

INTRODUCTION

power Electronics is partly belongs to power engg & part belongs to electronics engg.

(i) power engg. is consult with generation, transmission, distribution & utilization of power or energy at high efficiency.

(ii) Electronics engg. deals with signal or data in distribution less, production, transmission & reception, less in low power cable & efficiency.

Power Electronics is the branch of engg. that deals with the apparatus or equipment working on the principle of electronics, but rated at power cable rather than signal cable.

(iii) Some family member of power electronics are

- (i) SCR
 - (ii) GTO
 - (iii) MOSFET
 - (iv) UJT
 - (v) TRIAC
 - (vi) DIAC
- ... etc

Application of P.E.

→ Aerospace

(i) Setlight power supply

(ii) Aircraft power supply

→ Commercial

(i) Heating

(ii) Air Conditioning

(iii) Refrigeration

(iv) Computers & office application

(v) Uninterruptible power supply

(vi) Circuit breakers

(vii) Light dimmer

→ Industrial application:

(i) Torque

(ii) Cooling System

(iii) blowers

(iv) pump

- (v) Compressor
- (vi) Transformer tap changer
- (vii) rolling
- (viii) textile
- (ix) cement mill
- (x) welding

- Residential application
- (i) A.C
 - (ii) Refrigerator
 - (iii) Sewing machine
 - (iv) food mixer
 - (v) Computer
 - (vi) Washing machine

- Telecommunication
- (i) Battery charger & ups

- Transportation
- (i) Street light
 - (ii) Trolley
 - (iii) Electric ~~rack~~ rakes
 - (iv) Electric locomotive & traction system.

- Utility system
- (i) HVDC
 - (ii) Excitation system
 - (iii) VAR compensation
 - (iv) circuit breakers, etc

Advantage & disadvantages of P.E.

- (i) High efficiency due to low loss in power semiconductor devices
- (ii) high reliability
- (iii) Long life & less maintenance
- (iv) Fast dynamic response
- (v) Small size & less price weight
- (vi) cost is less.

Disadvantages

- (i) Generates harmonics in the system reactance
- (ii) Cyclo converters operate at low input p.f.
- (iii) Heavy low overload capacity
- (iv) Regeneration of power is difficult.

power Semi Conductor devices

- (i) Diode
- (ii) Thyristor family (SCR, LASCR, MCT, RCT, GTO, TRIAC, SITH)
- (iii) power transistor family (BJT, MOSFET, IGBT, SIT, IGBT)

In 1957 silicon based semiconductor device called thyristor was introduced G.E.C. (USA) in bell lab.

* TRIAC, DIAC, PUT \rightarrow (programmable unijunction transistor)

G.T.O \rightarrow (Gate turn off thyristor)

R.C.T \rightarrow (Reverse Conducting thyristor)

Etc are similar characters as thyristor.

So the whole family called as the thyristor family.

\rightarrow The oldest family member of thyristor is silicon controlled rectifier (SCR) is the mostly used device now a days.



THYRISTOR + TRANSISTOR = THYRISTOR

Thyristor is four layer 3 junction p-n-p-n semiconductor switching device.

\rightarrow It has 3 terminals anode, cathode & gate.

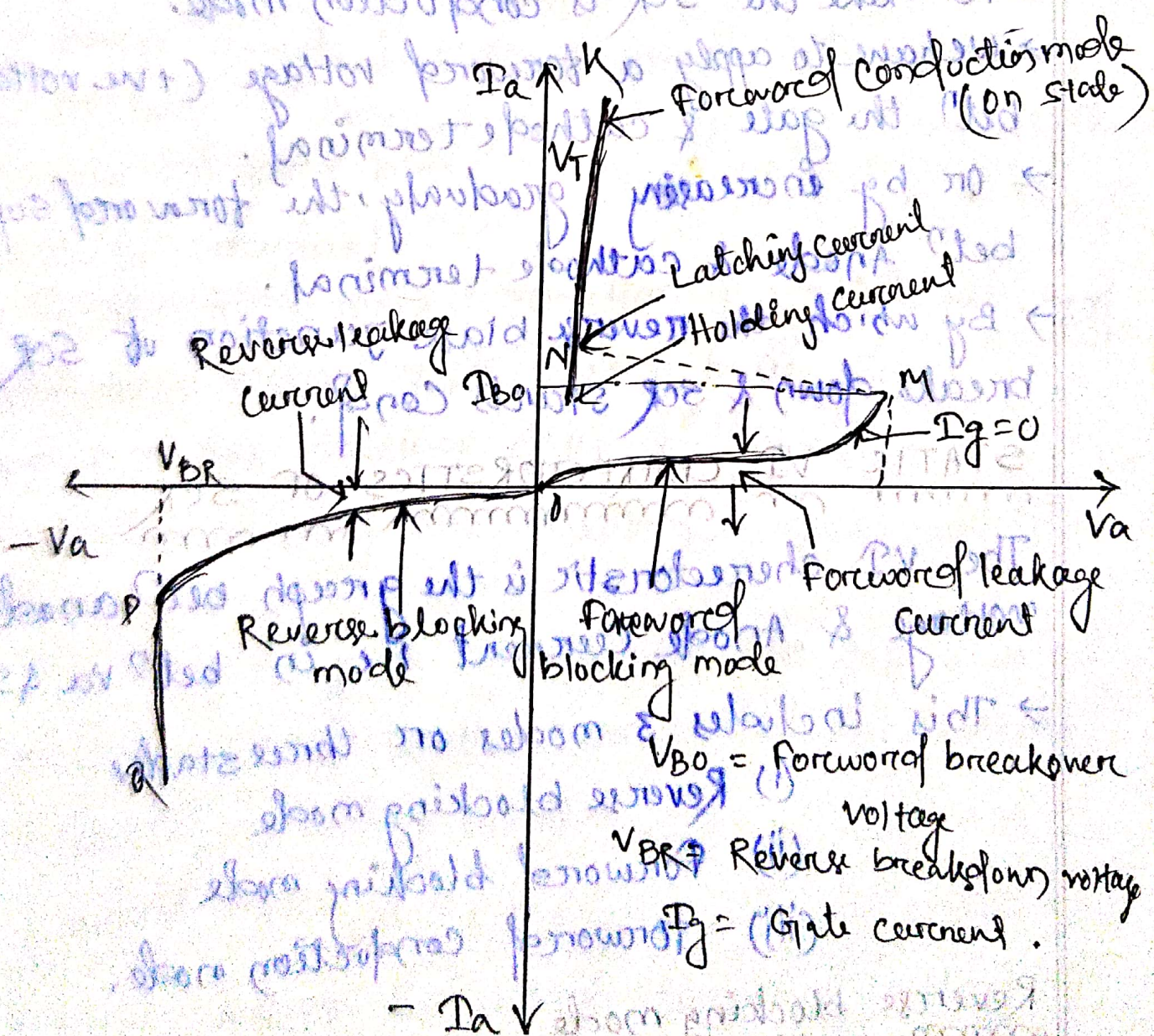
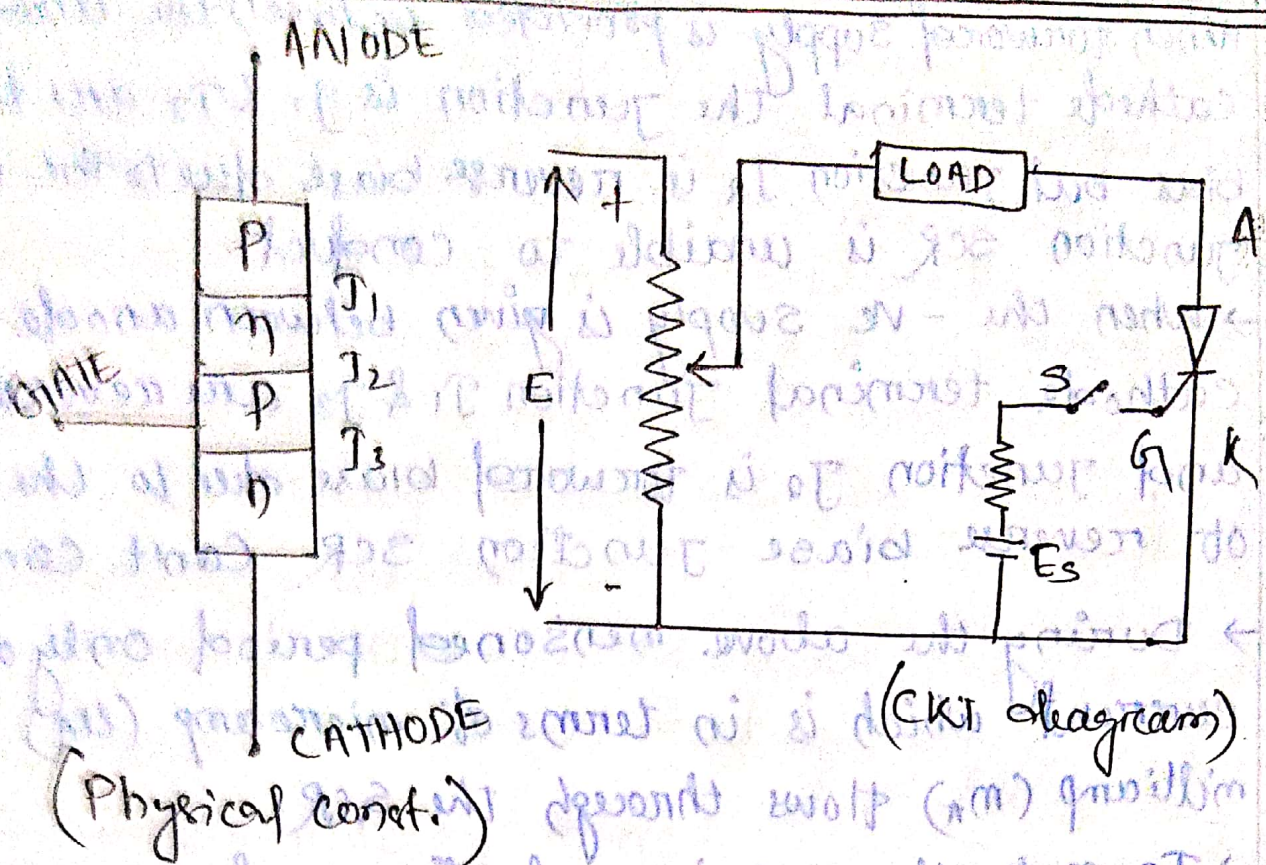
\rightarrow It has 4 layer of alternate p type & n type silicon materials, and the junction are P1, N1, P2, N2.

