

# Sensors and Instrumentation (EEL208)

by

**Dr. Saikat Sahoo**  
**Department of Mechatronics**



**Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai**

- ❑ Thermal equilibrium
- ❑ Disturbance in thermal equilibrium – energy exchange
- ❑ Conduction, convection and radiation
- ❑ Minimizing the error
- ❑ Equilibrium and predictive temperature measurement

- ❑ Thermal capacity and resistance
- ❑ Resistance between the body and sensor ( $R_1$ ) should be as small as possible
- ❑ Resistance between the sensor and the environment ( $R_2$ ) should be as large as possible
- ❑ Making  $R_1$  small
- ❑ Making  $R_2$  large

- ❑ Dynamic case
- ❑ Assumption1:  $R_2$  is very high (infinite)
- ❑ Assumption2: Object temperature does not change after sensor is attached
- ❑ Heat transfer

# Resistance temperature detector

Thermal sensor

- ❑ Most accurate temperature sensor

- ❑ Governing equation

$$R_t = R_0(1 + \alpha t)$$

- ❑ Material used: platinum ( $\alpha = 3.94 \times 10^{-3} / \text{deg } C$ )

- ❑ Purity of platinum can be measure by,  $\frac{R_{100}}{R_0} > 1.39$

- ❑ Non-linearity of platinum = 0.76% of the full-scale deflection

# Resistance temperature detector

Thermal sensor

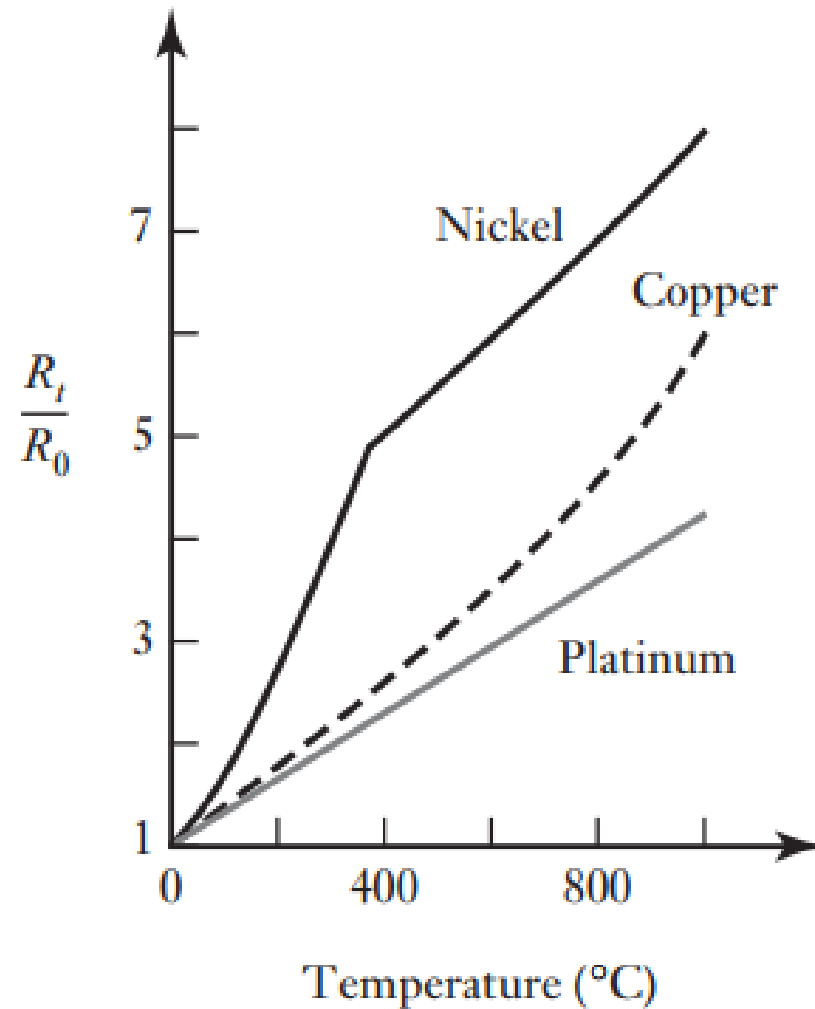
## *Types and range*

RTD	Range	Remarks
Platinum	100 to 650 deg C	Good linearity and chemical inertness
Nickel	-180 to 430 deg C	Susceptible to corrosion and oxidation
Copper	-200 to 260 deg C	
Tungsten	-270 to 1100 deg C	

# Resistance temperature detector

Thermal sensor

*Temperature-  
resistance relationship*



## *RTD circuits*

- ❑ Wheatstone bridge
- ❑ Adjustable resistance made of manganin (lowest temperature coefficient of resistance)
- ❑ Issues with simple Wheatstone bridge
  - Contact resistance
  - Long connecting wire
  - Self heating effect

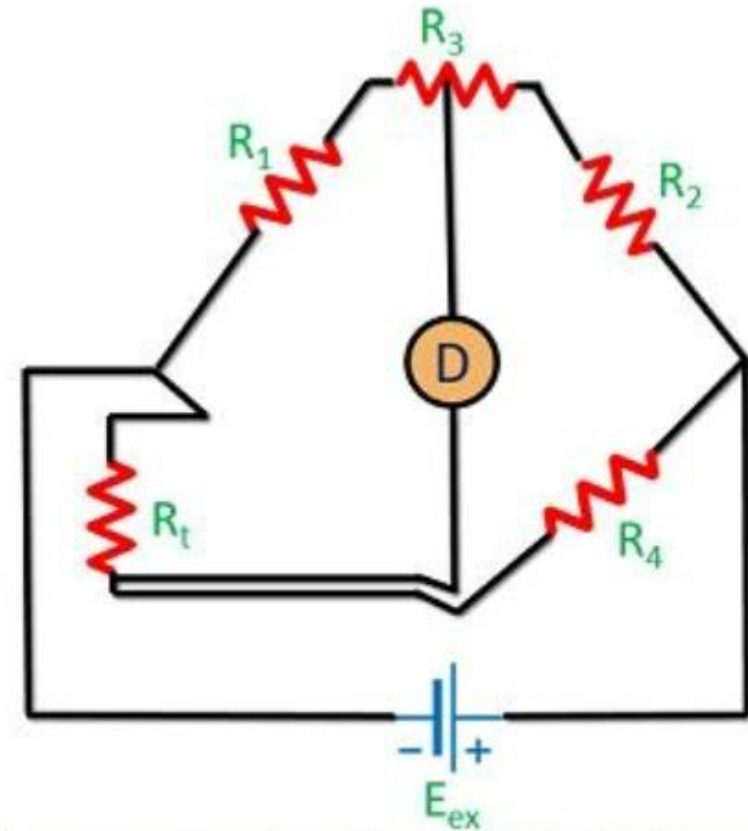


# Resistance temperature detector

Thermal sensor

## *3-wire method of temperature measurement*

- ❑ Three-wire method of temperature measurement
- ❑ It resolves the contact resistance and lead wire issues



