



Technische  
Universität  
Braunschweig



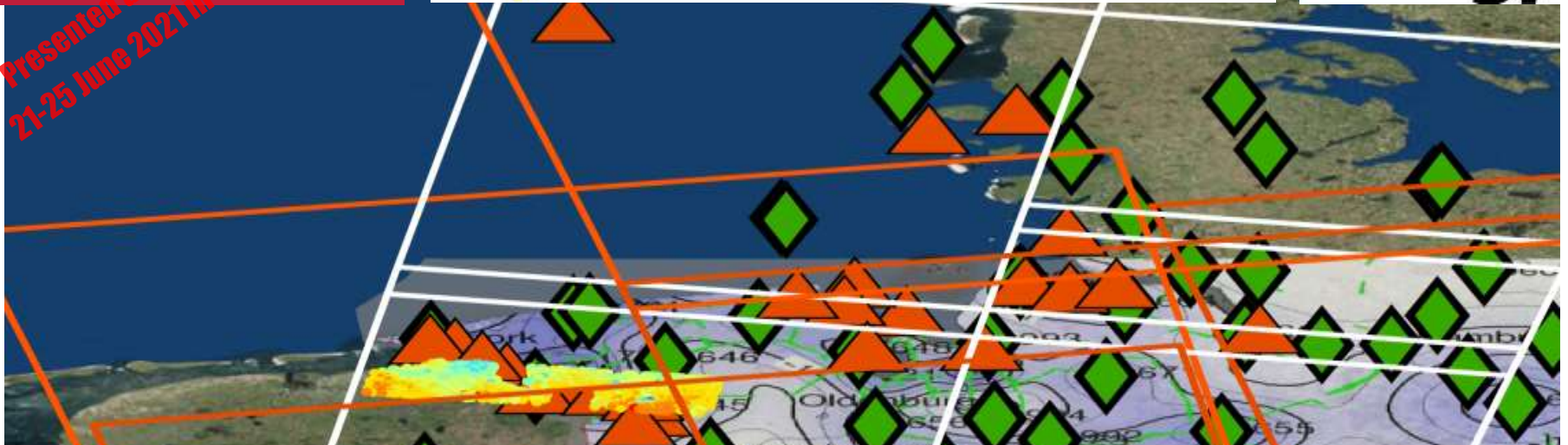
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für Bildung  
und Forschung

PTJ  
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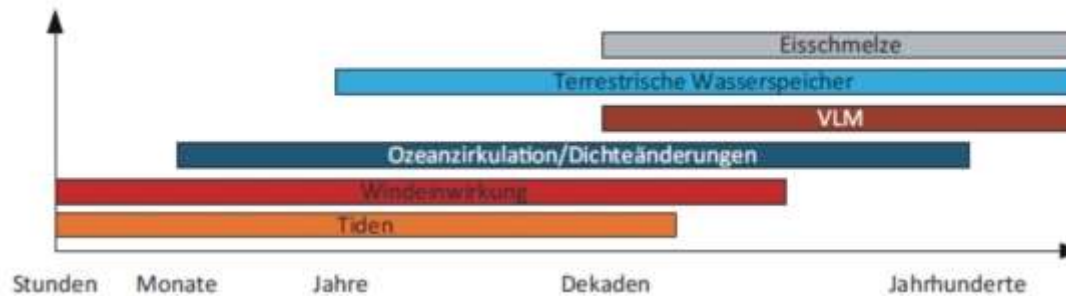
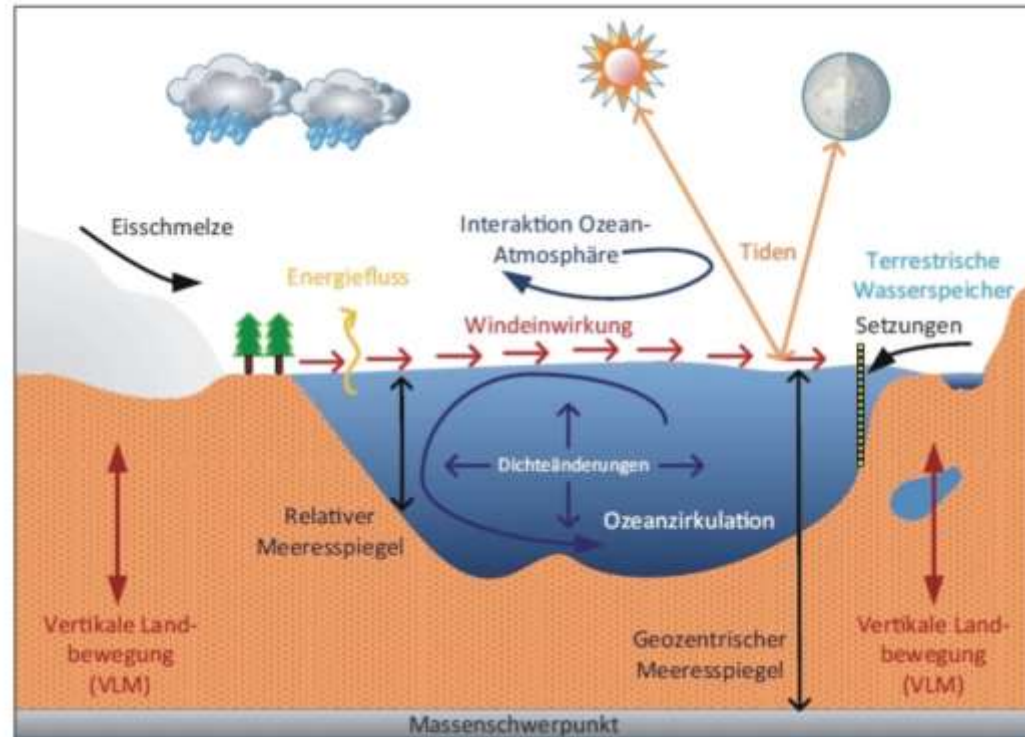
Presented at FIG Working Week 2021,  
21-25 June 2021 in Dordrecht, the Netherlands



