

Point clouds and DEMs

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Tutorial notes (April 2016)



OpenTopography

High-Resolution Topography Data and Tools

Demo Source Data

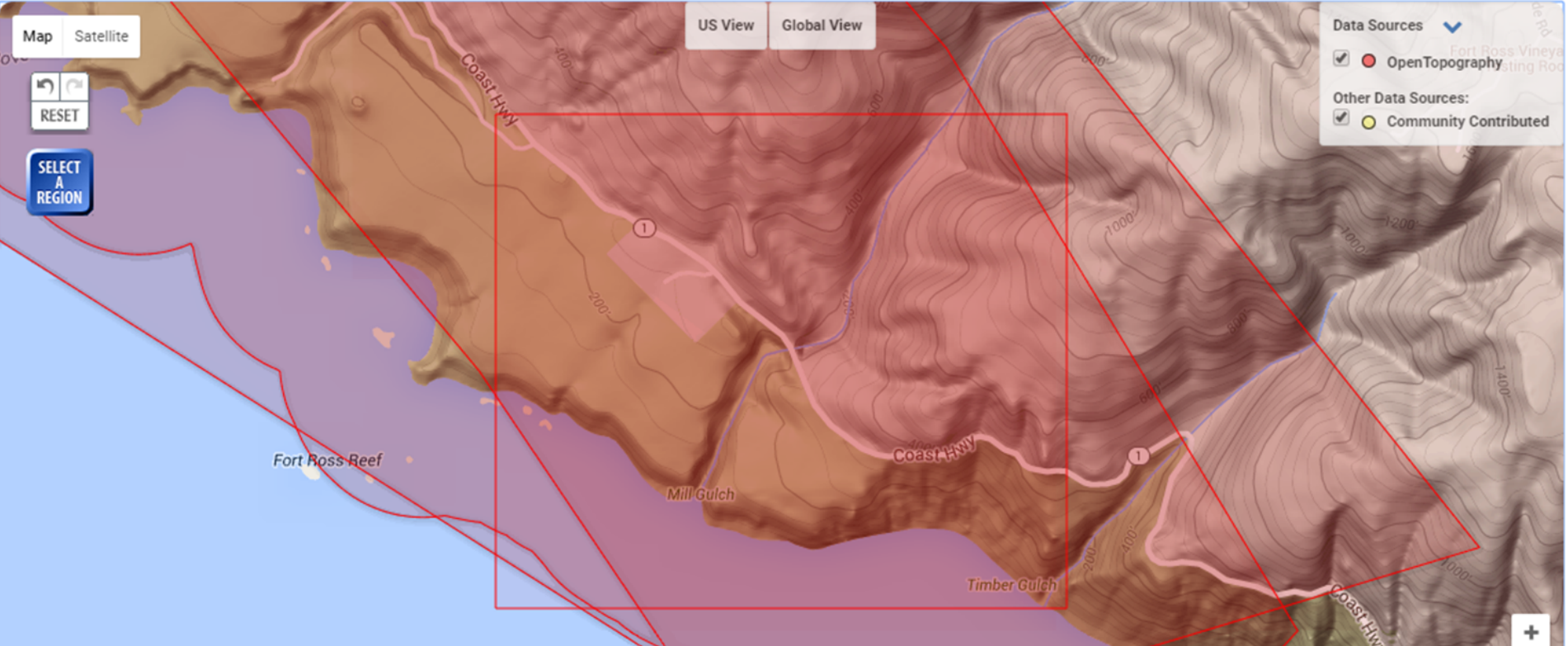
Find Lidar Topography Data



OpenTopography
High-Resolution Topography Data and Tools

[Instructions](#)

[US Interagency Elevation Inventory](#)



Datasets listed below are hosted by OpenTopography and are available in point cloud format for download and processing (e.g., creating custom DEMs). In some cases derived data products such as raster and Google Earth Image overlays are also available. Click the button to the right of the dataset name to access the available data products.

- 1 [UMD-NASA Carbon Mapping /Sonoma County Vegetation Mapping and LiDAR Program](#)
- 2 [Shuttle Radar Topography Mission \(SRTM\) Global](#)
- 3 [EarthScope Northern California LiDAR Project](#)
- 4 [Northern San Andreas Fault, CA](#)

[Raster Data](#) [Point Cloud Data](#) [📍](#)

[SRTM 30m](#) [SRTM 90m](#) [📍](#)

[GE Hillshades](#) [Raster Data](#) [Point Cloud Data](#) [📍](#)

[Point Cloud Data](#) [📍](#)

Demo Source Data

Northern San Andreas Fault, CA

Overview

This page offers access to lidar data acquired along the Northern San Andreas fault and associated marine terraces in coastal Sonoma and Mendocino counties, California. This dataset covers approximately 418 square kilometers and includes approximately 1.2 billion data points. Point density is 1.2 points per square meter.



These data were acquired by NASA, in collaboration with the United States Geologic Survey and the Puget Sound Lidar Consortium, with funding provided by NASA's Earth Surface and Interior Focus Area. The data was collected and processed by Terrapoint. The data are in the public domain with no restrictions on their use.

Platform: Airborne Lidar
[Full Metadata](#)

Survey Area: 767.00 km²
[Dataset Acknowledgement](#)

Point Density: 1.47 pts/m²
Survey Date: 02/01/2003
Funder: NASA Partners: USGS, PSLC Collector: Terrapoint

Select Other Available Data Products: [Point Cloud Bulk Download](#)

1a. Select area of data to download or process



Demo Source Data



1. Coordinates & Classification

Horizontal Coordinates: California State Plane Zone II US Survey Feet [EPSG: 2871]

Vertical Coordinates: NAVD88

Data Selection Coordinates: ☐ Manually enter selection coordinates (in the horizontal coordinate system listed above)

$X_{\min} = 6211604.418$

$Y_{\min} = 1946923.876$

$X_{\max} = 6213674.873$

$Y_{\max} = 1949335.955$

Demo Source Data

$X_{min} = 6211604.418$ $Y_{min} = 1946923.876$ $X_{max} = 6213674.873$ $Y_{max} = 1949335.955$

The selection area contains approximately 223,000 points.

Choose Return Classification ☒ Ground ☒ Unclassified

2. Point Cloud Data Download

☐ Point cloud data in LAS format ☒ Point cloud data in LAZ format ☐ Point cloud data in ASCII format

3A. DEM Generation (Streaming TIN) ⓘ

Gridding Method
☒ Calculate TIN

Gridding Parameters
 ⓘ Grid Resolution (Default = 6 ft)
 ⓘ Max. triangle size (Default 50 units)

6

50

Grid Format
GeoTiff ▼

Demo Source Data

Job Id	Dataset	Title	Submission	Completion	Duration	Num points	Final Status
pc1462030452569	NSAF	NSAF demo for CGS	2016-04-30 08:34:12	2016-04-30 08:34:34	22 secs	636,201	Done ✓

Download Job Results

- Point Cloud Results

 - Download point cloud data in LAZ format [points.laz](#) (3 MB)
- DEM Results

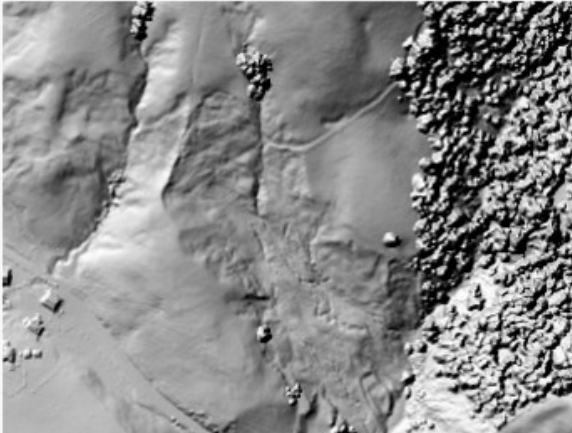
 - Download DEM (TIN) [dems.tar.gz](#) (381.2 KB)
- Derivative Products

 - Download Hillshade & Slope Products (TIN) [viz.tar.gz](#) (599.7 KB)

Visualization Products

- Ztin DEM

 - Download KMZ file [viz.tin.hs.kmz](#)
 - [View with Google Map](#)



UMD-NASA Carbon Mapping /Sonoma County Vegetation Mapping and Lidar Program

Overview

This survey covers all of Sonoma County as well as two small portions of southern Mendocino County. Data were provided by the University of Maryland and the [Sonoma County Vegetation Mapping and Lidar Program](#) under grant NNX13AP69G from NASA's Carbon Monitoring System (Dr. Ralph Dubayah, PI). The Sonoma County Vegetation Mapping and Lidar Program is NASA/UMD's local partner in this project- its members are as follows: the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District, the Sonoma County Water Agency, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the United States Geological Survey, the Sonoma County Information Systems Department, the Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works Department, the Nature Conservancy, and the City of Petaluma.

These data will be used for various research projects throughout Sonoma County. They are critical to assessing climate mitigation and adaptation strategies and benefits provided by the landscape, such as the amount of carbon sequestration in forests or the degree to which riparian areas, floodplains, and coastal habitats may buffer extreme weather events. Other research applications include groundwater, ecosystem services valuation, ecosystem resiliency, and wildlife habitat connectivity. Finally, these data sets are key to facilitating good planning and management for watershed protection, flood control, fire and fuels management and wildlife habitat conservation.

The data was collected between September 28 and November 26, 2013 by Watershed Sciences, Inc. (WSI). Lidar was collected at high density greater than 8 pulses per square meter. WSI used two airplanes, one carrying a Leica ALS50 and the other a Leica ALS70; systems were flown at 900 meters above ground level, capturing a scan angle of 15 degrees from nadir (30 degree field of view). 4-band, 6-inch resolution aerial photography was collected simultaneously with the Lidar data.

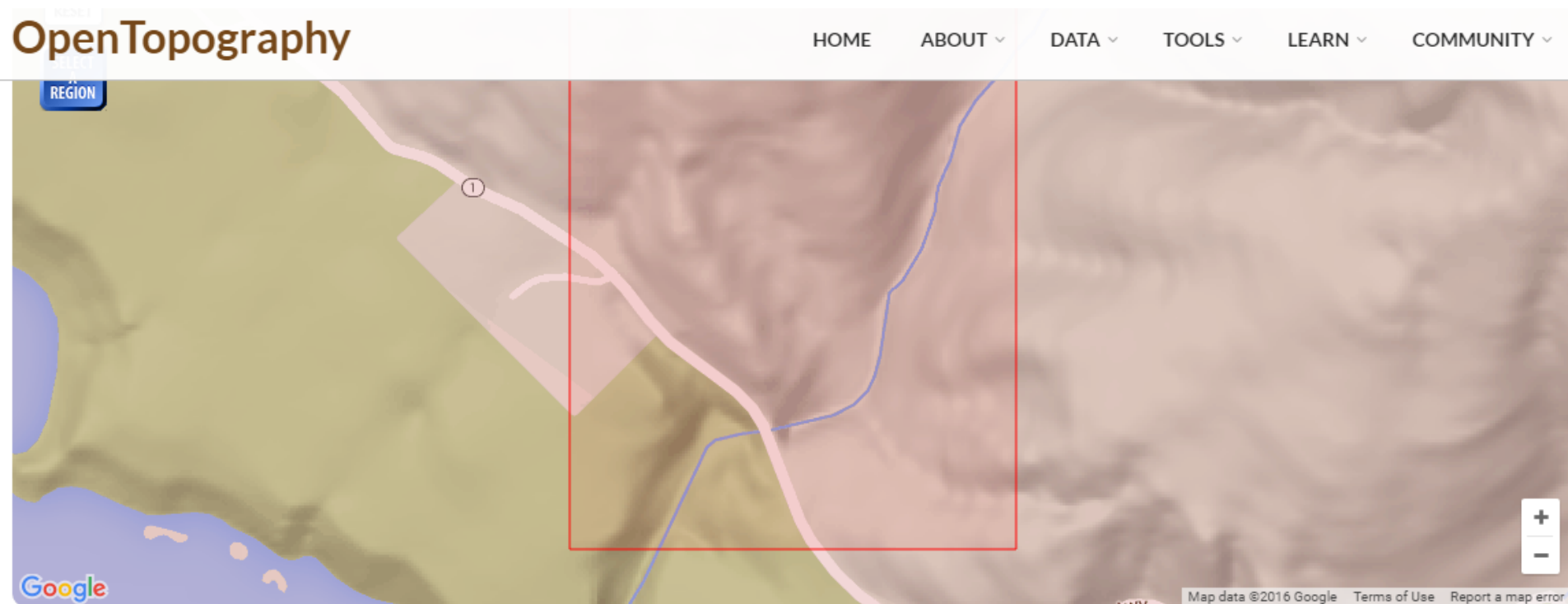


SONOMA VEG MAP

SONOMA COUNTY VEGETATION MAPPING & LIDAR PROGRAM

High-Quality Data for Planning, Conservation and Resource Management

Demo Source Data



1. Coordinates & Classification

Horizontal Coordinates: State Plane, California Zone II, FIPS Zone 0402, (NAD83) 2011 [EPSG: 2871]

Vertical Coordinates: North American Vertical Datum 1988 (NAVD88), GEOID 12a, US Survey Feet

Data Selection Coordinates: ☒ Manually enter selection coordinates (in the horizontal coordinate system listed above)

$X_{\min}$ = 6211604.41

$Y_{\min}$ = 1946923.87

$X_{\max}$ = 6213674.87

$Y_{\max}$ = 1949335.95

Validate coordinates and estimate point count

The selection area contains approximately 4,453,000 points.

Demo Source Data

The selection area contains approximately 4,453,000 points.

Choose Return Classification

☒ Ground ☒ Unclassified ☒ Vegetation

2. Point Cloud Data Download

☒ Point cloud data in LAS format ☒ Point cloud data in LAZ format ☐ Point cloud data in ASCII format

3A. DEM Generation (Streaming TIN)

Gridding Method
☒ Calculate TIN

Gridding Parameters
☒ Grid Resolution (Default = 6 ft)
☒ Max. triangle size (Default 50 units)

Grid Format
GeoTiff ▼

Demo Source Data

Job Id	Dataset	Title	Submission	Completion	Duration	Num points	Final Status
pc1462030828460	SONOMA_LIDAR	Sonoma lidar for CGS demo	2016-04-30 08:40:28	2016-04-30 08:41:30	62 secs	4,735,481	Done ✓

Download Job Results

Point Cloud Results

- Download point cloud data in LAS format [points.las](#) (153.5 MB)
- Download point cloud data in LAZ format [points.laz](#) (25.7 MB)

DEM Results

- Download DEM (TIN) [dems.tar.gz](#) (381.1 KB)

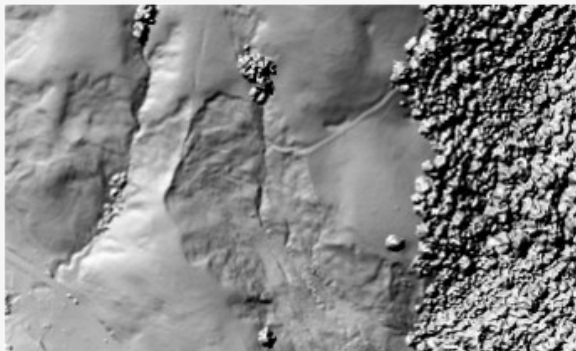
Derivative Products

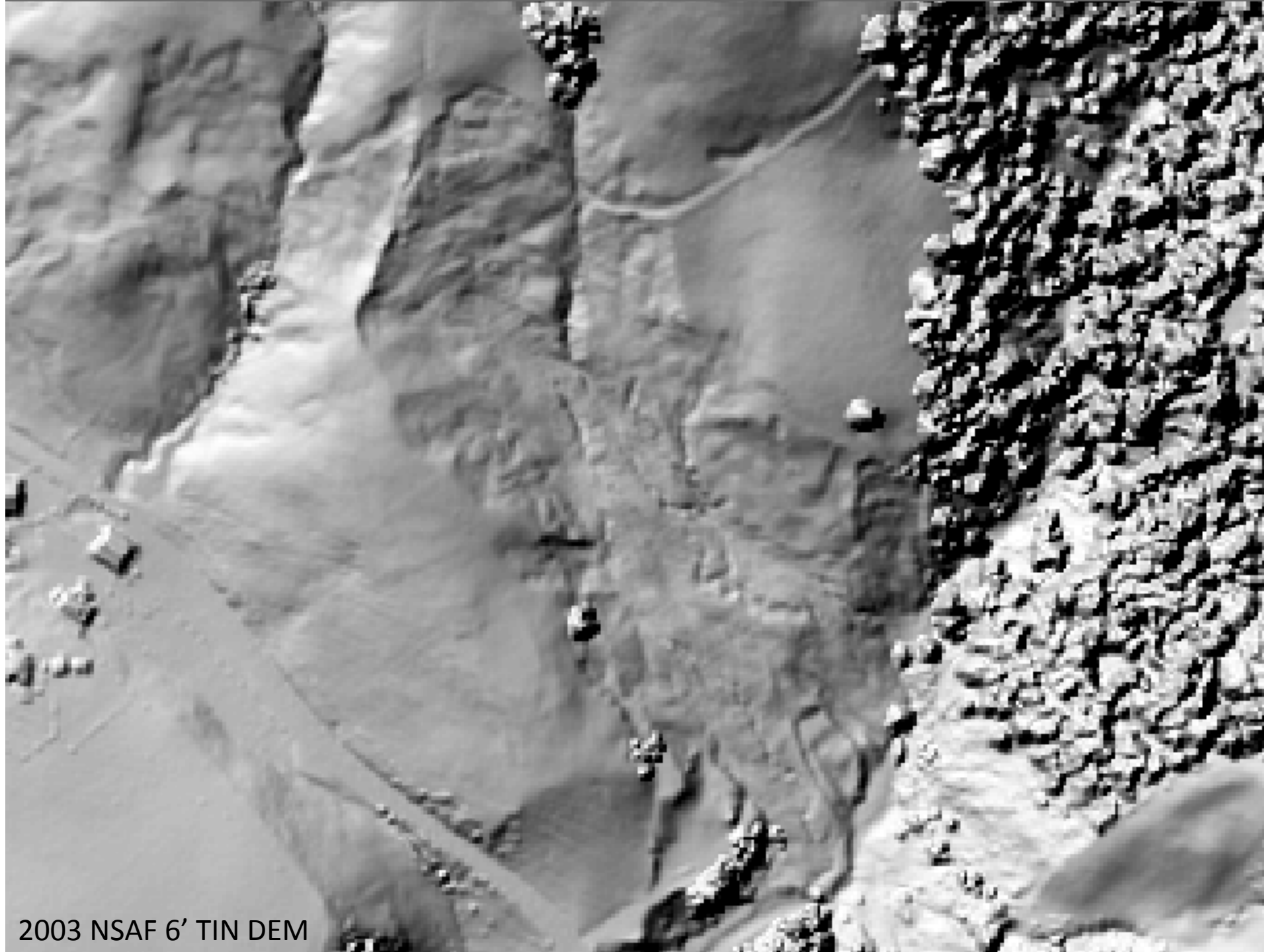
- Download Hillshade & Slope Products (TIN) [viz.tar.gz](#) (600.6 KB)

Visualization Products

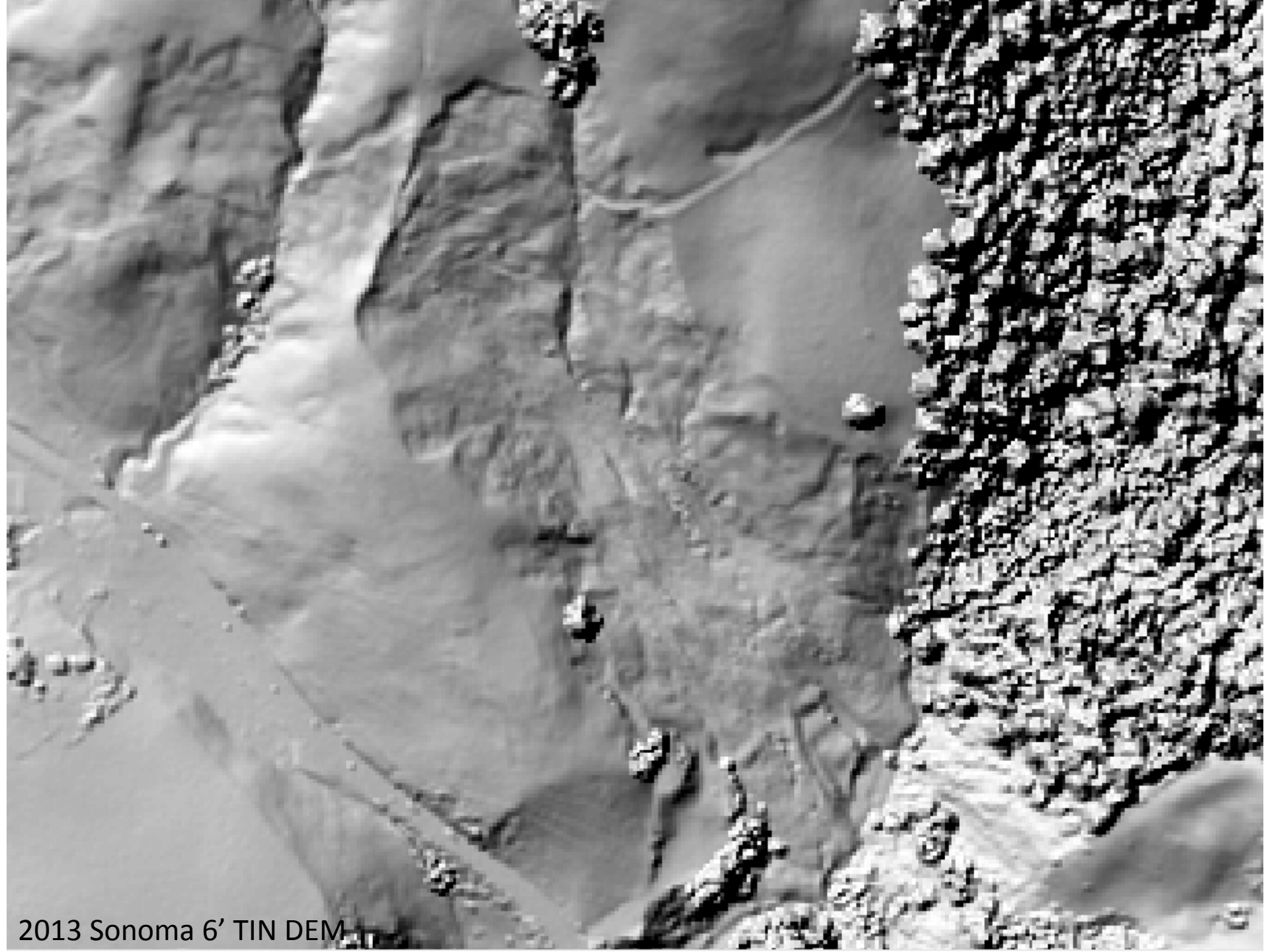
Ztin DEM

- [View with Google Map](#)





2003 NSAF 6' TIN DEM



2013 Sonoma 6' TIN DEM

The screenshot shows a web browser window with multiple tabs. The active tab is 'LAStools | rapidlasso G'. The address bar shows 'https://rapidlasso.com/lastools/'. The website header features the 'rapidlasso GmbH' logo with the tagline 'fast tools to catch reality'. A navigation menu includes links for Products, LAStools, BLAST, LASzip, PulseWaves, Blog, Events, Support, and Contact. The main content area is titled 'LAStools' and contains two paragraphs of text. The first paragraph describes the LAStools software suite as an easy download (28 MB) available for licensing, listing various functions like classify, tile, convert, filter, raster, triangulate, contour, clip, and polygonize LiDAR data. It also mentions compatibility with ArcGIS versions 9.3, 10.0, 10.1, 10.2, or 10.3, QGIS versions 1.8, 2.0, 2.2, 2.4, 2.6, 2.8, or 2.10, and ERDAS IMAGINE versions 14.0 and 15.1. The second paragraph states that LAStools are the fastest and most memory efficient solution for batch-scripted multi-core LiDAR processing, turning billions of LiDAR points into useful products at blazing speeds and with low memory requirements. It also mentions the BLAST extension of LAStools. At the bottom left, there is a 'Share this:' section with buttons for Twitter and Facebook (showing 28 shares). At the bottom right, there is a 'Follow' button.

