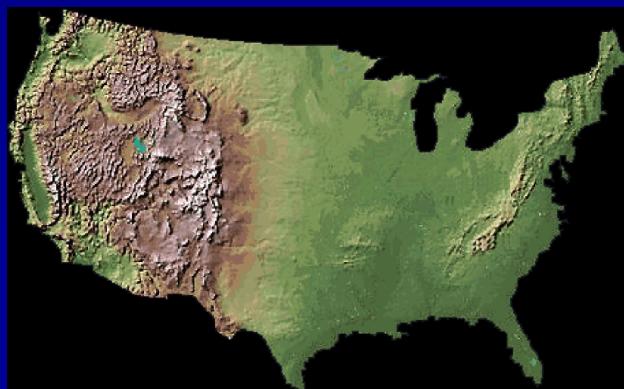
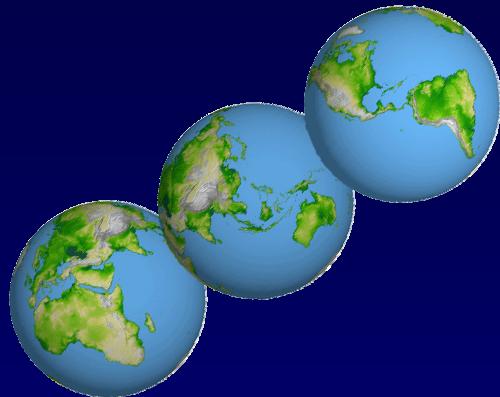


*Topographic Change  
and Topographic Data Evaluation:  
SRTM Compared to NED  
Across the Entire USA*

*Robert E. Crippen  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
Pasadena, California  
[crippen@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:crippen@jpl.nasa.gov)*



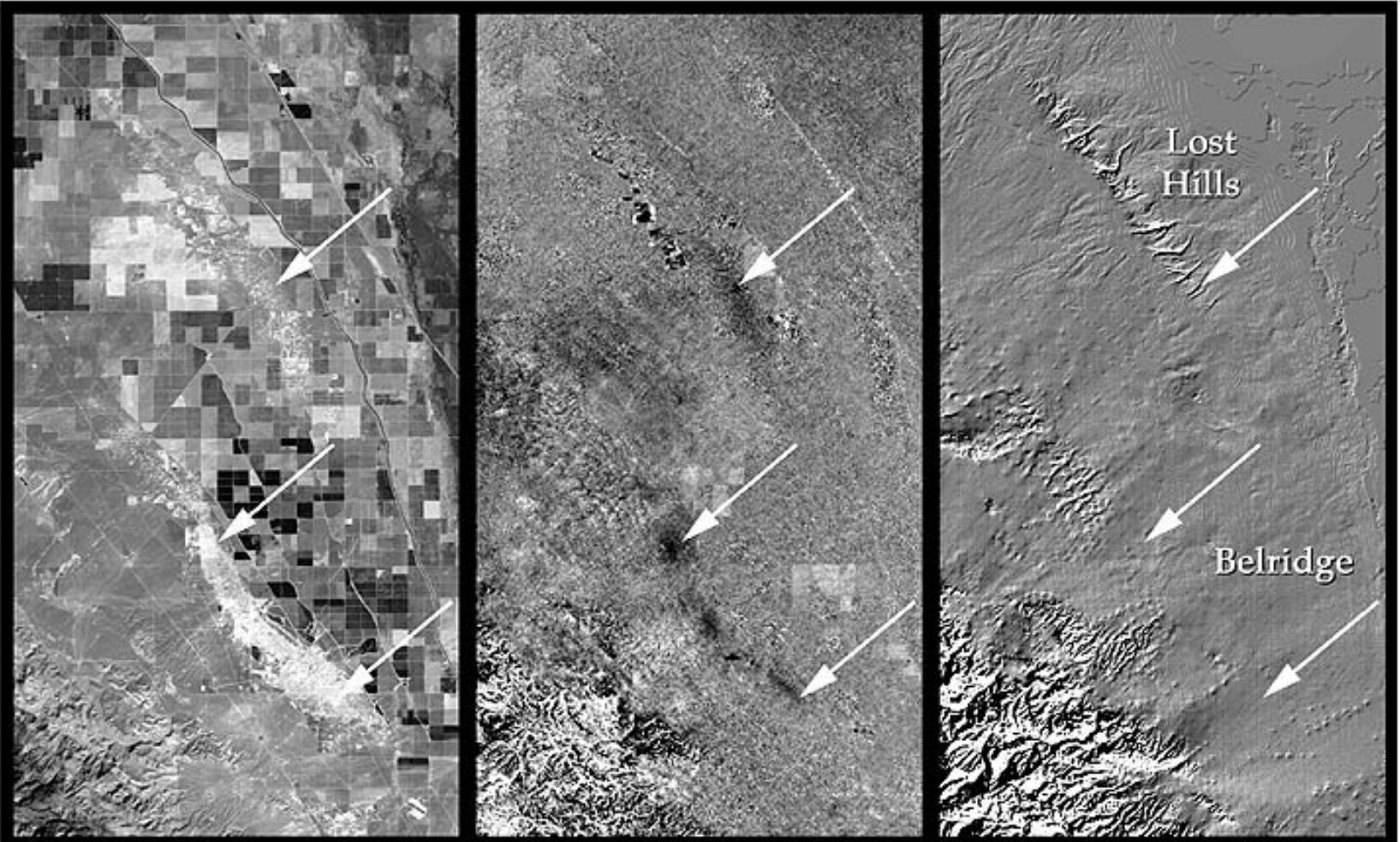


- Characterize, verify, and validate the SRTM elevation model.
- Improve the elevation database for the United States.
- Determine types, locations, and magnitudes of recent U.S. topographic changes, both natural and anthropogenic, as well as natural responses to human impacts.
- Demonstrate the use of SRTM data in conjunction with other global data sets for detecting topographic change related to dynamic geologic processes.
- Prepare for the future use of the SRTM data set as the year 2000 global reference against which future topographic change is measured.

# Primary Tasks

- (1) Conduct a full-resolution visual and numeric analysis of differences between SRTM data and the *entire* United States National Elevation Dataset (NED), so as to:
  - Locate and characterize topographic changes that occurred between the source image dates of the NED and the time of the SRTM flight (February 2000).
  - Locate and evaluate production errors in the NED that can be recognized only by comparison to an independently derived elevation model (SRTM).
  - Locate and evaluate any problems in the SRTM data set that can be recognized only by comparison to an independently derived elevation model (NED).
  - Characterize the relative advantages of the SRTM and NED elevation models.
- (2) Conduct topographic change analyses at *select* global sites using DEM differencing methodologies in order to map and quantify geologic processes, particularly those related to natural hazards.
- (3) Develop enhanced elevation data processing techniques for gap filling, visualization, and change detection.

# Oil Field Subsidence



Landsat Band 3

SRTM-USGS Diff  
DARK = DOWN

DEM Shaded

Subsidence in the Lost Hills and Belridge Oil Fields, San Joaquin Valley, California, between 1982 (USGS DEM) and 2000 (SRTM DEM). Pattern closely matches short term radar interferometry results and does not match topographic pattern (not an artifact).

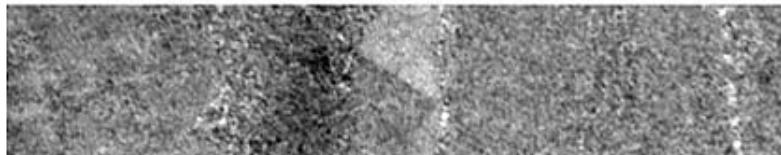
**Lost Hills Oilfield Transect**  
**SRTM DEM - USGS DEM Difference Image**

