

Willkommen im



Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen

EUREF Symposium 2009  
Florence, Italy

## The Austrian GEOID 2008

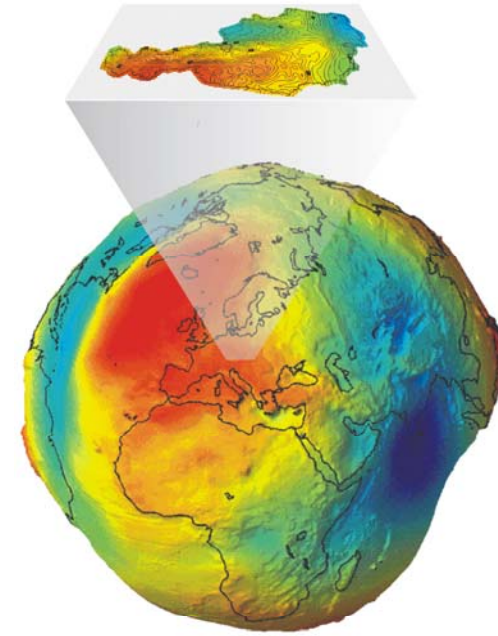
N. Höggerl

Ch. Ullrich

R. Pail

## TOPICS

- Project GElOnAUT
- Data
- Computation
- Evaluation

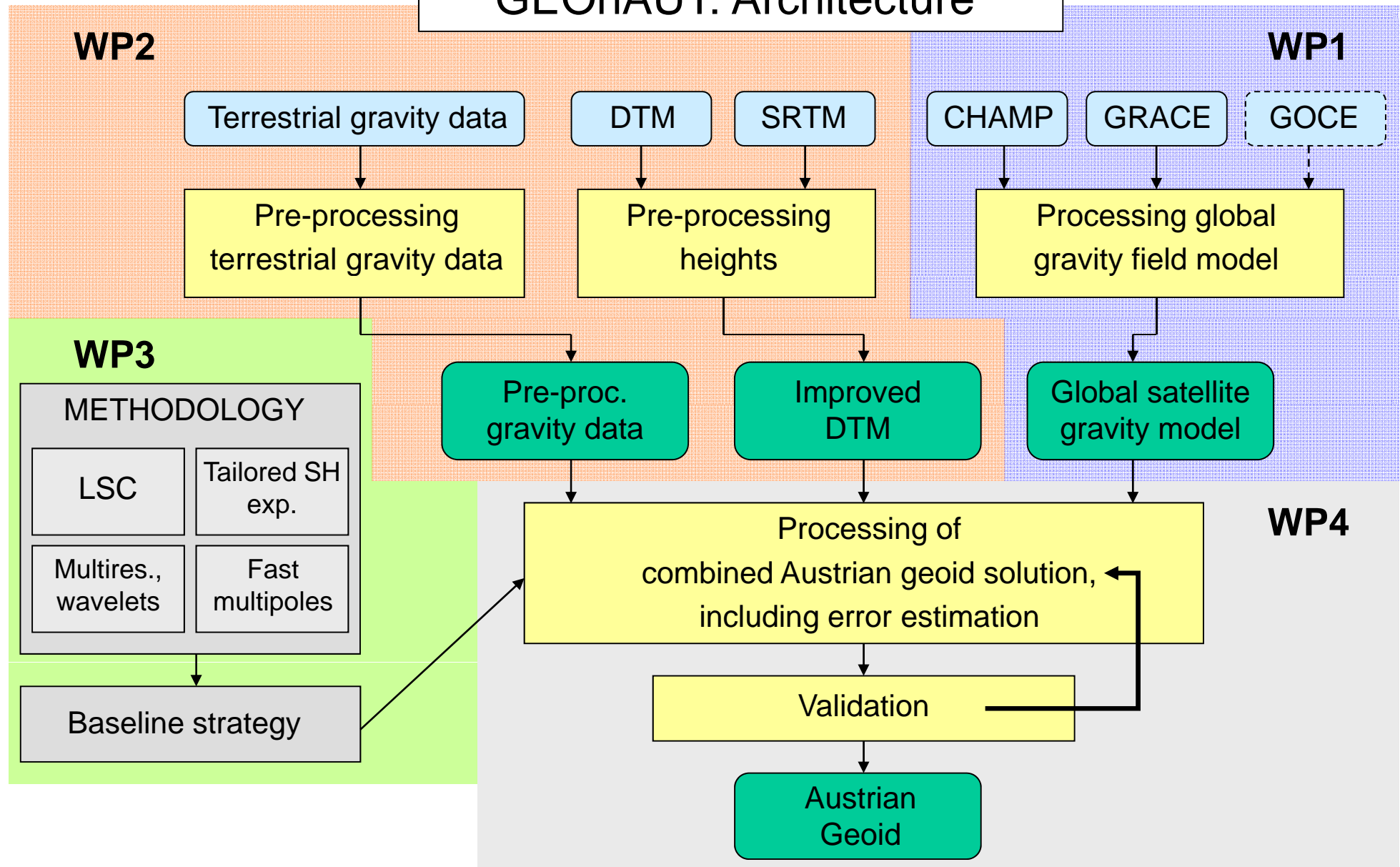


## Project GElOnAUT

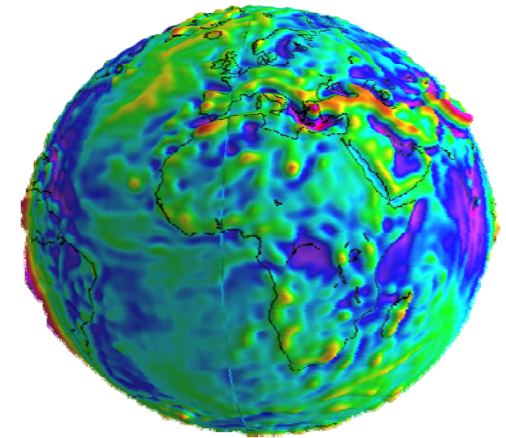
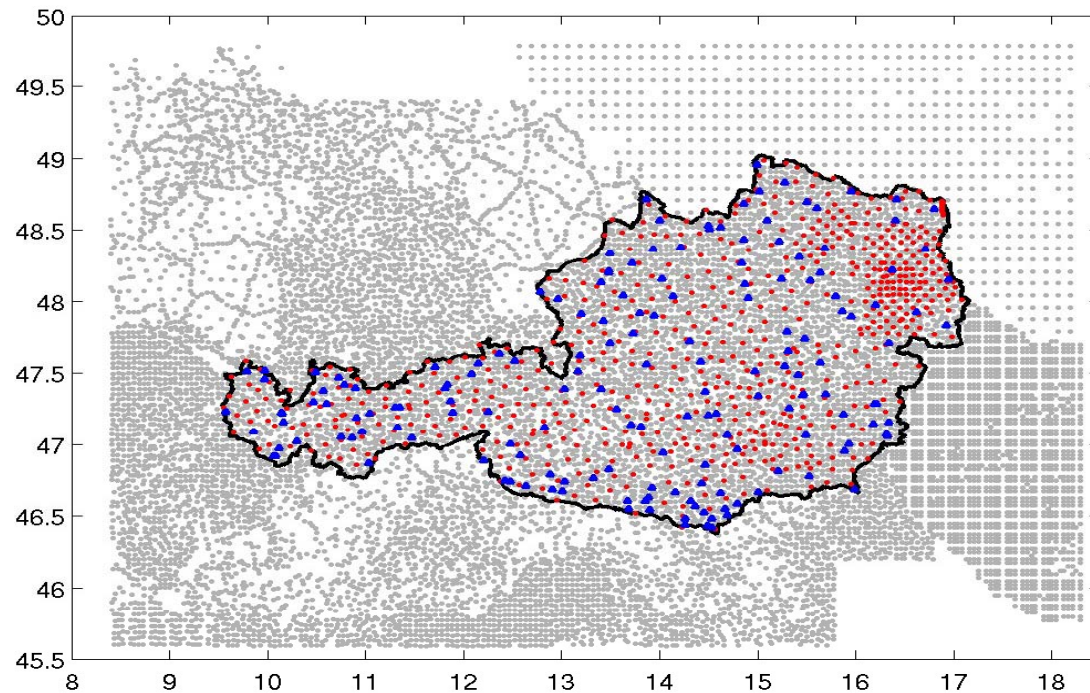
- **Objective:** Improved Austrian Geoid solution
- **Sponsor:** Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)
- **Partner of the Project:**
  - Institute of Navigation and Satellite Geodesy (INAS)/TU Graz
  - Institute of Numerical Mathematics/TU Graz
  - Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying



