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Daniel Raucoules, Gonéri Le Cozannet, Guy Wöppelmann, Marcello de  
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1 **High nonlinear urban ground motion in Manila (Philippines) from 1993 to 2010**  
2 **observed by DInSAR: implications for sea-level measurement**

3  
4  
5 Raucoules, Daniel<sup>a\*</sup>; Le Cozannet, Gonéri<sup>a</sup>; Wöppelmann, Guy<sup>b</sup>; de Michele, Marcello<sup>a</sup>; Gravelle,  
6 Médéric<sup>b</sup>; Daag, Arturo<sup>c</sup>; Marcos, Marta<sup>b</sup>

7  
8 <sup>a</sup>*BRGM, 3 av. Claude Guillemin, 45060 Orléans, France*

9 <sup>b</sup>*LIENSs, Université de La Rochelle - CNRS, 2 rue Olympe de Gouges, 17000 La Rochelle, France*

10 <sup>c</sup>*Philippine Institute of Volcanology (Phivolcs), PHIVOLCS Building, CP Garcia Avenue, U.P. Campus Diliman,*  
11 *Quezon City 1101, Philippines*

12 *\*corresponding author: d.raucoules@brgm.fr; phone: 33-2 38 64 30 86*

13  
14  
15 **Keywords:** DInSAR; subsidence; sea level rise estimation; Manila

16  
17 **Highlights:**

- 18  
19 - Differential SAR interferometry has been applied in Manila (Philippines)  
20 - High nonlinear ground motion was observed during 1993–1998 and 2003–2010.  
21 - A comparison with independent ground-level measurements (GPS, DORIS, and Tide Gauge) was  
22 carried out.  
23 - The consequences for sea-level estimation were analyzed using a local tide gauge and GPS  
24 station.  
25

26  
27 **ABSTRACT:**

28 In coastal low-lying urban areas, vertical ground motions can significantly exacerbate the hazards related to  
29 sea-level rise. However, their spatial extent, their temporal evolution, and even sometimes their existence  
30 are often poorly known. This study aims to monitor variable urban ground motion (uplift and subsidence)  
31 from 1993 to 2010 in the metropolitan area of Manila, Philippines. Because high subsidence rates have  
32 been reported in this city in previous studies, conventional differential SAR interferometry (DInSAR) was  
33 applied with an adapted stacking procedure to the archive of ERS and Envisat satellite images to produce  
34 surface deformation-velocity maps for different periods. The results showed that the city is locally affected

35 by vertical ground motions on the order of 15 cm/yr. Moreover, the spatio-temporal evolution of the ground-  
36 motion phenomena is highly nonlinear. These results are in good agreement with previous studies focused  
37 on groundwater use in Manila and in the Marikina Fault Valley, suggesting a plausible interpretation of the  
38 processes causing surface motion. Incidentally, the ground motions are affecting the locations of several  
39 geodetic instruments, including a tide gauge with sea-level records starting in 1902, two permanent GPS  
40 (Global Positioning System) stations, and a DORIS (Doppler Orbitography and Radiopositioning Integrated  
41 by Satellite) station. A major implication of those large and locally variable ground motions is that they  
42 impede the use of the nearby GPS and DORIS data to correct the tide-gauge records and to derive robust  
43 sea-level trends associated with climate change.

44

## 45 1. Introduction

46 As sea level rises, there is increased concern about the growing urbanization of the world's coastal zones  
47 and the related coastal hazards, particularly in Southeast Asia (McGranahan *et al.*, 2007; Nicholls &  
48 Cazenave, 2010). However, climate-induced sea-level rise is not the only process leading to changes in  
49 mean relative sea levels in coastal cities: the local relative sea-level rise (i.e., as experienced on the coast)  
50 can be significantly affected by vertical ground motions, subsidence or uplift, either due to natural  
51 processes (e.g., global isostatic adjustment, tectonics, sediment compaction) or to human activities (e.g.,  
52 groundwater pumping, hydrocarbon extraction).

53

54 In a recent assessment of the exposure of the world's coastal cities to coastal submersion hazard, Hanson  
55 *et al.* (2011) have highlighted that subsidence or uplift (1) affects many important coastal cities worldwide  
56 and (2) can be in the same order of magnitude or greater than climate-induced sea-level rise. It is therefore  
57 important to take into account these processes for evaluating how changes in sea level may affect coastal  
58 cities in the future. However, while coastal ground motions are recognized important, they are in practice  
59 often poorly known. In many cases, little information is available about the processes that generate ground  
60 motion (e.g., location and rates of groundwater pumping) and on ground-motion patterns. In addition,  
61 vertical ground motions often reveal strong spatial and temporal variability, so that their mapping is a  
62 complex task.

63

64 As a complement to *in-situ* monitoring (e.g., using GPS or leveling), space-borne Differential Synthetic  
65 Aperture Radar Interferometry (DInSAR) provides a means to deliver a comprehensive mapping of surface  
66 deformation (e.g., Brooks *et al.*, 2007; Lagios *et al.*, 2006; Raucoules *et al.*, 2008; Bock *et al.*, 2012;  
67 Chaussard *et al.*, 2013). The principle of DInSAR is to infer ground-motion displacements from the  
68 evolution of the phase of space-borne Synthetic Aperture Radar between two or more satellite passes.  
69 Although the technique encounters limitations in vegetated areas, it can be applied efficiently in urban  
70 environments. In addition, provided that the displacements are not too rapid given the geometric and  
71 temporal characteristics of the available SAR scenes time series, the method has been shown to be  
72 efficient for monitoring slightly nonlinear ground motions (e.g., Kim *et al.*, 2010).

73  
74 Using SAR data acquired by the ERS and Envisat satellites from 1993 to 2010, this study uses DInSAR to  
75 monitor ground motions affecting Manila, on Luzon Island in the Philippines. Located on a coastal  
76 floodplain between the eastern part of Manila Bay and Laguna de Bay, the Manila metropolitan area is  
77 considered to be highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of flooding and of sea-level rise (World Bank,  
78 2010). The 2010 population census reported that Manila has a population of 11.8 million inhabitants  
79 (National Statistics Office, Republic of the Philippines, 2010). In addition, previous studies have reported  
80 that the city is subject to ground motions: as the population has grown, water demand and groundwater  
81 extraction have drastically increased (Clemente *et al.*, 2001), causing ground surface motions in the city of  
82 Manila, as well as in other locations around Manila Bay (Siringan & Ringor, 1998; Rodolfo & Siringan,  
83 2006; Daag *et al.*, 2011, Clemente *et al.*, 2001). Finally, the eastern part of the city is crossed by a seismic  
84 fault, the Marikina Fault Valley (Rimando & Knuepfer, 2001).

85  
86 Interestingly, the city hosts several important geodetic instruments which are potentially useful for  
87 estimating contemporary sea-level rise. Tide-gauge measurements have been recorded in Manila since  
88 1902, which makes this the longest time series in Southeast Asia. Therefore, this gauge belongs to the  
89 “Global Core Network” of the Global Sea Level Observing System (GLOSS). However, the tide gauge is  
90 suspected of being affected by ground motions, presumably due to groundwater withdrawal, at least since  
91 the 1950s (Santamaría Gómez *et al.*, 2012). To correct sea-level time series from these ground motions  
92 (as proposed by Wöppelmann *et al.*, 2007), several geodetic instruments located in metropolitan Manila  
93 might be used: two GPS stations and a DORIS (Doppler Orbitography and Radiopositioning Integrated by

94 Satellite) station (Willis *et al.*, 2010). However, these instruments are located several kilometers away from  
95 the tide gauge (Fig. 1). Because no repeated leveling surveys are presently available in the GLOSS data  
96 repositories ([www.sonel.org](http://www.sonel.org); [www.psmsl.org](http://www.psmsl.org)), it is unknown whether the location of these instruments has  
97 been affected by the ground-motion processes.

98  
99 In this study, DInSAR is applied to the Manila urban area with the objective of providing preliminary  
100 answers to the following questions:

- 101 (1) What was the spatial and temporal variability of ground-surface deformations in Manila from 1993  
102 to 2010?
- 103 (2) To which extent do these deformations affect the locations of the tide gauge and of the GPS and  
104 DORIS stations?
- 105 (3) What are the possibilities for using sea-level time series before 1993 in Manila?

106  
107 The paper proceeds as follows: Part 2 describes the data and the DInSAR processing. Part 3 reports on  
108 the observations of surface deformations and provides preliminary interpretations in relation to previous  
109 studies focused on groundwater extraction and on the Marikina Valley Fault. Finally, in Part 4, the paper  
110 discusses to which extent the combination of permanent GPS measurements and DInSAR is able to  
111 provide correction for long-term tide-gauge time series for this particular site, considering the high observed  
112 deformation rates and their irregular temporal evolution.

113  
114  
115

## 116 2. Processing procedures and data

### 117 2.1 Choice of an adapted DInSAR processing procedure

118  
119 Several DInSAR algorithms can be used for processing SAR data, from conventional DInSAR (e.g.,  
120 Massonnet and Feigl, 1998), possibly with an adapted stacking procedure (e.g., Usai *et al.*, 2003) to  
121 advanced techniques such as Persistent Scatterers Interferometry (PSI, e.g., Ferretti *et al.*, 2000;  
122 Wegmuller *et al.*, 2004) or Small Baseline Subsets (SBAS, e.g., Pepe *et al.*, 2005). The quality of the

123 results obtained by each method can vary widely depending on the area of interest and on the available  
124 SAR images. In places such as the densely urbanized Manila metropolitan area, conventional DInSAR  
125 often provides interferograms with good coherence even over large time spans (a few years), provided that  
126 the perpendicular baselines are not too high. However, these interferograms are affected by atmospheric  
127 effects, typically leading at the spatial wavelength of this study (~20 km) to errors of the order of one  
128 centimeter, but in certain cases to errors larger than a fringe (e.g., Hanssen, 2001). When a sufficient  
129 number of SAR scenes have been acquired, stacking procedures can average and reduce atmospheric  
130 effects, which are supposed to be spatially correlated and temporally uncorrelated. With this assumption,  
131 uncertainty due to atmosphere is reduced as the inverse of  $\sqrt{N}$ , where N is the number of independent  
132 interferograms (Zebker *et al.*, 1997; Peltzer *et al.*, 2001). For the presented results, that corresponds to  
133 approximately 4 mm/yr for the ERS data set (with only thirteen images) and better than 1 mm/yr for the  
134 EnviSat/ASAR data set.

