IceSat-2 Atlas Products

This second vignette relies on the computation of time specific orbits (as was the case in the first vignette too) and explains how to use the 'atl06' ATLAS OpenAltimetry product (additional use cases can be found in the Examples section of the R package documentation). We'll continue using the Global glaciated areas and specifically, the Greenland Ice Sheet which is the second-largest ice body in the world, after the Antarctic ice sheet.

Based on the OpenAltimetry documentation for the ATL06 (ATLAS/ICESat-2 L3A Land Ice Height, Version 4) Product, "This data set (ATL06) provides geolocated, land-ice surface heights (above the WGS 84 ellipsoid, ITRF2014 reference frame), plus ancillary parameters that can be used to interpret and assess the quality of the height estimates."

We'll use 2 different time periods of the year (winter and summer) to observe potential differences on the East part of the 'Greenland Ice Sheet' using the Land Ice Height (ATL06) Product and specifically we'll use,

- for the winter (2020, 2021) the RGT_cycle_9 and RGT_cycle_10 (from 2020-12-15 to 2021-02-15)
- for the summer (2021) the RGT_cycle_11 and RGT_cycle_12 (from 2021-06-15 to 2021-08-15)

First, we'll compute the time *specific orbits* for both periods,

```
require(IceSat2R)
require(magrittr)
require(sf)
sf::sf_use_s2(use_s2 = FALSE)
                                                    # disable 's2' in this vignette
## Spherical geometry (s2) switched off
mapview::mapviewOptions(leafletHeight = '600px',
                       leafletWidth = '700px')
                                                    # applies to all leaflet maps
# winter (2020, 2021)
#.......
start_date_w = "2020-12-15"
end_date_w = "2021-02-15"
rgt_winter = time_specific_orbits(date_from = start_date_w,
                                 date to = end date w,
                                 RGT_cycle = NULL,
                                 download method = 'curl',
                                 threads = parallel::detectCores(),
                                 verbose = TRUE)
# ICESAT-2 orbits: 'Earliest-Date' is '2018-10-13' 'Latest-Date' is '2022-06-21'
# The .zip file of 'RGT_cycle_9' will be downloaded ...
   % Total % Received % Xferd Average Speed Time
                                                          Time
                                                                   Time Current
```

```
# 100 140M 100 140M 0
                              0 3662k
                                       0 0:00:39 0:00:39 --:-- 2904k
# The downloaded .zip file will be extracted in the '/tmp/RtmpPleeLI/RGT_cycle_9' directory ...
# Download and unzip the RGT_cycle_9 .zip file: Elapsed time: O hours and O minutes and 41 seconds.
# 138 .kml files will be processed ...
# Parallel processing of 138 .kml files using 8 threads starts ...
# The 'description' column of the output data will be processed ...
# The temproary files will be removed ...
# Processing of cycle 'RGT_cycle_9': Elapsed time: O hours and 1 minutes and 9 seconds.
# The .zip file of 'RGT_cycle_10' will be downloaded ...
  Time
                                                       Time
                                                                Time Current
                                 Dload Upload
                                                Total
                                                      Spent
                                                                Left Speed
# 100 140M 100 140M 0
                                           0 0:00:37 0:00:37 --:-- 3841k
                              0 3795k
# The downloaded .zip file will be extracted in the '/tmp/RtmpPleeLI/RGT_cycle_10' directory ...
# Download and unzip the RGT_cycle_10 .zip file: Elapsed time: 0 hours and 0 minutes and 40 seconds.
# 824 .kml files will be processed ...
# Parallel processing of 824 .kml files using 8 threads starts ...
# The 'description' column of the output data will be processed ...
# The temproary files will be removed ...
# Processing of cycle 'RGT_cycle_10': Elapsed time: 0 hours and 7 minutes and 53 seconds.
# Total Elapsed time: O hours and 10 minutes and 25 seconds.
rgt_winter
# Simple feature collection with 91390 features and 14 fields
# Geometry type: POINT
# Dimension:
                XY
# Bounding box: xmin: -179.9029 ymin: -87.66478 xmax: 179.9718 ymax: 87.32805
# CRS:
                4326
# First 10 features:
    Name timestamp begin end altitudeMode tessellate extrude visibility drawOrder icon RGT
              <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround -1 0 1 NA <NA> 1250 2020-12-
# 1
              <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                  -1
# 2
                                                          0
                                                                     1
                                                                             NA <NA> 1250 2020-12-
                                                  -1
                                                          0
# 3
              <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                                     1
                                                                             NA <NA> 1250 2020-12-
# 4
              <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                  -1
                                                         0
                                                                    1
                                                                             NA <NA> 1250 2020-12-
# 5
              <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                  -1
                                                          0
                                                                    1
                                                                             NA <NA> 1250 2020-12-
# 6
              <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                  -1
                                                          0
                                                                    1
                                                                             NA <NA> 1250 2020-12-
# 7
              <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                  -1
                                                          0
                                                                     1
                                                                             NA <NA> 1250 2020-12-
# 8
              <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                  -1
                                                          0
                                                                     1
                                                                             NA <NA> 1250 2020-12-
# 9
              <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                  -1
                                                          0
                                                                             NA <NA> 1250 2020-12-
                                                                     1
# 10
              <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                  -1
                                                           0
                                                                             NA <NA> 1250 2020-12-
```

