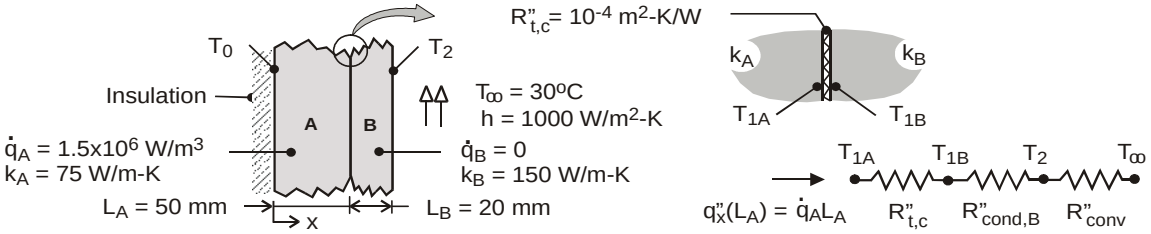
PROBLEM 3.87

KNOWN: Composite wall of materials A and B. Wall of material A has uniform generation, while wall B has no generation. The inner wall of material A is insulated, while the outer surface of material B experiences convection cooling. Thermal contact resistance between the materials is $R''_{t,c} = 10^{-4}\,m^2 \cdot K/W$. See Example 3.7 that considers the case without contact resistance.

FIND: Compute and plot the temperature distribution in the composite wall.

SCHEMATIC:



ASSUMPTIONS: (1) Steady-state conditions, (2) One-dimensional conduction with constant properties, and (3) Inner surface of material A is adiabatic.

ANALYSIS: From the analysis of Example 3.8, we know the temperature distribution in material A is parabolic with zero slope at the inner boundary, and that the distribution in material B is linear. At the interface between the two materials, $x = L_A$, the temperature distribution will show a discontinuity.

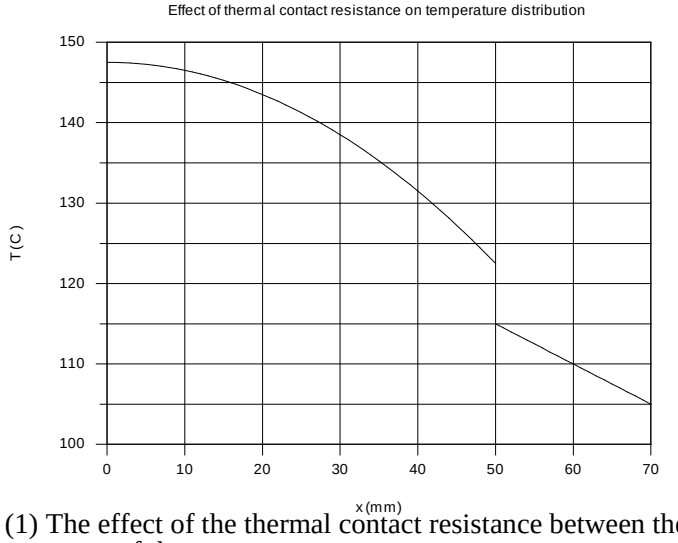
$$T_A(x) = \frac{\dot{q} L_A^2}{2 k_A}\left(1 - \frac{x^2}{L_A^2}\right) + T_{1A} \qquad 0 \le x \le L_A$$

$$T_B(x) = T_{1B} - (T_{1B} - T_2)\frac{x - L_A}{L_B} \qquad L_A \le x \le L_A + L_B$$

Considering the thermal circuit above (see also Example 3.8) including the thermal contact resistance,

$$q'' = \dot{q} L_A = \frac{T_{1A} - T_\infty}{R''_{tot}} = \frac{T_{1B} - T_\infty}{R''_{cond,B} + R''_{conv}} = \frac{T_2 - T_\infty}{R''_{conv}}$$

find $T_A(0) = 147.5°C$, $T_{1A} = 122.5°C$, $T_{1B} = 115°C$, and $T_2 = 105°C$. Using the foregoing equations in IHT, the temperature distributions for each of the materials can be calculated and are plotted on the graph below.



COMMENTS: (1) The effect of the thermal contact resistance between the materials is to increase the maximum temperature of the system.

(2) Can you explain why the temperature distribution in the material B is not affected by the presence of the thermal contact resistance at the materials' interface?