135 Stacking procedures are relatively easy to use and can often provide information about potentially  
136 nonlinear ground motions in the order of a few centimeters per year (e.g., Le Mouelic *et al.*, 2005). Finally,  
137 advanced techniques such as PSI can be efficient if PS density is sufficient and can reach high precision.  
138 However, in the case of spatially and temporally variable rapid ground deformations, PSI techniques (in the  
139 standard procedure based on the use of linear or slightly nonlinear displacement evolution models) can be  
140 affected by spatial and temporal unwrapping errors that result in underestimation of the velocity and  
141 incorrect atmospheric phase screen estimation (Raucoules *et al.*, 2009). When no prior information on  
142 patterns of urban ground deformations is available, stacking procedures are easily applicable and can  
143 provide maps of vertical ground motions. This approach was selected for the case study in Manila.  
144 Combinations of ascending and descending modes can in certain cases (e.g., Wright *et al.*, 2004) be used  
145 for separating vertical motions other than horizontal (in fact, mostly East-West because of the orbital  
146 orientation). However, in the study area, the data archive in ascending mode is insufficient (in fact only one  
147 ASAR pair is archived) to derive deformation maps for the period of interest. Assumptions on the direction  
148 of motion are therefore needed for interpretation.

149

150           2.2 Description of data and processing

151

152 Using a series of ERS 1-2 images between 1993 and 2000 (Table 1) and ASAR/EnviSAT data between  
 153 2003 and 2010 (Table 2), differential interferograms having perpendicular baselines shorter than 300 m  
 154 were processed. Then, as suggested, e.g., by Le Mouelic *et al.*, (2005), a subset of trustworthy  
 155 interferograms was selected visually by rejecting noisy phases and data obviously affected by atmospheric  
 156 effects. In addition to rejecting low-coherence interferograms, the interferograms were compared by pairs  
 157 to identify obvious atmospheric effects. Figures 2a and 2b show the selected interferograms and related  
 158 acquisition times and perpendicular baselines. Deformation is assumed (even for nonlinear deformation) to  
 159 have a certain temporal correlation, whereas atmosphere turbulence is assumed uncorrelated. By  
 160 identifying similarities and dissimilarities on the interferograms, it was possible to detect acquisitions  
 161 affected by strong atmospheric effects that could severely impair a stacking result. Finally, interferograms  
 162 were stacked for the entire observation periods [1993–1998 (ERS) and 2003–2010 (Envisat)] and for sub-  
 163 periods of three years. We focused on time spans shorter than 400 days to avoid unwrapping errors in  
 164 interferograms with more than five or six fringes and to limit temporal decorrelation. Note that the ERS  
 165 acquisition for 2000 does not allow production of interferograms meeting the requirements in terms of time  
 166 span.

167 This processing was carried out using the GAMMA interferometric software (Wegmuller *at al.*, 1998).

168  
 169 2.3 Specific procedures for analyzing temporally variable ground motions and fault-related  
 170 deformations

171  
 172 In addition, a principal components analysis (PCA) was performed on the deformation maps to discriminate  
 173 the areas affected by constant deformation (first component) from those affected by time-varying  
 174 deformation. Finally, a directional filter was computed for the 2003–2010 deformation maps of the Marikina  
 175 Valley Fault area (east of Manila) to locate sections of the fault affected by surface motion.

176  
 177 Table 1: ERS 1–2 acquisitions (track 418)

Year	Acquisition dates
1993	25 July, 29 Aug, 3 Oct
1995	4 April, 13 June, 31 Oct, 5 Dec
1996	9 Jan, 19 March, 11 Sept

1997	1 Oct, 5 Nov
1998	14 Jan
2000	23 Feb

---

178 Mean incidence angle: approximately 23°

179

180



181

182 Table 2: EnviSat/ASAR acquisitions (track 418)

---

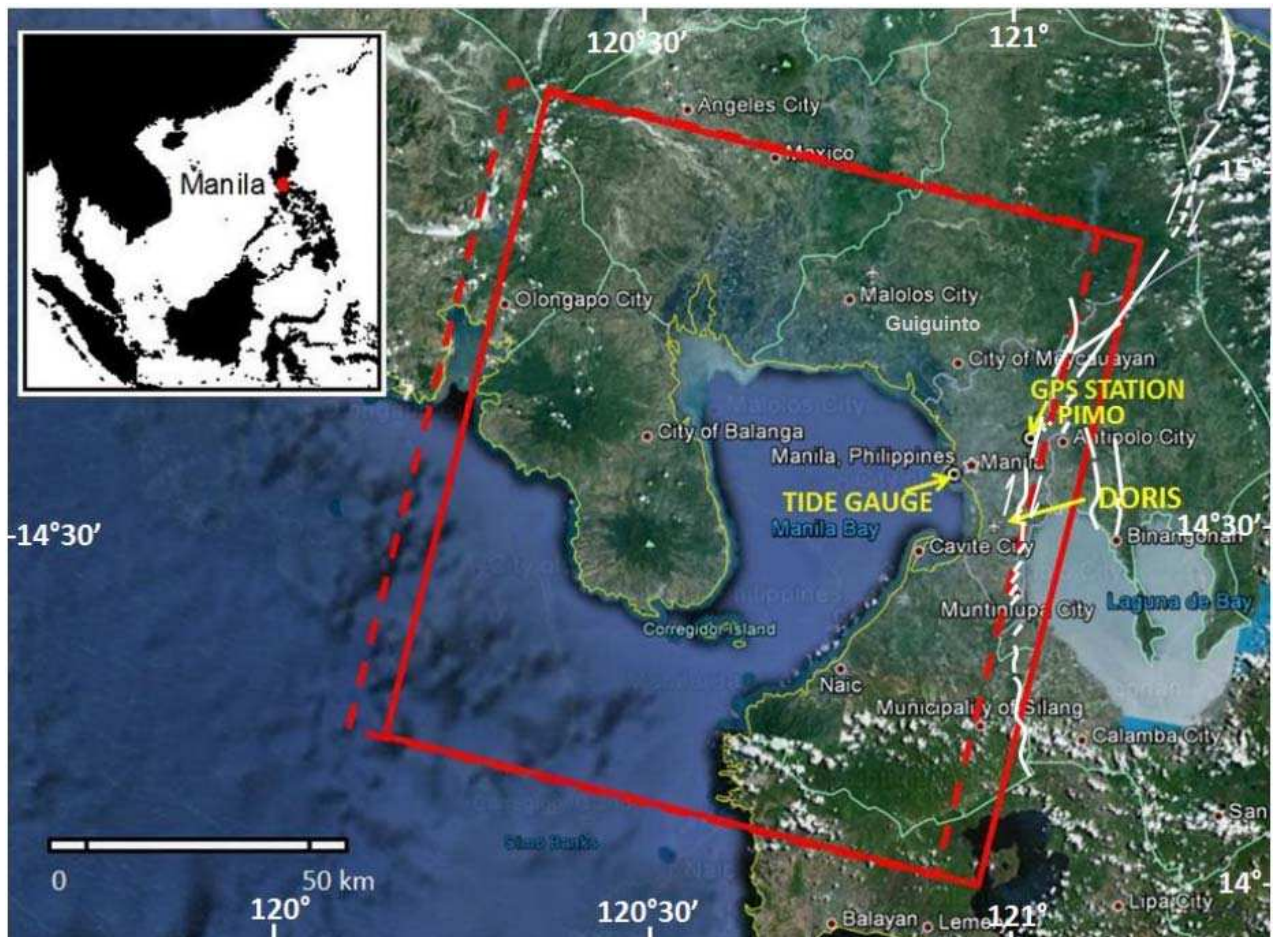
Year	Acquisition dates
2003	8 Jan, 12 Feb, 19 March, 2 July, 10 Sept, 24 Dec
2004	28 Jan, 3 March, 12 May, 21 July, 25 Aug, 29 Sept, 3 Nov, 8 Dec
2005	12 Jan, 16 Feb, 23 March, 27 April, 1 June, 6 July, 10 Aug, 14 Sept, 28 Dec
2006	1 Feb, 8 March, 12 April, 17 May, 26 July, 17 Jan, 26 July
2007	17 Jan, 24 Oct, 28 Nov
2008	12 March, 25 June, 3 Sept, 12 Nov
2009	21 Jan, 2 Dec
2010	4 Aug

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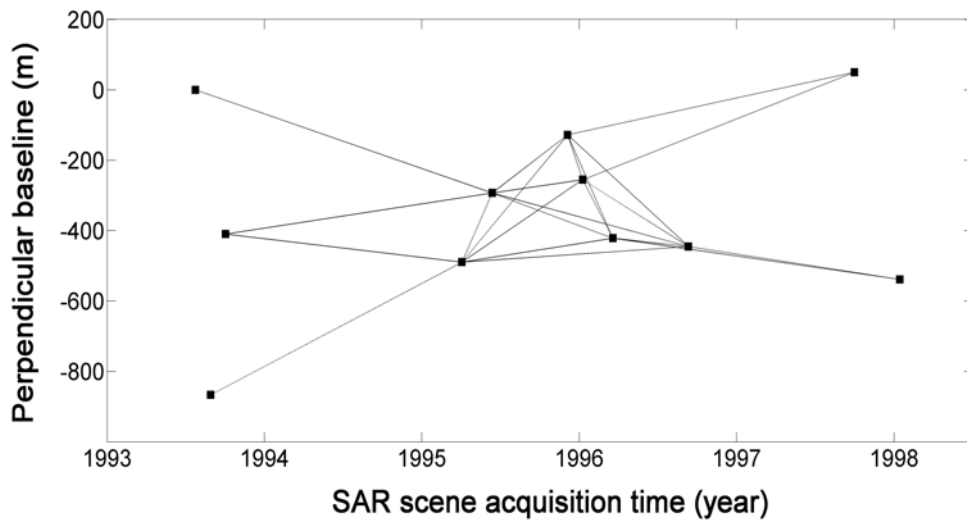
183 Mean incidence angle: approximately 23°

