



Geoid modelling with GRAVSOFT

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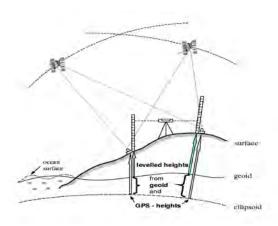




The geoid use



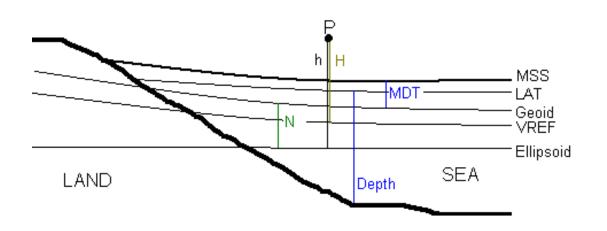




Heights from GPS:

 $H = h^{ellipsoidal} - N$

The 1 cm-geoid is within reach in countries with good gravity coverage or for special projects like large bridges ..



Marine areas:

MDT = MSS - N

MSS: mean sea surface (Altimetry or GPS) Several "geoids" in practical use, need for improved datums



Geoid determination



Anomalous potential T = $W_{physical} - U_{normal}$

$$N = \frac{T}{\gamma}(on\ geoid);$$

The anomalous gravity potential *T* is split into 3 parts:

$$T = T_{EGM} + T_{RTM} + T_{res}$$

T_{EGM} – Global spherical harmonic model (EGM08/GOCE to degree 360 or 2190)

T_{RTM} – residual terrain effect (RTM) .. Computed by *prism integration*

T_{res} – residual (i.e. unmodelled) local gravity effect

Principle used much in gravimetric geoid determination: "remove-restore"

Stokes function usually implemented by Fast Fourier Techniques and/or least-squares collocation

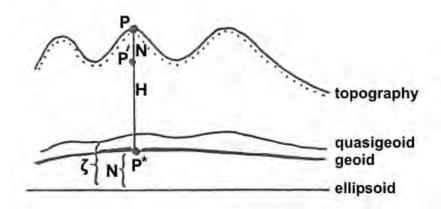


Geoid and quasigeoid



Non-level surface => Molodenskys formula: ζ is quasi-geoid

$$\zeta = \frac{R}{4\pi\gamma} \iint_{\sigma} (\Delta g + g_1) S(\psi) d\sigma$$



Definition of gravity anomaly: Refers to surface of topography!

$$\Delta g_P = g_P^{observed} - \gamma_{P'} \approx g_P^{observed} - \gamma_o + \frac{\partial \gamma}{\partial h} H$$



Height systems

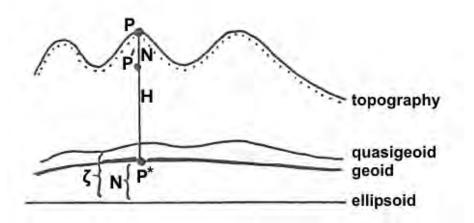


Normal and orthometric (Helmert) heights <-> quasigeoid and geoid

$$H_{Helmert} = \frac{C}{g} \approx \frac{C}{g_P + 0.0424[mgal/m]H}$$

$$H^* = \frac{C}{\gamma} \approx \frac{C}{\gamma_o - 0.1543[mgal/m] H^*}$$

$$\zeta - N = H_P - H_P^* \approx -\frac{g_P - \gamma_o + 0.1967[mgal/m]H}{\gamma_o} \cdot H \approx -\frac{\Delta g_B}{\gamma_o} H$$



Normal heights: quasigeoid Orthometric heights: geoid

Theoretical problem: Density of Earth must be known to define geoid

- "New Theory" approx. 1960 by Molodensky



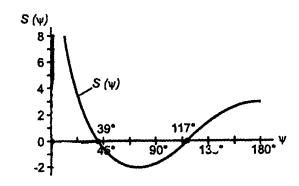
Integral Formulas – space domain



Stokes Formula

Relating N with gravity observations.

$$T = \gamma N = \frac{R}{4\pi} \iint_{\sigma} \Delta g S(\psi) d\sigma$$



Stokes Kernel

$$S(\psi) = \sum_{2}^{\infty} \frac{2l+1}{l-1} w_1 P_l(\cos \psi) =$$

$$\frac{1}{\sin(\psi/2)} - 6\sin\frac{\psi}{2} + 1 - 5\cos\psi - 3\cos\psi \ln(\sin\frac{\psi}{2} + \sin^2\frac{\psi}{2})$$

$$\sin^2\frac{\psi}{2} = \sin^2\frac{(\varphi_p - \varphi)}{2} + \sin^2\frac{(\lambda_p - \lambda)}{2}\cos\varphi_p\cos\varphi$$

w is weight function ... used to limit influence of low harmonics



Fourier transf. and Stokes integral



Stokes integral can conveniently be evaluated using FFT methods (Strang van Hess, 1990).

$$N = \frac{R}{4\gamma\pi} \iint_{\sigma} \Delta g(\varphi, \lambda) S(\varphi_p, \lambda_p, \varphi, \lambda) \cos\varphi d\varphi d\lambda$$

• This is convolution form if $cos\phi$ is considered constant ("simple spherical FFT") and the sinformula is used for ψ

$$\sin^2 \frac{\psi}{2} = \sin^2 \frac{(\varphi_p - \varphi)}{2} + \sin^2 \frac{(\lambda_p - \lambda)}{2} \cos \varphi_p \cos \varphi$$

Stokes formula in planar approximation gives:

$$N(x_{p}, y_{p}) = \frac{1}{2\pi\gamma} \iint_{A} \frac{\Delta g(x, y)}{\sqrt{(x_{p} - x)^{2} + (y_{p} - y)}} dxdy = \frac{1}{2\pi\gamma} \Delta g(x_{p}, y_{p}) * \frac{1}{s}(x_{p}, y_{p})$$

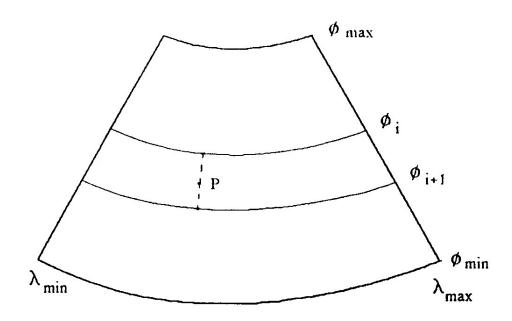
$$N(x_{p}, y_{p}) = \frac{1}{2\pi\gamma} F^{-1} [F(\Delta g(x_{p}, y_{p}))) F(\frac{1}{s}(x_{p}, y_{p}))]$$





$$\sin^{2}\frac{\psi}{2} \approx \sin^{2}\frac{\varphi_{p} - \varphi}{2} + \sin^{2}\frac{\lambda_{p} - \lambda}{2}\cos\overline{\varphi}_{t}\cos[\overline{\varphi}_{t} - (\overline{\varphi}_{t} - \varphi)]$$

$$\approx \sin^{2}\frac{\varphi_{p} - \varphi}{2} + \sin^{2}\frac{\lambda_{p} - \lambda}{2}\left[\cos^{2}\overline{\varphi}_{t}\cos(\overline{\varphi}_{t} - \varphi) + \cos\overline{\varphi}_{t}\sin\overline{\varphi}_{t}\sin(\overline{\varphi}_{t} - \varphi)\right]$$



Method is exact along borders between bands, linear interpolation in between (Forsberg and Sideris, 1987)



Rigorous Spherical Kernel

$$N(\varphi_l, \lambda_k) = \frac{R}{4\pi\gamma} \sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \left[\sum_{i=0}^{M-1} \Delta g(\varphi_j, \lambda_i) \cos \varphi_j S(\varphi_l, \varphi_j, \lambda_k - \lambda_i) \Delta \lambda \right] \Delta \varphi, \qquad \varphi_l = \varphi_1, \varphi_2, \dots, \varphi_N$$

Addition Theorem of DFT



$$N(\varphi_{l}, \lambda_{k}) = \frac{R}{4\pi\gamma} F_{1}^{-1} \{ \sum_{j=0}^{N-1} F_{1} \{ \Delta g(\varphi_{j}, \lambda_{k}) \cos \varphi_{j} \} F_{1} \{ S(\varphi_{l}, \varphi_{j}, \lambda_{k}) \} \}, \qquad \varphi_{l} = \varphi_{1}, \varphi_{2}, ..., \varphi_{N}$$

The advantage of the 1D spherical FFT approach: it gives exactly the same results as those obtained by direct numerical integration; it only needs to deal with one one-dimensional complex array each time, resulting in a considerable saving in computer memory as compared to the 2D FFT technique discussed before .. But it is slower than bandwise FFT



