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1 Simulating High-Frequency Atmosphere-Ocean Mass
2 Variability for De-Aliasing of Satellite Gravity
3 Observations: AOD1B RL05

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4 **Abstract.** An improved version of the OMCT ocean model with 1° spa-
5 tial resolution provides bottom pressure anomalies for the new release 05 of
6 the GRACE Atmosphere and Ocean De-aliasing Level 1B (AOD1B) prod-
7 uct. For high-frequency signals with periods below 30 days, this model ex-
8 plains up to 10 cm² of the residual sea level variance seen by ENVISAT in
9 large parts of the Southern Ocean, corresponding to about 40% of the ob-
10 served sea level residuals in many open ocean regions away from the trop-
11 ics. Comparable amounts of variance are also explained by AOD1B RL05
12 for co-located in situ ocean bottom pressure recorders. Although secular trends
13 contained in AOD1B RL05 cause GRACE KBRR residuals to increase in shal-
14 low water regions, we find a reduction of those residuals over all open ocean
15 areas, indicating that AOD1B RL05 is much better suited to remove non-
16 tidal high-frequency mass variability from satellite gravity observations than
17 previous versions of AOD1B.

1. Introduction

18 For about one decade now, time-variations in the Earth's gravity field have been mon-
19 itored by the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment [GRACE; *Tapley et al.*, 2004]
20 satellite mission. This novel data-set provides valuable insight into a number of mass
21 redistribution phenomena on Earth that include ice-mass changes and their relation to
22 global atmospheric circulation patterns [*Sasgen et al.*, 2010] and contribution to sea level
23 [*Jacob et al.*, 2012], terrestrial water storage variations and groundwater depletion [*Rodell*
24 *et al.*, 2009], co-seismic displacements associated with major earth-quakes [*Han et al.*,
25 2006], ocean tides in ice-covered seas [*Mayer-Gürr et al.*, 2012], or large-scale ocean bot-
26 tom pressure variations and their relation to the time-varying winds [*Boening et al.*, 2011].

27 The Earth's gravity field is precisely measured by satellite-to-satellite tracking of one
28 pair of spacecrafts trailing each other in a non-repeat polar orbit at currently 440 km
29 altitude. While one revolution is completed in roughly 90 minutes, data from typically 30
30 days are accumulated to calculate a global gravity field model. The deviations of those
31 approximately monthly gravity fields - the monthly mean GRACE gravity field solutions
32 - from their long-term mean can be subsequently related to geophysical processes in the
33 solid Earth and its fluid envelope.

34 However, tides and, to a lesser extent, also non-tidal variations in atmospheric pressure,
35 wind induced ocean currents, and terrestrial water storage changes associated with major
36 precipitation events cause detectable gravitational signals on sub-monthly time-scales.
37 Not accounting for such short-term variations that are not resolvable by the monthly
38 GRACE sampling causes aliasing artifacts in the monthly mean solutions, and therefore

39 reduces the accuracy of those gravity field models in particular at smaller spatial scales.
40 In order to make use of the full potential of satellite gravimetry measurements, high-
41 frequency signals need to be either removed from the observations by means of background
42 models, or properly taken into account within the parameter estimation process.

43 Although recent experiments show promising results for the latter approach [*Kurtenbach*
44 *et al.*, 2009], non-tidal variability is typically corrected for by using the time-variable back-
45 ground model GRACE Atmosphere and Ocean De-aliasing Level 1B Product [AOD1B;
46 *Flechtner*, 2007], that is based on pressure, temperature, and moisture fields from 6-hourly
47 operational atmospheric analyses of the European Centre for Medium Range Weather
48 Forecasts (ECMWF), and ocean bottom pressure grids from the Ocean Model for Circu-
49 lation and Tides [OMCT; *Thomas et al.*, 2001].

50 Besides being used for de-aliasing purposes in the GRACE processing since 2006, release
51 04 (RL04) of AOD1B and its underlying OMCT simulation has been applied in a number
52 of studies in other branches of geodesy that include the interpretation of Earth rota-
53 tion variations [e.g., *Dobslaw et al.*, 2010], or terrestrial gravity observations from super-
54 conducting gravimeters [*Kroner et al.*, 2009]. However, several weaknesses of AOD1B
55 RL04 have been identified [e.g., *Bonin and Chambers*, 2011, see also the summary at
56 www.gfz-potsdam.de/AOD1B], during the years. Consequently, a new release 05 (RL05)
57 of AOD1B has been calculated, dedicated to an improved de-aliasing of non-tidal ocean
58 mass variability in the GRACE gravity field processing.