Products LAStools BLAST LASzip PulseWaves Blog Events Support Contact

LAStools

Our flagship product is the [LAStools](#) software suite, which is an easy [download](#) (28 MB) and is available for licensing (see [pricing](#)). It is a collection of highly efficient, batch-scriptable, multicore command line tools. We have tools to classify, tile, convert, filter, raster, triangulate, contour, clip, and polygonize LiDAR data (to name just a few functions). All of the tools can also be run via a native GUI and are available as a LiDAR processing toolboxes for [ArcGIS](#) versions 9.3, 10.0, 10.1, 10.2, or 10.3, for [QGIS](#) versions 1.8, 2.0, 2.2, 2.4, 2.6, 2.8, or 2.10, and for [ERDAS IMAGINE](#) versions 14.0 and 15.1.

LAStools are the fastest and most memory efficient solution for batch-scripted multi-core LiDAR processing and can turn billions of LiDAR points into useful products at blazing speeds and with low memory requirements. For seamless processing of large amounts of LiDAR we further offer the [BLAST](#) extension of LAStools.

Share this:

Twitter Facebook 28

Follow

LAStools: <https://rapidlasso.com/lastools/>

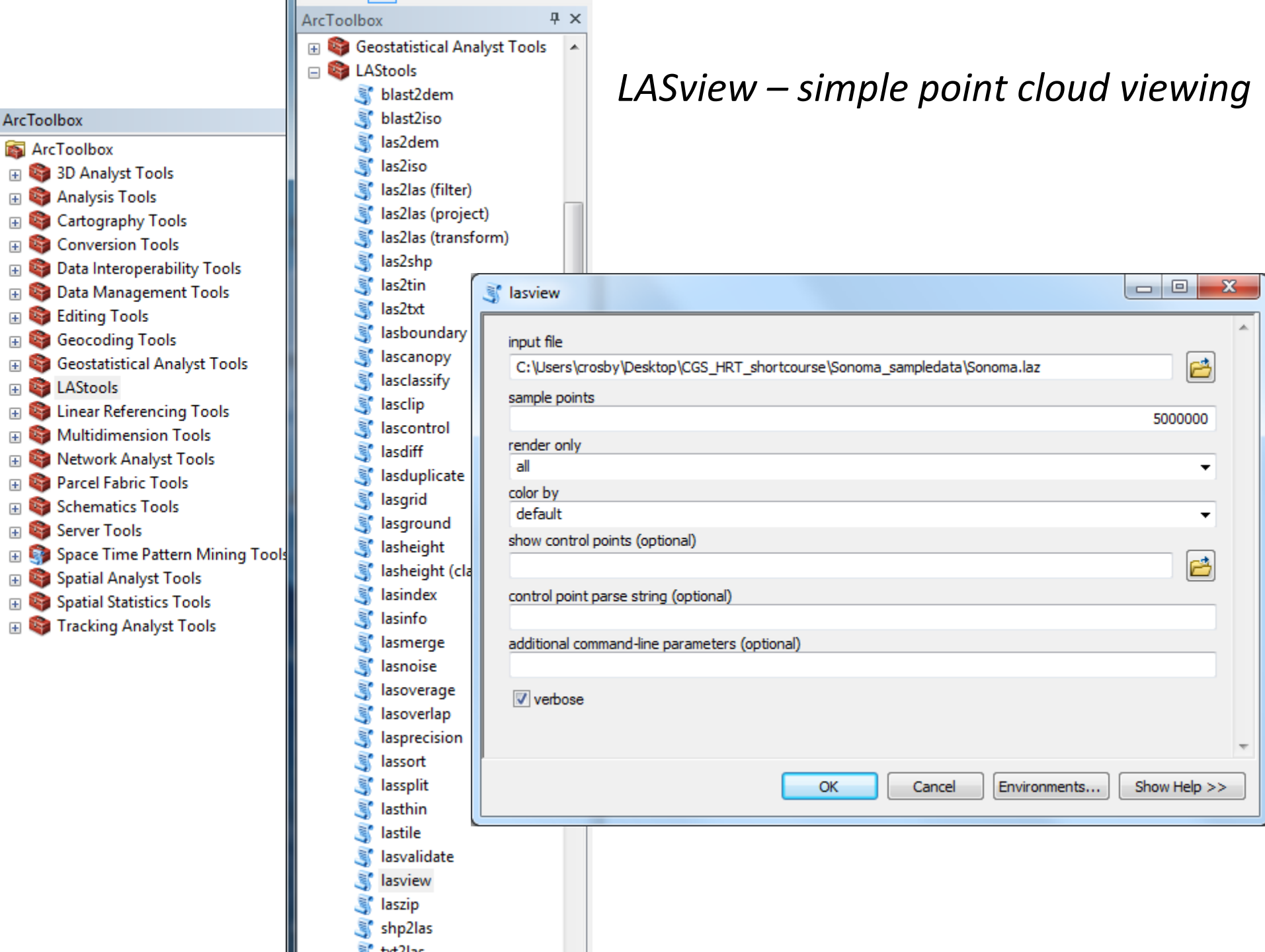
Combination of open source and commercial software.

Stand alone GUIs, command line tools, **ArcGIS**, QGIS, ERDAS Image toolboxes

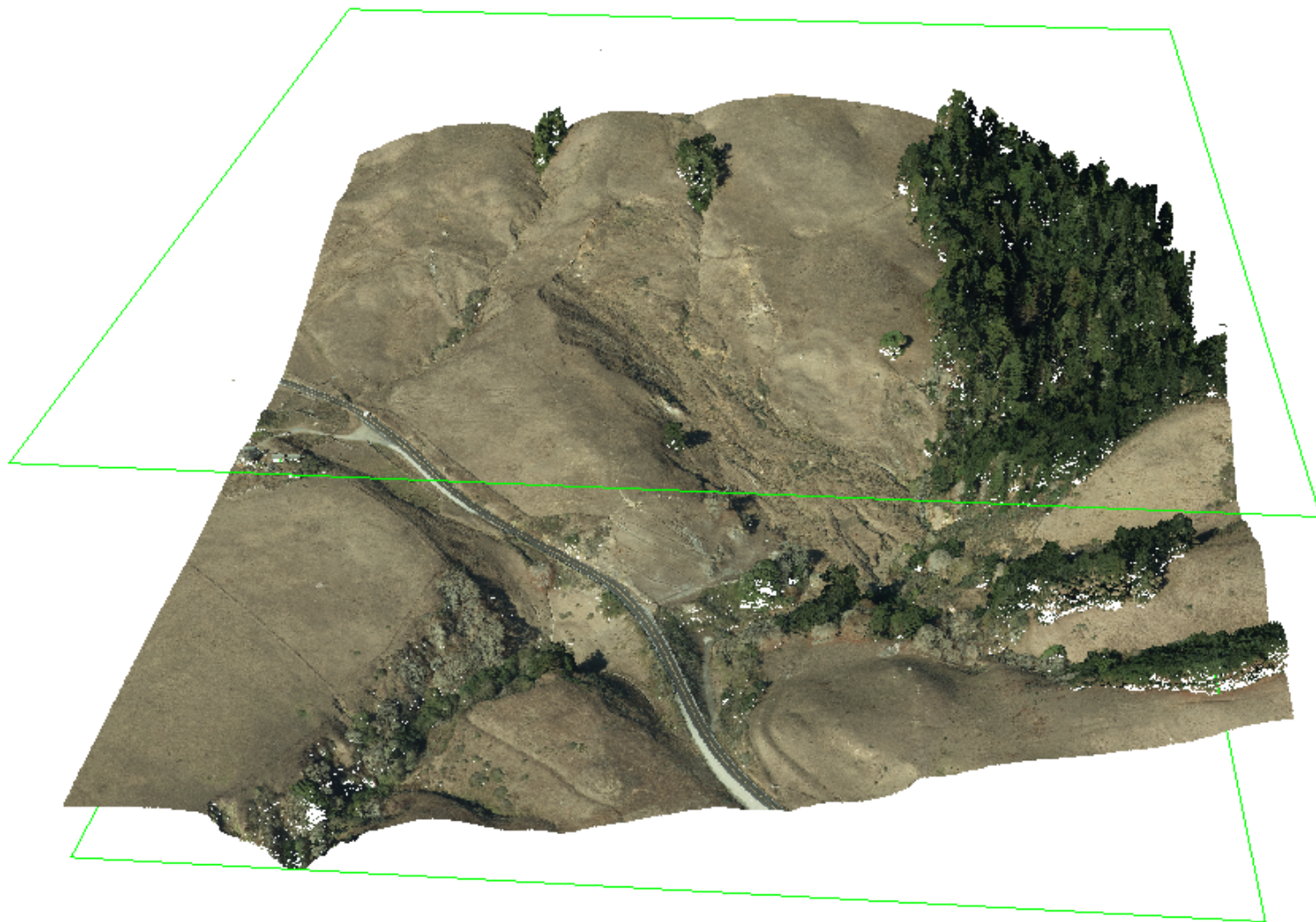
Point clouds and DEMs

1. Download 2013points.laz
2. Lasview (right click to change functions)
3. Lasinfo (lasinfo -i "C:\Users\ramon\Desktop\Tahoepoints.las" -odir "C:\Users\ramon\Desktop" -o "tahoe.txt")
4. Lasboundary (output file format kml)
5. Las2txt
6. LAS2LAS - filtering (-keep_class); projections
7. LASground

LASview – simple point cloud viewing



pan



ArcToolbox

- ArcToolbox
 - 3D Analyst Tools
 - Analysis Tools
 - Cartography Tools
 - Conversion Tools
 - Data Interoperability Tools
 - Data Management Tools
 - Editing Tools
 - Geocoding Tools
 - Geostatistical Analyst Tools
 - LAStools
 - Linear Referencing Tools
 - Multidimension Tools
 - Network Analyst Tools
 - Parcel Fabric Tools
 - Schematics Tools
 - Server Tools
 - Space Time Pattern Mining Tools
 - Spatial Analyst Tools
 - Spatial Statistics Tools
 - Tracking Analyst Tools

- LAStools
 - blast2dem
 - blast2iso
 - las2dem
 - las2iso
 - las2las (filter)
 - las2las (project)
 - las2las (transform)
 - las2shp
 - las2tin
 - las2txt
 - lasboundary
 - lascanopy
 - lasclassify
 - lasclip
 - lascontrol
 - lasdiff
 - lasduplicate
 - lasgrid
 - lasground
 - lasheight
 - lasheight (classify)
 - lasindex
 - lasinfo
 - lasmerge
 - lasnoise
 - lasoverage
 - lasoverlap
 - lasprecision
 - lassort
 - lassplit
 - lathin

LASinfo – what's in my LAS/LAZ file?

lasinfo

input file

D:\Google Drive\+S_Active_Items\2016OT_CGSCourse\PCdemo\2013Sonoma\2013points.laz

output file (optional)

D:\Google Drive\+S_Active_Items\2016OT_CGSCourse\PCdemo\2013Sonoma\2013info.txt

output (optional)

☐ do not report the LAS header

☐ do not report the VLRs

☐ do not parse the points

☐ do not report min/max point values

☐ compute the point density

☐ report progress every 1 million points

☐ repair the point counters

☐ repair the bounding box

additional command-line parameters (optional)

☒ verbose

LASinfo – header and content report

reporting all LAS header entries:

file signature: 'LASF'
file source ID: 0
global_encoding: 1
project ID GUID data 1-4: 00000000-0000-0000-4F53-4F4E0000414D
version major.minor: 1.2
system identifier: 'LAStools (c) by Martin Isenburg'
generating software: 'las2las (version 120628)'
file creation day/year: 120/2016
header size: 227
offset to point data: 1300
number var. length records: 3
point data format: 3
point data record length: 34
number of point records: 4735481
number of points by return: 4288133 389741 54520 3087 0
scale factor x y z: 0.01 0.01 0.01
offset x y z: 0 0 0
min x y z: 6211604.43 1946923.89 81.56
max x y z: 6213674.87 1949335.93 871.26
variable length header record 1 of 3:
reserved 43707
user ID 'LASF_Projection'
record ID 34735
length after header 64
description 'GeoTIFF GeoKeyDirectoryTag'
GeoKeyDirectoryTag version 1.1.0 number of keys 7
key 1024 tiff_tag_location 0 count 1 value_offset 1 - GTModelTypeGeoKey: ModelTypeProjected
key 1025 tiff_tag_location 0 count 1 value_offset 1 - GTRasterTypeGeoKey: RasterPixellsArea
key 1026 tiff_tag_location 34737 count 39 value_offset 0 - GTCitationGeoKey: NAD83(HARN) / California
zone 2 (ftUS)
key 2049 tiff_tag_location 34737 count 12 value_offset 39 - GeogCitationGeoKey: NAD83(HARN)
key 2054 tiff_tag_location 0 count 1 value_offset 9102 - GeogAngularUnitsGeoKey: Angular_Degree
key 3072 tiff_tag_location 0 count 1 value_offset 2871 - ProjectedCSTypeGeoKey: NAD83(HARN) / California
zone 2 (ftUS)
key 3076 tiff_tag_location 0 count 1 value_offset 9003 - ProjLinearUnitsGeoKey: Linear_Foot_US_Survey

variable length header record 2 of 3:
reserved 43707
user ID 'LASF_Projection'
record ID 34737
length after header 51
description 'GeoTIFF GeoAsciiParamsTag'
GeoAsciiParamsTag (number of characters 51)
NAD83(HARN) / California zone 2 (ftUS) | NAD83(HARN)
variable length header record 3 of 3:
reserved 43707
user ID 'liblas'
record ID 2112
length after header 796
description 'OGR variant of OpenGIS WKT SRS'
LASzip compression (version 2.1r0 c2 50000): POINT10 2 GPS
reporting minimum and maximum for all LAS point record entries:
X 621160443 621367487
Y 194692389 194933593
Z 8156 87126
intensity 0 238
return_number 1 4
number_of_returns 1 4
edge_of_flight_line 0 0
scan_direction_flag 0 1
classification 1 7
scan_angle_rank -17 16
user_data 117 134
point_source_ID 5333 5340
gps_time 67452811.791205 67455847.866464
Color R 1024 65280
G 2048 65280
B 1280 65280
number of first returns: 4288133
number of intermediate returns: 57649
number of last returns: 4287713
number of single returns: 3898014
overview over number of returns of given pulse:
3898014 670700 154429 12338 0 0 0
histogram of classification of points:
1427491 unclassified (1)
1722512 ground (2)
1355413 high vegetation (5)
2265 building (6)
227800 noise (7)

ASPRS Standard LIDAR Point Classes

<i>Classification Value (bits 0:4)</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
0	Created, never classified
1	Unclassified ¹
2	Ground
3	Low Vegetation
4	Medium Vegetation
5	High Vegetation
6	Building
7	Low Point (noise)
8	Model Key-point (mass point)
9	Water
10	<i>Reserved for ASPRS Definition</i>
11	<i>Reserved for ASPRS Definition</i>
12	Overlap Points ²
13-31	<i>Reserved for ASPRS Definition</i>

http://www.asprs.org/a/society/committees/standards/asprs_las_format_v12.pdf

LASvalidate – Do my LAS files conform to the specification?