Dload Upload Total Spent Left Speed

for the winter period, it took approximately 10 min. to download and process the 962 .kml files utilizing 8 threads and then return an 'sf' (simple features) object. We'll do the same for the summer period,

```
#.....
# summer (2021)
#.....

start_date_s = "2021-06-15"
end_date_s = "2021-08-15"

rgt_summer = time_specific_orbits(date_from = start_date_s,
```

```
date_to = end_date_s,
                            RGT_cycle = NULL,
                            download method = 'curl',
                            threads = parallel::detectCores(),
                            verbose = TRUE)
# ICESAT-2 orbits: 'Earliest-Date' is '2018-10-13' 'Latest-Date' is '2022-06-21'
# -----
# The .zip file of 'RGT_cycle_11' will be downloaded ...
# -----
                                                 Time
  % Total % Received % Xferd Average Speed Time
                                                        Time Current
                            Dload Upload Total Spent Left Speed
# 100 140M 100 140M 0 0 3440k 0 0:00:41 0:00:41 --:--- 4227k
# The downloaded .zip file will be extracted in the '/tmp/RtmpPleeLI/RGT_cycle_11' directory ...
\# Download and unzip the RGT_cycle_11 .zip file: Elapsed time: 0 hours and 0 minutes and 44 seconds.
# 142 .kml files will be processed ...
\# Parallel processing of 142 .kml files using 8 threads starts ...
# The 'description' column of the output data will be processed ...
# The temproary files will be removed ...
# Processing of cycle 'RGT_cycle_11': Elapsed time: 0 hours and 1 minutes and 30 seconds.
# -----
# The .zip file of 'RGT_cycle_12' will be downloaded ...
# -----
# % Total % Received % Xferd Average Speed Time
                                                 Time
                                                        Time Current
                             Dload Upload Total Spent Left Speed
# 100 140M 100 140M 0 0 3204k 0 0:00:44 0:00:44 --:--- 2333k
# The downloaded .zip file will be extracted in the '/tmp/RtmpPleeLI/RGT_cycle_12' directory ...
# Download and unzip the RGT_cycle_12 .zip file: Elapsed time: O hours and O minutes and 47 seconds.
# 820 .kml files will be processed ...
# Parallel processing of 820 .kml files using 8 threads starts ...
# The 'description' column of the output data will be processed ...
# The temproary files will be removed ...
# Processing of cycle 'RGT_cycle_12': Elapsed time: 0 hours and 8 minutes and 20 seconds.
# Total Elapsed time: O hours and 11 minutes and 22 seconds.
rgt_summer
# Simple feature collection with 89965 features and 14 fields
# Geometry type: POINT
# Dimension:
# Bounding box: xmin: -179.9861 ymin: -87.66478 xmax: 179.9393 ymax: 87.32805
# CRS:
             4326
# First 10 features:
# Name timestamp begin end altitudeMode tessellate extrude visibility drawOrder icon RGT
# 1
            # 2
            <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                            -1
                                                   0
                                                             1
                                                                    NA <NA> 1256 2021-06-
            <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                                    NA <NA> 1256 2021-06-
# 3
                                            -1
                                                   0
                                                             1
                                                   0
                                            -1
                                                            1
            <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                                    NA <NA> 1256 2021-06-
# 4
# 5
            <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                            -1
                                                   0
                                                            1
                                                                    NA <NA> 1256 2021-06-
# 6
            <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                            -1
                                                   0
                                                            1
                                                                    NA <NA> 1256 2021-06-
                                            -1 0
-1 0
-1 0
                                                            1
# 7
            <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                                    NA <NA> 1256 2021-06-
                                                            1
           <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                                    NA <NA> 1256 2021-06-
# 8
           <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                   0
# 9
                                                                    NA <NA> 1256 2021-06-
        <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                        -1
                                                             1 NA <NA> 1256 2021-06-
# 10
                                                   0
```

for the summer it took approximately the same time as for winter to process the 962 .kml files of the 2 Reference Ground Track (RGT) cycles. We'll proceed to find the intersection of these 2 time periods (winter, summer) with the area of the East 'Greenland Ice Sheet',

#...........

```
# extract the 'Greenland Ice Sheet'
# glacier from the 'Natural Earth' data
#..........
ne_glaciers = system.file('data_files', 'ne_10m_glaciated_areas.RDS', package = "IceSat2R")
ne_obj = readRDS(file = ne_glaciers)
greenl_sh = subset(ne_obj, name == "Greenland Ice Sheet")
greenl_sh
We'll continue with one of the 2 Greenland Ice Sheet parts ('East')
greenl_sh_east = greenl_sh[2, ]
# mapview::mapview(greenl_sh_east, legend = F)
# create the bounding of the selected area because
# it's required for the 'OpenAltimetry' functions this
# will increase the size of the initial east area
#......
bbx greenl sh east = sf::st bbox(obj = greenl sh east)
sfc_bbx_greenl_sh_east = sf::st_as_sfc(bbx_greenl_sh_east)
# mapview::mapview(sfc_bbx_greenl_sh_east, legend = F)
# intersection with the computed "winter" RGT's
#......
inters_winter = sf::st_intersects(x = sfc_bbx_greenl_sh_east,
                               y = sf::st_geometry(rgt_winter),
                               sparse = TRUE)
#.......
# matched (RGT) tracks
#.......
df_inters_winter = data.frame(inters_winter)
rgt_subs_winter = rgt_winter[df_inters_winter$col.id, , drop = FALSE]
rgt_subs_winter
# Simple feature collection with 1079 features and 14 fields
# Geometry type: POINT
# Dimension:
# Bounding box: xmin: -53.06014 ymin: 61.26295 xmax: -19.23143 ymax: 80.40264
# CRS:
               4326
# First 10 features:
     Name timestamp begin end altitudeMode tessellate extrude visibility drawOrder icon RGT
# 117
              <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                  -1
                                                          0
                                                                    1
                                                                             NA <NA> 1251 2020-12
# 207
              <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                          0
                                                                             NA <NA> 1252 2020-12
                                                  -1
                                                                     1
```

```
# 208
                                                                0
                <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                                                     NA <NA> 1252 2020-12
# 209
                <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                       -1
                                                                0
                                                                           1
                                                                                     NA <NA> 1252 2020-12
                                                       -1
# 210
                <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                                0
                                                                                     NA <NA> 1252 2020-12
                                                                           1
# 211
                <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                       -1
                                                                0
                                                                           1
                                                                                    NA <NA> 1252 2020-12
# 212
                <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                       -1
                                                                0
                                                                           1
                                                                                    NA <NA> 1252 2020-12
# 977
                <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                                0
                                                                           1
                                                                                     NA <NA> 1260 2020-12
                                                       -1
# 978
                <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                                0
                                                                                     NA <NA> 1260 2020-12
                                                       -1
                                                                           1
                <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                                                     NA <NA> 1260 2020-12
# 979
                                                       -1
```

