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Editor Comment on hess-2021-78

Bettina Schaefli (Editor)

Editor comment on "Technical note: Introduction of a superconducting gravimeter as novel hydrological sensor for the Alpine research catchment Zugspitze" by Christian Voigt et al., Hydrol. Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/hess-2021-78-EC1>, 2021

The manuscript presents the first installation of a Superconducting Gravimeter in a high alpine environment and presents exciting perspectives for hydrological process research. However, the manuscript received two very contrasted reviews because of the preliminary nature of the presented results. In summary reviewer 2 says that the preliminary presentation is inline with other publications in ESSD and rapid publication might be beneficial for similar deployments. Reviewer 1 in exchange thinks that much more work should be done to perform absolute gravity measurements and to investigate snow and water mass balance. After a detailed discussion with the Chief-executive editors, we come to the conclusion that, HESS does not have a manuscript category that entirely fits this kind of rapid publication of first results; the manuscript is somewhere between a research paper and a data paper. We thus would like to recommend a modification of the manuscript such as to turn it into a technical note (which addresses the standards of a technical note in HESS). Otherwise, we might recommend a submission to ESSD instead.