

# The Importance of Calibration of Fibre Optic Sensing Systems

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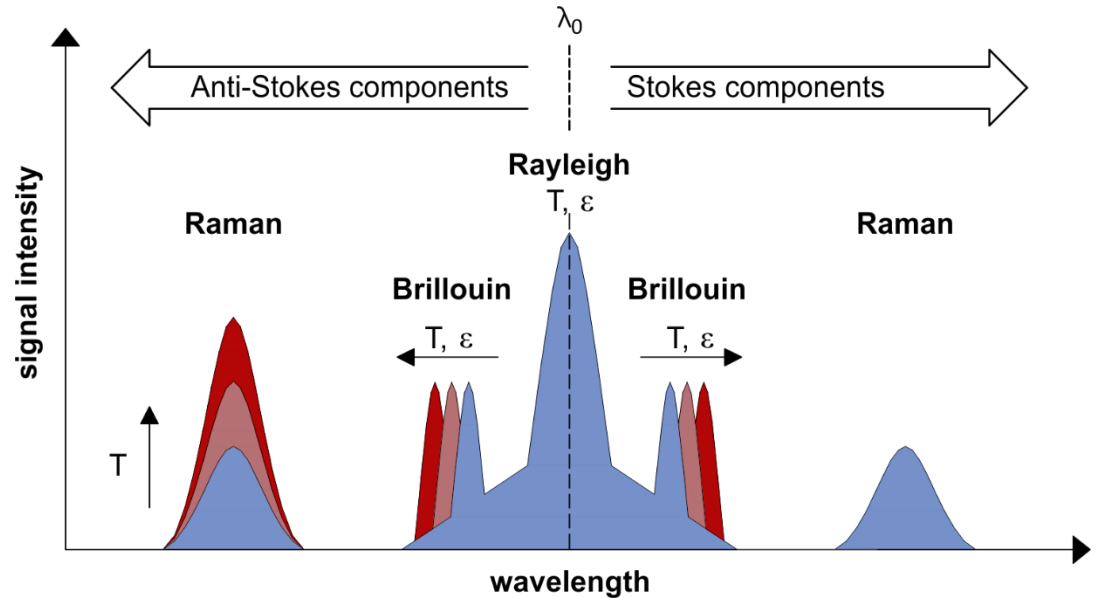
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# Measurements

## Raw measurement

- Intensity
- Frequency/Wavelength
- Phase



## Derived quantity

- Strain
- Strain rate
- Temperature

**Relation between raw measurement and derived quantity has to be known!**

# Component Testing & Calibration

## IGMS measurement lab

- Temperature controlled ( $20^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 0.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
- Vibration isolated floor
- Static strain calibration
- Temperature calibration
- Dynamic testing
- Long term evaluation



## Sound studio

- Zero noise environment
- Zero vibration environment



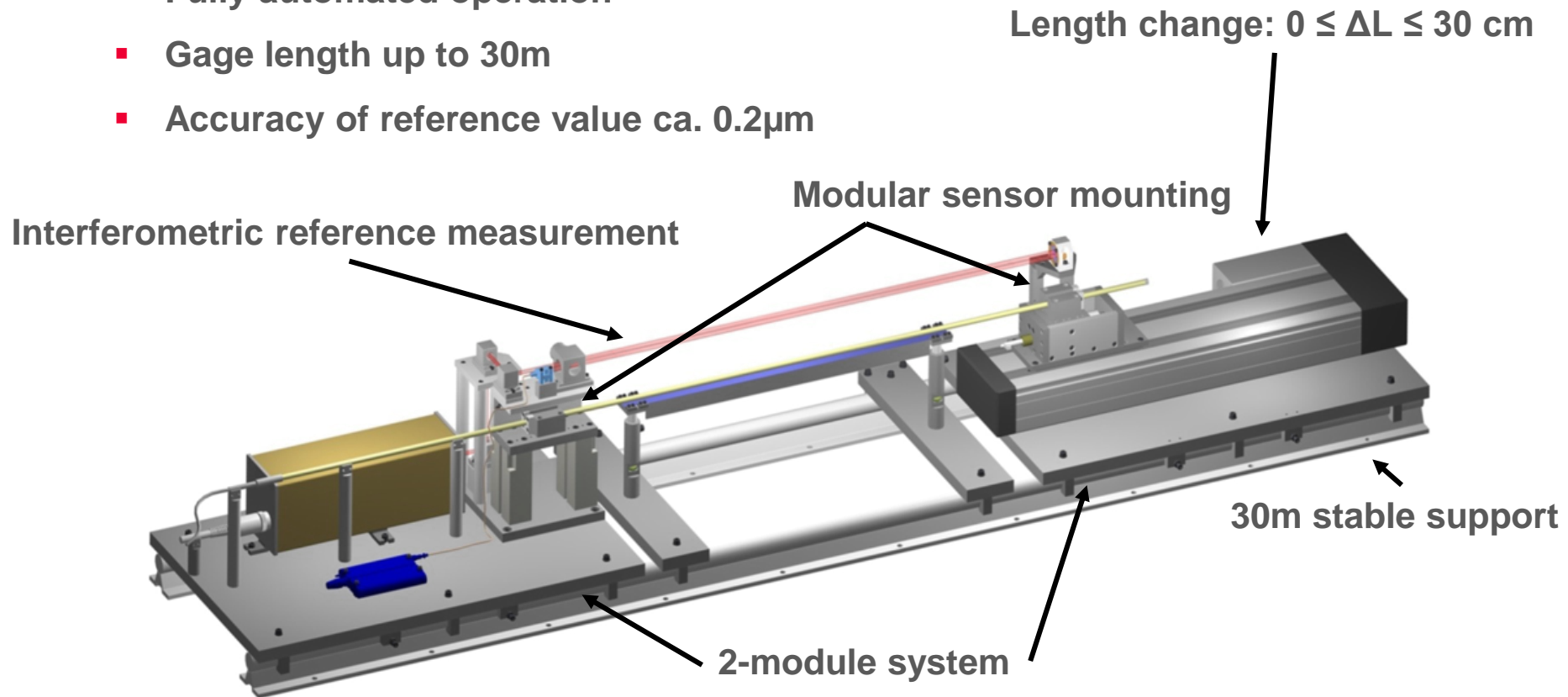
# Fibre Optic Calibration

**What is the achievable accuracy of a fibre optic measurement system?**

# Static Strain Calibration

## Design

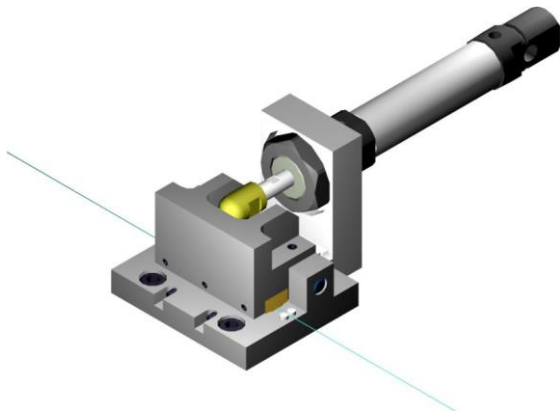
- Controlled length changes
- Reference values by laser interferometer
- Fully automated operation
- Gage length up to 30m
- Accuracy of reference value ca.  $0.2\mu\text{m}$



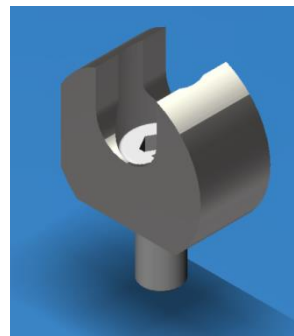
# Static Strain Calibration

## Test features

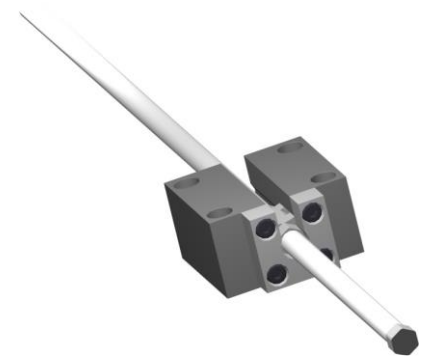
- Calibration of various sensor types (FBG, SOFO, DFOS cables, ...)
- Calibration of bare fibres or sensors with housing
- System calibration
  - Calibration of complete system with instrument – sensor - adapter



