

# Contents

|                               |     |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Preface to the First Edition  | v   |
| Preface to the Second Edition | vii |

## Chapter One General Physical Properties of the Earth

|                                                                         |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1.1 Introduction                                                        | 1  |
| 1.2 Travel-Time and Velocity-Depth Curves                               | 3  |
| 1.3 The Core-Mantle Boundary (MCB)                                      | 18 |
| 1.4 Free Oscillations of the Earth                                      | 30 |
| 1.5 Attenuation in the Earth                                            | 39 |
| 1.6 Variation of Density and Other Physical Properties within the Earth | 48 |
| 1.7 Models of the Earth's Interior                                      | 56 |

## Chapter Two The Origin of the Core

|                                                           |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 2.1 Introduction                                          | 81  |
| 2.2 The Accretion Mechanism                               | 82  |
| 2.3 Heat Sources for an Earth Accreting Cold              | 93  |
| 2.4 Time of Core Formation                                | 107 |
| 2.5 Inhomogeneous Models of the Earth                     | 116 |
| 2.6 Variation of the Gravitational Constant $G$ with Time | 126 |

## Chapter Three The Thermal Regime of the Earth's Core

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 3.1 Introduction                                  | 137 |
| 3.2 Grüneisen's Parameter                         | 137 |
| 3.3 The Earth's Inner Core                        | 145 |
| 3.4 Melting-Point-Depth Curves                    | 147 |
| 3.5 Adiabatic Temperatures                        | 159 |
| 3.6 The Earth's Inner Core Reconsidered           | 164 |
| 3.7 Thermal Consequences of an Iron-Alloy Core    | 169 |
| 3.8 The Core and the Thermal History of the Earth | 175 |

## Chapter Four The Earth's Magnetic Field

|     |                                          |     |
|-----|------------------------------------------|-----|
| 4.1 | Introduction                             | 191 |
| 4.2 | The Origin of the Earth's Magnetic Field | 201 |
| 4.3 | The Homogeneous Dynamo Equations         | 207 |
| 4.4 | Mean-Field Electrodynamics               | 213 |
| 4.5 | Reversals of the Earth's Magnetic Field  | 217 |
| 4.6 | Energetics of the Earth's Core           | 236 |
| 4.7 | The Secular Variation                    | 247 |
| 4.8 | Variations in the Length of the Day      | 267 |

## Chapter Five The Constitution of the Core

|     |                                           |     |
|-----|-------------------------------------------|-----|
| 5.1 | Equations of State                        | 297 |
| 5.2 | The Birch–Murnaghan Equation of State     | 299 |
| 5.3 | Experimental Methods                      | 302 |
| 5.4 | Ramsey's Hypothesis                       | 308 |
| 5.5 | Bullen's ( $k, \rho$ ) Hypothesis         | 310 |
| 5.6 | Bullen's $\text{Fe}_2\text{O}$ Hypothesis | 314 |
| 5.7 | The Constitution of the Core              | 315 |
| 5.8 | The Possibility of Potassium in the Core  | 336 |

## Chapter Six The Cores of Other Planets

|     |                   |     |
|-----|-------------------|-----|
| 6.1 | Introduction      | 347 |
| 6.2 | Mercury           | 349 |
| 6.3 | Mars              | 359 |
| 6.4 | Venus             | 371 |
| 6.5 | The Moon          | 377 |
| 6.6 | Summary           | 391 |
| 6.7 | The Great Planets | 394 |

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Appendix A | 407 |
| Index      | 409 |