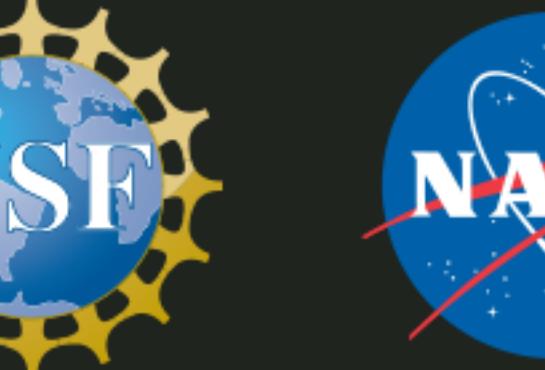




MEASURING THE EARTH THE SCIENCE OF GEODESY

A red arrow points from the word "EARTH" in the title to the "E" in "EARTH" on the rock face.

UNAVCO



a monthly series on the how and why of geodesy

GRAVITY Earth's gravity field changes from place to place depending, in part, on topography. Gravity is an attraction between two objects with mass. Since the distribution of mass is constantly changing (e.g., through mountain building and volcanic eruptions), the gravity field is changing too. Scientists can monitor the varying gravity field with satellite missions like GRACE (Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment).

Photo: Narada Falls, Washington by Beth Bartel, UNAVCO