



Based on three temperature tests performed by our foundry, WJ arrived at an activation energy of 1.54 eV for the InGaP HBT process consisting of our AGxxx-xx Product Family. To determine the proper pre-exponential factor for our gain blocks, two sets of 10 devices each were eutectically attached to copper pedestals and heated at a constant base plate temperature until failure. The junction temperatures for the devices were elevated with a DC bias to a device current density of 25 kA/cm². Failure is defined as a 10% drop in device current or gain, or a 20% in beta. Using our derived thermal resistance values and bias settings, we could then infer what the junction temperatures were at a given base plate temperature. The results of those measurements showed that a junction temperature of 291 °C gave a MTTF of 350 hours, while 282 °C gave a MTTF of 620 hours. This data supports the following Arrhenius equation to derive the MTTF for our InGaP gain blocks:

$$MTTF = A * e^{(E_a/k/T_j)}$$

Where: A = 6.0 x 10⁻¹² (hrs) (Pre-exponential Factor)
 E_a = 1.54 (eV) (Activation Energy)
 k = 8.617 x 10⁻⁵ (eV/°K) (Boltzmann's Constant)
 T_j = Junction Temperature (°K)

Assuming continuous operation at a certain case temperature, MTTF and junction temperature can be related to curve shown above with the following equation:

$$T_j = T_c + R_{th} * V_d * I_d + 273$$

Where: T_j = Junction Temperature (°K)
 V_d = Device Voltage
 I_d = Device Current
 R_{th} = Worst-case published thermal resistance (shown on datasheets)
 T_c = Case Temperature (°C)
 273 is the factor to convert from °C to °K

Based on the MTTF curve shown above, the WJ Communications AG Series InGaP HBT Gain Blocks can achieve a minimum MTTF of 1 million hours at a continuous junction temperature of 177 °C.