Towards combined global monthly gravity field solutions

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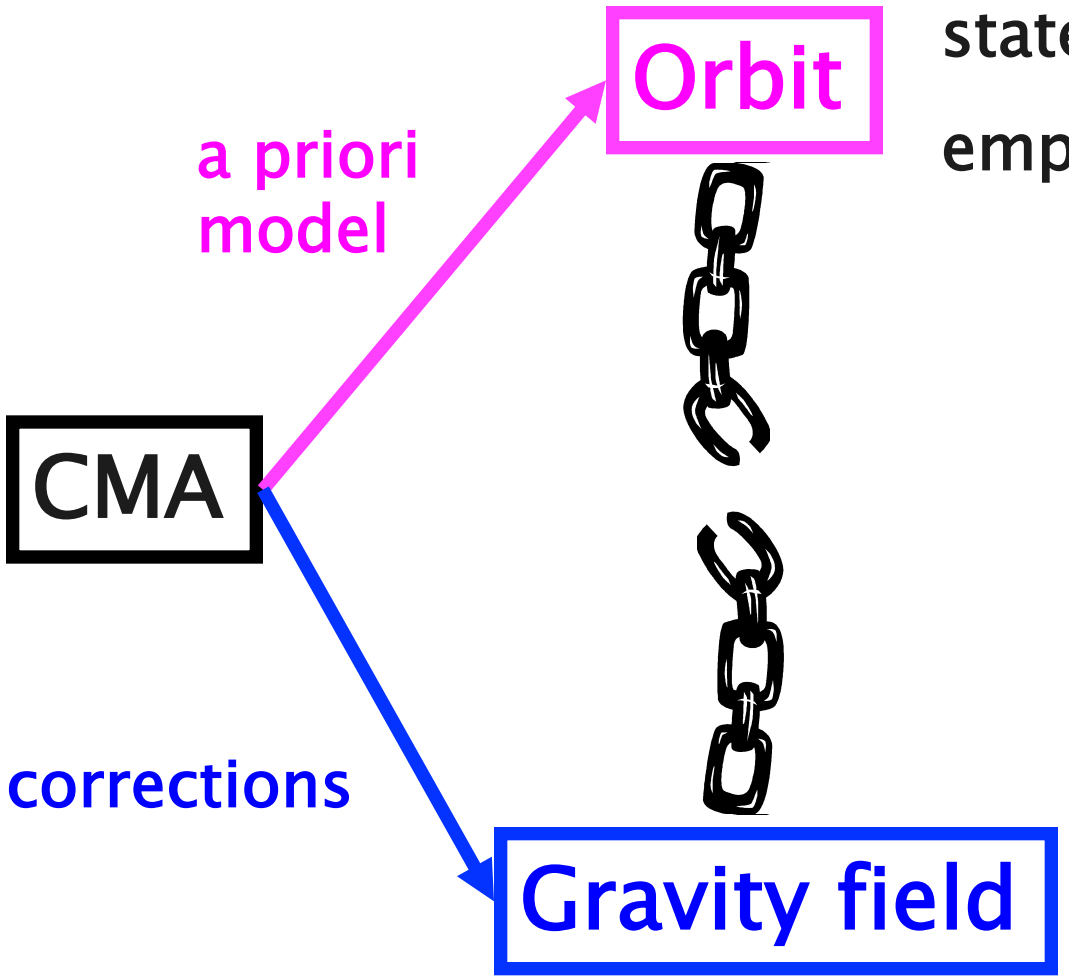
Motivation

Today, a variety of time-variable GRACE solutions are available from different groups:

- The solutions differ in terms of noise and (maybe) signal
- They may be based on different methodologies
- What can be done to make the best possible use of all these solutions?
- Is it possible to establish a meaningful combination?