184

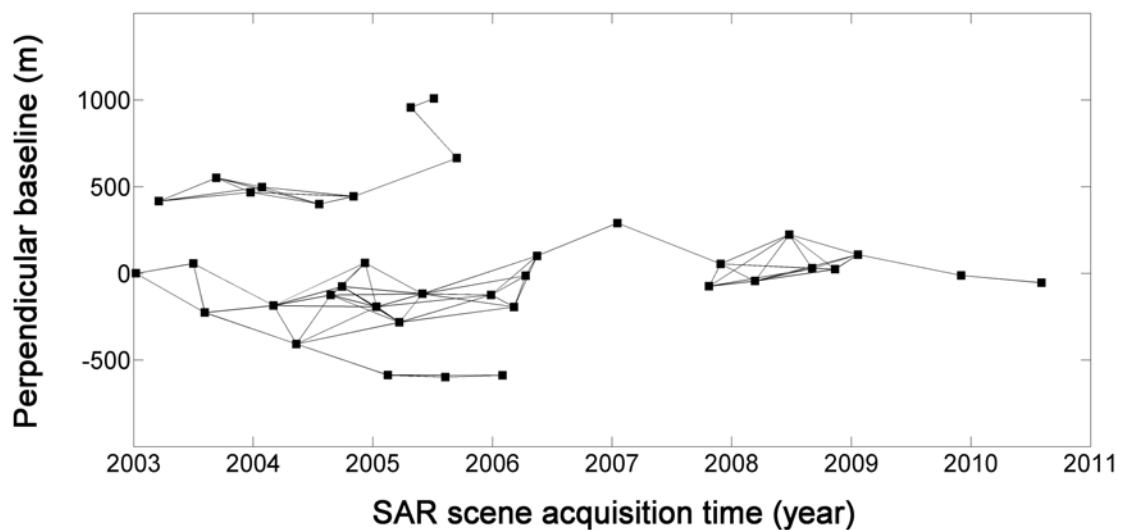
185



186 *Figure 1: Location of the Manila metropolitan area. This map shows (1) the area covered by the SAR data*  
 187 *acquisition frames on Manila Bay, with solid lines corresponding to the ASAR/ENVISAT acquisitions and*  
 188 *dashed lines to ERS 1 and 2 data; (2) the position of the Marikina Valley Fault System (MVFS), based on*  
 189 *Rimando & Knuepfer, (2006); the ASAR data cover part the Marikina Valley Fault, whereas the ERS data*  
 190 *do not due to a slight westward shift of ERS; (3) the location of the tide gauge, GPS (PIMO), and DORIS*  
 191 *stations; the MANL GPS station is located close to the tide gauge (see Fig. 3a), but no reliable vertical*  
 192 *velocity could be computed for the study period using the SONEL data repository ([www.sonel.org](http://www.sonel.org)).*  
 193



194  
 195 *Figure 2a: Baseline/time diagram for the ERS 1/2 data. The interferograms used for the study (those that*  
 196 *met the requirements in terms of baseline and time span) are represented by vectors with coordinates*  
 197 *corresponding to their baselines and time spans. The zero perpendicular baseline refers to the scene*  
 198 *acquired on July 25, 1993.*  
 199



200  
 201 *Figure 2b: Same as Figure 2a for the EnviSAT/ASAR data. The zero perpendicular baseline refers to the*  
 202 *scene acquired on January 8, 2003.*

203

204

205 **3. Results: observations and preliminary interpretations**

206

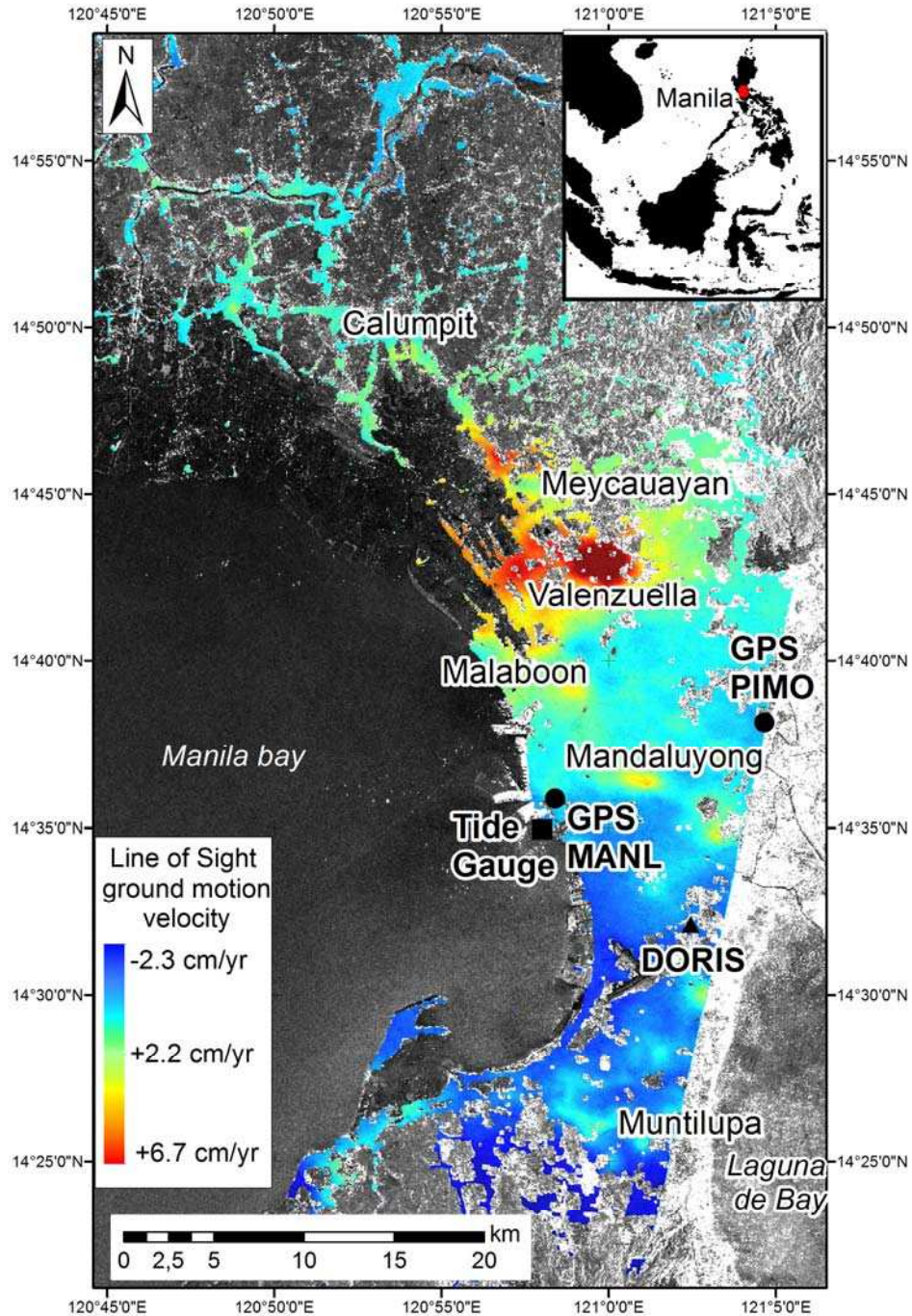
### 207 3.1 Velocity maps

208 Deformation maps were produced as shown in Figs. 3 and 4. The scale corresponds to Line of Sight (LOS)  
209 in cm/yr. Because of the  $23^\circ$  view angle of the acquisition geometry, the LOS measurement is 2.3 more  
210 sensitive to the vertical component of the displacement than to the horizontal. The horizontal component of  
211 the subsidence displacement is generally much smaller than the vertical, but in certain cases could be non-  
212 negligible with respect to the vertical, although smaller (e.g., for coal-mining subsidence, the ratio between  
213 the maximum horizontal and the maximum vertical components is approximately 0.4; Tandanand & Powell,  
214 1991). On the basis of these two observations, it can be assumed that for subsidence, the measured LOS  
215 component is related mostly to the vertical component of the displacement. Under this assumption, 10  
216 rad/yr would correspond to approximately 4.9 cm/yr of vertical motion. However, horizontal displacements  
217 probably occur in the Marikina Valley Fault because it is mainly a strike-slip fault. In fact, if the observed  
218 motion were mainly due to fault activity and not related to pumping-induced subsidence, the measured LOS  
219 displacement would be the projection of an along-fault motion (except on sections of the fault having a  
220 more complex motion).

