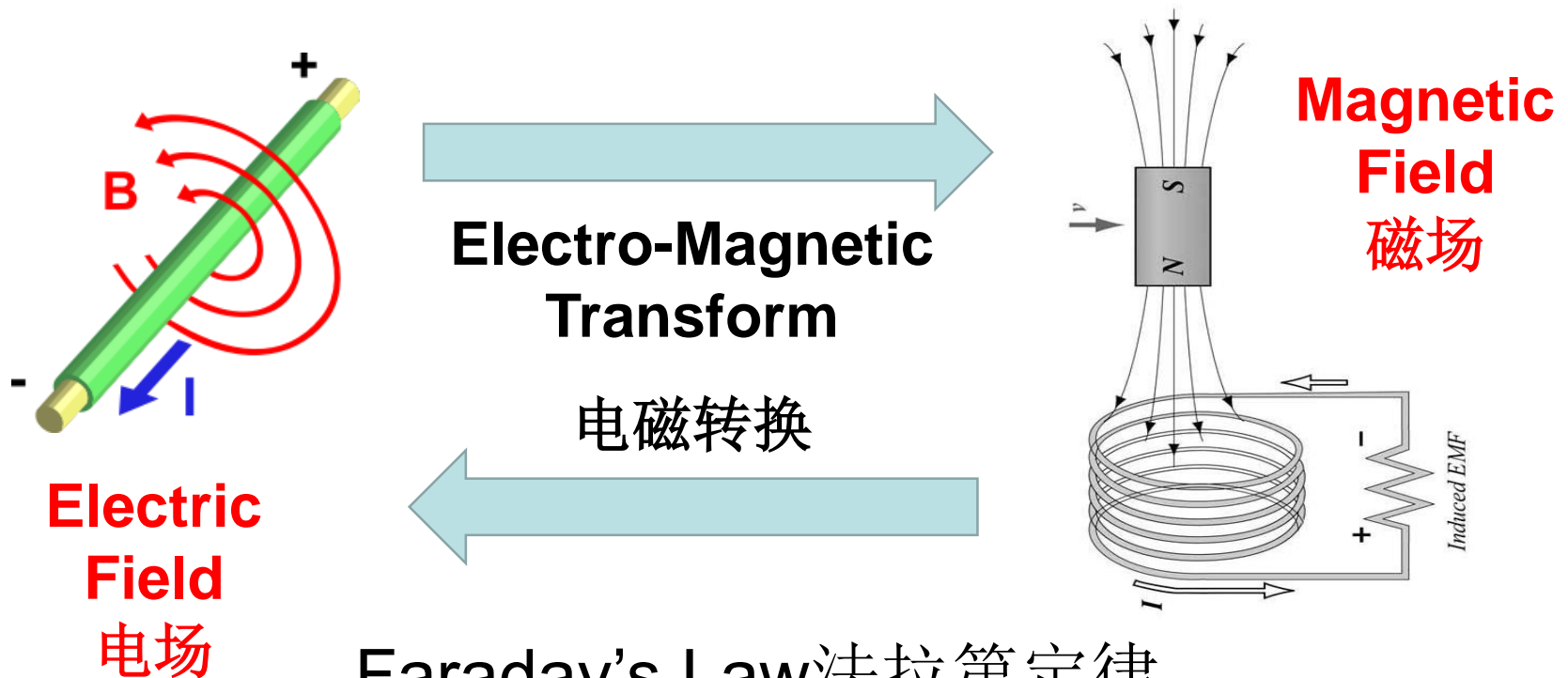
Electric Circuit	Magnetic Circuit
Electromotive force $-\int \mathbf{E} \cdot d\ell$	Magnetomotive force (MMF) $\int \mathbf{H} \cdot d\ell$
Voltage source $d\lambda/dt$	MMF source $Ni$
KVL, $\sum v_{\text{loop}} = 0$	MMF law, $\sum \text{MMF}_{\text{loop}} = 0$
KCL, $\sum i_{\text{node}} = 0$	Gauss's Law, $\sum \phi_{\text{node}} = 0$
Current	Magnetic flux
Resistance $R = \rho \ell / A$	Reluctance $\mathcal{R} = \ell / (\mu A)$
Conductance $G = 1/R$	Permeance $\mathcal{P} = 1/\mathcal{R}$
Conductivity $\sigma = 1/\rho$	Permeability $\mu$
Conductor $\sigma \rightarrow \infty$	Ferromagnetic material $\mu \rightarrow \infty$
Insulator $\sigma \rightarrow 0$	Diamagnetic material $\mu$ small

Read Chapter 3, Mohan etc.

# Basic Physics Laws

Ampere's Law 安培定律

**Electric current produces magnetic field**



Faraday's Law 法拉第定律

**A changing magnetic field gives rise to a voltage/emf**



# Magnetic “Voltage”

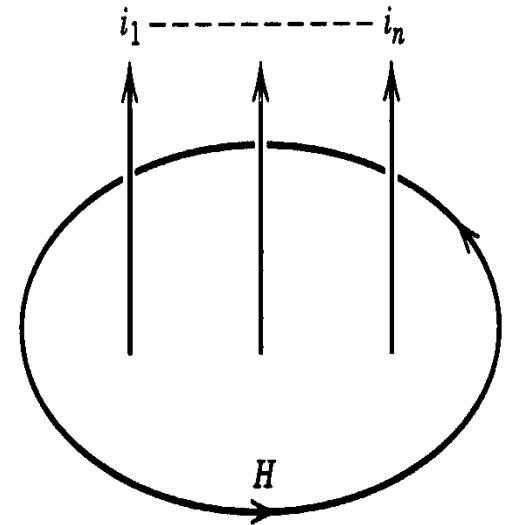
A current carrying conductor produces a magnetic field of intensity 磁场强度  $H$  (amperes per meter - A/m), and generate magnetic motive force (mmf)  $F$  as follows

$$\mathcal{F} = \oint H dl = \sum i$$

More generally, it can be written as

$$\mathcal{F} = \sum_k H_k l_k = \sum_k N_m i_m$$

Right-hand Rule  
右手定则



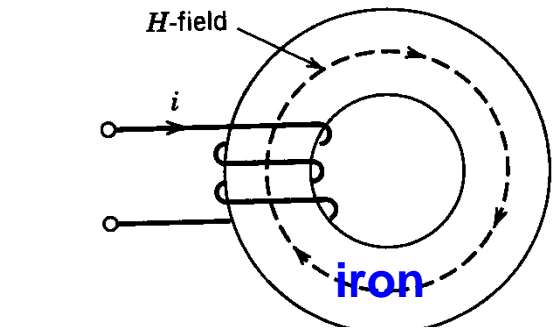
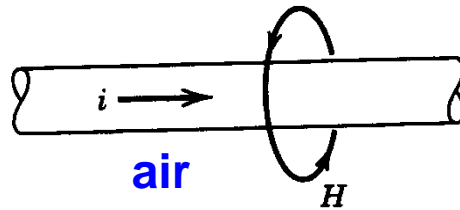
Magnetic “Voltage”  $F$ : mmf, magnetic motive potential 磁动势

# Magnetic Medium

The magnetic field intensity  $H$  is related to the magnetic flux density 磁通密度  $B$  ( Wb/m<sup>2</sup>, or tesla– $T$ ) by the property of the medium:

$$B = \mu H$$

$$\mu = \mu_0 \mu_r$$



**Permeability** 磁导率 of the medium  $\mu$ :

Permeability of the free space

$$\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ H/m}$$

**Relative Permeability** 相对磁导率:

$\mu_r = 1.0$  for air or nonmagnetic medium;  $\mu_r$  = several thousand for iron

Material	$\mu_r$
Air	1
Permalloy	100,000
Cast steel	1,000
Sheet steel	4,000
Iron	5,195

Permeability 磁导率 and permittivity 电容率. (Not examinable)

It is sometimes easier to think of permeability as a measure of the ease with which magnetic flux 磁通 lines can pass through a material.