# Resistance temperature detector

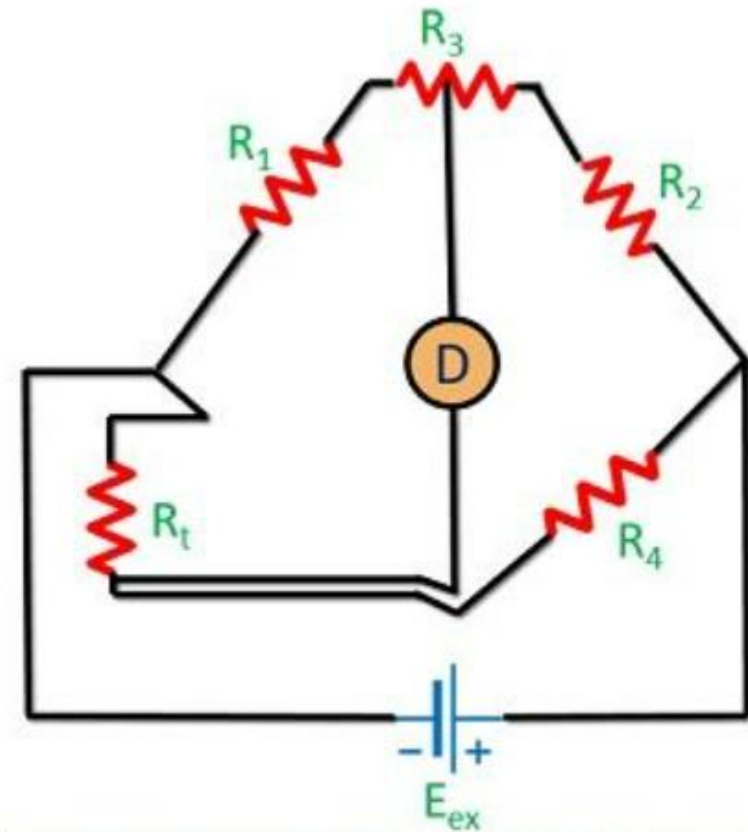
Thermal sensor

*3-wire method of temperature measurement (contact resistance compensation)*

$$I_4 R_4 = I_2 [R_2 + (1 - f) R_3]$$

$$I_4 R_t = I_2 (R_1 + f R_3)$$

$$R_t = R_4 \frac{\frac{R_1}{R_3} + f}{\frac{R_2}{R_3} + 1 - f}$$



# Resistance temperature detector

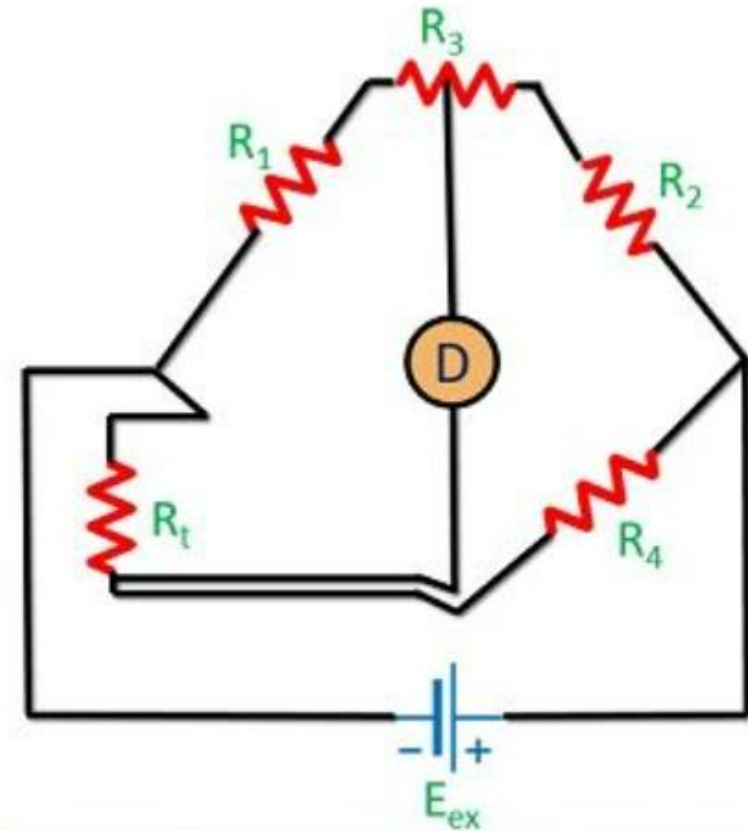
Thermal sensor

*3-wire method of temperature measurement (lead wire resistance compensation)*

$$I_4(R_4 + R_L) = I_2 [R_2 + R_3(1 - f)]$$

$$I_4(R_t + R_L) = I_2(R_1 + fR_3)$$

$$\frac{R_t + R_L}{R_4 + R_L} = \frac{\frac{R_1}{R_3} + f}{\frac{R_2}{R_3} + 1 - f}$$