Bare Fiber Adapter



FBG Sensor Adapter

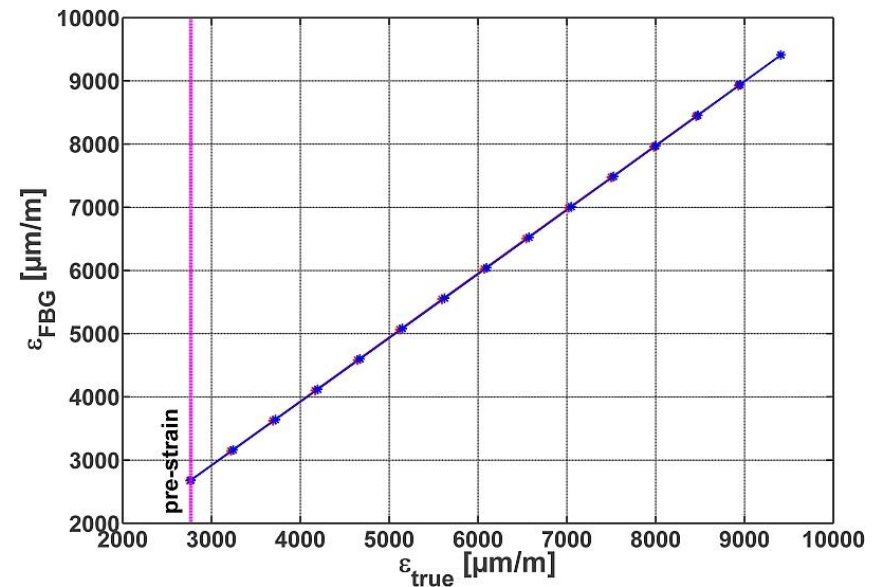
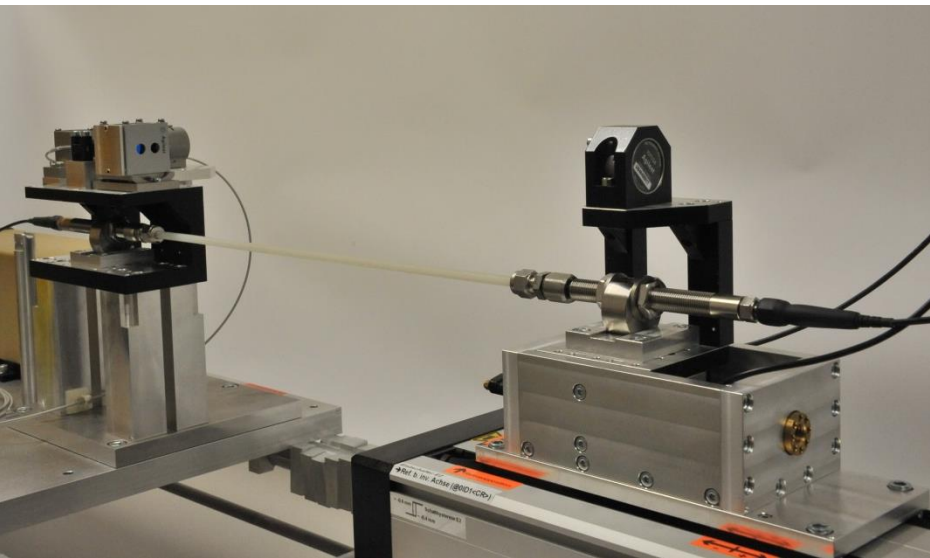


Point Sensor Adapter

# Static Strain Calibration

## Example

- Calibration of FBG sensor



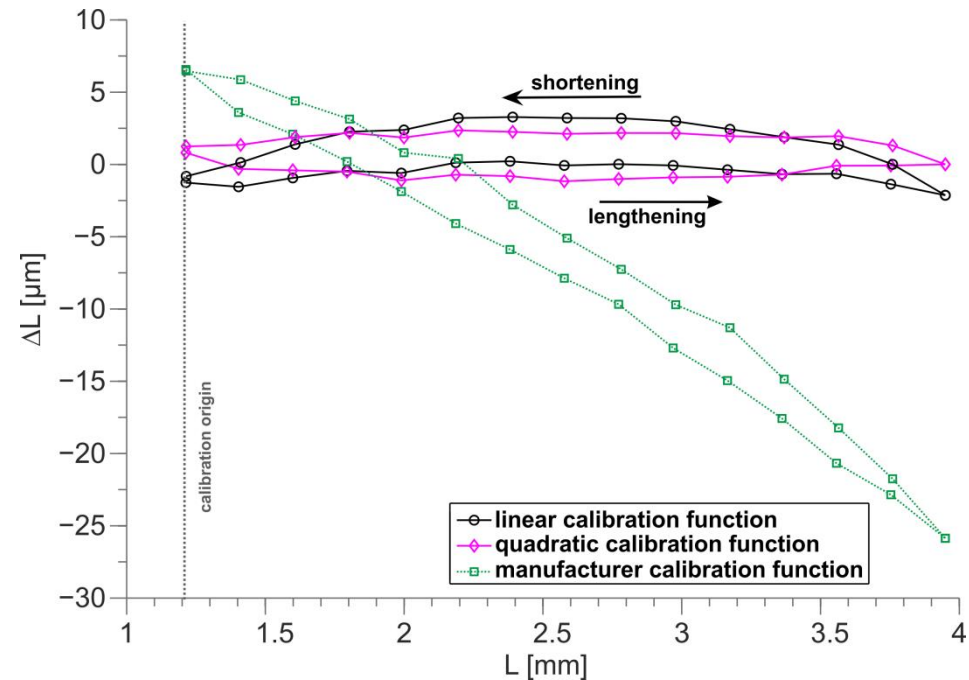
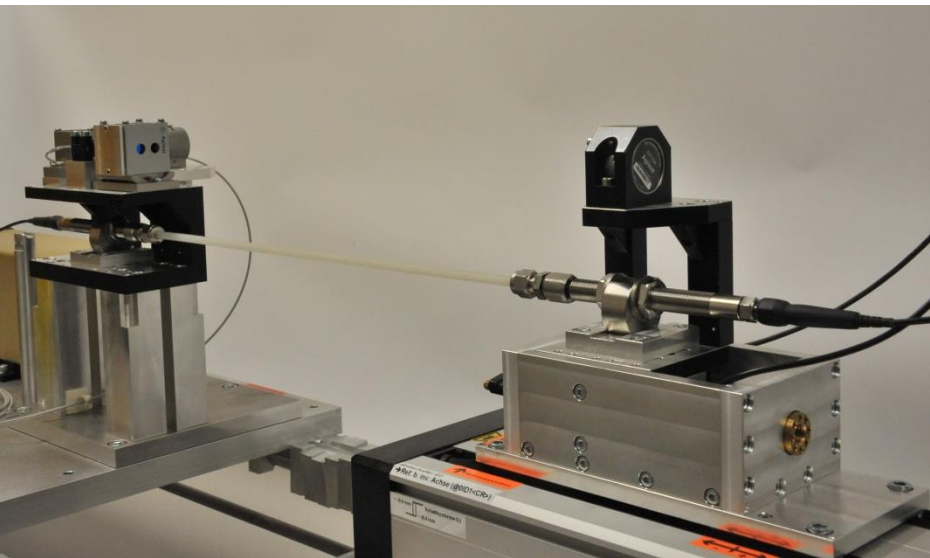
- Calibration function given by the manufacturer



# Static Strain Calibration

## Example

- Calibration of FBG sensor



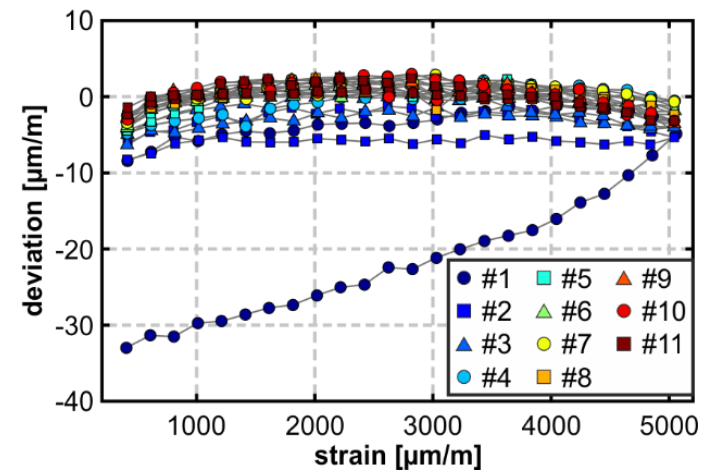
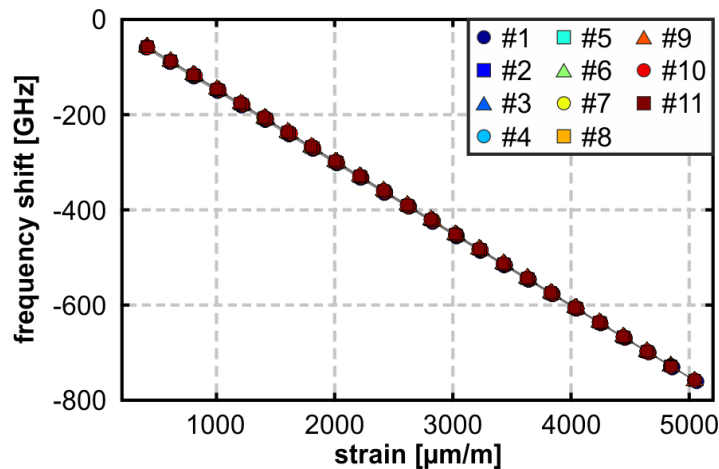
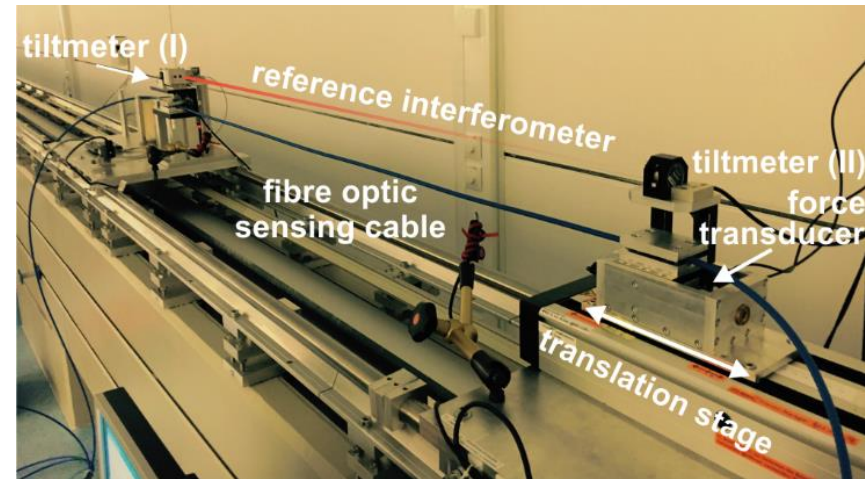
- Calibration function given by the manufacturer not sufficient for highest accuracy



