

# **GEOMORPHIC INSIGHT FROM HIGH RESOLUTION TOPOGRAPHY: IS IT REPRODUCIBLE?**

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# OVERVIEW

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## 1. HOW LONG IS A HILLSLOPE?

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**1. HOW LONG IS A HILLSLOPE?**

**2. REPRODUCIBLE TOPOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS**



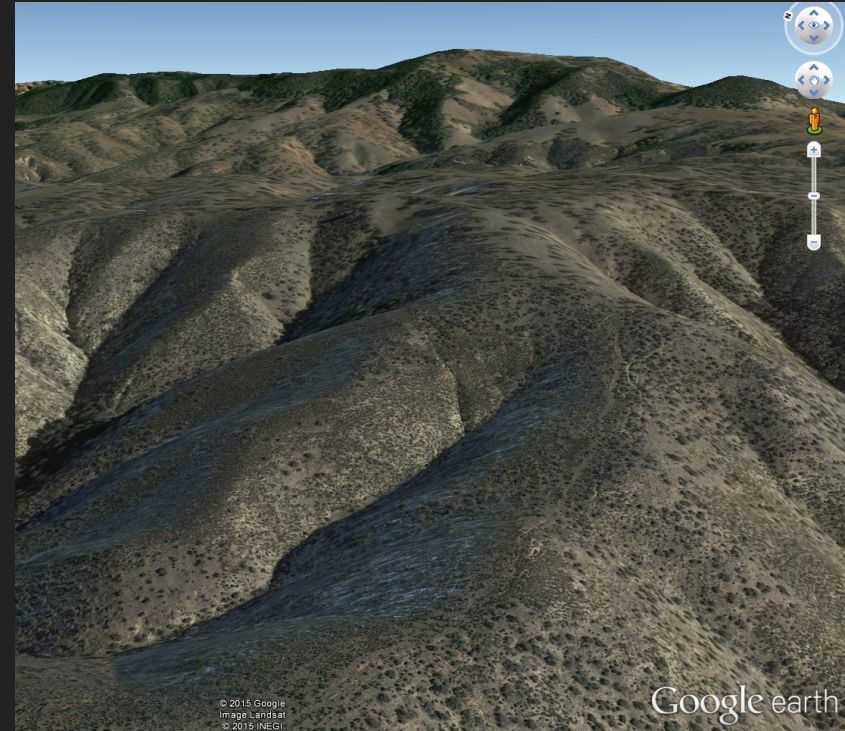
**WHAT CAN TOPOGRAPHY  
TELL US QUANTITATIVELY  
ABOUT PROCESS?**

WHAT CAN TOPOGRAPHY  
TELL US **QUANTITATIVELY**  
ABOUT PROCESS?

# SEDIMENT FLUX

Volume of sediment transported  
on a hillslope per unit area in a  
period of time

Sediment flux controls:



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Geometry of hillslopes



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Sediment flux controls:

- Geometry of hillslopes

- Landscape response to  
climate and tectonic forcing





# SEDIMENT FLUX

Volume of sediment transported on a hillslope per unit area in a period of time

Sediment flux controls:

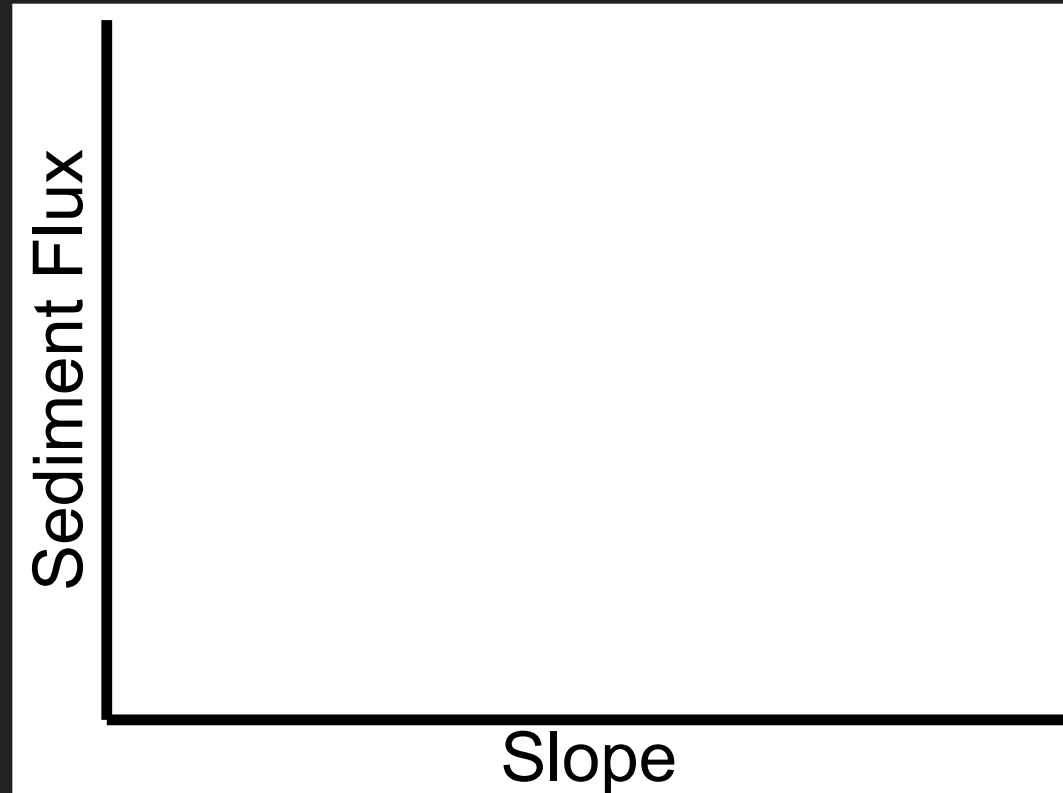
- Geometry of hillslopes

- Landscape response to climate and tectonic forcing

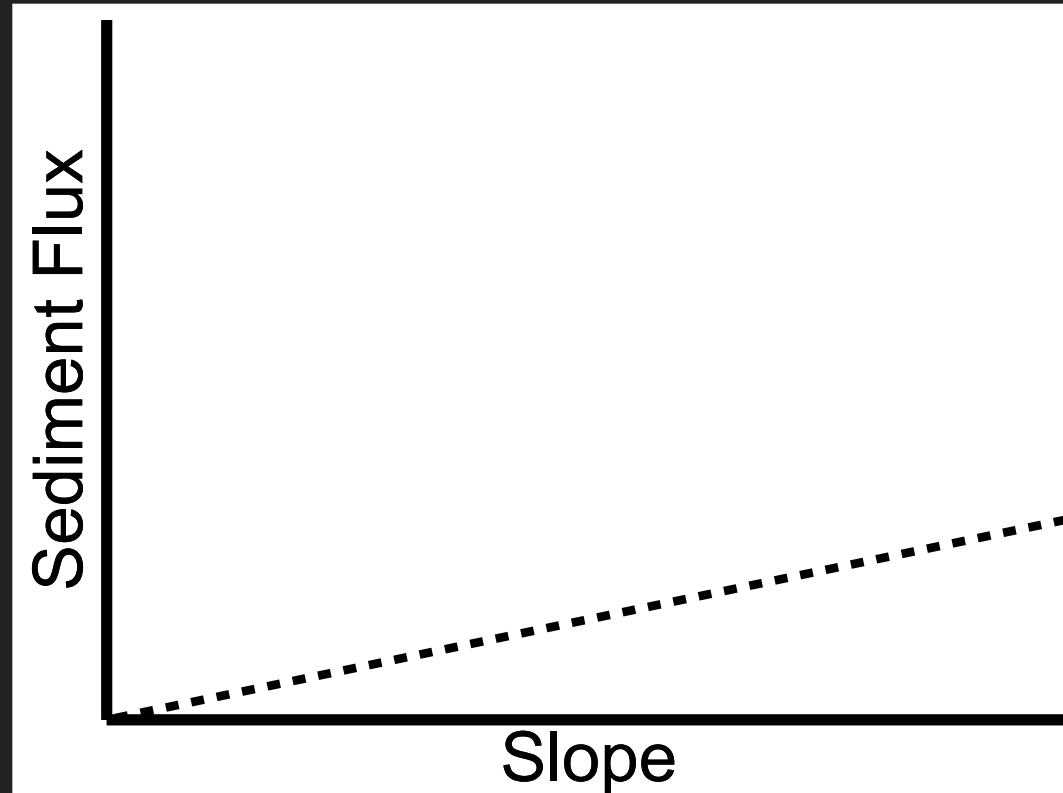
- Landscape evolution modelling



# SEDIMENT FLUX LAWS

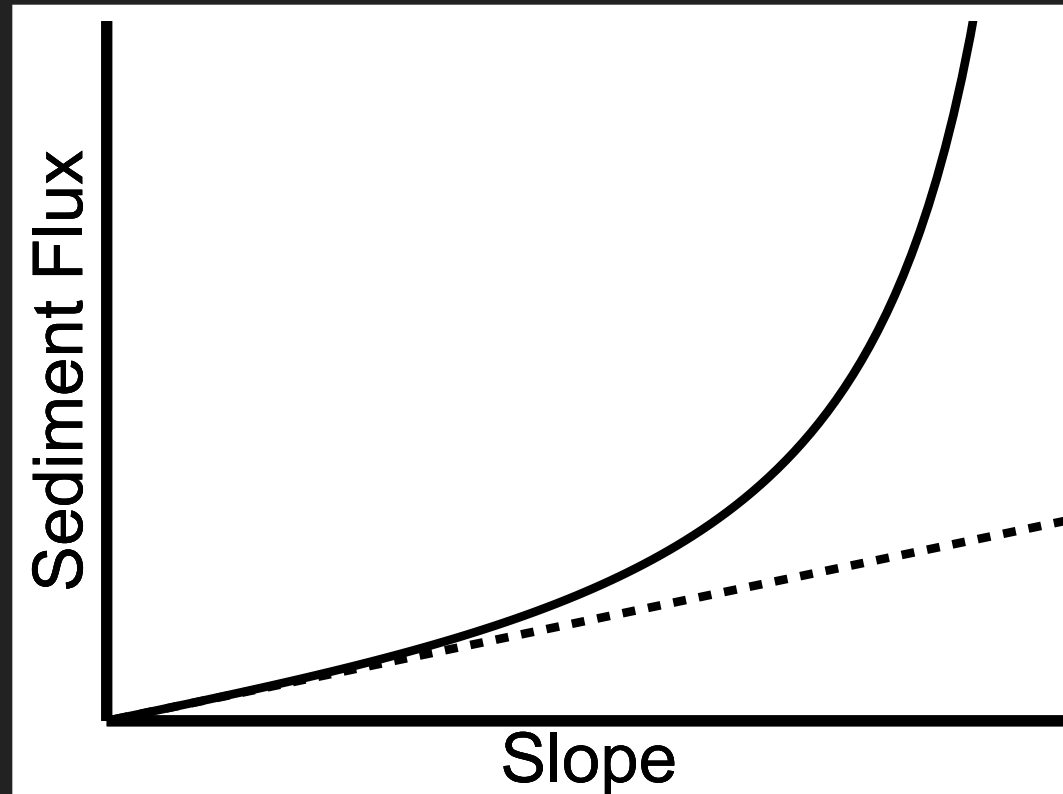


# SEDIMENT FLUX LAWS

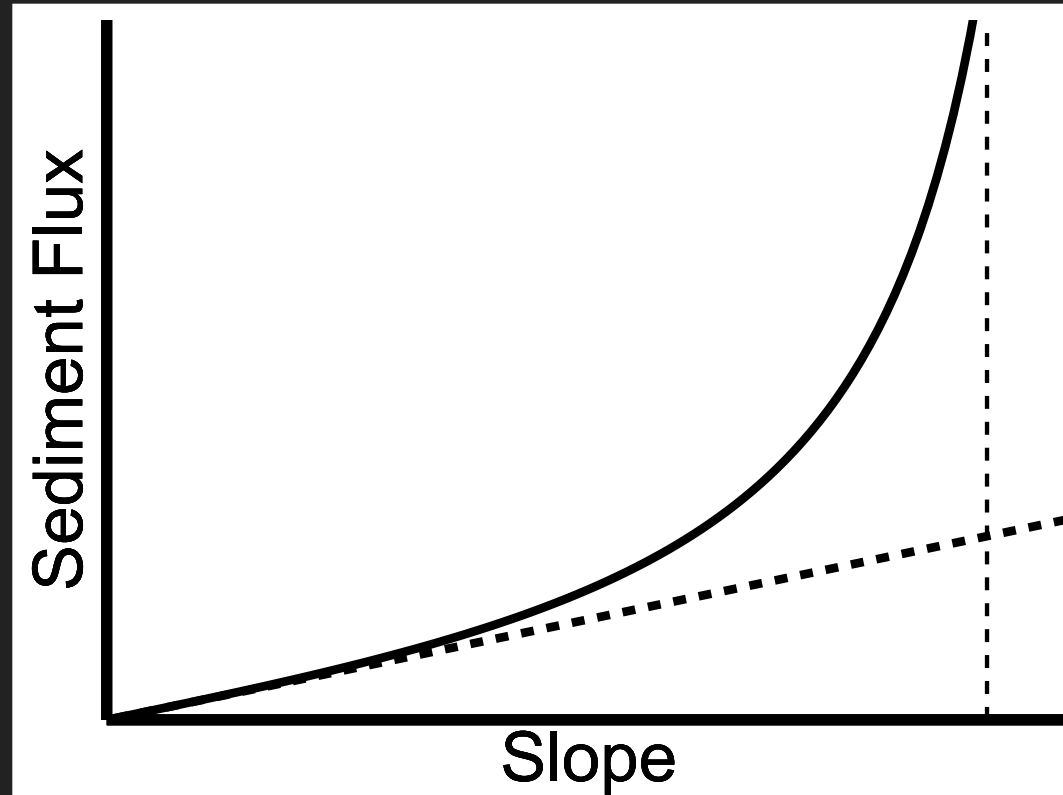




# SEDIMENT FLUX LAWS

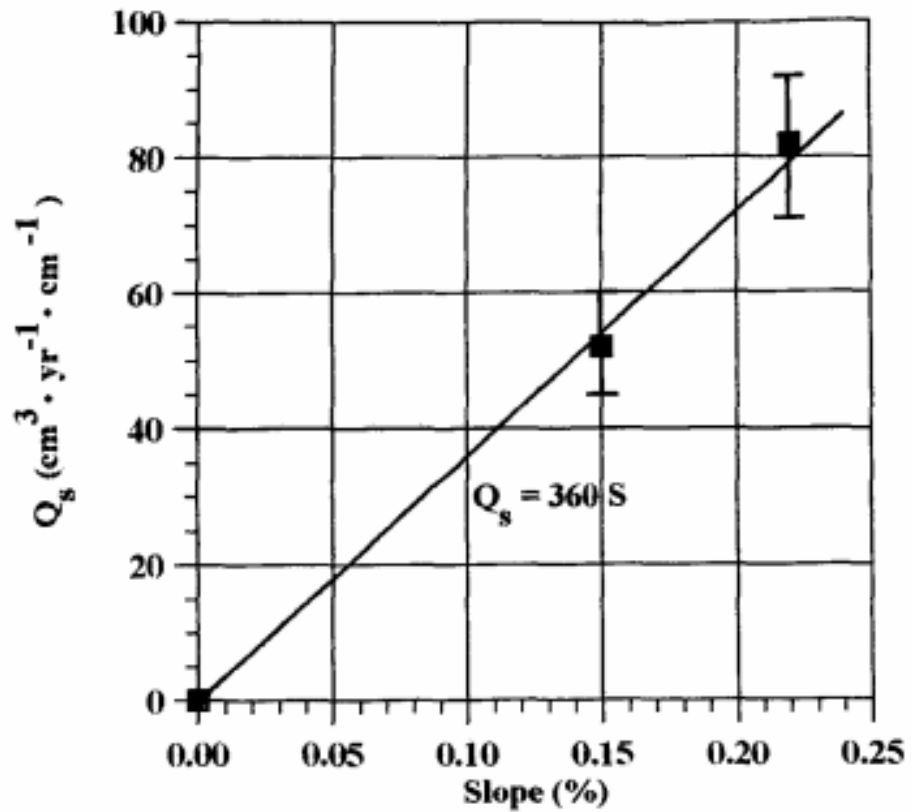


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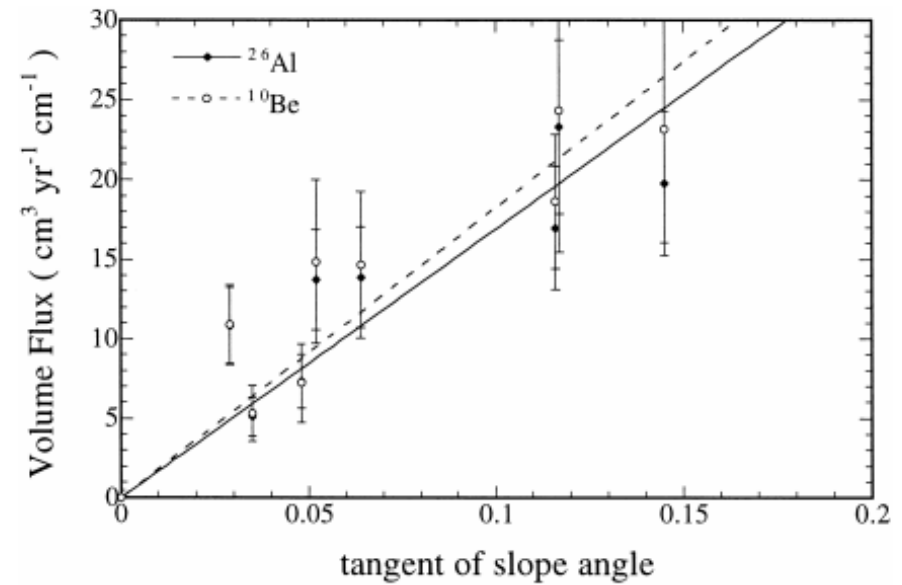
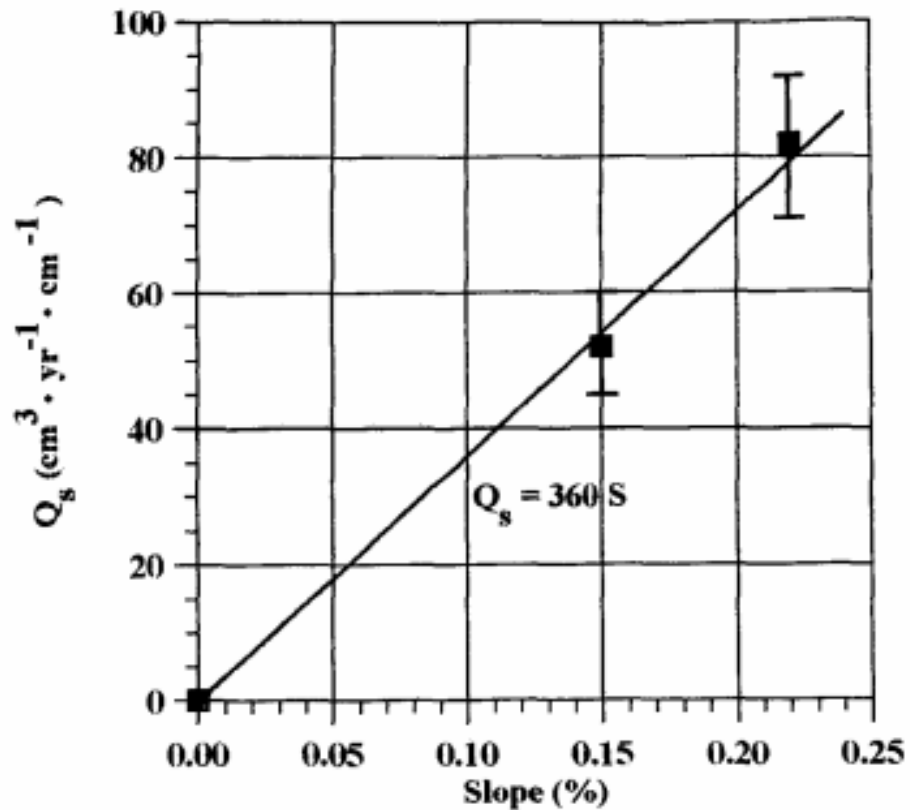


# CONSTRAINING LINEAR FLUX

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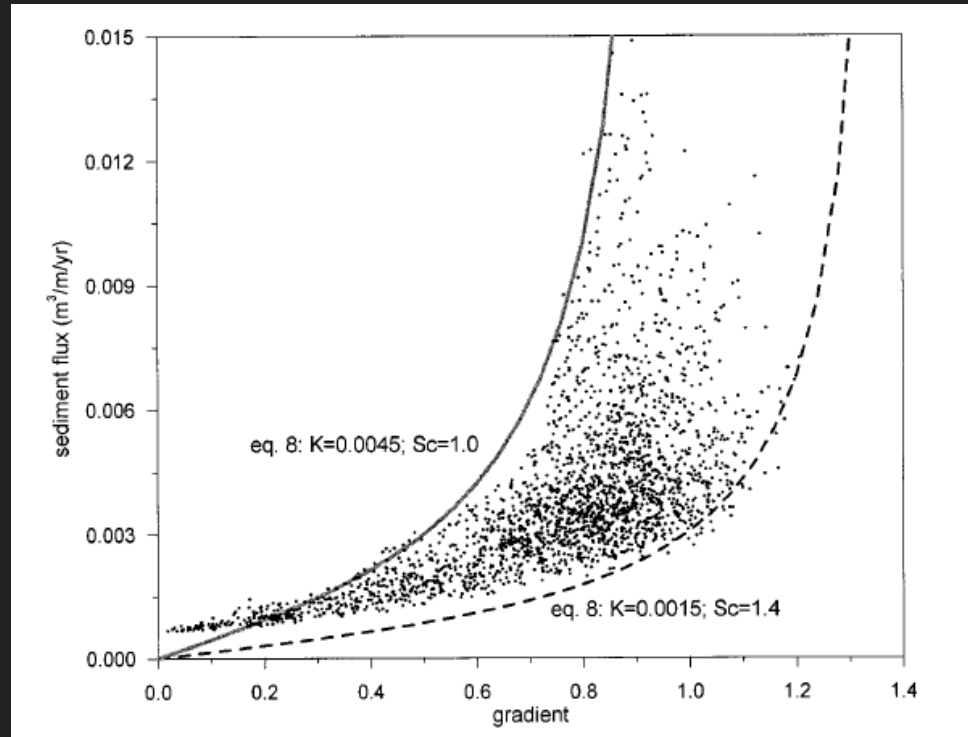


