Contents

	Preface	**xix**
	Acknowledgements	**xxi**
	Glossary	**xxiii**
	G.1 Abbreviations of mineral names used in the text	xxiii
	G.2 Other abbreviations and symbols used in the text	xxiv
Chapter 1	**Geochemical data**	**1**
1.1	**Introduction**	1
1.2	**Geological processes and their geochemical signatures**	3
1.2.1	Processes which control the chemical composition of igneous rocks	3
1.2.2	Processes which control the chemical composition of sedimentary rocks	5
1.2.3	Processes which control the chemical composition of metamorphic rocks	7
1.3	**Geological controls on geochemical data**	9
1.4	**Analytical methods in geochemistry**	9
1.4.1	X-ray fluorescence (XRF)	10
1.4.2	Neutron activation analysis (INAA and RNAA)	13
1.4.3	Inductively coupled plasma emission spectrometry (ICP)	13
1.4.4	Atomic absorption spectrophotometry (AAS)	14
1.4.5	Mass spectrometry	14
	Isotope dilution mass spectrometry (IDMS)	15
	Inductively coupled plasma emission mass spectrometry (ICP-MS)	15
	Spark source mass spectrometry (SSMS)	15
1.4.6	Electron microprobe analysis	15
1.4.7	The ion microprobe	16
1.5	**Selecting an appropriate analytical technique**	16
1.6	**Sources of error in geochemical analysis**	17
1.6.1	Contamination	17
1.6.2	Calibration	18
1.6.3	Peak overlap	18
1.6.4	Detecting errors in geochemical data	18
Chapter 2	**Analysing geochemical data**	**19**
2.1	**Introduction**	19

2.2	**Averages**	21
2.3	**Correlation**	22
2.3.1	The correlation coefficient	23
2.3.2	The significance of the correlation coefficient (*r*)	23
2.3.3	Assumptions in the calculation of the product–moment coefficient of correlation	24
2.3.4	Spearman rank correlation	25
2.3.5	Correlation matrices	26
2.3.6	Correlation coefficient patterns	27
2.4	**Regression**	28
2.4.1	Ordinary least squares regression	29
2.4.2	Reduced major axis regression	31
2.4.3	Weighted least squares regression	31
2.4.4	Robust regression	32
2.4.5	Some problems with traditional approaches to correlation and regression	32
2.5	**Ratio correlation**	33
2.5.1	An example of the improper use of ratio correlation — Pearce element ratio diagrams	34
2.5.2	Application to trace element diagrams	36
2.5.3	Ratio correlation in isotope geology	36
2.6	**The constant sum problem**	37
2.6.1	The consequences of closure	38
	Correlating compositional data	38
	The means of compositional data-sets	38
	Invalid escape routes	38
2.6.2	Aitchison's solution to the constant sum effect	38
	An example — basalts from Kilauea Iki lava lake, Hawaii	41
	The interpretation of log-ratios	41
2.7	**The interpretation of trends on triangular diagrams**	42
2.8	**Principal component analysis**	42
2.9	**Discriminant analysis**	44
2.9.1	An example from igneous petrology	44
2.9.2	Other applications of discriminant analysis	45
2.10	**Whither geochemical data analysis?**	46

Chapter 3	**Using major element data**	**48**
3.1	**Introduction**	48
3.2	**Rock classification**	48
3.2.1	Classifying igneous rocks using oxide–oxide plots	49
	The total alkalis–silica diagram (TAS)	49
	(a) Using TAS with volcanic rocks	50
	(b) A TAS diagram for plutonic rocks	50
	(c) Discrimination between the alkaline and subalkaline rock series using TAS	51
	The K_2O vs SiO_2 diagram for the subdivision of the subalkaline series	51

