

**RANI CHANNAMMA UNIVERSITY  
BELAGAVI**

**B.Sc. IV Semester**

**PHYSICS**

**UNIT-IV**

**Thermoelectricity**

# Thermoelectricity

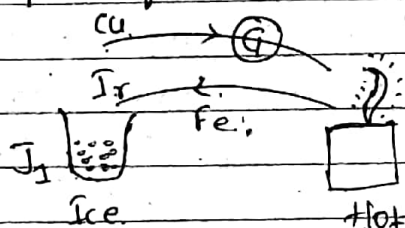
## Thermoelectric current

When two dissimilar metals are joined intensively at their ends so as to form two junctions, and these two junctions are maintained at two different temperatures, then a current is formed to flow within the circuit. The resulting current is called thermoelectric current.

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\* Seebeck effect  $\Rightarrow$  The production of emf and hence current by maintaining the junctions of two dissimilar metals at different temperatures is called seebeck effect.

The device consisting of the pair of dissimilar metals with pair of junction is called "thermocouple".



$J_1$  and  $J_2 \rightarrow$  cold and hot junction

G  $\rightarrow$  Galvanometer

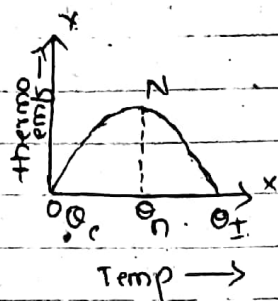
The thermocouple consists of copper & iron as two dissimilar metals. Once the thermocouple is maintained at cold and hot junctions then galvanometer  $\rightarrow$  resistor the deflection, indicating a flow of current in the circuit. If the junctions are reversed then deflection on G is in opposite direction. A thermocouple constructed with different metals and arranged them in a series called seebeck series (thermoelectric series).

Bi, Ni, Co, Pt, Cu, Mn, Hg, Pb, Sn, Cr, Mo, Au, Ag.

Zn, Fe, As, Sb.

The list of metals shown above exhibit Seebeck effect and this phenomena can be also observed with some alloys.

\* Variation of thermo emf with temperatures: —



The thermo emf developed in the thermocouple depends on the temp. difference b/w the two junctions. If the temperature of the hot junction is increased and keeping the cold junction constant, then emf is found to increase. The emf increases until it reaches maximum at particular temp called  $\theta_n$  (Neutral temperature).

If the temp of the hot junction is increased further, the emf is found to decrease till it becomes zero, and there after reverses in direction. The corresponding temp is called temperature of inversion.

\* Seebeck - coefficient: — The temp of the hot junction of thermocouple at which the thermo emf becomes maximum is known as neutral temperature ' $\theta_n$ '.

The temperature of hot junction at which reversal of emf take place is called temp of inversion  $\theta_i$ . The temp of inversion depends upon upon the temp of cold junction.

Let  $\theta_n$ ,  $\theta_i$  and  $\theta_c$  be the neutral temp, temp of inversion & temp of cold junction resp.

then we have.  $\theta_1 - \theta_n = \theta_n - \theta_c$

since  $\theta_c = 0$ , then  $2\theta_n$

the thermo emf varies with a temp according to the relation  $e = a\theta + b\theta^2$ .

where  $\theta$  is temp difference b/w the two junction 'a' & 'b' are constants for the given thermocouple and are called as seebeck co-efficients

\* laws of thermoelectricity :- as a result of large no' of experiments laws of thermoelectricity are explained in two ways.

1) law of intermediate metals

2) law of " temperatures

\* law of intermediate metals :-

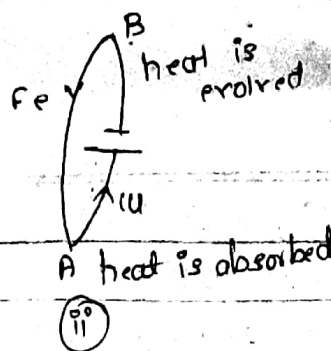
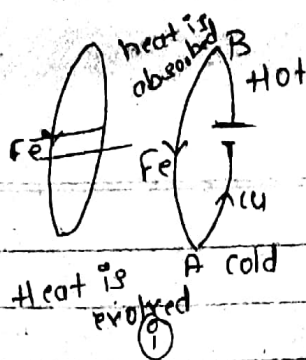
statements :- It states that the introduction of any additional metals into any thermoelectric circuit does not alter the thermo emf provided the metal introduced is at the same temperature.

