Churning the Ocean: Time variable gravity for ocean applications

Samudra Manthan, CC BY 3.0

Roelof Rietbroek, 28 Sept. 2022

Analogies with today's talk

Find this presentation on https://github.com/strawpants/grace-hackweek-ocean

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Analogies with today's talk

- Mount Mandara: Adding mass to the ocean (e.g. melt water)
- Snake Vasuki: set the ocean in motion (e.g. forcing from wind stress)
- Central Question: How can we use time variable gravity to observe ocean signals?

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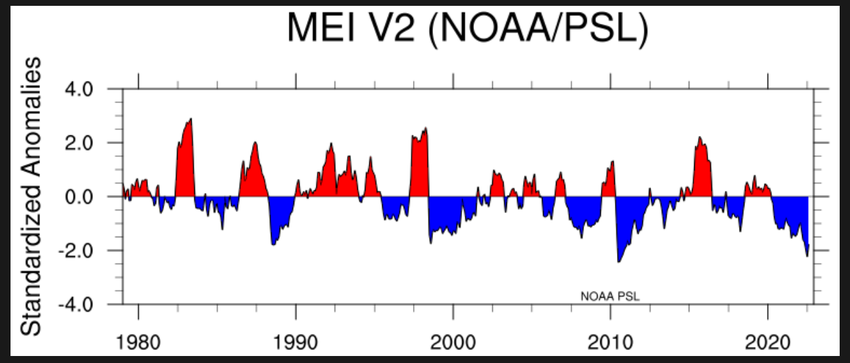
Adding mass to the oceans


Adding mass to the oceans

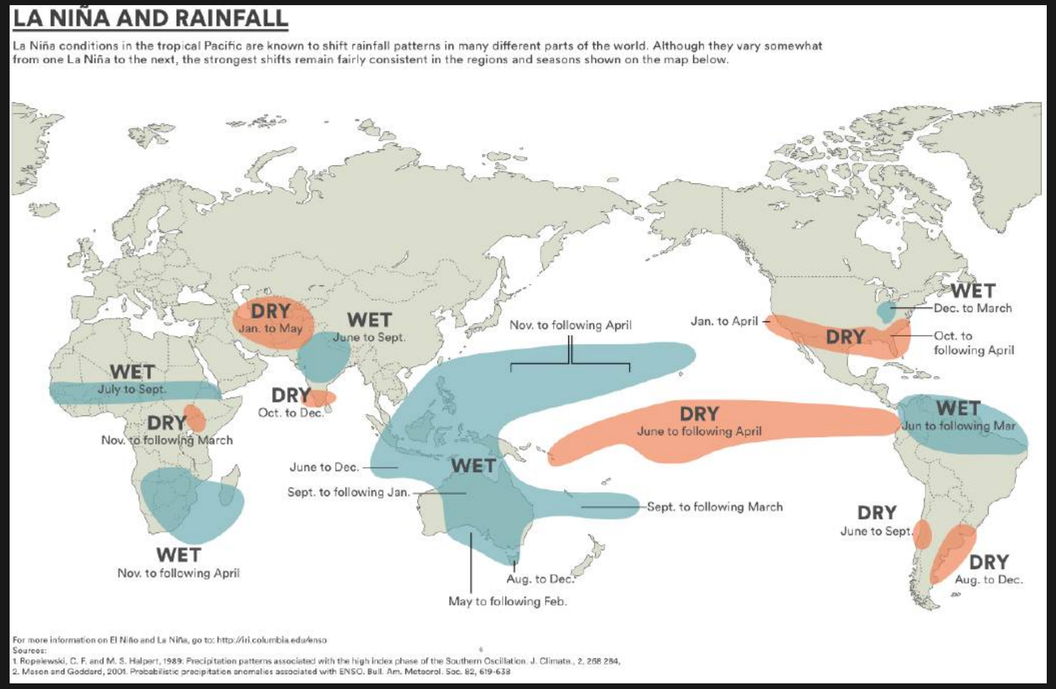
(or removing it)

2022 Floods in Pakistan, image: AFP

Does La Nina affect sea level?



Multivariate ENSO index,https://psl.noaa.gov/enso



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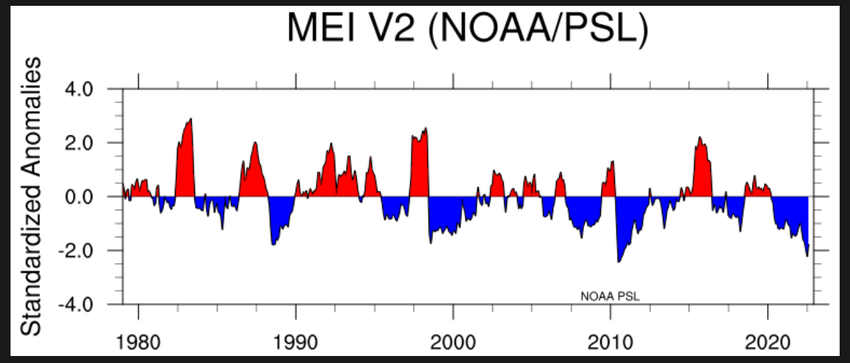

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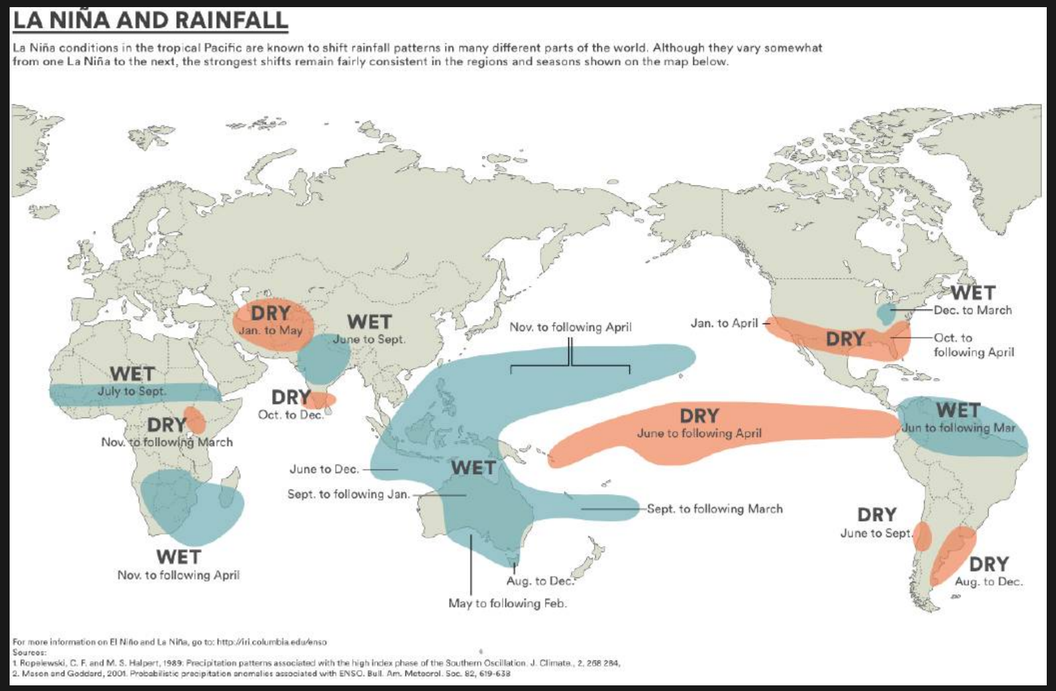

- Stronger trade winds -> warm ocean blob in the western Pacific

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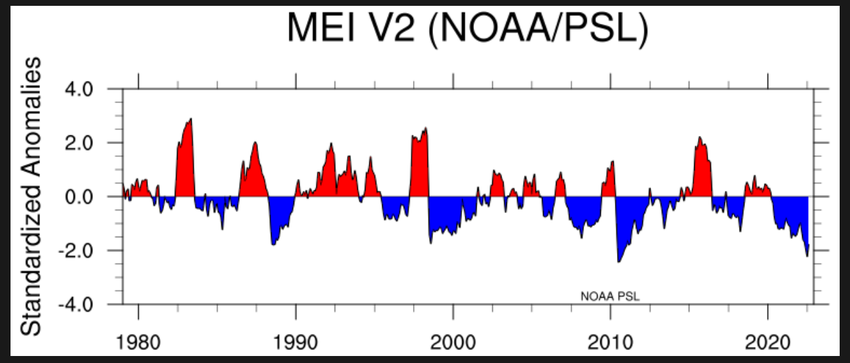

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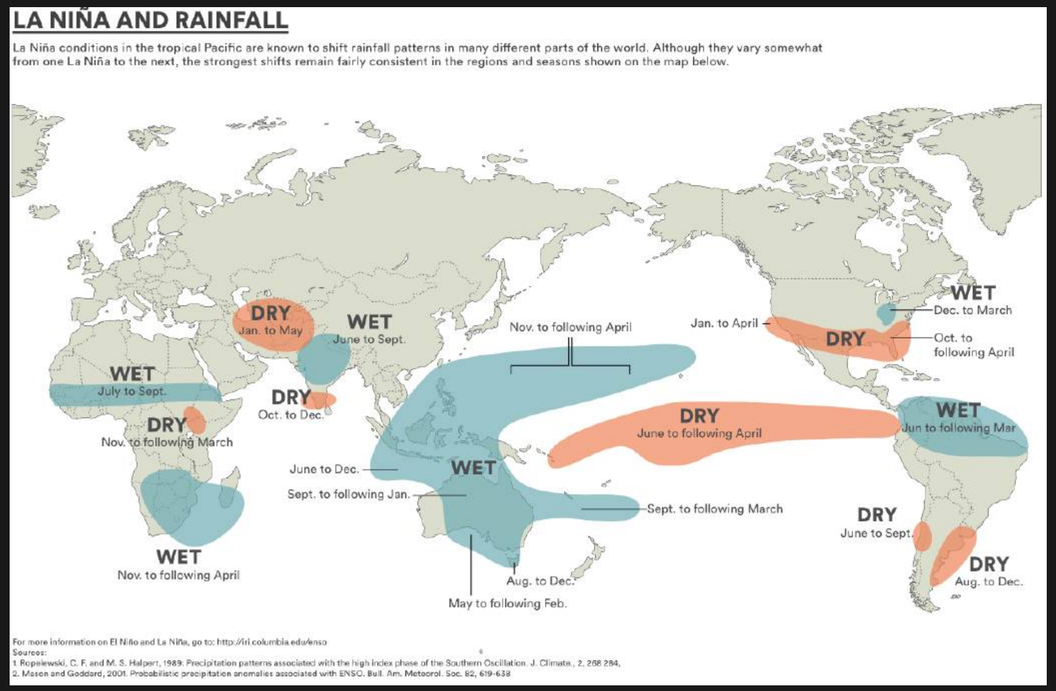

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- Wet conditions in the West Pacific cause extreme precipitation

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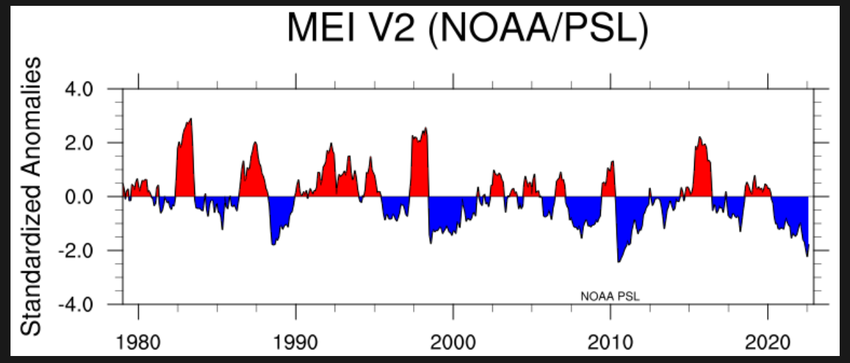

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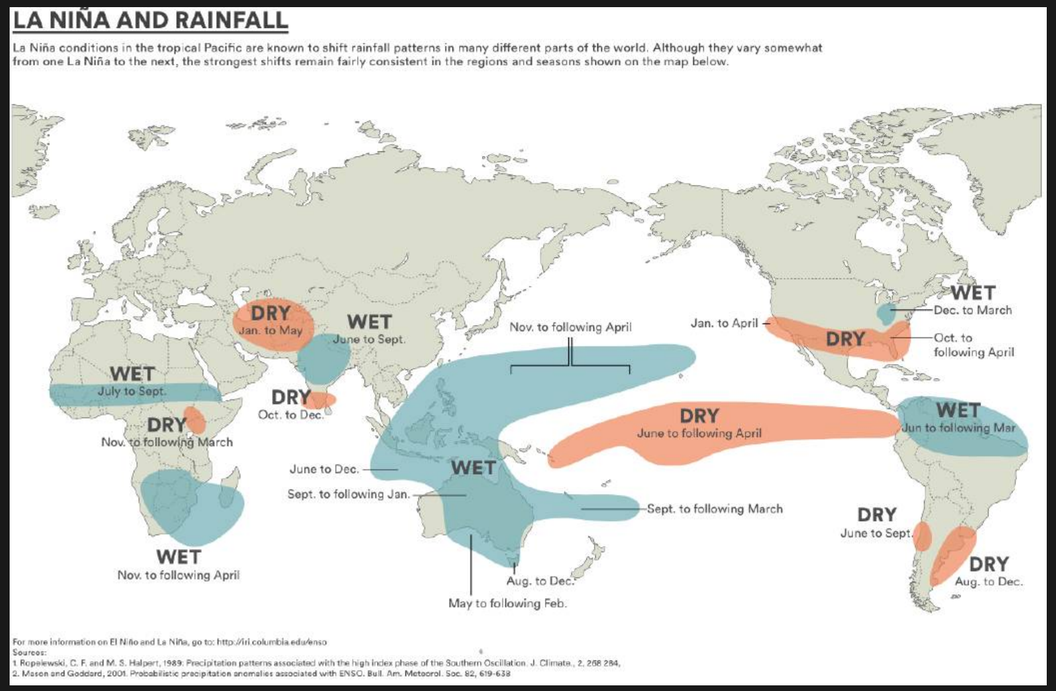

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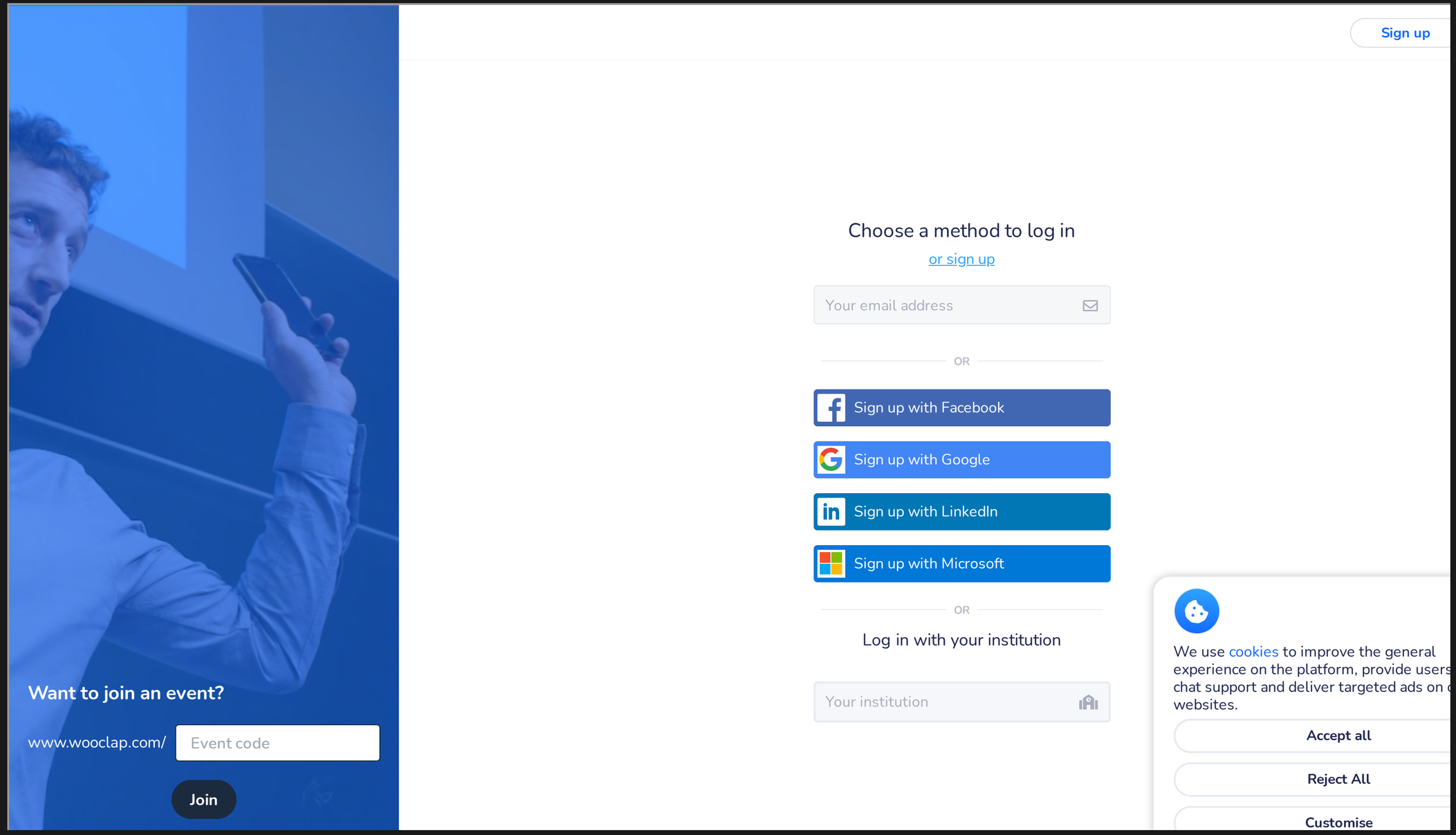
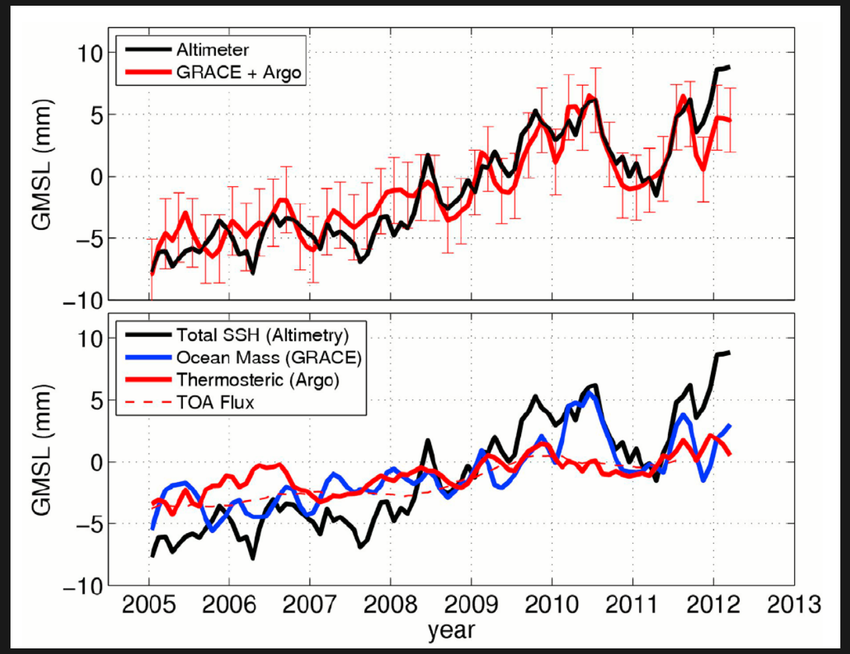
- Wet conditions in the West Pacific cause extreme precipitation
- Teleconnections with Monsoon, Africa..

