

# Introduction

Pulsed Power Engineering  
Michigan State University  
February 3 – 7, 2025

Craig Burkhart and (Guest lecturer) Tony Beukers



SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

Will Waldron



Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Chris Jensen



Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory

Jared Walden and (Guest lecturer) G. Chris Pappas (retired)



Oak Ridge National Laboratory



**U.S. Particle Accelerator School**  
Education in Beam Physics and Accelerator Technology

# Craig Burkhart

## • Experience

- |                  |                  |                               |                  |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| • 2005 – present | Manager/Engineer | SLAC National Accelerator Lab | Menlo Park, CA   |
| • 2020 – 2021    | ALD Engineering  | Princeton Plasma Physics Lab  | Princeton, NJ    |
| • 1990 – 2005    | Senior Scientist | First Point Scientific, Inc.  | Agoura Hills, CA |
| • 1987 – 1991    | Staff Physicist  | Pulse Sciences, Inc.          | Agoura Hills, CA |

## • Teaching

- US Particle Accelerator School: Pulsed Power Engineering, '09, '11, '15, '19, '22
- Stanford University: Power Electronics (EE292J), Winter 2012-13
- IEEE IPMHVC: Power Electronics Short-course, 2012

## • Education

- |         |                      |                          |      |
|---------|----------------------|--------------------------|------|
| • Ph.D. | Nuclear Engineering  | University of New Mexico | 1987 |
| • M.S.  | Nuclear Engineering  | University of New Mexico | 1983 |
| • B.S.  | Chemical Engineering | University of Iowa       | 1981 |



# Will Waldron

## • Experience

- 1997 – present      Engineer      Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory      Berkeley, CA
- 1995 – 1997      Engineer      Sperry Marine      Charlottesville, VA

## • Teaching

- US Particle Accelerator School: Induction Accelerators, 2019

## • Education

- M.S.      Nuclear Engineering      University of California, Berkeley, 2003
- B.S.      Electrical Engineering      University of Virginia, 1996



# Chris C. Jensen

## • Experience

- |                  |                   |                                |                  |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| • 1990 – present | Pulse Power Engr  | Fermi National Accelerator Lab | Batavia, IL      |
| • 2020 – present | Sr Principal Engr | Fermi National Accelerator Lab | Batavia, IL      |
| • 2016 – 2023    | Dept Head / Engr  | Fermi National Accelerator Lab | Batavia, IL      |
| • 1986 – 1988    | Engineer          | Raj Technology                 | Morton Grove, IL |

## • Teaching

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| • CERN PULPOKS Workshop, Magnetics & Cables        | 2018 |
| • Univeristy of Wis Madison, Power Electronics Lab | 1989 |
| • Stratton College, Intro to Circuits              | 1986 |

## • Education

- |        |                           |                           |      |
|--------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------|
| • M.S. | Electrical Engineering    | University of Wis-Madison | 1989 |
| • B.S. | Electrical Engr & Physics | University of Wis-Madison | 1984 |



# Jared Walden

- **Experience**

- 2021 – present      Electronics Engineer      Oak Ridge National Laboratory      Oak Ridge, TN
- 2018-2019      Research Engineer      Western Kentucky University      Bowling Green, KY

- **Education**

- M.S.      Electrical Engineering      University of Tennessee - Knoxville      2021
- B.S.      Electrical Engineering      Western Kentucky University      2018



# Tony Beukers

- **Experience**

- 2006 – present    Manager/Engineer    SLAC National Accelerator Lab    Menlo Park, CA

- **Education**

- M.S.    Power Conversion    San Jose State University    2013
- B.S.    Physics    UC Davis    2006



# Chris Pappas

## • Experience

- 2018 - 2024            Electronics Engineer            ORNL, SNS, Oak Ridge, TN
- 2009 - 2018            Electronics Engineer            LBNL, Berkeley, CA
- 2006 - 2009            Electronics Engineer            Sincrotrone Trieste, Trieste, Italy
- 1996 - 2006            Electronics Engineer            SLAC, Menlo Park, CA
- 1994 - 1996            Engineer                            BNL, Upton, NY
- 1990 - 1994            Electronics Engineer            SSCL, Dallas, Tx
- 1987 - 1990            Electronics Engineer            Hughes Aircraft Co, Torrance, CA

## • Teaching

- Texas Tech University, Electrical Engineering for non-Majors, 1985
- Texas Tech University, Electronics Lab classes, 1984

## • Education

- MSEE                    Texas Tech University                    1986
- BSEE                    University of Texas at Austin            1981



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  - E. Cook: Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- Our thanks for software tools provided at no cost to the USPAS
  - Tera Analysis – producers of QuickField (EM field simulation), <http://quickfield.com/>
  - Linear Technology Corp. – producers of LTspice (circuit simulation), <https://www.analog.com/en/resources/design-tools-and-calculators/ltspice-simulator.html>
  - Students may find the following supplemental materials useful when working in the field of pulsed power engineering:
    - “Principles of Charged Particle Acceleration,” Stanley Humphries Jr., Wiley, 1999, available at: <https://www.fieldp.com/>
    - “NRL Plasma Formulary,” J.D. Huba, NRL, 2007 edition, available at: [www.nrl.navy.mil/ppd/content/nrl-plasma-formulary](http://www.nrl.navy.mil/ppd/content/nrl-plasma-formulary)
    - “Pulsed Power Formulary,” Richard J. Adler, North Star Power Engineering, 2002 edition, available at [www.highvoltageprobes.com/downloads](http://www.highvoltageprobes.com/downloads)
    - “The Stanford Two-Mile Accelerator, the Blue Book, Chapter 13-Modulators,” R.B. Neal ed., 1968, available at: [www.slac.stanford.edu/library/2MileAccelerator/2mile.htm](http://www.slac.stanford.edu/library/2MileAccelerator/2mile.htm)
    - “Pulse Generators,” G.N. Glasoe & J.V. Lebacqz eds., 1948, available at: <https://www.febo.com/pages/docs/RadLab/>
- Work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy
  - SLAC: under contract DE-AC02-76SF00515
  - ORNL: under contract DE-AC05-00OR22725
  - LBL: under contract DE-AC02-05CH1123
  - Fermilab: under contract DE-AC02-07CH11359





