Preface

Slopes are either a natural consequence of geological and geomorphological evolution or the result of mankind's perceived need to modify the landscape by direct or indirect means. Careful consideration of the stability and instability of natural or man-made slopes is central to good engineering practice, and there now exists a large body of knowledge concerning the various parameters, variables and models which are important to a clear understanding of the processes affecting the stability of slopes.

This book draws on this body of knowledge and is directed specifically at engineers and engineering geologists, in practice or in academic life, who are interested in the stability of natural or man-made slopes. Geomorphologists seeking to quantify the mechanics of 'slope-forming processes' will also find much of interest. The reader who has had a grounding in basic soil mechanics will derive most benefit from this book.

In this new edition, as well as correcting a number of minor text errors, I have taken the opportunity to revise and update the text throughout, as befits a progressive subject. Substantial changes include improved cross-referencing of text and figures, better halftone figures, a new chapter containing fourteen case studies, and a new appendix detailing a new widely-accepted method of analysis.

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