59 In this contribution, the characteristics of the OMCT ocean model configuration used
60 to calculate AOD1B RL05 are described. The high-frequency component of the simulated
61 ocean bottom pressure is validated against sea level variability from satellite altimetry and

62 sparsely distributed in situ ocean bottom pressure gauges. The new AOD1B version is
63 subsequently tested for its ability to reduce the residuals of the k-band range-rate (KBRR)
64 measurements between the two GRACE spacecrafts, which serves as an indicator for the
65 reduction of aliasing artifacts in the monthly mean GRACE gravity field solutions. Finally,
66 simulated secular trends in AOD1B will be presented and discussed with respect to their
67 potential leakage into regional surface mass balance estimates of the major ice-sheets.

2. OMCT Configuration for AOD1B RL05

68 While the atmospheric part of the AOD1B remains unchanged in the new release, the
69 OMCT model version applied for AOD1B RL05 is an evolution of an earlier model configu-
70 ration described by *Dobslaw and Thomas* [2007]. It is discretized on a 1° latitude-longitude
71 grid, with 20 layers in the vertical. The time-step has been reduced to 20 min in order
72 to comply with stability criterions. As before, OMCT is forced with atmospheric surface
73 pressure, surface wind stresses, 2m-temperatures, and atmospheric freshwater fluxes pro-
74 vided every 6 hours by the ECMWF operational analyses. Fluctuations in total ocean
75 mass due to the incorporation of the Boussinesq approximation in OMCT and imbalances
76 in applied freshwater fluxes are adjusted at each time-step by means of a globally ho-
77 mogeneous shell of mass added to the top layer of the model. No river runoff has been
78 considered in OMCT simulations used for any AOD1B version. Also, dynamic feedbacks
79 due to loading and self-attraction effects of the water column [e.g. *Kuhlmann et al.*, 2011]
80 are not considered in AOD1B RL05.

81 By means of several sensitivity experiments, horizontal eddy viscosity and vertical mo-
82 mentum transfer parameters were adjusted to align the simulated bottom pressure and
83 sea level variability with available observations. The simulation finally chosen for AOD1B

84 RL05 is based on an initial spin-up run with climatological atmospheric boundary forcing,
85 followed by real-time simulations with ERA Interim forcing (1989-2000) and subsequently
86 operational ECMWF forcing since Jan 1st, 2001, both with a temporal resolution of 6
87 hours. The time-mean circulation is generally consistent with a previous OMCT run
88 discussed in detail by *Dobslaw* [2007].

89 As for earlier AOD1B versions, OMCT is forced by 6-hourly atmospheric fields that con-
90 tain sub-diurnal variability related to atmospheric tides, which cause secondary oceanic
91 tides due to periodic atmospheric pressure loading and wind stresses [*Dobslaw and*
92 *Thomas*, 2005]. Whereas diurnal signals are retained in AOD1B, we remove the (partially
93 aliased) semi-diurnal variability from the bottom pressure grids by means of a correction
94 model obtained from a harmonic fit over the years 2001-2002, since ocean bottom pressure
95 variability at this frequency is already contained in the ocean tide background models ap-
96 plied separately in the GRACE processing. Atmospheric tides are, however, variable in
97 time, leading to small residual tidal signals with a period of 12 hours in AOD1B. Regularly
98 updated estimates on those residual tidal signals are available at the web-page [www.gfz-](http://www.gfz-potsdam.de/AOD1B)
99 potsdam.de/AOD1B. Further technical details about those new simulations contained in
100 AOD1B RL05 are provided within an updated version of the official AOD1B document
101 [*Flechtner and Dobslaw*, 2013], which is available at the GRACE archives.

102 Although AOD1B contains ocean bottom pressure variability with respect to a mean
103 field over the period 2001-2002 at all frequencies, we primarily focus in the remainder of
104 this paper on high-frequency variability with periods shorter than 30 days, since correcting
105 for those signals is the primary goal of the AOD1B background model. In the new release
106 05 (Fig. 1), strongest variability at those scales is found in the Southern Pacific and also

107 in mid-latitudes of the North Pacific and the Nordic Seas. Almost no bottom pressure
108 variability is predicted by the model around the equator: wind-driven bottom pressure
109 signals are generally tiny in tropical latitudes, whereas changes in total ocean mass that
110 might be observed here [Hughes *et al.*, 2012] are excluded from OMCT simulations for
111 AOD1B as discussed above.