# Course Outline

- Introduction (Burkhart)
- Materials/Passive Components and Devices (Jensen)
- Switching Devices (Burkhart)
- Basic Topologies – I (Jensen)
- Circuit Simulation – LTspice (Waldron)
- Basic Topologies – II (Burkhart)
- Engineering Simulation – Quickfield (Waldron)
- Advanced Topologies (Pappas, Walden, Beukers, Waldron, Burkhart)

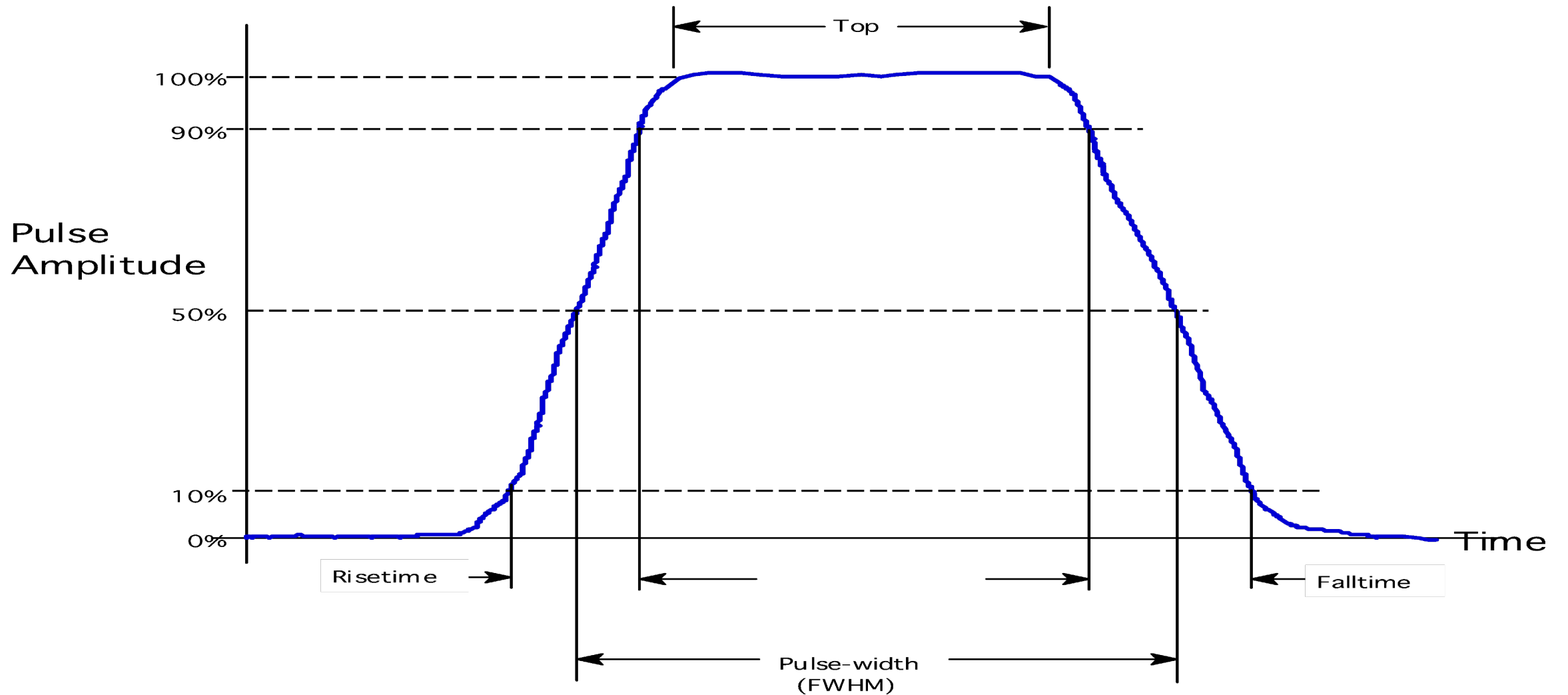


# What Is Pulsed Power?

- The conversion (modulation) of electrical energy from the waveforms typically found in transmission systems (50/60 Hz ac or dc) to temporally and amplitude modulated waveforms that are required for specific application.
- Modulators are devices that modulate electrical energy.



# Pulse Shape Parameters



# Defining Parameters for Pulses and Pulse Generators

- **Pulse-width ( $\tau$ ):** time duration of pulse (may be defined several ways, e.g. flat-top, or Full Width Half Maximum (FWHM))
- **Rise-time:** time duration of leading edge (typically 10 – 90% of maximum, may be 0 – 100% in critical applications)
- **Fall-time:** time duration of trailing edge (typically 10 – 90% of maximum, may be 0 – 100% in critical applications)
- **Pulse repetition frequency (PRF):** number of pulses per second
- **Duty cycle (or duty factor):**  $\tau(\text{PRF})$
- **Pulse power ( $P_{\text{pulse}}$ ):** product of pulse voltage and pulse current
- **Pulse energy ( $E_{\text{pulse}}$ ):** time integral of  $P_{\text{pulse}}$  over duration of pulse
- **Peak power ( $P_{\text{peak}}$ ):** maximum instantaneous value of  $P_{\text{pulse}}$
- **Average power ( $P_{\text{avg}}$ ):**  $P_{\text{avg}} = (E_{\text{pulse}}) * (\text{PRF})$
- **Internal impedance:** the characteristic impedance or source impedance of a pulse generator



# Where Is Pulsed Power Used?

- Applications where large instantaneous power (kW – TW) is required but cannot be applied continuously.
  - Pulsed RF accelerator microwave source (klystron)
    - SLAC 5045 (S-band): 360 kV, 0.41 kA, 3.5  $\mu$ s,  $P_{\text{peak}} \approx 0.15$  GW,  $P_{\text{ave}} \approx 65$  kW
    - ILC (L-band): 120 kV, 0.14 kA, 1.6 ms,  $P_{\text{peak}} \approx 17$  MW,  $P_{\text{ave}} \approx 0.14$  MW
    - SLAC XP4 (X-band): 500 kV, 0.25 kA, 1.6  $\mu$ s,  $P_{\text{peak}} \approx 0.13$  GW,  $P_{\text{ave}} \approx 50$  kW
    - Average power capacity of both tube and structure is a fraction of peak power required for particle acceleration
  - Induction accelerator
    - LLNL Advanced Test Accelerator (ATA): 50 MeV, 10 kA, 70 ns,  $P_{\text{peak}} \approx 0.5$  TW
    - Induction cell cores saturate after  $\sim 70$  ns
  - Inertial fusion
    - SNL Z-machine: 5 MV, 25 MA, 0.2  $\mu$ s,  $P_{\text{peak}} \approx 120$  TW
    - $\sim 14$ X the world's electrical generating capacity (8.4 TW)



