

Estimation of strain accumulation of densification network in Northern Marmara Region, Turkey

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Abstract. Strain analysis is one of the methods for the kinematic analysis of the repeated geodetic measurements. In order to derive strain accumulation in Marmara Region, different institutions carried out several Global Positioning System (GPS) campaigns in 1999 and 2006. The GPS campaigns were performed on the geodetic network which cover the provinces: Kirklareli, Tekirdag, Bursa, Bilecik and Adapazari. Then, the displacements of the network stations were estimated by means of analysing the GPS space geodetic measurements. For the assessment of the datum differences between 1999 and 2006 on the station coordinates, 3-D Helmert transformation was applied to the coordinates of each 1999 and 2006 datum. Then, a global test was introduced to determine the significant deformation which occurred in the geodetic GPS network. Strain accumulation with a finite element model was then computed. First, triangles were constructed for the whole network with the Delaunay method. Hereafter, strain parameters were calculated for each triangle. Maximum values of strain accumulation were found around the surroundings of Marmara Ereglisi and Izmit, whereas minimum values are around Istanbul.

1 Introduction

After the Izmit and Duzce earthquakes (1999), renovations of Turkish National Fundamental GPS Network (TNFGN) and Turkish National Vertical Control Network (TNVCN) were done (TNFGN Report, 2001). Their station coordinates at the 2000.45 epoch were estimated. Densification networks tied to TNFGN and TNVCN were established by the institutions, i.e. Geodesy Department of Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute of Bogazici University,

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Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, General Command of Mapping (GCM), General Directorate of Land Registry and Cadastre, and the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) – Marmara Research Center (MRC) in Kirklareli, Tekirdag, Bursa, Bilecik and Adapazari. Istanbul GPS Triangulation Network (IGTN) and Marmara Earthquake Region Land Information System (MERLIS) were formed covering this region (IGTN Report, 1999; MERLIS Report, 2006). To conclude, GPS campaigns were performed and analysed at different times by different institutions.

A test network was formed from a subset of the network stations of Turkish Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS-TR). Several GPS campaigns were performed on this network and analysed between 15 July and 30 October 2006 by three different companies namely TOPCON, TRIMBLE, and LEICA in order to test the performance of the GPS receivers (CORS-TR, 2006). Each company performed the measurements and evaluations using their own equipments.

This study aimed to compare the coordinate differences between the adjusted coordinates obtained from GPS observations in 1999 (converted to 2000.45 epochs) and the average of the adjusted coordinates obtained from the GPS observations by the aforementioned three companies in 2006 (converted to 2006.60 epochs) and to compute strain accumulation of the corresponding area by finite element model.

2 Test network and observations

Test network of CORS-TR was composed of 115 geodetic stations settled in Marmara Region which were chosen from the geodetic networks: TNFGN, MERLIS and IGTN. The datum of the so-called test network of CORS-TR was assigned by fixing the station coordinates of TNFGN to their a priori values at epoch 2000.45. Moreover, TNFGN network datum was constrained on International GNSS Service (IGS)

Fig. 1. The study area and the displacement vectors between ITRF96 solution at epoch 2000.45 and ITRF2000 solution at epoch 2006.60 on the test network of CORS-TR.

