

igb  
University of Stuttgart

**Positioning within the  
GSM - Network**

*FIG Regional Conference*

**TS 08  
Positioning and Measurements**

**Volker Schwieger**  
Institute for Applications of Geodesy to Engineering  
University Stuttgart  
Germany

**San Jose, Costa Rica, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

Institute for Applications of Geodesy to Engineering

igb  
University of Stuttgart

**Positioning within the GSM Network**

**New Positioning Techniques and Infrastructures**

**GPS**

[www.isare.com/ghlights/033/images/dokka5.jpg](http://www.isare.com/ghlights/033/images/dokka5.jpg)  
<http://www.easysdrive.com/gpsppolder.gif>

**WLAN**

[http://www.informatik-student.de/images/FRITZBROS\\_WLAN\\_3070.jpg](http://www.informatik-student.de/images/FRITZBROS_WLAN_3070.jpg)  
[http://projects.ht-klu.at/Projekt\\_0506/prschi0506internet/usb/wlan.jpg](http://projects.ht-klu.at/Projekt_0506/prschi0506internet/usb/wlan.jpg)

**GSM**

<http://content.sonyericsson.com/images/communications/numbers/500x-GsmBts-walbrzych.jpg>  
<http://www.indonesiamatters.com/images/1000x.jpg>  
[http://www.nortel.com/solutions/wireless/images/products/bts\\_s8003\\_sm.jpg](http://www.nortel.com/solutions/wireless/images/products/bts_s8003_sm.jpg)

**GSM network**

Institute for Applications of Geodesy to Engineering

FIG Regional Conference, San Jose, Costa Rica    Volker Schwieger    Wednesday, 28 November 2007    No. 2

igb  
University of Stuttgart

**Positioning within the GSM Network**

**Structure**

- **Motivation**
- **Structure of GSM Network**
- **Positioning Measurements**
- **Positioning Methods**
- **Net-based Positioning**
- **Example – Project Do-iT**

Institute for Applications of Geodesy to Engineering

FIG Regional Conference, San Jose, Costa Rica    Volker Schwieger    Wednesday, 28 November 2007    No. 3

igb  
University of Stuttgart

**Positioning within the GSM Network**

**Structure of GSM Network**

```

graph LR
    MS[MS] --- BTS1[BTS]
    MS --- BTS2[BTS]
    BTS1 --- BSC1[BSC]
    BTS2 --- BSC2[BSC]
    BSC1 --- MSC[MSC]
    BSC2 --- MSC
    subgraph "Abis Interface"
        BTS1
        BSC1
        BSC2
    end
    subgraph "A Interface"
        BSC1
        BSC2
        MSC
    end
  
```

- **MS = Mobile Station (Cell Phone)**
- **BTS = Base Tranceiver Station (Antenna)**  
controls one antenna respectively cell
- **BSC = Base Station Controller**  
controls several BTS
- **MSC = Mobile Switching Centre**  
controls several BSC = one Location Area (LA)

Institute for Applications of Geodesy to Engineering

FIG Regional Conference, San Jose, Costa Rica    Volker Schwieger    Wednesday, 28 November 2007    No. 4

igb  
University of Stuttgart

**Positioning within the GSM Network**

**Measurements usable for Positioning**

- **Cell ID**  
- unique number assigned to one cell resp. BTS
- **Handover**  
- point of time when a MS changes from one cell (BTS) to another one
- **Location Area Update**  
- point of time when a MS changes from one LA (MSC) to another one
- **Timing Advance (TA) value**  
- approximation of the distance between MS and the serving BTS, resolution of approx. 550 m
- **Received Signal Strength (RXLEV-value)**  
- signal attenuation between MS and up to 7 BTS, resolution 1 dB

