Dome growth, collapse, and valley fill at Soufrière Hills Volcano, Montserrat, from 1995 to 2013: Contributions from satellite radar measurements of topographic change

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ABSTRACT

Frequent high-resolution measurements of topography at active volcanoes can provide important information for assessing the distribution and rate of emplacement of volcanic deposits and their influence on hazard. At dome-building volcanoes, monitoring techniques such as LiDAR and photogrammetry often provide a limited view of the area affected by the eruption. Here, we show the ability of satellite radar observations to image the lava dome and pyroclastic density current deposits that resulted from 15 years of eruptive activity at Soufrière Hills Volcano, Montserrat, from 1995 to 2010. We present the first geodetic measurements of the complete subaerial deposition field on Montserrat, including the lava dome. Synthetic aperture radar observations from the Advanced Land Observation Satellite (ALOS) and TanDEM-X mission are used to map the distribution and magnitude of elevation changes. We estimate a net dense-rock equivalent volume increase of 108 ± 15M m³ of the lava dome and 300 ± 220M m³ of talus and subaerial pyroclastic density current deposits. We also show variations in deposit distribution during different phases of the eruption, with greatest on-land deposition to the south and west, from 1995 to 2005, and the thickest deposits to the west and north after 2005. We conclude by assessing the potential of using radar-derived topographic measurements as a tool for monitoring and hazard assessment during eruptions at dome-building volcanoes.

1. INTRODUCTION

At active volcanoes, the rate of lava effusion acts as both an indicator of the state of the subsurface magma system and influence on the style and distribution of erupted material.

At basaltic systems, effusion rate is one of the main controls of lava flow extent (e.g., Walker, 1973; Harris et al., 2007), while at andesitic domes, it controls the extrusion style and the effusive-explosive transition (Gregg and Fink, 1996; Fink and Griffiths, 1998; Watts et al., 2002; Hutchison et al., 2013). In steady state, lava effusion rate can constrain the volume and pressure change of shallow magma reservoirs (e.g., Dvorak and Dzurisin, 1993; Harris et al., 2003, 2007; Anderson and Segall, 2011), while long-lived volcanic eruptions are often characterized by temporal variations in effusion rate or pauses in lava extrusion, which may be related to changes in the volcanic plumbing system or deeper magma supply (e.g., Sparks et al., 1998; Watts et al., 2002; Harris et al., 2003; Ebmeier et al., 2012; Wadge et al., 2014a; Poland, 2014; Naranjo et al., 2016).

Lava effusion rate is one of the more difficult eruption parameters to measure, even at well-monitored volcanoes (e.g., Wright et al., 2001; Poland, 2014). Field measurements require specific conditions, such as molten lava flowing in a confined channel or lava, and provide instantaneous local lava flux measurements that may not reflect the longer-term effusion rate (e.g., Lipman and Banks, 1987; Kauahikaua et al., 1998; Wright et al., 2001), while satellite measurements of heat flux can be used to estimate a time-averaged effusion rate (see Harris et al., 2007, for a review). However, this technique needs cloud-free satellite imagery, which may not be available and requires lava extent to be limited by cooling rather than topography (e.g., Harris et al., 2007; Ebmeier et al., 2012).

Topography is a major influence on hazard from eruptive products at active volcanoes (e.g., Guest and Murray, 1979; Blong, 1984; Cashman and Sparks, 2013), because local slope is a primary control for gravitationally driven flows, such as lava flows, pyroclastic density currents (PDCs), and lahars, influencing flow direction and velocity (e.g., Walker, 1973; Druitt, 1998; Carrivick et al., 2008). At active lava domes, rockfalls and PDCs are generated primarily in the direction of dome growth (Watts et al., 2002), and more generally, where the addition of new volcanic material causes a topographic slope to become over-steepened, this can lead to an increased risk of landslide, rockfall, and sector collapse (e.g., Montgomery, 2001). The infilling of valleys with volcanic deposits increases the probability of secondary lahars generation during heavy rainfall (e.g., van Westen and Daag, 2005; Guzzetti et al., 2007).

The availability of up-to-date, high-resolution maps of the topography is therefore important both for hazard mitigation as well as improving volcano...
mass budgets and scientific understanding of volcanic processes. Knowledge of the direction volcanic flows are likely to travel and the ability to model their likely extent are greatly improved at volcanoes where a high-resolution digital elevation model (DEM) is available (e.g., Stevens et al., 2003; Hubbard et al., 2007; Huggel et al., 2008), and comparing changes in topography over time can provide an estimate of the volume of erupted products, which may be used to estimate a time-averaged effusion rate (e.g., Lu et al., 2003; Harris et al., 2007; Ebmeier et al., 2012; Poland, 2014; Xu and Jónsson, 2014; Albino et al., 2015; Kubanek et al., 2015a, 2015b; Naranjo et al., 2016).

We chose Soufrière Hills Volcano, Montserrat, to investigate changes in topography due to a long-lived, dome-building eruption. We use satellite radar observations to constrain topographic changes due to the eruption, which allows us to track the location and thickness of deposits across the whole island during the 1995–2010 eruption. Recent work has shown the benefit of satellite-based radar observations at volcanoes, both for monitoring purposes and for improving the understanding of surface and subsurface processes (e.g., Dietterich et al., 2012; Sparks et al., 2012; Biggs et al., 2014; Salzer et al., 2014; Pinel et al., 2014). The 1995–2010 eruption of Soufrière Hills Volcano has been particularly well studied using a wide variety of techniques, which enables us to assess the relative advantages and disadvantages of using satellite geodesy specifically for topographic measurements at active volcanoes.

2. BACKGROUND

Soufrière Hills Volcano, Montserrat, is a Peléean lava dome complex that has been erupting intermittently since 18 July 1995. At the time of writing, despite the lack of lava extrusion since 11 February 2010, it is not clear that the eruption sequence has ended due to high SO2 flux (Wadge et al., 2014a). The eruption so far has been characterized by five extrusive phases lasting up to three years separated by months to years of quiescence (Fig. 1C) (Wadge et al., 2014a). Activity is characterized by lava dome growth and collapse, with Vulcanian explosions and PDCs (Sparks and Young, 2002). Wadge et al. (2014a and references therein) provide a more detailed description of recent activity at Soufrière Hills Volcano.