network ITRF96 coordinates of the IGS stations: ONSA, MADR, WTZR, MATE, ANKR, ZWEN, KIT3, NICO and BAHR. Another solution of the test network of CORS-TR GPS campaigns was carried out by fixing the IGS network defined in ITRF2000 at epoch 2006.60. In this case, test network of CORS-TR was fixed (a priori station coordinates were tightly constrained) to IGS network. The IGS stations, where coordinates are fixed to their a priori coordinates defined in ITRF2000 at epoch 2006.60, are namely ANKR, TUBI, DRAG, NOT1, SOFI, BUCU and MATE. Coordinates of the test network of CORS-TR stations estimated by two solutions have both different epochs and different datum. It is worth mentioning at this point that twelve ITRF realizations (solutions) have been successfully performed up to the present by International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS) including ITRF2008 which is the last release (Altamimi et al., 2007). The differences of transformation parameters of IERS, ITRF solutions are significant but too small in levels of magnitude, i.e. origin differences are in sub-centimetre level, rotation differences are in sub milli-arc-second level (mas) and scale differences are in part-per-billion level. The displacement vectors of the test network CORS-TR were calculated from the differences between the coordinates of ITRF96 datum (TNFGN datum) at epoch 2000.45 and ITRF2000 datum at epoch 2006.60. The displacement vectors between ITRF96 at epoch 2000.45 and ITRF2000 at epoch 2006.60 were shown in Fig. 1 and Table 1.

3 Investigation of datum

To examine the effect of two datums with different epochs on the displacement vectors, 3-D Helmert transformation parameters were estimated between the coordinates of ITRF96 at epoch 2000.45 and in ITRF2000 at epoch 2006.60. IGS stations of TNFGN were in ITRF96 datum (Table 2), whereas IGS stations of CORS-TR were in ITRF2000 datum (Table 3). To analyse the datum of two epochs, the 3-D Helmert transformation was applied to coordinates of ITRF96 and ITRF2000 of IGS stations which made up the datum of two epochs. The results of the Helmert transformation are the datum parameters between the two terrestrial reference frame (TRF) solutions of the test network of CORS-TR. Thus, computed transformation parameters (three translations, three rotations and a scale factor) between ITRF96 at epoch 2000.45 and ITRF2000 at epoch 2006.60 were compared with each other. Transformation parameters of each epoch were given in Table 4.

Transformation parameters of TNFGN datum (Table 4) indicates that the coordinates of ITRF96 at epoch 1997 of IGS stations which made up datum of TNFGN were consistent with the coordinates of ITRF2000 at epoch 1997. However, there was a significant translation between ITRF96 at epoch 1997 and ITRF2000 at epoch 1997 of IGS stations which made up datum of CORS-TR. It could be said that translations had an influence on the displacement vectors.

Two epochs had different number and distribution of datum points, so there were significant datum parameters between datum of TNFGN and CORS-TR. These differences occurred as a component of the deformation vector.

Station ID	ITRF96 Coordinates at Epoch 1997.0					
	X(m)	Y(m)	Z(m)			
ANKR	4121948.602	2652187.958	4069023.671			
WTZR	4075580.697	931853.669	4801568.044			
MATE	4641949.718	1393045.282	4133287.333			
ONSA	3370658.674	711877.032	5349786.866			
KIT3	1944945.365	4556652.206	4004325.969			
ZWEN	2886325.555	2155998.407	5245816.135			
NICO	4359415.854	2874116.991	3650777.707			
BAHR	3633909.068	4425275.486	2799861.265			

Table 2. Coordinates of IGS Stations of TNFGN.

Table 3. Coordinates of IGS Stations of CORS-TR (CORS-TR Report, 2006).

Station ID	ITRF2000 Coordinates at Epoch 1997.0					
	X(m)	Y(m)	Z(m)			
ANKR	4121948.524	2652187.904	4069023.758			
TUBI	4211317.316	2377865.929	4144663.268			
DRAG	4432980.620	3149432.112	3322110.468			
NOT ₁	4934546.203	1321265.036	3806456.124			
SOFI	4319372.078	1868687.819	4292063.947			
BUCU	4093760.836	2007793.835	4445129.965			
MATE	4641949.526	1393045.455	4133287.465			

4 Determination of strain accumulation

4.1 Determination of strain in a network with the global test

In this study, to analyse significant deformation between two epochs and strain parameters in 3-D, a global test was applied to the network. Free network adjustment was introduced for each campaign. For the global test, the differences of 3-D coordinates of two epochs were used. These differences (Fig. 1) were taken as the vector of deformations (Brunner, 1979).

