

# Geodesy

## What is it, and why do I like it?

AVN Training School 2019, HartRAO

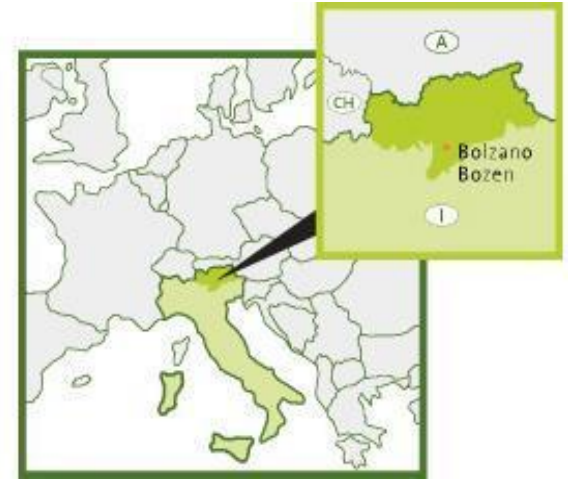
Maria Karbon

SYRTE, Observatoire de Paris

# Introducing myself

I am...

- Maria Karbon
- from Seis am Schlern, South Tyrol, Italy



# Introducing myself

I studied...

- Informatics in high school (2003)



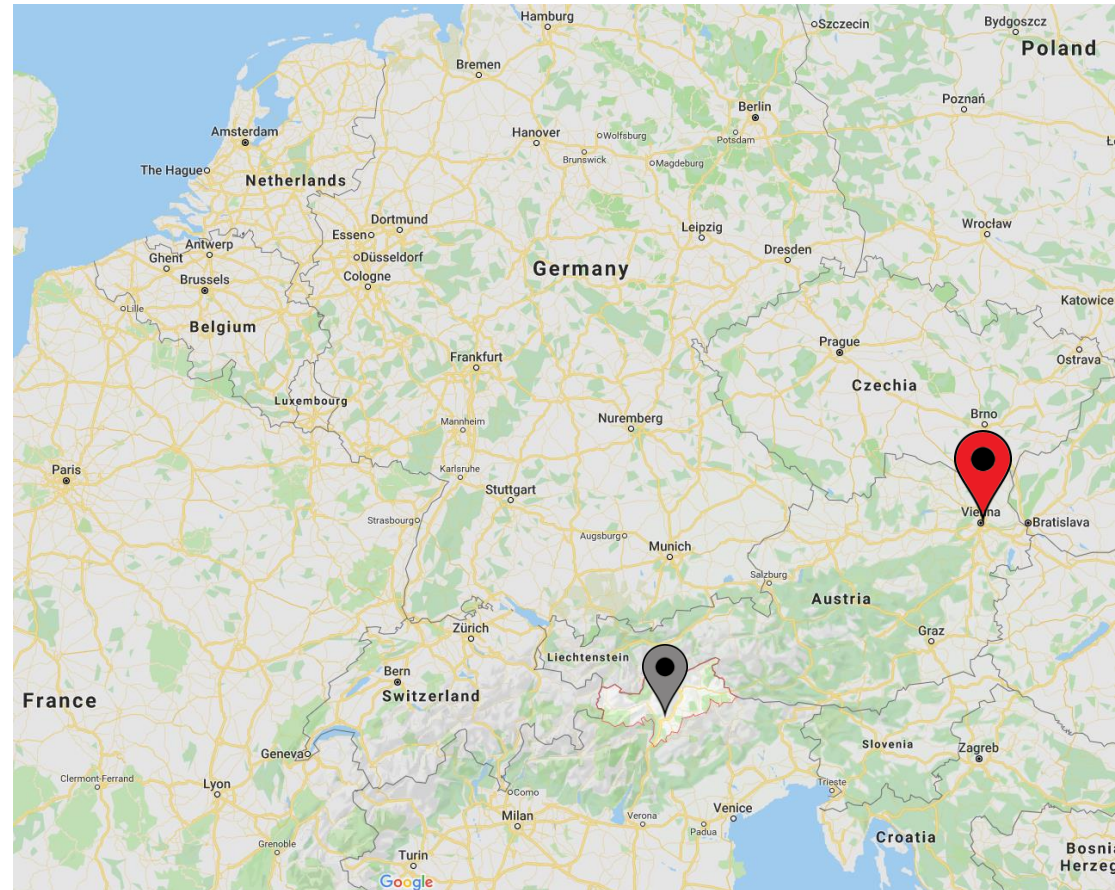
# Introducing myself

## I studied...

- Informatics in high school (2003)
- Diploma in Geodesy



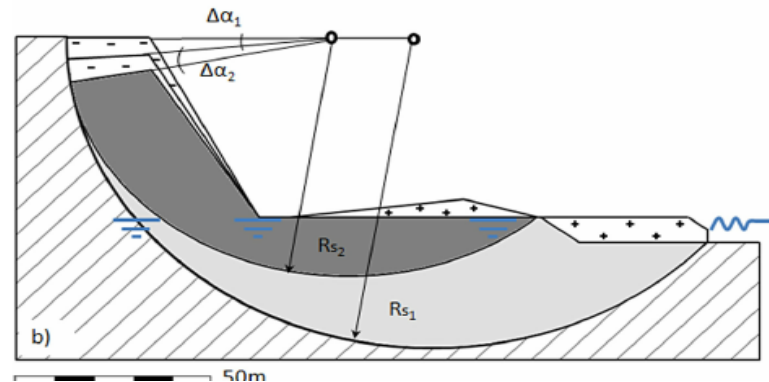
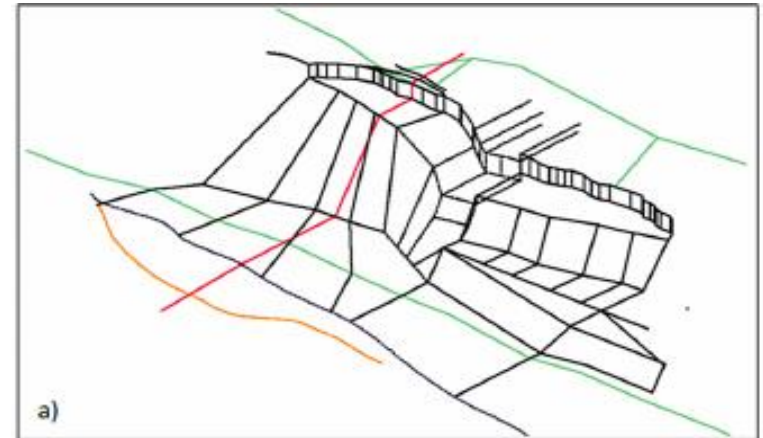
TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
WIEN  
Vienna | Austria



# Introducing myself

## Diploma thesis

- Kinematics of a mass movement constrained by sparse and inhomogeneous data



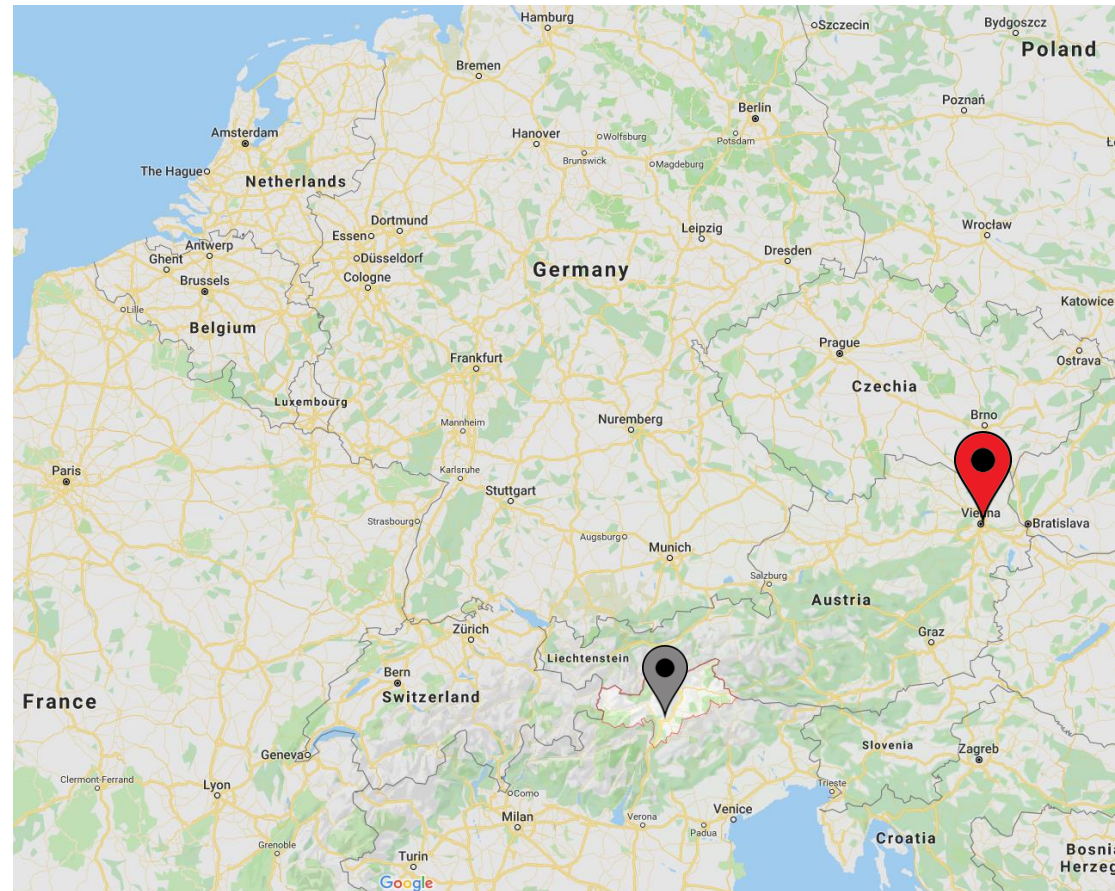
# Introducing myself

## I studied...

- Informatics in high school (2003)
- Diploma in Geodesy
- PhD



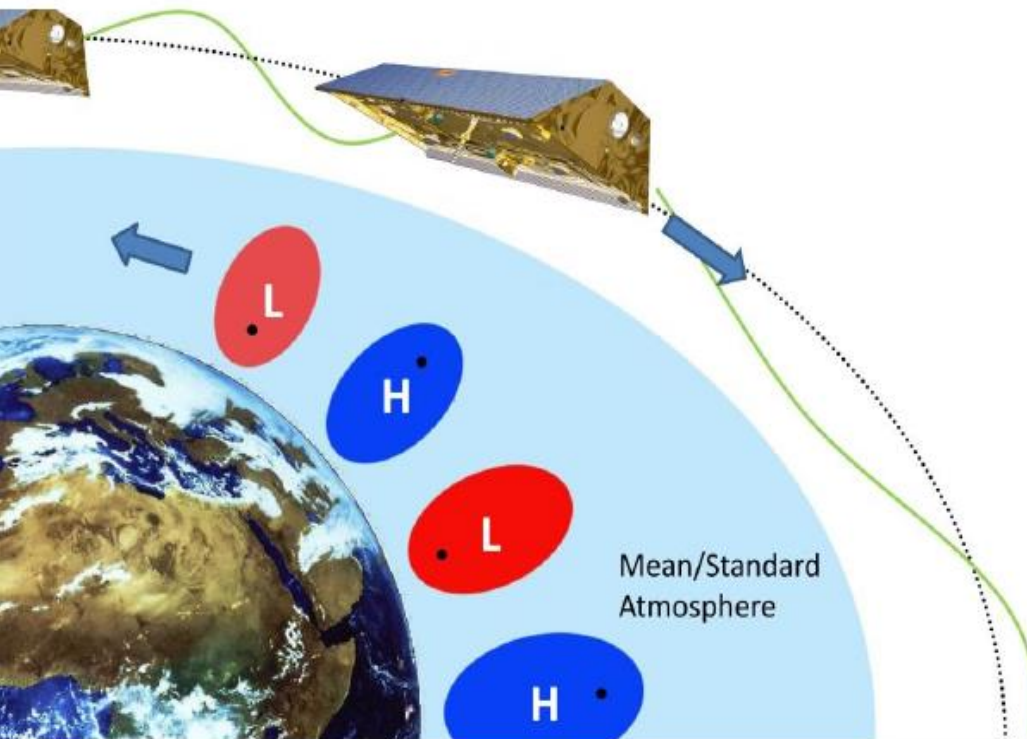
TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
WIEN  
Vienna | Austria



# Introducing myself

## PhD (2013)

- Atmospheric effects on measurements of the Earth gravity field

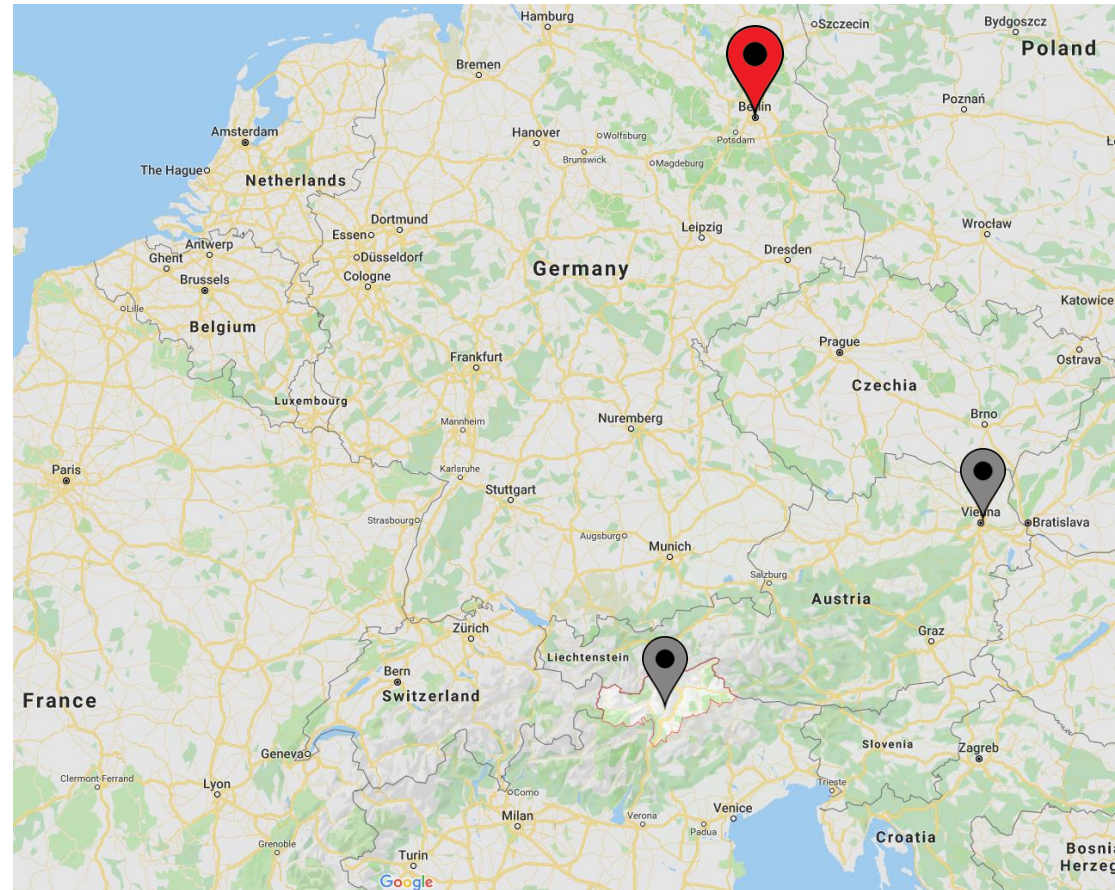


© Dennis Cox \* www.ClipartOf.com/6043

# Introducing myself

## I studied and worked...

- Informatics in high school (2003)
- Diploma in Geodesy
- PhD
- PostDoc

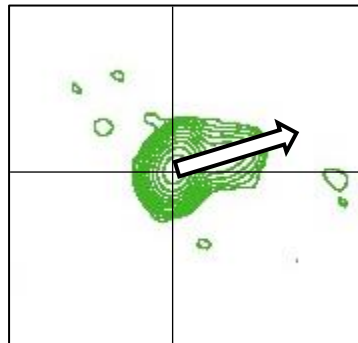




# Introducing myself

## PostDoc (2013- May 2017)

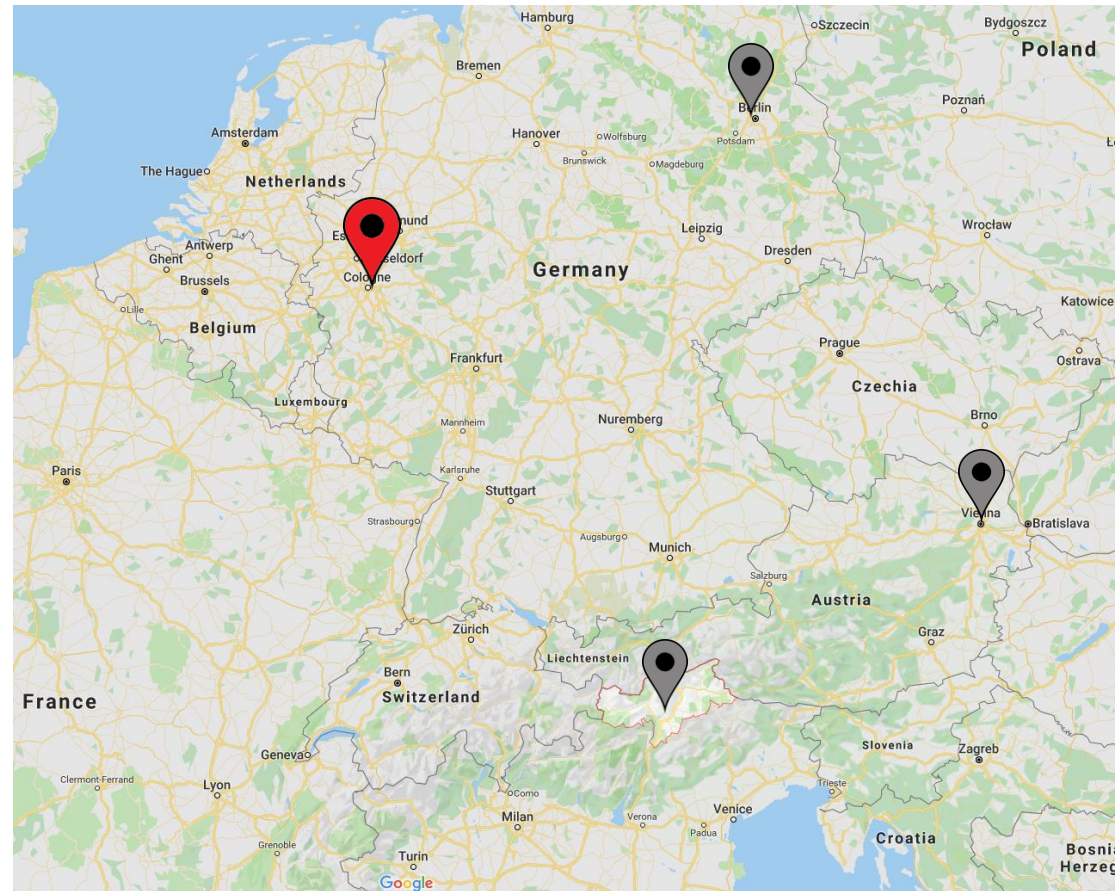
- Earth orientation parameters from VLBI determined with a Kalman filter [Karbon et al., 2014]
- The extension of the parametrization of the radio source coordinates in geodetic VLBI and its impact on the time series analysis. [Karbon et al., 2016]
- Long term evaluation of ocean tidal variation models of Earth rotation. [Karbon et al., 2018]