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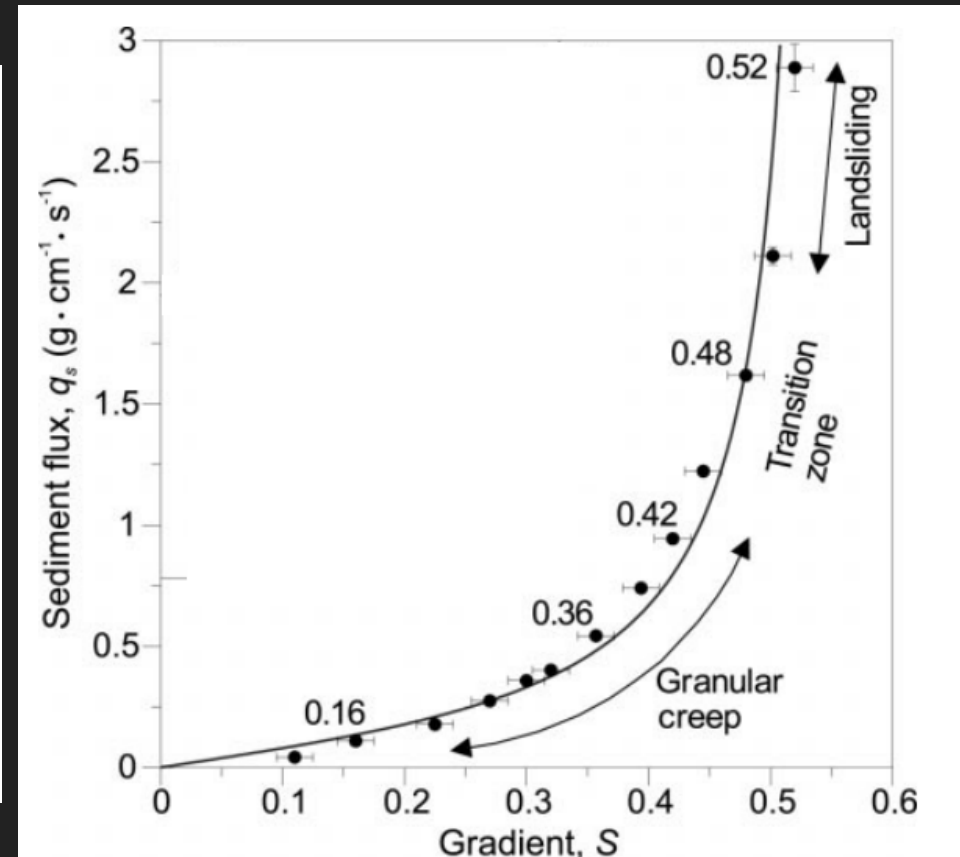
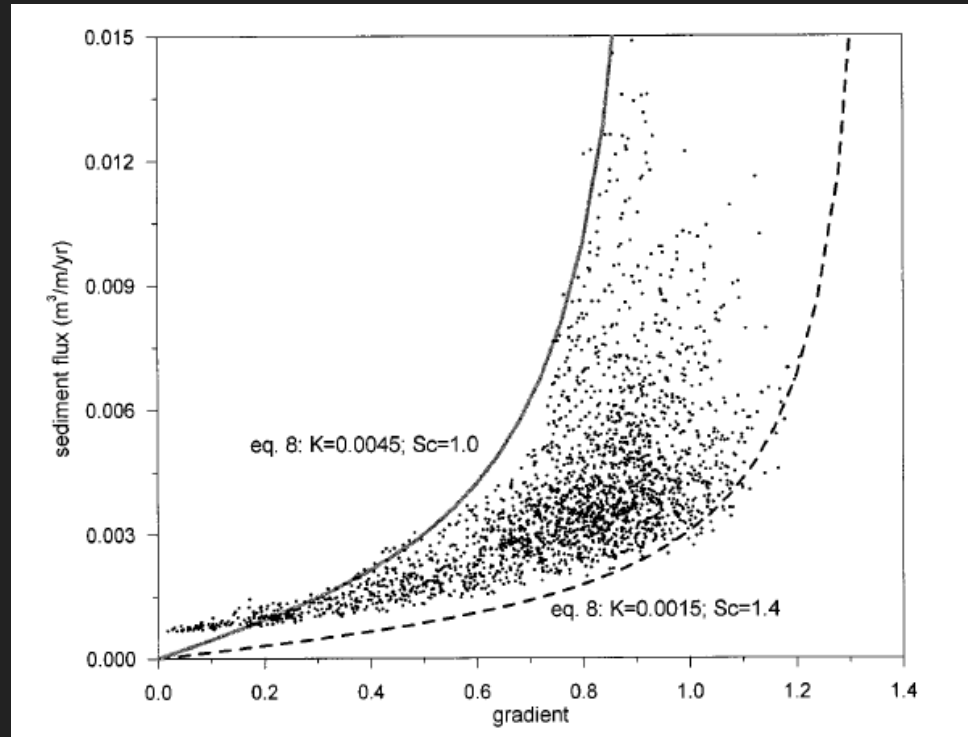


# CONSTRAINING NONLINEAR FLUX

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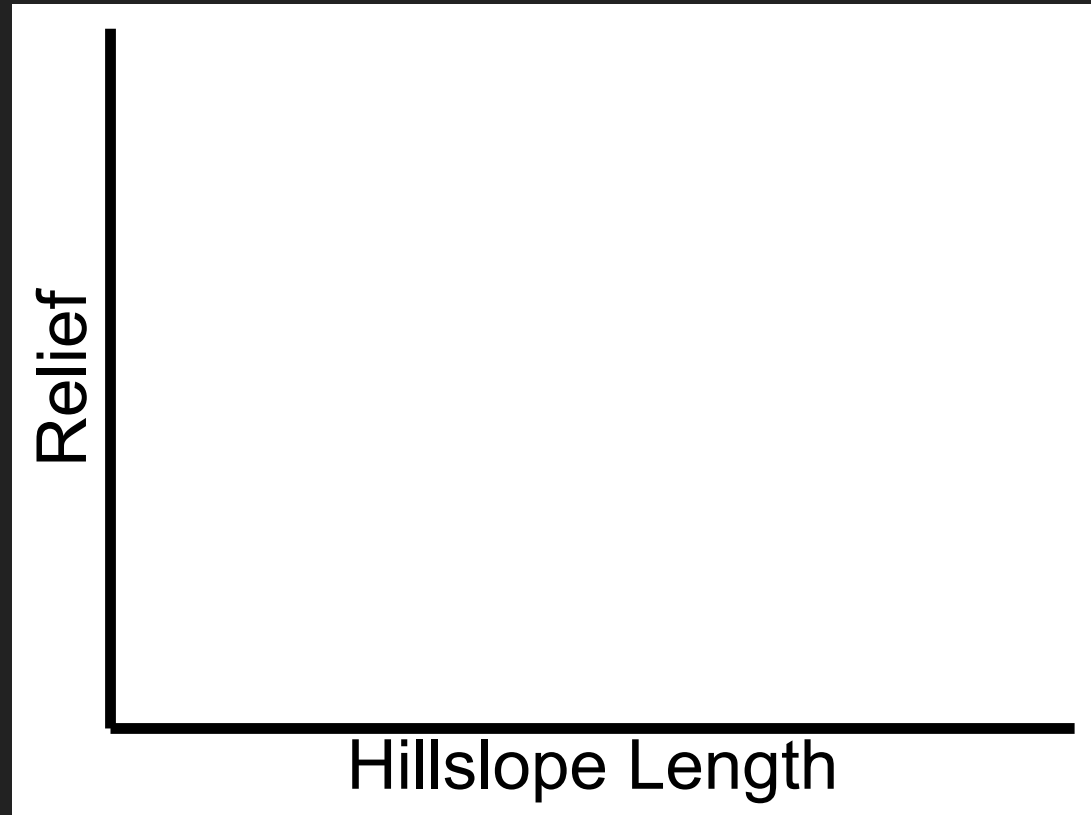


# CONSTRAINING NONLINEAR FLUX

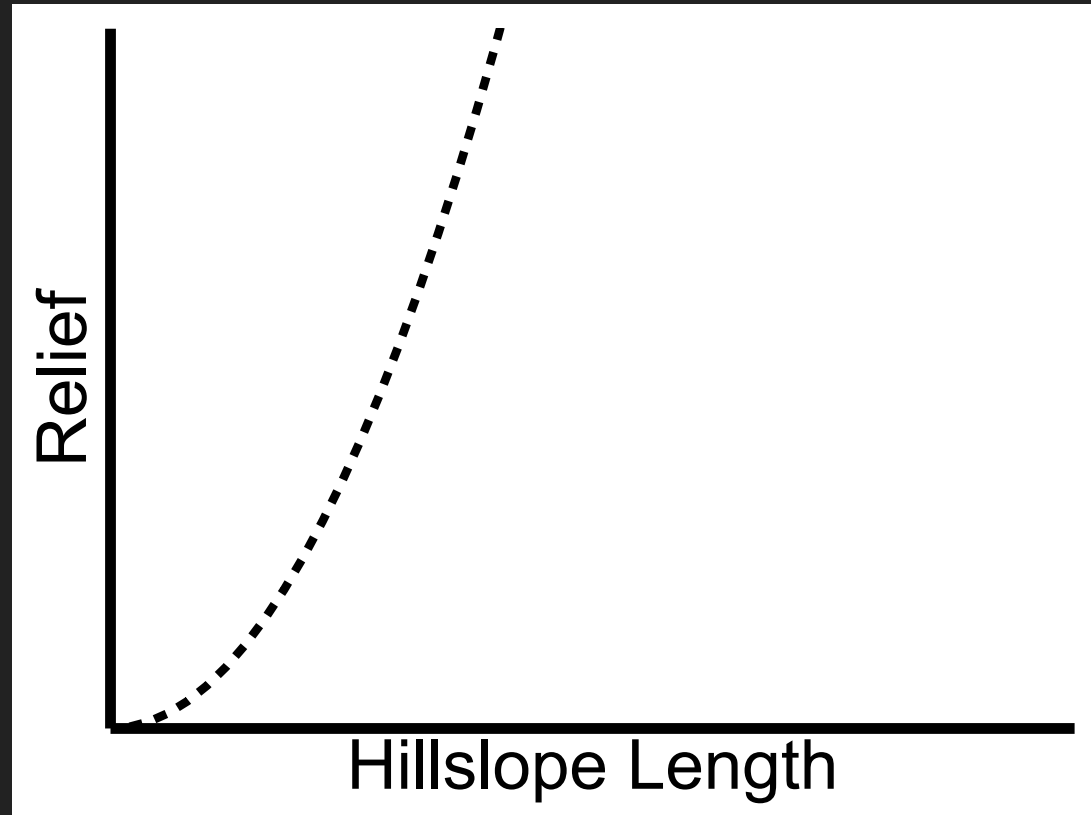




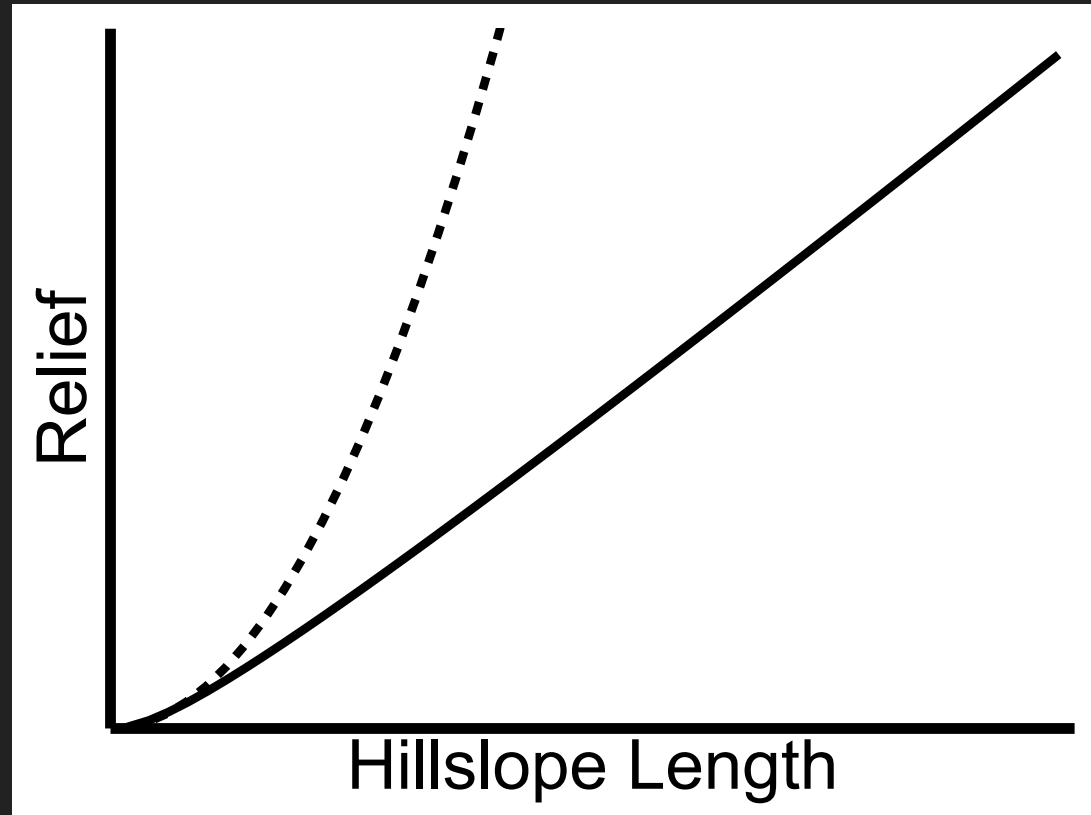
# PREDICTIONS OF THE RELIEF STRUCTURE OF LANDSCAPES



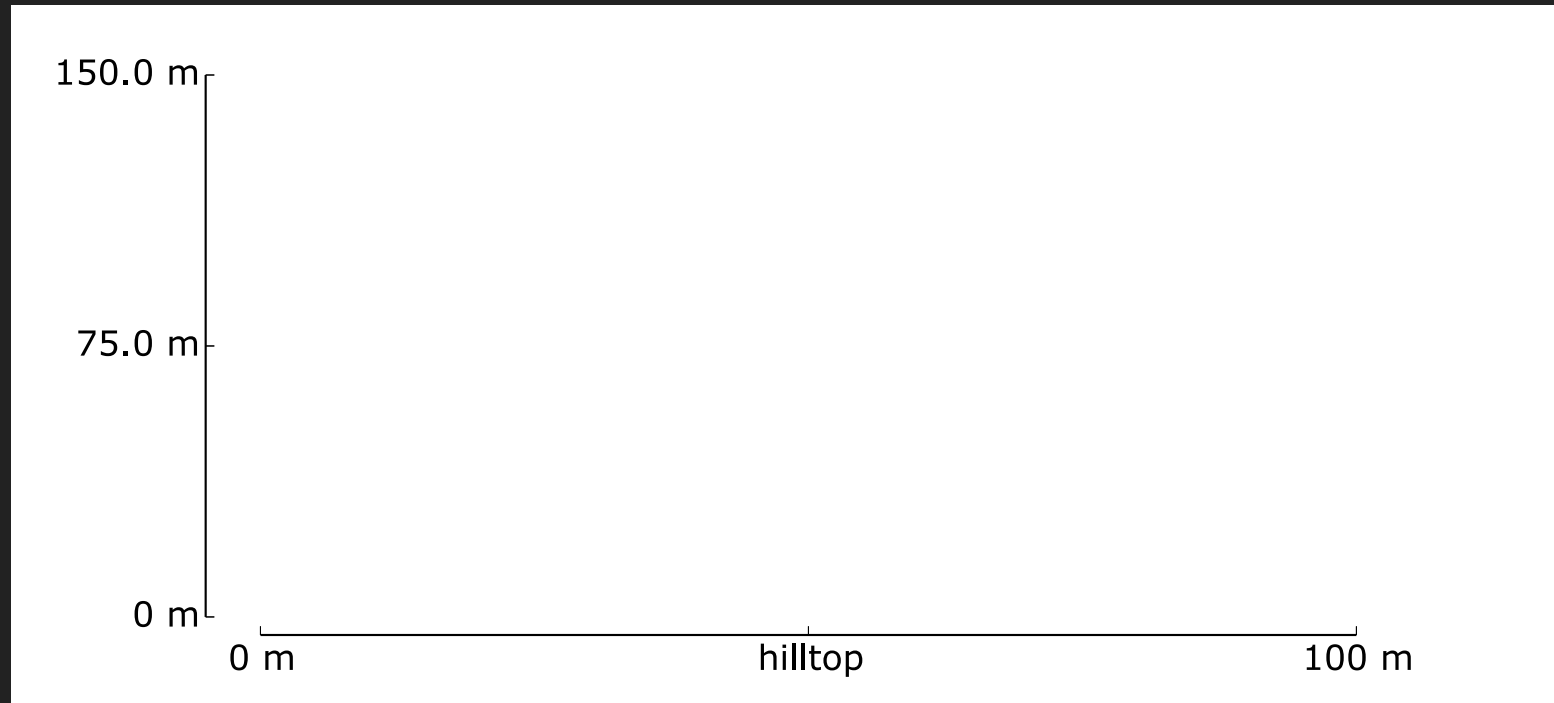
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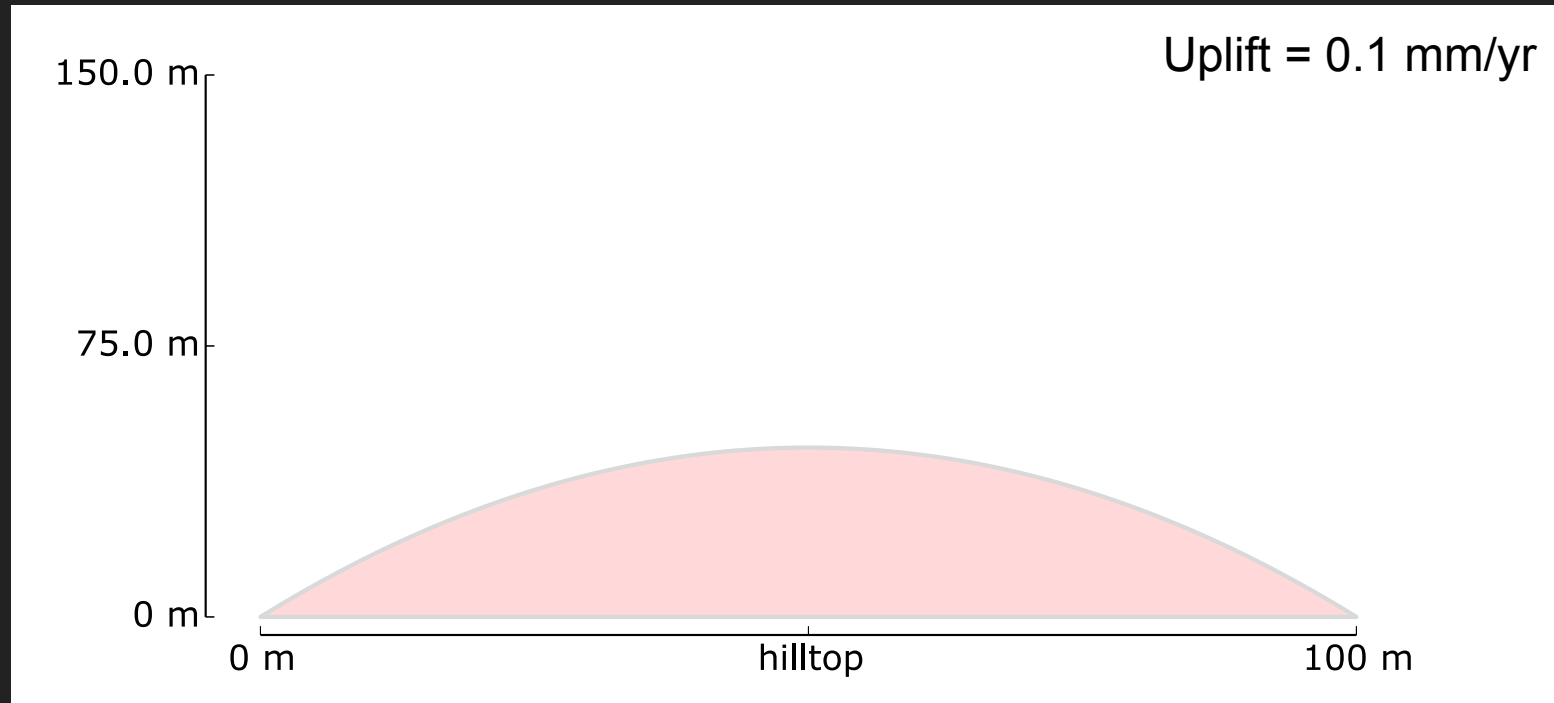
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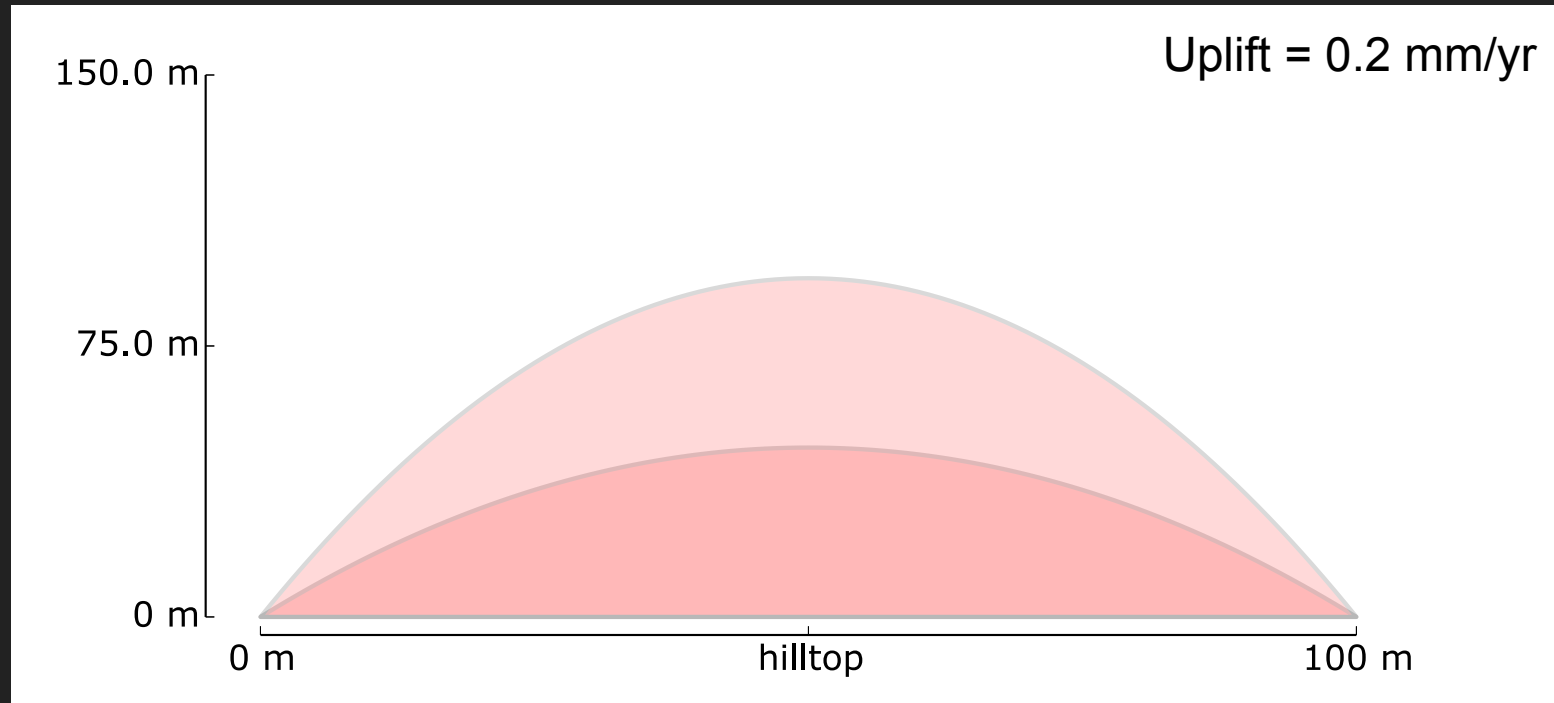
# TOPOGRAPHIC PREDICTIONS OF LINEAR SEDIMENT FLUX



