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UNDER THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

# The International Gravity Field Service and GGOS

Rene Forsberg – Geodynamics Dept,  
Danish National Space Center

Steve Kenyon – National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, USA

## Structure of the IGFS - International Gravity Field Service

International Gravimetric Bureau (BGI) – *Director Richard Biancale (temporary)*

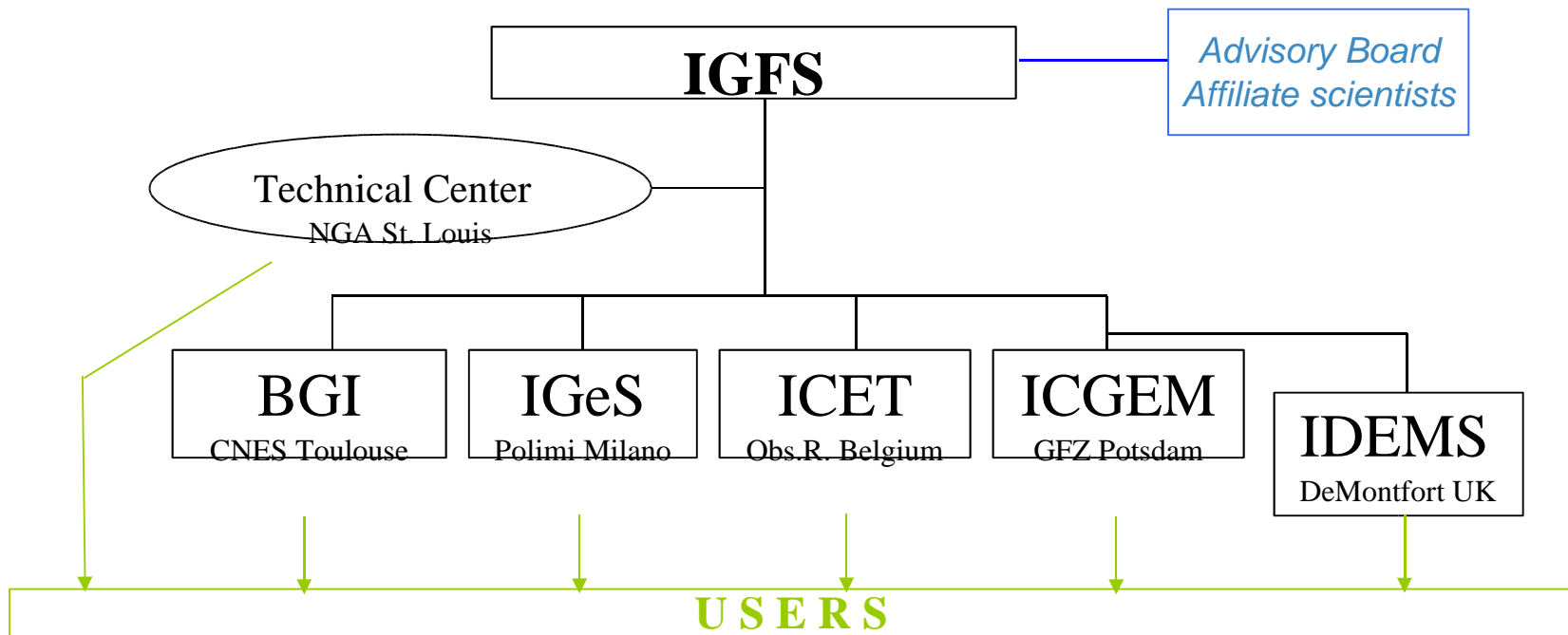
International Geoid Service (IGeS) – *Director R. Bazarghi*

International Center for Earth Tides (ICET) – *Director B. Ducarme (to retire 2007)*

International Center for Global Earth Models (ICGEM) – *Director J.Kusche*

International DEM Service (IDEMS) – *Director P. Berry*

*Technical Center of the IGFS – chief geodesist S. Kenyon, NGA*



# International Gravity Field Service

## Documents

Terms of Reference

Advisory Board

Minutes of 1st Advisory board meeting, Nice 2004

Minutes of 2nd Advisory board meeting, Cairns 2005

Joint Working Group on Evaluation of Global Models

Position paper on Gravity Field and GGOS (Sapporo 2003)

## Periodicals

Newtons Bulletin - BGI/IGeS Joint Journal

Bulletin d'Information des Marées Terrestres

## Meetings

Workshop on Height Systems, Geoid and Gravity of the Asia-Pacific Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia June 6-8, 2006

Report of Mongolia Workshop

1st IGFS General Assembly Istanbul, Turkey Aug 28-Sep 1, 2006

International Workshop Gravity and Geoid in South America Buenos Aires, Sep 25-29, 2006



IGFS chair: Rene Forsberg  
Geodynamics Department  
Danish National Space Center



IGFS is a new unified "umbrella" IAG service, which will

- Coordinate collection, validation, archiving and dissemination of gravity field related data
- Coordinate exchange of software of relevance for gravity field activities
- Coordinate courses, information materials and general public outreach relating to the earth's gravity field

The overall goal of IGFS is to coordinate the servicing of the geodetic and geophysical community with gravity field-related data, software and information. The combined data of the IGFS entities data will include both satellite-derived global models, terrestrial, airborne, satellite and marine gravity observations, earth tide data, GPS leveling data, digital models of terrain and bathymetry, as well as ocean gravity field and geoid from satellite altimetry. Both the static and the temporal variations of the gravity field will be covered by the IGFS.

IGFS is not handling gravity field data distribution directly - IGFS will function as a unifying service for the following gravity-field related IAG services - "IGFS Centres":

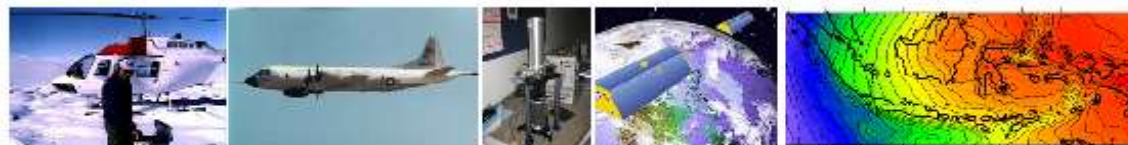
BGI - **International Gravity Bureau** - collection, archiving and distribution of gravity data  
IGeS - **International Geoid Service** - collection and distribution of geoid models, geoid schools  
ICET - **International Center for Earth Tides** - collection and archiving of global earth tide data  
ICGEM - **International Centre for Global Earth Models** - distribution of satellite and surface spherical harmonic models  
IDEMS - **International DEM Service** - Global Digital Terrain Models

IGFS Technical Centre - **National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency** [geodesy - G&G dept] - advise on global models, geoid and gravity, supplementing other services



The IGFS was established by the International Association of Geodesy Executive Board at the General Assembly in Sapporo, Japan, August 2003, and is an IAG "level-2" service under **IAG Commission 2 - Gravity Field**. One of the main arguments for establishing IGFS was to provide a more focussed role of the gravity field, as one of the three fundamental pillars in IAG's first project - GGOS, the **Global Geodetic Observing System**. For more background information on GGOS and IGFS click [here](#) (presentation for Cairns 2005)

Another important role of the IGFS is to take initiative and coordinate international data collection projects, such as e.g. the **Arctic Gravity Project**, and the ongoing development of the new NGA high-resolution spherical harmonic reference model EGM06, complete to degree and order 2160.