Impact of different processing strategies

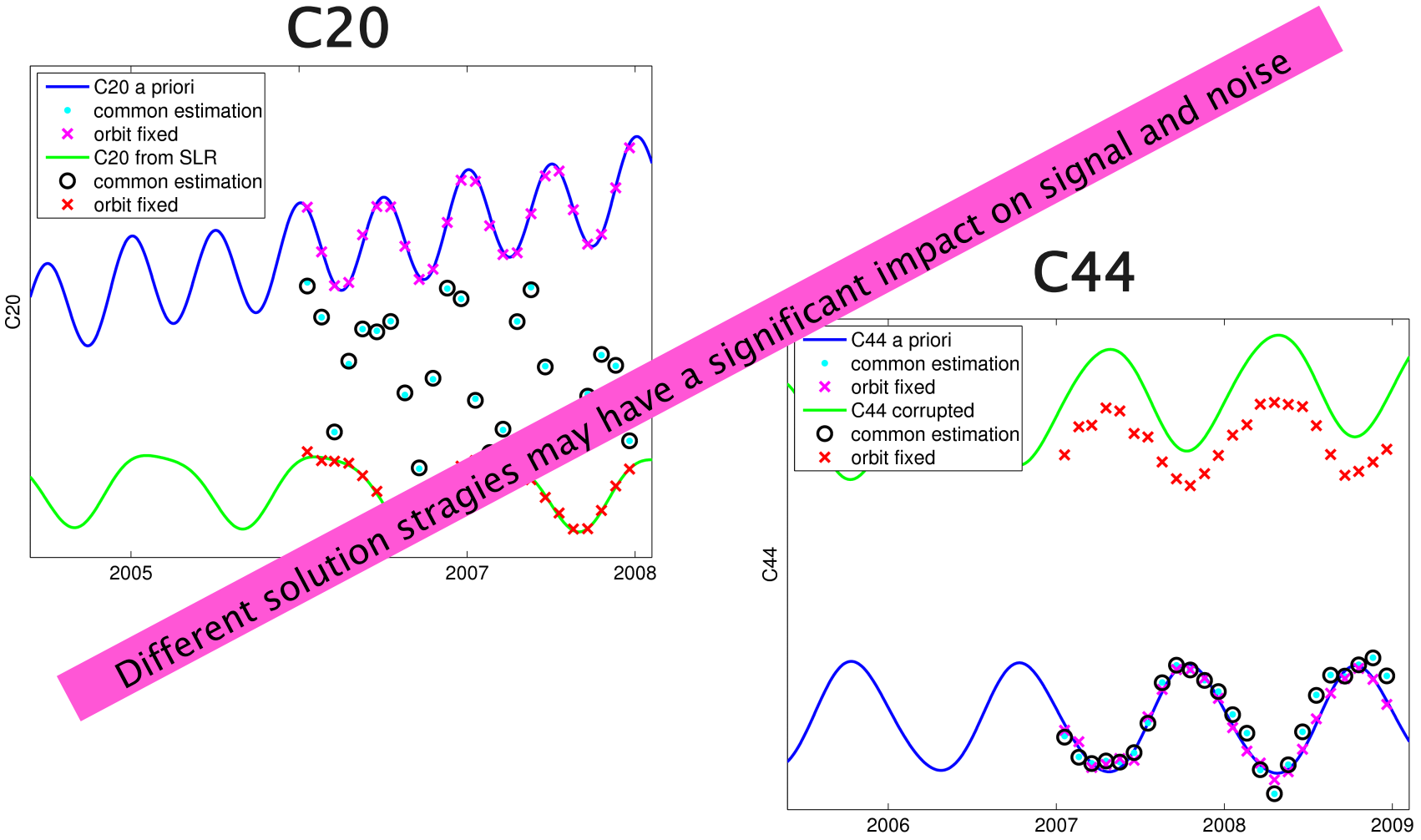


state vector

empirical parameters

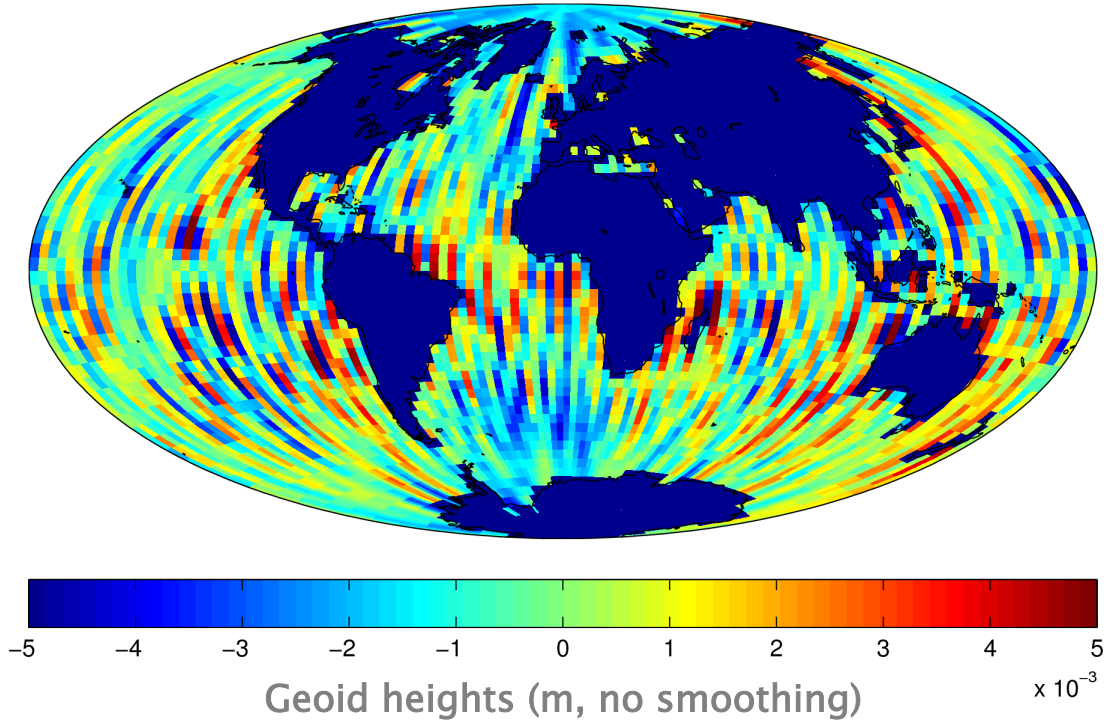
spherical
harmonics
coefficients

Impact of different processing strategies



Noise assessment

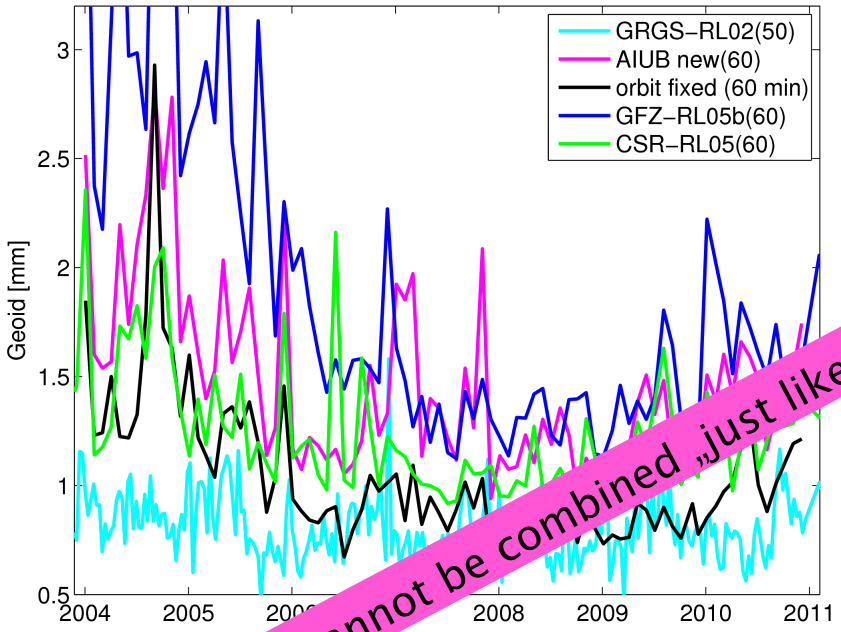
- weighted standard deviation (wSTD) over the oceans are computed to estimate the noise of the monthly solutions in a simple way



- an enlarged landmask is applied to compute the weighted STD in order to avoid leakage from continental regions with a strong hydrology signal

Noise assessment

wSTD over oceans (60)

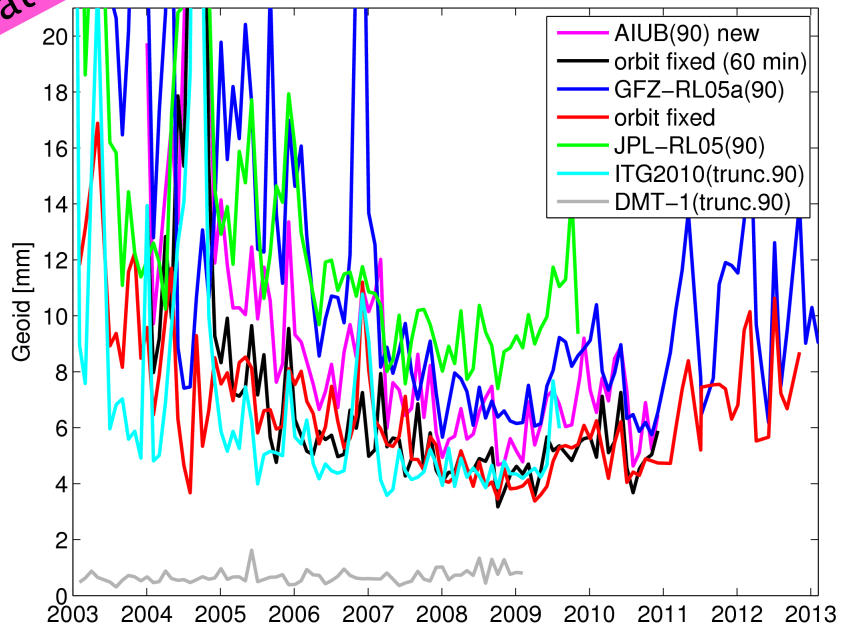


GRGS–RL02: 0.9 mm
AIUB new (60): 1.5 mm
fixed: 1.1 mm
GFZ–RL05b: 1.8 mm
CSR–RL05: 1.3 mm

AIUB new (90): 9.7 mm
fixed: 6.9 mm
GFZ–RL05a: [illegible] mm
fixed: 8.1 mm
JPL–RL0[illegible] 11.8 mm
IT[illegible] 6.2 mm
DMT1: 0.7 mm

