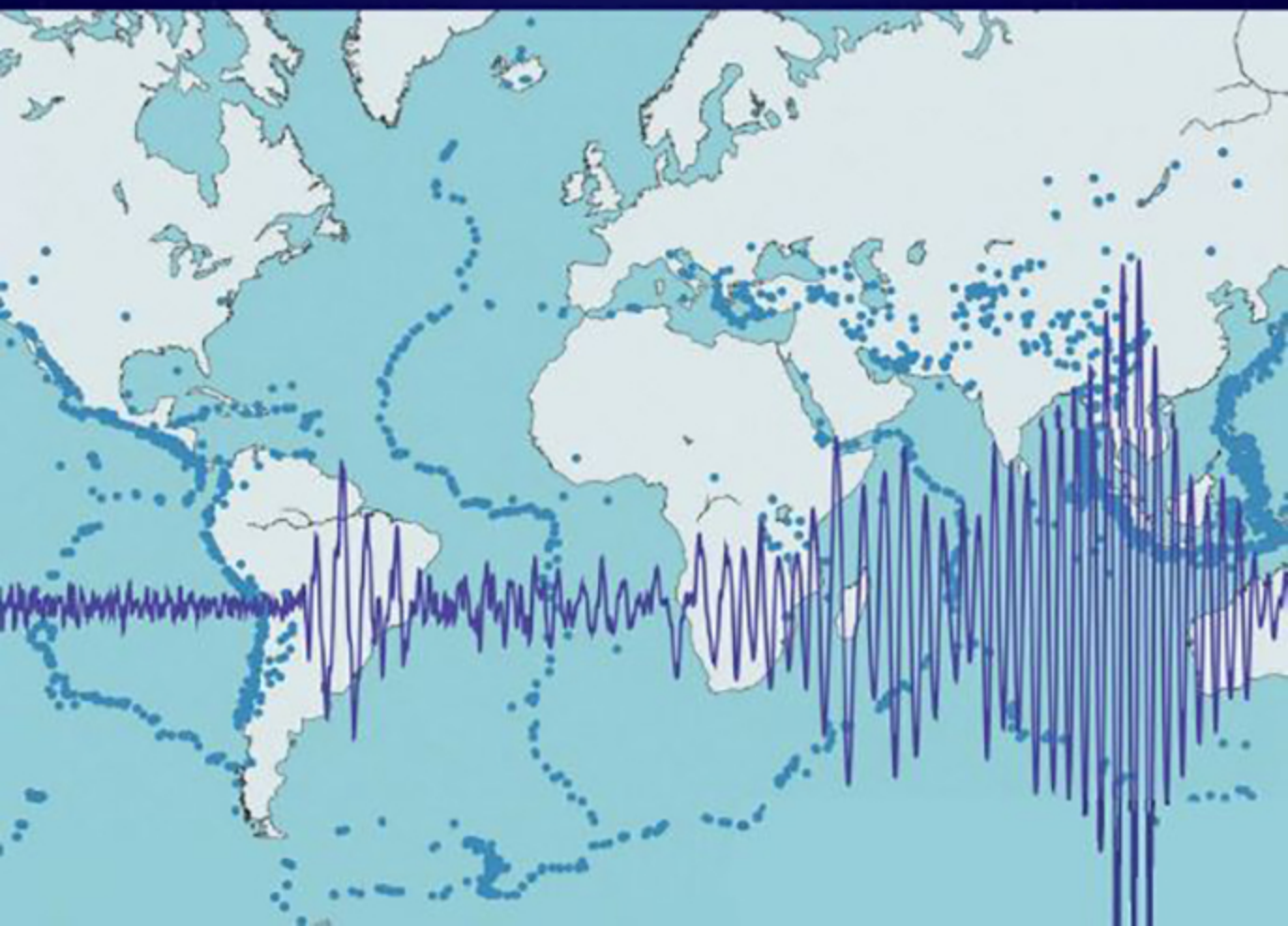


# PRINCIPLES OF SEISMOLOGY

SECOND EDITION

Agustín Udías and Elisa Buforn





# Principles of Seismology

## Second Edition

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The second edition of *Principles of Seismology* has been extensively revised and updated to present a modern approach to observation seismology and the theory behind digital seismograms. It includes: a new chapter on earthquakes, Earth's structure and dynamics; a considerably revised chapter on instrumentation, with new material on processing of modern digital seismograms and a list of website hosting data and seismological software; and 100 end-of-chapter problems. The fundamental physical concepts on which seismic theory is based are explained in full detail with step-by-step development of the mathematical derivations, demonstrating the relationship between motions recorded in digital seismograms and the mechanics of deformable bodies. With chapter introductions and summaries, numerous examples, newly drafted illustrations and new color figures, and an updated bibliography and reference list, this intermediate-level textbook is designed to help students develop the skills to tackle real research problems.

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# Principles of Seismology

## Second Edition

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Universidad Complutense, Madrid

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# Contents

<i>Preface and Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page xv</i>
<b>1 Seismology, the science of earthquakes</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 The historical development	1
1.2 Seismology a multidisciplinary science	4
1.3 Divisions of seismology	5
1.4 Theory and observations	6
1.5 International cooperation	8
1.6 Books, journals, and websites	9
1.7 Summary	12
<b>2 Earthquakes, Earth structure, and dynamics</b>	<b>14</b>
2.1 Earthquakes: natural disasters	14
2.2 Size of earthquakes	17
2.3 Earthquakes and faults	18
2.4 Spatial distribution of earthquakes	20
2.5 Temporal distribution of earthquakes	22
2.6 Earth's structure: crust, mantle, and core	23
2.7 Plate tectonics	26
2.8 Earthquake risk, prediction, and prevention	29
2.9 Summary	30
<b>3 Instrumentation and digital data processing</b>	<b>32</b>
3.1 The historical evolution of seismographs	32
3.2 The theory of the seismometer	35
3.3 Recording systems, magnification, and dynamic range	39
3.4 Electromagnetic seismographs	40
3.5 Digital seismographs	45
3.6 Processing digital seismograms	47
3.6.1 Data acquisition	47
3.6.2 Radial and transverse components	48
3.6.3 Removing the instrumental response	49
3.6.4 Spectral analysis	50
3.6.5 Filtering seismograms	51