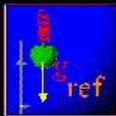
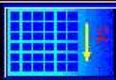







[www.igfs.net](http://www.igfs.net)

For IGFS information contact [rf@dnsc.dk](mailto:rf@dnsc.dk)

Last update:  
Aug 24, 2006 by rf  
Web page design:  
Henriette Skourup

PROVIDED SERVICES :

DOCUMENTATION ONLINE Publications,thesis,reviews,forums and, maps		
CONSULTING land data		
CONSULTING sea data		
CONSULTING reference stations		
DOWNLOADING of data grids,...		
TUTORIALS		
CONTACTS with BGI		
SOFTWARE		
FORMATS		
DETAILED SERVICES		

<http://bgi.cnes.fr:8110>

<http://www.iges.polimi.it/>

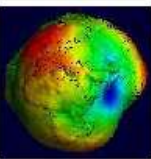


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IGeS - International Geoid Services

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**GFZ**  
POTSDAM

**ICGEM**

## International Centre for Global Earth Models (ICGEM)

ICGEM is one of six centres of the International Gravity Field Service (IGFS) of the [International Association of Geodesy](#) (IAG).

The other five Centres are

- [Bureau Gravimétrique International](#) (BGI) at CNES / CRGS, Toulouse, France
- Digital Elevation Model Centre (DEM) at Montfort University, UK
- [International Centre for Earth Tides](#) (ICET) at Obs. Royal de Belgique, Brussels, Belgium
- [International Geoid Service](#) (IGeS) at Politecnico di Milano, Milan, Italy
- [Technical Support Centre of IGFS](#) at NGA, Saint Louis, USA

### Services of ICGEM

- collecting and long-term archiving of all existing global gravity field models
- validation of global gravity field models by standardized procedures
- collecting and long-term archiving of software for global gravity field models, manipulation and transformation
- user interface for getting access to global gravity field models, validation results and manipulation software
- web site for tutorials on global gravity field models, user interaction with the service and online software application
- contribution to IGeS schools
- yearly activity report

### ICGEM Centre's staff at GFZ Potsdam

- Peter Schwintzer (Director) †
- [Franz Barthelmes](#)
- Wolfgang Köhler
- Hartmut Pflug

We mourn Peter Schwintzer, who died unexpectedly on 24 December 2004

Last modified 26.4.2005 [Wolfgang Köhler](#)



<http://icgem.gfz-potsdam.de/ICGEM/ICGEM.html>

<http://www.astro.oma.be/ICET>



## International Center for Earth Tides

Federation of Astronomical and Geophysical Data Analysis Services, FAGS  
[World Data Center-C For Earth Tides](#)

For any request please contact: [Bernard DUCARME](#)

[Observatoire Royal de Belgique](#)

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- Home
- SRTM
- ACE
- GLOBE
- GTOPO30
- NED

### SRTM

The Shuttle Radar Topography Mission flew onboard NASA's Space Shuttle Endeavour STS-99 in 2000 and has generated a near global Digital Elevation Model at a resolution of 3 arc seconds (90 metres at the equator) between the latitude of 60N and 56S.

For additional information and data products please see the following web sites

- [The US Geological Survey website](#)
- [NASA's SRTM Website](#)

A list of relevant publications is included here: Please tell us of other papers on SRTM validation and exploitation so that we can include additional publications in this list.

[Email us](#)

### Publications list

- Hensley, S.; Rosen, P.; Gurrola, E., (2000). "The SRTM topographic mapping processor," Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium, 2000. Proceedings. IGARSS 2000. IEEE 2000 International , vol.3, no.pp.1168-1170 vol.3, 2000
- Gesch, D.; Williams, J.; Miller, W., (2001). "A comparison of US Geological Survey seamless elevation models with Shuttle Radar Topography Mission data," Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium, 2001. IGARSS '01. IEEE 2001 International , vol.2, no.pp.754-756 vol.2, 2001
- Koch, A.; Heipke, C. (2001). "Quality assessment of digital surface models derived from the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM)", Geoscience and Remote Sensing Symposium, 2001. IGARSS '01. IEEE



- GPS
  - ▶ Ephemeris Data
  - ▶ Earth Orientation
  - ▶ Documentation
  - ▶ Calendar page
  - ▶ IGS Comparison

- WGS 84
  - ▶ Arctic Gravity Prolect
  - ▶ Earth Gravitational Model
  - ▶ World Magnetic Model
  - ▶ EGM96 Online Geoid Calculator
  - ▶ Data Exchange

- Weapon Systems Analysis
  - ▶ DGV Products
  - ▶ Ballistic Missile Products

#### Geotechnical Analysis

- Coordinate Systems Analysis
  - ▶ Datum Transformations
  - ▶ Grids and Reference Systems
  - ▶ GIS Data Layers
  - ▶ GEOTRANS
  - ▶ Publications
  - ▶ Frequently Asked Questions

#### Geodetic Surveys

- ▶ St. Louis Operations
- ▶ California Operations
- ▶ Florida Operations
- ▶ New Mexico Operations
- ▶ TAGGS Program



### Our Mission:

Provide Accurate and Timely Geodetic, Geophysical, Geotechnical Analysis, and Geospatial Intelligence Information to Support National Security, Department of Defense, and Intelligence Objectives.

- ★ [Warning for GEOTRANS users of the EGM96 Variable GRID Geoid](#)
- ★ [EGM Harmonic Synthesis Software and "Test" Coefficient Sets Now Available](#)

NGA is also acts as a "gravity field service" ... e.g. EGM06/WGS84 development, gravity info etc. <http://earth-info.nima.mil/GandG/>



© De Montfort University 2004

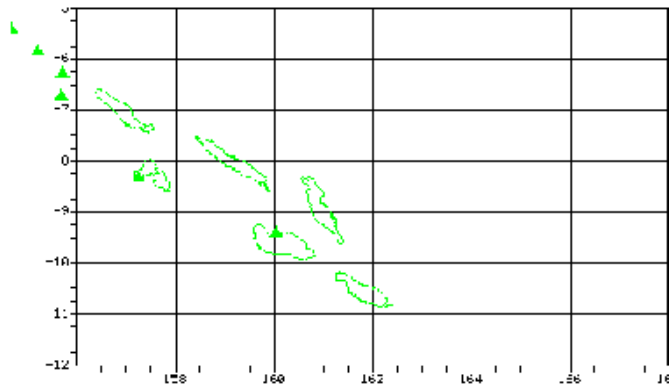


# Core of a service: Online information ..

## BGI example – reference gravity

### BGI DATABASE EXTRACTION

Gravity reference stations :



▲ IGGH71 net ▲ accuracy< 0.1 mgal  
 ▲ accuracy> 0.1 mgal ▲ undetermined accuracy

The portrayal of boundaries and the states' names must not be taken as implying approval by BGI of the political status