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
- <LASvalidator>
  - <report>
    - <file>
      <name>NSAF.laz</name>
      <path>C:\Users\crosby\Desktop\CGS_HRT_shortcourse\NSAF_sampledata\NSAF.laz</path>
      <version>1.2</version>
      <system_identifier>LASTools (c) by Martin Isenburg</system_identifier>
      <generating_software>las2las (version 120628)</generating_software>
      <point_data_format>1</point_data_format>
      <CRS>NAD83(HARN) / California zone 2 (ftUS)</CRS>
    </file>
    <summary> fail </summary>
  - <details>
    - <fail>
      <variable>return number</variable>
      <note>there are 612084 points with a larger return number (5) than their number of returns of given pulse (1)</note>
    </fail>
    - <fail>
      <variable>return number</variable>
      <note>there are 12044 points with a larger return number (6) than their number of returns of given pulse (2)</note>
    </fail>
    - <fail>
      <variable>return number</variable>
      <note>there are 15 points with a larger return number (7) than their number of returns of given pulse (3)</note>
    </fail>
    - <warning>
      <variable>VLR</variable>
      <note>payload size of 104 for geokey VLR with 11 + 1 geokey entries has padding of 8 bytes. while the VLR is valid, software that (incorrectly) uses the VLR size to determine the number of geokey may fail.</note>
    </warning>
    - <warning>
      <variable>return number</variable>
      <note>there are 12044 points with a return number of 6</note>
    </warning>
    - <warning>
      <variable>return number</variable>
      <note>there are 15 points with a return number of 7</note>
    </warning>
    - <warning>
      <variable>point source ID</variable>
      <note>file source ID in header and point source ID of all 636201 points is 0</note>
    </warning>
  </details>
</report>
  - <total>
    fail
    - <detail>
      <pass>0</pass>
      <warning>0</warning>
      <fail>1</fail>
    </detail>
  </total>
</version> 160119 built with LASread version 1.0 (160119) </version>
<command_line> C:\geospatial\LASTools\LASTools\bin\lasvalidate.exe -i C:\Users\crosby\Desktop\CGS_HRT_shortcourse\NSAF_sampledata\NSAF.laz -o validate.xml </command_line>
</LASvalidator>
```

FAIL! = 2003 dataset delivered as ascii, converted to LAS

input file
 D:\Google Drive\+S_Active_Items\2016OT_CGSCourse\PCdemo\2013Sonoma\2013points.laz

parse string
 xyzicrn

☐ scan (a)ngle

☐ (u)ser data (optional)

☐ (p)oint source (optional)

☒ (RGB) color (optional)

add (E)xttra string (optional)

separator
 space

output file (optional)

output directory (optional)

output appendix (optional)

additional command-line parameters (optional)

☒ verbose

LAS2txt – points in ascii

Intensity Return #

Class # of returns

E

N

H

Class

of returns

6212037.34	1946924.39	113.81	83	1	2	2	21760	22016	17152
6212037.83	1946924.65	114.11	41	1	2	2	22016	22528	17408
6212038.91	1946925.17	114.63	11	1	2	2	22528	22528	17408
6212037.93	1946924.06	122.15	15	5	2	2	25344	26368	20736
6212038.88	1946924.68	120.34	6	5	2	2	21504	21504	16640
6212040.52	1946925.53	120.41	2	5	2	2	31744	33024	25600

R

G

B

OK

Cancel

Environments...

Show Help >>

input file
D:\Google Drive\+S_Active_Items\2016OT_CGSCourse\PCdemo\2013Sonoma\2013points.laz

concavity
50

use (optional)
all points

☐ disjoint

☐ holes

output format (optional)
kml

output file (optional)

output directory (optional)
D:\Google Drive\+S_Active_Items\2016OT_CGSCourse\PCdemo\2013Sonoma

output appendix (optional)

additional command-line parameters (optional)

☒ verbose

*LAS2txt – generate
outline of file (or group
of files)*



OK

Cancel

Environments...

Show Help >>

Point clouds and DEMs

Datum and projection

