



Implementation of the Sea-Level-Equation

Laura Balangé

laura.balange@web.de

Ice melting

The Arctic ice cap has lost 30% of its surface area in 30 years. The rate of loss has accelerated since 2002.



SOURCE: US National Snow and Ice Data Centre, 2007 / United Nations Environment Programme, Global Outlook for Ice & Snow, 2007

The Arctic is on fire

https://www.slideshare.net/AndersLindgren4u/whats-wrong-with-a-little-climate-change-2026882/49-Ice_meltingLakes_are_beginning_to

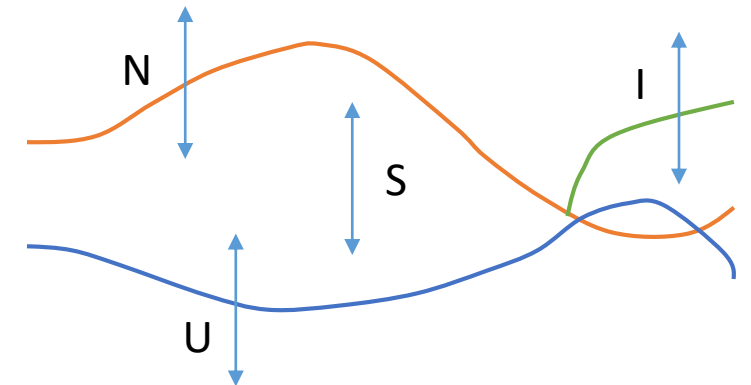
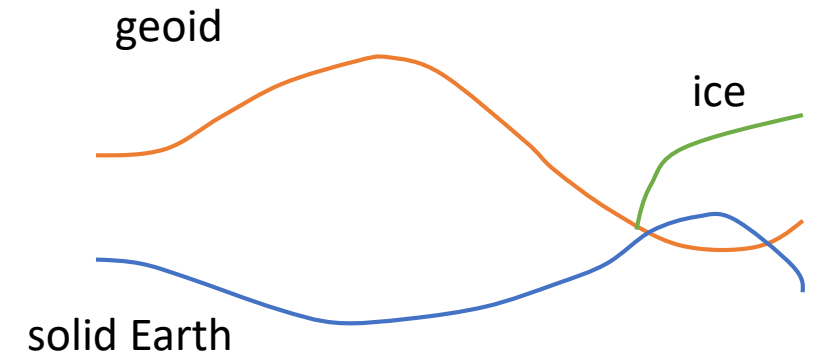
Definition of Sea-level

- Sea-Level is defined as difference between geoid and solid surface of the Earth
- Sea-Level change (S) is the difference between geoid variation (N) and vertical displacement of the solid Earth (U)

