

# Science motivations and introductory remarks

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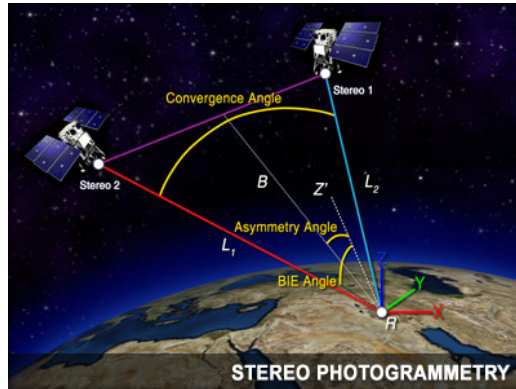


# OpenTopography

*High-Resolution Topography Data and Tools*

# 3D IMAGING WITH CAMERAS & LASERS

## Space-based



Meters to centimeters spatial sampling

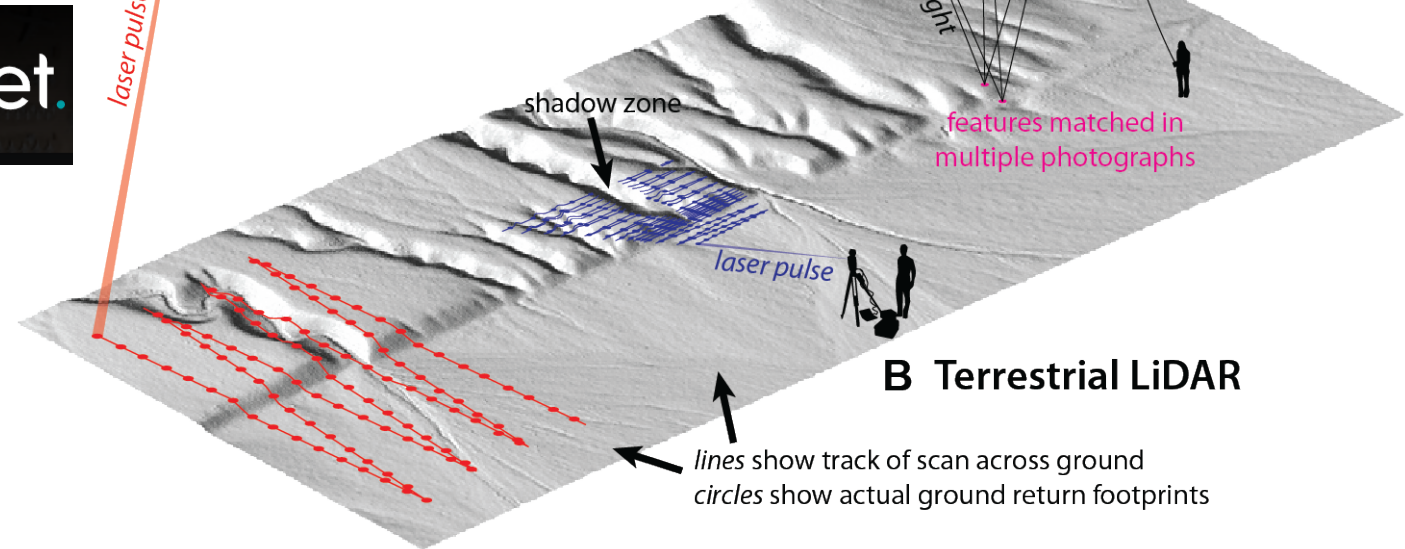
## A Airborne LiDAR



onboard GPS and IMU  
constrain position and  
orientation of aircraft

distance between scanner and  
ground return determined from  
delay between outgoing pulse  
and reflected return

laser pulse



## B Terrestrial LiDAR

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

## C Structure from Motion

motion of camera  
provides depth  
information

sequence of  
photographs

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

features matched in  
multiple photographs



*Johnson et al., Geosphere, 2014*

**Need ~<meter-scale sampling to cover critical scale breaks  
and temporal repeat to address log(t) response of some phenomena**