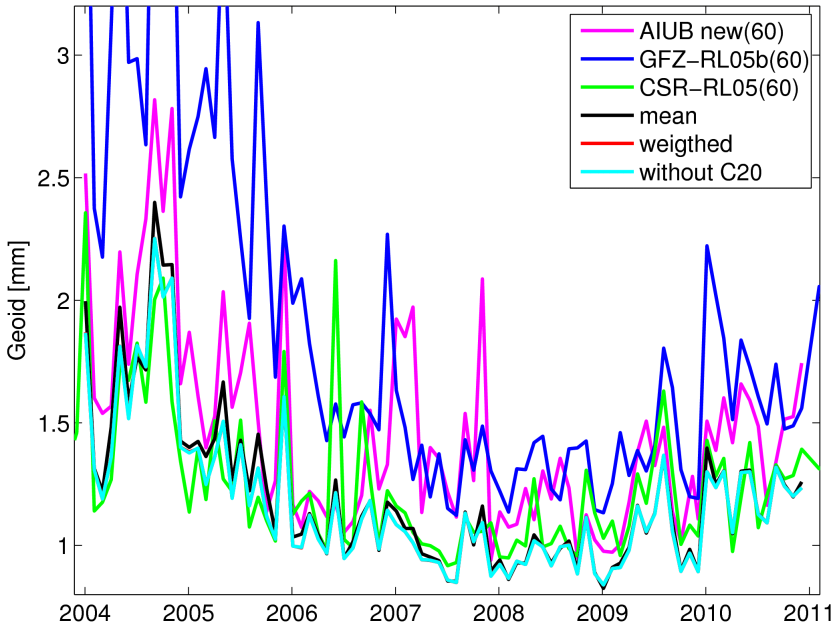
Solutions cannot be combined „just like that“ due to different solution strategies

wSTD over oceans (90)



Averaged monthly solutions
(input solutions based on similar strategies)

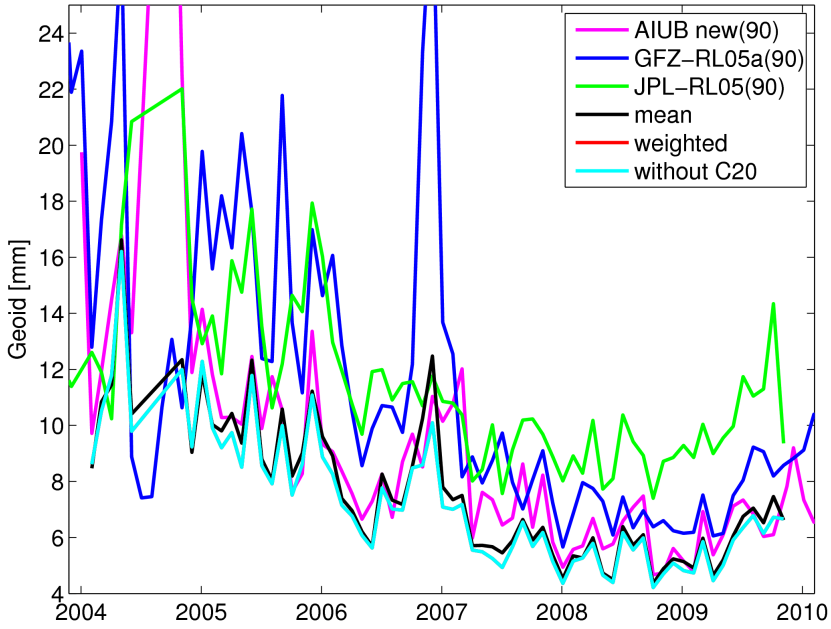
wSTD over oceans (60)



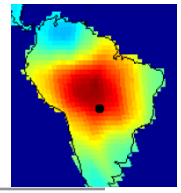
AIUB new (60): 1.5 mm
GFZ-RL05b: 1.8mm
CSR-RL05: 1.3 mm
mean (60): 1.2 mm

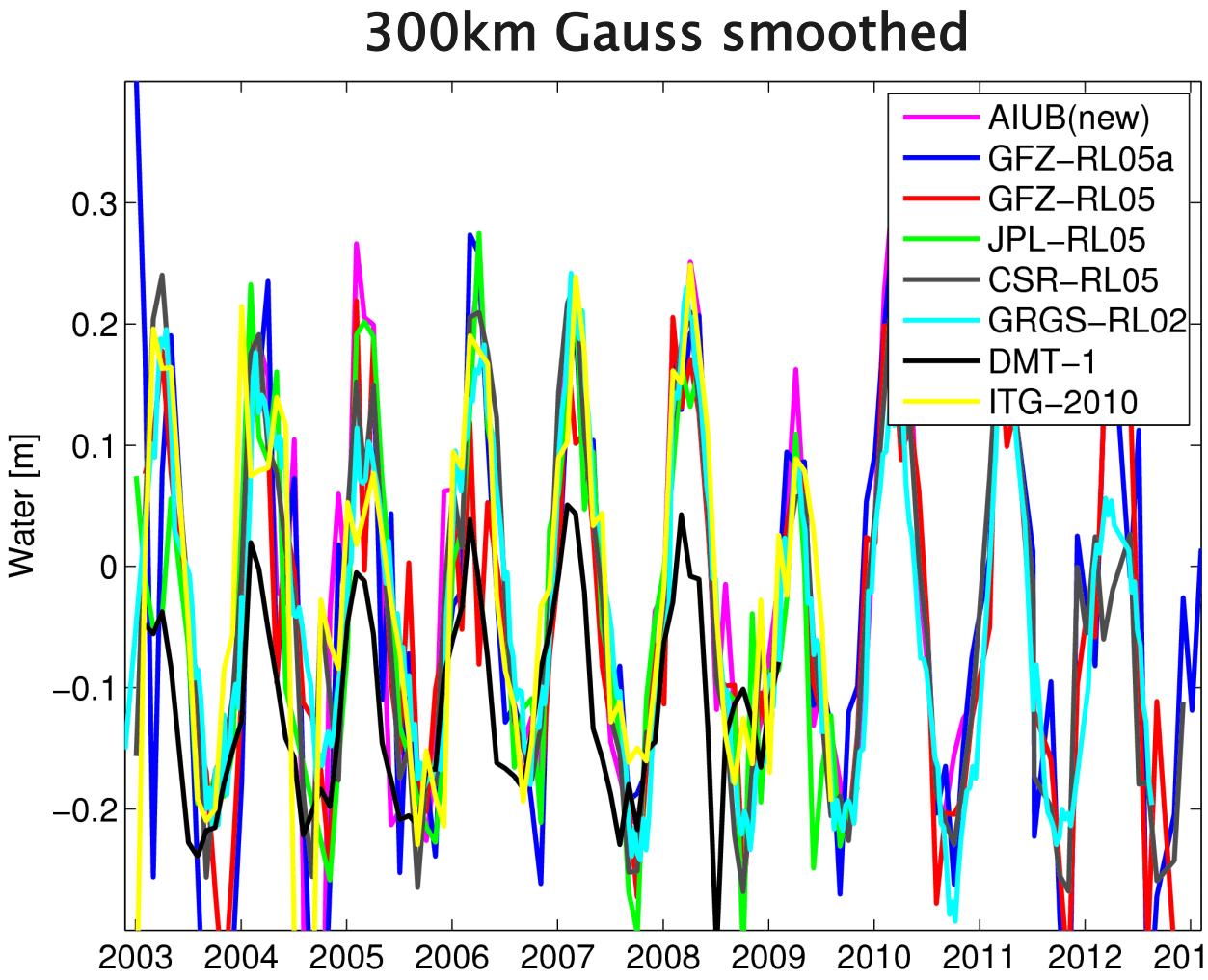
AIUB new (90): 9.7 mm
GFZ-RL05a: 11.3 mm
JPL-RL05: 11.8 mm
Mean (90): 7.8 mm
wmean (90): 7.5 mm

wSTD over oceans (90)