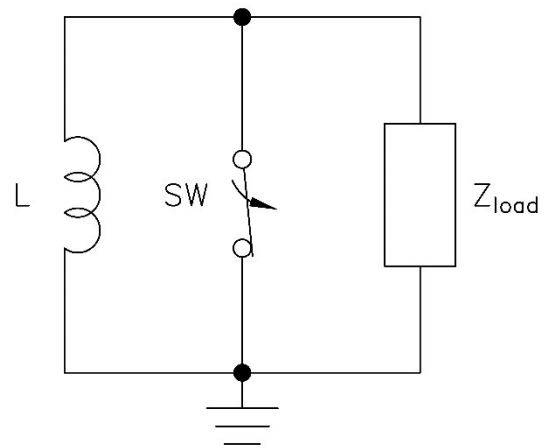
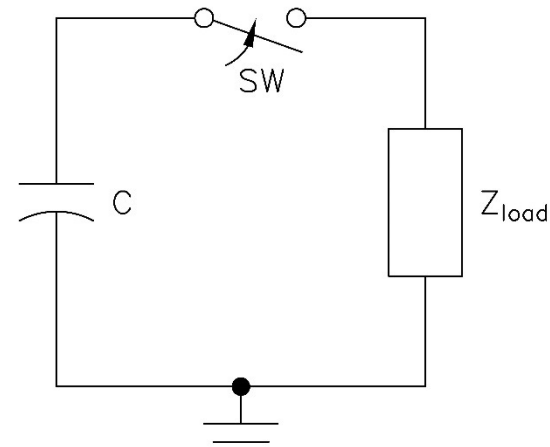
# Where Is Pulsed Power Used? (cont.)

- Applications where a modulation pattern is required
  - Corona discharge reactor for electro-chemical processing: a fast-rising voltage pulse produces the high energy electrons that catalyze chemical reactions
  - “Pattern” radar: information contained in modulation pattern
- Charged particle beam kickers
  - Damping rings typically contain multiple bunches that must be individually kicked in/out of the ring: proposed ILC DR bunch spacing, 3 – 6 ns
  - DARHT-II: kickers chop 4 beamlets out of 2 kA, 2  $\mu$ s beam
- Plasma discharges: waveform shape may be essential for plasma
  - Formation
  - Confinement
  - Compression
- Laser & flashlamp discharges: want short duration light pulses



# How Is Electrical Power Modulation Achieved?

- Store energy
  - Capacitor: voltage
  - Inductor: current
- Switch energy to load
  - Electro-mechanical relay
  - Vacuum tube
  - Gas discharge
    - Spark-gap
    - Thyatron
    - Plasma opening switch
  - Solid-state
    - Transistor
      - IGBT
      - MOSFET
    - Diode
      - Avalanche
      - Opening switch
- Commutate pulse



# Why Are Other Topologies Required?

- To overcome device limitations
  - Voltage/Current/Power limitations
  - Parasitic behavior: L, R, C
  - Finite switch turn on/off times
  - Switch control requirements/errors
  - Limited lifetime/duty factor/pulse repetition frequency (prf)
- Protect (people and equipment) from device failures
  - Load damage from excess energy deposition
  - Catastrophic release of stored energy
- Cost



