

# Acoustic Scattering by a Heterogeneous River Bed: Sediment Classification using Multibeam Echosounder.

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Center, U.S. Geological Survey.

**& Matthew A. Kaplinski**  
Northern Arizona University.



# Aim: mapping of Colorado River bed sediments.

## Why?

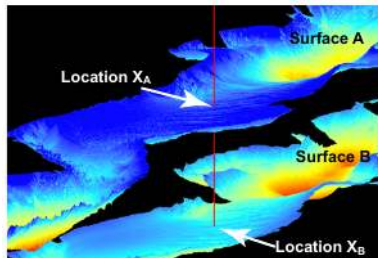
- ▶ Where is the sand?
  - ▶ Habitats
  - ▶ Geomorphology



# Aim: mapping of Colorado River bed sediments.

## Why?

- ▶ How much sand is there?
  - ▶ Budgets
  - ▶ Sediment transport models



# Aim: mapping of Colorado River bed sediments.

## Why?

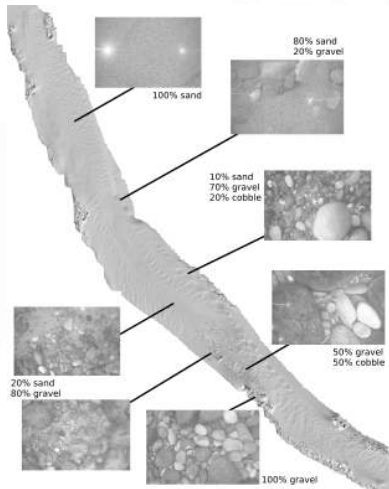
- ▶ How does that vary in time?
  - ▶ Dam operations
  - ▶ Experimental high flows





# Objectives.

- ▶ Infer bed sediments using high-frequency backscatter
- ▶ Heterogeneous non-cohesive sediments
- ▶ Develop a data-driven approach using patches of known sediment type



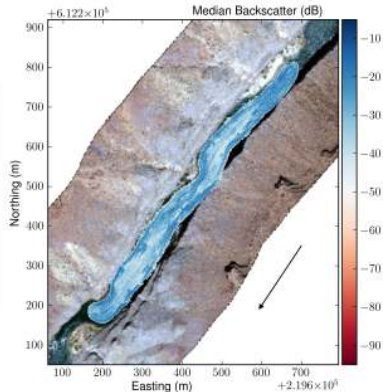
# Talk outline.

- ▶ Multibeam and underwater video sampling
- ▶ Bed-sediment classification
  - Spectral analysis of backscatter
  - Statistical classification
- ▶ Preliminary results



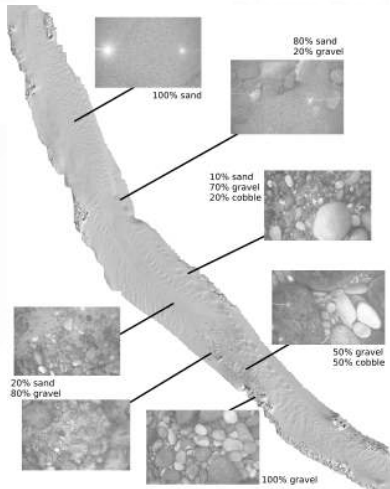
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# Talk outline.

- ▶ Multibeam and underwater video sampling
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- ▶ Preliminary results



# Riverbed bathymetry is mapped using multibeam ...

... using a Reson 7125 system

- ▶ 400 kHz
- ▶ 512 beams across  $130^\circ$  swath
- ▶  $0.5^\circ \times 1^\circ$
- ▶ one uncorrected echo per sounding



# Bed sediments sampled using video ...

... which has revealed enormous bed sediment heterogeneity

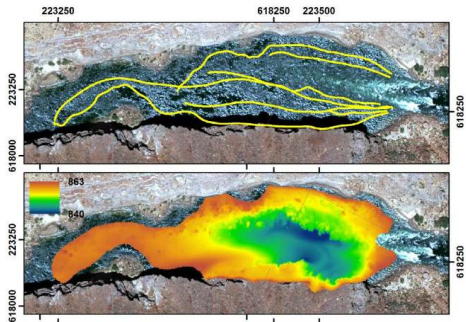
- ▶ Fine sand through to boulders
- ▶ Abrupt transitions

