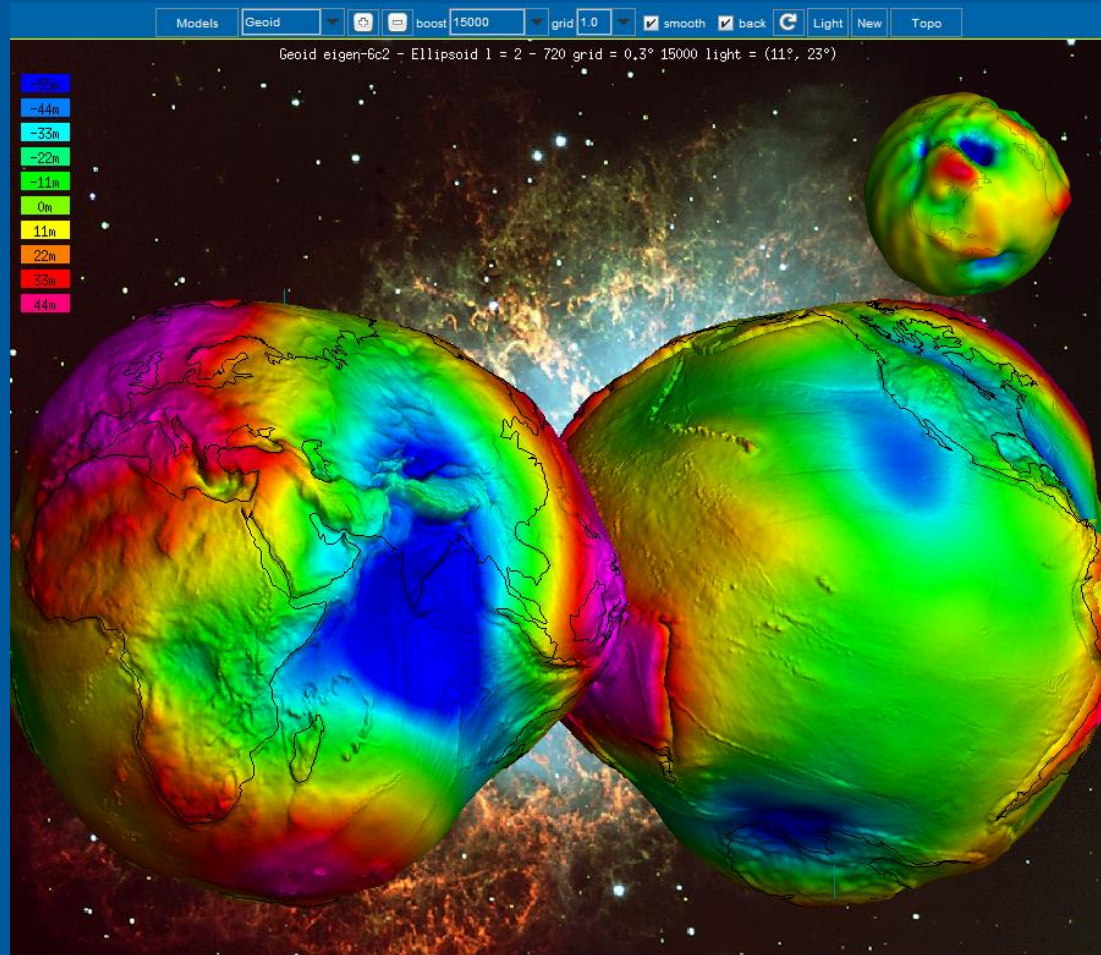


# ICGEM

## Global Gravity Field Models and the IAG Service ICGEM (International Centre for Global Earth Models)

Franz Barthelmes  
Wolfgang Köhler

GFZ German Research Centre  
for Geosciences  
Telegrafenberg  
14473 Potsdam  
Section 1.2



# Global Gravity Field Models

Where are they come from?

**Satellites** + satellite altimetry + terrestrial gravimetry

**Satellites** → Gravity Field: What can we measure?



# Global Gravity Field Models

Where are they come from?

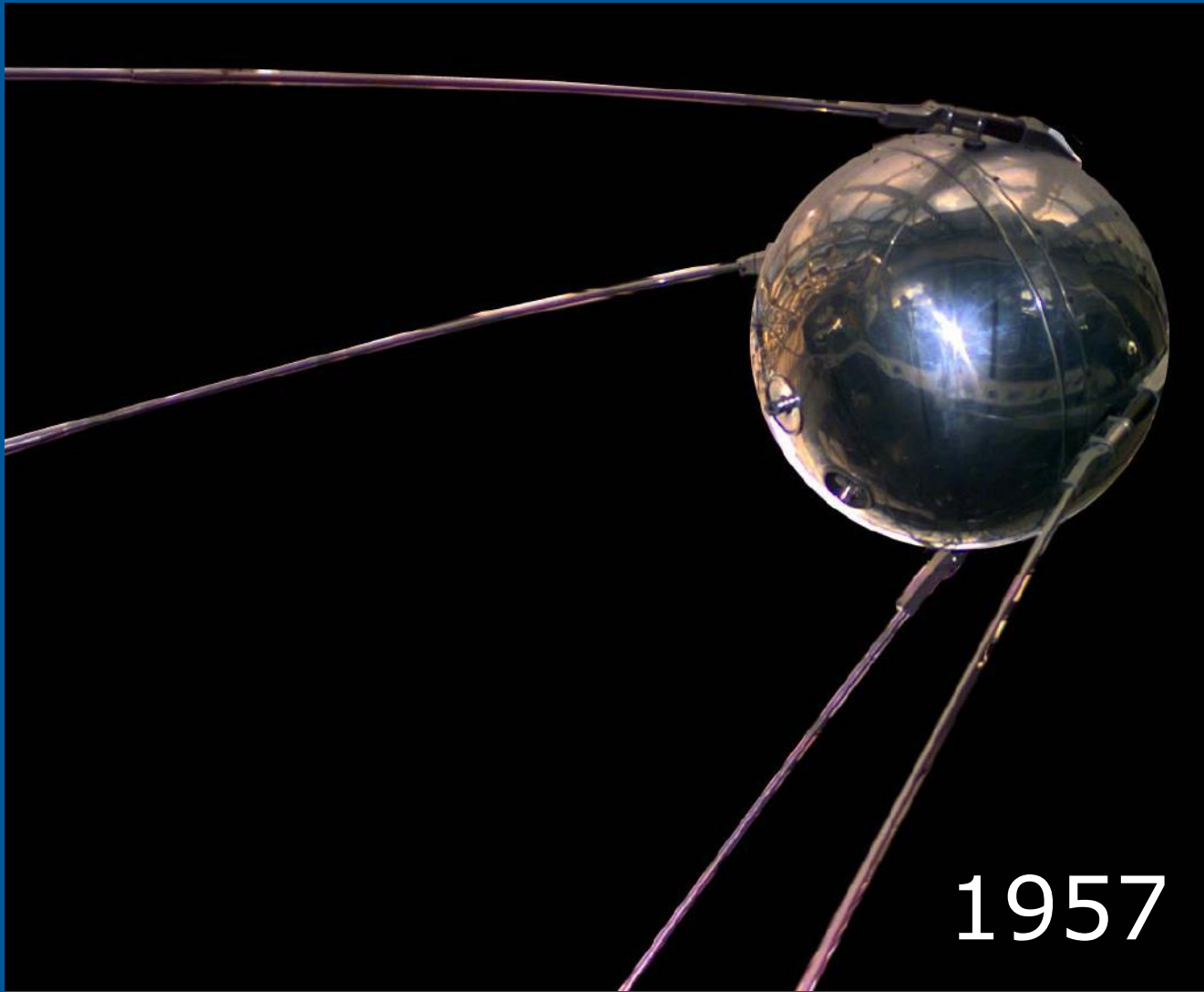
**Satellites** + satellite altimetry + terrestrial gravimetry

**Satellites** → Gravity Field: What can we measure?

acceleration differences inside the satellite  
→ Gradiometry



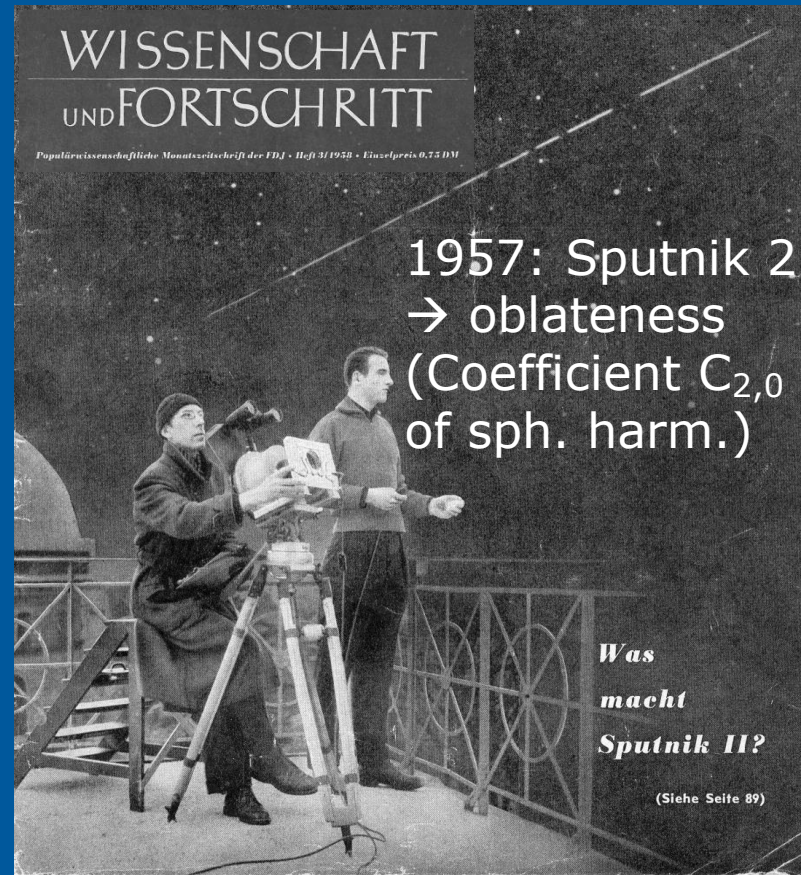
# The Beginning: Sputnik 1



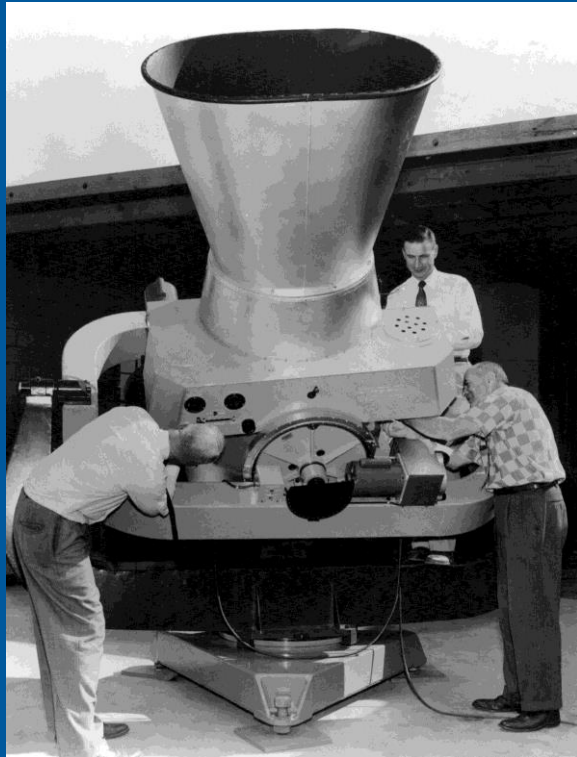
# The first Measurements

optical observation

Sputnik-observations in Potsdam



# Optical Satellite Tracking



Baker Nunn  
(USA 1957)



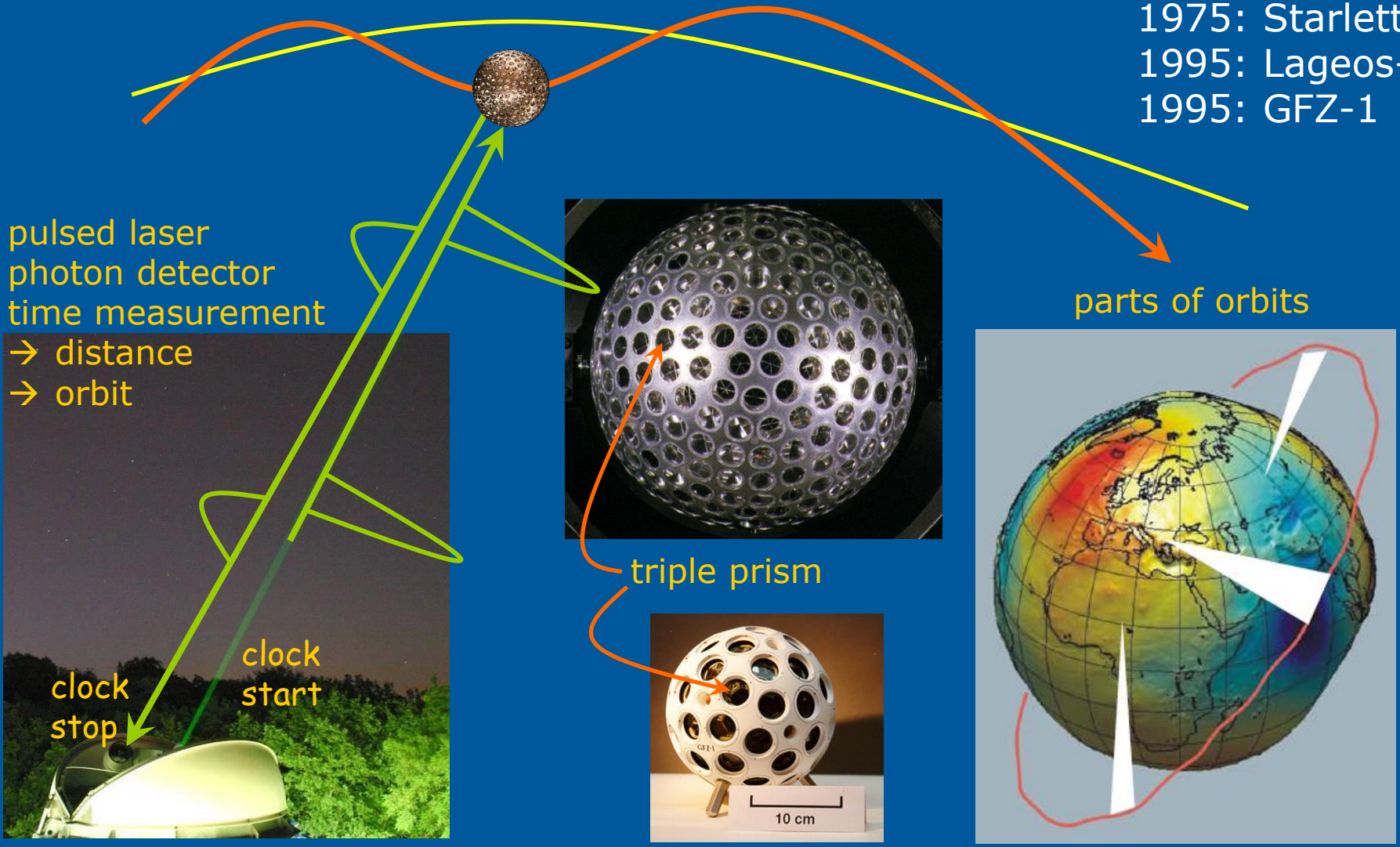
AFU-75  
(USSR/Latvia 1967)



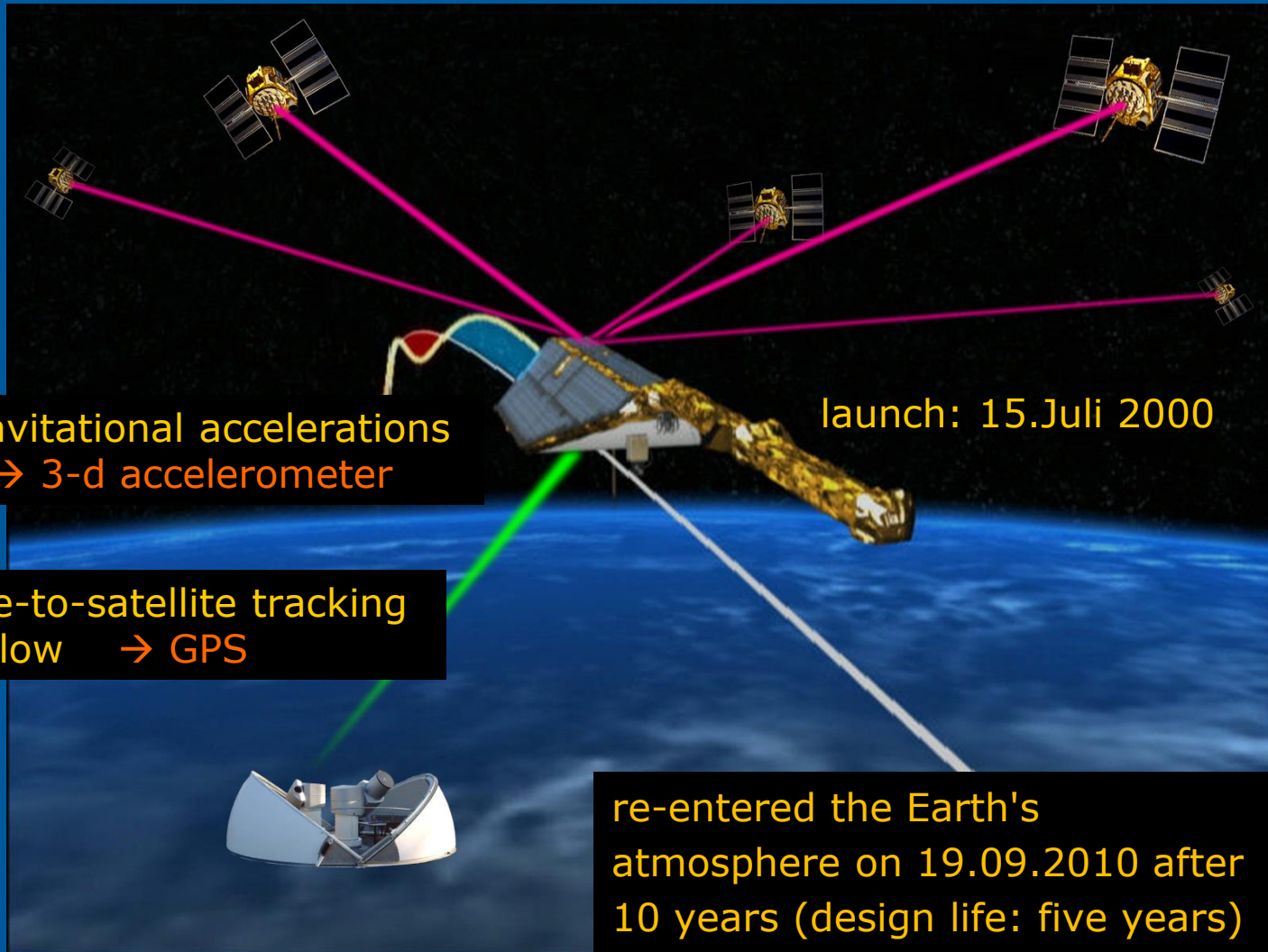
upgraded 1974: Laser  
(Helmert Tower Potsdam)  
SBG  
(Germany/Jena 1966)