![Figure 1](https://example.com/figure1.png)

**Figure 1.** (A) Hill-shaded digital elevation model of the pre-eruptive topography of Montserrat. Major drainage pathways are shown in yellow: Belham River Valley (BRV), Tyers Ghaut (TYG), Mosquito Ghaut (MG), Paradise Ghaut (PG), Tuitt’s Ghaut (TUG), White’s Ghaut (WG), Tar River Valley (TRV), Fort Ghaut (FG), Spring Ghaut (SG), Gingoes Ghaut (GG), White River (WR). Key topographic features are labeled: Garibaldi Hill (GH), St. George’s Hill (SGH), Chances Peak (CP), Gage’s Mountain (GM). Yellow dot shows location of reference pixel used in InSAR processing. (B) Regional map of the northern Lesser Antilles. Blue rectangle shows the area covered by ALOS ascending track 118, frame 320. Red rectangle shows the area covered by TanDEM-X ascending track 104. Yellow star shows the location of Soufrière Hills Volcano. (C) Timeline of summit elevation changes during the eruption (modified from Wadge et al., 2014a). Red bars show phases of extrusive activity, while white bars are periods of quiescence. Black dashed lines show partial dome collapse events.
The topography has changed markedly over 15 years of lava extrusion. The height of the lava dome has varied by >400 m (Wadge et al., 2014a) (Fig. 1C), and some valleys radiating outward from the volcano have been infilled by >100 m of new material (Wadge et al., 2010, 2011). Previous large dome collapse events at Soufrière Hills Volcano (>10M m³) have only occurred when the summit of the lava dome is greater than 950 m above sea level (asl) (Wadge et al., 2010). The summit of the current lava dome has been 1083 m asl since the end of Phase 5 in February 2010 (Stinton et al., 2014); therefore, there remains a possibility of large collapse should lava extrusion resume. This may pose a risk to human life if PDCs generated by the collapse are directed northwest toward inhabited zones at the bottom of the Belham River Valley (Fig. 1).

Approximately 1 km³ of magma was emitted during 1995–2010, dispersed in a variety of deposits (Wadge et al., 2014a; Odbert et al., 2015). Knowledge of the past and present distribution and redistribution of this volume is important at Soufrière Hills Volcano, where the evolution of the topography and modification of drainages during the eruption have had a key impact on the hazard from PDCs and surges, lahars, and dome collapses (e.g., Cole et al., 1998; Wadge et al., 2011; Ogburn et al., 2014). Loading from volcanic deposits on Montserrat also has an effect on the long-term deformation trend observed by GPS (Odbert et al., 2015). It is important to understand the distribution of these deposits over the course of the eruption so that appropriate corrections can be made to be the GPS time series.

3. PREVIOUS TOPOGRAPHIC MEASUREMENTS ON MONTSETRAT

The topography of Montserrat has been represented and recorded in several digital elevation models (DEMs) acquired using a combination of ground-based and airborne sensors (Table 1) and also satellite platforms (Table 2). The eruption spans most of the duration of the satellite InSAR era, which began in 1992, and so provides a good example of the capabilities and limitations of using various sensors to measure topography and deposit volumes at an active volcano. Previously published ground- and air-based DEMs are used as a reference level for the generation of new satellite-derived DEMs, discussed in Section 4.

3.1. Ground- and Air-Based Measurements

Long-term operational measurements of the lava dome shape and height have been made using both ground-based and helicopter-based photogrammetry (e.g., Sparks et al., 1998; Ryan et al., 2010; Stinton et al., 2014). Comparing the difference between photographs taken from a continuously recording camera in the same position at different times reveals changes to the dome morphology (Wadge et al., 2009). Using theodolite measurements of the dome in combination with photogrammetry reveals profile changes of the dome height (Fig. 1C) and can constrain estimates of changes in the dome volume. However, because the technique is optical, line of sight to the dome is needed; therefore, no observations can be made at night or if the dome is obscured by meteoric clouds or volcanic emissions (e.g., Ryan et al., 2010; Wadge et al., 2014b).

Operational photogrammetry observations of Soufrière Hills Volcano have been episodically supplemented with light detection and ranging (LiDAR) measurements. LiDAR uses a laser scanner to detect the distance to a network of points, which can then be converted into a DEM. The laser scanner can either be ground based (Jones, 2006) or airborne (Odbert and Grebby, 2014). LiDAR can achieve data densities up to ten times greater than photogrammetry (Jones, 2006); however, LiDAR also requires optical line of sight to the ground surface and gaps in the data due to obstruction of the volcano can be problematic. Cloud cover is also an issue in airborne surveys; for example, in the 2010 airborne LiDAR survey of Montserrat, the helicopter was unable to fly above the cloud base, preventing data retrieval above 700 m asl and resulting in a gap in the DEM over the lava dome (Cole et al., 2010).

One method of measuring topography, even through clouds or at night, is to use an active radar signal. All-weather Volcano Topography Imaging Sensor (AVTIS) is a millimeter-wave ground-based radar sensor specifically designed to measure the topography and temperature of the lava dome on Montserrat (Wadge et al., 2005). AVTIS measurements of topography were used to generate DEMs of the lava dome in 2005, 2006, and 2008 and to monitor the eruption during Phase 3 (Wadge et al., 2008). Repeated measurements of topography were used to estimate an apparent average lava extrusion rate of 3.9 m³s⁻¹ between November 2005 and April 2006. Due to instrument rebuilding and shipping delays, there were no AVTIS measurements of the dome during Phases 4

### Table 1. Previous Digital Elevation Models Derived from Ground-Based or Airborne Sensors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Horizontal resolution (m)</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Additional notes</th>
<th>References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-eruption</td>
<td>25/10</td>
<td>1:25,000-scale map</td>
<td>Digitized map</td>
<td>Wadge and Isaacs (1988)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1999</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Aerial photogrammetry</td>
<td>Modified pre-eruption DEM using ERS coherence mask</td>
<td>Wadge (2000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2005</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Terrestrial LiDAR, AVTIS</td>
<td>Modified pre-eruption DEM</td>
<td>Jones (2006); Wadge et al. (2006b, 2008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2008</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>AVTIS</td>
<td>Modified pre-eruption DEM</td>
<td>Wadge et al. (2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2010</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Airborne LiDAR</td>
<td>No coverage &gt;700 m above sea level</td>
<td>Cole et al. (2010); Odbert et al. (2014)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Abbreviations: AVTIS—All-weather Volcano Topography Imaging Sensor; DEM—digital elevation model; ERS—European Remote Sensing satellite.
and 5 (Wadge et al., 2014b). Post-Phase 5 measurements of topography from a fixed AVTIS installation have been used to image and quantify mass wasting of the lava dome (Wadge et al., 2014b).

DEM difference maps have been used to map deposits on Montserrat and to estimate deposit thicknesses between the start of the eruption and February 1999 (Wadge et al., 2002) and between 1995 and 2010 (Odbert et al., 2015). The usefulness of this approach is limited due to sparse sampling of DEMs in time (and sometimes space), predominantly because of the logistics of ground-based methods and the expense of air-based methods.

### 3.2. InSAR

Interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR) is a technique that measures the change in radar phase caused by differences in path length between two radar scenes acquired with similar viewing geometries. The geometric contribution to phase in the resulting interferogram can be used to estimate the topography of the ground surface and to create DEMs. In order to determine topography using InSAR, the backscattering properties of the surface must be stable over time (coherent). Where the ground surface varies over time (e.g., through vegetation growth or slope change), the phase return from each pixel between different images will be effectively random, and no meaningful signal can be retrieved (e.g., Wang et al., 2010).