3.2.2 Classifying igneous rocks using the norm 52
Cation norms 57
Norm calculations and the oxidation state of iron 57
Basalt classification using the Ne–Di–Ol–Hy–Q diagram of Thompson (1984) 57
Granite classification using the Ab–An–Or diagram of O'Connor (1965) 58
The Q'(F')–ANOR diagram of Streckeisen and Le Maitre (1979) 60
3.2.3 Classifying igneous rocks using cations 61
The R1–R2 diagram of de la Roche *et al.* (1980) 61
The Jensen cation plot (Jensen, 1976) 63
3.2.4 The chemical classification of sedimentary rocks 64
Arenite/wacke 64
Mudrocks 65
3.2.5 Discussion 66
3.3 **Variation diagrams** 66
3.3.1 Recognizing geochemical processes on a major element variation diagram 66
Fractional crystallization 67
Assimilation and fractional crystallization 69
Partial melting 69
Mixing lines in sedimentary rocks 69
The identification of former weathering conditions from sedimentary rocks 70
Mixing in metamorphic rocks 71
Element mobility 71
Artificial trends 73
3.3.2 Selecting a variation diagram 73
Bivariate plots 73
(a) Harker diagrams — bivariate plots using SiO_2 along the *x*-axis 73
(b) Bivariate plots which use MgO on the *x*-axis 74
(c) Bivariate plots using cations 74
(d) Bivariate plots using the magnesium number 74
Triangular variation diagrams 74
(a) The AFM diagram 75
(b) Problems in the use of the AFM diagram 76
3.3.3 Interpreting trends on variation diagrams 78
Extract calculations 78
Addition–subtraction diagrams 79
Trends showing an inflection 79
Scattered trends 79
A computer-based approach to mixing calculations 81
3.3.4 Modelling major element processes in igneous rocks 82
3.3.5 Discussion 84
3.4 **Diagrams on which rock chemistry can be plotted together with experimentally determined phase boundaries** 84

3.4.1 The normative albite–orthoclase–quartz diagram — the 'granite system' 86
Water-undersaturated equilibria 88
The presence of anorthite 88
3.4.2 The silica-undersaturated portion of the normative nepheline–kalsilite–silica diagram — the 'nepheline syenite system' 88
3.4.3 Basaltic experimental systems 89
CMAS diagrams 90
(a) Projecting rock compositions into CMAS 91
(b) Interpreting CMAS diagrams 93
Diagrams based upon the Yoder–Tilley (1962) CIPW normative tetrahedron 94
(a) Projections in the tholeiite basalt tetrahedron Ol–Pl–Di–Q 94
(b) The normative Ne–Di–Ol–Hy–Q diagram 96
(c) The low-pressure tholeiitic basalt phase diagram (Cox *et al.*, 1979) 97
(d) Problems with CIPW normative projections 99
3.4.4 Experimental systems for calc–alkaline rocks 99
The olivine–clinopyroxene–silica projection of Grove *et al.* (1982) 99
The projections of Baker and Eggler (1983, 1987) 99
3.4.5 Discussion 100

Chapter 4 **Using trace element data** **102**

4.1 **Introduction** 102
4.1.1 Classification of trace elements according to their geochemical behaviour 102
Trace element groupings in the periodic table 102
Trace element behaviour in magmatic systems 103
4.2 **Controls on trace element distribution** 104
4.2.1 Partition coefficients 106
Measuring partition coefficients 106
Physical controls on the value of partition coefficients in mineral–melt systems 107
(a) Composition 107
(b) Temperature 107
(c) Pressure 111
(d) Oxygen activity 113
(e) Crystal chemistry 113
(f) Water content of the melt 115
(g) Selecting a partition coefficient 115
Partition coefficients in basalts and basaltic andesites 116
Partition coefficients in andesites 117
Partition coefficients in dacites and rhyolites 117

4.2.2	Geological controls on the distribution of trace elements	119
	Element mobility	120
	Partial melting	121
	(a) Batch melting	121
	(b) Fractional melting	122
	Crystal fractionation	124
	(a) Equilibrium crystallization	124
	(b) Fractional crystallization/Rayleigh fractionation	124
	(c) *In situ* crystallization	127
	Contamination	127
	(a) AFC processes	127
	(b) Zone refining	130
	Dynamic models	130
	(a) Dynamic melting	130
	(b) The RTF magma chamber	131
	Sedimentary processes	132
4.3	**Rare earth elements** (REE)	133
4.3.1	The chemistry of the REE	134
4.3.2	Presenting REE data	135
	(a) Difficulties with chondrite normalization	136
	(b) Choosing a set of normalizing values	136
	REE ratio diagrams	137
	NASC normalization for sediments	137
	Rock normalization	137
4.3.3	Interpreting REE patterns	137
	REE patterns in igneous rocks	138
	REE patterns in sea and river water	140
	REE patterns in sediments	140
	(a) Clastic sediments	140
	(b) Chemical sediments	141
4.4	**Normalized multi-element diagrams or incompatible element diagrams (spider diagrams)**	142
4.4.1	Multi-element diagrams for igneous rocks	142
	Primordial (primitive) mantle-normalized spider diagrams	142
	Chondrite-normalized spider diagrams	143
	MORB-normalized spider diagrams	145
	Which spider diagrams do we use?	147
	Interpreting multi-element diagrams for igneous rocks	148
4.4.2	Multi-element diagrams for sediments	148
	Interpreting multi-element diagrams for sediments	149
4.5	**Platinum metal group element (PGE) plots**	150
4.5.1	Presenting PGE data	151
	Chondrite normalization	151
	Primitive mantle normalization	152
4.5.2	Interpreting PGE patterns	153
4.6	**Transition metal plots**	154
4.7	**Bivariate trace element plots**	156

