

# Geophysical Research Letters®



## RESEARCH LETTER

10.1029/2021GL095284

### Key Points:

- Previous efforts to estimate cooling rate effects result in different corrections
- Our model agrees well with the model of Halgedahl et al. (1980)
- The source code of our model is available for verification and further development

### Supporting Information:

Supporting Information may be found in the online version of this article.

### Correspondence to:

W. Williams,  
[wyn.williams@ed.ac.uk](mailto:wyn.williams@ed.ac.uk)

### Citation:

Nagy, L., Williams, W., & Tauxe, L. (2021). Estimating the effect of cooling rate on the acquisition of magnetic remanence. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 48, e2021GL095284. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2021GL095284>

Received 19 JUL 2021  
Accepted 26 OCT 2021

### Author Contributions:

**Funding acquisition:** Lisa Tauxe  
**Project Administration:** Lisa Tauxe  
**Resources:** Lisa Tauxe  
**Software:** Wyn Williams, Lisa Tauxe  
**Supervision:** Lisa Tauxe  
**Validation:** Wyn Williams, Lisa Tauxe  
**Writing – review & editing:** Wyn Williams, Lisa Tauxe

## Estimating the Effect of Cooling Rate on the Acquisition of Magnetic Remanence

Lesleis Nagy<sup>1</sup> , Wyn Williams<sup>2</sup> , and Lisa Tauxe<sup>1</sup> 

<sup>1</sup>Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego, La Jolla, CA, USA, <sup>2</sup>School of GeoSciences, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

**Abstract** The effect of cooling rate on the magnetization of rocks must be accounted for when estimating ancient magnetic field strengths. Calculating this effect is not trivial, even for uniformly magnetized grains. Here, we present an open-source package to compute the behavior of uniaxial single-domain grains for different temperature and magnetic fields. We revisit the problem of thermal remanence acquisition as a function of cooling rate and find that our predictions are broadly in agreement with those of Halgedahl et al. (1980, <https://doi.org/10.1029/jb085ib07p03690>) but differ significantly from those of Dodson and McClelland-Brown (1980, <https://doi.org/10.1029/JB085iB05p02625>). We also find that remanence acquisition curves correspond well with recent experimental observations. Cooling rate corrections made using our model are at the upper limit suggested by Halgedahl et al. (1980, <https://doi.org/10.1029/jb085ib07p03690>) but can reduce slightly for larger (single-domain) grains, very slow cooling rates of the original thermal remanence and large field strengths.

**Plain Language Summary** The Earth's magnetic field is one of the most fundamental features of our planet, with some studies indicating that it has been active as early as the Hadean. Knowing how the ancient field strength changes through time provides valuable information about significant geological events in our planet's past, such as when its inner core formed. The ancient field is recorded in rocks, which act as natural storage devices. However, the speed with which a rock cools in the presence of the field greatly affects the recorded signal. This means that estimates of the Earth's ancient field must be “cooling rate corrected.” Our results show that one of the earlier approaches to calculating theoretical corrections will underestimate the ancient field whereas the other is very good. Our work also matches well with recent experimental data; and additionally, we provide a free and open-source implementation of our software that may be used to investigate the effect of in-field cooling for many different field and temperature scenarios.

