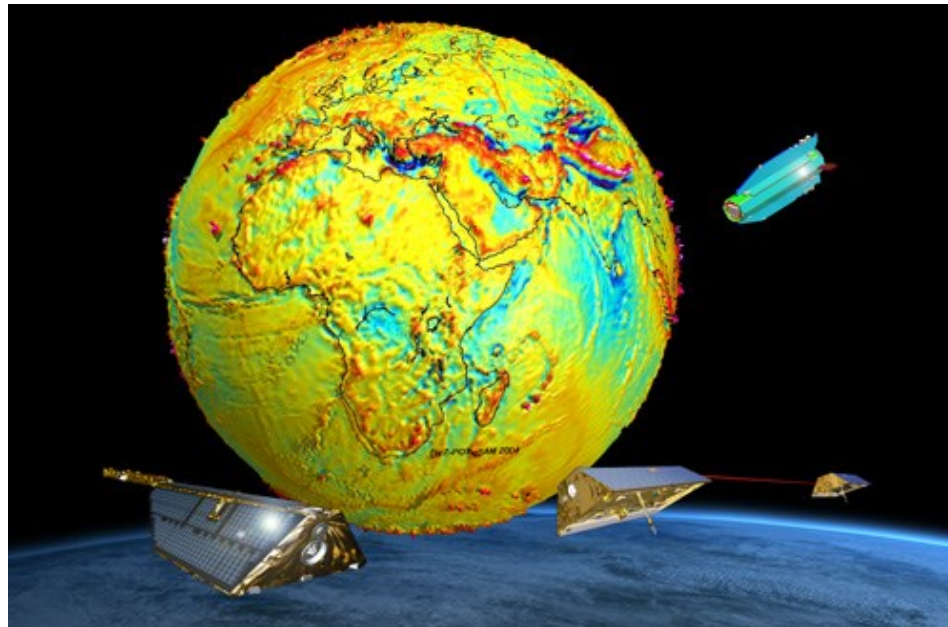


# New Satellites for Gravity Field and Environmental Modelling – *Quantum Geodesy on the way*

Rene Forsberg, rf@space.dtu.dk  
DTU Space, Denmark



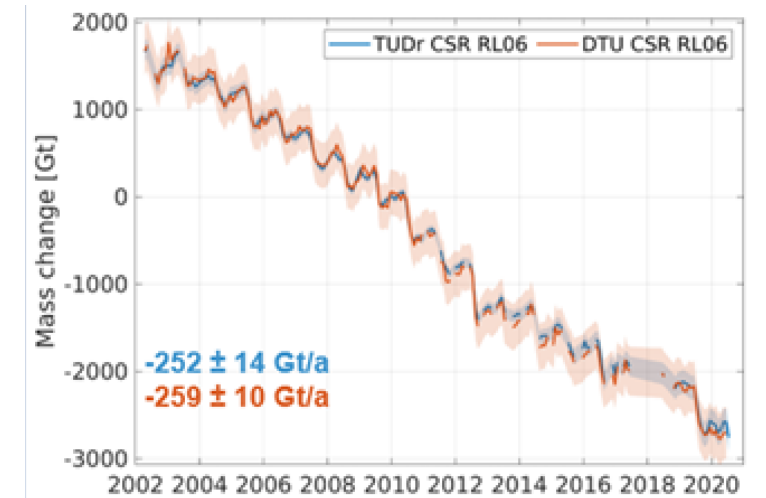
www.space.dtu.dk



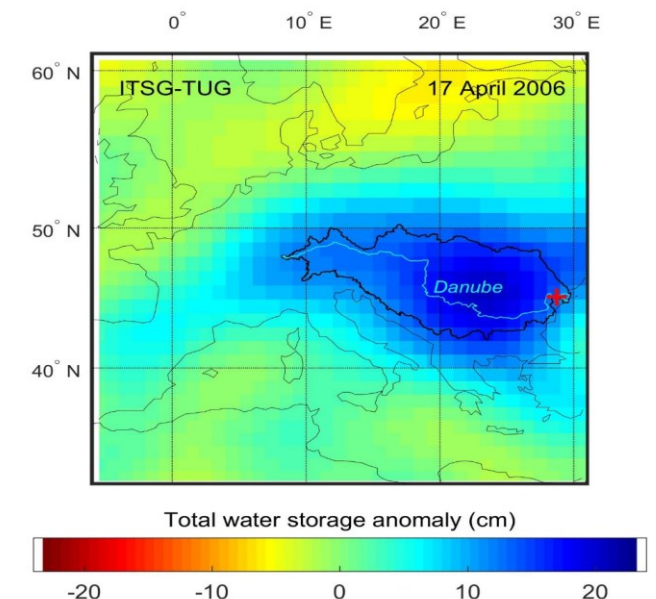
## Climate change, satellites and role of geodesy

- Geodesy is everywhere – *but many scientists not aware*
- Ice sheet changes, land uplift: Geodesy important part of IPCC assessment on climate change effects
- Cryosphere "geodetic methods" – direct measurements of changes (elevation changes from lidar, GNSS, radar altimetry, SAR interferometry, gravity – airborne and satellites)
- "Cryo" recognized as part of GGOS – Global Geodetic Observing System
- Space agencies (ESA, NASA, DLR, CNES, JAXA ...) launch highly relevant satellite missions ... *also for geodesy*

*CryoSat-2, IceSat-2, GRACE-FO, GOCE, Sentinel-1, Sentinel-3, Topex/Poseidon, Jason .. and even ESA SMOS, SWARM relevant*