---

3.7	Accelerographs	54
3.8	Other types of seismologic instruments	55
3.9	Summary	58
3.10	Problems	58
<b>4</b>	<b>Basic concepts and equations of an elastic medium</b>	<b>60</b>
4.1	Displacement, strain, and stress	60
4.1.1	Eigenvalues and eigenvectors	64
4.2	Elasticity coefficients	65
4.3	The influence of temperature	68
4.4	Work, energy, and heat considerations	70
4.5	Equations of continuity and motion	72
4.5.1	The equations of continuity of mass and energy	72
4.5.2	The equation of motion or momentum	73
4.6	The Lagrangian formulation	77
4.7	Potential functions of displacements and forces	78
4.8	The Green and Somigliana functions of elastodynamics	79
4.9	Theorems of reciprocity and representation	81
4.10	Summary	84
4.11	Problems	85
<b>5</b>	<b>Waves in an infinite elastic medium</b>	<b>87</b>
5.1	Wave equations for an elastic medium	87
5.2	Solutions of the wave equation	89
5.2.1	Wave fronts and rays	91
5.2.2	Waves of several frequencies	93
5.3	Displacement, velocity, and acceleration	93
5.4	The propagation of energy	95
5.4.1	Phase and group velocities	96
5.5	The effect of gravity on wave propagation	97
5.6	Plane waves	98
5.7	The geometry of P and S wave displacements	101
5.8	Particular forms of the potentials	103
5.9	Spherical waves	105
5.10	Cylindrical waves	109
5.11	Summary	112
5.12	Problems	112
<b>6</b>	<b>Reflection and refraction</b>	<b>115</b>
6.1	Snell's law	115
6.2	Reflection and refraction in two liquid media	116
6.2.1	Normal incidence	120
6.2.2	Critical incidence	120
6.2.3	Inhomogeneous waves	121



---

6.2.4 Reflected and transmitted energy	122
6.2.5 Reflection on a free surface	126
6.3 Reflection and refraction in elastic media	127
6.3.1 Incident SH waves	127
6.3.2 Critical incidence and inhomogeneous waves	129
6.3.3 Incident P and SV waves	130
6.4 Reflection on a free surface	132
6.4.1 Incident SH waves	133
6.4.2 Incident P waves	133
6.4.3 Incident SV waves	135
6.4.4 Critical reflection of SV waves	136
6.4.5 The partition of energy	136
6.5 Motion at the free surface	139
6.5.1 Incident P waves	139
6.5.2 Incident S waves	140
6.5.3 Apparent angles of incidence and polarization	141
6.6 Summary	143
6.7 Problems	143
<b>7 Body wave propagation in layered media</b>	<b>146</b>
7.1 Wave propagation in the $(x, z)$ plane	146
7.2 The equation for the displacement–stress vector	148
7.3 The propagator matrix	150
7.4 A layered medium with constant parameters	152
7.4.1 Eigenvalues and eigenvectors	153
7.4.2 The propagator matrix for SH motion	154
7.5 SH motion in an elastic layer over a half-space	155
7.6 The general problem	157
7.6.1 SH motion	158
7.6.2 P–SV motion	158
7.7 Summary	159
7.8 Problems	159
<b>8 Ray theory. Media of constant velocity</b>	<b>161</b>
8.1 The eikonal equation	161
8.1.1 The condition of validity	164
8.2 Ray trajectories	165
8.3 Ray trajectories and travel times. A homogeneous half-space	167
8.4 A layer over a half-space with constant velocities	171
8.5 The dipping layer	176
8.6 A plane-layered medium	178
8.7 Summary	181
8.8 Problems	181

---

<b>9 Ray theory. Media of variable velocity</b>	183
9.1 A variable velocity with depth	183
9.2 The Lagrangian formulation	187
9.3 The change of distance with the ray parameter	188
9.4 The velocity distribution with $\zeta$ constant	190
9.5 A linear increase of velocity with depth	191
9.6 Distributions of velocity with depth	194
9.6.1 A gradual increase of velocity	194
9.6.2 A rapid increase in velocity	195
9.6.3 A decrease of velocity. A low-velocity layer	198
9.7 Travel times for deep foci	200
9.8 Reflected rays	200
9.9 Determination of the velocity distribution	202
9.10 The energy propagated by ray beams. Geometrical spreading	204
9.11 Summary	206
9.12 Problems	207
<b>10 Ray theory. Spherical media</b>	209
10.1 The geometry of ray trajectories and displacements	209
10.2 A sphere of constant velocity	212
10.3 A sphere with a velocity that is variable with the radius	213
10.3.1 The change of distance with the ray parameter	215
10.4 A velocity distribution with $\zeta$ constant	217
10.5 Rays with circular trajectory	217
10.6 Distribution of the velocity with the radius	218
10.6.1 A normal distribution	219
10.6.2 A rapid increase in velocity	220
10.6.3 A decrease in velocity. A low-velocity layer	221
10.7 Determination of velocity distribution	222
10.8 Energy propagation by ray beams. Geometric spreading	224
10.9 Summary	226
10.10 Problems	226
<b>11 Travel times and the structure of the Earth</b>	228
11.1 Observations and methods	228
11.1.1 Refraction and wide-angle reflection	230
11.1.2 Vertical reflection	231
11.1.3 Seismic tomography	233
11.1.4 Receiver functions	235
11.2 Distribution of velocity, elasticity coefficients, and density	236
11.3 The crust	238
11.3.1 The mineralogical composition of the crust	243
11.4 The upper mantle	244

---

11.4.1 The lithosphere and the asthenosphere	245
11.5 The lower mantle	247
11.6 The core	251
11.7 Summary	257
11.8 Problems	258
<b>12 Surface waves</b>	<b>259</b>
12.1 Rayleigh waves in a half-space	259
12.1.1 Displacements of Rayleigh waves	263
12.2 A liquid layer over a rigid half-space. Guided waves	265
12.2.1 Constructive interference	266
12.2.2 The dispersion equation and curves	267
12.2.3 Displacements	268
12.3 An elastic layer over a half-space. Love waves	269
12.3.1 Constructive interference	271
12.3.2 Dispersion curves	272
12.3.3 Displacements	274
12.4 An elastic layer over a half-space. Rayleigh waves	276
12.5 Surface waves in layered media	279
12.5.1 Love waves in a layer over a half-space	279
12.6 Surface waves in a spherical medium	280
12.7 Stoneley waves	281
12.8 Summary	283
12.9 Problems	284
<b>13 Wave dispersion. Phase and group velocities</b>	<b>285</b>
13.1 Phase and group velocities	285
13.2 Groups of waves	287
13.3 The principle of a stationary phase	289
13.4 Characteristics of dispersed waves	292
13.5 Determination of group and phase velocities. Instantaneous frequencies	294
13.5.1 The group velocity	294
13.5.2 The phase velocity	295
13.6 Determination of phase and group velocities. Fourier analysis	297
13.6.1 Fourier analysis of seismograms	297
13.6.2 The phase velocity	298
13.6.3 The group velocity	298
13.7 Dispersion curves and the Earth's structure	300
13.7.1 Observations	300
13.7.2 Interpretation	302
13.8 Summary	306
13.9 Problems	306

