

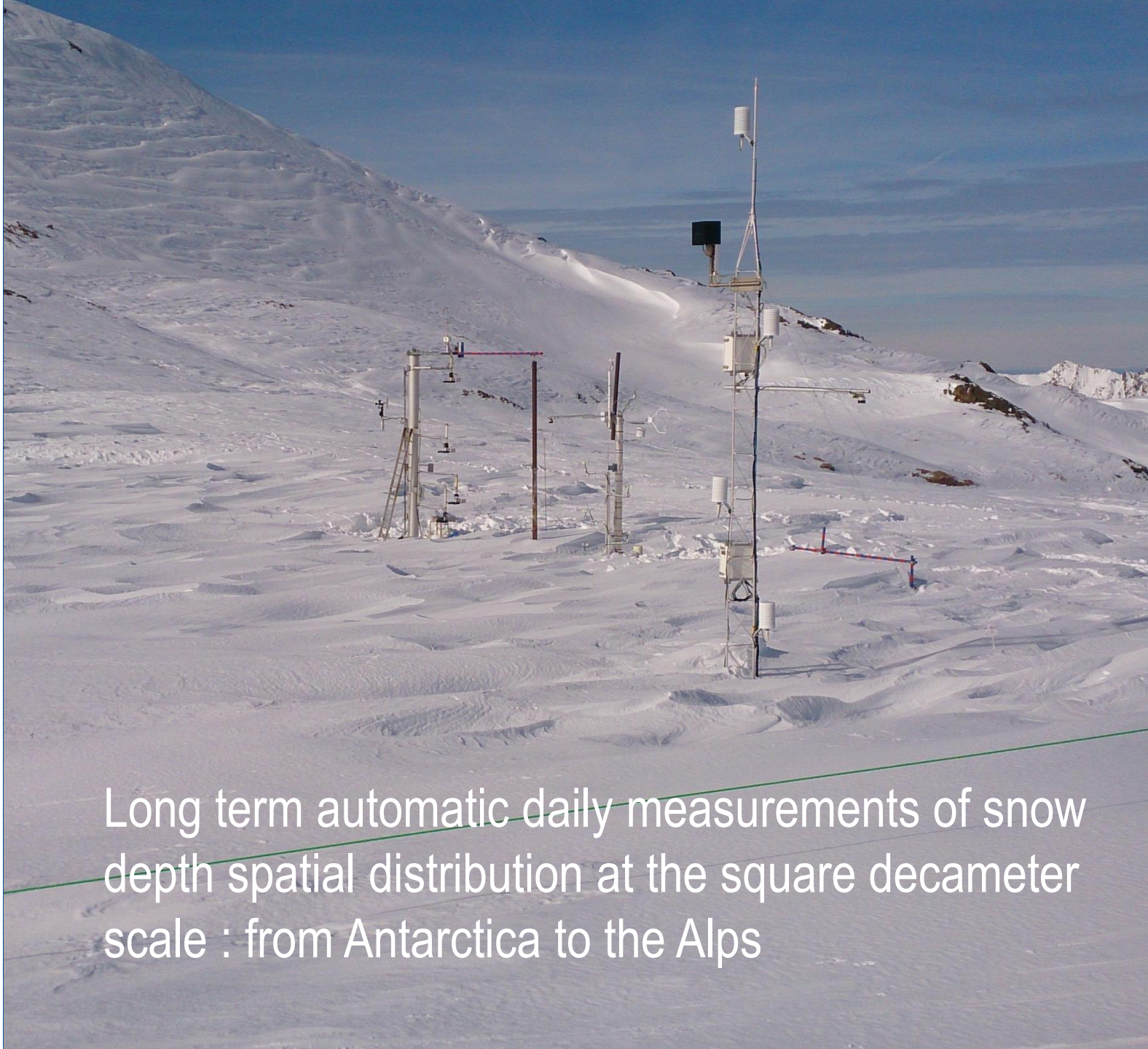
*G. Picard*  
*L. Arnaud*  
*C. Amory*



*F. Naaim-Bouvet*  
*H. Bellot*



*J.M. Panel*  
*S. Morin*  
*E. Le Gac*  
*L. Pezard*  
*V. Vionnet*  
*G. Guyomarc'h*  
*Y. Deliot*



Long term automatic daily measurements of snow  
depth spatial distribution at the square decameter  
scale : from Antarctica to the Alps



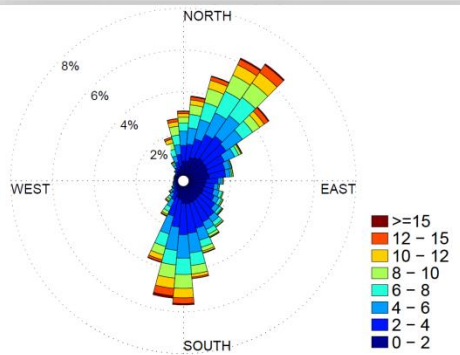
# 1. Snow depth measurements in windy areas

2



## > Lac Blanc Pass

### • Data collected from 1989



- Drifting snow : 10% of time during winter
- Drifting snow > 100 t/m<sup>2</sup>/year

Vionnet, V., Guyomarc'h, G., Naaim Bouvet, F., Martin, E., Durand, Y., Bel, C., Bellot, H., Pugliese, P. 2013. Occurrence of blowing snow events at an alpine site over a 10-year period: observations and modeling, *Adv. Water Res.*, 55, 53-63.

Naaim Bouvet, F., Bellot, H., Naaim, M., Back analysis of drifting snow measurements over an instrumented mountainous site, *Annals of Glaciology*, International Glaciological Society, 2010, 51 (54), p. 207 - p. 217.

# 1. Snow depth measurements in windy areas

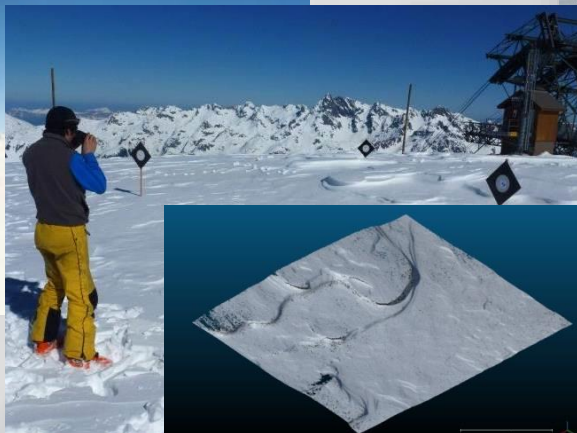
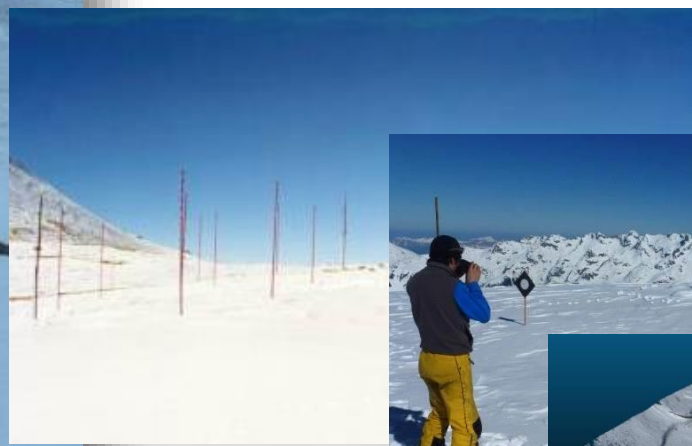
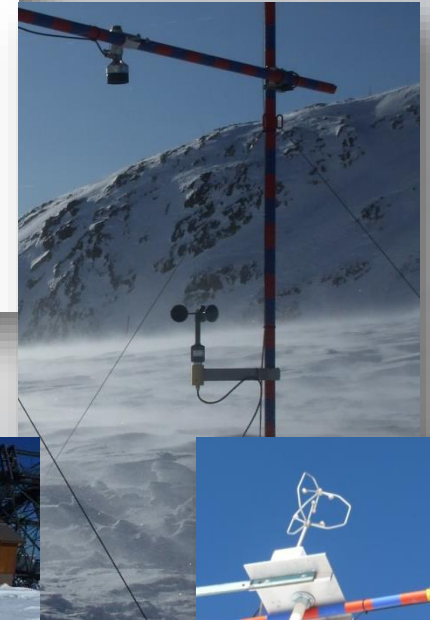
3



## > Different snow depth sensors for different types of measurements



|                                                            |    |        |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----|--------|
| Snow depth (HS) - Stakes                                   | 32 | 53.3 % |
| Snow depth (HS) - Rulers                                   | 22 | 36.7 % |
| Snow depth (HS) - Snow probe                               | 19 | 31.7 % |
| Snow depth (HS) - MagnaProbe                               | 3  | 5 %    |
| Snow depth (HS) - Ultrasonic and laser depth sensors       | 34 | 56.7 % |
| Snow depth (HS) - Time-lapse photography                   | 8  | 13.3 % |
| Snow depth (HS) - Terrestrial and air-borne Laser Scanner  | 12 | 20 %   |
| Snow depth (HS) - Unmanned Aerial Vehicle & Photogrammetry | 7  | 11.7 % |
| Snow depth (HS) - Ground Penetrating Radar                 | 6  | 10 %   |



Schon, P., Prokop, A., Vionnet, V., Guyomarc'h, G., Naaim Bouvet, F., 2015. Improving a terrain-based parameter for the assessment of snow depths with TLS data in the Col du Lac Blanc, Cold Region Science and Technology, 114, 15-26

Bellot, H., Naaim Bouvet, F., Ito, Y., Deschatres, M., Amory C., Characterization of sastrugi fields with TLS and simple digital photos, EGU 2014, Vienna.



# 1. Snow depth measurements in windy areas

4



> ..... among other sensors



|                                                                          |    |        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|--------|
| Drifting snow occurrence - Visual observation                            | 12 | 28.6 % |
| Number flux of drifting snow - Snow particle counter                     | 5  | 11.9 % |
| Number flux of drifting snow - Mechanical trap & wind speed measurements | 3  | 7.1 %  |
| Number flux of drifting snow - Camera system with light source           | 1  | 2.4 %  |
| Number flux of drifting snow - FlowCapt acoustic sensor                  | 8  | 19 %   |
| Number flux of drifting snow - Disdrometer                               | 4  | 9.5 %  |



# 1. Snow depth measurements in windy areas

5



> ..... among other sensors



|                                                              |   |        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------|
| Snow roughness length (aerodynamic roughness) - Wind profile | 4 | 6.7 %  |
| Snow surface roughness - Laser scanner                       | 8 | 13.3 % |
| Snow surface roughness - Photography                         | 8 | 13.3 % |