Time Period: 1982-2000

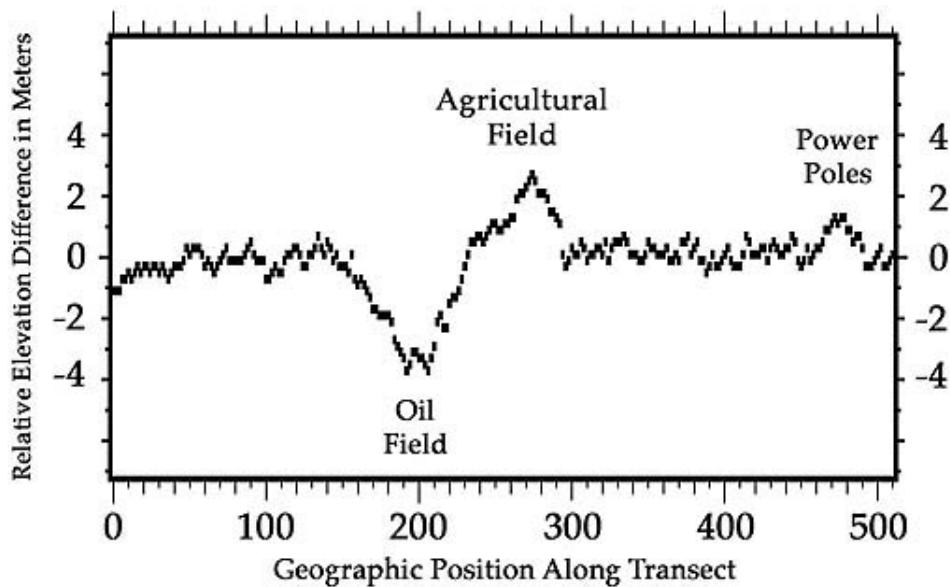
Dark = Down

1 arc-second pixels, 100 x 512

— W39N —→

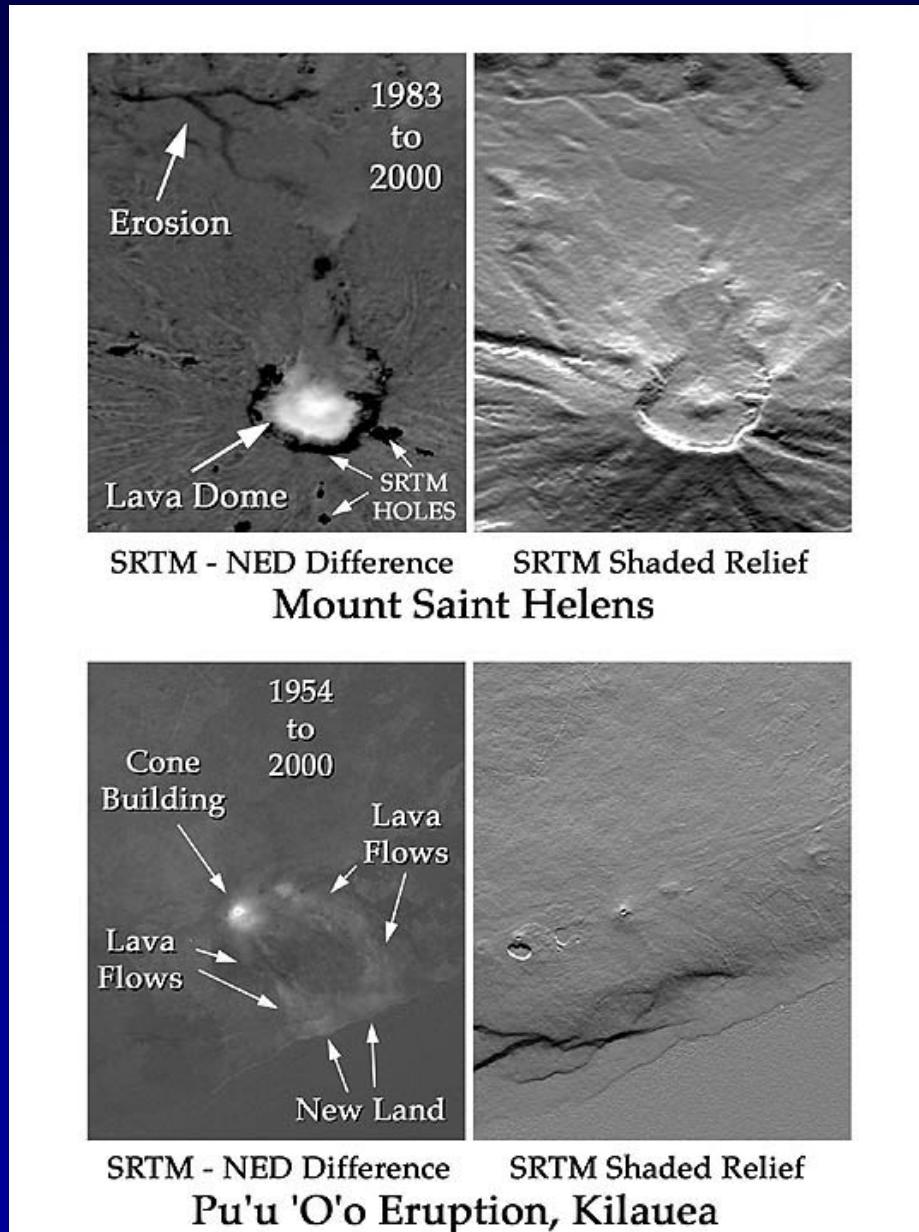


Oil Field   Ag Field   Power Poles

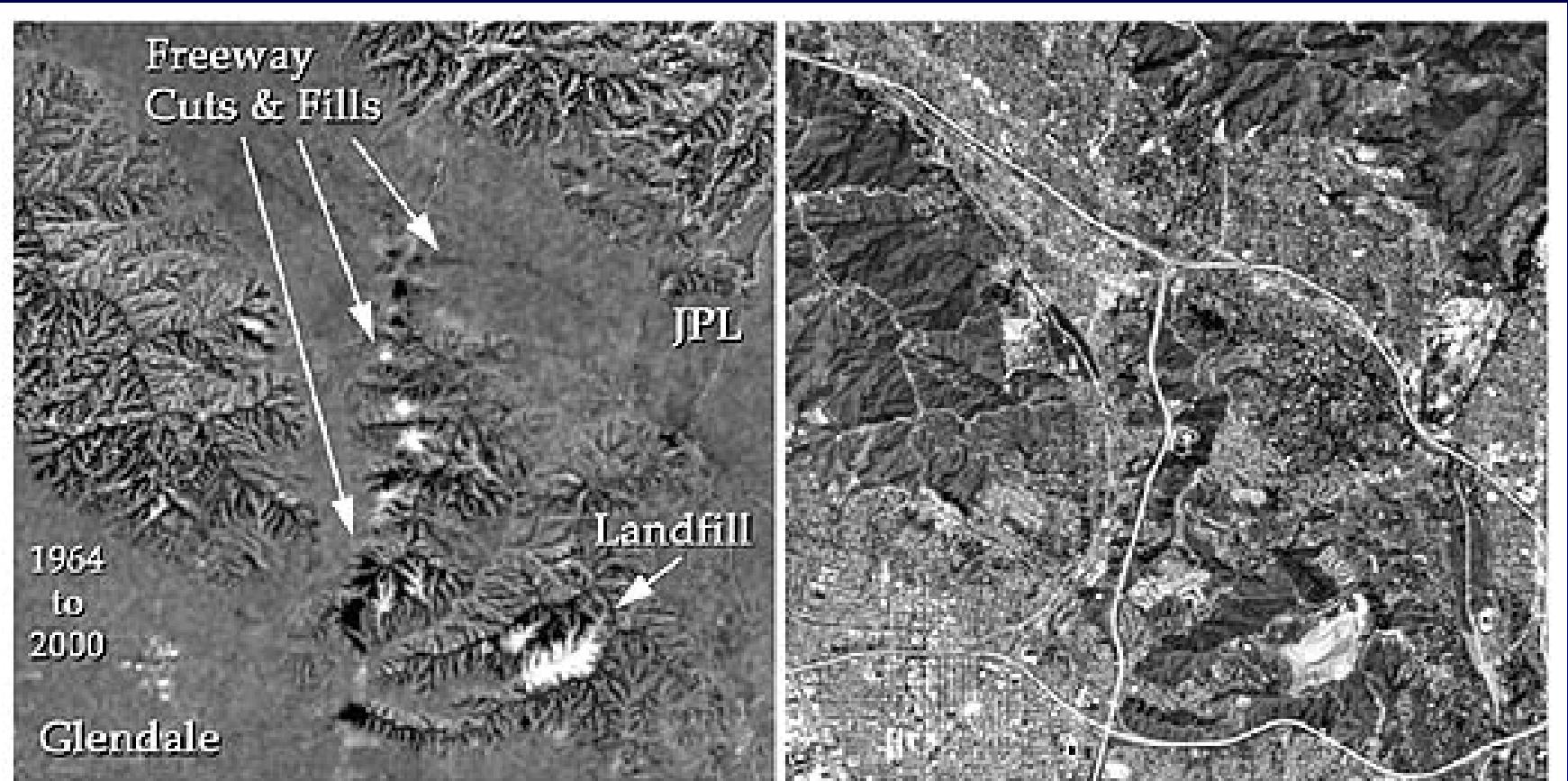


Median of 100 Transects (100 Image Lines)

# Volcanic Topographic Change



# Anthropogenic Topographic Change



Glendale - Pasadena, California: SRTM - NED difference image (bright = up) and Landsat band 3.  
Note anthropogenic changes, Glendale buildings, and ridge and gully pattern in well-registered topography.

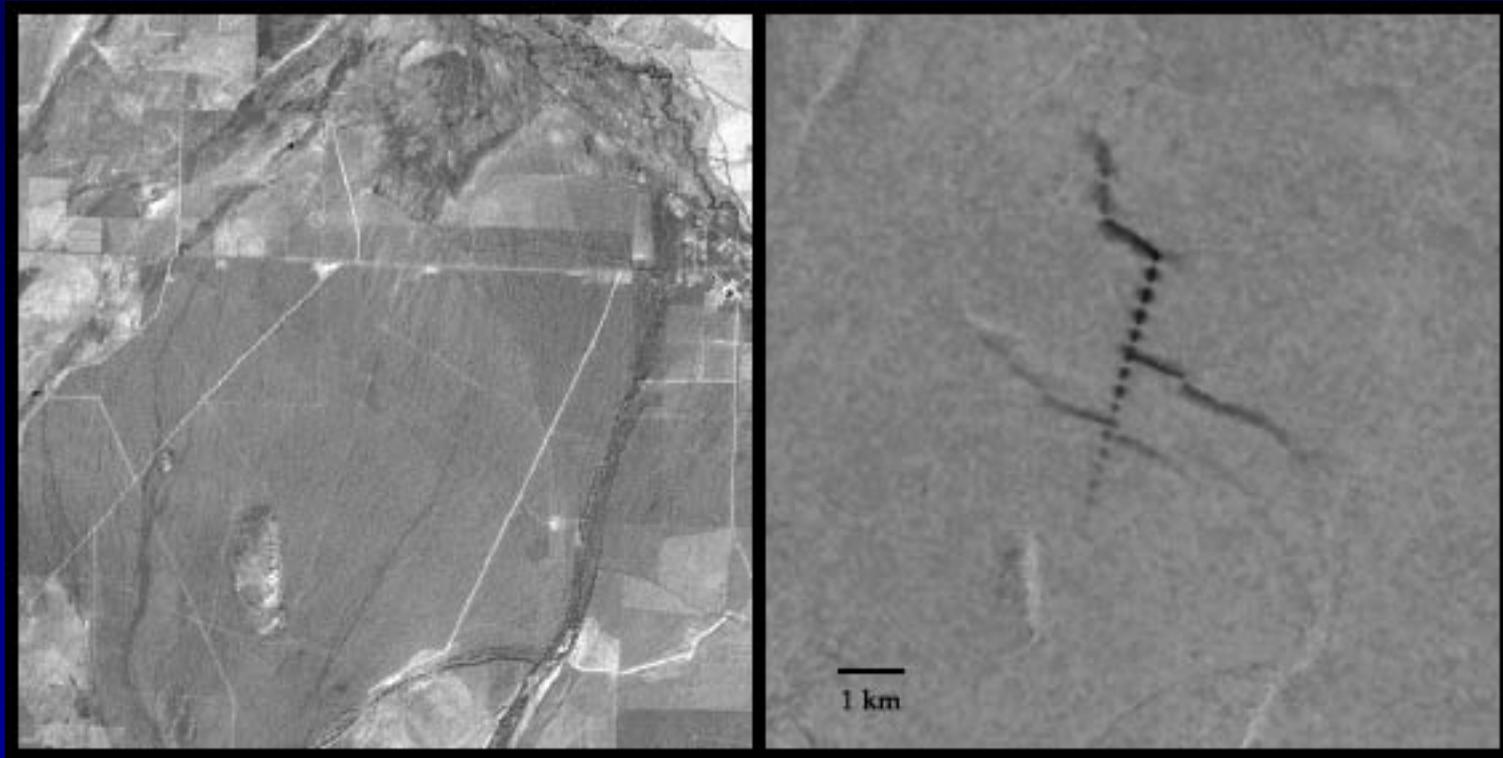
# Anthropogenic Topographic Change



San Francisco, California: SRTM - NED difference image (bright = up) and Landsat band 3. Note filled drainages & flattened hills of bulldozed topography, plus vegetation and buildings. Black water – SRTM holes.

# *Anthropogenic SRTM - NED Differences: What are These?*

Leadore, Idaho



Landsat 7: 1999 Sept 13

SRTM (Feb 2000) minus NED  
 $\Delta \leq 30$  meters

( They are unidentified mounds in the NED DEM, not pits in the SRTM DEM )

# SRTM: Effects of Structures

## Electrical Transmission Towers

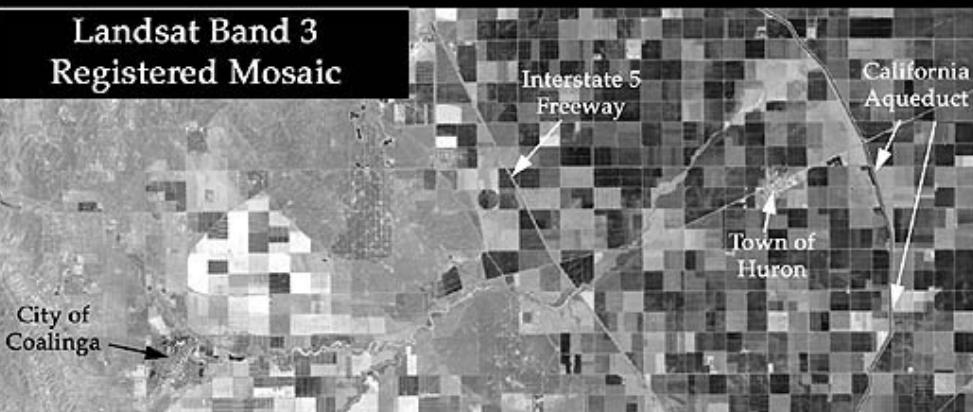


SRTM minus NED  
Near Cajon Pass, California

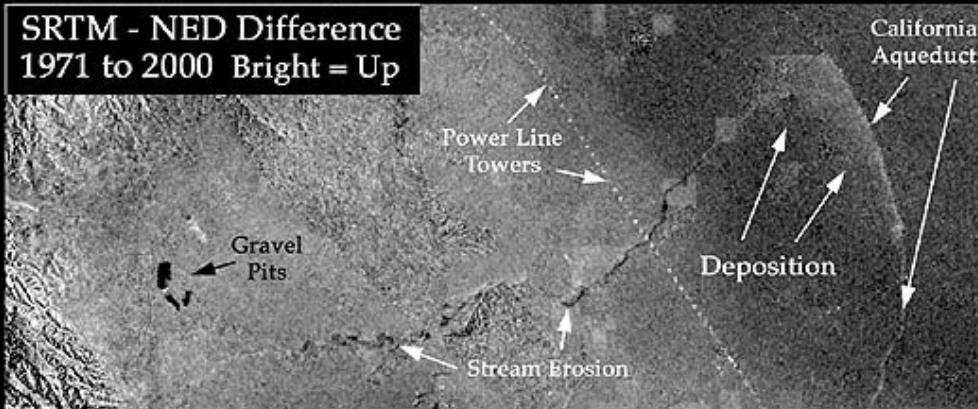
# Active Erosion: Los Gatos Creek, San Joaquin Valley, California



Landsat Band 3  
Registered Mosaic



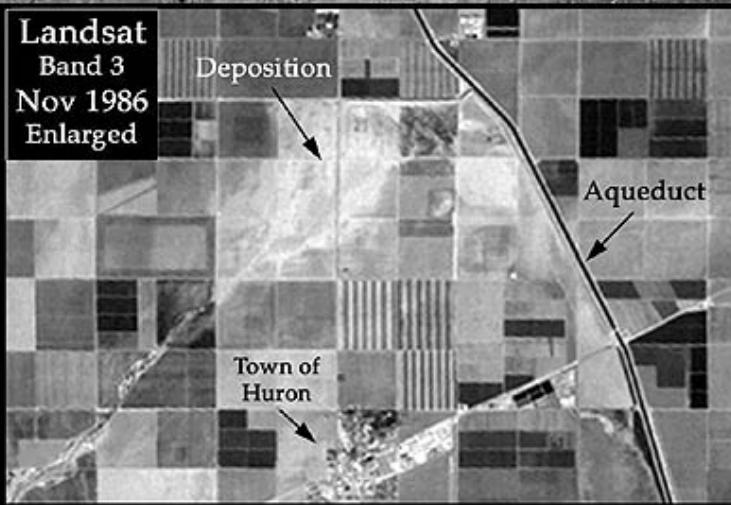
SRTM - NED Difference  
1971 to 2000 Bright = Up



Huron,  
California

Drainage  
Disruption  
by Aqueduct:  
Sediment  
Accumulation  
Maximum  
= 3 meters

Landsat  
Band 3  
Nov 1986  
Enlarged



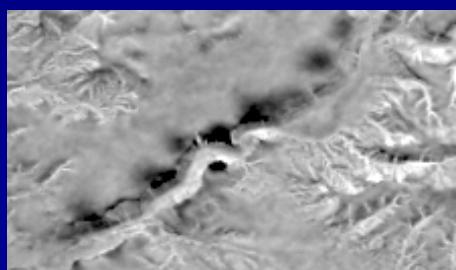
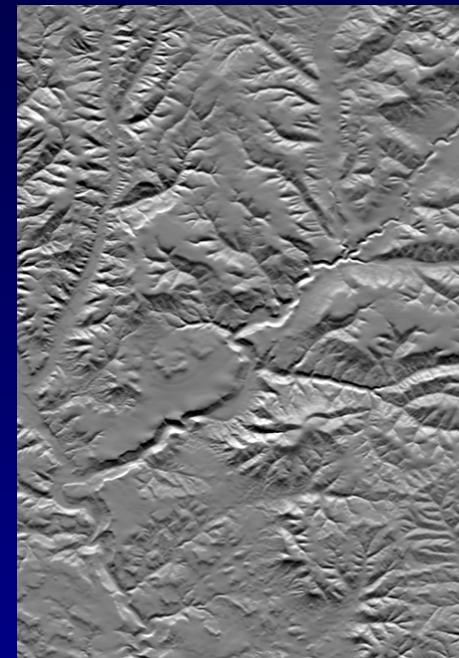
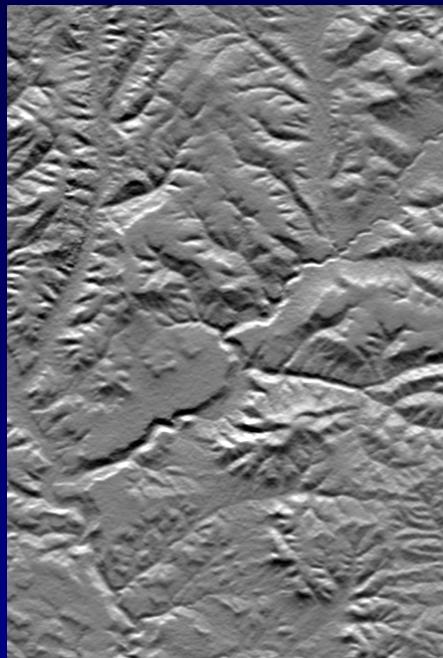
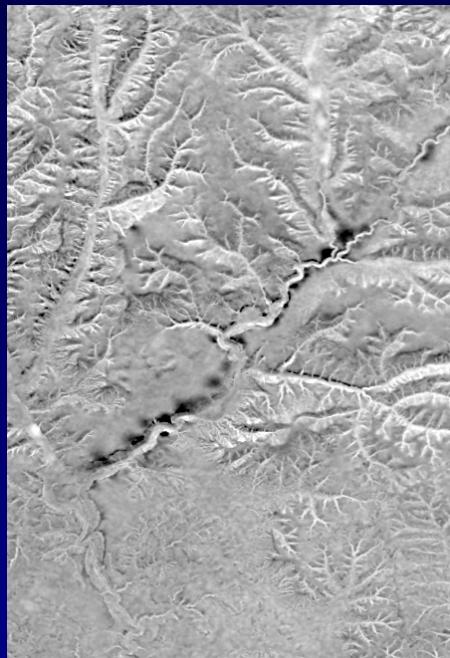
# Alluvial Hydro-Compaction ( & Tectonics ? )