The general equation of the vector of deformations can be written as:

$$
d = Bu \,,\tag{1}
$$

where **B** is the matrix of coefficients for one common station, \boldsymbol{u} is the vector of unknown parameters (translations t , extensions ε , shearing strain γ and rotations ω).

$$
\mathbf{B} = \begin{vmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & x & 0 & 0 & y & z & 0 & 0 & z & -y \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & y & 0 & x & 0 & z & -z & 0 & x \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & z & 0 & x & y & y & -x & 0 \end{vmatrix}, \quad (2)
$$

$$
\mathbf{u} = \left(\mathbf{B}^T \mathbf{B}\right)^{-1} \mathbf{B}^T d \,,\tag{3}
$$

where d is the coordinate differences.

Root mean square error of the a posteriori unit weight is calculated by

$$
m_0 = \pm \sqrt{\frac{{\bf v}^T \bf{v}}{n-u}} = \pm 0.02324
$$

where v is the coordinate residual vector, n is the number of coordinates included in the global test, u donates to the number of unknowns. Below the parameter vector \boldsymbol{u} is shown with their corresponding precisions.

t-test at 95% confidence interval was applied with $f = 135$ (degrees of freedom) and $\alpha = 0.05$ (significance level) to the results. Then, t-test critical value became $t_{0.95} = 1.658$.

The results revealed that there were significant translations (t_x, t_y, t_z) , strain accumulation (ε_{22}) in the network. There was also a significant rotation around $x(\omega_{11})$ and a shearing strain (γ_{13}). Values of strain accumulation (ε_{11}), rotation around z-axis (ω_{33}) and shearing strain (γ_{12}) were close to being statistically significant. These results show that there are deformations in the directions of x, y and z axis.

4.2 Determination of strain accumulation by finite element model

As seen in Sect. 4.1, there were significant translations and rotations in the network. Therefore, the selection of an independent way of determining strain accumulation from datum parameters should be done. The ratio of baselines is independent from datum. Consequently, a model of calculating strain parameters with ratio of baselines, which is called finite element model, was used in this study.

Least square adjustment is applied to observations at two epochs separately. Linear extension of a baseline in a network become

$$
\varepsilon = \frac{S' - S}{\Delta t \cdot S},\tag{4}
$$

where S is the baseline at epoch (t_1) , S' is the baseline length at epoch (t₂), Δt is the time interval (t₂ − t₁) between two epochs.

If the time interval between two epochs, Δt is known, strain rate ε can be derived. However, if Δt is not taken into account, ε will become strain accumulation.

Table 4. Transformation parameters of epoch 2000.45 and 2006.60.

	TNFGN	CORS-TR
Scale	$1.+0.001$ ppm ± 0.0006 ppm	$1.+0.19$ ppm ± 0.027 ppm
Rotation about X axis	$-0.00046'' \pm 0.00014''$	$-0.011'' \pm 0.013''$
Rotation about Y axis	$0.00027'' \pm 0.00021''$	$0.001'' \pm 0.029''$
Rotation about Z axis	$-0.00003'' \pm 0.00015''$	$-0.004'' \pm 0.006''$
Translation along X axis	$0.015 \pm 0.006 \,\mathrm{m}$	-0.639 ± 0.613 m
Translation along Y axis	$0.019 \pm 0.004 \text{ m}$	-0.322 ± 0.255 m
Translation along Z axis	-0.022 ± 0.005 m	-1.008 ± 0.725 m

Fig. 2. Triangulation of the network.

Linear extension of the baseline which has t azimuth is,

$$
\varepsilon = e_{xx} \cos^2 t + e_{xy} \sin 2t + e_{yy} \sin^2 t \,. \tag{5}
$$

where e_{xx} , e_{xy} and e_{yy} are the strain tensor parameters. In order to calculate parameters of strain tensor, the general equation written above is used. The network has to be constructed of triangles. Then strain tensor has to be calculated for each triangle in the network. Three general equations are created for each baseline of a triangle. In this study, triangles for the network were constructed by using the Delaunay triangulation method. In the case of the intersection of the fault and baseline of a triangle, linear extension of the baseline was the sum of the translation component and strain component. Error strain could be obtained from the results in this situation. Therefore, triangles were simplified and designed not to intersect with the fault (Fig. 2).

