

A wide-angle aerial photograph of Northwest Greenland, showing a vast, flat, snow-covered landscape with scattered icebergs. The sky is clear and blue. In the upper right, the wing and tail section of an aircraft are visible, with a large, semi-transparent radar scan overlaying the scene. The scan consists of numerous parallel lines radiating from a point, representing the coverage of an airborne radar system.

Comparison of satellite and airborne radar and laser data in Northwest Greenland

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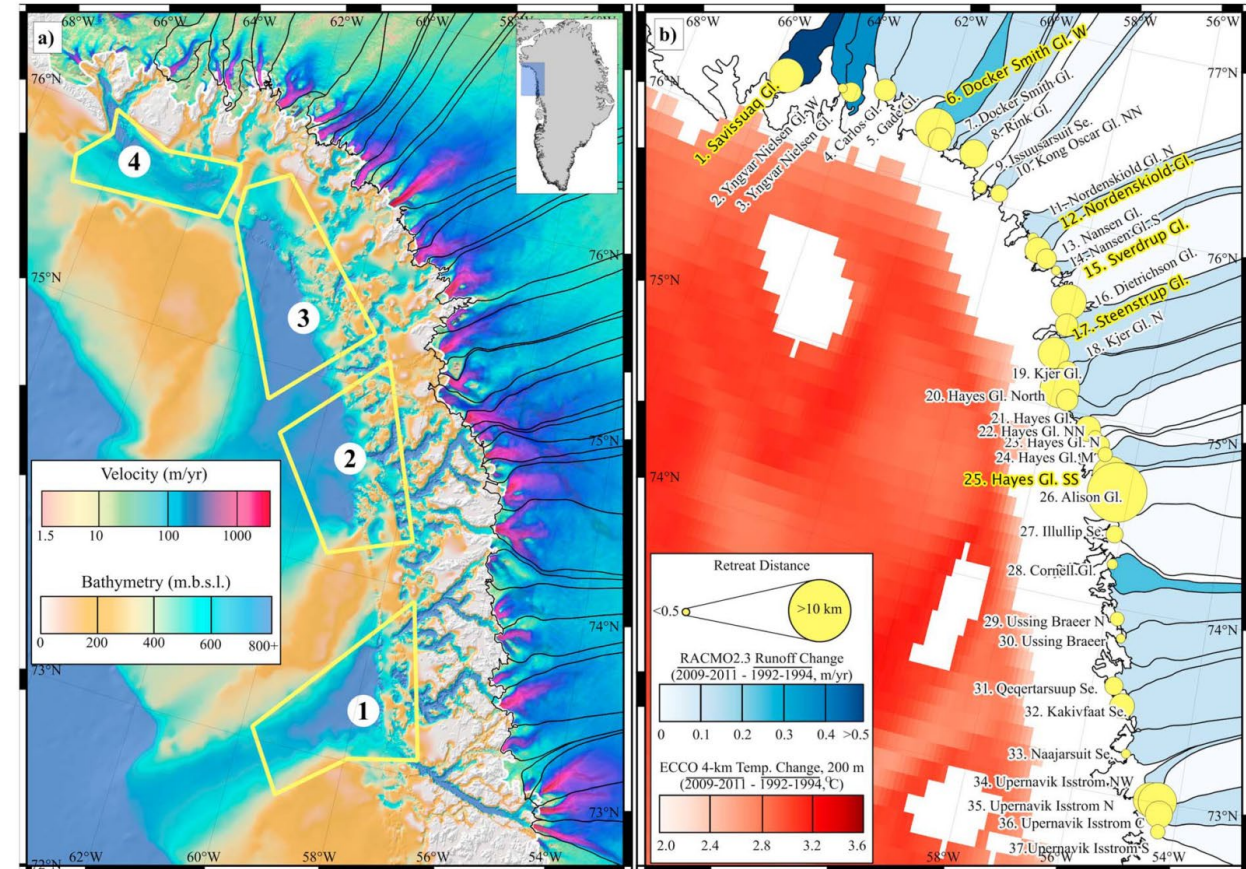
⁴Institut des Géosciences de l'Environnement, Université Grenoble Alpes, France

⁵Université de Liège, Belgium

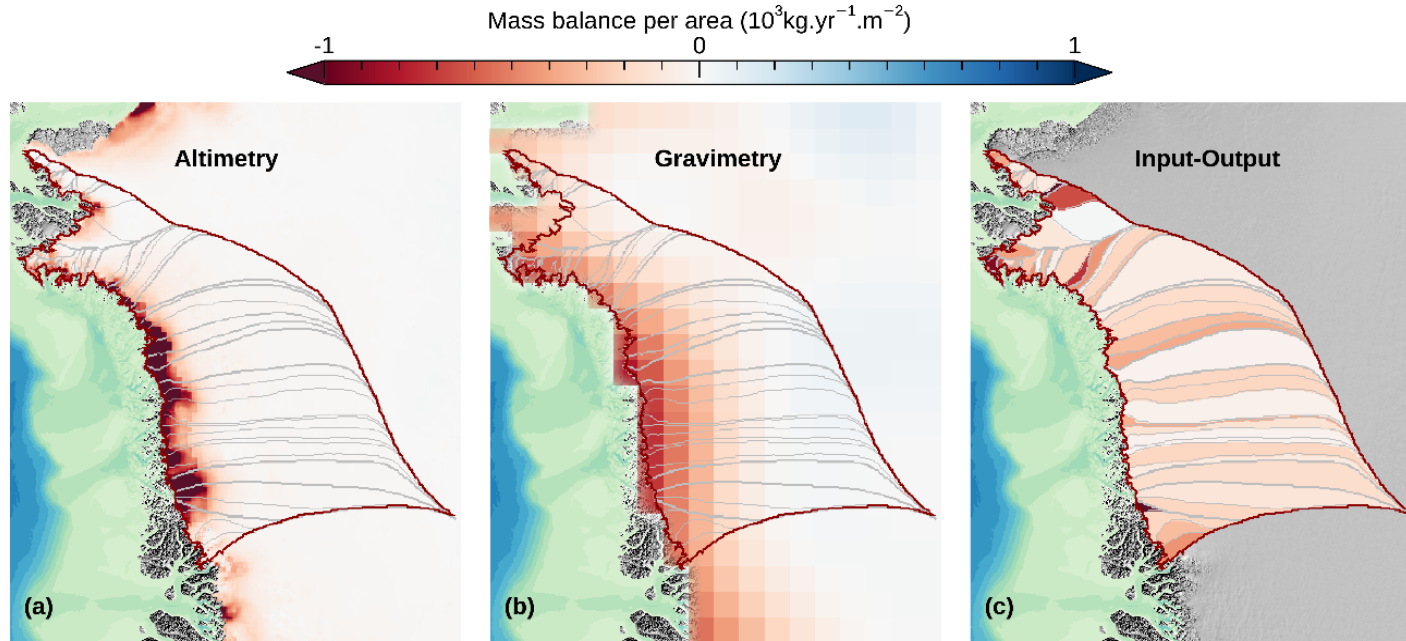
⁶ESTEC, The Netherlands

Northwest Greenland

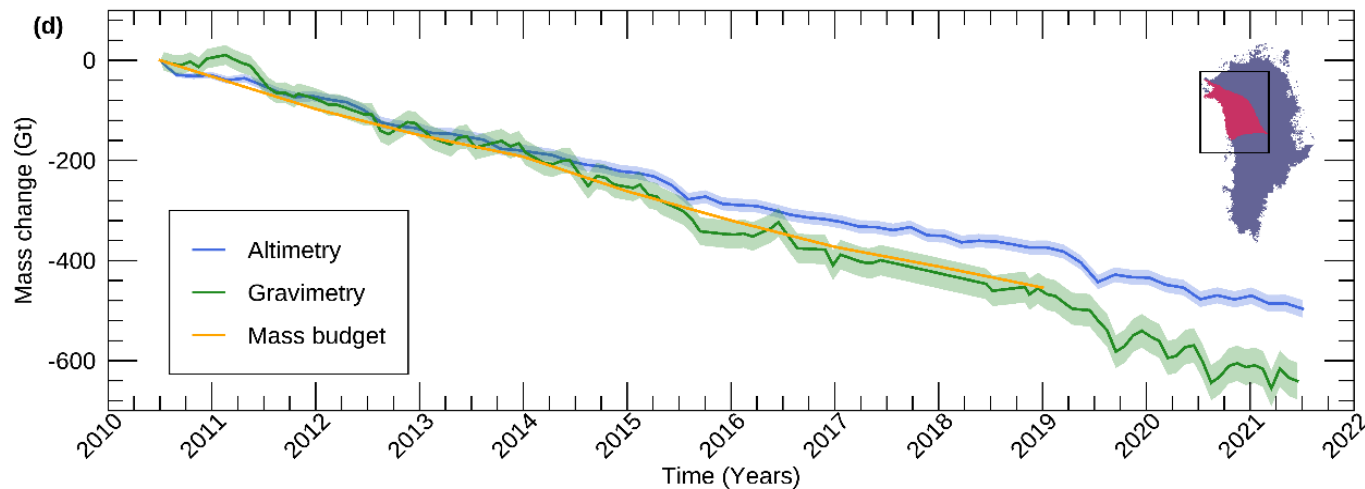
- Greenland contributed 13.6 mm to GMSL since 1992 (IMBIE)
~1/3 of Greenland's mass loss comes from the Northwest sector
- Northwest Greenland counts a large number of marine-terminating glaciers which have experienced sustained retreat triggered by ocean-induced melting
- The pattern of retreat and thinning is complex and suggests that their response to oceanic forcing is modulated by their bed topography and fjord geometry



