

# Photovoltaic cell vs photoelectric

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While the photoelectric effect involves light photons knocking electrons out of a material completely, the photovoltaic effect involves photons from a light source knocking electrons only out of their atomic...

The photovoltaic effect is closely related to the photoelectric effect, with a critical difference. In the photoelectric effect, electrons are emitted into space. But, in the photovoltaic effect, electrons enter...

How are they Different? The main difference between photoelectric effect and photovoltaic effect is that in photoelectric effect, the electrons are emitted to open space whereas in photovoltaic effect, the electrons...

### Photovoltaic Effect vs Photoelectric Effect

Photovoltaic effect is the process in which two dissimilar materials in close contact produce an electrical voltage when struck by light.

Photoelectric effect is the emission of electrons from the surface of a substance in response to incident light.

In photovoltaic effect, electrons are retained in the material; in photoelectric effect, electrons are ejected out of the material.

Photovoltaic effect can occur with any frequency of incident light; photoelectric effect requires a minimum threshold frequency of incident light.

Photovoltaic effect produces both electric current and voltage; photoelectric effect produces only electric current.

In this blog post, we will compare and contrast two important phenomena related to light and matter: the photovoltaic effect and the photoelectric effect. Both effects involve the interaction of photons (light particles) with electrons (negative charge carriers) in a material, but they have different outcomes and applications.

### What is the Photovoltaic Effect?

The photovoltaic effect is the process in which two dissimilar materials in close contact produce an electrical voltage when struck by light. This results in the creation of a voltage and an electric current in the material. The produced current is known as photo-current. Here, an ejection of electrons is not going to happen. The electrons absorb energy, but are retained in the substance.

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