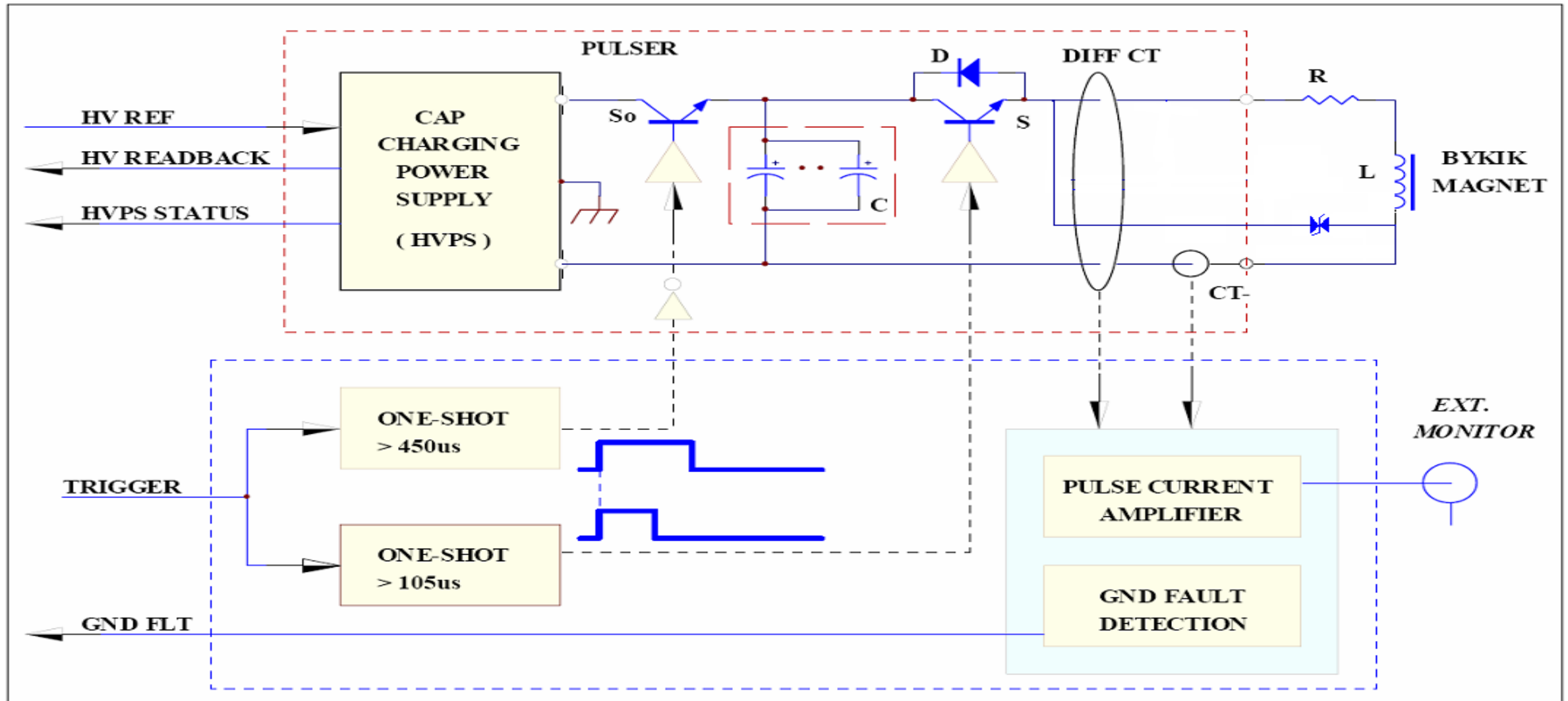


# Basic Modulator Topologies

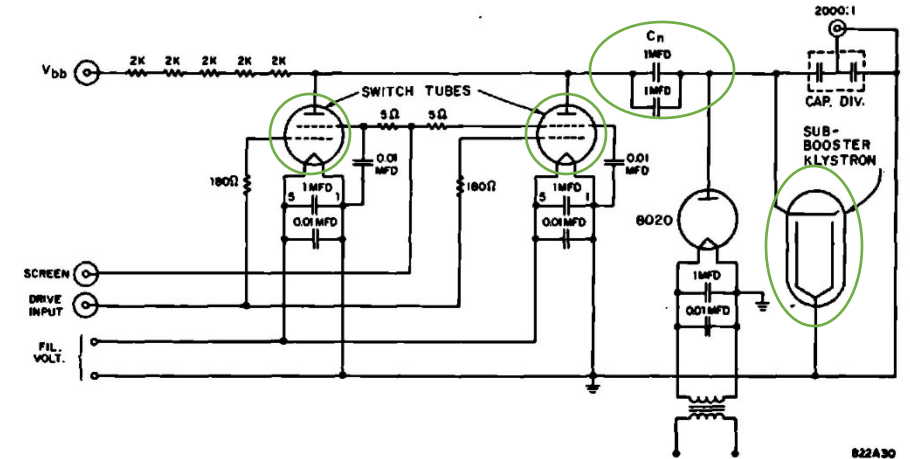
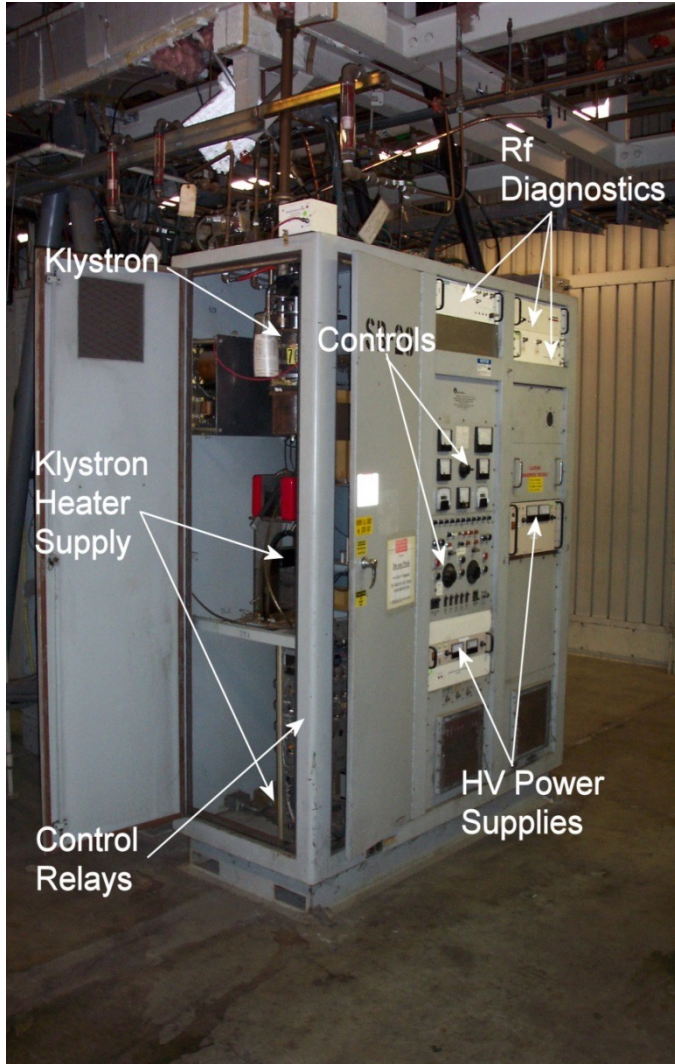
- Capacitor Discharge
  - R, L, C (energy transfer)
  - Circuit behavior: under/critically/over damped
- Hard tube
  - ~Ideal source (large capacitor) controlled by opening/closing switch
  - Traditionally used vacuum tube switch: triode/tetrode/pentode
  - Modern implementations use solid state switch: IGBT, MOSFET
- Line type
  - Transmission line energy storage controlled by opening or closing switch
  - Pulse forming line (PFL)
  - Pulse forming network (PFN)
    - Discrete element approximation of PFL, used for longer pulse duration
  - Blumlein: nested PFLs
- Transformer coupling of any of the above
  - Transforms  $V/I/Z$  from convenient range for modulator to range required for load



