

# **Time-variable gravity field determination from GRACE-FO data at AIUB**

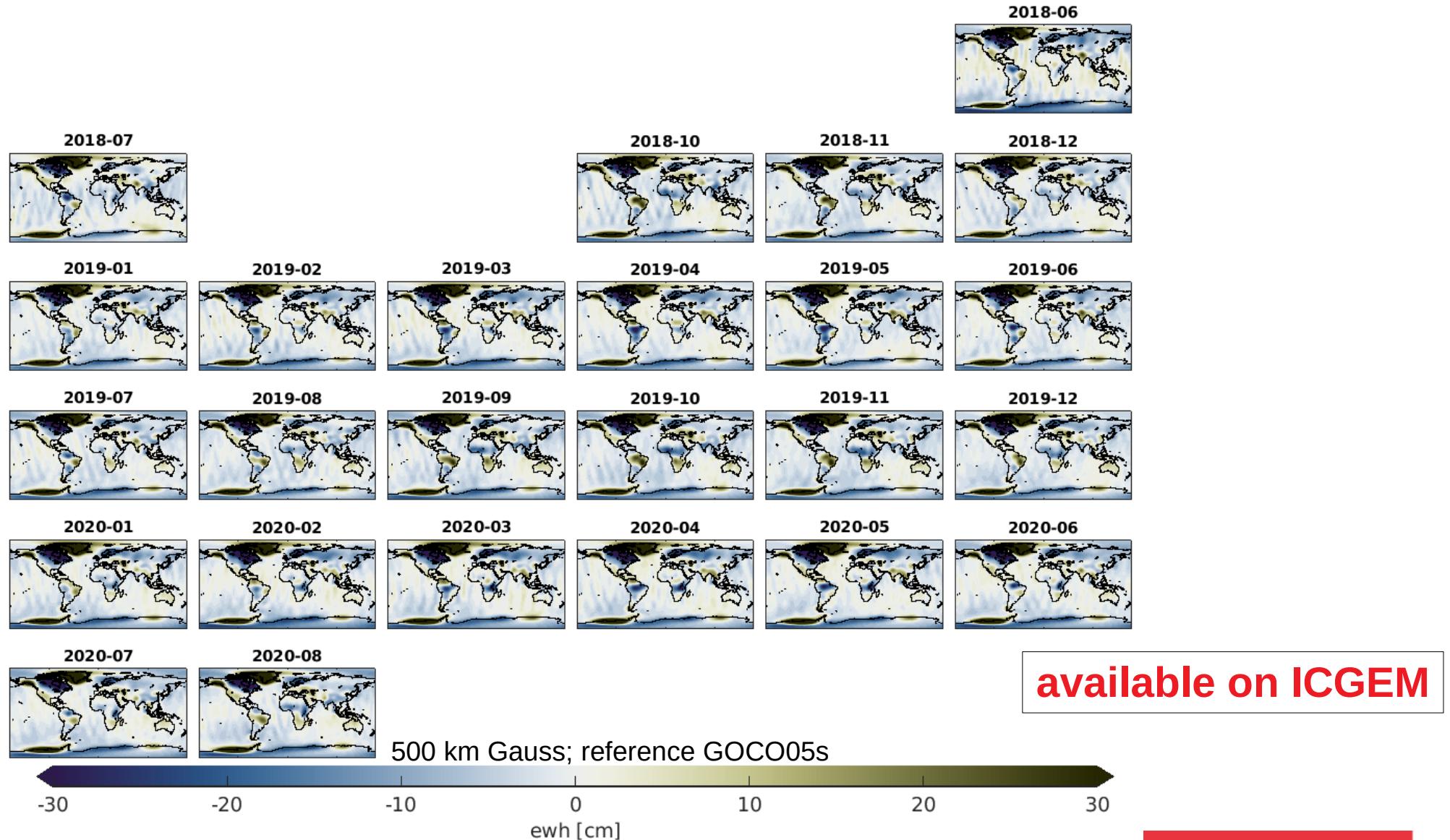
Martin Lasser, Ulrich Meyer, Daniel Arnold, Adrian Jäggi

*Astronomical Institute, University of Bern, Switzerland*

GRACE & GRACE-FO Science Team Meeting  
Oct. 26-29, 2020  
Online



# Time series AIUB-GRACE-FO-operational



# Modelling

---

## Parametrisation

---

6 initial conditions (daily)

accelerometer bias and scaling (daily)

15 min piecewise constant accelerations (PCA) (daily)

gravity field coefficients (monthly)

