

**TUG**

Graz University of Technology  
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Institute of Digital Image Processing  
Joanneum Research

# Digital Photogrammetry in Experimental Hydraulics

**Thomas Geisler**

Institute of Hydraulic Engineering and Water Resources Management,  
Graz University of Technology

**Maria del Pilar Caballo Perucha**

Institute of Digital Image Processing, Joanneum Research

# What is Experimental Hydraulics?

- Relevant for the design, operation and maintenance of hydraulic structures, waterways and hydropower plants
- Study of flow and sediment transport in streams and hydraulic structures by means of small-scale models
- Measurement of flow velocities, water level, pressure distribution, air entrainment, ...
- Results can be transferred on the prototype using model laws



# St. Veit HPP (Salzach River)



Prototype



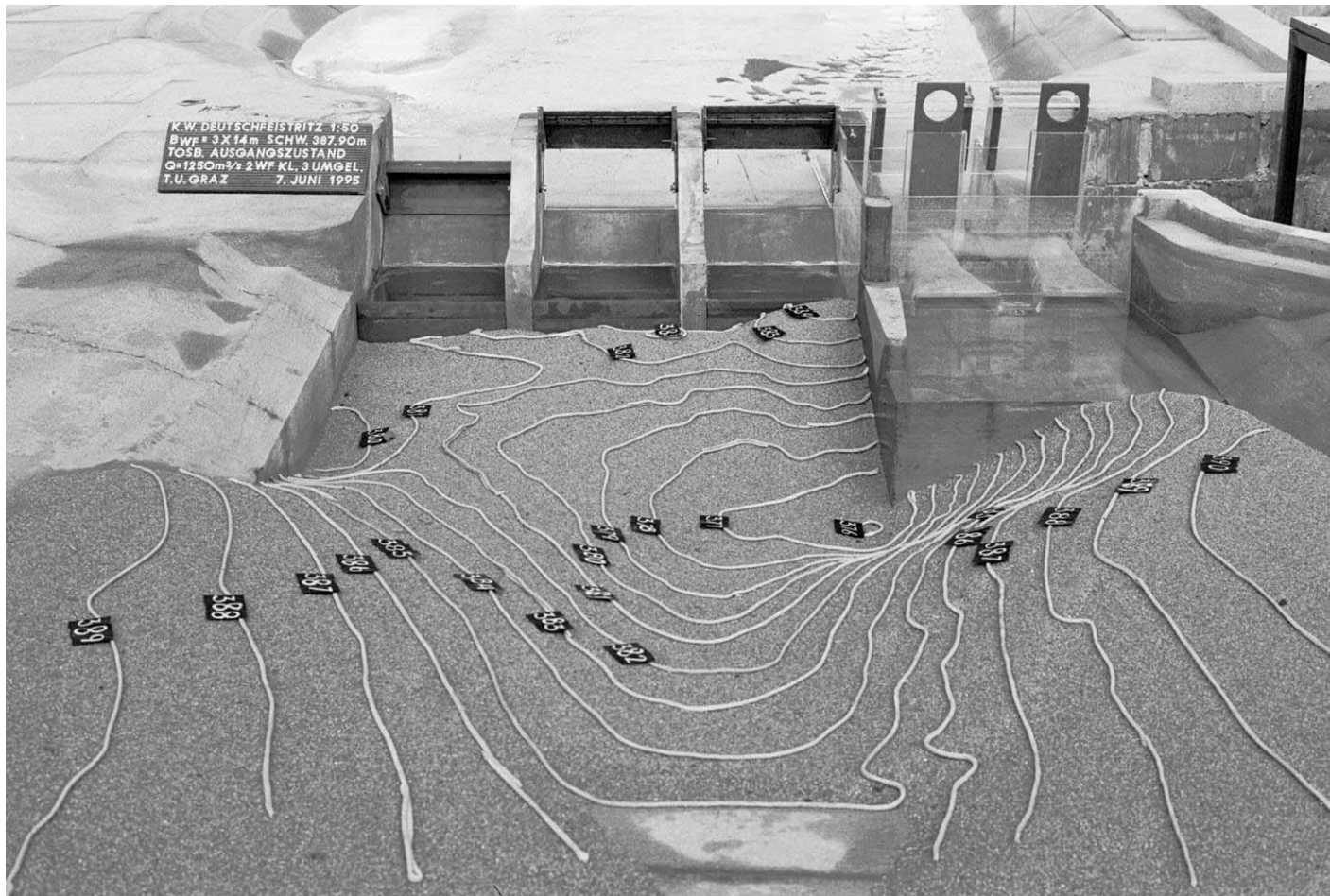
Scale Model 1:40

# Modelling of Sediment Transport

- Realistic modelling of sediment transport helps to evaluate the effect of structural measures on the natural stream-bed
- Stream-bed is being modelled by sand of appropriate particle size and specific gravity
- Area of sediment erosion and/or deposition is identified by 3D-measurement of stream-bed
- Level of accuracy depends on the technique that is used to register the topography of the stream-bed



