Structure, status and recent achievements of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) and its Global Geodetic Observing System GGOS

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Helmholtz Centre Potsdam
GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences

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Deutsches Geodätisches Forschungsinstitut (DGFI-TUM)
of Technische Universität München

Buenos Aires, Sept. 17, 2019
Organisation of International Science

International Science Council (ISC) (2018: merger of ICSU and ISSC)

Sciences: IAU, ICA, IGA, ...

IUGG

Social Sciences

International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG)

IACS, IAGA, IAHS, IAPSO, IAG, IAMAS, IASPEI, IAVCEI

International Association of Geodesy (IAG): 71 Member countries

Council: Representatives of the member countries

Executive Committee: 16 members (elected by the Council)

Bureau: Administrative work

Office: Management (Secretary General)
IAG Scientific Structure 2019 – 2023

Bureau
President: Zuheir Altamimi, France
Vice-president: Richard Gross, USA
Secretary General: Markku Poutanen, Finland

Commissions
1 Reference Frames (Ch. Kotsakis, GR)
2 Gravity Field (A. Jäggi, CH)
3 Geodynamics (J. Bogusz, PL)
4 Applications (A. Kealy, AUS)

Inter-Commission Committee on Theory (P. Novák, CZ)

Scientific Services
Geom.: IERS, IGS, IDS, ILRS, IVS
Gravim.: IGFS, BGI, IDEMS, IGETS, ISG
General: BIPM, PSMSL

(Representatives in the EC: T. Herring, USA, T. Otsubo, JP, J. Böhm, AU)

Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS) (R. Gross, USA)

Communication and Outreach Branch (COB) (Sz. Rózsa, HU)

EC Members at Large: Y. Dang, CN, S. Costa, BR
Past President: H. Schuh, DE; Past Secretary General: H. Drewes, DE
Mission and objectives of the IAG

The **mission** of the IAG is the **advancement of geodesy** by
- furthering geodetic theory through research and teaching,
- collecting, analysing, modelling and interpreting observational data,
- by stimulating technological development and
- providing a consistent representation of the figure, rotation, and gravity field of the Earth and planets, and their temporal variations.

The **objectives** of the IAG are to achieve the mission by **studying all geodetic problems related to Earth observation and global change**, i.e.:
- Definition, establishment, and maintenance of global and regional **reference systems** for interdisciplinary use;
- **Gravity field** of the Earth;
- **Rotation and dynamics** of the Earth and planets;
- **Positioning and deformation**;
- Ocean, ice and sea level.
- Atmosphere and hydrosphere.
Commission 1 “Reference Frames” Activities

1.1 Coordination of Space Techniques
- Co-location using clocks and new sensors: New site ties concepts
- Performance simulations and architectural trade-off (of the ITRF)

1.2 Global Reference Frames
- IERS Conventions (2010): update will come soon

1.3 Regional Reference Frames
- EUREF, SIRGAS, NAREF, AFREF, APREF, Antarctica
- Time-dependent transformations between reference frames

1.4 Interaction of Celestial and Terrestrial Reference Frames
- Consistent realization of ITRF, ICRF and EOP: new ICRF3 (only IAU)

WG1: Site survey and co-location
WG2: Modelling environmental loading effects
WG3: Troposphere ties
Commission 2 “Gravity Field” Activities

2.1 Gravimetry and Gravity Network
- Absolute and superconducting gravity measurements

2.2 Methodology for Geoid and Physical Height Systems
- Integration and validation of local geoid estimates

2.3 Satellite Gravity Missions
- GRACE Follow-On (GRACE FO) mission launched on May 22, 2018

2.4 Regional Geoid Determination
- Europe, South, N & Central America, Africa, Asia-Pacific, Antarctica

2.5 Satellite Altimetry
- New International Altimetry Service (under construction)

2.6 Gravity and Mass Transport in the Earth System
- Variation of groundwater, melting of ice, ...

WG: Relativistic Geodesy: Towards New Geodetic Techniques
Commission 3 “Earth Rotation and Geodynamics”

