







#### International School on

## 'Geothermal Development'

December 7 - 12, 2015 (Miramare, Trieste, Italy)

# GROUND RESPONSE TEST (GRT) AND HEAT PUMP DESIGN

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### SUMMARY

- 1. Heat pumps: basic concepts and fundamentals
- 2. Thermal sources: types, pros & cons
- 3. GSHP Ground Source Heat Pump systems
- 4. Ground source modeling
- 5. Ground source characterization: site-investigation methods
  - a) Thermal response test / Ground response test
  - b) Pumping test



### MAIN TOPICS

Influence of thermal sources characteristics on HP performances

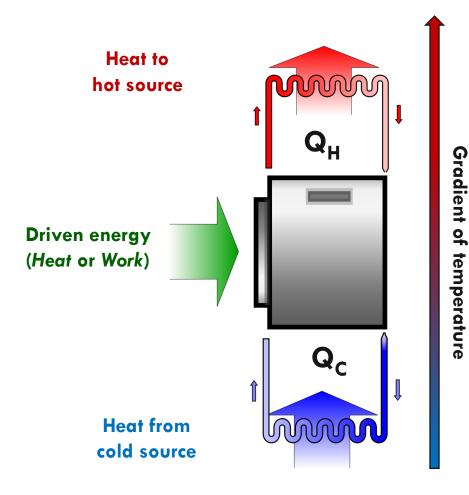
Ground source modelling and main parameters

Ground source characterization: in-situ test methods

Standard/handbook design procedures for:

- Vertical boreholes
- Horizontal ground heat exchangers
- Water wells for open-loop systems





### √What is an heat pump?

Heat pumps is a device able to transfer heat from a cold source to an hot source, against the natural direction of flow. To do that, driven energy is required (heat or work)

### √ Coefficient of performance

Heating mode

$$COP = \frac{Q_H}{W} = \frac{Q_H}{Q_H - Q_C}$$

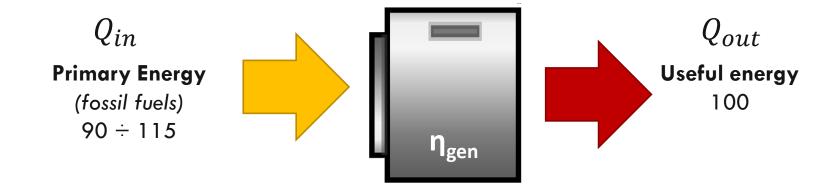
Cooling mode

$$EER = \frac{Q_C}{W} = \frac{Q_H}{Q_H - Q_C}$$



### Why heat pumps?

Traditional Boiler

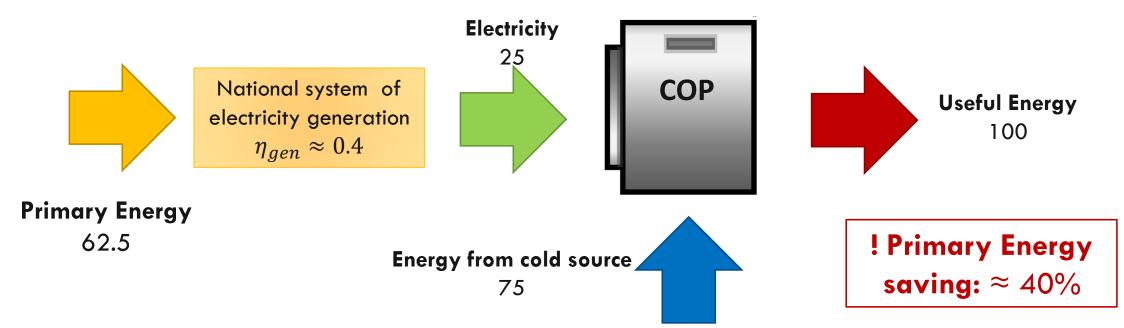


$$\eta_{gen} = \frac{Q_{out}}{Q_{in}} \approx 1$$



### Why heat pumps?

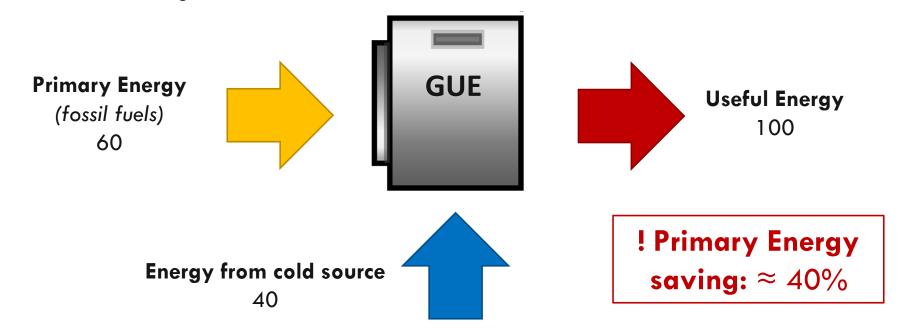
Electrically-driven HPs - Heating & DHW mode





### Why heat pumps?

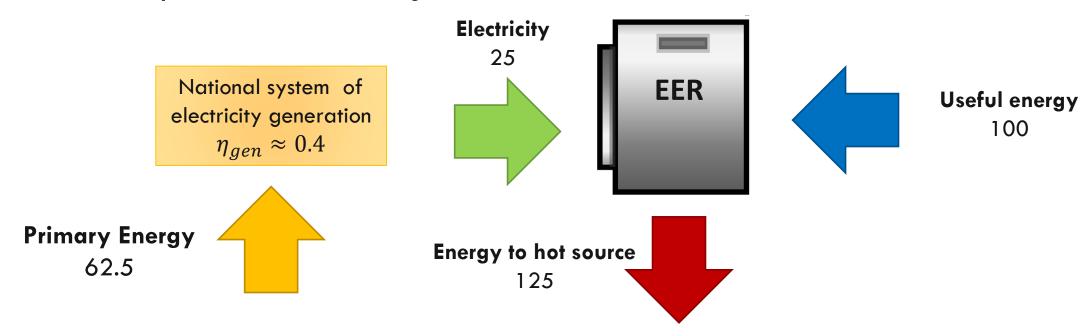
Adsorption HPs - Heating & DHW mode





### Why heat pumps?

Electrically-driven HPs - Cooling mode





Why heat pumps?

(if properly sized and managed)

### **Energy**

HPs are remarkable energy-saving devices for both heating and cooling, resulting in notable primary energy savings

#### **Environment**

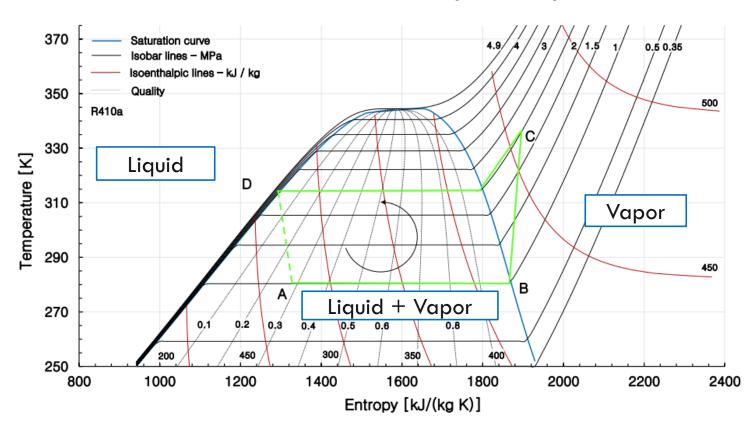
HPs reduce fossil fuels consumption in favor of RES utilization

### **Economy**

According to local economy context (energy and equipment prices), HPs result in a profitable investment