4.7.1 The selection of trace elements in igneous rocks for plotting on bivariate graphs 156
Incompatible element plots 157
(a) Identification of igneous source characteristics from incompatible element plots 157
(b) Identification of igneous source characteristics from incompatible element ratio–ratio plots 157
(c) Calculation of partition coefficients from reciprocal concentration trace element plots 158
Compatible element plots 158
4.7.2 Bivariate plots in sedimentary rocks 159
4.8 **Enrichment–depletion diagrams** 159
4.9 **Modelling trace element processes in igneous rocks** 160
4.9.1 Vector diagrams 161
4.9.2 Modelling on multivariate diagrams 162
4.9.3 Petrogenetic modelling — examples 166
Partial melting 166
Crystal fractionation 166
Crustal contamination and AFC processes 166
Open system processes 167
Magma and source mixing 168
Demonstrating element mobility 168
4.9.4 Inversion techniques using trace elements 168
Constraining fractional crystallization using an inversion method 169
Constraining partial melting using an inversion method 170
4.9.5 A final comment on geochemical modelling 170

Chapter 5 **Discriminating between tectonic environments using geochemical data** **171**

5.1 **Introduction** 171
5.1.1 Discriminant analysis 171
5.1.2 Immobile trace elements 172
5.1.3 Tectonic environments 172
5.1.4 Using discrimination diagrams 173
5.2 **Discrimination diagrams for rocks of basaltic to andesitic composition** 174
5.2.1 Trace element discrimination diagrams 174
The Ti–Zr, Ti–Zr–Y and Ti–Zr–Sr diagrams (Pearce and Cann, 1973) 174
(a) The Ti–Zr–Y diagram 174
(b) The Ti–Zr diagram 176
(c) The Ti–Zr–Sr diagram 178
(d) Discussion 179
Other discrimination diagrams using Ti–Zr–Y–Nb variations 180

(a) The Zr/Y–Zr diagram for basalts (Pearce and Norry, 1979) 180
(b) The Ti/Y–Nb/Y diagram (Pearce, 1982) 180
(c) The Zr–Nb–Y diagram (Meschede, 1986) 180
(d) The causes of Ti–Zr–Y–Nb variations in basalts from different tectonic settings 182
The Th–Hf–Ta diagram of Wood (1980) 182
The Ti–V diagram of Shervais (1982) 184
The La–Y–Nb diagram of Cabanis and Lecolle (1989) 184
Diagrams which preferentially select volcanic-arc basalts 186
(a) The Cr–Y diagram (Pearce, 1982) 186
(b) The Cr–Ce/Sr diagram 187
Distinguishing between different types of volcanic-arc basalt 188
The K_2O/Yb–Ta/Yb diagram 189
Diagrams which distinguish between different types of volcanic-arc andesite (Bailey, 1981) 190
Diagrams which discriminate between the alkali basalt and tholeiitic magma series 190
(a) The TiO_2–Y/Nb diagram (Floyd and Winchester, 1975) 190
(b) The P_2O_5–Zr diagram (Floyd and Winchester, 1975) 191
(c) The TiO_2–Zr/P_2O_5 diagram (Floyd and Winchester, 1975) 192
(d) The Nb/Y–Zr/P_2O_5 diagram (Floyd and Winchester, 1975) 192
(e) Discussion 193
5.2.2 Discrimination diagrams for basalts based upon major elements 193
The F1–F2–F3 diagrams of J.A. Pearce (1976) 194
The MgO–FeO–Al_2O_3 diagram of T.H. Pearce *et al.* (1977) 196
5.2.3 Discrimination diagrams for basalts based upon minor elements 196
The TiO_2–K_2O–P_2O_5 diagram of T.H. Pearce *et al.* (1975) 196
The MnO–TiO_2–P_2O_5 diagram of Mullen (1983) 198
The K_2O–H_2O diagram of Muenow *et al.* (1990) 199
5.2.4 Discrimination diagrams for basalts based upon clinopyroxene composition 200
5.3 **Discrimination diagrams for rocks of granitic composition** 201
5.3.1 Discrimination diagrams for granites based upon Rb–Y–Nb and Rb–Yb–Ta variations (Pearce *et al.*, 1984) 202
The Nb–Y and Ta–Yb discrimination diagrams 204
The Rb–(Y + Nb) and Rb–(Yb + Ta) discrimination diagrams 204
5.3.2 Discrimination diagrams for granites based upon Hf–Rb–Ta variations 205
5.3.3 A measure of arc maturity for volcanic-arc granites 205
5.3.4 Discussion 206
5.4 **Discrimination diagrams for clastic sediments** 206
5.4.1 Discrimination diagrams for clastic sediments using major elements 207
The sandstone discriminant function diagram (Bhatia, 1983) 207
Bivariate plots as sandstone discrimination diagrams (Bhatia, 1983) 208

