

Spoke 5: Environment & Natural Disasters

*"High-performance photogrammetry for hydro-geomorphological risk monitoring"*

# High-Performance computing in UAV photogrammetry

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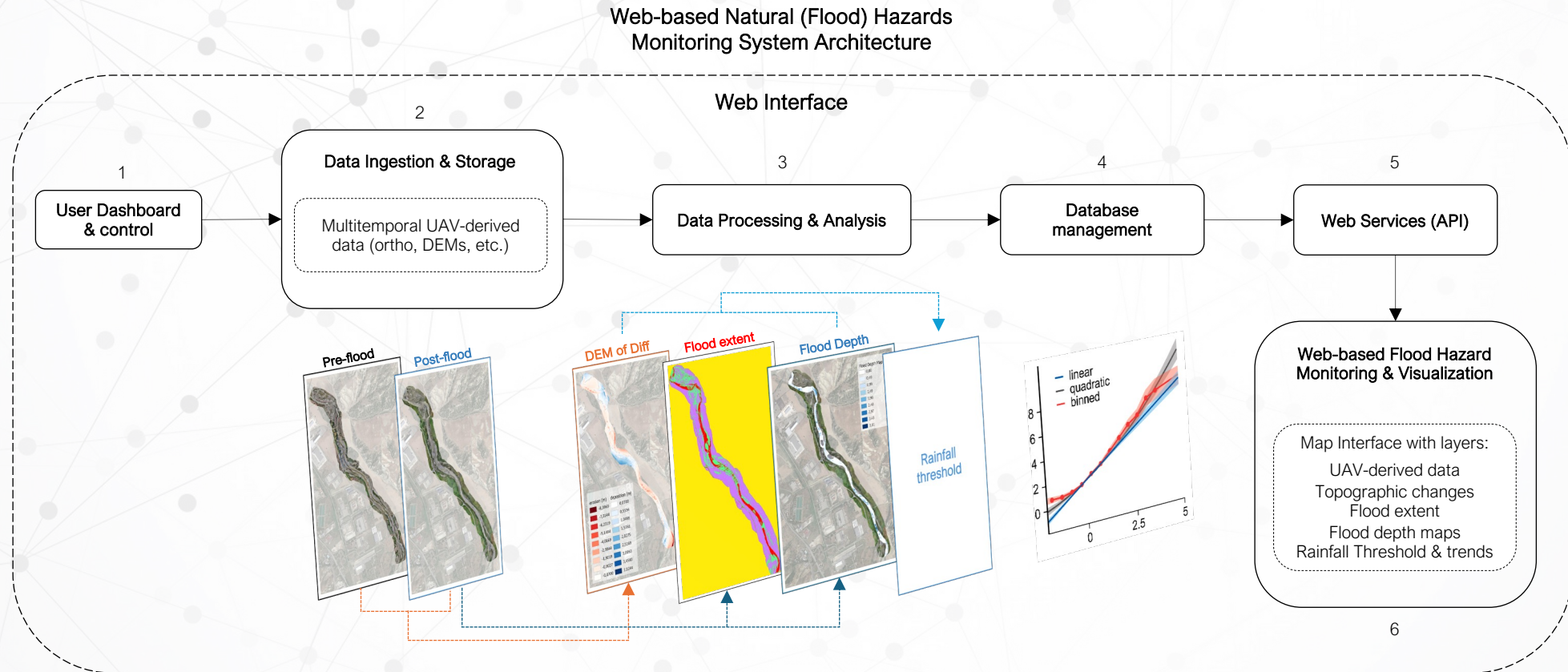
# Context

- The effects of climate changes (natural causes and anthropogenic activities) are increasing the frequency and magnitude of hazardous phenomena
- Development of new mapping techniques from Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Beyond-Visual-Line-Of-Sight, UAV swarm, some Artificial Intelligence)
- Collecting large datasets that limit the photogrammetric process due to high requirements for computing power, file size, data storage and processing time
- High-performance computing represents the key for running the Structure-from-Motion while keeping pace with the dynamic nature of natural processes



# Aims

- Development of a system based on a powerful, flexible and scalable architecture capable of processing and analyzing big datasets of UAV images, modeling in near-real time the topographic surface at the scale and extent at which natural processes act

