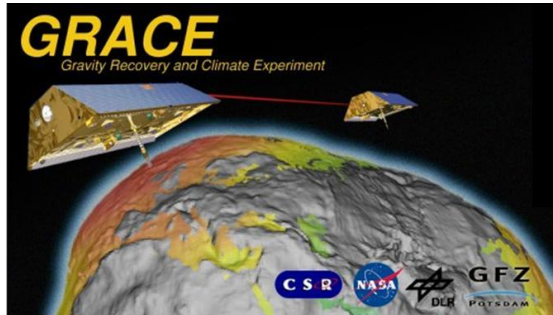


GRACE Science Data System Monthly Report

May 2015



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Highlights:

- No RL05 Level-2 products could be generated and delivered for May 2015 due to planned switch-offs of the GRACE-A and GRACE-B Microwave Assemblies (MWA) and Instrument Control Units (ICU) in order to reduce the load on the batteries (see also section Level-1 Data Processing).
- The new ECMWF IFS (Integrated Forecast System) cycle 41r1, introduced on 11 May 2015, does not affect dramatically the quality of the AOD1B RL05 products. However, as in January 2006 and January 2010, again jumps at locations with high elevations have been detected since the orography resolution in the new cycle has been increased. In contrast to earlier reported plans to correct these jumps already during AOD1B generation, GFZ has decided to stay with the old procedure within RL05 (a-posteriori correction with Level-2 products) and will modify this approach starting with RL06 which is planned for autumn next year. Therefore GFZ will provide shortly a Level-2 GAG product (similar to GAE and GAF, as described in the current AOD1B Product Description Document V4.3 (will be updated accordingly)) to allow land users to correct this jump a-posteriori.
- The next GRACE Science Team Meeting is scheduled for September 21-23, 2015 in Austin. Further information will follow on the GSTM website at CSR at <http://www.csr.utexas.edu/grace/GSTM/>.

Satellite Science Relevant Events:

- Operations in Science Mode throughout the month except for the periods highlighted in the L1B Data Processing section below.
- The actual mission status can be monitored at http://www.csr.utexas.edu/grace/operations/mission_status/.

- The GRACE-1 Brouwer mean orbital elements on May 31, 2015 00:00:00 are as follows:
A [m] = 6763499.942
E [-] = 0.000713
I [°] = 89.001499
- The satellites separation was 67.9 km on May 29, 2015 with a rate of 15.5 km/d. The next orbit maneuver (drift stop) will be needed June 11.

Level-0 raw data dump reception statistics at DLR ground stations Weilheim and Neustrelitz:

GRACE-A Housekeeping:	100.0 %	GRACE-B Housekeeping:	100.0 %
GRACE-A Science:	100.0 %	GRACE-B Science:	100.0 %

Level-1 Data Processing:

- Level-1B Release 02 instrument data have been processed at JPL and archived at GFZ ISDC and JPL PO.DAAC. Please refer to the statistics below.
- RL02 Notes:
 - On 2015-05-11 the GRACE-A and GRACE-B Microwave Assemblies were powered off at 07:05 and 07:27, respectively, in order to shed load on the batteries.
 - On 2015-05-11 an orbit manoeuvre has been executed on GRACE-B in order to accelerate the drift towards GRACE-A as initiation of a satellite switch. The satellite swap intends to save fuel on GRACE-B by staying on the better performing GRACE-B star camera for the second half of 2015. During the manoeuvre the two satellites had a minimum distance of 260 m on May 24. A drift stop manoeuvre followed by a 180 degree yaw turn of both satellites, planned for June 11, will finish the swap. GRACE-A will then become the leading satellite.
 - On 2015-05-13 at 06:36 UTC the GRACE-A and GRACE-B Instrument Control Units were powered off in order to shed load on the batteries.
 - KBR statistics:
 - A) KBR1B product name
 - B) Total arc length with data (hours)
 - C) Number of observations used in residual calculation
 - D) KBR-GPS range residual RMS (cm)
 - E) minimum KBR-GPS range residual (cm)
 - F) maximum KBR-GPS range residual (cm)

G) number of continuous segments in the KBR product

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
KBR1B_2015-05-01_X_02.dat	21.2	15315	0.59	-2.1	3.4	16	
KBR1B_2015-05-02_X_02.dat	20.4	14728	0.46	-1.8	1.9	16	
KBR1B_2015-05-03_X_02.dat	19.6	14133	0.56	-1.5	2.3	17	
KBR1B_2015-05-04_X_02.dat	19.3	13888	0.35	-1.1	1.3	16	
KBR1B_2015-05-05_X_02.dat	18.2	13118	0.52	-1.9	2.1	18	
KBR1B_2015-05-06_X_02.dat	18.0	12999	0.65	-4.5	1.9	17	
KBR1B_2015-05-07_X_02.dat	17.2	12373	0.60	-2.0	3.8	16	
KBR1B_2015-05-08_X_02.dat	16.8	12084	0.35	-1.5	1.4	16	
KBR1B_2015-05-09_X_02.dat	16.3	11725	0.44	-1.3	2.0	16	
KBR1B_2015-05-10_X_02.dat	15.1	10919	0.56	-2.5	1.8	17	
KBR1B_2015-05-11_X_02.dat	4.7	3420	0.72	-1.8	1.9	5	
KBR1B_2015-05-12_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	
KBR1B_2015-05-13_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	
KBR1B_2015-05-14_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	
KBR1B_2015-05-15_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	
KBR1B_2015-05-16_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	
KBR1B_2015-05-17_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	
KBR1B_2015-05-18_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	
KBR1B_2015-05-19_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	
KBR1B_2015-05-20_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	
KBR1B_2015-05-21_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	
KBR1B_2015-05-22_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	
KBR1B_2015-05-23_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	
KBR1B_2015-05-24_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	
KBR1B_2015-05-25_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	
KBR1B_2015-05-26_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	
KBR1B_2015-05-27_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	
KBR1B_2015-05-28_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	
KBR1B_2015-05-29_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	
KBR1B_2015-05-30_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	
KBR1B_2015-05-31_X_02.dat	0.0	0	0.00	0.0	0.0	0	