3.1 Earth Tides and Geodynamics
- International Geodynamics and Earth Tide Service (IGETS), 2017

3.2 Crustal Deformation
- New SC3.2 Volcano Geodesy (jointly with IAVCEI), 2019

3.3 Earth Rotation and Geophysical Fluids
- Global mass transport, Earth rotation and low-degree gravity change

3.4 Cryospheric Deformations
- Glacial Isostatic Adjustment (GIA) research

3.5 Tectonics and Earthquake Geodesy
- Joint Sub-commission planned with IASPEI, 2019

JSG1 : Intercomparison of Gravity and Height Changes
JWG1: Theory of Earth Rotation and Validation
JWG2: Constraining Vertical Land Motion of Tide Gauges
Challenges of geodesy to rotation & geodynamics

- Prove consistency of the ICRF3 (released by IAU 2018) with ITRF;
- Model the effects of mass displacements (atmosphere, hydrosphere and solid Earth) on Earth rotation

NEW (established in 2019): For geodynamics research Inter-Assoc. Sub-commissions or IAG Inter-Commission Committees, ICC:

• With IASPEI (“Seismo-geodesy”)
• With IAVCEI (“Volcano-geodesy”)
• With IACS (“Cryosphere geodesy”)
• New ICC on “Marine geodesy”
• New ICC on “Geodesy for climate research”
• New ICC on “Quantum technology and new sensors”
Commission 4 “Positioning and Applications”

4.1 Emerging positioning technologies and GNSS augmentation
- Multi-sensor systems
- 3D point cloud monitoring
- Indoor positioning and navigation
- Robust positioning for urban traffic

4.2 Geo-spatial mapping and geodetic engineering
- Mobile mapping technologies
- Mobile health monitoring
- Geodesy in mining engineering
- Building information modelling

4.3 Atmosphere remote sensing
- Iono-atmosphere coupling
- Multi-dimens. Ionosphere
- Ionosphere scintillations
- Real-time iono-/atmosph. monitoring
- Impact on GNSS-positioning
- Troposphere tomography

4.4 Multi-constellation GNSS
- Integrity monitoring for PPP

WG1: Biases in multi-GNSS data processing
WG2: Integer ambiguity resolution for multi-GNSS PPP and PPP-RTK
Joint Study Groups with Commissions / Services

10: High-rate GNSS
11: Multi-resolution aspects of potential field theory
12: Methods for recovery of high-resolution gravity field models
13: Integral equations of potential theory for continuation and transformation of classical and new gravitational observables
14: Fusion of multi-technique satellite geodetic data
15: Regional geoid/quasi-geoid modelling for sub-centimetre accur.
16: Earth’s inner structure from geodetic and geophysical sources
17: Multi-GNSS theory and algorithms
18: High resolution harmonic analysis & synthesis of potential fields
19: Time series analysis in geodesy
20: Space weather and ionosphere
21: Geophysical modelling of time variations in deformation & gravity
22: Definition of next generation terrestrial reference frames
## IAG Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IERS:</td>
<td>International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDS:</td>
<td>International DORIS Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>IGS:</td>
<td>International GNSS Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>ILRS:</td>
<td>International Laser Ranging Service</td>
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<td>IVS:</td>
<td>International VLBI Service</td>
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<td>IGFS:</td>
<td>International Gravity Field Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>BGI:</td>
<td>Bureau Gravimetrique International</td>
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<tr>
<td>ICGEM:</td>
<td>International Centre for Global Earth Models</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDEMS:</td>
<td>International Digital Elevation Models Service</td>
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<td>IGETS:</td>
<td>International Geodynamics and Earth Tide Service</td>
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<td>ISG:</td>
<td>International Service for the Geoid</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSMSL:</td>
<td>Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level</td>
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<td>IAS:</td>
<td>International Altimetry Service (under construction)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIPM:</td>
<td>Bureau International des Poids et Mésures</td>
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IAG Services on Gravimetry

IGFS: International Gravity Field Service
now with a new Product Center on “Combination for Time-variable Gravity field solutions (COST-G)”

BGI: Bureau Gravimetrique International

ICGEM: International Centre for Global Earth Models

IDEMS: International Digital Elevation Model Service

IGETS: International Geodynamics and Earth Tide Service
(in full operation since 2017)

ISG: International Service for the Geoid
(renamed and new agreement with IAG)
IAG Services on Geometry

**IERS: International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems’ Service**

**IGS: International GNSS Service**

**ILRS: International Laser Ranging Service**

**IVS: International Service for Geodesy and Astrometry**

**IDS: International DORIS**

All the techniques’ Services compute epoch station coordinates (weekly, monthly, session-wise) and provide them as free or loosely constrained networks to the ITRF processing centres of the IERS.
Comprehensive Services

BIPM: Bureau International des Poids et Mesures
- Time Department -

PSMSL: Permanent Service of Mean Sea Level
- Sea level at tide gauges

All the Services have a general structure including
- Central Bureau coordinating all internal affairs,
- Governing or Directing Board
- Analysis Centres generating the Services’ products.

