Introduction

The challenges for modern high efficiency switching power supplies are to minimize power losses and increase their power density without raising the cost. The goal is to reduce both power conduction and power switching losses.

Minimization of power conduction losses is difficult to achieve without considerably affecting the cost and power density, since more material is required (bigger active and passive components). Unlike the conduction losses, it is easier to reduce the power switching losses without significantly increasing the power supply cost. There are two main ways to achieve this improvement:

- working on the dynamic behavior of the semiconductor technologies
- working on circuit topologies

Novel diodes using technologies such as SiC and GaN materials significantly reduce the switching losses. However, their high price makes them not so attractive for applications such as desktop server power supplies, solar inverters and µinverters.

The patented circuit [see Section 5: References, 1.], described in this Application note is based on the soft switching method and meets market expectations since its efficiency/cost/power, and density/EMI trade-offs are better than high voltage SiC Schottky diodes.
Contents

1 Existing solutions ......................................................... 3
  1.1 Diode switch-on losses ............................................. 3
  1.2 Soft switch-on method ............................................. 4
  1.3 Active recovery circuit ........................................... 5
  1.4 Passive recovery circuit ......................................... 6

2 The new ST solution - BC²: energy recovery circuit ................. 7
  2.1 Concept description .............................................. 7
  2.2 Phase timing description ........................................ 8
    2.2.1 Phase before t0 ............................................ 9
    2.2.2 Phase t0 to t1 ............................................ 9
    2.2.3 Phase t1 to t2 ........................................... 10
    2.2.4 Phase t2 to t3 ........................................... 11
    2.2.5 Phase t3 to t4 ........................................... 11
    2.2.6 Phase t4 to t5 ........................................... 12
  2.3 Electrical voltage stress in BC² ................................ 13
  2.4 Calculation of m2 and m1 ratios ................................ 13
  2.5 Calculation of L ................................................ 14
  2.6 Range of products ................................................ 14

3 BC² design in 450 W PFC ............................................... 15
  3.1 BC² design ....................................................... 15
  3.2 BC² typical waveforms .......................................... 15
  3.3 Efficiency comparison ........................................... 16
  3.4 Thermal measurement ............................................ 18

4 Conclusion .......................................................... 19

5 References .......................................................... 20

6 Revision history ...................................................... 21
1 Existing solutions

This section describes some existing areas for efficiency improvements in PFC applications.

1.1 Diode switch-on losses

Usually, in mass market applications between 200 W and 2 kW, a power factor corrector (PFC) working in continuous conduction mode (CCM) is mandatory. To improve the power converter density, the switching frequency should be increased. Nevertheless, when the switching frequency increases, power dissipation in the power switch/rectifier commutation cells leads to the major switching losses in the PFC. The main power losses occur during turn-on of the power switch due to both the voltage and current crossing area of the MOSFET and the reverse recovery losses [see Section 5: References, 2.] produced by the PN diode as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Switch-on losses in PN diode behavior

![Diagram showing switch-on losses in PN diode behavior](image)

To reduce the losses of the PN rectifier, many semiconductor manufacturers have recently introduced high-voltage Schottky diodes using SiC and GaN technologies. However, it is impossible to completely remove the voltage and current crossing area during transistor turn-on by improving component performance only.
Unlike PN diodes, SiC diodes allow the turn-on $\text{dI}/\text{dt}$ to be increased without increasing the diode recovery current. Thus, switching time decreases and switch-on losses decrease too, but they are not removed entirely. Today, in PFC designs, the turn-on $\text{dI}/\text{dt}$ with the SiC diode is around 1000 A/µs maximum to respect EMI standards, whereas the PN diode is used with a $\text{dI}/\text{dt}$ of 300 A/µs.

### 1.2 Soft switch-on method

Another way to reduce these losses is to use a soft switching method by adding a small inductor $L$ to control the $\text{dI}/\text{dt}$ slope. This solution removes the current/voltage crossing area and the PN diode recovery current effect during the turn-on of the transistor as shown in Figure 3.
This soft switching solution is well known, but it requires that several technical criteria be met:

- Reset the current in the inductor L at each switching period, whatever the variations of the current, and input and output voltages.
- Recover the saved inductive energy without losses.
- Limit any overvoltage and overcurrent stress in the semiconductor devices.
- Keep cost down when adding any device.
- Maintain a similar power supply density.

