

# Towards the predictive simulation of high-mountain landslide cascades

**Martin Mergili and Shiva P. Pudasaini**

Institute of Applied Geology, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Vienna, Austria | Department of Geography and Regional Research, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria | Institute of Geosciences, Geophysics Section, University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany

Challenges

Solutions?

Preliminary results

Conclusions

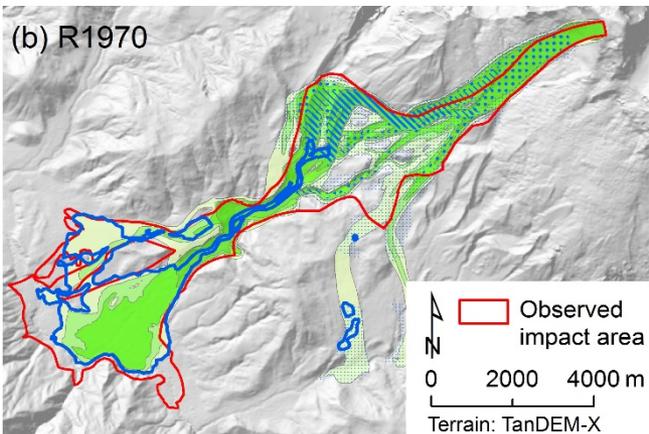
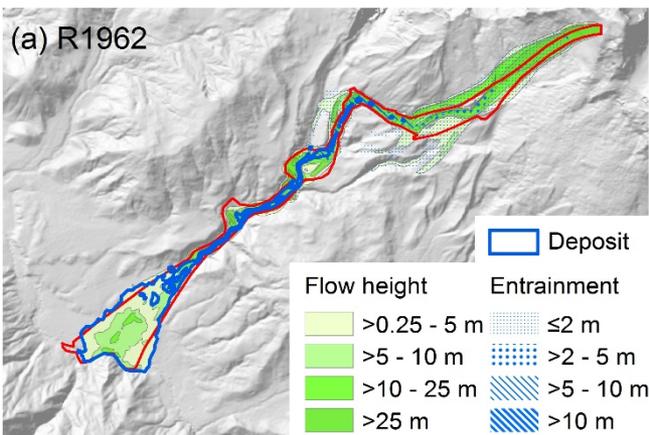
Perspectives

- **Complex landslide processes can be successfully back-calculated with the r.avaflow computational tool**  
(<https://www.avaflow.org>) Mergili et al. (2017, GMD), Pudasaini and Mergili (2019, JGR ES)

