

THE GEOTHERMAL OPEN LABORATORY

A free space to measure thermal
and hydraulic properties of
geological materials



To measure thermal and hydraulic properties of geological materials

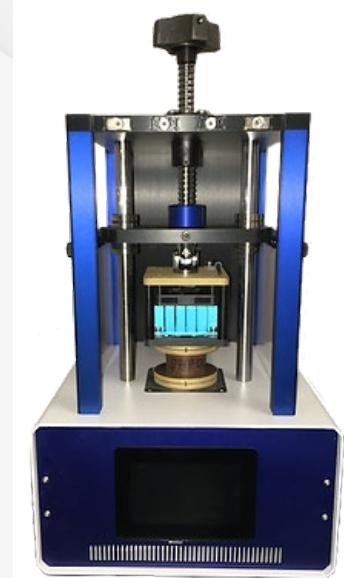
- Portable electronic divided bar
- Infrared scanner
- Needle probe
- Gas permeameter-porosimeter
- Portable permeameter



The LOG (Laboratoire ouvert de géothermie)

Open access in exchange of contributions to a shared database

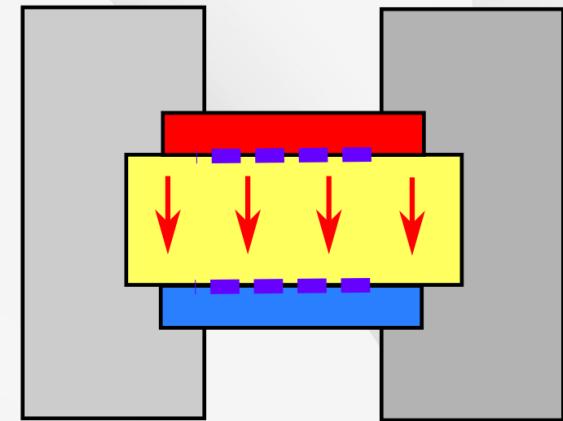
- Users can do its own analysis for free
- Results are compiled in a common database
- Sample location and geological description have to be supplied
- All data become public three years after analysis



Portable electronic divided bar

Hot Dry Rocks PEDB Mk II

- Steady-state thermal conductivity (λ – W/mK)
 - Heat transferred across the whole sample
 - Hot and cold plate
 - Bulk measurement
 - Ambient temperature
 - Volumetric heat capacity possible (C – J/m³K)

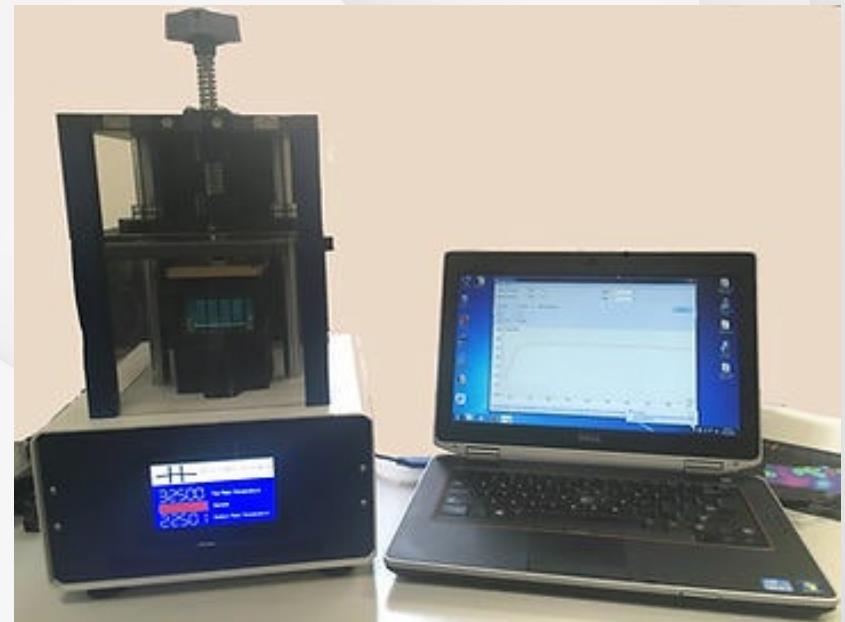


- Sample 
- Heat/cold source 
- Temperature sensor 
- Insulation 

Portable electronic divided bar

Samples of arbitrary shape

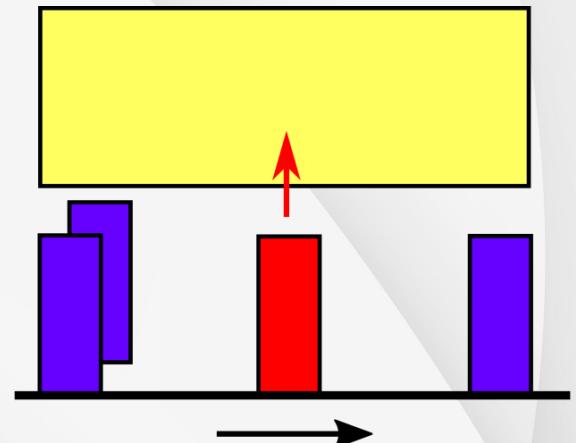
- Up to 65 mm maximum width
- 0.5 to 12 W m⁻¹ K⁻¹ (\pm 2 %)
- \pm 0.01 °C temperature control
- Heat capacity to \pm 3%