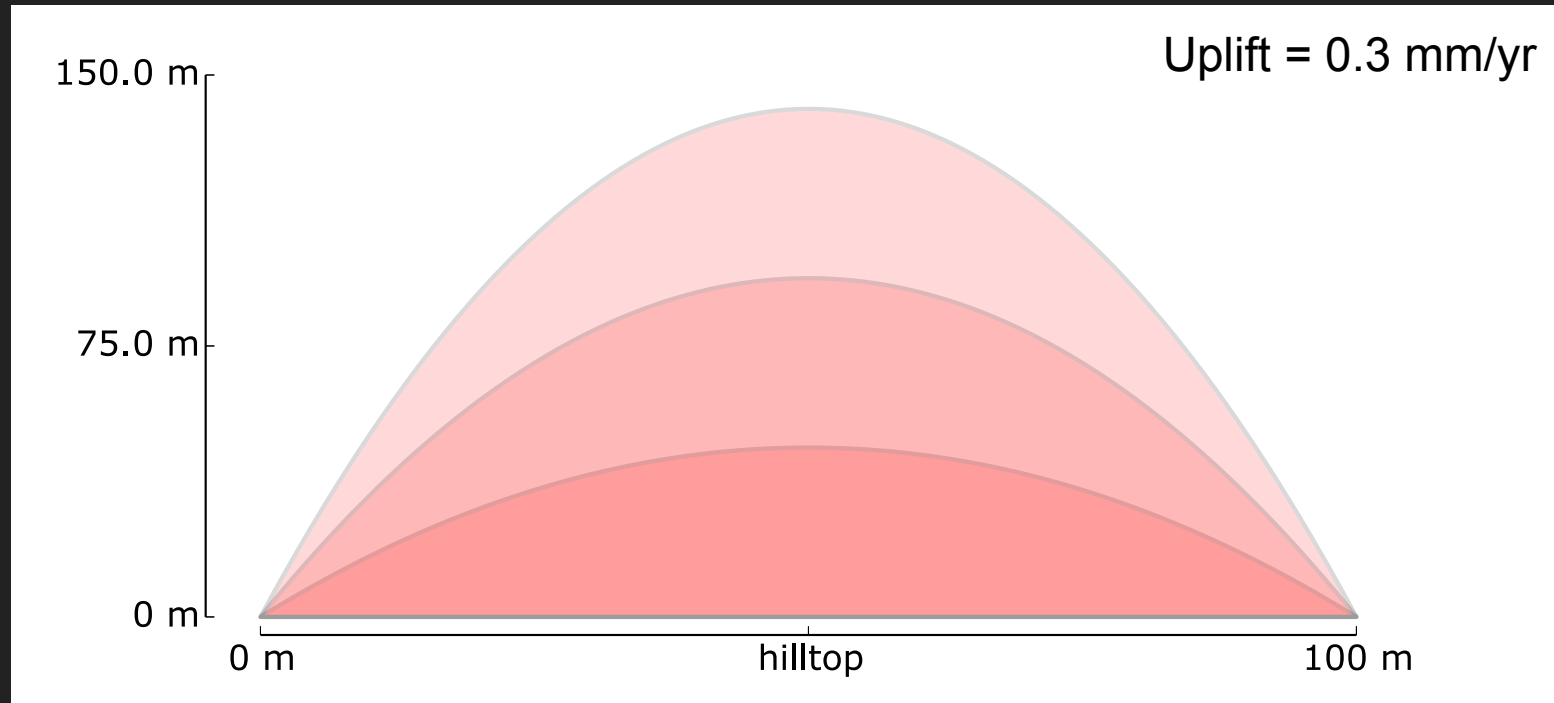
# TOPOGRAPHIC PREDICTIONS OF LINEAR SEDIMENT FLUX



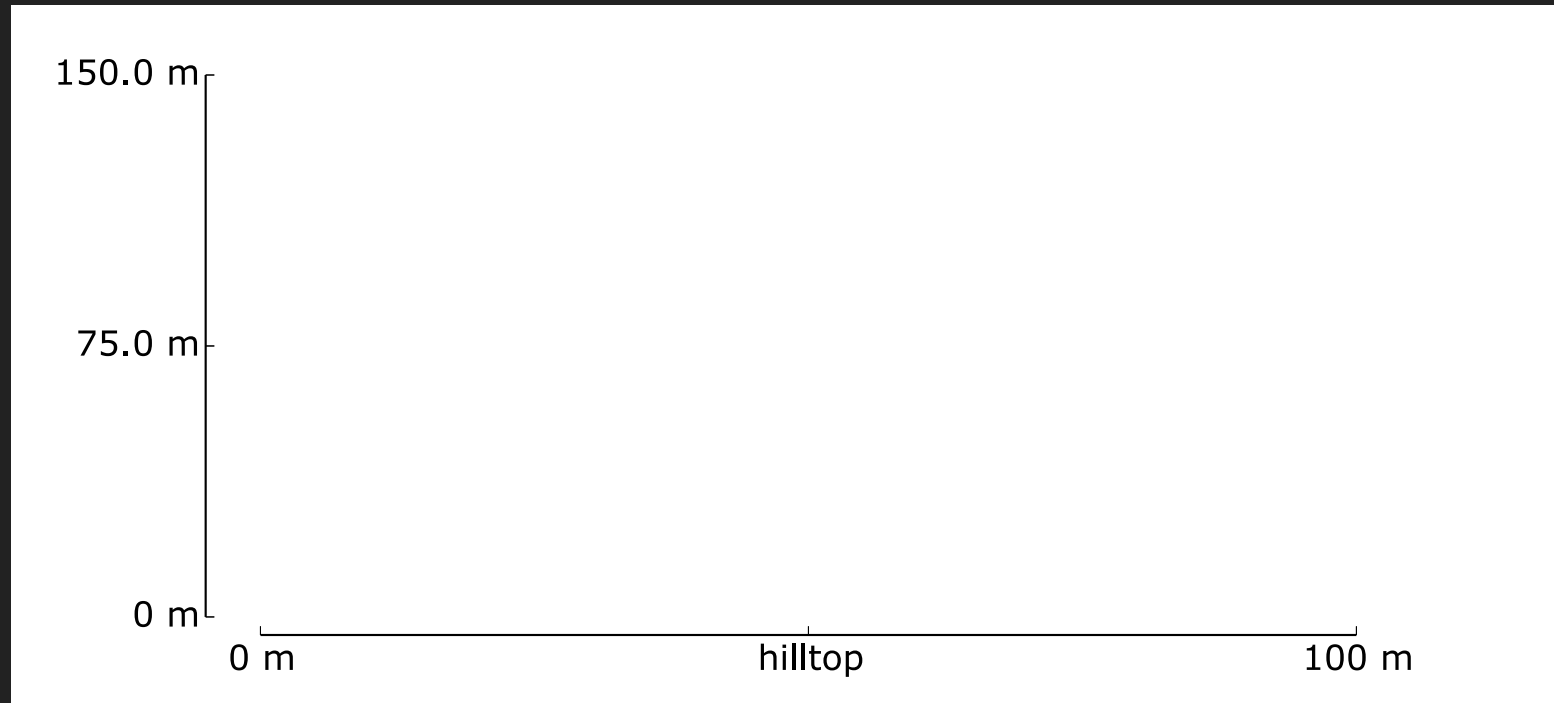
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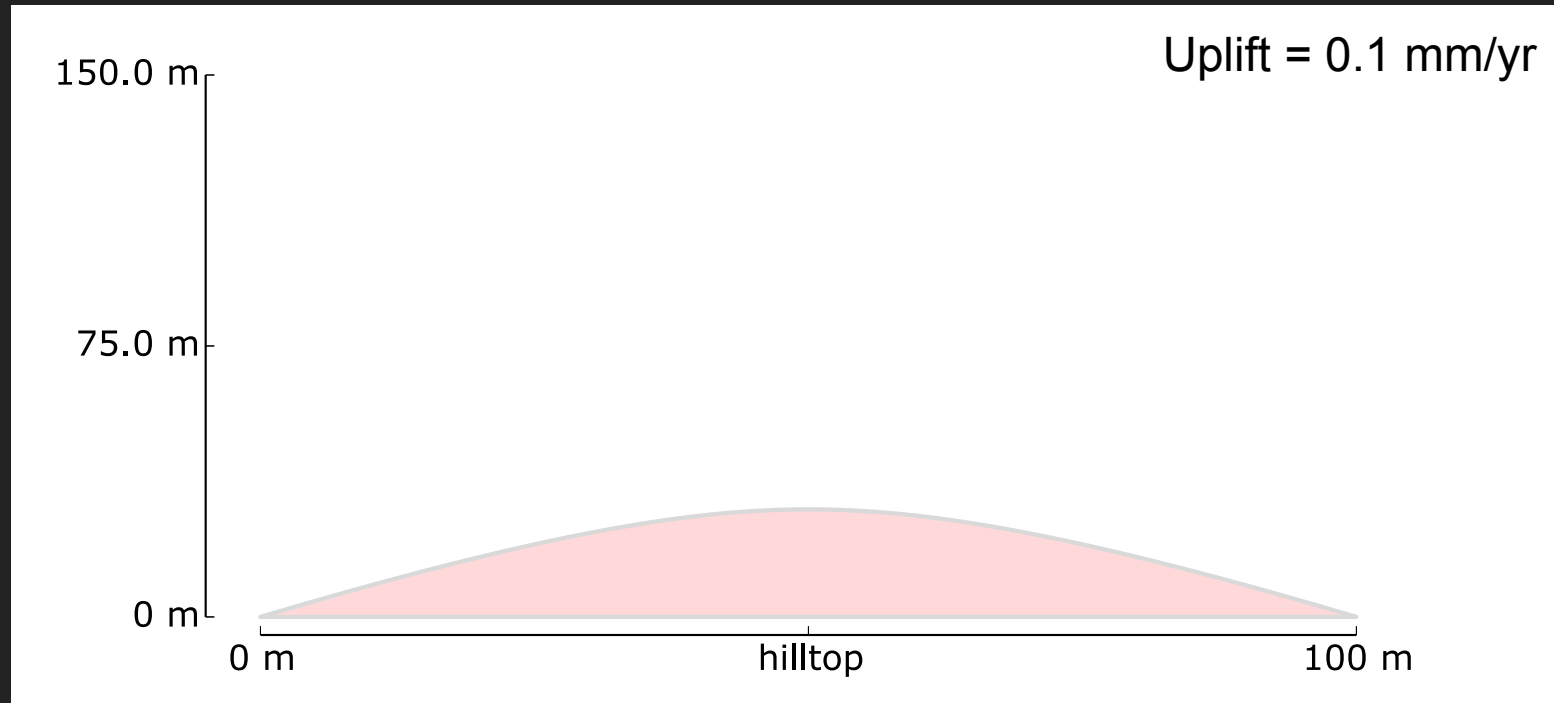


# TOPOGRAPHIC PREDICTIONS OF NONLINEAR SEDIMENT FLUX

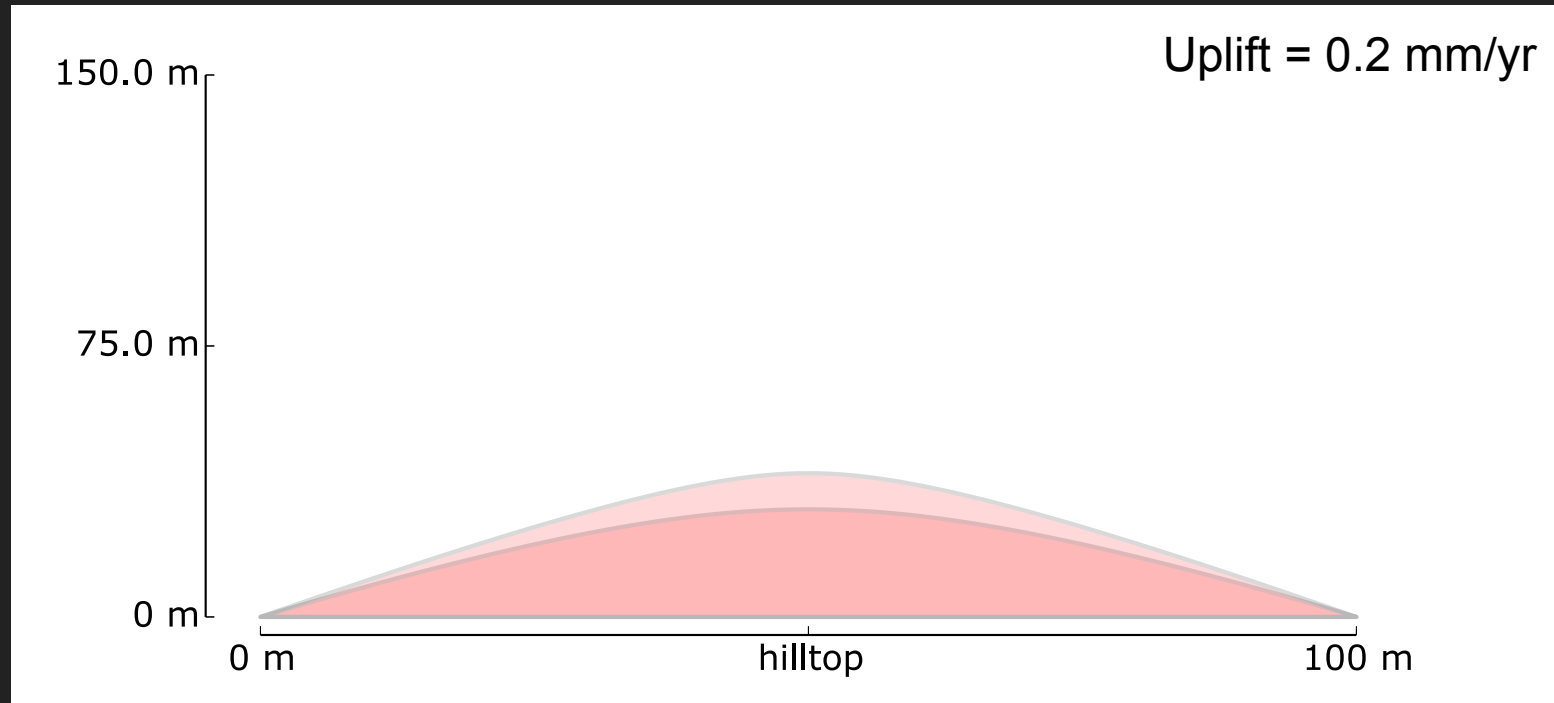




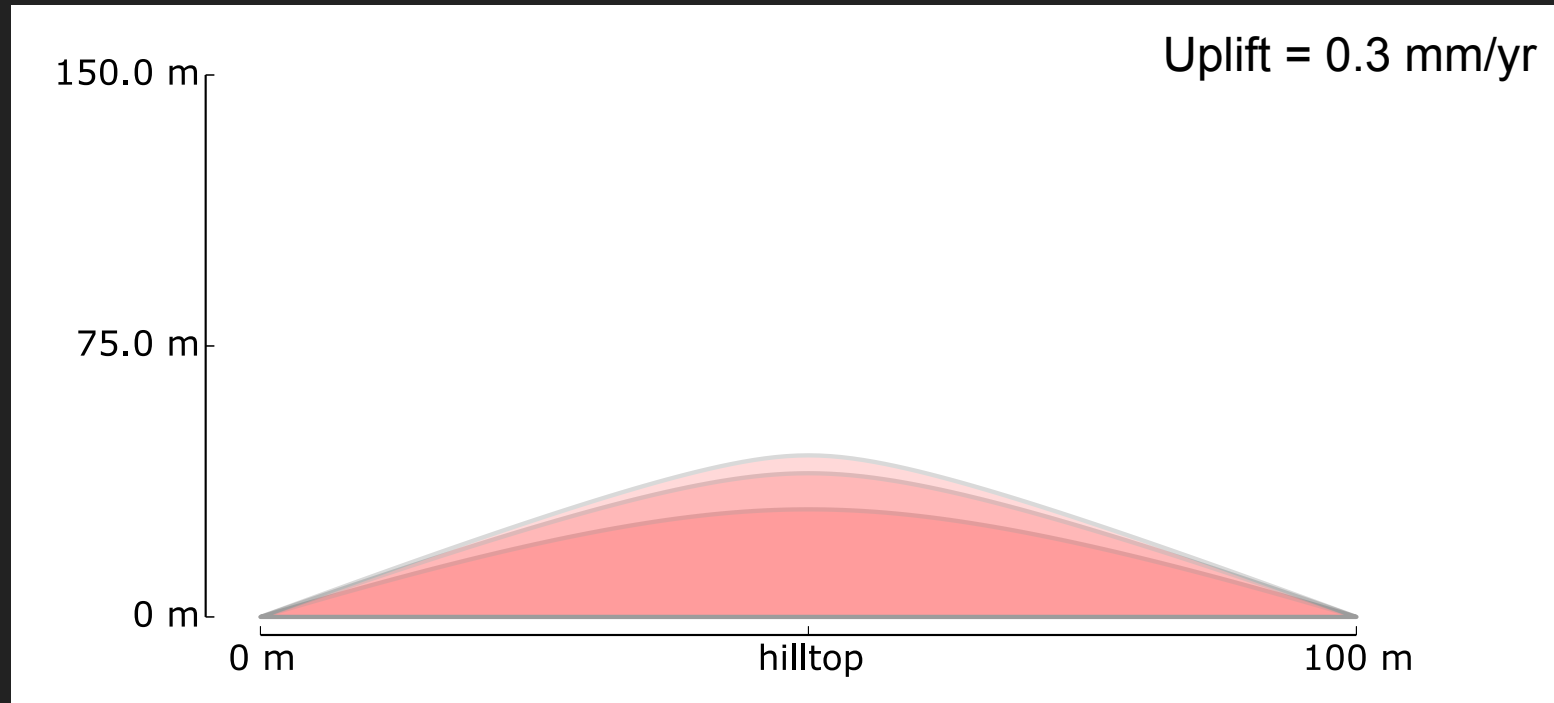
# TOPOGRAPHIC PREDICTIONS OF NONLINEAR SEDIMENT FLUX



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# TOPOGRAPHIC PREDICTIONS OF NONLINEAR SEDIMENT FLUX



**IF WE CAN MEASURE HILLSLOPE  
LENGTH AND RELIEF WE CAN  
LOOK FOR THIS RELATIONSHIP  
ACROSS A LANDSCAPE**

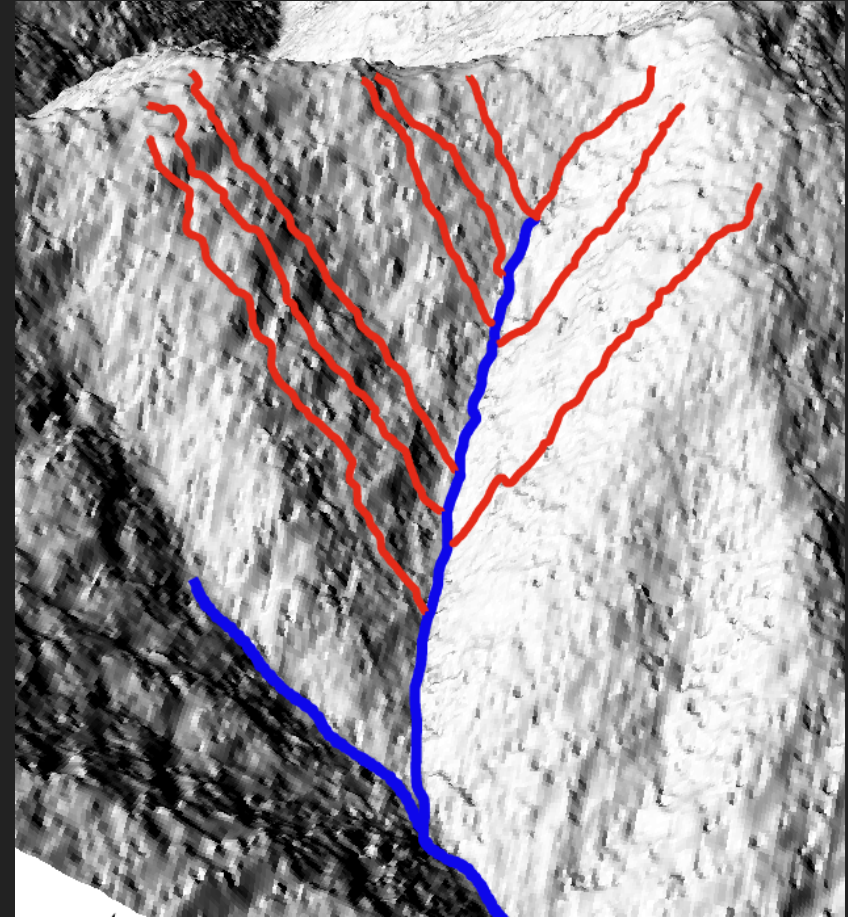
# MEASURING HILLSLOPE LENGTH AND RELIEF

Measure hillslope length as a flow path

Connect ridges to channels

Get hilltop to channel relief

Allows us to test the relationship between relief and hillslope length



480

450

550

470

430

445

475

420

400

480	450	550
470	430	445
475	420	400

480	450	550
470	430	445
475	420	400

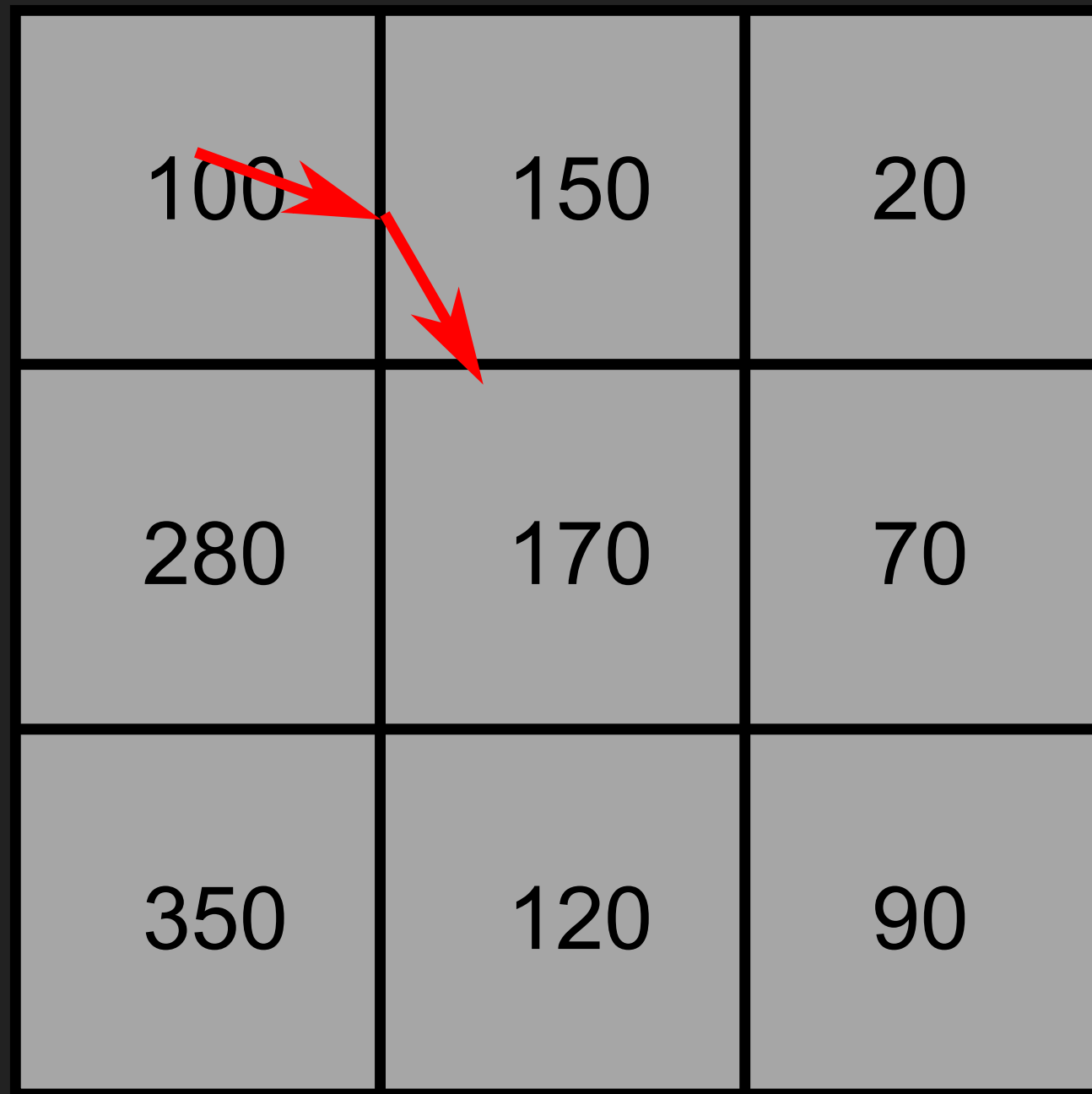


480	450	550
470	430	445
475	420	400

100	150	20
280	170	70
350	120	90

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A 3x3 grid of numbers. The values are as follows:

Row 1	Col 1	Col 2	Col 3
1	100	150	20
2	280	170	70
3	350	120	90

A red arrow originates from the center of the cell containing '100' and points to the center of the cell containing '70'.