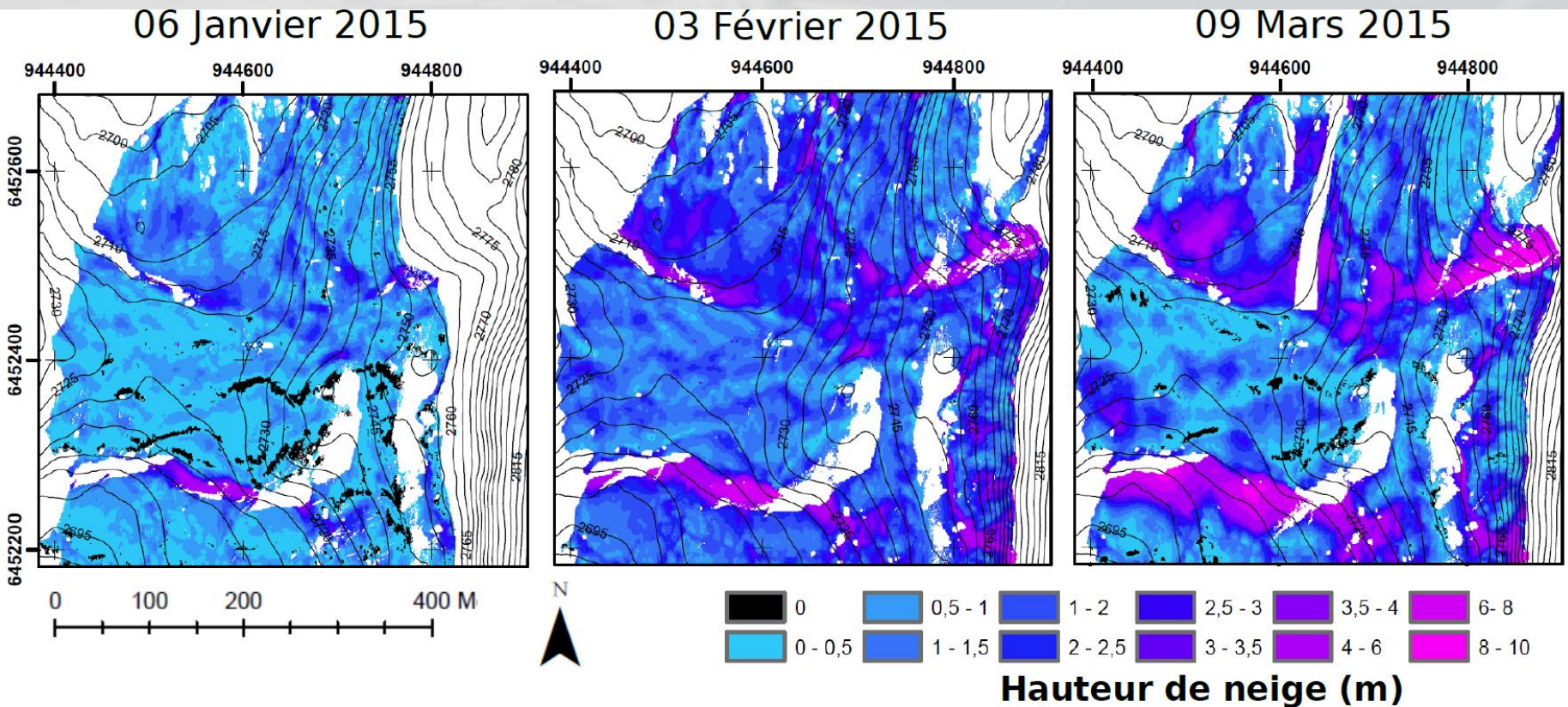


# 1. Snow depth measurements in windy areas

7



## > Influence of topography



- Raster : 1m\*1m

# 1. Snow depth measurements in windy areas

8



## > Influence of topography - but not only --!



- Sastrugi : elongated metric-scale ridges of wind-packed snow whose longitudinal axis is parallel to the prevailing wind at the time of their formation

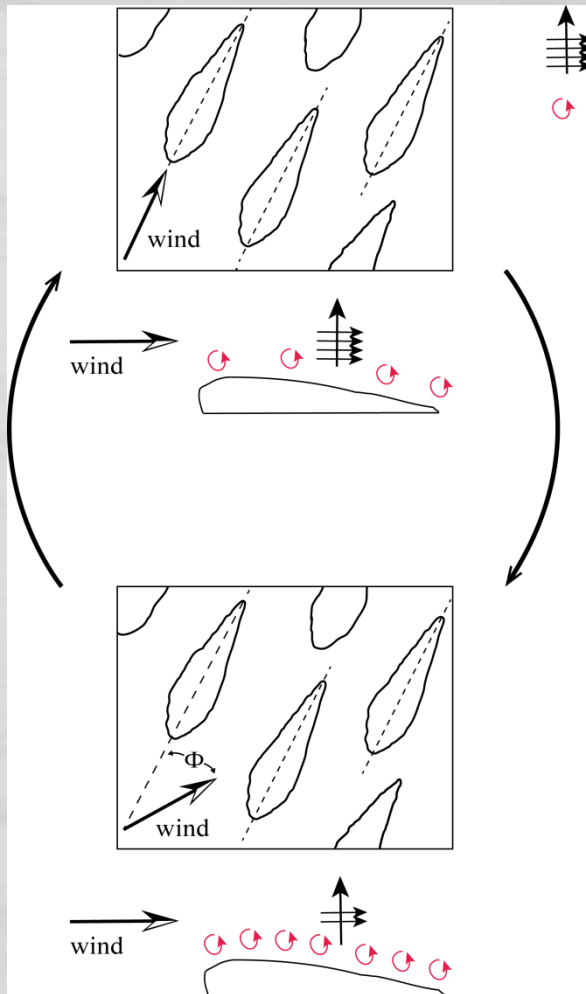
- Raster : 1m\*1m is not enough



## 2. Focus on sastruggi

9

### > Sastrugi aerodynamical adjustment

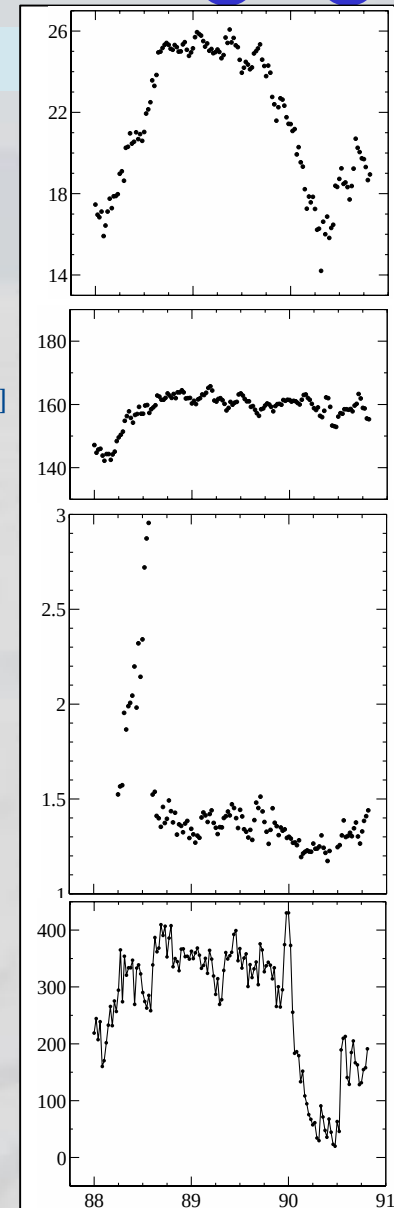


$U_{2m}$  [m.s<sup>-1</sup>]

Direction [deg]

$10^3$   
 $C_{DN10}$

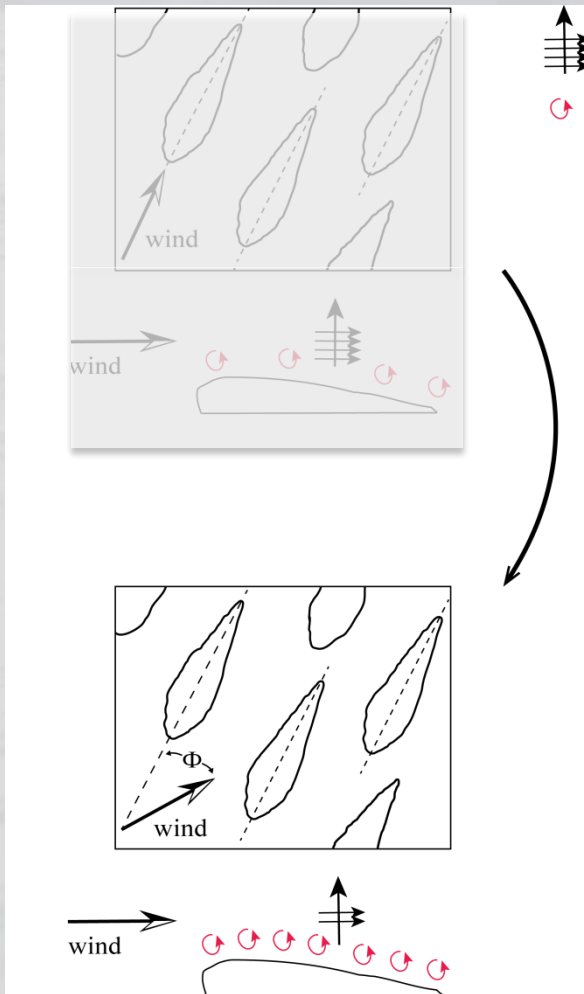
Horizontal drifting snow  
flux [g.m<sup>-2</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup>]



## 2. Focus on sastruggi

10

### > Sastrugi aerodynamical adjustment

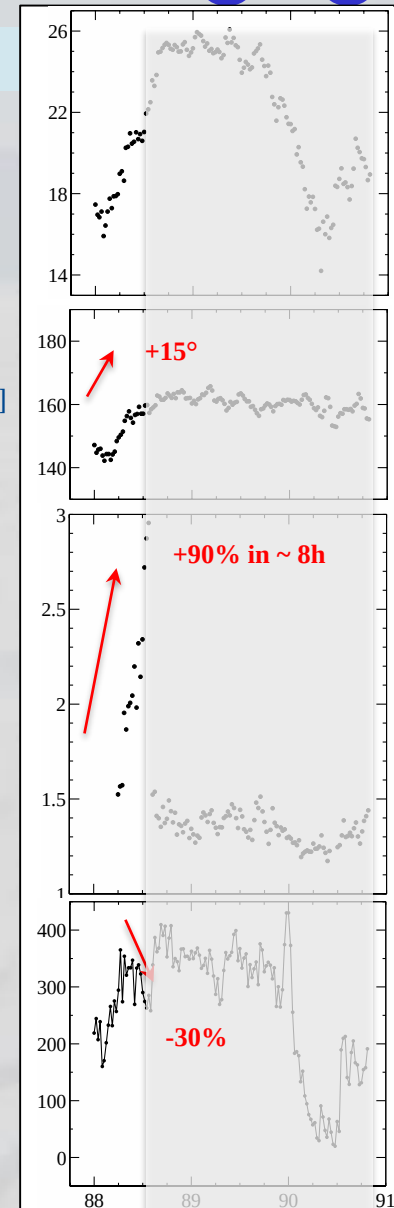


$U_{2m}$  [m.s<sup>-1</sup>]

Direction [deg]

$10^3$   
 $C_{DN10}$

Horizontal drifting snow  
flux [g.m<sup>-2</sup>.s<sup>-1</sup>]