---

$$\sum_{d=1}^{31} \text{accumulate normal equations to a monthly solution}$$

# Modelling cont'd

---

## Force models

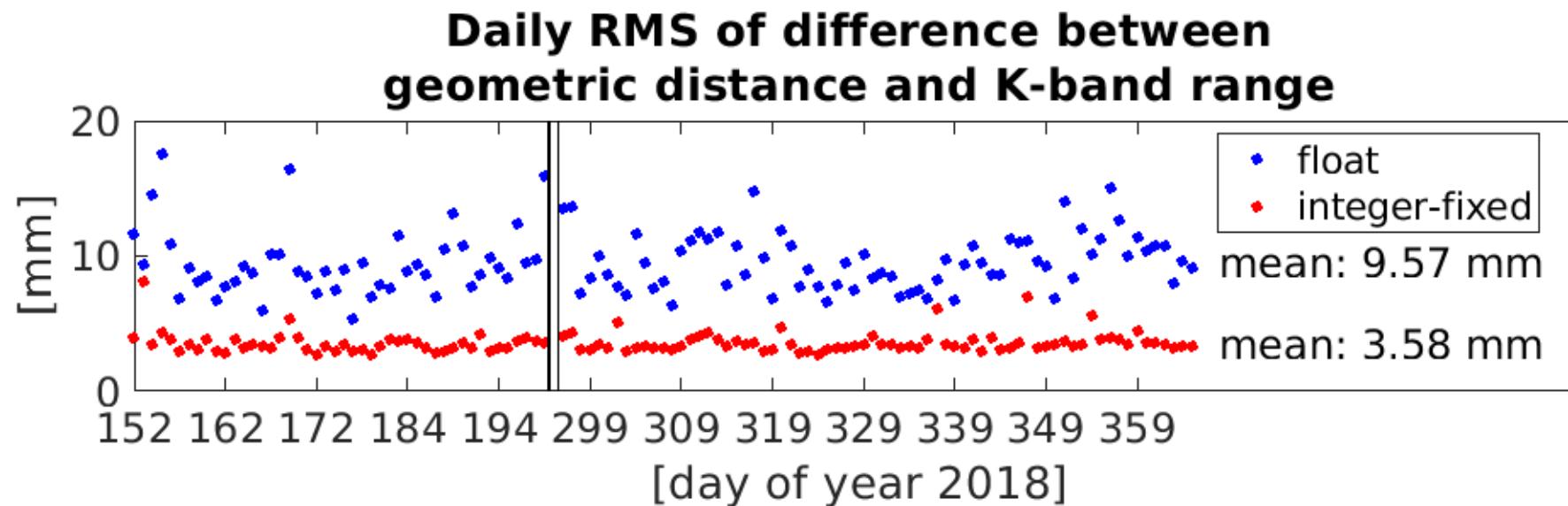
---

Gravity field	Internal AIUB static GRACE field (d/o=160)
Celestial bodies	JPL DE421 (all planets + Pluto)
Mean pole	Linear
Solid Earth tides	IERS2010
Solid Earth pole tides	IERS2010
Ocean tides	FES2014b (+ admittances from IfG) (d/o=100)
Ocean pole tides	Desai
Atmospheric tides	AOD RL06 (d/o=100)
Atmospheric & oceanic dealiasing	AOD RL06 (d/o=100)
Relativistic effects	IERS2010
Non-conservative forces	Accelerometer L1b (IfG)

