GFZ Helmholtz Centre Potsdam

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The International Centre for Global Earth Models (ICGEM)

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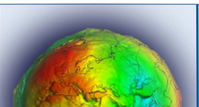
Helmholtz Centre Potsdam GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences

http://icgem.gfz-potsdam.de/home



ICGEM Home

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www.gfz-potsdam.de

Abstract

The more than 15-year-old ICGEM is one of the five services coordinated by the International Gravity Field Service (IGFS) of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG). It is hosted by GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences in Potsdam, Germany. The aim of the ICGEM service is to provide the scientific community with a state-of-the-art archive of static and time variable global gravity field models of the Earth in a standardized format with a possibility to assign DOI number. Furthermore, ICGEM contains an interactive calculation and visualization service of gravity field functionals. Development and maintenance of such a unique platform is crucial for the scientific community in geodesy, geophysics, oceanography and climatology and has a positive impact in governmental institutions and industrial practice. This poster covers the maintenance, recently established new features and future plans of the ICGEM Service. New features include the calculation of gravity field functionals at a list of user-defined distributed points and new topographic gravity field models, whereas the future plans aim to meet the needs of the scientific community. As an add-on, ICGEM provides also access to the gravity field models of some other celestial bodies (Mars, Venus, and Earth's moon).

Gravity Field Models

1

The datasets available via the ICGEM Service are the spherical harmonic coefficients, which together with the spherical harmonic functions, approximate the real gravitational potential of the Earth and/or its variations. ICGEM collects all available static and most of the temporal and topographical global gravity field models (GGMs) recently from different institutions under one umbrella and makes these models freely available to the public. ICGEM currently (July 6th, 2019) provides access to 175 static, variety of temporal and 9 topographic GGMs.

Calculation Service

2

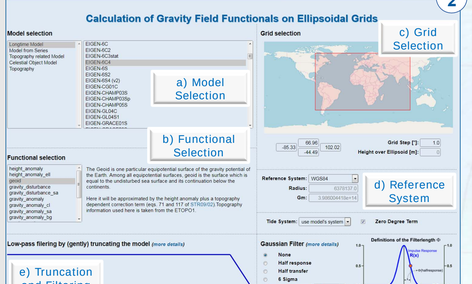


Figure 1: Calculation Service Interface for Gridded Points. http://icgem.gfz-potsdam.de/calcgrid

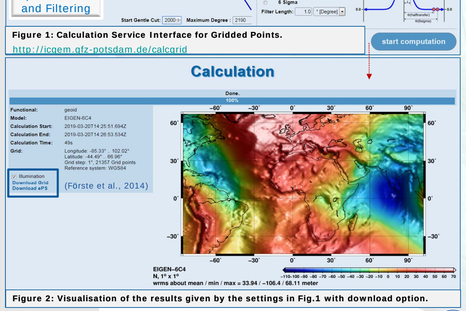


Figure 2: Visualisation of the results given by the settings in Fig.1 with download option.

New feature
Availability of topographic gravity field models

http://icgem.gfz-potsdam.de/tom_reltopo

1a

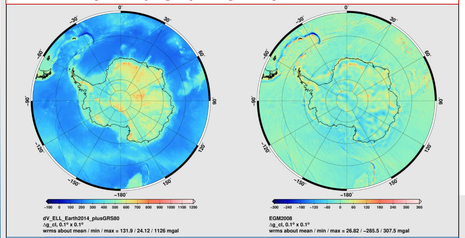


Figure 3: Classical gravity anomalies (free air) computed on the Earth's surface based on a) topographic model dV_ELL_Earth2014_plusGRS80 (Rexer M., 2016) b) EGM2008 (Pavlis et al., 2012) using models highest d/o available, 2190. Features in Antarctica are better resolved in dV_ELL_Earth2018 due to the availability of high resolution elevation data.

