

# SpannEnD

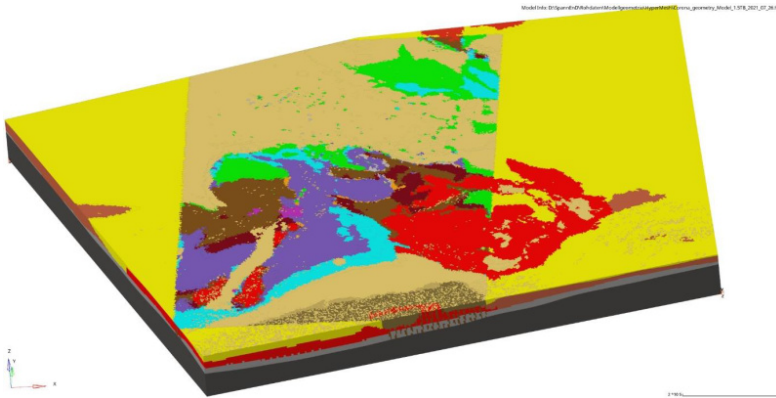


Figure 1: Screenshot of the geomechanical-numerical model used. The Dimensions are  $\sim 1000 \times 1250 \times 100 \text{ km}^3$ . The central more colorful part corresponds approximately to the area of Germany.

## Introduction

The crustal stress state is an important information for many geological applications, e.g. directional drilling, stimulation and safe usage of geothermal reservoirs or the search for and long-term safety of a high-level radioactive waste deposit. However, the state of knowledge for Germany is mainly based on pointwise, sparse and frequently incomplete data sets. Therefore, we developed a geomechanical-numerical model of Germany to provide a continuum mechanics based prediction of the crustal stress state in 3D which is calibrated with available data sets. Our recent model contains about 11.1 million available elements and therefore a main memory of up to 1.5 TB was needed. Since, the main memory of the server of our working group was too small we decided to use the Lichtenberg HPC for our calculations.

## Methods

The 3D geomechanical-numerical is based on available geological geometry models which describe the distribution of geological units in the subsurface of our model region. If necessary, additional geological data have been used to close gaps between or within these models. The final model covers an area of  $1000 \times 1250 \text{ km}^2$  and reaches a depth of 100 km. The geometry model was extended by discretization and parameterization to a geomechanical-numerical model. Since, we assume linear elasticity an individual Poisson's ratio and Young's modulus was assigned to each geological unit (overall 22 units). Additionally, densities were assigned. Displacement boundary conditions are defined at the edges of the final model which are used for calibration with magnitudes of the minimum and maximum horizontal stress ( $S_{\text{hmin}}$  and  $S_{\text{Hmax}}$ ). For the validation additional magnitude data sets and orientations of  $S_{\text{Hmax}}$  are used. As FEM solver we used Abaqus™ v2019.

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**Project Term**  
2020 - 2021

**Clusters**  
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**Software**  
Abaqus

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## Results

An improved prediction of the crustal stress state of Germany could be achieved by our geomechanical-numerical model, which provides the complete 3D stress tensor. Our model predicts an almost homogeneous N-S orientated pattern of the  $S_{Hmax}$  orientation. A median deviation of  $0.3^\circ$  in comparison to the mean orientation of  $S_{Hmax}$  derived from the World Stress Map (WSM, [www.world-stress-map.org](http://www.world-stress-map.org)) project indicates an overall good fit. Furthermore, almost all results are within the standard deviation of the mean WSM data. However, some model regions show significant deviations. The results also show a good fit to all three principal stress magnitudes of the vertical stress ( $S_v$ ),  $S_{hmin}$  and  $S_{Hmax}$  indicated by absolute differences of 0.0 MPa for  $S_v$ , 4.6 MPa for  $S_{hmin}$  and 6.4 MPa for  $S_{Hmax}$ . The differences to the calibration ( $S_{hmin}$  and  $S_{Hmax}$ ) data are mainly within in a range of +/- 10 MPa for the  $S_{hmin}$  magnitudes and within a range of +/- 20 MPa for the  $S_{Hmax}$  magnitudes. Despite the overall good fit, some data indicate too low  $S_{hmin}$  values in the upper part of our model. The Results are described and discussed in detail in Ahlers et al., 2022a. The model geometry and the results of our model have been published (Ahlers et al., 2022b).

## Discussion

Our model predictions are in good agreement with the mean orientations of the  $S_{Hmax}$  derived from the WSM and with magnitude data used for calibration and additional stress magnitude data of different geological regions, e.g. Molasse Basin, Upper Rhine Graben or North German Basin. However, some local differences occur and also a minor but possibly systematic deviation of the  $S_{hmin}$  occur in the uppermost 1.5 km of our model. Some of these differences occur likely due to geological units which are not well represented in our model, e.g. salt units or weak sedimentary layers since we assume linear elasticity or thin units which can not be represented by our coarse vertical resolution of ~250 m.

## Publications

Ahlers, S.; Röckel, L.; Hergert, T.; Reiter, K.; Heidbach, O.; Henk, A.; Müller, B.; Morawietz, S.; Scheck-Wenderoth, M.; Anikiev, D.: The Crustal Stress Field of Germany: a refined prediction, *Geothermal Energy* 10, 10, 2022a <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40517-022-00222-6>

Ahlers, S.; Henk, A.; Hergert, T.; Reiter, K.; Müller, B.; Röckel, L.; Heidbach, O.; Morawietz, S.; Scheck-Wenderoth, M.; Anikiev, D.: The Crustal stress state of Germany – Results of a 3D geomechanical model v2.0., 2022b <https://doi.org/10.48328/tudatalib-437>

Ahlers, S.; Morawietz, S.; Röckel, L.; Henk, A.; Reiter, K.; Hergert, T.; Müller, B.; Heidbach, O.: The SpannEnD project – Prediction of the recent crustal stress field of Germany, 2022, TSK 2019 Halle (Saale), 9-11. März 2022, Halle (Saale), Germany [https://www.spannend-projekt.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Plakat\\_TSK19\\_A0\\_v1\\_2022\\_03\\_07.pdf](https://www.spannend-projekt.de/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Plakat_TSK19_A0_v1_2022_03_07.pdf)

Ahlers, S., Henk, A., Hergert, T., Reiter, K., Müller, B., Röckel, L., Heidbach, O., Morawietz, S., Scheck-Wenderoth, M., and Anikiev, D.: The recent stress state of Germany – results of a geomechanical-numerical 3D model, 2021, SafeND, 9-12. Dezember 2021, Berlin, Germany <https://doi.org/10.5194/sand-1-163-2021>

Ahlers, S., Röckel, L., Henk, A., Reiter, K., Hergert, T., Müller, B., Schilling, F., Heidbach, O., Morawietz, S., Scheck-Wenderoth, M., Anikiev, D.: SpannEnD – The crustal stress state of Germany, 2021, GeoKarlsruhe 2021, 19-24. September 2021, Karlsruhe, Germany

*Last Update:* 2022-07-15 10:55