From the initial 91390 coordinate points, 1079 of the winter period intersect with the bounding box of our Area of Interest (AOI). We'll do the same for the summer period,

```
#......
# intersection with the computed "summer" RGT's
#.....
inters_summer = sf::st_intersects(x = sfc_bbx_greenl_sh_east,
                               y = sf::st_geometry(rgt_summer),
                               sparse = TRUE)
#..................
# matched (RGT) tracks
#......
df_inters_summer = data.frame(inters_summer)
rgt_subs_summer = rgt_summer[df_inters_summer$col.id, , drop = FALSE]
rgt_subs_summer
# Simple feature collection with 1066 features and 14 fields
# Geometry type: POINT
# Dimension:
               XY
# Bounding box:
               xmin: -53.06014 ymin: 61.26295 xmax: -19.23143 ymax: 80.40264
# CRS:
# First 10 features:
      Name timestamp begin end altitudeMode tessellate extrude visibility drawOrder icon RGT
# 407
               <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                   -1
                                                           0
                                                                     1
                                                                            NA <NA> 1260 2021-0
               <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                           0
                                                                     1
# 408
                                                   -1
                                                                             NA <NA> 1260 2021-0
# 409
               <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                   -1
                                                           0
                                                                     1
                                                                             NA <NA> 1260 2021-0
               <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
# 410
                                                   -1
                                                           0
                                                                     1
                                                                             NA <NA> 1260 2021-0
# 411
               <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                   -1
                                                           0
                                                                     1
                                                                             NA <NA> 1260 2021-0
               <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
# 412
                                                   -1
                                                           0
                                                                     1
                                                                             NA <NA> 1260 2021-0
# 1062
               <NA> <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                   -1
                                                           0
                                                                             NA <NA> 1267 2021-0
                                                                     1
# 1063
               <NA>
                     <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                   -1
                                                           0
                                                                     1
                                                                             NA <NA> 1267 2021-0
# 1064
               <NA>
                     <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                   -1
                                                           0
                                                                     1
                                                                             NA <NA> 1267 2021-0
# 1065
               <NA>
                     <NA> <NA> clampToGround
                                                   -1
                                                           0
                                                                             NA <NA> 1267 2021-0
```

for the summer period, the intersected points are 1066. Based on these 2 intersected objects of winter and summer we'll also have to find the common RGT's that we'll use for comparison purposes,

```
#...
# compute the unique RGT's for summer and winter
#...

unq_rgt_winter = unique(rgt_subs_winter$RGT)
unq_rgt_summer = unique(rgt_subs_summer$RGT)
```

```
dif_rgt = setdiff(unique(rgt_subs_winter$RGT), unique(rgt_subs_summer$RGT))
cat(glue::glue("Number of RGT winter: {length(unq_rgt_winter)}"), '\n')
# Number of RGT winter: 230
cat(glue::glue("Number of RGT summer: {length(unq_rgt_summer)}"), '\n')
# Number of RGT summer: 227
cat(glue::glue("Difference in RGT: {length(dif_rgt)}"), '\n')
# Difference in RGT: 3
#......
# find the intersection
#........
inters_rgts = intersect(unq_rgt_winter, unq_rgt_summer)
# create the subset data RGT's for summer and winter
#...............
idx_w = which(rgt_subs_winter$RGT %in% inters_rgts)
subs_rgt_winter = rgt_subs_winter[idx_w, , drop = F]
idx_s = which(rgt_subs_summer$RGT %in% inters_rgts)
subs_rgt_summer = rgt_subs_summer[idx_s, , drop = F]
```

Then we have to verify that the intersected time specific orbit RGT's match the OpenAltimetry Tracks for both winter and summer,

```
# function to find which of the time specific RGT's
# match the OpenAltimetry Track-ID's
#.....
verify_RGTs = function(rgt_subs, bbx_aoi, verbose = FALSE) {
 tracks_dates_RGT = list()
 for (item in 1:nrow(rgt_subs)) {
   dat_item = rgt_subs[item, , drop = F]
   Date = as.Date(dat_item$Date_time)
   op tra = getTracks(minx = as.numeric(bbx aoi['xmin']),
                     miny = as.numeric(bbx_aoi['ymin']),
                     maxx = as.numeric(bbx_aoi['xmax']),
                     maxy = as.numeric(bbx_aoi['ymax']),
                     date = as.character(Date),
                     outputFormat = 'csv',
                     download_method = 'curl',
                     verbose = FALSE)
```

```
date_obj = dat_item$Date_time
   tim_rgt = glue::glue("Date: {date_obj} Time specific RGT: '{dat_item$RGT}'")
   if (nrow(op tra) > 0) {
     inters_trc = intersect(op_tra$track, dat_item$RGT)
     if (length(inters trc) > 0) {
       iter_op_trac = paste(op_tra$track, collapse = ', ')
       if (verbose) cat(glue::glue("Row: {item} {tim_rgt} OpenAltimetry: '{iter_op_trac}'"), '\n')
       num_subl = glue::glue("{as.character(Date)}_{inters_trc}")
       tracks_dates_RGT[[num_subl]] = data.table::setDT(list(date = as.character(Date),
                                                            RGT = inters_trc))
     }
   }
   else {
     if (verbose) cat(glue::glue("{tim_rgt} without an OpenAltimetry match!"), '\n')
   }
 }
 tracks_dates_RGT = data.table::rbindlist(tracks_dates_RGT)
 return(tracks_dates_RGT)
# we keep the relevant columns and remove duplicated
# Dates and RGTs to iterate over each pair of observations
#..............
#.....
# winter
#.....
subs_rgt_w_trc = subs_rgt_winter[, c('RGT', 'Date_time')]
subs_rgt_w_trc$Date_time = as.character(as.Date(subs_rgt_w_trc$Date_time))
dups_w = which(duplicated(sf::st_drop_geometry(subs_rgt_w_trc)))
subs_rgt_w_trc = subs_rgt_w_trc[-dups_w, ]
ver_trc_winter = verify_RGTs(rgt_subs = subs_rgt_w_trc,
                            bbx_aoi = bbx_greenl_sh_east,
                            verbose = TRUE)
colnames(ver_trc_winter) = c('date_winter', 'RGT')
#.....
# summer
#.....
subs_rgt_s_trc = subs_rgt_summer[, c('RGT', 'Date_time')]
subs_rgt_s_trc$Date_time = as.character(as.Date(subs_rgt_s_trc$Date_time))
dups_s = which(duplicated(sf::st_drop_geometry(subs_rgt_s_trc)))
```

```
subs_rgt_s_trc = subs_rgt_s_trc[-dups_s, ]
ver_trc_summer = verify_RGTs(rgt_subs = subs_rgt_s_trc,
                           bbx_aoi = bbx_greenl_sh_east,
                           verbose = TRUE)
colnames(ver_trc_summer) = c('date_summer', 'RGT')
#......
# merge by RGT
#......
rgts_ws = merge(ver_trc_winter, ver_trc_summer, by = 'RGT')
rgts_ws
#
       RGT date_summer date_winter
       2 2021-06-23 2020-12-24
#
   1:
      10 2021-06-24 2020-12-24
#
   2:
  3:
      11 2021-06-24 2020-12-24
      17 2021-06-24 2020-12-25
#
  4:
   5:
        18 2021-06-24 2020-12-25
# 214: 1366 2021-06-22 2020-12-22
# 215: 1367 2021-06-22 2020-12-22
# 216: 1373 2021-06-22 2020-12-23
# 217: 1374 2021-06-22 2020-12-23
# 218: 1382 2021-06-23 2020-12-23
```

