

Processing UAV and lidar point clouds in GRASS GIS

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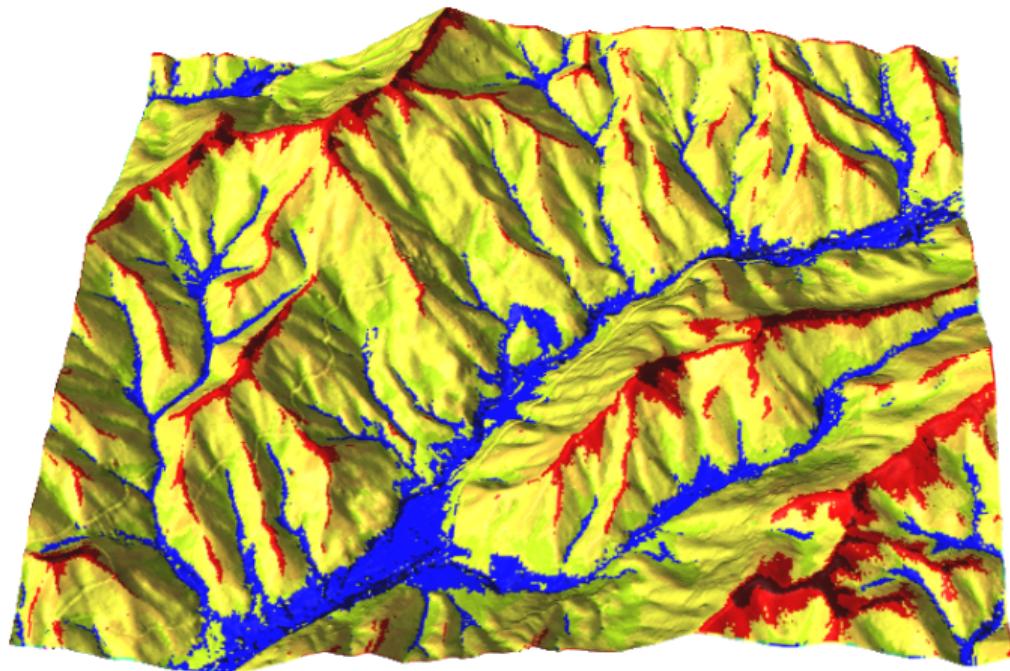
available at

wenzeslaus.github.io/grass-lidar-talks

Providing algorithms to the community

- ▶ new landform recognition approach – geomorphons

- ▶ by Jasiewicz and Stepinski from
AMU, Poland and University of Cincinnati, USA
- ▶ not just a paper Geomorphology, 2013
- ▶ not just a code
at some webpage
- ▶ *r.geomorphon*
module in GRASS GIS addons repository



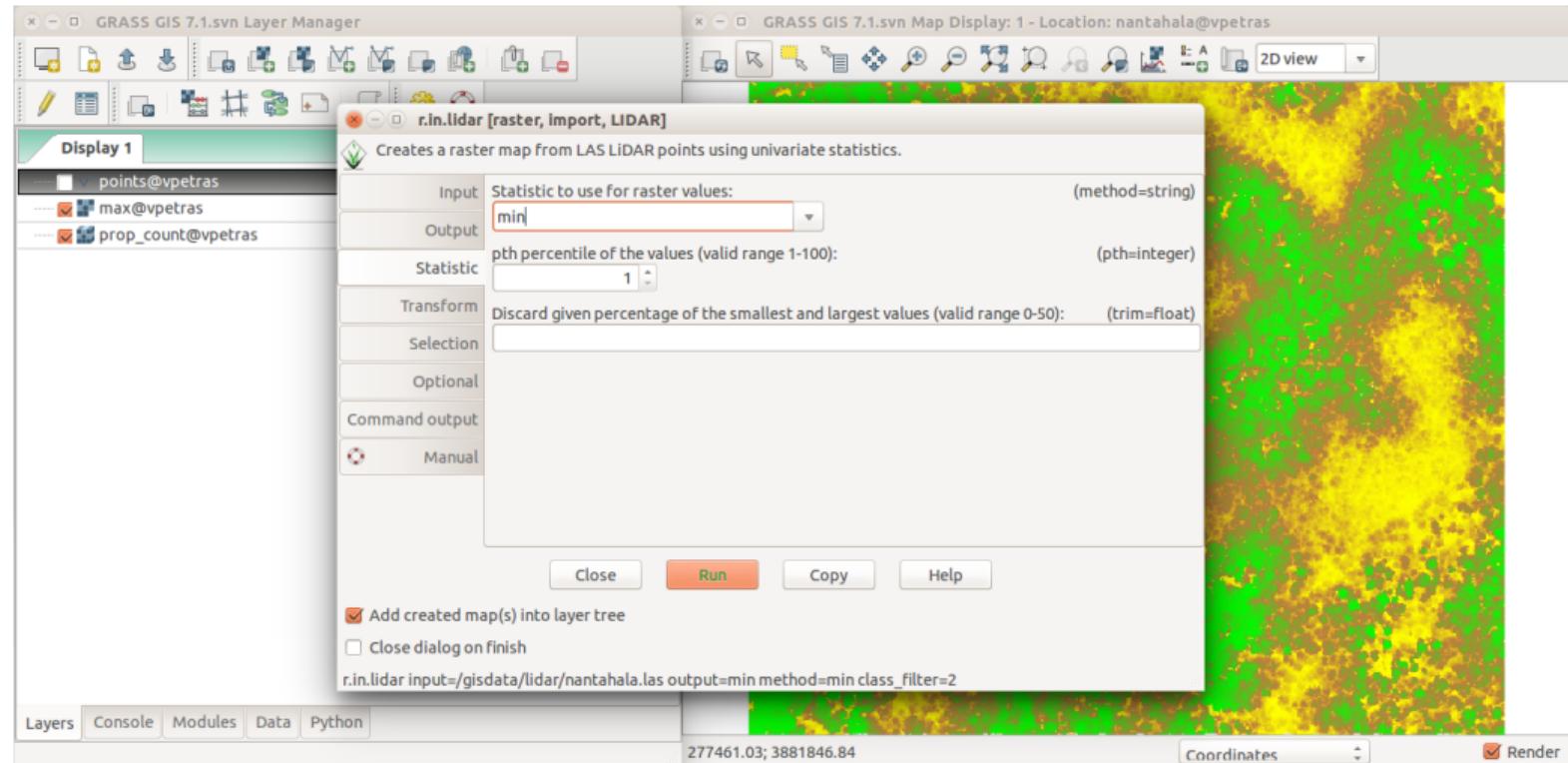
- ▶ all in one
 - ▶ hydrology modeling, image segmentation, point clustering, ...
- ▶ driven by needs of users
 - ▶ direct access to development process
- ▶ from small laptops to supercomputers
 - ▶ Raspberry Pi, Windows, Mac, GNU/Linux, FreeBSD, IBM AIX
- ▶ learn now, use forever
 - ▶ over 30 years of development and interface refinement
- ▶ used by
 - ▶ US Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Edmund Mach Foundation, JRC, ...