Thus, e_{xx} , e_{xy} , e_{yy} for each triangle are found for time interval between 2000.45 and 2006.60 epochs. These parameters of strain tensor are the strain parameters of the point of

equilibration of each triangle (Salmon, 1931; Denli, 1998). Subsequently, strain parameters shown below could be calculated from the parameters of strain tensor (Salmon, 1931; Deniz, 1997).

$$
\Delta = e_{xx} + e_{yy},\tag{6}
$$

$$
\gamma_1 = e_{xx} - e_{yy},\tag{7}
$$

$$
\gamma_2 = 2e_{xy},\tag{8}
$$

$$
\gamma = \sqrt{\gamma_1^2 + \gamma_2^2} \,,\tag{9}
$$

where Δ is dilatancy, γ_1 is principal shear strain, γ_2 is engineering shear strain and γ is total shear strain.

Principal strain parameters are calculated by the following equations.

$$
E_1 = \frac{1}{2}(\Delta + \gamma),\tag{10}
$$

$$
E_2 = \frac{1}{2}(\Delta - \gamma),\tag{11}
$$

Fig. 3. Principal strain parameters of the network.

$$
\beta = \arctan\left(\frac{e_{xy}}{E_1 - e_{xy}}\right),\tag{12}
$$

where E_1 is maximum principal strain, E_2 is minimum principal strain and β is direction of maximum principal strain arc.

Equations of maximum shear strain E_{SHEAR} and maximum normal strain E_{INTER} are given below.

$$
E_{\text{SHEAR}} = 0.5(E_1 - E_2) \,, \tag{13}
$$

$$
E_{\text{INTER}} = 0.5(E_1 + E_2) \,. \tag{14}
$$

The process for computing precisions of calculated strain parameters by finite element model is

$$
C_{\rm xx} = \begin{bmatrix} m_{\rm x}^2 & 0 \\ 0 & m_{\rm y}^2 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} (1.5 \text{ cm})^2 & 0 \\ 0 & (1.5 \text{ cm})^2 \end{bmatrix}
$$

where C_{xx} denotes the covariance matrix of the adjusted coordinates of TNFGN, IGTN and MERLIS networks.

Mathematical relation between the cofactor matrix is $Q_{\Delta S\Delta S} = 4Q_{xx}$, it becomes;

$$
C_{\Delta S \Delta S} = 4 \begin{bmatrix} m_{\rm x}^2 & 0 \\ 0 & m_{\rm y}^2 \end{bmatrix} = 4 \begin{bmatrix} (1.5 \text{ cm})^2 & 0 \\ 0 & (1.5 \text{ cm})^2 \end{bmatrix},
$$

and root mean square error of the differences of baselines between two epochs are derived as;

$$
m_{\Delta S \Delta S} = \pm 4.24
$$
 cm.

If the average baseline of test network is taken as 25 km, expected error ratios of strain parameters is

Principal strain parameters were calculated for the network by a finite element model using a programme coded in FOR-TRAN language (Deniz, 2007). The differences between the coordinates of 2000.45 and 2006.60 epochs were used for the calculations. Principal strain parameters of each triangle were given in Fig. 3 and Table 5.

Equilibration points, which have close strain parameter values, were gathered into groups in order to simplify the interpretations of the result. Principal strain parameters of each group were shown in Fig. 4.

5 Results and discussion

Displacement vectors (Fig. 1) indicates that there were significant displacements within 6.5 cm and 22.8 cm between the 2000.45 and 2006.60 epochs.

