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**CitcomSVE-3.0: A Three-dimensional Finite Element Software Package for Modeling
Load-induced Deformation and Glacial Isostatic Adjustment for an Earth with Viscoelastic
and Compressible Mantle**

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31 **Abstract.** Earth and other terrestrial and icy planetary bodies deform visco-elastically under various forces.
32 Numerical modeling plays a critical role in understanding the nature of various dynamic deformation
33 processes. This article introduces a newly developed, open-source package, CitcomSVE-3.0, which
34 efficiently solves the visco-elastic deformation of planetary bodies. Based on its predecessor, CitcomSVE-
35 2.1, CitcomSVE-3.0 is updated to account for 3-D elastic compressibility and depth-dependent density,
36 which are particularly important in modeling horizontal displacement for visco-elastic deformation. We
37 benchmark CitcomSVE-3.0 against a semi-analytical code for two types of ~~surface~~-loading problems: 1)
38 single harmonic loads on the surface or as tidal force and 2) the glacial isostatic adjustment (GIA) problem
39 with a realistic ice sheet loading history (ICE-6G_D), ~~in which~~ and an updated version of sea level
40 equations ~~is incorporated~~. The benchmark results presented here demonstrate the accuracy and efficiency
41 of this package. CitcomSVE shows a second-order accuracy in terms of spatial resolution. For a typical
42 GIA modeling with 122-ky glaciation-deglaciation history, surface horizontal resolution of ~50 km, and
43 time increment of 125 yr, it takes ~ 3 hours on 384 CPU cores to complete with less than 5% errors in
44 displacement rates.

45

46 **1. Introduction**

47 Observations and interpretations of solid Earth's displacement and deformation in response to
48 surface loadings and tidal forcing are essential in geoscience for at least three important reasons. First,
49 deglaciation on continents and sea level rise as surface loading processes cause uplifts in glaciated
50 continental regions and subsidence of sea floor, respectively. The amount of sea level rise during the
51 deglaciation process critically depends on solid-Earth's response to such surface loading processes
52 (Mitrovica et al., 2001; Peltier, 1998). Second, the dynamics and stability of ice sheets depend significantly
53 on the uplift rate of the underlying bedrock as ice sheets melt (Gomez et al., 2018). This process may play
54 an important role in assessing the fate of West Antarctica ice sheets that have been losing their mass at an
55 alarming rate. Third, modeling solid-Earth's response to surface loading and comparing the model
56 predictions with relevant observations (e.g., deglaciation-induced sea level change and crustal
57 displacements) is the primary way to infer mantle viscosity and rheology (Lambeck et al., 2017; Milne et
58 al., 2001; Peltier et al., 2015) which is essential to studies of mantle dynamics and Earth's evolution (Zhong
59 et al., 2007).

60 The solid Earth's response to forcing is determined by solving the equations of motion with relevant
61 rheological properties of the mantle and crust. Under the assumption of spherical symmetry in elasticity
62 and viscosity structure (i.e., only 1-D or radial dependence), analytical solutions to the equations of motion
63 are available in spectral or normal mode domains for the displacement, strain and stress (Longman, 1963;
64 Takeuchi, 1950; Wu and Peltier, 1982). However, the Earth's mantle structure has significant lateral
65 variations as demonstrated by seismic imaging studies on both global (Ritsema et al., 2011; French and
66 Romanowicz, 2015; Tromp, 2020) and regional (e.g., Lloyd et al., 2020) scales. Because of the large
67 sensitivity of mantle viscosity to temperature, lateral variations in mantle viscosity are expected to exceed
68 several orders of magnitude (e.g., Paulson et al., 2005; Ivins et al., 2023). For the mantle with fully 3-D
69 elastic and viscosity structures, numerical solution methods are required to solve the equations of motion.
70 The necessity for numerical solution methods has become increasingly more evident as more observations

71 of higher quality (e.g., Bevis et al., 2012) become available to place constraints on the models. In recent
72 years, numerous numerical methods have been developed, including a spectral-finite element (Martinec,
73 2000; Klemann et al., 2008; [Tanaka et al., 2011](#); Bagge et al., 2021), finite element (Zhong et al., 2003,
74 2022; ~~A et al., 2013~~; Paulson et al., 2005); [A et al., 2013](#); Wu, 2004; Huang et al., 2023; [Weerdesteijn et](#)
75 [al., 2023](#)), and finite volume (Latychev et al., 2005); ~~and coupled spectral finite element (Wu, 2004; Van~~
76 ~~Der Wal et al., 2013; Huang et al., 2023)~~ methods. [Some of them \(Bagge et al., 2021; Klemann et al., 2008;](#)
77 [Martinec, 2000; Paulson et al., 2005; Weerdesteijn et al., 2023; Wu, 2004; Zhong et al., 2003, 2022\)](#)
78 [assumed an incompressible rheology in their models while others included the compressibility.](#)

79 The CitcomSVE package is a finite element modeling package for solving load-induced
80 viscoelastic deformation problems in a 3-D spherical shell, a spherical wedge or a Cartesian domain.
81 CitcomSVE solves the sea level equation and incorporates the effects of polar wander and apparent motion
82 of ~~the~~ center of the mass (Zhong et al., 2003, 2022; A et al., 2013; Paulson et al., 2005). CitcomSVE works
83 for 3-D viscoelastic mantle structures with either linear or non-linear viscosity. It works efficiently on
84 massively parallel computers (>6,000 CPU cores), making it feasible for routine high-resolution GIA
85 modeling calculations (~30 km horizontal resolution on the Earth's surface and ~10 km vertical resolution
86 in the upper mantle). CitcomSVE, developed over the last two decades, has been used in GIA studies for
87 both the incompressible (Zhong et al., 2003, 2022) and compressible (A et al., 2013) mantle with
88 temperature- (Paulson et al., 2005) and stress-dependent viscosity (Kang et al., 2022), and in tidal
89 deformation studies for the Moon (Zhong et al., 2012; Qin et al., 2014; Fienga et al., 2024). CitcomSVE
90 was built from the mantle convection modeling package CitcomS (Zhong et al., 2000, 2008) by replacing
91 viscous rheology and Eulerian formulation in CitcomS with viscoelastic rheology and Lagrangian
92 formulation, respectively (Zhong et al., 2003, 2022), [and they share many common features including the](#)
93 [grid. The spherical shell of the mantle is divided into 12 caps of similar size, and each cap is further divided](#)
94 [into a grid of cells \(i.e., elements\) of similar size with eight displacement nodes per element \(Zhong et al.,](#)
95 [2000; 2008; 2022\).](#) This design of finite element grid is suited for parallel computing, as discussed in Zhong

96 et al., (2008). An important feature of this grid is its approximately uniform resolution from the polar to
97 equatorial regions (Zhong et al., 2000; 2003), different from some of the other numerical GIA codes (e.g.,
98 Martinec, 2000; Klemann et al., 2008; Wu, 2004; van der Wal et al., 2013; Huang et al., 2023). }-However,
99 CitcomSVE also supports regional grid refinement to achieve higher horizontal resolutions in interested
100 regions.

101 Recently, Zhong et al. (2022) presented an expansive set of benchmark calculations for single
102 harmonic surface loading, tidal loading, and glaciation and deglaciation loading history (i.e., ICE-6G) for
103 a significantly improved version of CitcomSVE_{-2.1}. Compared with previous versions of CitcomSVE that
104 only used 12 CPU cores (e.g., Zhong et al., 2003; A et al., 2013), the most important improvement with
105 CitcomSVE_{-2.1} is its capability of efficiently using any large number of CPU cores (e.g., > 6000 CPU
106 cores as in Zhong et al., (2022)). CitcomSVE_{-2.1} has also become the first GIA modeling software package
107 that is open source and publicly available via GitHub (Zhong et al., 2022). However, CitcomSVE_{-2.1} is
108 for an incompressible mantle, which limits its applications, especially for studies on GIA-induced
109 horizontal crustal motions and where realistic elastic structure (e.g., PREM) is necessary (Mitrovica et al.,
110 1994).

111 This paper presents CitcomSVE_{-3.0}, an extension of CitcomSVE_{-2.1}, by incorporating mantle
112 compressibility as in A et al. (2013). While the numerical techniques for implementing mantle
113 compressibility are the same as in A et al. (2013), this paper includes significantly more detailed benchmark
114 calculations and an improved sea level equation solver. With its public availability via GitHub and efficient
115 parallel computing, CitcomSVE_{-3.0} offers the scientific community a powerful computational tool for
116 solving an important class of geodynamic questions, including the GIA and tidal deformation for Earth's
117 mantle with realistic viscosity and rheology. The paper is organized as follows. The next section describes
118 the governing equations for dynamic loading problems and numerical methods. Section 3 defines
119 benchmark problems and presents benchmark results, including error analyses. Discussions and
120 conclusions are given in the final section.

121 2. Governing Equations and Numerical Methods

122 2.1. Governing Equations and Viscoelastic Properties of the Mantle

123 The governing equations for load-induced deformation are derived from the conservation laws of
124 mass and momentum and Newton's law of gravitation, together with viscoelastic constitutive equation (Wu
125 and Peltier, 1982; A et al., 2013):

$$126 \quad \rho_1^E = -(\rho_0 u_i)_{,i}, \quad (1)$$

$$127 \quad \sigma_{ij,j} + \rho_0 \phi_{,i} - (\rho_0 g u_r)_{,i} - \rho_1^E g_i + \rho_0 V_{a,i} = 0, \quad (2)$$

$$128 \quad \phi_{,ii} = -4\pi G \rho_1^E, \quad (3)$$

129 where ρ_1^E is the Eulerian density perturbation, ρ_0 is the unperturbed mantle density, and is horizontally
130 homogenous (i.e., radially layered), u_i represents the displacement vector with u_r being in the radial
131 direction, σ_{ij} is the stress tensor, ϕ is the perturbation of gravitational potential due to deformation, V_a is
132 the applied potential (e.g., rotational and tidal potentials) when applicable, g_i is the gravitational
133 acceleration with $g = \sqrt{g_i g_i}$, and G is the gravitational constant. The equations are written in an indicial
134 notation such that $A_{,i}$ represents the derivative of variable A with respect to coordinate x_i , and repeated
135 indices indicate summation.

136 Both the surface (at radius $r = r_s$) and core-mantle boundary (CMB) ($r = r_b$) experience zero
137 shear force but are subjected to normal forces

$$138 \quad \sigma_{ij} n_j = -\sigma_o n_i, \quad \text{for } r = r_s, \quad (4)$$

$$139 \quad \sigma_{ij} n_j = (-\rho_c \phi + \rho_c g u_r) n_i, \quad \text{for } r = r_b, \quad (5)$$

140 where σ_o represents the pressure loads at the surface (e.g., glacial loads) as a function of time and space,
141 ρ_c is the density of the core, and n_i represents the normal vector of the surface or CMB. The boundary
142 conditions at the CMB consider the self-gravitational effect for a fluid incompressible core (e.g., Zhong et

143 al., 2003). Except for this CMB boundary condition, the core is not considered explicitly in our numerical
144 formulation. With such boundary conditions of forces, both the surface and CMB can deform dynamically
145 in both horizontal and radial directions.

146 CitcomSVE has implemented formulations for both incompressible (e.g., Zhong et al., 2003; 2022)
147 and compressible (A et al., 2013) ~~medium~~continuum. In this study for compressible ~~medium~~continuum, we
148 follow the formulation by A et al., (2013). Here, we will only provide a general description for the
149 formulation and numerical analyses. The details for the compressibility-related topics and numerical
150 analyses of CitcomSVE can be found in A et al., (2013) and Zhong et al., (2022), respectively. Note that
151 CitcomSVE also incorporates the effects of polar wander and apparent motion of the center of mass (i.e.,
152 degree-1 deformation), and uses a reference frame centered at the center of mass including the mass of
153 loads with no net rotation of the mantle and crust (Zhong et al., 2022; Paulson et al., 2005; A et al., 2013).

154 The Earth's mantle is considered as a compressible Maxwell solid, and the constitutive equation
155 can be written as (e.g., Wu and Peltier, 1982)

$$156 \quad \dot{\sigma}_{ij} + \frac{\mu}{\eta} (\sigma_{ij} - \frac{1}{3} \sigma_{kk} \delta_{ij}) = \lambda \dot{\epsilon}_{kk} \delta_{ij} + 2\mu \dot{\epsilon}_{ij}, \quad (6)$$

157 where η is the viscosity, λ and μ are the Lamé parameters, and δ_{ij} is the Kronecker delta function. The
158 strain ϵ_{ij} is related to the displacement by $\epsilon_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} (u_{i,j} + u_{j,i})$. Both Lamé parameters (λ and μ) and
159 viscosity η can be fully 3-dimensional in CitcomSVE models to represent the effects of temperature,
160 composition and stress on mantle mechanical properties (e.g., Zhong et al., 2003; A et al., 2013; Kang et
161 al., 2022). However, for this benchmark study, we will only consider radially layered λ , μ , and η .

162 2.2. Numerical Analysis

163 A finite element method is employed in CitcomSVE to solve the governing equations (1)-(3) for
164 load-induced displacement under boundary conditions (4)-(5) with a Maxwell ~~rheological equation~~rheology
165 (6) (Zhong et al., 2003; 2022; A et al., 2013). However, before presenting a weak form of the governing

166 equations for the finite element analysis, it is necessary to introduce an incremental displacement
 167 formulation, re-formulate the time-dependent rheological equation (i.e., equation 6), and discuss solution
 168 strategies for the gravitational potential that results from mass anomalies associated with mantle
 169 deformation via the Eulerian density perturbation ρ_1^E as controlled by the Poisson's equation (i.e., equation
 170 3).

171 Define u_i^n and u_i^{n-1} as displacements at times t and $t-\Delta t$, respectively, where superscripts n and $n-$
 172 l represent time steps. Incremental displacement at time t , v_i^n , is defined as $v_i^n = u_i^n - u_i^{n-1}$ and it is
 173 related to incremental strain $\Delta\varepsilon_{ij}^n$ as

$$\Delta\varepsilon_{ij}^n = \frac{1}{2}(v_{i,j}^n + v_{j,i}^n). \quad (7)$$

174 Rheological equation (6) is discretized in time by integrating it from time $t-\Delta t$ to t , and stress tensor at time
 175 t , σ_{ij}^n , is given in terms of incremental strain $\Delta\varepsilon_{ij}^n$, stresses at time step $n-1$ (i.e., pre-stress), and material
 176 properties as (A et al., 2013; Zhong et al., 2003),

$$\sigma_{ij}^n = \tilde{\lambda}\Delta\varepsilon_{kk}^n\delta_{ij} + 2\tilde{\mu}\Delta\varepsilon_{ij}^n + \tau_{ij}^{pre}, \quad (8)$$

179 where $\tau_{ij}^{pre} = (1 - \frac{\Delta t}{2\alpha})/(1 + \frac{\Delta t}{2\alpha})\sigma_{ij}^{n-1} + \frac{\Delta t}{3\alpha}/(1 + \frac{\Delta t}{2\alpha})\sigma_{kk}^{n-1}\delta_{ij}$, $\tilde{\lambda} = [\lambda + (\lambda + \frac{2\mu}{3})\frac{\Delta t}{2\alpha}]/(1 + \frac{\Delta t}{2\alpha})$,
 180 $\tilde{\mu} = \mu/(1 + \frac{\Delta t}{2\alpha})$, $\alpha = \eta/\mu$ is the Maxwell time, and τ_{ij}^{pre} represents the pre-stress at timestep $n-1$ (A et al.,
 181 2013).