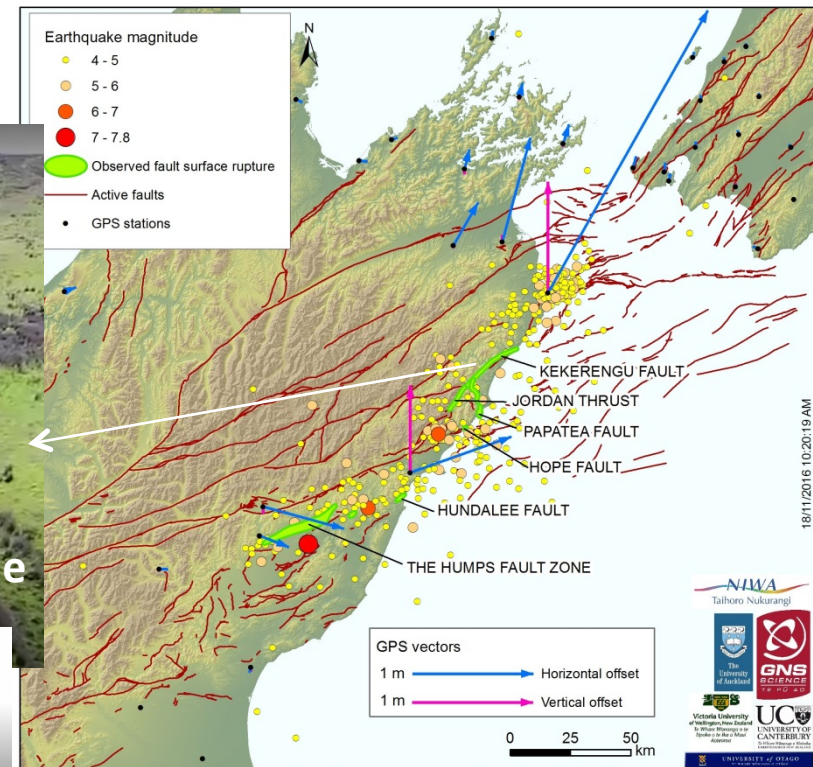
# Science requirements

- 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

Drone video of the Kekerengu Fault rupture



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3H8wlzXGYE&feature=youtu.be>