100	150	20
280	170	70
350	120	90



100	150	20
280	170	70
350	120	90



A 3x3 grid of numbers is shown. The numbers are arranged as follows:

100	150	20
280	170	70
350	120	90

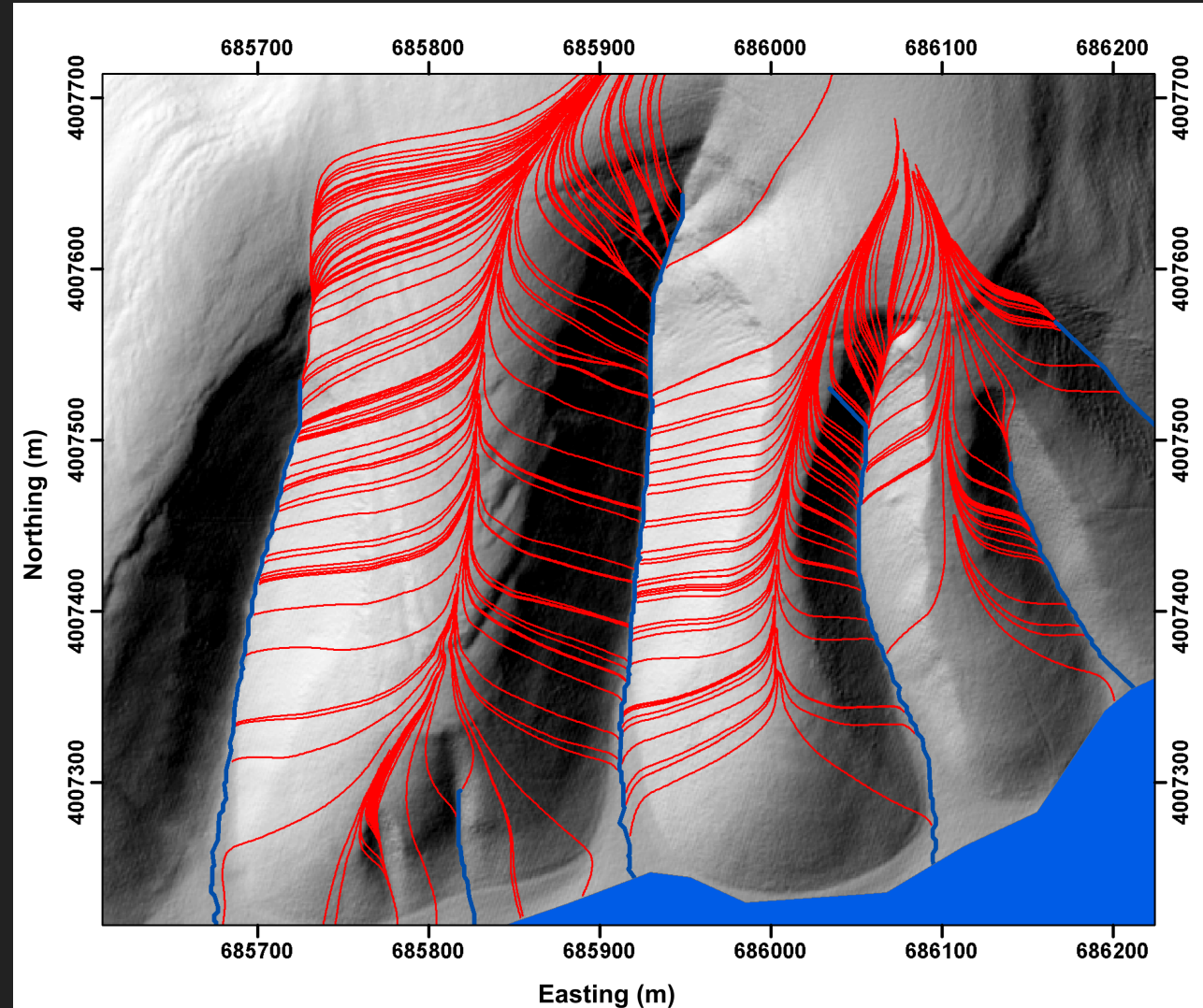
Red arrows indicate a path starting from the number 100 in the top-left cell, moving to the number 170 in the middle-middle cell, and then to the number 120 in the bottom-middle cell.

100	150	20
280	170	70
350	120	90

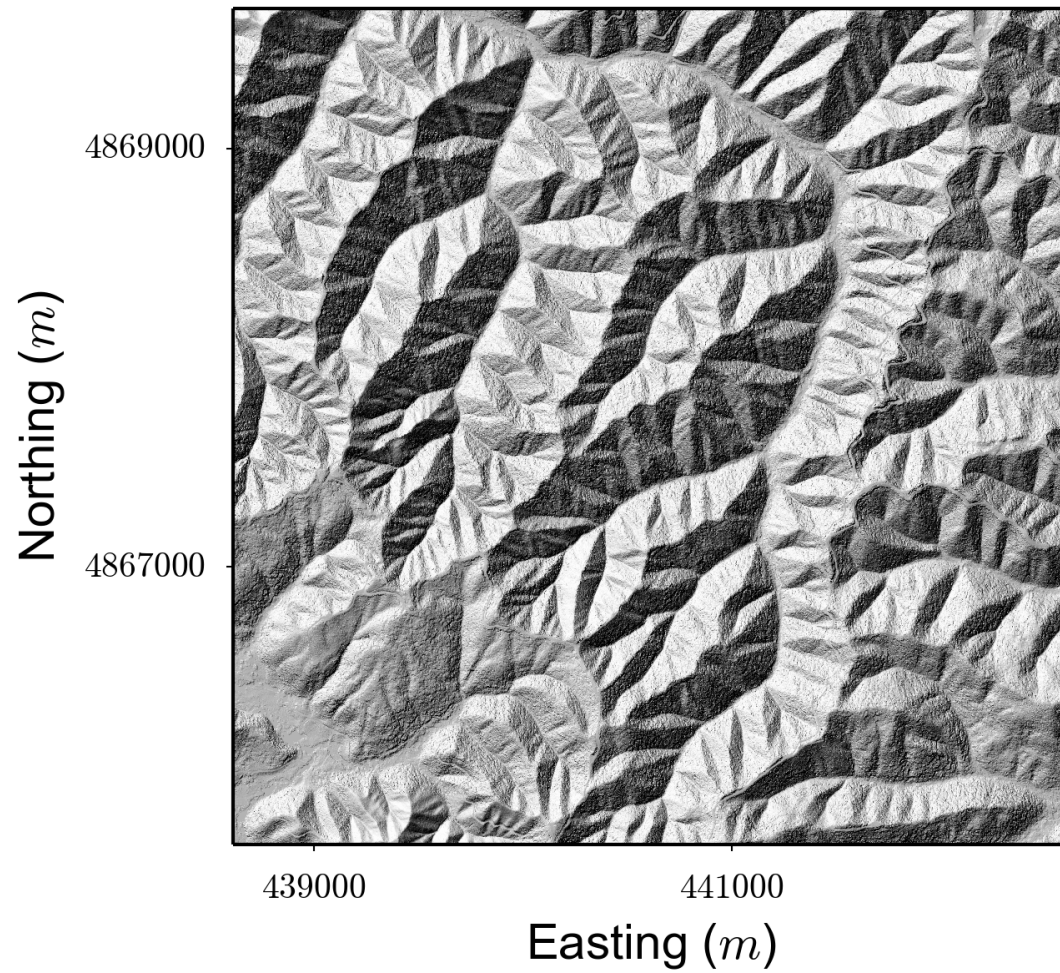


A 3x3 grid of numbers with red arrows indicating a path. The path starts at 100 (top-left), moves right to 150 (top-middle), then down to 170 (middle-middle), then down to 120 (bottom-middle), and finally right to 90 (bottom-right).

