



Analysis of Groundwater and Total Water Storage Changes Using GRACE Observations

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Message from the Guest Editors

Total water storage (TWS) has become a key variable for terrestrial surface-atmosphere interaction. As one of the TWS components, groundwater storage (GWS) represents the largest source of freshwater storage in the hydrological system. GWS is one of the most important sources for irrigation and drinking water. Understanding the global scale of the GWS has become possible due to advances in remote sensing missions.

Between 2002 and 2017, the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) mission provided measurements of Earth's gravity field that enabled us to monitor and understand dynamic Earth systems, including solid Earth, atmosphere, cryosphere, and hydrosphere. The mission delivered unprecedented information especially for TWS and GWS studies as this was a first mission that provided global measurements of those components. The importance of GRACE data was raised by the international scientific community, and, in May 2018, a successor of the mission, GRACE Follow-On (GRACE FO), was launched.

This Special Issue solicits GRACE and GRACE FO contributions to studies on groundwater and total water storage changes.





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