If you want a more complete station description, with the microfiche number of their sketch, click on the butto

reference station description

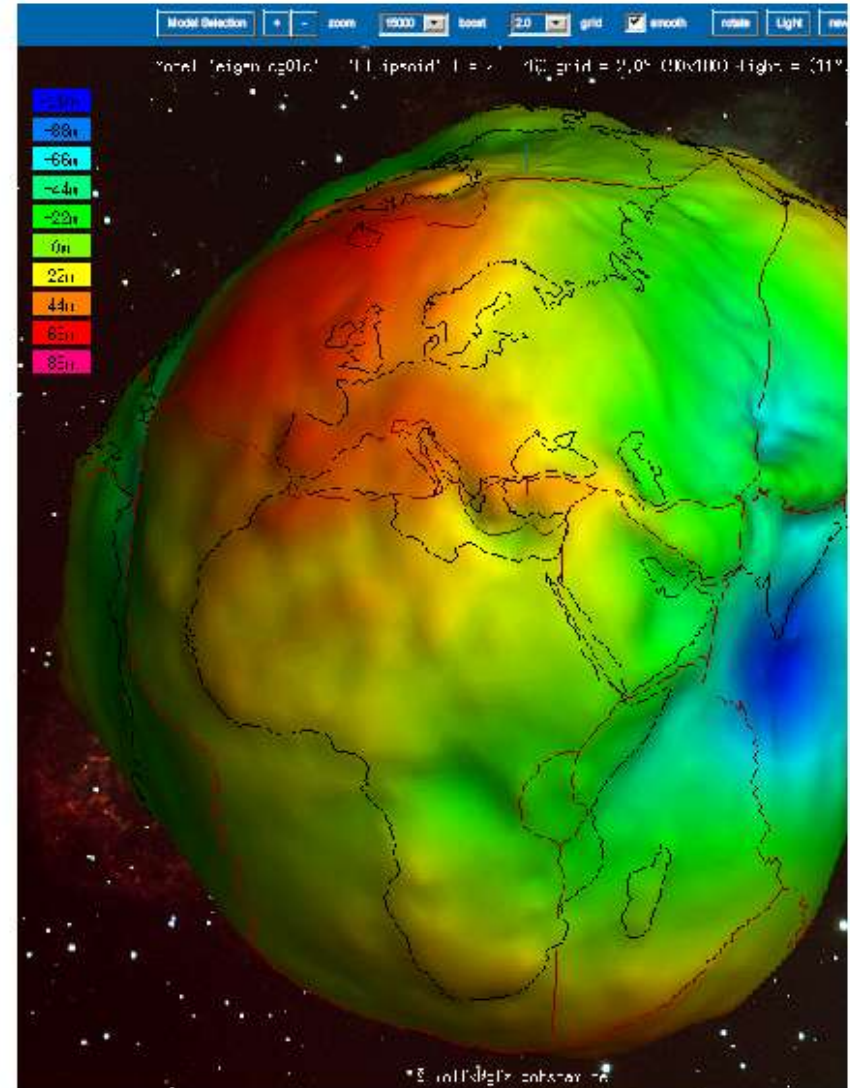
GRAVITY BASE STATION			
LATITUDE	09° 25.5'S	(1)	STATION DESIGNATION
LONGITUDE	160° 03' E	(1)	HONIARA
ELEVATION	3.05 METERS	(1)	COUNTRY/STATE
			Solomon Islands/Guadacanal
REFERENCE CODE NUMBERS		ADOPTED GRAVITY VALUE	
ACIG	3800-1		
		ESTIMATED ACCURACY	DATE
		± 0.6 mgals	MONTH/YEAR
			10/70
DESCRIPTION AND/OR SKETCH			
<p>Station is located in the air terminal building at Honiara Airport, known as Henderson Field. The old air terminal has been destroyed. The station is in the waiting room of the terminal building in the right corner facing the exit door, on tile from each wall. (1)</p>			
REFERENCE SOURCE			
(1) Personal Communication US TOPOCCM 5 Feb 70			



## Core of a service: Online information ..

### *GRACE example – ICGEM*

- *100+ spherical harmonic models "in stock"*
- *Online visualisation*
- *Online computation of grids*
- *Both static and temporal fields*  
*(but no U Texas and JPL monthly solutions)*





## Current IGFS activities

- Meetings:
  - Workshop on Height systems, Geoid and Gravity of the Asia-Pacific - Mongolia, June 2006
  - 1<sup>st</sup> International Symposium of the IGFS in Istanbul, Turkey, September 2006.
  - International Workshop on Gravity and Geoid in South America - Buenos Aires, Sep 25-29, 2006
  - *Workshop on gravity and geoid for East Africa – Addis Abeba, Oct 2007?*
- Other service activities:
  - *Schools: Microgravimetry school, BGI/ICET, Geoid schools (IGeS)*
  - *Joint bulletin: Newton's Bulletin – technical journal of the BGI and IGeS.*



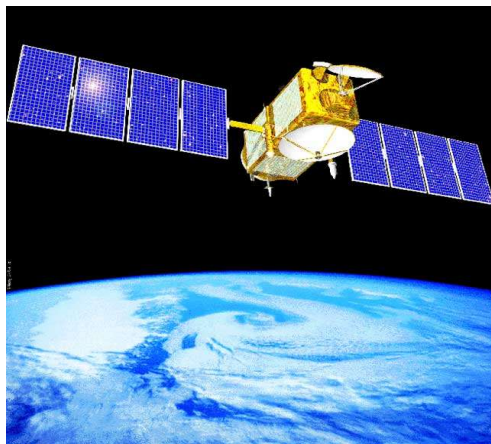
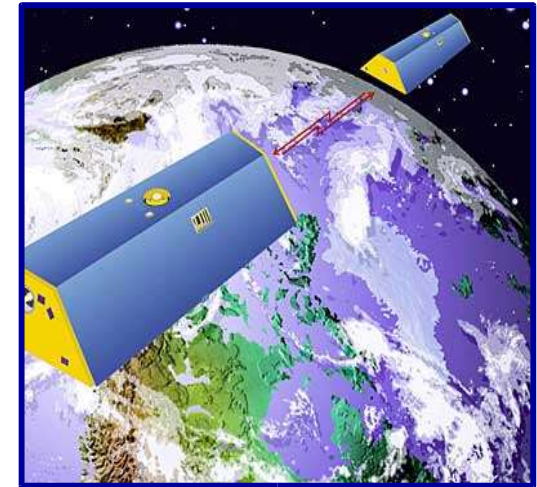
## Current IGFS activities (continued)

- Joint IAG Commission 2 / IGFS working group for validation of new EGM07 ultra-high resolution ( $n_{\max} = 2160$ ) global gravity field model – *new “official” GGOS reference model?*
- IGFS active support of the release of regional gravity field data for various regions of the world to enhance the overall quality of geopotential combination models.
- Working group on absolute gravimetry standards and global net – *H. Wilmes, BKG/Germany*

# Earth Gravitational Model

*Next ... EGM 2007*

- **CHAMP and GRACE** satellite gravity missions
  - 100x improvement in the accuracy with which large regional features of the gravitational field can be modeled



- **Need for higher-resolution model of the gravitational field and geoid**
  - 5' x 5' resolution
  - $n=m=2160$
  - 15 cm global RMS accuracy goal for geoid



# Progression of EGMs

## *EGM96*

- 30'x30' resolution
- 50 cm RMS accuracy
- 70 x 70 error propagation
- 40 satellites used for long  $\lambda$ 's
- GEOSAT
- 30 M surface gravity values
- 29 elevation codes
- 130 K coefficients

