

**A New High Resolution  
Gravimetric Geoid Model  
for the United States Using the  
EGM96 Potential Coefficient Model**

**by**

**Dru A. Smith, Ph.D.  
Dennis G. Milbert, Ph.D.  
National Geodetic Survey**

**Presented at the Autumn Meeting of the AGU  
San Francisco, California  
December 16, 1996**

# **Presentation**

## **Undulations from Potential Coefficients**

**Height Anomaly vs Geoid Undulation**

**Mathematical consistency**

## **EGM96 vs. Beta Models in the U.S.**

## **The G96SSS and GEOID96 Geoid Models**

## **Conclusions**

## Undulations from Potential Coefficients

Simplified Form:

$$\zeta(r, \theta, \lambda) = \frac{GM}{r^\gamma} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left( \frac{a}{r} \right)^n \sum_{m=-n}^n \bar{C}_{nm} \bar{Y}_{nm}(\theta, \lambda)$$

Traditionally:

$$N(\theta, \lambda) = \zeta(r_{\text{geoid}}, \theta, \lambda)$$

$$\Delta g(\theta, \lambda) = \Delta g(r_{\text{geoid}}, \theta, \lambda)$$

Advantage: Mathematical compatibility of N and  $\Delta g$

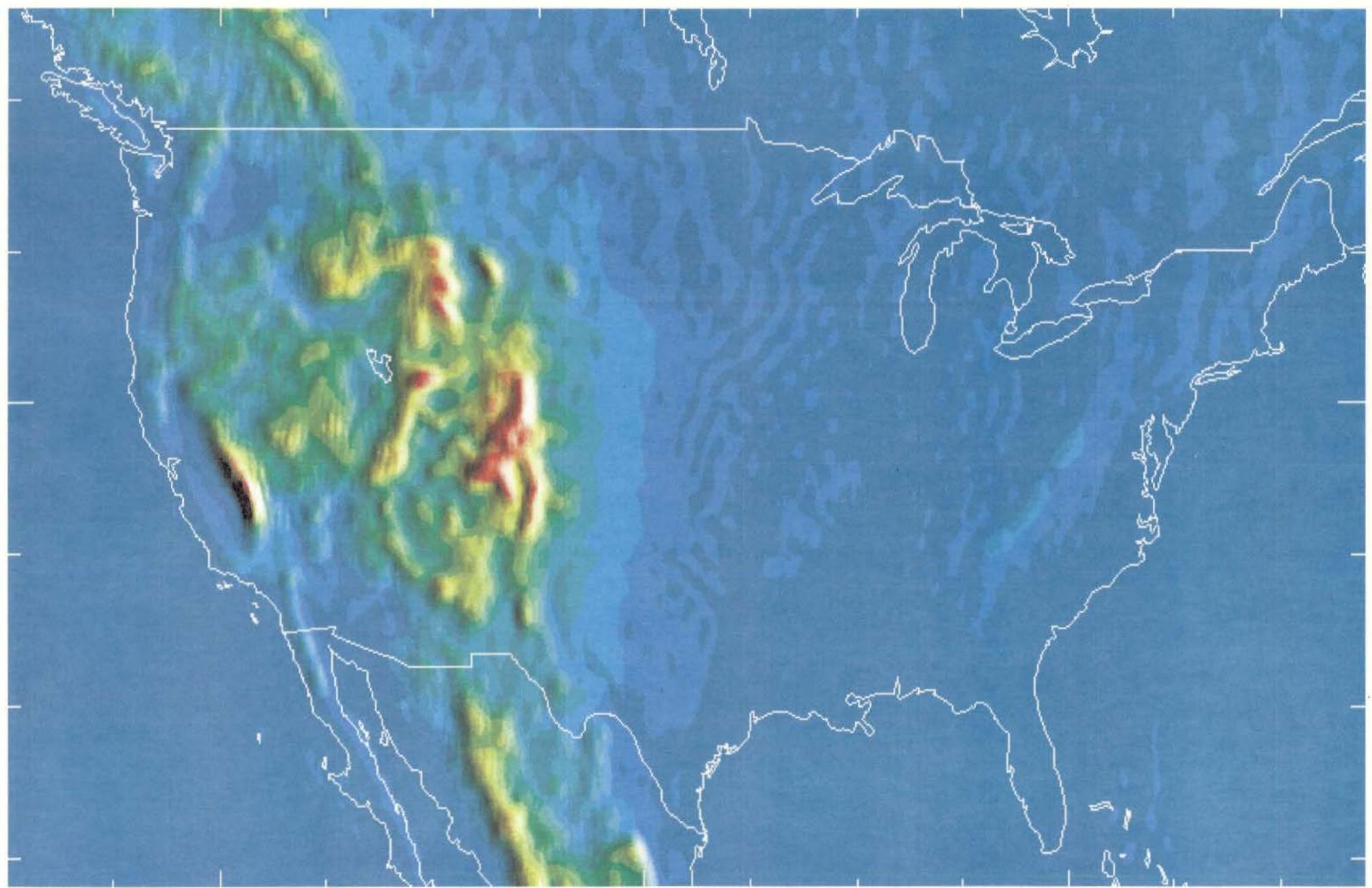
Disadvantage: Inaccurate undulation estimate