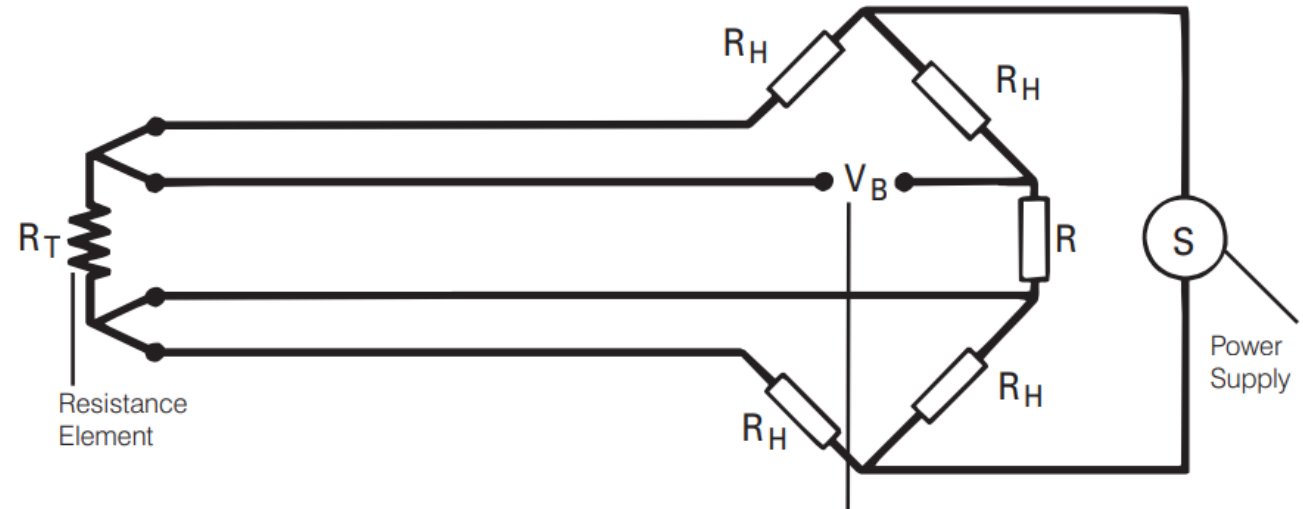


# Resistance temperature detector

Thermal sensor

## *4-wire method of temperature measurement or Muller bridge*

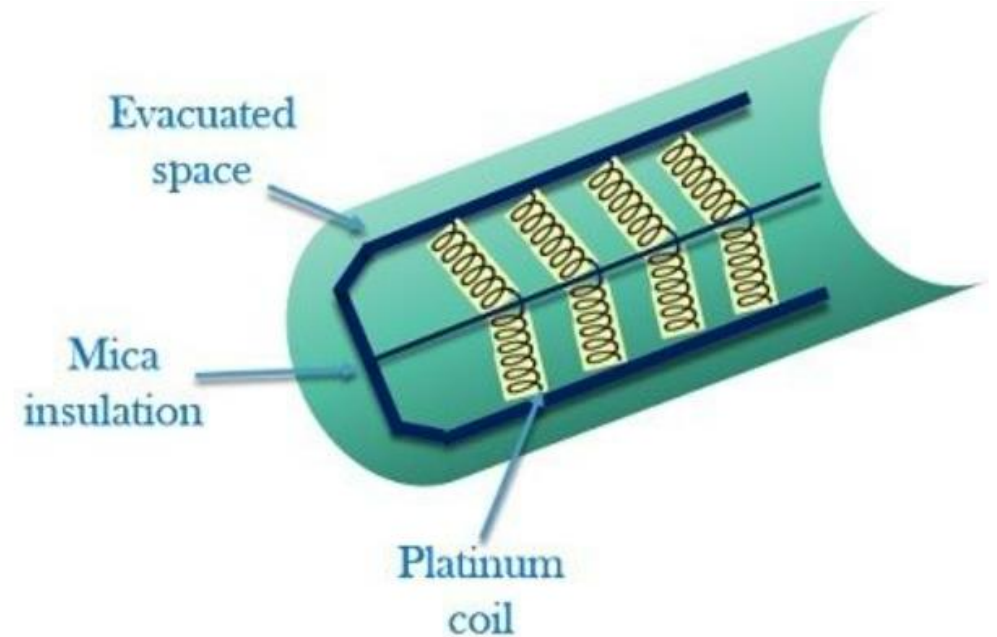
- ❑ Three-wire method cannot eliminate the lead resistance issue
- ❑ It completely resolves the lead wire issue and contact resistance issue



<https://www.tc.co.uk/rtd-pt100-information/rtd-bridge-measuring-systems.pdf>

## *Construction of platinum RTD*

- ❑ Evacuated tube of stainless steel
- ❑ Least strain platinum coil arrangement
- ❑ Mica – better electrical insulation



<https://electronicscoach.com/resistance-thermometer.html>

# Resistance temperature detector

Thermal sensor

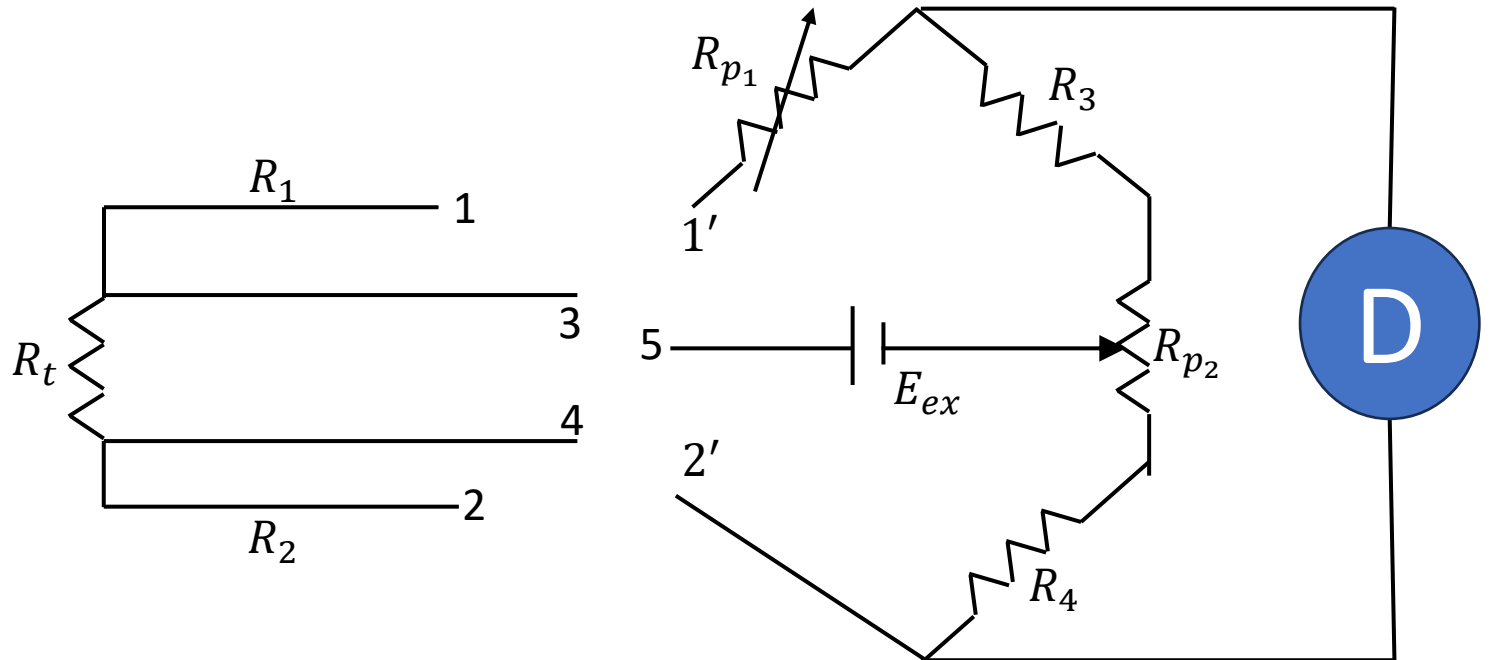
## *Muller bridge*

At position A of the switches

- ☐ Point 1 is connected to 2'
- ☐ Point 2 is connected to 1'
- ☐ Point 4 is connected to 5

