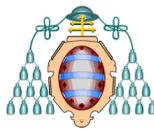





# Thermal management in power semiconductor devices



# Main ideas about heat transfer



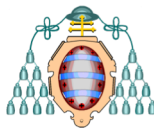
## Heat transfer occurs through three mechanisms:

- Radiation.  *Only significant for space applications.*
- Conduction. 
- Convection.  *Significant for general power applications.*

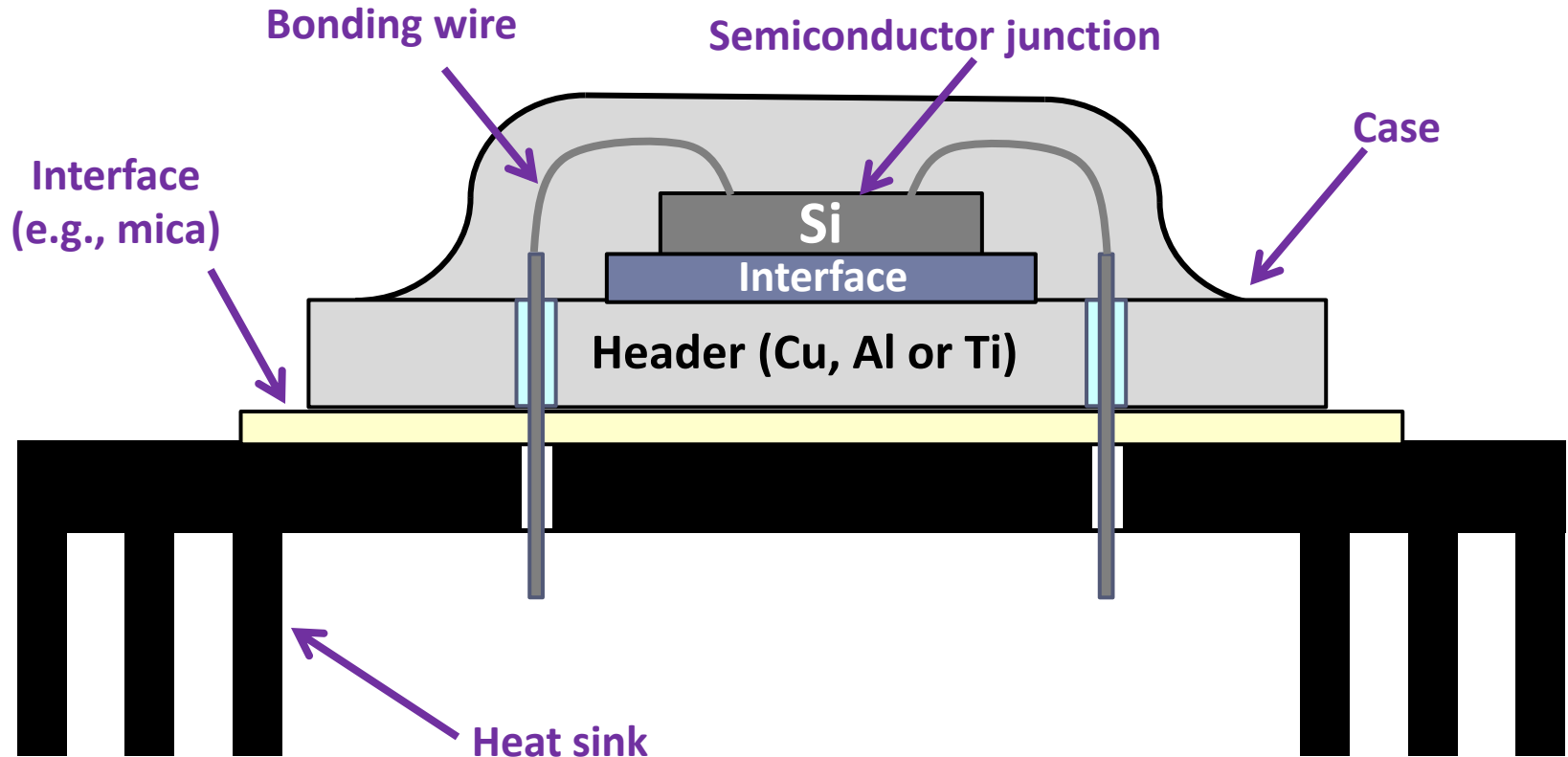
- **Conduction:** the heat is transferred by the vibratory motion of atoms or molecules.
- **Convection:** the heat is transferred by mass movement of a fluid. It could be natural convection (without a fan) or forced convection (with a fan).
- In both cases, the heat transfer process can be approached using equivalent electric circuits.
- However, a detailed study of the heat transfer mechanisms is more complex and it is beyond the scope of this course.



# Thermal model for a power semiconductor device (I)

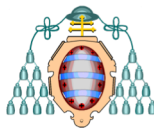


- Typical mechanical structure used for mounting a power semiconductor device

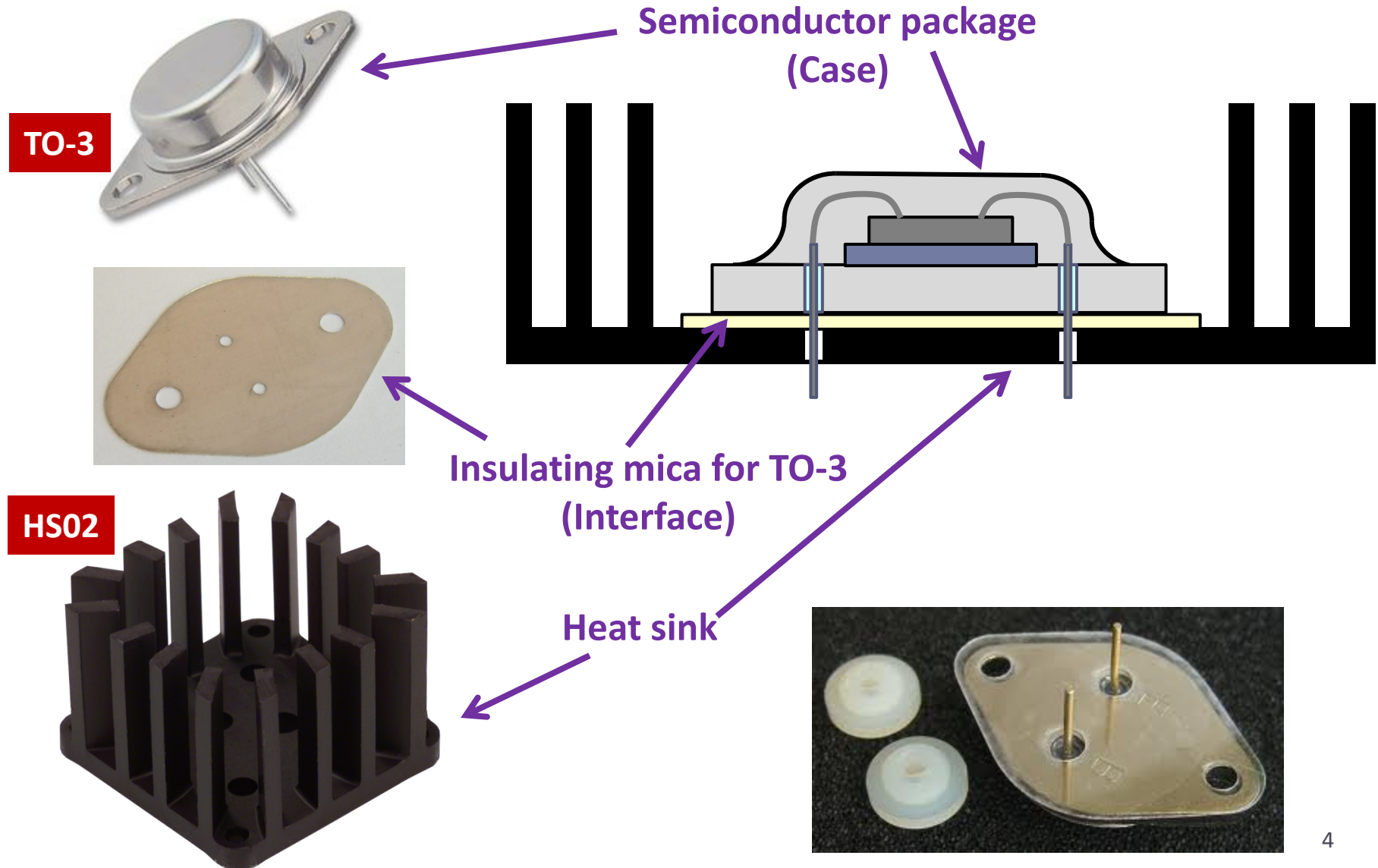




# Thermal model for a power semiconductor device (II)



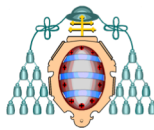
- Example: an electronic device in TO-3 package over an HS02 heat sink



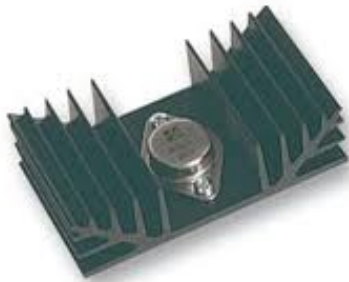
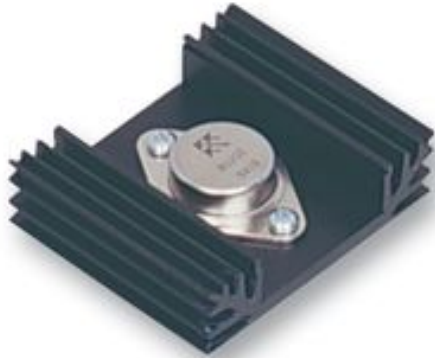




# Thermal model for a power semiconductor device (III)

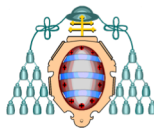


- Examples of final assembly of electronic devices in TO-3 package over heat sinks