# GEOOnAUT: Architecture



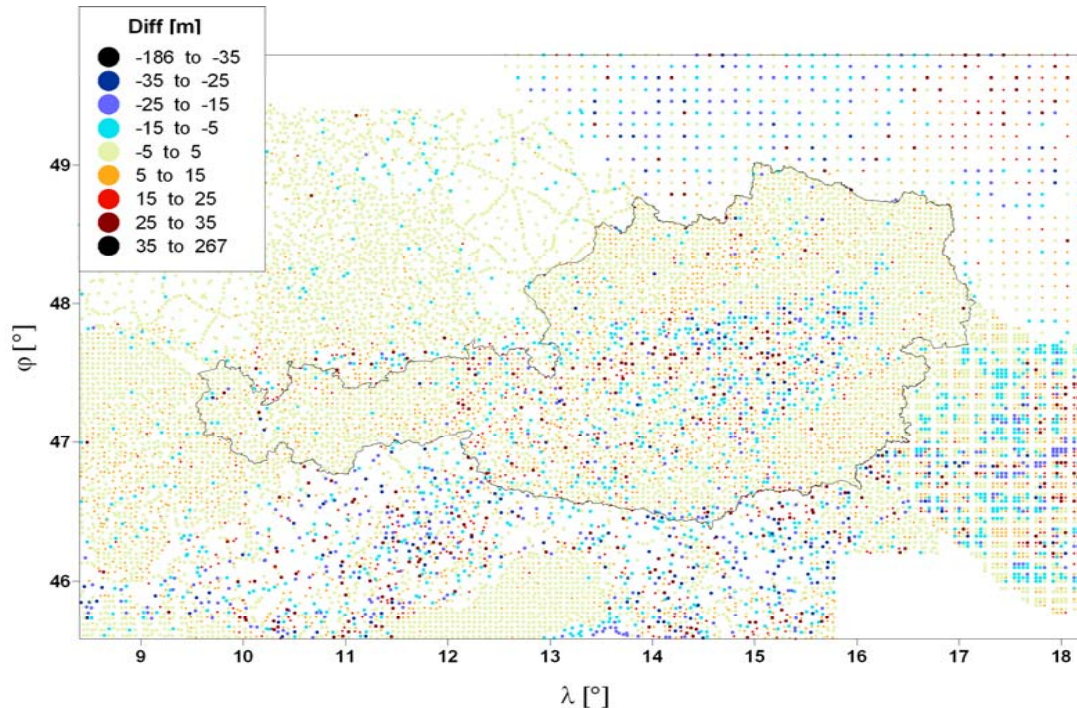
## Gravity Field Data



- Gravity anomalies: 14 001 selected stations (out of >60 000); average distance 4 x 4 km
- Deflections of the vertical: 670 stations
- Highly precise GPS/levelling observations: 170 stations
- Global gravity field model EIGEN-GL04S (complete to degree/order 70)



## Digital Terrain Model (DTM)



Differences [m] of the DTM at the gravity anomaly stations

**New combined DTM with resolution 44 x 49 m was assembled:**

- highly accurate regional DTM of Austria (BEV)
- highly accurate regional DTM of Switzerland (swisstopo)
- SRTM in neighbouring countries (corrected by Corine Land Cover CLC90 model)

## Geoid computation (1)

Free-air anomalies, reduced by:

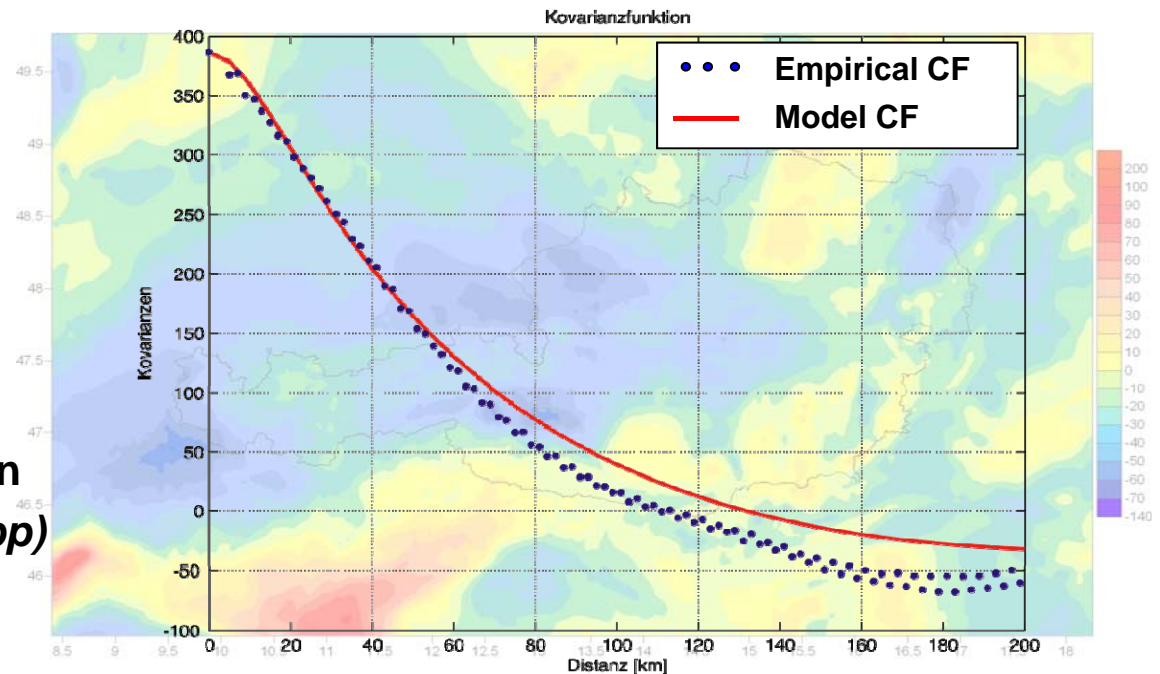
- global model EIGEN-GL04S (GRACE)
- topography & isostasy

Method:

