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Aerospace Engineering  
and Engineering Mechanics  
*Cockrell School of Engineering*

**ASE 375 Electromechanical Systems**  
Section 14115

Monday: 3:00 - 6:00 pm

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## Report 2: Temperature Sensor Measurements

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Andrew Doty, Andres Suniaga, Dennis Hom  
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## 1 Introduction

This experiment consisted of measuring temperature with three different sensors: a Thermocouple, Thermistor, and an Integrated Circuit Temperature sensor. Data collection was made possible through a Data Acquisition (DAQ) system used to process the different temperature measurements in LabVIEW, a graphical interface that modeled the temperature sensors' measurements in real-time.

The purpose of this experiment was to learn how to simulate our data through LabVIEW along with observing and understanding the behaviour of the three temperature sensors in different environments: (1) at room temperature, (2) in water near freezing conditions, and (3) in water closer to boiling conditions.

## 2 Equipment

The equipment used in this experiment include the following:

K-type Thermocouple: Temperature sensor with two different metals joined together at one end. A K-type thermocouple uses Chromel-Alumel metals. It will be connected to the DAQ via the NI 9211 thermocouple input module.

SA1-TH Series Thermistor: Temperature sensor that measures electrical resistance as a response to a change in temperature. It is connected to the NI 9215 via breadboard in its own circuit with  $1k\Omega$  resistor.

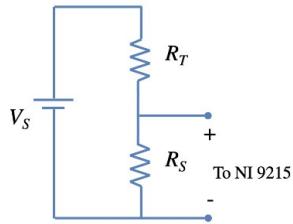


Figure 1: Thermistor Circuit

TMP36 Temperature Sensor: Analog low voltage sensor. It is connected to the NI 9215 via the breadboard.

Breadboard: a reusable solderless prototyping board used for building electronic circuits. Components are inserted into interconnected rows and columns of holes, allowing for easy and temporary assembly of circuits for testing and experimentation.

Circuit Components: various length male-to-male jumper wires,  $1k\Omega$  resistor, 5V power supply.

DAQ: Data Aquisition system that digitizes analog information into "bins" for a computer. The specific DAQ had two units, the NI 9215 and NI 9211. Specific Datasheets for each are included in the appendices.

Thermometer: Regular mercury thermometer, using change in volume as a response to a change in temperature. Used to measure true temperature with 0.5 degrees least count.

Water: Access to water at two temperatures, near boiling, and ice cold.

### 3 Procedure

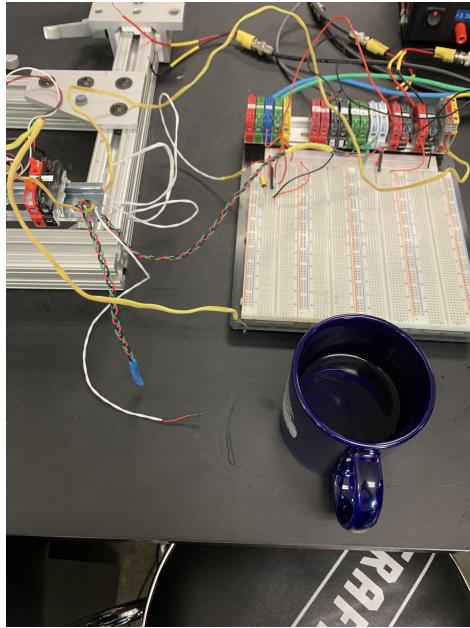


Figure 2: Temperature Sensors, Water mug, and Breadboard circuit

The first step was to setup LabVIEW to simulate the temperature sensors. Before the lab session, the DAQ was connected to the computer and various sensors were connected to the DAQ in modules NI 9211 and NI 9215. The following simulation was created by creating a virtual DAQ by rightclicking the desktop and searching for a DAQ in the popup menu. Next we created a collector and set the value to 500000, indicating we were taking 500000 samples. We imported a split signal and ran the output from the collector into the split signal. Each of the signals went to a specific graph, one for each sensor. A structure in LabVIEW (while loop) enclosed the system and was set to run for the number of iterations specified in the collector. And a "Write to Measure File" block was placed outside of the while loop to save the data to a file. We right-clicked the block and selected "Excel File" and set the file name to not overwrite.