The K_2O/Na_2O vs SiO_2 sandstone–mudstone discrimination diagram (Roser and Korsch, 1986) 208
Provenance signatures of sandstone–mudstone suites using major elements (Roser and Korsch, 1988) 208
5.4.2 Discrimination diagrams for clastic sediments using trace elements 209
Greywackes 209
Spider diagrams as discriminants of tectonic setting for shales (Winchester and Max, 1989) 209
Provenance studies (Cullers *et al.*, 1988) 210
5.4.3 Discussion 211
5.5 **Tectonic controls on magmatic and sedimentary geochemistry** 212
5.5.1 An expert system for identifying the tectonic environment of ancient volcanic rocks (Pearce, 1987) 213
5.5.2 Do tectonic discrimination diagrams still have a function? 213

Chapter 6 **Using radiogenic isotope data** **215**

6.1 **Introduction** 215
6.2 **Radiogenic isotopes in geochronology** 215
6.2.1 Isochron calculations 216
Pb isotope isochrons 218
Fitting an isochron 218
Errorchrons 219
The geochron 219
6.2.2 Model ages 220
T–CHUR model ages 221
T–depleted mantle (DM) model ages 221
Assumptions made in the calculation of model ages 221
6.2.3 Interpreting geochronological data 224
Blocking temperatures 224
Concepts of geological age 225
(a) Cooling age 226
(b) Crystallization age 226
(c) Metamorphic age 226
(d) Crust formation age 226
(e) Crust residence age 226
The interpretation of whole-rock ages 226
(a) The Rb–Sr system 226
(b) Pb isotopes 227
(c) The Sm–Nd system 227
The interpretation of mineral ages 226
(a) Rb–Sr mineral ages 228
(b) Argon methods 228
(c) Sm–Nd mineral ages 229

(d) U–Pb dating of zircon 229
The interpretation of model ages 229
6.3 **Radiogenic isotopes in petrogenesis** 231
6.3.1 The role of different isotopic systems in identifying reservoirs and processes 232
6.3.2 Recognizing isotopic reservoirs 234
Oceanic mantle sources 237
(a) Depleted mantle (DM) 237
(b) HIMU mantle 237
(c) Enriched mantle 237
(d) PREMA 241
(e) Bulk Earth (Bulk Silicate Earth – BSE) 241
(f) The origin of oceanic basalts 241
(g) Trace elements and mantle end-member compositions 241
Continental crustal sources 241
(a) Upper continental crust 242
(b) Middle continental crust 242
(c) Lower continental crust 242
(d) Subcontinental lithosphere 242
Seawater 243
6.3.3 The evolution of mantle reservoirs with time — mantle evolution diagrams 244
The evolution of Sr isotopes with time 244
The evolution of Nd isotopes with time 247
The evolution of Pb isotopes with time 248
6.3.4 The epsilon notation 249
Calculating epsilon values 249
(a) Epsilon values calculated for an isochron 250
(b) Epsilon values for individual rocks at the time of their formation 251
(c) Epsilon values for individual rocks at the present day 253
Epsilon values for Sr isotopes 253
Calculating the uncertainties in epsilon values when they are determined for isochron diagrams 254
The meaning of epsilon values 254
The fractionation factor $f^{Sm/Nd}$ 255
Epsilon–Nd time plots 255
6.3.5 Isotope correlation diagrams 256
Using isotope correlation diagrams and epsilon plots to recognize mixing processes 257
(a) Mixing between sources 257
(b) Mixing in a magma chamber 258
Applications to contamination 259
(a) Contamination of magmas by the continental crust 259
(b) Crustal contamination and AFC processes 260
(c) Contamination with seawater 260
Isotope vs trace (and major) element plots 261
6.3.6 Mantle–crust geodynamics 263
Plumbotectonics 263
Geodynamics 263

