

Contents

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| <i>Preface</i> | xvi |
| <i>List of commonly used symbols</i> | xviii |

PART I SOME FUNDAMENTAL IDEAS IN WAVE PROPAGATION

| | |
|--|----|
| 1. The wave equation in one dimension | 3 |
| 1.1 An illustrative example: Transverse waves on a stretched string | 3 |
| 1.2 Other examples of the one-dimensional wave equation | 5 |
| 1.3 D'Alembert's solution of the one-dimensional wave equation | 6 |
| 1.4 Superposition, Fourier analysis, and d'Alembert explained | 7 |
| 1.5 Reflections: Standing waves versus travelling waves | 8 |
| 1.6 The energy carried by waves on a string | 9 |
| 1.7 From strings in tension to Alfvén waves in a plasma | 10 |
| 1.8 Moving into two dimensions: Waves on a membrane | 12 |
| 2. Dispersive versus nondispersive waves and the concept of group velocity | 17 |
| 2.1 Dispersive versus nondispersive waves | 17 |
| 2.2 Examples of dispersive waves not governed by the wave equation | 18 |
| 2.3 The curious behaviour of wave packets generated by a local disturbance | 21 |
| 2.4 Slowly modulated wave packets and the concept of group velocity | 24 |
| 2.4.1 The analyses of Kelvin and Rayleigh | 24 |
| 2.4.2 The analysis of Lighthill | 27 |
| 2.5 The concept of group velocity in three dimensions | 29 |
| 3. The wave equation in three dimensions and the theory of retarded potentials | 34 |
| 3.1 Examples of the wave equation in three dimensions | 35 |
| 3.2 Spherically symmetric waves | 36 |
| 3.3 Background to retarded potentials I: Green's solution of Poisson's equation | 37 |
| 3.3.1 Green's inversion formula for Poisson's equation | 37 |
| 3.3.2 The Biot-Savart law of magnetostatics | 39 |
| 3.4 Background to retarded potentials II: The hidden role of waves in quasi-steady processes | 41 |

| | | |
|-------|---|----|
| 3.5 | From Green's inversion integral to retarded potentials | 44 |
| 3.5.1 | Retarded potentials in acoustics | 44 |
| 3.5.2 | More retarded potentials: The vector and scalar potentials of electrodynamics | 46 |
| 3.6 | Retarded potentials and moving sources | 48 |