112 The (publicly available) AOD1B product contains four different sets of Stokes coeffi-
113 cients characterising the disturbing potential caused by anomalous masses in atmosphere
114 and ocean. 'Atm' describes the contribution of the vertically distributed atmospheric
115 masses, 'ocn' the contribution of the water column as simulated by OMCT, 'glo' the com-
116 bined effect of 'atm' and 'ocn', whereas 'oba' represents the bottom pressure simulated by
117 OMCT that is forced by atmospheric surface pressure and other meteorologic quantities
118 from the lower boundary of the atmosphere. Thus the difference between 'oba' and 'glo' is
119 meant to reflect only effects of vertically shifted atmospheric masses, which are generally
120 assumed to be very small. The monthly mean averages of those products typically deliv-
121 ered with the GRACE gravity field solutions are labelled GAA, GAB, GAC and GAD,
122 respectively. In the remainder of this study, we use 'oba' coefficients and its underlying
123 gridded pressure anomalies for the validation against OBP and sea level, whereas 'glo'
124 coefficients are used for the KBRR residual analysis.

3. Validation Against In Situ Ocean Bottom Pressure and ENVISAT Sea Level Anomalies

125 To validate the high-frequency variability content in AOD1B RL05 over the oceans, we
126 utilize both in situ ocean bottom pressure (OBP) gauges and sea level anomalies from
127 satellite altimetry. Globally distributed OBP datasets collected by various institutions

128 were made available by *Macrander et al.* [2010]. The provided data are checked for outliers,
129 instrumental drifts are removed by a quadratic fit, and tidal signals are eliminated with
130 the FES2004 ocean tide model [*Lyard et al.*, 2006] and a subsequently applied Doodson
131 filter [*IOC*, 1985]. As a second data-set, we use sea level anomalies from satellite altimetry
132 [ENVISAT RA2 GDR v2.1; *ESA*, 2011] over the period 2003 - 2008 as a proxy for short-
133 term ocean mass variations as suggested by *Bonin and Chambers* [2011].

134 Along-track ellipsoidal sea surface heights are corrected for the recommended instrumen-
135 tal and geophysical effects as provided within the Geophysical Data Records, including a
136 radiometer-based correction for the influence of the wet troposphere and an inverse barom-
137 eter correction. Ionospheric travel-time delays are corrected using GIM [*Schaer*, 1999],
138 sea state bias is accounted for by following the approach of *Gaspar et al.* [1994], ocean
139 tides and ocean loading are taken from GOT4.7 [*Ray*, 1999]. After optionally applying an
140 additional correction model for ocean bottom pressure-related sea level anomalies based
141 on AOD1B RL04 or RL05, along-track sea level residuals are finally interpolated daywise
142 onto 1° latitude-longitude grids using search radii of 300 km.

143 In order to focus on high-frequency variability, a 3rd order Butterworth filter with 30
144 days cutoff period is applied to all time-series. Globally gridded sea-surface height anoma-
145 lies at those periods (Fig. 2; no AOD1B-based correction model applied) are dominated
146 by meso-scale variability adjacent to western boundary currents, which represents density
147 anomalies in upper-ocean waters that are not reflected in bottom pressure variability.
148 In mid-latitudes and away from the western boundaries, wind and pressure variations
149 driven by synoptic weather patterns cause sea-surface height anomalies of a few cm that

150 are essentially barotropic and therefore equally present in co-located OBP gauges, whose
151 high-pass filtered variability has been overlaid to Fig. 2 by means of color-coded triangles.

152 Based on those residual sea level and bottom pressure anomalies, we attempt to test
153 the ability of AOD1B to further reduce the variability of both independent observational
154 data-sets. We therefore convert the 6-hourly simulated bottom pressure anomalies from
155 AOD1B into equivalent sea-water heights by using a mean sea-water density of 1028
156 kg m^{-3} and apply them as an additional geophysical correction model to the along-track
157 ENVISAT observations. Equally, simulated bottom pressure is subtracted from the in situ
158 OBP observations. The variances in sea-level and bottom pressure that are explained by
159 AOD1B are subsequently interpreted as a measure of model skill in predicting short-term
160 ocean mass anomalies.

161 For RL04, we find absolute explained variances of about 10 cm^2 in different parts of the
162 Southern Pacific, the South China Sea, the Gulf of Carpentaria and in the central North
163 Pacific. In large regions of the South Atlantic and Indian Ocean, however, explained
164 variances are actually negative (Fig. 3, upper left), suggesting that the model has no skill
165 in predicting ocean mass variability in those areas. Variances in sea level explained by the
166 new release (Fig. 3, upper right) instead approach 10 cm^2 in effectively all parts of the
167 Southern Ocean that are not dominated by meso-scale variability. In addition, AOD1B
168 RL05 explains in the Nordic Seas up to 50% of residual sea level variance (Fig. 3, lower
169 right), which indicates a substantial skill of the model given that upper-ocean processes
170 not related to mass redistribution are still contained in the ENVISAT observations. RL05
171 has, however, deficiencies in the Gulf of Carpentaria, where more variance in sea level
172 is explained by the older model version compared to RL05. Apparently, Torres Strait

173 between Australia and New Guinea is too deep and too wide in the model bathymetry
174 used for AOD1B RL05, thereby prohibiting the realistic simulation of the free oscillations
175 in that semi-enclosed region.