# Thermal model for a power semiconductor device (IV)



- Thermal resistances without a heat sink

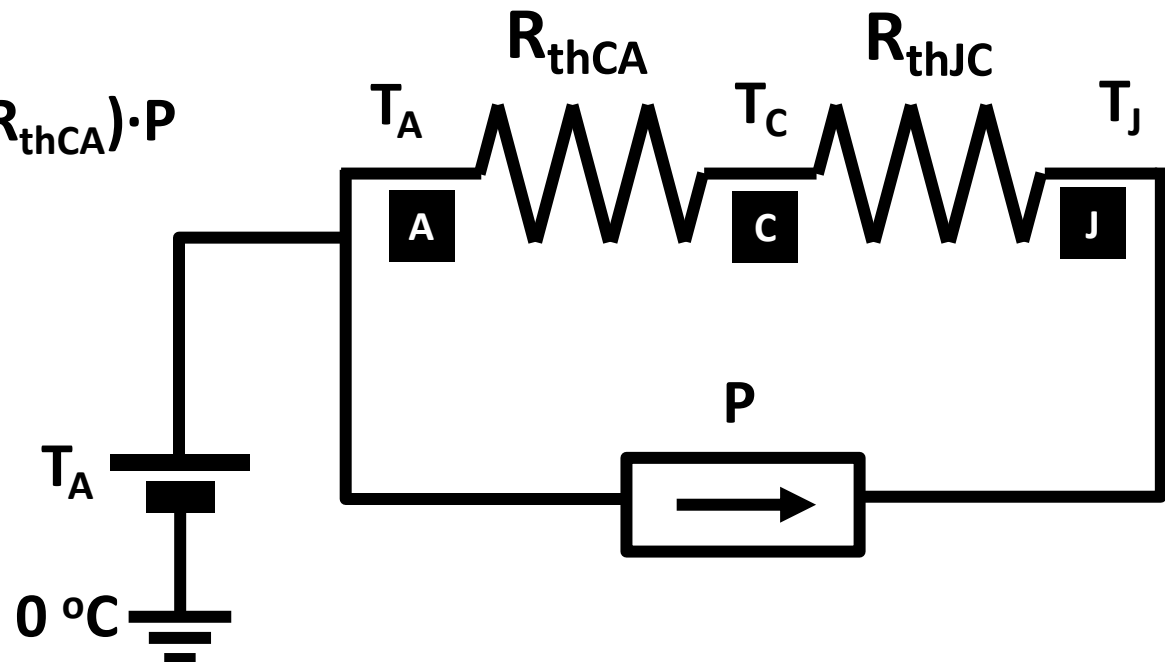
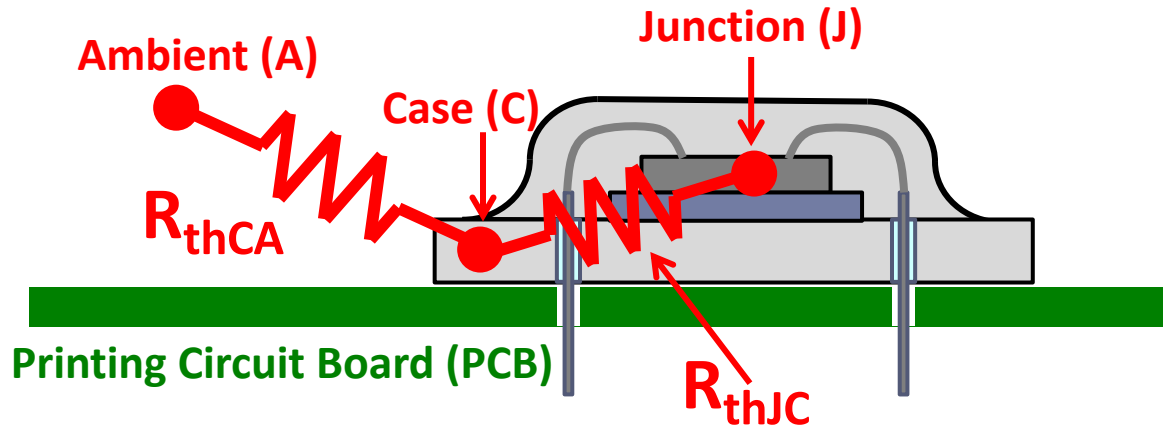
Basic equations:

$$T_C = T_A + R_{thCA} \cdot P$$

$$T_J = T_C + R_{thJC} \cdot P$$

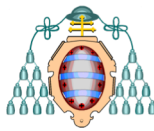
Therefore:

$$T_J = T_A + (R_{thJC} + R_{thCA}) \cdot P$$

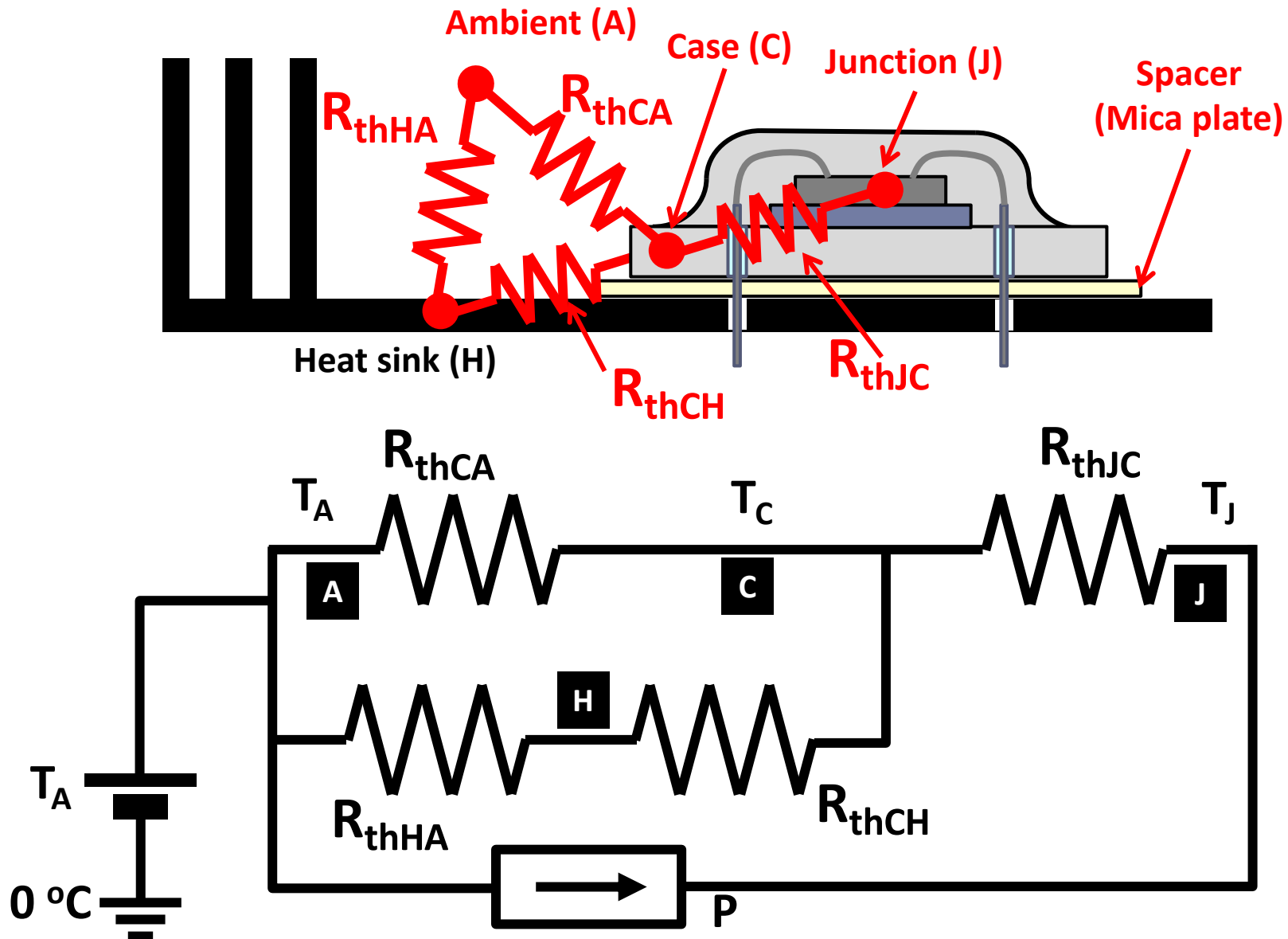




# Thermal model for a power semiconductor device (V)

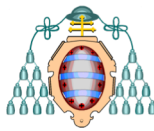


- Thermal resistances with a heat sink (I)

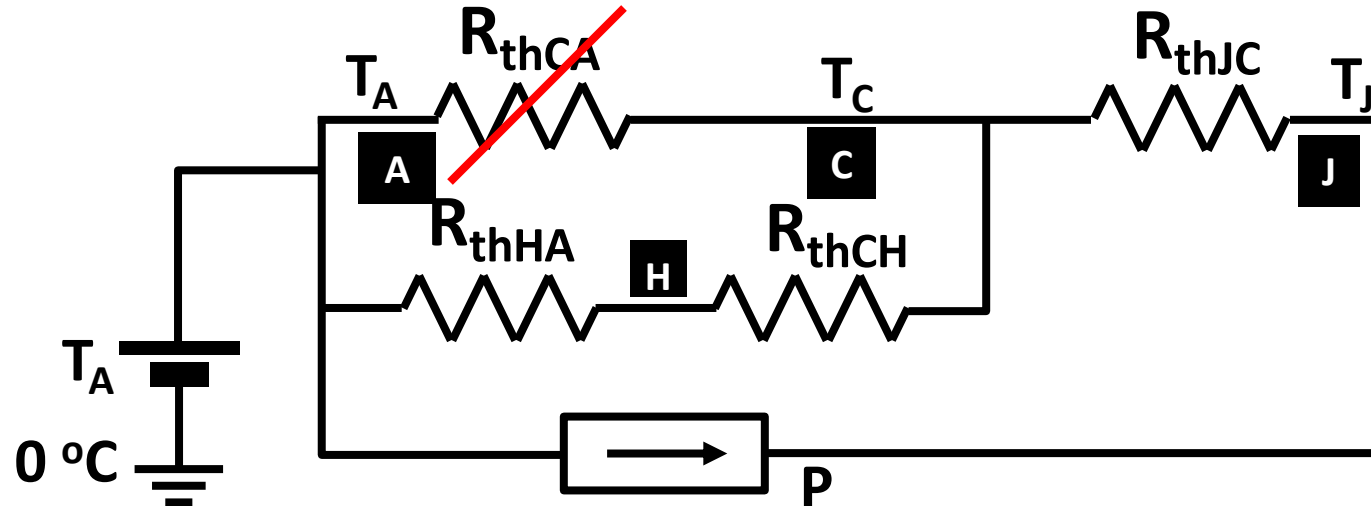




# Thermal model for a power semiconductor device (VI)



## • Thermal resistances with a heat sink (II)



Basic equations:

$$T_C = T_A + [R_{thCA} \cdot (R_{thHA} + R_{thCH}) / (R_{thCA} + R_{thHA} + R_{thCH})] \cdot P$$

$$T_J = T_C + R_{thJC} \cdot P$$

Therefore:

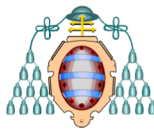
$$T_J = T_A + [R_{thJC} + R_{thCA} \cdot (R_{thHA} + R_{thCH}) / (R_{thCA} + R_{thHA} + R_{thCH})] \cdot P$$

However, many times  $R_{thCA} \gg (R_{thHA} + R_{thCH})$ , and therefore:

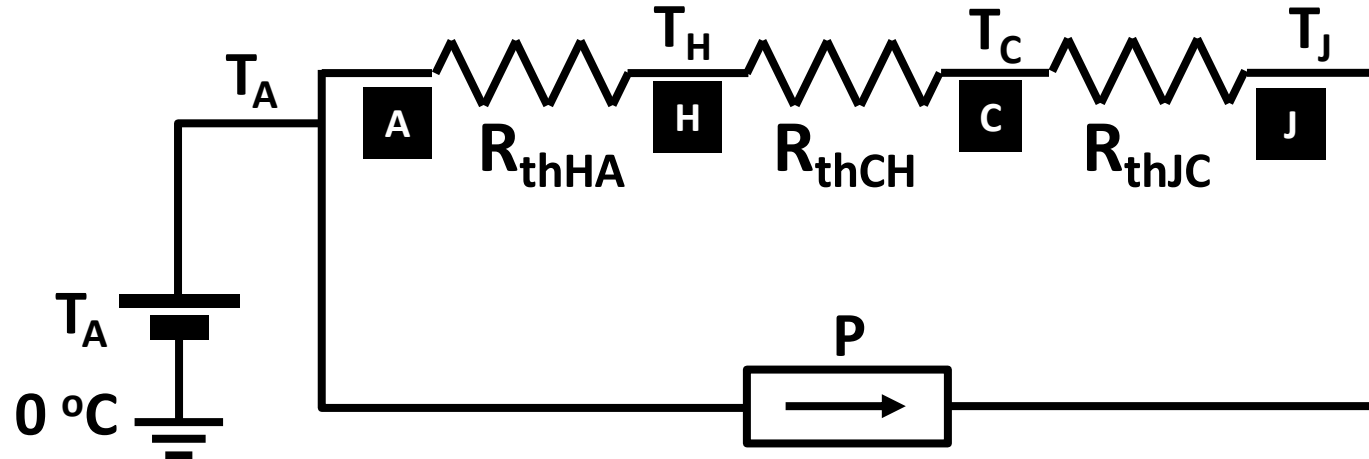
$$T_J \approx T_A + (R_{thJC} + R_{thHA} + R_{thCH}) \cdot P$$



# Thermal model for a power semiconductor device (VII)



## • Thermal resistances with a heat sink (III)



Basic equations:

$$T_H = T_A + R_{thHA} \cdot P$$

$$T_C = T_H + R_{thCH} \cdot P$$

$$T_J = T_C + R_{thJC} \cdot P$$

Therefore:

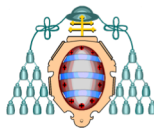
$$T_J = T_A + (R_{thJC} + R_{thCH} + R_{thHA}) \cdot P$$

## • Main issue in thermal management:

- The junction temperature must be below the limit specified by the manufacturer.
- For power silicon devices, this limit is about 150-200 °C.



# Thermal resistance junction to case, $R_{thJC}$ (I)



- Its value depends on the device.
- Examples corresponding to different devices in TO-3:



- **MJ1503, NPN low-frequency power transistor for audio applications**

## THERMAL CHARACTERISTICS

Characteristic	Symbol	Max	Unit
Thermal Resistance, Junction to Case	$R_{\theta JC}$	0.70	$^{\circ}\text{C/W}$

- **LM350, adjustable voltage regulator**

Parameter	Conditions	LM150			Units
		Min	Typ	Max	
Thermal Resistance, Junction to Case	K Package		1.2	1.5	$^{\circ}\text{C/W}$

- **2N3055, NPN low-frequency power transistor for audio applications**

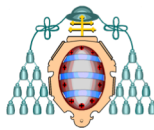
## THERMAL CHARACTERISTICS

Characteristic	Symbol	Max	Unit
Thermal Resistance, Junction to Case	$R_{\theta JC}$	1.52	$^{\circ}\text{C/W}$





# Thermal resistance junction to case, $R_{thJC}$ (II)



- The same device has different value of  $R_{thJC}$  for different packages.
- Examples corresponding to two devices:

Table 2. Thermal parameters



STTH512

$I_{F(AV)} = 5A$ ,  $V_{RRM} = 1200V$

Symbol	Parameter	Value	Unit
$R_{th(j-c)}$	Junction to case	TO-220AC / DPAK	$^{\circ}C/W$
		TO-220FPAC	

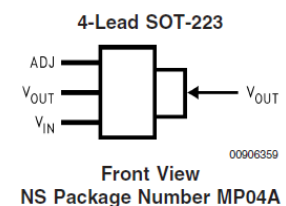
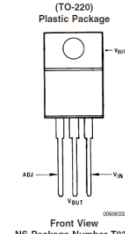
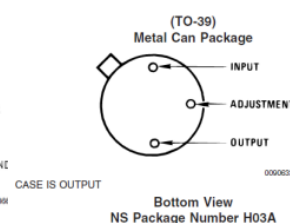
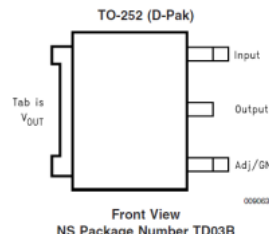
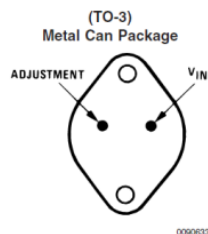


LM117/LM317A/LM317

3-Terminal Adjustable Regulator

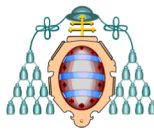
Parameter	Conditions	LM317A			LM317			Units
		Min	Typ	Max	Min	Typ	Max	
Thermal Resistance, Junction-to-Case  LM117 Series Packages	K Package					2.3	3	$^{\circ}C/W$
	MDT Package					5		$^{\circ}C/W$
	H Package		12	15		12	15	$^{\circ}C/W$
	T Package		4	5		4		$^{\circ}C/W$
	MP Package		23.5			23.5		$^{\circ}C/W$
Part Number Suffix	Package	Design Load Current						

K	TO-3	1.5A
H	TO-39	0.5A
T	TO-220	1.5A
E	LCC	0.5A
S	TO-263	1.5A
EMP	SOT-223	1A
MDT	TO-252	0.5A





# Thermal resistance case to ambient, $R_{thCA}$



- Its value depends on the case.
- Manufacturers give information about  $R_{thJA} = R_{thJC} + R_{thCA}$ .
- Therefore,  $R_{thCA} = R_{thJA} - R_{thJC}$ .
- This thermal resistance is important only for relative low-power devices.

- IRF150, N-Channel power MOSFET in TO-3 package



## Thermal Resistance

	Parameter	Min	Typ	Max	Units	Test Conditions
$R_{thJC}$	Junction to Case	—	—	0.83	°C/W	
$R_{thJA}$	Junction to Ambient	—	—	30		Typical socket mount

- IRF540, N-Channel power MOSFET in TO-220 package

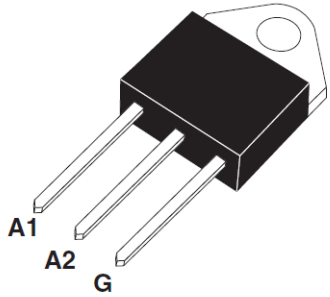
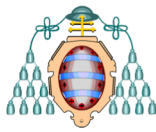


## THERMAL DATA

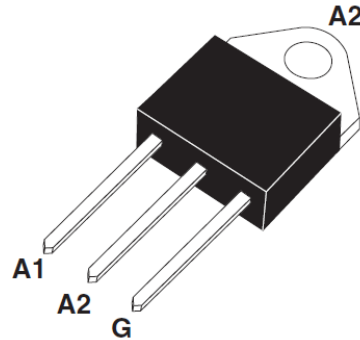
$R_{thj-case}$	Thermal Resistance Junction-case	Max	1.76	°C/W
$R_{thj-amb}$	Thermal Resistance Junction-ambient	Max	62.5	°C/W
$T_l$	Maximum Lead Temperature For Soldering Purpose	Typ	300	°C



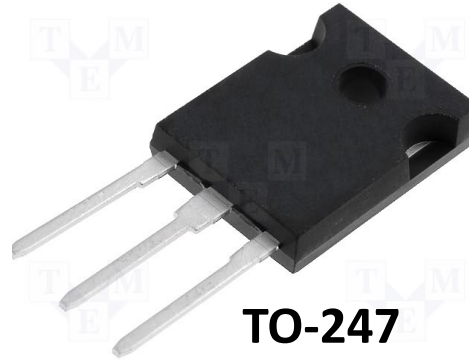
# Other examples of packages for power semiconductor devices