There are many circuits that are classified in two families of recovery circuits:

- active
- passive

1.3 Active recovery circuit

In the active recovery circuit family, the zero voltage transition (ZVT) [see Section 5: References, 3.] shown in Figure 4 is well known by designers. This circuit allows both switch-on and switch-off power losses to be removed.

**Figure 4. Zero voltage transition (ZVT) active recovery circuit**

A theoretical study indicates that ZVT is an excellent topology for the PFC application, since all the switch losses are removed. In addition, this circuit can work whatever the input and output power variations. Nevertheless, in practice, the recovery current from the boost diode D_B significantly affects the ZVT behavior leading to some constraints on both inductance and minimum duty cycle. During the reset current in the small inductor L, the recovery current from D_2 involves a high-stress voltage and damping parasitic oscillation. Finally, the dynamic behavior of the PN diode affects the global ZVT efficiency because conduction times in the transistor should increase and a dissipative snubber is mandatory to reduce the electrical stress across the semiconductors.

In terms of cost the ZVT circuit requires an additional power MOSFET and a specific PWM controller. Several derivative circuits of the ZVT circuit have the same technical issue and their higher price makes these circuits less than ideal for mass market applications. Therefore, the passive recovery circuit can be more attractive.
1.4 Passive recovery circuit

In the passive recovery circuit family the electrical schematic shown in Figure 5 is a good example [see Section 5: References, 4.]; only two extra diodes and one resonant capacitor are required.

Figure 5. Passive recovery circuit

This circuit works well under unchanging external conditions. However, it is difficult to design this kind of system in PFC applications since the current reset in the small inductor depends on both boost diode recovery current and the external electrical conditions.

Although, the non-dissipative passive circuit requires fewer components, it is unfortunately technically impractical in PFC applications. These examples highlight that the current snubber method is well known but the technical challenge is to recover the L energy through the application without affecting the five criteria listed in Section 1.2.
2 The new ST solution - BC²: energy recovery circuit

The innovative circuit has been designed [see Section 5: References, 1.] to respect the five soft switching criteria in Section 1.2. Figure 6 shows that two additional diodes D₁ and D₂ and two auxiliary windings Nₛ₁ and Nₛ₂ wound around the main boost inductor Lₐ are designed to reset the energy stored in the small inductor L.

Figure 6. Novel energy recovery circuit: BC²

2.1 Concept description

The winding Nₛ₁ allows the Iᵣₘ current from the boost diode D₉ to be recovered in the main boost inductor when the transistor turns on. Since the mains input voltage modulates the Lₐ voltage, it also modulates the reflected voltage across Nₛ₁. This input voltage also modulates the boost diode current I₉ and its associated recovery current Iᵣₘ. These combined modulations allow the extra current Iᵣₘ flowing in the inductor L to be reset into the winding Nₛ₁ even in the worst case. The winding Nₛ₂ allows the extra current of L to be injected into the output capacitor when the transistor turns off. The reflected voltage across Nₛ₂ is also a function of the input voltage. This reflected voltage reaches its maximum when the AC line voltage is low, corresponding to the maximum value of the inductor L current. These combined variations allow the current flowing in the inductor L to be cancelled in the bulk capacitor through the diode D₂ even in the worst case. The benefits of these two additional windings Nₛ₁ and Nₛ₂ are to switch off the diodes D₁ and D₂ with a low di/dt (about 10 A/μs) as in a discontinuous mode switching converter. Their recovery currents do not affect the behavior of the BC² circuit.
2.2 Phase timing description

Figure 7. Equivalent timing per phase

The winding ratios $m_1$ and $m_2$ versus $N_p$ winding are those of the windings $N_{S1}$ and $N_{S2}$ respectively.
2.2.1 Phase before \( t_0 \)

**Figure 8. Equivalent circuit before \( t_0 \)**

Before \( t_0 \), the \( BC^2 \) circuit has the same behavior as the conventional boost converter. The boost diode \( D_B \) conducts to send the main inductor energy through the output bulk capacitor.