$$S = N - U$$

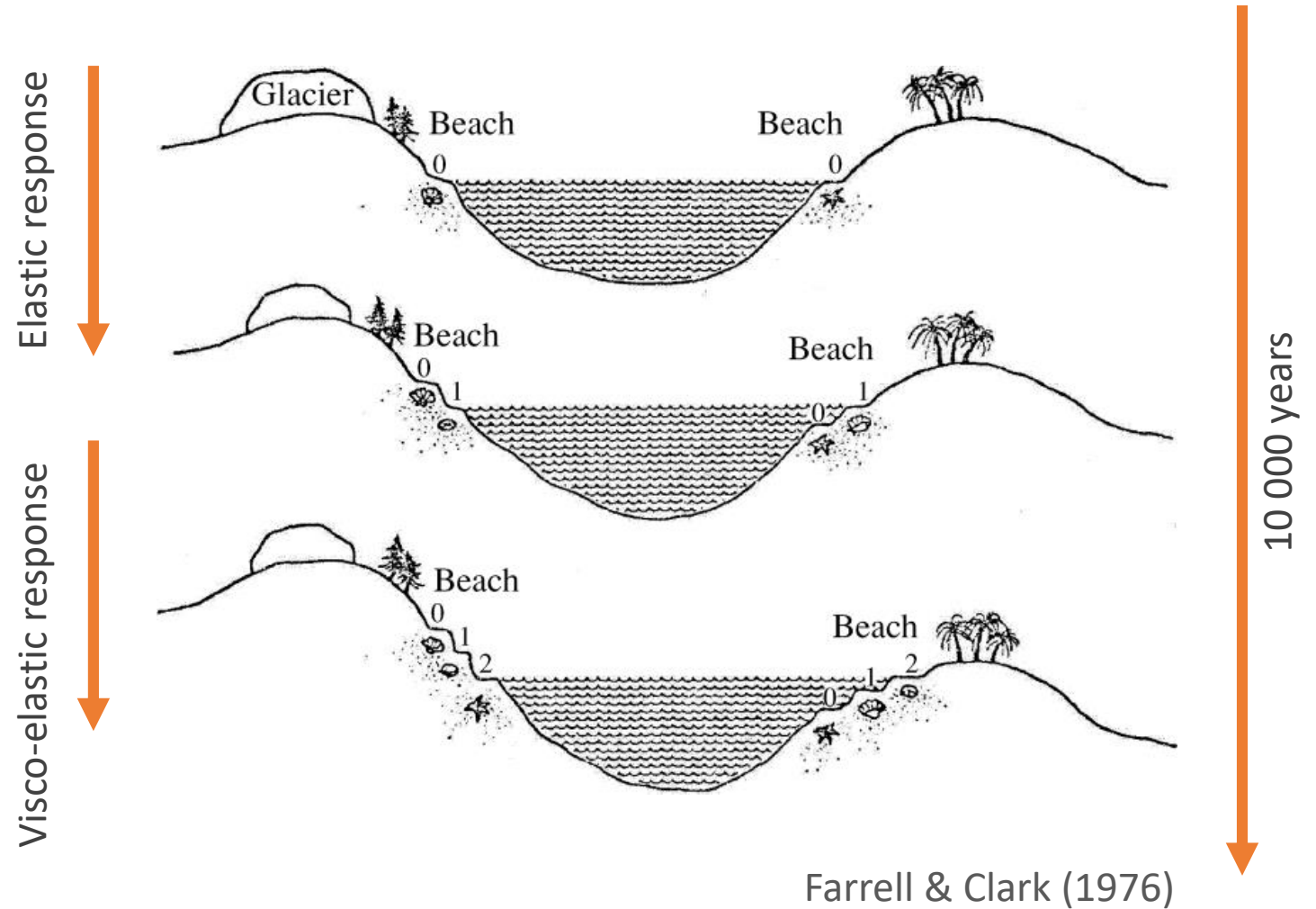
- Ice Thickness Variation

$$I = T(t_j) - T(t_{j+1})$$



Effects

- Deformation of the Earth
 - Elastic
 - Visco-elastic
- Rotation of the Earth
- Change of shorelines



Analytical Formulation of the Sea-Level Equation

- 2 main principles
 - Principle of mass conservation → mass of the melting Ice is equal to the mass of added water
 - Water is equipotential surface → before and after adding the water, the sea surface is an equipotential surface

- Use Bruns's formula to calculate geoid variation (N)

$$N = \frac{\Phi}{\gamma} + c$$

- Φ is the disturbing potential, γ is the normal gravity and c is the potential anomaly
- Disturbing potential induced: disturbing affect to water redistribution
- In the following:
 - Fixed shorelines
 - Spherical-symmetric non-rotating elastic Earth

Analytical Formulation of the Sea-Level Equation

- Sea-level change: $S = \frac{\Phi}{\gamma} + c - U$
- Determine constant $c \rightarrow$ use principle of mass conservation with mass of melting ice M_I and mass of water M_W

$$M_I + M_W = 0$$

$$M_I + \rho_W \int_0 S dA = M_I + \rho_W \int_0 (N - U) dA = M_I + \rho_W A_0 c + \rho_W \int_0 \left(\frac{\Phi}{\gamma} - U \right) dA = 0$$

$$c = -\frac{M_I}{\rho_W A_0} - \frac{1}{A_0} \int_0 \left(\frac{\Phi}{\gamma} - U \right) dA$$

