



## **Further Plans for the GRACE Mission**

Byron Tapley (1), Frank Fleethner (2), Srinivas Bettadpur (1), Himanshu Save (1), Carmen Boening (3), and Michael Watkins (3)

(1) University of Texas, Center for Space Research, Austin, TX United States , (2) GFZ-Potsdam, Potsdam, Germany, (3) NASA JPL, Pasadena CA, United States

The 15-year record of GRACE measurements of the seasonal cycle of mass transport between the oceans, land, cryosphere and atmosphere; its inter-annual variability; and the climate driven secular, or long period, mass transport signals ended on October 10, 2018 after a mission limiting battery failure. The global perspective and the accuracy of the GRACE measurements provided paradigm shifting insight into the Earth system interactions. The objective of the GRACE FO Mission, launched on May 22, 2018, is to extend the established science records into the next decade. Extension of the science records established by GRACE will require a calibration and validation effort focusing on the results implied by the measurements from the two missions at the transition epoch. This comparison is impacted by mission operations problems in the final phase of the GRACE Mission along with some mission startup issues with GRACE FO. The last science data collected by GRACE covered the month of June, 2017. The transition to nominal operations for GRACE FO occurred in the fall of 2018. These events dictate a break of one to 1.5 years between the two missions. This presentation will review issues that influence the operations philosophy during the final years of the GRACE Mission, summarize the impact of these activities on the GRACE data, describe the status of the RL 06 data release from the three SDS centers and summarize the final reprocessing plans as related to the comparison with the GRACE FO results.