

# UAV use in Svalbard

## Perspectives from UNIS

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University Centre in Svalbard



# Presentation Outline

- Program Management at UNIS
- Platforms
- UAV Usage at UNIS
- Challenges
- Future Goals



# Program Management

- Operations manual established 2013
- UNIS Airborne Research Group established 2016
- UNIS UAV protocol, in progress
- Current Operations (call airport, weekly plan)
- RO1, RO2, RO3
- Combination of internal and external pilots

# Platforms

- Geophysics
  - Paparazzi based SUMO, Mini Talon, Bebop 2
  - AMOR system
- Geology
  - DJI Phantom 3 & 4
  - 3DR Iris+



# UAV Usage at UNIS



- Meteorological Observations
- Structure for Motion
- Digital Elevation Models
- Height Differencing
- Mapping
- Safety





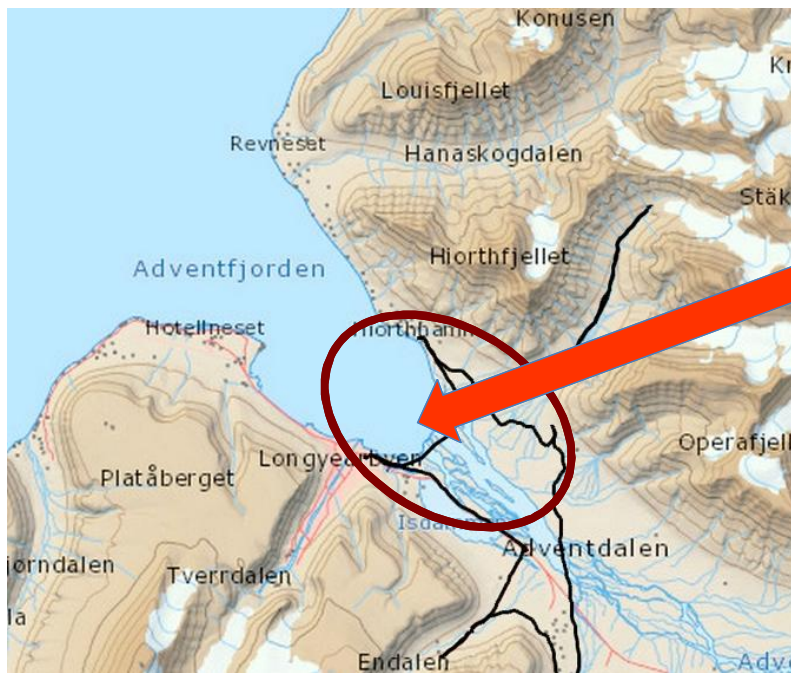
UAV Use at UNIS Study 1

Air-Land-Sea Interaction in Svalbard, Marius Jonassen

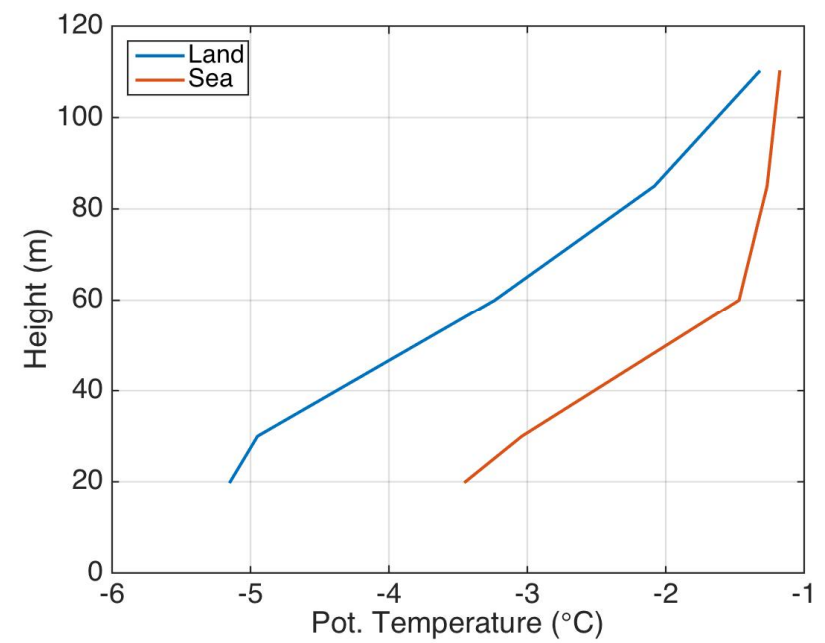
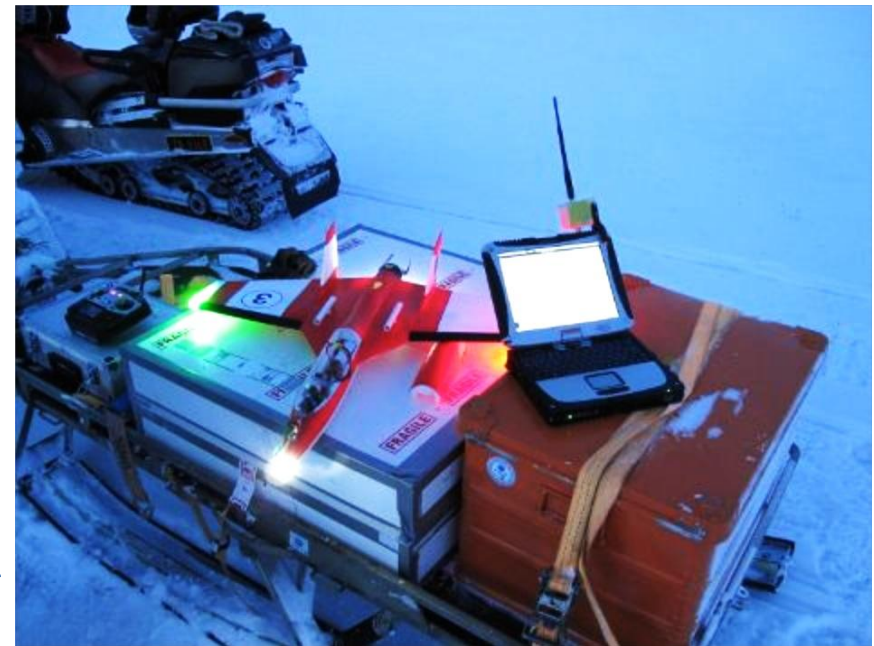
AGF 350/850

