Disastrous consequences of geotechnical instabilities due to open-pit mining: first results from SARKI4Tagebaufolgen project

Mahdi Motagh<sup>1,2</sup>, Andreas Piter<sup>2</sup>, Mahmud Haghighi<sup>2</sup> and Magdalena Vassileva<sup>1,2</sup>

> <sup>1</sup>GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences <sup>2</sup>Leibniz University Hannover





**1.Engineering and Technological Innovations**: Germany is renowned for its engineering prowess and technological advancements. The country is home to several leading global companies in sectors such as automotive manufacturing, machinery, precision instruments, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals.
 **2.Automobile Industry**: Germany is famous for its automotive industry, with iconic brands like Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Audi, and Volkswagen originating from the country. German cars are often associated with high quality, precision engineering, and innovative design.

**3.Beer and Oktoberfest**: Germany has a rich beer culture, and German beers, such as Pilsner and Hefeweizen, are highly regarded worldwide. The country is also famous for Oktoberfest, the world's largest beer festival held annually in Munich.

**4.Soccer:** Germany has a strong tradition in soccer (football) and has produced successful teams and players over the years. The German national team has won multiple FIFA World Cup titles, and the Bundesliga, Germany's top professional soccer league, is widely followed.

**5.Music:** Germany has made significant contributions to classical music with composers like Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven, and Richard Wagner. The country is also renowned for its electronic music scene, including influential genres like techno and house.

**6.Castles and Historical Sites**: Germany is home to numerous castles, palaces, and historical landmarks. The fairytale-like Neuschwanstein Castle, located in Bavaria, is one of the most famous tourist destinations in the country.

**7.Christmas Markets:** Germany is known for its enchanting Christmas markets, particularly in cities like Nuremberg, Dresden, and Cologne. These markets offer festive atmospheres with various stalls selling crafts, food, and mulled wine during the holiday season.

**8.Efficiency and Precision**: Germans are often associated with traits like efficiency, punctuality, and precision. The concept of "German engineering" reflects the reputation for high-quality manufacturing and attention to detail.

**9.Renewable Energy:** Germany has been a global leader in renewable energy initiatives, particularly in solar and wind power. The country has made significant investments in sustainable technologies and has been at the forefront of the energy transition.

**10.Historical Figures and Philosophers:** Germany has been home to influential figures in philosophy, literature, and science. Thinkers like Immanuel Kant, Friedrich Nietzsche, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, and Albert Einstein have shaped intellectual and cultural discourse.







Is Germany well known for subsidence?



**Germany is not generally well known for subsidence**. Subsidence refers to the gradual sinking or settling of the Earth's surface, usually as a result of underground geological processes, such as the collapse of underground mines or the extraction of natural resources like oil and gas.

While Germany has a history of mining activities, **particularly in regions like the Ruhr Valley and the Saarland**, **subsidence issues are not widespread or prominent throughout the country**. These regions have experienced some localized instances of subsidence due to mining activities, but they are well-managed and monitored.

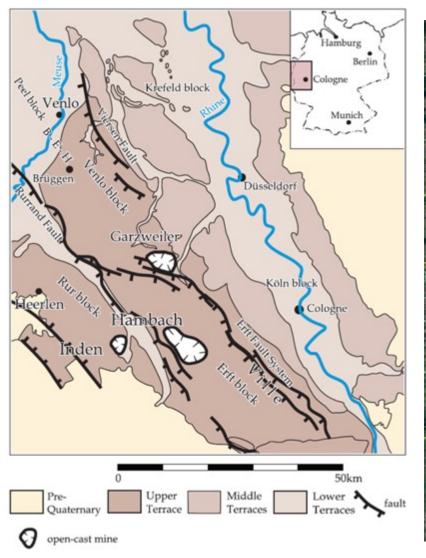
However, it's worth noting that Germany is known for its diverse geology and has a range of geological hazards, including potential sinkholes in certain areas. Sinkholes can occur when underground water dissolves soluble rocks such as limestone or gypsum, leading to the collapse of the surface. However, sinkholes are relatively rare and limited to specific regions rather than being a nationwide issue in Germany.