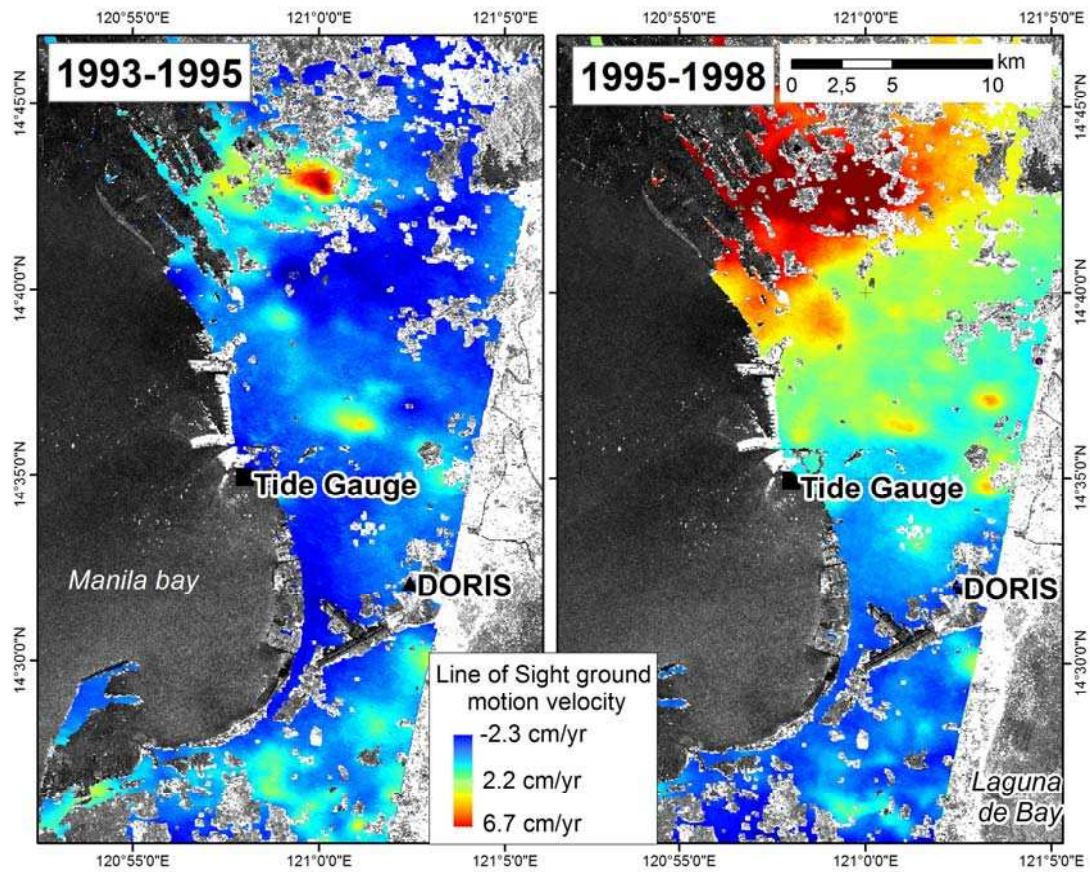
221 Pixels with an interferometric coherence less than 0.3 were considered unreliable and were used to define  
222 a mask. Morphological operations (opening and closing) were applied to the mask to remove irregularities  
223 before the mask was applied to the interferograms.

224 Because of the generalized surface motion in the area, it is difficult to find a reliable and stable reference  
225 point. However, the DORIS instrument provides a local estimate of vertical velocity. The deformation maps  
226 were corrected by a value (constant for a given map) to be compatible with the displacement observed by  
227 DORIS for the corresponding period (and therefore to convert relative measurements from DInSAR in  
228 absolute motion estimates). Values of the DORIS motion rates and a description of the data are given in  
229 Section 4.1.

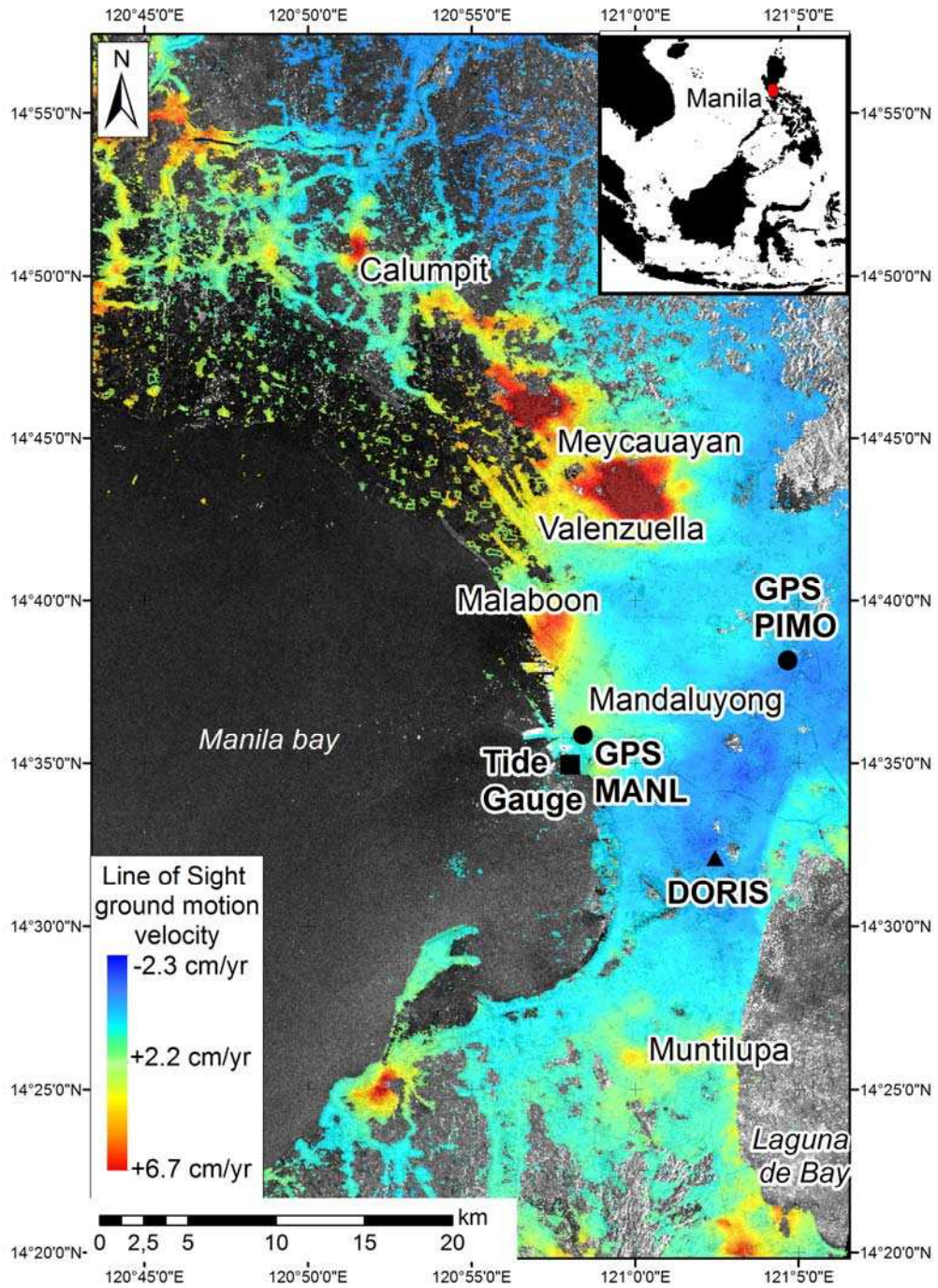
230



231  
 232 *Figure 3a: Line of Sight ground motion velocity in cm/yr for the whole 1993–1998 period (ERS 1-2 data).*  
 233 *Negative values correspond to displacements towards the sensor (i.e., uplift). For figure readability, the*  
 234 *color palette in this figure and in the following velocity maps is saturated at its extreme values.*  
 235



236  
 237 *Figure 3b: Line of Sight ground motion velocity maps for 1993–1995 and 1995–1998. An increase in*  
 238 *subsidence rate in the northern part of the city appears between 1995 and 1998.*



239

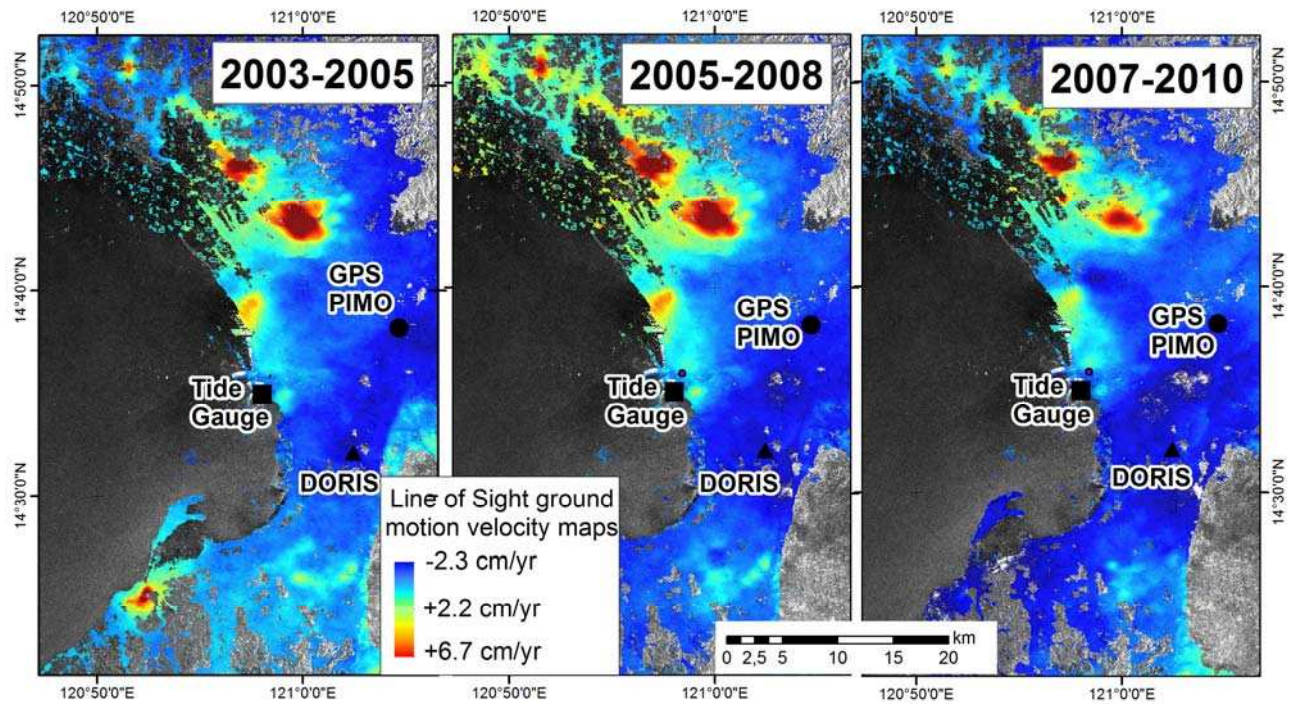
240

241

*Figure 4a: Line of Sight ground motion velocity in cm/yr for the whole 2003–2010 period (EnviSat/ASAR*

*data).*

243



244  
 245 *Figure 4b: Line of Sight ground motion velocity maps in cm/yr for 2003–2005, 2005–2008, and 2007–2010*  
 246 *(EnviSat/ASAR data).*