At balance

$$R_{P1A} + R_2 = R_t + R_1$$



# Resistance temperature detector

Thermal sensor

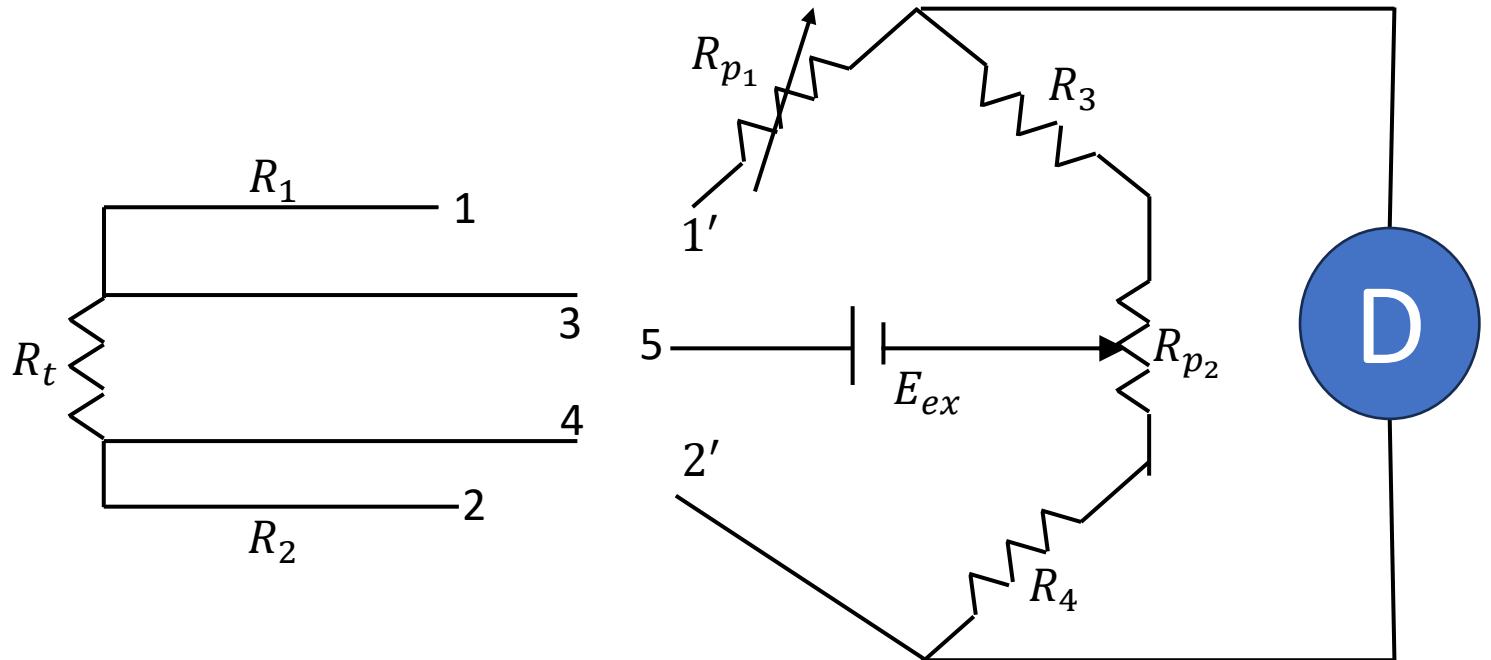
## Muller bridge

At position B of the switches

- ☐ Point 1 is connected to 1'
- ☐ Point 2 is connected to 2'
- ☐ Point 3 is connected to 5

At balance

$$R_{P1B} + R_1 = R_t + R_2$$



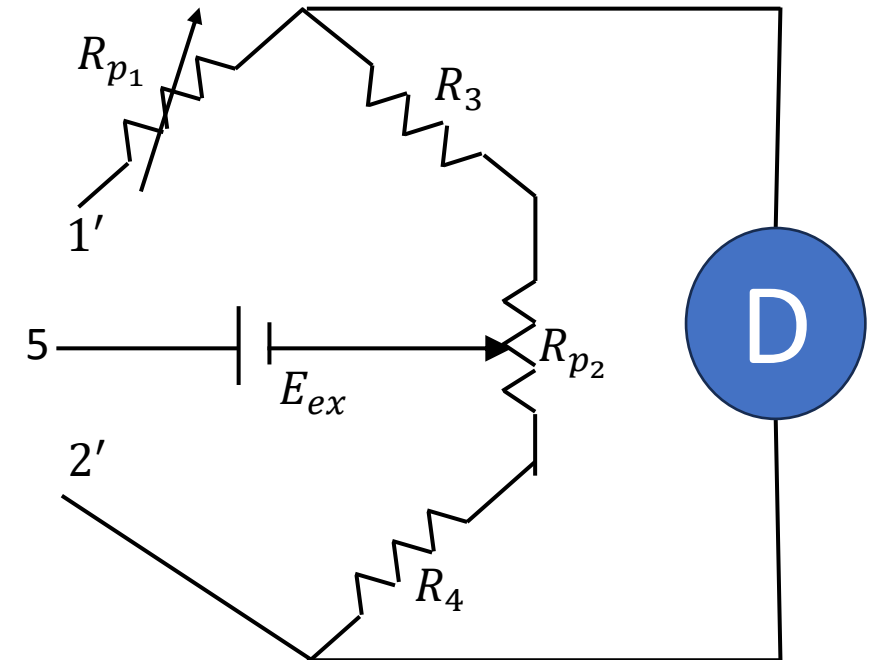
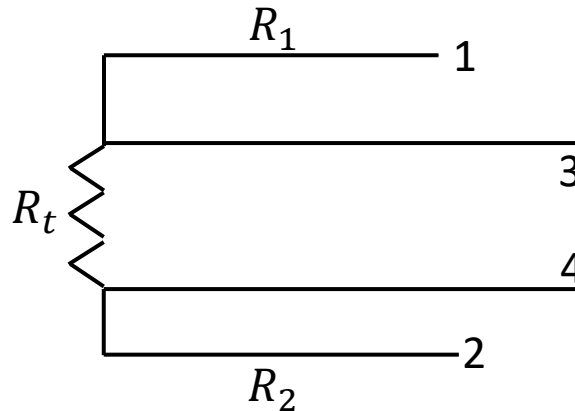
# Resistance temperature detector

