



# Generating consistent triangular terrain elevation data for noise modelling

Laurens van Rijssel  
Thesis defence



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Jantien Stoter

RIVM: Arnaud Kok



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# Introduction



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## 01 **Introduction**

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## 02 Related work

## 03 Methodology

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# Background



01 Introduction

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## *What is noise?*

Unwanted or harmful outdoor sound created by human activities

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# Background



## 01 Introduction

02

### *What is noise?*

Unwanted or harmful outdoor sound created by human activities

03

### *Why is noise important?*

Health effects affect 135 ml. people in the EU

(European Environmental Agency, 2020).

Displeasure

Increased stress levels

Reduced learning performance

Reduced energy level

(Basner et al., 2014)

Loss of 1.0 to 1.6 ml. Disability-Adjusted Life-Years (DALY's)

(World Health Organization and Joint Research Committee, 2017)

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# Background



## 01 Introduction

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### *What is noise?*

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(World Health Organization and Joint Research Committee, 2017)

05

### *What is the aim of noise modelling?*

*Reduce long term noise exposure to levels over 55 dB*

(WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2018)

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# Background



01 Introduction

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*Why not measure noise?*

03



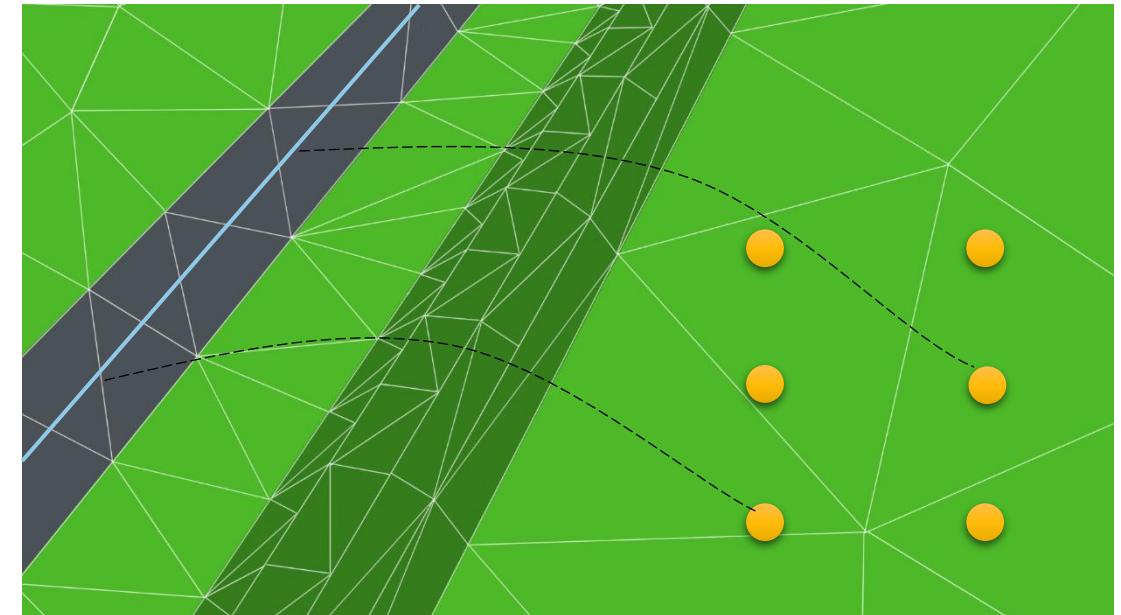
04

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(<https://geluidsmetingen.com/geluidsmeting>)

06

Laurens van Rijssel  
13-01-2022



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# Background



01 Introduction

02

*Noise modelling in Europe*

03

*What are the models used for?*

04

*Upcoming regulations*

05



Common  
**Noise Assessment Methods**  
in Europe (CNOSSOS-EU)

(Kephalaopoulos et al., 2012)

06

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13-01-2022

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# Problem statement



## 01 Introduction

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### Issues with current height line model

No quality assurance, requires manual verification

Multiple data conversions



(Stoter et al., 2020)

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# Problem statement



## 01 Introduction

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Alternative structure: triangulated irregular network

Quality assurance

Single conversion

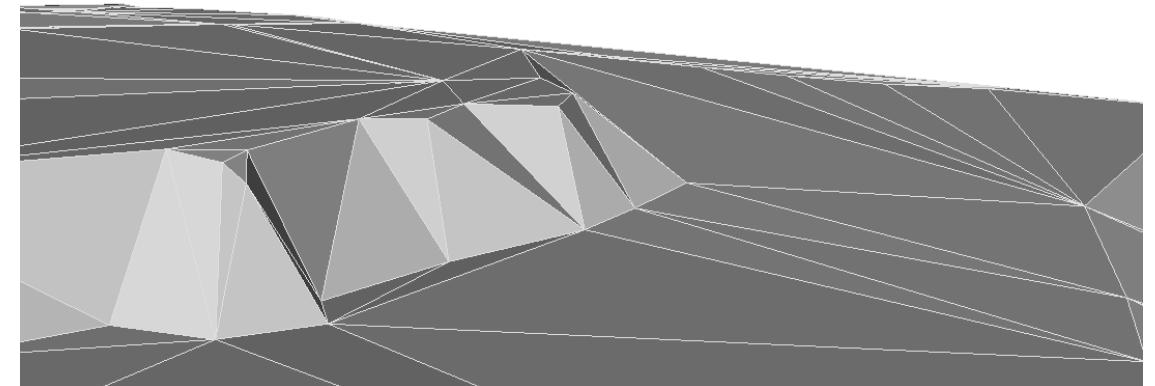
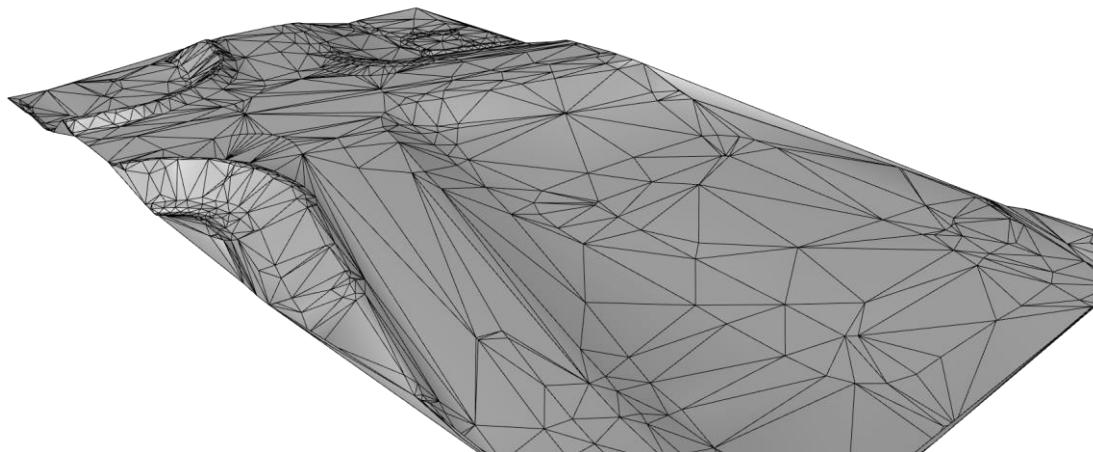
Large data size

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# Objective



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*What is the local minimal accuracy for a triangular irregular network to produce accurate noise predictions according to Dutch and European noise methods?*

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Noise modelling  
Terrain modelling

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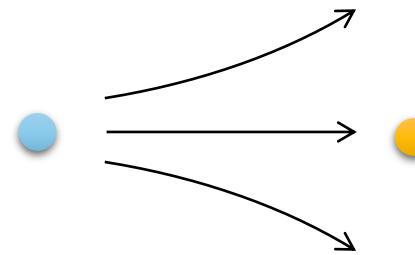
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02

## Divergence



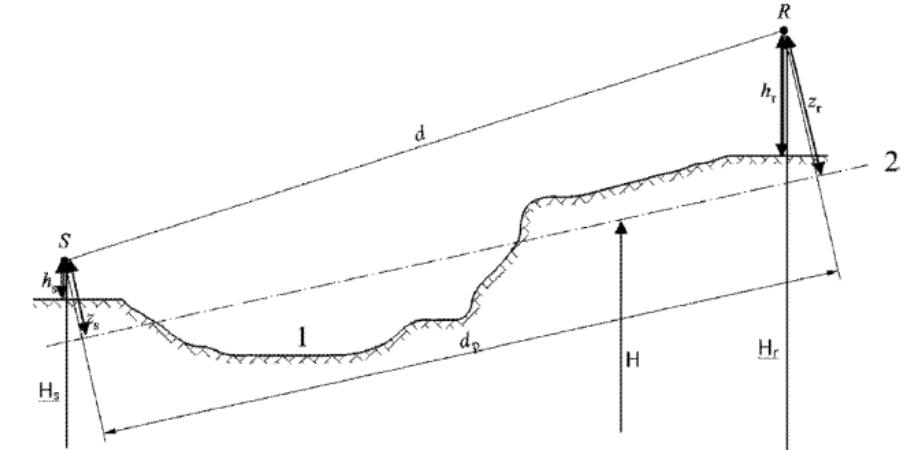
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## Absorption

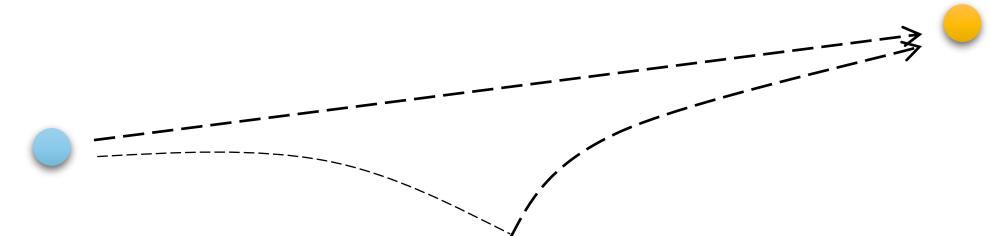


04

## Ground effect



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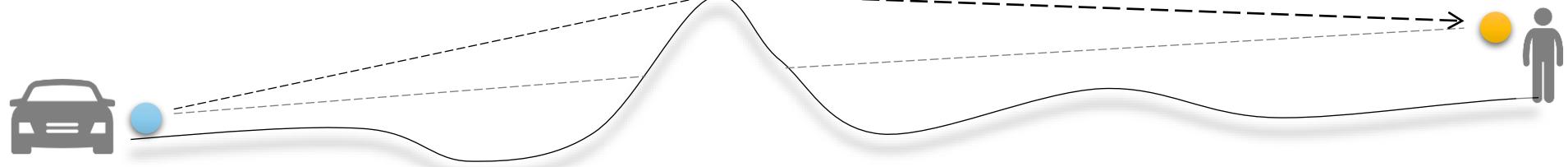
# Diffraction



02 Related work

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# Diffraction



02 Related work

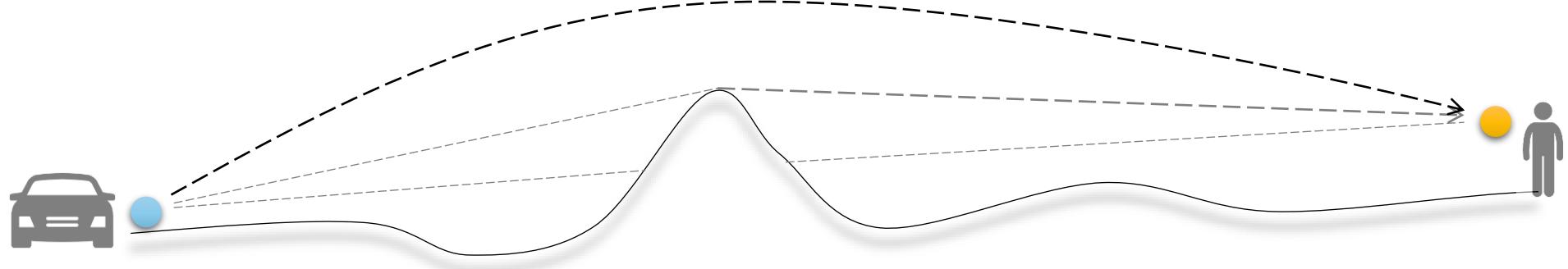
02

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01

# Properties of a TIN



02 Related work

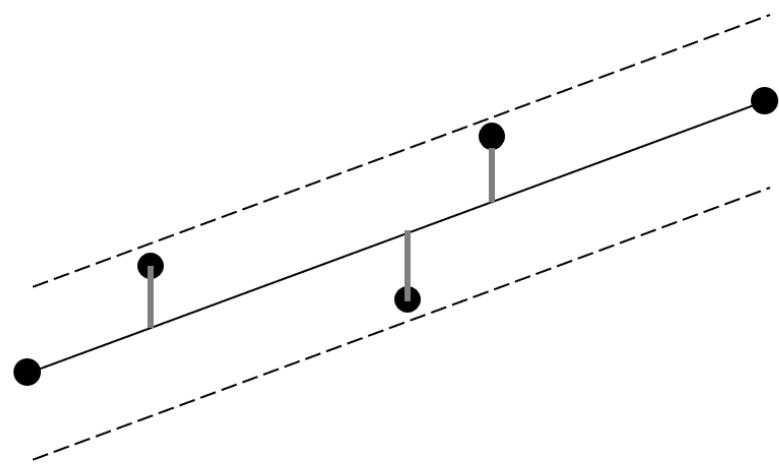
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01