247  
 248 The velocity maps reveal non-linear deformation rates. For example, Fig 3b indicates that the subsidence  
 249 from 1995 to 1998 was quicker in the north-western part of Metro-Manila than from 1993 to 1995. How  
 250 reliable is this result ? Due to the limited number of SAR images available from the ERS satellite, these  
 251 velocities maps might be partly affected by atmospheric noise or by slight errors in orbit calculation and  
 252 very large atmospheric effects at the scale of the imaged area might have resulted in tilts. In our approach,  
 253 these tilts are corrected by removing tilts on each single interferogram (estimated using Fast Fourier  
 254 Transforms) and then the possible residual tilts are minimized over the whole data set during the stacking  
 255 procedure. While such errors are more difficult to correct when fewer SAR images are available, an  
 256 analysis of individual interferograms confirms that the acceleration of subsidence is affecting the same area  
 257 for several individual interferograms. This temporal correlation of interferograms as well as their velocity  
 258 indicates that these non-linear velocities cannot only result from atmospheric noise, and confirm the  
 259 acceleration of subsidence from 1995 to 1998 compared to 1993 to 1995. Nevertheless, for the ERS data  
 260 set, we can consider the 1993-1998 map as more reliable than the two sub-sets (1993-1995 and 1995-  
 261 1998), because more interferograms were stacked and because the DORIS velocity estimation better  
 262 represents the average motion over the whole period. More SAR images are available from EnviSAT, thus



263 making the results in figure 4a and 4b more reliable. Several non-linear patterns can be observed in these  
264 maps, such as the extension of a coastal subsidence southward in the direction of the tide gauge, or the  
265 disappearance of a subsidence pattern on the southern shore of Manila Bay. These results therefore also  
266 highlight the non-linearity of the urban subsidence process in Manila.

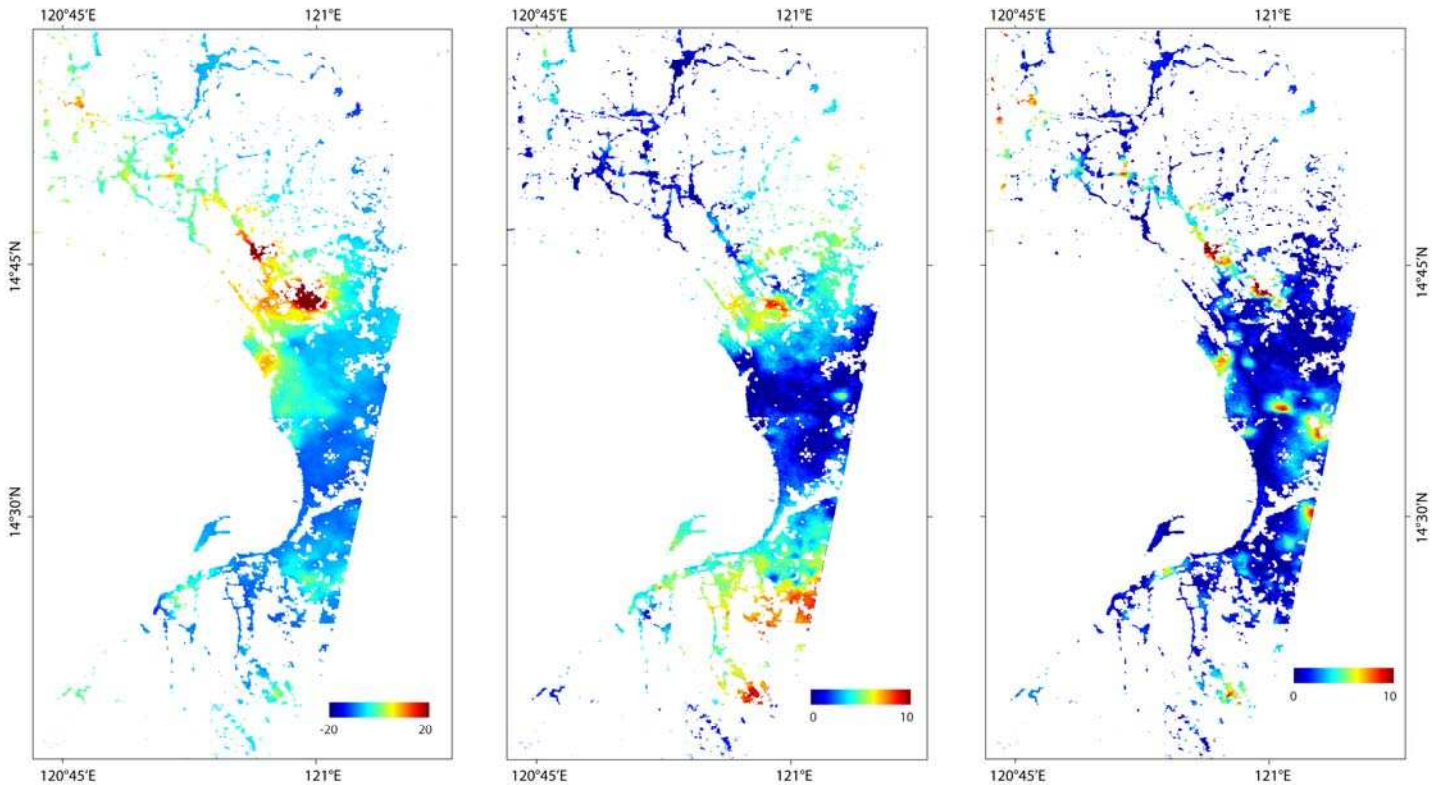
267 Velocity maps not only display non-linear patterns, but also high rates of deformations. For example,  
268 deformation rates up to 13 cm/yr were observed in Valenzuela and Meycauayan and rates of approximately  
269 9 cm/yr northwest of Guiguinto (note that for visual reason, we saturated the color palette to 6.7cm/yr). In  
270 these sectors, deformation was much slower and spatially reduced between 1993 and 1995. The highest  
271 deformation rates observed in Valenzuela and Meycauayan are visible on the 1995–1998 and 2003–2005  
272 maps (a decrease of the phenomenon in this sector is visible on this last map with respect to the first one),  
273 whereas a maximum was obtained after 2005 near Guiguinto.

274  
275 Changes in the location and rates of groundwater extraction are a plausible explanation for this migration of  
276 the deformation maxima. As reported by Clemente *et al.* (2001), groundwater pumping in Manila has been  
277 multiplied by a factor of five since the 1970s because of population growth. This has resulted in a lowering  
278 of the groundwater table by several tens of meters. The authors also suggest land subsidence as a  
279 possible consequence of pumping. Clemente *et al.* (2001) provide piezometric maps which show that the  
280 deformation maps generated in this study are consistent with the locations of very low water table levels in  
281 the 1990s. For instance, they reported that groundwater was intensively extracted in Muntlupa and  
282 Valenzuela, where high ground-motion velocities in the 90's were observed in this research. This suggests  
283 that many ground deformations observed using DInSAR in this research are direct consequences of  
284 groundwater pumping in the Manila metropolitan area.

## 285 286 3.2 Monitoring of Temporal Evolution of Ground Deformations through Principal 287 Components Analysis

288  
289 Because the results showed strong temporal variability, a principal components analysis was carried out to  
290 highlight areas subject to deformation-rate changes. The idea was to separate areas with constant  
291 deformation rates from areas affected by nonlinear deformation components. Principal components  
292 analysis (PCA) was therefore applied to the five deformation-rate maps corresponding to the different

293 periods studied. It was assumed that the first principal component (PC) was related to the common linear  
294 deformation (the first component being highly correlated with all the initial deformation maps) and the  
295 second and third components to nonlinear deformations which differ among the five maps (upper-order  
296 components were neglected because the fourth eigenvalue was approximately one-twentieth of the first  
297 one). The three first eigenvalues were  $\lambda_1=43$ ,  $\lambda_2=11$  and  $\lambda_3=4.3$ .  
298



299  
300  
301 *Figure 5: Maps showing the three first principal components. For the second and third components, the*  
302 *absolute values of the components are shown. Locations of the displacements are therefore identified by*  
303 *this information rather than their evolution (acceleration, deceleration).*

304  
305 Figure 5 highlights the observation that in addition to strong spatial variability, deformation patterns in  
306 Manila show a complex temporal evolution. In particular, this figure indicates that in addition to the northern  
307 part of the city (e.g., the area between Valenzuela and Meycauayan), the cities of Malaboon, Mandaluyong,  
308 and Muntinlupa were affected by nonlinear deformations. Small areas spotted on the third component  
309 deserve deeper investigation because temporal changes at short spatial wavelengths could have

310 implications such as damage to buildings. Actual links with pumping locations in these areas should be  
311 investigated, for example by identifying whether localized velocity changes can be correlated with the  
312 installation of new pumping facilities during the study period.