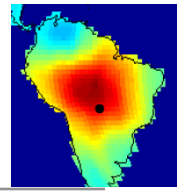


Signal (hydrology in South America)

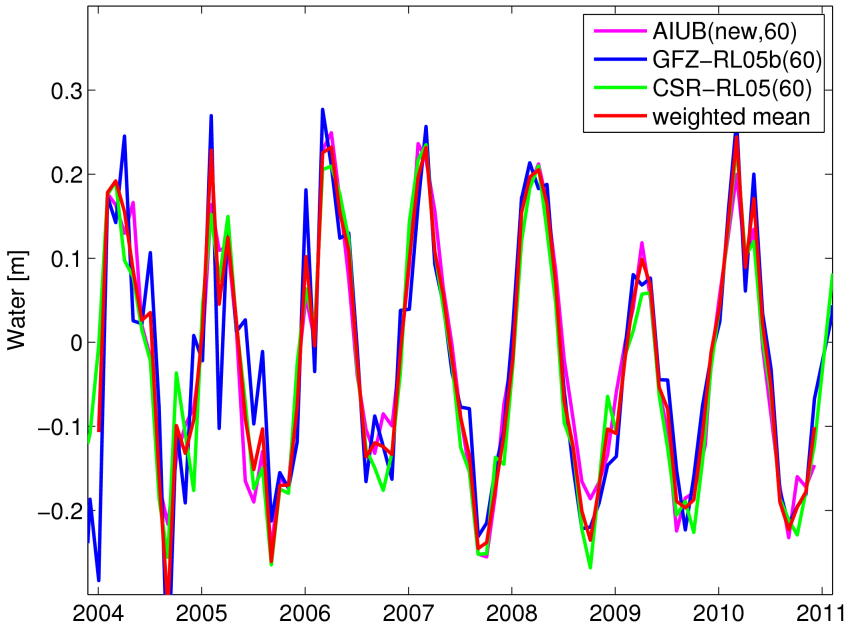




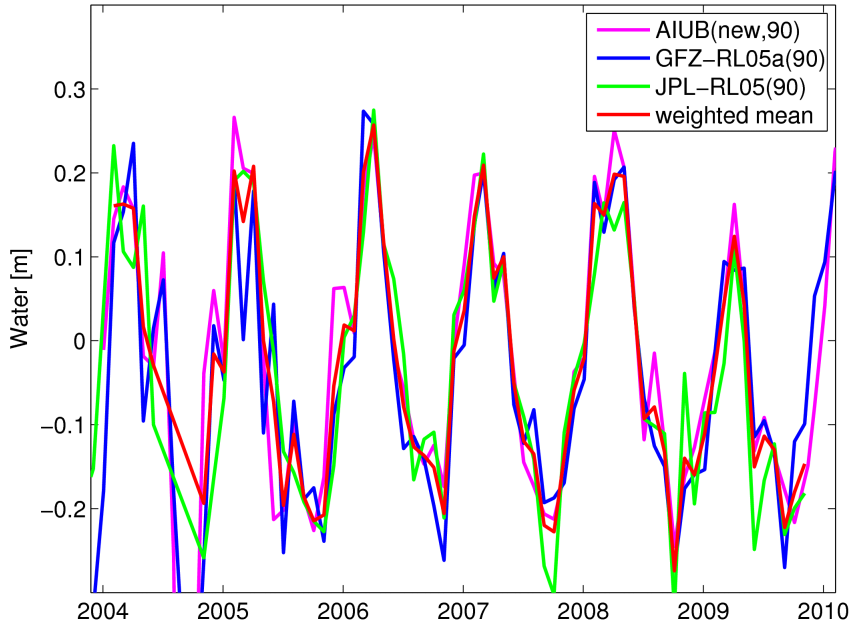
Averaged monthly solutions
(input solutions based on similar strategies)



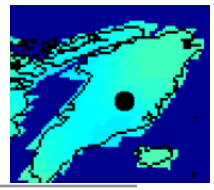
max. degree 60

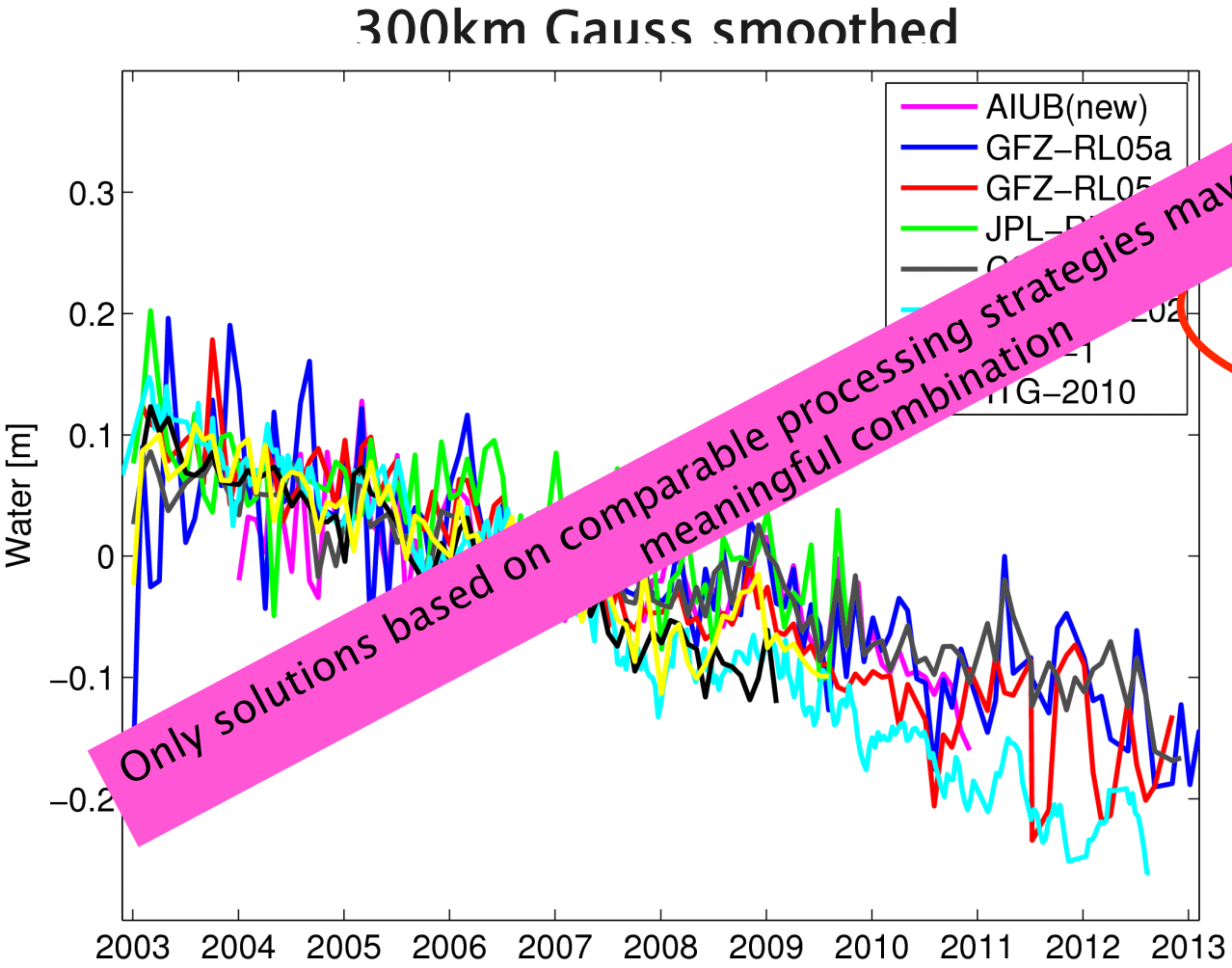


max. degree 90



Signal (ice mass change in Greenland)