**TOP3 insulated**



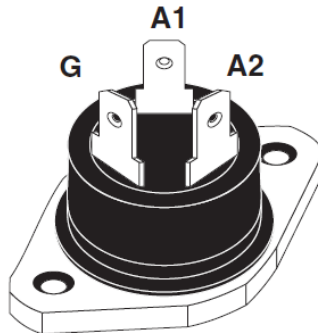
**TOP3**



**TO-247**



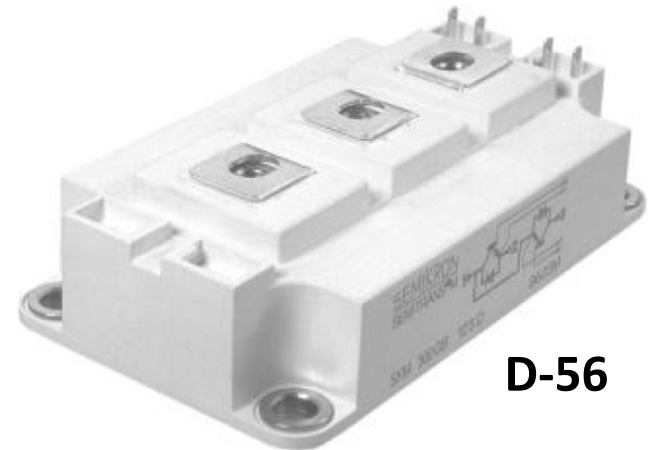
**D-61-8**



**RD91 insulated**



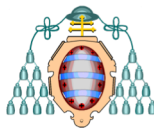
**SOT-227**



**D-56**



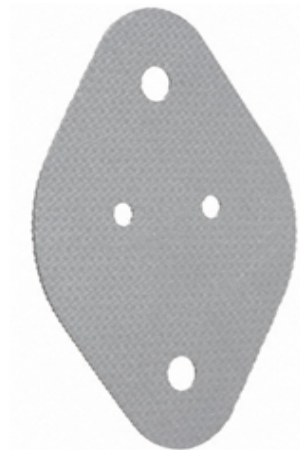
## Thermal resistance case to heat sink, $R_{thCH}$



- Its value depends on the interface material between semiconductor and heat sink.
- Examples of thermal pads for TO-3 package:

Based on silicone: SP400-0.009-00-05

Description	THERMAL PAD TO-3 .009" SP400
Material	Silicone Based
Thermal Conductivity	0.9 W/m-K
Thermal Resistance	1.40 °C/W
Thickness	0.229 mm



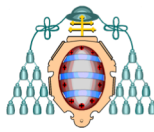
Based on mica:

$R_{th}=0.3 \text{ °C/W}$





## Thermal resistance heat sink to ambient, $R_{thHA}$ (I)



- Its value depends on the heat sink dimensions and shape and also on the convection mode (either natural or forced).
- Examples of heat sinks for TO-3 package:



*UP-T03-CB*

Material	Aluminum
$R_{th}$ @ natural	9 °C/W



*HP1-T03-CB*

Material	Aluminum
$R_{th}$ @ natural	5.4 °C/W

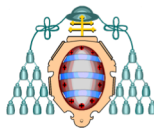


*HS02*

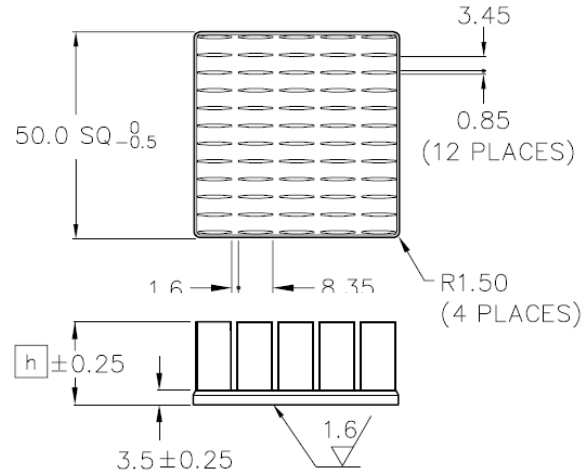
Material	Aluminum
$R_{th}$ @ natural	4.5 °C/W



# Thermal resistance heat sink to ambient, $R_{thHA}$ (II)



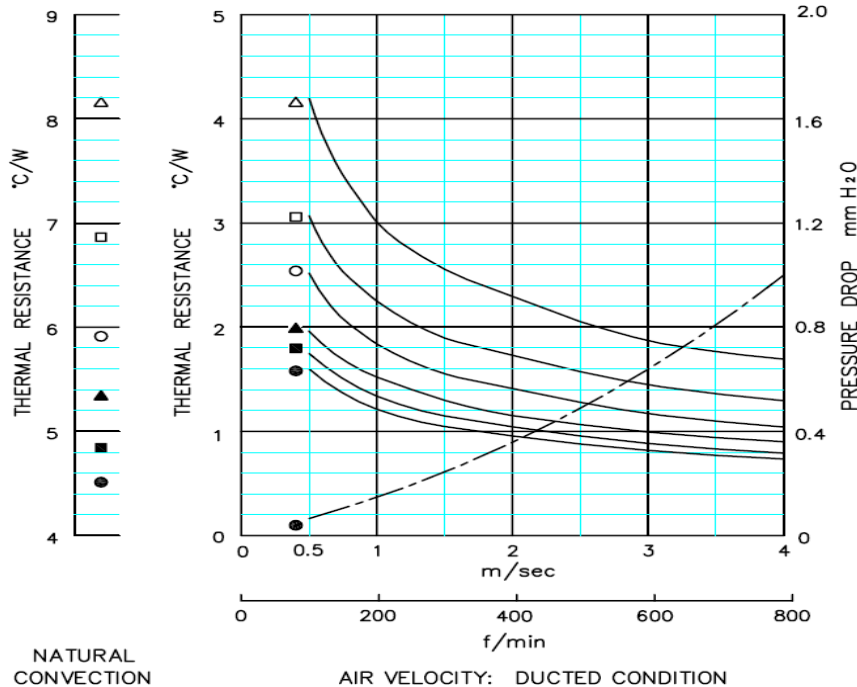
## • Examples of heat sinks for general purpose



MATERIAL : A 6063  
FINISH : BLACK ANODIZE

MODEL	HEIGHT $h$
LPD50-10B	10
LPD50-15B	15
LPD50-20B	20
LPD50-25B	25
LPD50-30B	30
LPD50-35B	35

Dimensions : mm

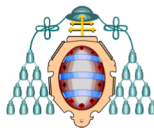


- △ LPD50-10B
- LPD50-15B
- LPD50-20B
- ▲ LPD50-25B
- LPD50-30B
- LPD50-35B





# Thermal resistance heat sink to ambient, $R_{thHA}$ (III)

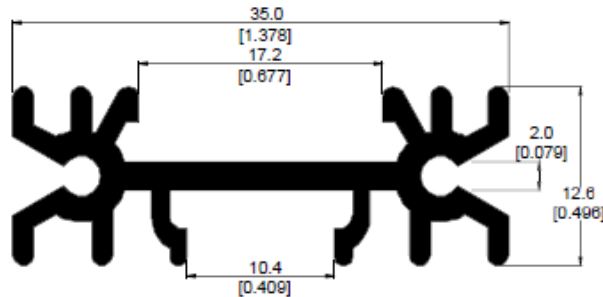


## • Heat sink profiles (I)



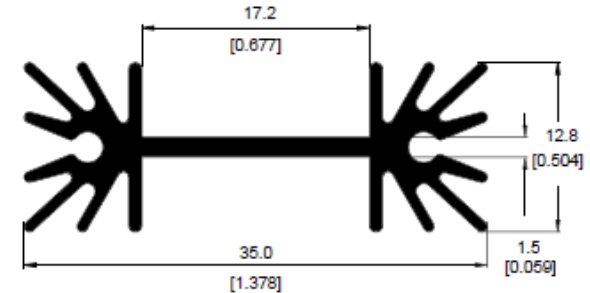
### 000SW

Wt: 0.43 Kg/m  
 $R_{th,n}$ : 5.3°C/W  
 $R_{th,f}$ : 1.87°C/W  
S.A.: 191 mm<sup>2</sup>/mm



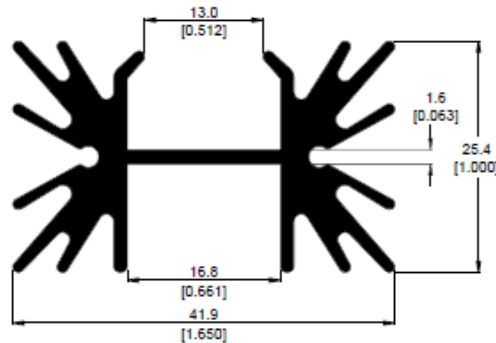
### 0S172

Wt: 0.4 Kg/m  
 $R_{th,n}$ : 4.37°C/W  
 $R_{th,f}$ : 1.52°C/W  
S.A.: 220 mm<sup>2</sup>/mm



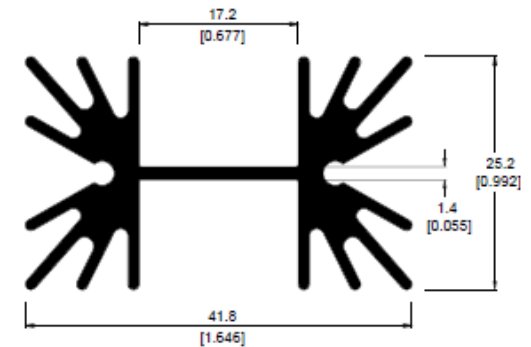
### 16372

Wt: 0.93 Kg/m  
 $R_{th,n}$ : 3.4°C/W  
 $R_{th,f}$ : 1.02°C/W  
S.A.: 323 mm<sup>2</sup>/mm