The permeability of free space is  $\mu_0$  where  $\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ N/A}^2$

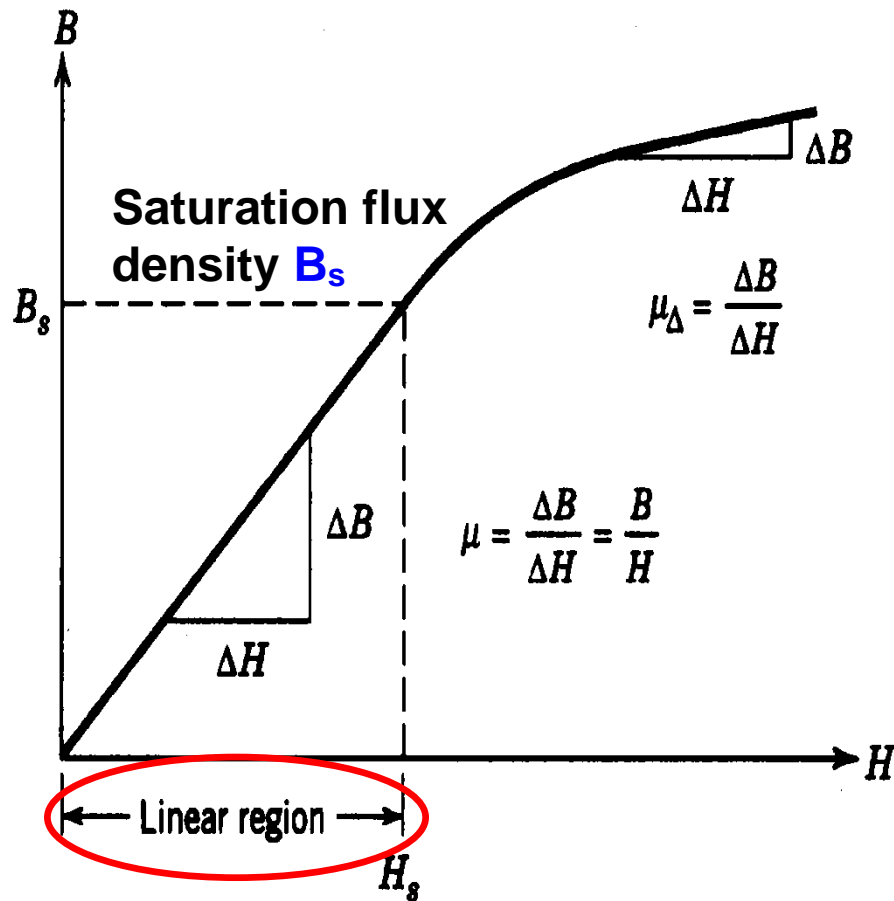
In general, the permeability  $\mu = \mu_0 \mu_r$  where  $\mu_r$  is a dimensionless constant and is called the “relative permeability”. It is this value that is most often used.

For all practical purposes, the permeability of air is the same as that of a vacuum. High quality steel for transformers etc. typically has a relative permeability  $> 40,000$ .

An inductor can be made by winding a conductor around a former to make a coil. If the former is a hollow tube, the coil is said to be “air-cored”. If a high permeability material is now placed inside the coil, the inductance will be much higher. In other words, a given value of inductor can be made with fewer turns of wire if it is wound on a high permeability core.

Similarly, adding a sheet of high permittivity 电容率 material (a “dielectric” 电介质) between the plates of a capacitor increases the capacitance between the plates. Ceramics 陶瓷 and polymers 聚合物 are often used because of their superior insulating 绝缘 properties (the “dielectric strength”).

# Permeability of Magnetic Medium



Below the saturation flux 饱和磁通  $B_s$ , the medium operates in linear region, i.e.  $\mu$  is constant;

Beyond  $B_s$ , permeability  $\mu$  can be much smaller than that in the linear region 线性区域.

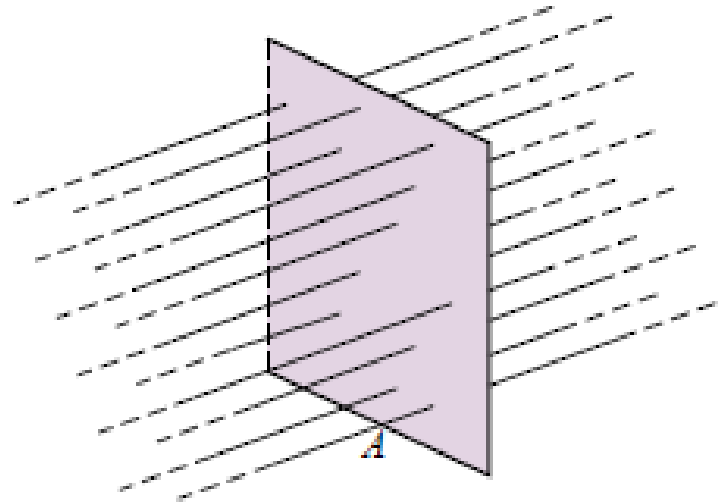
# Magnetic “Current”

The magnetic flux  $\Phi$  crossing an area can be obtained by the surface integral of magnetic flux density  $\mathbf{B}$  normal to 法向 that area

$$\Phi = \iint_A \mathbf{B} d\mathbf{A}$$

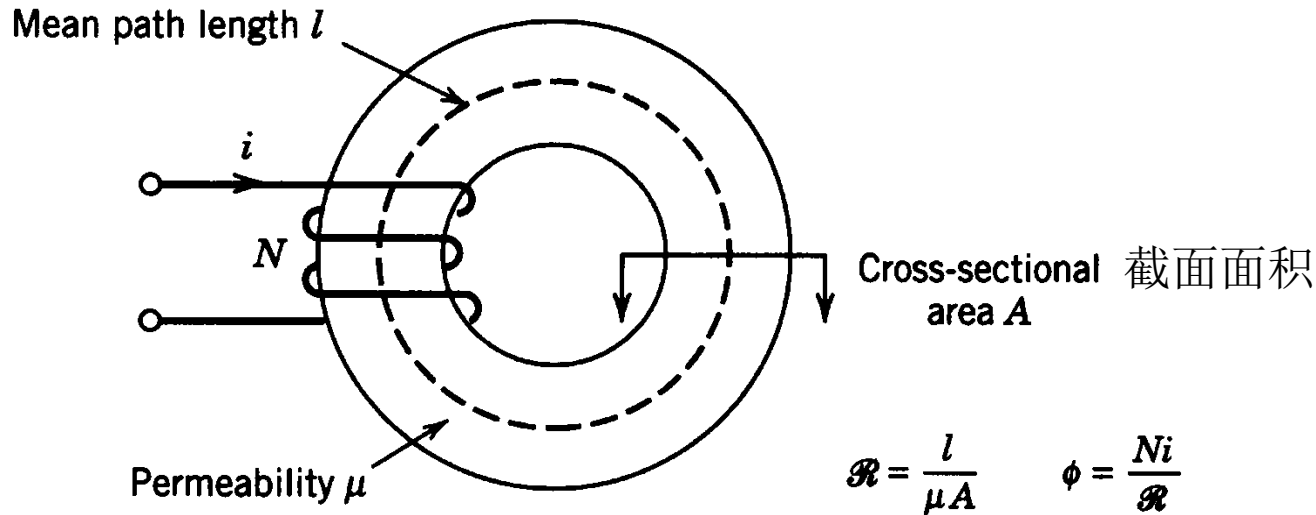
For most practical cases, it can be written as

$$\Phi = \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{A}$$



Magnetic “Current” : magnetic flux  $\Phi$

# Magnetic “Resistance”



## Physical Model

Magnetic Reluctance 磁阻  
 (“Resistance”):

$$\mathcal{R} = \frac{l}{\mu A}$$

Magnetic Permeance 磁导  
 (“resistivity”):

$$\mathcal{P} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{R}}$$

# Magnetic “Ohm’s Law”

For a magnetic circuit, if **reluctance** 磁阻 and **exciting current** 激励电流 are given, the magnetic flux  $\Phi$  can be calculated using **magnetic “Ohm’s law”**:

$$\Phi = \frac{\mathcal{F}}{\mathfrak{R}}$$

*or*

$$\Phi = \frac{\sum_m N_m i_m}{\sum_k \mathfrak{R}_k}$$

Analogy

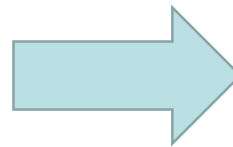
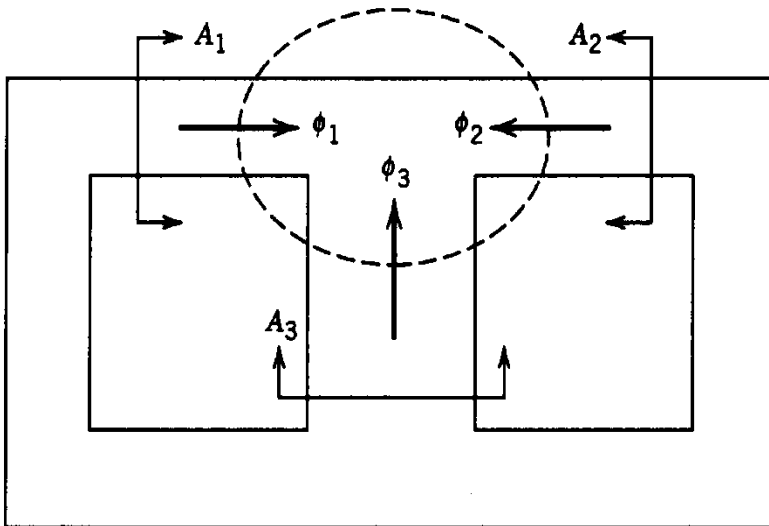


