

Airborne LiDAR and stereo-photogrammetric characterization of permafrost landscapes and thaw subsidence

I. Nitze, G. Grosse, J. Boike, M. Langer, H. Lantuit, S. Lange, Inge Grünberg, V. Helm, T. Sachs, J. Hartmann, A. Kumar, J. Brauchle, T. Bucher, M. Gessner, K. Kohnert



Introduction



Introduction

- Dynamics of permafrost landscapes
 - Horizontal and vertical displacement
 - Erosion, subsidence, frost heave



Introduction

- Bio-geochemical Cycles
 - Carbon, Hydrology



Introduction

- Infrastructure
 - Roads, Houses, Pipelines, Cultural Heritage



Introduction



Platform & Instruments



Target: Multitemporal VHR Elevation

Lidar: Point, Full-waveform

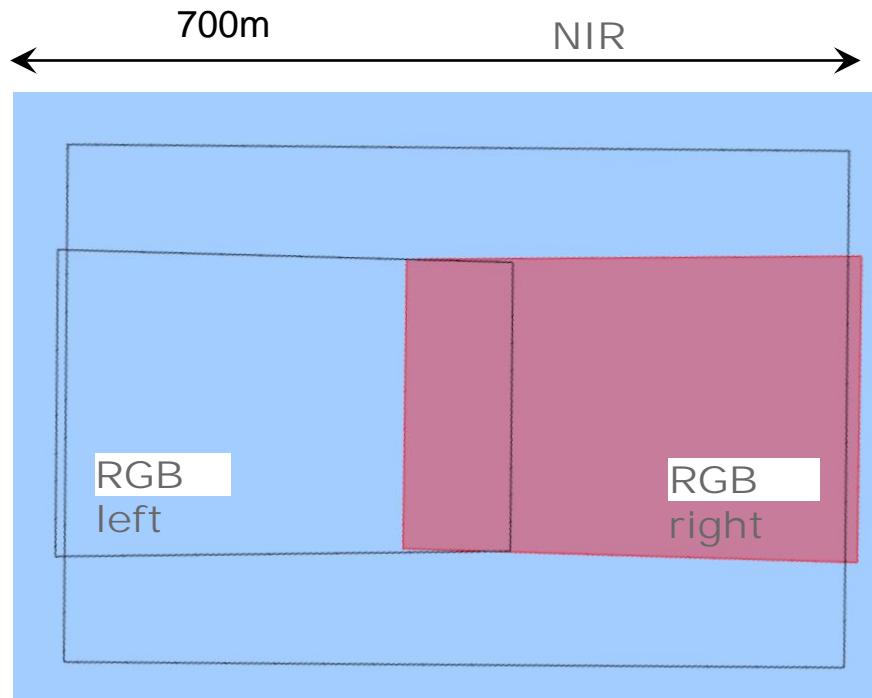
VHR optical: DLR MACS, Nikon Cam (Photo+Video)

(Atmosphere: Methane, CO₂, ...)

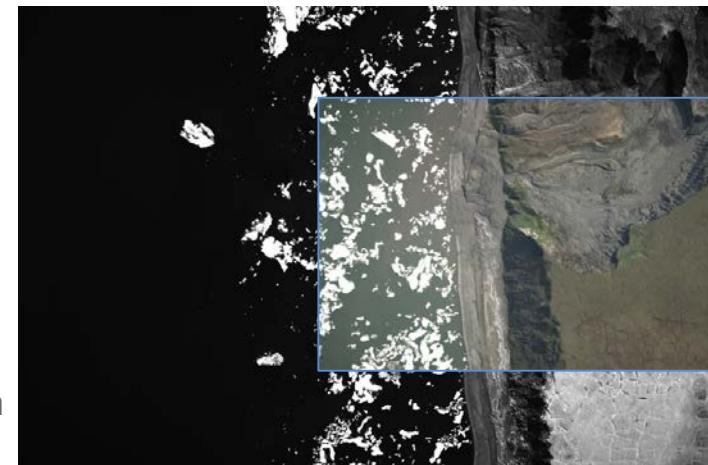
(Radar)