#### **How does it works?** Reference thermodynamic cycle



#### Four main processes:

A – B Evaporation

B – C Compression

C – D Condensation

D - A Lamination

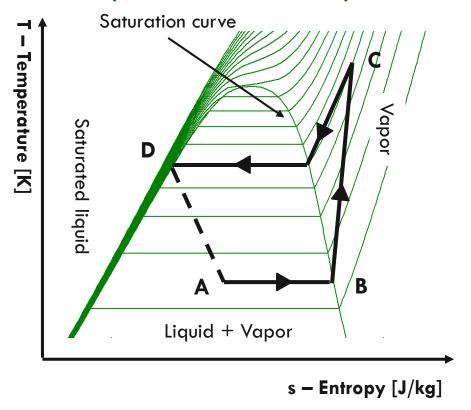
#### Suitable working fluids

Vapor-compression cylce R134a, R410a, !R22 R-744 (C02),

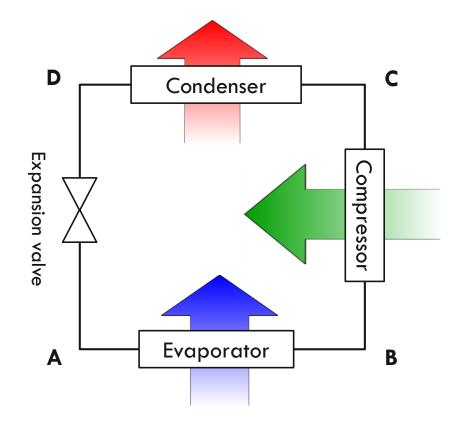
Adsorption NH3-H20; LiBr-H20



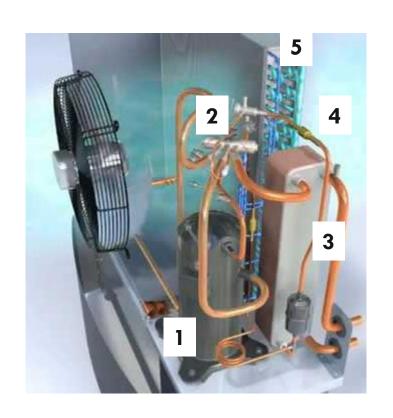
#### Thermodynamic reference cycle

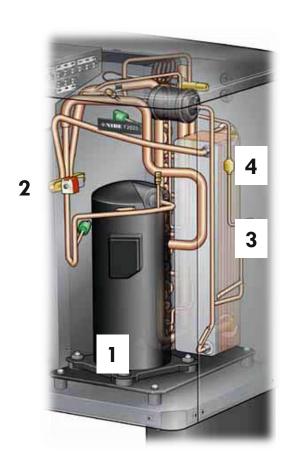


#### Components diagram





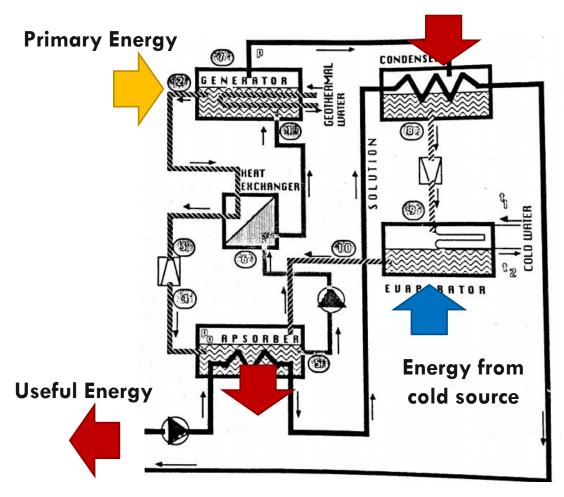




#### Components

- 1. Compressor
- 2. 4-way valve
- 3. Condenser
- 4. Lamination valve
- 5. Evaporator





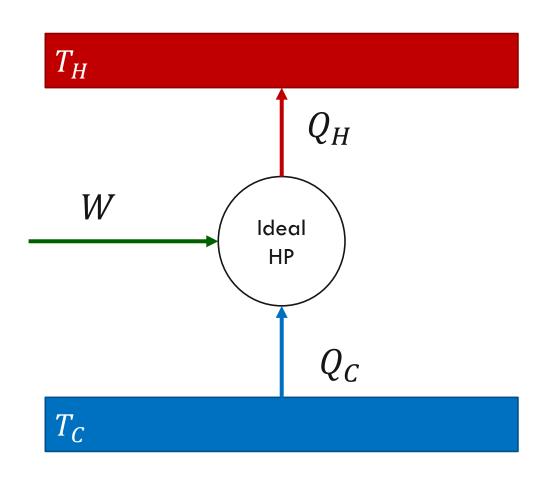
Compressor is replaced by a generator/absorber system containing a refrigerant/absorbant mixture

Heat (primary energy) is used to "generate" refrigerant from mixture

Refrigerant follows the typical thermodynamic processes of inverse cycles (i.e. evaporation, condensation, lamination)

Useful heat is removed from absorber and condenser





### Maximum theoretical performances

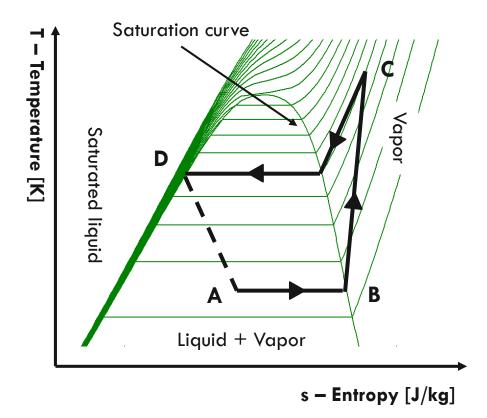
Carnot cycle

$$COP_{id} = rac{Q_{H}}{W} = rac{Q_{H}}{Q_{H} - Q_{C}} = rac{T_{H}}{T_{H} - T_{C}}$$
 $EER_{id} = rac{Q_{H}}{W} = rac{Q_{H}}{Q_{H} - Q_{C}} = rac{T_{C}}{T_{H} - T_{C}}$ 

! Energy conversion efficiency depends on temperature lift between thermal sources



### Performances of real units



$$COP = \frac{\dot{Q}_{cond}}{\dot{W}} = \frac{\dot{Q}_{cond}}{\dot{Q}_{cond} - \dot{Q}_{eva}}$$

$$EER = \frac{\dot{Q}_{eva}}{\dot{W}} = \frac{\dot{Q}_{eva}}{\dot{Q}_{cond} - \dot{Q}_{eva}}$$

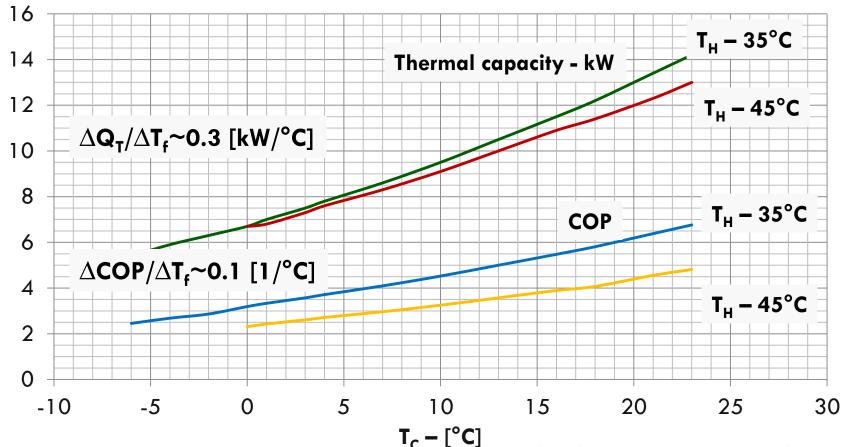
### **Equivalent Carnot Temperature**

$$\bar{T}_{cond} = \frac{\dot{Q}_{cond}}{s_C - s_D} \qquad \bar{T}_{eva} = \frac{\dot{Q}_{eva}}{s_C - s_D}$$

$$COP = \frac{\bar{T}_{cond}}{\bar{T}_{cond} - \bar{T}_{eva}} \text{ EER} = \frac{\bar{T}_{eva}}{\bar{T}_{cond} - \bar{T}_{eva}}$$



#### Performances of real units





Performance evaluation: Reference temperatures for real units

Nominal data refer to standard rating condition of thermal sources (e.g. UNI EN 14511-2:2013)

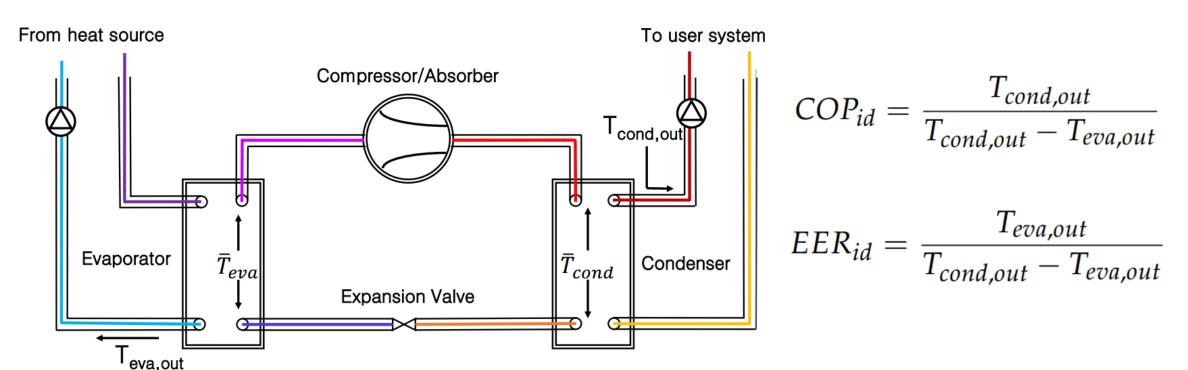
Nominal performances				
Heating capacity – kW	15.1			
Total power input – kW	3.6			
COP	4.2			