---

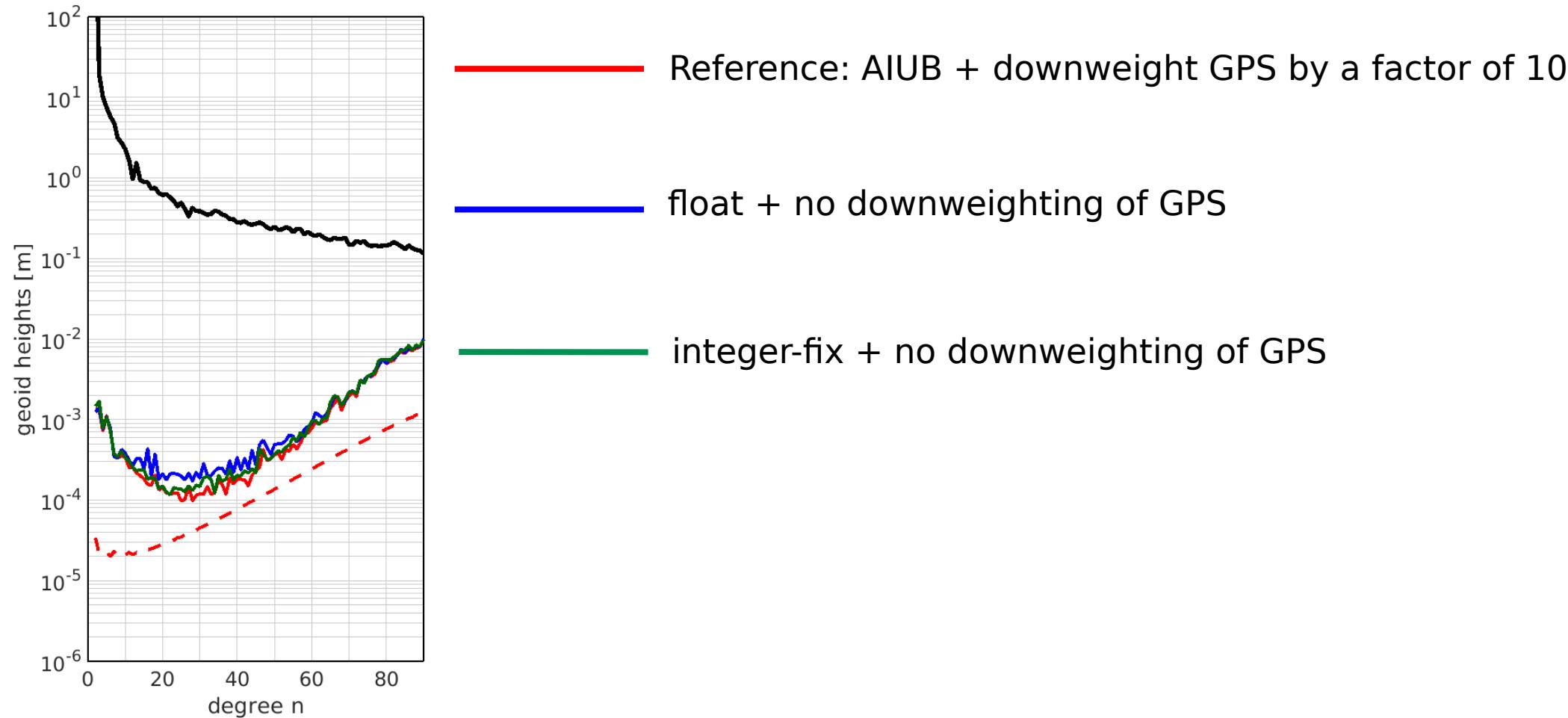
# Kinematic positions

- Integer-fixed kinematic positions  
→ CODE clocks and phase biases (Schaer et al., 2020, J. Geod. [in review])



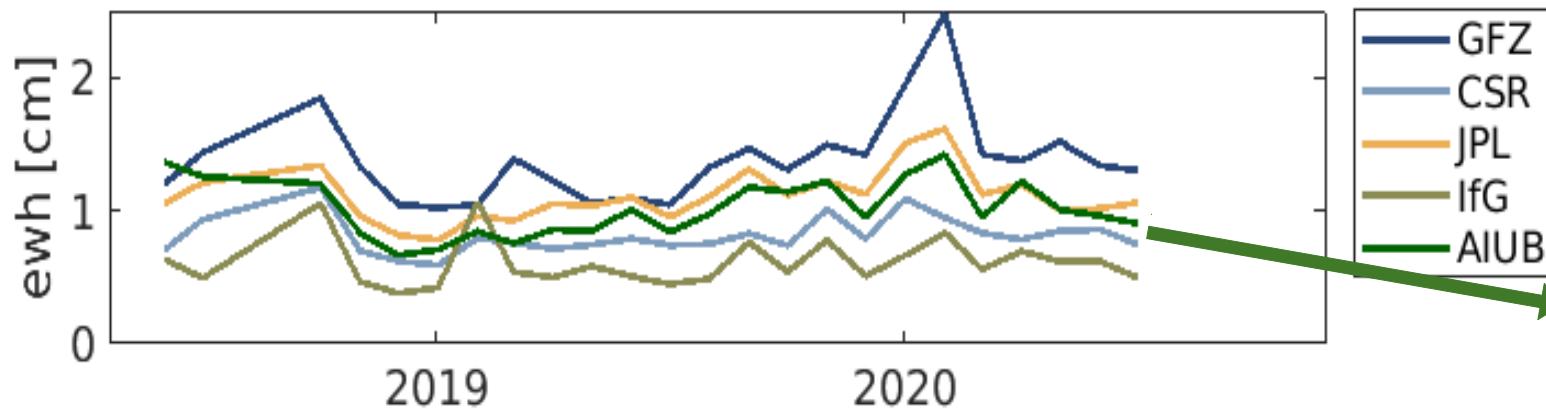
Individual arcs feature reduced position noise

# Influence of integer-fixed positions



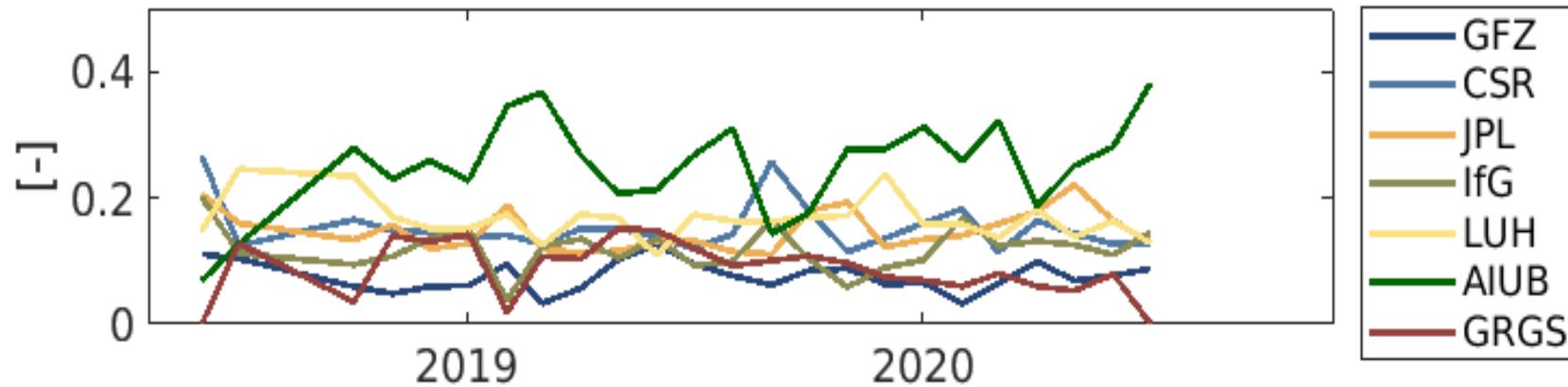
# Performance

## noise over the oceans



Large contribution from IfG-ACT!