New feature
Availability of User-defined point calculation

3

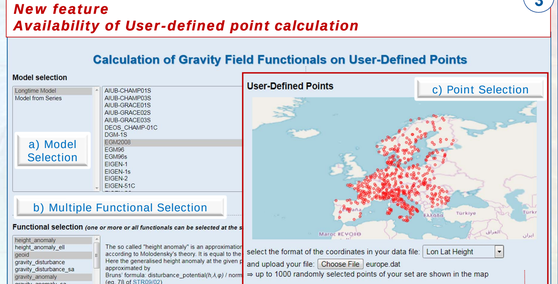
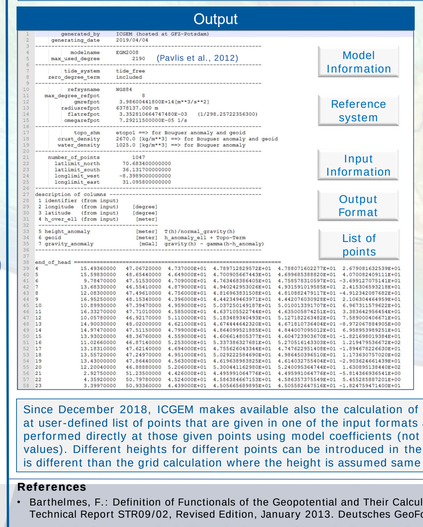


Figure 4: Calculation Service Interface for User-defined Points. http://icgem.gfz-potsdam.de/calcpoints



d) Input Format

Index Lat Lon Height
Index Lon Lat Height
Index Lat Lon
Index Lon Lat
Lat Lon Height
Lon Lat Height
Lat Lon
Lon Lat

The details of the calculation procedure applied in the Calculation and Visualisation Services can be found in in Barthelmes, 2014, Technical Report.

http://icgem.gfz-potsdam.de/str-0902-revised.pdf

Since December 2018, ICGEM makes available also the calculation of gravity field functionals at user-defined list of points that are given in one of the input formats and the calculations are performed directly at those given points using model coefficients (not an interpolation to grid values). Different heights for different points can be introduced in the point calculation which is different than the grid calculation where the height is assumed same for all the grid points.

3D Visualisation Service

4

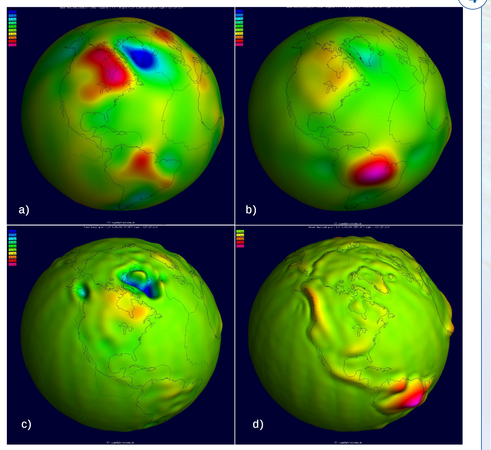


Figure 5: Snapshot of Visualisation Service for temporal gravity field models

a) EWH in January 2009 b) EWH in May 2009, note that the EWH difference between the two months represents the mass change, c) trend, note the strong effect due to the GIA in Hudson Bay area, Canada and ice melting in Greenland and Alaska d) annual amplitude, where the large signal amplitude in the Amazon region is noticeable.
(EWH - Equivalent Water Height)

An online interactive 3D Visualisation Service of the static models (geoid undulations and gravity anomalies), temporal models (geoid undulation and equivalent water column or height), trend and annual amplitude of GRACE gravity time variations, and spherical harmonics as illuminated projection on a freely rotatable sphere are available on the ICGEM Service. Static model visualisation enables also the demonstration of differences between two models with a selected grid interval and spherical harmonic degree expansion. Users of this service can select the functional, the model, the grid interval and the spherical harmonic degree expansion of the model to demonstrate the results on the 3D visualization. 3D Visualisation of temporal gravity field models displays computation of geoid undulation and equivalent water height from different daily and monthly series with an option of using filtered or unfiltered model coefficients. The visualisation tool can also be used for animation purposes for different monthly series.

ICGEM provides a gravity field discussion forum (http://icgem.gfz-potsdam.de/questbook) which provides users with a platform to communicate with the ICGEM team and other scientists working on similar topics. Apart from fulfilling the requirements of the service, this platform has also been used as a tool for educational purposes in which undergraduate or graduate students communicate with the ICGEM team directly. The updated version of the forum in 2016 should give the users the opportunity to discuss any topic related to gravity field among themselves or answer each other's question and probably share data in the future.