# Laser Ranging

1975: Lageos-1  
1975: Starlette  
1995: Lageos-2  
1995: GFZ-1



# High-Low with GPS → CHAMP



non-gravitational accelerations  
→ 3-d accelerometer

satellite-to-satellite tracking  
high - low → GPS

launch: 15.Juli 2000

re-entered the Earth's  
atmosphere on 19.09.2010 after  
10 years (design life: five years)



# Heigh-Low + Low-Low → GRACE

GRACE: Gravity Recovery And Climate Experiment

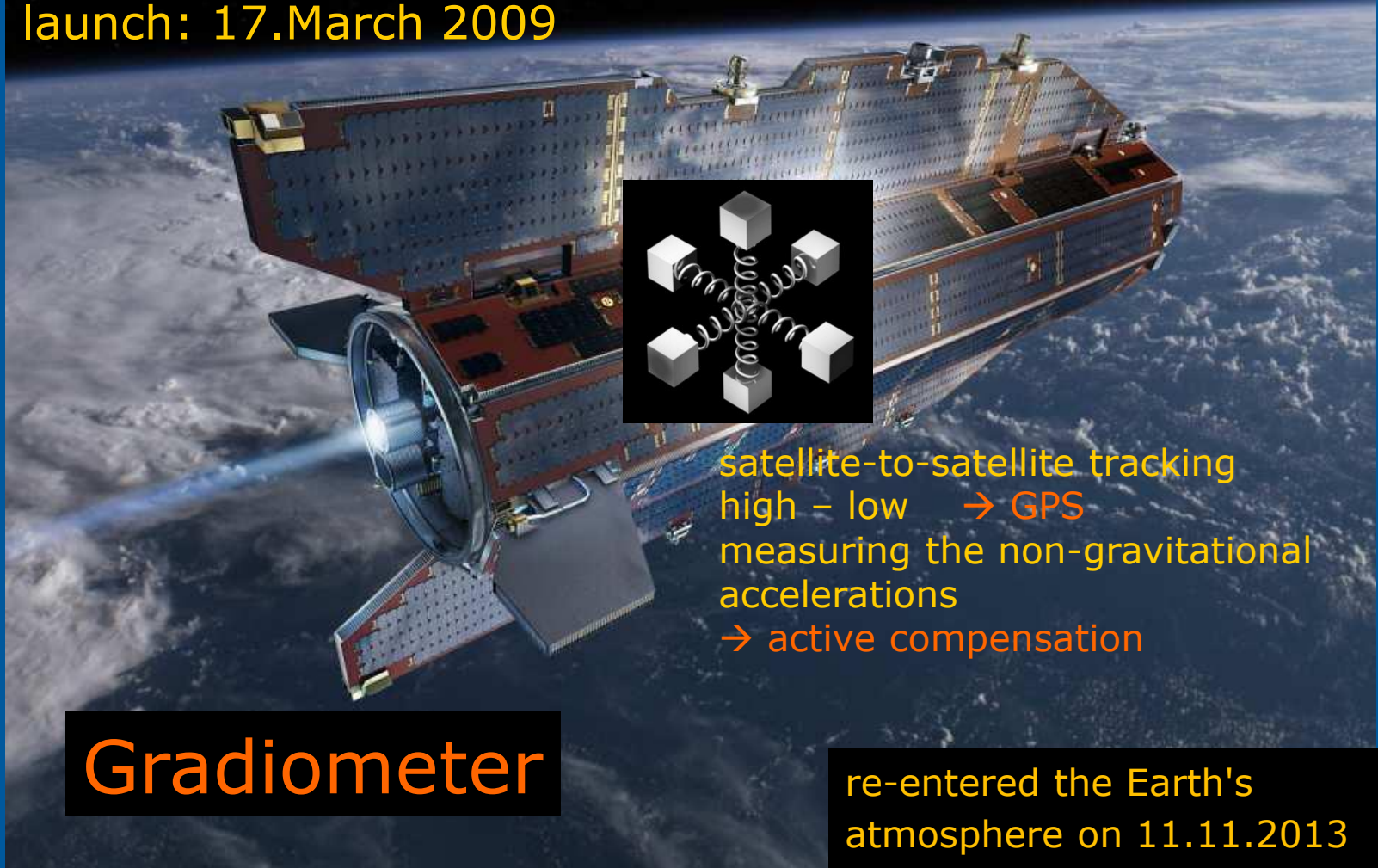


satellite-to-satellite tracking  
high - low → GPS  
low - low → microwaves  
K-band (1.13-1.67cm)

non-gravitational accelerations  
→ 3-d accelerometer

# GOCE

Gravity Field and Steady State Ocean Circulation Explorer  
launch: 17.March 2009



satellite-to-satellite tracking  
high – low → GPS  
measuring the non-gravitational  
accelerations  
→ active compensation

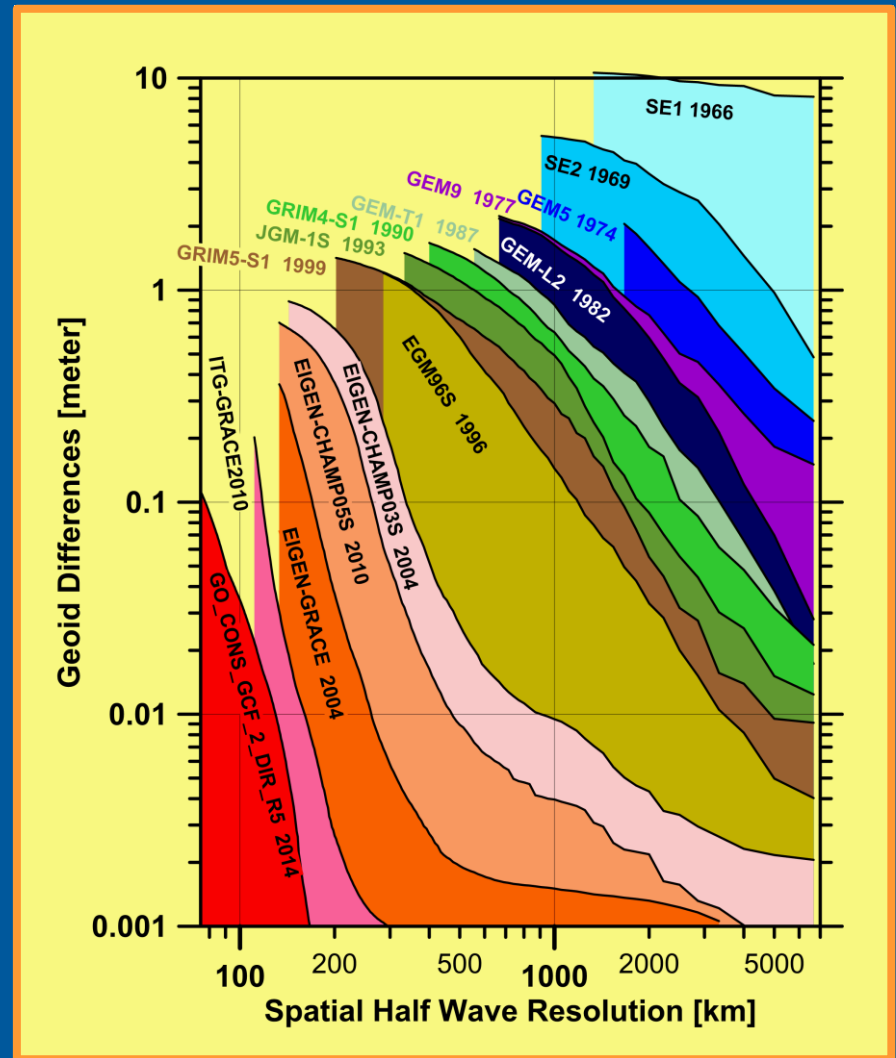
**Gradiometer**

re-entered the Earth's  
atmosphere on 11.11.2013

# Global Models – Improvement in History

Geoid differences of satellite-only models of the past to recent (“best”) combination solution as a function of spatial resolution

→ differences to  
**EIGEN-6C4**



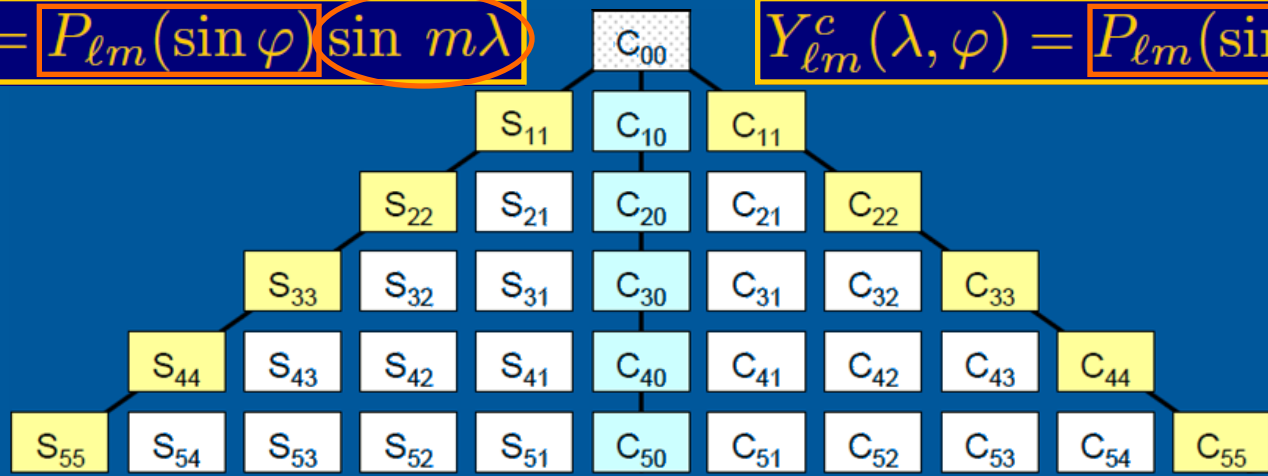
# Mathematical Representation

$$W_a(r, \lambda, \varphi) = \frac{GM}{r} \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{R}{r}\right)^\ell \sum_{m=0}^{\ell} [C_{\ell m} Y_{\ell m}^c(\lambda, \varphi) + S_{\ell m} Y_{\ell m}^s(\lambda, \varphi)]$$

$$Y_{\ell m}^s(\lambda, \varphi) = P_{\ell m}(\sin \varphi) \sin m\lambda$$

$$C_{00}$$

$$Y_{\ell m}^c(\lambda, \varphi) = P_{\ell m}(\sin \varphi) \cos m\lambda$$



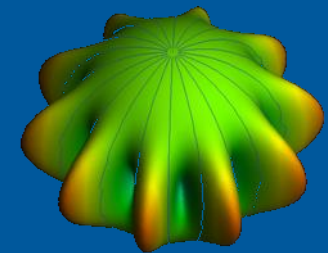
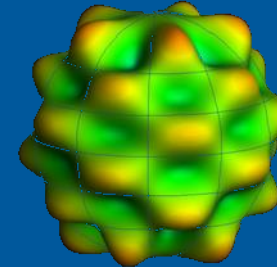
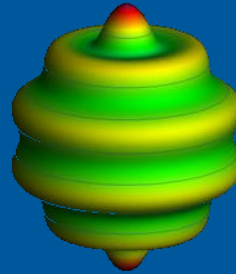
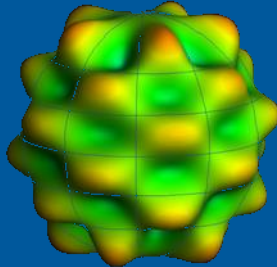
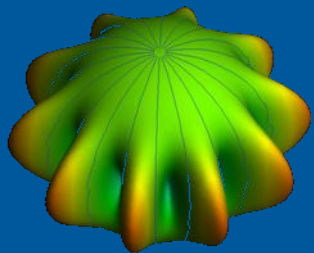
sectorial

tesseral

zonal

tesseral

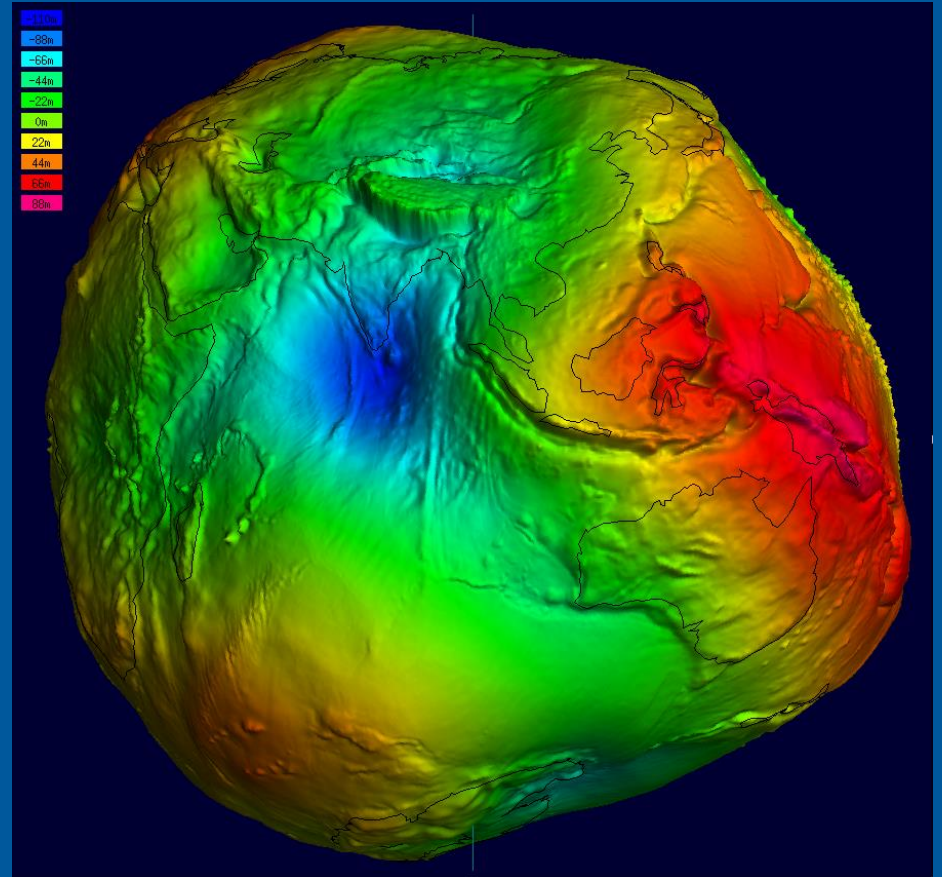
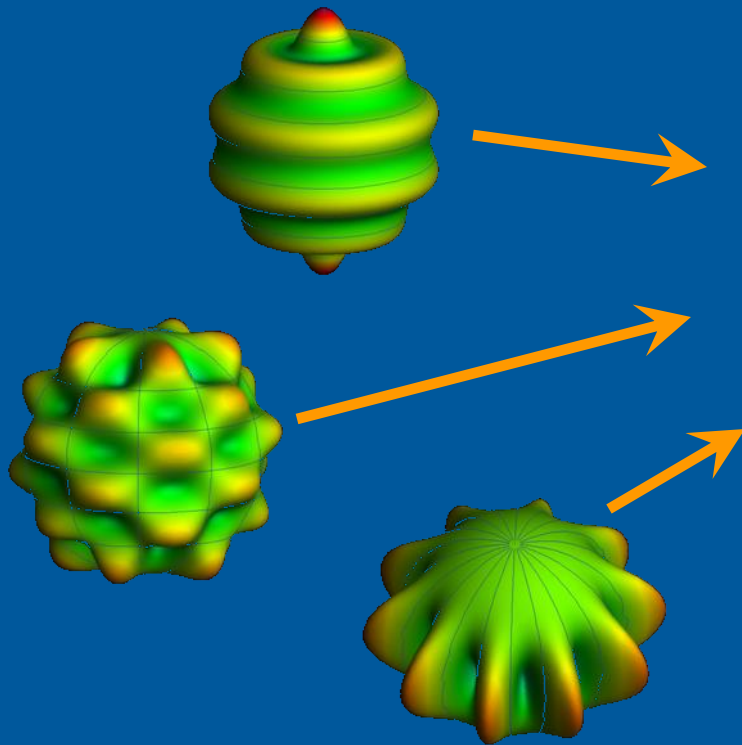
sectorial



# Mathematical Representation

$$W_a(r, \lambda, \varphi) \approx \frac{GM}{r} \sum_{\ell=0}^{\ell_{\max}} \left(\frac{R}{r}\right)^\ell \sum_{m=0}^{\ell} [C_{\ell m} Y_{\ell m}^c(\lambda, \varphi) + S_{\ell m} Y_{\ell m}^s(\lambda, \varphi)]$$

*spherical frequency domain*



# Resolution of Spherical Harmonics

Maximum Degree	Number of Coefficients	Resolution $\psi_{min}$			
		$\psi_{min}(\ell_{max}) \approx \frac{\pi R}{\ell_{max}}$		$\psi_{min}(\ell_{max}) = 4 \arcsin\left(\frac{1}{\ell_{max} + 1}\right)$	
$\ell_{max}$	N	[degree]	[km]	[degree]	[km]
2	9	90.0	10000.000	77.885	8653.876
5	36	36.000	4000.000	38.376	4264.030
10	121	18.000	2000.000	20.864	2318.182
15	256	12.000	1333.333	14.333	1592.587
30	961	6.000	666.667	7.394	821.587
36	1369	5.000	555.556	6.195	688.321
40	1681	4.500	500.000	5.590	621.154
45	2116	4.000	444.444	4.983	553.626
50	2601	3.600	400.000	4.494	499.342
75	5776	2.400	266.667	3.016	335.073
180	32761	1.000	111.111	1.266	140.690
360	130321	0.500	55.556	0.635	70.540
500	251001	0.360	40.000	0.457	50.828
1000	1002001	0.180	20.000	0.229	25.439
2000	4004001	0.090	10.000	0.115	12.726
2190	4800481	0.082	9.132	0.105	11.622