# MEASURING HILLSLOPE LENGTH AND RELIEF

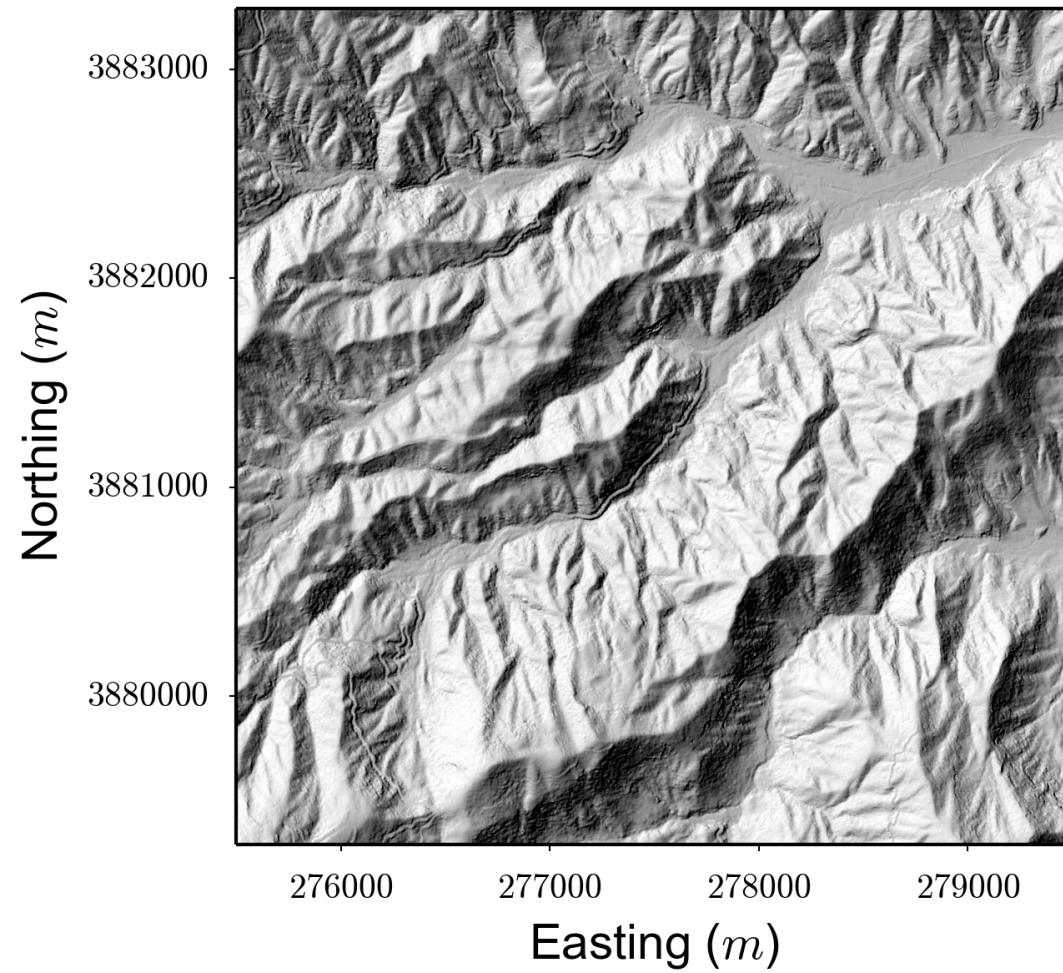






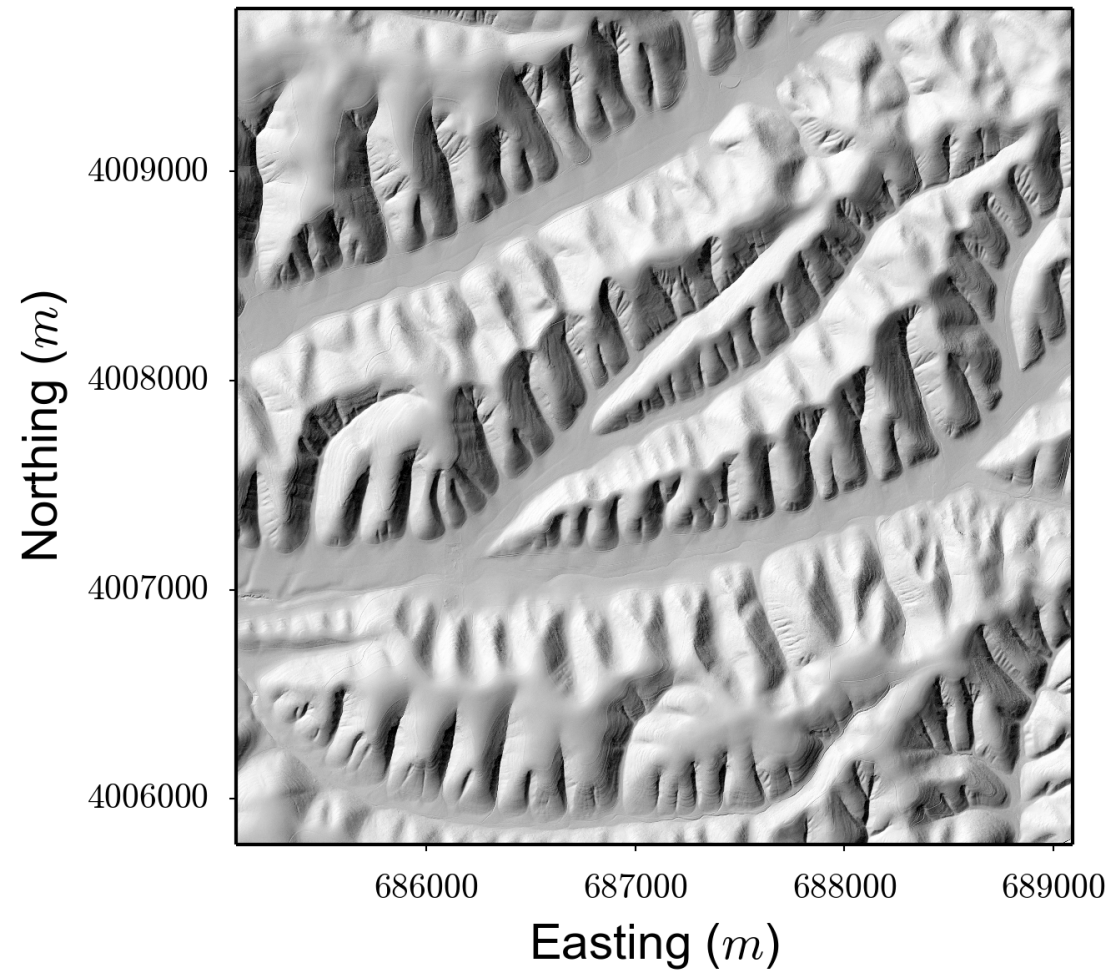
Oregon Coast Range,  
Oregon





Coweeta,  
North Carolina

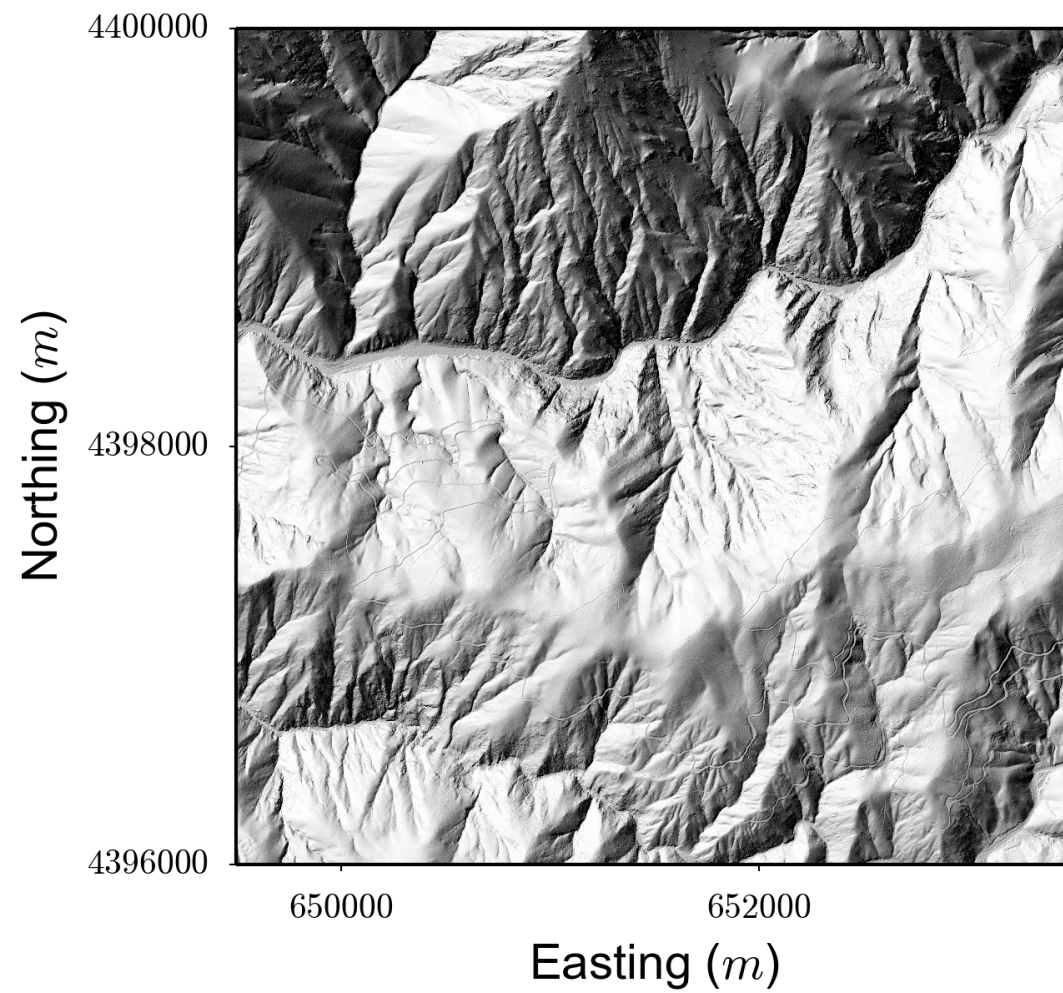




Gabilan Mesa,  
California

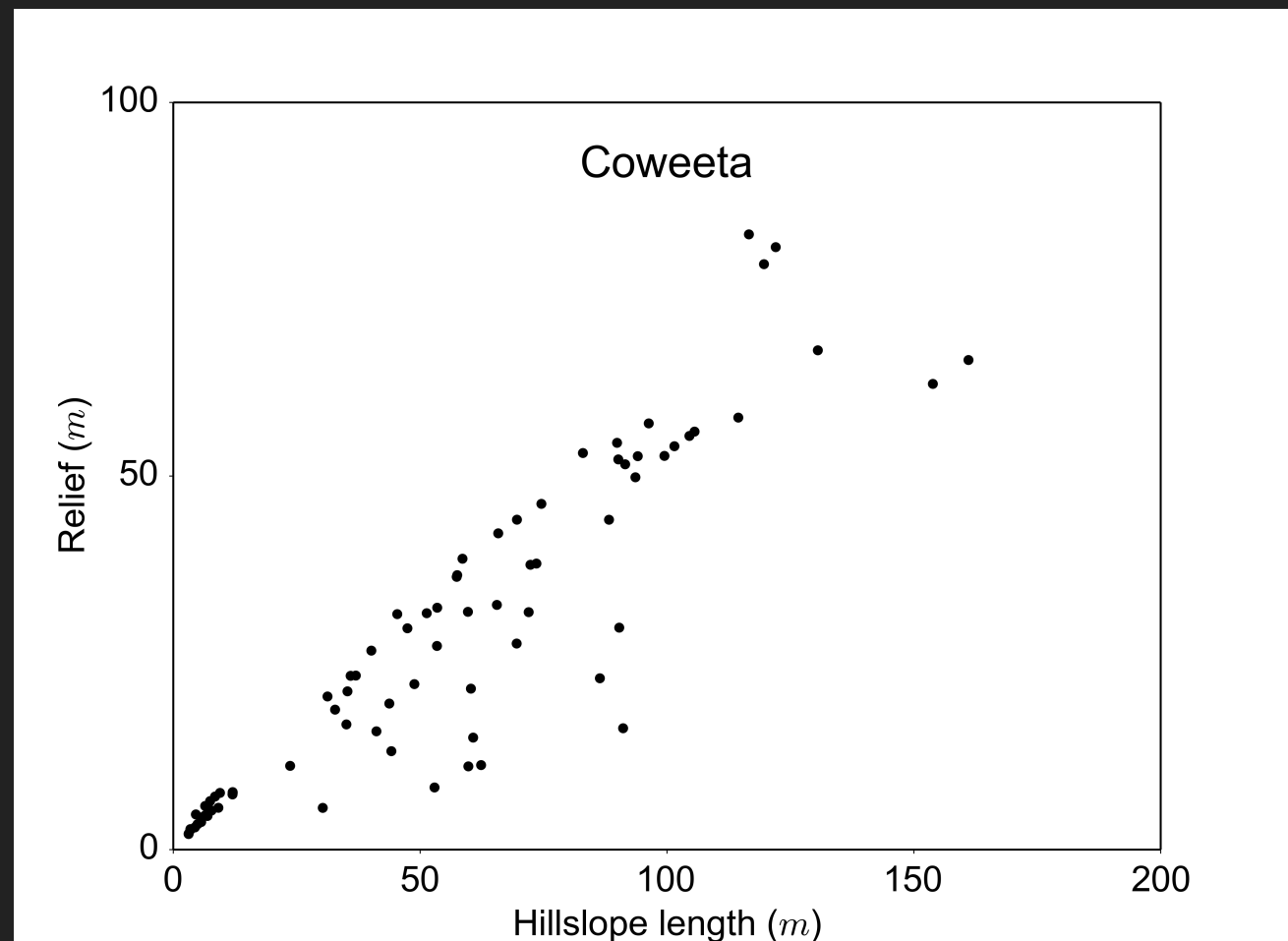


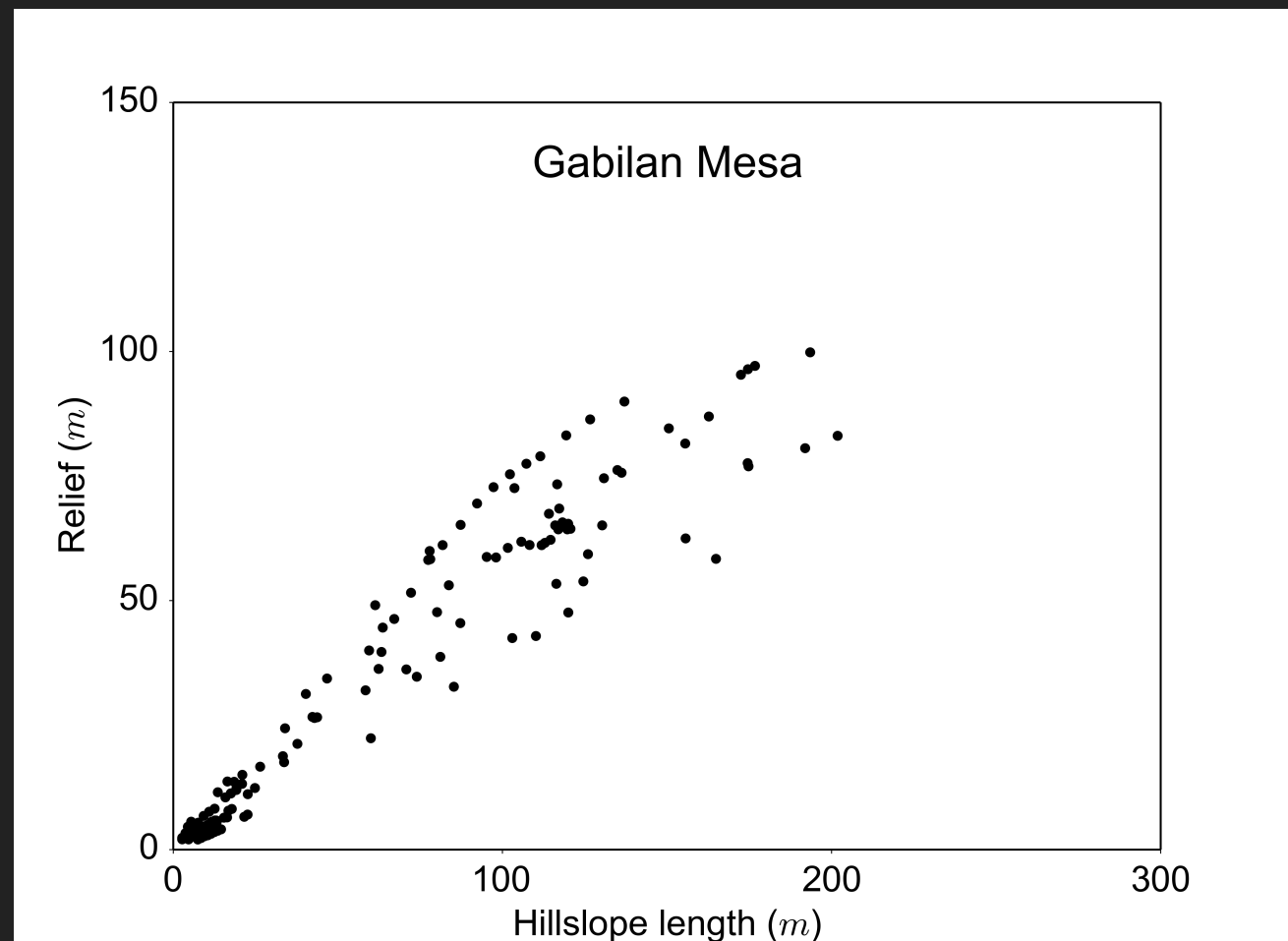


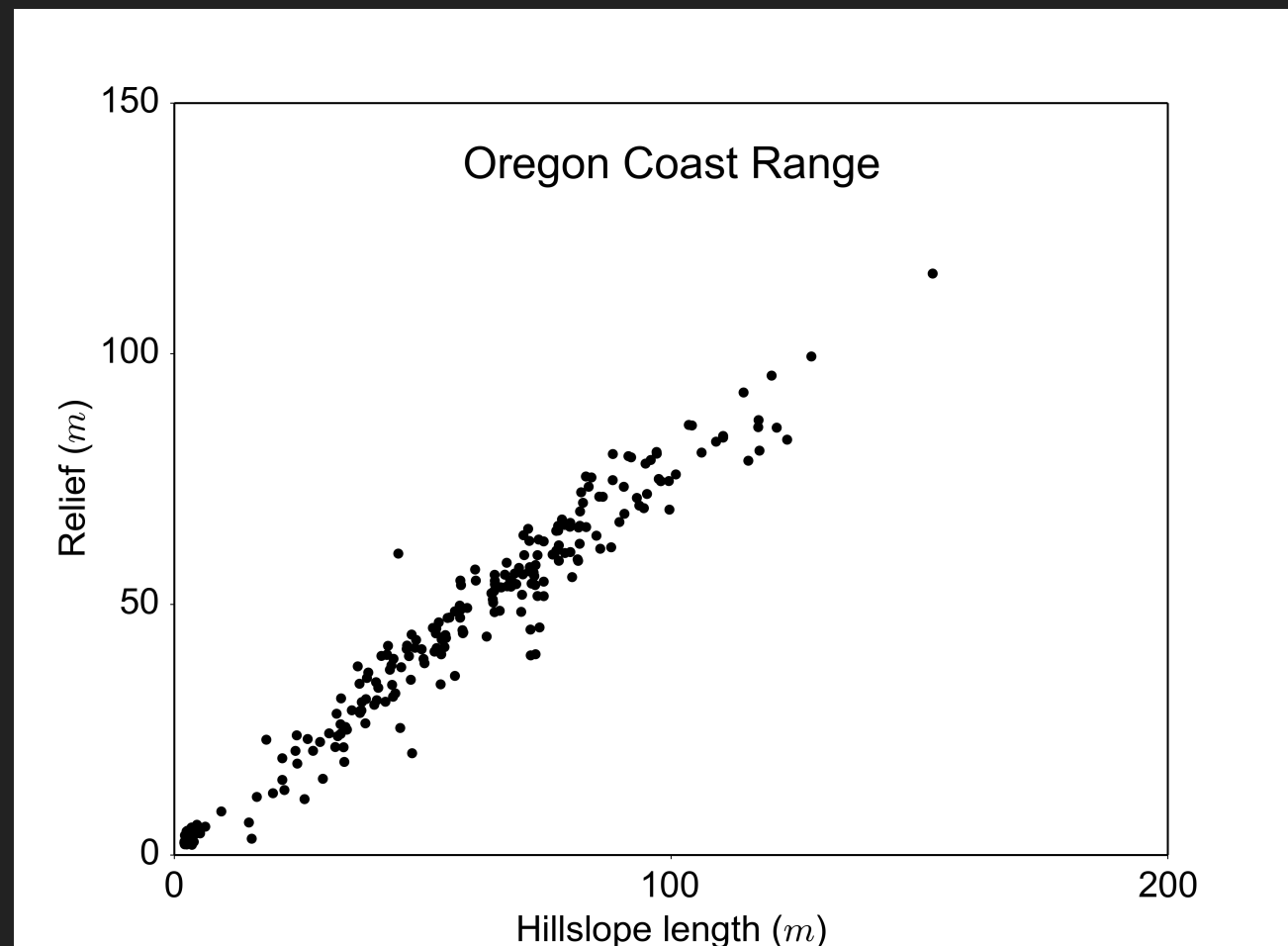


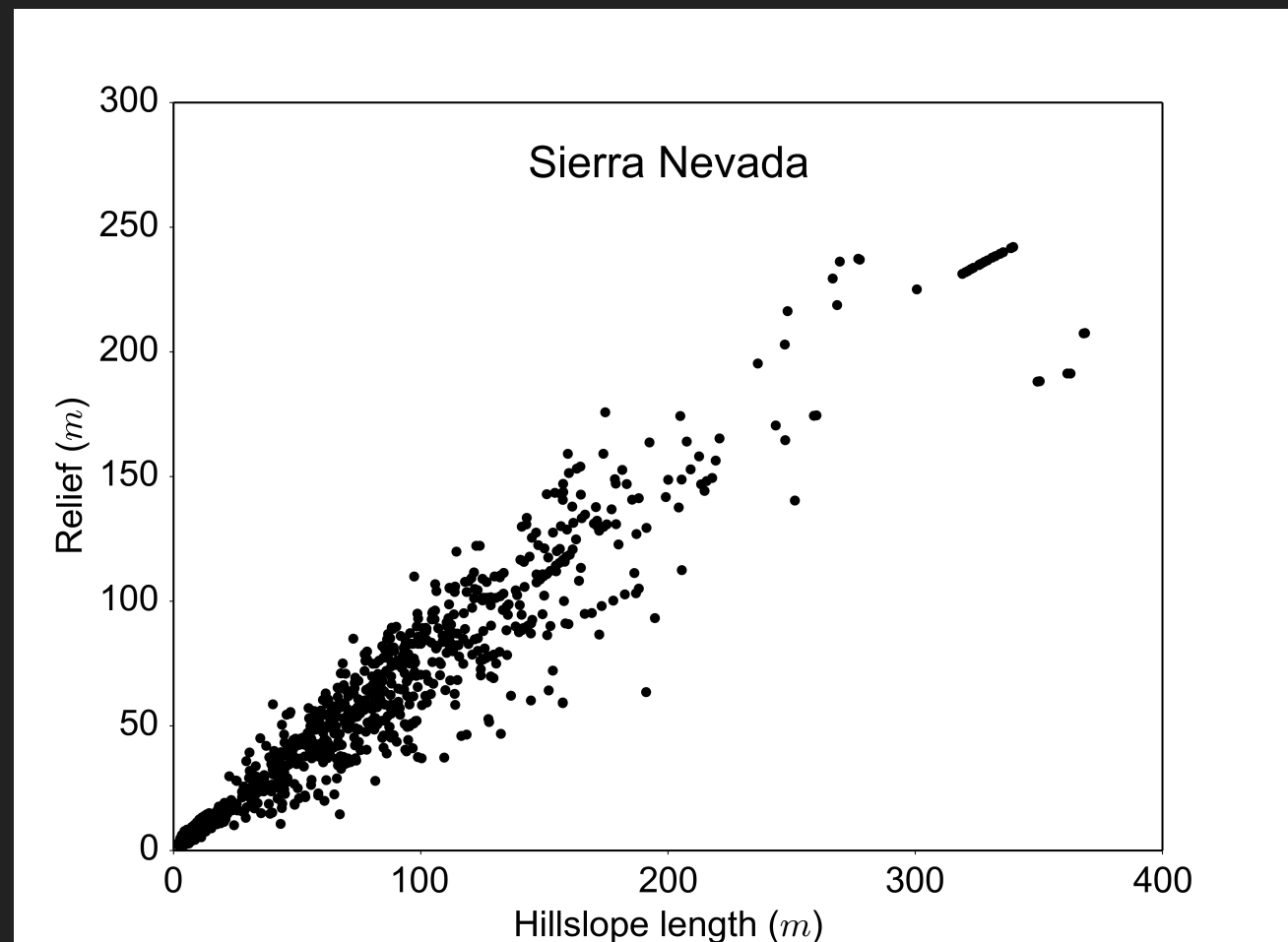
Northern Sierra Nevada,  
California













**TOPOGRAPHY IS CONSISTENT WITH NONLINEAR  
SEDIMENT FLUX**

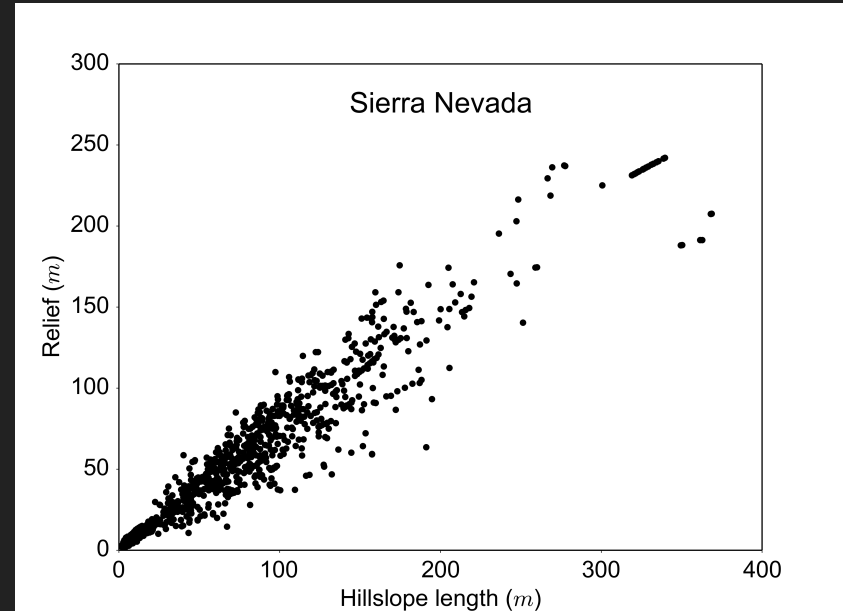
**TOPOGRAPHY IS CONSISTENT WITH NONLINEAR  
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# TOPOGRAPHY IS **CONSISTENT WITH NONLINEAR SEDIMENT FLUX**

Demonstrated at a landscape  
scale

Can be applied anywhere

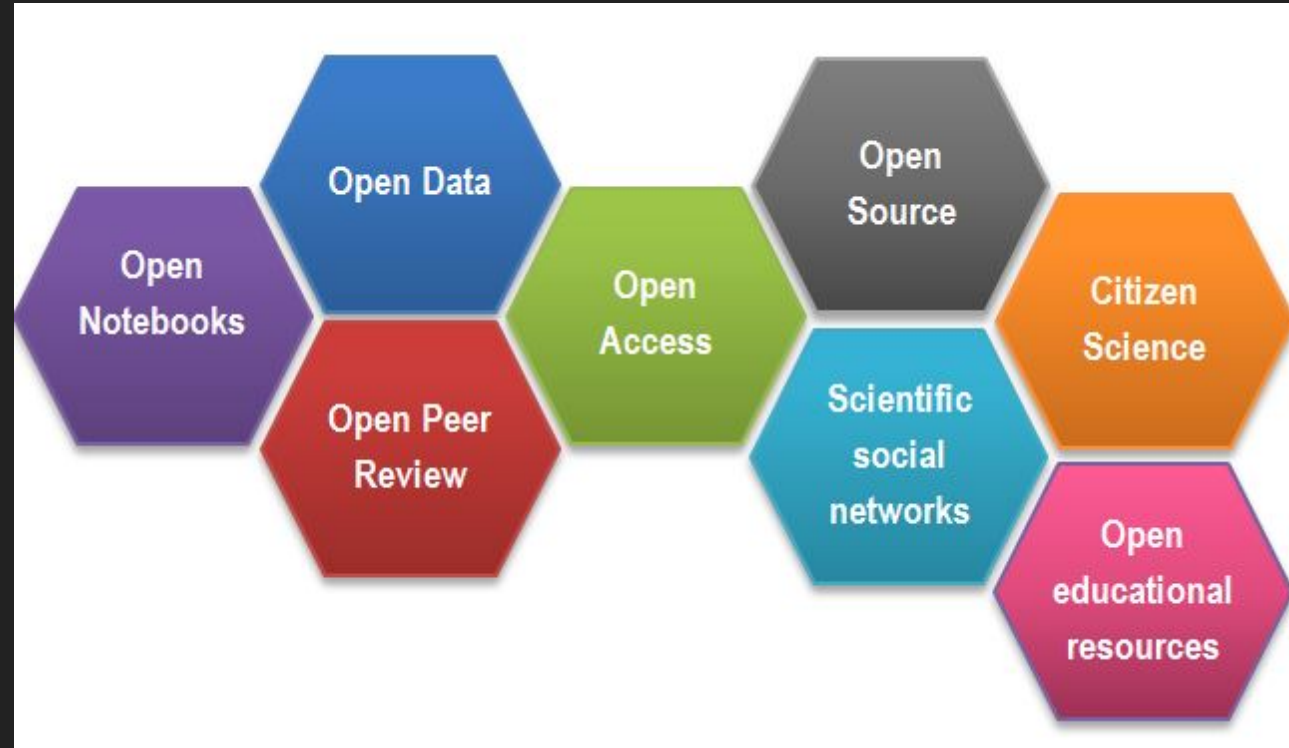
First test that relies only on  
topographic data



# **REPRODUCIBLE TOPOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS**

# OPEN SCIENCE

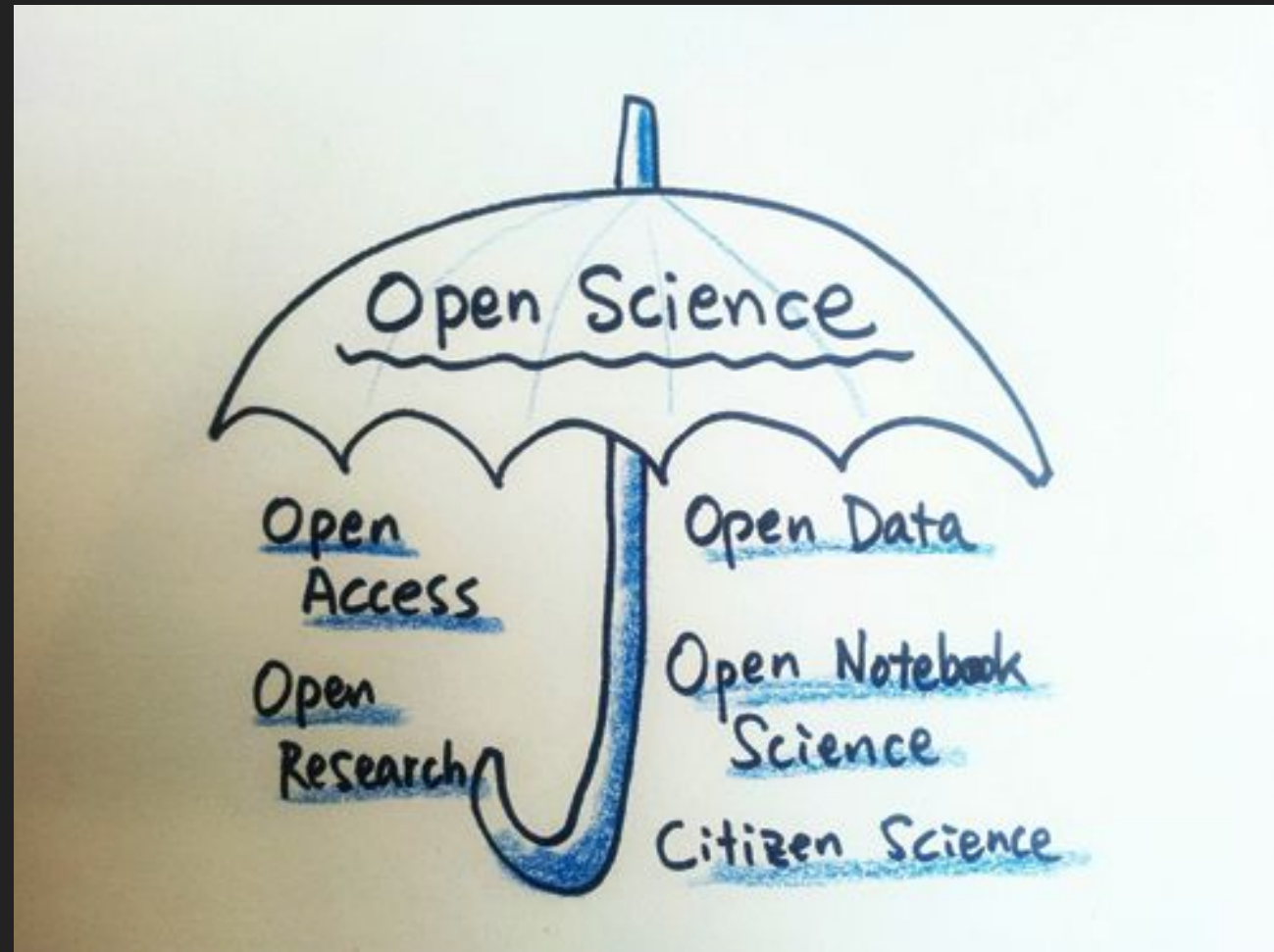
# OPEN SCIENCE



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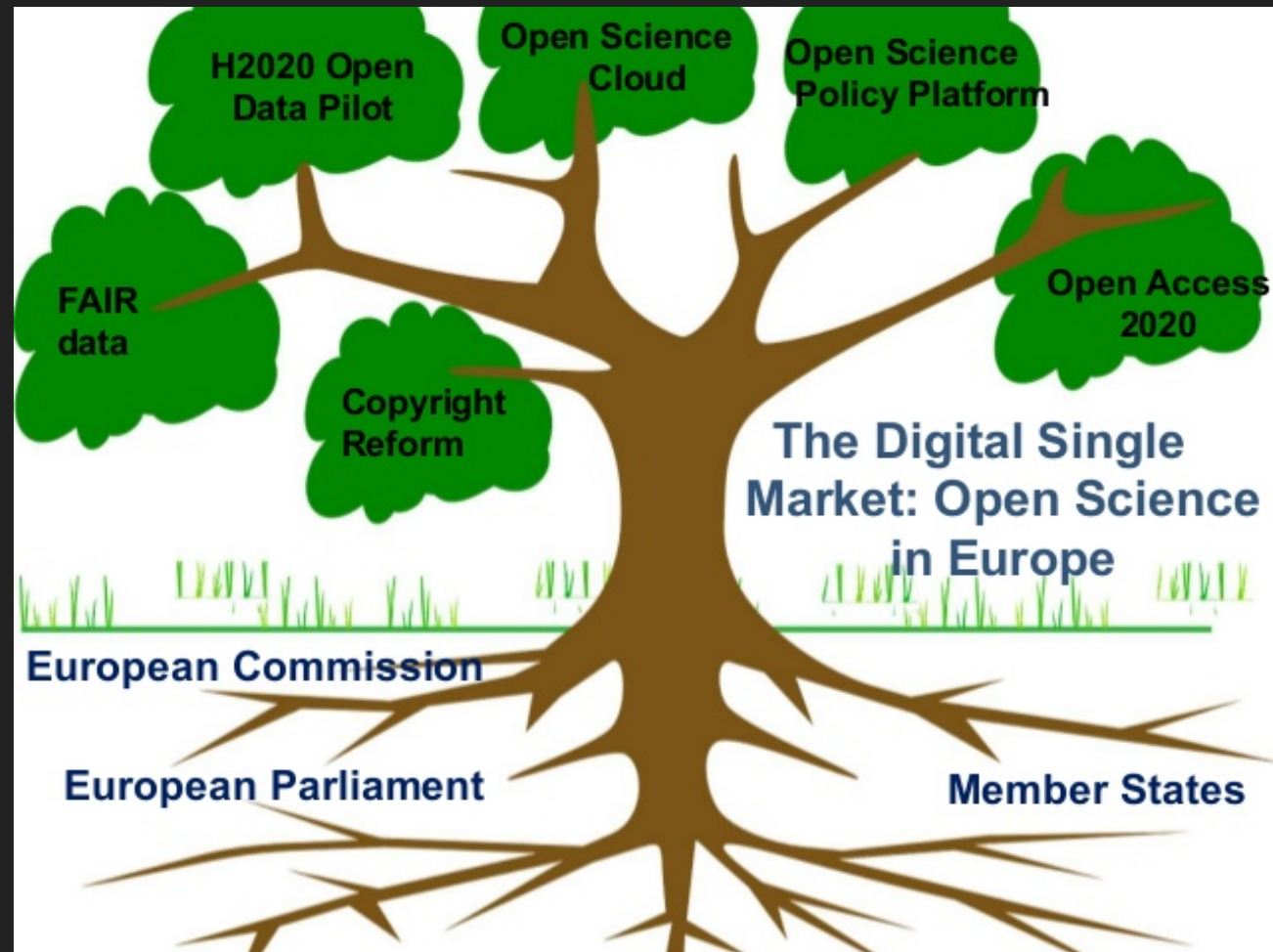


# OPEN SCIENCE

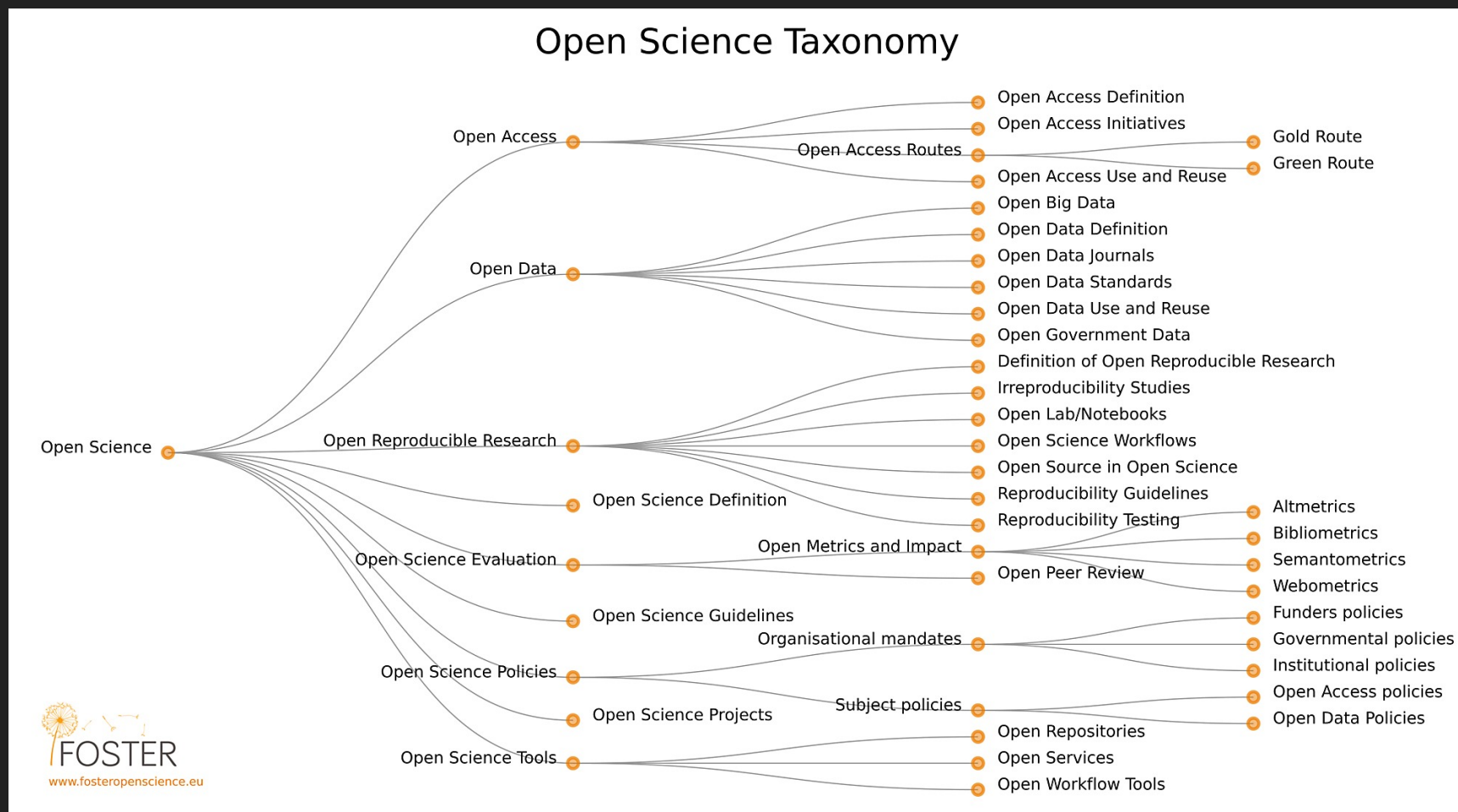




# OPEN SCIENCE



# OPEN SCIENCE



# OPEN SCIENCE

1. Open data
2. Open methods
3. Open data visualisation
4. Open access publication

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# TRANSPARENT METHODS AND OPEN DATA