Overall, while Germany has some localized instances of subsidence and occasional sinkhole occurrences, it is not widely recognized as a country particularly prone to subsidence compared to other regions with more significant geological risks.





# **Open-pit mining in Germany**



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### Garzweiler





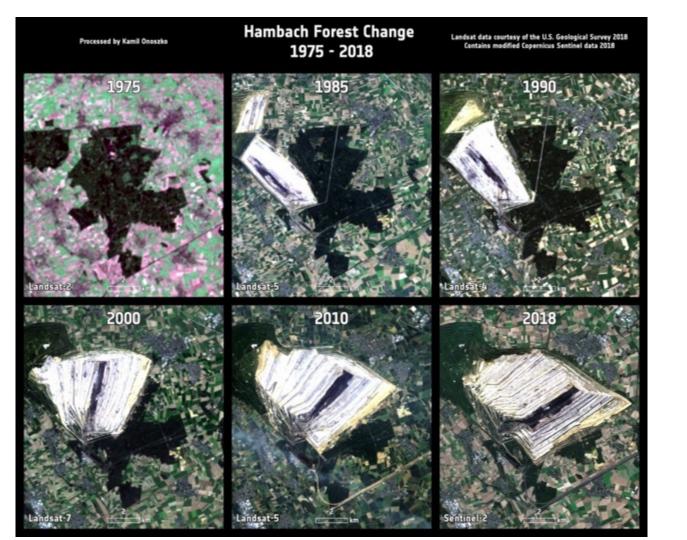


Located in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany Produce lignite mine