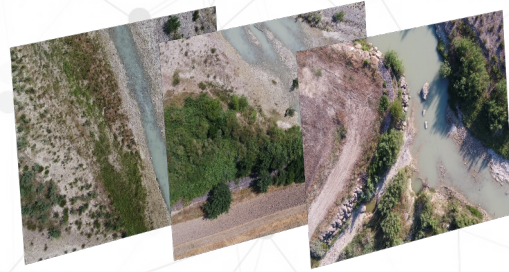


# Datasets

UAV multitemporal RGB images



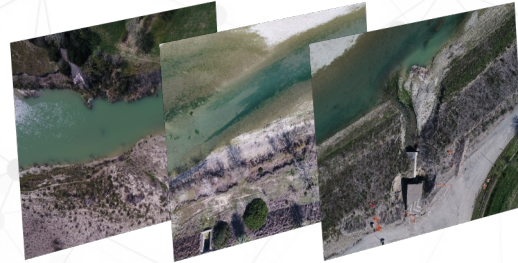
**DATASET 2019**  
3000 geotagged imgs  
JPEG format  
GSD 1.09 cm/pix  
Area covered 2000 x 320 m  
June 2019



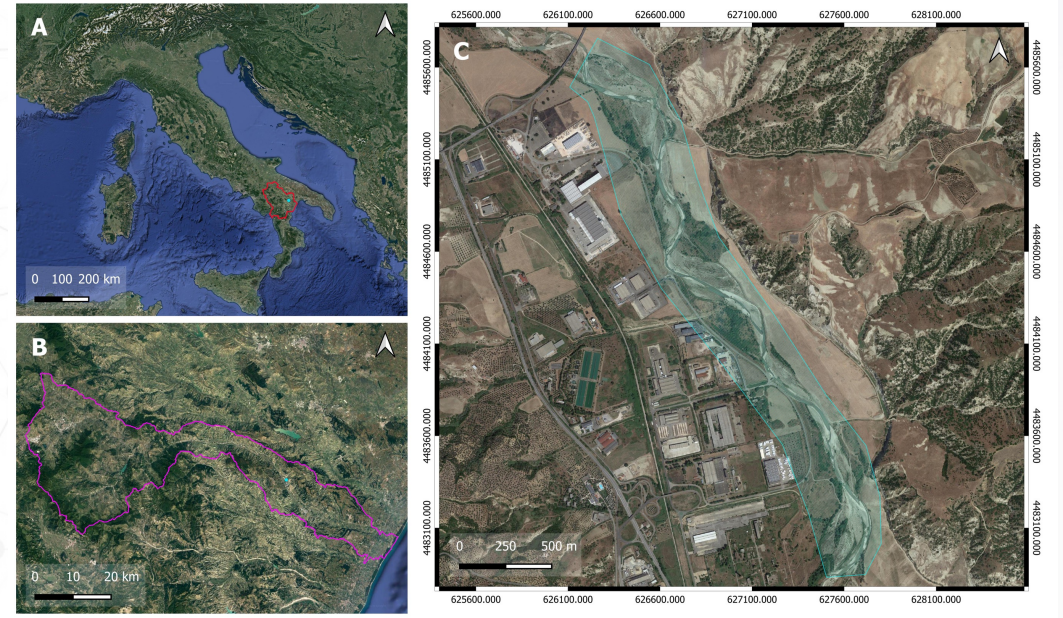
**DATASET 2020**  
3960 geotagged imgs  
JPEG format  
GSD 1.09 cm/pix  
Area covered 3000 x 320 m  
July 2020