Infrared scanner

LGM Lippmann TCS

- Transient thermal conductivity (λ – W/mK)
- Punctual measurements along scan lines
- Heat pulse sent by a laser
- Infrared temperature sensors
- No contact with sample
- Thermal diffusivity from temperature offset
($\alpha = \lambda/C$ – m²/s)



Sample ■

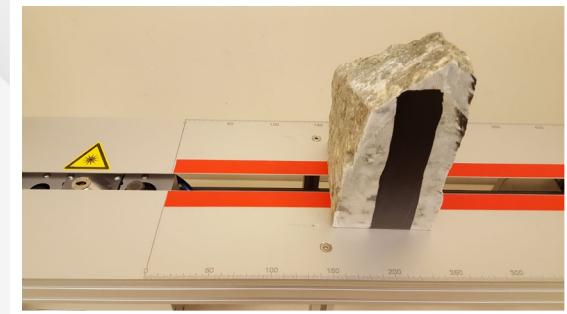
Heat/cold source ■■

Temperature sensor ■■■

Infrared scanner

Flat and cylindrical sample faces

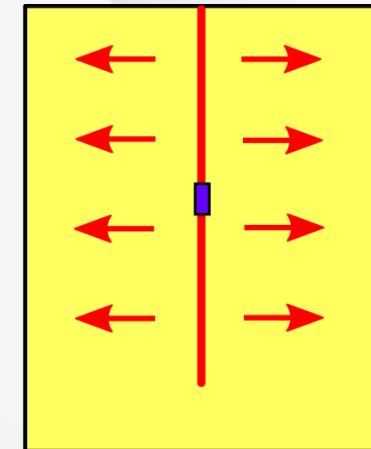
- 40 to 500 mm in length
- Spatial deviation of the sample surface < 5 mm
- Need black paint
- 5 mm s⁻¹ scanning speed
- 0.2 to 25 W m⁻¹ K⁻¹ (\pm 3 %)
- 0.6×10^{-6} to 3.0×10^{-6} m² s⁻¹ (\pm 5 %)



Needle probe

Decagon KD2Pro

- Transient thermal conductivity (λ – W/mK)
- Heat pulse sent by a needle
- Needle pushed / hole drilled
- Best for unconsolidated sediments
- Thermal diffusivity with a dual needle
($\alpha = \lambda/C$ – m²/s)



Sample ■

Heat/cold source ■■

Temperature sensor ■■■

Soft/hard samples

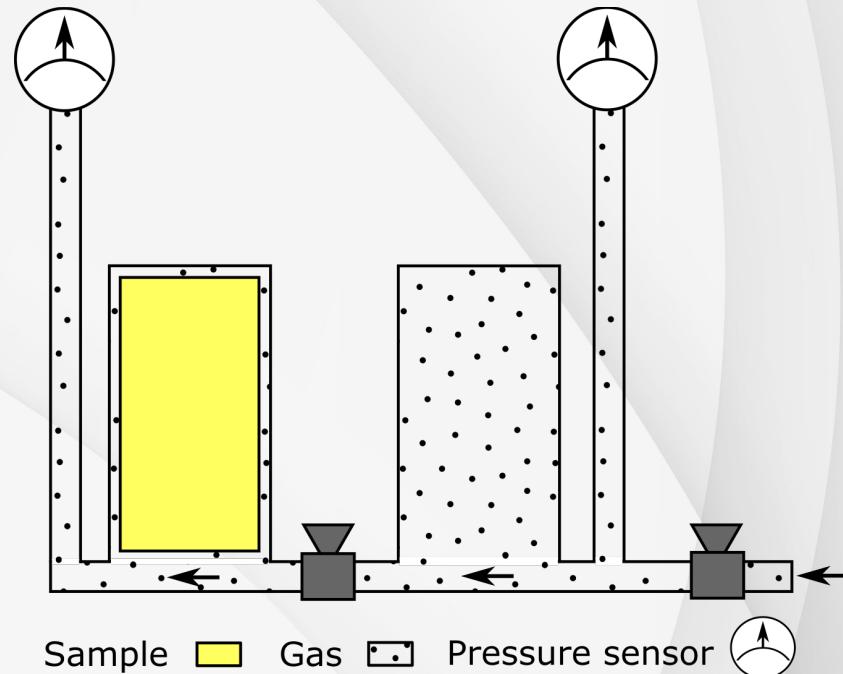
Needle	KS-1	TR-1	SH-1 (dual)	RK-1
Material	Liquid and paste	Soft solid (soil)	Soft solid (soil)	Hard solid (rock)
Diameter (mm)	1.3	2.4	1.3	3.9
Length (cm)	6	10	3	6
Thermal conductivity range ($\text{W m}^{-1} \text{ K}^{-1}$)	0.02-2.00	0.1-4.0	0.02-2.00	0.1-6.0
Thermal conductivity accuracy (%)	5	10	10	10
Thermal diffusivity range ($\text{m}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$)			1.0×10^{-7} - 1.0×10^{-6}	
Thermal diffusivity accuracy (%)			10	



