

Earth and Space Science

Supporting Information for

The Mass Change Designated Observable Study: Overview and Results

D. N. Wiese¹, B. Bienstock¹, C. Blackwood¹, J. Chrone², B. D. Loomis³, J. Sauber³, M. Rodell³, R. Baize², D. Bearden¹, K. Case¹, S. Horner⁴, S. Luthcke³, J. T. Reager¹, M. Srinivasan¹, L. Tsaoussi⁵, F. Webb¹, A. Whitehurst⁵, V. Zlotnicki¹

¹Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology

²NASA Langley Research Center

³NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

⁴NASA Ames Research Center

⁵NASA Headquarters

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Introduction

The supplementary information provides additional information regarding architecture and technology definition, numerical simulation setup, and supporting figures for the main analysis in the paper.

Text S1.

The architecture trade space is essentially infinite given the multiple variables that impact the science value of the architectures listed in Table S2. The set of simulated architectures was selected such that the boundary conditions were explored to capture the full range of possible outcomes. For example, it is undesirable to fly at an altitude above 500 km due to the attenuation of gravity signals with increasing altitude; 350 km is an approximate lower limit given the increased drag forces that exist at lower altitudes. The selected separation distance is far less of a factor than the altitude but does affect the measurement system value to an extent that it must be considered. Results presented in Section 6 consistently use a 300 km separation distance, as simulations showed this to be the preferred value. Note this separation distance is slightly larger than the nominal operational separation distance of GRACE and GRACE-FO (220 +/- 50 km), as we find the impact of accelerometer error on the gravity retrieval is lessened with larger separation distances. The selected pendulum opening angles are informed by the results of Li et al. (2016). AIGG simulations were performed for a single instrument oriented in the radial, along-track, and cross-track directions, with the radial configuration performing approximately an order of magnitude better than the other orientations; thus, the results presented here focus on the radial orientation. We assumed three AIGG beams with a 2-meter baseline and 15 second interrogation time, resulting in a sensitivity of 10⁻⁵ Eötvös and a sample rate of 0.1 Hz. Table S2 provides a summary of the simulated architectures, while Tables S3 and S4 provide summaries of the inter-satellite ranging technologies and accelerometer technologies. The technologies in Tables S3 and S4 were appropriately mixed and matched across the architectures described in Table S2 to provide a large trade space of potential architecture variants (see Figure 1). The performance metrics in Table S2 and S3 are approximations of performance based on a specific frequency band; in reality, a full error spectra across relevant frequency bands is taken into account in the numerical simulations.

Text S2.

Force models used in the numerical simulations to derive science value are given in Table S5. To derive measurement system value (i.e., neglecting temporal aliasing error), the nominal models in Table S5 are set equivalent to the truth models. All models are expressed to spherical harmonic degree and order 180. Additional conservative force models considered in the numerical simulations include third body effects (DE421b), General Relativistic Effects (IERS2010), S1 and S2 air tides (Ray and Ponte, 2003), and Solid Earth and Ocean Pole Tides (IERS2010). Non-gravitational forces considered in the simulations include atmospheric drag, solar radiation pressure, and Earth radiation pressure.

Gravity fields are estimated to spherical harmonic degree and order 180 covering the span January 1-29, 2006. Gravity estimation is a 2-step process, where in the first step, a set of "local" parameters are estimated using the tracking data for the purposes of converging the orbit. The estimated parameters in the first step include daily position

and velocity of each spacecraft, daily accelerometer scale factors, daily accelerometer biases, and a range-rate bias, range-rate drift, and a range-rate one cycle per revolution. In the second step of the gravity estimation, these same parameters are estimated again along with the 29-day mean gravity field expressed to spherical harmonic degree and order 180. Additionally, a covariance function for each data type and relative weights for each day are estimated in an iterative manner (second step only) as described in Ellmer (2018).