Recently:

$$\zeta(\theta, \lambda) = \zeta(r = r_{\text{surface}}, \theta, \lambda)$$

$$N(\theta, \lambda) = \zeta(\theta, \lambda) + \frac{\Delta g_B}{\gamma} h$$

Advantage: More theoretically correct

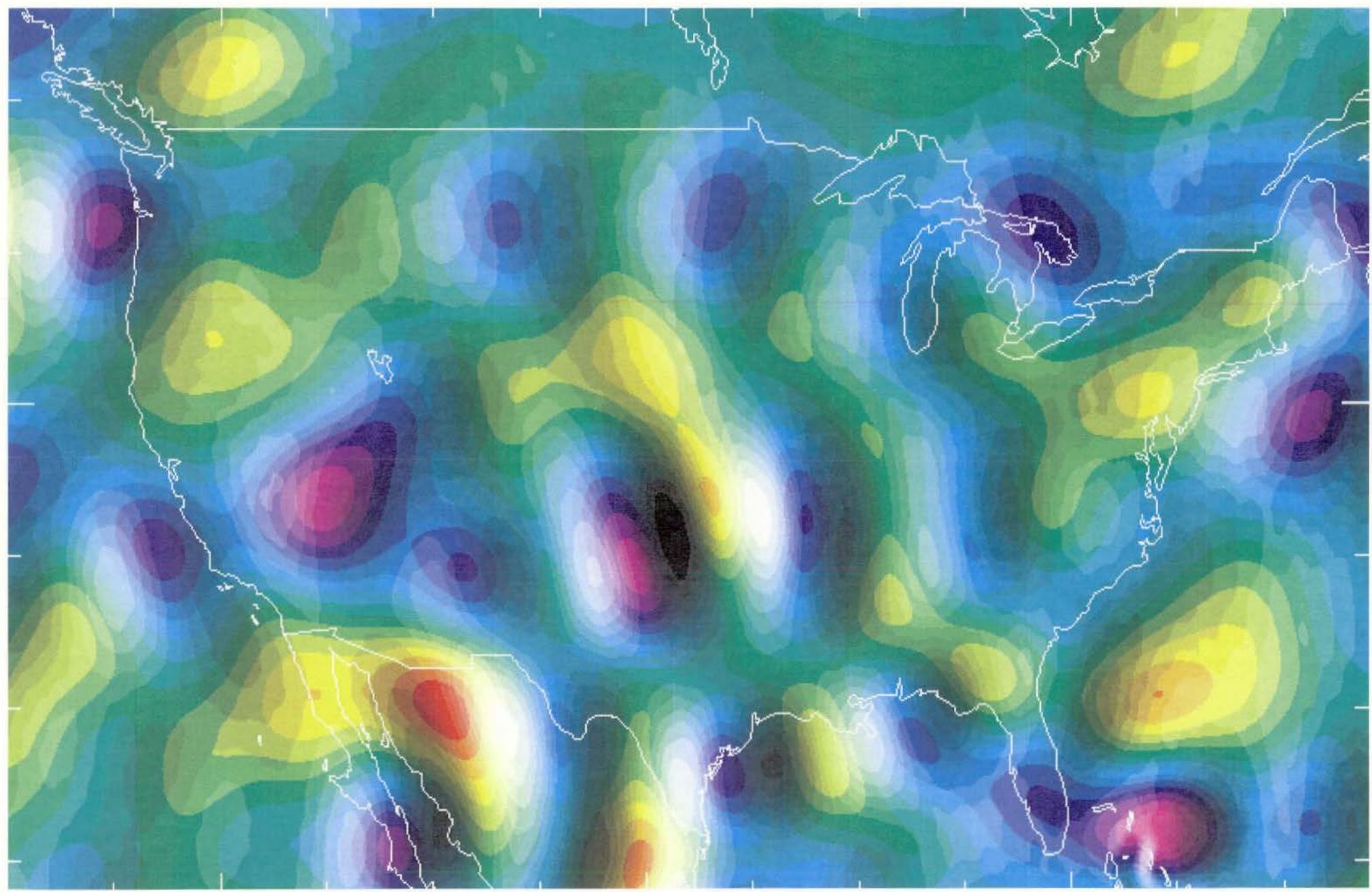