Gas permeameter-porosimeter

Core Test Systems AP-608

- Porosity according to Boyle's law (n)
- Pressure exerted by a mass gas is inversely proportional to its volume
- Digital caliper for sample volume
- Permeability based on transient pressure decay ($k - m^2$ or D)
- Darcy's law analysis
- Klinkenberg correction for gas slippage
- 34.5 - 689.5 bar confining pressure



Gas permeameter-porosimeter

Cylindrical core plugs

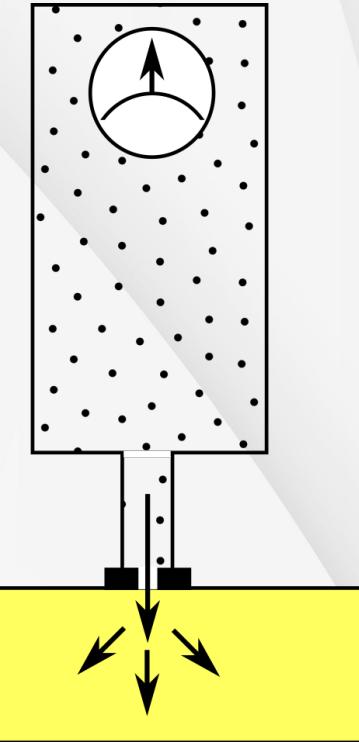
- 25.4 mm or 38.1 mm diameter
- 25.4 to 101.6 mm length
- Flat and parallel
- Room temperature
- Air and helium
- Porosity at 13.8 bar
- 0.1 - 40 %
- Permeability with 6.9 - 17.2 bar pulse
- 0.001 mD to 10 D



Portable permeameter

Core Laboratories PPP-250

- Permeability based on transient pressure decay ($k - \text{m}^2$ or D)
- Darcy's law analysis
- Probe tip on rock surface
- Gas reservoir for field measurements



Sample Gas

Pressure sensor

Portable permeameter

Core samples or flat outcrop surfaces

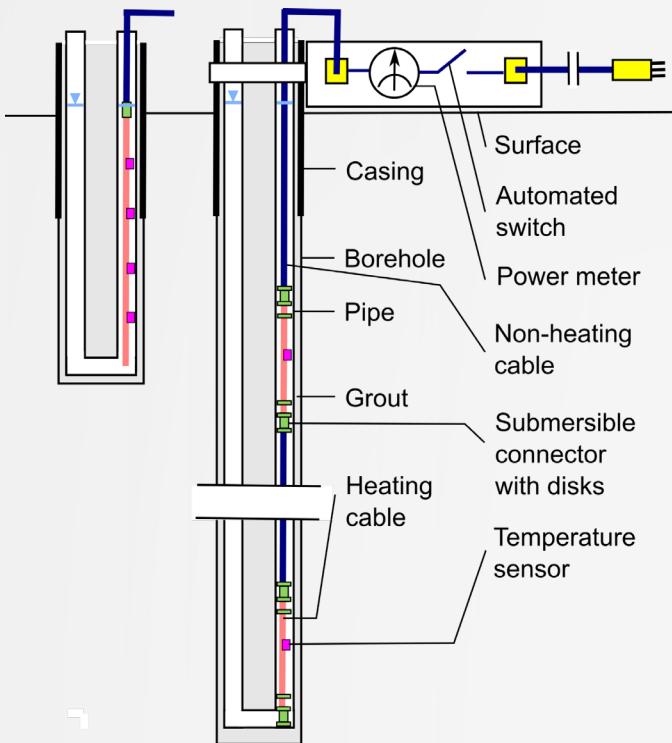
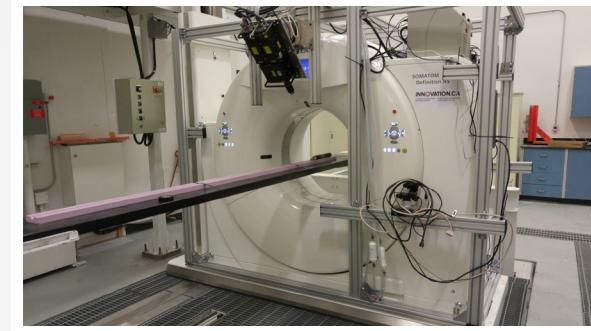
- At the core shack or in the field
- 1.7 bar injected in rock mass
- Compressed air
- 0.001 mD to 5 D