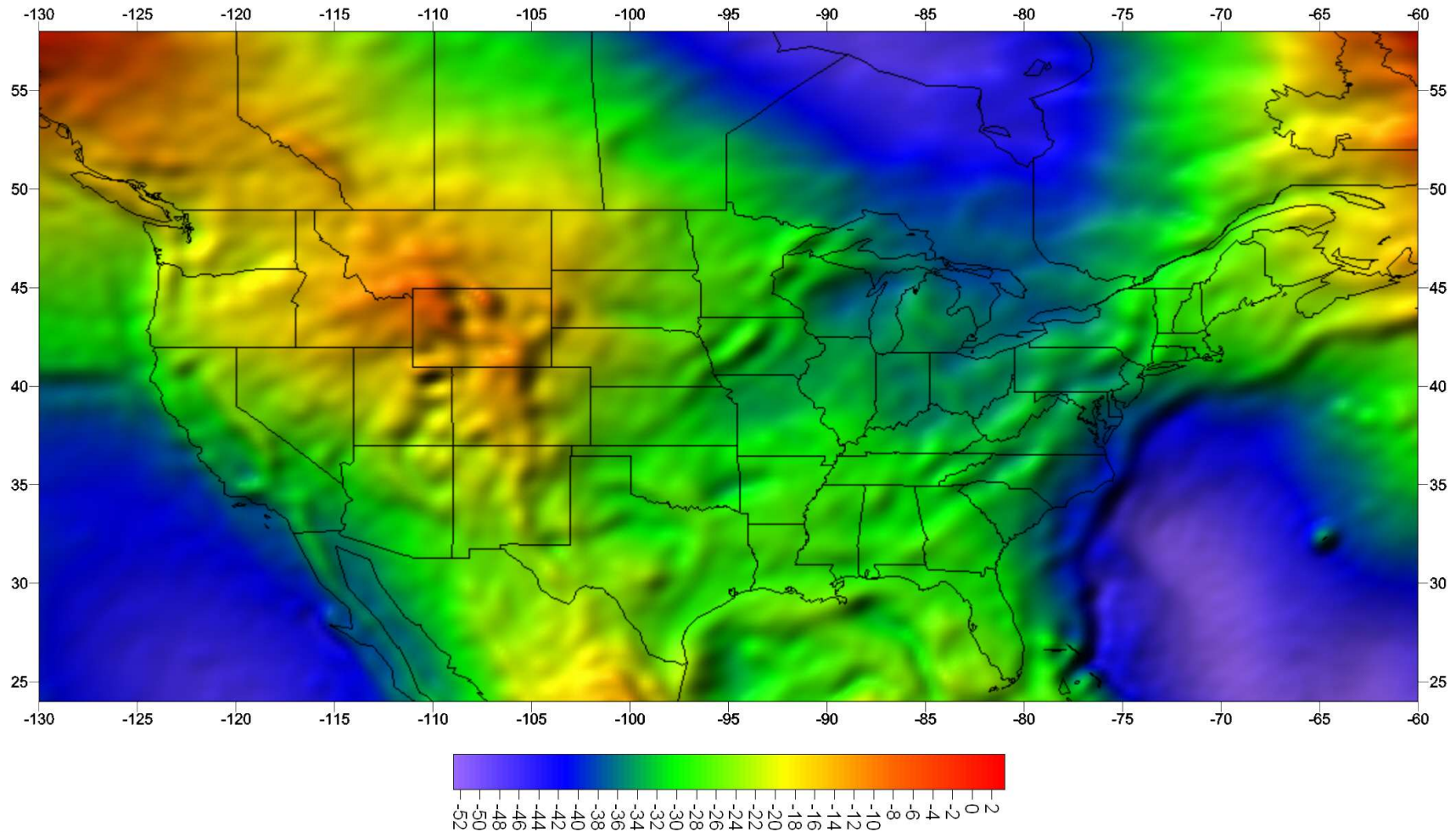
## *EGM07*

- 5'x5' resolution
- 15 cm RMS accuracy
- 2160 x 2160 error propagation
- GRACE used for long  $\lambda$ 's
- MSS from retracked ERS-1, GEOSAT, TOPEX, etc.
- 55 M surface gravity values
- SRTM, ICESAT
- 4.7 M coefficients