Cross Section RM 30

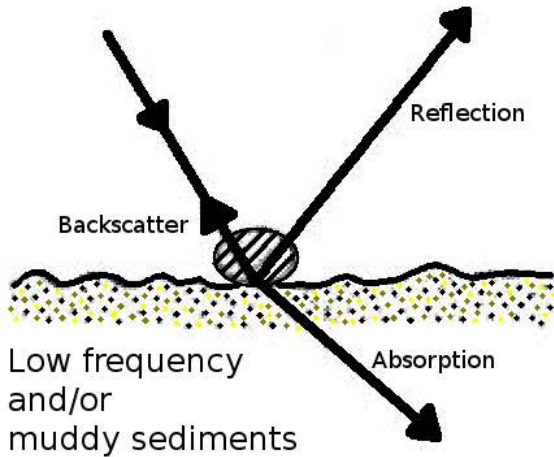


# Why use acoustics for bed sediment?

- ▶ Conventional sampling limited
- ▶ High resolution, large coverage
- ▶ Applied retroactively back to (at least) 2009
- ▶ Backscatter depends *in part* on grain size



# Backscatter to infer grain size

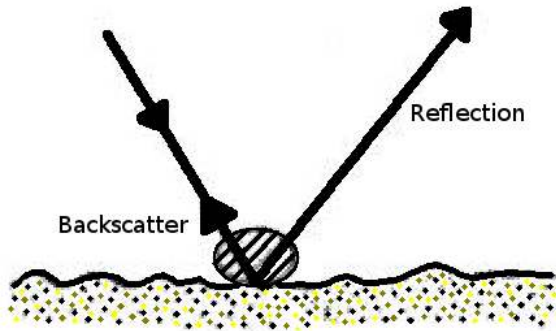


by a Heterogeneous  
River Bed  
rent Classification  
using Multibeam  
Echosounder

Daniel Suckale,  
Paul S. Grant,  
Hydro Monitoring and Research  
Center, U.S. Geological Survey  
Matthew A. Kippick,  
Northern Arizona University



## Backscatter to infer grain size



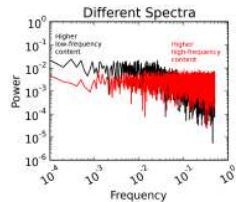
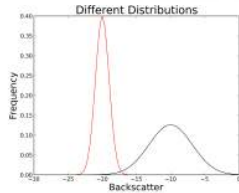
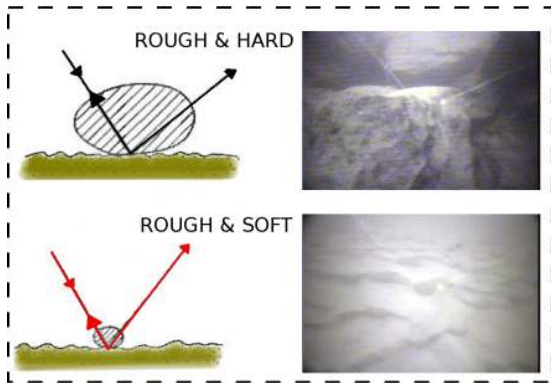
High frequency  
and/or  
non-cohesive sediments

by a Heterogeneous  
River Bed  
rent Classification  
using Multibeam  
Echosounder

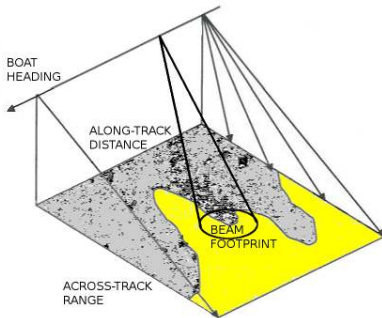
Daniel Suckale,  
Paul E. Green,  
Hydro Monitoring and Research  
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Matthew A. Kaplan,  
Northern Arizona University