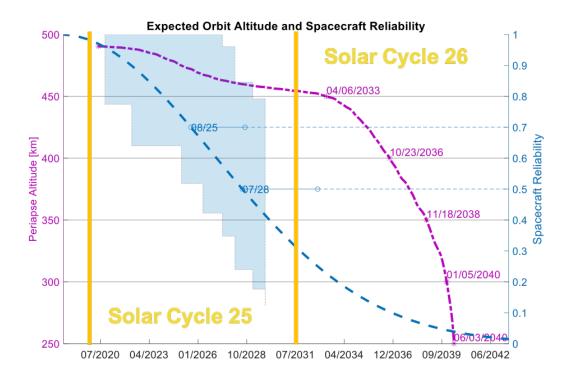


Figure S1. Triggering mechanisms for GRACE-FO end of life, showing spacecraft reliability estimates (y-axis, right) in the dashed blue line with 2-sigma uncertainty estimates in shaded blue, and orbital altitude degradation due to increasing atmospheric drag forces (y-axis, left). Altitude degradation is computed using the 2-sigma (95% confidence) Schatten solar cycle predictions from the Goddard Flight Dynamics Facility. We note solar cycle predictions are inherently uncertain; stronger solar cycles than simulated here will lead to more rapid altitude degradation.

	vey Science Tapics , Questions, Objecti						ables (Community Interpretation)		
Topic	DS Science Question	DS Science/Application Objective	Necessary observables	Current state of the art for Science/Application Obective	of Objective specificed in DS	Science/Appobjective	DS Suggested Measurement Parameters for MC Baseline. Most imporant variable is in bold	D5 Suggested Measurement Parameters for MC Goal. Most important variable is in bold	Justification for Suggested Measurement Parameters: Both Baseline and Goal
Climate Vanishility and Change	C-I. How much will sea level rise, globally and regionally, over the next the role of let sheets and ocean heat storage?	C-1a. Determine the global mean sea level rise to within 0.5 mm yr-1 over the course of a decade	Sea Surface Height Terrestrial Reference Frame Ocean Mass Redistribution	precision: +/- 0. 5mm yr-1 (0.4 mm yr-1 from a lifmetry, 0.3 mm yr-1 from ocean mass [Watkins et al., 2015]]	Most Important	High. MC provides a unique me asurement of global ocean mass change.	Ocean Mass distribution Spatial Resolution: (300 km) ² Temporal Resolution: monthly Accur acy: 15 mm	Ocean Mass distribution Spatial Resolution: (100 km) ² Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy: 15 mm	Baseline: Specified in the Decadal Survey (Appendix B) Goal: Higher spatial resolution will reduce land leakage errors which are one of the dominant source of percent in teterophical pathala consequence.
		C-1b. Determine the change in the global oceanic heat uptake to within 0.1 Wm-2 over the course of a decade		precision: +/-0.44 W m-2 over 10 ys (same as C-1a)			Ocean Mass distribution Spatial Resolution: (300 km) ² Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy: 15 mm	Ocean Mass distribution Spatial Resolution: (100 km) ² Temporal Resolution: weekly Accuracy: 15 mm	sources of error in determining global ocean mass. Baseline: Specified in the Decadal Survey (Appendix B) Goal: Higher spatial resolution will reduce land leakage errors which are one of the dominant sources of error in determining global ocean mass.
		C-1c. Determine the changes in total ice sheet mass balance to within 15 Gton/yr over the course of a decade and the changes in surface mass balance and glocier ice discharge with the same accuracy over the entire ice wheels, continuously, for decades to come	Ice sheet mass change ice sheet velocity ice sheet elevation ice sheet thickness ice shelf thickness ice shelf thickness ice sheet bed elevation ice sheet autrace mass	precision: +/-24 Gtyr-1 (Greenland), +/- 39 Gtyr-1 (Antarctica) (Watkins et al., 2015)		High. Ice sheet mass change is directly and uniquely measured through MC.	ke Sheet Mass distribution Spatial Resolution; (300 km) ² Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy; 40 mm	Ice Sheet Mass distribution Spatial Resolution: (100 km) ² Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy: 10 mm	Baseline: Consistency with the current program of record Goal: Specified in the Decadal Survey (Appendix B)
		C-1d. Determine regional sealevel change to within 1.5-2.5 mm/yr over the course of a decade (1.5 corresponds to a *(6000 km)*2 region, 2.5 corresponds to a *(4000 km)*2 region)	Vertical Land motion Ocean mass distribution	signals: <5 mm yr-1 signal, ocean mass trends (Walkins et al., 2015); <2,5 mm yr-1 signal, sea level fing erprints	Very important	High. MC provides a unique me asurement of ocean mass change.	Ocean Mass distribution Spatial Resolution: (300 km) ² Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy: 15 mm	Ocean Mass distribution Spatial Resolution: (100 km) ² Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy: 15 mm	Baseline: Specified in the Decadal Survey (Appendix B) Goal: Higher spa Salt resolution will reduce land leakage errors which are one of the dominant sources of error in determining regional ocean mass.
