

# Thomas Flament

## PhD student, LEGOS, France

Candidate to the “iStar D” post-doc:  
Assessment of ice losses from the Amundsen  
Sea sector of West Antarctica



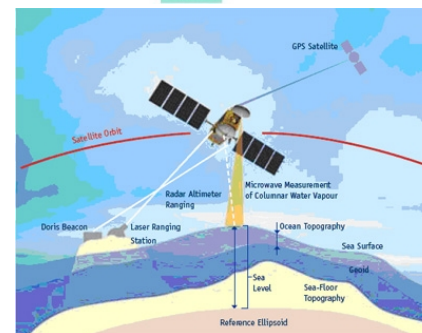
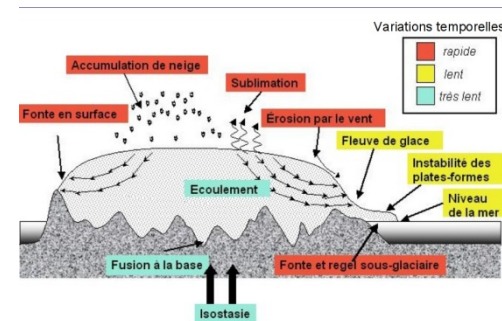
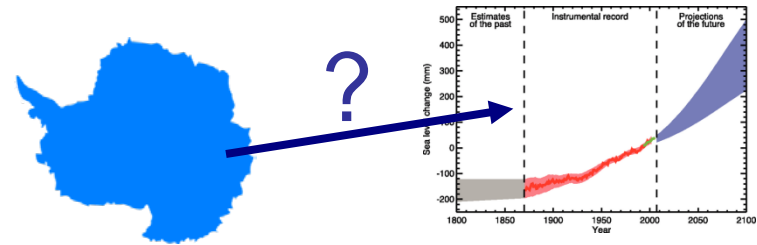
# Curriculum Vitae

- 2010-2013: Ph.D. candidate, Toulouse
  - Surface elevation change of the Antarctic Ice Sheet from radar altimetry
  - Supervisor: Frédérique Rémy
  - Defence : 18th September
- 2006-2010: M.Sc.:
  - aerospace engineering (2006-2010), Toulouse
  - climate science (2009-2010), Toulouse
  - 2008-2009: industrial placements, Airbus Deutschland (6 months) and DLR (6 months), Germany
- 2004-2006: undergraduate studies in maths and physics, Montpellier

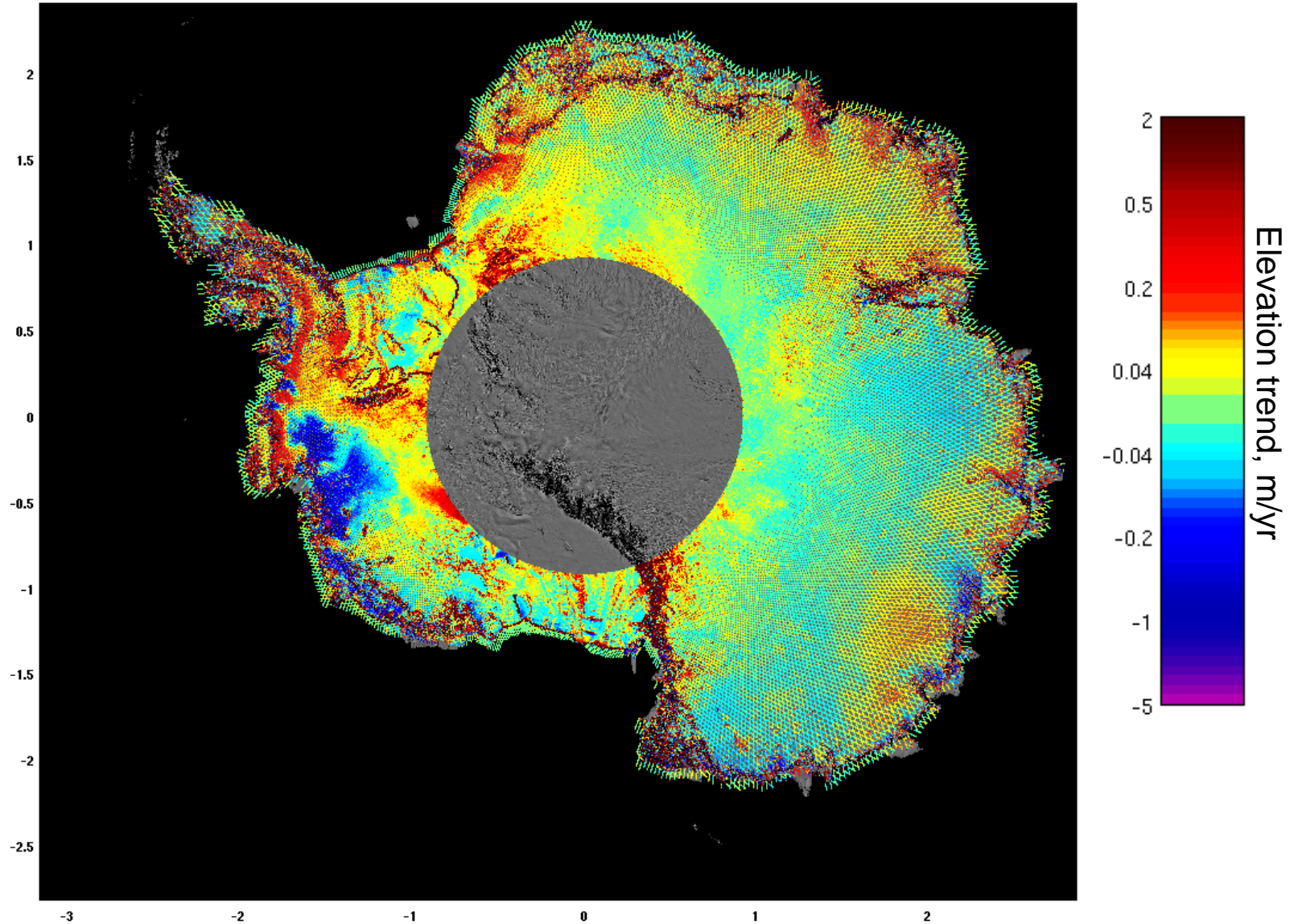


# Research interest

- Elevation change of the Antarctic Ice Sheet
  - Mass balance
  - Understanding processes that control the ice sheet shape
- Tool
  - Radar altimetry

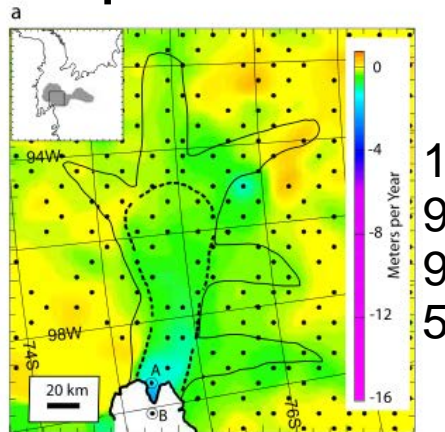


# Elevation change

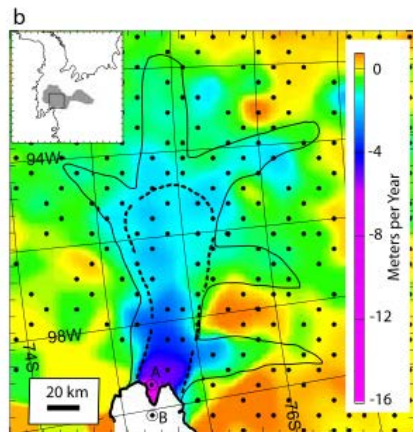


# Along-track processing for elevation time series

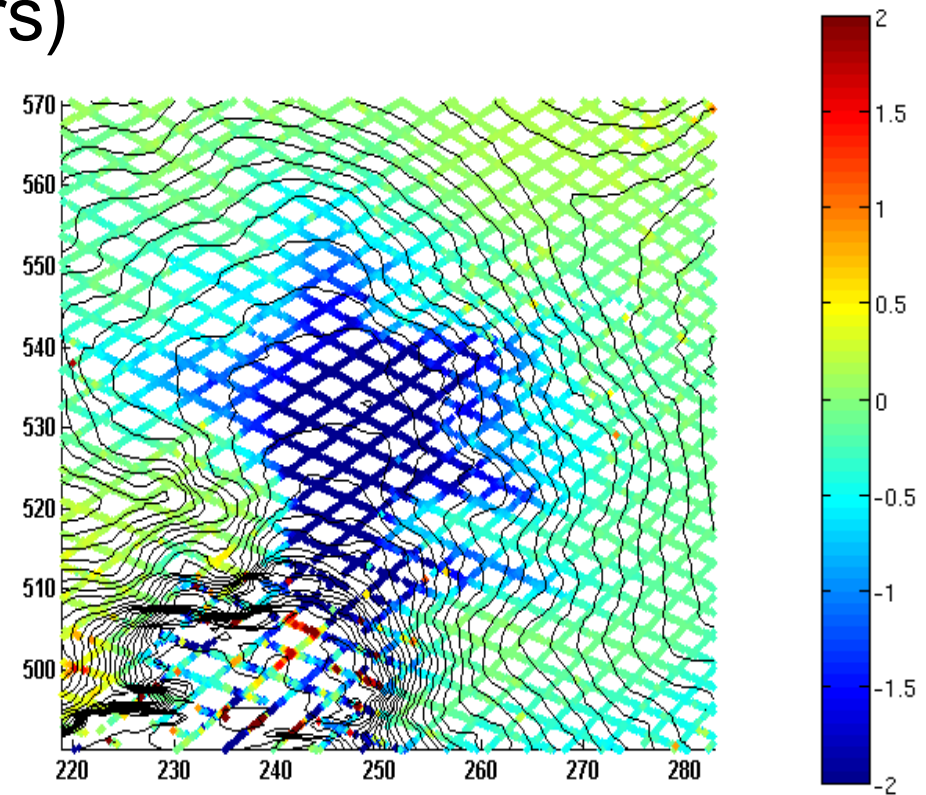
- Increased sampling : ~ 20x more measurements (compared to cross-overs)