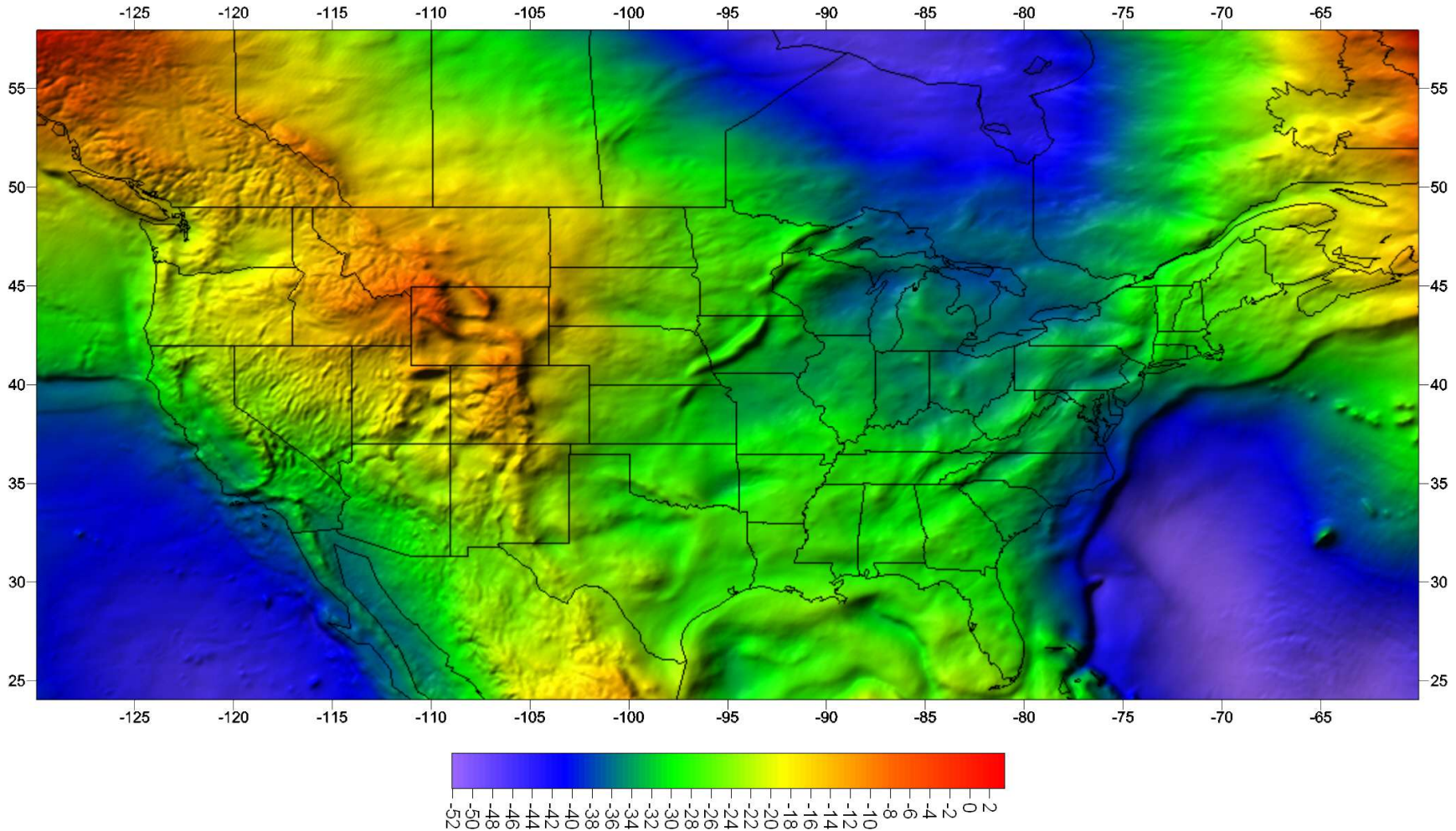
# Earth Gravitational Model 1996

## 15'x15' Geoid Height Grid for the US



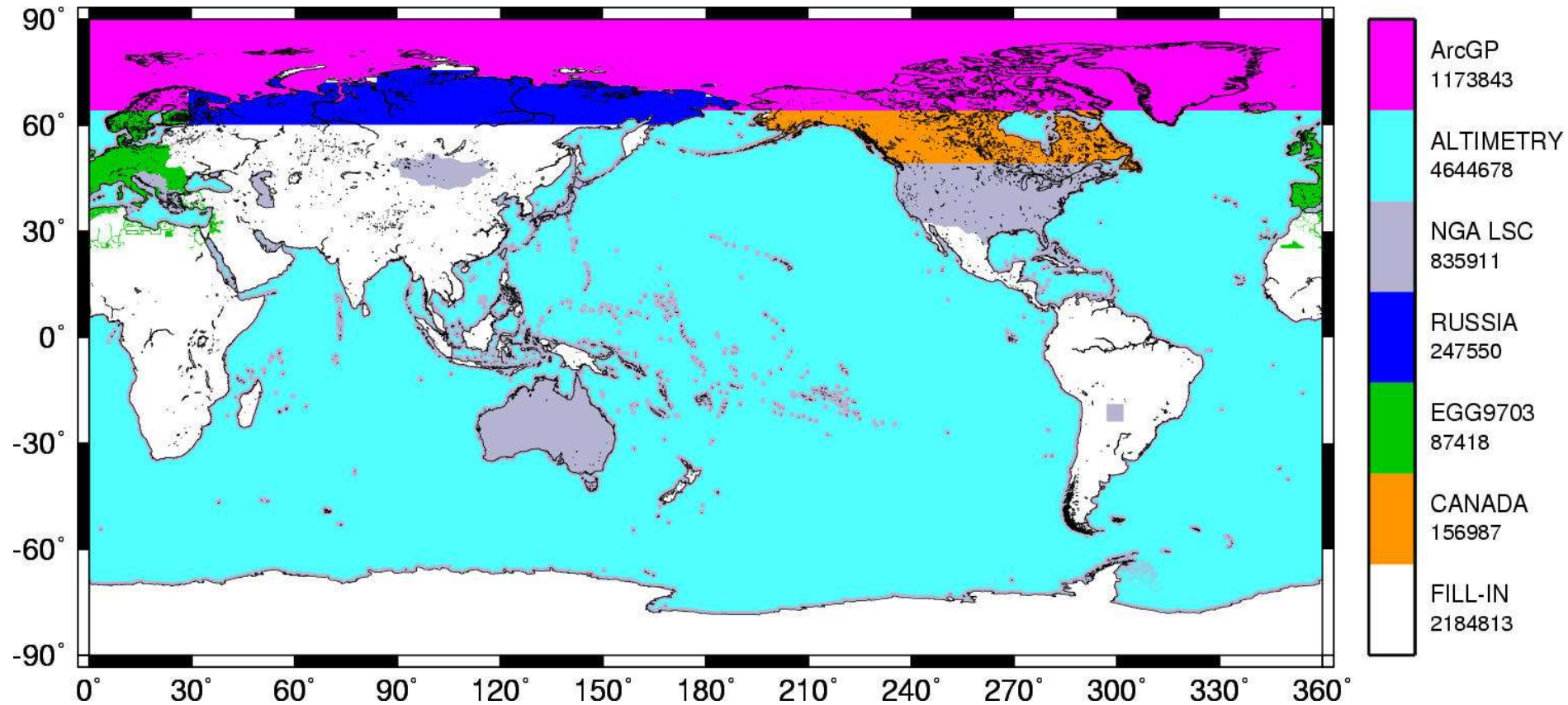
# Earth Gravitational Model 2007

## 5'x5' Geoid Height Grid for the US



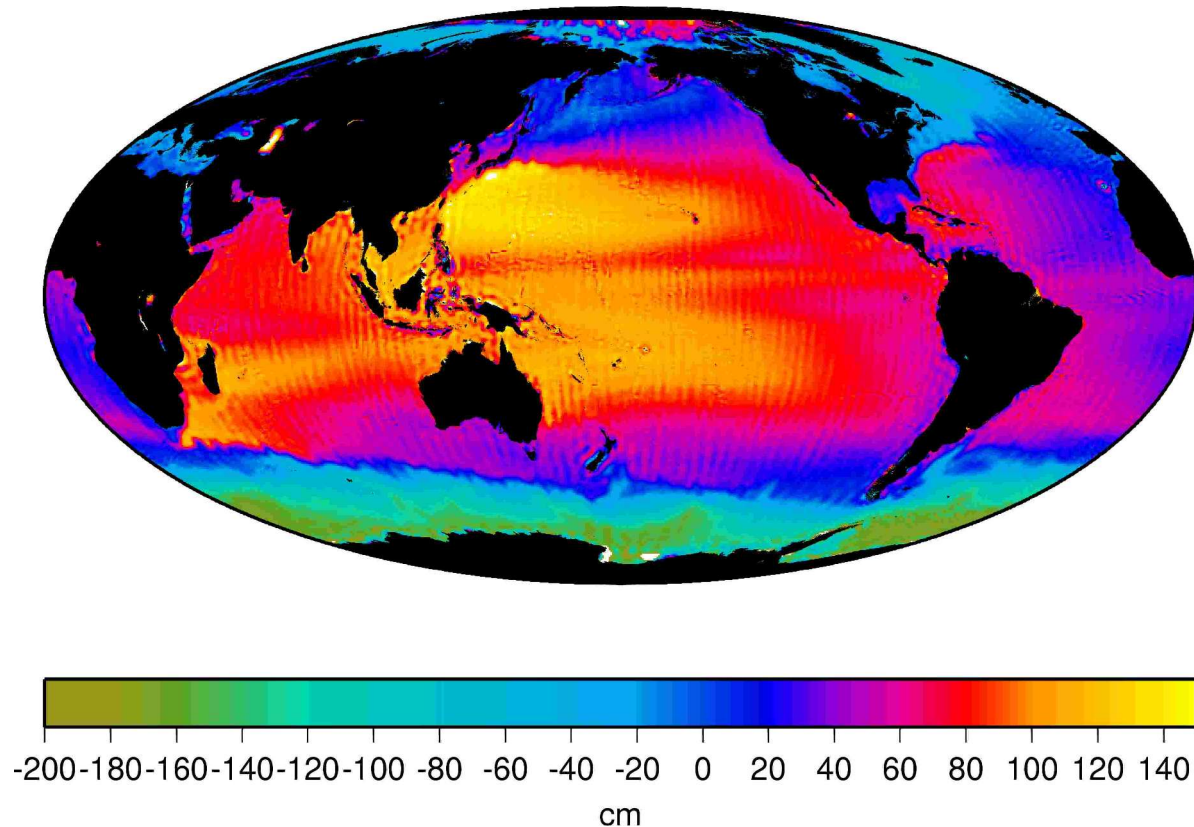


## 5'x5' Gravity Anomaly Data Sources (v080306)



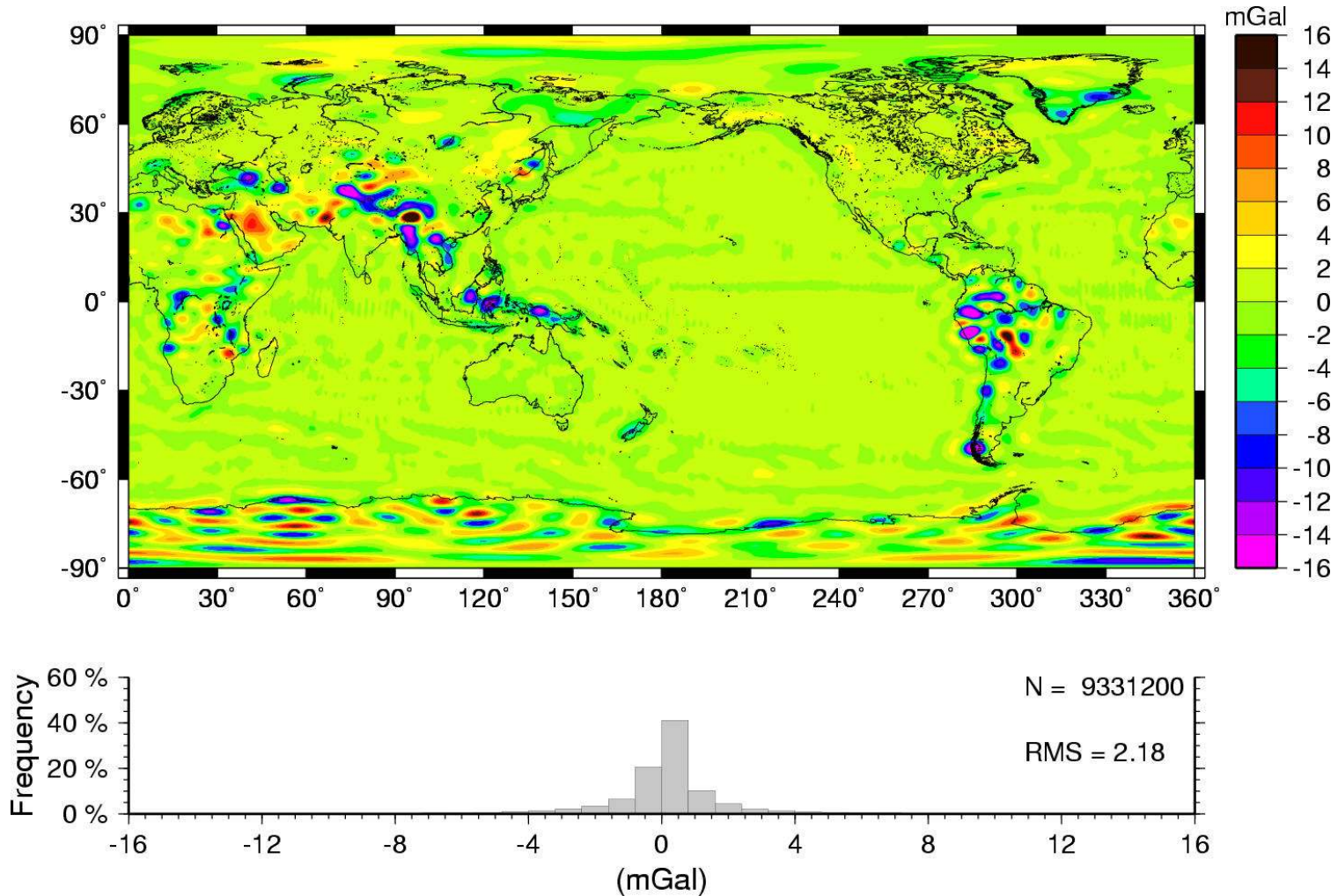