176 We also evaluated sea level anomalies from Jason-1 over the same time-span and found
177 generally consistent results (not shown). An exception is the strong sea level variability
178 seen by ENVISAT off the Chilean coast at 40°S, 100°W. This feature is neither explained
179 by AOD1B RL04 or RL05, nor has it been captured by Jason 1, suggesting that it is due
180 to observation or processing errors in the ENVISAT satellite altimetry data-set used here.

181 Variances explained by AOD1B RL04 and RL05 in observations of (30 day high-pass
182 filtered) in situ OBP residuals are expressed in cm^2 of equivalent water height and overlaid
183 to Fig. 3 by means of color-coded triangles. Absolute values of variances explained for
184 individual gauges are locally very consistent with the results obtained for ENVISAT,
185 indicating that both independent observation groups are equally well explained by the
186 AOD1B model data. Relative explained variances are, however, substantially higher for
187 the OBP observations than for ENVISAT. This applies in particular to the lower latitudes,
188 where bottom pressure signals are small and sea-level variability is dominated by upper
189 ocean baroclinicity. Whereas RL04 typically only explains a few percent of the observed
190 bottom pressure variance, we find positive relative explained variances for almost all OBP
191 records under consideration, many of them approaching or even exceeding 50%.

4. Impact on GRACE KBRR Residuals

192 We further evaluate the skill of both AOD1B versions in reducing the residuals of the
193 k-Band range-rates measured between the two GRACE spacecrafts, here for the year
194 2008. Those residuals are obtained from the standard GRACE gravity field processing at

195 GFZ, where all background models and processing standards are fixed to RL05 standards
196 [*Dahle et al.*, 2012], and only the AOD1B model has been replaced by the old AOD1B
197 RL04 version.

198 Blockmean averages on a 2° latitude-longitude grid are calculated for KBRR residuals
199 after applying AOD1B RL04 and RL05. Differences (Fig. 4, left) indicate that the remain-
200 ing residuals are generally lower for RL05 over most of the Southern Ocean, suggesting
201 that RL05 is indeed able to better explain range-rate anomalies between the two space-
202 crafts that are caused by gravitational effects of time-variable oceanic masses. However,
203 in several regions increasing KBRR residuals are identified when changing from RL04 to
204 RL05, as, e.g., near the Patagonian and the Siberian Shelf, or in Hudson Bay.

205 In order to separate the impact of high-frequency variability from signals at seasonal
206 periods and longer, we derive two series of sub-monthly AOD1B products by calculating
207 and subsequently removing monthly mean fields. By doing so, only the variability at
208 periods below 30 days is retained, similar to high-pass filtering the sea level variability
209 and in situ OBP in the previous section. For those sub-monthly AOD1B products (Fig. 4,
210 right), KBRR residuals are consistently smaller when applying RL05 instead of RL04,
211 supporting our conclusion that RL05 better explains non-tidal ocean mass variability
212 than the previous AOD1B version.

5. Trends Simulated in OMCT

213 OMCT simulations are intended to simulate in particular short-term variability in ocean
214 bottom pressure in response to rapidly varying atmospheric conditions. In the long run,
215 however, the model is drifting more rapidly than, e.g., current state-of-the-art coupled cli-
216 mate models that are prepared to reproduce climate variability over many centuries. Low

217 frequency variability and trends in OMCT ocean bottom pressure (Fig. 5) are primarily
218 related to ongoing warming and cooling of water masses at intermediate depths, and its
219 secondary effects on the thermohaline circulation. They are therefore much less reliable
220 than the high-frequency variability and should not be interpreted geophysically.

221 The AOD1B coefficients are applied as an a priori time-variable background model in
222 the gravity field estimation process. Thus, any trends included in AOD1B are expected to
223 be reflected additive-inversely in the monthly GRACE gravity fields, the so-called GSM
224 products. To assess their potential impact on estimating secular trends from GRACE over
225 the major ice-sheets, we apply the inversion method by *Sasgen et al.* [2010] to estimate
226 spatial leakage of oceanic signals towards the continents. We estimate regional averages
227 for both the major drainage basins of Antarctica as defined in Fig. 1 of *Sasgen et al.*
228 [2012a], as well as of the Greenland ice-sheet as defined in Fig. 1 of *Sasgen et al.* [2012b].
229 In addition to the original AOD1B trends, we also invert AOD1B trend estimates filtered
230 in the spatial domain by an isotropic Gaussian average filter of 4° width, to arrive at
231 conservative estimates for the potential influence of the oceanic leakage.