Only solutions based on comparable processing strategies may be used for a meaningful combination

-20±1.9 mm/y

GFZa: -22±1.6 mm/y

GFZ: -31±1.1 mm/y

JPL: -20±2.3 mm/y

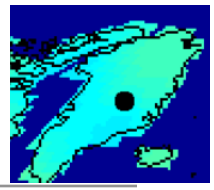
CSR: -19±0.8 mm/y

GRGS: -36±0.4 mm/y

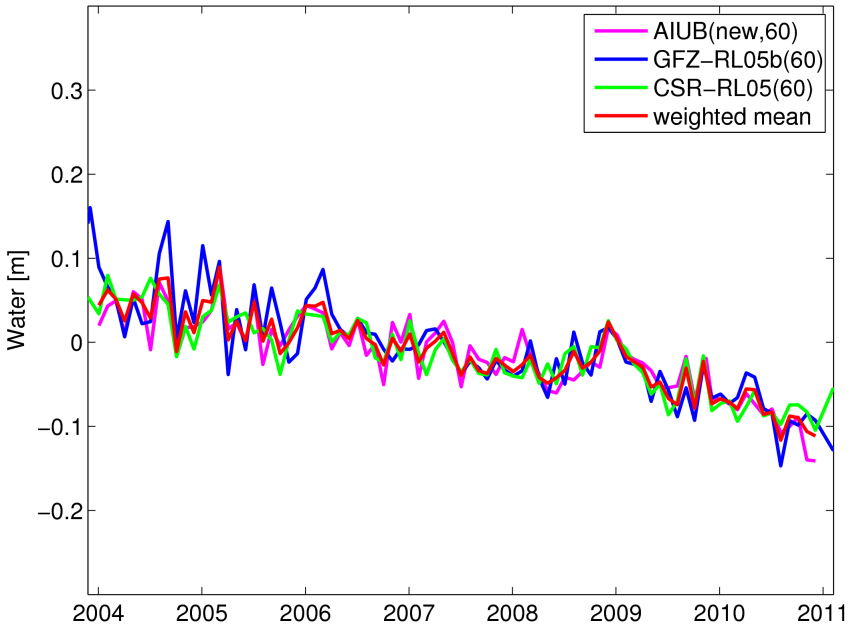
DMT: -34±1.3 mm/y

ITG: -28±1.6 mm/y

Averaged monthly solutions
(input solutions based on similar strategies)



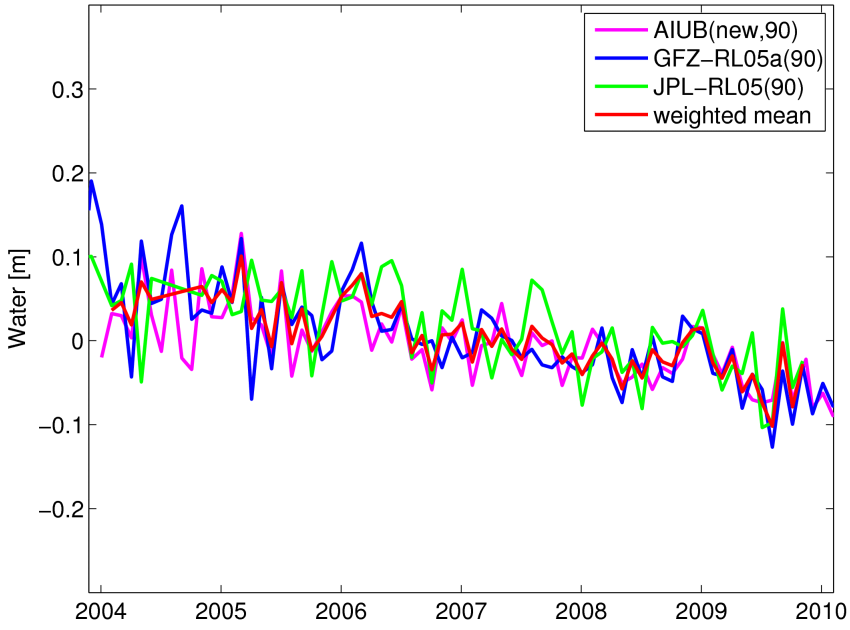
max. degree 60



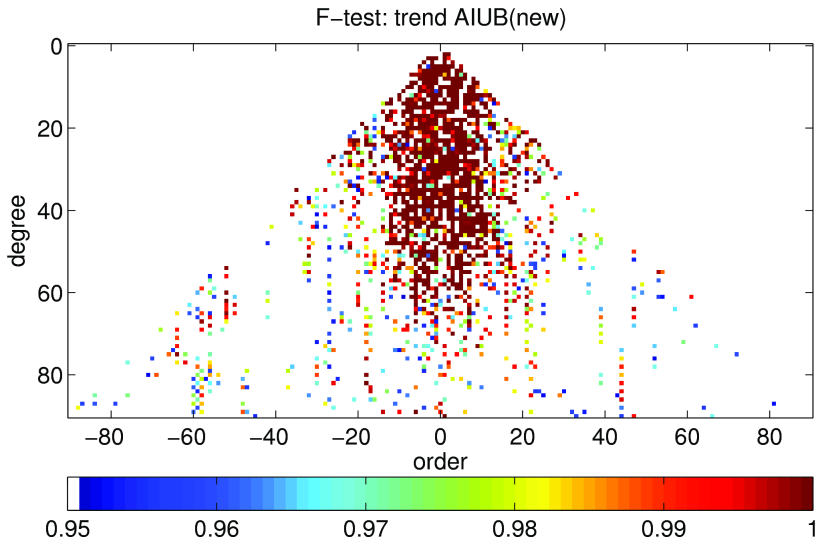
AIUB new (60): −19±1.4 mm/y
GFZ5-RL05b: −22±1.7 mm/y
CSR-RL05: −19±1.2 mm/y
wmean (60): −20±1.2 mm/y

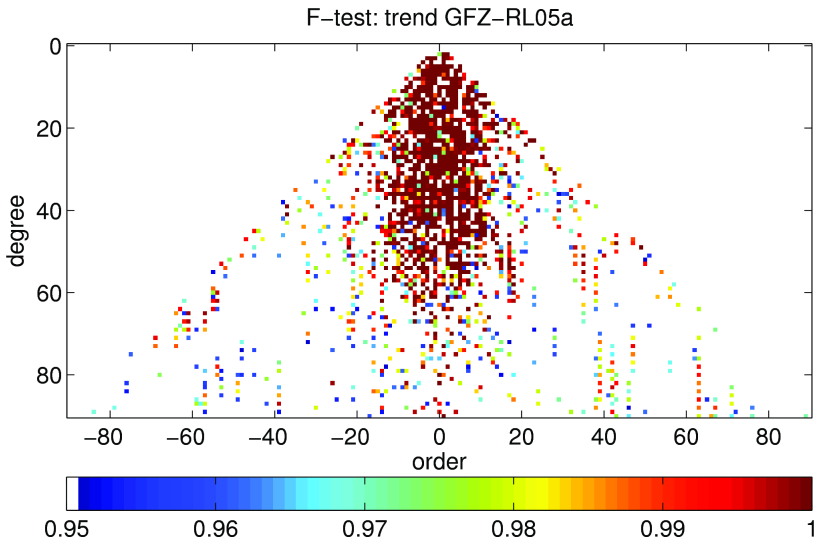
AIUB new (90): −17±2.4 mm/y
GFZ-RL055a: −20±2.9 mm/y
JPL-RL05: −20±2.3 mm/y
wmean (90): −19±2.0 mm/y