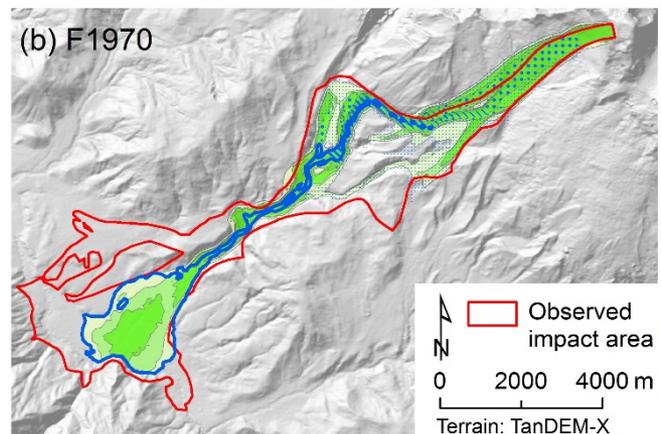
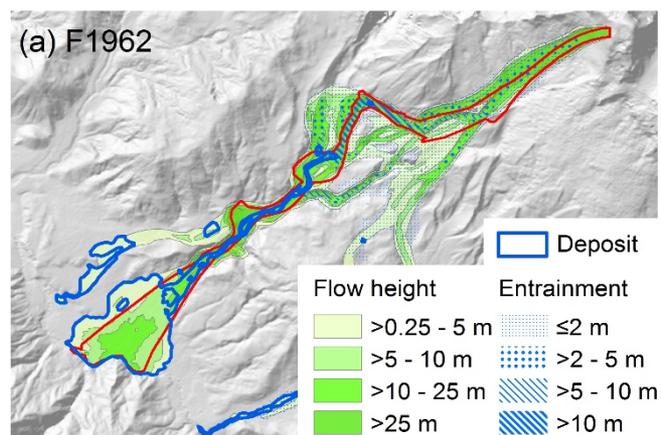
| Year Place   | Description   | Reference                            |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| 2012 Santa Cruz Valley<br>(Cordillera Blanca, Perú)  | Multi-lake outburst flood involving three lakes and the entrainment of a large amount of sediment, starting from a landslide from a moraine               | Mergili et al. (2018, ESPL)          |
| 1962 and 1970 Huascarán<br>(Cordillera Blanca, Perú) | Debris-mud-ice avalanches starting as rock-ice falls, entrainment of snow, ice, and debris, extremely high velocity and runout distance                   | Mergili et al. (2018, Geomorphology) |
| 1941 Quilcay Valley<br>(Cordillera Blanca, Perú)     | Sudden drainage of Lake Palcacocha (breach of moraine dam), complex flow downstream leading to the drainage of another lake and excessive channel erosion | Mergili et al. (2020, HESS)          |
| 2017 Piz Cengalo – Bondo<br>(Switzerland)            | Initial rock slide-rock fall, entrainment and melting of glacier ice, resulting rock avalanche evolving into debris flow                                  | Mergili et al. (2020, NHESS)         |
| 1967 Steinholtisdalur<br>(Iceland)                   | Rock slide onto a glacier, entrainment of ice and drainage of proglacial lake, distal flood   | Gylfadóttir et al. (2019, EGU)       |

- **However, the transfer to forward simulations or predictive simulations remains a challenge**