# Properties of a TIN



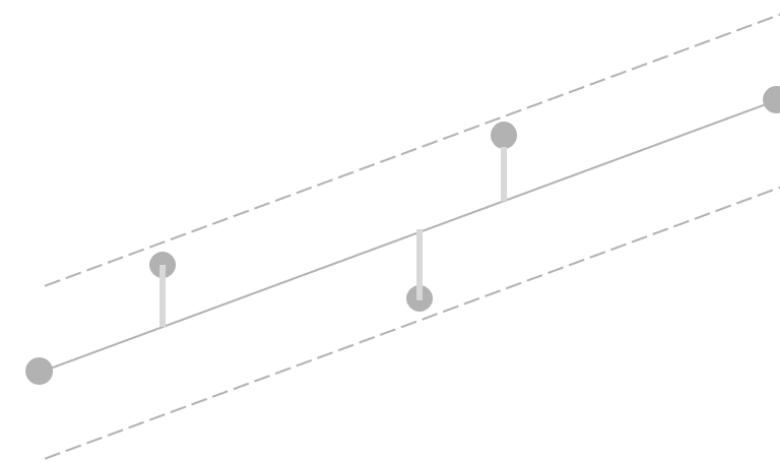
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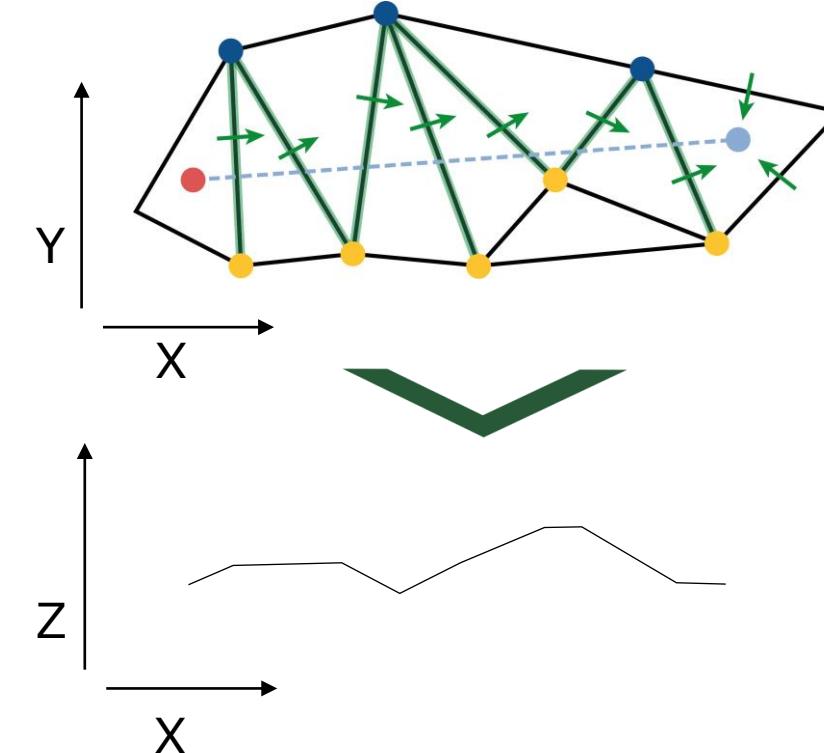
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# 02 Related work

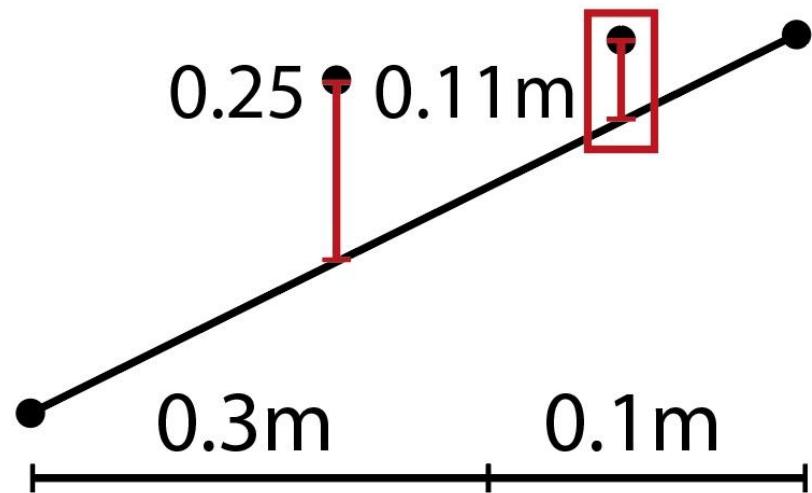


01

# Generating a TIN



# 02 Related work

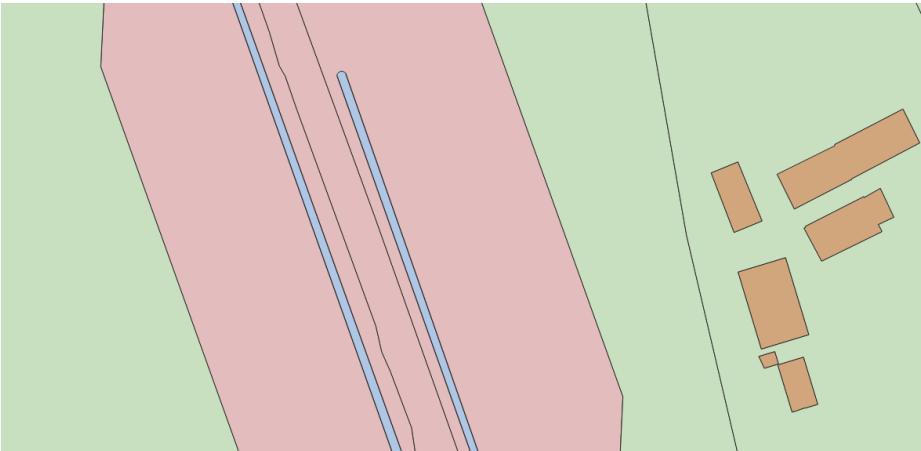


01

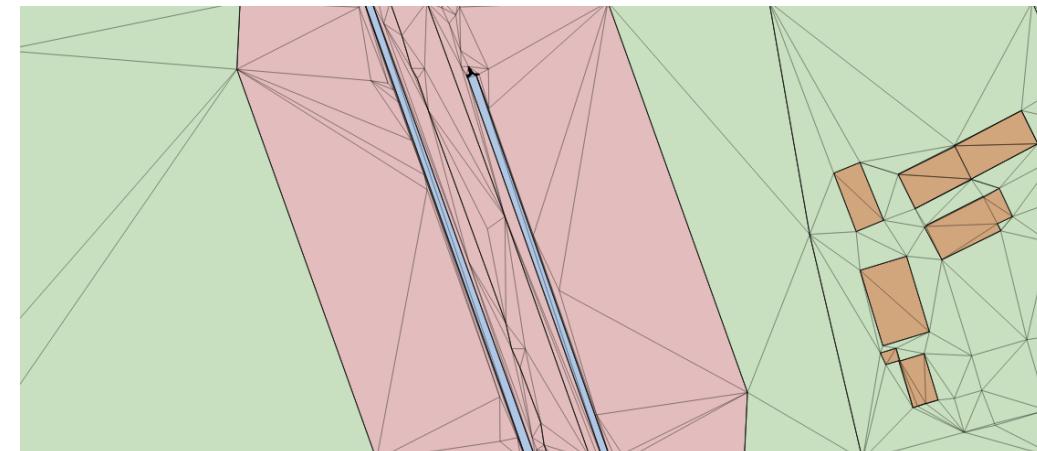
# Generating a TIN in practice



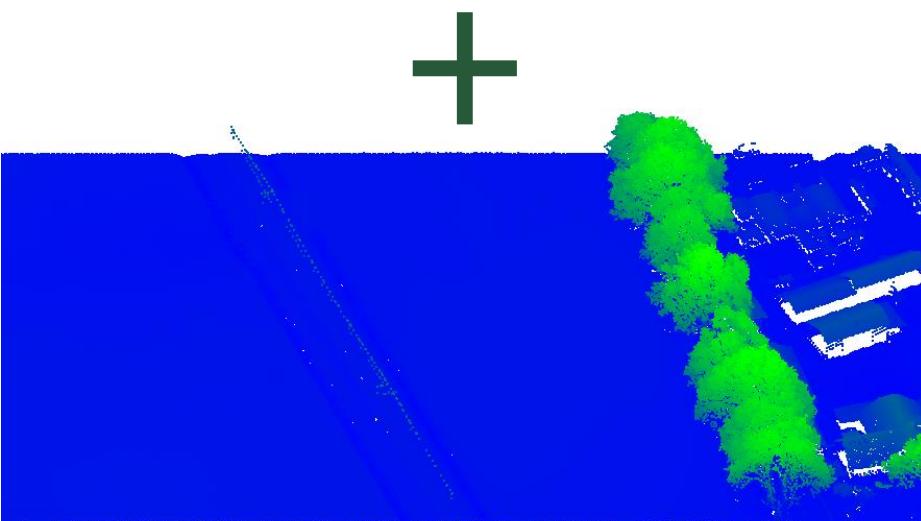
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# Methodology



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## 01 Create model

Theoretical analysis  
Determine parameters



## 02 Implement

QGIS for  
Verification



## 03 Verify

Locate testing areas  
Define parameter settings  
Noise calculations  
Locate balance

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Surface types  
Distance to objects  
Elevation topology

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# Surface types



04 Approach

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Reflective and absorbing areas

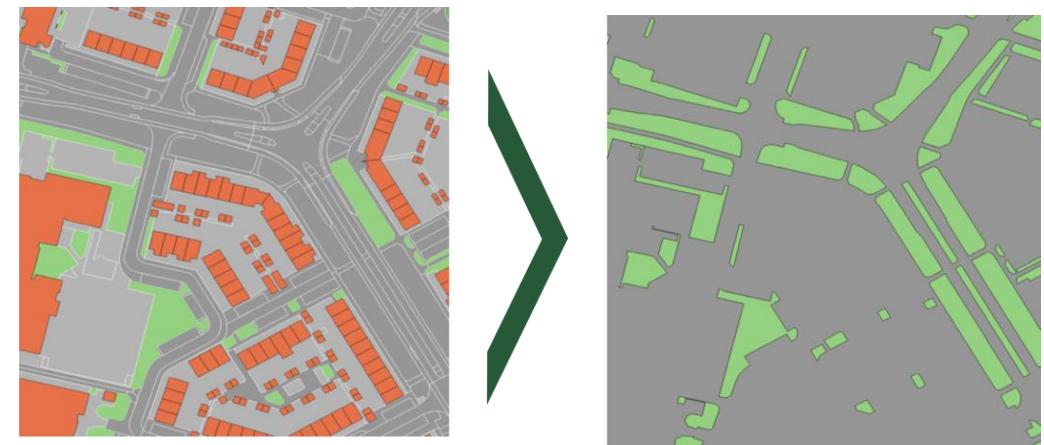
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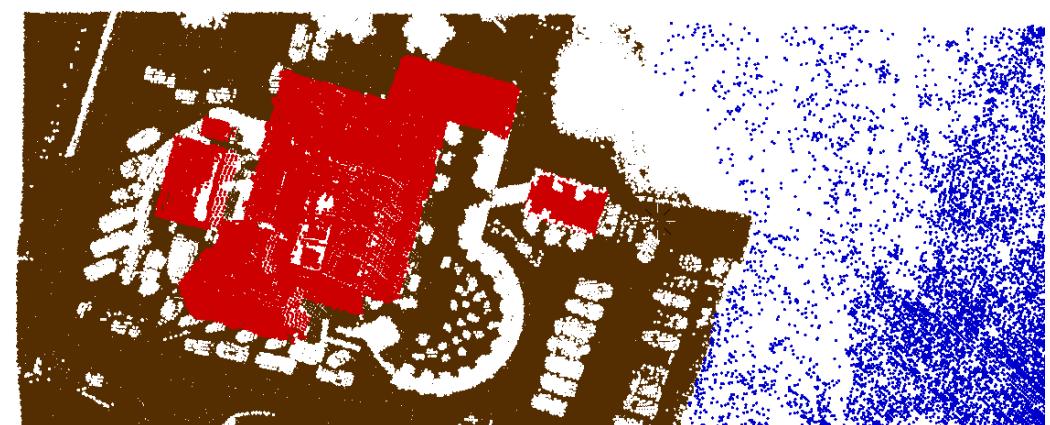
Water

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(Stoter et al., 2020)



01

# Distance to objects



04 Approach

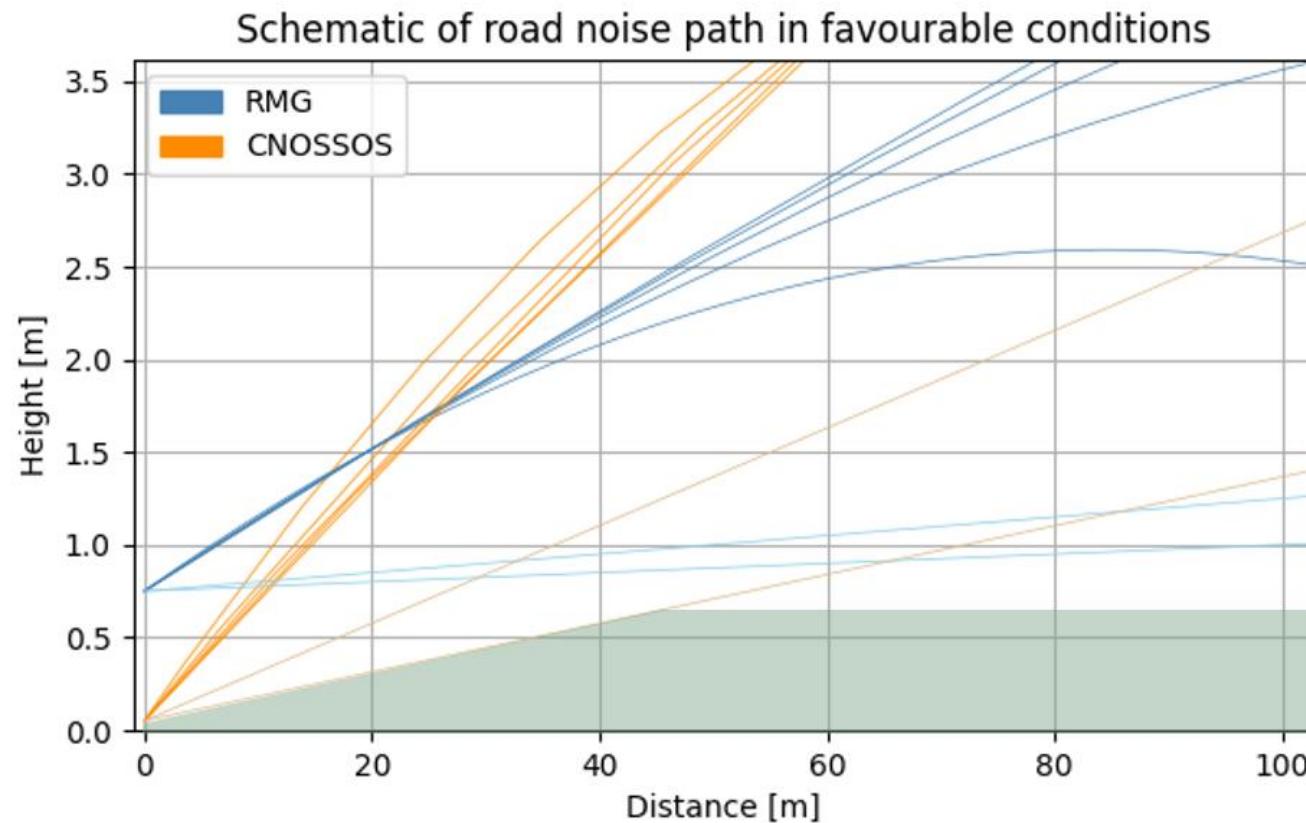
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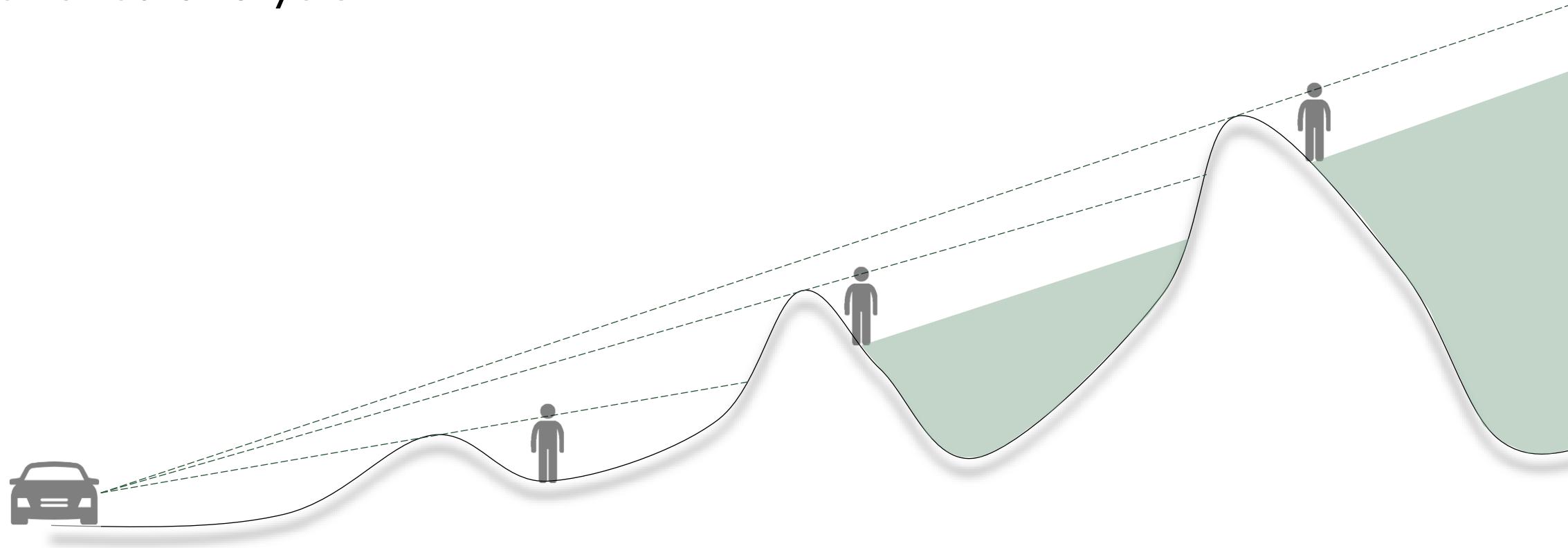
# Elevation topology



