



# **Density versus Gravity Observations**

A Thesis

Submitted to the Faculty of Engineering  
Ain Shams University for the Fulfillment  
of the Requirement of M. Sc. Degree  
In Civil Engineering

**Prepared by**

**MOHAMED EL-SAYED AHMED SHEBL**

B.Sc. in Civil Engineering, June 2006  
Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University

**Supervisors**

**Prof. Dr. Mohamed El-Husseiny El-Tokhey,**

Professor of Surveying and Geodesy  
Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University, Cairo, EGYPT

**Dr. Mohamed Mamdouh El-Habiby**

Associate professor of Surveying and Geodesy  
Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University, Cairo, EGYPT

**Dr. Ahmed Emad Ragheb,**

Assistant professor of Surveying and Geodesy  
Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University, Cairo, EGYPT

**2014**



## **Density versus Gravity Observations**

A Thesis For

### **The M. Sc. Degree In Civil Engineering (SURVEYING)**

by

**MOHAMED EL-SAYED AHMED SHEBL**

B.Sc. in Civil Engineering, June 2006

Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University

#### **THESIS APPROVAL**

##### **EXAMINERS COMMITTEE**

##### **SIGNATURE**

**Prof. Dr. Mohamed El-Husseiny El-Tokhey** -----

Professor of Surveying and Geodesy

Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University

**Prof. Dr. Abdullah Ahmed Saad** -----

Professor of Surveying and Geodesy

Faculty of Engineering in Shubra, Banha University

**Prof. Dr. Ibrahiem Fathey Shaker** -----

Professor of Photogrammetric Surveying

Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University

**Date:** ...../...../ 2014

## DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to ***MY PARENTS*** who have given me this opportunity of education and supported me throughout my life, and their prayer for my success.

Also

It is dedicated to ***MY BROTHERS, SISTER, AND WIFE*** who have encouraged and helped me to complete this work.

Also

Special dedication for **MY DAUGHTER** God gave me from months

## Statement

This dissertation is submitted to Ain Shams University, Faculty of Engineering for the degree of M. Sc. in Civil Engineering.

The work included in this thesis was carried out by the author in the department of Public Works, Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University, from 2009 to 2014.

No part of the thesis has been submitted for a degree or a qualification at any other University or Institution.

The candidate confirms that the work submitted is his own and that appropriate credit has been given where reference has been made to the work of others.

**Date:** .... / .... /2014

**Signature:** .....

**Name:** Mohamed El-Sayed Ahmed  
Shebl



## Abstract

Gravity meters measure all effects that make up the Earth's gravity field and many of these effects are caused by known sources, such as the Earth's rotation, distance from the Earth's center, topographic relief, and tidal variation. Gravity caused by these sources can be calculated using realistic Earth models and removed from the measured data, leaving gravity anomalies caused by unknown sources, that reflects the effect of the irregular underground distribution of rocks having different densities.

Microgravity investigations are widely applied at present for solving various environmental, geological problems, and archaeology because it is a very useful method especially it's a non-destructive technique, At the same time, development of modern generation of field gravimetric equipment (*Gravimeter*) allows to register promptly and digitally microGal ( $10^{-8} \text{ m/s}^2$ ) anomalies that offer a new challenge in this direction.

The Micro-Gravity method can be a relatively easy geophysical technique to interpretation. It requires only simple but precise data processing. It can be used in detection of subsurface cavities, such as crypts, cellars and tunnels.

Although a large amount of antiques in Egypt which estimated over one-third the antiques of the world, the use of micro-gravimetry in archaeology is still a novel concept, which has not been completely explored over the past years.

The Great Pyramid, one of the Seven Wonders, it is until now messier controversial especially in its construction theory prediction and internal components like passages and rooms. And there is an important question is “*Are there other rooms inside the Great Pyramid not discovered yet?*”

Comparison between real gravity observations by gravimeter on pyramid and theoretical gravity modeling for it, may be answering the previous question.

### **Key words**

Gravity anomaly, Density, Gravity interpretation and forward modeling.