## EGM96 vs. Models X01-X05

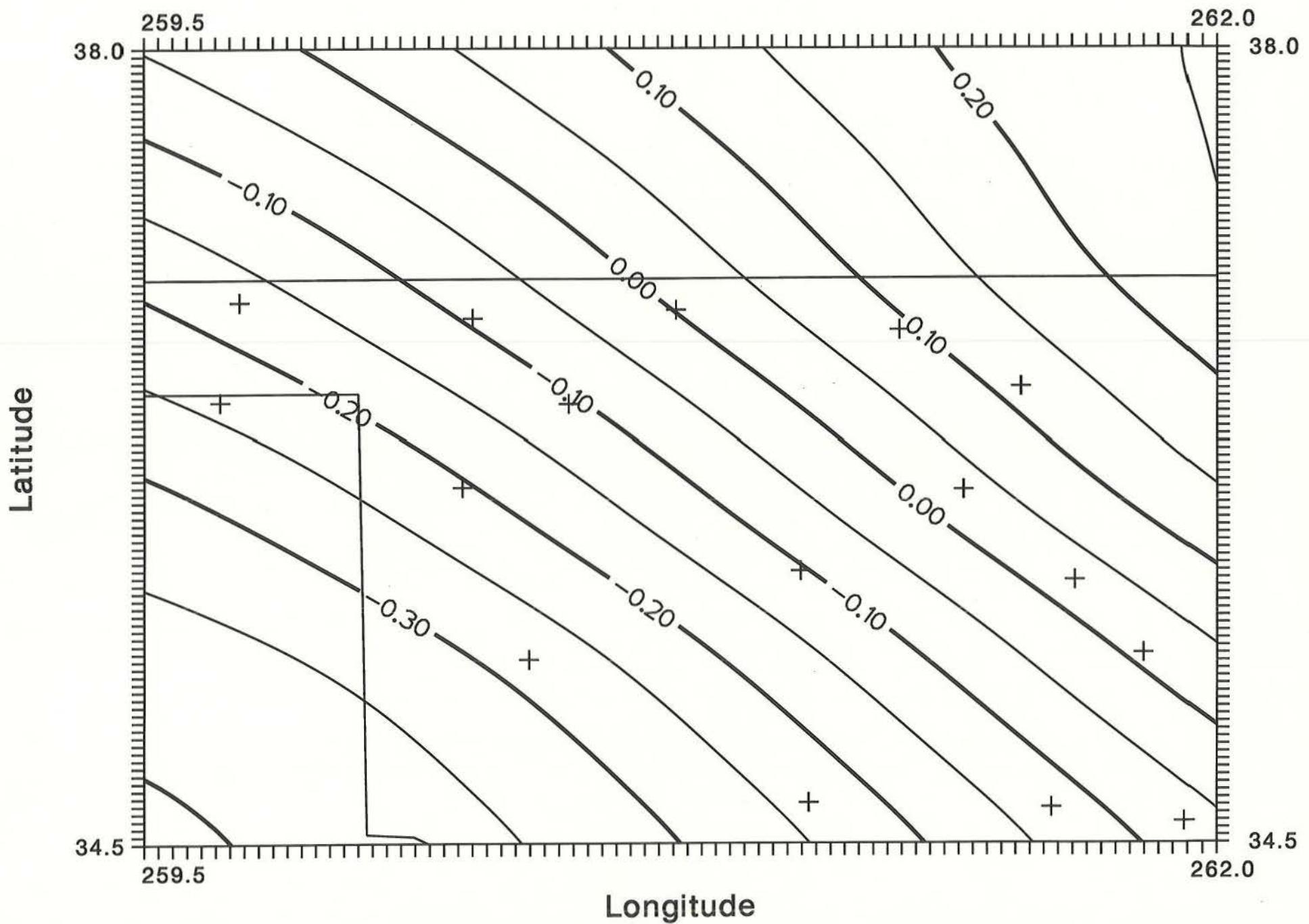
- Compute undulations from coefficients alone
- Corrected from surface height anomaly to geoid undulation
- Compare against 2497 GPS/level benchmarks

