

Monitoring of alpine natural hazards by means of UAV's – case studies from Austria

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- Institute for Geography / Geospatial Technologies
- Environmental Monitoring by means of UAV's
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Institute for Geography and Regional Sciences





Integrative Working Group Geospatial Technologies

Research Topics:

- Integration of Remote Sensing in alpine monitoring
- Change detection of natural and artificial surfaces
- Urban planning, design and spatial analyses
- Monitoring dynamic system Earth climate change



Study Programme

- Study programme at the IGR
 - Bachelor in Geography
 - Bachelor in Environmental Systems Sciences / Geography
 - Master in Mountain and Climate Geography
 - Master in Sustainable Urban and Regional Sciences
 - Master in Environmental Systems Sciences / Geography
 - Master in Geospatial Technologies
 - Teaching Degree Geography and Economics
 - Joint Degree: Sustainable Development
 - Global Studies
 - Erasmus Mundus Master's Programme in Industrial Ecology
 - Doctoral School Geography



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Multiple terms for UAV's

The term **DRONE**, more widely used by the public

The term **unmanned aircraft system (UAS)** <u>emphasizes the importance of elements</u> <u>other than the aircraft</u>. It includes elements such as ground control stations, data links and other support equipment. A similar term is an unmanned-aircraft vehicle system (UAVS) remotely piloted aerial vehicle (RPAV), remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS). Many similar terms are in use.

A **unmanned aircraft vehicle (UAV)** is defined as a "powered, aerial vehicle that does not carry a human operator, uses aerodynamic forces to provide vehicle lift, can fly autonomously or be piloted remotely, can be expendable or recoverable, and can carry a lethal or nonlethal payload".

UAVs may or may not include model aircraft. Some jurisdictions base their definition on size or weight, however, the US Federal Aviation Administration defines any unmanned flying craft as a UAV regardless of size.

For recreational uses, a drone (as apposed to a UAV) is a model aircraft that has first person video, autonomous capabilities or both.



Multiple terms for UAV's





Austrian Law for UAV's

➤ Law since 1.1.2014

 Legalisation from Austrian Control
 Type 1: Visual line of sight (VLOS)
 Type 2: Beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS)



Austrian Law for UAV's

Categorisation of UA see: <u>www.austrocontrol.at/en</u> + Four categories + Light UAS in un + Heavier UAS or	S Class 1 (<u>/aviation_agenc</u> (A to D), dep populated are UAS flying at	VLOS) by A <u>v/licenses</u> perminending on we eas face easie bove populate	ustrocontro <u>dissions/flight</u> per ight and area r rules (certifind d areas face s	of operation c./operation stricter rules
	UAS Class 1 (VLOS) – Area of Operation			
austro	undeveloped (no buildings)	 unpopulated	populated	IV densely populated (except crowds)
MTOW up to and including 5 kg	А	Α	В	С
MTOW up to and including 25 kg	А	В	С	D
MTOW above 25 kg and up to and including 150 kg	В	С	D	D



Austrian Law for UAV's

- > The majority of sold **drones** (quadrocopter) are exclusively for **category A**
- In Category A, you can fly with an aircraft up to 5kg in undeveloped or unpopulated area with line of sight and up to a height of 150m
- The use of UAV's in areas with crowded people (festival, sports events, concerts, etc.) is forbidden due to safety reasons, single permissions can be possible
- > No flight zones are in the vicinity of airports
- An assurance is obligatory
- Austro Control gives the permission for the UAV itselfs. The owner and pilot is responsible to take care for the relevant law (e.g. data protection, usage within National Parks, ask the owner for starting permission, safety areas, physical fitness of pilot).

Monitoring of alpine natural hazards by means of UAV's – case studies from Austria (Environmental) Monitoring

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- The investigation of environmental processes by means of physical methods is in the focus of the environmental monitoring
- In this context, all processes that indirectly or directly influence the human environment are understood as environmental processes (this definition of environment is somewhat anthropocentric).
- However, this 'mediateness' leads geoscientists virtually into all subsystems (compartments) of the earth, such as the atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, lithosphere, pedosphere and the biosphere.