Modified kernels needed



Takes into account the influence of possible (likely!) terrestrial+airborne biases

$$S_{\text{mod}}(\psi) = S(\psi) - \sum_{n=2}^{N_2} \alpha(n) \frac{2n+1}{n-1} P_n \cos \psi$$

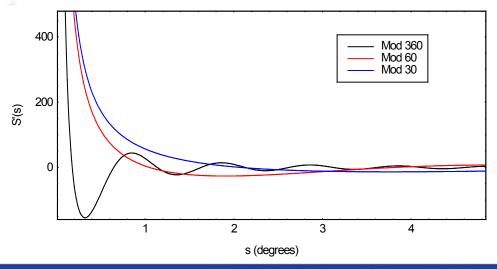
· where

$$\alpha(n) = \begin{cases} 1 & for & 2 \le n \le N_1 \\ \frac{N_2 - n}{N_2 - N_1} & for & N_1 \le n \le N_2, & n = 2, ..., N \\ 0 & for & N \ge n > N_2 \end{cases}$$



Wong-Gore modified Stokes function

Choice of degree of modification for GOCE still an open problem! (requires good GPS-levelling)





Helmert condensation methods



1. Remove complete Bouguer effect

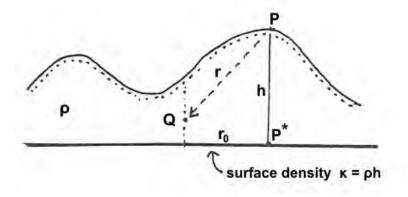
$$\Delta g^{B} = \Delta g - (2\pi G \rho h - c)$$

2. Downward continue

$$\Delta g^{B^*} \approx \Delta g^B \left(assume \ T_{zz}^B = 0 \right)$$

3. Restore condensed topography

$$\Delta g^* = \Delta g + 2\pi G \rho h$$



Terrain mass condensed into a surface layer

The outcome of this process is the Faye anomaly $(\Delta g + c)$, which is not smoothe "

Geoid formulas involve "indirect" or "terrain inflation" corrections ... all approximative (also)

$$N = S\left(\Delta g + c - 2\frac{T_m}{\gamma r}\right) + \frac{T_m}{\gamma}$$

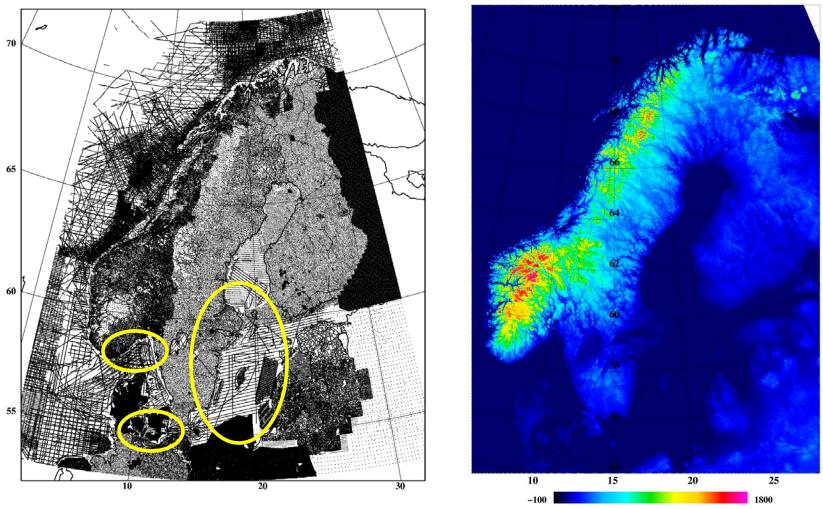
$$T_m(P^*) = G \rho \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{0}^{h} \frac{1}{r} dx dy dz - G \rho h \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{1} \frac{1}{r_0} dx dy \approx -\pi G \rho h_P^2$$

$$r = \sqrt{(x - x_P)^2 + (y - y_P)^2}, \quad r = \sqrt{r_0^2 + z^2}$$



Nordic geoid example





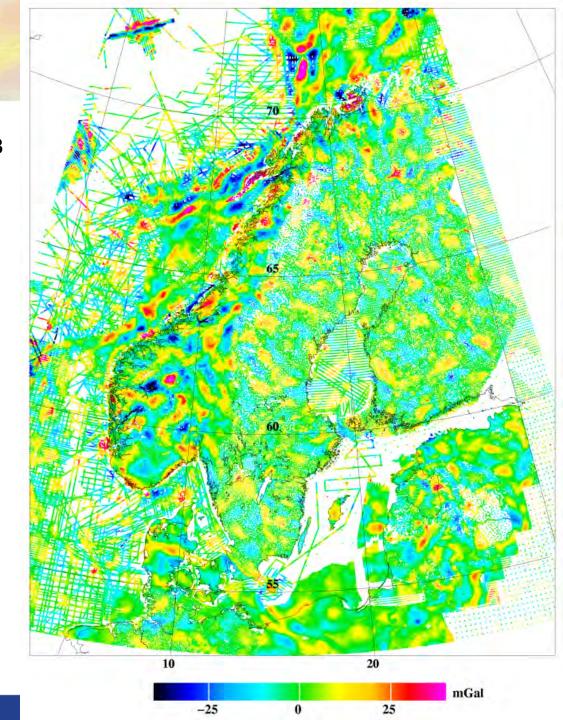
NKG geoids: Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania .. Joint geoid Next: NKG-2015 – goal: 1 cm geoid (2 cm in the mountains), airborne gravity fill-in (yellow)



Data reduction: GOCE R5+EGM08 composite model / terrain effects

GRAVSOFT: HARMEXP, TC and SPFOUR

Free-air gravity Data	Land gravity (434925)	Airborne gravity (17238)
Original		
Mean	1.0	-8.7
Std.dev.	25.2	23.3
-GOCE/EGM		
Mean	-1.1	1.2
Std.dev.	16.0	15.4
-RTM effect		
Mean	0.3	1.3
Std.dev.	10.8	15.4

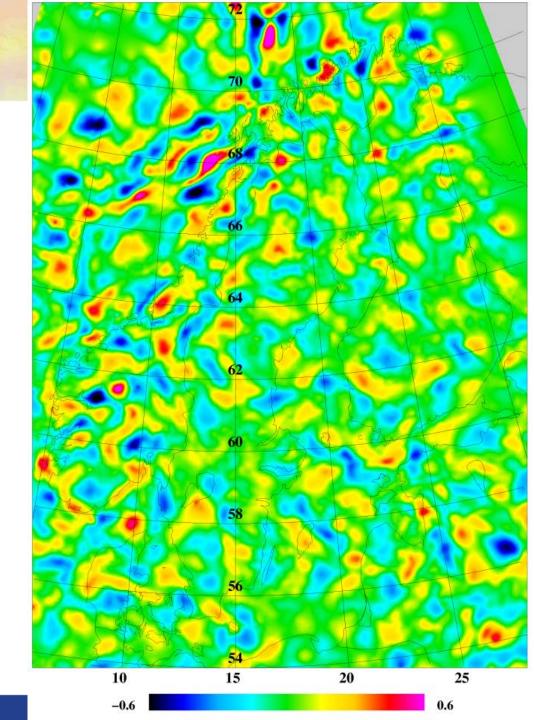




Fourier conversion to geoid – SPFOUR

5 reference bands in spherical FFT

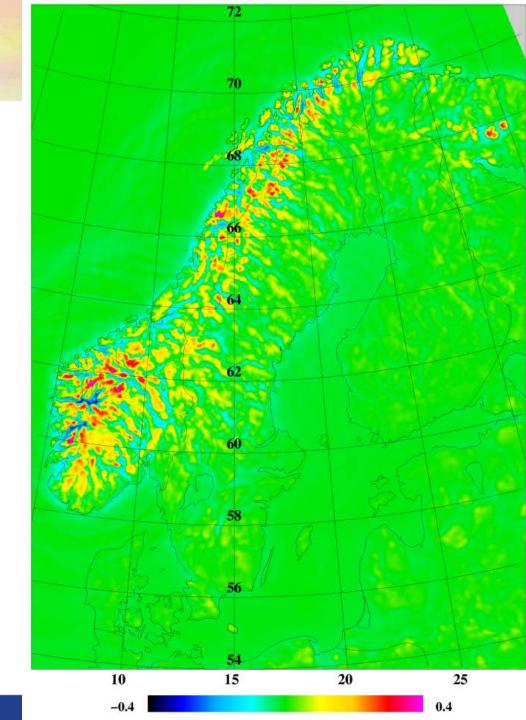
Various Stokes modifications (here deg 180-190)