04 Approach

02

## Viewshed analysis



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# Elevation topology



04 Approach

02



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04



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Low accuracy

High accuracy needed

Road

01



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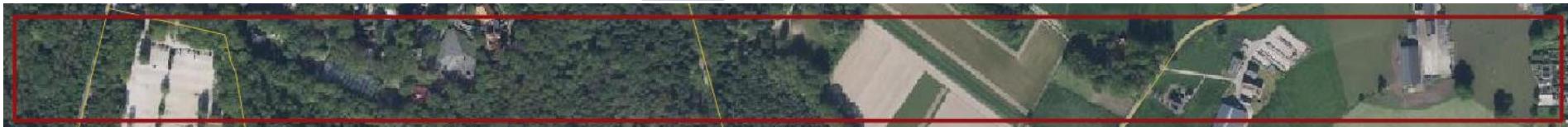
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# Test setup - areas

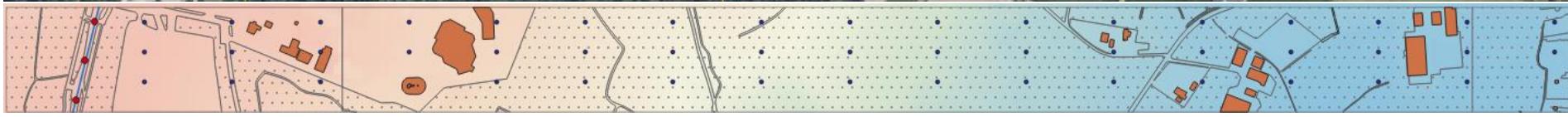


# 05 Verification

01



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# Test setup – settings 1



# 05 Verification

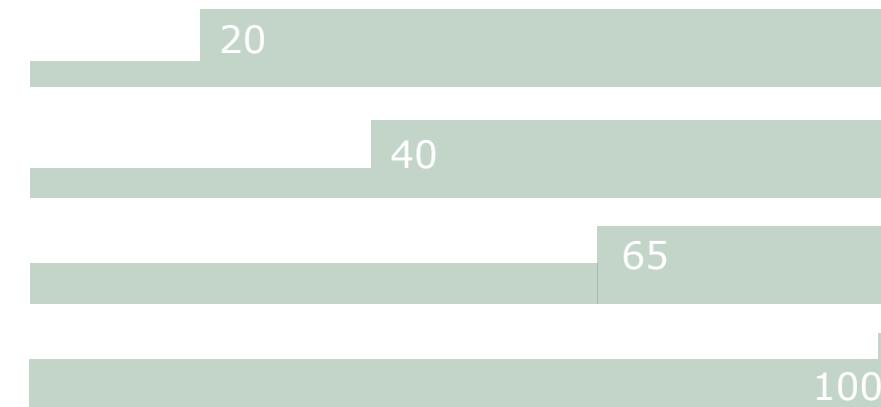
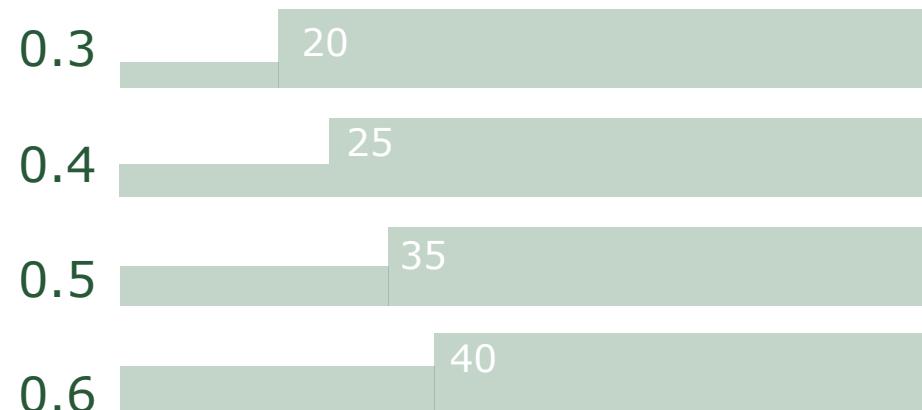
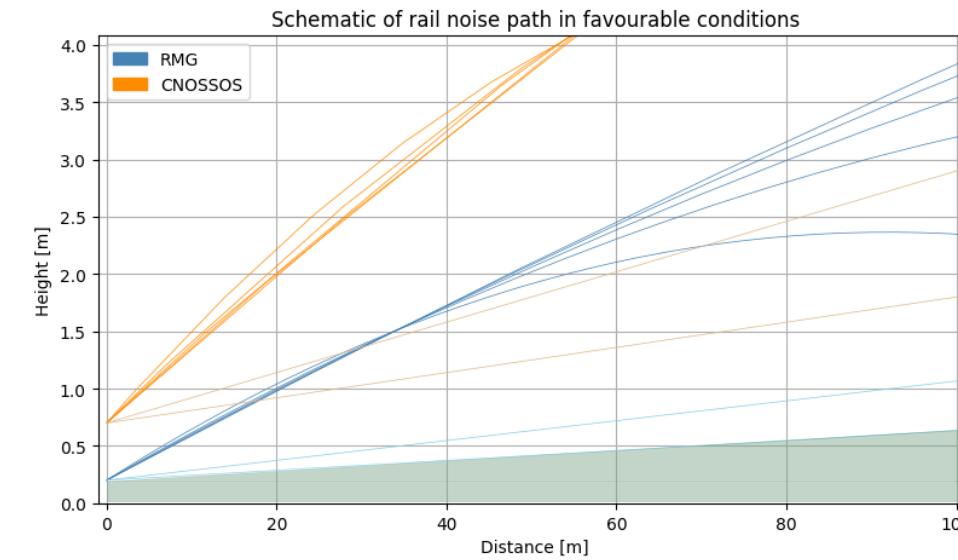
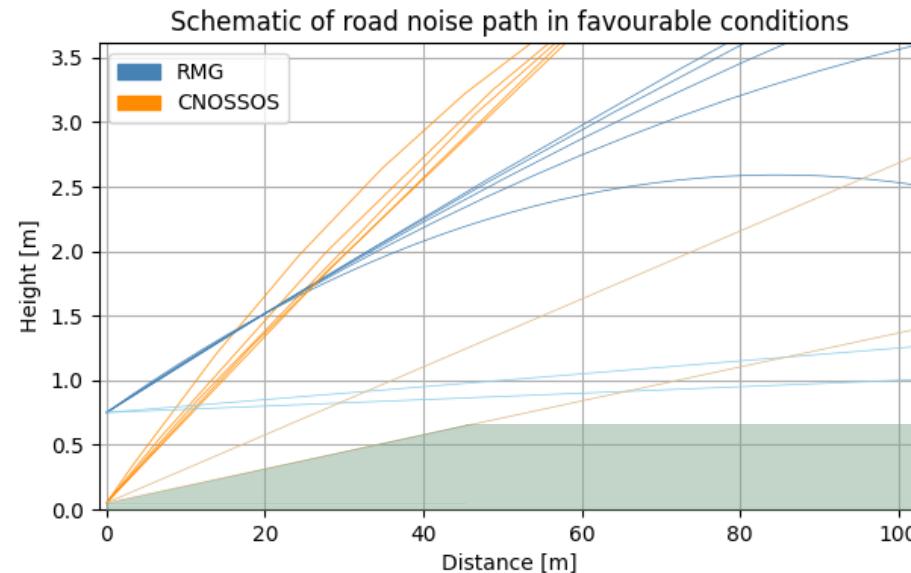
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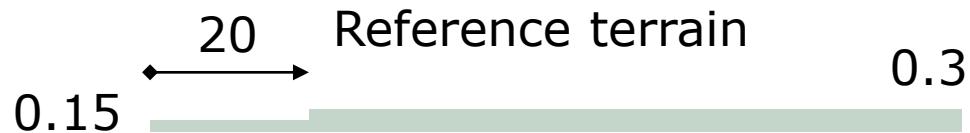
01

# Test setup – settings 2

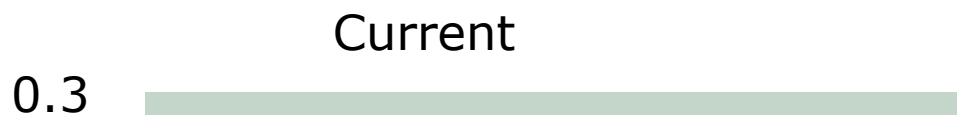


05 Verification

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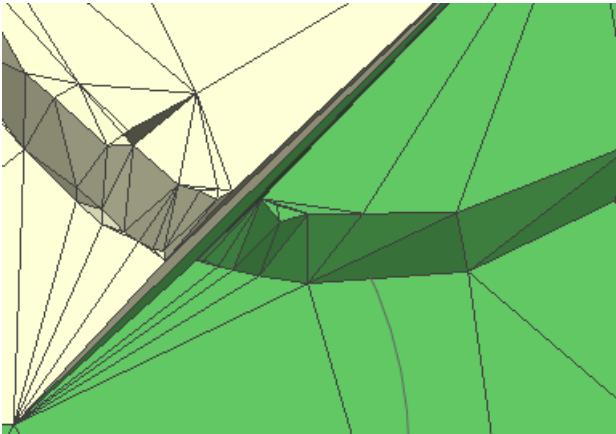
01

# Intermediate results Terrains - overview

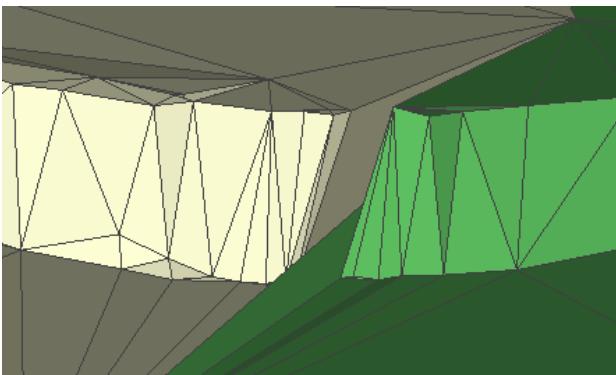


05 Verification

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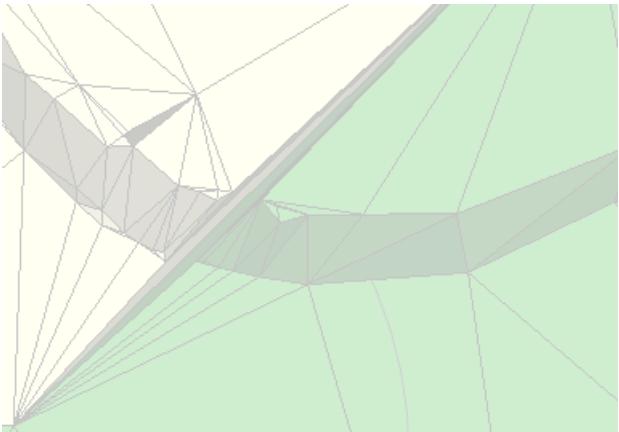
06