1  
9  
9  
5

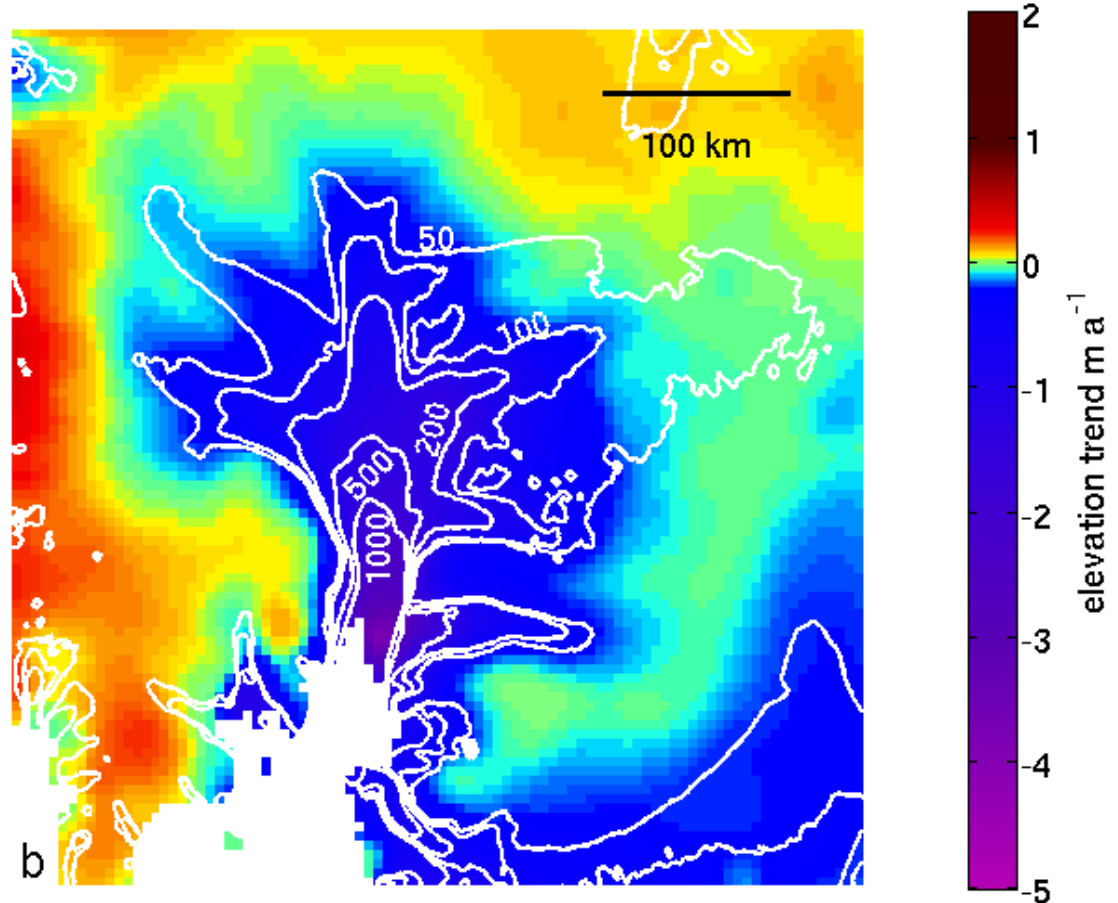
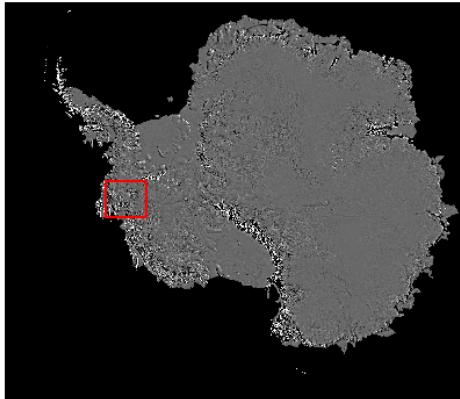


2  
0  
0  
6



Along-track data set

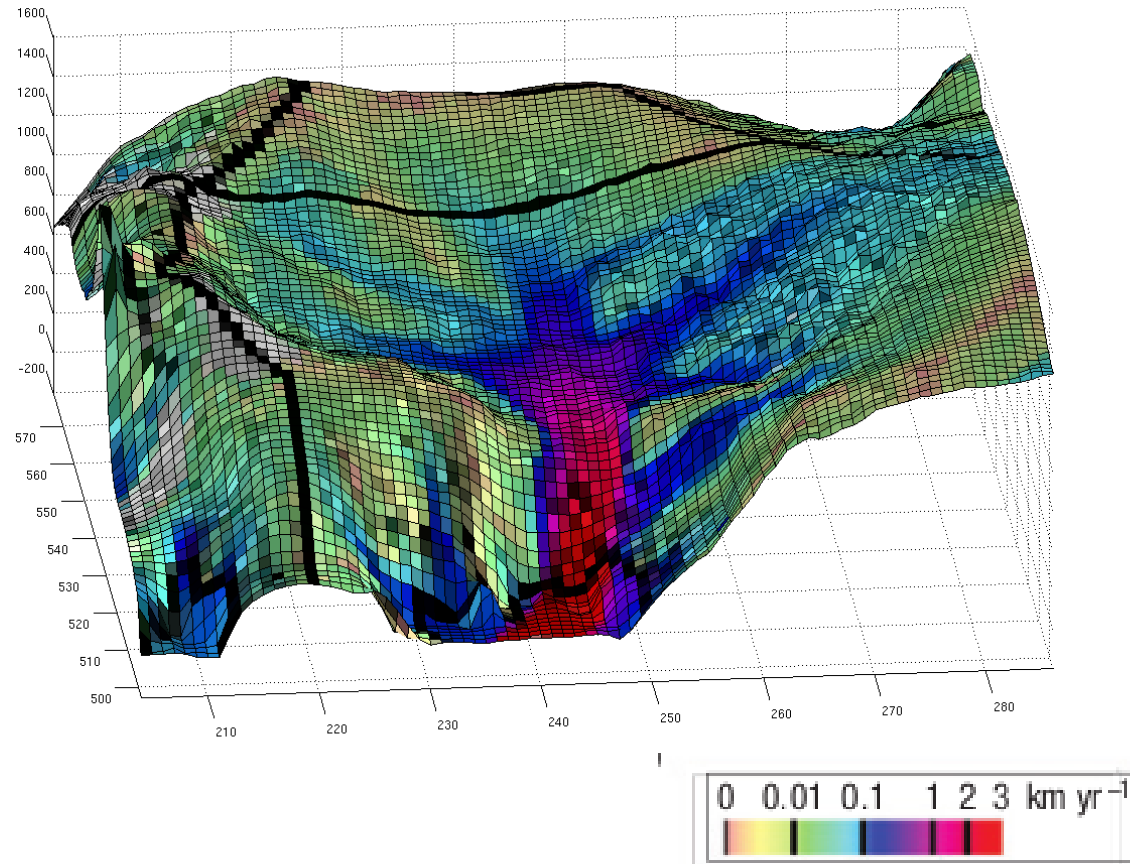
# Acceleration of thinning in the Amundsen Sea Sector



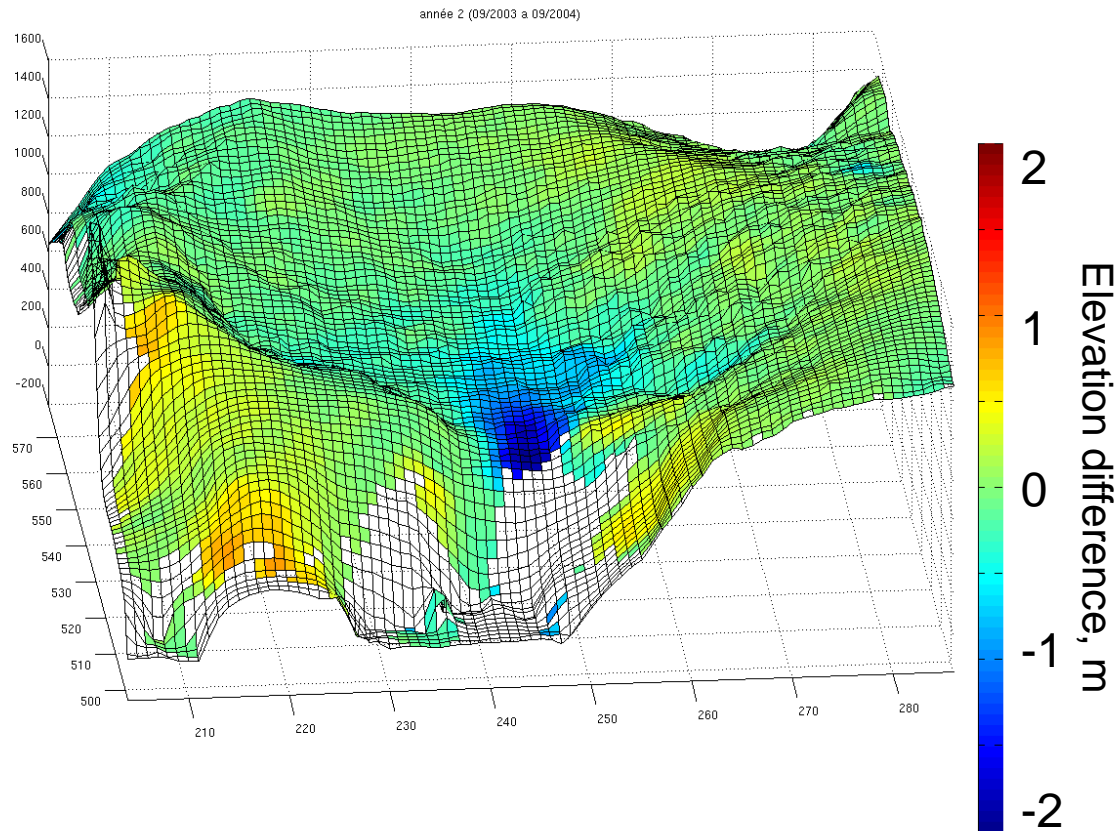
Envisat 2002-2010 elevation trend

Flament and Rémy, Journal of Glaciology, 2012  
Ice velocity contours from Rignot et al. 2011

