Open Position at the Astronomical Institute of the University of Bern

The group “Satellite Geodesy” of the Astronomical Institute of the University of Bern (AIUB) offers the position for a

Ph.D.-Candidate

The focus will be on the derivation of time-variable Earth’s gravity fields from ultra-precise inter-satellite ranging data of the Gravity Recovery And Climate Experiment (GRACE) mission and its successor mission GRACE Follow-On, scheduled for launch in early 2018.

Today the analysts are still challenged with the GRACE processing. Regular comparisons in the frame of the H2020 project European Gravity Service for Improved Emergency Management (EGSIEM) have revealed that solutions from different GRACE analysis centers are not always fully comparable and therefore difficult to be combined. This was found to be mainly related to the underlying heterogeneous stochastic modelling in the GRACE data processing.

The main focus of the Ph.D. position will be on the derivation of empirical noise models and the thorough investigation of their impact on the time-variable gravity field solutions derived from GRACE/GRACE-FO data. In addition the candidate is expected to support the GRACE-FO processing at AIUB as soon as data will become available.

Education:

The candidate is expected to have successfully completed the master thesis (diploma/Lizentiat/Master) in astronomy, geodesy, physics, or a related topic. Experience in gravity field determination from satellite data is an advantage. Background in computer science (coding in Fortran90, C++, or perl) is not a requirement, but beneficial for working in this project. The candidate should speak and write English fluently.

The candidate should start working in Bern as soon as possible. The position is scheduled for three years. The salary follows the guidelines of the University of Bern.

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Application:

Applications (including CV, university diploma copies, possible references) should be received as soon as possible but no later than November 17, 2017 at the following address:

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Informal information may be obtained at the above address as well.

The University of Bern is an equal opportunity employer and encourages in particular women to apply for open positions.