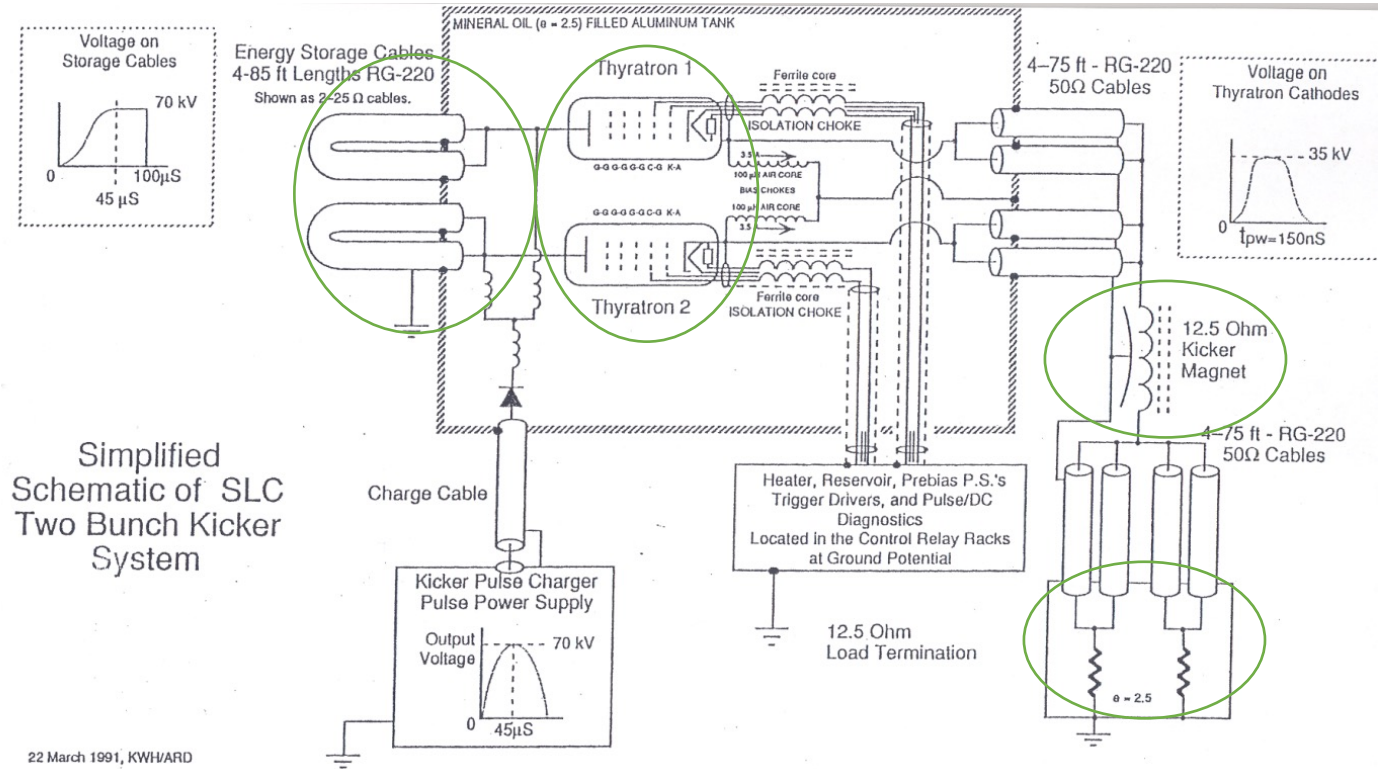
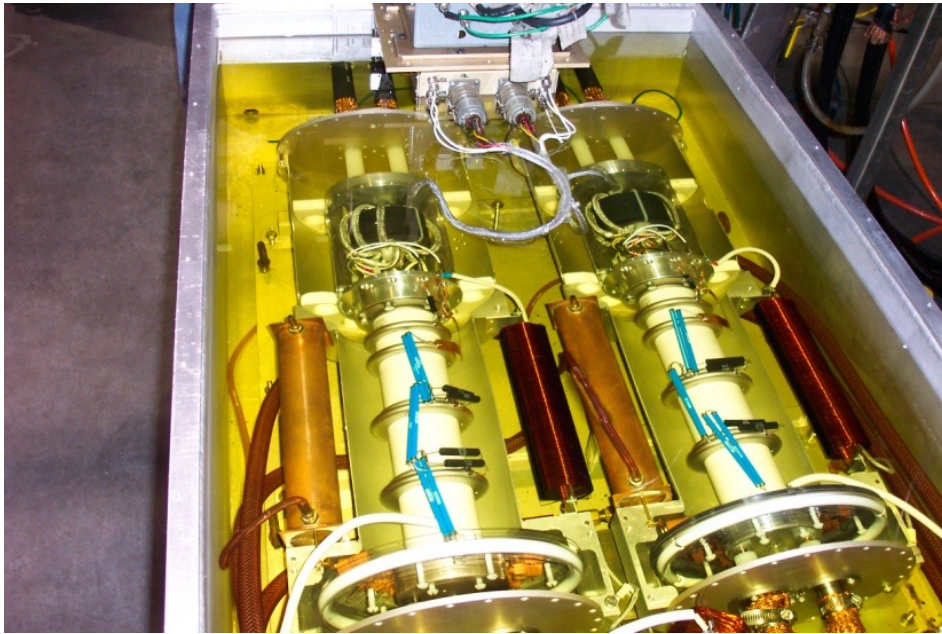
# Capacitor Discharge: SLAC LCLS BXKIK/BYKIK