Least Squares Collocation

Empirical and model covariance function

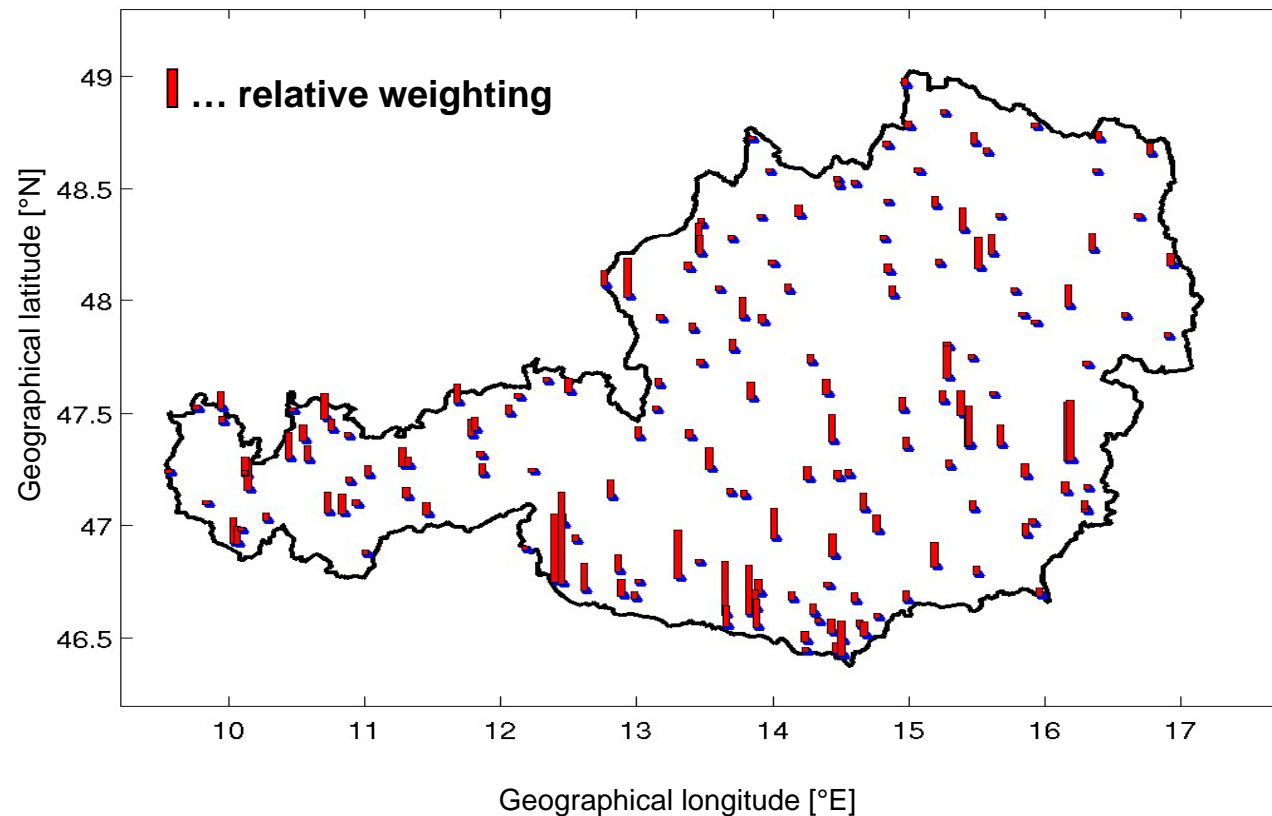
Degree variance model (*Tscherning-Rapp*)



Variance: 396 mgal<sup>2</sup>  
Correlation length: 42.6 km

## Geoid computation (2)

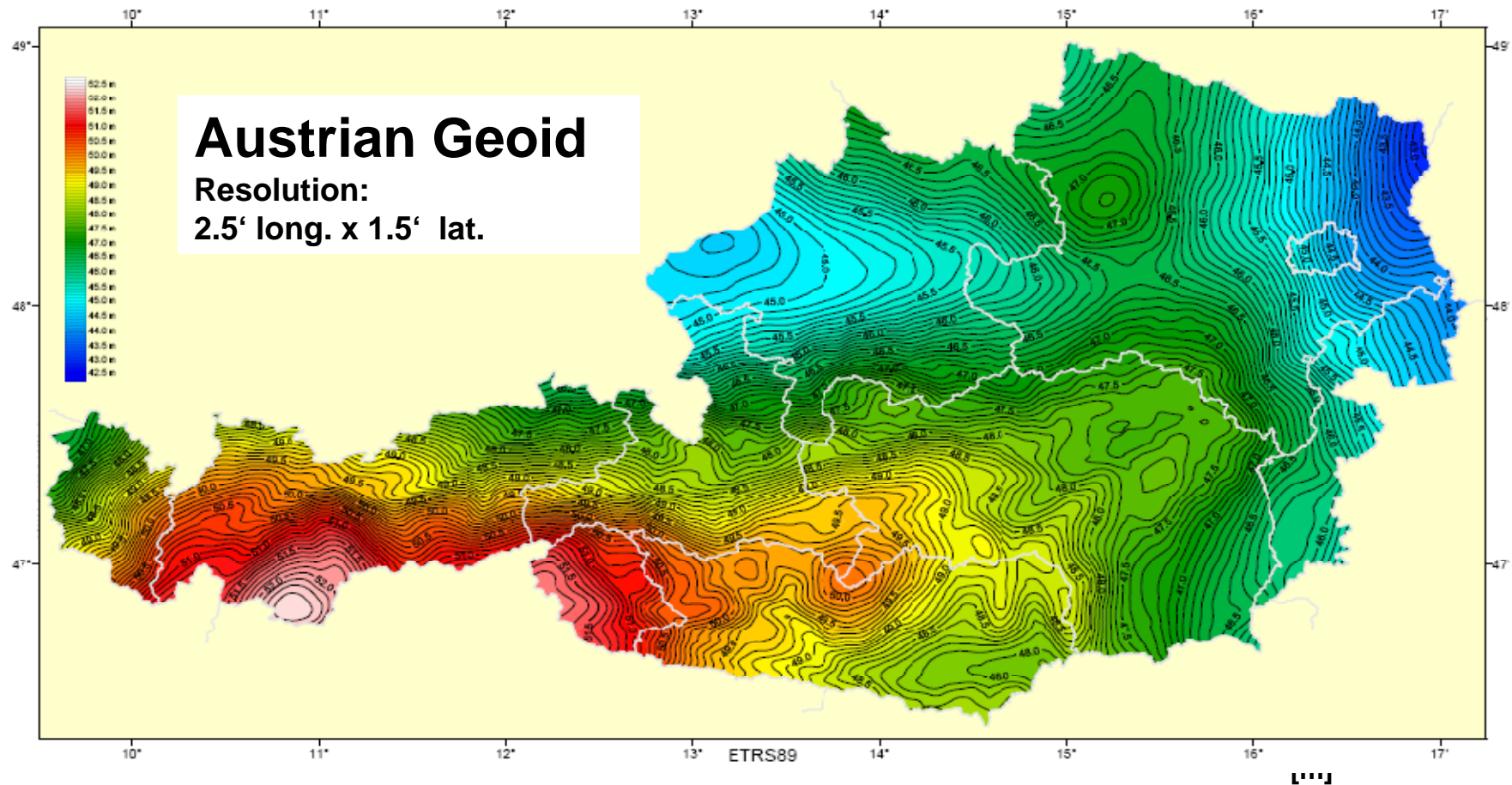
- Estimation of relative weighting from residuals in GPS/levelling stations
- Final solution with individual weighting of GPS/levelling observations