Terrain effects

Computed by FFT



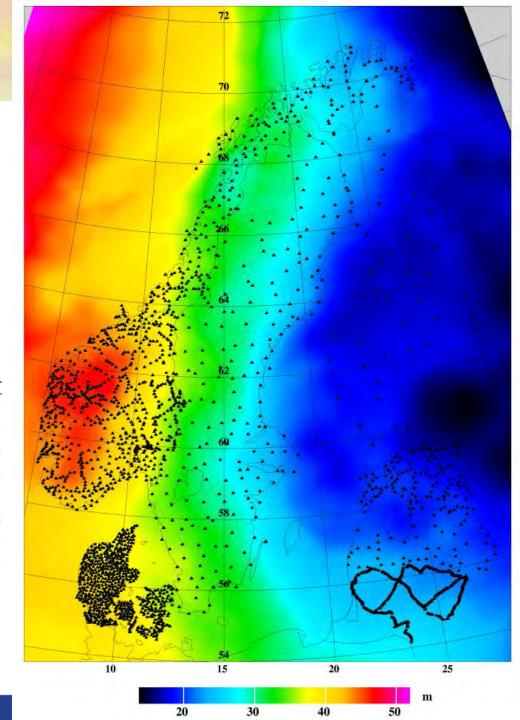


Comparison of final geoid to GPS levelling

National GPS/levelling networks

Comp for different kernel modifications
No clear answer what is best!

	(11104	JJ 105,	(11104 1)	JO 130,
	(mod	95-105)	(mod 18	30-190)
LITH:	0.309	0.028	0.315	0.036
LAT:	0.215	0.026	0.224	0.033
EST:	0.243	0.016	0.247	0.022
FI:	0.241	0.017	0.238	0.025
NO:	0.190	0.042	0.196	0.052
SE:	0.249	0.030	0.245	0.028
DK:	0.209	0.025	0.222	0.026
	mear	n stddev	mean	stddev

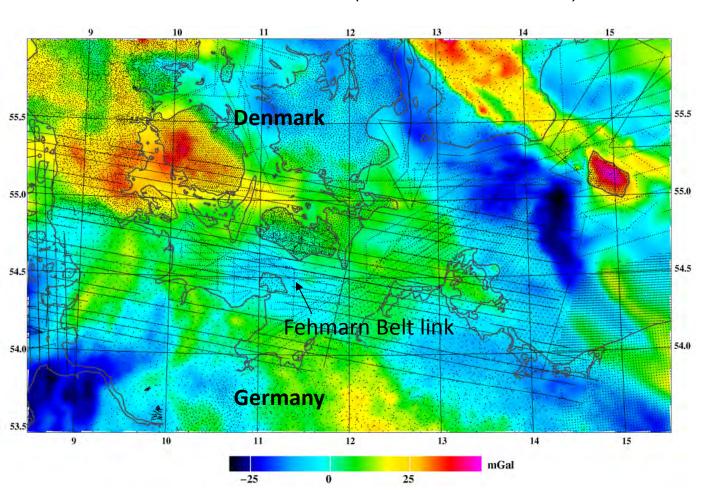








Gravity anomalies – Fehmarn Belt tunnel project Land, marine and airborne (DTU/BKG - COWI acft)











Geoid connections across Fehmarn Belt

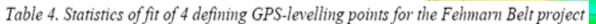




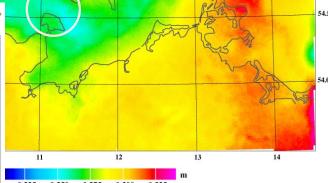
1		Unit: m	Mean	Std.dev.	Min.	Max.
		New Fehmam Belt geoid	0.276	0.013	0.246	0.299
-0)	The state of the s	German BKG geoid	(-0.007)	0.015	-0.038	0.022
(Lake	10 20 5 mm	EGM08 model to degree 2160	0.285	0.027	0.213	0.339
19.6	3 NEW 3	Most recent Nordic geoid (NKG2004)	(0.011)	0.014	-0.028	0.043
	A STATE OF THE STA	100				

Operational geoid <1 cm to fixed link (tunnel project) ... common elevation reference

Difference DTU-BKG geoid



Unit: m	Mean	Std.dev.	Geoid slope error
			across Belt (DK minus D)
Fehmam Belt geoid	0.335	0.012	0.019
Fehmarn Belt fitted geoid	0.000	0.005	0.004
German BKG geoid	(0.065)	0.006	0.008
EGM08 model to degree 2160	0.340	0.023	0.021
Most recent Nordic geoid (NKG2004)	(0.064)	0.014	0.022

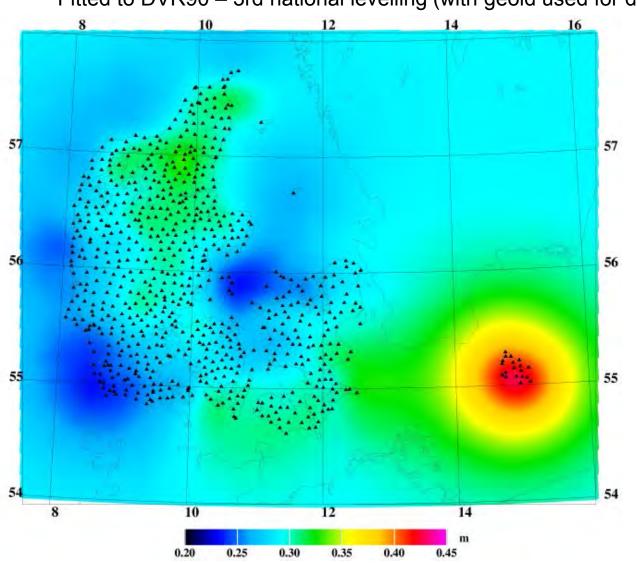




Geoid fits to GPS – Denmark



Fitted to DVR90 – 3rd national levelling (with geoid used for datum on small islands)



REFDK – national 10 km GPS net

Geoid correction signal:

- Bornholm in own datum
- Small islands in geoid-determined datum



Denmark geoid compared to GPS



Geoid data – Unit m	All GPS except small islands (677 pts)		Bornholm (20 pts)	
	Mean	Std.dev.	Mean	Std.dev.
NKG04 geoid	-0.004	0.027	0.107	0.158
EGM2008	0.298	0.026	0.439	0.016
DKGEOID (GOCE mod. degree 150-160)	0.288	0.021	0.414	0.013
Fitted geoid	0.000	0.006	0.001	0.006

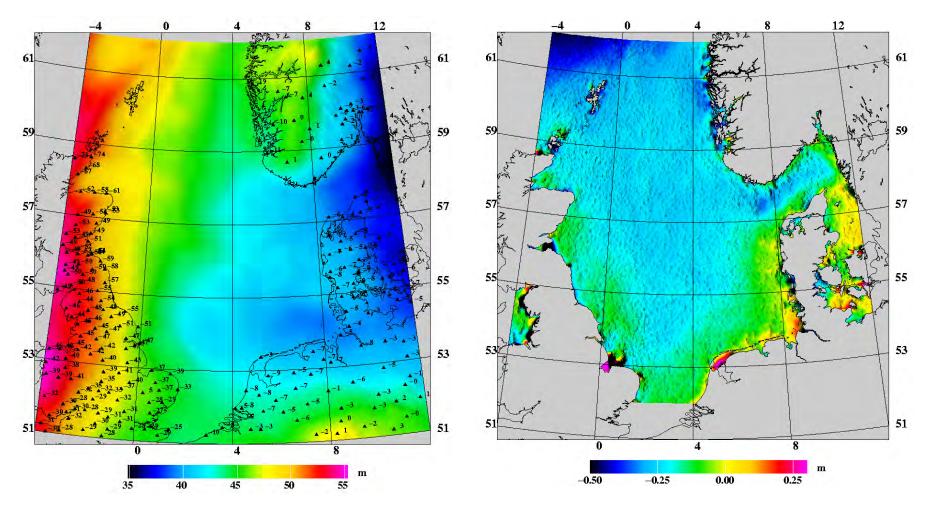
- •The 1-cm geoid is available used externsively
- Current challenges: marine geoid ... how to fit?