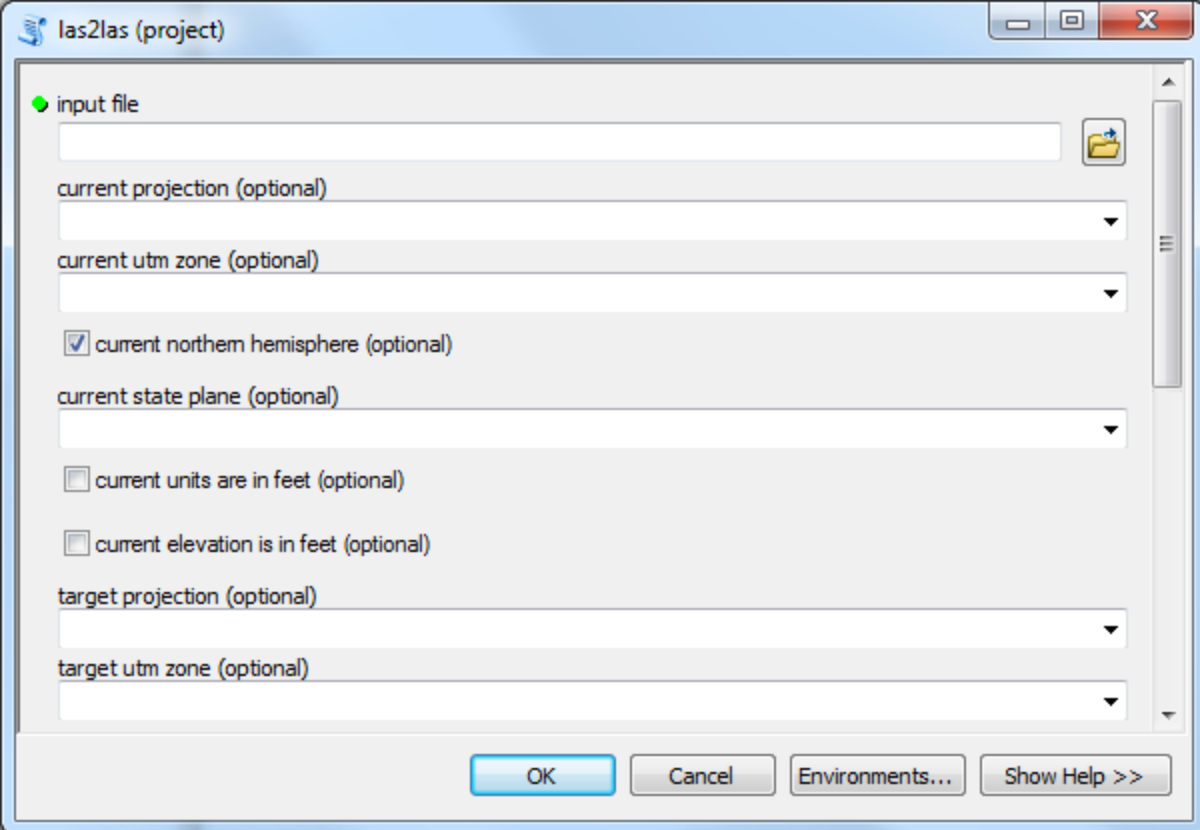
[http://geology.isu.edu/wapi/geostac/
Field_Exercise/topomaps/ref_datum.htm](http://geology.isu.edu/wapi/geostac/Field_Exercise/topomaps/ref_datum.htm)

[http://geology.isu.edu/wapi/geostac/
Field_Exercise/topomaps/utm.htm](http://geology.isu.edu/wapi/geostac/Field_Exercise/topomaps/utm.htm)

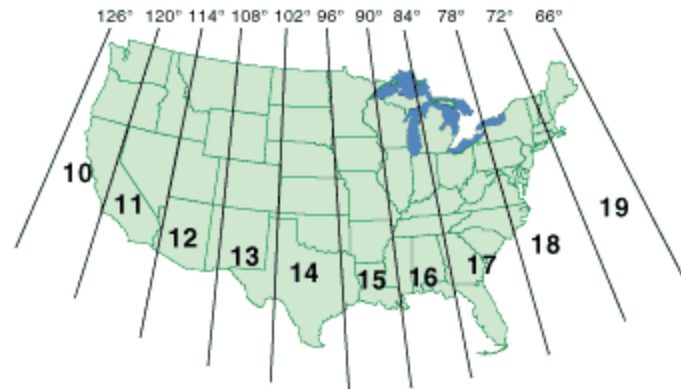
[http://geology.isu.edu/wapi/geostac/
Field_Exercise/topomaps/state_plane.htm](http://geology.isu.edu/wapi/geostac/Field_Exercise/topomaps/state_plane.htm)

California State Plane Coordinate System





LAS2LAS – projections, filtering, clipping

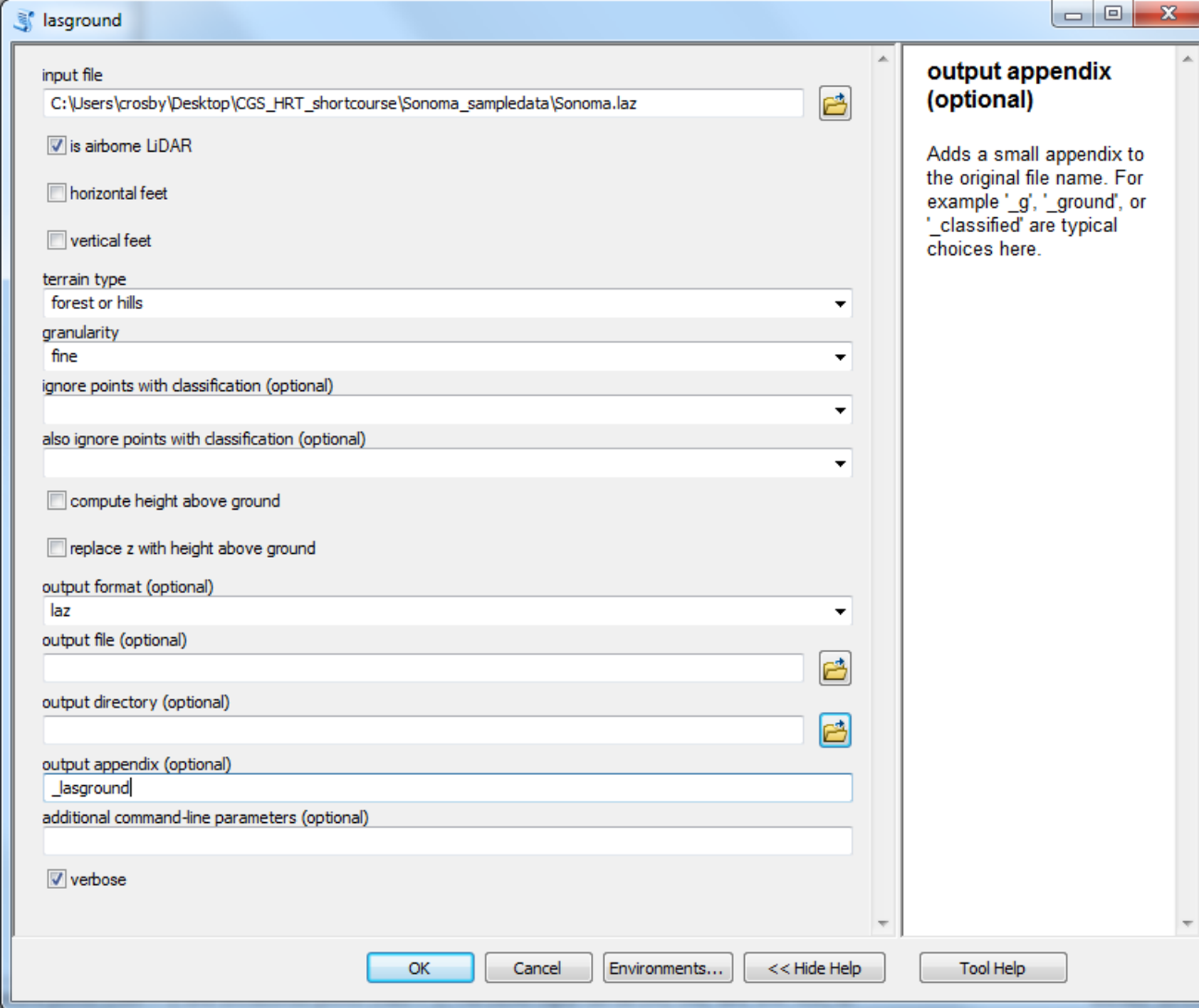


ORIGINAL FILE:

key 1024 tiff_tag_location 0 count 1 value_offset 1 - GTModelTypeGeoKey: ModelTypeProjected
 key 1025 tiff_tag_location 0 count 1 value_offset 1 - GTRasterTypeGeoKey: RasterPixellsArea
 key 1026 tiff_tag_location 34737 count 39 value_offset 0 - GTCitationGeoKey: **NAD83(HARN) / California zone 2 (ftUS)**
 key 2049 tiff_tag_location 34737 count 12 value_offset 39 - GeogCitationGeoKey: NAD83(HARN)
 key 2054 tiff_tag_location 0 count 1 value_offset 9102 - GeogAngularUnitsGeoKey: Angular_Degree
 key 3072 tiff_tag_location 0 count 1 value_offset 2871 - ProjectedCSTypeGeoKey: NAD83(HARN) / California zone 2 (ftUS)
 key 3076 tiff_tag_location 0 count 1 value_offset 9003 - ProjLinearUnitsGeoKey: **Linear_Foot_US_Survey**

AFTER LAS2LAS:

key 1024 tiff_tag_location 0 count 1 value_offset 1 - GTModelTypeGeoKey: ModelTypeProjected
 key 3072 tiff_tag_location 0 count 1 value_offset 26910 - ProjectedCSTypeGeoKey: **NAD83 / UTM 10N**
 key 3076 tiff_tag_location 0 count 1 value_offset 9001 - ProjLinearUnitsGeoKey: Linear_Meter
 key 4099 tiff_tag_location 0 count 1 value_offset 9001 - VerticalUnitsGeoKey: **Linear_Meter**



LASground – classification of ground returns

Vendor classification:

histogram of classification of points:

1427491 unclassified (1)
1722512 ground (2)
1355413 high vegetation (5)
2265 building (6)
227800 noise (7)

LASground classification:

histogram of classification of points:

2959272 unclassified (1)
1776209 ground (2)

Similar results – a few % more points in ground class w/ LASground. But by default LASground over-writes other classes. Need to use other LAs tools (LASheight, LAScanopy) for full classification.

Point clouds and DEMs

- 8. Lecture burst on generating DEMs from points
- 9. Lasgrid point density
- 10. Lasgrid DEM
- 11. blast2dem

Digital Elevation Models

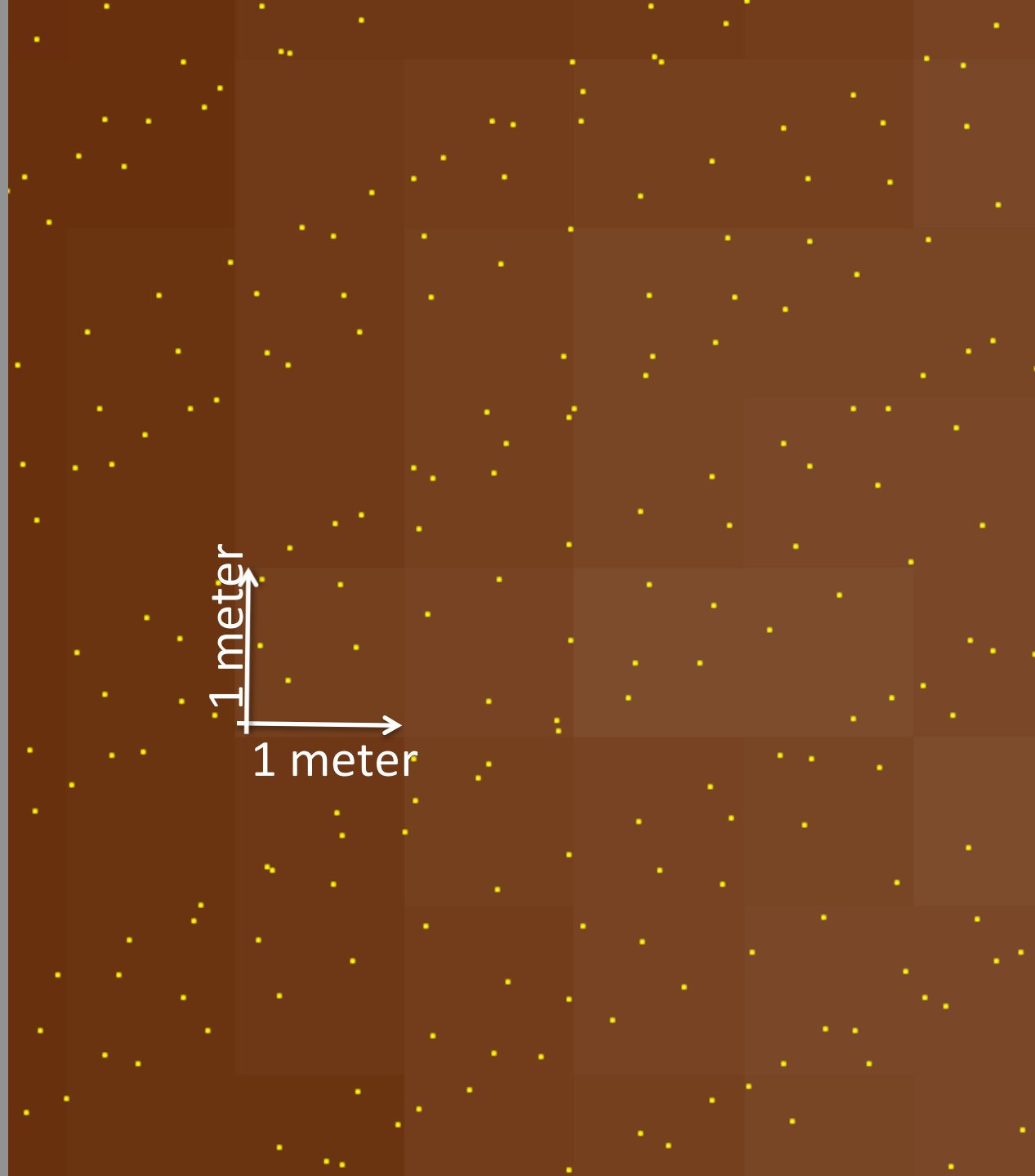
- Digital representation of topography / terrain
 - “Raster” format – a grid of squares or “pixels”
 - Continuous surface where Z (elevation) is estimated on a regular X,Y grid
 - “2.5D”

0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
0	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	0
0	50	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	50	0
0	50	100	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	100	50
0	50	100	150	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	150	100	50
0	50	100	150	200	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	200	150	100	50
0	50	100	150	200	250	300	300	300	300	300	300	250	200	150	100	50
0	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	350	350	350	300	250	200	150	100	50
0	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	350	350	300	250	200	150	100	50
0	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	350	350	300	250	200	150	100	50	0
0	50	100	150	200	250	300	300	300	300	300	250	200	150	100	50	0
0	50	100	150	200	250	250	250	250	250	250	250	200	150	100	50	0
0	50	100	150	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	150	100	50	0
0	50	100	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	100	50