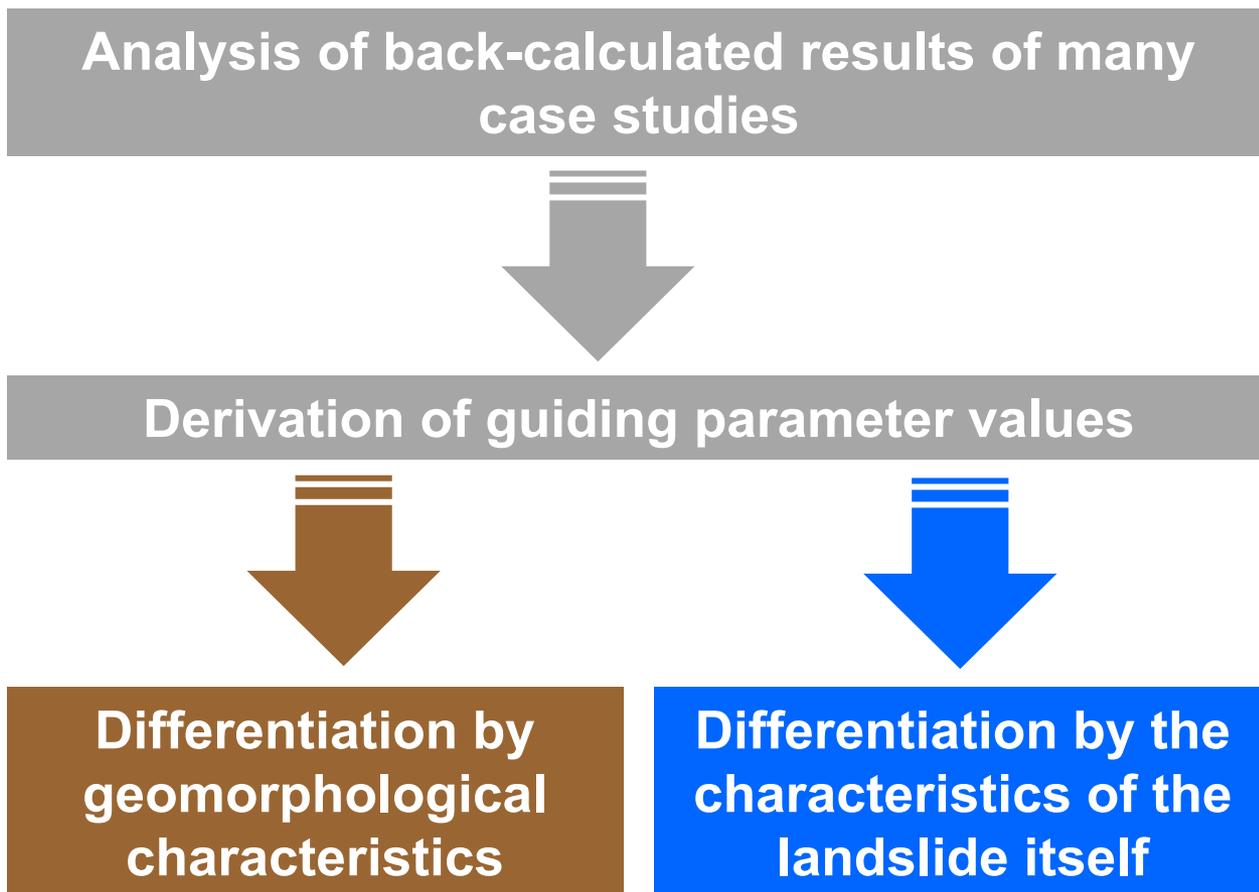
## Successful back-calculations



## Failed forward