# Introducing myself

## I studied and worked...

- Informatics in high school (2003)
- Diploma in Geodesy
- PhD
- PostDoc



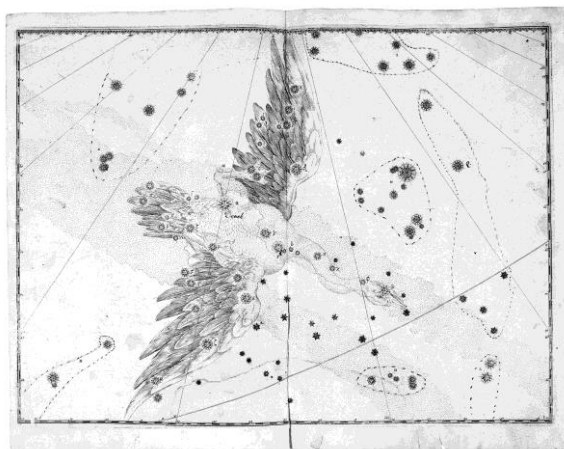
# Introducing myself

## PostDoc (October 2017 – March 2018)

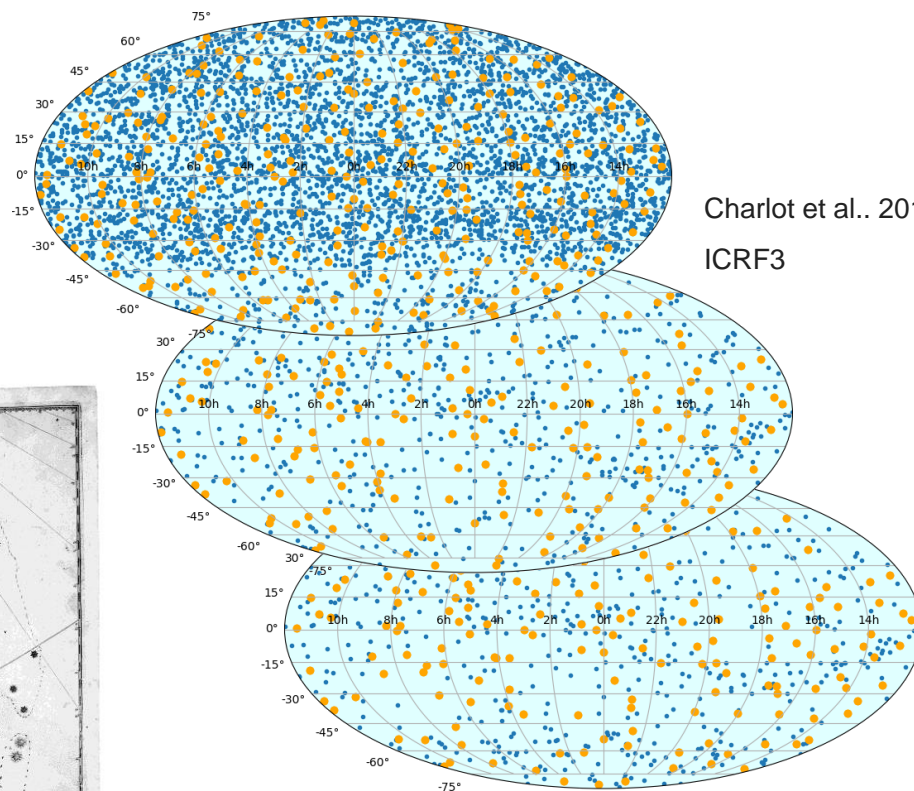
- Combination of celestial reference frames on normal equation level



Nebra sky disk 2100-1700 BC



Johann Bayer, 1603: Uranometria



Charlot et al., 2019:  
ICRF3

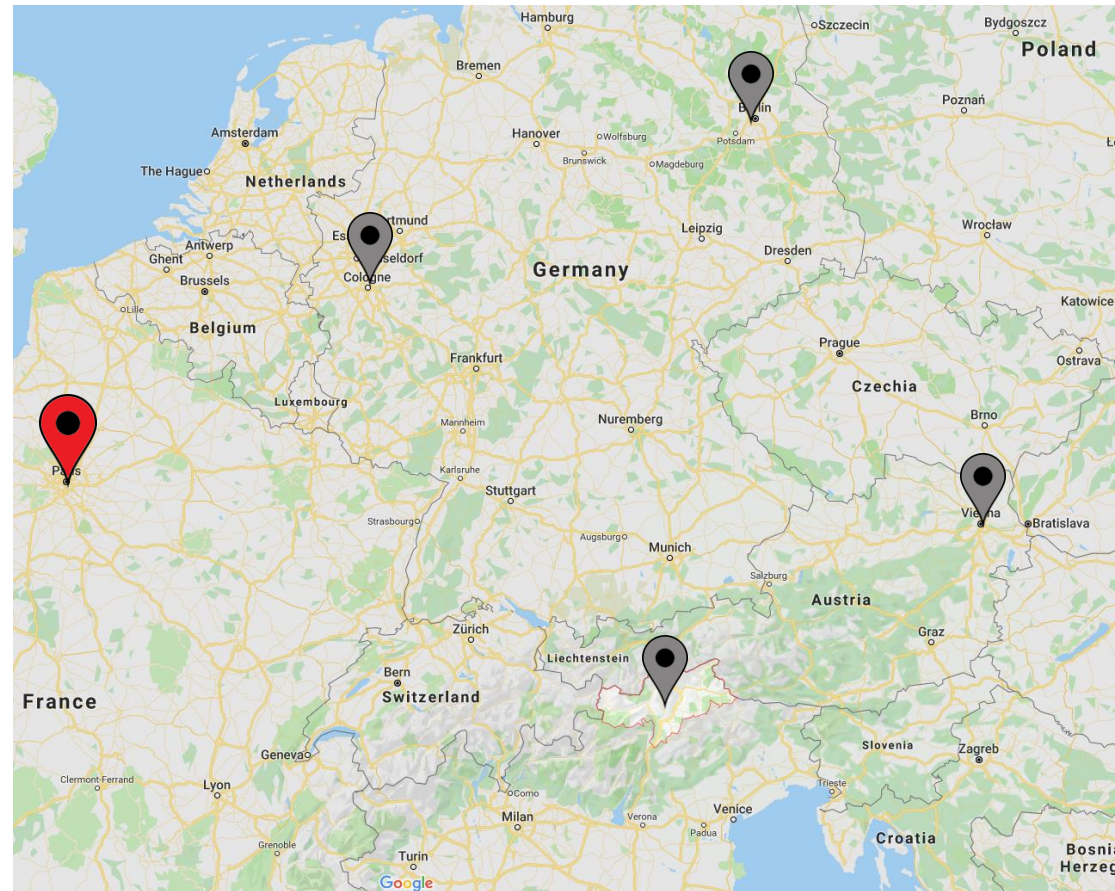
# Introducing myself

## I studied and worked...

- Informatics in high school (2003)
- Diploma in Geodesy
- PhD
- PostDoc



Systèmes de Référence Temps-Espace



## What is it?

## What does it mean?

- Geo – desy = Earth – dividing
- geo (← γη )
  - Gaia, goddess of the Earth
  - Earth, land, town, acre, soil, estate
- desy (← δαιομαι, δαισθαι) = divide, allot, distribute
- Example: Nile valley
  - border demarcation
  - surveying
  - mapping
  - cadaster
  - real estate regulation



## What is it?

- Geodesy is the science of measuring and mapping the Earth surface.



Friedrich Robert Helmert  
1843 - 1917

## What is it?

- The objective of geodesy is the determination of the potential function  $W(x,y,z)$ .



Ernst Heinrich Bruns  
1848 - 1919



## What is it?

- Geodesy is what geodesists do for their living.



Helmut Moritz  
1933-

# Geodesy

## What is it?

- Geodesy is a discipline that deals with measurement and representation of the Earth, including its gravity field, in a three-dimensional time varying space.

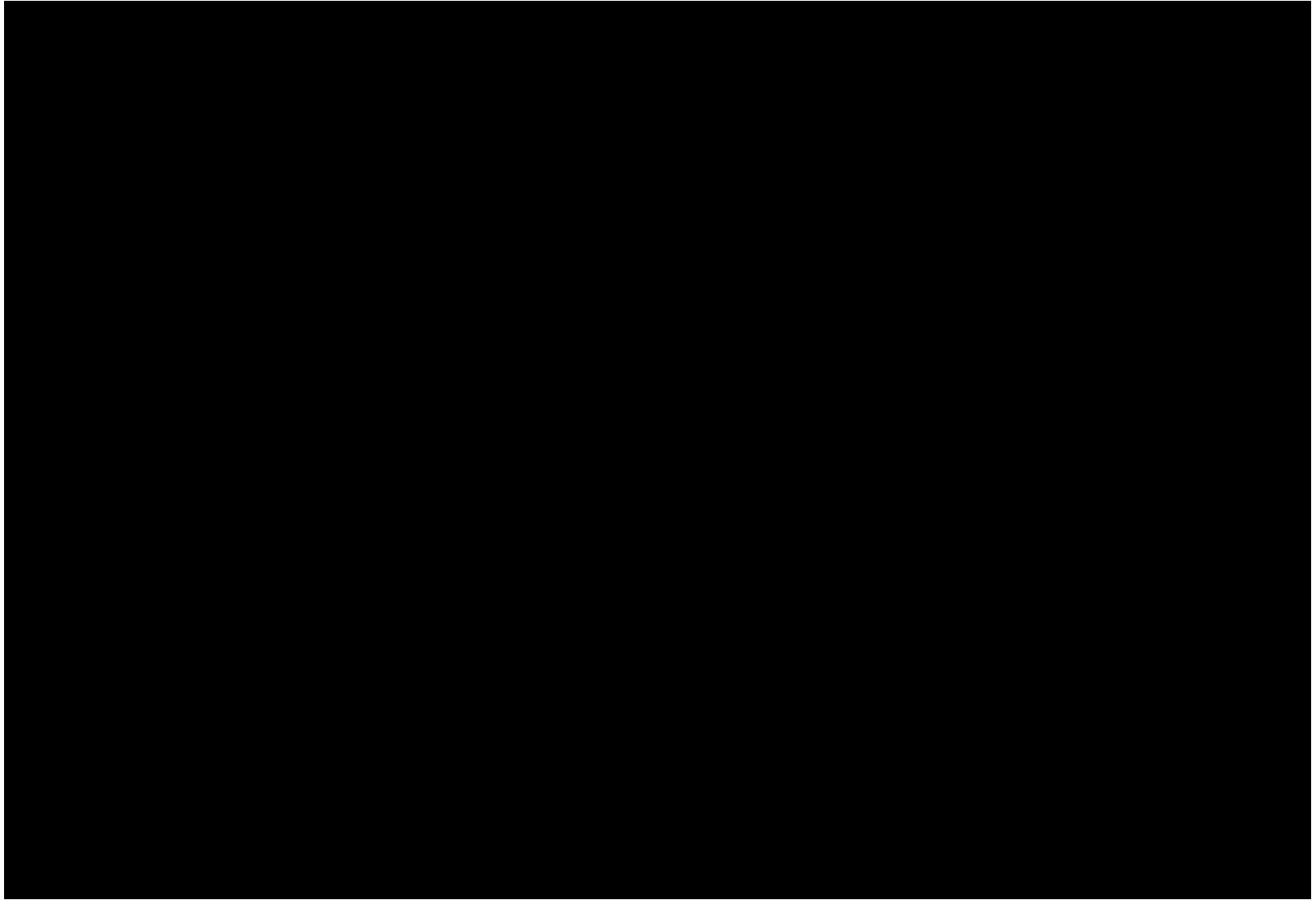
National Research Council of Canada, 1973  
Vanicek & Krakiwsky, 1982

# Geodesy

## What is it?

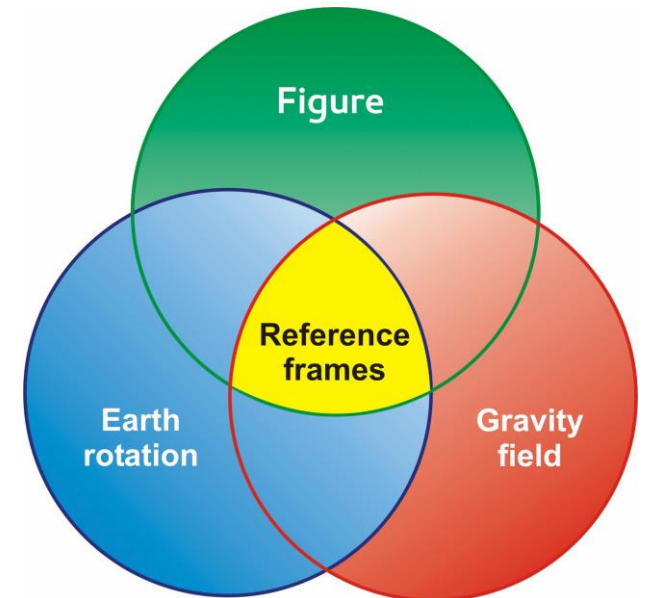
- Geodesy is a discipline that deals with the measurement and representation of the **shape** of the Earth, its **orientation in space** and its gravity field, in a 3D time varying space.

# Geodesy



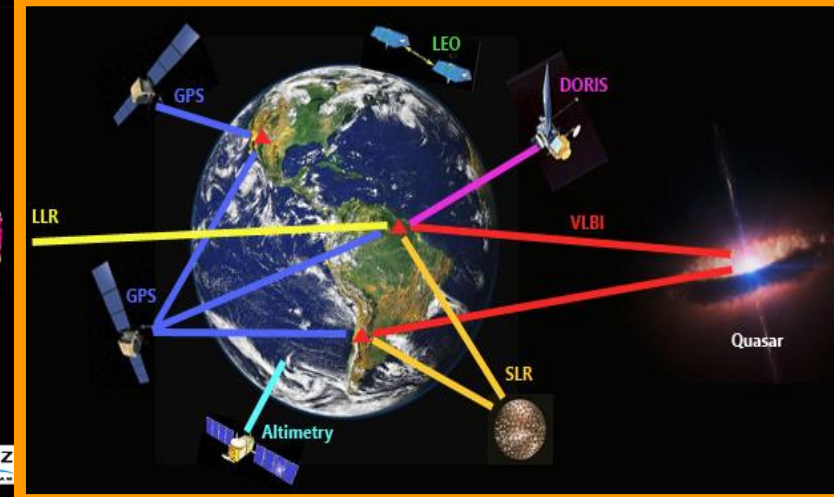
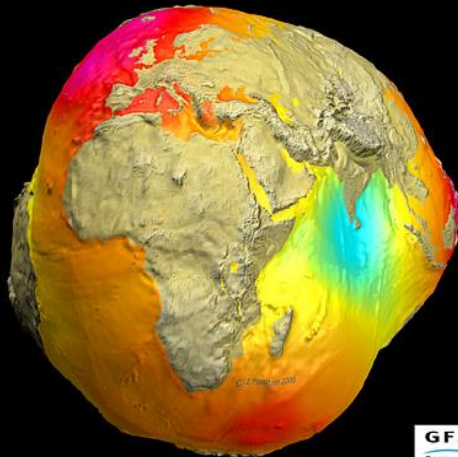
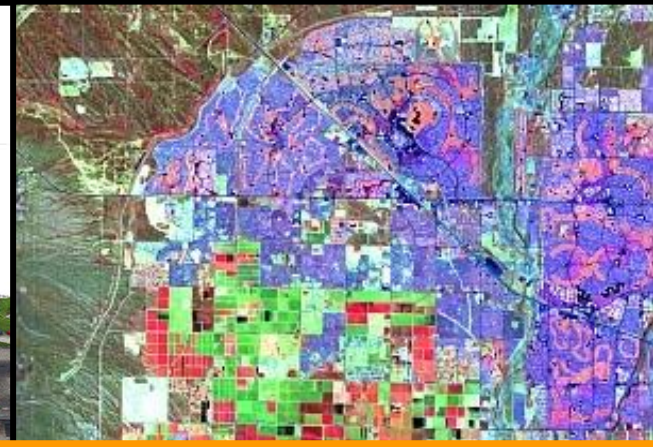
## Three pillars of Geodesy

- Figure of the Earth
  - topography, bathymetry, ice surface, sea level
- Earth rotation and orientation
  - polar motion, Earth rotation, nutation, precession
- Gravity field of the Earth
  - gravity, geoid



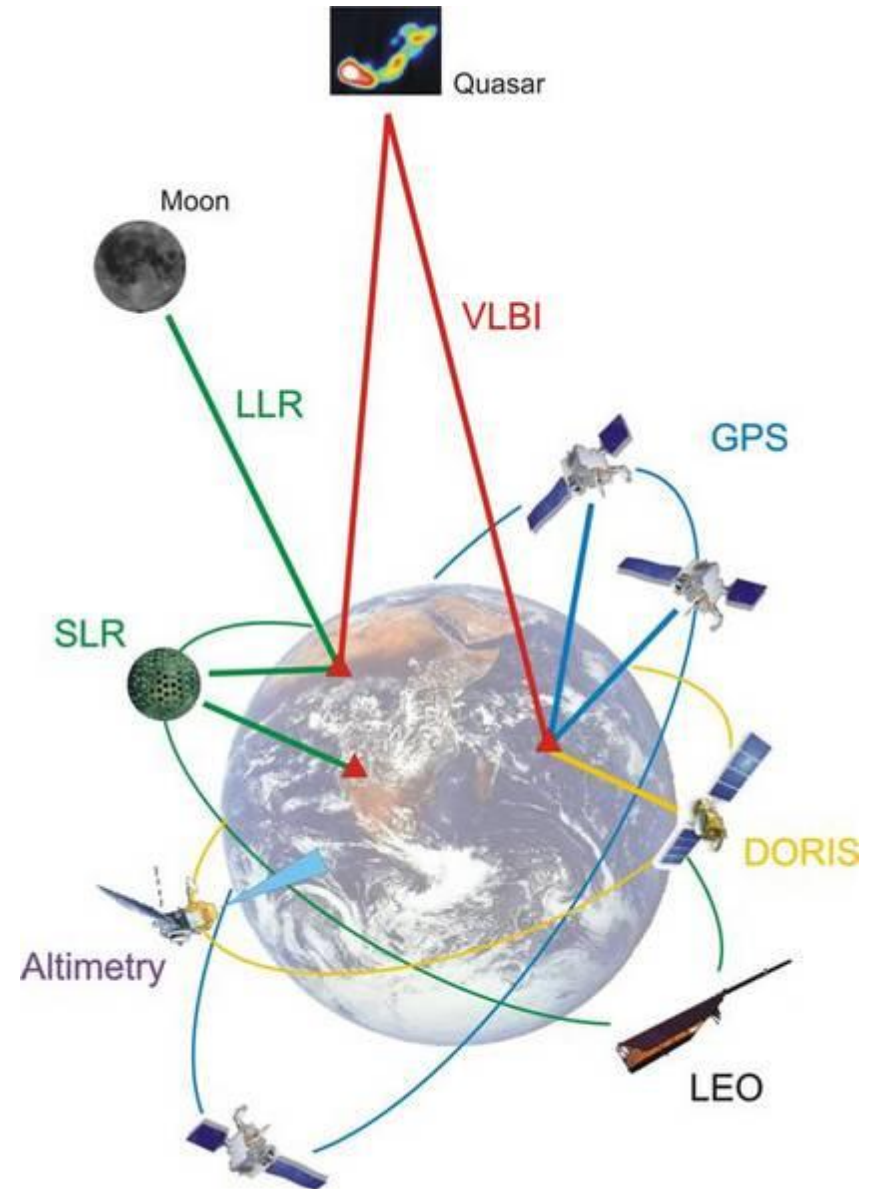
<http://www.iag-aig.org/>

# Geodesy



## Space geodesy...

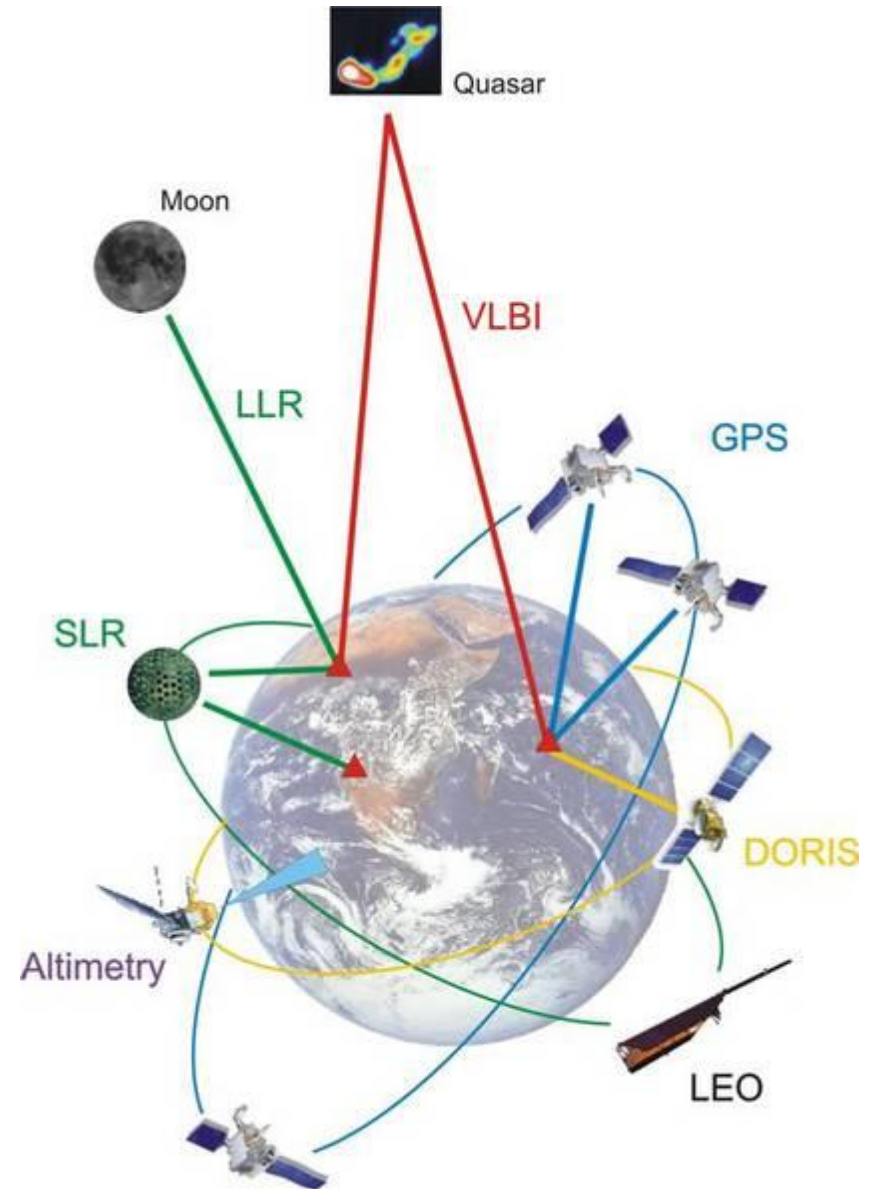
- studies the aspects of geodesy by using **natural** or **artificial celestial bodies** as observed objects or as observing platforms.



