

Air-Ground–Bedrock Temperature Coupling, Its Monitoring at Borehole Climate Observatories





Basic Facts :

- Global SAT means in 1998 & 2002-2007 were warmest since 1861 (NASA, 2010, WMO, 2005).
- Warming 0.7±0.2 K typical of past 100-150 years > evidence that the world climate has been changing (Jones and Moberg, 2003)
- Alarming > warming rate has been accelerating in last 3-4 decades (Houghton et al., 2001).











Important question this (climate) change is due to

(i) natural long-term climate variability or(ii) indication of certain anthropogenic activities





- Meteorological records are relatively short
- Warming climate increasing mean SAT - affects GST
- GST variations penetrate downwards & perturbe background temperature field
- Thermal diffusivity of rocks is low - that what happened some 10, 100 and 1000 years ago produced temperature anomalies centered at 25, 80, and 250 m, resp.







Reconstructing GSTHs from T(z)-logs > independent and physically justified method to obtain information about past climate on time scale of hundreds to thousands years.

Subsurface T(z) logs can be suitably completed with long-run temperature-time monitoring at selected depth levels Tz(t), namely at the surface (z=0) and within & just below the near-surface "active" layer affected by seasonal temperature variations





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- to test the validity of the assumption that GST variations track the SAT changes
- to study various local/environmental effects: such as vegetation cover, its type/change, surface (rock) type, rain/snow precipitation, thawing/melting/freezing, solar radiation, etc.
- to understand different environments: e.g. urban vs. countryside
- to distinguish the potential anthropogenic contribution vs. natural climate variability.





BOREHOLE CLIMATE OBSERVATORY

- Site (hole), specially equipped or adopted for this purpose
- In operation minimum for 1 year (or more)
- Penetrating below the near-surface "active" layer (30-50 m)
- Standard "surface", kept unchanged all year-round
- Alternatively several different types (grass, soil, rock, concrete, asphalt, etc)
- Geothermal equipment (multiple temperature sensors at several depths) completed with meteorological instrumentation (air temperature, wind meter, snow depth, rain precipitation, incident solar radiation, etc.
- Monitoring air temperatures & soil temperatures
- Repeated temperature logs





Existing Borehole Climate Observatories

- Emigrant Pass Geothermal Climate Observation (ETO), Utah, USA
- Choutuppal Geothermal Climate Change Observatory, India
- Caravenlinha Geothermal Observatory, Portugal
- Malence Geothermal Observatory, Slovenia
- Sporilov Observarory, Prague, Czech Republic





Emigrant Pass Geothermal Climate Observation, Utah

M.G.Bartlett, D.S.Chapman & R.H.Harris, Journal of Climate, 19 (2006) 3722-3731



- 41°30′N, 113°42′W, 1750 m a.s.l.
- In operation since 1993
- SAT (2m, 0.1 m above), SGT (0.025, 0.1, 0.2, 0.5 and 1.0 m below surface)
- incident solar radiation, snow cover, rainfall, wind speed and direction, soil moisture and humidity
- Hole GC-1 drilled in 1978 (150 m deep), granite, constant thermal conductivity, negligible hydrology, repeated thermal logs



- SAT variations explain 94% of the variance in SGT
- Incident solar radiation is a primary variable governing the remaining misfit (important during summer)
- Solar radiation accounts for 1.3% of the variance in SGT
- Solar radiance accounts for 2.47 K offset in ground-air temperature difference, offset is the largest in summer (up to 5+ K) and falls to nearly 0 K in winter. When averaged over diurnal cycle it varies from -10 to + 14 K.
- During winter : snow plays role in governing SGT variability, but only minor influence on the annual tracking of GST or SAT





