# Investigation of Townsend Energy Factor and Drift Velocity for Air in Terms of L, G & E/P

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## Abstract

In this work had been determine the Townsend's energy factor  $K_T$  and the electron drift velocity in terms of electron mean free path L in unit of pressure, the energy loss factor G and the applied electric field to the gas pressure ratio at 300 °K in air. The obtain transport coefficients by solved numerically transport equation solution and had be fed to the derived equations.

The obtained results had be graphically draw as a function for its variables, which appeared a good agreement with published experimental data.

# الخلاصة

تم في هذا العمل، تحقيق عامل طاقة تاون سيند K<sub>T</sub> وسرعة انجراف الالكترونات بدلالة معدل المسار الحر بوحدة الضغط L، عامل فقدان الطاقة G ونسبة شدة المجال الكهربائي إلى ضغط الغاز وعند درجة حرارة 300 كلفن في الهواء. تم الحصول على معاملات الانتقال عن طريق حل معادلة الانتقال عددياً ومنها تم تغذية هذه المعاملات إلى المعادلات التي تم اشتقاقها. النتائج التي تم الحصول عليها تم رسمها كدوال لمتغيراتها، حيث أظهرت النتائج تطابقاً جيداً مع النتائج العملية العالمية المنشورة.

### Introduction

The motion of free electrons in air are computed by the method developed by Townsend, such as, the drift velocity W of the center of mass of a group of electrons through the gas, as a function of E/p; Townsend's energy factor  $K_T$  which refers the ratio of the mean energy of agitation of an electron to the mean energy of thermal agitation of a gas molecule; the mean free path L of an electron at unit of pressure (1mm of Hg= 1 Torr) and finally Bailey's energy loss factor G, which is of importance in ionosphere studies is obtained from the experimental dependence of the mean proportion  $\eta$  of its energy lost by an electron in a collision with a gas molecule. In this paper we study the theoretical formula are derived for  $K_T$  and W in terms of L, G and E/P (Huxley-1949, Boris-2001).

### Numerical procedure

The mean free path L at unit of pressure dose not vary rapidly with mean velocity  $\overline{U}$ , and then  $\eta$  gives by the following equations at E/P<2.5 (Crompton, 1953).  $\eta = G(1-1/K_T)$  (1)

when supposed the Maxwell's law distribution and Druyvesteyn's law then:

$$K_1 = K_T \qquad (Maxwell = M) \qquad (2)$$
  

$$K_1 = 1.14K_T \qquad (Druyvesteyn = D) \qquad (3)$$
  
where,

$$K_1 = \frac{e}{KT_g} \frac{D}{\mu}$$

where, *e* is electron charge= $1.602 \times 10^{-19}$  C, *K* is Boltzmann constant= $1.3805 \times 10^{-23}$ J K<sup>-1</sup>, T<sub>g</sub> is the gas temperature in Kelvin,  $D/\mu$  is the diffusion coefficient to the mobility ratio in eV. The Eq.(1) and the following Eqs. at E/P < 2.5

$$\eta = 1.79 \times 10^{-14} W_M^2 / K_1 \text{ (Maxwell)}$$
(4)  

$$\eta = 1.68 \times 10^{-14} W_D^2 / K_1 \text{ (Druyvesteyn)}$$
(5)  
Substitute Eq.(5) into Eq.(1) yields:  

$$1.68 \times 10^{-14} W^2 / K_1 = G(1 - 1/K_T)$$
(6)  
substitute Eq.(3) into Eq.(6) yields:

# مجلة جامعة بابل / العلوم الهندسية / العدد (5) / المجلد (21) : 2013

$$\begin{split} &\frac{1.68 \times 10^{-14} W^2}{1.14 K_T} = \frac{G(K_T - 1)}{K_T} \\ &\frac{1.474 \times 10^{-14} W^2}{K_T} = \frac{G(K_T - 1)}{K_T} \dots (Druyvesteyn) \\ &(7) \\ &\text{substitute Eq.(4) into Eq.(1) yields:} \\ &1.79 \times 10^{-14} W^2/K_T = G(1 - 1/K_T) \\ &(8) \\ &\text{substitute Eq.(2) into Eq.(8) yields:} \\ &1.79 \times 10^{-14} W^2/K_T = G(K_T - 1)/K_T \dots (Maxwell) \\ &(9) \\ &\text{but from the following equations we can find (Huxley, 1949):} \\ &L = 7.33 \times 10^{-9} \frac{W \sqrt{K_1}}{E/P} \\ &L = 7.33 \times 10^{-9} \frac{W \sqrt{1.14K_T}}{E/P} \\ &L = 7.33 \times 10^{-9} \frac{W \sqrt{1.14K_T}}{E/P} \\ &L = 7.33 \times 10^{-9} \frac{W \sqrt{1.14K_T}}{E/P} \\ &\text{but from the Eq.(2) into Eq.(11) yields:} \\ &L = 7.05 \times 10^{-9} \frac{W \sqrt{K_T}}{E/P} \\ &M_M = 0.851 \frac{E}{H} \tan \theta \\ &\text{(Maxwell)} \\ &W_\mu = 0.9426 \frac{E}{H} \tan \theta \\ &\text{(Druyvesteyn)} \\ &\text{where,} \\ &\theta = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{e}{H} \frac{H}{m V_m}\right) \\ &H = \frac{E}{V_4} (K_1 - 1)^{0.5} \\ &\text{From Eqs.(7, 12) we can find:} \\ &W^2 = \frac{L(E/P)}{1.474 \times 10^{-4}} \\ &(14) \\ &W = \frac{L(E/P)}{1.474 \times 10^{-4}} = \left[\frac{L(E/P)}{7.33 \times 10^{-9}} \frac{1}{K_T} \\ &(15) \\ &\text{By square Eq.(15) and it's equal with Eq.(14) yield:} \\ &W^2 = \frac{G(K_T - 1)}{1.474 \times 10^{-4}} = \left[\frac{L(E/P)}{1.474 \times 10^{-4}} = \left[\frac{L(E/P)}{1.474 \times 10^{-4}} \right]^{-1} \\ &K_T \\ &= \frac{L(E/P)}{1.474 \times 10^{-4}} = \left[\frac{L(E/P)}{1.474 \times 10^{-4}} \right]^{-1} \\ &K_T \\ &= \frac{L(E/P)}{1.474 \times 10^{-4}} = \left[\frac{L(E/P)}{1.474 \times 10^{-4}} \right]^{-1} \\ &K_T \\ &= \frac{L(E/P)}{1.474 \times 10^{-4}} = \left[\frac{L(E/P)}{1.4K_T} \\ &K_T \\ &= \frac{L(E/P)}{1.474 \times 10^{-4}} = \left[\frac{L(E/P)}{1.4K_T} \right]^{-1} \\ &K_T \\ &= \frac{L(E/P)}{1.474 \times 10^{-4}} \\ &= \frac{L(E/P)}{1.474 \times 10^{-4}} \\ &K_T \\ &= \frac{L(E/P)}{1.474 \times 10^{-4}} \\ &= \frac{L(E/P)}{1.474 \times 10^{-4}} \\ &K_T \\ &= \frac{L(E/P)}{1.474 \times 10^{-4}} \\ &K_T \\ &K_T \\ &K_T \\ &= \frac{L(E/P)}{1.474 \times 10^{-4}} \\ &K_T \\ \\ &K_T \\ &K_$$

from Eqs.(9, 13) and squaring Eq.(13) and equal them, yield:

# Journal of Babylon University/Engineering Sciences/ No.(5)/ Vol.(21): 2013

$$W^{2} = \frac{G(K_{T} - 1)}{1.79 \times 10^{-14}} = \left[\frac{L(E/P)}{7.05 \times 10^{-9}}\right]^{2} \frac{1}{K_{T}} \dots (Maxwell)$$
(17)

Eq.(17) represents W in term L, G and E/P; where expressed in unit V/cm. from Eq.(16) obtained:

$$K_{T}(K_{T}-1) = \frac{1.474 \times 10^{-14} L^{2} (E/P)^{2}}{\left(7.83 \times 10^{-9}\right)^{2} G}$$
$$K_{T}(K_{T}-1) = 240 \times \frac{L^{2}}{G} (E/P)^{2}$$
(18)

i.e.

$$K_{T} = \frac{1 + \left[1 + 960 \frac{L^{2}}{G(E/P)^{2}}\right]^{1/2}}{2} \dots (Druyvesteyn)$$
(19)

Eq.(18) represents  $K_T$  in term L, G and E/P. from Eq.(16) also obtained:

$$W = \frac{L(E/P)}{7.83 \times 10^{-19}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{K_T}}$$
  

$$W = \frac{1.27 \times 10^8 L(E/P)}{\left\{\frac{1 + \left[1 + 960L^2(E/P)^2/G\right]^{0.5}}{2}\right\}^{1/2}} \dots (Druyvesteyn)$$
(20)

Eq.(20) represents W in term L, G and E/P. from Eq.(17) obtained:

$$K_{T}(K_{T}-1) = \frac{1.79 \times 10^{-14} (L (E/P))^{2}}{(7.05 \times 10^{-9})^{2} G}$$

$$K_{T}(K_{T}-1) = 360 \frac{L^{2}}{G} (E/P)^{2} \dots (Maxwell)$$

$$K_{T}(K_{T}-1) = \frac{1 + \left[1 + 1440 \frac{L^{2}}{G(E/P)^{2}}\right]^{1/2}}{2} \dots (Maxwell)$$
(21)
(22)

Eq.(21) represents  $K_T$  in term L, G and E/P. from Eq.(17) also obtained:

$$W = \frac{L(E/P)}{7.05 \times 10^{-19}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{K_T}}$$
(23)  

$$W = \frac{1.42 \times 10^8 L(E/P)}{\left\{\frac{1 + \left[1 + 1440 \frac{L^2 (E/P)^2}{G}\right]^{1/2}}{2}\right\}^{1/2}}$$
(24)

Eq.(24) represents W in term L, G and E/P.

