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# HydroTest: collaborative development of hydrological assessment and evaluation procedures

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There is a general lack of consistency in the way that hydrological models are assessed and evaluated. Numerous statistical measures have been documented, but the type and number of different error measures that are used varies from one study to the next. There is also no guarantee that where the same error measures are used they are applied consistently and correctly. This makes comparison between studies extremely difficult. HydroTest (http://www.hydrotest.org.uk) is an open access web site that provides free statistical assessment and evaluation services. It has been established so that hydrologists and other scientists can evaluate their models on a wide range of statistical tests and consistent measures of model performance. HydroTest is also intended to provide an open forum that will encourage discussion or debate on existing performance measures and in due course lead to the development or refinement of more powerful metrics. Through this collaborative medium it is hoped that the evaluation of hydrological models will become standardised and transparent and that more relevant error measures will evolve. HydroTest also supports the distribution of hydrological benchmark datasets thus facilitating the development of associated hydrological modelling standards.