232 For Greenland (Tab. 1), negative ocean bottom pressure trends of about 0.5 hPa a^{-1} in
233 AOD1B RL05 cause artificial positive mass trends over the northern parts of Greenland
234 (mainly basins A and B) of up to 2.1 Gt a^{-1} , thus decreasing ice-mass losses over those
235 regions obtainable from the GRACE GSM products by this amount. Simulated positive
236 ocean bottom pressure trends in Hudson Bay instead contribute to more negative mass
237 trends in western Greenland (basins F and G) of up to -2.3 Gt a^{-1} as seen by the GSM
238 fields. For the whole ice-sheet, however, positive and negative contributions compensate

239 each other, leading to a weakly negative effect of the AOD1B RL05 trends to the mass
240 balance of Greenland as represented by the GRACE GSM products.

241 For the Antarctic ice-sheet (Tab. 2), positive trends in AOD1B RL05 in the Ross Sea
242 and also around the Antarctic Peninsula lead to artificial negative mass trends of up to
243 -2.6 Gt a^{-1} (basins 19, 24, and 25). Positive bottom pressure trends instead are found
244 in the Amundsen Sea Sector (basin 20), and in various parts of East Antarctica. When
245 averaged over the whole continent, however, we note an overall negative mass trend of
246 -11.7 Gt a^{-1} . Based on those numbers, we judge the potential impact of oceanic leakage
247 on secular trend estimates to be small, but non-negligible, although we are aware that
248 the amount of leakage may vary depending on the GRACE filtering and inversion scheme
249 applied. It is therefore advisable to restore the monthly mean of the applied AOD1B
250 products over the oceans (i.e. the GAD products) to the GSM monthly mean gravity
251 fields, before estimating long-term mass changes in the vicinity of oceanic regions.

6. Summary and Outlook

252 A revised version of the OMCT ocean model [*Thomas et al., 2001*] discretized on a 1°
253 latitude-longitude grid has been forced with 6-hourly ECMWF operational analysis fields
254 to simulate time-series of ocean bottom pressure since 2001 with high temporal resolution
255 and typical latencies of five days. The water column part of the simulated bottom pressure
256 has been combined with vertically distributed masses in the atmosphere as represented
257 by the ECMWF analyses to form a new release 05 of the GRACE Atmosphere and Ocean
258 De-aliasing Level 1B Product [AOD1B; *Flechtner, 2007*].

259 The quality of the new AOD1B has been validated for periods shorter than 30 days,
260 since accurate reproduction of mass variability not resolveable by the nominal GRACE

261 sampling of 30 days is particularly important to avoid aliasing artifacts in the GRACE
262 gravity field solutions. RL05 explains variances of high-pass filtered residual sea level
263 anomalies from ENVISAT by about 10 cm^2 in large parts of the Southern Ocean that are
264 not dominated by meso-scale eddies, meaning that RL05 is able to explain about 40% of
265 the residual sea level variability. Since also upper-ocean processes as well as observation
266 and processing errors contribute to the sea level residuals discussed here, we conclude
267 that the dynamical processes leading to sub-monthly mass redistributions in the oceans
268 are well represented in the latest version of AOD1B. This conclusion is also supported by
269 an analysis of in situ ocean bottom pressure gauges, which shows generally comparable
270 amounts of variance explained by AOD1B in most regions.

271 By testing the ability of the new AOD1B for reducing GRACE KBRR residuals, we find
272 substantial improvements over the previous AOD1B version in most open ocean areas away
273 from the tropics. Increasing residuals in shallow water regions are attributed to secular
274 trends that are more pronounced in RL05 than in RL04. Those trends are primarily
275 related to ongoing adjustment processes of the thermohaline circulation as represented in
276 OMCT, and are therefore assumed to be largely artificial.

277 Since high-frequency mass variations in the oceans affect a broad range of geodetic and
278 geophysical observation types, the new AOD1B model time-series might be well suited
279 for applications outside the GRACE project, as, e.g., the interpretation of changes in
280 the Earth's rotation or station deformations due to non-tidal atmospheric and oceanic
281 loading. The value of AOD1B for such efforts has been already formally acknowledged
282 by the International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS) by assigning
283 AOD1B the status of an official product of its Global Geophysical Fluid Center (GGFC) in

284 May 2012. In addition, the series might be used to separate the primarily wind-driven sea
285 level variations from steric height contributions seen by satellite altimetry before assessing
286 the regional oceanic heat budget, as it is currently already being done at AVISO for
287 Jason 1 with numerical model data from the global barotropic ocean model MOG2D-G
288 [*Carrère and Lyard, 2003*] and its more recent successors.