<u>Model</u>	<u>Tilt</u>	<u>Azimuth</u>	<u>RMS about plane</u>
X01	0.40 ppm	338	26.5 cm
X02	0.32 ppm	336	29.8 cm
X03	0.35 ppm	334	26.2 cm
X04	0.35 ppm	335	26.0 cm
<b>X05</b>	<b>0.35 ppm</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>26.1 cm</b>
<b>EGM96</b>	<b>0.41 ppm</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>27.0 cm</b>

**!! 90% of this tilt is removed during the remove-compute-restore procedure !!**



## Undulation Differences, EGM96 - EGM-X05



## Tests with Surface Data

- EGM96 vs. X05 difference shows features at  $n \approx 40$
- Peak-to-Peak magnitudes of 1 meter

### Oklahoma Investigation ( $34.5^\circ$ - $38^\circ$ ; $259.5^\circ$ - $262^\circ$ ):

- 1) Residual geoid undulations (2'x2' grid, from 1-D spherical FFT):

	<u>Ave</u>	<u>RMS about Ave</u>
X05 (n=360):	13.1 cm	12.9 cm
EGM96 (n=360):	18.5 cm	16.6 cm

- 2) Residuals wrt 16 GPS/BMs (Corrected for 43.4 cm NAVD88 bias):

	<u>Ave</u>	<u>RMS about Ave</u>
X05 (n=360):	-9.1 cm	13.3 cm
EGM96 (n=360):	-17.5 cm	14.9 cm