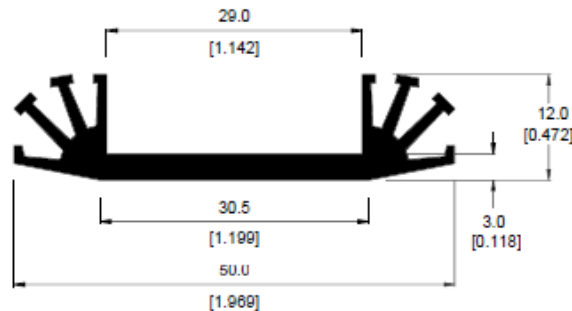
### 0S097

Wt: 0.88 Kg/m  
 $R_{th,n}$ : 3.43°C/W  
 $R_{th,f}$ : 1.16°C/W  
S.A.: 341 mm<sup>2</sup>/mm



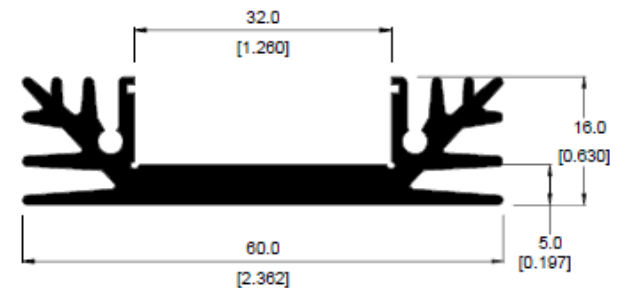
### 0S014

Wt: 0.60 Kg/m  
 $R_{th,n}$ : 5°C/W  
 $R_{th,f}$ : 3.13°C/W  
S.A.: 102 mm<sup>2</sup>/mm



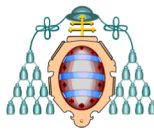
### 000YB

Wt: 1.08 Kg/m  
 $R_{th,n}$ : 3.21°C/W  
 $R_{th,f}$ : 1.15°C/W  
S.A.: 305 mm<sup>2</sup>/mm





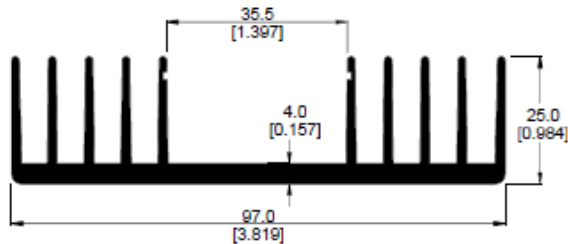
# Thermal resistance heat sink to ambient, $R_{thHA}$ (IV)



## • Heat sink profiles (II)

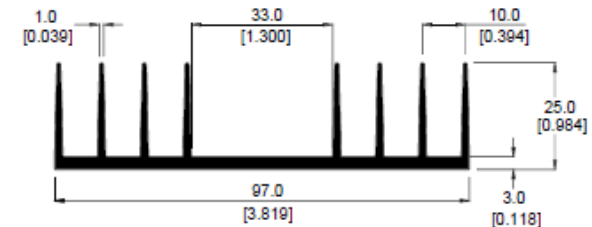
### 000MA

Wt: 2.04 Kg/m  
 $R_{th,n}$ : 1.38°C/W  
 $R_{th,f}$ : 0.56°C/W  
S.A.: 612 mm<sup>2</sup>/mm



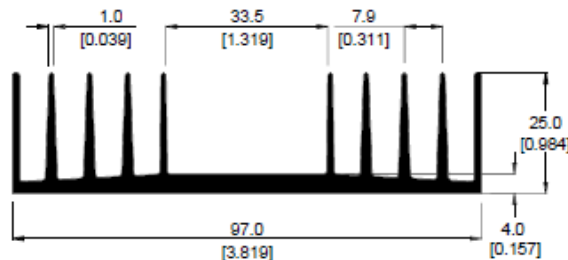
### 0S023\*

Wt: 1.55 Kg/m  
 $R_{th,n}$ : 1.23°C/W  
 $R_{th,f}$ : 0.62°C/W  
S.A.: 555 mm<sup>2</sup>/mm



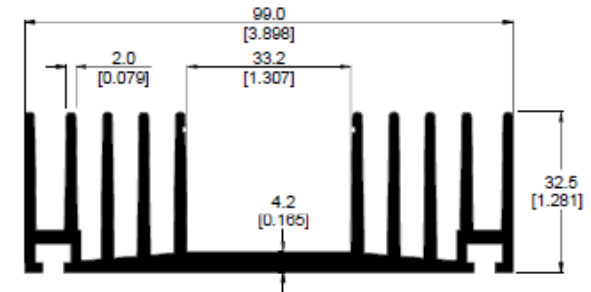
### 0S117

Wt: 1.84 Kg/m  
 $R_{th,n}$ : 1.08°C/W  
 $R_{th,f}$ : 0.51°C/W  
S.A.: 617 mm<sup>2</sup>/mm



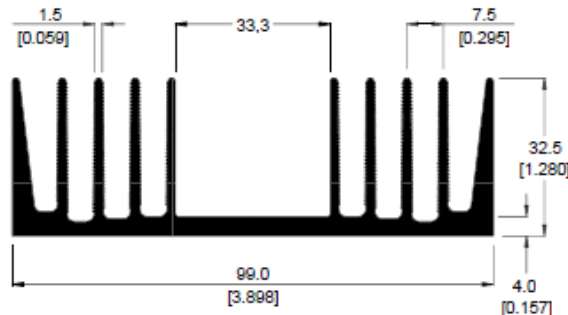
### 000MB

Wt: 2.72 Kg/m  
 $R_{th,n}$ : 1.09°C/W  
 $R_{th,f}$ : 0.41°C/W  
S.A.: 791 mm<sup>2</sup>/mm



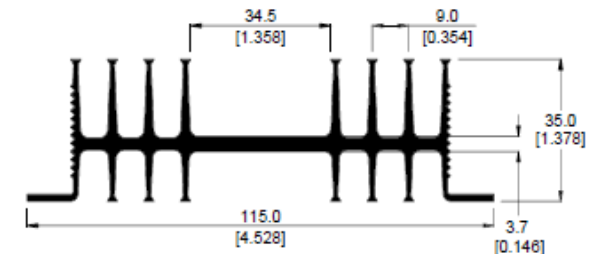
### 000MK

Wt: 2.72 Kg/m  
 $R_{th,n}$ : 1.07°C/W  
 $R_{th,f}$ : 0.41°C/W  
S.A.: 852 mm<sup>2</sup>/mm



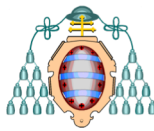
### 0S040

Wt: 2.42 Kg/m  
 $R_{th,n}$ : 0.99°C/W  
 $R_{th,f}$ : 0.72°C/W  
S.A.: 802 mm<sup>2</sup>/mm