## Vertical Land Movements in Coastal Areas around Northern and Baltic Sea within German

Wolfgang Niemeier, Anika Riedel, Dieter Tengen, Björn Riedel and Markus Gerke

# Mean-Sea-Level (MSL) Variations and its influencing processes



JENSEN, J. ET AL.:  
 Meeresspiegeländerungen in der Nordsee:  
 Entwicklungen und Herausforderungen,  
 HyWa, 2014

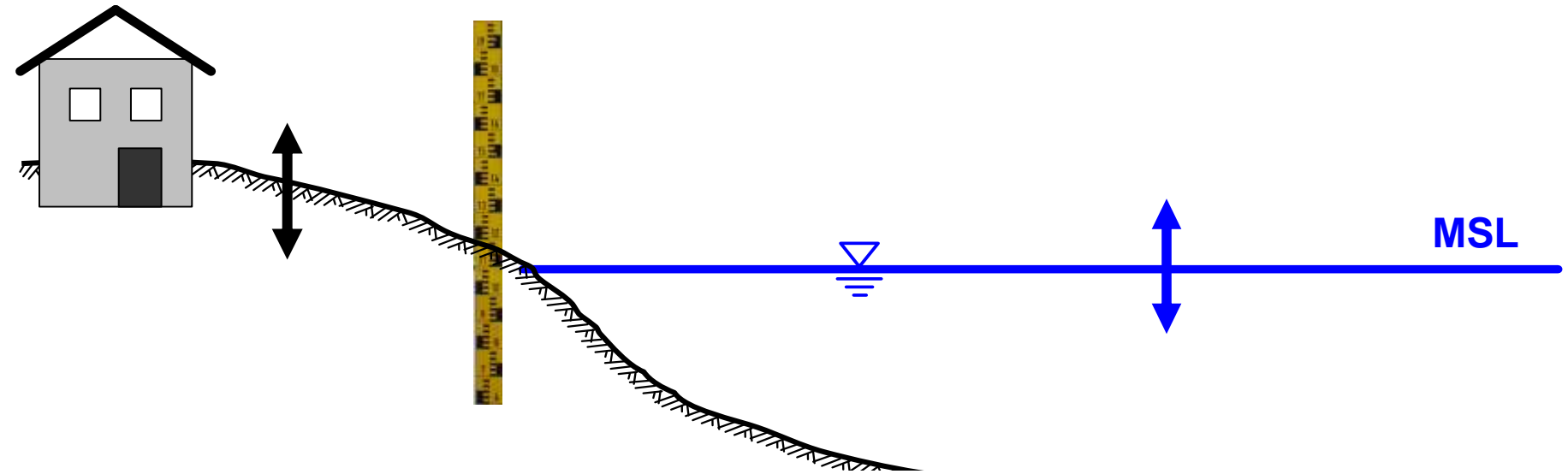
# Surrounding of Tidegauges: Intersection between Land and Sea

**Relative MSL:**

Important parameter for standard tasks in coastal engineering

**Absolute MSL:**

Important parameter for verification of climate models and comparison with data from altimetry



- Knowledge on vertical movement of land in coastal areas
- Knowledge on stability of tidegauge and its surrounding

# Processing of Radar Data

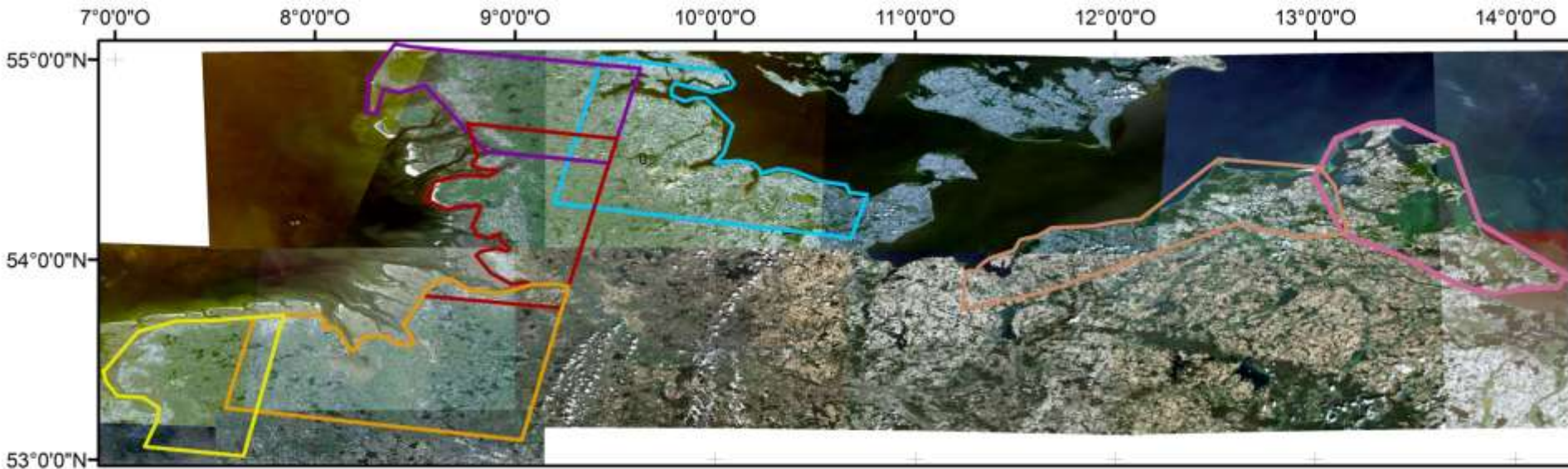
## Available Radar Data: Sentinel-1 Scenes