Now that we have the available RGT's for the winter and summer Dates we have to create the 5-degree grid of the Greenland Ice sheet bounding box, because the 'atl06' OpenAltimetry product allows queries up to 5x5 degrees. Rather than a 5-degree grid, we will create a 4.5-degree to avoid any 'over limit' OpenAltimetry API errors,

At the beginning, we created the bounding box of the East 'Greenland Ice Sheet' (the bbx_greenl_sh_east object), which automatically increased the dimensions of the Area of Interest (AOI). Now, that we have the up to 5x5 degree grid we can keep the grid cells that intersect with our initial area,

```
inters_init = sf::st_intersects(sf::st_geometry(greenl_sh_east), greenl_grid)
inters_init = data.frame(inters_init)
inters_init = inters_init$col.id

greenl_grid_subs = greenl_grid[inters_init, , drop = F]

# Simple feature collection with 27 features and 1 field
# Geometry type: POLYGON
# Dimension: XY
```

```
# Bounding box: xmin: -53.10888 ymin: 60.11961 xmax: -17.10888 ymax: 82.61961
# CRS:
                EPSG:4326
# First 10 features:
                          geometry
                                               area
# 1 POLYGON ((-53.10888 60.1196... 116709.30 [km^2]
# 2 POLYGON ((-48.60888 60.1196... 116709.30 [km^2]
# 3 POLYGON ((-44.10888 60.1196... 116709.30 [km^2]
# 9 POLYGON ((-53.10888 64.6196... 98928.06 [km^2]
# 10 POLYGON ((-48.60888 64.6196... 98928.06 [km^2]
# 11 POLYGON ((-44.10888 64.6196... 98928.06 [km^2]
# 12 POLYGON ((-39.60888 64.6196... 98928.06 [km^2]
# 13 POLYGON ((-35.10888 64.6196... 98928.06 [km^2]
# 14 POLYGON ((-30.60888 64.6196... 98928.06 [km^2]
# 15 POLYGON ((-26.10888 64.6196... 98928.06 [km^2]
```

We also have to make sure that the winter and summer data intersect with the up to 5x5 degree grid,

```
#......
# winter join
#.....
subs_join_w = sf::st_join(x = greenl_grid_subs,
                         y = subs_rgt_w_trc,
                          join = sf::st_intersects,
                         left = FALSE)
subs_join_w = sf::st_as_sfc(unique(sf::st_geometry(subs_join_w)), crs = 4326)
subs_join_w
# Geometry set for 9 features
# Geometry type: POLYGON
# Dimension:
# Bounding box: xmin: -53.10888 ymin: 60.11961 xmax: -17.10888 ymax: 82.61961
# CRS:
                EPSG:4326
# First 5 geometries:
# POLYGON ((-53.10888 60.11961, -48.60888 60.1196...
# POLYGON ((-48.60888 60.11961, -44.10888 60.1196...
# POLYGON ((-44.10888 60.11961, -39.60888 60.1196...
# POLYGON ((-26.10888 73.61961, -21.60888 73.6196...
# POLYGON ((-21.60888 73.61961, -17.10888 73.6196...
# summer join
#......
subs_join_s = sf::st_join(x = greenl_grid_subs,
                         y = subs_rgt_s_trc,
                         join = sf::st_intersects,
                         left = FALSE)
subs_join_s = sf::st_as_sfc(unique(sf::st_geometry(subs_join_s)), crs = 4326)
subs_join_s
```

```
# Geometry set for 9 features

# Geometry type: POLYGON

# Dimension: XY

# Bounding box: xmin: -53.10888 ymin: 60.11961 xmax: -17.10888 ymax: 82.61961

# CRS: EPSG:4326

# First 5 geometries:

# POLYGON ((-53.10888 60.11961, -48.60888 60.1196...

# POLYGON ((-44.60888 60.11961, -39.60888 60.1196...

# POLYGON ((-44.10888 60.11961, -39.60888 60.1196...

# POLYGON ((-26.10888 73.61961, -21.60888 73.6196...

# POLYGON ((-21.60888 73.61961, -17.10888 73.6196...
```

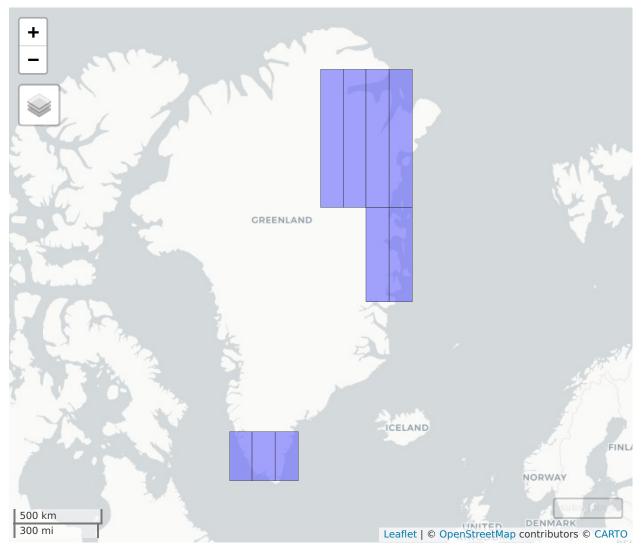
Since that the winter and summer intersected spatial data are identical,

```
identical(subs_join_w, subs_join_s)
# [1] TRUE
```

we'll iterate only over one of the two 'sfc' objects.