*number of coefficients*

$$(\ell_{max} + 1)^2$$

*divide the sphere into equareal pieces of size:  $A_{min}$*

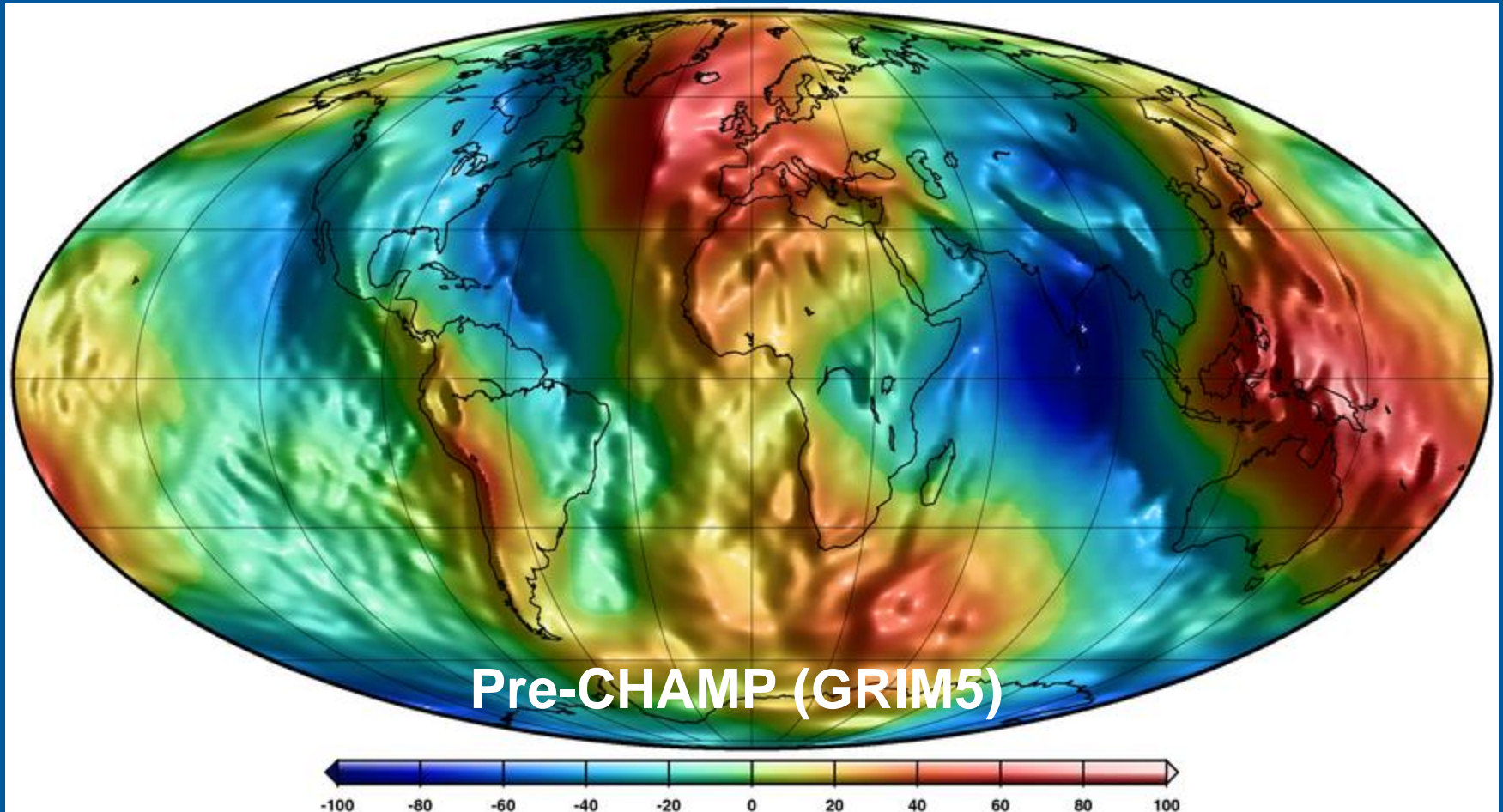
$$A_{min}(\ell_{max}) = \frac{4\pi R^2}{(\ell_{max} + 1)^2}$$

*diameter [degree] of spherical cap with  $A_{min}$*

$$4 \arcsin\left(\frac{1}{\ell_{max} + 1}\right)$$

# Improvement of the Global Models

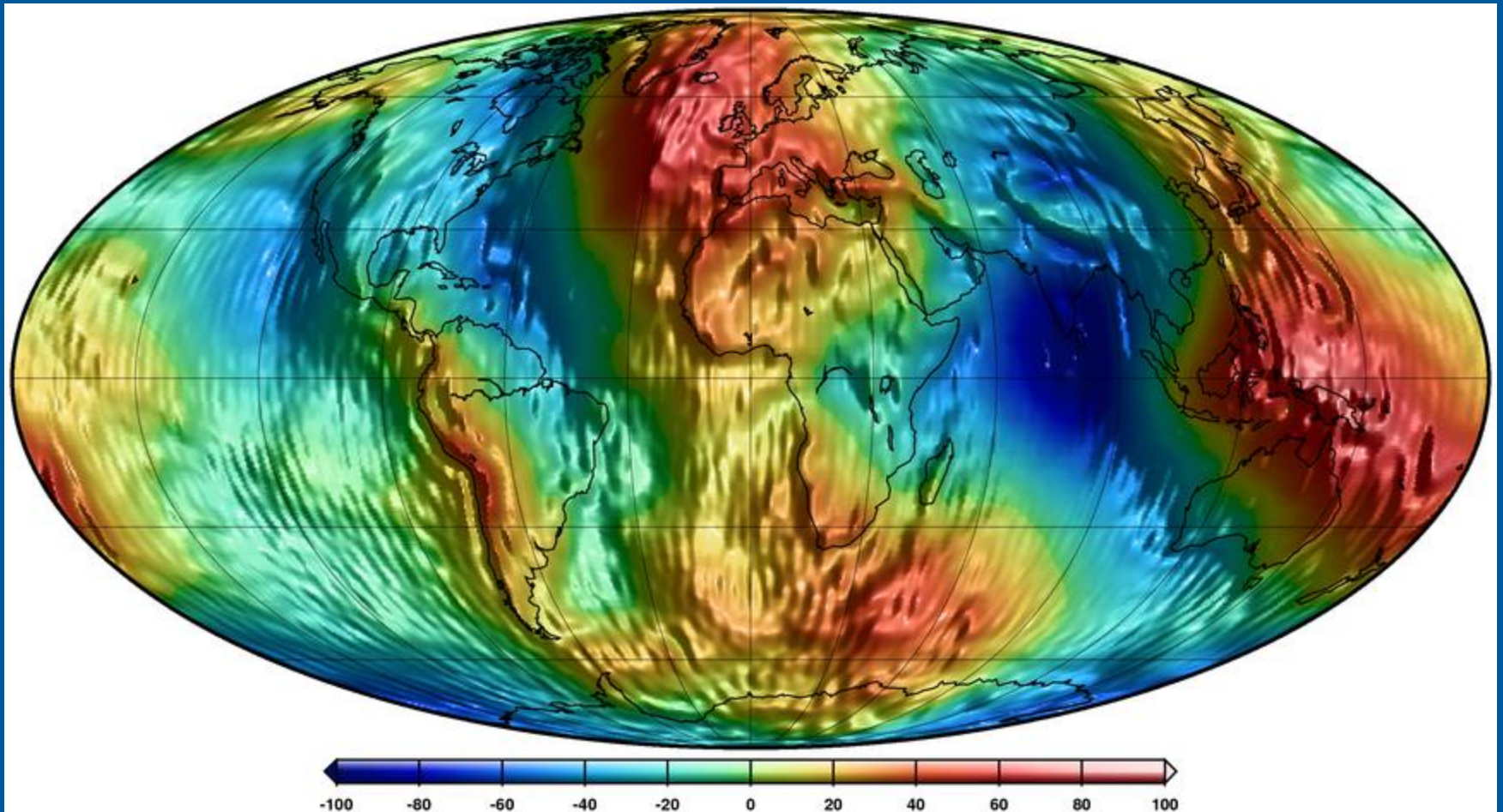
Geoid [m]



# Improvement of the Global Models

Geoid [m]

CHAMP 2004

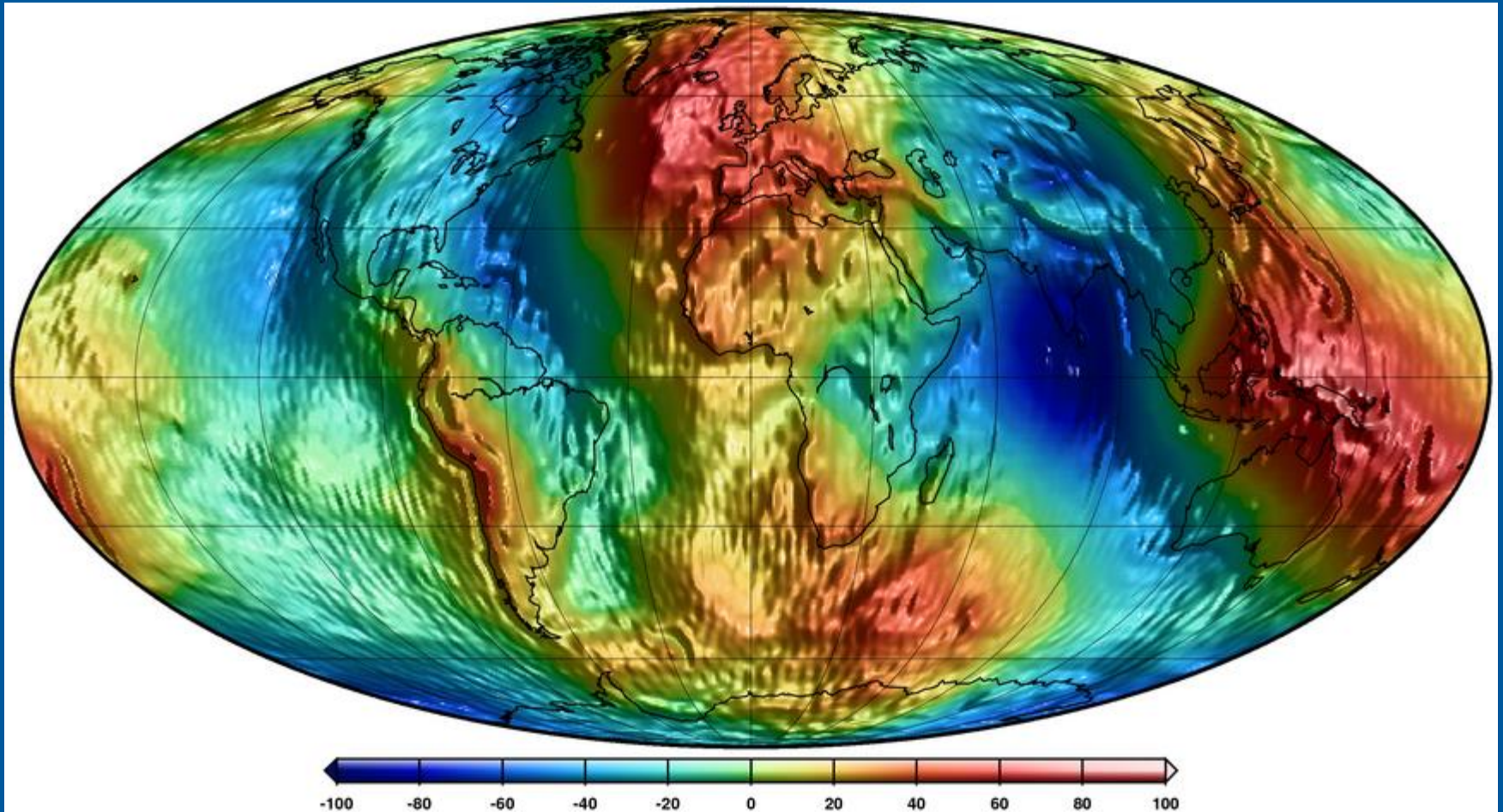




# Improvement of the Global Models

Geoid [m]

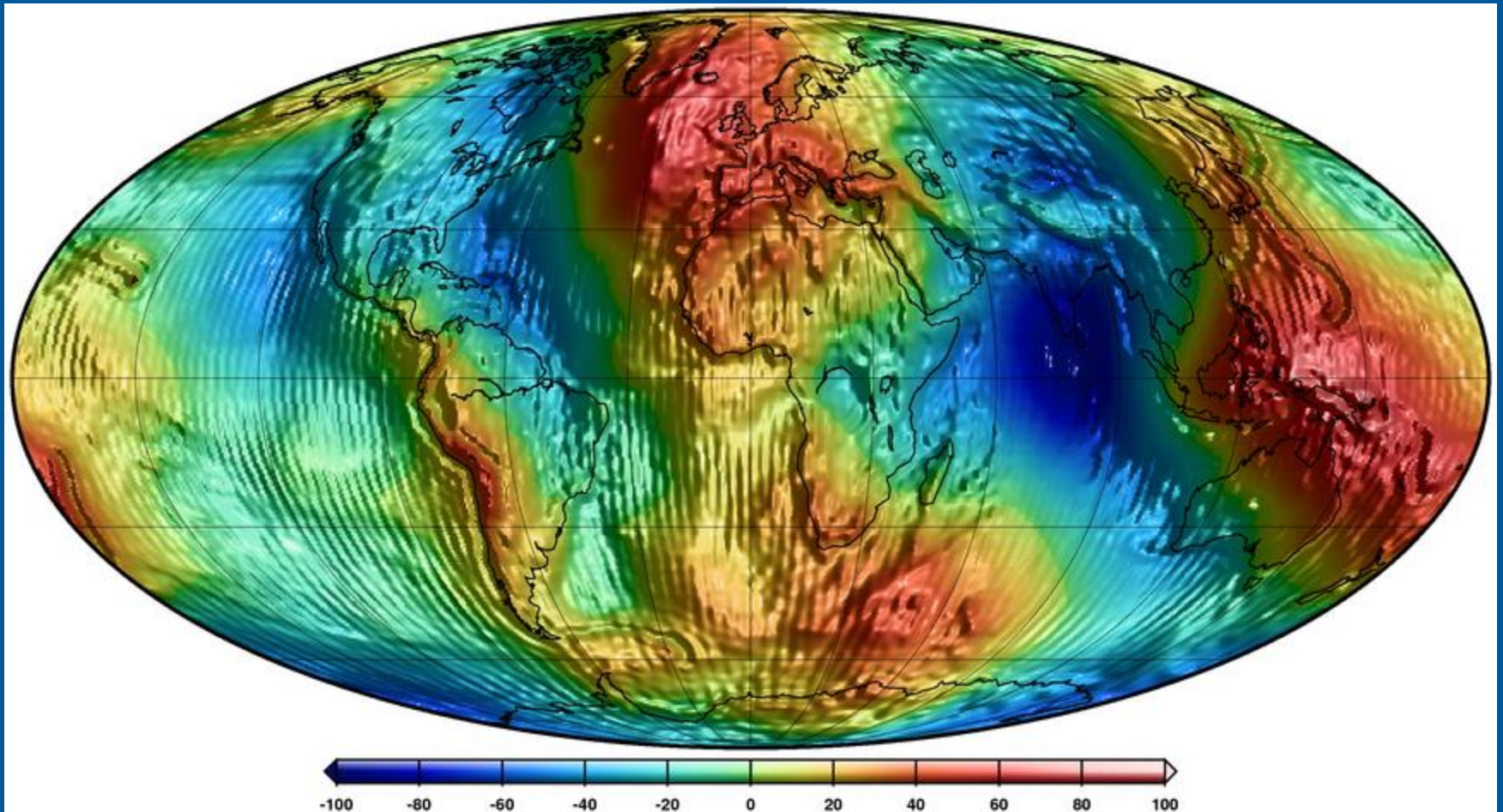
CHAMP 2010



# Improvement of the Global Models

Geoid [m]

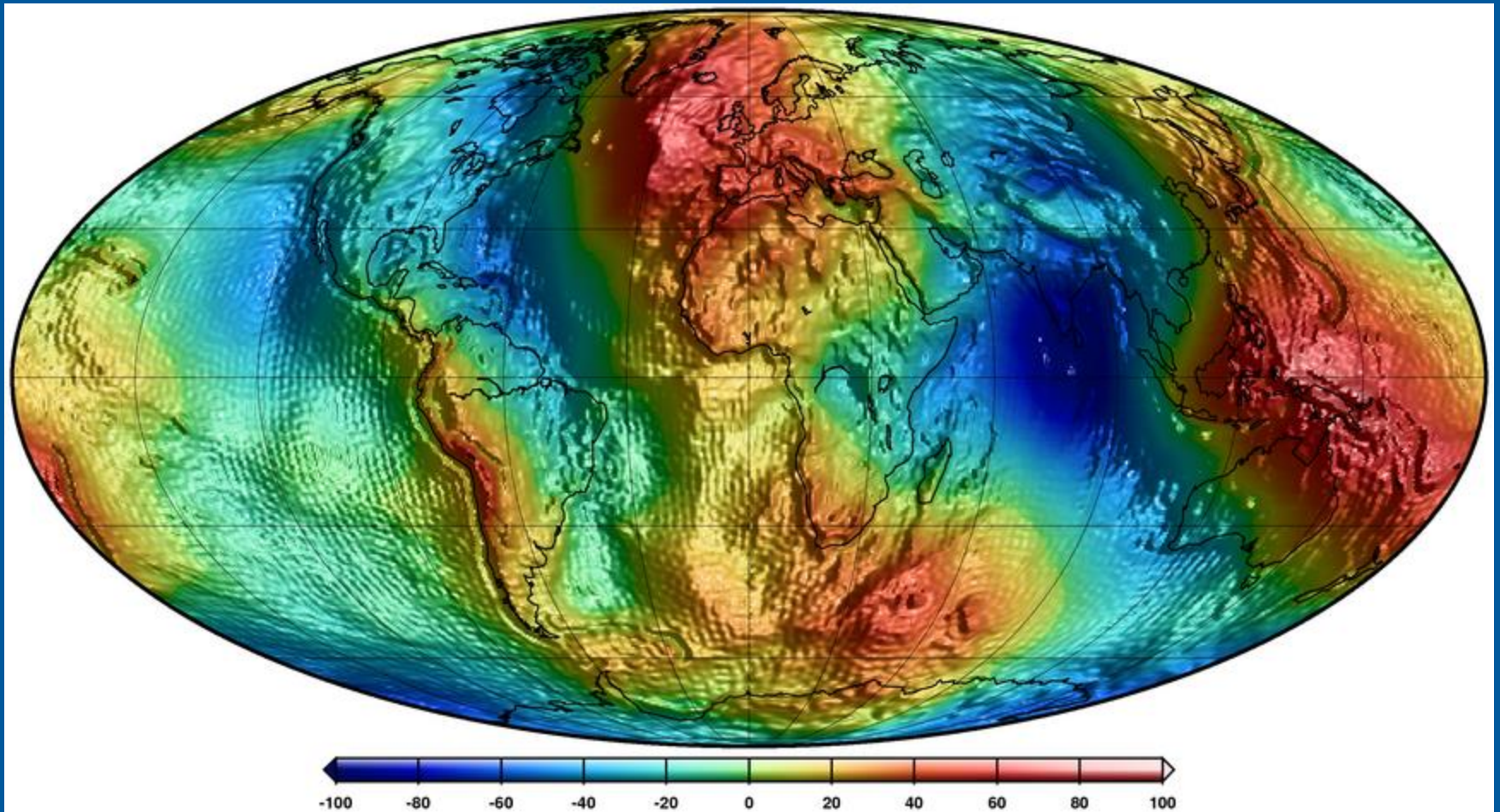
GRACE 2004



# Improvement of the Global Models

Geoid [m]