\rightarrow Gate terminal is placed near the cathode terminal.

\rightarrow Outer 'p' region is connected to anode outer 'n' region is connected to cathode & inner 'p' region connected to gate.

\rightarrow As SCR is made up of silicon material & operates as a rectifier it is called as silicon control rectifier.

\rightarrow SCR is a unidirectional device that allows current to flow from anode to cathode.



When forward supply is provided between the anode & cathode terminal the junction J_1 & J_3 are forward bias but junction J_2 is reverse bias due to the reverse junction SCR is unable to conduct.

→ When the -ve supply is given between anode & cathode terminal junction J_1 & J_3 are reverse bias and junction J_2 is forward bias due to the presence of reverse bias junction SCR can't conduct.

→ During the above mentioned period only a leakage current which is in terms of microamp (μA) & milliamp ($m A$) flows through the SCR.

→ To make the SCR in conduction mode.

→ we have to apply a forward voltage (+ve voltage) betⁿ the gate & cathode terminal.

→ Or by increasing gradually, the forward supply betⁿ anode & cathode terminal.

→ By which the reverse bias junction of SCR breaks down & SCR starts conduction.

STATIC V-I CHARACTERISTICS OF SCR

The V-I characteristic is the graph betⁿ anode voltage & anode current i.e. is betⁿ V_a & I_a

→ This includes 3 modes or three states

(i) Reverse blocking mode

(ii) Forward blocking mode

(iii) Forward conduction mode.

Reverse blocking mode

→ Here -ve supply is provided to betⁿ anode & cathode terminal i.e. anode is connected with -ve terminal of the supply & cathode is connected +ve

terminal of the supply.

→ Due to which junction J_1 & J_3 are reverse biased & middle junction J_2 is forward biased.

→ Therefore SCR is unable to conduct.

→ If we will increase the $-ve$ supply gradually at a particular voltage reverse biased junction breaks down & a rapid current will flow instantly which will damage the device.

→ The voltage at which the reverse junction is broken down is known as reverse breakdown voltage (V_{BR}).

Forward blocking mode

→ When anode is connected with $+ve$ terminal & cathode is connected with $-ve$ terminal of the supply forward bias is applied betⁿ anode & cathode terminal.

→ At this time period junction J_1 & J_3 are forward bias & junction J_2 is reverse bias.

→ Due to the presence of reverse junction SCR is unable to conduct. Only leakage current will flow through it.

→ By providing a $+ve$ supply also SCR is in blocking state. So this time period is known as forward blocking mode.

Forward conduction mode

→ When anode to cathode forward voltage is increased gradually by keeping the gate terminal open the reverse biased junction J_2 will have an avalanche breakdown.

→ The "V_m" voltage which reverse junction breaks is known as forward break over voltage (V_{BO})

→ as the junction breaks SCR starts conduction & current will gradually increase to its conduction point & voltage drops down to 1 to 2 volt this voltage is called as on-state voltage drop.

→ after this by increasing voltage current will increase up to its maximum limit & makes the SCR conduction. So this mode is known as forward conduction mode.

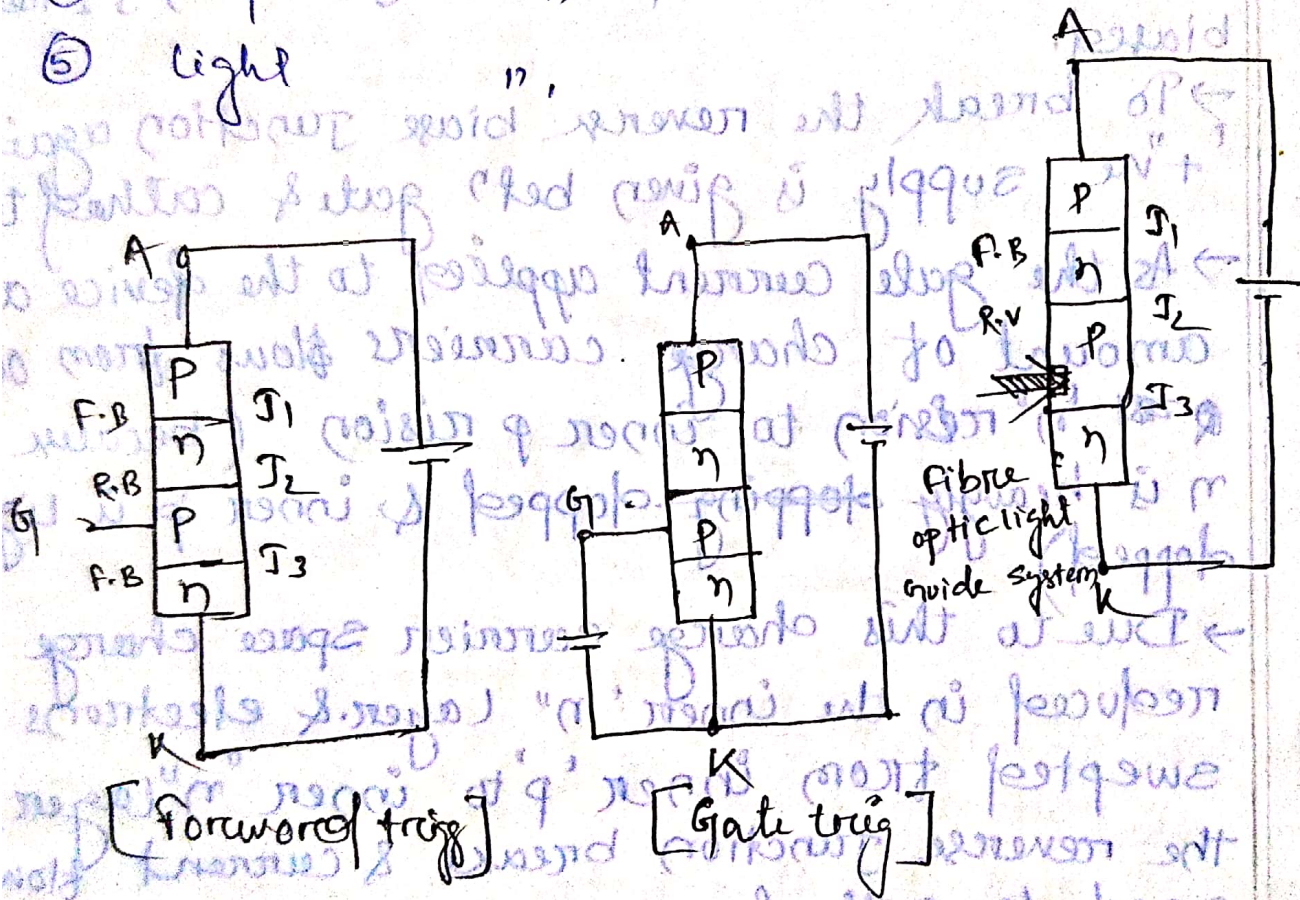
→ The minimum value of anode current (I_a) at which SCR starts conduction is known as latching current.