# Static Strain Calibration

## Example

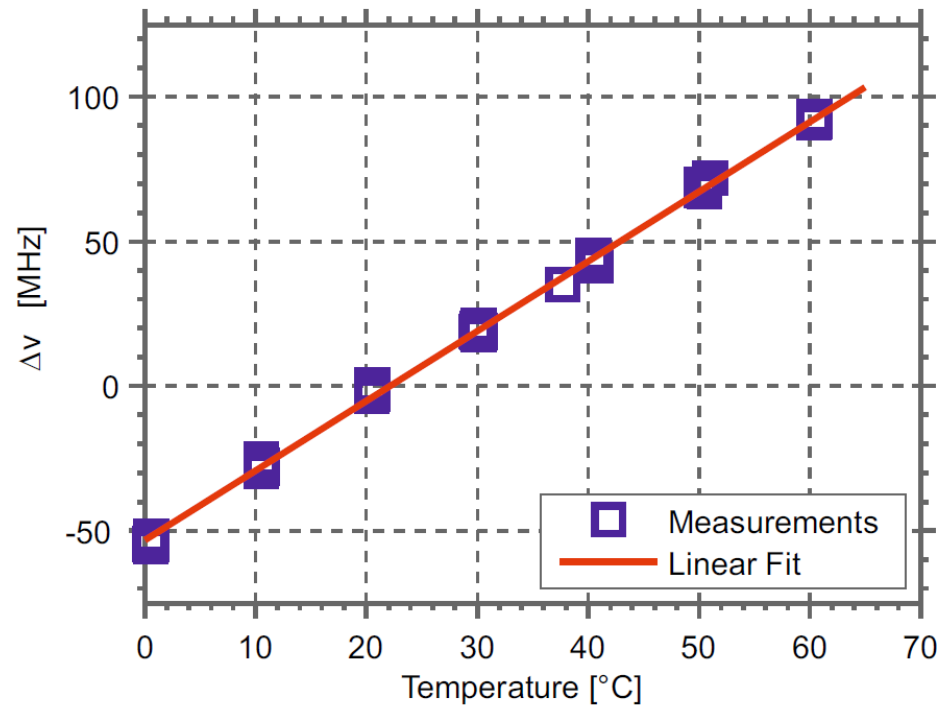
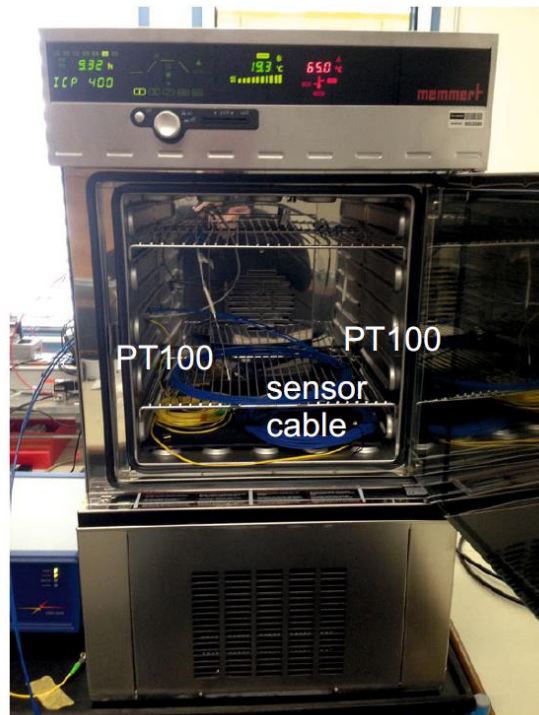
- Calibration of DFOS Cable
- Measurement with Rayleigh instrument
- Linear relationship
- Run in effects can be observed
- Variations within  $\pm 5 \mu\text{m}$  after 1<sup>st</sup> cycle



# Temperature Calibration

## Principle

- Sensing cable placed into water bath or climate chamber
- Temperature cycles



# Fibre Optic Calibration

**Does the  
measurement  
system drift?**

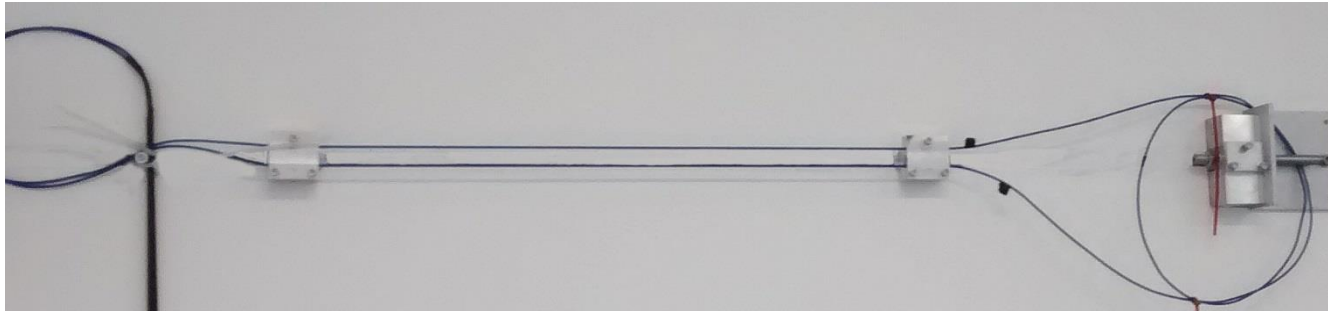
**What happens when the reading  
unit has to be changed?**

**Is there an offset in the data?**

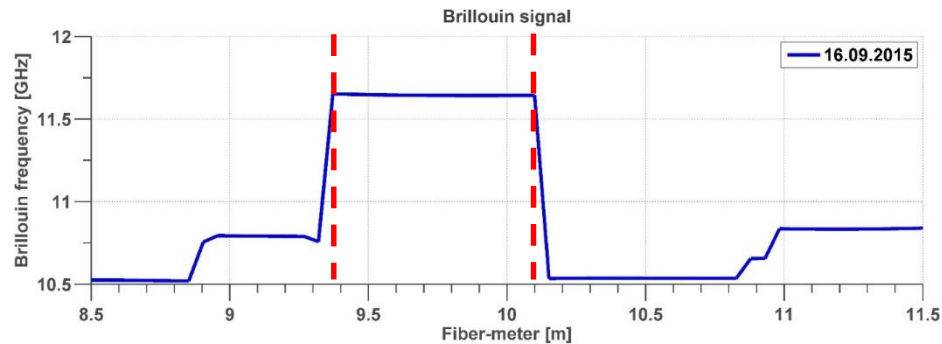
# Long term stability: Laboratory verification

## Test setup 1

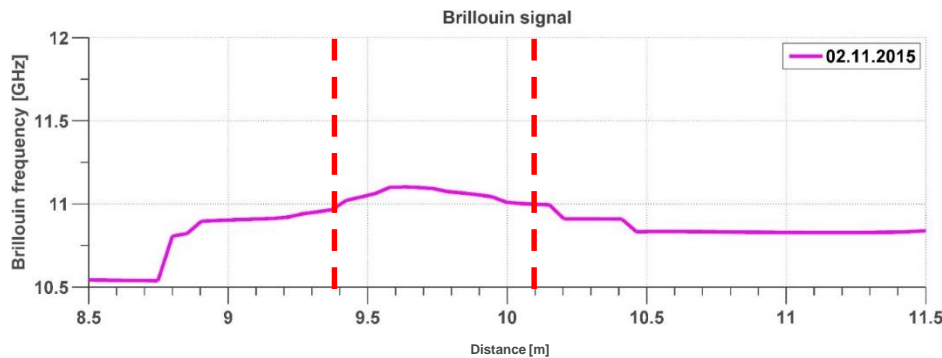
- Standard sensor cable for distributed fibre optic sensing
- Sensor cable is pre-strained with ~3.5% (bare fibre limit for long term)  
( $\triangleq$  20 mm at 60 cm base)
- Regular measurements over several months