$$I = \frac{V}{R}$$

# Magnetic “KCL”

Continuity of Flux 磁通连续性: magnetic flux lines forms closed loops, the flux lines entering a closed surface area must equal those leaving it. (i.e. Magnetic “KCL”)

$$\Phi = \iint_{A(\text{closed surface})} B dA = 0$$



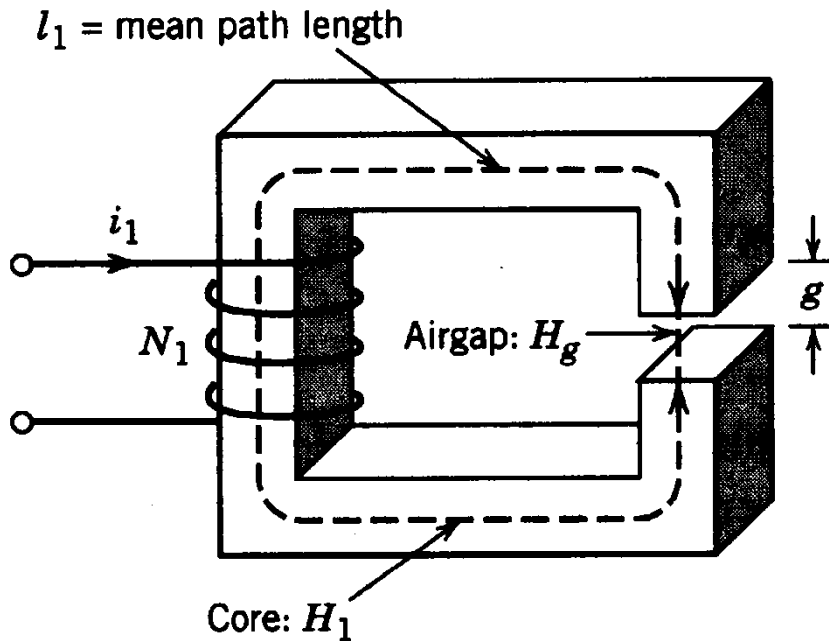
$$\Phi_1 + \Phi_2 + \Phi_3 = 0, \quad \text{or}$$
$$B_1 A_1 + B_2 A_2 + B_3 A_3 = 0$$

i.e.

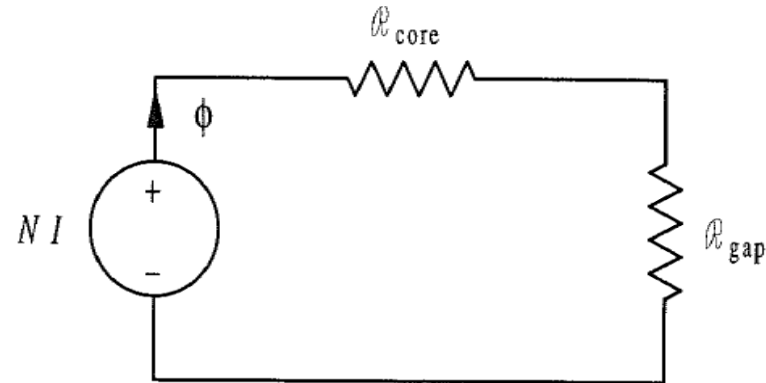
$$\sum_k \Phi_k = 0$$



# Magnetic “KVL”



$$\underbrace{\phi_{\text{core}} \mathcal{R}_{\text{core}}}_{\text{MMF drop}} + \underbrace{\phi_{\text{air}} \mathcal{R}_{\text{air}}}_{\text{MMF drop}} = \underbrace{\text{MMF}_{\text{in}}}_{\text{source}}$$



For above magnetic circuit, we can have circuit equation which follows magnetic “KVL”:


$$\mathcal{F} = N_1 i_1 = H_1 l_1 + H_g l_g$$

Customized Magnetic Device  
用户定制的磁性器件

# Inductor

***L: inductance***

Inductor

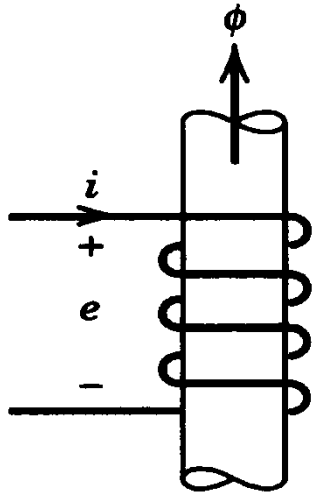

$$v_L = L \frac{di_L}{dt}$$

**Electric Circuit Model**

Read Chapter 3, Mohan etc.

# Faraday's Induction Law

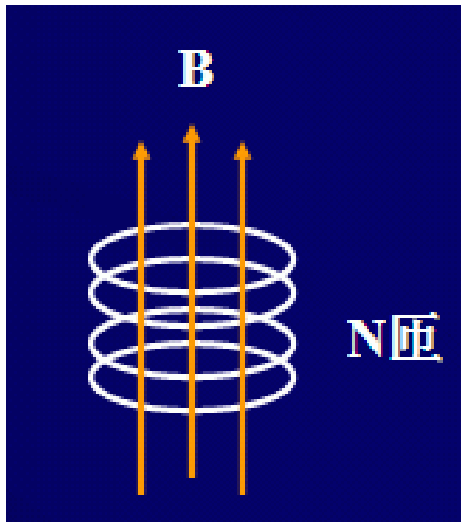
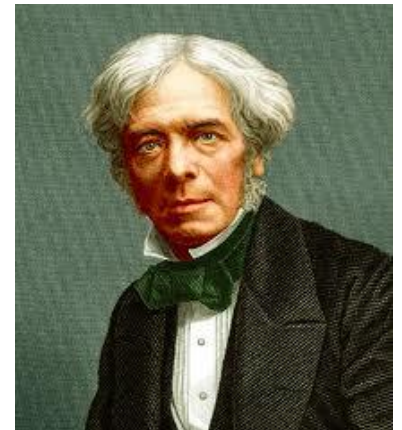
## 法拉第感应定律



A changing magnetic field gives rise to a voltage

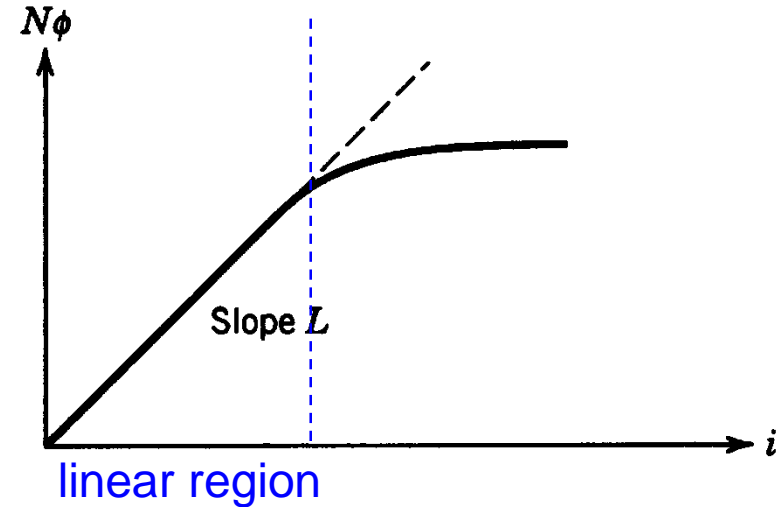
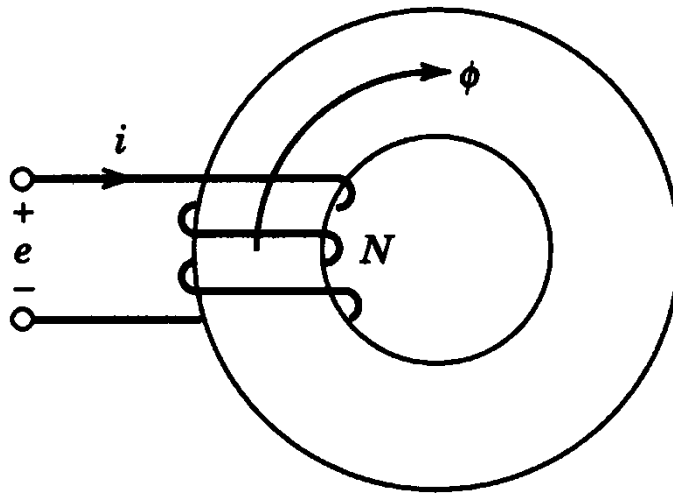
$$\Psi = N\Phi$$

$$e = \frac{d\Psi}{dt} = N \frac{d\Phi}{dt}$$



Electricity  $\longleftrightarrow$  Magnetism

# Self-Inductance 自感 $L$



A Coil 线圈 has a **inductance**  $L$ , which is defined as

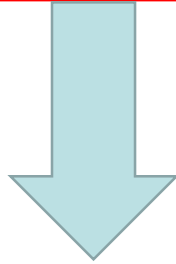
感应系数!

$$L = \frac{\Psi}{i_L} = \frac{N\Phi}{i_L} \quad or \quad N\Phi = L i_L$$

In linear region of the core material,  $L$  is constant and is independent of  $i$ .