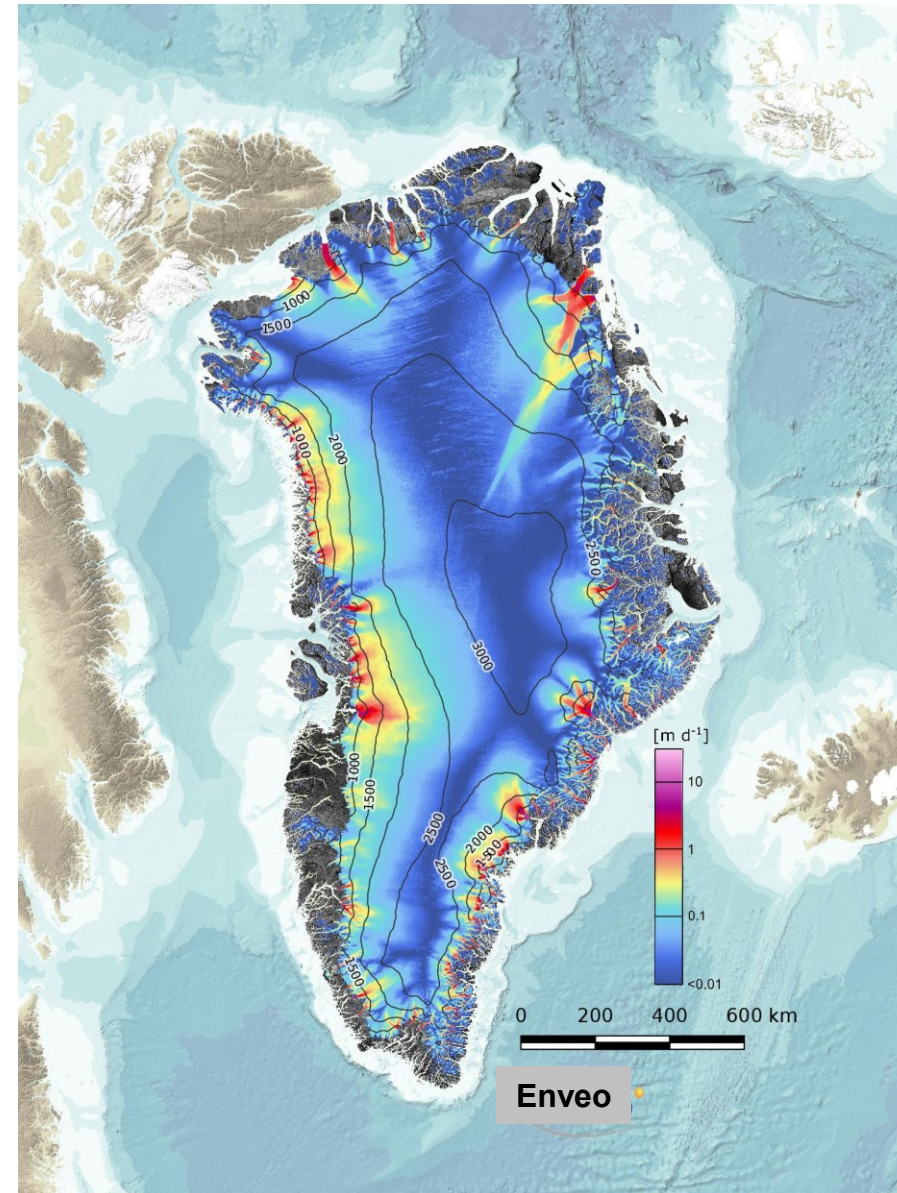
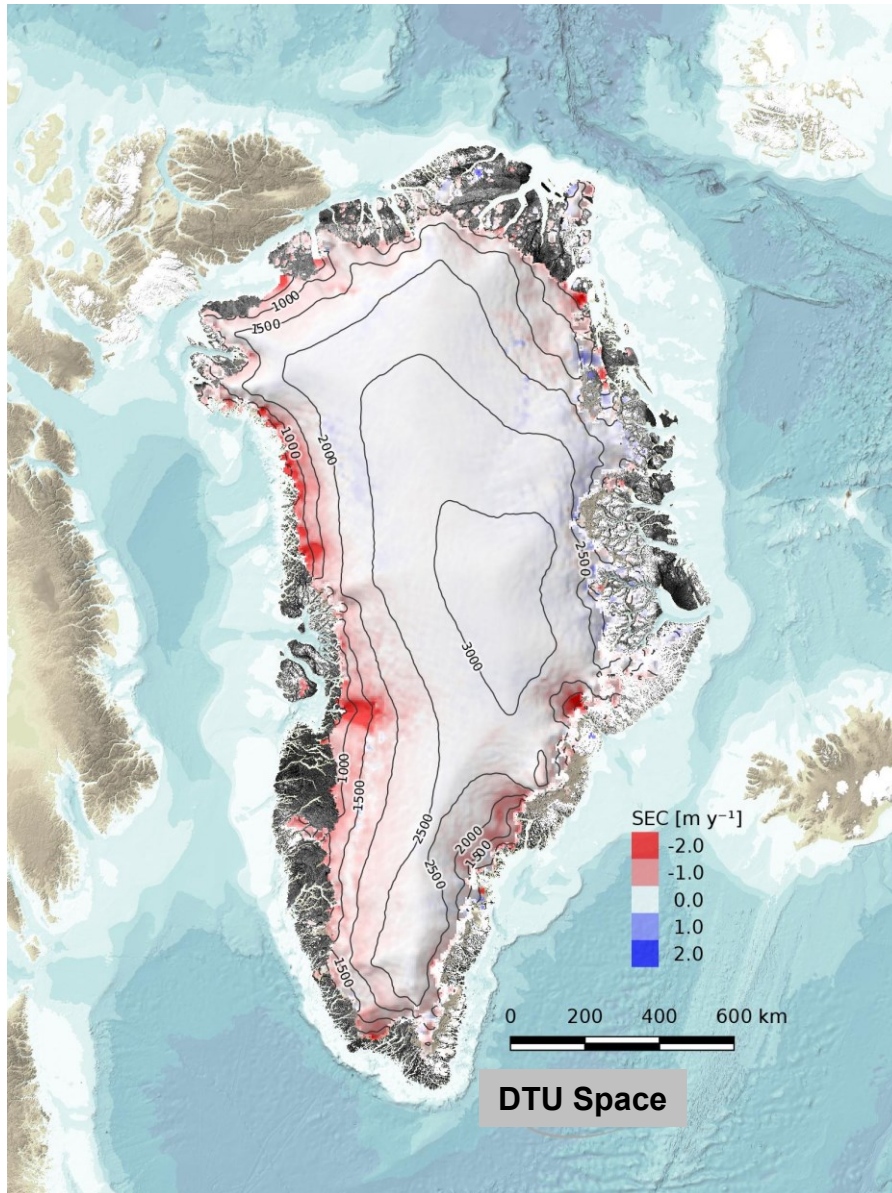


Mass change of the Greenland ice sheet (ESA CCI 2020)