→ Once the thyristor starts conduction gate loses its control at this time the thyristor can be turned off by holding current.

→ holding current is the current of minimum value of anode current below which SCR will turn off.

Turn On Methods of SCR

- ① Forward voltage triggering
- ② Gate triggering
- ③ $\frac{dv}{dt}$
- ④ Temperature
- ⑤ light



Forward voltage triggering

Hence a forward voltage is applied in betⁿ anode & cathode terminal, by gradually increasing this voltage the reverse junction J_2 breaks down & SCR starts conduction.

note

The working principle is same as forward condⁿ mode.

Gate triggering

This is a simple, reliable & efficient method of triggering.

→ At first a forward supply is provided betⁿ anode & cathode terminal. due to which junction J_1 & J_3 are forward biased & junction J_2 reverse biased.

→ To break the reverse bias junction again a +ve supply is given betⁿ gate & cathode terminal.

→ As the gate current applied to the device a large amount of charge carriers flows from outer n region to inner p region. (because outer n is heavily doped & inner p is lightly doped)

→ Due to this charge carrier space charge is reduced in the inner n layer & electrons swept from inner p to inner n layer, thus the reverse junction breaks & current flows from anode to cathode.

→ $V_{BO} = 2 \times V_s$ (V_{BO} breakover voltage)

→ Once SCR starts conduction gate loses its control & this terminal can be removed.

→ The range of gate current is lies 20 milli amp to 200 milli amp.

note (i) Latching current is the minimum current at which thyristor starts conduction.

(ii) Holding current is the minimum current below which thyristor gets turned off.

$\frac{dV}{dt}$ triggering
mmmmmm

With forward voltage across anode and cathode & gate terminal open. Junction J_1, J_3 forward biased, junction J_2 reverse biased.

→ The reverse biased junction makes the thyristor behave like a capacitor

→ The charging current of capacitor $i_c = \frac{dq}{dt}$
 $= \frac{d}{dt} (C \cdot V_a)$ [where C is the capacitor
 $V_a =$ anode volt.]
 $= \frac{dV_a}{dt} + V_a \frac{dC}{dt}$ [As capacitance is const.]

$$i_c = \frac{C dV_a}{dt}$$

Temperature triggering
mmmmmm

During forward blocking mode most of the applied voltage appears across reverse junction J_2

→ This voltage associated with a leakage current, by increasing the supply voltage the leakage current increases. as forward current increases the temperature of the junction also increases.

→ At a particular temperature, within safe limit of temperature the reverse junction breaks & SCR starts conduction.

Light triggering method
mmmmmm

Here the light is provided through fiber optic lightguide system, this light is applicable to break the reverse junction & makes the SCR to conduct.

This triggering methode is used in light activated Silicon control rectifier (LASCR)
→ Application :- HVDC (High voltage d.c. transmission system)

(ii) Series parallel combination of SCR.

Switching Characteristics of thyristor

→ It is otherwise known as dynamic or transient characteristics.

→ its divided in to two type (i) Turn on characteristics

→ Thyristor leads to different voltage and current during turn on & turn off is known as switching characteristics.

Turn On characteristics :-

→ The diff. voltages and current during turn on time is known as turn on characteristics.

→ The transition time from forward blocking mode to forward conduction mode i.e. off state to on state is called as turn on time.

Turn on time = delay time + risetime + Spread time

$$T_{on} = T_d + T_r + T_s \quad \text{[total takes 1 to 4 } \mu\text{s)}$$

Blocking state :-

Here gate voltage (V_g) is maximum & anode voltage (V_a) well, state current (I_g) gradually increases from zero and anode current (I_a) is equals to leakage current (I_l), power loss is minimum.

delay time :-

V_g is maximum V_a decreases to zero $0.9 V_a$. I_a increases to $0.1 I_a$. I_g increases to $0.9 I_g$. power loss also increases

Rise time (T_R) :-

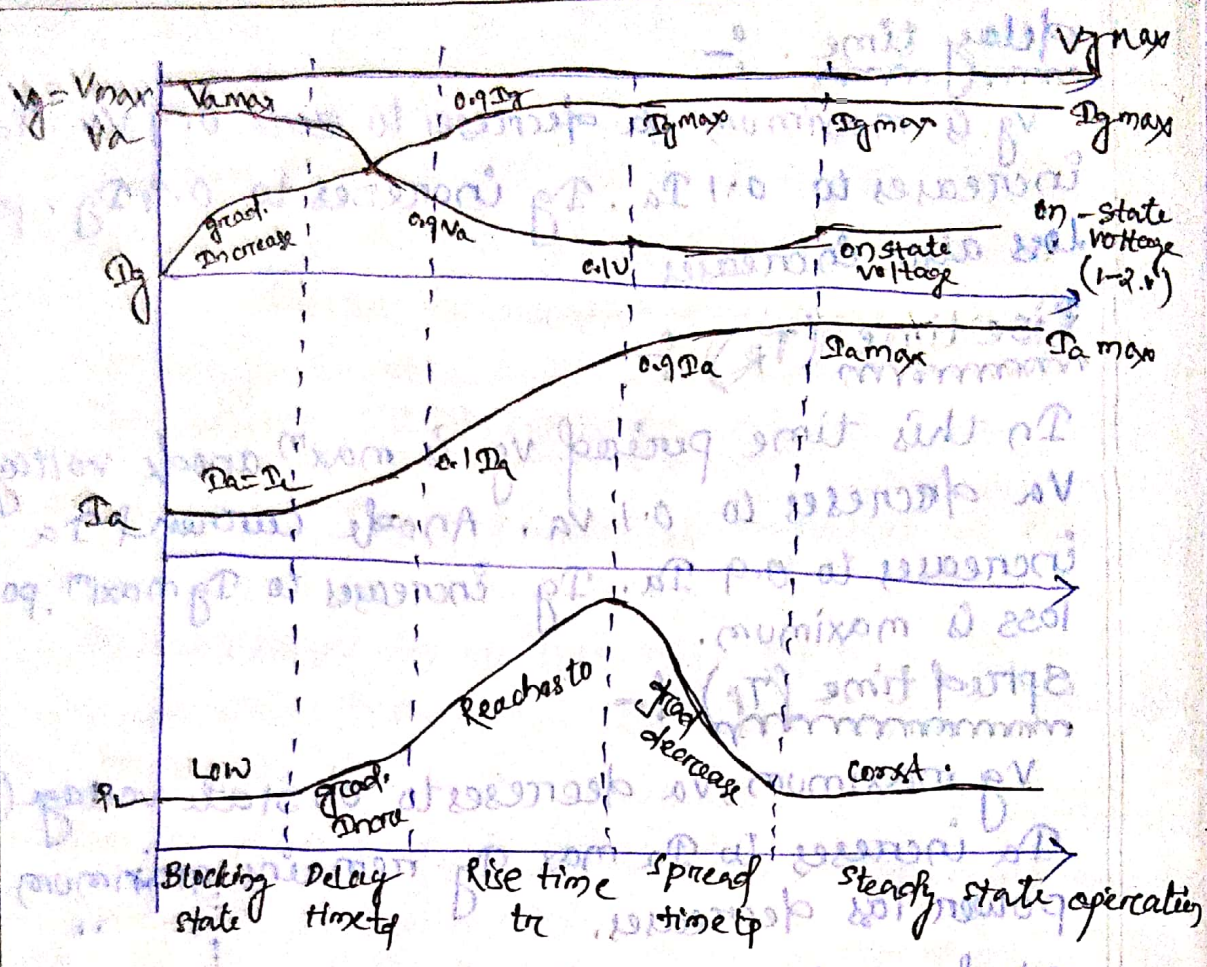
In this time period V_g is max^m anode voltage V_a decreases to $0.1 V_a$. Anode current I_a increases to $0.9 I_a$. I_g increases to I_g max^m. power loss is maximum.