Analytical Formulation of the Sea-Level Equation

- Using this the sea-level is given by

$$S = \frac{\Phi}{\gamma} - U - \frac{M_I}{\rho_W A_0} - \frac{1}{A_0} \int_0 \left(\frac{\Phi}{\gamma} - U \right) dA$$

- dA is the element of area on a sphere $dA = R^2 \cos \varphi d\varphi d\lambda$
- The eustatic sea level change is

$$S^E = -\frac{M_I}{\rho_W A_0}$$

- Can be used for a first guess \rightarrow sea level change is equal at all locations

Analytical Formulation of the Sea-Level Equation

- disturbing potential include gravitational potential of ice-load and water-load

$$v_{\text{load},I} = G\rho_I \iint \frac{I(\mathbf{x}')}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} dA$$

$$v_{\text{load},W} = G\rho_W \iint \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{x}') \frac{S(\mathbf{x}')}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|} dA$$

- Where \mathcal{O} is the ocean function

$$\mathcal{O}(\mathbf{x}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \mathbf{x} \in \text{oceans} \\ 0 & \text{if } \mathbf{x} \in \text{land} \end{cases}, \mathbf{x} \in \Omega$$

Analytical Formulation of the Sea-Level Equation

- Integral can be written as a convolution on the sphere using Green functions
- Structure of Sea-Level-Equation is analogous to Fredholm equation of second kind

$$u(x) = f(x) + \lambda \int_a^b K(x, x')u(x')dx'$$

- G_S is the sea level Green Function

$$\frac{G_S}{\gamma} = \frac{G_\Phi}{\gamma} - G_U$$

Analytical Formulation of the Sea-Level Equation

- Green function depends on load coefficients h and k
- As convolution it can be written as

$$\Phi = \rho_I G_\Phi \otimes_I I + \rho_W G_\Phi \otimes_O S$$

$$U = \rho_I G_U \otimes_I I + \rho_W G_U \otimes_O S$$

- Using a convolution expression the sea level equation is given by

$$S = \frac{\rho_i}{\gamma} G_S \otimes_i I + \frac{\rho_W}{\gamma} G_S \otimes_O S - \frac{M_I}{\rho_W A_O} - \frac{\rho_I}{\gamma} \overline{G_S \otimes_i I} - \frac{\rho_W}{\gamma} \overline{G_S \otimes_O S}$$

Numerical Formulation of the Sea-Level Equation (Pseudo-spectral approach)

- The unknown sea level change on both sides of the equation
- → iterative solution

$$\begin{aligned}
 S^0 &= S^E \\
 S^1 &= \frac{\rho_i}{\gamma} G_S \otimes_i I + \frac{\rho_W}{\gamma} G_S \otimes_o S^0 - \frac{M_I}{\rho_W A_0} - \frac{\rho_I}{\gamma} \overline{G_S \otimes_i I} - \frac{\rho_W}{\gamma} \overline{G_S \otimes_o S^0} \\
 S^2 &= \frac{\rho_i}{\gamma} G_S \otimes_i I + \frac{\rho_W}{\gamma} G_S \otimes_o S^1 - \frac{M_I}{\rho_W A_0} - \frac{\rho_I}{\gamma} \overline{G_S \otimes_i I} - \frac{\rho_W}{\gamma} \overline{G_S \otimes_o S^1} \\
 S^t &= \frac{\rho_i}{\gamma} G_S \otimes_i I + \frac{\rho_W}{\gamma} G_S \otimes_o S^{t-1} - \frac{\dots M_I}{\rho_W A_0} - \frac{\rho_I}{\gamma} \overline{G_S \otimes_i I} - \frac{\rho_W}{\gamma} \overline{G_S \otimes_o S^{t-1}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Numerical Formulation of the Sea-Level Equation (Pseudo-spectral approach)