# Long term stability: Laboratory verification

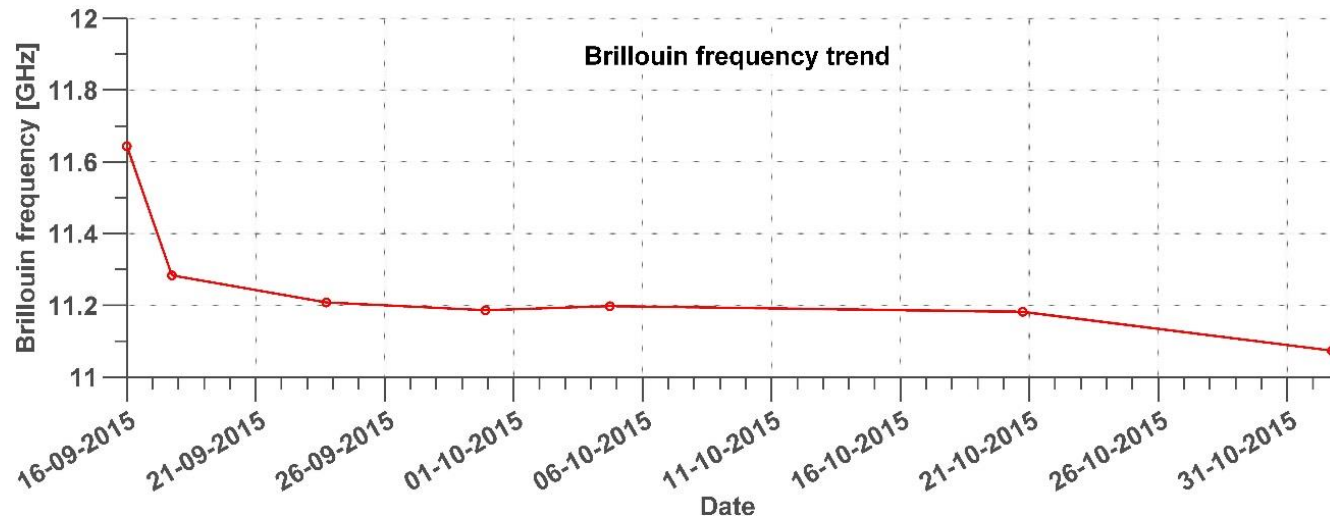


Initial signal



After 47 days

# Long term stability: Laboratory verification



## Reason for this behaviour?

- Composite sensor cable construction => fiber creeps at high strain
- After 3 months only 1.2% ( $\triangleq$  7 mm at 60 cm base) are measured instead of 3.5%



# Long term stability

## Test setup 2

- Permanent laboratory installation with constant strain
- Investigation of long term behaviour



# Long term stability

## Test setup 2

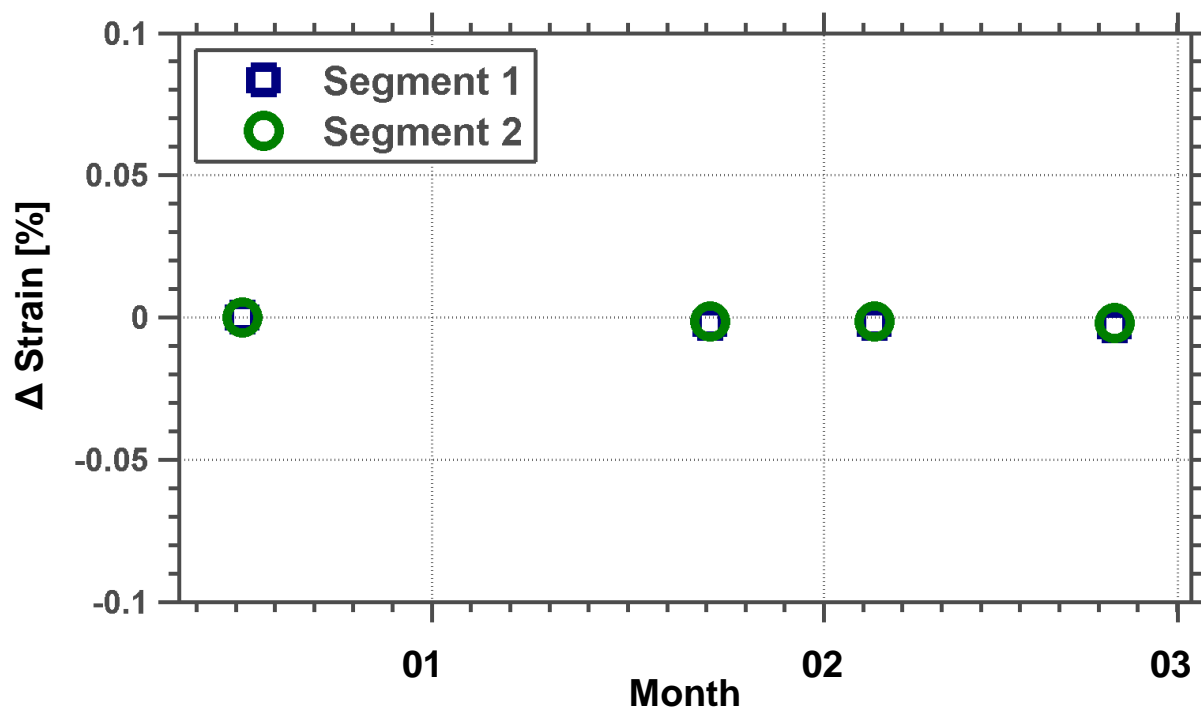
- Marker to detect possible slip of anchors
  - Marker to verify stability of anchors
  - Measurement of markers with total station
- angle readings:  $\sigma_{HZ}=2.6cc \rightarrow \text{ca. } 14\mu\text{m @ } 3,3\text{m}$