# Contour Mapping with Wool Threads



# Contour Mapping with Wool Threads



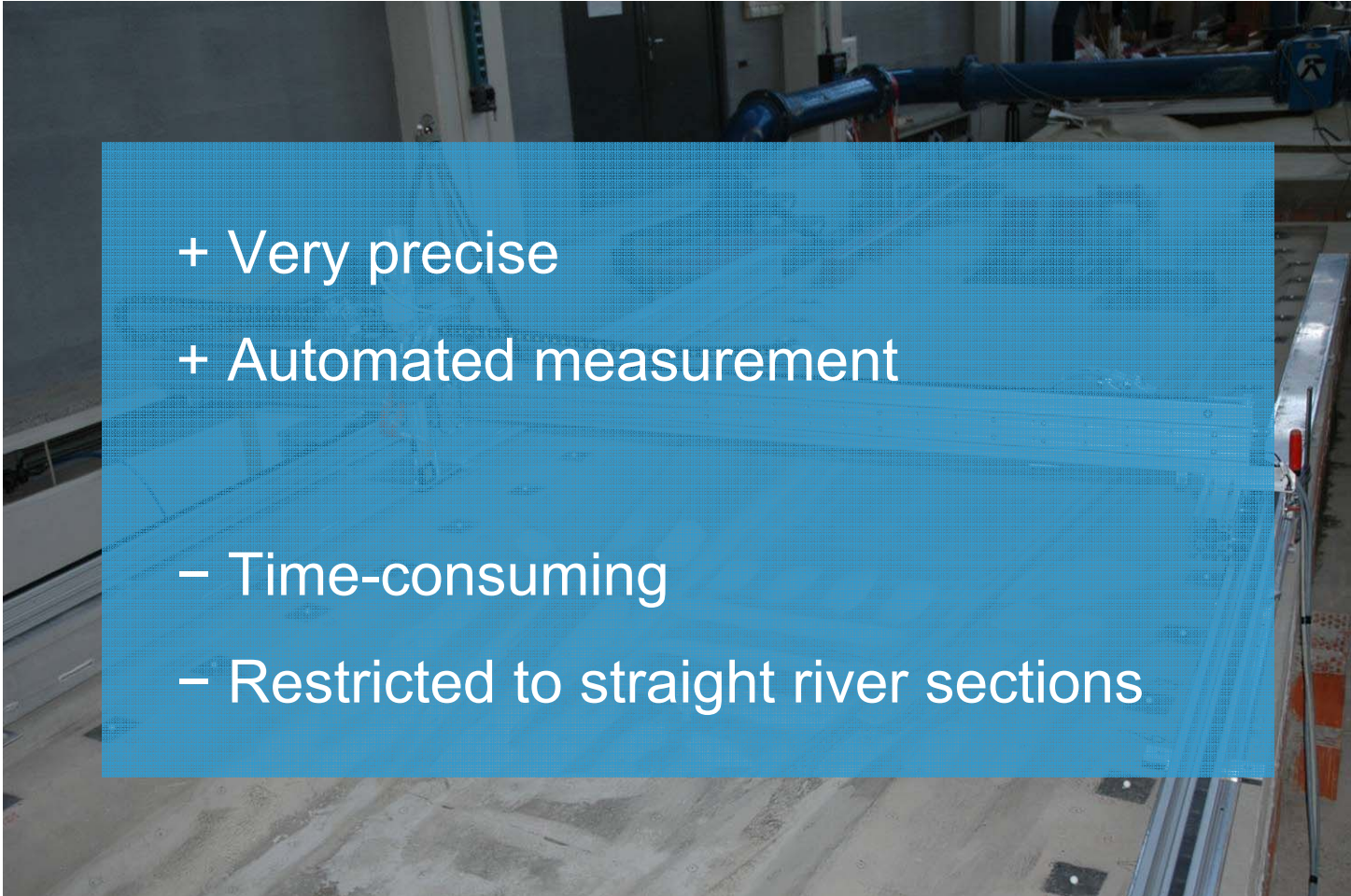


# Sequential Point-based Method (Laser Distance Sensor)





# Sequential Point-based Method (Laser Distance Sensor)

- 
- + Very precise
  - + Automated measurement
  - Time-consuming
  - Restricted to straight river sections

# Digital Close-range Photogrammetry

- HR Wallingford (Chandler et al. 2001), EPFL Lausanne (2002)
- TUG (2003): Development of a own low-cost, easy-to-use measurement system based on software developed by Joanneum Research and other institutions
- System components:



Nikon D70  
(6.1 MegaPixel)

+ 35mm lens + processing software (JR)

# Calibration of Camera Configuration

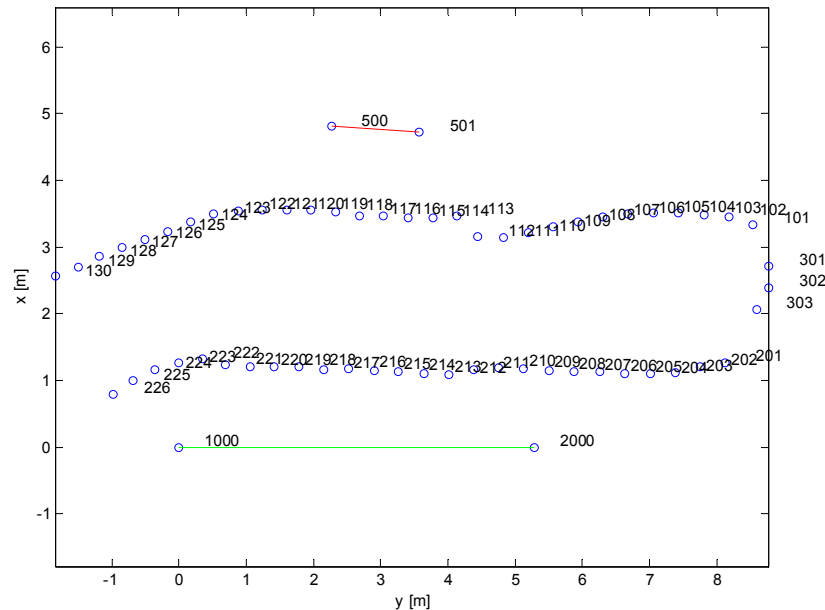
- Calibration field (Institute of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing, TUG)
- Calibration tool: CALWIN (JR)
- Lens distortion correction: ORIENT (Vienna University of Technology)





# Definition of 59 Control Points

- Fixed above the water surface on both sides of the stream
- White-enamelled metal balls (15mm diameter)
- **Accurate Survey** (Institute of Engineering Geodesy and Measuring Systems, TUG)



# Image Acquisition



- Flying Height 4-5m above stream-bed
- 60-70% overlapping area
- 16 images for a 12m-long stream section
- No artificial lighting (camera flash only)
- No special measuring bridge (crane only)
- Acquisition time: 30 minutes

# Image Processing

- Computation of transformation matrix for each different camera position with CALWIN
- DEM generation based on tunnel measurement system DIBIT™
  1. Matching of stereo-pairs (cross-correlation combined with HFVM method)
  2. Computation of spatial coordinates of surveyed stream bed
  3. Subsampling of generated 3D model with a regular grid (5x5mm)
  4. Assembly of rectified images for representation of the whole model surface (image and structure)
  5. Export of 3D coordinates and the corresponding pixels coordinates
- Only a few manual inputs
- Runs on conventional laptop (P4 with 2.80 GHz, 512 MB RAM)