User Interaction

Gravity Field Discussion Forum

6

Dear ICGEM User,

Welcome to the Gravity Field Discussion Forum! This platform has been created to assist scientists, students, and anyone who is interested in using ICGEM service and its products.

Please post your questions, comments or critics here and ICGEM team will try to respond as soon as possible.
Moreover, other users are very welcome to actively join the discussion or answer the questions as well. Discussions of general interest can help many others and we make all inputs available upon a confirmation by our system.
Before submitting your question, please take a look at our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) since your question might have already been asked and answered by our team.

Usage

Please type your name in the upper field, optionally your email address if you want to receive a message when your question is answered. You can add your comment in the textarea, and then press the *send* button. Names are limited to 60 characters and the comment must not have less than 10 or more than 4000 characters, otherwise it is rejected.
Your posting will appear on the top of the guest book listing after it is confirmed by our system.

You may also contact us per email.

Your Name | Your E-Mail | Send

Create a new comment:...

Users comments or questions are welcome!

5

Refer also to FAQs:
http://icgem.gfz-potsdam.de/icgem_faq.pdf

Future Plans

- In the near future, the **G3 Browser,** which showed the time variation of gravity field at any desired point or pre-defined basin, will be available again with improved features developed for both advanced researchers and educational purposes. **A specific web interface** will be made available for the user to calculate and visualise time series of mass variations.
- New services, such as the provision of **time series** of the changes of the gravity field of the Earth due to the flattening retrieved from SLR measurements from different institutions and agencies and the offer of the calculation of horizontal gravity gradients in the ICGEM Calculation Service are among our future plans.
- In the following years, we propose to establish sub-sections for different topics and **expand the discussion forum** to be unique in this field. Anyone without any registration requirement should still be able to write comments in the forum which will be publicly available after approval of the ICGEM team.
- If requested by the users, **data sharing** such as terrestrial gravity measurements and GNSS/levelling derived geoid undulations for GGM evaluation purposes can also be developed under the ICGEM web service safely.
- Creation of an **e-mail subscription list** for the delivery of important updates to the interested users is under discussion. These are possible options and opportunities to share the science and its products.

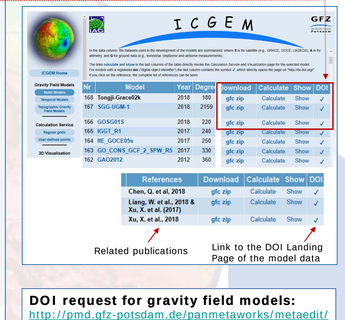
http://icgem.gfz-potsdam.de/home

DOI Service

DOI Service was developed as a request by the user community in cooperation with GFZ Data Services.

To reduce the heterogeneity in data documentation for static global gravity field models, standardised metadata templates for describing the models were developed. At the moment, all models with assigned DOIs are published under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence (CC BY 4.0).

Since its implementation in late 2015, we have assigned DOIs to 23 static and 8 temporal global gravity field models, mostly timely related to their first publication via ICGEM.



Related publications

Link to the DOI Landing Page of the model data

DOI request for gravity field models:
http://pmd.gfz-potsdam.de/panmetaworks/metaedit/

References

- Barthelmes, F.: Definition of Functionals of the Geopotential and Their Calculation from Spherical Harmonic Models: Theory and formulas used by the calculation service of the International Centre for Global Earth Models (ICGEM). Scientific Technical Report STR09/02, Revised Edition, January 2013. Deutsches GeoForschungZentrum GFZ, http://doi.org/10.2312/GFZ.b103-0902-26, 2013
- Ince, E. S., Barthelmes, F., Reißland, S., Elger, K., Förste, C., Flechtner, F., and Schuh, H.: ICGEM – 15 years of successful collection and distribution of global gravitational models, associated services, and future plans, Earth Syst. Sci. Data, 11, 647-674, https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-11-647-2019, 2019.

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