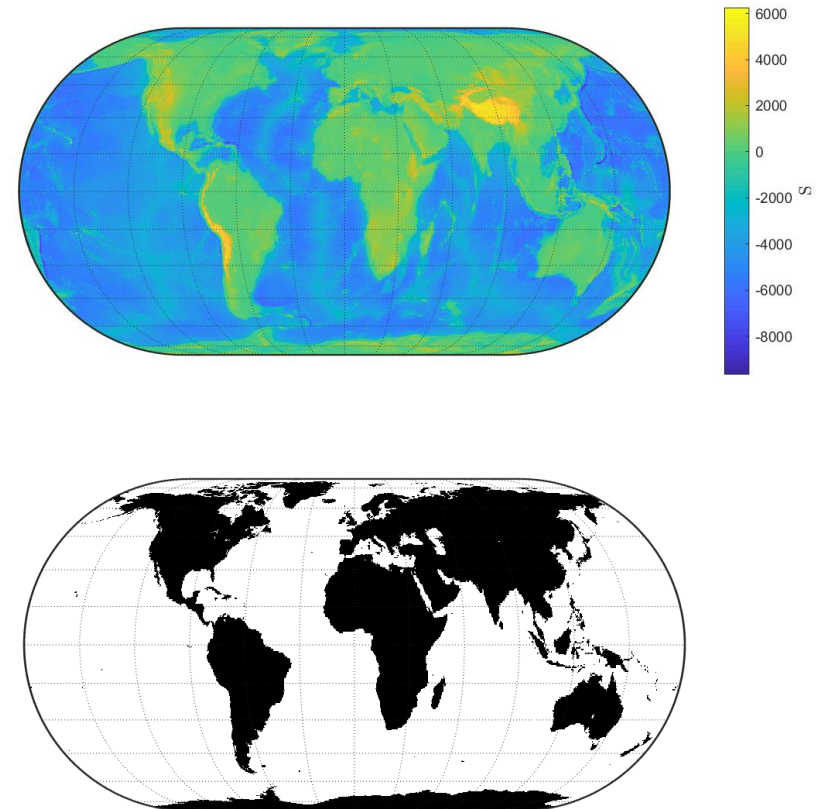
- For numerical formulation spherical harmonics are used
- Describe input field's of Ice, Ocean, Topography in spherical harmonic coefficients → using *SH-BUNDLE*
- Spherical harmonic expression of the Green functions

Implementation

- Implementation in Matlab
- 2 Algorithms are used
 - Mitrovica
 - Spada
- 0.5 degree grid resolution
- spherical harmonics up to degree $l_{\max} = 140$

Data

- Variation of Ice thickness → ICE-5G model
 - Global ice sheet reconstruction
 - 1 degree resolution
 - 21 000 years, every 500/ 1000 years
- Load coefficient (h_l, k_l) → PREM-Model
- Topography → ETOPO1 Model from NOAA
- Ocean-function → can be calculated from Topography



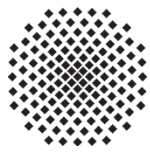
Some results



Conclusion and outlook

- Implement more effects for more realistic results
 - No fixed shorelines
 - Rotating Earth
 - Viscoelastic Earth model
- Estimate ice for future years

Thank you for your attention!



Implementation of the Sea-Level-Equation



Laura Balangé
Institute of Geodesy, University of Stuttgart

References

Farrell W.E. and Clark J.A. (1976), 'On postglacial sea level', *Geophysical Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society*, 46(3):647-667.

doi:10.1111/j.1365-246X.1976.tb01252.x.

Kendall R.A., Mitrovica J.X. and Milne G.A. (2005), 'On post-glacial sea level – ii. Numerical formulation and comparative results on spherically symmetric models', *Geophysical Journal International*, 161(3):679-706

doi:10.1111/j.1365-246X.2005.02553.x.

Mitrovica J.X. and Milne G.A. (2003), 'On post-glacial sea level –i. general theory', *Geophysical Journal International*, 154(2):253-267.

doi:10.1046/j.1365-246X.2003.01942.x.

Spada G. (2017) 'Glacial isostatic adjustment and contemporary sea level rise: An overview', *Surveys in Geophysics*, 38(1):153-185.

doi:10.1007/s10712-016-9379-x.

Wang H., Xiang L., Jia L., Jiang L., Wang Z., Hu B. and Gao P. (2012), 'Load love numbers and green's functions for elastic earth models prem, iasp91, ak135, and modified models with refined crustal structure from crust 2.0', *Computers & Science*, 49:190-199.

doi:10.1016/j.cageo.2012.06.022.