

Near real-time GRACE-based flood warning

Adrian Jäggi, Andreas Güntner, Frank Flechtner, Torsten Mayer-Gürr
& EGSIEM Team

Astronomical Institute, University of Bern

ISSI Workshop

15. – 18. April 2019, Bern

Introduction



EGSIEM European Gravity Service for Improved Emergency Management

was a H2020 project consisting of eight European partners:



and several associated members:



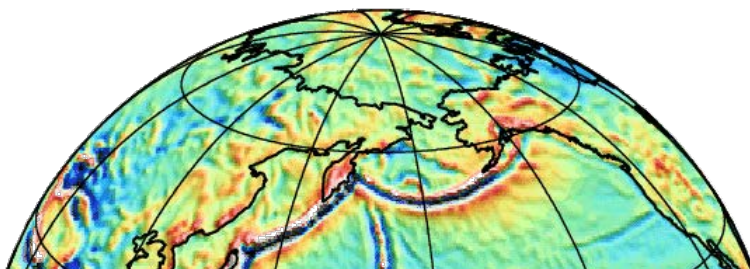
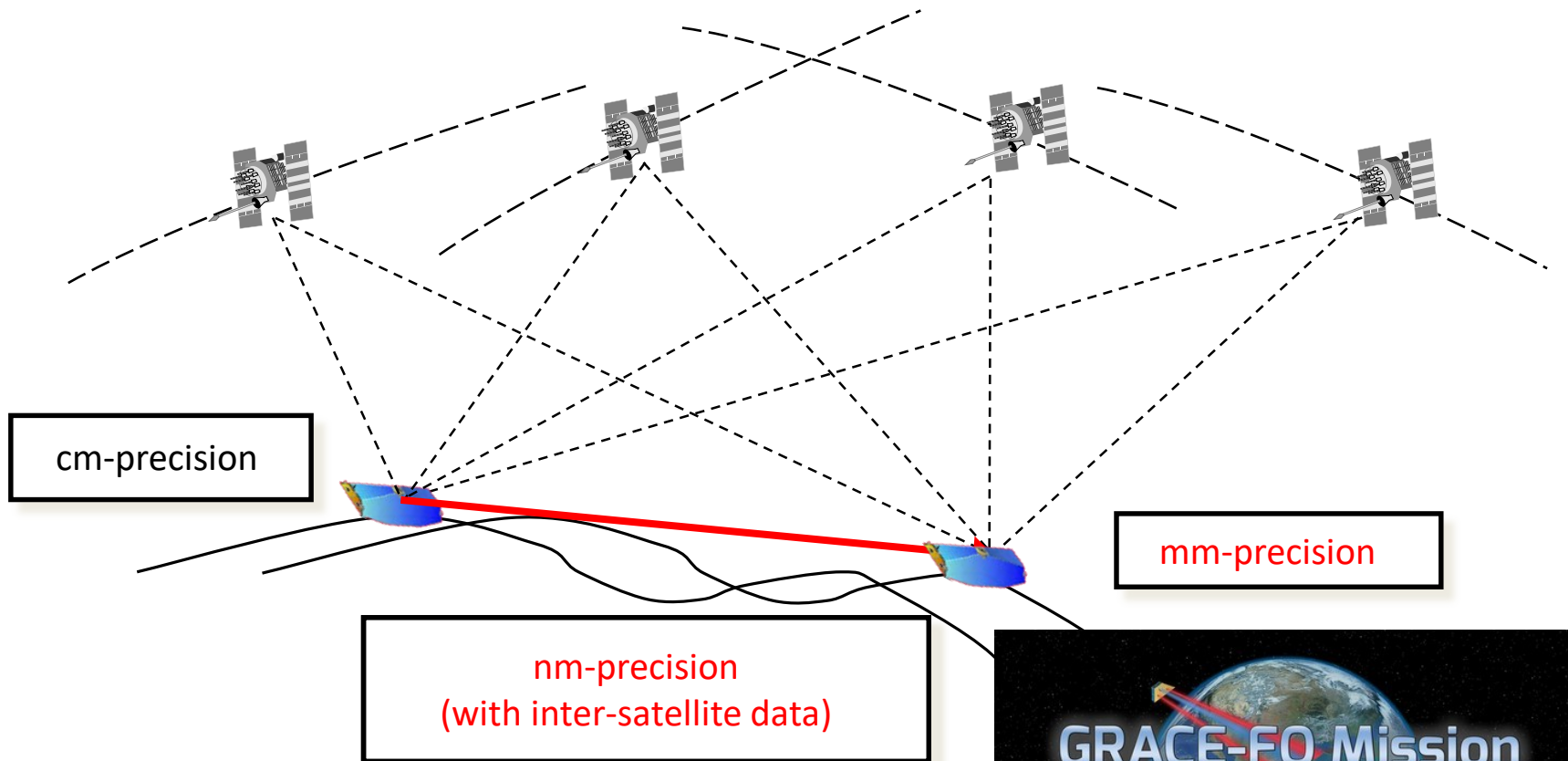
EGSIEM Objectives



The three *main objectives* of EGSIEM were:

- Deliver the best global time-variable gravity products for applications in Earth and environmental science research without using regularization
- Reduce the latency and increase the temporal resolution of the gravity and therefore mass redistribution products using regularization
- Develop gravity-based indicators for extreme hydrological events and demonstrate their value for flood forecasting and monitoring services

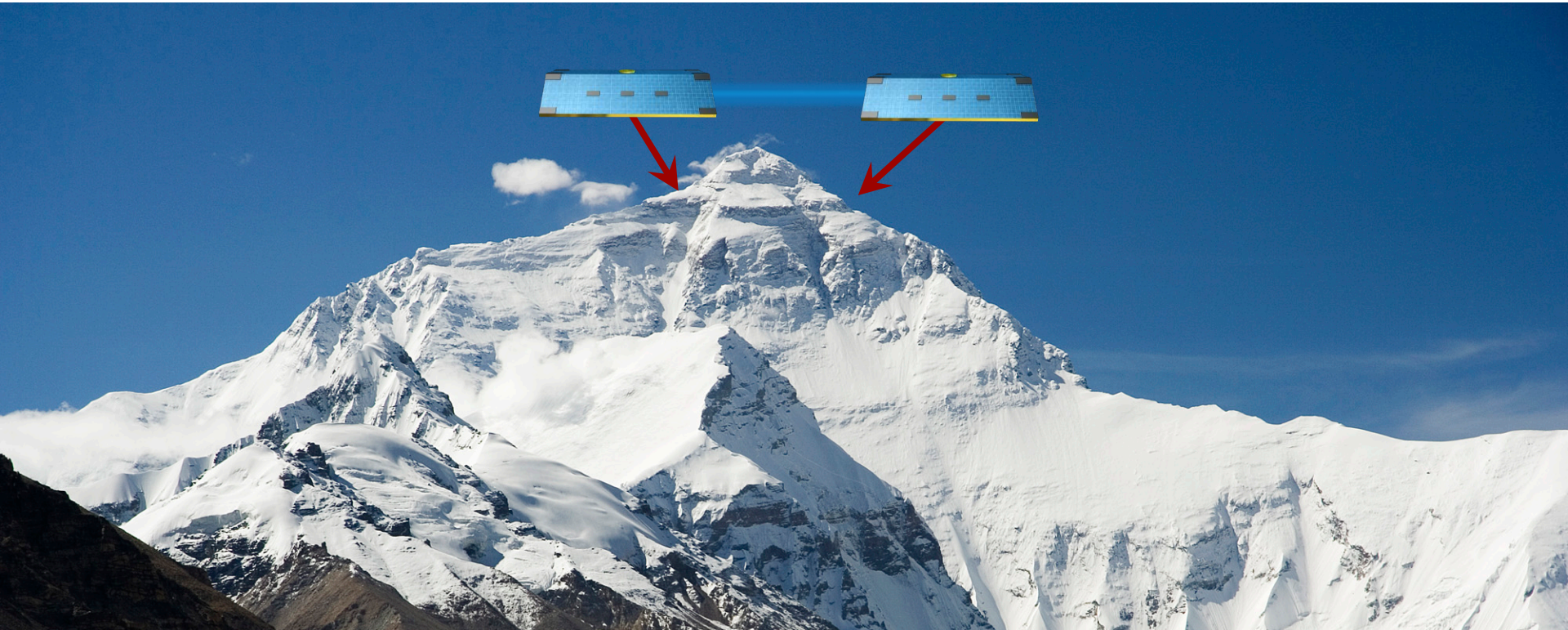
Space Gravimetry GRACE/GRACE-FO



GRACE-FO Mission

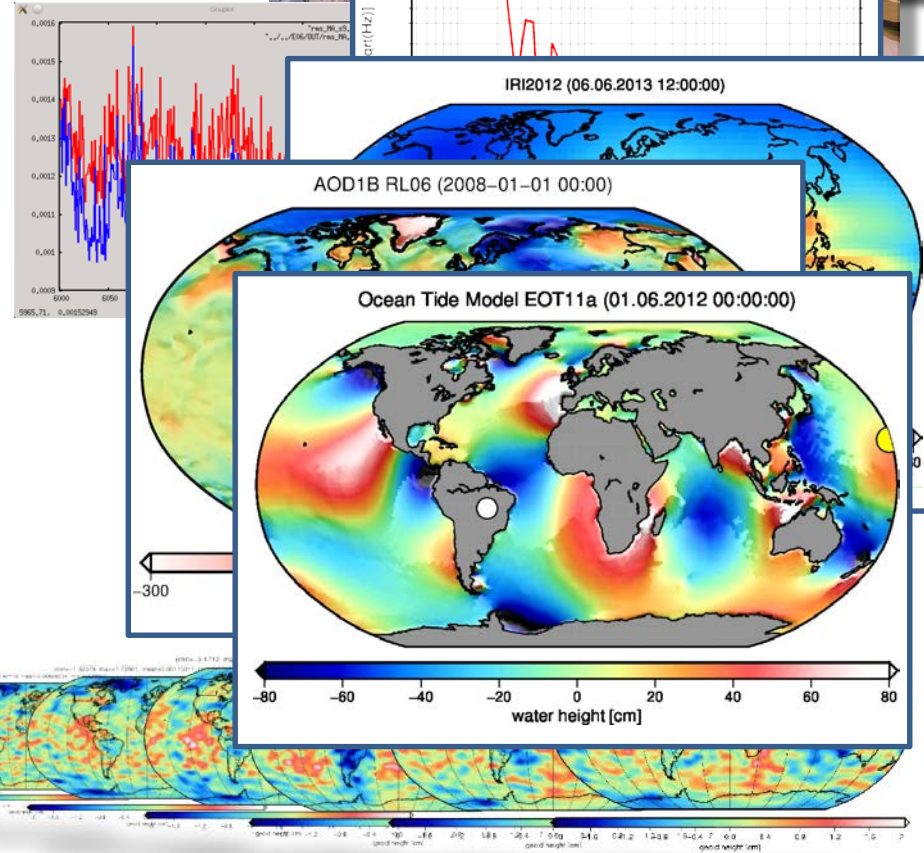
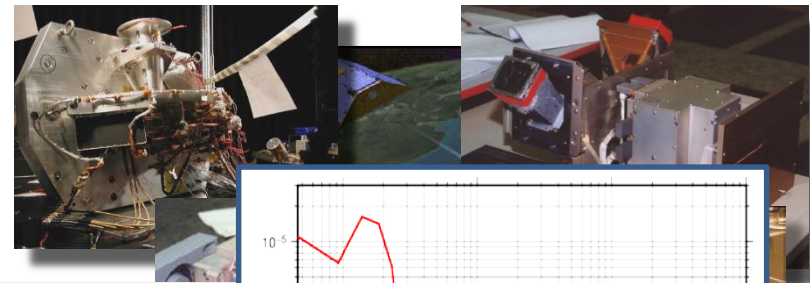
LISA Technology
Sheds Light on Climate Change