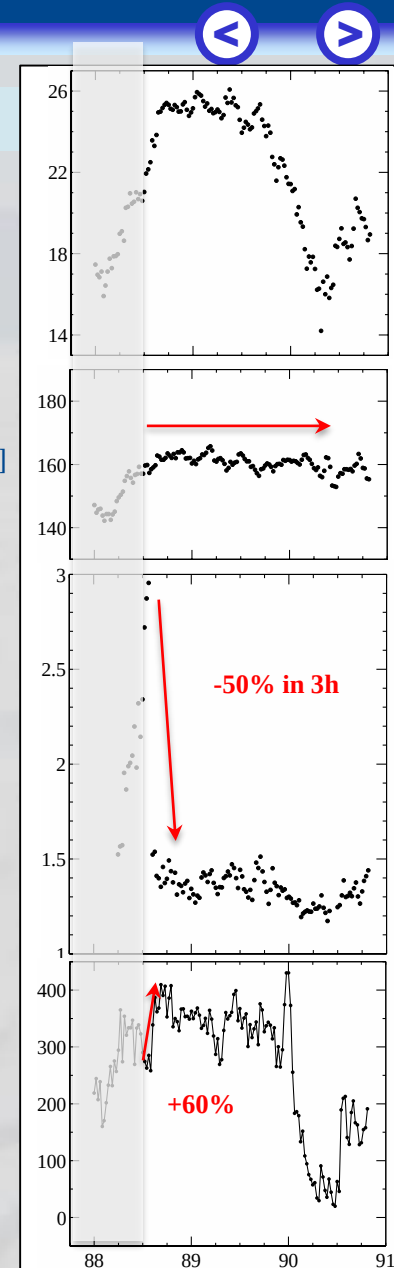
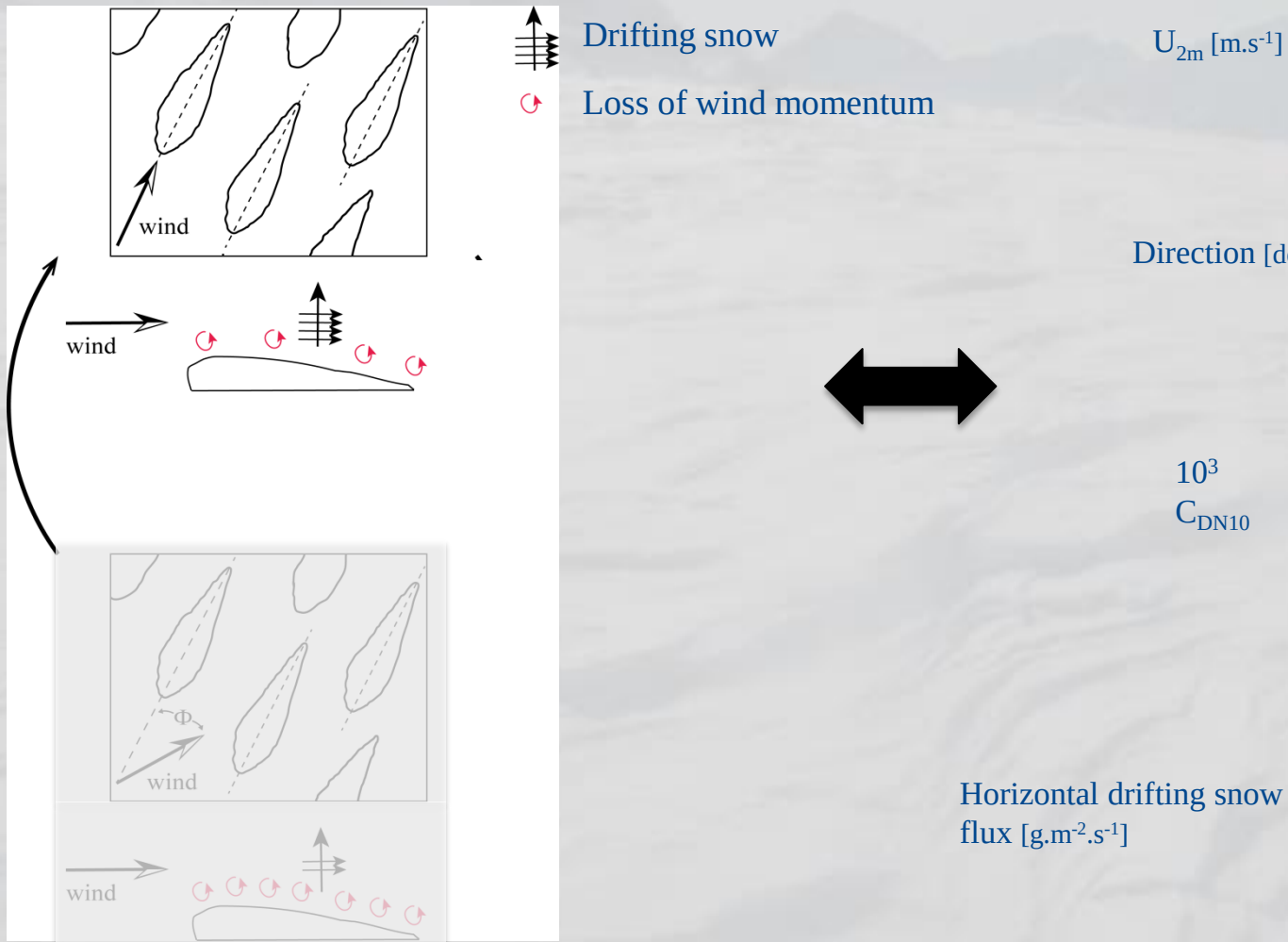




## 2. Focus on sastruggi

11

### > Sastrugi aerodynamical adjustment

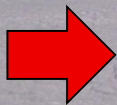


## 2. Focus on sastruggi

12



- > Real-time monitoring of surface roughness would advance understanding of physical process



- Development of an automatic laser-scan (ANR Monisnow)

# 3. Automatic Laserscan

13



## > Hardware

Lasermeter (DIMETIX FLS-CH 30 with Heater)

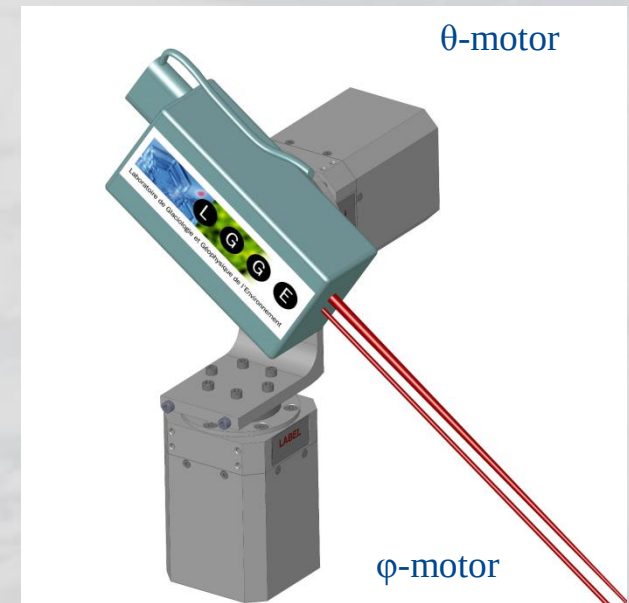
- red laser
- accuracy 3 mm
- max range 65 m (indoor ?)
- temperature range : -40°C to +50°C
- measure rate: 20 Hz

Two-axis rotation platform

- designed and built by Alpes Instruments and LGGE
- precision : 0.05°
- speed : 0.5 - 8 deg/s

Others :

- two-axis inclinometer
- embedded computer with linux
- Python/C driver softwares developed at LGGE



ALPES INSTRUMENTS



# 3. Automatic Laserscan

14



## > Comparison with commercial laserscanner

Our laserscanner is RUGGED:

20 Hz with accuracy  
(200 Hz possible, not tested).

Autonomous

- Tested at -70°C
  - Operating at Dome C for 1 year  
(up to -80°C)
- ~12000€



Commercial laserscanners are FAST

1kHz - 1MHz

User-operated

~150000€

### 3. Automatic Laserscan

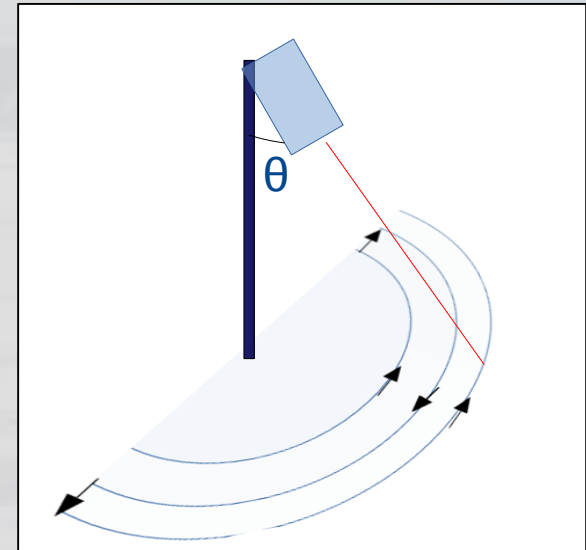
15



#### > Two operating modes

- **Scan mode : produce a map of height**

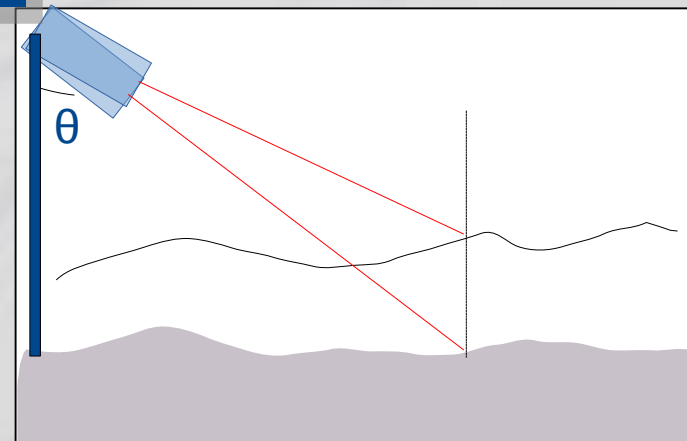
- A series of concentric arcs at constant speed from  $\theta = 19^\circ$  to  $62^\circ$
- $\theta$  increment and  $\phi$  speed depends on  $\tan(\theta)$  to ensure constant resolution on the ground
- Duration : 4h (once a day)
- A scan is approx 200 000 points



- **Spot mode : measure height at selected points**

Search x,y by scanning in  $\theta$  and return height at x,y

Duration : 1min / point  
(65 points every 2h)



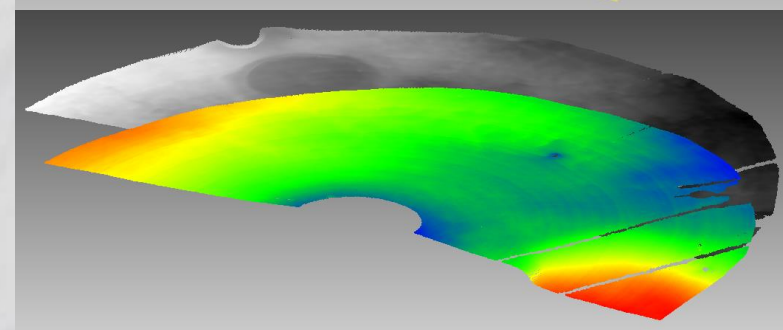
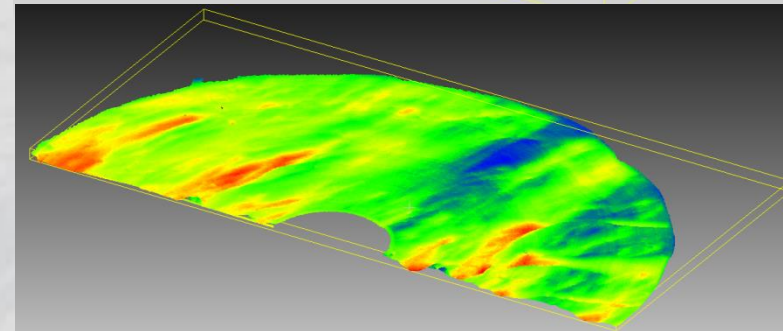
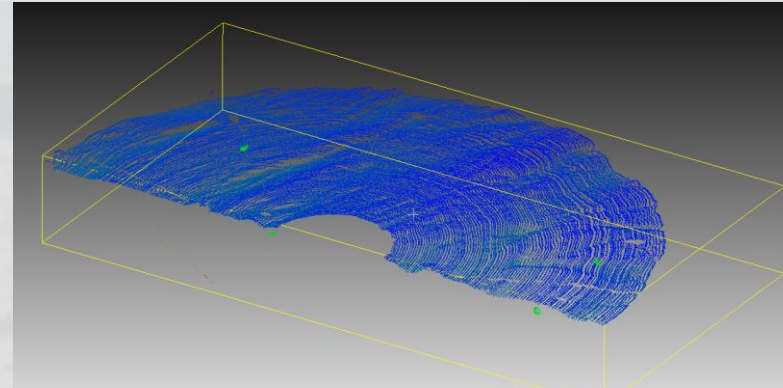
# 3. Automatic Laserscan

16



## > Processing

- $\theta, \phi, \text{range} \rightarrow x, y, z$
- rotation to ensure  $x, y$  is horizontal  
(constant transformation for each site derived from 4 spheres set up in an horizontal plane)
- remove known artifacts (cables, mast, spheres, ...)
- filter : remove outliers  
(departure from the local mean in a 5-cm radius disk is limited to 5 cm)
- mesh and resample on a regular grid
- subtract the ground  $\rightarrow h(x, y)$
- compute stats





# 3. Automatic Laserscan

17



## > Deployment

Col de Porte, French Alps  
2014-2015

Height: 5.2 m  
Covered area: 100m<sup>2</sup>  
Daily scan  
Scan duration: 5h  
Spot mode: every 2h  
Effective resolution: 5 cm



Dome C, Antarctica  
2014-2015-2016

Height: 3.1m  
Covered area: 50m<sup>2</sup>  
Daily scan  
Scan duration: 4h  
Effective resolution: 3 cm