The Arctic Atmospheric Boundary Layer and Local  
Climate Processes

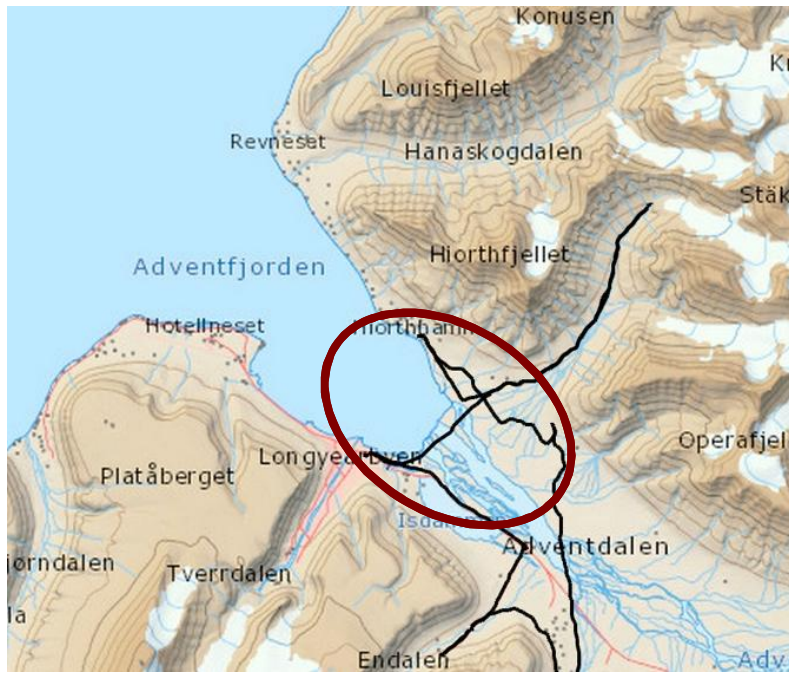




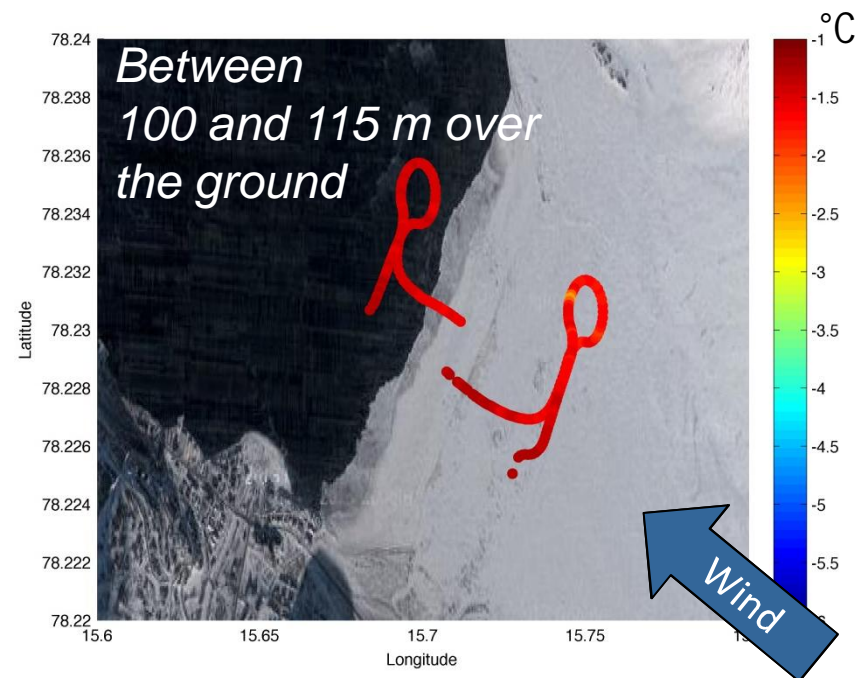
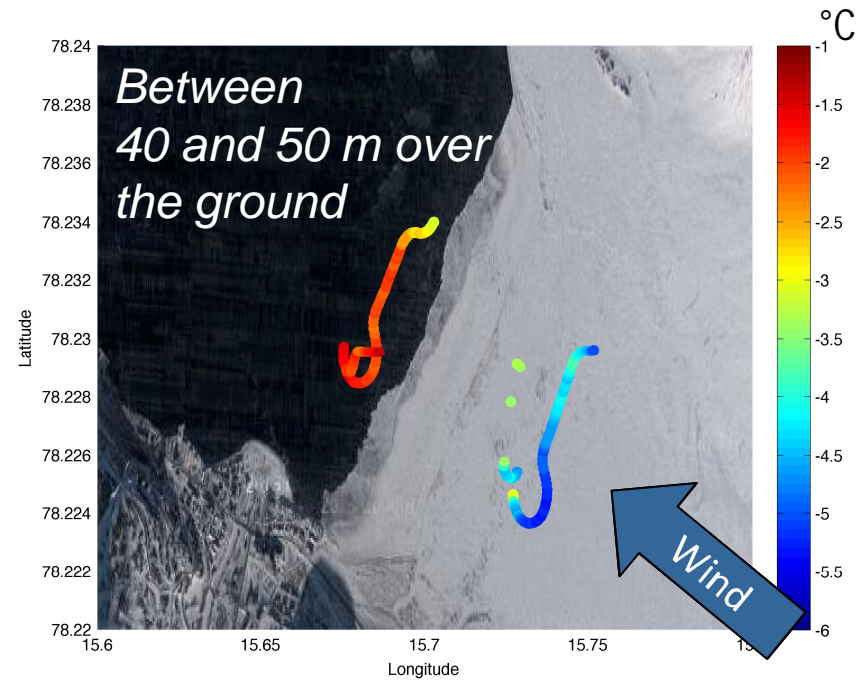
Topo-svalbard, NP







