



Mapping Surface Structure and Topography by Airborne and Spaceborne Altimetry

Guest Editors:

Dr. Frédéric Seyler

ESPACE-DEV, UMR 228
IRD/UM/UR/UG/UA, Institut de
Recherche pour le
Développement (IRD), 34093
Montpellier, France

Dr. Stefano Vignudelli

Consiglio Nazionale delle
Ricerche (CNR), Area della
Ricerca CNR S. Cataldo, Via
Moruzzi 1, 56100 Pisa, Italy

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Message from the Guest Editors

Satellite radar altimetry missions have been used for characterization of the ocean surface and, thus, the topography of the ocean floor as well for geodesic studies concerning the distribution of the gravity field on the earth's surface. Since TOPEX/Poseidon and ERS, altimeter spatial data have begun to be used to characterize the surface of continental water bodies (e.g., lakes, rivers, reservoirs, wetlands, etc.). Some drift orbit missions have been used to map the surface of polar ice caps or continental surfaces. Great advances are expected given the possibility offered by new missions (e.g., CryoSat-2, Sentinel-3) in rethinking processing over the various complex surfaces using along-track unfocused/focused synthetic aperture radar (SAR) approaches. Some uses of GPS or Galileo (GNSS) signals may also allow for better mapping of topography.

The aim of this Special Issue is to take stock of the latest knowledge in these different fields and to address the crucial issue of accuracy in global topographical models.

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Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Prasad S. Thenkabail

Senior Scientist (ST), U. S.
Geological Survey (USGS), USGS
Western Geographic Science
Center (WGSC), 2255, N. Gemini
Dr., Flagstaff, AZ 86001, USA

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Remote Sensing Editorial Office
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66
4052 Basel, Switzerland

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