Choutuppal Geothermal Climate Change Observatory

A.V.Vyasulu & Sukanta Roy, Physics and Chemistry of the Earth, JPCE-D-10-00145

- NGRI campus, 60 km east of Hyderabad, Southern India
- 17.29°N, 78.92° E
- Typical forest land, dry in summer, fresh grass in winter
- Two boreholes, CH-11 (21 m) and CH-10 (210 m deep)
- drilled in April 2009, originally dry, plastic tube filled with water
- 13 m-thick weathered rock overburden above solid granite, narrow range conductivity (2.8±0.1 Wm⁻¹ K⁻¹)
- repeated precise temperature logs
- SAT, GST, relative humidity, rainfall, solar radiation
- Three other boreholes (up to 300 m deep) located in an area around





- The first and only one in low latitude regions
- Inversion of the T(z) profile supported warming trend of 0.5 deg since about 1917 over the past century, characteristic from Indian meteorological data
- In addition a recent and more localized cooling of 0.7 deg with onset around 1970 superimposed over the general warming
- Explained by probable change in local land use





Caravenlinha Geothermal Observatory, Univ. Evora

Antonio Correia (University of Evora) & Jan Safanda



5 km NW of Evora, Portugal, (38°36' N, 7°54.6' W, 330 m asl). Since May 2005 a string of platinum sensors in the uppermost 40 m of the 200 m deep hole. Hole is cased with a plastic tube filled with water.

Site presents an old cork tree forest, vegetation has not changed at least in the last hundred years, topography is subdued Immediate surroundings – bare compact gravel, deeper rock porphyric granite Soil temperatures at depths 2 cm, 5 cm, 10 cm, 20 cm, 50 cm and 100 cm and air temperatures at 2 m and 5 cm above the ground









One-month record (SAT & near-surface GST)















soil - air difference, years 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010

- The ground is covered by whitish gravel with very sparse vegetation.
- It is evident that soil is warmer than air for most days of the year (by up to +11 °C) and slightly colder (up to -3 °C) only in short periods during winter.
- A similar pattern is revealed by the air at 5 cm and air at 2 m difference, albeit with much smaller amplitude.







Malence Geothermal Observatory, GSS Ljubljana

Dusan Rajver (Geological Survey of Slovenia) & Jan Safanda

- Rural area of the Krško basin, SE Slovenia, 45° 52.10' N, 15° 24.50' E, 152 m a.s.l.
- Established in November 2003 in the borehole V-8/86 (drilled in 1986).
- Penetrated 16 m of Quaternary clay, sand and gravel, down to bottom at 100 m. Thermal conductivity (1.45 - 1.7 Wm⁻¹K⁻¹), thermal diffusivity estimated as 0.6 – 0.8 x 10⁻⁶ m²s⁻¹.
- Logged in 1987 and several times later.
- In 2003 a chain of sensors for temperature monitoring installed within the depth interval 1 to 40 m.
- The data logger system records air temperatures at 2 m and 0.05 m above ground level and soil temperatures at 0.02, 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.5 and 1 m below the surface and bedrock temperatures in borehole at the depths of 2.5, 5, 10, 20, 30 and 40 m.















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The annual mean of the soil - air difference in the period 2004 -2009.

- The ground is covered by grass (similar to grassy surface at Spořilov station)
- The mean annual difference of air temperatures at 5 cm and 2 m above the ground was negative and varied between -0.27 °C and -0.54 °C in the same period.
- Contrary to Portuguese station, the difference is negative – air near the ground is colder than air at 2 m.











Sporilov Geothermal Observatory, Prague

Vladimir Cermak, Jan Safanda, Petr Dedecek & Milan Kresl

- Southern rim of Prague, Central Bohemia, Czech Republic 50°02′28.5″E, 14°28′40.2″ N, 274 m a.s.l., typically urban area
- Two holes drilled in 1992, 38.3 m and/or 150 m deep
- Penetrated sediments: loam (1- 4 m), weathered shale (4-14 m), silty shale (14-126 m) followed by clay shale, thermal conductivity of ~3 Wm⁻¹ K⁻¹, thermal diffusivity 0.6 – 0.8 x 10⁻⁶ m²s⁻¹.
- Deeper hole calibrating logging instrument, repeated temperature logs, paleoclimate studies & long-term monitoring of oscillatory convection occurring in a fluid column.
- Shallow hole reserved for continuous subsurface temperature monitoring; thermistor chain, automatic data logger system : air temperatures at 2 m and 0.05 m above ground level, soil temperatures at 0, 0.05, 0.1, 0.2, 0.5, 0.75 and 1 m below the surface plus bedrock temperatures in the hole at 1, 1.5, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7.5, 10, 15, 20, 25 and 38.3 m.
- Experiment started on January 1, 1994.