PART II WAVES IN OR ON ELASTIC SOLIDS

| | | |
|-------|--|----|
| 4. | Elementary elasticity and simple waves in rods and beams | 55 |
| 4.1 | Some elementary ideas in the linear theory of elasticity | 55 |
| 4.1.1 | The notion of stress and Cauchy's stress tensor | 55 |
| 4.1.2 | The idea of strain and the definition of the strain tensor | 57 |
| 4.1.3 | A decomposition of the displacement field into volume expansion and rotation | 60 |
| 4.1.4 | A constitutive law relating stress to strain | 60 |
| 4.1.5 | Plane strain versus plane stress | 63 |
| 4.2 | Longitudinal waves in a rod | 64 |
| 4.3 | Transverse vibrations of a thin beam | 65 |
| 4.3.1 | The governing equation for flexural vibrations of a beam | 65 |
| 4.3.2 | Transverse waves on a beam | 67 |
| 4.4 | Beams on elastic foundations | 69 |
| 4.5 | From beams to thin plates | 71 |
| 4.5.1 | Governing equations and boundary conditions | 71 |
| 4.5.2 | Waves on infinite and finite plates | 72 |
| 5. | Three-Dimensional elastic waves in unbounded domains | 77 |
| 5.1 | The governing equations for three-dimensional elastic waves | 77 |
| 5.2 | The Helmholtz decomposition and waves of dilatation versus waves of rotation | 79 |
| 5.3 | Plane dilatational and rotational waves | 82 |
| 5.4 | Torsional waves as an example of a shear wave | 83 |
| 5.5 | A dilatational wave pulse forced by a spherical cavity | 84 |
| 6. | Elastic waves on surfaces and at interfaces | 88 |
| 6.1 | Rayleigh waves on the surface of a semi-infinite solid | 88 |
| 6.1.1 | Rayleigh's evanescent analysis and the resulting dispersion relationship | 89 |
| 6.1.2 | The structure of Rayleigh's surface wave | 91 |
| 6.2 | Waves dispersing from a localised surface disturbance | 92 |
| 6.3 | Love waves near the surface of a layered, semi-infinite solid | 94 |
| 6.4 | Shear waves in a plate of infinite width | 96 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| 7. Seismic waves | 100 |
| 7.1 The internal structure of the Earth and the origin of earthquakes | 100 |
| 7.1.1 The structure of the Earth | 101 |
| 7.1.2 Plate tectonics and earthquakes | 102 |
| 7.2 Seismic waves at the surface of the Earth | 103 |
| 7.3 Seismic waves in the deep interior | 105 |
| PART III WAVES IN OR ON FLUIDS | |
| 8. A crash course on fluid dynamics | 113 |
| 8.1 Some elementary definitions and different categories of fluid flow | 113 |
| 8.2 The kinematics of fluid motion | 117 |
| 8.2.1 Eulerian versus Lagrangian descriptions of fluid flow | 117 |
| 8.2.2 The convective derivative | 118 |
| 8.2.3 Mass conservation and the stream function | 118 |
| 8.3 The dynamics of an inviscid fluid of uniform density | 120 |
| 8.3.1 Euler's equation for a fluid of uniform density | 120 |
| 8.3.2 Bernoulli's equation and mechanical energy conservation | 122 |
| 8.3.3 Momentum conservation in integral form | 123 |
| 8.4 The governing equations for a viscous fluid | 123 |
| 8.4.1 Viscous stresses and the no-slip boundary condition | 124 |
| 8.4.2 The Spin and deformation of fluid elements | 125 |
| 8.4.3 Newton's law of viscosity | 128 |
| 8.4.4 The Navier-Stokes equation | 130 |
| 8.4.5 The viscous dissipation of mechanical energy | 131 |
| 8.5 Vortex dynamics | 132 |
| 8.5.1 The Biot-Savart law applied to vorticity | 133 |
| 8.5.2 An evolution equation for the vorticity field | 134 |
| 8.5.3 Where does vorticity come from? | 136 |
| 8.5.4 Formalising vortex dynamics: Helmholtz's Laws for inviscid flow | 137 |
| 8.6 Irrotational (vorticity free) flow and its limitations | 139 |
| 9. Surface gravity waves in deep and shallow water | 142 |
| 9.1 Why are surface gravity waves approximately irrotational? | 142 |
| 9.2 Small-Amplitude gravity waves on water of arbitrary depth | 143 |
| 9.3 Particle paths and Stokes drift | 146 |
| 9.4 Energy density and energy flux for waves on water of arbitrary depth | 148 |
| 9.5 Wave drag on boats in deep water | 150 |
| 9.6 The relationship between group velocity and energy flux | 152 |

| | | |
|--------|---|-----|
| 9.7 | Surface gravity waves on water of slowly varying depth | 153 |
| 9.8 | The refraction of waves approaching a beach | 154 |
| 9.9 | Capillary waves | 155 |
| 10. | Inviscid, finite-amplitude waves on fairly shallow water | 159 |
| 10.1 | The shallow-water equations | 160 |
| 10.2 | Nonlinear wave steepening in shallow water | 161 |
| 10.3 | The solitary wave | 162 |
| 10.3.1 | Rayleigh's solution | 163 |
| 10.3.2 | Boussinesq's solution | 167 |
| 10.3.3 | The KdV solution | 168 |
| 10.3.4 | A comparison of the three classical solutions | 170 |
| 10.4 | Cnoidal waves | 172 |
| 10.5 | The hydraulic jump | 174 |
| 11. | Internal gravity waves in a stably stratified fluid | 182 |
| 11.1 | The Boussinesq approximation and governing equations for a stratified fluid | 183 |
| 11.2 | Blocking | 185 |
| 11.3 | Two-Dimensional lee waves | 186 |
| 11.3.1 | Linear lee waves | 186 |
| 11.3.2 | Finite-Amplitude lee waves | 189 |
| 11.4 | Internal gravity waves | 190 |
| 11.4.1 | The dispersion relationship and simple dispersion patterns | 190 |
| 11.4.2 | Blocking revisited | 193 |
| 11.5 | Ray tracing in a weakly inhomogeneous stratification | 194 |
| 11.6 | The reflection of internal gravity waves from a sloping seabed | 195 |
| 12. | Internal waves in a rotating fluid I: Inertial waves | 203 |
| 12.1 | The mechanics of a rapidly rotating fluid | 204 |
| 12.1.1 | Rotating frames of reference and the Coriolis force | 204 |
| 12.1.2 | The Ekman and Rossby numbers | 206 |
| 12.1.3 | The Taylor-Proudman theorem and Taylor columns | 207 |
| 12.1.4 | Taylor columns generated by the axial movement of an object | 211 |
| 12.2 | The group velocity and spatial structure of inertial waves | 213 |
| 12.3 | The physical origin of inertial waves | 216 |
| 12.4 | A second look at the formation of Taylor columns by inertial waves | 219 |
| 12.5 | The spontaneous formation of columnar wave packets | 221 |
| 12.6 | The spontaneous generation and segregation of helicity | 225 |
| 12.7 | The dispersion of inertial waves from a Gaussian vortex | 227 |

