

CRYOSAT-2 | MISSION STATUS & DATA PRODUCT UPDATES

Jérôme Bouffard - Tommaso Parrinello - Marco Meloni

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OUTCOMES



- Mission Status
- R&D Projects
- Data Quality Status
- Conclusions



MISSION STATUS



CONTEXT

Launched: 8 April 2010

Launcher: DNEPR from Baikonur Cosmodrome

Orbit: Altitude of 720km, near-circular not sun-synchronous, inclination 92° , repeating ground track every 369 days

Main Payload: SAR Interferometric Radar Altimeter (SIRAL) operating at 13.6 GHz (Ku band)

Mission Objectives: precise measurement of arctic sea-ice thickness and polar land ice elevation changes

Mission Management and Operations: ESRIN, ESOC

Mission Lifetime: 3.5 years (still in operations, consumables for another 5+, 2025+)

Other: CryoSat-2 follows CryoSat-1 launched in 2005



<https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/missions/cryosat>

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PRIMARY MISSION OBJECTIVES

SECONDARY OBJECTIVE

Open Polar Coastal *Ocean topography*



GLOBAL & REGIONAL MSL
TREND / CLIMATE (IPCC)

METEO (WAVE, WIND)

MESOSCALE , CROSS-
SHELF EXCHANGES &
IMPACTS

Sea Ice *Freeboard*



REGIONAL TRENDS &
SEASONAL VARIATIONS

THERMOHALINE
CIRCULATION

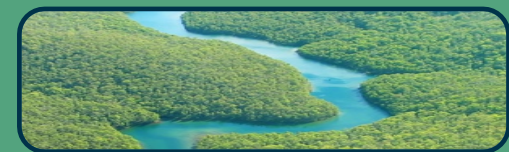
Land Ice *Ice Elevation*



ICE SHEET/CAPS/GLACIERS
THICKNESS VARIATIONS

CONTRIBUTION TO
GLOBAL & REGIONAL
SEA-LEVEL ...

River & Lake *Water Height*



VARIATION OF INLAND
WATER STORAGE

RIVER DISCHARGES AND
IMPACT ON COASTAL
ECOSYSTEM ...

INTERCONNECTED

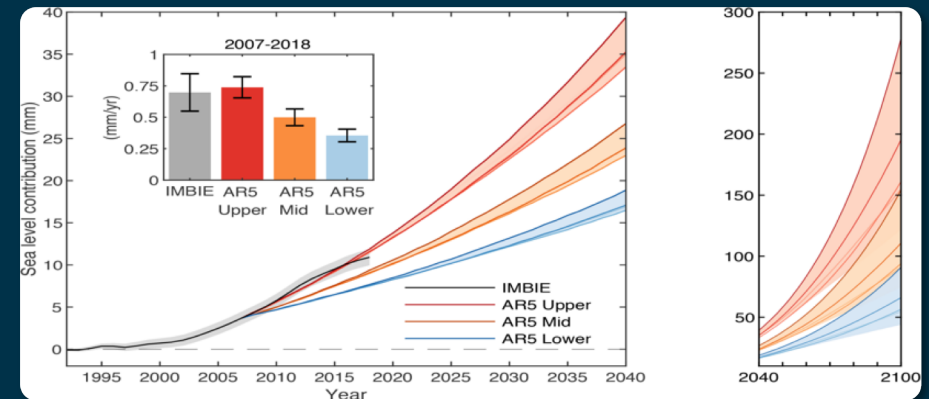
MISSION STATUS



SOME UPDATES

On the 8th April 2020, CryoSat celebrated **10 years in operations.**

One decade of high quality data to understand the cryosphere & hydrosphere with contributions to **key climate change indicators** and operational services



The overall performance of the mission remains in **excellent condition**, above design specifications.