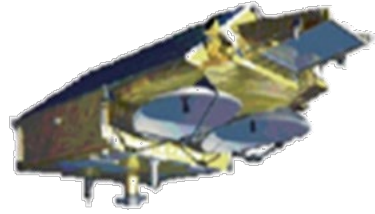
Measuring Northwest Greenland mass balance from space



- Altimetry measures surface elevation changes at high spatial and temporal resolutions
- But there are uncertainties related to changes in the radar scattering horizon
- Airborne campaigns are key to validate surface elevation changes measured from space and improve mass balance measurements from altimetry



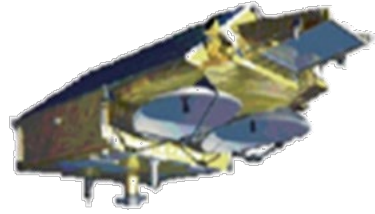
A decade of CryoSat-2 observations



June 2010 to June 2021
24.4 million observations

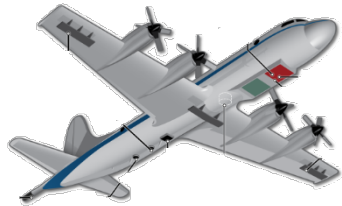
Ku-band SAR/Inteferometric
Radar Altimeter (SIRAL)

A decade of CryoSat-2 observations + airborne campaigns



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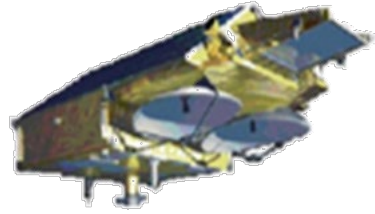
Ku-band SAR/Inteferometric
Radar Altimeter (SIRAL)



Annual campaigns from 2010
to 2019

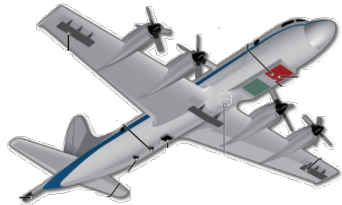
Scanning laser altimeter: ATM

A decade of CryoSat-2 observations + airborne campaigns



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Scanning laser altimeter: ATM

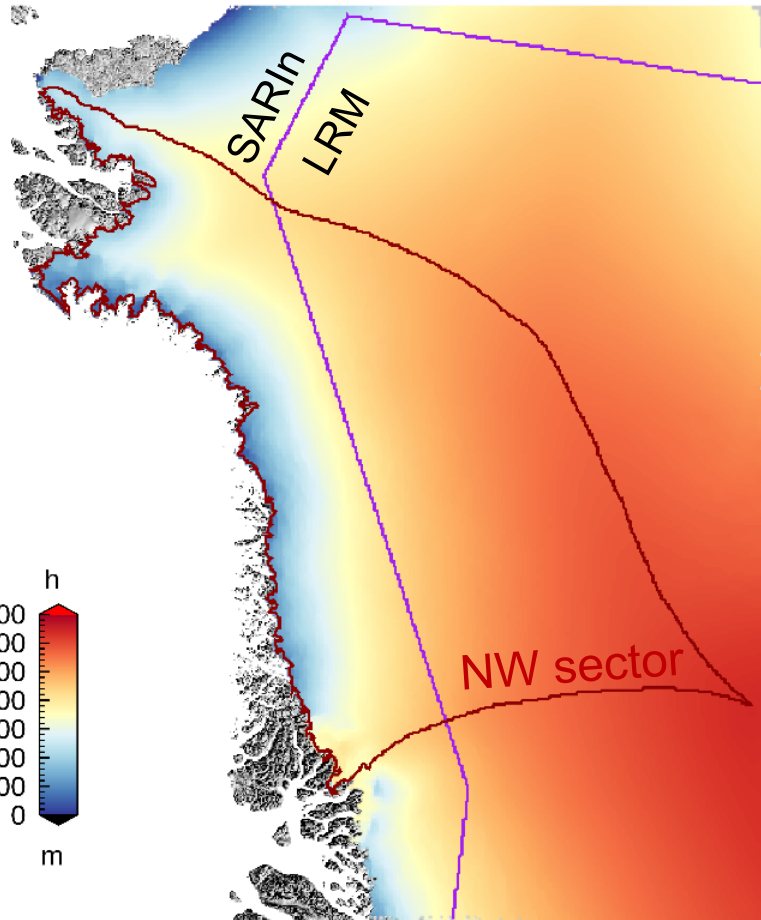


2017 & 2019-Spring
campaigns

Ku-band radar: ASIRAS
Ka-band radar: KAREN
Scanning laser altimeter: ALS

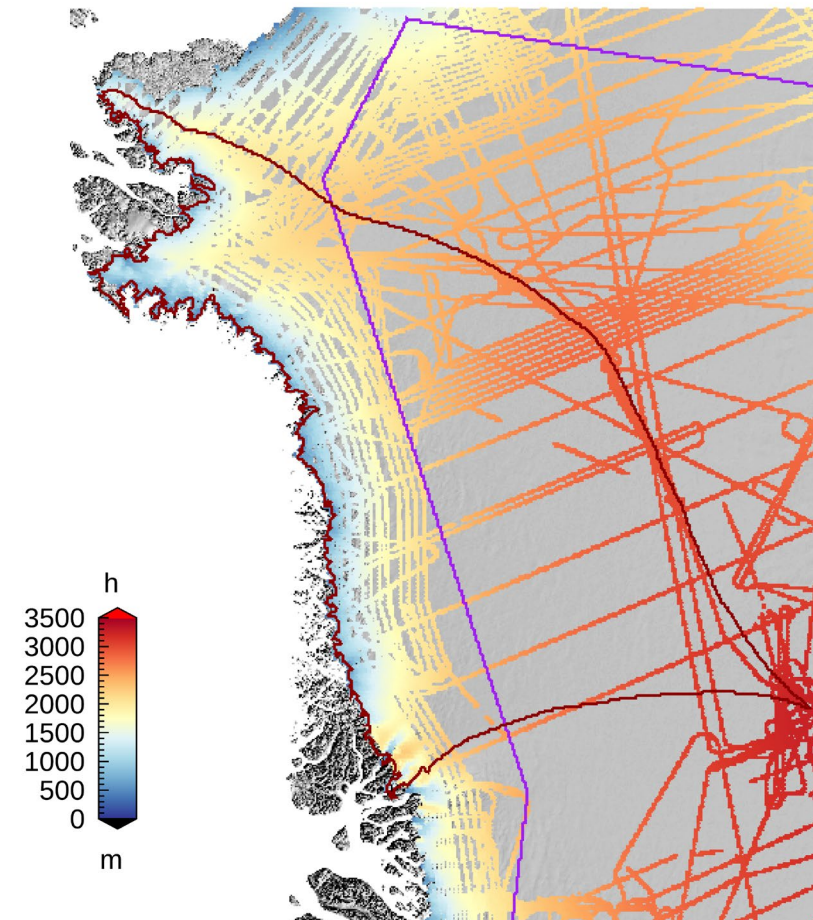
Comparison of surface elevation measurements