| | | |
|---------|---|-----|
| 12.8 | The dispersion of inertial waves from a Buoyant Bob in a Boussinesq fluid | 230 |
| 12.8.1 | A single drifting Buoyant Blob | 230 |
| 12.8.2 | A layer of drifting Buoyant Blobs | 233 |
| 12.9 | Inertial waves in the liquid core of the Earth | 233 |
| 12.10 | Waves in a rotating, stratified fluid and near-inertial waves in the oceans | 240 |
| 12.11 | Finite-Amplitude inertial waves | 243 |
| 12.12 | Inertial wave packets in homogeneous rotating turbulence | 244 |
| 12.12.1 | How to identify inertial wave packets in homogeneous turbulence | 245 |
| 12.12.2 | The evidence that columnar vortices are inertial wave packets | 248 |
| 13. | Internal waves in a rotating fluid II: Rossby Waves | 251 |
| 13.1 | Rossby waves between plane, almost parallel surfaces | 252 |
| 13.1.1 | The governing equations and dispersion characteristics | 252 |
| 13.1.2 | Rossby waves reinterpreted in terms of potential vorticity | 255 |
| 13.1.3 | The physical mechanism of Rossby waves | 256 |
| 13.2 | Rossby waves in the context of shallow-water flow | 256 |
| 13.2.1 | The rotating, shallow-water equations | 257 |
| 13.2.2 | Potential vorticity revisited | 259 |
| 13.2.3 | The quasi-geostrophic shallow-water equation | 260 |
| 13.2.4 | Rossby waves on the β -plane | 262 |
| 13.3 | Zonal (East-West) winds on Jupiter and Saturn | 265 |
| 14. | Acoustic waves | 273 |
| 14.1 | The governing equations for small-amplitude acoustic waves | 273 |
| 14.2 | One-Dimensional waves: Acoustic waves in a pipe | 275 |
| 14.3 | Acoustic energy and the flux of acoustic energy | 276 |
| 14.4 | Spherical waves and retarded potentials revisited | 278 |
| 14.5 | The acoustic monopole | 280 |
| 14.6 | The acoustic dipole | 283 |
| 14.7 | The perception of sound | 285 |
| 14.8 | The generation of sound in wind instruments | 287 |

PART IV ELECTROMAGNETIC WAVES AND RADIATION

| | | |
|------|--|-----|
| 15. | Maxwell's equations | 295 |
| 15.1 | The electric field and charge conservation | 296 |
| 15.2 | Ampère's law and the Ampère-Maxwell equation | 299 |
| 15.3 | Faraday's Law | 300 |
| 15.4 | The vector potential | 303 |

