# Sharpening our view of earth processes with high resolution topography



Sunset Crater Arizona hillshade (US NPS)

Granite Dells AZ point cloud (NCALM student seed grant)

# **Example scientific motivations**

- How do geopatterns on the Earth's surface arise and what do they tell us about processes?
- How do landscapes influence and record climate and tectonics?
- What are the transport laws that govern the evolution of the Earth's surface?
- Coupled hydrogeomorphic-ecosystem response to natural and anthropogenic change
- Landscape and ecosystem dynamics
- Volcano form and process
- Changes in volume of domes, edifice, flows over time







Global and regional topography/bathy (10s-100s m/pix)

adar Topograp

DigitalGlobe

ADFS

+ASTER

## Getting the right coverage in time, space, and resolution for the question

Local to site scale topography (dm to m / pix)

С

A Airborne LiDAR



onboard GPS and IMU constrain position and orientation of aircraft

hadow zor

distance between scanner and ground return determined from delay between outgoing pulse and reflected return motion of camera provides depth information

> scene structure refers to both camera positions and orientations and the topography

sequence of photographs

features matched in multiple photographs

Structure from Motion

#### **B** Terrestrial LiDAR

, *lines* show track of scan across ground *circles* show actual ground return footprints

Johnson, K., Nissen, E., Saripalli, S., Arrowsmith, J.R., McGarey, P., Scharer, K., Williams, P., Blisniuk, K., Rapid mapping of ultra-fine fault zone topography with Structure from Motion, Geosphere, v. 10; no. 5; p. 1–18; doi:10.1130/GES01017.1, 2014.

laser pulse

# **Presentation outline**

- Introduction and measuring topography
- "Seeing" and working at the appropriate scale
- High resolution topography application examples

# Science requirements

- Need topography data with sufficient spatial extent and resolution to capture phenomena of interest
- Need topography data with sufficient temporal repeat to capture changes of interest





### 430km of ground rupture, above 4000m

Yann Klinger, IPGP; http://peer.berkeley.edu/events/2009/sfdc\_workshop/Klinger\_Kunlun\_EQ.pdf

# Length scales <1 m and >10<sup>5</sup>m



# Multi-temporal topography

2014 Oso, WA landslide credit: Washington Post

"Seeing" at the appropriate scale means measuring at the right scale

> Surface processes act to change elevation through erosion and deposition while tectonic processes depress or elevate the surface directly their record is best characterized with the right fine scale.

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

Applies in particular to statistical self similarity

How long is the coast of Britain? Statistical self-similarity and fractional dimension Science: 156, 1967, 636-638

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/How\_Long\_Is\_the\_Coast\_of\_Britain%3F\_Statistical\_Self-Similarity\_and\_Fractional\_Dimension

B. B. Mandelbrot



UNAVCO

### Using Terrestrial and Airborne Lidar





San Gabriel Mountain 1-m DEM from airborne lidar









#### UNAVCO

## Using Terrestrial and Airborne Lidar



UNAVCO

## Using Terrestrial and Airborne Lidar







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# Using Terrestrial and Airborne Lidar



UNAVCO.

# Using Terrestrial and Airborne Lidar





Bellemont

## Sunset Crater topographic data

Flagstaff

© 2014 Google









### Lidar: full feature (all returns)





Opun Topography

Image © 2011 DigitalGlobe Image USDA Farm Service Agency Data SIO\_NOAA\_U.S\_Navy\_NGA\_GEBCO

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Northern San Andreas Fault, California (40 km SE of Point Arena)



Northern San Andreas Fault, California

### Identifying faults in presence of dense vegetation



-E. Nissen

#### **Structure from Motion**



Dirt Road

# PHOTOGRAMMETRY CURRENTLY IN OT



Pleiades 1A & 1B tri-stereo data East Helanshan Fault, China





March 2014 Pleiades 1B tri-stereo DSM

#### August 2010 NCALM ALS DSM

SDSC ASI UNAVCO



#### UNAVCO Terrestrial Laser Scanner

Granite Dells AZ point cloud (Haddad, et al. 2012)

absolute measurement capability sufficient to characterize features and changes in challenging geometric arrangements



## Dinosaur Trackway, Fiorello



UNAVCO

### Scanning in Polar Environments





### Everglades Biomass, Wdowinski

PIN1





# Going beyond pretty pictures...









# **Historical Rupture**

## 3-D Trenching

Rockwell

Salisbury

# Geomorphology

# Fault-normal Trenching

S

Madden

Dawson



Figure 2. Oblique view of Hector Mine earthquake surface rupture that experienced 3.5–4.5 m of right-lateral displacement. The rupture trace is pointed out by finger icons; the light and dark bands below and above the surface rupture are subparallel, topographic escarpments. Several offset ridges are now juxtaposed with gullies, forming 'shutter' ridges. Raw laser hits are used to illuminate the ground surface in this pointcloud image. From tens to hundreds of hits per square meter were collected along the primary surface ruptures.