- GSD NIR: 15 cm per pixel
- GSD RGB: 9 cm per pixel → ~120 pixel per m²
- Overlap @ 3 fps: 93%
- 1 scene = 3 * 20 MB



↑
Flight direction



Past Campaigns



Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

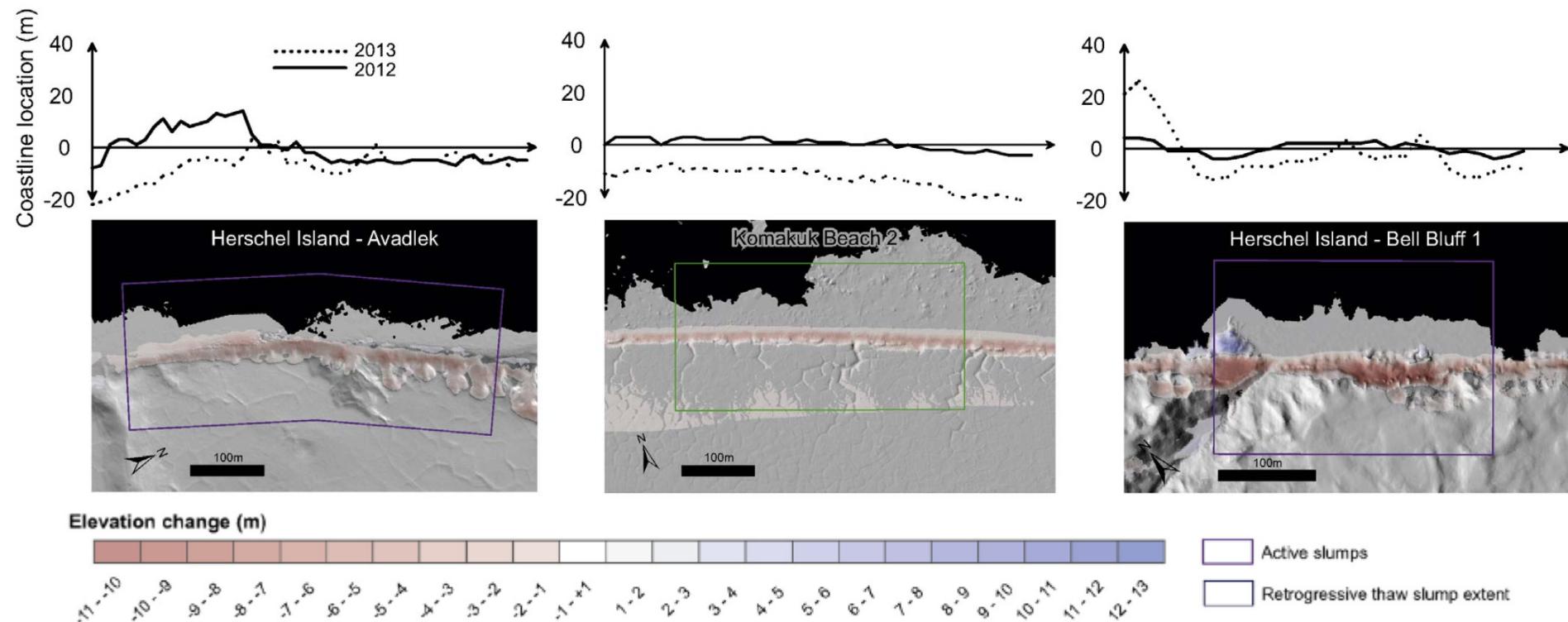
© 2018 Google

Image Landsat / Copernicus

US Dept of State Geographer

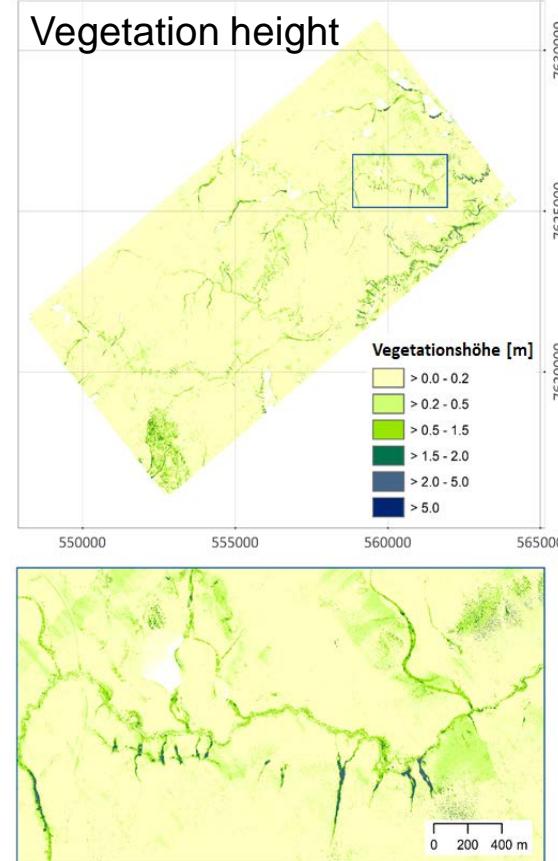
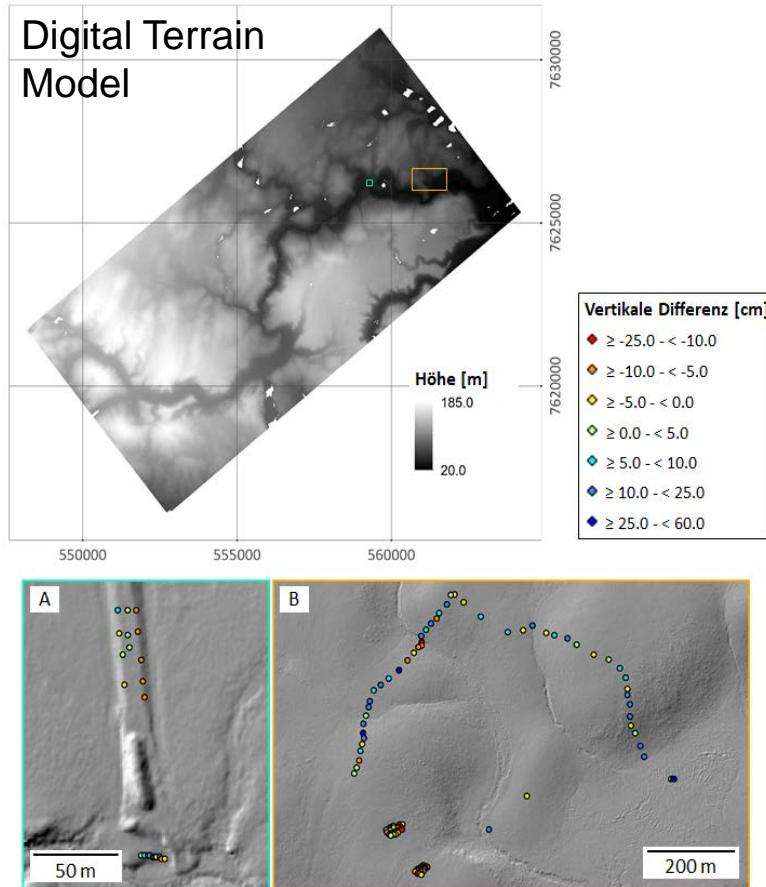
Yukon Coast Changes