Lac Blanc Pass, French Alps  
2015-2016

Height: 6 m  
Covered area: 180 m<sup>2</sup>  
Daily scan  
Scan duration: 4h  
Effective resolution: 5 cm



# 3. Automatic Laserscan

18



## > Results (laser-scan in spot-mode)

Col de Porte, French Alps

- Intrinsic accuracy is 3 mm of the telemeter
- Intrinsic accuracy of the platform: 0.05°

Comparison with 3 telemeters deployed for SPICE (laserscan is in spot mode)



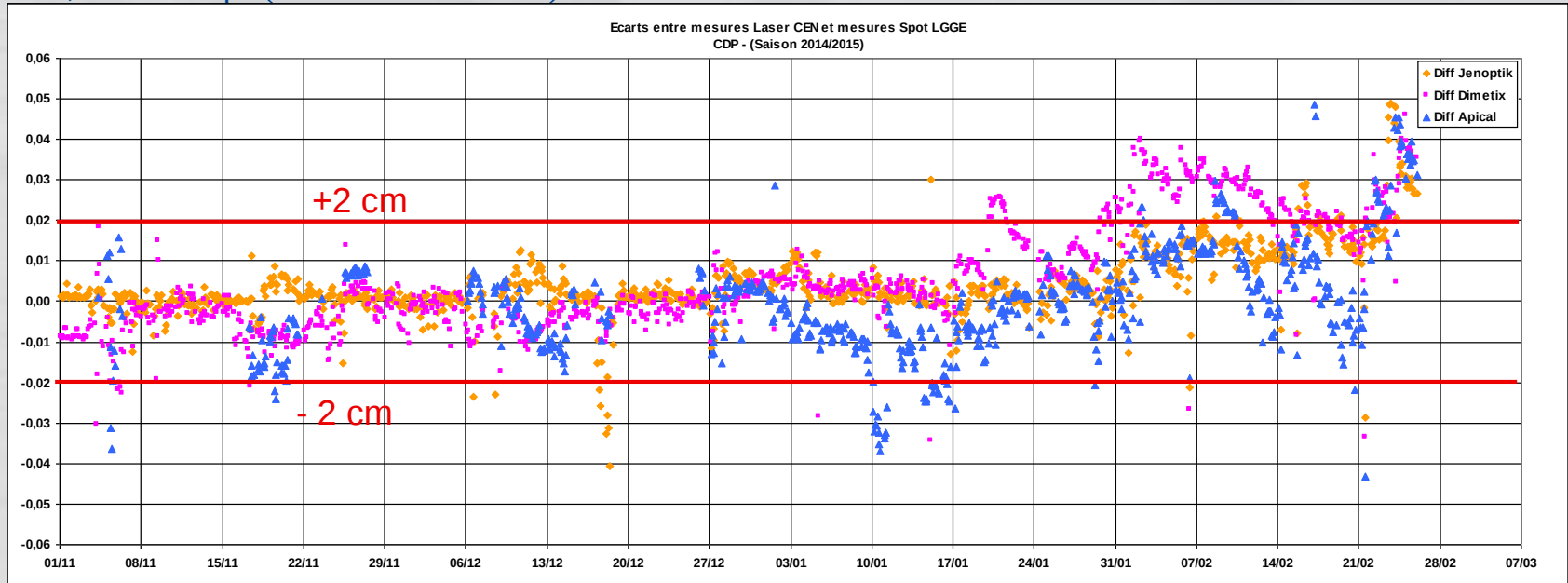
### 3. Automatic Laserscan

19

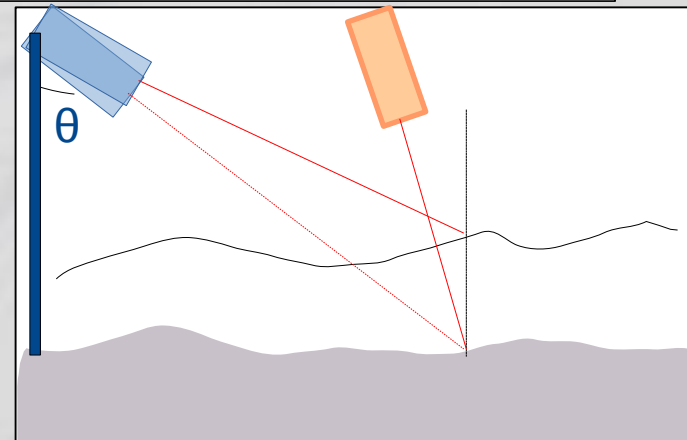


#### > Results (laser-scan in spot-mode)

Col de Porte, French Alps (same with residuals)



- Part of the residuals is geometric (spot mode / fixed angle)
- Probable accuracy is around 1 cm





### 3. Automatic Laserscan

20



> Col de Porte :

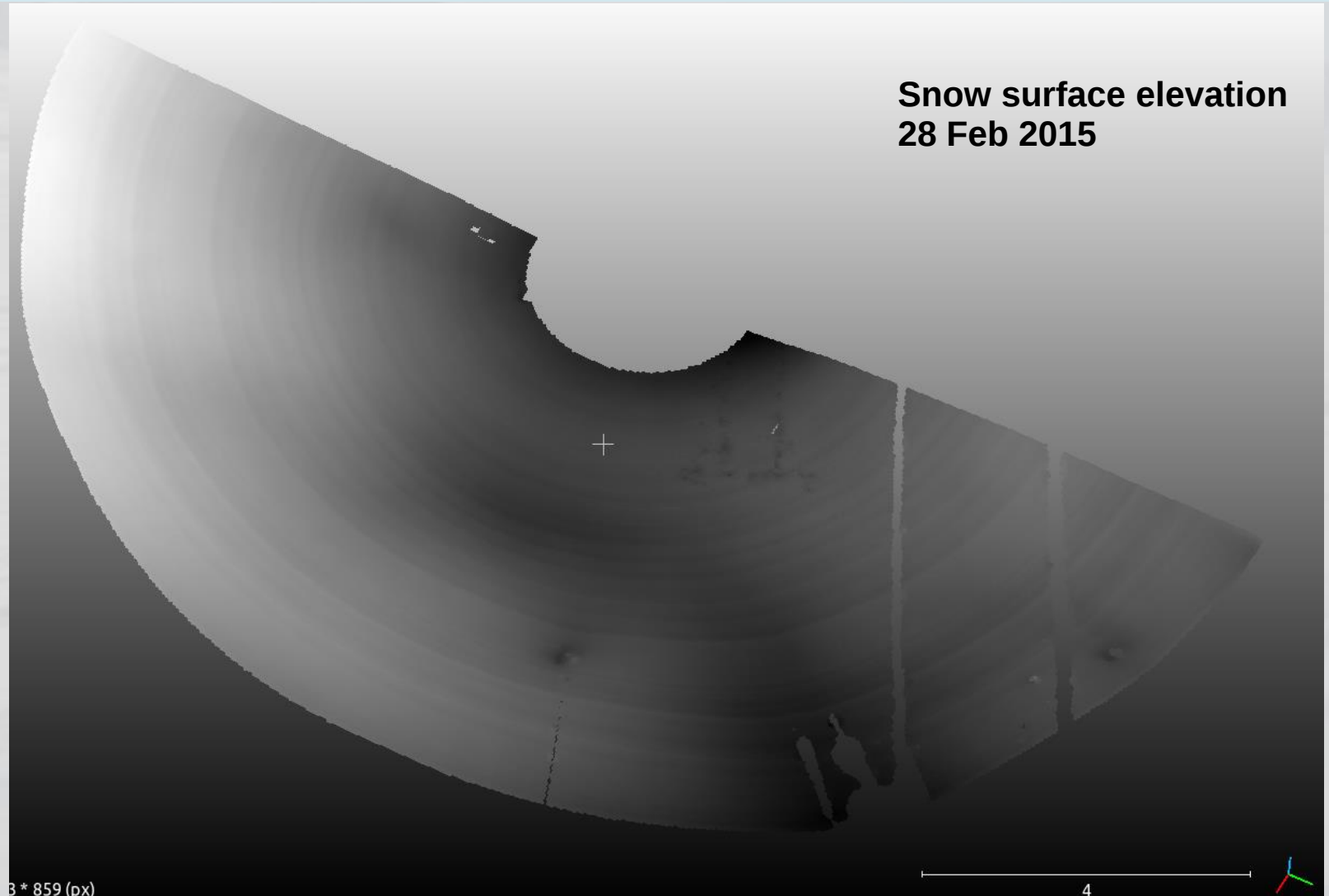
Snow depth is uniform at Col de Porte in the area selected for SPICE height comparison

