

ENCUENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE
DOCTORANDOS EN INGENIERÍA CIVIL
(EIDEIC 2018)

EXPERIMENTAL CHARACTERIZATION AND
PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF CONVENTIONAL
AND ENHANCED GEOTHERMAL GROUTING
MATERIALS UNDER OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS

PhD STUDENT:

Irune Indacoechea Vega

SUPERVISORS:

Daniel Castro Fresno

Pablo Pascual Muñoz

Wednesday 16 May 2018 | Santander



PERSONAL MOTIVATION

BACKGROUND ALWAYS LINKED TO RESEARCH:

- 2007: R&D Technician (Industry)
- 2009: R&D Project Management (Industry)
- 2011: R&D Project Management (University)
 - PhD initiated in 2012 (temporary break)
 - New admission in 2017 : New research linked to previous project.

PERSONAL MOTIVATION

WHY A PhD?

Competences

Communicate advanced ideas and promote scientific progress

Synthesize and critically assess complex ideas

Contribute with original research to the frontiers

Design or put in practice a research process

Systematic comprehension of a particular field

Skills

Critical thinking

Integrate knowledge, face complexity and make judgements with limited information

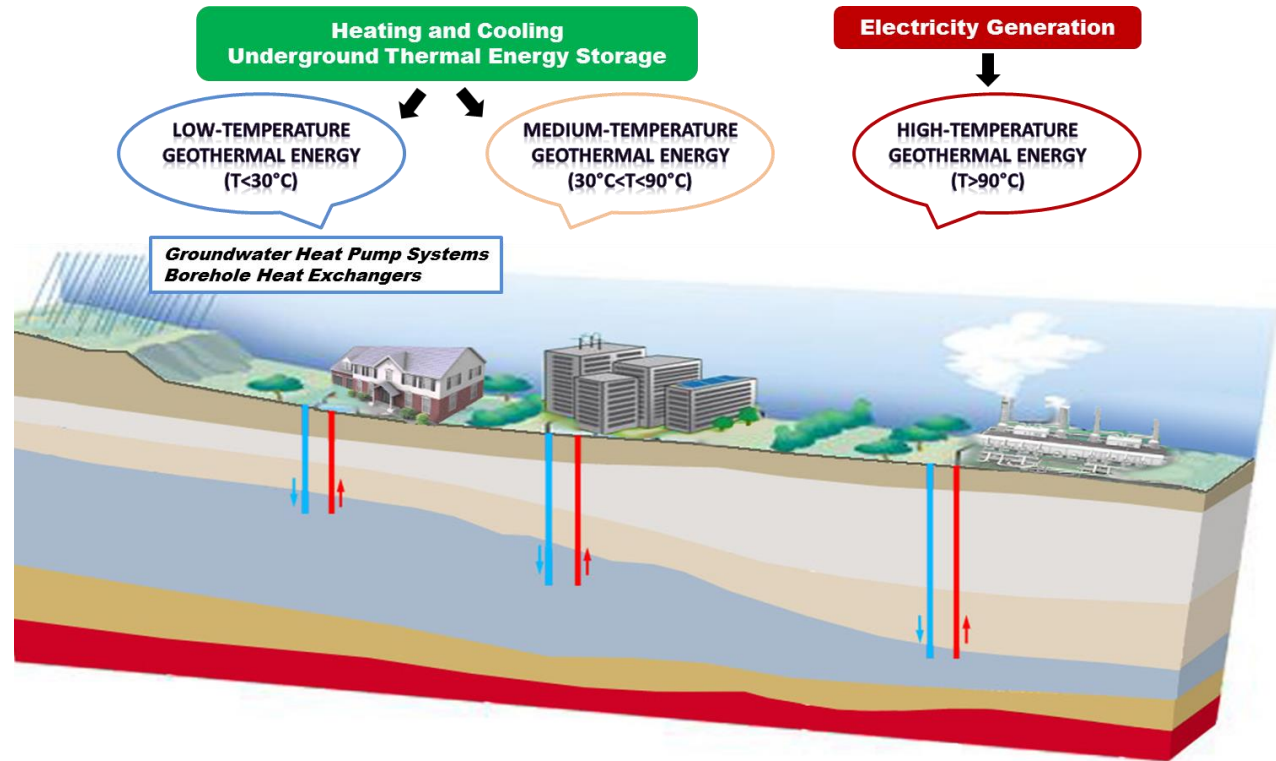
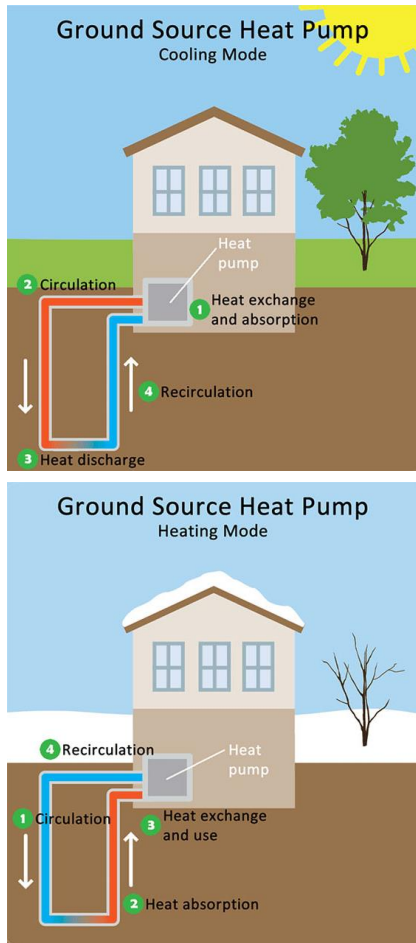
Work in international and/or multidisciplinary context