calculations

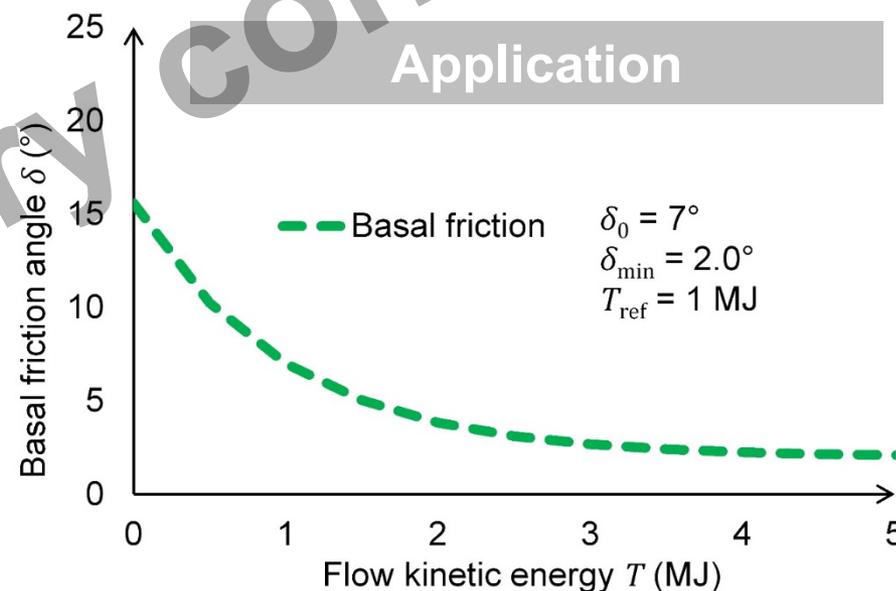
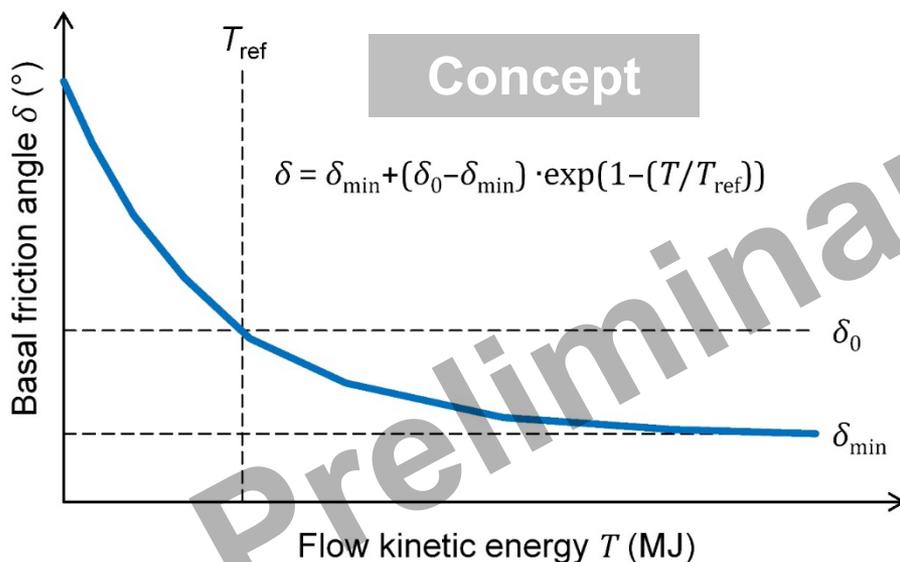


