

FUNDAMENTALS OF ENGINEERING ELECTRONICS

BY

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PREFACE

It has for some time been a conviction of the author and his associates that, no matter how facile an engineer may be in the manipulation of electronic circuits, his effectiveness is distinctly limited unless he has a satisfactory understanding of the operating principles of the electronic circuit *elements* that he uses. The ability to grasp readily the reasons for the behavior of new devices as they appear is especially important. The relative ease with which electronic devices can be made to order to accomplish specific purposes is an added reason for placing initial emphasis in electronics instruction on internal operating principles. These considerations have been the basis for the method of instruction in electronics at the University of Michigan ever since courses in the subject were introduced about eight years ago.

In the preparation of this book, which is an outgrowth of the author's teaching experience, an attempt has been made to maintain a proper balance between two underlying objectives:

(1) To give the reader a realistic and quantitatively usable conception of the principles that govern the internal behavior of electronic devices (this is the primary objective); and

(2) To familiarize the reader with methods of circuit analysis customarily employed in connection with the most common engineering applications of electronic devices.

Accordingly, the chief emphasis in this book is placed on internal operating principles. A large part of the text is devoted to a study of the effects of the use of various geometries and materials in electronic devices, and a relatively small part to circuit studies.

The point of view is that of an engineer: Principles of importance in engineering work are selected for study; illustrations of these principles are drawn from engineering practice; and physical concepts are so treated as to permit ready determinations of *magnitudes*. Familiarity with relative magnitudes is of course essential to a satisfactory engineering understanding of any scientific subject-matter.

Reasoning from purely physical concepts has been used rather than mathematical formulation, wherever the latter could be avoided without loss of definiteness. However, a large part of the subject-matter requires mathematical analysis for the establishment of proper quantitative concepts, and wherever that is true, mathematical methods have been used freely.

It is perhaps unfortunate that one of the most difficult subjects treated falls naturally very early in the text, in Chapter II. However, in his work with undergraduates the author has tried teaching triode electrostatic field analysis later in the course, and has also tried a qualitative treatment, involving a statement of the general results with little attention to the mathematical formulation. Such methods have not proved satisfactory. The conclusions reached by means of field analyses are rather striking, and class enthusiasm is dampened if denied satisfaction of the curiosity that naturally arises as to how these conclusions are arrived at.

This book has been especially designed for use in full-year courses for undergraduate or graduate students; however, the content is so arranged that it is readily adaptable, with certain omissions, for one-semester courses. It is hoped that the book will also find a place as a reference work for engineers in industry.

The author wishes to acknowledge gratefully the encouragement and active assistance rendered during the entire period of development of the electronics work by Professors A. D. Moore, S. S. Attwood, and L. N. Holland, all of the Electrical Engineering Department of the University of Michigan; also to express appreciation of the care and thoughtfulness with which portions of the manuscript were reviewed and ably criticized by Professor Attwood, and by Professor Samuel Goudsmit of the Physics Department of the University of Michigan. The author is indebted to all other members of the staff of the Electrical Engineering Department, and to many of those in the Physics Department, especially to Professor O. S. Duffendack, for ever-ready advice and counsel; also to Messrs. Ralph Bodine and John Lopus for the thoughtful and careful draftmanship exercised during the preparation of the original drawings for the figures.

W. G. Dow

March 20, 1937

CONTENTS

PART I

ELECTRONS

INTRODUCTION

HIGH-VACUUM THERMIONIC TRIODES

SECTION	PAGE
1. A Triode in a Simple Amplifier Circuit.....	1
2. Electrostatic Control of Plate Current by Grid and Plate Voltages.....	2
3. Organization of Text Material.....	6

CHAPTER I

POTENTIAL DISTRIBUTION DIAGRAMS

4. Units and Conversions.....	7
5. Electric Intensity and Potential; Force on an Electron.....	8
6. Poisson's and the Laplace Equations; Potential Distribution Diagrams in One and Two Dimensions.....	9
7. Surface and Space-Charge Density in Potential Diagrams.....	13
8. Potential Diagrams for One-Dimensional Fields in Regions Containing Space Charge.....	15
9. Spherical and Cylindrical Coordinates.....	17