GRASS GIS

latest release 7.0.4

GUI



Python and command line interfaces

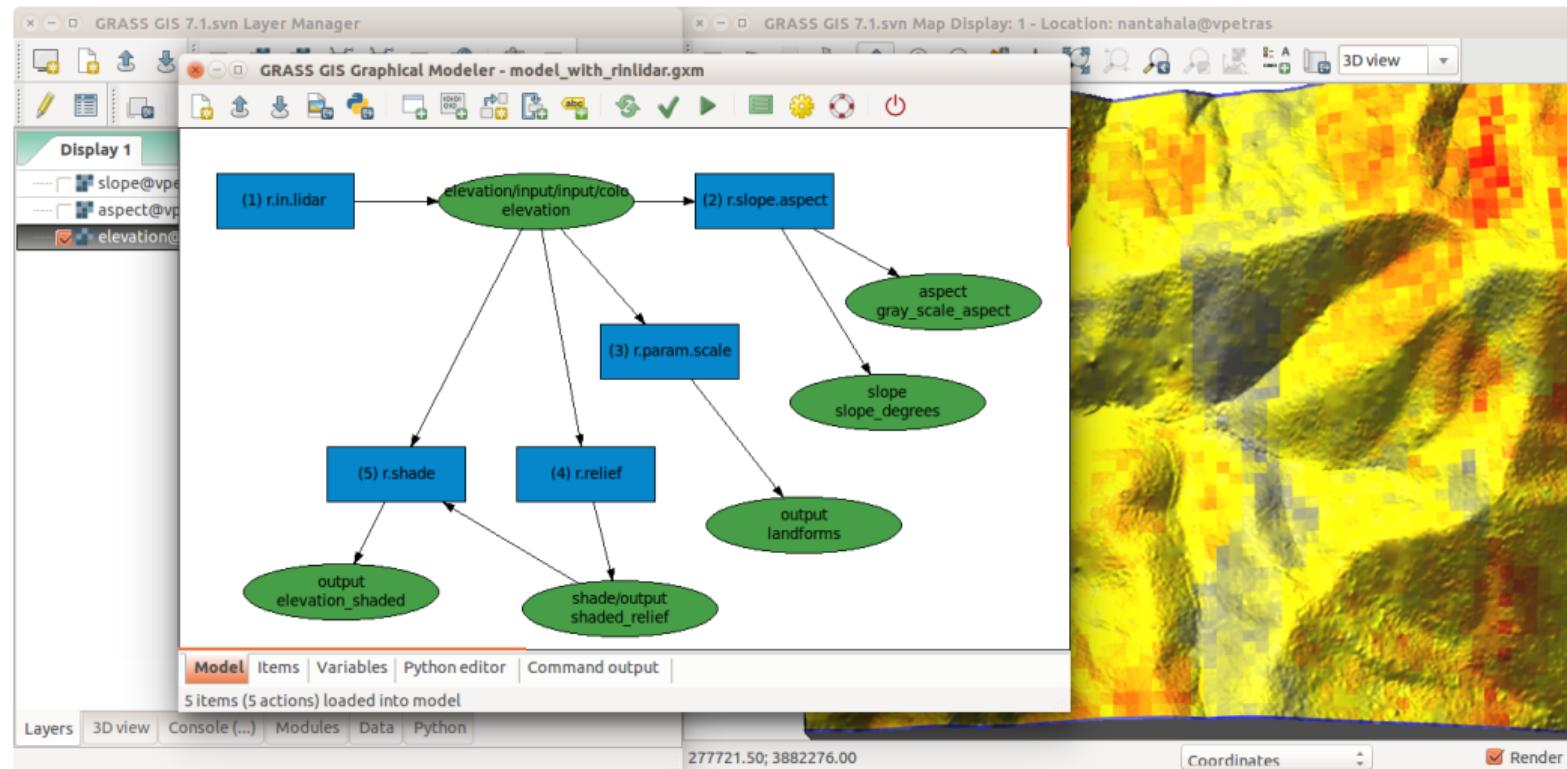
Command Line:

```
r.in.lidar input=points.las \
    output=elevation -e
```

Python:

```
from grass.script import run_command
run_command('r.in.lidar',
            input="points.las",
            output="elevation",
            flags='e')
```