313

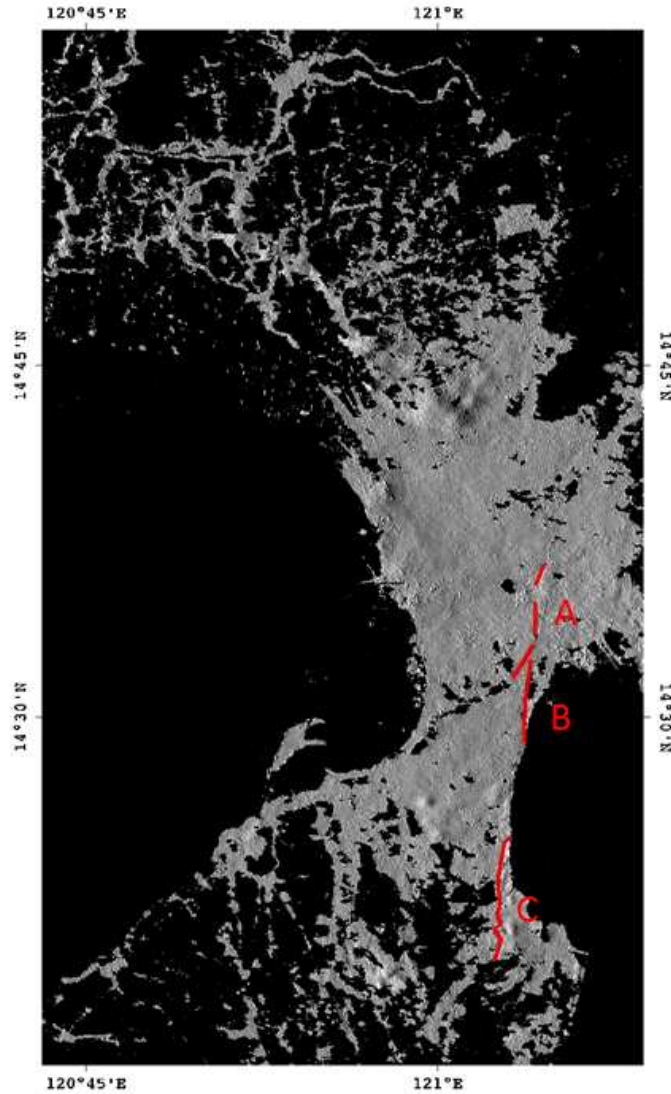
### 314 3.3 Deformation in the Marikina Valley Fault area

315

316 To investigate displacement along the Marikina Valley Fault, an east-west directional filter was used to  
317 highlight differential motion between each side of the fault (Fig. 6). Basically, the filtered image consists of  
318 an along-column (approximately across-fault) deformation first derivative for which the histogram has been  
319 adjusted and the result rescaled to obtain arbitrary values distributed between zero and one. This  
320 procedure aims to provide better identification of linear features (similarly to a shaded map) that could be  
321 associated with fault motion. Sections of the fault that possibly moved between 2007 and 2010 were then  
322 located. Note that the ERS frames did not cover the fault, and therefore this observation is based only on  
323 the ASAR data. The 2007–2010 maps clearly show differential displacement along the fault (Fig. 4b).

324 The observed fault section was divided into three sections based on their motion characteristics: A and C:  
325 west side moves towards the sensor faster than east side; B has the opposite behavior to A and C. On the  
326 three sections, the differential LOS displacement (identified on the deformation map) corresponds to  
327 approximately 5-15 mm/yr. Because the fault strike is oriented north-south, it can be assumed that pure  
328 strike-slip motions have little influence on the deformation maps produced. Therefore, vertical motion must  
329 dominate the signal. Based on this assumption, the observed motion corresponds to up to 8 mm/yr of  
330 vertical displacement between the two sides of the fault. The source of this kind of motion is difficult to infer  
331 based only on the DInSAR measures, which provide only one component of the deformation in three-  
332 dimensional space. Deformation could be related either to tectonic strain (e.g., surface creep) or to  
333 subsidence related to water extraction (as observed by Cigna *et al.*, 2011). In this case, the fault would act  
334 as a natural barrier.

335



336  
 337 *Figure 6: West-east directional filtering of the 2005–2010 deformation in arbitrary units. Bright areas*  
 338 *correspond to the highest values of W-E derivatives. The red line corresponds to possible sections of the*  
 339 *fault affected by differential displacement between the sides of the fault (located on linear features of the*  
 340 *filtered map). The three sections are identified using their different displacement behaviors.*

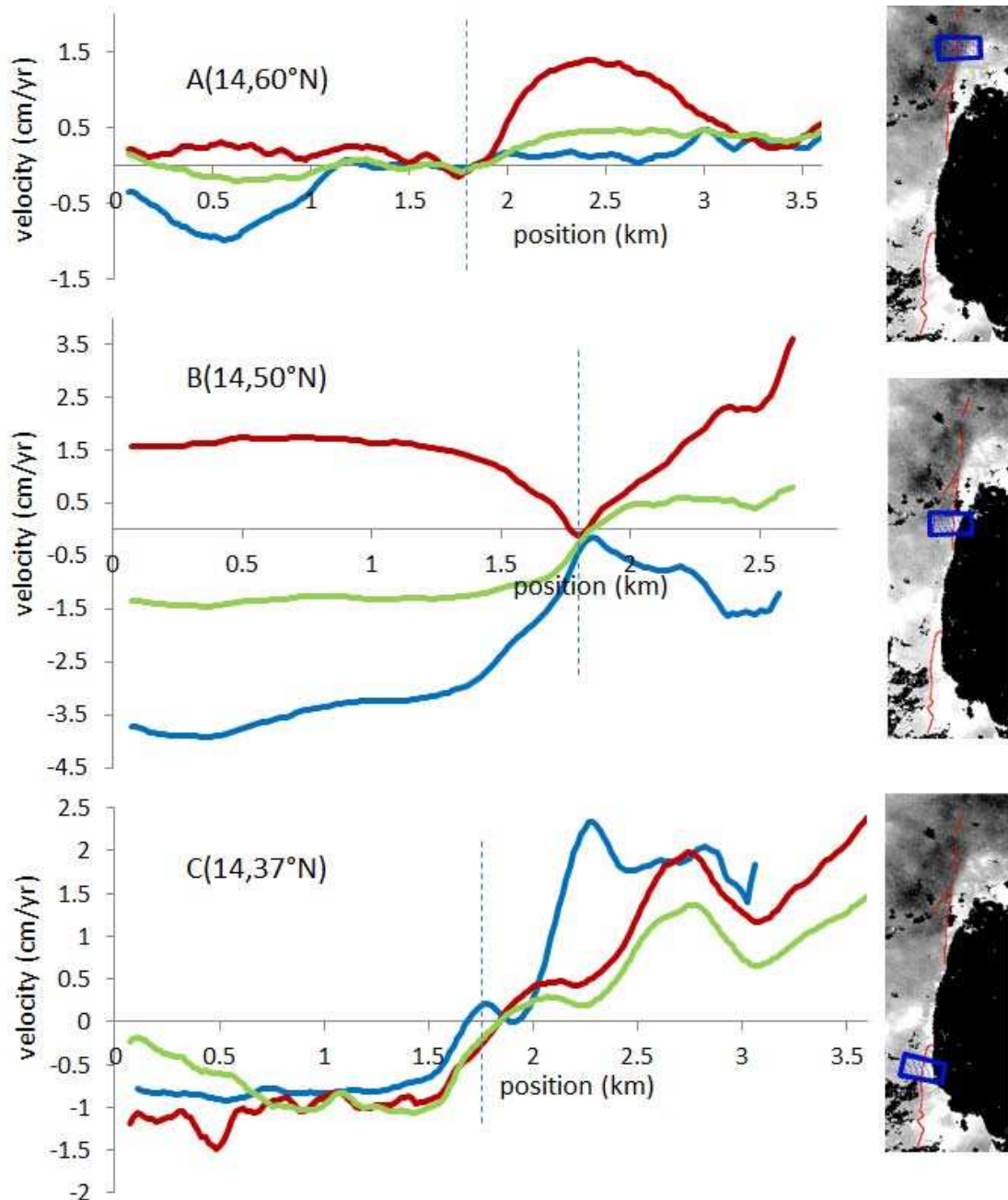
341  
 342 A deeper analysis can be proposed. Based on both terrains offset measurements and magnitudes and  
 343 recurrences of earthquakes, Rimando & Knuepfer (2006) have suggested that on the Rodriguez-Taguig  
 344 segment (corresponding to sections A and B in this paper), the slip rate should be approximately 7–10  
 345 mm/yr and should be mostly horizontal. They observed that the ratio between vertical and horizontal  
 346 components of offsets is approximately 0.1. Considering the orientation of the fault with respect to the  
 347 satellite-orbit path angle (between 0° and 12°) and the SAR incidence angle (approximately 23°), 10 mm/yr

348 of horizontal motion would result in approximately 0.8 mm/yr change in the LOS direction. This value is too  
349 small to be measured by DInSAR. Therefore, non-tectonic subsidence seems more likely to be the cause  
350 of the SAR signal for these sections. Section C of the fault (the Sucat-Binan segment) is characterized by  
351 *en-echelon* elements. According to the authors, this segment is creeping, but they do not provide rate  
352 estimations. This complicated behavior is not incompatible with vertical motion; the hypothesis that the  
353 DInSAR observation shows creeping phenomena for this section cannot be rejected, but further dedicated  
354 analysis would have to be performed to assess fault motion in this area.