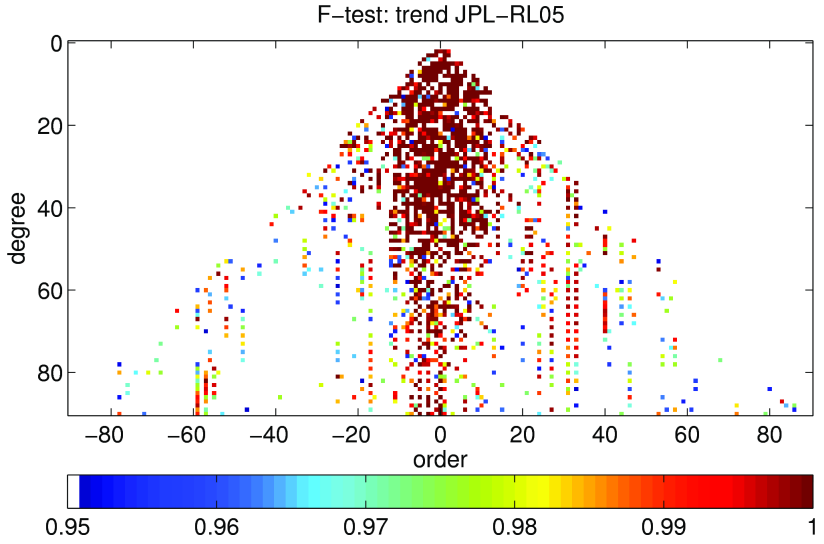
max. degree 90

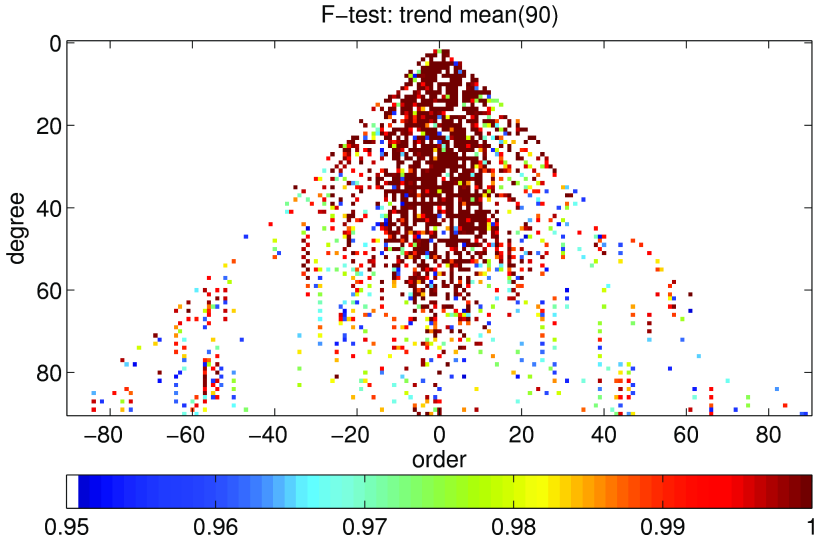


Coefficient-wise significance of trends

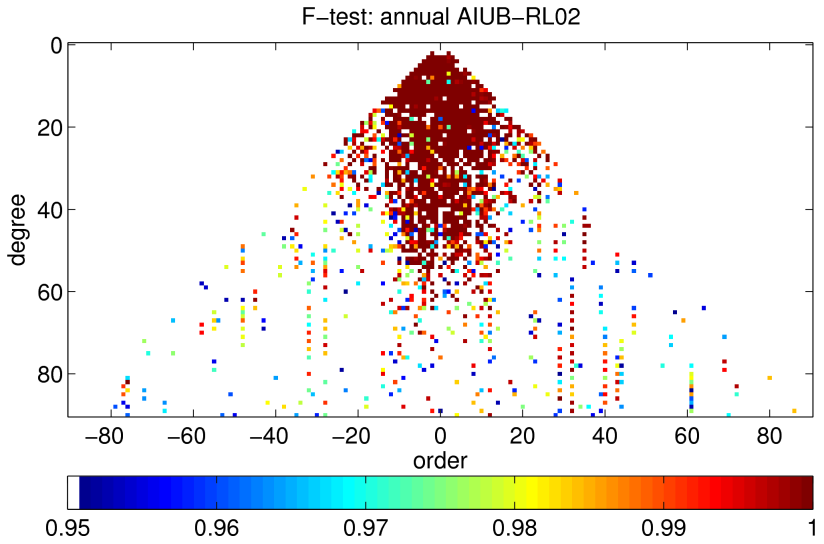


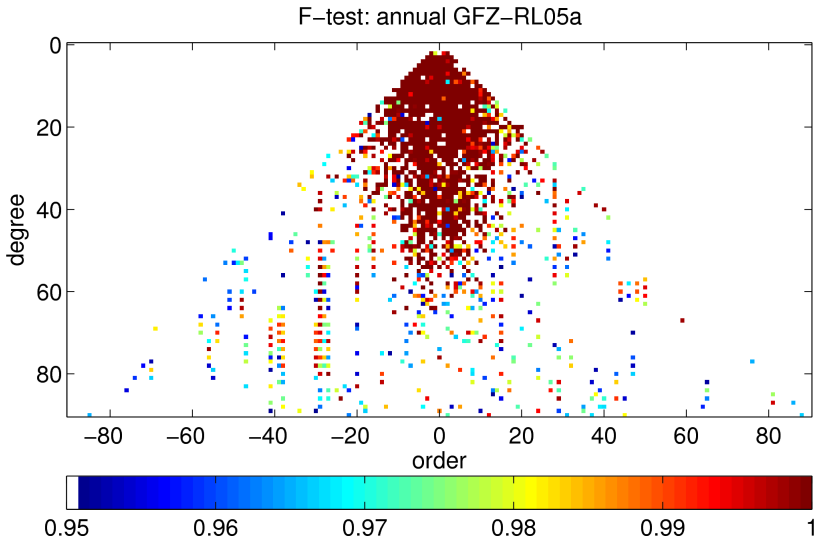


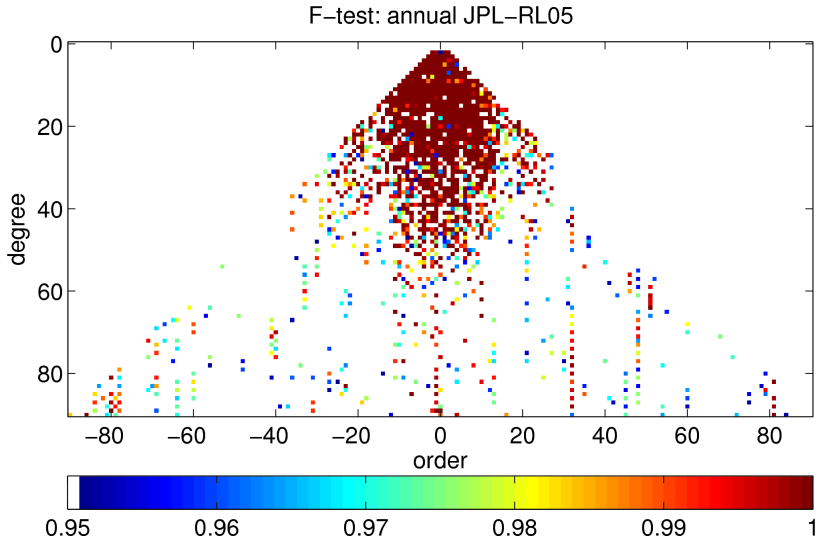


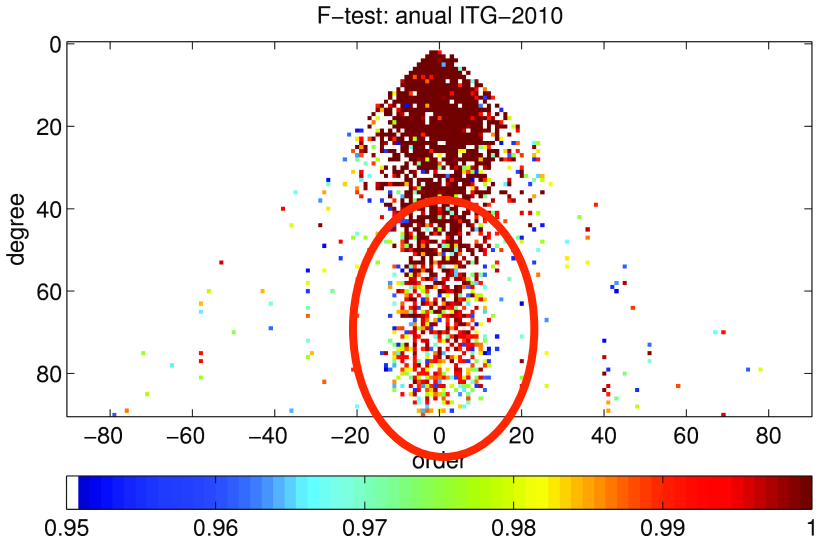


