

# Investigating rockfall failure configurations using terrestrial laser scanner (TLS)

*Julie D'Amato, Antoine Guerin, Didier Hantz, Michel Jaboyedoff*

# Outline

- Introduction
- The Mont Saint Eynard (French Alps)
- Structural analysis by laser scanner
- Failure configurations and mechanisms
- Conclusion

# Introduction

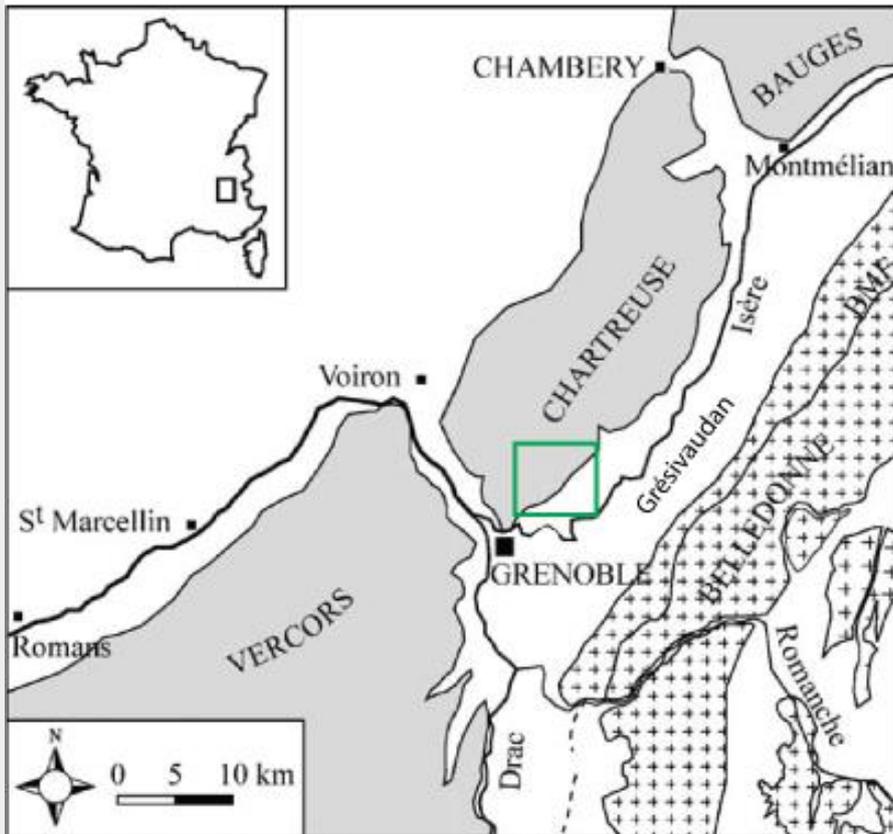
Different processes can lead to a rockfall  
=> influence of meteorological factors.

First step is, using TLS data, to know the influence of the rock mass structure on the prone-to-fail compartments:

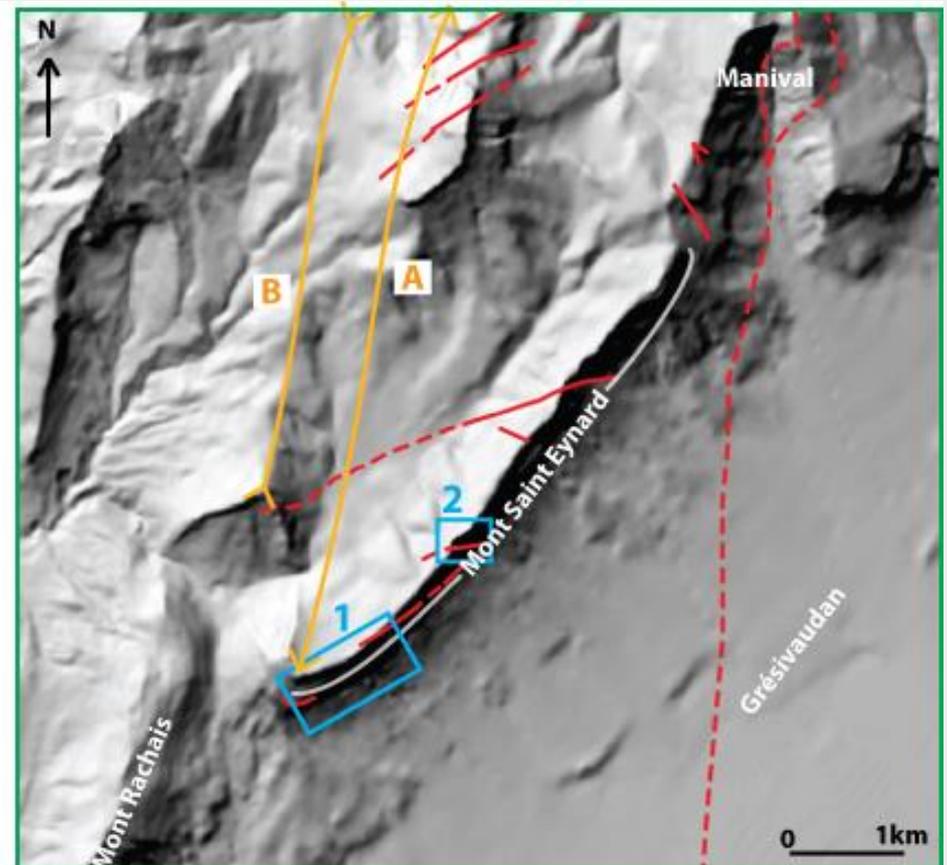
- => structural analysis at different scales