---

<b>14 Free oscillations of the Earth. Theory and observations</b>	<b>308</b>
14.1 Standing waves and modes of vibration	308
14.2 Vibrations of an elastic string of finite length	310
14.3 Vibrations of an elastic rod	313
14.3.1 Longitudinal vibrations	313
14.3.2 Torsional vibrations	315
14.4 The general problem. The Sturm–Liouville equation	317
14.5 Free oscillations of a homogeneous liquid sphere	318
14.6 Free oscillations of an elastic sphere	322
14.7 Toroidal modes	324
14.8 Spheroidal modes	327
14.9 Effects on free oscillations	329
14.10 Observations	331
14.11 Summary	333
14.12 Problems	334
<b>15 Anelasticity and anisotropy</b>	<b>335</b>
15.1 Anelasticity and damping	335
15.1.1 Anelasticity	336
15.1.2 Harmonic excitation of a Maxwellian body	337
15.1.3 Damped harmonic motion. The $Q$ coefficient	338
15.2 Wave attenuation	341
15.3 The attenuation of body and surface waves	343
15.3.1 Body waves	343
15.3.2 Surface waves	345
15.4 The attenuation of free oscillations	346
15.5 The attenuation of coda waves	348
15.6 Attenuation in the Earth	349
15.7 Anisotropy	351
15.8 Wave propagation in anisotropic media	352
15.8.1 Body waves	352
15.8.2 Surface waves	354
15.9 Anisotropy in the Earth	355
15.10 Summary	356
15.11 Problems	357
<b>16 Focal parameters of earthquakes</b>	<b>358</b>
16.1 Location of an earthquake focus	358
16.1.1 Macroseismic determination of epicenter locations	359
16.1.2 Instrumental determination. Graphical methods	360
16.1.3 Numerical methods	362
16.2 Joint hypocenter determination	364

---

16.3	Seismic intensity	365
16.3.1	Isoseismal or intensity maps	367
16.4	Magnitude	368
16.4.1	Scales of magnitude	368
16.4.2	The saturation of magnitude scales	372
16.5	Seismic energy	373
16.6	The seismic moment, stress drop, and average stress	374
16.7	Summary	378
16.8	Problems	379
<b>17</b>	<b>Basic theory of earthquake mechanism</b>	<b>380</b>
17.1	Earthquakes and faults	380
17.2	Equivalent forces. Point sources	382
17.2.1	Formulation using Green's function	384
17.2.2	Single and double couples	385
17.3	Fractures and dislocations	388
17.4	The Green function for an infinite medium	390
17.4.1	The radial force	390
17.4.2	An impulsive force in an arbitrary direction	391
17.5	The separation of near and far fields	396
17.5.1	The near field	397
17.5.2	The far field	397
17.6	A shear dislocation or fracture. The point source	400
17.6.1	The radiation pattern	401
17.6.2	The geometry of a shear fracture	404
17.7	The source time function	406
17.8	The equivalence between forces and dislocations	408
17.9	Summary	411
17.10	Problems	412
<b>18</b>	<b>The seismic moment tensor</b>	<b>414</b>
18.1	Definition of the moment tensor	414
18.2	The moment tensor and elastic dislocations	418
18.2.1	An explosive source	418
18.2.2	Shear fracture	419
18.3	Eigenvalues and eigenvectors	420
18.4	Types of sources and separation of the moment tensor	422
18.5	Displacements due to a point source	424
18.6	The temporal dependence	425
18.7	The centroid moment tensor	427
18.8	Inversion of the moment tensor	427
18.9	Summary	429
18.10	Problems	429

---

<b>19 Simple models of fracture</b>	431
19.1 Source dimensions. Kinematic models	432
19.2 Rectangular faults. Haskell's model	434
19.3 Circular faults. Brune's model	438
19.4 Nucleation, propagation, and arrest of a rupture	440
19.5 Dynamic models of fracture	444
19.5.1 The static problem	444
19.5.2 The dynamic problem	445
19.6 Friction models of fracture	448
19.7 The complexity of a fracture	449
19.7.1 The cohesive zone	449
19.7.2 Barriers and asperities	451
19.7.3 Acceleration spectra	453
19.8 Summary	454
19.9 Problems	455
<b>20 Methods of determination of source mechanisms</b>	456
20.1 Parameters and observations	456
20.2 P wave first motion polarities. Fault plane solutions	457
20.2.1 Graphical methods	460
20.2.2 Numerical methods	461
20.3 Wave-form modeling	463
20.4 Inversion of the moment tensor	468
20.4.1 The inversion of Rayleigh waves	468
20.5 Amplitude spectra of seismic waves	470
20.6 Determination of the slip distribution over the fault plane	471
20.7 Summary	473
20.8 Problems	475
<b>21 Seismicity, seismotectonics, seismic risk, and prediction</b>	477
21.1 The spatial distribution of earthquakes	477
21.2 The temporal distribution of earthquakes	480
21.3 Seismic cycles	481
21.4 The distribution of magnitudes	483
21.5 Models of the occurrence of earthquakes	485
21.6 Seismotectonics	487
21.7 Seismic hazard and risk	490
21.8 The prediction of earthquakes	493
21.9 Summary	496
<i>Appendix 1 Vectors and tensors</i>	497
A1.1 Definitions	497
A1.2 Operations with vectors and tensors	498

---

A1.3 Vector and tensor calculus	500
<i>Appendix 2 Cylindrical and spherical coordinates</i>	502
A2.1 Cylindrical coordinates	502
A2.2 Spherical coordinates	504
<i>Appendix 3 Bessel and Legendre functions</i>	506
A3.1 Bessel functions	506
A3.2 Spherical Bessel functions	507
A3.3 Legendre functions	508
A3.4 Associate Legendre functions	509
<i>Appendix 4 Fourier and Laplace transforms</i>	511
A4.1 Periodic functions	511
A4.2 Non-periodic functions	512
A4.3 Convolution and correlation	513
A4.4 Sampled functions of finite duration	514
A4.5 Laplace transform	516
<i>Appendix 5 Parameters of the Earth</i>	518
<i>Appendix 6 The interior of the Earth</i>	519
<i>Appendix 7 Important earthquakes</i>	520
<i>Bibliography</i>	522
<i>References</i>	526
<i>Index</i>	540