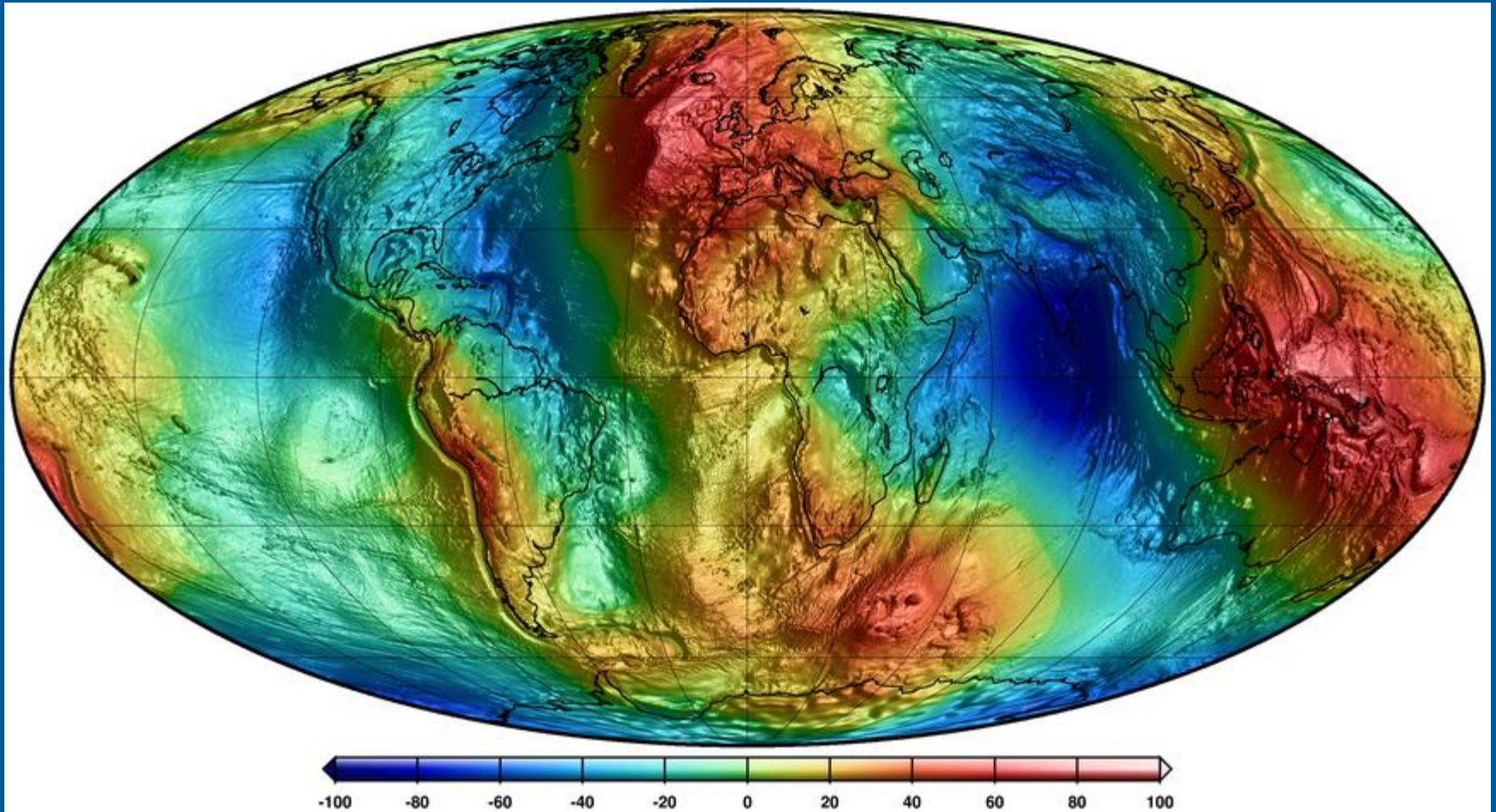
GRACE 2010



# Improvement of the Global Models

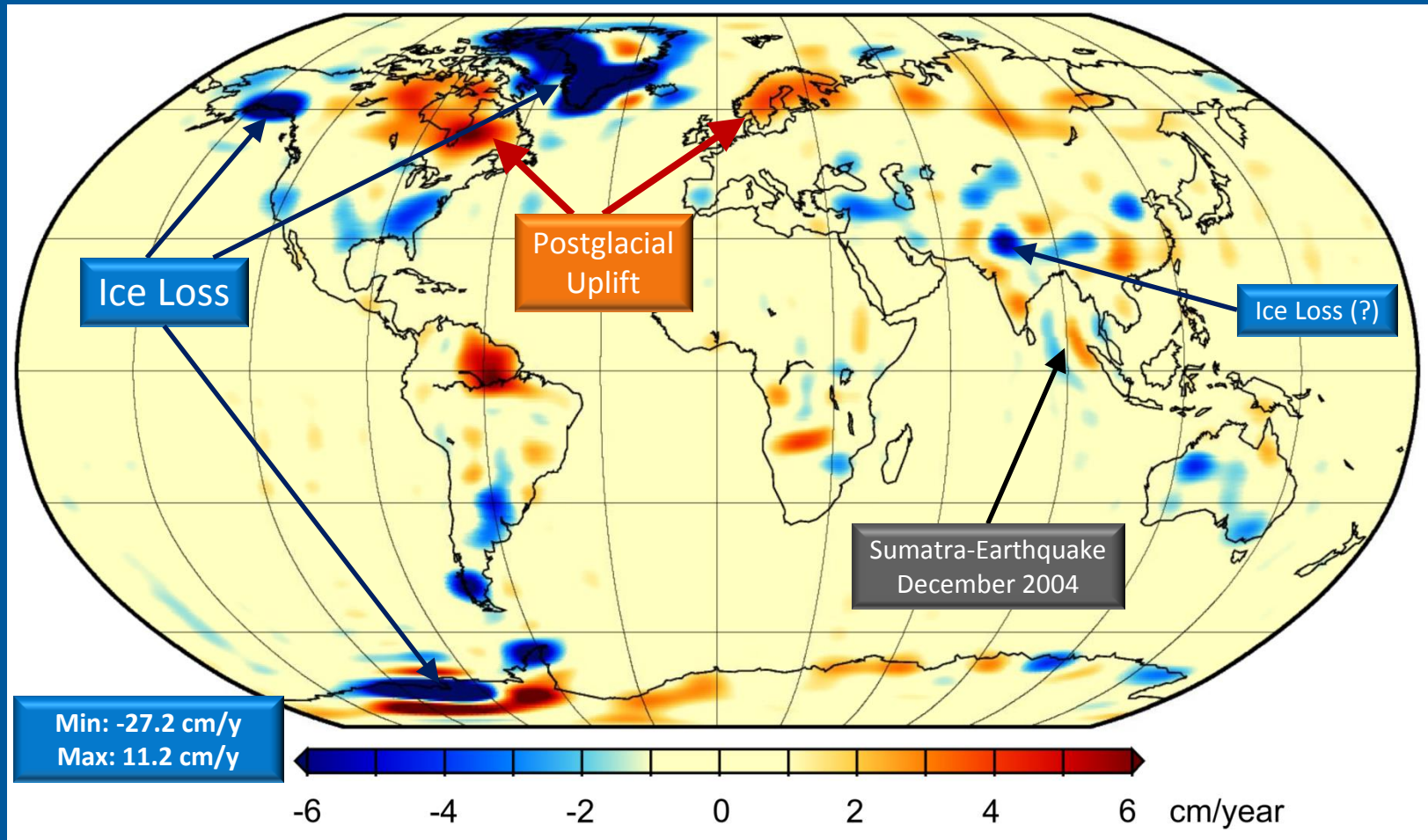
Geoid [m]

GRACE + GOCE + surface data



# Change in Gravity Field from GRACE

Linear Trend from the model EIGEN-6 (time span: 1 Jan 2003 till 30 June 2009)  
Geoid  $\rightarrow$  Equivalent Water Height (cm/year)



# ICGEM – A Service of the IAG



Commission 2 "Gravity Field"

IGFS - International Gravity Field Service

**BGI**

International  
Gravity Bureau  
CNES Toulouse

**IGeS**

International  
Geoid Service  
Polimi Milano

**ICET**

International  
Centre for  
Earth Tides  
U.F. Polynesia

**ICGEM**

International  
Centre for  
Global  
Earth Models

**IDEMS**

International  
DEM Service  
DeMontfort UK

**IGFS**

Technical  
Centre  
NGA

Since 2003

# Objectives / Status of ICGEM

- **collecting and archiving** of all existing global gravity field models
- making them **available on the web**
- use of **standardised format** (self-explanatory) ( → accepted for GOCE / ESA)
- **interactive visualisation** of the models, their differences, and their time variation
- web-interface to **calculate different gravity field functionals** from the spherical harmonic models on freely selectable grids (filtering included)
- evaluation of the models ( → differences in the frequency domain, comparison with GPS/levelling)
- answering of questions (online discussion forum / guest book)

# Table of available Models

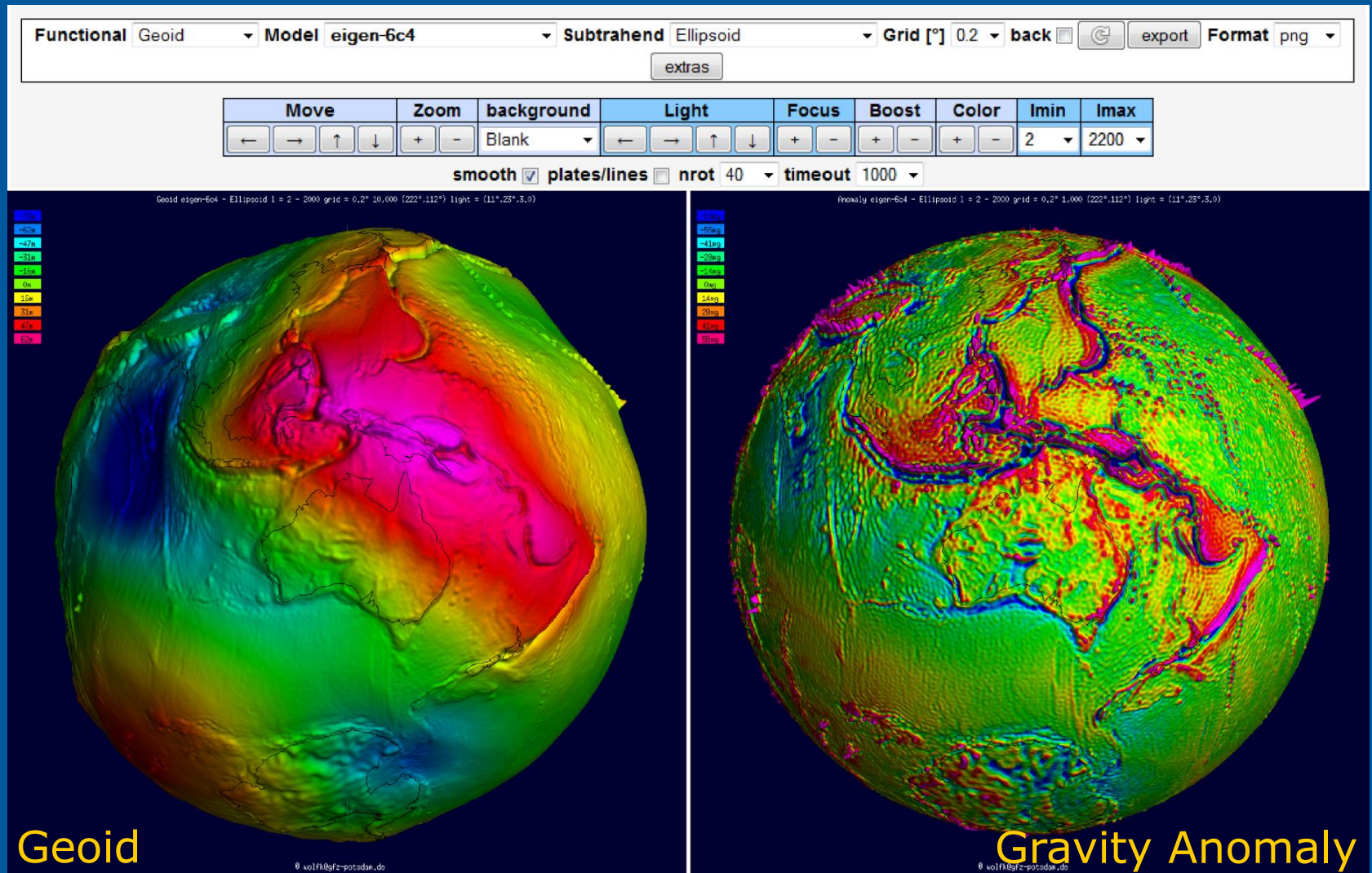
Nr ▲	Model ¶	Year ¶	Degree ¶	Data ¶	Reference ¶	download	calculate	show
150	GOCO05s	2015	280	S(see model)	Mayer-Gürr, et al. 2015	<a href="#">gfc</a> <a href="#">zip</a>	<a href="#">calculate</a>	<a href="#">show</a>
149	GO_CONS_GCF_2_SPW_R4	2014	280	S(Goce)	Gatti et al, 2014	<a href="#">gfc</a> <a href="#">zip</a>	<a href="#">calculate</a>	<a href="#">show</a>
148	EIGEN-6C4	2014	2190	S(Goce,Grace,Lageos),G,A	Förste et al, 2014	<a href="#">gfc</a> <a href="#">zip</a>	<a href="#">calculate</a>	<a href="#">show</a>
147	ITSG-Grace2014s	2014	200	S(Grace)	Mayer-Gürr et al, 2014	<a href="#">gfc</a> <a href="#">zip</a>	<a href="#">calculate</a>	<a href="#">show</a>
146	ITSG-Grace2014k	2014	200	S(Grace)	Mayer-Gürr et al, 2014	<a href="#">gfc</a> <a href="#">zip</a>	<a href="#">calculate</a>	<a href="#">show</a>
145	GO_CONS_GCF_2_TIM_R5	2014	280	S(Goce)	Brockmann et al, 2014	<a href="#">gfc</a> <a href="#">zip</a>	<a href="#">calculate</a>	<a href="#">show</a>
144	GO_CONS_GCF_2_DIR_R5	2014	300	S(Goce,Grace,Lageos)	Bruinsma et al, 2013	<a href="#">gfc</a> <a href="#">zip</a>	<a href="#">calculate</a>	<a href="#">show</a>
143	JYY_GOCE04S	2014	230	S(Goce)	Yi et al, 2013	<a href="#">gfc</a> <a href="#">zip</a>	<a href="#">calculate</a>	<a href="#">show</a>
142	GOGRA04S	2014	230	S(Goce,Grace)	Yi et al, 2013	<a href="#">gfc</a> <a href="#">zip</a>	<a href="#">calculate</a>	<a href="#">show</a>
141	EIGEN-6S2	2014	260	S(Goce,Grace,Lageos)	Rudenko et al. 2014	<a href="#">gfc</a> <a href="#">zip</a>	<a href="#">calculate</a>	<a href="#">show</a>
140	GGM05S	2014	180	S(Grace)	Tapley et al, 2013	<a href="#">gfc</a> <a href="#">zip</a>	<a href="#">calculate</a>	<a href="#">show</a>



8	GEM2	1972	16	S,G	Lerch et al, 1972a	<a href="#">gfc</a>	<a href="#">calculate</a>	<a href="#">show</a>
7	GEM1	1972	12	S	Lerch et al, 1972a	<a href="#">gfc</a>	<a href="#">calculate</a>	<a href="#">show</a>
6	KOCH71	1971	11	S,G	Koch and Witte, 1971	<a href="#">gfc</a>	<a href="#">calculate</a>	<a href="#">show</a>
5	KOCH70	1970	8	S,G	Koch and Morrison, 1970	<a href="#">gfc</a>	<a href="#">calculate</a>	<a href="#">show</a>
4	SE2	1969	22	S,G	Gaposchkin and Lambeck, 1970	<a href="#">gfc</a>	<a href="#">calculate</a>	<a href="#">show</a>
3	OSU68	1968	14	S,G	Rapp, 1968	<a href="#">gfc</a>	<a href="#">calculate</a>	<a href="#">show</a>
2	WGS66	1966	24	G	WGS Committee, 1966	<a href="#">gfc</a>	<a href="#">calculate</a>	<a href="#">show</a>
1	SE1	1966	15	S	Lundquist and Veis, 1966	<a href="#">gfc</a>	<a href="#">calculate</a>	<a href="#">show</a>