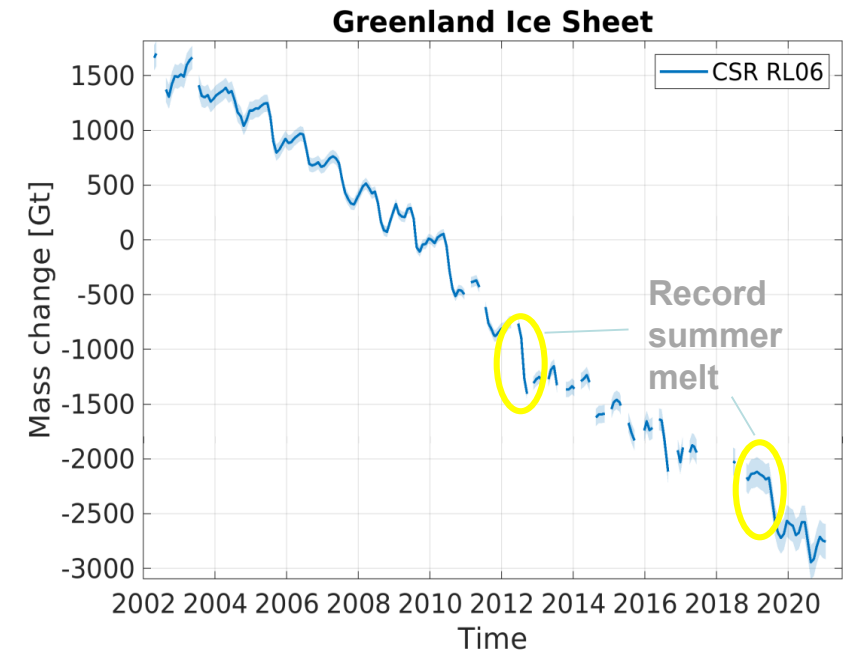
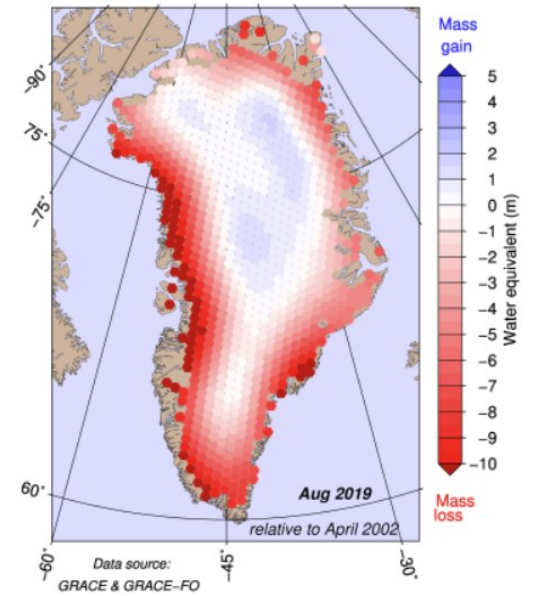
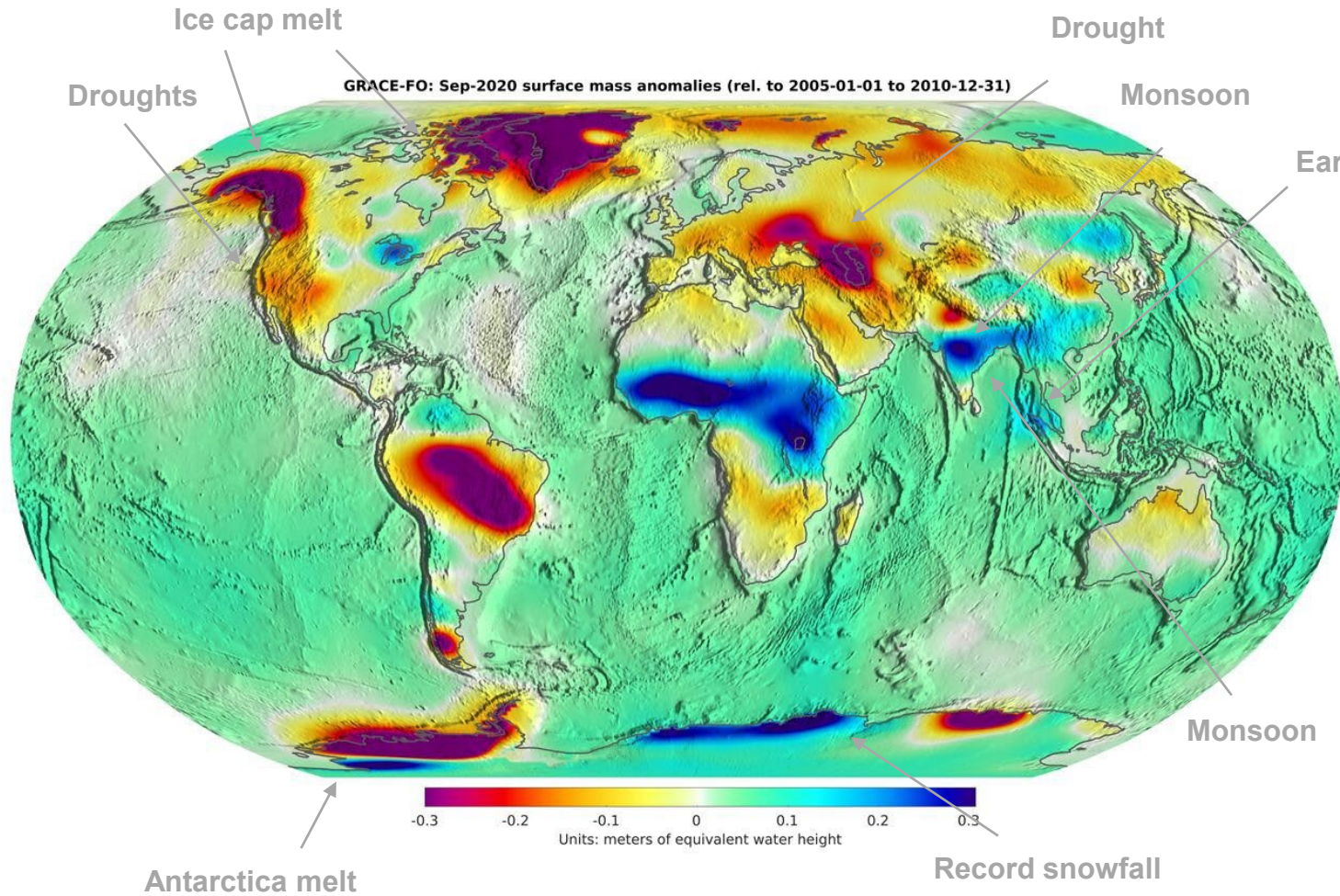


Seasonally adjusted total water storage in the Danube basin, based on GRACE gravity change data (Goweleeuw et al., 2017)

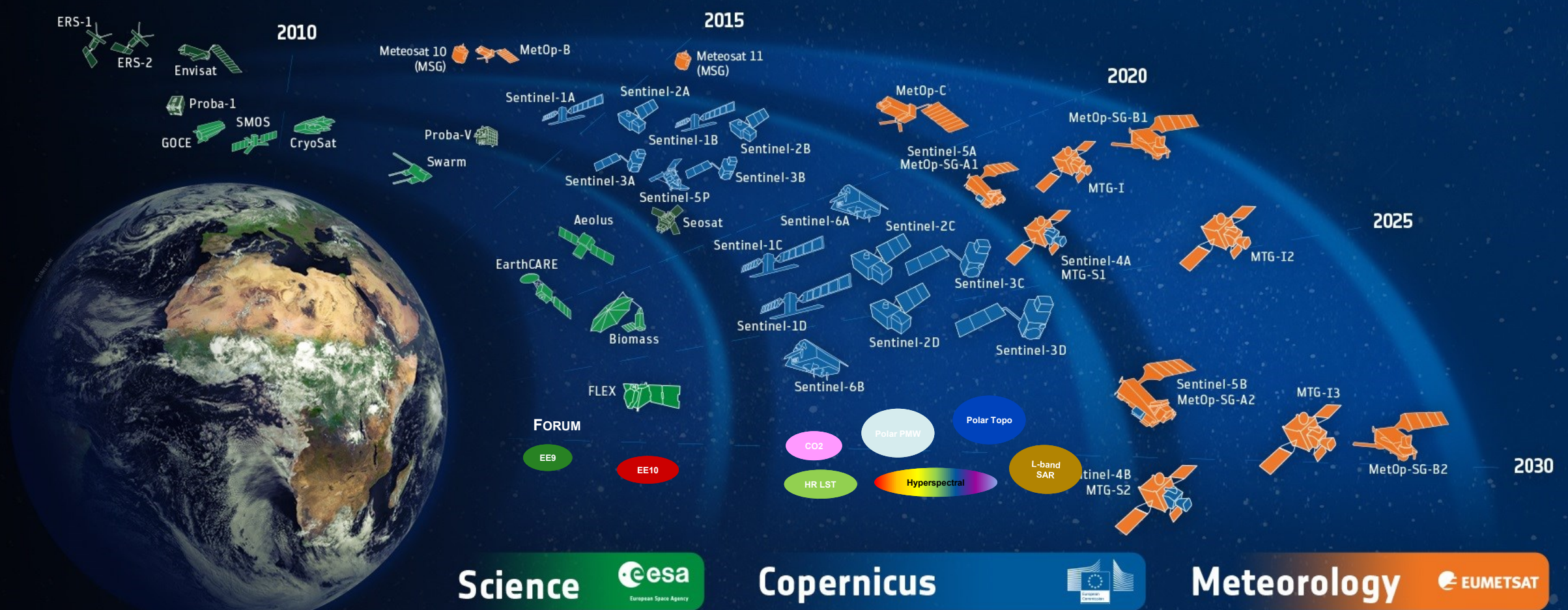
# CryoSat elevation changes and Sentinel-1 ice velocities – routinely updated in ESA Ice Sheet CCI