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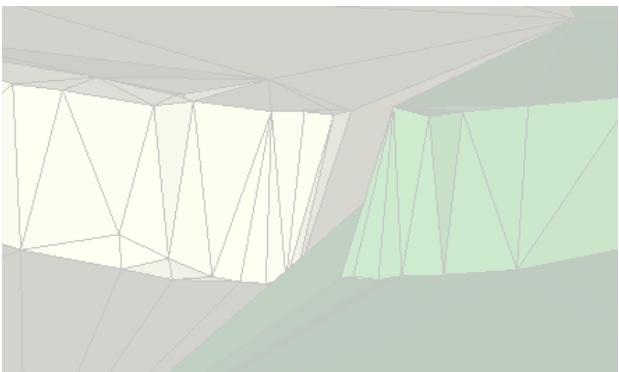
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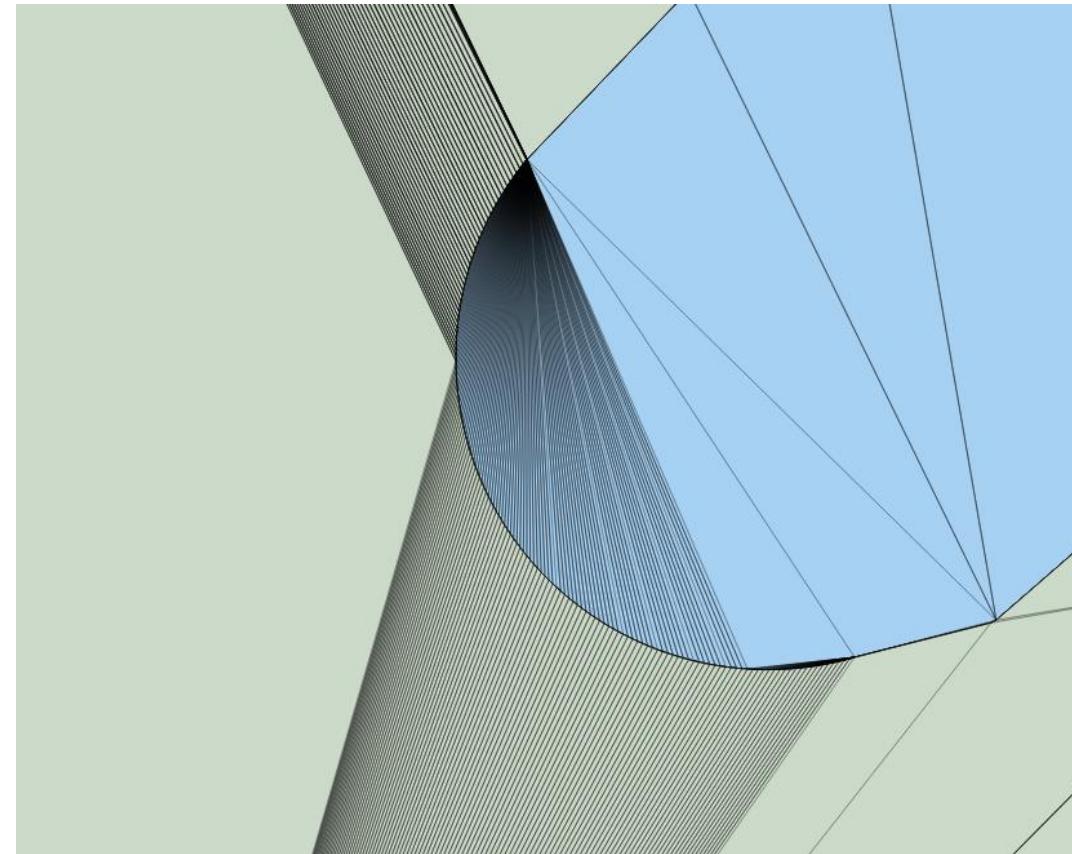
02



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# Intermediate results

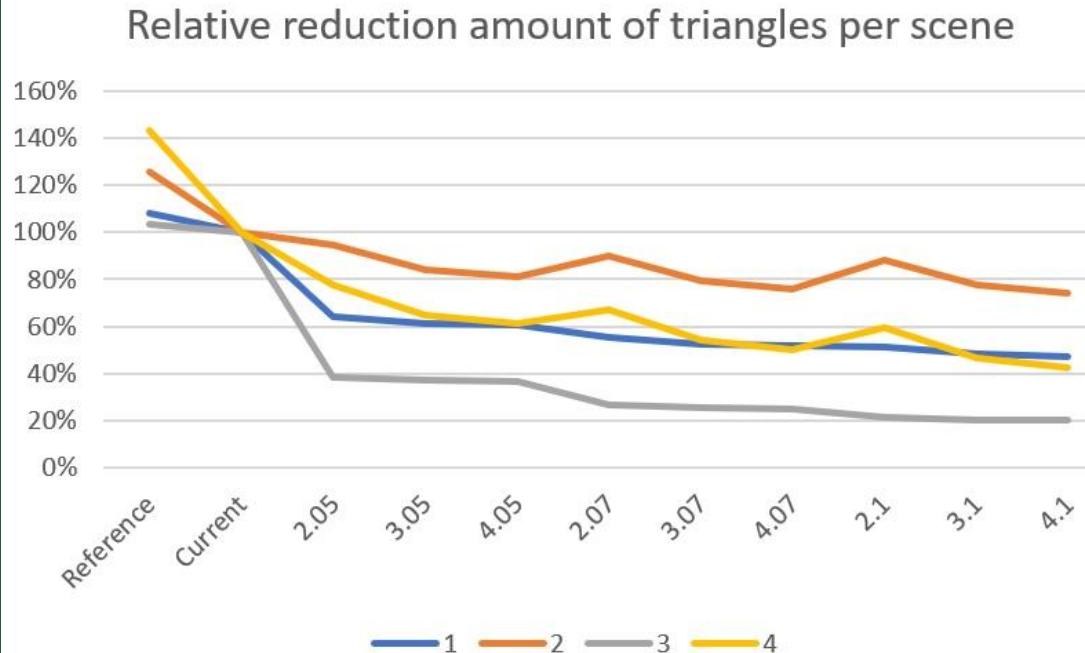
## Terrains – sizes



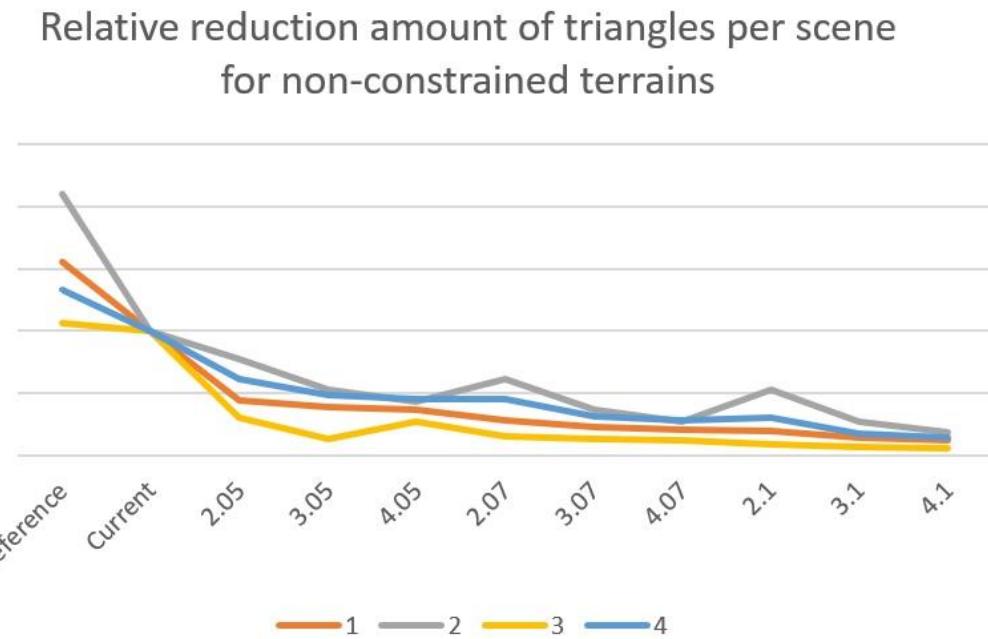
# 05 Verification

02

With buildings, water and ground types



Without any object

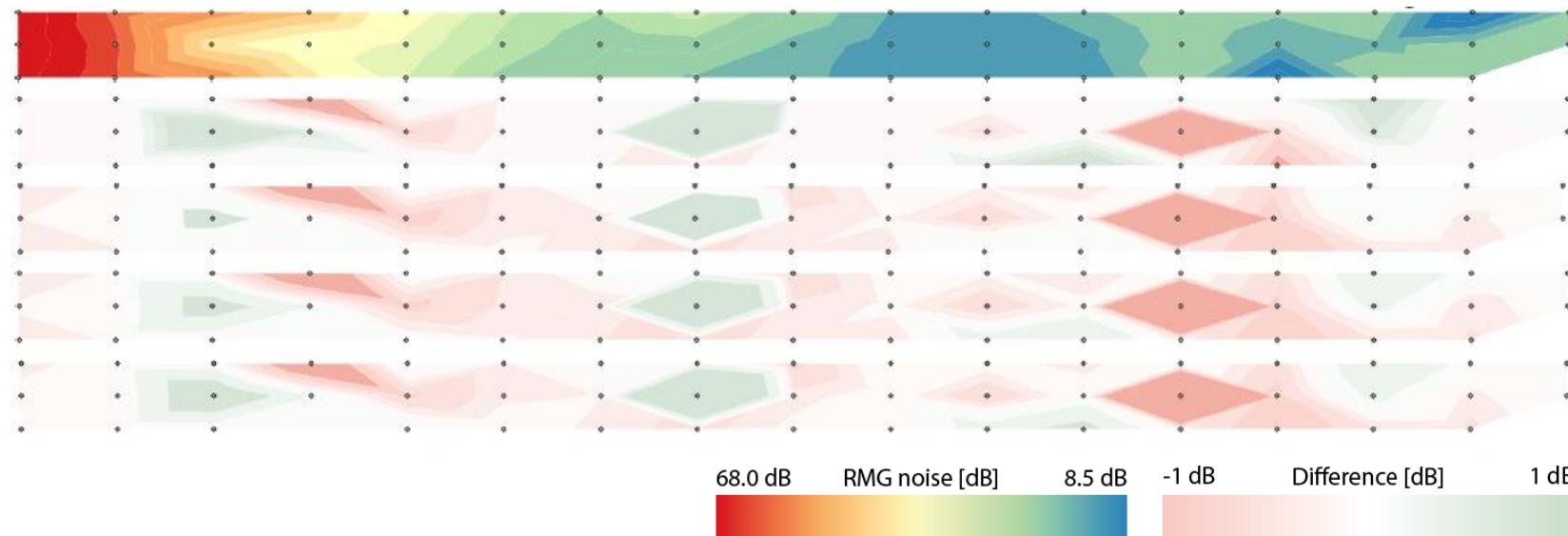
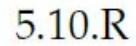
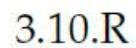
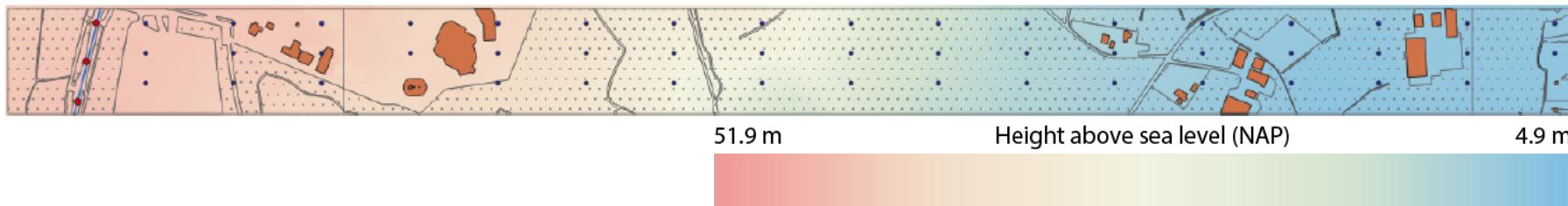


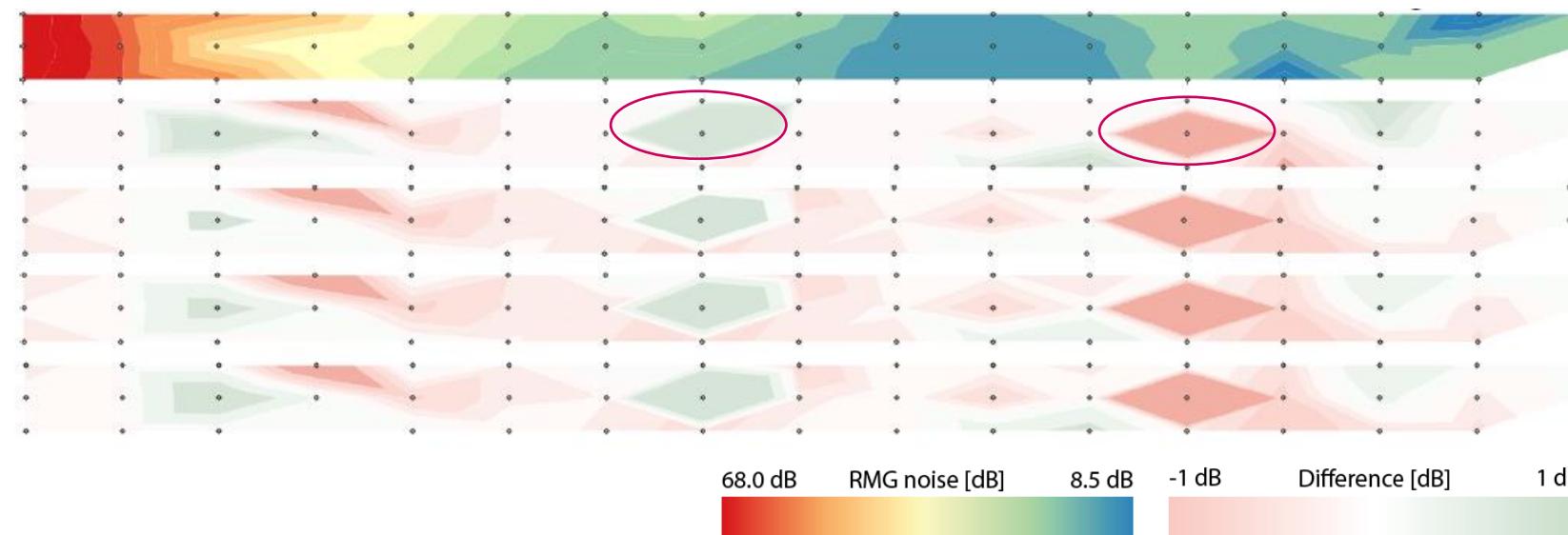
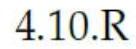
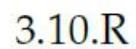
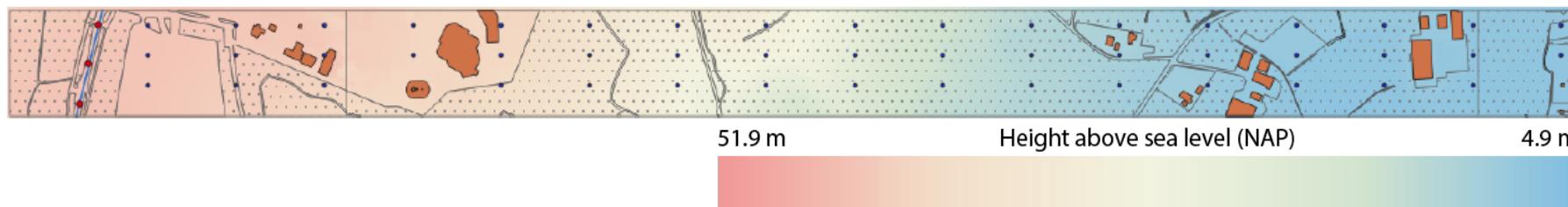
03