## VCE weights (normalised)



# Level-2 product availability

The screenshot shows the ICGEM website interface. On the left, there's a vertical sidebar with a globe icon and links to various services: ICGEM Home, Gravity Field Models (Static Models, Temporal Models), Topographic Gravity Field Models, Calculation Service (Regular grids, User-defined points), 3D Visualisation (Static Models, Temporal Models, Trend & Amplitude, Spherical Harmonics), Evaluation (Spectral domain, GNSS Leveling), Documentation (FAQ), and a large red circle highlighting the AIUB entry under the 'GRACE / CHAMP solutions from other groups' section.

**ICGEM**

**Gravity Field Solutions for dedicated Time Periods**

The following gravity field time series are presently available:

**GRACE and Grace-FO solutions from the Science Data System centers CSR, GFZ and JPL**

- CSR	Center for Space Research at University of Texas, Austin	
- GFZ	Helmholtz Centre Potsdam German Research Centre for Geosciences	
GFZ Release 05	monthly weekly	GFZ GRACE Level-2 Processing, Revised Edition, January 2013
GFZ Release 06	DOI monthly	GFZ GRACE Level-2 Processing Standards Document for Level-2 Products, Rev. 1.0, October 26, 2018
GFZ Release 06 (GFO)	DOI monthly	GFZ GRACE Level-2 Processing Standards Document for Level-2 Products, Rev. 1.0, June 3, 2019
- JPL	Jet Propulsion Laboratory	

The processing standards to generate the GRACE Level-2 products of CSR, GFZ and JPL are also available in the Document Section of the GRACE archives at [GFZ ISDC](#) or [JPL PO.DAAC](#)

**COST-G (International Combination Service for Time-variable Gravity Field)**

GRACE	DOI	monthly
Swarm	DOI	monthly

**GRACE / CHAMP solutions from other groups**

+ AIUB	Astronomical Institute University Bern	
AIUB-GRACE-FO_op	DOI monthly	Operational GRACE Follow-On monthly gravity field solutions from AIUB
AIUB-RL02	monthly	GRACE monthly solutions Release 2 from AIUB, more information can be found <a href="#">here</a>
+ CNES	Centre national d'études spatiales	

# Observation data processing

$$\mathbf{l} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{N} = (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{P} \mathbf{A})^{-1} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{n} = \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{P} \mathbf{l} \rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{N}^{-1} \mathbf{n}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{l}_1 \\ \mathbf{l}_2 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{l}_n \end{bmatrix}$$

Each a block of observations  
(only observations within one block might be correlated)

$$\rightarrow \mathbf{N}_k = (\mathbf{A}_k^T \mathbf{P}_k \mathbf{A}_k)^{-1} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{n}_k = \mathbf{A}_k^T \mathbf{P}_k \mathbf{l}_k \rightarrow \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \left( \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbf{N}_k \right)^{-1} \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbf{n}_k$$