# **Deforestation in Hambach area**





### Hambach Forest

- In1978(before mining) :5,500 hectares
- Present: 1,100 hectares



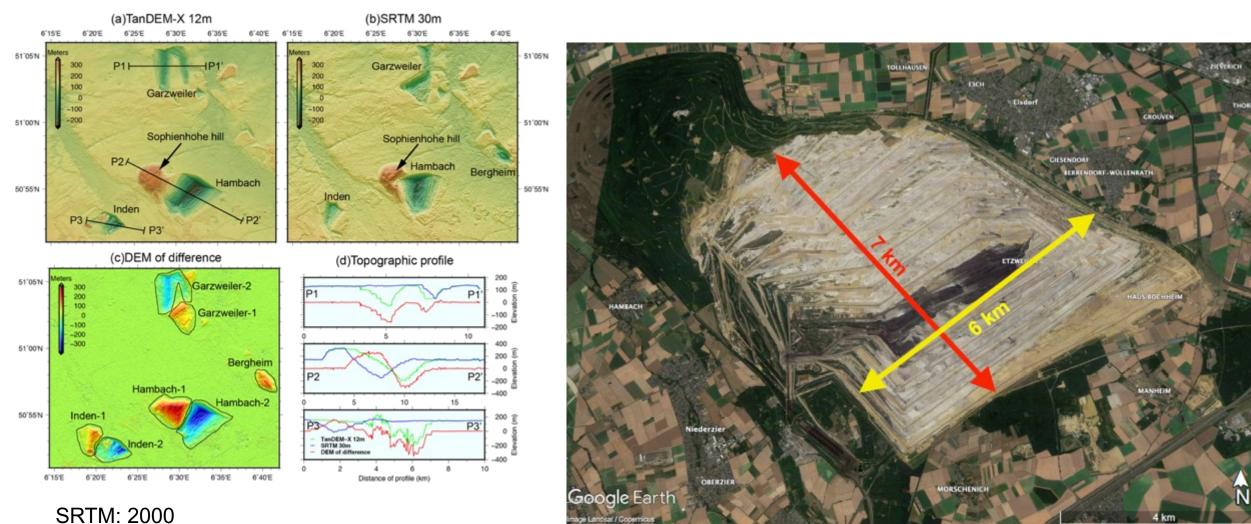






## Hambach mine

lil Leibniz 102 Universität 1004 Hannover

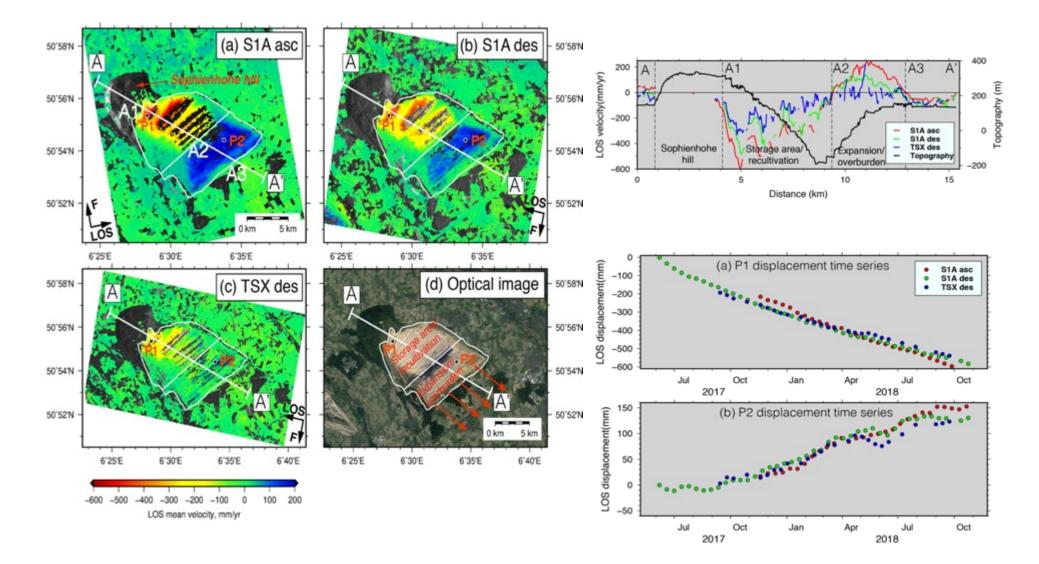


TDX: 2013





# Ground deformation (2017-2018)





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Hannover



Int J Appl Earth Obs Geoinformation 93 (2020) 102217

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/jag

#### Monitoring active open-pit mine stability in the Rhenish coalfields of Germany using a coherence-based SBAS method

Wei Tang<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Mahdi Motagh<sup>b,e</sup>, Wei Zhan<sup>d</sup>

GFZ

Helmholtz Centre Potsdam

\*College of Gonvinne and Europing Engineering, Ohna University of Moing and Fochenlage, Relping 200005, China \*Mohedua Centre Paralam, OFZ Goman Research Centre for Genetanon, Dapartment of Gendery, Section of Renore Sensing and Gooldystruation, Pondam 14472, Generaty "Analysis of Beneratementry and Genetalements Inclusion: Walter Generative".

<sup>4</sup> Institute of Photogrammetry and Geoinformation, Leibniz University Hannover, Hannover 30167, Germany <sup>4</sup> The First Monitoring and Application Center, Chine Earthquake Administration, Tamjin 300180, Chine



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When it comes to safety in open-dust mining, sol stability is one of the most ortical factors. Settlement of the ground or slipping of lopes poses a great risk to buildings and people. Now Kahol Motagh from the German Research. Centre for Geosciences GFL in cooperation with Okinese scientists, has evaluated data from the Settlet I mission of the European Union's Cooperations program and this		Monitoring open-cast mines better than before dra connection-instation increases, increases, cast politika, menotiana/journal of Applied forth Otherwater and Sectionation
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VON HORST RADEMACHER + AKTUALISIERT AM 19.11.2020 + 13:00



Dort, wo Braunlkohle abgebaut wird, muss auch jede Menge Erde abgetragen und an anderer Stelle aufgeschüttet werden. Das bringt den Untergrund vielerorts gefährlich in Bewegung und Hänge ins Rutschen. Mit Satelliten können solche Vorgänge nun genauer beobachtet werden. Rhein-Erft

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### Satellitenradar misst Bewegung

Forscher sehen Erdsenkung in Echtzeit - RWE: Eingeplante Verfestigung im Griff

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## Visiting the area in May 2021

