

Note: Vacuum: - The atmospheric air around us is said to be contain nearly 2.5×10^9 molecules per every cubic centimeter space any given space having molecular density less than this is said to be under "vacuum" condition. This technology dealing with the production of such reduced pressure environment using various different scientific concept is known as "vacuum technology".

Vacuum technology is fundamental to a range of scientific explorations and the atomically clean surfaces at extremely low pressure of the order of 10^{-11} Torr (1 Torr = 1.33×10^{-3} kg) to freeze-drying of foodstuffs at relatively high pressures in the range of 10^{-1} Torr. Vacuum condition plus these extremes are required for TV tube production, vacuum furnace, vacuum coating, semiconductor processing, particle accelerators space simulation etc.

It is interesting to know that we human beings continuously create vacuum during respiration and suction. Another natural phenomenon is the decrease in atmospheric pressure with an increase in altitude. It is a factor of 10 for every 15 km from 760 Torr at sea level to a pressure of 10^{-3} Torr at an altitude of 90 km.

unit of vacuum :- $1 \text{ Torr} = 1 \text{ mmHg} = \frac{1}{760} \text{ atm}$

$1 \text{ mbar} = 100 \text{ pascal} = \frac{1}{1013} \text{ atm}$

Atmospheric pressure = 760 mmHg.

Classification of Vacuum Range :-

1. Low Vacuum :- (Rough Vacuum) :- 760 atm - 10^{-2} Torr
2. High Vacuum :- 10^{-3} - 10^{-7} Torr
3. Ultra High Vacuum :- 10^{-7} Torr - 10^{-16} Torr]

Production of Vacuum :-

1. Rotary Van Pump :- The rotary vane pump, known also as rotary pump is a simple and most popular positive displacement pump. Fig 1 & 2 show the cross-section & exploded view of a typical rotary vane pump. It has a cylindrical steel rotor located eccentrically in a cylindrical stator housing, almost touching the stator surface at the top. The rotor is slotted at its diameter to take two spring loaded vanes which bear tightly against the inner surface of the stator. The stator is a steel cylinder at the ends of which are closed by suitable plates, which hold the shaft of the rotor. The stator is pierced by the inlet and exhaust ports which are

positioned respectively a few degrees on either side of the vertical. The inlet part with a dust filter is connected to the vacuum system and the exhaust part is provided with a valve, which may be a metal plate moving vertically between arrester plates, or a sheet of Neoprene which is constrained to hinge between the stator and a metal backing plate.

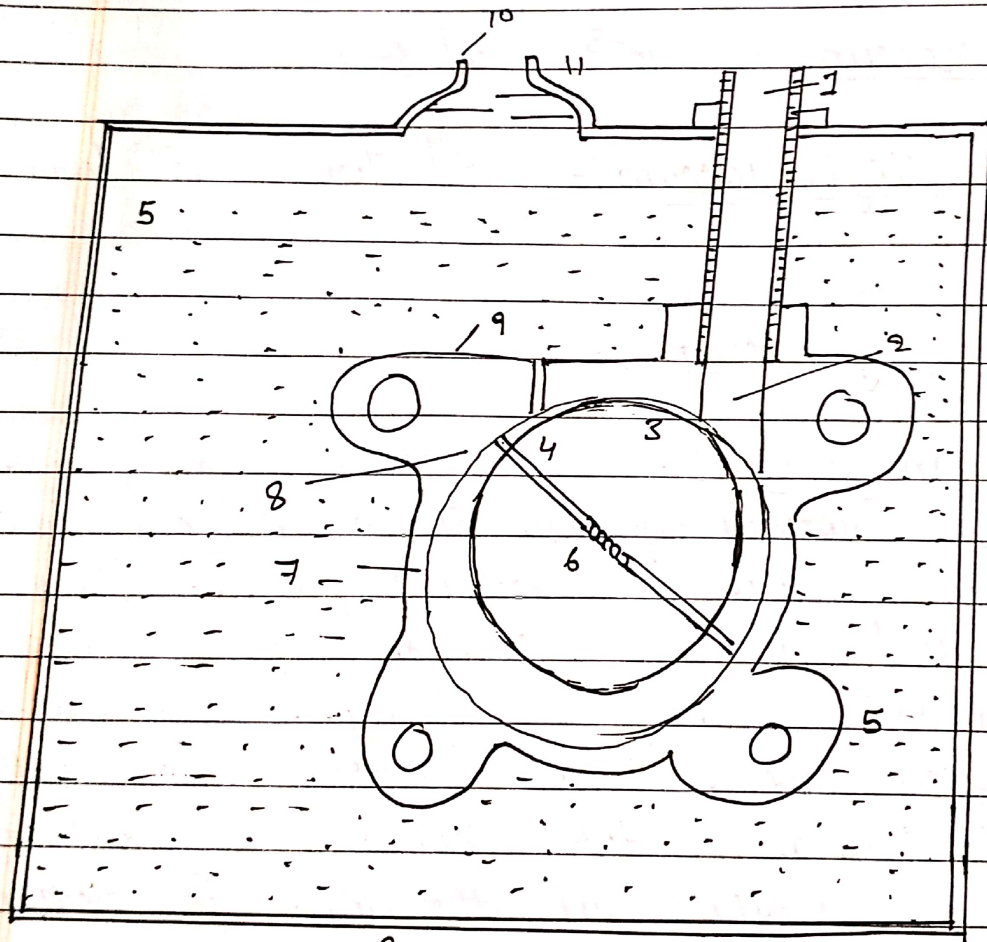
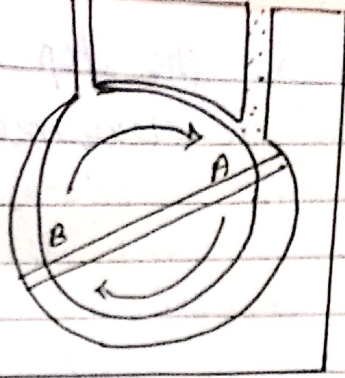