Spped time (T_P) :-

V_g maximum, V_a decreases to on state voltage (V_{on}) I_a increases to I_a max I_g remains maximum. power loss decreases.

Steady state :-

$V_g = V_{gmax}$ $I_a = I_{amax}$ power loss Const.
 $V_a = \text{on state voltage}$ $I_g = I_{gmax}$



[Turn - On - characteristics]

Blocking state
 $V_g = V_{g \max}$
 $V_a = V_{a \max}$
 $I_g =$ gradually increasing
 $I_a =$ leakage current
 $P_L =$ Less

Delay time
 $V_g = V_{g \max}$
 $V_a \geq 0.9 V_a$
 $I_g = 0.9 I_g$
 $I_a = 0.1 I_a$
 $P_L =$ increases

Rise time
 $V_g = V_{g \max}$
 $V_a = 0.1 V_a$
 $I_g = I_{g \max}$
 $I_a = 0.9 I_a$
 $P_L =$ increases

Spread time
 $V_g \geq V_{g \max}$
 $I_g = I_{g \max}$
 $V_a =$ on-state voltage
 $I_a = I_{a \max}$
 $P_L =$ decreases

Steady state
 $V_g = V_{g \max}$
 $I_g = I_{g \max}$
 $V_a =$ on state voltage
 $I_a = I_{a \max}$
 $P_L =$ const.

Turn off characteristics

The transition time from forward conduction state (on state) to forward blocking state (off state) is known as turn off time of SCR.

→ The turning off process is known as commutation process.

→ Turn off = Reverse recovery time + Gate recovery time

$$[t_q = T_{rr} + T_{gr}]$$

→ Slow turn off time is 50 to 100 micro sec and fast turn off time is 3 to 50 micro sec.

* Once the thyristor is on gate loses its control, the SCR can be turn off by reducing the anode current I_a below holding current (I_H).
→ If forward voltage is applied to the SCR at this moment (at $I_a = 0$) the device will not be able to block this forward voltage & again starts conduction.

→ To overcome this a reverse voltage is applied to the SCR.

→ At a time period of some excess charge carriers are present in the 4 layers J1, J2, J3, J4.

→ These charge carriers should be removed by apply a reverse voltage.

→ 60% of charge carriers from junction J1 & J3 are removed within time period t_1 to t_2 .

→ Remaining 40% of the charge carriers from junction J2 & J4 removed by the time period t_2 to t_3 .

→ Both these time periods are combined called as reverse recovery time (T_{rr})

→ To clear the junction J₂ reverse voltage is maintained, due to which recombination occurs & the junction clears out. This time period is called as gate recovery time (T_{gr}) this is the instant from t_3 to t_4 .

→ At instant t_4 junction J₂ recovers & forward voltage can be applied.

→ ~~practically~~ practically thyristor requires some extra time to turn off. This is called as commutation time (t_c)

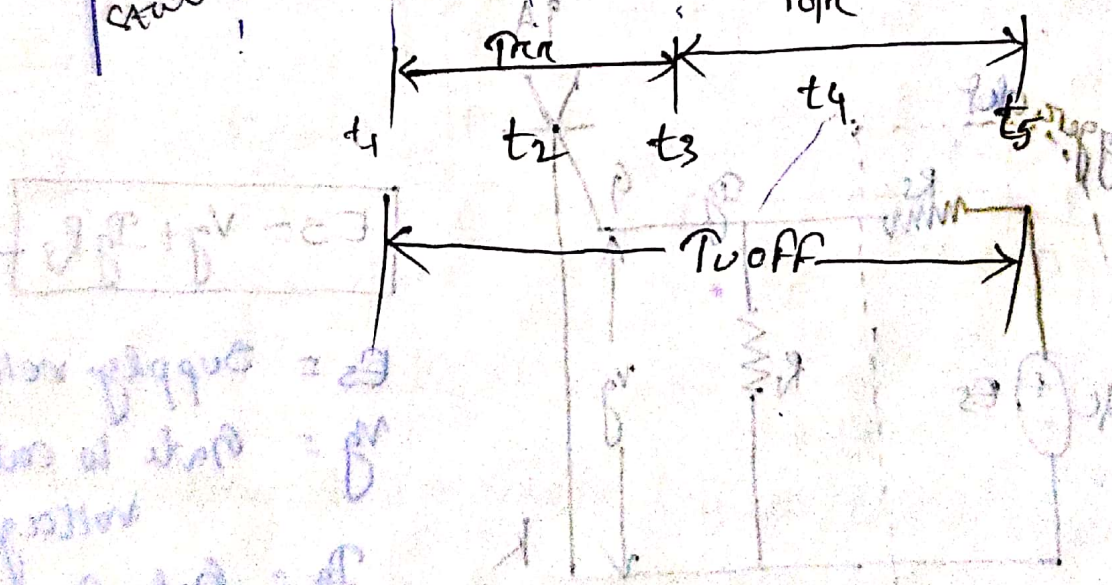
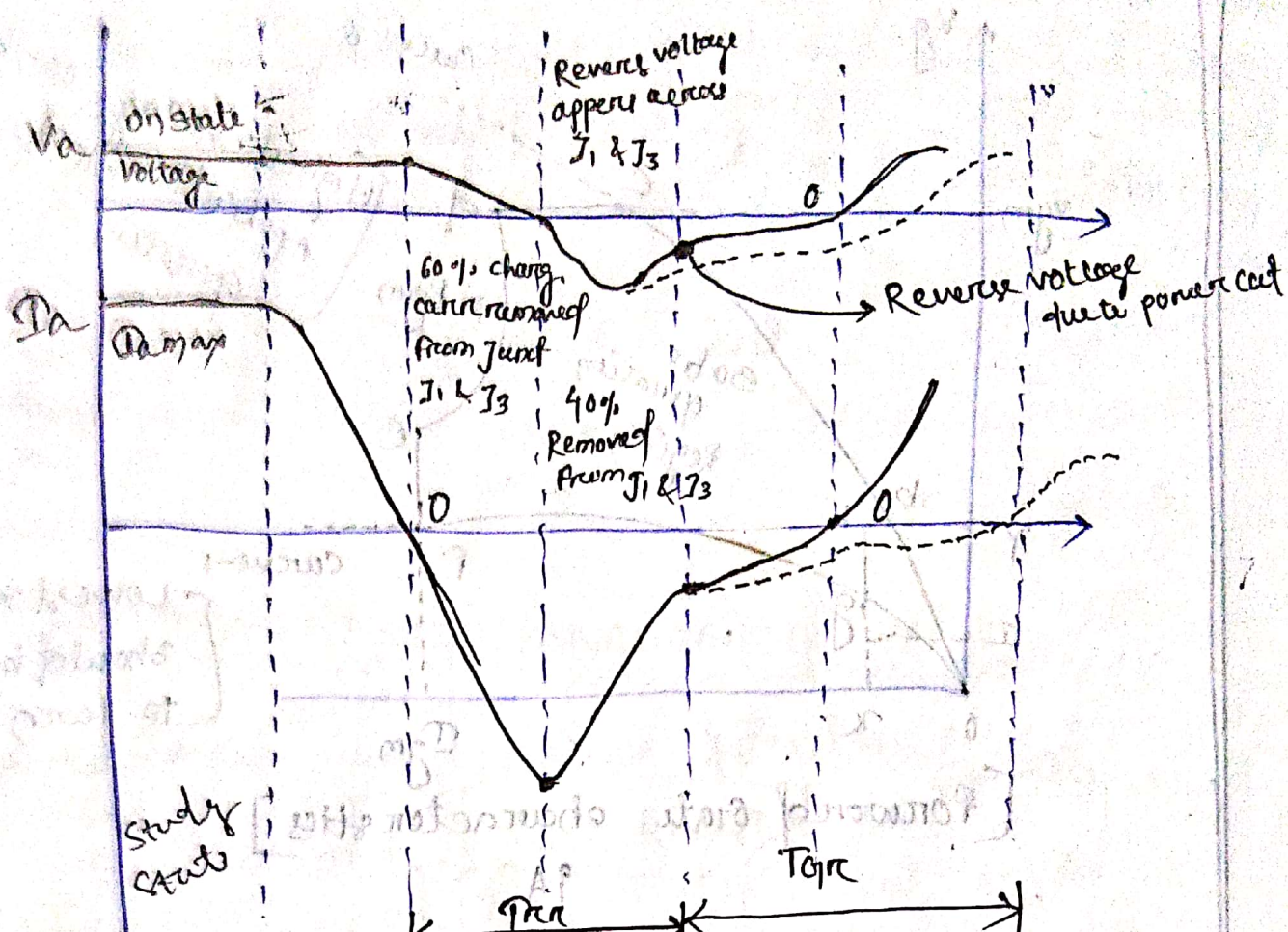
→ For general turn off (t_c) must be greater than (t_g)