Now that our digital sensing was set up, we had to create the physical circuits. The thermistor was connected to the NI 9215 module, and the TMP36 was connected to the same module. The thermocouple was connected to the NI 9211 module. The thermistor was connected to a  $1k\Omega$  resistor in a voltage divider configuration. The TMP36 was connected to the 5V power supply and the NI 9215 module. The thermocouple was connected to the NI 9211 module. This breadboard configuration is shown in the figure above.

#### 3.1 Part 1

To gather the room temperature data, we placed the sensors in an unused area in the lab room and let them sit for a few minutes without any of us moving near them or touching them, to stop heat from diffusing through the rubber casing of the wire or through the air. We then ran the LabVIEW simulation for 1 minute and saved the data to an Excel file with a frequency of at least 100 hertz. The results of the simulation are shown in the figures below.

#### 3.2 Part 2

##### 3.2.1 Part 2a: Hot Water

We used the electric kettle in the lab to heat up water to near boiling. We then started the LabVIEW simulation, waited a couple seconds to make sure the results were normalized, and suddenly placed the

sensors in the water. After letting them sit for a few minutes to reach equilibrium, we saved the data to an Excel file with a frequency of at least 100 hertz. The results of the simulation will also be shown in the results section below.

### 3.2.2 Part 2b: Water Cooling

Using the same simulation from last time, we timed from when the water was at its hottest temperature until the water went to  $60^{\circ}\text{ C}$ , as that is considered the cold end of the ideal coffee drinking temperature, which is less than the overall temperature. However, after checking the EPA's recommendations, they listed  $40^{\circ}\text{C}$  as the optimal high-end temperature for drinking water. We placed markers at each of these temperatures to be safe and saved the data to an Excel file with a frequency of at least 100 hertz. The results of the simulation will also be shown in the results section below.

### 3.2.3 Part 2c: Ice-Hot

To give us more information to calibrate our sensors, we took a bowl of water with  $2^{\circ}\text{ C}$  temperature and a bowl of water with  $90^{\circ}\text{ C}$  temperature. We placed the sensors in the cold water, took a measurement, and waited around 1 minute for the sensors to each equilibrium. We then quickly placed the sensors in the hot water while taking a measurement to check how long it takes for the sensors to reach steady state, and what the time constant was.

### 3.2.4 Part 2d: Quick Changes

Lastly, after the sensor had reached steady state in the water above, we took the sensors out of the water while taking a measurement to see how quickly the sensors would return to room temperature. We saved the data to an Excel file with a frequency of at least 100 hertz. The results of the simulation will also be shown in the results section below.

### 3.2.5 Part 2e: Sensor Repetition

We repeated the above steps for each sensor to see if there were any differences in the sensors' responses to the different temperatures. The results of the simulation will also be shown in the results section below.

## 4 Data Processing

### Variables

- i.  $N$  = Number of Samples
- ii.  $f_s$  = Sampling Frequency,  $\text{s}^{-1}$
- iii.  $\Delta t_s$  = Sampling Interval,  $\text{s}$
- iv.  $\gamma$  = Confidence Level, %
- v.  $R_S$  = Sensor Resistance, Ohms =  $\Omega$  (In this experiment it will be  $1\text{k}\Omega$ )
- vi.  $V_S$  = Source voltage, Volts =  $V$  (5 V for this experiment)
- vii.  $R_T$  = Thermistor resistance,  $\Omega$

### Equations

I. Sample Mean:  $\bar{x} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N x_i$

II. Standard Deviation of finite  $N$ , normalized by  $N - 1$ :  $S_x = \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^N \frac{(x_i - \bar{x})^2}{N - 1}}$

III. Standard Deviation of the Mean:  $\frac{S_x}{\sqrt{N}}$

IV. Measurement w/ Confidence Interval:  $\bar{x} \pm t_{stat} \cdot \frac{S_x}{\sqrt{N}}$

V. *Steinhart-Hart Relation:*  $\frac{1}{T} = A + B \cdot \ln(R_T) + C \cdot (\ln(R_T))^3$ , where  $A, B, C$  are the Thermistor's calibration coefficients.

