

Dynamic Earth Plates Plumes And Mantle Convection

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a comprehensive 2001 review of mantle plumes for advanced students and researchers in earth science

this book presents a brief synopsis of the current academic understanding of the plume hypothesis its surface manifestations and its shortcomings it also describes methods for estimating the uplift history of a region due to plume activity it discusses different models for the elastic properties of the lithosphere and their estimation as a background for plume emplacement and introduces the plume hypothesis describing the major plume types and their effect on the lithosphere two chapters are dedicated to the dynamic and permanent topography produced by an impinging plume head below

the lithosphere and its estimation it also presents the historical background of the plume hypothesis its criticisms and alternatives

the concept of mantle plumes originally suggested by morgan 1971 is widely but not unequivocally accepted as the cause for hotspot volcanism plumes are thought of as deep rooted approximately cylindrical regions of hot rising mantle rock with a typical diameter of 100 200 km pressure release melting near the bottom of the lithosphere produces magmas that rise to the surface and lead when the plate moves relative to the plume to a chain of volcanic edifices whose age progresses with increasing distance from the plume for a long time the evidence for mantle plumes has been largely circumstantial laboratory and computer models of mantle convection show that under certain conditions plume like structures can be found and these simulations have been used to characterise their properties geodetic signals such as topographic swells and associated geoid anomalies which surround the volcanic hotspots support the plume hypothesis they are best identified in an oceanic environment where the plume signal is usually less susceptible to be masked by effects of crustal or lithospheric heterogeneities the isotopic and trace element composition of hotspot lavas differs from those of mid oceanic ridge basalts which is interpreted as indication for a source reservoir different from average upper mantle rock the idea of mantle plumes has gained widespread popularity in various disciplines of earth science and has been used sometimes perhaps excessively to explain volcanic and other phenomena

dynamic earth presents the principles of convection in the earth's mantle in an accessible style mantle convection is the process underlying plate tectonics volcanic hotspots and hence most geological processes the book summarises key observations and presents the relevant physics starting from basic principles the main concepts and arguments are presented with minimal mathematics although more mathematical versions of important aspects are included for those who desire them the book also surveys geochemical constraints and mantle evolution the audience for geoff davies book will be the broad range of geologists who desire a better understanding of the earth's internal dynamics as well as graduate students and researchers working on the many aspects of mantle dynamics and its implications for geological processes it is also suitable as a text or supplementary text for upper undergraduate and postgraduate courses in geophysics geochemistry and tectonics

presents a geographical reference text of the world with maps charts and photographs

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