# Pine Island Glacier velocity

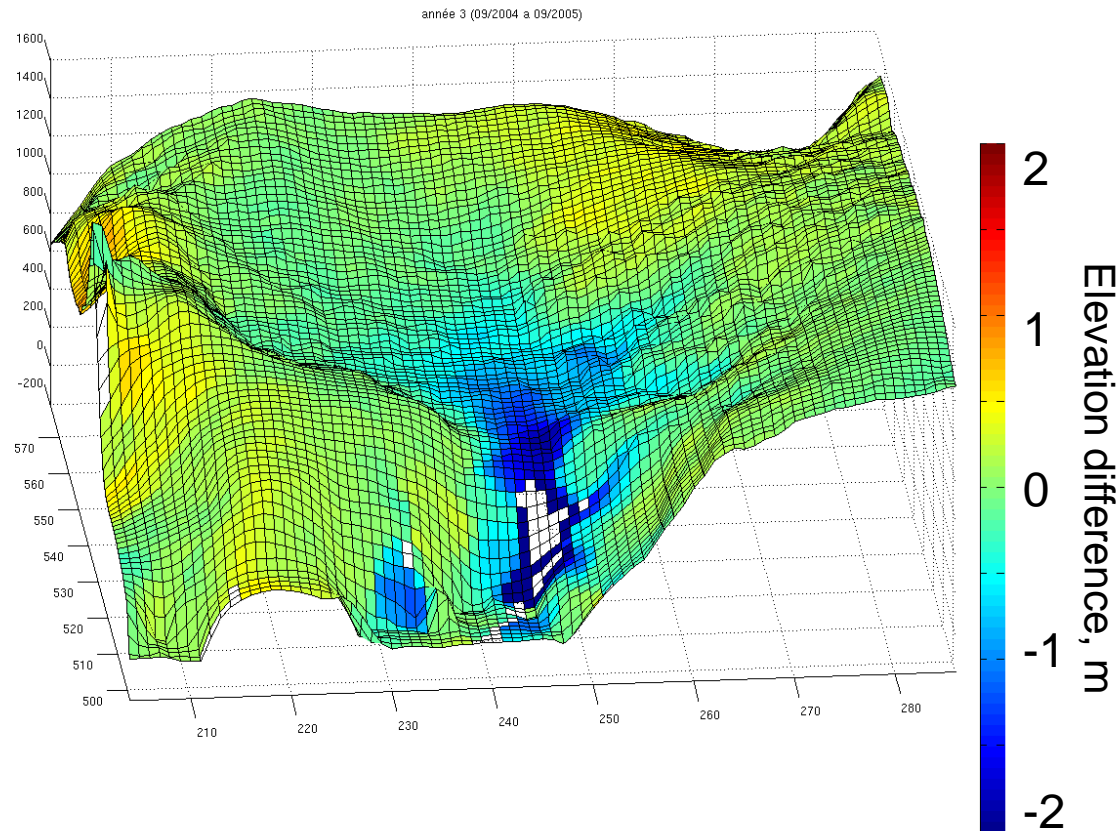


# Elevation difference : 2004 minus 2003

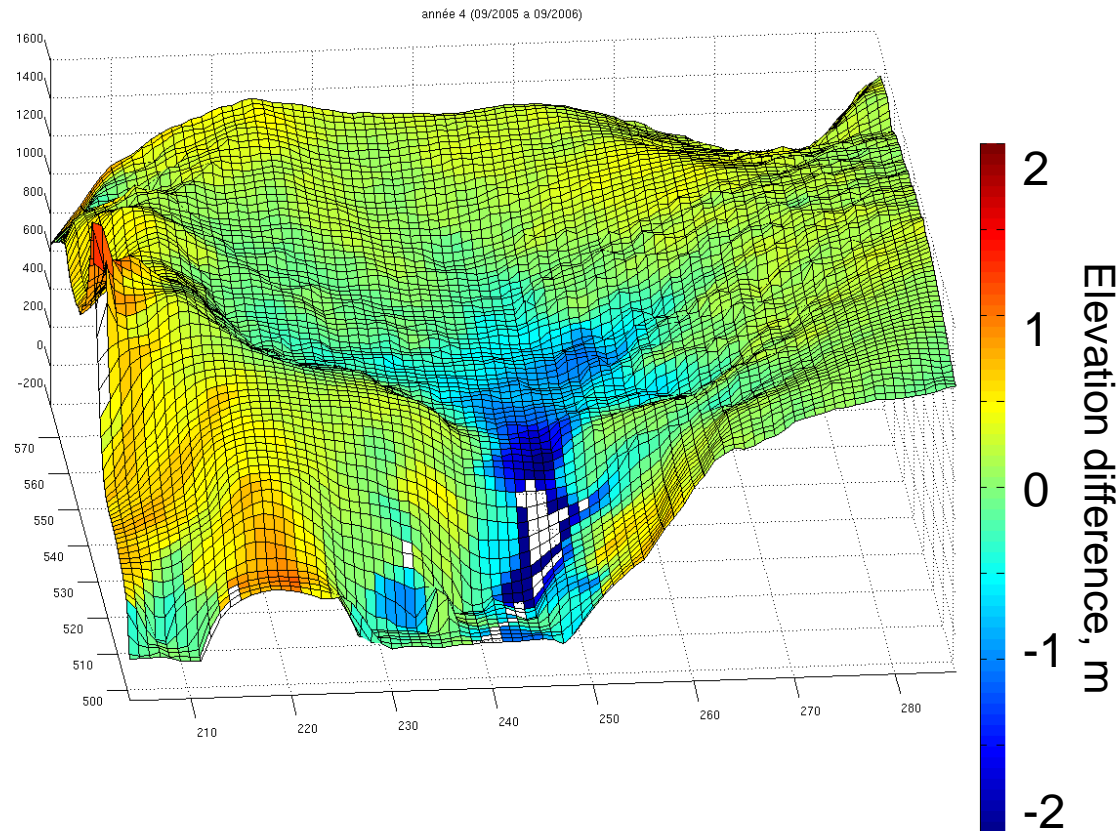




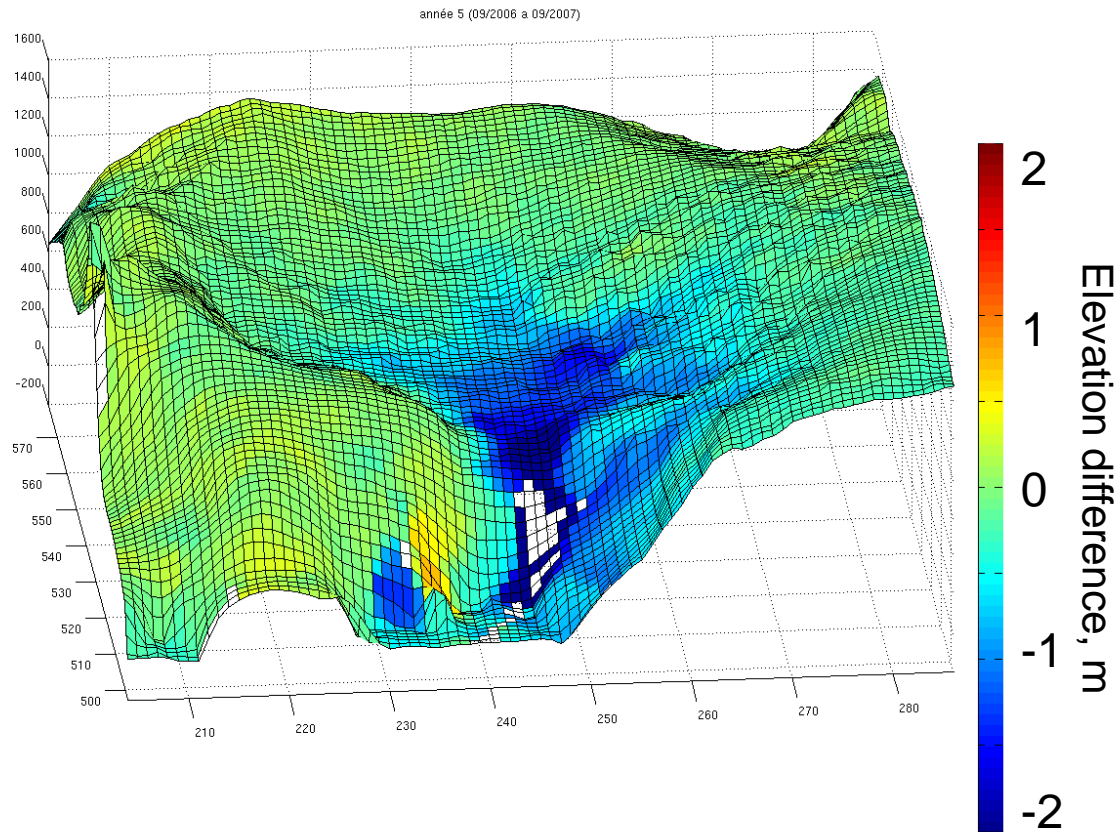
# Elevation difference : 2005 minus 2004