CHAPTER II

THE ELECTROSTATIC FIELD OF A TRIODE

10. Conformal Transformations.....	20
11. Conformal Transformation of a Parallel-Plane Triode.....	24
12. Placement of Charges to Satisfy Triode Boundary Conditions.....	25
13. Equations for Space-Charge-Free Potential Distribution.....	31
14. Charge Magnitudes.....	33
15. Space-Charge-Free Off-Cathode Field Intensity.....	34
16. Dependence of F_0 on an Equivalent Voltage.....	35
17. Electrostatic Coefficients; Cathode Charge Always Proportional to an Equivalent Voltage.....	36
18. Amplification Factor μ in Terms of Dimensions.....	39
19. Spacing of Equivalent Space-Charge-Free Diode.....	43
20. Parallel-Plane Grid and Plate Structure with Filamentary Cathode.....	44
21. Conformal Transformation of a Cylindrical Triode.....	45
22. Amplification Factor and Spacing of Equivalent Diode, for a Cylindrical Triode.....	49
23. Limitations to the Validity of Triode Geometrical Relations.....	51
24. Mapping the Fields.....	52

CHAPTER III

SECTION	ELECTRON BALLISTICS	PAGE
25.	Acceleration Due to an Electric Field	56
26.	Velocity and Potential; the Electron Volt	57
27.	Directed Energies; Velocity Measurable in Square Root Volts	58
28.	Electron Deflection in Passing Through Grids	60
29.	Force on an Electron Moving in a Magnetic Field	61
30.	Path Circular or Helical in a Uniform Magnetic Field; Superposition of Magnetic Motions	62
31.	Opposing Electric and Magnetic Fields; Moving Magnetic Fields	64
32.	Cycloidal and Trochoidal Motion in the Presence of Uniform Electric and Magnetic Fields	66
33.	Motion between Concentric Cylinders with Magnetic Field Parallel to Axis	70
34.	Mass: a Property Due to Electric and Magnetic Fields	75
35.	"Rest Mass" of an Electron; Increase of Mass at Large Velocities].	75
36.	"Transverse Mass" and "Longitudinal Mass"	77
37.	Relation of Velocity and Mass to Accelerating Potential	78
38.	Motions in Irregularly Curved Fields	79

CHAPTER IV

CATHODE RAYS

39.	Cathode Ray: a Name for a Beam of Electrons	84
40.	The Cathode-Ray Oscillograph	84
41.	Voltage Sensitivity	85
42.	Magnetic Sensitivity	87
43.	Measuring-Circuit Relations	88
44.	Photographic and Visual Sensitivity; Penetration of High-Velocity Elec- trons	89
45.	Production and Focusing of the Beam	90
46.	Time-Axis Motion	93
47.	Cathode Rays as Current Carriers; Television	95

CHAPTER V

SPACE-CHARGE FLOW

48.	Equilibrium between Energy, Flow, and Poisson's Equations	97
49.	Zero Gradient at the Cathode: a Condition for Maximum Space Charge Consistent with Steady Current Flow	98
50.	Space-Charge-Limited Current Proportional to the Three-Halves Power of the Voltage	99
51.	Space-Charge-Limited Volt-Ampere Relation, Parallel Plane Electrodes	100
52.	Space-Charge-Limited Current in a Parallel-Plane Triode	102
53.	Magnitude of the Spacing-Factor s , Parallel-Plane Triode	103
54.	Space-Charge-Limited Volt-Ampere Relationship, Concentric Cylinders	106
55.	Space-Charge-Limited Current in a Cylindrical Triode	109
56.	Effect of Potential Variation along the Cathode on Space-Charge-Limited Current	112
57.	Capacitance between Electrodes Carrying a Space-Charge-Limited Current	116
58.	Energy Dissipation at the Plate	117

CONTENTS

vii

CHAPTER VI

SECTION	TRIODES, TETRODES, PENTODES	PAGE
59.	Grids Permit Electrostatic Control of Space-Charge-Limited Triode Current	121
60.	Current-Voltage Relations in Triodes	121
61.	Grid Current	124
62.	Tetrodes or Screen-Grid Tubes	126
63.	The Various μ 's for a Tetrode	129
64.	Analysis of Screen Grid Characteristics; Secondary Emission	130
65.	Shielding of Screen by Oscillating Space Charge	134
66.	Pentodes, Beam Power Tubes, and Critical Distance Tubes	135
67.	Oscillating Space Charge	141
68.	Coupling between Internal and External Oscillations	143