Secondary fluid (Evaporator): Inlet 10°C / Outlet 7°C Secondary fluid (Condenser): Inlet 30°C / Outlet 35°C





Performance evaluation: Reference temperatures for real units



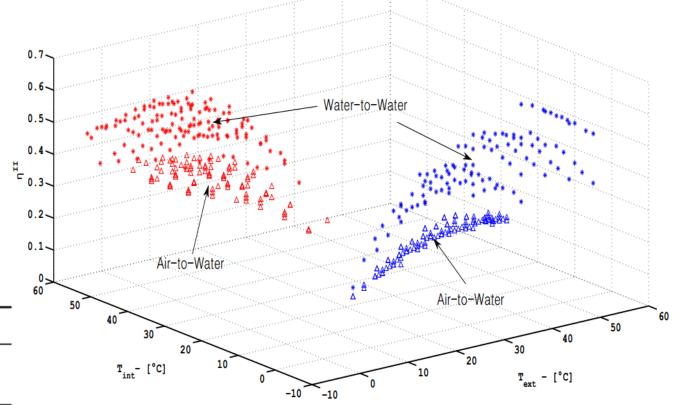


#### Performances of real units: second-law efficiency

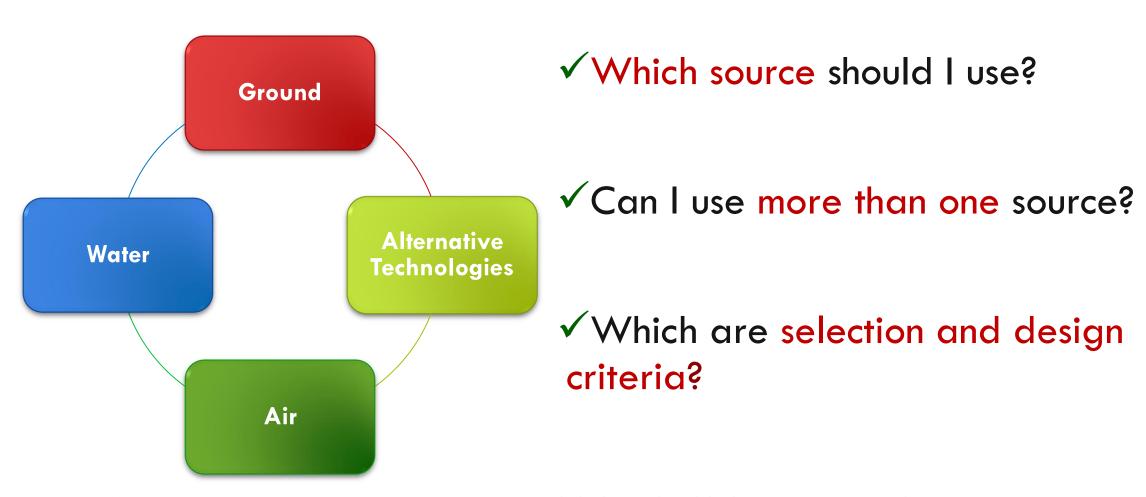
$$\eta_H^{II} = \frac{COP}{COP_{id}}$$

$$\eta_C^{II} = rac{EER}{EER_{id}}$$

	Heating mode	Cooling mode
Water-to-water units	0.48 - 0.55	0.37 - 0.47
Air-to-water units	0.30 - 0.38	0.15 - 0.25

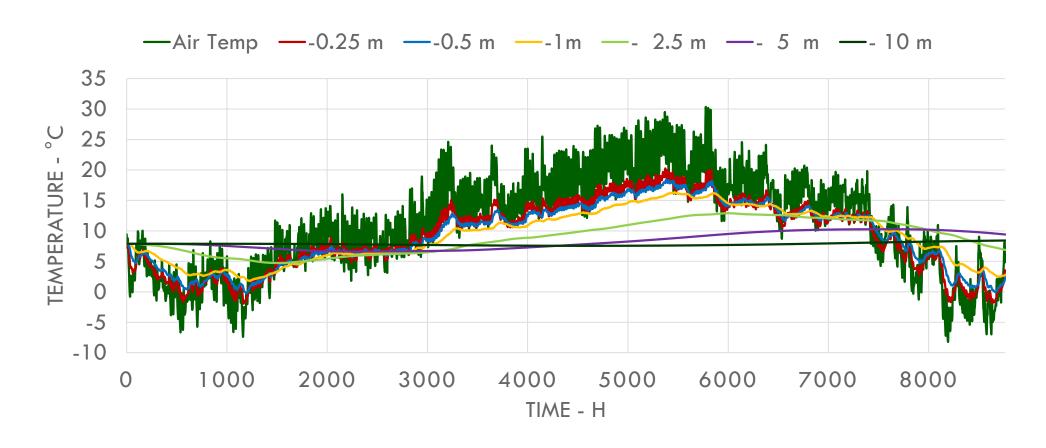






P. Conti: Ground response test (GRT) and heat pump design. International school on geothermal development. Miramare (TR), Italy, 7 – 12 Dec 2015.



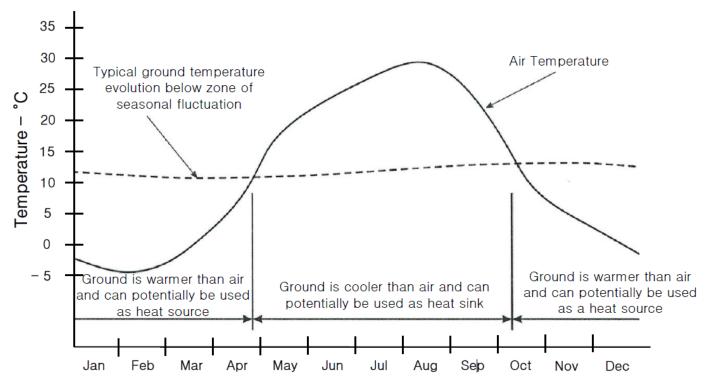




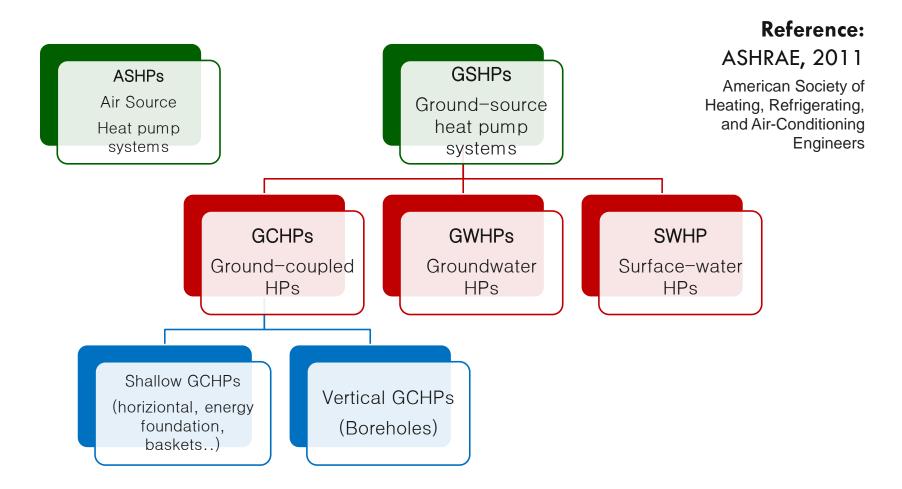
The annual air temperature fluctuation is higher than ground one

Theoretically, this results in very advantageous heat source

! NOTE: this is the undisturbed condition (no GSHP operation)





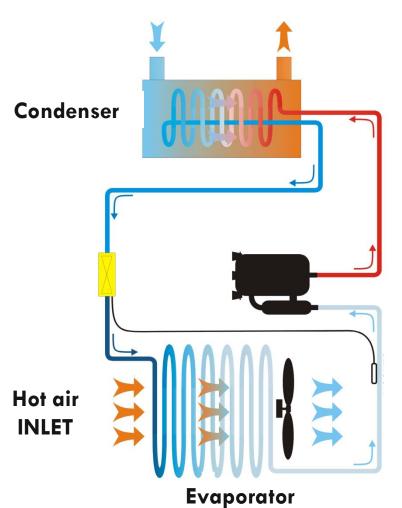


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### ASHPs – Air Source Heat pumps