In rugged volcanic settings, loss of signal can be caused by suboptimal viewing geometry. Where slopes facing the sensor are steeper than the radar incidence angle, reflections from the top of the slope will be received before reflections from the base, resulting in loss of signal known as layover. Conversely, slopes facing away from the satellite at an angle steeper than the incidence angle will instead have shadow zones, where no signal is reflected and therefore no data are retrieved (e.g., Bürgmann et al., 2000; Ebmeier et al., 2013a; Pinel et al., 2014).

Since the early 1990s, there have been several satellite-based InSAR platforms, many of which have acquired data over Montserrat (Table 2). Previous C-band (wavelength 5.6 cm) InSAR studies of Montserrat have been hampered by poor coherence due to dense vegetation and rapid topographic change around the active lava dome, and they have therefore only been able to recover topography on surfaces covered by post-1995 volcanic deposits, and for periods spanning less than 100 days (Wadge et al., 2002, 2006a). L-band (wavelength 23.6 cm) data from the Phased Array type L-band Synthetic Aperture Radar (PALSAR) instrument on the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) satellite ALOS provide better coherence in densely vegetated tropical settings (e.g., Parks et al., 2011; Ebmeier et al., 2013b, Chaussard et al., 2013). Fournier et al. (2010) performed a preliminary survey of the Lesser Antilles arc using Advanced Land Observation Satellite (ALOS) data and observed that temporal decorrelation of signal was still a significant problem, with interferograms spanning a period longer than one year becoming almost completely incoherent due to rapid vegetation growth.

### Table 2. Previous Digital Elevation Models Derived from Space-Based InSAR Platforms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Band and λ (cm)</th>
<th>Revisit period (days)</th>
<th>Horizontal resolution (m)</th>
<th>Vertical accuracy (m)</th>
<th>References</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 1996–May 1997</td>
<td>JERS-1</td>
<td>L/23.6</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>No elevation data</td>
<td>Wadge et al. (2002)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1996–March 1998</td>
<td>Radarsat-1</td>
<td>C/5.6</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>No elevation data</td>
<td>Wadge et al. (2002)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2000</td>
<td>SRTM</td>
<td>C/5.6</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Farr et al. (2007)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2007–May 2010</td>
<td>TerraSAR-X</td>
<td>X/3.1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Wadge et al. (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2009–February 2011</td>
<td>ALOS</td>
<td>L/23.6</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>–20</td>
<td>This study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2013</td>
<td>TanDEM-X</td>
<td>X/3.1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>This study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Note:
- **Abbreviations:** ALOS—Advanced Land Observation Satellite; COSMO-SkyMed—Constellation of small satellites for the Mediterranean basin Observation; ERS—European Remote Sensing; InSAR—Interferometric synthetic aperture radar; JERS-1—Japanese Earth Resources Satellite 1; SRTM—Shuttle Radar Topography Mission; BGS/EVOSS—British Geological Survey and European Volcano Observatory Space Services.

TABLE 2. PREVIOUS DIGITAL ELEVATION MODELS DERIVED FROM SPACE-BASED InSAR PLATFORMS

Horizontal resolution and Vertical accuracy are calculated by the interferometric processing of the radar images. References are cited in the text.
4. METHOD

4.1. Measuring Topographic Change with InSAR

An interferogram contains phase contributions from differences in viewing geometry between two different satellite positions. The contributions to the measured phase change $\delta\phi$ at each pixel in an interferogram are given by Equation 1 (e.g., Massonnet and Feigl, 1998; Bürgmann et al., 2000):

$$\delta\phi = \delta\phi_{\text{def}} + \delta\phi_{\text{atm}} + \delta\phi_{\text{kam}} + \delta\phi_{\text{topo}},$$

where $\delta\phi_{\text{def}}$ is a deformation phase contribution caused by displacement of the ground surface between the time of image acquisitions; $\delta\phi_{\text{atm}}$ is an orbit contribution due to the curvature of the Earth's surface (easily removed with a "flat earth" correction during processing); $\delta\phi_{\text{kam}}$ is an atmospheric component mainly caused by changes in tropospheric water vapor between scenes; $\delta\phi_{\text{topo}}$ is a pixel-dependent contribution due to changes to the scattering properties of the ground surface within that pixel; and $\delta\phi_{\text{topo}}$ is a topographic component due to the effect of viewing topography from a different angle in different acquisitions—an effect that can be estimated using a DEM and then removed.

If $\delta\phi_{\text{topo}}$ is incorrectly estimated from a DEM, then even after that component is subtracted, there will be a residual topographic contribution, or "DEM error," within an interferogram. Where there has been significant topographic change between the DEM and InSAR acquisitions, the DEM error will represent a real change in elevation of the ground surface (e.g., Ebmeier et al., 2012; Naranjo et al., 2016). At an active volcano such as Soufrière Hills Volcano, this change will either be positive, caused by topographic growth due to the emplacement of new material through lava dome extrusion and infilling of valleys by volcanic deposits, or negative due to removal of material through erosion and gravitational collapse events. Radar phase is only coherent for stable, solid reflectors; therefore, no data are recovered for submarine deposits.

Unlike phase contributions from ground deformation or atmospheric noise, these DEM errors will be linearly correlated with the perpendicular baseline between the two radar paths ($B_{\text{perp}}$). The gradient of this correlation is a combination of the range from the satellite to the ground ($r$), the radar wavelength ($\lambda$), the incidence angle ($\nu$), and the vertical difference in elevation ($\Delta z$) between the DEM used for InSAR processing and the residual topographic signal (e.g., Bürgmann et al., 2000) (Equation 2):

$$\delta\phi_{\text{topo}} = \frac{k}{r\lambda\sin\nu} \Delta z$$

The factor $k$ is a constant relating to the radar path length. For the repeat-pass monostatic case (e.g., ALOS), $k = 4\pi$; whereas, for the single-pass bistatic case (e.g., TanDEM-X), both satellites share a common radar path; so $k = 2\pi$ (e.g., Hanssen, 2001; Kubanek et al., 2015a).

Crustal deformation rates on Montserrat are low (<2 cm/year measured by GPS) during periods of quiescence (Odbert et al., 2014). If we assume that the phase contributions from deformation and atmospheric noise are small compared with the topographic contribution, we can rearrange Equation 2 to convert the phase contribution $\delta\phi_{\text{topo}}$ into the vertical topographic change, $\Delta z$.

For a set of $n$ interferograms, Equation 2 can be written in the form $d = G\delta z$, where $d$ is a $n \times 1$ column vector containing the phase change in each interferogram, $\delta z$, and $G$ is a $n \times 1$ design matrix, that contains the corresponding perpendicular baselines, $B_{\text{perp}}$, and a constant of proportionality given by $r\lambda\sin\nu/k$ and $z$ is the vertical height change.