CHAPTER VII

THERMIONIC CATHODES

69.	Electron-Emitting Efficiency of a Cathode Surface	148
70.	Dushman's Equation Relating Thermionic Current Density and Temperature	149
71.	The Voltage Equivalent of Temperature	150
72.	Energies of Escaping Electrons	152
73.	Graphical Evaluation of Emission Constants	153
74.	Cathode Power Dissipation	155
75.	Heat Transfer by Radiation; Emissivity Coefficients	156
76.	Temperature Measurements; Lead Losses	159
77.	Overall Relationship between Thermionic Current Density and Power	159
78.	Inward-Radiating Cathodes	160
79.	Low-Work-Function Surfaces	161

CHAPTER VIII

WORK FUNCTIONS OF HOMOGENEOUS SURFACES

80.	Ionizing Potentials of Atoms	163
81.	Free Electrons in Metals	164
82.	Work Function	164
83.	Energy-Level Diagrams; Gross and Net Work Function	165
84.	Normal (Low-Temperature) Distribution of Kinetic Energy	166
85.	Thermionic Emission	167
86.	Why Kinetic-Energy Levels have Finite Spacings; the "Quantum" of Action	168
87.	Why Each Kinetic-Energy Level Can Accommodate Only a Limited Number of Electrons; the "Exclusion Principle"	170
88.	Electron Spin	172
89.	Actual Energy of the Normal Maximum Level	173
90.	Normal Average Energy	174
91.	Normal Energy Distribution	175
92.	The Outward Flight of an Electron; the Image Force	176
93.	Relation between Potential-Energy Curve and Force Curve	178
94.	Potential-Energy Diagrams vs. Potential Distribution Diagrams	180
95.	Gross Work Function Inversely Proportional to Atomic Spacing	182

CHAPTER IX

SECTION	ENERGY-LEVEL DIAGRAMS OF METALS	PAGE
96.	Purposes for Which Energy-Level Diagrams are Useful	188
97.	Valve Action Outside a Thermionic Cathode Surface When Current Is Space-Charge-Limited	188
98.	Magnitude of the Negative Potential Dip Outside the Cathode	190
99.	Conditions in a Triode at and Near Cut-Off	191
100.	Reduction of Work Function by Strong External Fields	192
101.	Contact Difference of Potential	194
102.	Effect of Contact Difference of Potential on Triode Plate Current	196
103.	Thoriated Tungsten Cathodes	197
104.	Oxide-Coated Cathodes	199
105.	Potential-Energy Diagrams for Polarized Atomic Layers	201
106.	Transmission of Electron Waves Through Potential-Energy Humps	204
107.	"Saturation"; Failure of Composite Surfaces to Saturate; Grid Control of Temperature-Limited Currents	204

CHAPTER X

DISTRIBUTIONS OF RANDOM VELOCITIES OF GAS PARTICLES

108.	Dependence of Average Energy on Temperature, for Ordinary Gases and Electronic Gases Within Metals	208
109.	The "Most Probable" Energy Distribution	210
110.	Symbols and Terminology for Distribution Curves and Equations	212
111.	Maxwellian Distribution Curves for Total Velocities in an Ordinary Gas	215
112.	Equations for Total-Velocity Maxwellian Distribution Curves; Average Total Velocity and Energy	217
113.	Equations for Total-Velocity Maxwellian Integrated Distribution Curves	219
114.	Curves and Equations for x -Directed Maxwellian Velocity Distributions	220
115.	Relations between Total and x -Directed Maxwellian Distribution Equa- tions	222
116.	Total-Velocity Distribution Curves and Equations for a Degenerate Gas	224
117.	x -Directed Velocity Distribution Curves and Equations for a Degenerate Gas	227
118.	High-Velocity x -Directed Distribution for the Electrons within a Metal	230

CHAPTER XI

ELECTRICAL EFFECTS OF RANDOM MOTIONS

119.	Rate at Which Gas Particles Arrive at a Boundary Wall	233
120.	Derivation of Dushman's Equation for Thermionic Current Density	234
121.	Distribution of Initial Velocities Among Electrons Emitted from a Ther- mionic Surface	236
122.	Equations and Averages for the "Time-Exposure-over-a-Surface" Velocity Distribution of Escaping Electrons	238
123.	Average Energies of Arriving Maxwellian Particles and of Escaping Elec- trons	241
124.	Effect of Initial Velocities on Space-Charge-Limited Current Density, Plane Cathode	242