Graphical Modeler



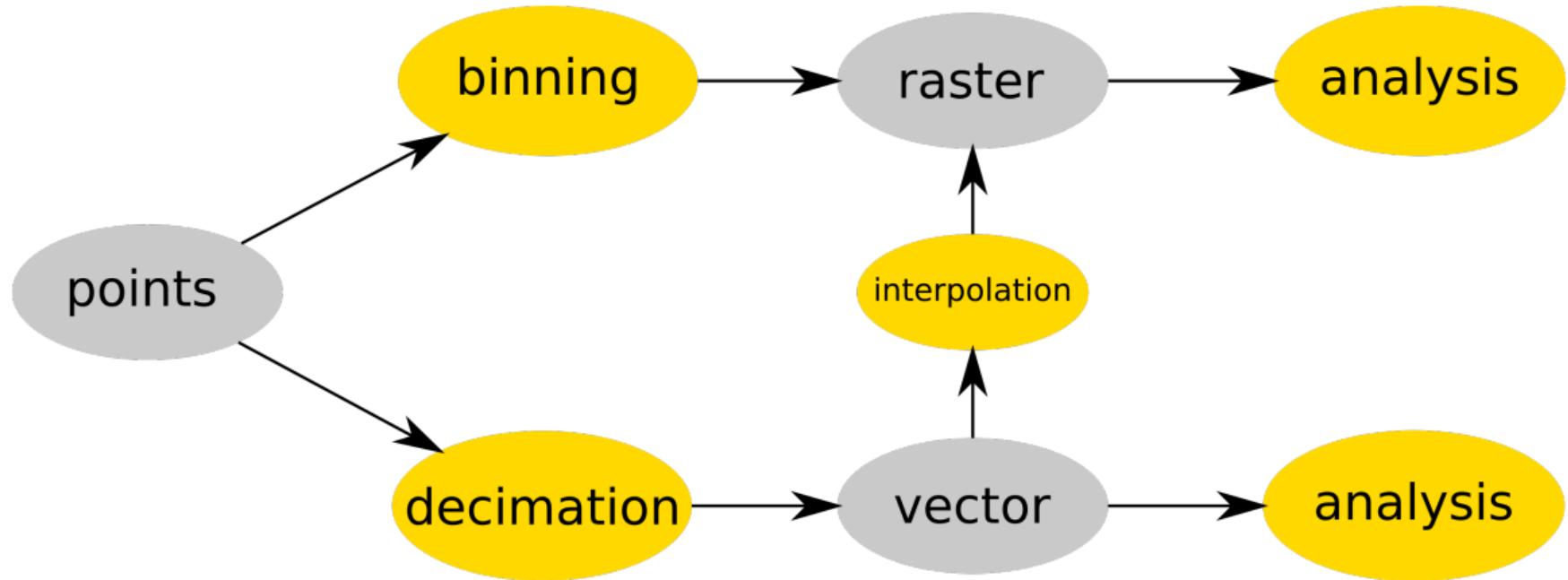
Points

- ▶ collected by lidar
- ▶ generated by Structure from Motion (SfM) from UAV imagery



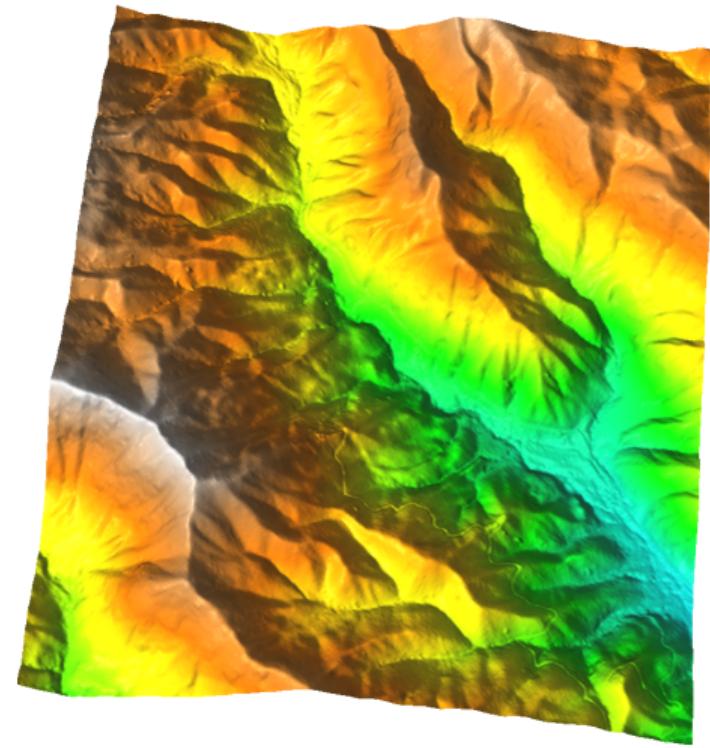
surface interpolated from points and visualized in GRASS GIS

Workflow overview



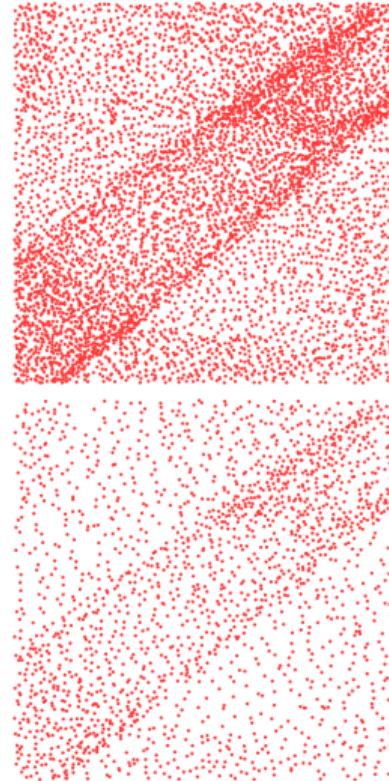
Surface interpolation

- ▶ *v.surf.idw*
 - ▶ Inverse Distance squared Weighting
- ▶ *v.surf.bspline*
 - ▶ Bicubic or bilinear Spline interpolation with Tykhonov regularization
- ▶ *v.surf.rst*
 - ▶ Regularized Spline with Tension
 - ▶ *v.surf.rst.mp* (experimental)
 - ▶ 2 millions of points in 11 minutes



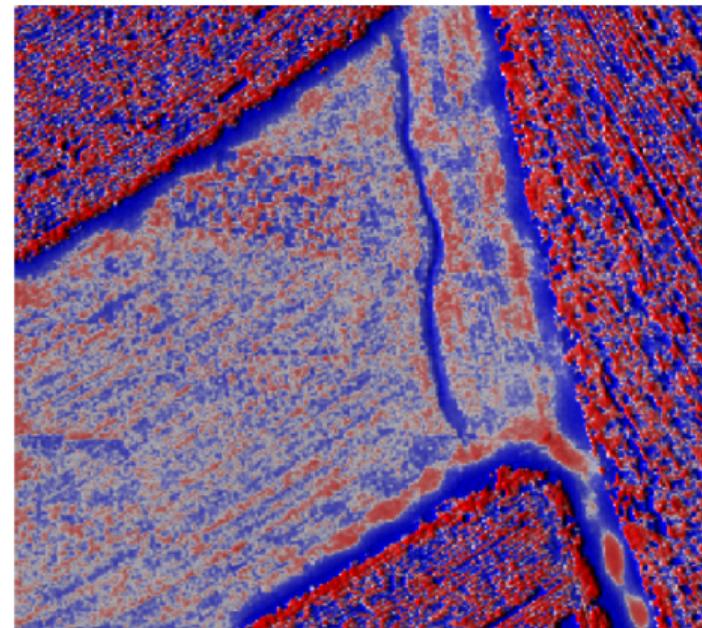
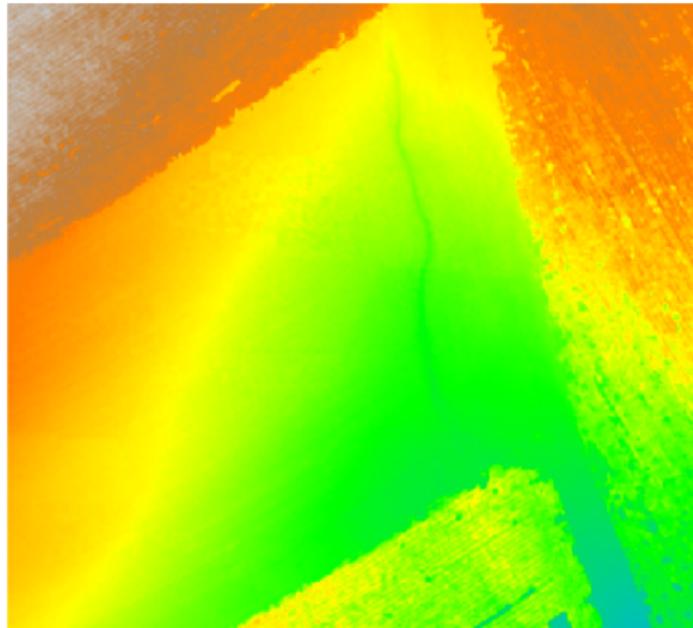
Import and decimation