### 3. Automatic Laserscan

21



> Col de Porte : added value of the laserscan

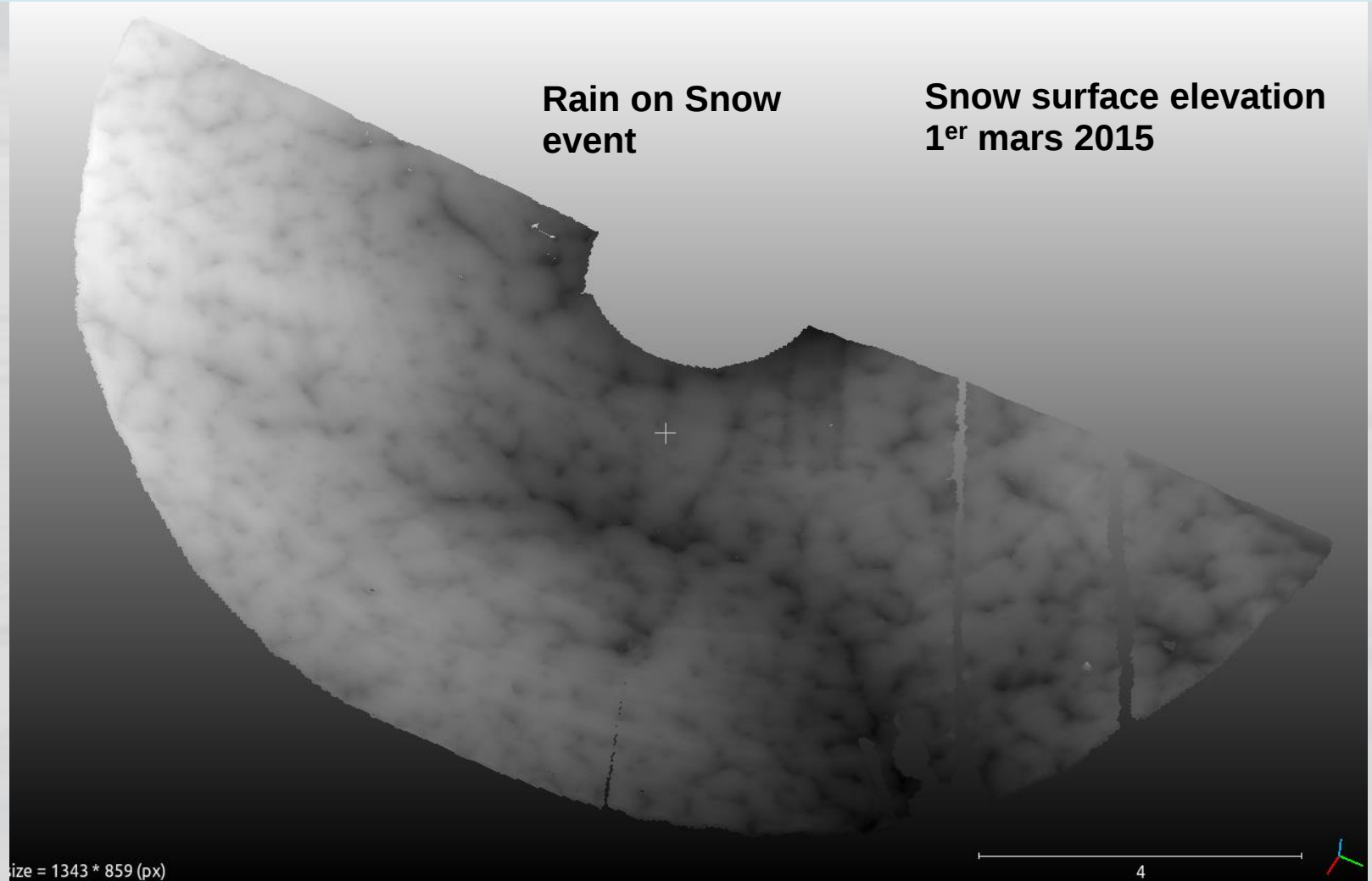


### 3. Automatic Laserscan

22



> Col de Porte : added value of the laserscan



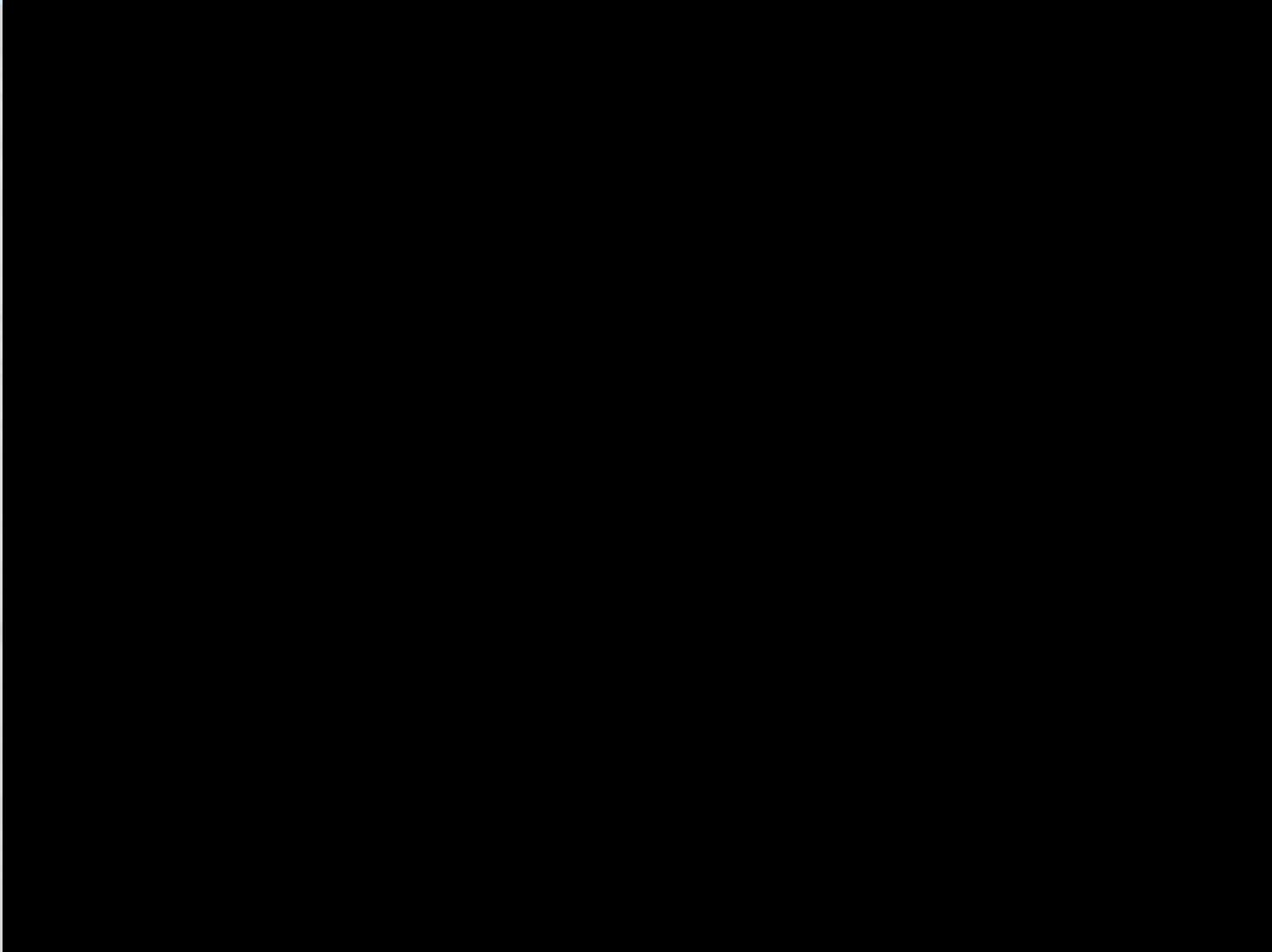


### 3. Automatic Laserscan

23



> Col du Lac Blanc



### 3. Automatic Laserscan

24



#### > Col du Lac Blanc

Data acquisition problems during riming events

... which is not limited to the laserscan.

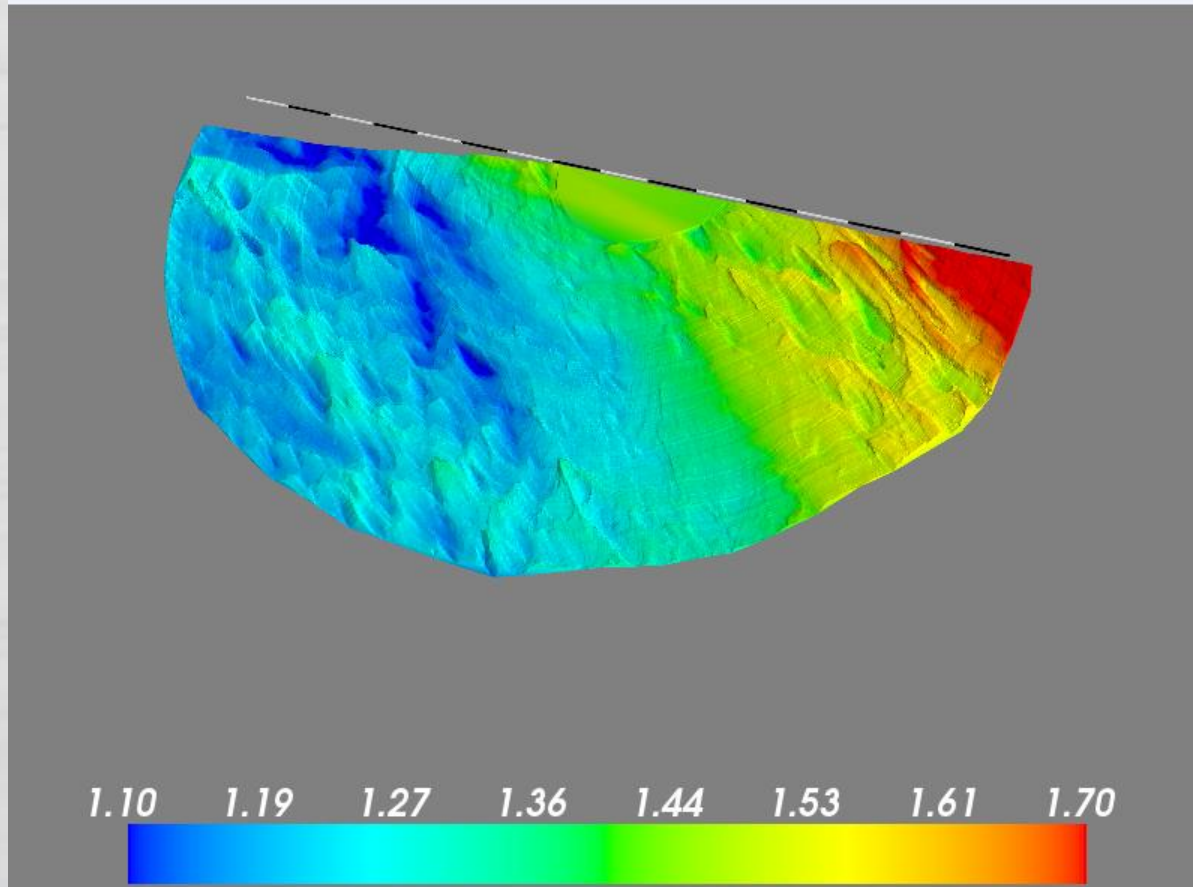


### 3. Automatic Laserscan

25



> Col du Lac Blanc



### 3. Automatic Laserscan

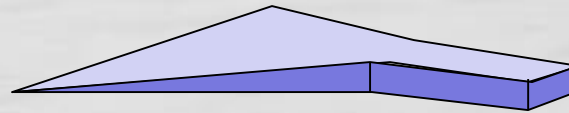
26



#### > Characterization of sastrugi

Drag force is function of frontal area

Frontal area = area (measured on the vertical crosswind lateral plane) seen by the wind



Sketch of an idealized sastruga



### 3. Automatic Laserscan

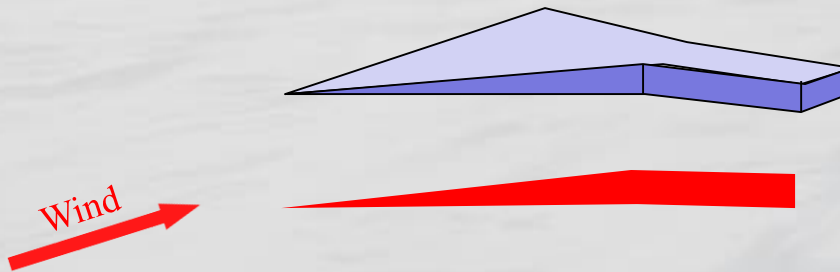
27



#### > Characterization of sastruggi

Drag coefficient is function of frontal area

Frontal area = area (measured on the vertical crosswind lateral plane) seen by the wind



### 3. Automatic Laserscan

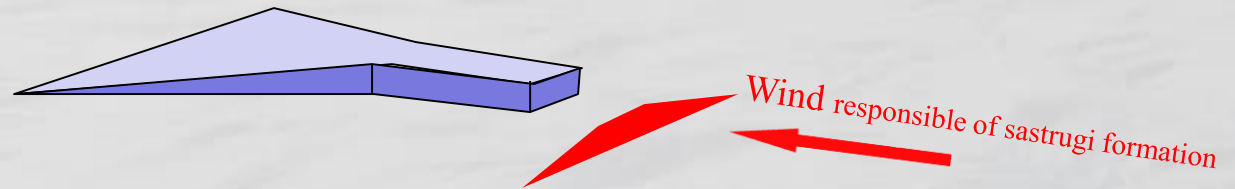
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#### > Characterization of sastruggi

Drag coefficient is function of frontal area

Frontal area = area (measured on the vertical crosswind lateral plane) seen by the wind



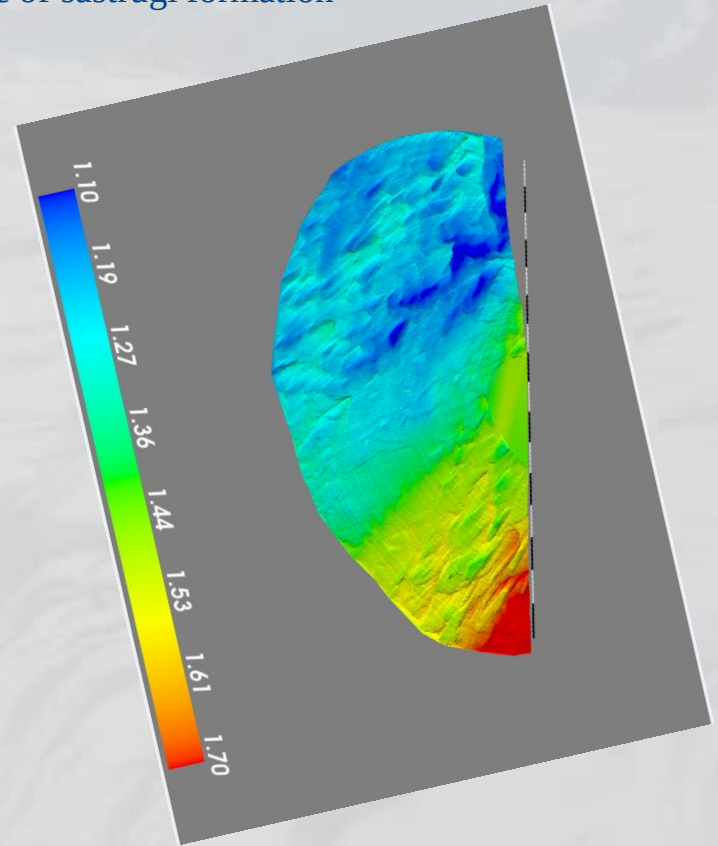
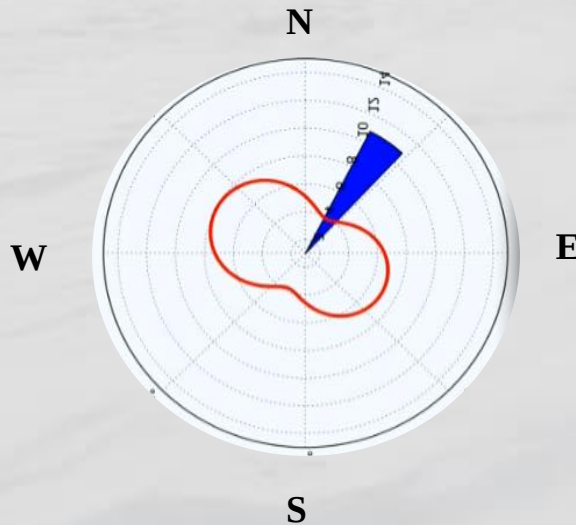
Frontal area is minimum for the prevailing wind direction responsible of sastrugi formation

