

1. Workshop zum Comet K – Projekt  
„Alpine Airborne Hydromapping“

# Gewässervermessung aus der Luft

## Einsatzmöglichkeiten und Einschränkungen in der Praxis

Frank Steinbacher



# High resolution topo-bathymetric survey - Hydromapping

Survey altitude  
~500m AGL

Point density  
>20points/m<sup>2</sup>

Accuracy under  
water ~5-10cm

532nm,  
water penetrating laser  
beam

Shallow water areas 😊

The entire foreland 😊

Only deeper areas need to be captured by echo sounders 😊



## Penetration

- turbidity
- soil colour
- soil composition
- weather
- surface conditions

## Shadowing

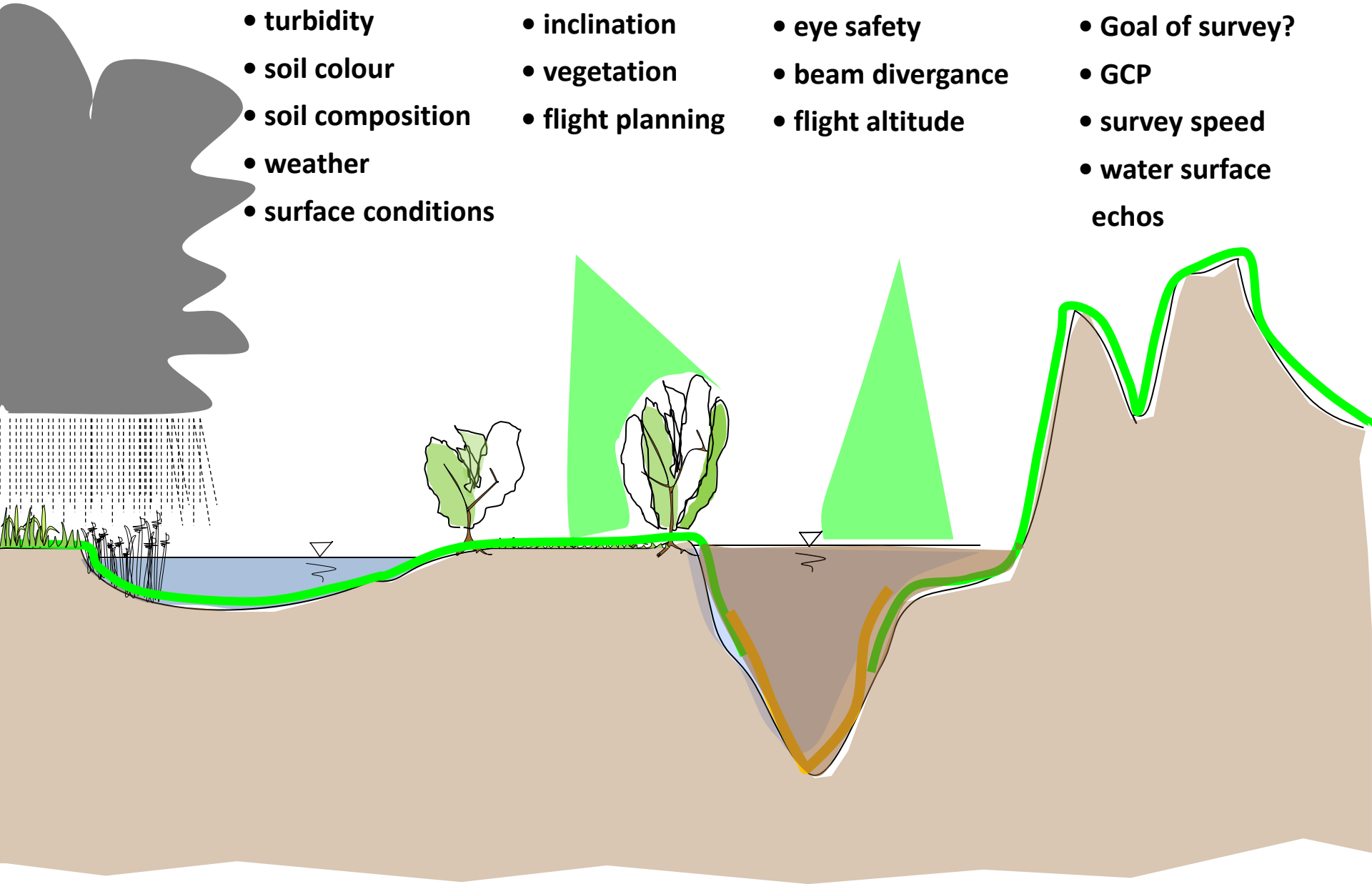
- inclination
- vegetation
- flight planning

## Object resolution

- eye safety
- beam divergence
- flight altitude

## Data quality

- Goal of survey?
- GCP
- survey speed
- water surface echos





# Standard Survey mission

- **Survey parameters**
- **Survey sensors**



**AM**  
AIRBORNE  
HYDRO  
MAPPING

**AM**  
AIRBORNE  
LAND  
MAPPING

**AM**  
AIRBORNE  
NATURE  
MAPPING

**AM**  
AIRBORNE  
ICE & SNOW  
MAPPING

**Flight speed: ~80kts**

**Noise: won't hear during normal operation (take-off noise ~68dB(A) )**

**Normal operation altitude: ~500m (eye-safety)**

**Footprint size: ~0.5m**

**Pulse Repetition Rate: 256 kHz**

**FOV: 69°-111°**

**Max. Scanline Resolution: ~200000lines/s -> no equal point spacing relat. to flight speed**

**-> Results in about 25-35 points/m<sup>2</sup>**



# Survey mission

- Survey parameters
- **Survey sensors**

**Topo-Bathymetric Lidar Scanner: Riegl VQ-820G (Riegl VQ-880G within 2nd part of AAHM)**

**RGB-Camera: Hassleblad H39 (IGI) (GSD ~5cm)**

**4K-Videocamera: GoPro 3 (Black)**

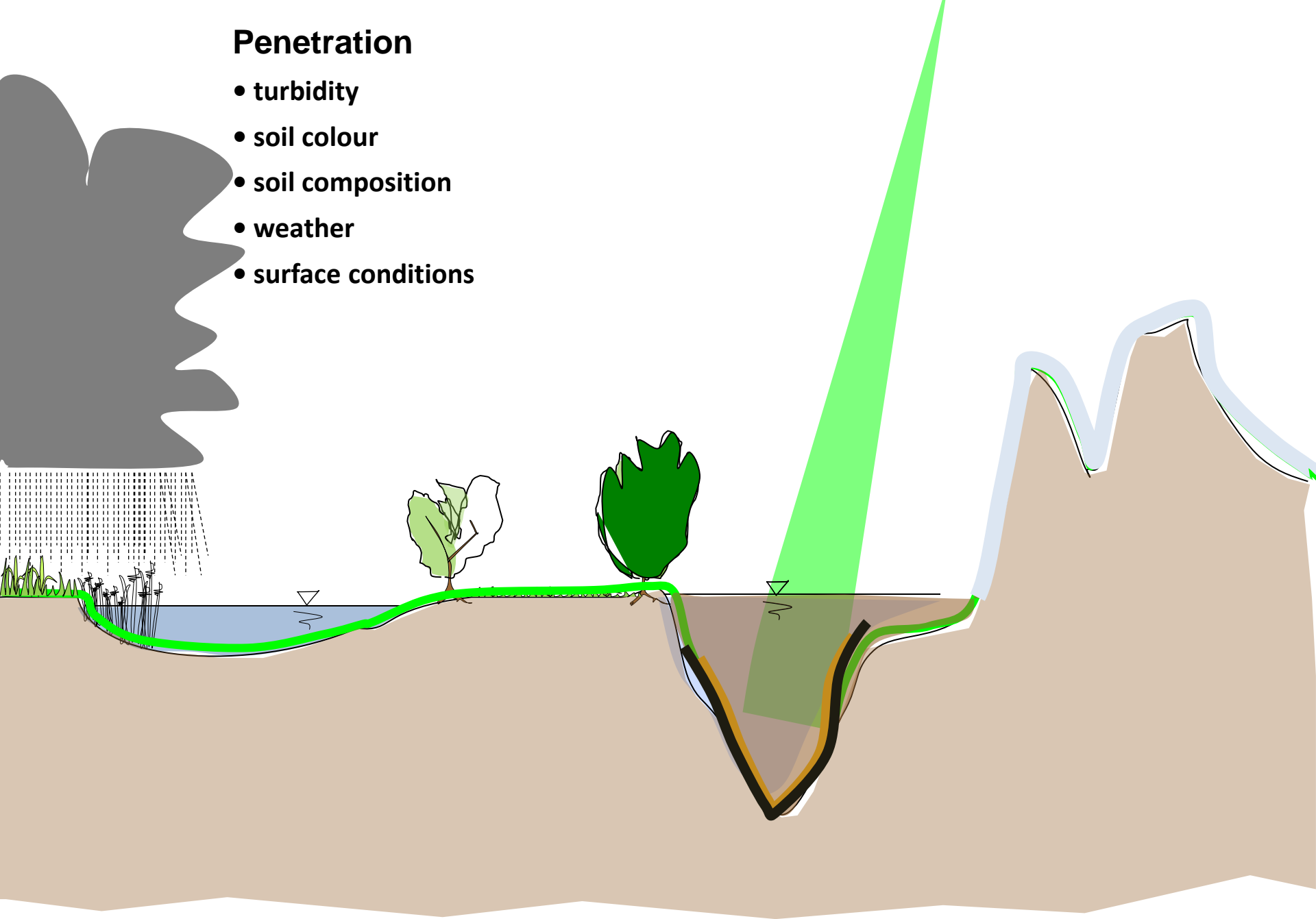
**Thermal Camera: Infratec HD900 (GSD ~20cm)**





