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Interannual variations of the terrestrial water storage in the Lower Ob' Basin from a multisatellite approach

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Abstract. Temporal variations of surface water volume over inundated areas of the Lower Ob' Basin in Siberia, one of the largest contributors of freshwater to the Arctic Ocean, are estimated using combined observations from a multisatellite inundation dataset and water levels over river floodplains derived from the TOPEX/POSEIDON (T/P) radar altimetry. We computed time-series of monthly maps of surface water volume over a common period of available T/P and multisatellite data (1993–2004). Results exhibit interannual variabilities similar to precipitation estimates and river discharge observations. This study also presents monthly estimates of groundwater and permafrost mass anomalies during 2004 based on a synergistic analysis of multisatellite observations, hydrological models, and GRACE. Water stored in the soil is isolated from the total water storage measured by GRACE when removing the contribution of both the surface reservoir, derived from satellite imagery and radar altimetry, and the snow estimated by inversion of GRACE measurements. The time variations of groundwater and permafrost are then obtained when removing the water content of the root zone reservoir simulated by hydrological models.

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