We solve $d = G\delta z$ for $z$ on a pixel-by-pixel basis, using the weighted linear least-squares regression given by Equation 3 (Ebmeier et al., 2012):

$$z = (G^T W G)^{-1} G^T W d,$$

where $W_z$ is a square weighting matrix with diagonal elements of $\sigma_z^{-2}$, the maximum variance in each interferogram, and off-diagonal elements set to 0 (which ignores any covariance in atmospheric noise between interferograms). The formal variance in $z$ ($\sigma_z^2$) is then $(G^T W G)^{-1}$, giving an uncertainty ($\sigma_z$) of $\sqrt{G^T W G}$. While performing the inversion, incoherent pixels are excluded. The formal error in the topographic change for each pixel is inversely related to the number of interferograms used in the inversion. The uncertainty in the topographic change measurement is therefore greater for pixels that are incoherent in several interferograms.

4.2. ALOS PALSAR

ALOS PALSAR observations of Montserrat cover Phase 5 of extrusive activity at Soufrière Hills Volcano (8 October 2009–11 February 2010). We used scenes acquired in ascending geometry, with the satellite looking approximately east at an incidence angle of 37.6°. From nine ALOS scenes (track 118, frame 320), we constructed eight coherent interferograms—one during the period of quiescence before Phase 5 (13 August–28 September 2009) and seven from after Phase 5 ended (six 46-day interferograms and one 92-day interferogram from 13 February 2010 to 16 February 2011).

Interferograms were constructed with the Repeat Orbit Processing software (ROI_PAC) (Rosen et al., 2004) developed at California Institute of Technology Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and separate topographic corrections were performed using both the pre-eruptive and 2005 DEMs to give two interferograms for each interval. Interferograms were filtered using a power spectrum filter (Goldstein and Werner, 1998) and unwrapped using the branch-cut algorithm of Goldstein et al. (1988). To exploit the maximum range resolution of the PALSAR instrument, interferograms were processed at one look in the range direction and five looks in azimuth direction. The geocoded products have a pixel spacing of 10 m, which is the horizontal resolution of the reference DEMs. We referenced all our interferograms to a pixel north of Centre Hills, as we assume the north of the island remains stable (Fig. 1).

Interferograms are considered to be coherent if >50% of terrestrial pixels have a coherence >0.15. This threshold coherence is the mean coherence value over the ocean and should be a representative coherence value of random phase data.
We conducted three separate inversions of ALOS interferograms using Equation 3 (Table 3). We used linear interpolation between estimates of the perpendicular baseline made at the start and end of each interferogram to estimate the baseline at Soufrière Hills Volcano. We used a constant value for \(v\) (376°) and \(r\) (854852 m), as these values vary by less than 1% over the island of Montserrat, which is several orders of magnitude less than the uncertainties introduced by our estimated atmospheric noise. We assumed there was no deformation or topographic change over the intervals covered by the interferograms, so each inversion provides an estimate of the topographic change up to the latest SAR acquisition used in that inversion.

Inversion A95-11 estimates the topographic change between the pre-eruptive DEM and February 2011 (Fig. 2A); inversion A05-11 estimates the topographic change between the November 2005 DEM and February 2011; and inversion A05-09 estimates the topographic change from November 2005 to the single coherent interferogram formed between acquisitions on 13 August and 28 September 2009 (Fig. 3B). Phase 5 of activity at Montserrat began on 8 October 2009; so this interferogram gives an estimate of the topographic change due to Phases 3 and 4 (Wadge et al., 2014a). Taking the difference between inversion A95-11 and inversion A05-11 gives the topographic change between pre-1995 and November 2005 (Fig. 3A), while the difference between inversion A05-11 and inversion A05-09 gives the change between September 2009 and February 2011 (Fig. 3C; Table 3). We estimated the bulk net volume of new material for each inversion by integrating the topographic change values over areas affected by volcanic activity (Fig. 2C) and multiplying by the area of a pixel (100 m²).

We estimated the amplitude of the noise in each interferogram, which is assumed to be predominantly due to variations in tropospheric water vapor, by calculating the variance of pixel phase values. Pixels within 3 km of the lava dome were masked for the variance estimation, to avoid including topographic change signal in the noise estimate. The standard deviation estimates are in the range 1.1–1.7 cm, which is typical for a tropical volcano with an elevation of ~1 km (Ebmeier et al., 2013a; Parker et al., 2015). These noise estimates form the \(\sigma_n\) term in Equation 3 and therefore translate into formal error estimates in the topographic change inversions (Section 4.4).

### 4.3. TanDEM-X Processing

TanDEM-X interferograms were constructed from Coregistered Single look Slant range Complex (CoSSC, the basic TDX data format provided by DLR) images using the Interferometric SAR Processor of the GAMMA software package (Werner et al., 2000). The TDX image was treated as the master, and the image from TSX is set to be the slave for interferometric processing. Perpendicular baselines calculated from orbit data were halved, to account for the difference in path length for the bistatic case compared to repeat pass InSAR (Equation 2) (Krieger et al., 2007; Kubanek et al., 2015a). Interferograms were processed using four looks in the range and azimuth directions. The images were filtered using an adaptive density filter (Goldstein and Werner, 1998) and unwrapped using a minimum cost flow method (Werner et al., 2002). Geocoding was performed using the November 2005 DEM, giving a final grid spacing of 10 m.

Unwrapping errors were manually corrected and the phase converted to elevation using Equation 2. This inversion T05-13 estimates the topographic change between the November 2005 DEM and the TDX acquisition on 19 November 2013. A residual linear phase ramp remained; so a best fitting plane was found and removed from each image (Poland, 2014). The TanDEM-X interferogram observes layover and shadow effects caused by the steep sides of the dome (locally steeper than 40°; Stinton et al., 2014). Slopes with a component of dip, in the satellite line of sight, steeper than the incidence angle of the satellite (3.1°), are incoherent. Coherence in the TDX interferograms is very high (\(>0.9\)) apart from areas affected by shadow or layover. The DEM produced from inversion T05-13 (equivalent to the topographic change shown in Fig. 2C added to the pre-eruption DEM; Fig. 1A) is provided in the Supplemental File.

### 4.4. Uncertainties

#### 4.4.1. Formal Estimation

The formal uncertainties for each inversion vary from pixel to pixel, depending on the number of interferograms that are coherent at each pixel and the variance of those interferograms. Pixels that have seven coherent

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**TABLE 3. INVERSIONS OF InSAR DATA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference DEM</th>
<th>Number of interferograms</th>
<th>Date range of interferograms</th>
<th>Interval of topographic change</th>
<th>Mean (m)</th>
<th>Standard deviation (m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T05-13</td>
<td>November 2005</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>November 2013</td>
<td>2005–2013</td>
<td>–2.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Inversions A95-11, A05-11, and A05-09 use ALOS interferograms (Section 4.2), while inversion T05-13 uses a TanDEM-X interferogram (Section 4.3). For discussion of the mean and standard deviation values, see Section 4.4.2. Abbreviations: ALOS—Advanced Land Observation Satellite; DEM—digital elevation model; InSAR—Interferometric synthetic aperture radar.