## Penetration

- turbidity
- soil colour
- soil composition
- weather
- surface conditions





# Penetration

- turbidity

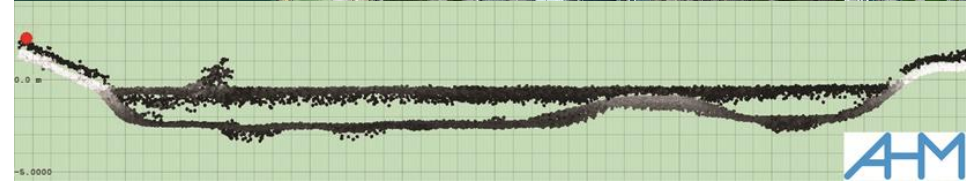
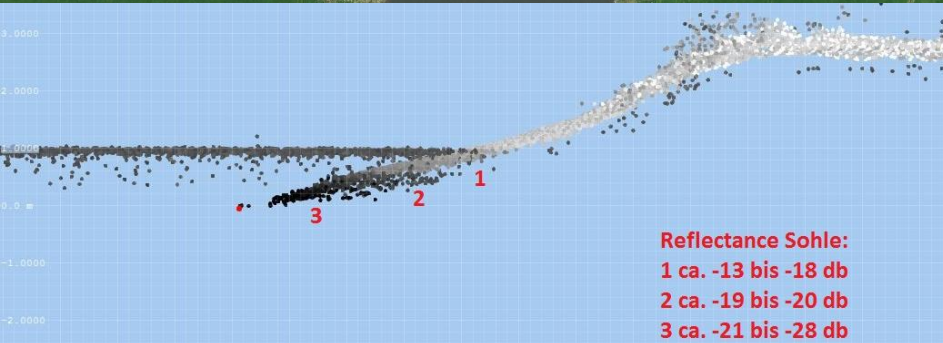
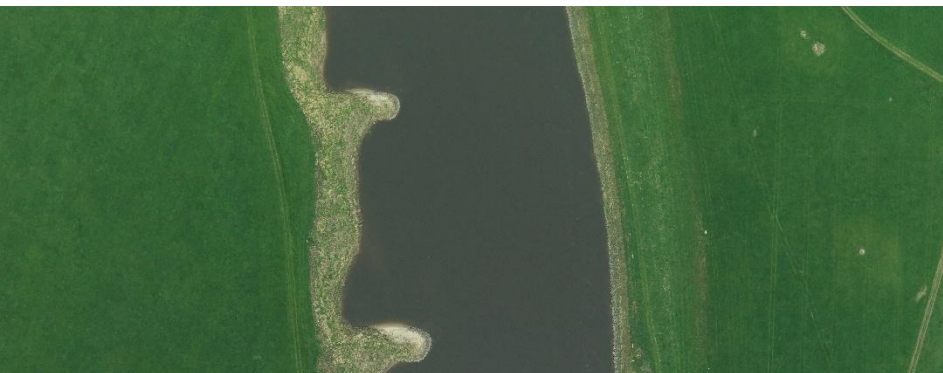
ELBE vs. Rhein

## Secchi depth

1m

vs.

0.7m





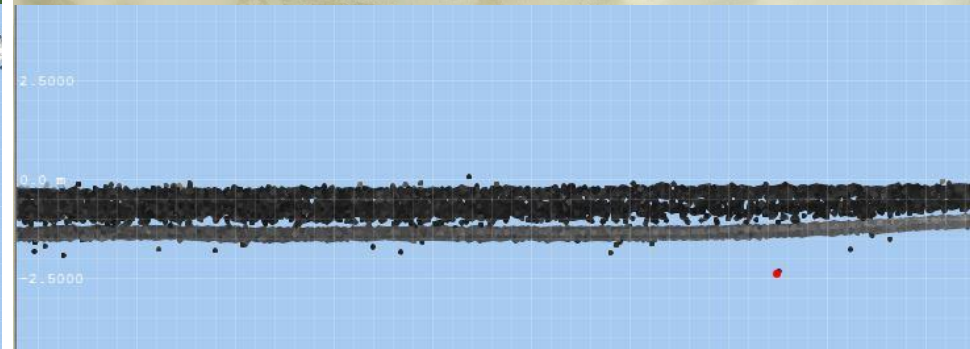
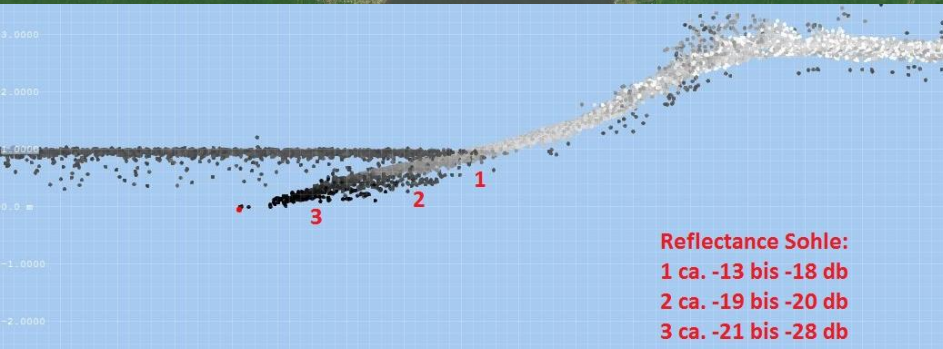
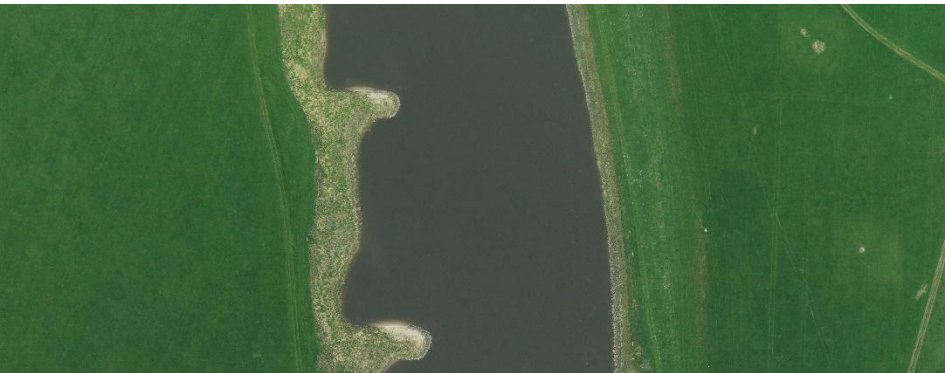
# Penetration

