

G4.1: Satellite Gravimetry: Data Analysis, Results and Future Mission Concepts

CAN SWARM AND SLR CONTRIBUTE TO CLOSING THE GLOBAL SEA LEVEL BUDGET?

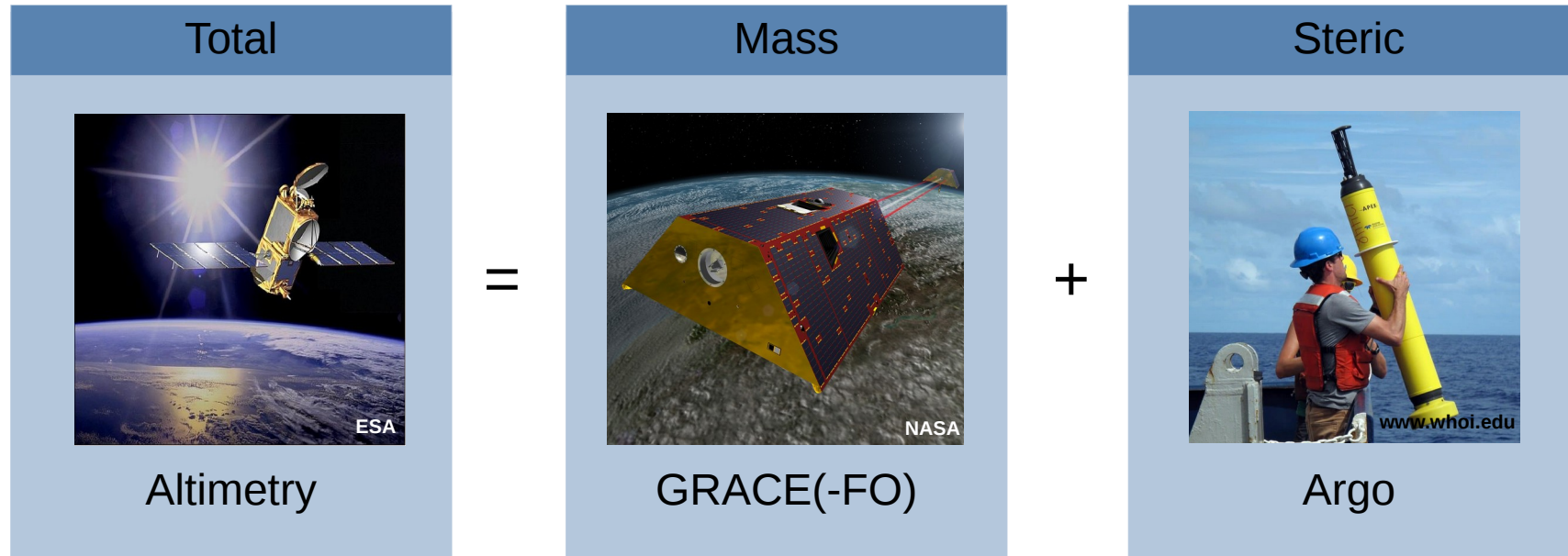
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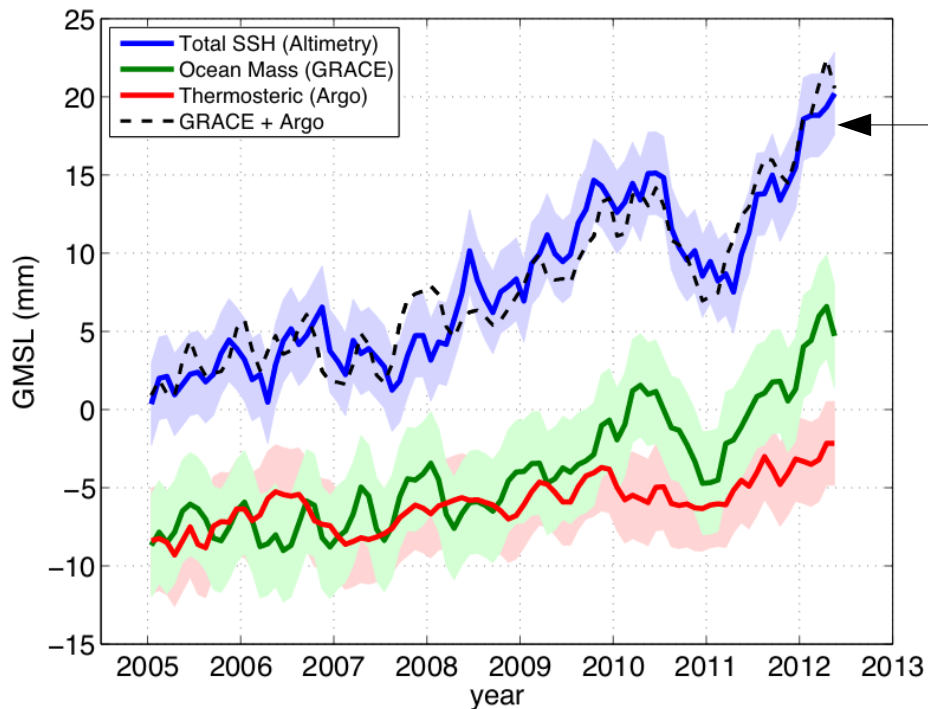
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Closing the Sea Level Budget