2.2.2 Phase \( t_0 \) to \( t_1 \)

**Figure 9. Equivalent circuit \( t_0 \) to \( t_1 \)**

At \( t_0 \), the power MOSFET turns on and the current in \( D_B \) is equal to \( I_0 \). At \( t_0^+ \), the current soft switching occurs, that is to say, the voltage across the power MOSFET decreases to 0 volt under a zero current and no switching losses appear. After \( t_0 \), the current flowing in \( L \) increases linearly until it reaches the input current \( I_0 \) added with the recovery diode \( I_{RM} \), whereas the current flowing in \( D_B \) decreases linearly down to \( -I_{RM} \).

*Figure 7* shows the behavior of these currents taking account of the \( m_2 \) transformer ratio. The simplified \( \frac{dI}{dt} \) expression in transistor \( TR \) and the boost diode \( DB \) can be estimated using

\[
\frac{dl_{BB}}{dt} = \frac{dl_{TR}}{dt} = \frac{V_{out} - V_{NS2}}{L}
\]

and

\[
V_{NS2} = \frac{(V_{out} - V_{mains})m_2}{1 + m_2}
\]

At \( t_0^+ \), the \( C_{oss} \) capacitance of the power MOSFET is discharged in its \( R_{DS(on)} \). Unlike standard PFC circuits, the voltage applied across the drain is lower because the reflected
V_{NS2} voltage is subtracted from V_{OUT}. This behavior provides the BC\(^2\) circuit with a benefit since under the low output load, power saving occurs in the system and it can be evaluated using:

\[ P_{C_{OSS}-t0} = \frac{1}{2} C_{OSS} \left( V_{out}^2 - \left( \frac{V_{out} + V_{mains} m_2}{1 + m_2} \right)^2 \right) F_{switching} \]

Thus, the BC\(^2\) reduces switch-off losses too.

### 2.2.3 Phase \(t_1\) to \(t_2\)

**Figure 10. Equivalent circuit \(t_1\) to \(t_2\)**

At \(t_1^+\), the boost diode \(D_B\) turns off, and an overcurrent \(I_{RM}\) is stored in the small inductor. This overcurrent discharges the \(D_B\) junction capacitance linearly. At the same time, the voltage polarity across the main inductor changes until it reaches \(D_1\) diode conduction. At this time, the overcurrent \(I_{RM}\) is reduced by the transformer ratio \(m_1\) and is sent to the main inductor.

Thus, the current flowing through \(N_{S1}\) contributes to charge the internal coil magnetization \(L_{B}\) at the same time as the \(N_p\) winding biased by the mains voltage. The \(I_{RM}\) current flowing in \(D_1\) decreases down to reach 0 A thanks to the reflected voltage \(V_{NS1}\) that it is given by:

\[ V_{NS1} = -\frac{V_{mains} m_1}{1 - m_1} \]

and

\[ t_{D1-ON} = \frac{I_{RM} L (1 - m_1)}{V_{mains} m_1} \]

To guarantee a soft switching behavior in discontinuous mode, the current in \(D_1\) should reach 0 A before time \(t_3\). The \(t_{D1-ON}\) time trend supports the PFC application since the \(I_{RM}\) current is the largest when the \(V_{mains}\) voltage in the sinusoidal period is the highest. In addition, to cancel the \(D_1\) recovery current diode effect, the \(dI/dt\) \(D1\) is always low thanks to the low reflected voltage \(V_{NS1}\) and it is given by:

\[ \frac{dI_{D1}}{dt} = -\frac{V_{mains} m_1}{(1 - m_1) L} \]

Unfortunately, during this phase a high reverse voltage is applied across the boost diode \(D_B\):

\[ V_{DB\_reverse} = V_{out} + V_{NS1} + V_{NS2} = V_{out} + \frac{V_{mains} (m_1 + m_2)}{1 - m_1} \]
This feature requires a specific diode for this application, so ST has developed an optimized diode with an accurate trade-off between the $I_{RM}$ current value and its breakdown voltage.

### 2.2.4 Phase t<sub>2</sub> to t<sub>3</sub>

**Figure 11. Equivalent circuit t<sub>2</sub> to t<sub>3</sub>**

At $t_2$, the current in $D_1$ reaches 0 A and then the BC<sup>2</sup> works as a conventional power boost converter. As the power transistor stays on, the current in the main $L_B$ and the small $L$ inductor increases up to $I_1$ at time $t_3$.

