GRACE

Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment

GPS

Global Positioning System

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Ice loss versus uplift: Current mass balance in Asian high mountains from satellite gravimetry

Interdisciplinary study on the 3rd pole

Related fields:

Glaciology (mass balance of mountain glacior) Geodesy (time-variable gravity, crustal movement) Tectonics (orogeny) Geodynamics (glacial isostatic adjustment) Climatology (global warming)



From Nature, Vol.454, page 393

Mountain glacier

2/3 of the glacier RAVITY may disappear b PRAVITY

CHANGES OVER

Climate change is coming fast and furious to the Tibetan plateau. Jane Qiu reports on the changes atop the roof of the world,

FHE THIRD POLE

It's not only ice ...







Mantle

Orogeny does not increase gravity, but GIA does.

Glacial Isostatic Adjustment in northern Europe





A large ice sheet might have been on the 3rd pole ...

Last glacial maximum

9,000 yrs ago

TIBET-4 GIA model (Kaufmann, J. Geodyn., 2005)

Area of mountain glaciers (Meier, 1984) But, they are not necessarily melting.



Meier's (1984) rule of thumb: More seasonal change = More secular change



Annual volume change of mountain glaciers Area × Annual thickness change, after Meier (1984)

1. Alaska 2. HM Asia 3. Patagonia 150 -0.4 GRACE Alaska • Field Obs. 130.0 (Gt/year) HM Asia Patagonia Svalbard (1961-2003) km³/yr 0 0.0 100 200 0 Annual volume change (km³)

Glaciers in the Asian High Mountains

Total :116,180 km²Himalaya :33,050 km²Karakoram :16,600 km²Tienshan :15,417 km²Pamir :12,260 km²Kunlun :12,260 km²Nyaingentanghla : 7,536 km²Hindukush :5,900 km²

(Dyurgerov & Meier, 2005)





Glaciers fed by summer snows are more sensitive to warming (Fujita & Ageta, J. Glaciol., 2000)



Trend in gravity (2002-2008: epoch 2006.5)



2003-2009 average trends show decreases



 $\Delta \sigma \left(\theta, \phi \right) = \frac{R \rho_{ave}}{3} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{n} \frac{2n+1}{1+k_n} \left(\Delta C_{nm} \cos m\phi + \Delta S_{nm} \sin m\phi \right) P_{nm}(\sin \theta)$

From Stokes' coefficients to surface mass distribution [Wahr et al., 1998]







+ Groundwater loss in northern India 10 Gt/yr





Punjab produces 13 per cent of the total rice, 22 per cent of the total wheat and 13 per cent of total cotton output of India. State's cropping intensity is as high as 189 per cent. But state's agriculture preeminence is threatened by groundwater depletion and soil erosion. It is estimated that of the total 141 blocks in the state, 100 are facing critical groundwater depletion.





Crustal uplift in HM Asia





R. A. Spicer et al., Constant elevation of southern Tibet over the past 15 million years, Nature, 421, 622 (2003)

D.B. Rowley, B.S. Currie, Palaeo-altimetry of the late Eocene to Miocene Lunpola basin, central Tibet, Nature, 439, 677 (2006). Uplift due to GIA? Then, gravity change should be corrected.



Ice loss estimated after GIA correction



Ice melting rate of the three major glacial systems

Alaska

-110±30 Gt/yr (Tamisiea et al., 2005) -101±22 Gt/yr (Chen et al., 2006)

HM Asia (This study) -47±13 Gt/yr 0.13 mm/yr as Sea Level Rise

Patagonia (Chen et al., 2007)

-28±11 Gt/yr



Worldwide

 -266 ± 34 Gt/yr 0.74 mm/yr as Sea Level Rise

Glacial contribution: ~0.74 mm/yr

Sea Level Rise

IPCC Archive 4 WG-1 Chapter 5 (Bindoff et al., 2007)







Summary

- 1. Gravity decrease in HM Asia from GRACE Highly variable in time and space
- 2. Worldwide acceleration of glacial melting Alaska > HM Asia (47Gt/yr) > Patagonia
- Does crustal uplift contribute to ∆g?
 More melting (61 Gt/yr) if GIA goes on
- 4. Glacial contribution to SLR (~0.74 mm/yr) Consistent with IPCC report (~0.77 mm/yr)

Thank you for your attention