Topo-svalbard, NP

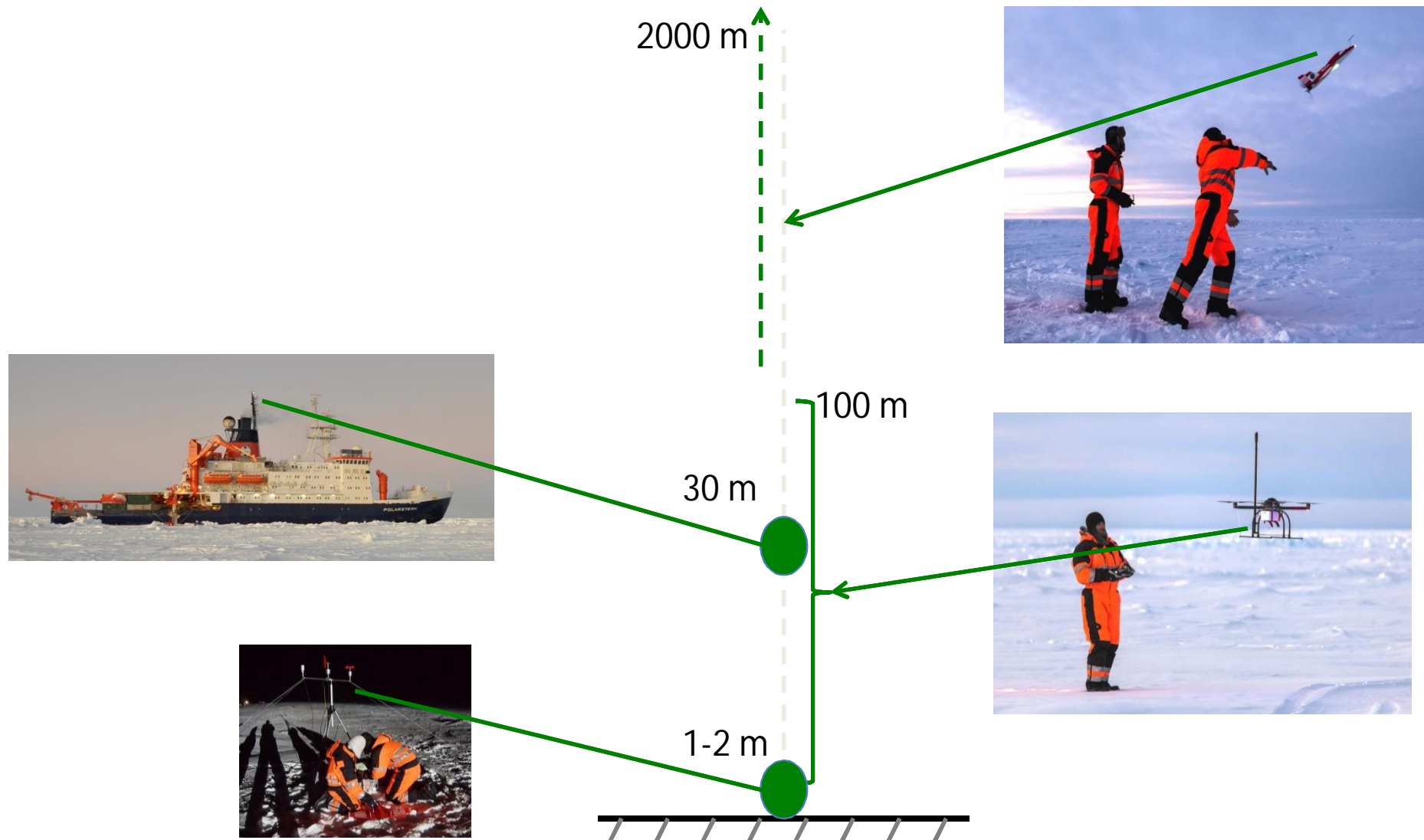




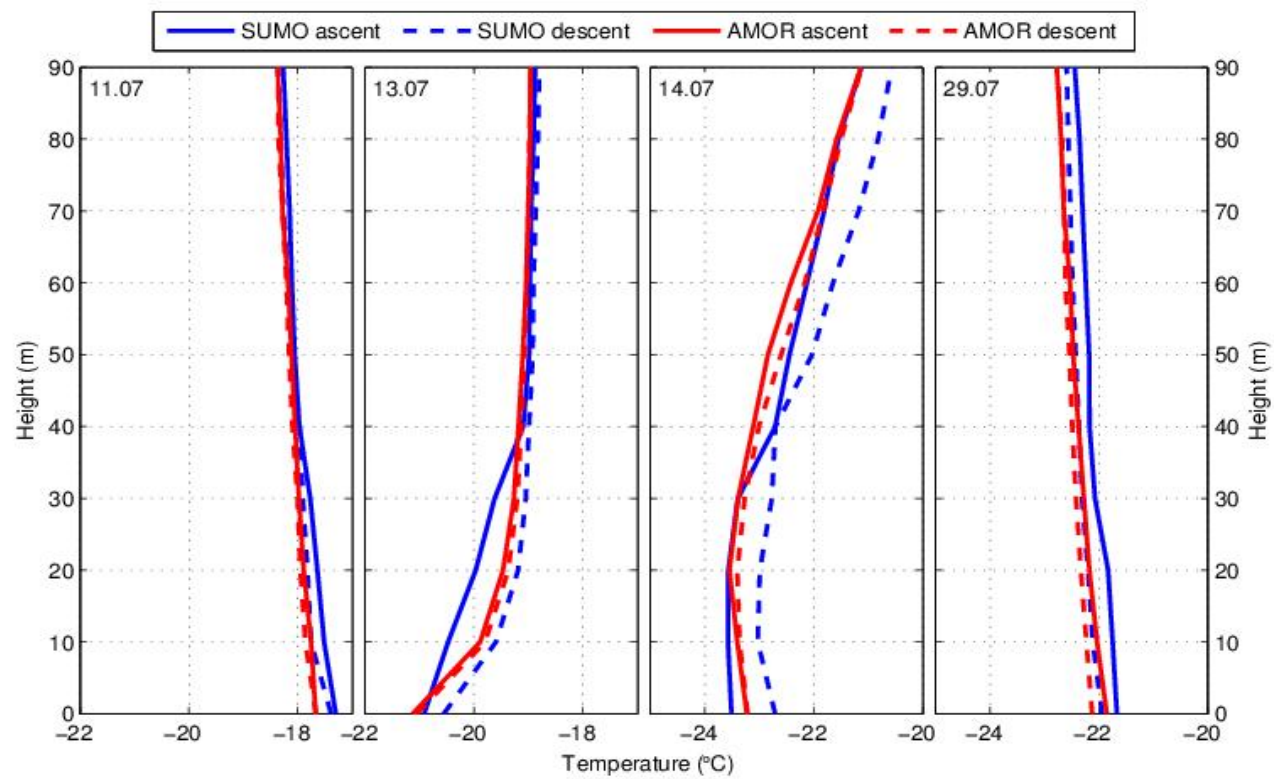
# UAV Use at UNIS Study 2

## Measurements of Antarctic Boundary Layer

Marius Jonassen, AGF