CONTENTS

ix

SECTION	PAGE
125. Effect of Initial Electron Velocities on Space-Charge-Limited Current Flow from a Cylindrical Cathode	246
126. Shot Effect and Voltages within Conductors Due to Random Motions; Noise Level	248
127. Random Current Density in an Ion or Electron Gas	250
128. Boundary Currents in a Conducting Gas; Sheath Penetration	251
129. "Time-Exposure-over-a-Surface" Distribution of Penetrating Electrons . .	252
130. Richardson's Equation for Thermionic Emission	253
131. Equilibrium between Different Potentials in an Enclosure; the Boltzmann Relation	253
132. Free Paths of Gas Particles	256

CHAPTER XII

AMPLIFIER CIRCUIT PRINCIPLES

133. Plate Resistance and Grid-Plate Transconductance of High-Vacuum Thermionic Tubes	263
134. The Amplification Factor	264
135. Evaluation of Tube Constants	266
136. Simple Amplifier Circuits; the Load Line	266
137. Point of Zero Excitation; Current-Voltage Locus; Dynamic or Tube-and-Circuit Characteristic	268
138. Relations between Alternating-Current and Direct-Current Components of Voltage and Current	270
139. Elliptical Current-Voltage Locus with Reactive Load	272
140. The Alternating-Current Equivalent Circuit; Phase Reversal in an Amplifier	275
141. Slope of the Dynamic Characteristic	280
142. Uses and Limitations of the Equivalent Circuit; Harmonic and Frequency Distortion	281
143. Choice of Tube and Load Resistances	283
144. Maximum Undistorted Power Output	284
145. Plate Circuit Efficiency and Power Dissipation	286
146. Use of Chokes and Condensers to Provide "Parallel Feed" of Direct-Current Power to the Plate	288
147. Frequency Limitations of Parallel-Feed Amplifiers	290

CHAPTER XIII

HARMONICS; CLASS B AND PUSH-PULL AMPLIFIERS

148. Straightness of the Dynamic Characteristic a Criterion of Freedom from Harmonic Distortion	296
149. Parabolic Dynamic Characteristic Introduces a Second Harmonic	298
150. Third Harmonic Introduced by Dynamic Characteristic of Cubic Form . .	300
151. Class B Amplifiers	303
152. Class B Push-Pull Amplifiers	305
153. Dynamic Characteristics and Equivalent Circuits for Push-Pull Amplifiers	307

CHAPTER XIV

SECTION	AMPLIFIER COUPLING; OSCILLATORS	PAGE
154.	Cascading of Amplifiers; Voltage Gain and Decibel Gain	314
155.	Direct Coupling between Stages	315
156.	Transformer and Condenser Coupling	316
157.	Voltage vs. Power Amplification	318
158.	Resistance-Condenser Coupling	318
159.	Transformer Coupling, Infinite Output Resistance	320
160.	Transformer Size and Turn Ratio	323
161.	Transformer Coupling to a Finite Load Resistance	324
162.	Regeneration	326
163.	Tuned Plate Oscillator	326
164.	Other Regenerative Oscillator Circuits	330
165.	Tuned Amplifiers	330
166.	Dynatron Oscillators	331

PART II

ELECTRONS, ATOMS, AND RADIATION

CHAPTER XV

ATOMIC ENERGIES

167.	The Function of Positive Ions in Gaseous Conducting Devices	338
168.	Energy Required for Ionization; Energy-Level Diagrams	339
169.	Excited States of Atoms	340
170.	Transitions between Levels	341
171.	Electron-Volt Measure of the Color of Light	343
172.	Scales on Energy-Level Diagrams	346
173.	Resonance Radiation; Photoelectric Action	346
174.	Spectral Symbolism and Electron Configuration	347
175.	Atomic Number; Isotopes	347
176.	Energy Levels As Related to Electronic Motions	348
177.	Energies of the Levels; One Electron in a Nuclear Field	349
178.	Limitations of the Orbital Physical Picture	351
179.	Three-Dimensional Quantization	351
180.	The Exclusion Principle; Grouping of the Levels	353
181.	Shells	354
182.	Relations between Electron Arrangement and Chemical and Physical Properties of the Elements	355
183.	Magnetic Quantization: $2n^2$	355
184.	Action and Angular Momentum	358

