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Mass fluxes of the Earth from GRACE

C. Shum (1), S. Han (1) and C. Jekeli (1)

(1) Division of Geodetic Science, School of Earth Sciences, Ohio State University, 275 Mendenhall, 125 S. Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210, USA

Techniques to estimate regional time-variable gravity fields from GRACE low-low tracking data have been demonstrated in order to enhance both spatial and temporal mass flux signals. Here we show a number of geophysical applications of one technique, with some first-of-the-kind results, to observe tides underneath Antarctic ice shelves, hydrologic fluxes in the Amazon and polar regions, and the analysis of the co-seismic displacement caused by the Mw=9.2 Sumatra-Andaman undersea earthquake in 2004. The multi-monthly GRACE gravity solutions before and after the earthquake showed that the coseismic displacement yielded permanent changes in gravity and geoid with a magnitude of a few tens microGal and several mm, respectively, and with a spatial scale of thousands of km. These observations are compared and validated with available models or in situ observations.