

Energy stored in a magnetic field:

The inductance of a circuit resists any change in current through it and therefore any change in magnetic flux linked in with it. Hence work has to be done in increasing the current from zero to a particular value say I against the e.m.f. induced in the inductance i.e. energy is required to build up a current in an inductor.

If e is the self-induced e.m.f. at any instant in the circuit when the current established in the circuit is i and it changes at the rate $\frac{di}{dt}$, then

$$e = -L \frac{di}{dt}$$

where L is the coefficient of self-inductance. If the current i remains unchanged for a small time dt , then

$$\text{Work done in time } dt = -e \frac{di}{dt}$$

i. Total work done in time t in establishing a current I in a time t or total energy required is given by

$$W = \int_0^t e i dt = \int_0^t L \frac{di}{dt} \cdot i dt$$
$$= \int_0^I L \cdot i di = \left[\frac{1}{2} L i^2 \right]_0^I$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} L I^2 \quad \text{--- (1)}$$

This work done is equivalent to energy which is stored in a magnetic field.