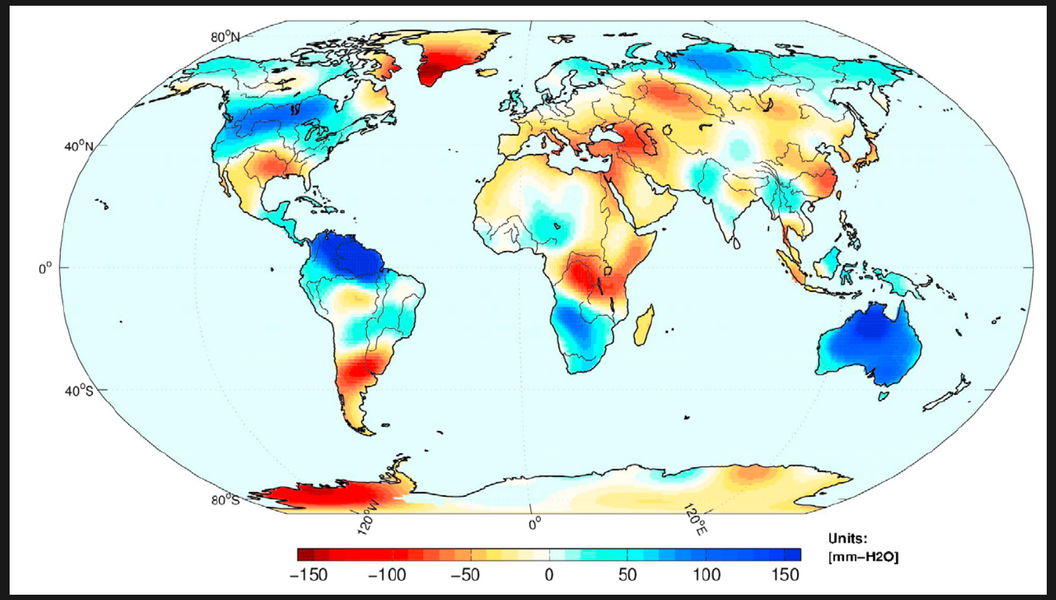
Quiz time!


Want to join an event?
www.wooclap.com/
Event code
Join
Sign up
Choose a method to log in
or sign up
Your email address
OR
Sign up with Facebook
Sign up with Google
Sign up with LinkedIn
Sign up with Microsoft
OR
Log in with your institution
Your institution
We use cookies to improve the general experience on the platform, provide users chat support and deliver targeted ads on websites.
Accept all
Reject All
Customise

2010-2011 La Nina event



Global mean sea level variations (total, mass driven and 'steric'), From Böning et al. 2012



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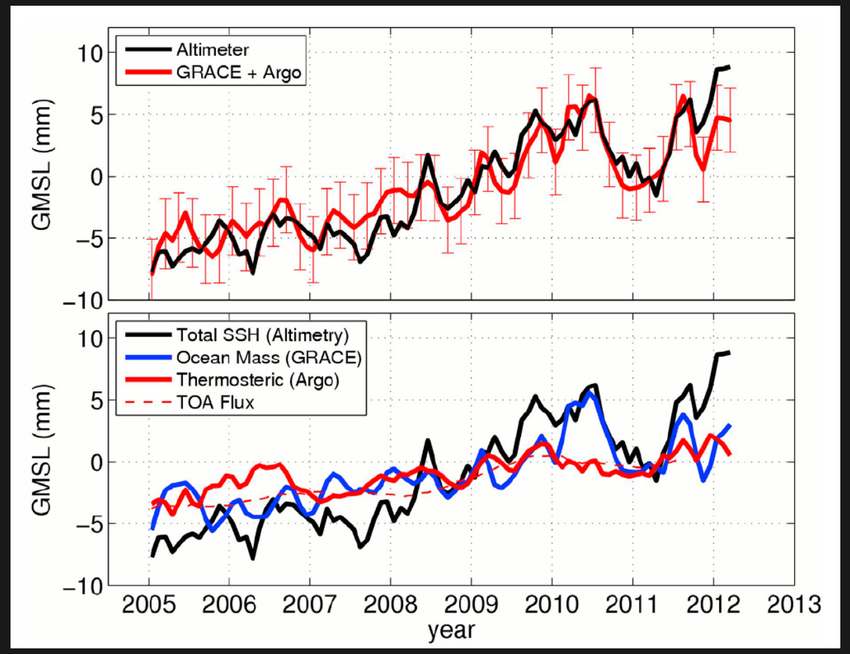

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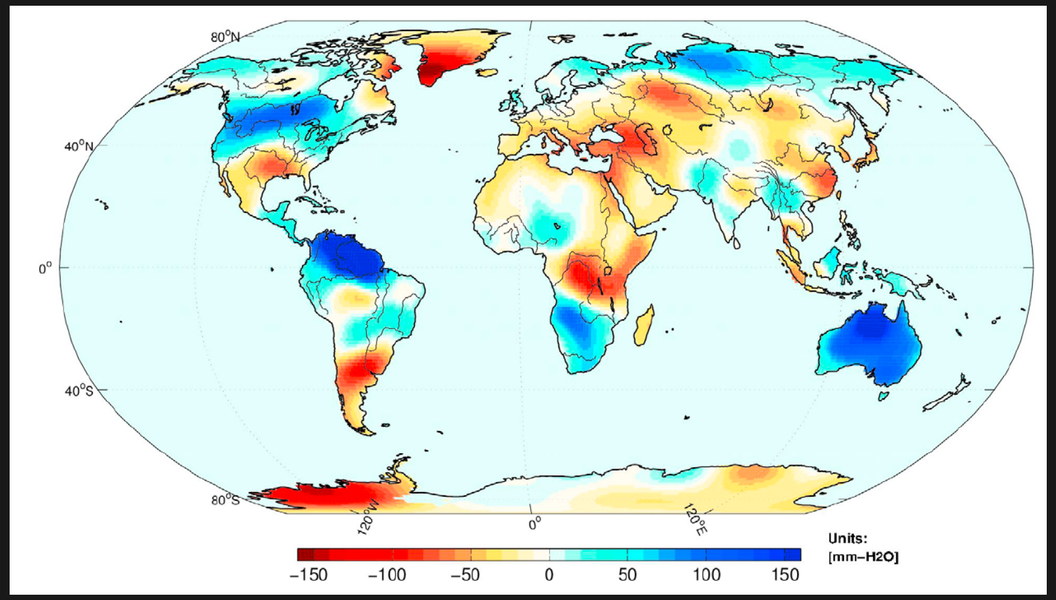

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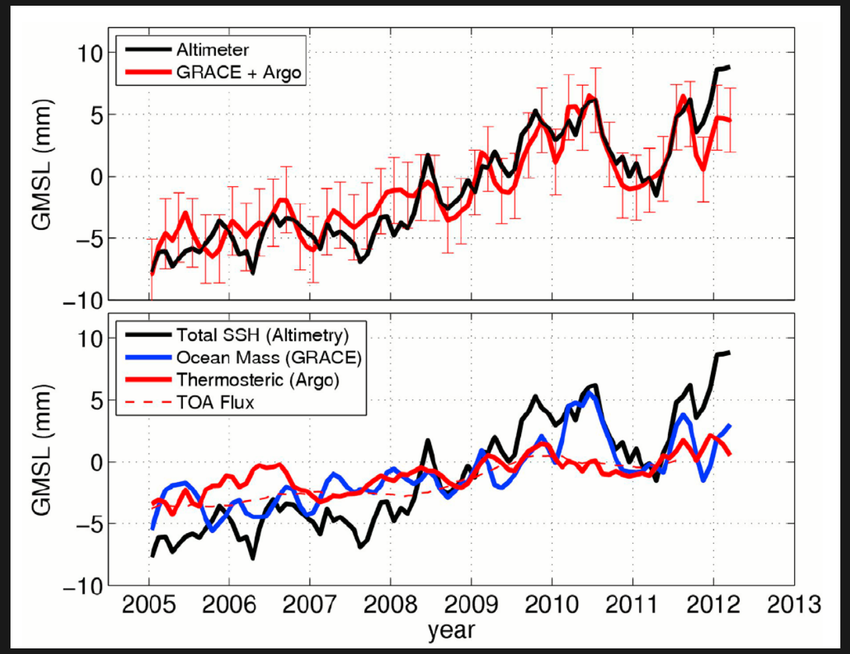

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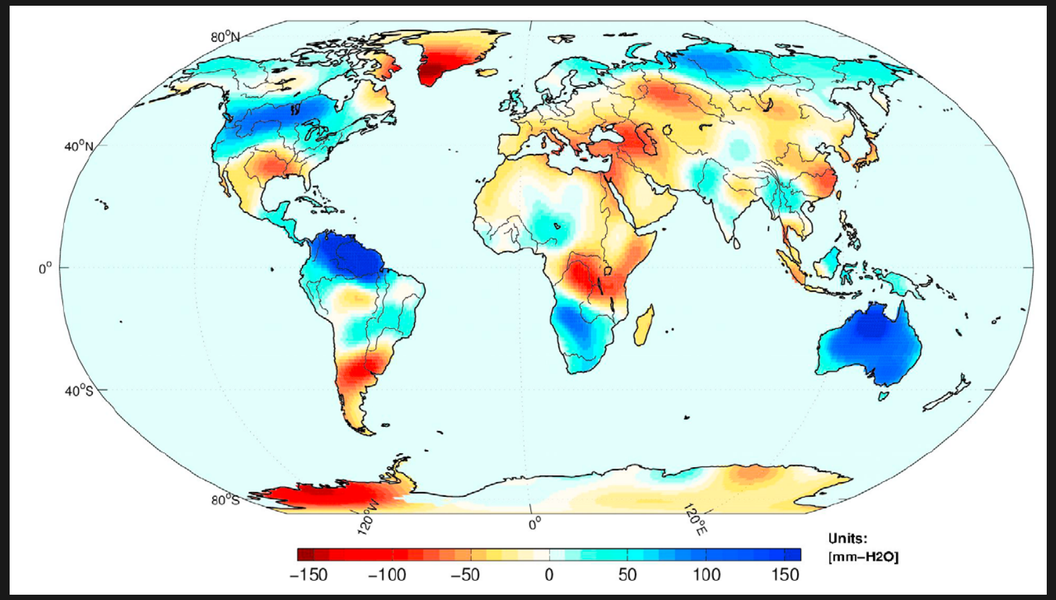

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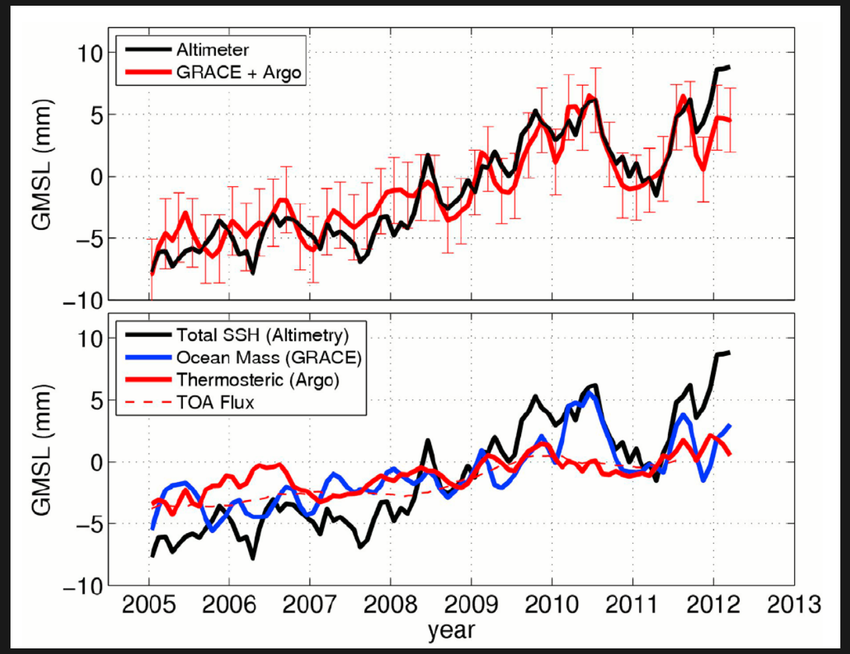

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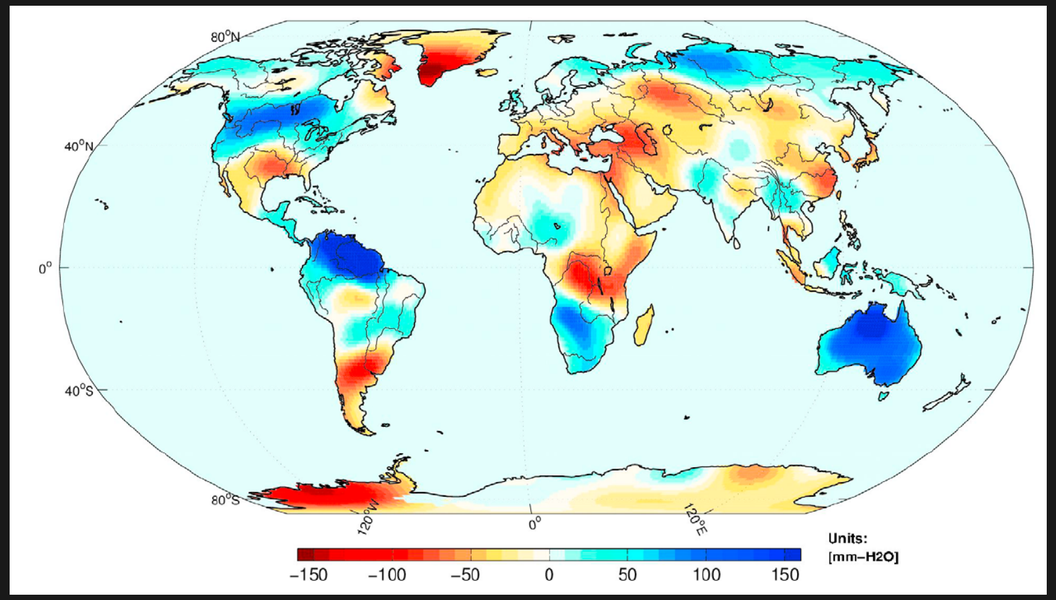

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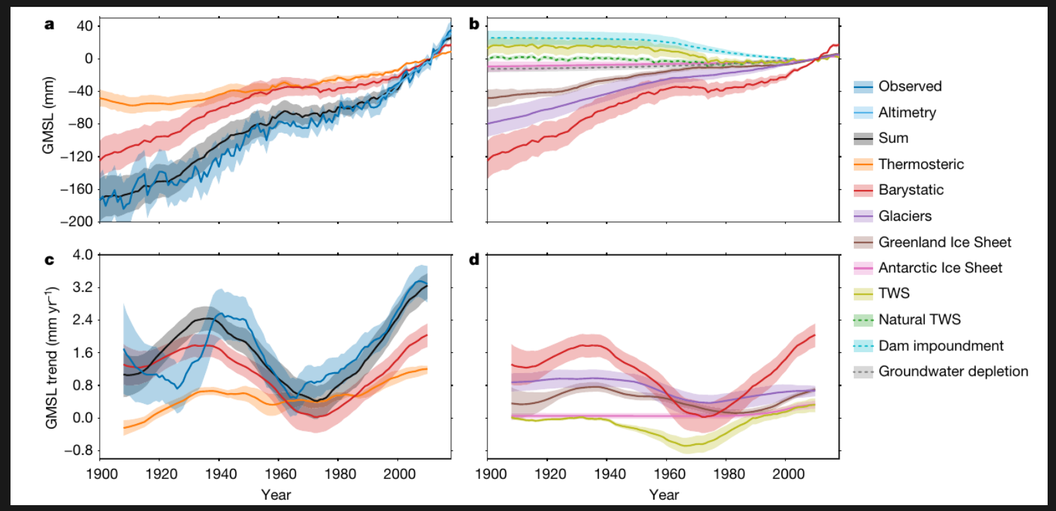
- Hotspot:Australia

Sea level contributions since 1900



Historic sea level can be largely explained with different (modelled) sea level contributions. From Frederikse et al. 2020

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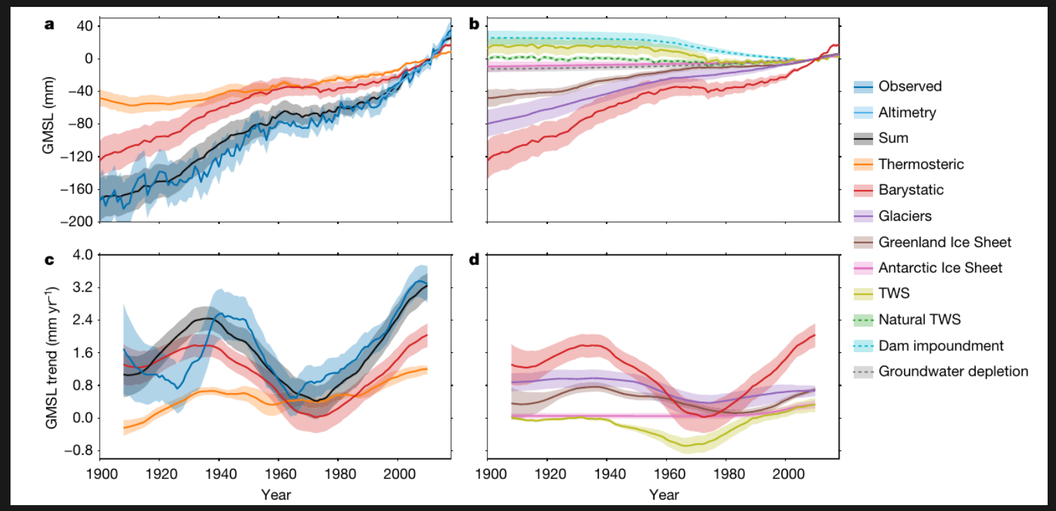

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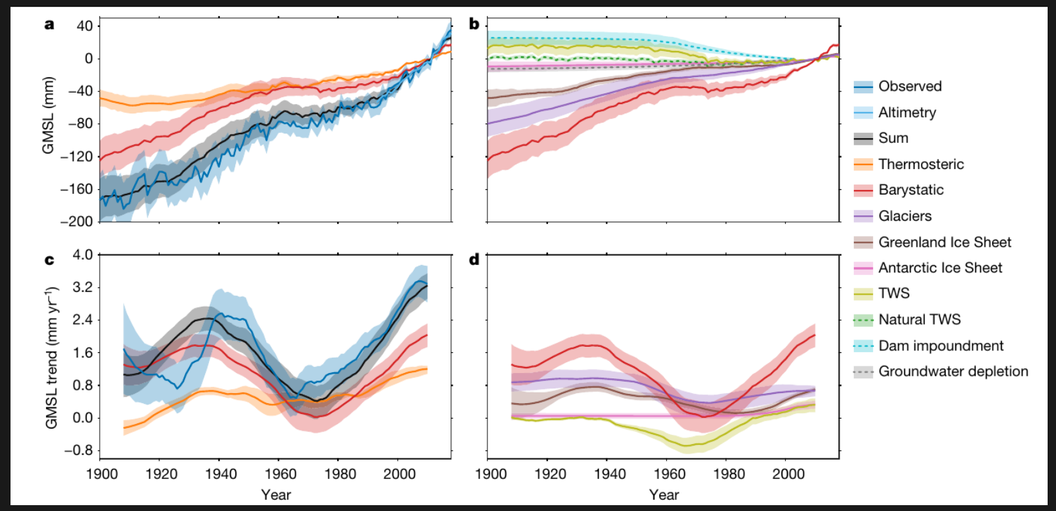

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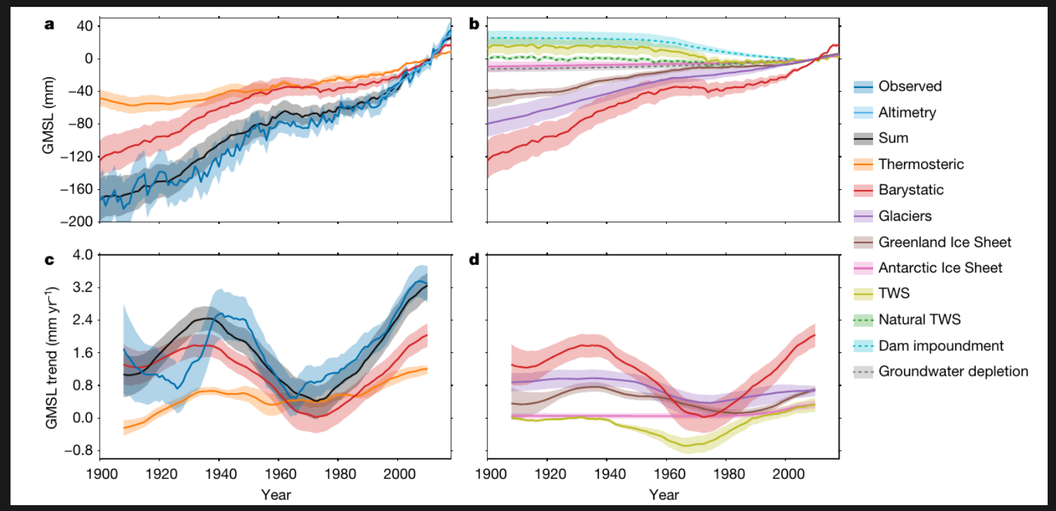