- ▶ *v.in.lidar*
 - ▶ libLAS
 - ▶ LAS/LAZ to GRASS GIS native vector
 - ▶ data stored in GRASS GIS database
- ▶ interpolation, clustering, ... are costly
- ▶ often more points than we need
- ▶ decimation \approx thinning \approx sampling
 - ▶ count-based decimation (skips points)
 - ▶ grid-based experimental, others needed?



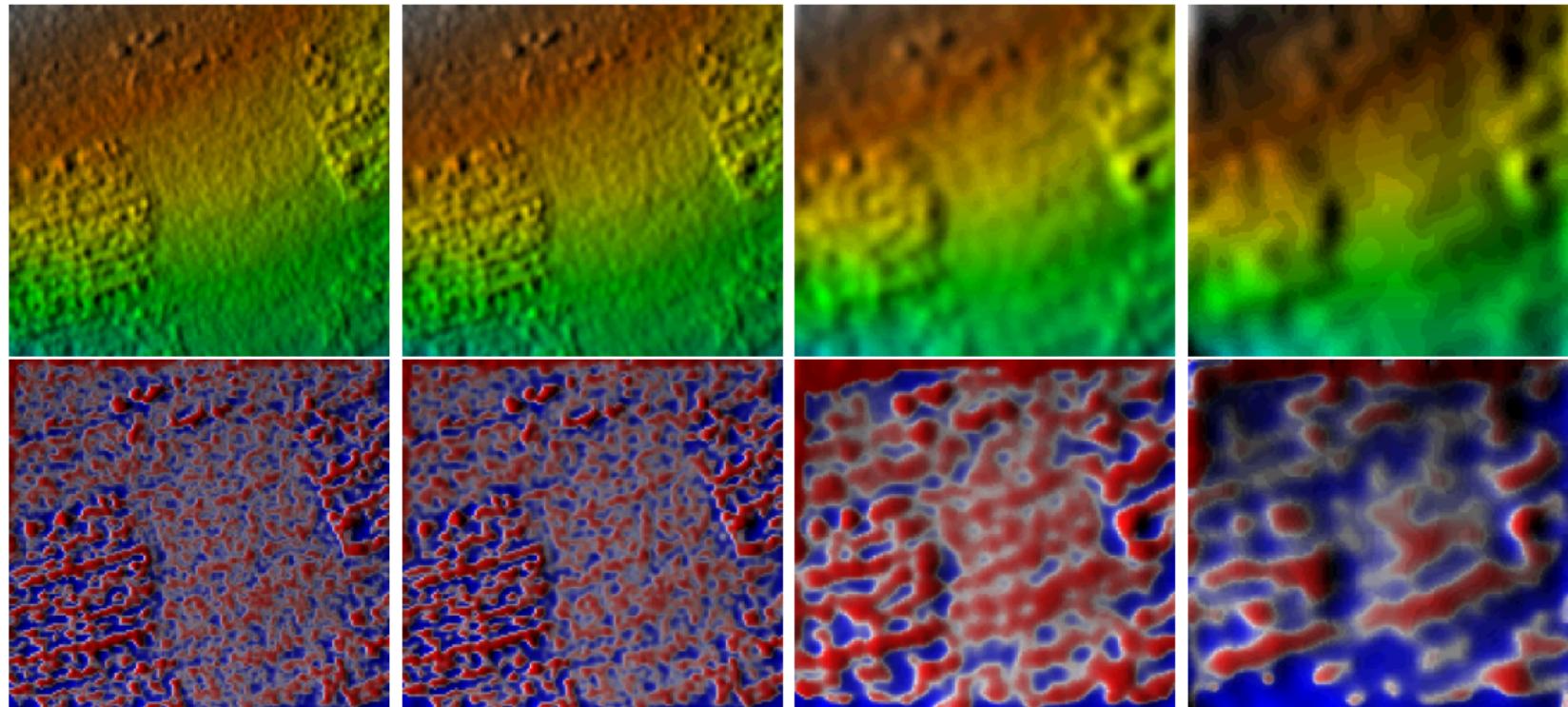
Evaluating level of detail

- ▶ Local relief model (LRM)
- ▶ *r.local.relief* (micro-topography, features other than trend)

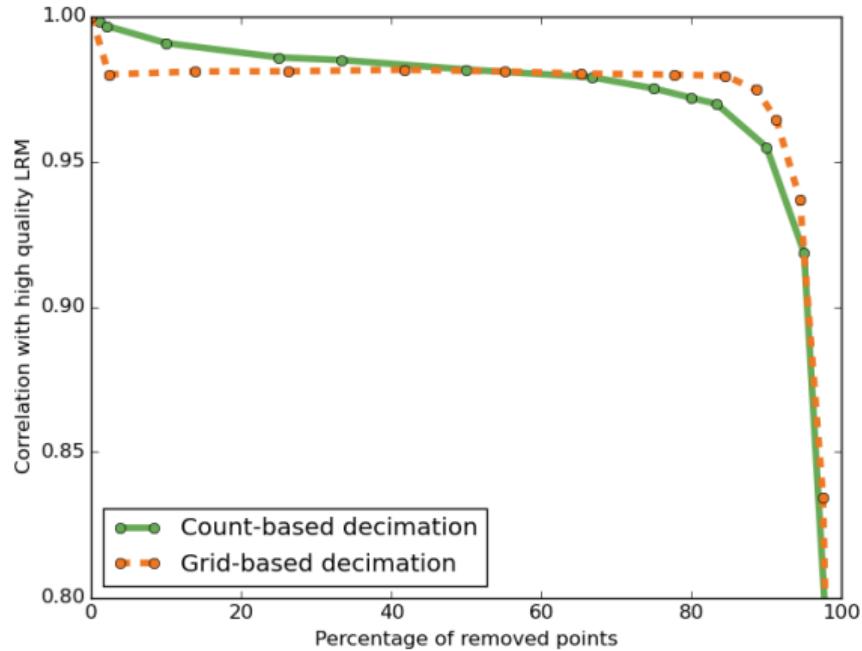


30-60cm wide, 30cm deep, 60m long gully (resolution 30cm)