170 GPS/Levelling stations



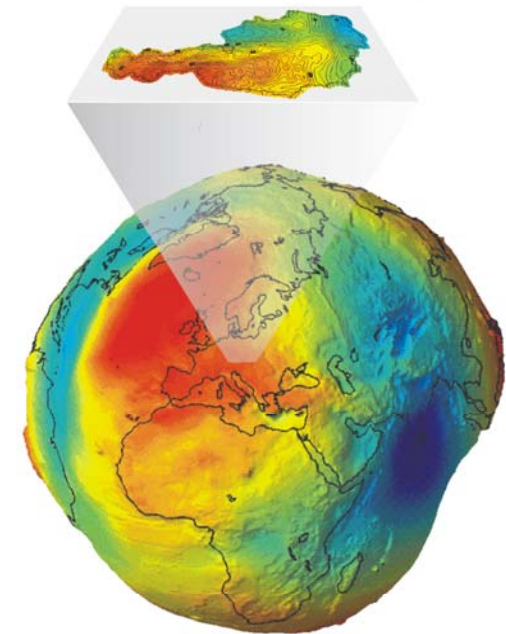
## Final solution of Austrian Geoid



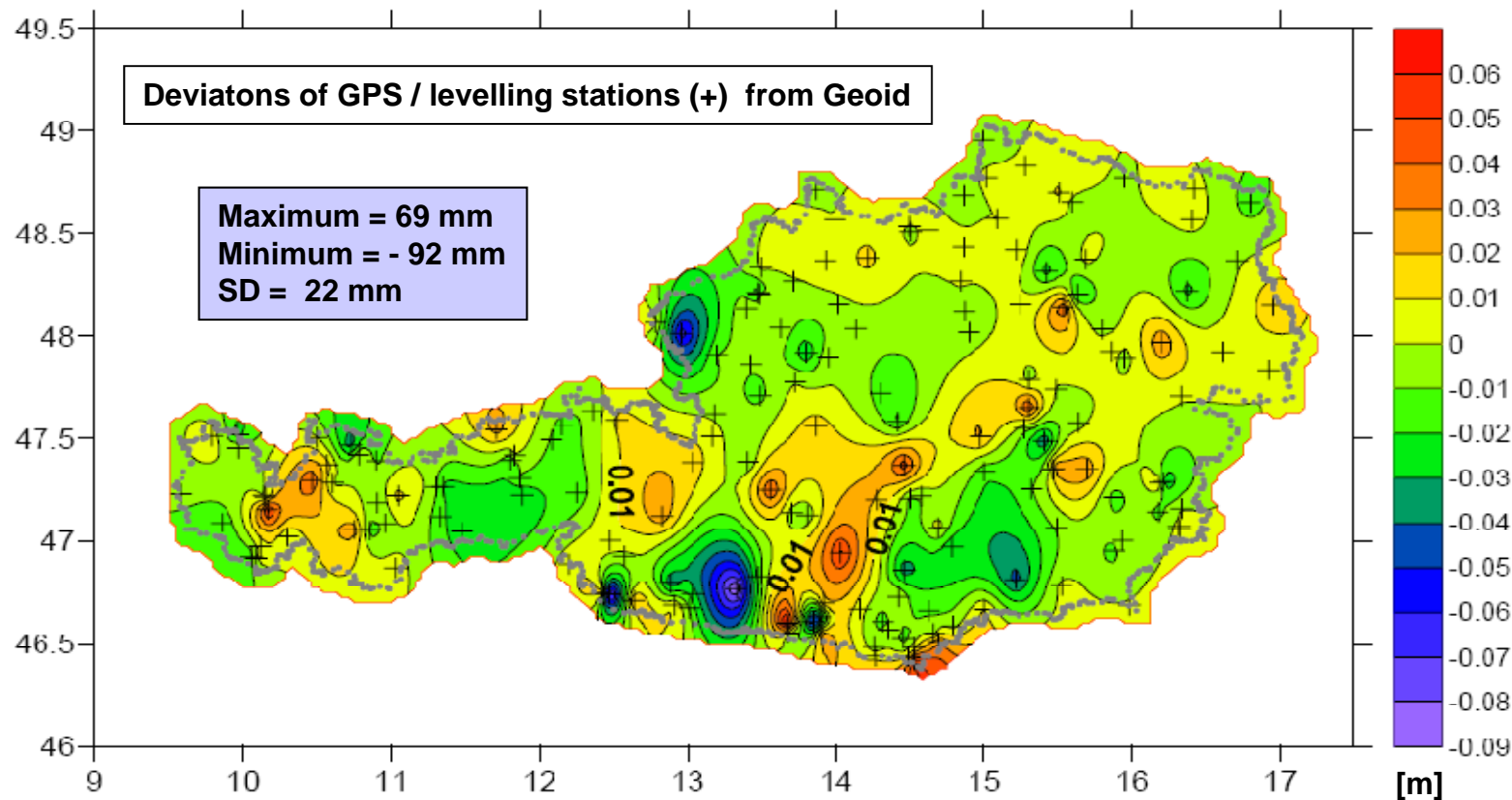
Beside the Geoid solution a Quasi-Geoid solution was computed

## Evaluation of the Austrian Geoid

- GPS/Levelling points
- Comparison with Swiss Geoid
- Comparison with European Geoid/Quasi-Geoid



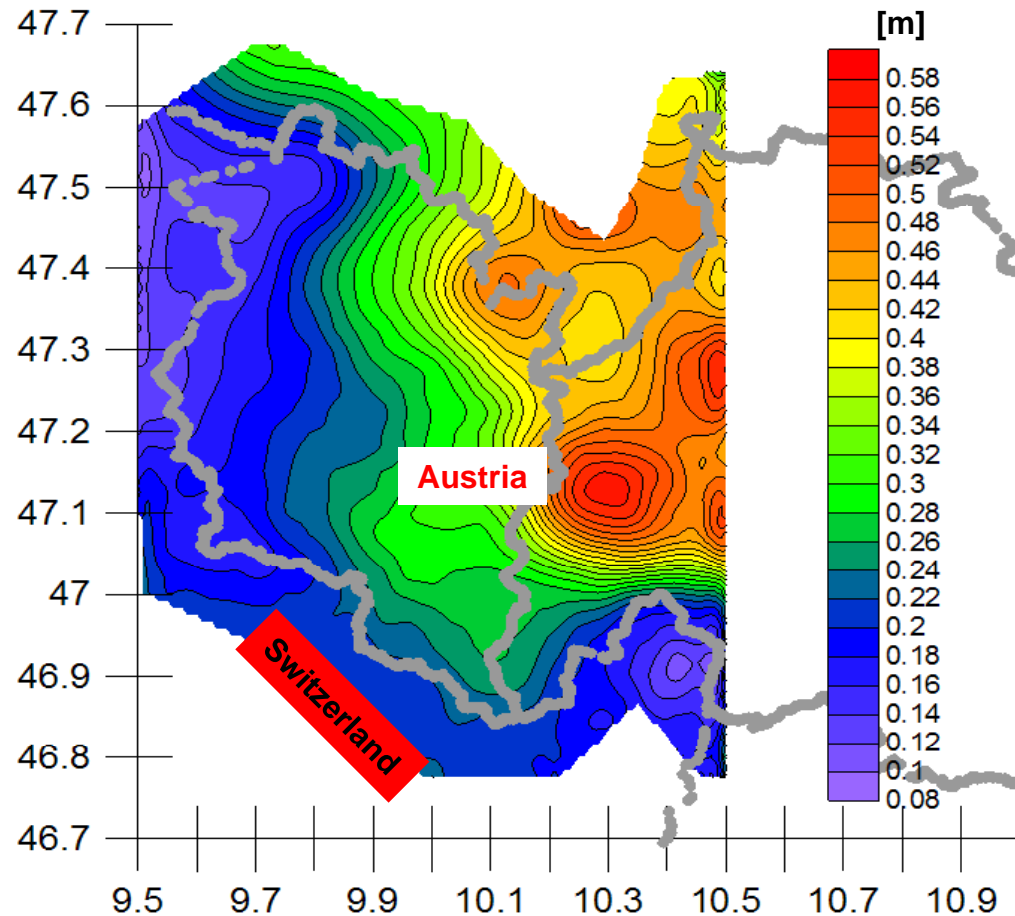
## GPS / levelling data



**170 stations with highly precise ellipsoidal heights and orthometric heights  
+ ... these stations are included in the geoid solution**