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*Supplemental File. Text (.txt) file contains a digital elevation model (DEM) of the island of Montserrat, constructed from a TanDEM-X synthetic aperture radar image pair acquired on 11 November 2013. The DEM is provided as an ASCII grid file in coordinate system wgs84 UTM zone 20N. Please visit [http://dx.doi.org/10.1130/GE01291.1](http://dx.doi.org/10.1130/GE01291.1) or the full-text article on www.gsapubs.org to view the Supplemental File.
interferograms in inversions A95-11 and A05-11 have errors of ~20 m. Where five or fewer interferograms are coherent, the errors rise to 27 m or greater. The areas with the greatest uncertainties are steeply dipping slopes, especially on the west side of the lava dome, Gages and Chance’s peaks, where slopes facing the east-looking ascending satellite view suffer from incoherence due to layover. Centre Hills and South Soufrière Hills are covered in dense vegetation, which remains incoherent even in 46-day ALOS PALSAR interferograms, giving larger errors or gaps in data. At distal deposits, the error is often greater than the deposit thickness (<20 m). Integrating the formal errors for height change to make estimates of the volume change therefore often leads to uncertainties in the volume estimate that are greater than the estimate itself.
Figure 3. Time series of topographic change on Montserrat, showing change in elevation during (A) Phases 1 and 2, (B) Phases 3 and 4, (C) Phase 5, and (D) cumulative change for the whole eruption. Contours show pre-eruptive topography at 100 m intervals. Dashed gray boxes in (B) and (C) show areas affected by atmospheric signal in the 2009 interferogram; these areas are not included in volume estimates. Dashed black line in (C) marks the extent of the 11 February 2010, partial dome collapse. Major drainage pathways are labeled: Fort Ghaut (FG), Tuit’s Ghaut (TuG), White River (WR), Tar River Valley (TRV), Spring Ghaut (SG), White’s Ghaut (WG).
4.4.2. Empirical Estimation

The change in topography from the pre-eruptive DEM to the 2005 DEM is limited to the lava dome and proximal valleys filled with volcanic products (Jones, 2006; Wadge et al., 2006a). There should therefore not be any change in topography north of Centre Hills between inversion A95-11 and inversion A05-11 (Table 3). We can use the magnitude of the difference in topographic change between the two inversions in this area to make an empirical estimate of the magnitude of the errors. Using an arbitrarily sized box containing 40,000 pixels, we calculate the mean and standard deviation of pixel topographic change values (Fig. 2A).

Inversion A95-11 has a mean topographic change of 3.1 m and a standard deviation of 10.1 m. Inversion A05-11 has a mean of 2.7 m and a standard deviation of 8.7 m (Table 3). The difference between the two has a mean topographic change of 0.4 m and a standard deviation of 4.3 m (Fig. 2D). These standard deviation values are a factor of two better than the formal errors from the inversion, suggesting that we may be able to recover topographic changes of a lower amplitude than the formal error. Indeed, in the distal sections of some valleys, infilling is still visible even though the magnitude is less than our formal uncertainties.

The topographic change estimated by inversion T05-13 (Table 3), in the 40,000-pixel box north of Centre Hills has a mean of –2.8 m and a standard deviation of 9.3 m. The errors in elevation measured by a single TDX interferogram are therefore approximately the same as the errors in the ALOS inversion. In comparison, for the single ALOS interferogram used in inversion A05-09, the mean change is 3.5 m and the standard deviation is 15.9 m.

A contribution toward the errors in observed topographic change north of Centre Hills comes from uncertainties in the pre-eruptive/2005 DEMs, which are estimated to have a vertical accuracy of ~10 m (Wadge and Isaacs, 1988; Odbert and Grebby, 2014). A possible explanation for the nonzero mean change in our reference area could also be due to InSAR measurements penetrating farther through vegetation than the optical images used to construct the pre-eruptive DEM (Wadge and Isaacs, 1988). The L-band radar of ALOS will penetrate farther through vegetation than the shorter wavelength X-band radar of TDX; however, this effect is negligible on the unvegetated recent eruption deposits.

Other TDX estimates of topographic change at volcanoes have found similar elevation difference measurements for vegetated areas not affected by volcanism. Poland (2014) measured areas of no topographic change at Kilauea, Hawaii, and in heavily vegetated areas, found mean change of +2 m and standard deviation of ~8 m in DEMs calculated from single TDX interferograms. Albino et al. (2015) found a mean of ~4.2 m and standard deviation of 5.5 m for dense vegetation at Nyamulagira, D.R. Congo, by measuring the difference between two DEMs constructed from 11 TDX interferograms. Both studies observed smaller standard deviations for measurements of old lava flows; therefore, our uncertainties in the TDX topographic change measurements on areas covered by post-1995 deposits may be lower than those measured in the vegetated area in the north of Montserrat.

5. RESULTS

We use our InSAR-derived topographic change measurements to build up a time series of surface change at Montserrat (Fig. 3). From our inversions (Table 3), we divide the eruption into three time intervals—pre-1995–2005 (Phases 1 and 2), 2005–2009 (Phases 3 and 4), and 2009–2011 (Phase 5). We are able to measure the maximum thickness of new material at each time interval and to integrate over the area covered by deposits to make estimates of the net onshore volume change. Submarine deposits are not imaged by InSAR; therefore, we are unable to estimate the volume contribution from PDCs that carried material offshore. The volume of these deposits can be measured using repeated bathymetric surveys and accounts for ~60% of the total erupted volume at Soufrière Hills Volcano (e.g., Le Friant et al., 2010; Odbert et al., 2015).

5.1. Dome Growth and Collapse

5.1.1. 1995–2005

During Phases 1 and 2, there were numerous cycles of lava dome growth, followed by partial or complete dome removal in collapse events (Wadge et al., 2009, 2014a). In particular, the collapse of 13 July 2003 that ended Phase 2 removed ~200 million cubic meters of dome and talus, mostly into the sea to the east (Herd et al., 2005). The net topographic change of the dome in the 1995–2005 period (Fig. 3A) is dominated by this event. We observe remnants of the pre-collapse dome 50–100 m thick preserved in the northern part of the dome and talus deposits up to 230 m thick preserved in the upper White River valley (Fig. 4A). Up to 150 m of the 400-year-old, pre-eruption Castle Peak dome that occupied English's Crater were also removed in the 2003 collapse (difference between grey polygon and black line in Fig. 4B).