- => links with failure configurations, shape of fallen compartments, failure mechanisms

# The Mont Saint Eynard



Shaded: sedimentary massifs  
Cross pattern: external crystalline massifs  
BMF: Belledonne Middle Fault  
(after Frayssines, 2006)

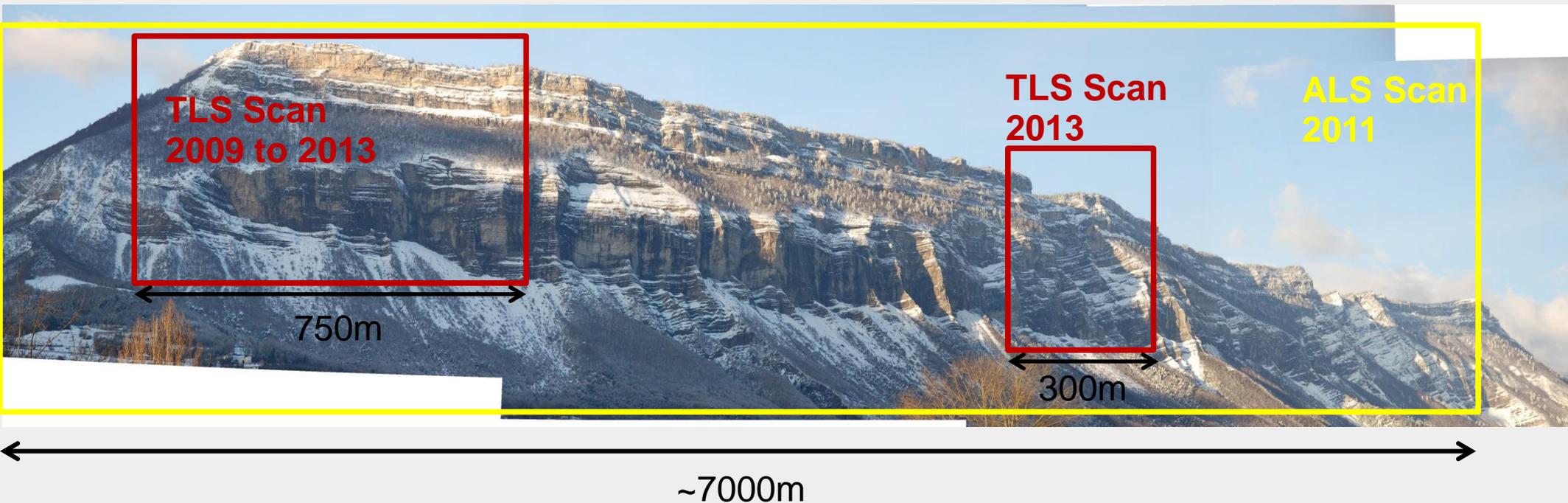


A: Sappey syncline  
B: Ecoutoux anticline  
Continuous and dashed red lines: faults  
Blue squares: TLS investigated zones