	C-7. How are decadal scale global atmospheric and ocean circulation patterns changing, and what are the	C-7.d. Quantilly the linkage between the dynamical and the modynamic state of the ocean upon armospheric weather patterns on decads linescales. Reduce the uncertainty by a factor of 2 (Feditive to decadal prediction uncertainty in IPCC 2013). Confidence level: 67% (likely).	e Ocean ternerature	Ocean bottom pressure measurements contribute to the under standing of dynamic changes of the ocean on monthly to decadal finescales (e.g., Johnson and Oramber s, 2013, When combined with 55H, ocean mass contributes to the understanding of the thermodynamic state.	Important	Low. MC is a secondary observable for this objective.	Ocean Mass distribution Spatial Resolution; (300 km) ² Temporal Resolution: monthly Accur acy: 15 mm	Ocean Mass distribution Spatial Resolution: (50 km) ³ Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy: 10 mm	Baseline: Consistency with the current programof record Goal: Specified in the Decadaly Survey (Appendix B). Higher spatial resolution will allow for resolution of major oceanic fronts.
		C-7e. Observational verification of models used for climate projections. Are the models simulating the observed evolution of the large scale patter in the attraopher e and occan crealstoin, such as the frequency, and magnitude of ENSO events, at engith of AMDC, and the poleward expansion of the sub-tropical jet (to a GPN lovel correspondence with the observational data)?	Ocean temerature Ocean salinity Wind Stress Ocean bottom pressure/ocean mass Many other pertinent	Similar to C-7d. Indication for signatures of the AMOC can be found in ocean bottom pressure data (e.g., Landerer et al., 2015)	Important	Low. MC is a secondary observable for this objective.	Ocean Mass distribution Spatial Resolution: (300 km) ³ Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy: 15 mm	Ocean Mass distribution Spatial Resolution: (50 km) ³ Temporal Resultion: monthly Accuracy: 10 mm	Baseline: Considency with the current program of record cond-Specified in the Decadely Survey (Appendix B). Higher spatial resolution will allow for resolution of major oceanic froms.
Global Hydrologica Cydes and Water Resources	accelerating, with greater rates of evapotranspiration and thereby precipitation, and how are these changes expressed in the space-time	H-1a. Develop and evaluate an integrated Earth Systemanolysis with sufficient observational input to accurately quantify the components of the water and energy	Evapotranspiration (thermal imagers)	Water budget closure at continental, monthly and annual scales with less than 10% [sf precipitation total] uncertainty (Roddie tal., 2015)	Important	to dosing the water budget, i.e., dTWS = P - ET - Q, and only a mass	Ter restrial Water Storage Mass Charge Spatial Resolution: (1,000 km) ² Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy: 10 mm	Terrestrial Water Storage Mass Change Spatial Resolution: (3 km) ² Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy: 10 mm	Baseline: Considency with the current program of record, allowing water budges cloure at confidential, meeting and must acknow with less than 10% (of precipitation) total uncertainty. Goods improved spatial resolution enabling water budget docume at the scale of headwater catchments.
	in climate, land use, water use, and water storage interact and modify the water and energy cycles locally, regionally and globally and what are	quality and especially groundwater recharge, threatening sustainability of	dTWS (MC) and either (1) simplifying assumptions; or (2) precipitation (GPM; A-CCP), solar radiation (multiple), soil moisture (SMAP, SMOS), land cover and irrigation information (imagers), and a hydrological model	In certain arist regions and regions with sufficient auxiliary hydrological information, groundwater recharge can be estimated from GRACE and GRACE. FO dTWS at the scale of those missions [Henry et al., 2011; Gorçaivès et al., 2011; Mohamed et al., 2017]		to infer dGW (with auxiliary info or		Terrestrial Water Storage Mass Change Spatial Resolution: (50 km) ² Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy: 10 mm	Baseline: Considency with the current programof corect, which has suppreted estimates of dGW at regional scales. Goat: Specified in the Decadal Survey (Table 6.3: "basin scale (50 km or better)").