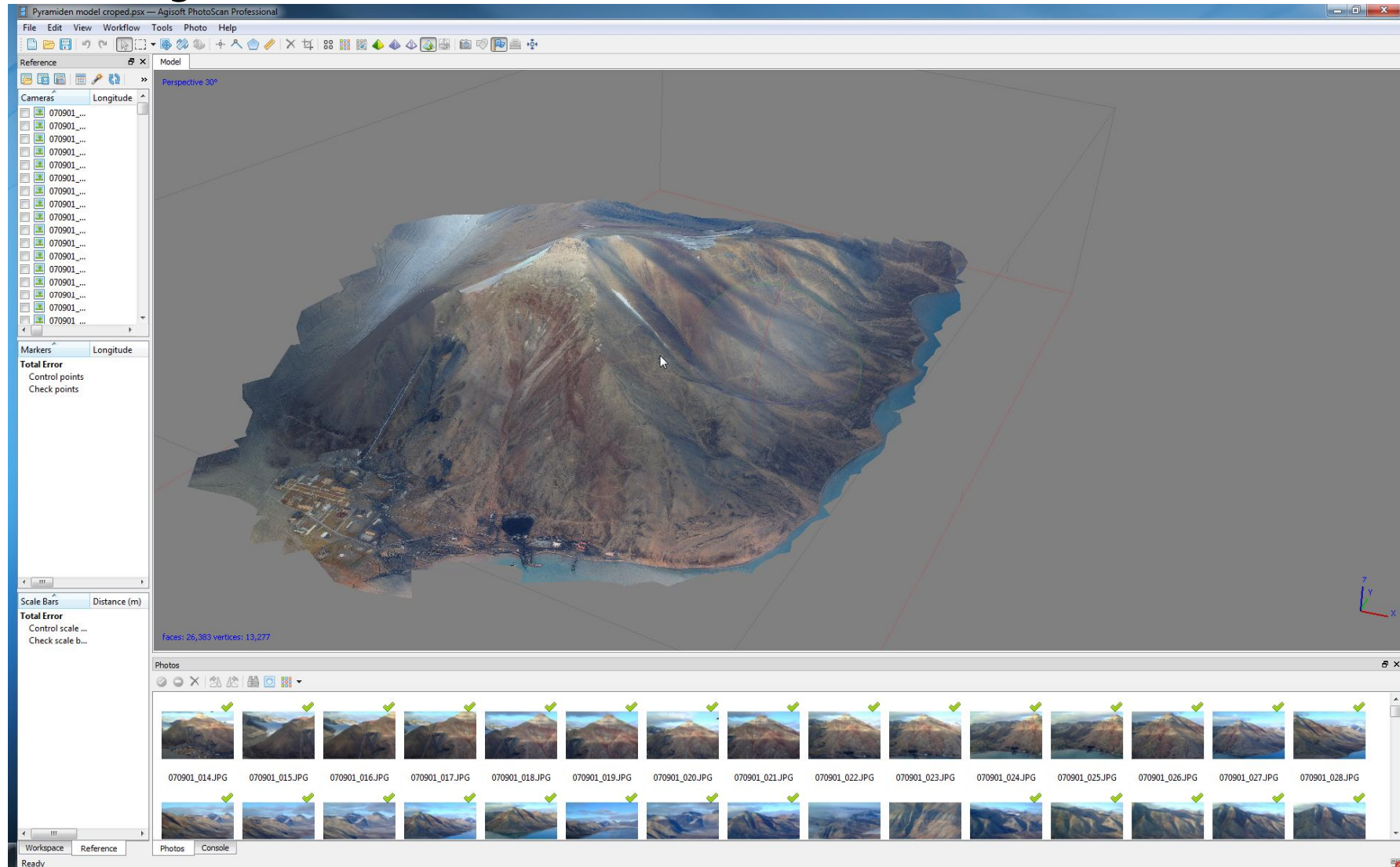
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWEa\\_4Hlm2s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWEa_4Hlm2s)

