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Automatic Generation of Cartographic Features for Relief Presentation Based on LIDAR DEMs

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Finnish Geospatial Research Institute in the National Land Survey of Finland



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The National Topographic Database (NTDB)

- NTDB will be a digital, uniform spatial data reserve for Finland that meets the modern user requirements
- Group of projects carried out in cooperation with municipalities, other public administration and the private sector
- Here the focus is on automatic generation of topographic contour lines



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Why new topographic contours?

- Elevation reference system in Finland changed from N60 to N2000
- Web-map services set the need for multi-scale contours
- Enablers:
 - LIDAR data and NLS Elevation model 2m (NLS-DEM2) available from the whole country by 2019
 - Time to take the digital leap!



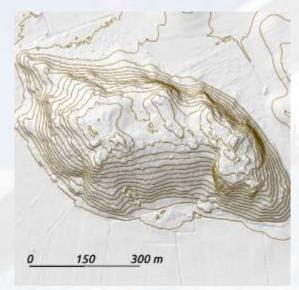


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Contour lines from the NLS-DEM2

• Contours directly generated from high resolution DEMs, such as the NLS-DEM2 are overly detailed and jagged.







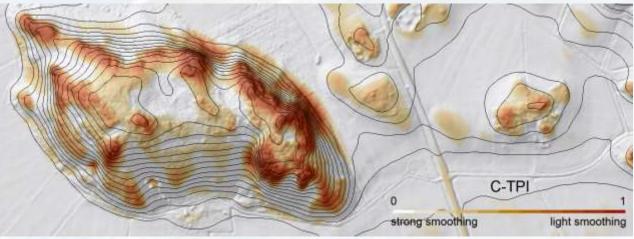


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Topographic position index (TPI)

- TPI can be used as an indicator of the level of filtering needed at different locations in a DEM.
- TPI is the difference between the value of a point and the mean value of its neighbours in a given radius around it.





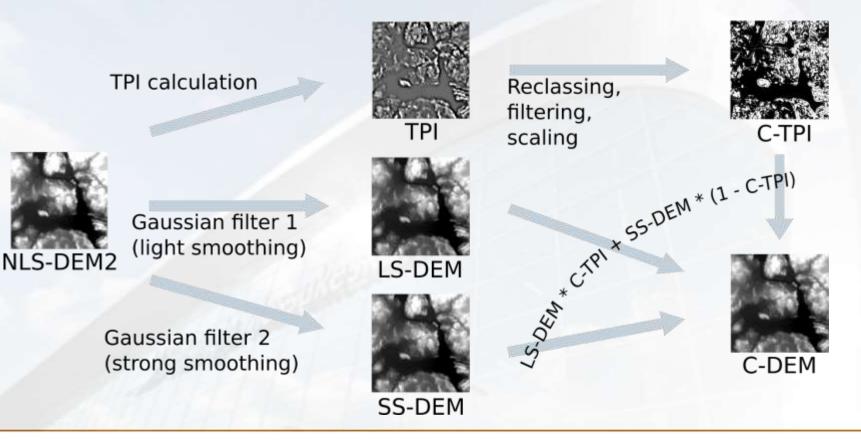


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DEM smoothing process







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Unfiltered





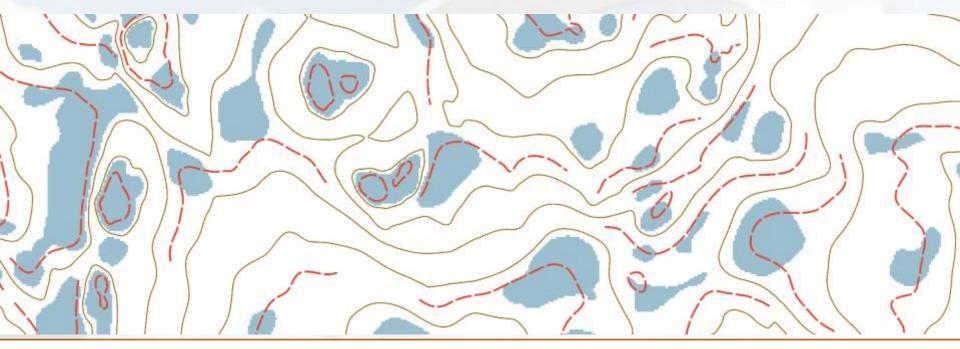


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Supplementary contours

• Supplementary contours are used only where surface forms between regular contours are unintuitive.







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Manual stereo-plotted contours (NLS TDB)

Our solution for automatically generated contours







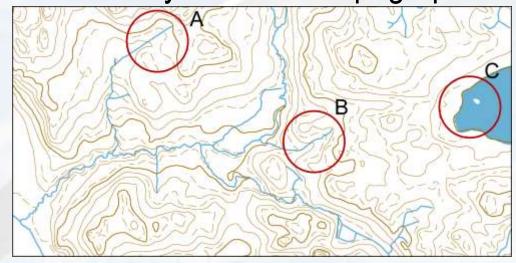
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Remaining challenges

- Improving the C-TPI.
- Contour refinement with vector generalization.
- Consistency with other topographic features.







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Thank you for your attention!

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