\* law of intermediate temperatures :-

statements :- It states that the thermo emf of the thermocouple b/w two temperatures is equal to the sum of the emfs corresponding to no' of successive intervals into which the given range of temperature may be divided

if the thermocouple is maintain the b/w  $n$  that varies temperatures,  $\theta_1 \theta_2 \theta_3 \theta_4 \dots$  etc. then there corresponding emfs are  $e_1 e_2 e_3 \dots$  etc.

\* Peltier effect :- The process of absorption (or evolution of heat energy) at a junction between two dissimilar metals when a current flows through the junction is called Peltier effect



explanation:— suppose a battery is introduced in the circuit and both the junctions are kept at same temp

By passing the current in the circuit (fig(i)) heat is evolved at junction A, & heat is absorbed at B if the direction of the current is reversed (fig(ii)) then heat is evolved at B & absorbed at A.

Therefore the Peltier effect is reversible

Peltier Co-efficient <sup>( $\pi$ )</sup> — Peltier co-efficient of a junctions may be defined as the amount of energy absorbed or evolved when unit quantity of electric charge flows through the junctions. & it is denoted by  $\pi$  & it is depending on

- (i) pair of metals in the thermocouple
- (ii) the temp of the junction

The amount of energy absorbed / evolved =  $\pi Q$

where  $Q$  is the quantity of charge across the junctions

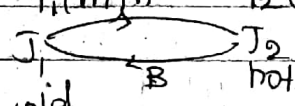
If  $E$  volt is the emf then

$$\pi Q = E Q$$

$$\pi = E$$

$$\text{SI unit} = \text{J / coulomb}$$

Thermodynamics of Peltier effect — let  $J_1$  &  $J_2$  be the junctions with temp  $T_1$  &  $T_2$  respectively thus A & B forms a thermocouple.



Now the heat is absorbed at  $J_2$  & liberated at  $J_1$ . Amount of heat absorbed at  $J_2$  is more than the amount of heat liberated at  $J_1$ .

And because of this reason the current in the circuit is observed

Thus thermo act like a heat engine which absorbs the heat at one junction and liberates at colder junction  
let 1A current flow for 1sec through the thermocouple  
let  $\pi_1$  &  $\pi_2$  be the peltier co-efficient at  $T_1$  &  $T_2$

Heat energy absorbed at  $T_2 = \pi_2 I t$

For  $I = 1A$  &  $t = 1s$  then

$$T_2 = \pi_2$$

Heat energy liberated at  $T_1 = \pi_1 I t$

For  $I = 1A$  &  $t = 1s$  then

$$T_1 = \pi_1$$

Net energy absorbed  $= \pi_2 - \pi_1$

$\therefore$  This energy is used in setting up of emf  $e$  volt.

$$e = \pi_2 - \pi_1$$

comparing peltier effect with carnot heat engine.