*Color plates are to be found between pp. 296 and 297.*





## Preface and Acknowledgments

A second edition of this textbook, first published 17 years ago, is a wonderful opportunity to review its contents and improve its pedagogical orientation, in view of the many comments and interactions received, teaching experience, and experimental progress in seismology over the intervening years. Seismology is the science of earthquakes, which are both natural disasters profoundly affecting human lives, and a subject of study through application of the principles of the physical sciences. These two aspects are linked, since an important aim of the study of seismology is to mitigate the terrible effects of earthquakes through a more complete knowledge of their nature. Seismology provides us also with a powerful instrument to study the constitution and dynamics of the Earth. To emphasize these different aspects of seismology, [Chapter 2](#) has been added to present, as an introduction, the complex phenomenon of earthquakes from a narrative point of view. As a physical science, the fundamentals of seismology are based on analysis of the seismic waves produced by earthquakes and registered by seismographs. The importance of this aspect is shown by presenting the analysis of seismographic digital data in [Chapter 3](#), so that it can be used in subsequent chapters. This is a unique feature not present in other texts on seismology. Thus, this approach has been used in the new edition. The text is at an introductory level for students in the last years of the European Licentiate and the first year of Masters programs or American upper-division undergraduate courses and first graduate courses, and at similar levels of study in other countries. As a first book, no previous knowledge of seismology, as such, is assumed of the student. The book's emphasis, as indicated by its title, is on the fundamental physical principles which constitute the basis of the analysis of seismic waves and their basic development. In consequence, a number of topics have been selected. It has been noticed that sometimes even graduate students lack a true grasp of the fundamental physical principles underlying some aspects of seismology. In this book, the most fundamental concepts are, therefore, developed in detail, with their mathematical developments fully worked out. Simple cases, such as one-dimensional problems and those in liquid media, are used as introductory topics. In some instances, more difficult subjects are introduced, although not fully developed. In these cases references to more advanced books and articles are given where they can be found. In each chapter, problems are proposed, some of them are fully solved in the electronic material. As an innovation in this edition, for some of the problems seismogram digital data are used, which are given in the electronic material. Details of websites from where data and programs can be retrieved are provided. The reader can access the electronic material at [www.cambridge.org/UdiasBufom](http://www.cambridge.org/UdiasBufom), and it is referenced in the text as EM.

The book presupposes a certain level of knowledge of mathematics and physics. Knowledge of mathematics at the level of calculus and ordinary and partial differential equations, as well as a certain facility for vector and tensor analysis, are assumed. Cartesian,

spherical, and cylindrical coordinates, and some functions such as Legendre and Bessel functions are used. Tensor index notation is used preferentially throughout the book. Fundamental ideas about certain mathematical subjects are given briefly in [Appendixes 1 to 4](#). Basic knowledge of the mechanics of a continuous medium and of the theory of elasticity is also presupposed, but the reader is reminded about the basic equations of elasticity in [Chapter 4](#) and for other topics is referred to textbooks on elasticity that are cited in the Bibliography.

Throughout the book there is an emphasis on the fundamental theoretical aspects of seismology and observations are treated briefly. Thus, some readers will miss discussion of recent results; we refer them to the excellent books by Lay and Wallace (1995) and Stein and Wysession (2003). Also, more advanced developments of the theory of wave propagation and generation are not treated; see, for example, Aki and Richards (1980), Ben Menahem and Singh (1981), and Dahlen and Tromp (1998). We hope that our book is a good introduction to these excellent advanced books. It is difficult to decide where to stop with subjects treated in a textbook that is designed as an introduction. We have selected to develop only, but with all mathematical detail, the very basic problems. In this sense, as was mentioned in the preface of the first edition, this book is different from those that already exist. The style and approach are also sometimes different, and reflect those of the authors.

After the introductory two chapters providing a short narrative presentation of the phenomenon of earthquakes, [Chapter 3](#) gives the theory of seismographs and the analysis of seismograms in digital form. In this way digital seismograms can be used in subsequent chapters and problems thereby included. The following chapters are dedicated to the fundamentals of elasticity theory ([Chapter 4](#)), solutions of the wave equation ([Chapter 5](#)), the propagation of body waves ([Chapters 6 and 7](#)), ray theory ([Chapters 8 to 11](#)), and surface waves ([Chapters 12 and 13](#)), normal modes and free oscillations ([Chapter 14](#)), with an introduction to anelasticity and anisotropy ([Chapter 15](#)). Five chapters are devoted to the study of the earthquake source and the focal mechanism ([Chapters 16 to 20](#)). The final one ([Chapter 21](#)) introduces the reader to the problems of seismicity, seismotectonics, and seismic risk. [Appendixes 1 to 4](#) cover some mathematical tools, [Appendixes 5 to 7](#) give some helpful information. The Bibliography includes books on seismology and related topics. Other references cited in the text are given separately. Some books are listed as references, so one must use both lists.

The authors wish to thank in the first place all of our students over many years at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid, to whom we are indebted for their questions and suggestions, which have helped us to write this second edition, and for their patience during our lectures. We must thank also a long list of seismologists, some of them former students, who will be difficult to name without omissions, and we hope, therefore, that they will all feel included in our thanks. We thank IRIS (Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology) for providing some of the digital seismograms used in examples and problems. Finally, we very much appreciate Cambridge University Press for offering to prepare this new edition.

The term *seismology* is derived from two Greek words, *seismos*, shaking, and *logos*, science or treatise. Earthquakes were called *seismos gês* in Greek, literally, shaking of the Earth; the Latin term is *terrae motus*, and from the equivalents of these two terms come the words used in most occidental languages. Seismology means, then, the science of the shaking of the Earth or the *science of earthquakes*. The term seismology and similar ones in other occidental languages (séismologie, sismología, Seismologie, etc.) began to be used at around the middle of the nineteenth century. In this chapter we present a very short overview of the history of seismology (brief information about pertinent historical developments can also be found in each chapter), a discussion of seismology considered as a multidisciplinary science, its theoretical and observational aspects, international cooperation, and a summary of books, journals, and websites.

## 1.1 The historical development

In antiquity, the first rational explanations of earthquakes, beyond mythical stories, are from Greek natural philosophers beginning with Thales of Miletos in the sixth century BC. Aristotle (in the fourth century BC) discussed the nature and origin of earthquakes in the second book of his treatise on meteors (*Meteorologica*). The term meteors was used by the ancient Greeks for a variety of phenomena believed to take place somewhere above the Earth's surface and below the orbit of the Moon, such as rain, wind, thunder, lightning, comets, but also earthquakes and volcanic eruptions inside the Earth. The term meteorology derives from this word, but in modern use it refers only to atmospheric phenomena. Aristotle, following other Greek authors, such as Anaxagoras, Empedocles, and Democritus, proposed that the cause of earthquakes consists in the shaking of the Earth due to underground dry heated vapors or winds trapped in its interior and trying to leave toward the exterior. This explanation was part of his general theory for all meteors caused by various types of exhalations of gas or vapor (*anathymiaseis*) that extend from inside the Earth to the Lunar orbit. This theory was spread more widely by the encyclopedic Roman authors Lucius Anneus Seneca and Gaius Plinius (Pliny the Elder). It was commented upon by medieval philosophers such as Albert the Great and Thomas of Aquinas, and, with small changes, was accepted in the West until the seventeenth century. For example, in 1678 Athanasius Kircher, a Jesuit professor at the Roman College, in his book *Mundus Subterraneus*, related earthquakes and volcanoes to a system of fire conduits (*pyrophyllacia*) and another of air (*aerophyllacia*) inside the Earth. With the birth of modern science in the

seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, Martin Lister and Nicolas Lemery proposed that earthquakes are caused by explosions of flammable material concentrated in some interior regions. This explanation was accepted and propagated by Isaac Newton and Georges-Louis Buffon.