182 The Poisson's equation for gravitational potential anomaly ϕ (i.e., equation 3) is solved in a
 183 spherical harmonic domain for mass anomalies associated with the Eulerian density perturbation ρ_1^E and
 184 the loads (e.g., ice and water loads). For a compressible mantle, ρ_1^E exists throughout the mantle and crust
 185 (see equation 1), and it is necessary to express ρ_1^E at each depth in terms of spherical harmonic degree l and
 186 order m . The gravitational potential anomaly at radius r and time t and at degree l and order m , $\phi_{lm}(r, t)$,
 187 can be related to mass anomalies via Green's function formulation (e.g., A et al., 2013; Zhong et al., 2008).

188 The solution of $\phi_{lm}(r, t)$ needs to recast to finite element grid points in solving the equation of motion
 189 (i.e., equation 2). It should be pointed out that the transformation for gravitational potential anomalies ϕ
 190 between the spherical harmonic domain and the spatial domain is computationally rather expensive.

191 We now present the weak form of the equation of motion (i.e., equation 2) for the compressible
 192 mantle as (A et al., 2013)

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \int_{\Omega} w_{i,j} [\tilde{\lambda} v_{k,k} \delta_{ij} + \tilde{\mu} (v_{i,j} + v_{j,i})] dV - \int_{\Omega} \rho_0 g (w_{i,t} v_r + w_r v_{i,t}) dV + \sum_t \int_{S_t} w_r \Delta \rho_t g v_r dS_t \\
 & - \int_{\Omega} w_{i,j} \tau_{ij}^{pre} dV + \int_{\Omega} \rho_0 g (w_{i,t} U_r + w_r U_{i,t}) dV - \int_{\Omega} w_{i,t} \rho_0 \phi dV \\
 & + \sum_t \int_{S_t} w_r (\Delta \rho_t \phi - \Delta \rho_t g U_r + \rho_0 V_a) dS_t - \int_S w_r \sigma_0 dS \int_{\Omega} w_{i,j} [\tilde{\lambda} v_{k,k} \delta_{ij} + \tilde{\mu} (v_{i,j} + v_{j,i})] dV - \\
 & \int_{\Omega} \rho_0 g (w_{i,i} v_r + w_r v_{i,i}) dV + \sum_l \int_{S_l} w_r \Delta \rho_l g v_r dS_l \\
 & = - \int_{\Omega} w_{i,j} \tau_{ij}^{pre} dV + \int_{\Omega} \rho_0 g (w_{i,i} U_r + w_r U_{i,i}) dV - \int_{\Omega} w_{i,i} \rho_0 \phi dV \\
 & + \sum_l \int_{S_l} w_r (\Delta \rho_l \phi - \Delta \rho_l g U_r + \rho_0 V_a) dS_l - \int_S w_r \sigma_0 dS, \tag{9}
 \end{aligned}$$

199 where integration domain Ω , S_l , and S are for the volume, the horizontal surface at some depth with the l -th
 200 density boundary, and the Earth's surface, respectively, w_i is the displacement weighting function, U_i is the
 201 cumulative displacements at the previous time step, V_a is the applied potential, which is only relevant for
 202 tidal loading problems, and σ_0 is the surface load. Note that the gravitational potential anomalies ϕ in
 203 equation (9) depend on the unknown incremental displacement v_i . We decompose ϕ into $\phi = \Phi + \Delta\phi(v_i)$,
 204 where Φ is the total potential at the previous time step and $\Delta\phi(v_i)$ is the incremental potential determined
 205 by v_i and other incremental mass anomalies at the current time step.

206 Equation (9) is discretized onto a set of finite element grids to form a system of matrix equations
 207 with unknown vectors of incremental displacement $\{V\}$.

$$[K]\{V\} = \{F_0\} + \{F(\Delta\phi)\}, \tag{10}$$

209 where $[K]$ is the stiffness matrix, $\{F_0\}$ is the force vector representing contributions from the previous time
210 step, and $\{F(\Delta\phi)\}$ represents contributions from the incremental potential $\Delta\phi$ which depends on the
211 unknown displacement $\{V\}$ and other incremental mass anomalies. An iteration scheme is applied to
212 equation (10) to obtain a convergent solution for $\{V\}$ (Zhong et al., 2003).

213 ~~CitcomSVE was derived from the 3-D finite element code CitcomS for mantle convection in a~~
214 ~~spherical shell, and they share many common features including the grid. The spherical shell of the mantle~~
215 ~~is divided into 12 caps of similar size, and each cap is further divided into a grid of cells (i.e., elements) of~~
216 ~~similar size with eight displacement nodes per element (Zhong et al., 2000; 2008; 2022). This design of~~
217 ~~finite element grid is suited for parallel computing, as discussed in Zhong et al., (2008). An important~~
218 ~~feature of this grid is its approximately uniform resolution from the polar to equatorial regions (Zhong et~~
219 ~~al., 2000; 2003), different from the spectral finite element GIA codes (e.g., Martinec, 2000; Klemann et al.,~~
220 ~~2008; Wu, 2004; van der Wal et al., 2013; Huang et al., 2023).~~

221 Matrix equation (10) is solved with a parallelized full multigrid method (Zhong et al., 2000; 2008).
222 The general solution strategy in CitcomSVE follows an iterative scheme that can be summarized as (Zhong
223 et al., 2003; A et al., 2013):

- 224 1) At a given time t , $\{F_0\}$ is first evaluated using pre-stress τ_{ij}^{pre} , gravitational potential Φ and
225 displacements U_i at the previous time step, $t-\Delta t$, and set $\{F\} = \{0\}$.
- 226 2) Solve equation (10) using the full multigrid method for incremental displacements $\{V\}$, using $\{F_0\}$
227 and $\{F\}$.
- 228 3) Compute incremental potential $\Delta\phi_{lm}(r, t)$ by solving equation (3) with the incremental
229 displacements from step 2, and then re-evaluate $\{F\}$. Go back to step 2 to solve for $\{V\}$ again.
- 230 4) Repeat steps 2 and 3, until $\{V\}$ converges to a given threshold error tolerance- (specified by users
231 and is 0.3% in this study). Then go back to step 1 to march forward in time.

232 In the implementation of equation (10) in CitcomSVE, all the variables and parameters are
233 normalized to be dimensionless, and the outputs are also dimensionless. CitcomSVE uses the following
234 normalization scheme. The coordinates x_i and displacements u_i and v_i are all normalized by the radius of
235 a planet, r_s . The time is normalized by a reference mantle Maxwell time $\alpha = \eta_r/\mu_r$, where η_r and μ_r are
236 the reference mantle viscosity and shear modulus, respectively. η_r is also used to normalize mantle
237 viscosity and μ_r is used to normalize elastic moduli, stress tensor and pressure, while the density is
238 normalized by reference density ρ_0 . Gravitational potential and centrifugal potential are normalized by
239 $4\pi G\rho_0 r_s^2$, and the geoid anomalies are normalized by $4\pi G\rho_0 r_s^2/g$. Any other variables can be normalized
240 by combining the abovementioned scales. However, model input parameters are defined by users as
241 dimensional values. For example, 3-D mantle viscosity and elasticity models are given by users in separated
242 files on a regular grid (e.g., $1^\circ \times 1^\circ$ grid) at different depths. CitcomSVE reads these parameters from the
243 files, normalizes them, and interpolates them onto the finite element grids. Along with public releases of
244 CitcomSVE 2.1 and 3.0 on GitHub, a user manual is available to describe the usage of the code and the
245 input and output files.

246 We now finish this section by highlighting the two main differences between incompressible and
247 compressible models in CitcomSVE (i.e., versions 2.1 versus 3.0). First, the compressible model presented
248 here does not include the pressure term which is a key component of incompressible models. The absence
249 of the pressure term simplifies the matrix equation (i.e., equation 10) and its solution procedure, but for the
250 incompressible model, a two-level Uzawa algorithm is needed to solve for both the pressure and
251 displacement. Second, mantle compressibility causes mass anomalies or Eulerian density perturbation ρ_1^E
252 throughout the mantle, while for an incompressible mantle, mass anomalies only exist at the surface and
253 CMB. Consequently, the compressible model is computationally more expensive, particularly for
254 calculating the gravitational potential anomalies.

255 2.3. Sea Level Change and Sea Level Equation

256 Understanding and modeling sea level change is important for GIA studies. Sea level change is
257 controlled by ice volume change and GIA-induced vertical crustal motion and gravitational potential
258 change. Therefore, the records of sea level change provide essential constraints on GIA processes, including
259 ice volume change and mantle viscosity. Moreover, sea level change acts as a change of load on the surface,
260 affecting solid-Earth deformation and gravitational potential. Modeling the GIA processes, one of the major
261 applications of the CitcomSVE package, requires an accurate sea level equation that describes the sea level
262 change in this process. A major improvement of CitcomSVE 3.0 over its previous versions is on modeling
263 sea level changes, and a detailed description is given in this section.

264 The original sea level equation formulated by Farrell and Clark (1976) provides an elegant way to
265 incorporate the sea level change into GIA models and can explain the diverging pattern of sea level change
266 in different regions (e.g., near or far away from former ice sheets). However, the simplified formulation by
267 Farrell and Clark ignored several factors affecting the accuracy of sea level change modeling. One key
268 simplification is on the time-dependent ocean-continent function that describes the ocean and continent
269 distribution, which was assumed to be constant through time in their formulation. The ocean area has varied
270 by several percent since the last glacial maximum because of the shoreline evolution induced by sea level
271 rise or fall (Fig. S1). Accounting for the time-dependent ocean-continent function requires modifications
272 of the sea level equation and affects the predicted sea level change by tens of meters for some regions
273 compared to that based on Farrell and Clark's formulation (Kendall et al., 2005). Kendall et al. (2005)
274 provides a modified sea level equation that accounts for the time-dependent ocean function, in which the
275 variation of ocean area is mainly attributed to two factors: 1) formation or melting of marine ice sheets (i.e.,
276 ice sheets that lie below sea level), 2) the evolution of shorelines related to the sloping bathymetry and local
277 sea level change. In previous versions of CitcomSVE, we only considered the variation of ocean function
278 related to marine ice sheets (A et al., 2013; Zhong et al., 2022). In our new formulation, the sea level

279 equation is modified to follow the formulation of Kendall et al. (2005). The new sea level equation can be
 280 summarized as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 281 \quad L_0(\theta, \phi, t) = & [N(\theta, \phi, t) - U(\theta, \phi, t) + c(t)]O(\theta, \phi, t) \\
 282 \quad & -T_0(\theta, \phi)[O(\theta, \phi, t) - O(\theta, \phi, t_0)] , \quad (11)
 \end{aligned}$$

283 Where t is the time with t_0 as the initial time (i.e., the onset of loading), θ and ϕ are co-latitude and
 284 longitude, respectively, L_0 is the change in sea level relative to the initial stage, N and U are GIA-induced
 285 geoid anomalies and surface radial displacement, O is ocean function (1 for ocean and 0 elsewhere), T_0 is
 286 initial topography at t_0 , and c is introduced for the conservation of water mass and is defined as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 287 \quad c(t) = & \frac{1}{A_0(t)} \left\{ -\frac{M_{ice}(t)}{\rho_w} - \int [N(\theta, \phi, t) - U(\theta, \phi, t)]O(\theta, \phi, t)dS \right. \\
 288 \quad & \left. + \int T_0(\theta, \phi)[O(\theta, \phi, t) - O(\theta, \phi, t_0)]dS \right\}, \quad (12)
 \end{aligned}$$

289 where M_{ice} is the ice mass change relative to the initial stage (i.e., t_0), A_0 is the ocean area at time t , ρ_w is
 290 water density, N and U are relative to t_0 , and the integral is for the surface of Earth. Following Kendall et
 291 al. (2005), a check for grounded ice is incorporated using the criterion that at any location with
 292 topography T and ice of thickness I and of density ρ_i , the ice is considered as ground ice if $I\rho_i > -T\rho_w$.
 293 Only grounded ice is treated as ice load, whereas regions with non-grounded ice (i.e., floating ice) are
 294 treated as oceans. Note that regions with topography $T < 0$ and without grounded ice are considered as
 295 ocean ~~where the ocean surface follows the geoid.~~

296 The sea level equation can only be solved iteratively ~~because for three reasons: 1) the ocean load~~
 297 ~~associated with sea level change calculation of geoid/displacement~~ and ocean ~~function $O(t)$ affect load~~
 298 ~~depends on~~ each other; ~~(eq. 4 and eq. 11), 2) the ocean load also depends on the ocean function, and 3) the~~
 299 unknown initial topography T_0 needs to be determined iteratively to keep the modeled present-day
 300 topography consistent with the observed present-day topography. ~~A normal single complete GIA modeling~~
 301 ~~uses pre-determined initial topography T_0 and time-dependent ocean function $O(t)$ to iteratively determine~~

302 $N(t)$, $U(t)$, and $L_0(t)$ for each time step t from t_0 to the present day, where the iteration for each step is
303 considered converged when the changes of potential and/or displacement are smaller than a certain
304 threshold. The algorithm for solving the sea level equation in Kendall et al., (2005) adds an outer layer of
305 iterations to ~~an otherwise normal GIA modeling that uses pre-determined initial topography T_0 and time-~~
306 ~~dependent ocean function $O(t)$ to the single complete GIA modeling.~~ ~~determine $N(t)$, $U(t)$, and $L_0(t)$ for~~
307 ~~each time t from t_0 to the present day.~~ In the outer layer iteration calculations, at the end of each single
308 complete GIA model run, time-dependent ocean function $O(t)$ and paleo-topography including initial
309 topography T_0 are updated using newly calculated $U(t)$ and $N(t)$ and the present-day topography, and the
310 updated T_0 and $O(t)$ are then used for the next GIA model run. The iteration procedure continues until the
311 initial topography converges. In practice, the model results would not be altered significantly beyond the
312 second outer iteration. However, there are noticeable differences in results (e.g., modeled RSL histories)
313 between the first and second outer iterations for some sites following the algorithm developed by Kendall
314 et al. (2005).