0	50	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	50
0	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

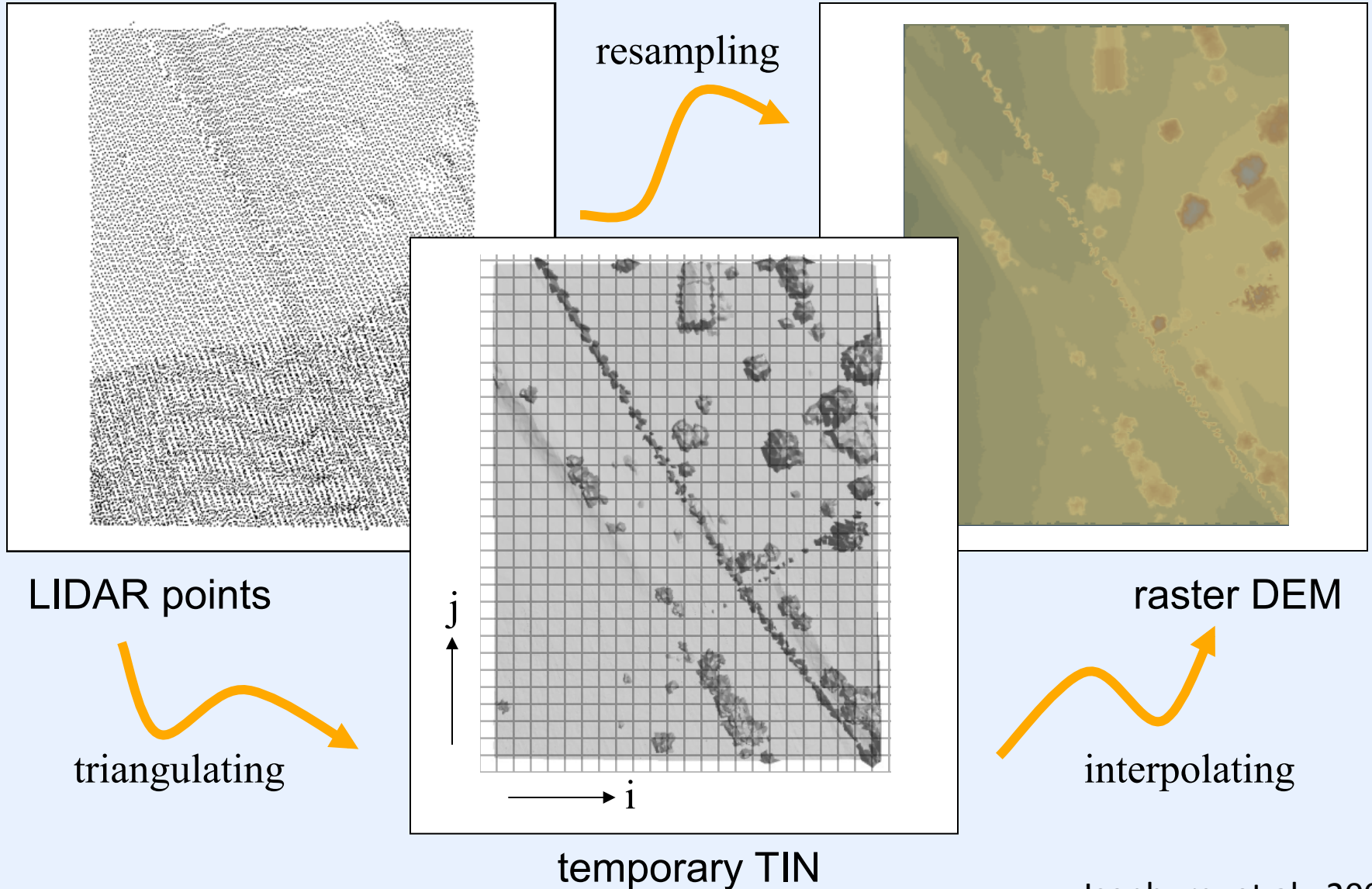
Source: <http://www.ncgia.ucsb.edu/giscc/extra/e001/e001.html>

- Grid resolution is defined by the size in the horizontal dimension of the pixel
 - 1 meter DEM has pixels 1 m x 1m assigned a single elevation value.

- 1 meter grid
- LiDAR returns from EarthScope data collection
- Example from flat area with little or no vegetation so ground is sampled approx. 5+ times per square meter
- How do we best fit a continuous surface to these points?
- Ultimately wish to represent irregularly sampled data on a regularized grid.

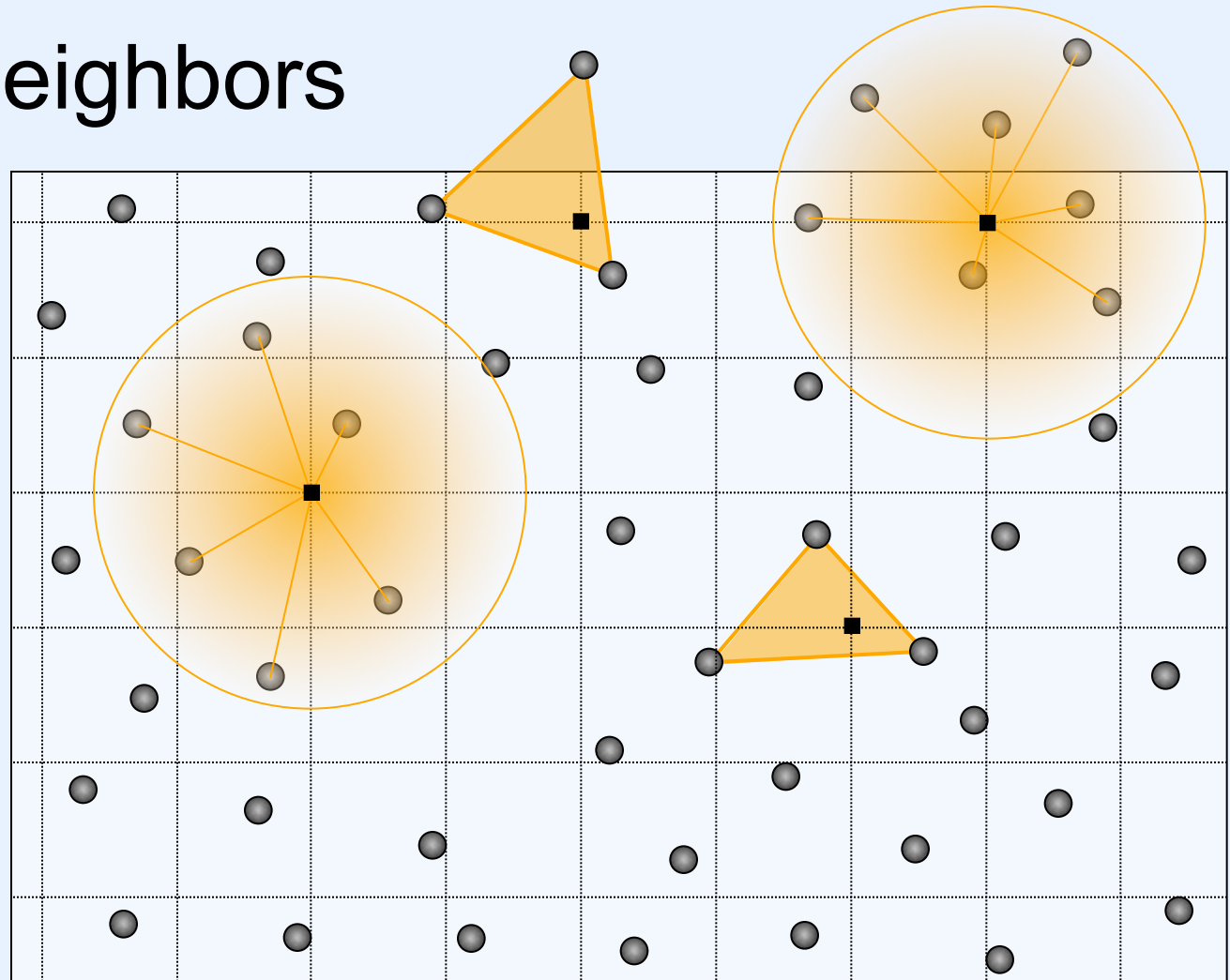


Generating DEMs from LIDAR

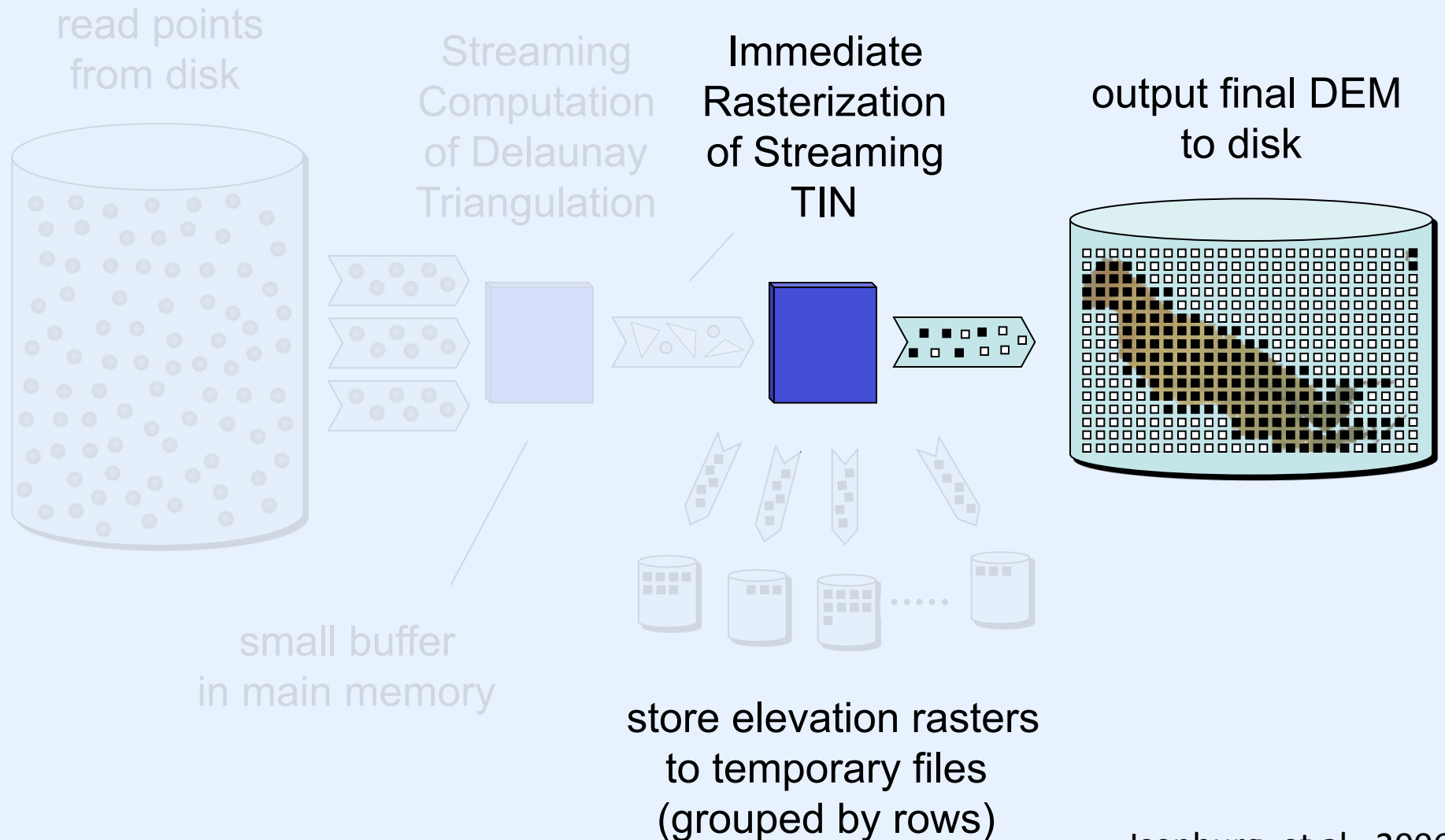


Interpolation Methods

- Inverse Distance Weighting (IDW)
- Natural Neighbors
- Kriging
- Splines
- TIN
 - linear
 - quintic
- ...



DEM Generation via TIN Streaming



Example Result

500,141,313 Points

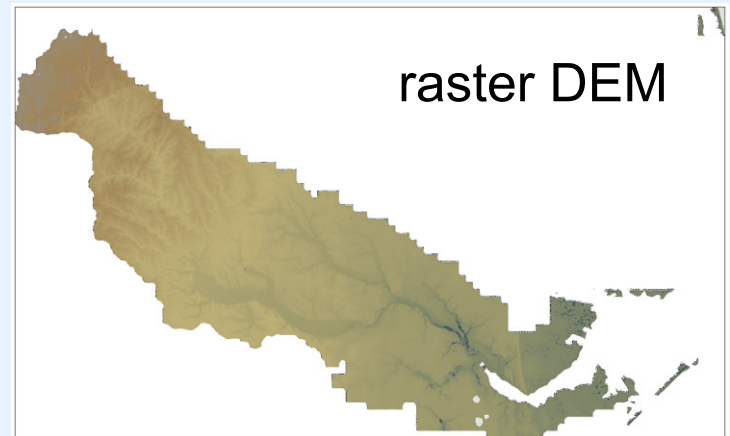
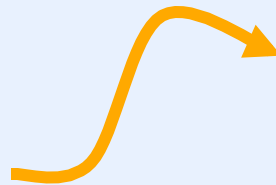
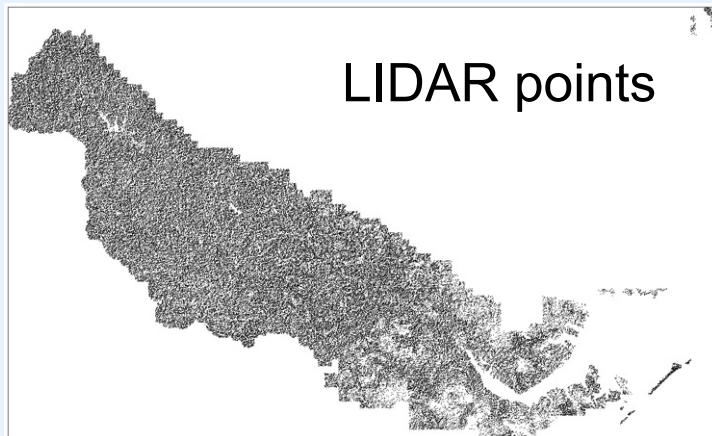
11 GB

(binary, xyz, doubles)

50,394 × 30,500 DEM

3 GB

(binary, BIL, 16 bit, 20 ft)



- on a household laptop with two harddisks □
 - in 67 minutes □
 - 64 MB of main memory □
 - 270 MB temporary disk space □

LASgrid – generating raster derivatives from points

Calculate point density

lasgrid

input file
D:\Google Drive\+S_Active_Items\2016OT_CGSCourse\PCdemo\2013Sonoma\2013points.laz

step
5

item
density

operation
lowest

fill voids searching n neighbor pixels
0

output
actual values

set min (for gray ramp and false colors) (optional)

set max (for gray ramp and false colors) (optional)

grid
all points

☐ use bounding box

☐ use tile bounding box

output format (optional)
tif

output file (optional)

output directory (optional)

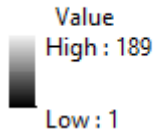
output appendix (optional)
5x5pc

additional command-line parameters (optional)

☒ verbose

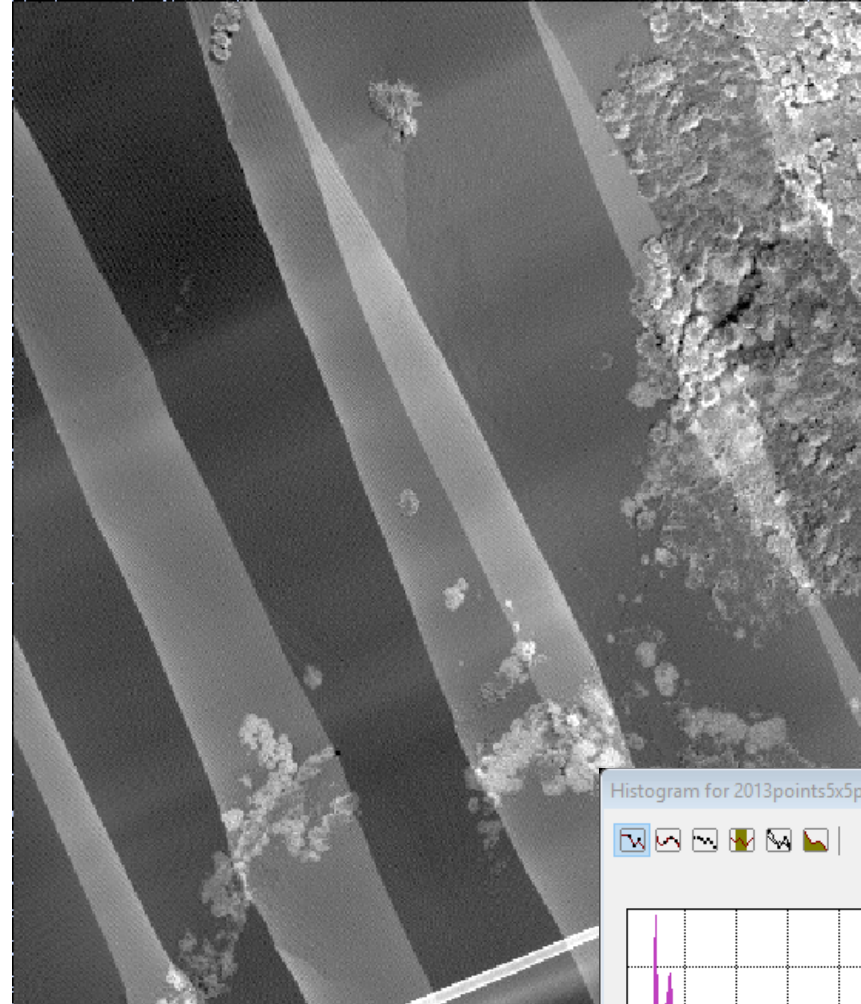
OK Cancel Environments... Show Help >>

2013points5x5pc.tif



Raster Information

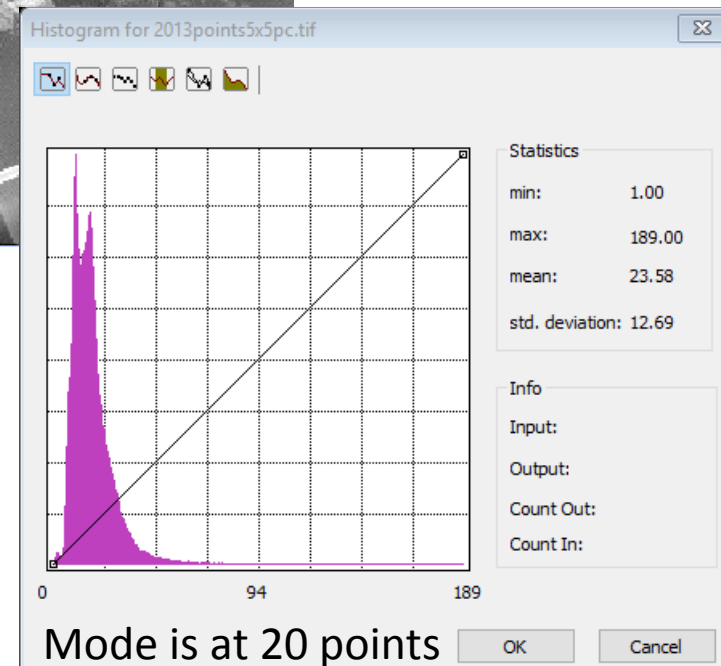
Columns and Rows	415, 484
Number of Bands	1
Cell Size (X, Y)	5, 5



of the DEM. A common method for determining the cell size of a DEM has been defined by [Hu \(2003\)](#). The grid size of a DEM can be estimated by:

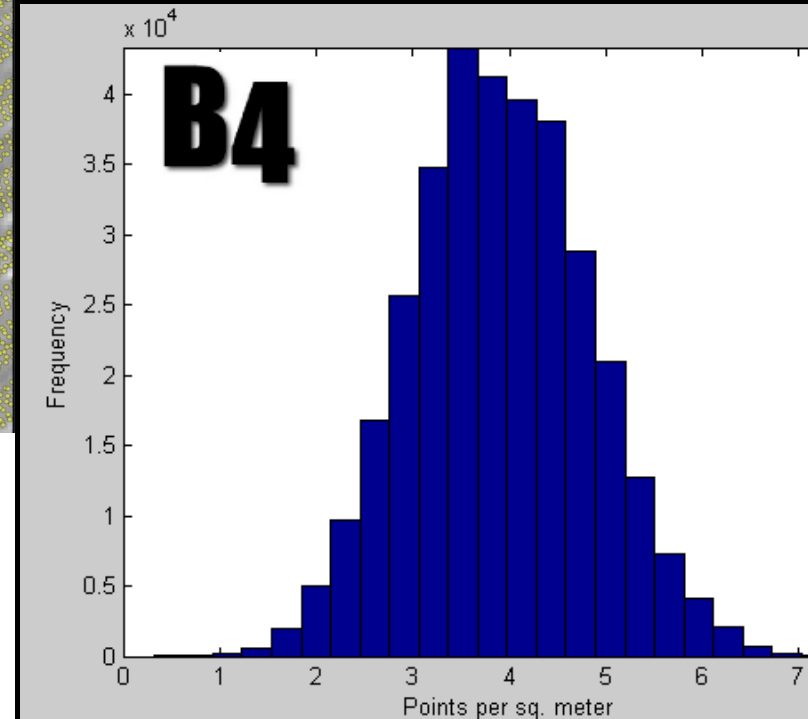
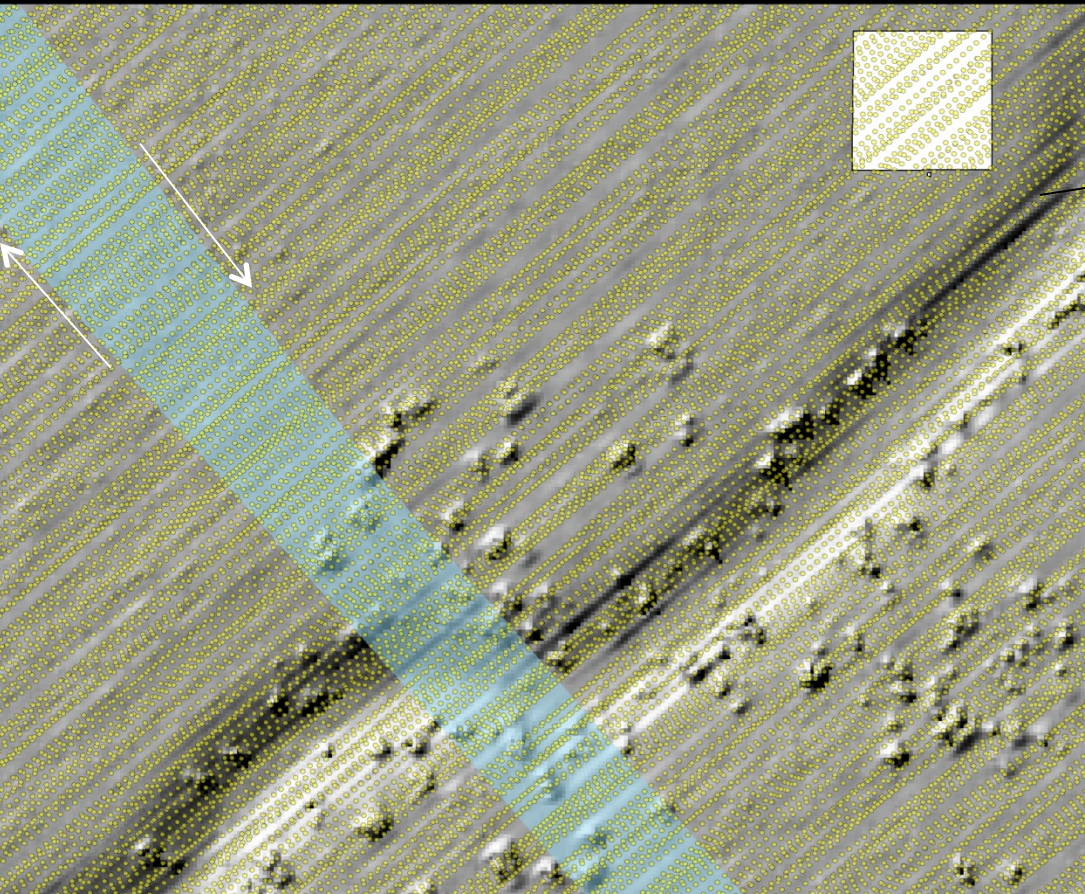
$$s = \sqrt{\frac{A}{n}} \quad \text{Sqrt}(25\text{ft}^2/20) = 5.6 \text{ ft/pix} \sim 6 \text{ ft/pix} \quad (1)$$

where s is the estimated cell size (typically in m), n is the number of sample points and A is the area containing the sample points. The



Measure fault slip at the appropriate scale

B4 LiDAR topography 0.25 m DEM



Mean ~4 shots/sq. m

of the DEM. A common method for determining the cell size of a DEM has been defined by [Hu \(2003\)](#). The grid size of a DEM can be estimated by:

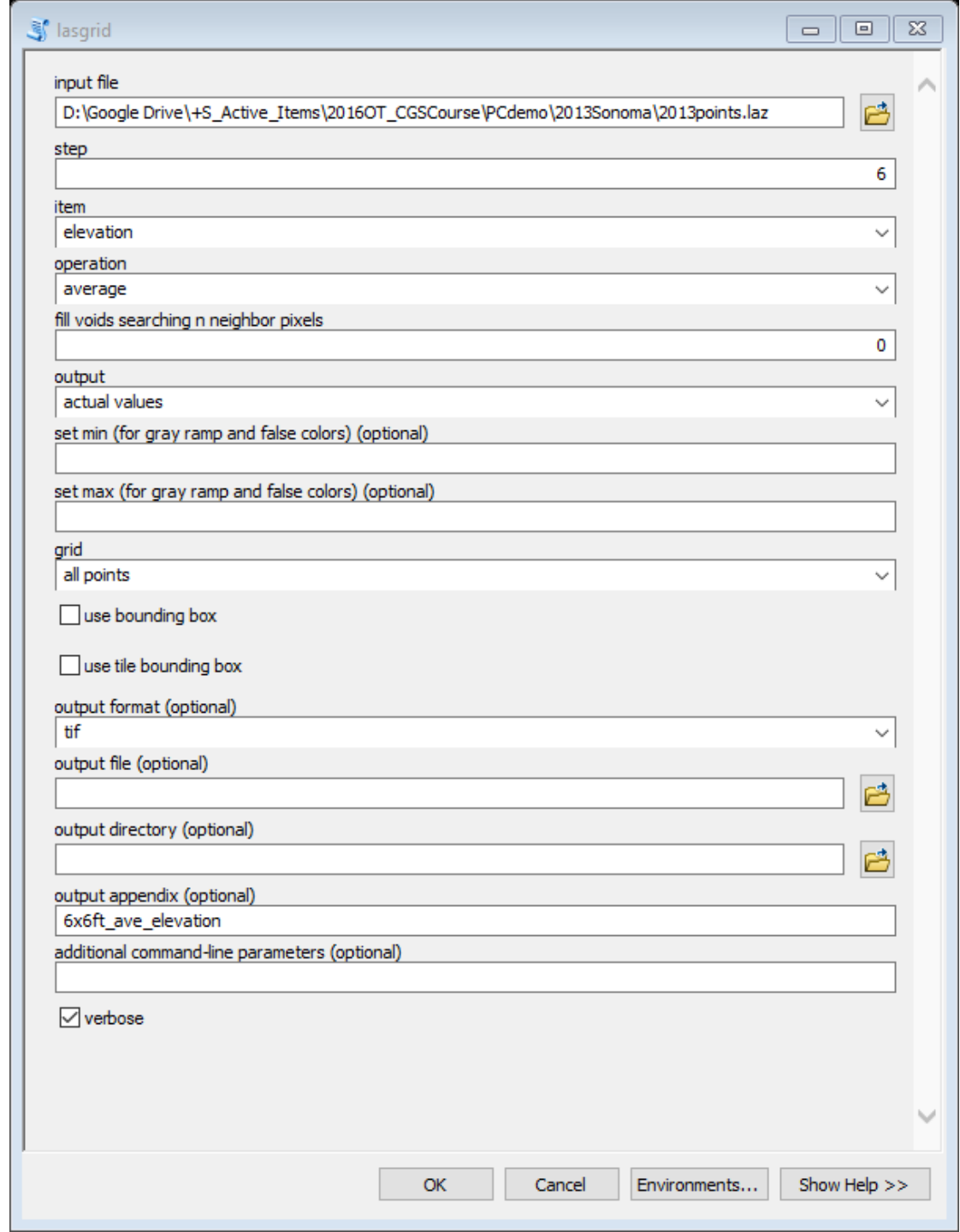
Langridge, et al. 2014

$$s = \sqrt{\frac{A}{n}} \quad \text{Sqrt}(1\text{m}^2/4) = 0.5 \text{ m/pix} \quad (1)$$

where s is the estimated cell size (typically in m), n is the number of sample points and A is the area containing the sample points. The

LASgrid – generating raster derivatives from points

*Calculate grid elevation
for all points = DSM*