Thermal sensor

## *Muller bridge*

Adding two equations

$$R_t = \frac{R_{P1A} + R_{P1B}}{2}$$





## *Introduction*

- ❑ Temperature-sensitive resistor
- ❑ Resistance change is inversely proportional to temperature
- ❑ Semiconductor material: Oxides of nickel, cobalt, or manganese
- ❑ Governing equation

$$R_T = R_0 e^{\beta(\frac{1}{T} - \frac{1}{T_0})}$$

$\beta \rightarrow$  Material constant (3000 to 5000 K)

## *Properties*

Sensitivity of the thermistor

$$\frac{dR}{dT} = R_0 e^{\beta \left( \frac{1}{T} - \frac{1}{T_0} \right)} \cdot \left( -\beta \cdot \frac{1}{T^2} \right)$$

$$\frac{dR}{dT} = R \cdot \left( -\frac{\beta}{T^2} \right)$$

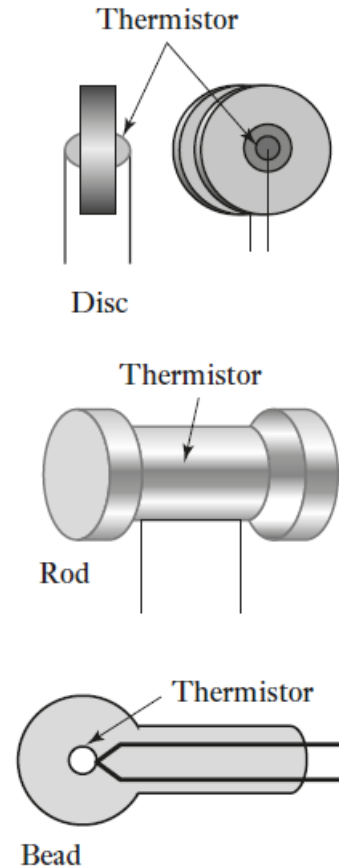
$$S = \frac{\Delta R / R}{\Delta T}$$

$$S = \frac{1}{R} \cdot R \cdot \left( -\frac{\beta}{T^2} \right)$$

$$S = -\frac{\beta}{T^2}$$

### *Properties*

- ❑ Sensitivity of the thermistor is much higher than platinum RTD
- ❑ Size: 0.125 mm to 1.5 mm
- ❑ Time constant is very small
- ❑ Shape: disk, wafers, flakes and rods
- ❑ Resistance varies from a few **ohm** to **kilo ohms** even **mega ohms**
- ❑ Minimum resistance should be set carefully



## *Signal conditioning circuit*

- ☐ Wheatstone bridge
- ☐ Potentiometer circuit
- ☐ Linearity issue (using parallel resistance)
- ☐ Lead wire issue can be neglected
- ☐ Self-heating error

## *Signal conditioning circuit*

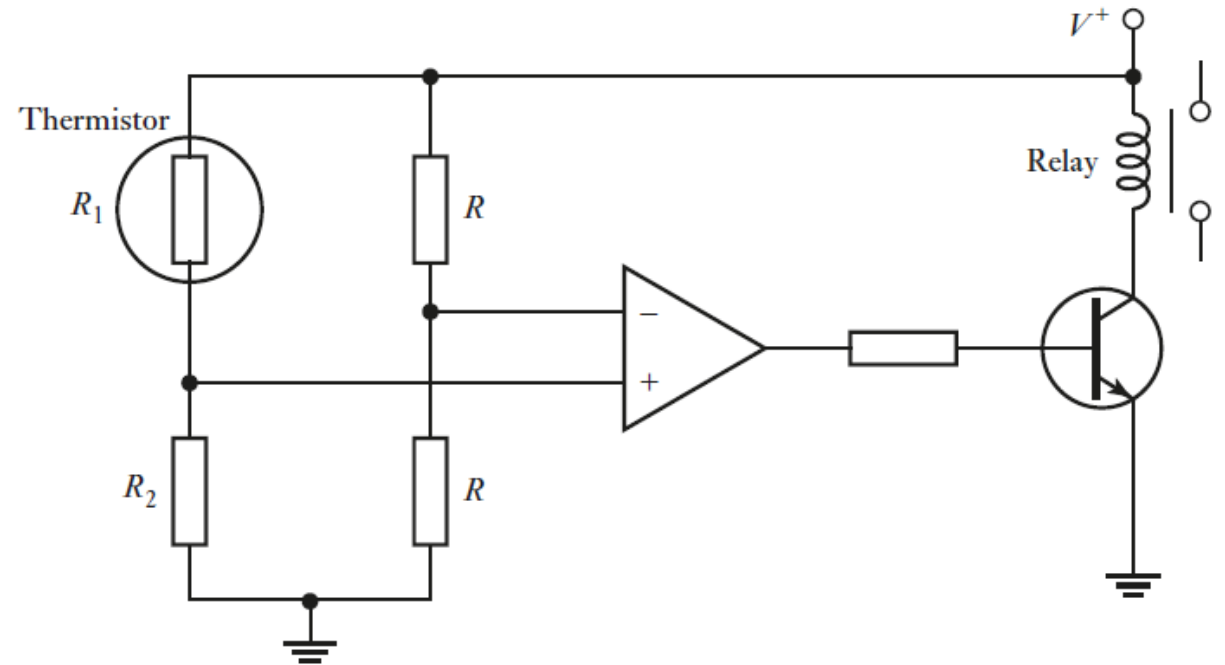
### ❑ Self-heating error

Example: Let  $R_T = 5000 \Omega$  is capable of dissipating  $1 \text{ mW}/^\circ\text{C}$  above the ambient temperature. Thus, if the temperature is to be determined with an accuracy of  $0.5^\circ\text{C}$ , the power to be dissipated should be limited to less than  $0.5 \text{ mW}$ .

$$I = \sqrt{(P / R_t)} = 316 \mu\text{A}$$

### *Application*

- ❑ Temperature switch circuit



*Bolton 2008*

## *Application*

- ☐ Wien bridge oscillator
- ☐ Power supply/ SMPS

## *Introduction*

- ❑ Thermocouples working principle
- ❑ Three emfs are present in a thermocouple circuit
  - Seebeck effect
  - Peltier effect
  - Thompson effect
- ❑ Two laws of thermocouple
  - ❑ Law of intermediate metal
  - ❑ Law of intermediate temperature
- ❑ Why are no two metals used to make a thermocouple?



## *Introduction*

- ☐ Thermocouples working principle
- ☐ Governing equation
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- ☐ Two laws of thermocouple
  - ☐ Law of intermediate metal
  - ☐ Law of intermediate temperature
- ☐ Why are no two metals used to make a thermocouple?