### 3. Automatic Laserscan



#### > Characterization of sastruggi

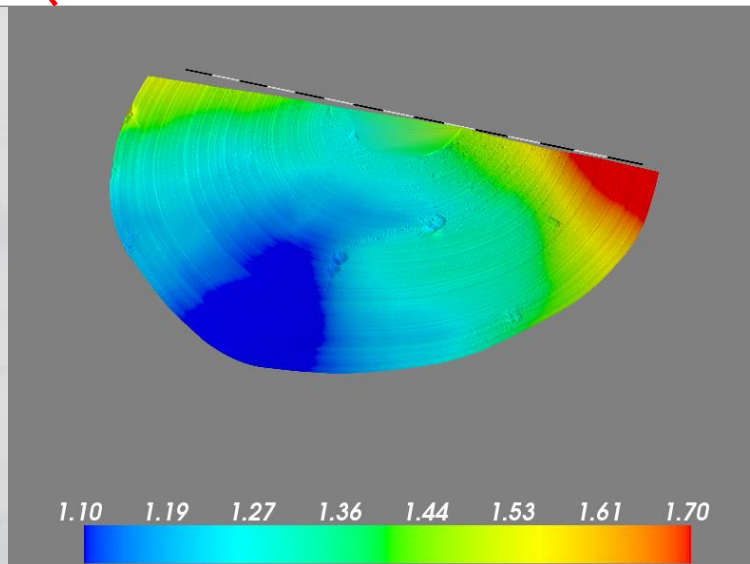
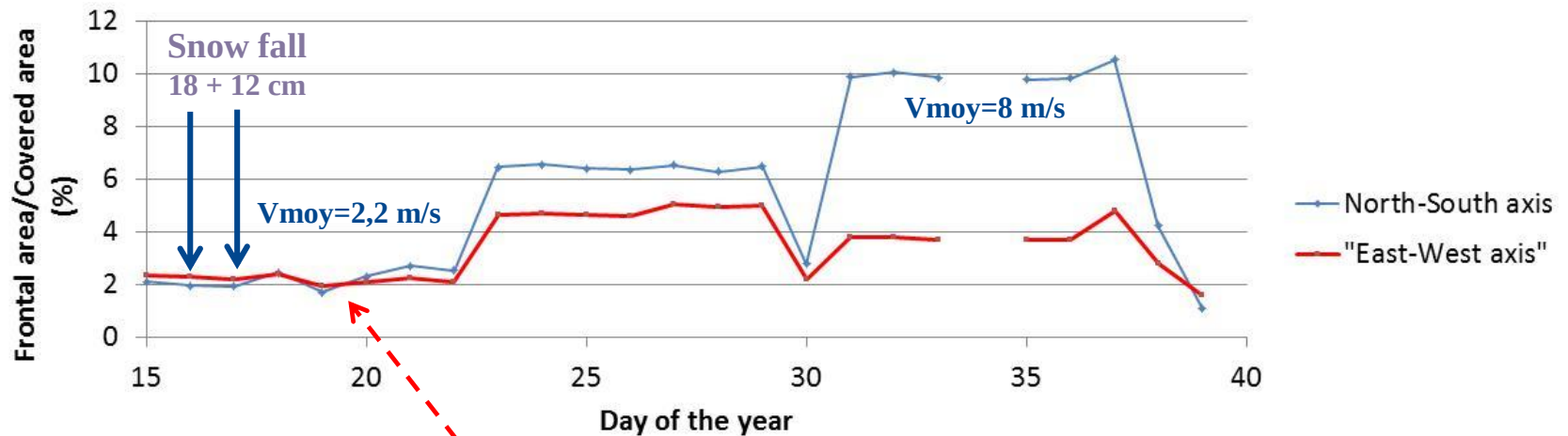
Frontal area is minimum for the prevailing wind direction responsible of sastrugi formation



### 3. Automatic Laserscan



#### > Col du Lac Blanc : Sastrugi morphometry and change in time

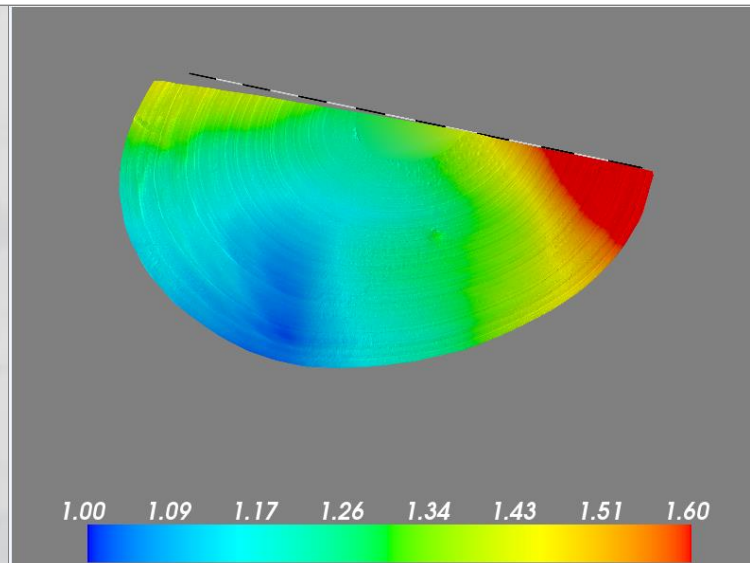
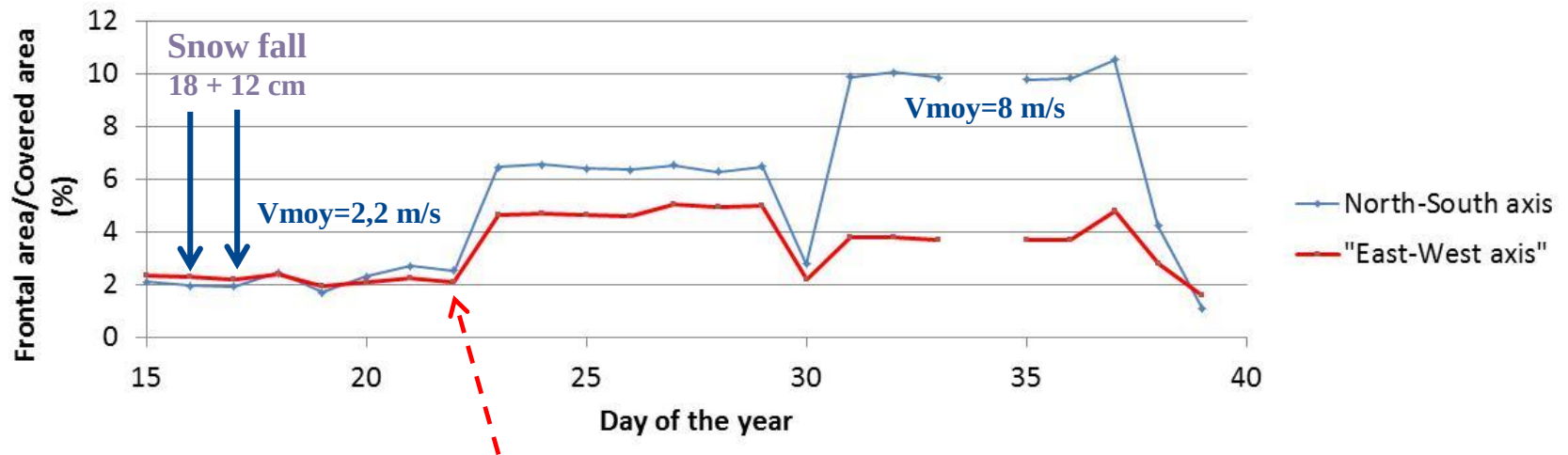




### 3. Automatic Laserscan



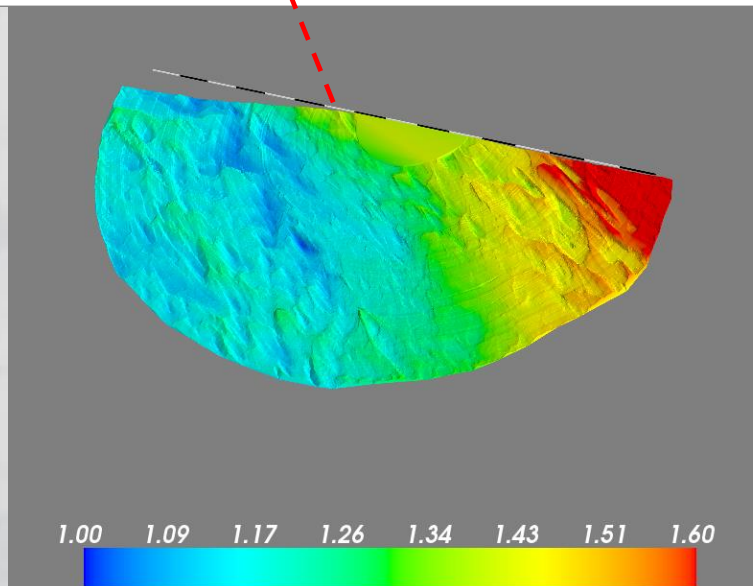
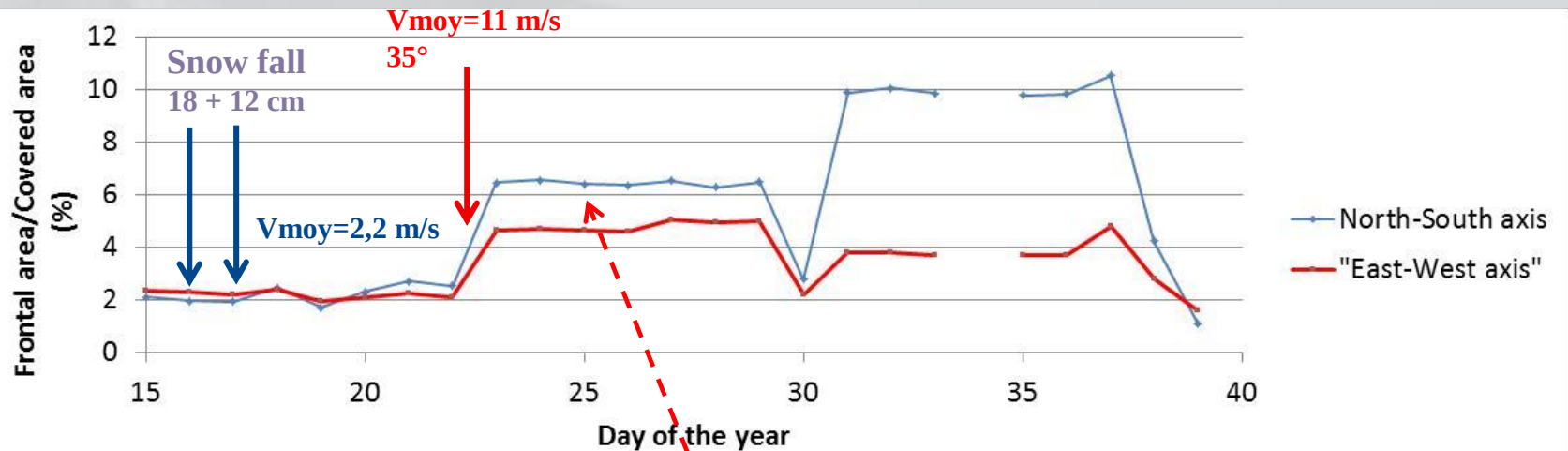
#### > Col du Lac Blanc : Sastrugi morphometry and change in time