Global mean sea level change can be expressed as the sum of mass-related and steric contributions (WCRP, 2018)



IPCC: Sea Level Budget



IPCC AR5 (2013)

Altimetry = GRACE+Argo?

Let's focus on Ocean Mass

There are three ways to derive ocean mass change (Uebbing et al., 2019):

1)

Mass
=
Total (altimetry)
-
Steric (Argo)

2)

Derive mass
change directly
from GRACE(-FO)

3)

Combine GRACE
and altimetry in a
joint inversion

Let's focus on Ocean Mass

There are three ways to derive ocean mass change (Uebbing et al., 2019):

not considered
in this
presentation

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Derive Ocean Mass Change directly

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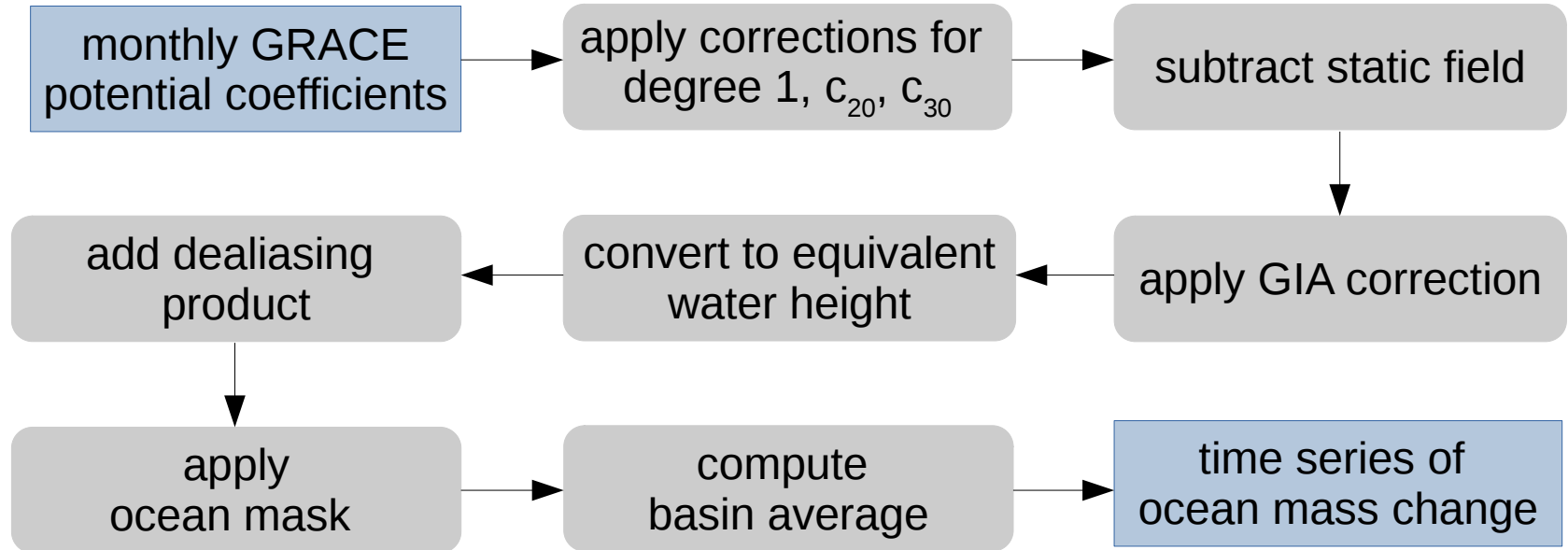
2)

