

Power

In physics, power is the rate of doing work or transferring heat, the amount of energy transferred or converted per unit time.

Having no direction, it is a scalar quantity. In the international system of units, the unit of power is (Joule/see), known as (watt). Another common and traditional measure is (horsepower)

$$\text{Power} = \frac{\text{work}}{\text{time}}$$

Equations for power

Power, as a function of time, is the rate at which work is done, so can be expressed by this equation

$$P = \frac{dw}{dt}$$

Because work is a force F applied over distance r , $w = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{r}$ for a constant force, power can be rewritten as:

$$P = \frac{dw}{dt} = \frac{d}{dt} (\vec{F} \cdot \vec{r}) = F \cdot \frac{dr}{dt} = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{v}$$

Average power

As a simple example, burning one kilogram of coal releases much more energy than does detonating a kilogram of TNT, but because the TNT reaction releases energy much more quickly, it delivers far more power than the coal. The average power over a period of time is given by

$$P_{ave} = \frac{\Delta W}{\Delta t}$$

It is the average amount of work done or energy converted per unit time.

The instantaneous power is then the limiting value of the average power

$$P = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} P_{ave} = \lim_{\Delta t \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta W}{\Delta t} = \frac{dW}{dt}$$

In case of constant power P , the amount of work performed during a period of duration t

$$W = Pt.$$

Mechanical Power

Power in mechanical systems is the combination of forces and movement. In particular, power is the product of a force on an object and object's velocity, or the product of a torque on a shaft and shaft's angular velocity.

In mechanics, the work done by a force F on an object that travels along a curve C is given by the line integral:

$$W_C = \int_C \vec{F} \cdot \vec{v} dt = \int_C \vec{F} \cdot d\vec{x}, \text{ where } x \text{ defines the path } C \text{ and } v \text{ is the velocity along this path.}$$

$W_C = U(B) - U(A)$, where A and B are the beginning and end of the path along which the work was done.

The power at any point along the curve C is the time derivative

$$P(t) = \frac{dW}{dt} = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{v} = -\frac{dU}{dt}$$

In one dimension, this can be simplified to:

$$P(t) = \vec{F} \cdot \vec{v}$$

In a rotational system, power is the product of the torque τ and angular velocity ω .

$$P(t) = \vec{\tau} \cdot \vec{\omega} \quad \text{where } \omega \text{ measured in (rad/s)}$$

In a fluid power system such as hydraulic actuators, power is given by

$$P(t) = pQ, \quad \text{where } p \text{ is pressure in pascal (N/m}^2\text{)} \\ Q \text{ is volumetric flow rate (m}^3\text{/s)}$$

Electrical power

The instantaneous electrical power delivered to a component is given by

$$P(t) = I(t) \cdot V(t), \quad \text{where } V(t) \text{ is the potential difference (Volts) across}$$

the component, $I(t)$ is the current through it, measured in (Ampere)

$$P = IV = I^2R$$