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Geodetic-geophysical Monitoring of Sinkhole Instabilities -Results of SIMULTAN Campaigns from 2015 to 2017

- Geodetic Week 2017 -

Session - Environmental Monitoring and Remote Sensing



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Motivation - Research on Sinkholes / Subrosion Events



Schmalkalden 2010 © TULG



Nordhausen 2016 © MDR/Robert Müller

Sinkhole Events in Germany

- sinkhole events mostly in depths of 100-150 m, diameters approx. 30 m and 50 m deep
- soluble rocks, subsidence and dissolution of gypsum and anhydrite
- no predictable processes (complex interaction of different factors)
- example Thuringia: approx. 30-40 events annually, (200 since 2016)





SIMULTAN - Multi-Disciplinary Joint Research Project

SIMULTAN

Sinkhole Instability: Integrated MULTi-scale Monitoring and ANalysis



Key-Parameter

- early recognition concept (different scales: time, lateral extent and depth)
- rigorous combination of geodetic and geophysical techniques and data sets
- integrated data sets of subsurface mechanics and surface deformations by collocated and co-located stations
- innovative methods of urban geodetic/geophysical monitoring strategies









Complex Process Models Require Integrated Methods



[©] Krawczyk and Dahm 2014





Complex Process Models Require Integrated Methods







GNSS Network Processing - Hamburg, Groß Flottbek (HHX)

Geodetic Datum (for all Working packages)

 SAPOS[®] 2016 (December 1st, 2016) with GCG2016 for consistent combination of mathematical and physical heights (consistent combination of GNSS, gravimetry and levelling)

Continuous GNSS (GPS/GLONASS) campaigns (09/2015 - 09/2017), star-like network

- local reference: DESY (HHDE), fixed controlled by several (3) SAPOS[®] stations (ionosphere free linear combination)
- five campaigns (finished 09/2017), processed as L1-solution

Investigations and related studies on GNSS processing

- Galileo at challenging urban environments [Kersten und Schön, 2017a]
- Dynamic & adaptive elevation masks to improve challenging satellite geometry dynMask ([Kersten und Schön, 2017b]
- Permanent high-sensitive and low-cost units in urban environments (street furniture, smart cities, ...)





Multi-Technique Monitoring Network in Hamburg Groß-Flottbek



© LIAG & IfE, (Weise et al. 2017)





Multi-Technique Monitoring Network in Hamburg Groß-Flottbek

GNSS Network

- Repeatability of individual sessions (L1 solution):
 - North/East: 0.8 1.5 mm,
 - Up: 0.8 3.5 mm
- Local reference stable (L3 solution)

Levelling Network

Precision: < 1 mm in 7 campaigns</p>

Gravity Network

- 13 gravity differences out of 8 stations
- ± 35 50 nm/s²

Absolute Gravimetry

- annually, control network stability
- precision: ±16 nm/s²



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Stability of Local Reference and Repeatability of Network Points



Epoch Comparison and Validation

- new SAPOS[®] Datum on Dec 1st, 2016: offsets in height component of up to 20 mm
- Epoch comparisons confirm very robust consistency of < ±2 mm in horizontal and up component (common Datum: DHHN2016)





Levelling and GNSS

Levelling network

- Subsidence at Flottbek Markt (confirmed by benchmark RF5303) and Wobbe See, change: -1 mm/a
- Seasonal variations, further surveys required







Comparison to GNSS

- Consistent trend of subsidence for HH05-HH03 (first epoch comparisons, not significant)
- Seasonal variations detectable, further investigations required to separate superimposed signals
- Further steps: integrated data model



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- ▶ FG5X-220 ($s \approx 0.02 \, \mu {\rm m/s^2}$) to control and confirm gravity level Datum
- Reducing earth tides and air pressure gravity changes

Relative Gravimetry

- Gravimeter instruments used in campaigns
 - Scintrex CG3, CG5
 - LaCoste & Romberg
- Step method to control drift of spring gravimeters



gravity local tie measurement



levelling mark to gravity tie

Findings: Absolute Gravimetry

- Increase of gravity: 50 nm/s² ± 22 nm/s²
- Consistent with effects in observed gravity differences
- Induced by hydrological variations at subsurface station DESY







Absolute and Relative Gravimetry

Relative Gravity Network

- Precision of network: ±10 nm/s²
- Temporal variations of gravity differences (up to 120 nm/s²)
- Correlation of seasonal and local hydrological variations: soil water (GLDAS) and ground water (≈0.5 m water column), partly due to topography/subsurface station







Absolute and Relative Gravimetry

Relative Gravity Network

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Summary and Outlook

Integrated multi-technique monitoring network

- Ongoing campaigns observe and monitor focus areas (levelling and gravimetry)
- Quantitative interpretation of gravity changes and deformations
- Combination of GNSS and levelling confirm subsidence processes

Challenges and further work

- Integrating of data sets (gravimetric, GNSS, levelling, borehole extensometer, seismic)
- Separating significant signals from noise requires longer time series
- Re-processing historical levelling data
- Surface deformation by imaging methods (e.g. InSAR, DInSAR)
- Re-processing of monitoring networks with Galileo





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GNSS Campaign - L1-Solution of Monitoring Network



GNSS-Monitoring Network

- combined GPS/GLONASS solution optimal w.r.t. GPS only solution (L1-Solution)
- GLONASS improves observations under challenging sky distribution
- height component most challenging parameter the effort of using FG-ANA100B and individual antenna calibrations is mandatory and justified





Comparison of GNSS and Levelling Heights

Cross-checks between GNSS-heights and Levelling

- proving GNSS-height determination using relative height differences (w.r.t. #GRAV10)
- comparing different measurement-techniques (Levelling vs. GNSS)
- validating ongoing data integration, combination and later modelling of subsurface processes

Number	Name	NHN92 Height [m]	GNSS Height [m]	Δ Levelling [m]	$\Delta GNSS$ [m]	$\Delta \text{GNSS} - \Delta \text{Levelling}$ [mm]
1	GRAV01	140.2861	185.8377	-1.037	-1.039	-1.34
2	GRAV02	143.7469	189.2970	2.424	2.421	-2.81
3	GRAV06	132.7434	178.2935	-8.580	-8.583	-2.89
4	GRAV10	141.3234	186.8763	0.000	0.000	0.00
5	GRAV11	140.2651	185.8193	-1.058	-1.057	1.28
6	GRAV12	152.9325	198.4901	11.609	11.614	4.66

Cross-checks

- ► GNSS-heights correspond with ±3 mm to levelling heights
- GRAV12 shows significant variation in height component (challenging visibility and geometry at this marker)