The great Lisbon earthquake of 1 November 1755, which caused widespread destruction in that city and produced a large tsunami, may be considered the starting point of modern seismology. In 1758, Joachim Moreira de Mendonça published *Historia Universal dos Terremotos*, a study on the causes of earthquakes with one of the first global catalogs (Fig. 1.1). In 1760, John Michell was one of the first to relate the shaking due to earthquakes to the propagation of elastic waves inside the Earth. This idea was further developed by, among others, Thomas Young, Robert Mallet, and John Milne. Descriptions of damage due to earthquakes and the compilation of lists of their occurrence can be traced back to very early dates. Sometimes these lists include other natural disasters such as floods, famines, and plagues. The first catalogs of earthquakes published in Europe were at the end of the seventeenth century, by Marcello Bonito and Joannes Zahn (Chapters 2 and 16).

Robert Mallet was aware of starting a new science when in 1848 he wrote: “The present paper constitutes, so far as I am aware, the first attempt to bring the phenomenon of the earthquake within the range of exact science, by reducing to system the enormous mass of disconnected and often discordant and ill observed facts which the multiplied narratives of earthquakes present, and educing from these, by appeal to the established laws of the higher mechanics, a theory of earthquake motion” (Mallet 1848). His study of the Naples earthquake of 1857 constitutes one of the first basic works of modern seismology (Mallet, 1862). Mallet developed the theory of the seismic focus from which elastic waves are propagated in all directions and connected the occurrence of earthquakes with changes in the Earth’s crust that are often attended by dislocations and fractures, abandoning the explosive theory. Geologists such as Charles Lyell and Eduard Suess had related earthquakes to volcanic and tectonic motions, and, at the beginning of the twentieth century, Ferdinand Montessus de Ballore and August Sieberg assigned the cause of earthquakes to orogenic processes and contributed to many aspects of observational seismology (Chapter 16 and 17). Two fundamental steps in the process of quantification and formalization of seismology are the development of seismic instrumentation to record the ground motion produced by earthquakes, opening the possibility of having quantified observations and application of the principles of the theory of continuous mechanics. Thus, seismology ceased to be a purely naturalist science. The first instruments used to observe the shaking of the ground were based on oscillations of a pendulum and started to be used in around 1830. By the end of the century, the first seismographic continuous recordings had been produced. In 1889, Ernst von Rebeur Paschwitz recorded, in Potsdam, an earthquake that took place in Tokyo; this was the first seismogram recorded at a large distance. Among the first names related to the development of seismologic instrumentation are those of John Milne and Fusakishi Omori, with the inclined pendulum, Emil Wiechert with the inverted pendulum, Boris B. Galitzin with the electromagnetic seismograph, and Hugo Benioff with variable magnetic reluctance (Chapter 3). Towards the end of the nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth, Wiechert, Karl Zöppritz, and Richard D. Oldham, among others, published the first studies of the

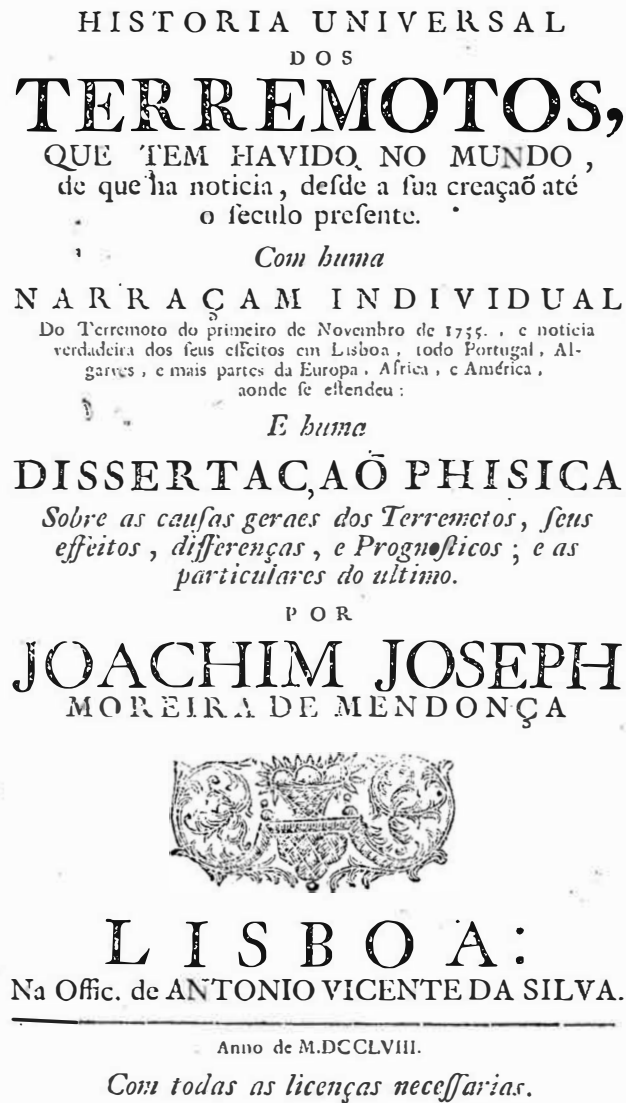


Fig. 1.1

Title page of Joachim Moreira de Mendonça (1758) *Historia Universal dos Terremotos*, written after the 1755 Lisbon earthquake (New York Public Library).

propagation of seismic waves, based on early work on the theory of elasticity (Chapter 4). The first models of the interior of the Earth based on seismologic observations were proposed between 1900 and 1940 by, among others, Oldham, Beno Gutenberg, Harold Jeffreys, Keith E. Bullen, and James B. Macelwane (Chapter 9).

Since 1945, seismology has experienced a very rapid development. Details of this development and names associated with it can be found in the introductions to each chapter and elsewhere in this book. In this rapid evolution, two important subjects are the propagation of elastic waves in the Earth and the mechanism of the generation of earthquakes. Both include theoretical and observational aspects. Observations of seismic waves have improved and multiplied with the development of seismologic instrumentation, from early mechanical seismographs with analog recording, to the present systems with a broadband response, electronic amplification, and digital recording ([Chapter 3](#)). In the study of the propagation of seismic waves, the Earth is approximated by models that have progressed from the early very simple models of homogeneous elastic media or media divided into layers to those with three-dimensional heterogeneity, including anelasticity and anisotropy ([Chapters 4 to 15](#)). Models of the source of earthquakes have developed from simple models of point foci to those including the complex process of fracture and friction of crustal material along faults ([Chapters 16 to 20](#)). These developments have contributed to an increase in knowledge about the complex processes that cause earthquakes and the properties and composition of the materials of the Earth's interior. Other aspects of seismology concern the occurrence of earthquakes in time and space (seismicity), its relation to tectonic processes (seismotectonics), the evaluation of seismic hazard and risk, and the problem of earthquake prediction and earthquake early-warning systems. These aspects of seismology have also significantly expanded in the latest years ([Chapter 21](#)).