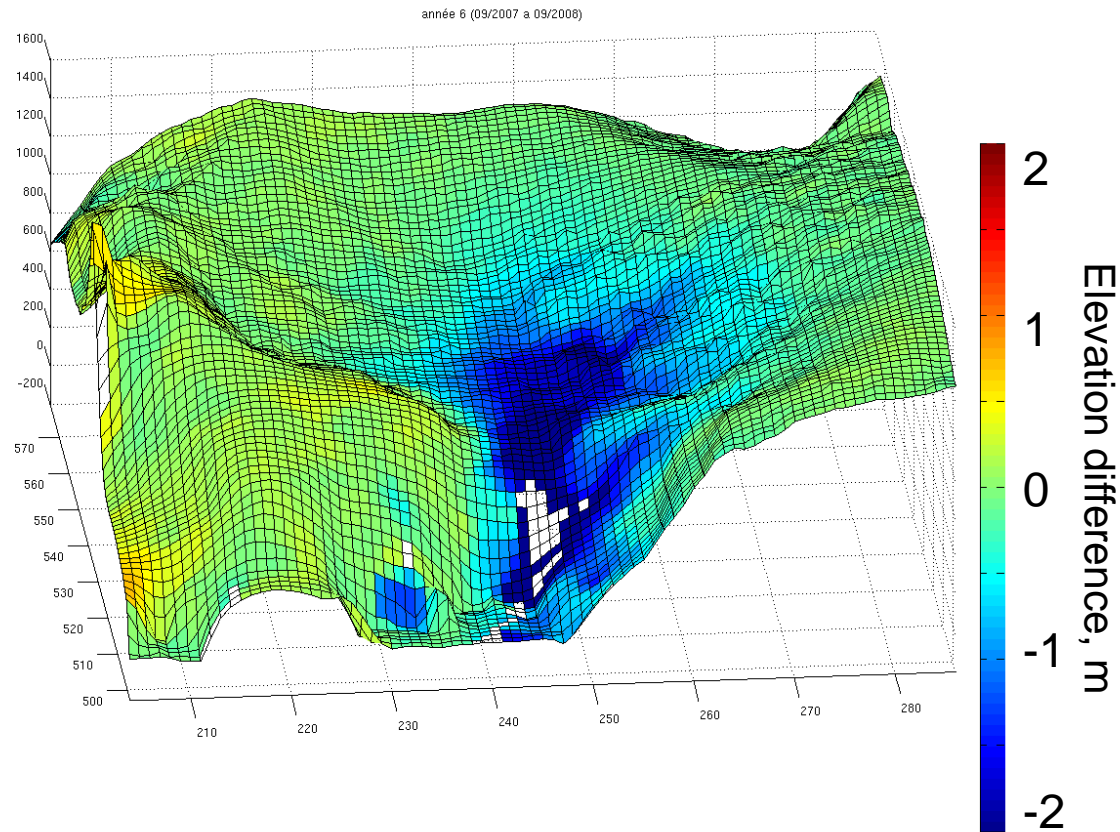
# Elevation difference : 2006 minus 2005



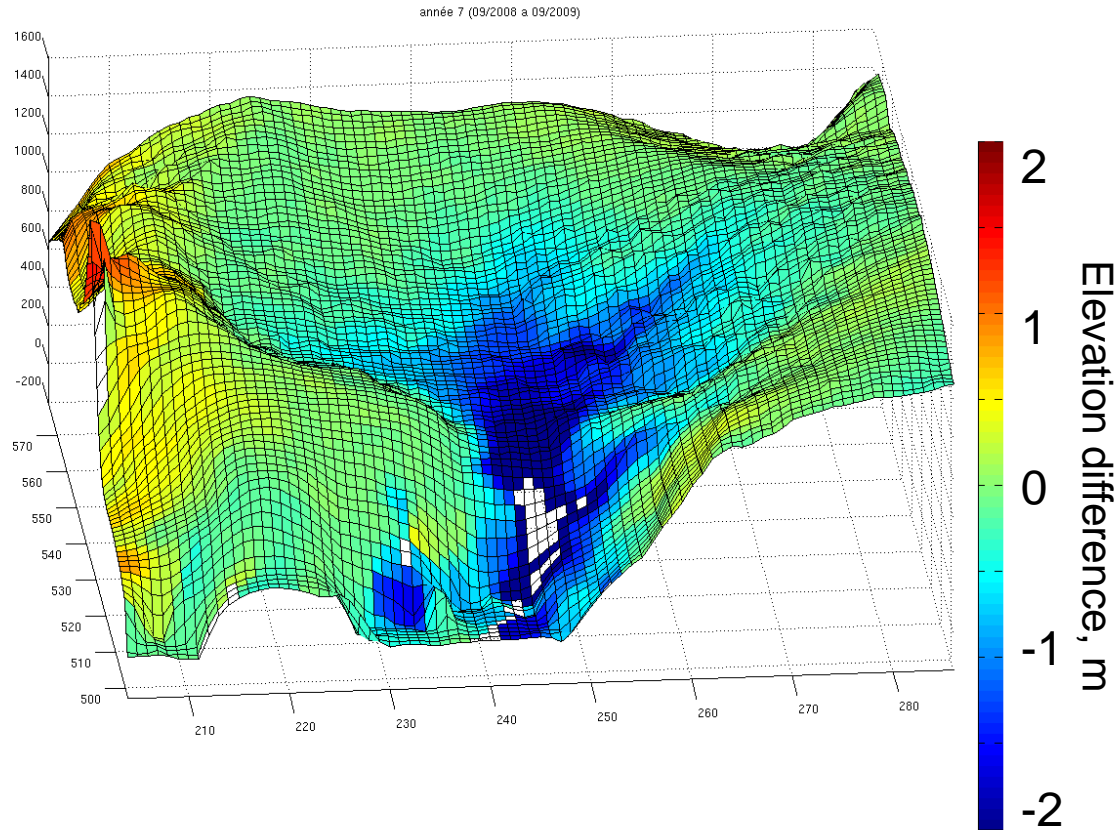
# Elevation difference : 2007 minus 2006



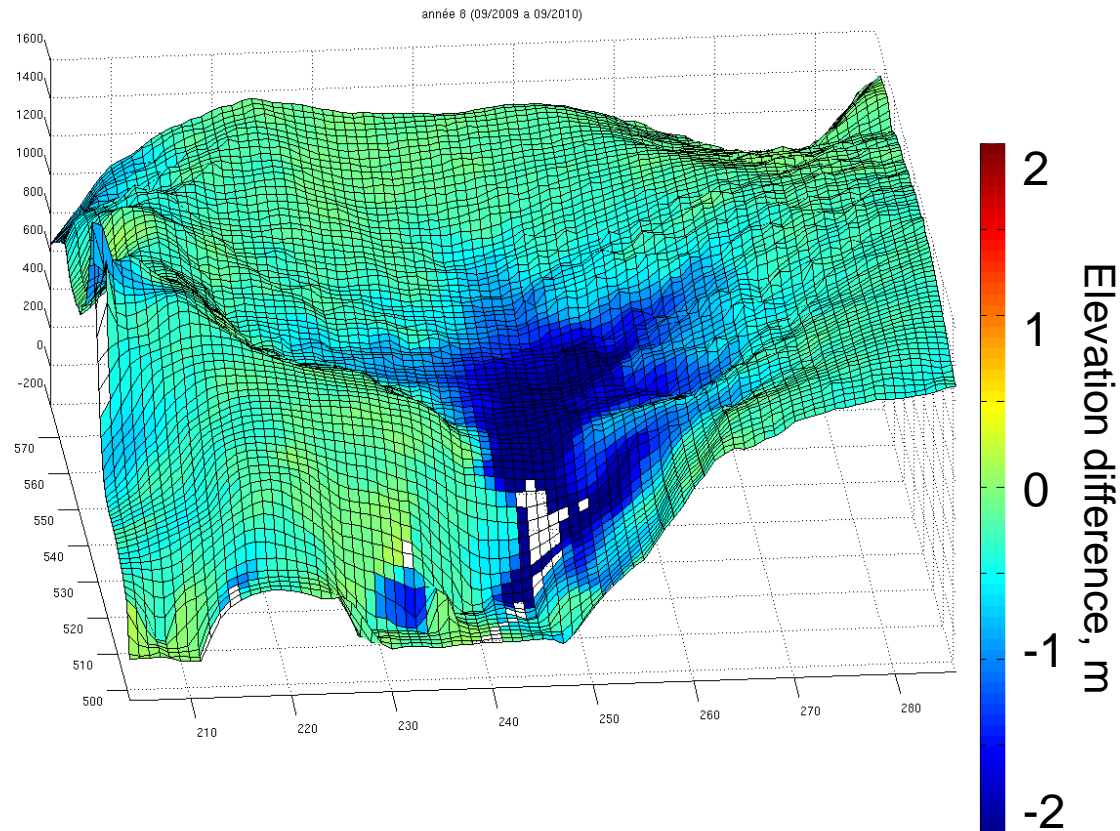
# Elevation difference : 2008 minus 2007