Derive mass
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from GRACE(-FO)

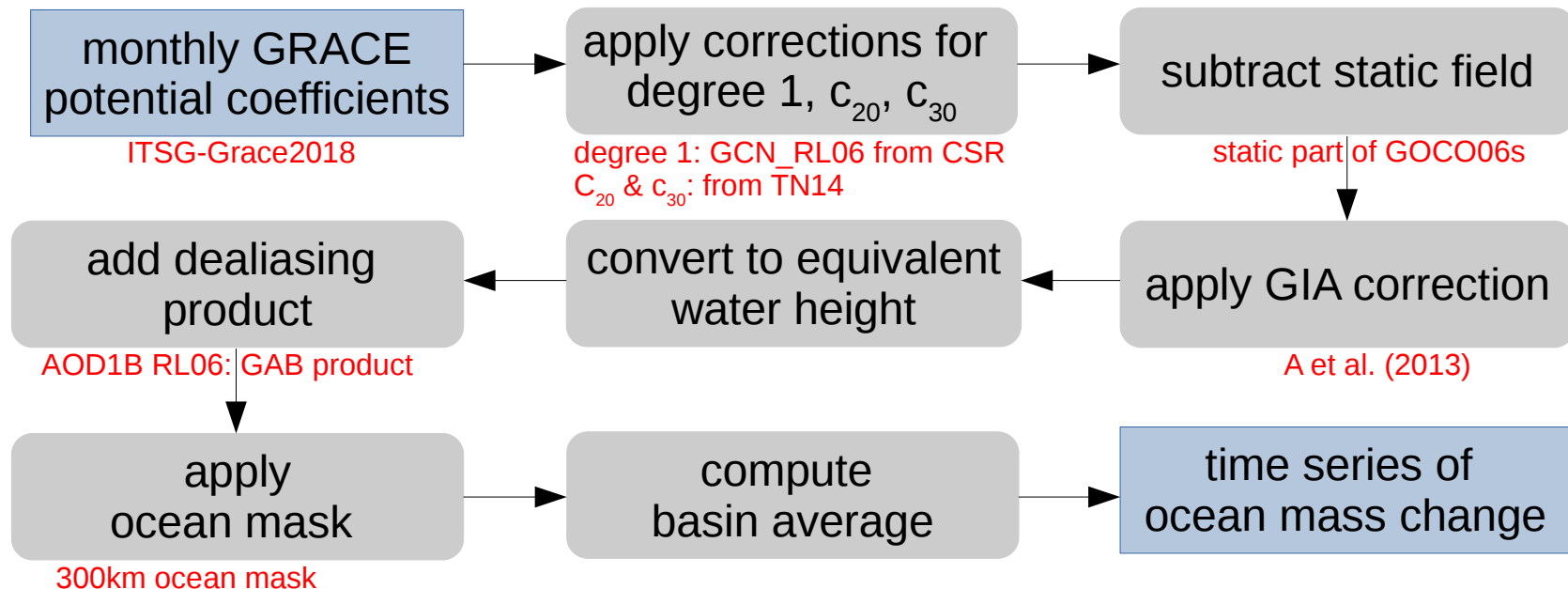
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Ocean Mass from GRACE How-to



Ocean Mass from GRACE How-to



Remember...