5.1.2. 2005–2009

We observe the height of the dome increase by up to 250 m between October 2005 and September 2009 (Fig. 3B) (difference between black and red lines in Fig. 4E). This growth is presumed to have occurred entirely after the 20 May 2006 collapse, which removed all of the dome that grew between August 2005 and May 2006 and some residual mass from the 2003 dome (Loughlin et al., 2010). The post-20 May dome is mostly symmetrical, with slightly more growth to the west (Fig. 3B). We also observe 100–150 m of talus deposition in the upper Tar River Valley and Gages Fan (difference between black and red lines in Fig. 4B). We assume that deposits within the old English's Crater walls are part of the lava dome, while deposits outside the old crater walls are talus and pyroclastic material.
Figure 4. Profiles through the Soufrière Hills Volcano (SHV) dome and valleys surrounding the volcano at different times (locations shown on the inset map). Profiles are at a 1:1 scale (no vertical exaggeration) in order to preserve topographic slope. The topographies shown are: pre-eruptive (filled gray polygons), 2005 (solid black lines), 2009 (dashed red lines), 2011 (dot-dashed blue lines), and 2013 (solid green lines). Vertical black dashed lines show the intersection of two orthogonal cross-section lines. The uncertainties in each profile are given by the typical errors shown in profile A–A′.
5.1.3. 2009–2011

During Phase 5, parts of the dome grew in height by up to 100 m, while the summit elevation changed little (Table 4), consistent with photogrammetry measurements (Stinton et al., 2014). New growth on the north side of the dome is visible in Figure 4E, and deposition of an additional 100 m of talus into Gages Fan can be seen in Figure 4B (difference between red and blue lines). The dome at the end of lava effusion in 2010 is relatively symmetric about an axis running east-west but with preferential growth to the west especially visible in the TDX data (Figs. 3D and 4B).

The excavation of an amphitheater by the 11 February 2010 partial dome collapse is visible to the north of the dome (Figs. 3C and 4A). The upper part of the back wall of the crater left by the collapse is visible in Figure 4B. The collapse amphitheater is 100 m deep and 450 m wide relative to the pre–Phase 5 surface (Fig. 3C). Stinton et al. (2014) using photogrammetry and theodolite measurements, estimated the crater to be 125 m deep compared to the surface just before the collapse on 11 February 2010, suggesting an additional 25 m of growth on the north side of the dome during Phase 5 before the collapse; although this could also be attributed to uncertainties in the two estimates.

5.1.4. Pre-Eruption to Post–Phase 5

By integrating the topographic change values from the pre-1995 DEM for every pixel within the English's Crater walls, we measure the net bulk volume of the current Soufrière Hills Volcano dome to be 118 ± 46 m³ with ALOS and 125 ± 18 m³ with TDX. This net volume figure accounts for material removed from the pre-eruption Castle Peak dome, as well as that added and removed during the eruption. Using an average vesicularity for the dome of 13% (Sparks et al., 1998), we estimate a dense rock equivalent (DRE) dome volume of 102–125 × 10³ m³.

5.1.5. Differences between ALOS and TDX Observations

There is general agreement to within error between TDX and ALOS over the dome (Table 4; difference between blue and green lines in Fig. 4). TDX appears to show slightly more dome growth to the west of English's Crater (Fig. 4B) and slight differences in the depth and shape of the base of the 2010 collapse (Fig. 4E). There is also disagreement in the thickness of talus deposits on the steepest part of Gages Fan (between 1000 and 1500 m in Fig. 4B). This is likely due to loss of signal from TDX because west-facing slopes approach the satellite incidence angle (TDX is affected more strongly by steep slopes because it has a 31.3° incidence angle, less than the 37.6° incidence angle of ALOS). The paired patch of incoherence and negative topographic change observed in the center of the dome by TDX (Fig. 2C) is likely due to a similar effect on a locally steeper section of the dome. There is much better agreement between the two satellites on south- and east-facing talus slopes.

5.2. Flow Deposits and Valley Fill

Surrounding the lava dome throughout the eruption was an apron of talus with an angle of repose of 37° (Wadge et al., 2008). The talus apron graded downslope into PDC deposits, mainly produced by collapses of material from the dome (Wadge et al., 2008; Wadge et al., 2010). The distribution of flow deposits changed over the course of the eruption, as valley infilling caused PDCs to overflow into neighboring valleys (Table 5).

5.2.1. 1995–2005

Figures 3A and 4A show that the thickest subaerial deposits during Phases 1–2 were in White River to the south of the dome, with up to 230 m of deposition at the head of the valley, just outside the rim of English’s Crater. The cumulative thickness of PDC deposits decreases with distance down the valley to ~60 m where the pre-eruptive valley entered the sea, and where a delta deposit now sits.

There was also near complete infilling of Fort Ghaut to the west (Fig. 4D), by PDCs that continued downstream to destroy the town of Plymouth in 1997 (e.g., Sparks et al., 1998; Sparks and Young, 2002; Wadge et al., 2014a). Deposition to the north was concentrated mainly in Mosquito Ghaut, with thinner deposits in Tuitt’s and Tyers Ghauts (Fig. 4C and Table 5).

5.2.2. 2005–2009

Most of the observed valley infilling during Phases 3–4 occurs in the Tar River Valley to the east, refilling the erosional scar left by the 13 July 2003 dome collapse (Fig. 3B). Distal deposition is difficult to observe due to long-wavelength (2–5 km) atmospheric gradients in the ALOS data, which have a magnitude equivalent to ± 80 m elevation (Fig. 3B, between 0 and 300 m in Fig. 4D).

### TABLE 4. MAXIMUM CHANGE IN ELEVATION OF THE LAVA DOME BY ERUPTIVE PHASE AND DOME SUMMIT HEIGHT AT THE END OF PHASES 2, 4, AND 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Maximum dome growth (m)</th>
<th>Dome summit elevation at end of phase (m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1–2</td>
<td>110 ± 30</td>
<td>910 ± 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–4</td>
<td>250 ± 40</td>
<td>1010 ± 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>100 ± 30</td>
<td>1040 ± 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (ALOS)</td>
<td>260 ± 20</td>
<td>1040 ± 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total (TDX)</td>
<td>290 ± 10</td>
<td>1030 ± 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The total rows are the cumulative topographic change between the pre-eruption DEM and the ALOS and TDX data. Abbreviations: ALOS—Advanced Land Observation Satellite; DEM—digital elevation model; TDX—TanDEM-X.
Deposition during Phase 5 was more widely distributed than in previous phases, including the first deposits in Gingoes Ghaut and Farm River and the most distal deposits in the Belham Valley and White’s Ghaut (Table 5) (Stinton et al., 2014). There was also up to 140 m of deposition in Spring Ghaut—the first flows from Gages Fan to overspill to the south from Fort Ghaut (Fig. 4D). InSAR infill measurements proximal to the dome agree within error to spot thickness values estimated from the width of shadow zones in radar amplitude images (Wadge et al., 2011).