# Backscatter to infer grain size



# Acoustics of a heterogeneous river bed

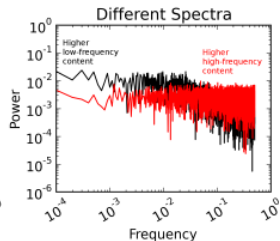
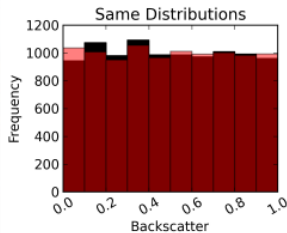
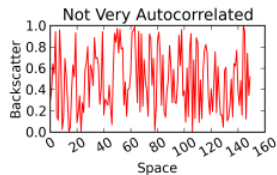
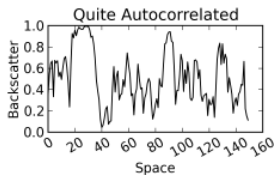
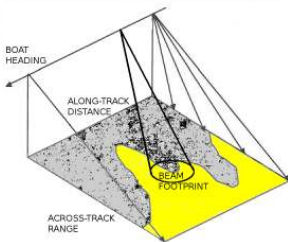


by a Heterogeneous  
River Bed:  
Sediment Classification  
using Multibeam  
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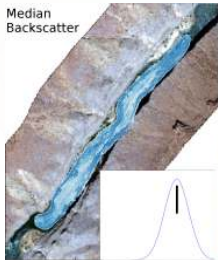
# Acoustics of a heterogeneous river bed



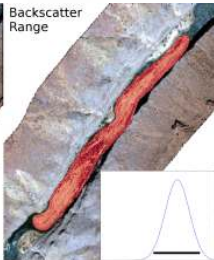
# Backscatter statistics

by a Heterogeneous  
River Bed  
Sediment Classification

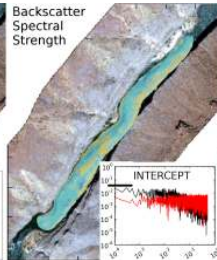
Median  
Backscatter



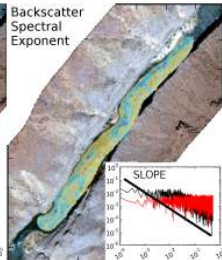
Backscatter  
Range



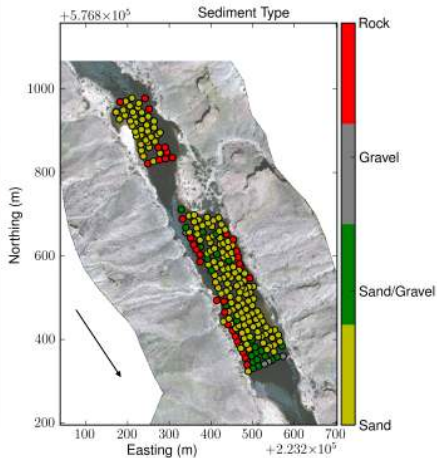
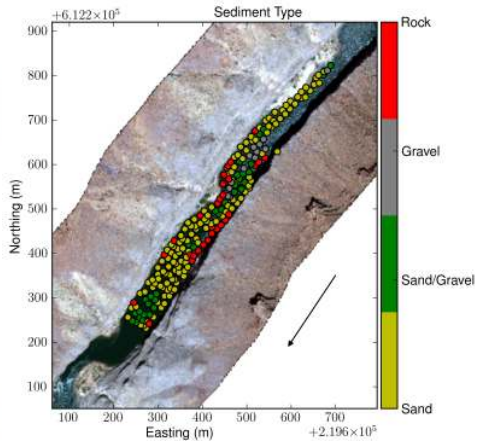
Backscatter  
Spectral  
Strength