Following JPL RL02 L1B products are publicly available (green). June and July 2002 and June 2003 (red) are not provided due to accelerometer problems. For several months a significant number of Level-1 data is not available (blue): January and June 2011 (accelerometer data), May and October 2012, March and August 2013 (accelerometer and K-Band data), January and February 2014 (K-Band data), July 2014, December 2014 and May 2015 (accelerometer and K-Band data). RL00 and RL01 production has stopped with December 2004 and April 2012, respectively. See also corresponding newsletters.

[illegible]

2006	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2007	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2008	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2009	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2010	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2011	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2012	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2013	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2014	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2015	x	x	x	x	x	x						

Level-2 Product Generation and Distribution:

Besides historical RL00 till RL04 and GFZ's RL05 time-series (see below) the following RL05 L2 products are presently available to the public (green: available, yellow: in preparation; red: missing due to accelerometer data or accelerometer and K-band data problems):

- **GFZ RL05a:** GSM solutions are available for April 2002 until April 2015. Corresponding background GAA, GAB, GAC and GAD products and calibrated errors (GSM*.txt) have been provided too. **Products for June 2013 till July 2014 have been reprocessed and replaced in the archives (see August 2014 Newsletter).** Further details are listed in the GFZ L2 Release Notes.

GFZ RL05a	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2002												
2003												
2004												
2005												
2006												
2007												
2008												
2009												
2010												
2011												
2012												
2013												
2014												
2015												

Additionally to the standard monthly solutions, GFZ also provides weekly RL05a solutions (aligned to GPS weeks) which contain spherical harmonic coefficients complete up to degree and order 30. Currently, available weekly solutions cover the time span from 2003/01/05 till 2013/07/28. The weekly Level-2 products (GSM + GAX files) can be downloaded at ISDC and PO.DAAC. When making your request at the ISDC retrieval pages, please choose "GFZ Potsdam weekly" as "Processing Facility" to obtain these products. At the PO.DAAC archive, they can be found in the directory

“allData/grace/L2/GFZ/RL05_WEEKLY”. Weekly products can be identified by the string “GW30” instead of “G---“ in the product name.

- **CSR RL05:** GSM solutions for maximum degree and order 60 (incl. calibrated errors GSM*.txt) and 96 (except for January till March 2015) along with the GAC and GAD background model files are available for the period April 2002 until April 2015. **Products for June 2013 till July 2014 have been reprocessed and replaced in the archives (see August 2014 Newsletter).** Further details are listed in the CSR L2 Release Notes. Ongoing updates on CSR RL05 are provided at <http://www.csr.utexas.edu/grace/RL05.html>.

[illegible]

- **JPL RL05.1:** GSM solutions along with the GAA, GAB, GAC and GAD background model files and calibrated errors (GSM*.txt) are available for the period April 2002 until April 2015. Details are listed in the JPL L2 Release Notes. **For new release RL05.1 see also comments in the August 2014 Newsletter.**

[illegible]

- GFZ has stopped RL05 processing end of July 2013 (now substituted by RL05a). For further details see Newsletter October 2013.
- JPL has stopped RL05 processing end of June 2014 (now substituted by RL05.1). For further details see Newsletter August 2014.
- GFZ and CSR have stopped RL04 processing end of April 2012
- JPL has stopped RL04 processing end of January 2012
- GFZ has stopped RL03 processing (Feb 2003 until Jan 2007 available at the archives. For further details refer to the GFZ RL03 release notes for Level-2 products).
- CSR has stopped RL01 processing. (Apr. 2002 until Dec 2006 available at the archives. For further details refer to the CSR RL01 release notes for Level-2 products).
- JPL has stopped RL02 processing (January 2003 until November 2005 available at the archives. For further details refer to the JPL RL02 release notes for Level-2 products).
- TN05/TN07 containing C20 estimates derived from SLR and using GRACE RL04/RL05 standards is periodically updated.

Miscellaneous:

- The proceedings of the 2014 GRACE Science Team Meeting, which took place at GFZ in Potsdam between September 29 and October 1, are available at <http://www.gfz-potsdam.de/grace/gstm/gstm-2014>.
- Lecture material from the 2011 and 2014 summer schools of the DFG Special Priority Program "Mass transport and mass distribution in the system Earth" can be downloaded at www.massentransporte.de. Before using, please read the agreements on the cover page.
- The following acknowledgement shall be added to any new GRACE related publication (paper, poster etc.): *Acknowledgement: We would like to thank the German Space Operations Center (GSOC) of the German Aerospace Center (DLR) for providing continuously and nearly 100% of the raw telemetry data of the twin GRACE satellites.*
- A list of GRACE related publications which can be sorted by author or date is available at <http://www.gfz-potsdam.de/en/section/globalgeomonitoringandgravityfield/topics/development-operation-and-analysis-of-gravity-field-satellite-missions/grace/grace-related-publications/>, alternatively the list can be accessed via <http://www.gfz-potsdam.de/en/grace> and one further click on 'GRACE related publications' in the left column. The current status is 1335 papers. This list may be still incomplete. If you are missing a publication please send an e-mail to Frank Flechtner (flechtne@gfz-potsdam.de).
- Science data users are encouraged to submit citations of their own and other works related with GRACE to the bibliography web page implemented at PO.DAAC: <http://podaac.jpl.nasa.gov/grace/bibliography.html>.