Processed up to now for German North Sea area and western part of Baltic Sea

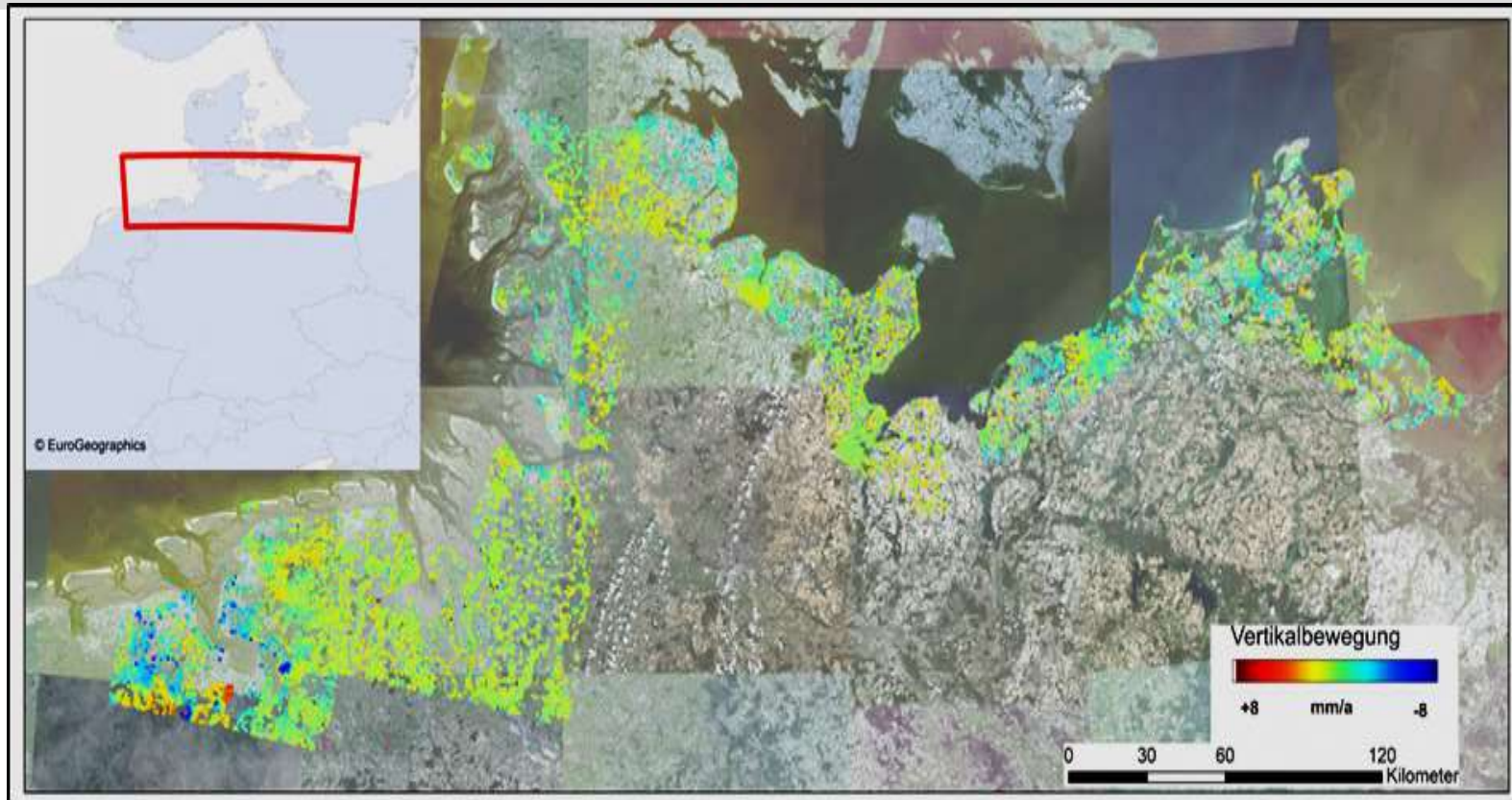
- 133 scenes of track 139 in descending orbit from Oct. 2014 to March 2018
- 130 Scenes of track 146 in ascending orbit from Oct. 2014 to Sept. 2018
- Processing with multitemporal PSI method of Feretti et al. (2001)

# Details to Data Processing of Sentinel-1 Radar Scenes



Name	Extension	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Processing time (days)	File size (TB)	Computer
Patch1	Groningen-Papenburg	14135	14	2	Work station
Patch2	Wilhemshaven-Bremen	18848	22	2	Work station
Patch3	Cuxhaven-Bredtstedt	10965	6	1,2	High power
Patch4	Bredtstedt-Sylt	10748	6	1,1	High power
Patch5	Flensburg-Lütjenburg	13000	7	1,3	High power
Baltic Sea-west	Wismar-Stralsund	11100	8	2	High power
Baltic Sea-east	Stralsund- Świnoujście	11500	5	2	High power