→ If ($t_g > t_c$) device will turn on at undesired instant. This process is called as commutation failure.

→ Turn off time is the time betⁿ the instant anode current becomes zero & SCR regains its blocking capability

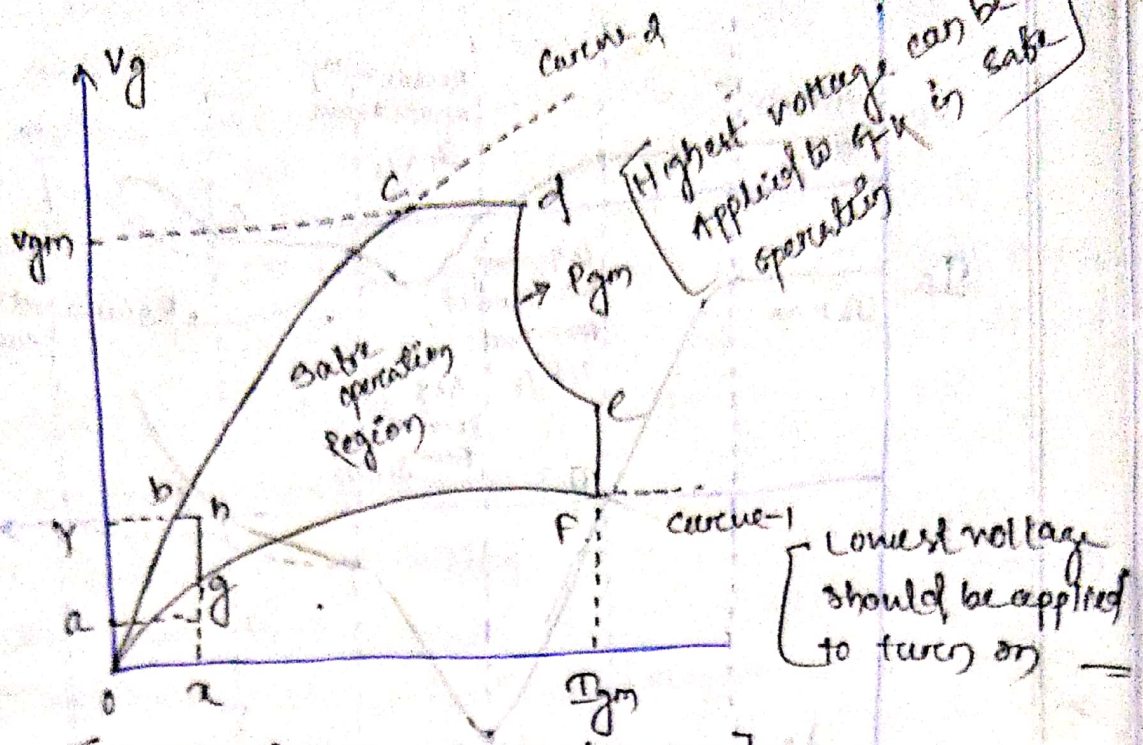
OR
→ It is the time in which all the charge carriers must be removed from J₁ layer & junction

→ Commutation time t_c is the time between instant anode current becomes zero to reverse voltage reaches to zero.

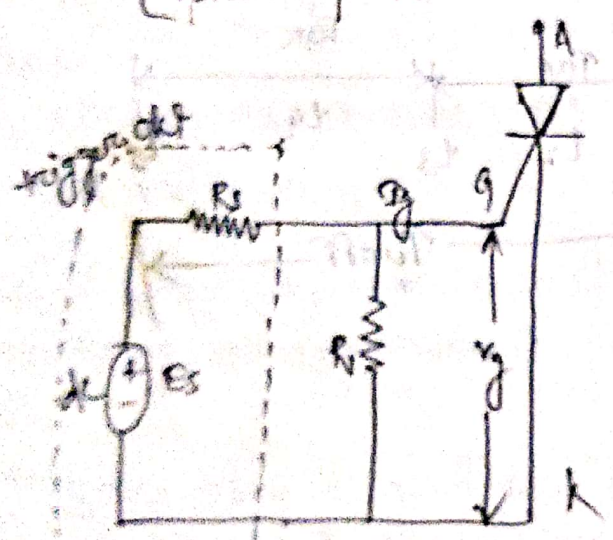


$V_s = \text{supply voltage}$
 $R = \text{resistor in circuit}$
 $f = \text{firing angle}$
 $R_L = \text{load resistance}$
 $R_T = \text{thyristor resistance}$
 $R_{sc} = \text{series resistor}$

[Power thyristor (SCR)]
 The thyristor is a semiconductor device that can conduct current in one direction only when it is triggered. It is used in power electronics for switching and power control. The thyristor is a four-layer semiconductor device (p-n-p-n) with three junctions. It is normally in a non-conducting state until it is triggered by a gate current. Once triggered, it remains in a conducting state until the current through it falls below a certain level.