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"Monitoring is to record change" (BAYFIELD 1996)

Environmental monitoring can be concentrated on five points, which can be achieved by **the single use of Remote Sensing** and by a combined analyses within a **Geographical Information System:**

- 1. Long-term observation of indicators
- 2. Observing and documenting
- 3. <u>Documentation / analyzing / modelling</u>
- 4. <u>Condition</u> and <u>change detection</u> and <u>evaluation</u> also as a <u>success control</u> of environmental measures

5. Develop, discuss and implement recommendations for action





Workflow of an UAV-Project

- Definition of requirements
- Flight plan
- Ground Control Points
- Flight and data acquisition
- Postprocessing
- Photogrammetry
- Analyses



"Structure-from-Motion"



Fig. 1. Structure-from-Motion (SfM). Instead of a single stereo pair, the SfM technique requires multiple, overlapping photographs as input to feature extraction and 3-D reconstruction algorithms.

Quelle: Westoby, M.J., Brasington, J., Glasser, N.F., Hambrey, M.J., & Reynolds, J.M. (2012). 'Structure-from-Motion' photogrammetry: A low-cost, effective tool for geoscience applications. *Geomorphology*, *179*, 300–314. doi:10.1016/j.geomorph.2012.08.021



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NAWI GRAZ UAV's



- Camera Ricoh GXR
- Payload: max. 2,5kg
- Flight time: max. 35 minutes
- Regions: difficult terrain, gorges, rock walls
- max 1 km² / day





Quest UAV

- Sony α 6000
- Payload: max.1kg
- Flight time: : max. 70 minutes
- Regions: large areas
- Max. 5 km² / day

DJI Phantom 4

- Payload: max. 0,38 kg
- Flight time: max. 28 minutes
- Regions: small areas, oblique images
- Max 1 km² / day



Additional Equipment

dGPS



Topcon HiPerV dualfrequency GNSS receiver

TLS



RIEGL LMSZ-620

SfM



Canon EOS 5D Mark II



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Aim of the project:

- Proof the usage of UAV in context with glacier monitoring
- Detect the behavior of crevasses
- > Map the development of surface changes and movements
- Detect the ablation of glacier and mapping the recent extent of the glacier border
- > Investigations of **dead ice** in the proglacial area







Weather conditions during flights

Character Pasterze glacier

- Side crevasses
- Mainly debris covered
- Scree in proglacial parts
- Collapse areas

13.09.2016



03.11.2016



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(a) Orthophotos 2016/09 and (b) 2016/11
(c) Shaded relief 2016/09 and (d) 2016/11

(e) Height differences of DEM 2016/11 and 2016/09, GSD = 0.15 m







Horicontal Movement

- Between
 13.09.2016 und
 03.11.2016
- Downward and sideward directions
- Maximum 3.5 m

<u>ERT-</u> <u>Measurements</u>

 electric resistivity tomography





- Height differences of glacier surface 2016/09 and 2016/11 mean value -0.9 m / -0.02 m d⁻¹
- Glacier movement: mean movement 0.93 m, max. 3.5 m / 0.02 md⁻¹, max. 0.07 m d⁻¹
- Ice fall in the area of the lateral crevasses max. 31 m.
- Surface of proglacial area: no significant changes (height, horizontal movements)
- UAV are useful to document changes of glaciers
- UAV are useful to supply traditional measurements (mapping and monitoring of large areas)

Seier, G., Kellerer-Pirklbauer, A., Wecht, M., Hirschmann, S., Kaufmann, V., Lieb, G.K., Sulzer, W., 2017: **UASbased change detection of the glacial and proglacial transition zone at Pasterze Glacier, Austria**. Remote Sensing, 1-21p.



Change Detection Tschadinhorn - Rockglacier



Goal of the project:

- 1 task and 4 different UAV's
- Master thesis: Comparison of image acquisition quality and comparison of different work flows

August 2017



- TU Graz: Institute for Computer Graphics and Vision
- TU Graz: Institute for Earth Sciences
- TU Graz: Institute for Geodesy
- Uni Graz: Institute for Geography and Regional Sciences



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Tschadinhorn Blockgletscher 1:2500

Mittlere jährliche horizontale Fließbewegung 2015 - 2016



Finanzielle Unterstützung: Kärntner Nationalparkfonds Hohe Tauern, Döllach 14, 9843 Großkirchheim