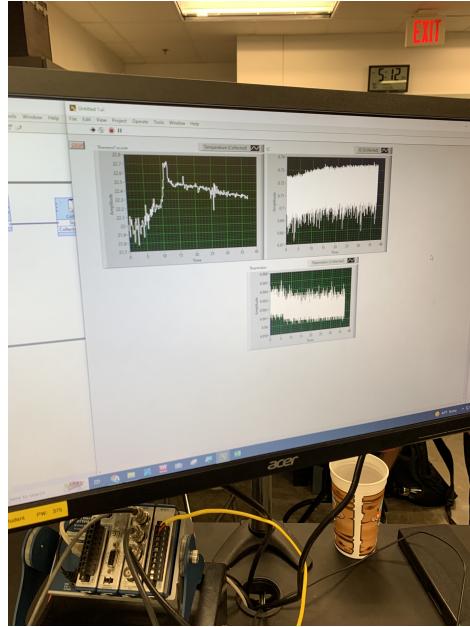


Figure 3: Plotting data on LabVIEW

#### 4.1 Part 1: Ambient Temperature

In Part 1 of the experiment we take measurements of the laboratory room temperature using each of the three sensors: thermocouple, thermistor, and IC TMP36. The data displayed below shows the temperature sensors at work for 1 minute of sampling at  $f_s = 1000 \text{ s}^{-1}$ . This means  $\Delta t_s = (f_s \cdot 60)^{-1} = 1.6667 \times 10^{-5} \text{ minutes}$ .