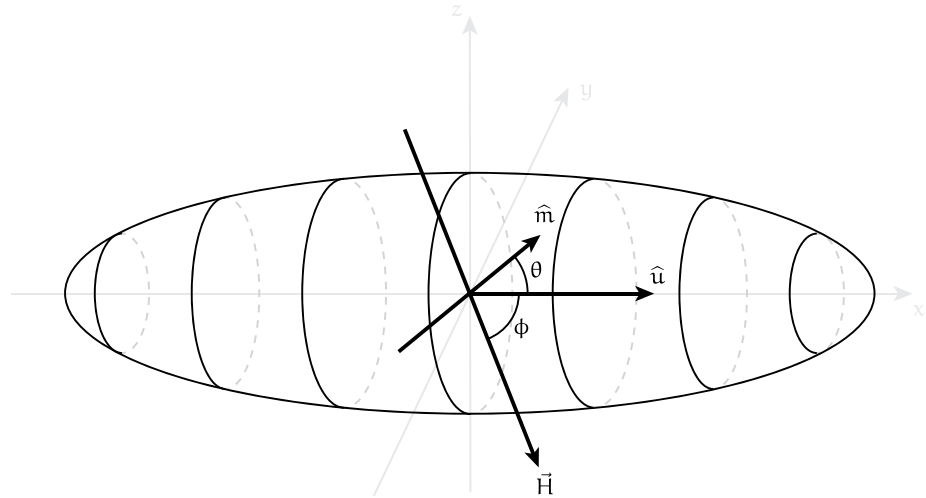
## 1. Introduction

Accurately recovering the strength of the Earth's ancient magnetic field (paleointensity) is a critical part of understanding our planet's history. For example, such observations inform us about how the solid inner core evolved through time, and of particular current interest, when it formed. The rate at which a sample cooled in the presence of an ancient field is an important factor in accurately determining paleointensity. This is especially the case when attempting to reconstruct historical field intensities from samples that have cooled over long periods of time. For example, Selkin et al. (2000) established that the field was present by 2.7 Ga, and some have argued for an even earlier onset (Tarduno et al., 2010). At the time, this was taken to mean that the inner core was present since inner core nucleation is a powerful source of energy for the geodynamo. However, the work of Pozzo et al. (2012) called into question the energy source and the hunt began for the timing of inner core formation (Driscoll, 2016). Recent efforts have pointed to the Ediacaran (Bono et al., 2019) and the estimate of a much younger inner core forming just ~0.57 Ga ago, prior to which a much weaker paleomagnetic field might be expected. All but the most rapidly cooled paleointensities (which approach the laboratory cooling rate) require estimates of the behavior of magnetic remanence as a function of cooling rate which can lead to overestimates of field strength by up to 50% or underestimates by >10%, depending on domain state (see recent review by Santos & Tauxe, 2019, and references therein).

Currently there is no complete theory of the precise mechanism for thermally activated recording in non-single-domain (SD) grains. There is, however, a firm theoretical foundation for the simpler case of ensembles

© 2021. The Authors.

This is an open access article under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) License, which permits use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.



**Figure 1.** The Stoner-Wohlfarth model of magnetization assumes an ellipsoidal grain oriented along the vector  $\hat{u}$ . The applied field  $\vec{H}$  (of strength  $H$ ) and the magnetization  $\hat{m}$  makes angles  $\phi$  and  $\theta$  (respectively) with  $\hat{u}$ . The model assumes that the magnetization will rotate within the  $\hat{u} - \vec{H}$  plane, and so for an arbitrary angle  $\theta$  we can always recover a three-dimensional magnetization vector.

of SD grains. Using Néel's theory (Néel, 1949), Dodson and McClelland-Brown (1980) examined the effect of slow cooling on the blocking temperature of ensembles of SD particles. A concurrent effort was undertaken by Halgedahl et al. (1980), who modeled the effect of cooling rate on the acquisition of paleointensity in several different cooling scenarios (regimes). Unfortunately, there is a mismatch in predicted thermal remanent magnetization (TRM) between these twin efforts (Santos & Tauxe, 2019).

In this study, we revisit the single-domain model of remanence acquisition from Néel's theory of elongate single-domain grains, referred to as Stoner-Wohlfarth grains after Stoner and Wohlfarth (1948). We take advantage of advances in numerical computation capability since the early 1980s and provide a fast and publicly available code, written in C++, that calculates TRM gained as a function of cooling in an external field. This code uses the Boost multiprecision library (Boost, 2021) to avoid possible numerical issues that arise when calculating the fractional alignments of noninteracting grains that make up our model. We then examine a number of cooling and field regimes and produce a new set of cooling rate correction curves and find that our results agree well with the cooling rate curves provided by Halgedahl et al. (1980) for the majority of the size elongation and field scenarios in this study.

## 2. Methods

### 2.1. The Stoner-Wohlfarth Model

The Stoner-Wohlfarth model (Stoner & Wohlfarth, 1948) describes the energy barriers that a simple uniformly magnetized uniaxial ferromagnetic grain, with ellipsoidal geometry, must overcome to change its magnetic state in the presence of an externally applied field  $\vec{H}$ . The external field makes an angle  $\phi$  with the grain's axis of elongation  $\hat{u}$  as shown in Figure 1. The magnetic state is the angle  $\theta$  between the unit magnetization vector  $\hat{m}$  and the grain axis  $\hat{u}$ . An expression for the magnetic energy of the system envisioned originally by Néel (1949) is given by Dunlop and Özdemir (2001, p. 207) and can be written as

$$E(\theta, T) = C_1(T)\sin^2\theta - C_2(T)\cos\theta - C_3(T)\sin\theta, \quad (1)$$

with the temperature dependent constants  $C_1(T)$ ,  $C_2(T)$ , and  $C_3(T)$  given by

$$C_1(T) = \frac{1}{2} (N_b - N_a) v \mu_0 M_s(T)^2, \quad (2)$$

$$C_2(T) = H v \mu_0 \cos \phi M_s(T), \quad (3)$$

$$C_3(T) = H v \mu_0 \sin \phi M_s(T). \quad (4)$$

$M_s(T)$  is the saturation magnetization at temperature  $T$ ,  $\mu_0$  is the permeability of free space and the particle volume is  $v$ . The strength of an externally applied field is  $H$  and its direction is given by  $\phi$ , as described previously, with  $\theta$  the direction of magnetization.