- Repeat Lidar 2012, 2013
- Coastal Processes



Canada MacKenzie Delta Region

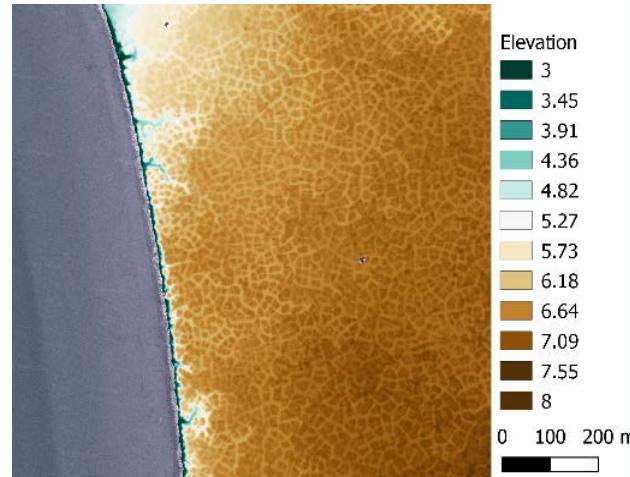
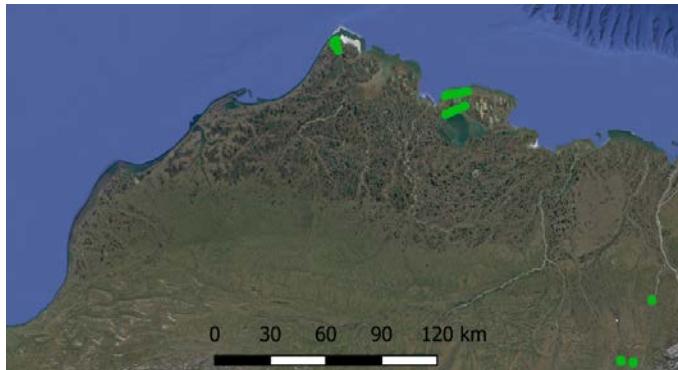
Polar 5 Airborne Laser Scanning 2016-Product examples



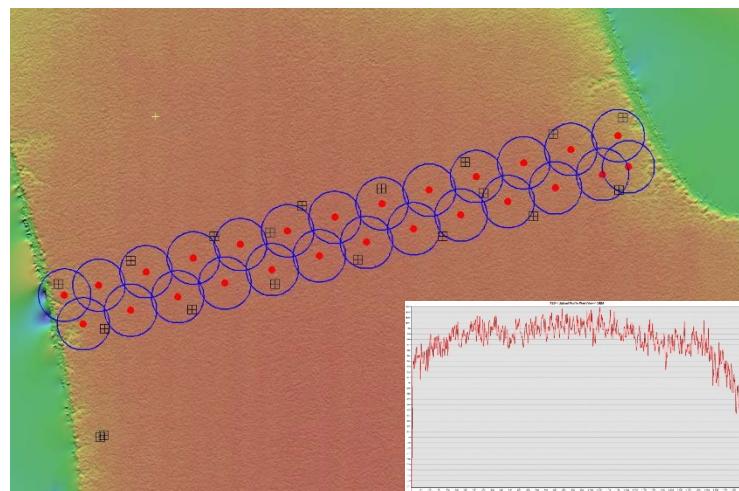
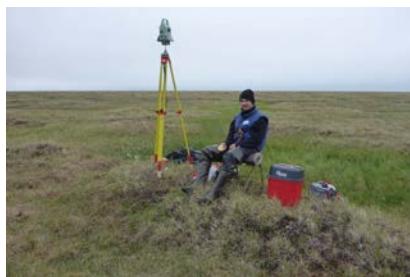
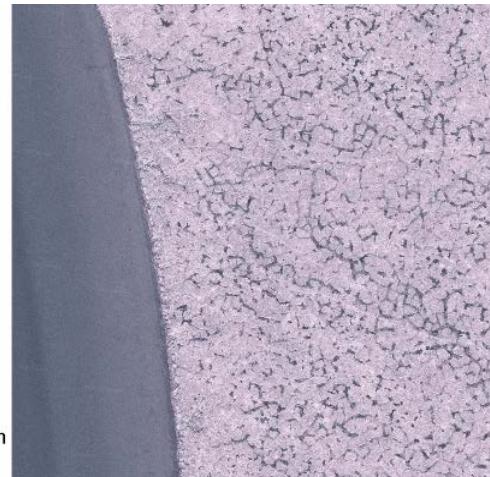
Antonova et al. 2019. Estimation of forest properties in a treeline zone using TanDEM-X and airborne laser scanning data. Remote Sensing of Environment.