The screenshot shows the LASgrid application window. The title bar reads 'lasgrid'. The interface includes several input fields and dropdown menus for configuring the grid generation process. The 'input file' field contains the path 'D:\Google Drive\+S_Active_Items\2016OT_CGSCourse\PCdemo\2013Sonoma\2013points.laz'. The 'step' is set to 6. The 'item' is set to 'elevation'. The 'operation' is set to 'average'. The 'fill voids searching n neighbor pixels' is set to 0. The 'output' is set to 'actual values'. The 'set min' and 'set max' fields are empty. The 'grid' is set to 'all points'. The 'use bounding box' and 'use tile bounding box' checkboxes are unchecked. The 'output format' is set to 'tif'. The 'output file' and 'output directory' fields are empty. The 'output appendix' is set to '6x6ft_ave_elevation'. The 'additional command-line parameters' field is empty. The 'verbose' checkbox is checked. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'OK', 'Cancel', 'Environments...', and 'Show Help >>'.

input file
D:\Google Drive\+S_Active_Items\2016OT_CGSCourse\PCdemo\2013Sonoma\2013points.laz

step
6

item
elevation

operation
average

fill voids searching n neighbor pixels
0

output
actual values

set min (for gray ramp and false colors) (optional)

set max (for gray ramp and false colors) (optional)

grid
all points

☐ use bounding box

☐ use tile bounding box

output format (optional)
tif

output file (optional)

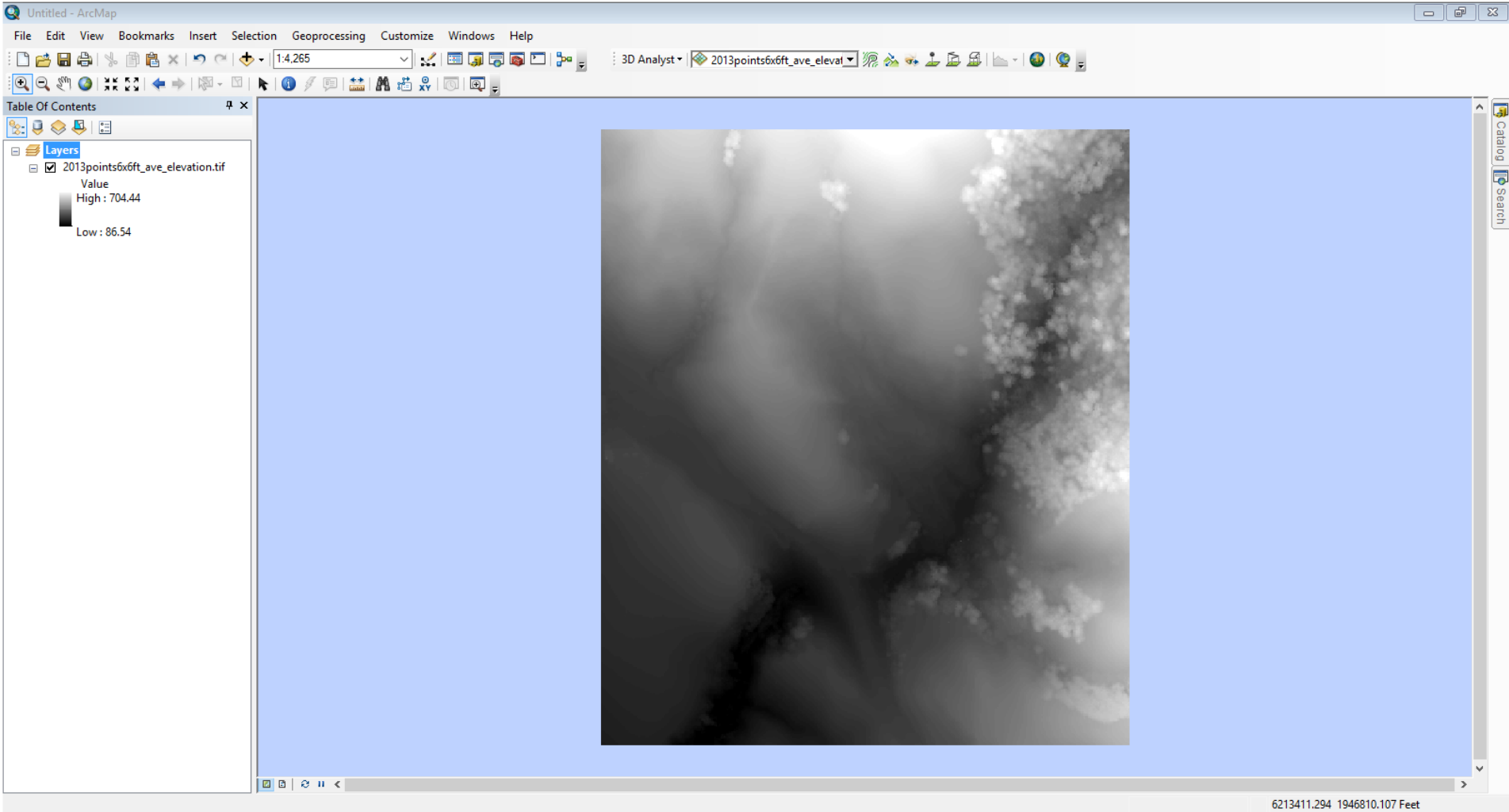
output directory (optional)

output appendix (optional)
6x6ft_ave_elevation

additional command-line parameters (optional)

☒ verbose

OK Cancel Environments... Show Help >>



Hillshade

Input raster
2013points6x6ft_ave_elevation.tif

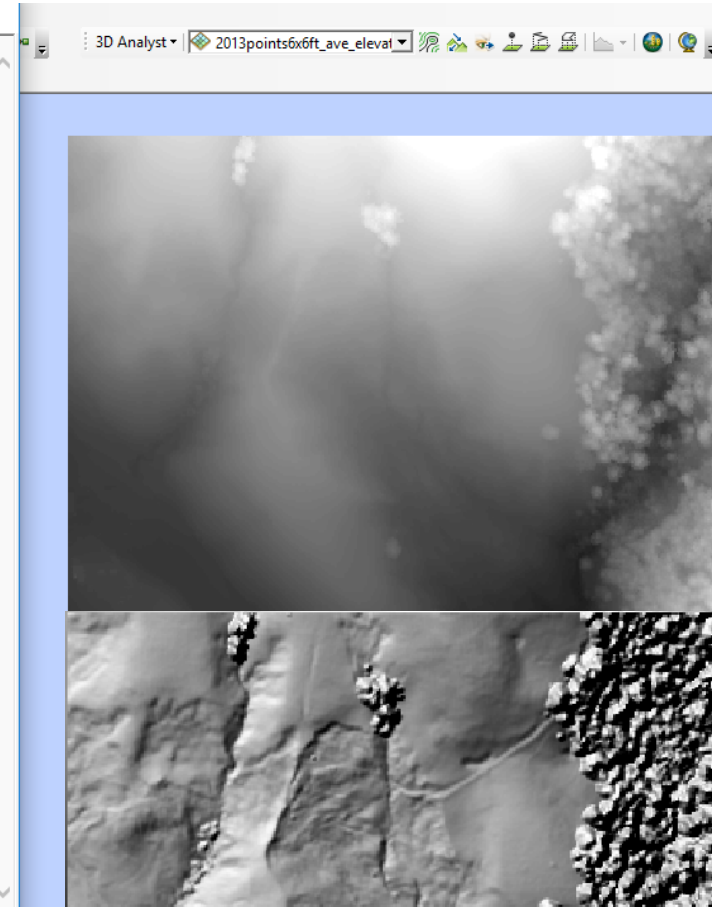
Output raster
D:\Google Drive\+S_Active_Items\2016OT_CGSCourse\PCdemo\2013Sonoma\2013points6x6ft_ave_e

Azimuth (optional)
315

Altitude (optional)
45

☐ Model shadows (optional)

Z factor (optional)
1



- ArcToolbox
- Conditional
 - Density
 - Distance
 - Extraction
 - Generalization
 - Groundwater
 - Hydrology
 - Interpolation
 - Local
 - Map Algebra
 - Math
 - Multivariate
 - Neighborhood
 - Overlay
 - Raster Creation
 - Reclass
 - Segmentation and Classification
 - Solar Radiation
 - Surface
 - Aspect
 - Contour
 - Contour List
 - Contour with Barriers
 - Curvature
 - Cut Fill
 - Hillshade
 - Observer Points
 - Slope
 - Viewshed
 - Viewshed 2
 - Visibility
 - Zonal

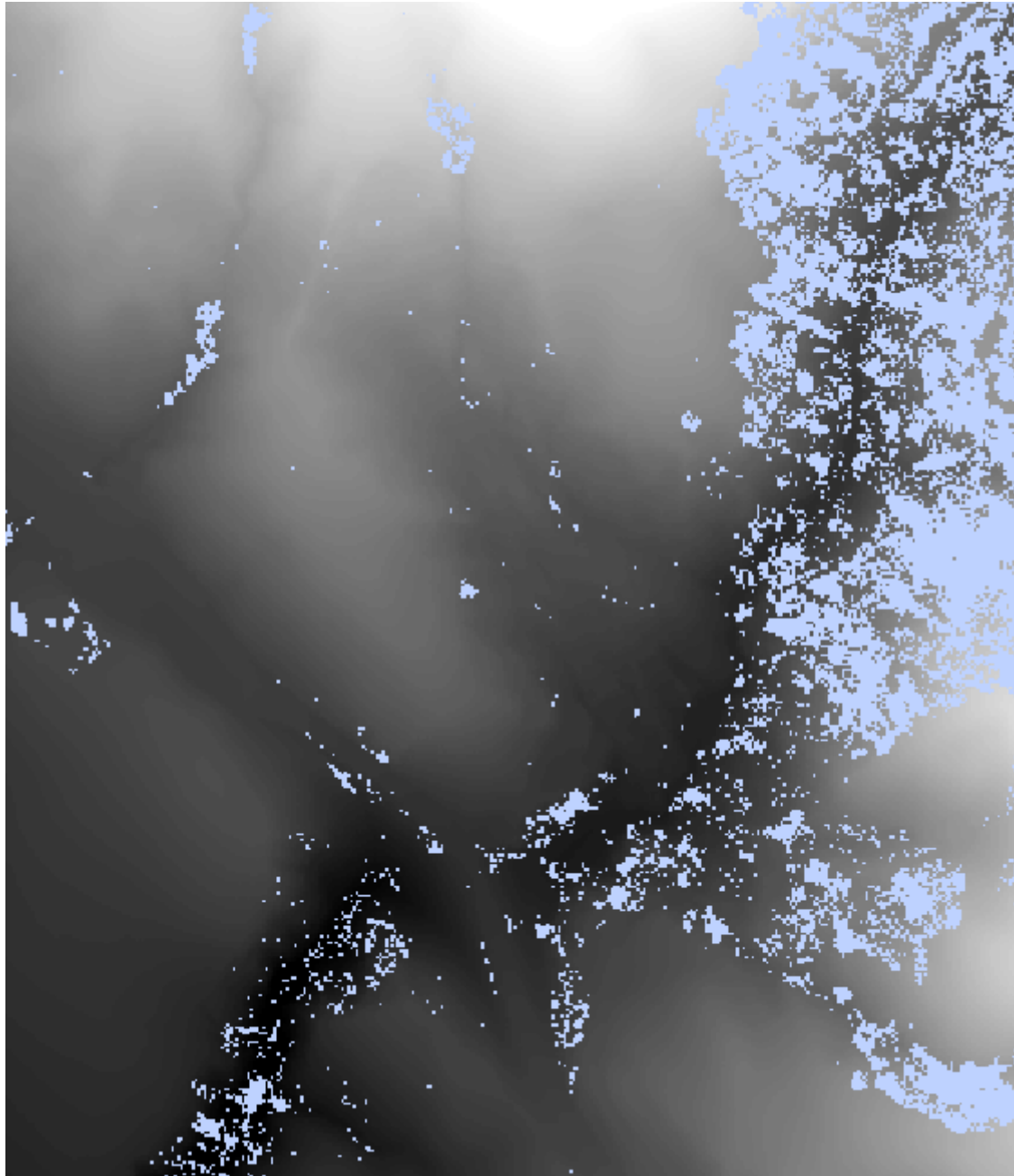
LASgrid – generating raster derivatives from points

*Calculate grid elevation
for ground points =
DTM (bare earth)*

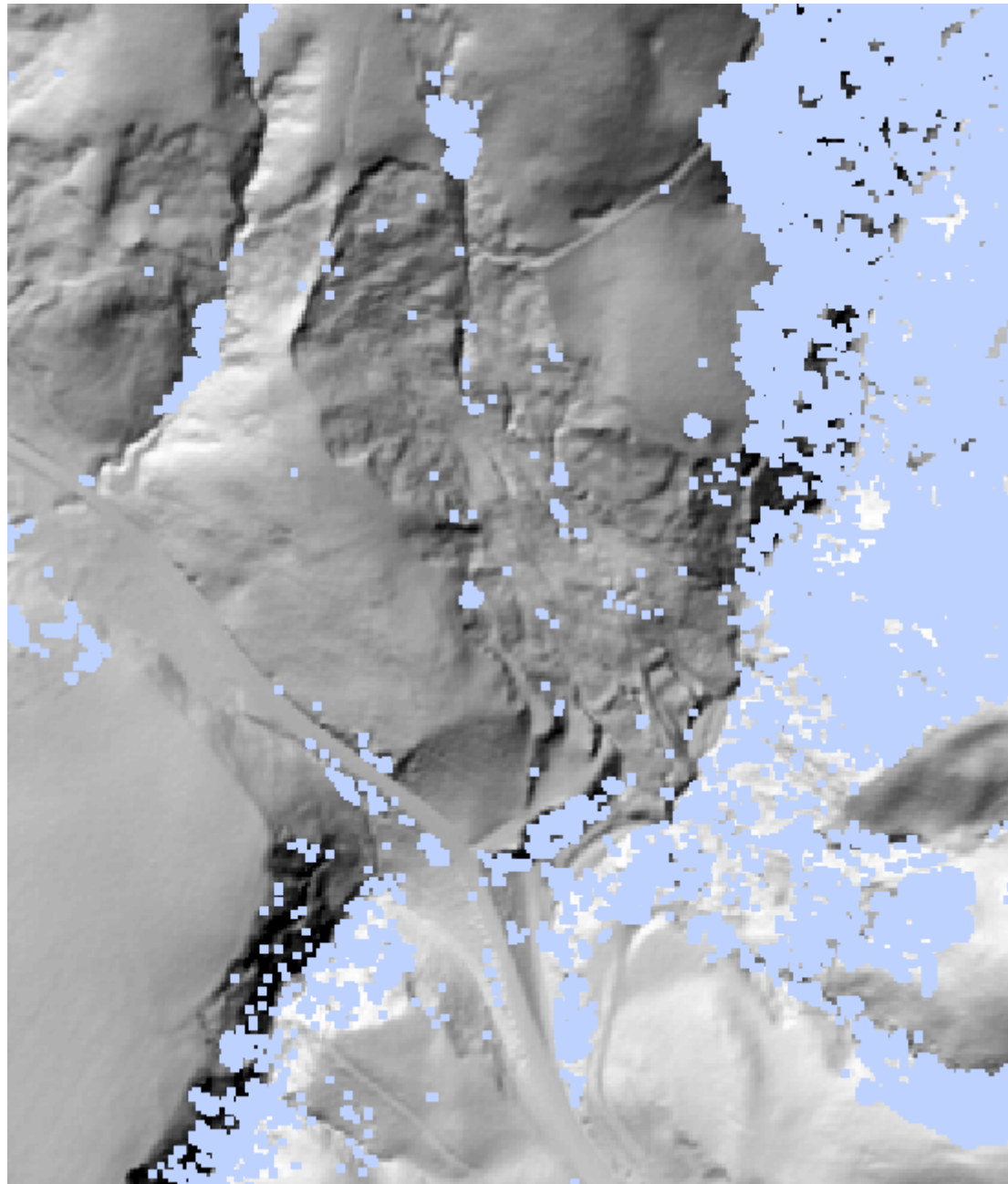
The screenshot shows the LASgrid application window with the following settings:

- input file:** D:\Google Drive\+S_Active_Items\2016OT_CGSCourse\PCdemo\2013Sonoma\2013points.laz
- step:** 6
- item:** elevation
- operation:** average
- fill voids searching n neighbor pixels:** 0
- output:** actual values
- set min (for gray ramp and false colors) (optional):** (empty)
- set max (for gray ramp and false colors) (optional):** (empty)
- grid:** all points
- ☐ use bounding box
- ☐ use tile bounding box
- output format (optional):** tif
- output file (optional):** (empty)
- output directory (optional):** (empty)
- output appendix (optional):** 6x6ft_ave_elevation_ground
- additional command-line parameters (optional):** -keep_classification 2
- ☒ verbose

Buttons at the bottom: OK, Cancel, Environments..., Show Help >>



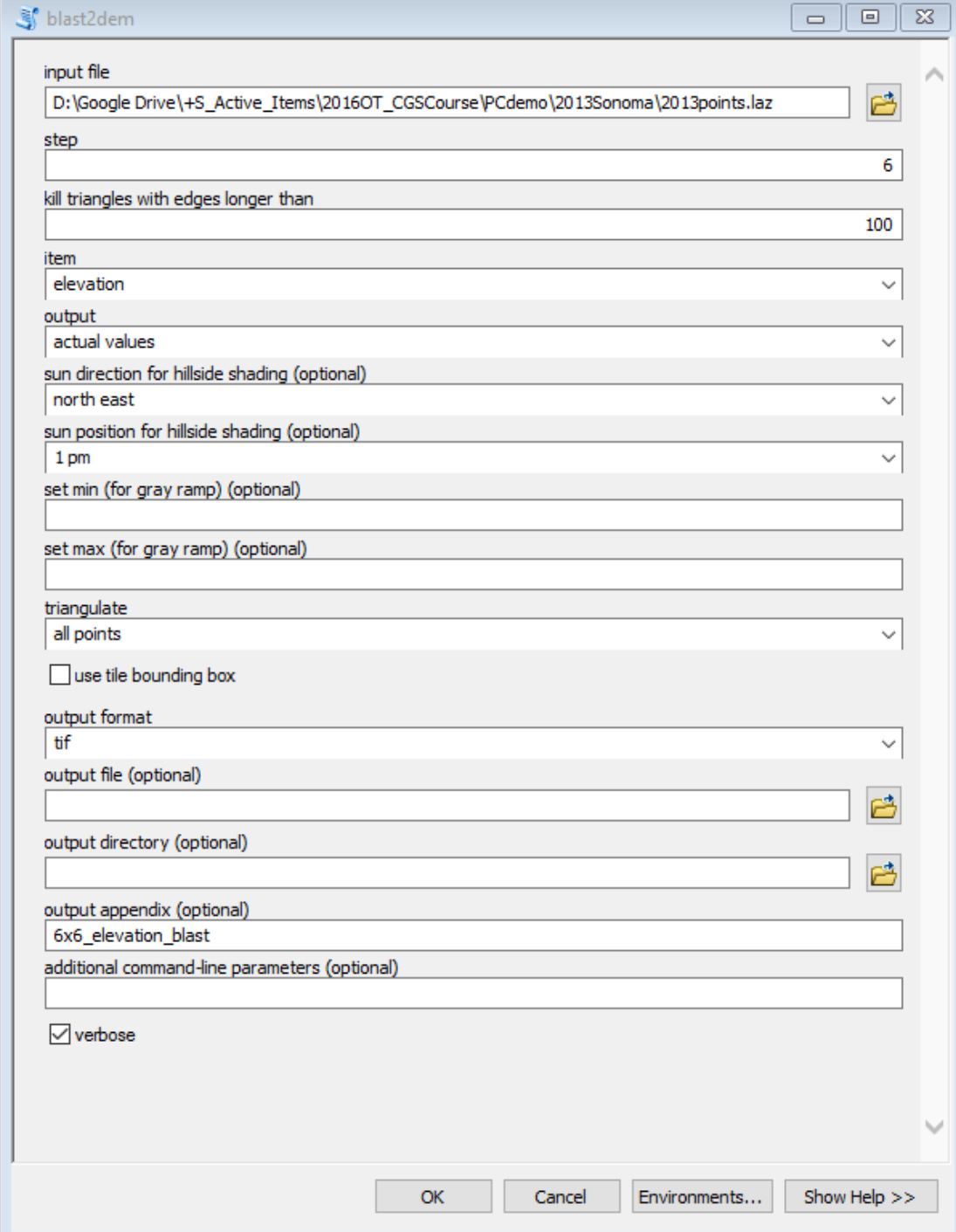
Blue means empty



Blue means empty

*blast2DEM –
generating raster
derivatives from points
using triangulation*

*Calculate grid elevation
for all points = DSM*