## *Characteristics*

- ❑ Range: -200 to 2000 deg C
- ❑ Linearity: non-linear characteristic
- ❑ Sensitivity:  $40 \mu V / ^\circ C$
- ❑ Stability: inertness (reduction, oxidation, etc)

## *K Type thermocouple*

**Positive:** Chromel

**Negative:** Alumel

**Can be represented by:** Eighth-degree polynomial

**Application:** -200°C to 1300°C. The main application is around 700 to 1200 °C

**Voltage swing over range (mV):** 56.0

**Lead wires:**

- (+): Iron, Copper

- (-): Cu-Ni alloy, Constantan

## *T Type thermocouple*

**Positive:** Copper

**Negative:** Constantan

**Can be represented by:** Eighth-degree polynomial

**Application:** -200°C to 350°C. Beyond this temperature, oxidation of copper will occur.

**Voltage swing over range (mV):** 26.0 (For -184°C to 400°C)

**Lead wires:**

- (+): Cu
- (-): Constantan

## *S Type thermocouple*

**Positive:** Platinum / 10% Rhodium

**Negative:** Platinum

**Can be represented by:** Second / Third degree polynomial

**Application:** Main features are its chemical inertness and stability at high temperatures in oxidizing atmospheres. Reducing atmospheres cause rapid deterioration at high temperatures, ranging from 0°C to 1538°C.

**Voltage swing over range (mV):** 16.0

**Lead wires:** (+): Copper; (-): Copper-Nickel alloy

## *R Type thermocouple*

**Positive:** Platinum / 13% Rhodium

**Negative:** Platinum

**Can be represented by:** Second / Third degree polynomial

**Application:**

0°C to 1593°C

**Voltage swing over range (mV):** 18.7

**Lead wires:**

- (+): Copper

- (-): Copper-Nickel alloy

## *B Type thermocouple*

**Positive:** Platinum / 30% Rhodium

**Negative:** Platinum / 6% Rhodium

**Can be represented by:** Eighth degree polynomial

**Application:** 38°C to 1800°C

**Voltage swing over range (mV):** 13.6

**Lead wires:**

- (+): Copper
- (-): Copper-Nickel alloy

## *E Type thermocouple*

**Positive:** Chromel

**Negative:** Constantan

**Can be represented by:** Ninth degree polynomial

**Application:**

0°C to 982°C

**Voltage swing over range (mV):** 75; Highest sensitivity

**Lead wires:** (+): Iron; (-): Constantan



# Thermocouple

Thermal sensor

Type	Material	Temperature Range (°C)	Sensitivity (μV/°C)	Accuracy	Key Features	Applications
K	Chromel-Alumel	-200 to 1260	~41	±2.2°C or ±0.75%	Inexpensive, stable, oxidation resistant.	General-purpose, furnaces, oxidizing atmospheres.
J	Iron-Constantan	-40 to 750	~52	±2.2°C or ±0.75%	Low cost, better in reducing atmospheres, prone to rust.	Industrial, short-term high temperature.
T	Copper-Constantan	-200 to 350	~43	±1.0°C or ±0.75%	Accurate at low temperatures, corrosion resistant.	Cryogenics, food processing, low-temperature research.

# Thermocouple

Thermal sensor

Type	Material	Temperature Range (°C)	Sensitivity (μV/°C)	Accuracy	Key Features	Applications
E	Chromel-Constantan	-200 to 900	~68	±1.7°C or ±0.5%	High sensitivity, suitable for low-temperature applications.	Laboratory, medical equipment.
N	Nicrosil-Nisil	-270 to 1300	~39	±2.2°C or ±0.75%	Excellent high-temperature stability, resistant to oxidation.	High-temperature furnaces, aerospace.
S	Platinum-Rhodium (10%)	0 to 1450	~10	±1.5°C or ±0.25%	Highly stable, suitable for long-term use in oxidizing environments.	Laboratory, glass production, metallurgy.

# Thermocouple

Thermal sensor

Type	Material	Temperature Range (°C)	Sensitivity ( $\mu\text{V}/^\circ\text{C}$ )	Accuracy	Key Features	Applications
R	Platinum-Rhodium (13%)	0 to 1450	$\sim 10$	$\pm 1.5^\circ\text{C}$ or $\pm 0.25\%$	Similar to Type S but with higher rhodium content for better stability.	High-accuracy laboratory measurements.
B	Platinum-Rhodium (30%/6%)	0 to 1700	$\sim 7$	$\pm 1.5^\circ\text{C}$ or $\pm 0.5\%$	Extremely stable at high temperatures, limited use below $50^\circ\text{C}$ .	Steel and ceramic industries, very high temperatures.

## *Signal conditioning circuit*

- ❑ Cold junction compensation
  - Maintain the cold junction at a constant temperature
  - Or use a thermostatically controlled oven
  - Subtracting the voltage equivalent to the temperature change
    - Junction diode (2.2 mV/deg C)
    - AD 590

## *Signal conditioning circuit*

### **Cold junction compensation**

Type	$R_a$ (ohm)
J	52.3
K	41.2
E	61.4
T	40.2
S, R	5.76

## *Desirable properties of thermocouple*

- ☐ Relatively large thermal emf
- ☐ Precision of calibration
- ☐ Resistance to corrosion and oxidation
- ☐ Inter-changeability