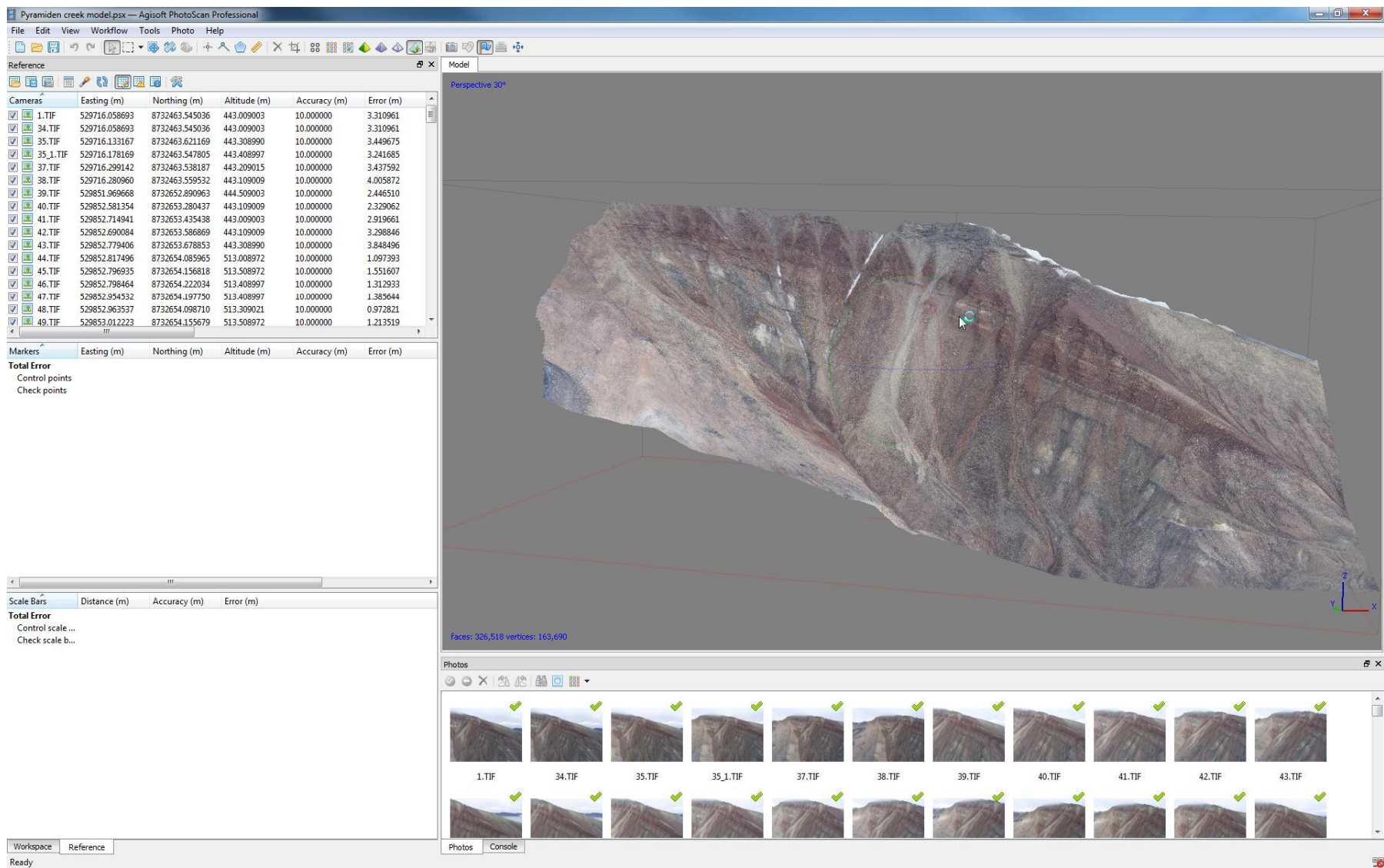




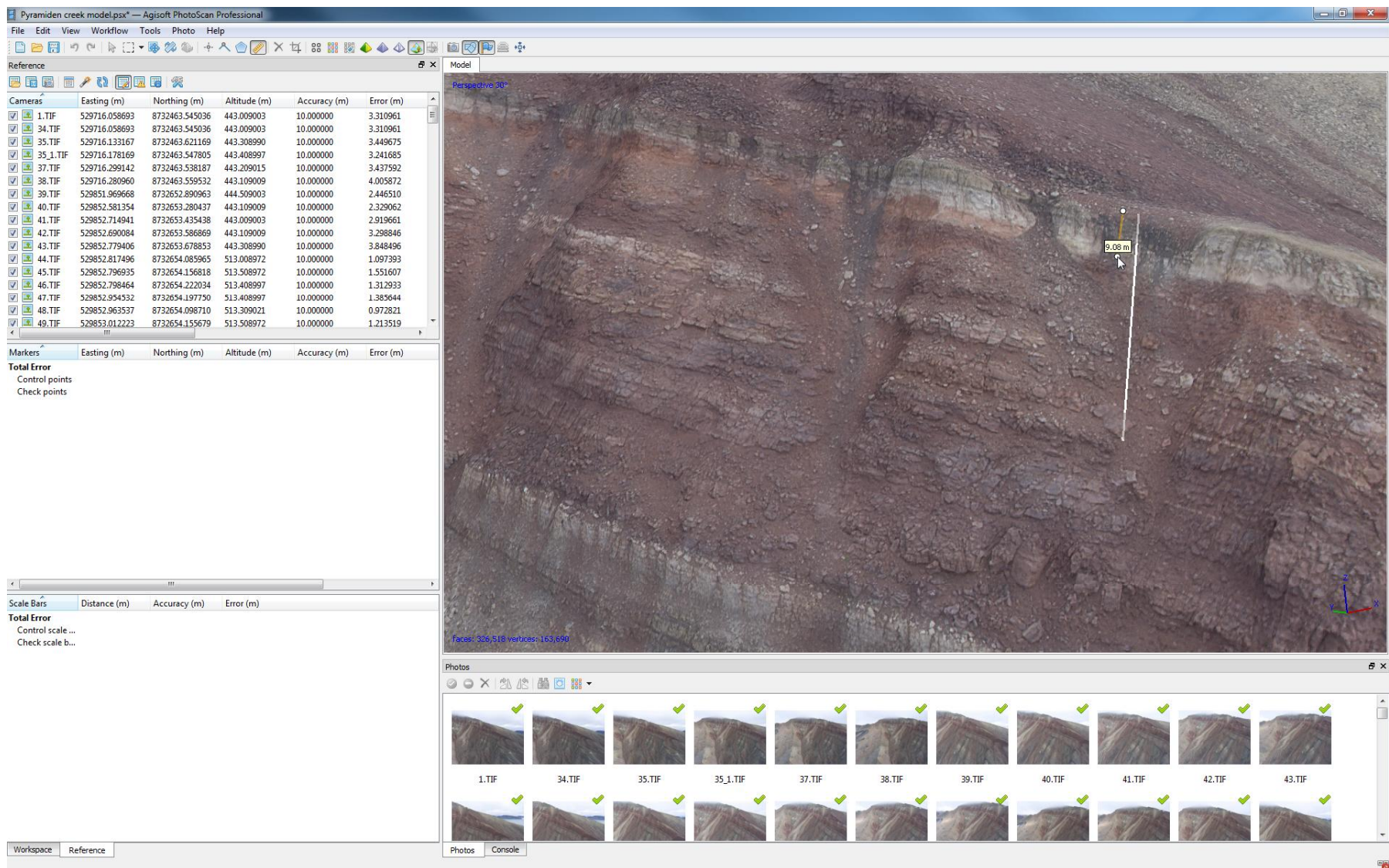
# UAV Use at UNIS Study 3

## Pyramiden 3D Modelling Aleksandra Smyrak-Sikora, AG PhD