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## 1.2 Seismology, a multidisciplinary science

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Recent trends in seismology tend to overemphasize those aspects related to the generation and propagation of seismic waves. With this emphasis, Keiti Aki and Paul G. Richards (1980) define seismology as a science based on data called seismograms, which are the records of mechanical vibrations. Thorne Lay and Terry C. Wallace (1995), following this point of view, define seismology as the study of the generation, propagation, and recording of elastic waves in the Earth (and other celestial bodies), and of the sources that produce them, and conclude that recordings of ground motion as a function of time, or seismograms, provide the basic data for seismologists. A similar approach is followed by Seth Stein and Michael Wyssession (2003). However, Cinna Lomnitz (1994) considers this approach to be rather narrow, because seismograms provide us with much less information about earthquakes than is needed. Moreover, this definition downplays many other aspects present in the complex phenomena of earthquakes.

In a more traditional approach, seismology is defined in a broader sense as the science of the study of earthquakes. The analysis of seismic waves forms a very important part of seismology, but not its totality. Bruce A. Bolt (1978) considers the task of seismologists to be the study of all aspects of earthquakes, including their causes, occurrence, and properties. For Bullen (1947), it is evident that the study of earthquakes belongs to many fields of knowledge, such as physics, chemistry, geology, engineering, and even philosophy. For this

reason many authors consider seismology as a multidisciplinary science (Macelwane and Sohon, 1936; Madariaga and Perrier, 1991).

There is no doubt that the study of seismic waves recorded by seismographs and their physico-mathematical formulation is fundamental to seismology, for example, to the study of the mechanism causing earthquakes and the constitution of the Earth's interior. However, this does not imply that wave analysis is the only source of information about earthquakes. The seismicity of a region, for example, cannot be understood correctly if solely instrumentally recorded earthquakes are considered. Owing to the long return periods for large earthquakes, the study of historical earthquakes is essential. The need to go even farther back into the past has promoted the study of other types of information from archeoseismicity and paleoseismicity. The characteristics of large earthquakes cannot be fully understood without geologic field observations after their occurrence. Comparison of geodesic measurements before and after earthquakes is another important source of knowledge. Modern satellite observations such as from global positioning system (GPS) and interferometric synthetic aperture radar (INSAR) provide very useful seismological information. All these types of data are important in helping one to interpret the nature of earthquakes and their consequences, and must be integrated with information obtained from the analysis of seismic waves.

Two parts of seismology with a marked multidisciplinary character are the evaluation of seismic risk and work toward the prevention and the prediction of earthquakes. In the first case, the interaction of seismologists with geologists and engineers is necessary in order to correctly assess earthquake hazards, expected ground motion, soil conditions, seismic zonation, and the responses of structures and buildings. In the second, many of the suggested precursory phenomena (for example, electromagnetic signals, changes in resistivity, emissions of radon gas, and changes in geodesic measurements) are not directly related to seismic waves. Progress in the difficult problem of earthquake prediction cannot be achieved without a great multidisciplinary effort involving scientists working in many fields, such as seismologists, engineers, geologists, and physicists. In recent years emphasis has been placed on earthquake prevention with the development of detailed seismic risk analyses, robust seismic building codes, and earthquake early warning systems. Depending on correct assessment of the seismic risk and the adequacy of the design and construction of buildings, the damage from earthquakes, especially loss of human lives, may vary greatly. Finally, we must not forget that earthquakes are natural disasters that affect human lives (Zeilinga de Boer and Sanders, 2005; Coen, 2013). The response of the population to the occurrence of an earthquake must also be taken into account, with all its serious psychological, social, and economic consequences. Seismologists cannot be indifferent to all these problems.

### 1.3 Divisions of seismology

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Seismology can be divided into three disciplines: seismology in the strict sense, seismic engineering, and seismic exploration. Seismology treats the occurrence of earthquakes and their related phenomena and is primarily based on application of the principles of the mechanics of a continuous medium, and in particular of the theory of elasticity to them.

As has already been mentioned, its two main subjects are the generation of earthquakes and the vibrations and propagation of seismic waves inside the Earth. From observations of these vibrations, together with other types of data, we derive our knowledge about the nature of earthquakes, the structure of the Earth's interior, and its dynamic characteristics. The part of seismology that deals with seismologic instrumentation, called seismometry, studies the physical theory of the various types of instruments used to measure seismic motion.

Seismic or earthquake engineering is an applied science that deals with how the motion produced by earthquakes affects buildings and other man-made structures. Starting from the characterization of ground displacement, velocity, and acceleration, seismic engineering proceeds to consider their effects on structures and seeks to design them to resist such motions. If earthquake-resistant structures are not to be unnecessarily expensive, a reliable evaluation of the expected ground motion at a particular site is necessary. For this task, an assessment of the seismic risk for a particular zone is needed. This assessment includes consideration of many factors, such as the occurrence of earthquakes near a site, their source mechanism, seismic wave attenuation and soil conditions, and the vulnerability of structures. The complete evaluation of seismic risk implies the statistical analysis of all these factors and requires the collaboration of seismologists, engineers, and geologists.

In seismic exploration, seismological methods are applied to the search for mineral resources, especially oil deposits. These methods are based on the reflection and refraction of artificially generated seismic waves in geologic structures associated with the presence of such deposits. The methods that have proved to be most effective are those based on vertical reflection of waves. Closely spaced distributions of wave generators and detectors together with complex processing of the digital data allow one to obtain detailed images of the upper part of the Earth's crust. The increasing demand for energy resources makes this work more and more important.

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## 1.4 Theory and observations

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Just as in all experimental sciences, theoretical and observational aspects of seismology must be considered. The first are based on the principles of the mechanics of continuous media, with the assumption that the Earth is an imperfectly elastic body in which vibrations are produced by earthquakes. The study of the generation of these vibrations constitutes the theory of the source mechanism. In this theory, different models of the processes occurring at the foci of earthquakes are proposed. They range from the more simple instantaneous point sources to the more complex fracture processes. The aim is to approximate the process of fracture and slip that takes place along geologic faults.

Vibrations in the Earth can be treated using two approaches: wave propagation and normal modes theory. The first approach considers waves propagating inside the Earth or on its surface. The second considers the eigenvibrations or oscillations of the Earth as a whole. This second approach is necessary when wave lengths are near the dimensions of the Earth. In the simplest models, the Earth behaves like a homogeneous isotropic perfectly elastic



medium. For some problems the flat-Earth approximation may be sufficient, whereas others require treatment of its sphericity. Heterogeneity in the Earth can be treated using layered models with different elastic properties for each layer, or models in which these properties vary with the spatial coordinates. The assumption of a spherical radially heterogeneous medium is useful in providing a close approximation to the real Earth. Ray theory is employed as a useful high-frequency approximation to wave propagation in heterogeneous media. Surface waves in layered media describe wave dispersion with the separation of phase and group velocities. The lack of perfect elasticity is accounted for by introducing the attenuation of vibrations and waves and by considering viscoelastic models. Isotropic models are adopted as a first approximation but further analysis needs to consider anisotropic conditions. By proceeding through these successive modifications in models of the Earth, its imperfect elasticity, heterogeneity, and anisotropy can be adequately considered.