Coefficient-wise significance of annual variations



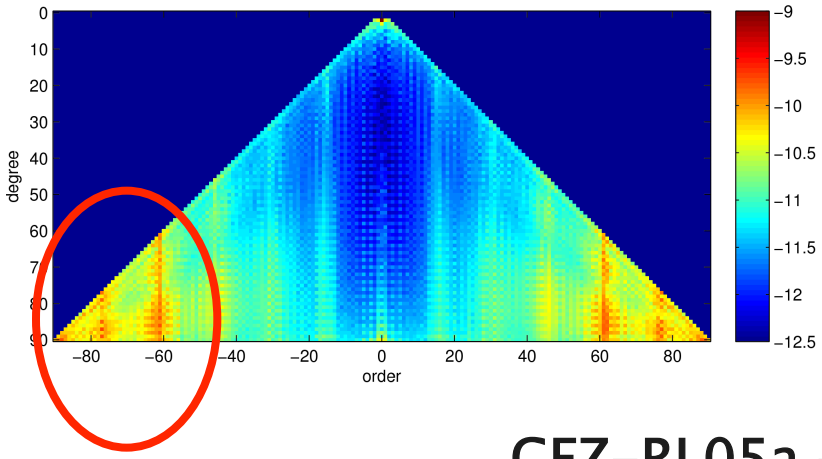




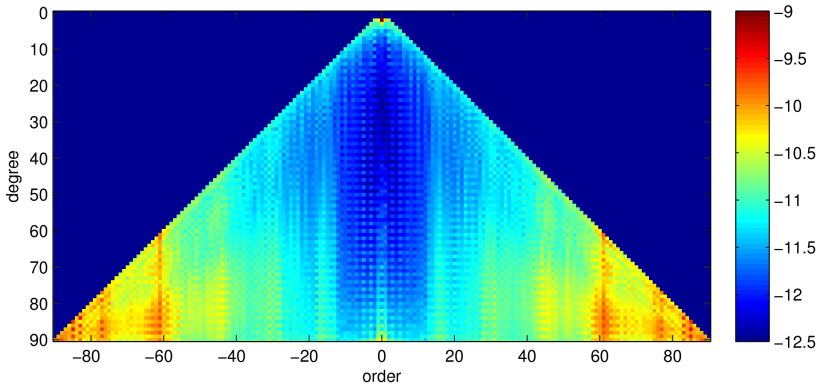


RMS of monthly differences per coefficient

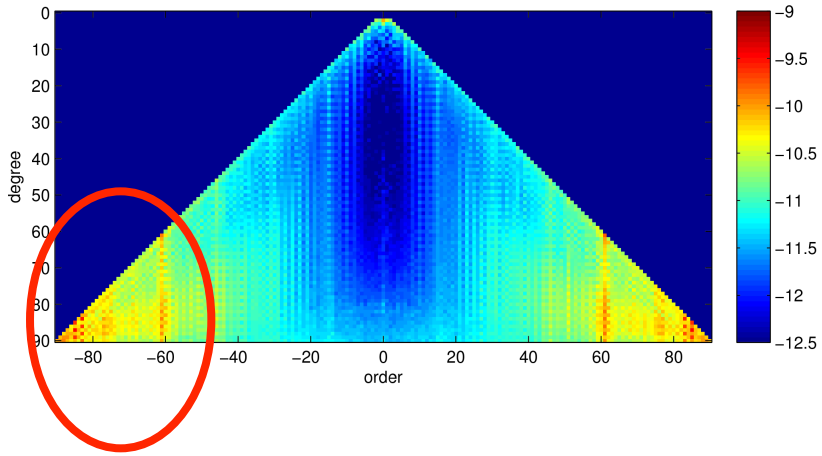
JPL-RL05 – AIUB (new)



JPL-RL05 – GFZ-RL05a

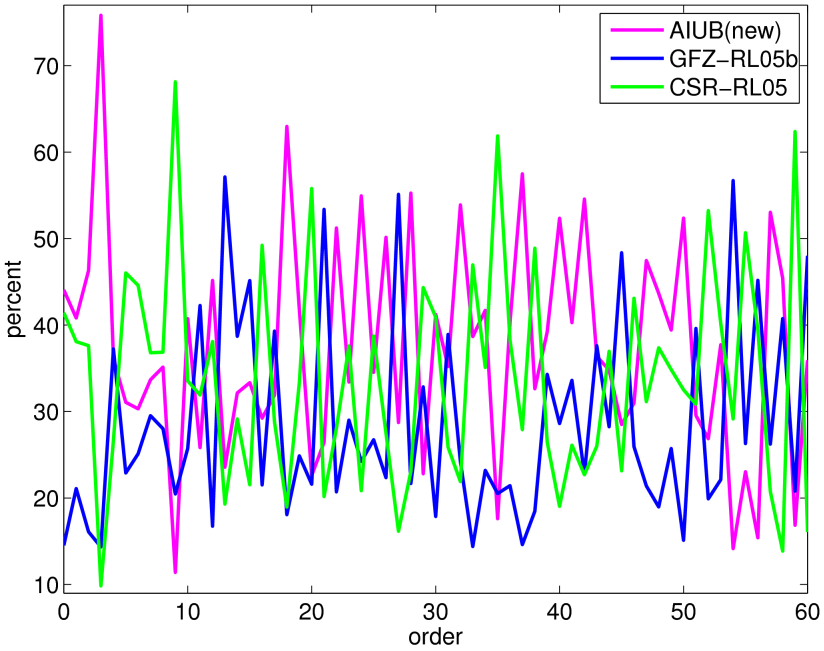


GFZ-RL05a – AIUB (new)