# Thermal resistance heat sink to ambient, $R_{thHA}$ (VII)

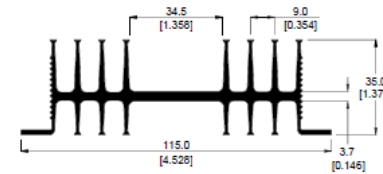


## • Examples

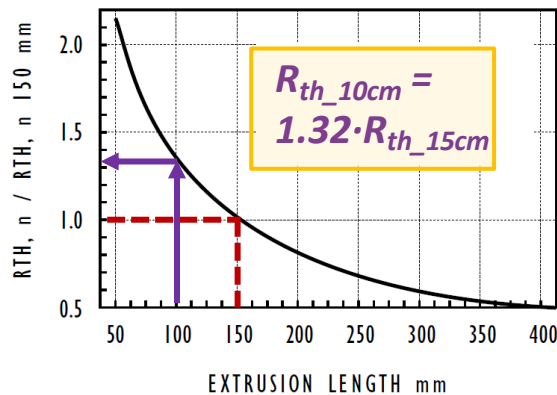
OS040

$$R_{th,n} = 0.99^{\circ}\text{C/W}$$

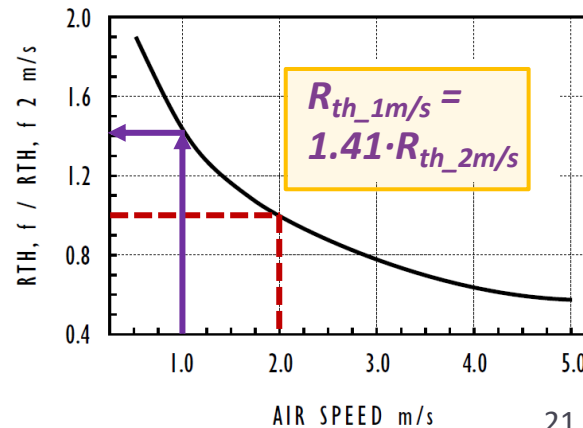
$$R_{th,f} = 0.72^{\circ}\text{C/W}$$



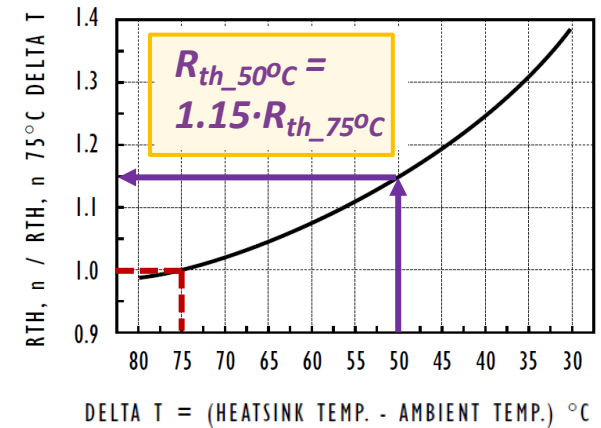
THERMAL RESISTANCE vs LENGTH



THERMAL RESISTANCE vs. AIR SPEED



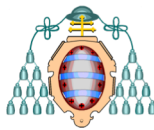
THERMAL RESISTANCE vs  $(T_s - T_a)$



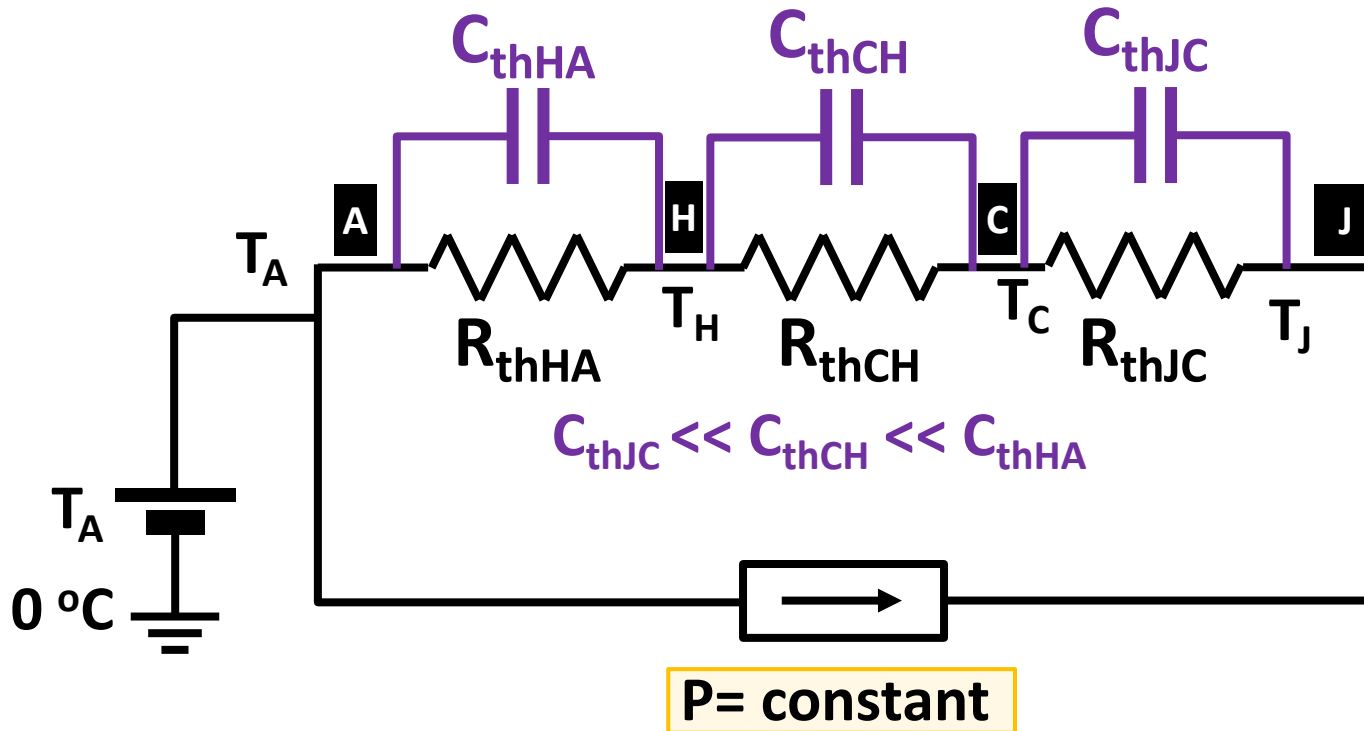
- $R_{th}$  for 10 cm at  $\Delta T = 50^{\circ}\text{C}$  and natural convection =  $0.99 \cdot 1.32 \cdot 1.15 = 1.5^{\circ}\text{C/W}$
- $R_{th}$  for 10 cm and 2 m/s air speed =  $0.72 \cdot 1.32 = 0.95^{\circ}\text{C/W}$
- $R_{th}$  for 15 cm and 1 m/s air speed =  $0.72 \cdot 1.41 = 1.01^{\circ}\text{C/W}$
- $R_{th}$  for 10 cm and 1 m/s air speed =  $0.72 \cdot 1.32 \cdot 1.41 = 1.34^{\circ}\text{C/W}$



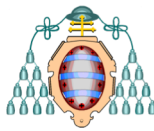
## Transient thermal model (II)



- Transient thermal model for a star-up process,  $P$  being constant:

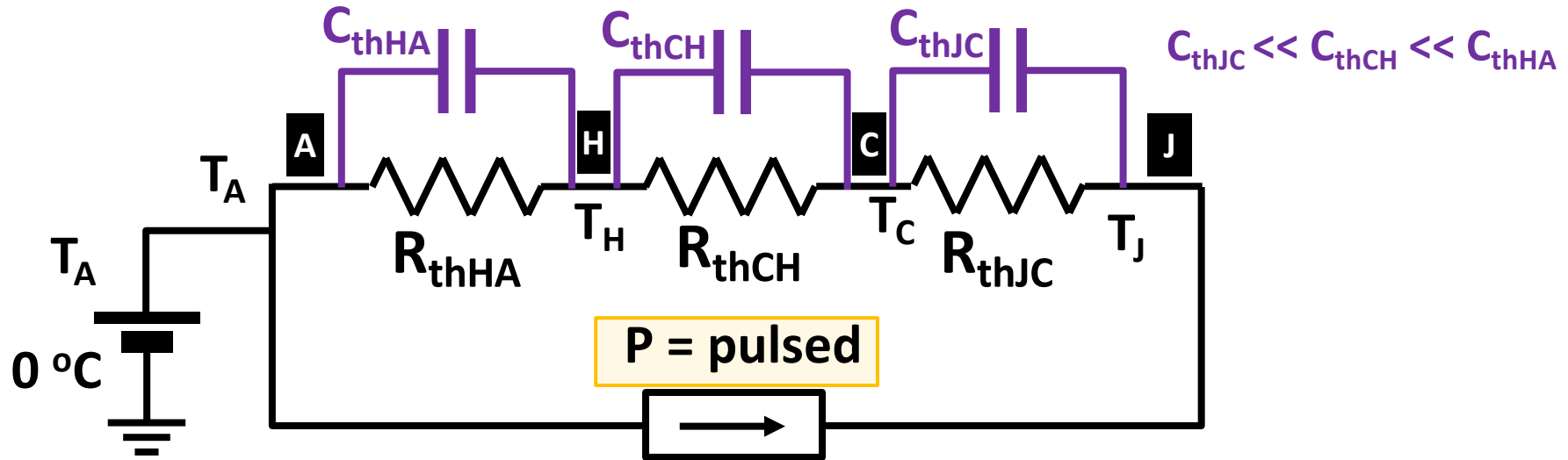


- Under this condition, the junction temperature will be lower than the one predicted by static models, due to the fact that the total thermal impedance will be lower than the thermal resistance.



## Transient thermal model (III)

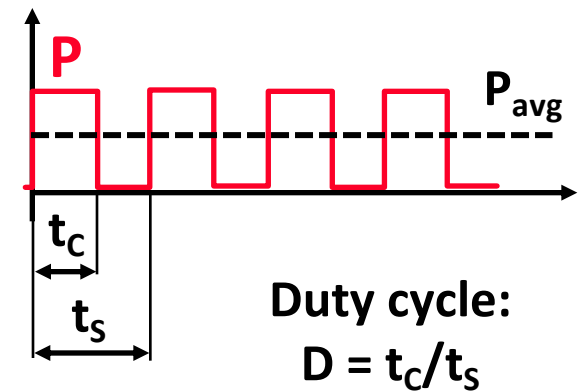
- Transient thermal model for pulsed-power operation in steady-state (I) (after the start-up process)



- $T_H$  and  $T_C$  can be computed from  $P_{avg}$ , because  $R_{thHA} \cdot C_{thHA} \gg t_s$  and  $R_{thCH} \cdot C_{thCH} \gg t_s$ . Hence, the AC component of  $P$  can be removed and, therefore:

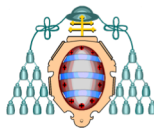
$$T_H = T_A + P_{avg} \cdot R_{thHA} \quad \text{and} \quad T_C = T_H + P_{avg} \cdot R_{thCH}$$

- However,  $R_{thHA} \cdot C_{thHA}$  may be lower than  $t_s$  and, therefore,  $T_J$  cannot be computed from  $R_{thJC}$  and  $P_{avg}$ .

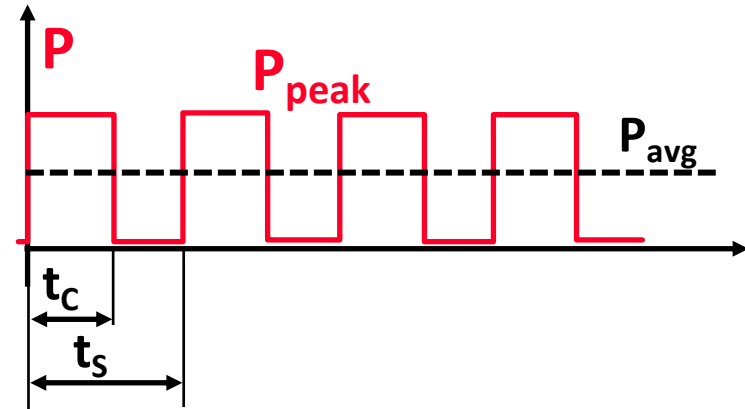
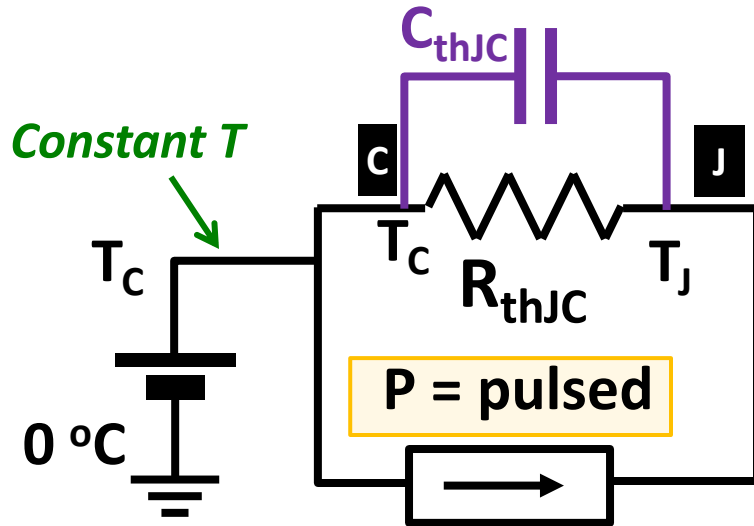