SRTM minus NED  $\Delta = 1$  to 3 m  
Southern San Joaquin Valley, California

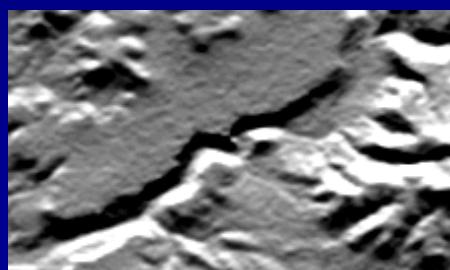
# Stream Bank Slumping / Erosion?

Near “Show Low, Arizona”

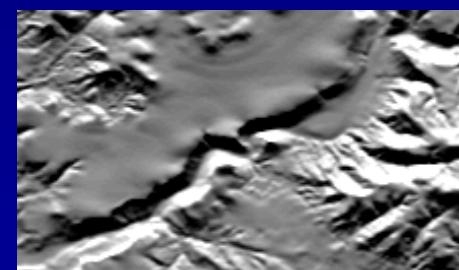


SRTM - NED Diff

Slumping / Erosion? No.



SRTM Shade



NED Shade

Errors in NED  
Cubic Convolution on Cliffs?

# SRTM and NED Systematic Errors

40 N

Denver

NED

SRTM

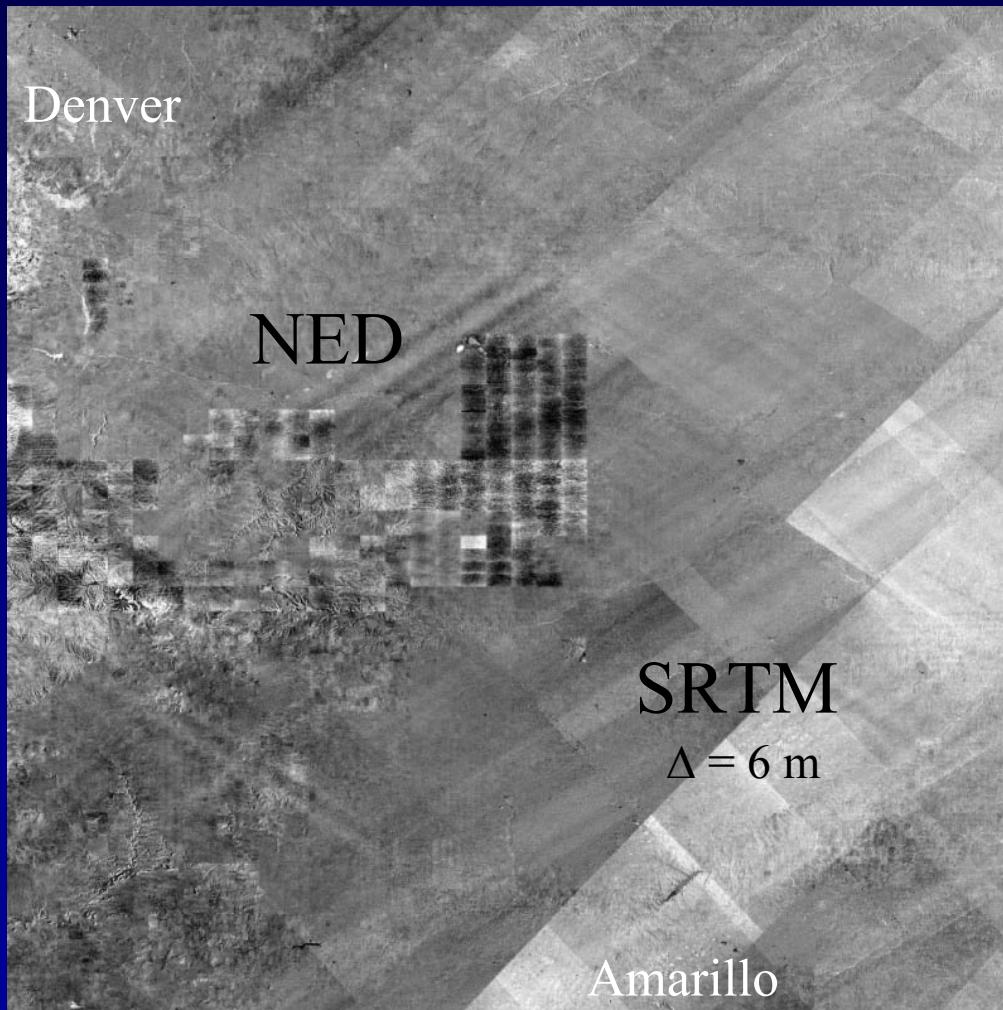
$\Delta = 6 \text{ m}$

Amarillo

35 N

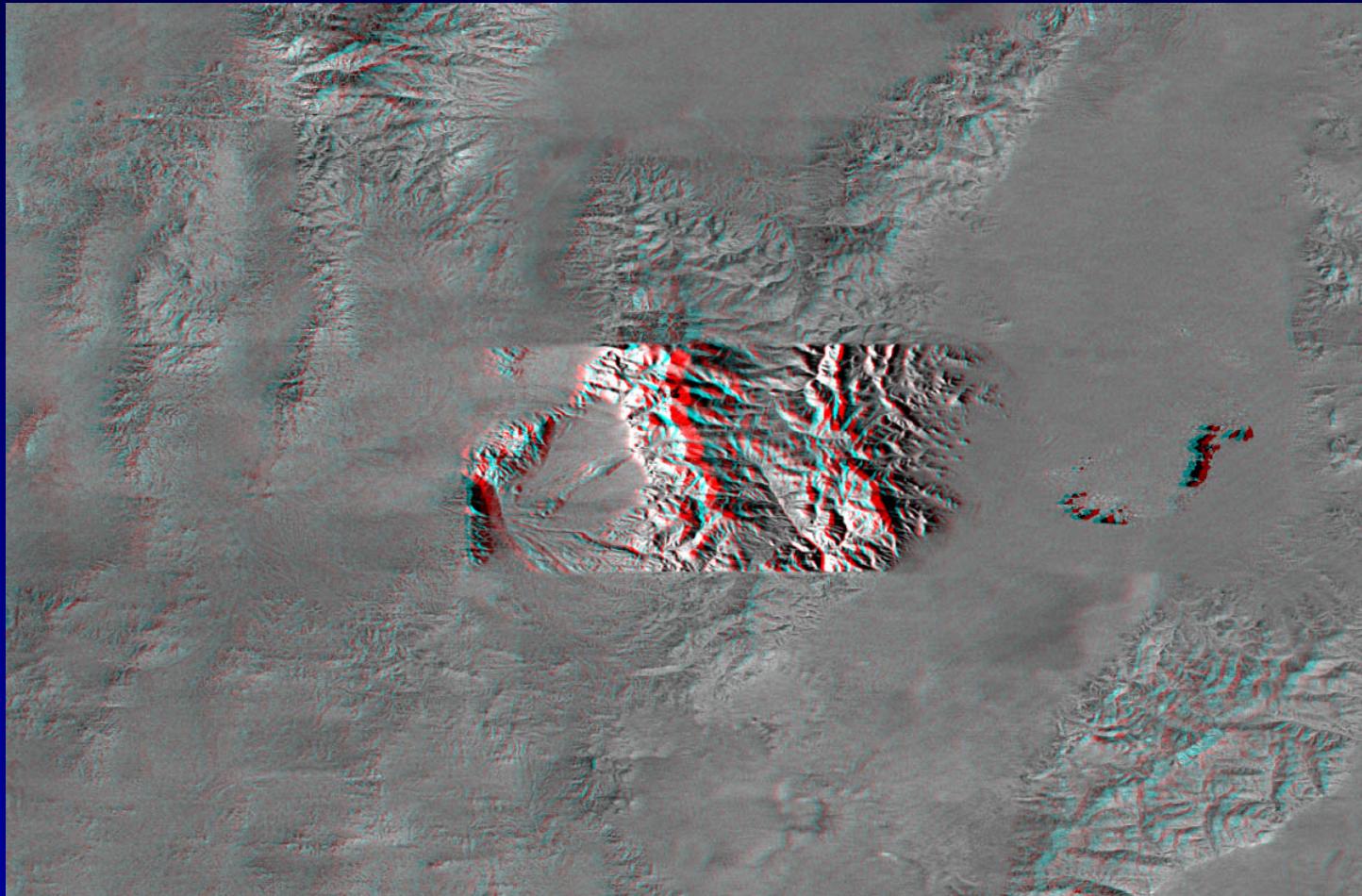
105 W

100 W



# NED Quad Mis-Locations

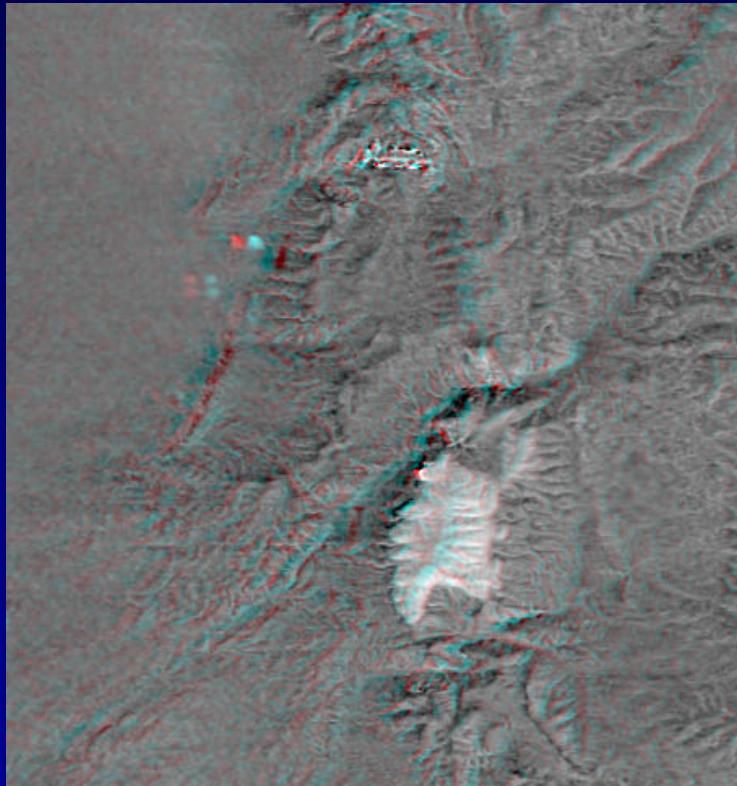
Anaglyph



Desatoya Mountains, Nevada  
Brightness = SRTM minus NED  
NED Quads Shifted to East

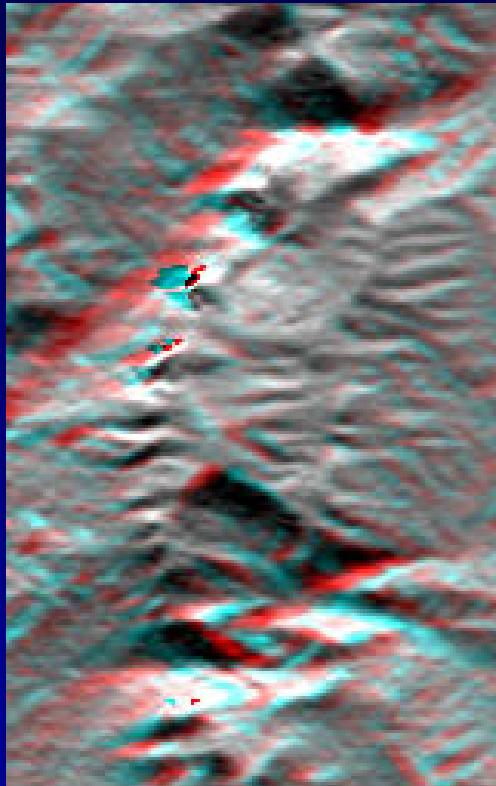
# DEM Production Error: SRTM or NED ?...