Chapter 7 **Using stable isotope data** 266

7.1 **Introduction** 266
7.1.1 Notation 266
7.1.2 Isotope fractionation 267
7.1.3 Physical and chemical controls on stable isotope fractionation 268
7.2 **Using oxygen isotopes** 270
7.2.1 Variations of $\delta^{18}O$ in nature 270
7.2.2 Oxygen isotope thermometry 271
Calibration of oxygen isotope thermometers 272
Tests of isotopic equilibrium 274
Applications 276
(a) Low-temperature thermometry 276
(b) High-temperature thermometry 277
7.2.3 Oxygen isotope–radiogenic isotope correlation diagrams 278
Recognizing crust and mantle reservoirs 278
Recognizing crustal contamination in igneous rocks 279
Recognizing simple crystal fractionation in igneous rocks 281
7.3 **Fingerprinting hydrothermal solutions using oxygen and hydrogen isotopes — water–rock interaction** 282
7.3.1 Hydrogen isotopes 283
7.3.2 Calculating the isotopic composition of water from mineral compositions 285
7.3.3 The isotopic composition of natural waters 285
(a) Meteoric water 285
(b) Ocean water 287
(c) Geothermal water 288
(d) Formation water 288
(e) Metamorphic water 289
(f) Magmatic water 289
7.3.4 Quantifying water/rock ratios 289
7.3.5 Examples of water–rock interaction 291
(a) Interaction between igneous intrusions and groundwater 292
(b) Interaction between ocean-floor basalt and seawater 292
(c) Water–rock interaction in metamorphic rocks 292
(d) Water–rock interaction during the formation of hydrothermal ore deposits 294
(e) Diagenesis of clastic sediments 294
7.4 **Using carbon isotopes** 294
7.4.1 The distribution of carbon isotopes in nature 295
Controls on the fractionation of carbon isotopes 295
7.4.2 Combined oxygen and carbon isotope studies of carbonates — $\delta^{18}O$ vs $\delta^{13}C$ plots 296
Limestone diagenesis 297
Hydrothermal calcite 300
7.4.3 The $\delta^{13}C$ composition of seawater 300
7.4.4 Biogeochemical evolution 300

7.4.5	Carbon isotopes in CO_2	301
	CO_2 dissolved in igneous melts	301
	CO_2 in metamorphic fluids	301
	(a) Granulites	301
	(b) The origin of metamorphic graphite	301
	CO_2 in gold-mineralizing fluids	302
	CO_2 fluid–rock interaction	302
7.4.6	Carbon isotope thermometry	302
	The calcite–graphite $\delta^{13}C$ thermometer	302
	The CO_2–graphite thermometer	303
7.5	**Using sulphur isotopes**	303
7.5.1	The distribution of sulphur isotopes in nature	304
7.5.2	Controls on the fractionation of sulphur isotopes	306
	Sulphur isotope fractionation in igneous rocks	306
	Sulphur isotope fractionation in sedimentary rocks	306
	(a) The bacterial reduction of sulphate to sulphide	306
	(b) The bacterial oxidation of sulphide to sulphate	307
	(c) The crystallization of sedimentary sulphate from seawater — evaporite formation	307
	(d) The non-bacterial reduction of sulphate to sulphide	307
	Sulphur isotope fractionation in hydrothermal systems	308
	Sulphur isotope fractionation between sulphide and sulphate phases — sulphur isotope thermometry	308
7.5.3	Using sulphur isotopes in igneous petrogenesis	311
	(a) Outgassing of SO_2	311
	(b) Contamination	312
	(c) Crystal fractionation	312
7.5.4	Using sulphur isotopes to understand the genesis of hydrothermal ore deposits	312
	Modern hydrothermal mineralization at mid-ocean ridges	312
	Ancient hydrothermal mineralization	313
	(a) High-temperature inorganic reduction of seawater sulphate	314
	(b) Low-temperature organic reduction of sulphate	314
	(c) Low-temperature bacteriological reduction of sulphate	315
	(d) Sulphur of magmatic origin	315
	References	**316**
	Index	**344**