315 We implemented the algorithm developed by Kendall et al. (2005) in our semi-analytic code (e.g.,
316 A et al., 2013) and produced consistent results with Kendall et al. (2005). However, running two or three
317 outer iterations where each iteration is a complete GIA model run of a glacial cycle is computationally
318 expensive, especially for numerical modeling such as in CitcomSVE, and it would be more efficient if the
319 results from the first outer iteration (i.e., a single complete GIA model run) can be sufficiently accurate. In
320 Kendall's algorithm, the time-dependent ocean function $O(t)$ for the first outer iteration is constructed
321 using fixed shorelines same as that of the present day, except that the extent of oceans may be limited by
322 the existence of grounded marine ice sheets. However, we found that the first iteration may produce much
323 improved solutions if $O(t)$ for the first outer iteration is constructed by calculating the change of ocean area
324 (i.e., ocean-continent transitions) based on ice volume change (i.e., M_{ice}) and the present-day topography
325 (bathymetry), assuming barystatic sea level change on a rigid Earth (i.e., no radial surface displacement).
326 The ocean function generated in this way generally captures the shoreline evolution for regions

327 ~~experienced~~experiencing ocean-land transition, and this approximation makes it easy to derive the time-
328 dependent ocean function for any given ice model. In the ~~next sections~~supplementary material, we ~~will~~ show
329 the effectiveness of this single outer iteration method using the improved ocean function in both our semi-
330 analytic solution method and CitcomSVE-3.0.

331 **3. Example Calculations and Benchmark Results**

332 Two example problems solved using CitcomSVE 3.0 are presented here. They are: 1) surface
333 loading problems with a single spherical harmonic in space (spectral load) and step-function (i.e., Heaviside
334 function) in time as either surface load or tidal load; 2) GIA problems with ICE-6G_D ice history model.
335 For each example problem, the elastic and viscosity structures are chosen to be dependent only on the radius
336 (i.e., 1-D) so that CitcomSVE solutions can be benchmarked against semi-analytical solutions. The
337 following benchmarks largely follow the approaches of Zhong et al. (2022).

338 ~~3.1. Surface loading in a single spherical harmonic in space and~~Spectral load with 339 step-function in time.

340 3.1.1. Definition of the ~~surfacespectral~~ loading problem.

341 For the first example problem, we consider a surface load σ_0 (see equation 4) corresponding to
342 amplitude of topographic variation d with density ρ_0 at a single harmonic function in space (ranging from
343 degree 1 to degree 64) and step-function in time:

$$344 \quad \sigma_0(t, \theta, \varphi) = \rho_0 g d \cos(m\varphi) p_{lm}(\theta) H(t) = \rho_0 g d \bar{P}_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) H(t), \quad (13)$$

345 where $H(t)$ is the Heaviside function (i.e., $H(t)=1$ for $t \geq 0$; $H(t)=0$ otherwise) and $\bar{P}_{lm}(\theta, \varphi) =$
346 $\cos(m\varphi) p_{lm}(\theta)$ is the cosine part of spherical harmonic functions in the real form. Note that only cosine
347 terms of longitudinal dependence are considered for simplicity. A small amplitude of the load height is used
348 to avoid large grid deformations. We assume an ocean-free Earth for this example and ignore any sea-level-
349 related calculations. The density and Lamé parameters for lithosphere and mantle are from PREM, except
350 that for the crust layer those properties are replaced to be same as the underlying mantle, and the viscosity

351 structure is from VM5a (Peltier et al, 2015). See Table 1 for model parameters. Time-dependent surface 3-
352 D displacements and gravitational potential anomalies are computed using the newly updated CitcomSVE
353 and compared with those from semi-analytical solutions (Han and Wahr, 1995; Paulson et al., 2005; A et
354 al., 2013). The results are presented in terms of load Love numbers h_l , k_l , and l_l at harmonic degree l for
355 radial displacement, gravitational potential, and horizontal displacement, respectively. The definitions of
356 load Love numbers in the context of CitcomSVE calculations are given in equations 37-41 of Zhong et al.,
357 (2022). Similarly, one tidal loading benchmark with (2,0) tidal force is conducted (named l2m0T in Table
358 2, where T stands for tidal loading). The definitions of tidal force and tidal Love numbers follow Zhong et
359 al., (2022, Eq. 44-47).

Table 1. Model parameters for benchmarks

| Model parameters | value |
|---|---|
| Earth radius r_s | 6371 km |
| CMB radius r_b | 3485.5 km |
| Reference density ρ_0 | 4400 kg/m ³ |
| Core density | 10895.62 kg/m ³ |
| Water density ρ_w | 1000 kg/m ³ |
| Ice density ρ_i | 917.4 kg/m ³ |
| Reference shear modulus μ | 1.4305x10 ¹¹ Pa |
| Modified Fluid Love number $k_{2f}(1+\delta)$ | 0.9521091 |
| Mantle reference viscosity η | 2x10 ²¹ Pa s |
| <u>Reference Maxwell time (η/μ)</u> | <u>443 years</u> |
| Gravitational acceleration g | 9.82 m/s ² |
| VM5A viscosity model: | |
| The surface to 60 km depth | 10 ²⁶ Pas |
| 60 to 100 km depth | 10 ²² Pas |
| 100 to 670 km depth | 4.853x10 ²¹ 853x10 ²⁰ Pas |
| 670 to 1170 km | 1.5048x10 ²¹ Pas |

360

361

362 3.1.2. Benchmark results.

363 We have computed a set of model cases using CitcomSVE for four numerical resolutions and six

364 loading harmonics. ~~Four~~Seven different loading harmonics are included for (1,0), (2, 0), (2,1), (4, 0), (8,365 4), (16, 8), and (64,32) where the first and second numbers in parenthesis (l, m) indicate spherical harmonic366 degree l and order m , respectively. For the loading at (2,1) harmonic, the polar wander effect is considered.367 For most cases, four different numerical resolutions of R1-R4 are for 12x(32x32x32), 12x(64x64x64),

368 12x(64x96x96) and 12x(64x128x128), respectively, where the first number, 12, indicates the number of

369 spherical caps that the spherical surface is divided into, and the subsequent numbers indicate the number of

370 elements in the radial and two horizontal directions in each cap (Zhong et al., 2022). ~~Six different loading~~371 ~~harmonics are included for (1,0), (2, 0), (2,1), (4, 0), (8, 4), and (16, 8) where the first and second numbers~~372 ~~in parenthesis (l, m) indicate spherical harmonic degree l and order m , respectively. 2022).~~ Each case is

373 named by its loading harmonic and numerical resolution; for example, case l2m0_R1 corresponds to the

374 case where the loading harmonic is (2, 0) and the resolution is R1. For case l16m8, an additional calculation375 with resolution 12x(80x128x128) is included (i.e., l16m8_R5). For case l64m32, which has a much shorter376 loading wavelength and requires higher numerical resolutions, four calculations with resolutions of R5-R8377 are included (Fig. 1) where R6-R8 are 12x(80x192x192), 12x(80x256x256), and 12x(96x256x256),378 respectively. Grid size in the vertical direction is not uniform since grids get refined vertically in the upper379 mantle and lithosphere for each model. For l16m8, an additional case with resolution 12x(80x128x128) is380 included (i.e., l16m8_R5). For cases with 64 elements in the vertical direction (R2, R3 and R4), the vertical381 resolutions are about 20 km, 40 km, and more than 50 km in the lithosphere, upper mantle and lower mantle,382 respectively. R5, with a total of 80 elements in the vertical direction, has vertical resolutions of ~ 10 km in383 the lithosphere and ~ 20 km in the upper mantle, whereas R8 is ~ 7 km in the lithosphere and ~ 10 km in384 the upper mantle. Each case is computed for 40 Maxwell times (i.e., 40 α or non-dimensional time of 40),

385 using a non-dimensional time increment of 0.2. Figure 1 shows $h_l(t)$, $k_l(t)$, and $|l_l(t)|$ for cases with
386 different loading harmonics and numerical resolutions, together with semi-analytical solutions. Table 2
387 shows both numerical and analytical results of these Love numbers at $t=0$ and 40 for a selected set of cases
388 (supplementary Table S1 for all the cases). Solutions at $t=0$ represent the elastic responses of Earth, and the
389 magnitudes of those Love numbers generally increase with time due to viscous relaxation and finally reach
390 nearly stable states after certain time periods (Fig. 1).

391

392 **Table 2: Comparison of Load Love Numbers h_l , k_l , and l_l Between CitcomSVE and Semi-Analytical**
393 **Solutions**

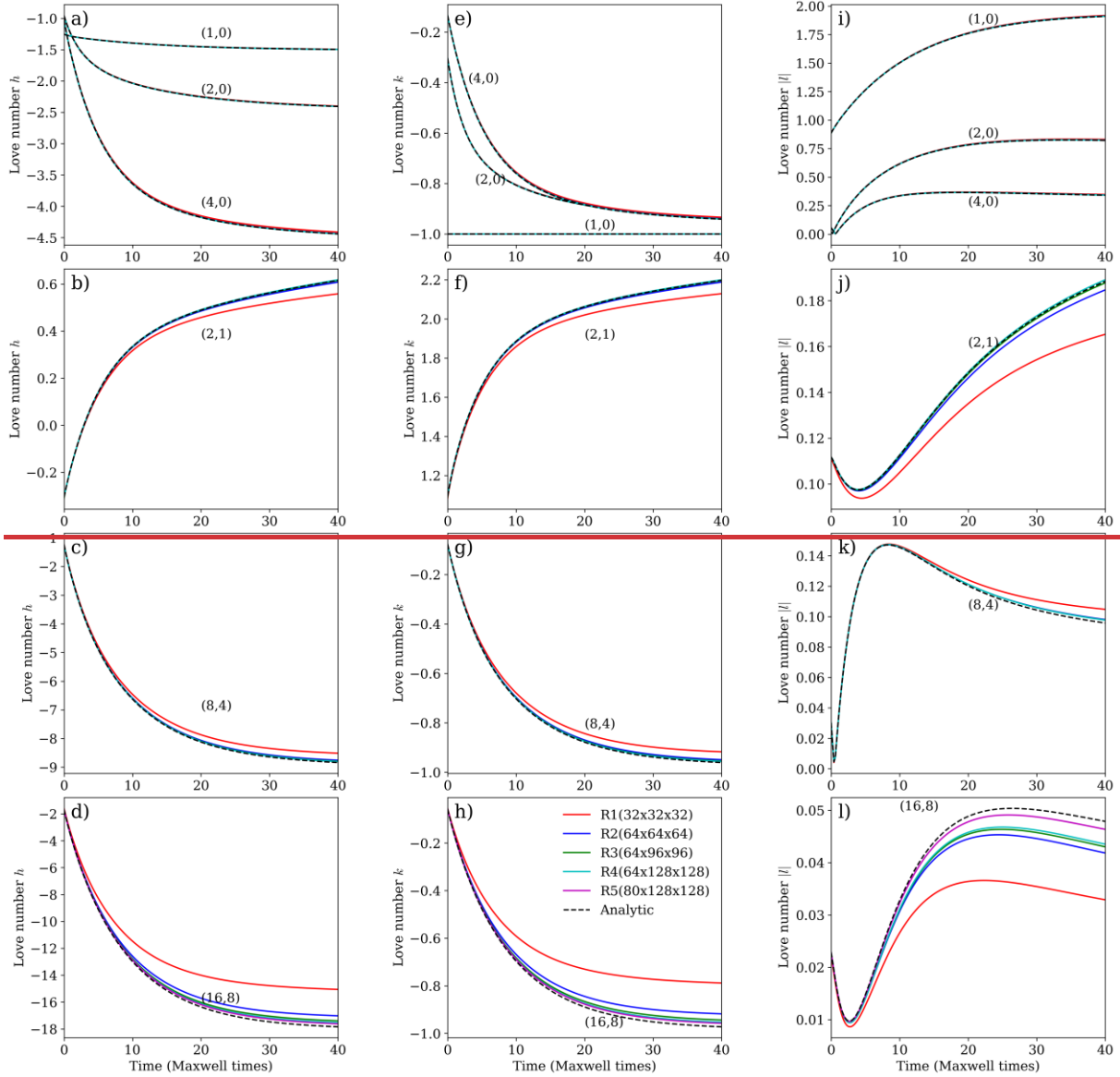
| Case ^a | $h_l(0)$ ^b | $k_l(0)$ | $ l_l(0) $ | $h_l(40)$ | $k_l(40)$ | $ l_l(40) $ |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 11m0_R4 | -1.2546(-1.2543) | -1.0000(-1.0000) | 0.8864(0.8866) | -1.4968(-1.4964) | -1.0000(-1.0000) | 1.9101(1.9090) |
| 12m0_R4 | -0.9574(-0.9577) | -0.3038(-0.3041) | 0.0203(0.0200) | -2.4066(-2.4066) | -0.9392(-0.9396) | 0.8229(0.8216) |
| 12m1_R4 | -0.3056(-0.3058) | 1.0948(1.0944) | 0.1118(0.1118) | 0.6178(0.6151) | 2.2003(2.1973) | 0.1891(0.1884) |
| 14m0_R4 | -1.0247(-1.0251) | -0.1341(-0.1342) | 0.0569(0.0568) | -4.4395(-4.4402) | -0.9410(-0.9416) | 0.3423(0.3411) |
| 18m4_R4 | -1.2372(-1.2376) | -0.0772(-0.0772) | 0.0303(0.0302) | -8.8084(-8.8405) | -0.9563(-0.9605) | 0.0977(0.0958) |
| 116m8_R4 | -1.6825(-1.6868) | -0.0573(-0.0574) | 0.0228(0.0229) | -17.535(-17.847) | -0.9530(-0.9726) | 0.0435(0.0479) |
| 116m8_R5 | -1.6805(-1.6868) | -0.0572(-0.0574) | 0.0228(0.0229) | -17.623(-17.847) | -0.9579(-0.9726) | 0.0464(0.0479) |
| 164m32_R7 | <u>-2.3469(-2.3851)</u> | <u>-0.0227(-0.0231)</u> | <u>0.0109(0.0111)</u> | <u>-21.4626(-22.5878)</u> | <u>-0.2901(-0.3084)</u> | <u>0.1034(0.1081)</u> |
| 12m0T_R4^c | <u>0.6074 (0.6076)</u> | <u>0.3033(0.3035)</u> | <u>0.0855(0.0855)</u> | <u>1.8611(1.8609)</u> | <u>0.9215(0.9202)</u> | <u>0.6217(0.6229)</u> |

394

395 ^aCase names follow this notation: 11m0 stands for loading harmonic for $l=1$ and $m=0$. All CitcomSVE
396 solutions in this table are for resolution R4 (12x64x128x128), except for 116m8_R5, ~~which has~~ with a
397 resolution ~~R5 (of 12x80x128x128)~~, (R5) and ~~164m32_R7 with resolution 12x80x256x256 (R7)~~.

398 ^bLoad Love numbers are provided at 0 and 40 Maxwell time. Each entry includes semi-analytical solutions
399 inside ~~the~~ parentheses and CitcomSVE solutions outside ~~the~~ parentheses.