**DATASET 2021**  
2691 geotagged imgs  
JPEG format  
GSD 1.09 cm/pix  
Area covered 2300 x 320 m  
October 2021



**DATASET 2022**  
1300 geotagged imgs  
JPEG format  
GSD 1.6 cm/pix  
Area covered 3000 x 320 m  
March 2022



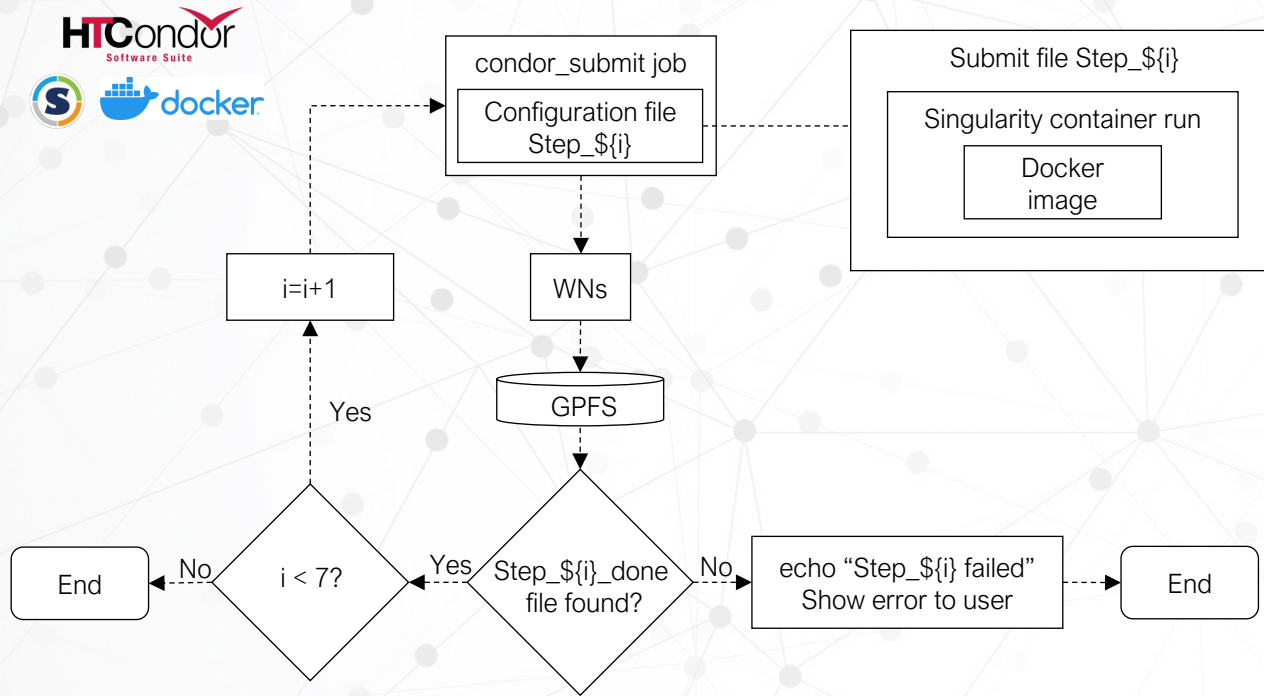
A) Location of study area; B) Basento river catchment area; C) River reach investigated