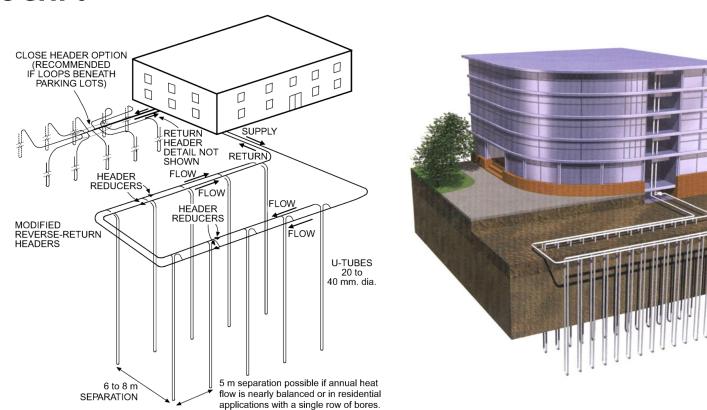




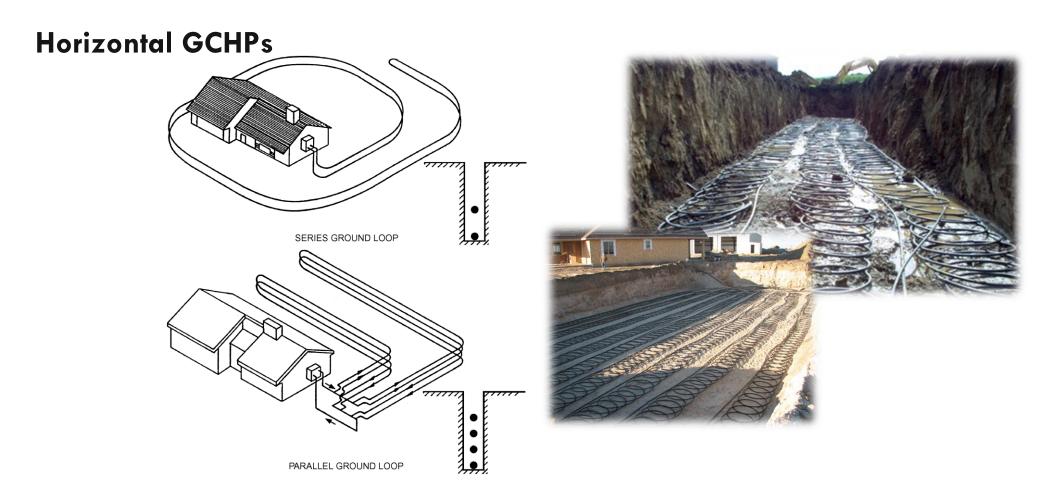
Cold air
OUTLET



#### **Vertical GCHPs**

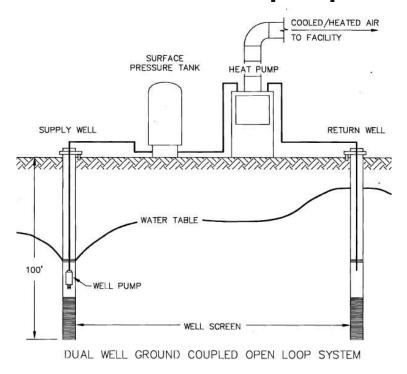








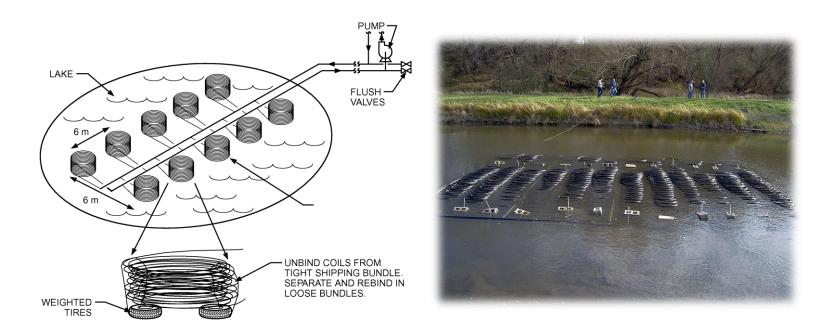
### **GWHPs – Groundwater heat pumps**







### SWHPs - Surface-water heat pumps





#### **Evaluation criteria**

Suitability, seen as the potentiality of the medium to be used as a thermal source

**Sustainability,** seen as the aptitude of the medium to maintain advantageous conditions for exploitation during all the operational life of the coupled HP system

**Availability**, seen as the level of accessibility and technical feasibility with current technologies

**Installation costs,** seen as the total expenditure to purchase equipment and installation works

O&M, seen as the estimation of operative performance and maintenance required

**Thermo-physical properties,** seen as the temperature at its undisturbed/initial state and heat transfer aptitude



#### **Qualitative evaluation**

	Suitability	Availability	Installation Cost	O&M Cost	Temperature
<b>ASHPs</b>	GOOD	EXCELLENT	LOW	MODERATE	VARIABLE
Vertical GCHPs	MODERATE	GOOD / EXCELLENT	HIGH	MODERATE	GOOD
Horizontal GCHPs	MODERATE	MODERATE/G OOD	MODERATE	MODERATE	GOOD / EXCELLENT
GWHPs	GOOD	GOOD	MODERATE	MODERATE/HI GH	GOOD / EXCELLENT
SWHPs	GOOD	MODERATE	MODERATE	MODERATE/HI GH	GOOD

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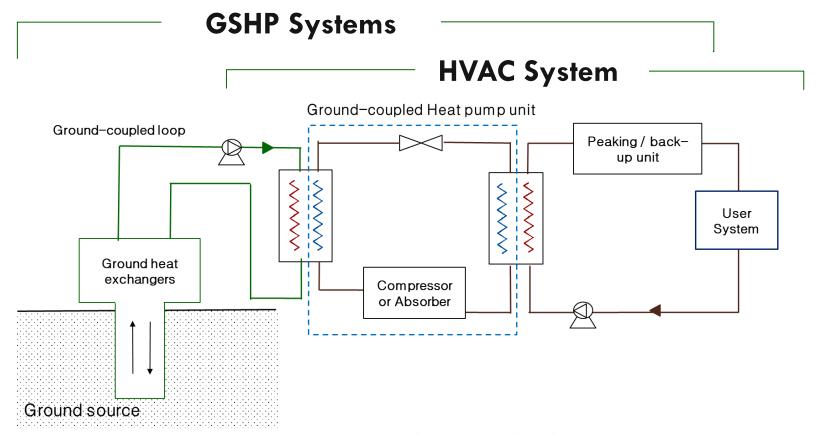


#### Main GSHP design issues:

- 1. Real systems are neither thermodynamic cycles nor HP unit
- GSHPs are complex system made of different technologies, with several physical mechanisms involved (multidisciplinary competences are required)
- Technological characteristics and inefficiencies of real devices (head losses, joule losses, heat losses, thermodynamic losses...)
- Difference among evaporation/condensation temperatures (i.e. the thermodynamic unit) and thermal source ones
- Back-up/peaking unit (multi-source system): control strategy is required.
- Ancillary systems (i.e. HP COP is different from overall COP)
- 2. Thermal load profile evolves with hourly, daily, and monthly time scale.
- Heat exchanges due to GSHP operation modify the undisturbed ground temperature evolution (i.e. sustainability)