✓ Surface data can provide checks on geopotential models

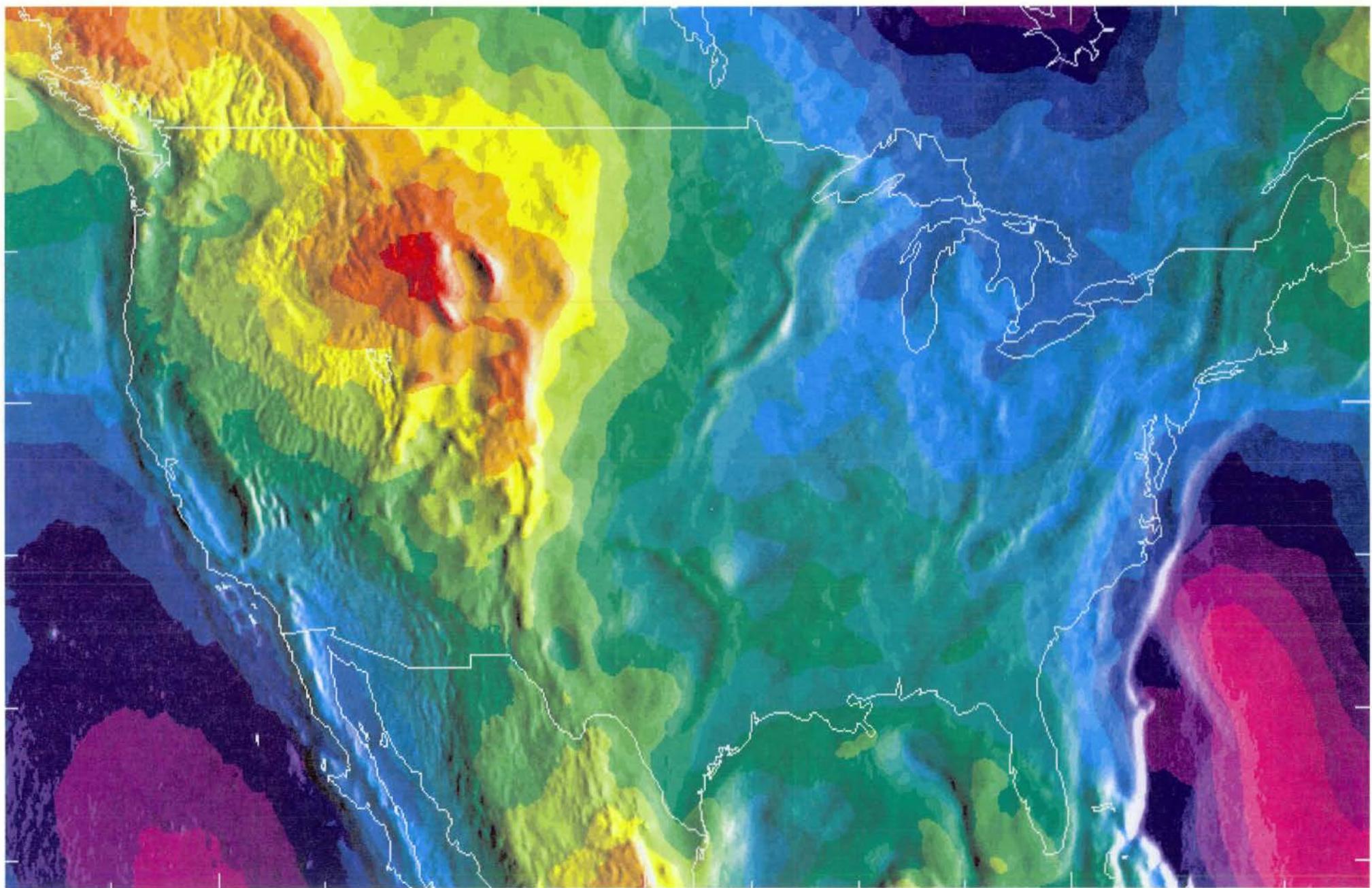
## High Resolution Geoid Models

### G96SSS:

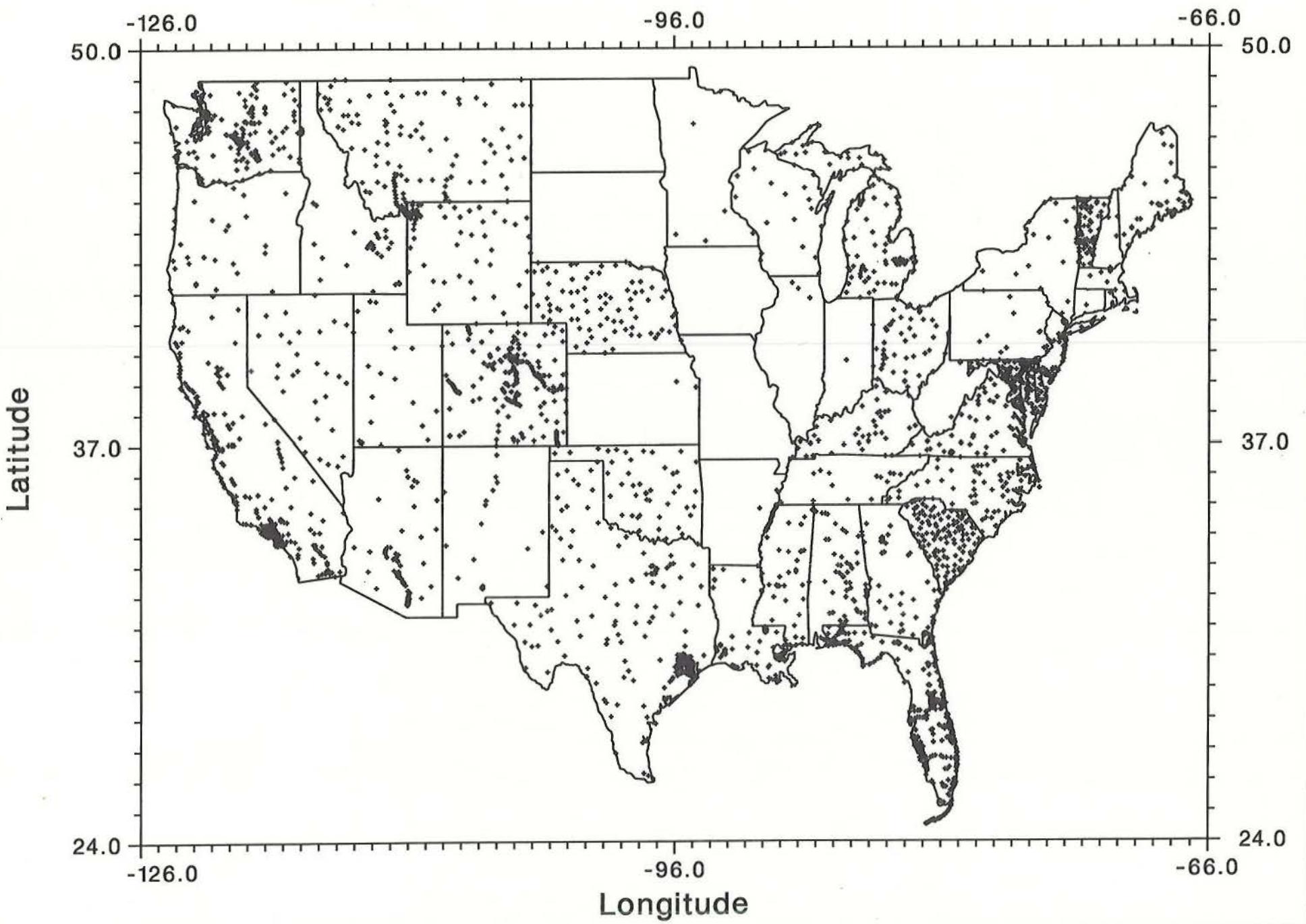
- 1.8 Million gravity measurements (marine, land, altimetry)
- 30" DTED updated with Canadian Rockies data
- EGM96
- 1-D Spherical Stokes' FFT for "remove-compute-restore"
- 2' x 2' spacing (2' x 4' in Alaska)
- ITRF94 (1996.0)