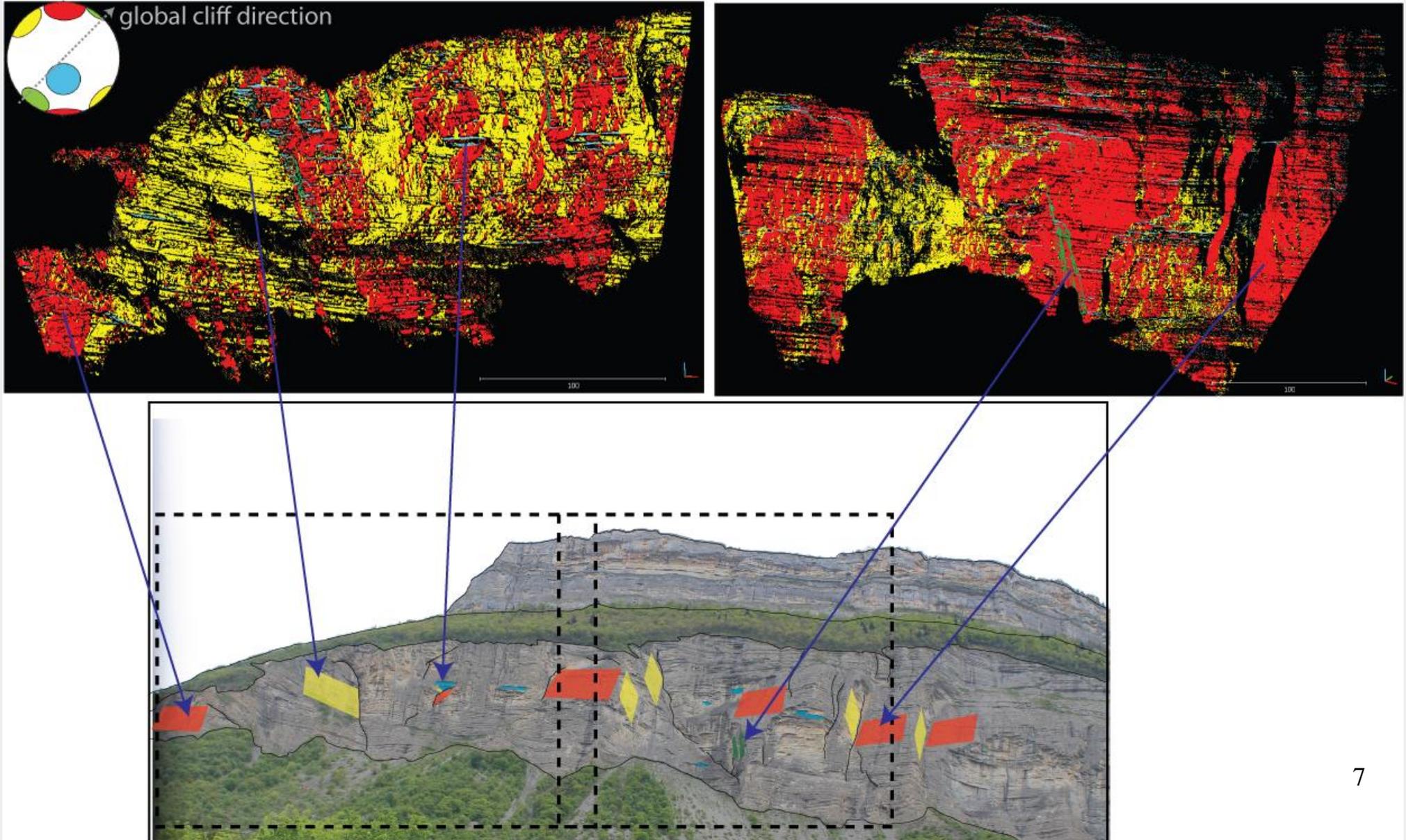
# The Mont Saint Eynard



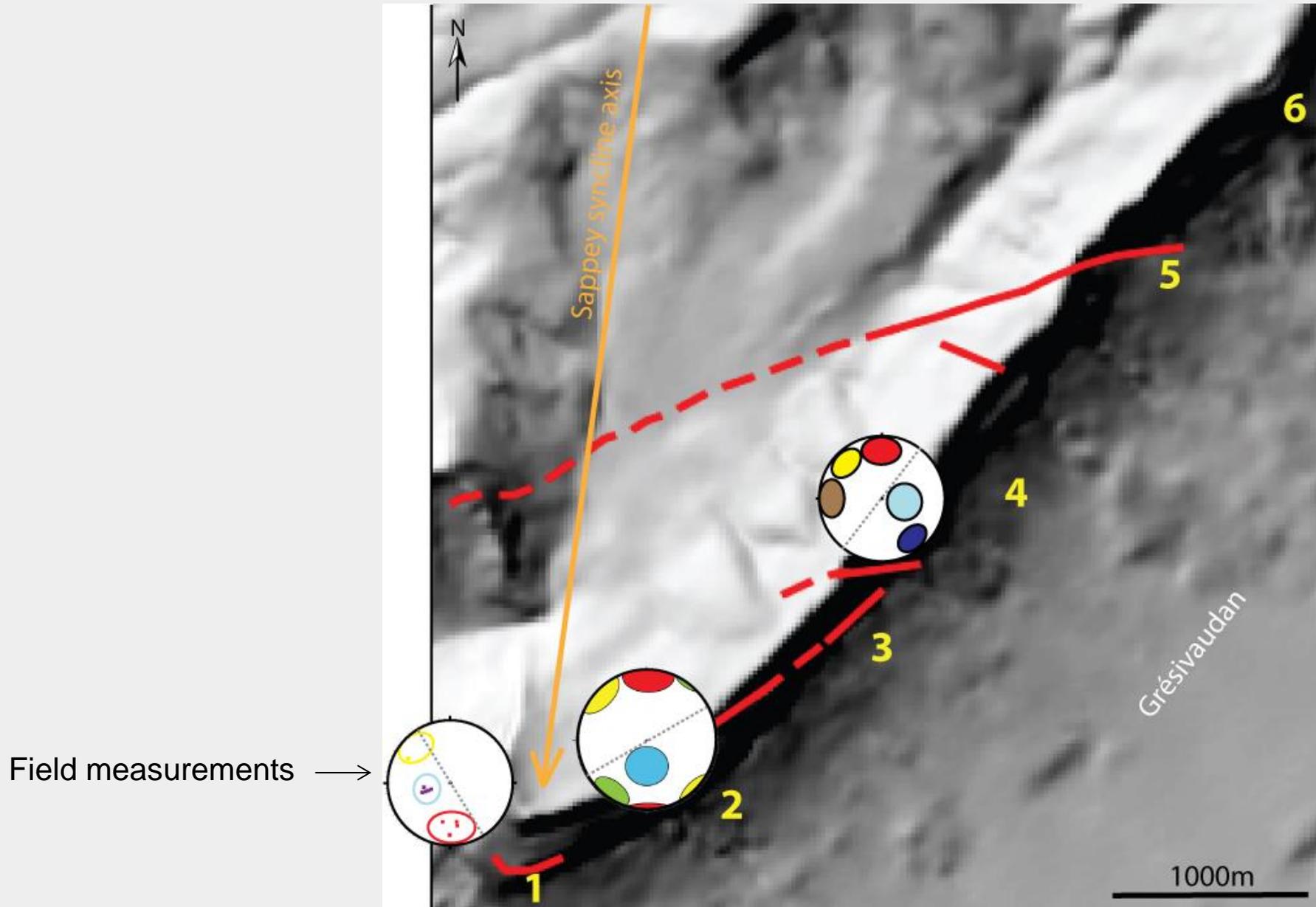
# Laser scanning of the cliff



