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Combination Service for Time-variable Gravity Fields (COST-G) – operations

Ulrich Meyer¹, Adrian Jäggi¹, Frank Flechtner², Christoph Dahle², Torsten Mayer-Gürr³, Andreas Kvas³, Jean-Michel Lemoine⁴, Stéphane Bourgogne⁵, Andreas Groh⁶, Annette Eicker⁷, and Benoit Meyssignac⁸

¹University of Bern, Astronomical Institute, Bern, Switzerland (ulrich.meyer@aiub.unibe.ch)

²GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences, Germany

³Graz University of Technology, Austria

⁴Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales, France

⁵Stellar Space Studies, France

⁶Institute of planetary geodesy, Technical University of Dresden, Germany

⁷HafenCity University Hamburg, Germany

⁸Laboratoire d'Etudes en Géophysique et Oceanographie Spatiales, France

With the release of the combined GRACE monthly gravity field time-series COST-G RL01 the Combination Service for Time-variable Gravity fields (COST-G) of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG) became operational in July 2019. We present the COST-G RL01 time-series and provide validation in terms of orbit fit, ice mass trends, lake altimetry and sea level budget. We identify weak points in the combined monthly gravity fields and discuss possible improvements of the combination strategy for future combinations.

While COST-G RL01 is based on sets of re-processed GRACE monthly gravity fields, COST-G also provides combinations of monthly Swarm high-low satellite-to-satellite tracking (hl-SST) gravity fields on an operational basis with a latency of 3 months. Combinations of GRACE-FO monthly gravity fields are in the process of operationalization. We provide a status report and first results of GRACE-FO combinations. Combined GRACE, Swarm and GRACE-FO gravity fields complement each other to provide a long-term time-series of mass variation in the system Earth.