All CryoSat lifetime critical items allow to continue operations **until end of 2022** for which, programmatic funds have just been confirmed

Root cause of the fuel leakage has been found. **Mitigation actions** under discussion

Products are continuously evolving taking into consideration new user requirements and innovative **R&D projects**

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MISSION STATUS



NEW CHALLENGES



Swath Processing

Assess time space variability of ice-sheet margins, glaciers and ice caps at high spatial resolution



Polar Oceanography

To assess mesoscale and large scale oceanic variations in Polar regions in support of climate and emerging operational services



Operations and Forecast

Assess the impact of product latency to support different operational and forecasting services



Cryosphere Meteorology

Assess the contribution to cryosphere meteorology: snow fall and melting on sea-ice and land-ice over Polar Regions



Antarctic Sea-ice

To demonstrate the capability of retrieving a sea-ice thickness in Antarctica oceans and other polar marginal zones



River and Lakes

To monitor Inland water, river discharge, Lake Volume variations at high spatial resolution

LONG-TERM RECORDS

To extend the current data record into the next decade and improve the current geophysical retrievals and explore the option of generating new dataset from innovative methods



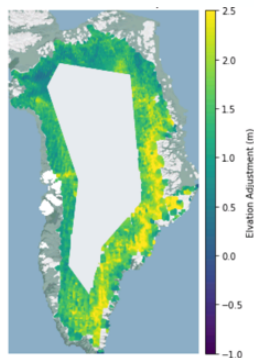
CRYOSURF

OBJECTIVES

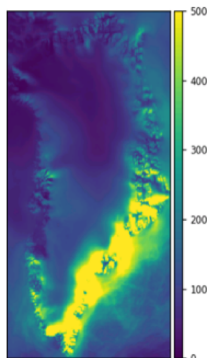
- Create a timeseries of maps of penetration of CryoSat-2 Swath land ice data into the snow
- Using CryoSat-2 elevation, NASA's OIB airborne Lidar & ICESAT2 together in a multi-layer NN

STATUS

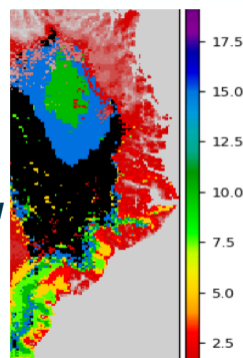
- KO on Q1 2020 | On going
- Data collections and set-up of Neural Network model for several regions of Greenland.



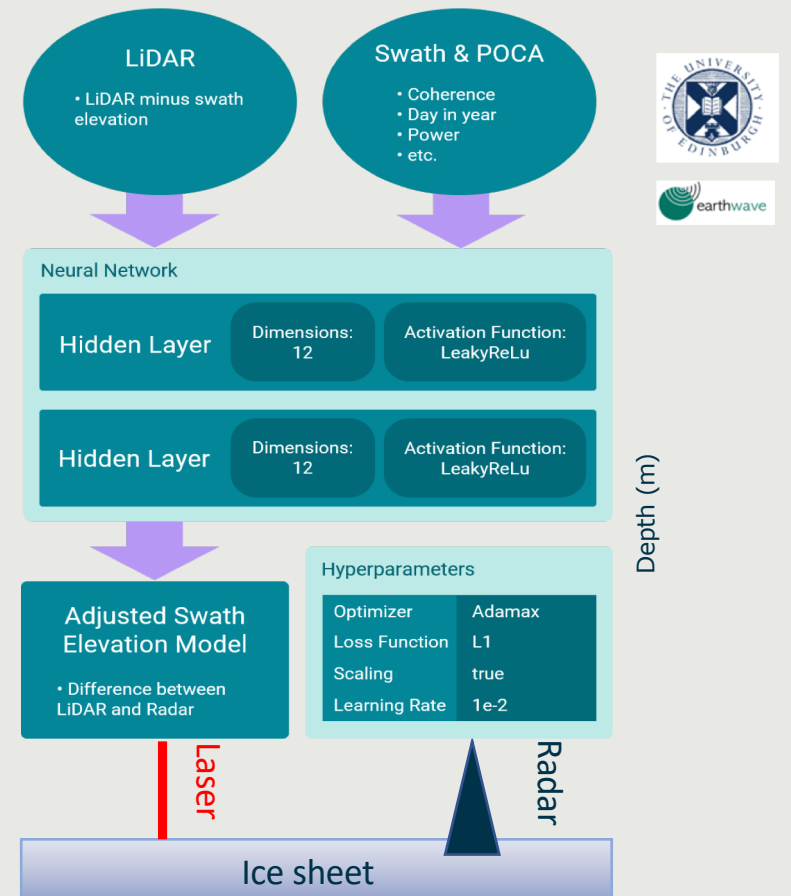
Model Elevation Adjustment for whole of Greenland, April 2015