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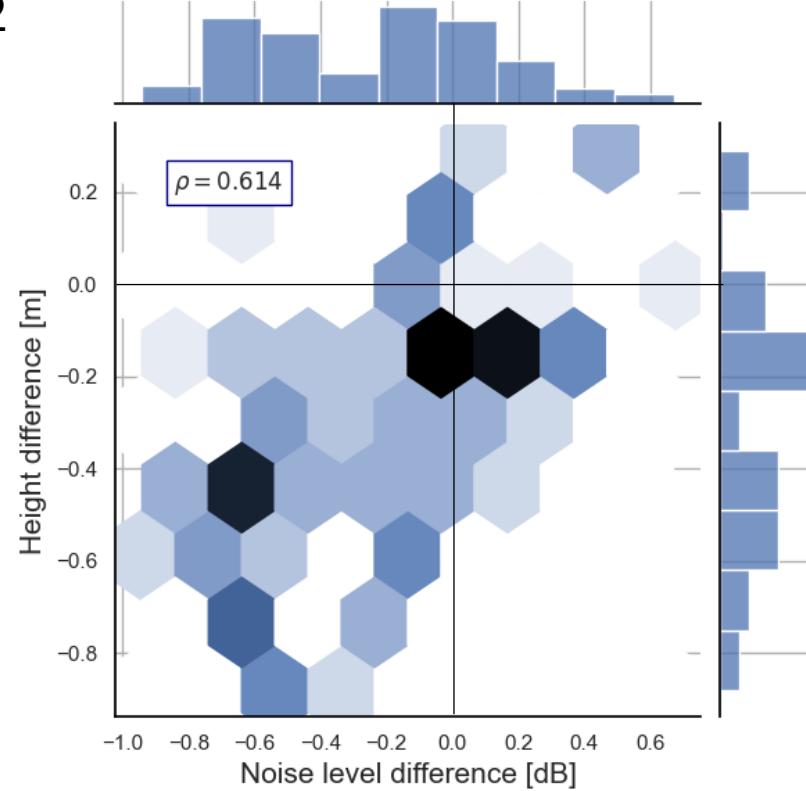
# Noise calculations



# 05 Verification

02

**Scene 2**



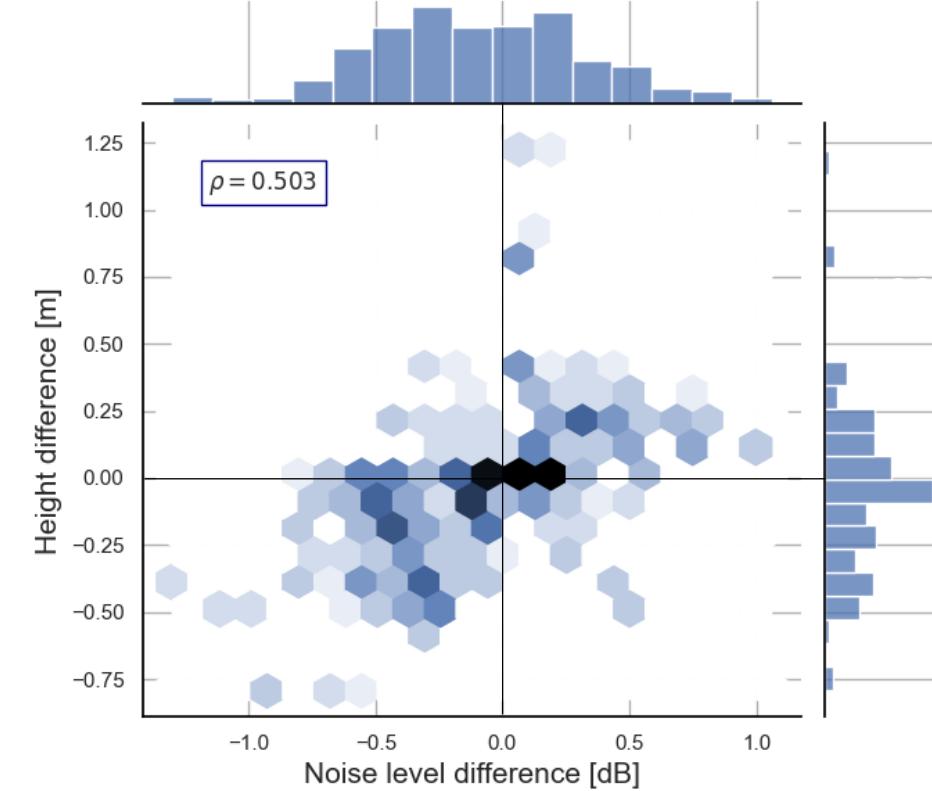
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Constrained



Not constrained

01

# Noise calculations



# 05 Verification

02

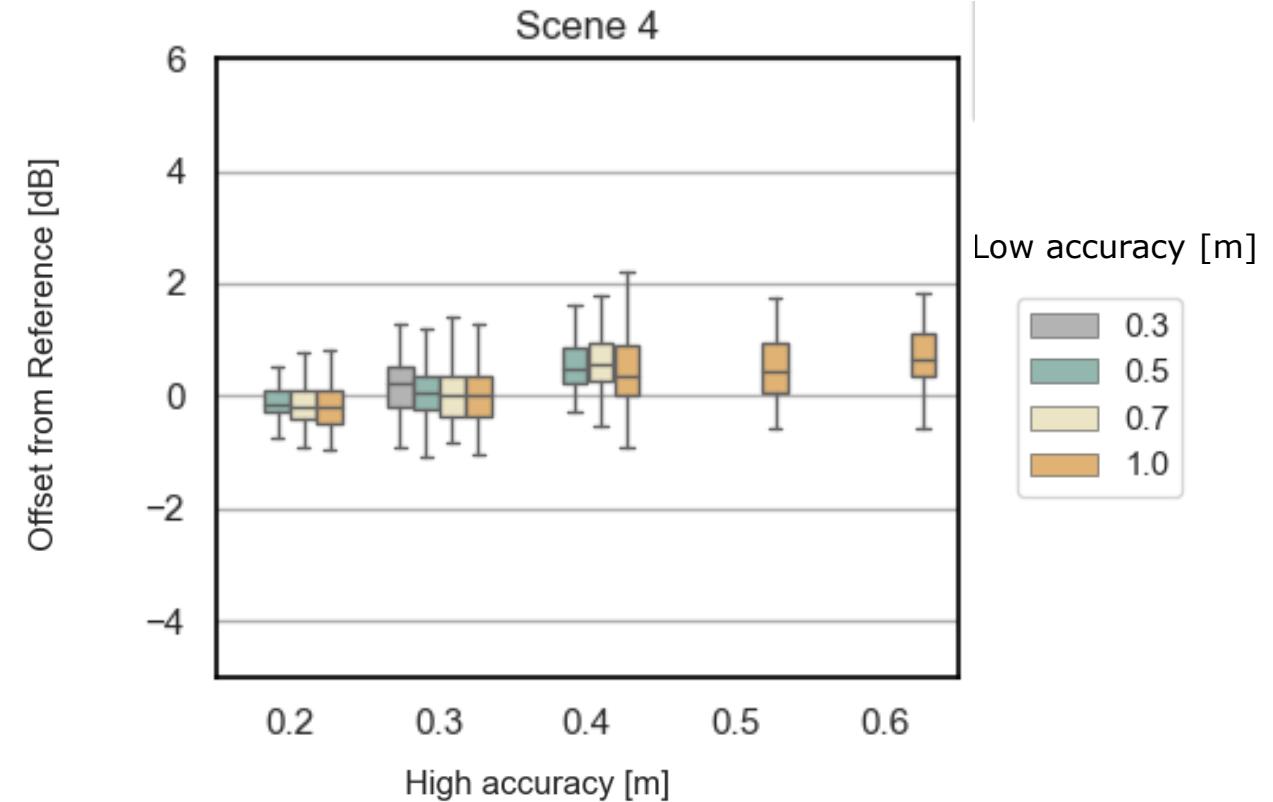
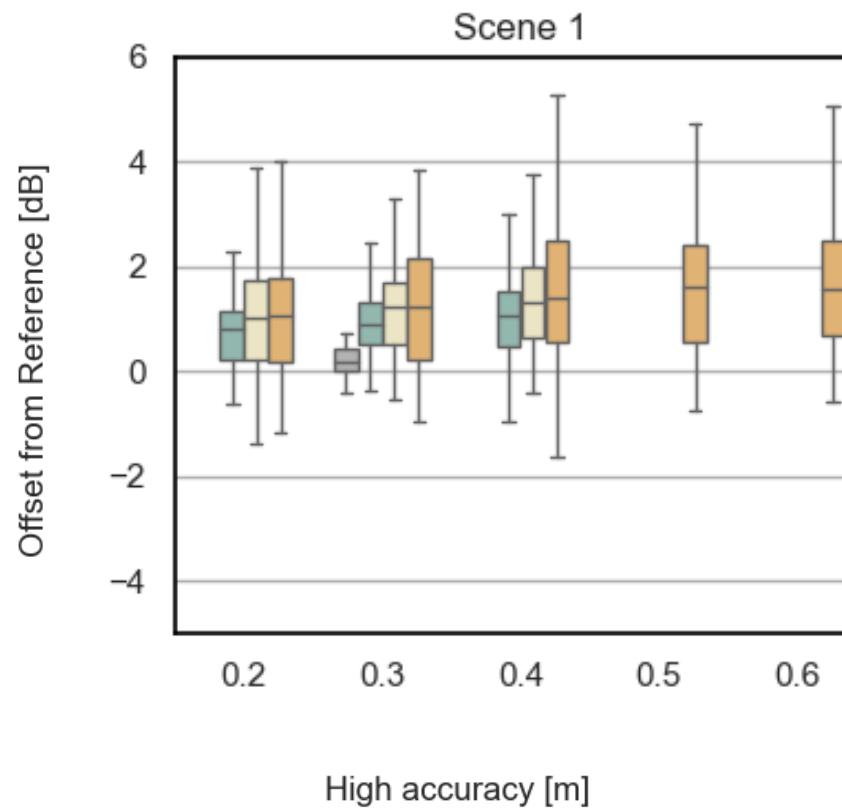
03

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CNOSSOS



01



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Scope

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Terrain modelling

## 03 Methodology

## 04 Approach

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Distance to objects  
Elevation topology

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Testing areas  
Accuracy maps  
Terrains  
Noise calculations

## 06 Conclusions

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# Conclusions



## 06 Conclusion

02

*What is the local minimal accuracy for a triangular irregular network to produce accurate noise predictions according to Dutch and European noise methods?*

03

- > Flat terrain works best
- > Non-constraints mostlikely better
- > 50 to 90% reduction

04

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06

Parameter	setting
<b>Constrained terrain</b>	20 to 60% reduction
Buffer distance road	20.0m
Buffer distance rail	20.0m
High accuracy value	0.40m
Low accuracy value	0.50m
<b>Non-constrained terrain</b>	50 to 90% reduction
Buffer distance road	20.0m
Buffer distance rail	20.0m
High accuracy value	0.30m
Low accuracy value	0.50m



- > Develop triangulation software that supports variable accuracies
- > Further test triangulation without constraints  
OR
- > Simplify constraining objects
- > Further testing with current models



National Institute for Public Health  
and the Environment  
*Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport*

# Optimising triangular terrain elevation data for noise modelling

Laurens van Rijssel

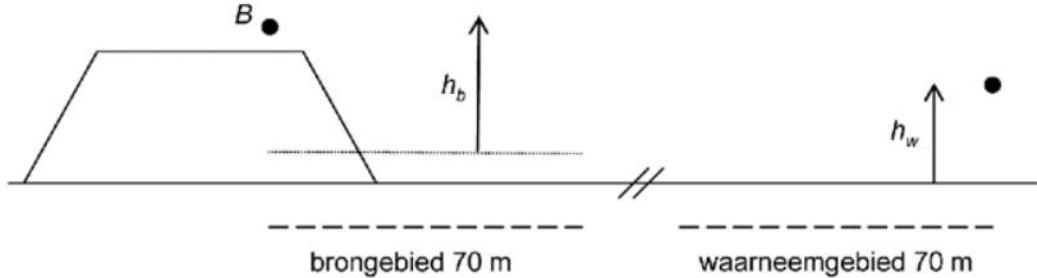
01

# Ground effect per method



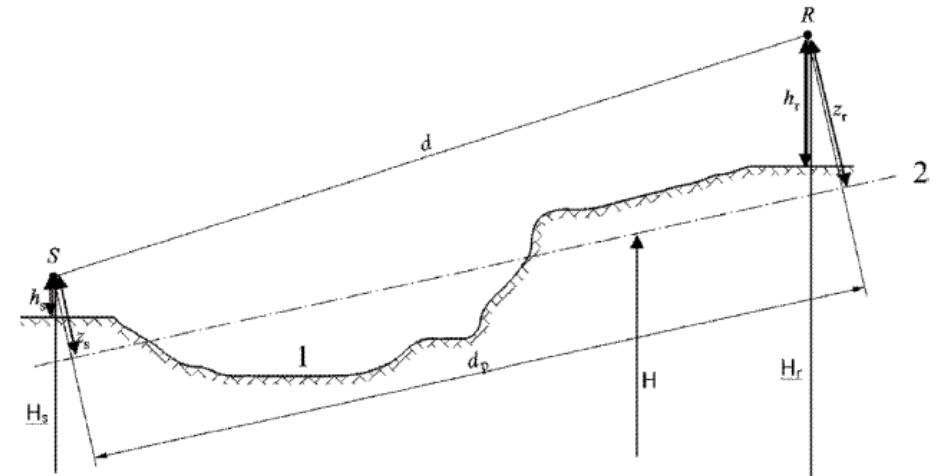
02

RMG



03

CNOSSOS



1: Actual relief

2: Mean plane

(European parliament and European Union, 2015, L 168/27)