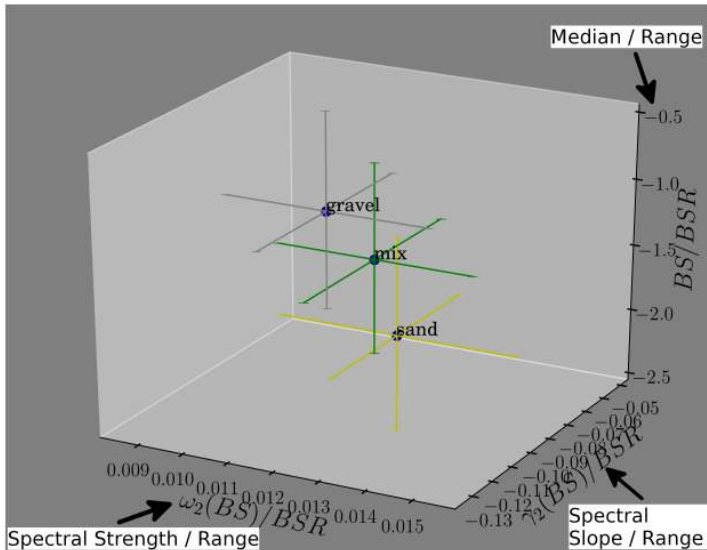
Backscatter  
Spectral  
Exponent



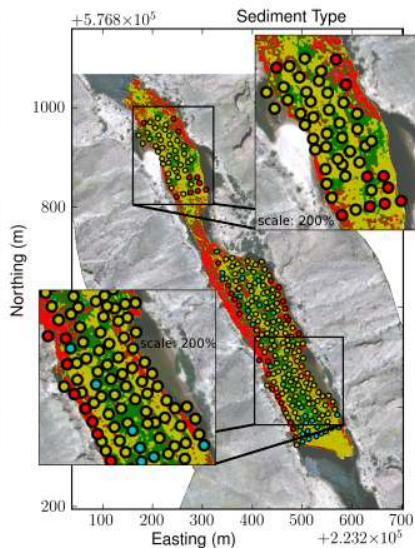
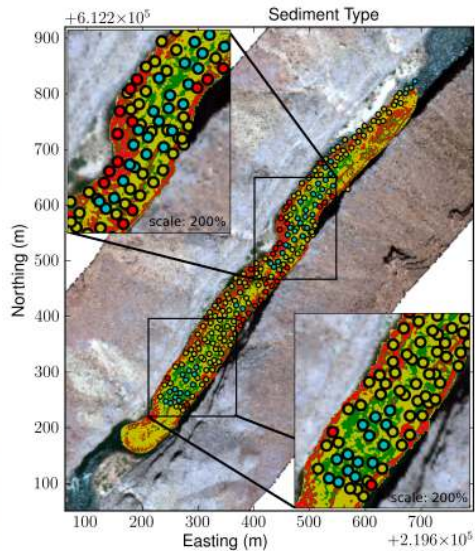
# Backscatter statistics over known substrates



# Classification



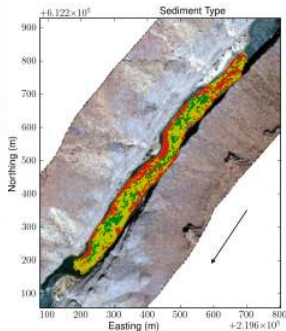
# Sediment classification: different sites





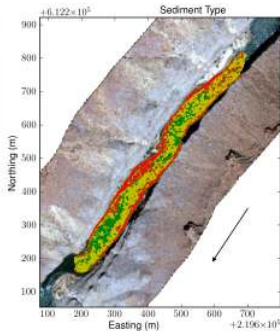
# Sediment classification: same site, different times