Anaglyphs

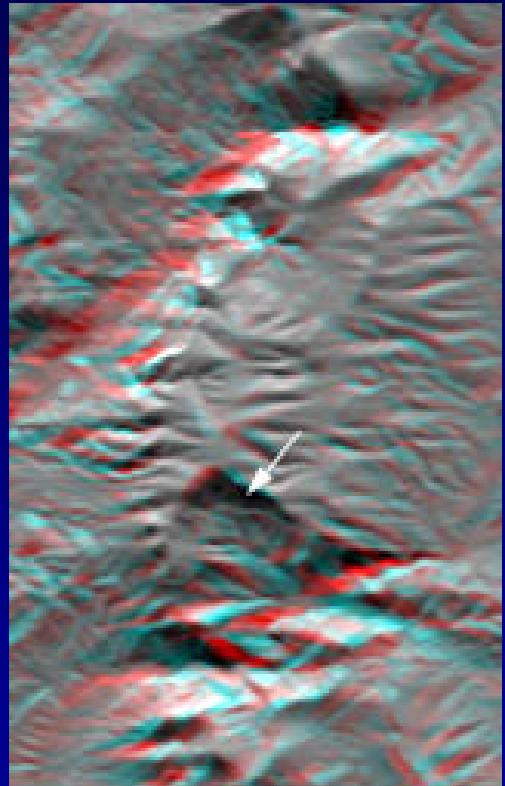


SRTM minus NED  
Mountain Top Elevation  
SRTM > NED

$$\Delta = 16 \text{ m}$$

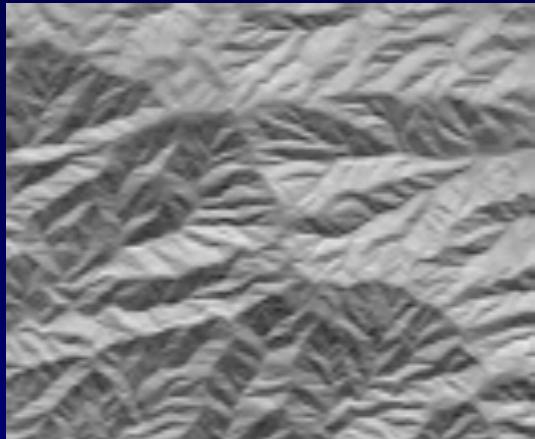


SRTM  
Anaglyph  
Close-up

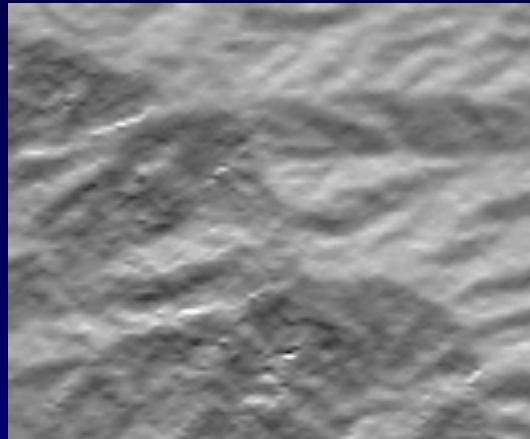


NED  
Anaglyph  
Close-up  
Error: NED

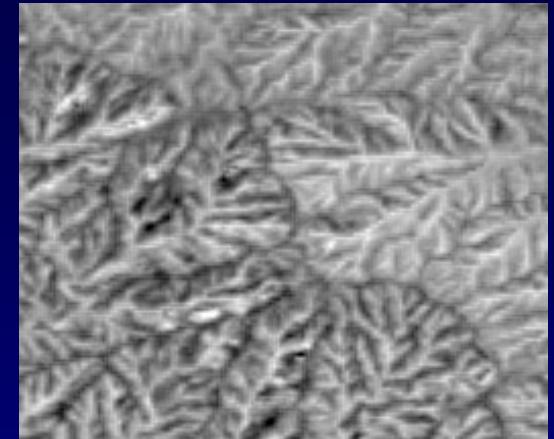
# SRTM Compared to NED



NED



SRTM

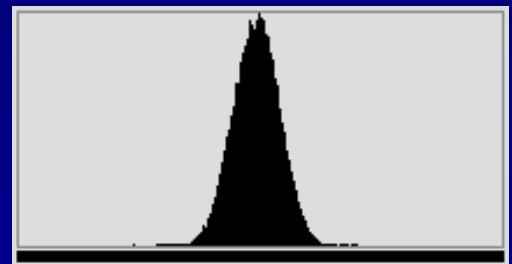


SRTM - NED

Elevation Range: 51 to 443 m

Difference Mean = 1.74 m SRTM > NED

Difference Std Dev = 10.06 meters



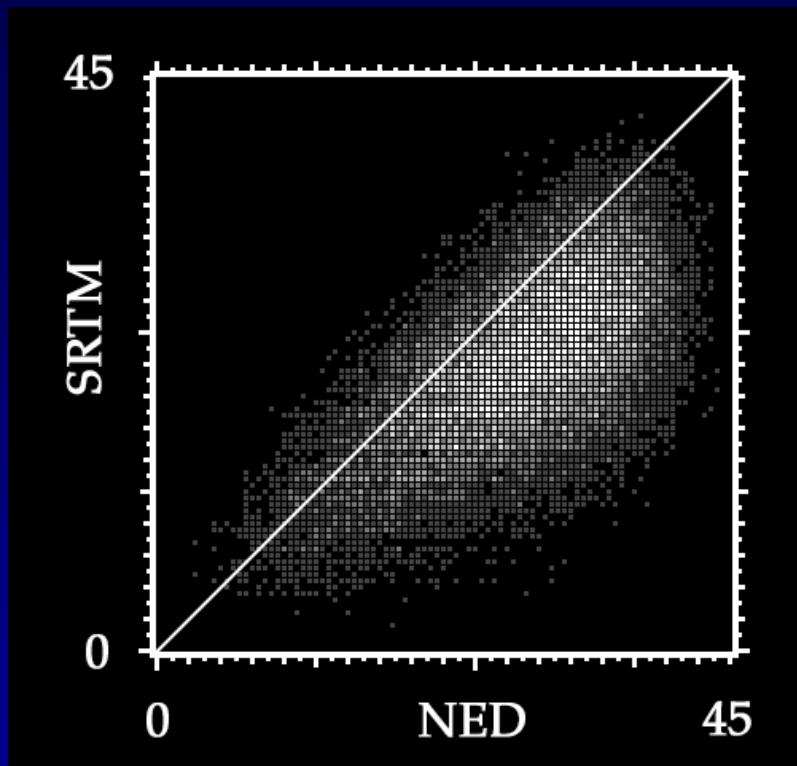
+/- 28 m

Verdugo Mountains, California

( Chaparral Vegetation )