Drone video of the Kekerengu Fault rupture



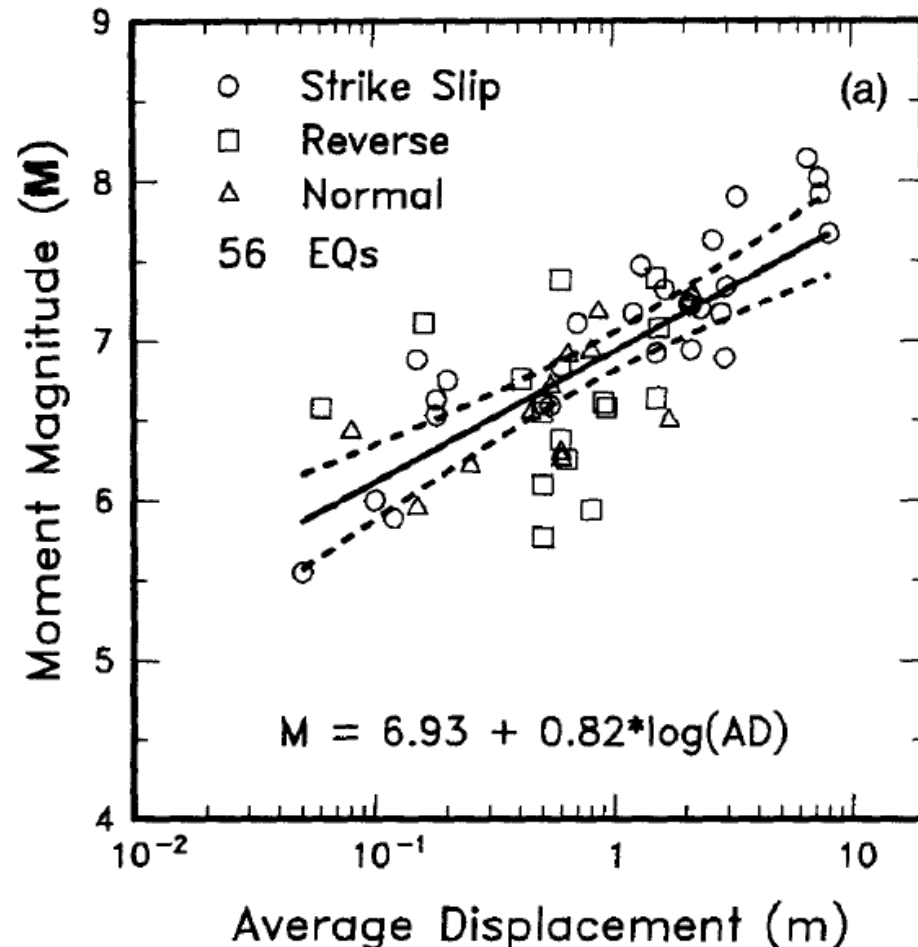
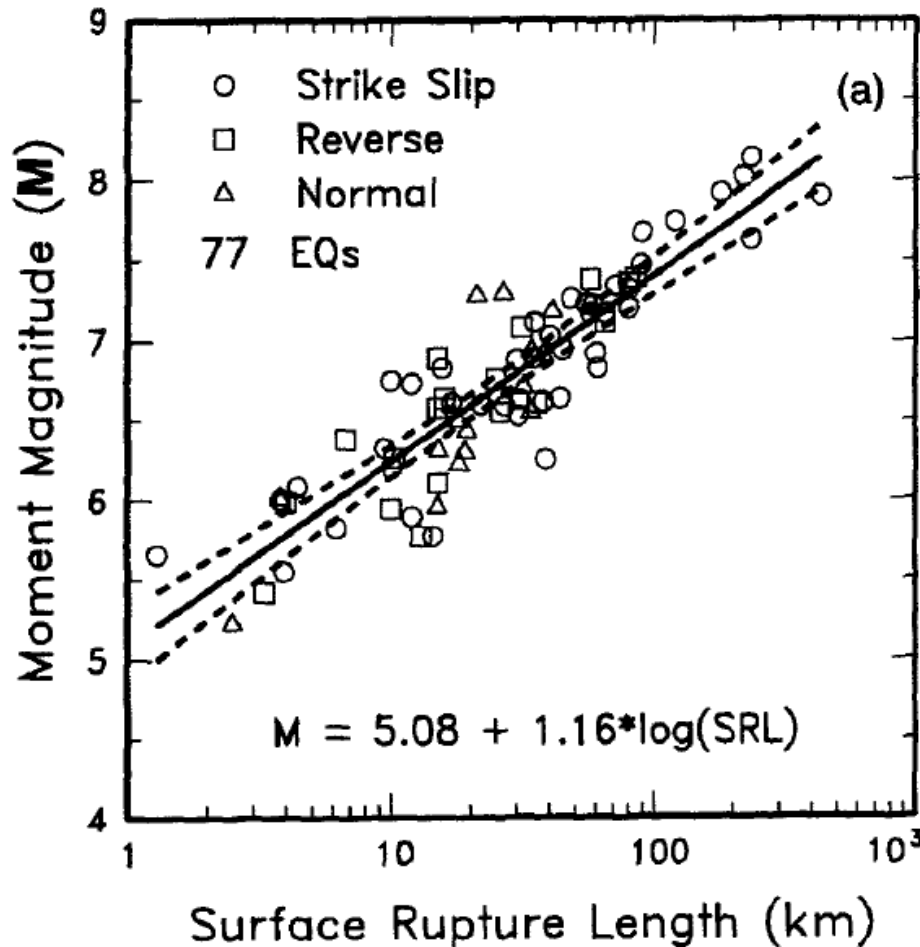
The Kekerengu Fault is one of several faults that ruptured during the Kaikoura Earthquake