5.2.4. Pre-Eruption to Post–Phase 5

The cumulative maximum net height change (Table 5) rarely equals the sum of the maximum changes for the separate time periods because the location of greatest net infilling within each valley changes over time. The thickest deposits are in Gages Fan to the west of the dome and the White River south of the dome and reach nearly 300 m in places.

The total bulk volume of onshore PDC deposits (excluding the dome) is 450 ± 370M m³ measured by ALOS and 390 ± 280M m³ measured by TDX (Fig. 2). Using a void-free density of 2600 kg/m³ and a bulk density for the PDC deposit of 2000 kg/m³ (Sparks et al., 1998; Wadge et al., 2010), we calculate DRE volumes for the two data sets of 350 ± 280M m³ and 300 ± 220M m³, respectively. As with the lava dome, these volumes are likely to be underestimated due to incoherence, especially in the upper parts of Spring Ghaut, Fort Ghaut, Gingoes Ghaut, and White River, where steep west-facing slopes suffer from layover.

There will also be an underestimate of the volume and height change of new subaerial deposits, which have built the coast out since 1995. The thickness change and therefore volume of these deposits is calculated relative to sea level, rather than the pre-eruptive bathymetry; therefore the submarine component needed to bring these deposits to sea level is not accounted for. Montserrat has a shallow submarine shelf 20–60 m deep (Le Friant et al., 2004); so the thickness of new subaerial deposits is likely to be underestimated by at least 20 m. Wadge et al. (2010) gave an estimate for the near coast sediment DRE volume of 113M m³; while Odbert et al. (2015) estimated the volume of the submarine portion of new land to be 25M m³ DRE.

5.2.5. Differences between ALOS and TDX Observations

There is good agreement in the cumulative change estimated by both ALOS and TDX (Table 5). Slight variations may be due to uncertainties in the measurements and redistribution of material between 2011 and 2013 through erosion, rockfalls, and lahars.

For valley deposits on Montserrat, TDX retrieves a much sharper image than ALOS (Fig. 2F compared with Fig. 2E). In order to reduce noise caused by temporal decorrelation, the ALOS data are more heavily filtered than TDX. This overfiltering leads to smearing of the signal; so the observed expression of deposits has a lower amplitude and longer wavelength. This effect is most apparent in White’s Ghaut (difference between blue and green lines in Fig. 4C), where the shape of the 2011 surface measured by ALOS is unrealistically similar to the shape of the pre-eruptive/2005 surface, while the 2013 surface measured by TDX shows much more realistic valley infilling by PDC deposits.

TDX is also able to retrieve thinner deposits in the distal parts of valleys; these deposits are missed by ALOS. This is due to the presence of atmospheric noise in the ALOS data caused by temporal variations in the tropospheric water vapor field, which are not present in the TDX bistatic image. Atmospheric artifacts are visible to the west of the island in Figure 2A, where they obscure thin deposits in Fort Ghaut and the Belham River Valley, observed by TDX in Figure 2C.

### Table 5. Maximum Topographic Change for the Main Valleys Radiating Outward from Soufrière Hills Volcano

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White River</td>
<td>230 ± 30</td>
<td>70 ± 20</td>
<td>240 ± 20</td>
<td>250 ± 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gingoes Ghaut</td>
<td>0 ± 30</td>
<td>50 ± 20</td>
<td>60 ± 20</td>
<td>80 ± 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gages Fan/Spring Ghaut</td>
<td>190 ± 30</td>
<td>230 ± 40</td>
<td>290 ± 30</td>
<td>280 ± 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyers Ghaut</td>
<td>60 ± 30</td>
<td>80 ± 20</td>
<td>80 ± 20</td>
<td>80 ± 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mosquito Ghaut</td>
<td>70 ± 30</td>
<td>0 ± 20</td>
<td>70 ± 20</td>
<td>80 ± 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuitt’s Ghaut</td>
<td>60 ± 30</td>
<td>70 ± 20</td>
<td>100 ± 20</td>
<td>110 ± 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White’s Ghaut</td>
<td>0 ± 30</td>
<td>110 ± 20</td>
<td>110 ± 20</td>
<td>110 ± 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tar River Valley</td>
<td>–40 ± 30</td>
<td>70 ± 20</td>
<td>70 ± 20</td>
<td>60 ± 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: We ignore the deposits of Dry Ghaut from Phase 1 (Druitt et al., 2002) and of Farm River (Cole et al., 2014); these deposits are too thin to measure with InSAR. Abbreviations: ALOS—Advanced Land Observation Satellite; TDX—TanDEM-X.


6. DISCUSSION

6.1. Volume Budget

InSAR data from ALOS and TanDEM-X have been used to estimate the change in surface topography of Montserrat associated with the eruption of Soufrière Hills Volcano. There is good agreement in the cumulative volume change estimated by both sensors, and results broadly match those of previous studies based on ground and airborne observations (Wadge et al., 2011; Stinton et al., 2014; Odbert et al., 2015). In comparison with the results of Odbert et al. (2015), we observe greater volume in subaerial PDC deposits but less volume in the dome; although the total DRE volume is almost identical. The inconsistency is likely due to difficulty in distinguishing between PDC deposits, talus slope, and the dome core based on InSAR data alone, or could be a result of the considerable uncertainty that exists in both methods. The lava dome boundary we used is based on the English’s Crater wall and therefore does not include talus in White River/Upper Fort Ghaut, which is considered by Stinton et al. (2014) to be part of the dome.

The total combined DRE volume of the lava dome and subaerial pyroclastic deposits measured by InSAR is 424 ± 304M m\(^3\) (ALOS) or 401 ± 231M m\(^3\) (TDX). Our measured values of the subaerial deposits are similar to the 406M m\(^3\) estimated by Odbert et al. (2015) based on a combination of the 2010 LiDAR DEM with the dome volume estimates of Stinton et al. (2014). The total DRE volume for the eruption is estimated to be 1063M m\(^3\) (ALOS) or 1006M m\(^3\) (TDX). Unfiltered ALOS interferograms were filtered more heavily than TDX. The subaerial deposits, which have remained on Montserrat since the start of the eruption, therefore account for 38%–40% of the total erupted volume. The remaining 60%–62% of erupted material is therefore located in coastal deposits, deep submarine deposits, and distal airborne ash deposits, consistent with measurements from bathymetry (e.g., Le Friant et al., 2010).