- soil colour
- soil composition

ELBE / Rhein vs. Wadden Sea

## Secchi depth

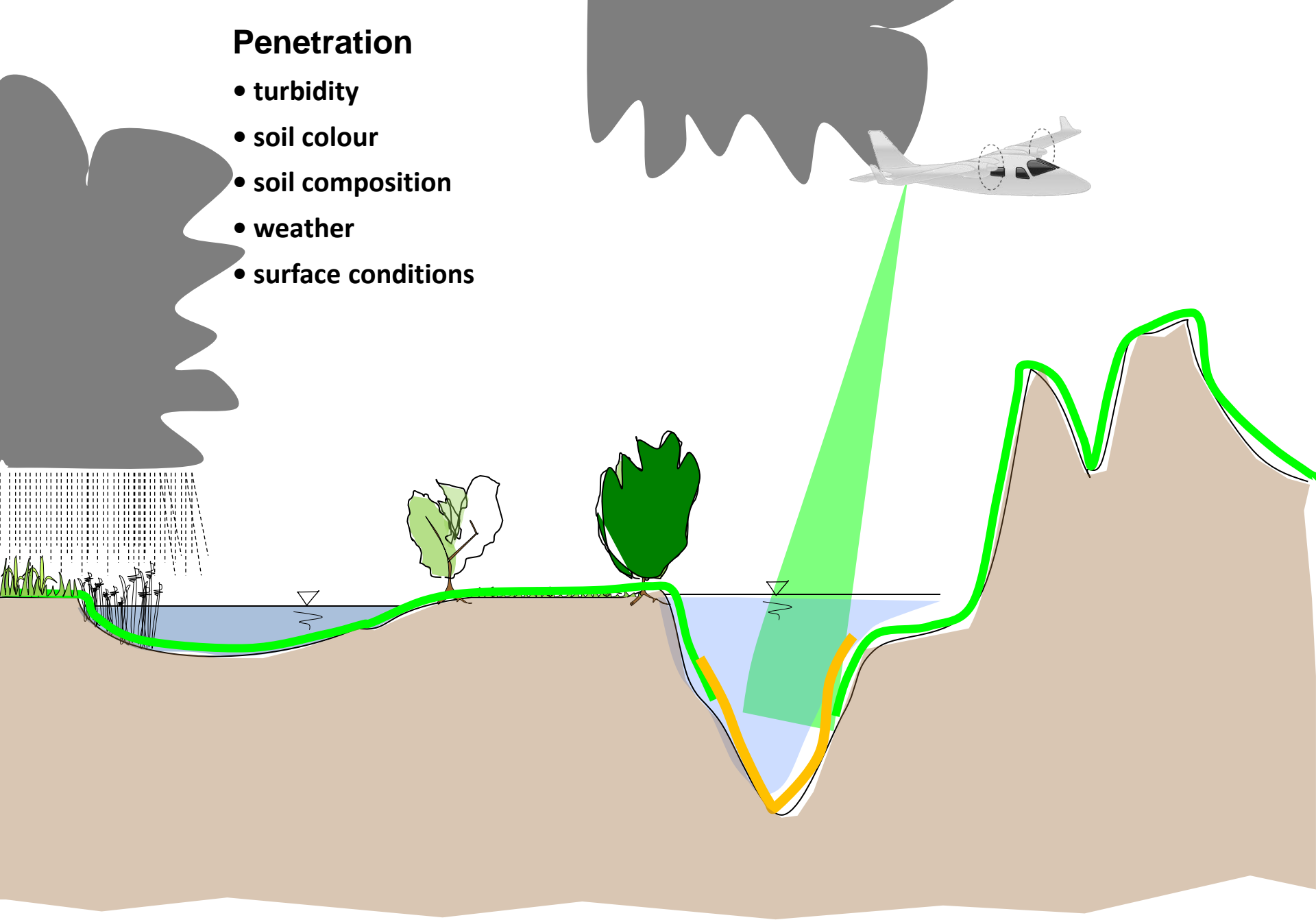
1m vs. 0.2m





# Penetration

- turbidity
- soil colour
- soil composition
- weather
- surface conditions



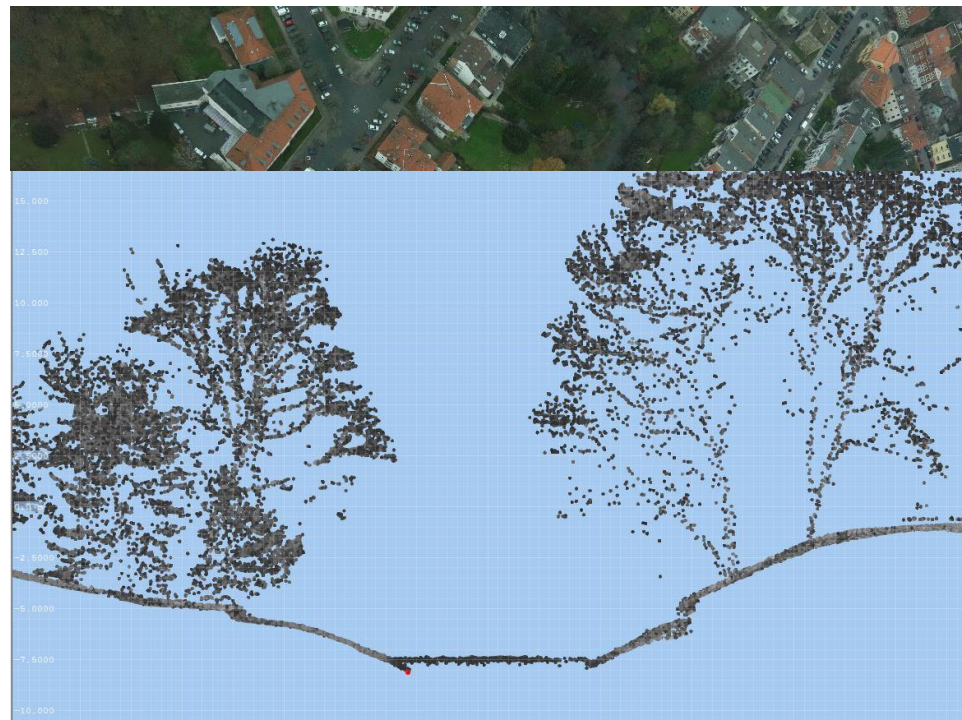


# Penetration

- weather
- surface conditions

Wolterdingen vs. Oker

clear sky vs. high humidity



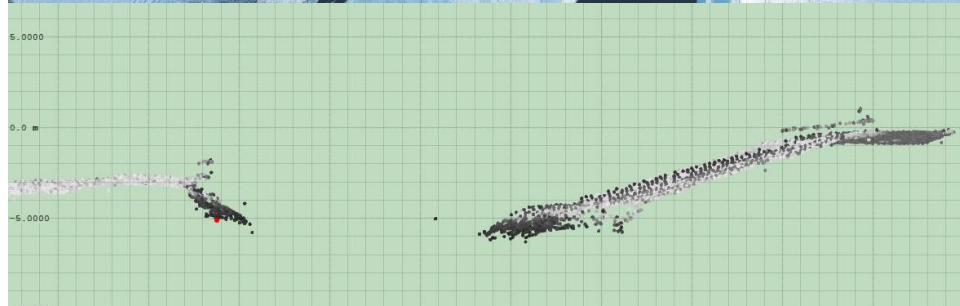
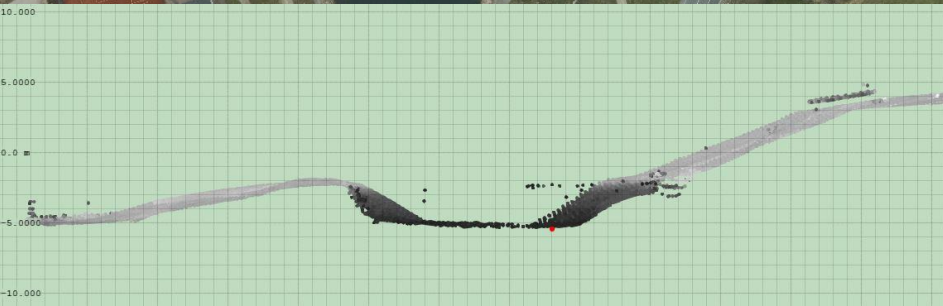
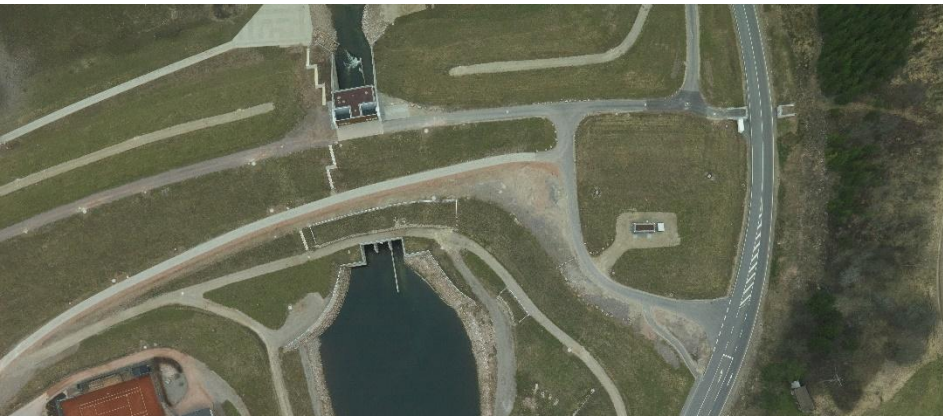