## Space geodesy...what for?

- studies the aspects of geodesy by using **natural** or **artificial celestial bodies** as observed objects or as observing platforms.

Global monitoring of the System Earth



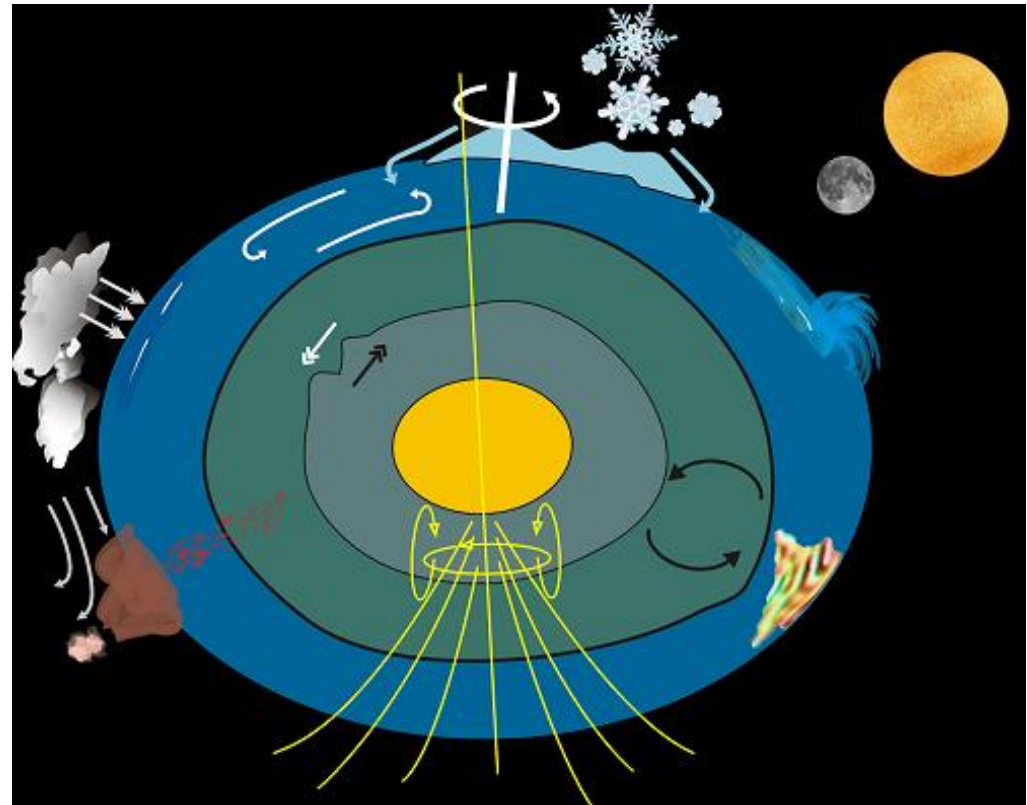


# Monitoring the System Earth

## Subsystems of the Earth

- Geodetic parameters are closely related to changes of mass distributions within and between the Earth's subsystems and the related interactions.

- Solid Earth
- Atmosphere
- Hydrosphere
- Cryosphere
- Biosphere
- Anthroposphere
- (Space)



## Geometry and deformation of the Earth

- Everything moves!
  - Problem and fascination of geodesy
- Examples:
  - Earth rotation
  - Solid Earth tides
  - Plate tectonics
  - Earthquakes
  - Global weather
  - Sea level change
  - Loading (ice, ocean, atmosphere)



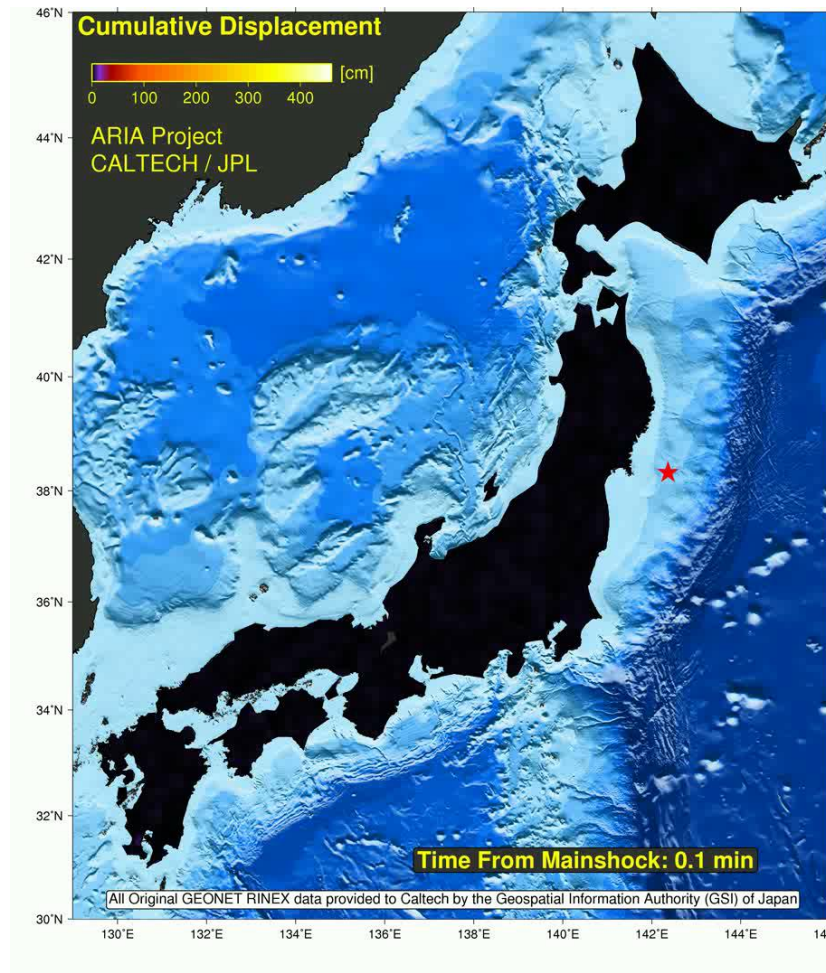
Christchurch, New Zealand, M: 7.1, 04.10.2010.

## Time scales of changes

- Sudden
  - Earthquake (*local, regional*)
  - Rockslide and -avalanche (*local*)
  - Land slide (*local*)
  - Mud slide (*local*)
- Emerging
  - Volcanic eruption (*regional, global*)
  - Tsunami (*local to trans regional*)
  - Hurricane, Storm (*regional*)
  - Flood (*regional*)
- Long term
  - Climate change (sea level, temperature, weather activity, atmospheric structure, etc.) (*global*)
  - Tectonic plate motion (*global*)

# Monitoring System Earth

Sudden: M 9.0 Tohoku earthquake ,11. March 2011



# Monitoring System Earth

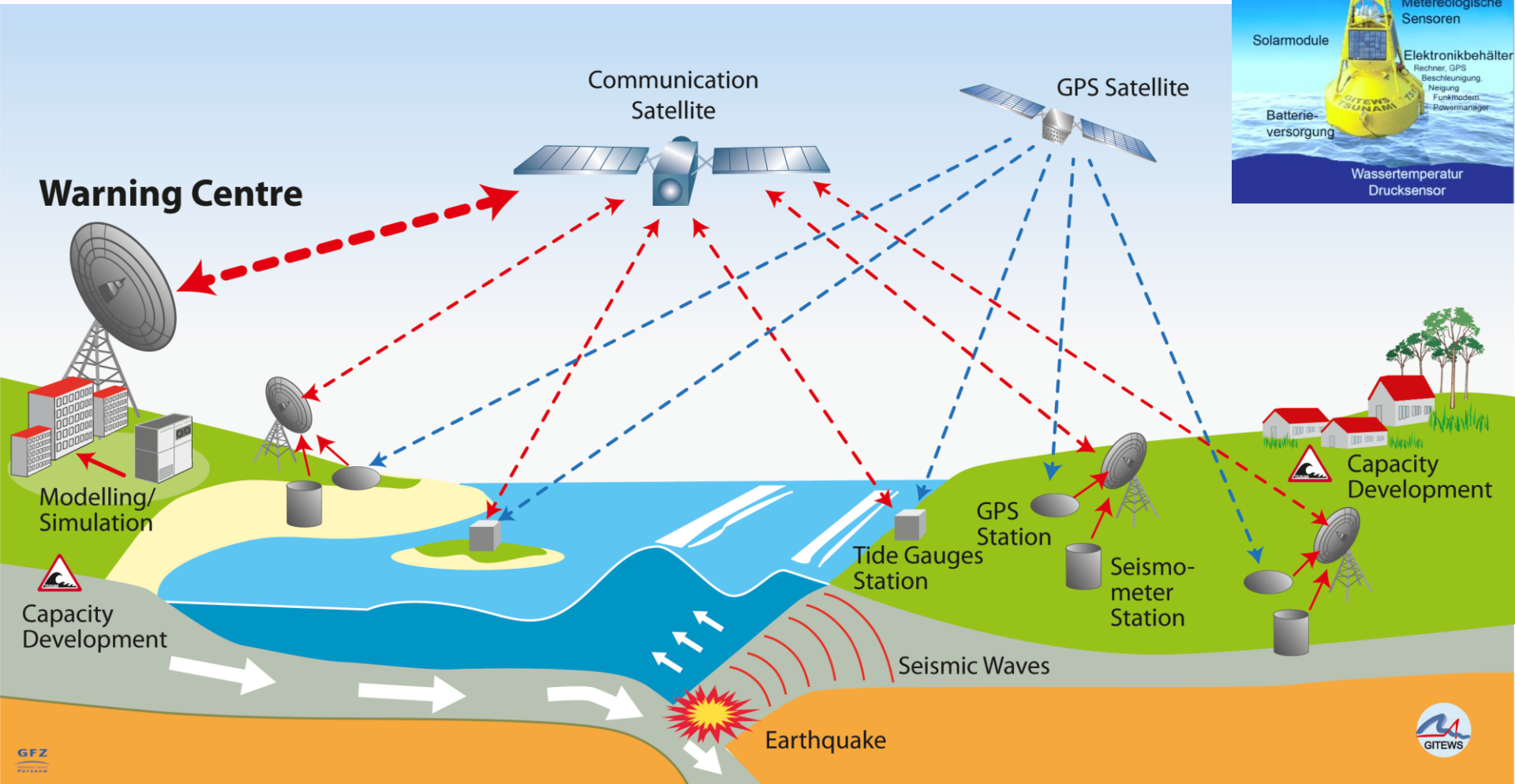
**Sudden: M 9.0 Tohoku earthquake ,11. March 2011**



# Monitoring System Earth

## German Indonesian Tsunami Early Warning System

Installed after the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake, 26.12, M: 9.2,  
230,000 – 280,000 dead



# Monitoring System Earth

## Emerging: Eyjafjallajökull, March-April 2010



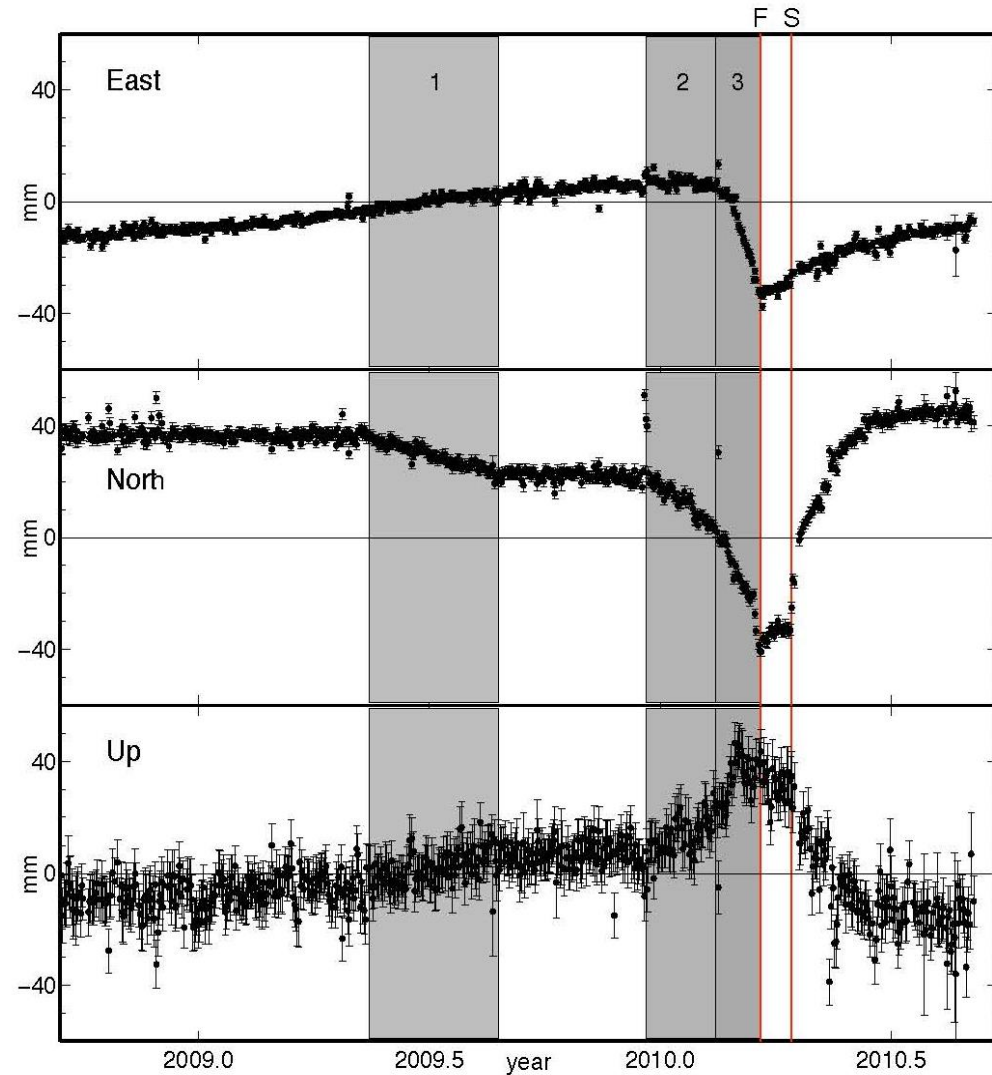
Good Morning Eyjafjallajökull!!!

# Monitoring System Earth

## Emerging: Eyjafjallajökull, March-April 2010

- GPS time series of the station THEY
  - (south of the Eyjafjallajökull)
  - Relative to station REYK (Reykjavík)
- Grey areas (intrusions phases)
- Red line F (lateral eruption)
- Red line S (peak eruption)

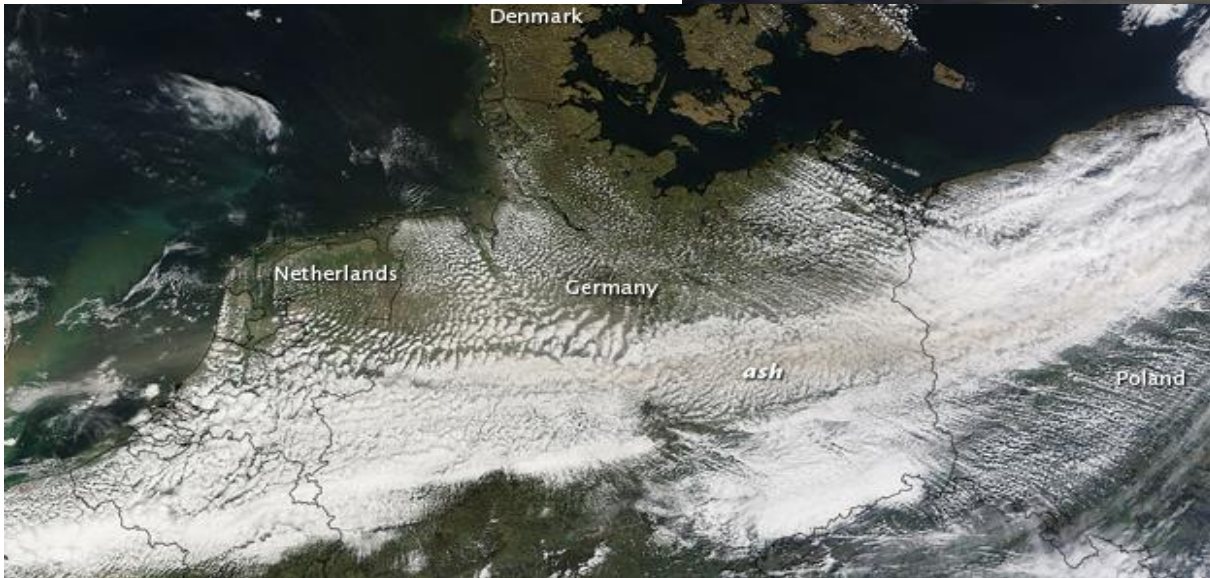
F Sigmundsson *et al.* *Nature* 468, 426-430 (2010)