fig 1 :- cross-section of rotary pump

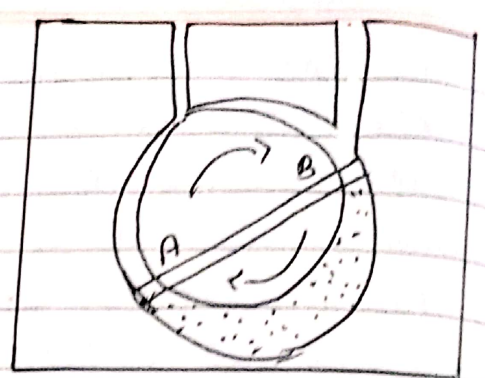
- | | | | |
|---|------------|----|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Inlet tube | 7 | stator |
| 2 | Inlet Port | 8 | exhaust port |
| 3 | Top seal | 9 | exhaust flap valve with backing plate |
| 4 | Vaner | 10 | exhaust outlet |
| 5 | Oil | 11 | oil splash baffles. |
| 6 | Rotor | | |

The line of contact known as the top seal between rotor and stator must have a clearance of 2-3 microns. All of the contacting surfaces are ground to a high precision and the whole stator-rotor assembly is submerged in a suitable oil which serves as a sealant, coolant and lubricant. A film of oil is used on all moving parts. The rotary oil-sealed pumps normally operate at speeds of several hundred revolution per minutes. They are air cooled in the smaller sizes and water cooled in the larger size. Pumps with capacities ranging from a few tenths to over a thousand cubic feet per minute are available commercially. The action of pump is shown in figure 2. As van A passes the inlet port, the vacuum system is connected to the space limited by the stator, the top seal, the rotor & vane A. The volume of this space increases as the van sweeps round thus producing a pressure decrease in the system. This continues until van B passes the inlet port, when the volume of the gas evacuated is isolated by the 2 vanes. Further rotation sweeps the isolated gas around the stator until vane A passes the top seal. The gas is now held between vane B and the top seal, and by further rotation it is compressed until the pressure is sufficient to open the exhaust valve, and the gas bubbles out through the oil to the atmosphere.

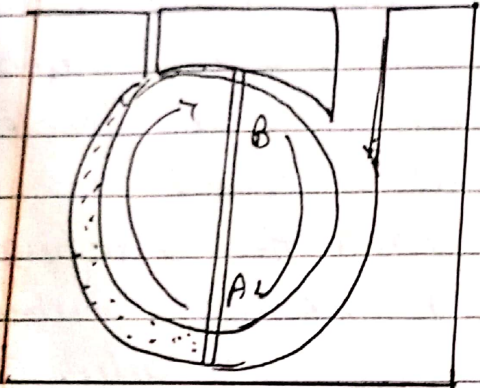
(a)



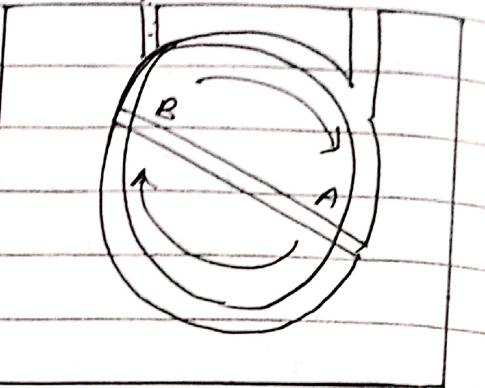
(b)



(c)



(d)



Action of the Rotating Vane Pump.

2. Diffusion Pump:- Diffusion pumps are vapour jet pumps or vapour ejector pumps designed for pumping rarefield gases in the high-vacuum range ($< 10^{-2}$ Torr) of pressure. These are called "diffusion" pumps because of the fact that the molecules of the pumped gas penetrate the vapour jet in a manner resembling diffusion of one gas into another.

High vacuum pumping systems based on diffusion pumps include at least one diffusion pump and one mechanical pump connected in series. Mechanical pumps remove about 99.99 % of the air from the vacuum chamber. The remaining air and water vapour, down to any pressure from