# Hard Tube: SLAC Sub-booster



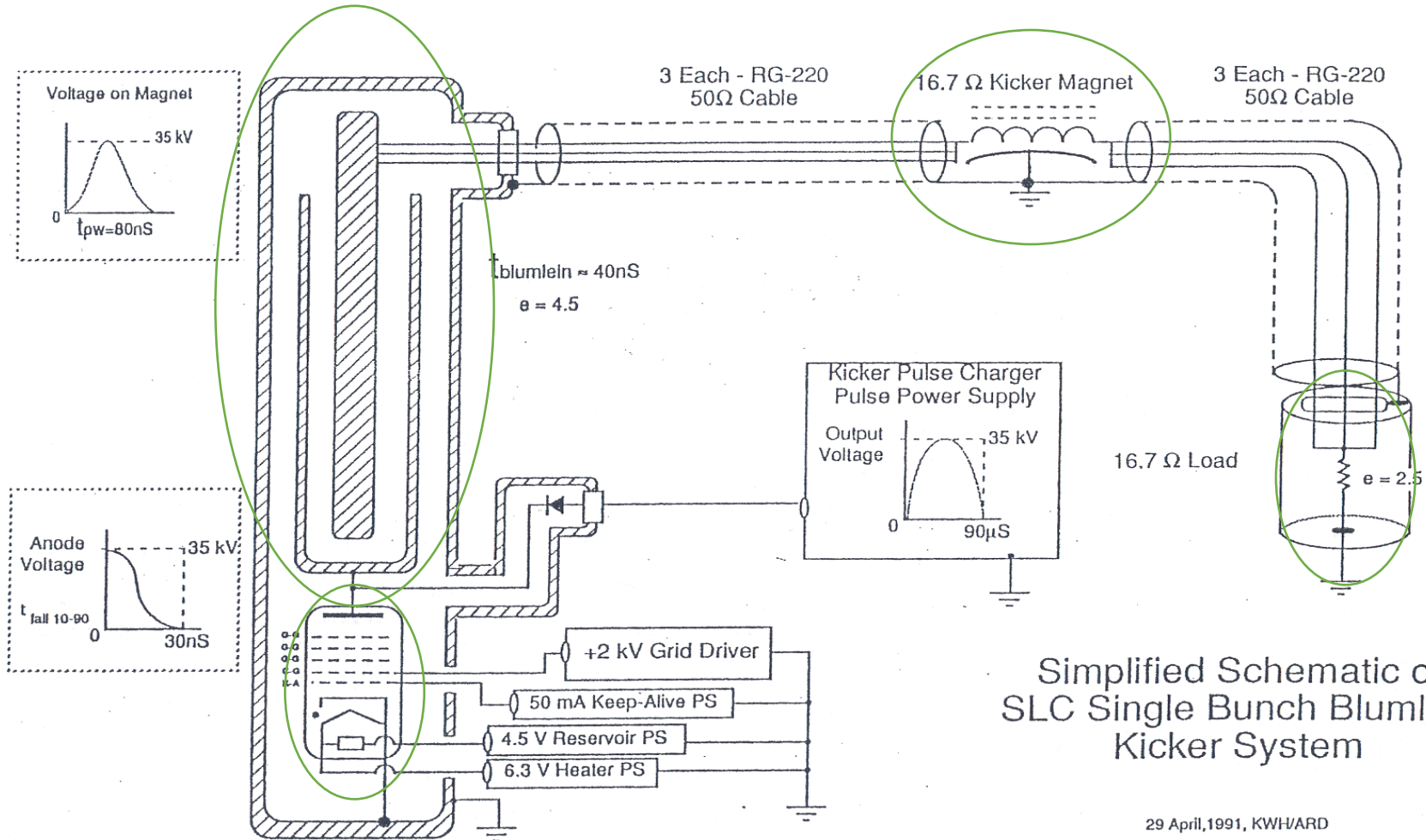
# Pulse Forming Line: SLAC North DR Kicker



22 March 1991, KWH/ARD

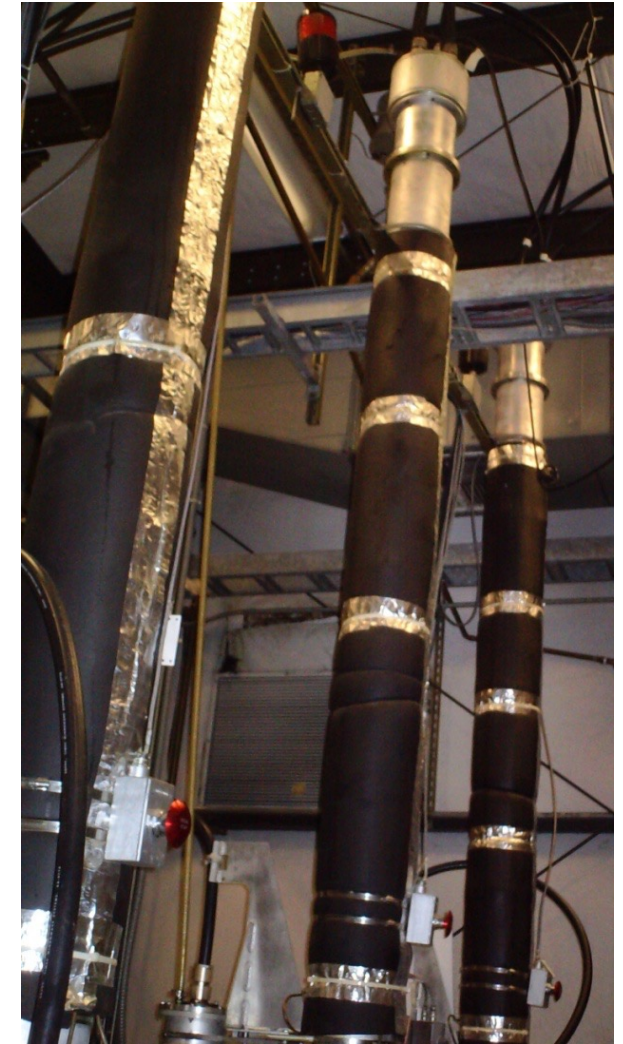


# Blumlein: SLAC South Damping Ring Kicker



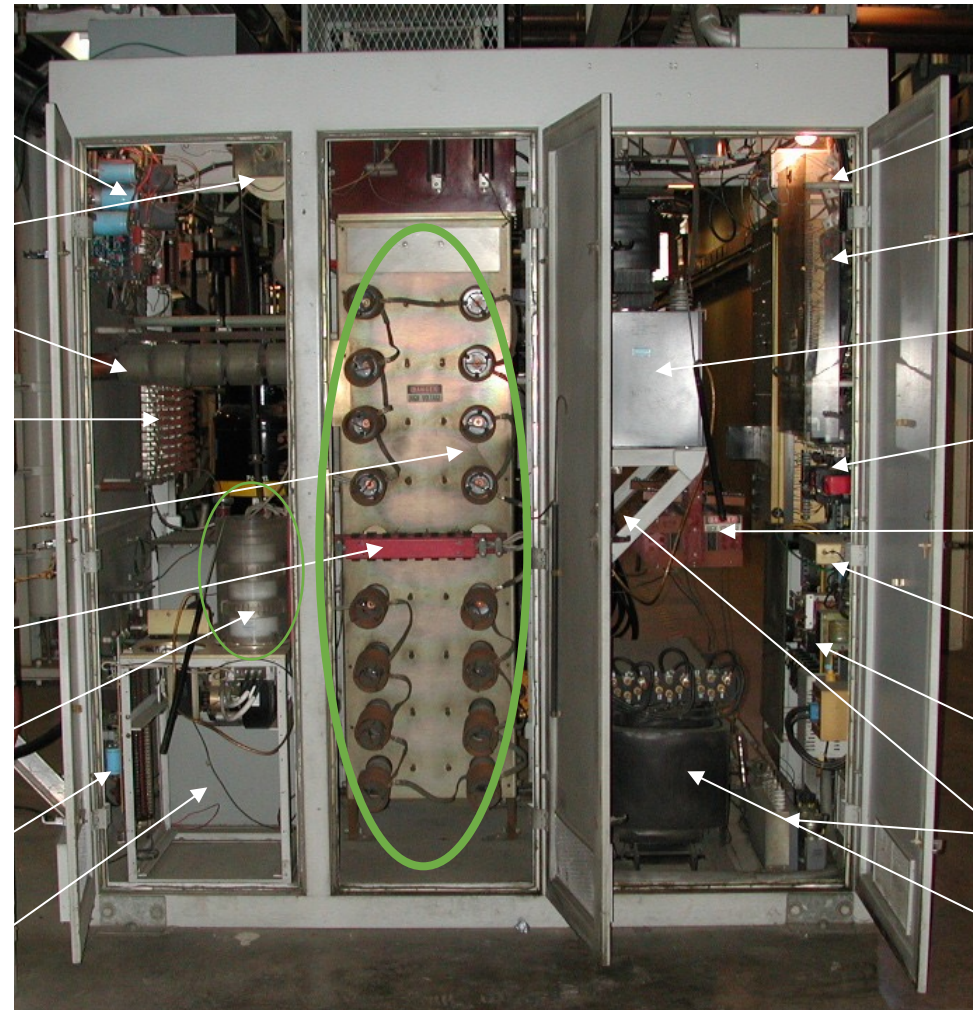
Simplified Schematic of SLC Single Bunch Blumlein Kicker System