Snowfall for 2015 (MAR model accumulated snowfall)



Depth of 500 kg/m³ density layer, April 2015 (from MAR, R01 - 18 layer snow density)



CRYO2ICE RESONNANT ORBIT

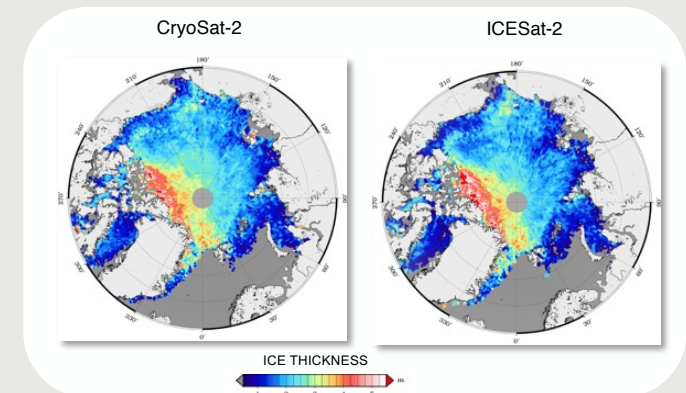
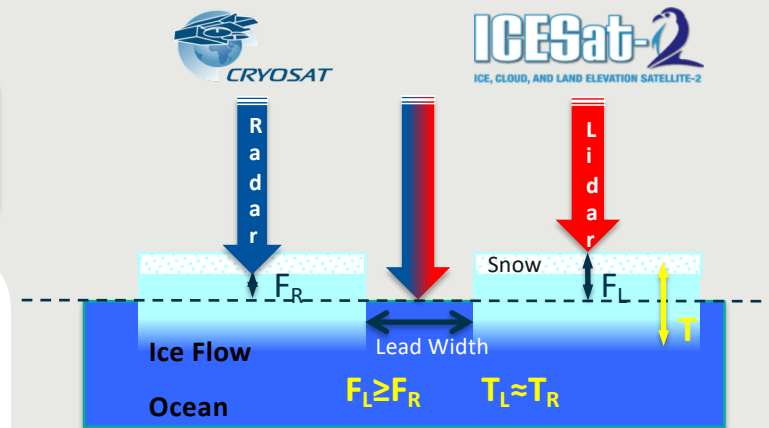
OBJECTIVE

- Unique (and probably unrepeatable) possibility to have coincident laser and altimeter data over polar areas which are key to understand climate change

- Derive snow depth, the largest source of uncertainty in retrieving sea ice thickness one of the most important climate indicators
- Understand the change in scattering horizons and different seasonal penetration seasonal on snow/firn/ice with laser and radar signals
- Review the ice sheet mass balance records (IMBIE, CCI) and improve climatology
- Better characterization of SSB, DOT and SSH and improved understanding of polar ocean circulation and (sub)mesoscale dynamics at high latitude

STATUS

- CryoSat-2 semi-major axis was raised by 900m between 16th & 31st of July 2020 with no major issues
- Next steps: dedicated calval campaigns, joint ESA/NASA sea-ice thickness product (TBC) and organise workshop



CRYOSAT+ ANTARCTIC

OBJECTIVES

- Exploring optimal altimetry SAR processing methods over the Antarctic Sea ice
- Generate experimental pan-Antarctic along-track + gridded products of sea ice thickness, ocean topography & geostrophic currents