### 2.2.5 Phase t<sub>3</sub> to t<sub>4</sub>

**Figure 12. Equivalent circuit t<sub>3</sub> to t<sub>4</sub>**

At $t_3$, the power transistor turns off. At this time the voltage across the MOSFET increases linearly as its $C_{OSS}$ capacitance is charged by the current stored in the small inductor $L$ to reach conduction in diode $D_2$. No overvoltage stress occurs on the power switch during the turn off. At the same time, the voltage polarity across the main inductor changes until it reaches $D_B$ diode conduction. As soon as the diodes conduct together, the output current is shared as shown in Figure 7. The current in $D_2$ starting at $I_1$, decreases due to the reflected voltage from $N_{S2}$ to reach 0 A with a low $dI/dt$. On the other hand, the current in $D_B$ rises to reach the nominal current at $t_4$. This shared current is a benefit for the BC<sup>2</sup> circuit. In the PFC application working under a lower mains voltage such as 90 V rms, the highest
The new ST solution - BC\textsuperscript{2}: energy recovery circuit

The application boost current is shared between DB and D\textsubscript{1} diodes. Therefore the conduction losses in the rectification stage are reduced. The reflected voltage V\textsubscript{NS2} and D\textsubscript{2} time conduction are given by:

\[ V_{\text{NS2}} = \frac{V_{\text{out}} - V_{\text{mains}}}{1 + m_2} \]

and

\[ t_{D2\_ON} = \frac{-I_0 L (1 + m_2)}{(V_{\text{out}} - V_{\text{mains}}) m_2} \]

The \( t_{D2\_ON} \) time trend supports the PFC application since the I\textsubscript{1} current is largest when the \( V_{\text{mains}} \) voltage range is lowest. Thus the discontinuous mode could be guaranteed in the BC\textsuperscript{2} circuit even under the worst case PFC applications such as high output load current under the minimum \( V_{\text{mains}} \) voltage range. In addition, to cancel the D\textsubscript{2} recovery current diode effect, the \( \frac{dI}{dt}_{D2} \) is always low due to the low reflected voltage \( V_{\text{NS2}} \) given by:

\[ \frac{dI}{dt}_{D2} = \frac{-(V_{\text{out}} - V_{\text{mains}}) m_2}{(1 + m_2) L} \]

### 2.2.6 Phase \( t_4 \) to \( t_5 \)

**Figure 13. Equivalent circuit \( t_4 \) to \( t_5 \)**

At \( t_4 \), the current in the D\textsubscript{2} reaches 0 A and then the BC\textsuperscript{2} works like a conventional power boost converter. Only the boost diode DB conducts. Due to the reflected voltage of NS\textsubscript{2}, the voltage across the power switch is lower than \( V_{\text{OUT}} \). Thus the \( C_{\text{OSS}} \) capacitor is discharged in the bulk capacitor and power saving occurs as the transistor turns on at \( t_0 \).
2.3 Electrical voltage stress in BC\(^2\)

Table 1 summarizes the maximum voltage across each semiconductor versus the phases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maximum voltages</th>
<th>Phases</th>
<th>Waveform expression</th>
<th>&gt; V(_{OUT})?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VR(_{TRmax})</td>
<td>t(_3) - t(_4)</td>
<td>V(_{OUT})</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VR(_{DBmax})</td>
<td>t(_1) - t(_2)</td>
<td>(\frac{V_{\text{mainsRMSmax}} \sqrt{2} \cdot (m_1 + m_2)}{1 + m_1} + V_{\text{OUT}})</td>
<td>YES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VR(_{D1max})</td>
<td>t(_0) - t(_1), t(_3) - t(_4)</td>
<td>(\frac{V_{\text{mainsRMSmax}} \sqrt{2} \cdot (m_1 + m_3)}{1 + m_2} + V_{\text{OUT}})</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VR(_{D2max})</td>
<td>t(_0) - t(_1), t(_1) - t(_2), t(_2) - t(_3)</td>
<td>V(_{OUT})</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The BC\(^2\) circuit needs to use a specific diode with a breakdown voltage higher than 600 V. Moreover, its recovery current should be optimized to avoid an higher current in the power transistor during the phase [t\(_1\)-t\(_2\)]. ST has developed specific diodes (STTH16BC065C, STTH10BC065C and STTH8BC065) for the BC\(^2\) circuit. They have been designed to sustain average currents of 5 to 8 A (depending on the application) and a repetitive reverse voltage V\(_{RRM}\) of 650 V.