# Monitoring System Earth

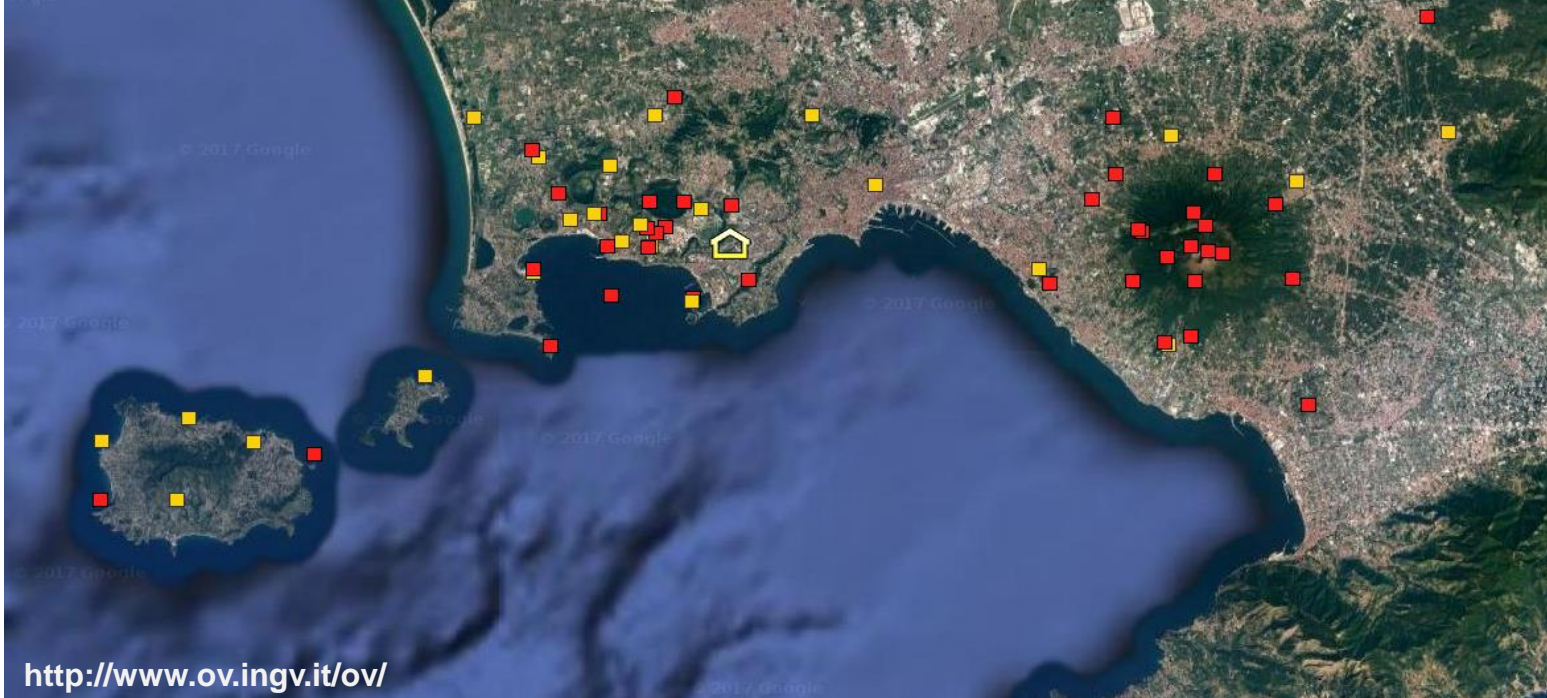
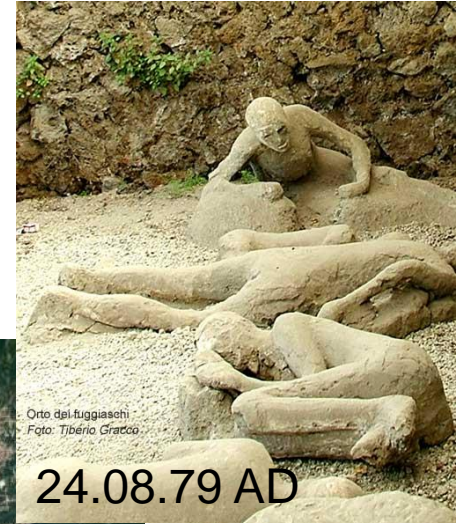
## Emerging: Eyjafjallajökull, March-April 2010



[NASA image courtesy Jeff Schmalz, MODIS Rapid Response Team at NASA GSFC]

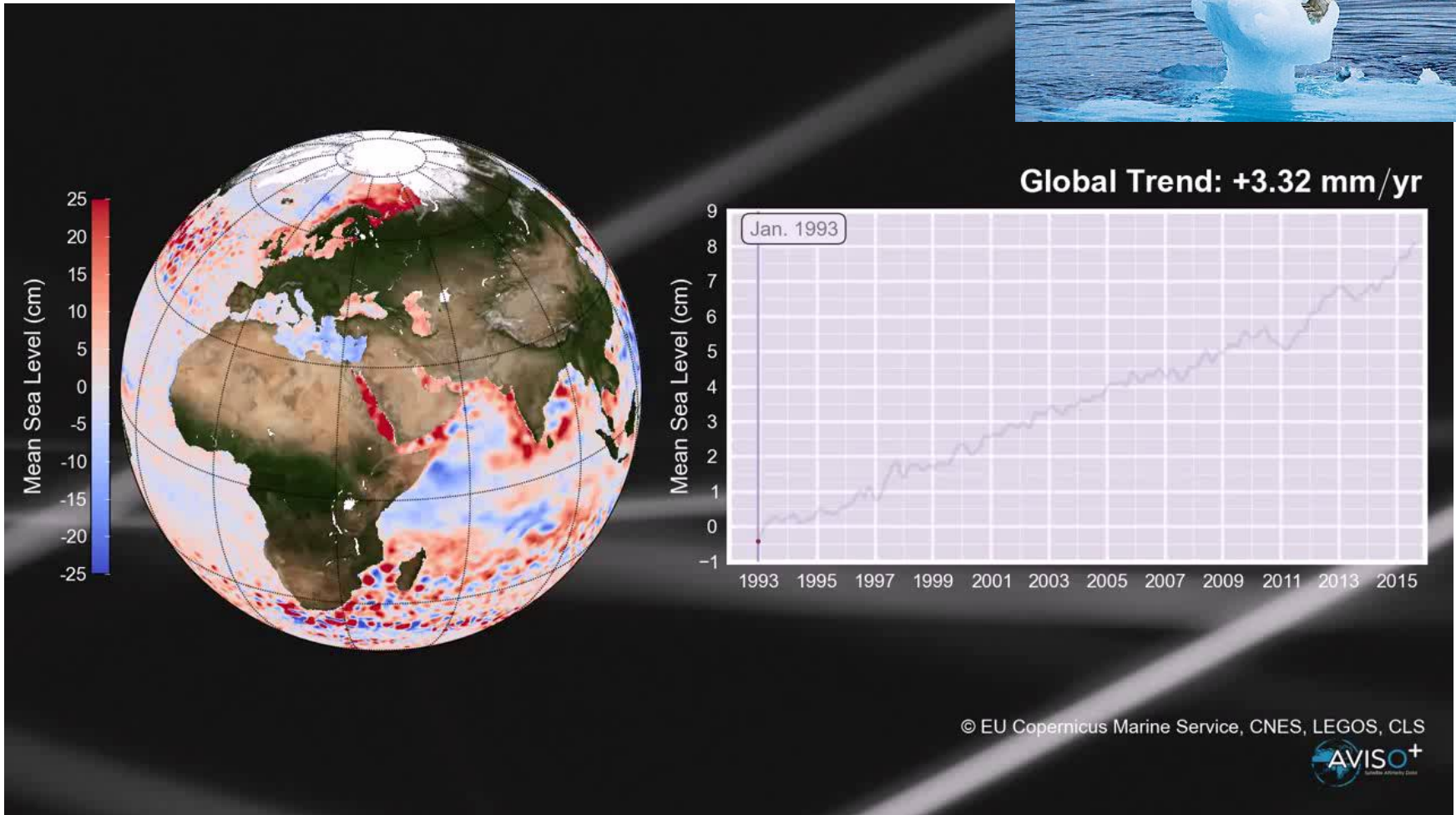
# Monitoring System Earth

## Emerging: Mount Vesuvius ?

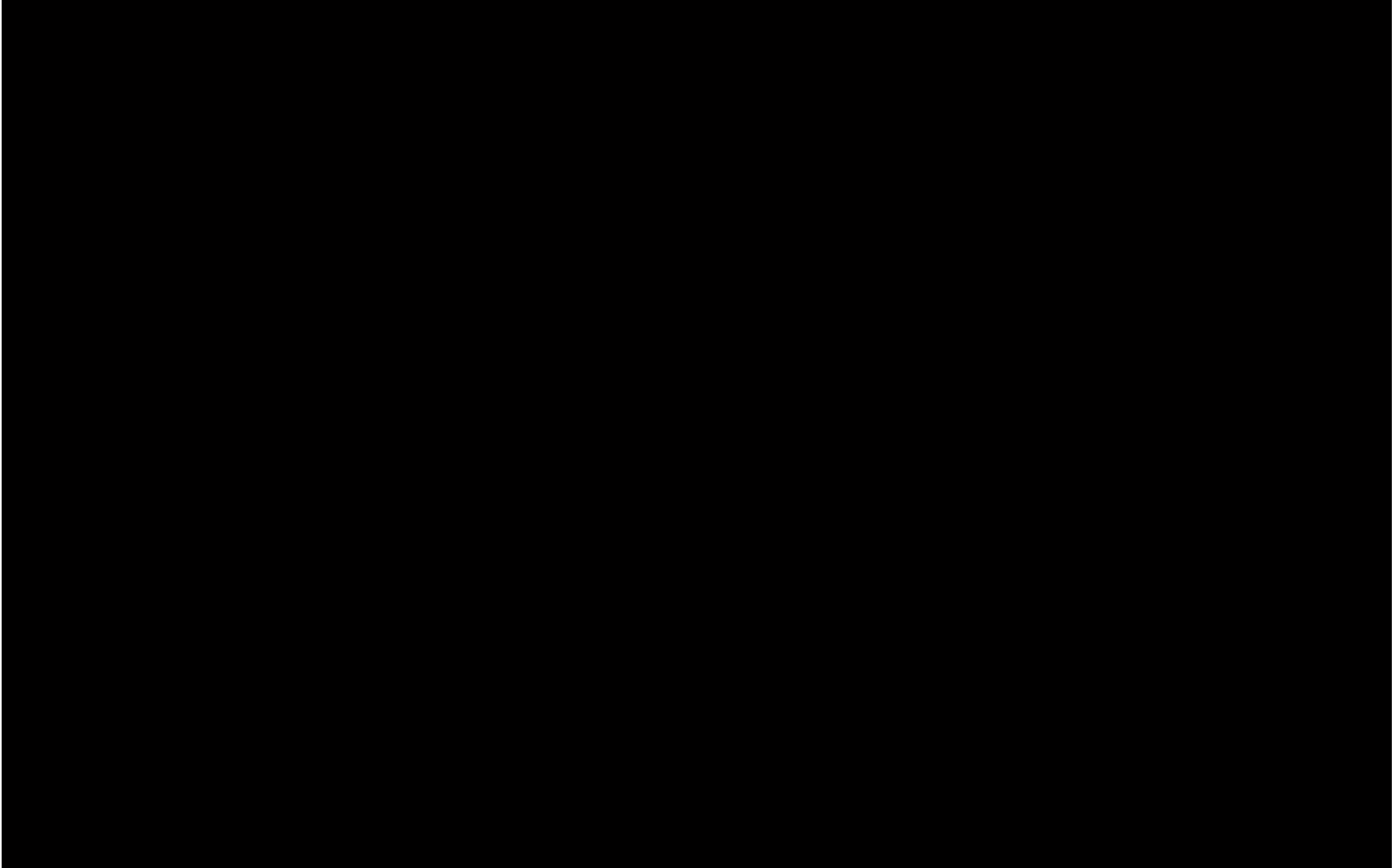


# Monitoring System Earth

## Long term: Sea level rise

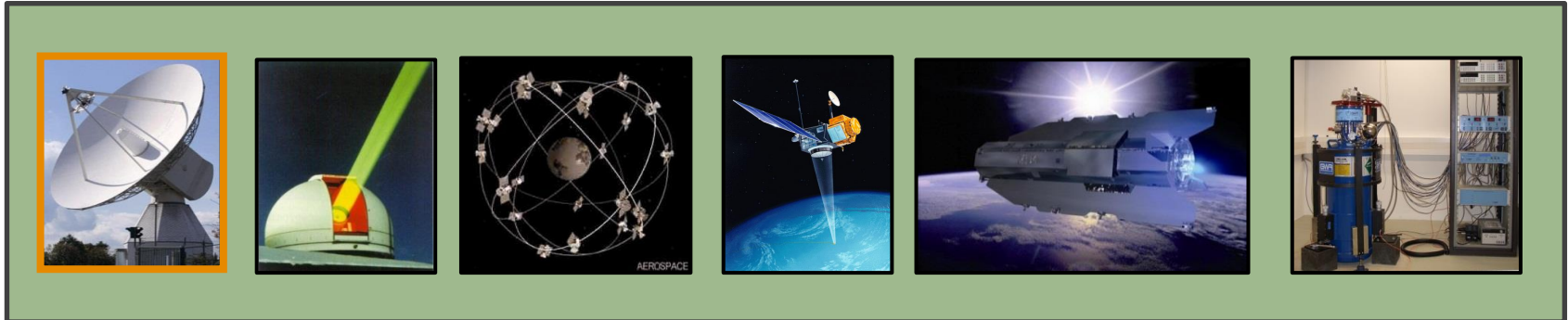


## Why geodetic VLBI?



# The role of VLBI for space geodesy

## Geodetic observation techniques

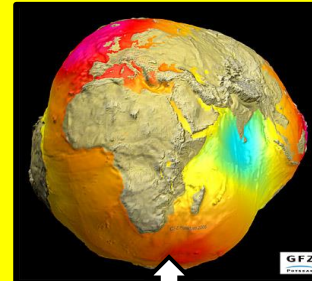
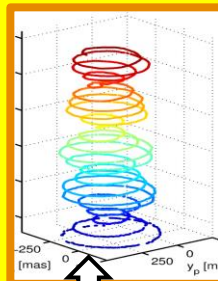
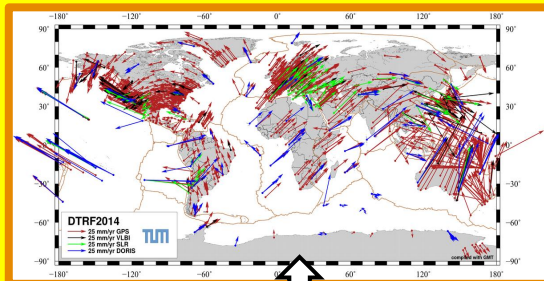


Standards and Models

Analysis Centres

Combination Centres

## Geodetic products



Geodetic reference frames

# The role of VLBI for space geodesy

Parameter Type	VLBI	GNSS	DORIS	SLR	LLR	Altimetry
ICRF (Quasars)	X					
Nutation, Precession	X	(X)		(X)	X	
Polar Motion	X	X	X	X	X	
UT1	X					
Length of Day	(X)	X	X	X	X	
ITRF (Stations)	X	X	X	X	X	(X)
Geocenter		X	X	X		X
Gravity Field		X	X	X	(X)	X
Orbits		X	X	X	X	X
LEO Orbits		X	X	X		X
Ionosphere	X	X	X			X
Troposphere	X	X	X			X
Time Freq./Clocks	(X)	X		(X)		

# The role of VLBI for space geodesy

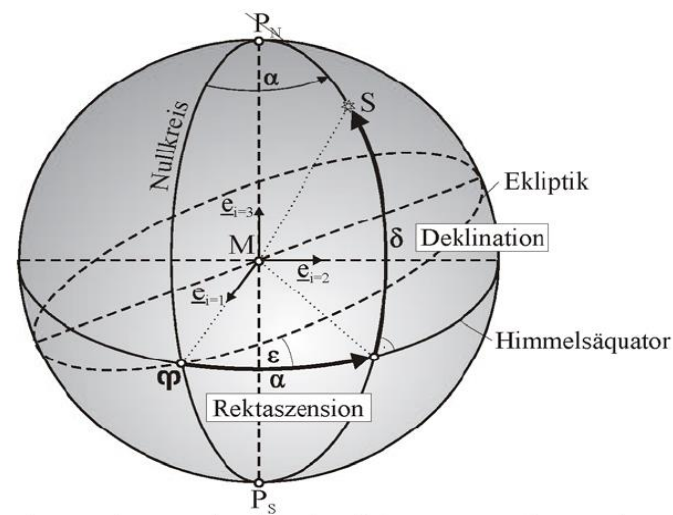
## Fields involved

- astronomical objects, radio sources (**astrophysics, radio astronomy**),
- propagation of radio in space-time (**gravitational physics**) and in the atmosphere (**atmosphere physics**)
- the antenna- and receiver, mechanical and electronical components of the instrumentation (**radio-frequency engineering**),
- Earth as being the carrier of the interferometer baselines formed by antenna pairs (**geodynamics**),
- correlator (**signal processing**), and analysis of VLBI observations, application of physically motivated mathematical models through the software based on the objective and subjective decisions of the operator(s)
- (**space geodesy**)

# International Celestial Reference Frame

## Quasi-inertial system realized by VLBI

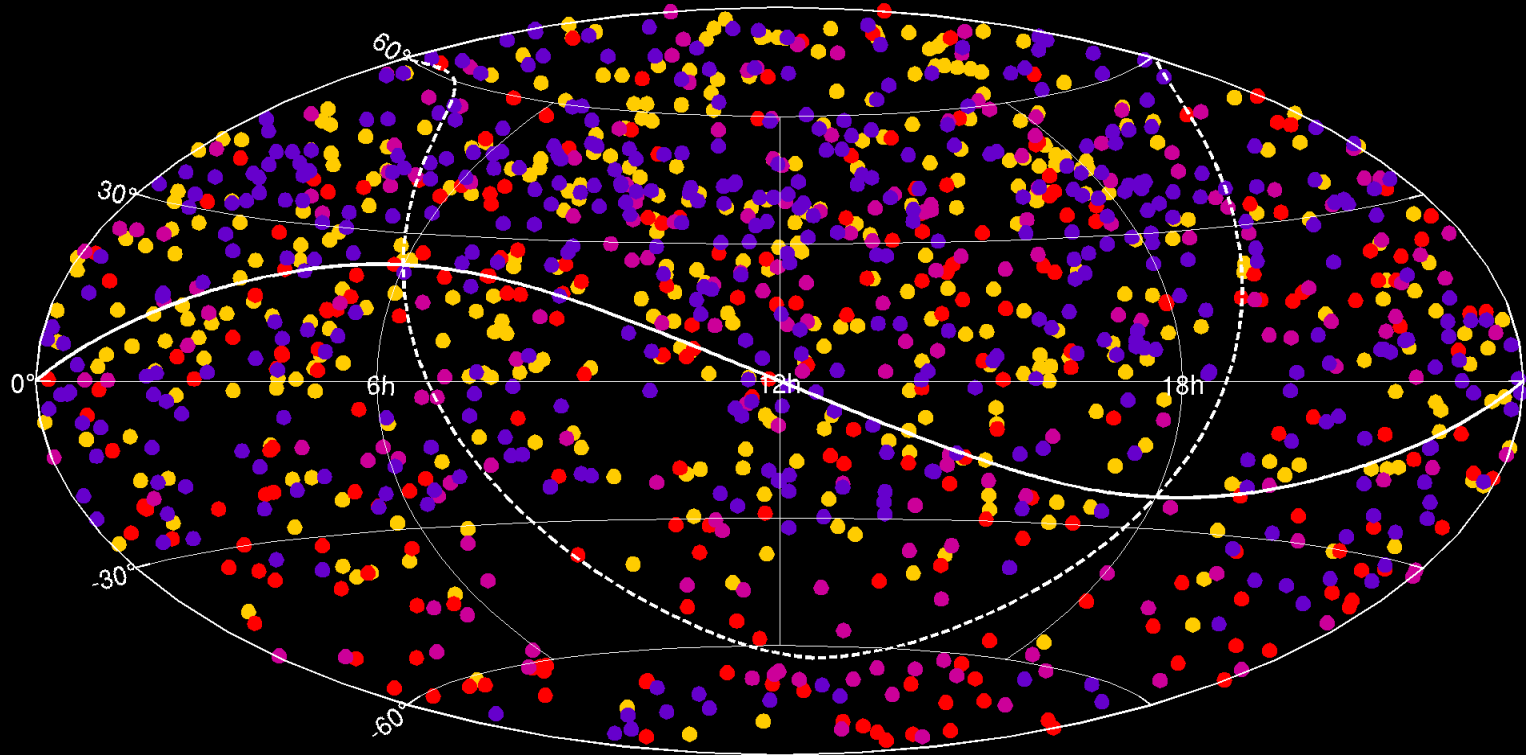
- Orientational quasi-inertial system realized by VLBI
- Origin
  - Solar System Barycenter (SSB), i.e. the center of mass of the solar system bodies (solar system dynamics)
- Time scale, metric
  - Barycentric coordinate time (TCB), BCRS
- Orientation, principal plain
  - True celestial equator at J2000.0 defined by precession (Lieske et al, 1977) and nutation (Seidelmann et al., 1982) models
- Coordinates
  - Right ascension
    - Clockwise hour angle  $\alpha$ , Zero = vernal equinox  $\gamma$  (intersection of the mean ecliptic with the true celestial equator at J2000.0 (solar system dynamics))
  - Declination
    - Angle w.r.t. the principal plane  $\delta$ , positive towards celestial north pole  $P_N$
- Orientation stability
  - The stability of the axes is given by the constant positions of the quasar coordinates (kinematically non-rotating)



(Arias, E.F., et al., Astron. Astrophys. 303, 604, 1995)



# International Celestial Reference Frame



## Why do we need the ICRF?

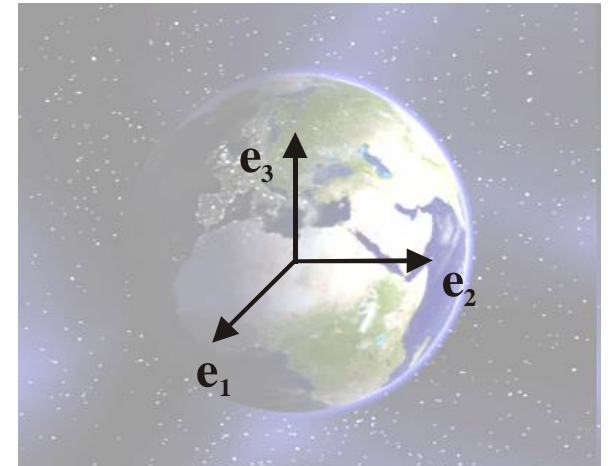
- For geodesy, the radio sources are the most stable remote targets.
- They provide the external orientation of Earth (**Earth Orientation Parameters**).
- ICRF2 (Fey et al., 2015) is the most precise and stable orientational frame available (IAU 2009, IUGG 2011). It is realized by **VLBI** observations of extragalactic radio sources.
- Other (celestial) reference frames, such as
  - the galactic reference frame (GalRF),
  - other radio reference frames (e.g. at other radio frequencies),
  - the optical star catalogs (FK5, Hipparcos, FK6, etc.),
  - the planetary ephemerides (JPL, IAA, etc.) and
  - the **orbits of satellites**

...are **referred** to ICRF.

