



MEASURING THE
EARTH
THE SCIENCE 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



a monthly series on the how and why of geodesy