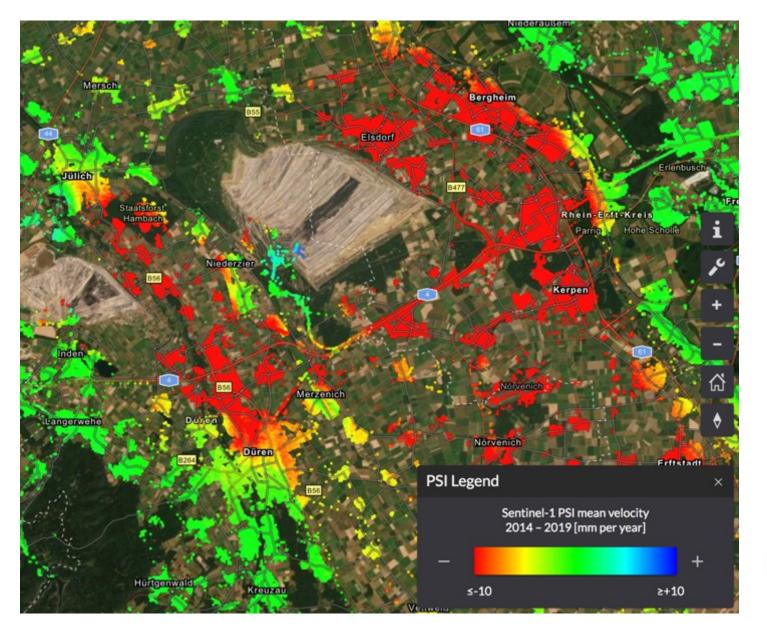












BodenBewegungsdienst Deutschland



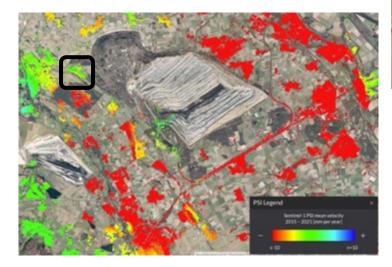




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### **Ground Motion Hazard** in Stetternich











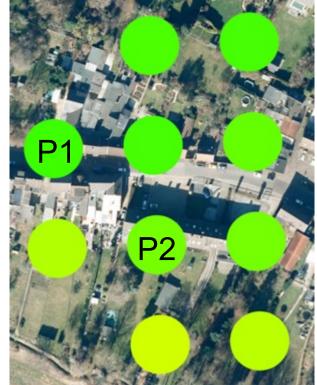


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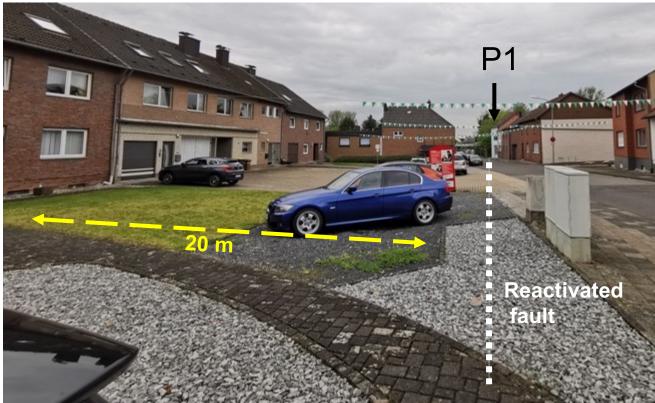
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## **Ground Motion Hazard** in Stetternich

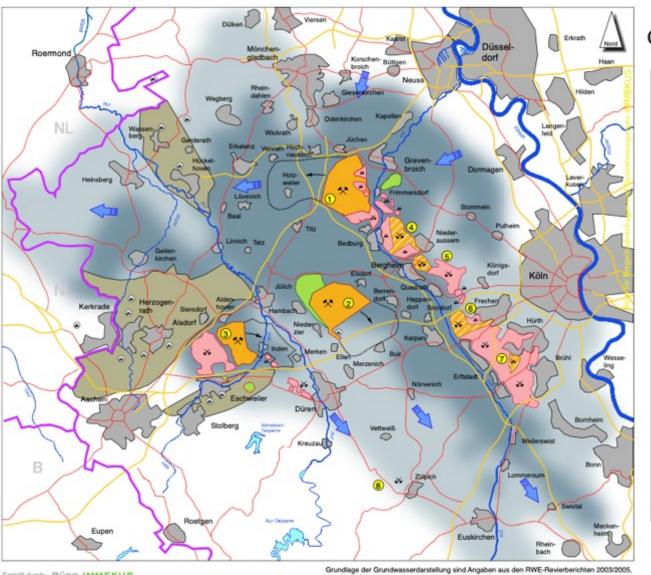












den RWE-Grundwasserrisswerken 2003/2005 und Pegeldaten des Erftverbandes.