The image shows a software dialog box titled "blast2dem". It contains various input fields and checkboxes for configuring a triangulation process. The fields are organized into sections: "input file" (a text box with a file path and a folder icon), "step" (a numeric field set to 6), "kill triangles with edges longer than" (a numeric field set to 100), "item" (a dropdown menu set to "elevation"), "output" (a dropdown menu set to "actual values"), "sun direction for hillside shading (optional)" (a dropdown menu set to "north east"), "sun position for hillside shading (optional)" (a dropdown menu set to "1 pm"), "set min (for gray ramp) (optional)" (an empty text box), "set max (for gray ramp) (optional)" (an empty text box), "triangulate" (a dropdown menu set to "all points"), "use tile bounding box" (an unchecked checkbox), "output format" (a dropdown menu set to "tif"), "output file (optional)" (an empty text box with a folder icon), "output directory (optional)" (an empty text box with a folder icon), "output appendix (optional)" (a text box containing "6x6_elevation_blast"), "additional command-line parameters (optional)" (an empty text box), and a "verbose" checkbox which is checked. At the bottom, there are four buttons: "OK", "Cancel", "Environments...", and "Show Help >>".

blast2dem

input file
D:\Google Drive\+S_Active_Items\2016OT_CGSCourse\PCdemo\2013Sonoma\2013points.laz

step
6

kill triangles with edges longer than
100

item
elevation

output
actual values

sun direction for hillside shading (optional)
north east

sun position for hillside shading (optional)
1 pm

set min (for gray ramp) (optional)

set max (for gray ramp) (optional)

triangulate
all points

☐ use tile bounding box

output format
tif

output file (optional)

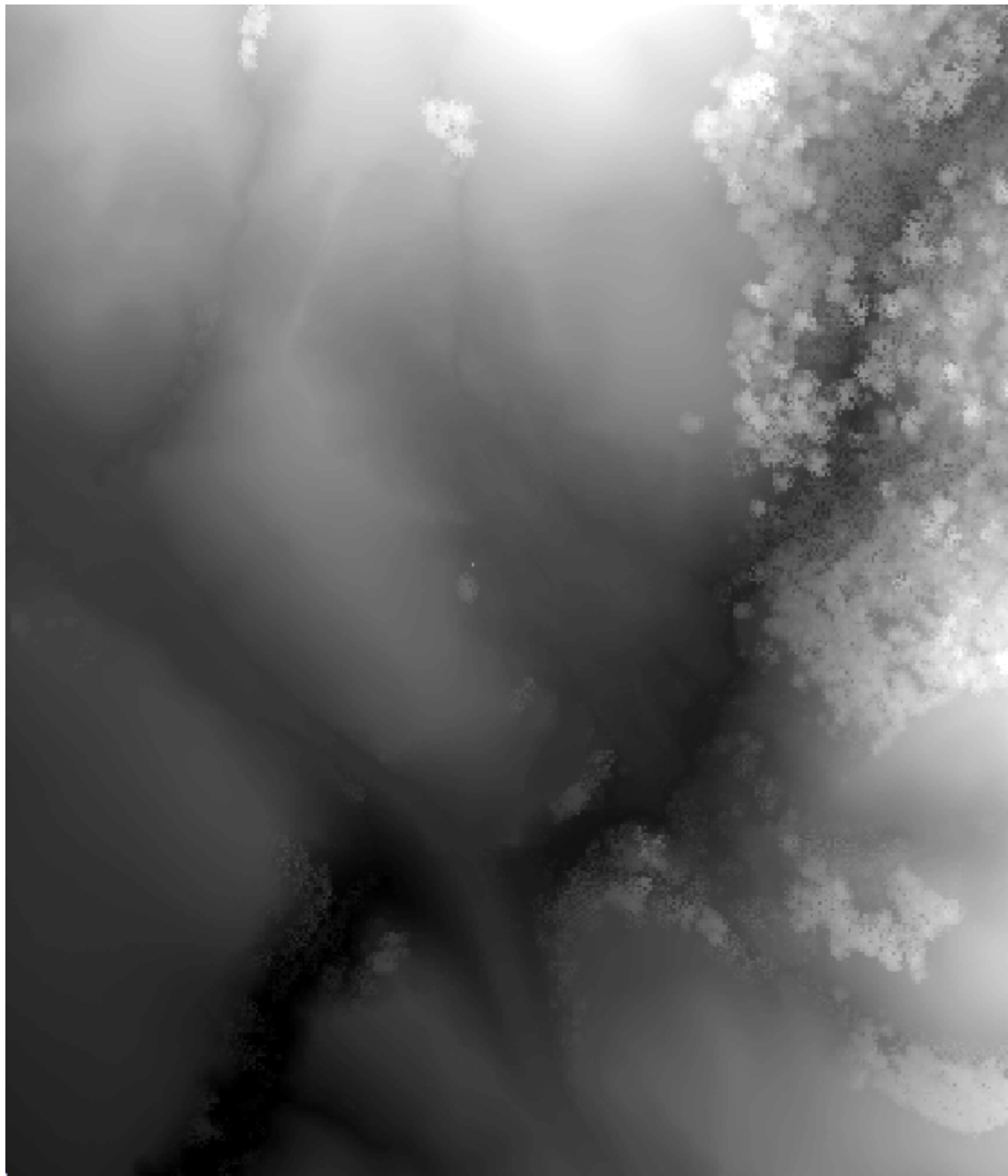
output directory (optional)

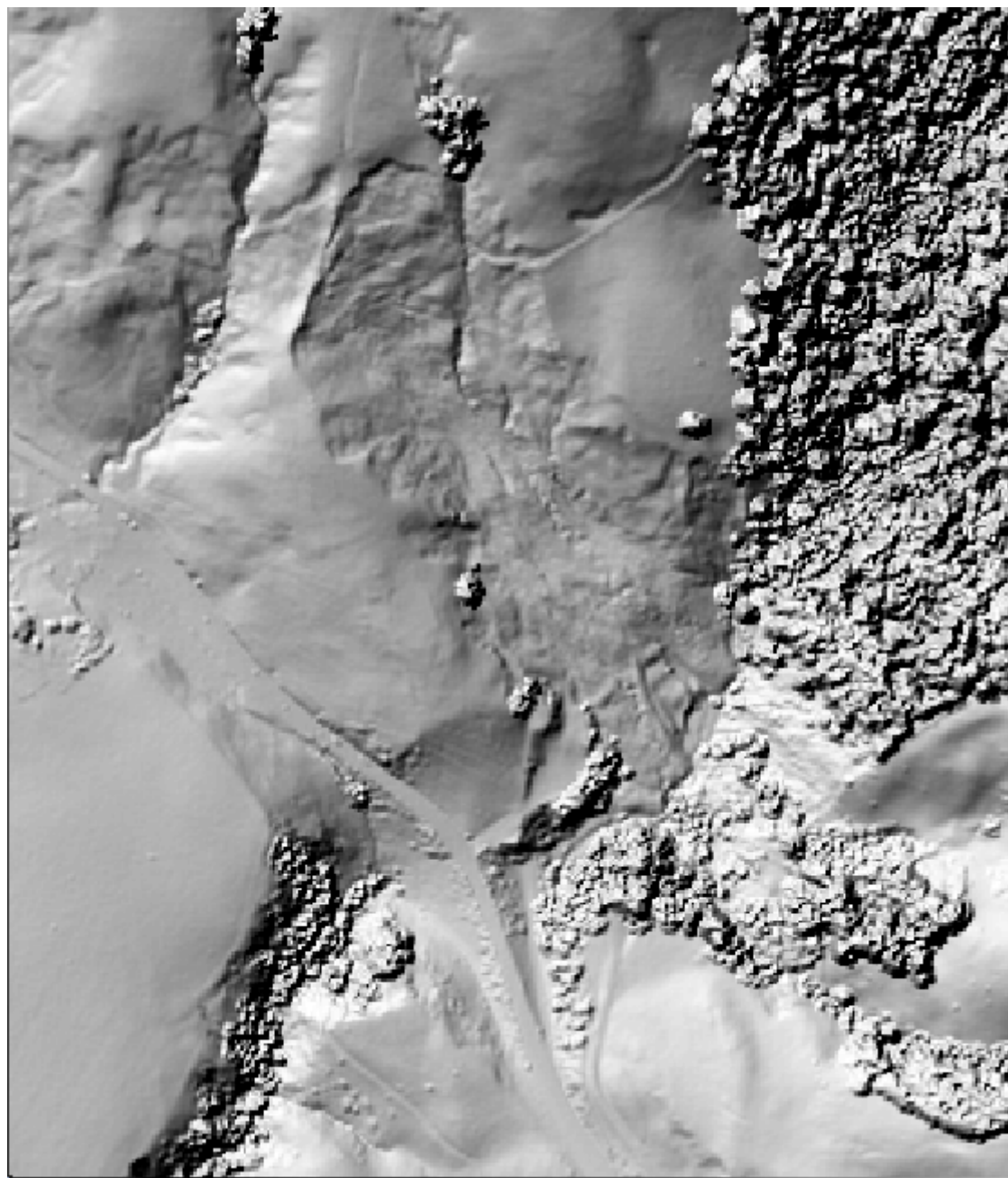
output appendix (optional)
6x6_elevation_blast

additional command-line parameters (optional)

☒ verbose

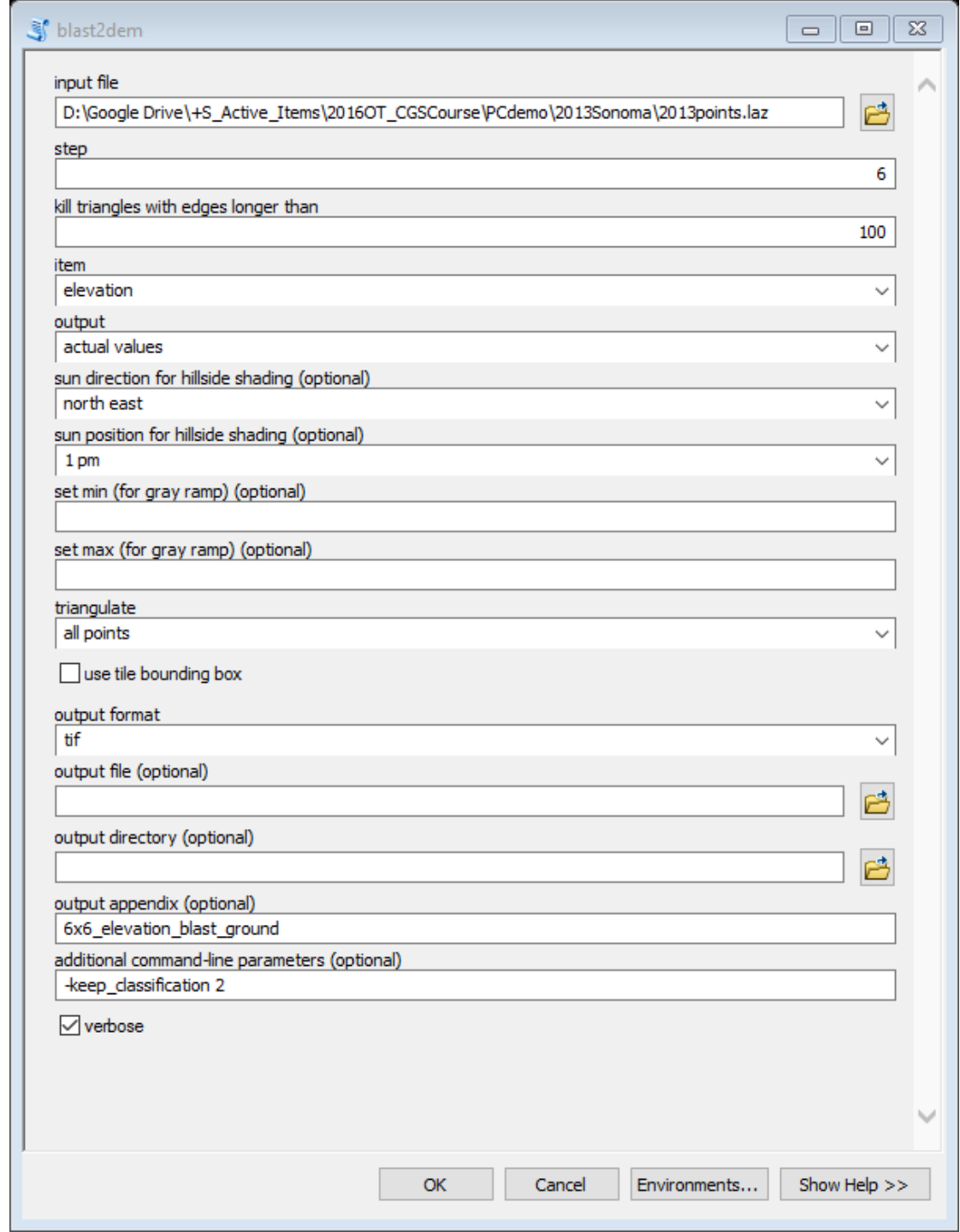
OK Cancel Environments... Show Help >>





*blast2DEM –
generating raster
derivatives from points
using triangulation*

*Calculate grid elevation
for ground points =
DTM*

A screenshot of the 'blast2dem' software dialog box. The window has a title bar with the name 'blast2dem' and standard Windows window controls (minimize, maximize, close). The main area contains various input fields and checkboxes. At the bottom are buttons for 'OK', 'Cancel', 'Environments...', and 'Show Help >>'.

blast2dem

input file
D:\Google Drive\+S_Active_Items\2016OT_CGSCourse\PCdemo\2013Sonoma\2013points.laz

step
6

kill triangles with edges longer than
100

item
elevation

output
actual values

sun direction for hillside shading (optional)
north east

sun position for hillside shading (optional)
1 pm

set min (for gray ramp) (optional)

set max (for gray ramp) (optional)

triangulate
all points

☐ use tile bounding box

output format
tif

output file (optional)

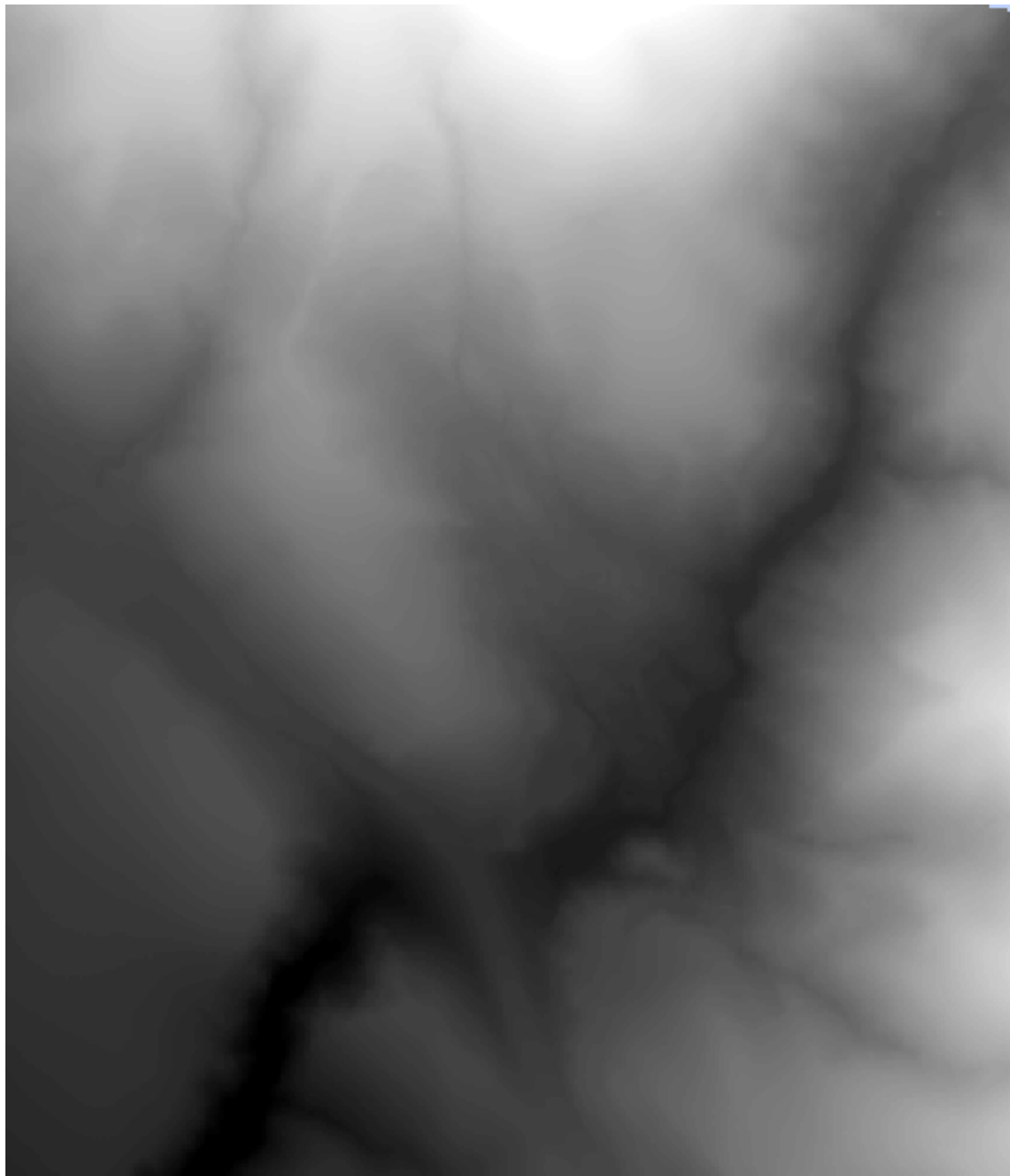
output directory (optional)

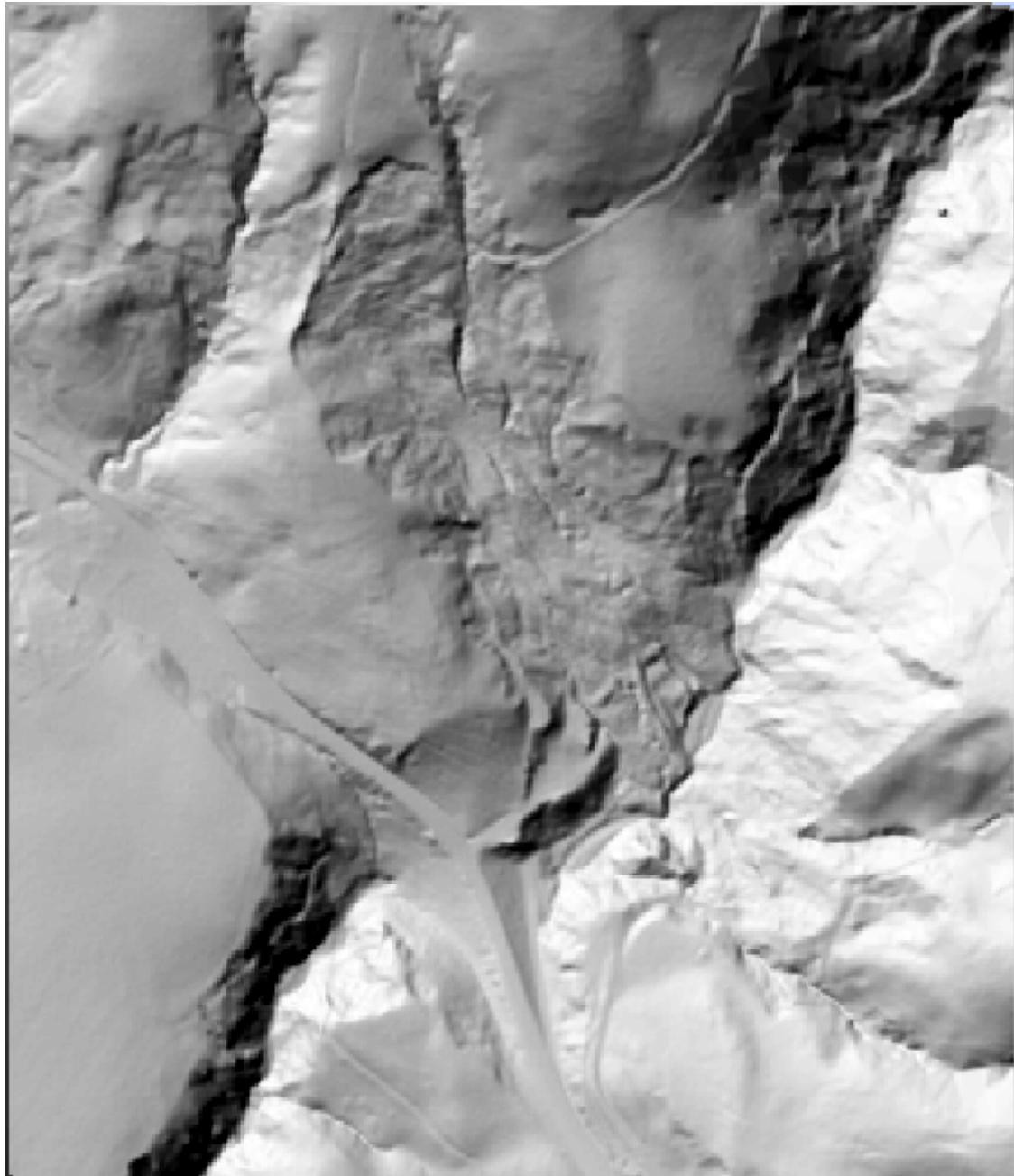
output appendix (optional)
6x6_elevation_blast_ground

additional command-line parameters (optional)
-keep_classification 2

☒ verbose

OK Cancel Environments... Show Help >>

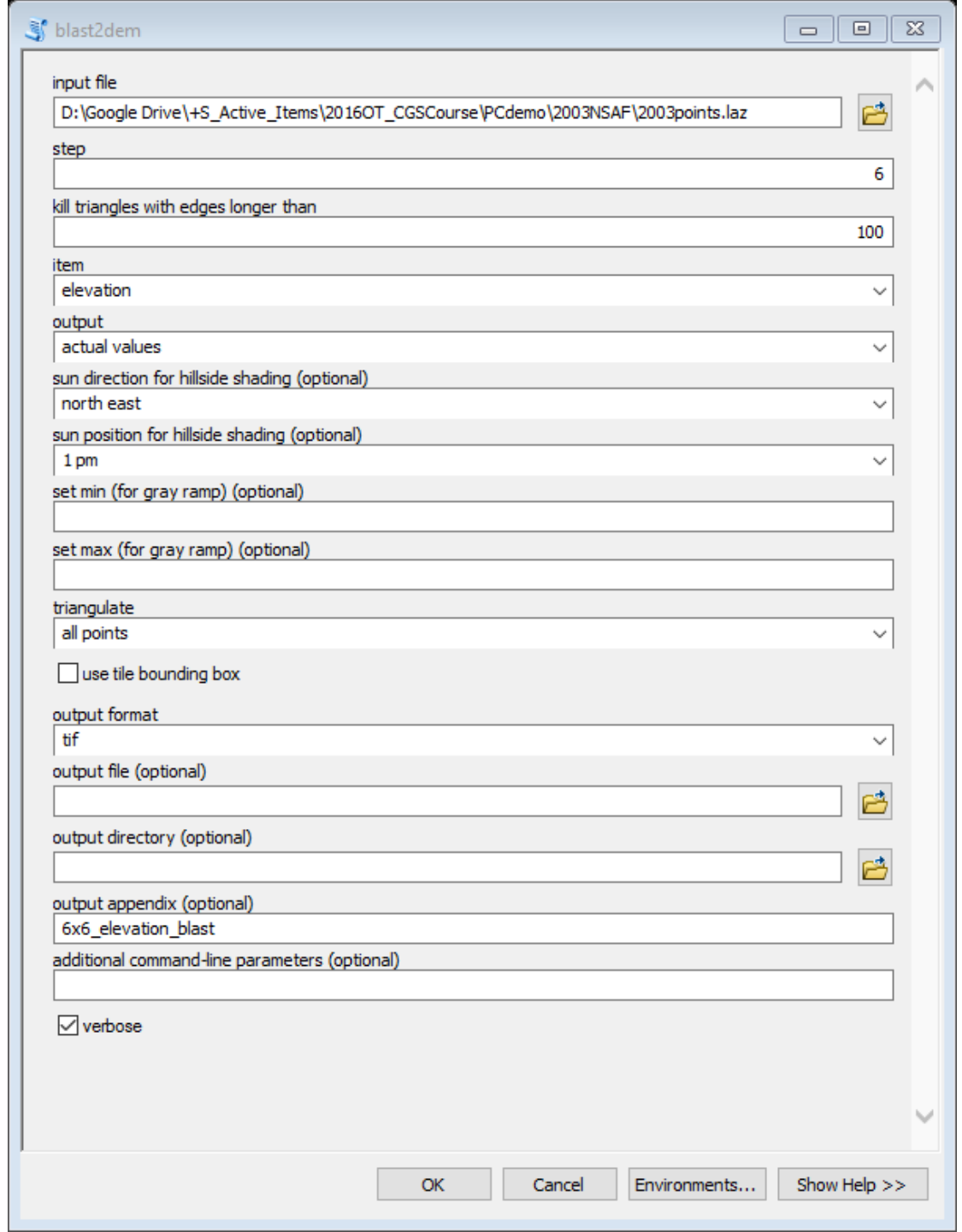




*blast2DEM –
generating raster
derivatives from points
using triangulation*

*Calculate grid elevation
for all points = DSM*

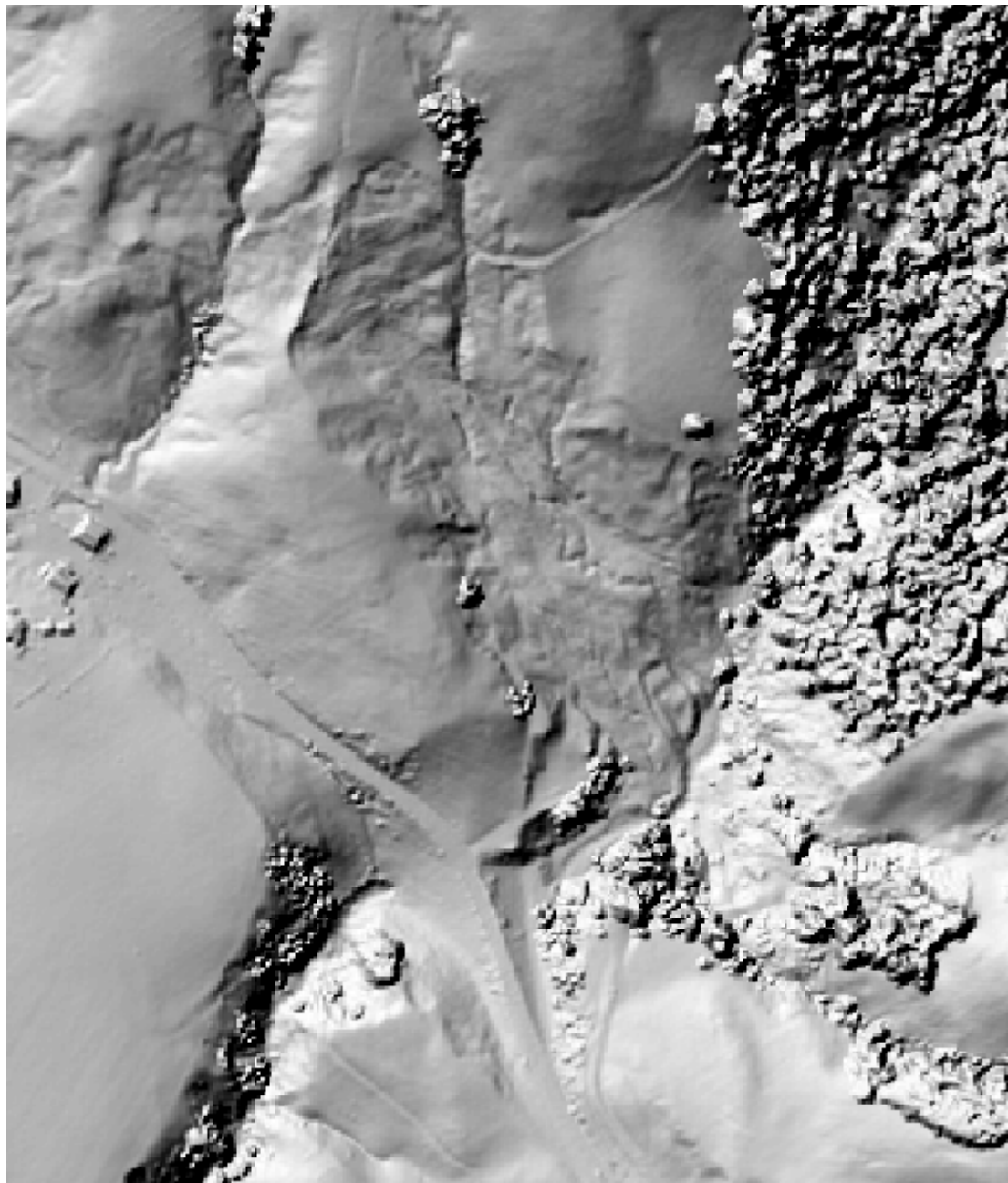
2003 NSAF dataset



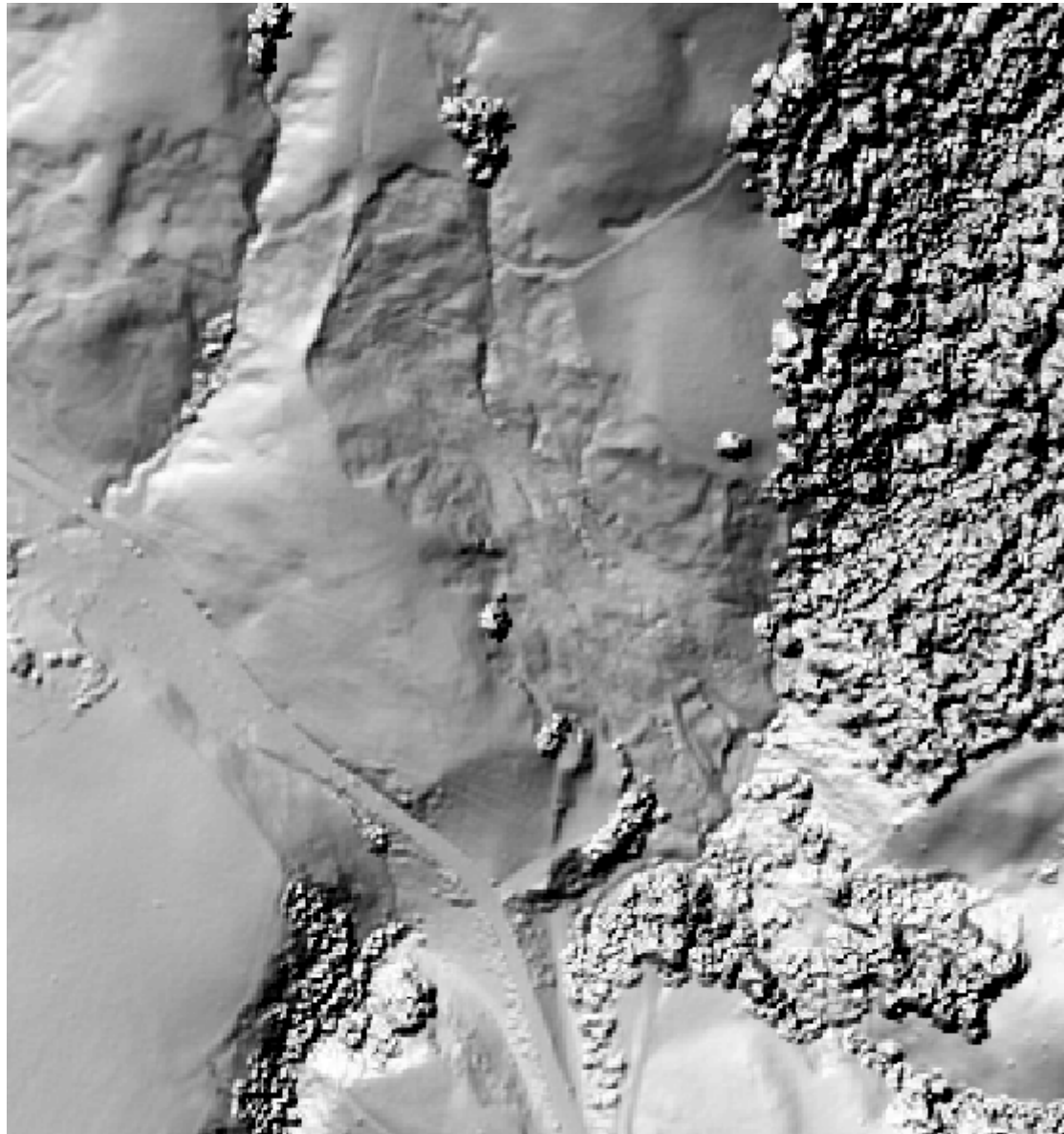
The screenshot shows the 'blast2dem' application window with the following settings:

- input file:** D:\Google Drive\+S_Active_Items\2016OT_CGSCourse\PCdemo\2003NSAF\2003points.laz
- step:** 6
- kill triangles with edges longer than:** 100
- item:** elevation
- output:** actual values
- sun direction for hillside shading (optional):** north east
- sun position for hillside shading (optional):** 1 pm
- set min (for gray ramp) (optional):**
- set max (for gray ramp) (optional):**
- triangulate:** all points
- ☐ use tile bounding box
- output format:** tif
- output file (optional):**