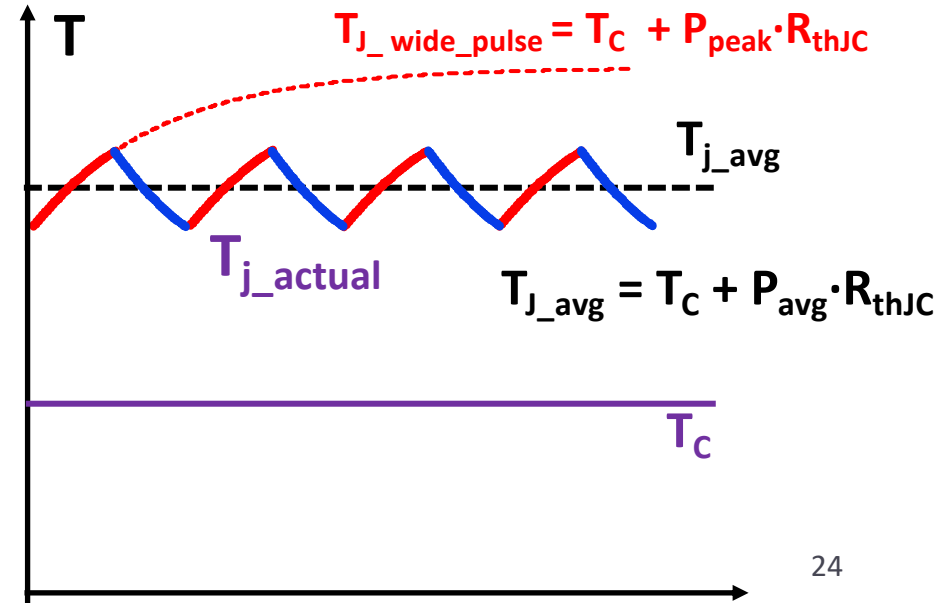
## Transient thermal model (IV)



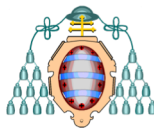
- Transient thermal model for pulsed-power operation in steady-state (II) (after the start-up process)



- The maximum value of the actual temperature is not as low as  $T_{J\_average}$ .
- The maximum value of the actual temperature is not as high as  $T_{J\_wide\_pulse}$ .
- How can we compute the maximum value of the actual temperature?  $\Rightarrow$  *Transient thermal impedance.*





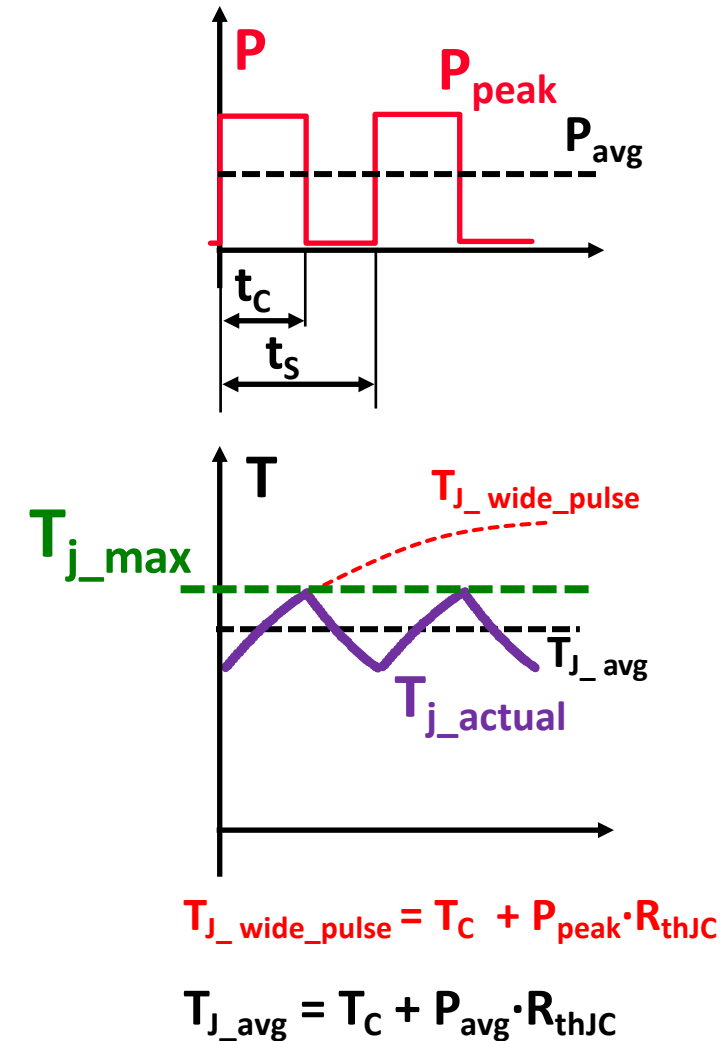
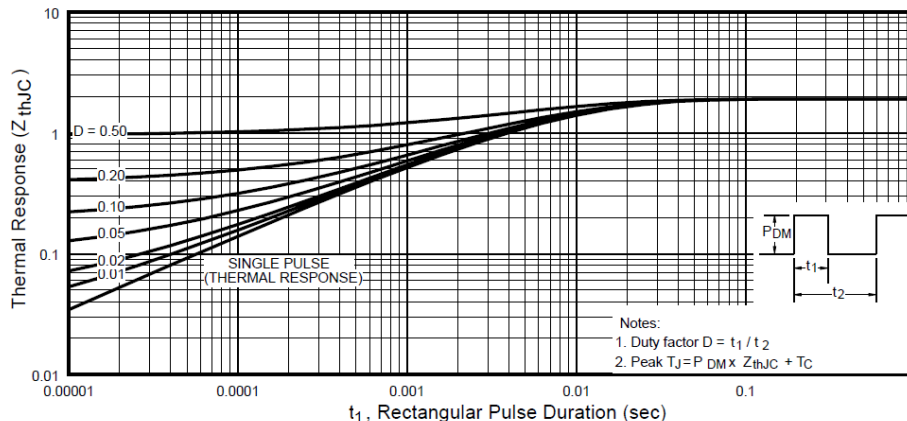


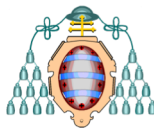
# Transient thermal model (V)

## • Concept of transient thermal impedance

- We know that  $T_{J\_wide\_pulse} > T_{J\_max} > T_{J\_avg}$ .
- We will compute  $T_{J\_max}$  considering  $P_{peak}$  and an impedance lower than  $R_{thJC}$ .
- This impedance is called transient thermal impedance,  $Z_{thJC}(t)$ .
- Its value depends on the duty cycle and on the switching frequency.
- The final equation to compute  $T_{J\_max}$  is:

$$T_{J\_max} = T_C + P_{peak} \cdot Z_{thJC}(t)$$





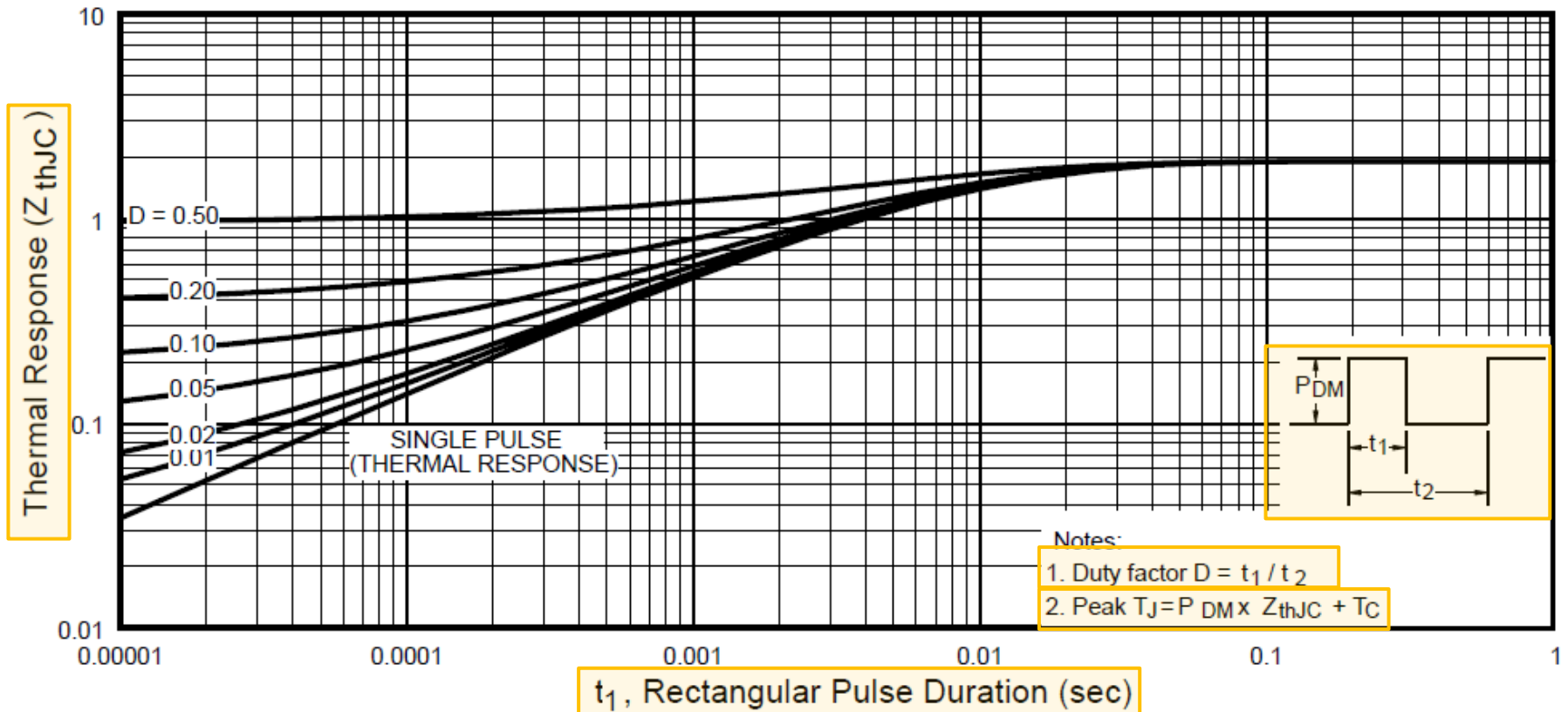
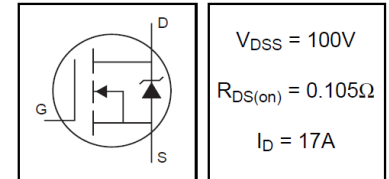
# Transient thermal model (VI)