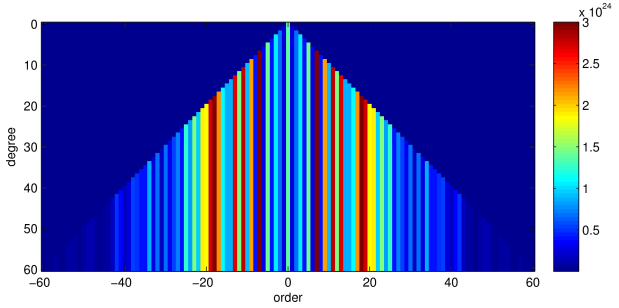


Monthly relative weights (example 03/2008)

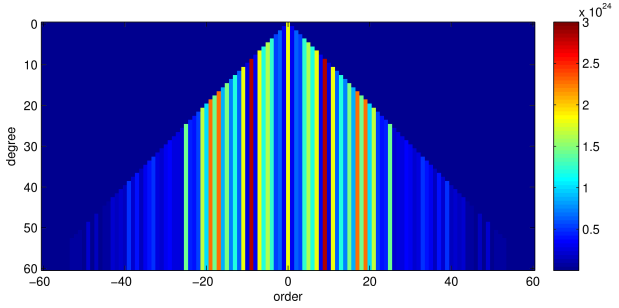
Contribution per order



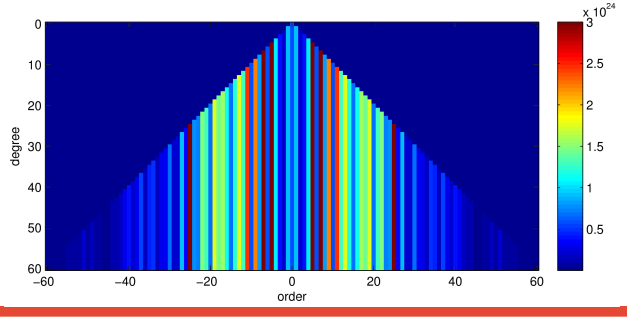
AIUB (new)



GFZ-RL05b



CSR-RL05

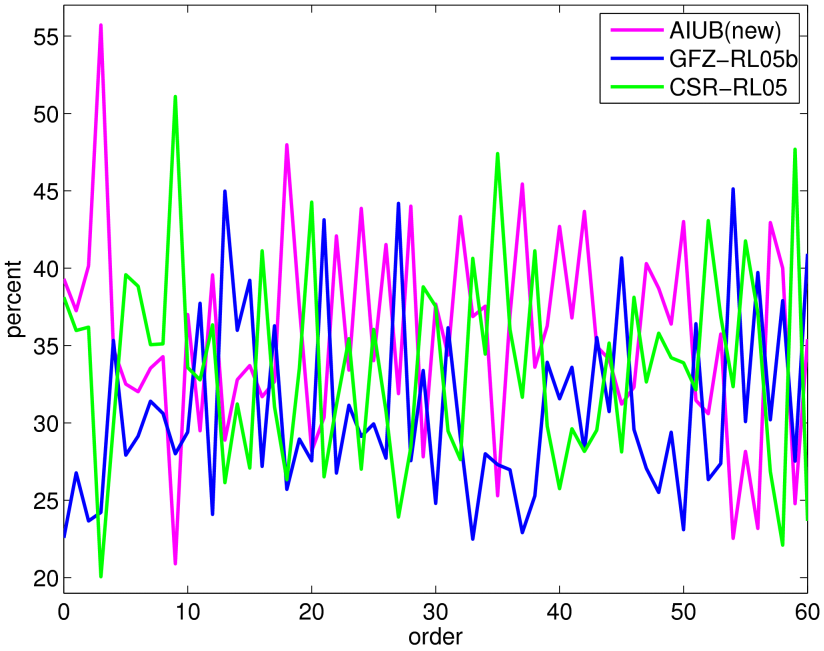


Percent: $100\% * w_i/(w_1+w_2+w_3)$

Weight matrix: $1/RMS^2$ per order

Monthly relative weights (example 03/2008)

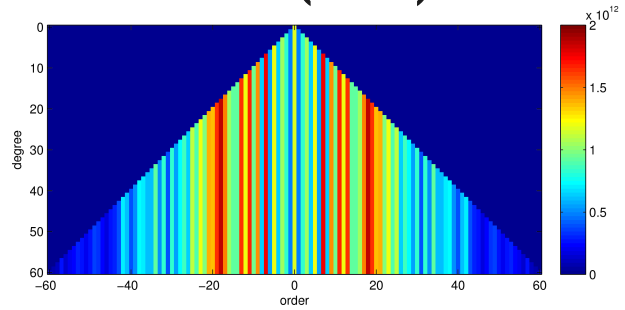
Contribution per order



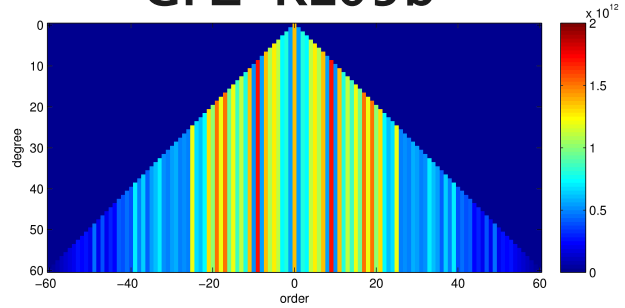
Percent: 100% * $w_i/(w_1+w_2+w_3)$

Weight matrix: 1/RMS per order

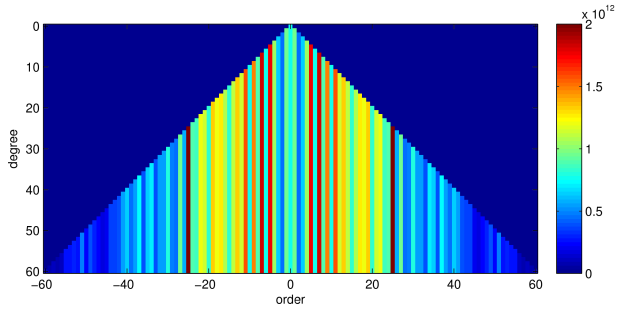
AIUB (new)



GFZ-RL05b



CSR-RL05



Summary in view of GRACE-FO

- A service should be established consisting of:
  - A larger number of Analysis Centers (ACs) providing time-variable gravity field solutions on a regular basis
  - Analysis Center Coordinator (ACC)
- Comparable processing strategies are mandatory to ensure meaningful results of the ACC work:
  - Comparison of the AC solutions (gravity field solutions, orbits, residuals), identification of problematic solutions
  - Pairwise comparison of solutions to derive approximate empirical weights for the individual ACs
  - Combination of all AC gravity fields, either by:
    - Calculating a weighted average of the gravity field parameters based on the previously derived weights
    - Combining the solutions based on normal equations generated by the individual ACs