North Sea geoid surfaces



(EU Interreg project BLAST – Bringing Land And Sea Together)



Geoid (with 1.order GPS points)

MDT (mean sea surface from satellites - geoid)





Greenland geoid model 2014

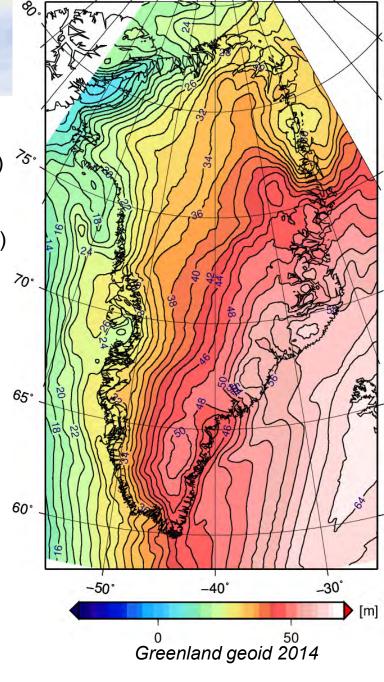
- Old one outdated new data (DEM, GOCE, airborne)
- More coastal construction and engineering (hydropower)
- Need for joint vertical datum between towns
- Reference for ice sheet modelling and remote sensing
- North American geoid contribution (CDN 2013, US 2020)

Computed from airborne gravity measurements + GOCE

Challenges for geoid determination:

- Ice sheet and glaciers ... unknown thickness => errors
- Deep fjords ... mostly unsurveyed (until OMG!)
- Mountains, sparse gravimetry, several airborne sources







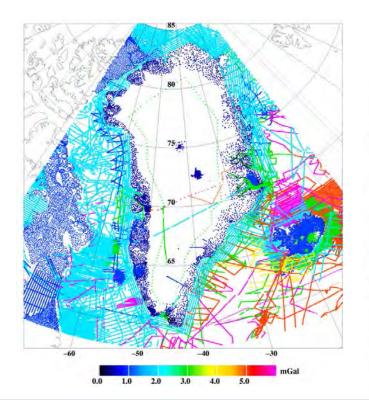
Gravimetry sources - older



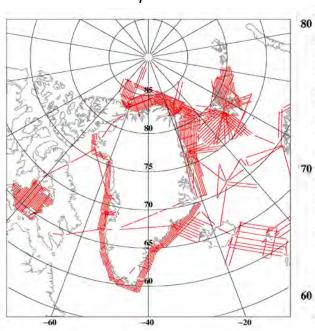
- Helicopter gravity surveys
- Marine surveys (Nunaoil)
- Few ice sheet profiles
- Canada and Iceland data
- Low-level airborne (DTU+partners)
- High-level airborne (NRL 1991-92)







Airborne DTU-Space 1998-2003



NRL 1991-92

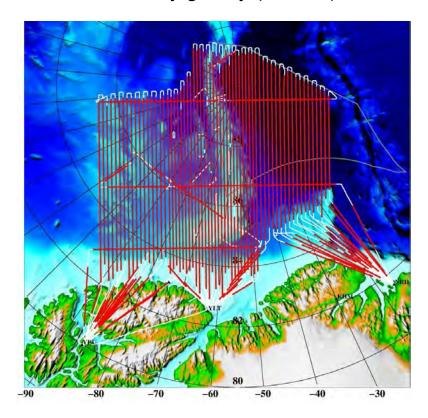




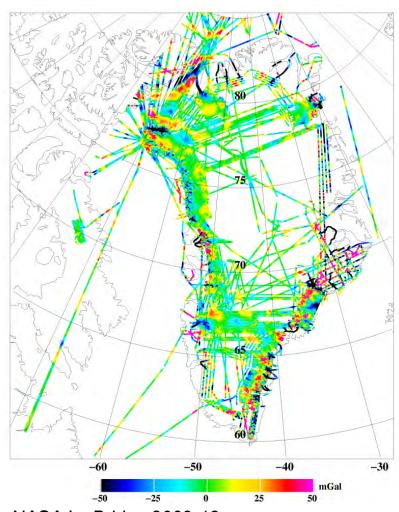
Newer gravimetry sources



- Marine/airborne UNCLOS
- NASA IceBridge airborne
- UNCLOS marine surveys in Arctic Ocean
- Satellite altimetry gravity (DTU13)



LOMGRAV2009 DTU-Space/NRCan 2009



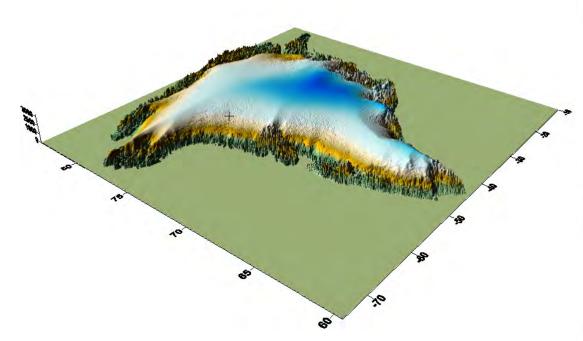
NASA IceBridge 2009-13 (Sandar Geophysics AIRGRAV instrument .. draped flights along glaciers)



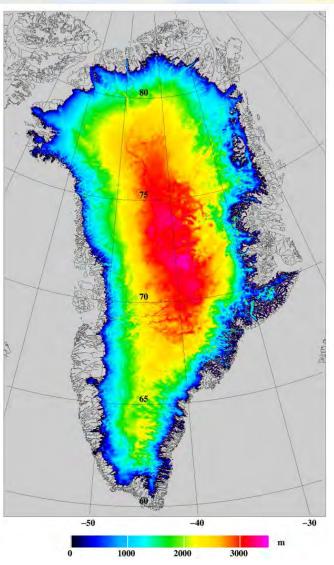
DEMs – surface and ice thickness



- New Greenland DEM (CryoSat/IceSat/Aster/Photogrammetry)
- Ice thickness DEM from radar measurements (IceBridge + DTU/AWI, Bamber et al)



New Greenland DEM from CryoSat and ASTER

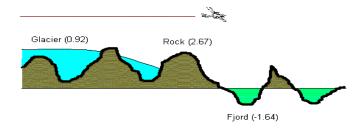


Ice thickness grid – outlying ice caps missing



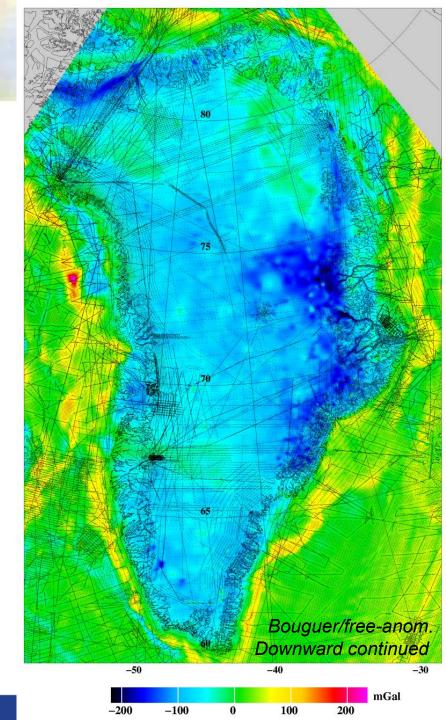
Downward continuation

Data over the fjords, outlet glacier, ice sheet marginal zones => major improvements SGL OIB data high quality (~ 1 mGal)



Statistics of original andRTM- reduced gravity (mGal)

Data source	Orig. Mean	stdev	Red. mean	stdev
Land gravity	-16.8	44.8	-4.6	16.0
IceBridge airborne	10.5	44.3	-1.7	12.9
NRL airborne	16.4	38.0	0.1	11.5
DTU airborne	9.8	38.0	0.3	16.1

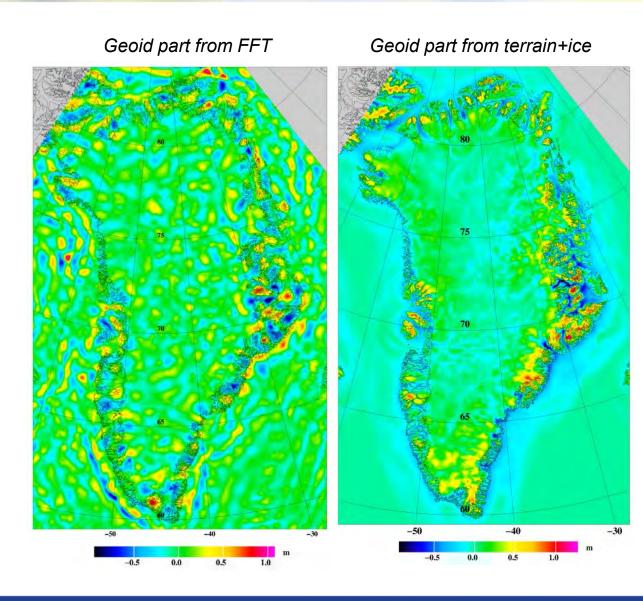




Gravimetric computation steps



- Terrain reduce data + QC
- Downward continuation and gridding of reduced data (lsc, 1° blocks with overlap)
- FFT conversion gravity -> quasigeoid (Wong-Gore)
- Restore RTM terrain + ice effects
- Restore GOCE/EGM08 geoid grids