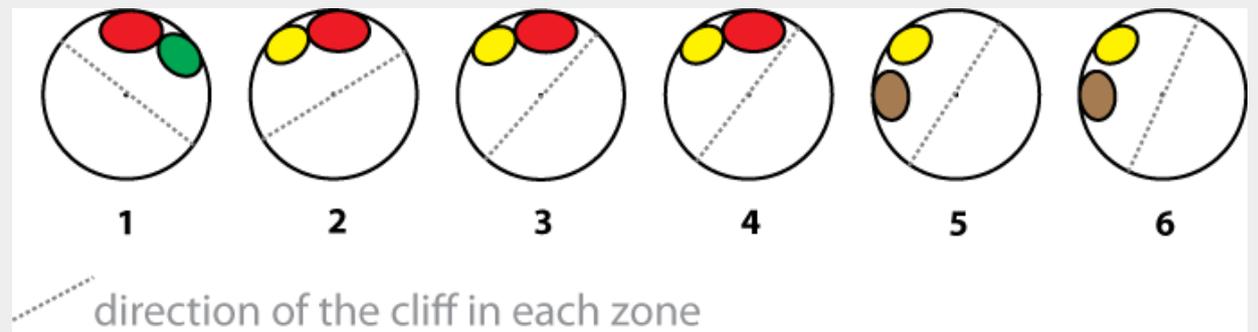
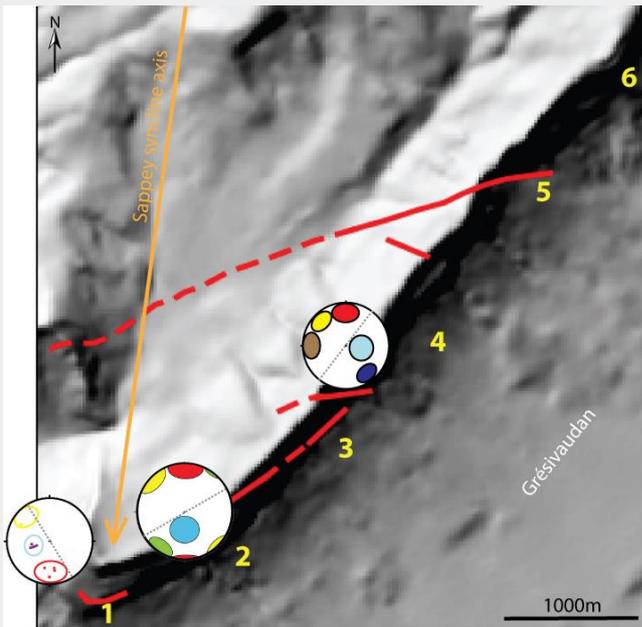
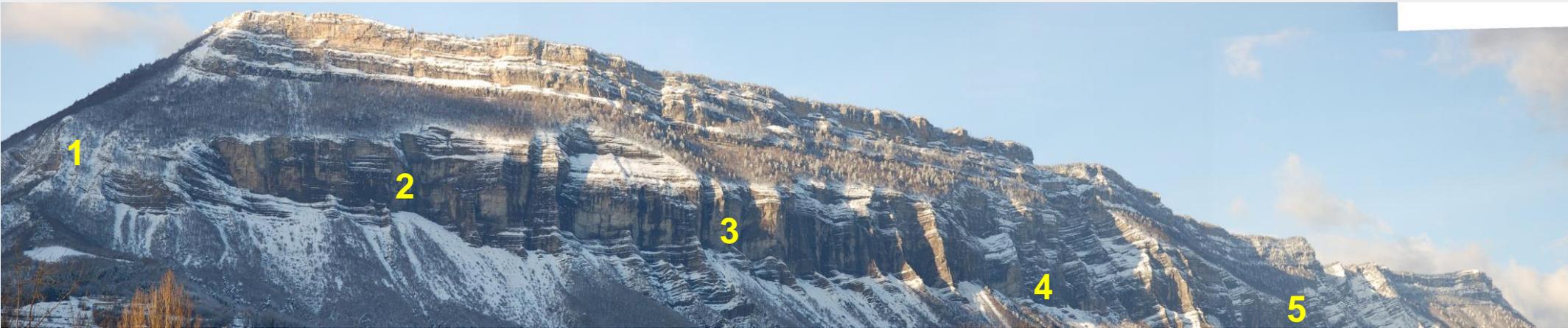
# Structural analysis from TLS data