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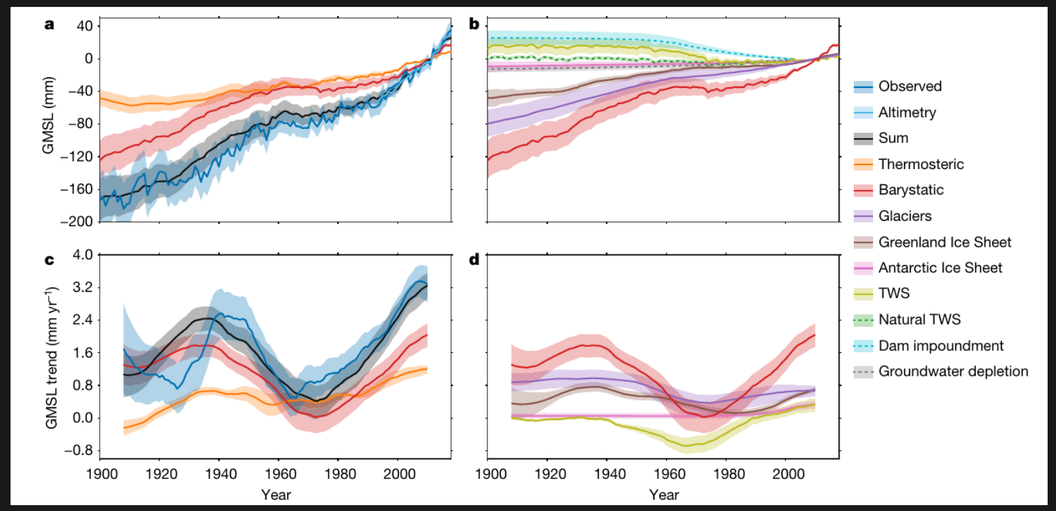

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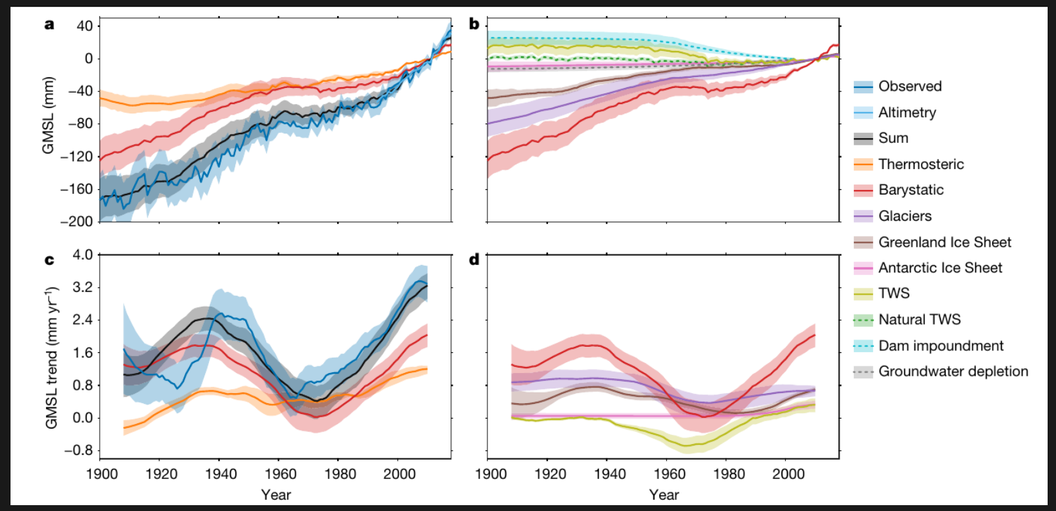

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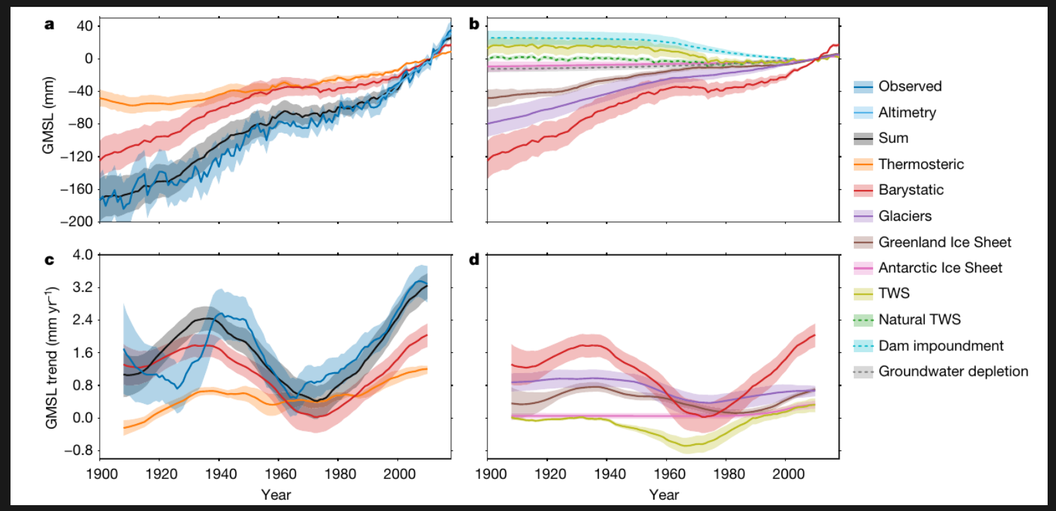

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- Recent accelerations from icesheets and glaciers -> (observable by GRACE since 2002)

Ocean mass from GRACE (Theory)

JOURNAL OF GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH, VOL. 107, NO. B9, 2193, doi:10.1029/2001JB000576, 2002

Methods for inferring regional surface-mass anomalies from Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) measurements of time-variable gravity

Sean Swenson and John Wahr
Department of Physics and Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, University of Colorado, Boulder, USA

Received 8 May 2001; revised 9 March 2002; accepted 14 March 2002; published 19 September 2002.

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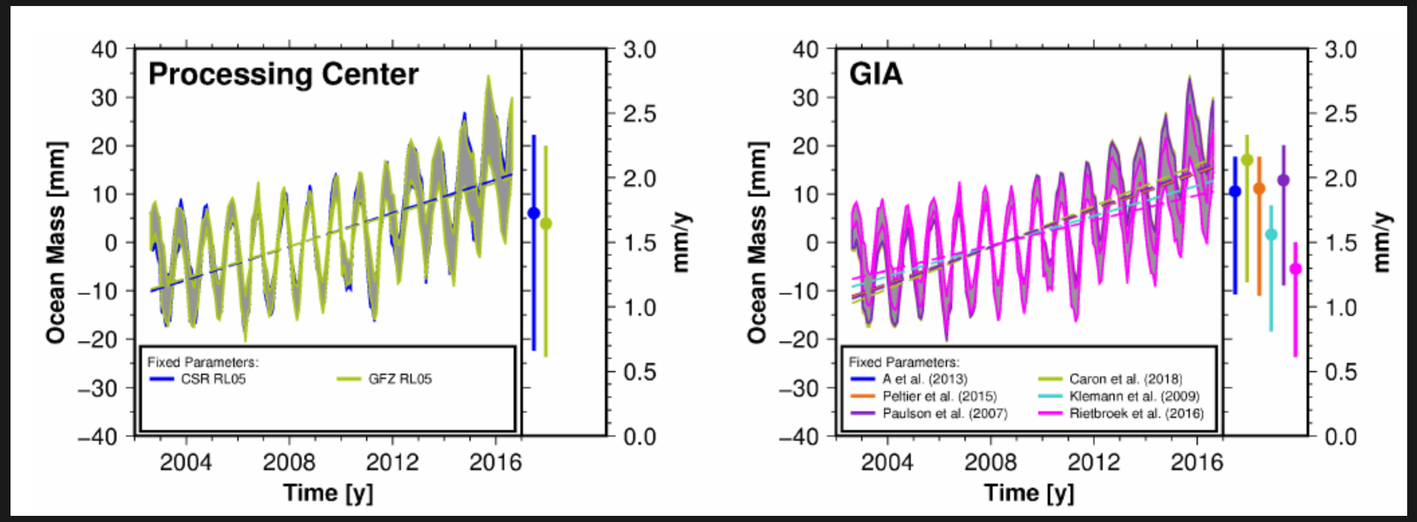
    - dot product of smoothed basin coefficients with GRACE-TWS coefficients

Ocean mass from GRACE (Praxis)



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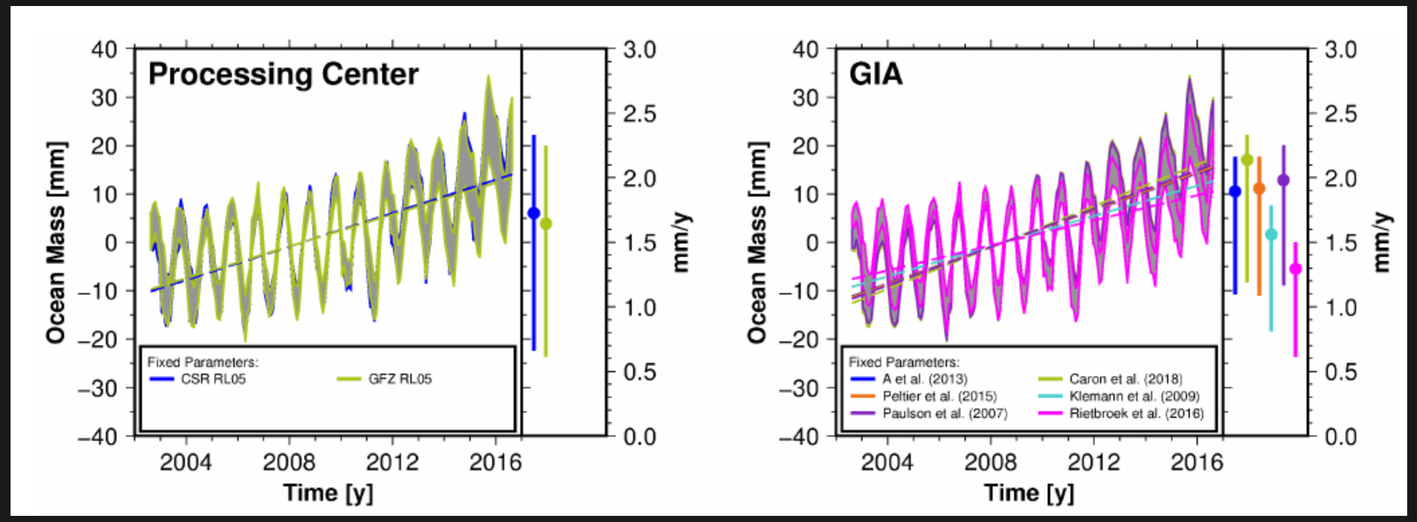

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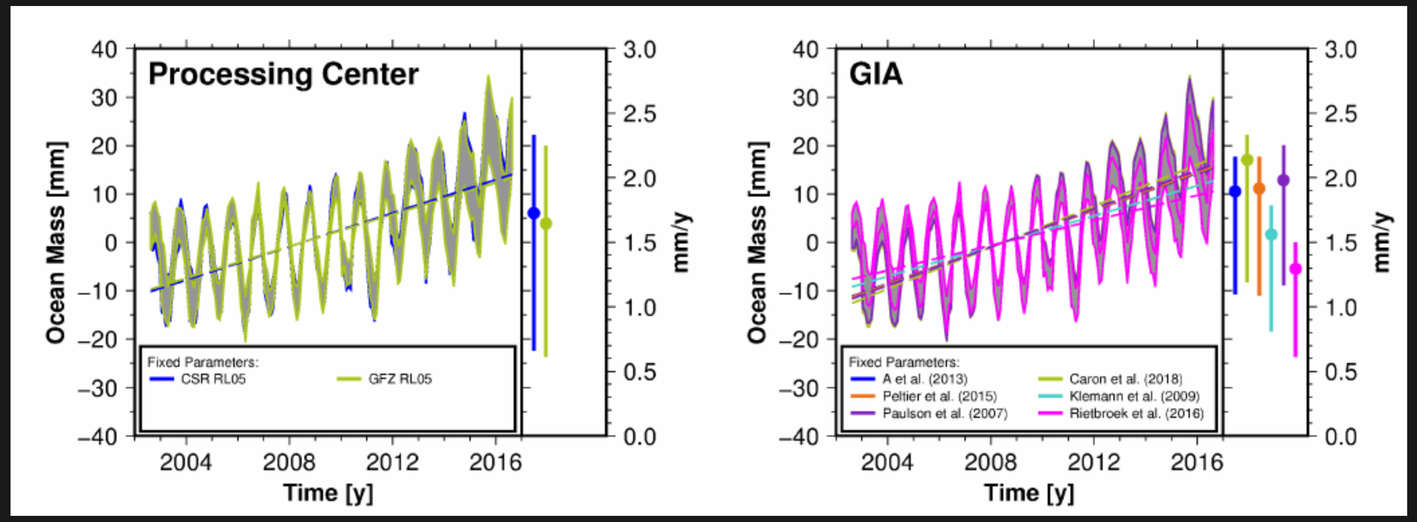

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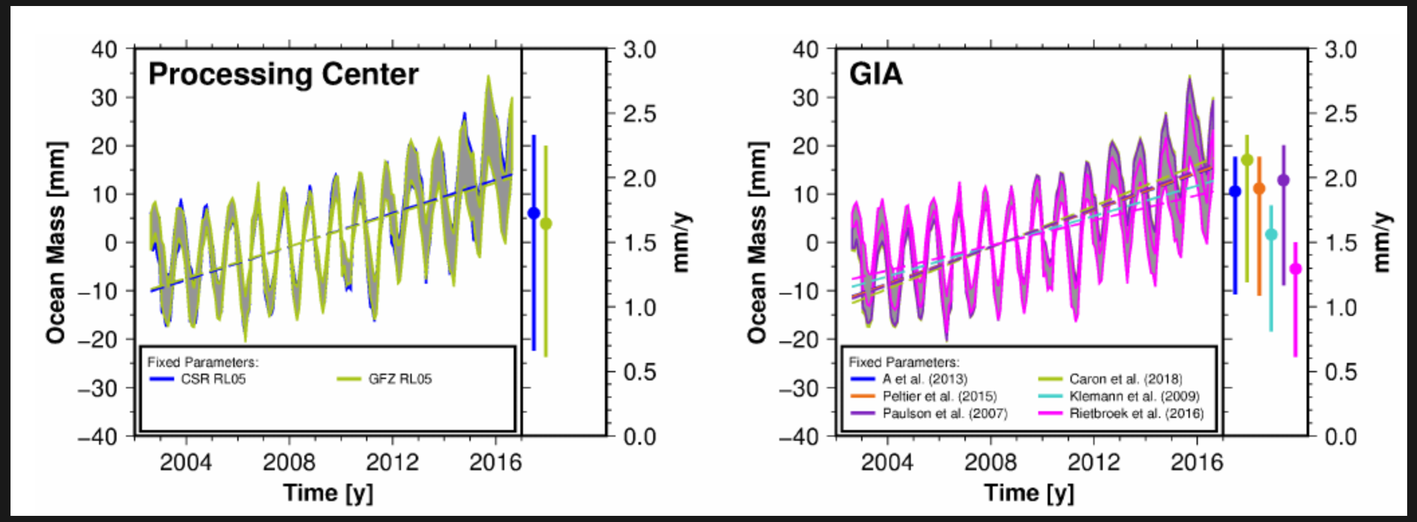

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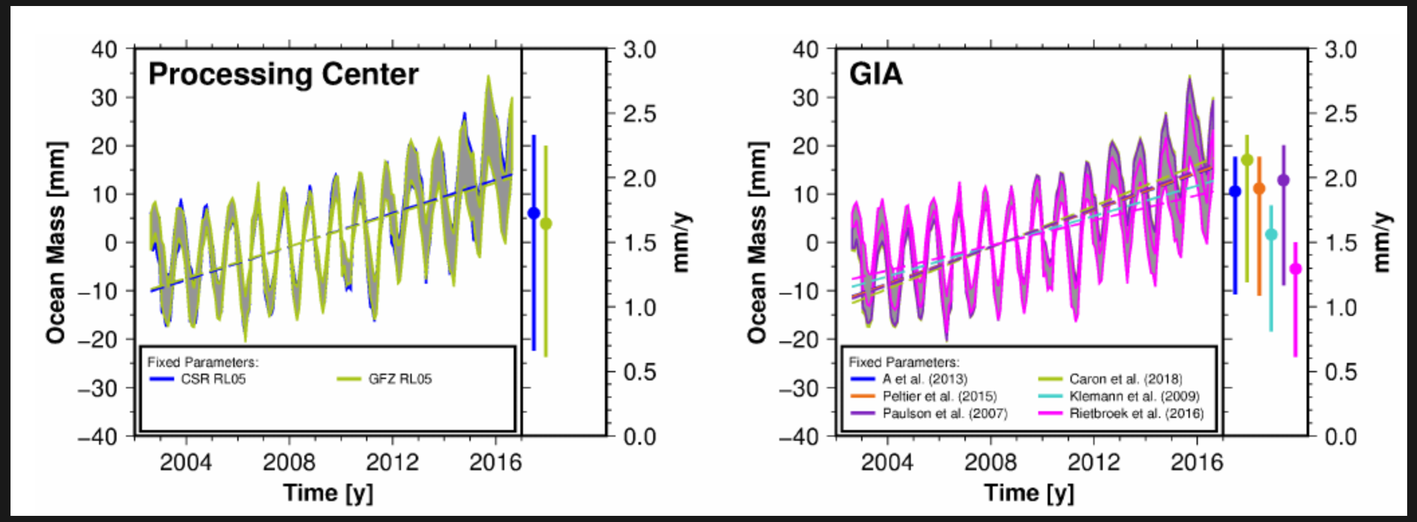

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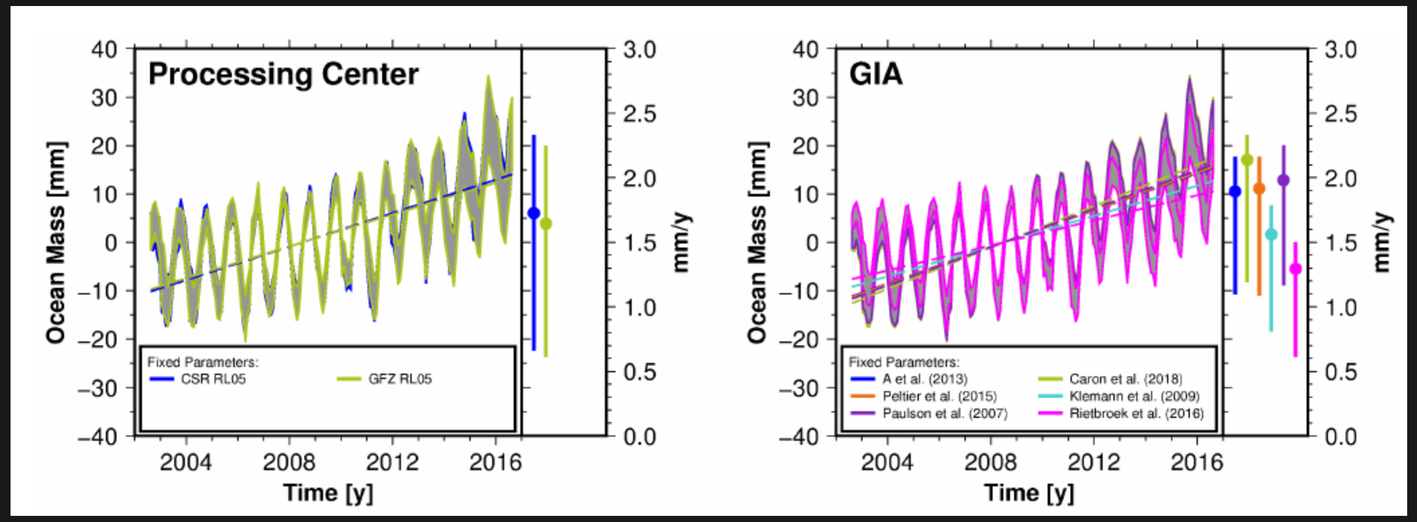