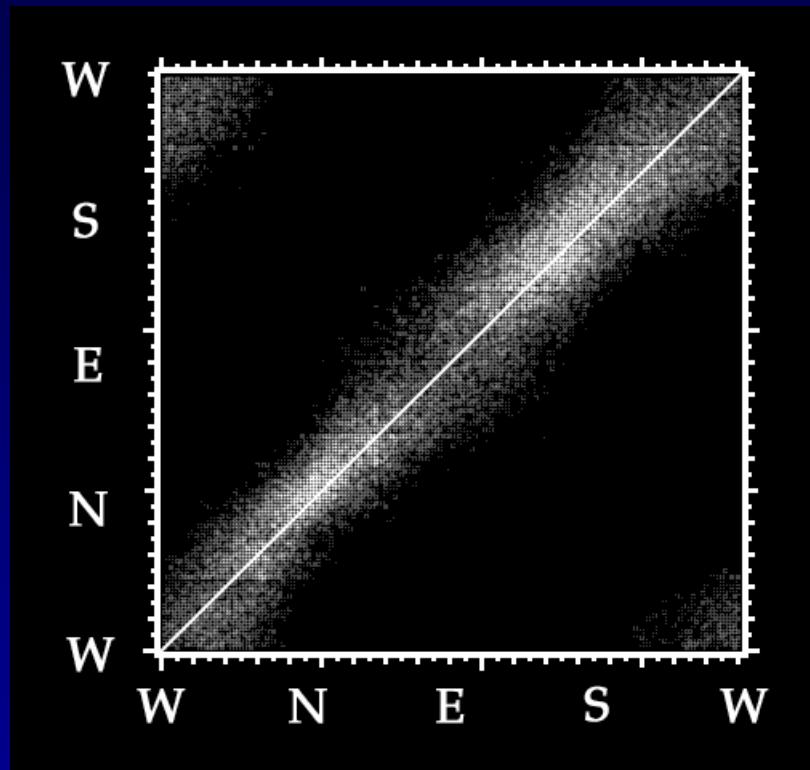
108 x 130 Arc-Seconds

# SRTM vs. NED: Slopes and Azimuths



Slope

SRTM Slopes are Lower



Azimuth

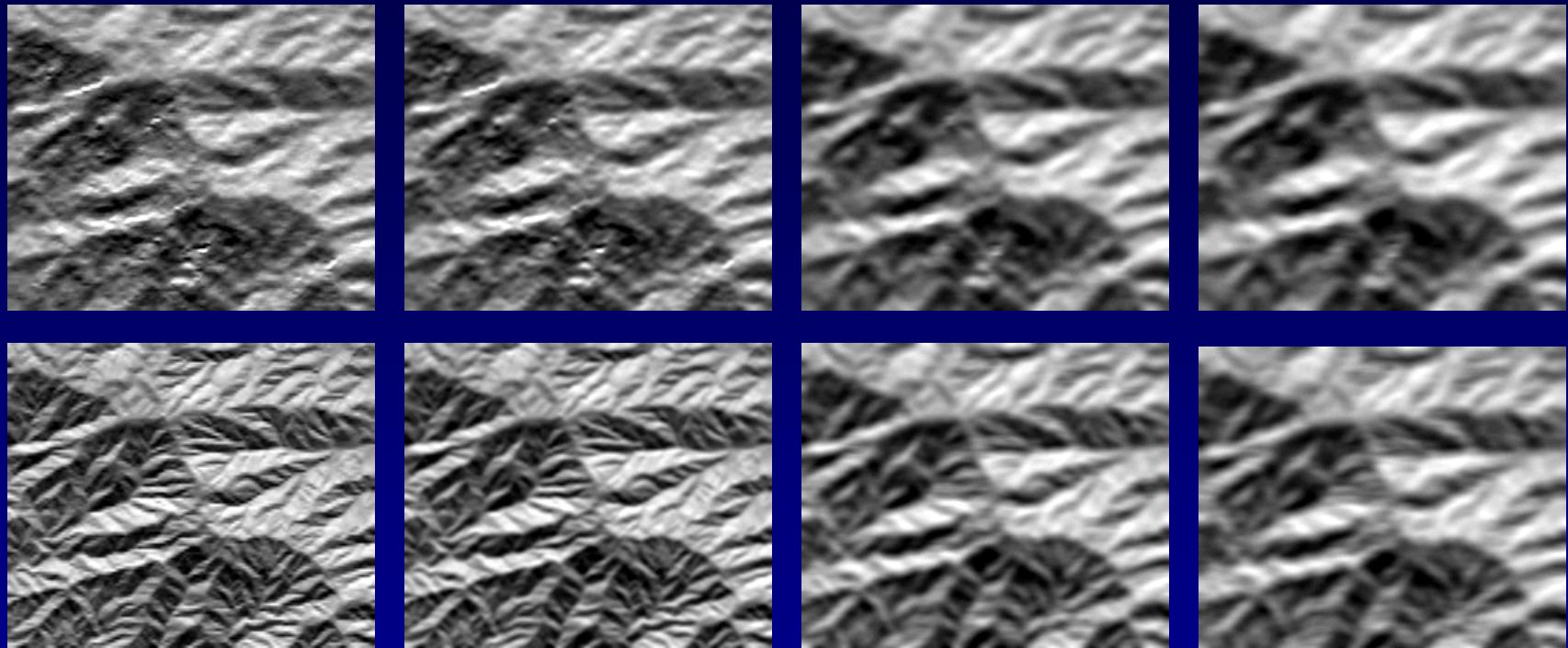
Azimuths are Similar

Verdugo Mountains, California

# Test of SRTM Spatial Resolution

S  
R  
T  
M

N  
E  
D



Original

1.5 x 1.5

2.5 x 2.5

3.5 x 3.5

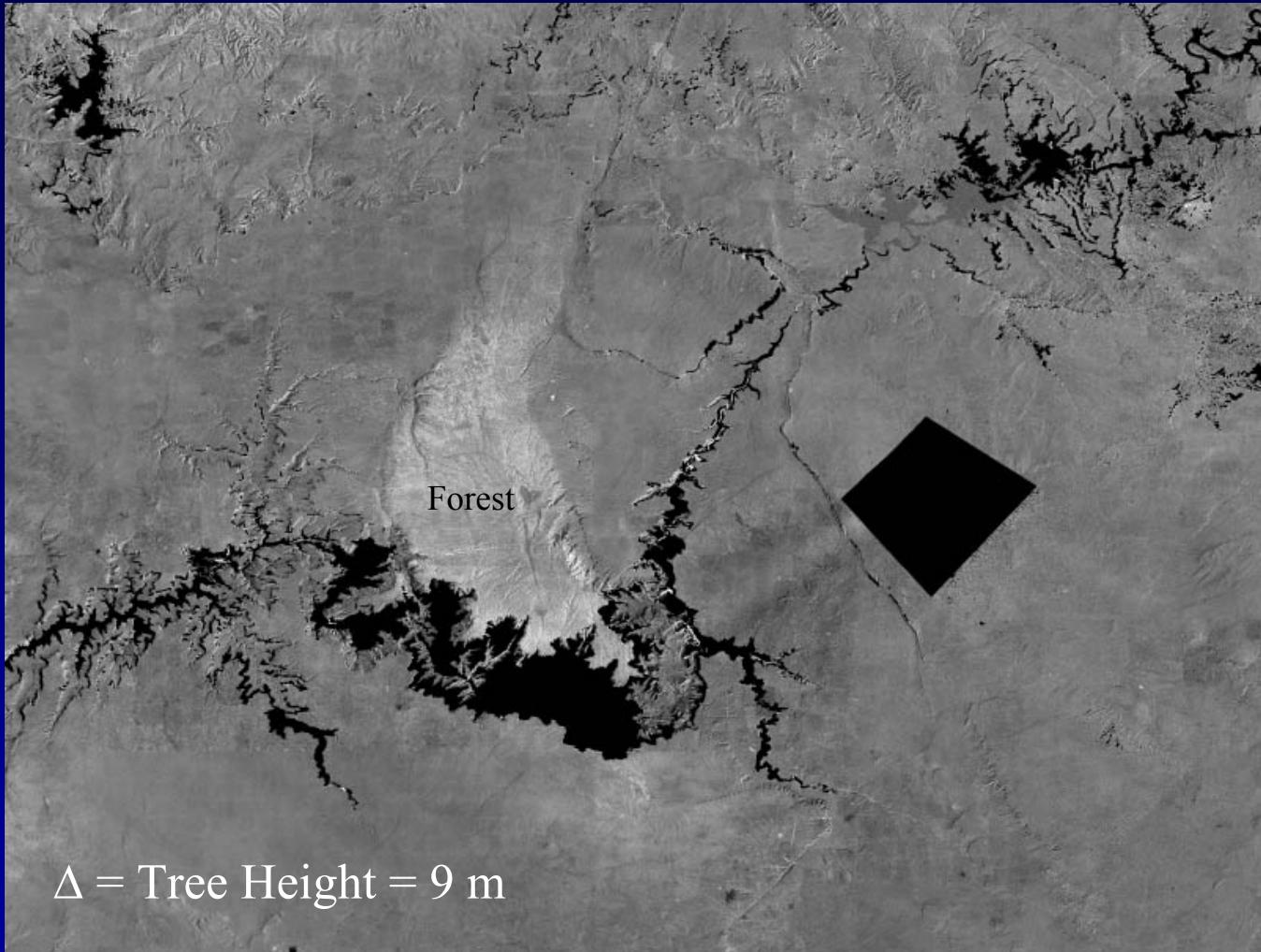
Boxfiltering of Shaded Relief

Verdugo Mountains,  
California  
130 x 108 Arc-Seconds

Even-Weighted Square Kernel  
in Arc-Seconds per Side

# Vegetation Effects in SRTM

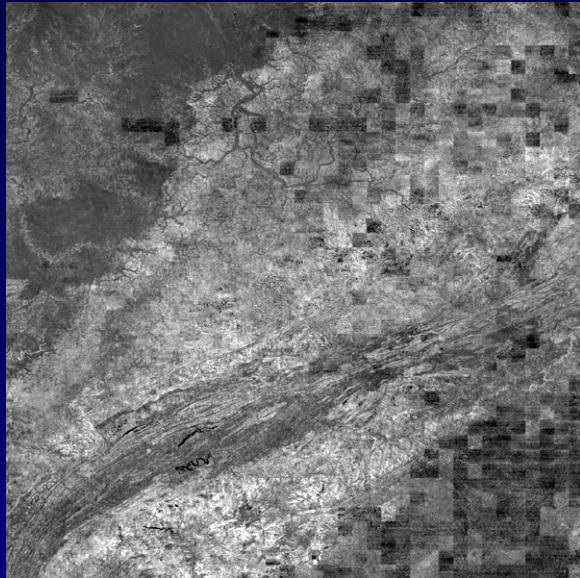
## SRTM minus NED



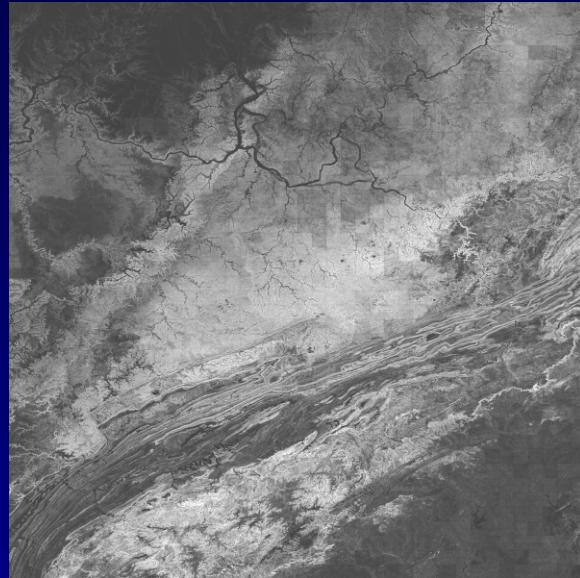
Grand Canyon, Arizona

# SRTM - NED Difference Related to Slope

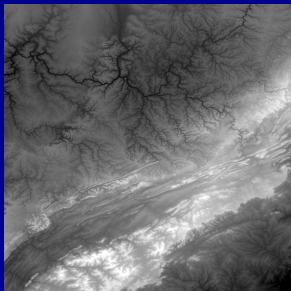
## Vegetated Terrain



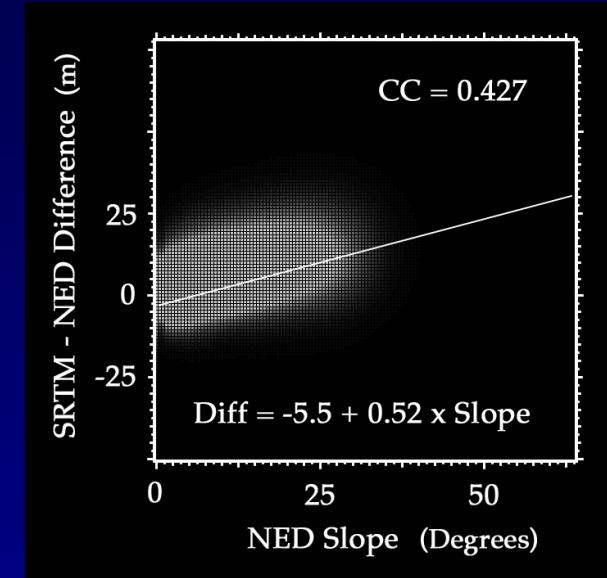
Difference



NED Slope



Elevation

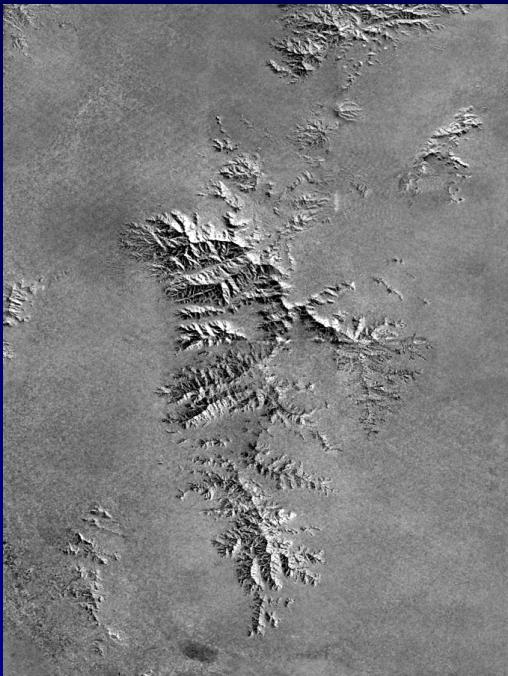


N 35-40 W 80-85

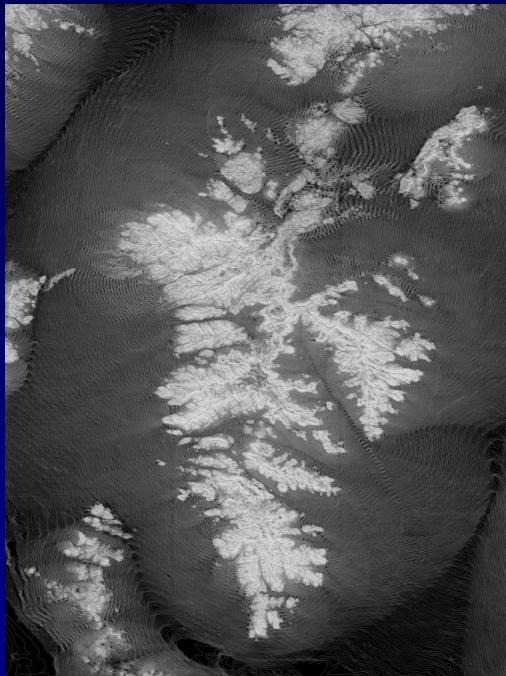
Southern Ohio  
Eastern Kentucky  
Eastern Tennessee  
Most of West Virginia  
Western Virginia  
Western North Carolina