| | | |
|--------|--|-----|
| 15.5 | Maxwell's equations and electromagnetic energy | 304 |
| 15.6 | Maxwell's stresses and Faraday's tension | 306 |
| 15.7 | Electromagnetic waves and retarded potentials | 310 |
| 15.8 | From retarded potentials to retarded fields | 312 |
| 16. | Confined electromagnetic waves: Transmission lines and waveguides | 318 |
| 16.1 | The function and nature of transmission lines and waveguides | 318 |
| 16.2 | Waves in a coaxial cable | 320 |
| 16.2.1 | The equivalent circuit for a coaxial cable and the telegrapher's equations | 320 |
| 16.2.2 | The coaxial cable equations deduced directly from Maxwell's equations | 323 |
| 16.2.3 | Energy, Ohmic losses, and reflections in coaxial cables | 324 |
| 16.3 | Ideal transmission lines of arbitrary cross-section | 326 |
| 16.4 | Waveguides | 329 |
| 16.4.1 | The existence of TM and TE waves | 329 |
| 16.4.2 | Mode shapes and frequencies in simple waveguides | 331 |
| 16.4.3 | The group velocity | 333 |
| 17. | The propagation of electromagnetic waves in free space | 336 |
| 17.1 | Maxwell's equations in vacuum | 336 |
| 17.2 | One-Dimensional plane waves | 338 |
| 17.2.1 | The transverse nature of, and poynting vector for, plane waves | 338 |
| 17.2.2 | The polarisation of monochromatic plane waves | 340 |
| 17.3 | Spherical waves far from their sources | 342 |
| 17.3.1 | Spherical waves far from a compact electric dipole | 342 |
| 17.3.2 | Spherical waves far from a compact magnetic dipole | 344 |
| 17.4 | Three-dimensional waves and Hertz's potentials | 346 |
| 17.4.1 | The poloidal-toroidal decomposition of solenoidal vector fields | 347 |
| 17.4.2 | The potentials of Hertz | 348 |
| 18. | Radiation: Wave sources and their far-field radiation patterns | 353 |
| 18.1 | The radiation zone and radiation field in electrodynamics | 353 |
| 18.2 | The oscillating magnetic dipole | 355 |
| 18.2.1 | The far-field vector potential | 355 |
| 18.2.2 | The electric and magnetic fields | 357 |
| 18.3 | The oscillating electric dipole | 358 |
| 18.3.1 | The far-field potentials | 359 |
| 18.3.2 | The electric and magnetic fields | 361 |

| | | |
|------------|---|------------|
| 18.4 | The radiation zone of an arbitrary compact source | 363 |
| 18.4.1 | The potentials in the radiation zone | 363 |
| 18.4.2 | The electric and magnetic fields in the radiation zone | 365 |
| 18.5 | The radiation equation of Larmor | 368 |
| 18.6 | Radiation from a linear antenna | 369 |
| 19. | The fields of moving charges | 374 |
| 19.1 | Moving sources and the Liénard-Wiechert potentials | 374 |
| 19.2 | From the potentials to the electromagnetic field | 376 |
| 19.2.1 | Some preliminary kinematics | 377 |
| 19.2.2 | The electric field | 379 |
| 19.2.3 | The magnetic field and radiated energy | 380 |
| 19.3 | The case of uniform motion | 381 |
| 19.4 | The Heaviside-Feynman equations | 384 |
| 19.5 | Radiation from an abruptly decelerated charge | 387 |
| 19.6 | Other radiation patterns associated with accelerating charges | 389 |
| 20. | Waves in dielectrics, rainbows and the scattering of light | 394 |
| 20.1 | The macroscopic Maxwell equations for stationary dielectrics | 394 |
| 20.1.1 | Polarisation | 394 |
| 20.1.2 | The macroscopic Maxwell equations | 396 |
| 20.1.3 | Boundary conditions | 397 |
| 20.2 | The reflection and refraction of plane waves in transparent dielectrics | 398 |
| 20.2.1 | The governing wave equation | 398 |
| 20.2.2 | The transmission and reflection of normal waves at plane interfaces | 399 |
| 20.2.3 | The reflection and refraction of oblique waves at plane interfaces | 401 |
| 20.2.4 | Total internal reflection and optical fibres | 405 |
| 20.3 | Dispersive light waves and rainbows | 407 |
| 20.4 | The scattering of light | 409 |
| 20.4.1 | Rayleigh scattering from neutral molecules | 409 |
| 20.4.2 | Thomson scattering from the free charges in an ionised gas | 412 |
| 21. | Interference and diffraction | 414 |
| 21.1 | Interference in Young's two-slit experiment | 415 |
| 21.2 | Interference in a diffraction grating | 416 |
| 21.3 | Huygens' principle and single-slit diffraction | 418 |
| 21.4 | Multiple-slit diffraction | 422 |
| 21.5 | The diffraction of electrons: de Broglie waves | 423 |
| 21.5.1 | The Quanta of Planck and Einstein and the de Broglie wave hypothesis | 423 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----|
| 21.5.2 | De Broglie's Wave Packets and the Wave Function | 425 |
| 21.5.3 | Heisenberg's uncertainty principle | 427 |
| 21.5.4 | Formalising de Broglie waves: Schrödinger's wave equation | 427 |
| 21.5.5 | Measurements and the collapse of the wave function | 429 |
| 21.5.6 | Experimental confirmation of de Broglie's waves: The diffraction of electrons | 430 |
| 22. | Magnetohydrodynamics and Alfvén waves in astrophysics | 434 |
| 22.1 | A simplified version of Maxwell's equations for magnetohydrodynamics | 434 |
| 22.1.1 | Four consequences of a tiny charge density | 435 |
| 22.1.2 | The simplified form of Maxwell's equations required for MHD | 437 |
| 22.1.3 | Magnetic field evolution | 438 |
| 22.2 | Some elementary kinematics | 438 |
| 22.2.1 | An analogy between the evolution of vorticity and magnetic fields | 439 |
| 22.2.2 | Alfvén's theorem for perfect conductors | 440 |
| 22.2.3 | Magnetic helicity and its conservation | 441 |
| 22.3 | Energetics and Faraday's tension revisited | 442 |
| 22.3.1 | The energy exchange between a magnetic field and a fluid | 442 |
| 22.3.2 | Faraday's tension revisited | 444 |
| 22.4 | A glimpse at Alfvén waves and the conservation of cross helicity | 445 |
| 22.5 | More on Alfvén waves | 449 |
| 22.5.1 | Linear Alfvén waves | 449 |
| 22.5.2 | Finite-Amplitude Alfvén waves and Alfvénic turbulence | 450 |
| PART V SOME SPECIAL TOPICS | | |
| 23. | Gravitational waves | 457 |
| 23.1 | What are gravitational waves? | 457 |
| 23.2 | Background to general relativity and waves I: The equivalence principle | 459 |
| 23.3 | Background to general relativity and waves II: Curved space | 462 |
| 23.4 | Gravitational waves reprise | 466 |
| 24. | Biological waves I: The propagation of nerve impulses | 470 |
| 24.1 | The structure of neurons and the nature of action potentials | 470 |
| 24.1.1 | The function and structure of neurons | 470 |
| 24.1.2 | The electrochemical nature of action potentials | 472 |
| 24.1.3 | Models of axons | 474 |