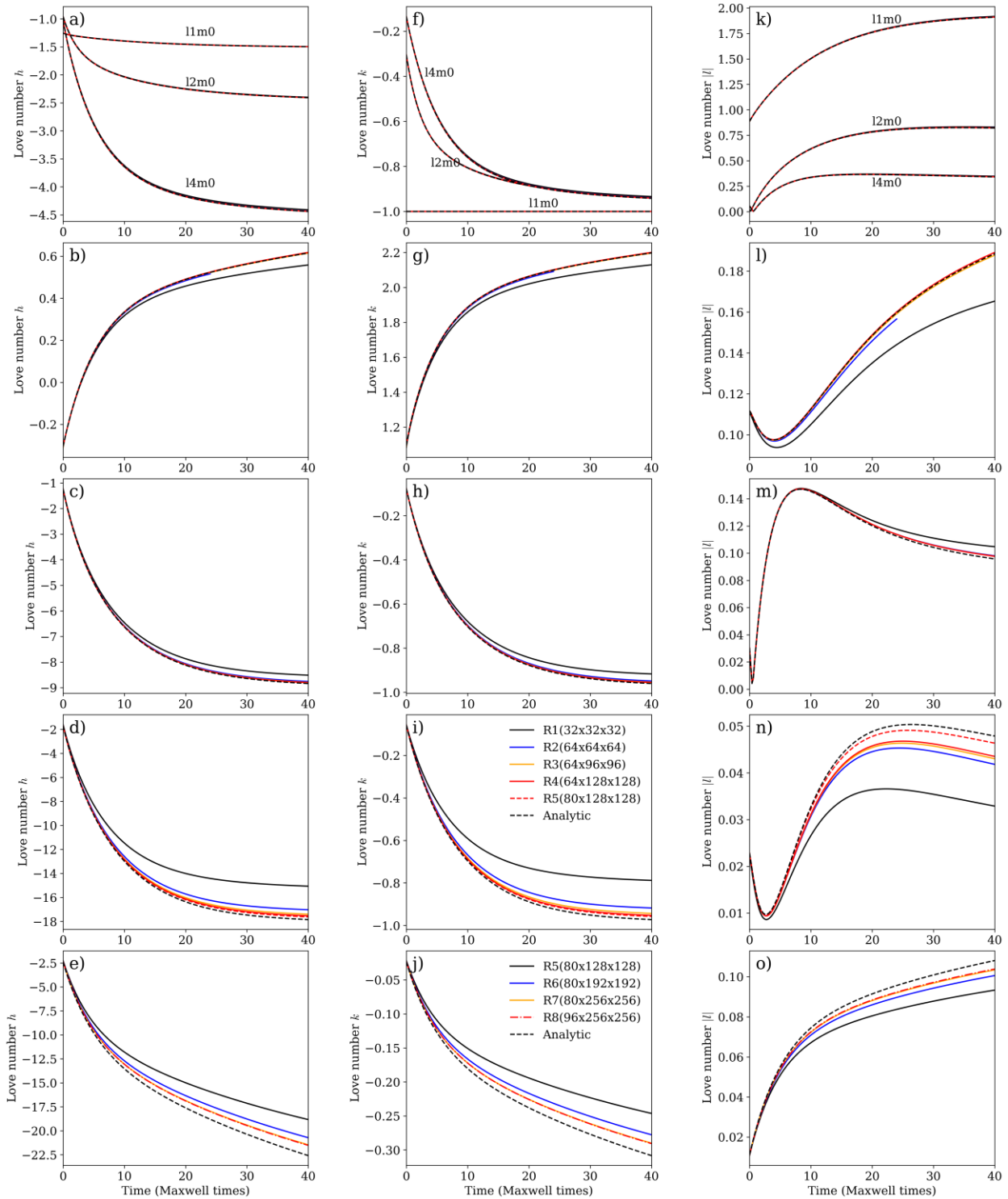
400



401

402 12m0T: Tidal Love numbers for a Heaviside (2,0) tidal load. Each entry includes semi-analytical solutions
 403 inside parentheses and CitcomSVE solutions (with a resolution of 12x64x128x128) outside parentheses.

404



407 Figure 1. Love numbers h , k and l for cases with different loading harmonics from CitcomSVE and
 408 analytical solutions. The first, second, and third columns are for Love number h , k and $|l|$ (i.e., the absolute
 409 values of Love number l), respectively. The first row is for loading harmonics $(1,0)$, $(2,0)$, $11m0$, $12m0$ and
 410 $(4,0)$, $14m0$. The following rows are for loading harmonics $(2,1)$, $(8,4)$, $12m1$, $18m4$, $116m8$, and

411 ~~(16,8)~~164m32, respectively. Each loading case has solutions from four different spatial resolutions (R1-
412 R4), except that loading case ~~(16,8)~~116m8 has an additional calculation with resolution R5, and cases with
413 164m32 (i.e., the last row) have resolutions from R5 to R8. Note the legend in panel i is used for all panels
414 except those in the last row.

415

416 The comparison shows a good agreement between numerical solutions and semi-analytical
417 solutions. For long-wavelength loadings (e.g., 11m0, 12m0, 12m0T, and 14m0), numerical solutions at
418 different resolutions (R1-R4) are nearly identical to semi-analytical solutions, as shown in Figure 1.
419 However, for 12m1 cases with the polar wander effect, resolution R1 shows significant numerical errors,
420 whereas calculations with higher resolutions (R2-R4) deliver a remarkable fit to the semi-analytical
421 solution, suggesting that polar wander is more challenging to compute in numerical models (e.g., Paulson
422 et al., 2005; A et al., 2013; Zhong et al., 2022). For shorter wavelengths (such as 18m4, 116m8, and
423 ~~16m8~~164m32), low-resolution numerical results differ noticeably from semi-analytical solutions. As the
424 numerical resolution increases, the results match the semi-analytical solutions much more closely (Figure
425 1). For 116m8, case R5 significantly reduces errors in l_l compared to R4. Note that R5 has a higher vertical
426 resolution in the upper mantle but the same horizontal resolution as R4 (Fig.1 and Table 2). For case 164m32,
427 increasing vertical resolution does not reduce the misfit from R7 to R8, indicating that horizontal resolution
428 is the controlling factor. ~~Grid size in the vertical direction is not uniform since grids get refined vertically in~~
429 ~~the upper mantle and lithosphere for each model. For cases with 64 elements in the vertical direction (R2,~~
430 ~~R3 and R4), the vertical resolutions are about 20 km, 40 km, and more than 50 km in the lithosphere, upper~~
431 ~~mantle and lower mantle, respectively, whereas R5, with a total of 80 elements in the vertical direction, has~~
432 ~~a vertical resolution ~ 20 km in the upper mantle.~~ Note that the load Love number for horizontal
433 displacement is presented as $|l_l(t)|$, because CitcomSVE only conveniently determines $l_l^2(t)$ (Zhong et al.,
434 2022), although it is possible to determine the l_l based on vector spherical harmonic decomposition of
435 horizontal surface motion (Wu and Peltier 1982).

436 We determine numerical errors by computing amplitude and dispersion errors (e.g., Zhong et al.,
 437 2003; A et al., 2013; Zhong et al., 2022). Amplitude error ε_a and dispersion error ε_d are computed using
 438 the following equations (Zhong et al., 2022):

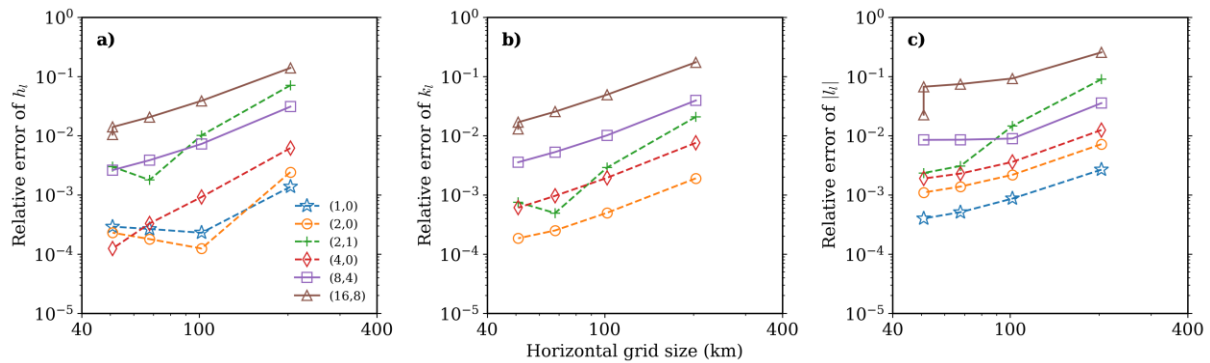
$$439 \quad \varepsilon_a = \frac{\int_0^T |S_n(l_0, m_0, t) - S_{sa}(l_0, m_0, t)| dt}{\int_0^T |S_{sa}(l_0, m_0, t)| dt}, \quad (14)$$

$$440 \quad \varepsilon_d = \frac{\int_0^T \max_l [|S_n(l, m, t)|] dt}{\int_0^T |S_{sa}(l_0, m_0, t)| dt}, \quad (15)$$

441 where l_0 and m_0 represent the loading harmonic degree and order, S_n and S_{sa} are solutions of load Love
 442 numbers from CitcomSVE and semi-analytical methods, respectively, T is the total model time (i.e., 40),
 443 and in equation (15) for the dispersion error, max represents the maximum value for all the non-loading
 444 harmonic degrees l and orders m . The response should only occur at the loading harmonic for the spherically
 445 symmetric mantle structure considered here. Therefore, amplitude error ε_a measures the accuracy at the
 446 loading harmonic and dispersion error ε_d measures the accuracy at other harmonics. Note that the errors
 447 defined in equations (14) and (15) are similar to norm-1 errors.

448 Figure 2 shows the amplitude errors of load Love numbers as a function of horizontal numerical
 449 resolution (i.e., the horizontal grid size ranging from ~200 km to ~50 km at the surface for resolutions R1-
 450 R4) for all cases: except for case l64m32 which has a different range of horizontal resolutions. For most of
 451 the calculations with different loading harmonics, the amplitude errors decrease with decreasing horizontal
 452 grid size with a slope of close to 2 in the log-log plot of Figure 2, especially for Love numbers h_l and k_l .
 453 This suggests that the error is roughly proportional to the square of the grid size, aligning with the expected
 454 second-order accuracy for trilinear elements in CitcomS (e.g., Zhong et al., 2008). It is worth noting that
 455 from R1 to R4, the increase in vertical resolution is not proportional to the increase in horizontal resolution,
 456 which may cause the slope in Figure 2 to deviate from 2. Figure 2 shows that with a horizontal resolution
 457 of ~50 km, the accuracy of CitcomSVE is better than 0.1% up to spherical harmonics of degree 4 and better
 458 than 2% up to spherical harmonics of degree 16 in terms of Love numbers h_l and k_l . For Love number l_l ,

459 the errors are slightly larger than that for h_l and k_l . Compared to the benchmark results of CitcomSVE-2.1
 460 (Zhong et al., 2022), the errors presented here are generally larger for cases with the same resolutions,
 461 which is understandable considering that CitcomSVE-3.0 solves for models with higher complexity (i.e.,
 462 the internal density variations caused by compressibility and density discontinuities).



463
 464 Fig 2. Amplitude errors of Love numbers h (a), k (b) and l (c) as a function of numerical resolutions (i.e.,
 465 R1-R4, corresponding to horizontal resolutions of approximately 200 to 50 km). For Love number k of
 466 loads (1,0), all calculations with different resolutions have a relative error of less than 10^{-5} and are not
 467 shown in this figure. Note that R4 and R5 have the same horizontal but different vertical resolutions, and
 468 R5 has smaller relative errors compared to R4.

470 3.2. Glacial isostatic adjustment using ICE-6G_D and VM5a

471 Since one of the most important applications for CitcomSVE is to model the GIA processes, it is
 472 essential to perform a benchmark with glaciation-deglaciation history as surface loads, considering the
 473 effects of polar wander, apparent center of mass motion and ocean loads determined by the sea-level
 474 equation. This section presents the benchmark for an example GIA model with ICE-6G and VM5a (Peltier
 475 et al., 2015). A GIA model calculation requires solving governing equations (1)-(3) together with boundary
 476 conditions (4)-(5) and the sea-level equation (11) with the floating ice criterion to determine time-dependent
 477 gravitational potential anomalies and displacements at the Earth's surface and sea level changes. Note that
 478 the same type of benchmark has been published for the incompressible version CitcomSVE-2.1 (Zhong et
 479 al., 2022), and we largely follow the setups of that previous work except that the current calculations
 480 consider mantle compressibility (i.e., the PREM model), and that the updated sea level equation is used as

481 ~~discussed above and in the supplements (i.e., the AS1 method).~~ As discussed in section 2.3, to deal with the
482 non-linear nature of the sea level equation, multiple ~~(usually 3-4)~~ iterations of complete GIA model runs
483 may be needed (Kendall et al., 2005). ~~Before presenting benchmark results for CitcomSVE 3.0 against the~~
484 ~~semi-analytical method, we will first demonstrate how the one iteration solution method discussed in~~
485 ~~section 2.3 may be used to achieve adequate accuracy of GIA solutions using the semi-analytical method.~~

486 ~~3.2.1. A one iteration solution method for the sea level equation.~~

487 ~~We have implemented the multiple outer iteration algorithm by Kendall et al., (2005) for the sea~~
488 ~~level equation in our semi-analytical code (A et al., 2013). For ICE 6G and VM5a, calculation K3 represents~~
489 ~~the reference case with convergent solutions after three outer iterations, based on Kendall's original~~
490 ~~approach. The normalized ocean area which is a measure of the ocean function $O(t)$ for K3 varies between~~
491 ~~~ 0.66 at the last glacial maximum (LGM) and ~ 0.71 at 122 kybp and the present day (Fig. S1). Figure S1~~
492 ~~also shows the ocean area after the first outer iteration for calculation K3, which, denoted as K1, differs~~
493 ~~significantly from that of K3. Calculation AS1 represents a single outer iteration model run using our pre-~~
494 ~~calculated ocean function $O(t)$ as discussed in section 2.3, and AS2 represents the results from the second~~
495 ~~outer iteration after AS1 using the updated ocean functions $O(t)$ and initial topography T_0 . Figure S1 clearly~~
496 ~~demonstrates that AS1, different from K1, is very similar to K3 and AS2, while the latter two are identical,~~
497 ~~indicating that the ocean function $O(t)$ for our first outer iteration (AS1) is a fairly accurate representation~~
498 ~~of the convergent solutions of the Kendall's original approach (K3). Note that the present day topography~~
499 ~~is used as initial topography T_0 for calculations AS1 and K1.~~

500 ~~Using RSL from K3 as standard results, Fig. S2 shows that the maps of RSL difference (i.e., the~~
501 ~~accuracy) to K3 from calculations AS1, K1 and AS2 at 5 kybp, 10 kybp and 15 kybp. The absolute error in~~
502 ~~RSL from AS1 is negligibly small for most regions (Fig. S2a, S2d and S2g), whereas the absolute error~~
503 ~~from K1 is much worse, especially at 20 kybp (Fig. S2h). AS2 is identical to K3, the standard results (Fig.~~
504 ~~S2e, S2f and S2i). Admittedly, there are relatively large errors in some localized regions for AS1, such as~~
505 ~~Hudson Bay and the Arctic Ocean near Fennoscandia for some periods (Fig. S2a and S2d), because we~~

506 ignore the change in surface radial displacement when deriving the pre-calculated ocean function used in
507 AS1. However, the largest errors in those areas mostly occur in the ocean, while along the coastlines where
508 paleo relative sea level records are available, the absolute errors are all less than 10 meters (Fig. S2a and
509 S2d). Figure S3 shows the modeled RSL curves at four representative sites including Hudson Bay and
510 Fennoscandia from K3, K1, AS1 and AS2 calculations. The results are consistent with that from Figure S2
511 in that the errors in modeled RSL from AS1 (i.e., the single outer iteration model run using our revised
512 method for ocean functions) are negligible, whereas the errors from K1 are evident, especially for far field
513 sites. Note that even at Churchill, which is on the coastline of Hudson Bay, AS1 has negligible errors in
514 RSL calculations.