Einflussbereiche der Grundwasserabsenkung (Stand ca. 2005)



#### NETZWERK BERGBAUGESCHÄDIGTER e. V.

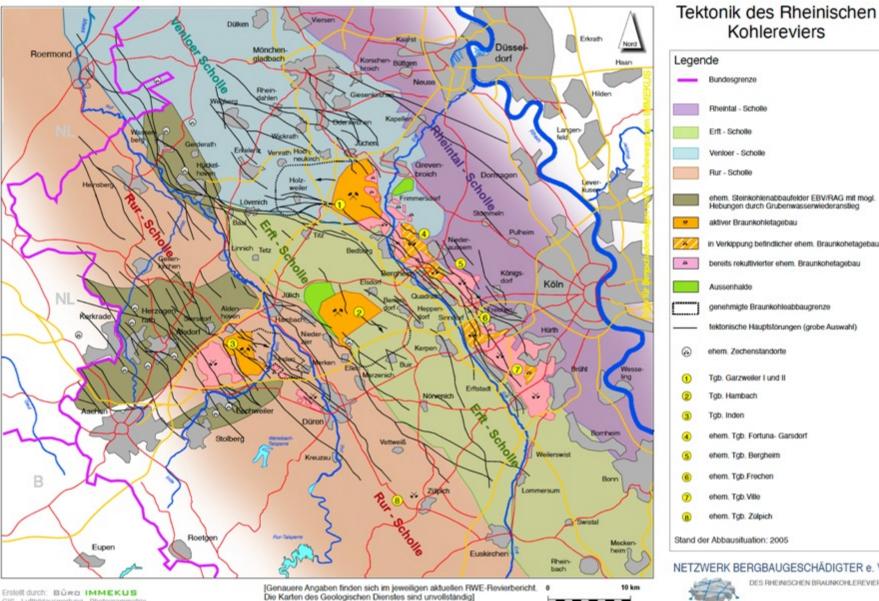




Erstellt durch: BORD IMMEKUS GiS - Luftbildauswerbung - Photogrammetrie www.buero-immekus.de









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DES RHEINISCHEN BRAUNKOHLEREVIERS

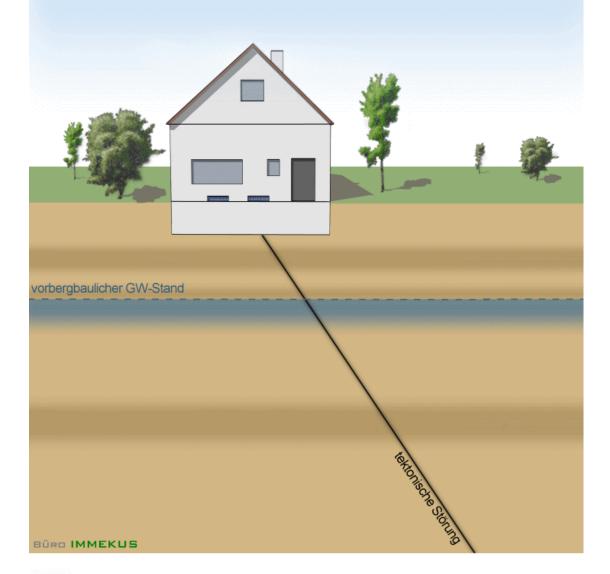




GIS - Luftbildauswertung - Photogrammetrie

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### Bergschäden infolge tektonischer Störungen mit Stufenbildung







