

Acknowledgements

I would like to sincerely thank Prof. Dr. Georg Kaufmann, my supervisor, for providing me this interesting work. His generous supervision made me feel comfortable in pursuing the subject, and during the three years of my work, he had always time for discussion and answering my countless questions.

Prof. Dr. Patrick Wu from the University of Calgary deserves special thanks: He invited me to Calgary and broadened my mind about GIA. During my stay in Calgary, he had always time for very special scientific discussions.

Furthermore, I would like to thank Prof. Dr. Serge Shapiro for serving as co-referee.

Dr. Annemiek Vink from the BGR Hannover is thanked for the co-operation and for the work up of the numerous old and new sea-level data.

I am especially thankful to Dr. Douchko Romanov and Wouter van der Wal for carefully reading the manuscript.

I would like to thank the colleagues of the Institute of Geophysics from the Georg August University in Göttingen for the joyful time. Along with all others I thank specially Wilfried Steinhoff, Dr. Martin Leven, Rainer Hennings, Manfred Herden, Erika Eggert-Heise, Ellen Hage, Simon Schmitz, Dr. Tomi Haramina, Dr. Ole Hanekop, Stefan Bernhard, Cornelius Warner, Oliver Haase, and Dennis Rippe, and very special thanks go to Ulrich Einecke, the “Administrator”.

I am very thankful to Natalya Nicholson, Amber Kelter and Wouter van der Wal for their hospitality during my stay in Calgary and all my other “Calgarian” friends for making the time unforgettable.

I would also like to thank my friends and colleagues, who accompanied my life and work in the last three years. Along with all others I want to mention Marco Naujoks, Prof. Dr. Corinna Kroner, PD Dr. Thomas Jahr, Dr. Walter Zürn and Dr. Kasper Fischer.

The financial support from the DFG (research grant KA1723/1-1,2) is gratefully acknowledged. The Berliner-Ungewitter-Stiftung is thanked for funding my trip to the 15th International Earth Tide Symposium in Ottawa 2004.

My girlfriend Martina supported me whenever I needed her, I thank you with all my heart.

My final words are dedicated to my parents and grandparents. Their encouragement, support and good wishes made me what I am today.