Create and develop new projects

Find key questions to solve a complex problems

PhD

CONTEXT OF THE RESEARCH: ground source heat pumps



Source: www.eosys.fr/act_renew_energ.html

CONTEXT OF THE RESEARCH: ground source heat pumps

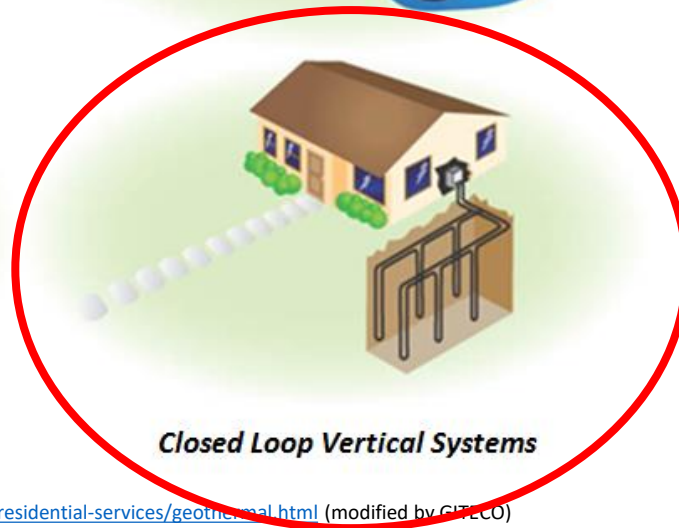
Open Loop Systems



Closed Loop Pond Systems

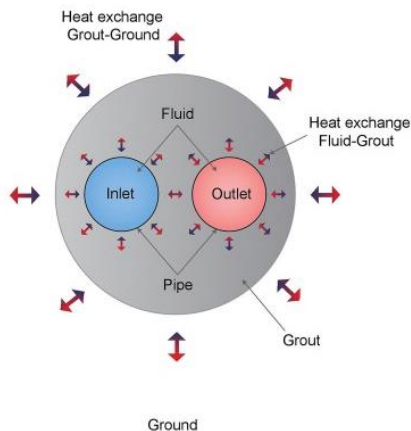
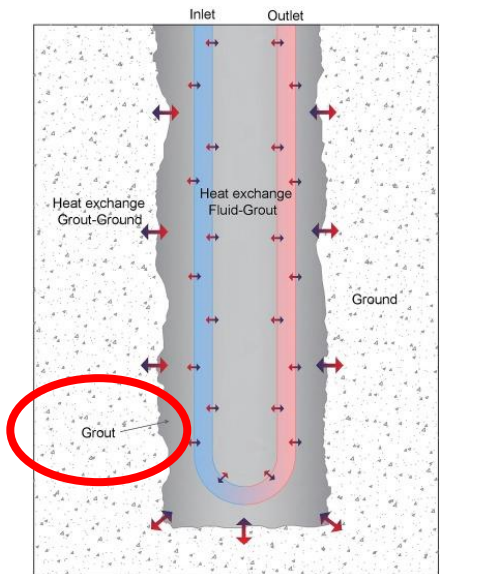