Institute for Applications of Geodesy to Engineering

FIG Regional Conference, San Jose, Costa Rica    Volker Schwieger    Wednesday, 28 November 2007    No. 5

igb  
University of Stuttgart

**Positioning within the GSM Network**

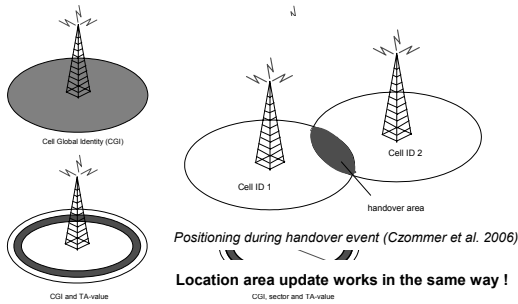
**Positioning Methods**

denomination within cellular positioning	geodetic analogy	measurements	restrictions
Cell Global Identity (CGI)	-	cell ID	none
Handover / Location Area Update	-	two cell IDs / two LA-IDs + one cell ID	available at special events
Time-of-Arrival / TOA	arc section	distances	none
Time-Difference-of-Arrival / TDOA	hyperbola section	distance differences	BTSs have to be synchronised
Angle-of-Arrival / AOA	intersection	angles	need for 2 antennas at a BTS
Signal Strength Matching	-	RXLEV (signal strength)	reference data has to be available

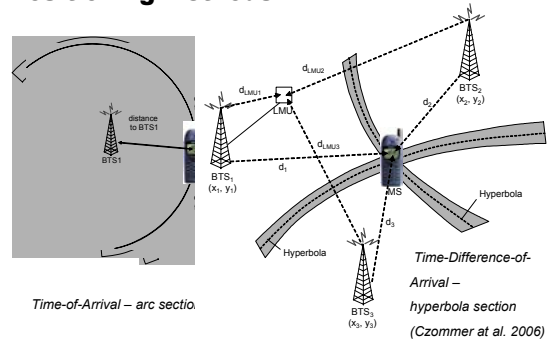
Institute for Applications of Geodesy to Engineering

FIG Regional Conference, San Jose, Costa Rica    Volker Schwieger    Wednesday, 28 November 2007    No. 6

### Positioning Methods



### Positioning Methods

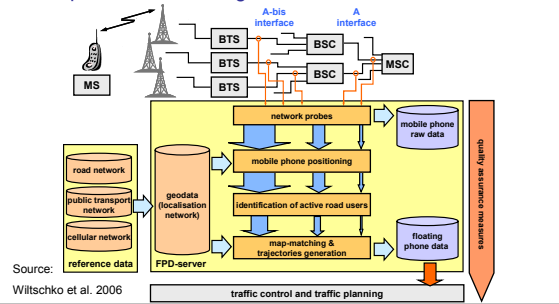


### Net-based Positioning Availability

measurement	mobile station	interface	positioning method
Location Area Update	passive	A / Abis	location area update
Handover	active	A / Abis	handover area
Cell ID	active	Abis	cell global identity
TA-value	active	Abis	arc section
RXLEV-values	active	Abis	arc section / signal strength matching

### Example for Net-based Positioning Project Do-it

Data optimisation for integrated telematics



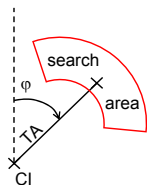
### RX – Matching / Signal Strength Matching

Least squares adjustment

$$\min_{y,x} \sum_{i=1}^n (rx_{ref,i}(y,x) - rx_{meas,i})^2$$

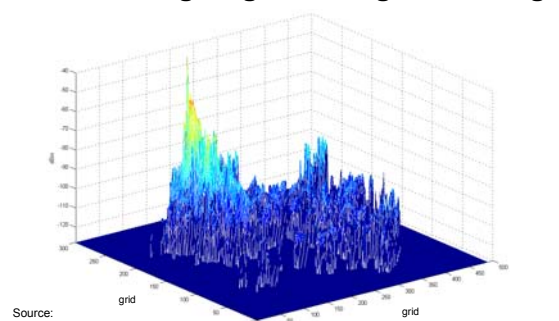
with

- A: search area
- n: number of measured neighbouring cells
- $rx_{ref,i}$ : reference signal strength of BTS  $i$  depending on  $(y,x)$
- $rx_{meas,i}$ : measured signal strength of BTS  $i$