<https://wetten.overheid.nl/BWBR0031722/2021-04-01>

06

01

# Noise propagation



02

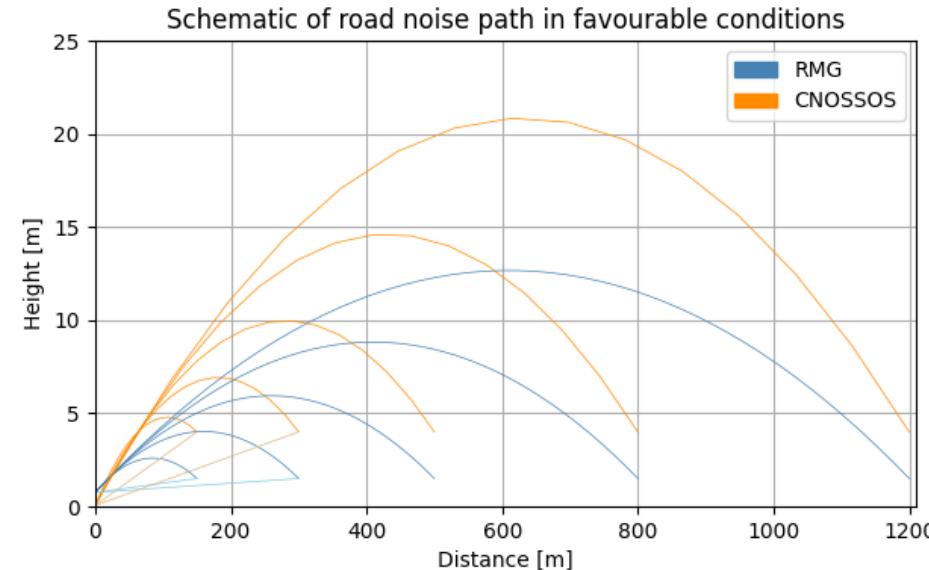
- › Homogeneous & favourable conditions

03

04

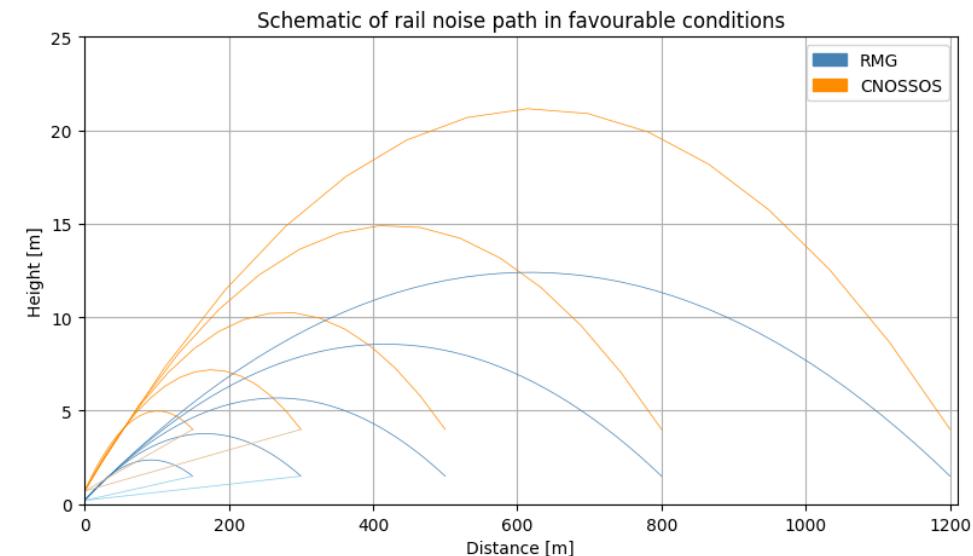
05

06



RMG      Source: 0.5m  
CNOSSOS      0.05m

Receiver:



1.5m      Source: 0.2m (incl. 0.2m rail height)  
4.0m      0.7m

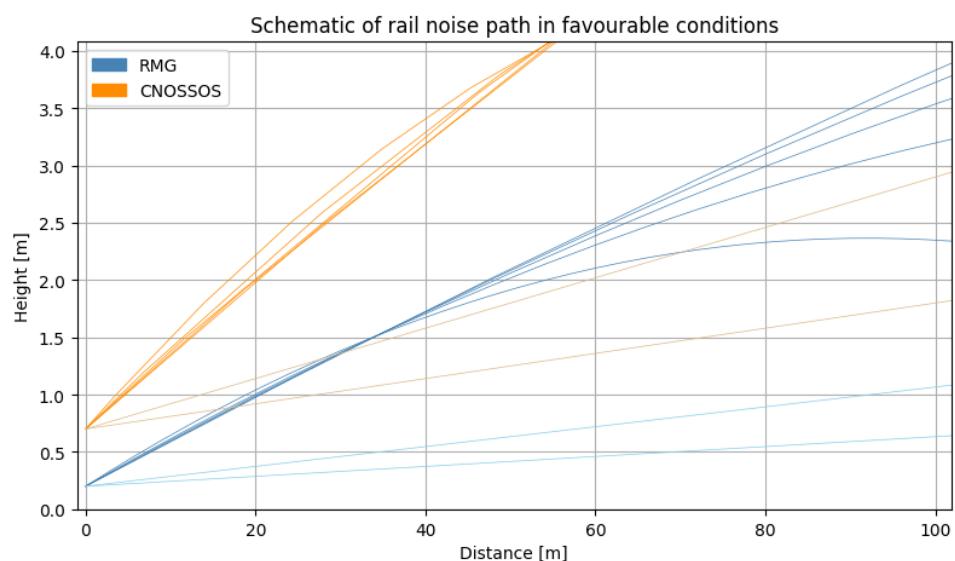
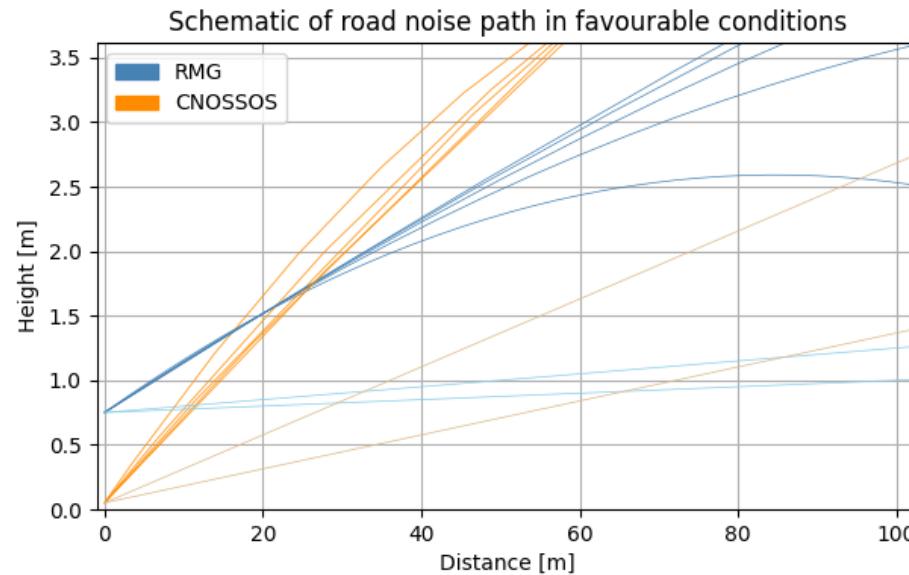
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# Noise propagation