# Structural analysis from TLS and field data



# Structural analysis from ALS data



Structural field measurements  
and structural analysis from TLS data

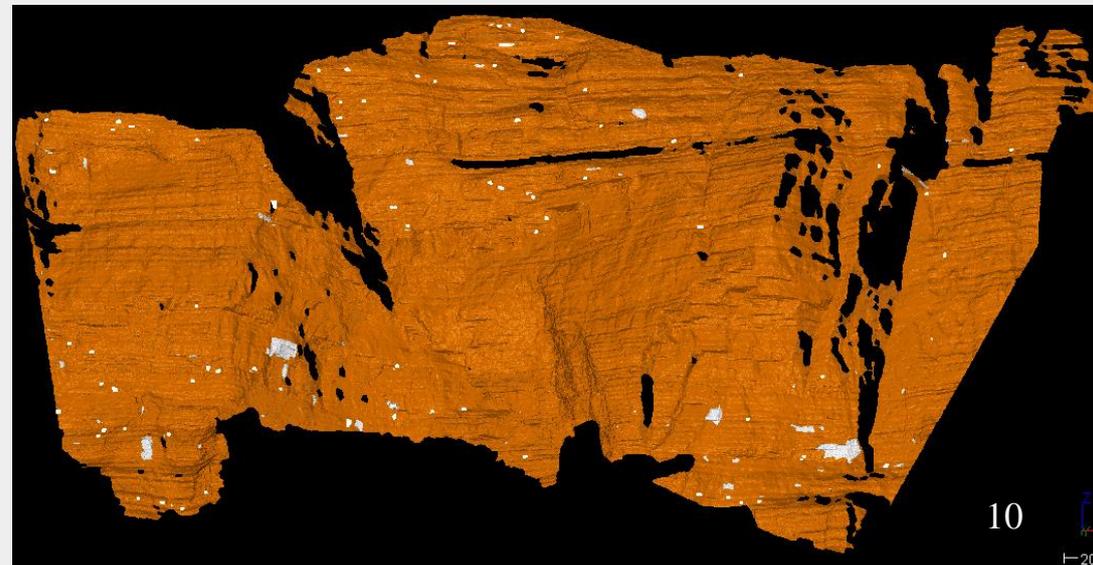