# International Terrestrial Reference Frame

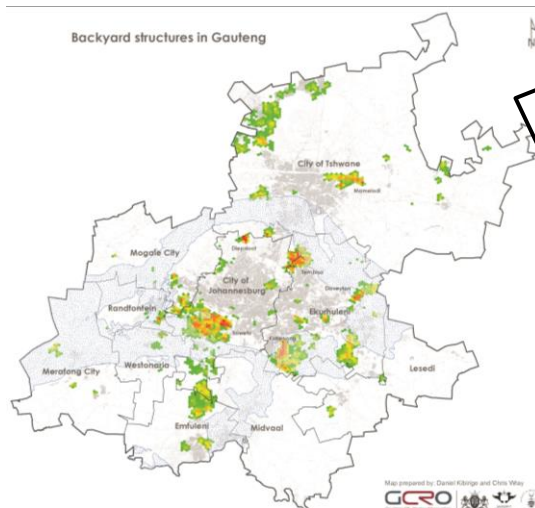
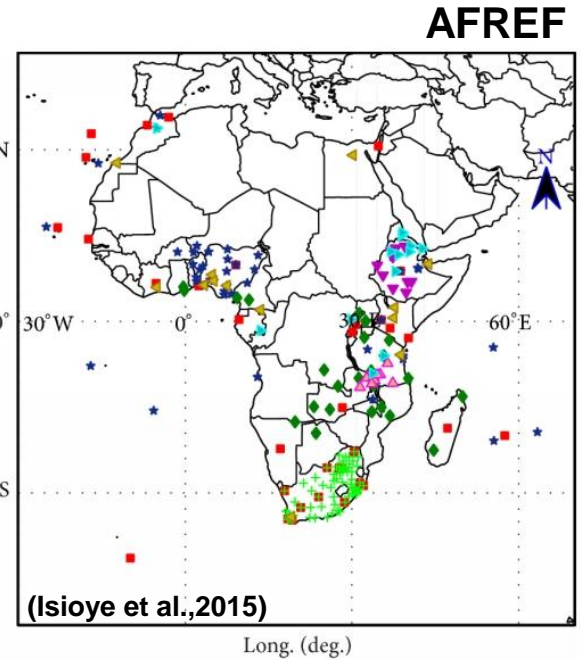
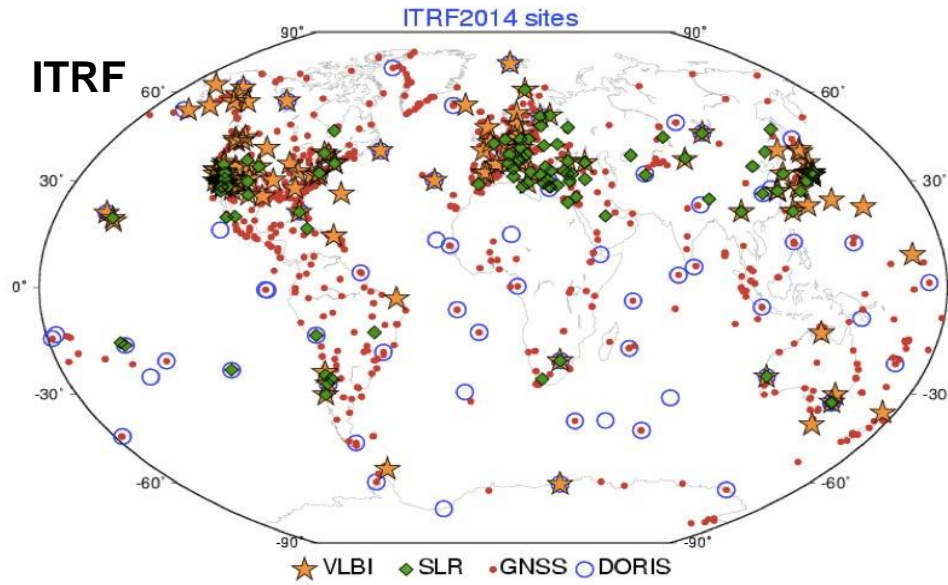
## Geocentric co-rotating body-fixed system

- Origin
  - Center of mass of system Earth, including solid Earth, oceans, atmosphere, cryosphere, ...
- Time scale, metric
  - Geocentric coordinate time (TCG), GCRS
- Orientation, principal plane
  - BHI 1984.0 reference pole
  - Equatorial system:  $e_1$  intersection of equator and Greenwich meridian,  $e_3$  mean pole,  $e_2$  orthogonal wrt.  $e_1/e_3$
- Coordinates
  - Geocentric 3D-cartesian
- Orientation stability
  - NNR (kinematically non rotating) on Earth crust model

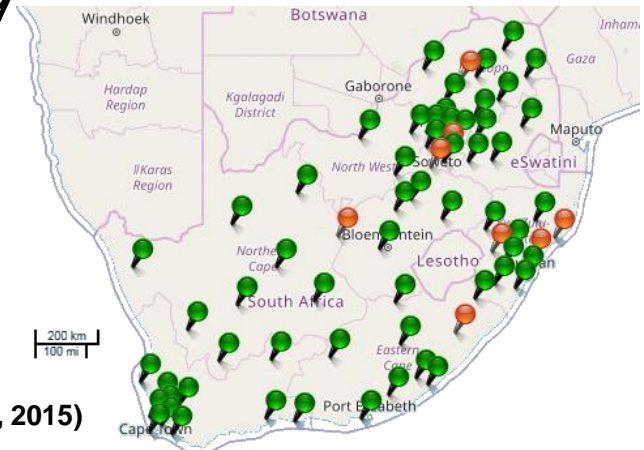


# Terrestrial Reference Frame

## From large scale to the smallest detail



TrigNet  
(Combrinck, 2015)



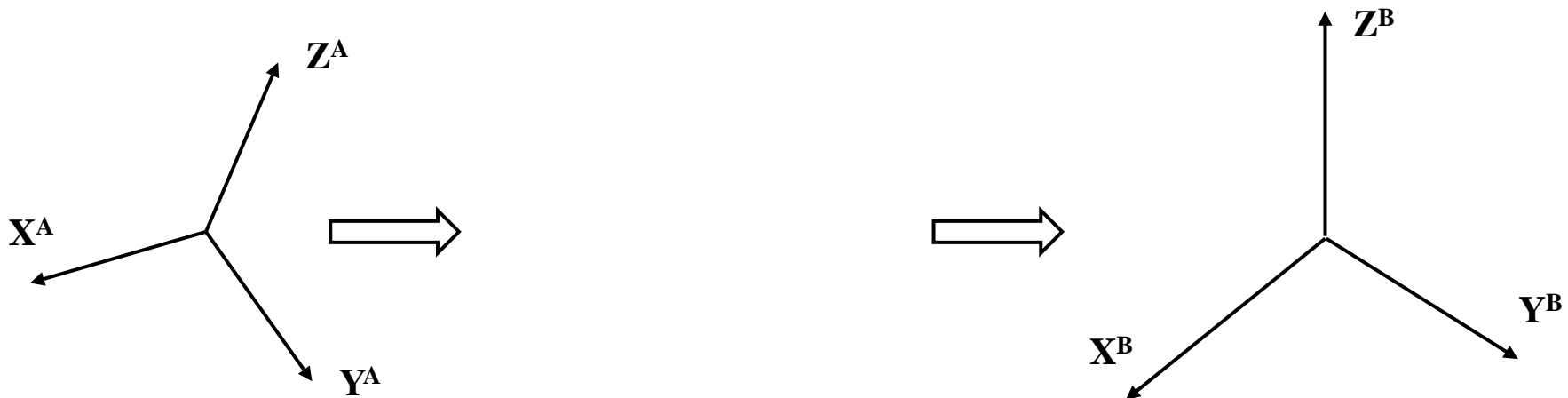
Local reference  
frame

## **VLBI contribution to the ITRF: scale**

# Terrestrial Reference Frame

## VLBI contribution to the ITRF: **scale**

- HELMERT-transformation between two frames

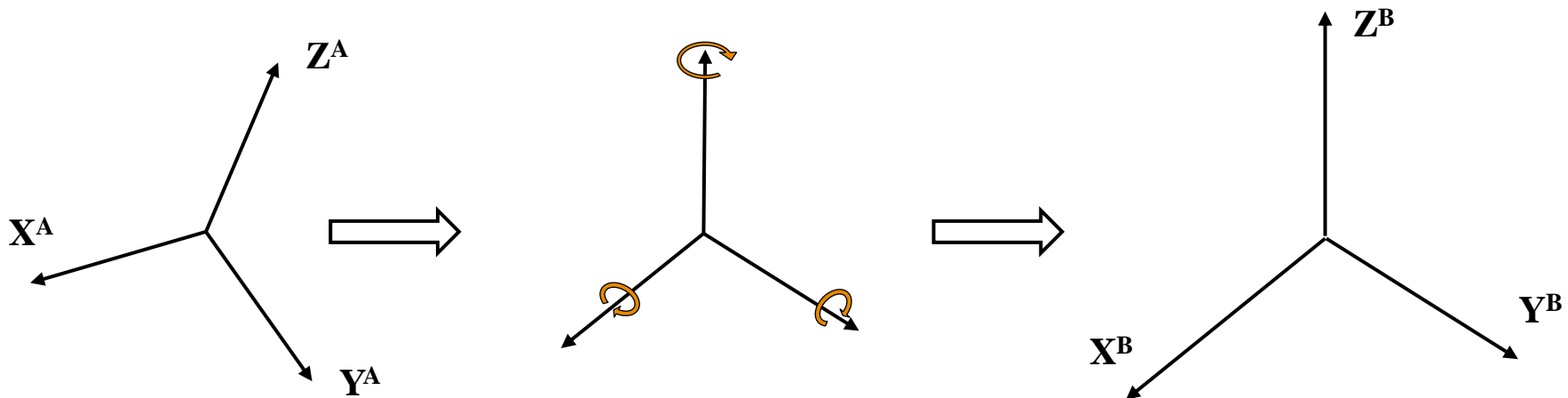


# Terrestrial Reference Frame

## VLBI contribution to the ITRF: **scale**

- HELMERT-transformation between two frames

$$\begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix}^B = \begin{bmatrix} c_x \\ c_y \\ c_z \end{bmatrix} + (1 + s \times 10^{-6}) \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -r_z & r_y \\ r_z & 1 & -r_x \\ -r_y & r_x & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix}^A$$

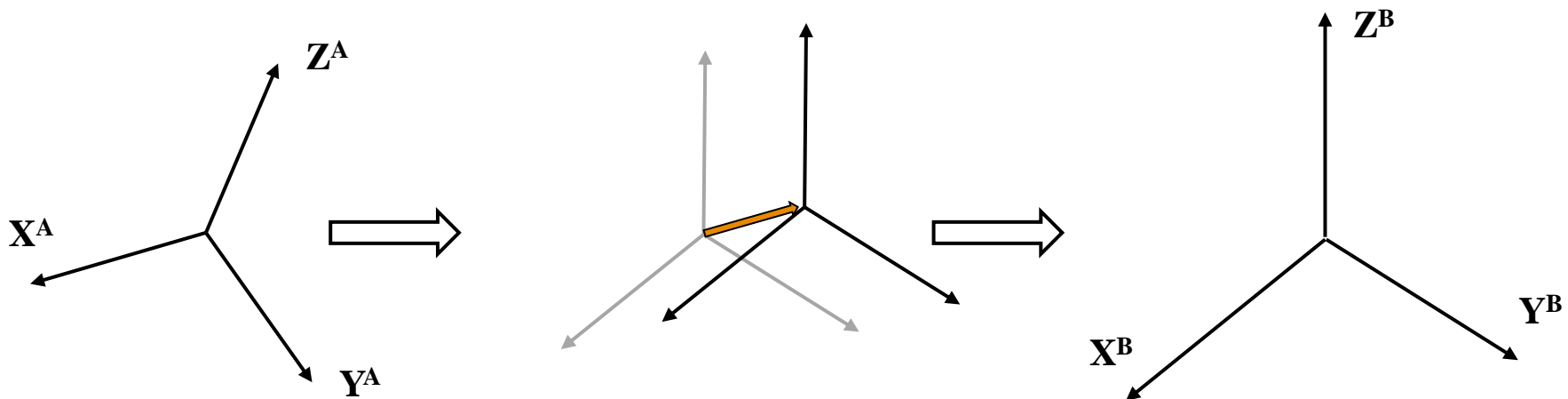


# Terrestrial Reference Frame

## VLBI contribution to the ITRF: **scale**

- HELMERT-transformation between two frames

$$\begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix}^B = \begin{bmatrix} c_x \\ c_y \\ c_z \end{bmatrix} + (1 + s \times 10^{-6}) \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -r_z & r_y \\ r_z & 1 & -r_x \\ -r_y & r_x & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix}^A$$



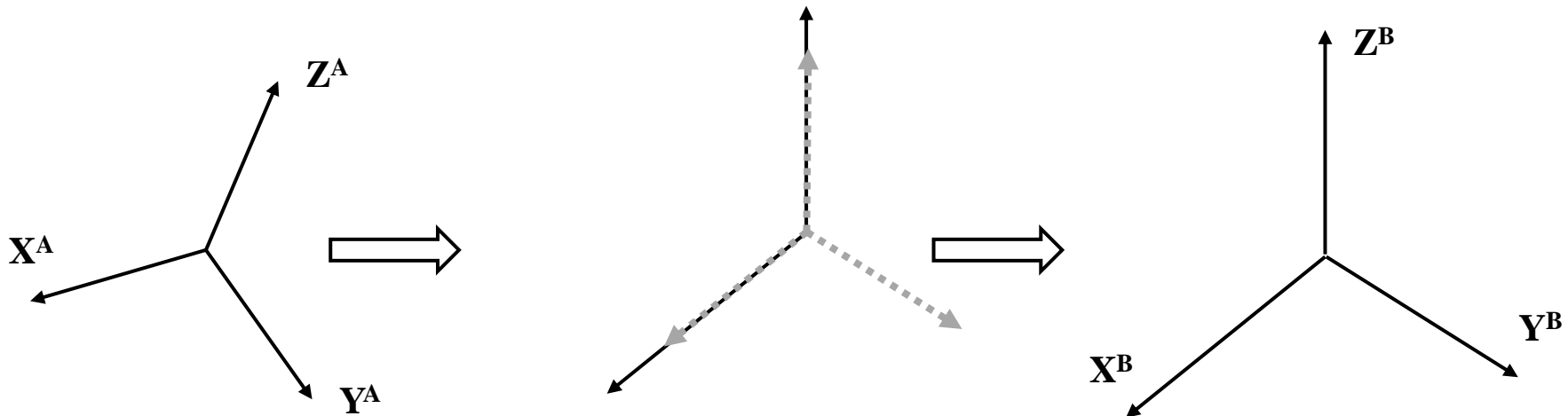


# Terrestrial Reference Frame

## VLBI contribution to the ITRF: **scale**

- HELMERT-transformation between two frames

$$\begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix}^B = \begin{bmatrix} c_x \\ c_y \\ c_z \end{bmatrix} + (1 + \boxed{s} \times 10^{-6}) \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -r_z & r_y \\ r_z & 1 & -r_x \\ -r_y & r_x & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \\ Z \end{bmatrix}^A$$



# Terrestrial Reference Frame

## VLBI contribution to the ITRF: **scale**

- Definition
- The *geodetic datum* is the fixation of the degree of freedom of a reference frame. It relates the reference frame to the reference system through defining/specifying the **external geometry**.
- Scale
- The **VLBI** scale only depends on the speed of light (in vacuum)  $c$ , no other physical constant is involved.  $c$  is the best known physical constant, a defining constant (no uncertainty).
- All observations obtained by the space geodetic techniques (**DORIS, GNSS, SLR, VLBI**) measure time differences. Together with the speed of light the observations realize a polyhedron of metric baselines that fully determines the **inner geometry** of the station networks. The lengths of the involved baselines realize the scale.
- The scale of ITRF is defined by **VLBI** and **SLR**.