# Long term stability

## Result

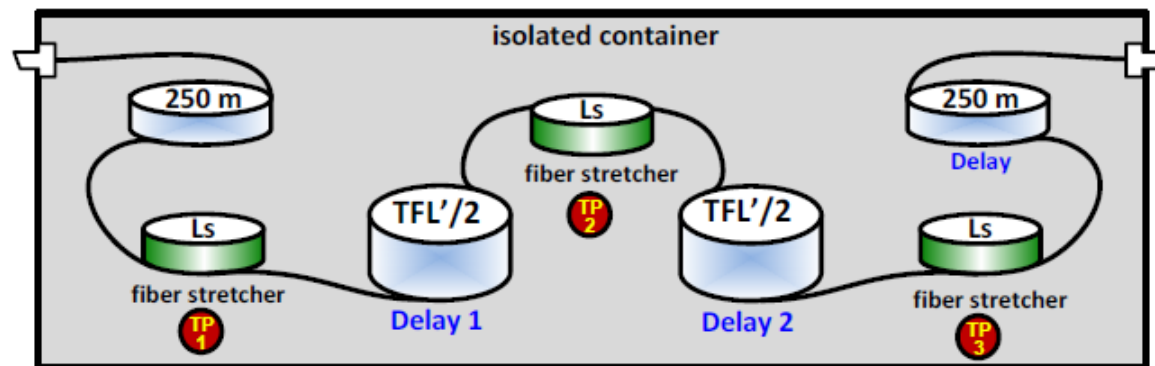
- No drift within 3 months



# Dynamic Testing

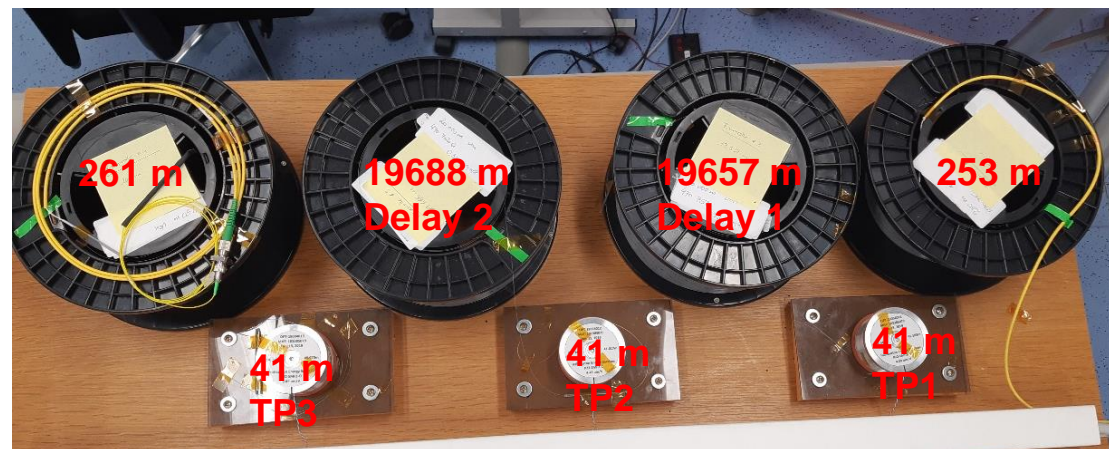
## Seafom

- Measuring Sensor Performance (SEAFOM MSP-02)
- 3 stretcher



## IGMS Setup

- 3 stretcher with 40 m
- Total length 40 km

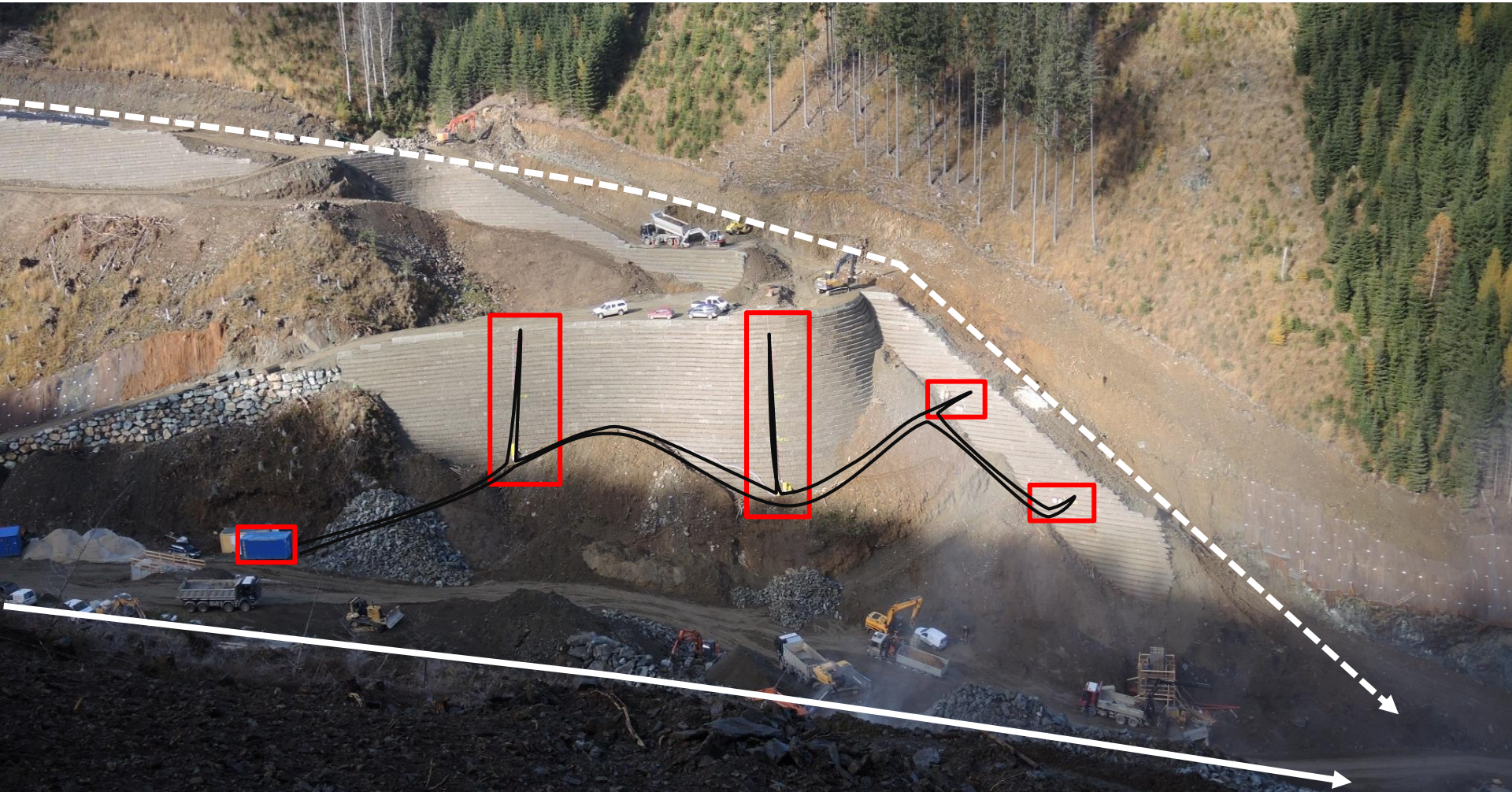


# Fibre Optic Calibration

**Laboratory measurements are nice but what about the real world?**



# Relocation of River Stream





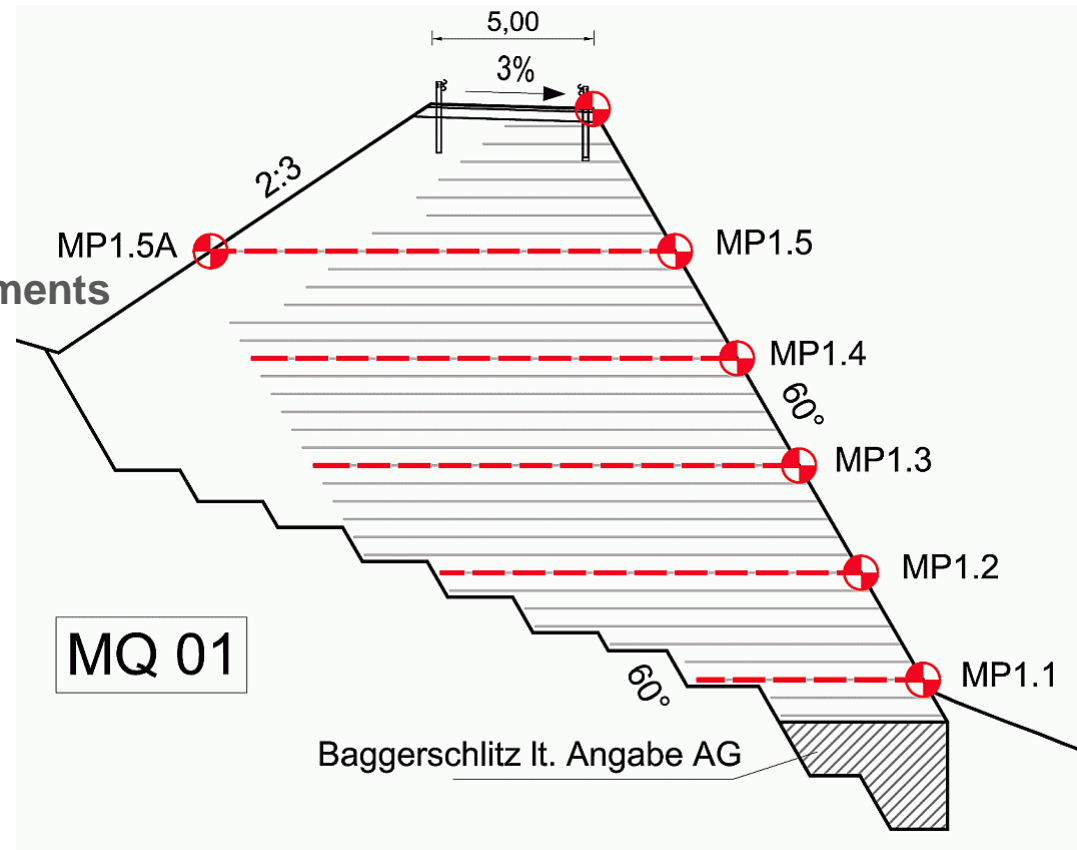
# Measurement Concept

## Dam Surface

- Geodetic Prism Measurements

## Geogrid

- Distributed fibre optic measurements
- 4 measurement profiles
- Up to 5 layers / profile
- More than 2km sensing cable