# Global gravity field changes from GRACE / GRACE-FO (2002-17, 2018-)



# ESA Developed Earth Observation Missions



## New ESA initiatives – missions of special geodetic relevance:

MAGIC / NGGM gravity mission

- Next Generation Gravity Mission – international cooperation (NASA)  
... *missing clear NASA support (NASA-DLR GRACE-I mission)*
- Quantum Pathfinder mission in preparation (EU-DEFIS/ESA)

Small satellite missions:

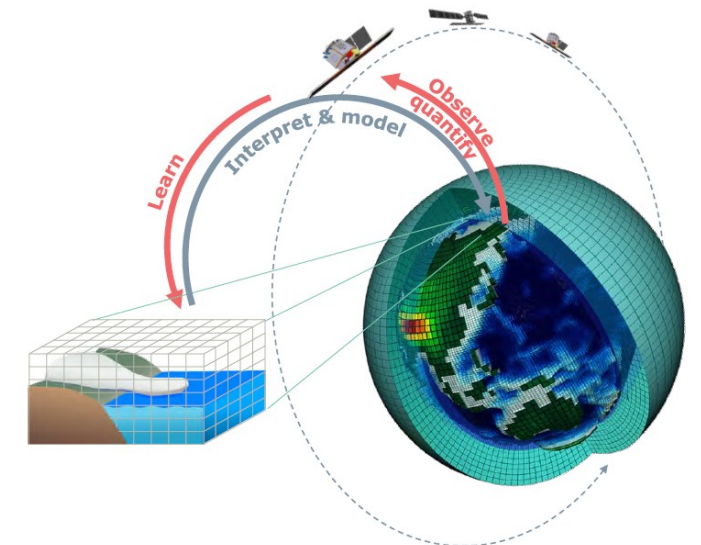
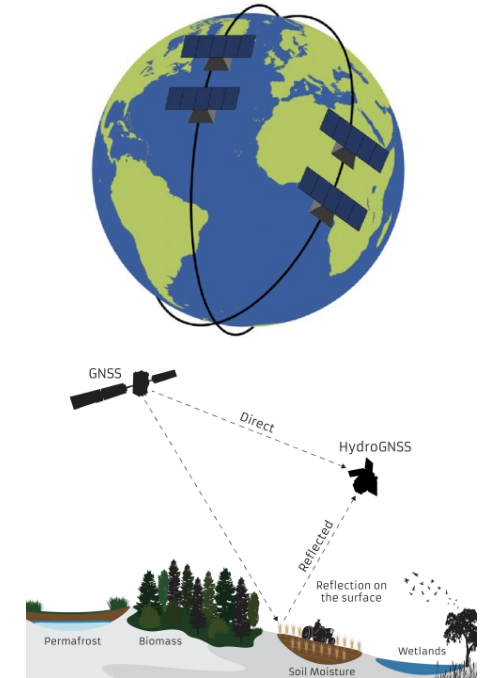
- SCOUTS: 3-year from proposal to launch small missions: HydroGNSS contract
- ICeye contributing mission (SAR constellation mission), GNSS reflectometry

“Boost Future-EO”

- New strategy process initiated for 2024-
- Society use and relevance, Digital Twin Earth, New Space ...
- ESA-CLIMATE ... new name for CCI initiative 2024-
- Feedback from Review of EOEP5/Future EO-1

HARMONY – EE10, next earth-explorer ..

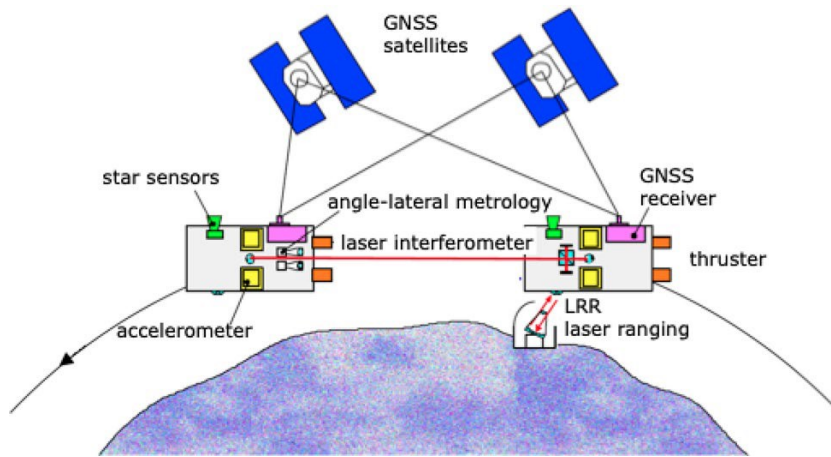
- Companion satellites to S-1: coastal oceanography, clouds, cryosphere, geodynamics, DEMs, ...



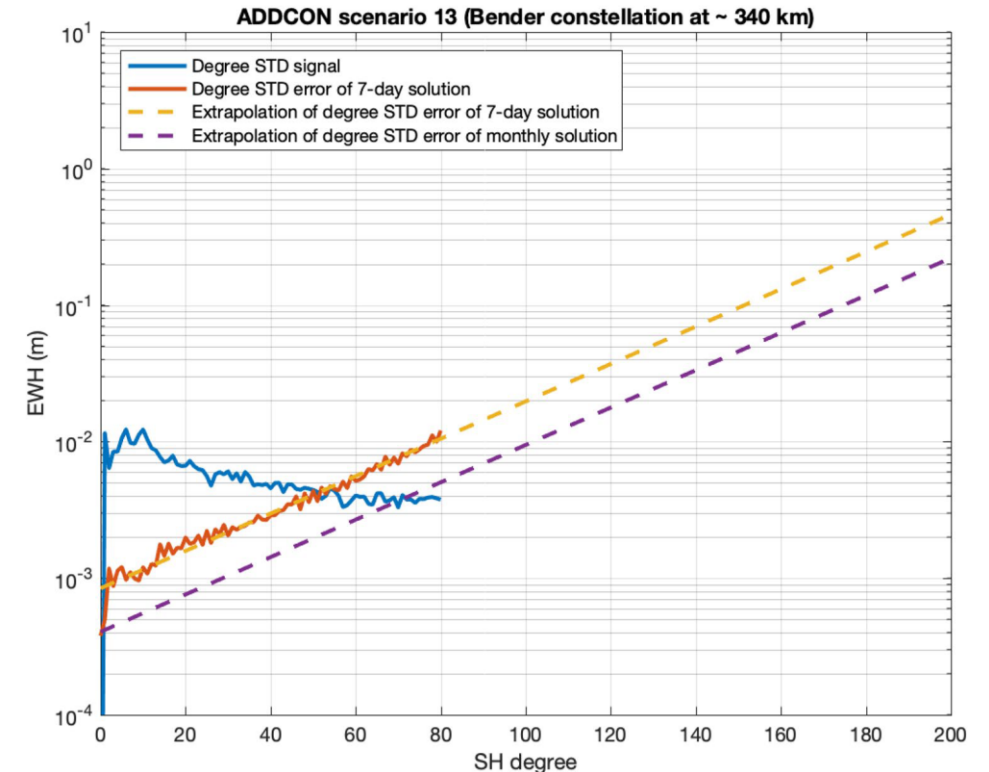
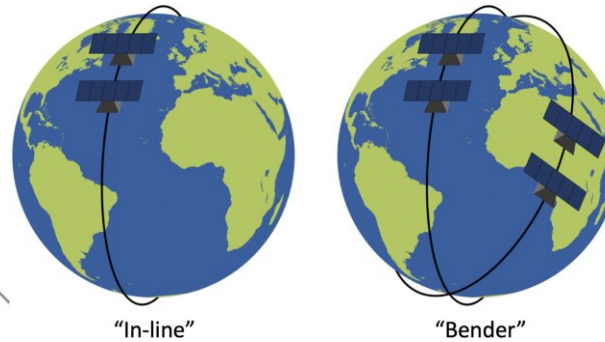
## Planned gravity field missions:

ESA NGGM / MAGIC (2029-2031) ... laser interferometry

NASA/DLR GRACE-I ... "GRACE2" + *birds tracking* + *quantum?*



Measurement principle of NGGM (Silvestrin et al., 2015)



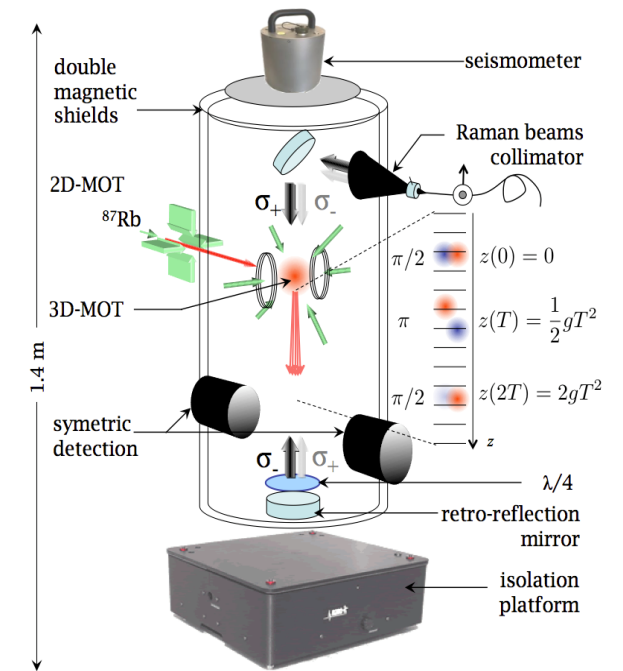
Performance of NGGM (EQH = Equivalent Water Height; Haagsmans 2020)

*Note: planetary missions could also be obvious targets for mature cold atom gravity missions, especially for the Moon and Mars*

## Limitations of space gravimetry missions – *Quantum*

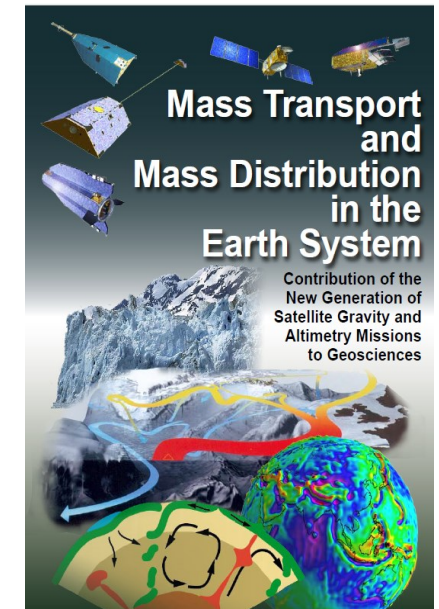
- Orbit heights ... need to be low (300-350 km? lowest GOCE orbit @ 224 km)
- Orbit height limitations imply need for airborne and in-situ data. Combination solutions have long heritage in geodesy
- CAI instrumentation proven in-situ and in marine/airborne campaigns (ONERA-GIRAFE)
- Global framework for gravimetry sensors being build-up (GGOS = Global Geodetic Observing System – satellite observations integral part of this)

*Cold atom instruments already commercially available (quantum absolute gravimeter, IXBlue)*



## Challenges for Cold Atom Interferometry (CAI) accuracy in space:

- Accelerometer better than  $\sim 10^{-10} \text{ m/s}^2$  for CHAMP-like pathfinder mission (measurement range of  $\pm 10^{-4} \text{ m/s}^2$ )
- Gradiometer  $\sim$  broadband accuracy better than  $10^{-12} \text{ m/s}^2$  (GOCE-like mission)
- Constellation mission vision 2035+: frequent repeats in time and space, providing near-real time warnings ... floods, earthquakes, climate events ..





# EU-DEFIS quantum initiative 2020-

Sep 2020: **EU-DEFIS – Working group** / user needs / roadmap (DE, FR, IT, DK, GR scientists + ESA/ESTEC)

Jan 2021: **WG report** – Quantum gravimetry

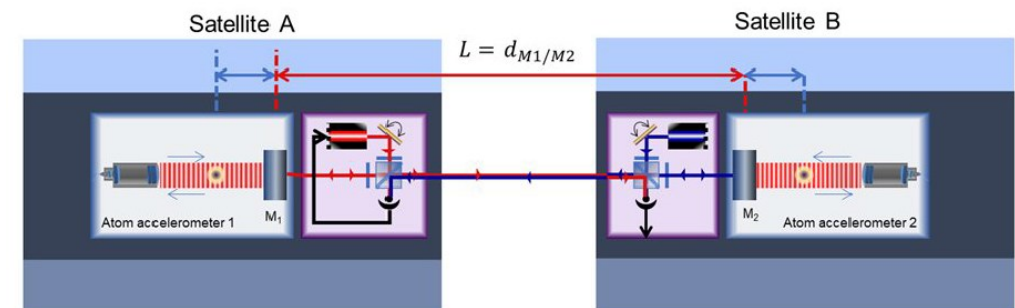
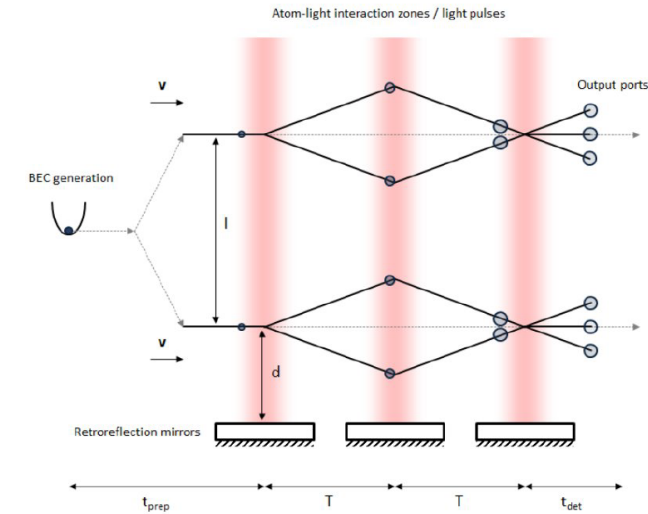
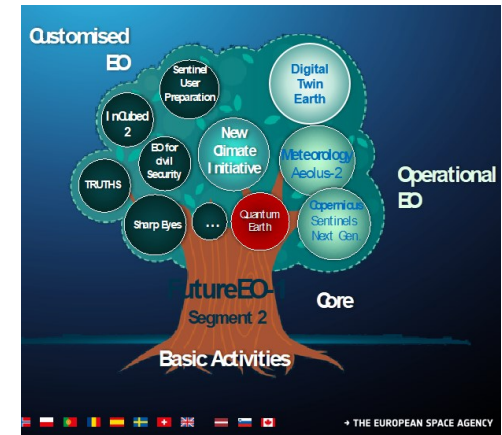
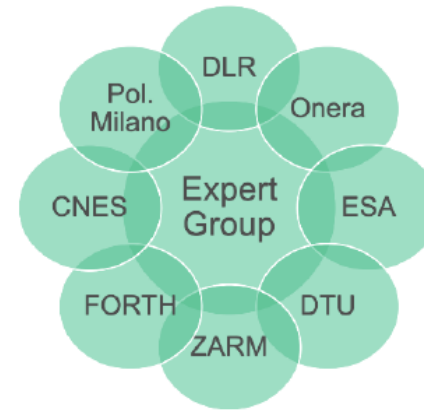
- Pathfinder mission (5 år) *or*
- Full-scale mission (7 år) / *BEC*

Apr 2021: **ESA "Future EO"** with quantum initiative ...