The demagnetizing factors of a prolate ellipsoid, with aspect ratio  $m$ , are defined in Cullity and Graham (2011, p. 54), with  $N_a$  and  $N_b$  corresponding to the demagnetizing factors along the long and short axes, respectively, as shown in Equations 5 and 6

$$N_a = \frac{1}{m^2 - 1} \left( \frac{m}{\sqrt{m^2 - 1}} \log \left( m + \sqrt{m^2 - 1} \right) - 1 \right), \quad (5)$$

$$N_b = \frac{1 - N_a}{2}. \quad (6)$$

It should be noted that in this study we quote elongation as a percentage as opposed to aspect ratio where elongation is defined by  $m = (\text{elongation} + 100)/100$ . This means that an aspect ratio of 1.3 corresponds to an elongation of 30%.

In order to find the critical points for the energy of a Stoner-Wohlfarth particle, we look for the values of  $\theta$  where the first derivative of Equation 1 with respect to  $\theta$  is zero, doing this gives

$$\frac{\partial E(\theta, T)}{\partial \theta} = 2C_1(T) \cos \theta \sin \theta + C_2(T) \sin \theta - C_3(T) \cos \theta = 0. \quad (7)$$

There is no general analytical solution for Equation 7 except for the special cases when  $\phi = 0$  and  $\phi = \pi$ . However, we can numerically find the zeros by making the substitution  $\theta = i \log(x)$  where  $i = \sqrt{-1}$ . This then transforms Equation 7 from a trigonometric one into the polynomial

$$-1 - \left( \frac{C_2(T) - iC_3(T)}{C_1(T)} \right) x + \left( \frac{C_2(T) + iC_3(T)}{C_1(T)} \right) x^3 + x^4 = 0 \quad (8)$$

from which we can form the upper Hessenberg matrix (Press et al., 2007, p. 469)

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} -\left( \frac{C_2(T) + iC_3(T)}{C_1(T)} \right) & 0 & \left( \frac{C_2(T) - iC_3(T)}{C_1(T)} \right) & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (9)$$

The eigenvalues of  $H$  are the zeros of the polynomial version (Equation 8), and are found using the Eigen linear algebra library (Guennebaud & Jacob, 2010). Then we calculate the critical  $\theta$ -values, denoted  $\theta_k$ , by using our original transform  $\theta = i \log(x)$ . This results in  $\theta_k \in [-\pi, \pi]$ , with each  $\theta_k$  solving Equation 7. Any  $\theta_k$  values that have nonzero imaginary parts are discarded as these do not represent real magnetization directions.

## 2.2. Thermal Theory of Remanence

We briefly review the thermal theory of single-domain remanence with particular reference to the implementation details in our C++ code. We are interested in both a “cooled remanence” which solves the thermal equations with the assumption that grain assemblages spend only a finite amount of time at a given

temperature and the “equilibrium remanence” which is the theoretical limit for which a grain has spent an infinite amount of time at each temperature step.

### 2.2.1. Cooled Remanence

Once the critical values of Equation 1 are found, we can evaluate whether they correspond to energy minimum/maximum states by taking the second derivative of Equation 7, which results in

$$\frac{d^2 E(\theta)}{d\theta^2} = 2C_1 \cos(2\theta) + C_2 \cos(\theta - \phi). \quad (10)$$

When Equation 10 is positive for any critical value  $\theta_k$ , then we have found a local energy minimum (LEM) state and the critical value is denoted  $\theta_{k,\min}$ . Likewise  $\theta_k$  values that make Equation 10 negative correspond to local energy maxima and are denoted  $\theta_{k,\max}$ . The energy barrier for a two-state system is then given by

$$\Delta E_{k,j} = \min(E(\theta_{k,\max}) - E(\theta_{j,\min})). \quad (11)$$

We take the energy barrier as the transition energy between any two LEM states,  $\theta_{k,\min}$  and  $\theta_{j,\min}$ , as this represents the physical path that the magnetization would take when transitioning between any two LEM states. The isothermal transition rate matrix (Fabian & Shcherbakov, 2018), denoted  $P$ , may now be formed from the above energy barrier calculations by assuming that a grain population (given by the vector  $\vec{\rho}_t$  described below), has experienced the same field and temperature conditions for a given time  $\Delta t$