## “Striping” Problems Associated with GRACE



Dynamic Ocean Topography: GSFC00 MSS minus GGM02C\_EGM96 Geoid  
(from *Chambers and Zlotnicki, 2004*)

## PGM2006B Residual Gravity Anomalies (Nmax=160)





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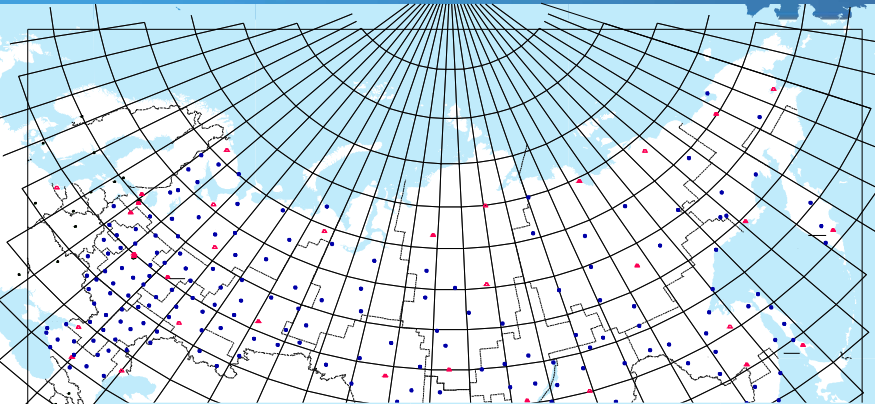
## GPS/Leveling Comparisons Over CONUS



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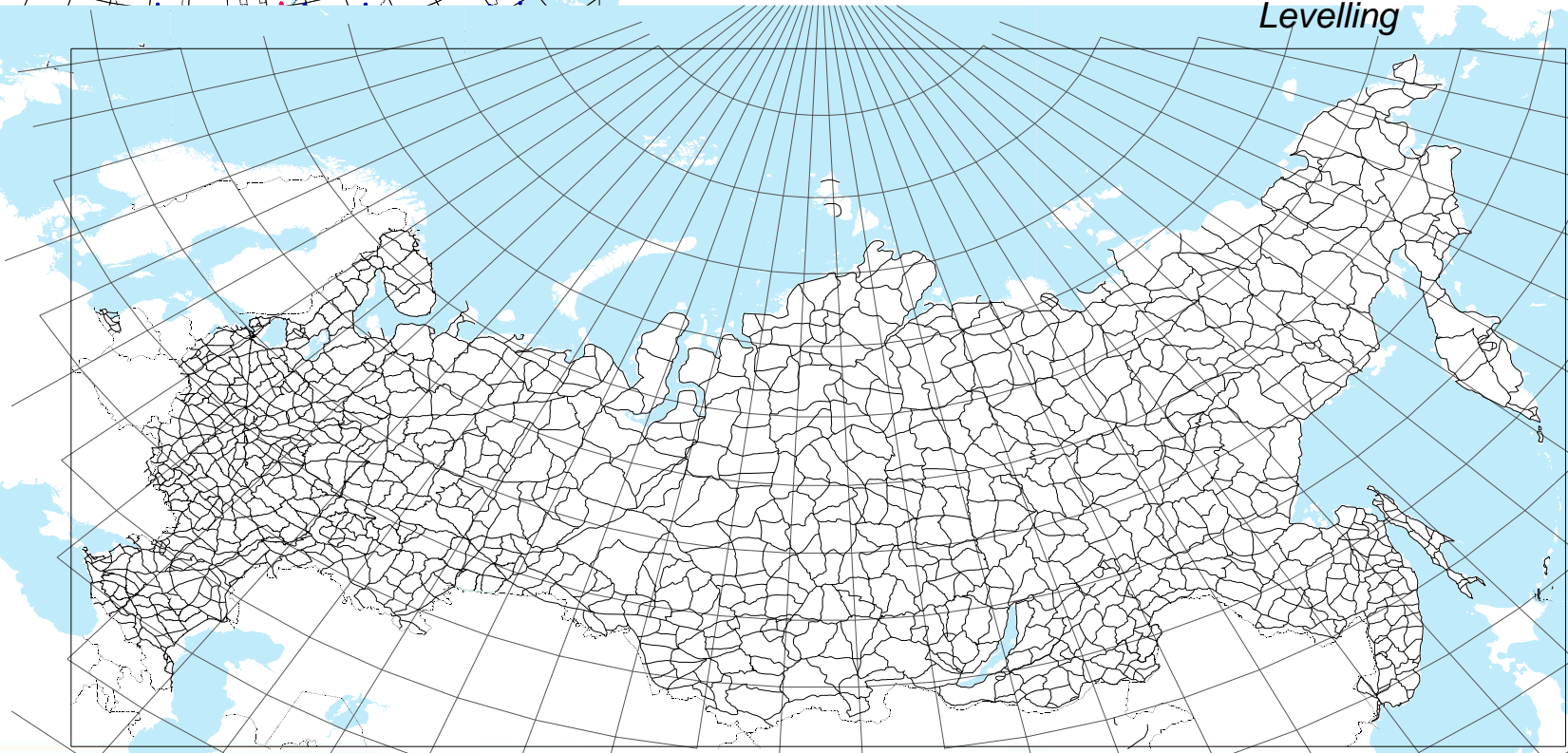
## GPS/Leveling Comparisons Globally