All the Services are working on a highly professional level but
unpaid by IAG or other international organisations.
The Services are cooperating in the Global Geodetic Observing
System (GGOS) to achieve consistency of their products.
New challenges in geoscience

- Increase of natural disasters (e.g. typhoons, flooding, …)
  - Strong demand for prediction and warning

- Global climate change
IAG Bylaws 1(d)

“The Global Geodetic Observing System works with the IAG components to provide the geodetic infrastructure necessary for monitoring the Earth system and global change research.”

The vision of GGOS is

“Advancing our understanding of the dynamic Earth system by quantifying our planet’s changes in space and time.”
- combination and integration of all available observations, methods, ...
- combine physical measurements and geometric techniques
- improve our understanding of the interactions in "System Earth"
GGOS – general goals

- **1 mm position and 0.1 mm/yr velocity** accuracy on global scales for the ITRF
- **continuous measurements** (time series of EOP, station positions and baselines)
- measurements in **near real-time**
- **highest reliability and redundancy**
- **low cost** for construction and operation of geodetic infrastructure

Content: main arguments for GGOS

▪ Goals, achievements and tools of modern geodesy
▪ Earth science requirements for geodesy
▪ Maintaining a modern society (9 societal benefit areas)
▪ Future geodetic reference frames
▪ Future Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS)
▪ GGOS 2020
The Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS)

By its contribution to the GEO **Societal Benefit Areas (SBA)** GGOS shall benefit science and society by providing the foundations upon which advances in Earth science and applications are built.
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Geodesy’s contribution to disaster research
GNSS seismology

monitor deformations before, during and after the Earthquake

Tocopilla - Event (November 2007)
M9.0 Tōhoku earthquake – March 11, 2011

Data source: GEONET, Geospatial Information Authority (GSI) Japan processed by: Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) und Caltech
M9.0 Tōhoku earthquake – March 11, 2011
The Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS)

GGOS shall benefit science and society by providing the foundations upon which advances in Earth science and applications are built.

**Geodesy’s contribution to weather research**
GNSS atmospheric monitoring: ground-based

~ 400 GNSS stations, ~300 in NRT

http://dwd.de/
First GNSS processing center world-wide that operationally provides atmospheric slant data (humidity) to weather services (DWD, …)

Zus (GFZ) et al., RS, 2015
The Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS)

GGOS shall benefit science and society by providing the foundations upon which advances in Earth science and applications are built.

Geodesy’s contribution to climate research
Integrated water vapor (IWV) series, Greenbelt (U.S.)

**trend: +0.94 mm/decade**

GNSS processing center for the reference network of the Global Climate Observing System GCOS

*Ning (GFZ) et al., Journal of Climate, 2016*
The Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS)

GGOS shall benefit science and society by providing the foundations upon which advances in Earth science and applications are built.

Geodesy’s contribution to water research (global hydrology)
GRACE and GRACE-FO Twin Satellite Missions


GRACE-FO (NASA / GFZ, launched on May, 22\textsuperscript{nd}, 2018)

The twin Satellites are the Experiment!
GRACE Measurement Principle

\[ s = 220 \pm 50 \text{km} \]

Left: 1/rev separation change (primarily flattening of the Earth): ±2km

Right: Observed mass change related distance variation: ±200 µm

\[ \sigma_s = \text{few } \mu \text{m} \]

(a tenth of the thickness of a human hair)

resp.

\[ \sigma_s/\text{dt} = 100 \text{nm/s} \]
Trends in Freshwater Availability from GRACE (2002-2015)