515 To further assess the errors in RSL from our AS1 model, we tested two additional GIA calculations
516 with extremely strong or weak mantle viscosity models. For both cases, the lithospheric thickness is 100
517 km. For the strong mantle case, the entire mantle below the lithosphere has a viscosity of 5×10^{22} Pas. For
518 the weak mantle case, the 200 km thick asthenosphere below the lithosphere and the rest of the mantle have
519 viscosities of 5×10^{18} Pas and 10^{20} Pas, respectively. Figure S4 shows similarly small errors for both cases
520 to that of VM5a (Fig. S2), indicating the reliability of our AS1 model.

521 Other pre-calculated ocean functions $O(t)$ for any given ice model may be constructed to obtain
522 more accurate RSL results in our AS1 method by replacing the “rigid Earth” approximation with others,
523 for example, the isostasy approximation in which surface elevation changes to compensate the surface
524 loads. Another possible way is to perform a full GIA modeling with three outer iterations (i.e., for outer
525 iterations to converge) for a reference viscosity model and use the ocean functions from the last outer
526 iteration as the pre-calculated ocean functions for any other GIA calculations with reasonable viscosity
527 models in our AS1 method. We test such a strategy by using a reference viscosity model which has a 100-
528 km thick elastic lithosphere and its underlying mantle with a uniform viscosity of 10^{21} Pas and then applying
529 the resulting pre-calculated ocean functions for those same two GIA cases with extremely strong or weak
530 viscosity models as in Figure S4. The resulting errors in RSL for those two cases (Fig. S5) are similar to

531 that in Figure S4 for which the “rigid Earth” approximation was used in building the pre-calculated ocean
532 functions.

533 To quantify the upper bound of errors in RSL by using one outer iteration (e.g., our AS1 method),
534 we compute 806 GIA models covering a wide range of mantle viscosities and determine RSL histories for
535 a large number of sites in three regions including North America, Fennoscandia, and far fields using both
536 AS1 and K3 methods. The numbers of sites are 18, 12, and 36 for North America, Fennoscandia, and far
537 fields, respectively. The North American and Fennoscandian sites are from Peltier et al., (2015), and the
538 far field sites are from Lambeck et al., (2014). These models, same as those in Kang et al., (2024), have
539 three viscosity layers: a lithosphere of 100 km thick, the upper and lower mantles, and use ICE 6G_D as
540 the ice history (Peltier et al., 2015, 2018). The viscosity varies from 10^{19} Pas to $10^{21.5}$ Pas in the upper
541 mantle and from $10^{20.5}$ Pas to $10^{23.5}$ Pas in the lower mantle. The relative error (i.e., the relative difference
542 from the reference case K3) in modeled RSL for each site is defined as $c_i = \frac{\int_0^T |RSL_{x,t}(t) - RSL_{K3,t}(t)| dt}{\int_0^T |RSL_{K3,t}(t)| dt}$, where
543 $RSL_{x,t}$ is the modeled RSL at site i for case K1, AS1, or AS2, $RSL_{K3,t}$ is for the reference case K3, and the
544 integral is for the total model time duration. The regionally averaged relative error c is defined as the
545 average error among all sites within each region, i.e., $c = \Sigma c_i / N$, where N is the total number of sites within
546 each region. The maximum regionally averaged relative error among those 806 GIA models is less than 5%
547 (Supplement Table 2) for our AS1 method.

548 We also quantify the maximum absolute error in RSL, defined as the maximum of $|RSL_x(t) -$
549 $RSL_{K3}(t)|$ among all time periods t and all sites in each region from those 806 calculations (Supplement
550 Table 2). For far field sites where RSL is mainly controlled by ocean functions and ice volume changes,
551 the maximum absolute error in RSL is less than 3 meters for the AS1 method but more than 10 meters for
552 the K1 method, consistent with Fig. S1 in that AS1 provides more accurate ocean functions than K1.
553 However, the maximum absolute error in near field RSL is more significant and up to ~23 meters for both
554 AS1 and K1 methods, reflecting the fact that near field ocean functions and paleo topography are more

555 affected by visco-elastic deformation. Fig. S6 shows the RSL curves for the site and viscosity model
556 corresponding to the maximum absolute error of ~23 meters in RSL for AS1. Note that at the site for this
557 case with the maximum absolute error, the total RSL change exceeds 600 meters and the RSL from AS1 is
558 not significantly different from that from K3 (Fig. S6). Depending on factors including the user's goal, RSL
559 data quality, and requirements for accuracy and efficiency of GIA calculations, AS1 could be a viable
560 method to obtain reliable RSL in both far fields and near fields with minimal computational cost.

561 We summarize our attempts to get accurate RSL results from a single complete GIA model run as
562 follows. Since the purpose of multiple outer iterations is to update ocean function history and initial
563 topography successively to be consistent with the present day topography and a given ice model (Kendall
564 et al., 2005), our strategy is to construct pre-calculated ocean functions and initial topography that would
565 lead to RSL solutions with an adequate level of accuracy with a single complete GIA model run (i.e., the
566 AS1 method). The present day topography would be a good approximation for initial topography if a model
567 starts with an ice sheet distribution similar to that of the present day (i.e., the interglacial period), as in the
568 benchmark study here. We found that three outer iterations of complete model runs with successively
569 updated ocean functions and initial topography could be replaced with our AS1 method, depending on
570 users' goals and requirements for the error levels. For example, studies on global properties of RSL could
571 achieve adequately accurate results from one single complete run (i.e., AS1) with properly constructed pre-
572 calculated ocean functions, as we discussed. If the goal is to model the RSL for one particular near-field
573 site as accurately as possible, it would be more prudent to run two or three outer iterations of complete GIA
574 runs with successively updated ocean functions and initial topography following Kendall et al. (2005). It is
575 worthwhile to mention that, when modeling RSL changes, one should also consider other factors including
576 the errors in RSL records (often exceeding 10 m in near field during the rapid deglaciation (Peltier et al.,
577 2015; Lambeck et al., 2017)), the relatively low resolution of global ice models, inherent numerical errors,
578 and unaccounted processes in the current sea level equation (e.g., erosion and sedimentation).

579 ~~Our above mentioned results are particularly relevant for numerical modeling given its~~
580 ~~computational cost. CitcomSVE_3.0~~ fully supports the multiple outer iteration approach using pre- and
581 post-processes to update ocean functions and initial topography. However, in supplementary materials
582 (Supplementary Text 2), we demonstrate how the one-iteration solution method discussed in section 2.3
583 may be used to achieve adequate accuracy of GIA solutions. In the following GIA benchmark, we compare
584 the results from a single complete CitcomSVE -model run with our semi-analytic solutions of the first outer
585 iteration (i.e., ~~AS1~~the AS1 in the supplementary text), using the pre-calculated ocean functions constructed
586 by assuming the “rigid Earth” and the present-day topography as the initial topography. This comparison
587 ensures that CitcomSVE and semi-analytic calculations have the same ocean functions and initial
588 topography, such that the differences in solutions between CitcomSVE and semi-analytical methods are
589 solely related to numerical errors rather than differences in the models.

590 3.2.21. Definition of the GIA problem.

591 ~~Since one of the most important applications for CitcomSVE is to model the GIA processes, it is~~
592 ~~essential to perform a benchmark with glaciation-deglaciation history as surface loads, considering the~~
593 ~~effects of polar wander, apparent center of mass motion and ocean loads determined by the sea level~~
594 ~~equation. Note that the same type of benchmark has been published for the incompressible version~~
595 ~~CitcomSVE 2.1 (Zhong et al., 2022), and we largely follow the setups of that previous work except that the~~
596 ~~current calculations consider mantle compressibility (i.e., the PREM model), and that the updated sea level~~
597 ~~equation is used as discussed in the last sub-section (i.e., the AS1 method). This section presents the setup~~
598 of the GIA benchmark with ICE-6G_D ice model (Peltier et al., 2015). The Earth model used in this case
599 is the same as the one used for single harmonic loading examples in the previous section.

600 In this case, the surface load consists of a full glaciation-deglaciation cycle, based on the ICE-
601 6G_D ice model (Peltier et al., 2015, 2018) that includes the last 122 thousand years from the last
602 interglacial period to the present day. We assume that Earth was in an equilibrium state at the onset of
603 loading (i.e., 122 ~~kybp~~ka BP) and that the surface displacements and gravitational potential anomalies

604 since 122 ~~kybka~~ BP are induced by ice height variations relative to the initial stage and the corresponding
605 change in ocean loads. We computed ~~six~~seven cases using CitcomSVE--3.0 with different spatial-temporal
606 resolutions and cut-off values for the maximum spherical harmonic degrees used in calculating gravitational
607 potential (Table 3). Cases GIA_R1, GIA_R2, and GIA_R3 have spatial resolutions of 135 km, 81 km, and
608 50 km (i.e., a total number of elements of 12x48x48x48, 12x48x80x80, and 12x64x128x128), respectively,
609 and a temporal resolution of 125 years per step. Case GIA_R3_LT is the same as GIA_R3 except with a
610 longer time increment of 250 years per step before LGM (i.e., 26 ~~kybka~~ BP). Cases GIA_R3_LT_SH20
611 and GIA_R3_LT_SH64 have a cut-off value of 20 and 64 for the maximum spherical harmonic degrees,
612 respectively, compared to 32 for other cases. Note that same as CitcomSVE--2.1 (Zhong et al., 2022),
613 computing gravitational potential in the spherical harmonic domain can be computationally expensive. On
614 the other hand, the semi-analytical solution is obtained using spherical harmonic degrees and orders up to
615 256.

616 It should be noted that in the current implementation, CitcomSVE reads in ice loads defined on
617 regular grids (e.g., 1^ox1^o grid) and then interpolates the loads to the irregular finite element grids, whereas
618 semi-analytical calculations use spherical harmonic expansions of ice loads to a maximum spherical
619 harmonic degree and order (i.e., 256 in this study) as inputs. The interpolation may cause inconsistent
620 representations of ice loads between CitcomSVE and the semi-analytical calculations. To understand the
621 potential error resulting from the interpolation, we test another case GIA_R3B, which is the same as
622 GIA_R3 except that, for this case, we let CitcomSVE read in ice loads that are computed on CitcomSVE
623 finite element grid points from summing up all the spherical harmonics as used for the analytical solutions,
624 thus avoiding the interpolation from the regular grids to the finite element grids and assuring that
625 CitcomSVE calculations use the exactly same ice loads as that for analytical solutions.

626

627 **Table 3: Relative Errors for Surface 3-Component Displacement Rates for GIA Benchmark**

| | GIA_R1 | GIA_R2 | GIA_R3 | GIA_R3B ^a | GIA_R3_LT ^b | GIA_R3_LT_SH20 ^c | GIA_R3_LT_SH64 |
|--|--------|--------|--------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
|--|--------|--------|--------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|

| Resolution | 48x48x48 | 48x80x80 | 64x128x128 | 64x128x128 | 64x128x128 | 64x128x128 | 64x128x128 |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Total steps | 976 | 976 | 976 | 976 | 592 | 592 | 592 |
| # Cores | 96 | 96 | 384 | 384 | 192 | 192 | 384 |
| CPU | | | | | | | |
| Runtime (hours) | 5.57 ^d | 4.89 | 3.01 | 3.13 | 3.88 | 3.34 | 3.77 |
| Core-hours | <u>535</u> | <u>469</u> | <u>1156</u> | <u>1202</u> | <u>745</u> | <u>641</u> | <u>1448</u> |
| $\epsilon_r(0)^e$ | 17.1% (15.8%) ^f | 8.7% (8.1%) | 4.79% (4.4%) | 4.4% (3.8%) | 4.6% (4.4%) | 5.0% (4.8%) | 4.7% (4.4%) |
| $\epsilon_h(0)$ | 14.8% (15.0%) | 6.9% (6.9%) | 3.9% (3.9%) | 3.5% (3.4%) | 3.9% (3.9%) | 3.9% (3.9%) | 3.9% (3.9%) |
| $\epsilon_g(0)$ | <u>10.5% (10.2%)</u> | <u>5.6% (5.6%)</u> | <u>4.7% (4.7%)</u> | <u>4.5% (4.5%)</u> | <u>4.7% (4.7%)</u> | <u>9.2% (9.2%)</u> | <u>3.0% (2.9%)</u> |
| $\epsilon_r(15)$ | 7.9% (6.7%) | 4.5% (4.1%) | 3.44% (3.0%) | 2.8% (2.3%) | 3.1% (3.0%) | 3.1% (3.0%) | 3.2% (3.0%) |
| $\epsilon_h(15)$ | 4.4% (3.9%) | 2.6% (2.4%) | 1.78% (1.7%) | 1.6% (1.5%) | 1.7% (1.7%) | 1.7% (1.7%) | 1.7% (1.7%) |
| $\epsilon_g(15)$ | <u>14.2% (14.9%)</u> | <u>13.7% (14.3%)</u> | <u>13.6% (14.3%)</u> | <u>13.7% (14.3%)</u> | <u>13.6% (14.3%)</u> | <u>18.3% (19.4%)</u> | <u>7.0% (7.3%)</u> |
| $\epsilon_r(26)$ | 7.9% (6.6%) | 3.8% (3.3%) | 2.58% (2.3%) | 2.3% (1.8%) | 3.1% (3.0%) | 3.0% (2.9%) | 3.2% (3.1%) |
| $\epsilon_h(26)$ | 4.4% (3.9%) | 2.3% (2.0%) | 1.35% (1.3%) | 1.4% (1.1%) | 1.9% (1.8%) | 1.9% (1.8%) | 1.9% (1.9%) |
| $\epsilon_g(26)$ | <u>6.4% (6.5%)</u> | <u>6.1% (6.2%)</u> | <u>6.1% (6.2%)</u> | <u>6.1% (6.2%)</u> | <u>6.1% (6.2%)</u> | <u>8.2% (8.5%)</u> | <u>3.2% (3.3%)</u> |
| $\epsilon_{RSL}(15)^g$ | <u>13.1%</u> | <u>2.3%</u> | <u>1.6%</u> | <u>1.3%</u> | <u>1.6%</u> | <u>1.6%</u> | <u>1.6%</u> |
| $\epsilon_{RSL}(26)$ | <u>12.3%</u> | <u>1.8%</u> | <u>1.3%</u> | <u>1.0%</u> | <u>1.3%</u> | <u>1.3%</u> | <u>1.3%</u> |

628

629 ^a The differences between cases GIA_R3B and GIA_R3 are discussed in section 3.2.21.