Influence of grid-based decimation resolution



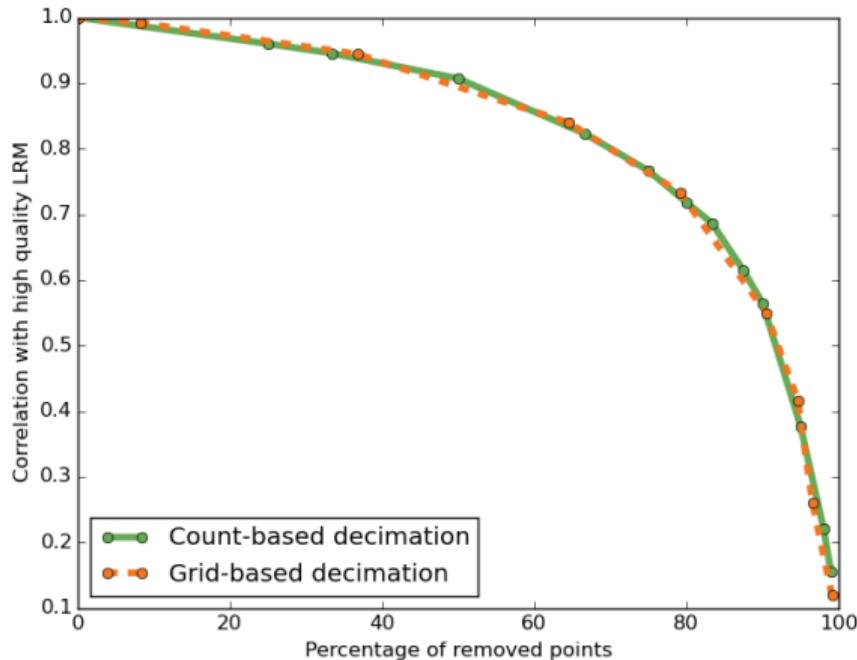
Decimating UAV/SfM point cloud



grid-based decimation may give slightly better results

at resolution 0.5 m for all raster calculations, 72 point per 1 m²

Decimating lidar point cloud

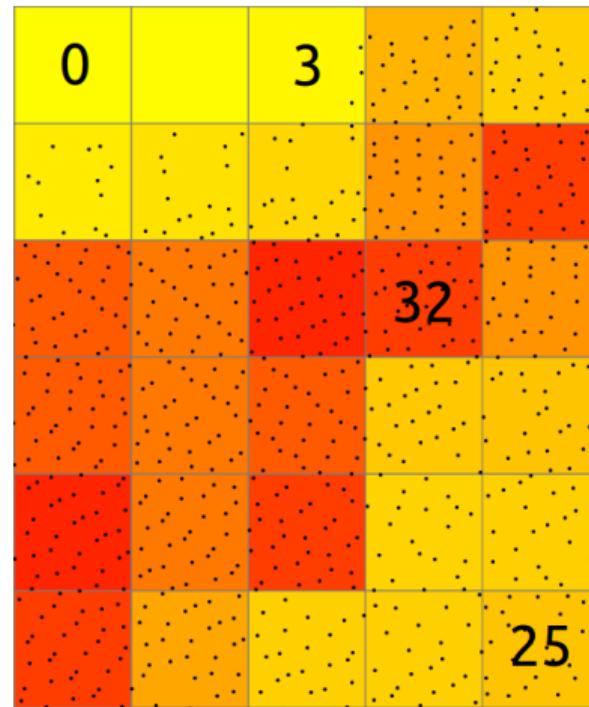


fast count-based decimation as good as more advanced grid-based decimation at resolution 0.5 m for all

raster calculations, 1 point per 1 m²

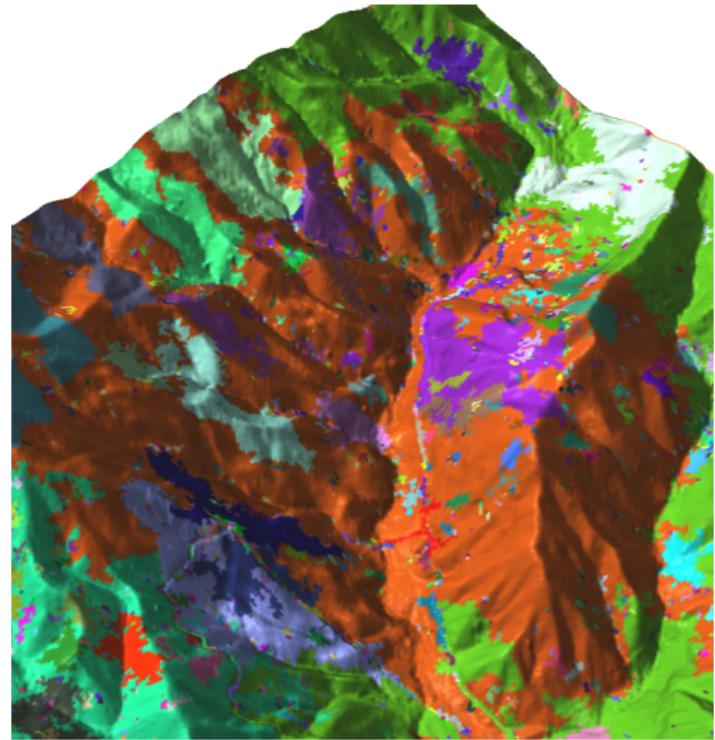
Binning points to raster

- ▶ *r.in.lidar*
- ▶ import and analysis
- ▶ statistics of point counts, height and intensity
 - ▶ n, min, max, sum
 - ▶ mean, range, skewness, ...



