ELECTROMAGNETS AND ELECTROMAGNETIC INDUCTION

An electromagnet is a device made of soft iron that behaves as magnets only when current is flowing through them. They lose their magnetic properties (almost) immediately the current stops flowing through them.

USES OF ELECTROMAGNETS

They are used in the construction of earpieces

They are employed in the construction of electric bell

They are used for lifting heavy metals

They are used in separation techniques like removing impurities from metals.

They are used in the construction of the magnetic relay.

ELECTROMAGNETIC INDUCTION

Michael Faraday observed that when a magnet is moved towards a (stationary) coil, a current (induced in the coil) is observed to flow in the coil and if the magnet is moved away from the coil, the current is also produced but in the opposite direction. Also, if the coil is moved to or away from the (stationary) magnet a similar effect is seen to occur. However if both the magnet and the coil are held stationary, there is no current produced.

The phenomenon of current production resulting from the relative motion between the magnet and the coil is called Electromagnetic induction. The current produced in the coil is known as the induced current and it is as a voltage induced in the coil called the induced emf.

For electromagnetic induction to occur, at least one of the materials (either the magnet or the coil) must be in motion relative to each other

FACTORS AFFECTING INDUCED EMF

1. Strength of the magnet:
2. Area of the coil
3. Number of turns in the coil:
4. Velocity between the magnet and the coil

If the velocity is angular velocity

On combining,

Taking k as 1

Or

FARADAY’S LAW OF ELECTROMAGNETIC INDUCTION

This law states:

The induced emf is directly proportional to the rate of change of the magnetic flux

Here, N is the number of turns in the coil.

Magnetic flux is dependent on the magnetic field intensity (also known as magnetic flux density). Its relation to the flux density is expressed as

Or

The unit of magnetic flux is Weber.

In the equation above, the negative sign is gotten from Lenz’s law

LENZ’S LAW

This states that the induced current will flow in a way so as to oppose the motion producing it. Since the motion of the current is trying to oppose the motion of its production it makes work done negative.

The Lenz’s law is a statement of the conservation of energy.

TRANSFORMERS

These are devices used for changing (increasing or decreasing) Alternating current (A.C) voltages. Its operation is based on Faraday’s law of electromagnetic induction.

The transformer consists of two coils (a primary and a secondary) each wound around the arm of a continuous laminated soft iron core.

In transformers there are primary and secondary areas and these primary and secondary areas have coils around them. The primary area is where the voltage comes into the transformer and the secondary area is where the voltage goes out of the transformer (output)

The voltage in the secondary coil depends on the voltage in the primary coil.

TYPES OF TRANSFORMERS

1. Step up Transformer: This transformer increases AC voltages. It has a higher number of turns in the secondary coil than in the primary coil. A step-up transformer steps up voltage but steps down current
2. Step-down Transformer: This transformer reduces AC voltages. It has a higher number of turns in the primary coil than in the secondary coil.

For all transformers, the ratio of the voltage (or emf) in the primary coil to the voltage (or emf) of the secondary coil is equal to the ratio of the number of turns in the primary coil to the number of turns in the secondary

Is also called the Turns ratio

EFFICIENCY OF A TRANSFORMER

This is defined as the percentage ratio of the power output to the power input

The efficiency of most transformers is less than 100 as a result of power loss

WAYS POWER CAN BE LOST IN TRANSFORMERS

1. Power loss due to eddy current
2. Power loss due to resistance of the coil: This is also called joule heating effect and the formula for the heat lost is
3. Power loss due to reversal of the magnetic core: This is called Hysteresis
4. Power loss due to magnetic flux leakage

WAYS OF MINIMIZING POWER LOSS IN TRANSFORMERS

1. The use of laminated soft iron cores to reduce eddy current
2. The use of coils of low resistances
3. The use of soft iron to reduce magnetic flux leakage

IDEAL TRANFORMER

Practically, there is no ideal transformer. An ideal transformer is a perfect transformer which has an efficiency of 100. For such transformers, the power output (secondary power) equals the power input (primary power).

EDDY CURRENT

This is the current produced by back emf. They generate unwanted heat which can destroy electronic components. Eddy currents are named so because the current looks like eddies or whirlpools. When a conductor is placed in the changing magnetic field, the induced current in the conductor is termed eddy currents.