The results of Helmert transformation (Table 4) revealed that there was a significant translation in the datum of CORS-TR.

Choosing the model of calculating strain parameters should be done with respect to the state of the datum of networks. Strain parameters should be calculated from geodetic data which were independent from datum parameters. Finite element model that relied on the deformations of network baselines, which is the most suitable model for the calculation of strain parameters, was used in this study.

Firstly, for this method triangles were formed with Delaunay triangulation method. Triangles which are intersected with the fault were redesigned in order to minimize the errors. Then, strain parameter of equilibration of each triangle was calculated.

$$
m_{\varepsilon} = \frac{m_{\Delta S \Delta S}}{S_{\text{av}}} = \pm 1.7 \text{ ppm}.
$$

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Table 5. Principal strain parameters computed for each triangle in the network.

Triangle Corner	Coordinates of Point			Principal Strain	Angle of the Principal	E_{INTER}	E SHEAR
Points	of Equilibration			Components	Strain β (grad)	(μs)	(μs)
	North (m)	East (m)	E_1 (µs)	E_2 (µs)			
YUVA, MAER, 1032	4564617.001	579857.906	0.25	-3.18	-0.40	-1.46	1.72
MAER, 1032, 1030	4550366.541	587324.662	0.45	-0.95	-44.81	-0.25	0.70
1032,1030,1021	4558601.663	593234.019	2.37	-0.13	69.52	1.12	1.25
YUVA, 1032, 1033	4579204.054	586166.72	1.33	-0.73	-76.22	0.30	1.03
1032, 1033, 1021	4569685.287	595027.499	1.97	0.89	66.87	1.43	0.54
1033, 1021, 1009	4571129.006	603388.008	1.10	-0.71	-17.26	0.19	0.91
YUVA, 1033, 1025	4584746.453	595696.597	0.57	-1.84	49.63	-0.63	1.21
1033, 1025, 1009	4579360.606	609043.541	0.61	-2.51	9.28	-0.95	1.56
1025,1009,1014	4574243.446	617617.55	3.41	-1.86	-98.06	0.78	2.64
1030, SELP, 1021	4550833.981	602520.229	1.32	-0.43	13.99	0.45	0.87
SELP, 1021, 1015	4556990.662	609713.515	0.22	-0.24	-11.56	-0.01	0.23
1021,1009,1015	4566202.064	608787.815	3.10	-0.02	-68.16	1.54	1.56
1009, 1015, 1014	4567436.834	617761.281	2.97	2.63	-0.52	2.80	0.17
1015,1014,SELP	4558225.433	618686.981	2.83	-0.25	12.67	1.29	1.54
SELP, 1092, 1014	4549469.275	623215.786	0.47	-0.12	15.62	0.17	0.29
1092,1014,1039	4548874.055	634230.639	0.34	-1.57	29.92	-0.62	0.96
1025, 1014, 1057	4572525.515	624555.365	0.28	-2.85	0.85	-1.29	1.57
1014, 1057, 1039	4558620.214	635326.551	-0.97	-2.85	-99.51	-1.91	0.94
1057,1039,1046	4555791.203	646021.251	-0.05	-1.03	87.41	-0.54	0.49
1025, 1057, 1043	4574916.904	631804.145	1.69	-0.77	-63.24	0.46	1.23
1057,1043,1046	4565091.063	645816.779	1.11	-0.65	-69.88	0.23	0.88
1043, 1046, 1059	4565469.866	658532.726	0.19	-0.37	-4.09	-0.09	0.28
1059,1046,1076	4560464.266	667484.585	0.21	-0.39	81.74	-0.09	0.30
1046,1076,1039	4551996.773	659771.375	-0.24	-0.52	-21.47	-0.38	0.14
1076, 1039, 1073	4547647.638	666705.965	0.20	-0.24	97.69	-0.02	0.22
1059,1076,1069	4558719.263	680113.039	0.37	-0.25	37.92	0.06	0.31
1076,1069,1073	4549982.095	682575.867	0.25	0.13	12.83	0.19	0.06