# SRTM - NED Difference Increases with Slope

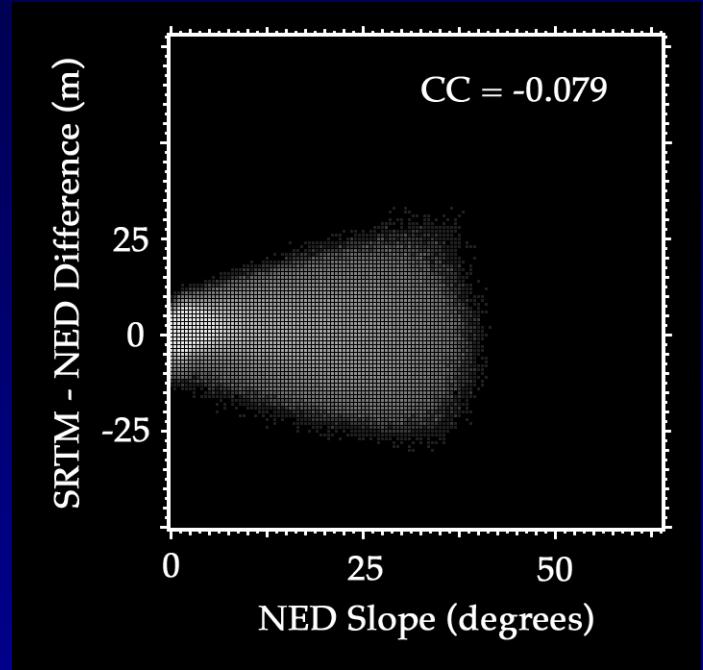
## Desert Terrain



Difference



NED Slope

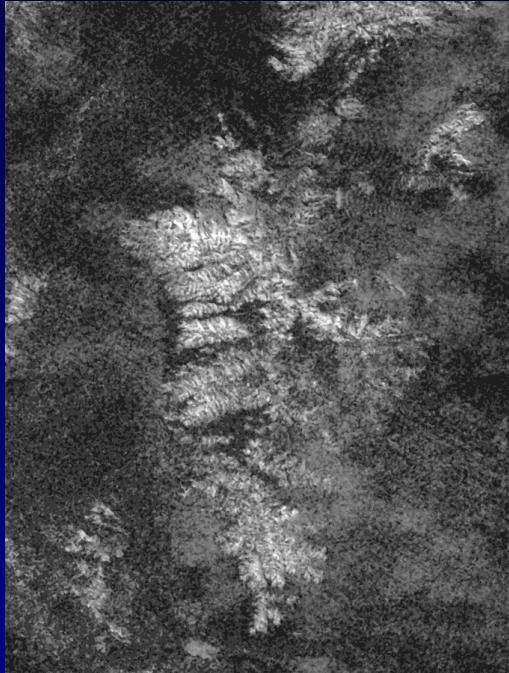


Old Woman Mountains, Mojave Desert, California

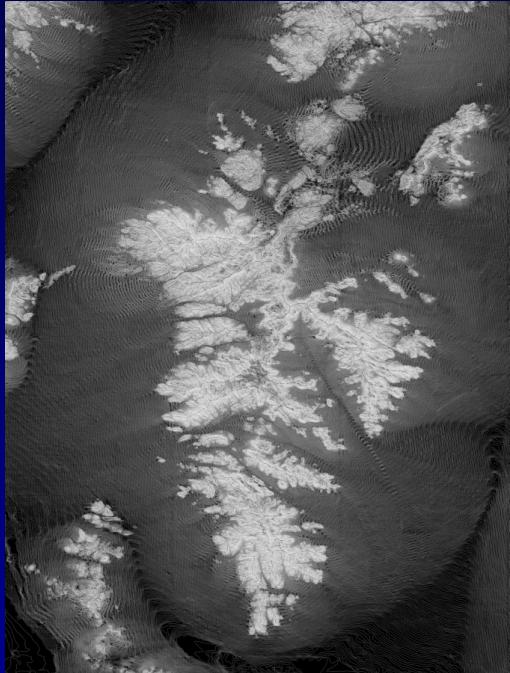
1800 x 1350 arc-seconds

# SRTM - NED Absolute Difference Related to Slope

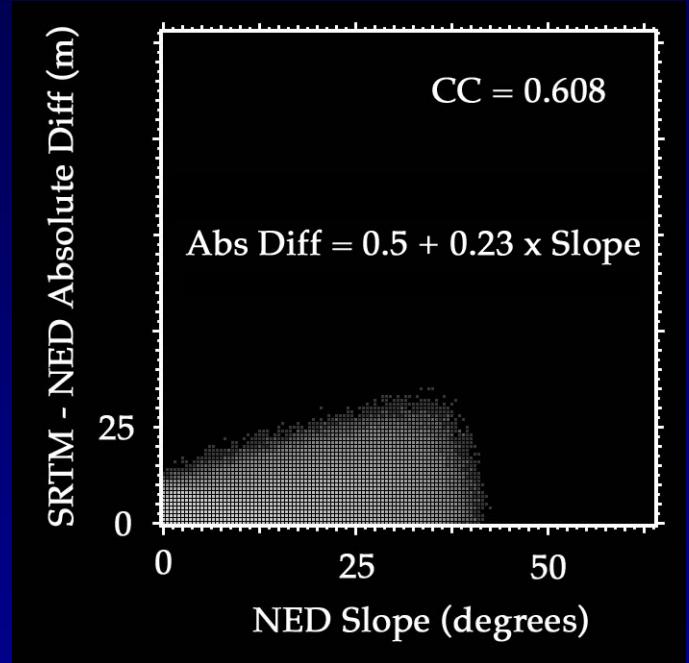
## Desert Terrain



Absolute Diff



NED Slope



Old Woman Mountains, Mojave Desert, California

1800 x 1350 arc-seconds

# SRTM

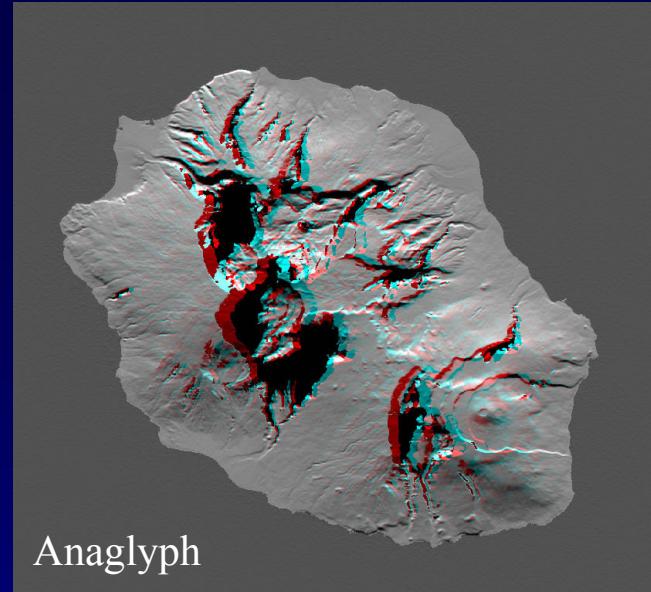
## Voids

Recognition of Causes

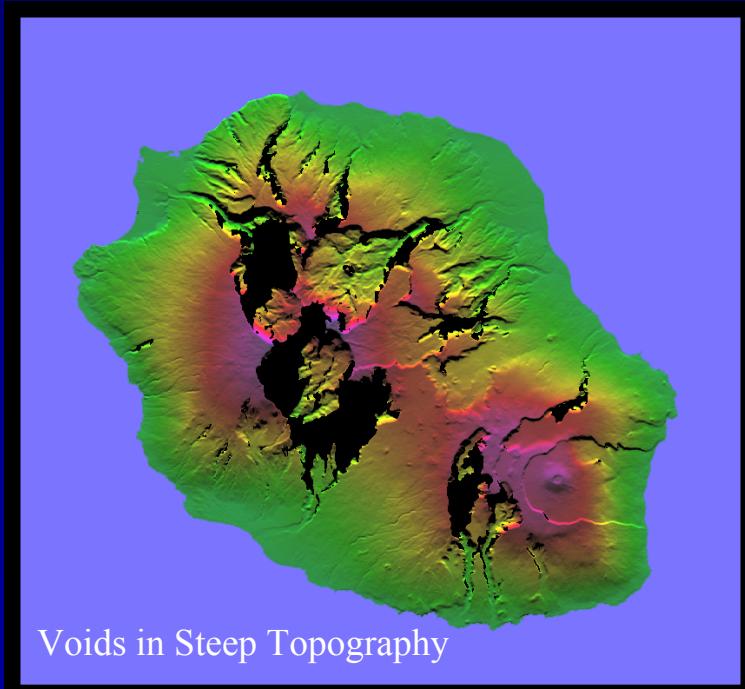
&

Dealing with Them

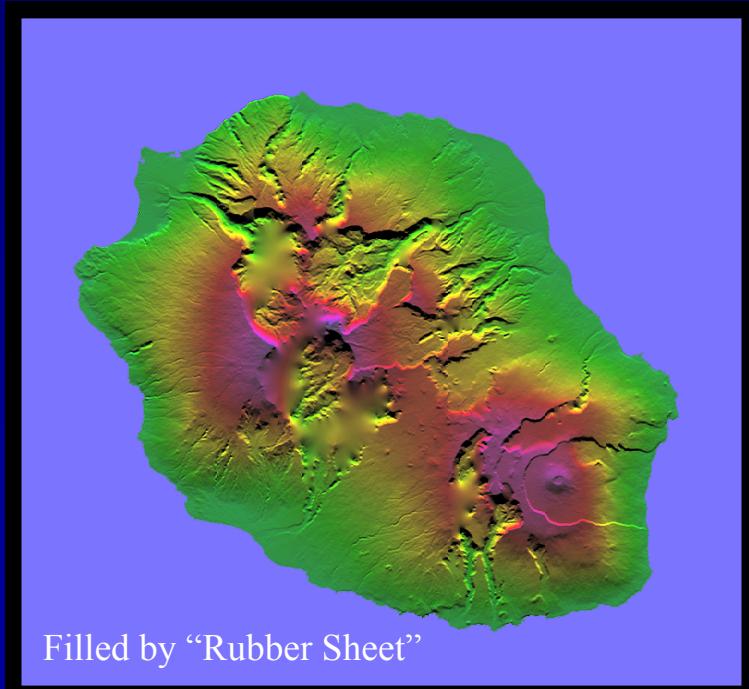
## Reunion Island



Anaglyph

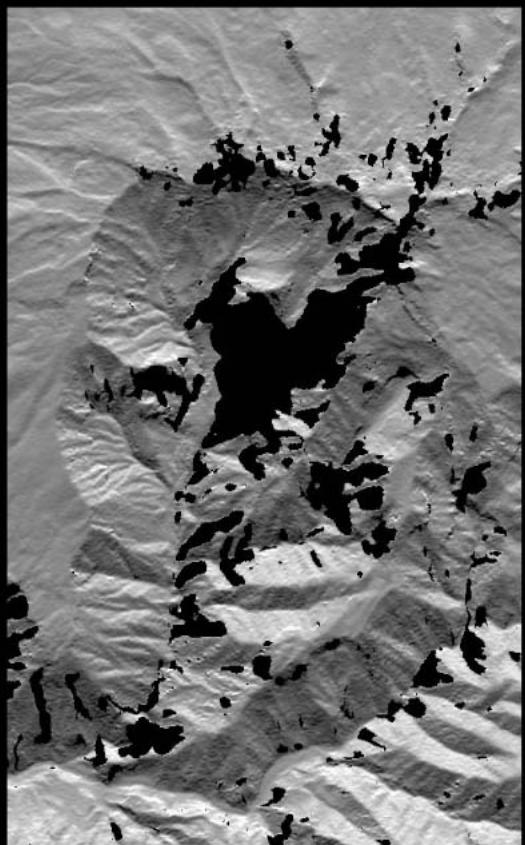


Voids in Steep Topography

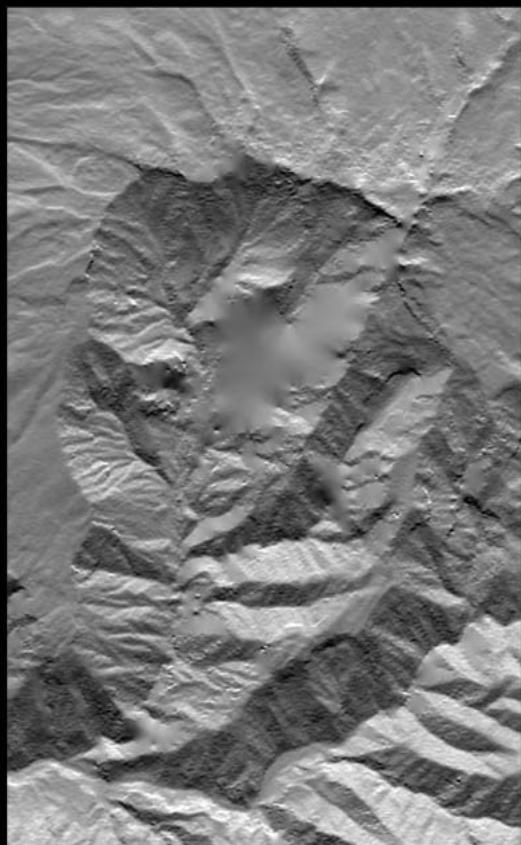


Filled by "Rubber Sheet"

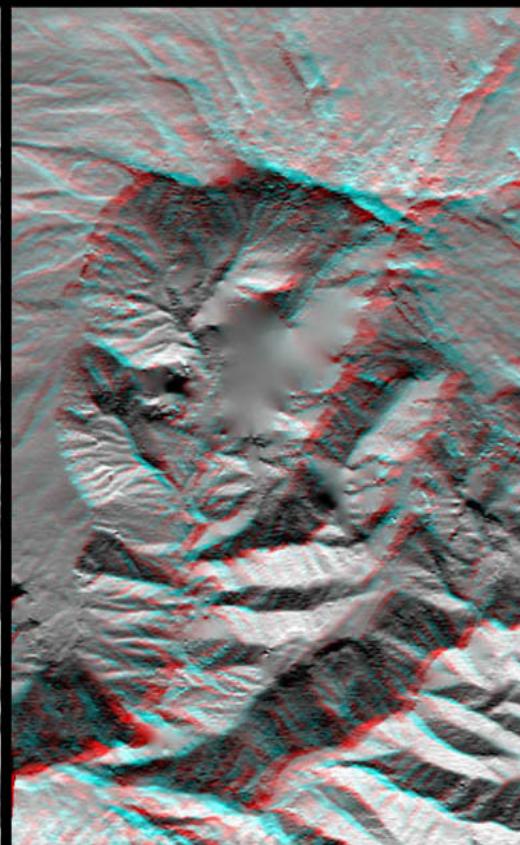
# SRTM Void Handling



Voids in Black



Voids Patched



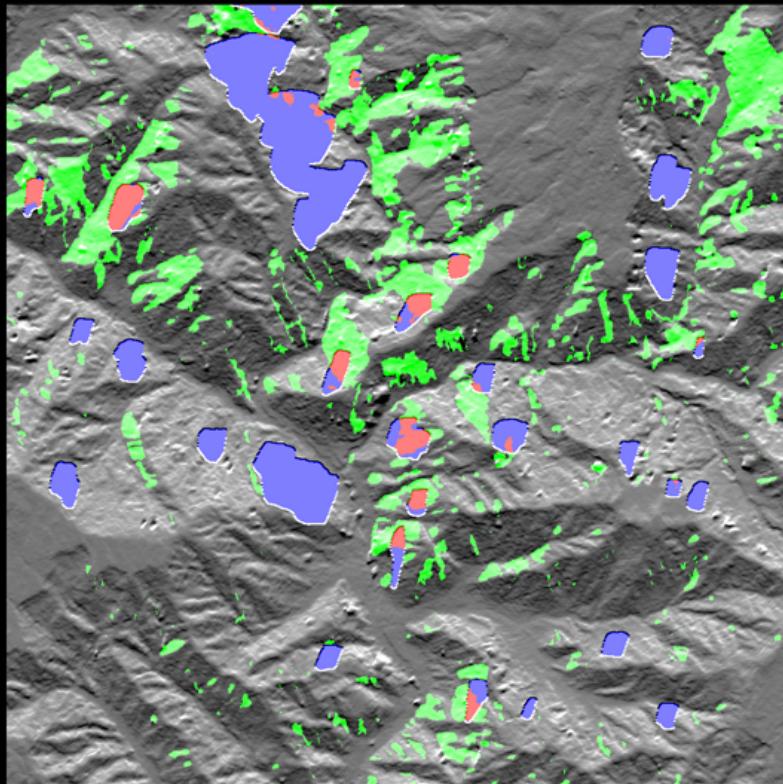
Anaglyph

Andes Mountains ( S 15.5 W 72.9 )

CRIPPEN, 2004

# SRTM / ASTER Merged DEMs: Void Filling

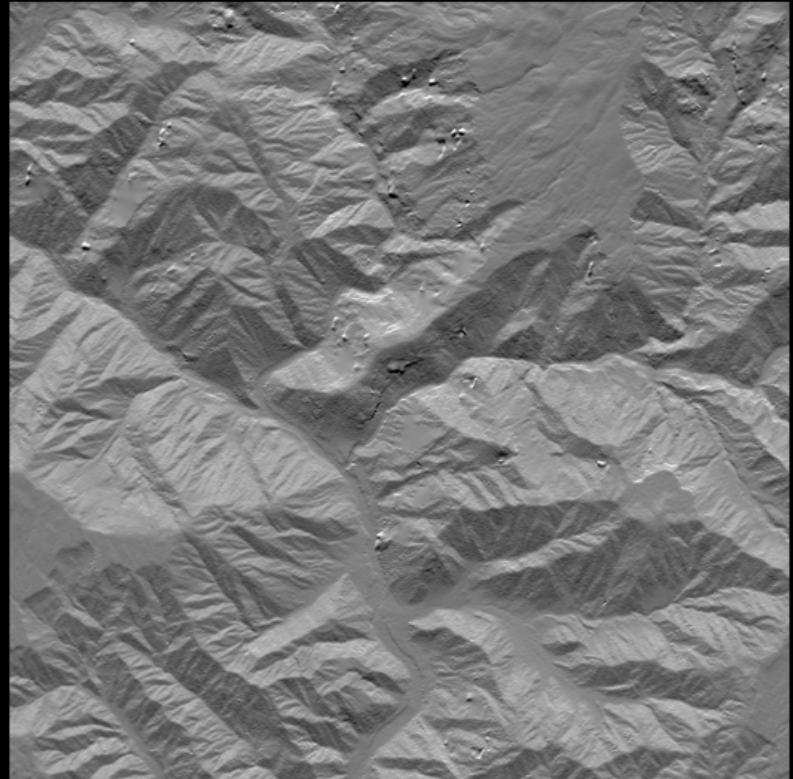
ASTER DEMs can seamlessly fill SRTM voids with lower grade data, but superior to interpolation.