6.2. Measuring Topographic Change

InSAR data presented here have a number of advantages compared to traditional methods for observing topography. In comparison to optical methods, such as photogrammetry and LiDAR, the ability of InSAR to see through clouds and at any time of day, combined with a wider field of view, provides much more comprehensive spatial coverage. Satellite-based sensors are able to capture imagery of the entire island, even during eruptive periods when deploying terrestrial sensors in the south of the island sometimes proved too hazardous. While ground-based methods may provide more frequent measurement of the topography than satellite observations, no individual terrestrial sensor is able to image the entirety of the deposition field; therefore, results from multiple instruments need to be combined to provide complete topographic information. Although InSAR interferograms are not coherent enough to retrieve topographic information over the lava dome and steeper slopes. In order to improve the coherence of the ALOS data, the ALOS interferograms were filtered more heavily than TDX. This over-filtering has led to smoothing of the ALOS data in some places, most clearly visible in White’s Ghaut (difference between blue and green lines in Fig. 4B). Unfiltered ALOS interferograms are not coherent enough to retrieve topographic information over the lava dome and steeper slopes. In order to improve the coherence of the ALOS data, the ALOS interferograms were filtered more heavily than TDX. This over-filtering has led to smoothing of the ALOS data in some places, most clearly visible in White’s Ghaut (difference between blue and green lines in Fig. 4C). Due to this difference in filtering, it is impossible to distinguish post-Phase 5 (2011–2013) topographic changes from processing artifacts.

InSAR should be especially useful if activity were to resume. By combining multiple sensors and acquisition geometries, it should be possible to make observations of the dome every few days (Table 2). In comparison, optical methods can require days to weeks before the weather is clear enough to make observations. Spaceborne platforms are also not reliant on instruments being installed at a volcano before an eruption begins—background acquisitions made during periods of quiescence can be used to form new interferograms as soon as eruptive behavior starts or resumes. However, during extrusive activity, topographic measurements will be limited to bistatic sensors (e.g., TDX) because the monostatic method requires a stable, post-eruptive surface.

While the overall results from ALOS and TanDEM-X are similar, there are several notable small-scale differences. The lower incidence angle of the TDX acquisitions relative to ALOS results in loss of signal at a shallower slope angle in the TDX data. This is apparent to the west of Chance’s Peak and South Soufrière Hills (Fig. 2). The southern end of Figure 4A (green line between 4800 and 5000 m along profile) shows significant errors in the TDX data on a west-facing slope; these errors are not as significant in the ALOS data. Errors caused by radar shadow and layover (Section 3.2) could be potentially reduced by combining InSAR data from ascending (satellite looking east) and descending (satellite looking west) viewing geometries (Kubanek et al., 2015a).

Due to the lack of atmospheric noise in the bistatic TDX data, the surface derived from TDX is smoother in coherent areas (e.g., difference between blue and green lines between 2600 and 3200 m along Fig. 4B). Unfiltered ALOS interferograms are not coherent enough to retrieve topographic information over the lava dome and steeper slopes. In order to improve the coherence of the ALOS data, the ALOS interferograms were filtered more heavily than TDX. This over-filtering has led to smoothing of the ALOS data in some places, most clearly visible in White’s Ghaut (difference between blue and green lines in Fig. 4C). Due to this difference in filtering, it is impossible to distinguish post-Phase 5 (2011–2013) topographic changes from processing artifacts.

Since February 2010, there have been numerous rockfalls and rain-generated lahars, which have redistributed material from the lava dome and talus fans downhill. The post-Phase 5 lahah deposits are 2–3 m thick in the lower reaches of the Belham Valley (A. Stinton, 2015, personal commun.). This elevation difference is within error of our InSAR measurements on Montserrat, and therefore these deposits would be difficult to distinguish, even between different TanDEM-X acquisitions.

There are some notable disadvantages to InSAR measurements compared with other techniques. The steep slopes and dense vegetation of Montserrat mean that spatial coverage of the island is often limited, especially with shorter wavelength C-band and X-band sensors (Wadge et al., 2002, 2008a, 2011). Revisit intervals of individual satellites are still on the order of days to weeks, meaning that it may be impossible to distinguish individual flows that occur on timescales of minutes to hours (Wadge et al., 2011). The largest consideration for repeat-pass InSAR on Montserrat is potentially atmospheric noise. The magnitude of atmospheric noise in single interferograms gives uncertainties of over 40 m in the InSAR-derived topography (Figs. 2B and 2C). This

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noise leads to errors upwards of 250% in volume estimates between individual repeat-pass interferograms.

Atmospheric effects can be reduced through stacking or using weather models; however, both techniques are computationally expensive and reduce the effectiveness of InSAR as a rapid operational technique. In addition, commonly used large-scale weather models such as the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) ERA-Interim and North American Regional Reanalysis (NARR) only account for the stratified component of tropospheric water vapor, and these models do not model the higher amplitude, shorter wavelength turbulent component (e.g., Elliott et al., 2008; Lohfgren et al., 2010; Pinel et al., 2011; Parker et al., 2015). Modeled atmospheric phase delays using NARR for inversion A05-09 only account for 6 m of measured topographic change. In order to model and correct for turbulent water vapor, a higher resolution weather model such as the Weather Research and Forecasting Model (WRF) or corrections from GPS may be needed (e.g., Wade et al., 2006a; Gonget al., 2010; Nico et al., 2011).

The ability to image the complete deposition field at an erupting volcano, irrespective of weather conditions, still provides a great improvement on many ground-based monitoring techniques. TanDEM-X bistatic mode provides the facility to potentially map topographic changes at high resolution every 11 days, which could provide vital information about the evolution of hazard at active volcanoes. The techniques outlined here could be applied to any volcano extruding lava, even those with thin basaltic flows (e.g., Poland, 2014; Albino et al., 2015; Kubanek et al., 2015b), and would be particularly useful at ongoing, long-lived eruptions and in settings where terrestrial monitoring is limited. At Montserrat, should a sixth phase of lava extrusion begin, satellite radar observations could image changes to the lava dome and pyroclastic deposits on a daily to weekly basis, rather than the broad overview provided here.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

We have used L-band monostatic (2010–2011) and X-band bistatic (2013) InSAR to estimate the change in topography due to the eruption of Soufrière Hills Volcano between 1995 and 2010. We observe maximum elevation changes of 290 ± 10 m on the lava dome and 250 ± 10 m in valleys proximal to the dome. We measure the total mean DRE volume of subaerial deposits from the eruption of 290 ± 10 m on the lava dome and 250 ± 10 m in valleys proximal to the dome.

Hills Volcano between 1995 and 2010. We observe maximum elevation changes since 1995 to be 400 ± 230 m. Large uncertainties are introduced into the measurements due to loss of coherence in areas of layover and shadow and temporal decorrelation in repeat-pass InSAR.

We show that bistatic InSAR image pairs collected by TanDEM-X have an absolute vertical accuracy of less than 10 m, similar to inverting multiple repeat-pass interferograms from ALOS. Both the bistatic and monostatic InSAR methods provide a more complete quantification of deposits on Montserrat than any single ground-based technique. Knowledge of topographic change during an eruption is important for updating hazard models to take into account evolving volcano morphology, as well as improving geophysical models and other analyses. The ability of InSAR to provide timely estimates of topographic changes over time could therefore provide a valuable data set for understanding the state of eruption, as well as hazard assessment at erupting volcanoes.

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### REFERENCES CITED