## • Example of transient thermal impedance (I)

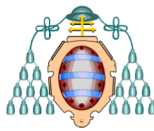
$$T_{J\_max} = T_C + P_{peak} \cdot Z_{thJC}(t)$$

International  
**IOR** Rectifier

**IRLR/U3410**  
HEXFET® Power MOSFET

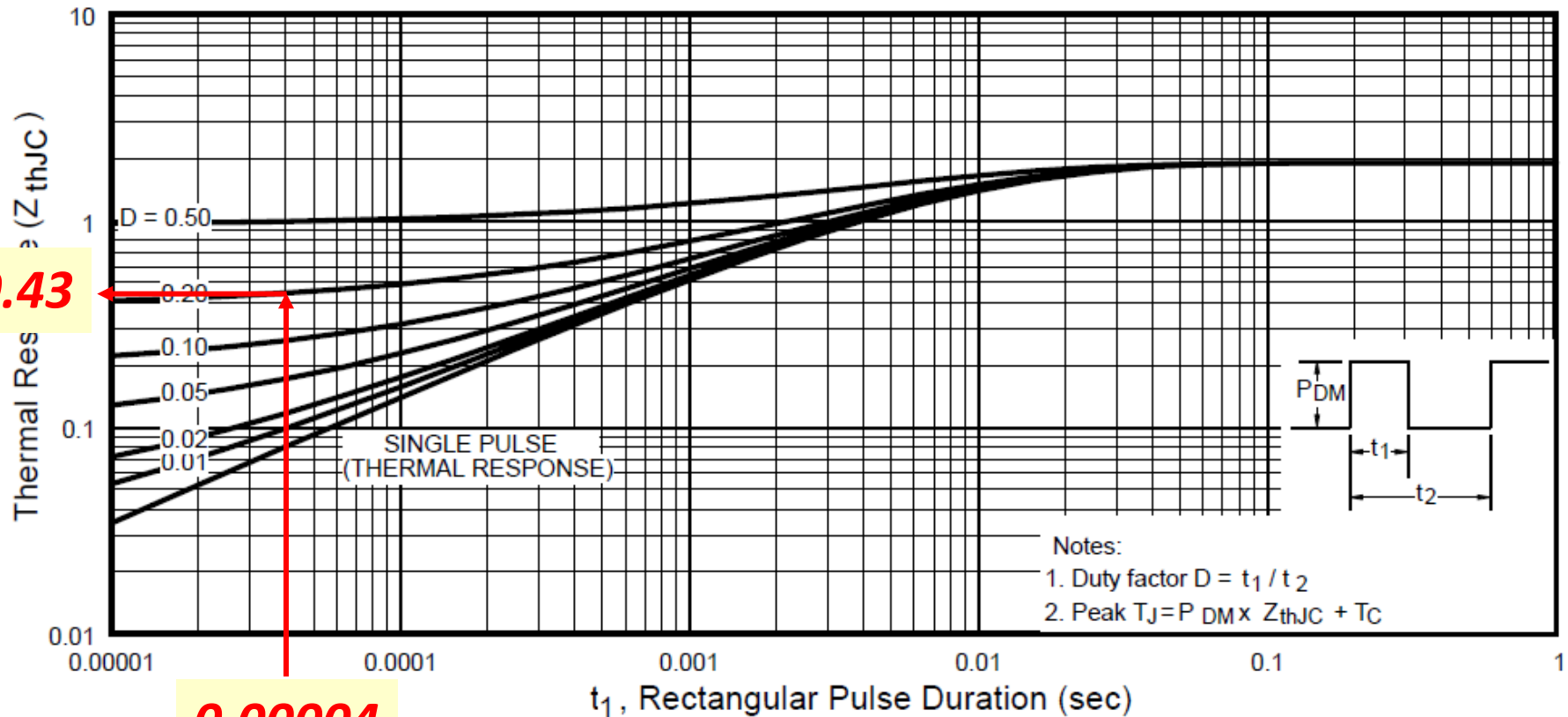


**Fig 11.** Maximum Effective Transient Thermal Impedance, Junction-to-Case



## Transient thermal model (VII)

### • Example of transient thermal impedance (II)



$$f_s = 5 \text{ kHz}$$

$$D = 0.2$$

25 W



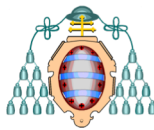
$$t_1 = D \cdot t_2 = D / f_s = 0.2 / 5 \text{ kHz} = 0.00004 \text{ sec}$$

$$Z_{thJC} = 0.43 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C/W}$$

$$T_{J\_max} - T_C = 25 \text{ W} \cdot 0.43 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C/W} = 10.75 \text{ } ^\circ\text{C}$$

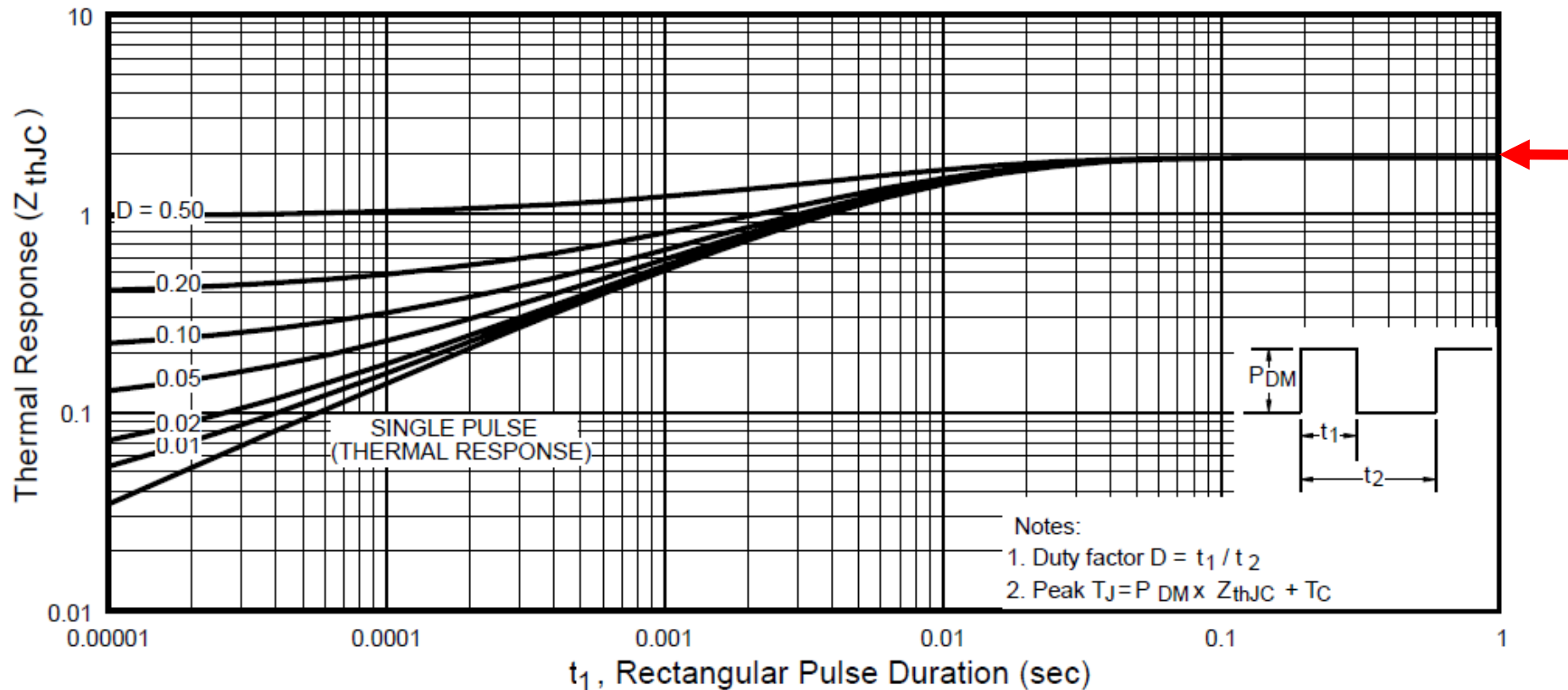


# Transient thermal model (VIII)



- Relationship between transient thermal impedance and thermal resistance

$$Z_{thJC}(\infty) \rightarrow R_{thJC}$$



## Thermal Resistance

	Parameter	Typ.	Max.	Units
$R_{\theta JC}$	Junction-to-Case	—	1.9	°C/W
$R_{\theta JA}$	Junction-to-Ambient (PCB mount) **	—	50	
$R_{\theta JA}$	Junction-to-Ambient	—	110	