# Inductor's Electric Circuit Model

$$L = \frac{\Psi}{i_L} = \frac{N\Phi}{i_L} \quad \text{or} \quad N\Phi = Li_L$$



$$e = N \frac{d\Phi}{dt} = L \frac{di_L}{dt} + i_L \frac{dL}{dt} \Rightarrow v_L = L \frac{di_L}{dt}$$

Inductor



# Inductor's Physical Model

$$L = \frac{\Psi}{i_L} = \frac{N\Phi}{i_L} \quad \text{or} \quad N\Phi = Li_L$$

$$\Phi = \frac{\mathcal{F}}{\mathfrak{R}}$$

$$\mathfrak{R} = \frac{l}{\mu A} = \frac{l}{\mu_r \mu_0 A}$$

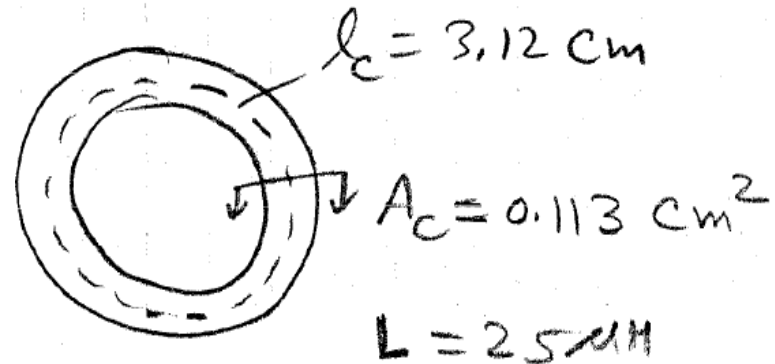
$$L = \frac{N}{i_L} \frac{\mathcal{F}}{\mathfrak{R}} = \frac{N^2}{\mathfrak{R}} = N^2 \frac{\mu_r \mu_0 A}{l}$$

**How to  
design  
inductance  
L ?**

Provided 假定 magnetic saturation does not occur, coil inductance **L** is the property of the core material and is independent of **i**.

# An Example

Calculate the number of turns for the **toroidal** 环形的 **core** 芯 obtain an inductance of  $25\mu\text{H}$ .



$$L = N^2 \Phi = N^2 \frac{A_c (\mu_0 \mu_r)}{l_c}$$

$$\therefore N = \left[ \frac{L l_c}{A_c \mu_0 \mu_r} \right]^{1/2}$$

$$\mu_0 = 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \text{ H/m}$$

$$= \left[ \frac{25 \times 10^{-6} \times 3.12 \times 10^{-2}}{0.113 \times 10^{-4} \times 4\pi \times 10^{-7} \times 125} \right]^{1/2}$$

$$\approx 21 \text{ turns}$$

# Inductor Design

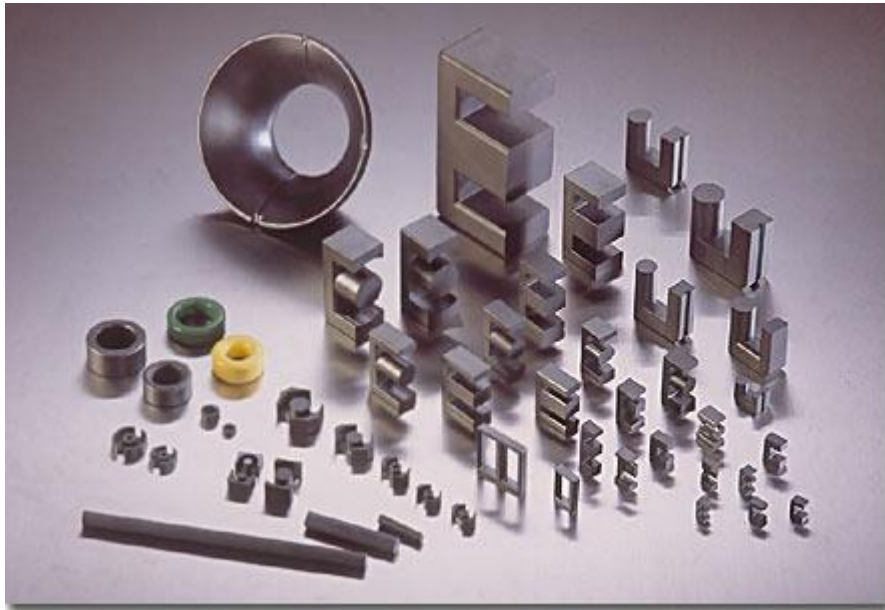
Read Chapter 30, Mohan etc.



# Two Groups of Components

## Magnetic or Wound 绕线的 components

- Inductors or Chokes 扼流圈
- Transformers



# Parts部件 and Materials

Wound components include three parts:

1) **Cores**磁芯, 2) **Bobbin**骨架, 3) **Coil Windings**线圈

**Cores and bobbins/coil-formers:** Toroids and U/I cores, Shell-type cores (E core, RM core etc),

**Magnetic materials:** Permeable materials are used to **constrain the flux path** and **increase volumetric inductance**. Materials include steel **laminations**叠片(“iron”), ferrite铁氧体, iron powder铁粉芯, amorphous metal 非晶金属etc.

**Winding materials:** **Enamel insulated copper conductors**漆包铜线 are generally used, although un-insulated foils箔, plastic triple-insulated copper, Litz利兹 wire are also employed.

# Magnetic Circuit Equations 磁路方程式

“Voltage”

$$\mathcal{F} = \sum_k H_k l_k = \sum_k N_m i_m$$

Medium

$$B = \mu H, \quad \mu = \mu_0 \mu_r$$

“Current”

$$\Phi = BA$$

“Resistance”

$$\mathfrak{R} = \frac{l}{\mu A} = \frac{l}{\mu_0 \mu_r A}$$

“Ohm’s Law”

$$\Phi = \frac{\mathcal{F}}{\mathfrak{R}} = \frac{Ni}{\mathfrak{R}}$$

“KVL” & “KCL”

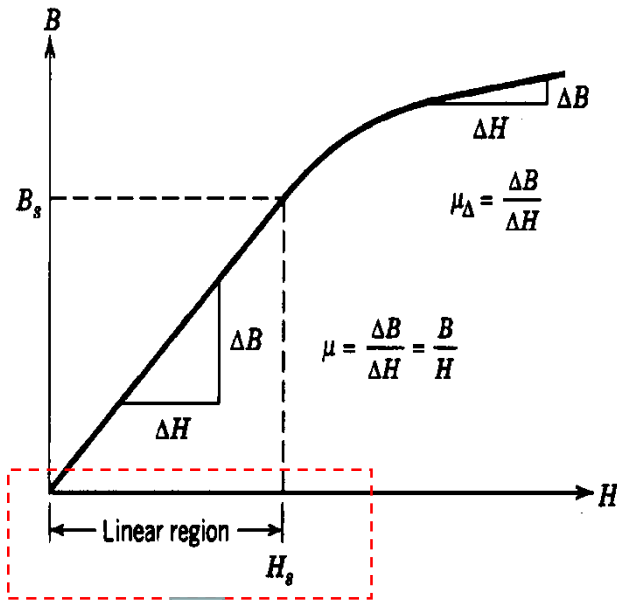
$$\mathcal{F} = N_1 i_1 = H_1 l_1 + H_g l_g$$

$$\sum_k \Phi_k = 0$$

Faraday’s Law

$$e = \frac{d\Psi}{dt} = N \frac{d\Phi}{dt}$$

# Inductor Design



Constant  
Permeability  $\mu$

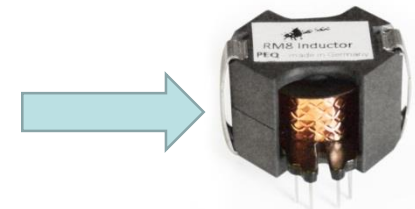
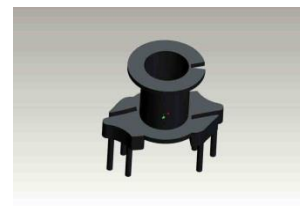
Inductor's Physical Model

$$L = \frac{N\Phi}{i} = \frac{N^2}{\mathfrak{R}} = N^2 \frac{\mu_0 \mu_r A_e}{l_e}$$

Inductor Design is to choose

- 1) **Coil:** winding turns  $N$ ;
- 2) **Core:**  $\mu_r$ ,  $A_e$ ,  $l_e$

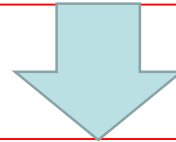
Inductor  
Design



# “Area-Turns” Product

Assuming the flux is uniformly distributed

$$L = \frac{N\Phi}{i} \Rightarrow Li = N\Phi = NBA_e$$



$$NA_e = \frac{Li_{L\max}}{B_{\max}}$$

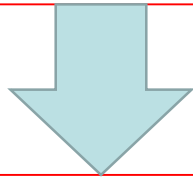
$$\Rightarrow L, i_{L\max}, B_{\max}$$

“Area-Turns” product : reduce the number of turns **N** will reduce the winding resistance and thus the copper loss, while increasing the area  $A_e$  will usually increase the volume and the core loss. Balancing these losses and designing the smallest, cheapest inductor is often the goal.