Student









# UAV Use at UNIS Study 4

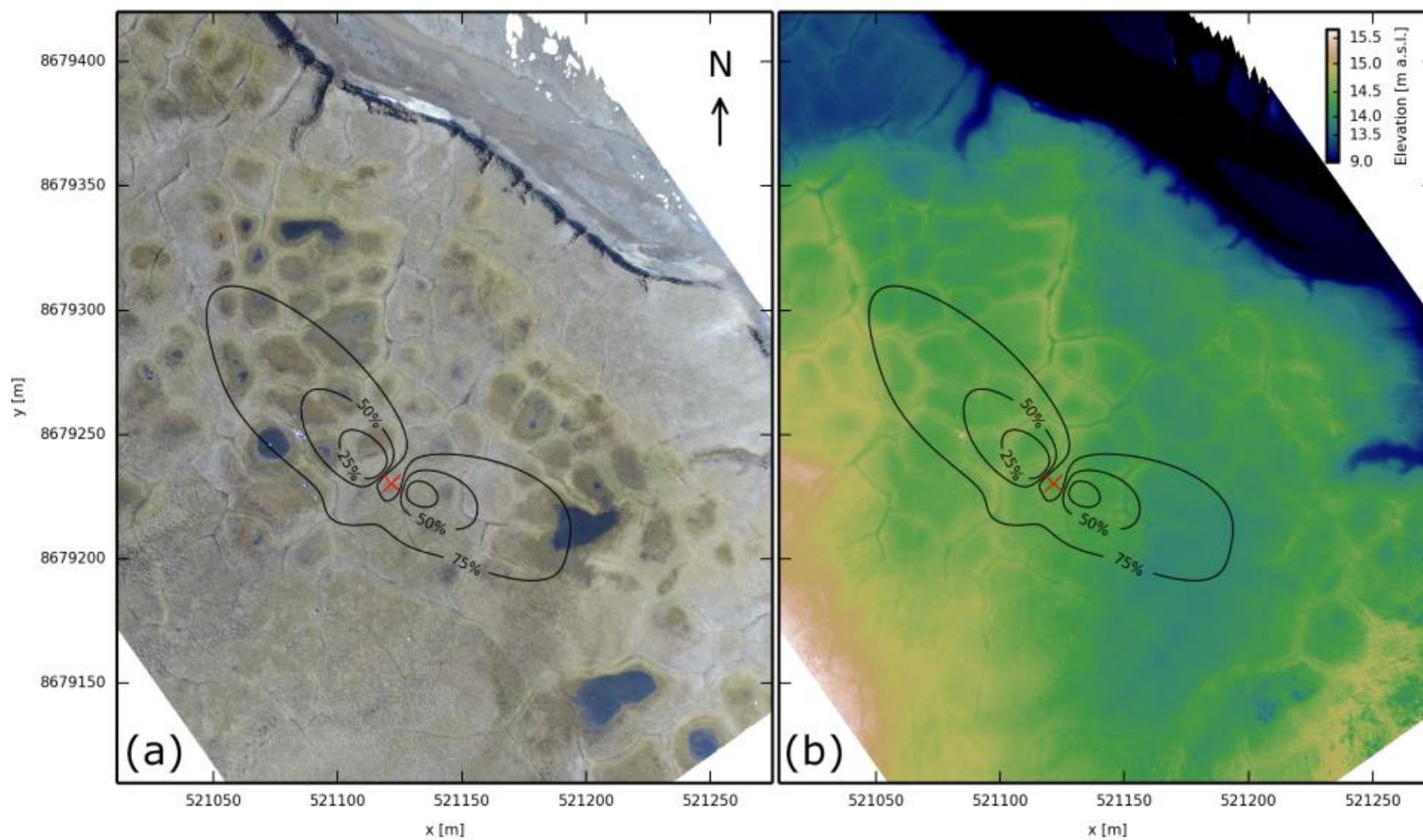
## DEMs and Structure for Motion

Jordan Mertes & Norbert Pirk

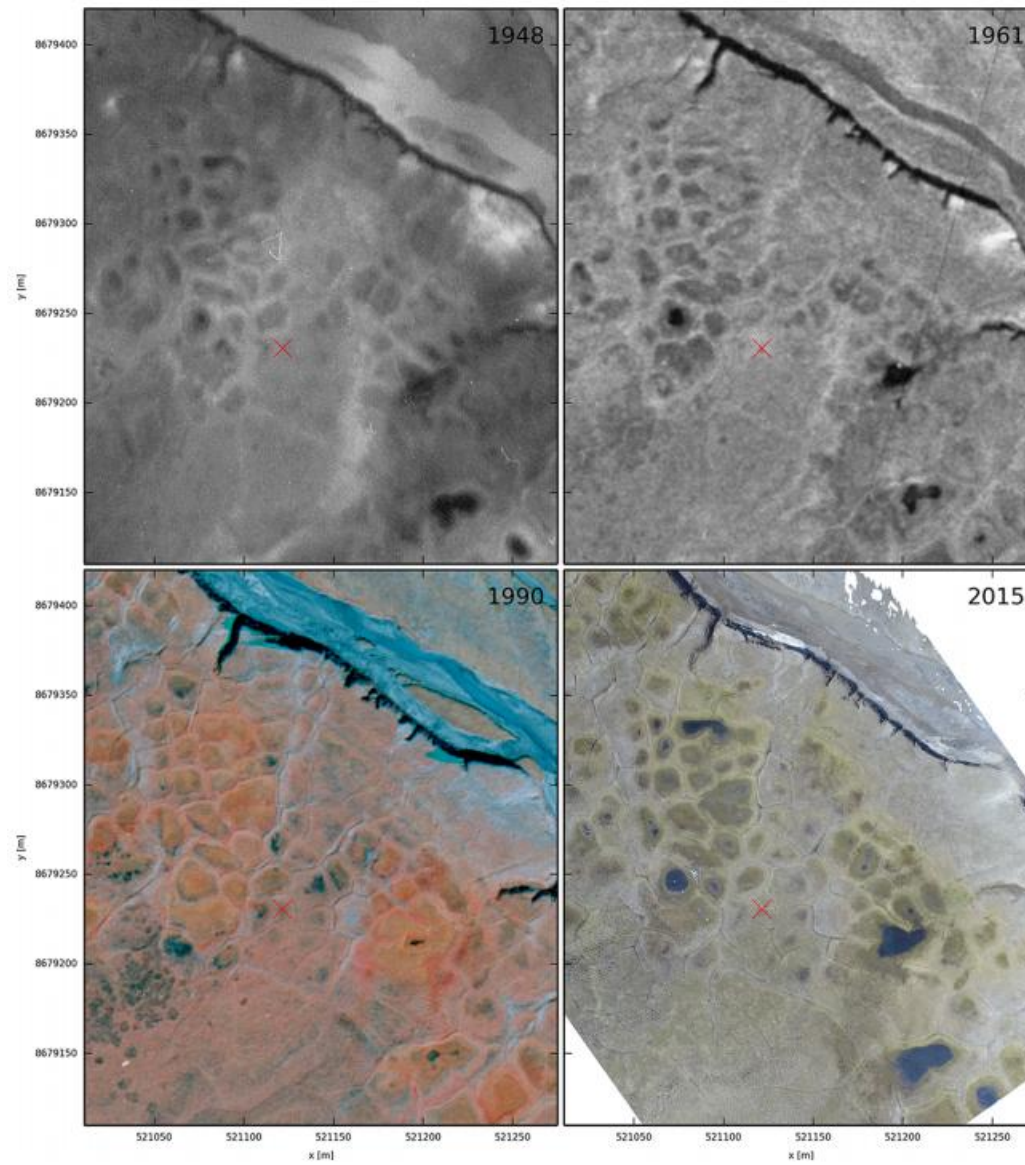




