

Measuring mass change with an aging GRACE system

Ernst Schrama

TU Delft, Faculty of Aerospace Engineering, Netherlands (e.j.o.schrama@tudelft.nl)

The GRACE mission was launched in 2002 and it continues to operate until the moment of writing. Presently we face a situation where the system is occasionally put in a stand-by mode to conserve the batteries. The consequence is that we begining to miss an increasing number of observation months during eclipses. This paper will discuss the consequences of the new management scheme, we will look into the quality of the level-2 monthly gravity field solutions that we use for a global estimation of surface mass changes, and we will look into specific regions where a lack of a few months of data in a year will affect our understanding of the processes that cause surface mass change.