EVALUATION OF GEOSAT FOLLOW-ON PRECISE ORBIT EPHEMERIS

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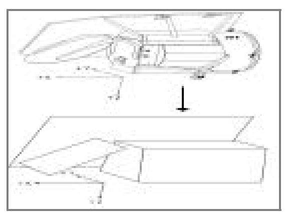
GFO data promises Poseidon-level accuracy with orbit the dominant error source. Given the sparse nature of SLR tracking and lower (800 km) altitude, achieving 5-cm SLR-based orbits are challenging, but possible.

Gravity and Macromodel tuned using SLR, Doppler, and altimeter crossover data

Macromodel surface force approximation



Acceleration due to radiation pressure on a flat plate:

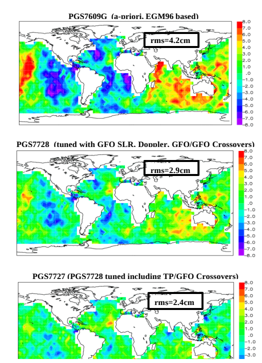
$$\Gamma = -\frac{\Phi A \cos q}{Mc}[2\,(d/3 + r\cos q)\,\mathbf{n} + (1-r)\,\mathbf{s}]$$

where

- Γ = acceleration (m/s^2)
- Φ = radiation flux from source
- A = surface area of flat plate (m^2) *
- θ = incidence angle (surface normal to sou rce)
- M = satellite mass (m)
- c = speed of light (m/s)
- d = diffuse reflectivity *
- r = specular reflectivity *
- **n** = surface normal unit vector
- **s** = source incidence unit vector

* are the adjustable macro model parameters

TP-GFO crossovers show geographically correlated GFO orbit error



Gravity Field Tests

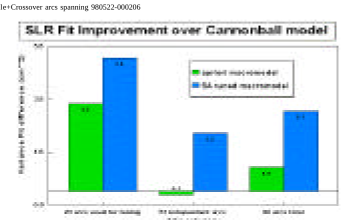
gravity field	radial orbit error projected from 70x70 gravity covariance (cm)	data RMS (cm) combined results over five 10-day arcs			
		TP crossover	TP/GFO crossover	GFO crossover	GFO SLR
JGM3	4.97	6.17	8.45	8.51	7.42
EGM96	2.61	6.14	7.71	8.27	6.97
PGS7609G [1]	2.61	6.16	7.74	8.26	6.75
PGS7728 [2]	1.66	6.14	7.17	7.68	5.64
PGS7727 [3]	1.31	6.13	7.02	7.59	5.53

1 PGS7609G = EGM96 + TDRSS tracking of GRO, XTE, TRMM, ERBS
2 PGS7727 = PGS7609G + GFO SLR/Doppler, GFO/GFO crossover
3 PGS7727 = PGS7609G + GFO SLR/Doppler, GFO/GFO crossover, TOPEX/GFO crossover

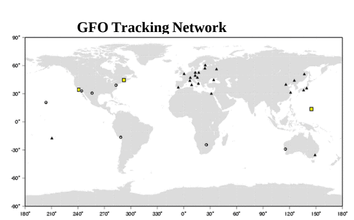
GFO Macro model Tuning

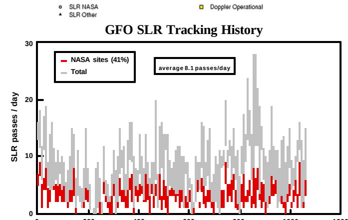
Spacecraft Surface Model	Solar Array (SA) Reflectivity Coefficient	SLR Fits Over 32 Dependant Arcs (cm)	SLR Fits Over 57 Independent Arcs (cm)	SLR Fits Over 80 Arcs Total [2] (cm)
Cannonball	----	13.23	12.88	12.99
A-priori macro model	.160	13.11	12.89	12.95
Tuned SA macro model [1]	.144	13.04	12.80	12.87

[1] Tuned using 23 SLR+Doppler and 8 SLR+Dopple+Crossover arcs spanning 980522-000206
[2] 80 consecutive arcs spanning 980422-990603



SLR and Altimeter crossover data are vital for GFO POD Accuracy

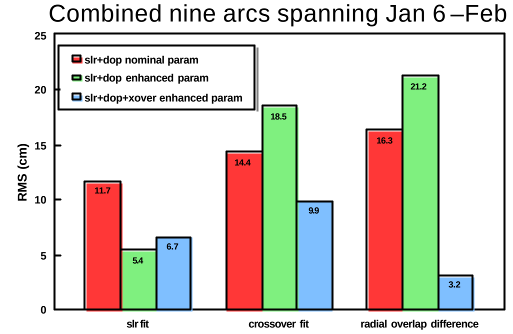




GFO Orbit Solution Strategies

nominal: 1drag/day, 1cpr/5day; enhanced: 3drag/day, 1cpr/1day

Combined nine arcs spanning Jan 6 –Feb 13 2000



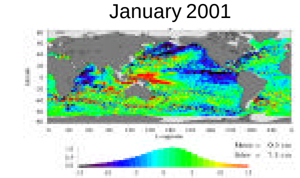
GFO POE orbit solutions use enhanced parameterization