STATUS

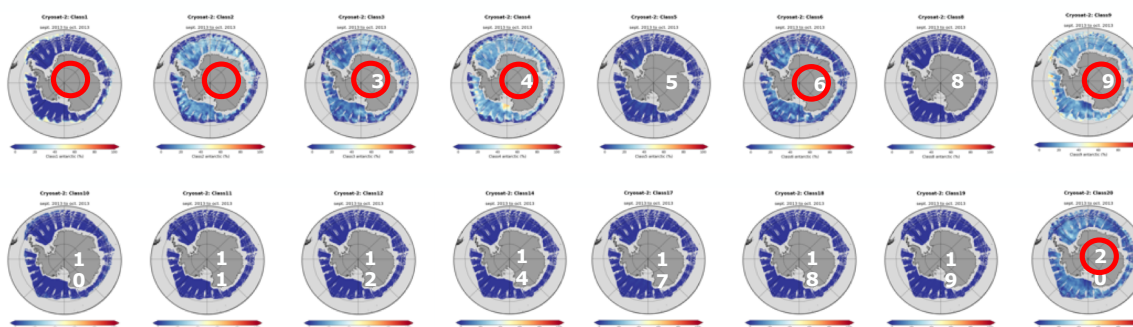
- KO on Q2 2019 | On going
- Consolidation of Baseline Requirements document
- Collection of all relevant data sets (space, airborne and in-situ) is on going



Regions	Science questions	Data availability CS2 challenges
Sea ice - Ocean edge	Up or Down-welling Jet formation AAIW formation	LRM/SAR boundary AVISO overlap
Weddell Sea	MYI formation AAIW formation Weddell Gyre Continental shelves	Thicker sea ice / snow Snow buoy data Flooding Snow-ice formation
Amundsen Sea	Thinning ice shelves Continental shelves Amundsen Sea Low	Tide gauges available Moorings available CS2 SAR validation
Ross Sea	Spin up / down of gyre AAIW formation Continental shelves Polynya Coastal currents	Tide gauges available Gliders deployed Geoid bias FYI AMSR2 / SANS
Indian/Pacific sector	ACC proximity Coastal current	Data paucity AVISO overlap Geoid bias
Weddell polynya	Unknown formation Upwelling location	Regular cruises SAR mode polynya