# Interactive Visualisation Service



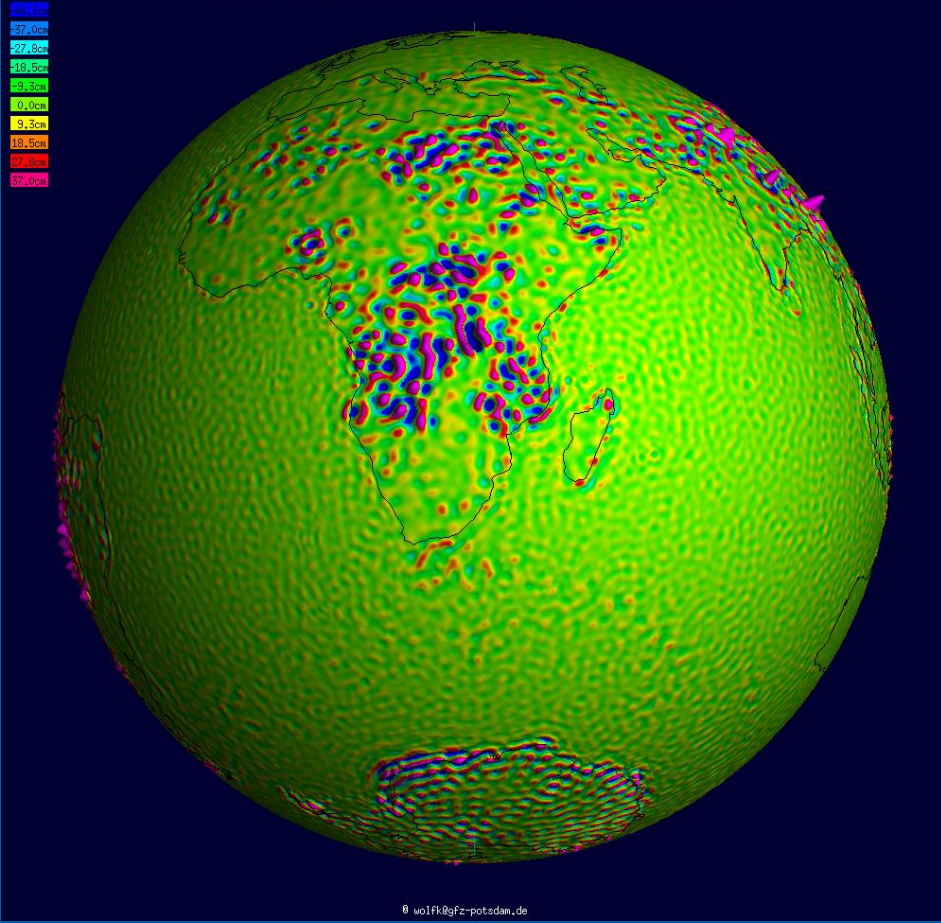
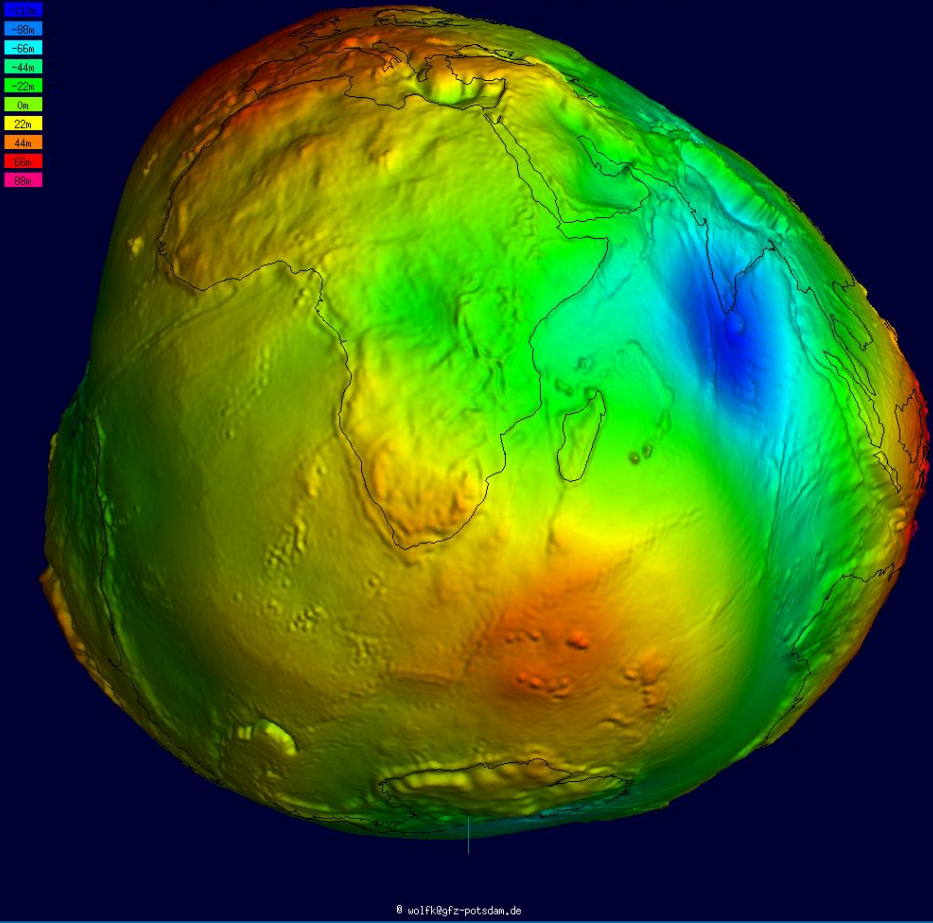
# Interactive Visualisation Service

## Geoid

## Differences of 2 Models

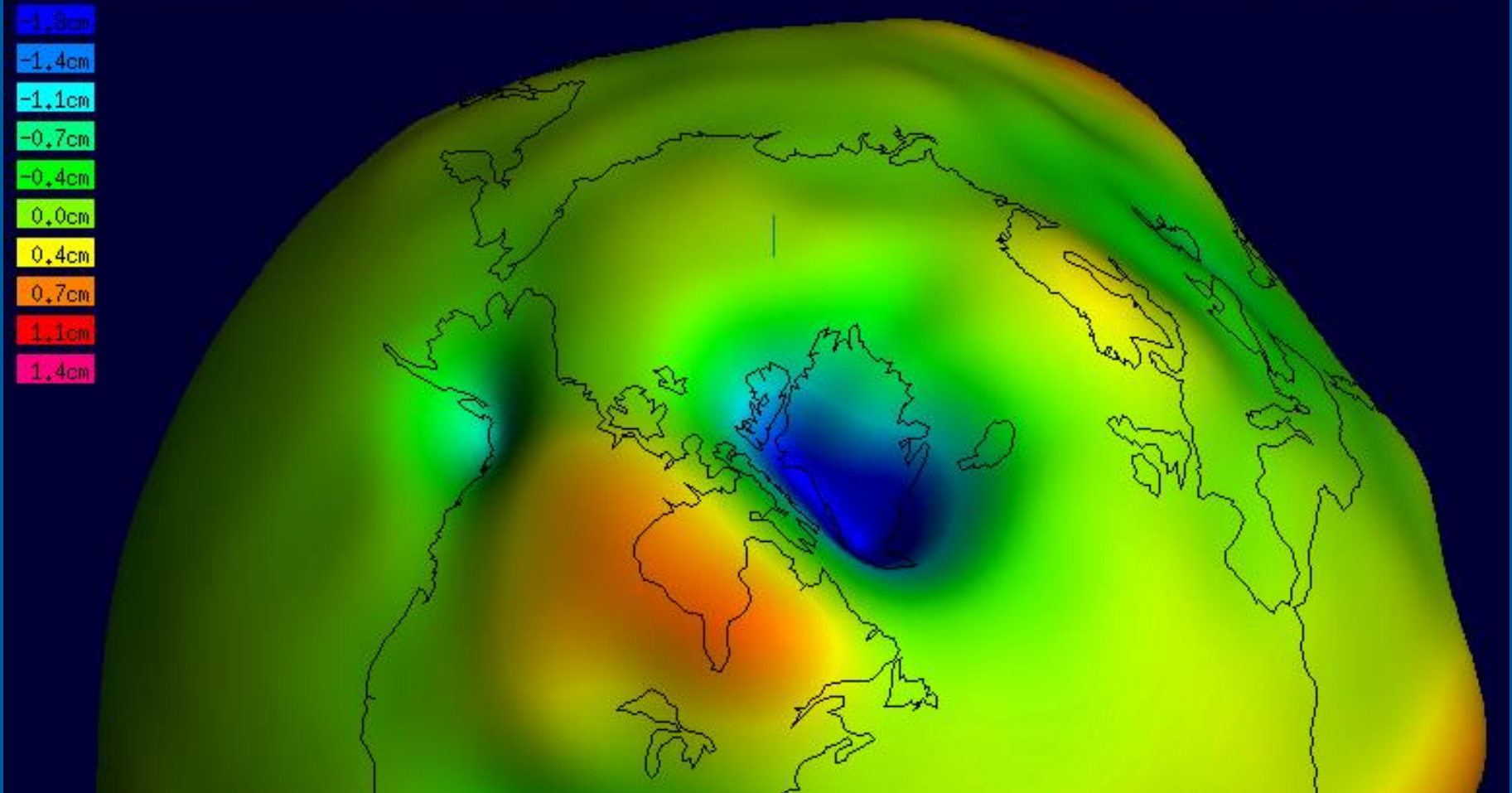
Geoid eigen-6c4 - Ellipsoid 1 = 2 - 720 grid = 0.2° 10,000 (120°,112°) light = (11°,23°,3,0)

Geoid eigen-6c4 - egn2008 1 = 2 - 720 grid = 0.2° 80,000 (120°,112°) light = (11°,23°,3,0)



# Visualisation of Monthly Solutions

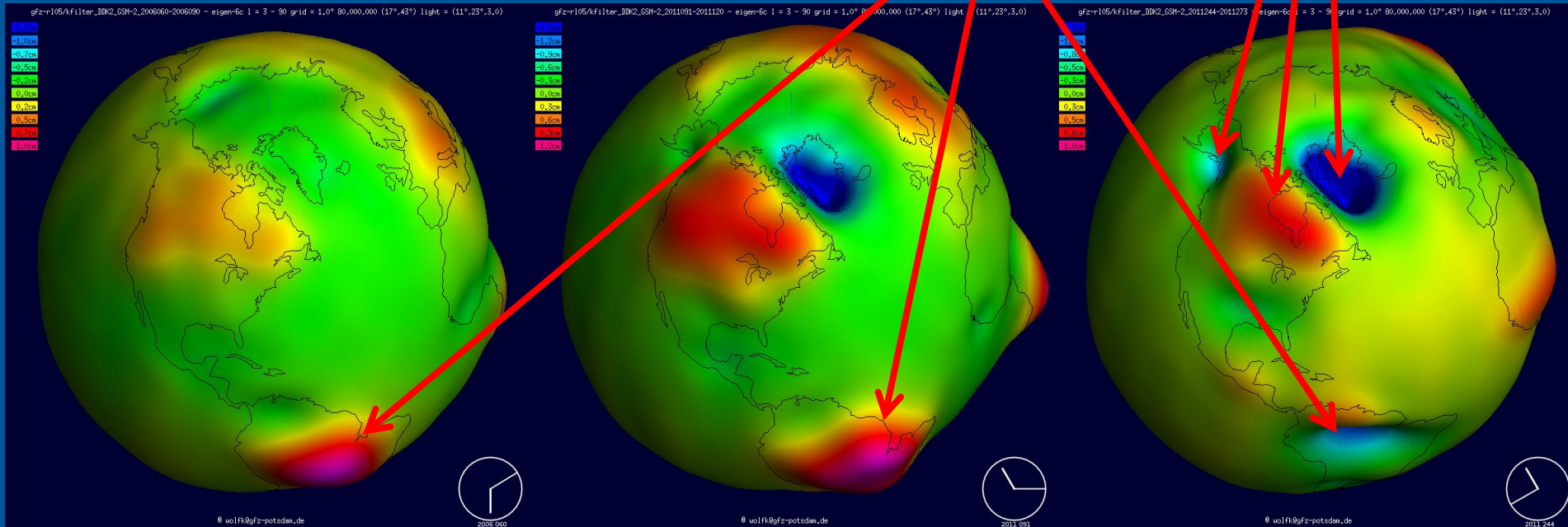
gfz-r105/kfilter\_DDK2\_GSM-2\_2011244-2011273 - eigen-6c l = 3 - 90 grid = 1,0° 80,000,000 (17°,43°) light = (11°,23°,3,0)



# Visualisation of Monthly Solutions

annual

Trends



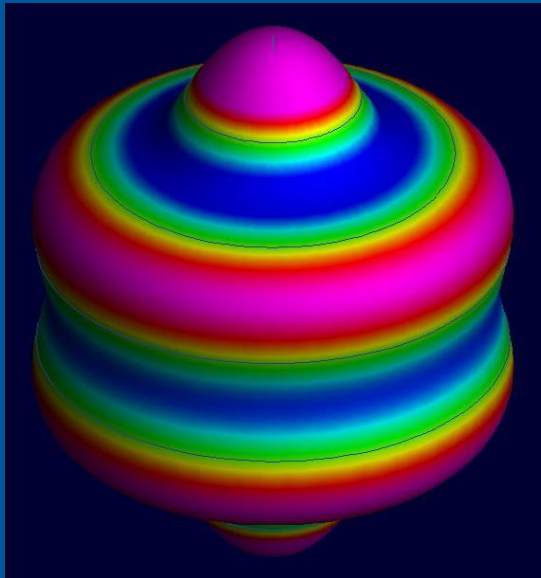
March 2006

March 2011

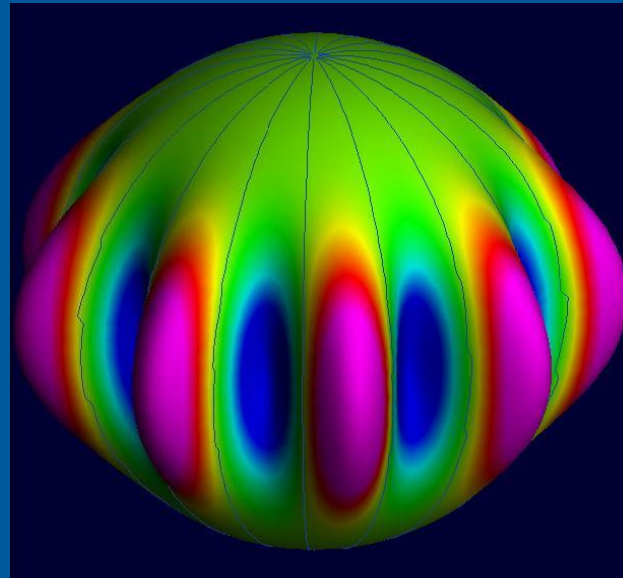
July 2011

# Interactive Visualisation Service

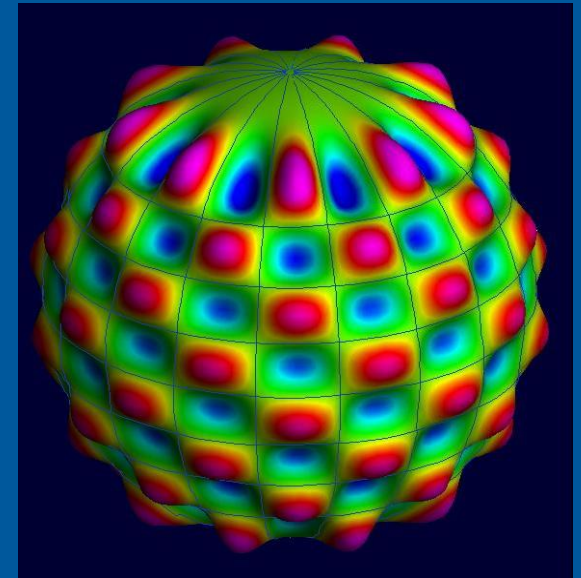
## Spherical Harmonics as Tutorial



zonal:  $\ell = 6, m = 0$

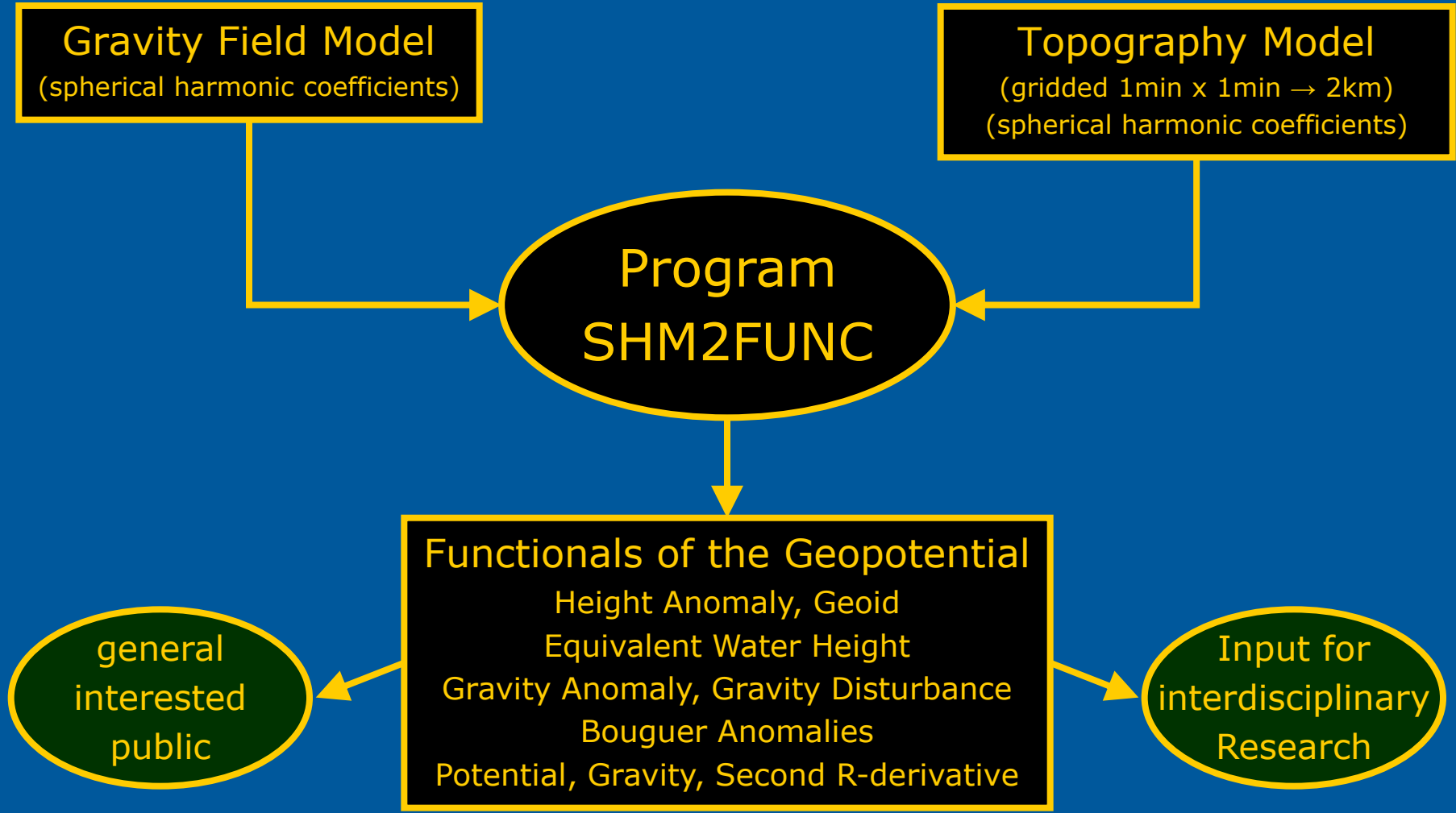


sectorial:  $\ell = 9, m = 9$

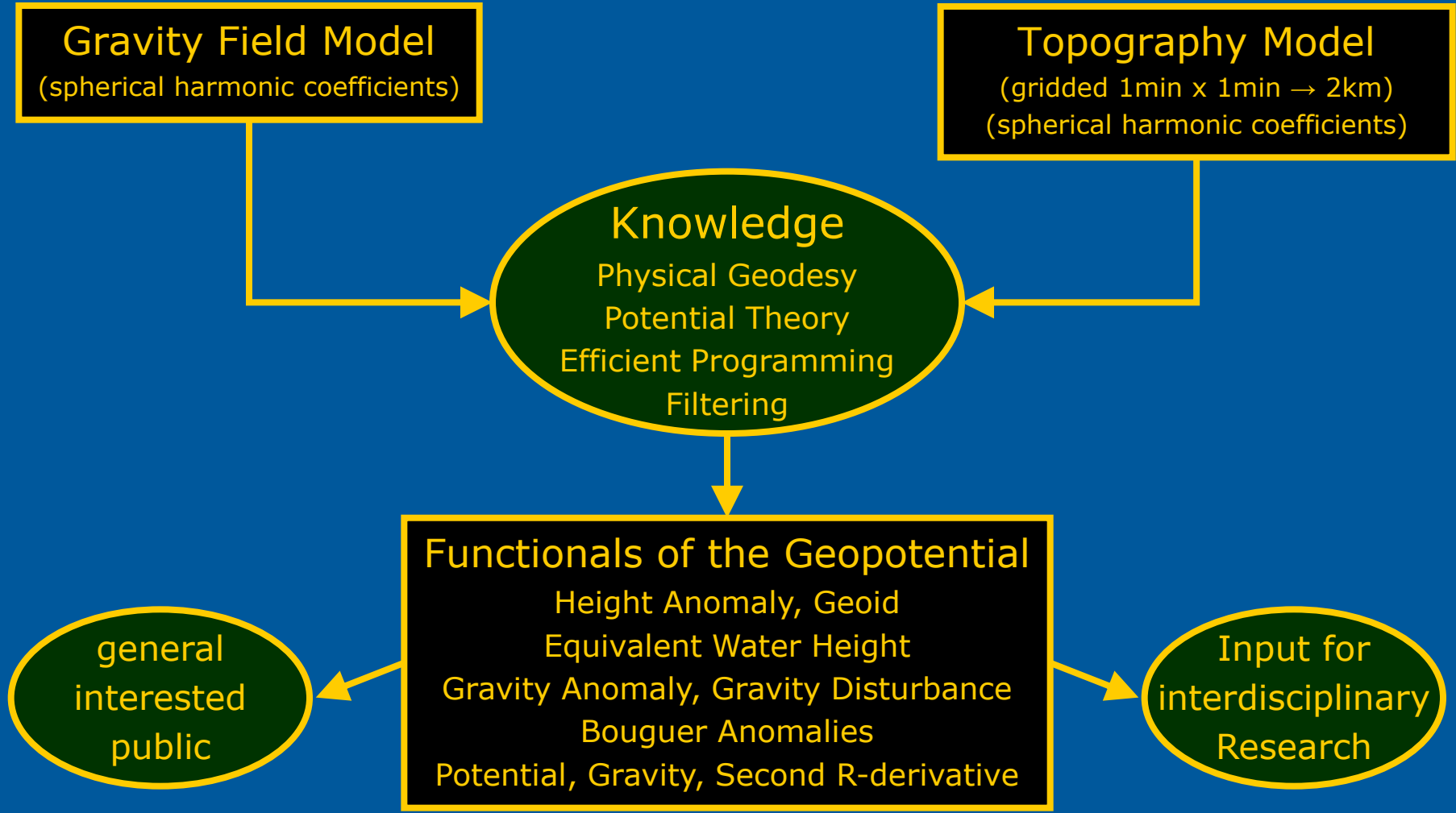


tesseral:  $\ell = 16, m = 9$

# Calculation Service



# Calculation Service



# Calculation Service

## Web-Interface

**Model and Reference Selection**

Reference System  **Reference System**

Model Directory  **Model**

Model File  **Functional**

Functional  **Functional**

Tide System

Zero Degree Term

**Grid Selection**

Grid Step [°]  **Grid Density**

Longitude Limit West [°]