[forward gate characteristics]



[Gate triggering ckt]

$$E_s = V_g + I_g R_g$$

- E_s = Supply voltage
- V_g = Gate to cathode voltage
- I_g = Gate current

- R_s = Source resistance
- R_g = Provides easy path for leakage current

By applying a gate triggering ckt the SCR can be operated only within its safe operating region.
 → If the SCR will operate beyond curve 1 or curve 2 or I_{gm} region, the junction J_3 will destroy and SCR will be damaged.
 → Equation 1 is written in terms of max gate voltage.

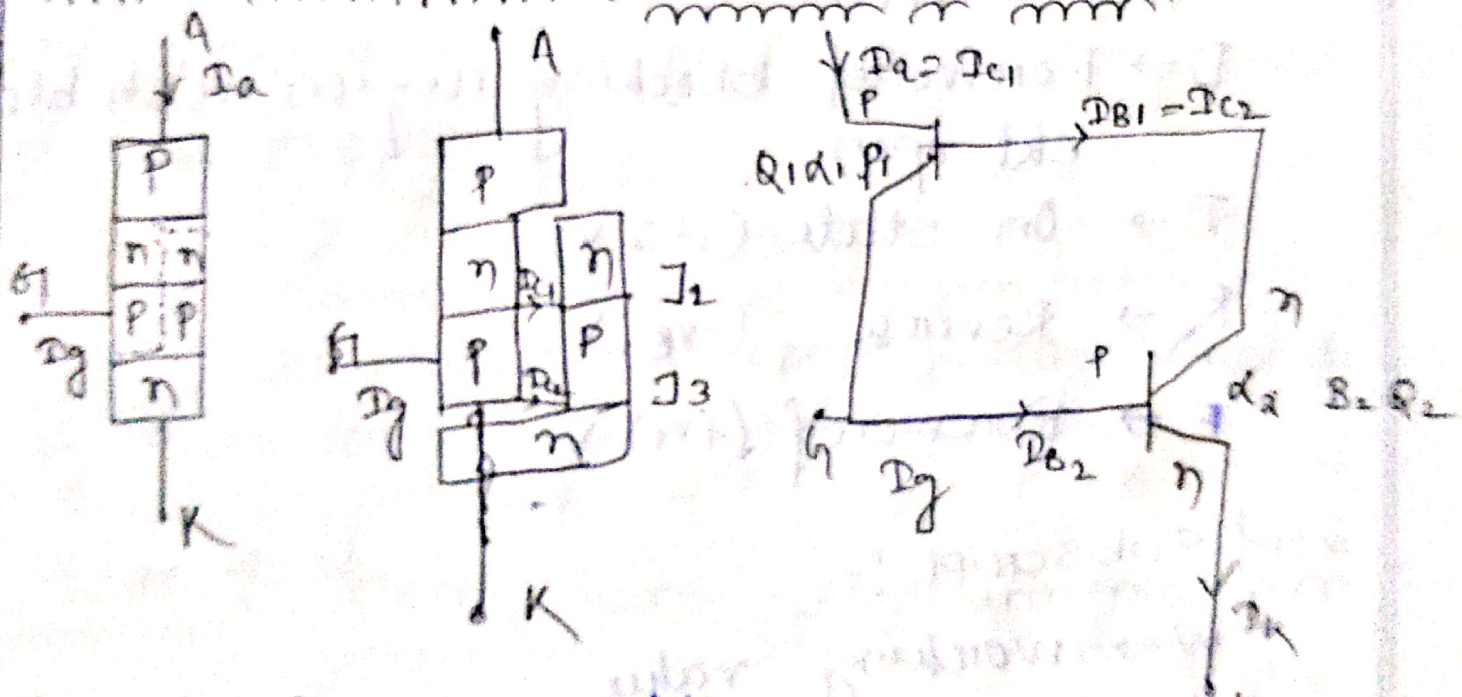
& maximum rate current, if we will right in terms of minimum gate current and minimum gate voltage then E_s is given by $E_s = \left(I_{gmn} + \frac{V_{gmn}}{R_s} \right) R_s + V_{gmn}$

I_{gmn} = minimum gate current

V_{gmn} = " " voltage

(2)

TWO TRANSISTOR ANALOGY OF S.C.R



By bisecting two middle layers the 4 layer PNPN SCR converted into two transistors one is PNP & another is NPN transistor this is known as two transistor analogy or model of thyristor as we know transistors have three terminals as collector base & emitter.

THYRISTOR RATINGS

Thyristor rating indicates voltage, current power & temp limits within which thyristor can be used without any damage.

The disadvantage of thyristor is it has low thermal time constant.

Subscription

1st Subscription

D → Forward blocking region with block ckt open

T → On state (1-2 V)

R → Reverse (-VR) V.

F → Forward (+VF) V.

2nd Subscript :-

W → working value

R → Repetitive value

S → Surge or non repetitive value

T → Trigger

3rd Subscript

M → Maximum or peak value.

Note

A → Anode

K → Cathode

G → Gate

V_{DWM} :- peak working forward blocking voltage.
It is the maximum forward blocking voltage that a thyristor can withstand during its working.

V_{DRM} :- peak repetitive forward blocking volt.
It is the peak transient voltage the transistor can withstand repeatedly in its forward blocking mode.

V_{DSM} :- peak surge forward voltage
It is the max^m forward surge voltage that doesn't repeat.

V_{RWM} :- peak working reverse voltage
It is the maximum reverse voltage that a thyristor can withstand repeatedly.

V_{RSM} :- peak surge reverse voltage
It is the peak value of reverse surge voltage that will not repeat.

V_{RRM} :- peak repeatedly reverse voltage
It is the peak reverse transient voltage that occurs repeatedly.

V_T :- On state voltage drop
It is the voltage drop between anode and cathode with specific on state current.

Forward $\frac{dV}{dt}$ Rating

The rate of rise of forward anode to cathode voltage.

Thyristor protection

Thyristor should be operated with its specific rating of voltage & current for sometime

- (i) $\frac{di}{dt}$ is very large during turn on
- (ii) $\frac{dv}{dt}$ is very high, causes false triggering
- (iii) Spurious signal across gate and cathode turns on the SCR.
- (iv) over voltage
- (v) over current.

may lead to as normal operating condⁿ which should be protected to prevent the device from damage.

→ protection generally following types

- (i) $\frac{di}{dt}$ protection
- (ii) $\frac{dv}{dt}$ protection
- (iii) over voltage protection
- (iv) over current
- (v) gate protection

$\frac{di}{dt}$ protection

When thyristor is forward bias and turn on by a gate signal and current being should flow across reverse junction.

→ Current spreads hole area of the junction very fast.

If the rate of rise of anode current i.e. $\frac{di}{dt}$ is large as compared to the speed velocity of carriers local hotspot will form near junction gradually this increases and very damage the device.

→ For limiting the hotspot a series inductor of very small value called $\frac{di}{dt}$ inductor is connected with anode ckt.

→ $\frac{di}{dt}$ should like 20-500 AMP/m.s.

$\frac{dv}{dt}$ protection :-

If the rate of rise of suddenly applied voltage across thyristor is high the device gets turn on.

→ This is called as a $\frac{dv}{dt}$ turn on which leads to false triggering of SCR.

→ This can be avoided by using snubber ckt in parallel with the device.

$\frac{dv}{dt}$ should lie in the range 20-500 V/m sec.

Snubber ckt

Consist of series combination of resistance and capacitor in parallel with SCR.