# Summarized Solution for German Coast

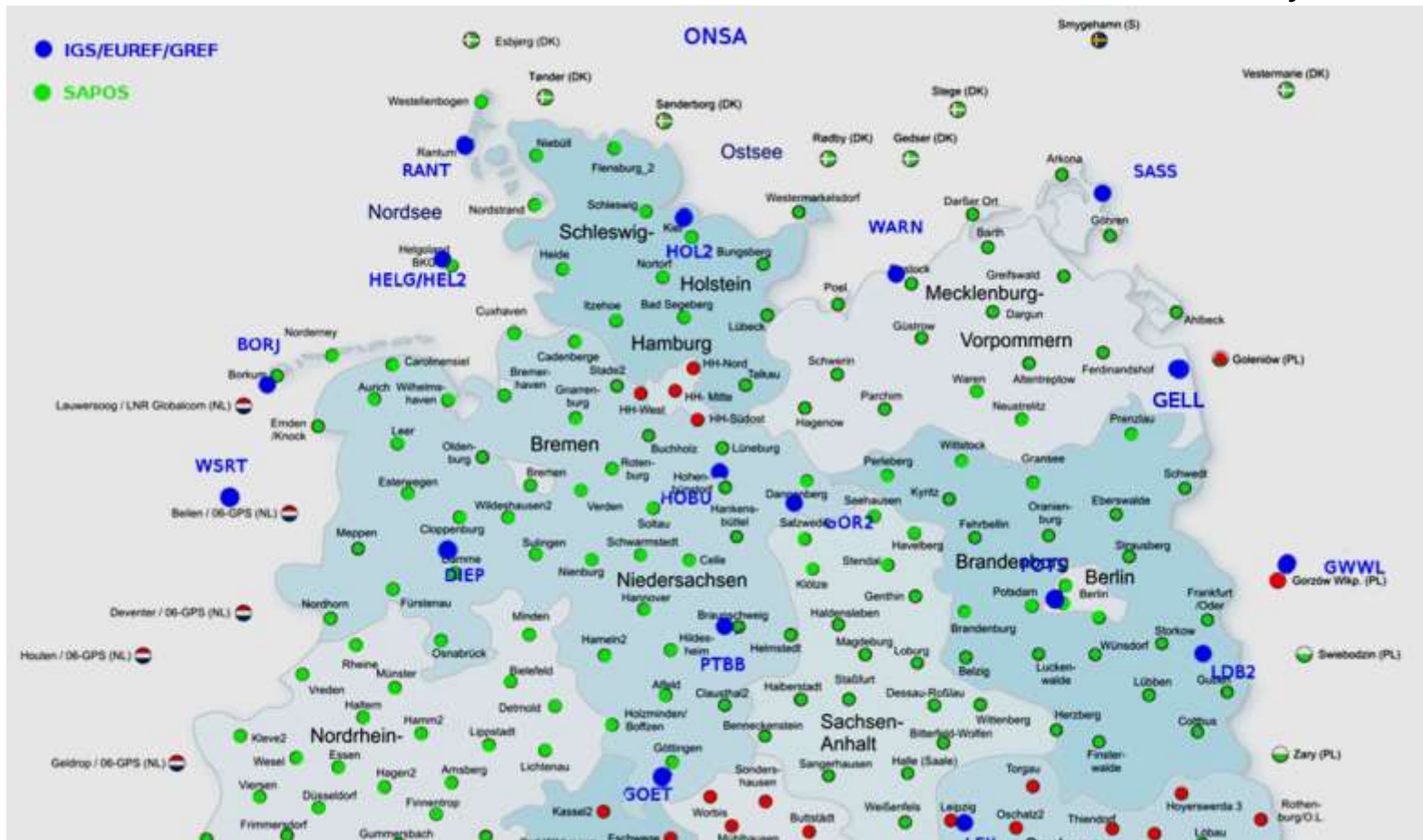


## Special effects:

- Around Emden: Subsidence associated with **long-lasting gas extraction** in Groningen Gasfield
- In Wilhelmshaven and Etzel: Subsidence due to **storage caverns** in the underground
- In Rostock: Subsidence due to **construction activities**

# GNSS Permanent stations: SAPOS/IGS/EUREF/DREF

140 SAPOS, 21 IGS/EUREF/GREF stations in Northern Germany



# GNSS Processing and Analysis

Problem: Absolute variations have to be determined in relation to stable areas.  
„Stable Area“ can be expected to be **low mountain range** in the South!