ASTER Shaded Relief

- = ASTER Voids
- = SRTM Voids
- = Voids in Both

S 15.5 W 73.0  
Peru  
5 km



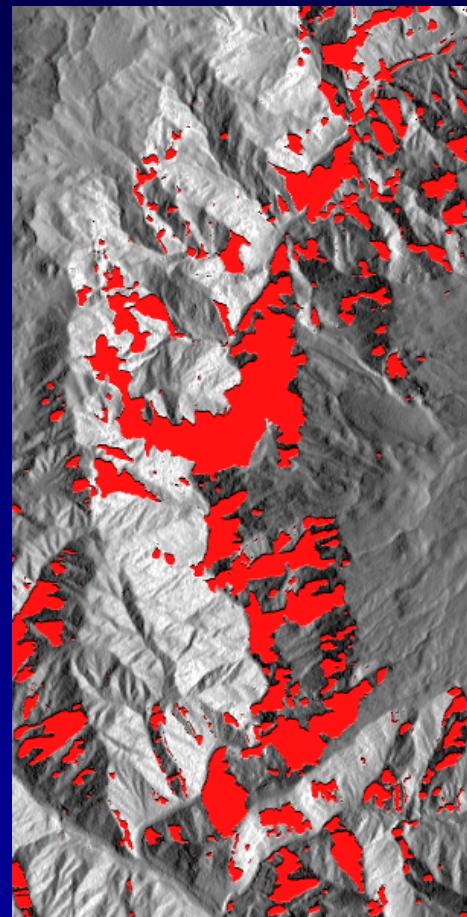
SRTM Shaded Relief

SRTM voids filled by ASTER  
after 3-D registration.  
Voids in both are interpolated.

# Image-Guided Void Filling?



Landsat

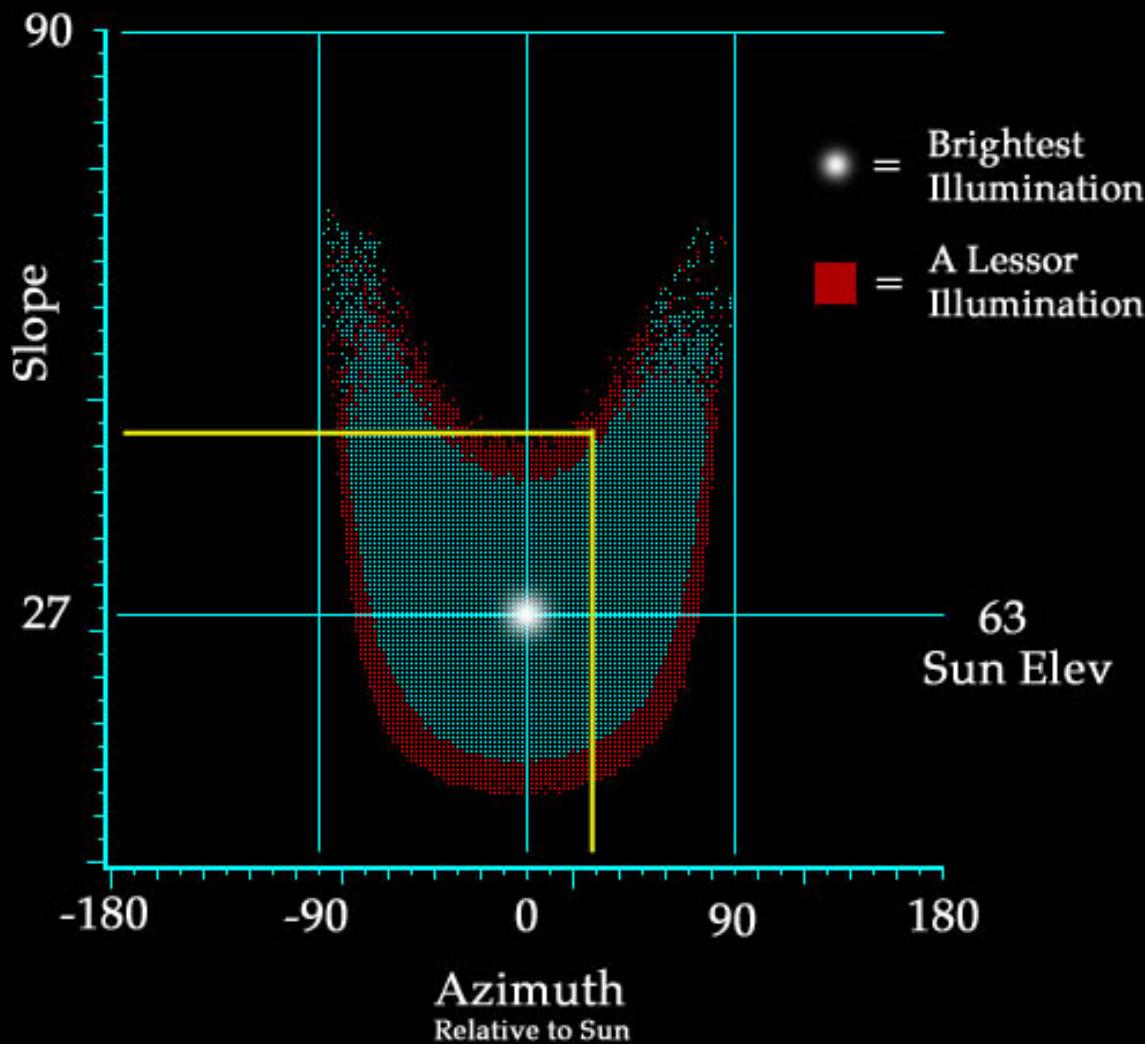


SRTM Shade  
Voids in Red

Andes Mountains, Peru

## SRTM Void Filling from Non-Stereo Optical/Thermal Satellite Imagery

Shape from Shading / Shape from Heating

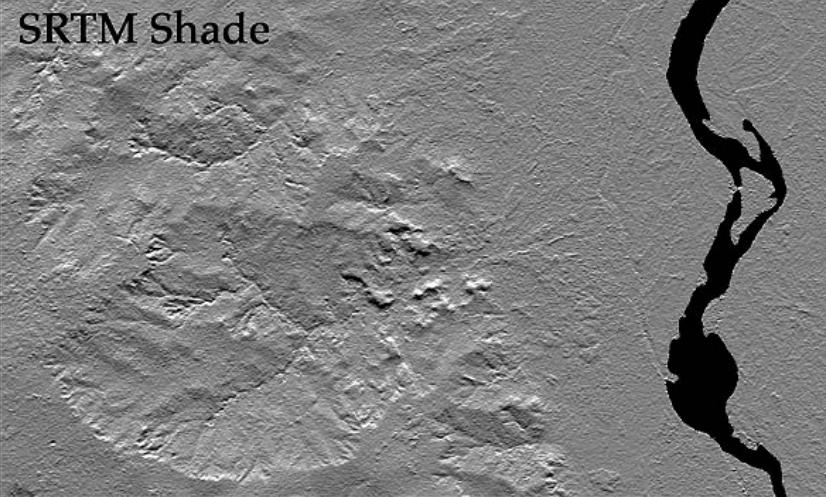


Slope and Azimuth are ambiguous for a given shading, but...

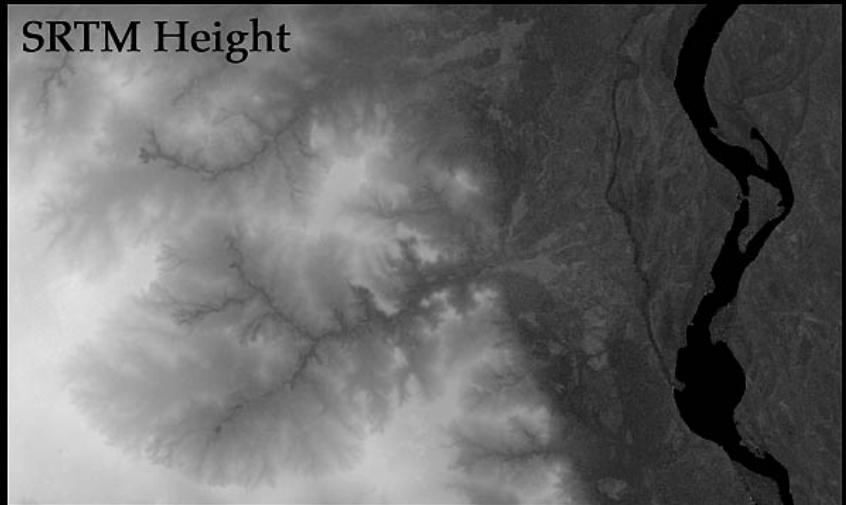
Two scenes reduce the possibilities to two combinations, and...

The right combination of slope and azimuth is likely related to local geomorphic trend and characteristic SRTM void geometries.

# New Information from SRTM



SRTM 1 arcsec  
Elevation Range ~20 to 380m  
Landsat Pan Band 2001 Jan 9  
Sun Az 136 El 48  
Elev Image non-linear and filtered  
SRTM holes masked (river channel)  
Lat 6.75 N, Long 6.50 E  
Ubiaja, Nigeria, and the Niger River



# Tsunami Damage: Khao Lak, Thailand



ASTER Before

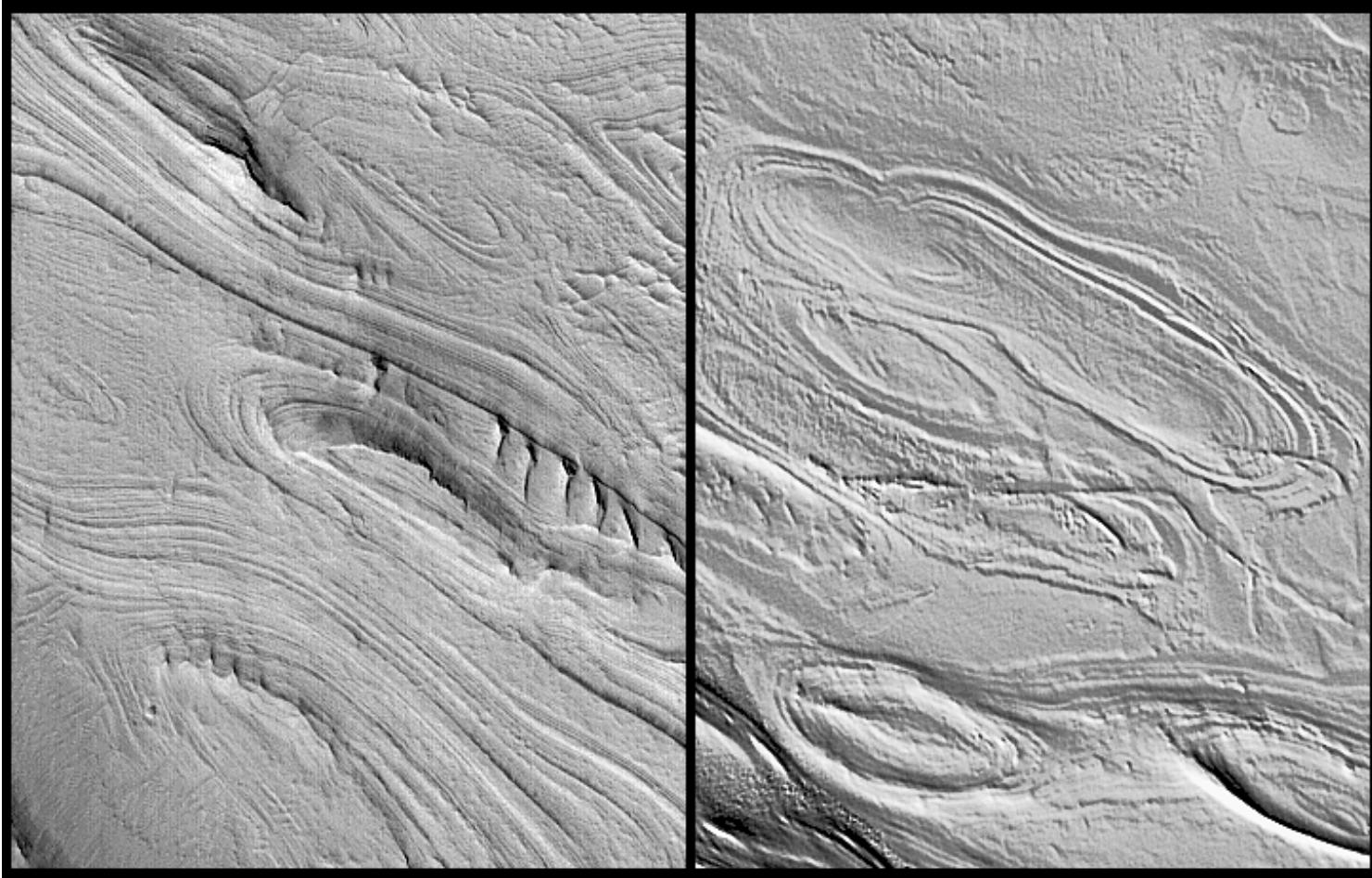
ASTER After

SRTM: 0-10 m



*“Mars on Earth” Analogs ~  
Shuttle Radar Topography Mission  
& Mars Global Surveyor  
Wind-Eroded Folded Strata*