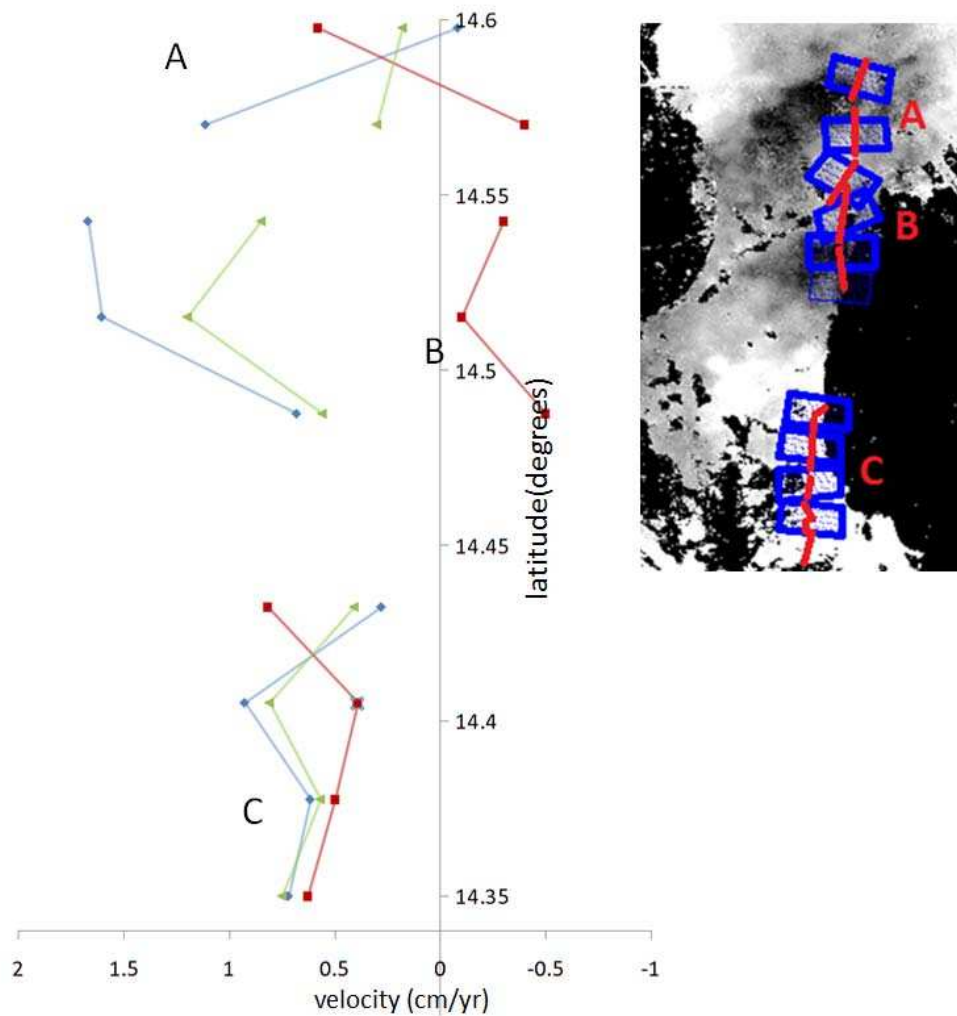
355  
356  
357 Figures 7 and 8 show profiles and estimations of the relative displacements between each side of the fault  
358 using a 200-pixel length and stacked on 100 pixels width based on the COSI-Corr tools (for details on  
359 these tools and a discussion of their reliability and precision, refer to Ayoub *et al.*, 2009). These figures  
360 show that on sections A and B, the recorded LOS displacements are variable with time (including an  
361 inversion of the motion for section B). On the other hand, on section C, the LOS motion is fairly stable at  
362 approximately 6 mm/yr velocity (with a dispersion of approximately 2 mm/yr). These observations are  
363 compatible with the fact that the fault mechanism is mainly N-S oriented strike-slip on A and B (blind to  
364 DInSAR), and therefore the recorded vertical component of the motion must be due mainly to (variable)  
365 non-tectonic causes. Section C, with its *en-echelon* structure, is known to creep (Rimando & Knuepfer,  
366 2006). Therefore, this research might have measured the vertical component of fault creep in this area.

367

368



369  
 370 *Figure 7: Relevant deformation across-fault profiles for each section: LOS velocities are given in cm/yr and*  
 371 *the position in km (positive from west to east). These profiles are along fault stacks of 100 profiles 200*  
 372 *pixels in length (profile length: approximately 3.6 km) according to the procedure implemented in the COSI-*  
 373 *Corr tool (Leprince et al., 2007; Ayoub et al., 2009). The fault is approximately located, based on the*  
 374 *directional filtering results, by the vertical dashed lines. In blue: profile derived from the 2003–2005 stack; in*  
 375 *red, 2007–2010; in green, 2003–2010 The insets show the location of the profile stacks with respect to the*  
 376 *fault.*  
 377



378  
 379 *Figure 8: Differential LOS velocity for the sides of the fault (west side with respect to east side) versus*  
 380 *position on the fault (latitude). Velocities were obtained using the COSI-Corr tool. The 2003–2005 estimate*  
 381 *(in blue) is compared to that for 2007–2010 (in red) and 2003–2010 (green). Section C shows a*  
 382 *homogeneous behavior (vertical displacement of approximately 4–8 mm/yr), but the other sections show a*  
 383 *more temporally variable evolution (sign change) not compatible with creeping phenomena. The inset*  
 384 *shows the location of the profile stacks with respect to the fault.*

385

386

## 387 4. Discussion

388

### 389 4.1 Comparison with *in-situ* observations

390

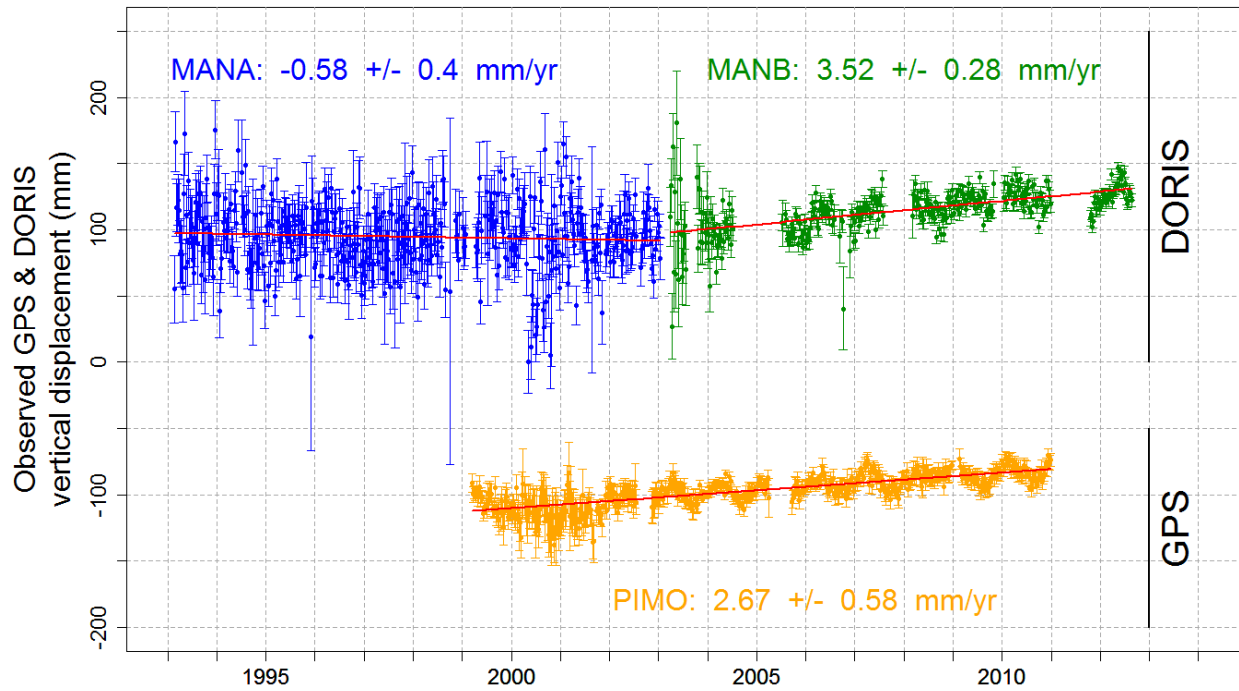
391 While no leveling surveys are presently available in global data repositories (Santamaría-Gómez et al.,  
392 2012), a few geodetic instruments enable comparing our InSAR results with in-situ observations. These  
393 geodetic instruments in Manila can be located on Fig. 2a. However, one permanent GPS station (GPS  
394 MANL) provided a time series too short to be analyzed at the time of this study. As can be seen in Fig. 9  
395 (blue), the DORIS instrument was nearly stable in average in the 1990s, but was affected by uplift in the  
396 2000s (Fig. 9, green).

397 The GPS PIMO station was also subject to a slight uplift in the 2000s (Fig. 9, yellow). The differential  
398 movement between PIMO and DORIS was consistently too small to be observed with DInSAR. During  
399 2003–2010, the differential displacement between PIMO and the tide gauge (TG) as estimated from  
400 DInSAR was approximately 10.7 mm/yr +/- 2.1 mm/yr, based on the sum of the variances of the DInSAR  
401 deformation-rate measurements obtained on 200 m windows around the PIMO and TG locations. Once  
402 corrected using the GPS absolute vertical motion, the resulting TG motion with respect to the reference  
403 ellipsoid was approximately 8 mm/yr of subsidence (+/- 2.2mm/yr). To validate this result, the difference  
404 between the sea-level variation recorded by AVISO data (Archiving, Validation and Interpretation of  
405 Satellite Oceanographic data) and the TG data (Fig. 10) was calculated. The altimetric monthly sea-level  
406 anomalies were obtained from the AVISO data server (<http://www.aviso.oceanobs.com/en/altimetry.html>).  
407 These data are a multimission product (Jason 1-2, Envisat, Cryosat) with a spatial resolution of  
408 0.25°x0.25°, starting in 1992. They include all geophysical corrections, in particular the dynamic  
409 atmospheric correction that accounts for the effects of atmospheric pressure and wind (Volkov *et al.*, 2007).  
410 To compare the tide-gauge data with the altimetry observations, this correction was added back in. The  
411 most highly correlated grid point of the altimetry observations was chosen for comparison with *in-situ*  
412 observations (the correlation was computed using de-seasoned and de-trended time series). Alternatives  
413 such as the closest grid point or an average among nearby grid points around 1° did not change the  
414 results. The combination of the altimetric observations with the tide-gauge data highlights subsidence of up  
415 to 10.1 mm/yr +/- 0.6 mm/yr.