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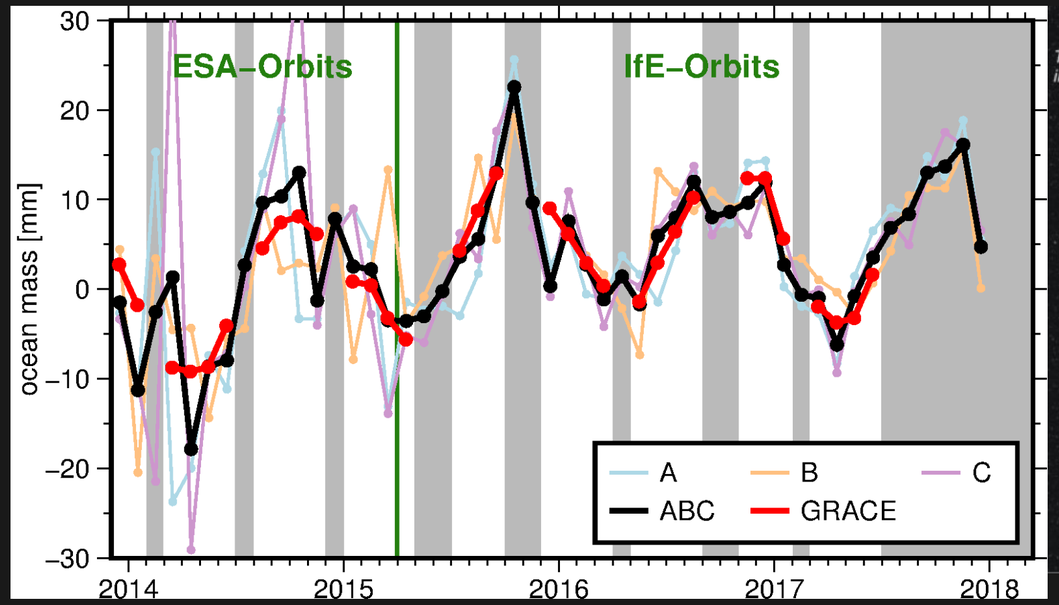
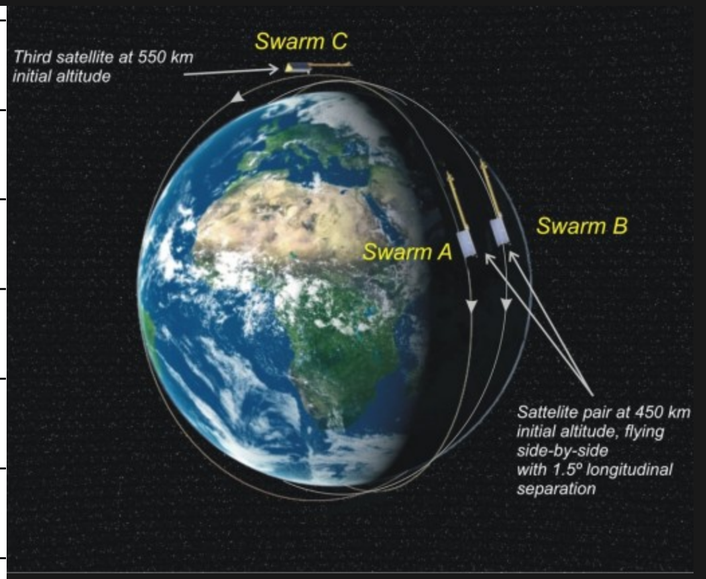
- Processing choices introduce uncertainties in trends
  - Correction for glacial isostatic adjustment
  - restoring background models (GAC, GAD)
  - but also averaging region
  - Current mass trends ~1.5-2mm/yr (c.f. total trend ~3.3 mm/yr)

Ocean mass from the SWARM Mission





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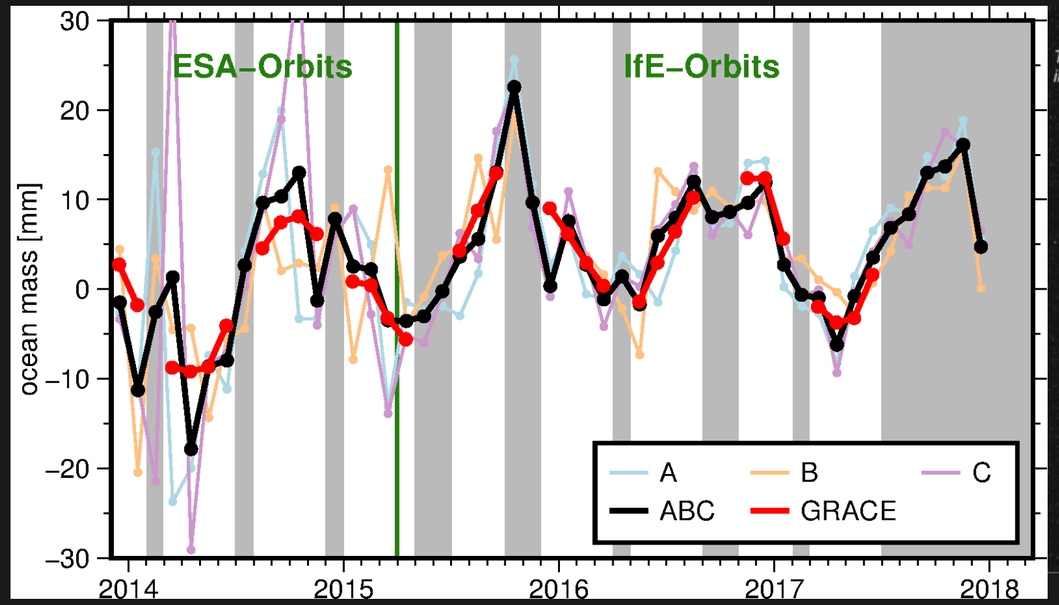

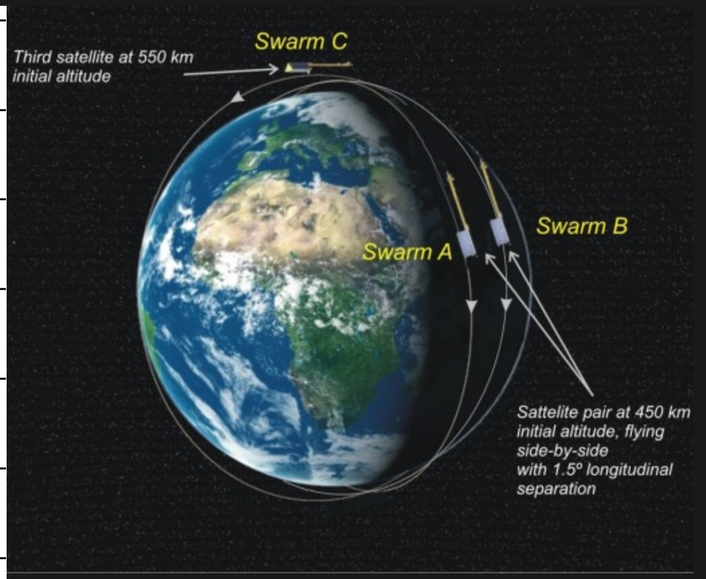

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- SWARM has no inter-satellite tracking, but precise orbits (sat. A,B and C)

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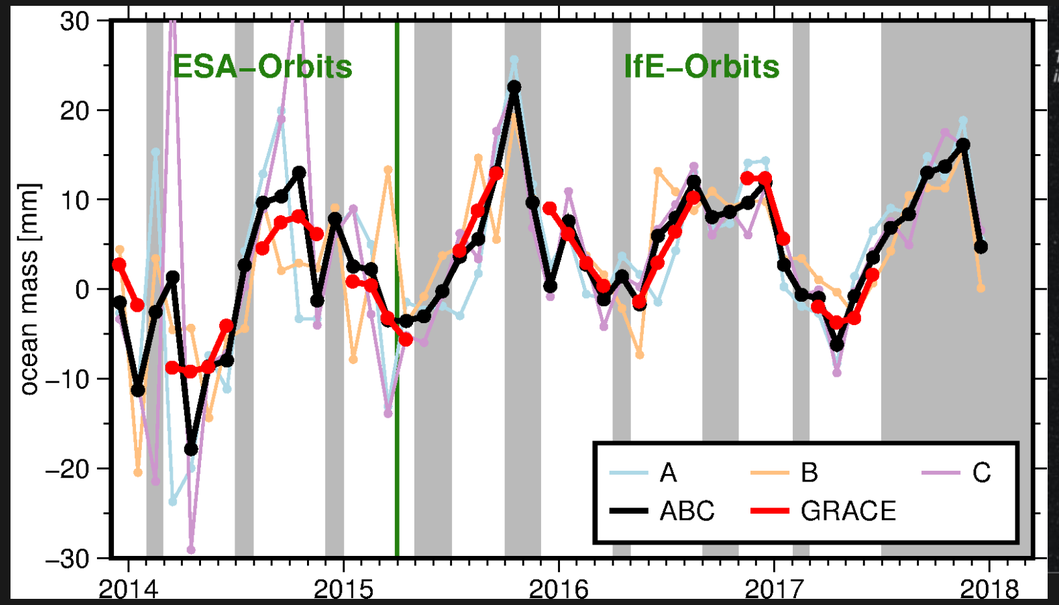
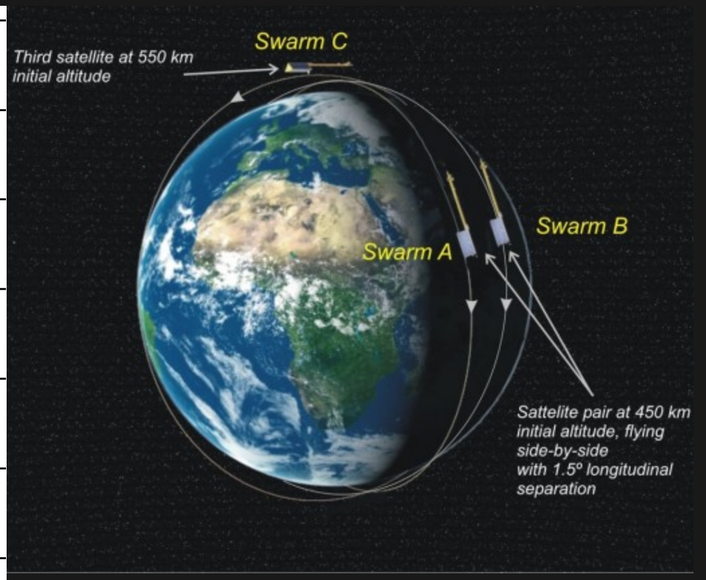
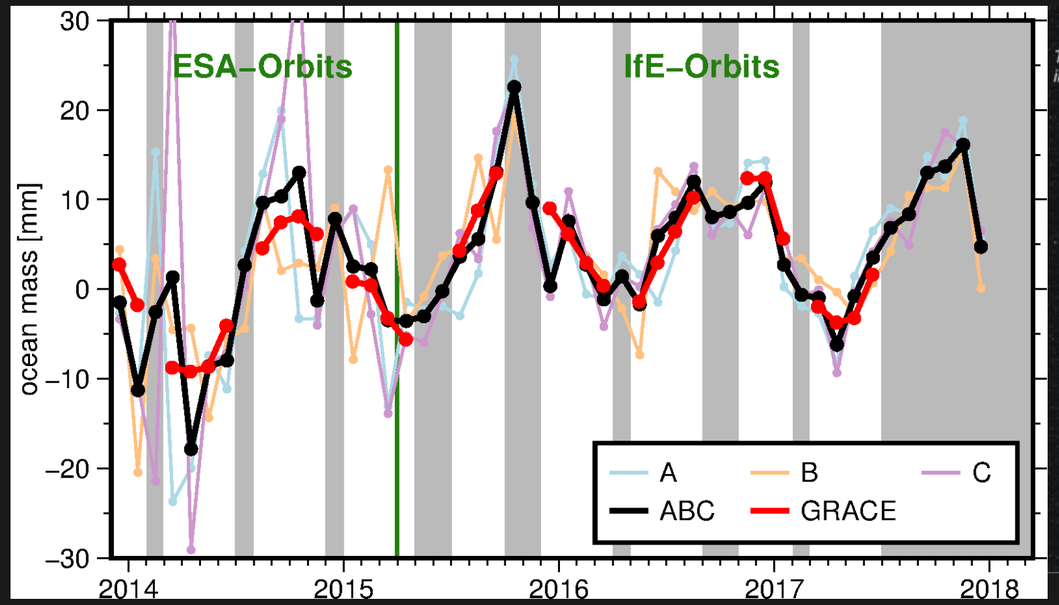


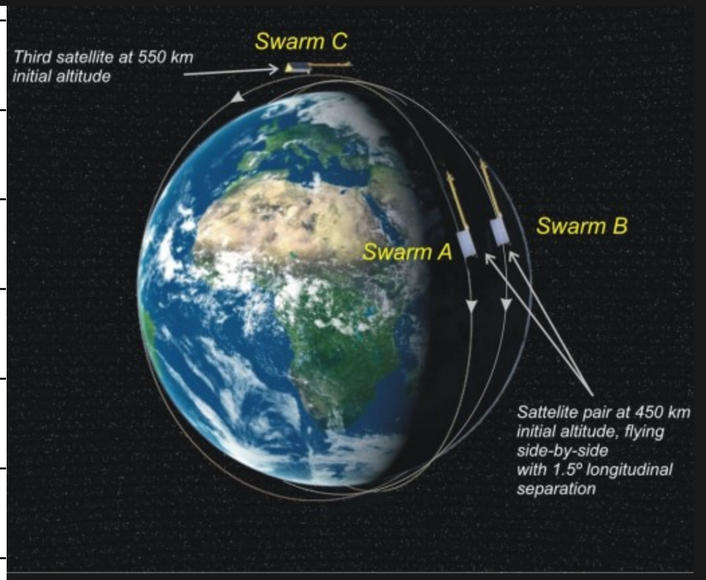


Comparison of ocean mass from GRACE and the SWARM (A,B,C satellites). Update of Luck et al. 2018

- SWARM has no inter-satellite tracking, but precise orbits (sat. A,B and C)
- Precise (kinematic) orbits contain information on low-resolution gravity changes -> ocean scales

Ocean mass from the SWARM Mission





Comparison of ocean mass from GRACE and the SWARM (A,B,C satellites). Update of Luck et al. 2018

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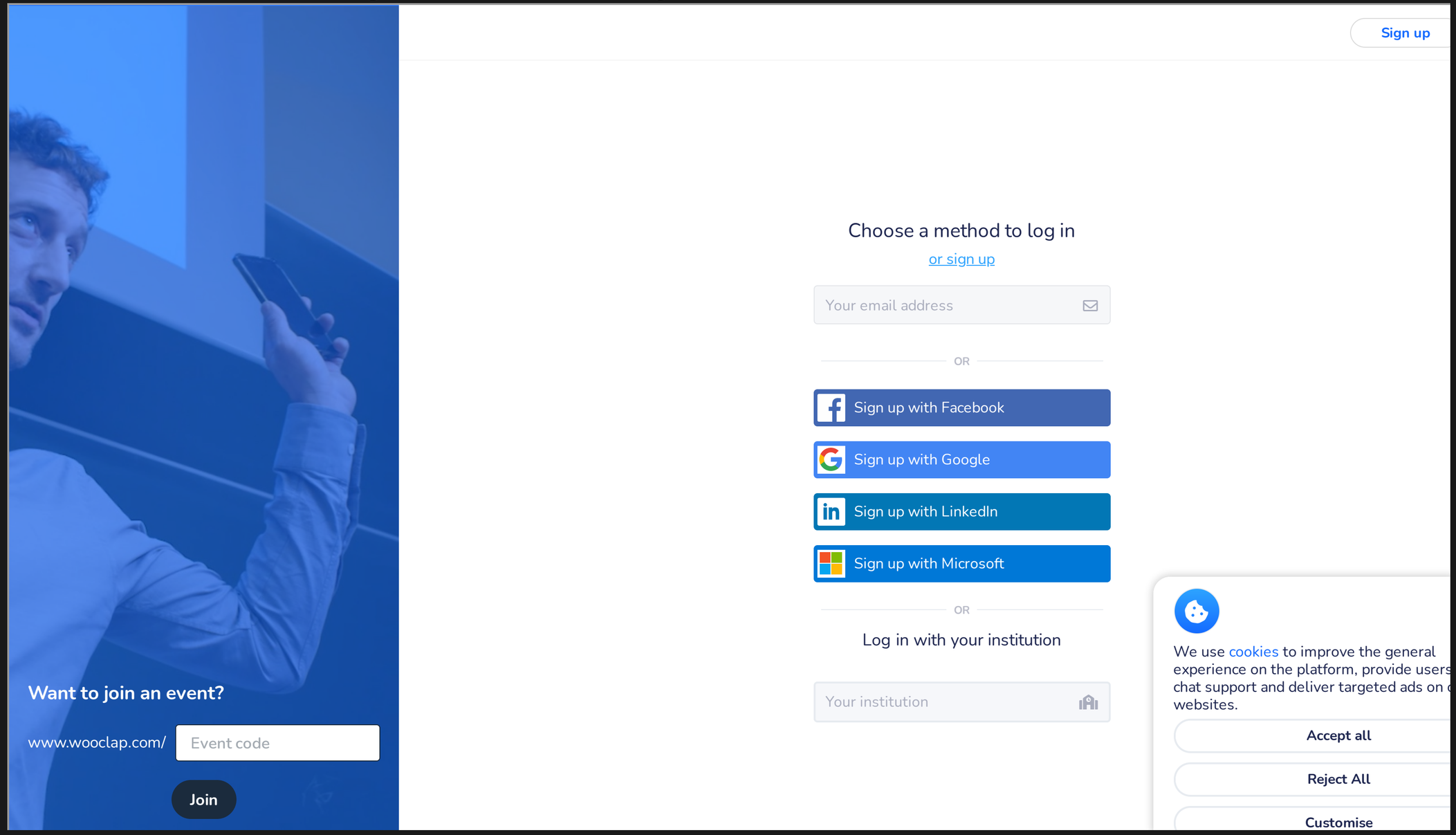
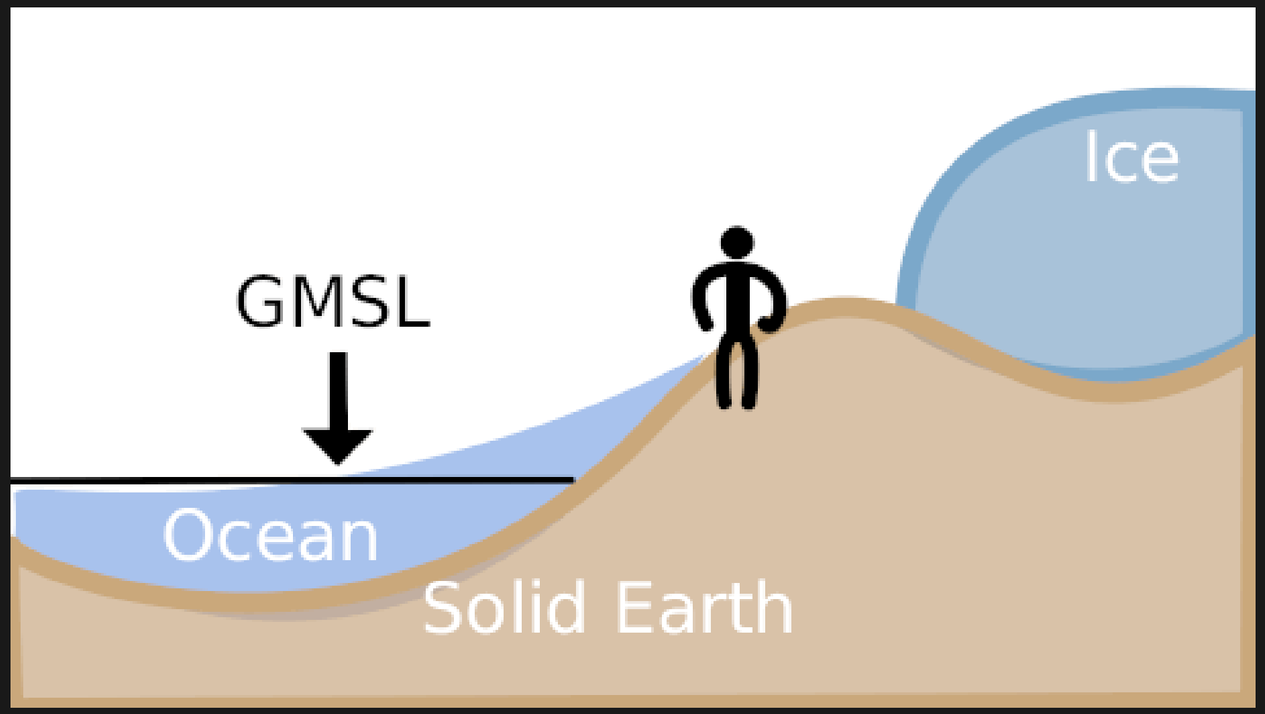
- Precise (kinematic) orbits contain information on low-resolution gravity changes -> ocean scales
- Principle is useful for filling gaps and potentially pre-GRACE era

Does Greenland induce regional sea level changes?