Measurement Principle

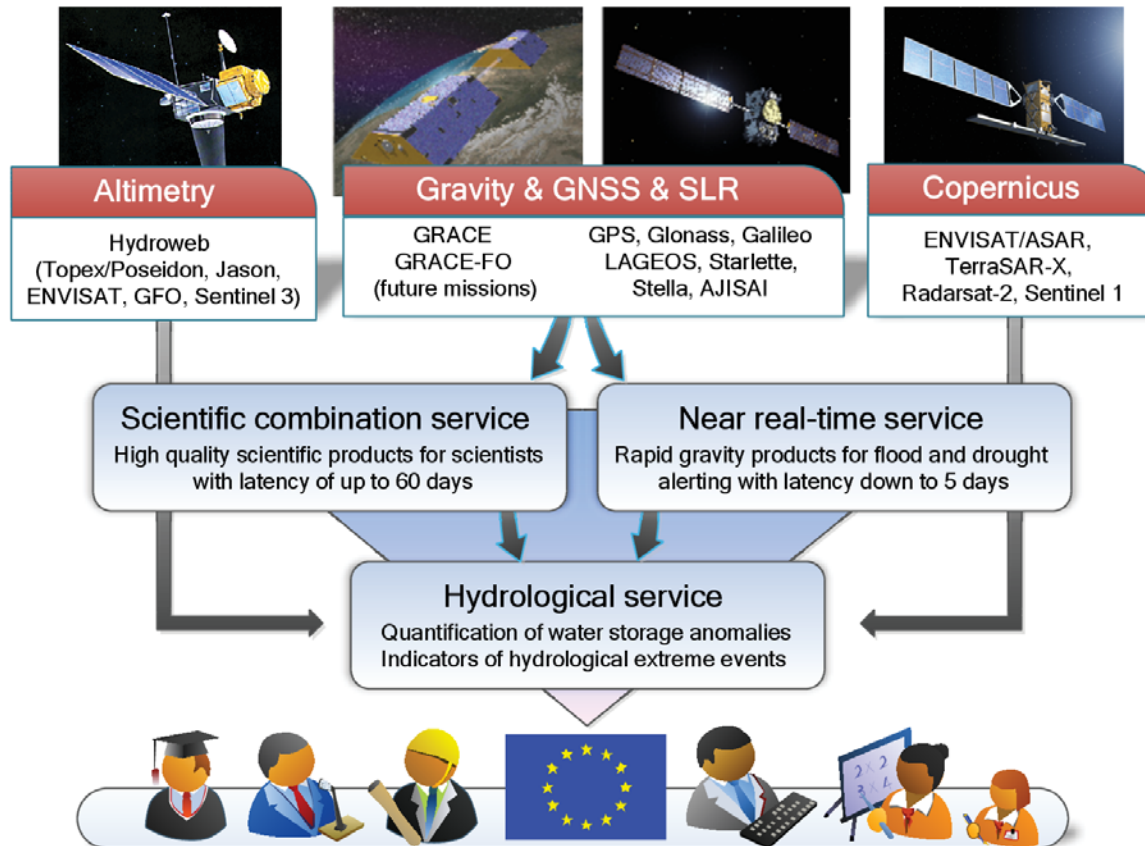


GRACE in a nutshell:

- Process GRACE data to a time series of monthly gravity field solutions
 - Processing is challenging
 - Interaction of multiple instruments
 - Different noise characteristics
 - Environmental disturbances
 - Ionosphere
 - Atmosphere
 - Ocean currents
 - Tides
 - Large system of equations: Computational restrictions
 - Processing is challenging
- => There is not only one truth solution

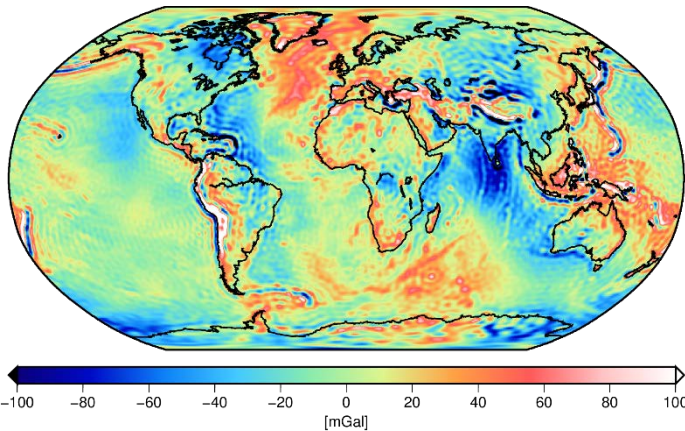
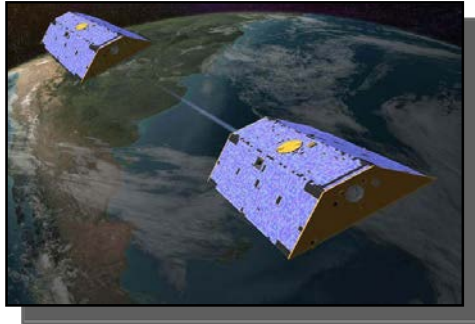


EGSIEM prototype Services



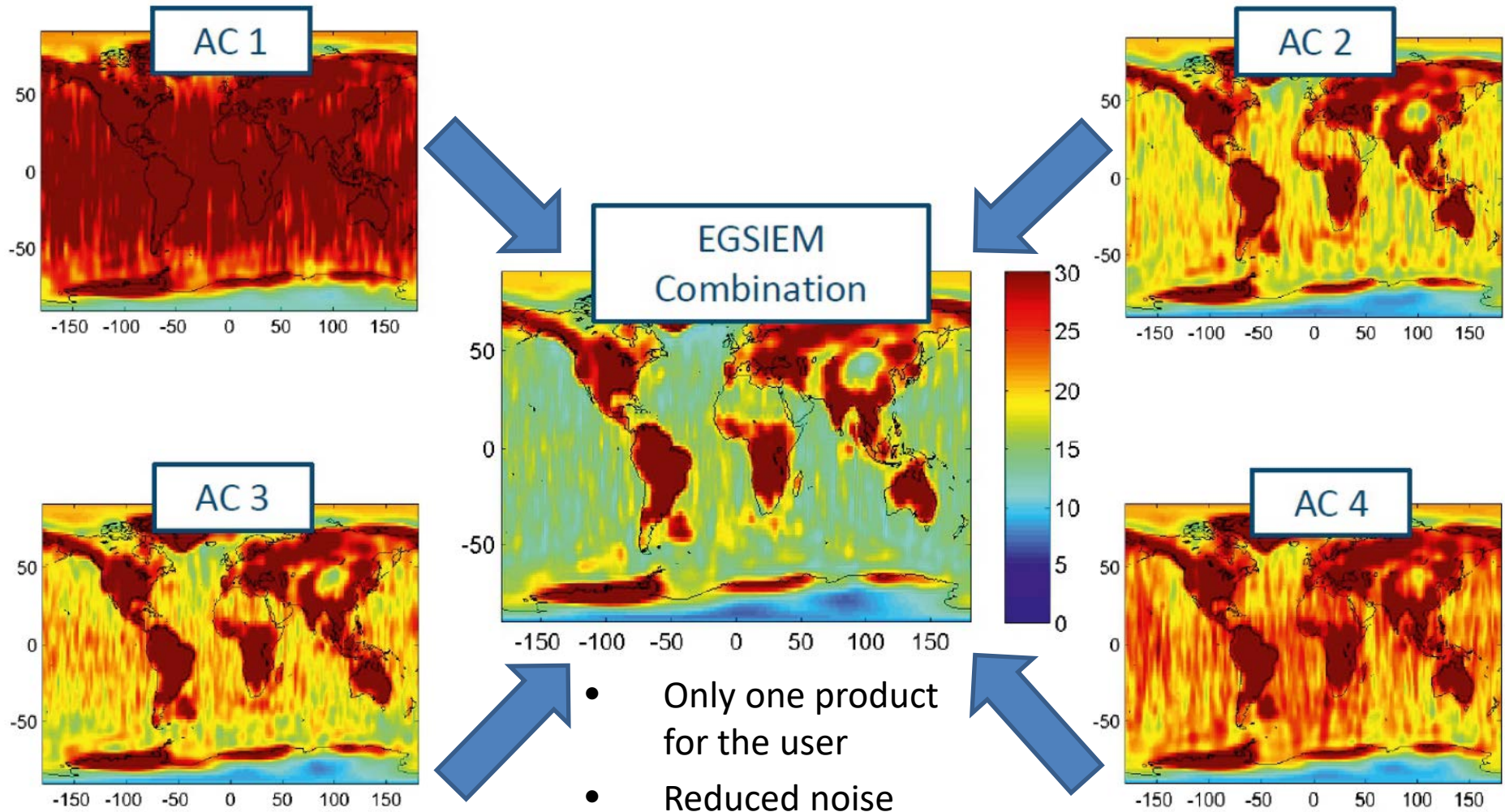
Jäggi et al. (2019)

Gravity Field Analysis



- Improved gravity field solutions by:
 - Harmonization of processing standards
 - Improvements of analysis methods
- EGSIEM Analysis Centers (ACs):
 - GFZ (Direct Approach)
 - CNES (Direct Approach)
 - UBERN (Celestial Mechanics Approach)
 - TUG (Short-Arc Approach)
- More in the future (COST-G) ...
==> Provide different solutions for a combined solution

Scientific Combination Service



Future Perspective



International Association of Geodesy
of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics

President

Prof. Dr. Riccardo Barzaghi
Chair of IGFS

Potsdam, 2018-02-06

Ref.: your letter about the future COST-G Combination service within the IFGS

Dear Prof. Barzaghi,

From IAG side I fully support the procedure to establish COST-G as a Combination Service for Time-variable Gravity Field Solutions as a Product Center of the IFGS.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Harald Schuh'.