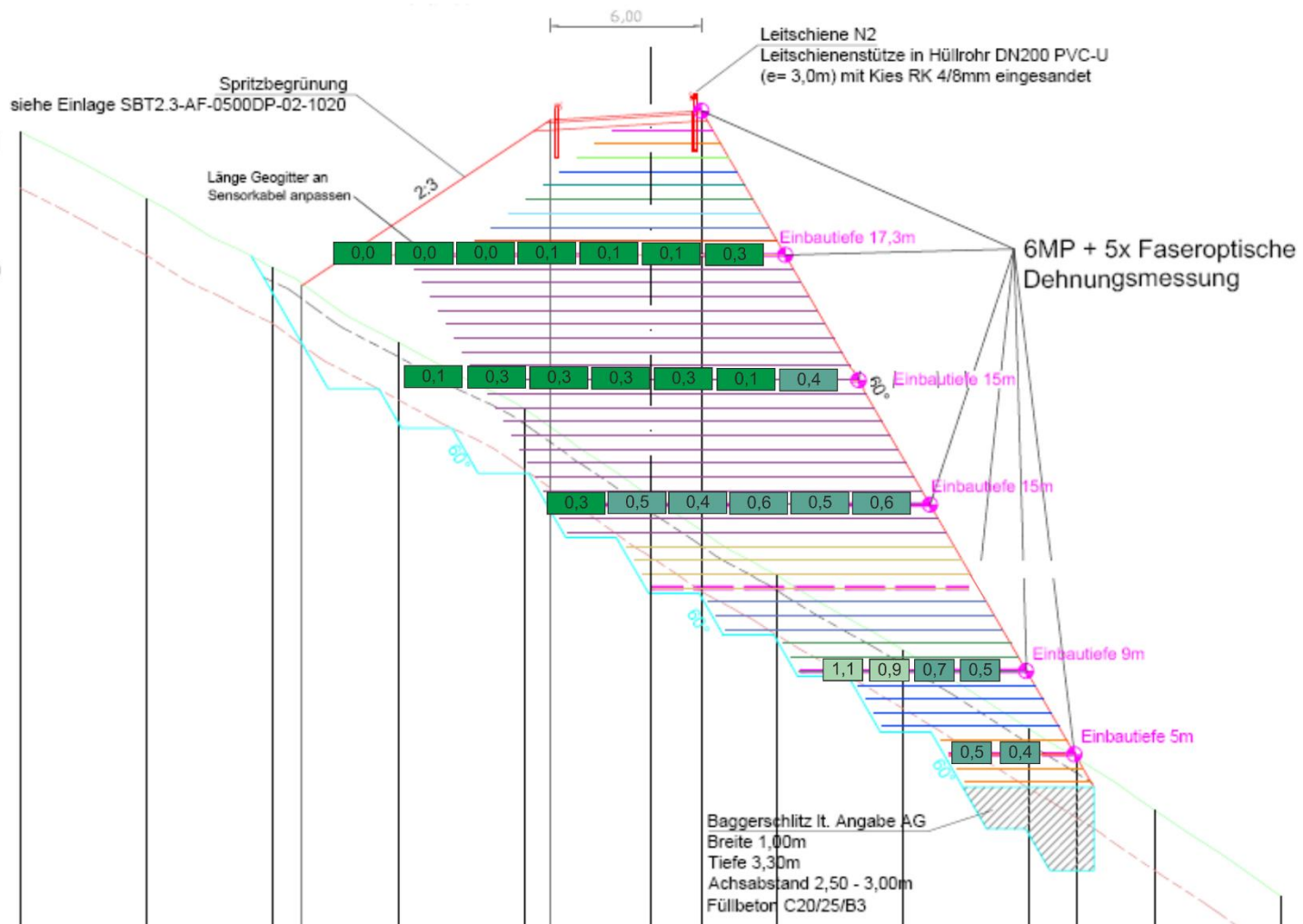


# Strain [%]

QP 42 205,000m

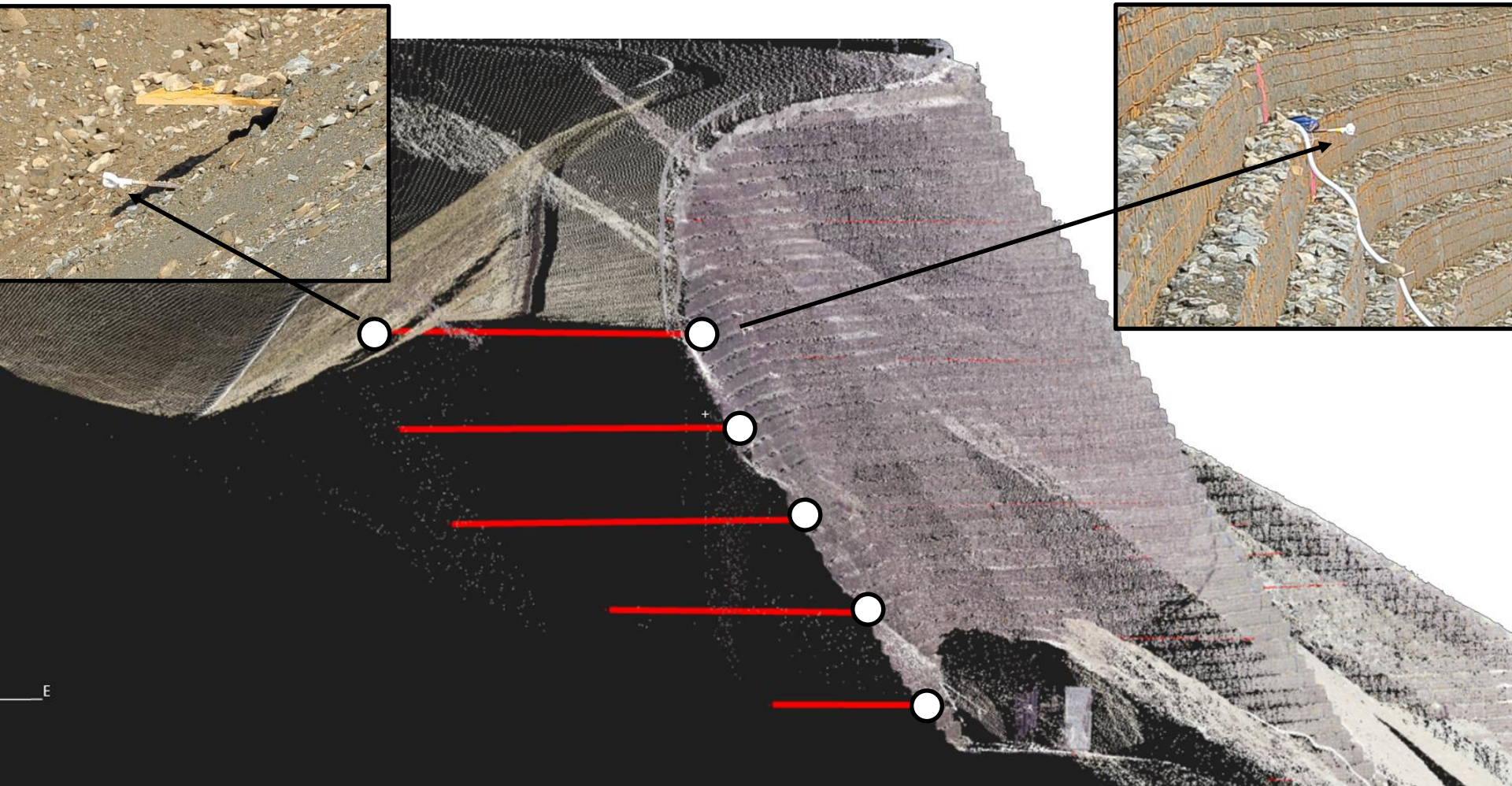
MQ 2

siehe Einlage  
SBT2.3-AF-0500DP-04-0790



10R4 00 (MM)

# Long term stability: On-site verification



E



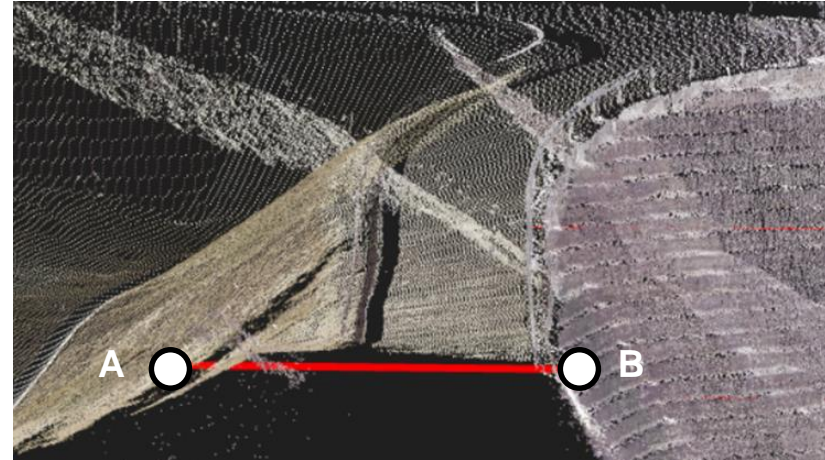
# Long term stability: On-site verification

## Total station measurements

- Length change from coordinates

$$\Delta l = l_{t2} - l_{t1}$$

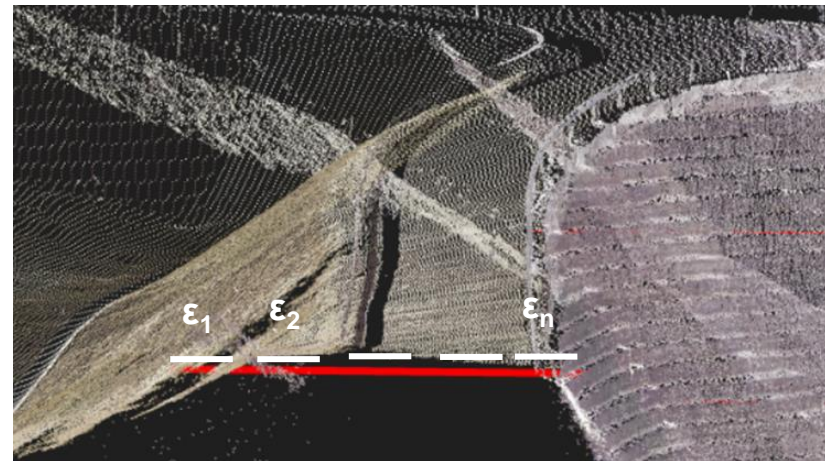
$$l_{ti} = \sqrt{(x_{E_{ti}} - x_{A_{ti}})^2 + (y_{E_{ti}} - y_{A_{ti}})^2 + (z_{E_{ti}} - z_{A_{ti}})^2}$$