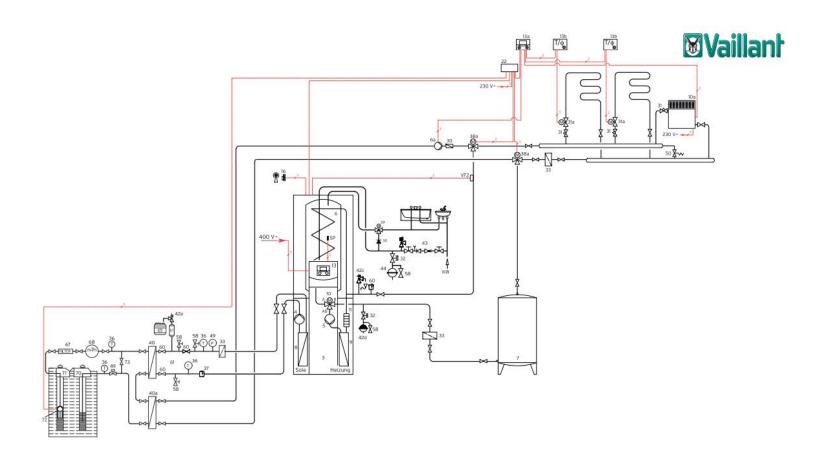


### **GSHPs:** equipment layout



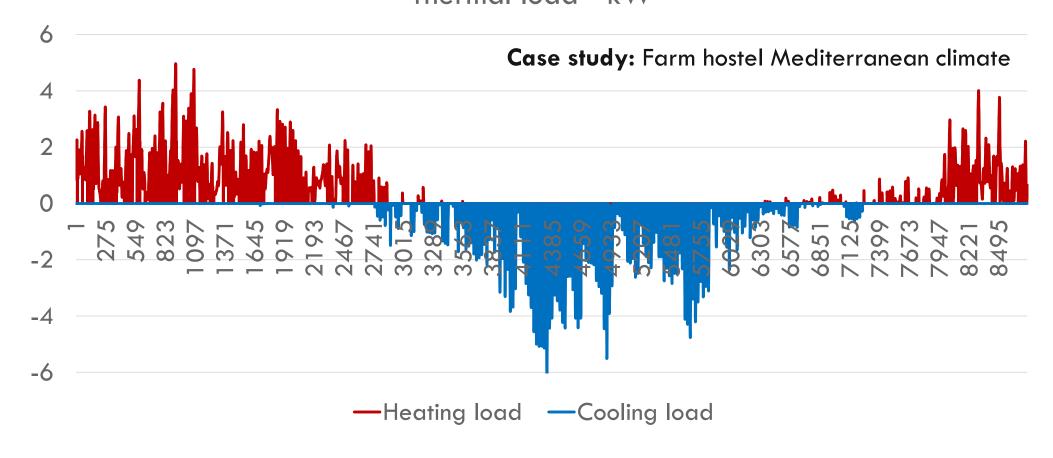
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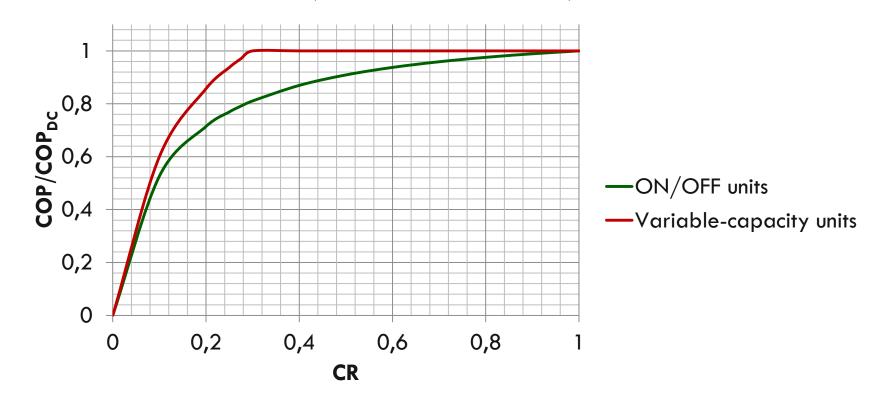


Thermal load - kW

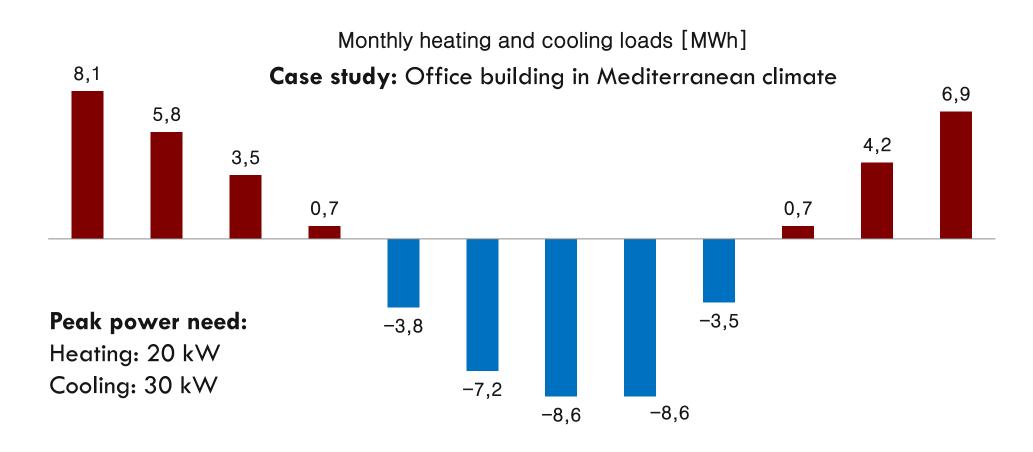




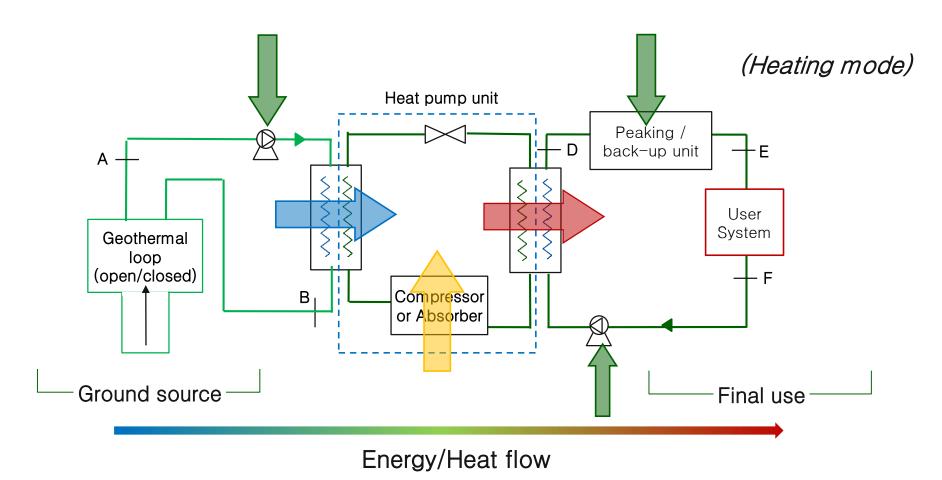
## COP penalization factor (UNI EN 14825:2012)







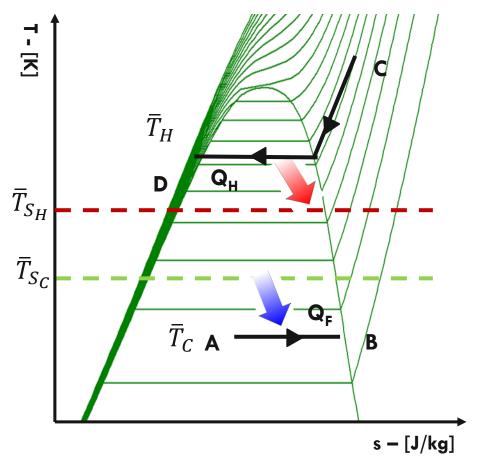




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### Thermal sources VS. operating fluid



HP efficiency depends on condensing/evaporation temperatures (not sources)

$$T_{H} < \bar{T}_{cond}$$

$$T_{C} < \bar{T}_{eva}$$

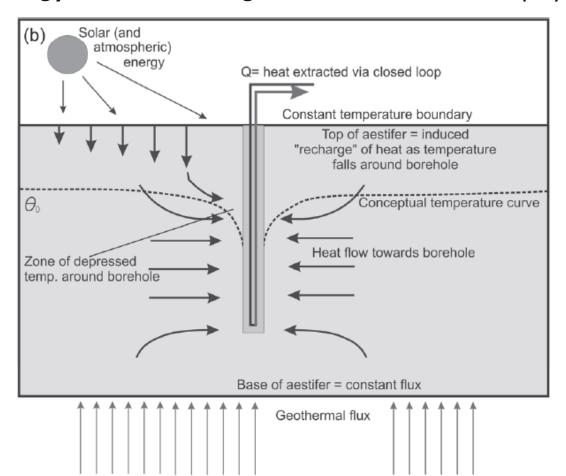
 $ar{T}_{H,C}$  -> thermal sources

$$\overline{T}_{cond,eva}$$
 -> working fluid  $COP(T_H; T_C) > COP(\overline{T}_{cond}, \overline{T}_{eva})$ 