UAV survey using a DJI Inspire 2 equipped with DJI Zenmuse X5S optical sensor

# High-Performance photogrammetry

Batch script implementation



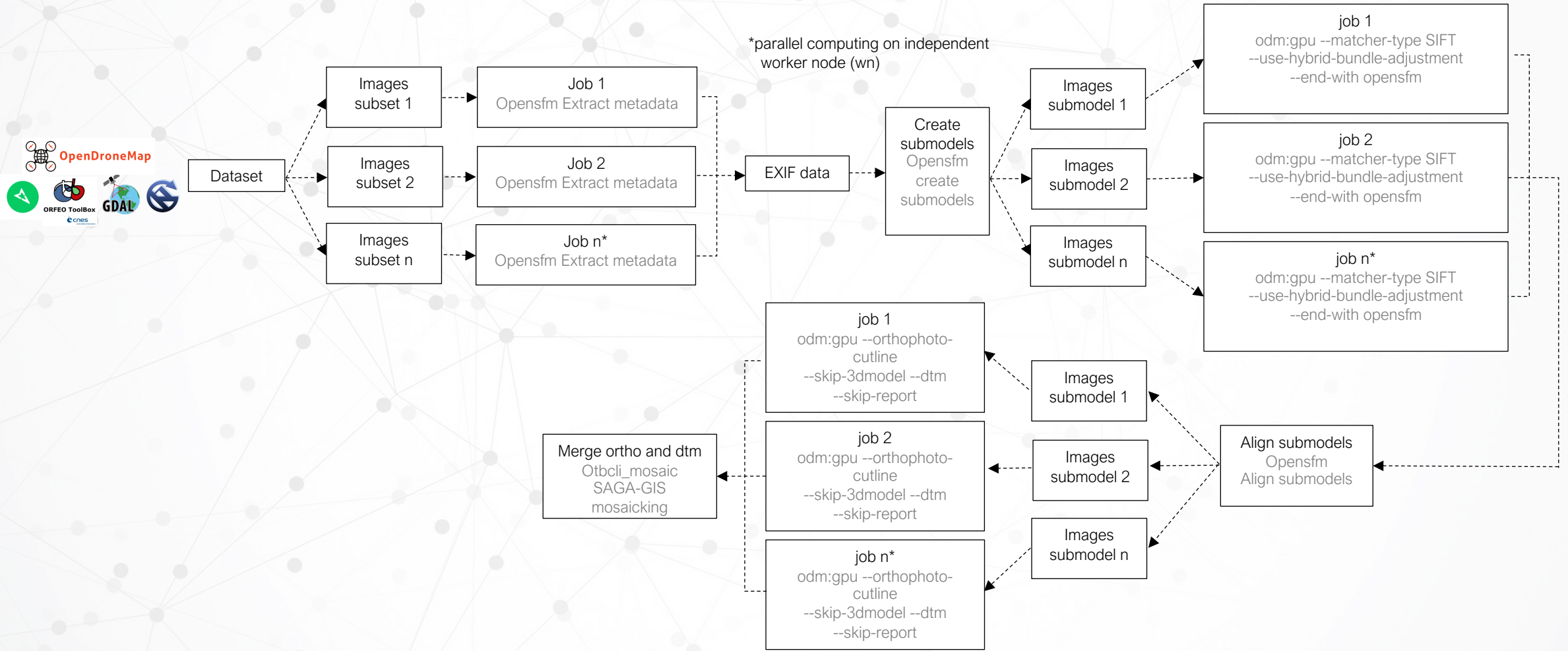
Automatic execution of the photogrammetric workflow on ReCaS cluster through HTCondor batch system



SERVER ROOM ReCaS-Bari  
(<https://magnanimo.it/progetti/terziario-ed-industria/infn---recas-bari.html>)