# Setting Operation Conditions

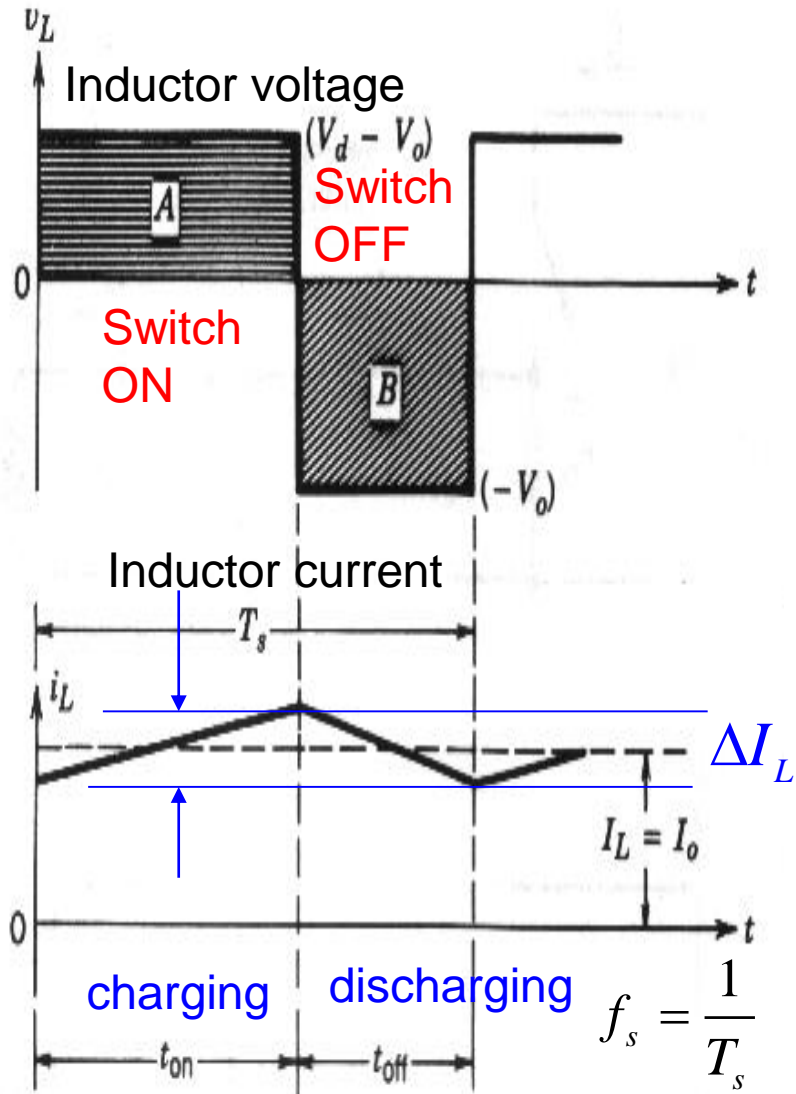
From given converter specifications

- 1) Input voltage/current range
- 2) Output voltage/current range
- 3) Switching frequency



1. Determine the max inductor current  $i_{L\max}$
2. Set inductance value  $L$  to choose conduction mode: DCM or CCM
3. Choose desired maximum magnetic flux density  $B_{\max}$  in the core (make full use of core)
4. Choose a core with  $A_e$ ,  $l_e$  and  $\mu_r$

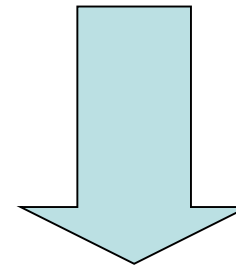
# Inductor Peak Current



$$i_{peak} = i_{L(max)} = I_L + \frac{1}{2} \Delta I_L$$

$$\Delta I_L = \frac{v_d}{f_s L} k (1 - k) = \frac{v_o}{f_s L} (1 - k)$$

$$I_L = I_o$$



$$i_{L(max)} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{v_d}{f_s L} k (1 - k) + I_o$$

**Switch Peak Current**

# Trial Design设计尝试

## 1. Calculate coil turns $N$

$$Li = N\Phi \Rightarrow NB_{\max} A_e = Li_{L\max} \Rightarrow N = \frac{Li_{L\max}}{B_{\max} A_e}$$



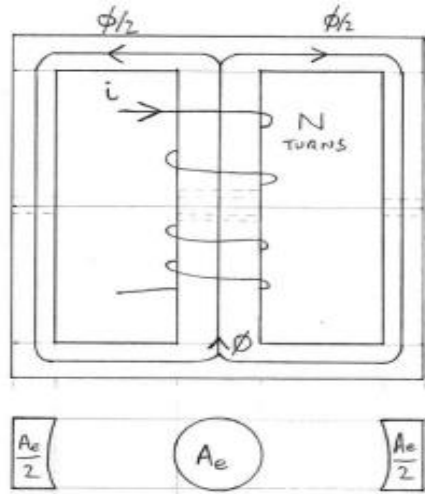
## 2. Verify inductance $L$ and maximum flux density $B_{\max}$

$$L^1 = \frac{N\Phi}{i} = \frac{N^2}{\mathfrak{R}_{core}} = \frac{\mu_o \mu_e A_e N^2}{l_e} \stackrel{?}{=} L$$

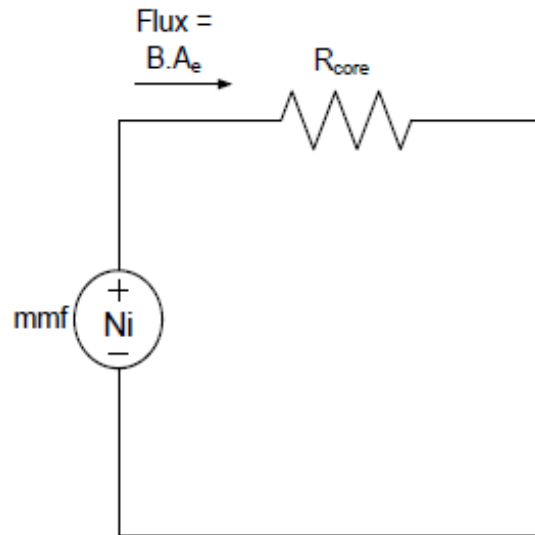
$$L = \frac{N\Phi}{i} = \frac{NBA_e}{i} = \frac{\mu_o \mu_e A_e N^2}{l_e} \Rightarrow B_{\max}^1 = \frac{\mu_o \mu_e N}{l_e} i_{\max} \stackrel{?}{\leq} B_{sat}$$



# No Air Gap 气隙 Inductor



Inductor with no air gap



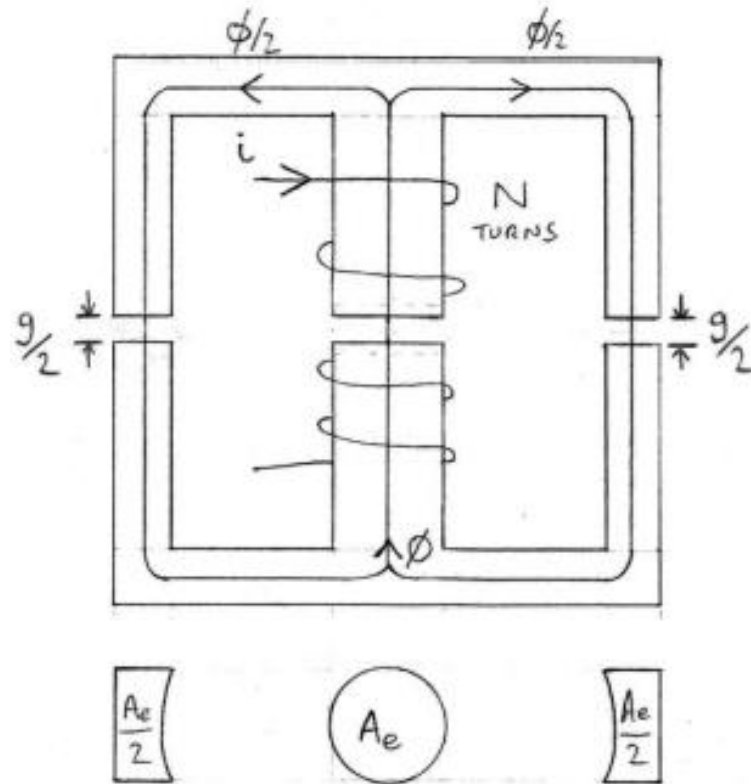
Magnetic circuit

$$\mathcal{R}_{core} = \frac{l_e}{\mu_0 \mu_e A_e}$$

$$\mathcal{F} = Ni = \Phi \mathcal{R}_{core} = BA_e \mathcal{R}_{core} \Rightarrow B = \frac{Ni}{A_e \mathcal{R}_{core}} = \frac{\mu_0 \mu_e Ni}{l_e}$$