### 3. Automatic Laserscan



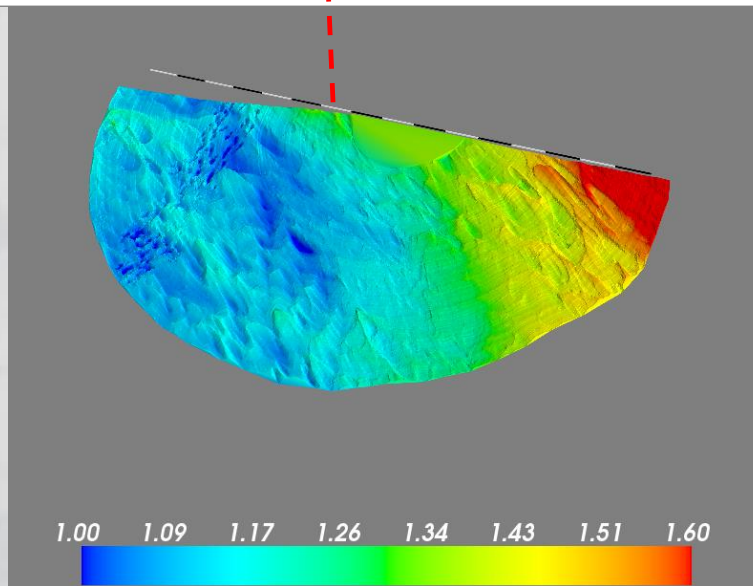
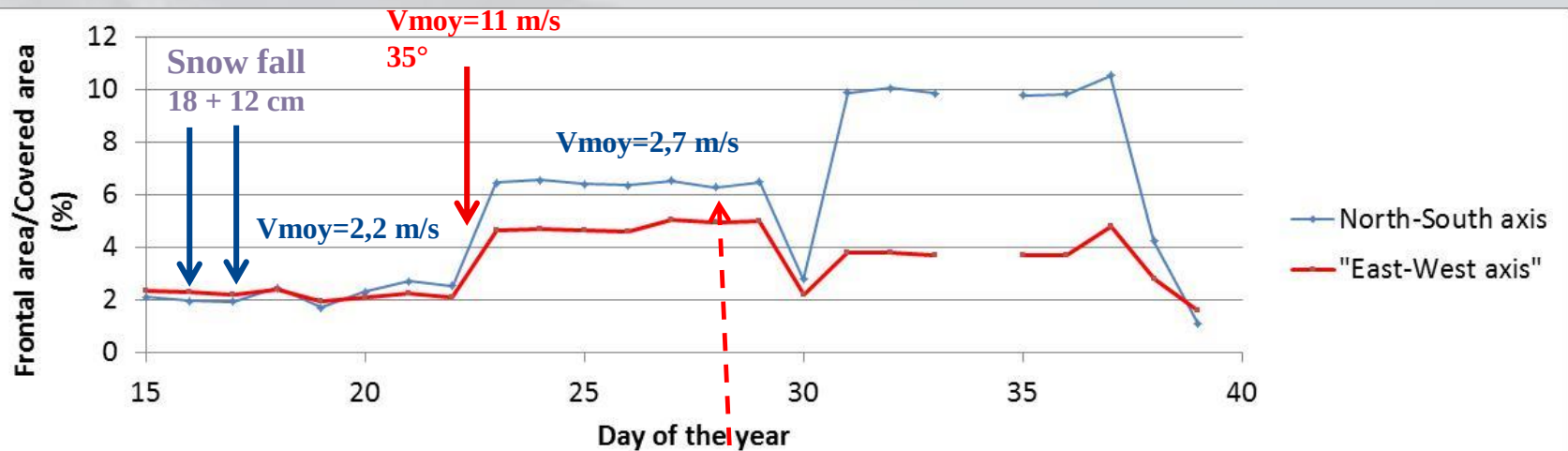
#### > Col du Lac Blanc : Sastrugi morphometry and change in time



### 3. Automatic Laserscan



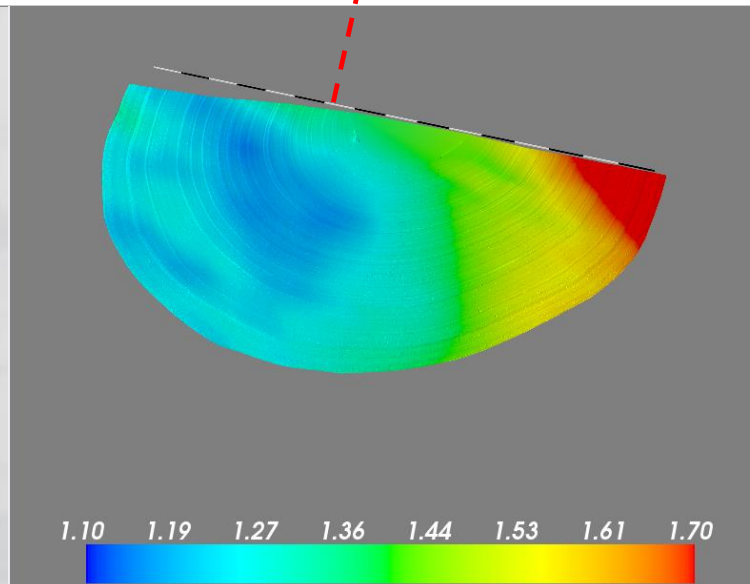
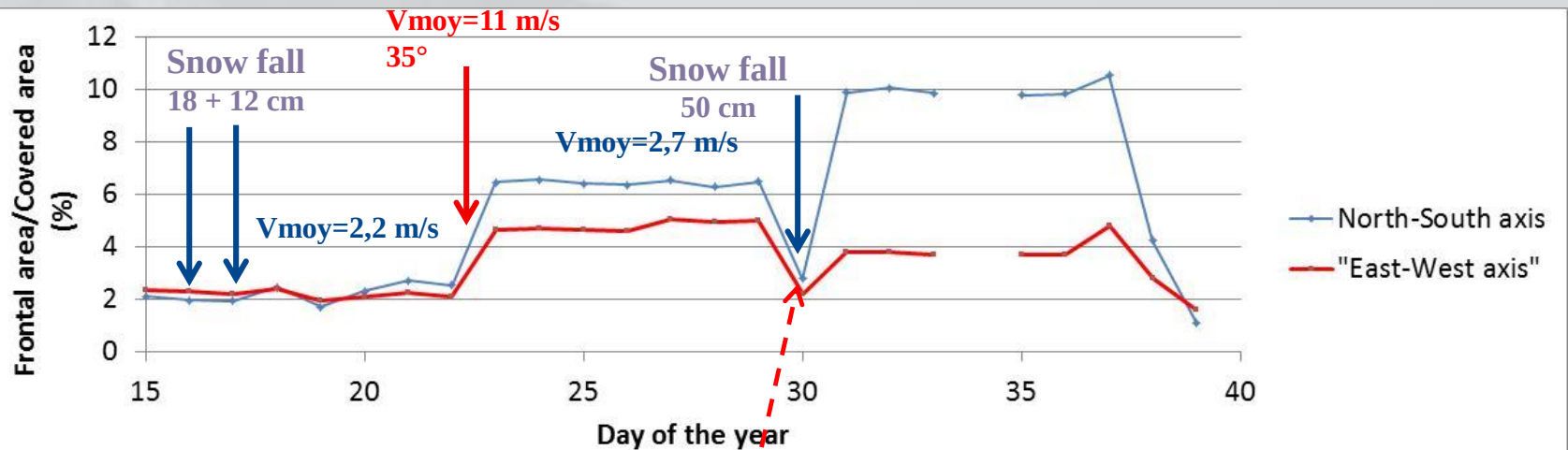
#### > Col du Lac Blanc : Sastrugi morphometry and change in time



### 3. Automatic Laserscan



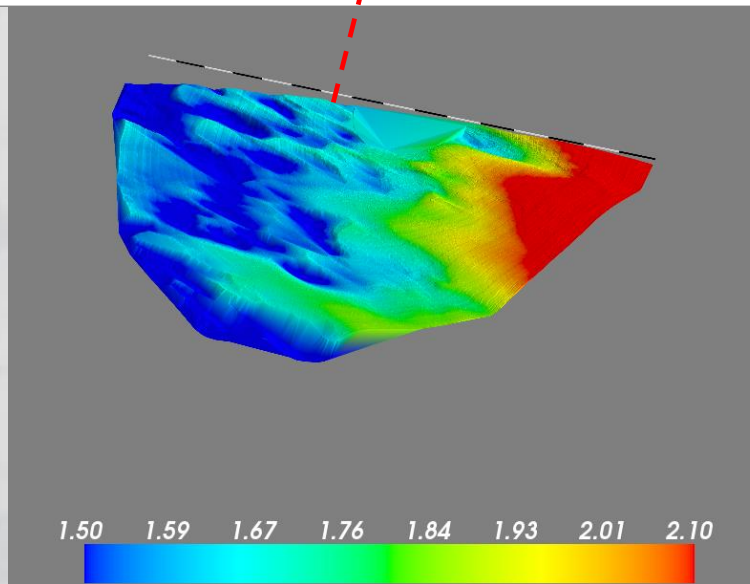
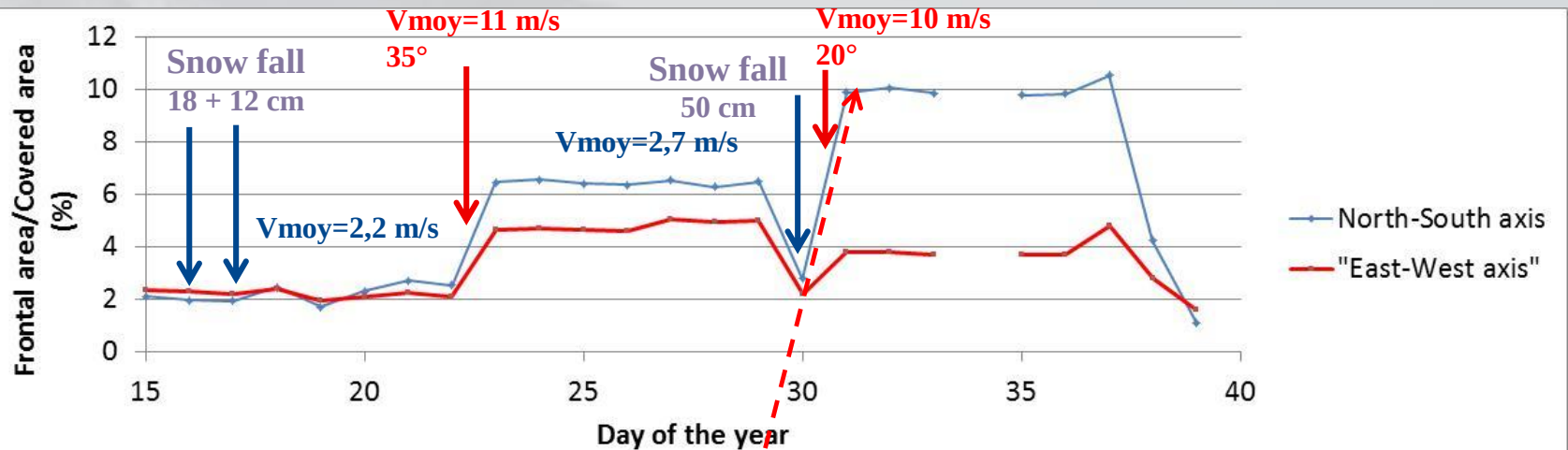
#### > Col du Lac Blanc : Sastrugi morphometry and change in time