## **Acknowledgement**

Though only my name appears on the cover of this dissertation, a great many people have contributed to its production. I owe my gratitude to all those people who have made this dissertation possible and because of whom my graduate experience has been one that I will cherish forever.

First and foremost, I want to thank God for all the things He has blessed and is still blessing me with, without which I would not be able to pursue knowledge, or even life.

My deepest gratitude is to my advisor, Prof. Dr. Mohamed El-Tokhey. I have been amazingly fortunate to have an advisor who gave me the freedom to explore on my own and at the same time the guidance to recover when my steps faltered. Dr.Tokhey taught me how to question thoughts and express ideas. His patience and support helped me overcome many crisis situations and finish this dissertation. I hope that one day I would become as good an advisor to my students as Dr.Tokhey has been to me.

My co-advisor, Dr. Mohamed El-Habiby, has been always there to listen and give advice. I am deeply grateful to him for the long discussions that helped me sort out the technical details of my work. I am also thankful to him for encouraging the use of correct grammar and consistent notation in my writings and for carefully reading and commenting on countless revisions of this manuscript.

I also wish to thank the third member of my supervisory committee, Dr. Ahmed Ragheb, for his advice and comments on the thesis.



I also thank all members of pyramid mission team work for their cooperation with us and special thanks to Dr. Mathias Wiegelt from Stuttgart University. And also great thanks to all partners of mission represented in **Ain Shams University, Calgary University, Stuttgart University, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, and the Supreme Council of Antiquities.**

Many Thanks go to Prof. Dr. Adel Hagag, Prof. Dr. Ibrahiem Shaker, Dr. Ayman Ragab, Dr. Tamer Fathey, Dr. Yasser Megahed and Dr. Akram Soltan for their support to complete my studies.

I am greatly indebted to all staff members and colleagues of the surveying department in the Faculty of Engineering, Ain Shams University, for their friendship, education, and continuous help and support. Special thanks should be introduced to Eng. Mohamed Ramadan who helped me a lot in field and office to finish my work and Eng. Mohamed Osama, for his kindly encouragement to complete my research.

I also dedicate this thesis to my dearest friend yehya kandil for his help and encouragement.

Last but not least, I would like to dedicate this thesis to ***MY FAMILY.***

# Table of contents

<b>Statement.....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>Abstract .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>Acknowledgement.....</b>	<b>v</b>
<b>Table of contents.....</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>List of figures .....</b>	<b>xii</b>
<b>List of tables .....</b>	<b>xvi</b>
<b>List of abbreviations.....</b>	<b>xvii</b>
<b>List of symbols .....</b>	<b>xviii</b>
<b>Chapter One : Introduction.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Geophysical methods.....	1
1.2 Geophysics method choosing .....	2
1.3 Gravity method.....	4
1.4 Problem definition .....	4
1.5 Thesis objectives.....	6
1.6 Methodology.....	6
1.7 Thesis outline.....	7
<b>Chapter Two : Gravity Background.....</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1 Gravity .....	9
2.1.1 Theory.....	9
2.1.2 Gravity units .....	12

2.2 Gravity surveying.....	12
2.3 Gravity instruments.....	13
2.3.1 Pendulum gravimeter: .....	14
2.3.2 The free-fall gravimeter: .....	15
2.3.3 The spring gravimeter: .....	17
2.4 Gravity network .....	19
2.4.1 Absolute Gravimetry.....	20
2.4.2 Relative Gravimetry .....	21
2.5 Gravity observation techniques.....	21
2.6 Direct vs. inverse modeling .....	22
2.7 The use of gravimetry in void detection .....	23
2.7.1 The use of microgravity for the detection of abandoned Coal workings .....	24
2.7.2 Observed and calculated gravity anomalies above a tunnel driven in clays.....	26
2.7.3 The use of microgravity technique in archaeology.....	27
<b>Chapter Three : Terrestrial Gravity Data post Processing .....</b>	<b>31</b>
3.1 Temporal Reductions .....	31
3.1.1 Tide correction .....	31
3.1.2 Drift correction.....	32
3.2 Spatial Reductions.....	34
3.2.1 Latitude correction .....	34