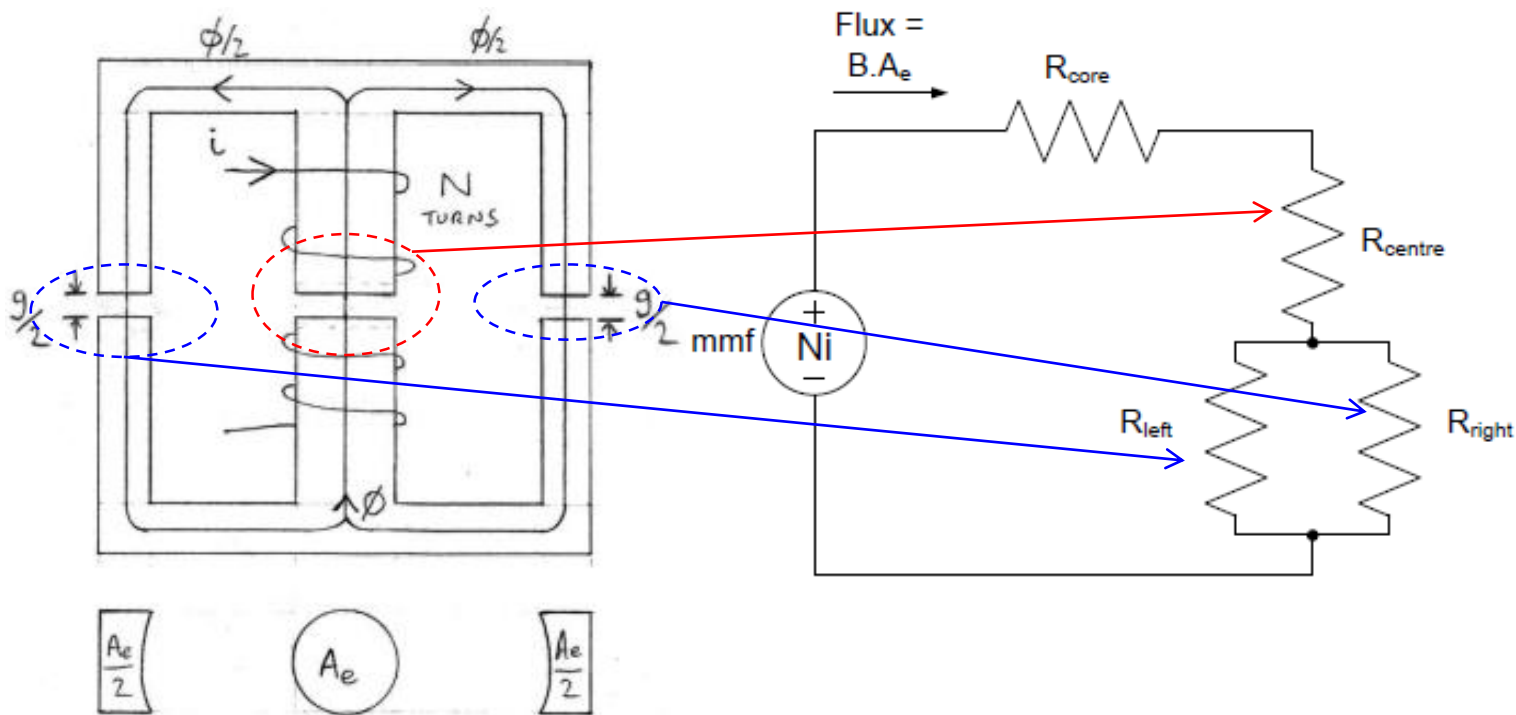
Since permeability  $\mu_r$  of core is high, reluctance  $R_{core}$  of the no-gap core may be so low that  $B_{max}$  exceeds  $B_{sat}$ .

# Insert Air Gap



Insert **airgap** in the core is use to **reduce relative permeability** of the magnetic loop and then **increase reluctance** of the magnetic loop.

# Airgap Reluctance 气隙磁阻



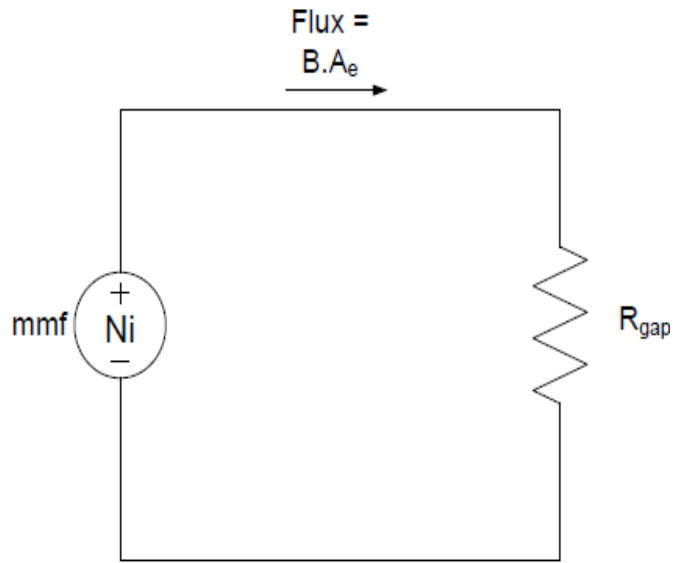
Airgap  
Reluctance

$$\mathfrak{R}_{left} = \mathfrak{R}_{right} = 2\mathfrak{R}_{centre} = \frac{g}{\mu_o A_e}$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathfrak{R}_{gap} = (\mathfrak{R}_{left} \parallel \mathfrak{R}_{right}) + \mathfrak{R}_{centre} = 2\mathfrak{R}_{centre} = \frac{g}{\mu_o A_e}$$

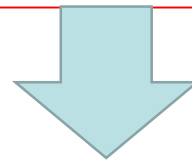
# Air Gap Length

## Total Reluctance



$$\mathfrak{R}_{gap} = \frac{g}{\mu_o A_e} \gg \mathfrak{R}_{core} = \frac{l_e}{\mu_o \mu_e A_e}$$
$$\Rightarrow \mathfrak{R}_{total} = \mathfrak{R}_{gap} + \mathfrak{R}_{core} \approx \mathfrak{R}_{gap}$$

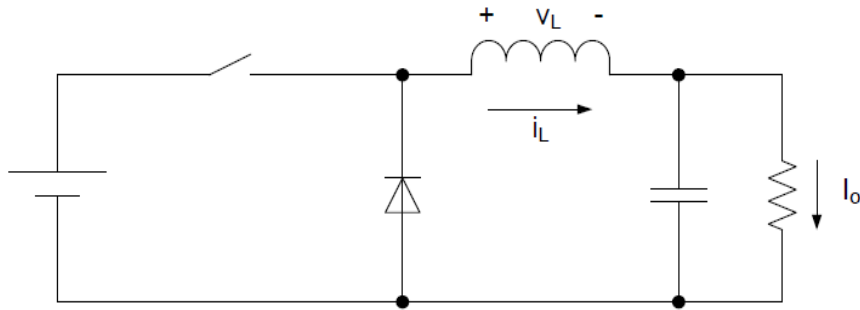
$$\mathfrak{R}_{total} = \frac{\mathcal{F}_{max}}{\Phi_{max}} = \frac{Ni_{Lmax}}{\Phi_{max}} = \frac{Ni_{Lmax}}{B_{max} A_e}$$



## Gap Length

$$\mathfrak{R}_{total} = \frac{Ni_{Lmax}}{B_{max} A_e} \approx \frac{g}{\mu_o A_e} \Rightarrow g = \frac{\mu_o Ni_{Lmax}}{B_{max}}$$