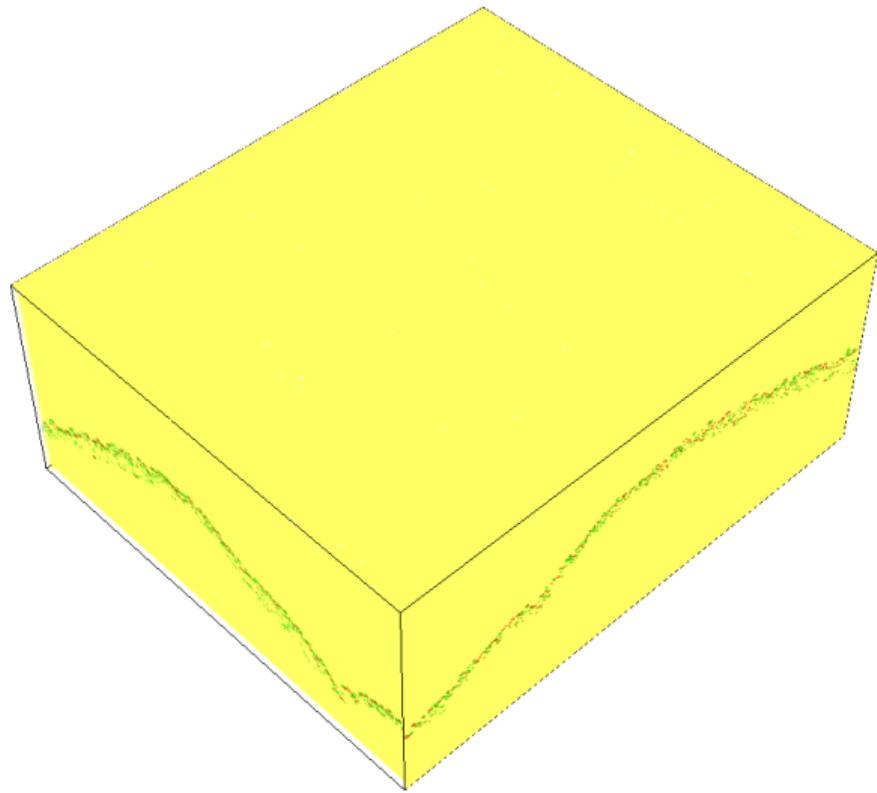
Raster processing

- ▶ many algorithms are raster-based
 - ▶ 163 raster modules
 - ▶ 45 imagery modules
 - ▶ 20 spatio-temporal raster modules
- ▶ example:
 1. count of ground points
 2. count of non-ground points
 3. used as image bands
 4. segmentation using *i.segment*



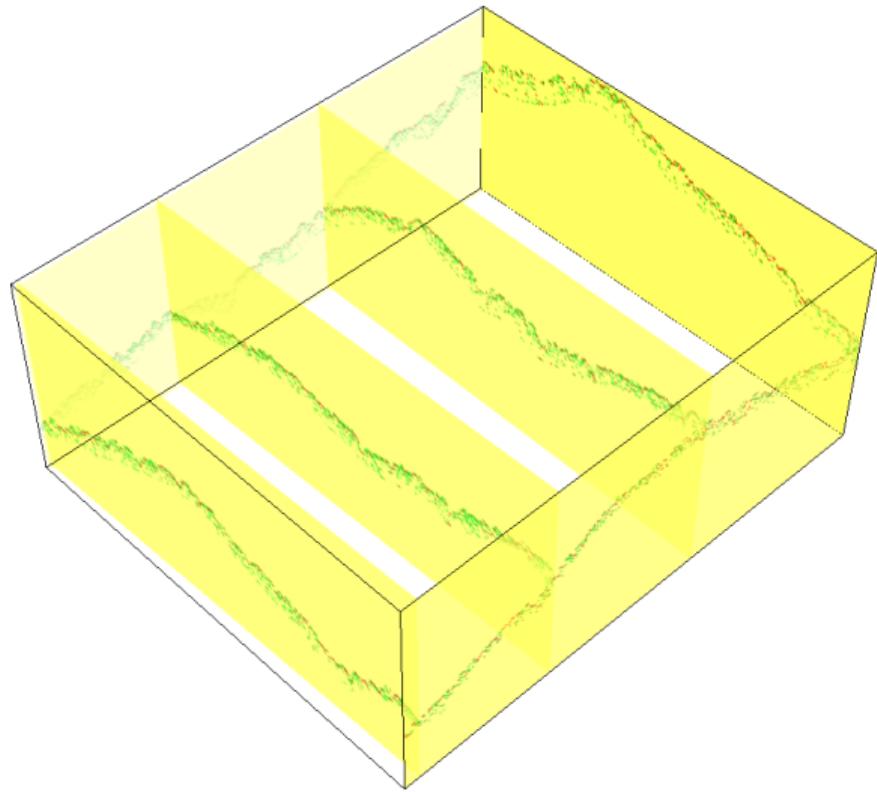
3D raster

- ▶ same principles as in 2D
 - ▶ e.g. 3D raster map algebra
- ▶ challenging to visualize