2.4 Calculation of m\(_2\) and m\(_1\) ratios

To respect the discontinuous operating mode during the timing phases [t\(_1\)-t\(_2\)] and [t\(_3\)-t\(_4\)], the time t\(_d1\) and t\(_d2\) shown in Figure 7 should be always positive. According to the typical CCM PFC rules and both t\(_{D1\_ON}\) and t\(_{D2\_ON}\) expressions, it becomes easy to define the m\(_1\) and m\(_2\) transformer ratio conditions.

\[
m_2 > \frac{P_{IN \_max} \cdot V_{OUT} \cdot L \cdot F_s}{V_{\text{mainsRMSmax}} \cdot \sqrt{2} \cdot (V_{OUT} \cdot V_{\text{mainsRMSmax}} \cdot \sqrt{2}) \cdot (P_{IN \_max} \cdot V_{OUT} \cdot L)}
\]

and

\[
m_1 > \frac{(1 + m_2) \cdot I_{BAM \_max} \cdot L \cdot V_{OUT} \cdot F_s}{V_{\text{mainsRMSmax}} \cdot \sqrt{2} \cdot (V_{OUT} - V_{\text{mainsRMSmax}} \cdot \sqrt{2})}
\]

Where P\(_{IN}\) is the input PFC power, F\(_s\) is the switching frequency, V\(_{\text{mainsRMSmax}}\) is the maximum rms voltage range and the I\(_{BAM\_max}\) is the maximum current recovery under the turn-on dl/dt at its maximum operating junction condition.
2.5 Calculation of L

There are several ways to rate the inductance L. For instance, its turn-on dI/dt can be rated at 50 A/µs. Then, m_2 and m_1 are calculated taking into account the corresponding I_{RM} of diode D_B. However, the reverse voltage across the D_B, V_{RDB\_reverse}, must not exceed 75% of V_{RRM} to meet the system design rule, 75% x 650 = 487 V. If V_{RDB\_reverse} is higher than 487 V, the L value should be reduced. Therefore, the dI/dt of L and the I_{RM} diode of D_B increase as well. Thus, m_1 and m_2 should be recalculated to get V_{RDB\_reverse} below 487 V. But this calculation method does not optimize the inductance L and its size. Ultimately, a good rating should minimize L size. ST has developed a software tool using all the parameters: the I_{RM} diode of D_B versus the dI/dt and junction T_J, the L inductance tolerances, and the switch-on power losses. This tool is proposed to help designers to choose the best L inductance for its application. Table 2 shows two PFC examples using the BC^2 concept.

Table 2. Inductor and size versus the PFC types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case 1</th>
<th>Case 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Input power</strong></td>
<td>100 W &lt; Pin &lt; 1.1 kW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V_{mains_RMS}</td>
<td>90 V &lt; V_{mains_rms} &lt; 264 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V_{OUT}</td>
<td>400 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fs</td>
<td>95 kHz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inductor and size</td>
<td>3 µH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core reference</td>
<td>Core DR78381 (Datatronics Limited)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.6 Range of products

ST offers the BC^2 technology in a range of products:
- STTH8BC065DI, STTH8BC060D, STTH5BCF060 for applications from 800 W to 2 kW
- STTH16BC065CT, STTH5BCF060 for applications from 400 W to 1 kW
- STTH10BC065CT + STTH3BCF060U for applications from 280 W to 600 W
3 BC² design in 450 W PFC

A universal line range 90 to 264 V_mains rms 450 W power factor corrector working in hard switch mode using a standard average current mode PWM has been developed to highlight the benefits of the BC² circuit. Switch-on behavior, efficiencies and thermal measurements have been compared with 8 A SiC Schottky diodes.

3.1 BC² design

Specific diodes have been used for the BC² circuit such as the STTH8BC065 for D_B, the STTH8BC060 for D_2 and the STTH5BCF060 for D_1 as shown in Figure 6. The software tool provides the L inductance, m_1 and m_2 versus the switching frequency as given in Table 3.