	H-3. How do changes in the water cycle impact local and regional freshwater availability, after the biotic life of six earns, and affect ecosystems and the services these provide?	H-3b. Monitor and understand the coupled natural and anthropogenic processes that change water quality, fluxes, and storages in and between all reservoirs (atmosphere, rivers, lakes, groundwater, and glaciers), and response to extreme events.	Numerous terrestrial water cy de observations including dTWS (MC).	dTWS observed by GRACE with 1-2 cm uncertainty over monthly and > (450 km) ² scales [other analysis (accounting for leakage) reports 1 cm at (1000 km) ²] [Landerer et al., 2020]		High: Monitoring and understanding dTWS provides clues to the natural and anthropogenic processes that control water storage changes and		Terrestrial Water Storage Mass Change Spatial Resolution: (200 km) ² Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy: 25 mm	Baseline: Comistency with the current program of record, which has supported estimates of dTWS at regional scales. Goal: Improved spatial resolution would allow for quantification of dTWS at scales that better support process understanding.
	H-4. How does the water cycle interact with other Earth System processes to change the predictability and impacts of hazardous events and hazard-chains (e.g. floods, wildfere, landslides, coatacal loss, subsidiere, dandslides, coatacal loss, subsidiere, dandslides, coatal loss, subsidiere, dandslides, coatal loss, subsidiere, dandslides, coatal loss, subsidiere, droughs, human health, and coatacal loss, subsidiere, droughs, human health, and coatacal loss, subsidiere, droughs, human health, and coatacal loss, subsidiered, droughs, and loss, droughs, droug	H-4c. Improve drought monitoring to the forces that he term impacts more accurately and to a sees potential mitigations.	Precipitation (GPM, A-CP), soil moisture (SMAP, SMOS), dTWS M(A), surface waters (SWOT), vegetation health and evapotranspiration (magers).	Drought Verteres monitoring via GRACE- based infelies (monthly and > (450 cm²) scales) [Thomas et al., 2014; Zhao et al., 2017] or via GRACE data a sainfalled (weekly and (12 km²) scales) [Houberg et al., 2012; Li et al., 2019]; accuracy not quantified.	Important	Medium: Satellite gravimetry based observations of TWS anomalies are useful indicators of drought, particularly when downscaled and temporally extrapolated via data assimilation	Terrestrial Water Storage Mass Change Spatial Resolution: (450 km) ² Temporal Resolution: more Ny Accur acy: 25 mm	Terrestrial Water Storage Mass Change Spatial Resolution: (25 km) ² Temporal Resolution: weekly with c-weekly latency Accuracy; 1.5 mm	Baseline Consideracy with the current program of record, which has supported quasi-operational groundwater and soil moisture drought monitoring with the aid of data assimilation. Goad: Enables of ought monitoring at the spatial and temporal scales that water mrangers med without data assimilation. See Decadel Survey Table 6.4.
	5-1. How can large-scale geological hazards be accurately forecast in a socially relevant timeframe?	S-1b. Measure and forecast interseismic, preseismic, coseismic, and postseismic activity over tectorically active areas on time scales ranging from hours to decades.	Large scale gravity changes Reference Frame	Coseismic: +1-2 uGal, Postseismic: >0.5 uGal/yr Spatial scale: (300 km) ² (Han et al., 2019)	Most Important	constraining long	Post-seismic Relaxation Spatial Resolution: (300km) ² Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy: 1 uGal = 25 mm EWH	Post-seismic Relaxation: Spatial resolution: (200 km) ² Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy: 0.5 uGal = 12 mm EWH	Baseline: Consistency with the current program of record is needed for decadalisate postseismic and other seismic cycle processes. Goal: Improved spatial resolution and accuracy will enable better resolution of key scientic cycle processes and detection of Mr. 8.1 events.