02

## > Homogeneous & favourable conditions



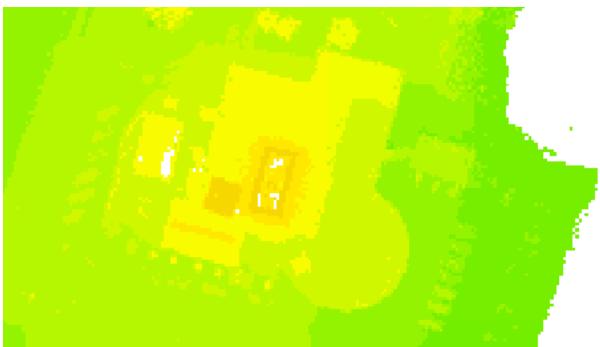
01

# Digital terrain modelling



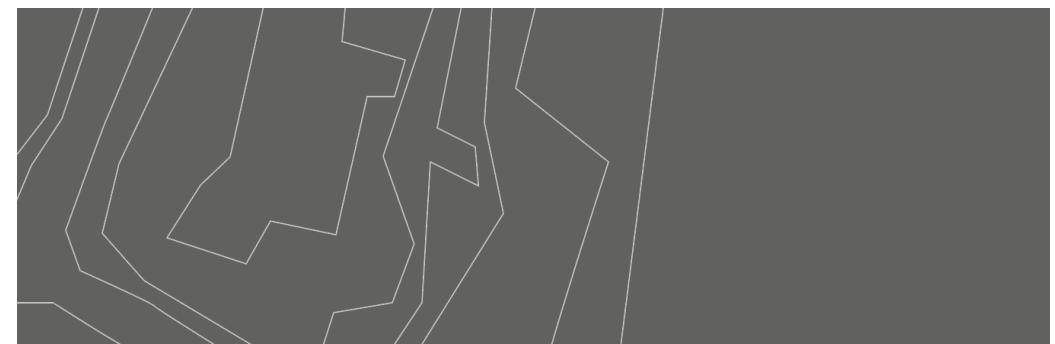
02

Raster



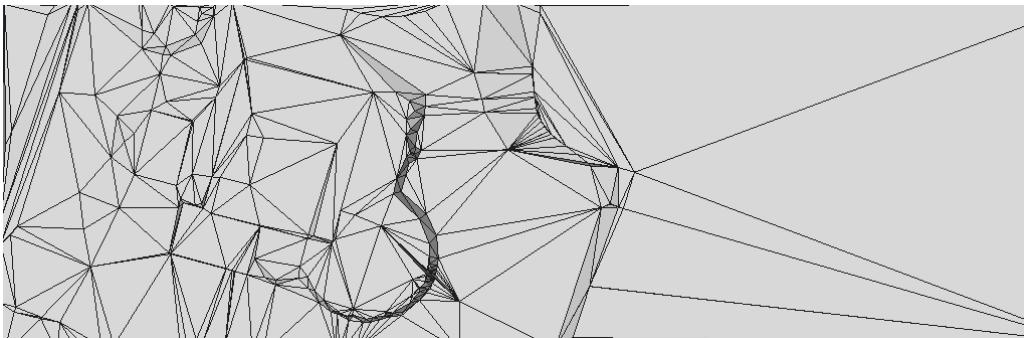
03

Height lines



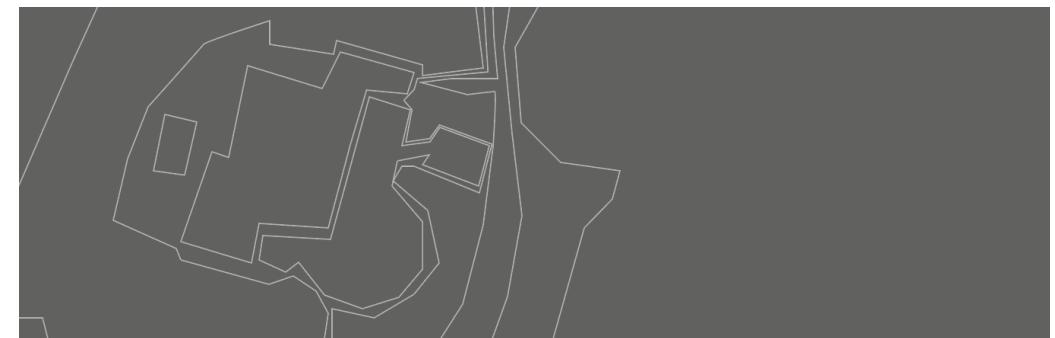
04

Triangulated irregular network



05

Iso contours



06

01

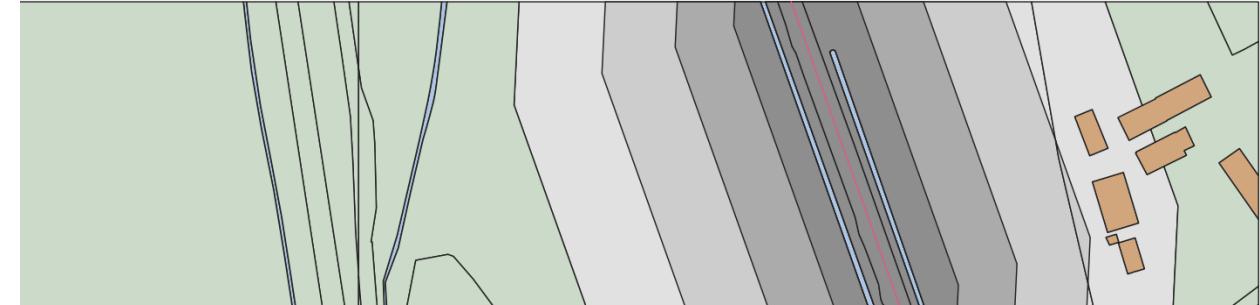
# Intermediate results Accuracy maps



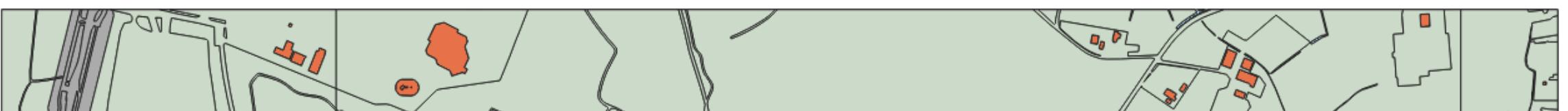
05 Verification

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Constrained

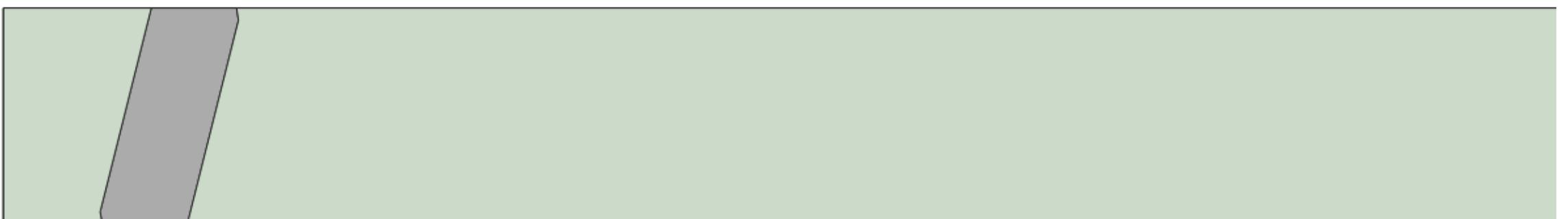


03



04

Not constrained



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01

# Noise calculations



# Verification

02

## CNOSSOS

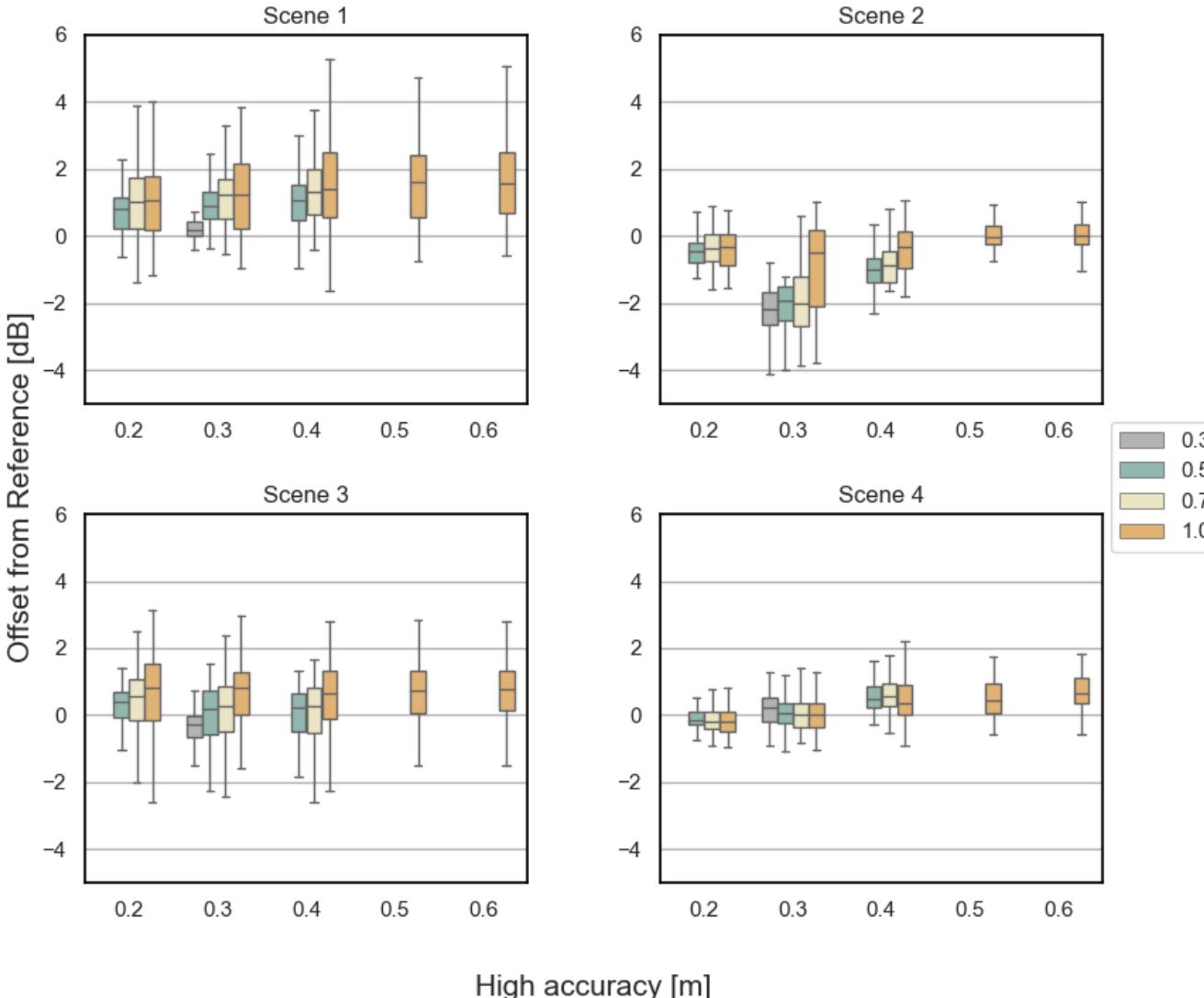
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Error distribution Lden with reference Lden using a constrained TIN and variable receiver heights in CNOSSOS



01

# Noise calculations



# Verification

02

RMG

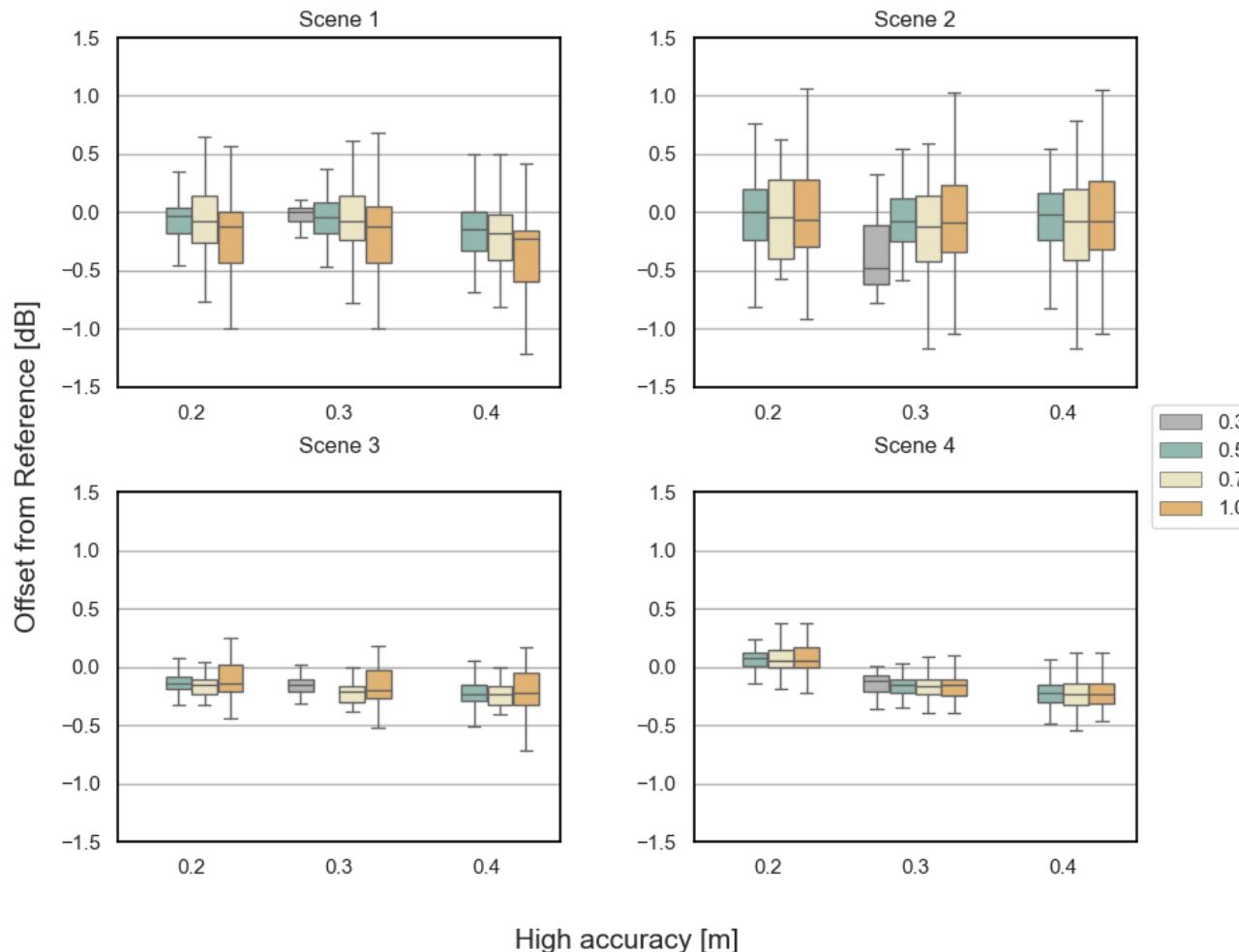
03

04

05

06

Error distribution Lden with reference Lden using a non-constrained terrain



01

# Noise calculations



# Verification

02

RMG

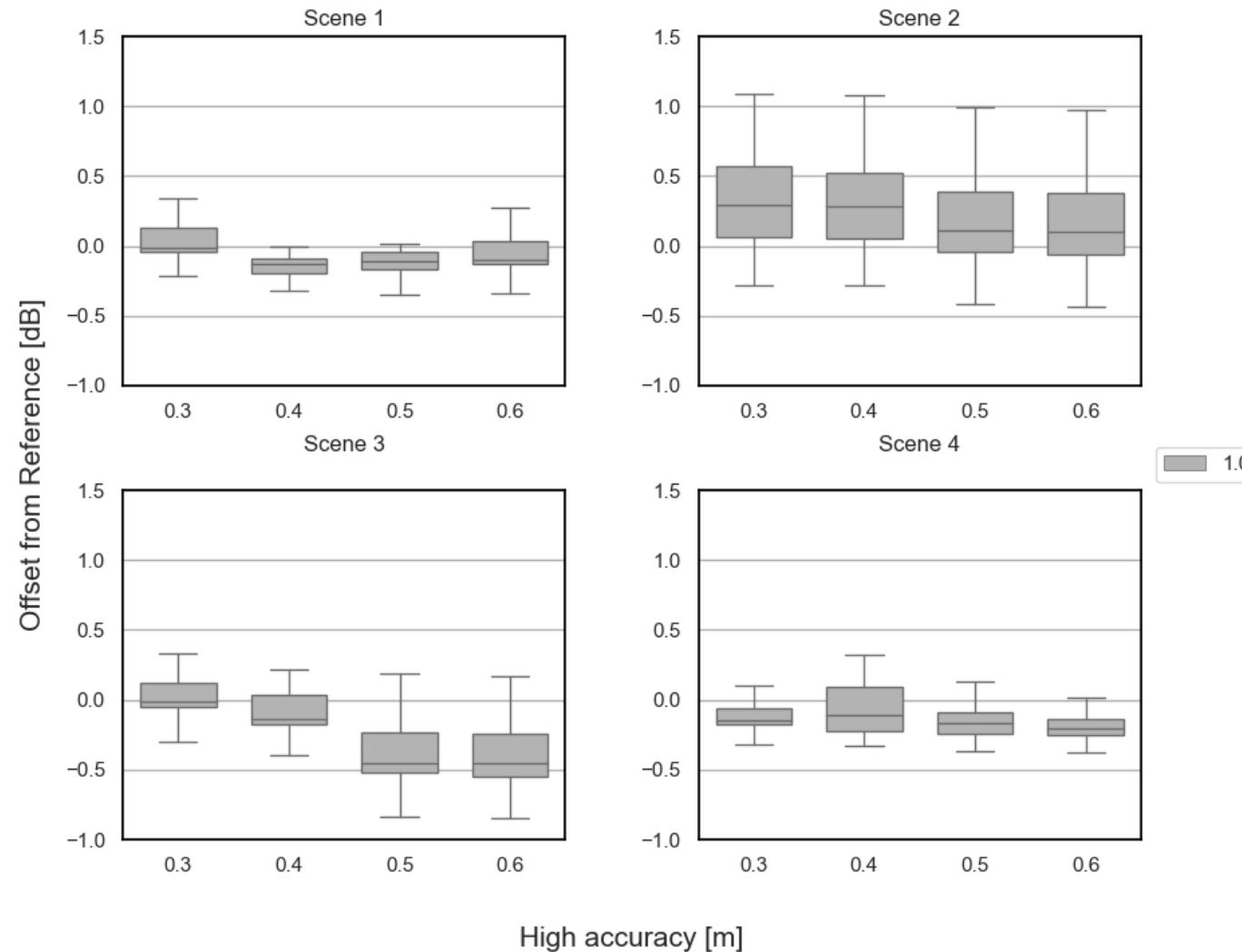
03

04

05

06

Error distribution Lden with reference Lden using a constrained terrain and constant receiver heights



01

# Noise calculations



# Verification

02

RMG

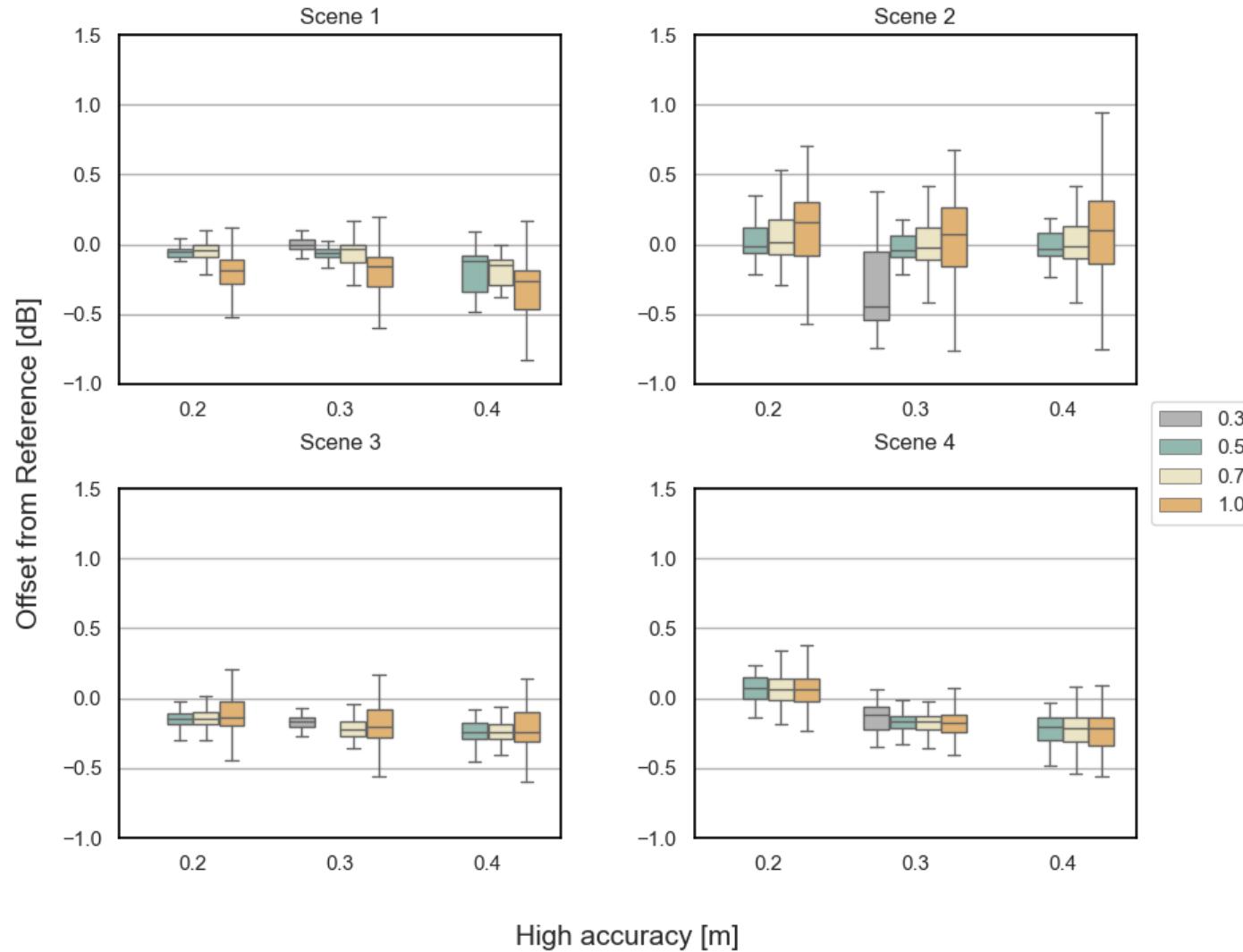
03

04

05

06

Error distribution Lden with reference Lden using a non-constrained terrain and constant receiver heights