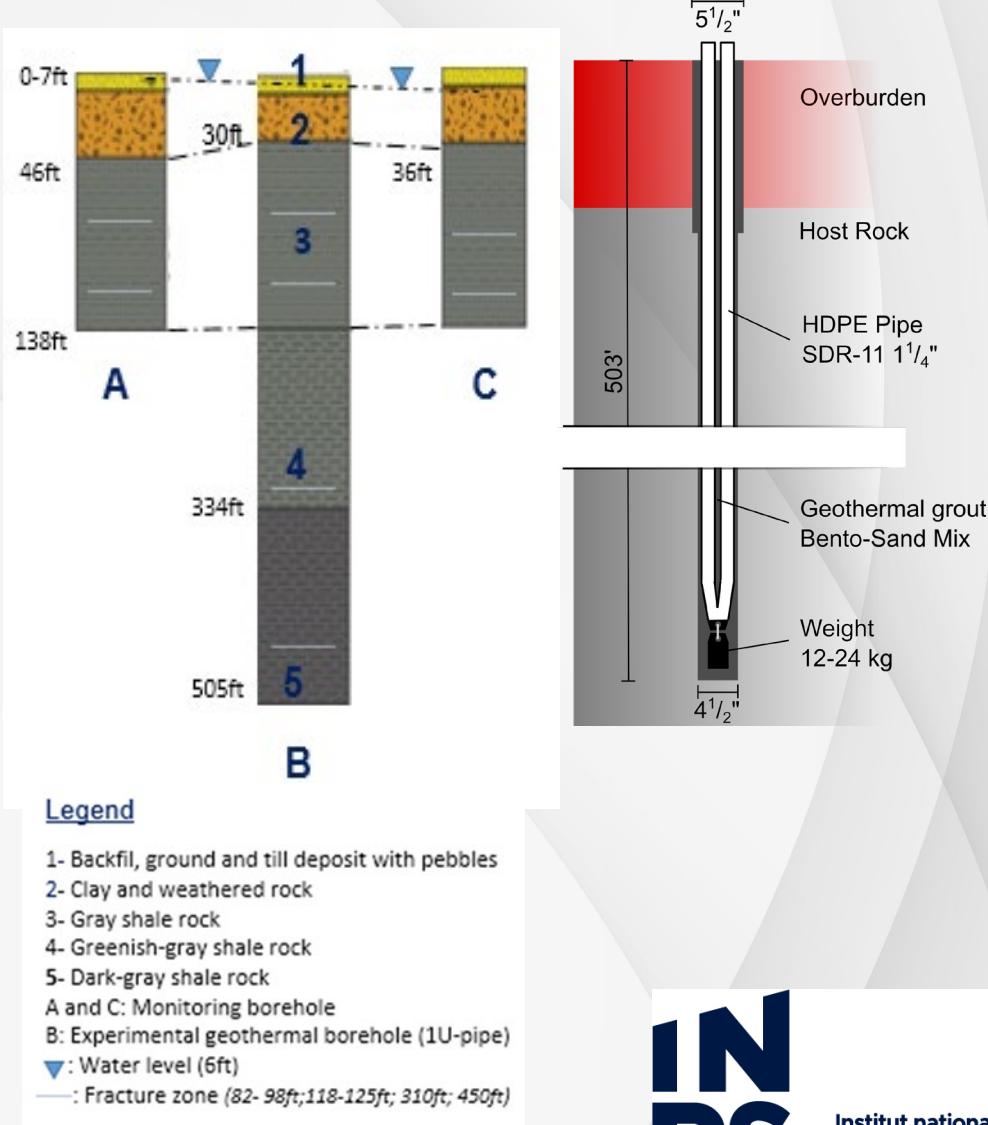
Additional infrastructure and instruments

Not operated with open access

- Medical CT-Scan
- Thermal response test unit with heating cables
- Pilot ground heat exchanger site



INRS ground heat exchanger site



- 1 GHE - 154 m deep
- 2 observation wells - 42 m deep

CONCLUSIONS

The LOG is the infrastructure needed to characterize subsurface thermo-hydraulic properties and better constrain numerical model development

HOPE TO HOST YOUR
ANALYSIS AT INRS!