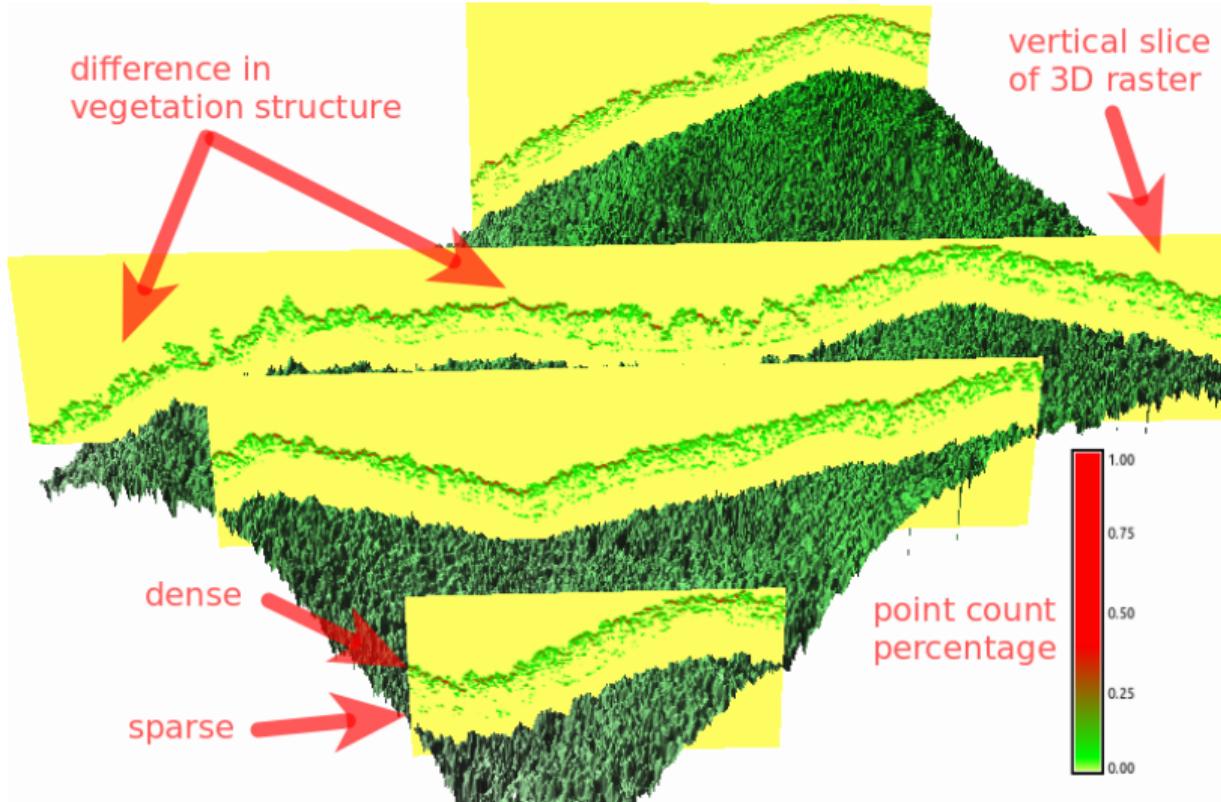
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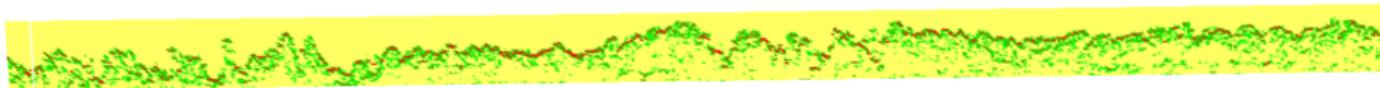
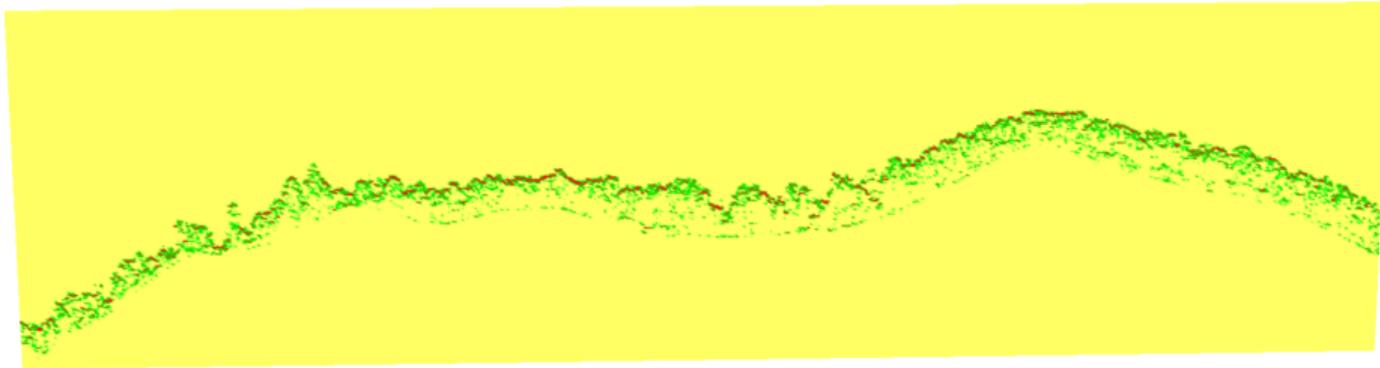


Binning points to 3D raster

- ▶ *r3.in.lidar*
- ▶ count per 3D cell
relative to the count
per vertical column