Table 3. N_{S1}, N_{S2} and L versus Fs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fs (kHz)</th>
<th>72 kHz</th>
<th>140 kHz</th>
<th>200 kHz</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>N_p</td>
<td>52 turns, L_B = 600 µH, Tore METGLAS 4520MPEC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N_{S1}</td>
<td>2 turns</td>
<td>4 turns</td>
<td>5 turns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N_{S2}</td>
<td>8 turns</td>
<td>8 turns</td>
<td>5 turns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>8 µH</td>
<td>5.1 µH</td>
<td>2.7 µH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2 BC² typical waveforms

Figure 14 shows the typical BC² waveforms corresponding to a PFC working at 200 kHz. At each power MOSFET switch-on, soft current switching occurs. This curve highlights that D_1 and D_2 diodes always work in discontinuous mode; D_1 recovers the I_{RM} current from D_B whereas D_2 sends the current stored in L through the PFC bulk capacitor. As soon as D_2 turns off, the power voltage drain decreases as previously mentioned in the [t_0-t_1] and [t_4-t_5] phases and switch-off power losses are saved.
3.3 Efficiency comparison

BC\(^2\) and SiC diode efficiency have been compared under two \(V_{\text{mains}}\) levels as shown in Figure 15 (230 VRMS) and Figure 16 (90 VRMS) with a switching frequency equal to 140 kHz. At 230 VRMS, the BC\(^2\) circuit saves up to 2.25 W at full load and 1 W at 100 W compared to the 8 A SiC diode. Under low load, the reflected voltage from \(N_{S2}\) still improves the BC\(^2\) efficiency because the switch-off losses are lower than the SiC as described in the phase time \([t_0-t_1]\). As soon as the PFC works in discontinuous mode (< 100 W) the SiC and the BC\(^2\) have the same efficiency as shown in Figure 15.

Figure 15. Efficiency comparison at 230 V rms

At 90 V rms, the soft switching method benefits plus the power saving in the \(C_{\text{OSS}}\) discharge reinforces the benefit of the BC\(^2\) circuit. Up to 5.4 W is saved thanks to the BC\(^2\) at 450 W compared to the SiC diode and under low load, up to 1.7% is saved thanks to the switch-off power saving.
Figure 16. Efficiency comparison at 90 V rms

Figure 17. 450 W PFC efficiency versus three different output powers and three switching frequencies for $V_{\text{mains}}$ rms = 90 V

Figure 17 highlights the benefit of the BC$^2$ circuit soft switching method added to its COSS discharge power saving especially at low load.
3.4 Thermal measurement

The soft current switching method allows the power dissipation in the switch transistor to be reduced. *Figure 18* shows that a high thermal temperature difference (18 °C) occurs between the BC² and the SiC diode in the PFC application. For the same working junction temperature in the power transistor, the size of the thermal heatsink could be reduced. In this way, the space saving balances out the space from the small L inductor required by the BC² circuit. Therefore, the BC² circuit can have the same power density as the SiC diode solution. Nevertheless, the BC² efficiency decreases due to the power MOSFET $R_{DS(on)}$ thermal rising. *Figure 18* shows that 0.75 W should be removed from the 5.4 W measured in the efficiency comparison at 90 V rms. Even in this configuration, the BC² circuit has a better efficiency than the SiC diode. The BC² circuit has a better power density and efficiency criteria than the SiC diode.

Another consideration is that, for the same thermal heatsink, the Power MOSFET size could be reduced to further reduce the PFC cost.

*Figure 18. Thermal measurement comparison*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Power MOS thermal junction measurement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BC² circuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T_J(\text{avg}) = 72$ °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$R_{DS(on)}$ STP20NM50 $= 0.26$ Ω</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TR Cond. losses $= (0.26/2) \times 4.28^2 = 2.38$ W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SiC diode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$T_J(\text{avg}) = 90$ °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$R_{DS(on)}$ STP20NM50 $= 0.34$ Ω</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TR Cond. losses $= (0.34/2) \times 4.28^2 = 3.12$ W</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PFC : $V_{\text{rms}} = 90$ Vrms, $F_s = 140$ kHz, $P_{\text{OUT}} = 450$ W, $I_{\text{TRMS}} = 4.28$ A, $R_g = 47$ Ω
4 Conclusion

The BC$^2$ circuit uses the soft switching method with a unique non-dissipative recovery circuit. STMicroelectronics has introduced the specific diodes suited for the BC$^2$ concept to improve the CCM PFC performance as shown in Table 4.