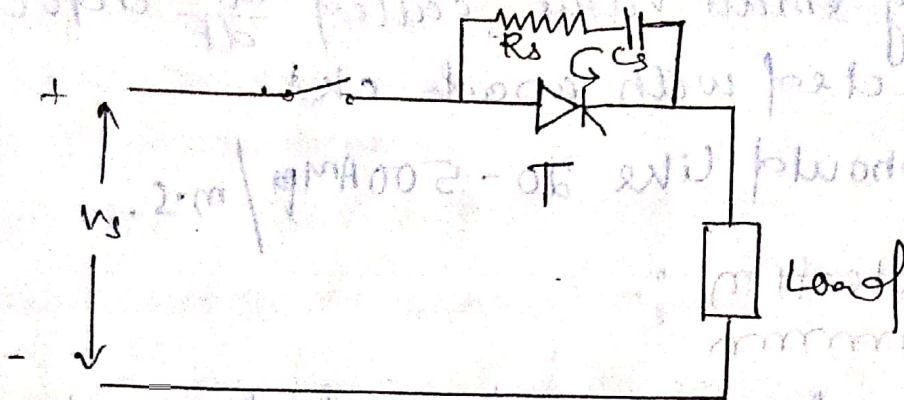
→ The capacitor prevents unwanted $\frac{dv}{dt}$ triggering of SCR resistance damped rising oscillation and limits the current.

→ When switch is closed a sudden voltage appears behave like a short ckt and voltage.

across SCR is zero.

→ gradually with time voltage builds up slowly and $\frac{dv}{dt}$ is less.

→ SCR fired capacitor discharge through thyristor and $I = \frac{V_c}{R_g}$ at this time resistance resistor limits the current.



→ provides local path for internal overvoltage

→ Thems over voltage oscillation.

→ limits $\frac{dv}{dt}$

Over voltage protection

Thyristor is sensitive to over voltage transient which leads to thyristor failure the main cause of transient over voltage is falls turn on of SCR or permanent damage to device due to reverse breakdown.

→ over voltage is two type (i) Internal overvoltage (ii) External overvoltage

→ Internal over voltage is caused by operation of thyristor large voltage generated in terms during commutation of SCR.

- The reverse recovery current rises to its pic value after if $\frac{di}{dt}$ a large amount of transient is produce.
- Its internal overvoltage may damage the scr
- External overvoltage is caused by (i) supply line
- (ii) load ckt (iv) Transformer
- (iii) lightning (v) Interruption of current in the inductive ckt.
- These leads to overvoltage and produce large fault current lastly damage the device.

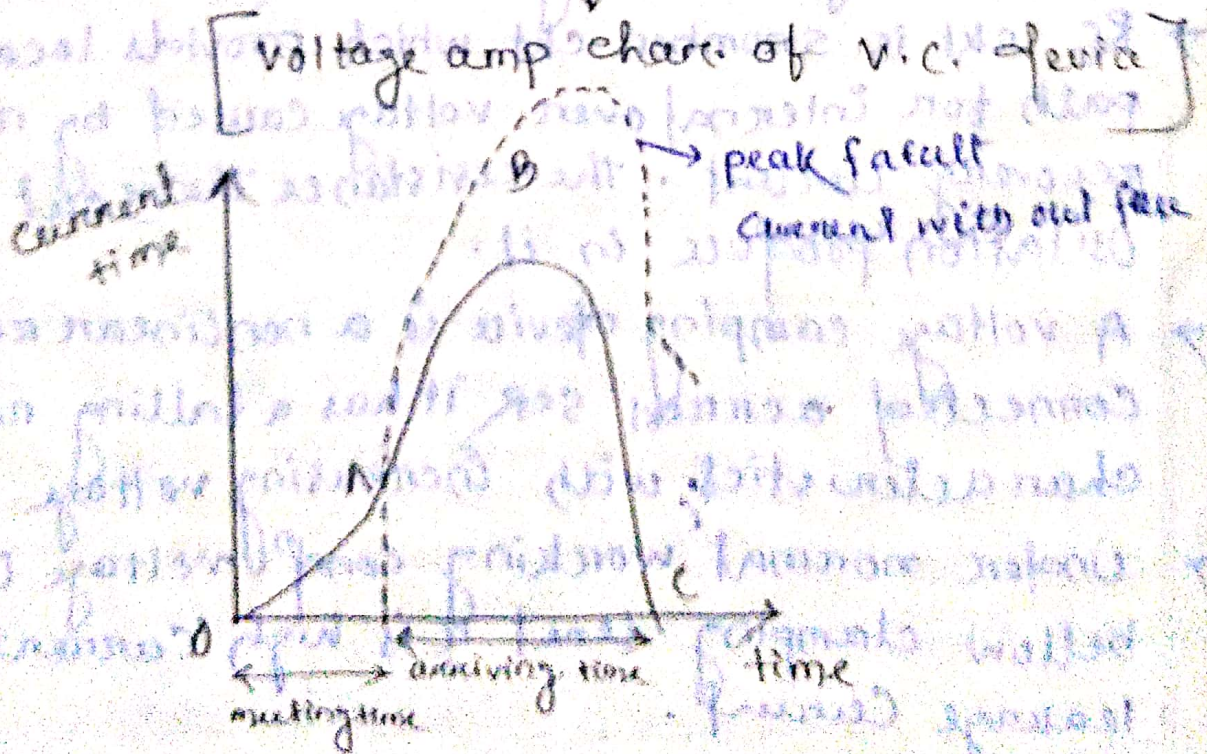
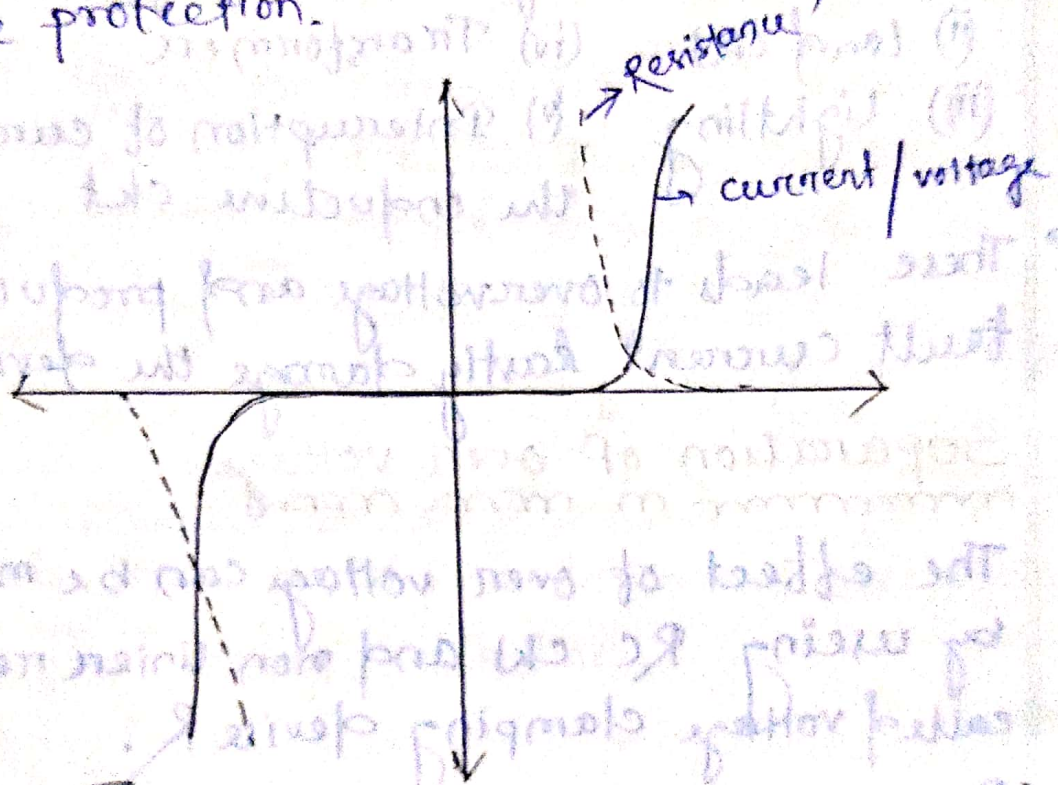
Suparation of over voltage

The effect of over voltage can be minimised by using RC ckt and non linear resistor called voltage clamping device R.