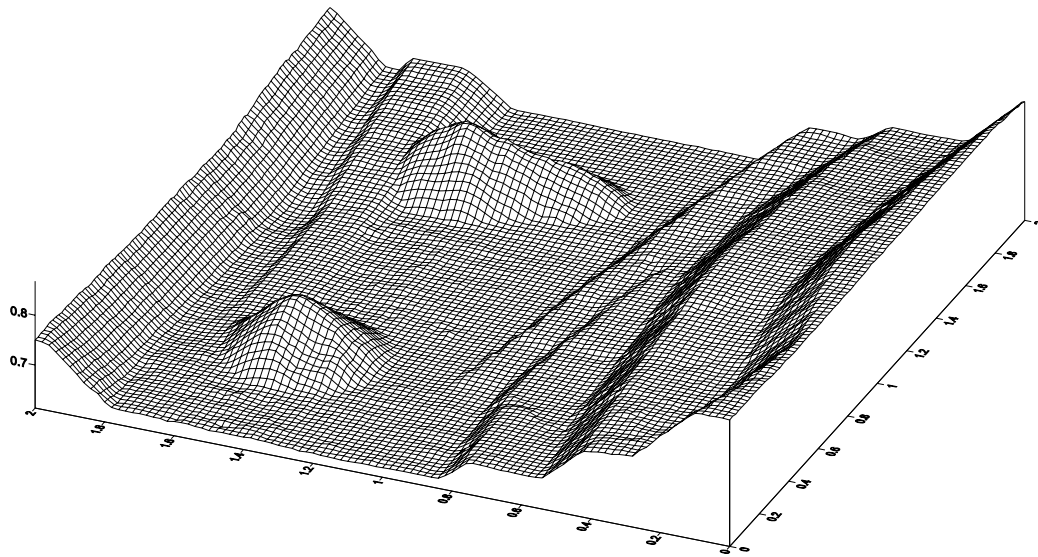


# Data Analysis with Surfer™

- Visualisation
- Cross-section calculation
- Volume calculation



# Comparative Survey (2m x 