NTC and PTC thermistors

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1 Introduction

This document aims to give a complete introduction to the world of thermistors. A thermistor, also called thermally sensitive resistor, is a device whose electrical resistivity is strictly bonded with the temperature. More precisely, there are two types of thermistors. The first one is called negative-temperature-coefficient (or NTC), meaning that its resistance changes in the opposite way of temperature: when the temperature raises, the resistance decreases, and vice-versa. The second type is the positive-temperature-coefficient thermistor (also known as PTC) which means that its resistivity increases if the environment gets hotter and is reduced when the temperature decreases.

2 Background

2.1 Outermost orbit and valence electrons

As is common knowledge, everything is made out of atoms, every living creature and every unanimated object. An atom is made out of three subatomic particles. The protons (which have a positive electric charge) and the neutrons constitute the nuclei of the atom. The electrons, carrying a negative charge, orbit around the nucleus in distinct orbits.

By observing the figure 1, it is possible to distinguish two important types of electrons: the inner electrons, which are

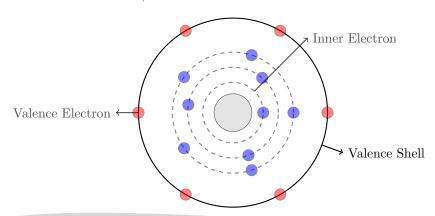


Figure 1: The orbits of an atom.

3 PTC thermistors

the introduction, add all the information needed and suggested in paperbackbone.md

Complete

Here talk about the electrons and stuff

References