Relative sea level is affected by self attraction and loading (SAL)..



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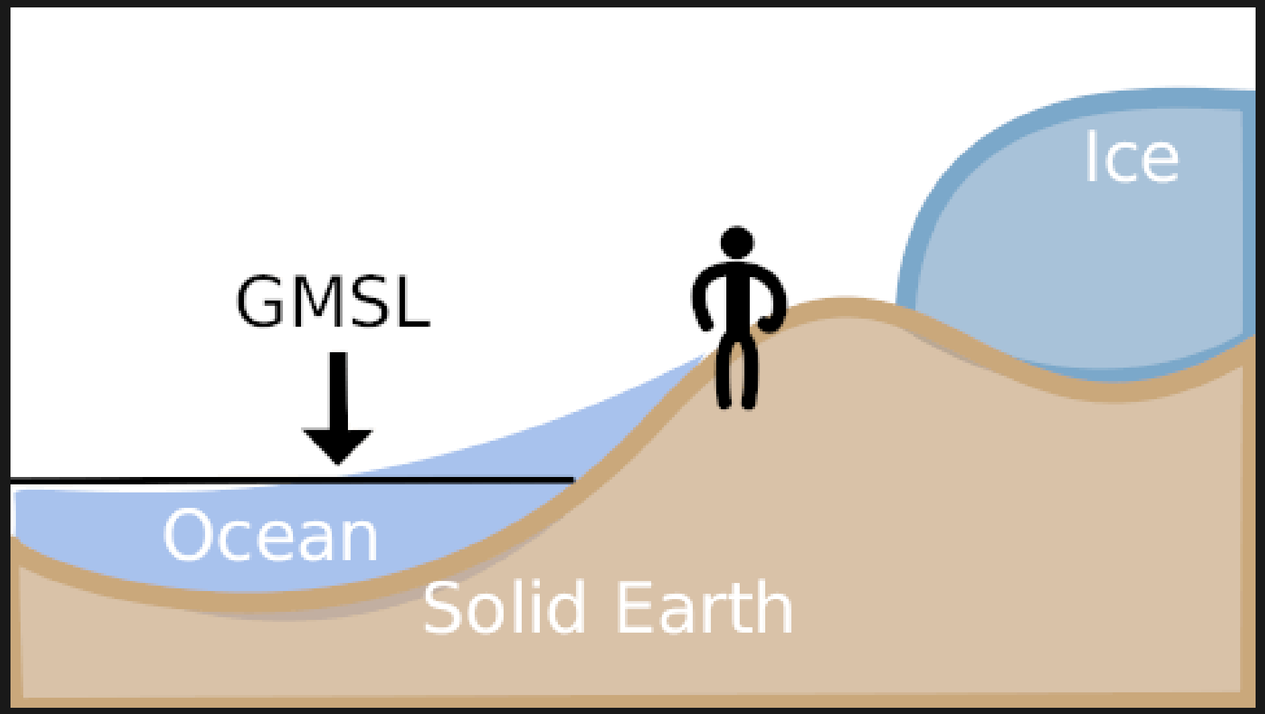

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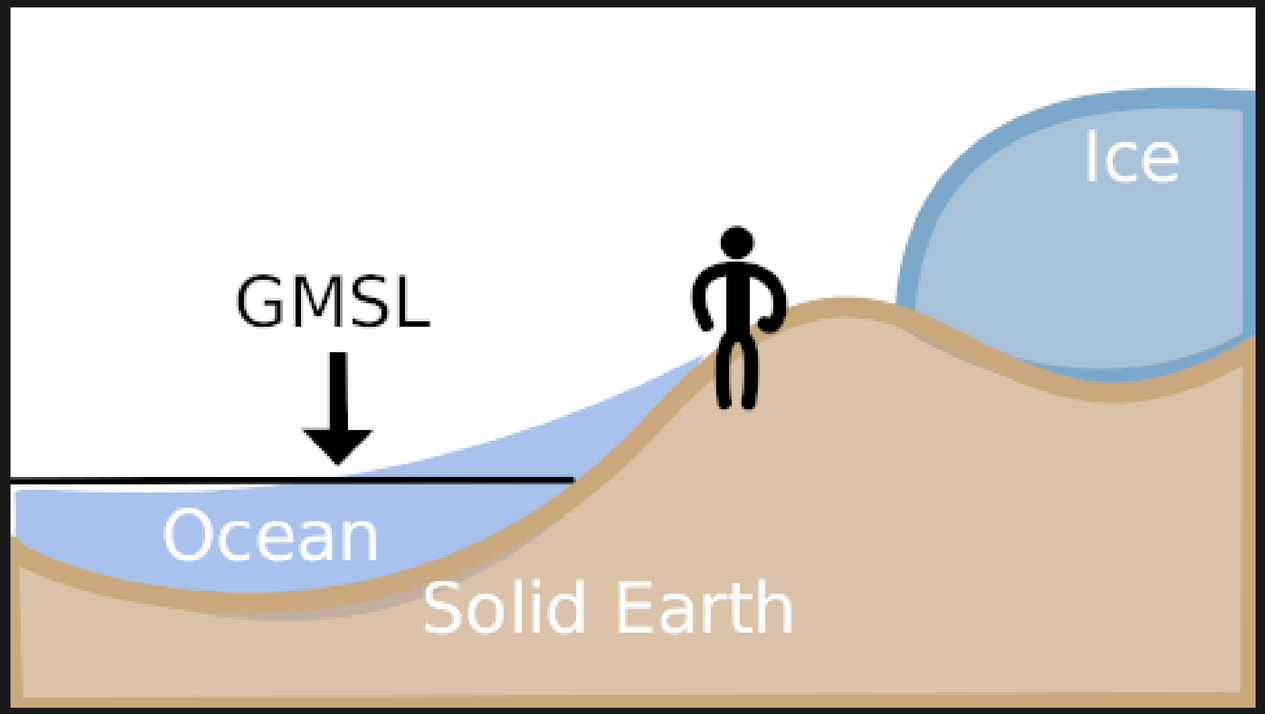

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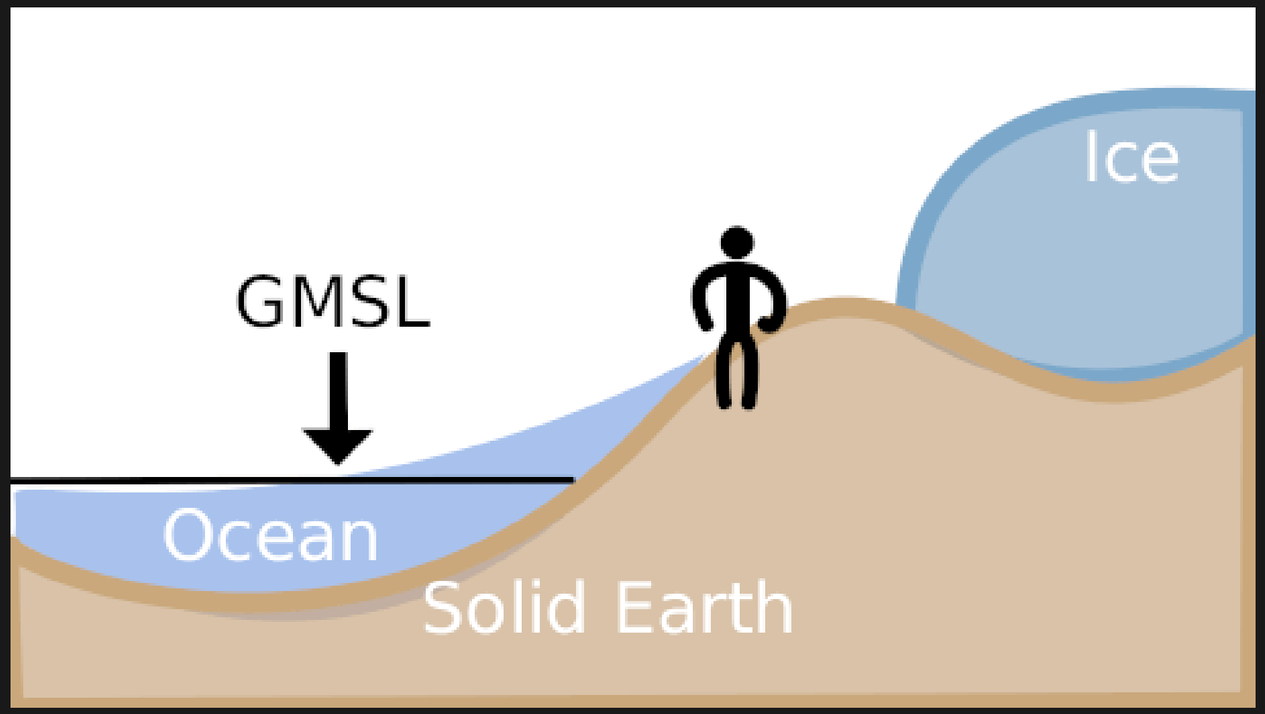

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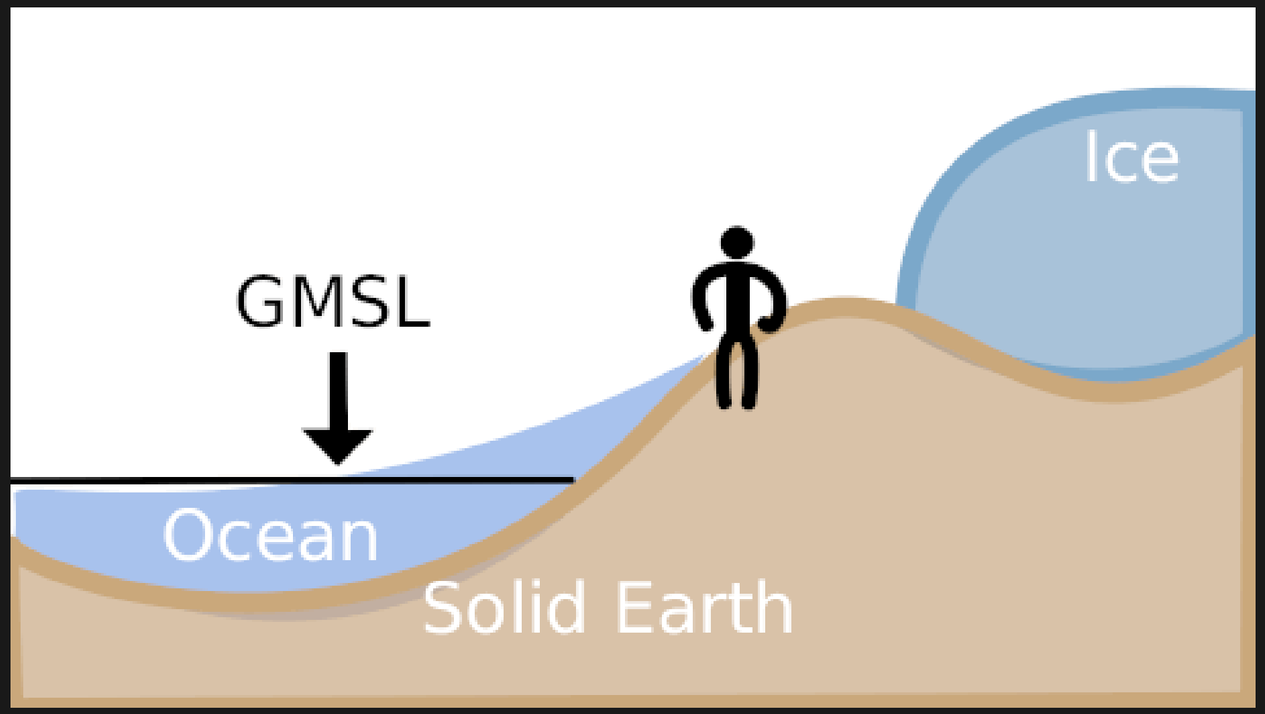
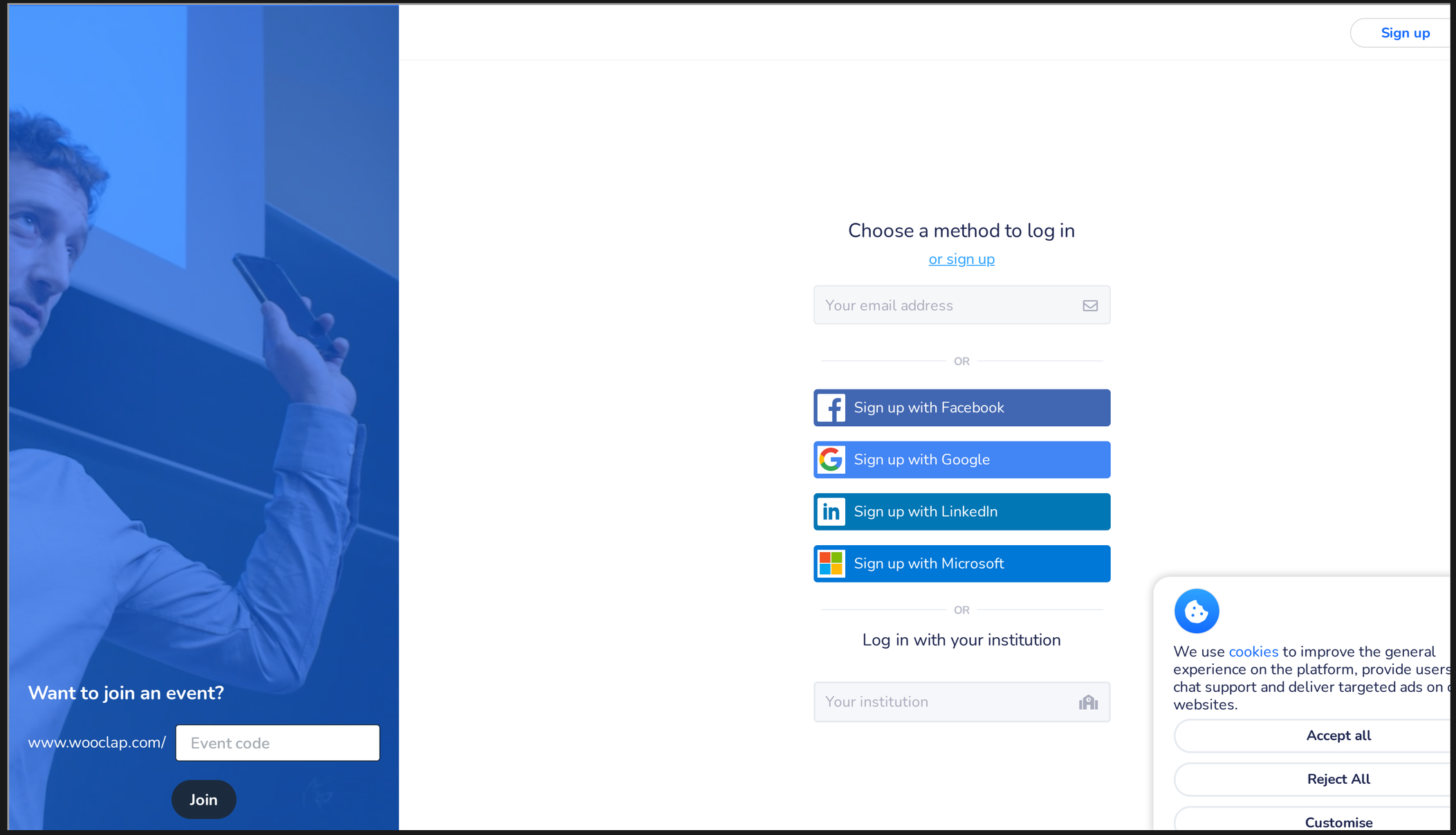
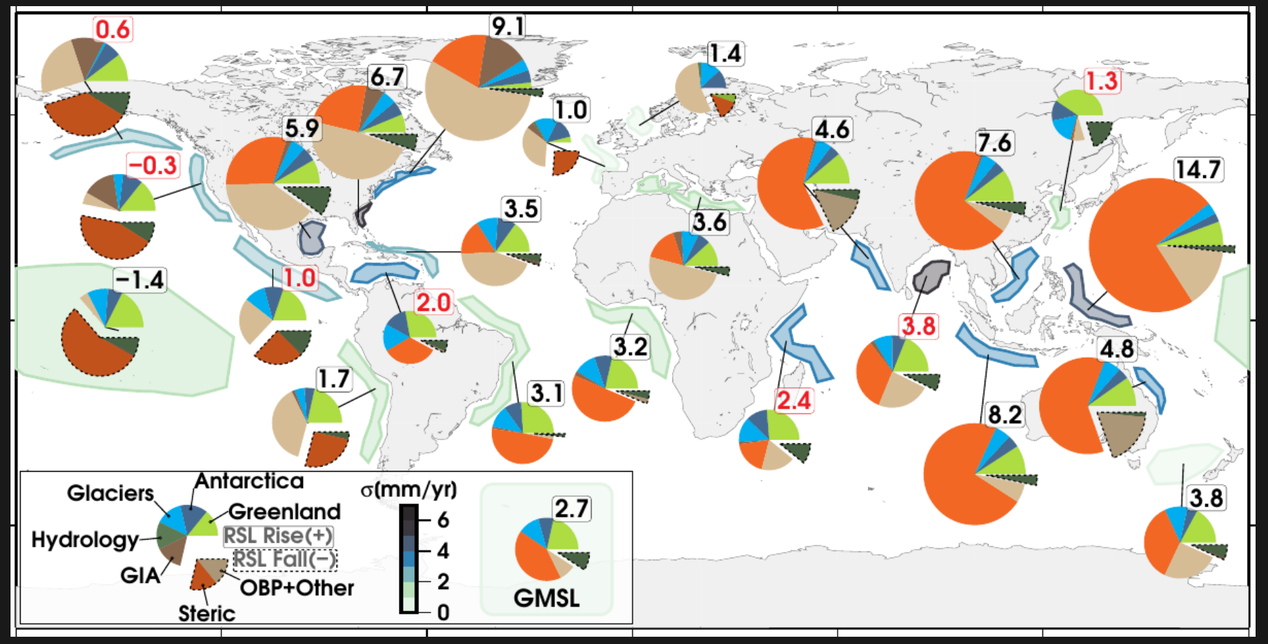


- Theory goes back to 1888 (Woodward)
- Modelled as a passive ocean response (no currents)
- mass conserving
- Takes into account the deformation of the Earth

Other factors affecting relative sea level?