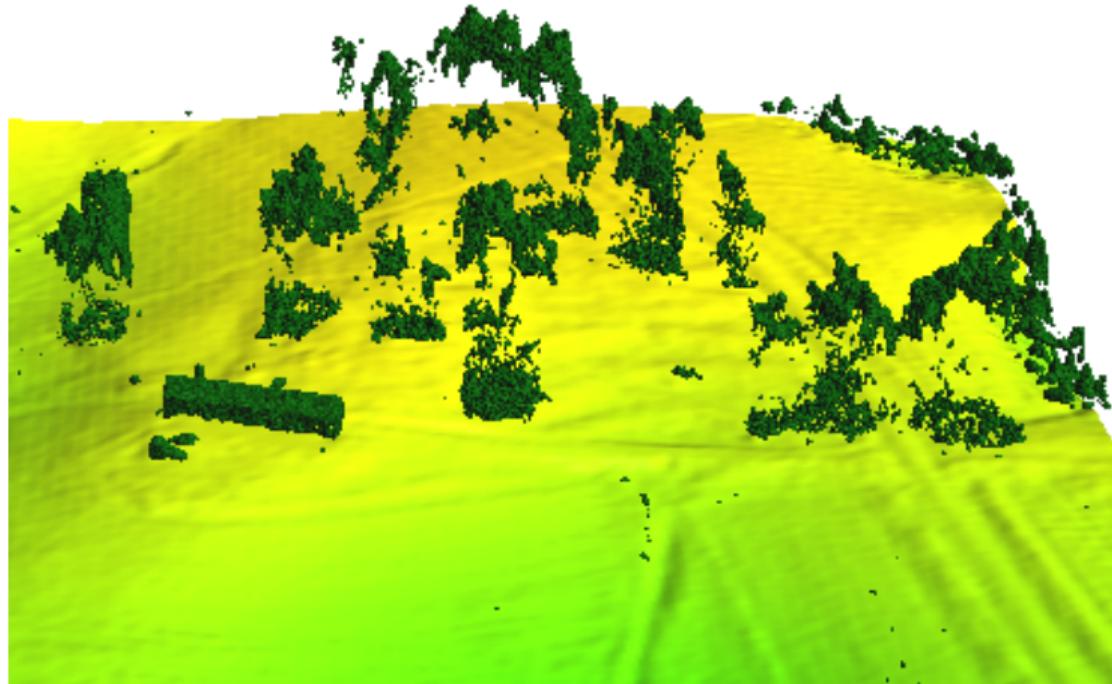
Point heights reduced to surface



- ▶ `r3.in.lidar`, option `base_raster`
- ▶ height reduced by 2D raster values

Ground detection

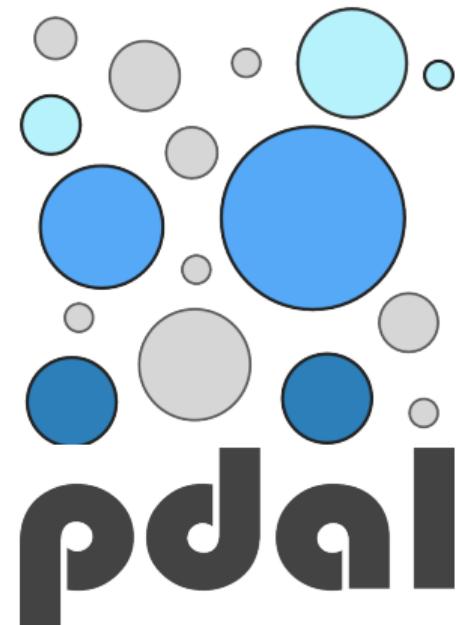
- ▶ *v.lidar.edgedetection*,
v.lidar.growing,
v.lidar.correction
 - ▶ by Brovelli, Cannata, Antolin & Moreno
- ▶ *v.lidar.mcc*
 - ▶ multiscale curvature based classification algorithm
 - ▶ by Blumentrath, according to Evans & Hudak
- ▶ PDAL filters.ground
 - ▶ currently in v.in.pdal
 - ▶ progressive morphological filter by Zhang
 - ▶ provided by PCL



Integration with PDAL

PDAL

- ▶ Point Data Abstraction Library
- ▶ format conversions
- ▶ processing, filtering

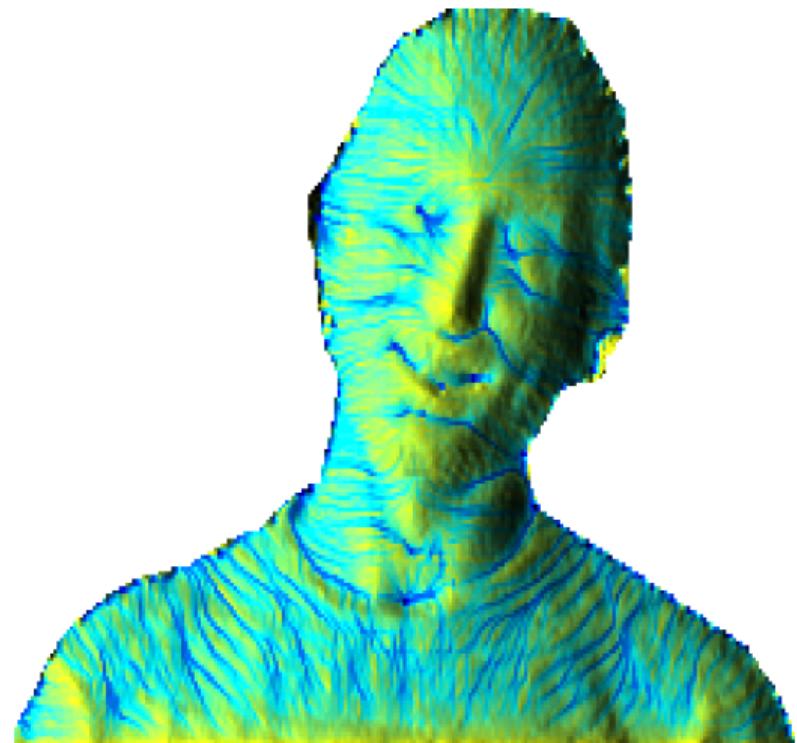


Using other open source projects

r.in.kinect

- ▶ scans using Kinect
- ▶ OpenKinect libfreenect2
- ▶ Point Cloud Library (PCL)
- ▶ GRASS GIS libraries

used in Tangible Landscape



Summary

- ▶ decimation or *rasterize early* approach for large point clouds
- ▶ 3D rasters
- ▶ PDAL integration



Get GRASS GIS 7.3 development version at
grass.osgeo.org/download

GRASS user mailing list
lists.osgeo.org/listinfo/grass-user

Paper and slides available at
wenzeslaus.github.io/grass-lidar-talks



Acknowledgements

Software

Presented functionality is work done by Vaclav Petras, Markus Metz, and the GRASS development team.

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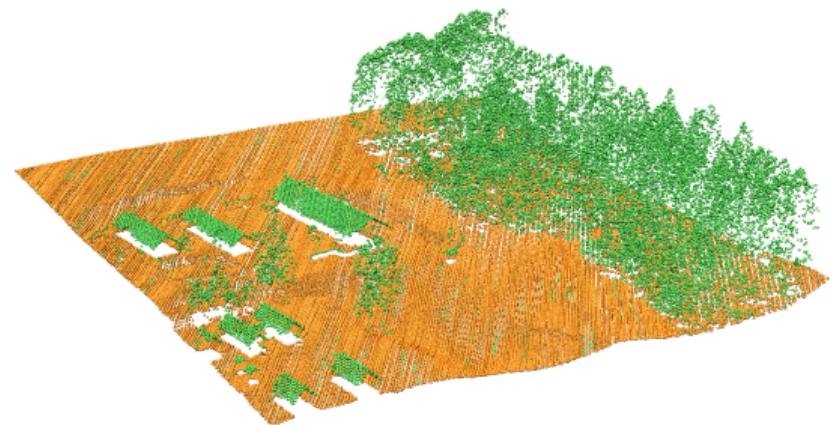
GRASS GIS

Acknowledgements

Datasets

Lidar and UAV Structure from Motion (SfM) data for
GIS595/MEA792: UAV/lidar Data Analytics course

Nantahala NF, NC: Forest Leaf Structure, Terrain and
Hydrophysiology. Obtained from OpenTopography.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.5069/G9HT2M76>



Acknowledgements

Presentation software

Slides were created in L^AT_EX using the BEAMER *class*.