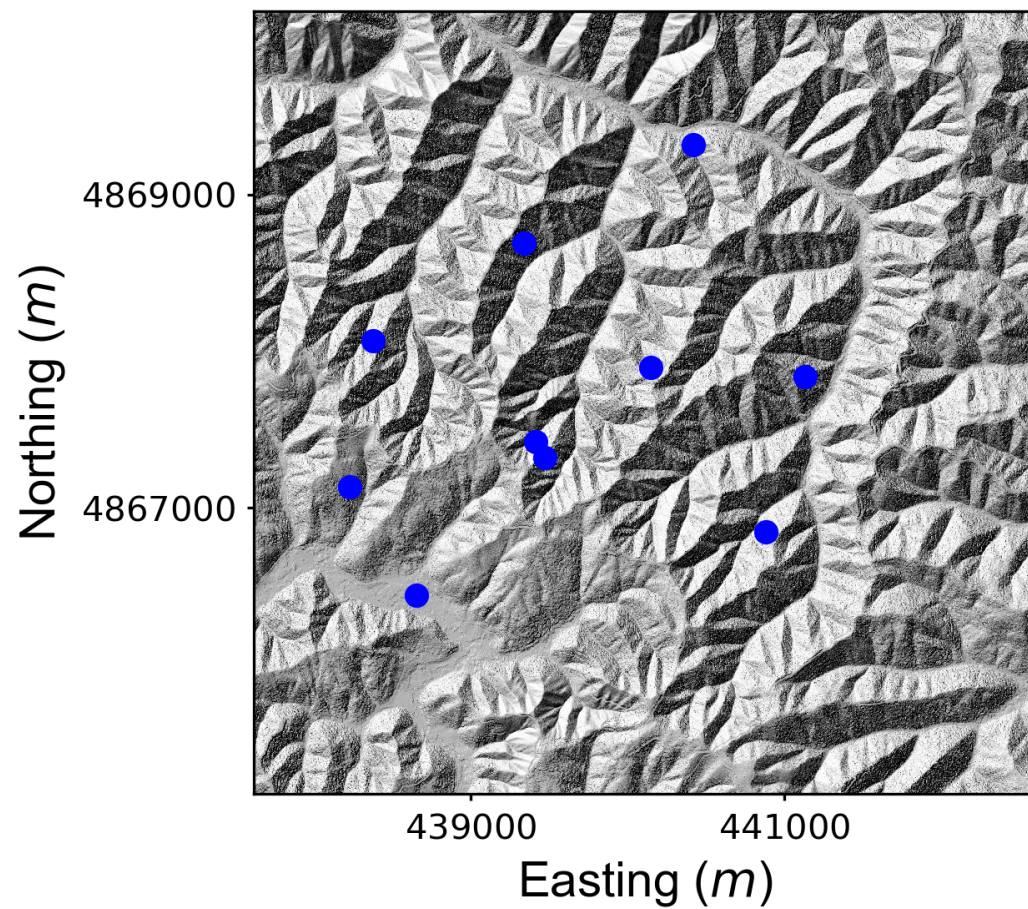
*“We calculated slope for our study area.”*

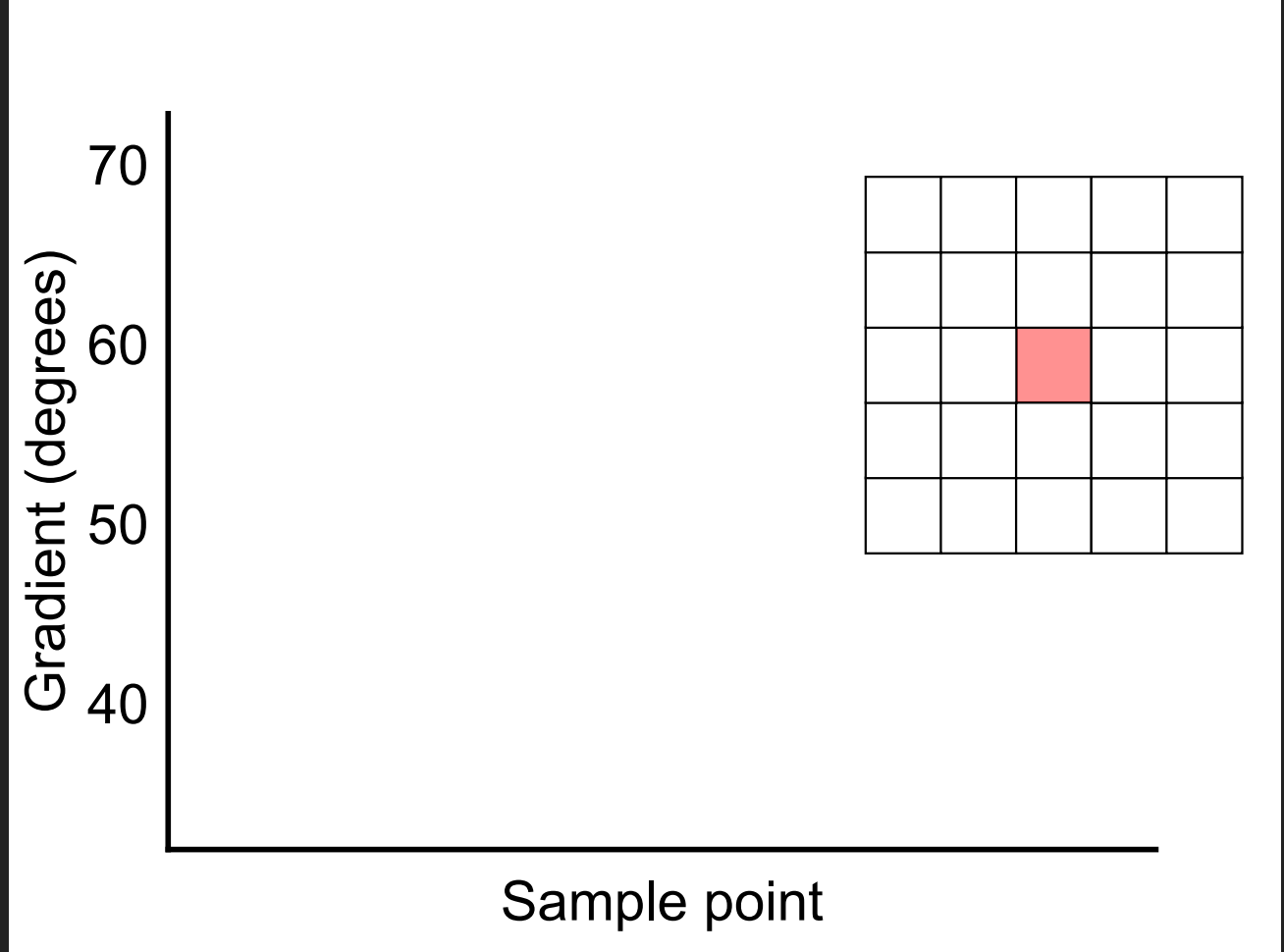
We all know what this means qualitatively, but how would you do it?

# TRANSPARENT METHODS AND OPEN DATA

*“We calculated slope for our study area.”*

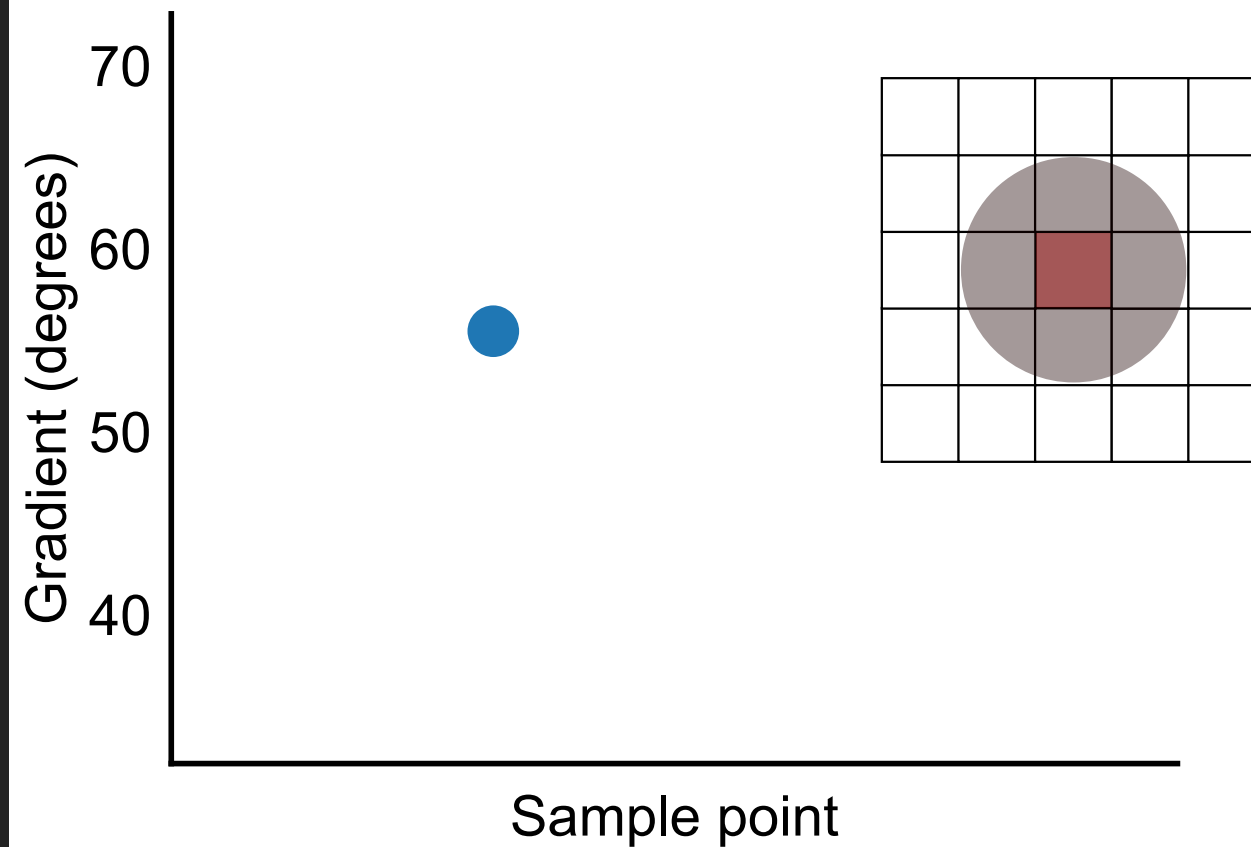
We all know what this means qualitatively, but how would  
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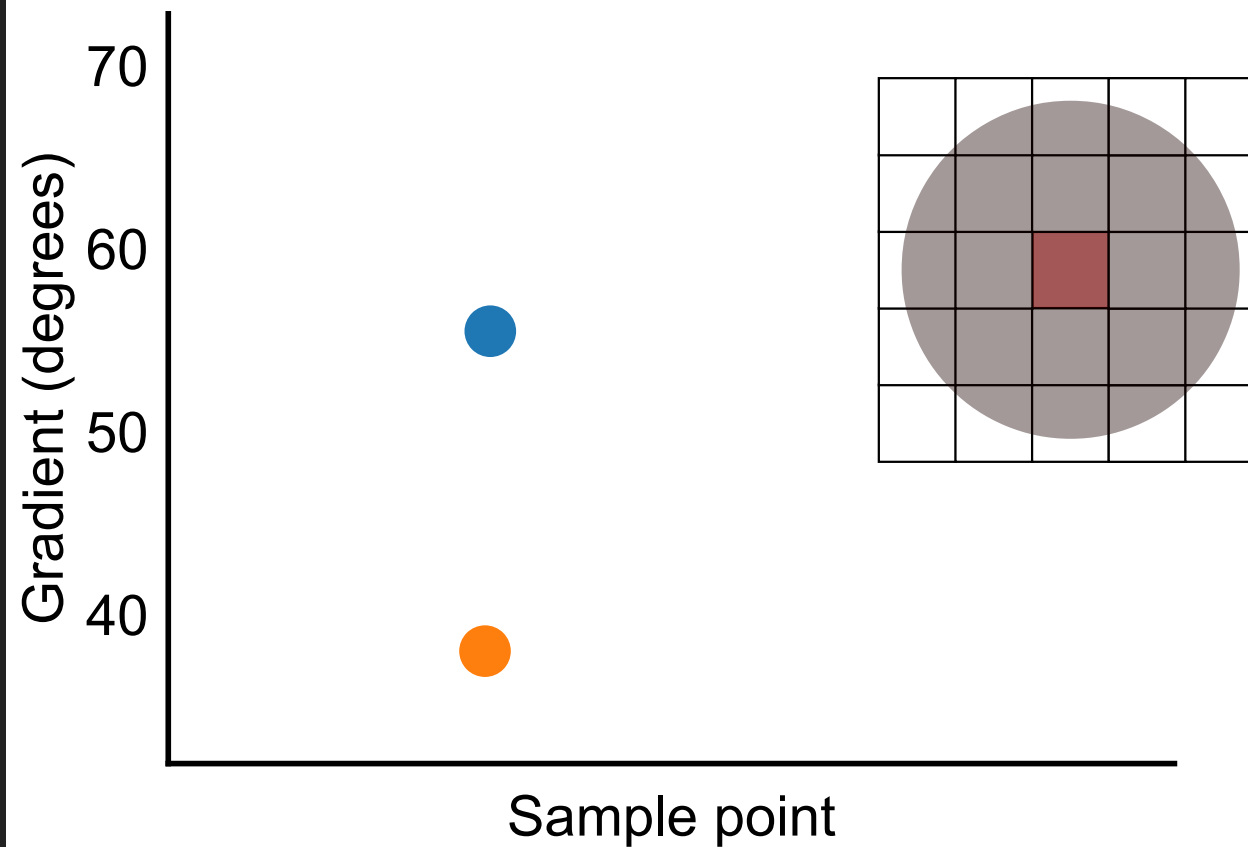