# High-Performance photogrammetry

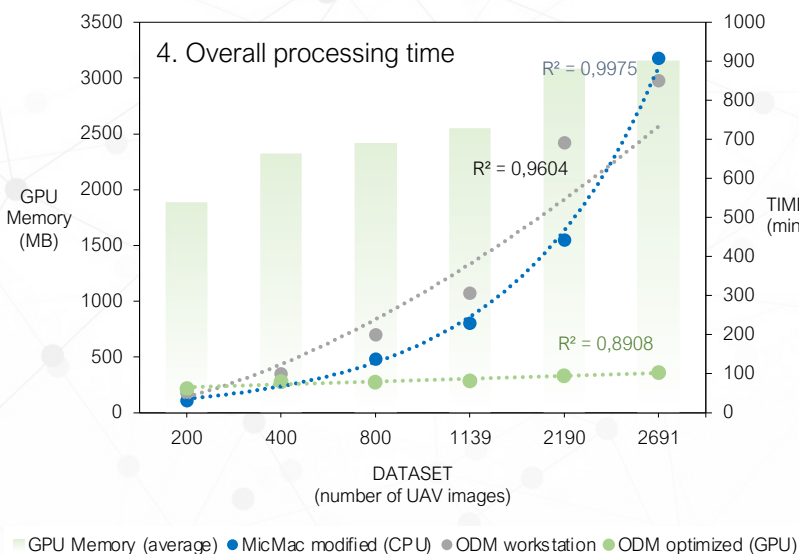
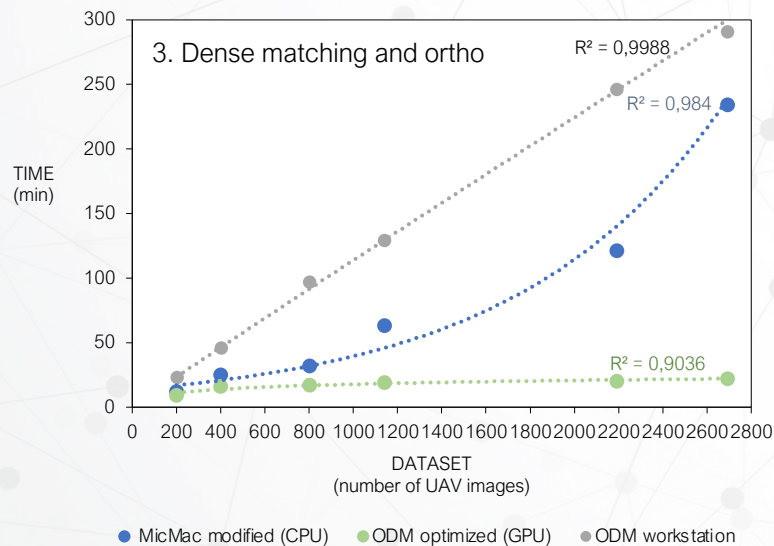
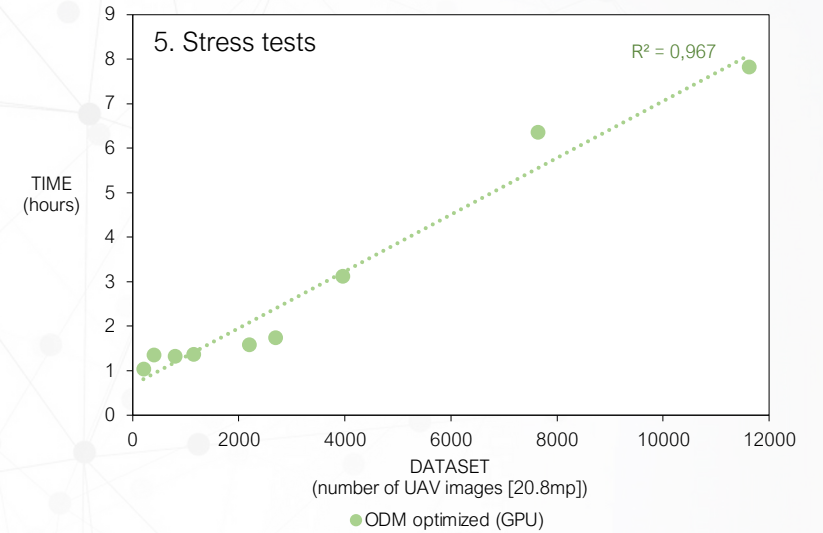
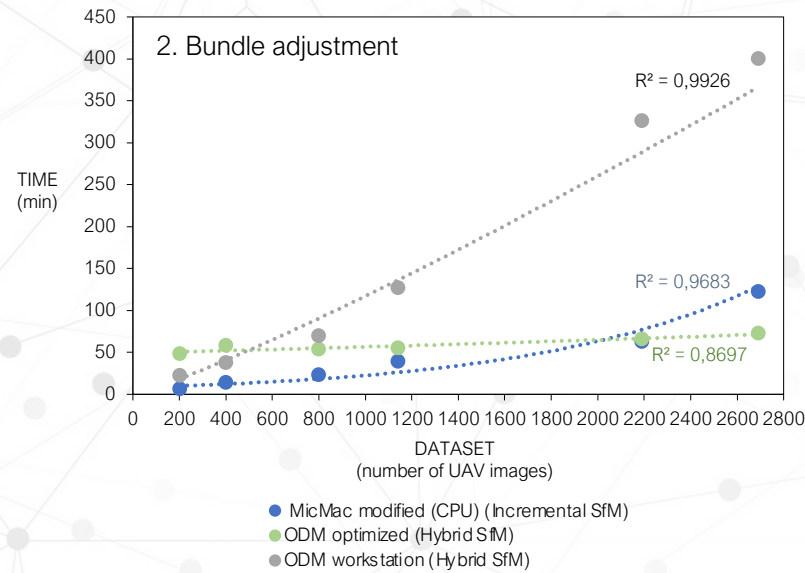
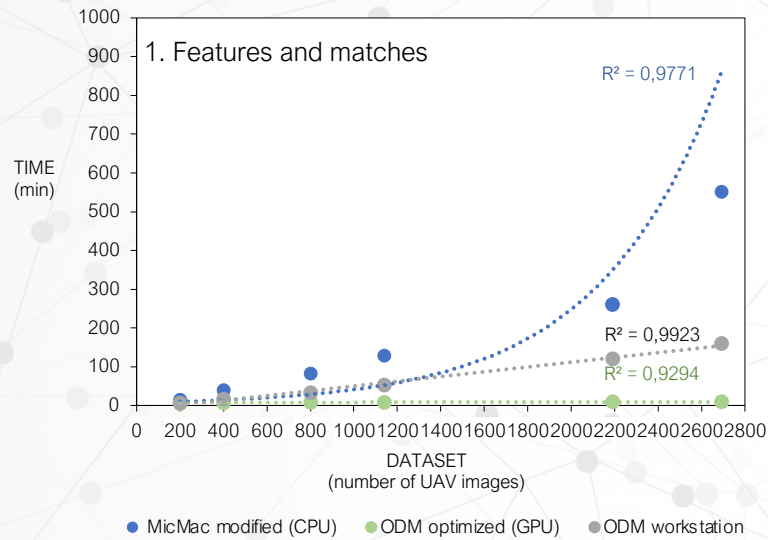
Structure-from-Motion workflow implementation