Science questions & technical Challenges

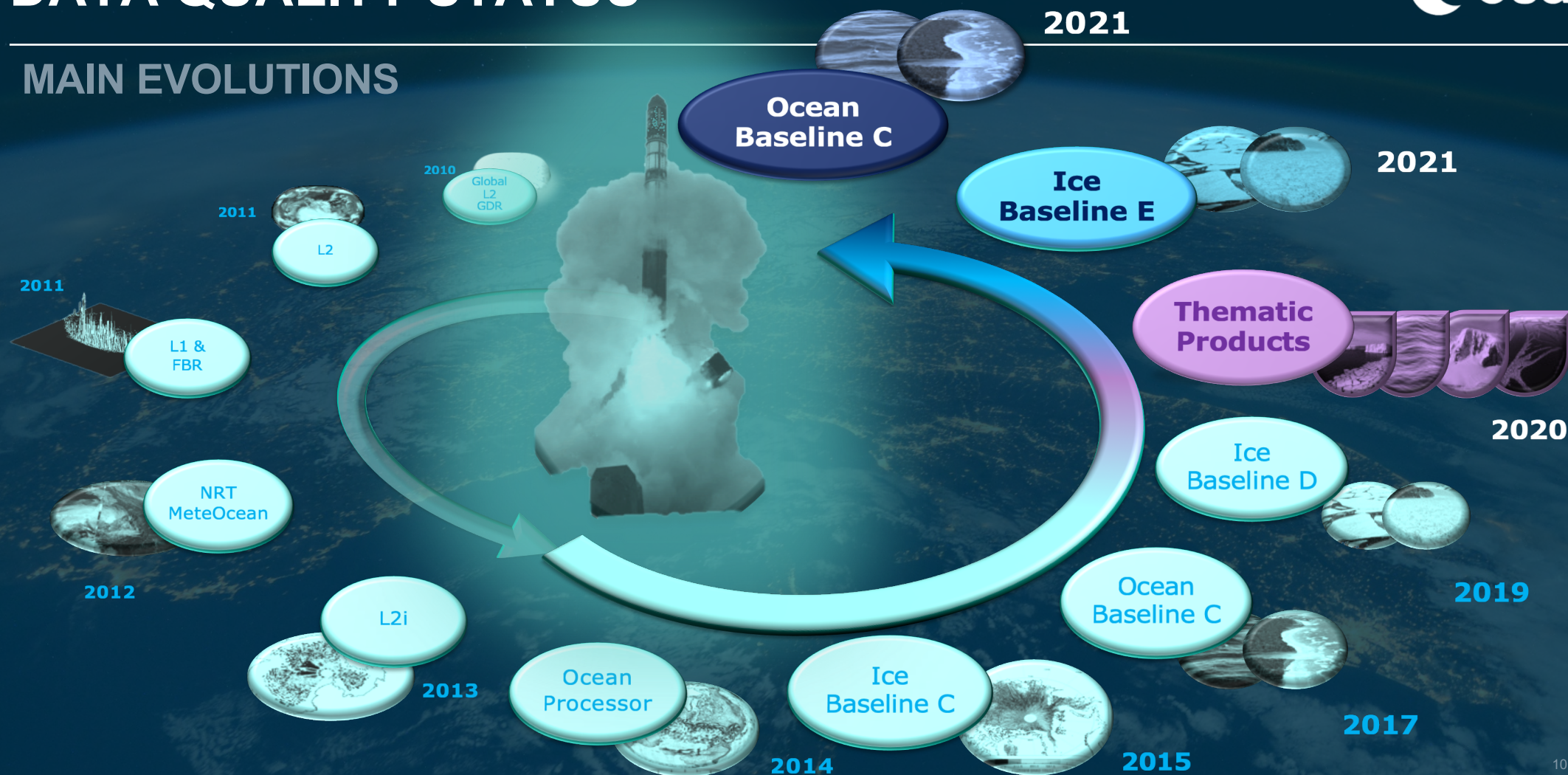
Example of Neural Network waveform classification



DATA QUALITY STATUS



MAIN EVOLUTIONS



DATA QUALITY STATUS



Long term records
Operations



ESA LEVEL-1 AND LEVEL2 PRODUCTS

OBJECTIVES

- Extend the current data record into the next decade & improve the current geophysical retrievals.
- Assess the impact of products latency to support operational and forecasting services.

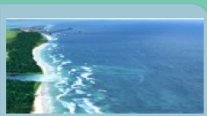
STATUS

- Ocean Baseline-C since April 2017 | Re-processing complete. Baseline D* planed for Q4 2021
- Ice Baseline-D since May 2019 | Re-processing completed. Baseline E planed for Q3 2021.
- New NRT chain (since August 2019): Support to forecasting services in polar regions.



*See Meloni, M., Bouffard, J., Parrinello, T., Dawson, G., Garnier, F., Helm, V., Di Bella, A., Hendricks, S., Ricker, R., Webb, E., Wright, B., Nielsen, K., Lee, S., Passaro, M., Scagliola, M., Simonsen, S. B., Sandberg Sørensen, L., Brockley, D., Baker, S., Fleury, S., Bamber, J., Maestri, L., Skourup, H., Forsberg, R., and Mizzi, L.: CryoSat Ice Baseline-D validation and evolutions, *The Cryosphere*, 14, 1889–1907, <https://doi.org/10.5194/tc-14-1889-2020>, 2020.

NEW (!) CRYO-TEMPO



- Generate operationally products in the areas of sea ice, polar oceans, land ice, coastal and hydrology.



