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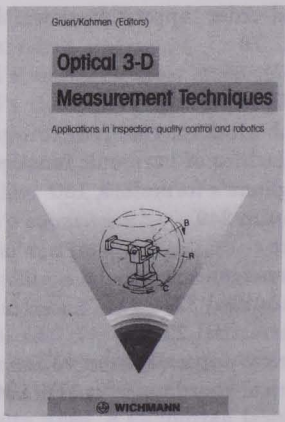

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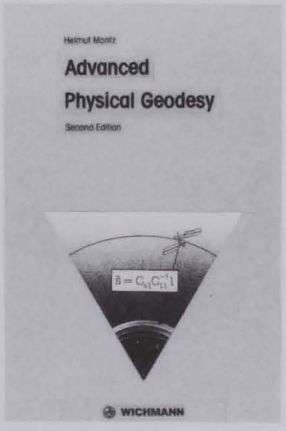

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The Book

The formerly neat boundary between geodesy and geophysics begins to dissolve for various reasons: geodetic measurements are essential for plate tectonics, earth rotation and earth tides; the theory of rotation and tides, which presuppose an equilibrium figure as a reference, is left to geodesists, and generally, geodynamics requires a close interaction between geodesy and geophysics. Furthermore, the separation between external and internal gravity field cannot be maintained in practice.

So it is time to drop the temporary restriction of geodesy to the external gravity field and to reconsider the earth's internal gravitational field and its source, the density distribution, again as part of geodesy.

The title of the book, "The Figure of the Earth", purposely attempts to continue a great tradition, and its subtitle "Geodesy and the Earth's Interior", may seem provocative to some people, but perhaps interesting to others.