✓ GSHP efficiency is strongly affected by heat transfer apparatus



### **Energy balance of the ground source:** closed-loop systems

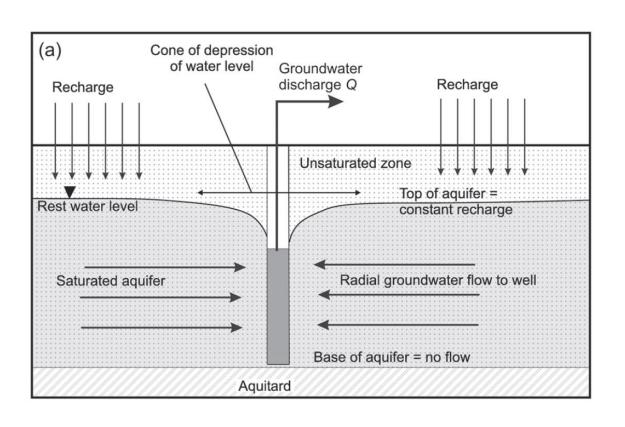


## Parameters influencing system performances:

- Depth of installation (vertical /horizontal)
- Thermal conductivity, W/(mK)
- Thermal diffusivity, m2/s
- Groundwater movment
- Operational temperature/flow rate of the ground-coupled loop



**Energy balance of the ground source:** open-loop systems



## Parameters influencing system performances:

- Hydraulic conductivity, m/s;
- Porosity;
- Static water level, m;
- Drawdown, m;
- Specific capacity, I/(s m);
- Well hydraulic resistance, m/(kg/s)



### Physical models of ground source in GSHP applications

### Purely conductive media

### Porous media

(no significant groundwater movemnt)

**Temperature field -** Fourier Law

$$\dot{q} = -\lambda \nabla T$$

$$\rho c \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = k \nabla T + \dot{q}_{gen}$$

Velocity field - Darcy law

$$v = \frac{K}{\mu} \nabla p$$
 (Darcy Law)

**Temperature field -** Darcy law +

Fourier law

$$(\rho c)_m \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} + (\rho c)_f \mathbf{v} \cdot \nabla T = \nabla \cdot (k_m \nabla T) + q_m^{""}$$



### **Analytical models**

#### Pros

Low computational effort

General indications on involved physical mechanisms

General indications not related to a single case

Recommended for feasibility studies

#### Cons

Accuracy Simplified boundary conditions and geometries

### Numerical models (i.e. software)

#### Pro

High accuracy for the specific project Unlimited possibility of geometries and boundary conditions

### Cons

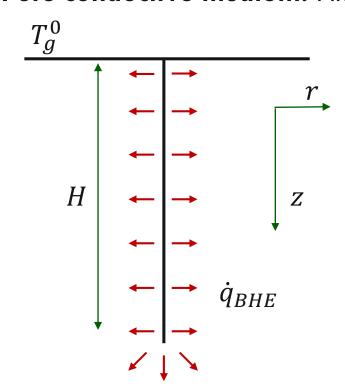
Results are strictly related to the specific case Results do not provide general indications Physical phenomena are practically the same of analytical models Results soundless depends on the accuracy parameters and boundary conditions



Pure conductive medium: Finite line source - FLS

### Reference:

Carslaw & Jeager, 1959



$$\begin{split} \Theta_{\rm g} &= \frac{1}{4\pi} \int_0^1 \left[ \frac{1}{d/L} \operatorname{erfc} \left( \frac{d/L}{2\sqrt{Fo}} \right) - \frac{1}{d'/L} \operatorname{erfc} \left( \frac{d'/L}{2\sqrt{Fo}} \right) \right] dH' \\ Fo &= \frac{\alpha t}{H^2} \qquad R = \frac{r}{H} \qquad Z = \frac{z}{H} \\ \Theta_{\rm g} &= \frac{\left( T_g - T_g^0 \right) \lambda_g}{\dot{q}_{BHE}} \\ d/L &= \sqrt{R^2 + (Z - H')^2} \\ d'/L &= \sqrt{R^2 + (Z + H')^2} \end{split}$$



### Saturated Porous media: Moving infinite line source - MILS

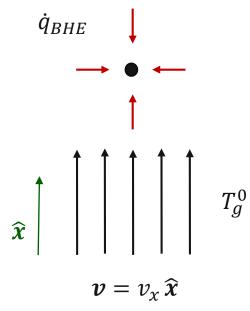
$$\begin{cases} \alpha_{eff} \left( \frac{\partial T_g}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial T_g}{\partial y^2} \right) = \frac{\partial T_g}{\partial t} + U_{eff} \frac{\partial T_g}{\partial x} \\ T_g(r \to \infty, t) = T_g^0 \\ T_g(r, t = 0) = T_g^0 \\ \dot{q}(r \to 0, t) = -(2\pi r)\lambda_g \frac{\partial T_g}{\partial r} \bigg|_{r \to 0} = \dot{q} \end{cases}$$

$$v = \frac{K}{\mu} \nabla p$$
 (Darcy Law)

$$U_{eff} = \phi \frac{\rho_f c_f}{\left[\phi \rho_f c_f + (1 - \phi)\rho_s c_s\right]} v \qquad \alpha_{eff} = \frac{\phi \lambda_f + (1 - \phi)\lambda_s}{\left[\phi \rho_f c_f + (1 - \phi)\rho_s c_s\right]}$$

### Reference:

Sutton et al., 2003



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GHEx field: Space and time superposition

Linearity of the equations

(Duhamel's principle)

$$\overline{T}_{g}(t) = \frac{1}{\lambda} \int_{0}^{t} \overline{\Theta}_{g}(t - \beta) \frac{d\dot{q}}{dx}(t) d\beta$$

Generic formulation to evaluate the temperature field evolution within a BHEs field

$$T_g(\mathbf{x}, t = n\Delta t) = T_g^0 - \sum_{b=1}^{N_{BHE}} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\Theta_g(|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_b|, t = i\Delta t)}{\lambda_g} \left[ \dot{q}_{BHE}^{n-i+1} - \dot{q}_{BHE}^{n-i} \right]$$



Ground thermo-physical properties affect both thermal performance and sustainability of source exploitation (i.e. thermal field, water table)

Reference values (from literature or previous nearby projects) can be used for preliminary feasibility studies. However, in-situ test procedures should always be performed for actual projects

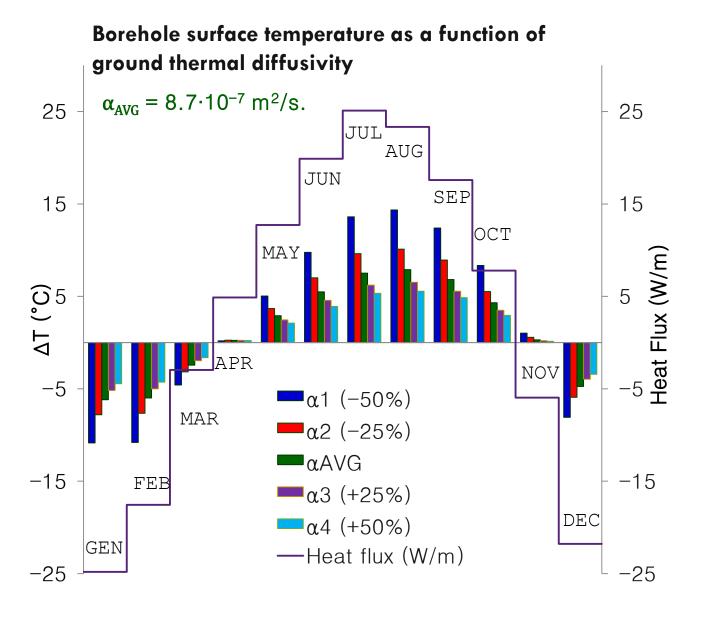
Thermal/Ground response test (TRT/GRT) and pumping test are the two most widespread methods for ground source characterization.