(c) Viktor Kaufmann, 2017

V. KAUFMANN, K. ROTH und G. SEIER, 2017: Tschadinhorn Blockgletscher, Schobergruppe, Hohe Tauern – ein Beitrag zur aktuellen Kinematik. In: W. Lienhart (Hrsg.): Ingenieurvermessung 2017, Herbert Wichmann Verlag, im DrucK"



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Background:

- Flood: 7. July 2011 and 24.8.2017 in Oberwölz (Styria, Austria)
- "Open" the sedimentary body
- Low Precipitation causes relatively high sediment loads
- From the fluvial morphological perspective, the investigation area is ideal to investigate sediment budgets (decrease – transportation – sedimentation)

Aim of the project:

- Identification for erosion and sedimentation areas
- To understand better the sediment cascade
- Requirements are high resolution geodata (DSM, Orthophotos).
- There is a need of studies to improve the applications of UAVs / SfM-Photogrammetry in the field of fluvial morphology

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Flight campaigns :

•2014/06

- •2014/11
- •2015/06
- •2017/05
- •2017/11

Valey:

• appr. 8 km



Height differences DSM 2014/06 to 2015/06



- Erosion (light blue: -0.35 to -0.69 m, dark blue: -0.70 to -1.50 m)
- Sedimentation(orange: 0.35–0.69 m, red: 0.70–1.50 m)
- ➢ No markable changes (yellow: −0.34 to 0.34 m)

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Comparison of point cloud

TLS Acquisition:August 2014 andApril 2015

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Erosion: blue **Sedimentation:** yellow to red



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3.00

2.65

2.30

1.95 1.60

1.25

0.90

0.55

0.20

-0.55

-0.90

- -1.25

- -1.60

-1.95

-2.30

-2.65

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UAV und TLS im Einsatz für das Monitoring eines alpinen Wildbaches

Outcomes

> Uncertainties:

- complex, vegetation covered area
- Reduced availability of GNNS
- Geomorphological interpretation :
 - Identification of erosion- and sedimentation areas
- UAV provides geodata with high resolution and maximum aerial extent, which was not available until the campaign
- > DEM of the whole catchment (riverbed)
- Combined use of UAV with TLS and SfM

Seier, G., Stangl, J., Schöttl, S., Sulzer, W., Sass, O. (2017): UAV and TLS for monitoring a creek in an alpine environment, Styria, Austria. Intern. Journ. of Remote Sensing, 38, 2903–2920, doi:10.1080/01431161.2016.1277045

Seier, G,. Sulzer, W., Wecht, M,. Schöttl, St. und O. Sass, 2017: **Veränderungsdetektion eines Wildbaches mittels unbemanntem Luftfahrzeug.** In: AGIT – Journal für Angewandte Geoinformatik, 2017, Wichmann Verlag, im Druck.



Aim of the project:

- Acquisition of high resolution UAV-images, Langgriesgraben (test area) for different time steps, generation of a ground control point network
- Generation of Point Clouds, DSM and Orthophotos from UAV-images
- Comparison of UAV with TLS-, ALS-data and dGPS-measurements for accuracy assessment
- Analyses of surface changes
- Statements about the potential of UAV campaigns



Langgriesgraben





Test Area





DSM

UAV-DGM (31.07.2015)





Changes





Outcomes

- > Technical problems UAV, GPS-acquisition, camera...
- > Environmental influences e.g. wind, sun angle, shadow
- Permanent GPC Network
- Validitation SfM-MVS
- Change Detection : on which data level? Accuracy assessment
- ALS Data

St. Schöttl, G.Seier, E.Rascher, W. Sulzer, and O.Sass, 2016: UAS-based quantification of sedimentary body changes at Langgriesgraben, Styria, Austria. In: Geophysical Research Abstracts Vol. 18, EGU2016-15077-1, 2016



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Aim of the project:

- Costly annual inspection/survey
- Survey is time and money consuming
- Difficult access and steep relief
- Measure the movement/activity of the landslide
- Finding of alternatives and/or additional methods



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UAV based Monitoring of "Lärchberg-Galgenwald" landslide



Sint for Geographic Interference of Section 1980 Interference of Section 1

UAV based Monitoring of "Lärchberg-Galgenwald" landslide





Height differences Nov.2015 vs. May 2016 in the active central part





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Height differences Nov.2015 vs. May 2016