CHAPTER XVI

ENERGY LEVELS FOR PARTICULAR ELEMENTS

185.	Identification of Levels	360
186.	Energy Levels for the Arc Spectrum of Sodium	360
187.	Term Values	360
188.	Configuration	361

CONTENTS

xi

SECTION	PAGE
189. Symbols	361
190. The Meanings of Symbols	361
191. Symbols for Sodium	363
192. <i>J</i> -Values	363
193. Selection Principles	363
194. Series of Levels in Sodium	364
195. Mercury	364
196. Mercury Metastable States	365
197. Negative Term Values	367
198. Light from Mercury Vapor and from Sodium Vapor; Fluorescence	367
199. Neon	369
200. Copper	371

CHAPTER XVII

PHOTOELECTRIC EMISSION AND ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES

201. Photoelectric Emission	376
202. Propagation of Radiant Energy	380
203. A Plane-Polarized Electromagnetic Wave; the Radiation Vector	380
204. The Mechanism of Propagation	382
205. Details of the Field around a Radiating Energy Source	384
206. Polarized Light	386
207. Composition of Light from Various Source Particles	387
208. Interference	387
209. Reflection; Standing Waves and Nodal Layers	388
210. Light Penetration and Absorption	391
211. Mechanism of the Photoelectric Ejection of Electrons	391
212. Color Sensitivity; Selective Photoelectric Emission	393
213. Energies of Escaping Electrons	396

CHAPTER XVIII

PHOTOSENSITIVE DEVICES

214. Volt-Ampere Response of a Vacuum Phototube in Which the Electron Receiver Surrounds the Emitter	399
215. Effects of Contact Difference of Potential in a Phototube	399
216. Volt-Ampere Response of a Vacuum-Type Tube in which the Emitter Surrounds the Receiver	400
217. Use of Gas to Amplify Photoelectric Currents	401
218. Mechanism of Gas Amplification; Elastic and Inelastic Collisions	402
219. Dependence of Amplification on Electrode Spacing and on Ionization Rate	406
220. Dependence of Ionization Rate on Gas Concentration and on Field Strength	406
221. Gas Amplification Limited by Space Charge	410
222. Volt-Ampere Properties of Gas-Filled Phototubes; Phototube Circuit Analysis	413
223. Rectifier-Type or "Sandwich" Photocells; Semiconductors	416
224. Photoconducting Cells	423
225. Time-Lag in Photosensitive Devices	423

CHAPTER XIX

SECTION	ELECTRIC ARCS AND GLOW DISCHARGES	PAGE
226.	Appearance	426
227.	Definite Values of Arc Current, not of Arc Voltage, Required by Circuits	426
228.	Plasmas and Plasma Boundaries	427
229.	Properties of a Plasma	429
230.	Recombination Occurs in Boundary Regions, Not in Plasmas	430
231.	Scattering of Electron Energies; Electron Velocity Distributions	432
232.	Plasma Cross Section; Equilibrium, Pinch Effect, and a Least-Energy Requirement	434
233.	Ion and Electron Mobilities; Drift Currents in a Plasma	435
234.	Drift Velocities of Plasma Electrons	438
235.	Proportionality of Drift Velocities of Electrons and Ions to the Electric Field Strength or Its Square Root	441
236.	Drift Velocities of Plasma Ions and Electrons	442
237.	Mobilities of Townsend Current Ions and Electrons	444
238.	Rate of Ion Production and Ion Loss in a Plasma	444
239.	Energy Transfer in Low-Pressure Plasmas	446
240.	Energy Input to the Plasma	448
241.	Static Arc and Glow Volt-Ampere Curves; Empirical Relations	449
242.	Arc and Glow Stability; Oscillating Arc Circuits	449
243.	Voltage and Current Variations in a High-Frequency Pulsating Arc	451
244.	Voltage and Current Relations in Alternating-Current Arcs; Reignition	453