289 For a homogeneous re-processing of the GRACE mission period, however, the latest
290 AOD1B version still has deficits as, e.g., the (presumably artificial) trends in the oceanic
291 part of AOD1B, or sudden shifts in atmospheric masses over mountainous regions that
292 are related to changes in the horizontal and vertical discretization of the ECMWF model
293 [*Duan et al., 2012*]. Future work will both be focussing on the homogeneity of the time-
294 series as well as on the reproduction of signals with smaller spatial scales. This will be
295 in particular important since the satellite laser link to be flown as a demonstrator on the
296 GRACE-FO mission after 2017 is expected to increase the sensitivity of that new mission
297 by up to two orders of magnitude [*Sheard et al., 2012*], which makes aliasing of short-term
298 and small-scale variability a potentially limiting factor for the overall mission accuracy.

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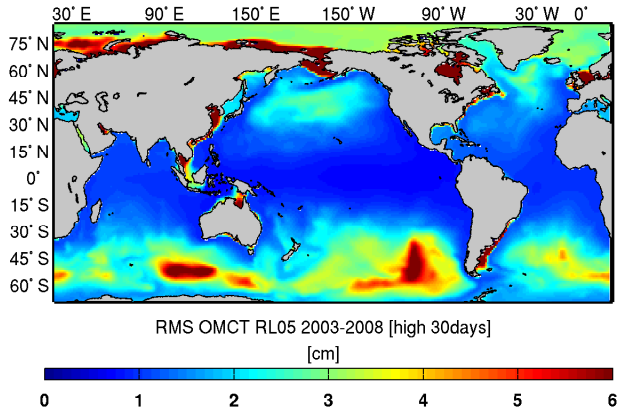


Figure 1. Standard deviation of high-pass filtered (30 days cut-off period) ocean bottom pressure variability simulated with OMCT for AOD1B RL05 (2003 - 2008) which has been expressed in equivalent sea-water height.

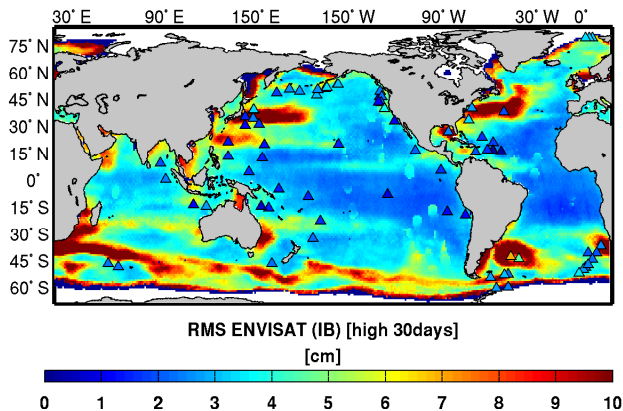


Figure 2. Standard deviation of high-pass filtered (30 days cut-off period) sea level variability from inverse-barometrically corrected ENVISAT observations (2003-2008; gridded at 1° latitude-longitude grid), and ocean bottom pressure variability from ocean bottom pressure (OBP) gauges at sparsely distributed locations (triangles), which has been expressed in equivalent sea-water height.