# Rockfalls detection



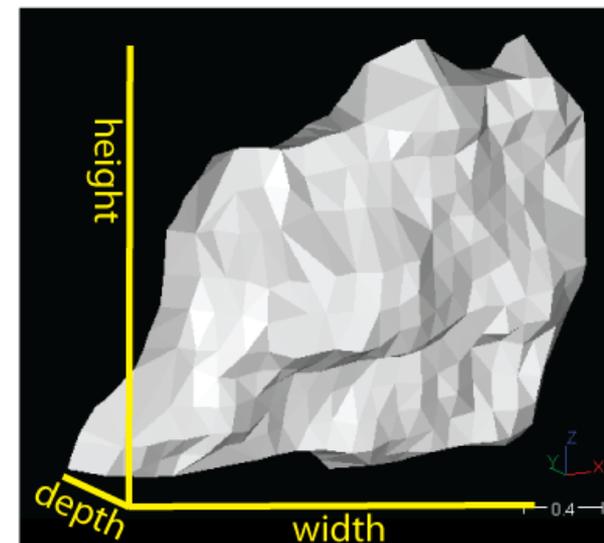
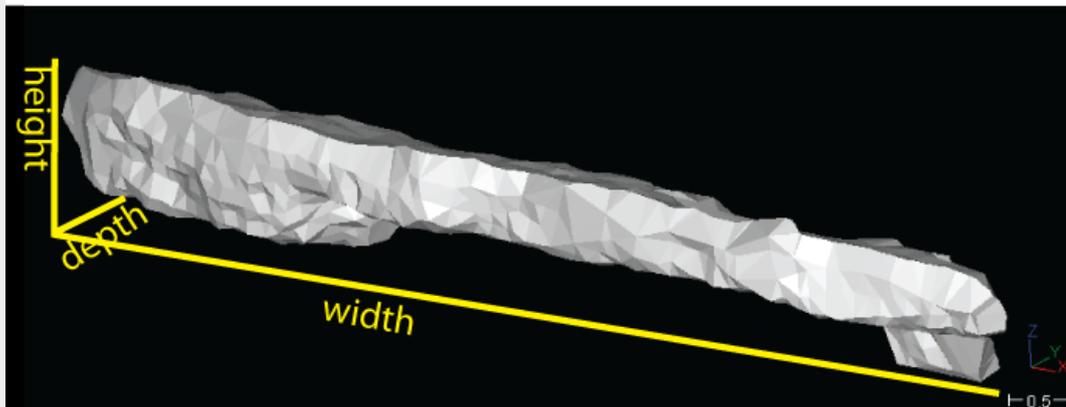
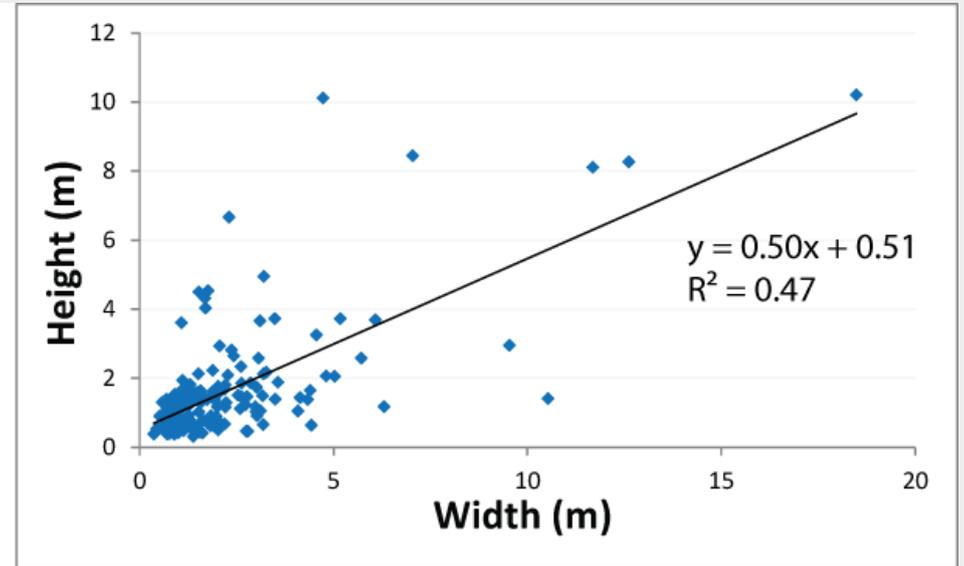
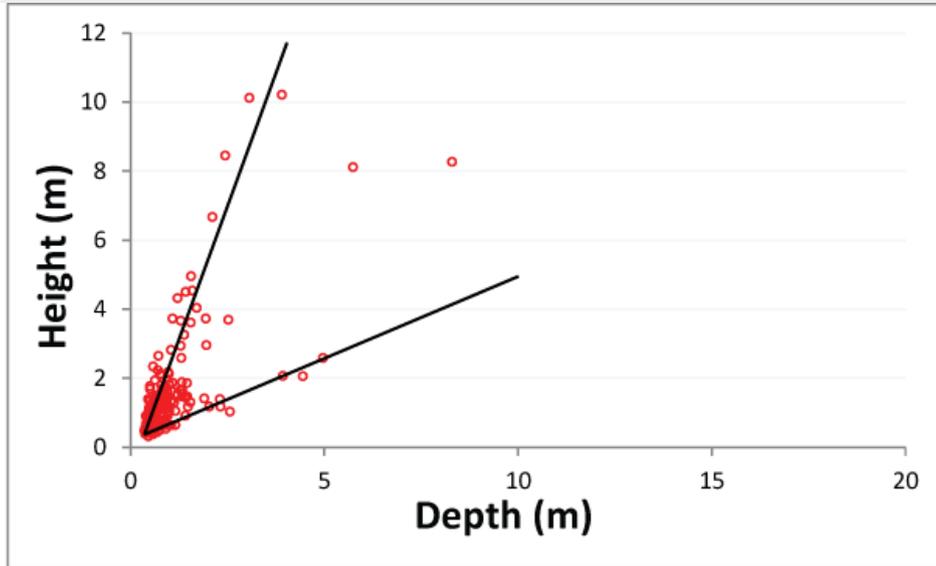
162 studied events