Alaska 2016

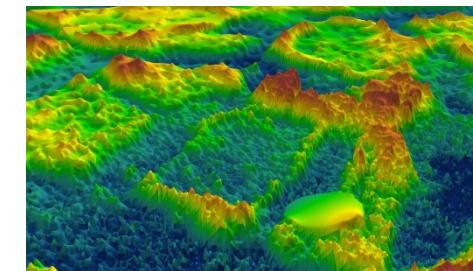
Multi-scale analysis: aerial and terrestrial survey



Teshekpuk Grid – Lidar DTM (Thx to Veit Helm)



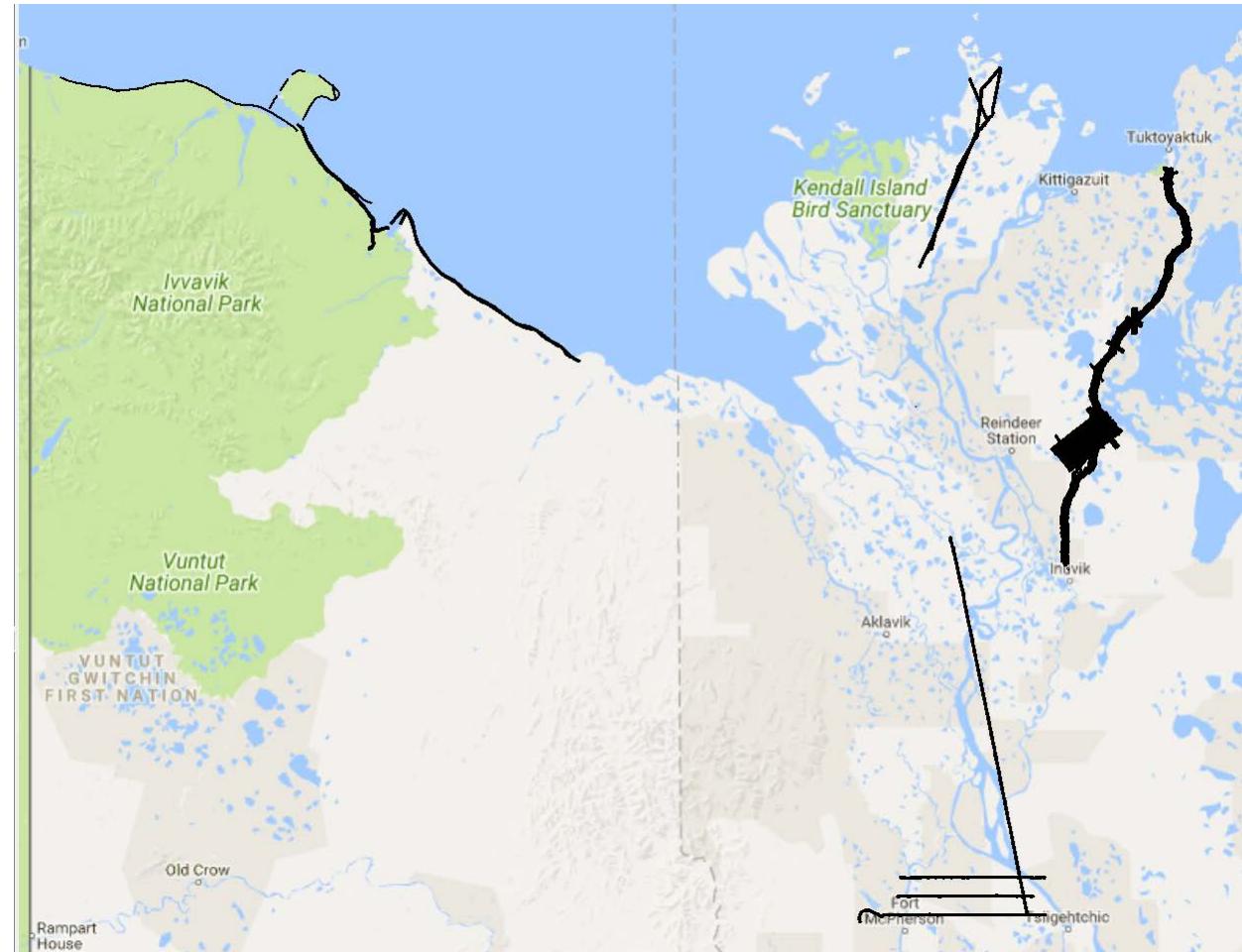
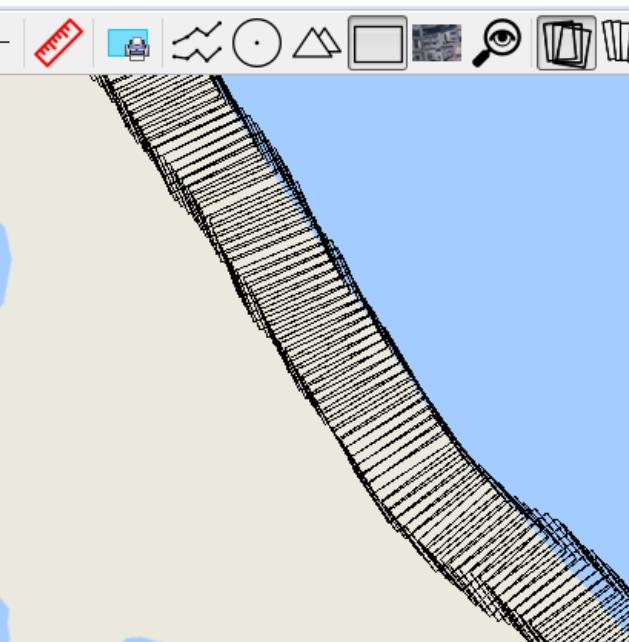
- Benchmark
- MS50 Station
- Laser scan