Earth Surface and Interior	5-3. How will local sea level change along casatines around the world in the next decade to century?	5-3a. Quantify the rates of sea level change and its driving processes at global, regional, and local scales, with uncertainty < 0.1 mm yr-1 for global mean sea level equivalent and < 0.5 mm yr-1 sea level equivalent and < 0.5 mm yr-1 sea level equivalent at resolution of 10 km.	Snow densky Mass Change 3-D surface deformation on ice Sea surface height Terr estrial Reference Frame In-situ temperature/salinity ice velocky	Constraining GIA is important for estimating global sea level change and regionally for estimating ice mass change and assessing contribution to because level. Glu uncertainty varies spatially, peaking near 3.5 mm/yr relative sea level. (Car on et al., 2018).	Most Important	High. MC is an essential component of global GI/ estimates.	Glacial Isostatic Adjustment Spatial resolution: (300 km) ² Temporal resolution: monthly Accuracy: 25 mm	Glacial bostatic Adjustment Spatial resolution: (200 km) ² Temporal resolution: monthly Accuracy: 10 mm	Baseline: Considerity; with the current programof record in need to estimate GIA and separate GIA from other signals. Goats Specified in the Decadel Survey (Appendix B, gravity)
	change?	5-4a. Quantify global, decadal bindscape change produced by abrupt events and by continuous rehaping of Earth's surface due to surface processes, tectonics, and societal activity.	land surface deformation Changes in optical surface characteristics Mass change Rain and snow fall rates Reflectance for freeze/thaw	See 5-1b for abrupt changes in carthquakes		Medium. Mass movement as discussed in other elements (earthquake related mass movement, ice mass change, and hydrological flux)	Spatial Resolution: (300km) ² Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy: 1 uGal = 25 mm EWH	Spatial resolution: (200 km) ² Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy: 0.5 uGal = 12 mm EWH	Baseline: Consistency with the current program of record is needed for abrupt to decaded scale sestimic and other processes. Goal: Improved spatial resolution and accuracy will enable better resolution of key processes and detection of M< 8.1 events.
	\$-5. How does energy flow from the core to the Earth's surface?	5-5a. De termine the effects of convection which the Earth's interior, specifically the dynamics of the Earth's one and its changing magnetic field and the interaction between matrix convection interaction between matrix convection are and mantle from changin in earth creation parameters. To do this its required to measure the key and y popular contribution to precision of 50 micro acressors. Source: Appendix B angular momentum variable, of Decad Burvey	Earth or ionistion parameters (VLBI) Mass change Reference frame Center of mass	Using existing mass shange measurements, C ₅ , 3; or determined to '2E-11 accuracy, which is 100s worse shan needed to said, the targets listed in 5-5a. (Wahr et al., 1987)	Very Important	Low. VLB is the primary necessary observable	C _u /S _u only Spatial Resolution: (20,000 km) ² Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy: 2E-11 = 1 mm EWH	Cs:/fs; only Spatial Resolution: (20,000 km) Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy: 2E-13 = 0.01 mm EWH	Baseline. Considering with the current program of corot. This is defined as the agreement between C_0/E_0 , defined on the specific parameter C_0/E_0 , derived from SLR and satisfies gas vinetry. Goods: Improved accur any of 2E-13 will all long defined the determination of the angular diffract between the determination of the angular diffract between the continuous control of the angular distribution and to within 10 microar coccurds.
	5-6. How much water is traveling deep under ground and how does it affect geological processes and water supplies?	S-6b. Measure all significant fluxes in and out of the groundwater system across the recharge area		See H-2c	Important	Medium. MC provides global long wavelength mass change.	Ter restrial Water Storage Mass Change Spatial Resolution: (450 km) ² Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy: 25 mm	Terrestrial Water Storage Mass Change Spatial Resolution: (100 km) ² Temporal Resolution: monthly Accuracy: 10 mm	Baseline: Considency with the current program of record. Goals Specified in the Decadal Survey (Appendix B, 5-66, gravity)