## *Thermopile*

- ☐ Amplify the output of the circuit
- ☐ Time constant increases

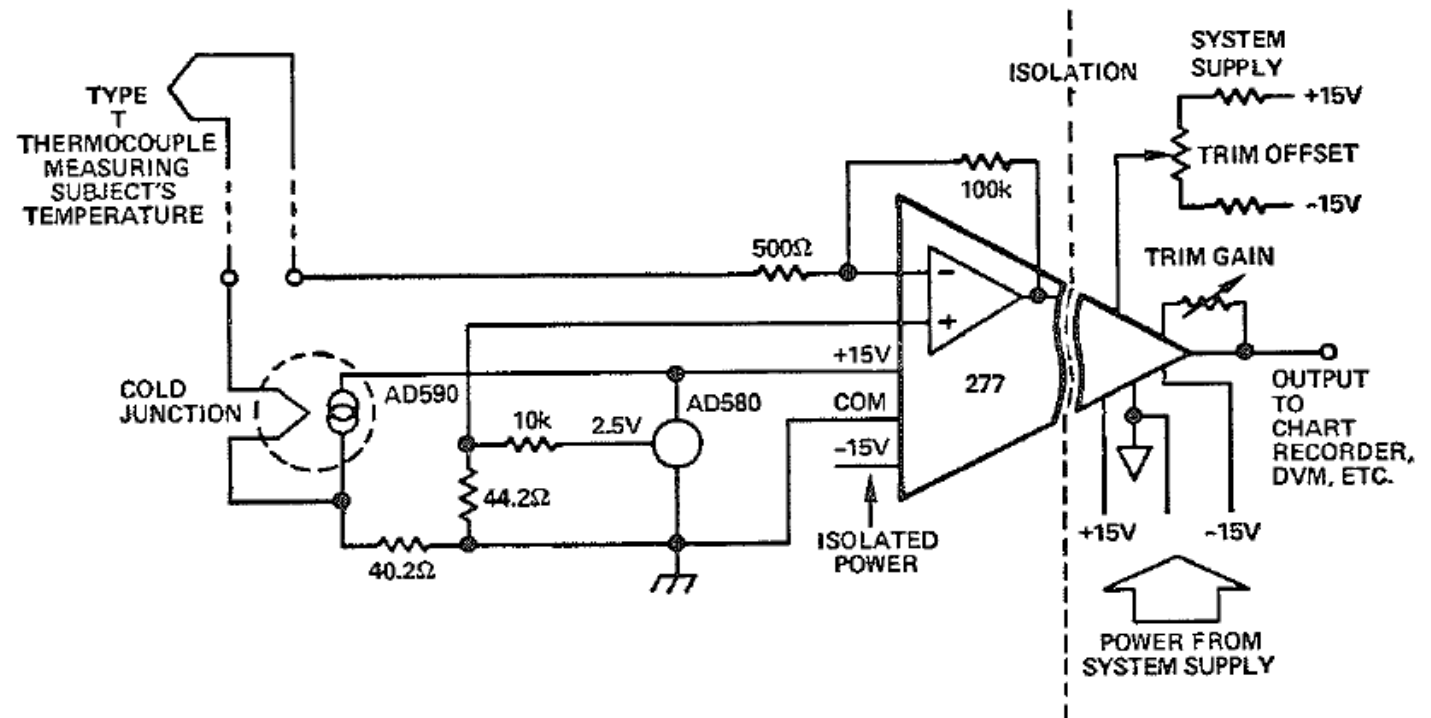
# Thermocouple

Thermal sensor

## *Application of thermocouple*

### ❑ Isolated thermocouple measurement

- Good stability in low temperature
- Accuracy





## *Thermocouple to frequency conversion*

- ☐ Reduce signal distortion over a long distances
- ☐ Improve noise immunity
- ☐ Ease of digital processing
- ☐ Voltage to frequency converter ( $v$  to  $f$ ) – AD537

# Thermocouple

Thermal sensor

## *Temperature as a function of voltage readings*



mV	B		E		J		K
	°C	°C/mV	°C	°C/mV	°C	°C/mV	
-10.000	—		—		—		—
- 5.000	—		- 94.4	21.70	- 109.1	25.10	- 153.7
- 2.000	—		- 35.3	18.40	- 40.8	21.10	- 53.1
- 1.000	—		- 17.3	17.60	- 20.1	20.40	- 25.9
0.000	+ 42.0	4°/μV	0.0	17.06	0.0	19.84	0.0
+ 1.000	449.6	220	16.8	16.64	19.6	19.25	+ 25.0
+ 2.000	634.2	160	33.2	16.21	38.9	19.08	+ 49.5
+ 5.000	1018.2	109	80.3	15.19	95.1	18.43	+ 122.0
+10.000	1491.8	87	153.0	14.02	186.0	18.03	246.3
+20.000	—		286.7	12.90	366.5	18.13	485.0
+30.000	—		413.2	12.47	546.3	17.57	720.8
+40.000	—		537.1	12.36	713.9	15.94	967.5
+50.000	—		661.1	12.47	870.2	15.79	1232.3
+60.000	—		787.0	12.71	1035.0	16.95	
+70.000	—		915.9	13.09	—		

# Thermocouple

Thermal sensor

## *Thermoelectric voltage*

°C	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	°C
Thermoelectric Voltage in Millivolts												
-210	-8.095											-210
-200	-7.890	-7.912	-7.934	-7.955	-7.976	-7.996	-8.017	-8.037	-8.057	-8.076	-8.095	-200
-190	-7.659	-7.683	-7.707	-7.731	-7.755	-7.778	-7.801	-7.824	-7.846	-7.868	-7.890	-190
-180	-7.403	-7.429	-7.456	-7.482	-7.508	-7.534	-7.559	-7.585	-7.610	-7.634	-7.659	-180
-170	-7.123	-7.152	-7.181	-7.209	-7.237	-7.265	-7.293	-7.321	-7.348	-7.376	-7.403	-170
-160	-6.821	-6.853	-6.883	-6.914	-6.944	-6.975	-7.005	-7.035	-7.064	-7.094	-7.123	-160
-150	-6.500	-6.533	-6.566	-6.598	-6.631	-6.663	-6.695	-6.727	-6.759	-6.790	-6.821	-150
-140	-6.159	-6.194	-6.229	-6.263	-6.298	-6.332	-6.366	-6.400	-6.433	-6.467	-6.500	-140
-130	-5.801	-5.838	-5.874	-5.910	-5.946	-5.982	-6.018	-6.054	-6.089	-6.124	-6.159	-130
-120	-5.426	-5.465	-5.503	-5.541	-5.578	-5.616	-5.653	-5.690	-5.727	-5.764	-5.801	-120
-110	-5.037	-5.076	-5.116	-5.155	-5.194	-5.233	-5.272	-5.311	-5.350	-5.388	-5.426	-110
-100	-4.633	-4.674	-4.714	-4.755	-4.796	-4.836	-4.877	-4.917	-4.957	-4.997	-5.037	-100
-90	-4.215	-4.257	-4.300	-4.342	-4.384	-4.425	-4.467	-4.509	-4.550	-4.591	-4.633	-90
-80	-3.786	-3.829	-3.872	-3.916	-3.959	-4.002	-4.045	-4.088	-4.130	-4.173	-4.215	-80
-70	-3.344	-3.389	-3.434	-3.478	-3.522	-3.566	-3.610	-3.654	-3.698	-3.742	-3.786	-70
-60	-2.893	-2.938	-2.984	-3.029	-3.075	-3.120	-3.165	-3.210	-3.255	-3.300	-3.344	-60
-50	-2.431	-2.478	-2.524	-2.571	-2.617	-2.663	-2.709	-2.755	-2.801	-2.847	-2.893	-50
-40	-1.961	-2.008	-2.055	-2.103	-2.150	-2.197	-2.244	-2.291	-2.338	-2.385	-2.431	-40
-30	-1.482	-1.530	-1.578	-1.626	-1.674	-1.722	-1.770	-1.818	-1.865	-1.913	-1.961	-30
-20	-0.995	-1.044	-1.093	-1.142	-1.190	-1.239	-1.288	-1.336	-1.385	-1.433	-1.482	-20
-10	-0.501	-0.550	-0.600	-0.650	-0.699	-0.749	-0.798	-0.847	-0.896	-0.946	-0.995	-10
0	0.000	-0.050	-0.101	-0.151	-0.201	-0.251	-0.301	-0.351	-0.401	-0.451	-0.501	0