Similar 40 m deep hole drilled in 1998 at meteorological station in Kocelovice, southern Bohemia (49.47°N, 13.84°E, 518 m a.s.l.). Rural (farming) area. Hole penetrated homogenous granite covered by thin Quaternary sediments, flat terrain is covered with short-cut grass. Soil temperatures monitored with thermistors at 15 levels (1 to 40 m)

- Additional site Potucky (50.43°N, 12.78°E, 864 m a.s.l.), western part of the Ore (Krusne Hory) Mts., NW Bohemia
- Rural, but industrially heavily polluted area.
- Used only irregularly and for limited time periods within 2002-2005.





In 2002 complex polygon studies at Sporilov were completed by monitoring shallow subsurface temperatures under different surfaces (sand, grass, bare soil, asphalt) in the uppermost 1 m thick layer.











mean offset SGT-SAT only 0.27 K

no clear tendency, offset changes even during day/month/year winter : ground mostly warmer, protected by snow as well as by grass from cold wind

hot summer : ground can be slightly colder due to grass protection from sun radiation

In general > solar radiation does not play a substantiall role and









Formal 1994-2010 statistics

Characteristic warming rates for individual depth levels decreases downward

Warming at surface > 0.1 K/year, at 40 m depth 0.03-0.04 K/year

Mean annual temperatures increase downward

At surface T(0)=10.36 increases to T(40)=10.94 due to heat flow











Year	warming (deg/yr)	mean temp. (deg)	number of data	res.sum squares
1994	0,0209	10,630	948	0,00225
1995	0,0224	10,647	1365	0,00099
1996	0,0252	10,674	2102	0,00229
1997	0,0319	10,701	1704	0,00122
1998	0,0288	10,733	2482	0,00233
1999	0,0272	10,761	2359	0,00249
2000	0,0224	10,781	2496	0,00822
2001	0,0349	10,816	2438	0,00079
2002	0,0365	10,850	2267	0,00151
2003	0,0403	10,889	2412	0,00146
2004	0,0384	10,929	2562	0,00072
2005	0,0385	10,968	2502	0,00080
2006	0,0366	11,008	7718	0,00337
2007 (a)	0,0340	11,033	4031	0,00169
2008	0,0355	11,078	6703	0,00294
2009	0,0365	11,113	8538	0,00351
2010 (b)	0,0390	11,136	2003	0,00079
mean	0,0323	10,8674	54630	

(a) half a year only

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warming of 0.12 K/yr

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6-Mar.OA





5.94

5.92

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1.Dec.03

6-Jan-OA

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Geophysical Institute, Prague



Repeated temperature logs (1993 – 2010) – a direct evidence of (climate) warming, gradual increase of temperature in the upper part of the borehole







Transient components of the individual logs > subsurface warming has been progressing continuously since 1993. Whereas the amplitude of warming at 20 m depth was 0.3 K in 1993, it amounts to 1.2 K in 2010.







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Mean monthly GST-SAT difference - Spořilov station in 2008-2010







Year 2009 was relatively rich in snow during January and February.

- For grass, the snow cover plays a fundamental role.
- On the contrary, asphalt with low albedo is affected mainly by intensity of solar radiation and maximum difference occurs during summer months.
- In case of bare sand with higher albedo and lower thermal diffusivity than asphalt, the GST – SAT difference is determined by both factors.











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Thank for your attention