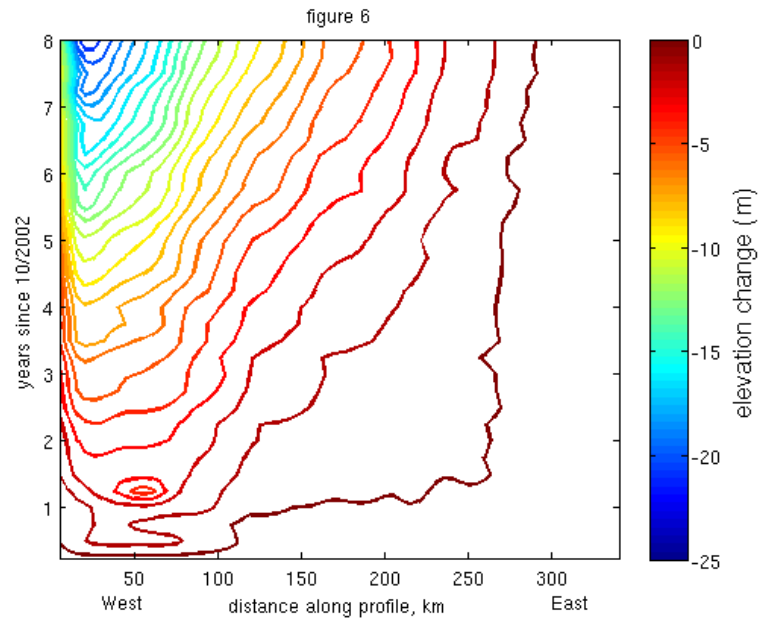
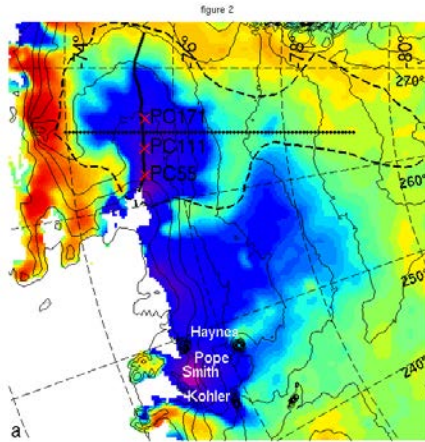
# Elevation difference : 2009 minus 2008



# Elevation difference : 2010 minus 2009



# Dynamic evolution from surface elevation

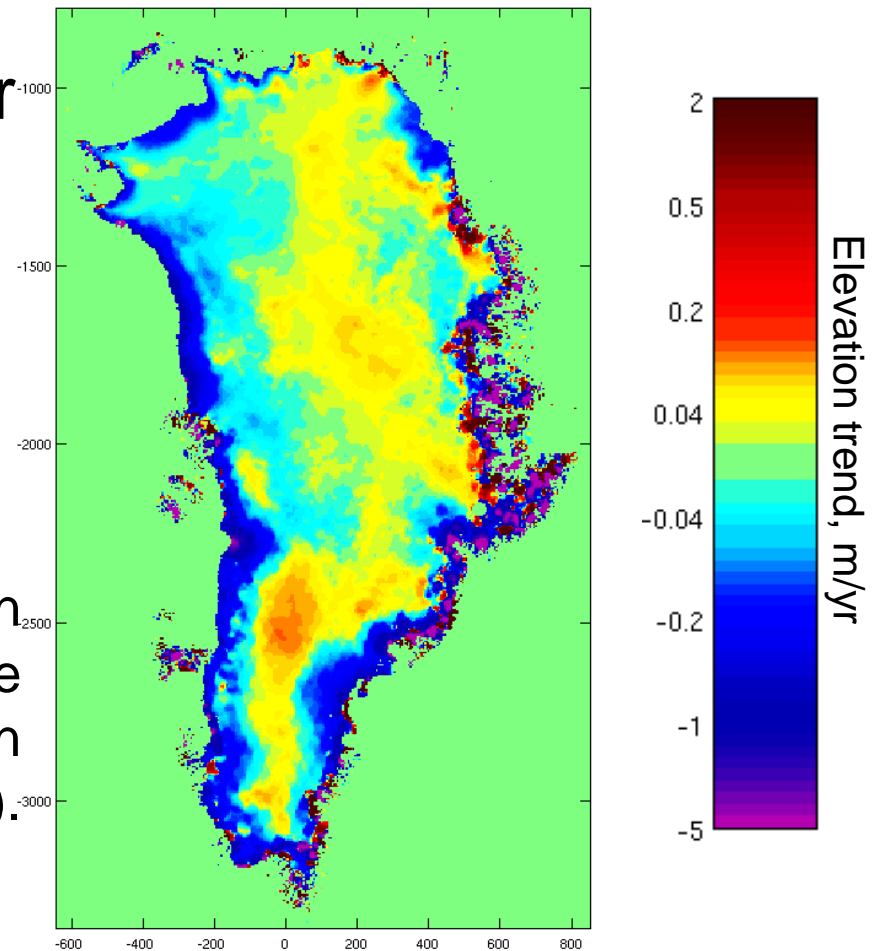


Elevation change vs time and distance along profile

# Greenland elevation change

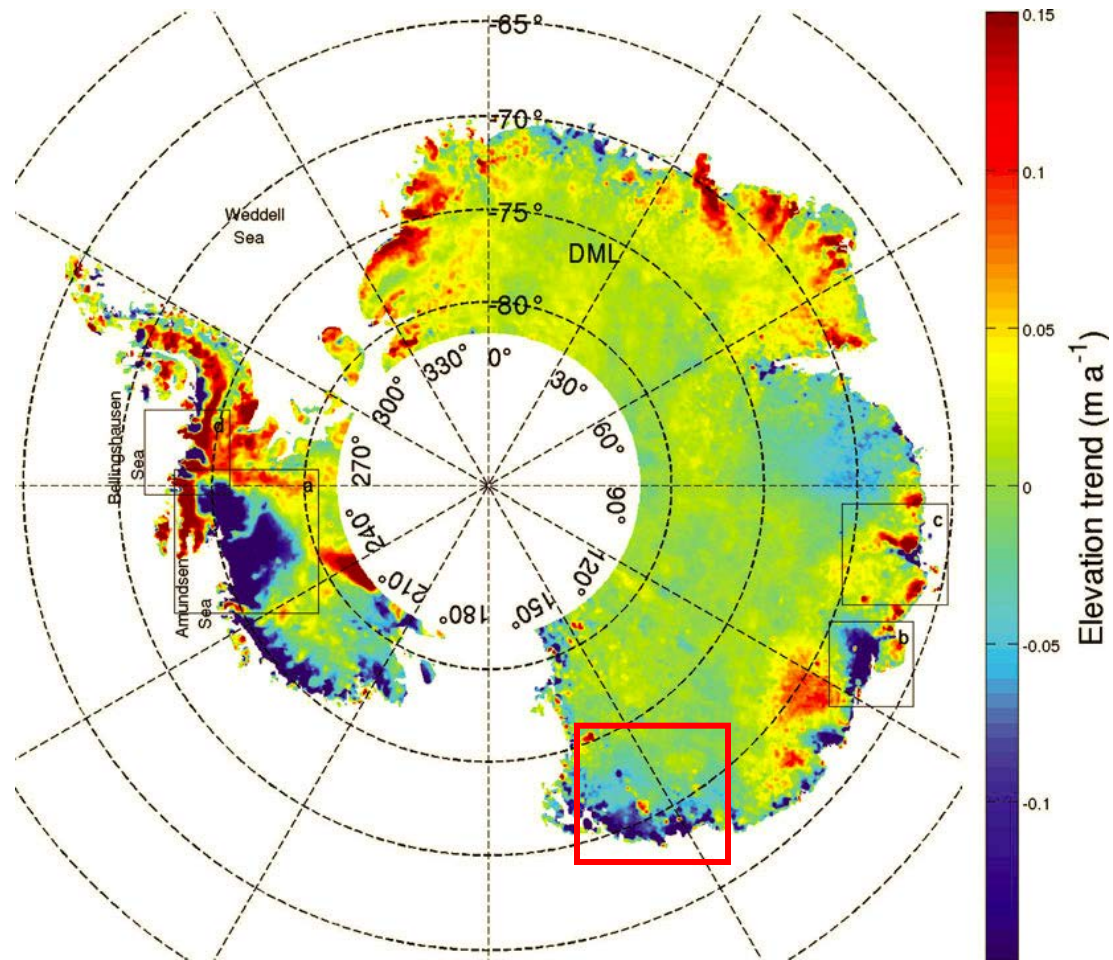
- ESA Ice Sheet CCI : same processing over Greenland.

Greenland elevation change, 2002-2010, (above the 1000 m elevation contour only).