Mergili et al. (2018, Geomorphology)

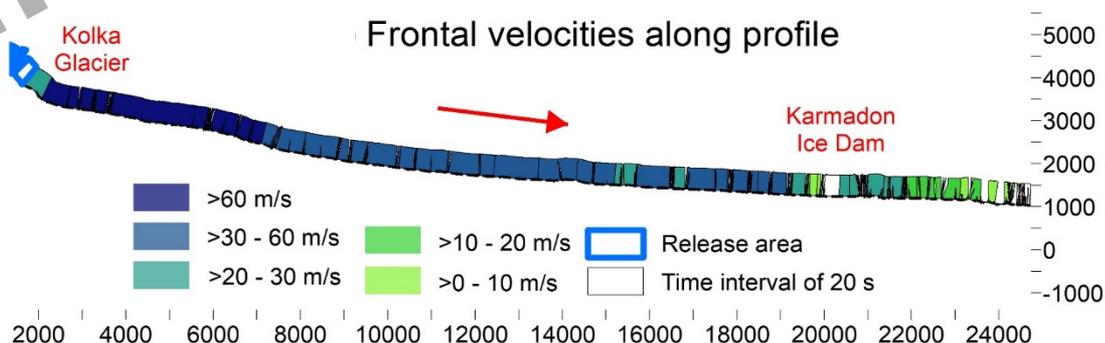
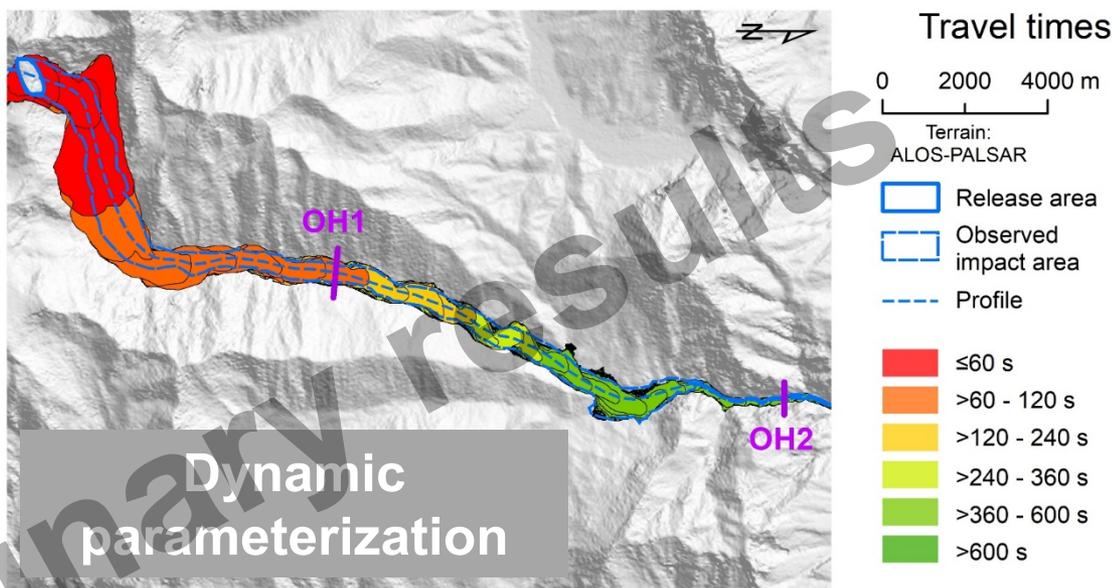
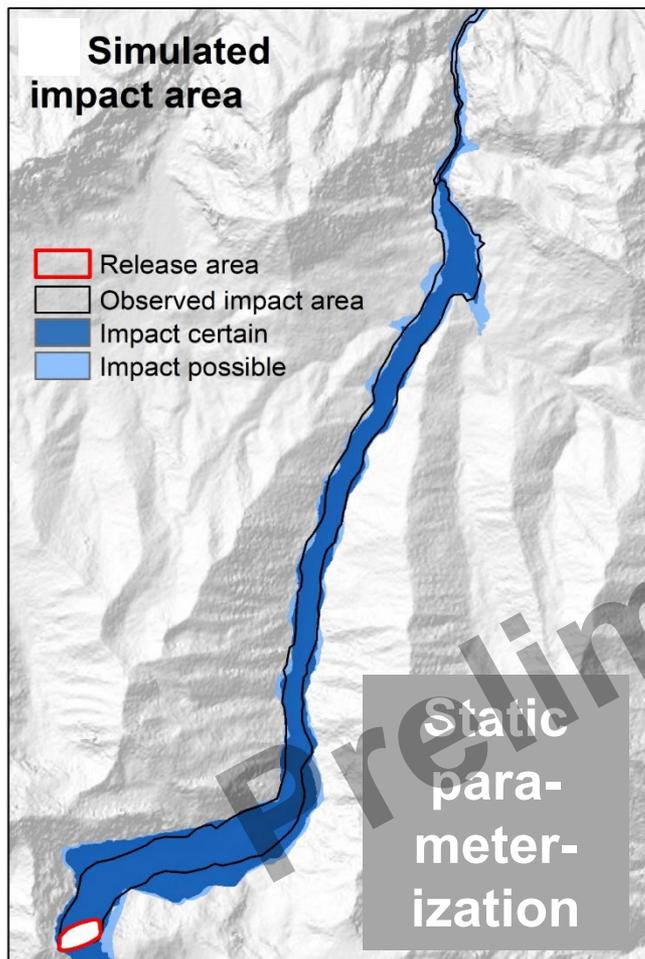


|   | Class   | $\delta$                 | $C_{AD}$           | $C_{FF}$                 | $C_E$ (d)    | $C_E$ (i)  |
|---|---|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------|------------|
| A | Steep mountain slope, fall-like movement of rock and/or ice | 2, 13, 16, 20            | 0.01*, 0.1, 0.2    | 0–0.00025, 0.0005        |              |            |
| B | Rock(-ice) avalanche over glacier                           | 5, 6, 6, 8               | 0.005*, 0.01, 0.02 | 0–0.00025, 0.001, 0.0005 |              | -6.5, -8.2 |
| C | Rock(-ice) avalanche over debris slope                      | 5–8, 10                  | 0.005*             | 0–0.0001                 | -8.0 – -6.5  |            |
| D | Channelized high-energy flow of debris, mud, and/or ice     | 2–5                      | 0.001*             | 0–0.00025                |              |            |
| E | Channelized debris flow                                     | 8–20, 20, 12, 7, 16 (11) | 0.04, 0.005*, 0.01 | 0, 0.004, 0.0005         | -6.75, -7.15 |            |
| F | Channelized water-dominated flow                            | 8–20, 0, 12, 7, 16 (11)  | 0.04, 0.005*, 0.01 | 0, 0.004, 0.0005         | -7.15        |            |
| G | Flow through narrow gorge                                   | 20                       | 0.04               | 0.5                      |              |            |
| H | Flow spreading on debris cone                               | 8                        | 0.001*             | 0.00025                  |              |            |