630 ^b The “LT” in GIA_R3_LT represents larger time increments between time steps, where the increments are
631 250 years and 125 years before and after 26 ~~kybpka BP~~, respectively. Cases GIA_R1, GIA_R2, and
632 GIA_R3 have uniform time increment of 125 years.

633 ^c The “SH20” in GIA_R3_LT_SH20 represents that the cut-off of degrees and orders of spherical harmonics
634 in this calculation is 20. Similarly, case GIA_R3_LT_SH64 has cut off at degrees and orders of 64. Other
635 cases are cut off at degrees and orders of 32.

636 ^d For this case, the solution converges slowly, causing larger CPU time. All the cases are computed on the
637 NCAR supercomputer Derecho.

638 ^e ϵ_r and ϵ_h and ϵ_g are errors of displacement rates in radial and horizontal directions and errors of geoid
639 rates, respectively. The errors are given at present-day (0), 15 ~~kybpka BP~~, and 26 ~~kybp~~ (indicated by
640 numbers inside parentheses) ~~ka BP~~. Note that geoid rates include the contribution from the centrifugal
641 potential.

642 ^f Numbers out of parentheses are errors calculated based on regular grids, whereas numbers inside of
643 parentheses are calculated based on CitcomSVE grids.

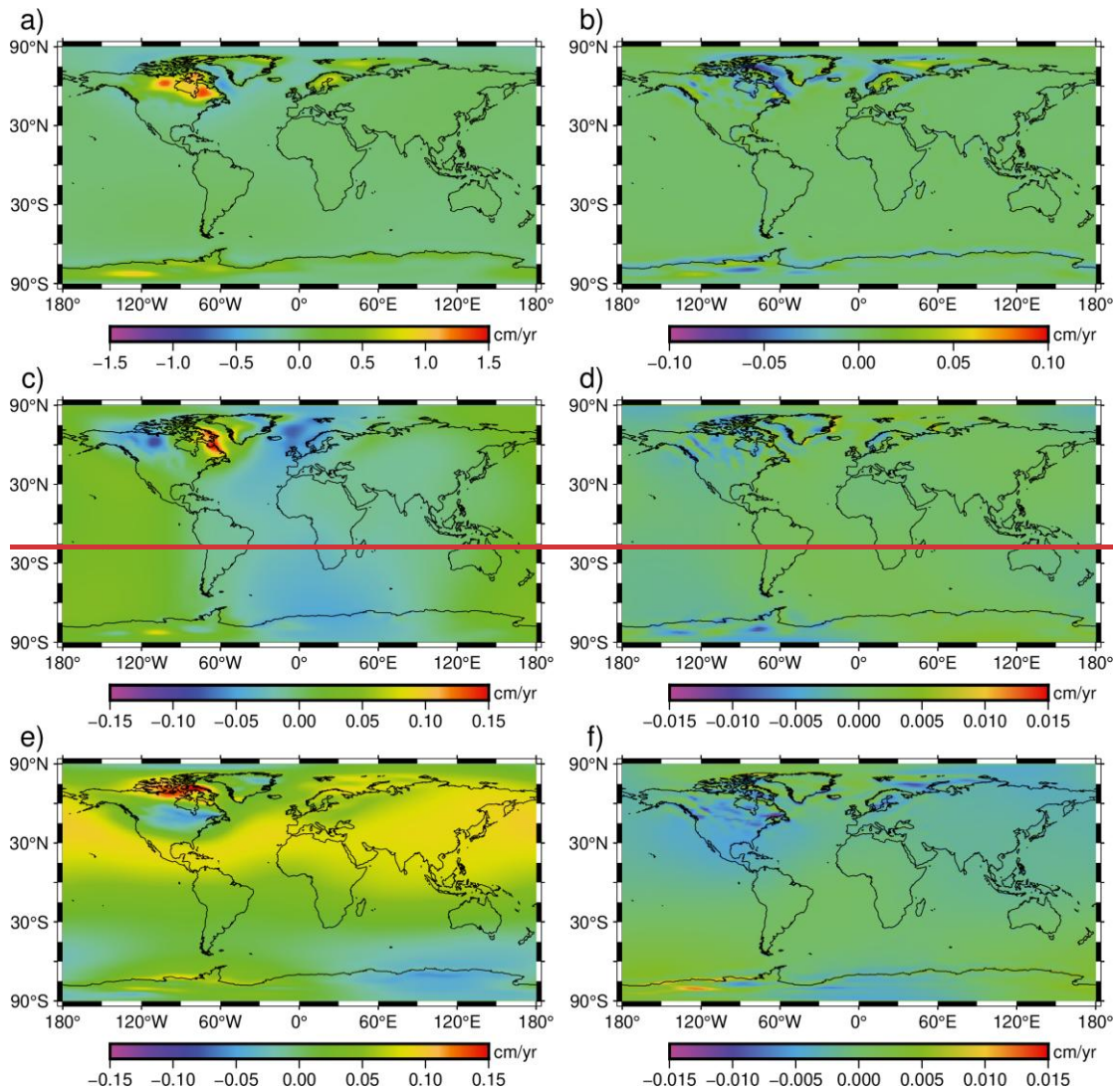
644 ^g ϵ_{RSL} is similar to ϵ_h but for relative sea level. The errors are calculated based on regular grids.

645

646 3.2.32. Benchmark results.

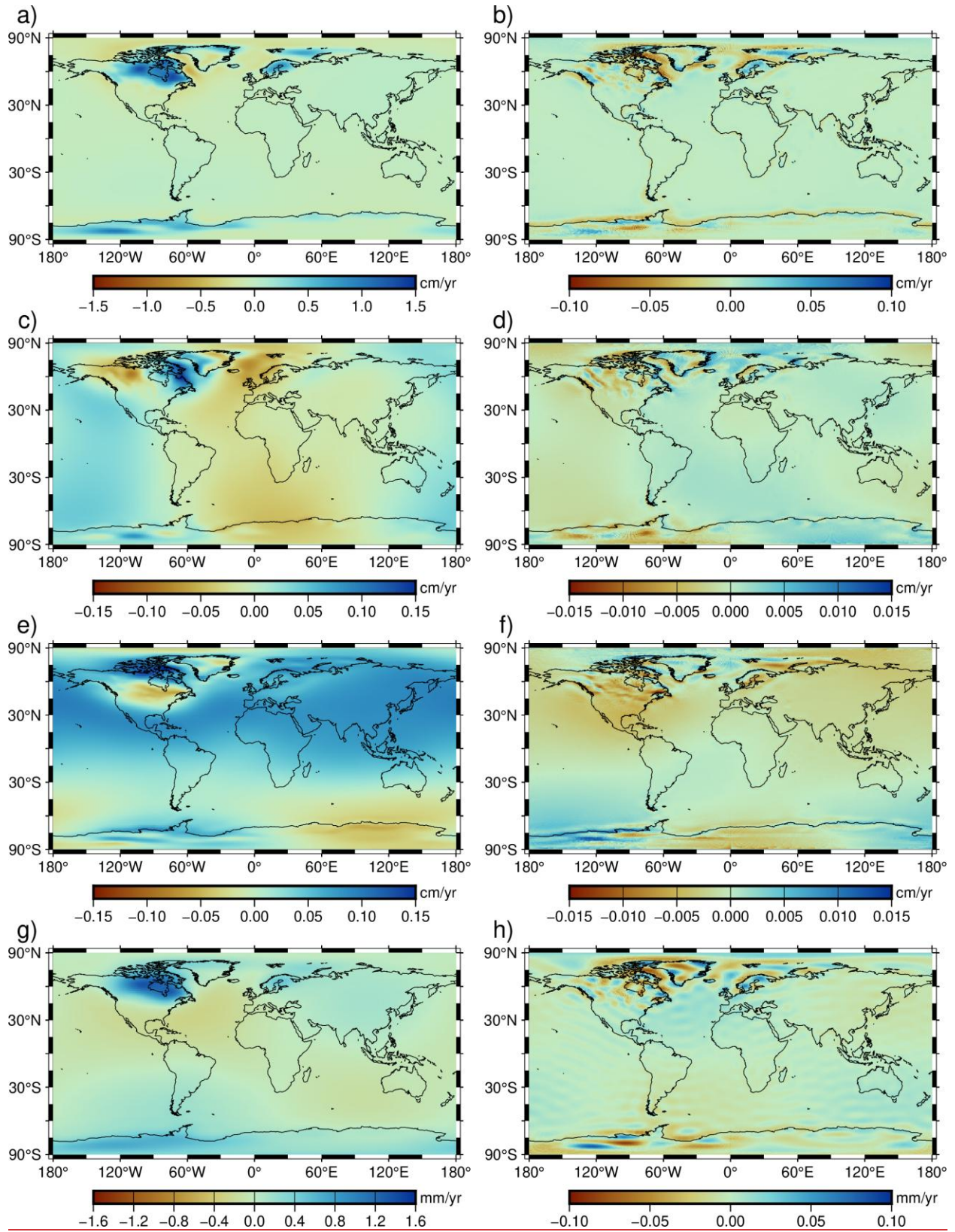
647 We compare the 3-component displacement rates and geoid rates at the surface for three different
648 times (i.e., the present-day, 15 ~~kybpka BP~~, and 26 ~~kybpka BP~~) obtained from CitcomSVE and the semi-
649 analytical code. Figure 3 shows the present-day displacement rate in vertical, eastern, and northern
650 directions and the present-day geoid rate for case GIA_R3 from CitcomSVE. Large uplift rates at the

651 present day occur in North America, Fennoscandia, and West Antarctica (Fig. 3a), suggesting ongoing
652 rebound induced by ice melting since the last glacial maximum in these regions. Horizontal displacement
653 rates usually have much smaller amplitudes than that in radial direction in those regions.



654

655



656

657 Figure 3. Displacement rates and geoid rate at the present day from case GIA_R3 and their differences
 658 to semi-analytical solutions. The top three rows show displacement rates in radial (a), eastern (c), and

659 northern (e) directions and the differences to semi-analytical solutions for radial (b), eastern (d), and
660 northern (f) directions. The last row shows the geoid rate (g) and its differences to the semi-analytical
661 solution (h).

662

663 Figure 3 also shows the differences in present-day displacement rates and geoid rates between
664 CitcomSVE and semi-analytical solutions. The differences are small compared with the magnitudes of
665 displacement rates- and geoid rates. Relatively large magnitudes of errors are mainly on short wavelengths
666 (e.g. localized regions), which may partially reflect the fact that CitcomSVE tends to have poorer accuracy
667 at shorter wavelengths (Fig. 1 and 2). Following Zhong et al. (2022), we define relative RMS differences
668 (i.e., errors) in displacement rates between CitcomSVE and semi-analytical solutions as:

$$669 \quad \varepsilon(t) = \sqrt{\frac{\sum [f_{FE}(\theta, \varphi, t) - f_S(\theta, \varphi, t)]^2}{\sum [f_S(\theta, \varphi, t)]^2}}, \quad (16)$$

670 where $f_{FE}(\theta, \varphi, t)$ and $f_S(\theta, \varphi, t)$ are the fields of interest at a given time t from CitcomSVE and semi-
671 analytical solutions, respectively, and the summation is based on a regular 1° -by- 1° grid. To interpolate the
672 CitcomSVE solutions onto the regular grid, we use the near-neighbor method provided by GMT (Wessel
673 et al., 2019). We also report errors calculated by unweighted summation on the CitcomSVE grid, given the
674 relatively uniform grid size on the spherical surface in CitcomSVE, and the differences in errors from these
675 two ways of calculation are insignificant. We compute errors for radial and horizontal components at three
676 times: ~~the present-day~~, 15 kybþka BP and 26 kybþka BP. Note that for horizontal error, we square the
677 difference for each horizontal component (i.e., north and east) and add them together for each location.

678 Table 3 lists the errors for displacement rates, geoid rates, and RSL at these three times for all cases,
679 together with the total CPU time and number of CPUs used for each case. The errors decrease significantly
680 from GIA_R1 to GIA_R3. For Cases GIA_R3, the errors of displacement rates are less than 5%. Case
681 GIA_R3B, which avoids the interpolation of the input ice loads from the regular input grid into CitcomSVE
682 finite element grid to eliminate the potential inconsistency in ice loads between CitcomSVE and semi-
683 analytical calculations, has slightly smaller errors than GIA_R3, indicating a relatively small error induced

684 by the interpolation. Case GIA_R3_LT with larger time resolution before 26 ~~kybka BP~~ has larger errors
685 in displacement rates at 26 ~~kybka BP~~ but similar error levels at 15 ~~kybka BP~~ and present day. ~~ThoseFor~~
686 ~~geoid rates, since CitcomSVE-3.0 only calculates them up to a certain degree (i.e., degree 20, 32, or 64 in~~
687 ~~our cases), which is much smaller than that used in the analytical solution (i.e., degree 256), the solutions~~
688 ~~from CitcomSVE-3.0 are lack of short-wavelength features and are much smoother spatially even for cases~~
689 ~~with high grid resolutions. Therefore, the errors in geoid rates are larger and are generally less sensitive to~~
690 ~~the model resolutions than to the cut-off degrees. In general, those errors in displacement rates~~ are close to
691 those from CitcomSVE-2.1 (Zhong et al., 2022). CitcomSVE-3.0 is about three times slower than
692 CitcomSVE-2.1 for the same resolutions since internal density variations make the computation more
693 expensive, as discussed in section 2.2. We found that for cases GIA_R1, GIA_R2, and GIA_R3, calculating
694 gravitational potential anomalies takes about one-fourth to half of the total calculation times, depending on
695 the time spent solving the displacement field. It is possible to speed up the calculations of the gravitational
696 potential anomalies by using a grid-based method (e.g., Latychev et al., 2005) or direct integration (e.g.,
697 Wang and Li, 2021) for the Poisson equation instead of the currently used spherical harmonic transform.
698 ~~However, the~~The maximum degree of spherical harmonics used for potential calculation, varying from 20
699 (GIA_R3_LT_SH20), 32 (GIA_R3_LT) to 64, (GIA_R3_LT_SH64), affects the modeled change rates of
700 geoid and gravity, as shown in the varying errors of geoid rate (Table 3), such that the error reduces with
701 increasing maximum degree. However, it has insignificant effects on surface displacement and RSL (Tables
702 3 and 4), ~~although it would affect the modeled change rates of geoid and gravity.~~

703 We also compare the cumulative radial displacements at different spherical harmonic degrees from
704 CitcomSVE and semi-analytical solutions, following previous works (Paulson et al., 2005; A et al., 2013;
705 Kang et al., 2022; Zhong et al., 2022). The spherical harmonic coefficients of the surface displacement field
706 are provided as an output of CitcomSVE (see Zhong et al., 2022, for the spherical harmonic expansion used
707 in CitcomSVE). The degree amplitude for each l is calculated by

708

$$a_l(t) = \sqrt{\frac{1}{l+1} \sum_{m=0}^l [C_{lm}(t)^2 + S_{lm}(t)^2]} , \quad (17)$$