MAY 2012



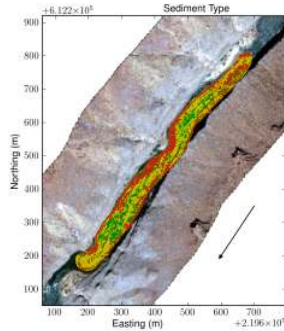
0.25%	unclassified
47.0%	sand
23.6%	sand/gravel mix
2.8%	gravel
26.4%	rock

MAY 2013



0.56%	unclassified
48.1%	sand
22.5%	sand/gravel mix
2.8%	gravel
26%	rock

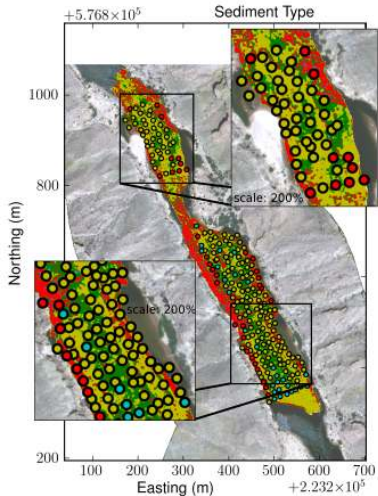
AUG 2013



0.28%	unclassified
46.3%	sand
25.1%	sand/gravel mix
2.0%	gravel
26.3%	rock

# Summary

- ▶ Progress towards bed sediment classification using backscatter
- ▶ Statistical approach using both spectral and distribution properties
- ▶ Further refinements. More/better validation
- ▶ Apply to previous MB systems
- ▶ How well does it apply to 225 miles of river??



# Summary

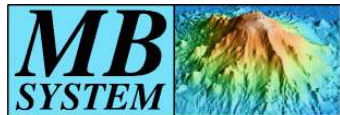
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# Thanks for listening



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IP[y]: IPython  
Interactive Computing



matplotlib





# by a Heterogeneous River Bed: Sediment Classification using Multibeam Echosounder

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Daniel Buscombe,

Paul E. Granz,

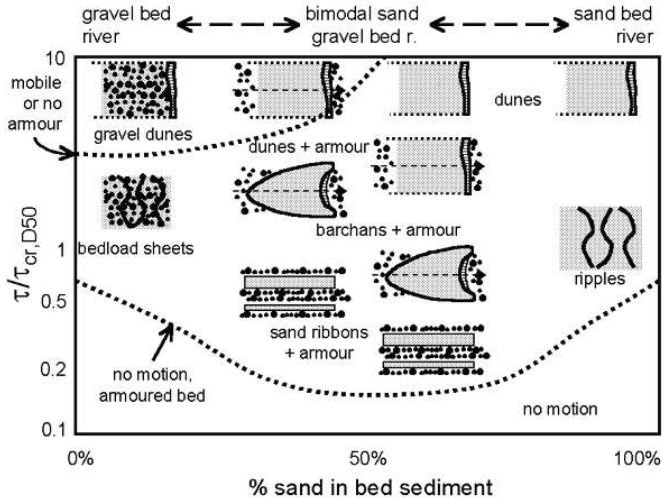
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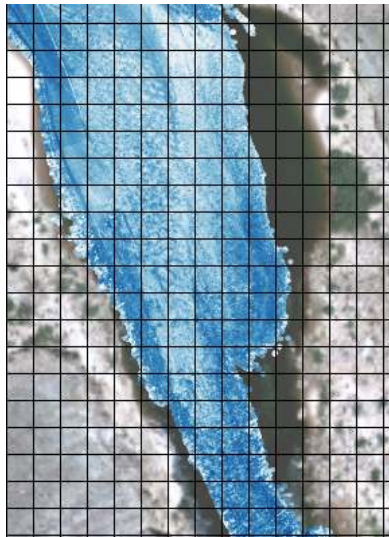
# Non-uniqueness of backscatter



# Acoustic 'Roughness'

## 2D Power spectra

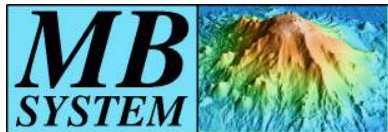
- ▶ Detrended DEM and BS
- ▶ Hann tapered 2D periodogram
- ▶ Normalised by background spectra
- ▶ 2D to 1D for power law fit
- ▶ Thousands of overlapping windows ( $25 \times 25\text{m}$ ) shifted  $0.25\text{m}$  (ensemble averaging)
- ▶ Continuous maps of stochastic geometries



# Pre-Processing

## MB-System

- ▶ Generic
- ▶ Command line. \*nix environments
- ▶ Scientific user community
- ▶ Control and reproducibility



Caress and Chayes. Proceedings of the IEEE Oceans 95 Conference, 1995.