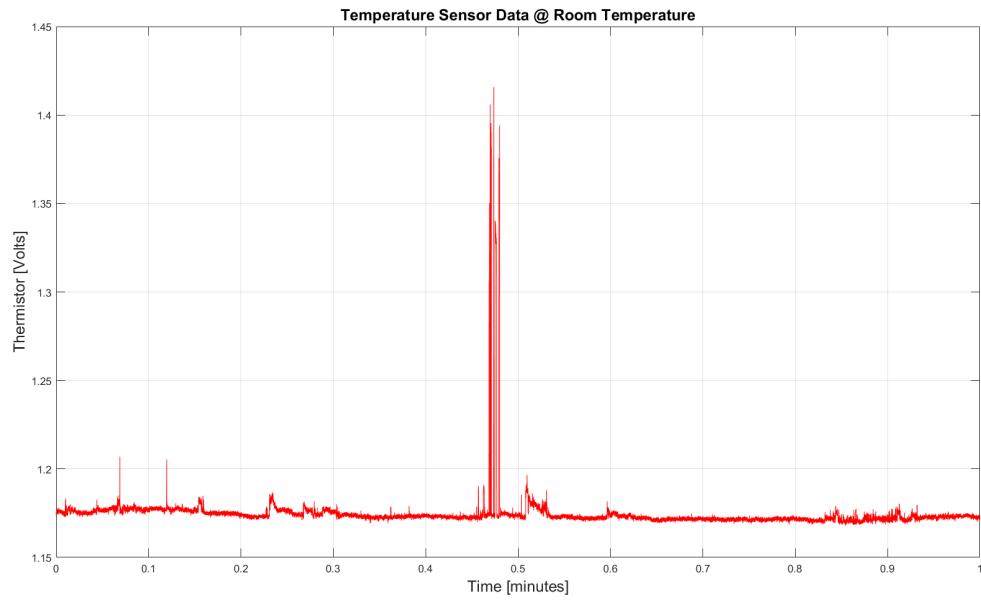


Figure 4: Thermistor at ambient temperature

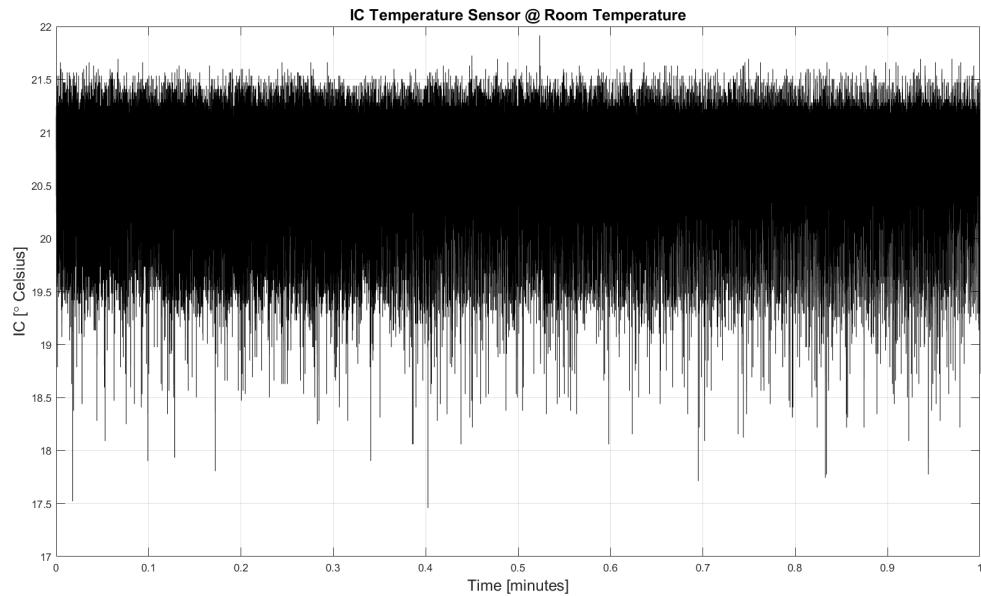


Figure 5: IC TMP36 at ambient temperature

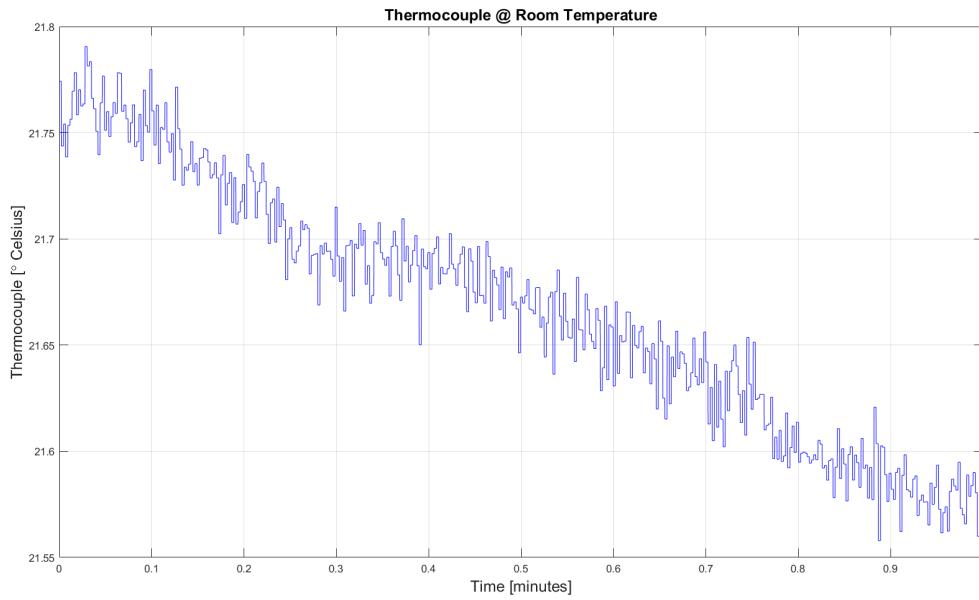


Figure 6: Thermocouple at ambient temperature

#### 4.1.1 Mean Temperature in Laboratory w/ Confidence Interval

Calculation of the mean temperature with confidence interval of  $\gamma = 95\%$  was implemented through MATLAB as shown below:

```
% Confidence Interval in Laboratory
gamma = 0.95; %95 percent confidence

Fz = 0.5*(1+gamma);

nu = Q-1; %DOF

p = (1-gamma)/2; %probability

tstat = tinv(p,nu); %returns

% (SAMPLE MEANS) Mean w/ Confidence Interval
avg_unc_thermistor = [mean(thermistordata)
                      tstat*std(thermistordata)/sqrt(Q)];

avg_unc_IC = [mean(ICdata)
               tstat*std(ICdata)/sqrt(Q)];

avg_unc_thermocouple = [mean(thermocoupleddata)
                        tstat*std(thermocoupleddata)/sqrt(Q)];
```

## 4.2 Part 2: Hot and Cold Water

## 5 Results and Analysis

(Answer Observation Questions from Part 2)

## 6 Conclusion

## Appendices

## Appendix: t-Distribution Tables

**Table A11. t-Distribution**

Values of  $z$  for given values of the distribution function  $F(z)$  (cf. p. 754).

Example: For 9 degrees of freedom,  $z = 1.83$  when  $F(z) = 0.95$ .

$F(z)$	Number of Degrees of Freedom									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.6	0.33	0.29	0.28	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26
0.7	0.73	0.62	0.58	0.57	0.56	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.54	0.54
0.8	1.38	1.06	0.98	0.94	0.92	0.91	0.90	0.89	0.88	0.88
0.9	3.08	1.89	1.64	1.53	1.48	1.44	1.42	1.40	1.38	1.37