High-Resolution Topography along Surface Rupture of the 16 October 1999 Hector Mine, California, Earthquake ( $M_w$  7.1) from Airborne Laser Swath Mapping

by K. W. Hudnut, A. Borsa, C. Glennie, and J.-B. Minster



Figure 6. (a) Cross sections through the raw laser data on either side of the surface rupture, along the east and west profiles shown in Figure 4, are shown projected onto the fault plane (a ground-slope correction has already been removed). (b) Comparison of the topographic profiles on either side of the fault, after shifting the profiles shown in Figure 6a to remove our best estimate of the lateral and vertical offset along this 300-m section.





Red profile with overlay of back-slipped blue profile







Mount Rainier, WA hydrologic network calculated with TauDEM in OT

Red = catchment area of 100 m<sup>2</sup>. Blue = catchment area > 610,000 m<sup>2</sup>. Kautz Creek flows through the large valley near the center of the image.



e earth

# Differential topography

## Showcase Tool #1: TLS Terrestrial Laser Scanner







### Scanning in Polar Environments

### Mount Erebus, Antarctica

- Lava lake scanned 2008–2013, revealing behaviors invisible to naked eye
- Inner crater scan used to augment and truth 2003 aerial scans
- Scans of ice caves and ice towers help determine thermal / energy budget of volcano





# Extra...

#### B Where Do Strike-Slip Faults and Shear Zones Form?

During strike-slip movement, one block of rock is sheared sideways past another block of rock. This can various settings, including transform plate boundaries and within the interiors of plates.



Shear stresses can be imposed on rocks hortcortally, vertically, or at some intermediate angle. When the shear stresses are hortcortal ( $\Delta$ ), they act to shear the two sides of a block in opposite horizontal directions. As a result of the stresses, shearing moves rocks hortcontally past one another. Shearing in the upper parts of the crust occurs along a fault, as shown here, and is accompanied by fracturing of adjacent rocks. Shearing at depth will occur along a zone of ductile deformation and will be accompanied by metamorphism and the formation of foliation and lineation. Stresses can form a strike-slip zone that functions as a plate boundary or that is totally within a tactonic plate (IP). A strike-slip zone may offset the rocks hundreds of kilometers or less than a meter. A strike-slip fault with relatively small amounts of displacement is typically a single fault or several adjacent faults, but zones with larger displacements are thick zones of shear (shear zones).



08.10.52



All transform boundaries are faults that accommodate the la placement of one plate past a Most are a boundary between oceanic plates, as are the or here by small white arrows, transform fault can also se two continental plates or separate an oceanic plate a continental one.

dg.10.b.3

#### C What Features Form Along Strike-Slip Faults?

08. 10.c2 Cantzo Plain, CA

Strike-slip faults result in a number of distinctive features, including offset streams. They also can have fo formed where one block of rock shears past another or where rocks are forced around a bend in the fau

Strike-slip faults displace rocks on either side hortsontally relative to one another, so in a simple case would not uplift or downdrop either side. However, many strike-slip faults have bends, where the fault changes its trace across the land surface from one orientation to another. Right-lateral motion on the fault shown here causes compression along the bend, forming ridges and broughs that are the surface expression of folds and thrust faults.



Faults that are currently active can offset.

streams, ridges, and other topographic

California is the linear feature cutting

features. The San Andreas fault in central

across drainages in the center of this com-

large offset stream takes a jog as it crosses the fault. Is this fault a left-lateral or right-

puter-generated view (looking east). The

lateral strike-slip fault? Hint imagine you

side of the fault, and then observe which

way the streambed on the opposite side

has been displaced relative to you.

are standing in the streambed on the near

Horizontal displacement surface features, includir agricultural fields, and r beds. Over time, offse develop a characterit where they log para fault, before contin

their prefaulting of direction of the juthe direction of movement across

08.10.c1

#### Before You Leave This Be Able To

- Describe or sketch how def and metamorphism occur in continental rifts, rifted cont margins, and mid-ocean rid
- Describe strike-slip faults, s settings where they occur, a features formed on the land



JOHNSON

REYNOLDS

Spokane Research Lab/NIOSH/CDC; Courtesy of J.M. Logan and F.M. Chester, Center for Tectonophysics, Texas A&M University; 08.02.mtb1: Spokane Research Lab/NIOSH/CDC; 08.03.c6: © Dean Conger/Corbis; 08.10.c2: Ohio State University, USGS, National Center for Airborne Laser Mapping, OpenTopography, and J Ramon Arrowsmith, Arizona State University; 08.11.a9: © Dr. Marli Miller/Visuals Unlimited;

MORIN CARTER

THIRD EDITION





### Understanding geomorphic response to uplift



-G. E. Hilley



### Dragon's Back Pressure Ridge, Carrizo Plain California

#### Arrowsmith, 1995; Hilley, 2001; Hilley and Arrowsmith, 2008





Hilley and Arrowsmith, 2008

### Duvall, Kirby, and Burbank, 2004, JGR-ES

U = Rock Uplift Rate

# Concavity (0) invariant with U

#### Steepness (Ks) varies with U