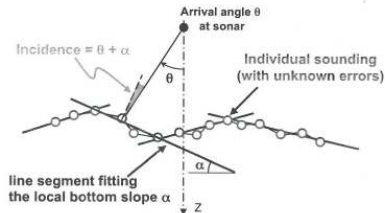
Caress and Chayes. Marine Geophysical Research, 2006.



# Pre-Processing

## Corrections

- ▶ Roll and pitch bias, offset depths
- ▶ Slopes
- ▶ Slope 'spikes'
- ▶ Remove "rails"



# Balancing the Acoustic Budget

► Raw echo

$$BS(\theta_c) = EL(\theta_c) - SL(\theta_c) + 2TL(\theta_c) - 10 \log A_f(\theta_c)$$

- Source level [MEASURED]
- Transmission losses [ESTIMATED]
- True area of beam footprint [ESTIMATED]

# Balancing the Acoustic Budget

► Raw echo

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- True area of beam footprint [ESTIMATED]

# Transmission, Amplification & Sampling

$$BS(\theta_c) = EL(\theta_c) - SL(\theta_c) + 2TL(\theta_c) - 10 \log A_f(\theta_c)$$

► Function of:

- Output power [MEASURED]
- Input amplification [MEASURED]
- Ping rate [MEASURED]
- Pulse length [MEASURED]

# Water & Sediment Attenuation

$$BS(\theta_c) = EL(\theta_c) - SL(\theta_c) + 2TL(\theta_c) - 10 \log A_f(\theta_c)$$

► Sediment attenuation  
[ESTIMATED] using Urick  
(1948):

- Particle size and concentration  
[MEASURED]
- Particle density  
[ESTIMATED]
- Homogeneous mixing  
[ASSUMED]

► Water attenuation  
[ESTIMATED] using  
Fisher & Simmons (1977):

- Temperature  
[MEASURED]
- Salinity & pH  
[ESTIMATED]
- Homogeneous mixing  
[ASSUMED]

Fisher and Simmons. Journal of the Acoustic Society of America, 1977.

Urick. Journal of the Acoustic Society of America, 1948.

# Beam Footprint

$$BS(\theta_c) = EL(\theta_c) - SL(\theta_c) + 2TL(\theta_c) - 10 \log A_f(\theta_c)$$

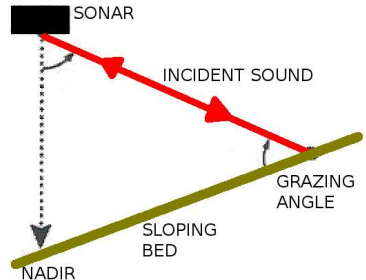
- Function of:
- Across- & along-track slopes [ESTIMATED]
  - Angular range [ESTIMATED]
  - Ping rate [MEASURED]
  - Grazing angle ( $\psi_c$ ) [ESTIMATED]



# Acoustics of a Heterogeneous River Bed

## Shallow & Steep

- ▶ Few 'scatter pixels' (small beams)
- ▶ Large slopes = large grazing angles
- ▶ Backscatter at large angles = poor sediment discriminator



# Backscatter "snippets"

## Backscatter

- ▶ No processing on the fly
- ▶ Pseudo-sidescan
- ▶ "Snippets" - one uncorrected echo per sounding
- ▶ We use snippets = bed surface

## ? "Real" Sidescan v. "Backscatter" ?