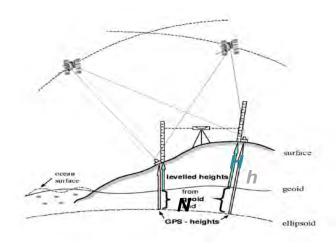
Geoid/height system validation

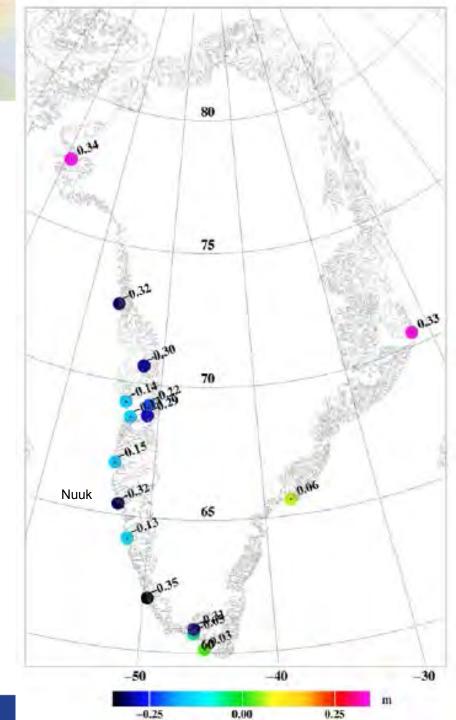
Fit to "apparent geoid" from GPS and local survey benchmarks (ASIAQ)

$$N^{GPS} = h^{GPS} - H_{local}$$

Model offsets due to height system definition:

- Height system from local tide gauges (Ocean not "level" ... dynamic topography)
- Land uplift due to ice melt







Height system issues

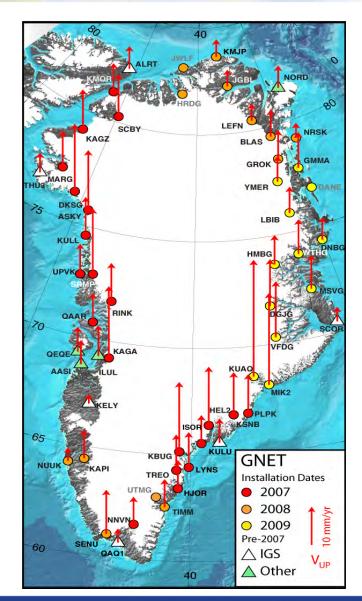


Land uplift (Bevis et al, 2012) Height datum: tide gauges (1960's)

Are some "errors" in towns uplift?

$$N = h^{GPS} - H + MDT + dh/dt * \Delta t$$



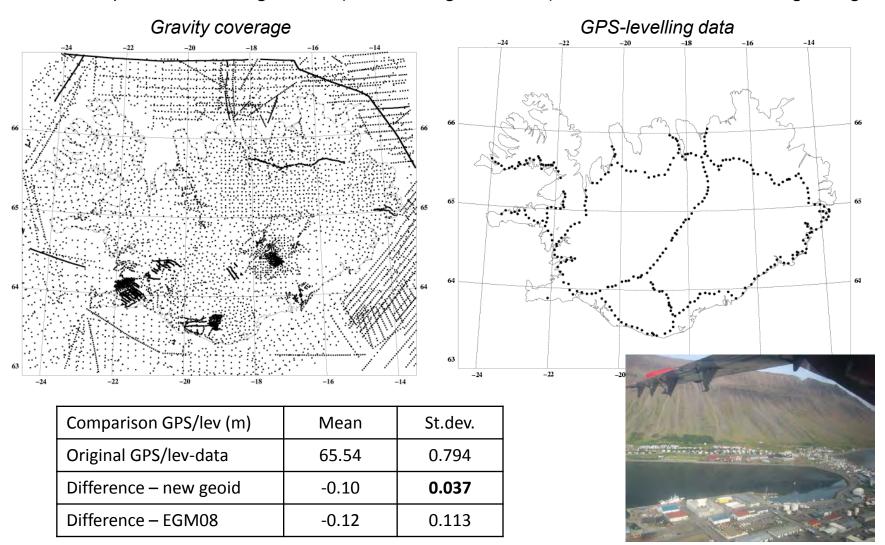




Geoid validation: Iceland



Iceland "snapshot" relevelling 20089 (Landmalingar Islands) ... Iceland in Greenland geoid grid

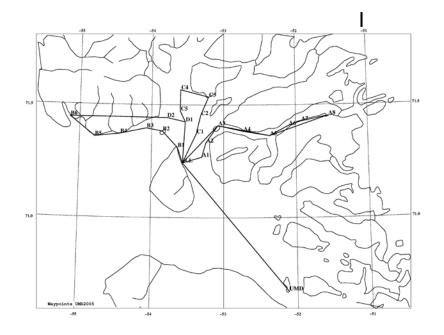




Greenland fjord tide gauge profiles







Sea level in fjords "proxy" for geoid + MDT (small) – relative tidal measurements on land, GPS on ice







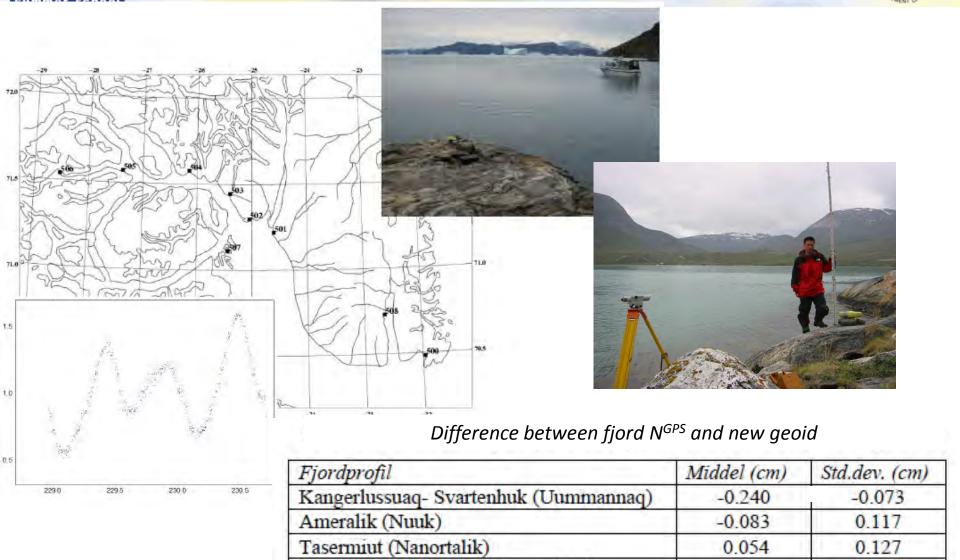






Typical fjord profile results





Ammassalliip Kangertiva (Tasiilaq)

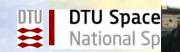
0.089

-0.140

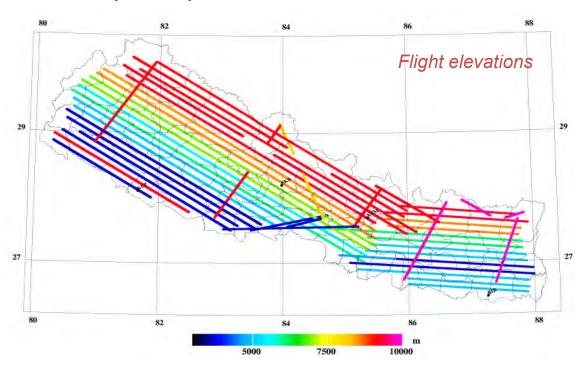




Nepal aerogravity survey 2010



- DTU Airborne gravity survey of Nepal 2010 Beech King Air 200
- Geoid project Nepal Department of Survey + NGA
- 57 flight hr excl. ferry flights to/from DK
- Base GPS and gravity ties at Kathmandu Airport
- LaCoste and Romberg gravimeter, Chekan-AM
- Auxillary: Honeywell IMU, numerous GPS's