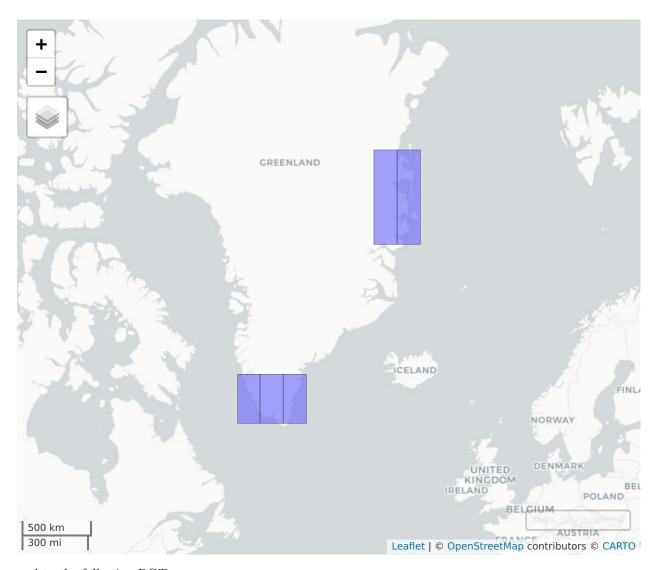
We can also visualize the available areas after the *sf-join* between the *winter and summer spatial data* and the *East 'Greenland Ice Sheet'*,

```
mapview::mapview(subs_join_s, legend = F)
```



We can proceed that way and download the available 'atl06' Land Ice Height data using the get_level3a_data() function that takes a time interval and a bounding box as input (the bounding box will consist of up to a 5x5 degree grid cells). To reduce the computation time in this vignette we'll restrict the for-loop to the first 5 Greenland Grid Cells,

```
join_geoms = 1:5
subs_join_reduced = subs_join_s[join_geoms]
mapview::mapview(subs_join_reduced, legend = F)
```



and to the following RGTs,

Table 1: Greenland Grid Cells

RGT	N_rows_winter	N_rows_summer	index	${\rm greenland_cell}$
33	113,257	101,784	$geom_idx_3_RGT_3$	3
41	68,947	10,932	$geom_idx_1_RGT_41$	1
56	109,744	106,088	$geom_idx_3_RGT_56$	3
94	135, 225	75,514	$geom_idx_2_RGT_94$	2
108	114,447	53,456	$geom_idx_5_RGT_108$	5
284	148,999	126,945	$geom_idx_4_RGT_284$	4
421	145,755	103, 124	$geom_idx_5_RGT_421$	5
422	133,465	198	${\rm geom_idx_2_RGT_422}$	2
437	103,590	17,765	$geom_idx_3_RGT_437$	3
460	116,873	36,559	$geom_idx_1_RGT_460$	1
475	71,502	109,423	${\rm geom_idx_3_RGT_475}$	3
521	95,862	50,574	$geom_idx_1_RGT_521$	1
544	107,391	77,639	$geom_idx_1_RGT_544$	1
658	145,388	9,776	$geom_idx_2_RGT_658$	2
681	148, 162	82,325	$geom_idx_2_RGT_681$	2
787	152,420	34,339	${\rm geom_idx_4_RGT_787}$	4
794	142,902	125,643	$geom_idx_4_RGT_794$	4
1,290	152, 562	152,052	${\rm geom_idx_4_RGT_1290}$	4
1,366	134,507	69,385	$geom_idx_5_RGT_1366$	5
1,373	113, 191	103,279	$geom_idx_5_RGT_1373$	5

```
# we'll loop over the RGT's for the Date start and Date end
# length(unique(rgts_ws_reduced$RGT)) == nrow(rgts_ws_reduced) # check for duplicated RGT's
rgts_ws_reduced$date_summer = as.Date(rgts_ws_reduced$date_summer)
rgts_ws_reduced$date_winter = as.Date(rgts_ws_reduced$date_winter)
min_max_dates = apply(rgts_ws_reduced[, -1], 2, function(x) c(min(x), max(x)))
start_w = as.character(min_max_dates[1, 'date_winter'])
end_w = as.character(min_max_dates[2, 'date_winter'])
start_s = as.character(min_max_dates[1, 'date_summer'])
end_s = as.character(min_max_dates[2, 'date_summer'])
dat_out_w = dat_out_s = logs_out = list()
LEN = length(subs_join_reduced)
LEN_rgt = length(rgts_ws_RGT)
t_start = proc.time()
for (idx_grid in 1:LEN) {
 geom_iter = subs_join_reduced[idx_grid]
 bbx_iter = sf::st_bbox(obj = geom_iter, crs = 4326)
 for (j in 1:LEN rgt) {
   message("Greenland Geom: ", idx_grid, "/", LEN, " RGT-index: ", j, "/", LEN_rgt, "\r", appendLF =
  utils::flush.console()
```

```
track_i = rgts_ws_RGT[j]
    name_iter = glue::glue("geom_idx_{idx_grid}_RGT_{track_i}")
    iter dat winter = get level3a data(minx = as.numeric(bbx iter['xmin']),
                                       miny = as.numeric(bbx_iter['ymin']),
                                       maxx = as.numeric(bbx_iter['xmax']),
                                       maxy = as.numeric(bbx_iter['ymax']),
                                       startDate = start w,
                                       endDate = end_w,
                                       trackId = track_i,
                                       beamName = NULL,
                                                                # return data of all 6 beams
                                       product = 'atl06',
                                       client = 'portal',
                                       outputFormat = 'csv',
                                       verbose = FALSE)
    iter_dat_summer = get_level3a_data(minx = as.numeric(bbx_iter['xmin']),
                                       miny = as.numeric(bbx_iter['ymin']),
                                       maxx = as.numeric(bbx_iter['xmax']),
                                       maxy = as.numeric(bbx_iter['ymax']),
                                       startDate = start s,
                                       endDate = end_s,
                                       trackId = track i,
                                       beamName = NULL,
                                                              # return data of all 6 beams
                                       product = 'at106',
                                       client = 'portal',
                                       outputFormat = 'csv',
                                       verbose = FALSE)
    NROW_w = nrow(iter_dat_winter)
    NROW_s = nrow(iter_dat_summer)
    if (NROW_s > 0 & NROW_w > 0) {
      iter_logs = list(RGT = track_i,
                       N_rows_winter = NROW_w,
                       N_rows_summer = NROW_s)
      logs out[[name iter]] = data.table::setDT(iter logs)
      dat_out_w[[name_iter]] = iter_dat_winter
      dat_out_s[[name_iter]] = iter_dat_summer
    }
  }
IceSat2R:::compute_elapsed_time(time_start = t_start)
# Elapsed time: O hours and 6 minutes and 15 seconds.
We then sort and observe the output LOGs,
logs_out_dtbl = data.table::rbindlist(logs_out)
logs_out_dtbl$index = names(dat_out_w)
logs_out_dtbl = logs_out_dtbl[order(logs_out_dtbl$N_rows_winter, decreasing = T), ]
stargazer::stargazer(logs_out_dtbl,
```

```
summary = FALSE,
rownames = FALSE,
header = FALSE,
table.placement = 'h',
title = 'LOGs')
```