# Example: Buck Converter in CCM

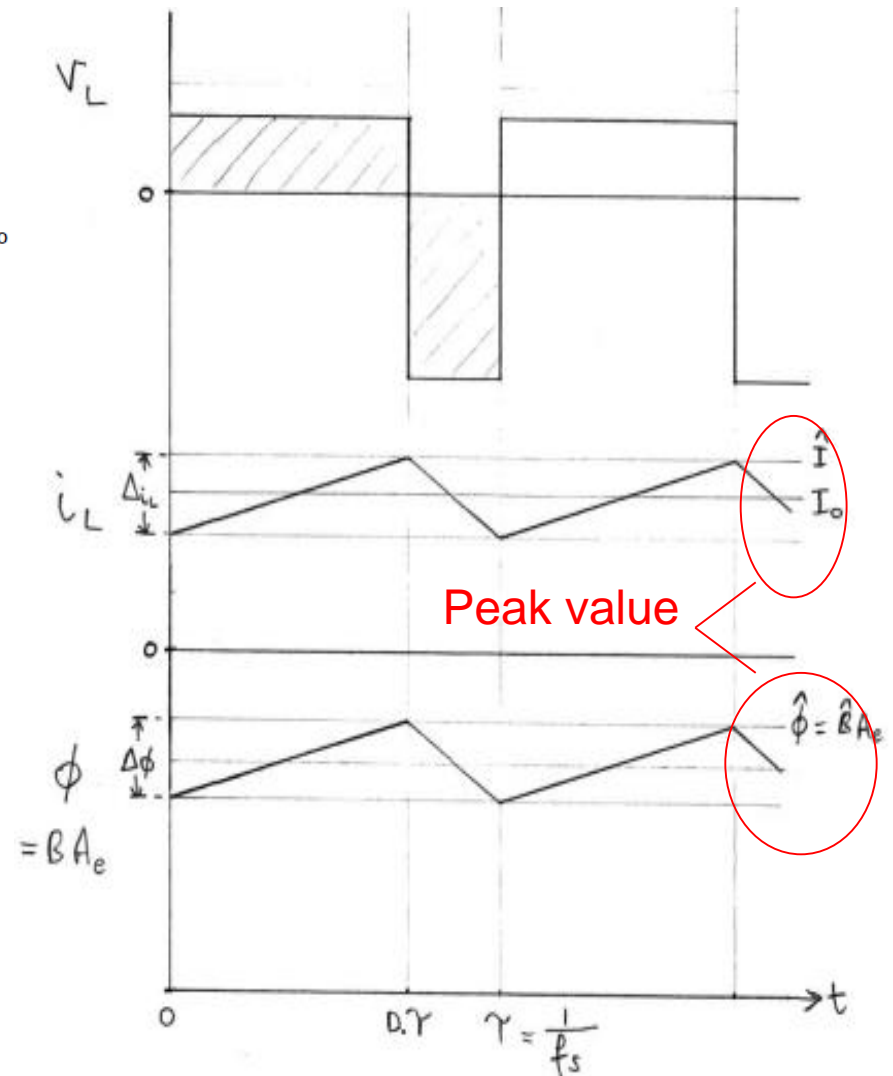


Buck converter

$$i_{L\max} = 1\text{ A}$$

$$L = 1\text{ mH}$$

$$B_{\max} = 0.3\text{ T}$$

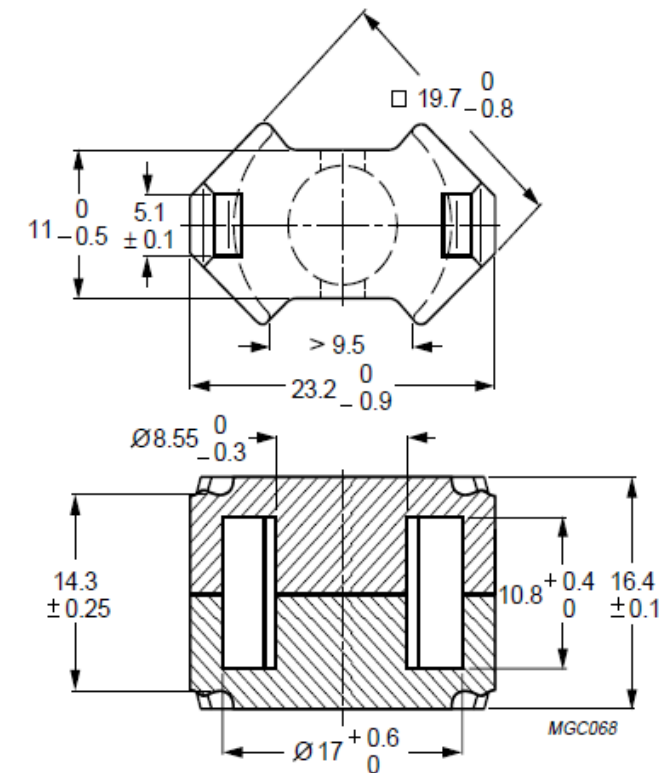


# Size of RM8/I-3C90 Core

For the solar car an **RM8/I** core in **3C90 (or 3C85)** ferrite is chosen. Size, shape and material are already determined.

## Effective core parameters

SYMBOL	PARAMETER	VALUE	UNIT
$\Sigma(l/A)$	core factor (C1)	0.604	$\text{mm}^{-1}$
$V_e$	effective volume	2440	$\text{mm}^3$
$l_e$	effective length	38.4	mm
$A_e$	effective area	63.0	$\text{mm}^2$
$A_{\min}$	minimum area	55.4	$\text{mm}^2$
$m$	mass of set	$\approx 12.0$	g



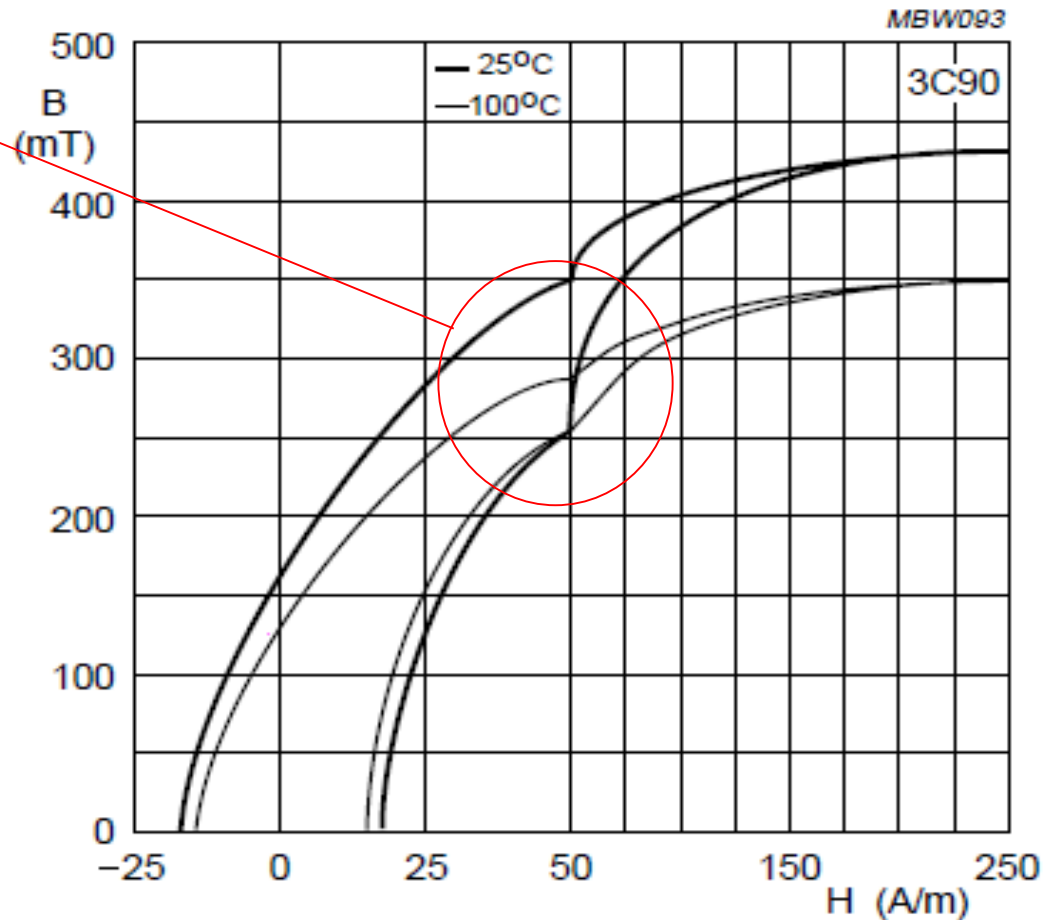
Dimensions in mm.