### 3. Automatic Laserscan



#### > Col du Lac Blanc : Sastrugi morphometry and change in time

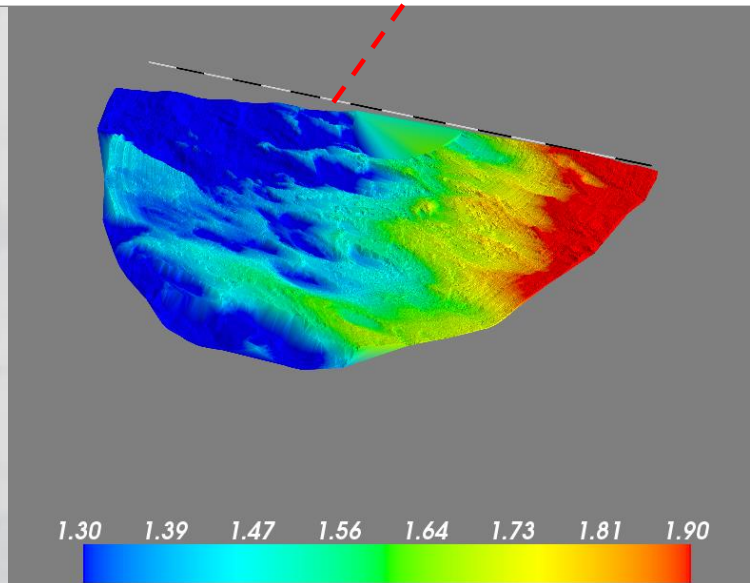
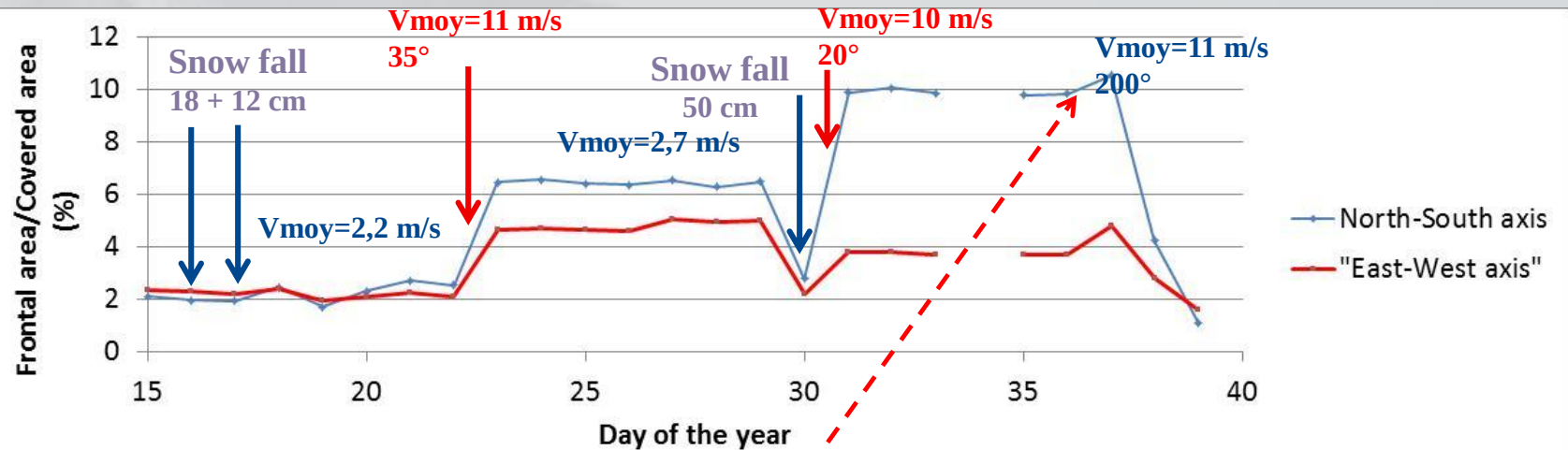




### 3. Automatic Laserscan



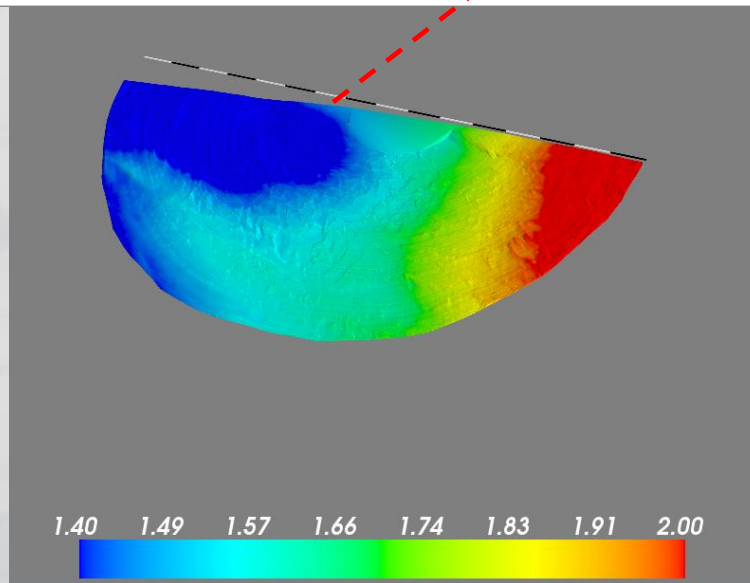
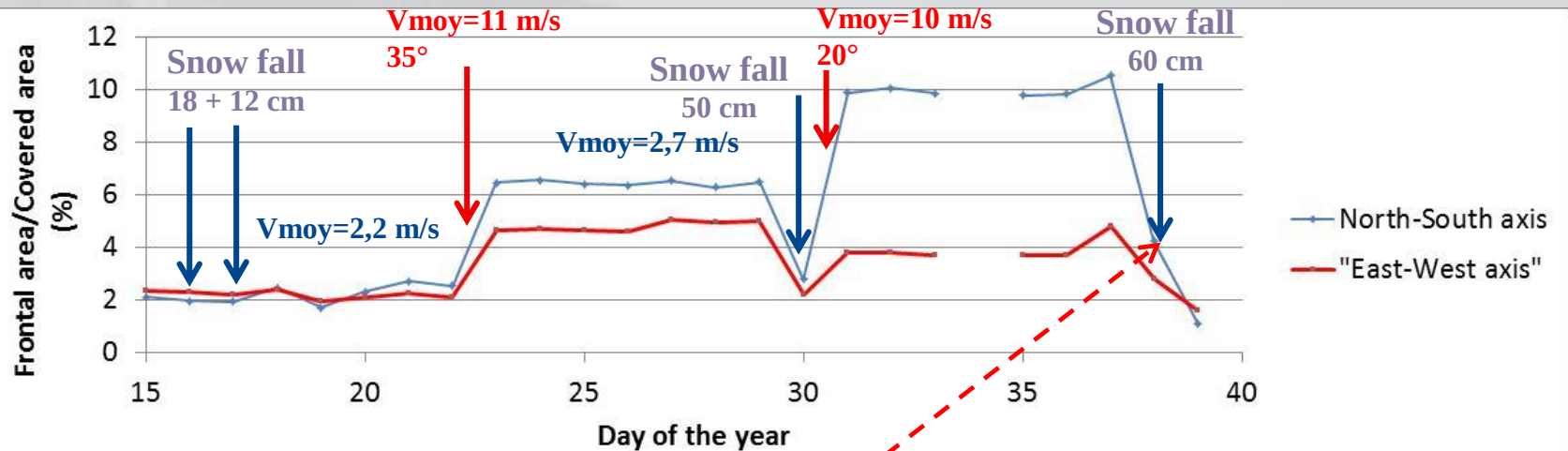
#### > Col du Lac Blanc : Sastrugi morphometry and change in time



### 3. Automatic Laserscan



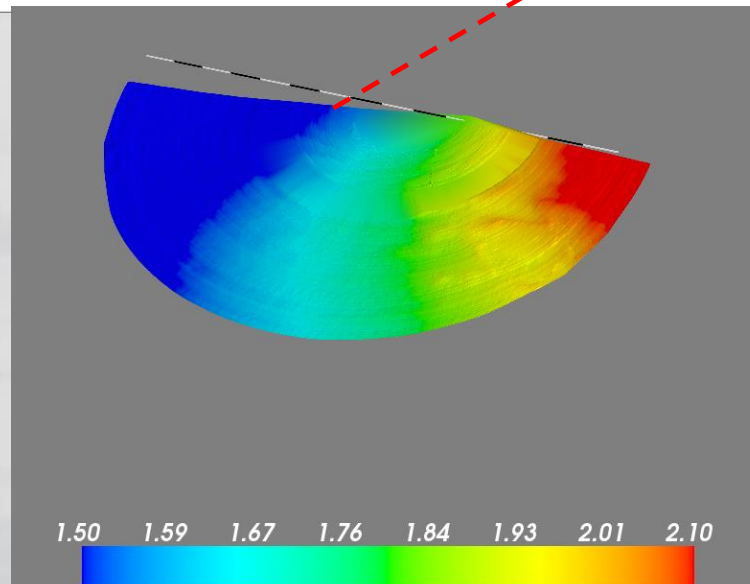
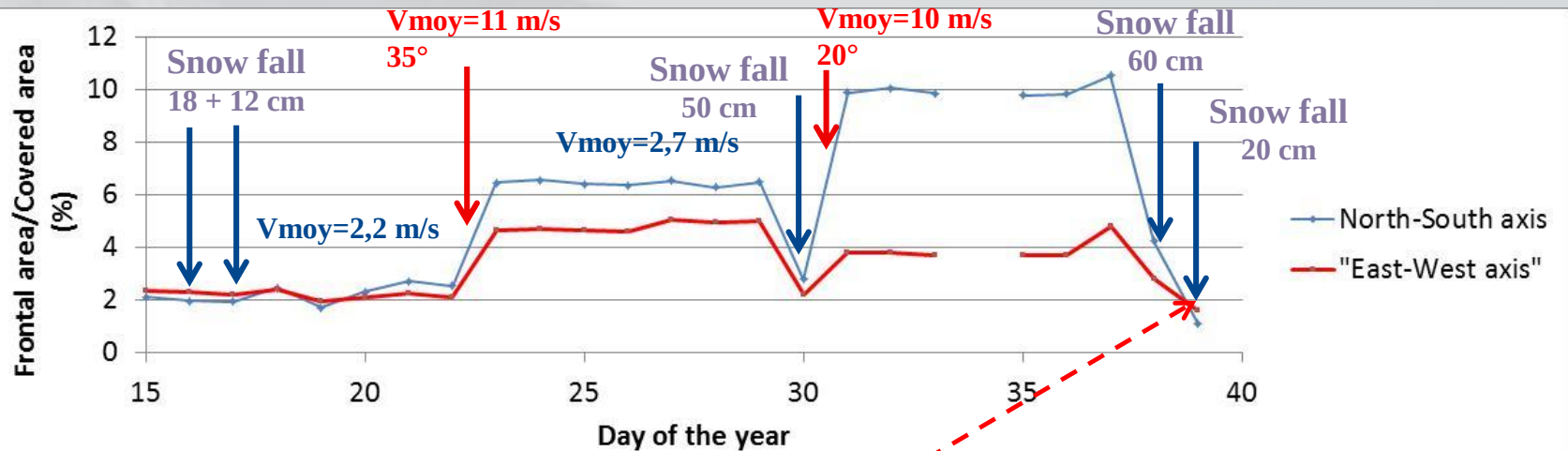
#### > Col du Lac Blanc : Sastrugi morphometry and change in time



### 3. Automatic Laserscan



#### > Col du Lac Blanc : Sastrugi morphometry and change in time



# 3. Automatic Laserscan

39



## > Conclusions and perspectives

- 2 rugged laserscans have collected ~ 600 scans during two winters in Col de Porte, Dome C and Col du Lac Blanc
- Precision is 1 cm and spatial resolution is 3-5 cm (height dependent)
- A lot to learn about wind-form features : data processing in progress (roughness in windy area)
- Other applications : melt-form features, snow cover under trees

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### 3. Faut-il écouter, attraper ou regarder les flocons de neige ?

40



#### > Capteurs acoustiques





### 3. Faut-il écouter, attraper ou regarder les flocons de neige ?



41

#### > Capteurs optiques