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Harald Schuh

- The EGSIEM Scientific Combination Service is continued as **COST-G** (**CO**m bination **S**ervice of **T**ime-variable **G**ravity field solutions). COST-G is a Product Center of the International Gravity Field Service (**IGFS**) of the International Association of Geodesy (**IAG**).
- Currently in preparational phase, kindly supported also by ISSI.
- Official inauguration will be at the 2019 IUGG meeting this summer

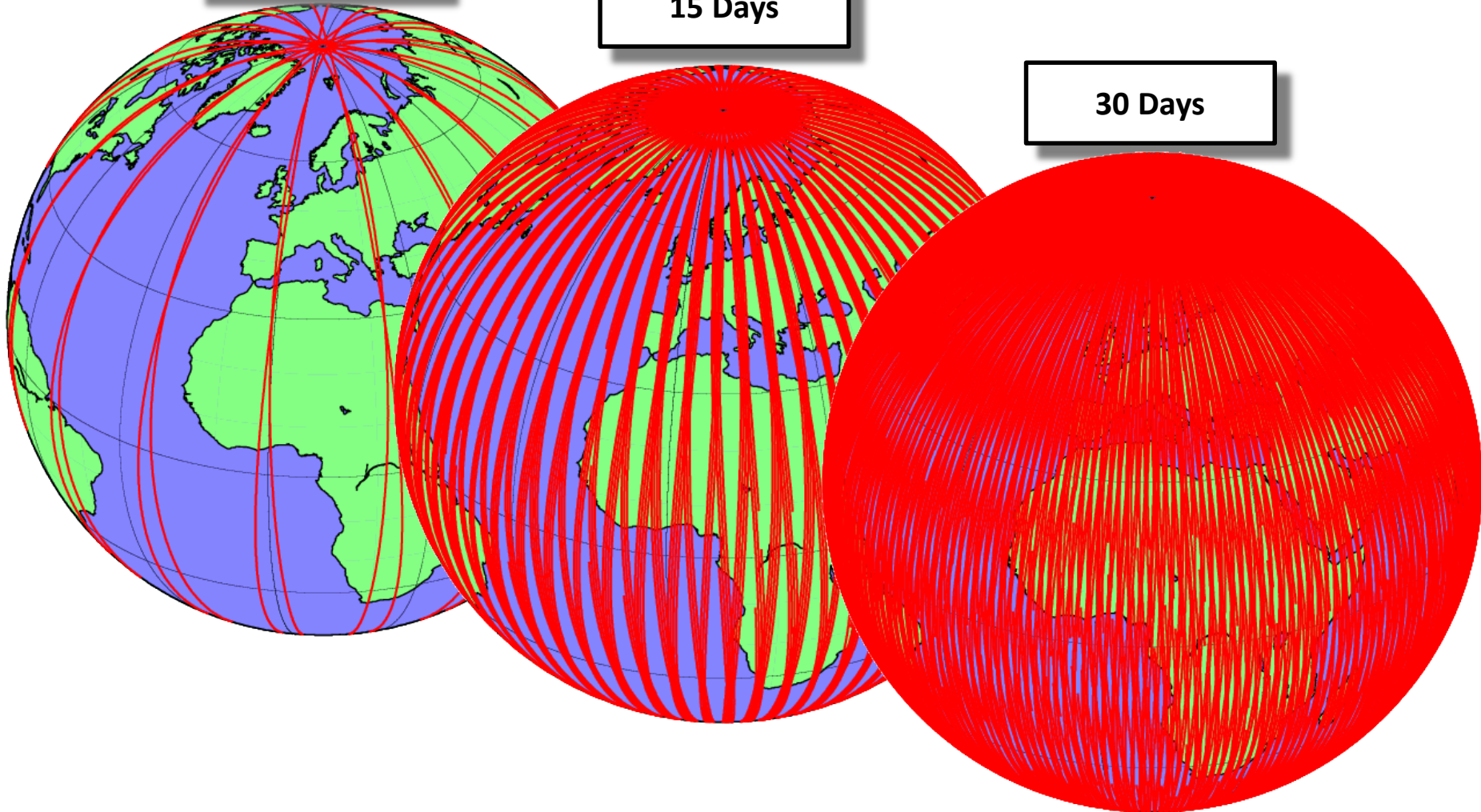


Near Real-Time Service

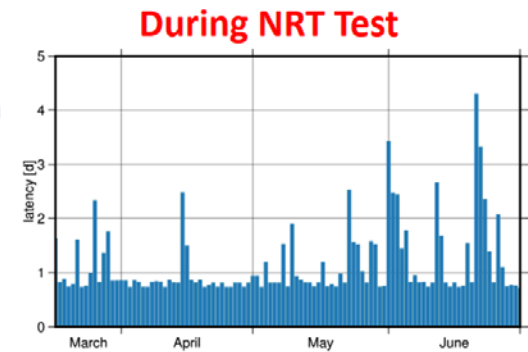
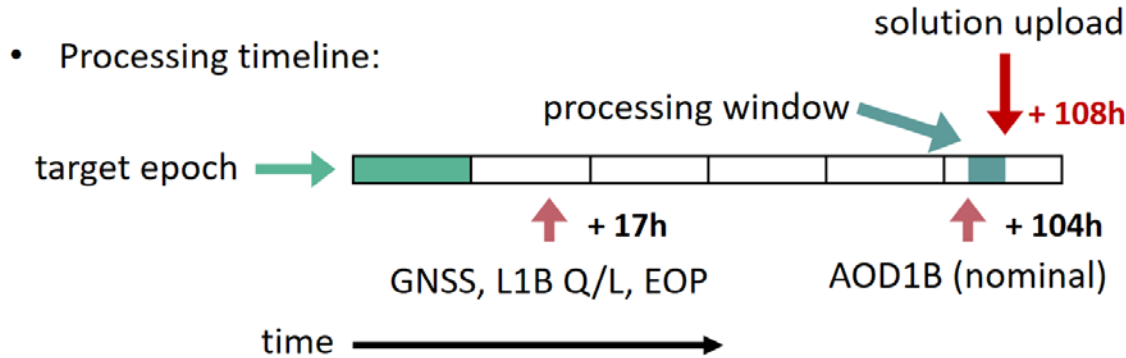
1 Day

15 Days

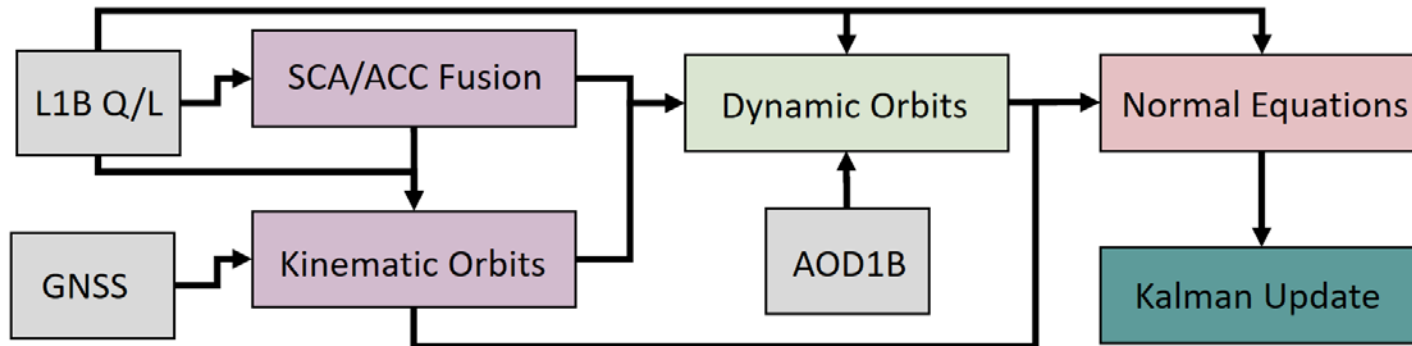
30 Days



Near Real-Time Service

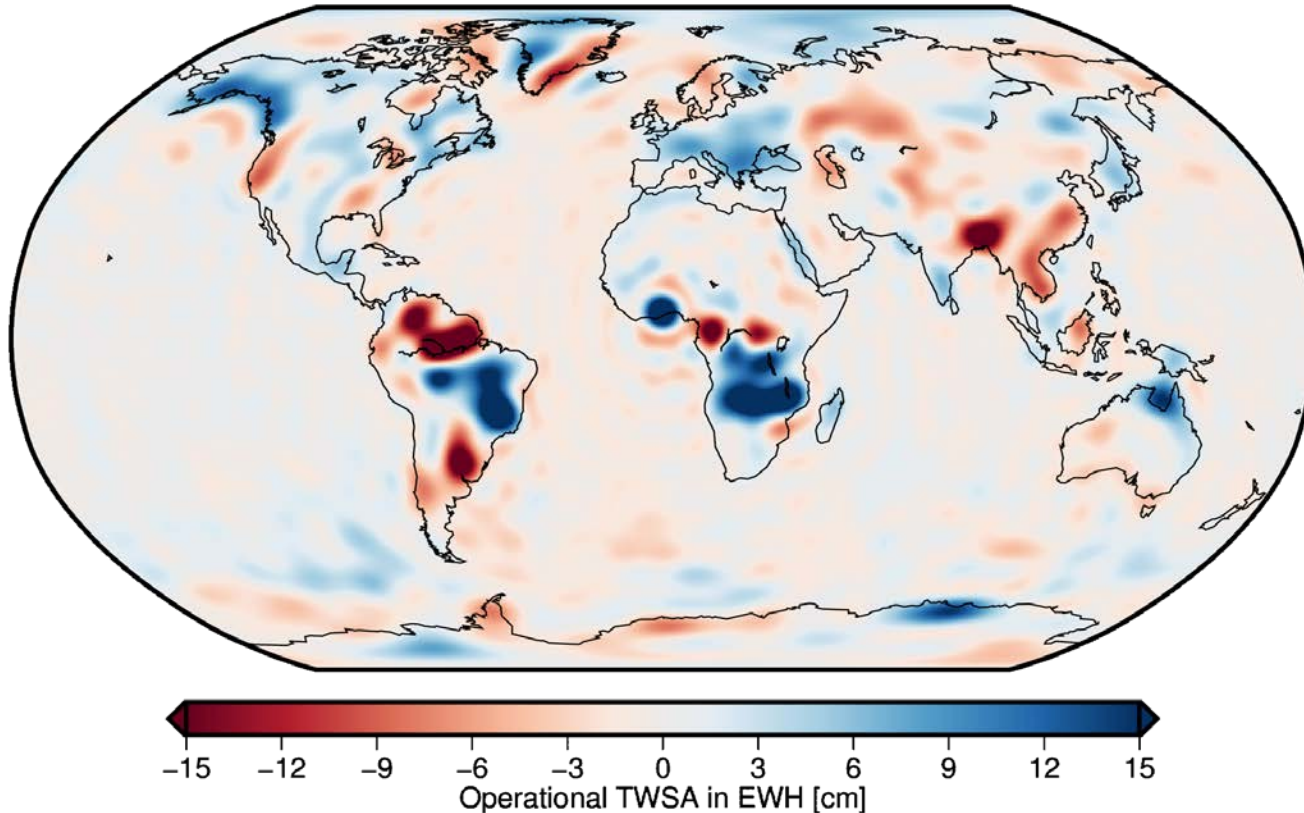


- Processing steps from raw data to final solution:

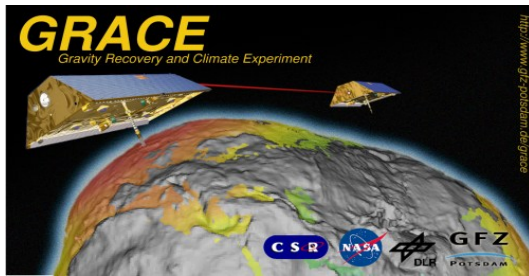


Solutions from Operational Test-Run

2017-03-17

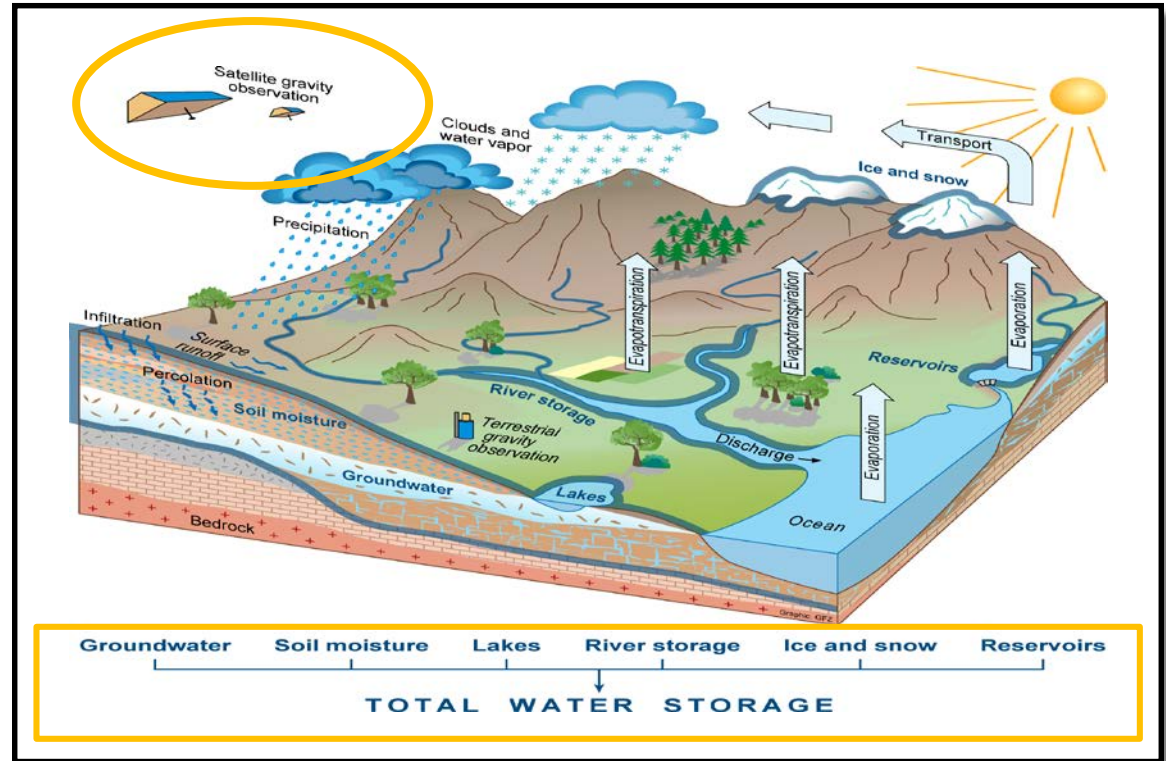


Hydrological Service



GRACE gravity-based time series of **total** water storage anomalies are an integral descriptor of the wetness status of river basins

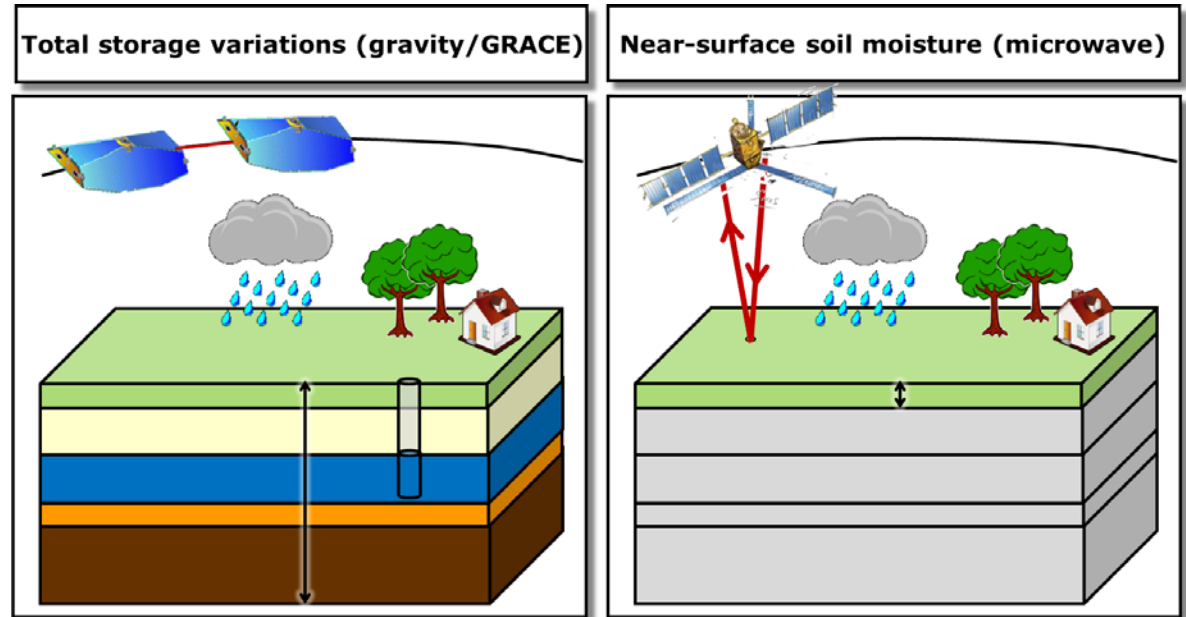
- GRACE: 2002 – 2017
- GRACE-FO: 2018 – 2023



Hydrological Service

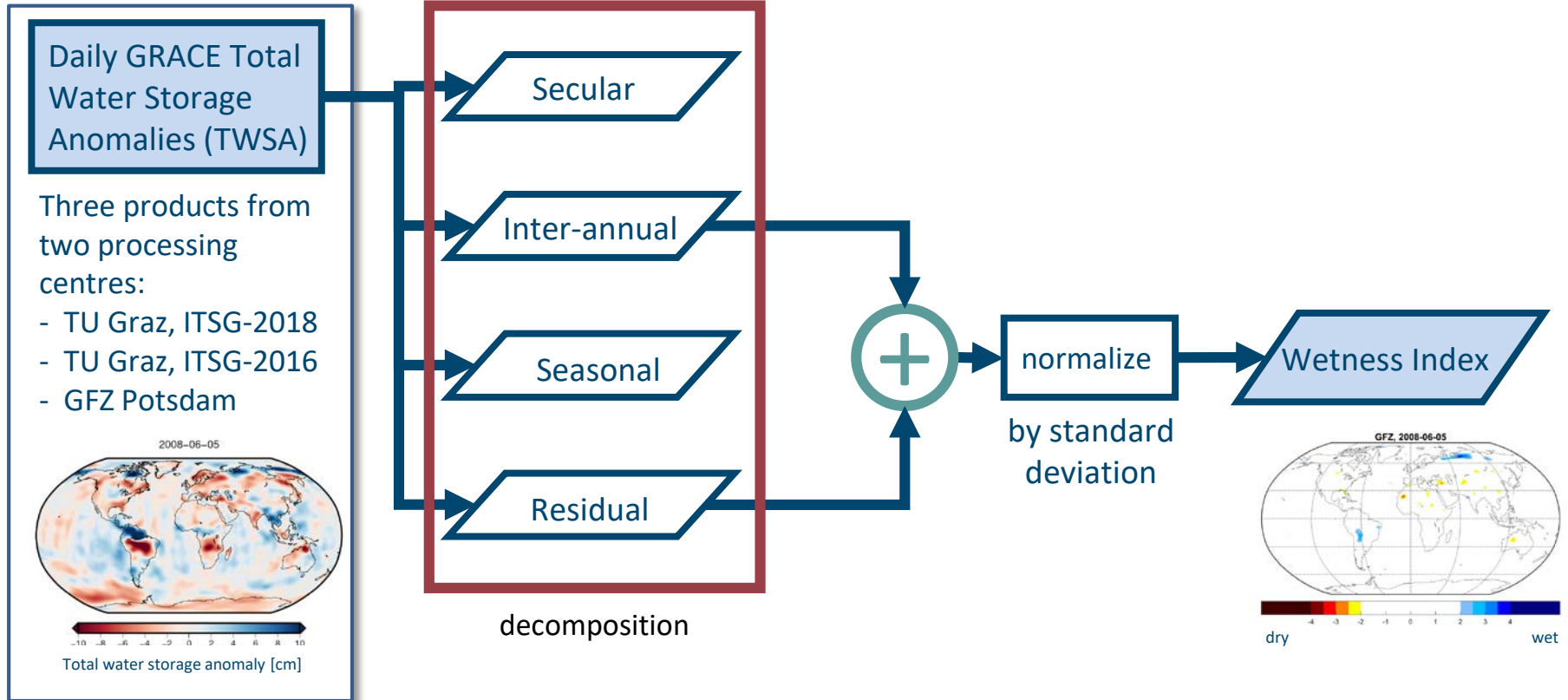
GRACE gravity-based time series of total water storage *anomalies* are an integral descriptor of the wetness status of river basins

Hypothesis:
added value for flood monitoring and forecasting



Different sensitivities are expected compared to standard indices based on precipitation or soil moisture.

Hydrological Service



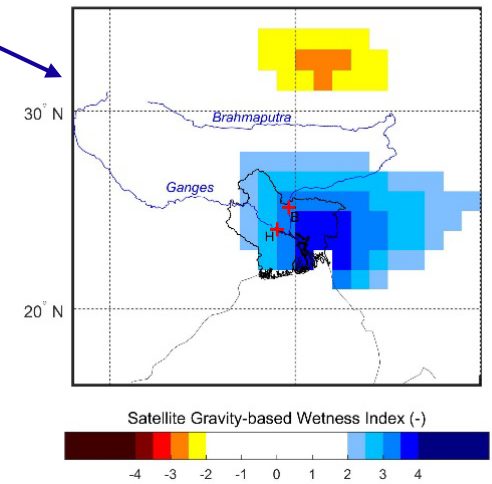
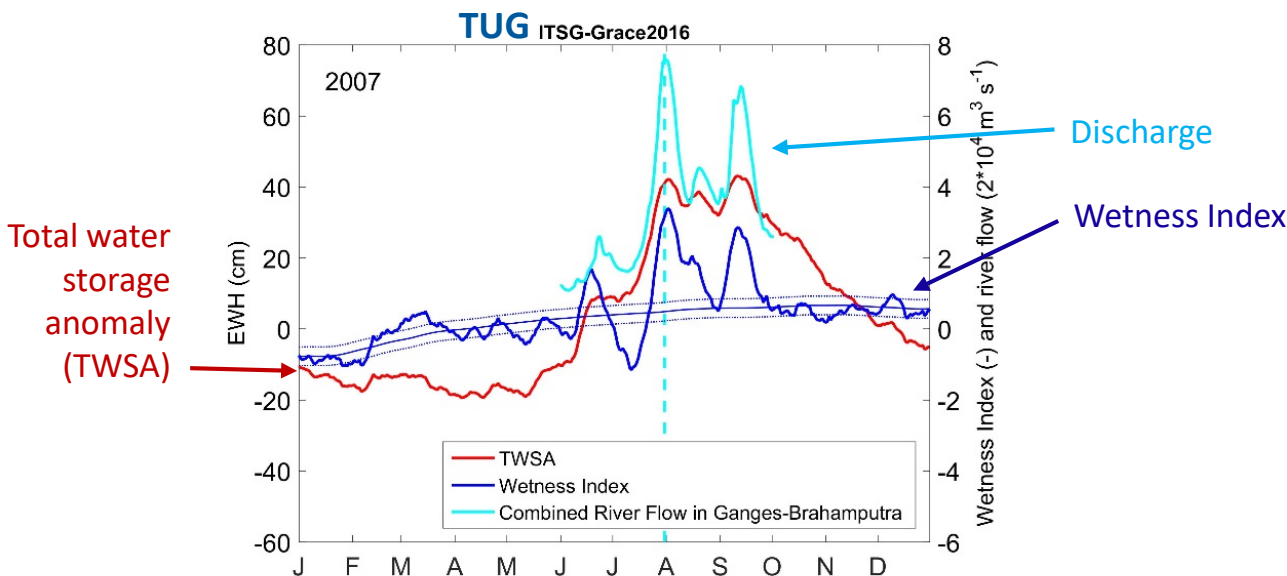
Example: Ganges-Brahmaputra