Volume range:  $0.01\text{m}^3$  to  $100\text{m}^3$

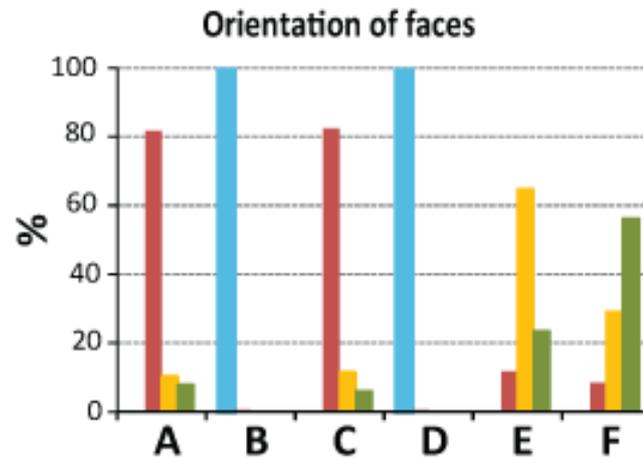
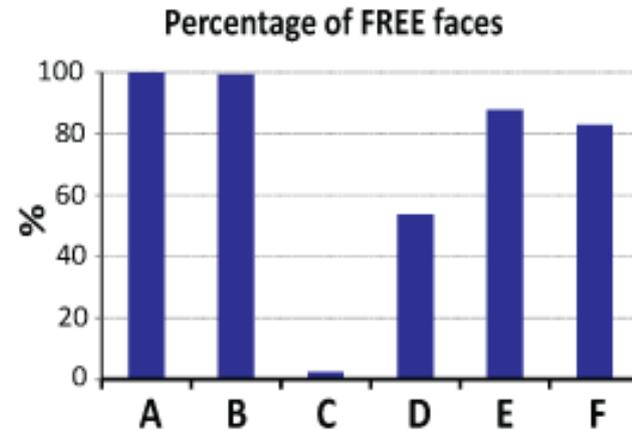
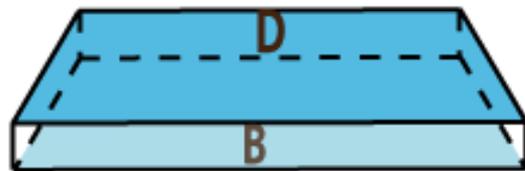
75% of the rockfall volumes smaller than  $1\text{m}^3$



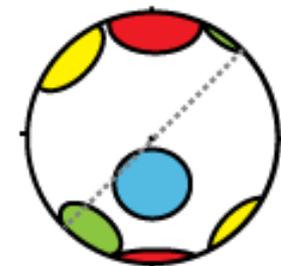
# Fallen compartments dimensions



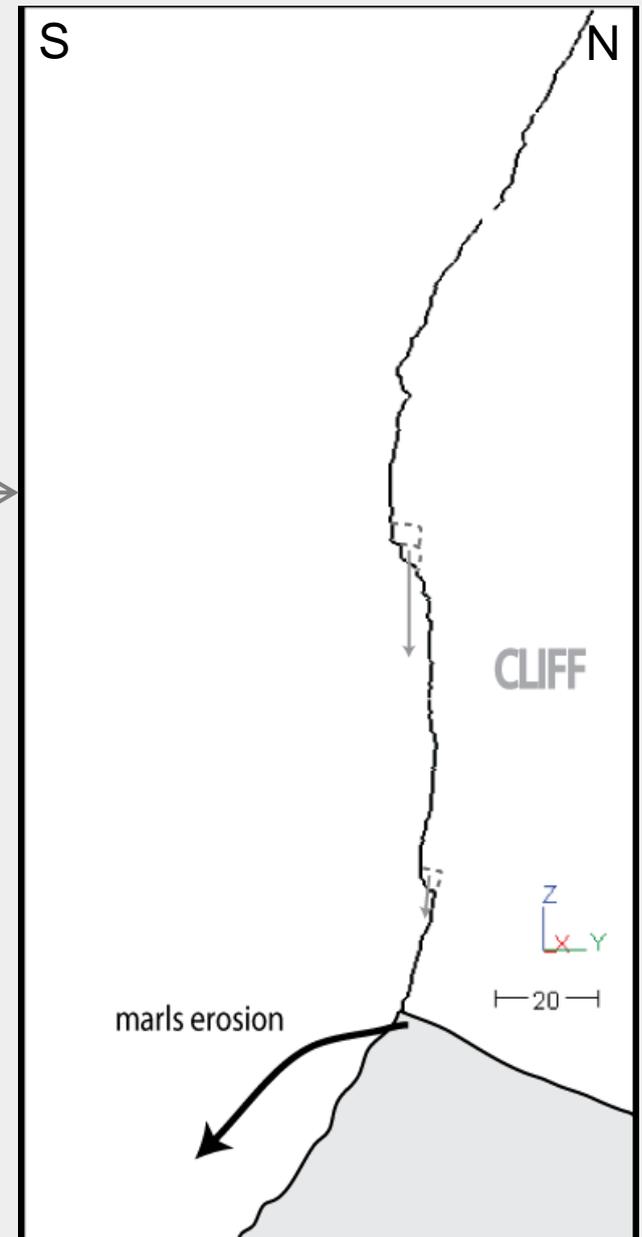
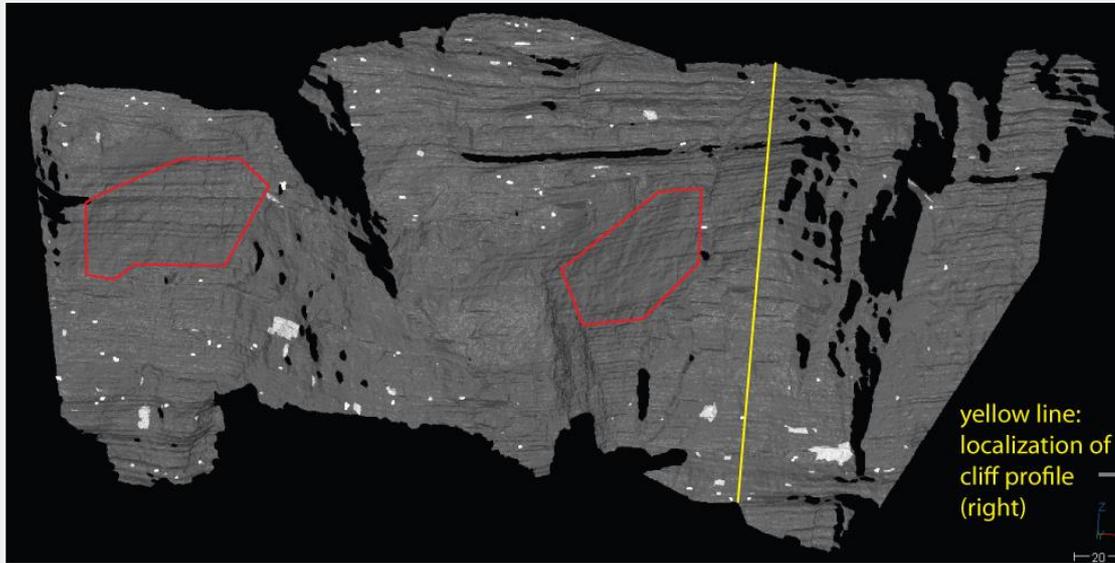
# Fallen compartments configurations