## Dynamic adaptation of friction to flow kinetic energy



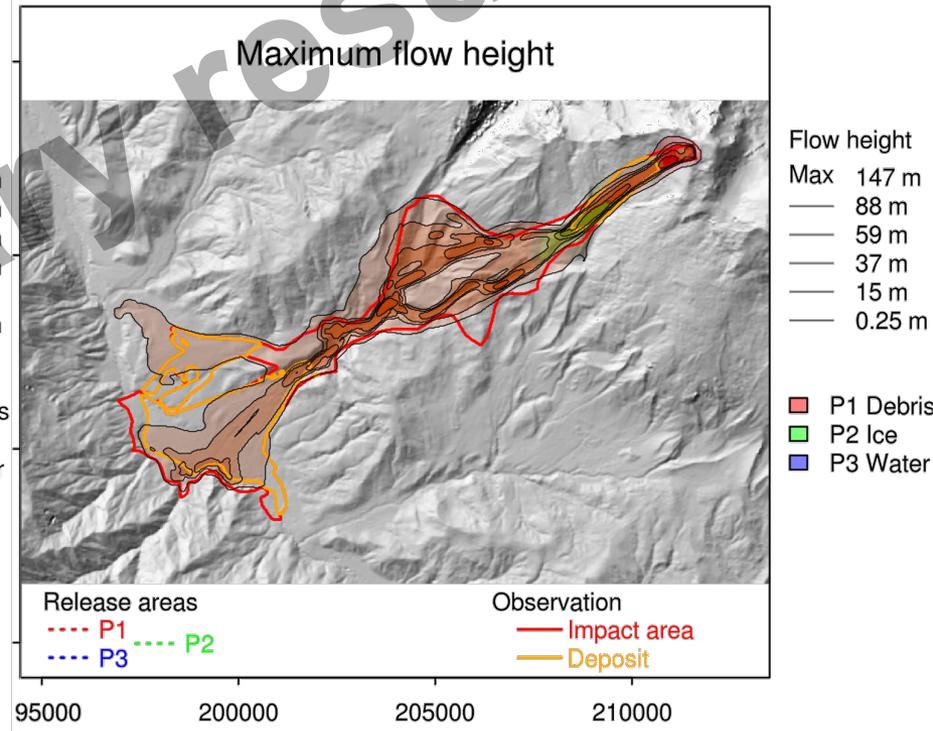
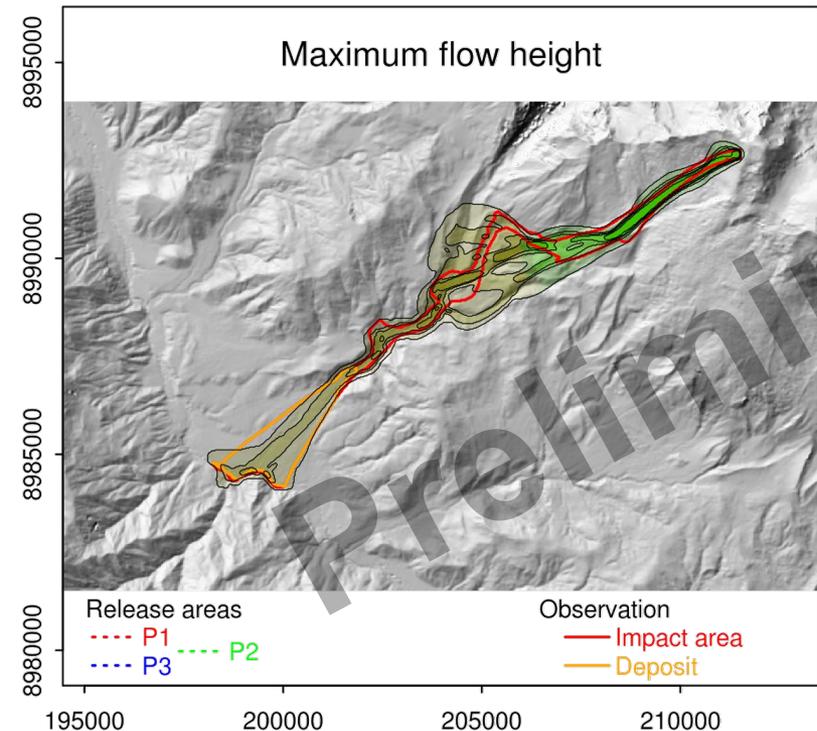
## Kolka-Karmadon 2002