Table 2: LOGs

RGT	N_rows_winter	N_rows_summer
1,290	152,562	152,052
787	152,420	34,339
284	148,999	126,945
681	148, 162	82,325
421	145,755	103, 124
658	145,388	9,776
794	142,902	125,643
94	135, 225	75,514
1,366	134,507	69,385
422	133,465	198
460	116,873	36,559
108	114,447	53,456
33	113, 257	101,784
1,373	113, 191	103,279
56	109,744	106,088
544	107,391	77,639
437	103,590	17,765
521	95,862	50,574
475	71,502	109,423
41	68,947	10,932
41	47,950	2,877
33	36,639	26,796
108	11,600	104
475	3,951	3,650
284	3,572	3,564
94	2,110	1,963

We'll first process and visualize one of Greenland's geometries and RGT,

```
w_subs = dat_out_w[[sublist_name]]
w_subs
                                                        h_li atl06_quality_summary track_id beam
                date segment id longitude latitude
       1: 2020-12-17
#
                        566420 -22.43278 78.11961 553.5237
                                                                                  0
                                                                                        1290 gt1l proces
#
       2: 2020-12-17
                        566421 -22.43294 78.11943 553.5601
                                                                                  0
                                                                                        1290 gt1l proces
                                                                                  0
#
       3: 2020-12-17
                        566422 -22.43310 78.11926
                                                   553.5809
                                                                                        1290 gt1l proces
#
       4: 2020-12-17
                         566423 -22.43326 78.11908 553.5331
                                                                                  0
                                                                                        1290 gt1l proces
#
       5: 2020-12-17
                         566424 -22.43341 78.11891 553.5400
                                                                                  0
                                                                                        1290 gt1l proces
#
# 152558: 2020-12-17
                                                                                  0
                         591901 -25.70488 73.62039 1640.8195
                                                                                        1290 gt3r proces
# 152559: 2020-12-17
                         591902 -25.70496 73.62021 1650.2201
                                                                                  0
                                                                                        1290 qt3r proces
# 152560: 2020-12-17
                         591903 -25.70505 73.62003 1657.0470
                                                                                  0
                                                                                        1290 qt3r proces
# 152561: 2020-12-17
                         591904 -25.70514 73.61985 1665.8877
                                                                                  0
                                                                                        1290 gt3r proces
# 152562: 2020-12-17
                         591905 -25.70523 73.61968 1675.1165
                                                                                        1290 qt3r proces
# summer sublist
#......
s_subs = dat_out_s[[sublist_name]]
s_subs
#
                date segment_id longitude latitude
                                                        h_li atl06_quality_summary track_id beam
#
       1: 2021-06-17
                        566420 -22.43270 78.11961 554.1851
                                                                                  0
                                                                                        1290 gt1l proces
#
       2: 2021-06-17
                         566421 -22.43286 78.11943 554.2042
                                                                                  0
                                                                                        1290 qt1l proces
                                                   554.1635
#
                       566422 -22.43302 78.11925
                                                                                  0
      3: 2021-06-17
                                                                                        1290 gt1l proces
#
       4: 2021-06-17
                        566423 -22.43318 78.11908
                                                    554.1546
                                                                                  0
                                                                                        1290 qt1l proces
#
      5: 2021-06-17
                         566424 -22.43334 78.11890
                                                    554.2347
                                                                                  0
                                                                                        1290 gt1l proces
                                                                                  0
# 152048: 2021-06-17
                         591901 -25.70511 73.62039 1638.9667
                                                                                        1290 gt3r proces
                         591902 -25.70521 73.62022 1646.6494
                                                                                  0
# 152049: 2021-06-17
                                                                                        1290 qt3r proces
# 152050: 2021-06-17
                         591903 -25.70530 73.62004 1654.2173
                                                                                  0
                                                                                        1290 qt3r proces
# 152051: 2021-06-17
                         591904 -25.70539 73.61986 1663.3259
                                                                                  0
                                                                                        1290 gt3r proces
# 152052: 2021-06-17
                         591905 -25.70548 73.61968 1673.2574
                                                                                        1290 gt3r proces
```

The OpenAltimetry Data Dictionary includes the definitions for the column names of the output data.tables (except for the beam column which appears in the 'level3a' product of the OpenAltimetry API website),

- segment_id: "Segment number, counting from the equator. Equal to the segment_id for the second of the two 20m ATL03 segments included in the 40m ATL06 segment"
- h_li: "Standard land-ice segment height determined by land ice algorithm, corrected for first-photon bias, representing the median-based height of the selected 'signal photon events' (PEs)"
- atl06_quality_summary: "The ATL06_quality_summary parameter indicates the best-quality subset of all ATL06 data. A 0.0 (zero) in this parameter implies that no data-quality tests have found a problem with the segment, a 1.0 (one) implies that some potential problem has been found. Users who select only segments with zero values for this flag can be relatively certain of obtaining high-quality data, but will likely miss a significant fraction of usable data, particularly in cloudy, rough, or low-surface-reflectance conditions."
- beam: the 6 (six) beams 'gt1l', 'gt1r', 'gt2l', 'gt2r', 'gt3l' or 'gt3r'

The Date of the selected sublist for winter is '2020-12-17' whereas for summer is '2021-06-17'. We'll

- exclude the low-quality observations using the 'atl06' quality summary' column
- keep specific columns ('date', 'segment_id', 'longitude', 'latitude', 'h_li', 'beam')
- rename the winter and summer columns by adding the ' winter' and ' summer' extension
- merge the remaining observations (winter, summer) based on the 'segment_id' and 'beam' columns
- create an additional column (' dif_height ') with the difference in height between the ' h_li_winter ' and ' h_li_summer '

```
cols_keep = c('date', 'segment_id', 'longitude', 'latitude', 'h_li', 'beam')
w_subs_hq = subset(w_subs, at106_quality_summary == 0)
w_subs_hq = w_subs_hq[, ..cols_keep]
colnames(w_subs_hq) = glue::glue("{cols_keep}_winter")
s_subs_hq = subset(s_subs, at106_quality_summary == 0)
s_subs_hq = s_subs_hq[, ..cols_keep]
colnames(s_subs_hq) = glue::glue("{cols_keep}_summer")
sw_hq_merg = merge(x = w_subs_hq,
                  y = s_subs_hq,
                  by.x = c('segment_id_winter', 'beam_winter'),
                  by.y = c('segment_id_summer', 'beam_summer'))
sw_hq_merg$dif_height = sw_hq_merg$h_li_winter - sw_hq_merg$h_li_summer
summary(sw_hq_merg$dif_height)
      Min. 1st Qu.
                     Median
                                Mean 3rd Qu.
                                                   Max.
# -42.6563 -0.4222 -0.0854 -0.1567 0.0537 26.4173
```