0.95	6.31	2.92	2.35	2.13	2.02	1.94	1.90	1.86	1.83	1.81
0.975	12.7	4.30	3.18	2.78	2.57	2.45	2.37	2.31	2.26	2.23
0.99	31.8	6.97	4.54	3.75	3.37	3.14	3.00	2.90	2.82	2.76
0.995	63.7	9.93	5.84	4.60	4.03	3.71	3.50	3.36	3.25	3.17
0.999	318.3	22.3	10.2	7.17	5.89	5.21	4.79	4.50	4.30	4.14

$F(z)$	Number of Degrees of Freedom									
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
0.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.6	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26
0.7	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53
0.8	0.88	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86
0.9	1.36	1.36	1.35	1.35	1.34	1.34	1.33	1.33	1.33	1.33
0.95	1.80	1.78	1.77	1.76	1.75	1.75	1.74	1.73	1.73	1.73
0.975	2.20	2.18	2.16	2.15	2.13	2.12	2.11	2.10	2.09	2.09
0.99	2.72	2.68	2.65	2.62	2.60	2.58	2.57	2.55	2.54	2.53
0.995	3.11	3.06	3.01	2.98	2.95	2.92	2.90	2.88	2.86	2.85
0.999	4.03	3.93	3.85	3.79	3.73	3.69	3.65	3.61	3.58	3.55

$F(z)$	Number of Degrees of Freedom									
	22	24	26	28	30	40	50	100	200	$\alpha$
0.5	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0.6	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	0.25
0.7	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.52
0.8	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.86	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.84	0.84
0.9	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.31	1.31	1.30	1.30	1.29	1.29	1.28
0.95	1.72	1.71	1.71	1.70	1.70	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.65	1.65
0.975	2.07	2.06	2.06	2.05	2.04	2.02	2.01	1.98	1.97	1.96
0.99	2.51	2.49	2.48	2.47	2.46	2.42	2.40	2.37	2.35	2.33
0.995	2.82	2.80	2.78	2.76	2.75	2.70	2.68	2.63	2.60	2.58
0.999	3.51	3.47	3.44	3.41	3.39	3.31	3.26	3.17	3.13	3.09