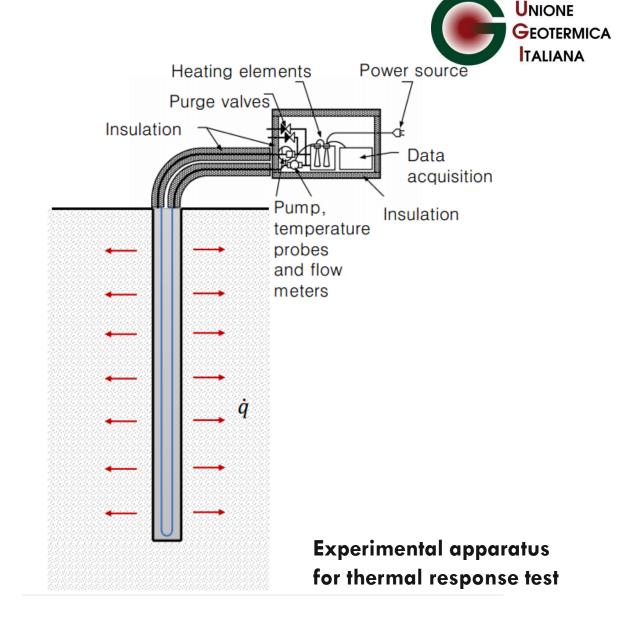
Medium	am $\lambda$		$\rho c$		α
	Range	Average	Range	Average	
Soils					
Gravel	0.7 - 0.9	0.8	_	$1.4 \times 10^{6}$	$5.7 \times 10^{-7}$
Sand (coarse)	0.7 - 0.9	0.8	_	$1.4 \times 10^{6}$	$5.7 \times 10^{-7}$
Sand (fine)	0.7 - 0.9	0.8	_	$1.4 \times 10^{6}$	$5.7 \times 10^{-7}$
Silt	1.2 - 2.4	1.8	$2.4 \times 10^6 - 3.3 \times 10^6$	$2.8 \times 10^{6}$	$6.3 \times 10^{-7}$
Clay	0.8 - 1.1	1.0	$3.0 \times 10^6 - 3.6 \times 10^6$	$3.3 \times 10^{6}$	$3.0 \times 10^{-7}$
Rocks					
Limestone, dolomite	1.5 - 3.3	2.4	$2.1 \times 10^7 - 5.5 \times 10^6$	$1.3 \times 10^{7}$	$1.8 \times 10^{-7}$
Karst limestone	2.5 - 4.3	3.4	$2.1 \times 10^7 - 5.5 \times 10^6$	$1.3 \times 10^{7}$	$2.5 \times 10^{-7}$
Sandstone	2.3 - 6.5	4.4	$2.1 \times 10^6 - 5.0 \times 10^6$	$3.6 \times 10^{6}$	$1.2 \times 10^{-6}$
Shale	1.5 - 3.5	2.5	$2.4 \times 10^6 - 5.5 \times 10^6$	$4.0 \times 10^{6}$	$6.3 \times 10^{-7}$
Fractured igneous and metamorphic	2.5 - 6.6	4.6	_	$2.2 \times 10^{6}$	$2.1 \times 10^{-6}$
Unfractured igneous and metamorphic	2.5 - 6.6	4.6	_	$2.2 \times 10^{6}$	$2.1 \times 10^{-6}$

### Relative $\Delta T$ deviation as a function of the error in $\alpha$ estimation

Δα (%)	January	August	
	ΔΤ (%)	ΔΤ (%)	
-50 %	75.88%	81.84%	
-25 %	26.57%	28.00%	
_	-	-	
+25 %	-16.24%	-17.41%	
+ 50%	-27.88%	-29.53%	

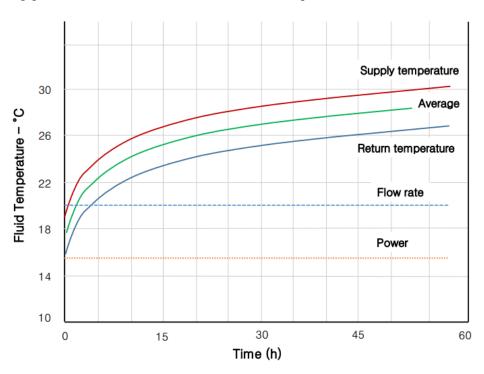


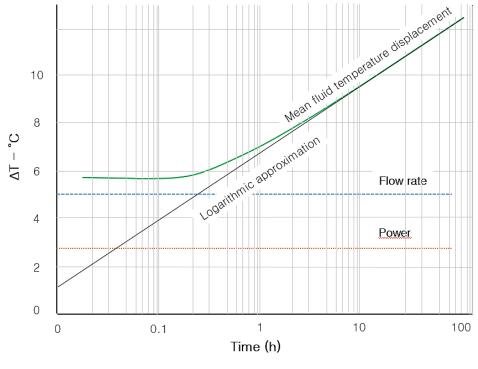
- A pilot borehole is installed in the construction site. Dimensions should approximate the size and depth of the actual heat exchangers planned for the project
- 2. The initial/undisturbed temperature of the ground along BHE depth is measured.
  - a. By dipping the borehole with a temperature probe and taking readings at every, say, 2 m.
  - By circulating a carrier fluid (without any heat input/output) and reading stationary outlet temperature.
- 3. Heat is added in a water loop at a constant rate (by means of an electrical resistance)
- 4. Data collection and analysis





### Typical evolution of fluid temperatures in a TRT





(semi-log graph)

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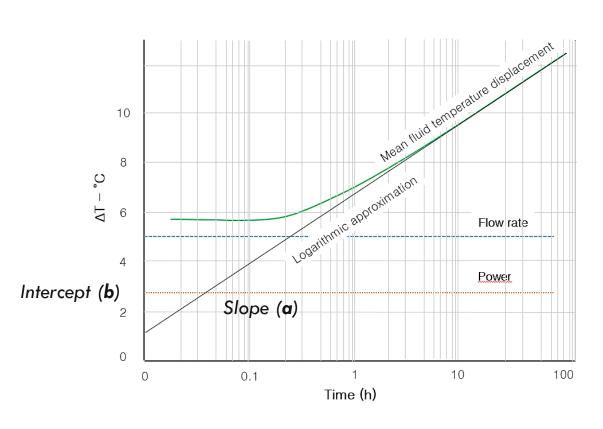


Inverse methods are applied to find ground thermo-physical properties (i.e.  $\lambda_g$  and  $\alpha_q$ ) or borehole heat transfer resistance

**Infinite line source model (ILS)** is the most simple and common model to process data from a thermal response test. At sufficient long time, the temperature displacement of circulating fluid reads:

$$\bar{T}_w - T_g^0 = \frac{\dot{q}_{BHE}}{4 \pi \lambda_g} \left[ \ln \left( \frac{4\alpha_g t}{r_{BHE}^2} \right) - 0.5772 \right] + \dot{q}_{BHE} R_b$$





$$a = \frac{\dot{q}_{BHE}}{4\pi\lambda_g}$$

$$b = T_g^0 + \frac{R_b + \left[\frac{1}{4\pi\lambda_g} \left(\ln\frac{4\lambda_g/(\rho c)g}{r_{BHE}^2} - 0.5772\right)\right]}{\dot{q}_{BHE}}$$

The plot of temperature displacement in a semi-log chart has a slope proportional to  $\lambda_g$ 

The intercept can be used to evaluate borehole thermal resistance,  $R_b$ , and ground volumetric heat capacity,  $(\rho c)_g$ , alternatively.



Recommended test specifications by ASHRAE (2011)

- 1. TRT should be performed for 36 to 48 h
- 2. TRT  $\dot{q}_{BHE}$  should be 50 to 80 W/m, which are the expected peak loads on the U-tubes for an actual heat pump system
- 3. Resulting temperature variation should be less than  $\pm$  0.3 K from a straight trend line of a log (time) versus average loop temperature
- 4. Accuracy of temperature measurement and recording devices should be  $\pm$  0.3 K
- 5. A waiting period of five days is suggested for low-conductivity soils (i.e.  $\lambda g = 1.7 \text{ W/m/K}$ )) after the ground loop has been installed and grouted (or filled) before the TRT is initiated. A delay of three days is recommended for higher conductivity formations (i.e.  $\lambda g \ge 1.7 \text{ W/m/K}$ ). This period of time is needed to dissipate the heat released during the installation phase (i.e. drilling friction and grouting consolidation)
- 6. Data collection should be at least once every 10 min;

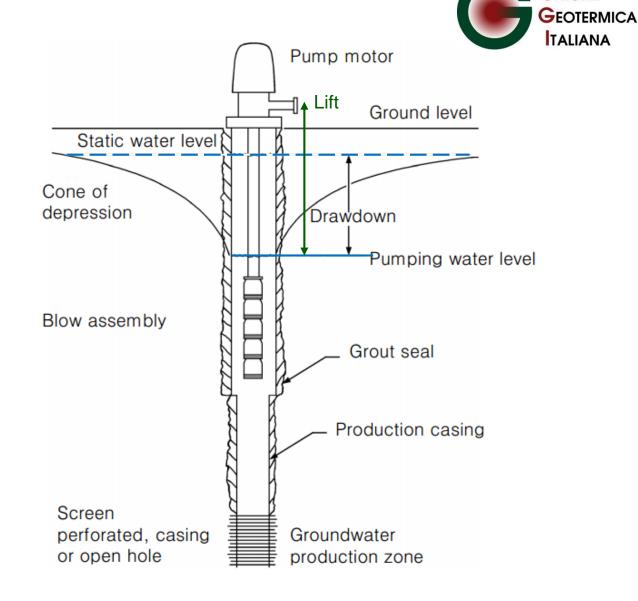
Static water level (SWL) is the level that exists under static (non-pumping) conditions

Pumping water level (PWL) is the level that exists under specific pumping conditions. It depends on pumping flow rates, well, and aquifer characteristics.