Closed Loop Horizontal Systems



Closed Loop Vertical Systems

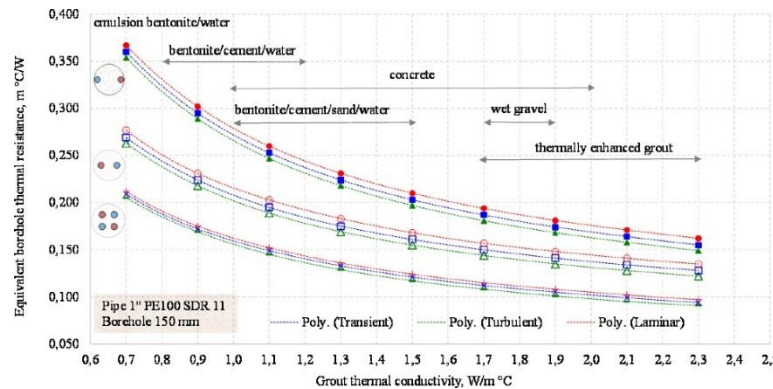
CONTEXT OF THE RESEARCH: grout material



- Functions:
 - ✓ Allows borehole stability.
 - ✓ Act as hydraulic barrier.
 - ✓ Provide efficient heat transfer.
- Required properties:
 - ✓ Very low permeability.
 - ✓ High thermal conductivity.
 - ✓ Good mechanical properties.
 - ✓ Pumpability.
- Type of grouts:
 - ✓ Cement-based.
 - ✓ Bentonite-based.
 - ✓ Cement-sand-based.
 - ✓ Enhanced grouts.

CONTEXT OF THE RESEARCH: problems targeted

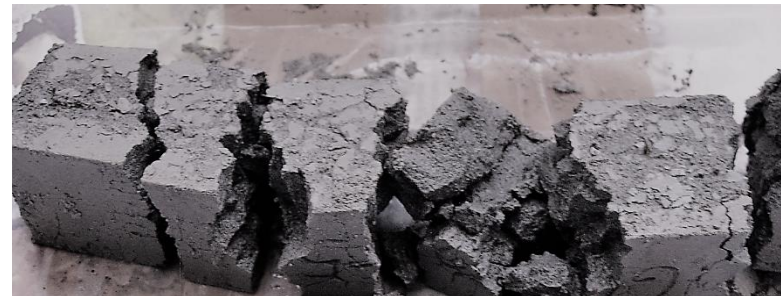
- Lower thermal performance of the conventional grouting materials.



Grout thermal conductivity vs equivalent borehole thermal resistance for different borehole designs
(Sustainable Cities and Society 31 (2017) 1–11)

- Conventional grouting materials unable to withstand certain extreme situations.