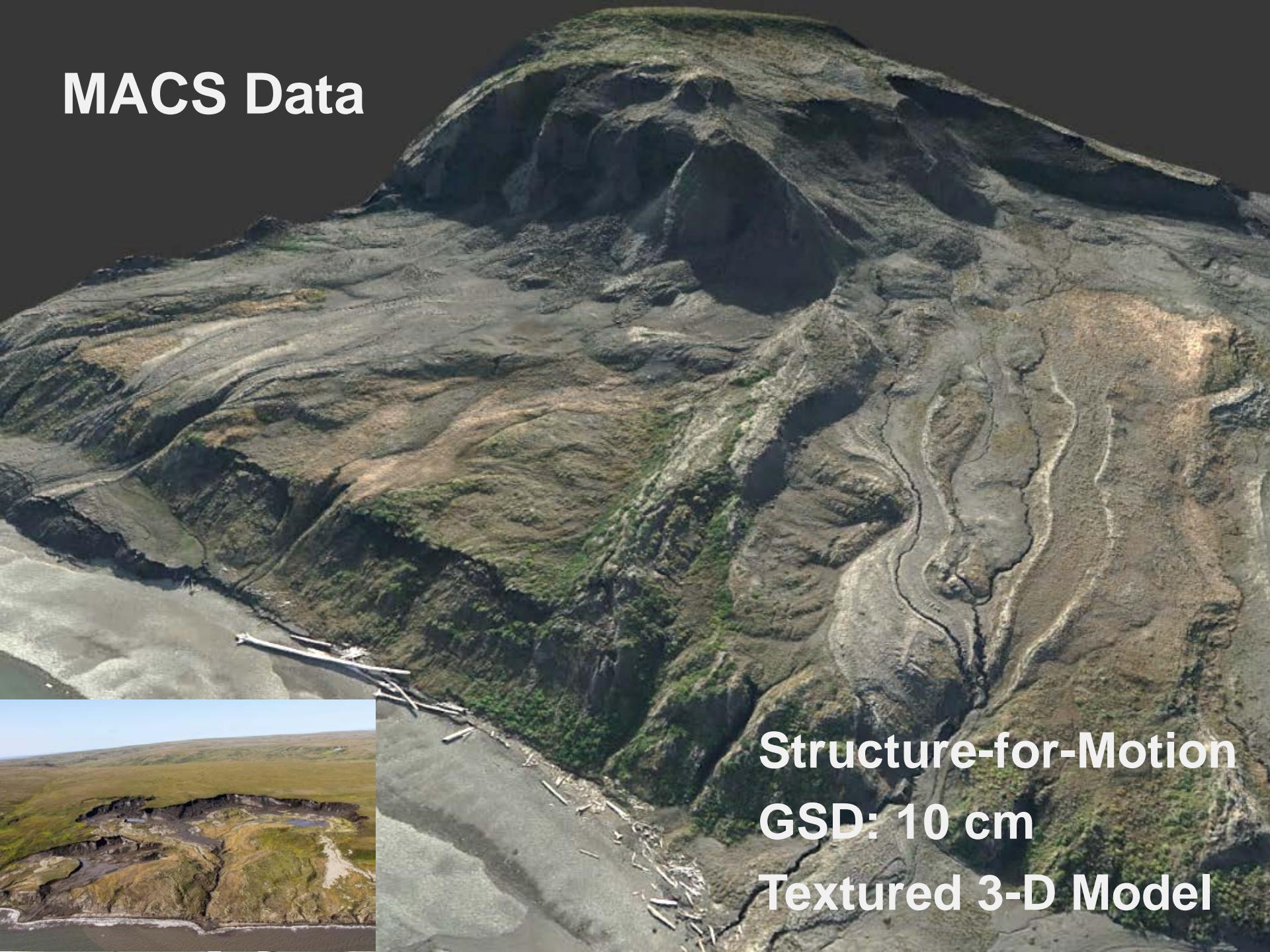
MACS Data – Canada 2018



- ca. 1,000 km² coverage
- 3 x 70,000 images
- 4 TB



MACS Data

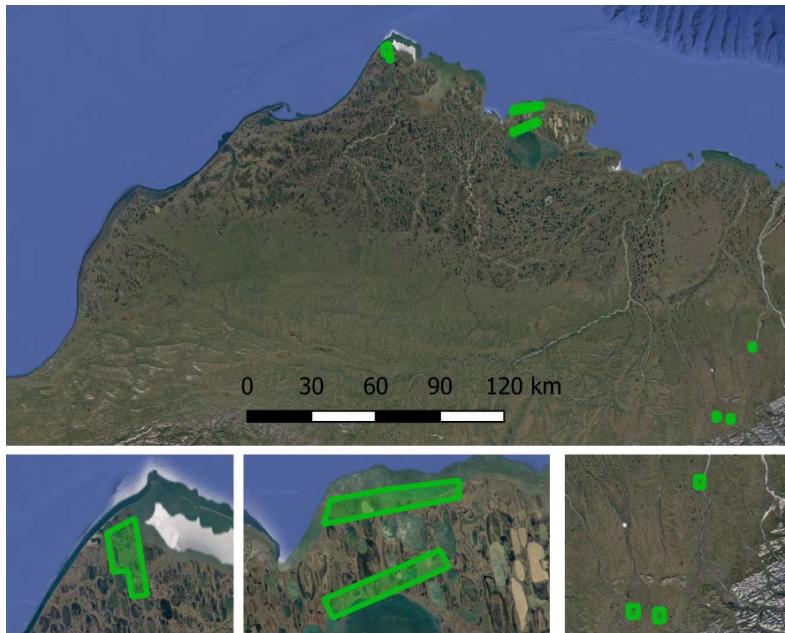


**Structure-for-Motion
GSD: 10 cm
Textured 3-D Model**

Alaska 2019 – start in 3 weeks

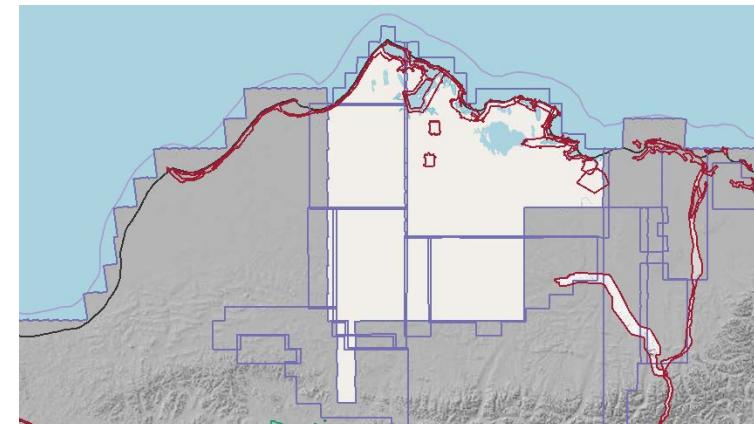


Campaign 2016

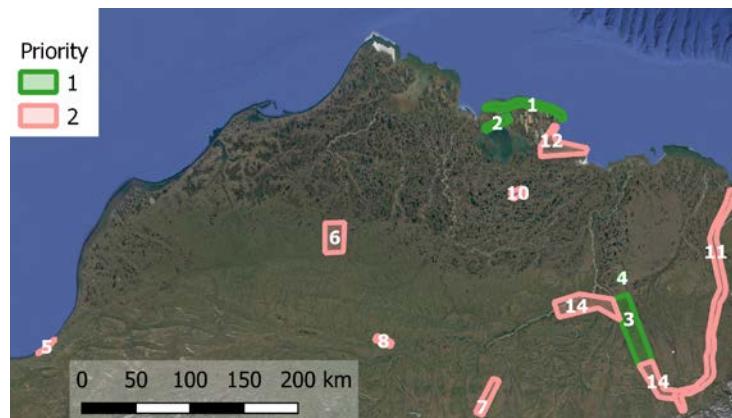


Publically available DEM

- Lidar
- IfSAR
- Structure For Motion



Repeat Measurements
Multitemporal VHR-
DEM/DSM



HELMHOLTZ

Challenges

- Data storage and processing
 - Increasing amounts of data
 - Who is processing them?
- Data heterogeneity
 - Lidar, optical
 - Spatial resolution
- Target specifics
 - Scale dependency
 - Challenging flight conditions

Final Thoughts

- AWI's aircraft infrastructure for
 - Creation of repeat DEM/DSM data
 - „Standard“ sensors: Lidar
 - „Experimental“ sensors from DLR
- Challenges
 - Amount of data
 - Data Heterogeneity
- Validation and Scaling
 - Terrestrial surveys

Thank You!

An aerial photograph taken from an airplane window. The foreground shows the red and grey wing of the aircraft. Below, a vast expanse of dark land is dotted with numerous white, irregular shapes representing sea ice floes of various sizes. The horizon is visible in the distance under a clear sky.

Contact: ingmar.nitze@awi.de