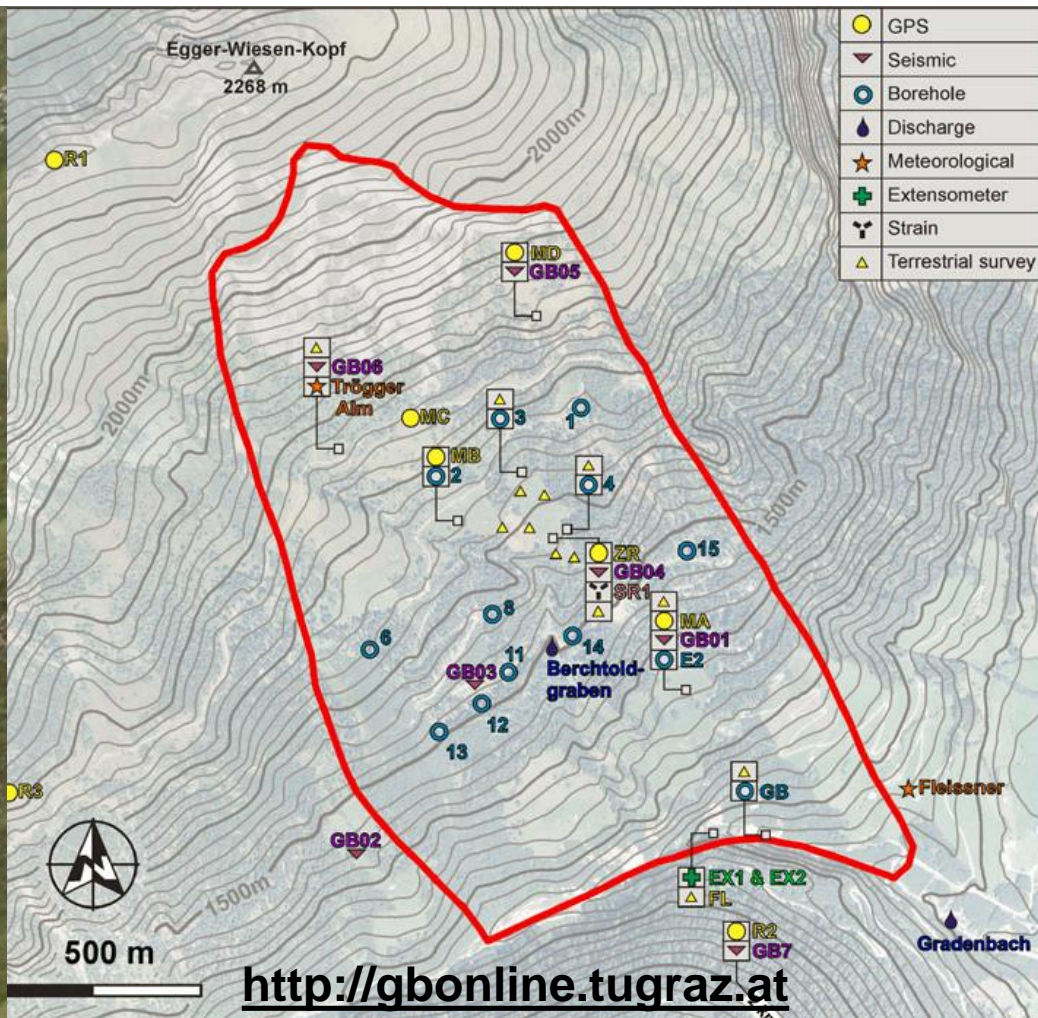
## DFOS measurements

- Length change from integrated strain measurements

$$\Delta l = l_{Gauge} \sum_{i=1}^n \epsilon_i$$



# The Gradenbach Observatory

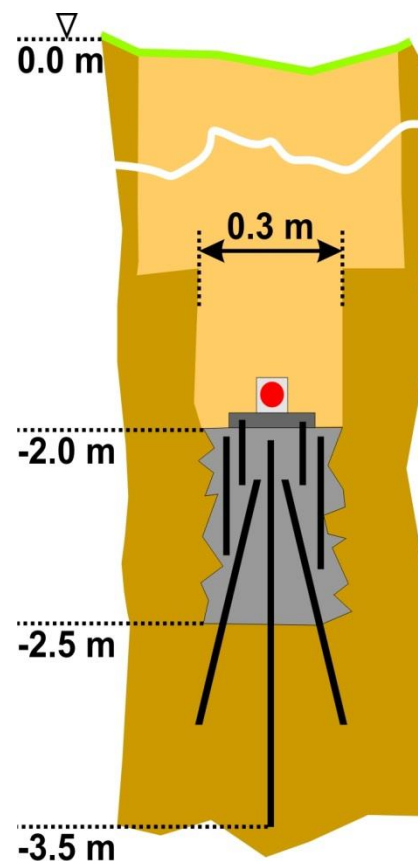
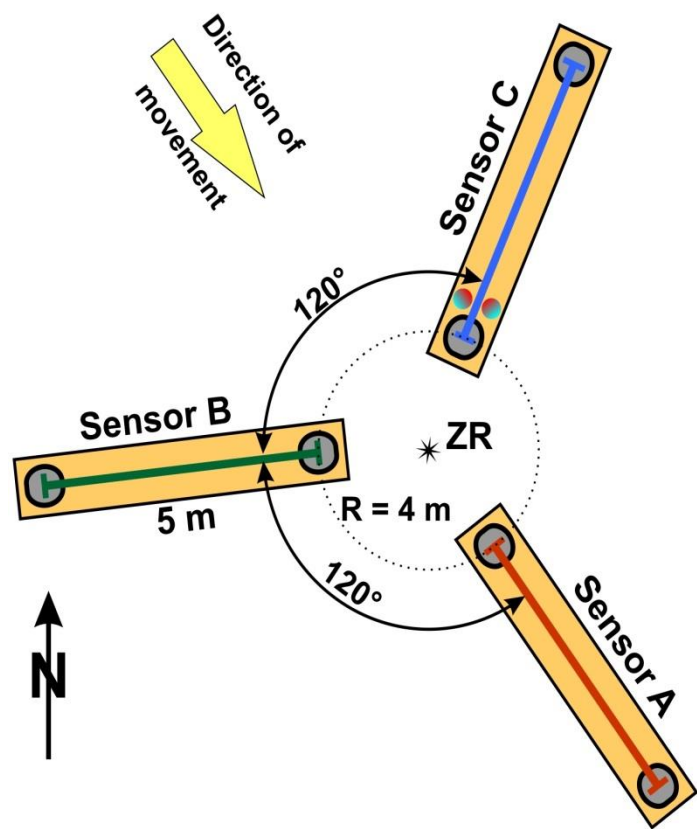




# Strain Rosette

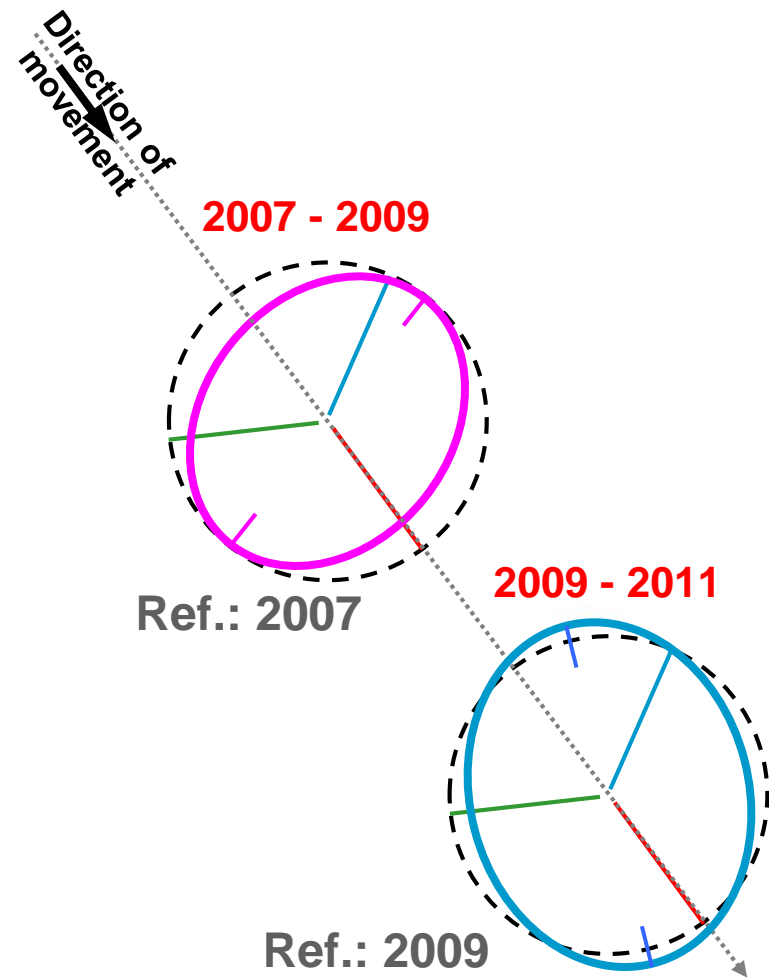
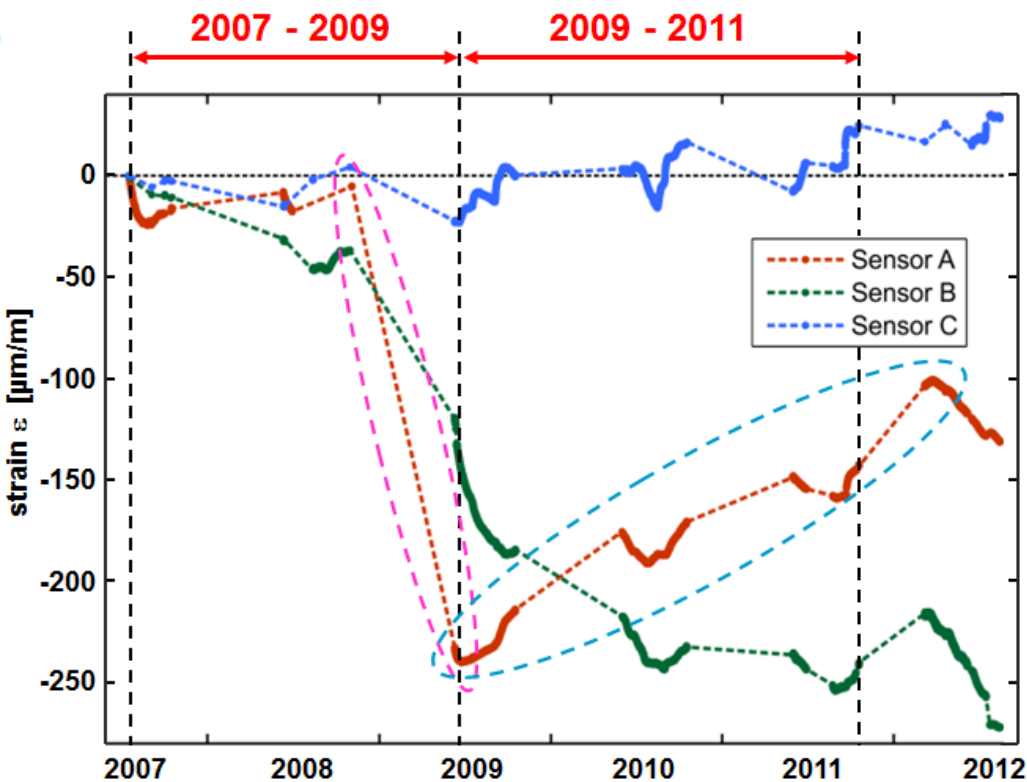
## Installation