NETZWERK BERGBAUGESCHÄDIGTER e.V. DES RHEINISCHEN BRAUNK CHLEINEVERS Juni 2011



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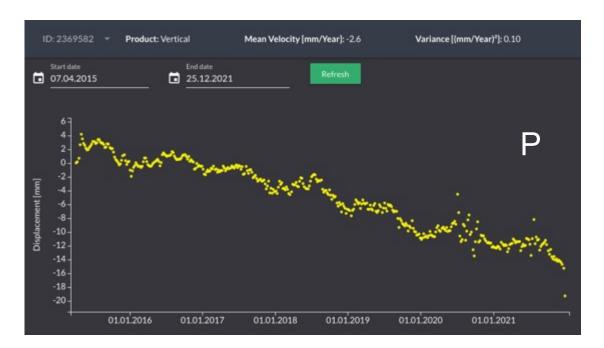
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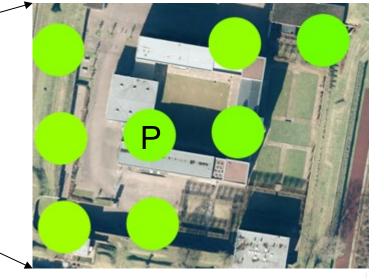
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## Ground Motion Hazard in Jülich







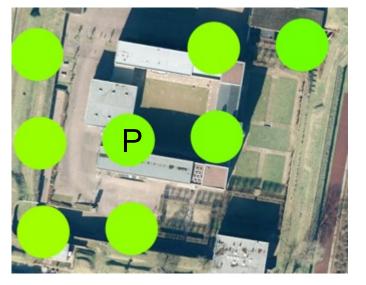
















### Offset ~ 0.5 m





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## SARKI4Tagebaufolgen



- InSAR-based deformation analysis enables measurements of subsidence over time with millimetrescale accuracy over millions of points
- > The interpretation, however, is very complex
- > We have millions of measurement points, but (fortunately) not millions of damages to infrastructure
- Can we go for data-driven approaches and use models based on AI and Explainable AI for a better understanding of relation between subsidence and its triggering factors?
- Can we rely only on the BBD product for the damage assessment or is there still room for the improvement in the quality of the product?

Thema: Entwicklung einer auf Fernerkundung und künstlicher Intelligenz basierten Prozesskette zur Risikobewertung von potenziellen Infrastrukturschäden aufgrund von Grundwasserspiegeländerungen verursacht durch Tagebauaktivitäten - Verbundprojekt mit dem Kreis Düren, NRW

Fördermaßnahme: DLR e. V. - Raumfahrtagentur - Nationales Raumfahrtprogramm

Förderbereich: Erdbeobachtung







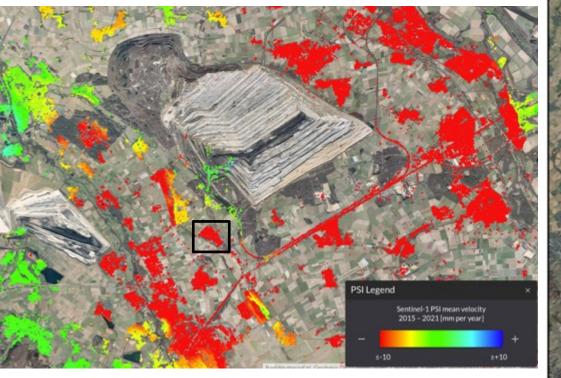
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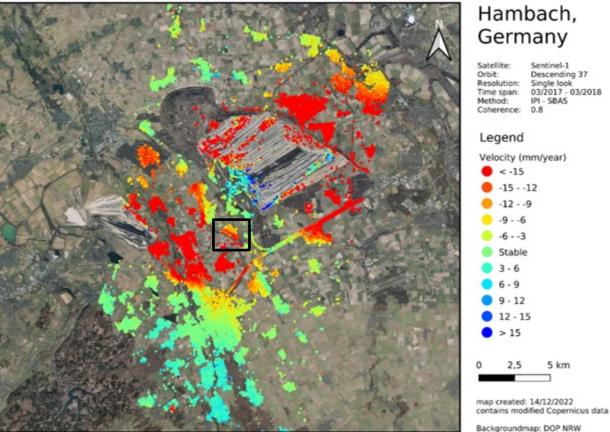


# **Does density matter?**

### IPI software, soon to be publicly available

BBD





SAR4Infra: Financed by Bundesministerium für Verkehr und digitale Infrastruktur (**BMVI**) und Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt (DLR)