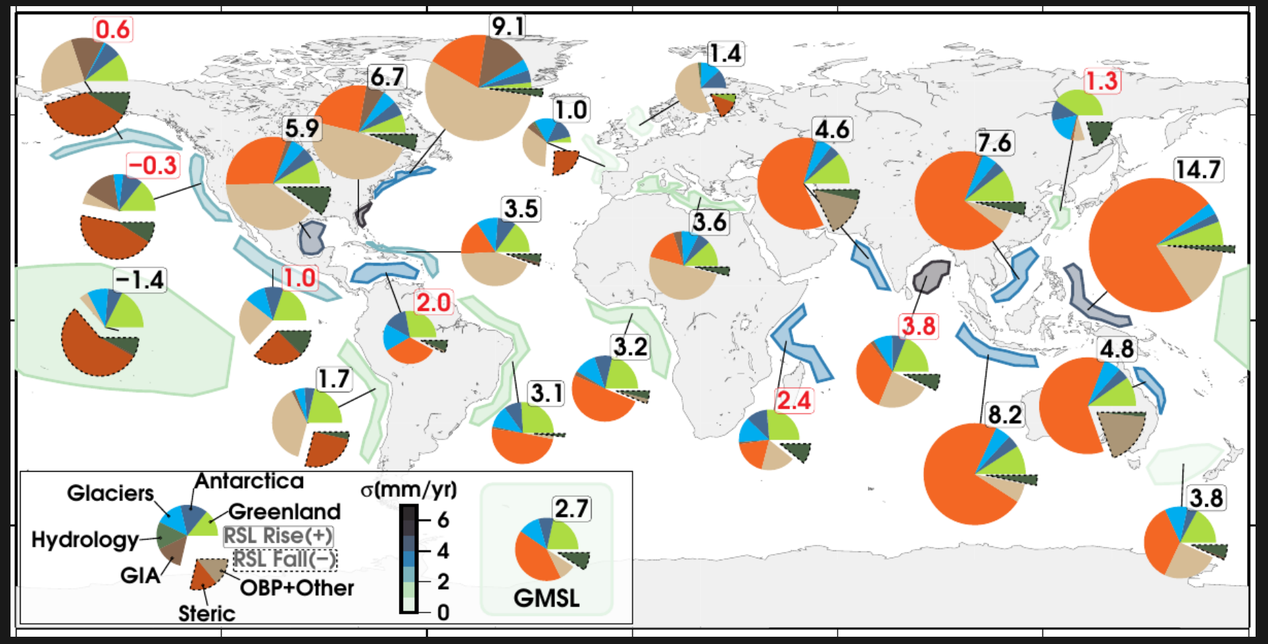


Regional sea level budgets



Regional sea level budgets from Rietbroek et al. 2016

Regional sea level budgets



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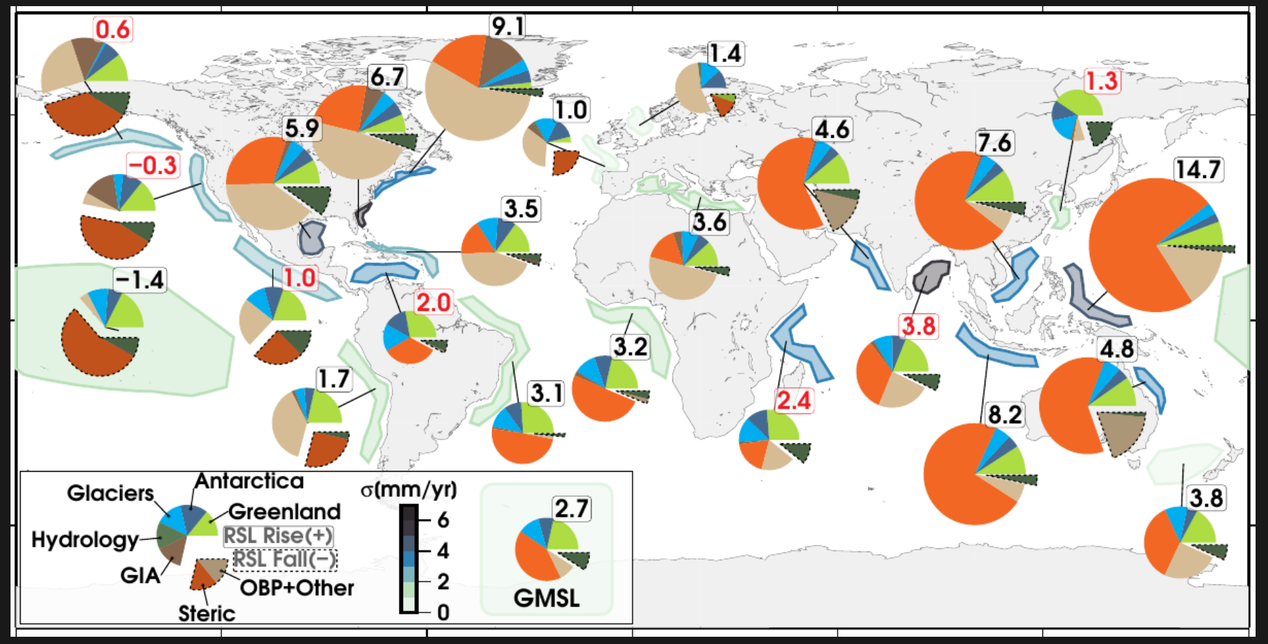
- Sea level rise is not uniform

Regional sea level budgets



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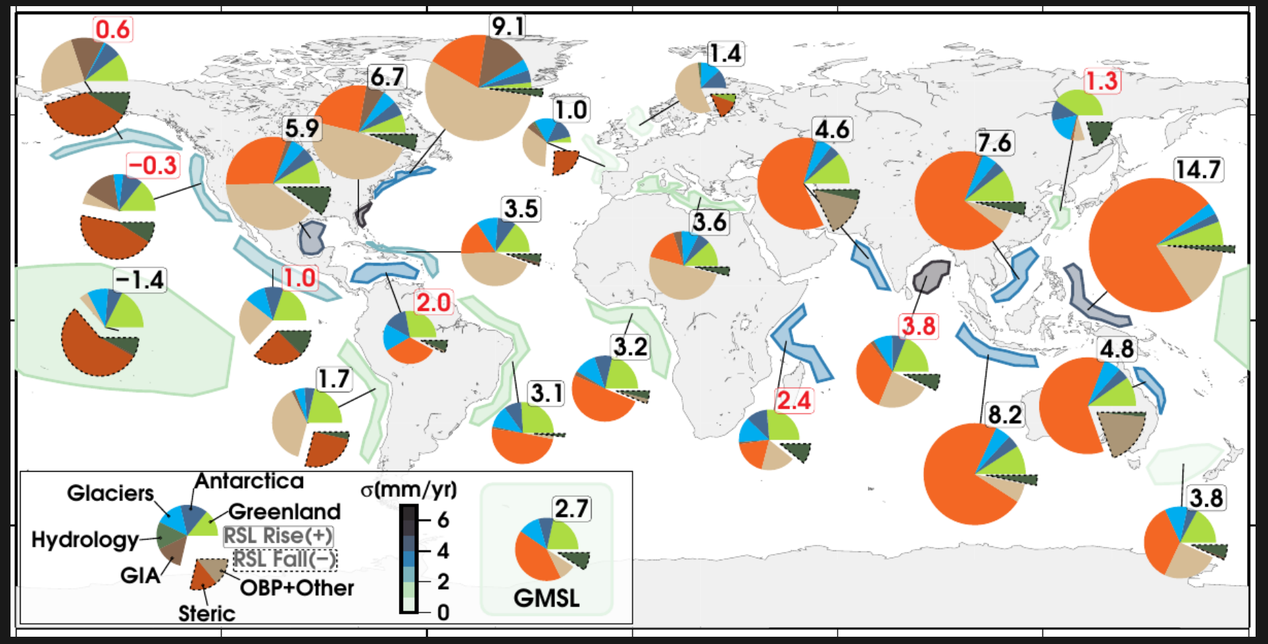
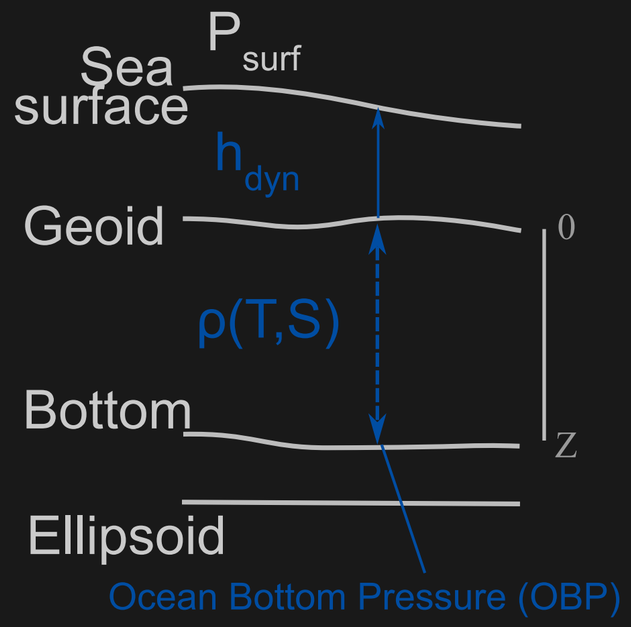


Regional sea level budgets from Rietbroek et al. 2016

- Sea level rise is not uniform
- SAL effects
- Thermosteric and ocean bottom pressure changes play a larger role in the regional budgets

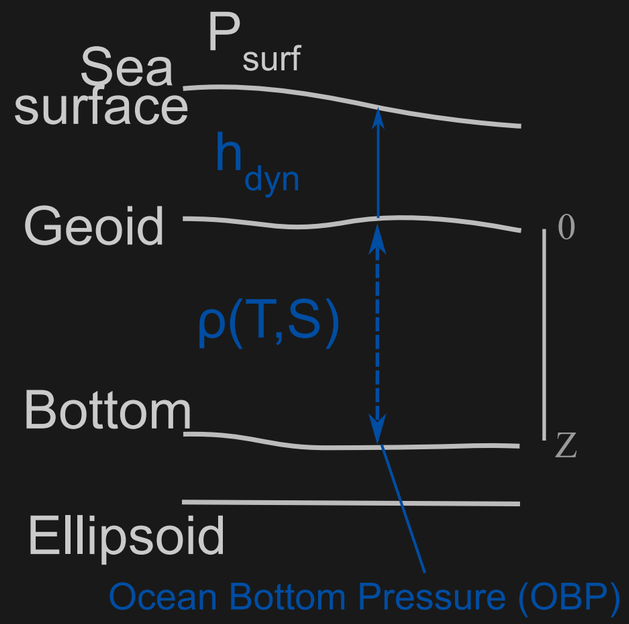
Churning the ocean (forcing from wind stress, density contrasts)

Integrating the water column to obtain ocean bottom pressure



Integrating the water column to obtain ocean bottom pressure

$$P_{OBP} = P_{surf} + g\int_{-Z}^{0} \rho(z,T,S)dz + g\rho_{sea}h_{dyn}$$



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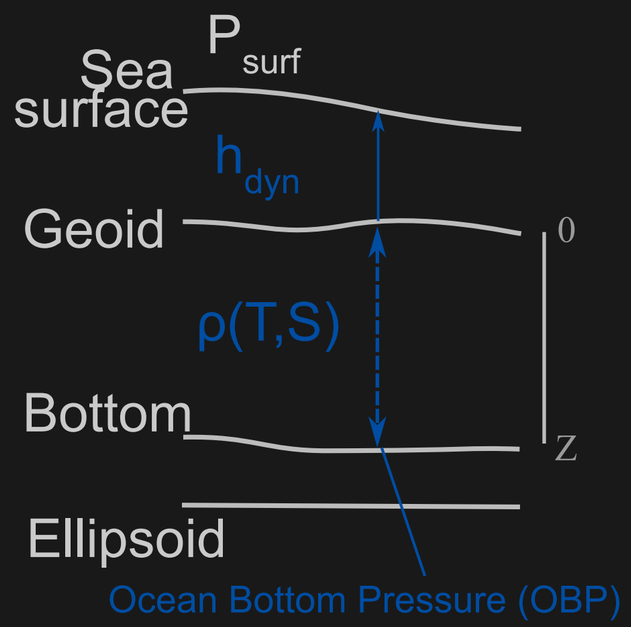

$$P_{OBP} = P_{surf} + g\int_{-Z}^{0} \rho(z,T,S)dz + g\rho_{sea}h_{dyn}$$

Steric **change** only (no OBP change):

$$0 = g\int_{-Z}^{0} \delta\rho(z,T,S)dz + g\rho_{sea}\delta h_{ster}$$

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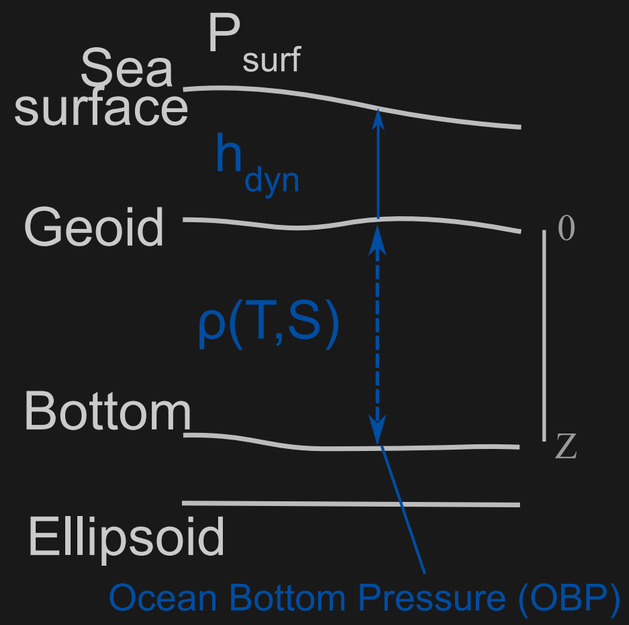

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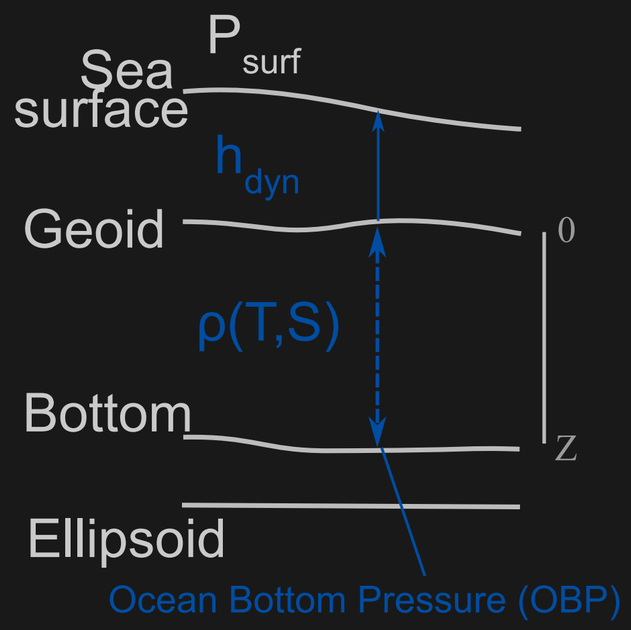

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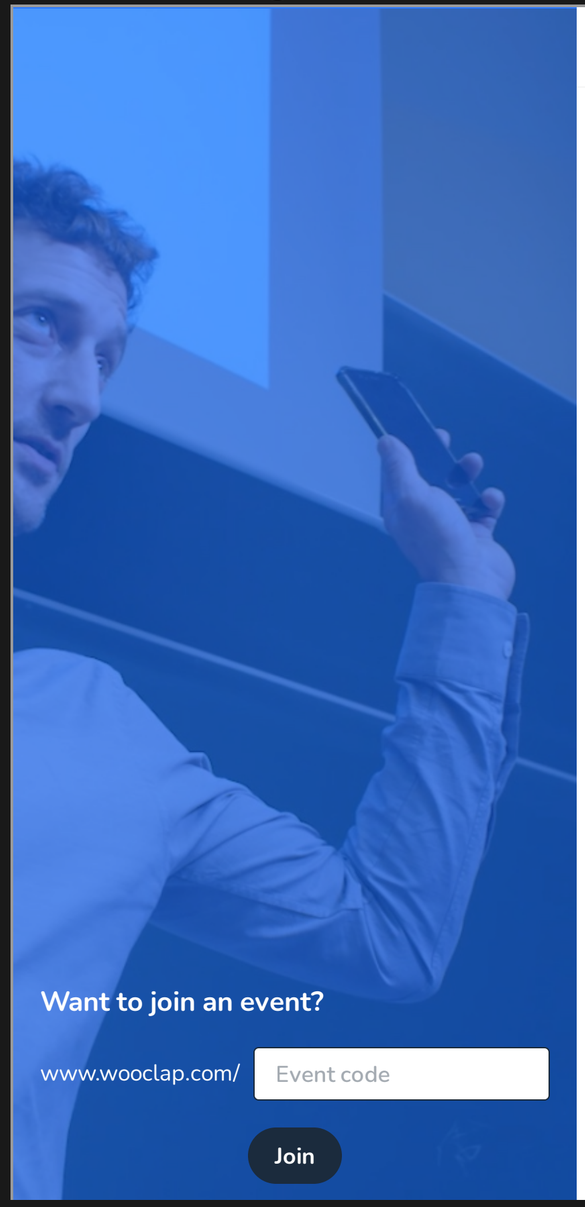
- δh_{ster} visible to GRACE!() $P_{OBP} = 0$
- δh_{ster} **invisible** by radar altimetry!
- Density ↑ results in ↓ of sea level
- Wind driven (quick) → change in h_{dyn}
- Density driven (slow)→ hdyn ~ hster

Quiz time! (again)



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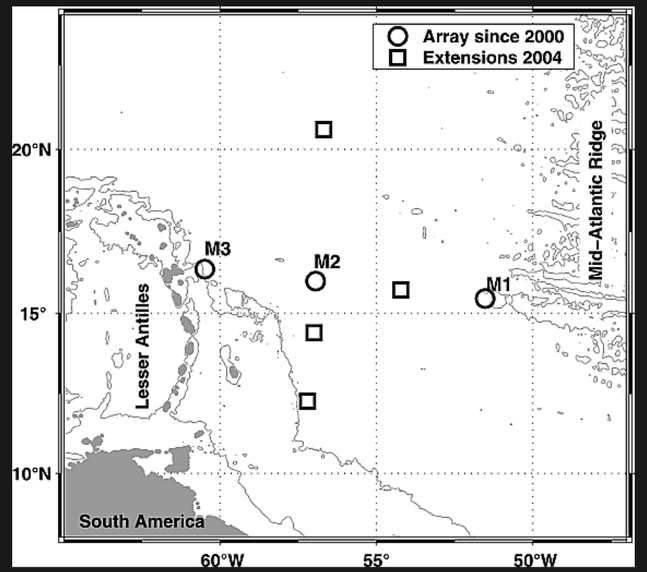
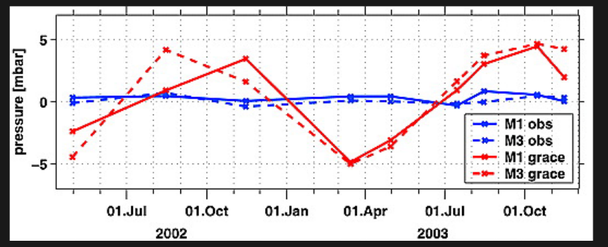
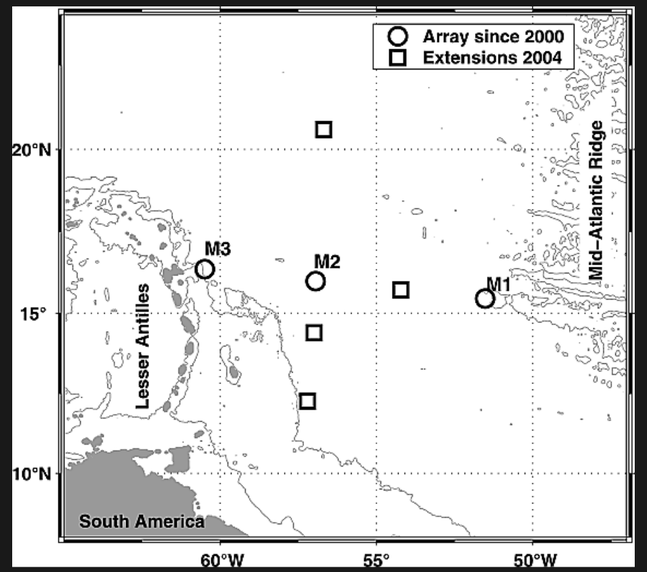
Early GRACE validation of ocean bottom pressure changes (Kanzow et al. 2005)

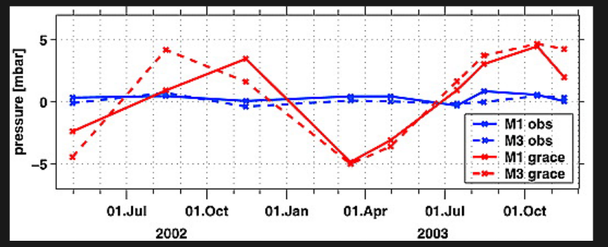




Early GRACE validation of ocean bottom pressure changes (Kanzow et al. 2005)

- In situ validation with pressure sensors





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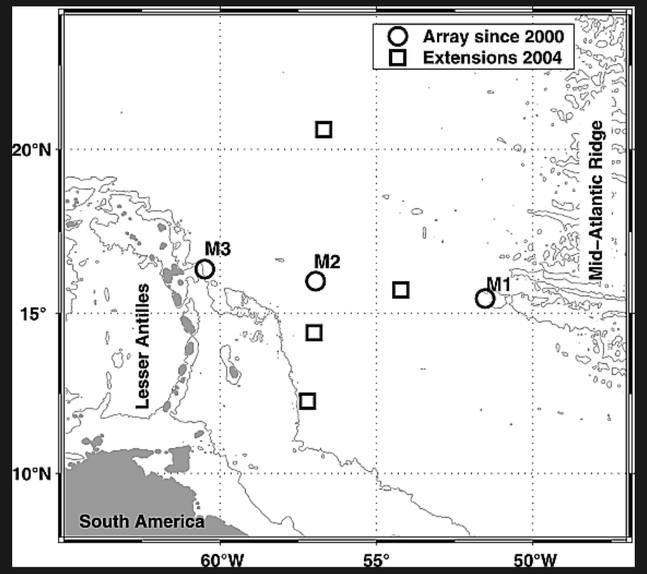