### GEOID96:

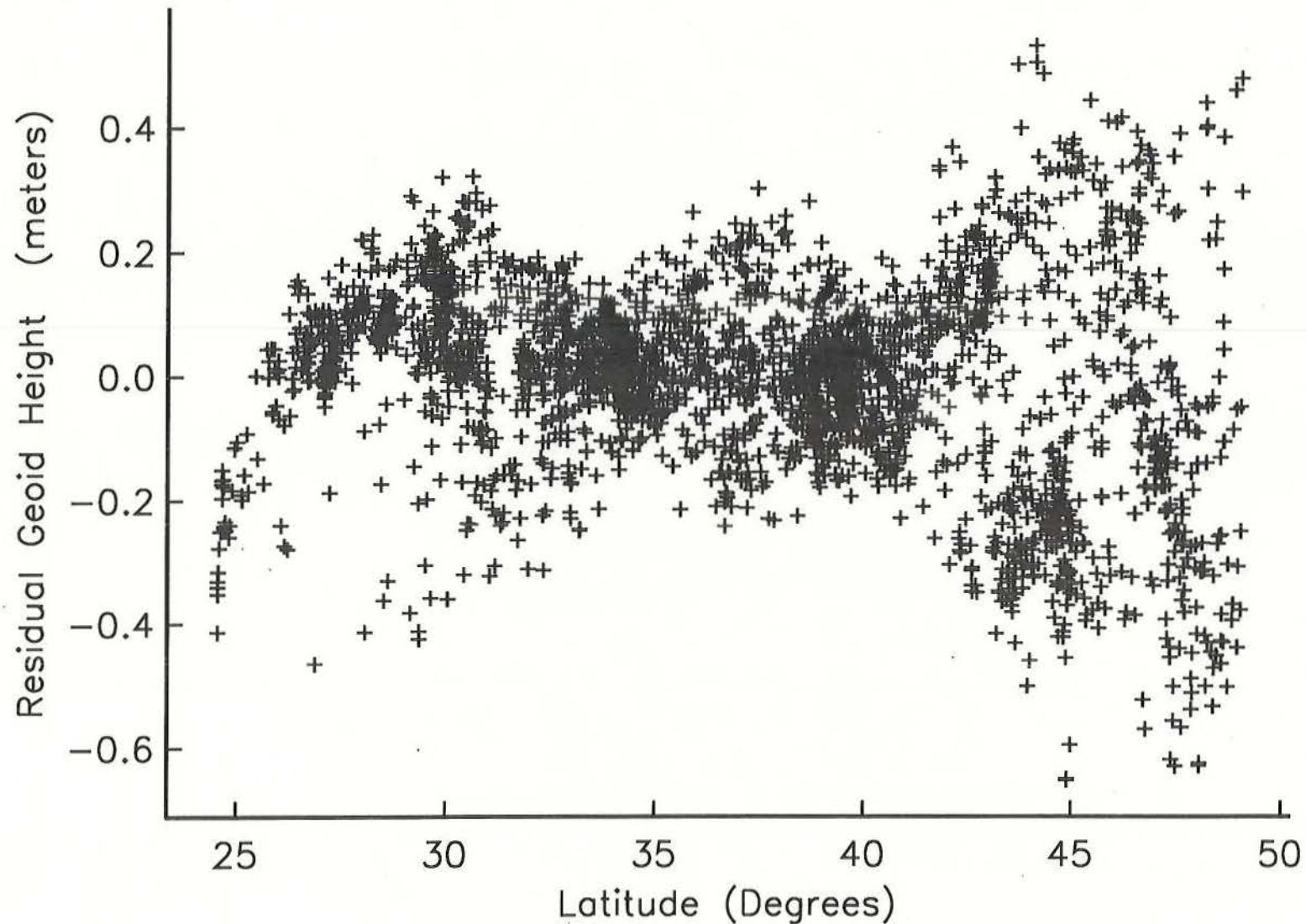
- Begin with G96SSS
- 2951 GPS/Level Benchmarks
- Converts NAD83 (86) into NAVD88
- Relative to non-geocentric GRS-80 ellipsoid



# GPS NAVD88 Benchmarks (16-Sep-96)



(centered) G96SSS residuals wrt ITRF94/NAVD88 GPS/Level Benchmarks



## Results / Conclusions

- Data detects differences between EGM96 and EGM-X05
  - ➔ All but longest wavelength removable by FFT
- 2951 GPS/BMs & G96SSS show 15.5 cm RMS
  - ➔ 45 cm NAVD88 bias
- GPS/BMs with G96SSS detect biases in GPS network
  - ➔ Correlated with statewide GPS surveys north of 42°
- GEOID96 computed from G96SSS with collocation of 2951 GPS/BMs
- GEOID96 shows 5.5 cm Gaussian noise (GPS) with 2.5 cm correlated error (GPS/geoid) randomizing at 40 km