# Penetration

- weather
- surface conditions

Wolterdingen vs. Wolterdingen

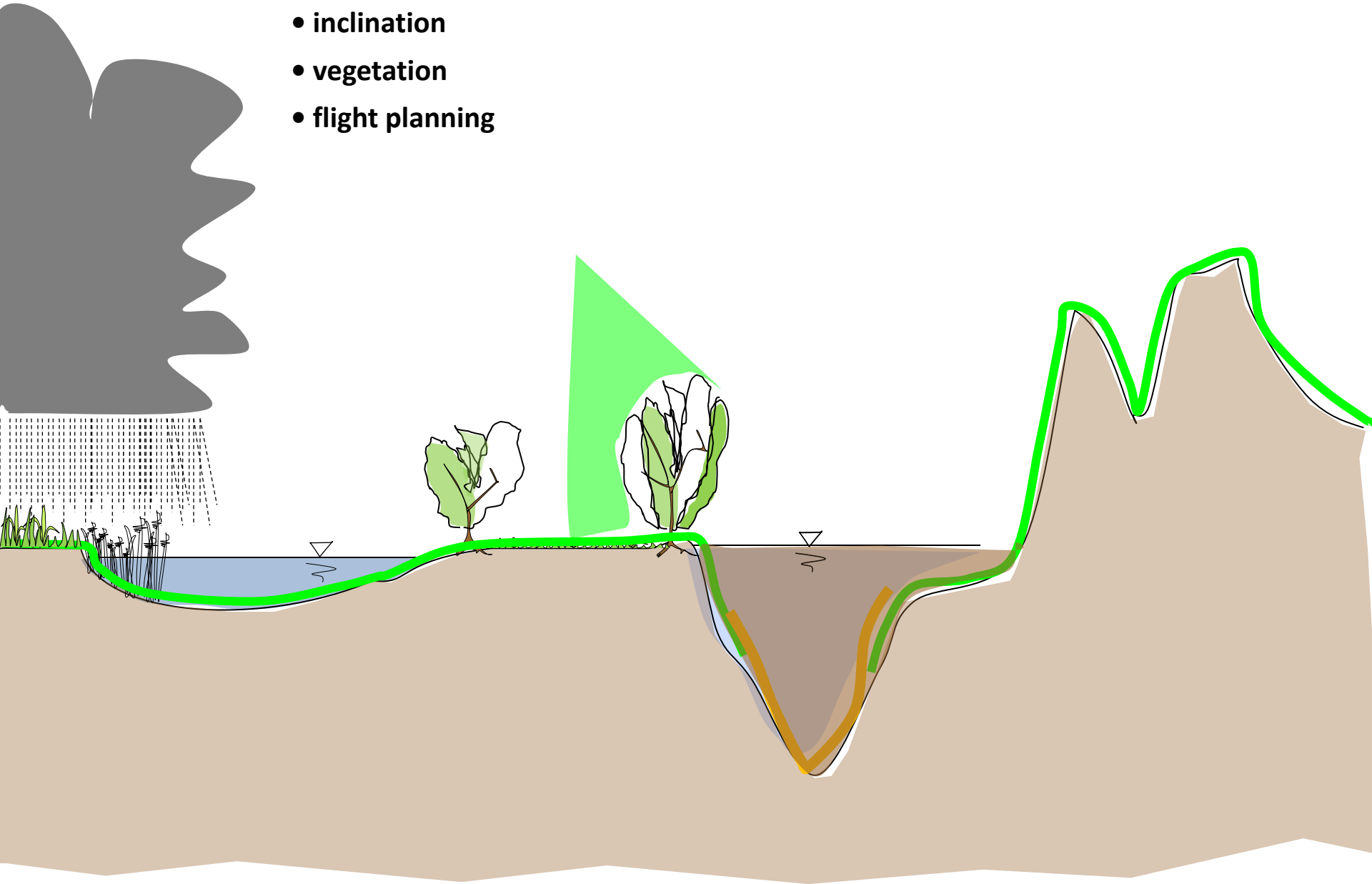
normal surface colour vs. bright surface colour





# Shadowing

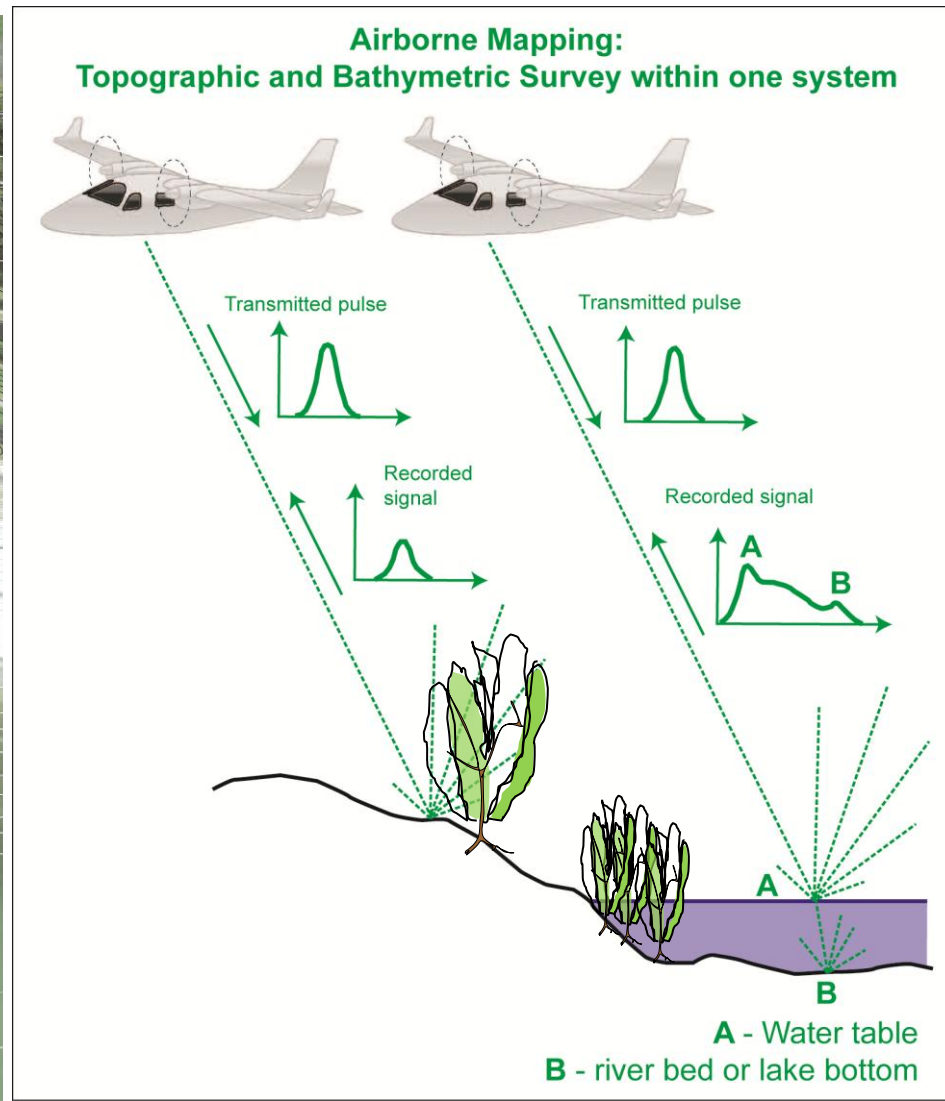
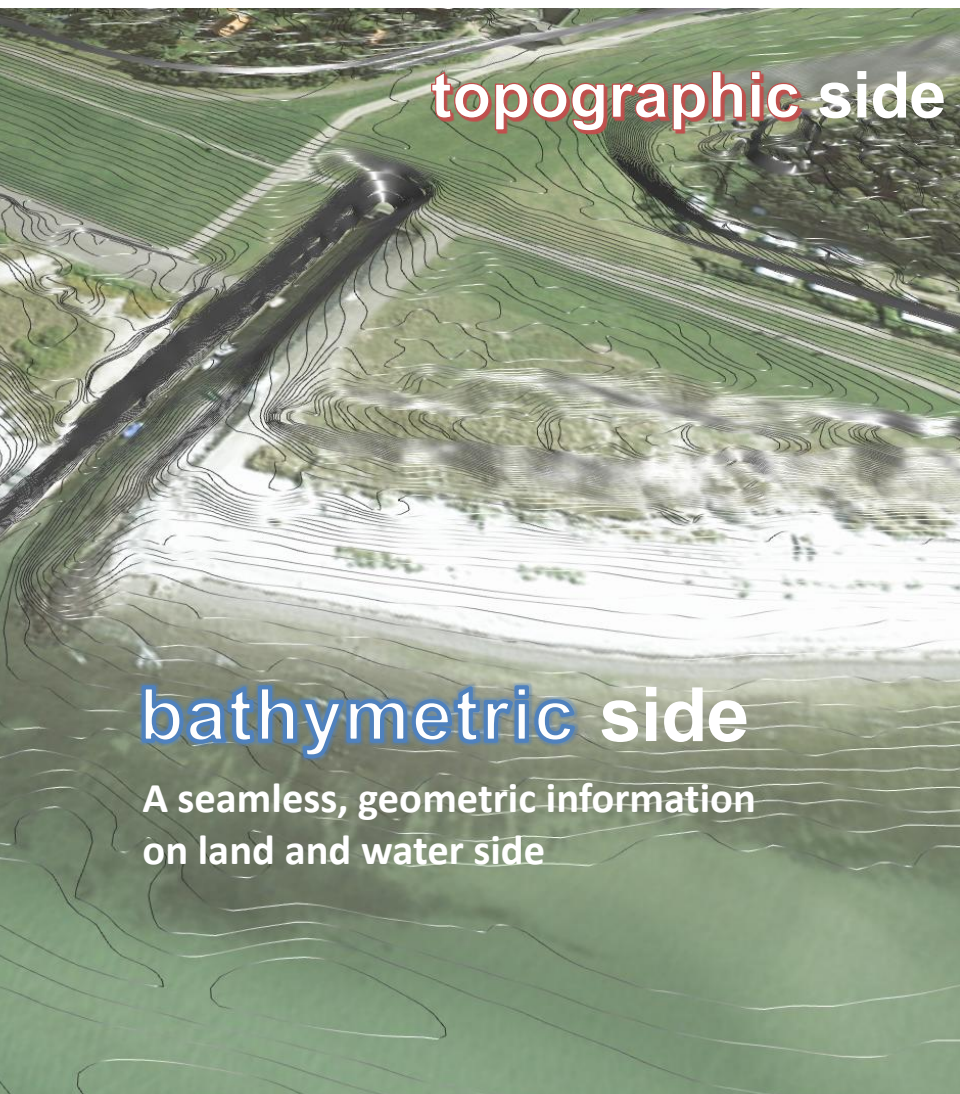
- inclination
- vegetation
- flight planning