$$P(\Delta t) = \exp \left[ \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\tau_0} e^{-\frac{\Delta E_{1,1}}{T k_B}} & -\frac{1}{\tau_0} e^{-\frac{\Delta E_{1,2}}{T k_B}} \\ -\frac{1}{\tau_0} e^{-\frac{\Delta E_{2,1}}{T k_B}} & \frac{1}{\tau_0} e^{-\frac{\Delta E_{2,2}}{T k_B}} \end{pmatrix} \Delta t \right], \quad (12)$$

where  $T$  is the temperature of the grain in Kelvin,  $1/\tau_0 = 10^{10}$  Hz is the attempt frequency (Dunlop & Özdemir, 2001),  $k_B$  is Boltzmann's constant and “exp” is the matrix exponential function (see Appendix A1). Equation 12 may then be used to calculate an updated grain population  $\vec{\rho}_{t+\Delta t}$  according to

$$\vec{\rho}_{t+\Delta t} = P(\Delta t) \vec{\rho}_t. \quad (13)$$

For a *monodispersion* of grains, which is a population of grains with a single size and shape, we define a “population vector.” Each element of the population vector represents the fraction of grains that occupy a particular magnetization state. This means that  $\rho_{k,t+\Delta t}$  must sum to unity and that each element indexed by a specific LEM state  $k$  must be consistent with its predecessor  $\rho_{k,t-\Delta t}$ . The normalized magnetization is then given by

$$\vec{m}_{k,t} = \rho_{k,t} \cdot \vec{m}(\theta_{k,\min}), \quad (14)$$

where  $\vec{m}(\theta_{k,\min})$  represents the conversion of the magnetization LEM angle, that solves the Stoner-Wohlfarth equations described above, back to a three-dimensional vector (see Appendix A2).

### 2.2.2. Equilibrium Remanence

To estimate the effect of cooling rate, we need to also estimate the equilibrium TRM, which is defined as the magnetization reached when an ensemble (population) of particles have experienced a given field and temperature for an infinite amount of time. The equilibrium population vector  $\vec{\rho}_{\text{eq}}$  components are given by Dunlop and Özdemir (2001, pp. 213) as

$$\vec{m}_{\text{eq},t} = \frac{\sum_k \vec{m}(\theta_{k,\min}) \exp\left(\frac{-E(\theta_{k,\min})}{T k_B}\right)}{\sum_k \exp\left(\frac{-E(\theta_{k,\min})}{T k_B}\right)}. \quad (15)$$

### 2.3. Cooling Models

The effect of cooling was calculated for a number of different cooling regimes with temperatures given by classical Newtonian cooling

$$T(t) = (T_0 - T_{\text{amb}}) \exp \left( \frac{t_0 - t}{t_0 - t_1} \log \left( \frac{T_1 - T_{\text{amb}}}{T_0 - T_{\text{amb}}} \right) \right). \quad (16)$$

Here,  $(t_0, T_0)$  is an initial time-temperature pair which we take to be  $t_0 = 0$  s and  $T_0$  is the Curie temperature of magnetite in degrees centigrade. The other known time-temperature point along the cooling curve,  $(t_1, T_1)$ , is taken to be  $T_1 = 15.15$  °C (since in the Newtonian cooling model the ambient temperature is an asymptote) and for  $t_1$ —the time taken to reach  $T_1$ —we use  $t_1 = 6 \times 10^e$  s (with  $e \in 1, 2, \dots, 15$ ) to give a range of “rapid” to “slow” cooling rates. Finally, the ambient temperature,  $T_{\text{amb}}$ , is 15 °C.