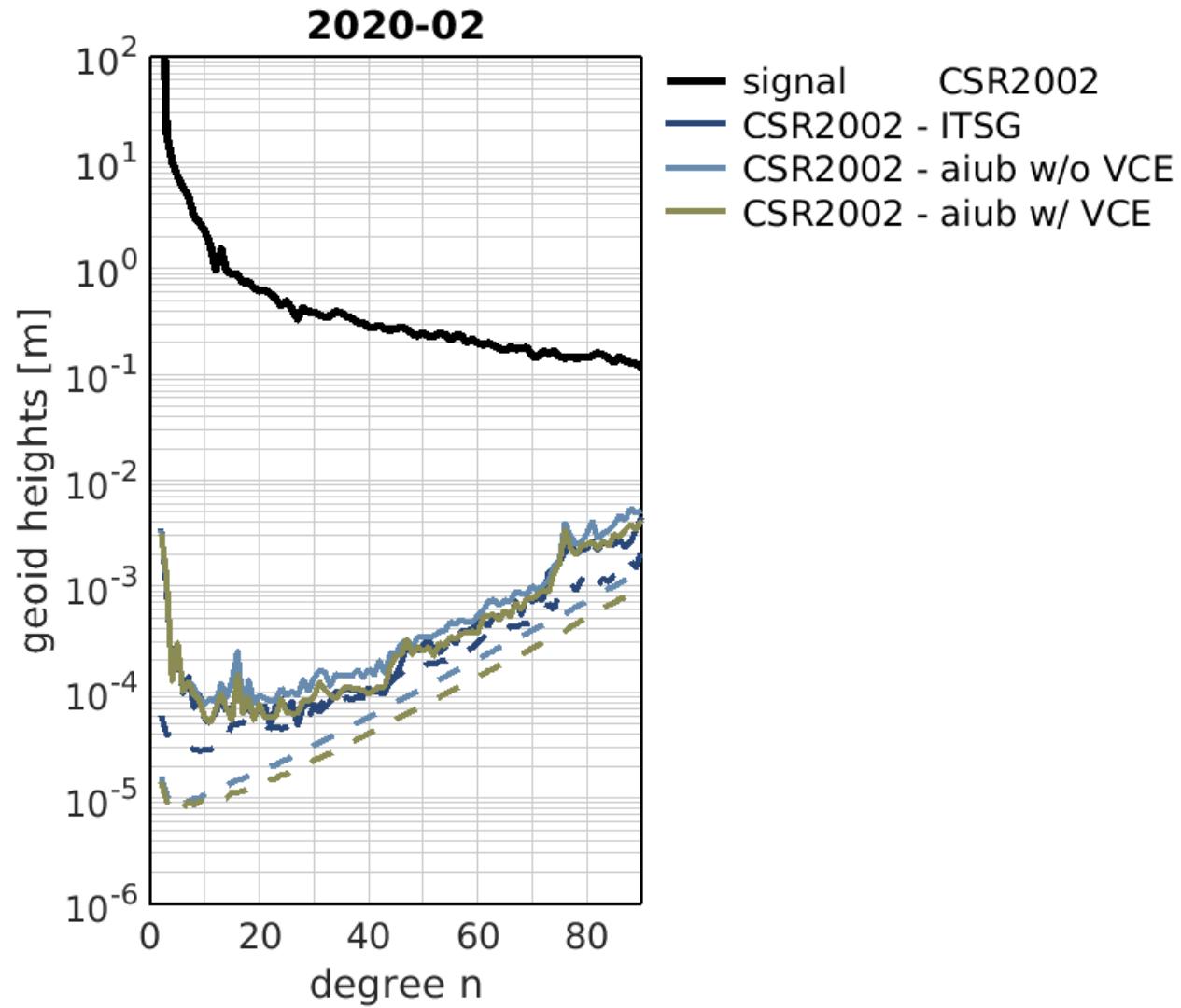
# Observation data weighting: VCE

**VCE:**

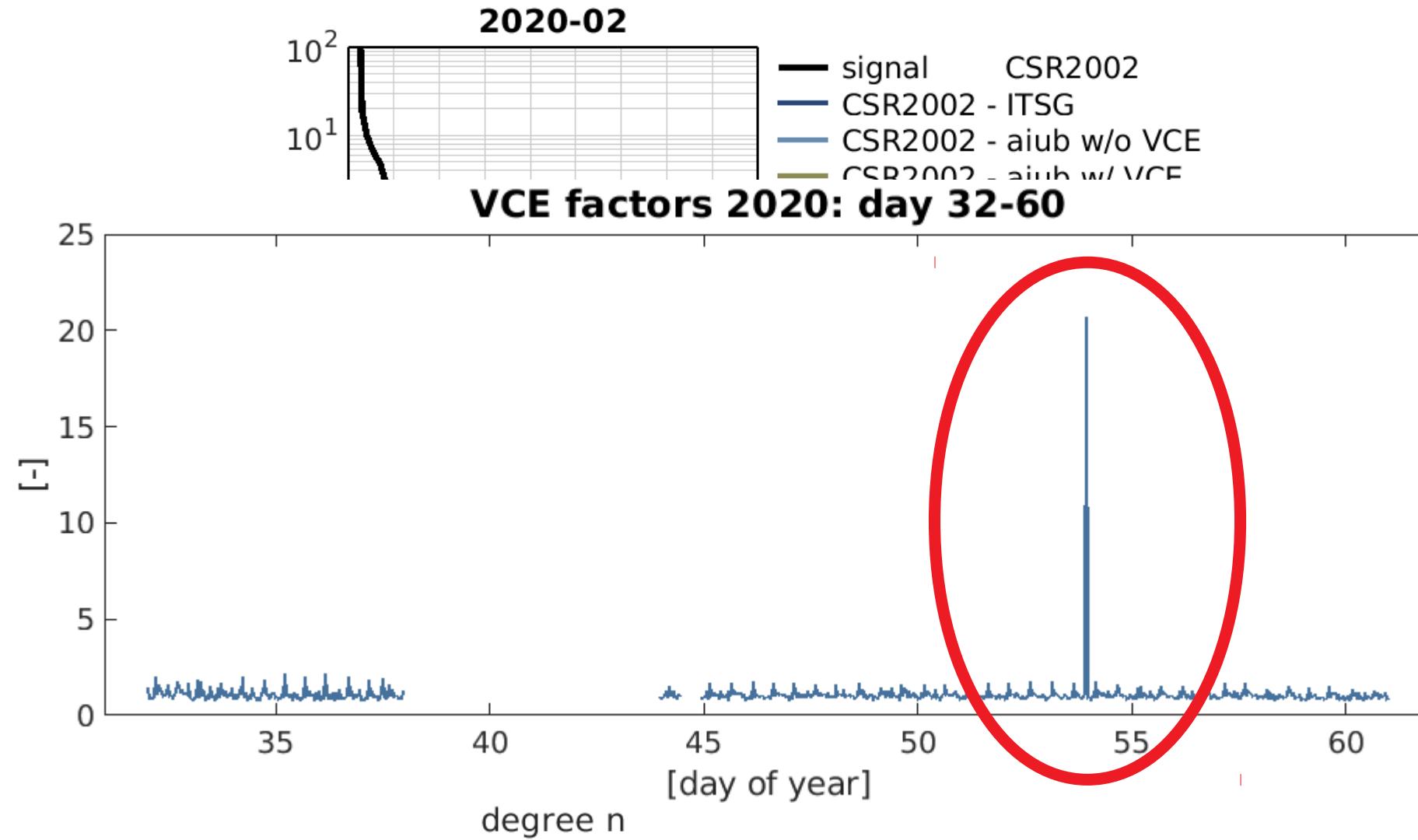
$$\left. \begin{aligned} r_k &= n_{obs} - \frac{\sigma_0^2}{\sigma_k^2} \text{tr}(\mathbf{N}_k \mathbf{N}^{-1}) \\ \sigma_k^2 &= \frac{\mathbf{e}_k^T \mathbf{P}_k \mathbf{e}_k}{r_k} \end{aligned} \right\}$$
$$\hat{x} = \left( \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\sigma_0^2}{\sigma_k^2} \mathbf{N}_k \right)^{-1} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\sigma_0^2}{\sigma_k^2} \mathbf{n}_k$$

