## Contents

	Preface		page x	
1	Introduction			
	1.1	The Origins of Reconnection Theory	6	
	1.2	Magnetohydrodynamic Equations	10	
	1.3	Null Points and Current Sheets	19	
	1.4	The Concepts of Frozen Flux and Field-Line Motion	23	
	1.5	MHD Shock Waves	29	
	1.6	Classification of Two-Dimensional Reconnection	34	
	1.7	Relevance of MHD to Collisionless Systems	38	
2	Current-Sheet Formation		48	
	2.1	X-Point Collapse	48	
	2.2	Current Sheets in Potential Fields	50	
	2.3	Current Sheets in Force-Free and Magnetostatic Fields	64	
	2.4	Magnetic Relaxation	72	
	2.5	Self-Consistent Dynamic Time-Dependent Formation	75	
	2.6	Creation of Current Sheets along Separatrices by Shearing	81	
	2.7	Braiding by Random Footpoint Motions	85	
	2.8	Concluding Comment	90	
3	Magnetic Annihilation			
	3.1	The Induction Equation	91	
	3.2	Stagnation-Point Flow Model	97	
	3.3	More General Stagnation-Point Flow Solutions	100	
	3.4	Other Time-Dependent Current-Sheet Solutions	106	
	3.5	Reconnective Annihilation	110	

viii Contents

4	Ste	ady Reconnection: The Classical Solutions	116		
	4.1	Introduction .	116		
	4.2	Sweet–Parker Mechanism	120		
	4.3	Petschek's Mechanism: Almost-Uniform, Potential			
		Reconnection	130		
	4.4	Early Attempts to Generalise and Analyse Petschek's			
		Mechanism	135		
	4.5	Compressibility	138		
	4.6	Structure of the Diffusion Region	140		
5	Steady Reconnection: New Generation of Fast Regimes				
	5.1	Almost-Uniform Non-Potential Reconnection	146		
	5.2	Non-Uniform Reconnection	153		
	5.3	Linear (Super-Slow) Diffusion and Reconnection	161		
	5.4	Related Numerical Experiments	170		
	5.5	Conclusions	175		
6	Unsteady Reconnection: The Tearing Mode				
	6.1	Introduction	177		
	6.2	The Tearing-Mode Instability Analysis of Furth et al. (1963)	179		
	6.3	Modifications of the Basic Tearing Analysis	184		
	6.4	Instability of a Magnetic Flux Tube	189		
	6.5	Nonlinear Development of Tearing	195		
7	Unsteady Reconnection: Other Approaches 20				
	7.1	X-Type Collapse	205		
	7.2	Time-Dependent Petschek-Type Reconnection	222		
8	Reconnection in Three Dimensions				
	8.1	Definition of Reconnection	231		
	8.2	Three-Dimensional Null Points	249		
	8.3	Local Bifurcations	251		
	8.4	Global Magnetic Topology	255		
	8.5	Magnetic Helicity	261		
	8.6	Reconnection at a Three-Dimensional Null Point	271		
	8.7	Quasi-Separatrix Layer Reconnection: Magnetic Flipping	277		
	8.8	Numerical Experiments	284		
9	Laboratory Applications 29				
	9.1	Controlled Thermonuclear Fusion	292		
	9.2	Reconnection Experiments	312		

		Contents	ix		
10	Magnetospheric Applications				
	10.1	Dungey's Model of the Open Magnetosphere	324		
	10.2	Dayside Reconnection	328		
	10.3	Flux Transfer Events	335		
	10.4	Nightside Reconnection	340		
	10.5	Magnetospheric Substorms	344		
	10.6	Magnetospheres of Other Planets and of Comets	355		
11	Solar Applications				
	11.1	Large-Scale Eruptive Phenomena	361		
	11.2	Impulsive, Compact Phenomena	393		
	11.3	Coronal Heating	402		
	11.4	The Outer Corona	419		
<b>12</b>	Astrophysical Applications		425		
	12.1	Flare Stars	426		
	12.2	Accretion Disks	440		
13	Particle Acceleration				
	13.1	Direct Acceleration by Electric Fields	462		
	13.2	Stochastic Acceleration	486		
	13.3	Shock-Wave Acceleration	495		
	13.4	Particle Acceleration in the Cosmos	509		
Ref	eren.ce	28	519		
	$References \ Appendix 1: Notation$				
	Appendix 2: Units				
~ ~	Appendix 3: Useful Expressions				
	Index				