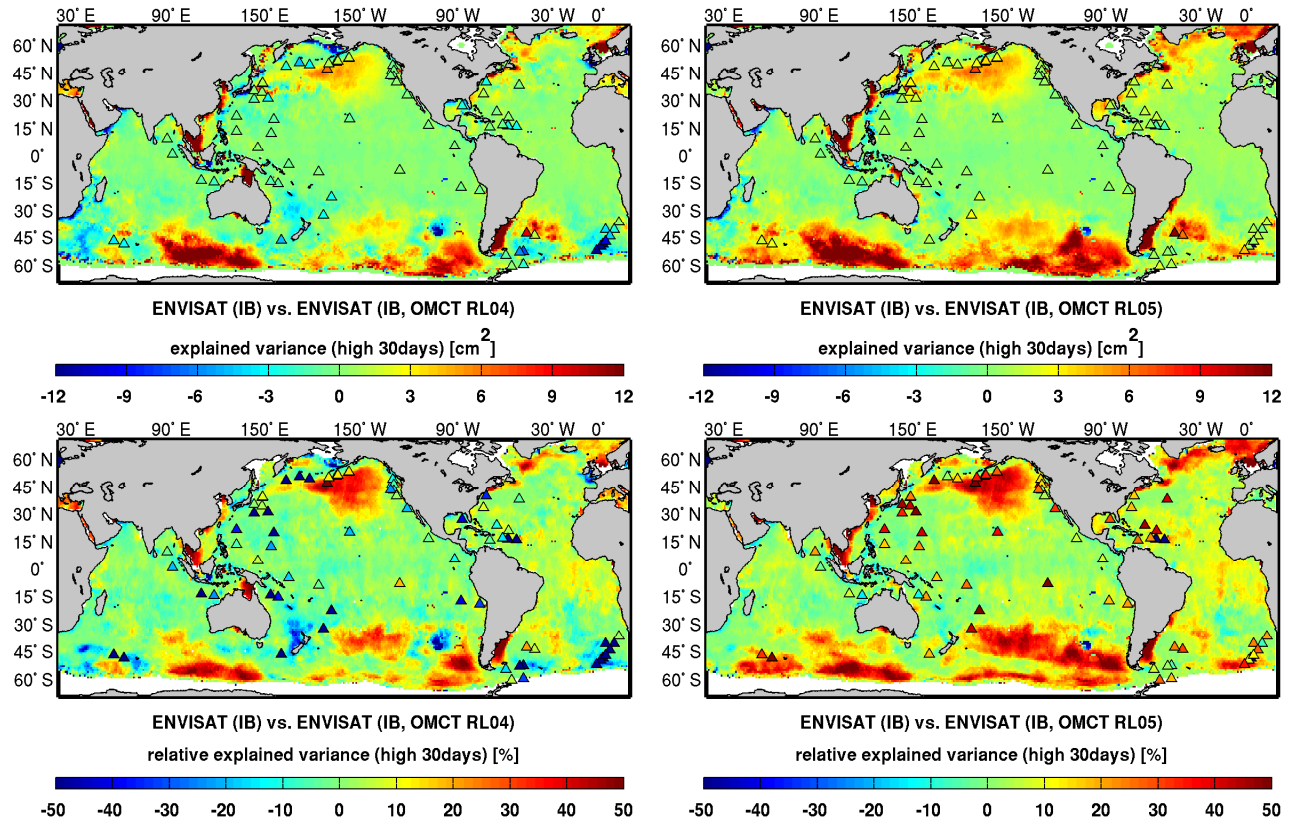


Figure 3. Absolute (top row) and relative (bottom row) variance explained of high-pass filtered (30 days cut-off period) sea level variability from inverse-barometrically corrected ENVISAT observations and in situ OBP gauges expressed in equivalent sea-water heights (triangles) by ocean bottom pressure anomalies taken from AOD1B RL04 (left) and RL05 (right).

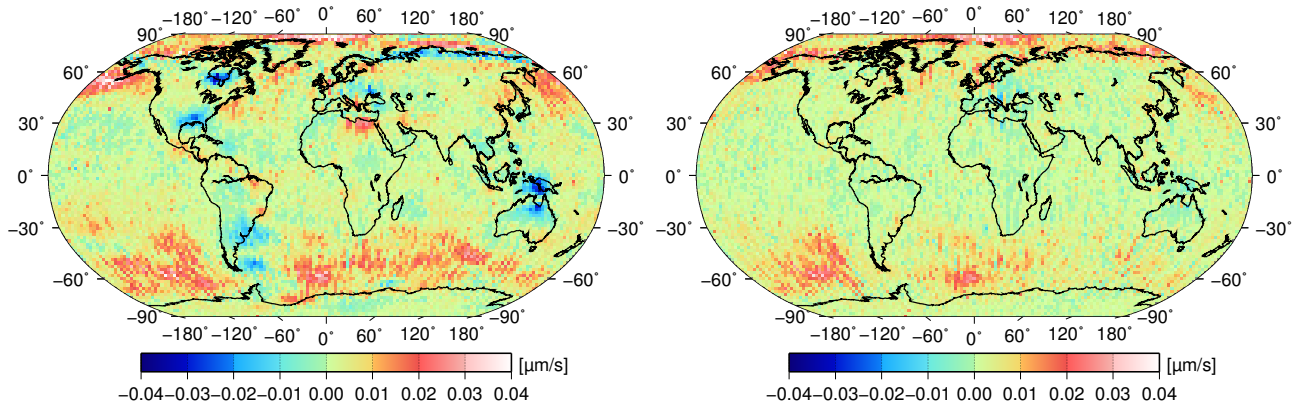


Figure 4. Blockmean averages (2° regular grid) of mean GRACE KBRR residual differences in 2008 after replacing AOD1B RL04 with RL05 (left), and after replacing alternative versions of AOD1B RL04_sm with RL05_sm that have been reduced by their corresponding monthly mean values in order to allow for the evaluation of the high-frequency information content of the AOD1B products only (so-called sub-monthly AOD's, right).