# The VLBI observable

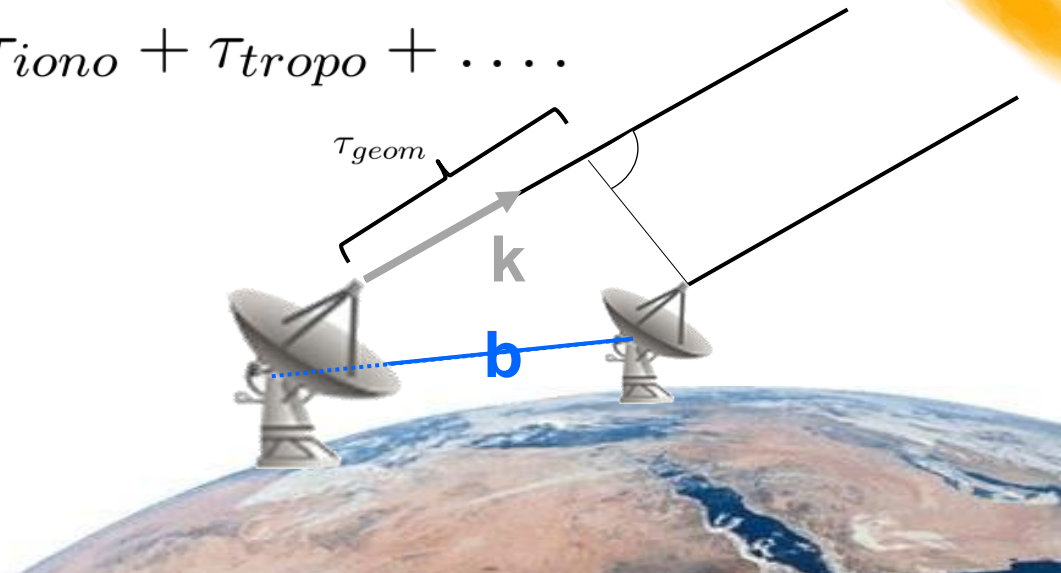
- **Geometrical delay**

$$\tau_{geom} = t_B - t_A = -\frac{1}{c} \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{k}$$

$$\tau_{geom} = t_B - t_A = -\frac{1}{c} \mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{W} \cdot \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{k}$$

$$\tau_{geom} = t_B - t_A = -\frac{1}{c} (\mathbf{b} + \Delta \mathbf{b}) \cdot \mathbf{W} \cdot \mathbf{R} \cdot \mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{k}$$

$$+ \tau_{instr} + \tau_{clock} + \tau_{iono} + \tau_{tropo} + \dots$$

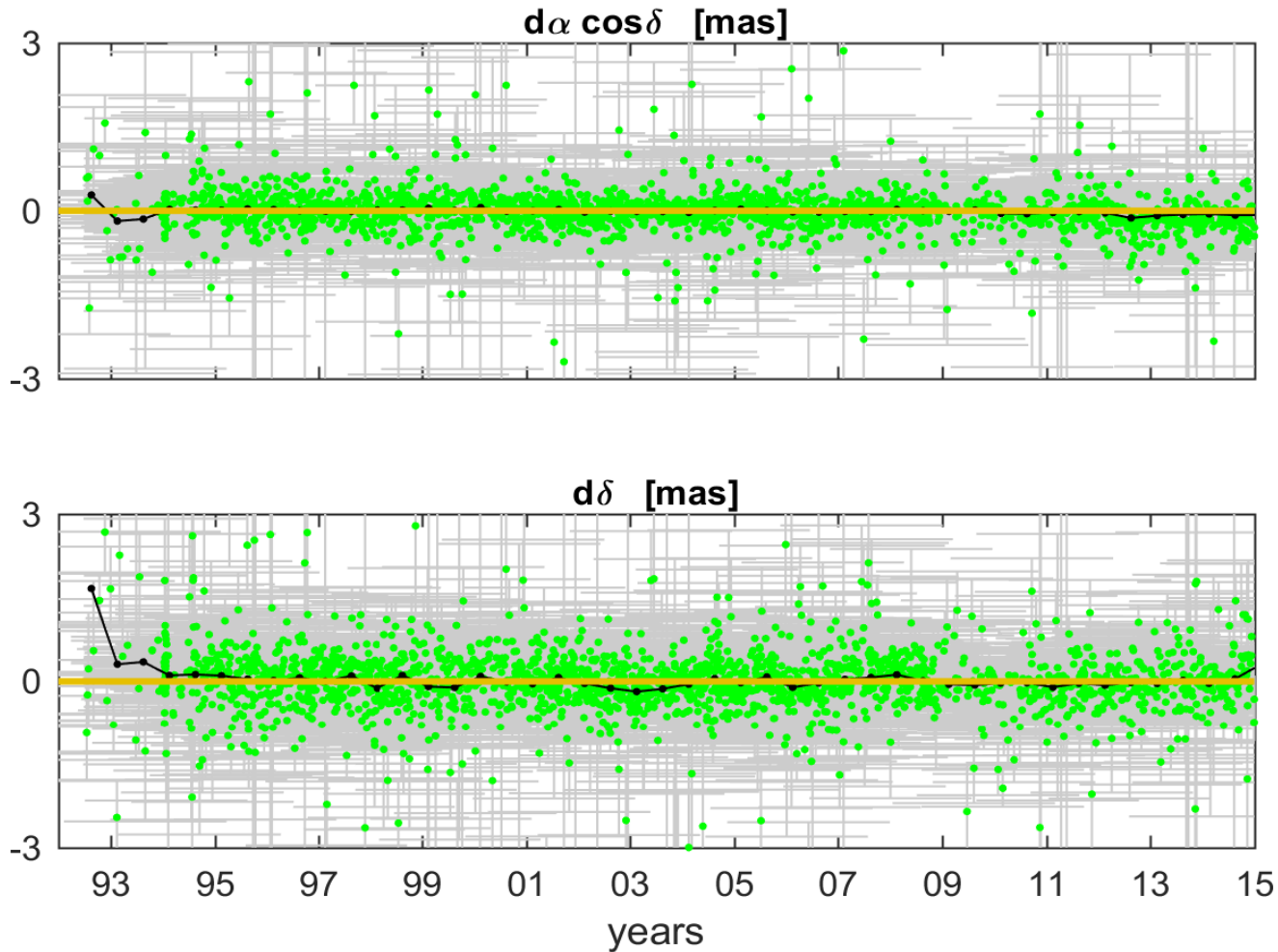


$$\tau_{geom} = -\frac{1}{c} \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k$$



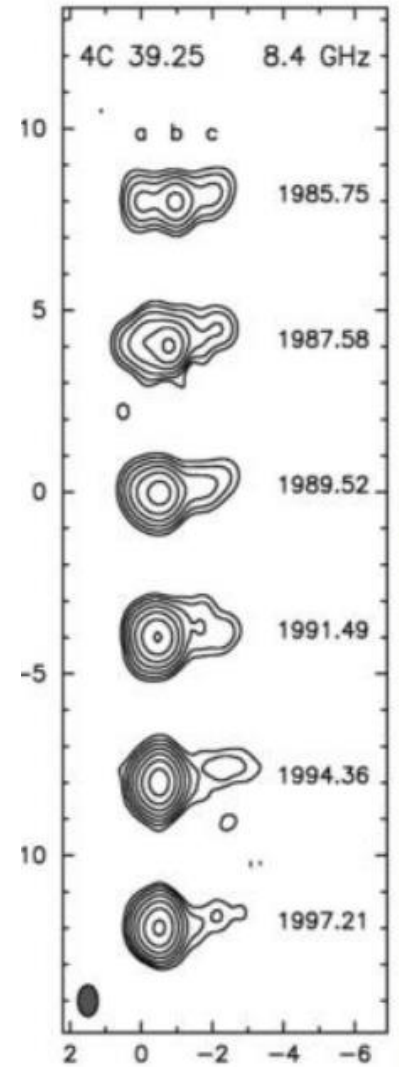
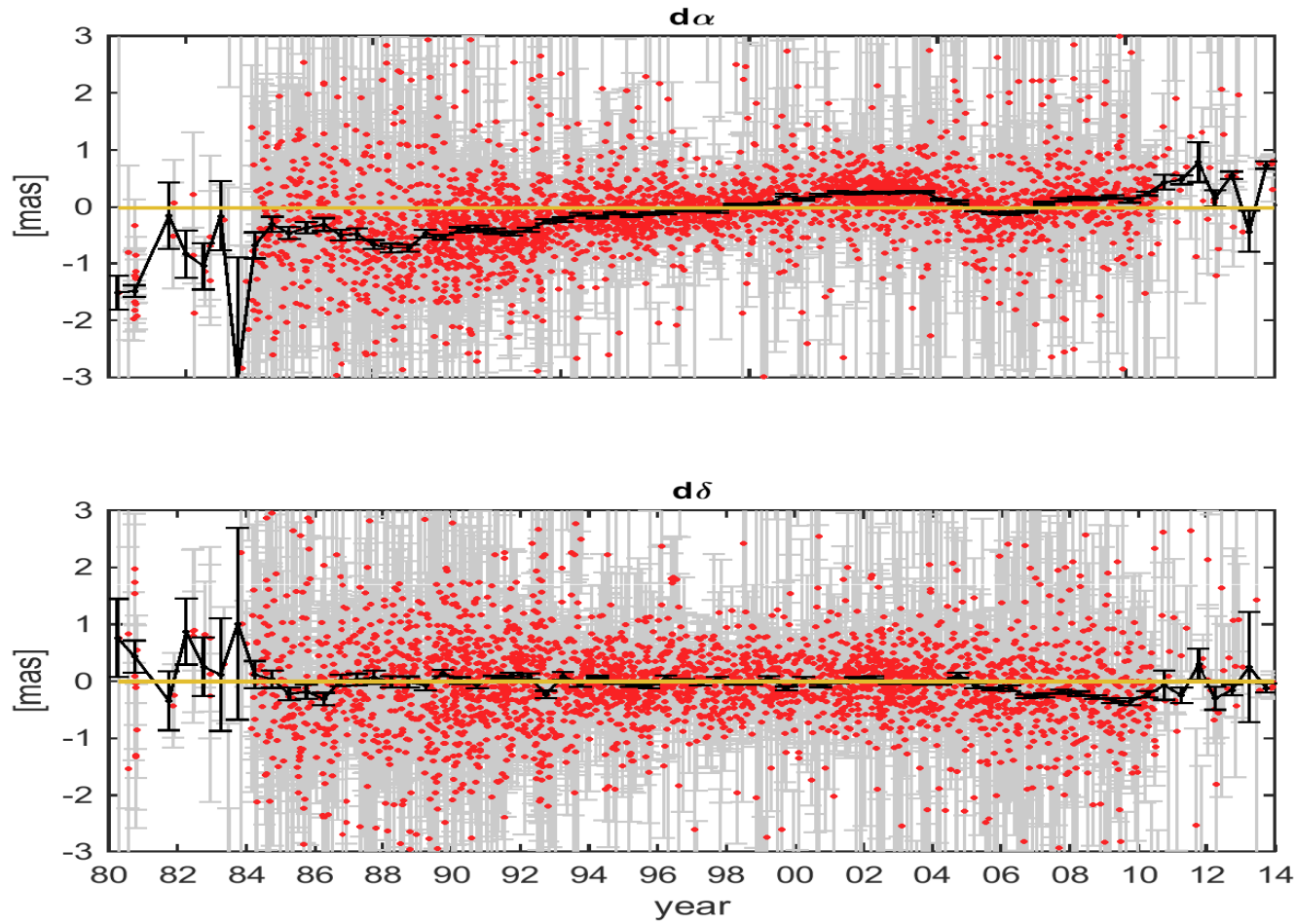
$$\tau_{geom} = -1/c \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k$$

0059+581



$$\tau_{geom} = -1/c \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k$$

# 4C39.25

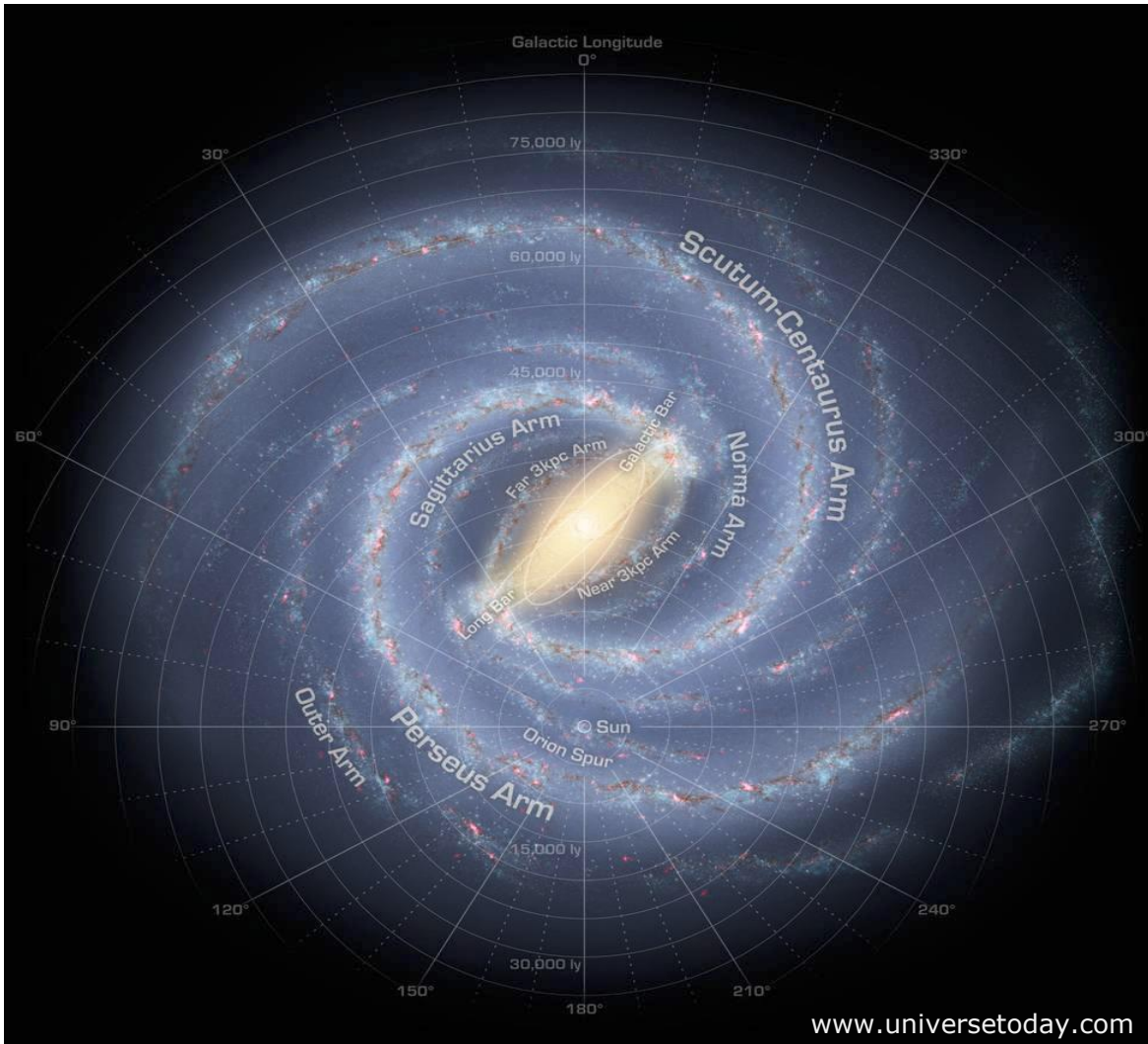


$$\tau_{geom} = -\frac{1}{c} \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k$$



$$\tau_{geom} = -\frac{1}{c} \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k$$

## Secular aberration drift

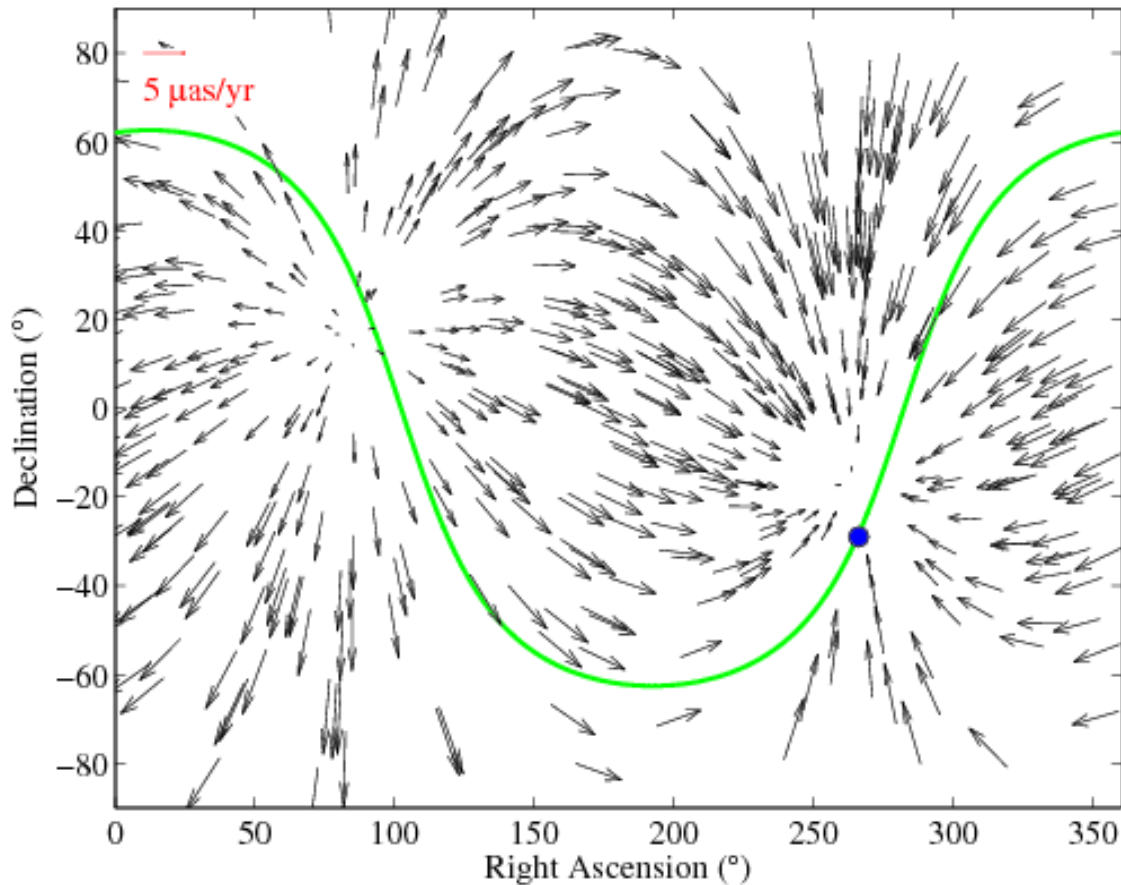


- The gravitational attraction of the Galactic center leads to the **centrifugal acceleration** of the Solar system barycenter.
- It results in **secular aberration drift** which displaces the position of the distant radio sources.



$$\tau_{geom} = -\frac{1}{c} \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k$$

## Secular aberration drift



[Titov 2011]

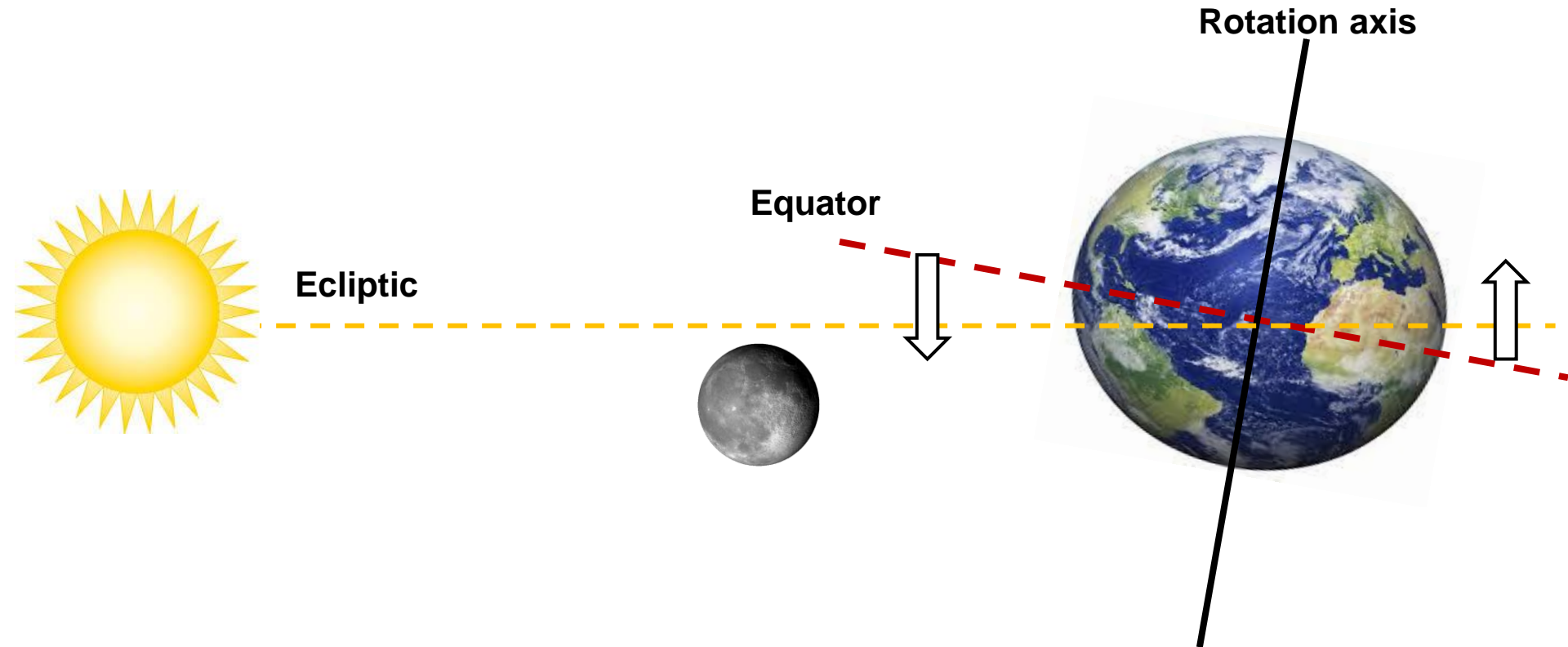
- The gravitational attraction of the Galactic center leads to the **centrifugal acceleration** of the Solar system barycenter.
- It results in **secular aberration drift** which displaces the position of the distant radio sources.

$$\tau_{geom} = -\frac{1}{c} \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k$$



$$\tau_{geom} = -\frac{1}{c} \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k$$