2m)

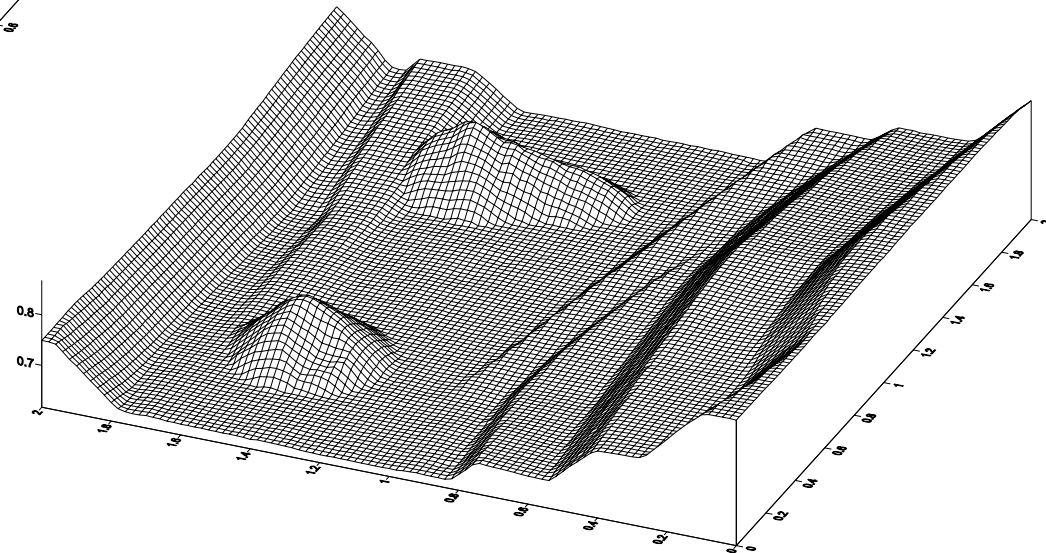


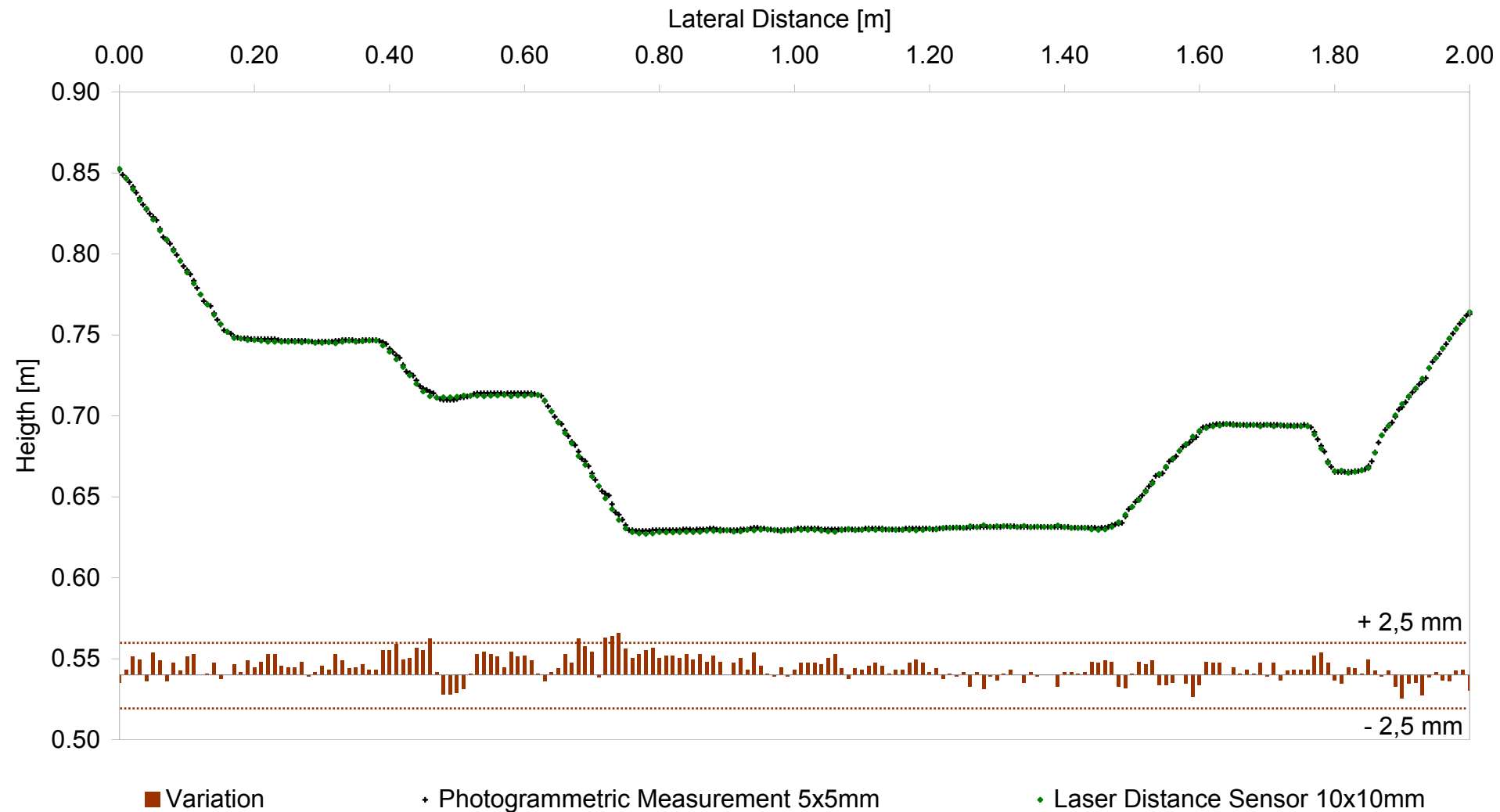
## Laser Distance Sensor

40,401 points (10mm grid)  
Processing time: 48h !