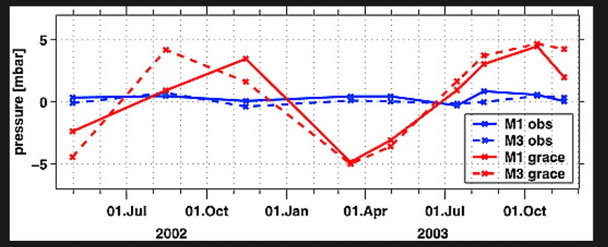

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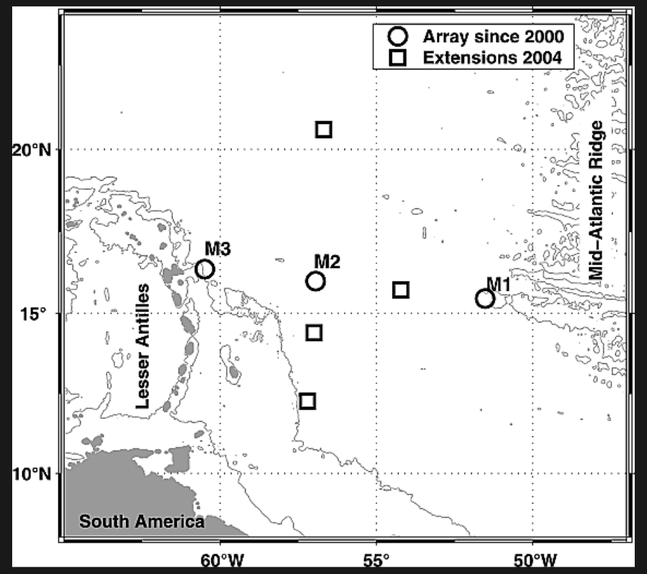
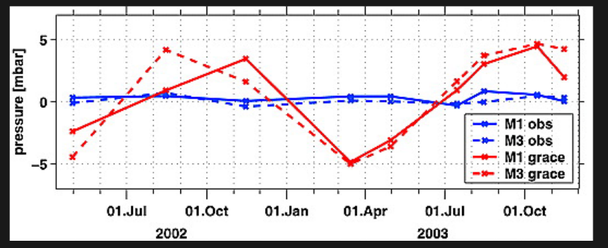
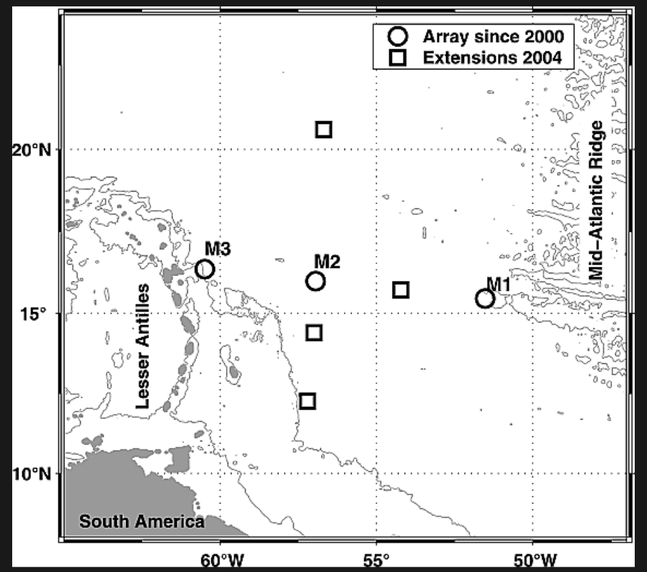
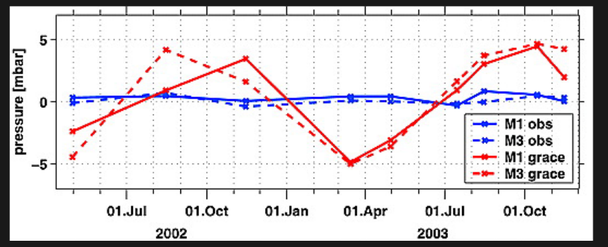




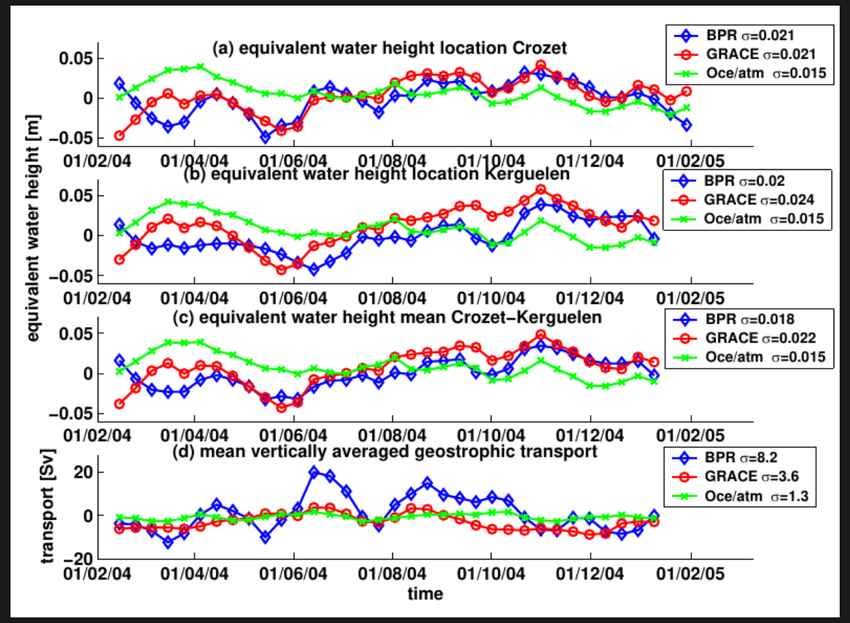
Early GRACE validation of ocean bottom pressure changes (Kanzow et al. 2005)

- In situ validation with pressure sensors
- GRACE fluctuations were too large
    - Signal leakage
    - Processing errors

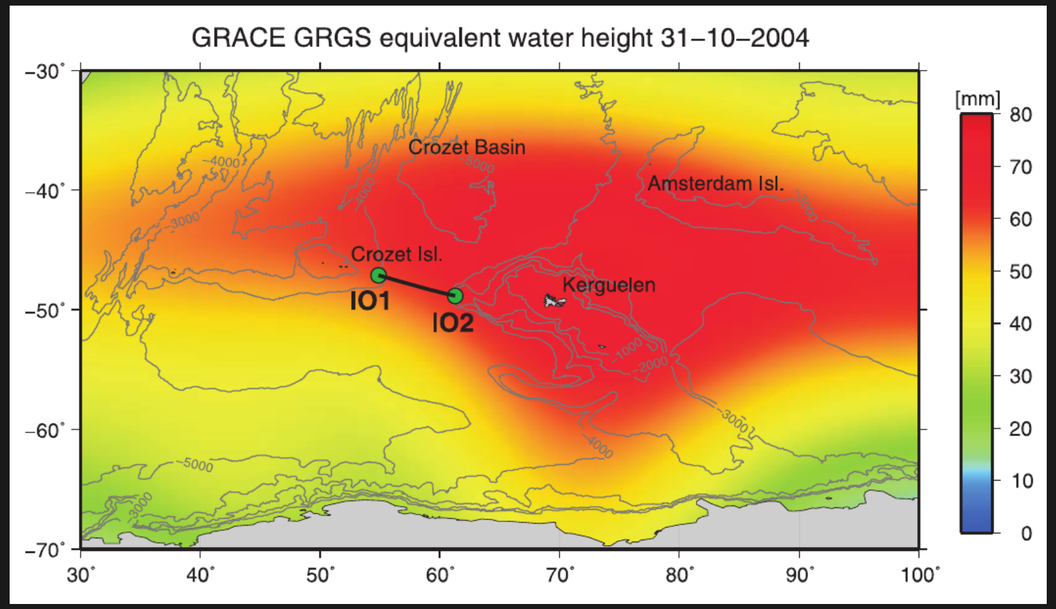




Validation in the Southern Ocean



From Rietbroek et al. 2016



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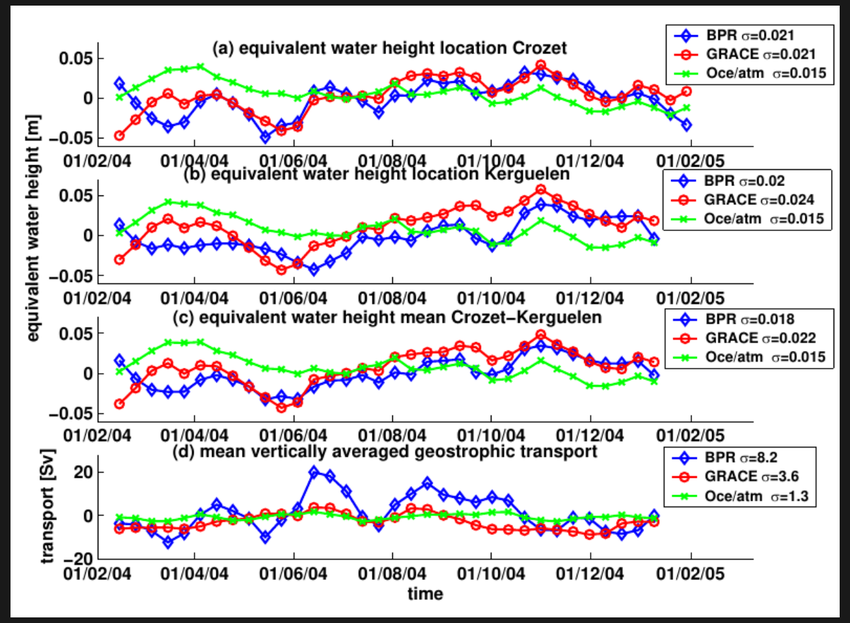

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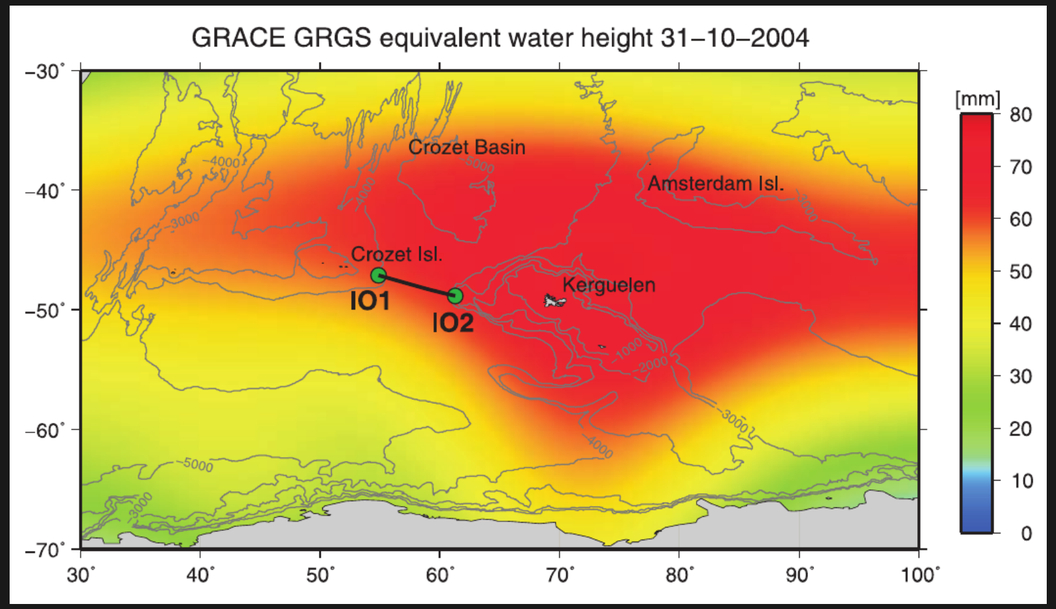

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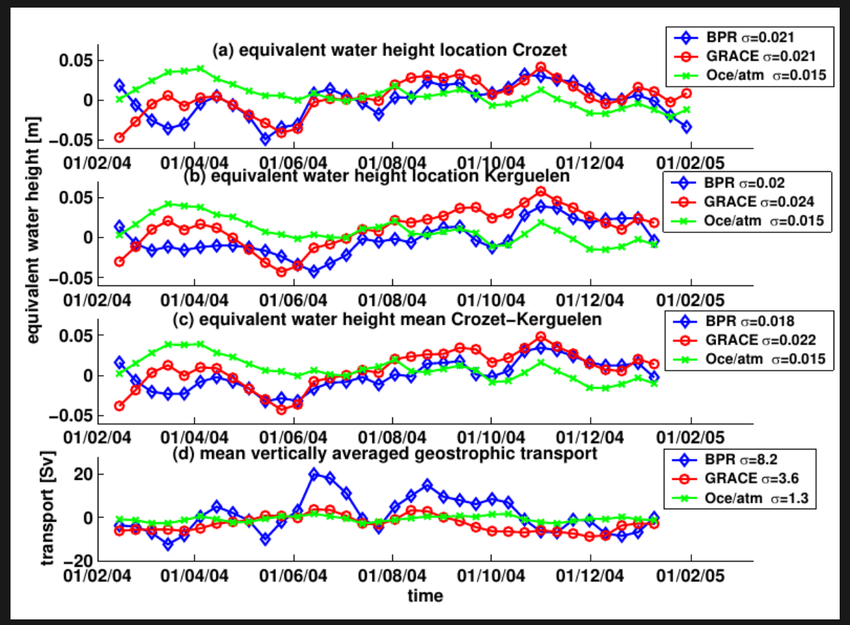

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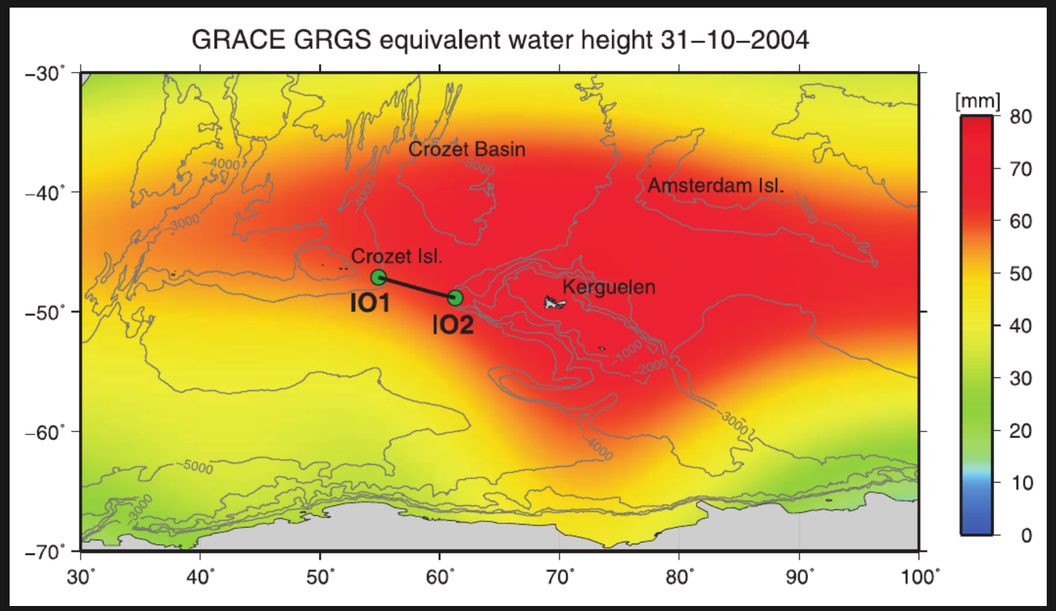

- In situ validation with pressure sensors
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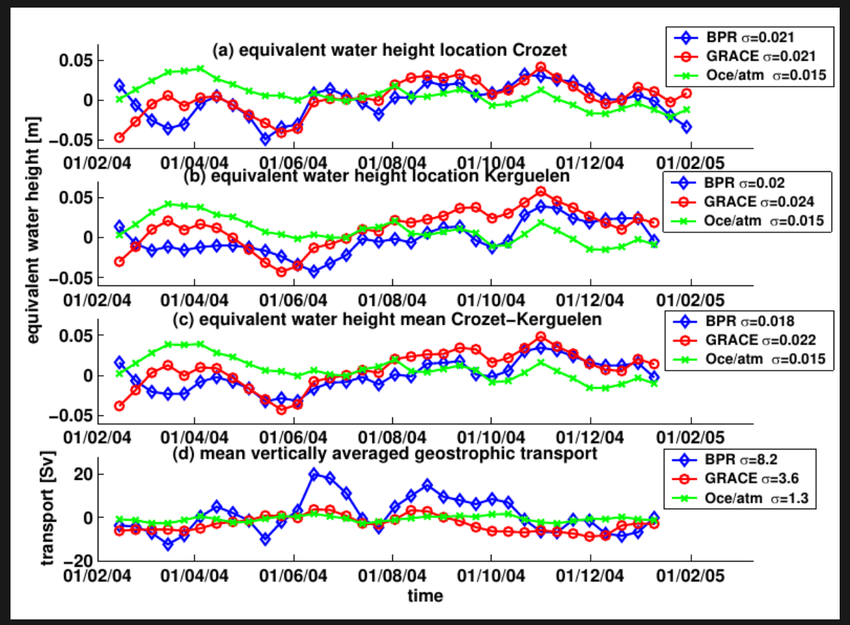

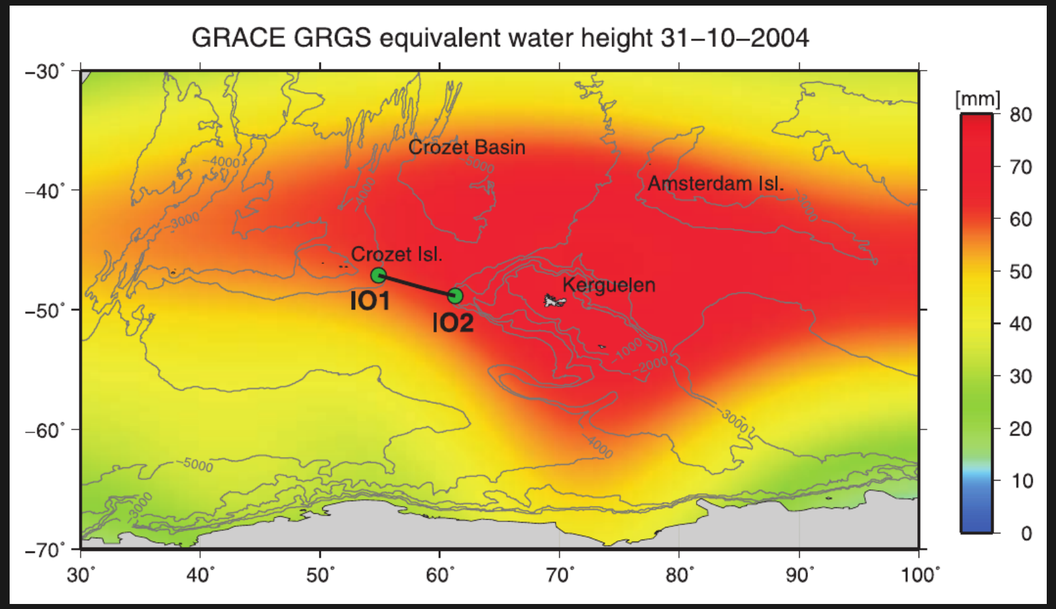

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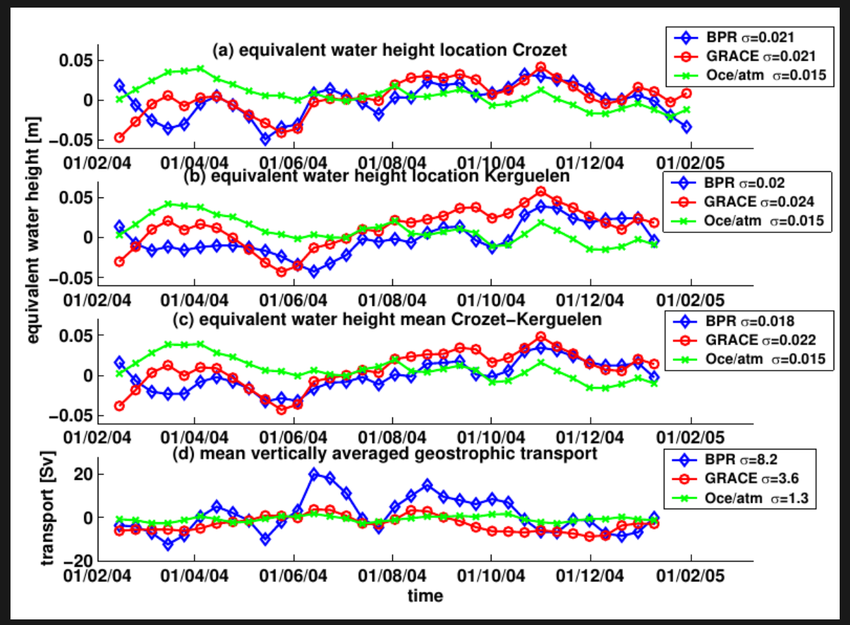