From Eq.(1) when E/P<2.5 refers the  $\eta$  depends on K<sub>T</sub> with G=0.0013, for Druyvesteyn's low. From the above at L=0.04, we substitute these values to the Eqs.(19-20) respectively obtained as a special case, which:

$$K_{T} = \frac{1 + \left[1 + 1181.5(E/P)^{2}\right]^{1/2}}{2} \dots (Druyvesteyn) \quad E/P<2.5$$

$$W = \frac{5 \times 10^{7} (E/P)}{\left\{\frac{1 + \left[1 + 1181.5(E/P)^{2}\right]^{1/2}}{2}\right\}^{1/2}} \dots (Druyvesteyn) \quad E/P<2.5 \quad (26)$$

at,  $1181.5(E/P)^2 >>1$   $K_T = 0.5 + 17.18E/P$  (Druyvesteyn) (27)  $W = 1.206 \times 10^7 E/P$  (Druyvesteyn) (28) Eqs.(25-28) were refer K<sub>T</sub> and W in term E/P for especial case from Eq.(18) yields: at: K<sub>T</sub>>>1, 15.4

$$K_T = \frac{15.4}{\sqrt{G}} L(E/P) \qquad \text{(Druyvesteyn)} \quad (29)$$
  
at: K<sub>T</sub>=1.

$$K_T = 1 + \frac{240L^2 (E/P)^2}{G}$$
 (Druyvesteyn) (30)

Eqs.(29-30) were represent  $K_T$  in term L, G and E/P. from Eq. (21) yields: at  $K_T >> 1$ ,

$$K_{T} = \frac{18.9}{\sqrt{G}} L(E/P) \quad \text{(Maxwell)} \quad (31)$$
  
at: K<sub>T</sub>=1,  
$$K_{T} = 1 + \frac{360L^{2} (E/P)^{2}}{G} \quad \text{(Maxwell)} \quad (32)$$

Eqs.(31-32) were represent  $K_T$  in term L, G and E/P.

# **Time – Dependent Electron Boltzmann Equation:**

In this work could be used the final form taken by the time – dependent Boltzmann equation for electrons, as used in this paper, to obtain the transport coefficients, namely drift velocity,  $V_d$ , the ratio of the diffusion coefficient to the mobility,  $D/\mu$  and the momentum transfer collision frequency,  $v_m$ . Finally insert this parameters to our equations.

The standard procedure to study this problem starts with a Boltzmann equation usually written in the form (Guerra -2001,2004-ابراهیم-):

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial t} + \nabla_r \cdot (vF) - \nabla_v \cdot \left(\frac{eE}{m}F\right) = \left(\frac{\partial F}{\partial t}\right)_c \quad (33)$$

since F(r,v,t) refers the electron velocity distribution function constrained to the normalization condition  $\int F dv = n_e(r,t)$ , with dv and  $n_e$  are velocity space and the electron density respectively,  $\nabla_r$  and  $\nabla_v$  are the gradient operators, e and m ( $m=9.109\times10^{-28}$  gm) are the electron absolute charge and mass, and the right – hand side of Eq.(33) refers a collision operator.

### **Results and Discussion:**

K<sub>T</sub> (eV)

In this study had be investigate the Townsend's energy factor for air in term L, G & E/P; this results appeared a good agreement with the reference (Huxley, 1949).

Figs.(1-3) are showing the Townsend's energy factor  $K_T$  versus the mean free path at unit of pressure, L, G and E/P. Fig(1) appeared the decreasing of  $K_T$  with L increasing, i. e. the electrons losses it's energy through the L, but figs.(2, 3) appeared the  $K_T$  increasing with G and E/P.

Fig.(4) appears the electron drift velocity was decreasing with L because the electrons could be its energy by the collisions through the mean free path L, but figs.(5, 6) the electron drift velocity could be increase with G and E/P because the electrons were gain the energy from the applied electric field.

Figs.(7-10) were represent the special case for E/P < 2.5 which is the Townsend's energy factor K<sub>T</sub> and drift velocity W, as a functions of E/P < 2.5 for the special case, this figures were show the increasing of K<sub>T</sub> and W with E/P; for figs.(9, 10) the increasing was a ramp form for 1181.5(E/P)<sup>2</sup> >> 1.