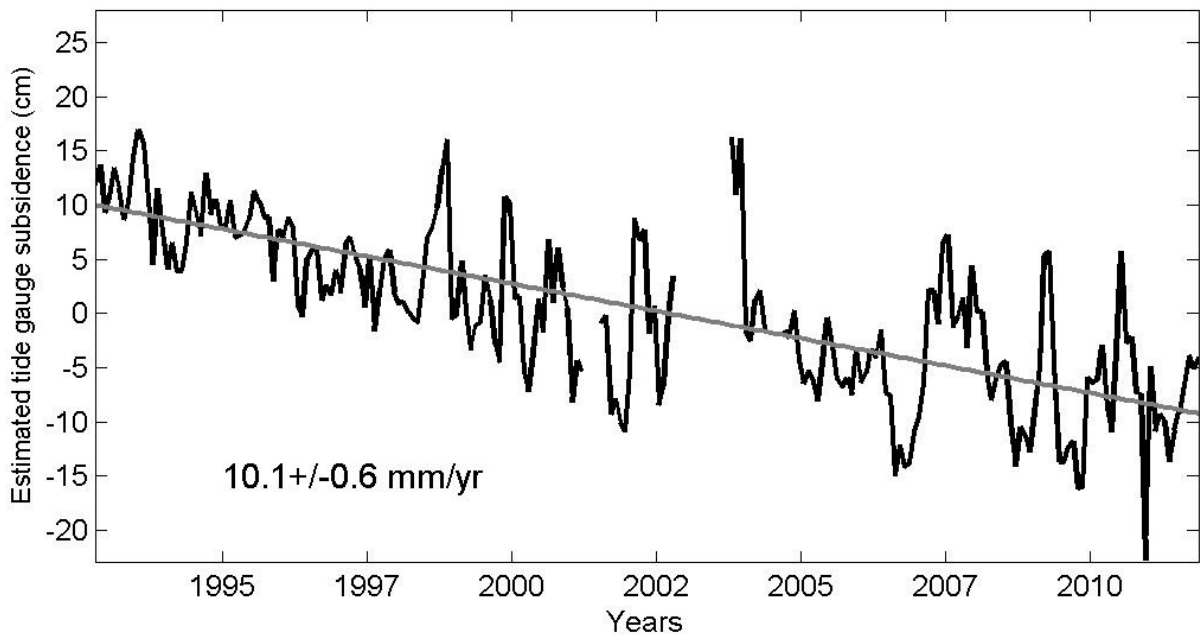
416  
417 Finally, in addition to the multi-annual ground motion variability observed by DInSAR, the GPS time series  
418 also revealed seasonal vertical deformations with an amplitude of approximately 5.5 mm.

419  
420



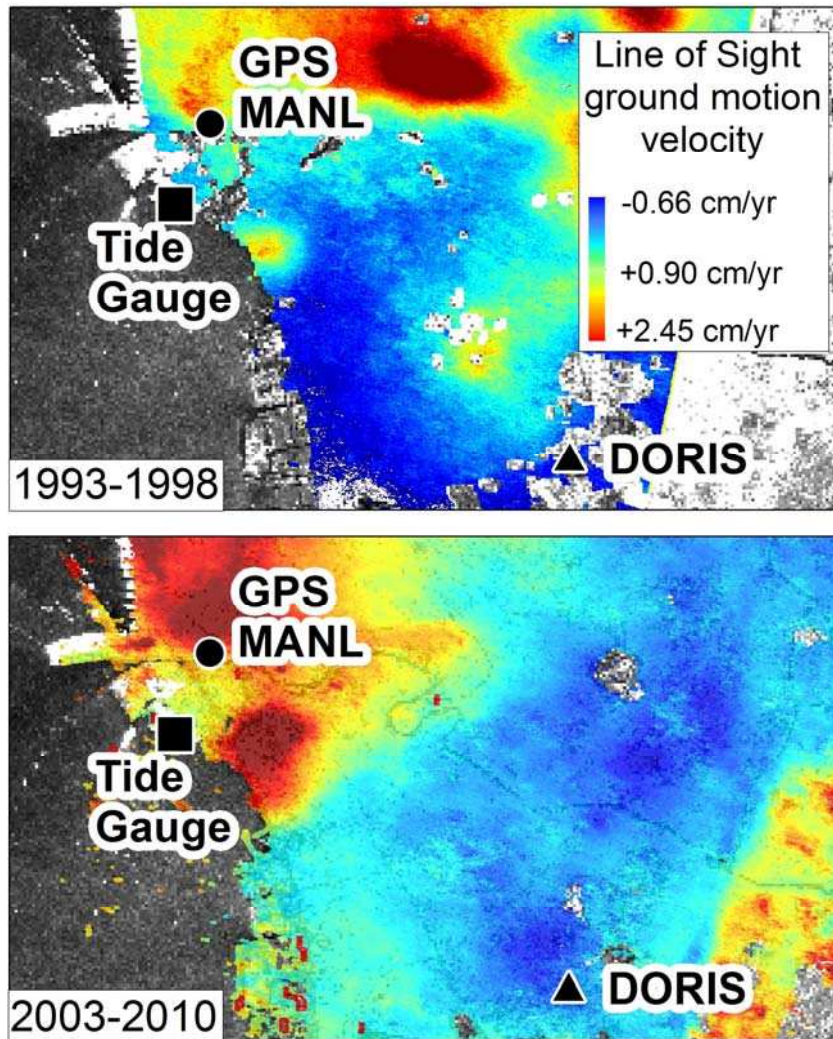


421  
 422 *Figure 9: Observed DORIS (MANA/MANB) and GPS (PIMO) geocentric vertical displacements with respect*  
 423 *to the international reference frame. DORIS (blue before 2003, green after) and GPS (orange) position time*  
 424 *series are shown. Both stations were affected by uplift phenomena with similar rates. MANA and MANB*  
 425 *refer to successive DORIS instruments located at the same location (details on the instruments at [doris.org/network/sitelogs.html](http://ids-</a></i><br/>
  426 <i><a href=) ).*  
 427



428

429 *Figure 10: Tide-gauge subsidence in the geocentric international terrestrial reference frame based on the*  
430 *difference between sea level derived from altimetry (AVISO data) and that from tide-gauge measurements.*  
431



432  
433 *Figure 11: Close-up images showing Line of Sight ground motion velocity maps (cm/yr) close to the tide*  
434 *gauge. The deformation reference was chosen according to the DORIS measurements. Although ground*  
435 *motions affecting the location of geodetic instruments are much smaller than in other parts of Manila, they*  
436 *are still sufficient to alter the measurements of the tide gauge significantly, thus calling into question its use*  
437 *before 1993 for sea-level estimation studies.*

438

#### 439 4.2 Implications for estimation of sea-level variation from TG measurements

440 Because sea-level rise exhibits significant regional variability (e.g., Meyssignac & Cazenave, 2012), one  
441 critical issue for better estimation of past sea level before the altimetry era (1993) is the analysis of long-

442 term tide-gauge records. This question is particularly significant because there is a disagreement between  
443 sea-level budgets as estimated (1) from tide gauges and (2) through independent evaluations of  
444 thermosteric and continental ice-melting contributions (Munk, 2002).

445 Tide gauges measure sea level with respect to the land upon which they are grounded (local datum), while  
446 global sea level refers to a geocentric reference frame. In other words, both the land and the sea can move  
447 with respect to a geocentric reference frame. In practice, vertical ground motions can be removed from  
448 tide-gauge measurements using a nearby GPS permanent station (e.g., Wöppelmann *et al.*, 2007),  
449 assuming that (1) the tide gauge and the GPS station follow the same vertical motion and (2) that the  
450 deformation is linear. Under such conditions, extrapolation of the linear trend of ~10-years GPS time series  
451 is valuable to estimate past land motion for at least 50 years. If the differential movements affecting the  
452 instruments remained linear, advanced techniques such as PSI could be used as supplemental data to  
453 reach the accuracy required of (~ 0.5 mm/yr) and subsequently to assess estimates of global sea-level rise  
454 (approximately 1.7 mm/yr between 1950 and 2010, Wöppelmann *et al.*, 2013)

455  
456 However, the results reported here show that none of the requirements necessary to estimate geocentric  
457 sea-level rise from GPS-corrected tide-gauge data is fulfilled in the case study of Manila. Therefore, this  
458 method cannot be used here because of highly variable ground motion. Moreover, the spatial and temporal  
459 variability of the surface motion, affecting both the tide gauge and the reference GPS, prevents any  
460 extrapolation from corrected gauge time series over the past 50 years. If the differential motion between the  
461 GPS and the tide gauge can be estimated for the period monitored by the space-borne radar sensor, the  
462 current motion is not representative of past motion (previous to the satellite era). In addition, if the area of  
463 maximum subsidence, initially located in Malaboon city, migrates southward, the tide-gauge area could be  
464 affected by increased subsidence in the future.

465  
466  
467 This study encourages DInSAR monitoring at locations where long-term tide-gauge time series are  
468 corrected using a distant permanent GPS to verify whether the typical assumptions used to combine the  
469 datasets and to estimate geocentric sea-level variation are applicable.

470

## 471 5. Conclusions

472

473 Subsidence in coastal cities has many effects, potentially ranging from increased frequency of flooding to  
474 damage to buildings. In the specific context of Manila, this study has provided the following responses to  
475 the questions raised in the introduction:

476

477 (1) What was the spatial and temporal variability of ground-surface deformations in Manila from 1993  
478 to 2010? This study has presented evidence for high rates of spatially and temporally variable  
479 ground deformation in the Manila urban area (Philippines) based on space-borne SAR  
480 interferometry during the last two decades. Displacements up to 15 cm/yr with temporal and spatial  
481 variability have been observed. These ground motions are very likely related to groundwater  
482 pumping because the Manila urban area is known to be affected by subsidence due to intensive  
483 groundwater extraction (Clemente *et al.*, 2001) and due to ground motion along the fault. Although  
484 the origin of this latter motion could be tectonic, it is suggested here that the observed ground  
485 motion along the fault is actually likely to be related to groundwater pumping as well (except on the  
486 Sucat-Binan segment).

487 (2) To which extent do these deformations affect the locations of the tide gauge, the GPS stations, and  
488 the DORIS stations? Observed ground motions affect the locations of several geodetic instruments  
489 and therefore alter the potential of using their time series to understand past sea levels.

490 (3) What are the possibilities for using sea-level time series before 1993 in Manila? The Manila tide-  
491 gauge time series cannot be corrected from its own motion for long-term sea-level estimation on  
492 the basis of existing GPS data because the GPS station also experiences variable subsidence and  
493 cannot therefore provide an estimate of the deformation occurring during the entire duration of the  
494 TG record (the last century).

495

496 From a methodological point of view, this study provides an example of a site where InSAR is helpful in  
497 assessing city-scale subsidence or uplift as well as the related consequences for measurements obtained  
498 from geodetic instruments located in the city. Because of its deformation characteristics (location, extent,  
499 and variable temporal evolution), the Manila metropolitan area has been revealed to be a challenging test  
500 site both for application of deformation-monitoring techniques and for surface deformation-related risk  
501 management. The approach proposed in this study could enable assessment of the usability of a number

502 of tide gauges suspected of having been affected by local ground motions and finally could provide help in  
503 estimating sea-level evolution over the past century.

504

505

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512

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