Drawdown  $(s_w)$  is the difference between the SWL and the PWL.

The specific capacity of a well is given by the pumping rate per meter of drawdown, I s<sup>-1</sup> m<sup>-1</sup>

Total pump head is composed of four primary components: lift, column friction, surface requirements, and injection head due to aquifer conditions and water quality.



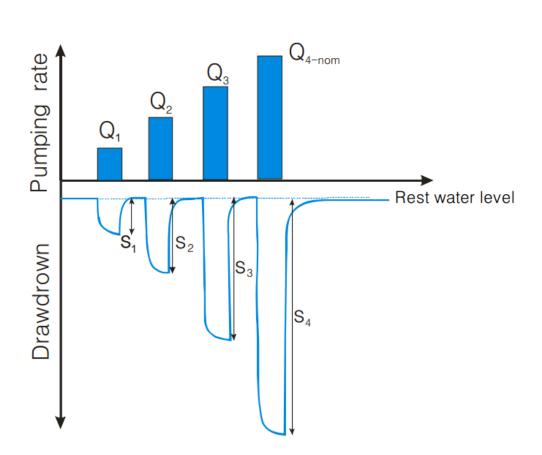
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Medium	K		Φ		v
	Range	Average	Range	Average	
Soils					
Gravel	$3.0 \times 10^{-4} - 3.0 \times 10^{-2}$	$3.0 \times 10^{-3}$	0.2 - 0.4	0.3	$3.0 \times 10^{3}$
Sand (coarse)	$9.0 \times 10^{-7} - 6.0 \times 10^{-3}$	$7.3 \times 10^{-5}$	0.3 - 0.5	0.4	$6.0 \times 10^{1}$
Sand (fine)	$2.0 \times 10^{-7} - 2.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$6.3 \times 10^{-6}$	0.3 - 0.5	0.4	5.0
Silt	$1.0 \times 10^{-9} - 2.0 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.4 \times 10^{-7}$	0.3 - 0.6	0.5	$9.4 \times 10^{-2}$
Clay	$1.0 \times 10^{-11} - 4.7 \times 10^{-9}$	$2.2 \times 10^{-10}$	0.3 - 0.6	0.5	$1.5 \times 10^{-4}$
Ground					
Limestone, dolomite	$1.0 \times 10^{-9} - 6.0 \times 10^{-6}$	$7.7 \times 10^{-8}$	$0.0 \times 10^1 - 2.0 \times 10^{-1}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-1}$	$2.4 \times 10^{-10}$
Karst limestone	$1.0 \times 10^{-6} - 1.0 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$5.0 \times 10^{-2} - 5 \times 10^{-1}$	$3.0 \times 10^{-1}$	$1.1 \times 10^{2}$
Sandstone	$3.0 \times 10^{-10} - 6.0 \times 10^{-6}$	$4.2 \times 10^{-8}$	$5.0 \times 10^{-2} - 3 \times 10^{-1}$	$2.0 \times 10^{-1}$	$7.6 \times 10^{-2}$
Shale	$1.0 \times 10^{-13} - 2.0 \times 10^{-9}$	$1.4 \times 10^{-11}$	$0.0 \times 10^1 - 1 \times 10^{-1}$	$5.0 \times 10^{-2}$	$8.5 \times 10^{-5}$
Fractured igneous and meta- morphic	$8.0 \times 10^{-9} - 3.0 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.5 \times 10^{-6}$	$0.0 \times 10^1 - 1.0 \times 10^{-1}$	$5 \times 10^{-2}$	9.78
Unfractured igneous and metamorphic	$3.0 \times 10^{-13} - 2.0 \times 10^{-10}$	$2.3 \times 10^{-12}$	$0.0 \times 10^1 - 5.0 \times 10^{-1}$	$2.0 \times 10^{-2}$	$3.09 \times 10^{-5}$

P. Conti: Ground response test (GRT) and heat pump design. International school on geothermal development. Miramare (TR), Italy, 7 – 12 Dec 2015.





### **Short-term test**

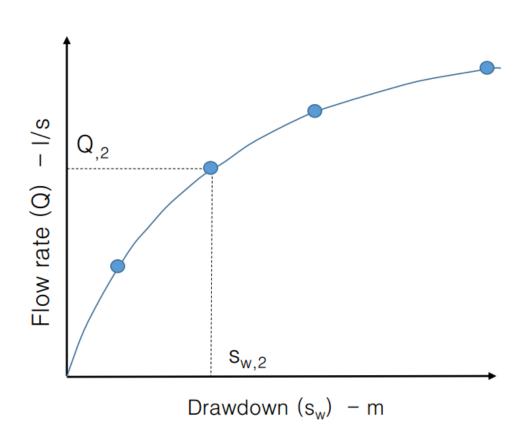
It is used to evaluate head losses due to the well characteristics, that are predominant for short time scale.

It takes from 4 to 24 h

It normally comprises a sequence of four or five short 100 - 120 minute tests at increasing pumping rates  $Q1 \dots Q5$ . Generally, the large flow rate coincides with the nominal capacity of the well.

Water level and pumping rate should be stabilized at each point before flow is increased.





The simplest model for well behavior reads:

$$s_w = B\dot{Q} + C\dot{Q}^2$$

where B and C can be considered constant for short time-scales

B depends on the aquifer characteristics

C is related to the hydraulic resistance of the well structure and several fluid dynamics mechanisms



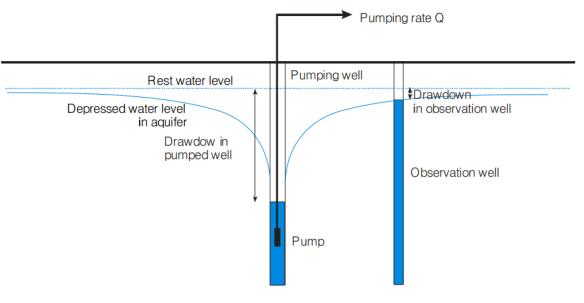
B coefficient is not constant at long time

For continuous long time operations, aquifer characteristics becomes predominant on well productivity.

Aquifer carachteristics can be evaluated by means of the *Theis's equation* and constant rate test.

Long-term tests of up to 30 days providing information on the hydraulic transmissivity, storage coefficient, reservoir boundaries, and recharge areas of the aquifer.

Normally these tests involve monitoring nearby wells to evaluate interference effects





Inverse methods are applied to find aquifer thermo-physical properties (i.e. trasmittivity,  $T_{j}$  and storativity, S)

The mathematical model describing the drawdown evolution is the *Theis's* equation. At large time, it can be approximate by the so-called Cooper-Jacob equation:

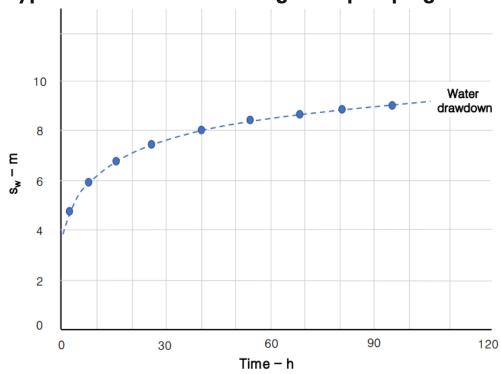
$$s_w \approx \frac{\dot{Q}}{4 \pi T} \left[ \ln \left( \frac{4Tt}{r_{well}^2 S} \right) - 0.5772 \right] + C \dot{Q}^2$$

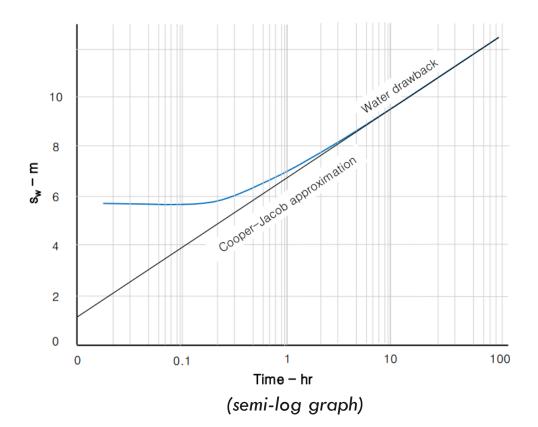
### !Note the analogies with ILS

As for TRT, the trasmittivity (T) can be calculated evaluating the slope of the black line. Storativity value, S, can be derived from the intercept.



### Typical water level in a long-term pumping test





### GROUND RESPONSE TEST (GRT) AND HEAT PUMP DESIGN

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### International School on

# 'Geothermal Development'

December 7 - 12, 2015 (Miramare, Trieste, Italy)

## THANKS FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION!

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