Figs.(11-13) are referring the Townsend's energy factor as a function of: the mean free path, L, the energy loss factor, G and the applied electric field to the gas pressure ratio for Maxwell and Druyvesteyn distribution law for air, from fig.(11) at  $K_T$ >>1 it's appeared decreasing the Townsend's energy factor with increasing of the mean free path L, because the electrons losses it's energy by the collisions, but for figs.(12, 13) at  $K_T$ >>1 the Townsend's energy factor could be increase with the energy loss factor G.

Fig.(14) at  $K_T=1$  was appear the decreasing Townsend's energy factor with mean free path L, but figs.(15, 16) the Townsend's energy factor  $K_T$ , with G and E/P because the electrons gains the energy from the applied electric field.



L (cm)

**Fig.(1):** The Townsend's energy factor,  $K_T$ , as a function of the electron mean free path, L, at unit of pressure for Eq.(22) and Druyvesteyn {Eq.(19)} distribution in Air.





**Fig.(2):** The Townsend's energy factor,  $K_T$ , as a function of the energy loss factor, G, at unit of pressure for Maxwell {Eq.(22)} and Druyvesteyn {Eq.(19)} distribution in Air.





**Fig.(3):** The Townsend's energy factor,  $K_T$ , as a function of the applied electric field to the gas pressure ratio, E/P, for eq.(22) and Druyvesteyn {Eq.(19)} distribution in Air.



L (cm)

**Fig.(4):** The drift velocity, W, as a function of the electron mean free path, L, for Maxwell  $\{Eq.(24)\}$  and Druyvesteyn  $\{Eq.(20)\}$  distribution in Air.



G

**Fig.(5):** The drift velocity, W, as a function of the energy loss factor, G, for eq.(24) and Druyvesteyn  $\{Eq.(20)\}$  distribution in Air.

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E/P (V cm<sup>-1</sup> Torr<sup>-1</sup>)

**Fig.(6):** The drift velocity, W, as a function of the applied electric field to the gas pressure ratio, E/P, for eq.(24) and Druyvesteyn {Eq.(20)} distribution in Air.



**Fig.(7):** The Townsend's energy factor,  $K_T$ , as a function of the applied electric field to the gas pressure ratio, E/P, for Druyvesteyn {Eq.(25), E/P<2.5} distribution in Air.



E/P (V cm<sup>-1</sup> Torr<sup>-1</sup>)

**Fig.(8):** The drift velocity, W, as a function of the applied electric field to the gas pressure ratio, E/P, for Druyvesteyn {Eq.(26), E/P<2.5} distribution in Air.



 $E/P (V \text{ cm}^{-1} \text{ Torr}^{-1})$ **Fig.(9):** The Townsend's energy factor, K<sub>T</sub>, as a function of the applied electric field to the gas pressure ratio, E/P, for Druyvesteyn {Eq.(27), 1181.5(E/P)<sup>2</sup>>>1} distribution in Air.

مجلة جامعة بابل / العلوم الهندسية / العدد (5) / المجلد (21) : 2013



**Fig.(10):** The drift velocity, W, as a function of the applied electric field to the gas pressure ratio, E/P, for Druyvesteyn {Eq.(28), 1181.5(E/P)<sup>2</sup>>>1} distribution in Air.



**Fig.(11):** The Townsend's energy factor,  $K_T$ , as a function of the electron mean free path, L, for Eq.(31) and Druyvesteyn {Eq.(29)} distribution in Air.



**Fig.(12):** The Townsend's energy factor,  $(K_T >> 1)$ , as a function of the energy loss factor, G, for eq.(31) and Druyvesteyn {Eq.(29)} distribution in Air.



**Fig.(13):** The Townsend's energy factor,  $(K_T \gg 1)$ , as a function of the applied electric field to the gas pressure ratio, E/P, for eq.(31) and Druyvesteyn {Eq.(29),} distribution in Air.

مجلة جامعة بابل / العلوم الهندسية / العدد (5) / المجلد (21) : 2013



L (cm)

**Fig.(14):** The Townsend's energy factor,  $(K_T=1)$ , as a function of the electron mean free path, L, for eq.(32) and Druyvesteyn {Eq.(30)} distribution in Air.



**Fig.(15):** The Townsend's energy factor,  $(K_T=1)$ , as a function of the energy loss factor, G, for Eq.(32) and Druyvesteyn {Eq.(30)} distribution in Air.



E/P (V cm<sup>-1</sup> Torr<sup>-1</sup>)

**Fig.(16):** The Townsend's energy factor,  $(K_T=1)$ , as a function of the applied electric field to the gas pressure ratio, E/P, for eq.(32) and Druyvesteyn {Eq.(30),} distribution in Air.

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