Daily GRACE data track major flood events in the Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta - example 2007 flood



31 July 2007

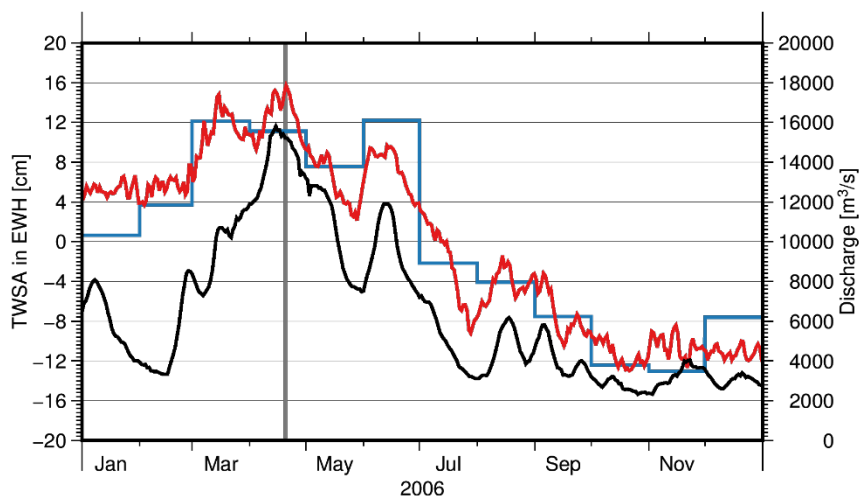
80° E 90° E 100° E



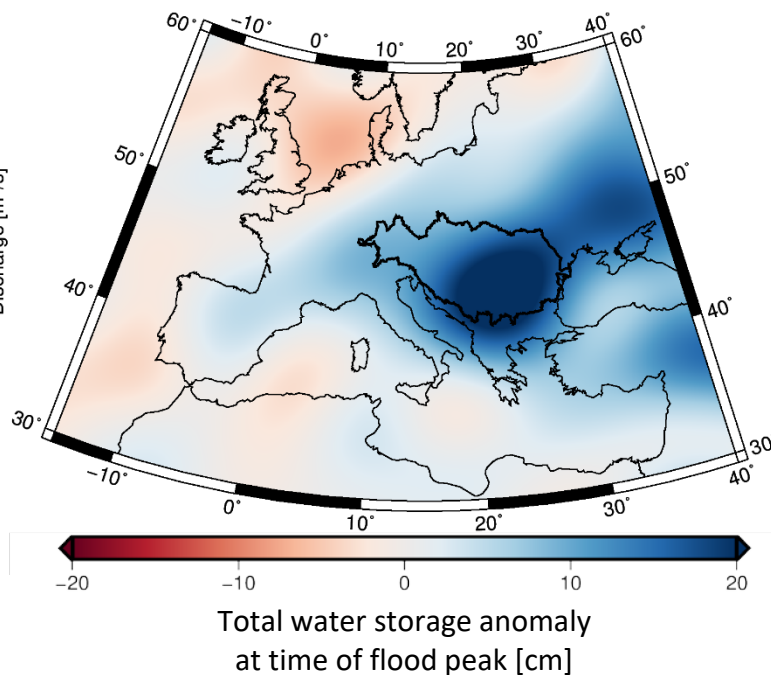
Gouweleeuw et al. (2018)

Example: Danube Basin

Comparison to monthly GRACE data and river discharge



- GRACE daily water storage (ITSG-Grace2016)
- GRACE monthly water storage (CSR RL05)
- River discharge (station Bazias)



Global-Scale Analysis of Flood Events

Data Basis:



Archive of the Dartmouth Flood Observatory (DFO)

- 2411 river flood events in the GRACE period 2002-2015
- 616 with DFO event area > 100 000 km²
- event duration mostly < 25 days (75% of all events)

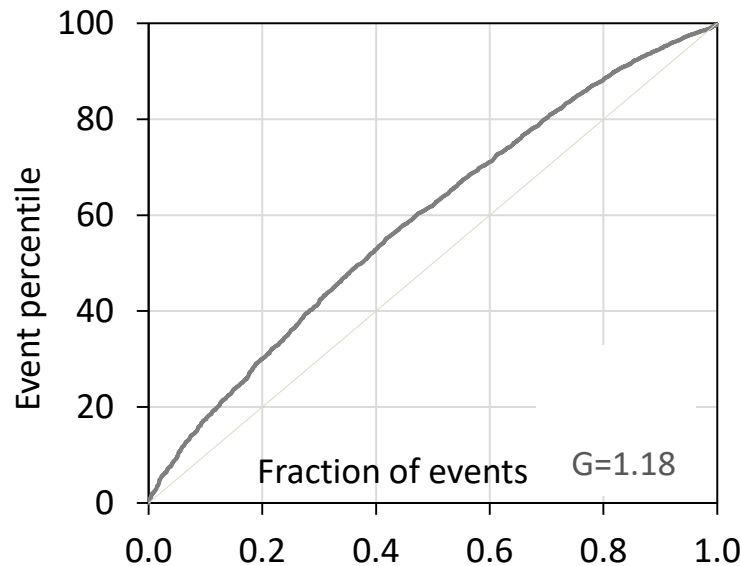
Methods:

- Calculate area-average GRACE water storage anomaly / wetness index for each event
- Determine percentile of event storage anomaly within full time series (2002-2015)

Global-Scale Analysis of Flood Events

Global-scale analysis of flood events

Percentiles of GRACE-based wetness index for DFO events (2002-2015)



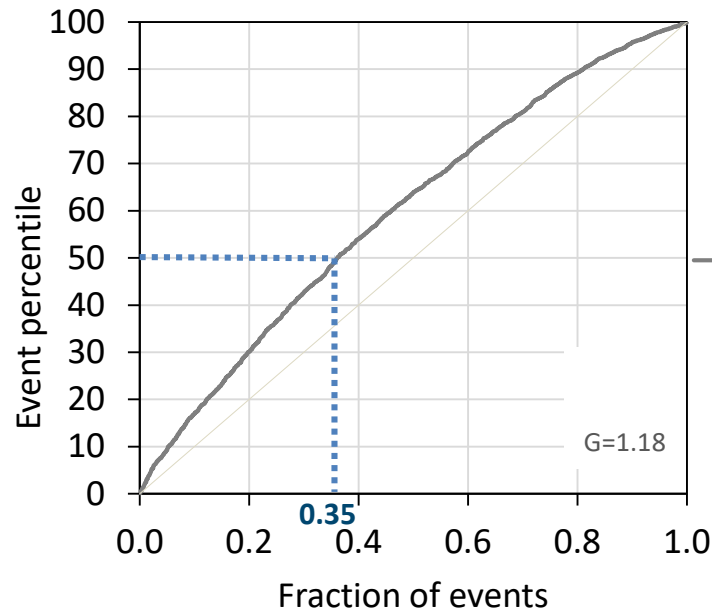
— ITSG-Grace2016, all DFO events
(n=2411)

G: modified Gini coefficient as a measure of the deviation from a uniform distribution (G=1.0)

Global-Scale Analysis of Flood Events

Global-scale analysis of flood events

Percentiles of GRACE-based wetness index for DFO events (2002-2015)



— all DFO events (n=2411)

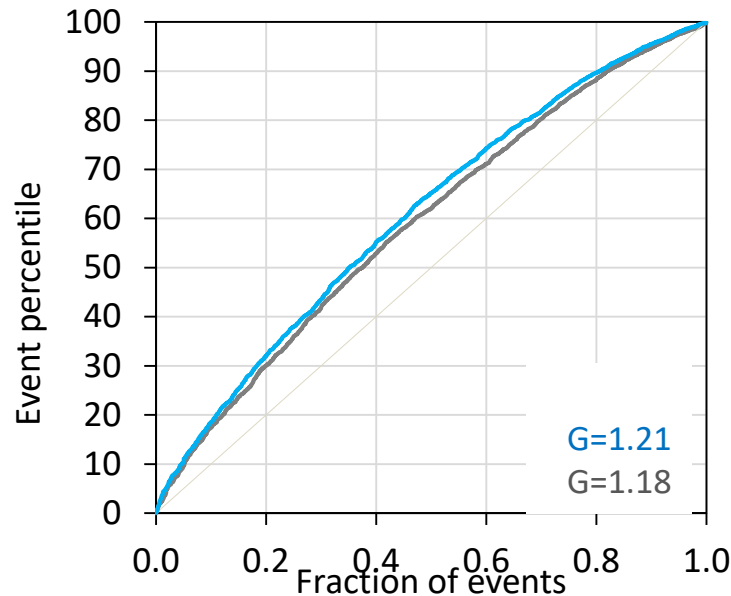
e.g., 65% of the events have a GRACE-based wetness index that is larger than the long-term median wetness index value in the event area

G: modified Gini coefficient as a measure of the deviation from a uniform distribution ($G=1.0$)

Global-Scale Analysis of Flood Events

Global-scale analysis of flood events

Percentiles of GRACE-based wetness index for DFO events (2002-2015)



— ITSG-Grace2016, all DFO events (n=2411)

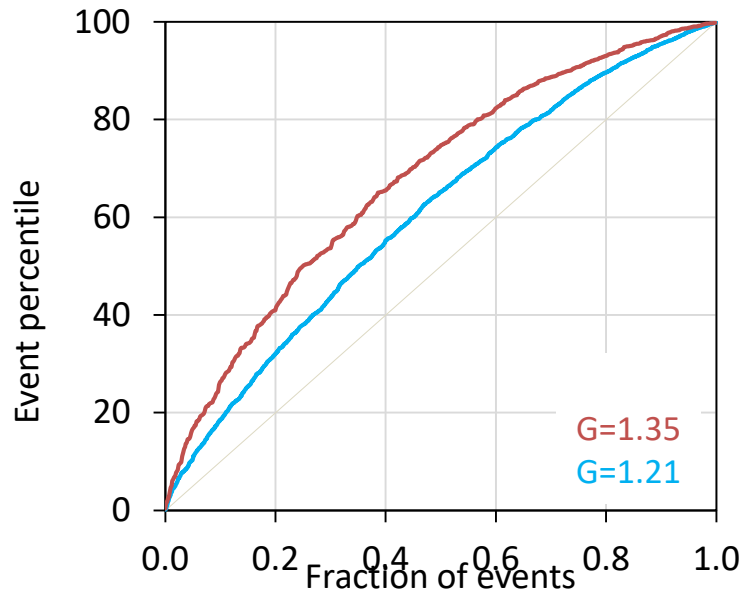
— ITSG-Grace2018, all DFO events (n=2411)

G: modified Gini coefficient as a measure of the deviation from a uniform distribution ($G=1.0$)

Global-Scale Analysis of Flood Events

Global-scale analysis of flood events

Percentiles of GRACE-based wetness index for DFO events (2002-2015)