## Comparison to Geoid of Switzerland

Difference of Geoids: Austria - Switzerland

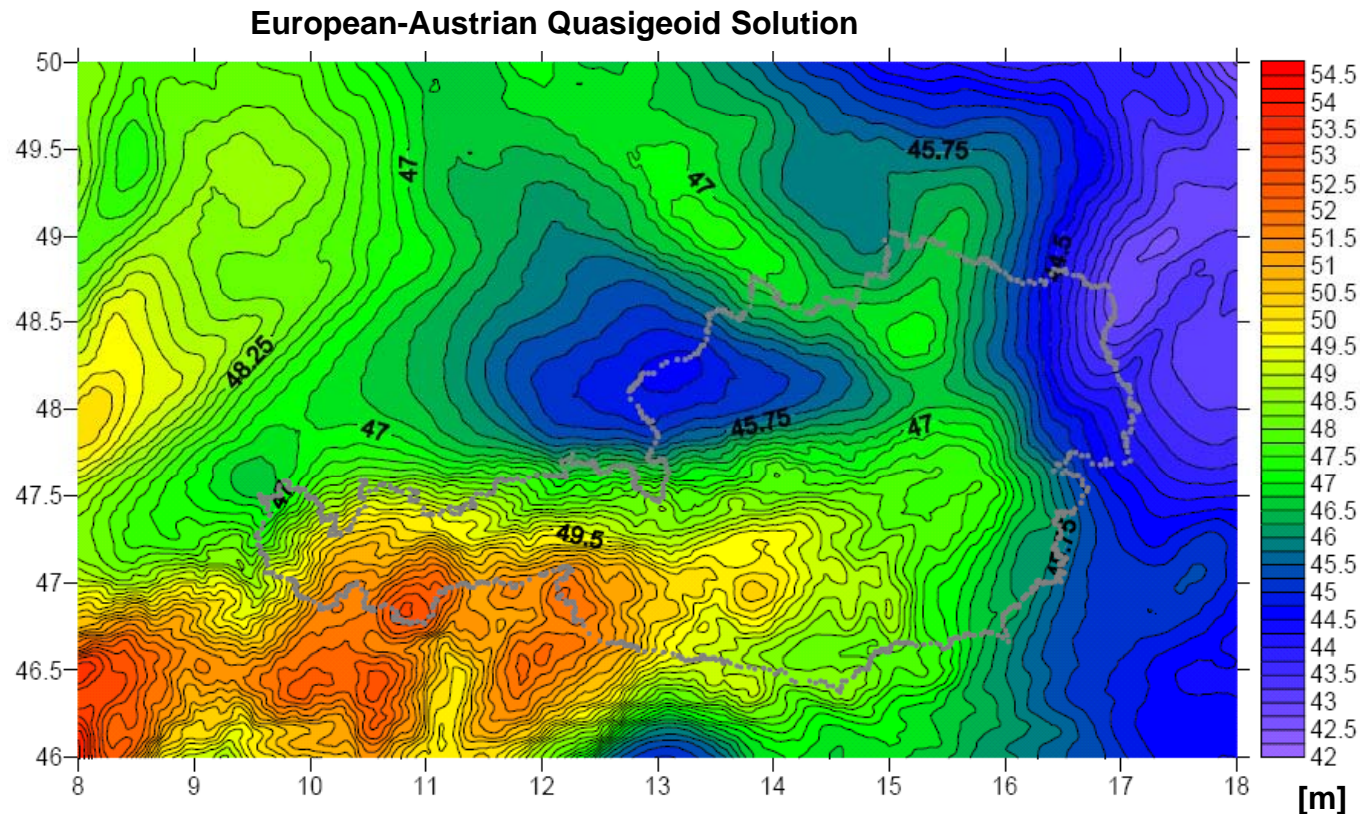


Along the border Austria -  
Switzerland there is a step of  
appr. 15 mm

**Explanation:**  
Austrian and Swiss Geoid  
are both adjusted to GPS / levelling  
stations in their countries



# European-Austrian Quasigeoid EQG-AU

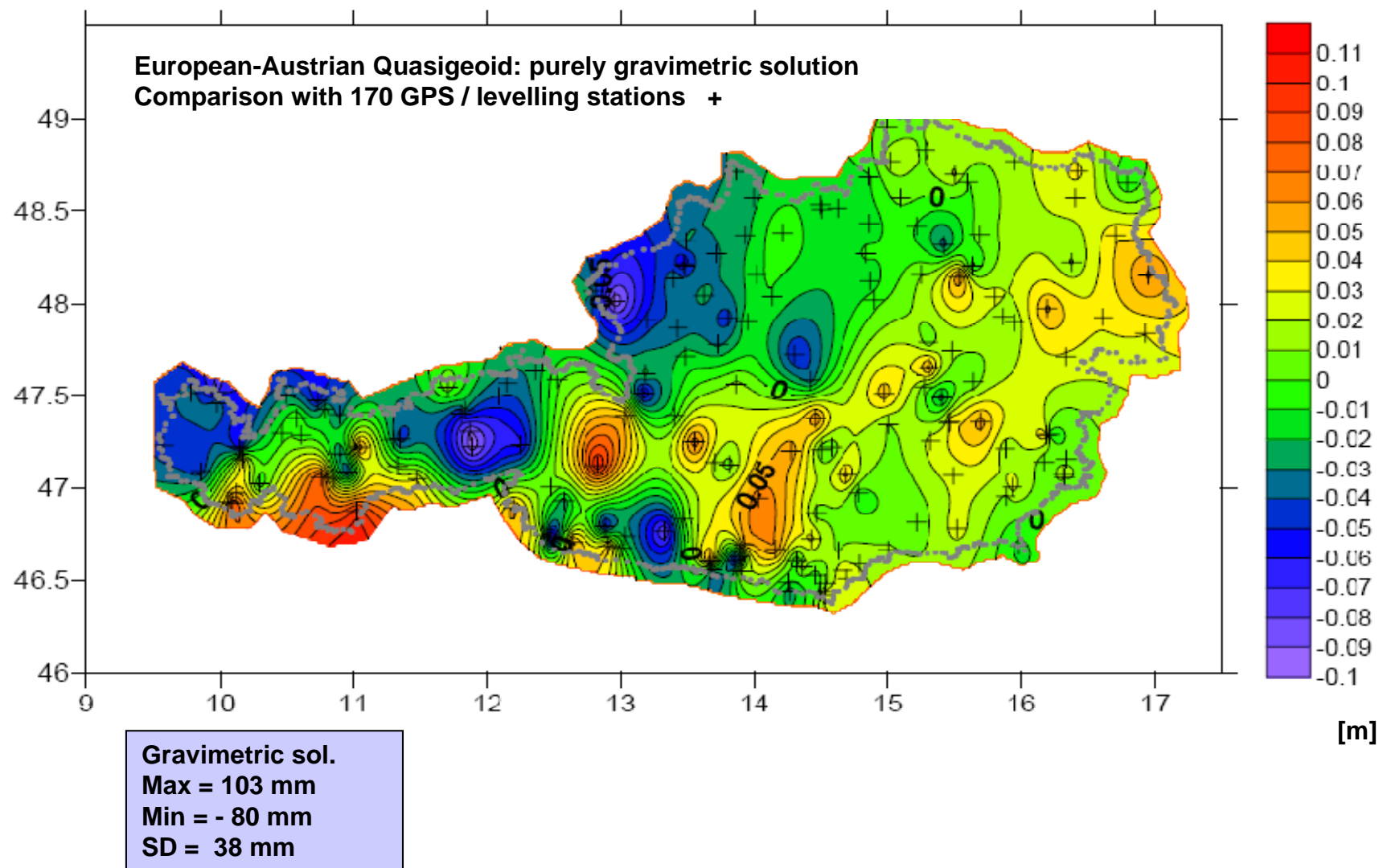