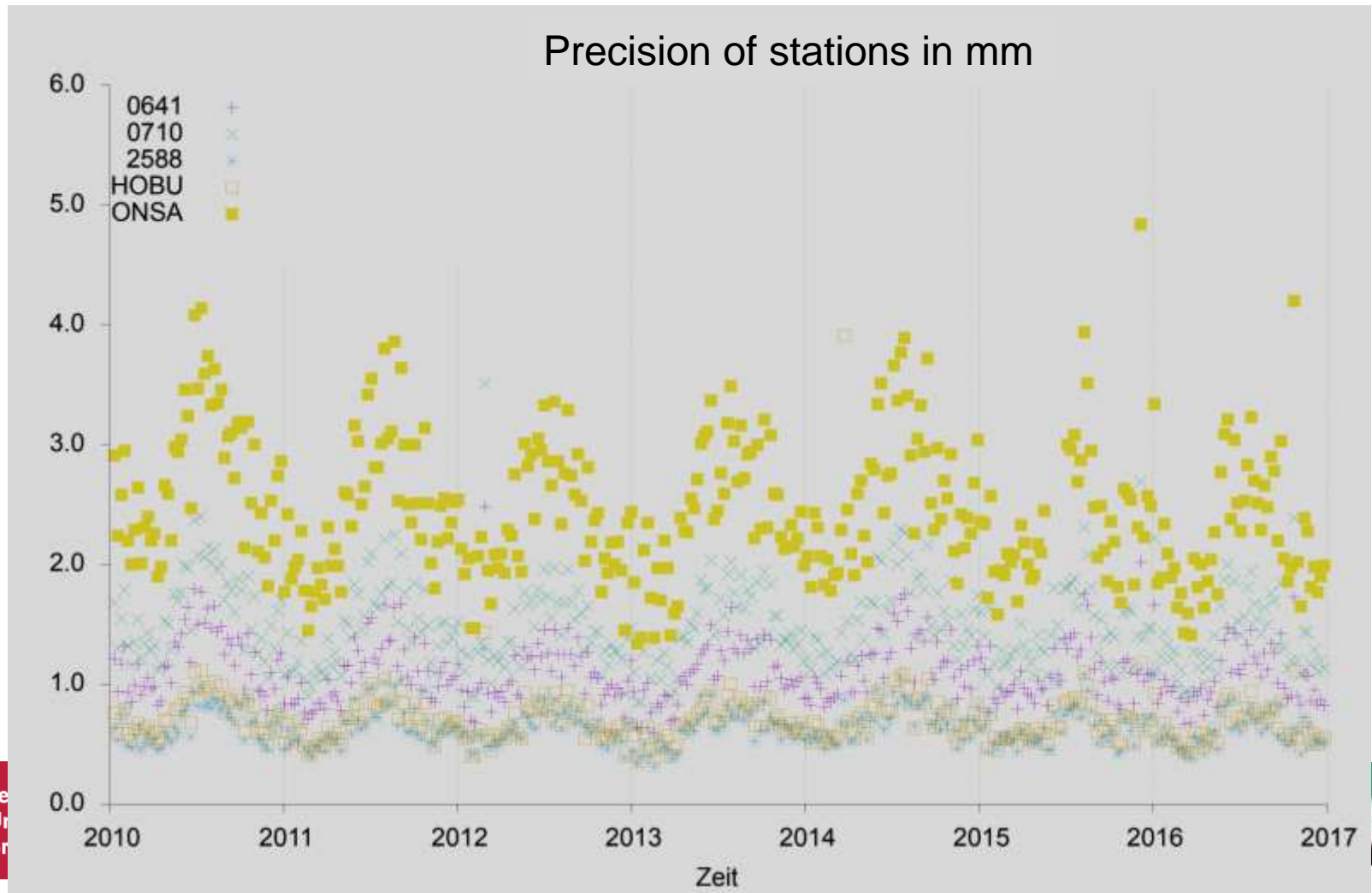
geologically stable ?

Source: Bundeszentrale für  
Politische Bildung



# GNSS: Precision after combination of partial networks

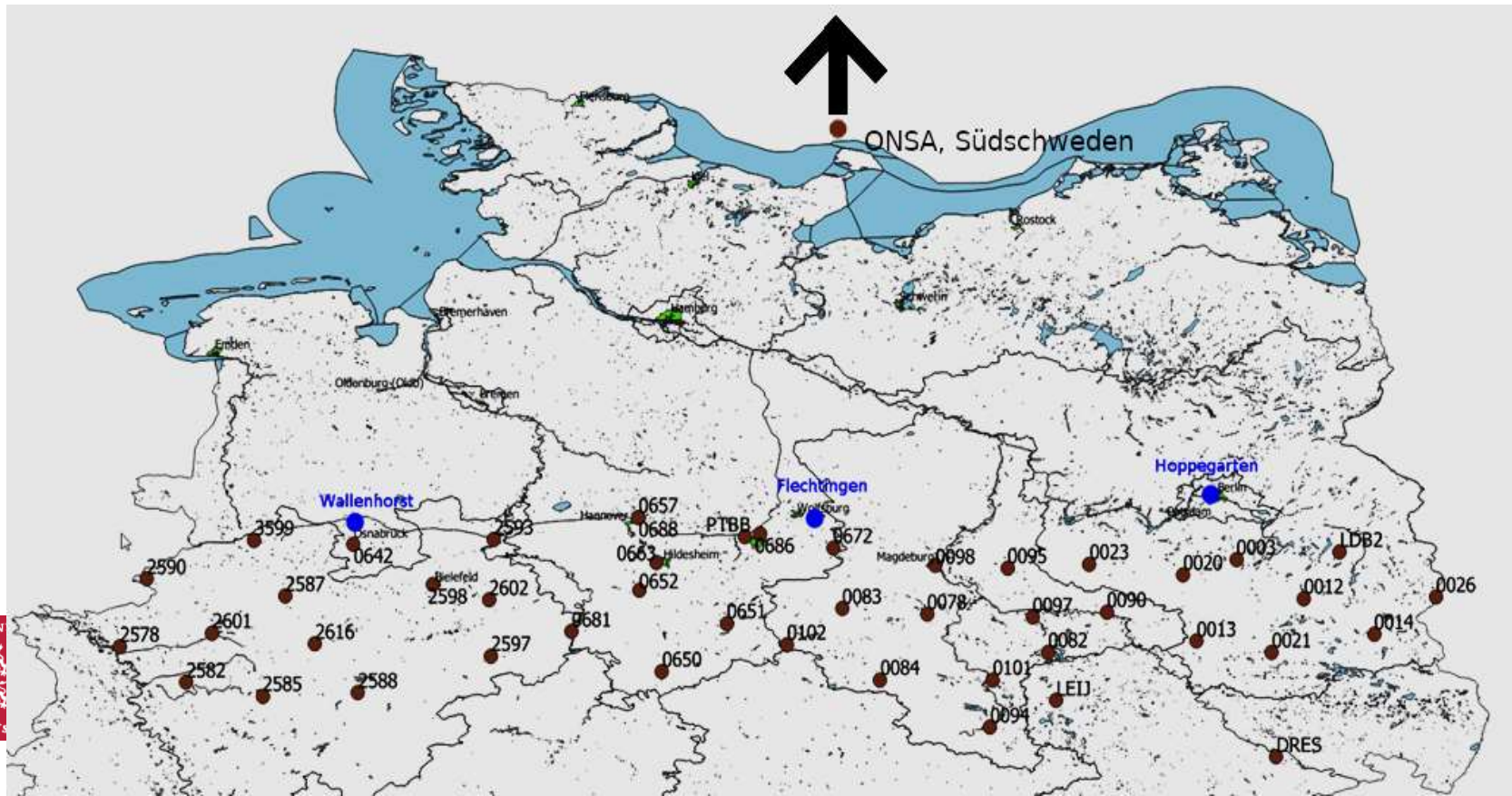
- Major axis of error ellipse for selected stations:  
(Datum is defined by all stations in the low mountain range in the South)