01

# Noise calculations



02

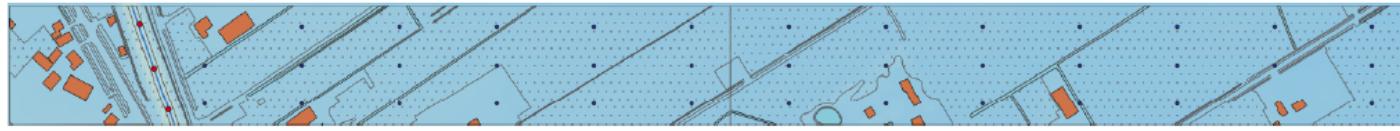
03

04

05

06

M



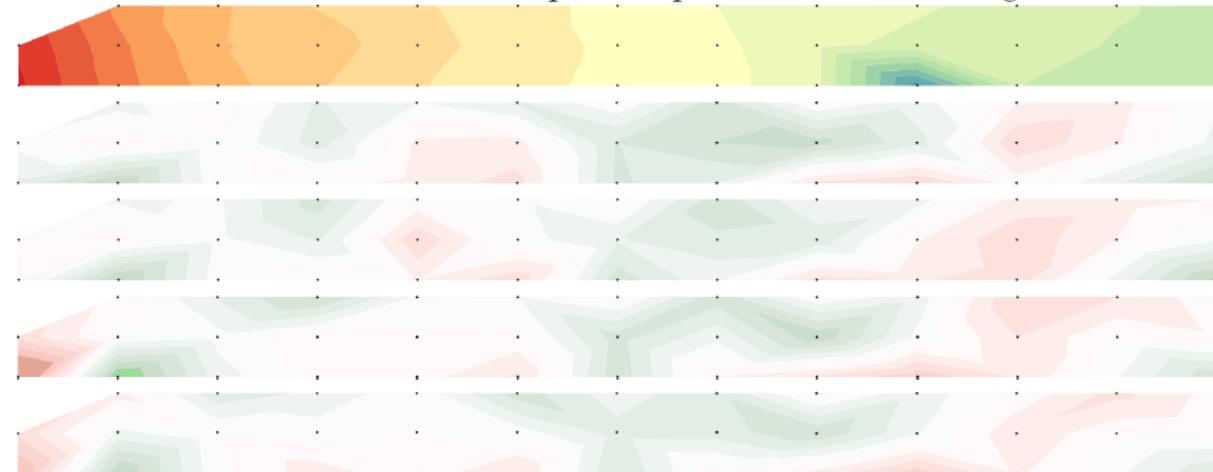
GeoMilieu according to RMG

O1



Conceptual implementation according to CNOSSOS

O2

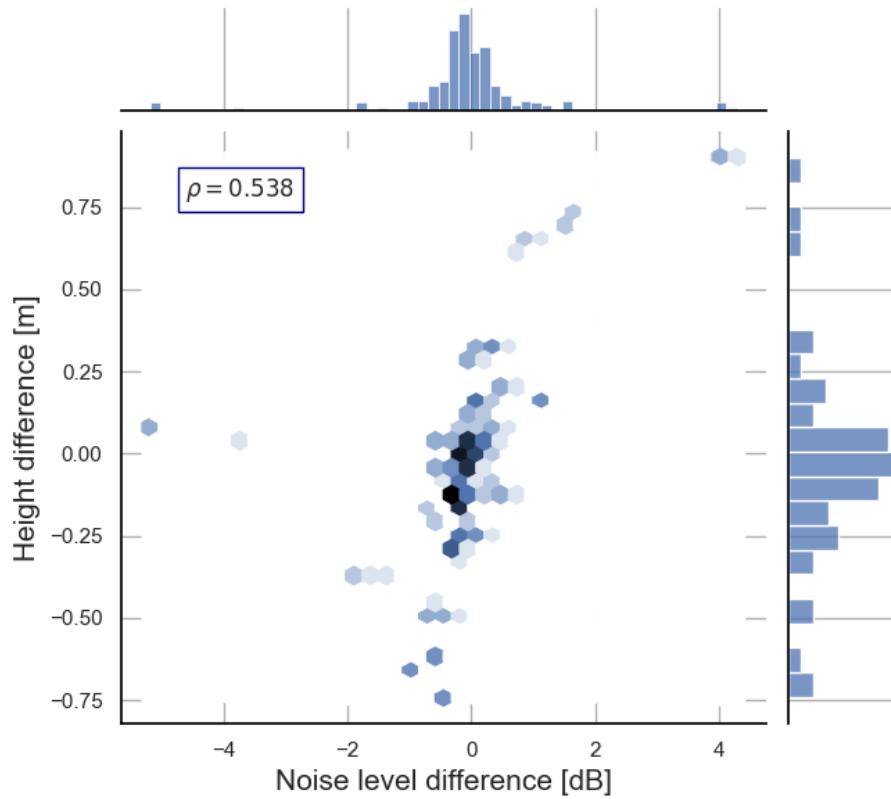


01

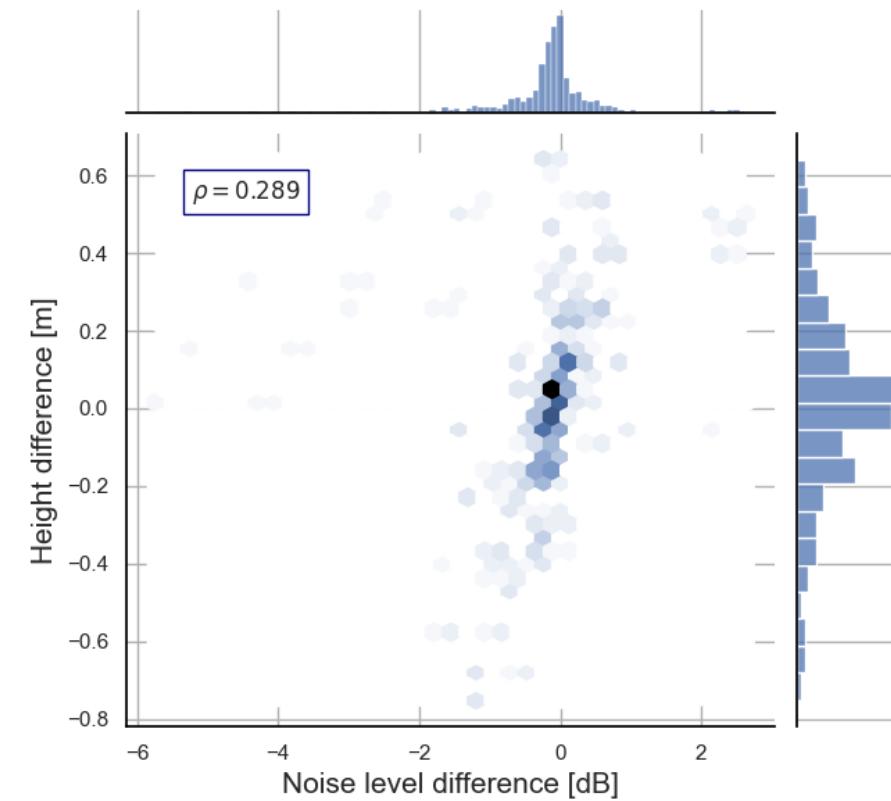
# Scatterplot scene 1



02



03



04

05

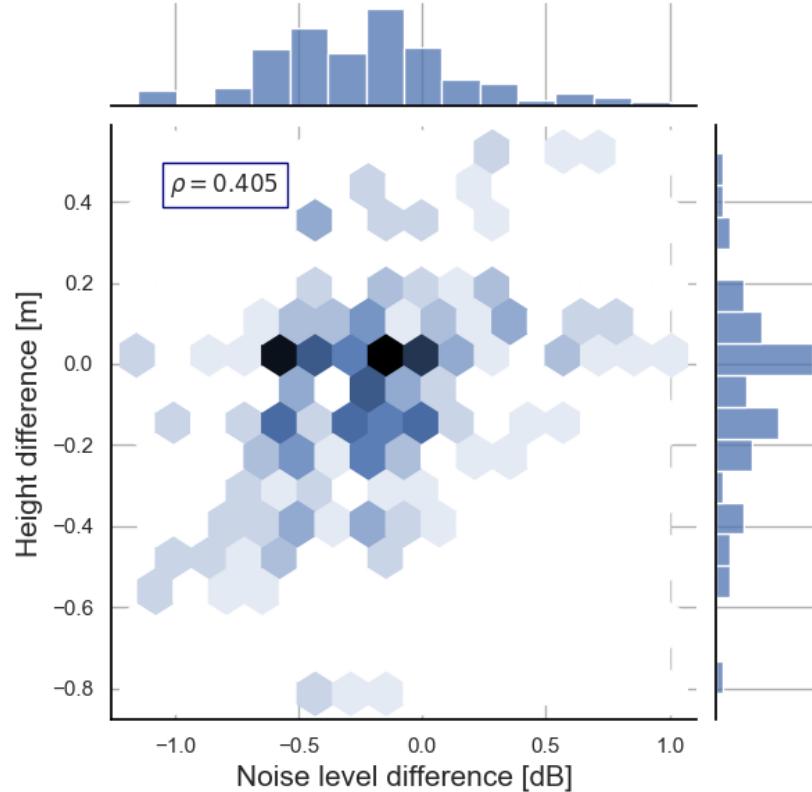
06

01

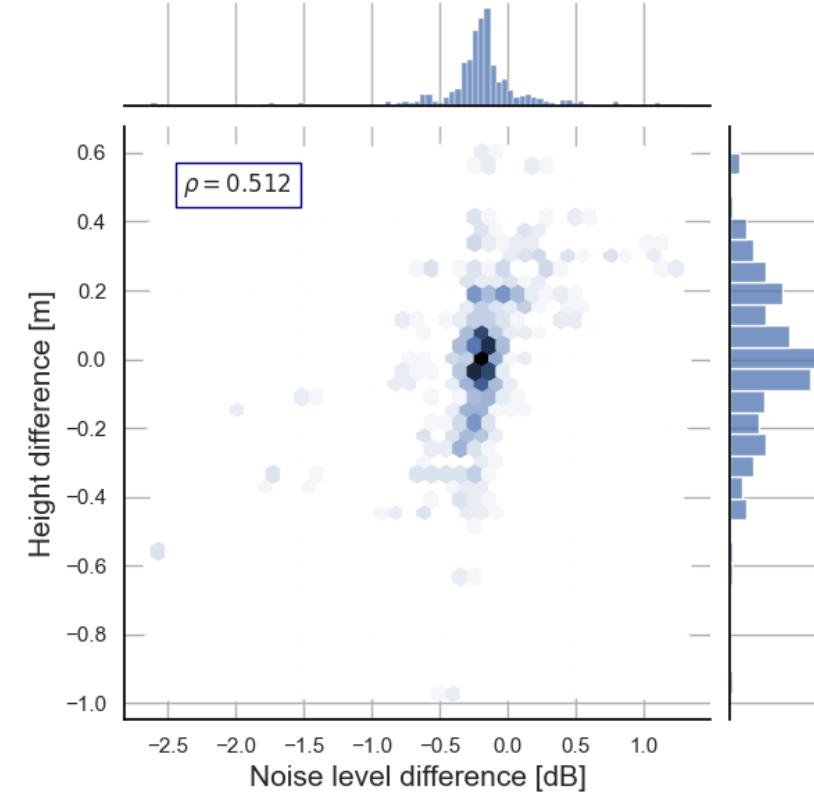
# Scatterplot scene 3



02



03



04

05

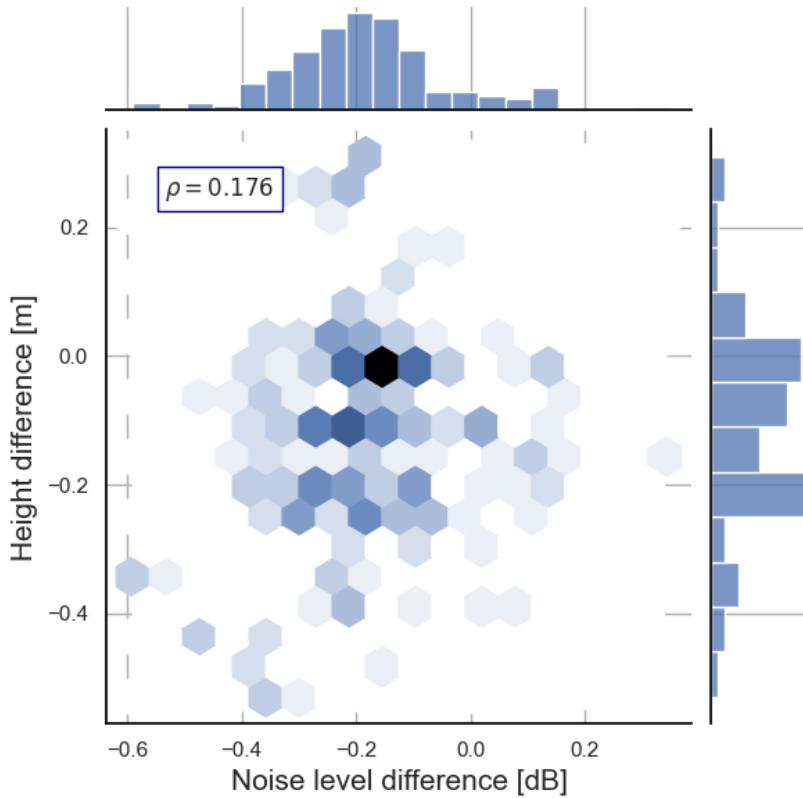
06

01

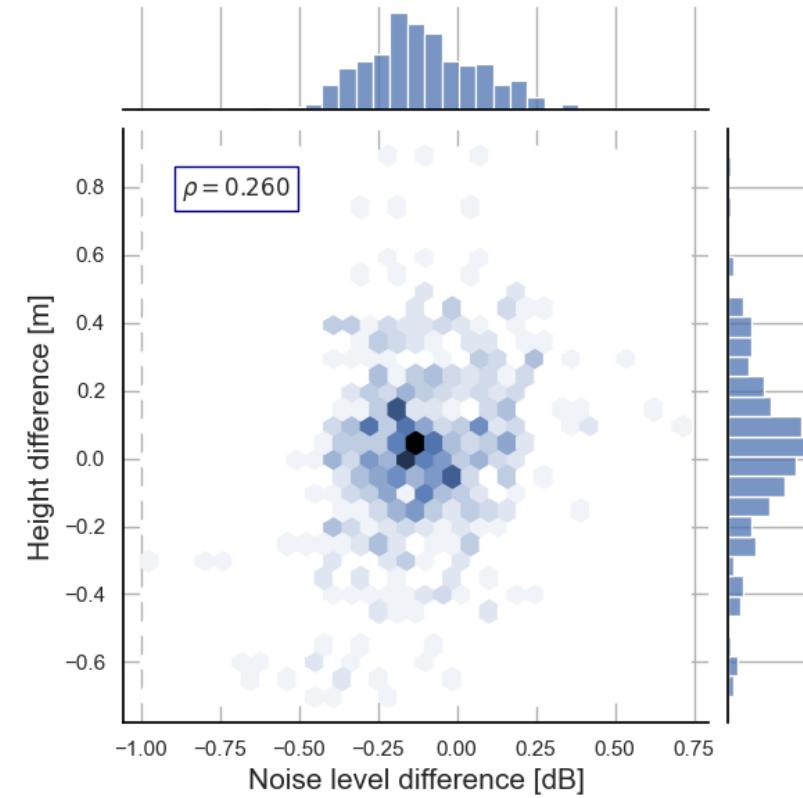
# Scatterplot scene 3



02



03



04

05

06