# B-H of RM8/I-3C90 Core

Desired flux density

$$B_{\max} = 0.3T$$

Relative Permeability  
 $\mu_r = 1600$

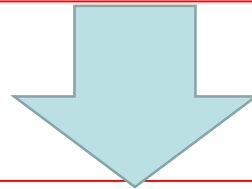


B-H curve

# No Airgap Trial

$$i_{L\max} = 1\text{ A}; \quad L = 1\text{ mH}; \quad B_{\max} = 0.3\text{ T}$$

$$\mu_e = 1600, \quad \mu_0 = 4\pi \cdot 10^{-7} \text{ H/m}$$



no airgap

$$N = \frac{Li_{L\max}}{\Phi} = \frac{Li_{L\max}}{B_{\max} A_e} = \frac{10^{-3} \cdot 1}{0.3 \cdot 63 \cdot 10^{-6}} \approx 53 \text{ turns}$$

$$B_{\max}^1 = \frac{\mu_0 \mu_e N i_{L\max}}{l_e} = \frac{4\pi \cdot 10^{-7} \cdot 1600 \cdot 53 \cdot 1}{38.4 \cdot 10^{-3}} \approx 2.7\text{ T} \gg B_{\max} = 0.3\text{ T}$$

$$L^1 = \frac{N\Phi_{\max}}{i_{L\max}} = \frac{NB_{\max} A_e}{i_{\max}} = \frac{53 \cdot 2.7 \cdot 63 \cdot 10^{-6}}{1} \approx 9\text{ mH} \gg L = 1\text{ mH}$$



# Airgap Calculation Method I & II

Full Method I for Gap Length Calculation

$$\mathfrak{R}_{total} = \frac{\mathcal{F}_{max}}{\Phi_{max}} = \frac{Ni_{Lmax}}{B_{max} A_e} = \frac{53}{0.3 \cdot (63 \cdot 10^{-6})} = 2.804 \cdot 10^6 \text{ A/Web}$$

$$\mathfrak{R}_{core} = \frac{l_e}{\mu_r \mu_0 A_e} = \frac{38 \cdot 10^{-3}}{1600 \cdot (4\pi \cdot 10^{-7}) \cdot (63 \cdot 10^{-6})} = 3.03 \cdot 10^5 \text{ A/Web}$$

$$\mathfrak{R}_{gap} = \mathfrak{R}_{total} - \mathfrak{R}_{core} = 2.501 \cdot 10^6 \text{ A/Web}$$

$$g = \mu_0 A_e \mathfrak{R}_{gap} = (4\pi \cdot 10^{-7}) (63 \cdot 10^{-6}) (2.501 \cdot 10^6) = 198 \mu\text{m}$$

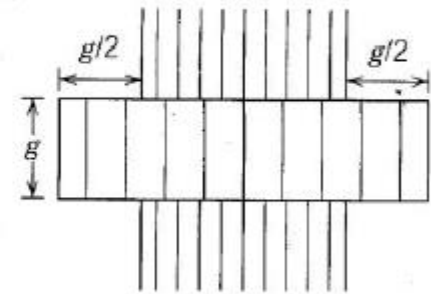
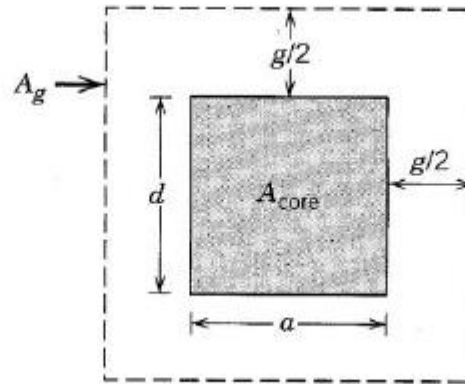
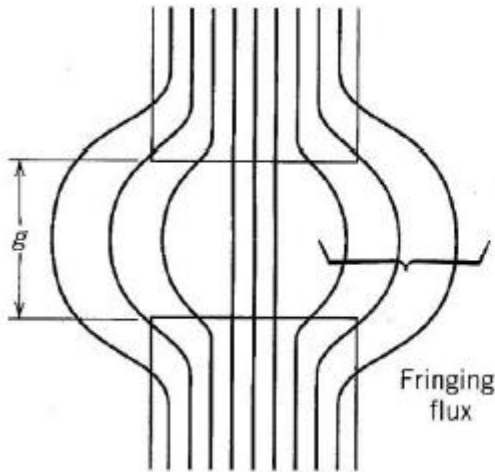
Simplified Method II for Gap Length Calculation

$$g = \mu_0 A_e \mathfrak{R}_{gap} \approx \mu_0 A_e \mathfrak{R}_{total} = (4\pi \cdot 10^{-7}) (63 \cdot 10^{-6}) (2.804 \cdot 10^6) = 222 \mu\text{m}$$

# Shorter Gap in Practice

**Note:** In practice the full method underestimates the airgap length because it does not allow for flux fringing 边缘磁通 at the airgap. The fringing has the effect of increasing the effective area  $A_e$  at the gap and hence reducing the gap reluctance.

$$\mathfrak{R}_{gap} = \frac{g}{\mu_o A_e}$$



# How to Insert Airgap

An exact airgap length is not needed in practice.

In our case, insert A4 75g papers (about  $100\mu\text{m}$ /per sheet) between cores, press the core and use LCR meter to measure the inductance for verification.



# Distributed Airgap 分布式气隙

To reduce fringing flux, distributed airgap core material can be used, such as iron powder material. Such materials are often used for toroidal core inductors, for which air gapping of ferrite is not practical, and are also available for E cores. (e.g. Magnetics Kool Mu 铁硅铝, 磁粉芯 material).



# More Physical Restrictions

## 1. Core (in linear region):

- Maximum flux density:  $B_{\max}$  close to but  $\leq B_{\text{sat}}$
- Relative permeability:  $\mu_r$
- Size (area, length):  $A_e$ ,  $l_e$

## 2. Coil Winding:

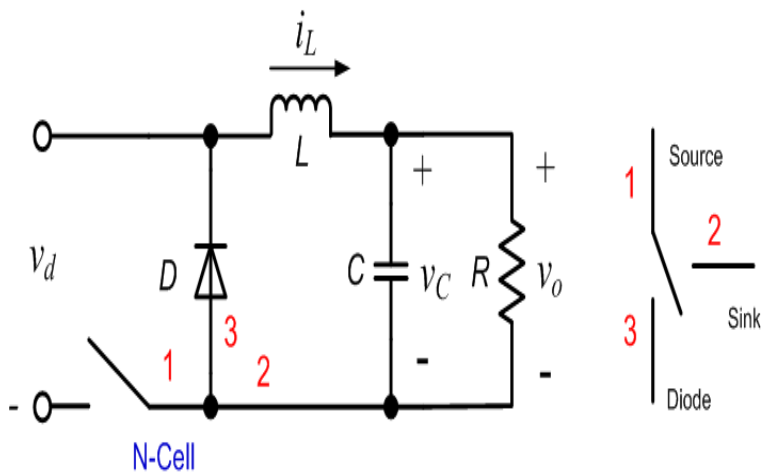
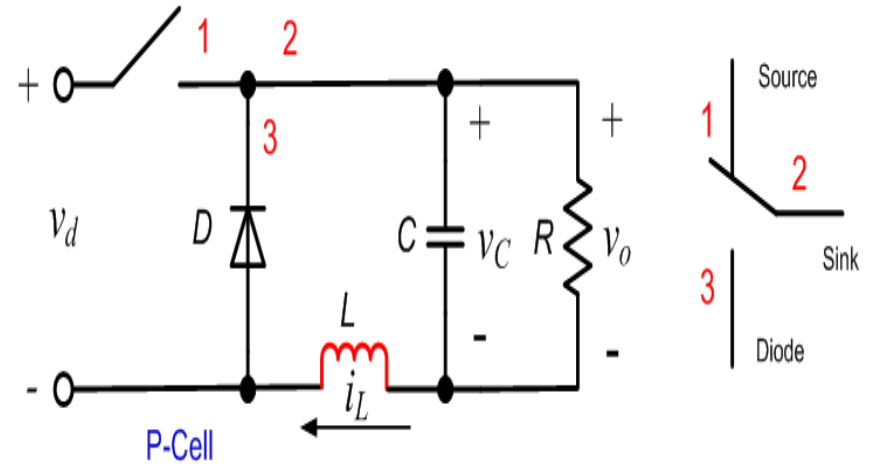
- Area: copper fill factor  $< 0.5$
- Current Density:  $\leq 5 \text{ A/mm}^2$
- Resistance: low copper Loss

# Lab Project: Buck Converter

- Design and build an inductor for a continuous conduction Buck converter
- Buck Converter employs an equivalent circuit topology instead of typical one (why???)
- Test and measure the operation waveforms of the self-built converter with self-wound inductor and purchased inductor

# You should know

The diagram shows a boost converter circuit. The input is a P-Cell with voltage  $v_d$ . The circuit consists of a switch, an inductor  $L$ , a diode  $D$ , a capacitor  $C$ , and a load resistor  $R$ . The output voltage is  $v_o$ . The capacitor voltage is  $v_C$ . The P-Cell is labeled at the bottom. A legend on the right shows the switch and diode symbols with labels 1, 2, and 3.



## From Lab 1

Why our project take  
above buck converter  
topology ?