## 3. Results and Discussion

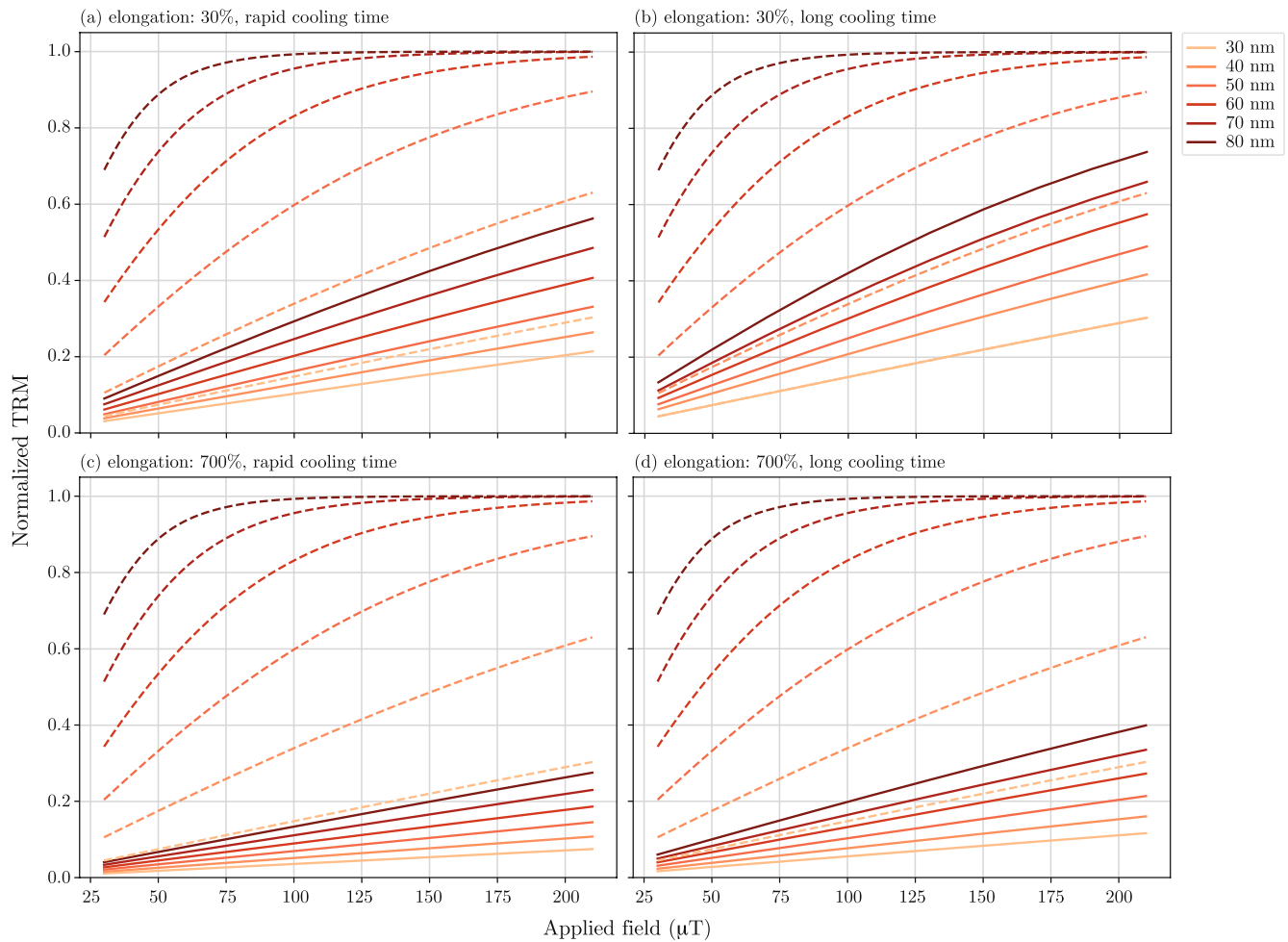
The results in Figures 2 and 3 show that the magnitude of the TRM as a function of applied field in “rapid” and “slow” cooling regimes. The main difference between Figures 2 and 3 is that the applied field for Figure 2 is directed along the grain axis  $\hat{u} = \langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle$  whereas the field in Figure 3 is directed along  $\langle 1, 1, 1 \rangle$ , forming an angle of 54.7° with respect to the grain axis.

In both figures, it can be observed that TRM increases as a function of grain size, expressed as equivalent spherical volume diameter (ESVD), and remains approximately linear as a function of applied field. In all cases, the TRM acquired increases from rapid to slow cooling times as is evident from the way the solid lines fan out from left to right as the cooling times become longer. We expect this is because for slow cooling, the grain has more opportunity to equilibrate with the external field, allowing a stronger magnetization to be acquired. It may also be observed that TRM drops (the solid lines fan out less) as the particles become more elongate. In order to explain this effect, it should be noted that, upon cooling, the earlier a TRM acquisition curve departs from its equilibrium behavior, that is, its blocking temperature, the smaller its room temperature remanent magnetization will be. For highly elongate grains, the rapid increase of energy barriers upon cooling results in a higher blocking temperature and so lower TRM as can be observed in Figures 2 and 3.

Energy barriers to domain switching in Stoner-Wohlfarth particles for fields parallel to the grain axis are in general higher than at other angles. For small fields similar to the Earth’s field, the grain’s magnetization will always lie along its elongation axis and so the difference between the two possible states is higher in the field-parallel case as opposed to some other angle. This means that TRM acquisition is more efficient when the field is applied parallel to the elongation axis, as in Figure 2 when compared to the case when the field is applied at an angle (Figure 3). In addition to TRM efficiency being a function of cooling rate, the curvature of equilibrium (dashed) lines is also greater for grains with the field directed parallel to the grain axis (Figure 2) as opposed to grains with the external field directed at an angle to the grain axis (Figure 3). For example, the 80 nm dashed line in Figure 2 reaches its saturation value at  $\sim 100$   $\mu\text{T}$ , whereas the same line in Figure 3 reaches the saturation value at the much higher field of  $\sim 175$   $\mu\text{T}$ .