Kekerengu alone is 30+ km of this intricate ground rupture

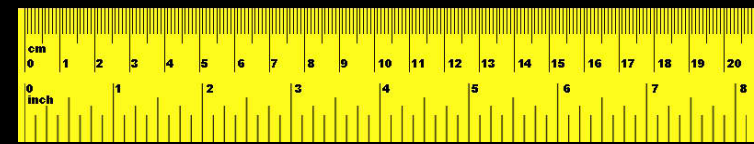


# Length scales $>10^5\text{m}$ and $<1\text{ m}$

Wells and Coppersmith, 1994



“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.*

Applies in particular to statistical self similarity

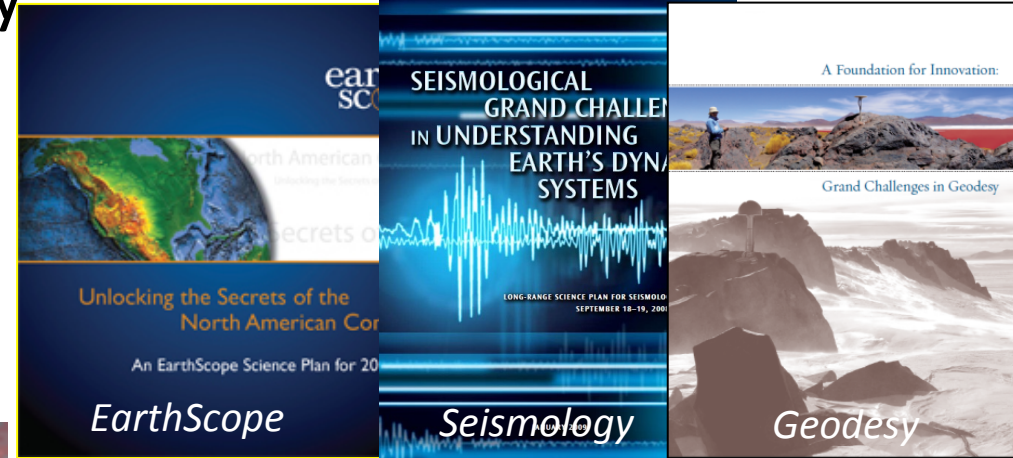
**How long is the coast of Britain?**  
**Statistical self-similarity and fractional dimension**  
Science: 156, 1967, 636-638

B. B. Mandelbrot

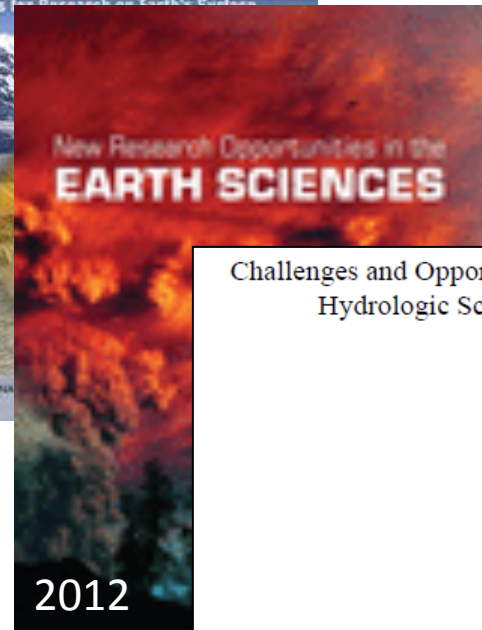
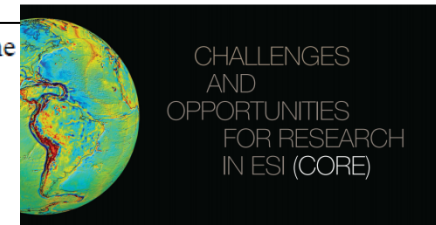