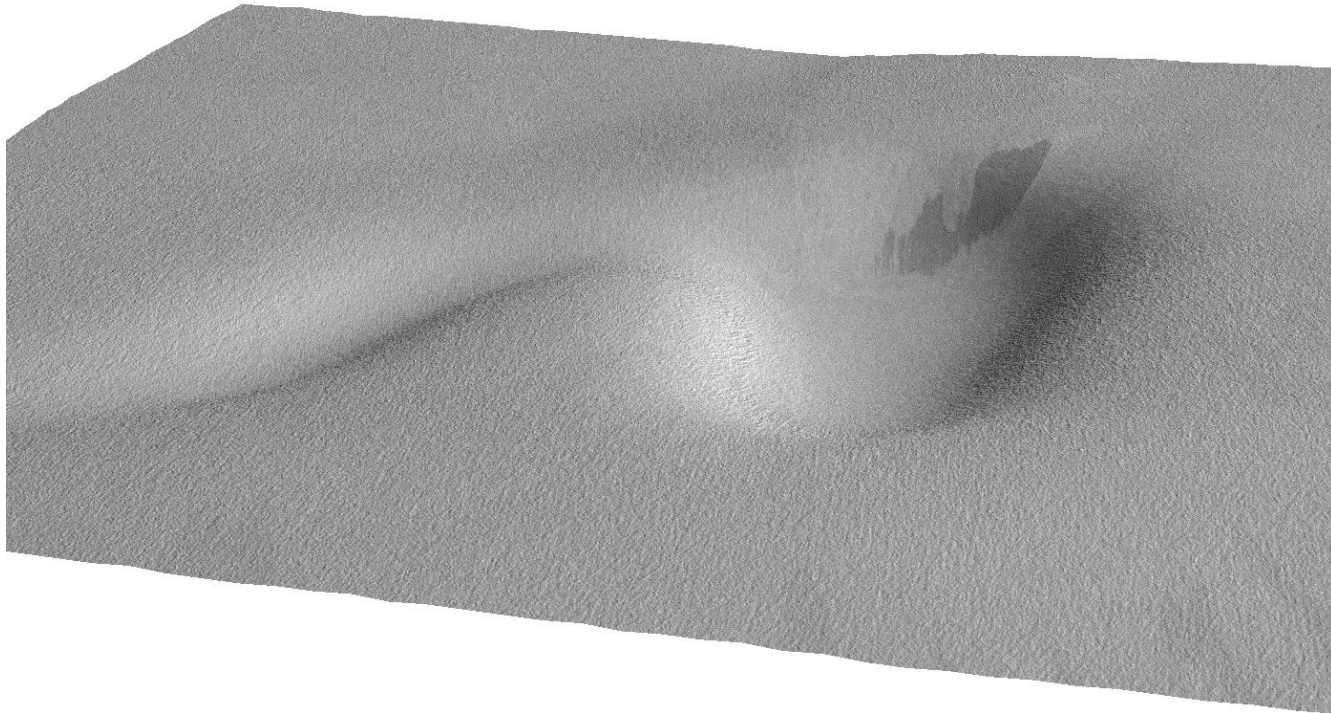




# Subglacial lake drainage

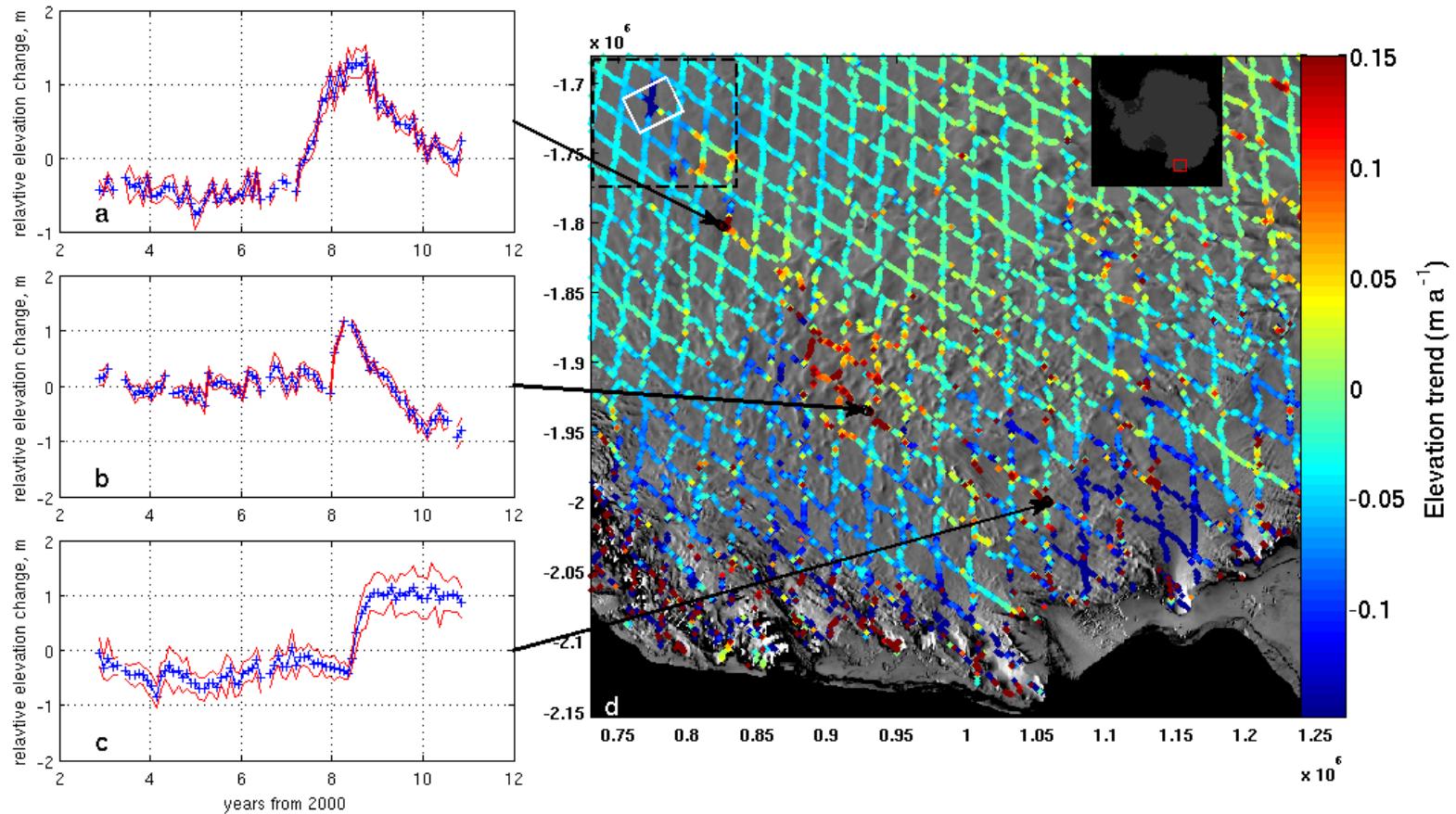


# Subglacial lake drainage

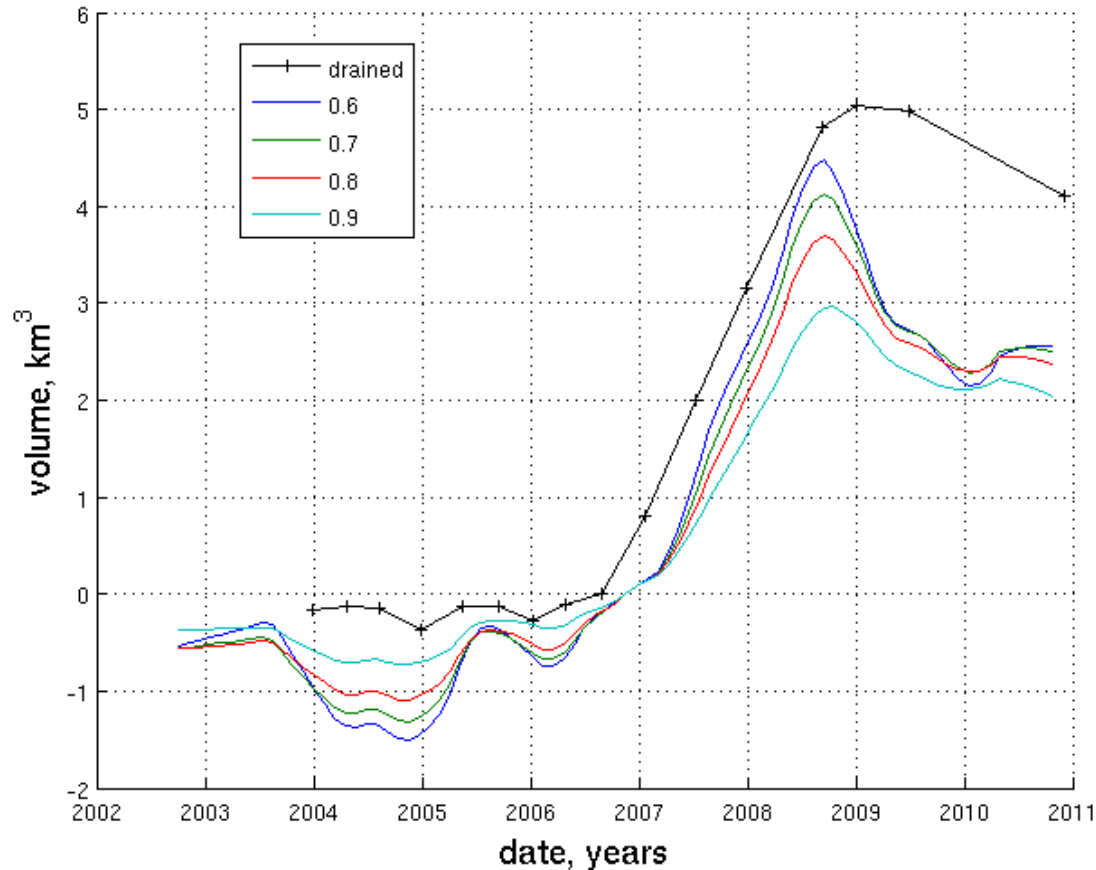


SPOT 5 image and DEM of the trough left  
by the drainage of lake Cook E2  
(vertical scale x50)