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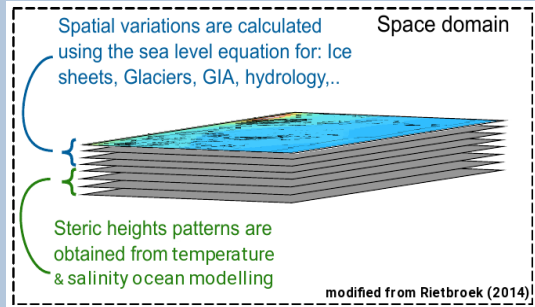
Combine GRACE
and altimetry in a
joint inversion

Joint Inversion – The Idea

The fingerprint inversion combines altimetric and gravimetric data to split total sea level change into different components (Rietbroek et al., 2016)

Base functions (predefined)

- Each contribution is parameterized by predefined spatial patterns ('fingerprints')
- Fingerprints are either mass-related (glaciers, Antarctica, Greenland, hydrology, internal mass variation) or steric (FESOM)



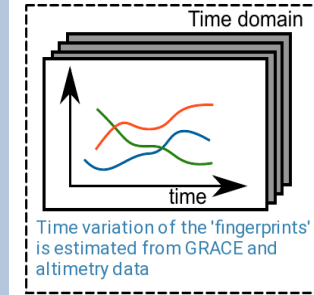
least squares adjustment



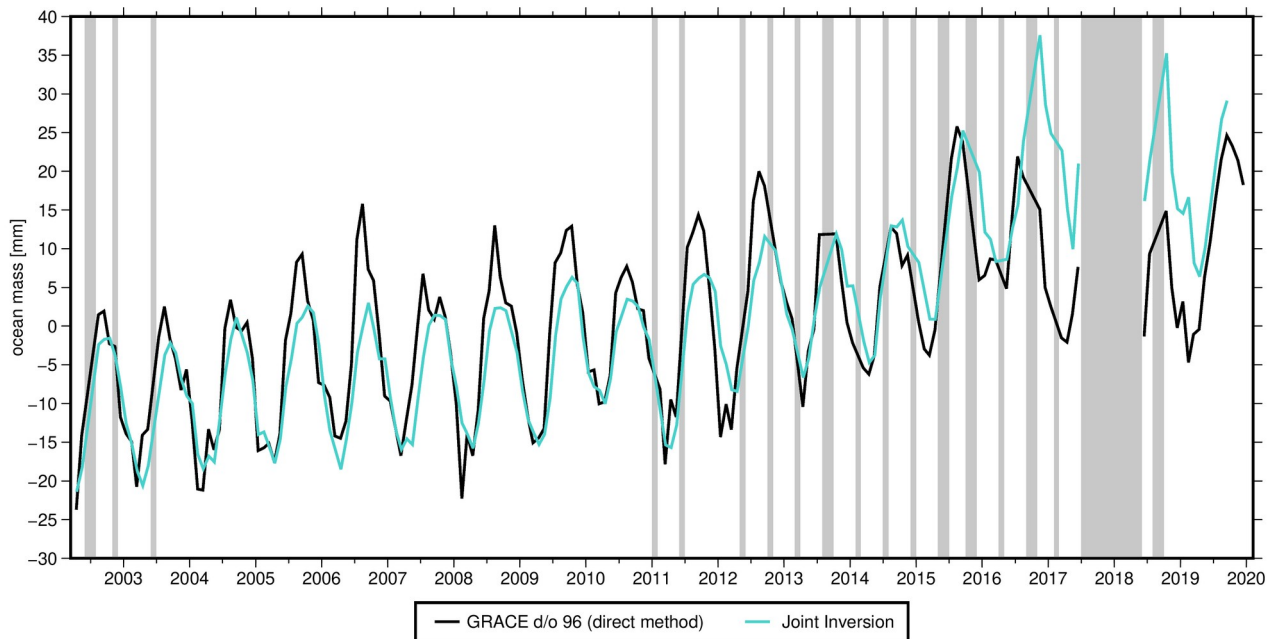
For more information on the joint inversion approach, see display **D3787**

Time variation (estimated)

- The temporal evolution for each fingerprint is estimated in a least squares adjustment
- In other words: we now know which effect (melting of glaciers & ice sheets, hydrology, steric,...) contributes how much to sea level change