This circuit supports the actual energy efficiency recommendation at 20%, 50% and 100% of rated power supplies.

Table 4. BC$^2$ benefits in 450 W PFC, 140 kHz

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria at 90 V rms</th>
<th>SiC diode</th>
<th>BC$^2$ circuit</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Efficiency</td>
<td>92.5%</td>
<td>93.7%</td>
<td>+1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power MOSFET temperature</td>
<td>90 °C</td>
<td>72 °C</td>
<td>-18 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Power density at iso-efficiency</td>
<td>State of art</td>
<td>Improve, save 5.4 W</td>
<td>+1.2% gain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMI</td>
<td>Acceptable with dI/dt &lt; 1000 A/µs</td>
<td>Acceptable with dI/dt &lt; 100 A/µs</td>
<td>Soft switching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boost rectification cost</td>
<td>&gt; 0.2 € per 100 W</td>
<td>&gt;&gt; 0.2 € per 100 W</td>
<td>Mass market</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5 References

3. Jim Noon, UC3855A/B High Performance Power Factor Preregulator -Texas Instrument- application report- SLUA146A
6 Revision history

Table 5. Document revision history

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Revision</th>
<th>Changes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-Nov-2010</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Initial release.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please Read Carefully:

Information in this document is provided solely in connection with ST products. STMicroelectronics NV and its subsidiaries (“ST”) reserve the right to make changes, corrections, modifications or improvements, to this document, and the products and services described herein at any time, without notice.

All ST products are sold pursuant to ST’s terms and conditions of sale.

Purchasers are solely responsible for the choice, selection and use of the ST products and services described herein, and ST assumes no liability whatsoever relating to the choice, selection or use of the ST products and services described herein.

No license, express or implied, by estoppel or otherwise, to any intellectual property rights is granted under this document. If any part of this document refers to any third party products or services it shall not be deemed a license grant by ST for the use of such third party products or services, or any intellectual property contained therein or considered as a warranty covering the use in any manner whatsoever of such third party products or services or any intellectual property contained therein.

UNLESS OTHERWISE SET FORTH IN ST’S TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE ST DISCLAIMS ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY WITH RESPECT TO THE USE AND/OR SALE OF ST PRODUCTS INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE (AND THEIR EQUIVALENTS UNDER THE LAWS OF ANY JURISDICTION), OR INFRINGEMENT OF ANY PATENT, COPYRIGHT OR OTHER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHT.

UNLESS EXPRESSLY APPROVED IN WRITING BY AN AUTHORIZED ST REPRESENTATIVE, ST PRODUCTS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED, AUTHORIZED OR WARRANTED FOR USE IN MILITARY, AIR CRAFT, SPACE, LIFE SAVING, OR LIFE SUSTAINING APPLICATIONS, NOR IN PRODUCTS OR SYSTEMS WHERE FAILURE OR MALFUNCTION MAY RESULT IN PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH, OR SEVERE PROPERTY OR ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE. ST PRODUCTS WHICH ARE NOT SPECIFIED AS “AUTOMOTIVE GRADE” MAY ONLY BE USED IN AUTOMOTIVE APPLICATIONS AT USER’S OWN RISK.

Resale of ST products with provisions different from the statements and/or technical features set forth in this document shall immediately void any warranty granted by ST for the ST product or service described herein and shall not create or extend in any manner whatsoever, any liability of ST.

ST and the ST logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of ST in various countries.

Information in this document supersedes and replaces all information previously supplied.

The ST logo is a registered trademark of STMicroelectronics. All other names are the property of their respective owners.

© 2010 STMicroelectronics - All rights reserved

STMicroelectronics group of companies
Australia - Belgium - Brazil - Canada - China - Czech Republic - Finland - France - Germany - Hong Kong - India - Israel - Italy - Japan - Malaysia - Malta - Morocco - Philippines - Singapore - Spain - Sweden - Switzerland - United Kingdom - United States of America

www.st.com

22/22 Doc ID 17975 Rev 1