CryoSat-2



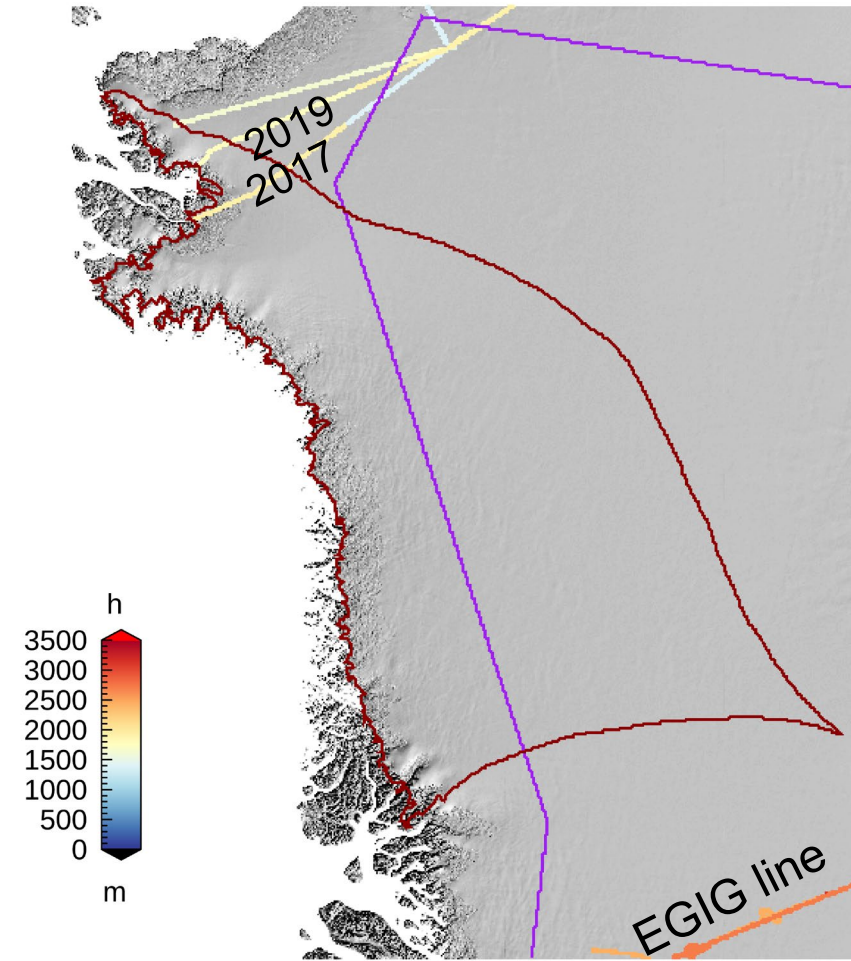
Coverage: 99.0%

Operation IceBridge



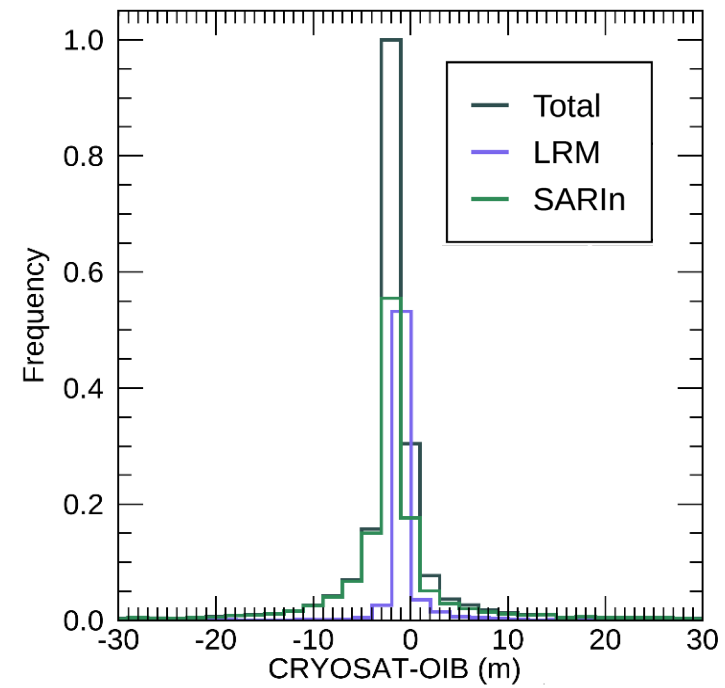
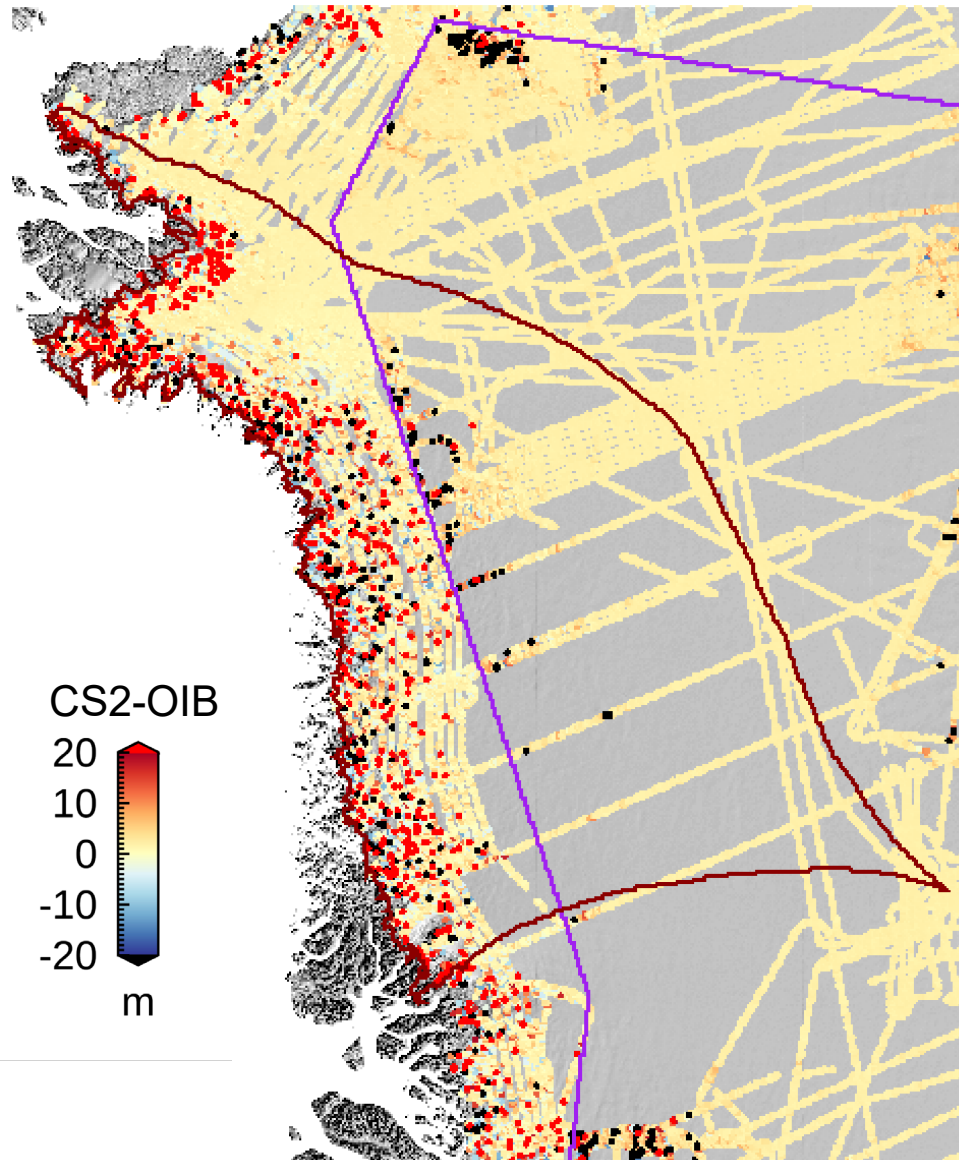
34.4%

CryoVEx



0.02%

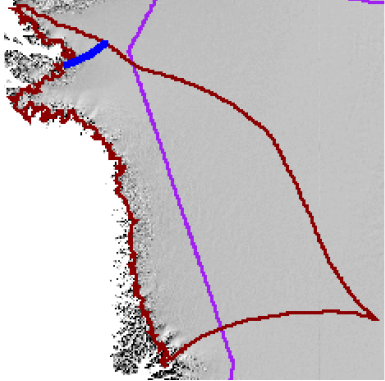
CryoSat-2 VS OIB



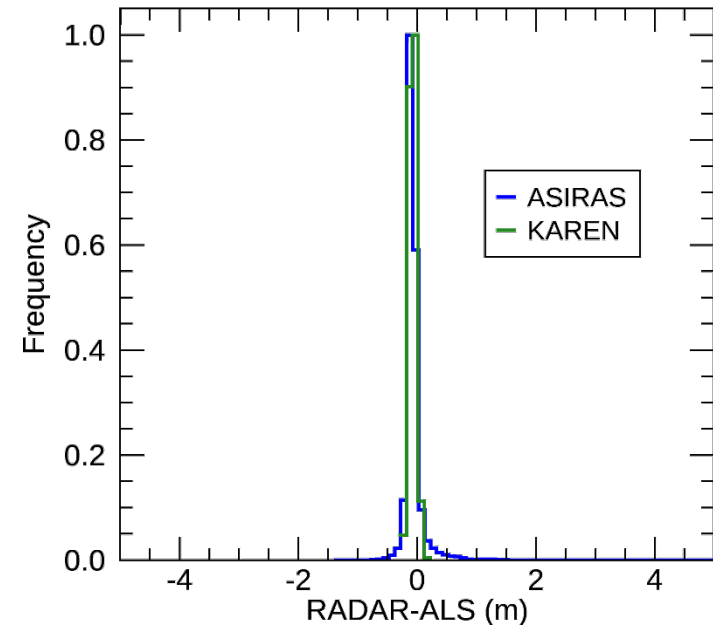
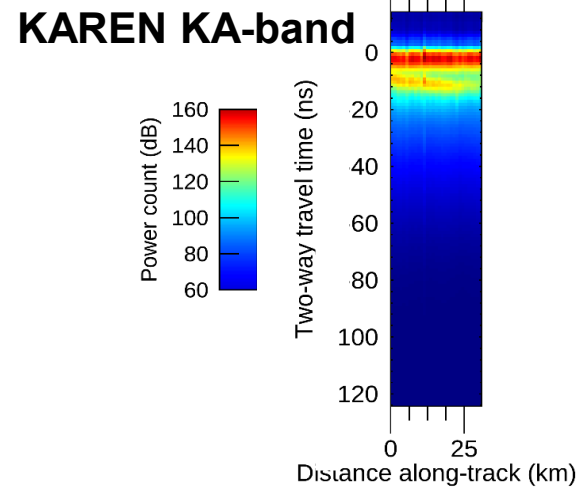
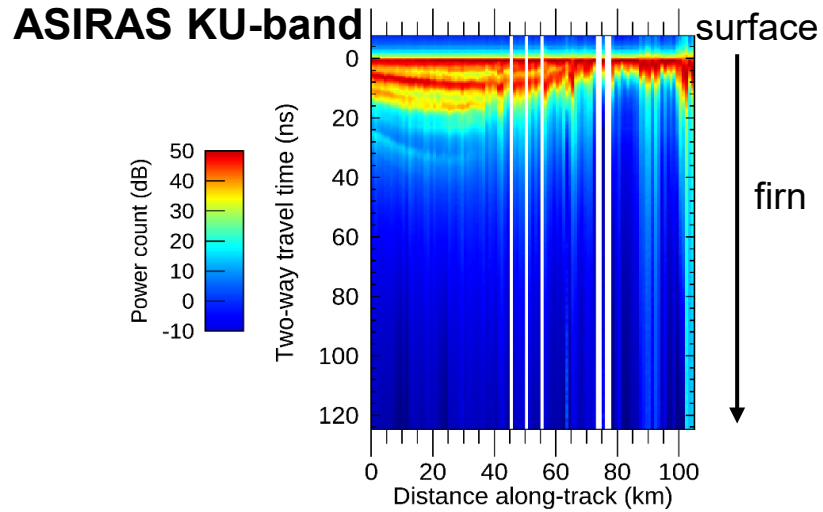
	NW sector	LRM	SARIn
Mean (m)	0.60	-0.18	1.1
Median (m)	-0.33	-0.32	0.68
STD (m)	12.4	5.1	14.6
#	12,492	4,090	8,402