29 April, 1991, KWH/VARD



# Pulse Forming Network: SLAC 6575

- Energy Recovery Circuit
- Capacitor Discharge Switch
- De-spiking Coil
- Charging Diode
- Pulse Forming Network
- Anode Reactor
- Thyratron
- Keep Alive Power Supply
- Charging Transformer



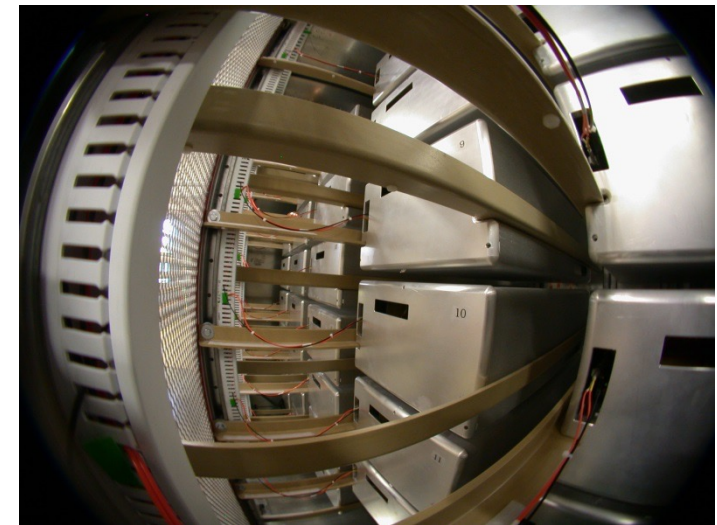
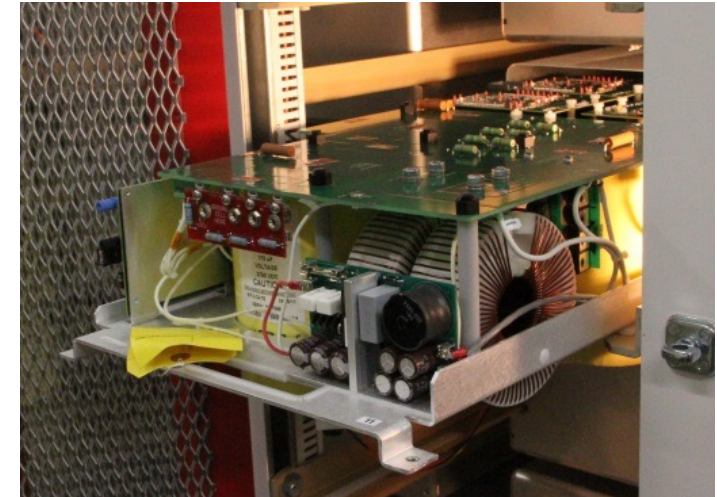
- Step Start Resistors
- 600VAC Circuit Breaker
- Filter Capacitors
- Contactors
- Full Wave Bridge Rectifier
- De-Qing Chassis
- Power Supply
- AC Line Filter Networks
- Power Transformer (T20)

# Advanced Modulator Topologies

- Marx
  - Basic Marx
  - Solid state Marx
- Resonant converter-modulator
  - Pulse-step
  - Parallel resonant-converter (HVCM)
  - Alternative Topology (AT-HVCM)
- Adder topologies
  - Inductive
  - Bi-polar adder
- Magnetic pulse compression
  - Magnetic switching
  - Magnetic pulse compression
- Opening switch PFL