## Digital Photogrammetry

160,801 points (5mm grid)  
Processing time: 2h

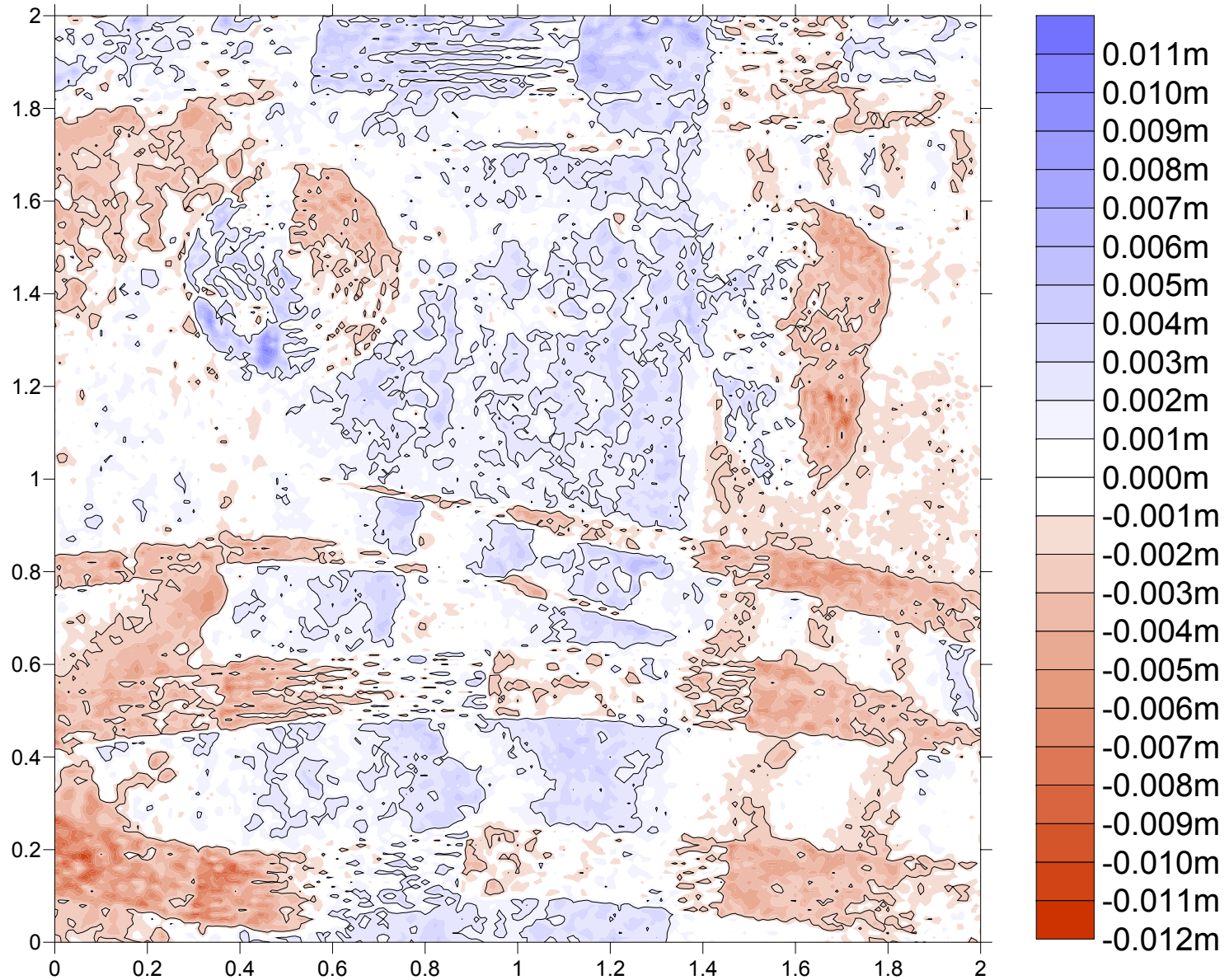






Contour plot  
showing deviation  $d$   
between the two  
data sets

(solid line  $d = 2\text{mm}$ )



# Conclusions

Photogrammetric stream-bed surveys can be considered an appropriate and accurate method to be applied in experimental hydraulics due to the following advantages:

- Good accuracy in combination with high point density
- Realistic representation of the stream-bed
- Immediate results at low cost
- High flexibility and easy handling



Thank You for  
Your Attention!

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