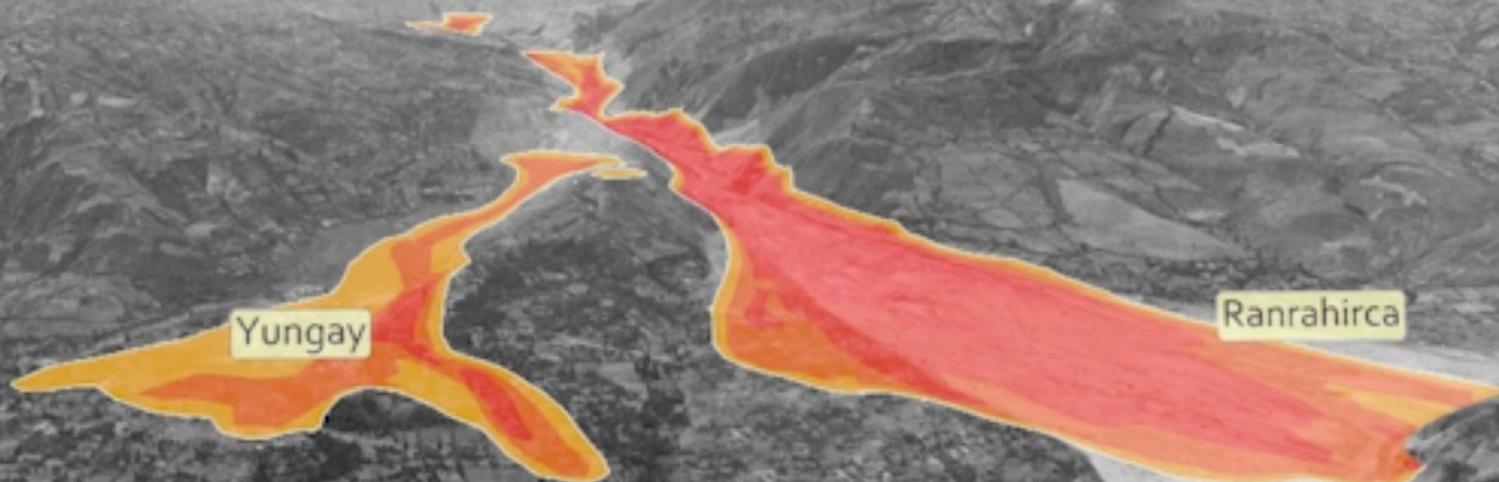
## Huascarán 1962

## Huascarán 1970

### Dynamic parameterization



- First results are promising – both the static and the dynamic parameterization of predictive simulations yield plausible results for the two test cases
- Parameter constraints and function for dynamic adaptation of friction have to be refined
- More back-calculations are necessary to make the guiding parameters more reliable
- **Testing, testing, testing ...**



# Thank You for your participation!

[martin.mergili@boku.ac.at](mailto:martin.mergili@boku.ac.at)