Maj 2021: Telecon – 1st **Consultation Platform**

Fall 2021/Spring 2022: **EU HE Call + EDF project** – "Quantum gravimetry" (17 MEuro) and "Quantum Sensing"

*EU motivation: "quantum supremacy"*

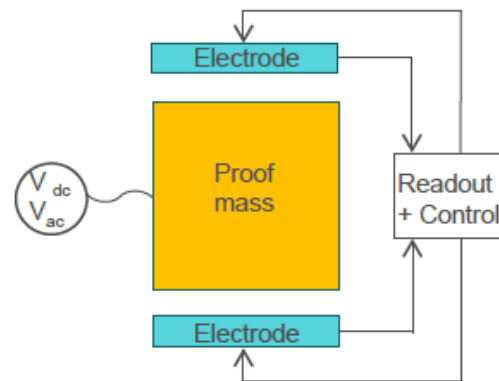
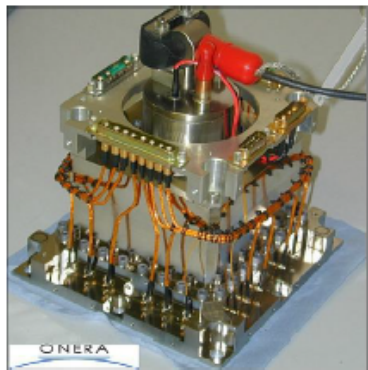


# Quantum vs classical sensors

## Classical accelerometer

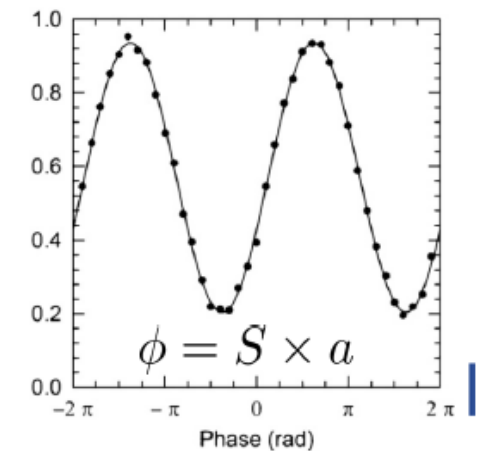
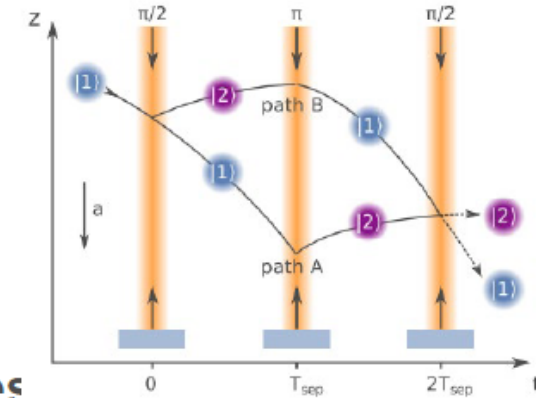
- High maturity
- High resolution and bandwidth
- **Drift and bias**
- **Calibration = loss of continuity and measurement time**

GOCE single accelerometer head



## Quantum accelerometer

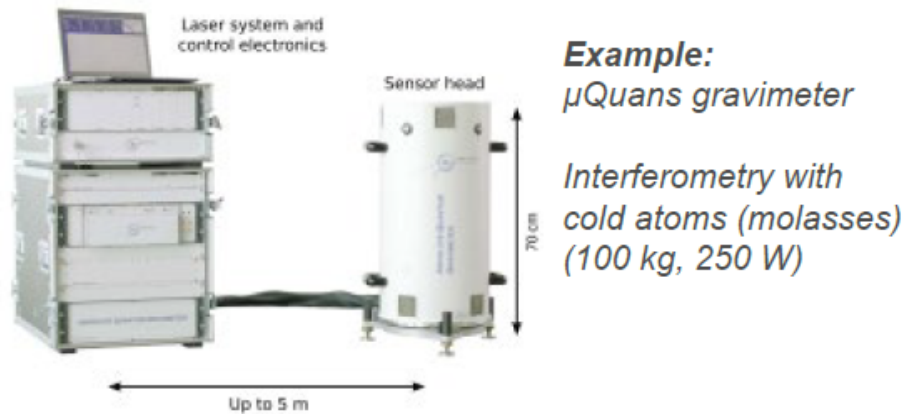
- High stability (no drift)
- High accuracy (no bias)
- High resolution
- Scalable dynamic range
- **Low bandwidth, dead times**
- **Phase ambiguity**