Figure 4 shows the results of our modeling along with the predictions of Halgedahl et al. (1980) (dashed black line) and Dodson and McClelland-Brown (1980) (dotted black line) along with experimental data from Santos and Tauxe (2019) and other authors (detailed in the caption of Figure 4). Our numerical calculations are for a collection of grains with *no fabric*, which is a monodispersion of grains over a random distribution of directions (with respect to applied field). The majority of the grain size and elongations correspond well with the predictions of Halgedahl et al. (1980). The most noticeable exception being the 30 nm 30% elongate grain (light blue line) which is border-line superparamagnetic since its volume and elongation are relatively small.

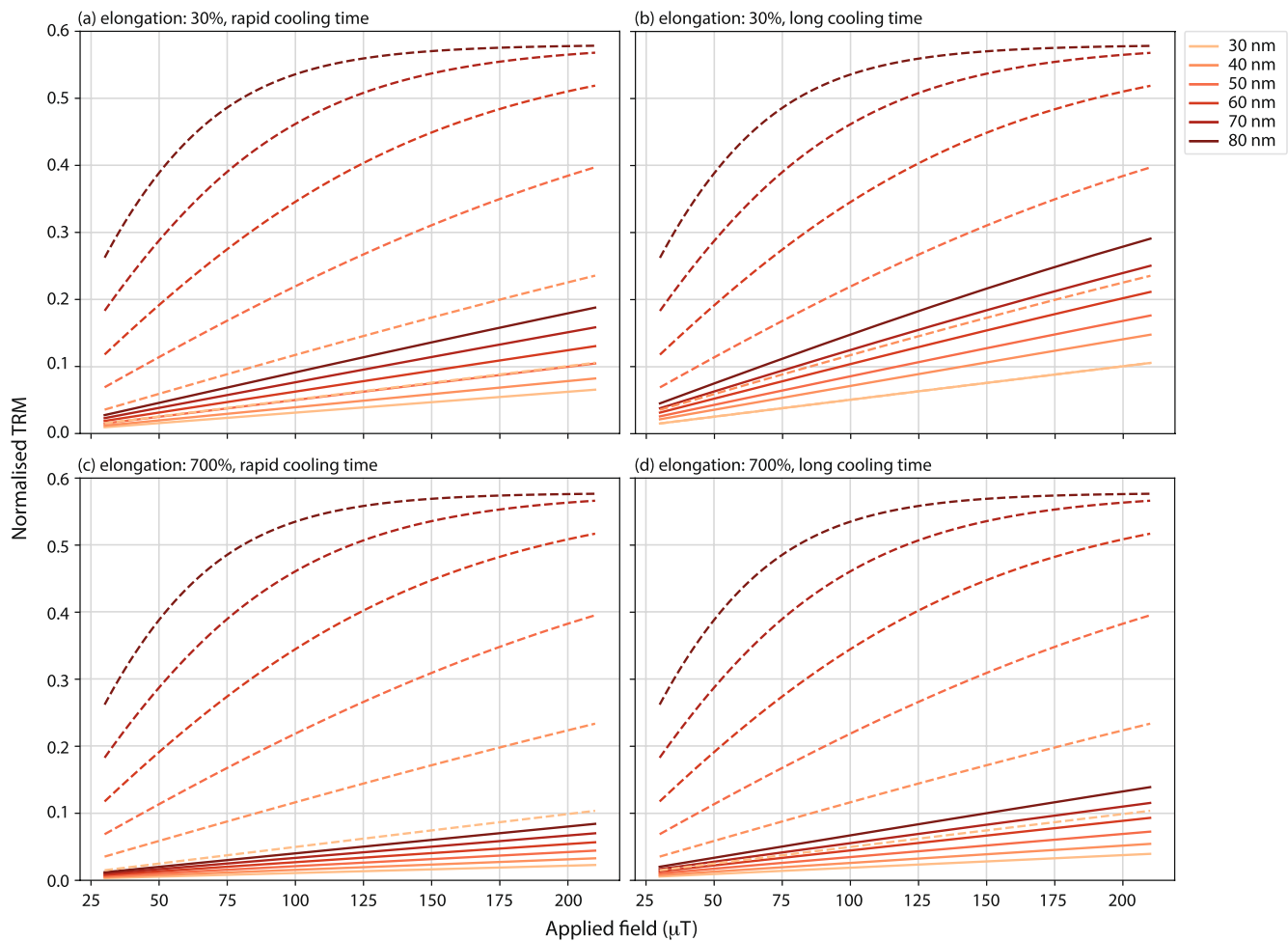
Figure 5 shows TRM acquisition curves for the complete time range for a study that goes well beyond that seen in Figure 4 with an assumed laboratory cooling time of 1,000 s to a maximum cooling time of 190 Ma. A population of grains with a *strong fabric* (a monodispersion of grains that are all aligned with the applied field) are shown along with a set of predictions for high field strength of 210  $\mu\text{T}$ . We see in Figures 5a and 5b