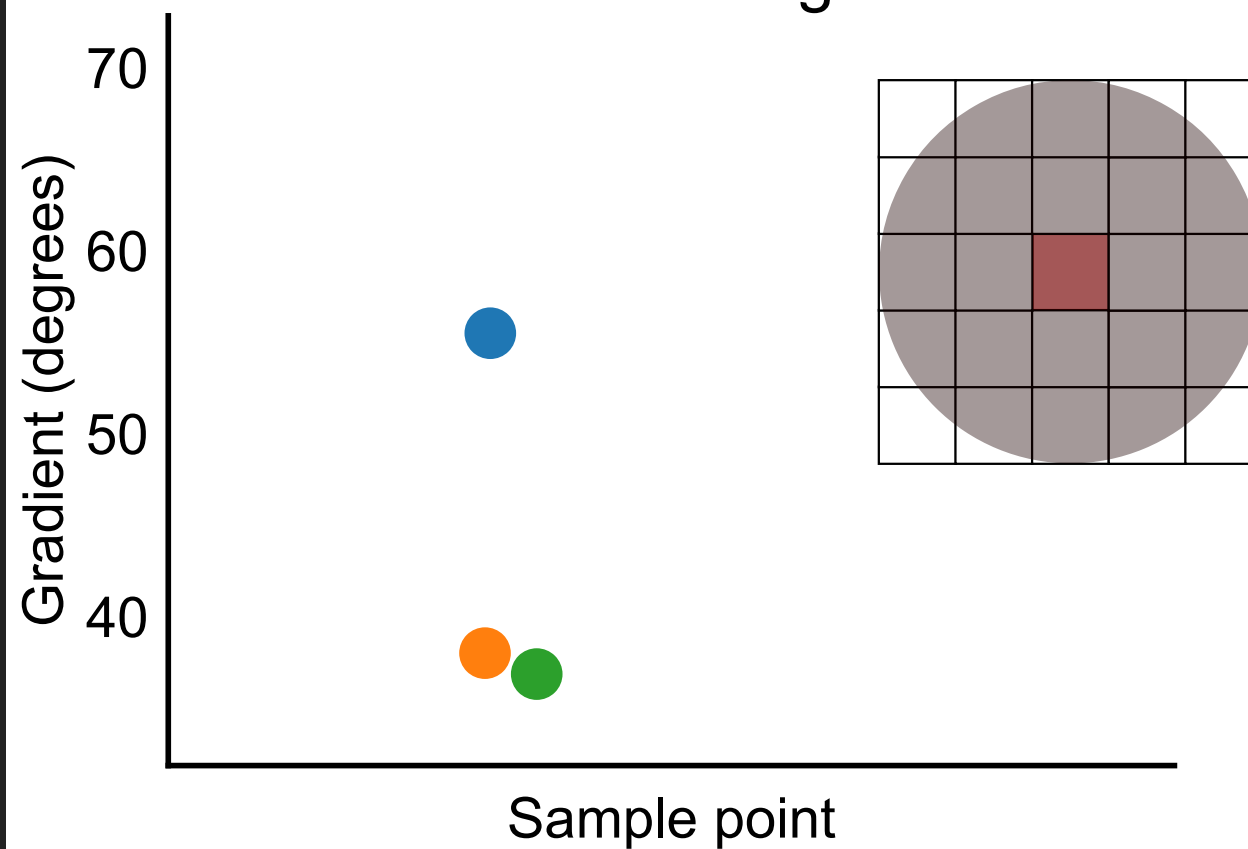
## Circular kernel - small window



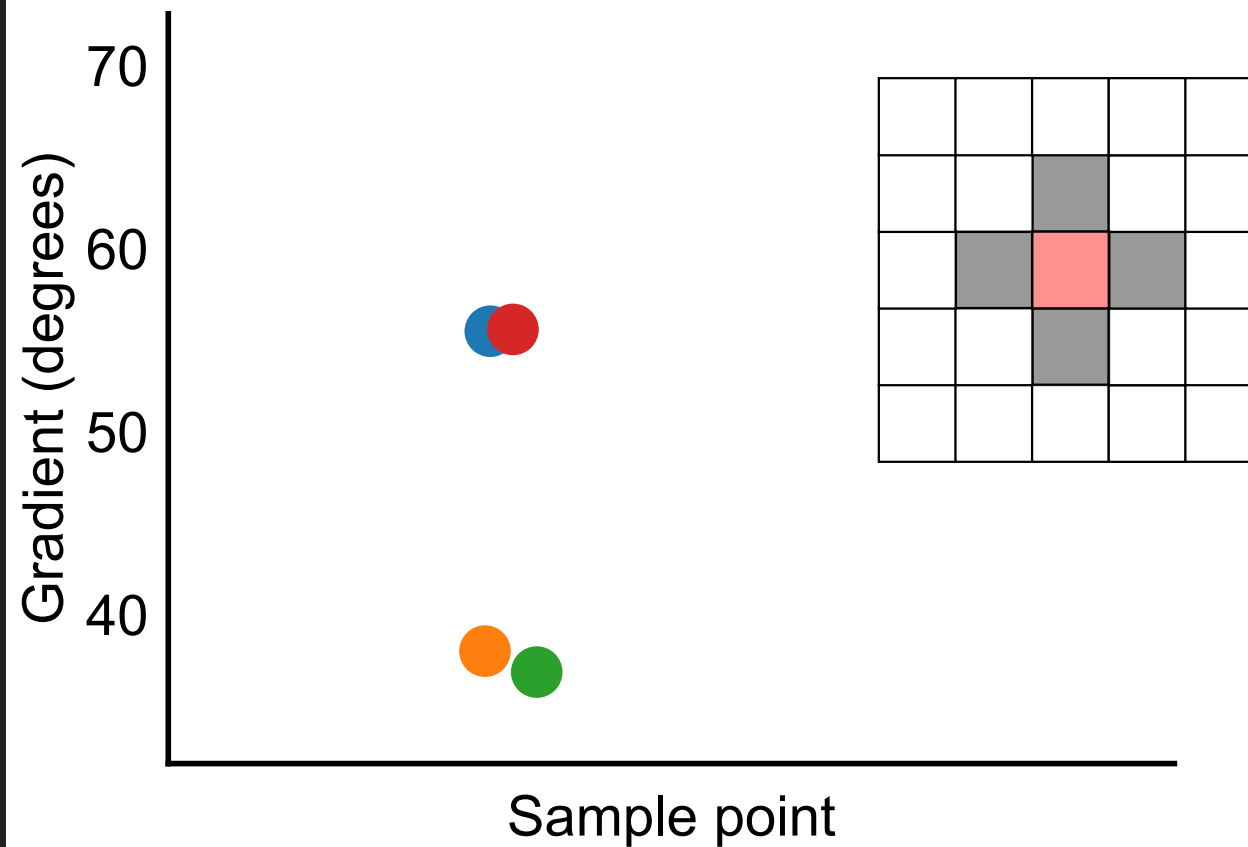
## Circular kernel - medium window



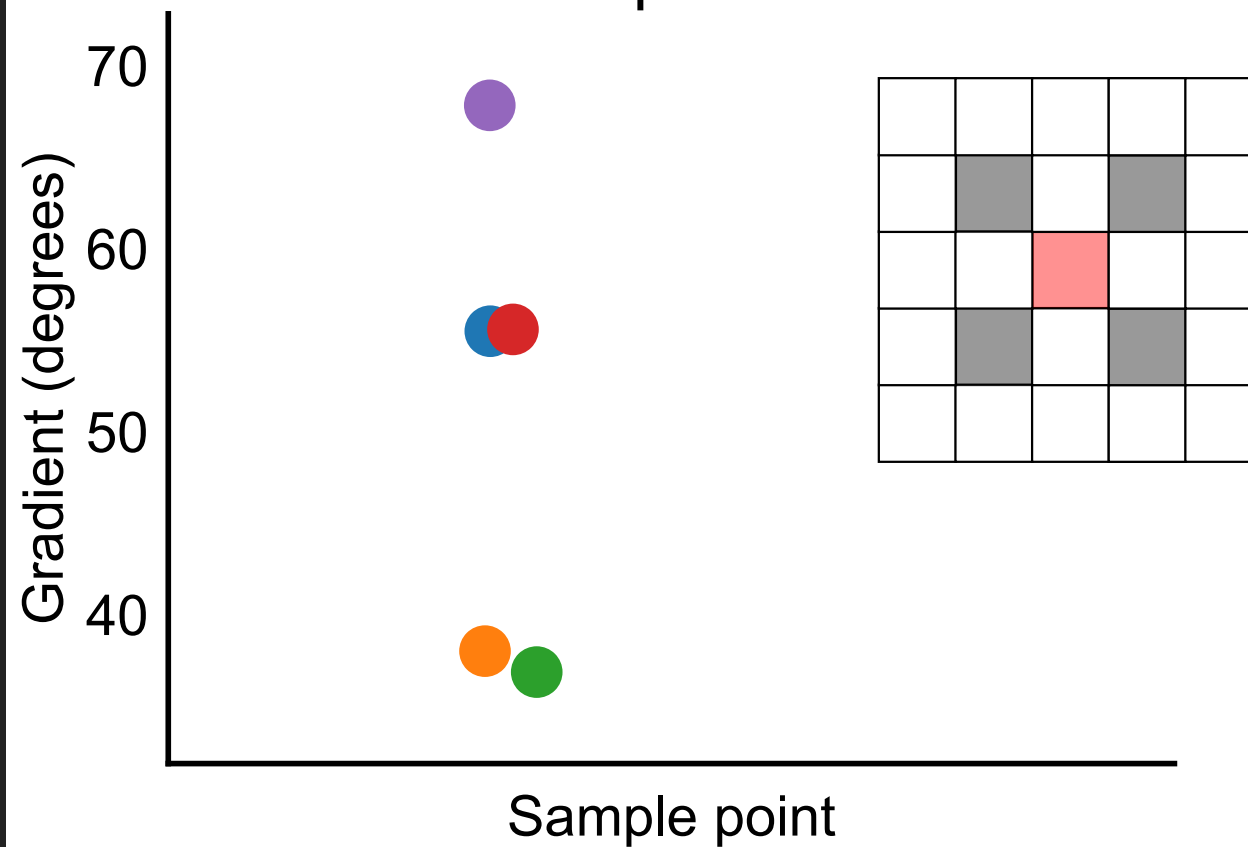
Circular kernel - large window



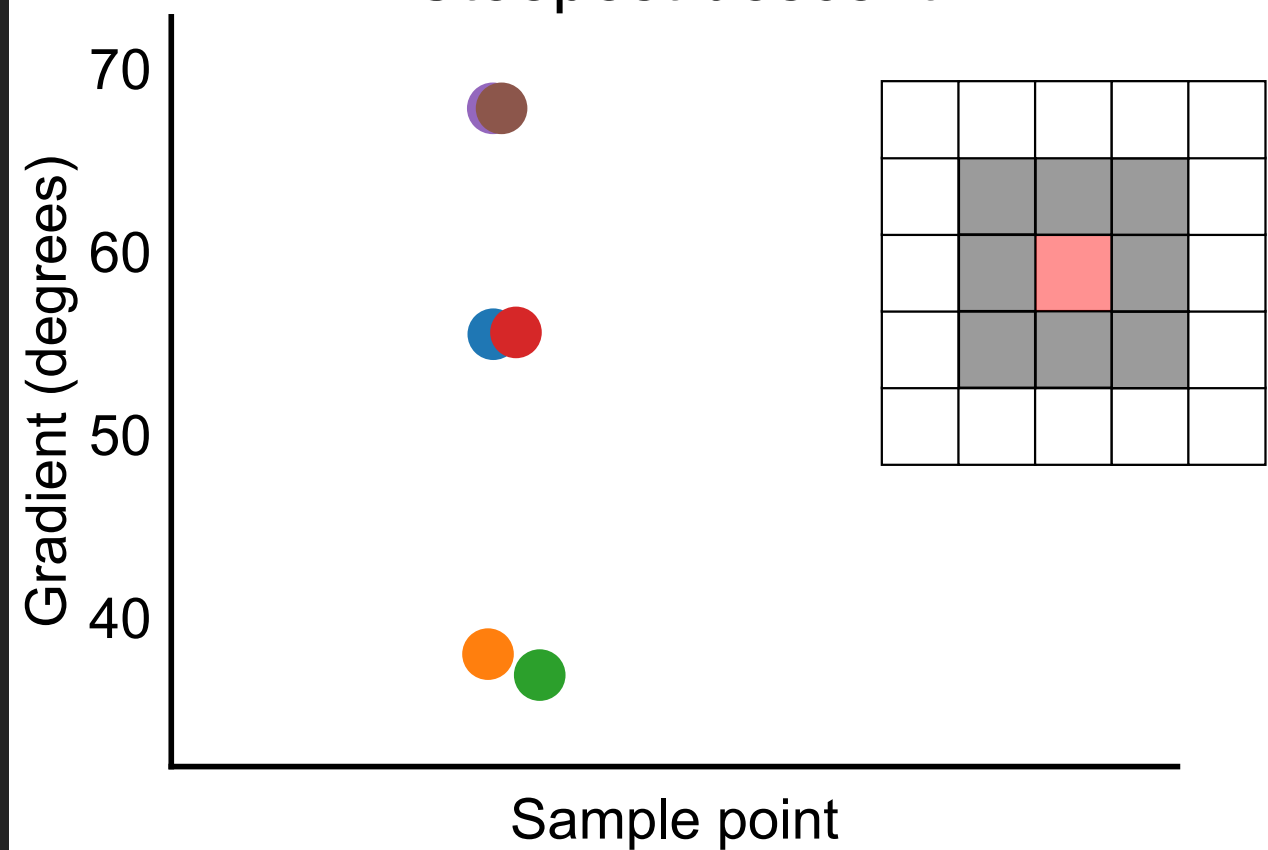
## Rook's case



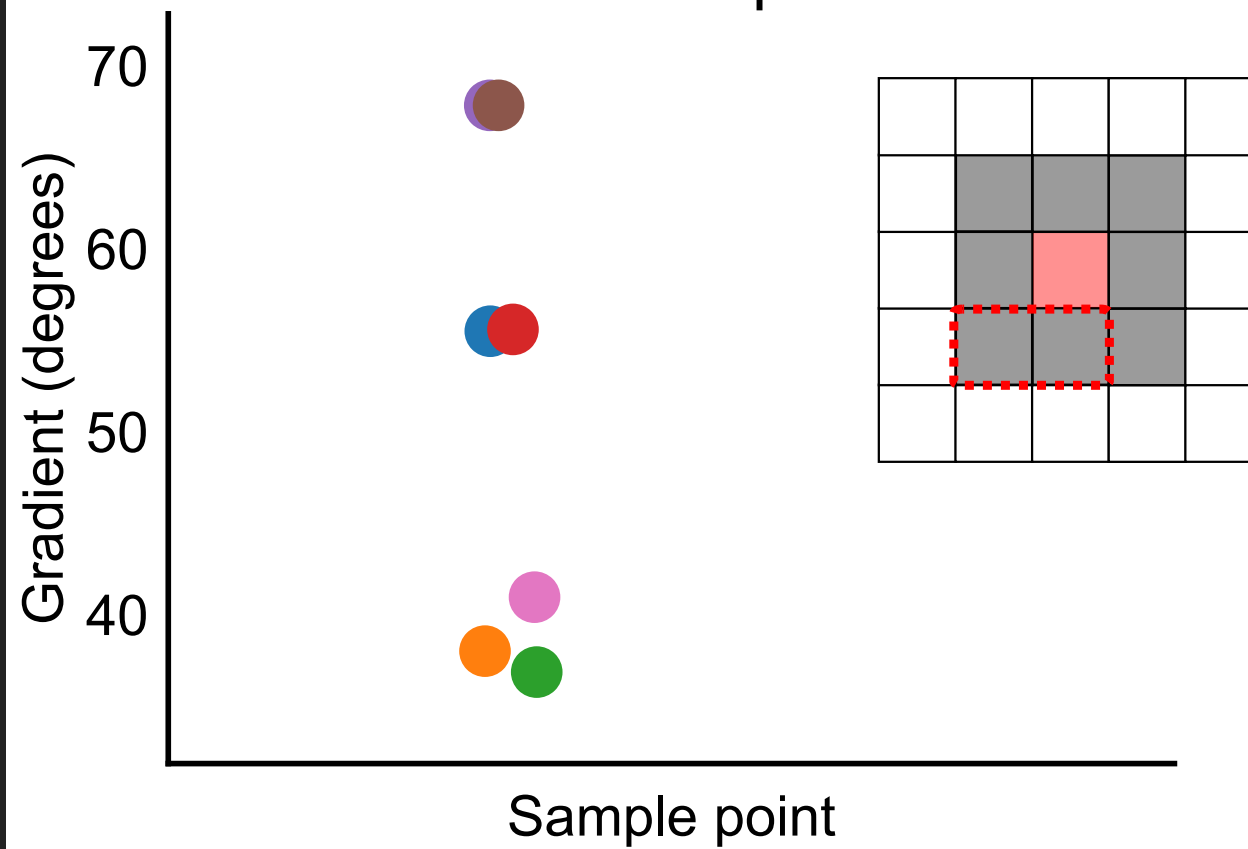
## Bishop's case



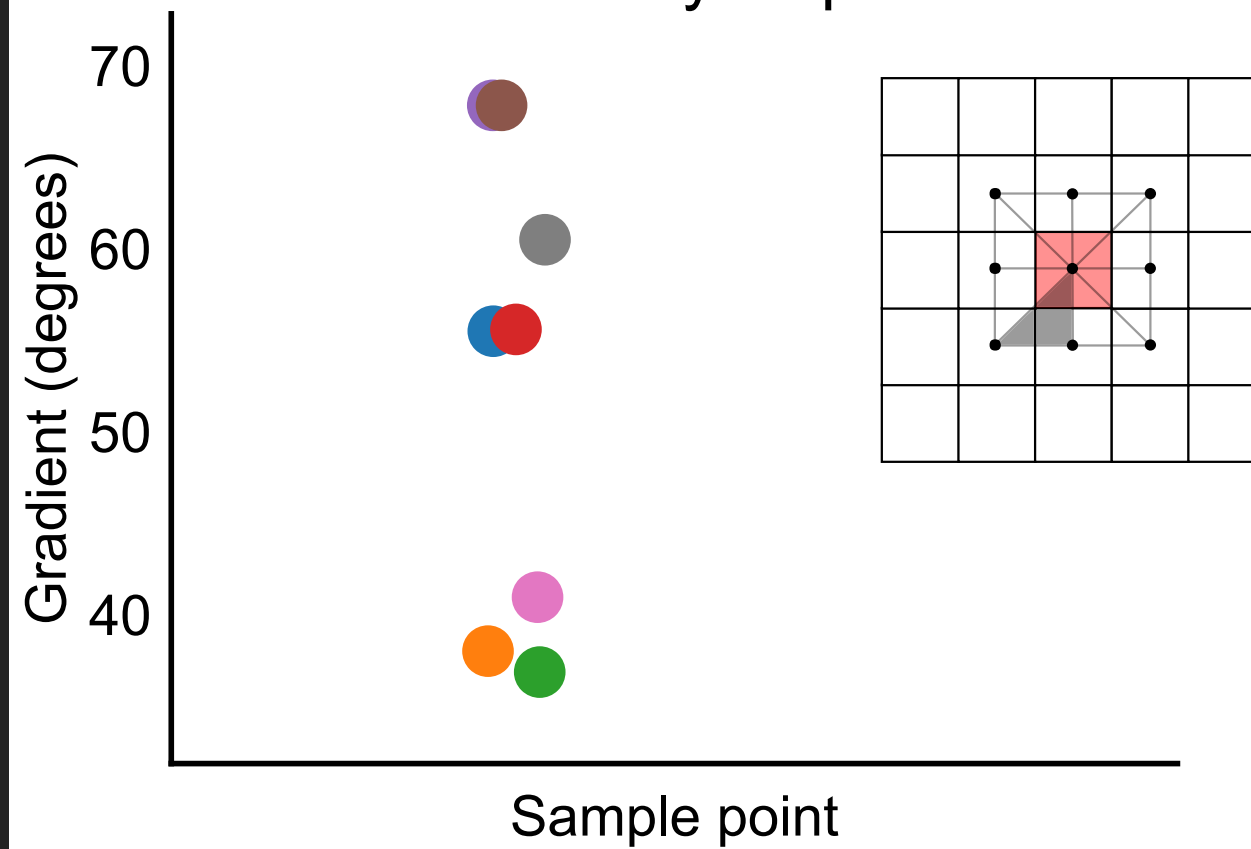
# Steepest descent



## Multidirection steepest descent

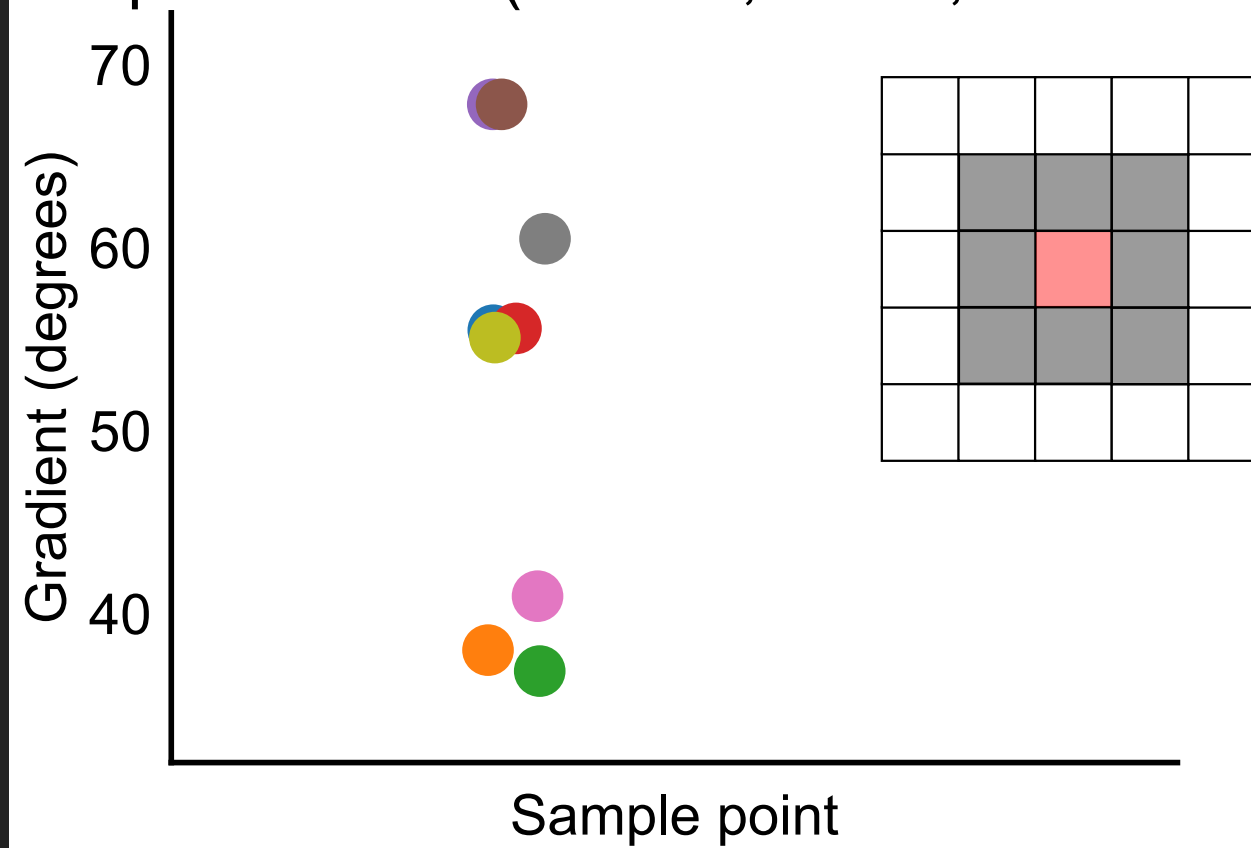


## D-infinity slope

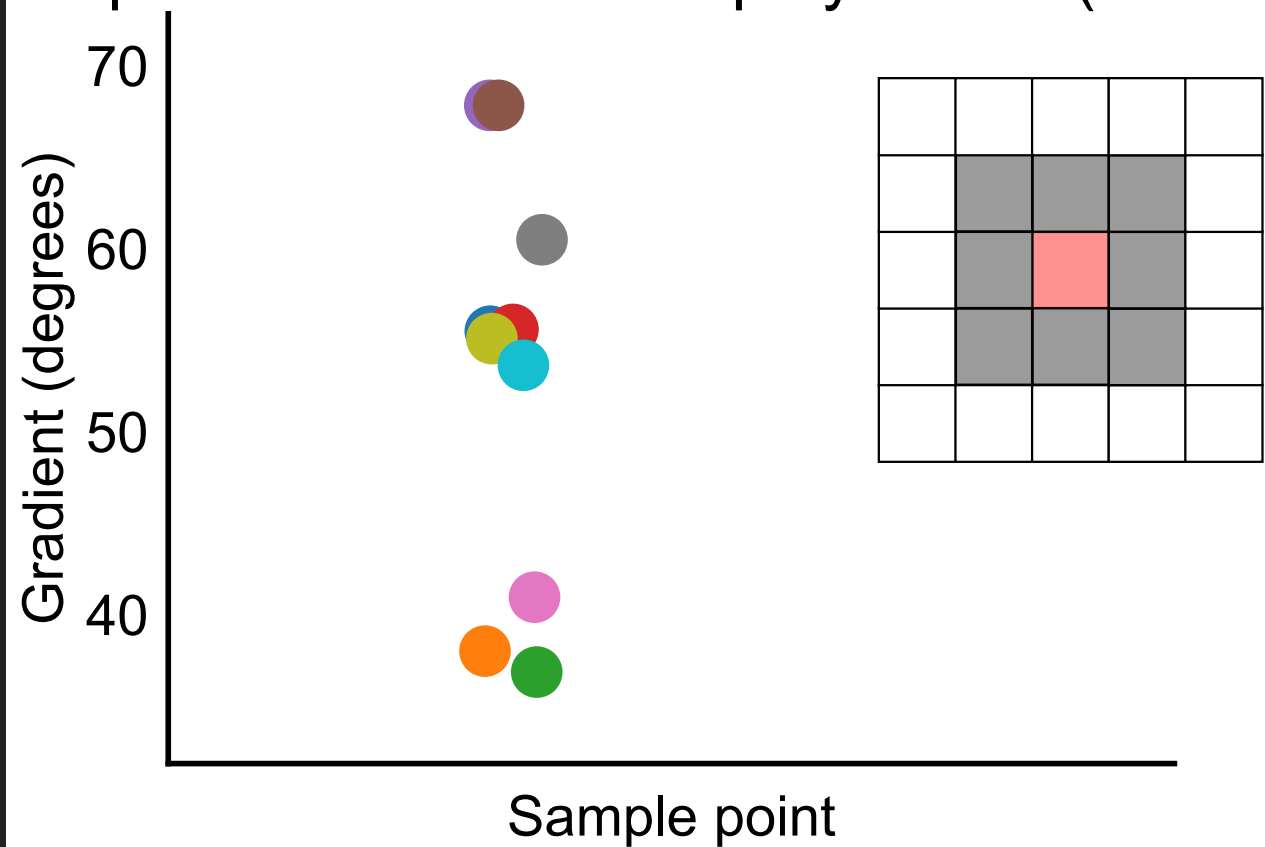


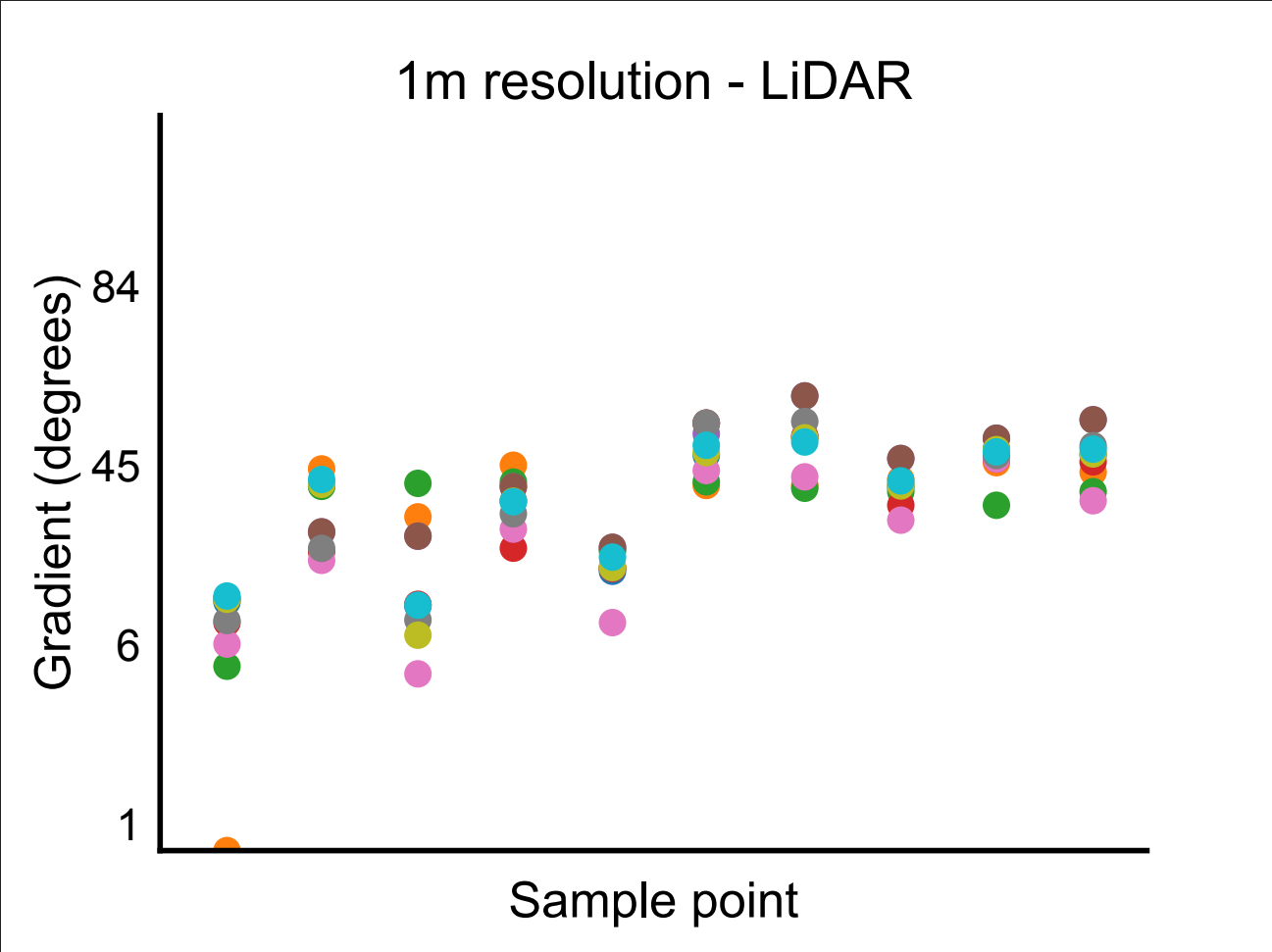


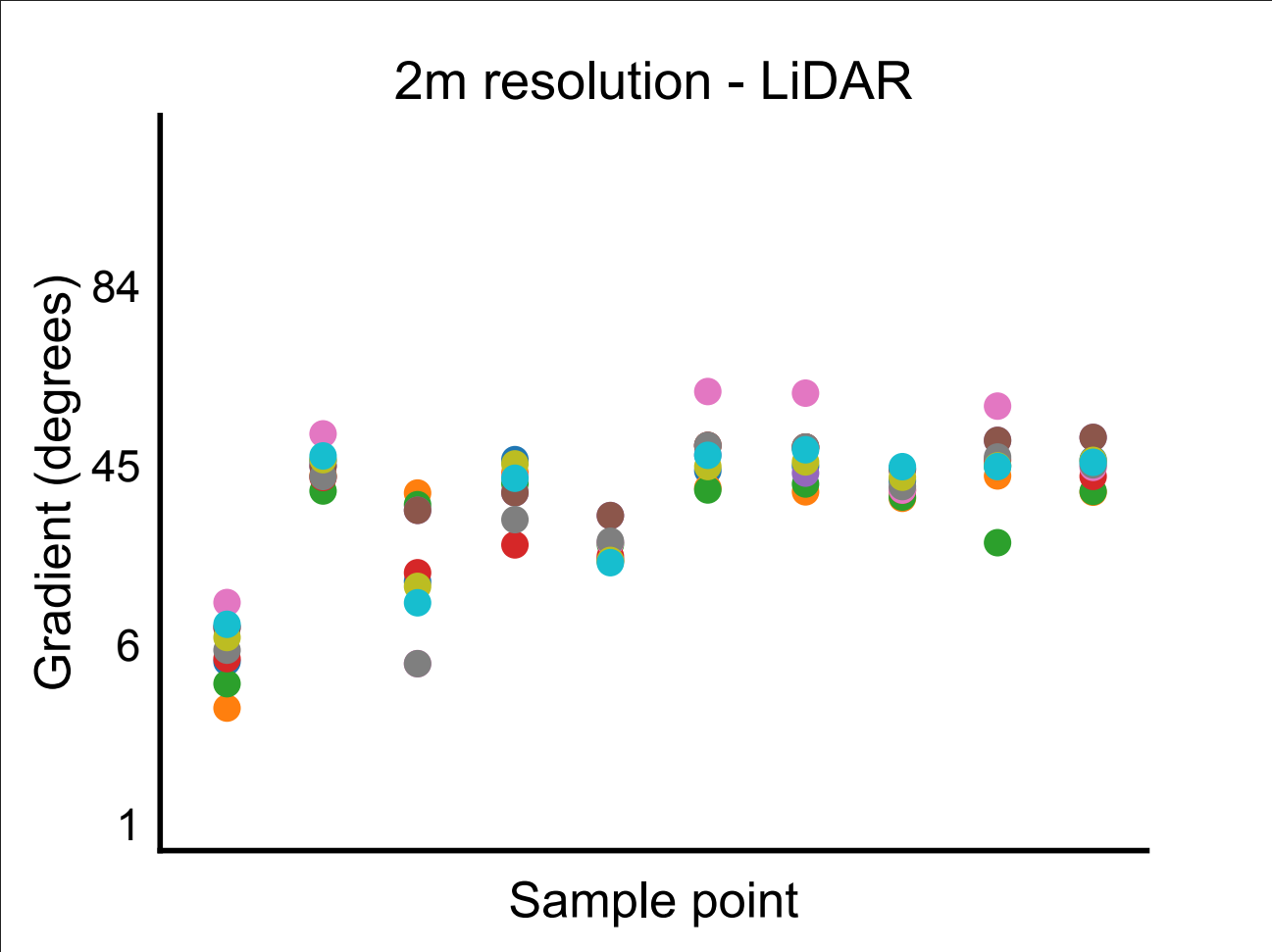
# Square kernel (ArcGIS, QGIS, Whitebox)