**A special Austrian solution of the European Quasigeoid was calculated by IAG/Denker (IfE)**

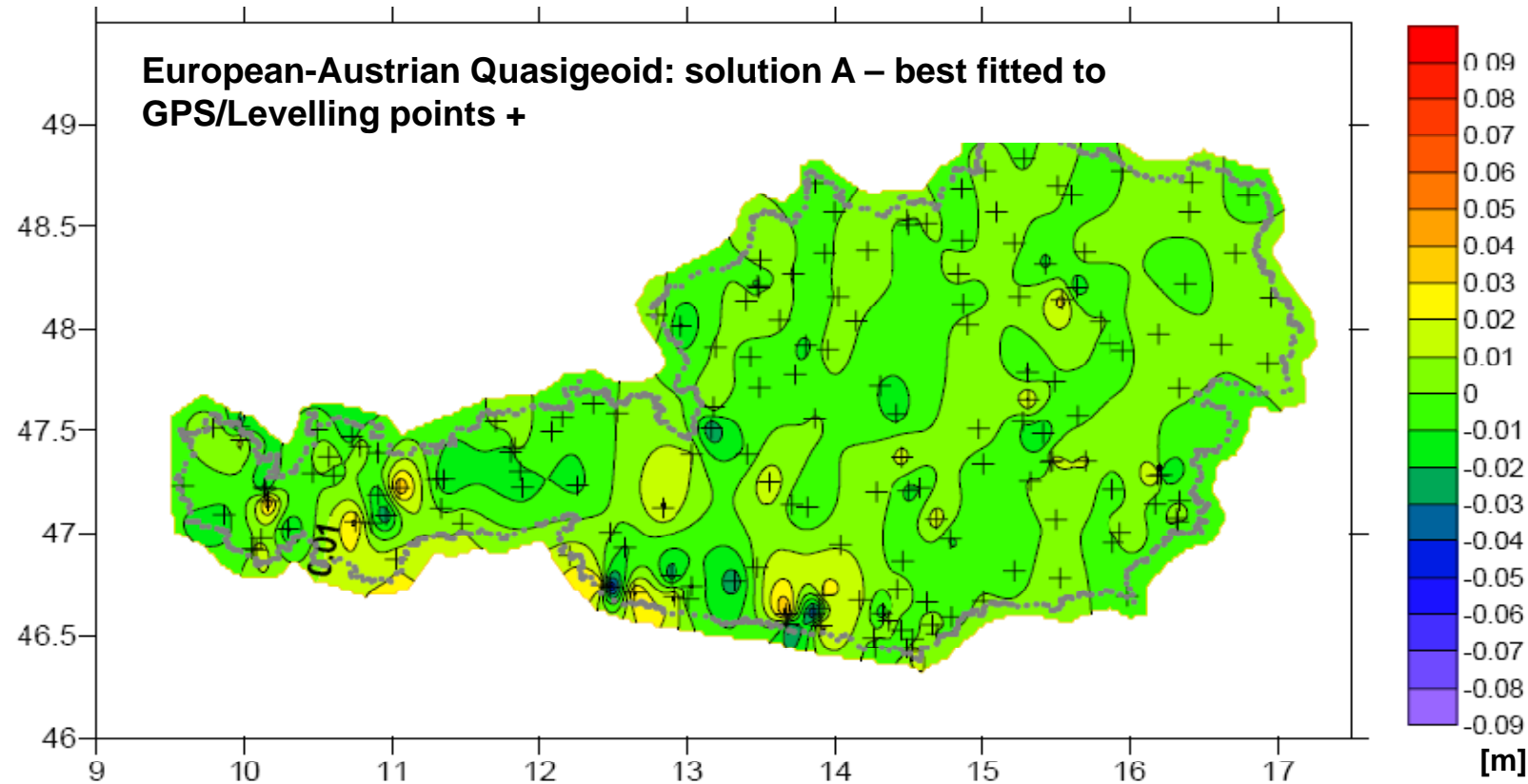
- **EGG-AU was adjusted to the 170 GPS / levelling stations like in the Geoid solution**
- **5 solutions: one purely gravimetric and 4 weighted solutions:**
  - Sol. A is the best adjusted to GPS/lev.,**
  - Sol. B,C and D less adjusted to GPS / lev. stations**