3.2.2 Elevation correction.....	36
3.2.2.1 Free air correction.....	36
3.2.2.2 Bouguer correction .....	37
3.2.2.3 Combined elevation correction.....	39
3.2.2.4 Terrain Correction .....	39
3.2.3 Isostatic correction.....	41
3.3 Data Filtering.....	41
3.3.1 Separation of regional and residual anomalies .....	42
3.3.2 Upward-downward continuation .....	43
3.3.3 Derivative-based filters .....	44
<b>Chapter Four : Gravity and density relationship (forward and inverse modeling) .....</b>	<b>45</b>
4.1 Introduction .....	45
4.2 Forward Gravity modeling of simple-shaped bodies .....	46
4.2.1 The sphere .....	47
4.2.2 The horizontal cylinder.....	49
4.2.3 The Right Rectangular prism.....	53
4.2.4 The Dipping Thin Sheet with finite length.....	56
4.2.5 The Semi-infinite Horizontal Sheet.....	59
4.3 Inverse Gravity modeling .....	60
4.3.1 Direct interpretation.....	61

4.3.1.1 The limiting depth calculation method .....	62
4.3.1.2 The total anomalous mass method.....	66
4.3.1.3 Approximate thickness.....	67
4.3.1.4 Inflection point.....	67
4.3.2 Indirect interpretation.....	70
<b>Chapter Five : The use of Gravimetry in archeology-Great pyramids case study.....</b>	<b>71</b>
5.1 Introduction.....	71
5.2 Historical review of great pyramid exploration .....	72
5.2.1 The Search for Hidden Chambers.....	72
5.2.2 Exploring the Air Shafts in the Queen’s Chamber .....	74
5.3 Site description.....	80
5.4 Used instruments.....	86
5.4.1 CG-5 Scintrex Autograv System (Gravimeter) .....	86
5.4.1.1 External influences in gravity measurements .....	89
5.4.1.2 Internal influences in gravity measurements .....	91
5.4.2 RTK GPS .....	93
5.5 Field procedures.....	96
5.6 Data post processing .....	106
5.6.1 Data dumping.....	106
5.6.2 Data reductions .....	107

5.6.2.1 Free air correction (FAC) .....	108
5.6.2.2 Bouguer correction (BC) .....	109
5.6.3 Gravity Data filtering .....	110
5.7 Gravity Data analysis.....	112
<b>Chapter Six : Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations.....</b>	<b>119</b>
6.1 Summary.....	119
6.2 Conclusions .....	120
6.3 Recommendations for future research.....	121
<b>References.....</b>	<b>123</b>

## List of figures

Figure 2-1: Newton’s Universal law of gravitation. ....	9
Figure 2-2: Newton’s second law of motion.....	10
Figure 2-3: Localized effect due to a sub-surface excess mass. ....	11
Figure 2-4: free fall gravimeter concept .....	15
Figure 2-5: The FG5 Absolute Gravimeter.....	16
Figure 2-6: spring gravimeter concept.....	17
Figure 2-7: The LaCoste and Romberg Gravimeter .....	19
Figure 2-8: Gravity observation procedures (a: profile method, b: step method and c: star method) .....	22
Figure 2-9: Microgravity map and drilling results showing an area of abandoned coal workings in Bristol, UK.....	25
Figure 2-10: the observed and calculated gravity anomalies models above the tunnel .....	27
Figure 2-11: The residual Bouguer anomaly map of the survey area.....	28
Figure 2-12: The possible location and shape of the crypt .....	29
Figure 3-1: Gravity readings for base station at start and end loop .....	33
Figure 3-2: Theoretical gravity value and latitude relationship.....	35
Figure 3-3: Height of observed point above datum. ....	37
Figure 3-4: Height of Bouguer plate.....	38
Figure 3-5: Topography around a gravity station. ....	39