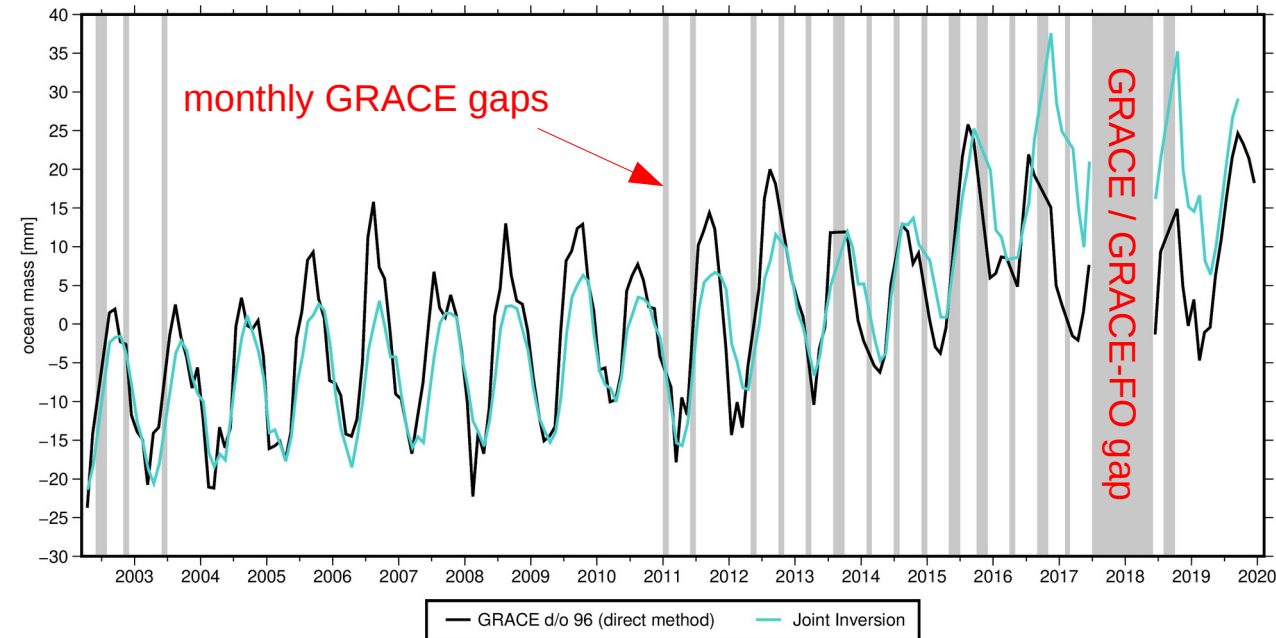


Ocean Mass from GRACE & Joint Inversion - Results



- In this figure, we show two time series of ocean mass change:
 - We use GRACE data in the direct approach
 - We use GRACE & altimetry in a joint inversion to derive ocean mass change
- Both solutions show a similar development of ocean mass change
- In 08-2016, the direct method & the joint inversion start to diverge, which might be due to the lower quality of GRACE data, but still needs to be further investigated

Ocean Mass from GRACE & Joint Inversion - Results

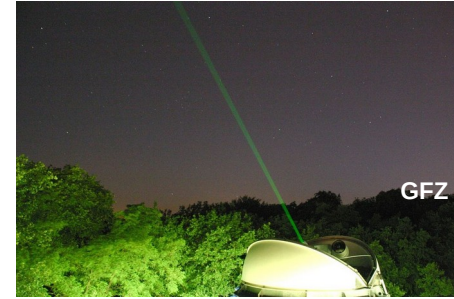


- Both methods only work when gravimetric data is available
- It makes sense to include additional data to
 - get results in the GRACE gaps
 - support the separation of sea level components in combination with GRACE