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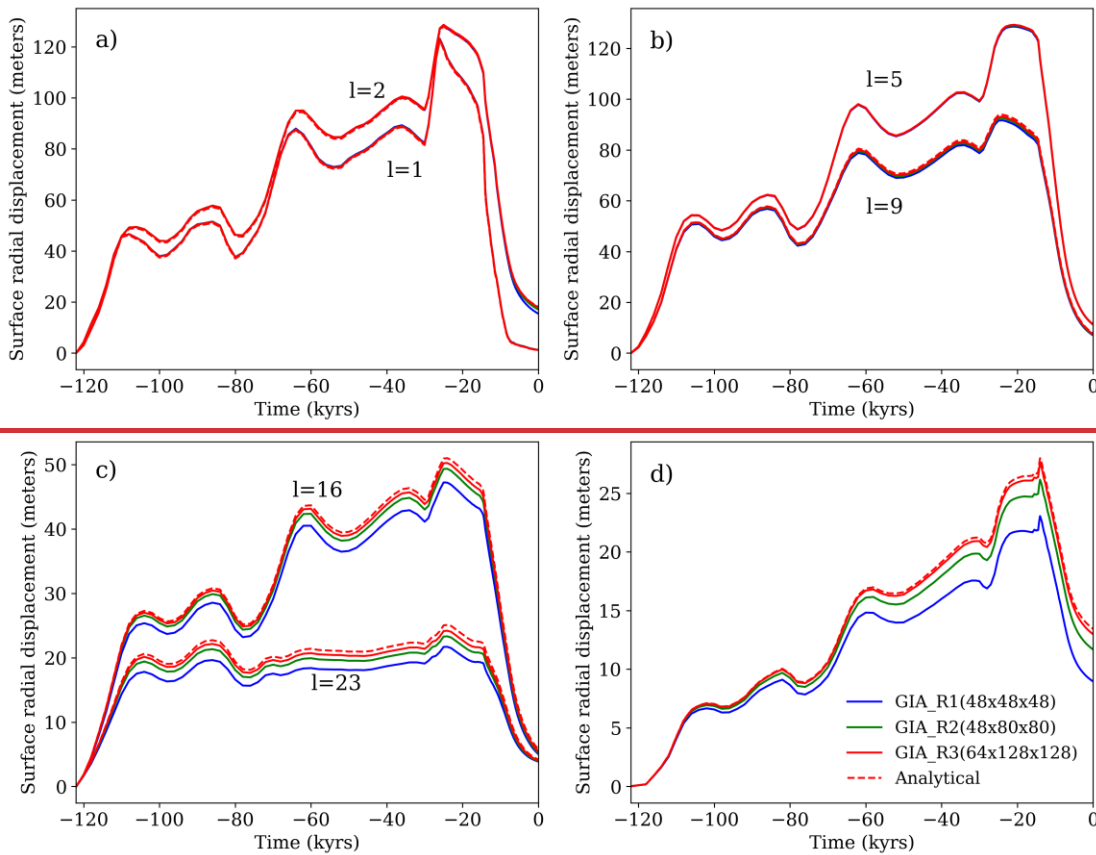
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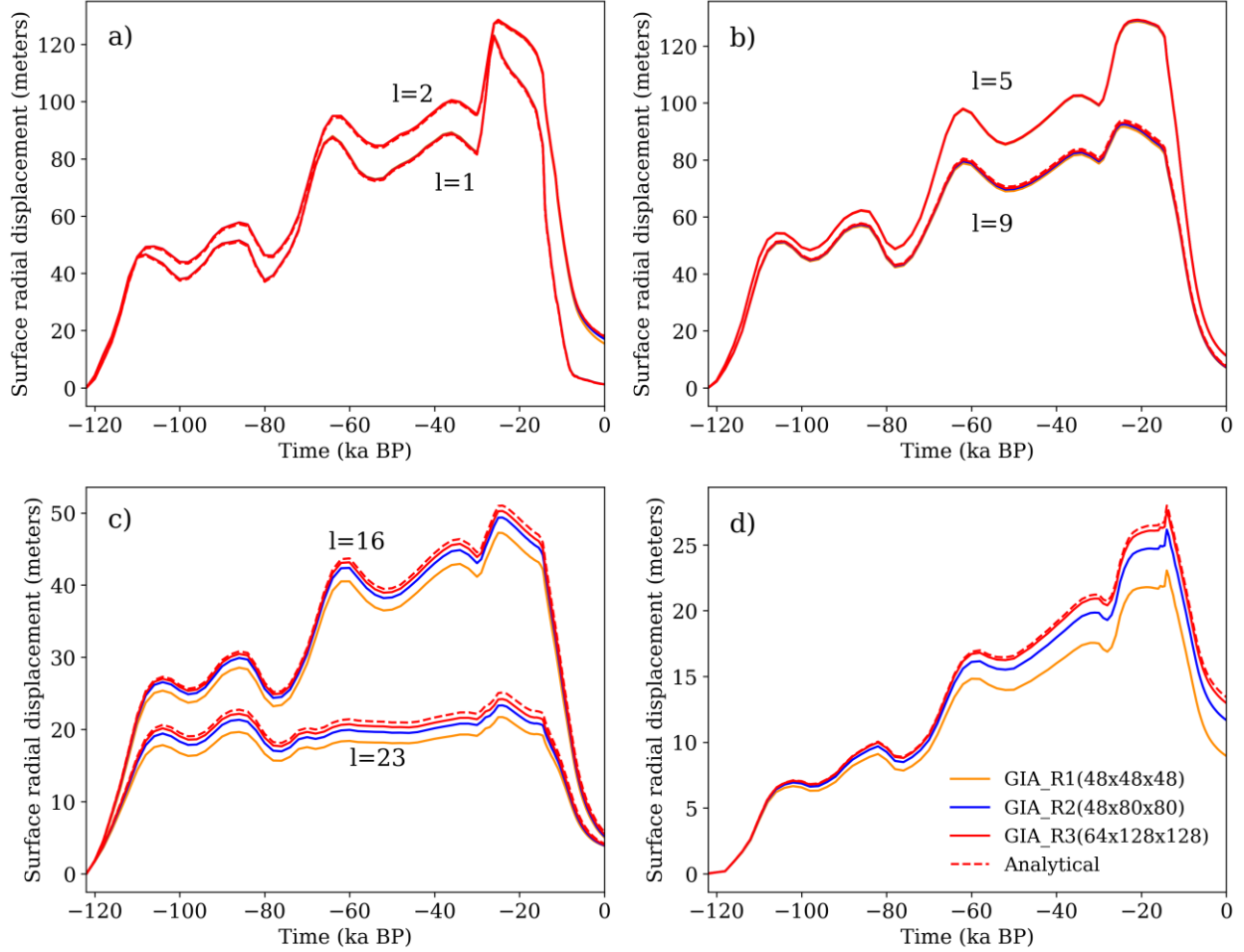
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where C_{lm} and S_{lm} denote the cosine and sine parts of the spherical harmonic coefficients expanded from the radial displacement fields at time t . Figures 4a-4c show the amplitude a_l of surface radial displacement at selected spherical harmonics degrees ($l=1, 2, 5, 9, 16$ and 23) for the three CitcomSVE cases, together with the corresponding semi-analytical solutions. Same as CitcomSVE 2.1 (Zhong et al., 2022), the lowest-resolution case is adequate for relatively long wavelengths ($l=1, 2, 5$, and 9), whereas higher resolution models are required for accuracy in shorter wavelengths ($l=16$ and 23) (Fig. 4c). Figure 4d shows the results for the harmonic of $l=2$ and $m=1$ that corresponds to the polar wander. Similar to findings from single harmonic benchmarks in the previous section and Zhong et al., (2022), high spatial resolution is required to obtain an accurate solution for the polar wander term. Note that the amplitudes of polar wander mode are much smaller than other long wavelength modes like $l=2, 5$, and 9 .



719



720

721 Figure 4. Amplitudes of cumulative radial surface displacement at different spherical harmonic degrees as
 722 a function of time for the semi-analytical solutions (Analytical) and three CitcomSVE calculations
 723 (GIA_R1, GIA_R2, and GIA_R3) for $l=1,2$ (a), $l=5,9$ (b), $l=16, 23$ (c), and polar wander mode with $l=2,$
 724 $m=1$ (d).

725

726 Following Zhong et al., (2022), we use the time-integrated relative error of degree amplitude ε_l to
 727 quantify the time-averaged error for a given degree l . ε_l is defined as

$$728 \quad \varepsilon_l = \sqrt{\frac{\int_0^T [a_{l_{FE}}(t) - a_{l_S}(t)]^2 dt}{\int_0^T a_{l_S}(t)^2 dt}}, \quad (18)$$

729 where $a_{l_{FE}}(t)$ and $a_{l_S}(t)$ represent the degree amplitudes at time t from the CitcomSVE and semi-
 730 analytical solutions, respectively, and T is the entire calculation period. The errors for each case are shown

731 in Table 4. As expected, the errors decrease with increasing spatial resolution for each degree, and errors
 732 for shorter wavelengths are larger than those for longer wavelengths, except for the polar wander term with
 733 relatively large errors.

734 **Table 4 Relative Errors for Surface Radial Displacements at Different Harmonics**

| | GIA_R1 | GIA_R2 | GIA_R3 | GIA_R3_LT | GIA_R3_LT_SH20 | GIA_R3_LT_SH64 |
|-------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|------------------|----------------|
| ϵ_1 | 0.97% | 0.74% | 0.62% | 0.64% | 0.64% | 0.64% |
| ϵ_2 | 0.98% | 0.76% | 0.73% | 0.74% | 0.74% | 0.72% |
| ϵ_5 | 0.33% | 0.12% | 0.13% | 0.14% | 0.14% | 0.14% |
| ϵ_9 | 2.30% | 1.37% | 0.77% | 0.77% | 0.77% | 0.77% |
| ϵ_{16} | 7.56% | 3.30% | 1.45% | 1.45% | 1.45% | 1.45% |
| ϵ_{23} | 13.66% | 6.69% | 3.10% | 3.10% | N/A ^b | 3.10% |
| $\epsilon_{2,1}$ ^a | 17.53% | 6.58% | 1.48% | 1.39% | 1.39% | 1.80% |

735 ^a $\epsilon_{2,1}$ represents the errors for the polar wander term ($l=2, m=1$).

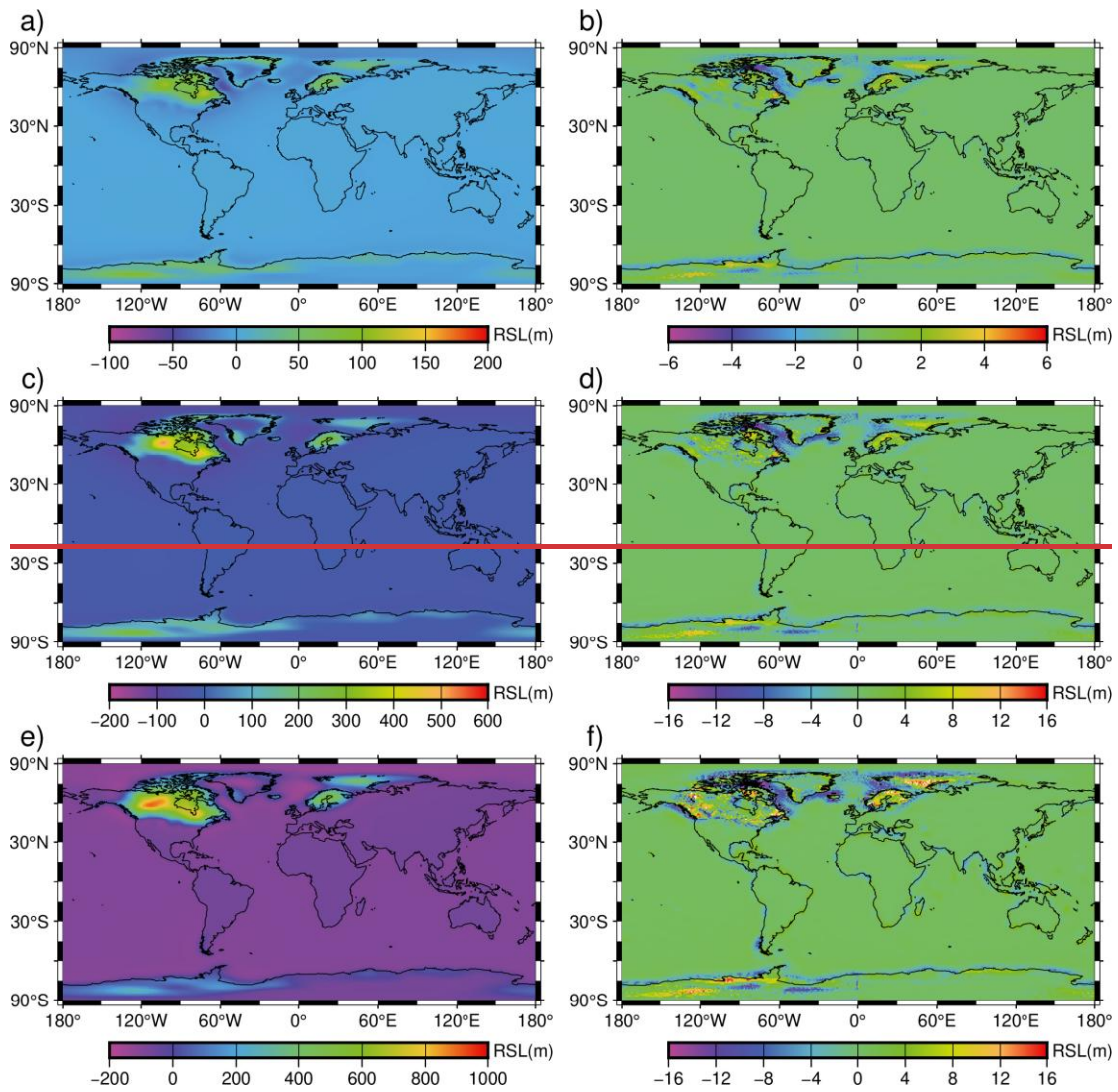
736 ^b N/A, the cut-off of degrees and orders of spherical harmonics is 20 for this case, and we only output the
 737 spherical harmonics up to the cut-off value in CitcomSVE.