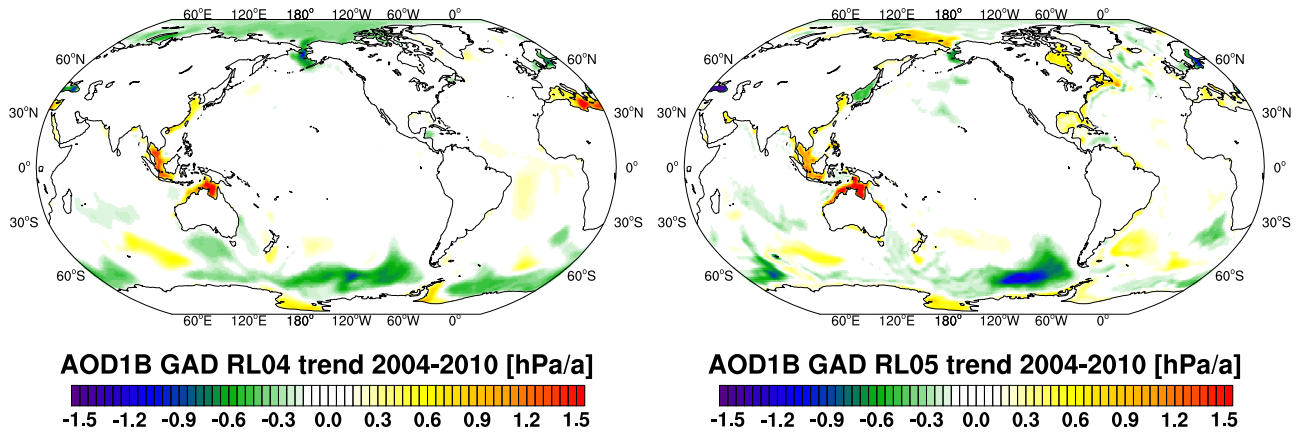


Figure 5. Secular trends in ocean bottom pressure for the period 2004 - 2010 as present in AOD1B RL04 (left) and RL05 (right).

Table 1. Impact of simulated trends in AOD1B RL04 and RL05 on GRACE-based mass-change estimates for individual drainage basins of the Greenland Ice-Sheet as defined by Fig. 1 of *Sasgen et al.* [2012b], both from AOD1B coefficients that are spatially unsmoothed and that are filtered with a 4° isotropic Gaussian filter.

Drainage basin	Area (10^3 km^2)	AOD1B RL04 unfiltered (Gt a^{-1})	AOD1B RL04 filtered (Gt a^{-1})	AOD1B RL05 unfiltered (Gt a^{-1})	AOD1B RL05 filtered (Gt a^{-1})
A	208	1.6	0.6	0.5	1.5
B	439	2.0	3.8	0.7	2.1
C	217	0.9	0.9	0.4	1.0
D	135	0.5	-0.2	-0.1	0.7
E	58	0.9	2.7	0.1	0.2
F	417	1.2	1.9	-0.2	-1.4
G	267	1.1	-0.4	-0.4	-2.3
total	1741	8.2	9.4	1.1	1.8

Table 2. Impact of simulated trends in AOD1B RL04 and RL05 on GRACE-based mass-change estimates for individual drainage basins of the Antarctic Ice-Sheet as defined by Fig. 1 of *Sasgen et al.* [2012a], both from AOD1B coefficients that are spatially unsmoothed and that are filtered with a 4° isotropic Gaussian filter.

Drainage basin	Area (10^3 km^2)	AOD1B RL04 unfiltered (Gt a^{-1})	AOD1B RL04 filtered (Gt a^{-1})	AOD1B RL05 unfiltered (Gt a^{-1})	AOD1B RL05 filtered (Gt a^{-1})
24	369	-1.7	-3.8	-1.0	-2.3
25	104	-1.4	-1.2	-1.3	-1.8
1	342	-0.9	-1.9	-0.3	-0.3
18	414	-0.3	1.3	-0.3	1.2
19	391	-0.1	-2.3	-0.3	-2.6
20	195	0.4	2.8	-0.1	1.9
21	235	0.1	-1.1	-0.04	-0.7
22	175	0.1	1.7	0.3	-0.1
23	96	-0.1	0.2	-0.6	1.1
2	738	-0.3	0.3	-0.2	-0.2
3	1582	-0.3	-2.2	-0.4	-0.5
4	226	0.7	1.7	-0.5	-1.2
5	361	2.4	4.9	-0.2	0.4
6	443	1.6	2.1	0.2	0.4
7	412	1.7	2.2	0.4	0.7
8	243	1.3	3.4	-0.03	0.5
9	963	0.1	-0.03	0.1	0.4
10	335	-0.1	-1.3	-0.2	-0.7
11	690	-0.02	-0.4	-1.0	-2.0
12	1170	0.7	1.6	-0.7	-0.8
13	741	0.5	1.5	-0.7	-0.2
14	147	-0.4	-0.3	-0.7	-1.1
15	281	-0.5	-2.2	-0.8	-1.8
16	1138	-0.4	0.7	-0.6	0.4
17	506	-0.9	-2.5	-0.9	-2.2
total	12297	2.1	5.3	-9.5	-11.7