# Thermocouple

Thermal sensor

## *Thermoelectric voltage*

0	0.000	0.050	0.101	0.151	0.202	0.253	0.303	0.354	0.405	0.456	0.507	0
10	0.507	0.558	0.609	0.660	0.711	0.762	0.814	0.865	0.916	0.968	1.019	10
20	1.019	1.071	1.122	1.174	1.226	1.277	1.329	1.381	1.433	1.485	1.537	20
30	1.537	1.589	1.641	1.693	1.745	1.797	1.849	1.902	1.954	2.006	2.059	30
40	2.059	2.111	2.164	2.216	2.269	2.322	2.374	2.427	2.480	2.532	2.585	40
50	2.585	2.638	2.691	2.744	2.797	2.850	2.903	2.956	3.009	3.062	3.116	50
60	3.116	3.169	3.222	3.275	3.329	3.382	3.436	3.489	3.543	3.596	3.650	60
70	3.650	3.703	3.757	3.810	3.864	3.918	3.971	4.025	4.079	4.133	4.187	70
80	4.187	4.240	4.294	4.348	4.402	4.456	4.510	4.564	4.618	4.672	4.726	80
90	4.726	4.781	4.835	4.889	4.943	4.997	5.052	5.106	5.160	5.215	5.269	90

## *Numerical 1*

*With a cold junction of  $-14^{\circ}\text{C}$  an iron-constantan thermocouple produces an emf of  $4.82\text{ mV}$ . Calculate the temperature of the hot junction.*

Ans:  $78.8^{\circ}\text{C}$

# Thermocouple

Thermal sensor

**Type J (Iron-Constantan) Thermocouple Table for 0 °C Reference**

	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45
-150	-6.50	-6.66	-6.82	-6.97	-7.12	-7.27	-7.40	-7.54	-7.66	-7.78
-100	-4.63	-4.83	-5.03	-5.23	-5.42	-5.61	-5.80	-5.98	-6.16	-6.33
-50	-2.43	-2.66	-2.89	-3.12	-3.34	-3.56	-3.78	-4.00	-4.21	-4.42
-0	0.00	-0.25	-0.50	-0.75	-1.00	-1.24	-1.48	-1.72	-1.96	-2.20
+0	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.76	1.02	1.28	1.54	1.80	2.06	2.32
50	2.58	2.85	3.11	3.38	3.65	3.92	4.19	4.46	4.73	5.00
100	5.27	5.54	5.81	6.08	6.36	6.63	6.90	7.18	7.45	7.73
150	8.00	8.28	8.56	8.84	9.11	9.39	9.67	9.95	10.22	10.50
200	10.78	11.06	11.34	11.62	11.89	12.17	12.45	12.73	13.01	13.28
250	13.56	13.84	14.12	14.39	14.67	14.94	15.22	15.50	15.77	16.05
300	16.33	16.60	16.88	17.15	17.43	17.71	17.98	18.26	18.54	18.81
350	19.09	19.37	19.64	19.92	20.20	20.47	20.75	21.02	21.30	21.57
400	21.85	22.13	22.40	22.68	22.95	23.23	23.50	23.78	24.06	24.33
450	24.61	24.88	25.16	25.44	25.72	25.99	26.27	26.55	26.83	27.11
500	27.39	27.67	27.95	28.23	28.52	28.80	29.08	29.37	29.65	29.94
550	30.22	30.51	30.80	31.08	31.37	31.66	31.95	32.24	32.53	32.82
600	33.11	33.41	33.70	33.99	34.29	34.58	34.88	35.18	35.48	35.78
650	36.08	36.38	36.69	36.99	37.30	37.60	37.91	38.22	38.53	38.84
700	39.15	39.47	39.78	40.10	40.41	40.73	41.05	41.36	41.68	42.00

<https://www.chegg.com/homework-help/questions-and-answers/type-j-iron-constantan-thermocouple-table-0-c-reference-0-5-20-25-30-35-40-45-150-100-50-0-q51120121>

## *Numerical 2*

*At a temperature of 447°C an iron-constantan thermocouple produces an emf of 8.11 mV. Calculate the temperature of the cold junction.*

$$0 \rightarrow 447 = 24.444 \text{ mV}$$

$$X \text{ to } 447 = 8.11 \text{ mV}$$

$$0 \text{ to } 300 = 16.327 \text{ mV}$$

$$0 \text{ to } 301 = 16.383 \text{ mV}$$

Ans: 300.1 deg C

## *Numerical 3*

The emf of an iron-constantan thermocouple was found to be 44.40 mV with a cold junction of 0°C. If the cold junction changes to 100°C, what emf would the thermocouple produce?



## *Numerical 4*

An iron-constantan thermocouple is placed in a known temperature of  $400^{\circ}\text{F}$ . If the thermocouple produces an emf of  $10.81\text{ mV}$ , what is the temperature of the cold junction?

## *Numerical 5*

Two different thermocouples (A and B) are connected in series. The Seebeck coefficients are:  $S_A = 30 \mu V/^{\circ}C$ ,  $S_B = 50 \mu V/^{\circ}C$ .

The hot junction is at 500 deg C and the cold junction is at 25 deg C. Calculate the total EMF generated by the system.

Ans: 38 mV

## *Numerical 6*

A thermocouple reads an EMF of 15 mV when the hot junction is at 400 deg C. The Seebeck coefficient is 50  $\mu\text{V}/\text{deg C}$ . Determine the reference junction temperature.

Ans: 100 deg c

## *Numerical 7*

For a non-linear thermocouple, where  $a = 40 \mu\text{V/deg C}$  and  $b = 0.02 \mu\text{V/deg C}$ . Calculate the EMF when the hot junction is at 300 deg C and the cold junction is at 0 deg C.

Ans: 13.8mV

## *Numerical 8*

A platinum RTD, PT100 measures  $100\Omega$  at  $0^\circ\text{C}$  and  $138.5\Omega$  at  $100^\circ\text{C}$ . Calculate temperature when resistance is  $110\Omega$

Ans: 119.25 ohm

## *Numerical 9*

For a thermistor,  $\beta=3140$  K and the resistance at 27deg C is known to be 1050 .  
If the thermistor is used for measuring a temperature of 6 deg C, find the resistance of the thermistor.

Ans: 2308.95 ohm

Thank you for your  
attention!