**Figure 2.** Thermal remanent magnetization (TRM) acquisition versus applied field for cooling from the Curie temperature (580 °C) to 15.15 °C as a function of grain size (equivalent spherical volume diameter (ESVD)) and elongation for “rapid” ( $t_1 = 6 \times 10^3$  s) and “slow” ( $t_1 = 6 \times 10^{15}$  s) cooling regimes. TRM has a value of 1.0 when all particles are aligned with the field direction. Field strengths range from 30 to 210  $\mu\text{T}$  and are aligned parallel to the grain elongation axis  $\hat{u}$ . Solid lines show TRM acquired through cooling, whereas the dashed lines show equilibrium TRM (infinite cooling time).

that the spread of TRM acquisition for slow cooling is relatively small in weak fields. This is not the case for stronger fields shown in Figures 5c and 5d where there is a much greater spread. This illustrates that, in weak fields at least, elongation and grain size have little effect on TRM acquisition. It should also be noted that the highly elongate grains (red) show only relatively minor variations in all field regimes. TRM acquisition is affected by grain size, though much less so in elongate grains. This is most clearly seen in the strong field regimes in Figures 5c and 5d with both the parallel field and intermediate field showing that for slow cooling, the TRM recorded decreases as a function of grain size (we see the darker lines taking on shallower gradients). It may also be observed that in the larger grains under strong field conditions, there is a slight curvature. This is again most apparent in the 30% elongate grains, indeed the 30 nm 30% elongate grain (lightest blue) plateaus for slow cooling. As observed previously, this grain size is just on the cusp of being superparamagnetic and at a particular cooling rate the “cooled” TRM acquisition curve achieves equilibrium. The threshold for superparamagnetic behavior is when the magnetization reaches equilibrium with the external field over the time span of observation. In the case of the 30 nm 30% elongate grain, the relaxation time is short enough when cooled slowly, for its thermal-magnetic behavior to achieve equilibrium, meeting the definition of superparamagnetism. In principle all cooling rate curves should eventually plateau, if the cooling rate is slow enough (see Figures 1 and 2 in Dodson & McClelland-Brown, 1980). A final observation is that grains with strong fabric and no fabric show small differences. These differences are a drop in the ratio of TRM gained since the gradient of each line becomes very slightly shallower from strong fabric to no





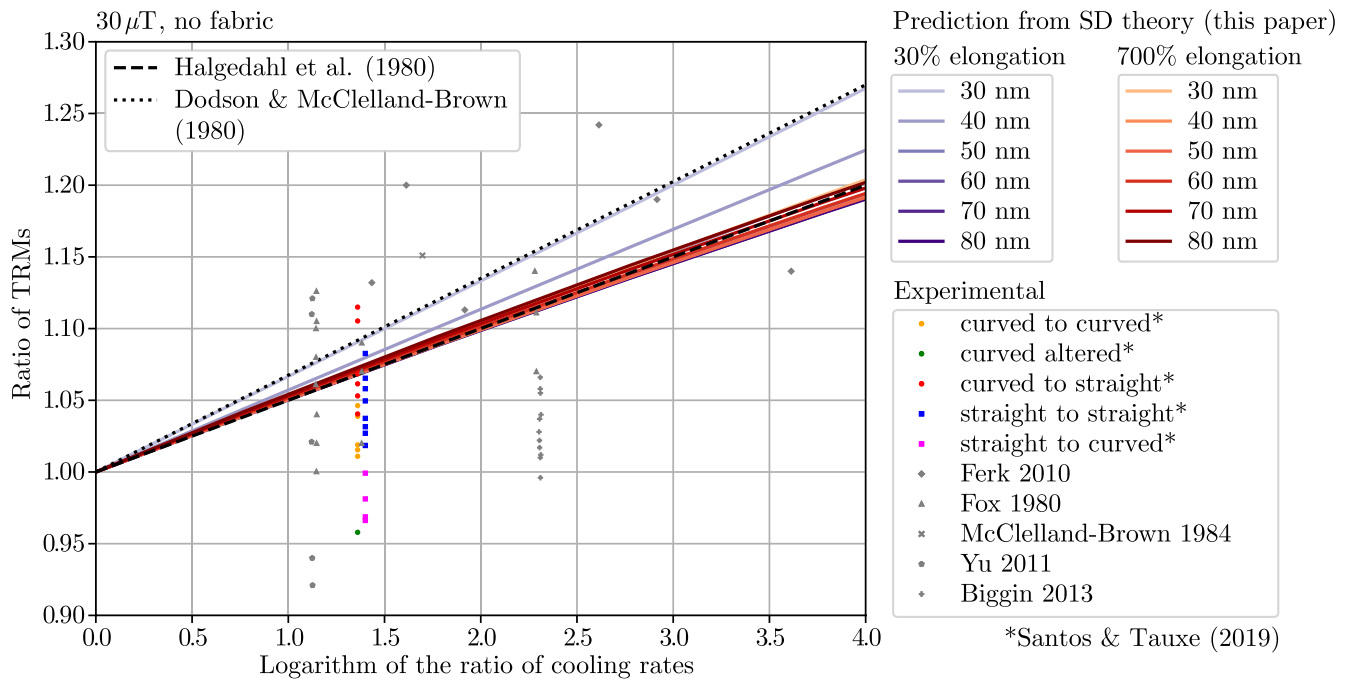
**Figure 3.** Same as Figure 2, but fields applied at an angle of  $54.7^\circ$  to the grain elongation axis  $\hat{u}$ .