1069, 1073, 1096	4542213.872	689405.913	0.52	-0.33	43.61	0.09	0.42
1059,1069,AHMT	4559427.308	694107.826	0.56	-1.02	-22.71	-0.23	0.79
1069, AHMT, 1070	4553025.859	707018.911	-0.03	-0.98	91.19	-0.50	0.47
AHMT, 1070, 1083	4552567.531	718353.484	0.75	-0.85	89.48	-0.05	0.80
1069,1096,1070	4544549.591	699854.170	0.54	-0.85	-21.56	-0.16	0.70
1096,1070,169	4536983.826	707813.556	0.57	-0.37	30.29	0.10	0.47
1070,169,129	4538954.631	717474.452	-0.04	-2.94	21.70	-1.49	1.45
AHMT, 1088, 1083	4556575.433	721828.262	0.87	-2.96	67.99	-1.05	1.92
1088, 1083, 1082	4555052.342	727631.204	0.10	-0.75	34.52	-0.32	0.43
1083, 1082, 10	4551671.552	734917.659	0.47	-0.68	94.74	-0.11	0.57
10, AKCO, 1083	4548625.003	740388.899	3.14	-0.76	68.77	1.19	1.95
AKCO, 1083, 159	4538448.998	741455.933	-0.02	-2.10	-40.57	-1.06	1.04
1083,159,129	4536513.175	732677.908	1.28	-0.12	-99.59	0.58	0.70
129,159,169	4529405.737	729302.721	0.12	-2.48	-8.62	-1.18	1.30
159,169,123	4520159.483	737570.536	0.81	-4.98	-26.17	-2.08	2.90
169, 123, 1100	4518900.665	724523.305	0.96	0.46	53.04	0.71	0.25
AKCO, 222, 159	4533447.543	750518.843	0.70	-2.68	-8.25	-0.99	1.69
222,159, SISL	4522942.709	755411.91	3.18	-2.61	96.29	0.28	2.90
159, SISL, 123	4515318.621	752650.671	2.81	-7.43	14.12	-2.31	5.12
1096,169,1100	4526176.115	706594.593	0.85	0.29	92.14	0.57	0.28
KUTE, 106, IGAZ	4487928.319	712030.332	4.14	-0.87	-34.53	1.63	2.50
1070, 1083, 129	4546062.068	720849.64	0.92	-0.17	-74.74	0.37	0.55
272,356,123	4501183.418	762112.396	4.09	-4.97	-86.56	-0.44	4.53
123, IGAZ, 106	4497626.561	730183.782	3.86	-1.83	-38.58	1.02	2.85
1100,123,106	4510545.178	716666.553	1.84	-2.10	33.36	-0.79	2.62

Fig. 4. Principal strain parameters of each group.

Fig. 5. Principal strain rates from the study of Ozener et al. (2009).

Majority of strain parameters of the network obtained from the three dimensional differences were significant. The results of the global test indicated that there was a significant deformation in the network.

Baseline ratios, which were computed for baselines of triangles, were compared with $m\epsilon = \pm 1.7$ cm which was calculated in Sect. 4.2. The majority of ratios were larger than 2 ppm. Therefore, this indicates that calculated strain parameters were significant.

Strain parameters in Table 5 shows that maximum values of strain accumulation were around Marmara Ereglisi and Izmit, while minimum values were around Istanbul.

Although the covered regions by this study and Ozener et al. (2009) do not fully match, they have four stations (AKCO, IGAZ, KUTE and SELP) in common. As well as the directions and signs (compression or extension) of strain parameters of this study are consistent with the results of the study of Ozener et al. (Fig. 5), the scalar values of strain parameters are computed as smaller. This result has been expected since deformation pattern naturally changes over time and besides GPS data span and locations of station points differ from each other in both studies.

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