CHAPTER XX

PLASMA BOUNDARY REGIONS

245.	The Cathode Spot and Cathode Fall Space of a Glow Discharge	458
246.	The Effect of Changes of Gas Concentration in a Glow Discharge; Similitude	460
247.	Sputtering of Cathode Material	463
248.	The Cathode Spot and Cathode Fall Space of an Arc	463
249.	The Anode Fall Space	466
250.	Sheaths ("Inactive Boundaries")	466
251.	Current-Carrying Sheaths; Probes	467
252.	Current Densities in Current-Carrying Sheaths	472
253.	Measurement of Electron Temperature	473
254.	Sheath Thickness; Shut-Off Grids	474
255.	Measurement of Ion Concentrations	477
256.	Insulating Sheaths	477
257.	Flaming Sheaths around Unrestricted Plasmas	478

CHAPTER XXI

MERCURY-VAPOR RECTIFIERS

258.	Mercury-Vapor Rectifiers Essentially High-Speed Switching Devices	480
259.	Classification as to Types and Uses	481
260.	Commercial Classification	483
261.	Rectifying and Filtering	486

CONTENTS

xiii

SECTION	PAGE
262. Alternating-Current Switching; Control of Average Current	487
263. Inverse Voltage Rating of Rectifiers; Arc-Back	488
264. Forward Voltage Rating	489
265. Current Ratings	490
266. "Clean-Up" of the Conducting Gas	491
267. Concentration of Mercury Atoms in Mercury-Vapor Rectifiers	492
268. Grid Control of Arc Initiation	494
269. Mechanism of Arc Initiation; Grid Control Curves	496
270. Current-Limiting Grid Circuit Resistors	499
271. Shield-Grid Thyratrons	499
272. Igniter-Rod Control of Arc Initiation	500
273. Statistical Variation of Firing-Time in Ignitrons	501

CHAPTER XXII

SINGLE-PHASE CIRCUITS CONTAINING RECTIFYING ELEMENTS

274. Filters for Full-Wave Single-Phase Rectifiers	506
275. Per Cent Ripple	508
276. Single-Phase Filter Circuit Behavior: (I) Filter with Choke Only	509
277. Single-Phase Filter Circuit Behavior: (II) Filter with Condenser Only; "Cut-Out" and "Cut-In" Points	511
278. Single-Phase Filter Circuit Behavior: (III) Choke and Condenser both Present	514
279. Selection of Circuit Constants for a Choke Input Full-Wave Single-Phase Filter	515
280. Repeating Transients	521
281. Phase-Shift Control of Thyratrons	522
282. Inversion from Direct to Alternating Current	526
283. Parallel-Type Single-Phase Inverters	527
284. Failure of Commutation in Inverters	530
285. Series-Type Single-Phase Inverters	531
TABLES (See list on next page)	535-556
BIBLIOGRAPHY	559
INDEX	571

LIST OF TABLES

	PAGE
I. Dependence of β^2 on r/r_c , in expressions for space-charge-limited currents from cylindrical cathodes.	535
II. Function relating plate current to voltage drop along filament.	536
III. Electron emission constants.	537
IV. Ratio of hot to cold resistances of filament materials.	538
V. Properties of the atoms of the elements.	539
VI. Quantum-number combinations for rectangular quantization.	543
VII. Gross work functions of the alkali metals.	544
VIII. Integrals containing e^{-r^2}	545
IX. Potential distribution function outside a plane electron-emitting cathode	547
X. Quantum-number combinations for polar quantization, also, groups and subgroups of electrons in shells around atomic nuclei.	548
XI. Term values for the arc spectrum of sodium.	549
XII. Term values for the arc spectrum of mercury.	550
XIII. Term values for the arc spectrum of Neon.	551
XIV. Term values for the arc spectrum of copper.	552
XV. Electron mean free paths.	553
XVI. Mercury vapor pressure as related to temperature.	555
XVII. Values of the fundamental physical constants.	556

Diploma (electronics&commn .) Etc. Table of Contents 1.Electric Current & Ohm'S Law 2.Division Of Current 3.Network Analysis 4.Work, Power & Energy 5.Electrostatics 6.Capacitance 7.Magnetism & Electromagnetism 8.Electromagnetic Induction 9.Magnetic Hysteresis 10.D.C Generators 11.Generator Characteristics 12.D.C.Motor 13.Speed Control Of D.C.Motors 14.Chemical Effects Of Current 15.Electrical Instruments & Measurements. 16.A.C.Fundamentals 17.Series A. C. Circuits 18.Parallel A. C. Circuits 19.Complex Algebra & A. C. Circuits 20.Three Phase. Circuits 21.Transformers