# GNSS: Transformation on „stable“ reference stations

**Idea:** Transformation of stations of each epoch (weekly solution) on ‚stable‘ reference stations in low mountain range (with max. 46 stations)

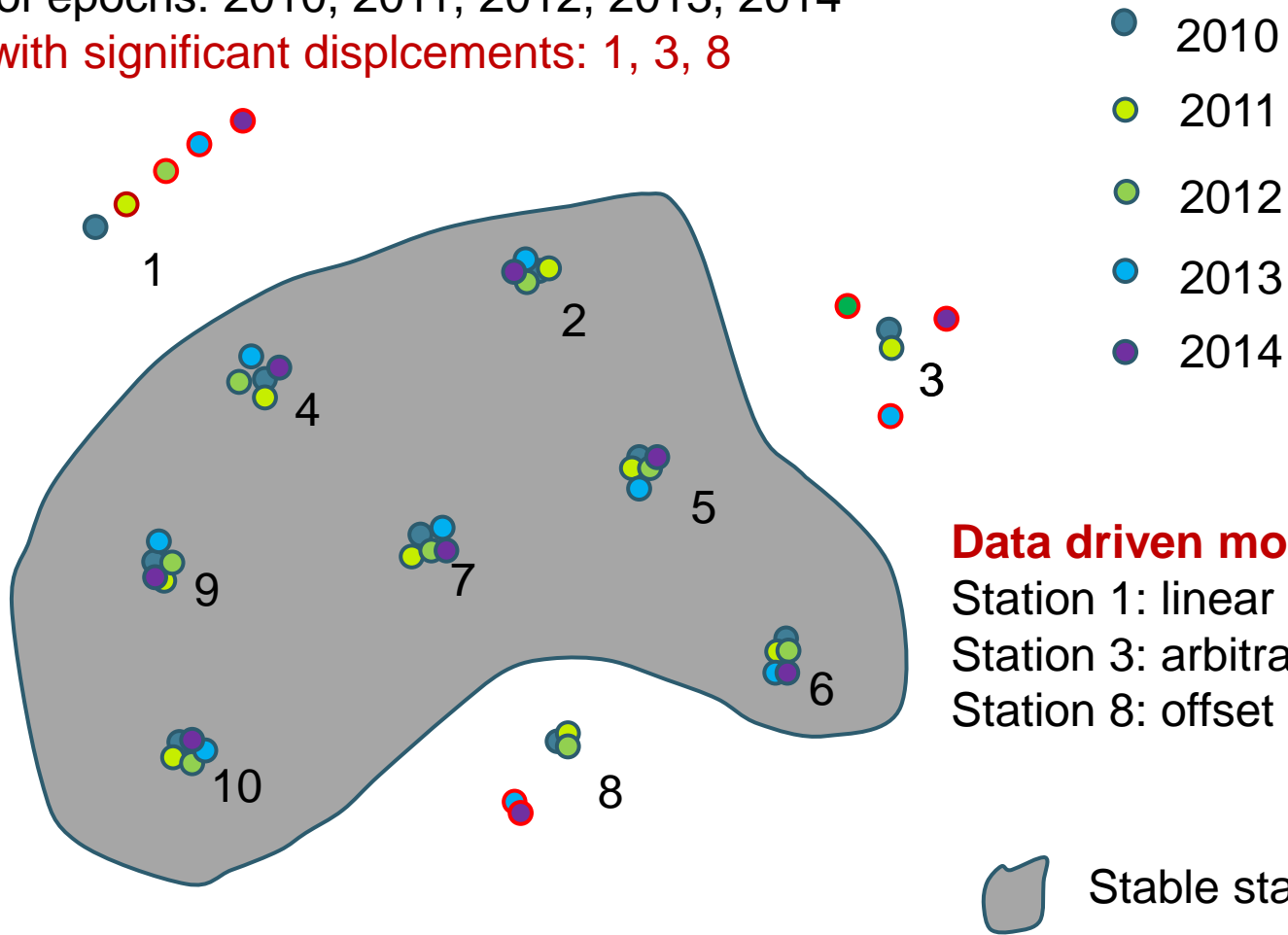
- Why:**
- Uniform reference for all epochs.
  - No dependency on realisation of global reference frame.
  - Similar reference as for new levelling network in Germany (Wallenhorst, Flechtingen, Hoppegarten).