JPL



Candor Chasma, Valles Marineris  
MGS Photograph

Qaidam Basin, China  
SRTM Shaded Relief

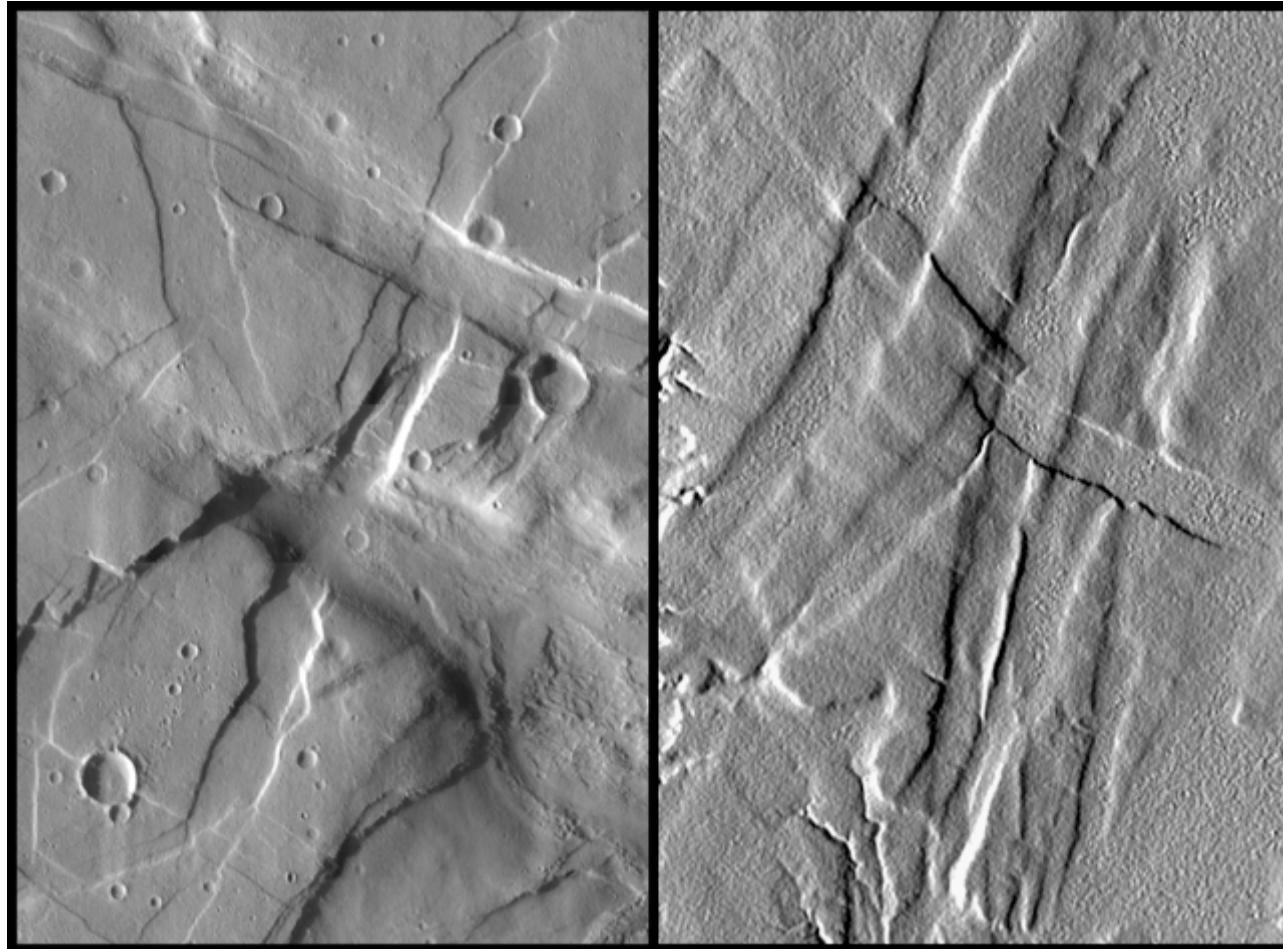


JPL  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
California Institute of Technology



*“Mars on Earth” Analogs ~  
Shuttle Radar Topography Mission  
& 2001 Mars Odyssey  
Crossing Grabens*

JPL



Tempe Terra  
2001 Mars Odyssey

Afar Triangle, Ethiopia  
SRTM Shaded Relief

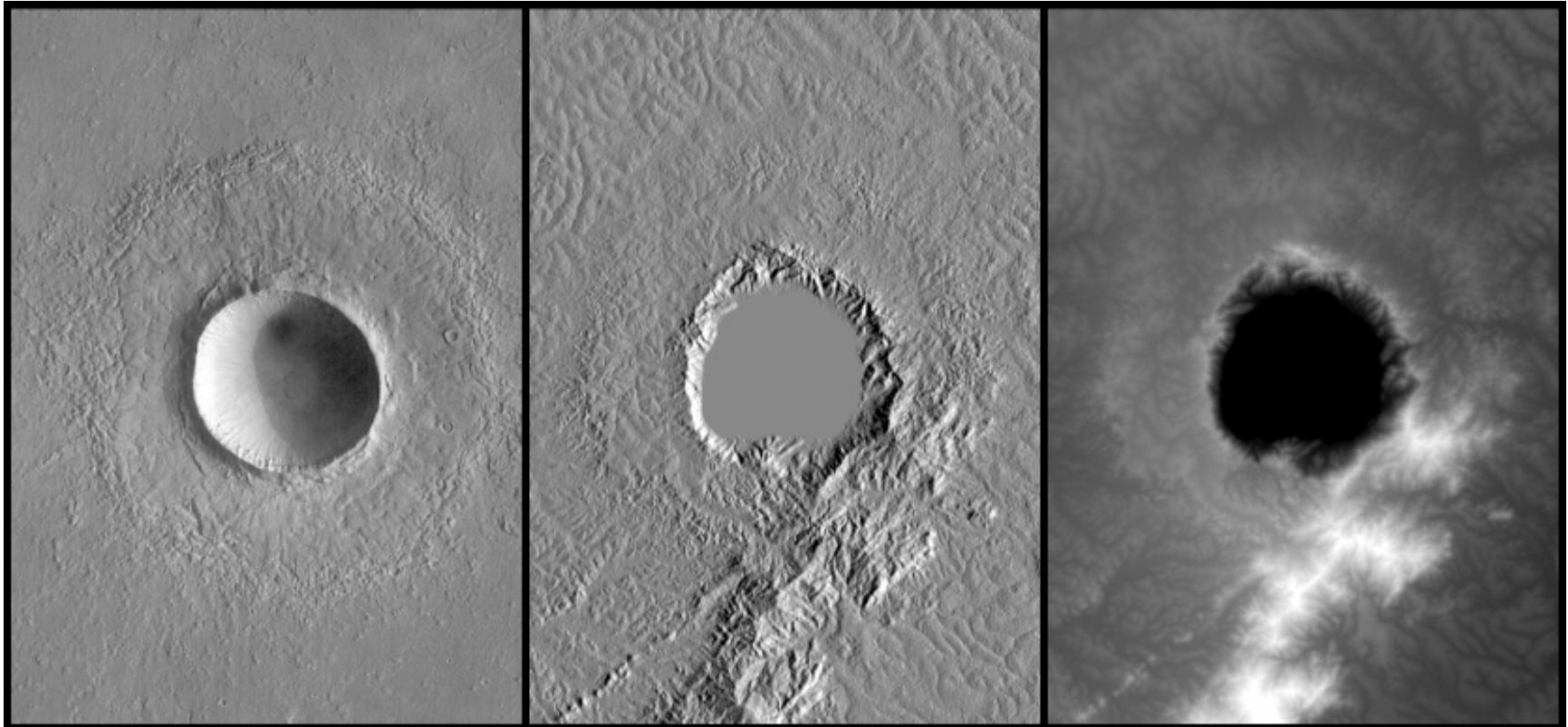


JPL  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
California Institute of Technology



*"Mars on Earth" Analogs ~*  
*Shuttle Radar Topography Mission*  
*& Mars Global Surveyor*  
*Impact Craters and Ejecta Blankets*

**JPL**



Martian Crater  
on Elysium Planitia  
MGS Photograph

Bosumtwi Crater, Ghana, Africa

SRTM  
Shaded Relief

SRTM Elevation  
as Brightness

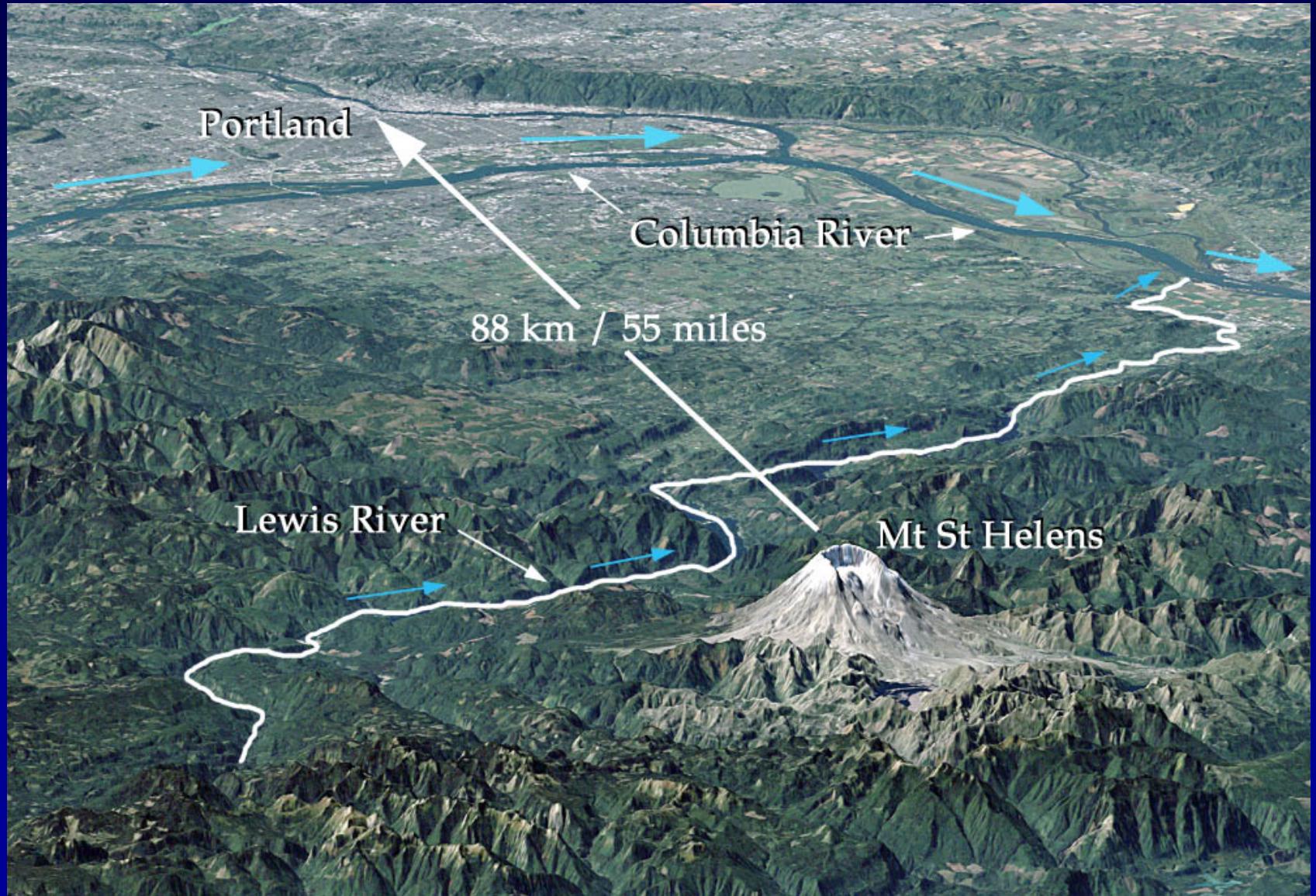
**JPL**  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
California Institute of Technology



# Mt. St. Helens, View to Portland, Oregon



# Mt. St. Helens, View to Portland, Oregon





Los Angeles & San Gabriel Mountains, View East with Landsat



Richat Structure, Mauritania, with Landsat



Cape Town, South Africa, with Landsat



Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia, with Landsat



Jurralde Structure, Bolivia, Colored Height



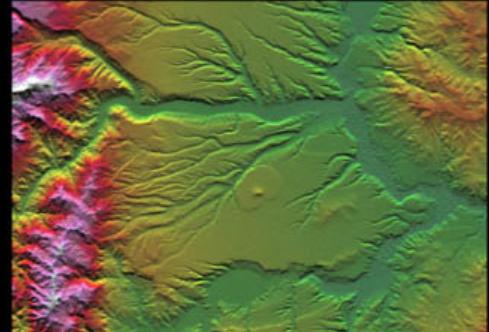
Mount Ararat, Turkey, with Landsat



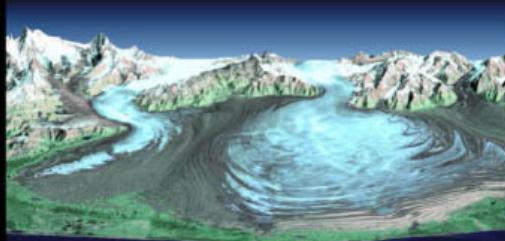
## Shuttle Radar Topography Mission

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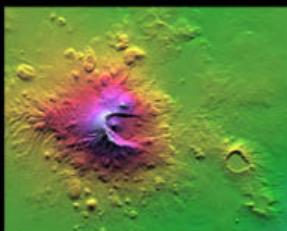
### SRTM



Corral de Piedra, Argentina, Colored Height



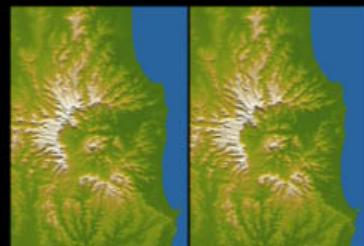
Malaspina Glacier, Alaska, with Landsat



Mount Meru, Tanzania, Colored Height



Portland & Mount Hood, Oregon, with Landsat



Tweed Extinct Volcano, Australia, Colored Height, Stereo Pair



Salt Lake City, Utah, with Landsat



Salalah, Oman, Colored Height