## EQG-AU Solution- Evaluation (1)

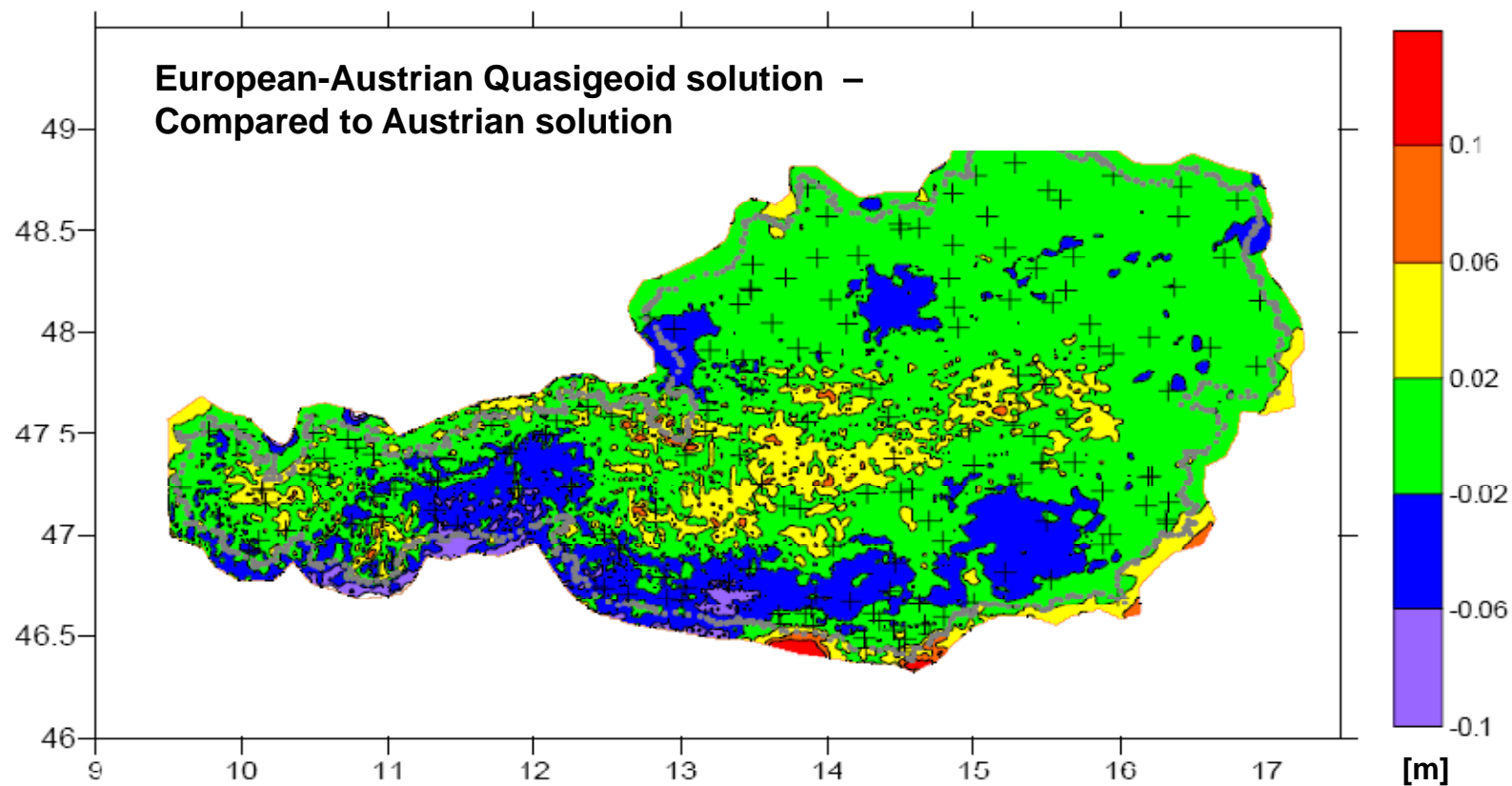


## EQG-AU Solution- Evaluation (2)

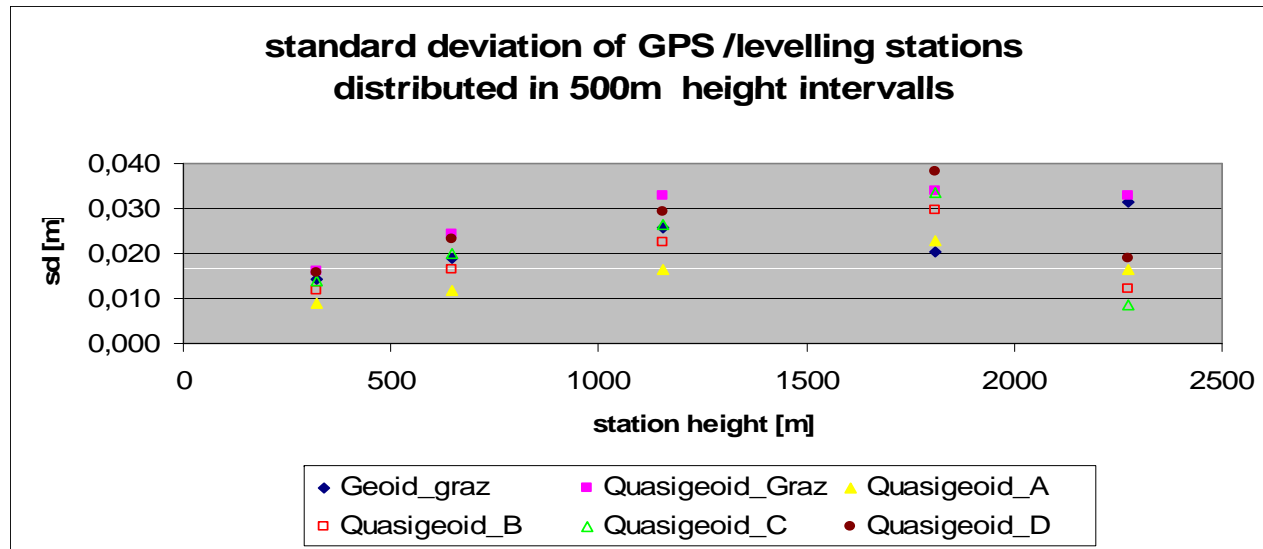


**Solution A**  
**Maximum = 47 mm**  
**Minimum = - 58 mm**  
**SD = 15 mm**

## EQG-AU solution- Evaluation (3)

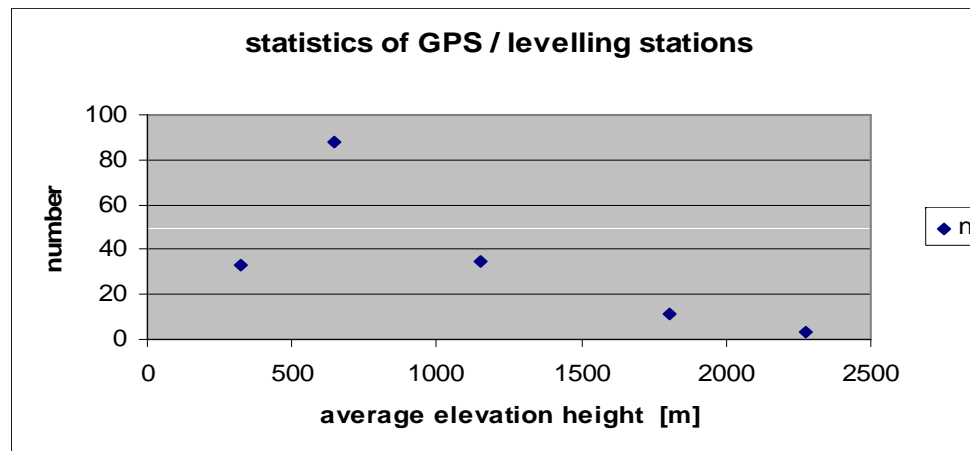


## Statistics of GPS / levelling data

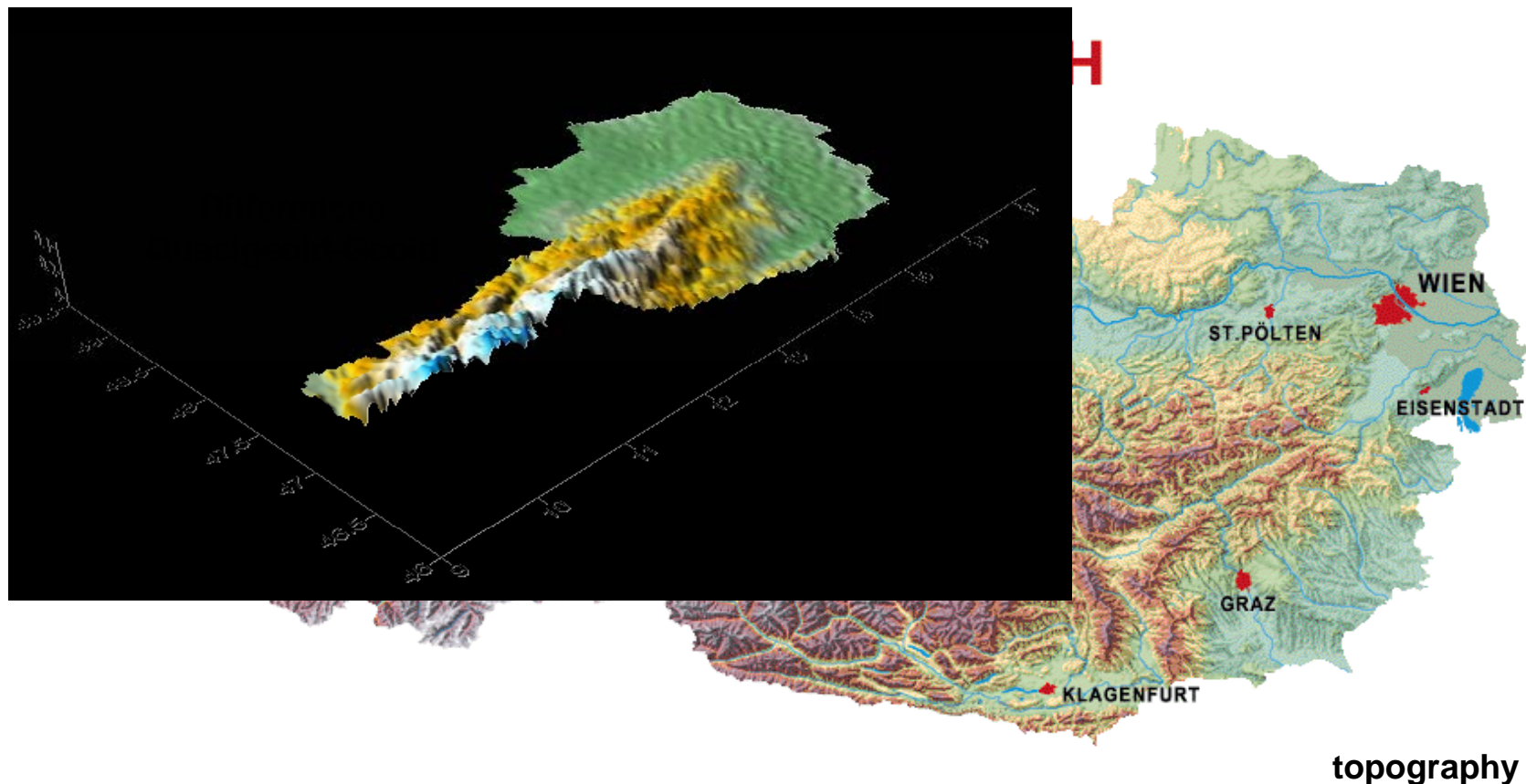


**For non- mountainous areas ( elevation < 1000m) the Austrian geoid solution seems to be much better than 20 mm !**

**Additional error source:  
GPS and levelling data were not measured at the same epoch !  
Difference in time up to 50 years**



## Difference Quasigeoid - Geoid



The difference between Quasigeoid and Geoid mirrors the topography