# To explain this extension of classical congruency test: (Data based modelling)

Location of epochs: 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

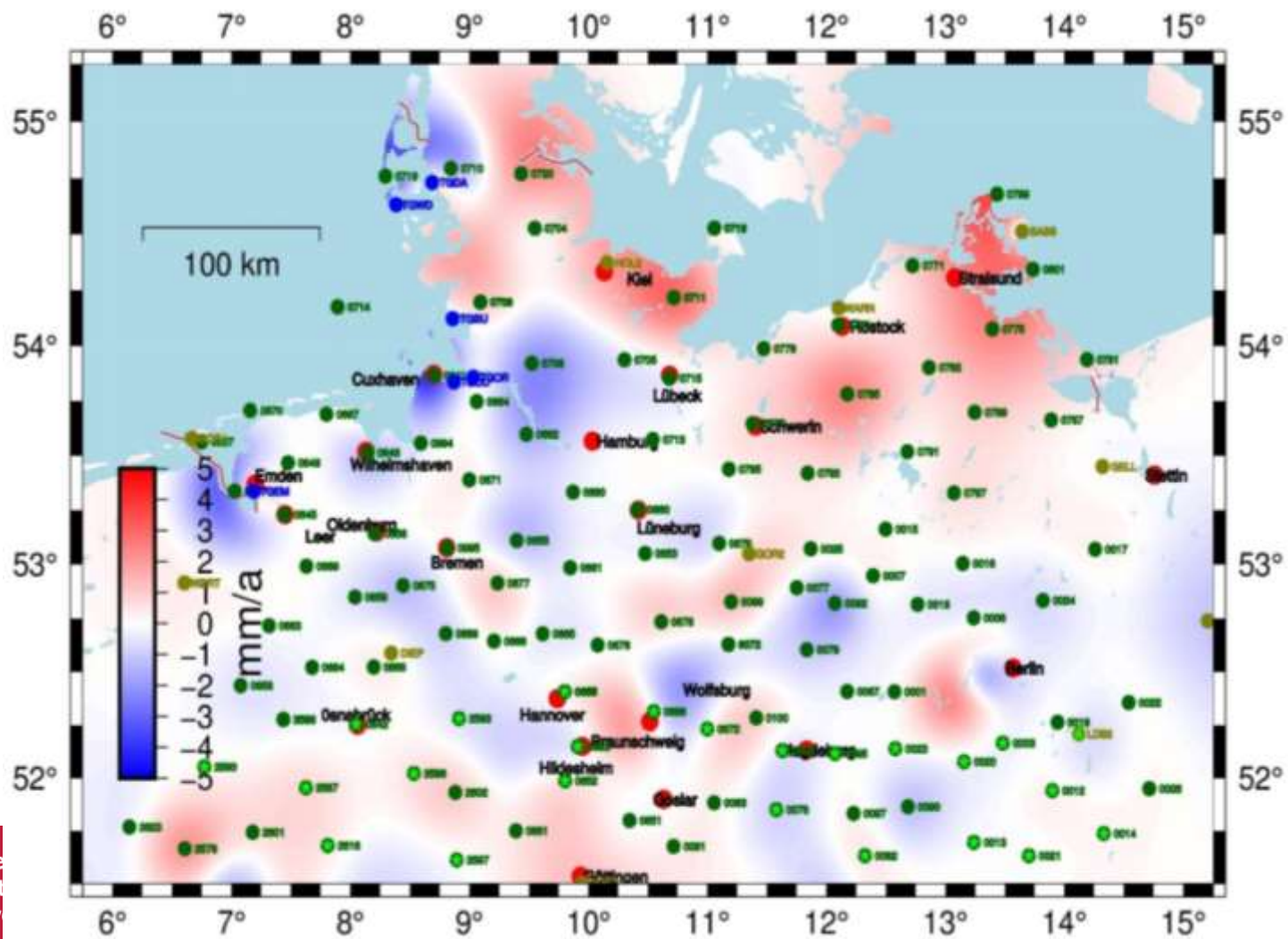
Stations with significant displacements: 1, 3, 8