# Major US community studies recognize the scientific value of high resolution topography

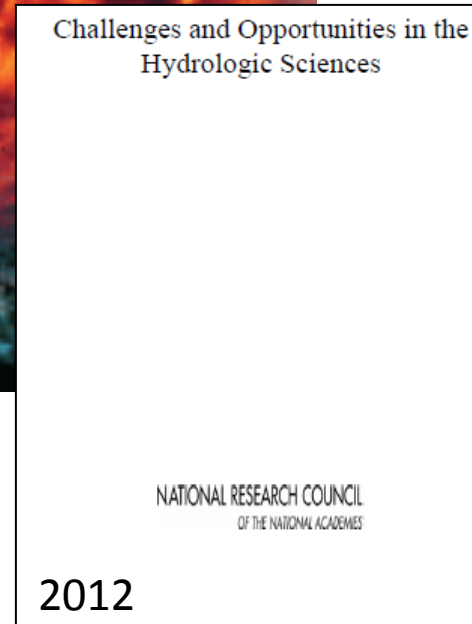
Science communities



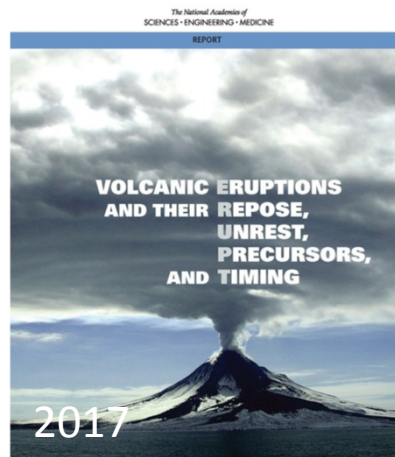
2016



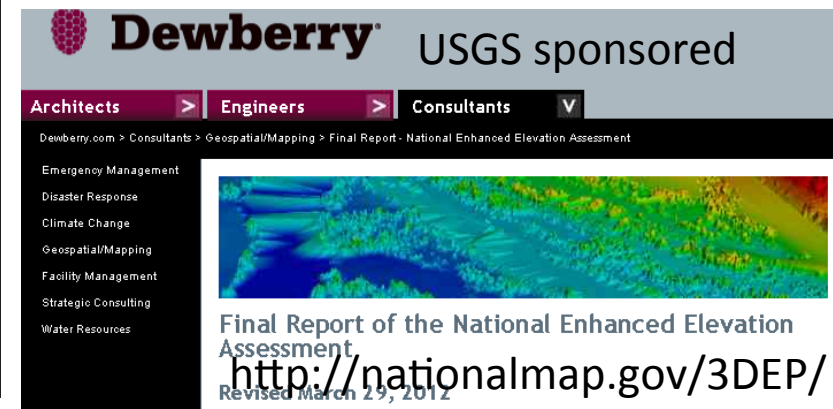
2012



2012

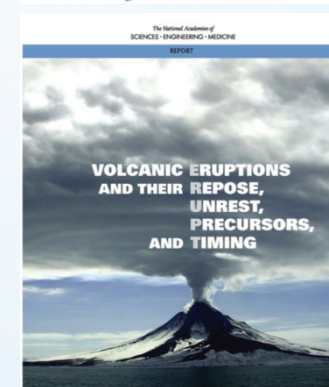
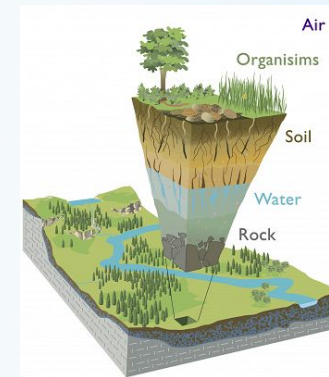


2017

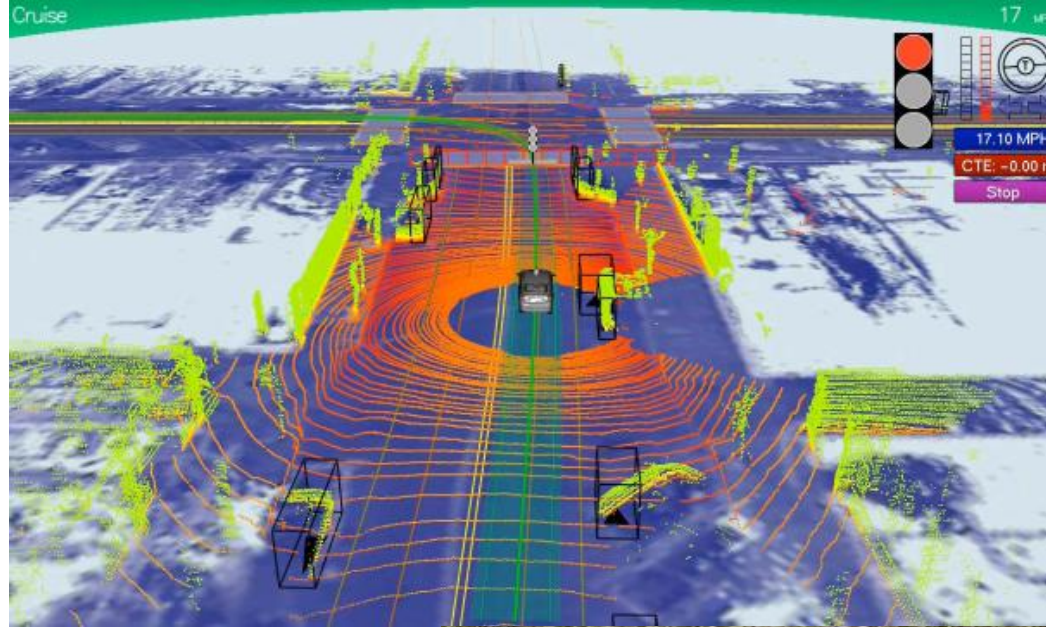


# Example scientific motivations

- 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?
- How do faults rupture and slip throughout multiple earthquake cycles and what are the implications for earthquake hazard?
- Landscape and ecosystem dynamics
- Volcano form and process
- Changes in volume of domes, edifice, flows







*Google car: Gb/  
sec high accuracy  
navigation data*



*Modeling the World from Internet Photo  
Collections (Snavely, et al., Int J Comput  
Vis , 2007)*

***Ubiquitous point clouds + 3D models:*** coordinated (mapping and monitoring)  
and haphazard (autonomous navigation, individual photo collections, etc.)

**-Need open access and cyberinfrastructure to support archive, and rapid query, data  
handling, preprocessing, and differencing**