# **Airborne laser scanning of Sweden**

Andreas Rönnberg Lantmäteriet, the Swedish mapping authority







#### Background





- Directive 2007/60/EC on flood risks
- Government investigation on adaption to climate change (SOU 2007:60)
  - Lantmäteriet should get resources to create a new national elevation model with higher resolution and accuracy. Data should be freely available to municipalities and agencies.
- Laser scanning started in 2009
  - About 70% covered so far



## Old terrain model ...





#### New terrain model





#### Why laser scanning (LiDAR)?

- Airborne laser scanning
  - Suitable for forested landscapes
  - Very high accuracy
  - Many valuable bi-products
- Alternatives are e.g. photogrammetry and synthetic aperture radar (InSAR or IfSAR)





#### Laser will normally penetrate vegetation





## Laser scanning principles



- Range from time between emitted laser pulse and recieved echo
- Laser pulses spread across flight direction by mirror (about ± 20°)
- Position from GNSS and INS



## **Multiple echoes**



- Footprint of laser about 0.5 meter in diameter
- From one pulse, many echoes can be registered

Figure: Karin Nordkvist/Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.5







## **Some limiting factors**



- Point spacing up to 1.4 meters in average in open terrain
  - Sufficient for general terrain model
  - Higher point density encouraged for mapping of objects like trees and buildings
- Waveform data is not collected



#### **Project management**



- Contractor
  - Mission planning
  - Data capture
  - Pre-processing and basic QC
- Lantmäteriet
  - Extensive QC
  - Classification/filtering
  - Secrecy check (for national security)
  - Products and metadata



#### Hardware





- Leica ALS50-II, ALS60, ALS70
- Optech ALTM Gemini



## **Flying weather**



- Priority and weather determines what will be scanned
- Daylight is not necessary, but ...
  - Laser pulses will not penetrate clouds and thick fog
  - High water levels will hide ground



## **Ground classification**



- Will never be flawless
  - Automatic methods will not handle all situations
  - Manual methods need decisions by operator
- Over/under classification
  - Too many or too few objects classified as ground













## **Classification problems**



- Low points (noise)
- Dense, low vegetation (bushes)
- Steep terrain, with abrupt changes
- Buildings (large, unusual forms), bridges, dams ...
- Water



#### **Production in two steps**



- Step 1
  - Automated ground classification with some manual editing
  - Fast coverage and data access
- Step 2
  - Refined classification with more extensive manual editing
    - Bridges and dams
- Updating is still uncertain



## **Terrain influence**



- Detail of terrain model generally lower in forest areas
  - Dense vegetation will block laser
- Lower vertical accuracy in steep terrain
  - Footprint stretched
  - Influence from lower horizontal accuracy



#### Accuracy of final terrain model

- Affected by
  - · Geometric accuracy of laser data
  - Accuracy in ground classification
  - Grid interpolation
- Result
  - Vertical accuracy 0.05 m on flat, well defined ground. Nomally better than 0.2 m in most terrain types.
  - Horizontal accuracy about 0.25 m





#### **Error distribution**





#### **Error distribution**





# Grid (DTM)



- Primary product
- 2 meter GSD
- Will fulfill most user's needs
- Simple data format
  - ESRI ASCII Grid



#### Laser data



- Classified into ground, water and unclassified points
- For advanced users
- Complex data format
  - LAS 1.2 (point data record format 1)
- Huge potential for further processing



#### **Some applications**



## **Flood mapping**



- Estimation of hazards
- Terrain model completed with
  - Bottom topography (usually by sonar)
  - Bridge and dam descriptions
  - Flow estimation
  - Roughness estimation (Manning's coefficient)
  - Observed flow and water levels (for model calibration)



## **Terrain stability mapping**



- Estimation of landslide hazards
- Analysis of
  - Slope
  - Soil type
  - Proximity to possible flood hazards























#### Lantmäteriet's website



Lantmäteriet i Strömstad söker MBK-ingenjör 2012-10-04

MBK-ingenjör 2012-10-04



#### GeoLex

Startsida Kartor Fastigheter Om I	Lantmäteriet	[		Sök
Du är här: Startsida Kartor Kartor och geogra	fisk information GeoLex		Kontakta oss	<u>Återförsäljare</u>
GEOGLESS BILD OCH HÖJD Flygfoto GSD-Ortofoto Historiska ortofoton Satellitbilder Höjdinformation Ny nationell höjdmodell Kiart i Bages Produktionsområden 2009 - 2013 Skanningstatus Leverantörens veckorapport GSD-Höjddata FASTIGHETSINFORMATION GEODESI GEOGRAFISKA DATABASER KARTOR PDF-BIBLIOTEK till RT 90-versionen	Index10km: 702 11	Sök Ortnamn Kommun: Navigera i kartan Navigera i kartan Navigera i kartan Valueration Karti lager Ny nationell höjdmoder Klart i lager Klassificeringsnivå 1 Klassificeringsnivå 2	<ul> <li>O SÖK</li> <li>O VISA</li> </ul>	
	GeoLex Hjälp	Läs mer		
	Skicka synpunkter och frågor till: GeoLex@lm.se			