CryoVEx 2017

28th March 2017



percolation → ablation

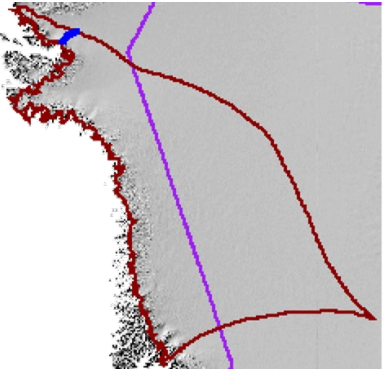


	KU-ALS	KA-ALS
Mean (m)	0.04	-0.03
Median (m)	-0.04	-0.03
STD (m)	2.4	0.06

Runway calibration offset (TCOG)
 ASIRAS: 3.57 m
 KAREN: -0.07 m

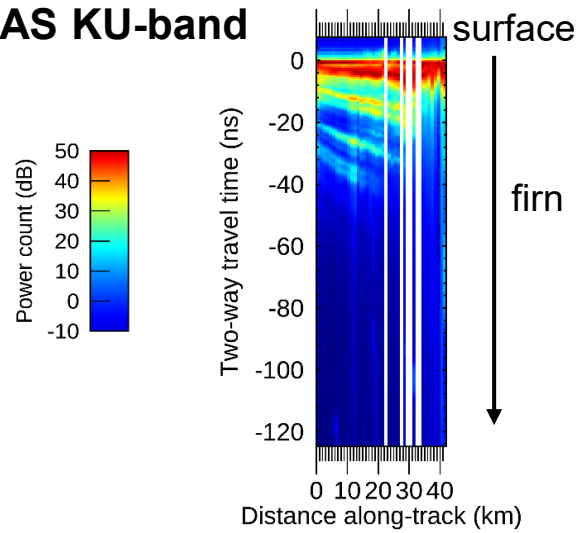
CryoVEx 2019

30th March 2019

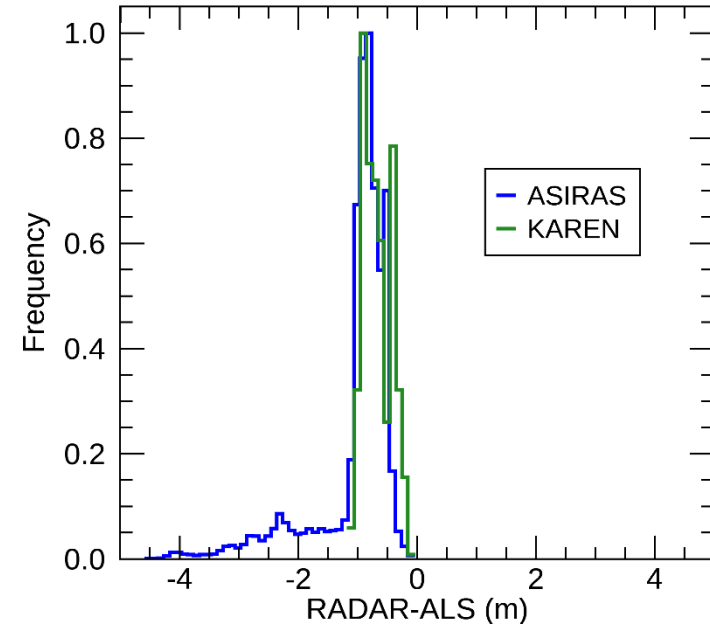
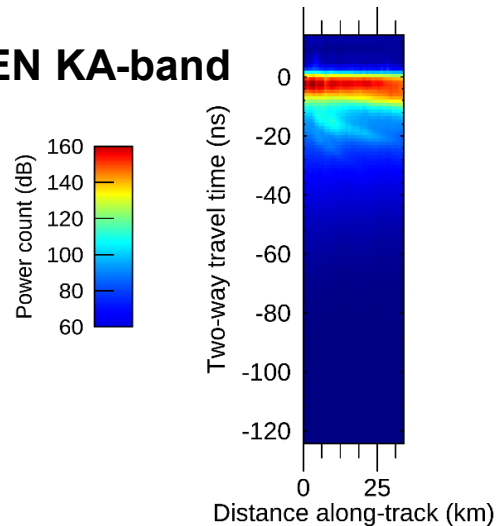


percolation → ablation

ASIRAS KU-band



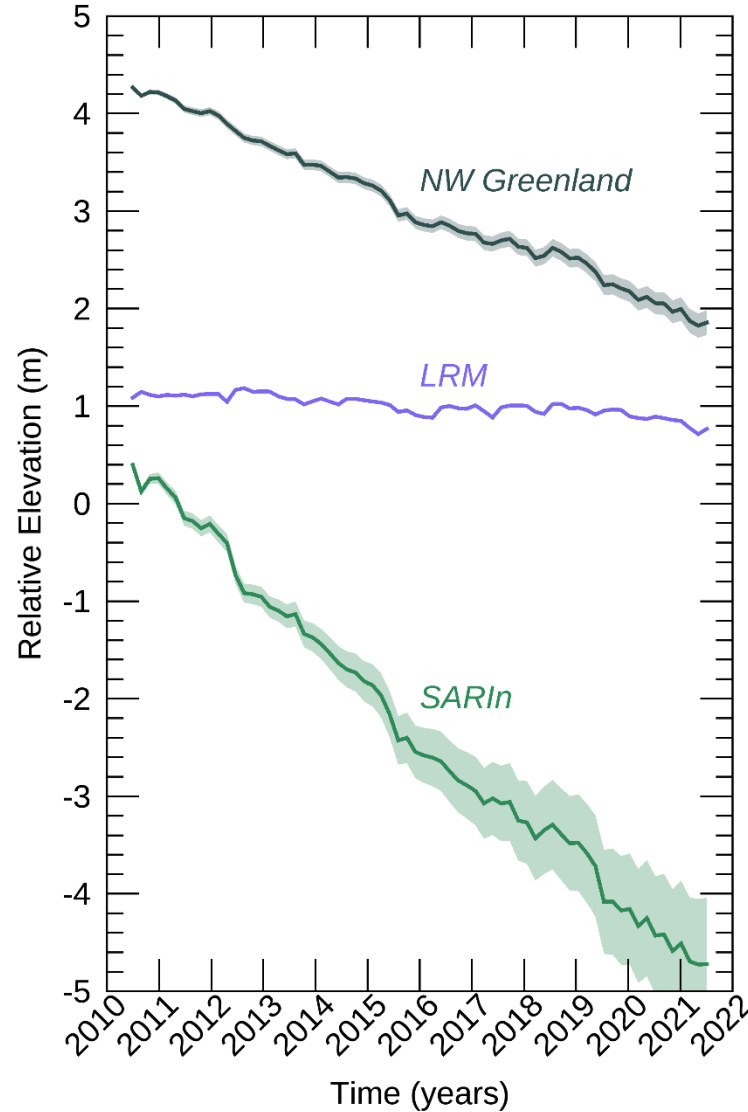
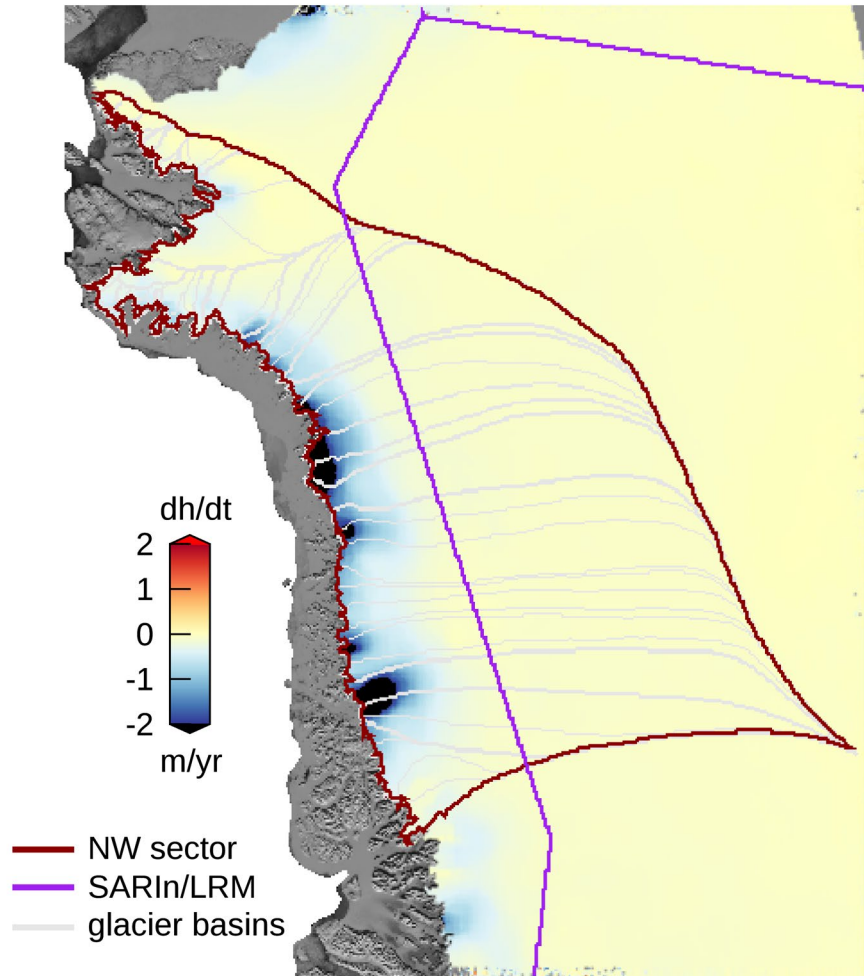
KAREN KA-band