La Salandra, M., Nicotri, S., Donvito, G., Italiano, A., Colacicco, R., Miniello, G., Lapietra, I., Roseto, R., Dellino, P., Capolongo, D. (2024). A paradigm shift in processing large UAV image datasets for emergency management of natural hazards. *International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation* (under review).

# High-Performance photogrammetry

## Test results and performance evaluation



| Workflow                     | Servers (WN) | CPU (per WN) | RAM (per WN) | GPU (per WN) |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| ODM workstation <sup>1</sup> | 1            | 14           | 256 GB       | 48 GB        |
| MicMac modified <sup>2</sup> | 25           | 20           | 30 GB        | /            |
| ODM optimized <sup>3</sup>   | 25           | 20           | 30 GB        | 40 GB        |

<sup>1</sup> DELL single workstation

<sup>2</sup> ReCaS-Bari HTC cluster

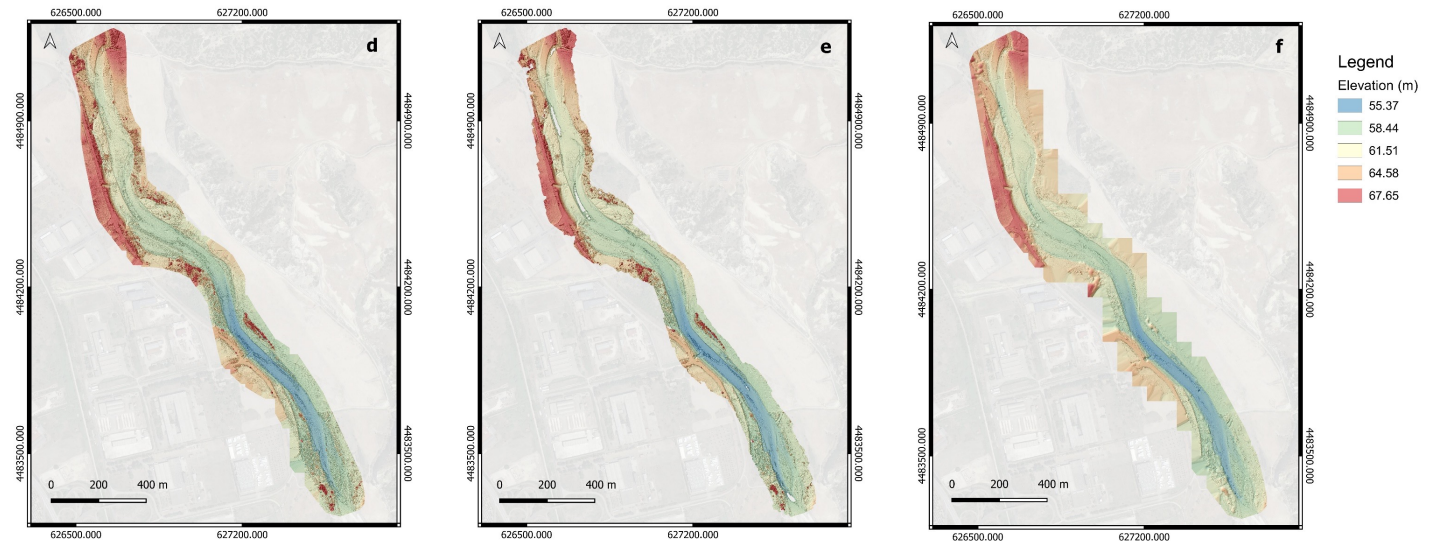
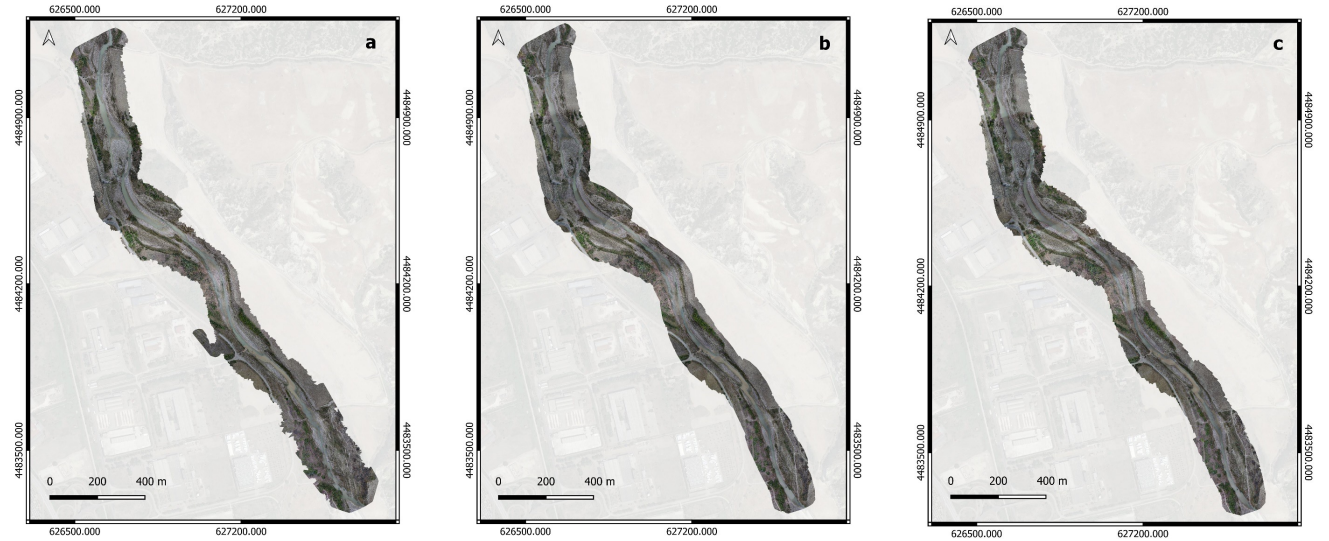
<sup>3</sup> ReCaS-Bari HPC cluster