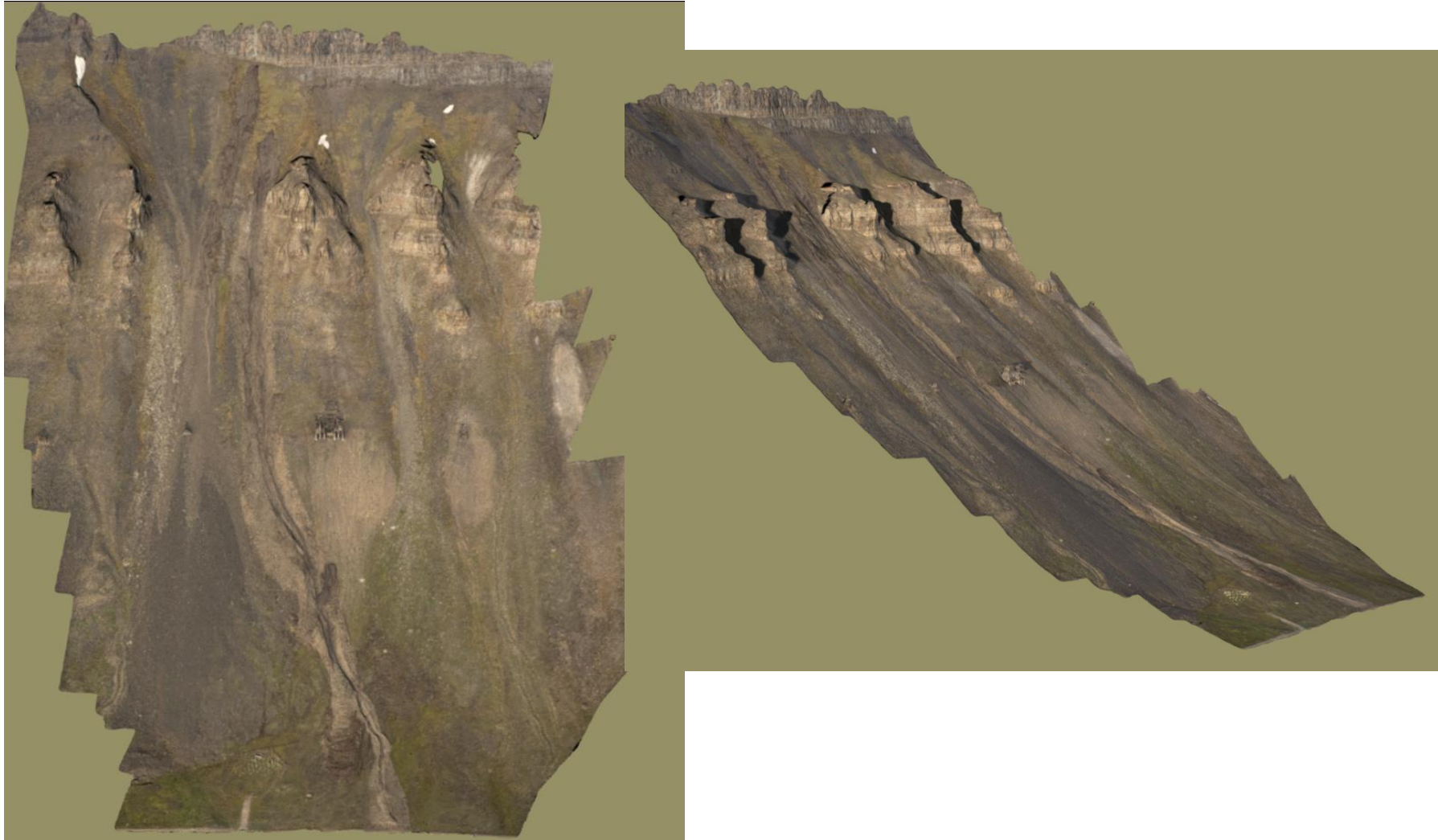
**N. Pirk et al.: CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes in polygonal tundra on Svalbard**