GPS levelling data – evaluation of  
geoids (*Russia example,*  
*G. Demianov, Tsniiigaik*)

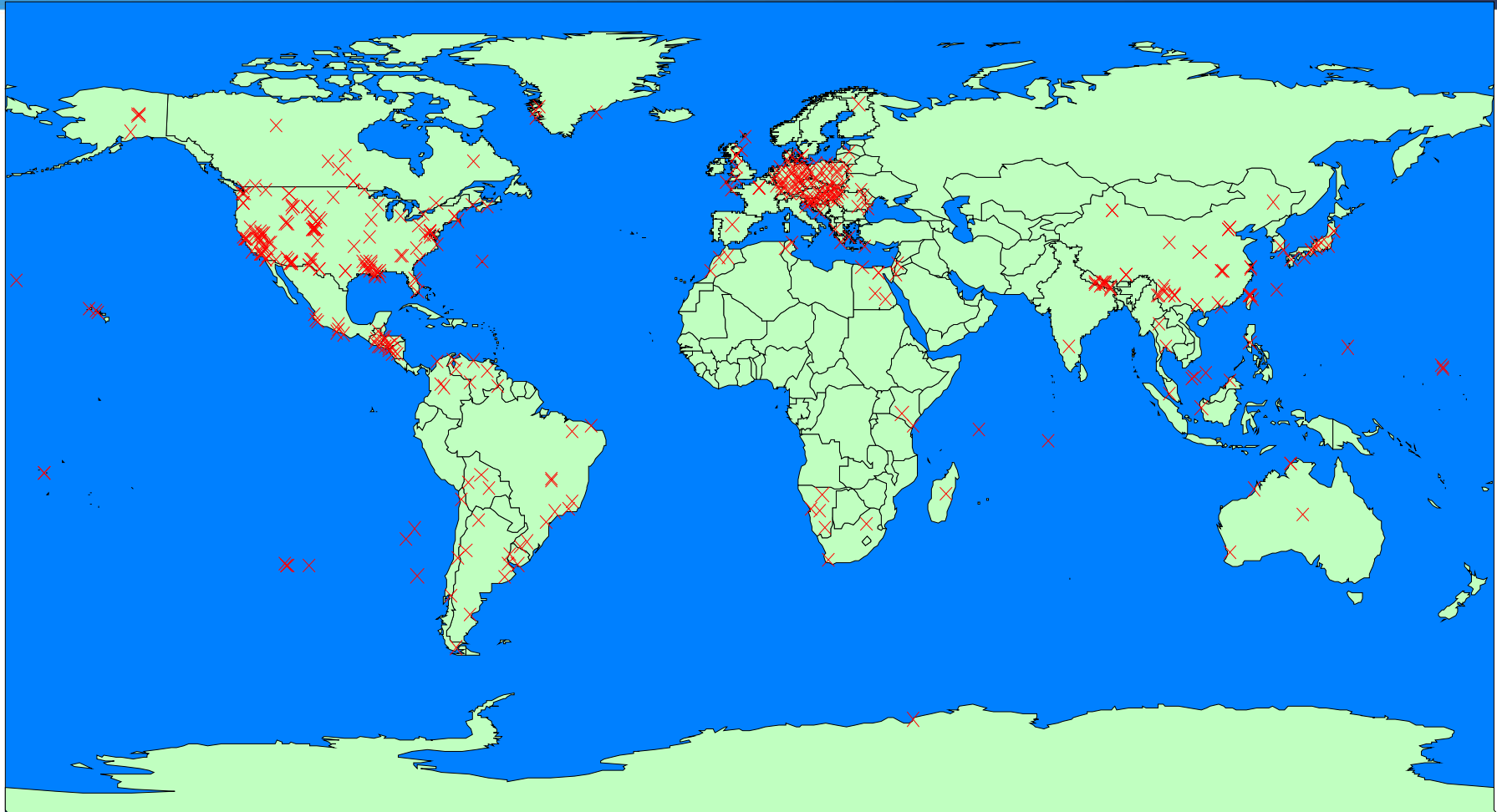
GPS

Levelling





# Absolute gravimetry network (NGA)



Need more co-located observatories (VLBI, Laser, GPS, abs.grav., ...)

Many regional initiatives ("5-D networks") - ECGN/Europe, NGOS/Nordic ..)