5 km

# **Ground Motion Hazard in Ellen**





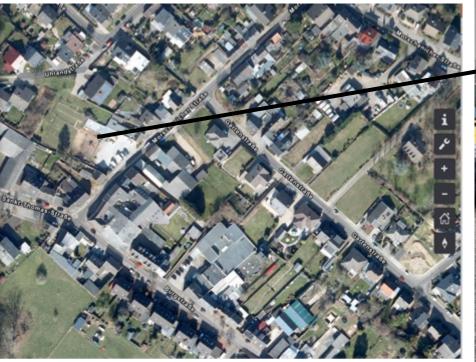






# Ellen, Car Park

























# **Ground Motion Hazard in Ellen**

Häuser vor Abriss









# **Ground Motion Hazard in Ellen**

102	Leibniz Universität Hannover
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#### Häuserabrisse durch Bergschäden in Niederzier-Ellen Stand 01.10.2015



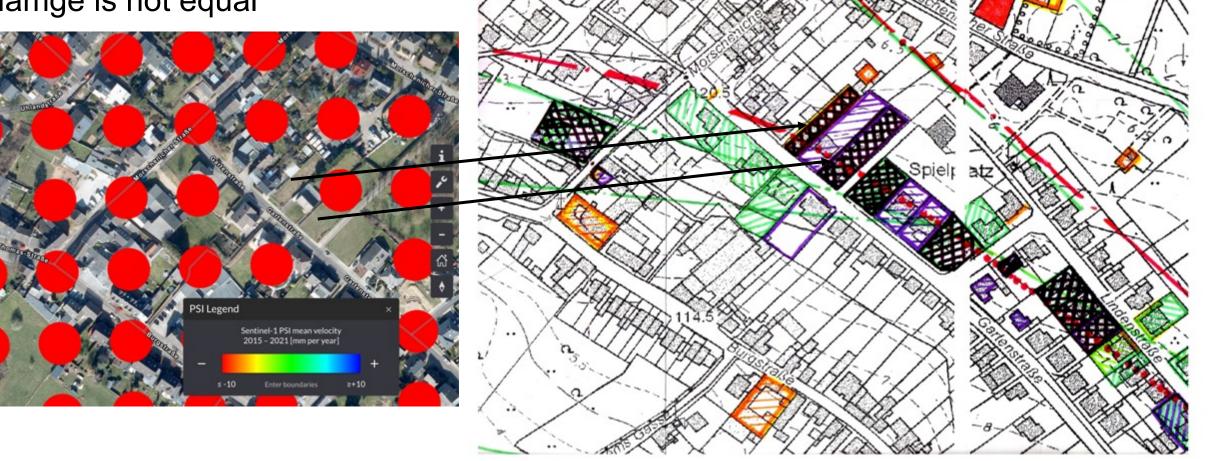








## All houses are subsiding in the area, but the level of the damge is not equal



Häuserabrisse durch Bergschäden in Ndz-Ellen 2015



NETZWERK BERGBAUGESCHÄDIGTER e.V. DIS INEINISISIEN BEILING GALMENTERS Wolfgang Schaefer März 2016





### How would ChatGPT answer to the following question in 2025?



Is Germany well known for subsidence?







May 2023, visit by the municipality and civil protection authorities in Maceio, Brazil



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#### Article | Open Access | Published: 08 April 2021

A decade-long silent ground subsidence hazard culminating in a metropolitan disaster in Maceió, Brazil

Magdalena Vassileva 🖂 Djamil Al-Halbouni, Mahdi Motagh, Thomas R. Walter, Torsten Dahm & Hans-Ulrich Wetzel

Scientific Reports 11, Article number: 7704 (2021) | Cite this article 5670 Accesses | 6 Citations | 65 Altmetric | Metrics





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### Die versinkende Stadt

Im Strandparadies Maceió sieht es apokalyptisch aus. Ganze Viertel sind entvölkert. Was ist hier passiert? Ein Industrie- und Umweltkrimi aus Brasilien. Mittendrin: eine Forscherin aus Deutschland

TON TOBLES LANDWEIRE





# Thank you for your attention!

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