An important part of seismologic observations consists in the recording of the ground's motion by instruments installed on its surface. Nowadays, classical analog seismograms on photographic paper have largely been replaced by digital data kept on magnetic tapes or compact disks, which can be obtained directly from world data banks through the Internet practically in real time. Previously to their interpretation through the use of digital computers, seismologic observations usually needed careful complex numerical processing. As has already been mentioned, important seismologic data are also provided by other sources, for example, historical records of damage from pre-instrumental earthquakes, field observations of structural damage and ground deformation after earthquakes, geodesic measurements related to the occurrence of earthquakes, *in situ* stress measurements, and geologic and tectonic implications. A modern source of seismological observations is provided by continuous high-rate GPS data of coseismic displacements. GPS records function like a new type of seismogram. Crustal deformations produced by large earthquakes can be obtained by modern INSAR observations. Observations of field geology and damage to structures after earthquakes also provide an important source of information. Progress in methods of observation of all kinds of seismologic data has allowed one to apply models of increasing complexity to the problems of the generation of earthquakes and determination of the structure of the Earth's interior.

The relation between observations and theories or models can be approached through direct and inverse problems. The direct problem refers to the determination of ground displacements from theoretical models of the generation and propagation of seismic waves. In the direct problem, theoretical models are assumed *a priori* and from them synthetic displacements are determined, which are then compared with observations. If they agree, we consider the model well suited to observations. However, in many instances, there is no assurance of its uniqueness and many other models may equally well satisfy the same observations. The inverse problem consists in estimation of the parameters of a theoretical model from observations. This is often a more complicated problem than the direct one. Observations are always incomplete and contain errors, so that a solution of the inverse problem may only exist in a probabilistic sense. In general, inverse problems become more intractable as the number of parameters of the model increases. The mathematics of inverse problems requires, generally, the solution of non-linear integral equations. Linearization of the problem is a standard procedure that leads, very often, to large unstable systems of

equations. Difficulties in the solution of inverse problems lead to their substitution by repeated solutions of direct problems until sufficient agreement between observations and synthetic data predicted by the assumed models is reached.

## 1.5 International cooperation

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The main objectives of seismology require the cooperation of, and exchange of observations among, scientists from different parts of the world. This collaboration was accomplished from early times through private initiatives. The global character of large earthquakes soon required the establishment of institutional cooperation at national and international levels. The first organizations were national ones such as the Seismological Society of Japan, created after the earthquake of 1880 with Milne as first secretary. In 1890, the Committee for the Investigation of Earthquakes was founded, also in Japan, of which Omori was president from 1897 to 1923. In Italy, the Italian Seismological Society (*Società Sismologica Italiana*) was created in 1895; Luigi Palmieri, Timoteo Bertelli, and Giuseppe Mercalli were among its first members. Another national society with great influence in the history of seismology is the Seismological Society of America, which was founded in 1906 as a response to the great San Francisco earthquake, with Charles Davidson as its first president. The idea of an international association of seismology was first proposed by Georg Gerland, during the Sixth International Congress of Geography that was held in London in 1895. In 1904, the International Association of Seismology was finally created, but it was suppressed in 1916. Since 1922, seismology has formed a section of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), created in 1919. In 1930, the IUGG was reorganized and included as one of its associations the International Association of Seismology, which finally, in 1951, received its present name of the International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (IASPEI). One of its commissions is the European Seismological Commission (ESC), which was founded in 1951. There are also active seismology sections of geophysical scientific societies such as the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and European Geosciences Union (EGU).

Exchange of seismologic data between observatories was carried out in the past through the publication of seismologic bulletins. These bulletins preserve a great wealth of information about earthquakes of the early instrumental period. One of the first publications of epicenter determinations was *The Reports of the Seismological Committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science*, which started in 1911 with the determinations for the period 1899–1903. In 1922, this publication became the *International Seismological Summary (ISS)*, its first volume being dedicated to the earthquakes of 1918. Later, in 1963, the publication was continued by the *International Seismological Centre (ISC)*, Newbury, UK. The *Bureau Central International de Séismologie (BCIS)* was created in Strasbourg in 1906 and published a bulletin with epicenter determinations from 1904 until 1975. In 1976, the *Centre Séismologique Européen Méditerranéen (CSEM)* was created by the ESC with the task of determining hypocenters of earthquakes of the Mediterranean region. Other agencies also started to publish epicenter determinations, such as, in North America, the

Jesuit Seismological Association that was active between 1925 and 1960 and the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey (USCGS), which was later transferred to the National Earthquake Information Center (NEIC), which is dependent on the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Since 1968, its monthly publication Preliminary Determination of Epicenters has included also information on determinations of focal mechanisms for sufficiently large earthquakes. Similar information has also been published since 1977 by Harvard University and was continued from 2006 onwards by the Global Centroid Moment Tensor Project. At present there are several world centers of seismologic data, including digital seismograms from broad-band stations, such as IRIS (USA), GEOFON (Germany), and ORFEUS (Holland).

## 1.6 Books, journals, and websites

A list of books which cover the different topics relevant in seismology is given in the Bibliography. It is divided into three sections: general seismology, special topics in seismology, and elasticity and wave mechanics. Some of these books are mentioned in the following paragraphs.

Among the early treatises on seismology are those of:

Mallet (1862), *Great Neapolitan Earthquake of 1857: The First Principles of Observational Seismology*.

Rudolf Hoernes (1893), *Erdbebenkunde*.

Milne (1898), *Seismology* (Fig. 1.2).

At the beginning of the last century, several books on seismology were published, among them were those by:

Sieberg (1904), *Handbuch der Erdbebenkunde*.

Hobbs (1907), *Earthquakes. An Introduction to Seismic Geology*.

Montessus de Ballore (1911), *La sismologie moderne*.

Galitzin (1914), *Vorlesungen der Seismometrie*.

From 1930, textbooks about seismology that may be considered modern started to be published. Only those of a general character will be mentioned (full references are given in the Bibliography):

Macelwane and Sohon (1936), *Introduction to Theoretical Seismology*. Part I, Geodynamics and Part II, Seismometry.

Byerly (1942), *Seismology*.

Bullen (1947), *An Introduction to the Theory of Seismology*.

Richter (1958), *Elementary Seismology*.

Sawarensky and Kirnos (1960), *Elemente der Seismologie und Seismometrie*.