# Subglacial lake drainage

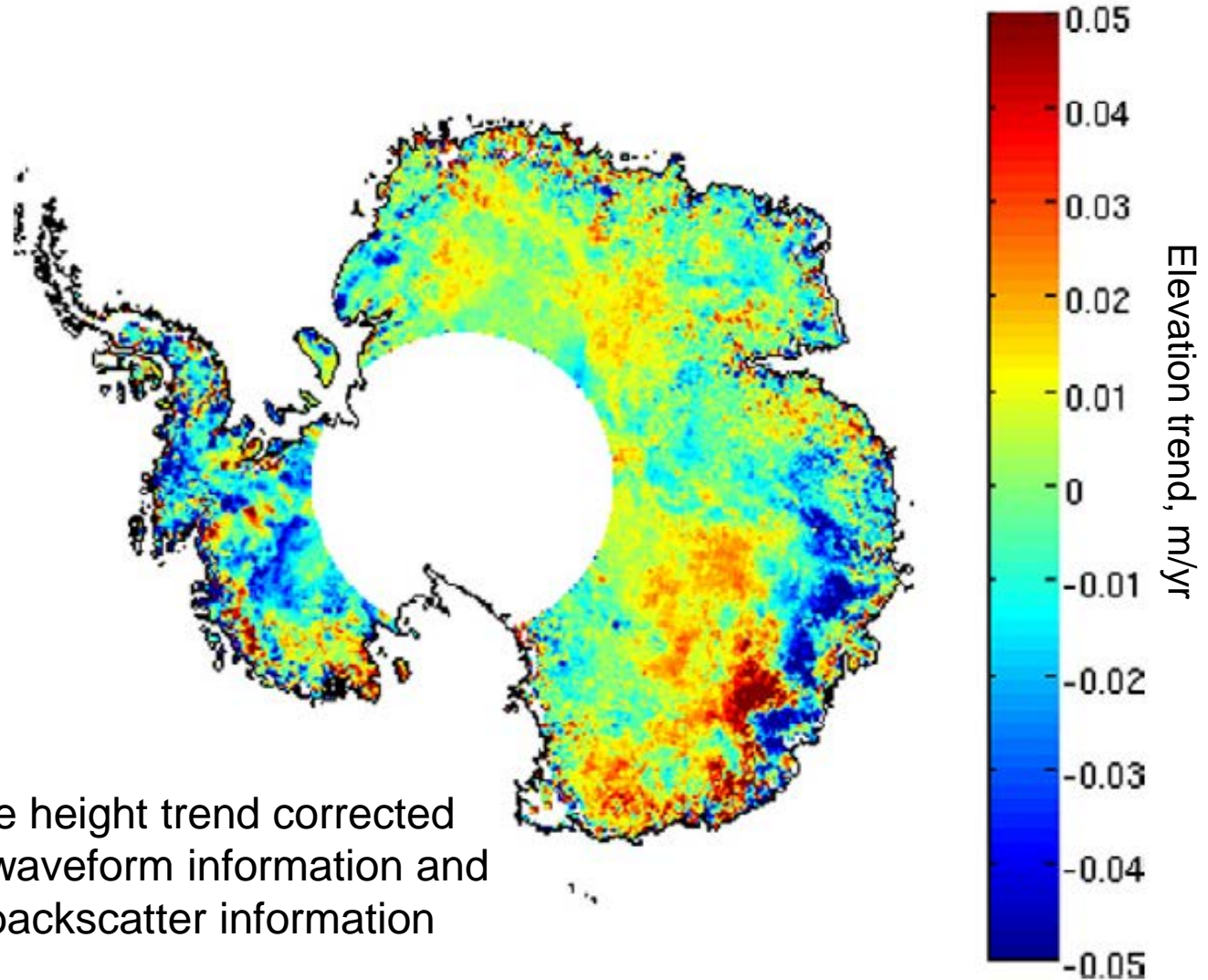


# Subglacial lake drainage



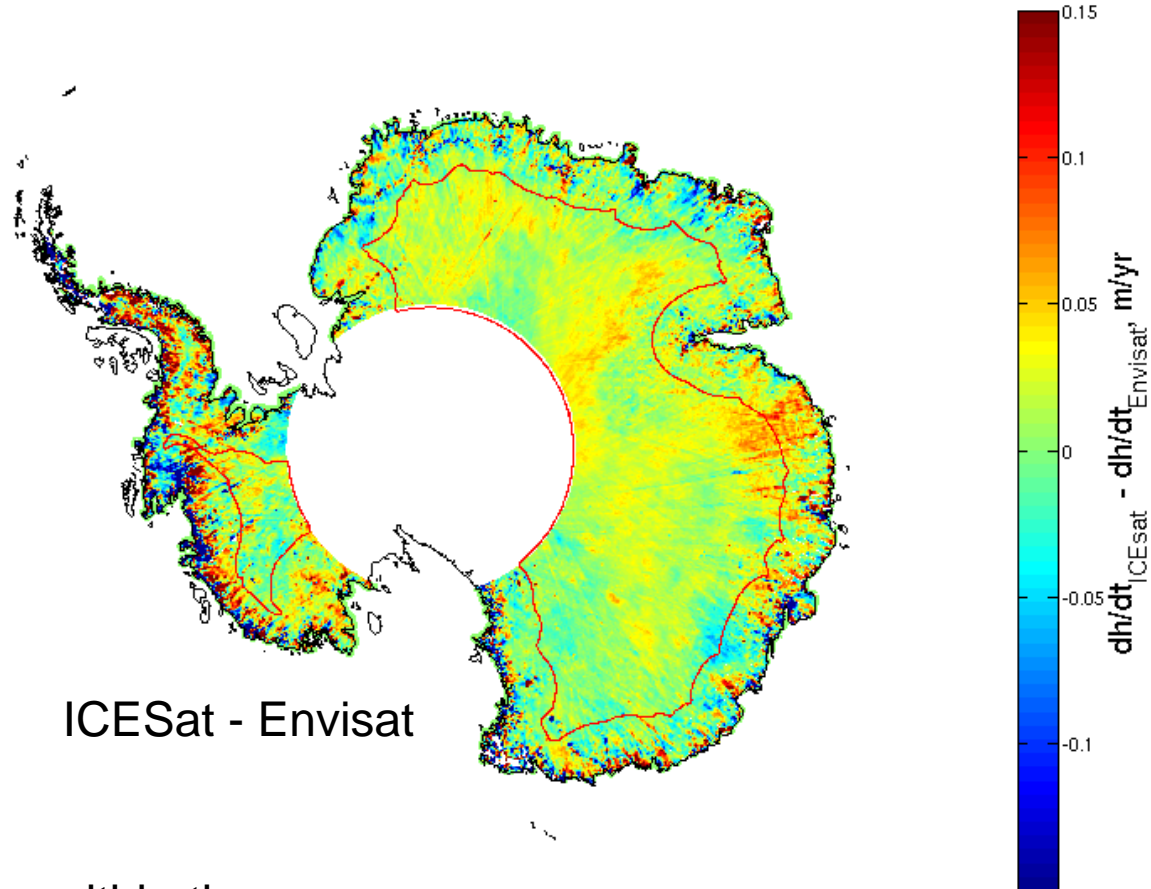
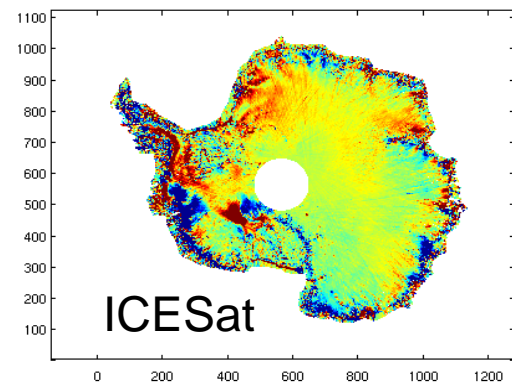
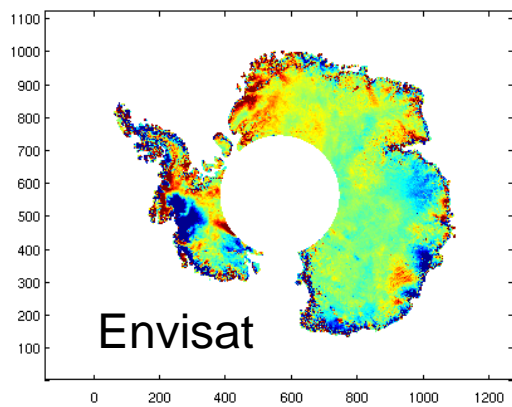
Chronology of the drainage of Lake CookE2 and the subsequent storage/release of water in downstream lakes

# Uncertainty quantification



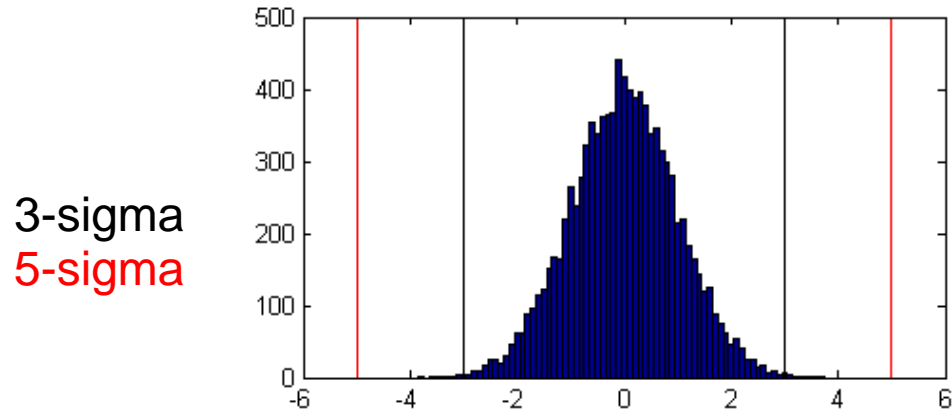
- Difference of the height trend corrected with the whole waveform information and with solely the backscatter information

# Uncertainty quantification



Volume trend difference within the red contour:  $\sim 70 \text{ km}^3/\text{yr}$   
i.e. area of  $4.5 \cdot 10^6 \text{ km}^2$  -> **average difference is 1.55 cm/yr.**

# Uncertainty quantification

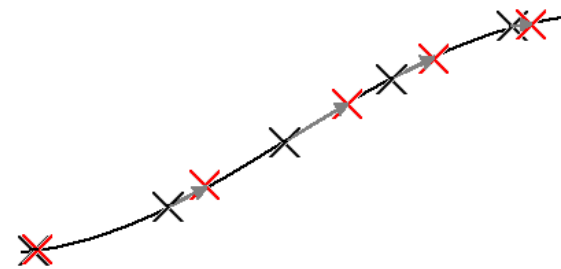


3-sigma  
5-sigma

Outlier elimination

Minimum of 130 “raw measurements”  
Less than 5m rmse after processing

Preselection



- × Points at nadir
- × Relocated points (at estimated Point Of Closest Approach)
- Shift