→ let's have a look at Swarm & satellite laser ranging

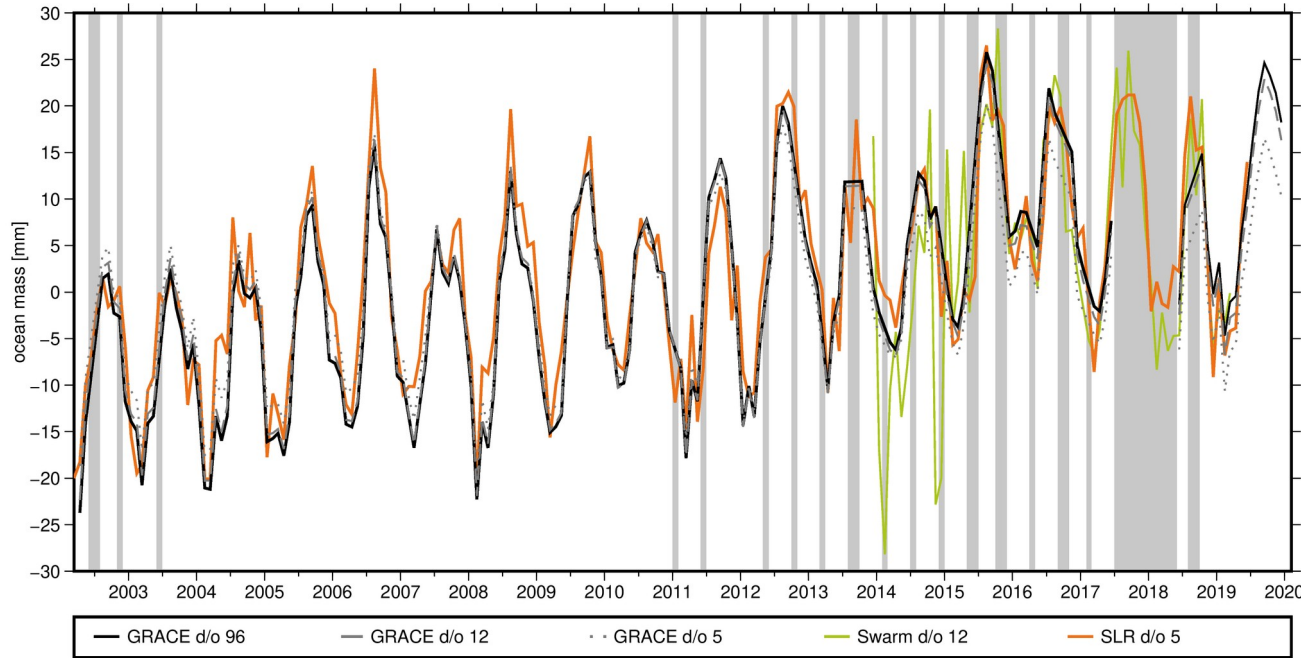
Ocean Mass from Swarm & SLR

- We derive monthly time-variable gravity fields from kinematic orbits (AIUB, Bern) of Swarm with the integral equation approach (Mayer-Gürr, 2006)
- These gravity fields inevitably have a lower spatial resolution ($\sim d/o 12$), but capture the main mass changes within the Earth's system well
- In Lück et al. (2018), we showed that ocean mass from Swarm (12-2013 to 12-2016) has an RMSE of 4.0 mm w.r.t. GRACE
- We furthermore derive monthly time-variable gravity fields from satellite laser ranging (SLR) up to d/o 5 using dynamical orbit determination
- 5 SLR satellites are used: Lageos 1/2, Ajisai, Starlette, Stella
- We also use these gravity fields to derive ocean mass change



→ This will help to close the GRACE(-FO) gaps and can possibly improve existing GRACE(-FO) solutions

Ocean Mass from GRACE, Swarm & SLR - Results

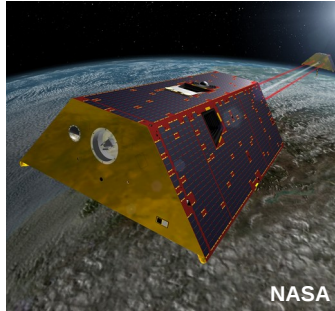


- The figure shows time series of ocean mass change derived from the direct method
- Ocean mass change from Swarm & SLR follows the GRACE(-FO) time series well, but is overall noisier
- Swarm results until mid-2015 are of lower quality due to ionospheric disturbances in the GPS observations (Schreiter et al., 2018)

→ in a next step, we want to include Swarm & SLR in the joint inversion

Conclusions & Outlook

- Ocean mass change is usually derived from GRACE(-FO) data
- Swarm & satellite laser ranging can be used to fill the gaps
- In a joint inversion approach, we combine altimetric & gravimetric data to get more reliable results and to split sea level change into its individual components
- Here, we presented a joint inversion result from altimetry & GRACE(-FO)
- We are currently working on including Swarm & satellite laser ranging in the joint inversion to close the gaps and to aid in separating the sea level components in combination with GRACE(-FO)



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References

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