	KU-ALS	KA-ALS
Mean (m)	-1.0	-0.62
Median (m)	-0.80	-0.64
STD (m)	0.67	0.23

Runway calibration offset (TCOG)
 ASIRAS: 3.23 m
 KAREN: -0.35 m

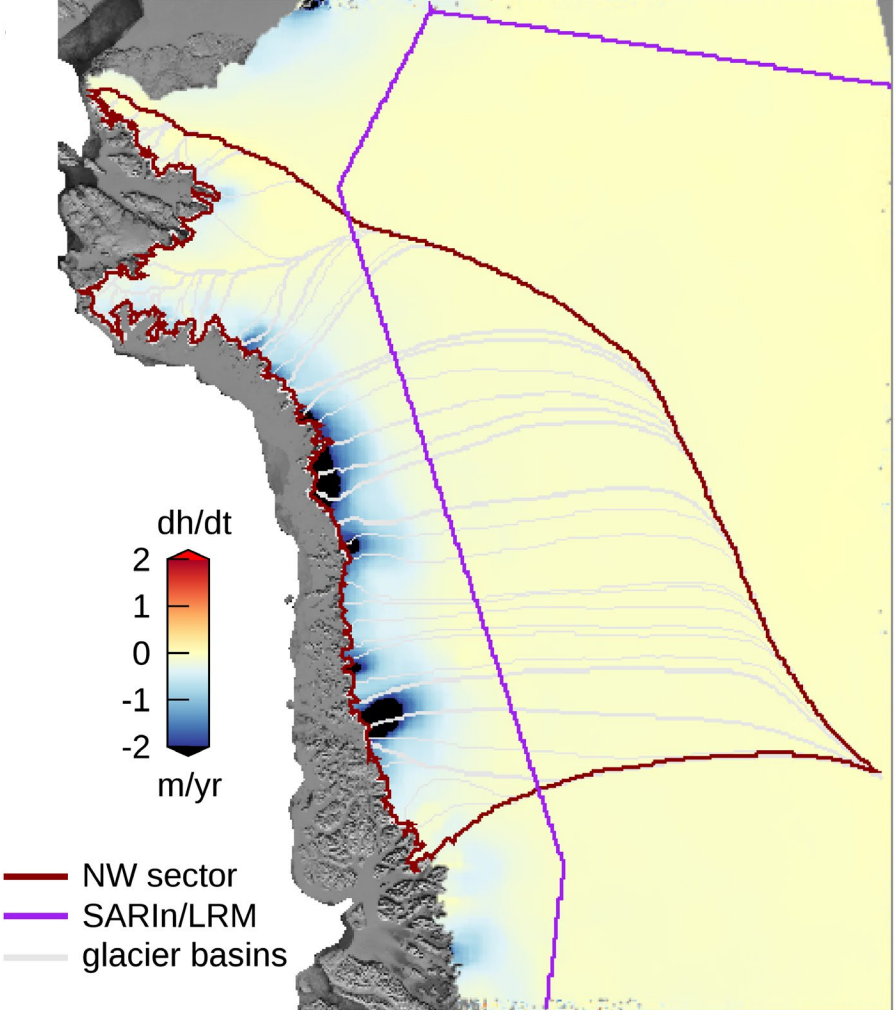
CryoSat-2 surface elevation change



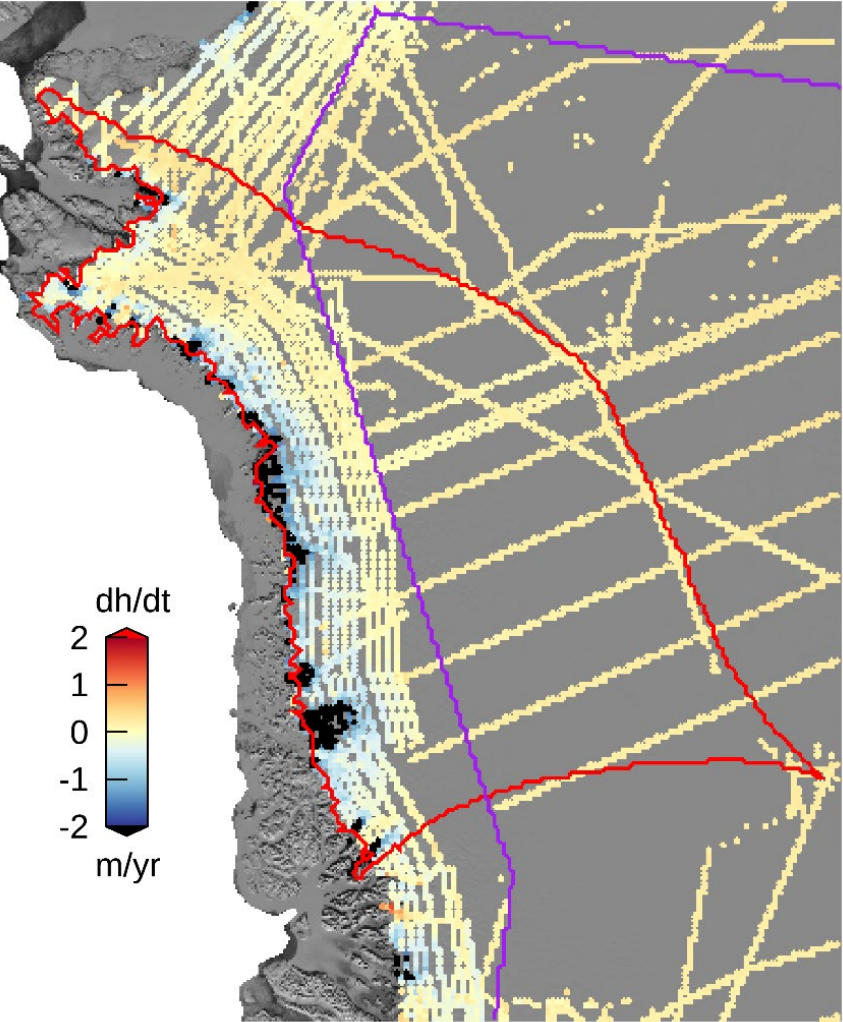
Region	dh/dt (cm/yr)
Northwest sector	-21.9 ± 1.1
SARIn	-46.9 ± 5.9
LRM	-2.7 ± 0.2