# Shadowing

- inclination
- vegetation
- flight planning

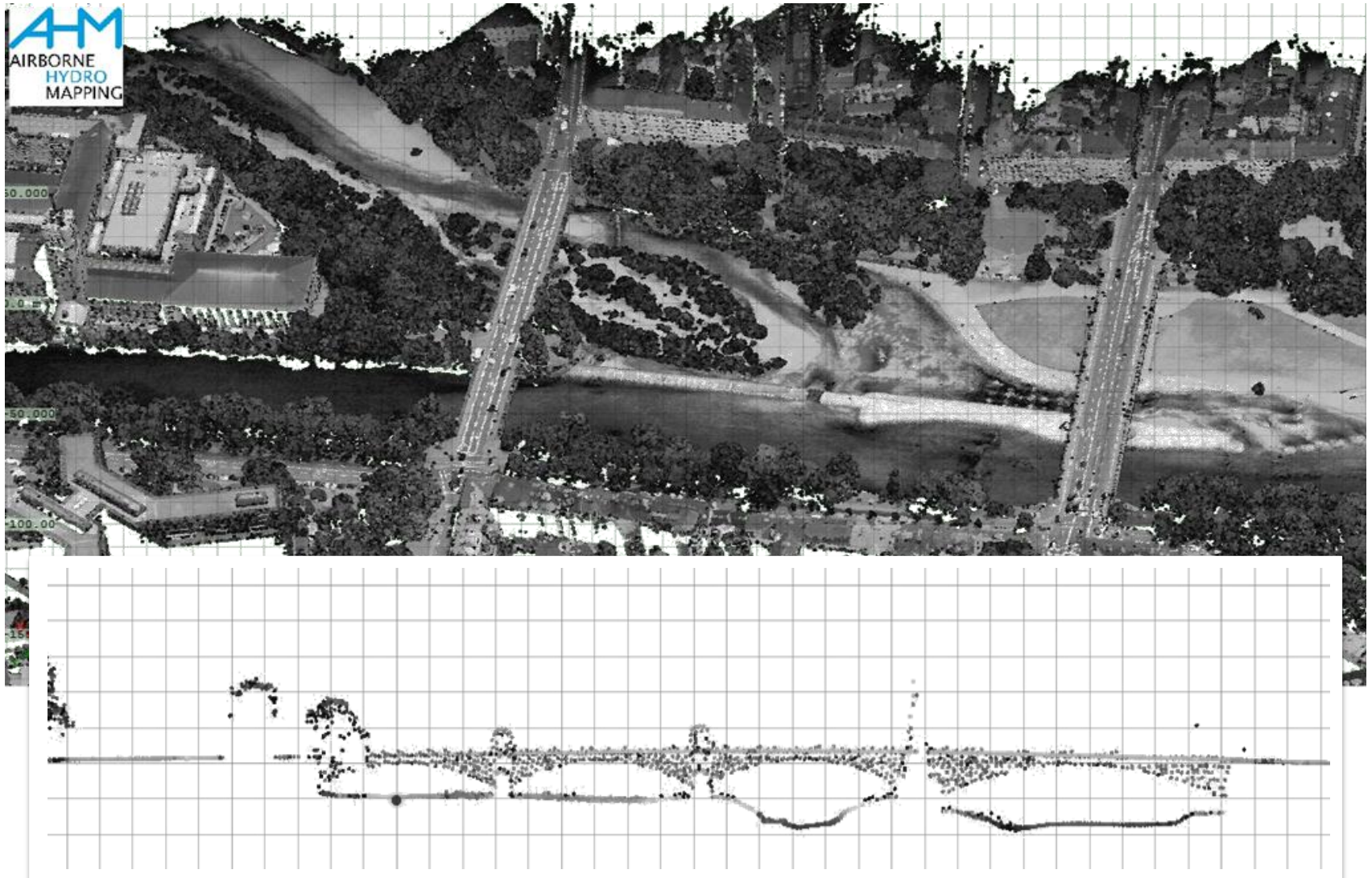




# Shadowing

- inclination
- vegetation
- flight planning

20° inclination

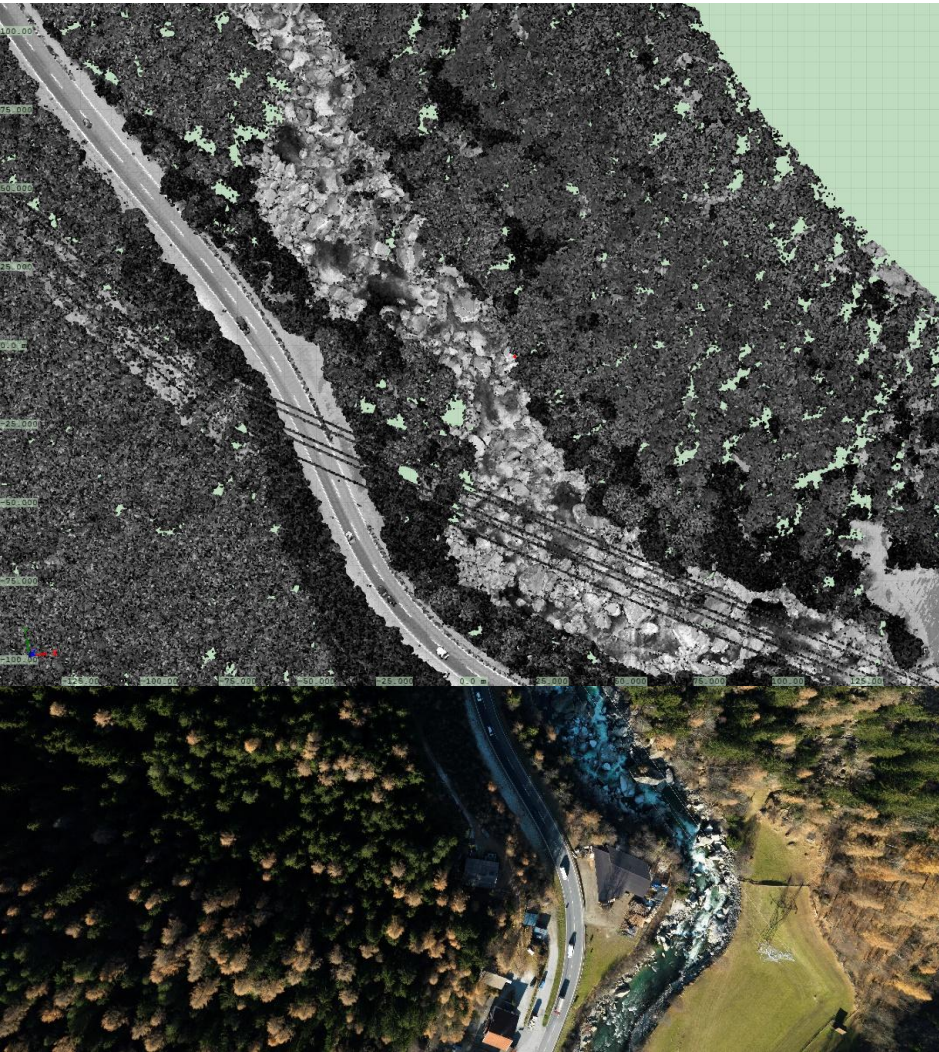




# Shadowing

- inclination
- vegetation
- flight planning

## Ötztaler Ache vs. Wertach



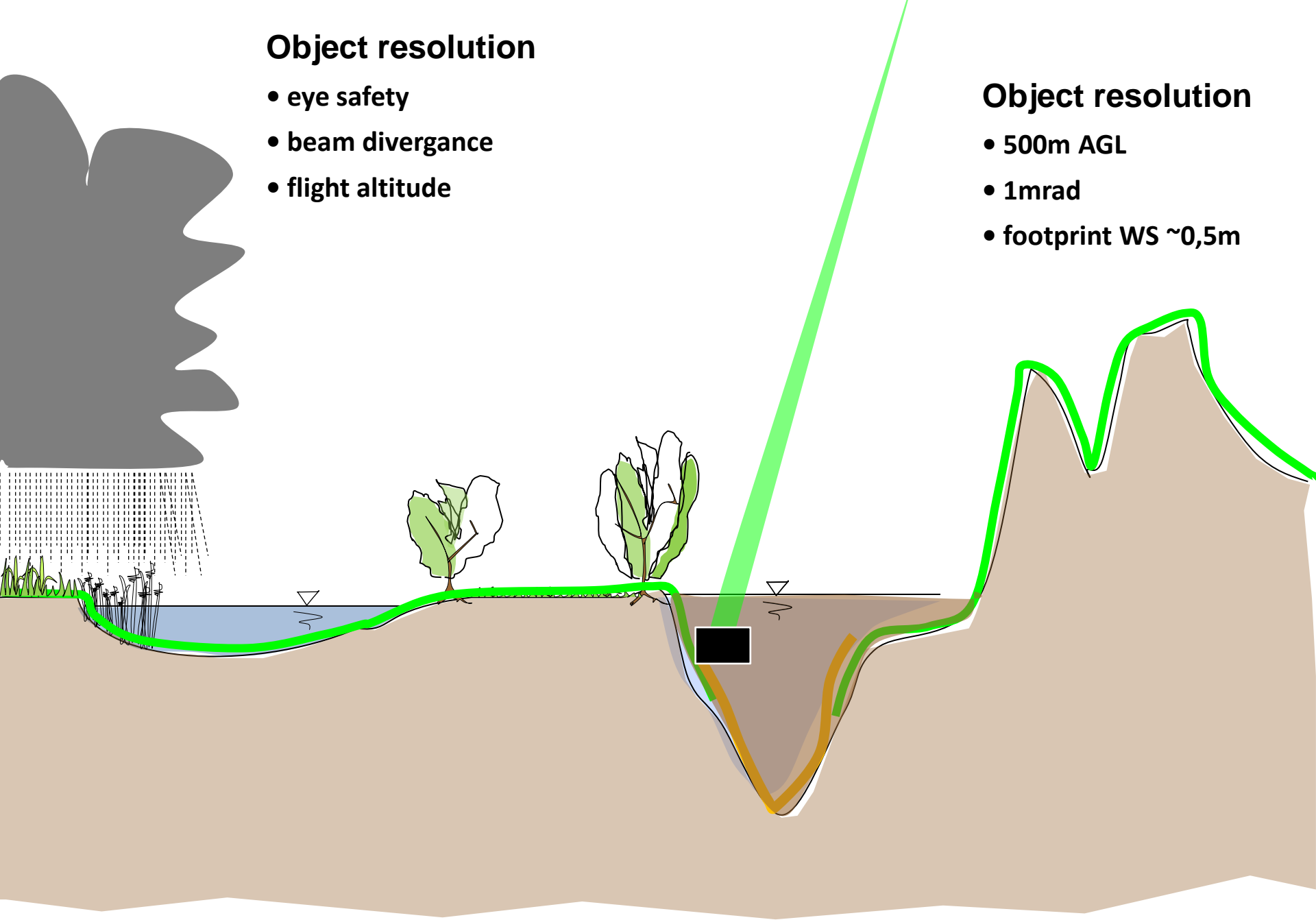


## Object resolution

- eye safety
- beam divergance
- flight altitude

## Object resolution

- 500m AGL
- 1mrad
- footprint WS ~0,5m





## On the performance of topobathymetric LiDAR in shallow water environments

Aron Gergely<sup>1</sup>, Mikkel S. Andersen<sup>1</sup>, Mathias Teglbrænder-Bjergkvist<sup>1</sup>, Ziad K. Al-Hamdani<sup>2</sup>, Jørgen O. Leth<sup>2</sup>, Frank Steinbacher<sup>3</sup>, Laurids R. Larsen<sup>4</sup>, Carlo Sørensen<sup>5</sup>, Verner B. Ernstsen<sup>\*1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management, University of Copenhagen (\* corresponding author, [vbe@ign.ku.dk](mailto:vbe@ign.ku.dk))

<sup>2</sup> GEUS, Copenhagen

<sup>3</sup> AHM – Airborne Hydro Mapping GmbH, Innsbruck, Austria

<sup>4</sup> NIRAS, Allerød

<sup>5</sup> Danish Coastal Authority, Lemvig / DTU Space, Lyngby

**Mapping shallow water environments** in the land-sea transition zone at high spatial resolution and at large spatial scales is challenging. Historically this has led to gaps between terrestrial and marine surveys. Airborne topobathymetric LiDAR can close this gap and bridge scales from landforms to landscapes; but what is the resolution, smoothing, precision and accuracy of this revolutionizing mapping technology?

### Aim and objectives

The aim is to investigate the performance and the potential of topobathymetric LiDAR in shallow water environments with the specific objectives to:

- determine the resolution and smoothing as well as the vertical precision and accuracy of topobathymetric LiDAR based on object detection.
- assess the potential of topobathymetric LiDAR as a tool to bridge morphological scales and to combine and integrate terrestrial and marine mapping and investigations in the land-sea transition zone.

### Airborne topobathymetric Light Detection And Ranging (LiDAR)

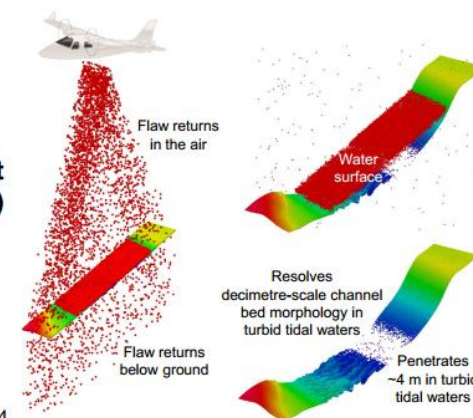
- Water-penetrating green wavelength.
- Seamless topography/bathymetry across the land-water interface.
- Small foot print size.
- High spatial resolution (~20 points/m<sup>2</sup>).

### Field experiment

- Topobathymetric LiDAR surveys in spring 2014.
- Ribe Vesterå river (~7 km reach).
- RIEGL® VQR-820-G airborne green laser scanner.

The resolution and smoothing, and the vertical precision and accuracy were determined from two geometrically defined objects:

- Cement block (250 x 125 x 80 cm) on land close to the Kammerslusen sluice gate.





# Altitude and footprint–object resolution under water

## Aim and objectives

The aim is to investigate the performance and the potential of topobathymetric LiDAR in shallow water environments with the specific objectives to:

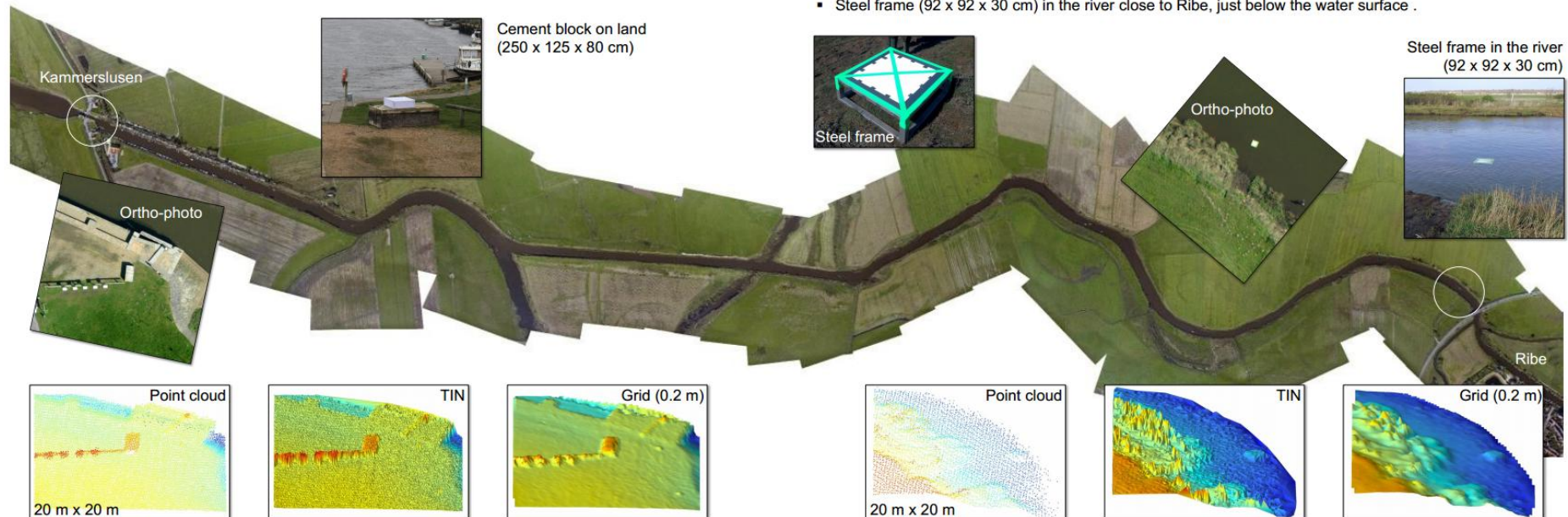
- determine the resolution and smoothing as well as the vertical precision and accuracy of topobathymetric LiDAR based on object detection.
- assess the potential of topobathymetric LiDAR as a tool to bridge morphological scales and to combine and integrate terrestrial and marine mapping and investigations in the land-sea transition zone.

## Field experiment

- Topobathymetric LiDAR surveys in spring 2014.
- Ribe Vesterå river (~7 km reach).
- RIEGL® VQR-820-G airborne green laser scanner.