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Outcomes

- DEM differencing: surface height lowering of: mean -0.07 m from November 2015 to May 2016
- Orthophotos: Mean surface movement of 0.07 m during that period
- Accuracy of orthophotos: 4cm
- > Accuracy of DEM (geodetic Check points): within 9 cm
- Number of GCPs can be reduced to 5, if they are well distributed, without a meaningful loss of accuracy. This will reduce the time and risk in situ.
- UAV-based data enhance the previous data base and hence provide the basis for a more comprehensive assessment of the landslide's activity.
- > Therefore, we formed the **basis for a monitoring programme including UAV**.

Gernot Seier, Wolfgang Sulzer, Paul Lindbichler, Josef Gspurning, Siegfried Hermann, Hermann M. Konrad, Gerhard Irlinger, Raimund Adelwöhrer, 2017**: UAS-based change detection of the Lärchberg-Galgenwald landslide, Austria**. Small Unmanned Aerial Systems for Environmental Research – 5th Edition, in press.



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Aim of the project:

- Annual torrent inspection/survey by law (Austrian Forest Act)
- Survey is time and money consuming
- Difficult access and steep relief
- > No legal consequences when no survey has been done
- Can Remote Sensing (UAV, aerial photographs satellite images) to support the survey?









Possible influences on floods and mudflows!

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Orthophoto 2014 UAV 3 cm

Orthophoto 2014 UC 10 cm

Orthophoto 2010 UC 20 cm

Field Work 2014



Orthophoto 2014 UAV 3 cm Orthophoto 2014 UC 10 cm Orthophoto 2010 UC 20 cm





Entfernung vom Bachbett:



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- In UAV images and UltraCam Eagle
- only during field survey



Outcomes



- Additional to field survey
- In remote and inaccessible, steep areas
- Weather conditions in spring time, just before or at the beginning of vegetation period
- Limits in sight (riparian vegetation, shadow, acquisition angle (FOV), clouds)
- Not all barricades are detectable
- GPS Acquisition, GCP measurements, starting point, Autopilot

Tillian, M. and Sulzer, W., 2016: **Remote Sensing (UAV) for torrent inspection/survey in the alpine municipality of Weng im Gesäuse (Austria).** In: Halada, Ľ., Bača, A., Boltižiar, M. (eds Landscape and Landscape Ecology. Proceedings of the 17th International Symposium on Landscape Ecology, 27-29 May 2015, Nitra, Slovakia, Institute of Landscape Ecology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Branch Nitra, 192-202. http://www.uke.sav.sk/old/phocadownload/symposium/o22 Tillian-et-al ORAL Symp2015.pdf



Résumé

Strengthen and weakness of the use of UAV

Strengthen	Weakness
 ✓ High geometric resolution 	 Legal restrictions
✓ High point cloud	 Technical restrictions
 Constant point cloud 	 Weather restriction: wind, temperature
✓ Perfect viewing angle	Requirement of GCP's for the workflow
 ✓ Flexible during flight campain 	 Limiting vegetation cover
✓ "cheap"	 Safe use in difficult topography only with intensive training (TOL)
	Shadow is limiting the model building



Résumé

... The reader should **not be looking for brilliant new methods of analysis and interpretation** of remotely sensed data in these papers.

Most of what is being done is applying established digital photogrammetric methods or remote sensing analysis and interpretation to **data acquired in a new way and to problems that in many cases could not have been tackled previously**. ...

Source: Eds. (2017): **Unmanned aerial vehicles for environmental applications.** *Intern. Journal of Remote Sensing*, 38/8-10, 2029-2036, doi:0.1080/01431161.2017.1301705



Résumé

- > New campaigns will bring new data and new challenges
- New UAV Systems
- New laws?
- Cooperation is important !
- > The work would not be possible, if



Josef Gspurning, Simon Hirschmann, Andreas Kellerer-Pirklbauer-Eulenstein, Walter Krämer, Gerhard Karl Lieb, Robert Leitner, Paul Lindbichler, Eric Rascher, Matthias Rode, Oliver Sass, Stefan Schöttl, Johannes Stangl, Marlene Tillian, Matthias Wecht ...













Thank you for your attention !