EDDY CURRENT PRINCIPLE

The eddy current method is based on the principle of generating circular electrical currents (eddy currents) in a conductive material. The eddy currents are flowing beneath the surface of the material with the highest density close to the surface.

WAYS OF REDUCING EDDY CURRENT

1. Using laminated soft iron cylinder
2. Using thin sheet of metals
3. Using insulated soft iron

APPLICATIONS OF EDDY CURRENT

1. They can be employed in speedometers
2. They can be used in electric furnace
3. They are also applicable in induction coils. Induction motor, the eddy currents may be used to rotate the rotor.
4. Strong eddy currents are set up in the metal melts. This process is used in extracting a metal from its ore. The arrangement of heating the metal by means of strong induced current is called the induction furnace.

DISADVANTAGES OF EDDY CURRENT

1. Eddy current can result in the loss of electrical energy in the form of heat.
2. There will be magnetic flux leakage in induction coils due to eddy current.

INDUCTION COILS

This is a device used for increasing DC voltages or direct current. Its operation is based on (Faraday’s law of electromagnetic induction). From the definition above, it can be seen that the induction coil is a type of (step up) transformer which has a higher number of turns (up to a thousand probably) in the secondary coils than in the primary. In fact, the induction coil was the first transformer made.

The induction coil was invented by Nicholas Challan in 1836 with additional research by Charles Grafton Page and others.

An induction coil is a transformer used for producing high-voltage alternating current from a low-voltage direct current, consisting essentially of two concentric coils with a common soft-iron core, a primary coil with relatively few windings (turns) of heavy wire and a secondary coil with many turns of fine wire. The excitation of the primary coil by 5rapidly interrupted or variable current induces high voltage in the secondary coil.

The induction coil is used in car ignition systems where the induced voltage in the secondary, which is passed on to the spark plug, is sufficiently large (up to 25kV) to ionize air and cause a spark across the gap in the spark plug.

GENERATORS

These are devices used for converting mechanical energy into electrical energy. They are also called dynamos. Their operation is based on faraday’s law of electromagnetic induction.

TYPES PF GENERATORS

AC Generators

DC Generators

The major structural difference between AC generator and the DC generator is that AC generator has Slip Ring while DC has a Split Ring Commutator

AC GENERATORS

This is a device for converting mechanical (or rotational) motion into electric energy. Its actions are based on the principles of electromagnetic induction.

It consists of wire which is wound on a shaft and placed between the poles of a permanent magnet. A (circular) ring of copper known as Slip Ring and carbon brushes are attached to each end of the coil.

The coil is made to rotate between the poles of the magnet and a current is induced in the coil. The carbon brushes tap the current from the coil via the slip rings.

The direction of the current changes as the plane of the coil passes through the vertical plane i.e. twice during a complete rotation thus producing an alternating current.

DC GENERATORS

This is similar to the AC generator except that the split rings are replaced by a split ring commutator. As the direction in the coil changes, the commutator reverses the electrical connection between the coil and the external circuit. The external circuit thus reverses current in the same direction and direct current is produced.

COMMUTATORS

This is a device used for changing the direction of flow of current. It allows current to flow in only one direction.

ELECTRIC MOTOR

This converts electrical energy into mechanical (rotational) energy.

THE INDUCTOR

This is also called a coil, choke or reactor. It is a passive (or inactive) two-terminal electrical component (or device) that stores (electromagnetic) energy in a magnetic field when electric current flows through it. This shows that the inductor is an electromagnet.

An inductor typically consists of an insulated wire wound into a coil. It works on the principle of electromagnetic induction

When the current flowing through the coil changes, the time-varying magnetic field induces an e.m.f. (or voltage) in the conductor, described by Faraday’s law of induction. According to Lenz’s law, the induced voltage has a polarity (or direction) which opposes the change in current that created it. As a result, inductors oppose any changes in current through them.

An inductor is characterized by its inductance. The voltage across the inductor is directly proportional to the rate of change of the current flow

L is called the inductance of the inductor.

The SI unit of inductance is the Henry

ARRANGEMENT OF INDUCTORS

1. Arrangement in series: The combined inductance is given as
2. Arrangement in parallel

ENERGY STORED IN AN INDUCTOR

USES OF INDUCTORS

They are used for storing electromagnetic energy

They can also be used for limiting the value of current flowing in a circuit

They are essential components of electronic such as Televisions, computer panels.