N. Pirk et al.: CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes in polygonal tundra on Svalbard





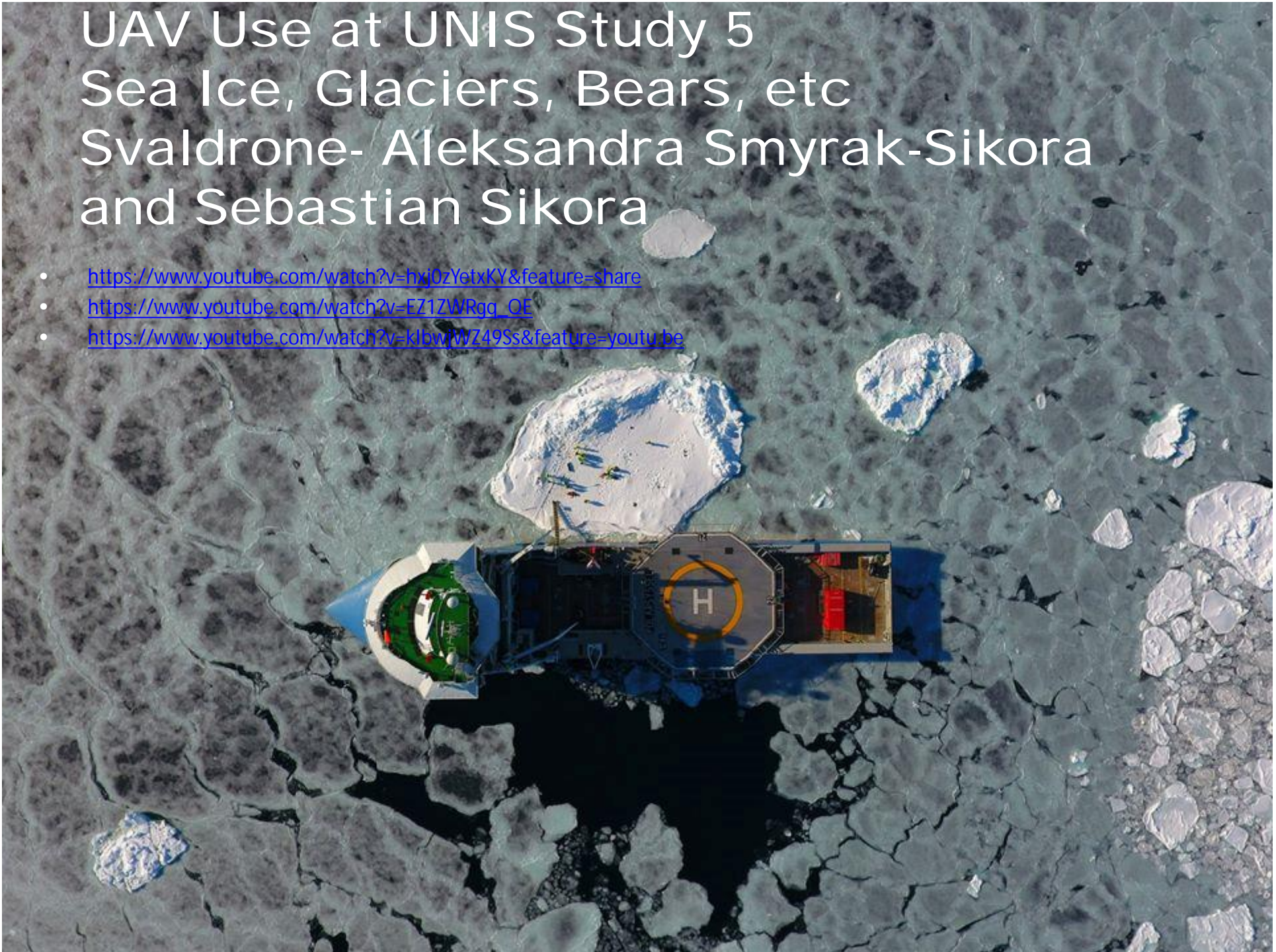


Mertes, 2016



# UAV Use at UNIS Study 5 Sea Ice, Glaciers, Bears, etc Svaldrone- Aleksandra Smyrak-Sikora and Sebastian Sikora

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxj0zYetxKY&feature=share>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZ1ZWgq\\_QE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZ1ZWgq_QE)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIbwjWZ49Ss&feature=youtu.be>





Mikael Härd, 2017

dji

Mavic Pro



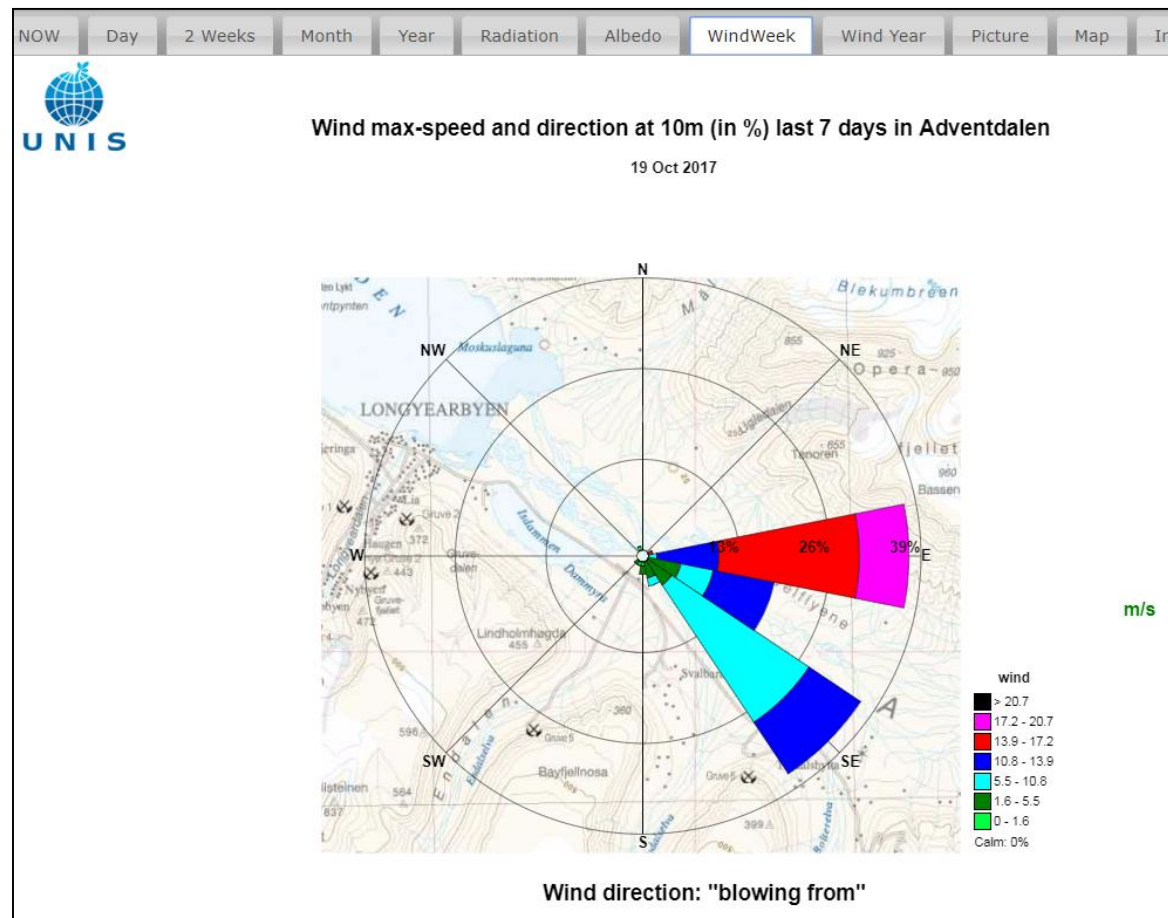


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# Challenges

- Environmental Challenges





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<http://blog.pfump.org/?lang=en>



Battery life can be cut by more than half in cold temperatures & UAVs can shut down completely at cold temperatures, sometimes 'funny things' just happen

<http://blog.pfump.org/?lang=en>





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# Challenges

- Technical Challenges
  - Resources are far away
    - Repairs
    - Replacements
  - Lack of WiFi/Internet in many situations
  - Lose GPS connection frequently
  - Lack of competence
    - Many UAVs are 'plug and play' which are fine for amateurs, until they don't work anymore
  - Continuous updates/changes
    - Both to technology and regulations
  - Manpower
  - 'Funny things' happen frequently, Arctic problem or problem in general?



# Future Goals



- All Departments will use UAVs with collaboration to strengthen methods & results
  - The small size of UNIS gives us unique opportunity for collaboration at a university/top research scale
- Fully Functional Program
  - Full time UAV technician, up to date with all requirements & technology
- UAV Usage at the top level for research
- Innovating methods for the Arctic
- UAV Service at UNIS
  - Can rent out similar to boat or snow mobile with pilot