- RC ckt is snubber ckt which provides local path for internal over voltage caused by reverse recovery current. The resistance throu out the oscillation produce in it.
- A voltage clamping device is a nonlinear resistor connected across scr it has a falling resistor characteristic with increasing voltage
- Under normal working cond voltage lies below clamping level it is high current leakage current.
- When voltage surge appears voltage is high resistance is low maximum current flows through SCR and increase voltage drop in the source and

line as a result voltage drops down and damping it successfully after surge dissipation it return breaks to normally cond?

→ Selenium diodes, metal oxide varistor or avalanche diode suppression are used for over-voltage protection.



[FACLE]

Over current protection :-

Thyristors generally have a small time const. If thyristor is subjected to over current due to short ckt or faults, its junction temp increases above safe limit it will damage the device so we need to protect over current.

→ The protecting device for over current are

- (i) ckt breakers
- (ii) fuse
- (iii) FACLF [Fast acting current limiting fuse]

→ The surge current can be protected by electronic crowbar protection.

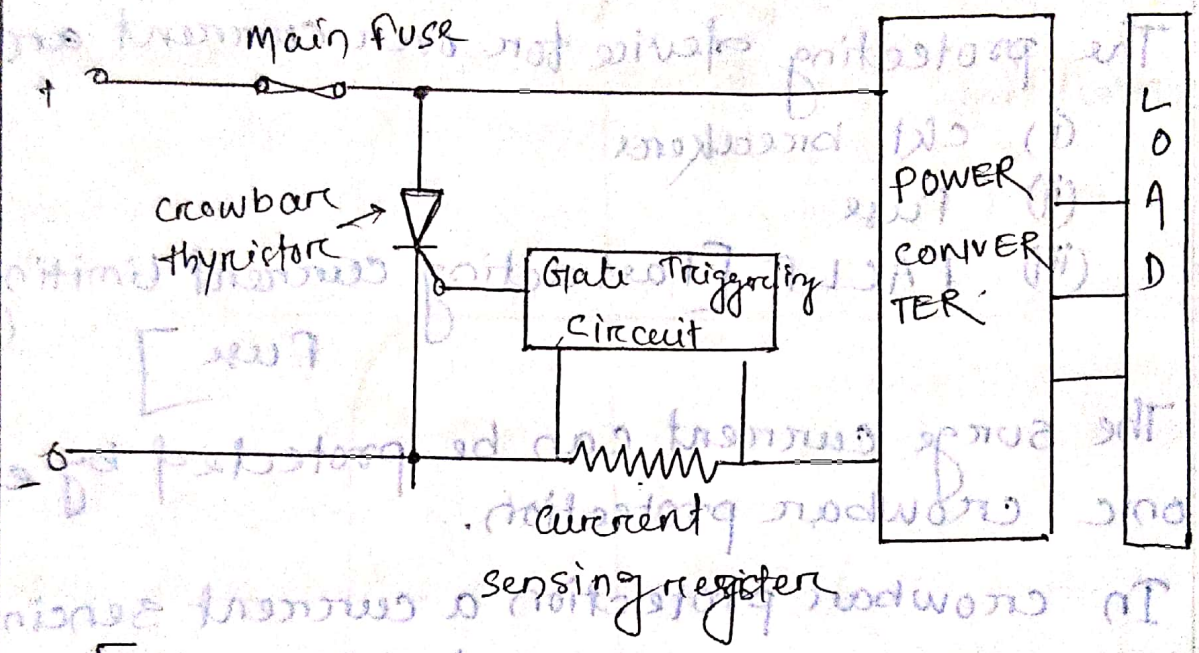
→ In crowbar protection a current sensing resistor measure converter current. If the value is greater than preset value a signal produce and shorts the converter over current.

Gate protection

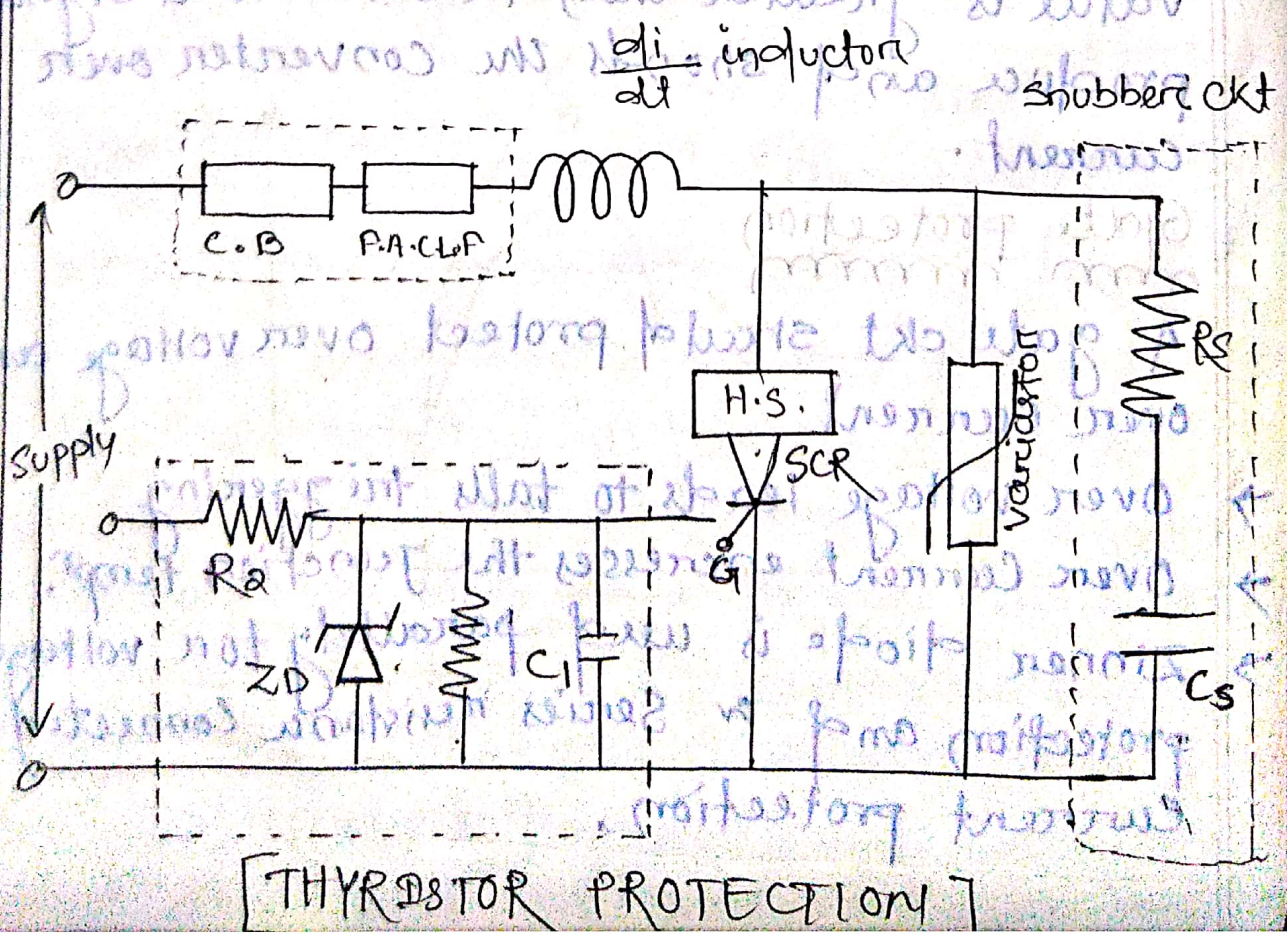
A gate ckt should protect over voltage and over current

- Over voltage leads to faults triggering
- Over current increases the junction temp.
- Zener diode is used parallelly for voltage protection and a series resistor connected for current protection.

- The spurious or noise signal can be eliminated by using twisted gate lead of shielded cable.
- capacitor and resistor is connected to by pass the noise signal.



[Elementary electronic Crowbar Circuit]



[THYRISTOR PROTECTION]