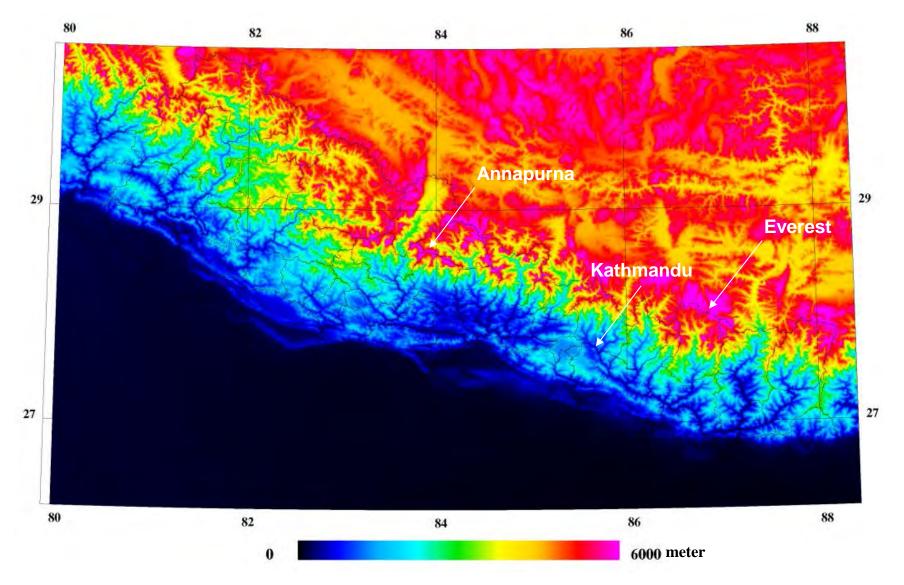






Nepal SRTM terrain model





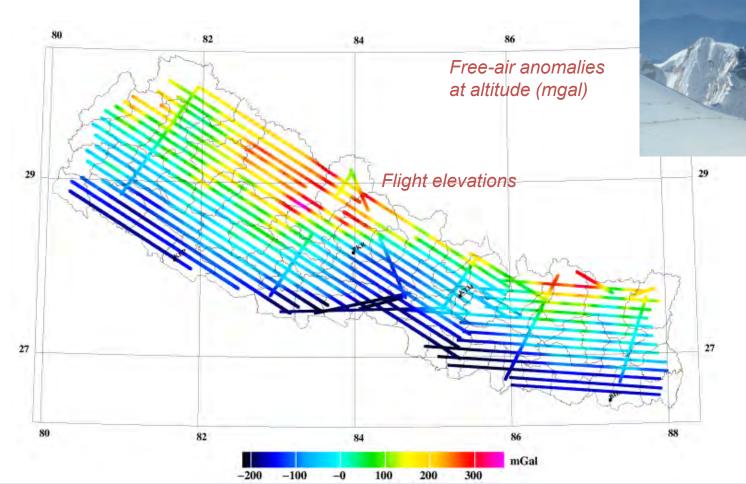


AG Results



NORA PATON

- Airborne processing with DTU-Space system LCR and Chekan AM
 - ... cross-overs not reliable due to differing heights



- Challenges:
- mountain waves
- jet streams
- turbulence
- ... especially
 Annapurna region



AG Results

 Chekan-AM (Russia) and LCR S-34 gravimeter processed independently

Agreement between gravimeters: 4.3 mGal rms

Merged set made by averaging Chekan-AM and LCR at common points

- X-over errors:
- ~ 10 mgal rms

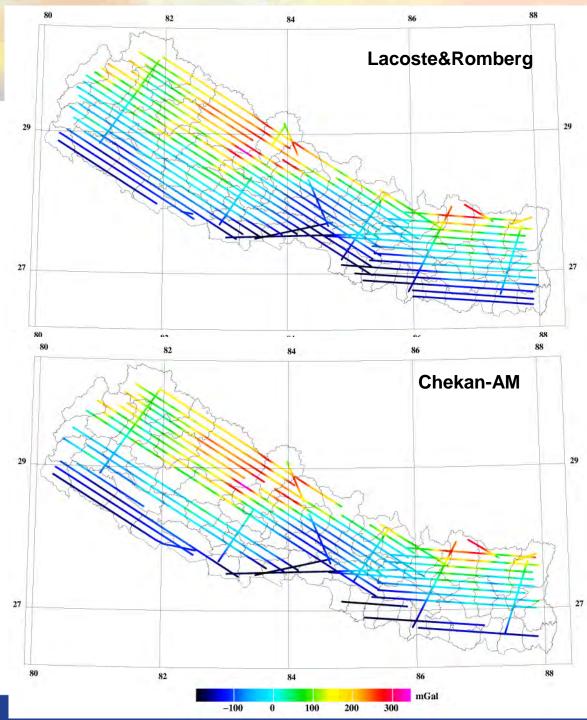
.. cross-overs not useful for QC due to differing flight heights. After continuation to 6600 m:

LCR: 4.6 mgal rms

Chekan: 5.1 -

Merged: 3.9 mgal rms

Free-air anomalies at altitude (mgal)