- 2007





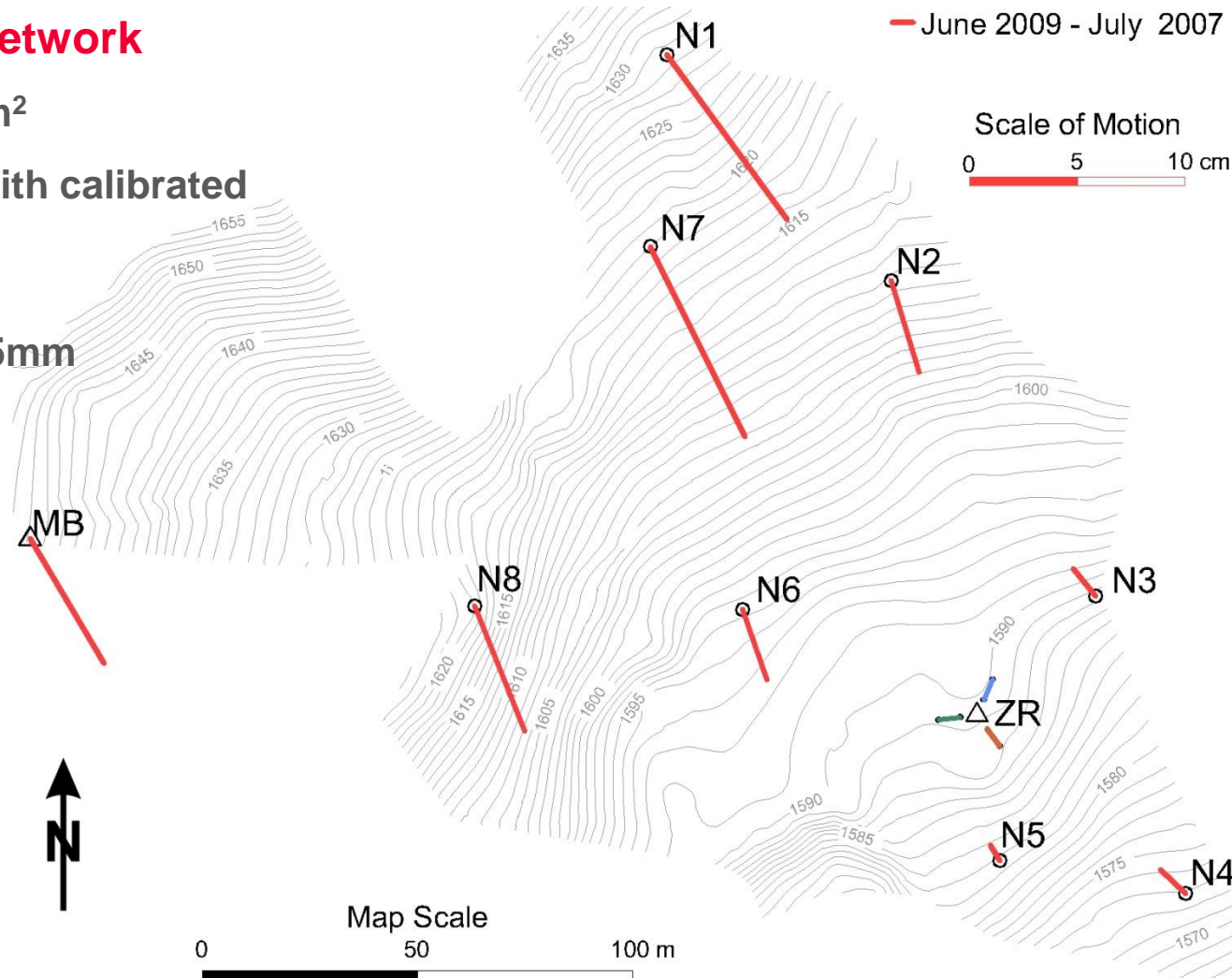
# Acceleration and Deceleration Phases



# Verification

## Local geodetic network

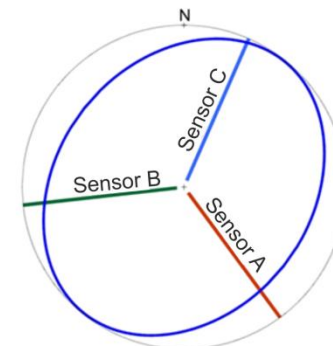
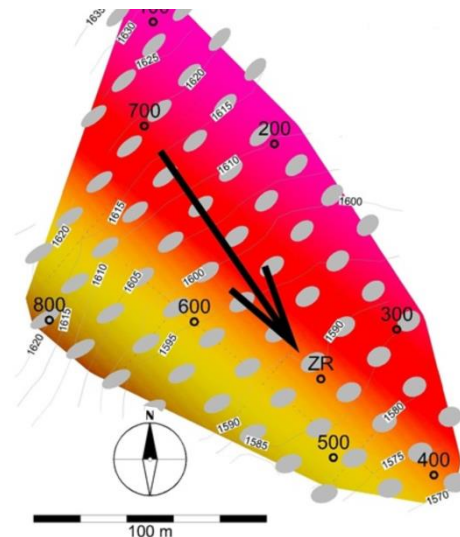
- Area 270 x 200m<sup>2</sup>
- Measurement with calibrated total station
- Precision of coordinates: 0.5mm



# Comparison Geodetic and Fibre Optic Measurements

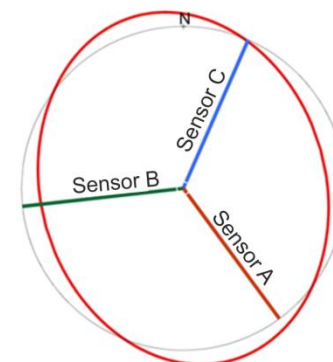
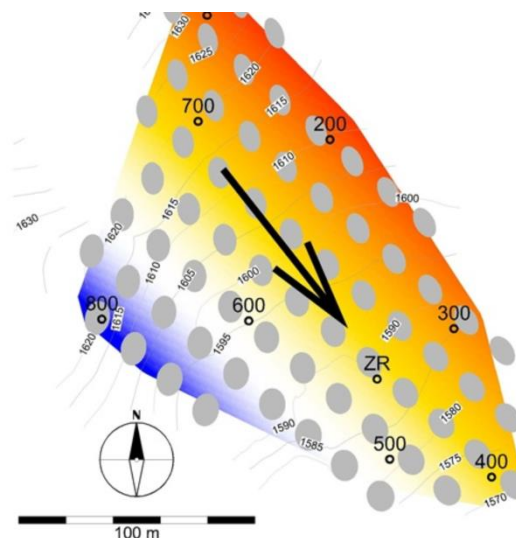
## 2007-2009

- Compression phase



## 2009-2011

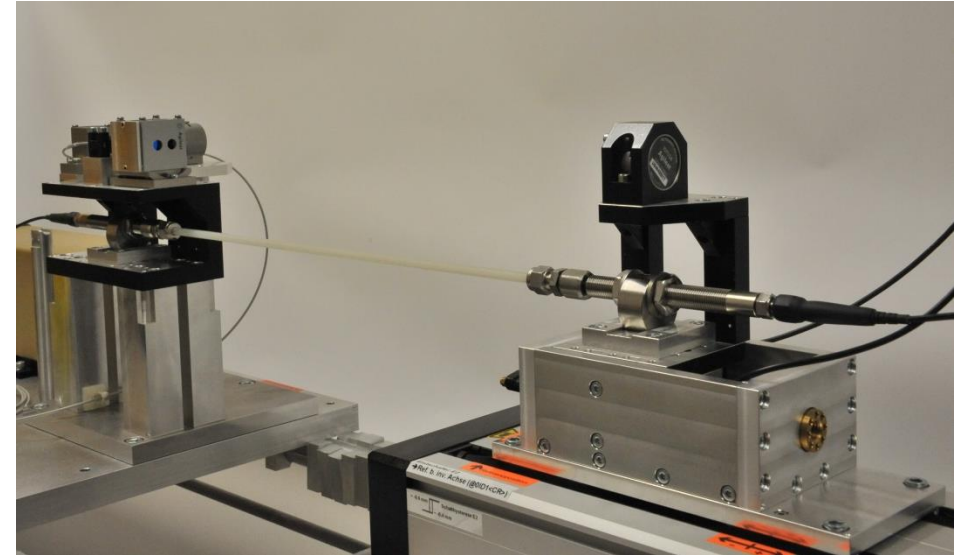
- Decompression phase



# Conclusion

## Laboratory calibration

- Special infrastructure needed due to high resolution of FOS measurements
- Some sensor cables show drifts
- Errors up to 10% without calibration



## Field validation

- External geodetic measurements can independently verify FOS
- Other internal point wise measurements e.g. VWS can verify FOS







Thank you for  
your attention