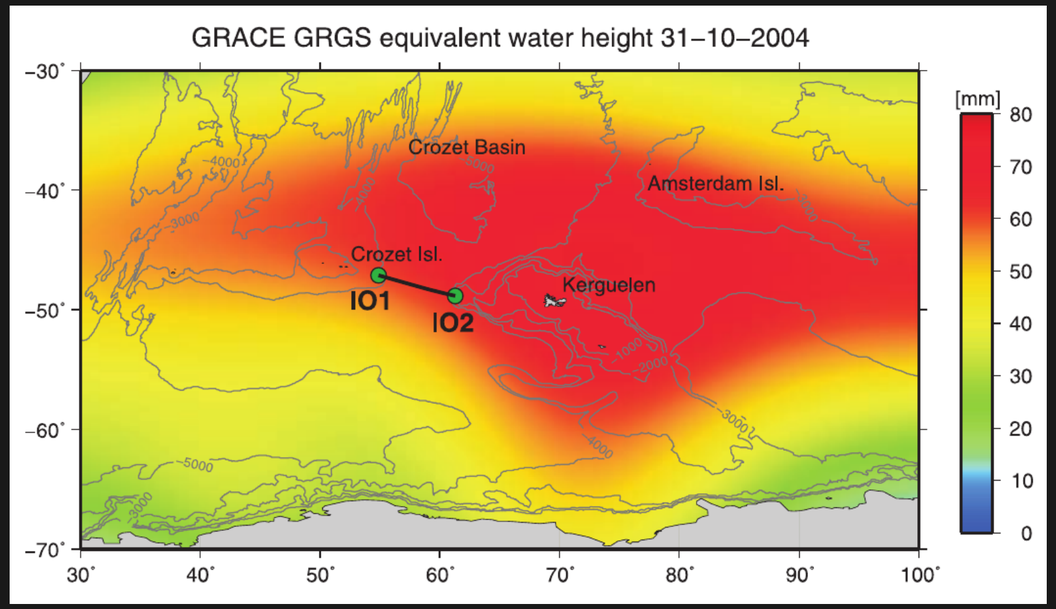

From Rietbroek et al. 2016

- In situ validation with pressure sensors
- 10-day GRACE solution was better than background model
- Large scale ocean signals picked up
- Due to smoothing geostrophic bottom currents not resolved

Geostrophic currents from time variable gravity

JOURNAL OF GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH, VOL. 107, NO. C12, 3218, doi:10.1029/2001JC001274, 2002

A method of inferring changes in deep ocean currents from satellite measurements of time-variable gravity

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Department of Physics and Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, USA

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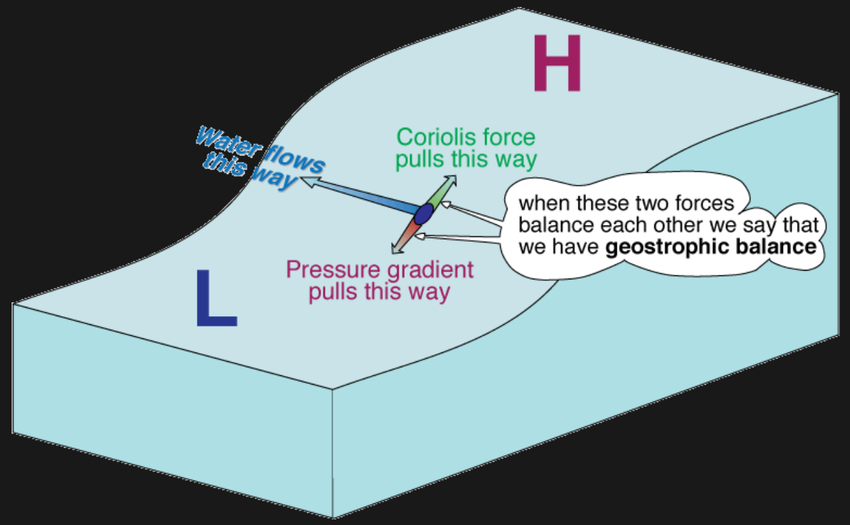

the effects of friction and external forcing are less important, (1) reduces to the geostrophic approximation:

Pressure gradient

$$2\rho_0 \Omega \times \mathbf{v} \approx -\nabla P \qquad (2)$$

Earth rotation vector

velocity

Geostrophic currents from time variable gravity

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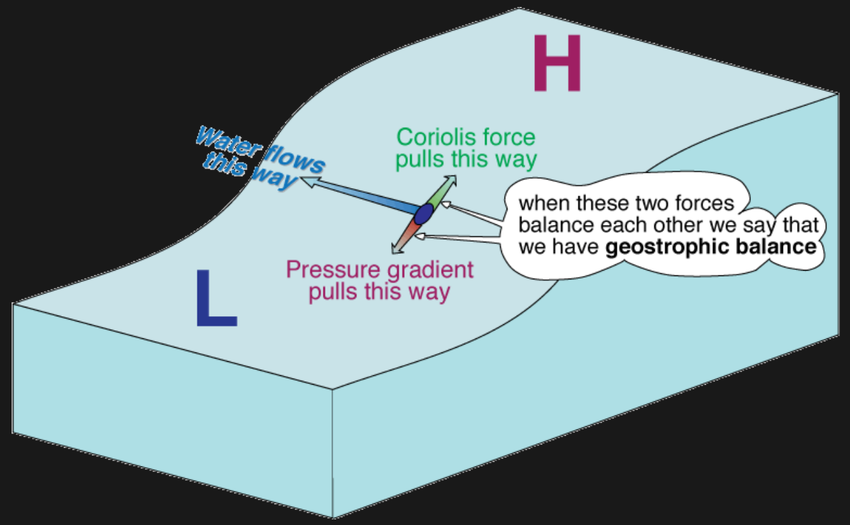

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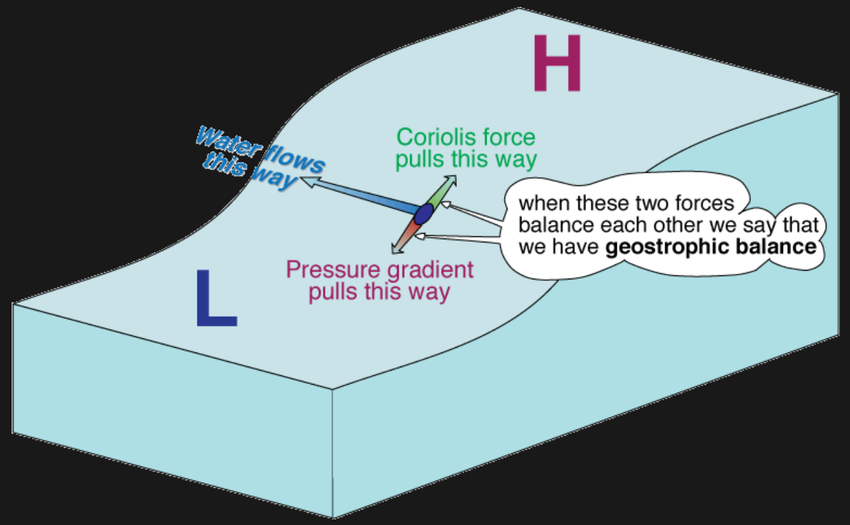

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Earth rotation vector

velocity

- Assume horizontal constant velocities
- cross-product -> latitude dependency

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A method of inferring changes in deep ocean currents from satellite measurements of time-variable gravity

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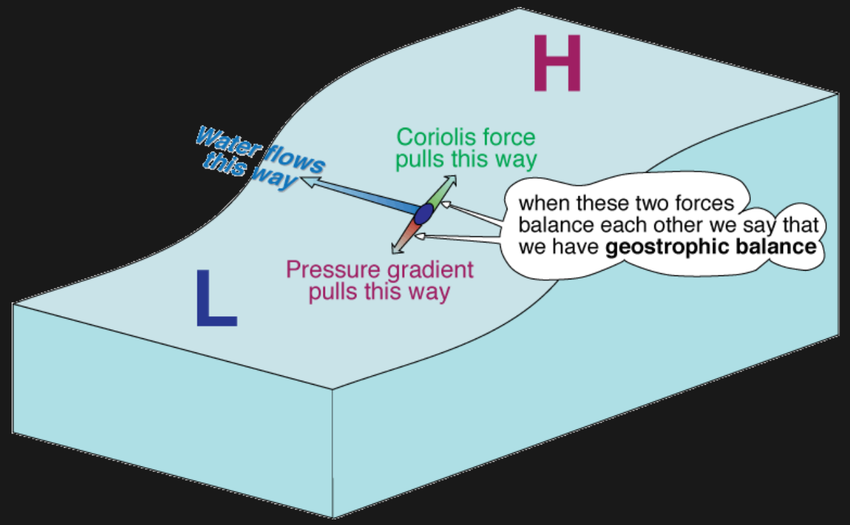

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the effects of friction and external forcing are less important, (1) reduces to the geostrophic approximation:

Pressure gradient

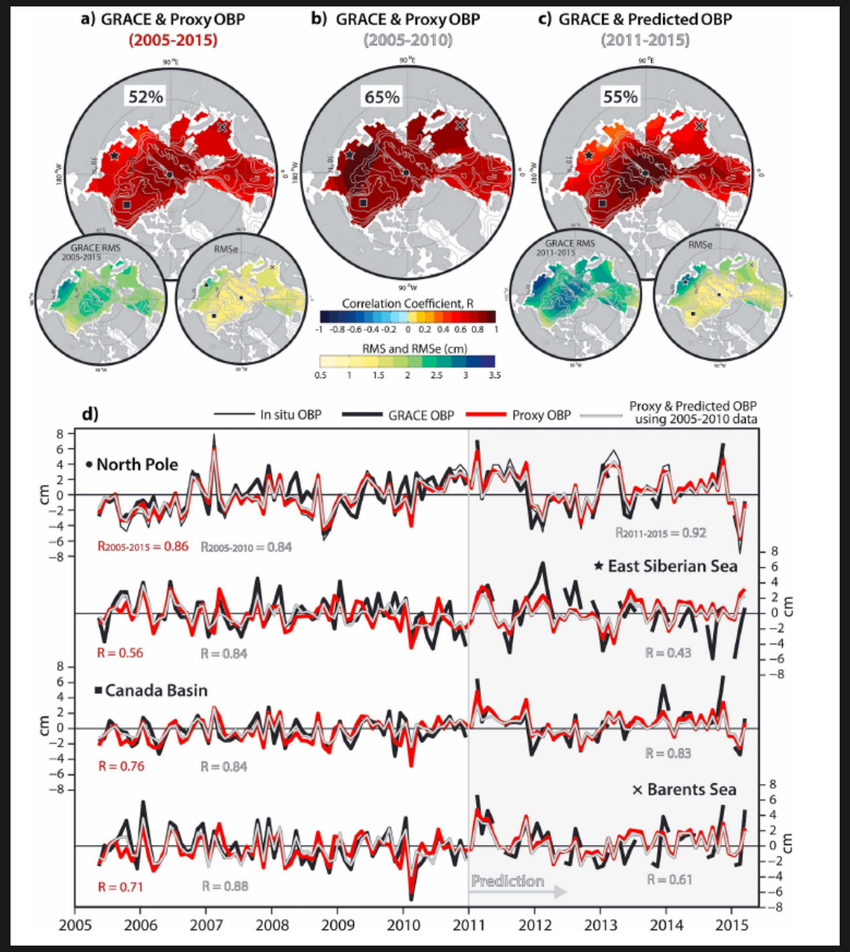
$$2\rho_0 \Omega \times \mathbf{v} \approx -\nabla P \qquad (2)$$

Earth rotation vector

velocity

- Assume horizontal constant velocities
- cross-product -> latitude dependency
- Velocity is orthogonal to gradient!

Arctic Ocean Bottom pressure variations well captured by GRACE



From Peralta-ferriz et al. 2016

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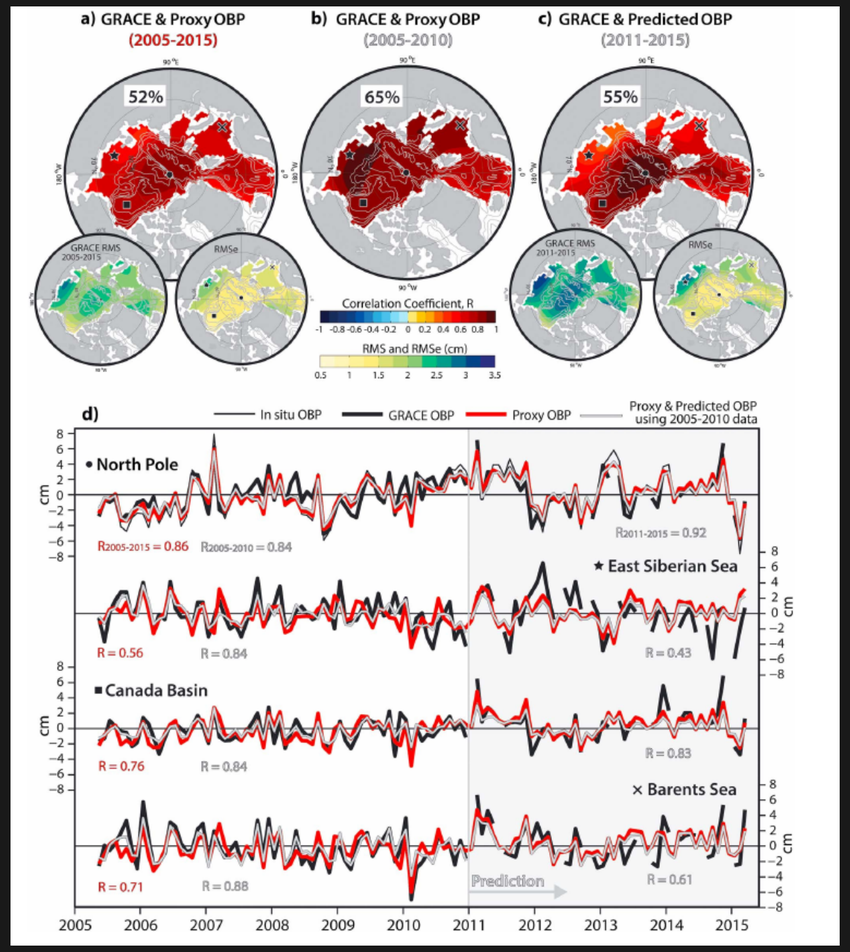

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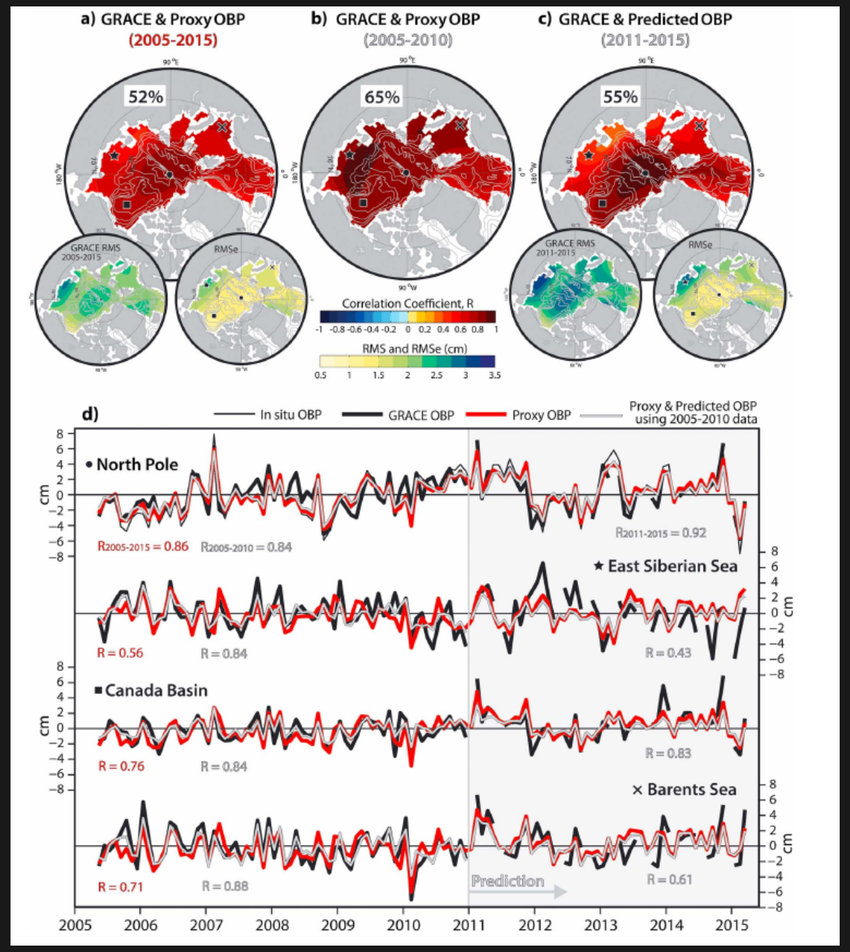

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- Coherent OBP signals in the Arctic

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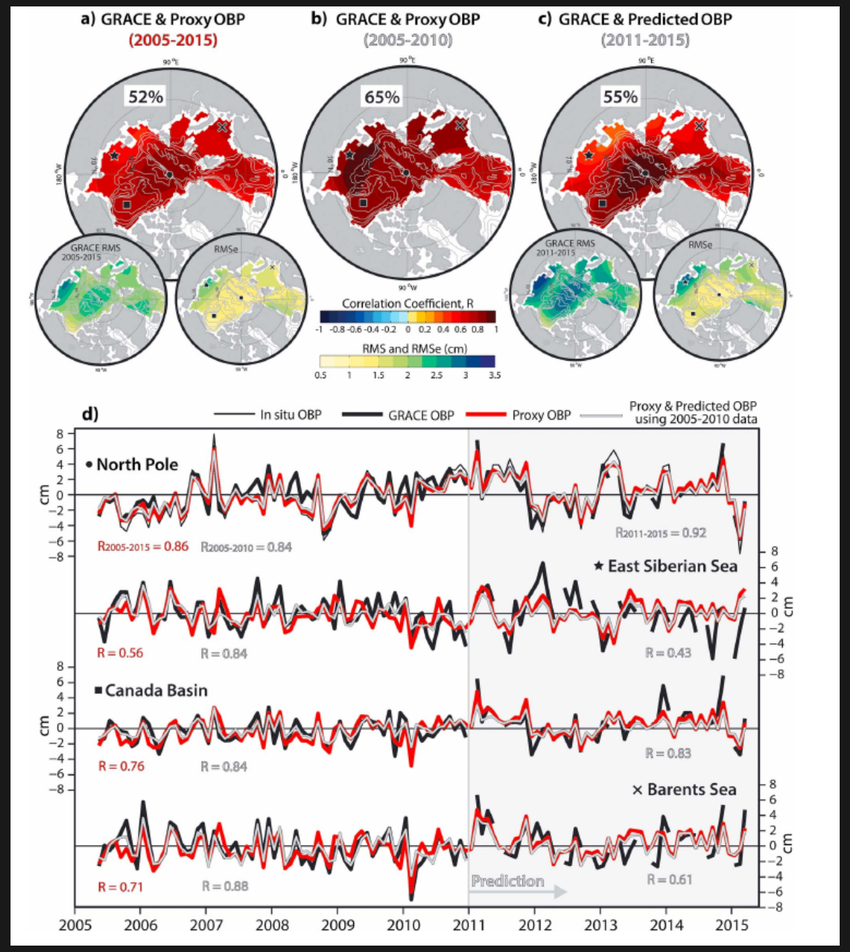

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- In situ OBP well captured by GRACE
- Coherent OBP signals in the Arctic
- Comparison showed that a single in situ OBP can serve as proxy for the entire Arctic

What have you learned?

- Adding mass to the ocean
    - Observable in time-variable gravity
    - GRACE (1.5 - 2 mm/yr global mean ocean mass change)
    - Different causes have non-uniform contributions (Ice sheets, hydrology, dam impoundment,..)
    - Regional sea level also influenced by: Self attraction and loading
- Churning the Ocean (currents and wind)
    - Integration of the water column -> OBP
    - OBP changes due to dynamic height differences and column density change
    - Steric sea level: density driven dynamic height changes under the assumption of no OBP change
    - Pressure gradients cause circulation (surface gradient may be different from bottom)


Outlook

- Still many ocean applications unexplored (geostrophic currents!)
- Added value comes from combined data e.g. altimetry, Argo, etc.