- Project KO on October 2020. (Prime : Lancaster University)
- Operational production planed on Q3 2021

OBJECTIVES

STATUS



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DATA QUALITY STATUS



Swath Processing

SEE
ALSO

CRYOSAT+ MOUNTAIN GLACIERS
PROJECT (<http://www.cryosat-mtg.org/>)



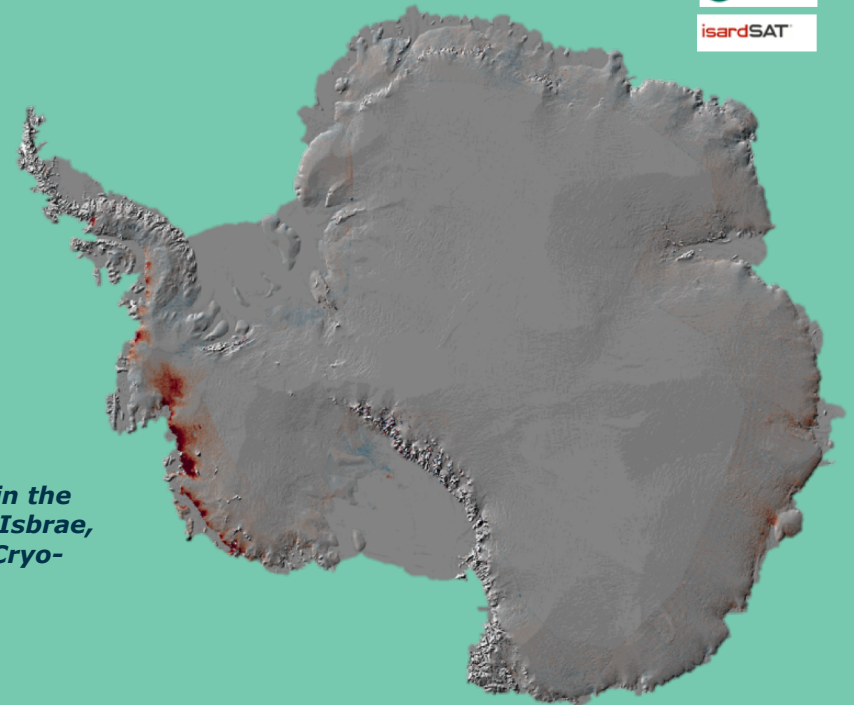
CRYO-TEMPO EOLIS

OBJECTIVES

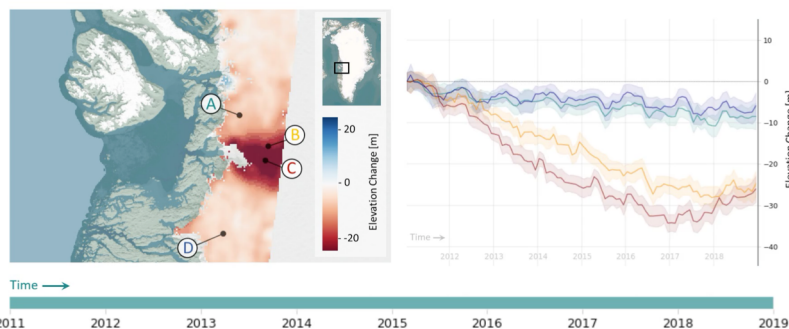
- Generate operational CryoSat swath and gridded Elevation products over Ice Sheets and Glaciers
- Heritage from ESA R&D CryoTop projects

STATUS

- KO on Q3 2019 | On going
- The entirety of the Greenland, data back to 2010, is now processed and available since July.
- CryoTEMPO-EOLIS has been extended to cover Antarctica.



Ice thickness change in the region of Jakobshavn Isbrae, Greenland Ice sheet. Cryo-TEMPO EOLIS data



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CONCLUSIONS



CryoSat is in **GOOD SHAPE**. There were no technically limiting factors or programmatic constraints that has restrict its extension until **2022**

The quality of CryoSat ice and ocean data is excellent and allows to fully achieve the mission objectives and **LARGELY BEYOND** ...

CryoSat is a flying laboratory and key component for cooperation (**ICESAT-2**) and the development of future missions (**CRISTAL**).

Additional R&D studies & CAL/VAL campaigns planed to tackle **NEW SCIENCE CHALLENGE** and support the development of improved data products