| | | |
|--------|---|-----|
| 24.2 | The cable model for the propagation of pulses along axons | 475 |
| 24.2.1 | A derivation of the cable equation | 475 |
| 24.2.2 | The passive cable equation | 476 |
| 24.2.3 | Diffusive solutions of the passive cable equation | 477 |
| 24.2.4 | The active propagation of pulses along unmyelinated axons | 480 |
| 24.3 | An historical aside: Berger's discovery of neural oscillations in the brain | 482 |
| 25. | Biological waves II: Swimming sheets and pulsing blood | 486 |
| 25.1 | Waves as a means of biological locomotion | 486 |
| 25.1.1 | Two examples of locomotion through wave propagation: Worms and snakes | 487 |
| 25.1.2 | The swimming of microorganisms | 488 |
| 25.2 | Waves in blood flow | 492 |
| 25.2.1 | The heart and circulatory blood system | 492 |
| 25.2.2 | Observed features of arterial pressure pulses and artery elasticity | 493 |
| 25.2.3 | A simple inviscid model for pressure pulses in a large artery | 495 |
| 25.2.4 | A viscous correction to the linear theory | 497 |
| 25.3 | Waves in flocks | 499 |
| 26. | Traffic waves | 505 |
| 26.1 | From avian flocks to traffic waves: A continuum model for traffic flow | 505 |
| 26.2 | The speed-density hypothesis and a nonlinear wave equation | 507 |
| 26.3 | Linear traffic waves | 508 |
| 26.4 | Shockwaves in traffic flow | 509 |
| 27. | Closing thoughts on nonlinear waves: Mostly harmless... | 514 |
| 27.1 | From traffic waves to Burgers equation | 514 |
| 27.2 | Nonlinear wave steepening and the inviscid Burgers equation | 515 |
| 27.3 | The viscous Burgers equation and the propagation of a diffuse shock | 518 |
| 27.4 | The Hopf-Cole transformation of the viscous Burgers equation | 519 |
| 27.5 | Chemical waves I: The Belousov-Zhabotinsky reaction | 520 |
| 27.6 | Chemical waves II: Reaction-diffusion systems and population wars | 525 |
| 27.7 | Chemical waves III: Reaction-diffusion systems and Turing patterns | 528 |
| | <i>Appendices</i> | 535 |
| | <i>Subject Index</i> | 544 |