- output directory (optional):**
- output appendix (optional):** 6x6_elevation_blast
- additional command-line parameters (optional):**
- ☒ verbose

Buttons at the bottom: OK, Cancel, Environments..., Show Help >>



2003 6' dsm



2013 6' dsm

DeLong, S.B., Prentice, C., Hilley, G.E., Ebert, Y.; 2012, Multitemporal ALSM change detection, sediment delivery, and process mapping at an active earthflow. Earth Surface Processes and Landforms DOI: [10.1002/esp.2234](https://doi.org/10.1002/esp.2234)

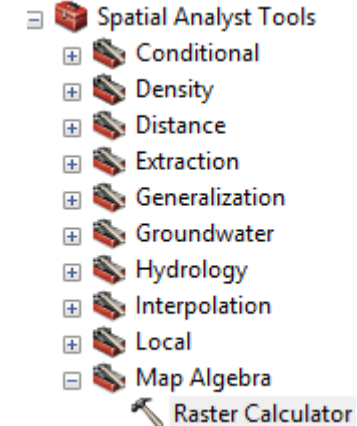
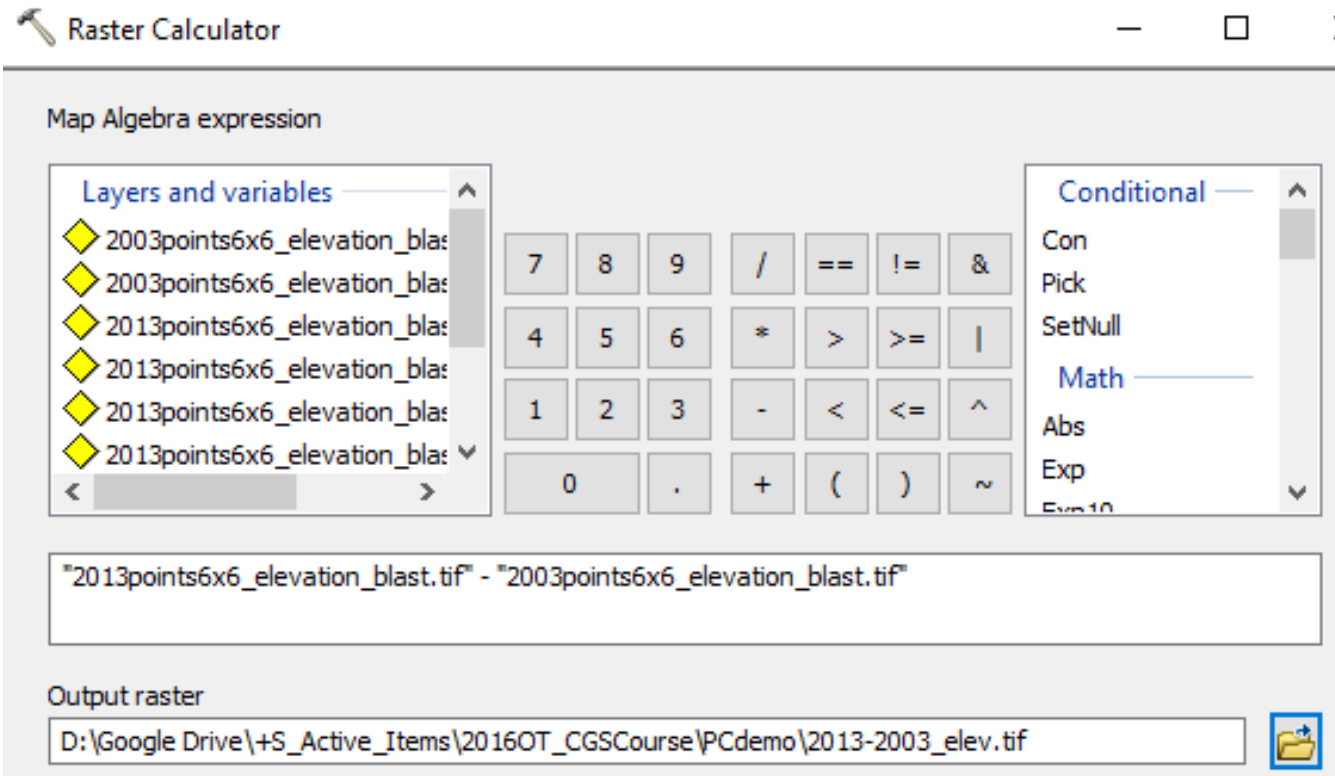
DEMs in ArcMap

Basic visualization and colorization

Point and profile measurements

Raster Math (difference and conditional)

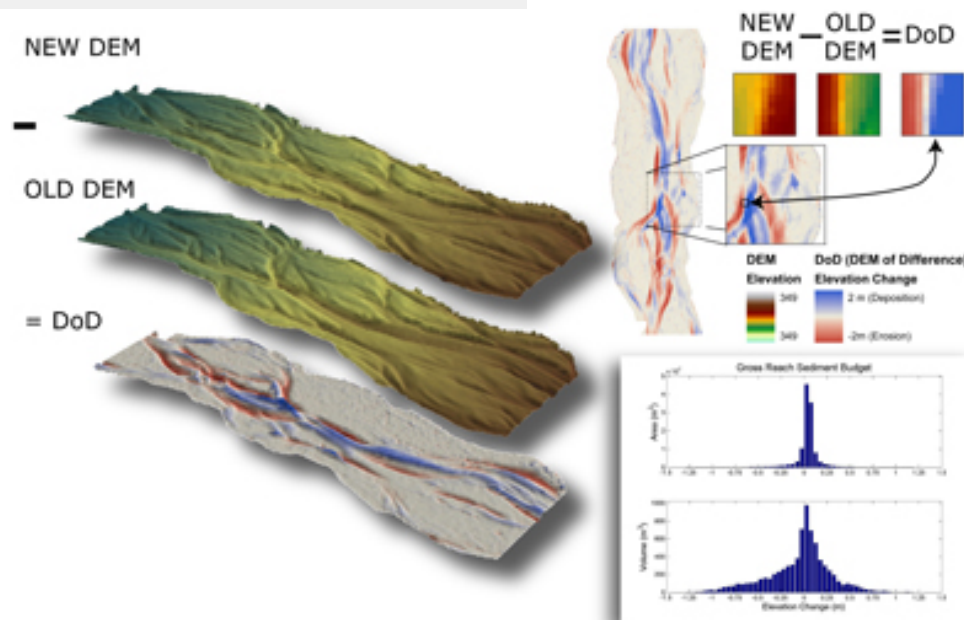
3D viewing in ArcScene

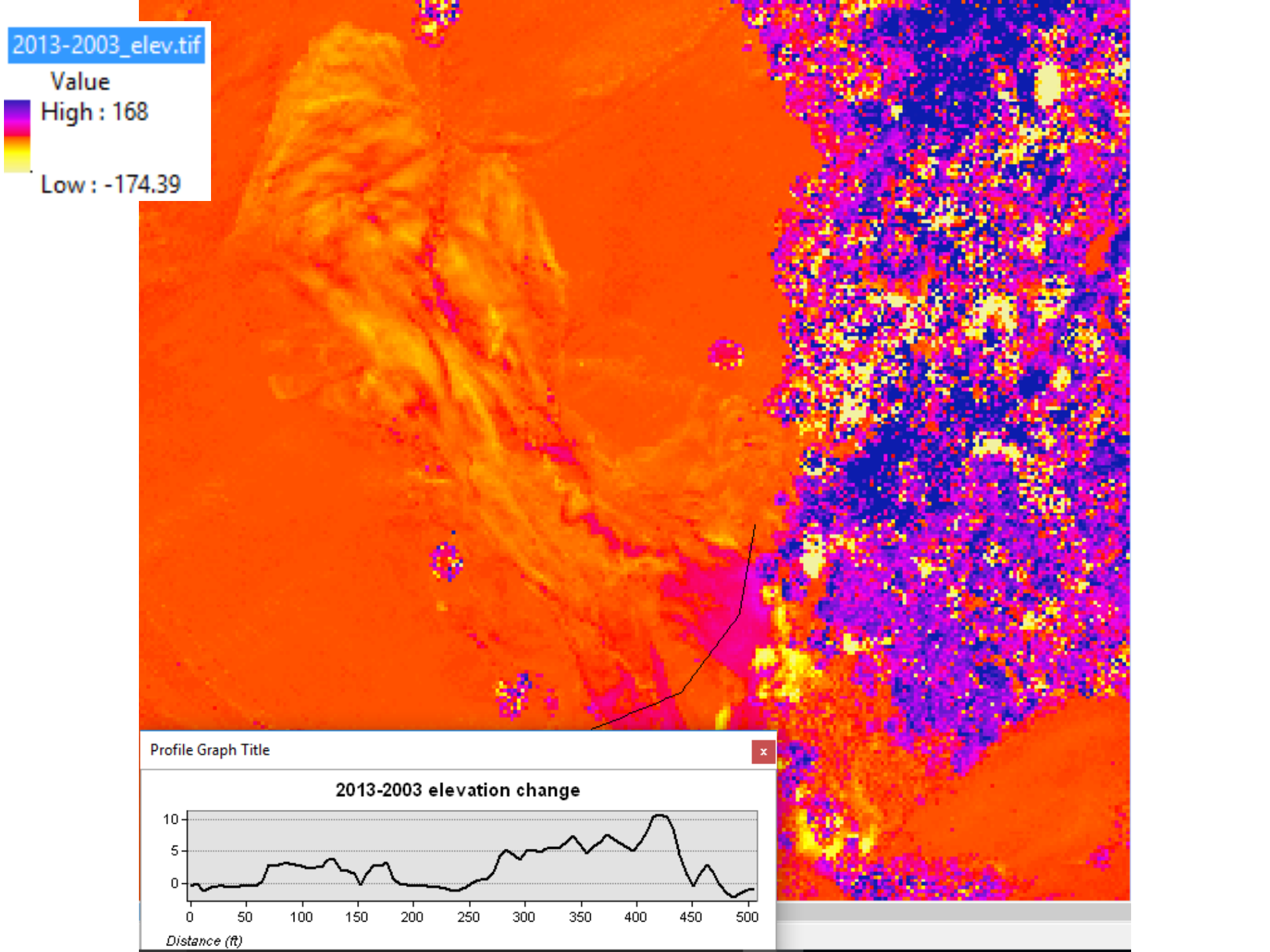


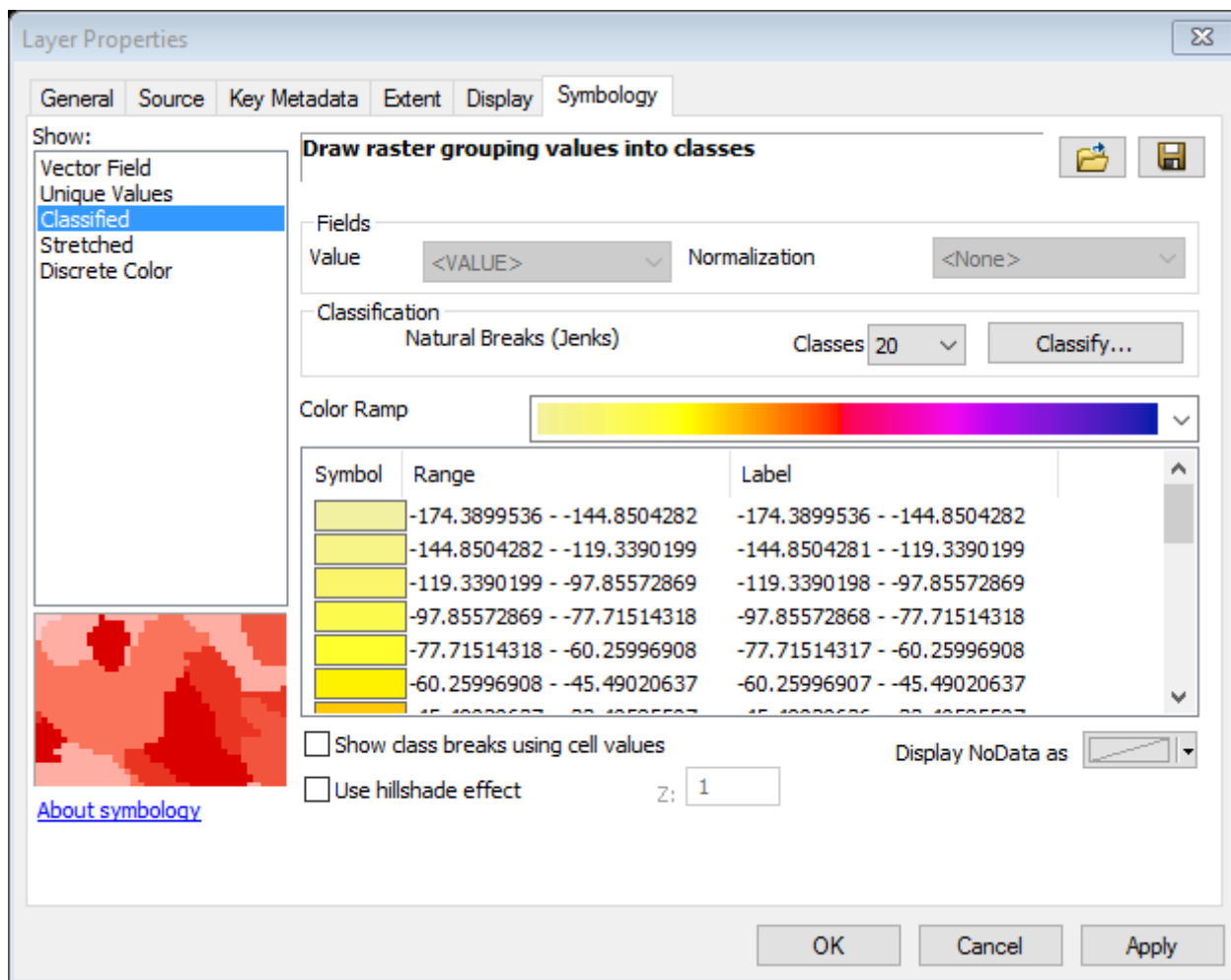
Note that is the beginning of other sorts of topographic differencing
e.g., Morphological sediment budgeting

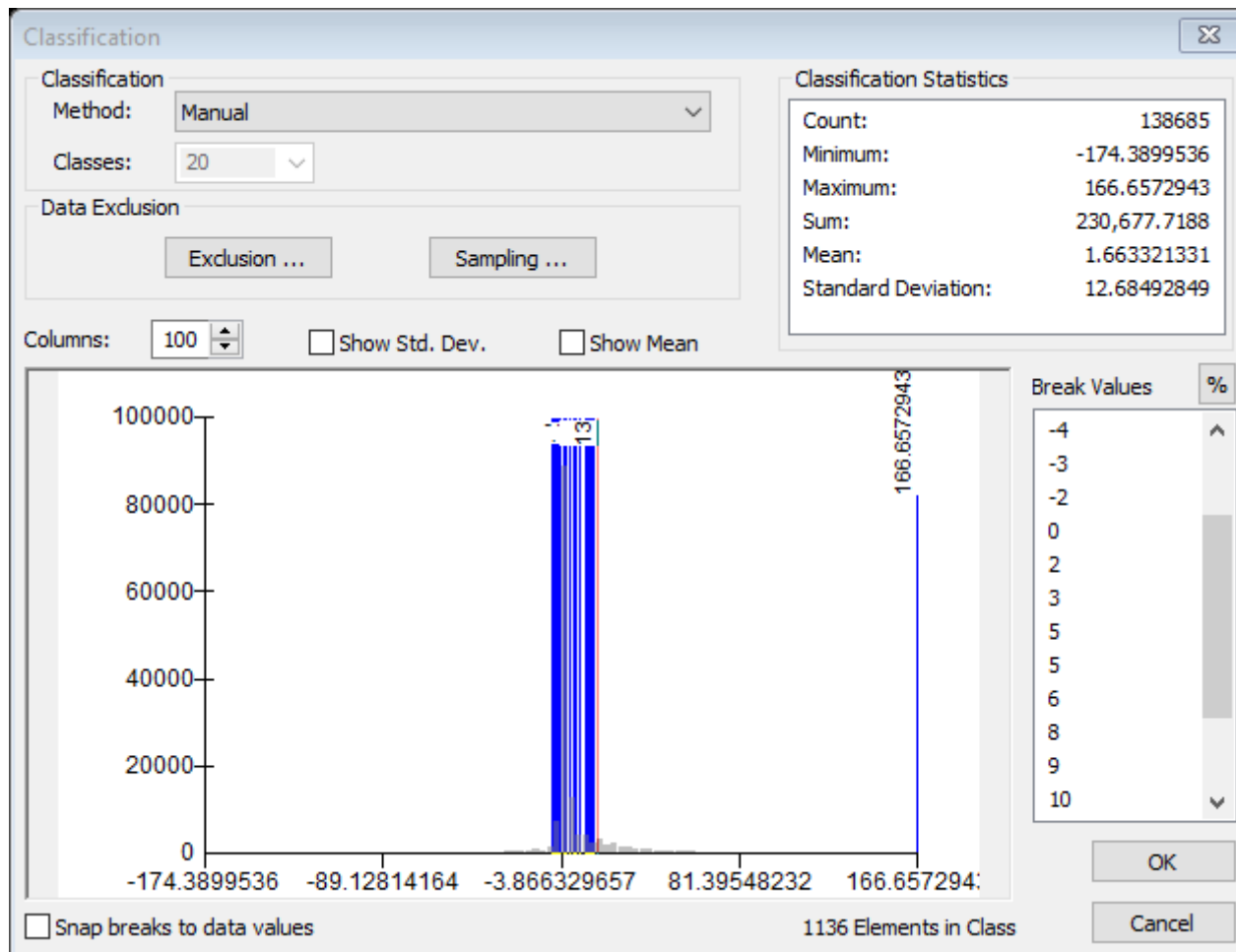
JOSEPH M. WHEATON
Research Linking Fluvial Geomorphology & Ecohydraulics

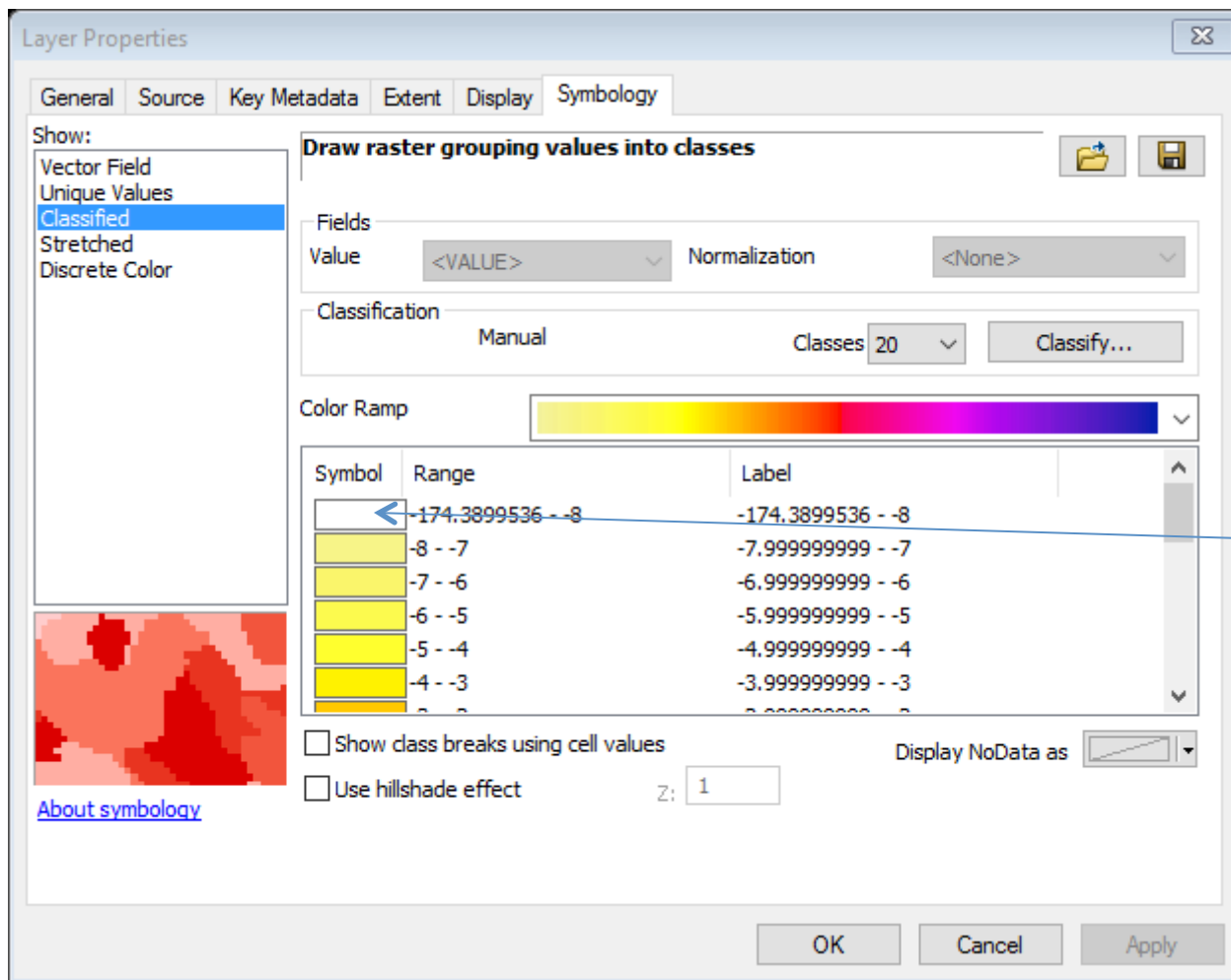
<http://www.joewheaton.org/>



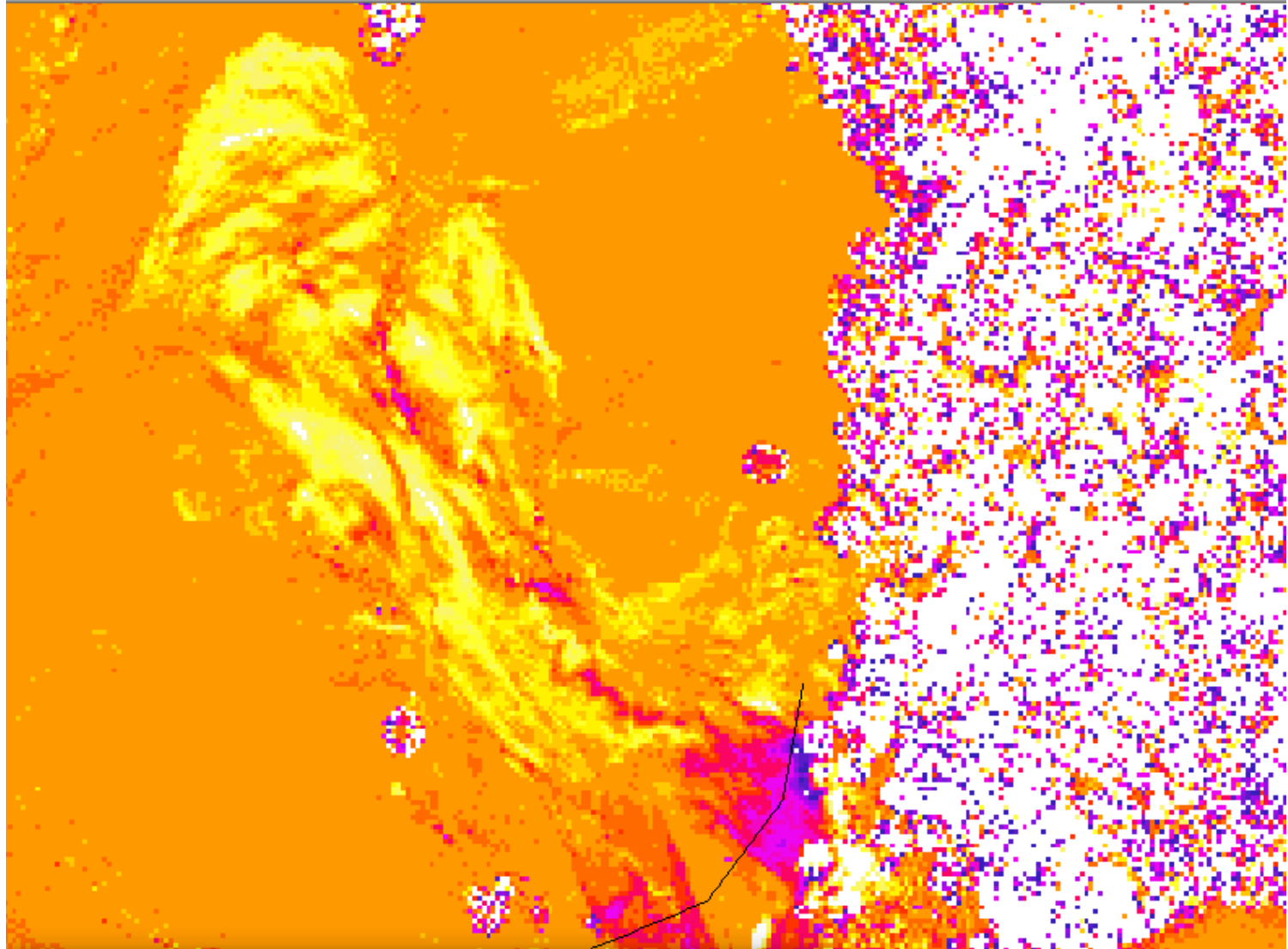








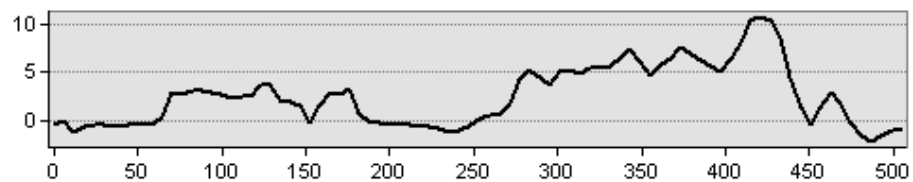
Give no color
to the end
classes



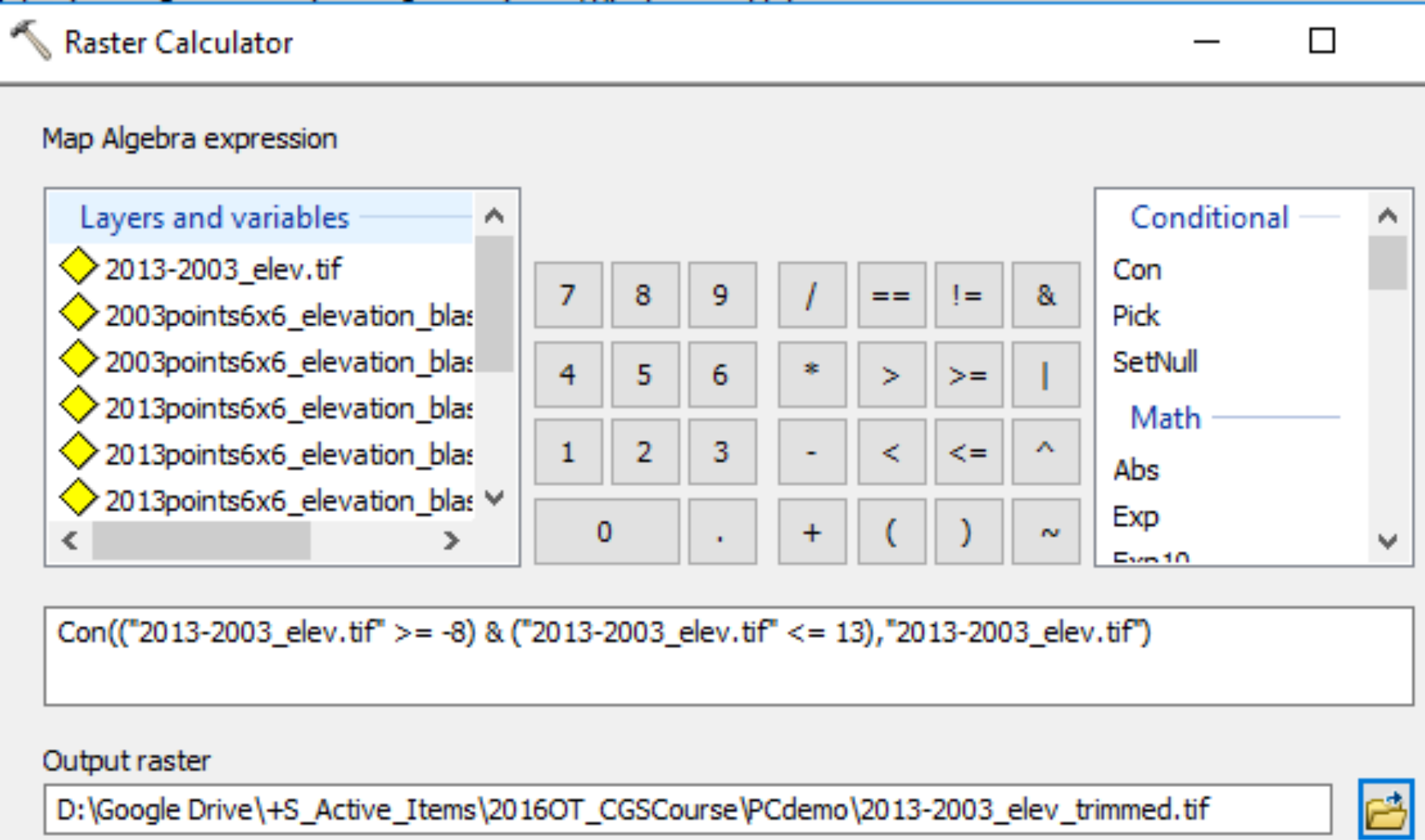
Profile Graph Title



2013-2003 elevation change



Distance (ft)



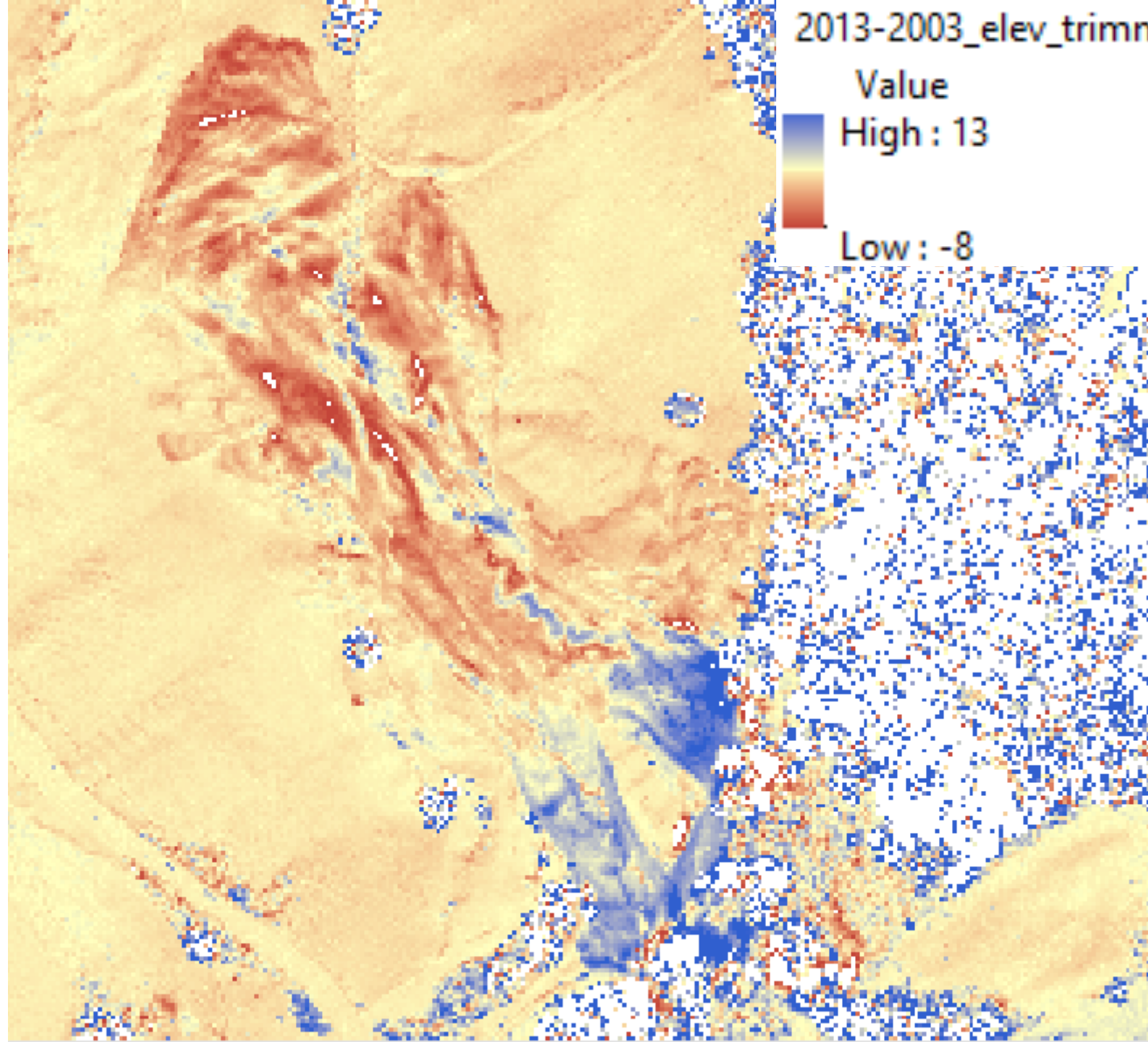
Con: Performs a conditional if/else evaluation on each of the input cells of an input raster. Really powerful!!!

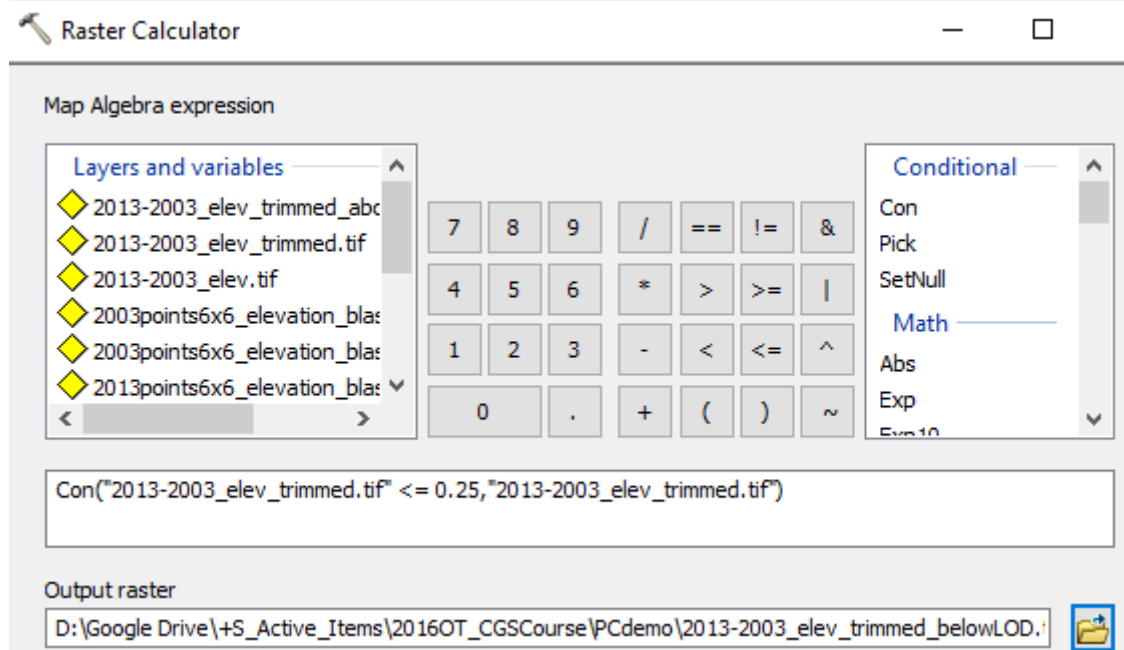
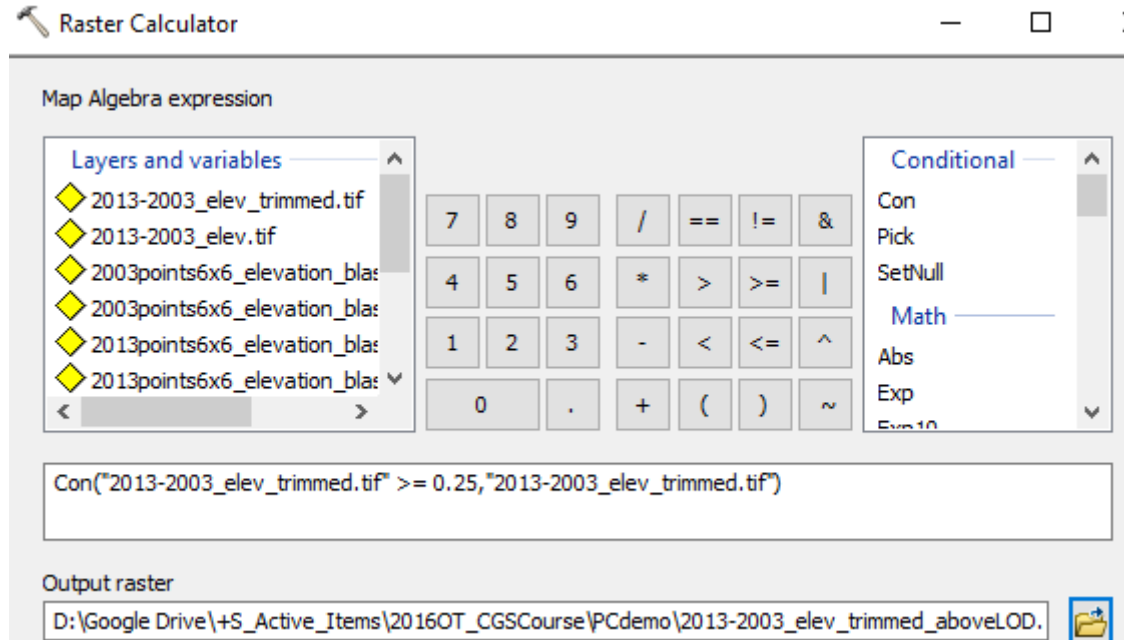
2013-2003_elev_trimmed.tif

Value

High : 13

Low : -8





2013-2003_elev_trimmed_belowLOD.tif

Value

High : 0.25

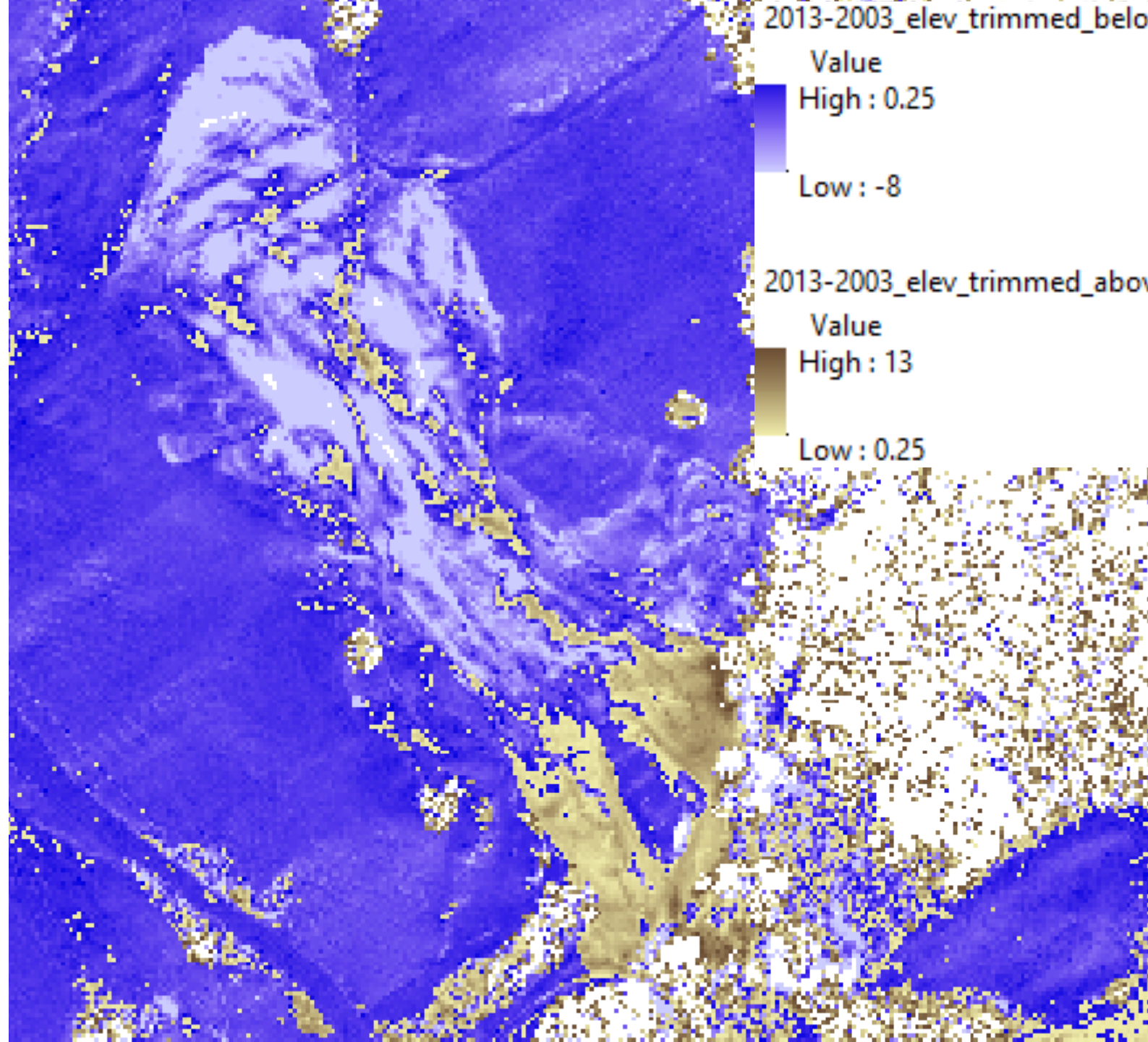
Low : -8

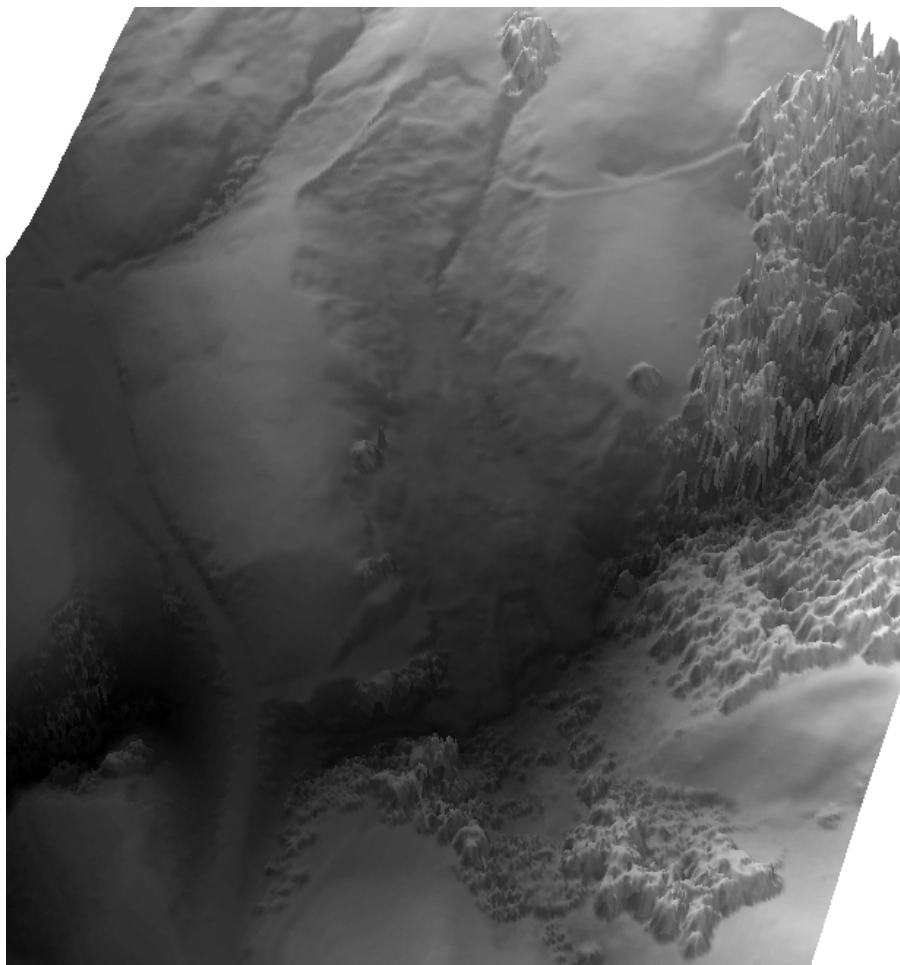
2013-2003_elev_trimmed_aboveLOD.tif

Value

High : 13

Low : 0.25





General Source Extent Display Symbology Base Heights Rendering

Visibility

☒ Render layer at all times

☐ Render layer only while navigation has stopped

☐ Render layer only while navigating

Draw simpler level of detail if navigation refresh rate exceeds: 0.750 second(s)

Effects

☒ Shade areal features relative to the scene's light position

☒ Use smooth shading if possible

Select the drawing priority of areal features, related to other layers that may be at the same location. This helps to determine which feature gets drawn on top of the other. 1

Optimize

☐ Render layer directly from data connection to conserve memory

☒ Cache layer for fastest possible rendering speed

☐ Enable Rendering with compressed textures

Quality enhancement for raster images Low High

Minimum transparency threshold Low High

☐ Disable material textures

Layer Properties

General Source Extent Display Symbology Base Heights Rendering

Elevation from surfaces

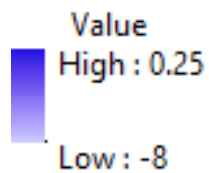
☐ No elevation values from a surface

☒ Floating on a custom surface:

D:\Google Drive\+S_Active_Items\2016OT_CGSCourse\PCdemo\2013Sonoma\2013poir

Raster Resolution...

2013-2003_elev_trimmed_belowLOD.tif



2013-2003_elev_trimmed_aboveLOD.tif



Layer Properties

General Source Extent Display Symbology Base Heights Rendering

Elevation from surfaces

☐ No elevation values from a surface

☒ Floating on a custom surface:

D:\Google Drive\+S_Active_Items\2016OT_CGSCourse\PCdemo\2013Sonoma\2013poir



Raster Resolution...

Elevation from features

☒ No feature-based heights

☐ Use elevation values in the layer's features

Factor to convert layer elevation values to scene units:

custom

1.0000

☐ Use a constant value or expression:

0

Layer offset

Add a constant elevation offset in scene units:

1