Comparison of surface elevation change rates

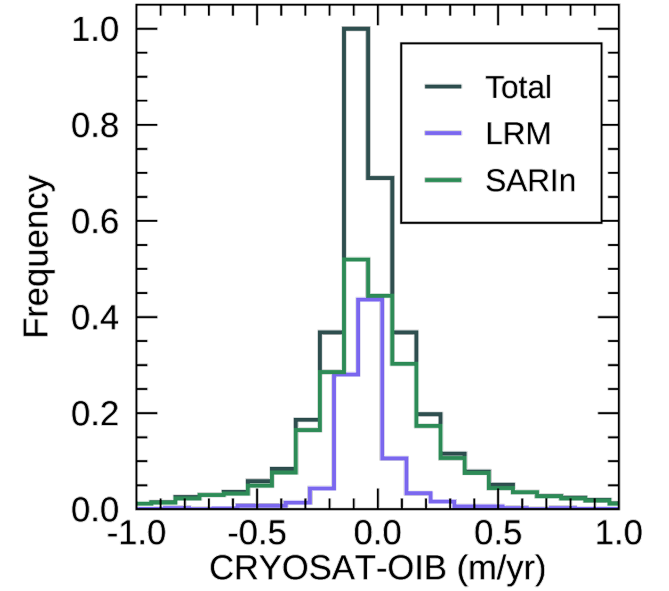
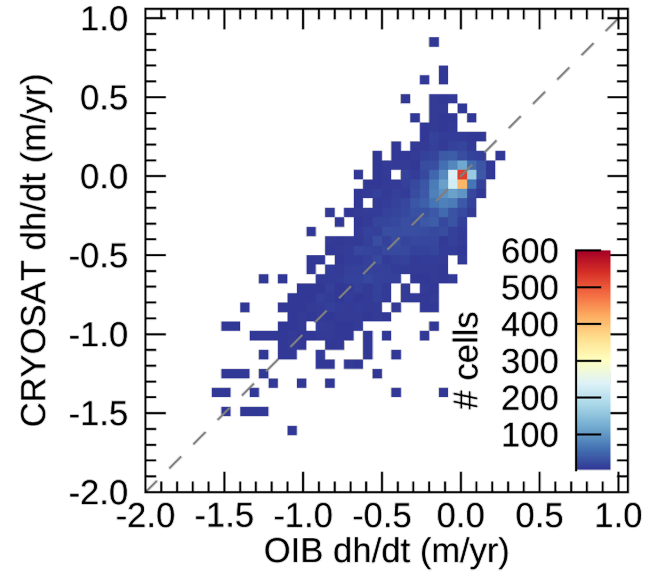
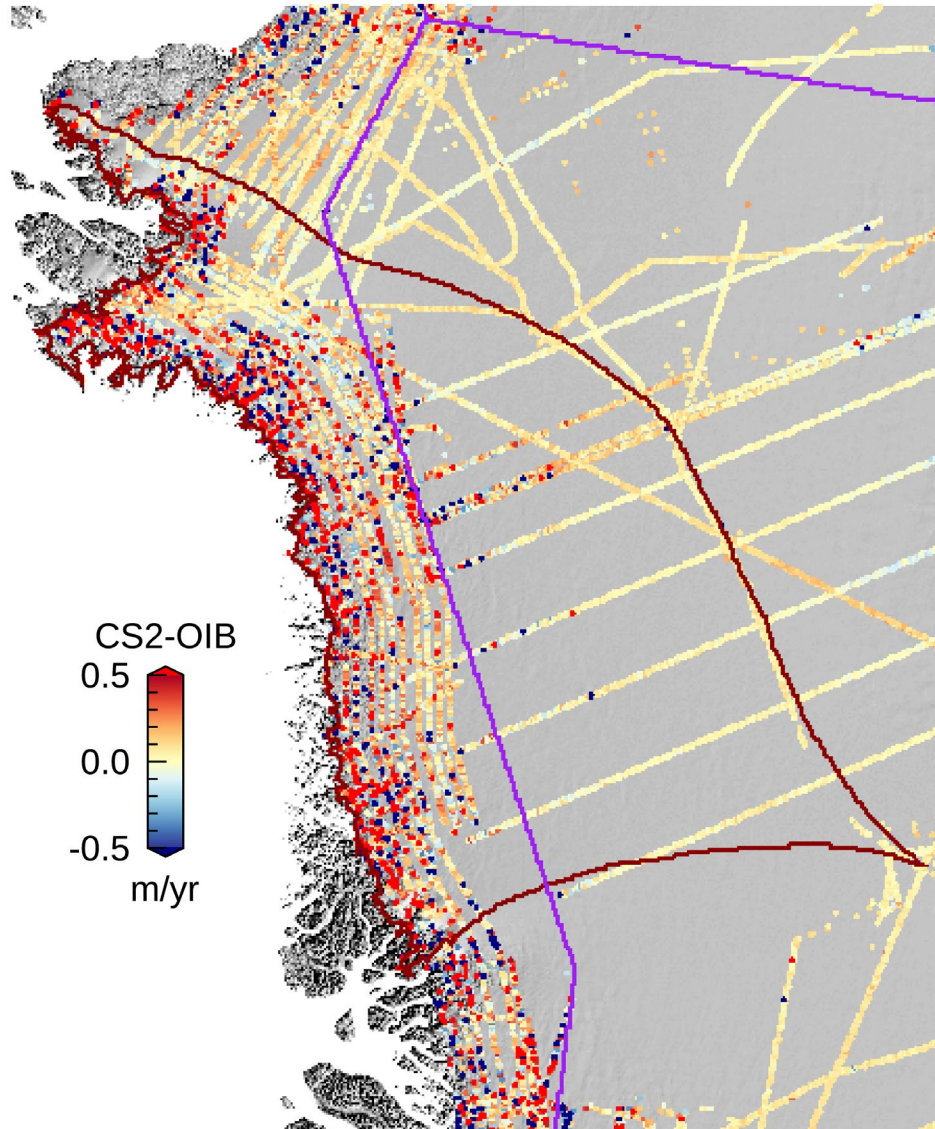
CryoSat-2