# Matter wave source: cold or ultra-cold atoms ?

## Cold atoms ( $\mu\text{K}$ ) = Optical Molasses

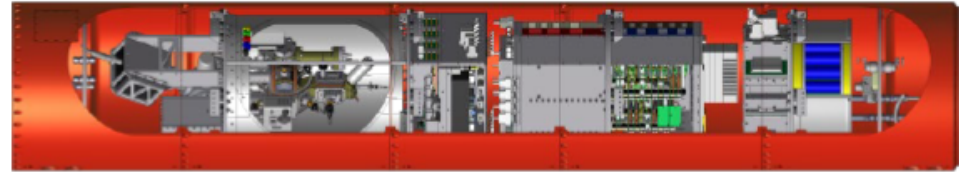
-> laser cooling



## Ultra-cold atoms (nK, pK) = BEC

-> laser cooling + evaporative cooling + lensing

**Example:** MAIUS sounding rocket (300 kg, 300 W)  
*BEC production + proof of principle interferometer*

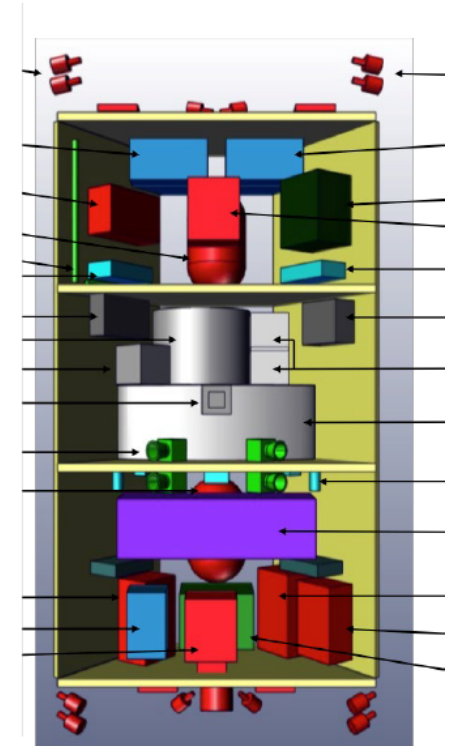
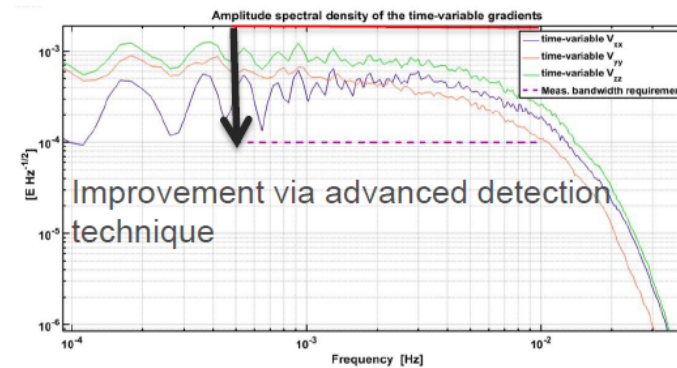
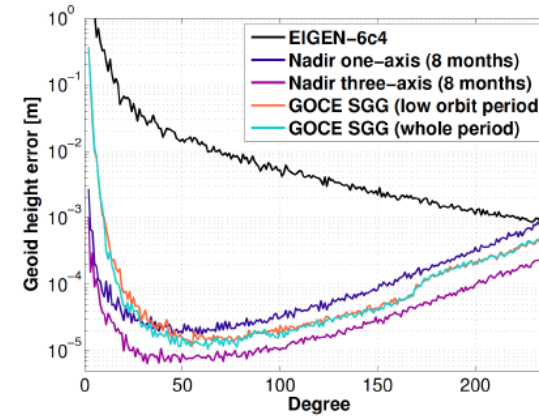
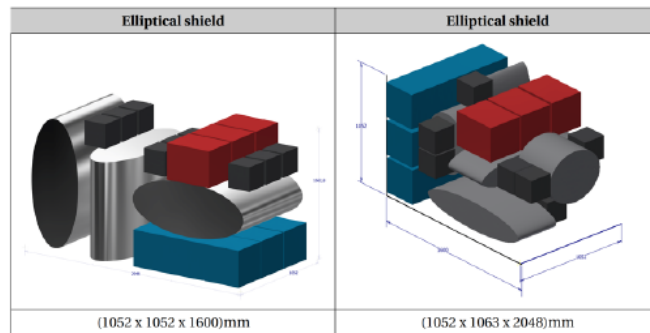
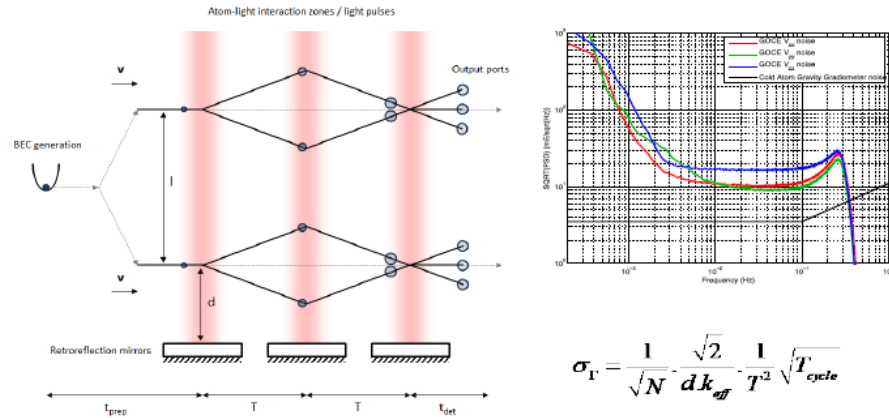


- **Ground** performance, demonstrated with **cold atoms** and  $T \ll 1 \text{ s}$ :  $10^{-8} \text{ m s}^{-2} \text{ Hz}^{-1/2}$
- **Space** performance, **projected** with **ultra-cold atoms** and  $T > 1 \text{ s}$ :  $10^{-10..-12} \text{ m s}^{-2} \text{ Hz}^{-1/2}$
- BEC = more complex, increased SWAP, lower TRL for interferometry



# Concepts for future geodetic missions

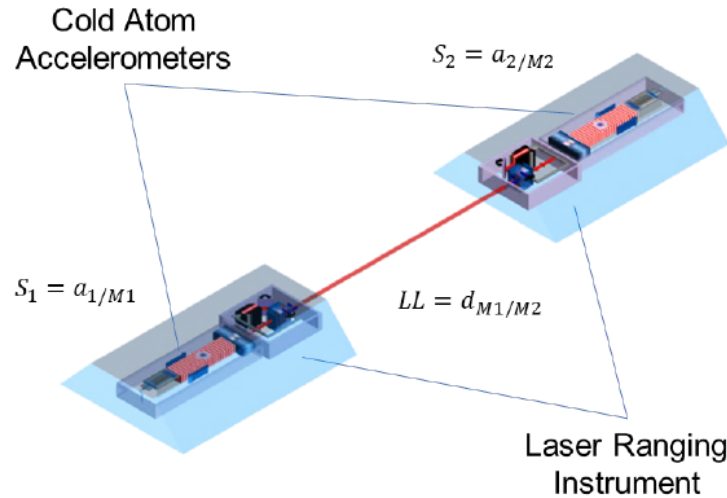
## GOCE-like (Gravity Gradiometer) concept



A. Trimeche et al, Concept study and preliminary design of a cold atom interferometer for space gravity gradiometry, Classical Quant. Grav. 36,215004 (2019).

# Concepts for future geodetic missions

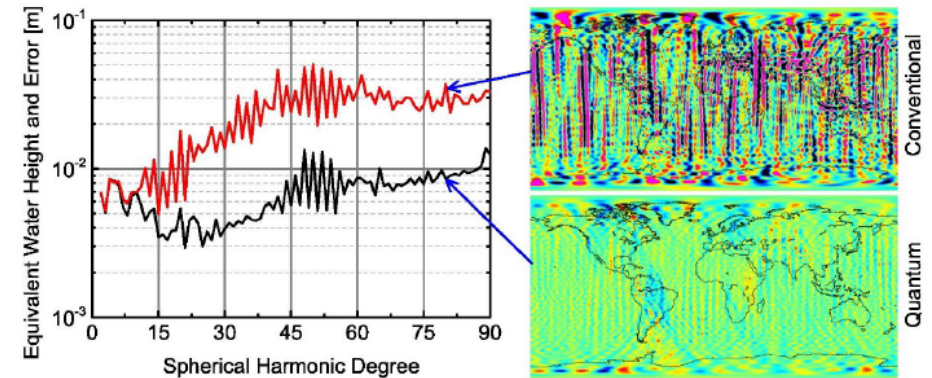
## GRACE-like (or twin-satellite) concept



- Gravity field mapping with laser correlated quantum accelerometers in space
- **Instrument:** Dual-satellite long baseline atom gradiometer
- **Sensitivity:**  $\sim 10 \mu\text{E}\cdot\text{Hz}^{-1/2}$
- **Altitude:** 370 km
- **Intersatellite distance:** 100 km
- **Development:** 10 years
- **Mission lifetime:** 5 years