738

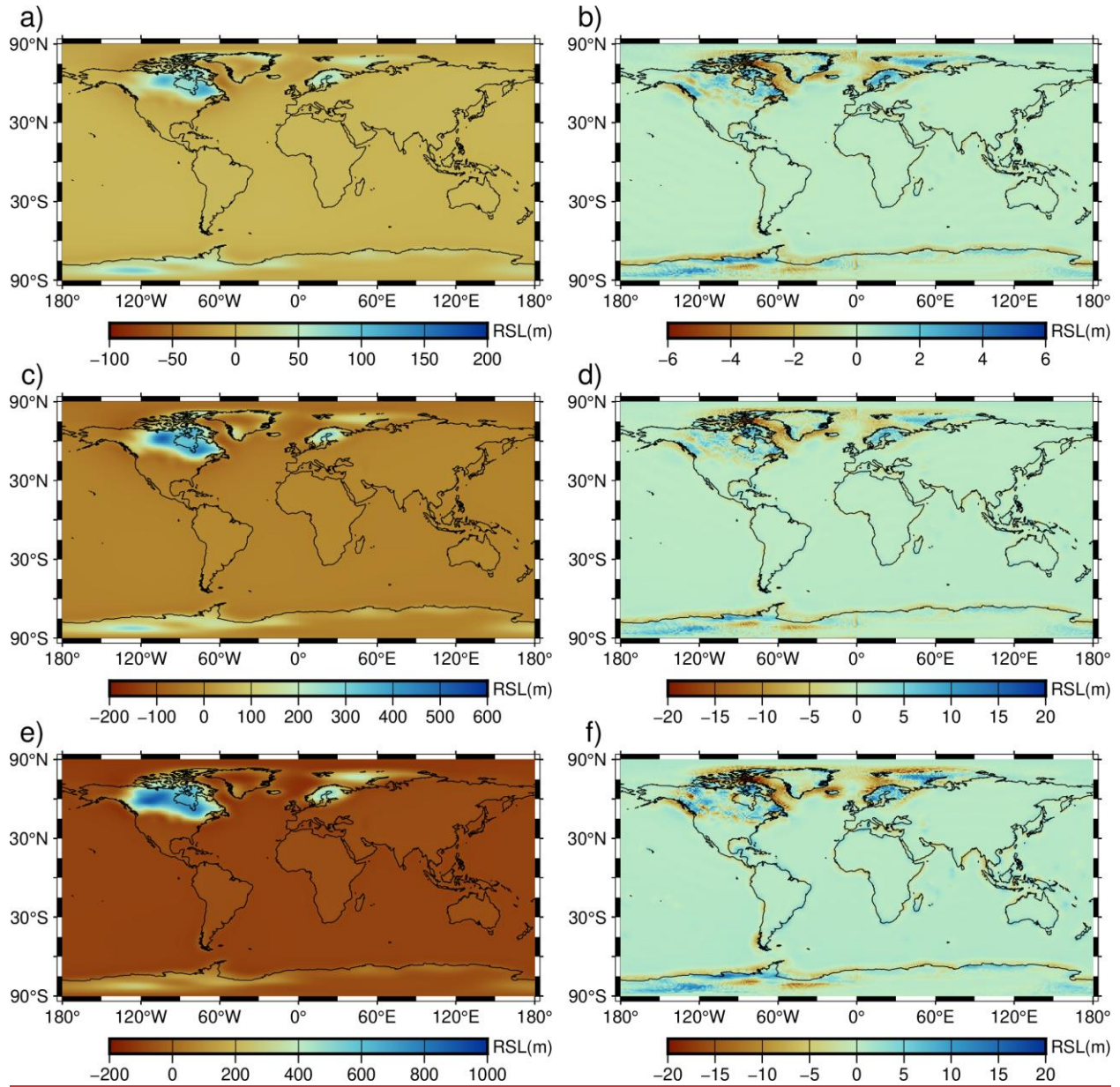
739 Figure 5 shows the comparisons of modeled relative sea levels at different periods (5 kybpka BP,
 740 10 kybpka BP, and 15 kybpka BP) for GIA_R3 and the semi-analytical solutions on map views. ~~The~~
 741 ~~globally averaged relative misfits at 5 kybp, 10 kybp, and 15 kybp are 4.14%, 2.82%, and 1.70%,~~
 742 ~~respectively, similar to errors in displacement rates.~~ The regions with localized, relatively large errors (Fig.
 743 5b, 5d, and 5f) are mostly around the edges of ice sheets in North America, Fennoscandia, and Antarctica,
 744 similar to that for displacement rates, as shown in Figure 3b. Figure 6 compares modeled RSL curves for
 745 several sites from semi-analytical solutions and three CitcomSVE calculations with different spatial
 746 resolutions. Increasing spatial resolution reduces the misfits/offsets to semi-analytical solutions for near-
 747 field sites (i.e., sites close to ice sheets) (Fig. 6a and 6b), but does not appear to affect the far-field solutions
 748 as much (Fig. 6c and 6d), reflecting that the RSL at far-field sites is not sensitive to numerical resolutions
 749 and the offsets to semi-analytical solutions are caused by other factors, for example, the interpolation of

750 [ocean function from a regular grid to CitcomSVE grid or the interpolation of results on CitcomSVE grid to](#)

751 [RSL sites.](#)

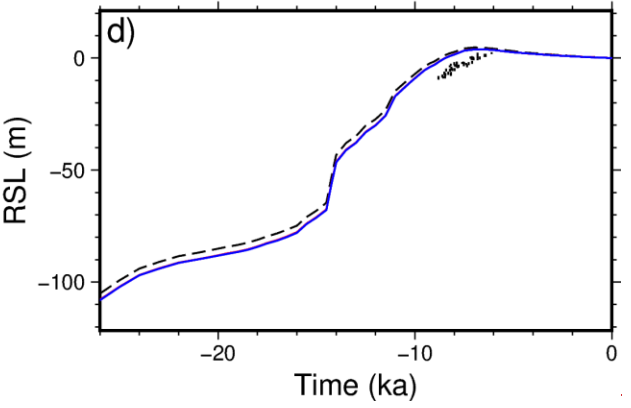
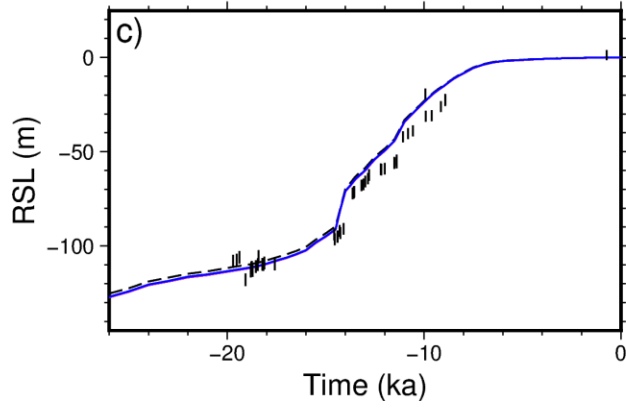
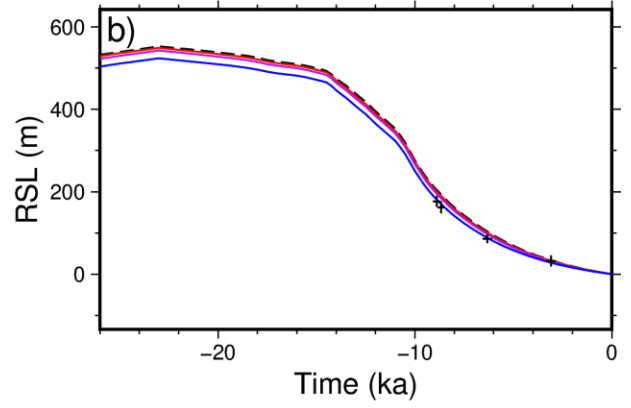
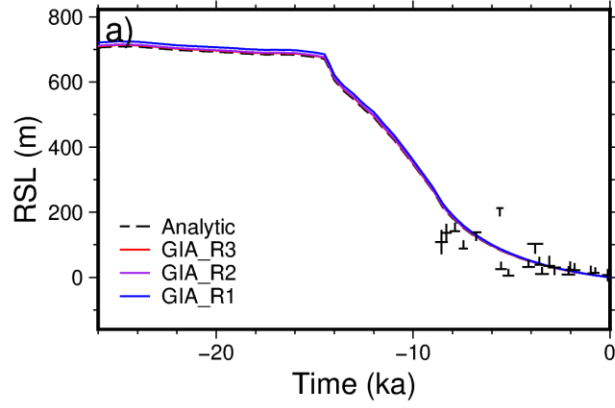


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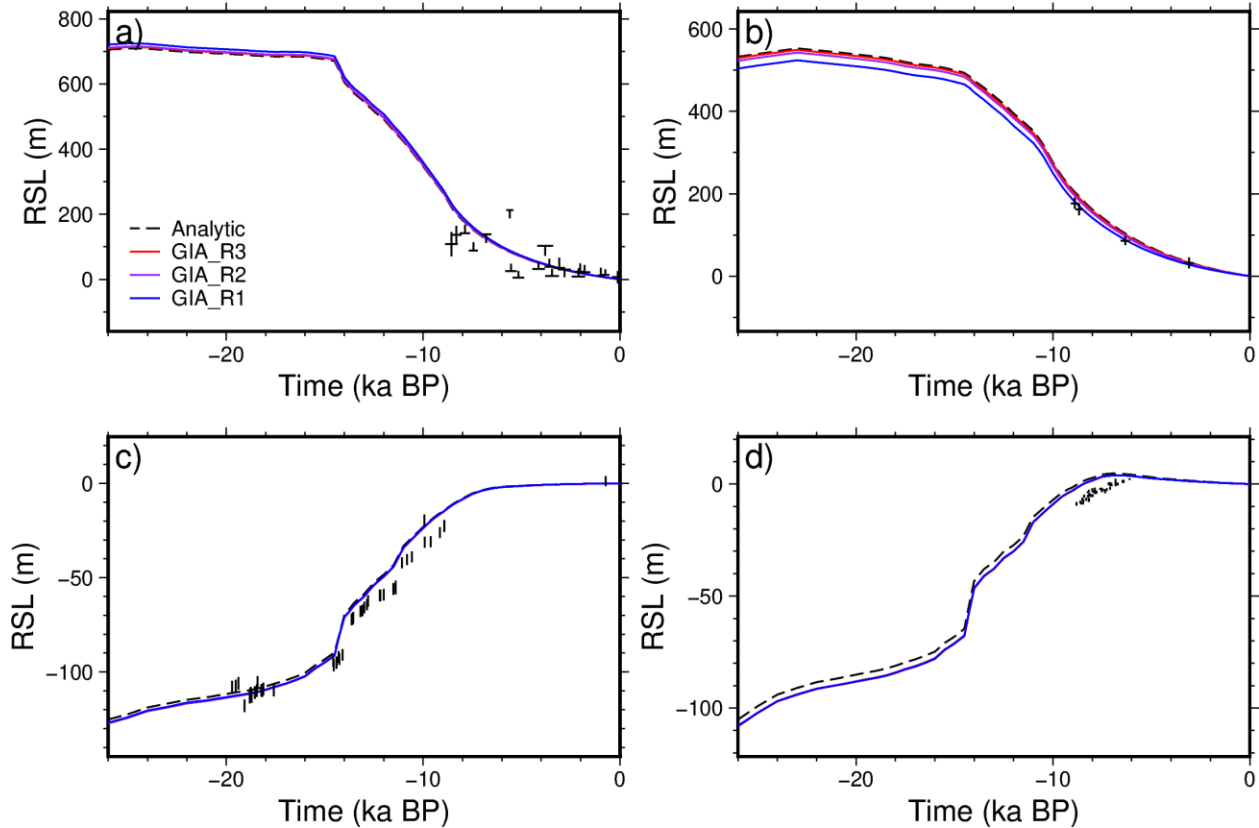
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754 Figure 5. Map of modeled relative sea level at 5 kyr BP (a), 10 kyr BP (c), and 15 kyr BP (e)
 755 from GIA_R3 and their differences to semi-analytic solutions at 5 kyr BP (b), 10 kyr BP (d), and
 756 15 kyr BP (f), respectively.



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758



759

760 Figure 6. Relative sea-level curves for the last 26 ky at four sites from semi-analytic solutions (Analytic)
 761 and three CitcomSVE calculations of different resolutions: cases GIA_R1, GIA_R2, and GIA_R3. The four
 762 sites are Churchill (a), Vasterbotten (b), Barbados (c), and Geylang (d) with longitudes and latitudes of
 763 (265.60, 58.70), (19.90, 64.00), (300.45, 13.04), and (103.87, 1.31), respectively. The symbols represent the
 764 observed RSL changes. The observed RLS are from Peltier et al., (2015) and Lambeck et al., (2014).

765

766 4. Conclusion and Discussion

767 This study introduces CitcomSVE-3.0, an enhanced finite element package that builds upon its
 768 predecessor, CitcomSVE-2.1 (Zhong et al., 2022), an efficient package that utilizes massively parallelized
 769 computers with up to thousands of CPUs. The new version incorporates elastic compressibility (e.g., the
 770 PREM) based on the work of A et al. (2013) and improves the algorithm for solving sea level equations
 771 following the work of Kendall et al. (2005), which considers the changes in ocean loads and ocean functions
 772 related to ocean-continent transitions and the existence of floating ice. Two benchmark problems are

773 computed with different numerical resolutions: 1) both surface and tidal loads of different single harmonics
774 and 2) GIA problem with ICE6G D ice model.

775 Extensive comparisons between CitcomSVE-3.0 calculations and semi-analytic solutions are
776 presented to validate the accuracy of the CitcomSVE package. The accuracy of CitcomSVE with a
777 horizontal resolution of ~ 50 km is better than 0.1% up to spherical harmonics of degree 4 and better than
778 2% up to degree 16 in vertical motion and gravitational potential for single harmonic loading problems.
779 WeThe single harmonic benchmarks show that CitcomSVE has a second order of accuracy, i.e., the errors
780 would be reduced to 1/4 if element sizes were reduced by a factor of two. For GIA problems with realistic
781 ice models and dynamically determined ocean loads, the average errors for CitcomSVE models with ~ 50
782 km horizontal resolution are less than 5% in displacement rates and relative sea levels.

783 As shown in the benchmark work for CitcomSVE-2.1 (Zhong et al., 2022), CitcomSVE has a
784 parallel computation efficiency of $> 75\%$ for up to 6144 CPU cores. Although CitcomSVE-3.0 is about
785 three times slower than CitcomSVE-2.1 for most of our tests because of the added computational expense
786 for gravitational potential introduced by the layered density structure and compressibility, it can complete
787 a high-resolution global GIA calculation within several hours on supercomputers with a modest number of
788 CPU cores. With its accuracy and efficiency in modeling viscoelastic response to surface loads and tidal
789 forces, the open-source package CitcomSVE has the ability to advance research in planetary and climatic
790 sciences, including GIA-related problems.

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Code and Data Availability Statement: The ~~updated CiteomSVE package can be downloaded~~current version of CitcomSVE3.0 is available from GitHub: <https://github.com/shjzhong/CitcomSVE>. ~~The input files and results~~exact version of the model used to produce ~~figures and tables for the results used in this study can be downloaded from~~<https://doi.org/paper> is archived on Zenodo (10.5281/zenodo.13932411 (Yuan, 2024). ~~The original ICE-6G~~13932410), as are input data (including the ice ~~history model is from~~<https://www.atmosp.physics.utoronto.ca/~peltier/data.php>. ~~model and Earth model used in this paper~~) and scripts to run the model and produce the plots for all the calculations presented in this paper.

Author contribution: All authors contributed to the development of the code, design of the research, analysis of the results, and writing of the manuscript. T.Y. performed numerical calculations.

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