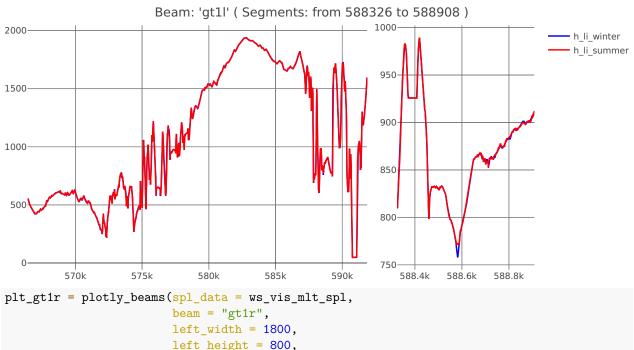
the following code snippet will create the visualizations for the beams "gt1l" and "gt1r" for the selected subset,

```
cols_viz = c('segment_id_winter', 'beam_winter', 'h_li_winter', 'h_li_summer')
ws_vis = sw_hq_merg[, ..cols_viz]
ws_vis_mlt = reshape2::melt(ws_vis, id.vars = c('segment_id_winter', 'beam_winter'))
ws_vis_mlt = data.table::data.table(ws_vis_mlt, stringsAsFactors = F)
ws vis mlt spl = split(ws vis mlt, by = 'beam winter')
# BEAMS = names(ws vis mlt spl)
                               # plot all beams
# function to plot each subplot beam
#......
plotly_beams = function(spl_data,
                       beam,
                       left_width,
                       left height,
                       right width,
                       right height) {
 subs_iter = spl_data[[beam]]
 cat(glue::glue("Plot for Beam '{beam}' will be created ..."), '\n')
```

```
# plot for all segments
 #.........
fig_lines = plotly::plot_ly(data = subs_iter,
                           x = ~segment_id_winter,
                           y = \text{-value},
                           color = ~variable,
                           colors = c("blue", "red"),
                           line = list(width = 2),
                           text = ~glue::glue("land-ice-height: {value} Segment-id: {segment_id_win
                           hoverinfo = "text",
                           width = left_width,
                           height = left_height) %>%
 plotly::layout(xaxis = list(gridcolor = "grey", showgrid = T),
                yaxis = list(gridcolor = "grey", showgrid = T)) %>%
 plotly::add_lines()
#......
# plot for a subset of segments
#...........
segm_ids = 588326:588908
                                                 # this subset of segments show a big difference bet
subs_iter_segm = subset(subs_iter, segment_id_winter %in% segm_ids)
fig_lines_splt = plotly::plot_ly(data = subs_iter_segm,
                                x = ~segment_id_winter,
                                y = \text{-value},
                                color = ~variable,
                                colors = c("blue", "red"),
                                line = list(width = 2),
                                text = ~glue::glue("land-ice-height: {value} Segment-id: {segment_i
                                hoverinfo = "text",
                                width = right_width,
                                height = right_height) %>%
 plotly::layout(xaxis = list(gridcolor = "grey", showgrid = T),
                yaxis = list(gridcolor = "grey", showgrid = T)) %>%
 plotly::add_lines(showlegend = FALSE)
both_plt = plotly::subplot(list(fig_lines, fig_lines_splt), nrows=1, margin = 0.03, widths = c(0.7, 0
 plotly::layout(title = glue::glue("Beam: '{beam}' ( Segments: from {min(segm_ids)} to {max(segm_ids)}
# plotly::export(p = both_plt, file = glue::glue('{beam}.png'))
return(both_plt)
```

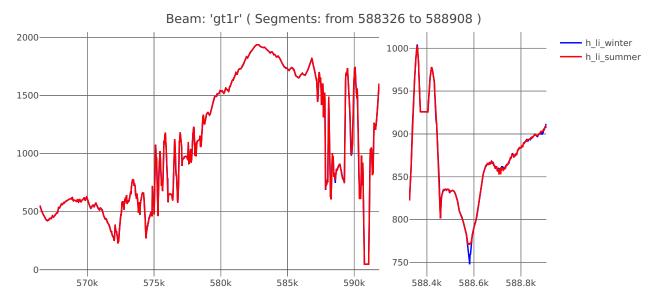
The output left plot shows all segment-id's for the "gt1l" and "gt1r" beams, whereas the right plot is restricted only to the segment-id's from 588326 to 588908 to highlight potential differences in land-ice-height between the winter and summer periods,

Plot for Beam 'gt11' will be created ...
plt_gt11



```
left_width = 1800,
left_height = 800,
right_width = 900,
right_height = 400)
```

Plot for Beam 'gt1r' will be created ... plt_gt1r



Finally, we can also add the elevation of the AOI for comparison purposes. We'll choose another Greenland Grid cell, RGT, and beams,

```
Greenland_Geom_index = 2
RGT = 33
sublist name = glue::glue("geom idx {Greenland Geom index} RGT {RGT}")
w_subs = dat_out_w[[sublist_name]]
s_subs = dat_out_s[[sublist_name]]
cols keep = c('date', 'segment id', 'longitude', 'latitude', 'h li', 'beam')
w_subs_hq = subset(w_subs, at106_quality_summary == 0)
w_subs_hq = w_subs_hq[, ..cols_keep]
colnames(w_subs_hq) = glue::glue("{cols_keep}_winter")
s_subs_hq = subset(s_subs, at106_quality_summary == 0)
s_subs_hq = s_subs_hq[, ..cols_keep]
colnames(s_subs_hq) = glue::glue("{cols_keep}_summer")
sw_hq_merg = merge(x = w_subs_hq,
                   y = s_subs_hq,
                   by.x = c('segment id winter', 'beam winter'),
                   by.y = c('segment_id_summer', 'beam_summer'))
```