- Antarctic ice sheet melting
- Patagonia glaciers melting
- Alaska glaciers melting
- Greenland ice sheet melting
- Southeastern U.S. drought
- NW Australia groundwater depletion
- Orinoco and Amazon floods
- Colombia glaciers melting
- Peru glaciers melting
- Brazil drought
- Guarani Aquifer groundwater depletion
- Patagonia glaciers melting
- Midwest U.S. flooding
- Central Valley, U.S. flooding
- High Plains Aquifer groundwater depletion
- High latitude precipitation increase
- Caspian/Aral Seas shrinking
- North Africa groundwater depletion
- North China Plain groundwater depletion
- India/Bangladesh groundwater depletion
- Middle East groundwater depletion
- South China groundwater depletion
- North Africa groundwater depletion
- India monsoon
- Middle East drought
- NW Australia groundwater depletion
- Guarani Aquifer groundwater depletion
- North Africa groundwater depletion
- Congo drought
- Southern Africa groundwater depletion
- Brazil drought
- Mekong drought
- Colombia glaciers melting
- West Africa floods
- Okavango floods
- NW Australia groundwater depletion
- Ukraine drought
GRACE-FO launch on May 22, 2018

International Workshop for the Implementation of the GGRF, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 16-20 Sept. 2019
Challenges of geodesy to GGOS

- Develop a strategy to design, integrate and maintain the fundamental geodetic network of co-located instruments;
- Define the essential geodetic variables and provide fundamental geodetic parameters;

- Establish the International Height Reference Frame (IHRF) according to IAG Resolution 2, 2015;
- Develop the global geodetic infrastructure in collaboration with UN-GGIM and the GGRF
- Improve the global interaction of geodetic organizations by establishing regional and national alliances.

IHRF status April 2018 (Sánchez, L., 2018)
Journal of Geodesy – J. Kusche (editor-in-chief) and team of editors
- ranking increased significantly: IF 4.633 (2017) and 4.528 (2018)
- >300 submissions/year; acceptance rate 34%
- CAP (Continuous Article Publishing) was decided in 2019

IAG Symposia Series (latest volumes)
- Vol. 149 Joint IAG/IASPEI Scientific Assembly, Kobe, Japan, 2017 (2019)
- From now (2019) on all publications will be open access, free for the authors

Geodesist’s Handbook 2016
- IAG history, statutes, bylaws, rules, membership
- Structure and program descriptions 2015-2019
- General information

Position Paper on the UN-GGIM Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF)
https://iag.dgfi.tum.de/fileadmin/IAG-docs/GGRF_description_by_the_IAG_V2.pdf
Outlook and future perspectives

Maintain awareness of innovation and of technological developments relevant to geodesy

Example:

Using current developments in quantum technology, such as ... optical clocks for geodesy and geophysics, e.g. for height measurements
Future research tasks

Geodesy and metrology with transportable optical clocks

Authors: Jacopo Grotti, …, Christian Voigt (GFZ), …

*Nature Physics*, 12 Feb 2018, doi:10.1038/s41567-017-0042-3

Excellent agreement between height differences from clock and from conventional geodesy: 0.19 m, but clock accuracy still two orders of magnitude below geodesy

Observation/monitoring (ground-based, airborne, satellites)

New observation technologies

Improved observation

Understanding & Prediction of the Earth System

Monitoring products

Integration, assimilation

Effect separation

Processing

Prediction

Interpretation
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Geospatial Information („Positioning“)
Observation/monitoring (ground-based, airborne, satellites)

New observation technologies

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Processing

Monitoring products

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Effect separation

Prediction

Interpretation

Quantification

Satellites

Big Data

Global phenomena

Geospatial Information ("Positioning")

Concepts/Methodology/Algorithms
Welcome to the

28th IUGG
General Assembly
July 2023

Berlin
28th IUGG General Assembly
Welcome to Berlin

City Cube Berlin – Venue for the 28th IUGG General Assembly
28th IUGG General Assembly
Welcome to Berlin

See You in Berlin in 2023, July 12-19
Thank you very much for your attention!
Conclusions

Most provoking challenges

• Reference Frames - Co- and post-seismic deformation models
• Gravity field - International Gravity Reference Frame (IGRF)
• Rotation & Geodyn. - Joint commissions with other associations
• Pos. & Applications - Atmosphere (iono- & troposphere) models
• Geodetic theory - Relativistic geodesy, new geodetic techniques
• GGOS - International Height Reference Frame (IHRS)
  - Essential geodetic variables
  - New GRS to replace GRS80
• Geometry Services - Reliable continuous ITRF
• Gravity Services - Recommended global gravity field model
• Combining Services - Adopt IAG resolutions ($W_0$)
  - Sea level variation model