# Solid State Marx: SLAC ILC P2-Marx





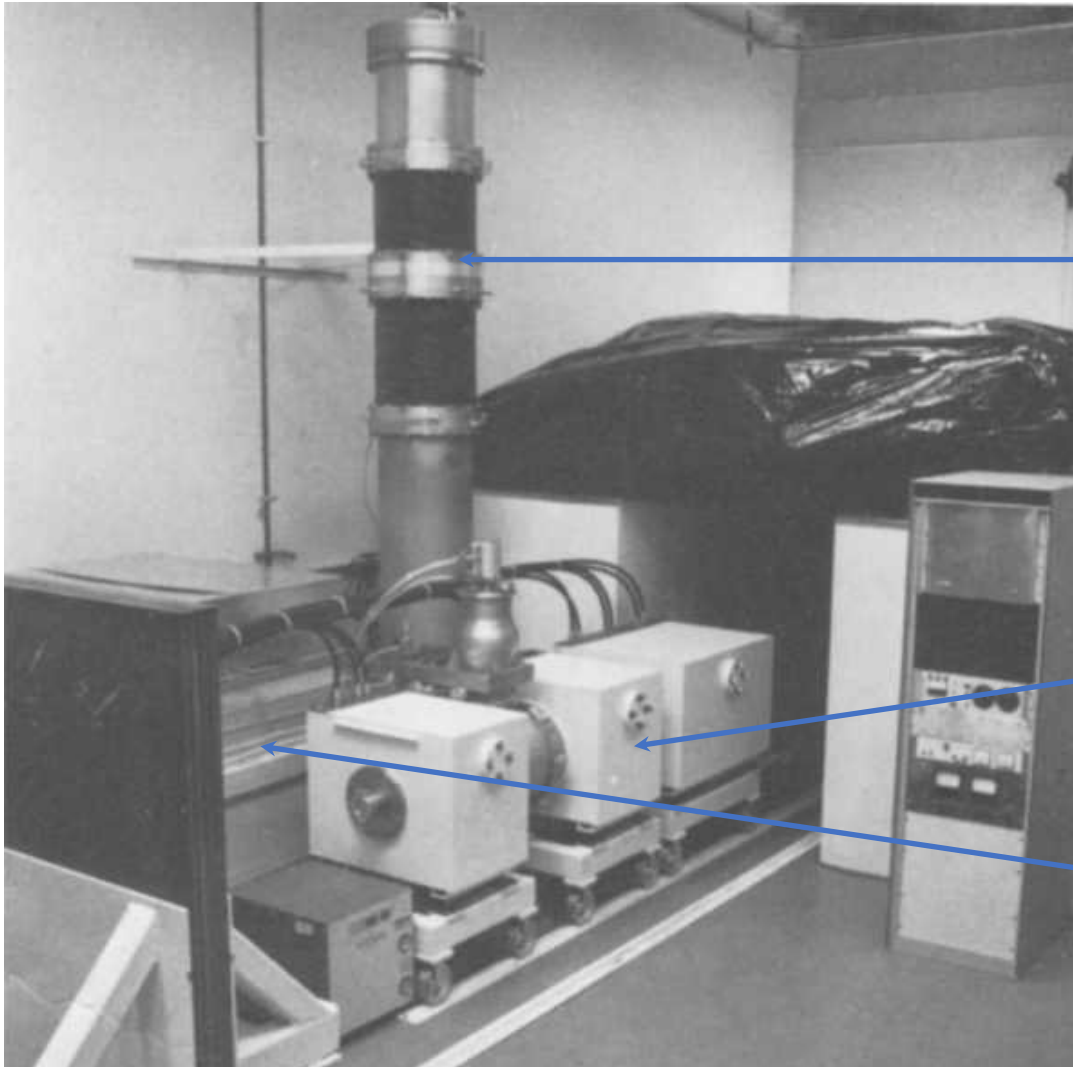
# Resonant Converter: SNS HVCM



# Inductive Adder: SLAC NLC 8-Pack



# Magnetic Pulse Compression: PSI Industrial Induction Accelerator

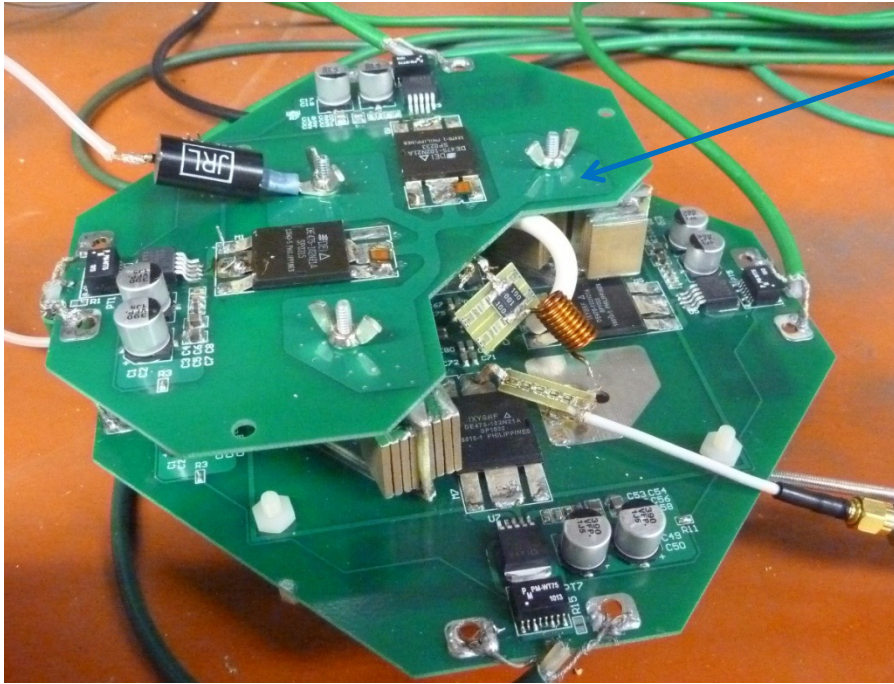
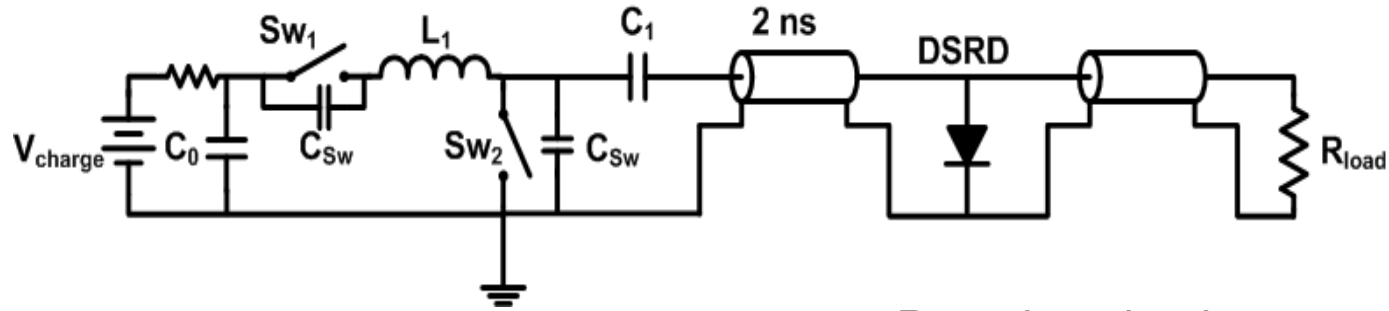


LLNL Mag-1C, stages  
3 & 4 compression

Induction linac

Solid state switch and  
stages 1&2 compression

# Opening Switch PFL: SLAC ILC Damping Ring Prototype



Pumping circuit

5 kV, 200A DSRD (*Ioffe Institute*)

ant (*for scale*)