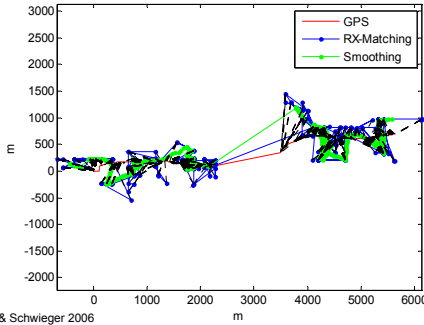


➔ Further improvement by smoothing (moving average filter) and Kalman filtering

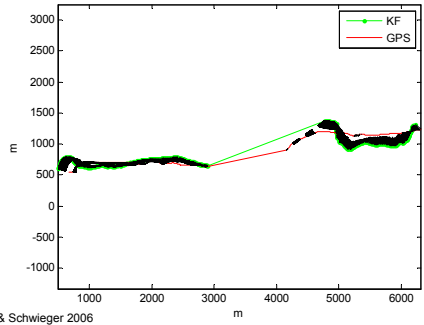
### RX – Matching / Signal Strength Matching



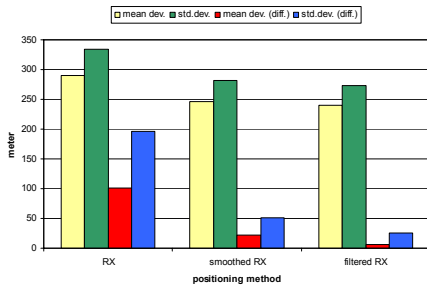
Exemplary Results – RX-Matching



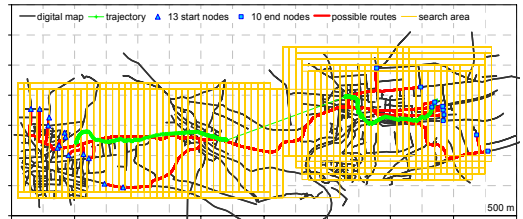
Exemplary Results – Kalman Filter



Exemplary Results – Summary



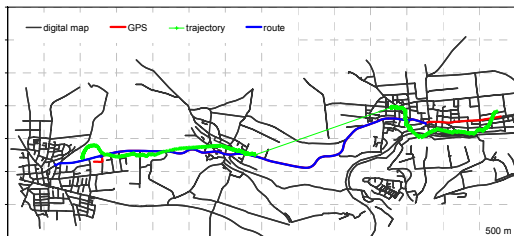
Exemplary Results – Map Aiding



Source: Ramm & Schwieger 2006

- projection of trajectory onto digital road map → search area
- 13 start nodes and 10 end nodes → 130 possible routes

Exemplary Results – Map Aiding



Source: Ramm & Schwieger 2006

- reference to the correct road element is possible in suburban areas
- the standard deviation is approx. 120 m (plumb lines)

Conclusions

- GSM network may be used for positioning
- Classification of positioning methods is presented; based on GSM network structure and available measurements
- Availability of positioning methods for net-based anonymous approach is limited
- Results within project Do-iT based on RX-matching and smoothing resp. Kalman Filter are presented
- Standard deviation ca. 300 m for a 4 km track
- Map-Aiding improves accuracy to ca. 100 to 200 m

**Thank you very much for your attention !**

**CONTACT**

Dr.-Ing.habil. Volker Schwieger

Institute of Applications of Geodesy to Engineering  
University Stuttgart  
Geschwister-Scholl-Str. 24 D  
70174 Stuttgart

Phone: ++49-711-685-84064

Fax: ++49-711-685-84044

Email: [volker.schwieger@iaqb.uni-stuttgart.de](mailto:volker.schwieger@iaqb.uni-stuttgart.de)