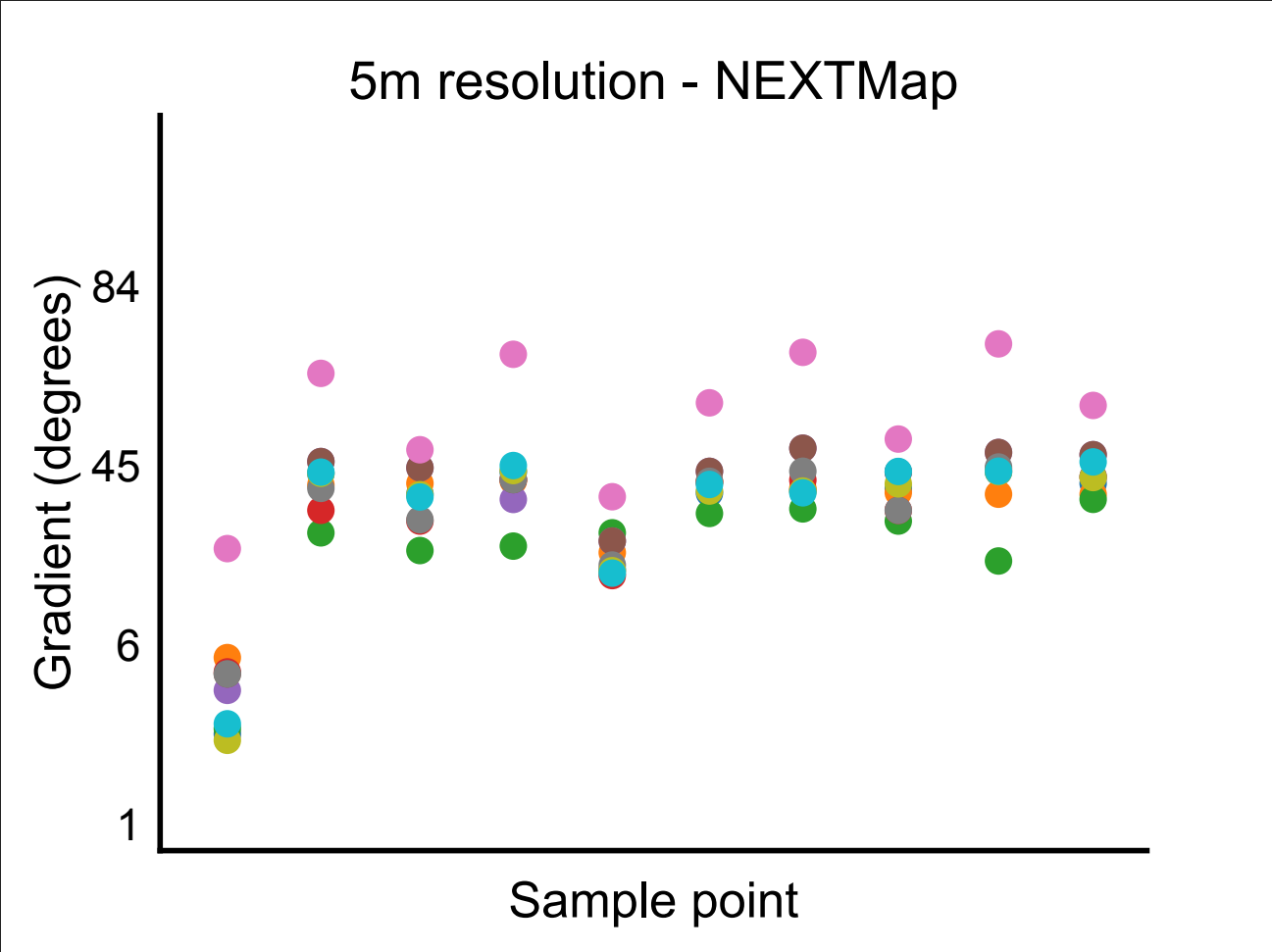


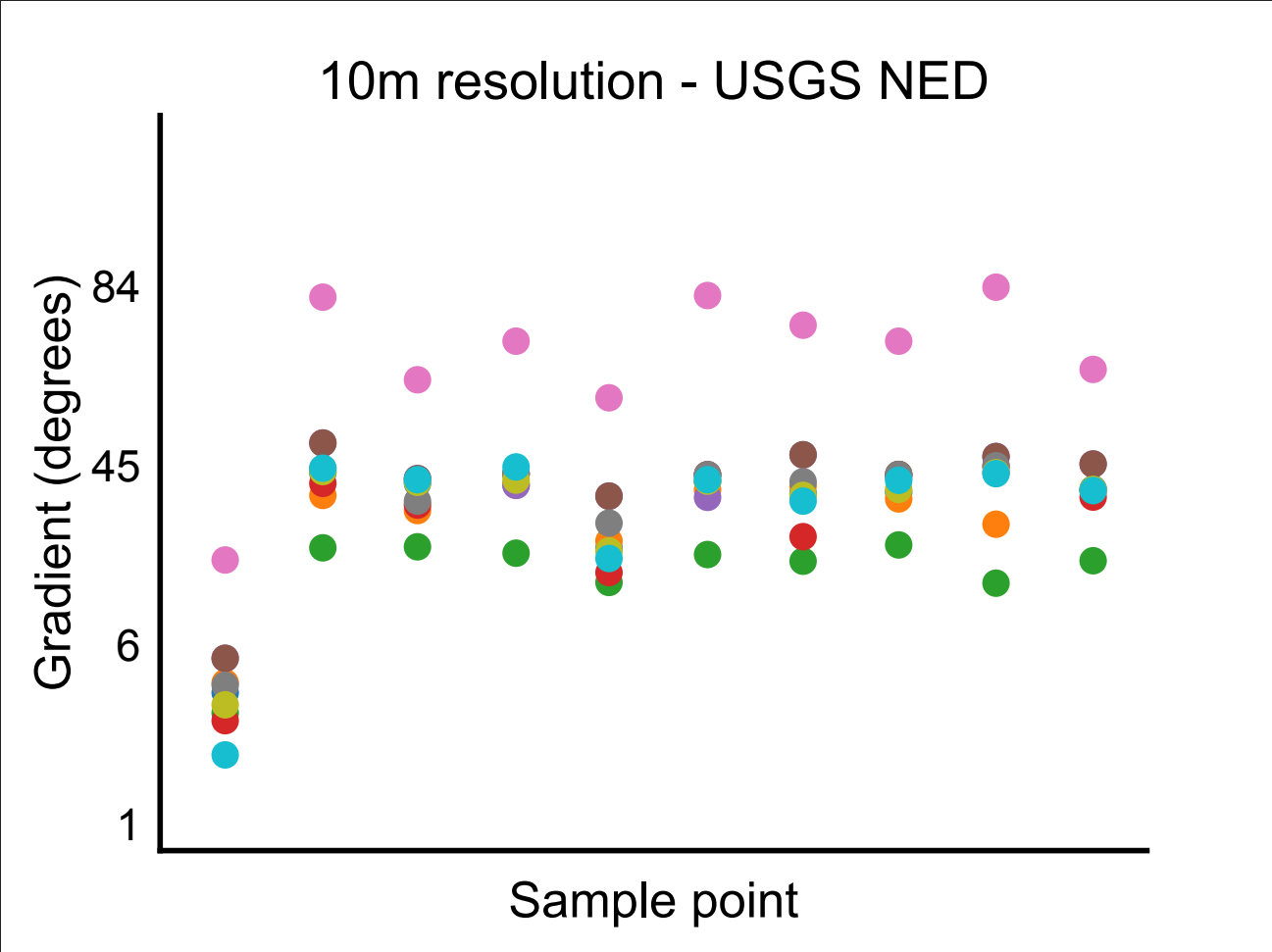
# Square kernel - 9 term polynomial (GDAL)

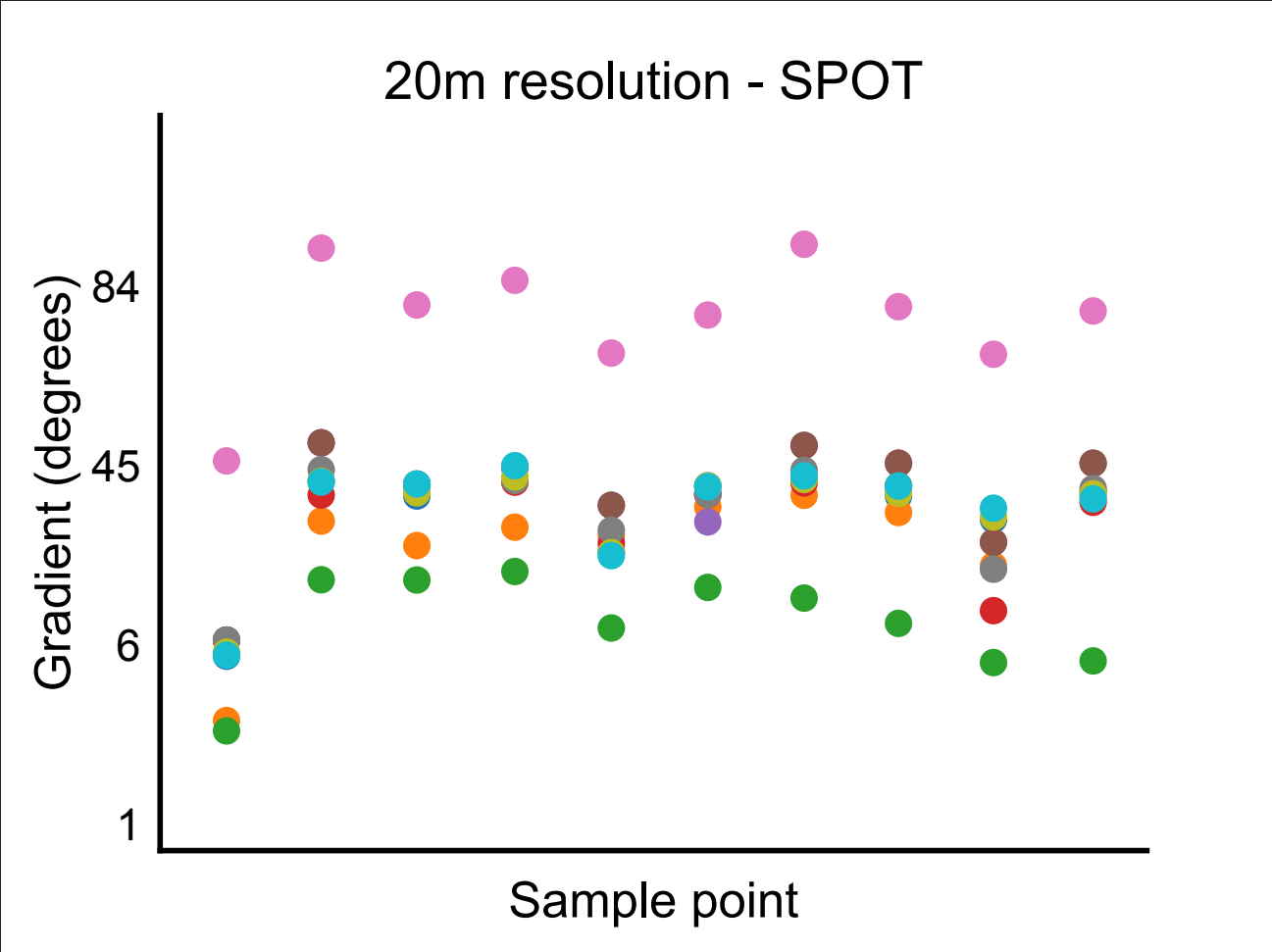


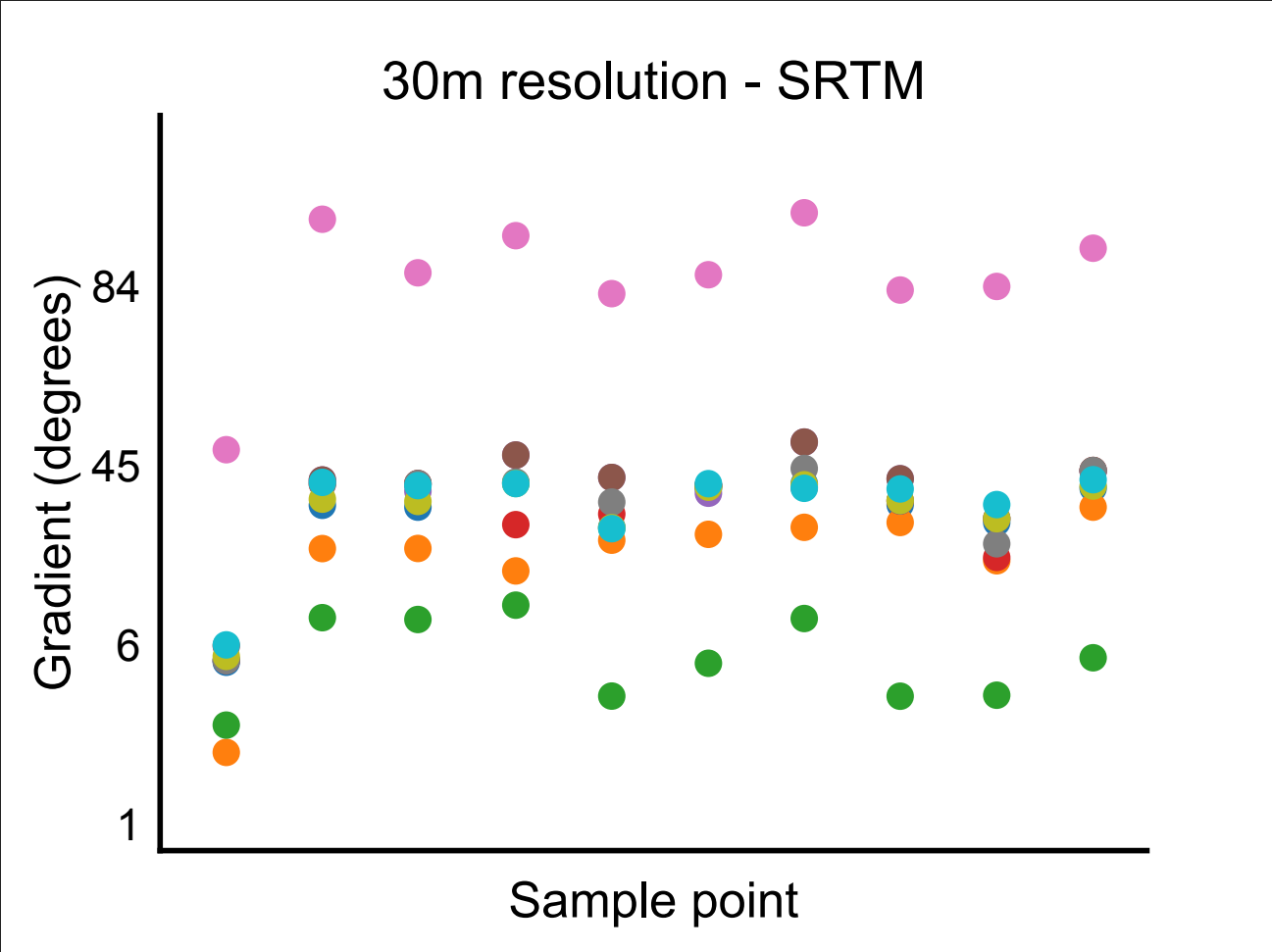




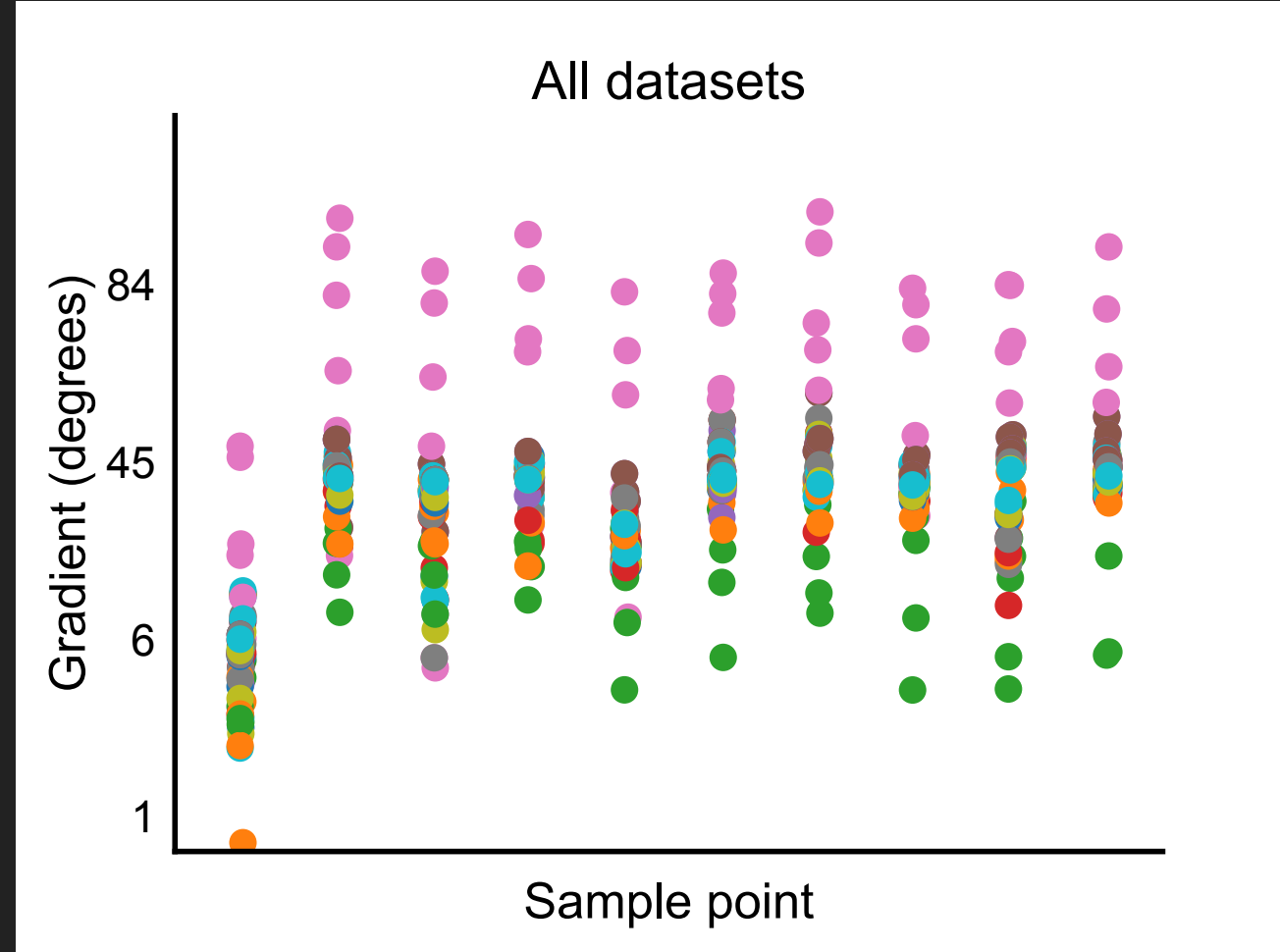












**WITHOUT TRANSPARENT METHODS AND DATA  
SOURCES OPEN SCIENCE IS NOT POSSIBLE**

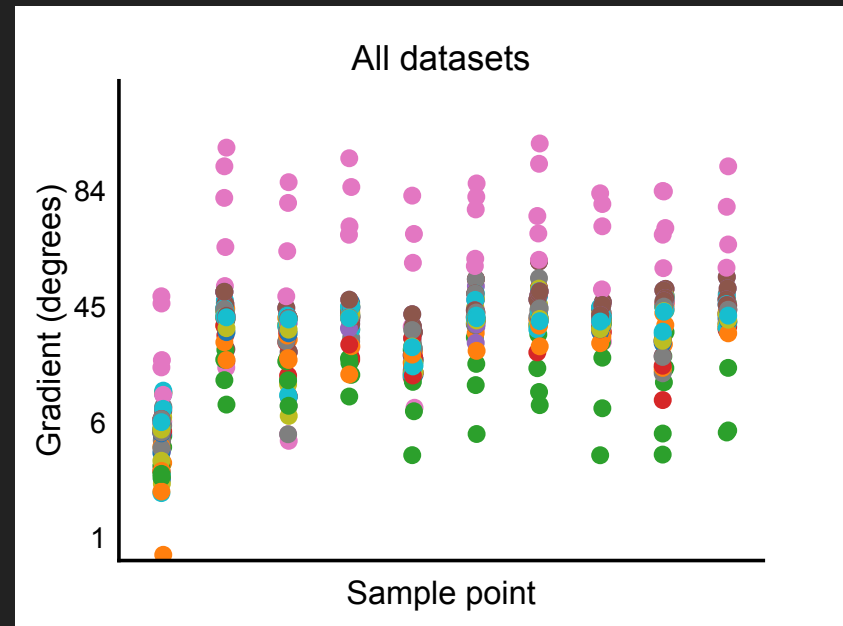
**WITHOUT TRANSPARENT METHODS AND DATA  
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# WITHOUT TRANSPARENT METHODS AND DATA SOURCES OPEN SCIENCE IS **NOT POSSIBLE**

Impacts reproducibility

Changes interpretation of  
results

Wastes time



# OUR ORIGINAL METHODS STATEMENT:

*“We calculated slope for our study area.”*

# A BETTER METHODS STATEMENT?

*“We calculated slope as the steepest descent value within an 8 cell kernel, on 1 meter resolution LiDAR data.”*

# A BETTER METHODS STATEMENT?

*“We calculated slope as the **steepest** descent value within an 8 cell kernel, on 1 meter resolution LiDAR data .”*

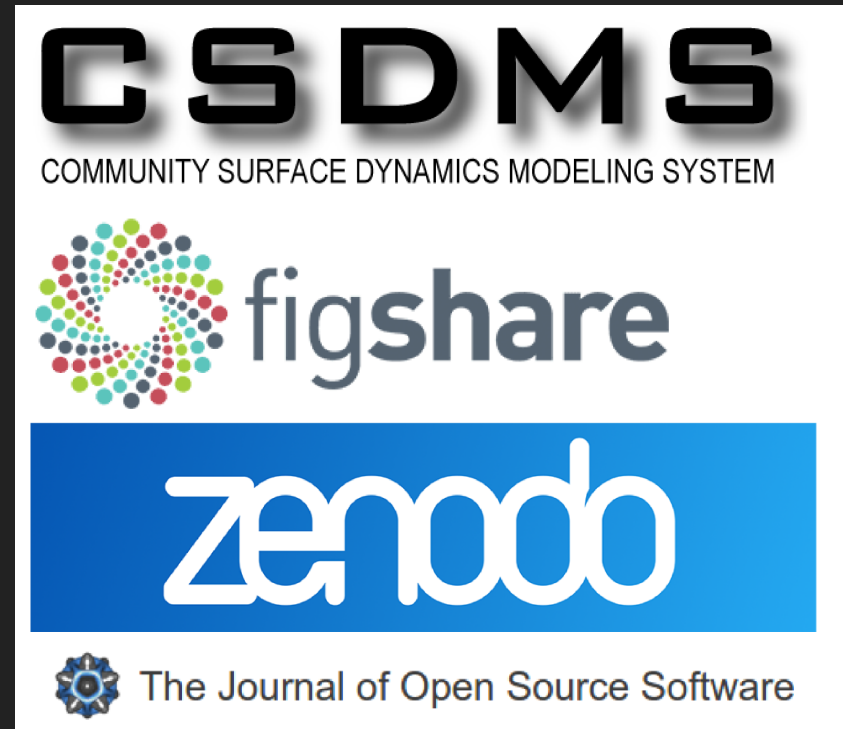
# PATHWAYS TO OPEN METHODS

Write clearer methods sections

Make better use of  
supplemental information

BSG Geomorphological  
Techniques

Publish code





# PATHWAYS TO OPEN DATA

Cite data properly, with a DOI

Put it in a stable repository

Document your data



PANGAEA.



# **NEW PREPRINT ARCHIVE**

**CONTACT CHRIS JACKSON FOR DETAILS:**

@EarthArXiv

@seis\_matters

c.jackson@imperial.ac.uk

# THANK YOU

Interested in learning more?

Need help with software as part  
of your research?

Want to collaborate?

[s.grieve@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.grieve@ucl.ac.uk)

[swdg.io](http://swdg.io)