Longitude Limit East [°]  **Grid Area**

Latitude Limit South [°]

Latitude Limit North [°]

Height over Ellipsoid [m]

**Truncation**

Maximal Degree  **Truncation**

Start Gentle Cut

**Gaussian Filtering**

Filter Type Definition  **Filtering**

Filter Length in Degree [°]

Filter Length in Meter [m]

Image-File  Illumination

functional 'height\_anomaly\_ell' for 'eigen-6c4' with 6,485,401 grid points (est. comp. time ≈ 1611 sec)

Grids and Plots



# Calculation Service

## available functionals

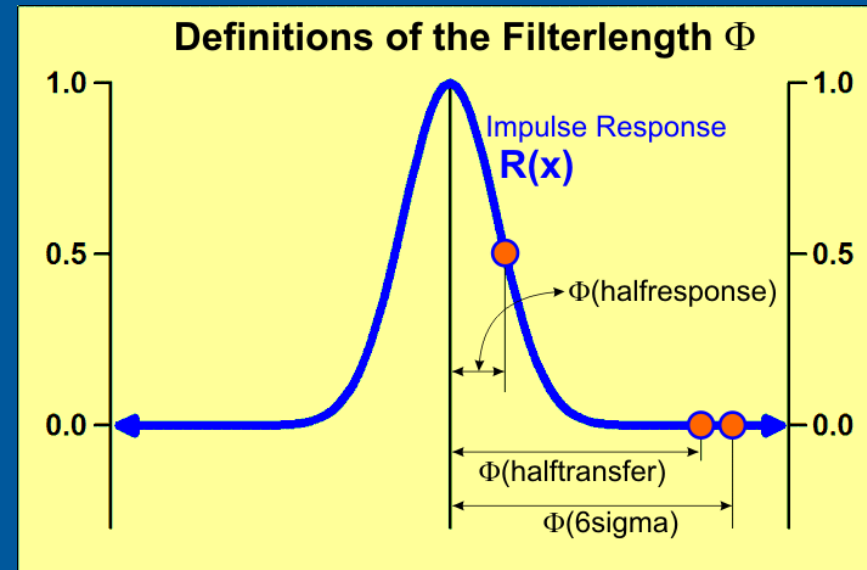
- height anomaly (on the Earth's surface, on the ellipsoid)
- geoid undulation
- gravity anomaly (Molodensky, classical  $\approx$  free air, spherical approximation, Bouguer)
- gravity disturbance (on the Earth' surface, spherical approximation)
- gravity (on the Earth' surface, on or above the ellipsoid)
- gravitation (on or above the ellipsoid)
- second radial derivative (on or above the ellipsoid)
- equivalent water height (including elastic deformation)
- potential (on or above the ellipsoid)

# Calculation Service

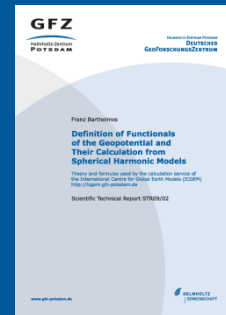
## Explanation of the Functionals

keyword	explanation
height_anomaly	The so called "height anomaly" is an approximation of the geoid according to Molodensky's theory. It is equal to the geoid over sea. Here it will be calculated, as defined, on the Earth's surface approximated by Bruns' formula on the ellipsoid plus a first order correction (eqs. 81 and 119 of STR09/02).
height_anomaly_ell	The height anomaly can be generalised to a 3-d function, (sometimes called "generalised pseudo-height-anomaly"). Here it can be calculated on ( $h=0$ ) or above ( $h>0$ ) the ellipsoid, approximated by Bruns' formula (eqs. 78 and 118 of STR09/02).
geoid	The Geoid is one particular equipotential surface of the gravity potential of the Earth. Among all equipotential surfaces, the geoid is those which is equal to the undisturbed sea surface and its continuation below the continents. Here it will be approximated by the height anomaly plus a topography dependent correction term (eqs. 71 and 117 of STR09/02).
gravity_disturbance	The gravity disturbance is defined as the magnitude of the gradient of the potential at a given point minus the magnitude of the gradient of the normal potential at the same point. Here it will be calculated on the Earth's surface (eqs. 87 and 121 – 124 of STR09/02).
gravity_disturbance_sa	The gravity disturbance calculated by spherical approximation (eqs. 92 and 125 of STR09/02) on ( $h=0$ ) or above ( $h>0$ ) the ellipsoid.
gravity_anomaly	The gravity anomaly (according to Molodensky's theory) is defined as the magnitude of the gradient of the potential on the Earth's surface minus the magnitude of the gradient of the normal potential on the Telluroid (Earth's surface minus height anomaly) (eqs. 101 and 121 – 124 of STR09/02).
gravity_anomaly_cl	The classical gravity anomaly is defined as the magnitude of the gradient of the downward continued potential on the geoid minus the magnitude of the gradient

## Explanation of the Filtering



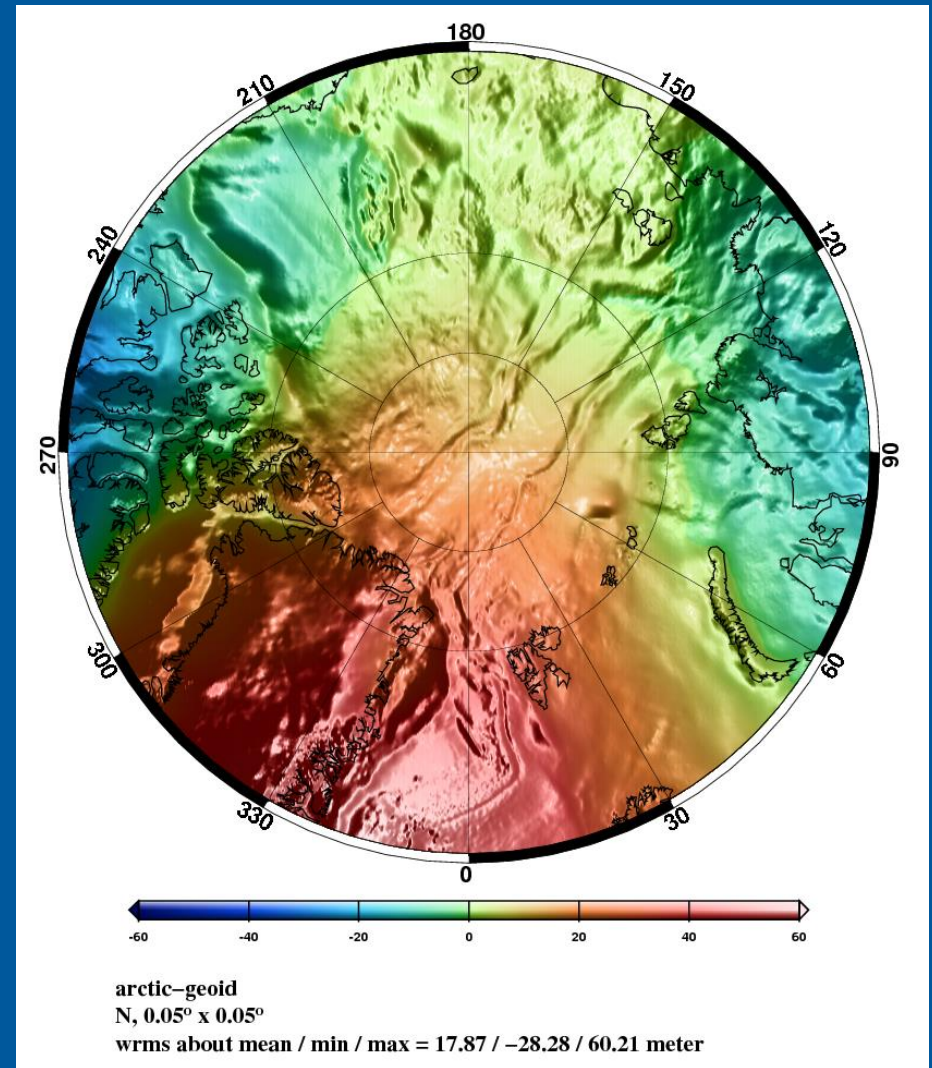
Theory and Formulas  
 → Link to: Report STR09/02



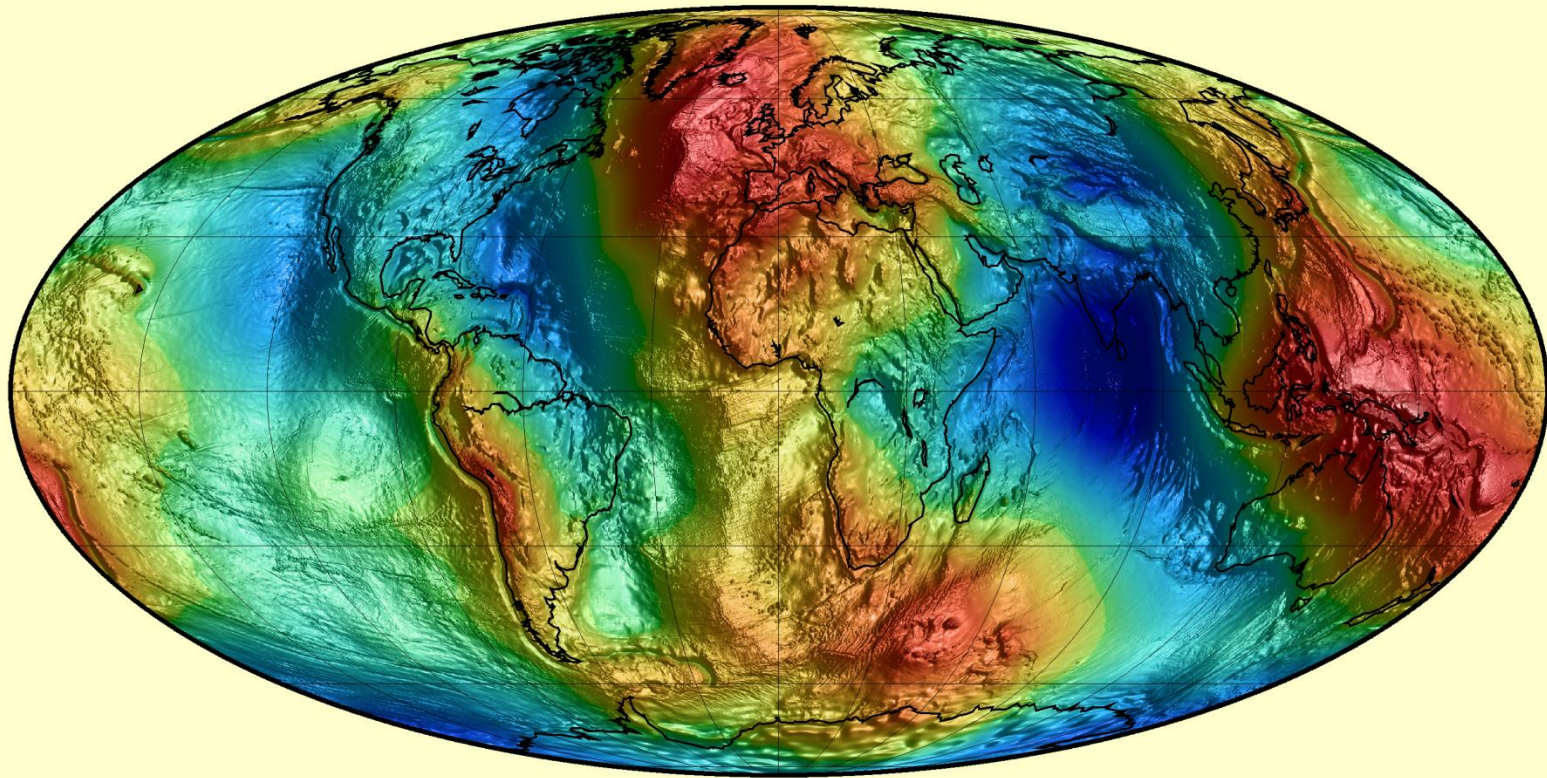
# Calculation Service

## Calculation of downloadable Grids

- freely selectable grid areas
- automatic generation of plots

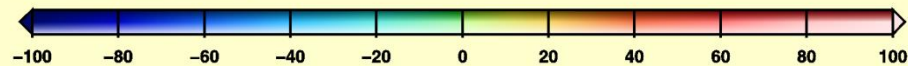


# Calculation Service



eigen-6c2  
N, 0.1° x 0.1°

wrms about mean / min / max = 30.59 / -106.5 / 86.38 meter

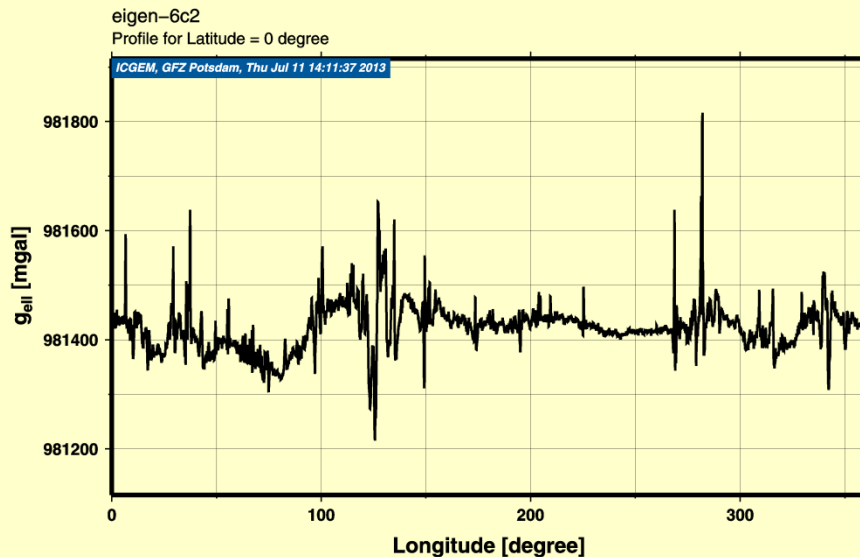


ICGEM, GFZ Potsdam, Thu Jul 11 09:23:59 2013

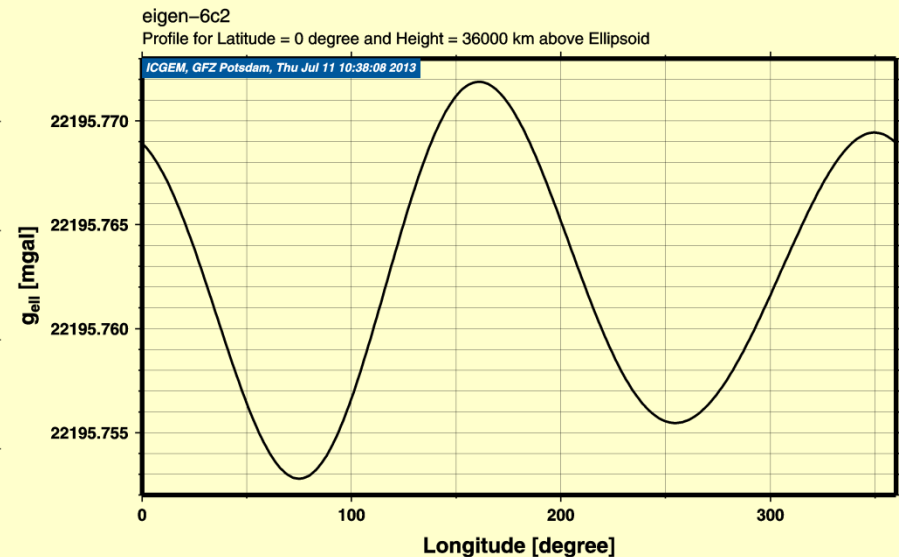
# Calculation Service

## Cross Sections (here: gravitation on and above the ellipsoid)

Cross Section along Latitude



Cross Section along Latitude



# Evaluation of the Models

Comparisons in the spectral domain

→ plot for each model

## GO\_CONS\_GCF\_2\_DIR\_R4 spectral comparison with the model EIGEN-6C2

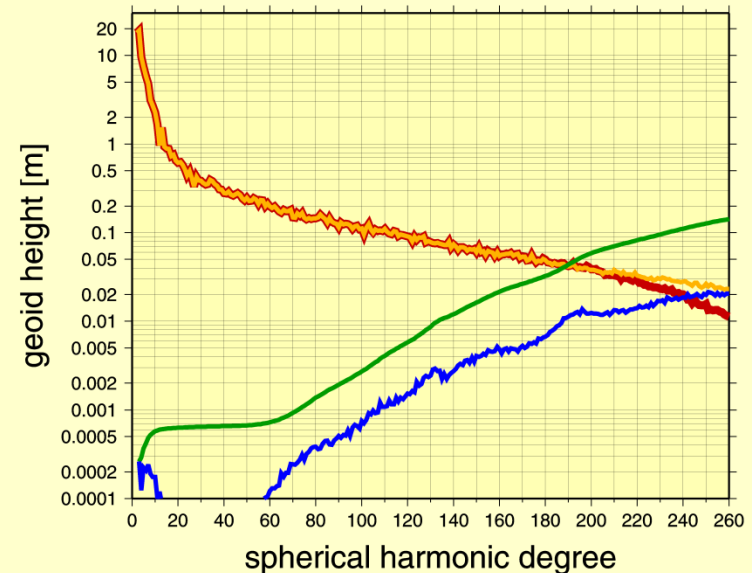
The graphs show:

Signal amplitudes per degree of GO\_CONS\_GCF\_2\_DIR\_R4

Signal amplitudes per degree of EIGEN-6C2

Difference amplitudes per degree of  
GO\_CONS\_GCF\_2\_DIR\_R4 vs. EIGEN-6C2

Difference amplitudes as a function of maximum degree of  
GO\_CONS\_GCF\_2\_DIR\_R4 vs. EIGEN-6C2



# Evaluation of the Models

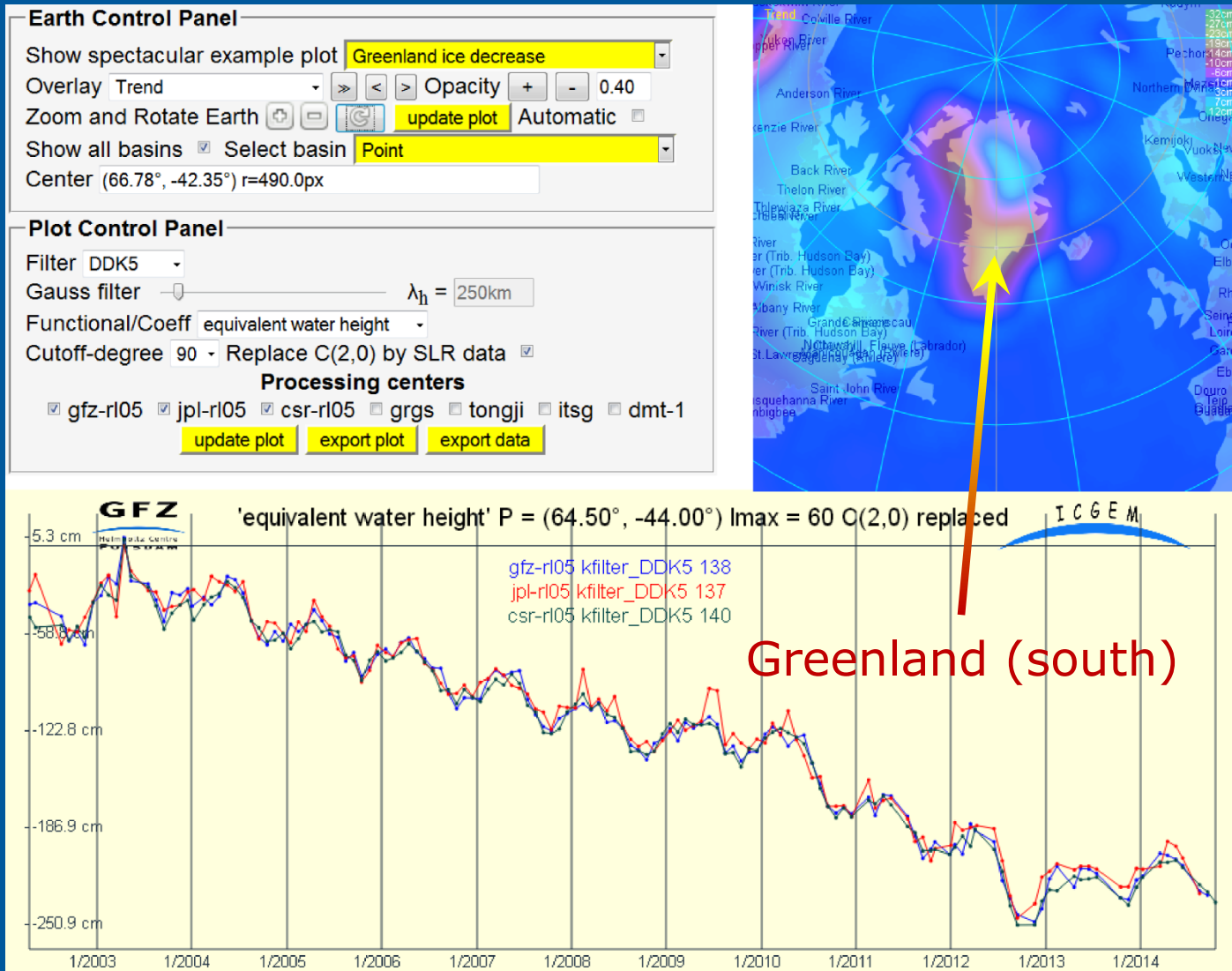
## Comparisons with GPS-levelling data

The table is interactively re-sortable for all columns by clicking in the header cells.

Nr▲	Model †	Nmax †	USA † 6169 points	Canada † 2691 points	Europe † 1235 points	Australia † 201 points	Japan † 816 points	Brazil † 1112 points	All † 12224 points
136	GOCO05S	280	0.399 m	0.308 m	0.372 m	0.335 m	0.450 m	0.505 m	0.3921 m
135	GO_CONS_GCF_2_SPW_R4	280	0.406 m	0.330 m	0.394 m	0.322 m	0.473 m	0.508 m	0.4037 m
134	EIGEN-6C4	2190	0.247 m	0.126 m	0.210 m	0.212 m	0.079 m	0.446 m	0.2408 m
133	ITSG-GRACE2014S	200	1.095 m	0.871 m	1.015 m	1.175 m	0.932 m	1.273 m	1.0508 m
132	ITSG-GRACE2014K	200	0.542 m	0.419 m	0.580 m	0.433 m	0.651 m	0.611 m	0.5350 m
131	GO_CONS_GCF_2_TIM_R5	280	0.398 m	0.310 m	0.371 m	0.336 m	0.450 m	0.505 m	0.3919 m
130	GO_CONS_GCF_2_DIR_R5	300	0.405 m	0.299 m	0.373 m	0.327 m	0.447 m	0.507 m	0.3937 m
129	JYY_GOCE04S	230	0.422 m	0.359 m	0.416 m	0.342 m	0.506 m	0.511 m	0.4225 m
128	GOGRA04S	230	0.421 m	0.359 m	0.415 m	0.342 m	0.507 m	0.511 m	0.4220 m
127	EIGEN-6S2	260	0.405 m	0.322 m	0.393 m	0.337 m	0.476 m	0.512 m	0.4025 m
126	GGM05S-UPTO150	150	0.640 m	0.606 m	0.699 m	0.478 m	0.876 m	0.668 m	0.6576 m
125	EIGEN-6C3STAT	1949	0.247 m	0.129 m	0.212 m	0.213 m	0.078 m	0.447 m	0.2415 m
124	TONGJI-GRACE01	160	0.596 m	0.595 m	0.694 m	0.495 m	0.835 m	0.682 m	0.6314 m
123	JYY_GOCE02S	230	0.422 m	0.386 m	0.423 m	0.344 m	0.516 m	0.522 m	0.4304 m

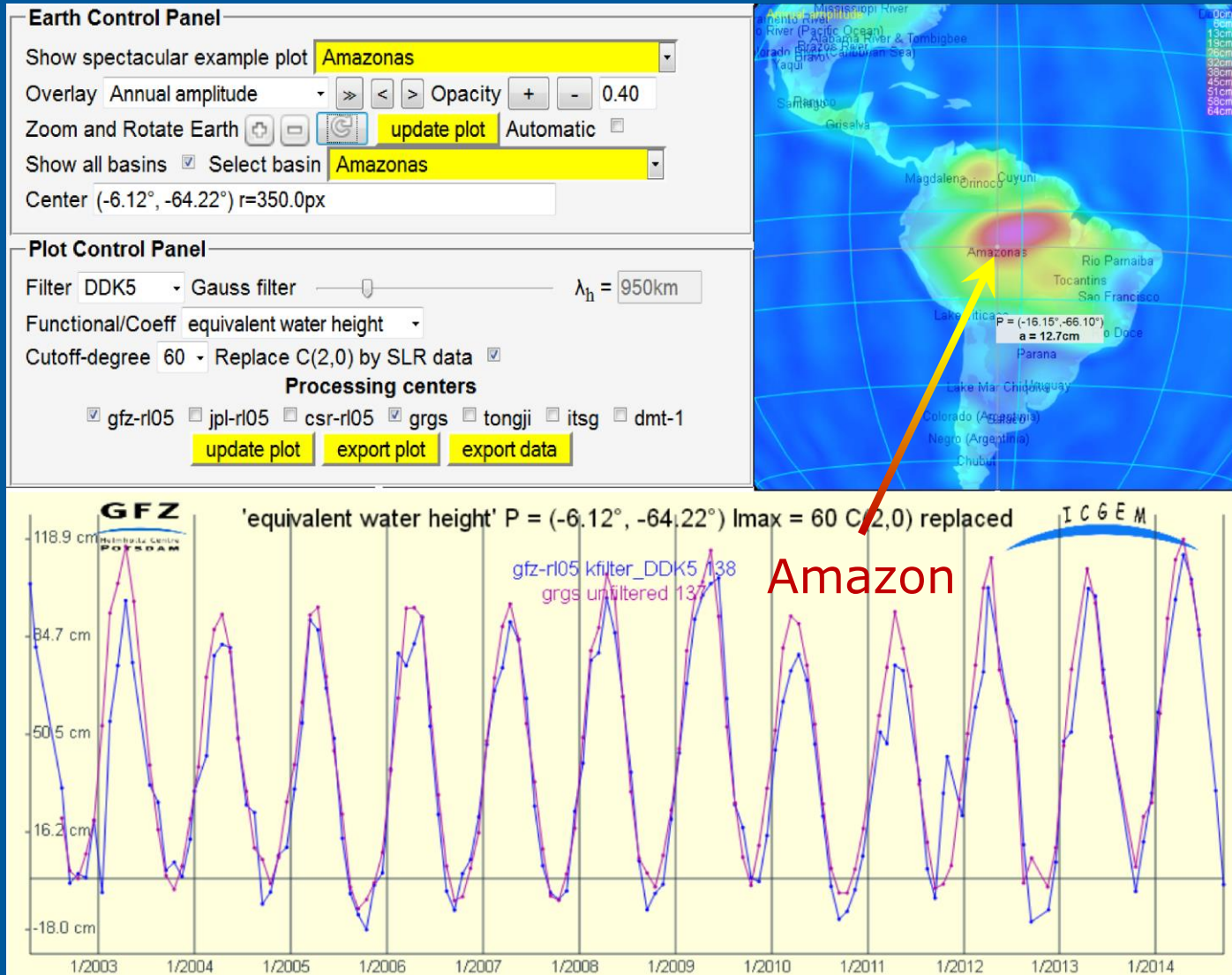
11	WGS72	28	2.971 m	2.248 m	3.529 m	2.984 m	7.610 m	3.721 m	3.4777 m
10	GEM4	16	3.467 m	3.145 m	2.880 m	3.314 m	5.647 m	3.058 m	3.4987 m
9	GEM3	12	5.225 m	4.954 m	3.336 m	3.954 m	4.322 m	4.655 m	4.8767 m
8	GEM2	22	2.910 m	3.359 m	3.720 m	3.003 m	4.080 m	3.677 m	3.2625 m
7	GEM1	22	4.180 m	5.075 m	3.164 m	3.449 m	4.847 m	2.713 m	4.2348 m
6	KOCH71	11	17.179 m	10.880 m	12.101 m	11.823 m	6.075 m	21.583 m	15.3930 m
5	KOCH70	8	15.783 m	12.300 m	10.683 m	13.334 m	2.854 m	10.538 m	13.5699 m
4	SE2	22	3.897 m	4.777 m	4.434 m	3.325 m	4.924 m	3.719 m	4.2110 m
3	OSU68	14	4.261 m	8.921 m	3.654 m	5.097 m	4.013 m	3.690 m	5.5474 m
2	WGS66	24	3.206 m	5.307 m	3.360 m	3.982 m	5.853 m	4.680 m	4.1311 m
1	SE1	15	3.895 m	5.071 m	8.339 m	3.826 m	5.003 m	6.003 m	5.0527 m

# The G<sup>3</sup>-Browser (GFZ Grace Gravity Browser)

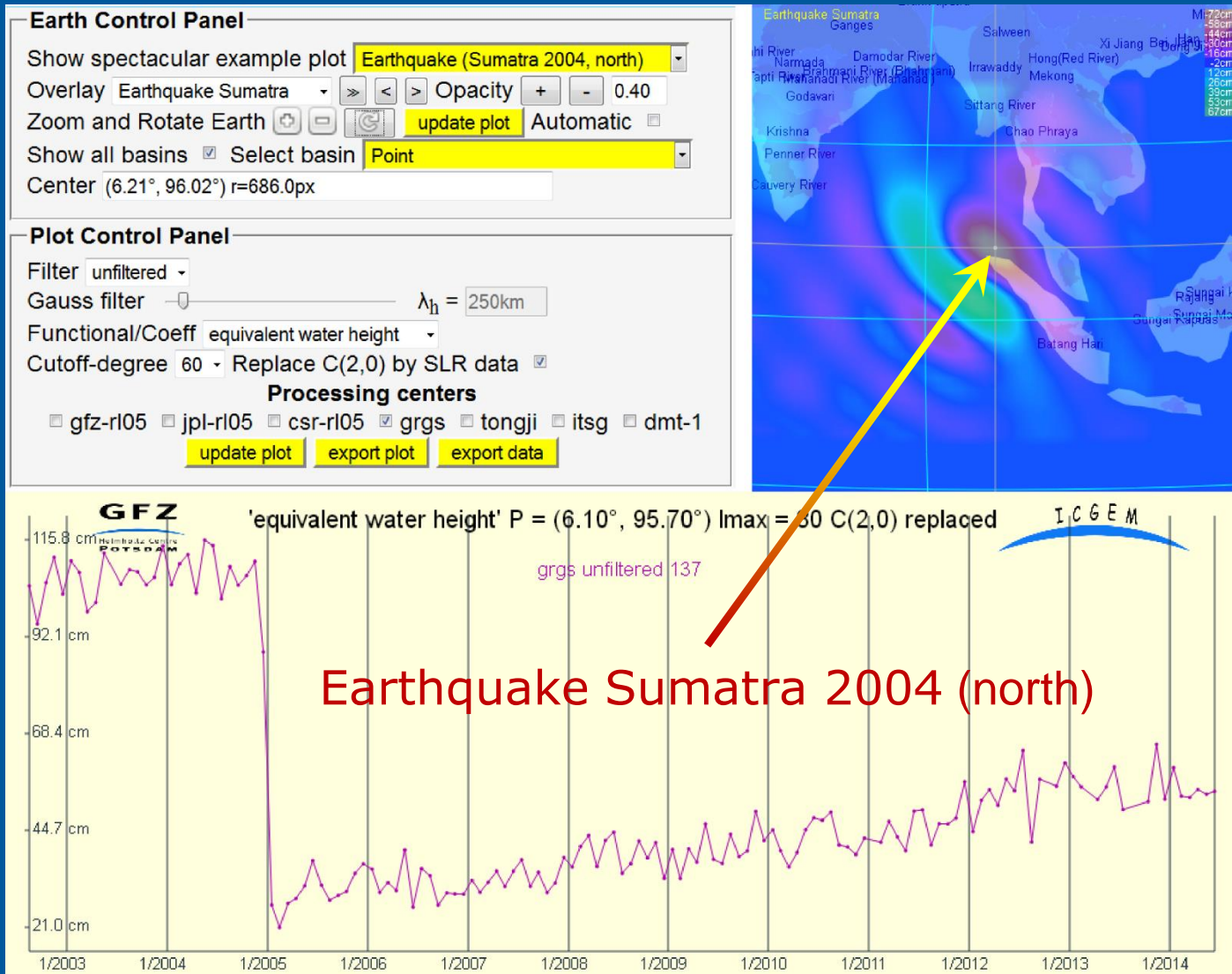




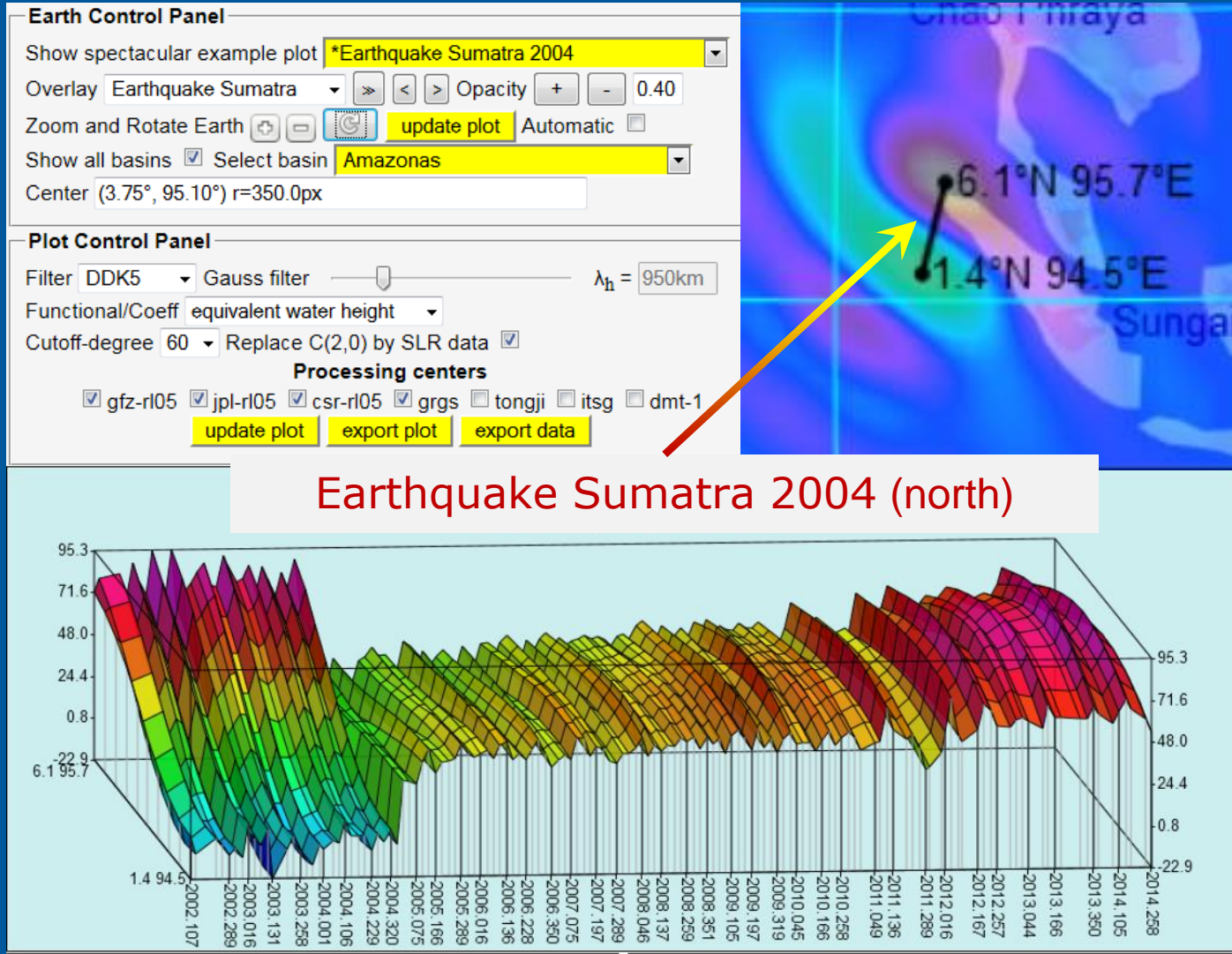
# The G<sup>3</sup>-Browser (GFZ Grace Gravity Browser)