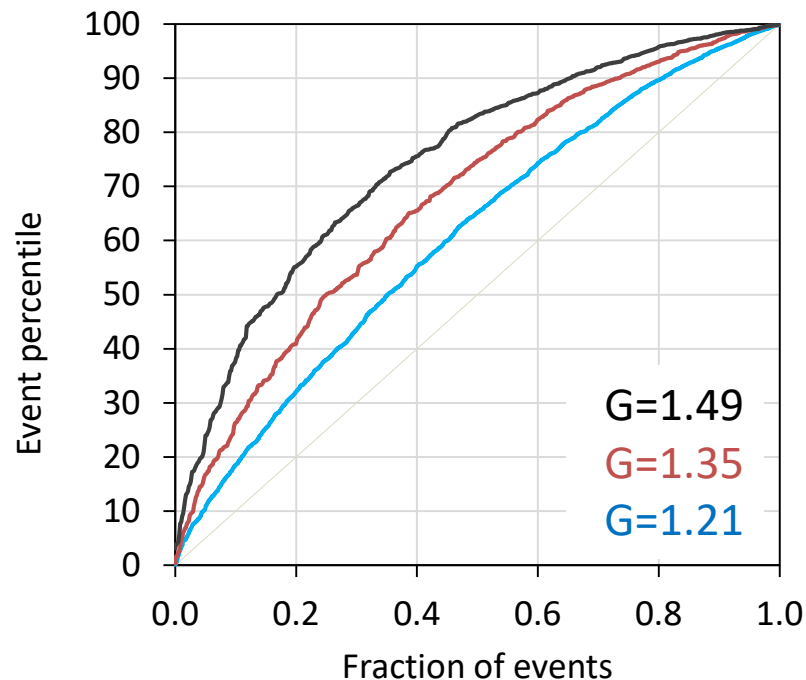
- ITSG-Grace2018, all DFO events (n=2411)
- ITSG-Grace2018, DFO events with area > 100 000 km² (n=616)

G: modified Gini coefficient as a measure of the deviation from a uniform distribution (G=1.0)

Global-Scale Analysis of Flood Events

Global-scale analysis of flood events (2002-2015)

Percentiles of GRACE-based wetness index and total water storage anomalies (TWSA) for DFO events



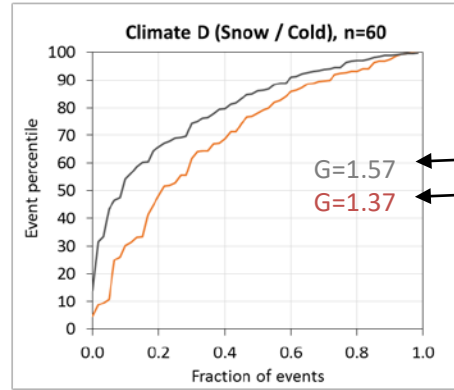
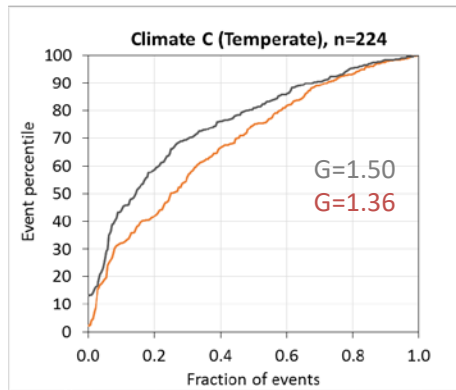
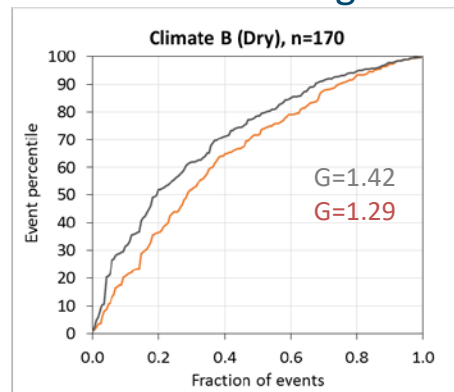
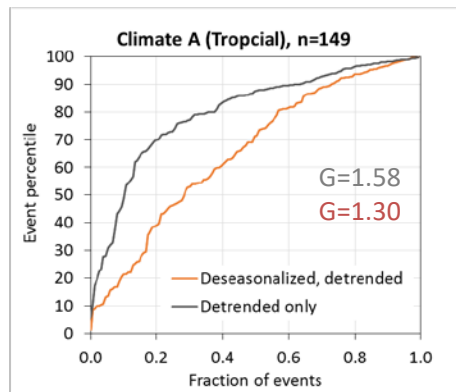
- ITSG-Grace2018, all DFO events (n=2411)
- ITSG-Grace2018, DFO events with area > 100 000 km² (n=616)
- ITSG-Grace2018, DFO events with area > 100 000 km², detrended TWSA only (n=616)

G: modified Gini coefficient as a measure of the deviation from a uniform distribution (G=1.0)

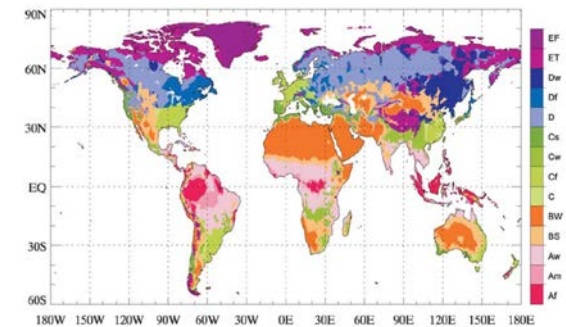
Global-Scale Analysis of Flood Events

Global-scale analysis of flood events (2002-2015)

Percentiles of GRACE-based total water storage anomalies (TWSA) for DFO events, sorted for Koeppen climate zones



← detrended only
← deseasonalized, detrended



G: modified Gini coefficient as a measure of the deviation from a uniform distribution ($G=1.0$)

Early Indication of Flood Events

Gravity-based wetness index as early flood indicator

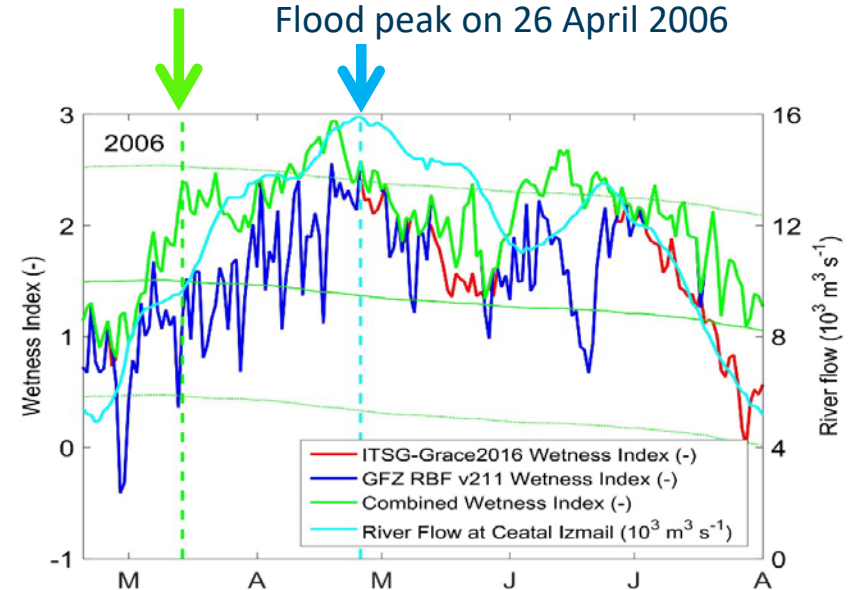
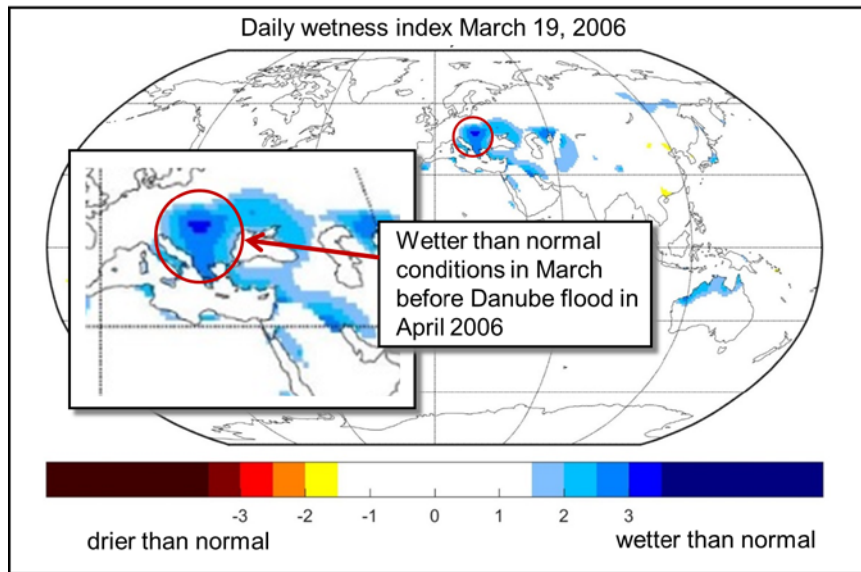
Example Danube Flood 2006

First Peak of Wetness Index on 14 March 2006

Lead time: 43 days

River discharge at Ceatal Izmail (outlet of the Danube Basin)