$$\frac{Q_1}{T_1} = \frac{Q_2}{T_2}$$

$$\frac{\pi_1}{T_1} = \frac{\pi_2}{T_2}$$

$$\frac{T_2}{T_1} = \frac{\pi_2}{\pi_1}$$

subtract 1 on both sides

$$\frac{T_2}{T_1} - 1 = \frac{\pi_2}{\pi_1} - 1$$

$$\frac{T_2 - T_1}{T_1} = \frac{\pi_2 - \pi_1}{\pi_1}$$

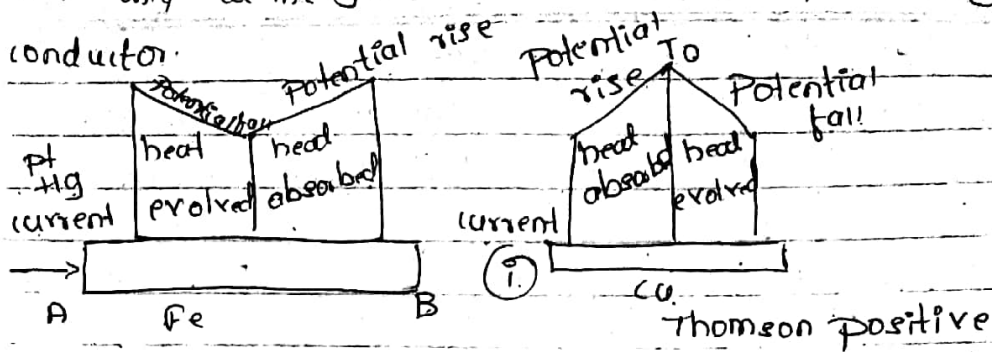
$$\frac{\pi_1(T_2 - T_1)}{T_1} = (\pi_2 - \pi_1)$$

$$\frac{\pi_1(T_2 - T_1)}{T_1} = e$$

$$\therefore e \propto T_2 - T_1$$

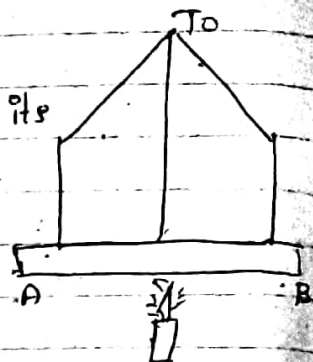
The thermo emf directly proportional to temp difference b/w two junction

Thomson effect - when a current flows through unequally heated conductor there is a evolution & absorption heat not only at the junction but it takes place throughout the conductor.



### (ii) Thomson Negative:-

Consider a thick copper both AB heated at its centre of no current flows through the conductor. the points A & B are at the same temp. Now let us pass the current through the conductor.



(a) Heat is absorbed from A to its centre &

(b) heat is evolved from centre to B

Thus the transfer of heat in the direction of current is known as "ve Thomson effect"

ex - Cd, Zn, Ag, Sb

In case of iron both if the current flows from A to B then

(a) heat is evolved from A to centre &

(b) heat is absorbed from to B

Thus the transfer of heat in the direction of current is opposite to flow of current & is known as "Negative Thomson effect"

ex:- Pt, Bi, Co, Ni, Hg

In case of ~~heat~~ lead pb Thomson effect is zero & therefore lead to is used to make thermocouples.

Explanation of Thomson effect:-

\* it is on the bases of free electron theory of metals when metallic bar is unequally heated temp gradient is set up in the bar.

As electron are more energetic at hot region which starts moving towards cooler parts. This causes higher potential at the hotter portions & lower potential at the cooler portions. If the electric charge is sent through the conductor then work is to be done along the conductor. are opposite to it as a result heat energy is absorbed or evolved. due to the difference of these two energies Thomson emf is produce

Thomson coefficient ( $\sigma$ ) :-

it is the heat energy absorbed or evolved when 1A current flows for 1sec b/w two points of a conductor at a temp difference of  $1^\circ$   
or

" It is also defined as the potential difference set up b/w true points for unit temp difference

if two points are at Temp  $T_1$  &  $T_2$  when 1 Ampere flows for 't' seconds

Then Thomson emf :-

$$= \int_{T_2}^{T_1} (\sigma dt) \times I \times t$$

if  $t = 1s$  ,  $I = 1$

$$\text{Thomson emf} = \int_{T_2}^{T_1} \sigma dt$$

Problems :-

\* For a certain thermocouple  $a = 20 \mu V/^\circ C$  &  $b = -\frac{1}{30} \mu V/^\circ C^2$