Operation IceBridge



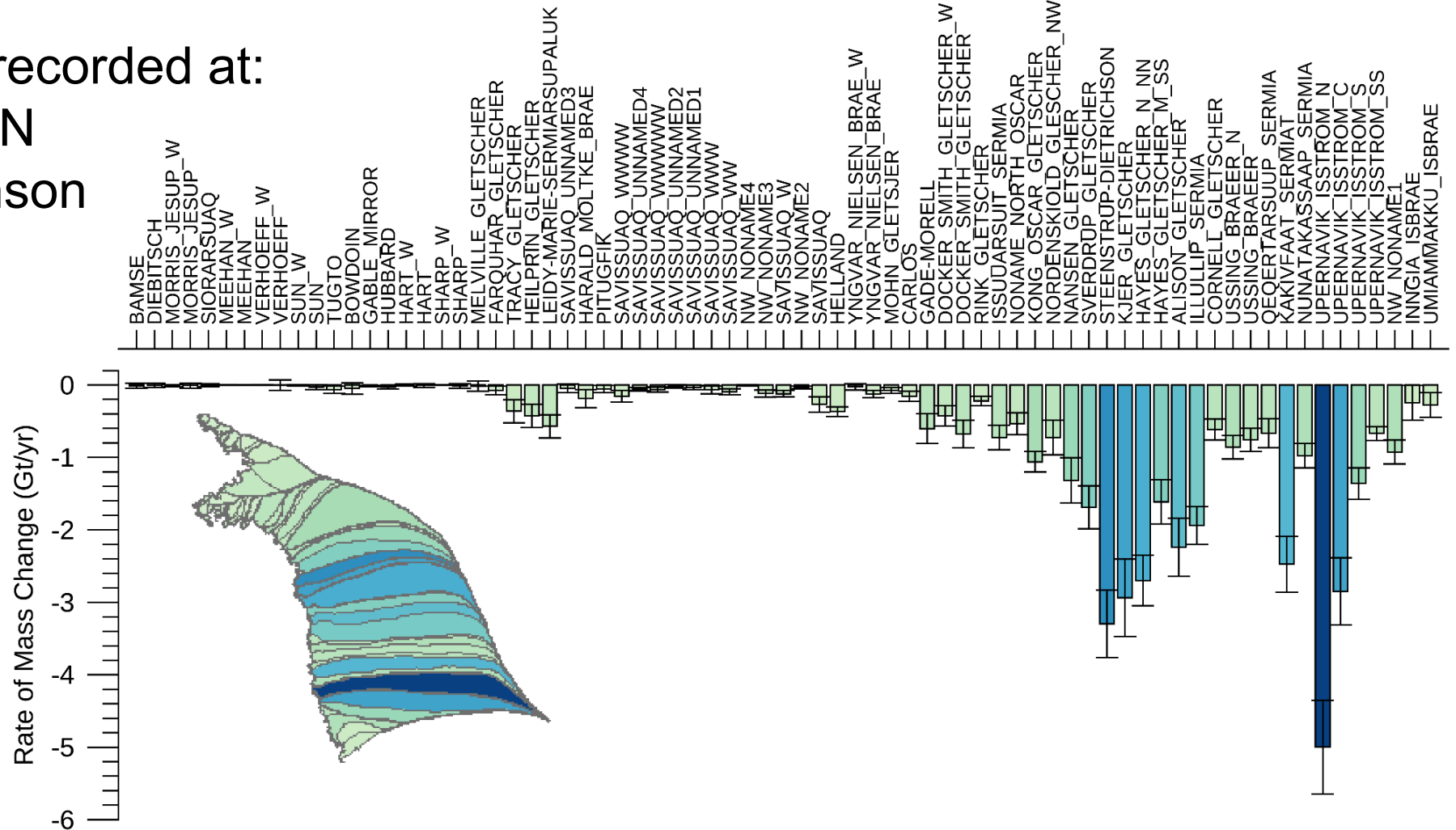
CryoSat-2 VS OIB



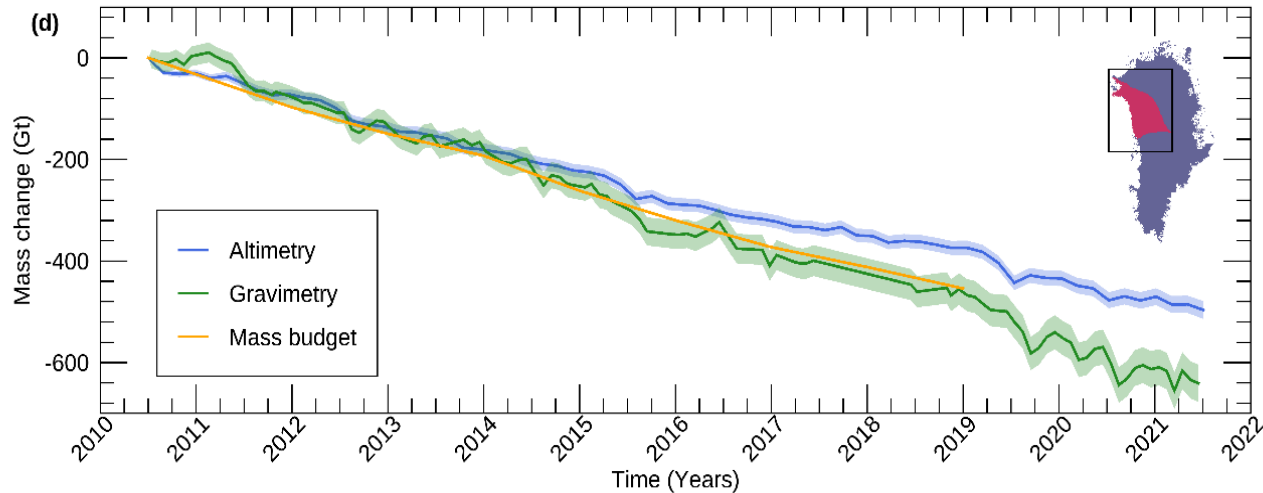
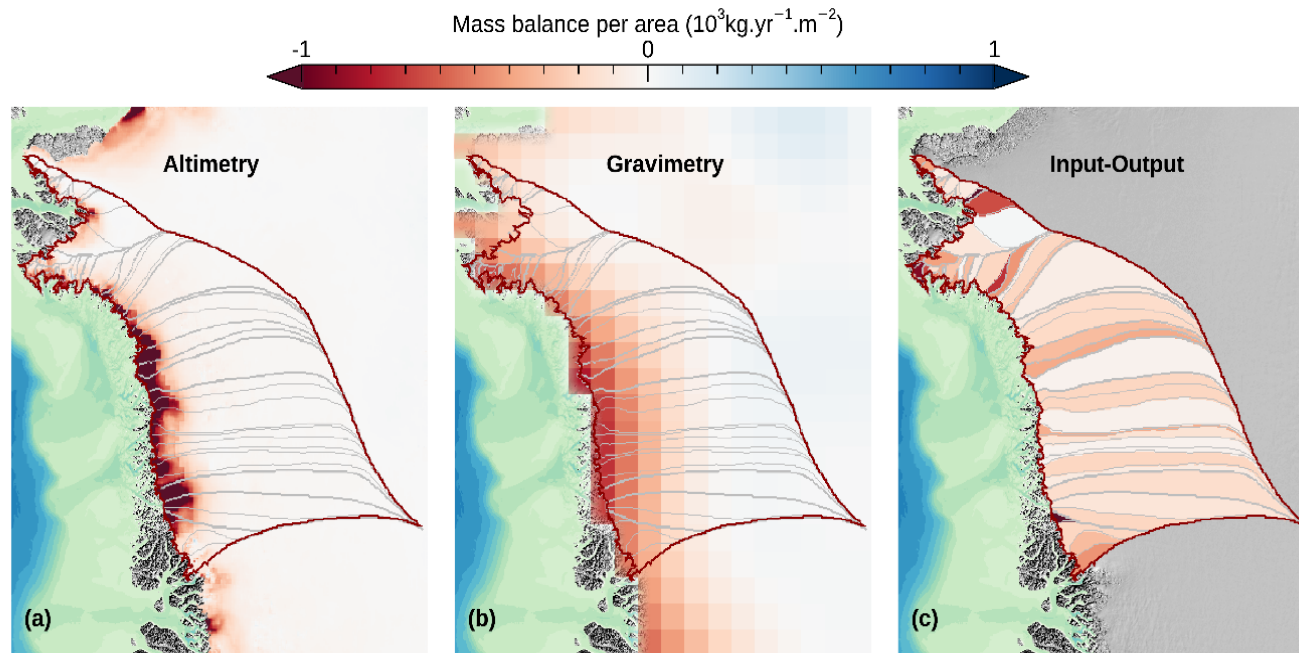
	NW sector	LRM	SARIn
Mean (cm/yr)	6.7	-0.7	9.5
Median (cm/yr)	0.4	-1.1	2.1
STD (cm/yr)	72.9	37.0	82.1
#	6,951	1,878	5,073

Mass balance of the Northwest sector from CryoSat-2

- We estimate mass change in 73 individual glacier basins of the sector
- Largest losses are recorded at:
 - Upernavik-Isstrom-N
 - Steenstrup-Dietrichson
 - Kjer Gletscher
- 456 Gt of ice lost

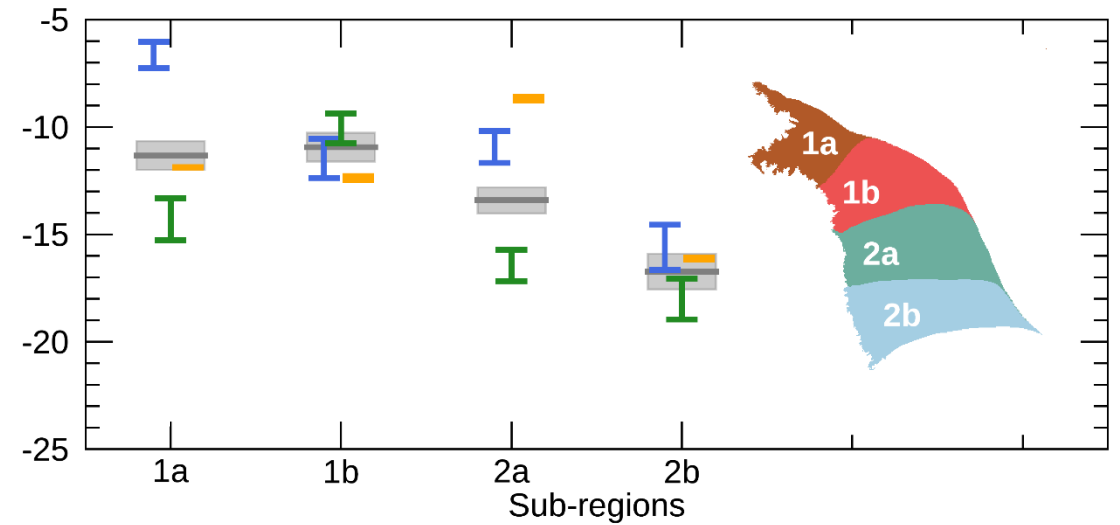
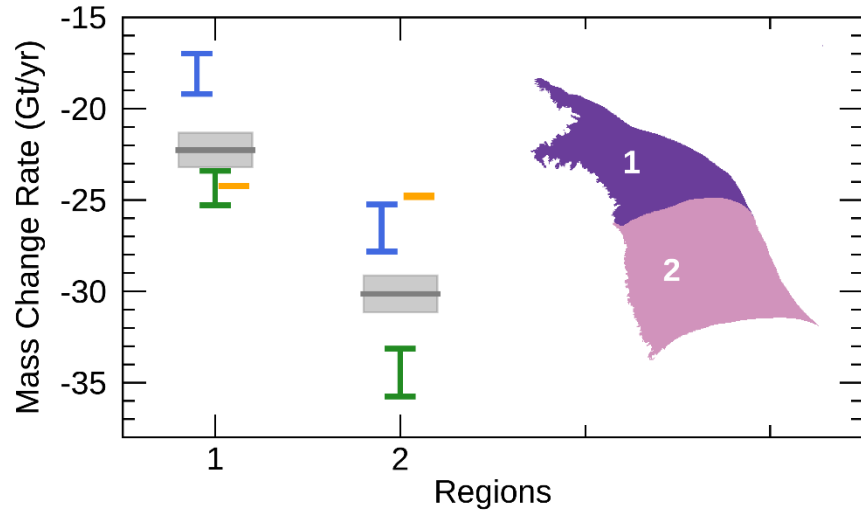


Comparison to gravimetry and the input-output method



Technique	dM/dt (Gt/yr)
Altimetry	-52.0 ± 1.9
Gravimetry (Groh & Horwath)	-57.2 ± 2.2
Input-Output (Mouginot et al., 2019, updated)	-53.4 ± 0.2