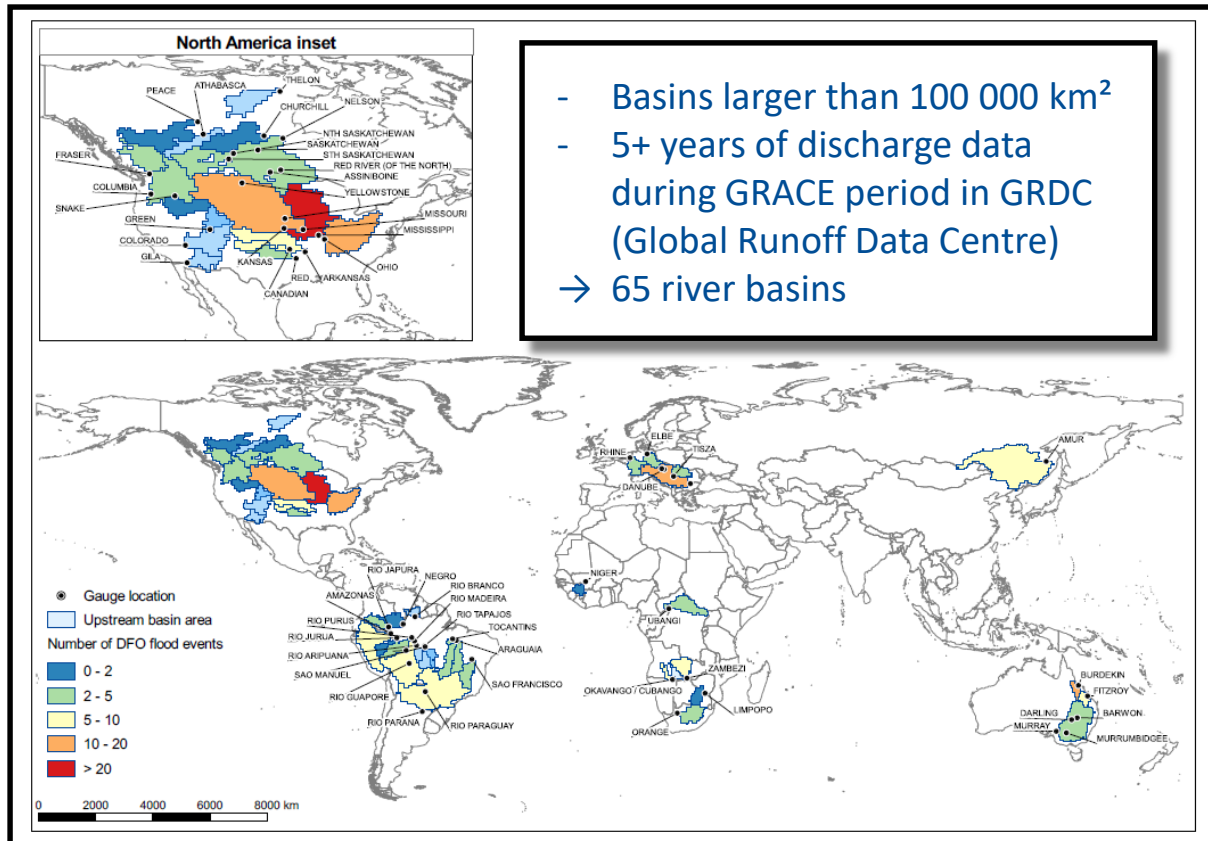
Flood peak on 26 April 2006



Early Indication of Flood Events

Gravity-based wetness index as early flood indicator

Global-scale analysis



Early Indication of Flood Events

Gravity-based wetness indices as early flood indicators

Global-scale analysis

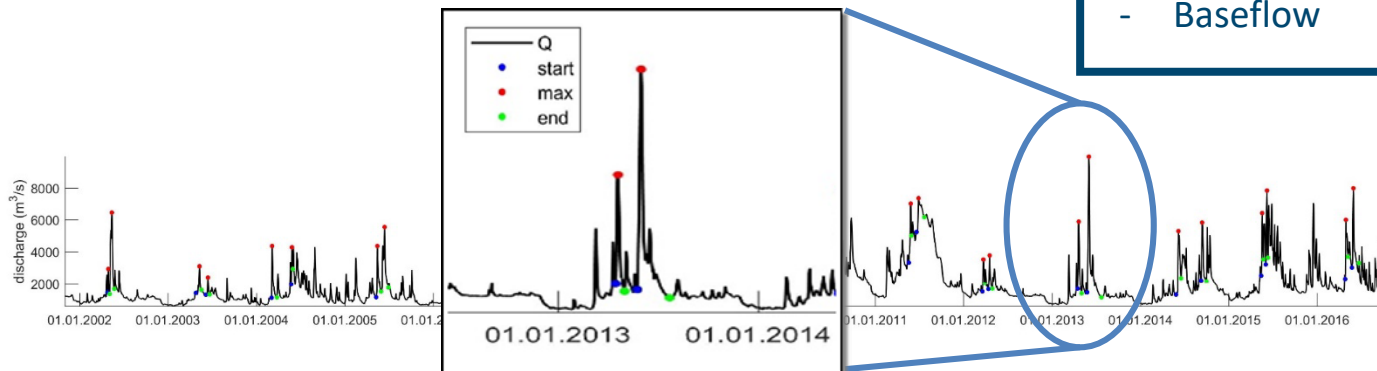
Flood event characteristics

- Peak discharge
- Flood volume
- Runoff ratio

Wetness indices

at the day before the event starts:

- GRACE-based water storage anomaly
- GRACE-based wetness index (de-seasonalized)
- Near-surface soil moisture (ESA CCI satellite product)
- Antecedent Precipitation Index (API)
- Baseflow



Early Indication of Flood Events

Gravity-based wetness indices as early flood indicators

Global-scale analysis

Flood event characteristics

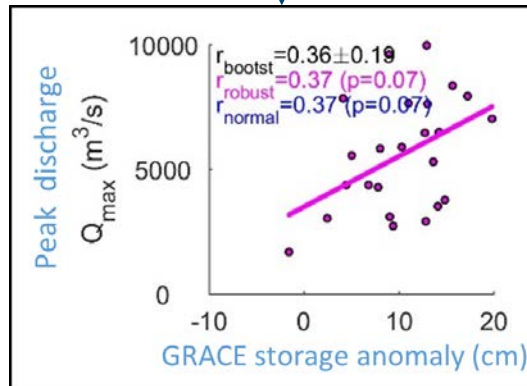
- Peak discharge
- Flood volume
- Runoff ratio

Correlation analysis

Wetness indices

at the day before the event starts:

- GRACE-based water storage anomaly
- GRACE-based wetness index (de-seasonalized)
- Near-surface soil moisture (ESA CCI satellite product)
- Antecedent Precipitation Index (API)
- Baseflow



Early Indication of Flood Events

Gravity-based wetness indices as early flood indicators – global-scale analysis

Average **correlations** between flood characteristics and pre-event flood indicators

River basins in temperate climate zone

	Storage anomaly	Wetness index	Soil moisture	Baseflow	Antecedent Precip Index
	GRACE	GRACE	ESA CCI	Gauge	GPCP
Peak discharge	0.32	0.31	0.11	0.45	0.13
Flood volume	0.08	0.09	0.00	-0.04	0.11
Runoff coefficient	0.14	0.14	0.03	-0.07	-0.07

River basins in snow-dominated climate

	Storage anomaly	Wetness index	Soil moisture	Baseflow	Antecedent Precip Index
	GRACE	GRACE	ESA CCI	Gauge	GPCP
Peak discharge	0.48	0.46	0.08	0.50	0.23
Flood volume	0.26	0.13	0.03	0.00	0.09
Runoff coefficient	0.26	0.10	-0.11	-0.08	-0.11

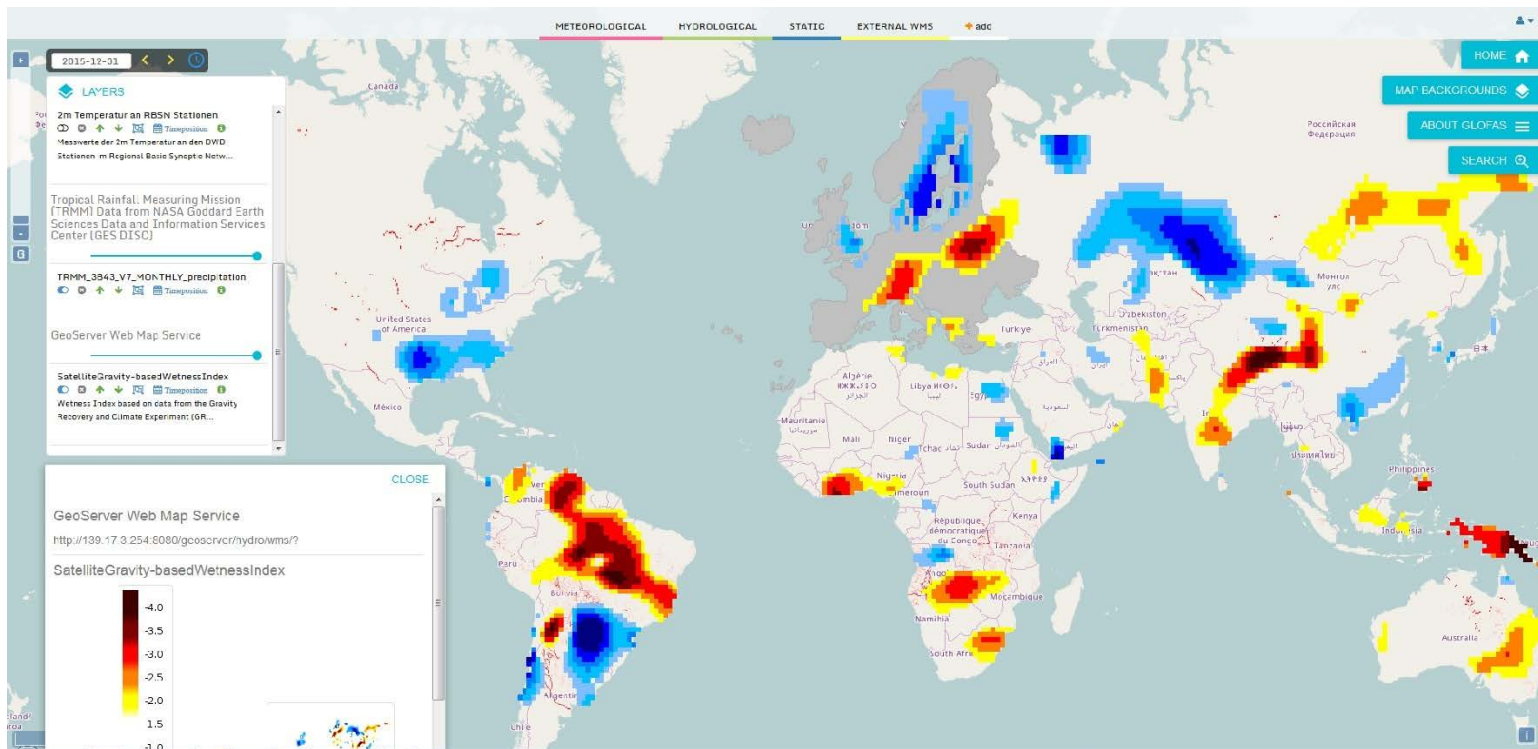
- Gravity-based indices mostly result in higher correlations than other indices
- In snow-dominated basins, correlations tend to be higher
- GRACE storage anomalies correlate higher than wetness index in snow basins

Conclusions

- Daily gravity-based water storage time series can monitor the dynamics of large-scale flood events
- The seasonality of water storage is particularly relevant to explain floods in snow-dominated and semi-humid tropics
- Wetness index derived from daily gravity data shows early flood warning capacity in case studies
- Gravity-based flood indicators outperform classical indices, albeit with overall low correlations to flood characteristics