Table S1. Mass Change Science and Applications Traceability Matrix

Architecture	Summary		
POD	24, 48, 96 satellites (absolute and relative baseline position data) Altitudes: 300 km Inclinations: Distributed evenly between 89° and 72°		
SST single pair	2 satellites Altitudes: 350 km and 500 km Inclination: 89° Separation distances: 100, 300, 500 km		
SST pendulum	2 satellites Altitudes: 350 km and 500 km Inclination: 89° Separation distances: 300 km Opening angle: 15 degrees and 45 degrees		
SST pair + pendulum	3 satellites Altitudes: 350 km and 500 km Inclination: 89° Separation distances: 300 km Opening angle: 15 degrees and 45 degrees		
SST dual pair (Bender)	4 satellites Altitudes: 350 km and 500 km Altitude combinations: high/high; high/low; low/high; low/low Inclinations: 89° and 72° Separation distances: 100, 300, 500 km		
LEO-MEO 1	4/5/7 satellites LEO altitude: 350 km and 500 km MEO altitude: 7000 km Inclination: 89° and 72° Combinations: 1 LEO + 3 MEO; LEO SST pair + 3 MEO; LEO SST dual pair + 3 MEO		
LEO-MEO 2	8 satellites LEO altitude: 500 km MEO altitude: 1500 km Inclination: 89° Combinations: LEO SST pair + 6 MEO		
AIGG	1 satellite (radial pointing) Altitudes: 350 km and 500 km		

Table S2. Summary of simulated architectures

Satellite-to-Satellite Ranging Technology	Performance vs. GRACE-FO LRI	Size Weight and Power vs. LRI	Current Technology Readiness Level [†]
GRACE-FO MWI	0.01×	1×	9
GRACE-FO LRI	1×	1×	9
Ball optical frequency comb	1× (allows for pendulum)	1×	5
GeoOptics K-/V-band ranging	0.01×	0.1× (SW) 0.5× (P)	6
GSFC μNPRO	0.5×	0.4× (SW) 0.6× (P)	5
LMI transponder (ESA)	1×	1×	4
LMI retroreflector (ESA)	1× (limited to smaller distances)	1×	4
Laser chronometer (CNES)	0.01× (gimbaled for pendulum)	0.5× (SW) 1.5× (P)	4

[†] Vendor-assessed TRL of lowest element level component at completion of the study

Table S3. Summary of satellite-to-satellite ranging technologies. Performance numbers are approximations and represent relative performance at approximately 10 mHz. The

"X" in the table indicates "times"; for instance, the GRACE-FO MWI performance is 0.01 times the performance of the GRACE-FO LRI

Accelerometer Technology	Performance vs. GRACE-FO	Size Weight and Power vs. GRACE- FO	Current TRL [†]
ONERA GRACE-FO electrostatic	1×	1×	9
ONERA MicroSTAR-Prime electrostatic	1.7× with 3-axis sensitivity	1X	4
ONERA MicroSTAR electrostatic	30× with drag compensation	1X	4
ONERA HybridSTAR ES + cold atom	60× with drag compensation	10×	3
Simplified LISA Pathfinder Gravitational Reference Sensor (S-GRS)	20× without drag compensation 200× with drag compensation	1X	2
ONERA CubSTAR electrostatic	1X	0.3×	3
Compact optomechanical inertial sensor	0.05× - 0.4×	0.01×	2

[†] Vendor-assessed TRL of lowest element level component at completion of the study

Table S4. Summary of accelerometer technologies. Performance numbers are approximations and represent relative performance at approximately 1 mHz. The "X" in

the table indicates "times"; for instance, the S-GRS performance with drag compensation is 200 times the performance of the GRACE-FO accelerometer.

	Truth Model	Nominal Model
Static Gravity Field	gif48	gif48
Ocean Tides	GOT4.8	FES2004
Nontidal Atmosphere and Ocean (AOD)	AOD RL05	AOerr + DEAL (Dobslaw et al., 2016)
Hydrology + Ice	ESA Earth System Model	

Table S5. Force models used in numerical simulations