Difference in mass balance in sub-regions of the sector



Close agreement between gravimetry and the input-output estimates

Close agreement between altimetry and the input-output estimates

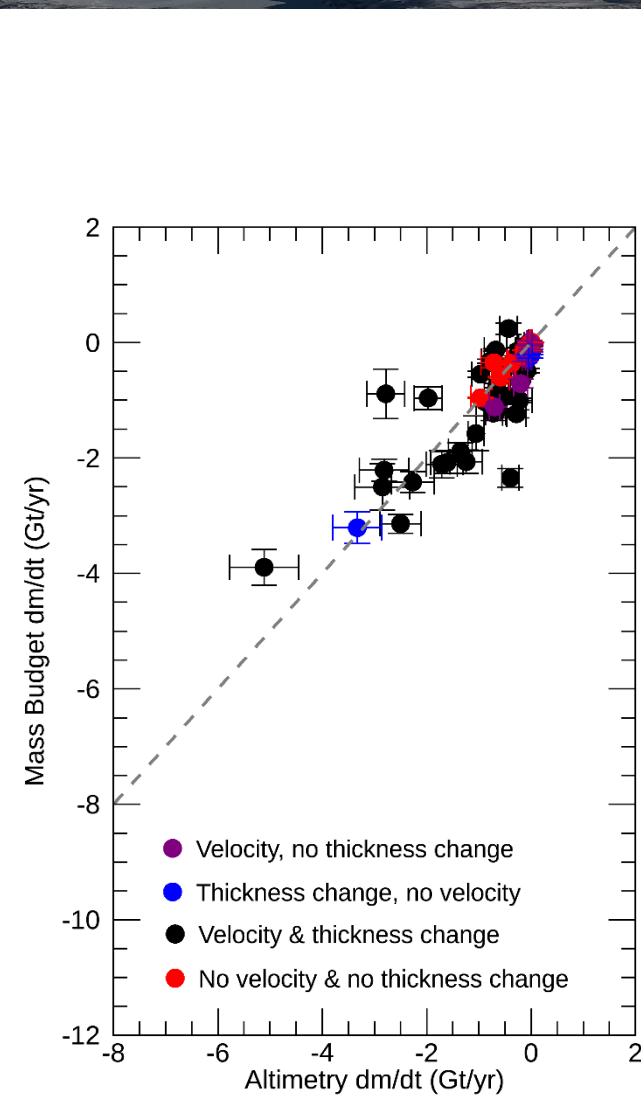
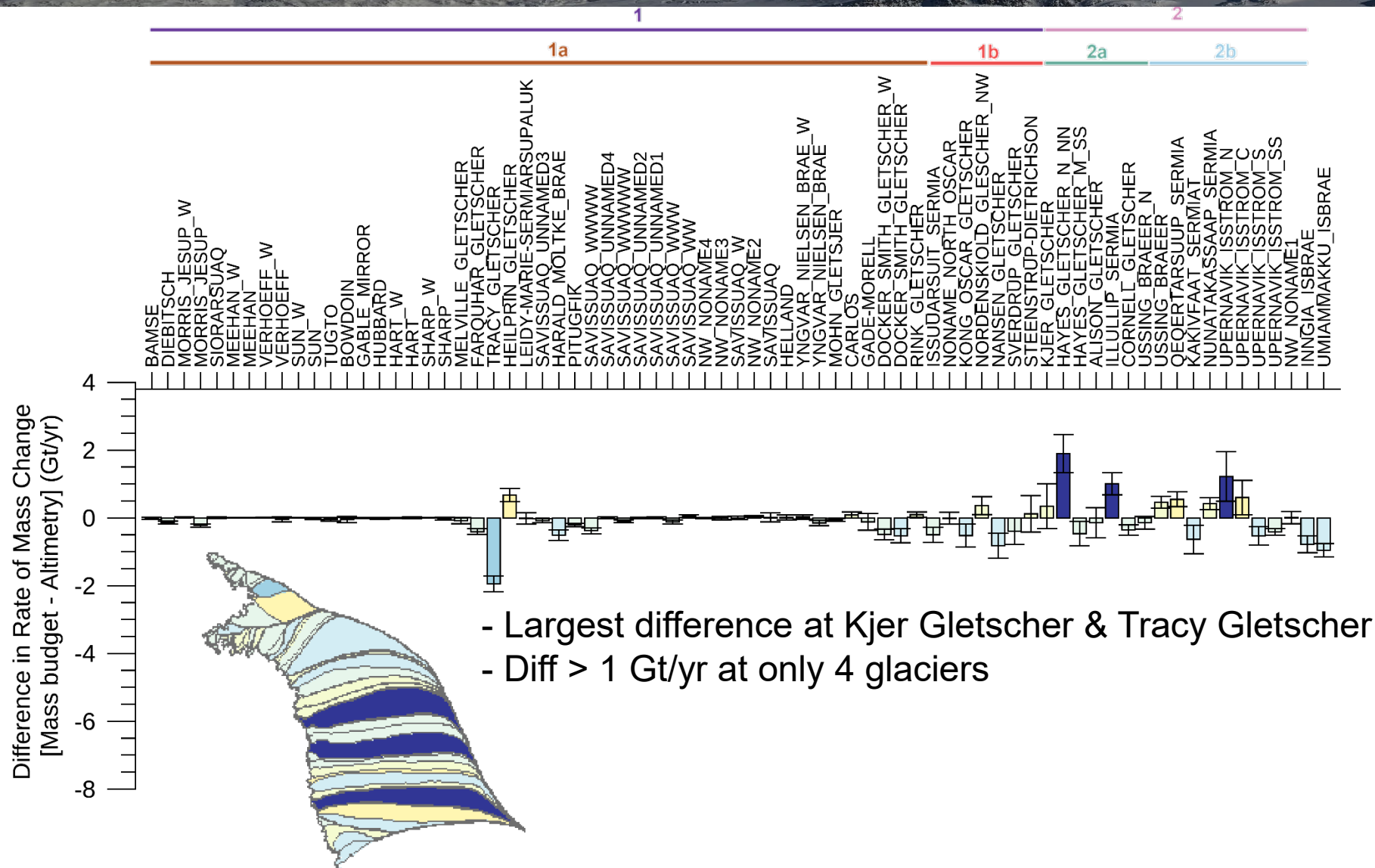
Large spread of all three estimates

All techniques are in good agreement

Large spread of all three estimates

All techniques are in good agreement

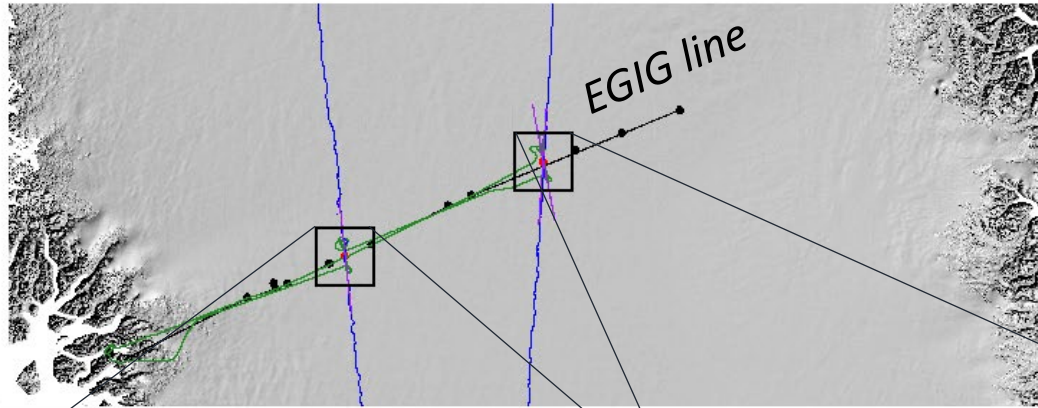
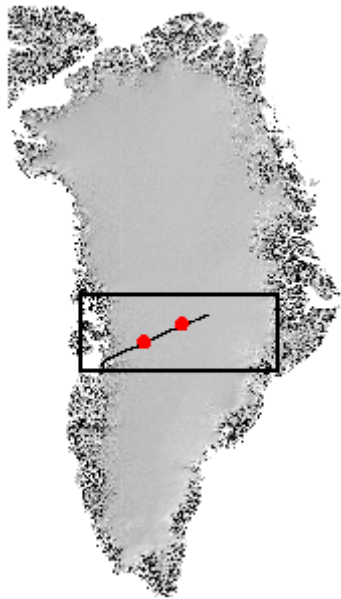
Comparison of altimetry and input-output in glacier basins



Conclusions

- Overall there is a good agreement between CryoSat-2 and airborne laser data in elevation (0.6 m) and elevation change (6.7 cm/yr)
 - The Northwest sector lost ice at a rate of 54.2 Gt/yr between 2010 and 2019
 - Agreement between altimetry, gravimetry and the input-output method is variable regionally
- Now that Operation IceBridge has ended, we need to think about how to calibrate and validate CryoSat-2 and ICESat-2
 - There is still more to learn on Ku/Ka radar penetration, especially in preparation for CRISTAL
 - More CryoVEx tracks with Ku/Ka/Laser in Greenland and Antarctica would be useful for CRISTAL

ESA CryoVEx 2022 EGIG line campaign



- airborne flight
- predicted CS2 track
- POCA CS2 track
- predicted IS2 track
- previous CryoVEx site
- 2022 firn core
- 2022 corner reflector