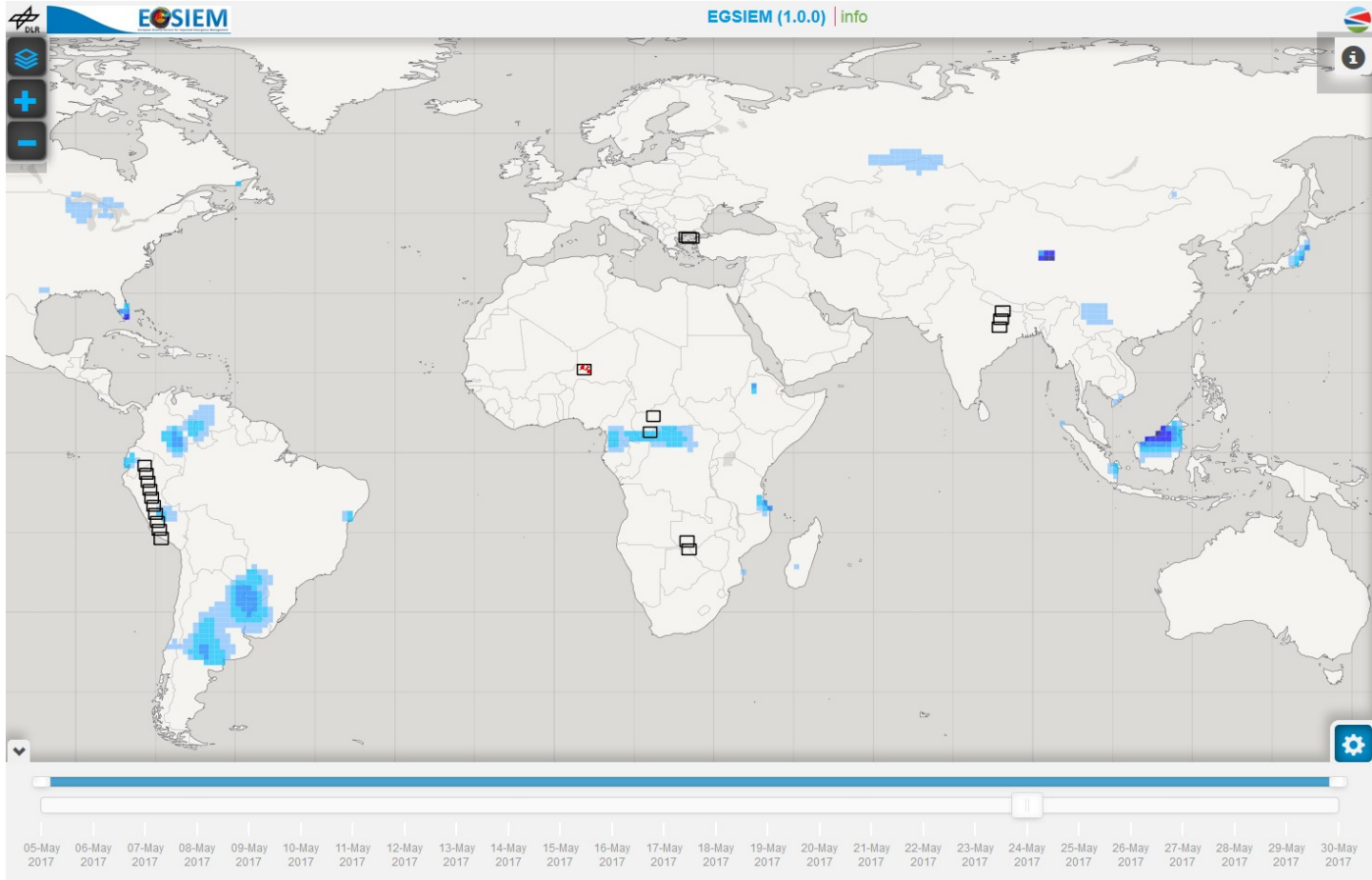
Outlook

- Integration into automatic flood emergency management services



Operational for April 1 to June 30, 2017

Outlook



egsiem.eu

Thematic Layers

EGSIEM wetness Index

Sentinel-1 flood

TSX flood

Legend

EGSIEM wetness Index



Index-max Value 5

Index-min Value 0

Outlook

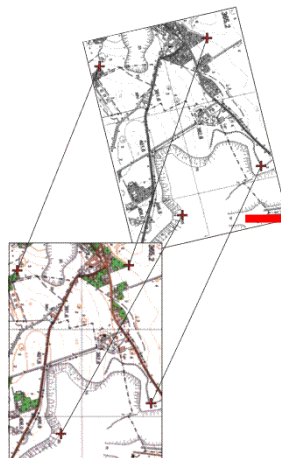
ZKI: Center for satellite-based crisis information @ DLR



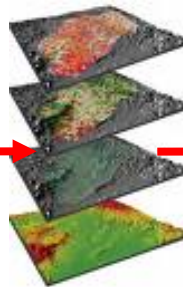
Rapid Mapping Concept:
Improved Awareness due to
Gravity-based Indicators



Data acquisition



Pre-processing



Analysis



Map Generation



Information

„Science for Society“

From science ...

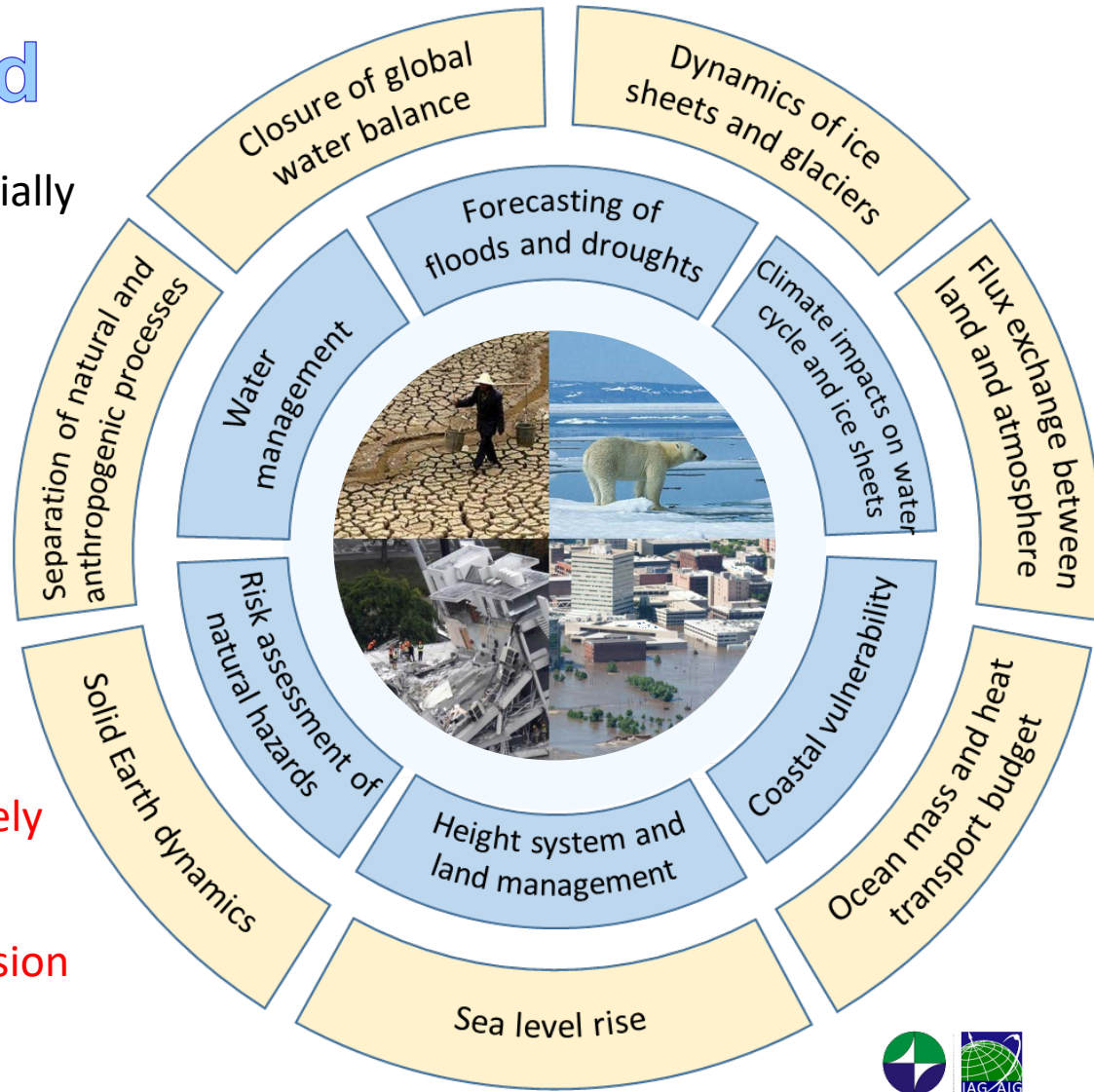
... to societal need

Gravity-derived products can potentially be directly used in many of existing services, e.g. in the Copernicus services ...

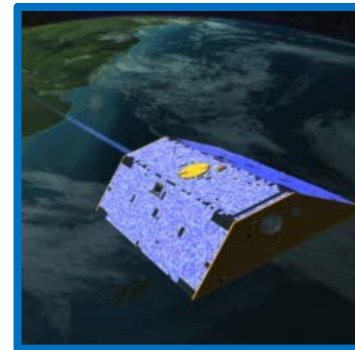
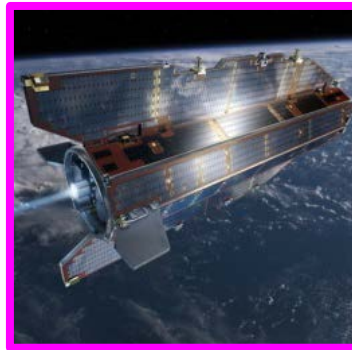
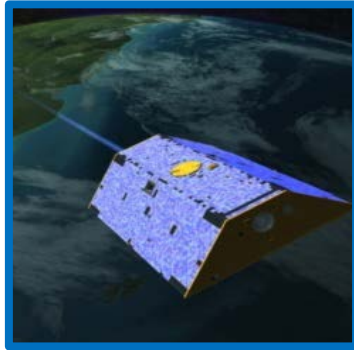
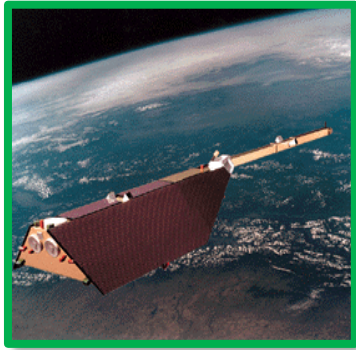
... but may also be used in many more applications and future services.

Already today a number of ECVs and services based on Copernicus data rely on gravity observations.

However, no operational gravity mission is planned yet!



Continuity of mass transport measurements



CHAMP (GFZ, 2000-2010)



GRACE (NASA/DLR, 2002-2017)



GRACE-FO (NASA/GFZ, 2018-2023)



GOCE (ESA, 2009-2013)



GRACE-2 / Sentinel-??



Gravity missions enabled spectacular results:

- insights into the global water cycle
- polar and mountain ice mass loss
- changes in ocean surface currents
- unification of height systems
- sea level rise

→ **There is a strong need for sustained observation.**



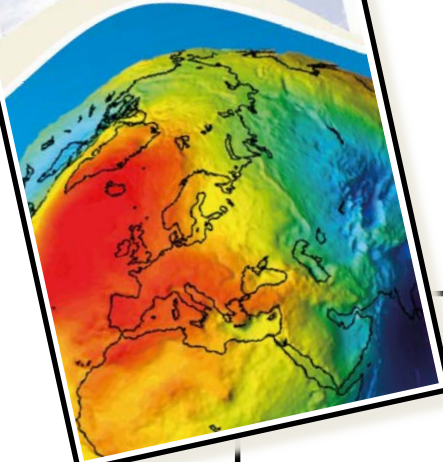
Outlook



Enhancing Europe's
Space Leadership

Satellite
Gravimetry

Copernicus
meets Newton

A color-coded map of Europe showing satellite gravimetry data, with red and orange indicating higher values and blue and green indicating lower values.

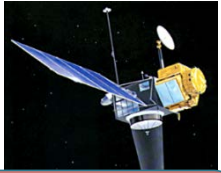
Climate, environment
and resource efficiency

Water
Management
and
Climate Change
Monitoring

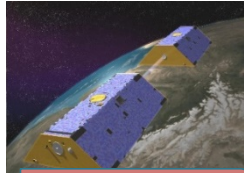
A color-coded map of Europe showing satellite gravimetry data, with red and orange indicating higher values and blue and green indicating lower values.

will be one of the most critical and of
most important resource of the future.

Outlook



Altimetry



Gravity



Copernicus

Data processing
and dissemination

Gravity: one of the missing links in
the Copernicus Earth Observation



Service evolution:



Atmosphere monitoring



Marine environment monitoring



Emergency management



Land monitoring



Climate change

Thanks a lot for your attention!