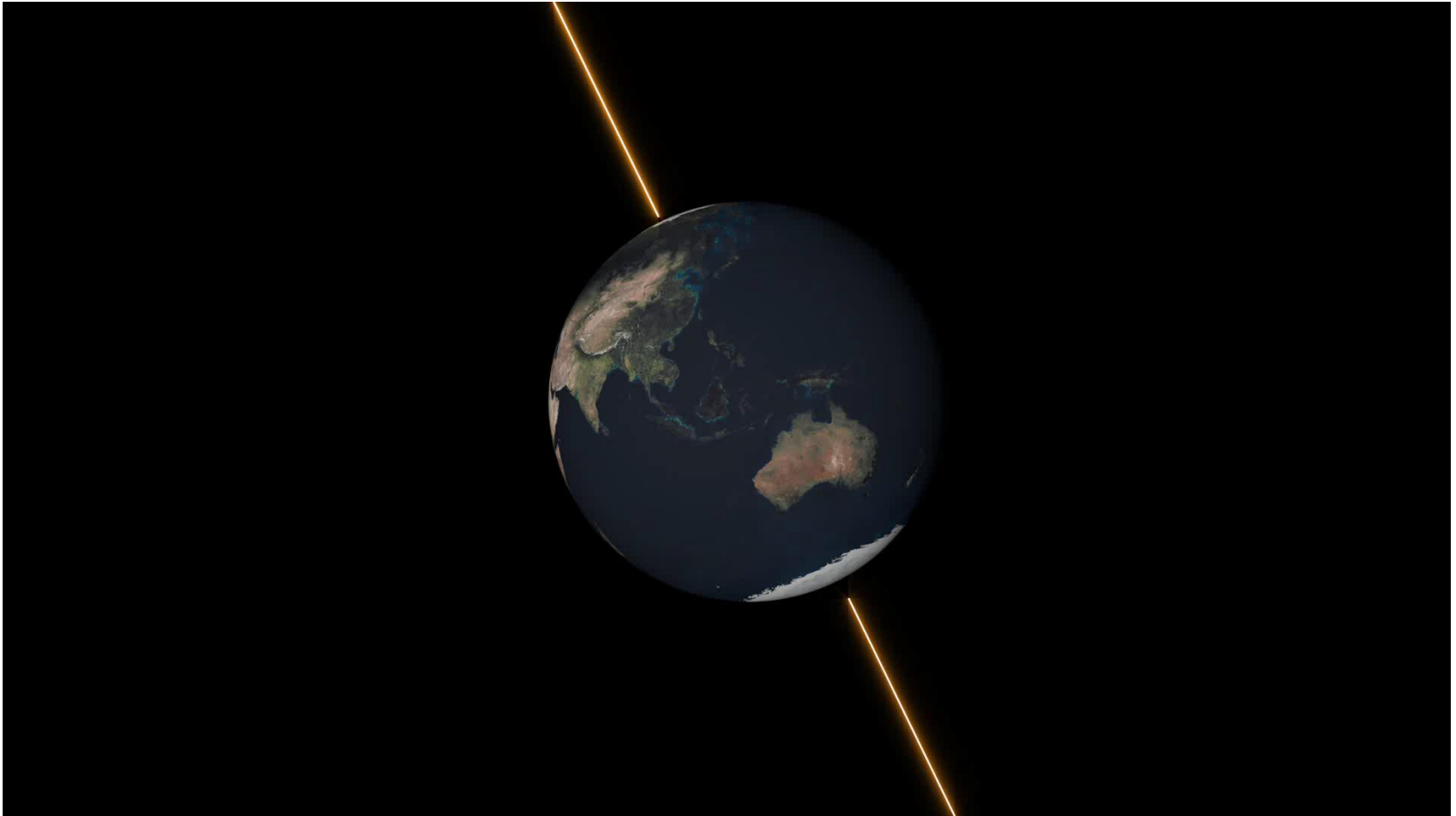
## Precession & Nutation



$$\tau_{geom} = -\frac{1}{c} \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k$$

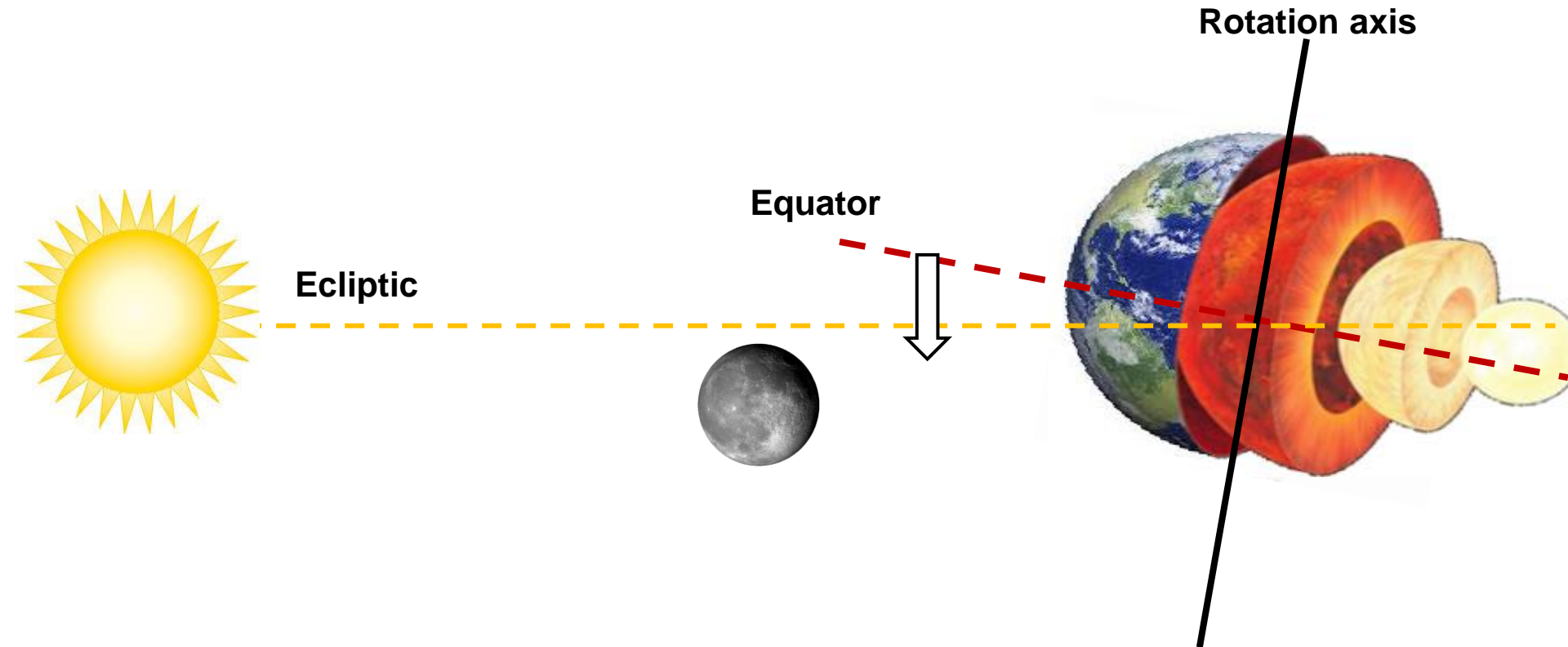
## Precession & Nutation

NASA's GSFC Conceptual Image lab



$$\tau_{geom} = -\frac{1}{c} \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k$$

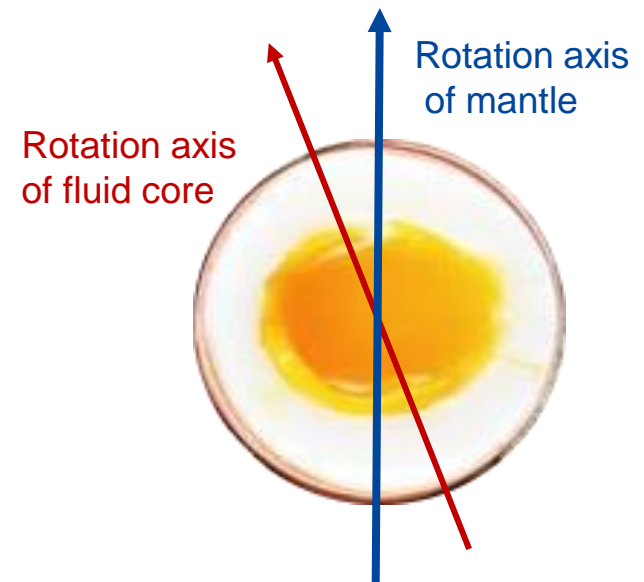
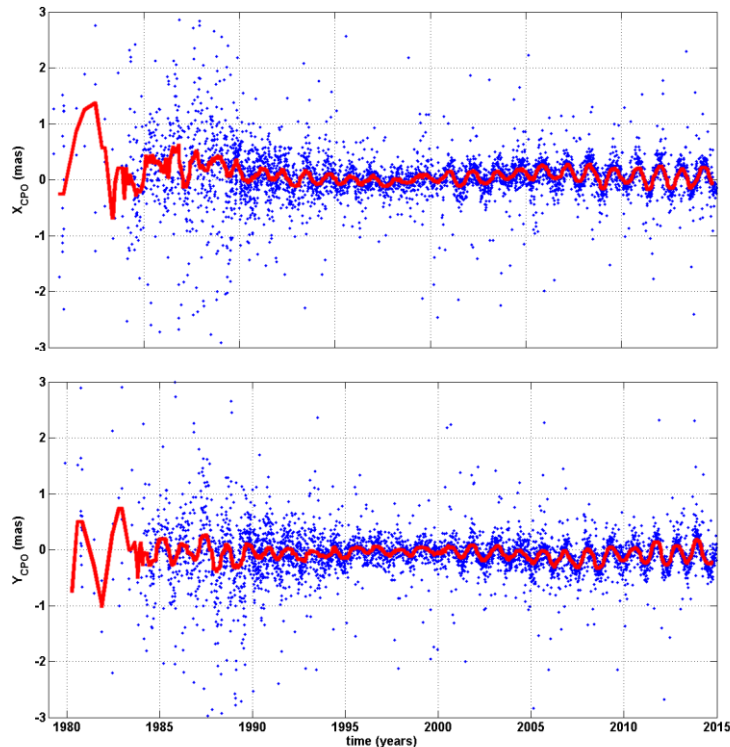
## Precession & Nutation



$$\tau_{geom} = -\frac{1}{c} \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k$$

## Free Core Nutation

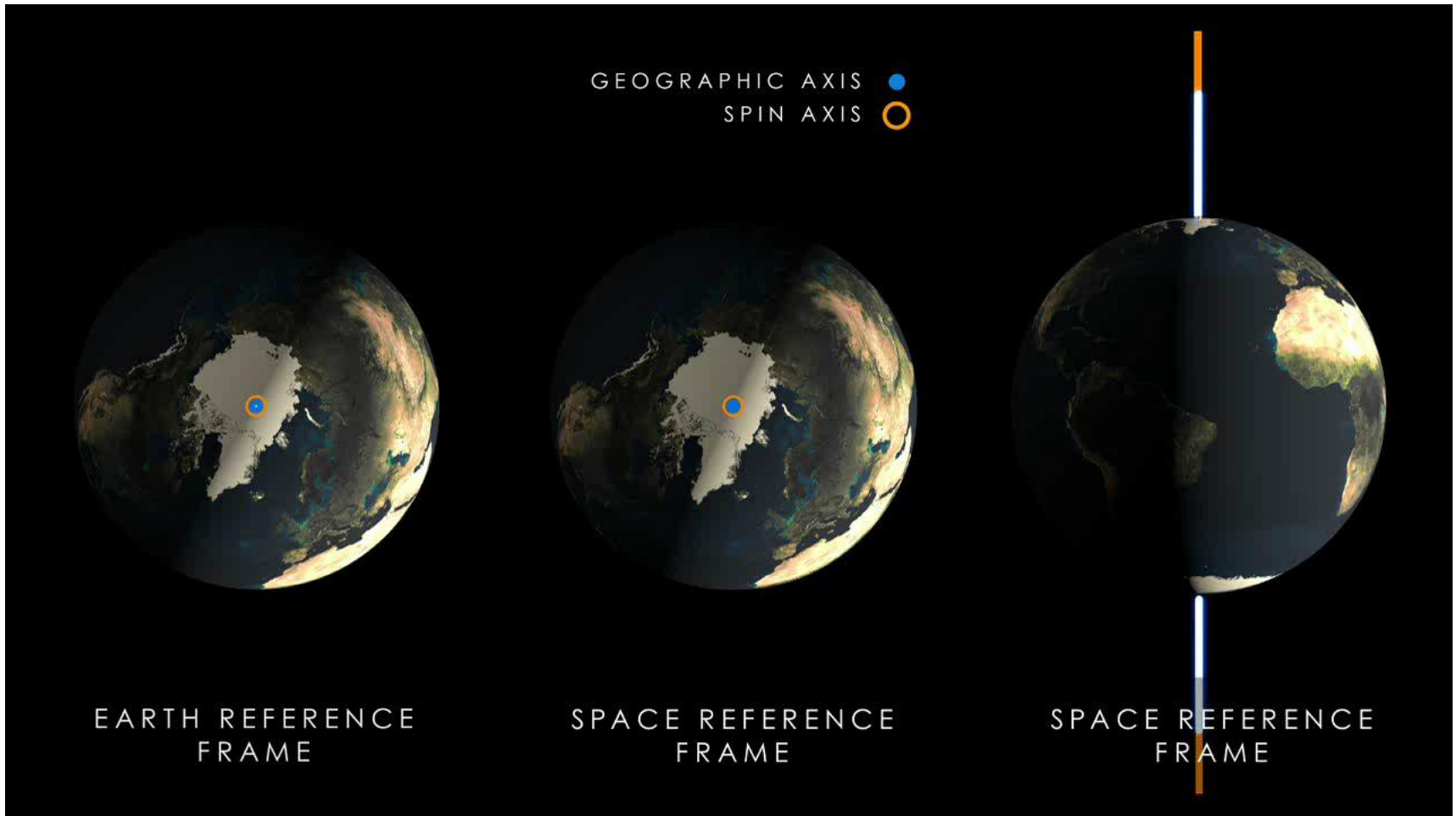
- Variations in free core nutation (FCN) are connected with various processes in the Earth's fluid core and core-mantle coupling, which are also largely responsible for the geomagnetic field variations, particularly the geomagnetic jerks. Period  $\sim 430$  days



$$\tau_{geom} = -\frac{1}{c} \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k$$

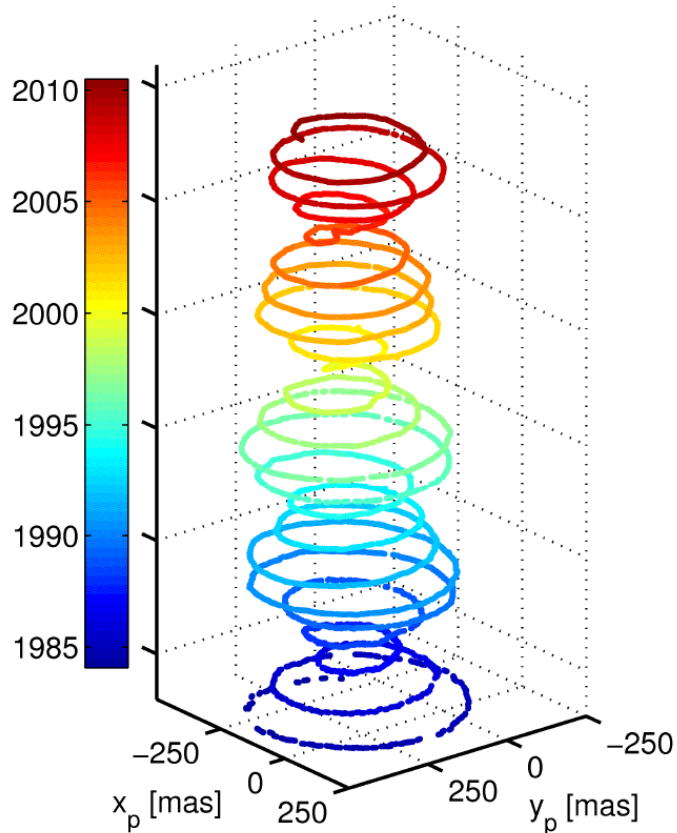
## Polar motion

NASA's GSFC Conceptual Image lab

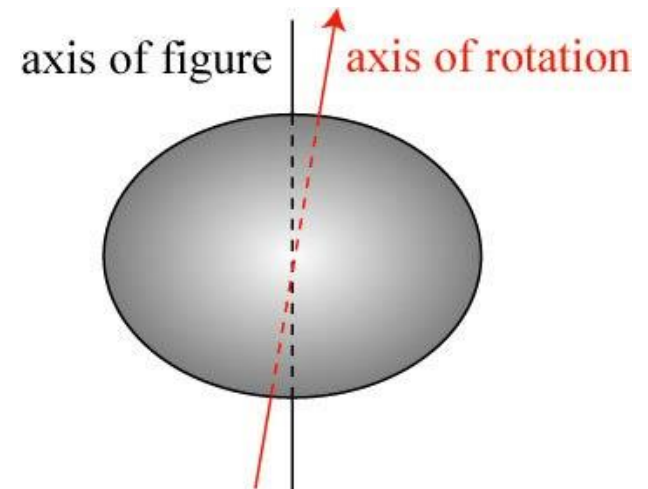


$$\tau_{geom} = -\frac{1}{c} \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k$$