# Output quality assessment

Pixel Intensity, Roughness and Positional accuracy

| Workflow        | Pixel Intensity ( $PI_{std}$ ) | Roughness ( $R_{std}$ ) | RMSE [m] |       |       |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|-------|-------|
|                 |                                |                         | X        | Y     | Z     |
| ODM workstation | 53.20                          | 0.43                    | 0.078    | 0.106 | 0.806 |
| MicMac modified | 55.53                          | 0.05                    | 0.052    | 0.092 | 0.813 |
| ODM optimized   | 53.42                          | 0.22                    | 0.031    | 0.023 | 0.767 |

Standard deviation values of pixel intensity ( $PI_{std}$ ), Roughness standard deviation ( $R_{std}$ ), and Root Mean Square Errors (RMSE) of the observed and ground truth values of Checkpoints, of the outputs derived by the dataset of 2,691 images.



Orthomosaics with 5 cm/pix resolution derived by a) ODM workstation, b) ODM optimized and c) MicMac modified workflow. DTMs with 10 cm/pix resolution derived by d) ODM workstation, e) ODM optimized and f) MicMac modified workflow.



# Take-home Message

- Improving the exploitation of GPU resources and the parallel distribution, it may be possible to push further toward a future real-time processing approach
- Stress test results demonstrate the overcoming of the complexity in processing large UAV image datasets, now the challenge translates into the ability to collect such large datasets
- The implemented high-performance workflow has the potential to serve as a pivotal tool to address critical challenges identified in the field of natural hazards management



# DRONSE

mapping the future with drone intelligence

**Drone Sensing** is a Laboratory as part of  **GeoSciencesIR**

Project funded by PNRR – European Union – NextGenerationEU – Mission 4 “Education and Research” – Component 2 “From Research to Business” – Investment 3.1 “Fund for the realization of an integrated system of research and innovation infrastructures”

<https://dronselab.com/>