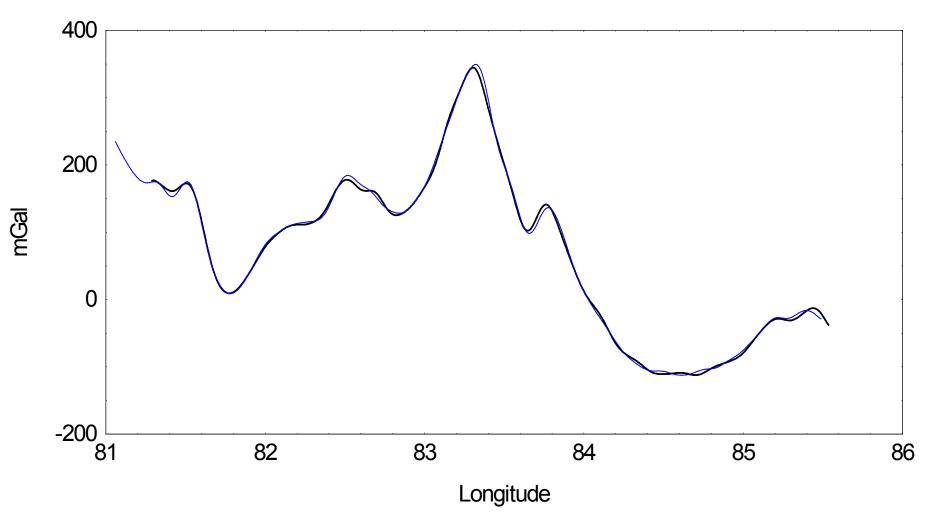




LCR and Chekan data differences



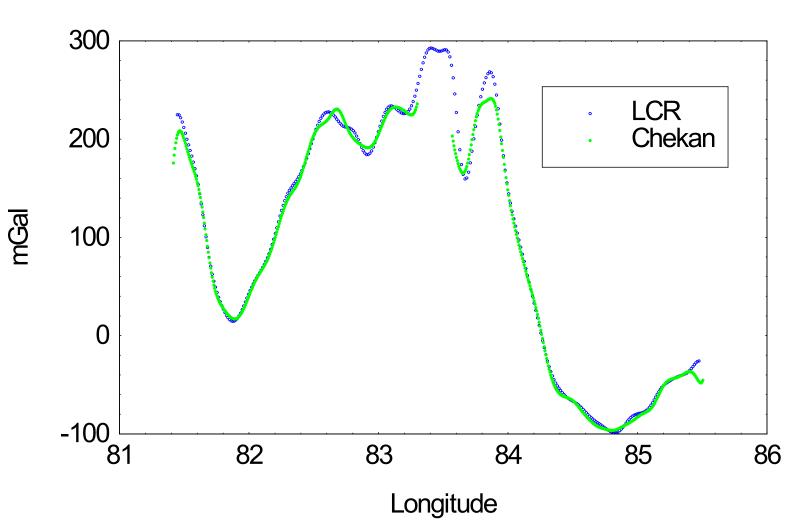
LINE 20 - high mountains W-E line



LCR and Chekan – example #2





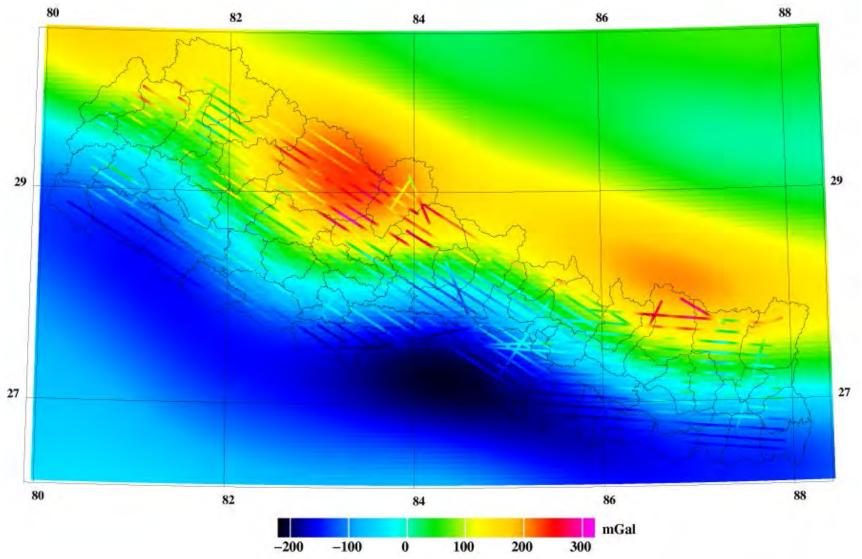




LCR airborne data and GOCE









Geoid determination – reduce steps



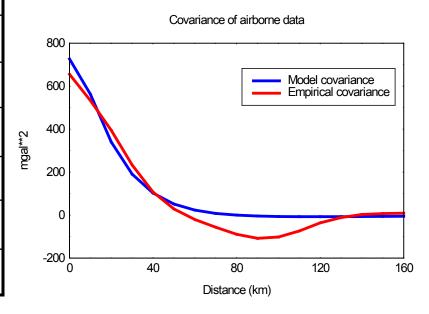
Reference field: EGM2008 – augmented with GOCE (linear merging at degrees 80-90 and 180-190 with GOCE in middle band)

• Some special effects on airborne gravity: Terrain effects must be *filtered* with along-track filter corresponding to airborne gravity filter (forward/backward Butterworth filter ~ 90 sec time constant)

Statistics of data reductions (unit: mgal)

Data	Mean	Std.dev.
Airborne data	-14.2	119.4
Airborne – GOCE (360)	1.4	36.5
Reduced airborne data	2.9	21.2
Surface data	-87.3	103.0
Surface – GOCE	-24.1	71.2
Reduced surface data	-1.2	26.0

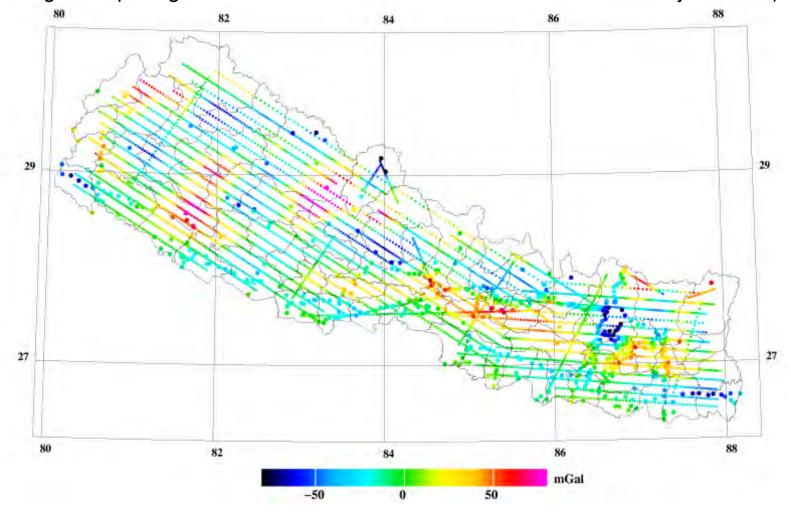
 Downward continuation of both surface and airborne data by least-squares collocation







Reduced gravity data showing contribution from airborne data and surface data (changes in spacing on airborne lines due to headwind and tailwind from jet stream)

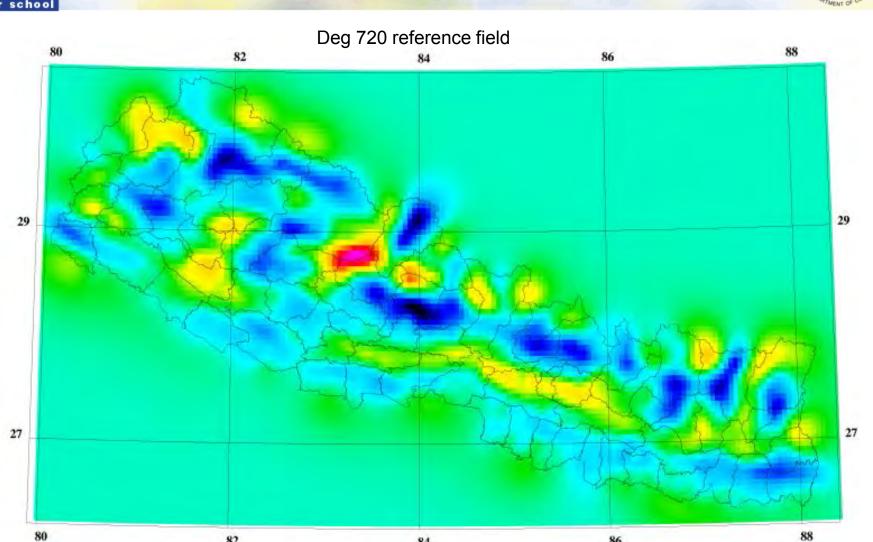




Downward continuation of all data

82





84

-50

50

100

86

150

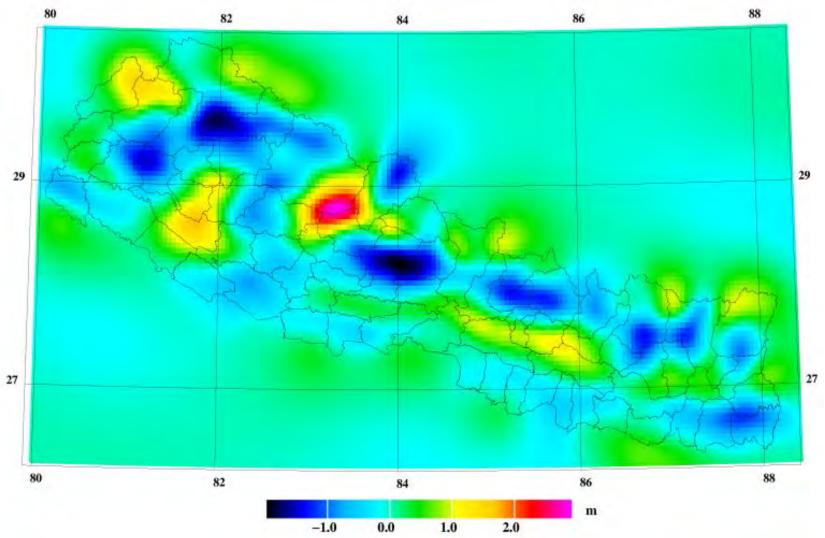
mGal



Geoid (reduced quasigeoid)



Quasigeoid contribution from spherical FFT relative to ref field

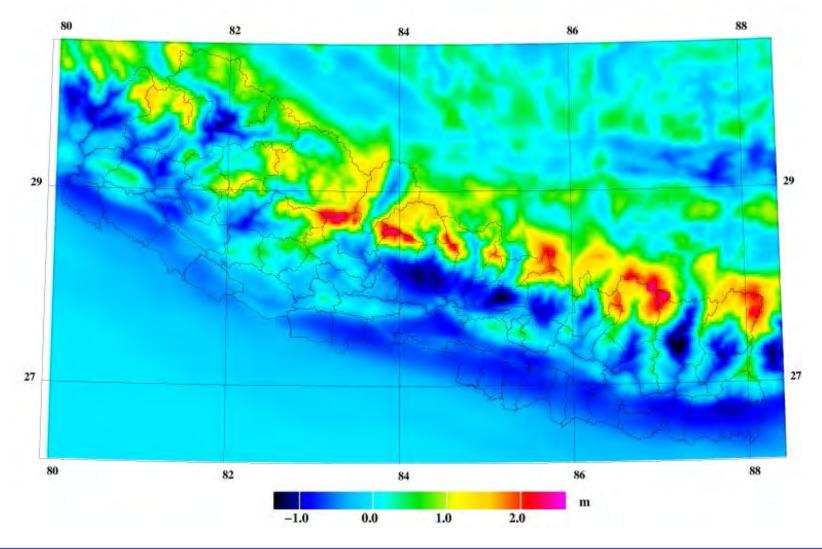




Geoid (terrain restore part)