## Polar motion



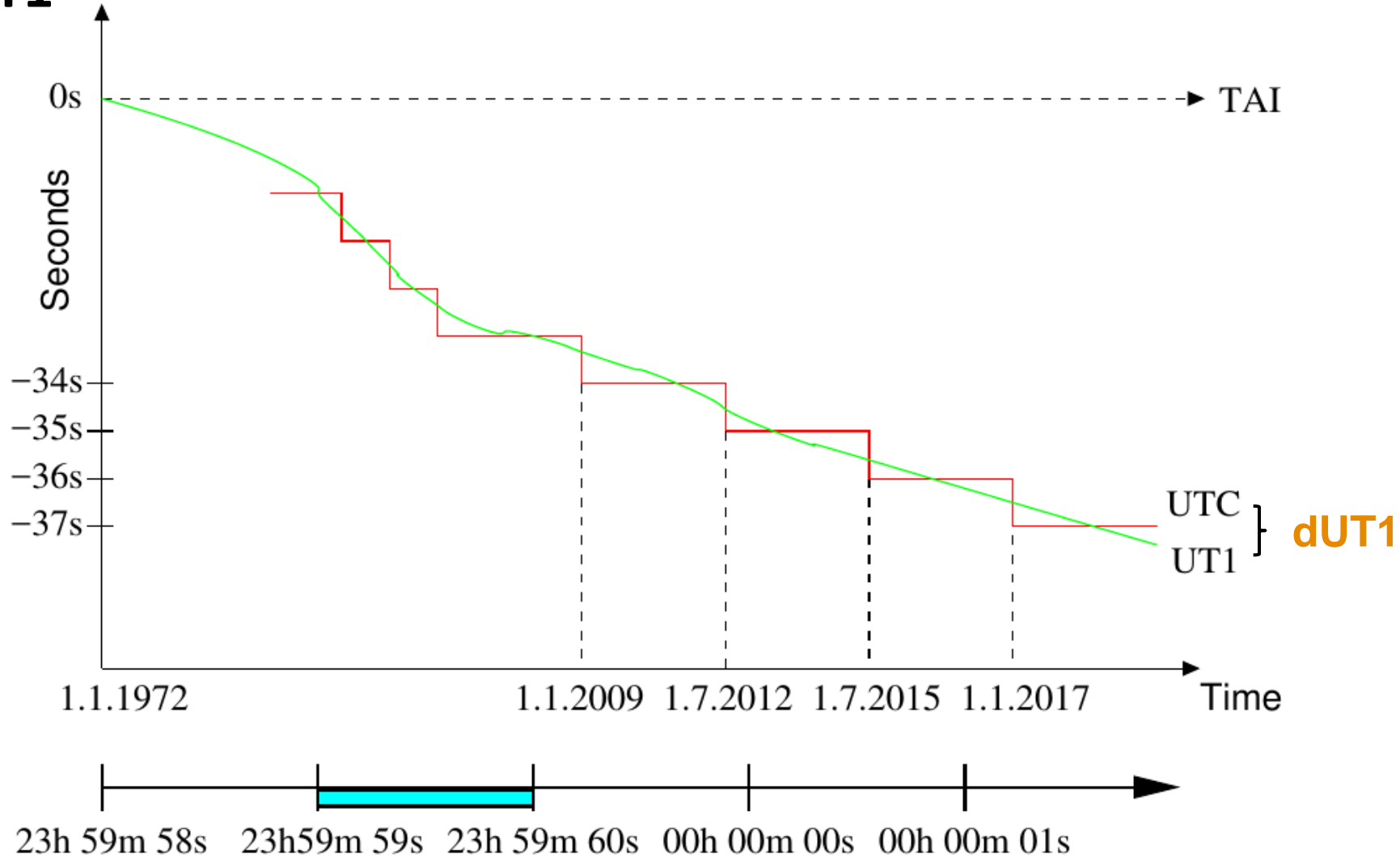
- Chandler wobble
  - Free oscillation
  - Amplitude  $\sim 6$  m
  - Period  $\sim 430$  d
- Yearly signal
  - forced oscillation (mainly atmosphere)
  - Amplitude  $\sim 3$  m
  - Pperiod  $\sim 365$  d





$$\tau_{geom} = -1/c \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k$$

dUT1

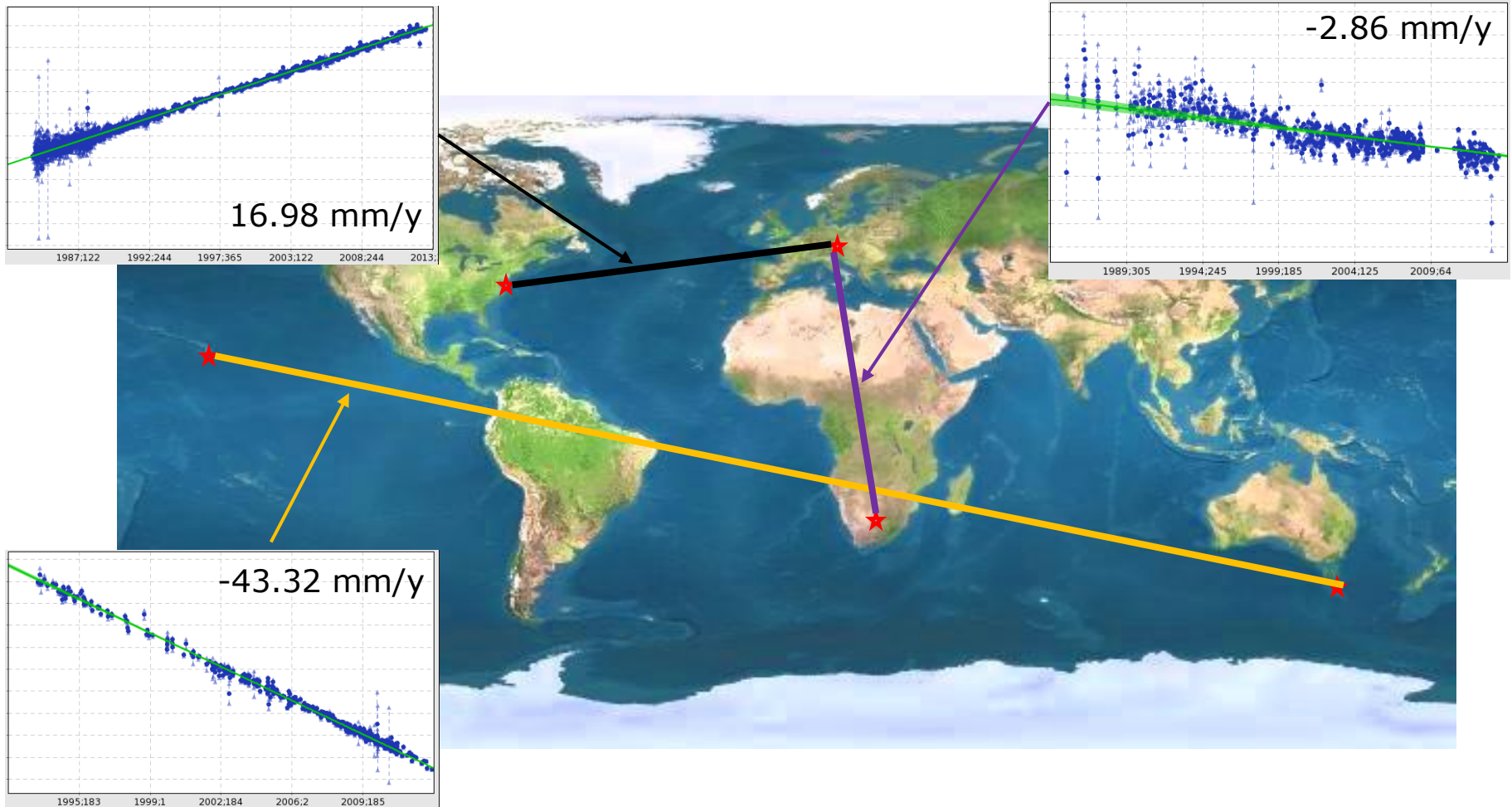


$$\tau_{geom} = -\frac{1}{c} \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k$$



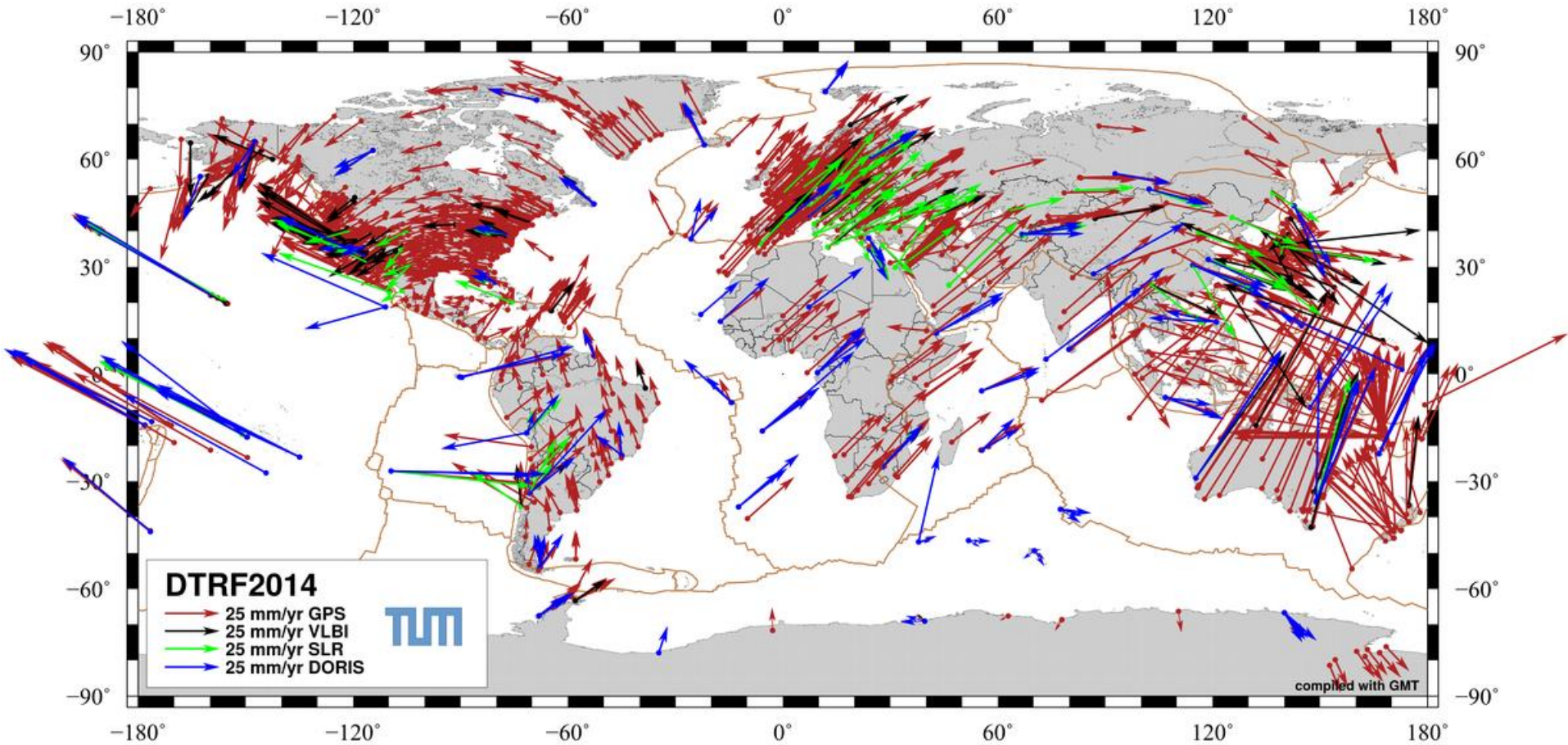
$$\tau_{geom} = -\frac{1}{c} \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k$$

## Plate tectonics



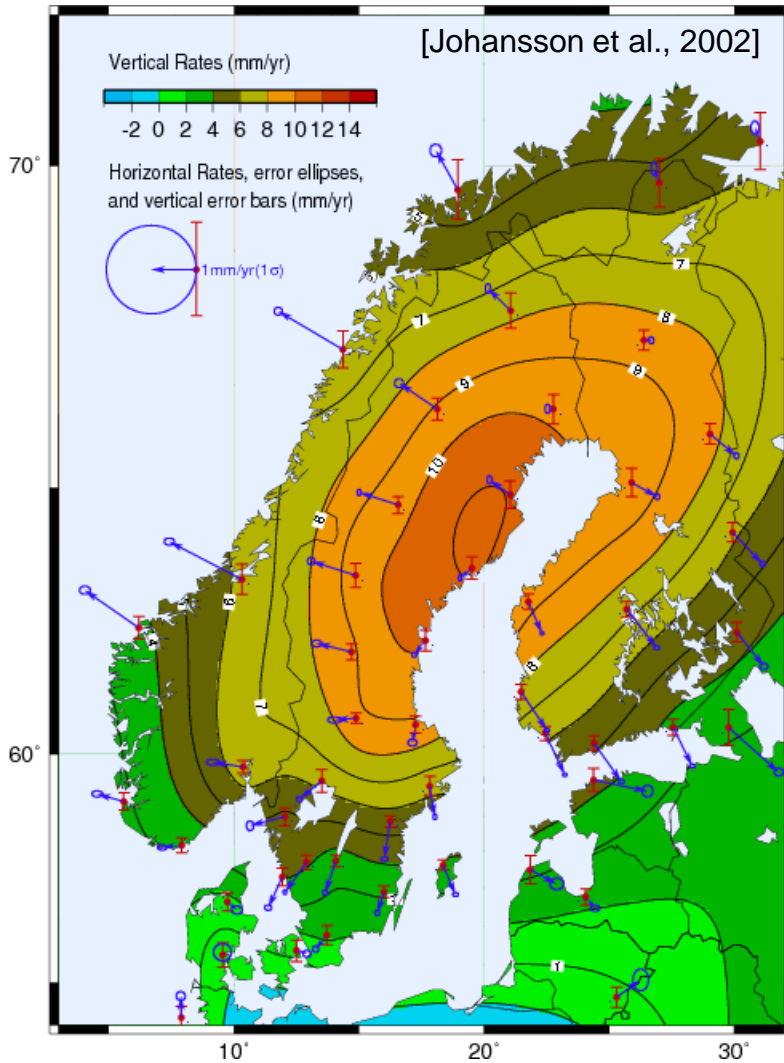
$$\tau_{geom} = -\frac{1}{c} \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k$$

## TRF velocities



$$\tau_{geom} = -1/c \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k$$

## Post glacial rebound



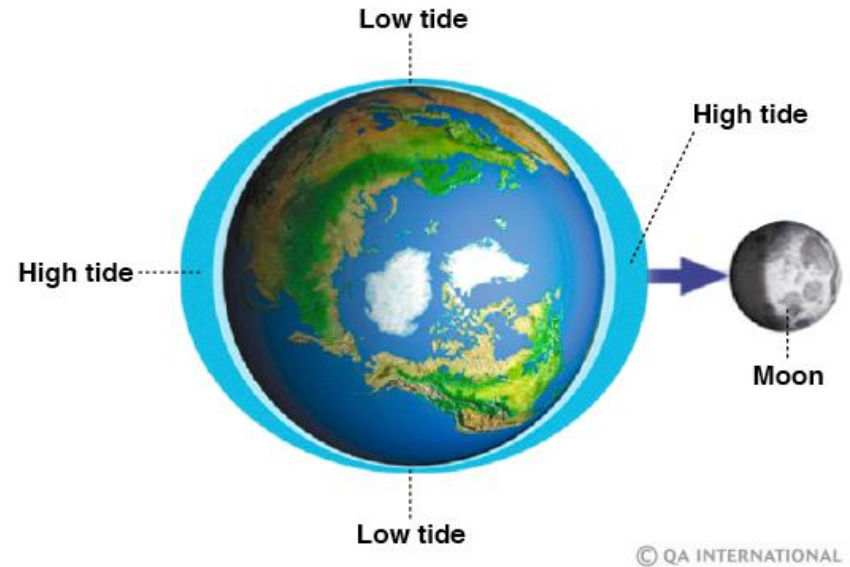
- Melting of ice sheets of last ice age:
  - Vertical up to 12 mm/y
  - Horizontal up to 3 mm/y



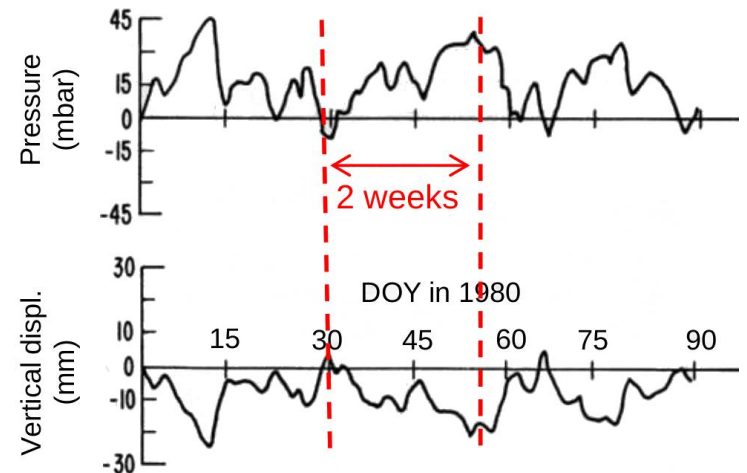
$$\tau_{geom} = -\frac{1}{c} \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k$$

# Tides

- Solid Earth tides +/- 30 cm
- Atmospheric loading:
  - tidal: 1-2mm
  - Non-tidal: up to 2 mm
- Ocean tidal loading:
  - Half of atmospheric effects
- Effect also Earth rotation!



© QA INTERNATIONAL



[VanDam & Wahr, 1987]

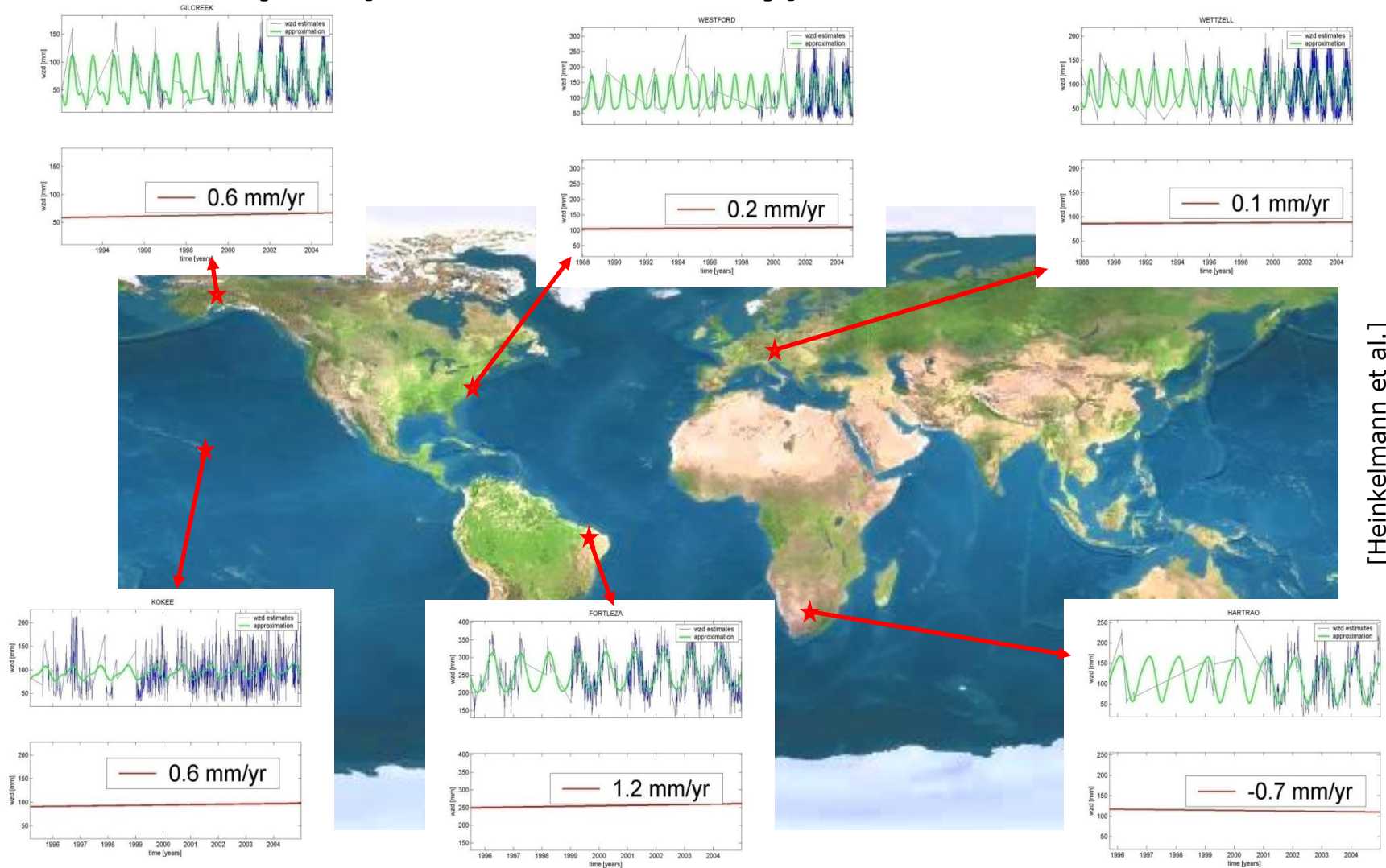


$$\tau_{geom} = -\frac{1}{c} \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k + \tau_{tropo}$$



$$\tau_{geom} = -1/c \cdot (b - \Delta b) \cdot W \cdot R \cdot Q \cdot k + \tau_{tropo}$$

# Water Vapor (zenith wet delay)



[Heinkelmann et al.]



# Summary

## What is geodetic VLBI good for?

- **Realizes** the conventional celestial reference system
- Is the only technique providing celestial pole offset estimates (**precession/nutation**) and the phase of Earth rotation: **UT1**
- This includes the **free core nutation** (FCN) signal
- Satellite techniques **rely** on the parameters provided by VLBI
- Provides the longest Earth-based baselines (up to 12,000 km) and thus **direct measurement** of tectonic plate motions, post glacial rebound, etc.
- Provides a **long-term stable infrastructure** that adds significant, precise, and robust information for the realization of the terrestrial reference system

# Summary

## Not shown here:

- Is capable of determining a number of other parameters
  - Clock parameters: **Frequency transfer**
  - Dispersive delays: **Ionosphere, Solar corona**
  - Relativistic effects: **space-time curvature**
  - Love & Shida numbers: **geophysical Earth parameters**
- Presents a second space-geodetic technique at radio wave-lengths and thus an optimal technique for **comparison** with or **calibration** of **GNSS**
- Colocation in space: observation of satellites with VLBI antennas.

## Why di I like it?

- Covers a wide range of topics
  - From astrophysics down to the interior of the Earth
  - No chance to get bored
- Advent of VGOS
  - New & more data -> new results
- International community
  - ...more like family

That's it!

Thanks for your attention!