Relocation

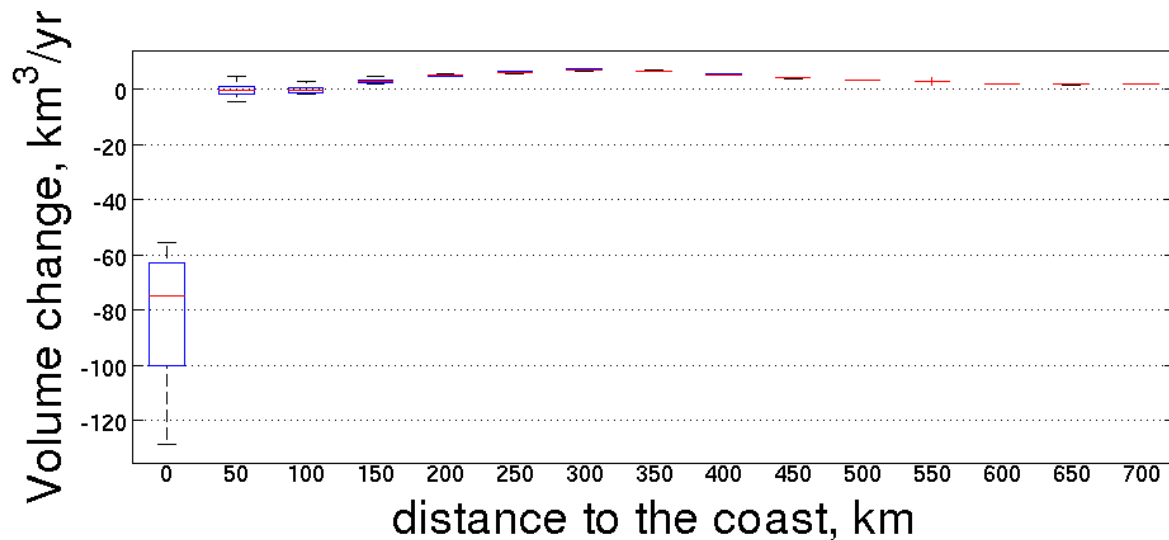
# Uncertainty quantification

Rejection crit.	3-sigma			5-sigma		
Search radius, km	15	25	35	15	25	35
Basic	-78	-62	-48	-95	-84	-75
Relocated	-92	-83	-70	-113	-104	-100
Preselected	-20	-16	-10	-21	-19	-13
Reloc. & presel.	-33	-29	-20	-33	-32	-24

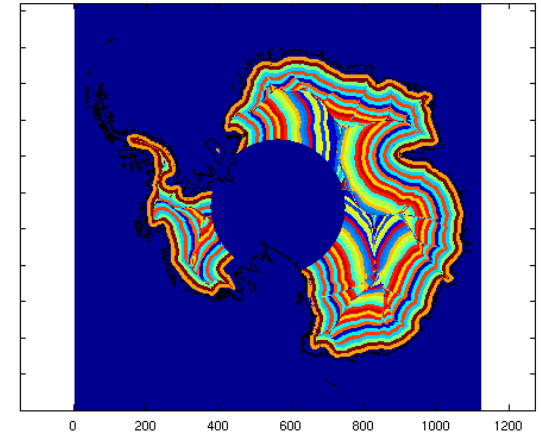
Antarctic Ice Sheet volume balance with different assumptions, km<sup>3</sup>/yr



# Uncertainty quantification

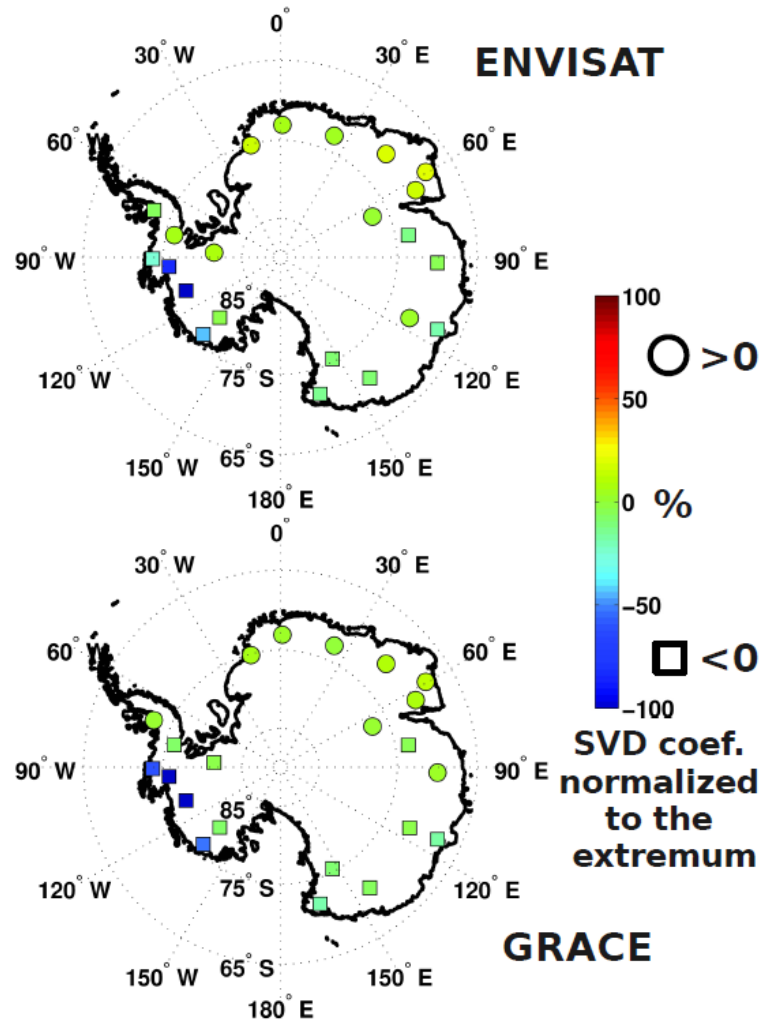
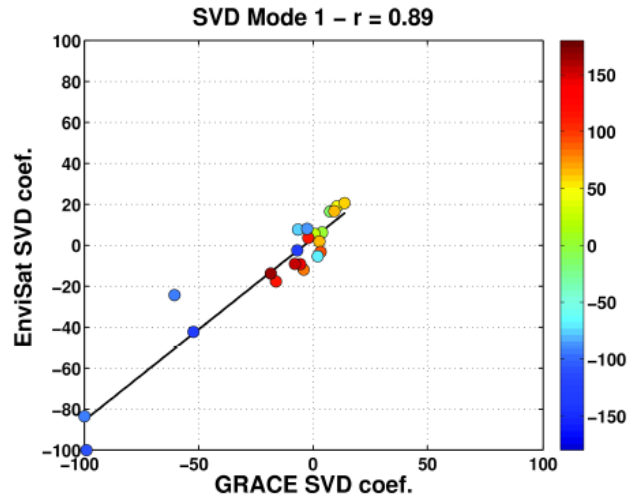
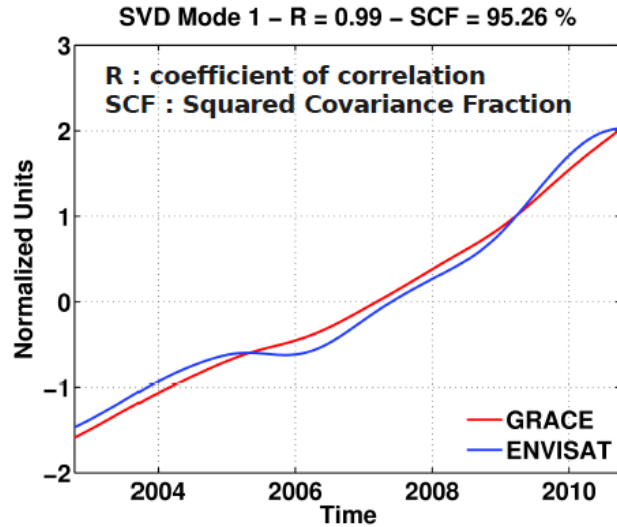


Box plot of volume change vs distance to the coast.  
Each distance bin is 50 km wide.



The Antarctic  
continent divided in  
50-km-wide stripes

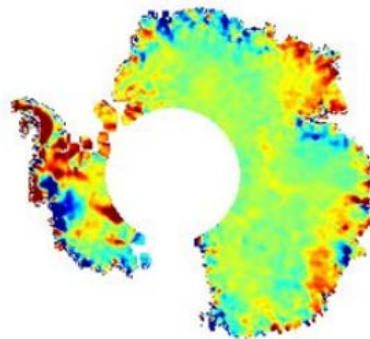
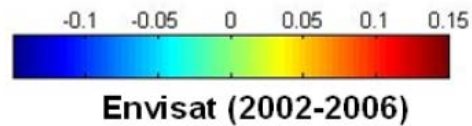
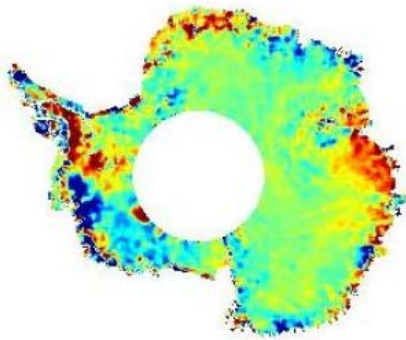
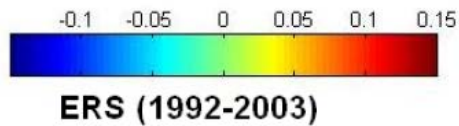
# Volume to mass : Effective density



\*SVD = Singular Values Decomposition

# Longer time series

- SARAL/AltiKa, follow-on to ERS and Envisat missions



Rémy and Parouty, 2009