Quasigeoid contribution from SRTM terrain 30" resolution

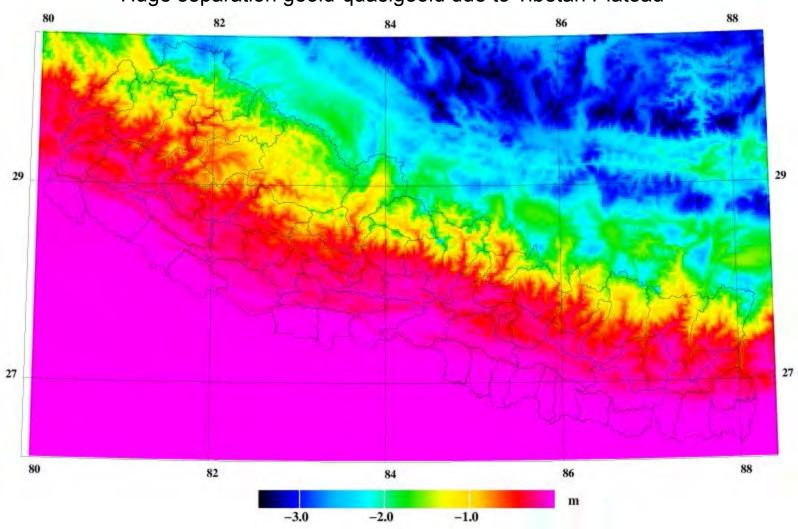




Difference N - ζ



Huge separation geoid-quasigeoid due to Tibetan Plateau

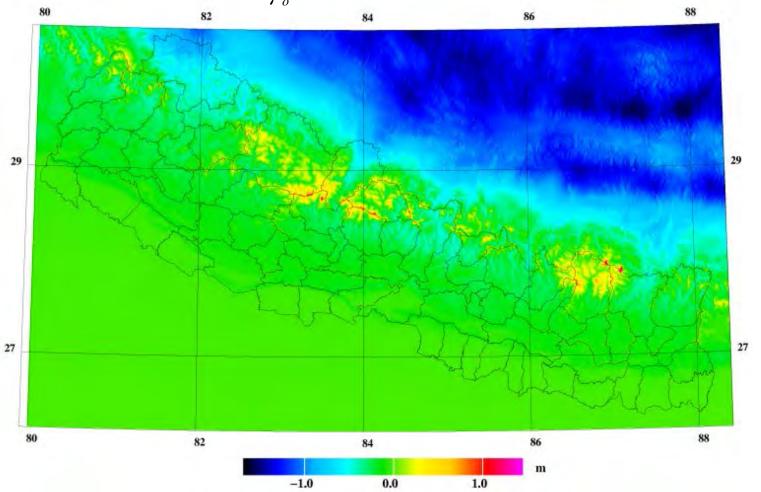








Molodensky:
$$\zeta - N \approx -\frac{\Delta g_B}{\gamma_B} H$$
 Helmert: $N = N^* - \pi G \rho / \gamma h + higher-order$

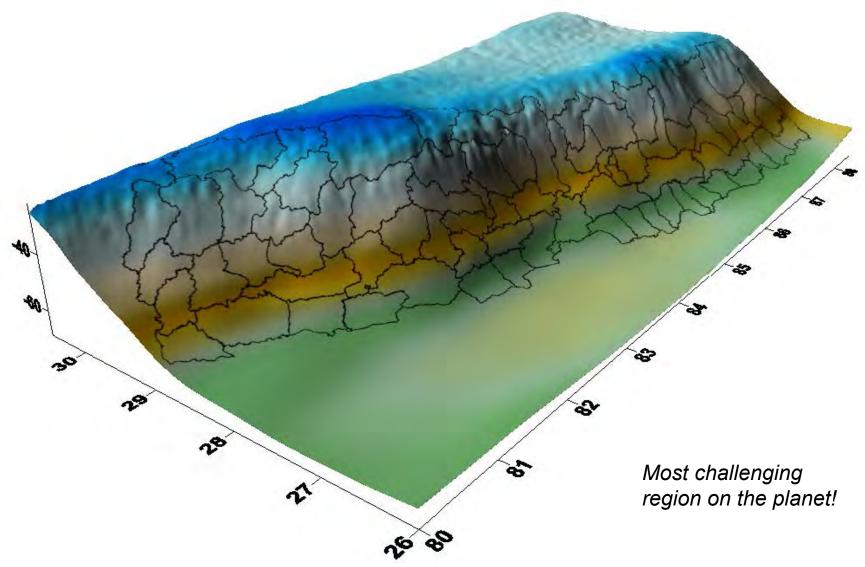




Final geoid











Geoid determination – GPS levelling comparison

Very limited data set – 8 points in Kathmandu Valley (large bias due to datum error .. GPS height bias 18.5 m!)



Comparison of geoid in Kathmandu Valley

Geoid model	Mean	R.m.s. (m)
Geoid model (Molodensky)	19.32	0.07
Geoid model (Helmert)	19.19	0.08
GOCE	19.75	0.51
EGM08	18.51	0.30

Bias of GPS => Heights in Nepal datum lower than in (EGM08) World Height System

 $\delta W_0 \sim 70 \text{ cm}$



Height of Mt Everest



• Classical determination: Triangulation from Himalaya foothills, Survey of India mid-1800's (Bengal Bay datum) Chinese determination by levelling and triangulation from Yellow Sea (1970's onwards)

Heights of Mt Everest (meter)

• GPS measurements: China and Italy – 1995, 1999, 2005 ...

Survey of Nepal 8848 Official value China (Y. Chen, 2005) 8847.93 Nat. Geographic Society 8850 (Washburn et al, 1999 - EGM96 based) Ellipsoidal height ITRF 8821.40 ±.03 (Chen, 2005; Poretti et al, 2004) -25.71 Geoid height (Mol.meth) Geoid-quasigeoid sep. -2.47**Height from Molodensky** 8847.11 Geoid height (Helmert) -26.66 **Height from Helmert** 8848.06

Mt Everest summit from south, Dec 17, 2010







GRAVSOFT



Set of DTU-Space / UCPH (late C C Tscherning) Fortran programs ... sharing common format *Gridding, selection, interpolation, FFT, collocation, satellite altimetry, terrain models*

GEOCOL - least-squares collocation and computation of reference fields.

GPCOL – least-squares collocation, especially good for downward continuation

EMPCOV, COVFIT, GPFIT - empirical covariance function estimation and fitting.

STOKES - Stokes' formula integration by grids.

GEOFOUR, SPFOUR, SP1D - FFT gravity field modelling (planar or spherical).

GEOGRID - rapid gridding by collocation or weighted means.

TC - terrain effects by prism integration.

TCFOUR - terrain effects by FFT methods.

COVFFT - covariance functions by FFT.

GEOIP - interpolation from grids to points or another grid.

SELECT - thin data or make average grids.

FCOMP - add/subtract data files

GCOMB - add/subtract and merge grid data

TCGRID - average grids and make reference topography

POINTMASS - make grid or data list of point-mass effects.

GEOID, GBIN - interpolation and conversion of fast binary grid format

GRAVSOFT is not freeware ... made available for non-commercial scientific work



GRAVSOFT standard formats



<u>Point data format</u>: Data list in free format, with lines

id,
$$\varphi$$
, λ (degrees), h , data1, data2, ...

<u>Grid data:</u> Data stored rowwise from N to S, initiated with label:

$$\phi_1$$
, ϕ_2 , λ_1 , λ_2 , $\Delta \phi$, $\Delta \lambda$
 d_{n1} , d_{n2} , ..., d_{nm} , ...,
 d_{11} , d_{12} , ..., d_{1m}

Unknown data are signalled by "9999". Grids may be in UTM projection.

An overview manual for the GRAVSOFT Geodetic Gravity Field Modelling Programs C. C. Tscherning Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen cct@gfy.ku.dk August 2008



GRAVSOFT gridding

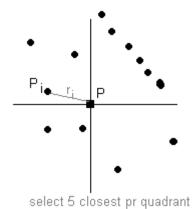


- GEOGRID central program to perform interpolation using collocation (mode 1) or weighted means (mode 2)
- Collocation: second order Gauss-Markov covariance function:

$$\hat{s} = C_{sx}C_{xx}^{-1}\underline{x} \qquad C(s) = C_0(1 + \frac{s}{\alpha})e^{(-s/\alpha)}$$

- s is the distance, C_0 is the signal variance, α is the correlation length ...
- Weighted means prediction (power 2) "quick and dirty":

$$\hat{s} = \frac{\sum_{i} \frac{x_i}{r_i^2}}{\sum_{i} \frac{1}{r_i^2}}$$



- In practice: select closest neighbours (e.g. 5/quadrant)
- New 2008 module: "fit_geoid" ... does all steps of geoid fitting in one go



2299



Useful software for PC applications

To run properly set up "path" parameter in windows – also needed for Python to run (start – settings – control panel – system – advanced – environment variables)

! average 2 x 2 cells, then do 9 x 9 moving window





