

Modernising the Greenlandic Reference System

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SUMMARY

The GR96 reference system, established in 1996, is experiencing increasing deformation due to accelerated ice mass loss and associated elastic and vis-coelastic effects. This introduces strain within the frame, necessitating a modernized realization. This presentation details the development of a new GR96 realization leveraging the Greenland GNSS Network (GNET), a continuously operating network providing comprehensive monitoring of deformation across Greenland.

A recent GNSS campaign re-observed the fundamental stations of GR96. Data processing was performed using the Bernese software, and a transformation between the current ITRF2020 coordinates of these stations and their original GR96 coordinates was established. This transformation was then applied to the GNET network, effectively assigning GR96 coordinates to the entire network.

This new realization offers significant advantages: it is continuously monitorable via GNET, eliminating the need for further costly field campaigns, and exhibits reduced internal strain compared to the original GR96. The presentation will also address practical considerations surrounding the implementation of this updated system, including communication strategies for end-users and the management of the transition within the EPSG registry – where the existing GR96 CRS was updated to represent a datum ensemble encompassing both realizations.