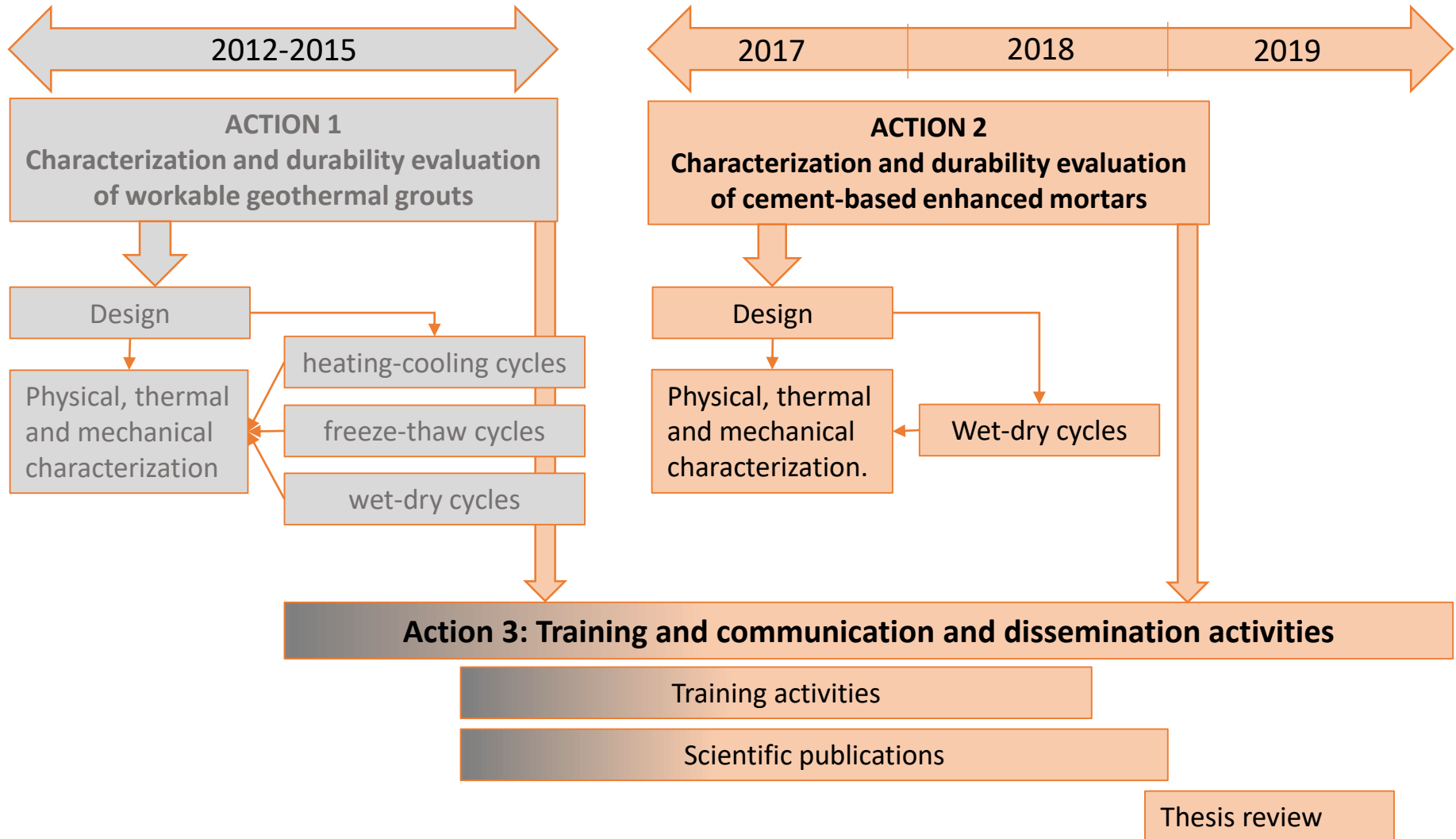
Fleuchaus and Blum *Geotherm Energy* (2017) 5:10



CONTEXT OF THE RESEARCH: objectives

- Performance evaluation of geothermal grouting materials subjected to heating-cooling, wet-dry and freeze-thaw cycles. *[Thermal, mechanical & hydraulic evaluation]*
- Design and characterization of geothermal mortars that combine good enough workability with suitable thermal and mechanical performance.
- Performance evaluation of enhanced mortars subjected to wet-dry cycles. *[Thermal, mechanical & hydraulic evaluation]*

RESEARCH PLAN



Thank you for your attention!
Any question?

PhD student: **Irunee Indacoechea Vega**
indacoecheai@unican.es



GITECO
UC UNIVERSIDAD
DE CANTABRIA