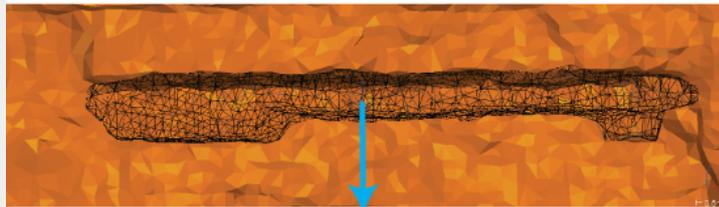
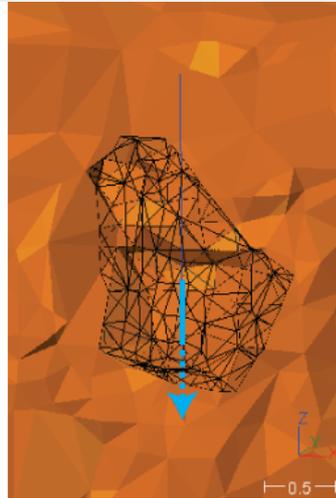
- F1 (bedding)
- F2 (N90)
- F3 (N60)
- F4 (N150)



# Cliff morphology

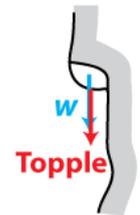


# Failure mechanisms



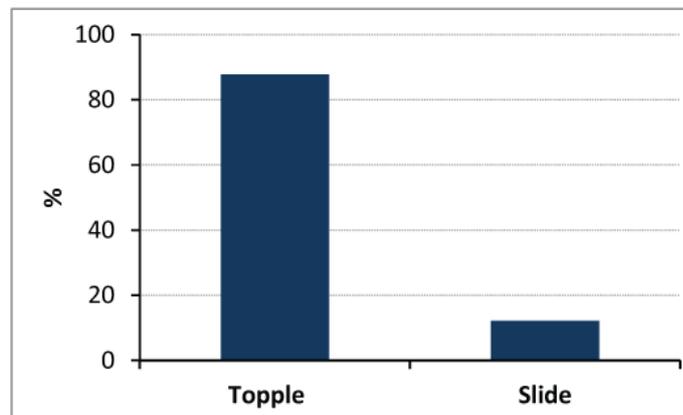
$w$  intersects a jointed face: **Slide**

**Shear strength** of discontinuities is mobilized



$w$  intersects a free face: **Topple (or free fall)**

**Tensile strength** of discontinuities is mobilized



# Conclusion

Based on laser scanner data, the structural analysis permitted to know the joint sets cutting the rocks, and their link with the global cliff morphology and the failure configurations.

The main failure configurations and mechanisms have been identified and could be used for localized hazard detection.

The next step of this work is to associate the rockfalls detected with meteorological conditions thanks to a continuous photographic survey (each 10min, since January 2013), which will provide the date and hour of each event.