# Modelling of vertical movements

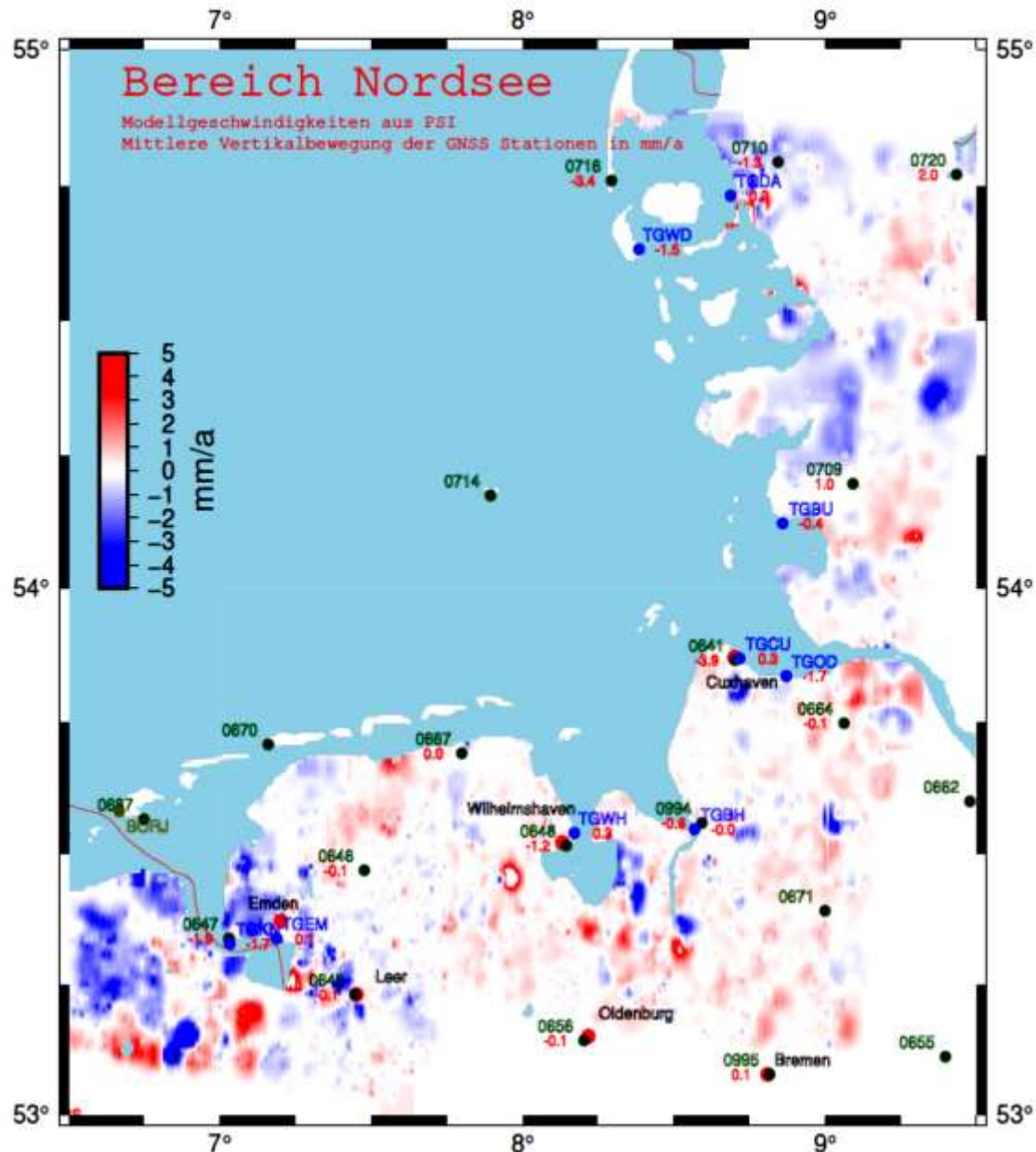
## 1. Just GNSS data

**Principle:** Approximation of velocity field by radial basic-functions (RBF)



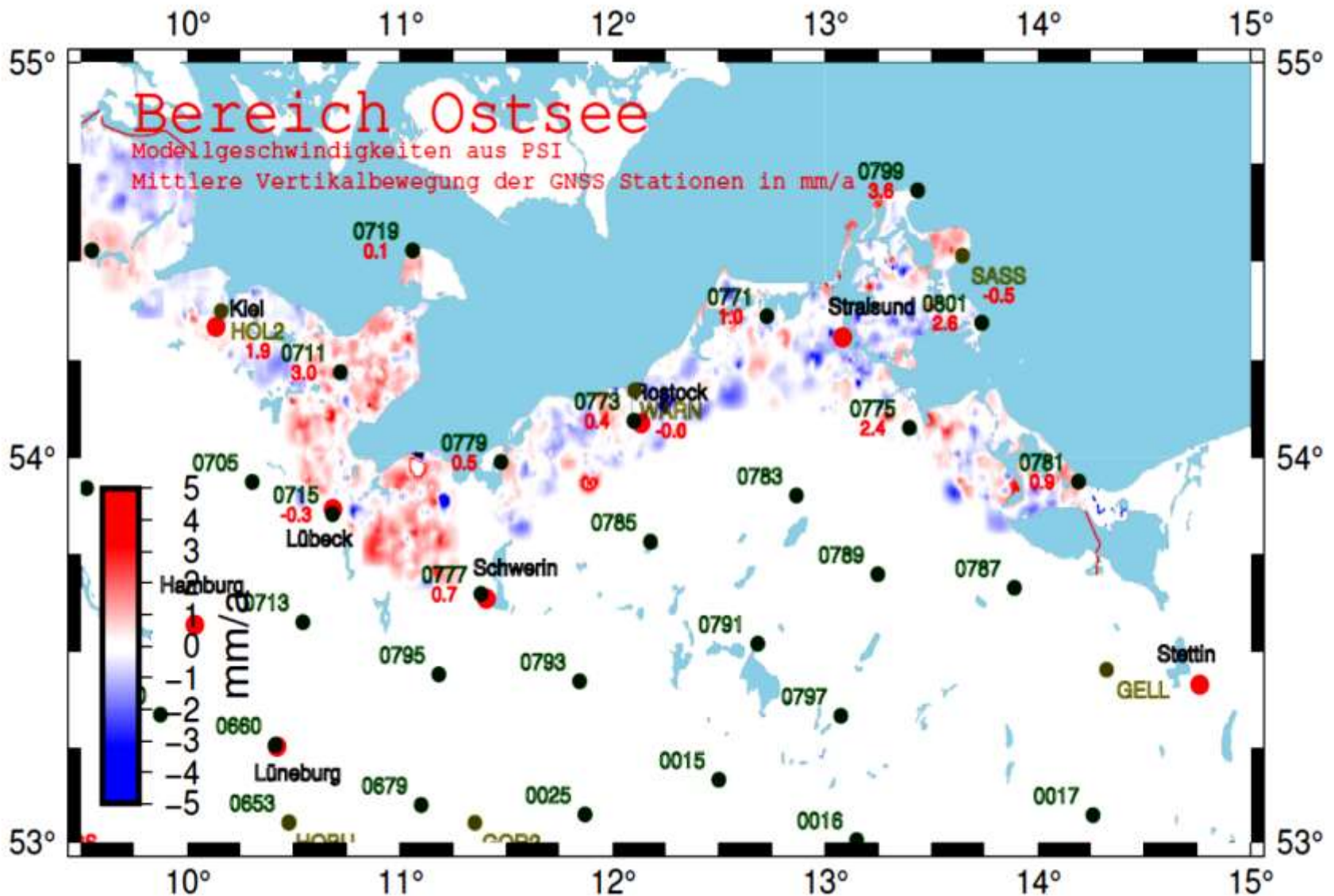
# Modelling of verticla movements

## 2. With PSI-results out of Sentinel-1 data (Oct.2014 – Febr. 2019)



# Modelling of verticla movements

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# Summary

- One of the emerging problems for our profession:  
**Study behaviour of variations of earth surface**
- Due to modern sensors, we are able to get continuous data, covering larger areas:
  - **GNSS: continuous in time, restricted to stations**
  - **PSI: continuous in time, restricted to good scatterers**
- **Sophisticated processing and analysis methods** are necessary
- **Our profession can contribute to study effects of climate change with precise and reliable results!**