# The G<sup>3</sup>-Browser (GFZ Grace Gravity Browser)



# The G<sup>3</sup>-Browser (GFZ Grace Gravity Browser)

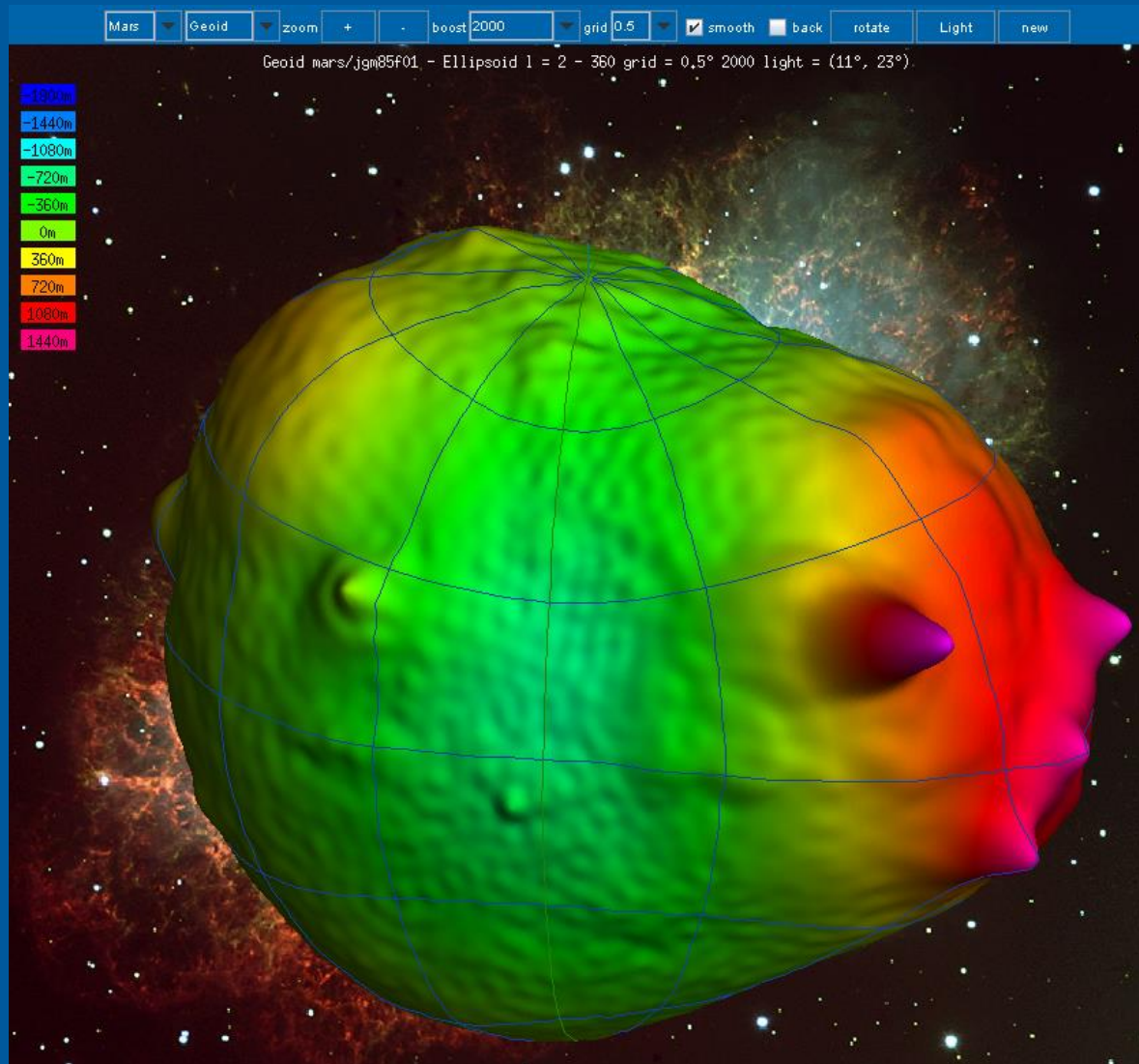


# Latest Changes (and history)

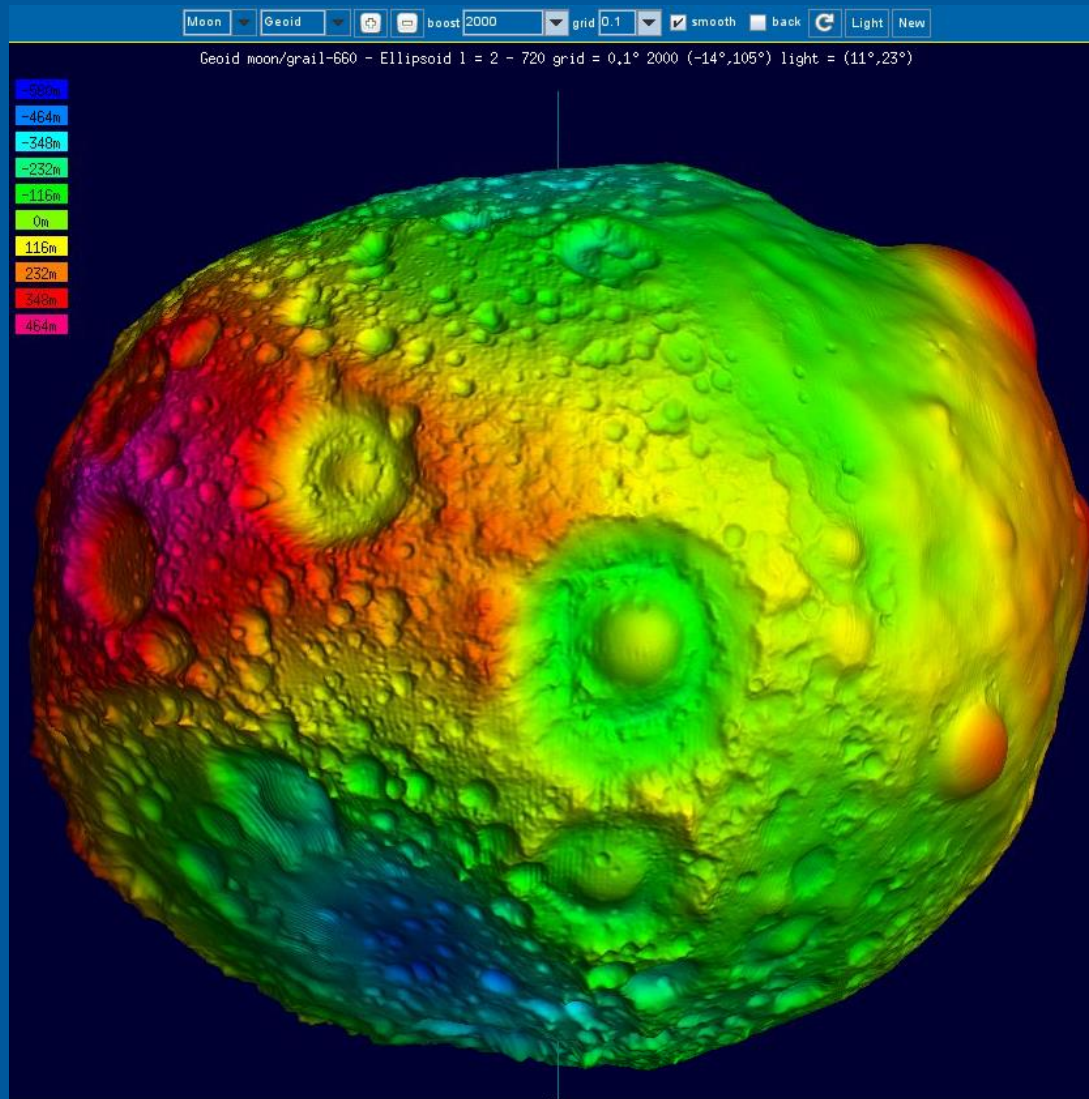
- **15. May 2015:**  
Bugfix for the Visualization Services: The computed grids for very small values of  $l_{max}$  ( $l_{max} \leq 5$ ) contained extremely large numbers. Unfortunately, this error could have quite drastic consequences for the user: Since the Java-server-thread did not finish rendering, the limitation of access numbers could inhibit further connections for this client.
- **27. April 2015:**  
The "G<sup>3</sup> Browser" has the new feature to display 3D-grid-plots for cross-sections (a line defined by two end-points). Example plots for the two major Earthquakes and polar regions have been added.
- **16. April 2015:**  
For the Visualization Services now also the functional Water column can be displayed (for static fields and monthly models of the Earth).
- **31. March 2015:**  
New model GOCO05s included.
- **27. March 2015:**  
The last two pages that contained Java applets ("Visualization of Monthly Models", "Calculation Service for Celestial Bodies") have been replaced with JavaScript versions. Our ICGEM-service is from now completely free of Java Applets!
- **25. March 2015:**  
The server-program for visualizations ("potato-server.C") now enables computations for higher orders ( $l_{max} > 360$ ) by an improved routine for Legendre polynoms.
- **9. March 2015:**  
The Visualization Services (Potato.html, Tutorial.html, PotatoBodies.html) are now implemented completely in JavaScript (no Java Applets) to avoid Oracle's restrictions. It should now work for all operating systems and browsers. The ICGEM-service is now nearly Java-free (on the client-side). Additionally, users have now the option to download generated images as files, and in the page "Table of Models" the visualization of gravity models is now possible with a simple mouse click on the button 'show' (analogous to 'calculate').
- **30. January 2015:**  
The table of models on the page Evaluation of Models is now also interactively sortable, allowing a direct ranking of the models for different regions (and complete GPS/levelling data set).
- **26. January 2015:**
  - The Calculation Service is now implemented completely in JavaScript (without Java Applets) to avoid the access restrictions introduced by Oracle. It should now work for all operating systems and browsers without trouble. Additionally, users have now the option to download generated images as PNG file.
  - The Table of Models is now sortable (for 'Model', 'Year', 'Degree', 'Data' and 'References'). The buttons calculate in the last column of the table now offer a direct link to the Calculation Service for the selected model.

# Byproducts: Models of Moon, Mars and Venus

Mars

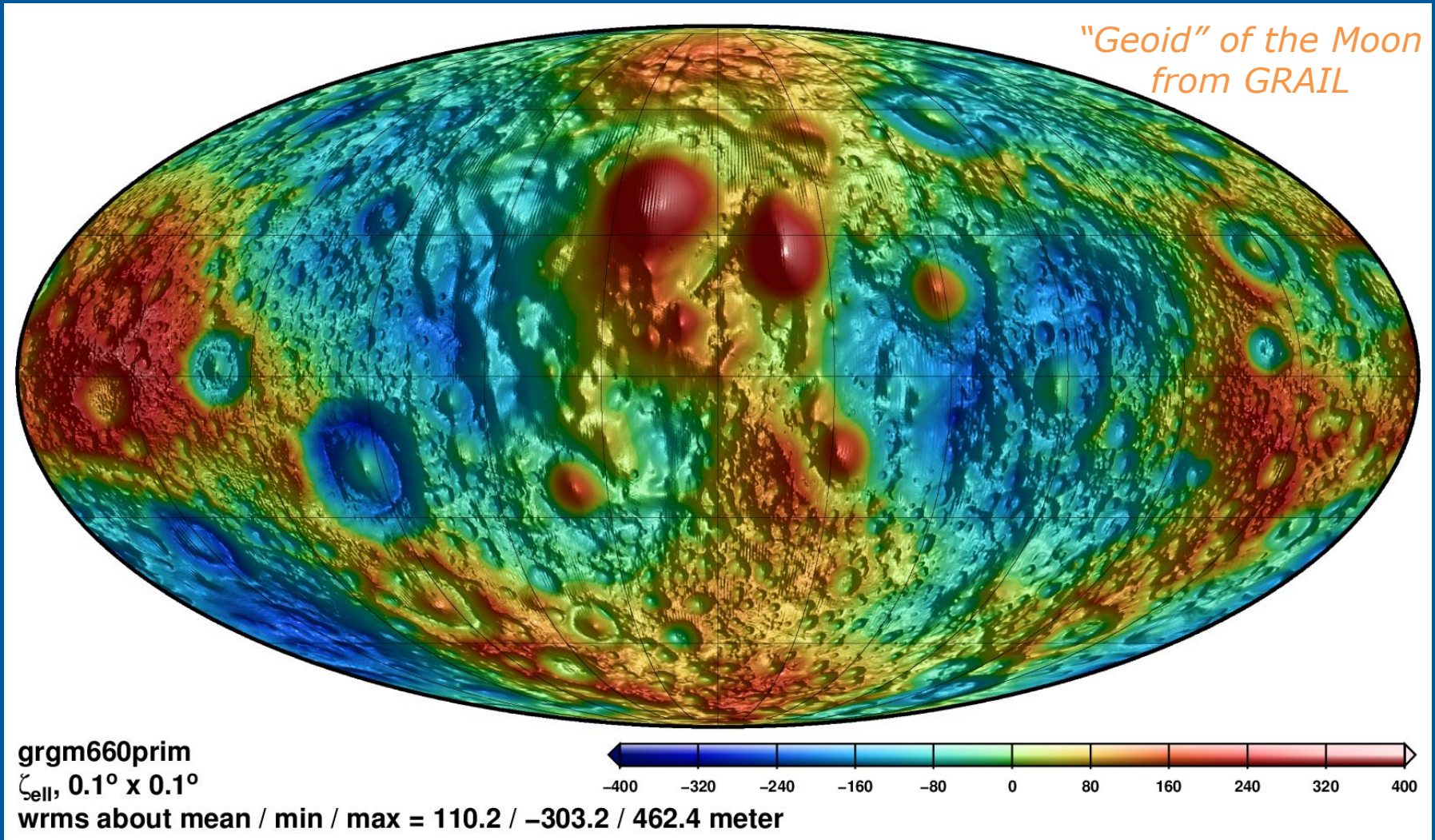


# Byproducts: Models of Moon, Mars and Venus



## Moon (GRAIL-mission)

# Byproducts: Models of Moon, Mars and Venus



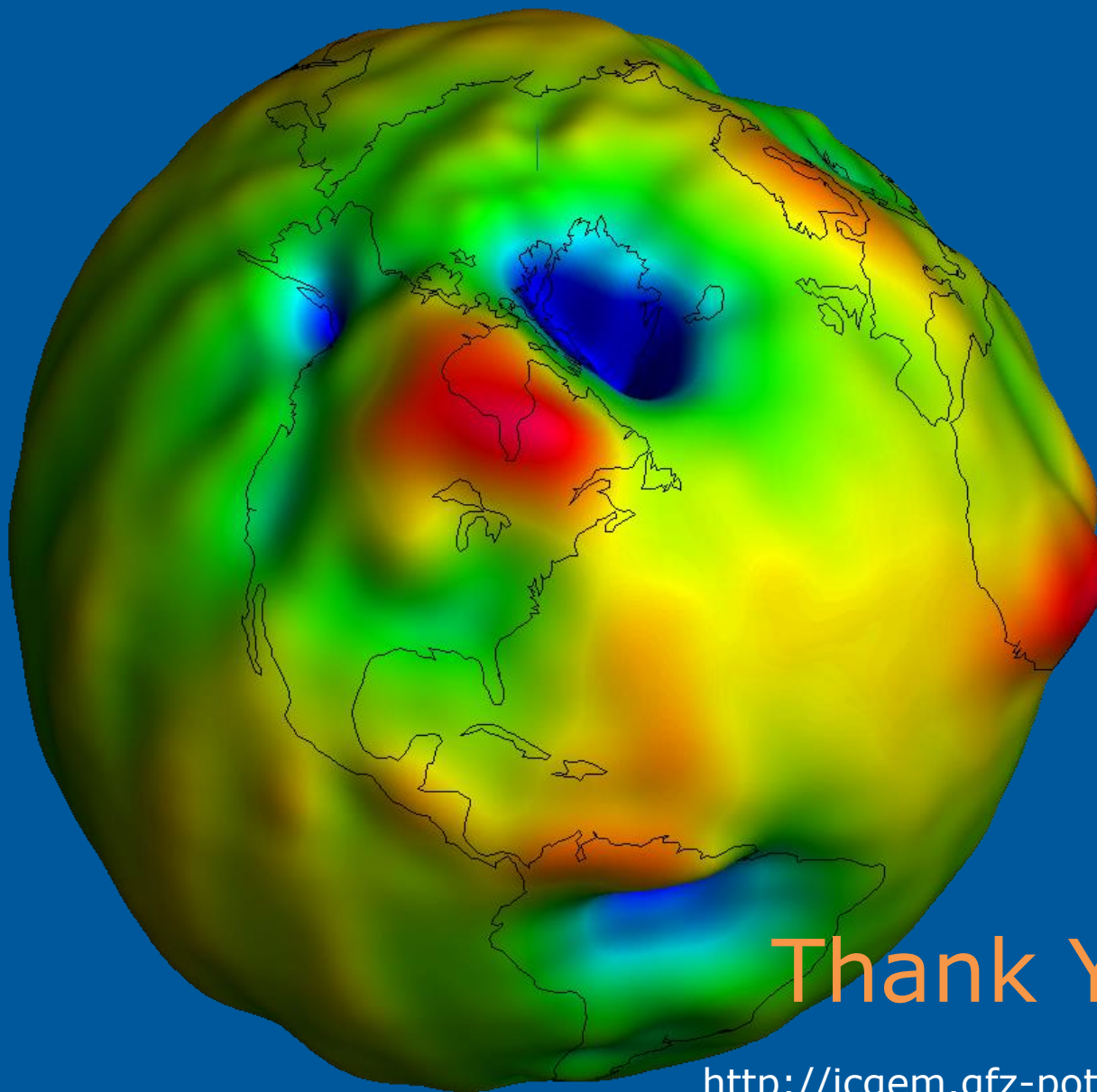
# Conclusion

ICGEM do **NOT** offer:  
research at the push of a button

But (hopefully) ICGEM:

- is useful for educational purposes
- helps to overcome obstacles in using the global gravity field models
- enables and stimulates research





Thank You

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