Each block of observations gets a weight based on its contribution to the final solution

# Data screening



# Data screening



# VCE on constraints

$$\mathbf{l} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{x}$$

with

$$\mathbf{A} = \begin{bmatrix} orbit & gravity & PCA \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

VCE:

$$r_k = n_{obs} - \frac{\sigma_0^2}{\sigma_k^2} \text{tr}(\mathbf{N}_k \mathbf{N}^{-1})$$

$$\sigma_k^2 = \frac{\mathbf{e}_k^T \mathbf{P}_k \mathbf{e}_k}{r_k}$$

$$\hat{\mathbf{x}} = \left( \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\sigma_0^2}{\sigma_k^2} \mathbf{N}_k \right)^{-1} \sum_{k=1}^n \frac{\sigma_0^2}{\sigma_k^2} \mathbf{n}_k$$

The appropriate constraint may be set through  $\mathbf{P}$

Sets a weight for the constraint as

$$\mathbf{N}_k = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\sigma_0^2}{\sigma_{constr}^2} \\ \ddots \end{bmatrix}$$

# VCE on constraints - parenthesis

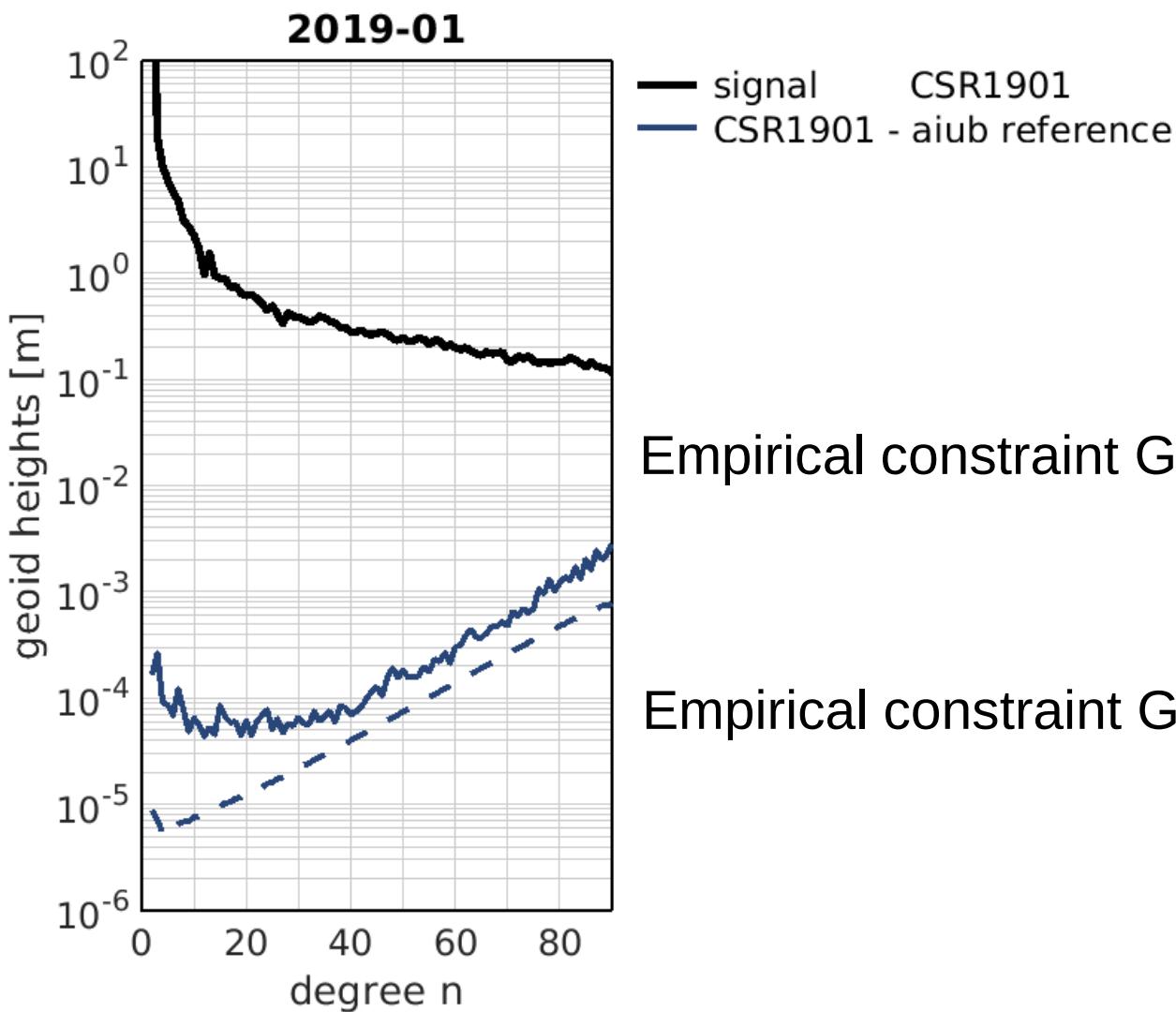
---

- Orbit Transformation (described in Beutler et al. 2010): instead of estimating parameters for GF1 & GF2 transform orbit parameters to:

$$\frac{GF\ 1+GF\ 2}{2} \rightarrow \text{referring to the mean point in space between GF1 & GF2 (driven by GPS)}$$

$$\frac{GF\ 1-GF\ 2}{2} \rightarrow \text{referring to the difference between GF1 & GF2 (driven by K-band)}$$

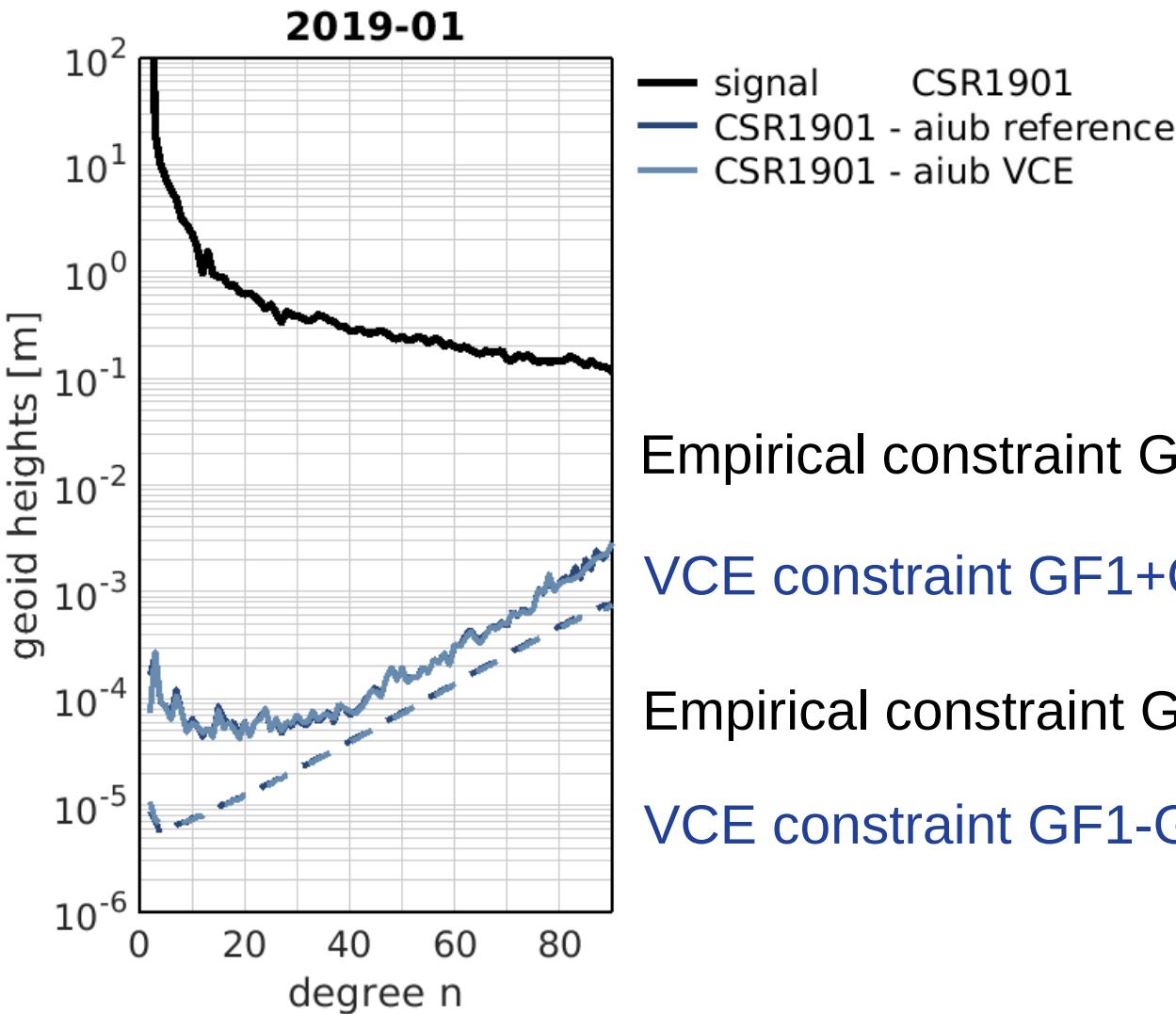
# VCE on constraints - results



Empirical constraint GF1+GF2:  $3 \cdot 10^{-10} \text{ m/s}^2$

Empirical constraint GF1-GF2:  $3 \cdot 10^{-11} \text{ m/s}^2$

# VCE on constraints - results



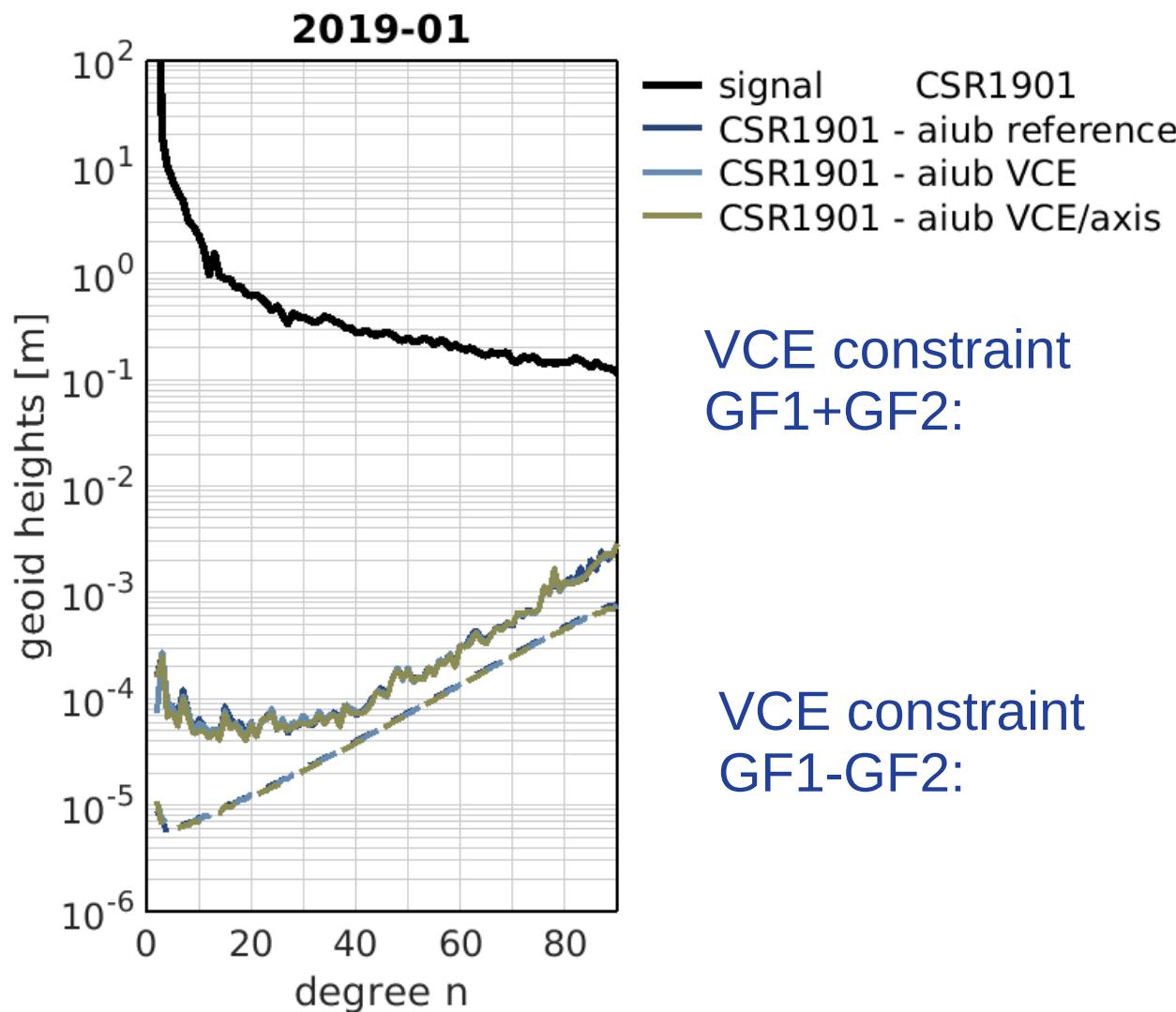
Empirical constraint GF1+GF2:  $3 \cdot 10^{-10} \text{ m/s}^2$

VCE constraint GF1+GF2:  $3.9 \cdot 10^{-10} \text{ m/s}^2$

Empirical constraint GF1-GF2:  $3 \cdot 10^{-11} \text{ m/s}^2$

VCE constraint GF1-GF2:  $1.6 \cdot 10^{-11} \text{ m/s}^2$

# VCE on constraints per axis



$$\left. \begin{array}{l} R : 1.7 \cdot 10^{-10} \text{ m/s}^2 \\ A : 6.7 \cdot 10^{-11} \text{ m/s}^2 \\ O : 6.3 \cdot 10^{-10} \text{ m/s}^2 \end{array} \right\} \text{mean: } 2.9 \cdot 10^{-10} \text{ m/s}^2$$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} R : 3.0 \cdot 10^{-11} \text{ m/s}^2 \\ A : 1.4 \cdot 10^{-11} \text{ m/s}^2 \\ O : 1.3 \cdot 10^{-10} \text{ m/s}^2 \end{array} \right\} \text{mean: } 6 \cdot 10^{-11} \text{ m/s}^2$$

# Conclusions

---

- Operational and up-to-date GRACE-FO timeseries
  - Reasonably low noise
  - High weight in combination
- 
- Confirm empirical constraining of PCA by VCE
  - Extend modelling of parameter space

**Thank you for your attention!**