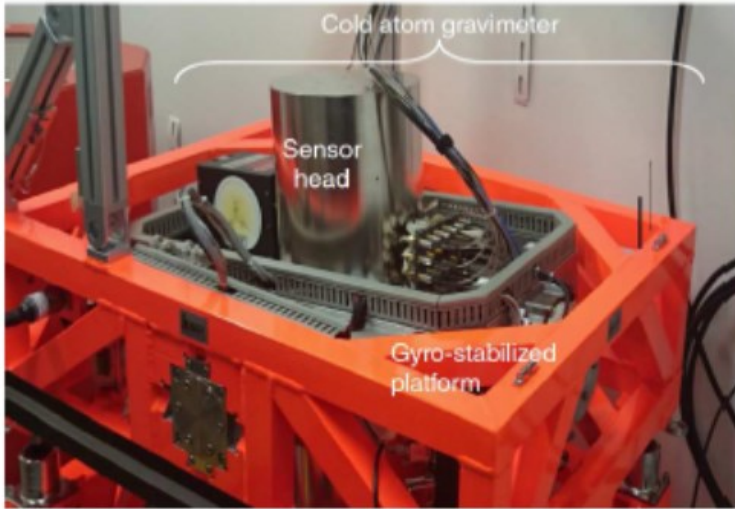
### Impact of quantum performances on space gravimetry:

**Resolution:** The performances of atomic sensors can contribute to improve the resolution of the gravity maps produced by gravimetry space missions<sup>1</sup>.



<sup>1</sup>T. Lévêque et al, « Gravity Field Mapping Using Laser Coupled Quantum Accelerometers in Space », *Journal of Geodesy*, Accepted for publication, arXiv:2011.03382 (2020).

# Airborne Quantum Gravimetry campaigns 2017-19



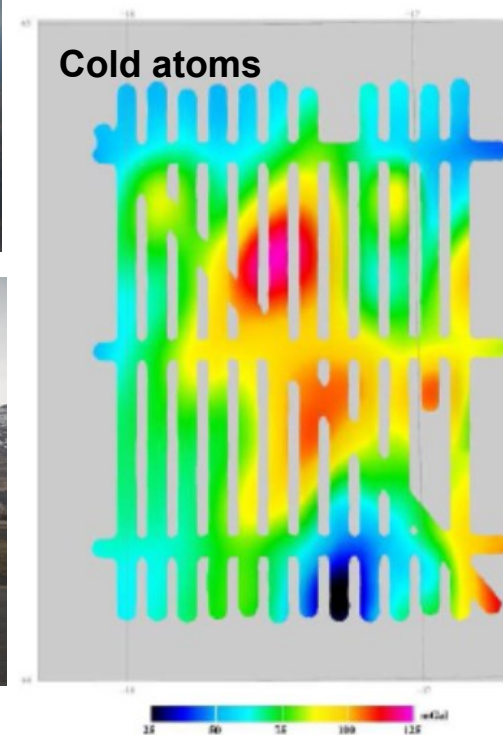
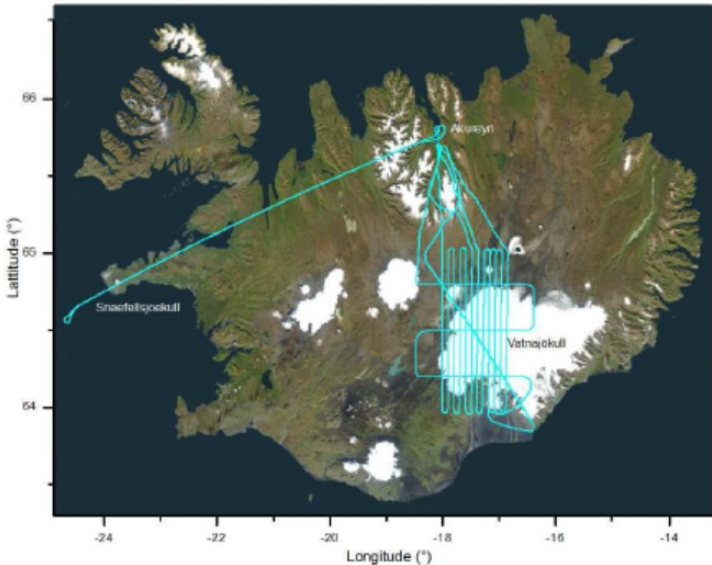
Flight campaign ONERA "GIRAFFE": Iceland 2017 / Toulouse: Bay of Biscay, Pyrenees 2019

Validation: state-of-the-art strapdown IMU gravimeter / upward continued ground gravity

2017: ~ 2 mGal rms accuracy

< 0.1 mGal absolute at Akureyri apt

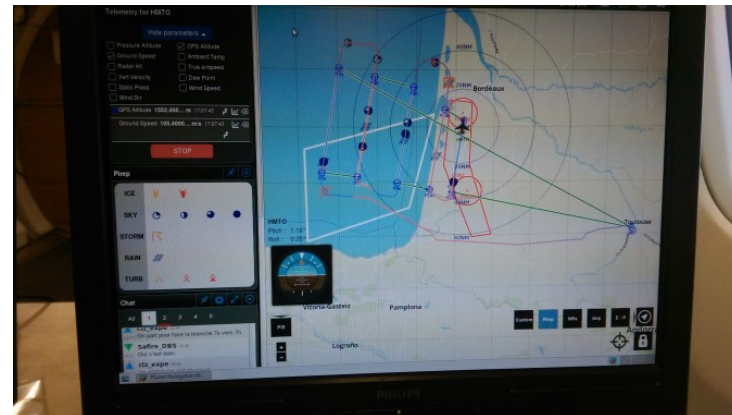
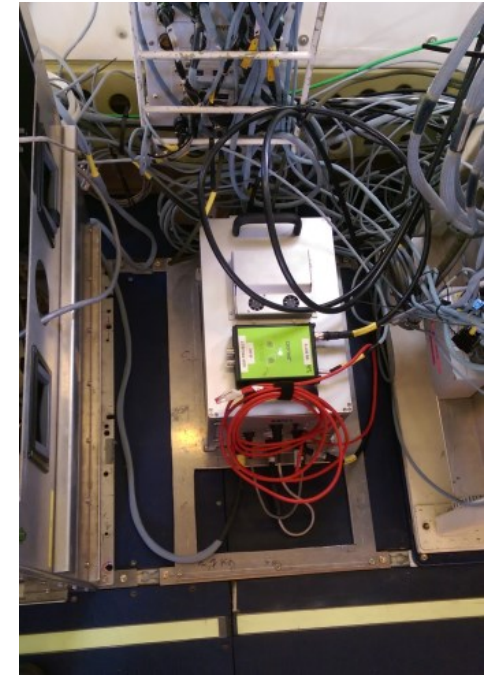
2019: < 1 mGal rms





## Toulouse 2019 (ONERA/DTU/BGI)

Two classical g-  
sensors flown



# Summary and conclusions

Outlook good future gravity missions, higher accuracy, resolution ... and many other relevant EO missions

NASA decadal plan MCDO .. Mass Change Designated Observable mission .. 2028-2030?

- ESA NGGM/MAGIC (Mass-change and Geosciences International Constellation) .. 2029-30?
- DLR/JPL GRACE-I ... 2028?
- EU/ESA CARIOQA – Cold Atoms Pathfinder ... 2029?  
*CARIOQA = Cold Atom Rubidium Interferometer in Orbit for Quantum Accelerometry*
- China ??

Longer term: Cold atom gradiometer mission – “GOCE follow-on” ... 2035 ??

