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CIVIL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT FACULTY OF ENGINEERING MINIA UNIVERSITY



COMPARISON OF DIFFERENT GRAVITY REDUCTION TECHNIQUES FOR GEODETIC APPLICATIONS IN EGYPT

A THESIS
SUBMITTED TO
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
MINIA UNIVERSITY
FOR

THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Dr. Mohammed Mohammed Nassar, Professor of Surveying and Geodesy, Public works Department, Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University, for his help and encouragement throughout this work, as well as his constructive discussions.

I would like to acknowledge Prof. Dr. Omar Tawfeek

Ibraheem, Civil Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering,

Minia University, for his help during this research.

I would like to express my deepest thanks, great appreciation and sincere gratitude to my supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. techn. Hussein Abou-Elsoaad Hussein Abd-Elmotaal, Associate Professor of Surveying and Geodesy, Civil Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Minia University, for suggesting the topic of the research, continuously cross-checking the results, for his lengthy and valuable discussions, and for supplying me with the necessary data and many computer programs. I wish also to thank him for allowing me to have an unlimited access to his own geodetic library.

Special thanks go to also **Dr. Rabia Ali Sadeek**, Civil Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Minia University for his assistance and encouragement.

ABSTRACT

and should yield the same geoid if the indirect effect has been taken into account. However, there are some requirements which should be taken into consideration when deciding to use a certain gravity reduction technique to determine the geoid. Mainly, the reduction should yield gravity anomalies that are small and smooth, and it must correspond to a geophysical meaningful model. Also, the indirect effect should be as small as possible.

The main aim of this study is the comparison among all gravity reduction methods that are used to reduce the gravity from the earth's surface to the geoid, and using the reduced gravity for determining the geoid in Egypt, which is considered the most important geodetic application. These methods are: free-air reduction, Bouguer reduction, isostatic reduction (Pratt-Hayford, Airy-Heiskanen), the Rudzki and Helmert reduction. For doing this study, a computer reduction programs were used for calculating the gravity anomalies for all gravity reduction techniques, and also for calculating the gooid for Egypt. Data used are gravity observations, digital terrain model for Egypt and constant density of 2.67 g/cm³.

The results show that, isostatic gravity reduction (Pratt-Hayford, Airy-Heiskanen) is the best method for reduction where it gives gravity anomalies that are small, smooth and slightly osculating around zero, but the indirect effect in Pratt-Hayford isostatic reduction on gravimetric quantities is slightly large. Bouguer reduction gives systematically negative gravity anomalies increased under mountains, but they are smooth. Also, gravity anomalies calculated from free-air gravity reduction are approximately equal to the same values from Helmert method, but the latter are smoother. Moreover, the gravity anomalies calculated from Rudzki reduction are big and do not have a geophysical meaning. In addition, the geoid calculated from isostatic gravity anomalies is not completely equivalent to the geoid calculated from free-air gravity anomalies. Finally, it has been demonstrated that, refining the digital terrain model for Egypt and determining the density field from geological observations are expected to increase the accuracy of isostatic gravity reduction, and hence, the reliability of produced gravimetric goold for Egypt.

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