Bath (1973), *Introduction to Seismology*.

# SEISMOLOGY

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WITH FIFTY-THREE FIGURES

FIRST EDITION

LONDON

KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH, TRÜBNER & CO. LTD.  
PATERNOSTER HOUSE CHARING CROSS ROAD  
1898

**Fig. 1.2** The title page of Milne's book on seismology (1898) (Cambridge University Press).

More recently, since 1979, several textbooks on general seismology at various levels have been published. Four excellent advanced books are:

Pilant (1979), *Elastic Waves in the Earth*.

Aki and Richards (1980), *Quantitative Seismology. Theory and Methods*.

Ben Menahem and Singh (1981), *Seismic Waves and Sources*.

Dahlen and Tromp (1998), *Theoretical Global Seismology*.

At an introductory level there are books by:

Bullen and Bolt (1985), *An Introduction to the Theory of Seismology*.

Bolt (1978), *Earthquakes, a Primer*.

Gubbins (1990), *Seismology and Plate Tectonics*.

Madariaga and Perrier (1991), *Tremblements de terre*.

Lay and Wallace (1995), *Modern Global Seismology*.

Doyle (1995), *Seismology*.

Gershanik (1995), *Sismologia*.

Udías and Mezcua (1996), *Fundamentos de sismología*.

Shearer (1999), *Introduction to Seismology*.

Udías (1999), *Principles of Seismology*.

Pujol (2003), *Elastic Wave Propagation and Generation in Seismology*.

Stein and Wysession (2003), *An Introduction to Seismology, Earthquakes and Earth Structure*.

There are books covering only certain aspects of seismology, such as, for example, ray theory, by Červený (2001), wave propagation and free oscillations, by Officer (1958), Ewing *et al.* (1957), Lapwood and Usami (1981), Kennett (1983), and Babuska and Cara (1991); source mechanisms, by Kasahara (1981), Kostrov and Das (1988), Scholz (1990, 2002), and Udías *et al.* (2014); seismicity, earthquake prediction, and other topics such as extraterrestrial seismology, by Gutenberg and Richter (1954), Kisslinger and Zuzuki (1977), Kulhanek (1990), Lomnitz (1994), and Tong and García (2015).

There are excellent collections of review papers, such as those by Dziewonski and Boschi (eds.) (1980), Kanamori and Boschi (eds.) (1983), Boschi *et al.* (eds.) (1996), and Kanamori (ed.) (2009). Entries on seismologic subjects in James (ed.) (1989) *The Encyclopedia of Solid Earth Geophysics* are very good short up-to-date presentations.

The first scientific articles about seismology were published in the *Bollettino del vulcanismo Italiano* founded by de Rossi in 1874 and in the *Beiträge zur Geophysik*, founded by Gerland in 1887. The first journals exclusively dedicated to seismology were the *Transactions of the Seismological Society of Japan*, published from 1880 to 1892 and the *Seismological Journal of Japan*, published from 1892 to 1895, both directed by Milne. In 1985, the *Bollettino della Società Sismologica Italiana* was founded by the Italian Seismologic Society, and, in 1897, the *Mitteilungen der Erdbeben* was founded by the Vienna Academy of Sciences. In 1907, publication began of the *Bulletin of the Imperial Earthquake Investigation Committee* in Japan, in 1908, the *Publications du Bureau Central de l'Association Internationale de Sismologie* started publishing in Strasbourg, in 1911, the *Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America*, in 1926, the *Bulletin of the Earthquake Research Institute* of Tokyo University, and, in 1929, *Earthquakes Notes*, which in 1987 changed its name to *Seismological Research Letters*. In 1997, publication began of the *Journal of Seismology* (Springer, Dordrecht). Some examples of journals dedicated to the field of earthquake engineering are: *Earthquake Engineering and Spectral Dynamics*

(1997), *Soil Dynamics and Earthquake Engineering* (1981), *Earthquake Spectra* (1985), *Natural Hazards* (1988), and *Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering* (2003).

Besides journals dedicated entirely to seismology, articles on this subject are published in geophysical journals. The list is very long so only the most representative are mentioned, in chronological order of the first year of publication: *Geophysical Magazine* (1926), *Fizica ziemly* (1937), *Pure and Applied Geophysics (Geofisica pura e applicata)* (1939), *Annali di geofisica* (1948), *Journal of Geophysical Research* (1949), *Journal of Physics of the Earth* (1952), *Advances in Geophysics* (1952), *Geophysical Journal International* (1992) (a fusion of the *Geophysical Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society* (1958), the *Zeitschrift für Geophysik* (1924), and the *Annales de Géophysique* (1948)), *Reviews of Geophysics* (1963), *Tectonophysics* (1964), *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* (1966), and *Physics of the Earth and Planetary Interiors* (1967).

Actually, the amount of published material in seismology continues to increase considerably. Students will find it useful to consult the most important textbooks given in the Bibliography, where they will find different approaches to topics treated in this book. Also, they should read some of the classical papers, references to which are given in the References list, and look through the recent issues of seismologic journals to find out about present topics of research.

Information about earthquakes may be found at several websites. This information may be general information such as focal parameters (date, origin time, hypocenter, and magnitude) or more specific, such as wave forms, instrumental responses, studies of some large earthquakes, etc. Some examples of these websites are:

[www.usgs.gov/](http://www.usgs.gov/) (U.S. Geological Survey, USA); <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/contactus/golden/neic.php> (National Earthquake Information Center, NEIC, USA); [www.iris.edu/hq/](http://www.iris.edu/hq/) (Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology, IRIS, USA); [www.emsc-csem.org/#2](http://www.emsc-csem.org/#2) (EMSC/CSEM, European Mediterranean Seismological Centre, EU); [www.orfeus-eu.org/](http://www.orfeus-eu.org/) (Observatories and Research Facilities for European Seismology, ORFEUS, EU); <http://geofon.gfz-potsdam.de/> (Geoforschungszentrum, GEOFON, Potsdam, Germany); <http://geoscope.ipgp.fr/index.php/en/> (GEOSCOPE, Institut de Physique du Globe, Paris, France); [www.jma.go.jp/en/quake/](http://www.jma.go.jp/en/quake/) (Japan Meteorological Agency, Earthquake Information, Tokyo, Japan); [www.eri.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/](http://www.eri.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/) (Earthquake Research Institute, University of Tokyo, Japan); [www.globalcmt.org/CMTsearch.html](http://www.globalcmt.org/CMTsearch.html) (Global Centroid Moment Tensor, GCMT, Harvard, USA).

## 1.7 Summary

Seismology, the science of earthquakes, has a long history as since antiquity man has tried to describe the effects of these natural disasters and study their causes. Modern treatises on seismology began towards the middle of the nineteenth century with the application of the principles of mechanics to the shaking of the Earth produced by earthquakes and the development of seismographs to measure and record this, making possible its quantitative