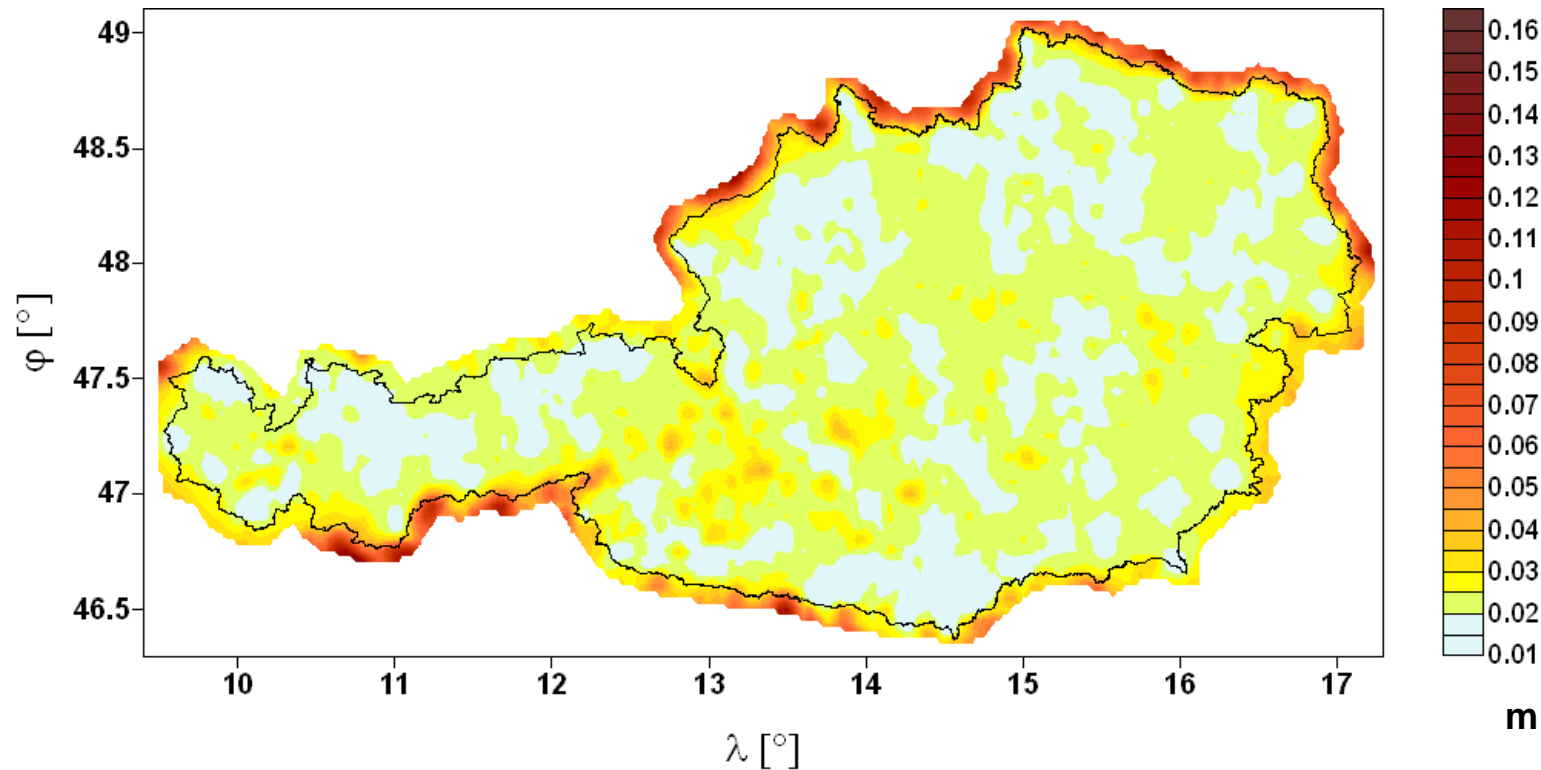
## Conclusion

- Successful Cooperation between the project partners
- Improvement of „power of ten“ compared to the solution from 1987
- In good accordance with the international solution by IAG
- Full advantage of this new Geoid/Quasigeoid Solution is only in combination with explicit defined heights available:

Orthometric or Normal Heights

• Thank you for your Attention

## Austrian Geoid: error estimates



**Formal errors, rescaled using the standard deviation of the residuals at selected GPS/levelling control points → realistic estimate for the total error: 2 – 3 cm**  
**Degraded accuracy in the Austrian boundary regions due to input data distribution.**