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LOOKING AT THE ROCK MASSES AND ROCK FALLS: NEW VIEWS AND PROSPECTS

In recent years there has been a remarkable development of techniques for the detection and remote acquisition of features of rock masses, with great speed, accuracy and resolution. The two most commonly used are the 3D laser scanner and digital photogrammetry, which allow the extraction of geometric parameters of the rock mass surface such as the joint sets, their orientations, spacing, and persistence. These techniques have also been used to monitor the deformations affecting rock walls before failure. Two applications are presented: the analysis of the frequency and magnitude of rockfalls and the analysis of the fragmentation phenomenon. The latter is carried out by comparing the in situ block size distribution at the rock wall obtained by digital photogrammetry, with the volume distribution of the rock-fall fragments.

Jordi Corominas is Full Professor of Engineering Geology at the Civil Engineering School of Barcelona, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain. His interests include natural hazards, geomorphological processes as well as site investigation and geological models for engineering and infrastructure projects. Associate editor of Landslides journal; core member of the JTC -1 for Natural Slopes and Landslides of the ISRM, ISSMGE and IAEG (2010-2014); president of the European Centre for Geomorphological Hazards, Council of Europe (2009-2014).

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