find the Neutral temp & the temp of inversion

Given :-  $a = 20 \times 10^{-3} V/^\circ C$   $b = -0.03334 \mu V/^\circ C^2$

$$e = a\theta + b\theta^2$$

$$\frac{de}{d\theta} = a + 2b\theta$$

$$\text{if } \frac{de}{d\theta} = 0$$

$$\theta = \frac{-a}{2b} = \frac{20}{2 \times 1/30}$$

$$a + 2b\theta = 0$$

$$\theta_n = \frac{20 \times 30}{2} = 300^\circ C$$

2

$$OI = 2\theta_n$$

$$OI = 600$$

Int Expression  $(\sigma_A - \sigma_B)$  for  $\pi = T \frac{de}{dT}$

Differentiating the following eq<sup>n</sup> w.r.t 'T'

$$\pi = T \frac{de}{dT}$$

$$\frac{d\pi}{dT} = T \frac{d^2e}{dT^2} + \frac{de}{dT}$$

Then rearrange the eq<sup>n</sup>

$$\frac{de}{dT} = \frac{d\pi}{dT} - T \frac{d^2e}{dT^2} \rightarrow (1)$$

By we h. T

$$d\pi + (\sigma_A - \sigma_B) dT = de$$

Dividing this equation by 'dT'

$$\frac{d\pi}{dT} + (\sigma_A - \sigma_B) = \frac{de}{dT}$$

then rearrange this eq<sup>n</sup>

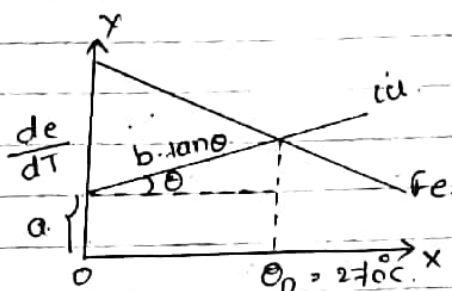
$$\frac{de}{dT} - \frac{d\pi}{dT} = (\sigma_A - \sigma_B) \rightarrow (2)$$

comparing eq<sup>n</sup> (1) & (2) we get

$$(\sigma_A - \sigma_B) = -T \frac{d^2e}{dT^2}$$

\*\*\*\*\*

\* Thermoelectric diagrams



Definition:-  $T \rightarrow$

The diagram showing the relation b/w thermoelectric power at the temp of the hot junction is called as thermoelectric diagram. These diagram first constructed by tailer and hence is known as 'tailer's' diagram.

In h. T from the relation

$$e = a\theta + b\theta^2$$

which represents variation of emf with Temp diff w.r.t  $\theta$

$$\frac{de}{d\theta} = a + 2b\theta$$

$$P = a + 2b\theta$$

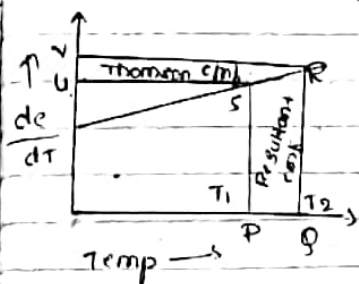
from the above eq<sup>n</sup> slope =  $\alpha_b$  and intercept is given by

(a)

x Applications of thermoelectric diagram :-

- ① It is used to find the total thermo emf
- ② It " " " " emf due to peltier effect
- ③ " " " " " " " " Thomson effect
- ④ To determine the neutral temp
- ⑤ " " " " temp of inversion

① Total Thermo emf :-



The total emf develop in a thermocouple with junctions of absolute temperatures  $T_1$  &  $T_2$  is given by

$$E = \int_{T_1}^{T_2} \frac{dE}{dT} dT$$

The area of PQRS in the figure gives the total-thermo electric emf.

$$E = \text{Area PQRS.}$$

② EMF due to Peltier effect :- The peltier emf at the cold junction of absolute temp.  $T_1$  is given by.

$$\pi_1 = T_1 \left( \frac{dE}{dT} \right)_{T_1}$$

$$= \text{Op} \times \text{Ps}$$

$$= \text{Area OP Su}$$

Similarly at the hot junction ( $T_2$ ) is

Peltier emf is given by.