After merging the winter and summer data for the specific Grid Cell and RGT, I have to keep only one pair of (latitude, longitude) coordinates for visualization purposes. I'll compute the distance between the winter and summer coordinates (of each row) for the same *segment_id* and *beam* and I'll continue with the beams and observations that have the lowest difference in distance (for a fair comparison),

```
paired = TRUE,
                                  measure = 'geodesic')
#......
# split by beam
#......
spl_beam = split(sw_hq_merg, by = 'beam_winter')
#.....
# compute the summary of the distance to observe
# the beams with the lowest distance difference
#.....
sm_stats = lapply(spl_beam, function(x) {
 summary(x$dist_dif)
})
# $qt1l
     Min. 1st Qu.
                  Median
                            Mean 3rd Qu.
# 0.006829 1.568755 2.107793 2.083547 2.654482 3.911961
# $qt1r
      Min.
          1st Qu.
                     Median
                                Mean
                                      3rd Qu.
# 0.0008427 0.2483260 0.5219864 0.5766648 0.8521821 2.0041663
# $gt2l
           1st Qu.
                     Median
                                Mean
                                      3rd Qu.
# 0.0002195 0.3001418 0.6112493 0.6753225 0.9860298 2.2545978
    Min. 1st Qu. Median
                       Mean 3rd Qu.
                                      Max.
   3.170 4.697 5.356
                       5.300 5.931
                                      7.170
# $gt3l
   Min. 1st Qu. Median
                       Mean 3rd Qu.
                                       Max.
   1.197 2.679 3.115
                        3.155
                              3.621
                                      5.069
# $qt3r
   Min. 1st Qu. Median
                        Mean 3rd Qu.
                                      Max.
   3.881 5.066 5.488
                       5.498 5.949
                                      7.114
```

We observe that the beams 'gt1r' and 'gt2l' return the lowest difference in distance (approximately 2.0 and 2.25 meters) for the coordinates between the 'winter' and 'summer' observations, therefore we continue with these 2 beams. Moreover, the 'gt1r' and 'gt2l' beams are separated by approximately 3 kilometers from each other.

```
#....
# keep only the 'gt1r' and 'gt2l' beams
#.....

sw_hq_merg_beams = subset(sw_hq_merg, beam_winter %in% c('gt1r', 'gt2l'))

#....
# keep only a pair of coordinates and rename the columns
#....

sw_hq_merg_beams = sw_hq_merg_beams[, c('segment_id_winter', 'beam_winter', 'longitude_winter', 'latitucolnames(sw_hq_merg_beams) = c('segment_id', 'beam', 'longitude', 'latitude', 'h_li_winter', 'h_li_summ')
```

```
#
       segment\_id beam longitude latitude h\_li\_winter h\_li\_summer
#
    1:
           351810 gt1r -44.10891 63.26390
                                            2724.035
                                                        2725.023
                                                        2725.155
#
    2:
           351811 gt1r -44.10895 63.26408 2724.004
#
    3:
          351812 gt1r -44.10900 63.26426 2724.445
                                                        2725.298
#
          351813 gt1r -44.10904 63.26444
                                            2724.530
    4:
                                                        2725.461
#
           351814 gt1r -44.10908 63.26462
                                            2725.084
                                                        2725.650
    5:
#
# 8700:
          359399 qt1r -44.44637 64.61873
                                            2777.249
                                                        2777.390
# 8701:
          359400 gt1r -44.44642 64.61891
                                            2777.136
                                                        2777.297
# 8702:
          359401 gt1r -44.44647 64.61908
                                            2777.081
                                                        2777.192
# 8703:
          359402 gt1r -44.44651 64.61926
                                            2776.936
                                                        2777.076
# 8704:
          359403 gt1r -44.44656 64.61944
                                            2776.818
                                                        2776.968
```

Then we'll download the 30-meter raster DEM (Digital Elevation Model) for the AOI using the CopernicusDEM R package,

```
sf_aoi = sf::st_as_sf(sw_hq_merg_beams, coords = c('longitude', 'latitude'), crs = 4326)
bbx_aoi = sf::st_bbox(sf_aoi)
sfc_aoi = sf::st_as_sfc(bbx_aoi)
dem_dir = tempdir()
dem_dir
dem30 = CopernicusDEM::aoi_geom_save_tif_matches(sf_or_file = sfc_aoi,
                                               dir_save_tifs = dem_dir,
                                               resolution = 30,
                                               crs_value = 4326,
                                               threads = parallel::detectCores(),
                                               verbose = TRUE)
if (nrow(dem30$csv_aoi) > 1) {
                                                        # create a .VRT file if I have more than 1 .t
  file_out = file.path(dem_dir, 'VRT_mosaic_FILE.vrt')
 vrt_dem30 = CopernicusDEM::create_VRT_from_dir(dir_tifs = dem_dir,
                                                output_path_VRT = file_out,
                                                verbose = TRUE)
}
if (nrow(dem30$csv_aoi) == 1) {
                                                          # if I have a single .tif file keep the fir
  file_out = list.files(dem_dir, pattern = '.tif', full.names = T)[1]
# crop the raster to the bounding box of the coordinates
#..............
rst_inp = terra::rast(x = file_out)
vec_crop = terra::vect(x = sfc_aoi)
rst_crop = terra::crop(x = rst_inp,
                      y = vec_crop,
                      snap = "out")
                                         # snap = "in" gives NA's
```

```
# we also have to find the closest elevation
# value to the 'winter' and 'summer' coordinates
# using the raster resolution
#............
ter_dtbl = data.table::as.data.table(x = rst_crop, xy = TRUE, cells = TRUE)
colnames(ter_dtbl) = c("cell", "lon_dem30", "lat_dem30", "dem30")
# length(unique(ter_dtbl$cell)) == nrow(ter_dtbl)
xy = as.matrix(sw_hq_merg_beams[, c('longitude', 'latitude')])
sw_cells = terra::cellFromXY(object = rst_crop, xy = xy)
sw_hq_merg_beams$cell = sw_cells
# length(unique(sw_hq_merq_beams$cell)) < nrow(sw_hq_merq_beams)</pre>
merg_cells = merge(x = sw_hq_merg_beams, y = ter_dtbl, by = 'cell')
#.............
# compute also the difference in distance between the beam measurements
# and the DEM coordinates (based on the 30-meter resolution cells)
#......
merg_cells$dem_dif_dist = geodist::geodist(x = merg_cells[, c('longitude', 'latitude')],
                                     y = merg_cells[, c('lon_dem30', 'lat_dem30')],
                                     paired = TRUE,
                                     measure = 'geodesic')
summary(merg_cells$dem_dif_dist)
    Min. 1st Qu. Median
                       Mean 3rd Qu.
 # 0.2356 8.1619 11.5943 11.1490 14.3201 20.5394
```

Based on the included 30-meter DEM there is a mean distance of 11.1490 and a maximum distance of 20.5394 meters between the *beam* and *DEM* coordinates. The following 3-dimensional interactive line plot shows,

- ullet in blue color the elevation based on the DEM (for the 2 beams as these are separated by a 3-km distance)
- in orange color the land-ice-height measurements of the summer period (separately for 'gt1r' and 'gt2l')
- in green color the land-ice-height measurements of the winter period (separately for 'gt1r' and 'gt2l')

```
color = ~variable,
line = list(width = 10),
width = 1000,
height = 900)
fig_height
```