The resolution and smoothing, and the vertical precision and accuracy were determined from two geometrically defined objects:

- Cement block (250 x 125 x 80 cm) on land close to the Kammerslusen sluice gate.
- Steel frame (92 x 92 x 30 cm) in the river close to Ribe, just below the water surface.

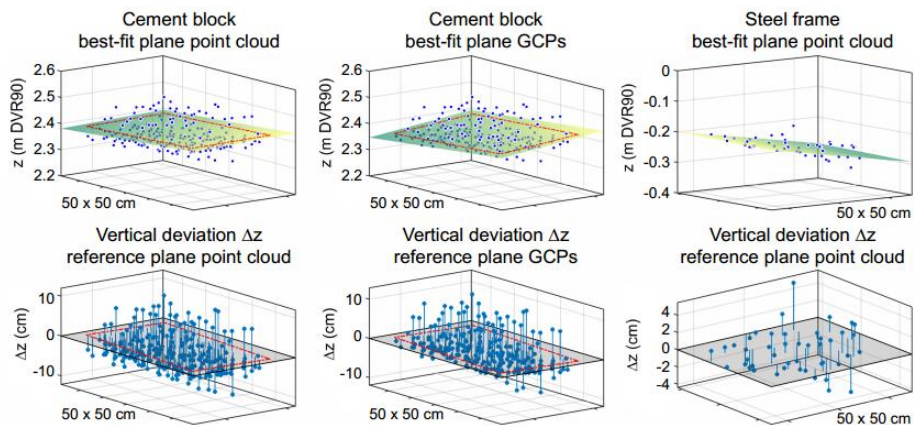




# Altitude and footprint–object resolution under water



## Vertical precision and accuracy



Object	Reference plane	# points n	Min error (cm)	Max error (cm)	Mean error (cm)	STD* (cm)	RMSE** (cm)	95%-confidence (cm)	Precision/Accuracy
Steel frame	Point cloud	46	0.02	5.5	1.6	2.0	1.9	±3.8	Precision
Cement block	Point cloud	227	0.04	12.9	2.8	3.9	3.9	±7.6	Precision
Cement block	GCPs***	227	0.01	12.1	3.5	4.1	4.1	±8.1	Accuracy

\*STD: standard deviation; \*\*RMSE: root mean square error; \*\*\*GCP: ground control point.

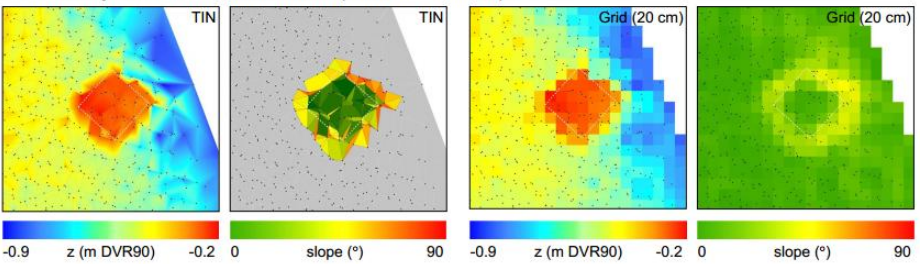
## Concluding remarks and perspectives

- Airborne topobathymetric LiDAR can detect decimetre-scale features in shallow water environments.
- Sharp-edged, sharp-cornored, steep-angled decimetre-scale features are smoothed:
  - Surface areas and volumes are overestimated.
  - Slope angles are underestimated, but slope angles larger than the angle of repose are resolved.

## Resolution and smoothing

- High spatial resolution (point densities > 20 points/m<sup>2</sup>).
- Steel frame (decimetre-scale feature) is detected.
- Smoothing of the surface overestimates the surface area and volume of the steel frame.
- Smoothing of the surface underestimates the slope angles of the steel frame.
- Resolved slope angles of the steel frame > angle of repose.

Steel frame just below the water surface (zoom-in 4 m x 4 m)



	Spatial resolution (points/m <sup>2</sup> )	Surface area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )	Mean slope (°)	STD* (°)	RMSE** (°)
Reference	-	1.95	0.25	90	-	-
TIN	> 20	3.10 (1.6)	0.42 (1.6)	56 (0.6)	16	38
Grid (0.2 m)	> 20	2.85 (1.5)	0.43 (1.7)	30 (0.3)	7	60

\*STD: standard deviation of the point cloud; \*\*RMSE: root mean square error from a 90° angle.

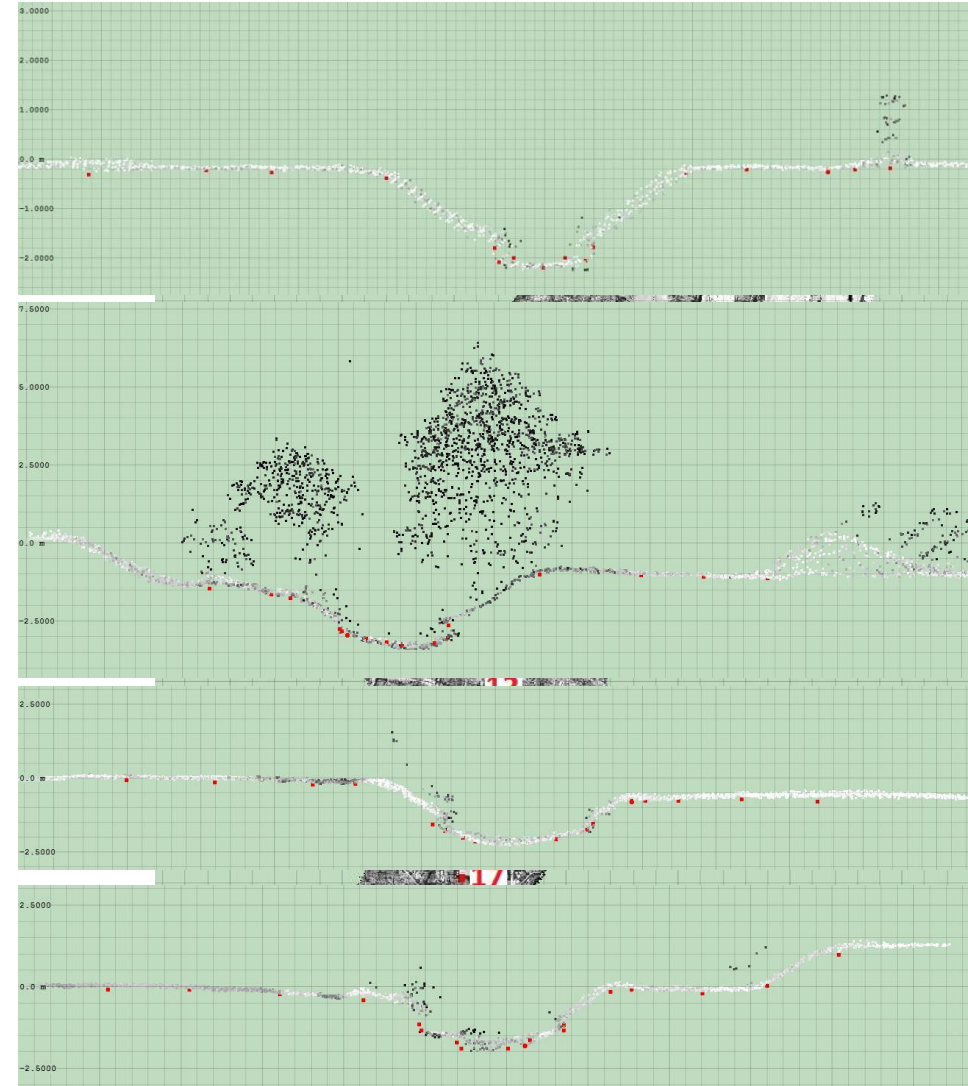
- Precision and accuracy is at centimetre-scale.
- Airborne topobathymetric LiDAR has the potential to bridge morphological scales and, therefore, to combine and integrate terrestrial and marine mapping and investigations in the land-sea transition zone; this enables a closing of the historical gap between terrestrial and marine surveys.