## Absolute gravity database and standardization: BKG

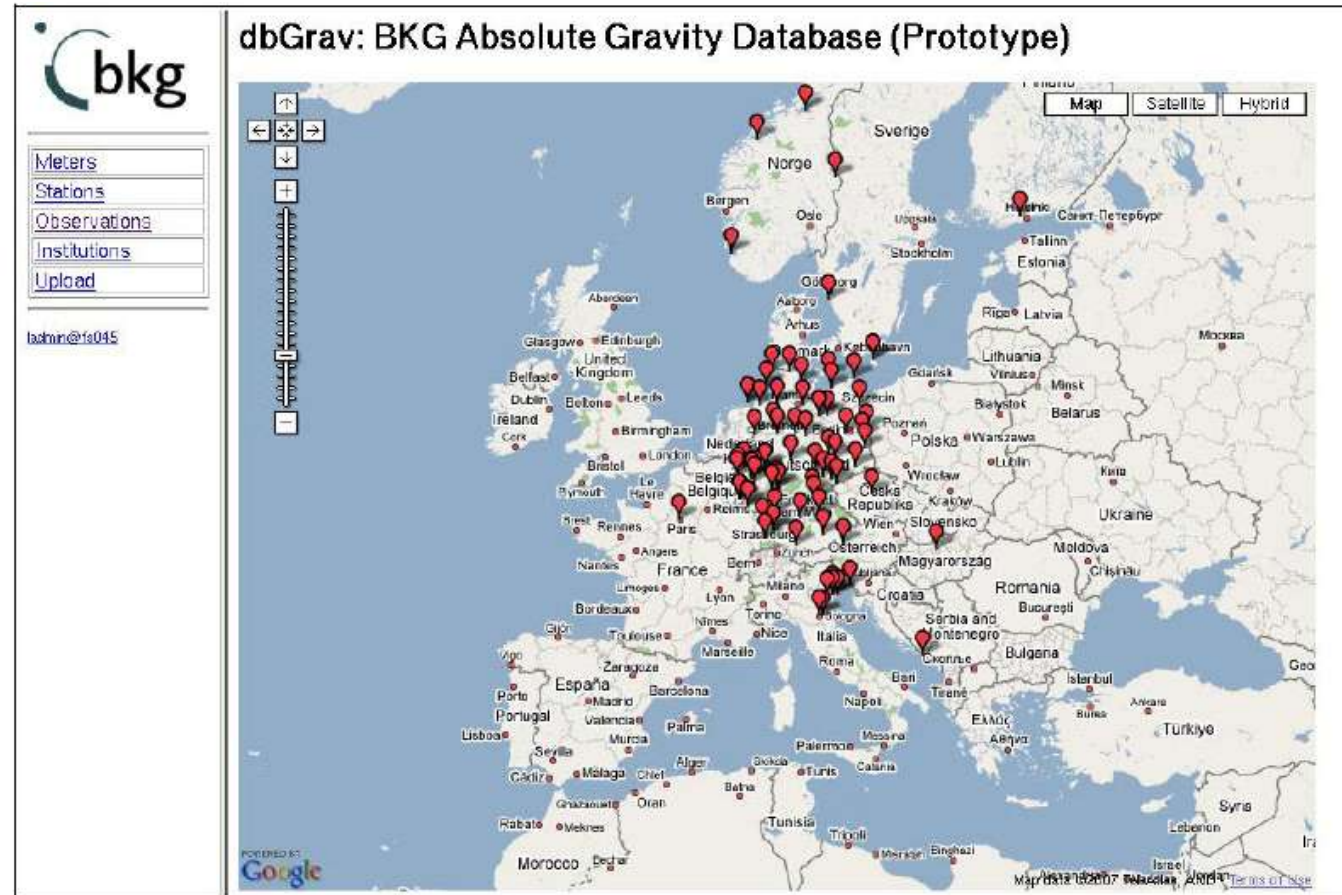
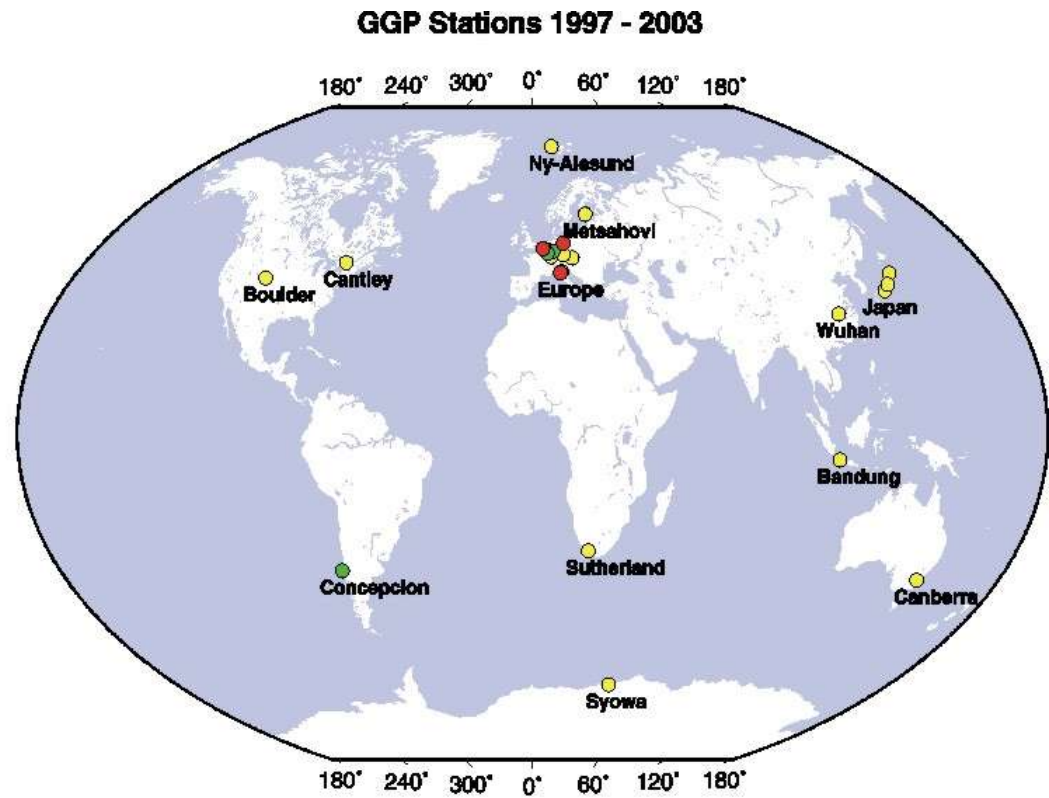


Figure 3: Frontpage of the user interface with interactive map

## Superconducting gravimetry cooperation ..

– Global Geodynamics Project ... ~ 20 sites



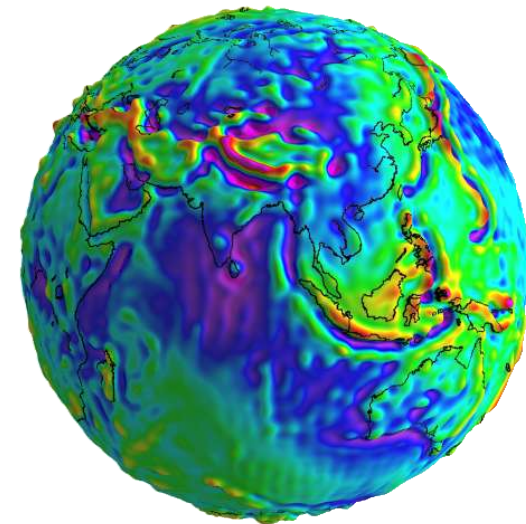
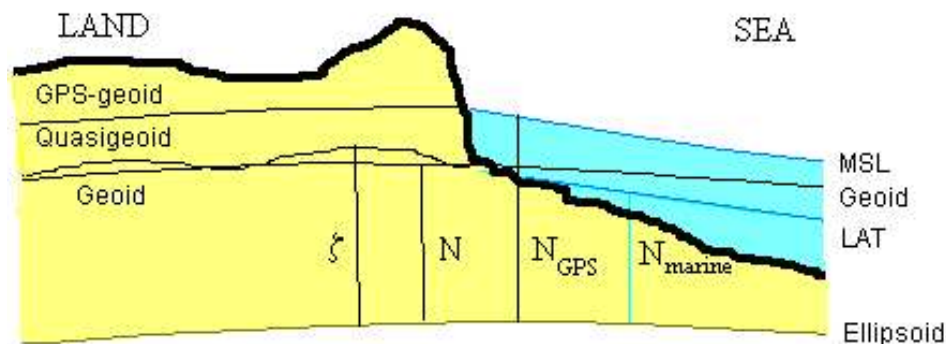
- ICET earth-tide sites:  
~200 stations

GMT 2008 Jan 31 10:20:44

## Gravity field "products" for GGOS

*Essential to limit products to "globally relevant" quantities:*

- Global gravity field models – spherical harmonics – consistent methodology  
... *satellite-only* ( $n \sim 200$ ), *combination* ( $n \sim 360$  or  $2160$ )
- Global vertical datum (6 mm  $\sim 10^{-9}$ )
- Precise refined geoid models .. *especially around key GGOS station sites*
- Absolute and superconducting gravity networks



## How to improve IGFS and the gravity field services?

- \* Conventions and recommendations for gravity field products ..
- \* **Improving the global gravity field data base**  
Coordinated global campaigns (e.g., absolute gravity)  
Coordinated efforts for terrestrial gravity data + GPS/levelling data release ..  
Coordinated efforts for airborne gravimetry over unsurveyed regions (e.g., Antarctica) ..
- \* **Web:** *conventions, access to basic data, background info ..*  
*A one-stop web site for all gravity related information?*  
*Tutorials and background material for physical geodesy?*
- \* **Do we need one unified gravity field model for GGOS??**  
*(EGM07 the first candidate model? But how about time changes?)*

**Need to have soon: A Central Bureau (IERS model)**

## The vision for IGFS

- "Seamless" online service to a broad set of users: *scientific, government and commercial .. through a distributed set of service centers (BGI, IGeS, ICGEM ..)*
- Standards and conventions recommendations  
*Endorsement of International Earth Geopotential Models*
- Coordinated effort for global surveys and data exchange
- Complete set of gravity-relevant services  
*GRACE highlight needs for easier access to model corrections such as geodynamics effects (ICE5G), tides ..*

