



Hydroweb: data center for lake and river level variations from altimetry

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We present a world wide database (accessible via internet) of water level time series for major rivers, continental lakes and floodplains. These time series are mainly based on altimetry data from Topex/Poseidon for rivers, but also from ERS-1&2, Envisat, GFO and Jason-1 over lakes, when possible. The water level time series cover the period 1993 up to 2006. At present the database includes water level time series of about 150 lakes and reservoirs and 160 virtual stations over major rivers. It also includes several water level time series over floodplains. In addition to revealing the spatial and temporal signature of climate variability on water levels, systematic use of satellite altimetry in large river basins might support initialization and verification of models used in forecasts of hydrological variability, and, possibly, estimates of river discharge where rating curves can be established by surface-based methods.