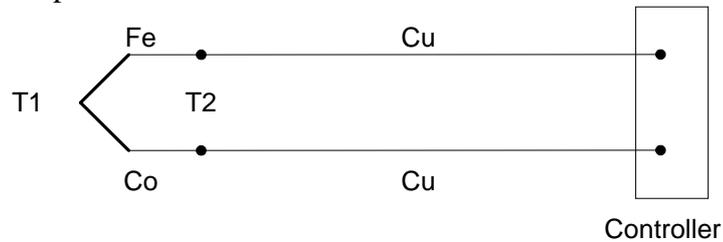


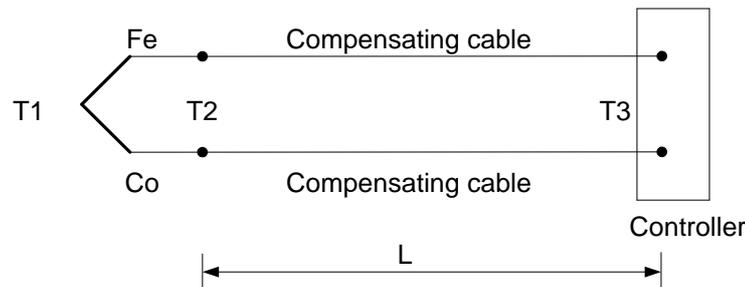
Hello people,

I need your help by checking my knowledge about thermocouple. Principle of operation is simple, thermocouple consists of two different metals connected on one end (hot junction) that has property to provide voltage on its other end (cold junction) that is proportional to difference of temperatures between hot end and cold end. I know that one must be careful when using thermocouple because inaccurate readings are possible when copper leads are connected on cold junction. That is why, usually, compensating cables are used. For example, if we look picture 1.



Here, compensation cables are not used and thus mV signal at controller end is proportional to  $(T_1 - T_2)$ . Since controller itself has temperature sensor and that information is used to compensate cold junction temperature, inaccurate readings by controller are possible if copper wire length is significant in such way that there is difference between  $T_2$  and temperature  $T_3$  which is temperature which controller's sensor reads.

Solution is usually this:



Since compensation cable is built with similar material like thermocouple, voltage that is read by controller is proportional to  $(T_1 - T_3)$  and not to  $(T_1 - T_2)$  as in previous case. Since controller's internal sensor now measure  $T_3$ , controller will produce correct cold junction compensation, and thus real temperature  $T_1$  can be accurately measured.

Am I right here?

Also, if  $L$  is relatively small (example,  $< 1$  m) so that there is small difference between  $T_2$  and  $T_3$ , controller can obtain correct  $T_1$  measurement without use of compensating cable, because  $T_1 - T_2$  is very close to  $T_1 - T_3$ .

Can you comment this „first part“?

Second part

My question is: did I forget something here? I assume in first case, there will be two additional thermocouples Fe-Cu and Co-Cu. Now, I know that in first case, error will exist because there is difference between  $T_2$  and  $T_3$  if  $L$  is rather long, but is this only source of inaccuracy or additional thermocouples makes things worse? Since, same material is used from point  $T_2$  to controller, there will be no additional mV because there are no thermocouples between points  $T_2$  and  $T_3$  (controller). I think that two additional thermocouples have influence included in  $mV = K(T_1 - T_2)$  and that is all.

Can you comment this?

Thanks