# Object resolution

- eye safety
- beam divergance
- flight altitude

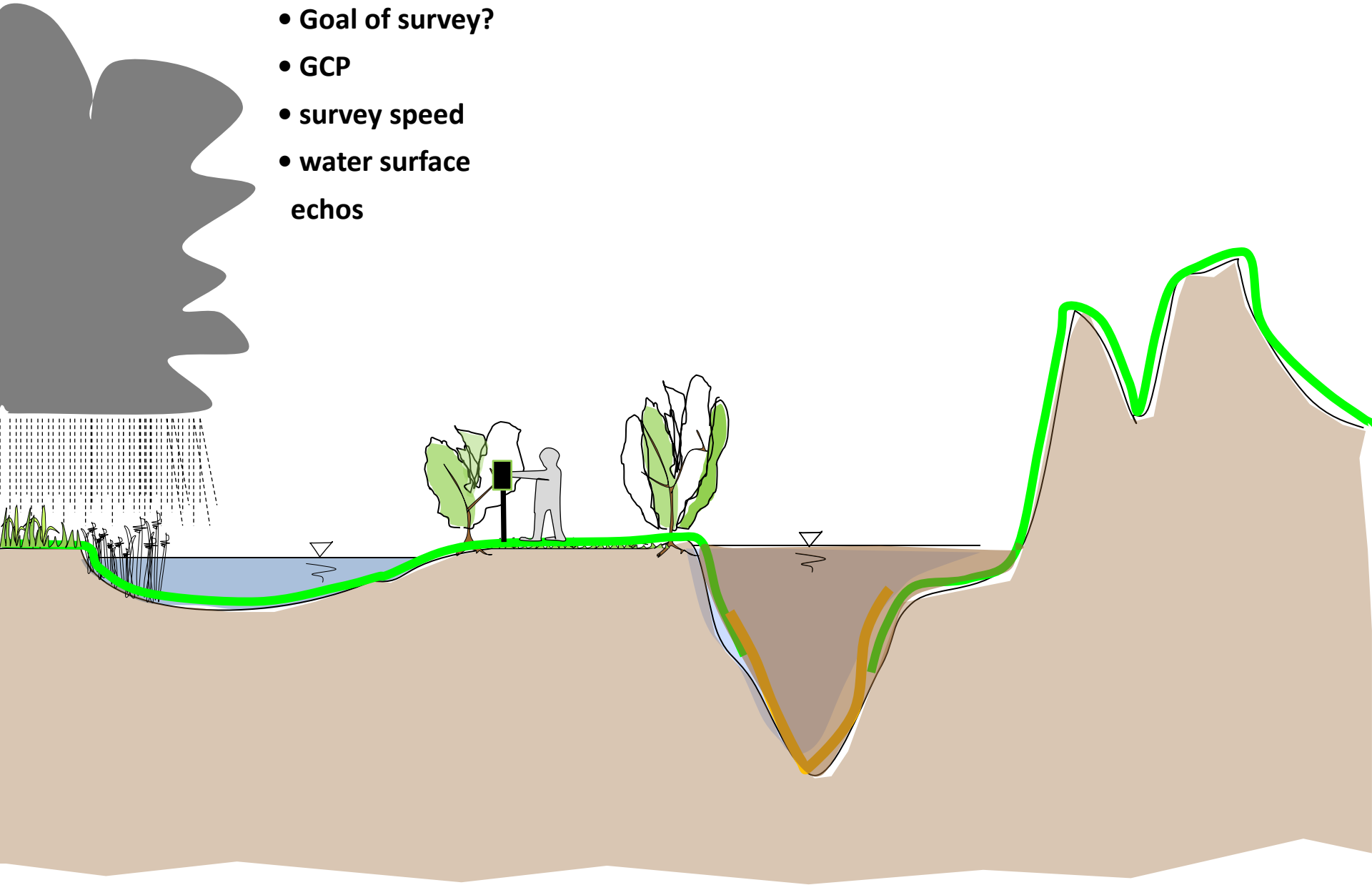
## Ammersee vs. Hachinger Bach





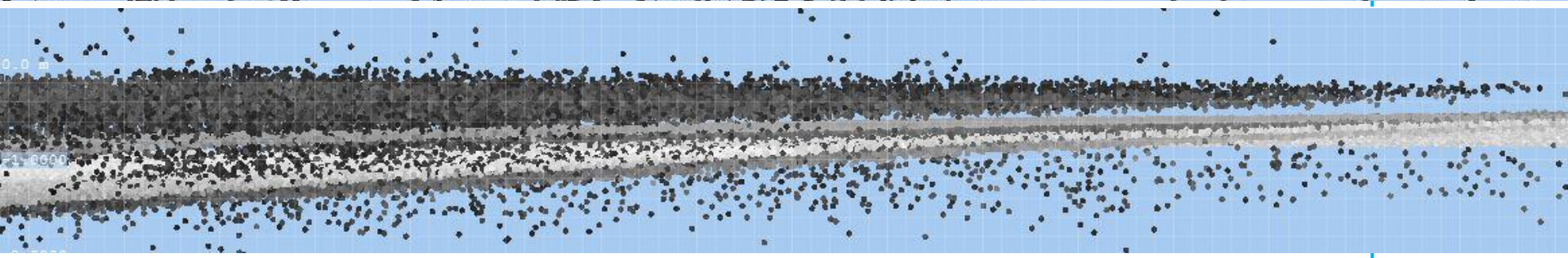
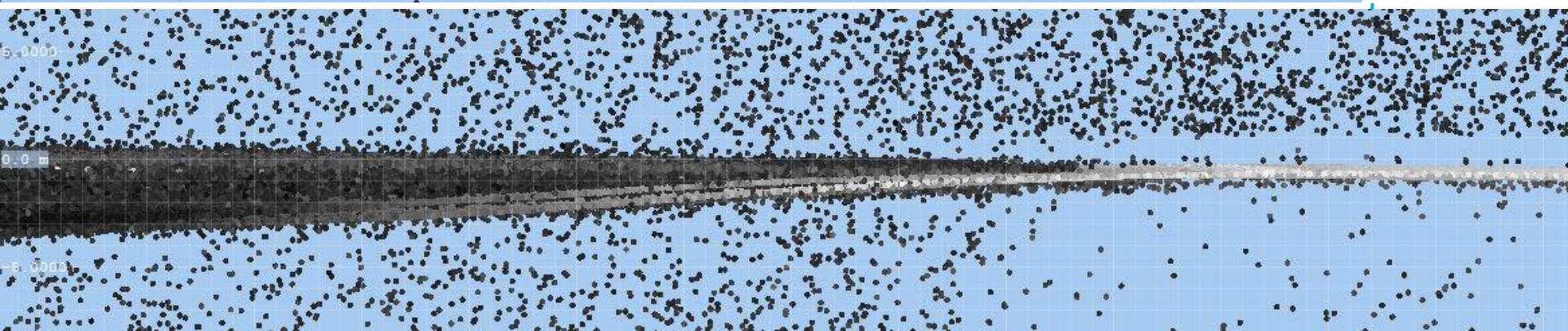
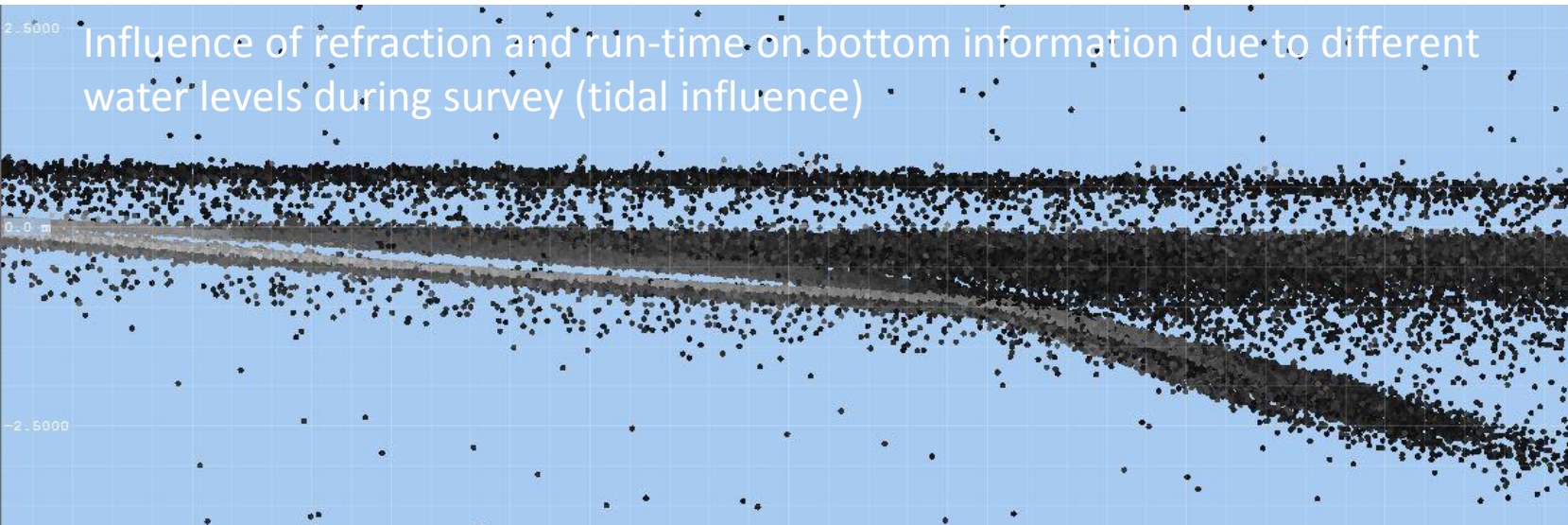
## Data quality

- Goal of survey?
- GCP
- survey speed
- water surface  
echos





# Changing water level





# Changing water level

- Survey parameters
- Survey duration
- **Survey conditions**

Detecting of water surface waves

These waves need to become part of the water surface model



# Changing water level

- Noise and false point removal (QC on results)
- **Water surface classification and water surface model (QC on results)**
- Refraction (QC)
- Classification
- Rasterization
- DTM / Meshing / Data combination with MBES
- Visualization



Detecting of water surface waves

Waves within water surface model





[www.ahm.co.at](http://www.ahm.co.at)