$$\pi_2 = T_2 \left( \frac{dE}{dT} \right)_{T_2}$$

$$= \text{Op} \times \text{Sp}$$

$$= \text{Area OP Rv}$$

So net setup due to Peltier effect =  $\pi_2 - \pi_1$

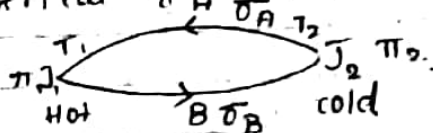
$$= \text{Area OPRV} - \text{Area OPRU}$$

$$= \text{Area PQRS (Approximate)}$$

\*\*\* Smith

\* Application of thermodynamics to thermocouple

① Derivation of the Relat<sup>n</sup>  $\pi = T \times \frac{dE}{dT}$



Consider a thermocouple with metals A & B,  $J_1$  &  $J_2$  are hot & cold junctions having temp<sup>s</sup>  $T_1$  &  $T_2$  respectively let  $\sigma_A$  &  $\sigma_B$  be Thomson's co-efficients &  $\pi_1$  &  $\pi_2$  be Peltier co-efficients

The energy absorbed due to Peltier effect at the hot junction  $= \pi_2 I t$

The energy liberated due to Peltier effect at

energy absorbed at the cold junction  $= -\pi_1 I t$

Similarly energy absorbed in a metal A due to Thomson effect  $= \int_{T_1}^{T_2} (\sigma_A dT) I t$

energy absorbed in metal 'B' due to Thomson effect  $= \int_{T_1}^{T_2} (\sigma_B dT) I t$

Total gain in the energy for the complete thermocouple  $= \left[ (\pi_2 - \pi_1) + \int_{T_1}^{T_2} (\sigma_A - \sigma_B) dT \right] I t \rightarrow (1)$

Total emf produced in the circuit then energy produced  $= e I t \rightarrow (2)$

$\therefore$  from eq<sup>s</sup> (1) & (2)

$$e I t = \left[ (\pi_2 - \pi_1) + \int_{T_1}^{T_2} (\sigma_A - \sigma_B) dT \right] I t$$

$$e = (\pi_2 - \pi_1) + \int_{T_1}^{T_2} (\sigma_A - \sigma_B) dT \rightarrow (3)$$

According to 2nd law of thermodynamics for the Carnot reversible heat engine

$$\frac{Q_1}{T_1} = \frac{Q_2}{T_2}$$

$Q_1 =$  The quantity of heat absorbed at  $T_1$

$Q_2 =$  " " " " rejected "  $T_2$ .

The energy absorbed at hot junction due to Peltier effect  
 $= (\pi + d\pi) It$

Energy liberated at cold junction  $= \pi It$

Similarly, energy absorbed due to Thomson effect  $= (\sigma_A - \sigma_B) dT It$

Applying II law of thermodynamics

$$\frac{(\pi + d\pi) It}{T + dT} + \frac{(\sigma_A - \sigma_B) dT It}{T} = \frac{It}{T}$$

$$\frac{(\pi + d\pi)}{T + dT} - \frac{\pi}{T} + \frac{(\sigma_A - \sigma_B)}{T} dT = 0$$

$$\frac{T\pi + Td\pi - T\pi + \pi dT}{T(T + dT)} + \frac{(\sigma_A - \sigma_B) dT}{T} = 0$$

$$\frac{Td\pi - \pi dT}{T(T + dT)} + \frac{(\sigma_A - \sigma_B) dT}{T} = 0$$

$$\frac{Td\pi}{T^2} - \frac{\pi dT}{T^2} + \frac{(\sigma_A - \sigma_B) dT}{T} = 0$$

$$\frac{d\pi}{T} - \frac{\pi dT}{T^2} + \frac{(\sigma_A - \sigma_B) dT}{T} = 0$$

multiplying 'T' throughout

$$T d\pi - \pi dT + (\sigma_A - \sigma_B) dT = 0$$

$$d\pi + (\sigma_A - \sigma_B) dT = \frac{\pi dT}{T}$$

substitute this as de

$$\boxed{de = \frac{\pi dT}{T}}$$

But  $\frac{de}{dT}$  = Thermoelectric power

$$\therefore \pi = \frac{de}{dT} T$$

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