Adjust GFO data to TOPEX frame

T/P-GFO altimeter crossover data is used to adjust GFO to the T/P frame removing GFO instrumental and POE orbit effects

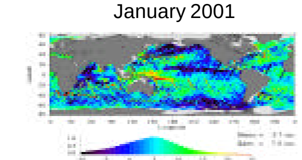
TOPEX SSH anomaly wrt GSFC MSS

January 2001



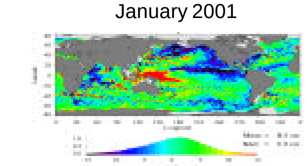
GFO SSH anomaly wrt GSFC MSS

January 2001



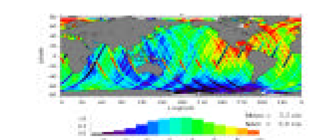
GFO SSH anomaly wrt GSFC MSS adjusted using TP-GFO crossovers

January 2001



GFO Correction

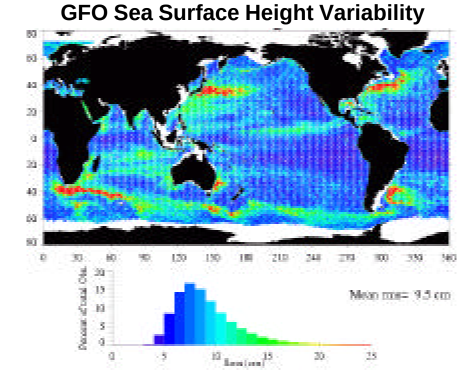
January 2001



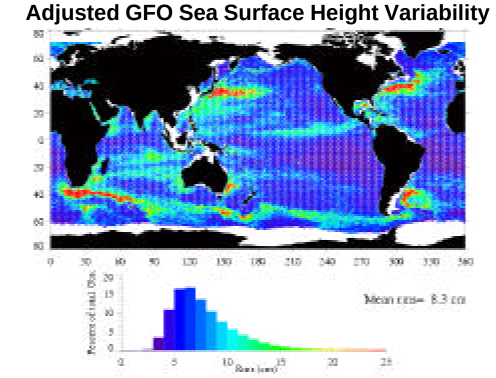
4-5 cm orbit error relative to T/P

GFO altimeter data available on the GDR appears to be of Poseidon quality

GFO Sea Surface Height Variability

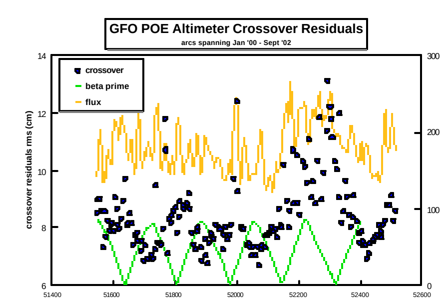


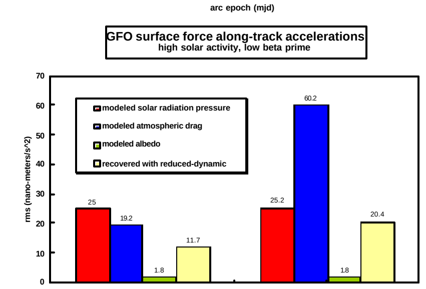
Adjusted GFO Sea Surface Height Variability

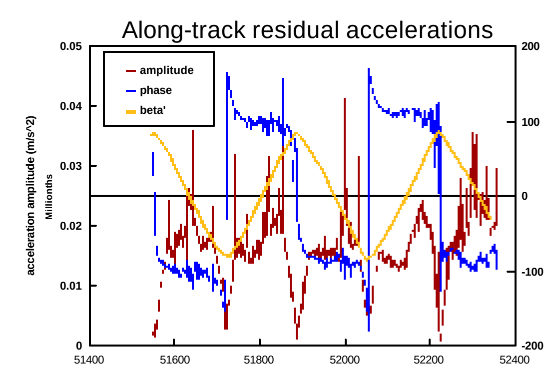


Orbit accuracy limited by non-conservative force models but can be improved using Reduced-Dynamic

GFO radial orbit error, estimated at 5-cm, is dominated by non-conservative forces, mostly solar radiation pressure, as indicated by the correlation with B'. Orbit error was seen to increase between 2001-2002 due to extremely high solar activity affecting atmospheric drag.







Reduced-Dynamic exponential adjustment constraint between acceleration parameters of a time series

$$W_{jk} = (e/s^2)\,e^{-(|T_j - T_k|/t)}$$

where

- W_{jk} = weight for constraint equation between two parameters, one at time T_j and the other at T_k
- σ = parameter sigma or process noise (user input)
- τ = correlation time (user input)
- e = Euler's number

Beta Prime Angle