fabric; and an increase in the TRM ratio gained when the grain hits its equilibrium behavior (lightest blue line). The shallower gradient is due to the fact that in simulated monodispersions with no fabric, there are many grains that have smaller energy barriers since the field is at an angle to the axis of elongation. The light blue line plateaus later (with higher ratio of TRM) for the same reason and so the cooling effect is reduced. This effect can also be seen by comparing the plateau between the weak field and the strong field in samples between the same fabric (i.e., between Figures 5a and 5b and Figures 5c and 5d) since in stronger fields grains hit their equilibrium behavior sooner.

#### 4. Conclusions

In this study, we have presented a model for calculating the TRM acquisition as a function of field and cooling rate and have found good correspondence with experimental data for single-domain grains. Of the previous published models we find that our results are very close to the predictions of Halgedahl et al. (1980). Our model also demonstrates subtle variations in recording as a function of grain size and shape; however, we also show that there is relatively little variation in remanence acquisition as a function of field strength and direction (at least for weak fields like the Earth's).

The source code for the model that we have presented is freely available at <https://github.com/Lesleis-Nagy/sd-cooling> (version 1.0.1 was used in this study). Currently, it is based on simple Stoner-Wohlfarth modeling described; however, the thermal theory of remanence described in this study is also applicable to grains with much more complicated magnetizations and switching mechanisms. For more realistic grains, we



**Figure 4.** Acquired thermal remanent magnetization (TRM) versus cooling rate, plotted against theoretical models of Halgedahl et al. (1980) (dashed black line) and Dodson and McClelland-Brown (1980) (dotted black line). Experimental data from Santos and Tauxe (2019) (asterisks). Additional data are from Fox and Aitken (1980), McClelland-Brown (1984), Leonhardt et al. (2006), Ferk et al. (2010), Yu (2011), and Biggin et al. (2013). Theoretical predictions are for 30  $\mu$ T applied fields for an assemblage that has no fabric. The two-color schemes used represent grains with 30% elongation in shades of blue and 700% elongation in shades of red; with the lighter shades correspond to smaller grains by volume (equivalent spherical volume diameter [ESVD]).

require micromagnetic modeling such as MERRILL (Ó Conbhuí et al., 2018) to compute the energy barriers involved in switching from one magnetization state to another. We view this as the way forward to build accurate and realistic models of paleomagnetic samples.

## Appendix A: Additional Details

### Appendix A1. Exponential of a Matrix

Computing the exponential of an arbitrary matrix is nontrivial and several approaches are possible. One numerically stable and general technique involves the use of Padé approximations (Press et al., 2007) and this is the solution taken in Eigen (Guennebaud & Jacob, 2010) but is currently incompatible with the Boost multiprecision library (Boost, 2021). In this study, we use eigenvalue decomposition to calculate the matrix exponential. Let  $A = RDR^{-1}$ , where  $R$  is the matrix of eigenvectors and  $D$  is the diagonal matrix of eigenvalues, then

$$\exp(A) = R \exp(D) R^{-1}, \quad (\text{A1})$$

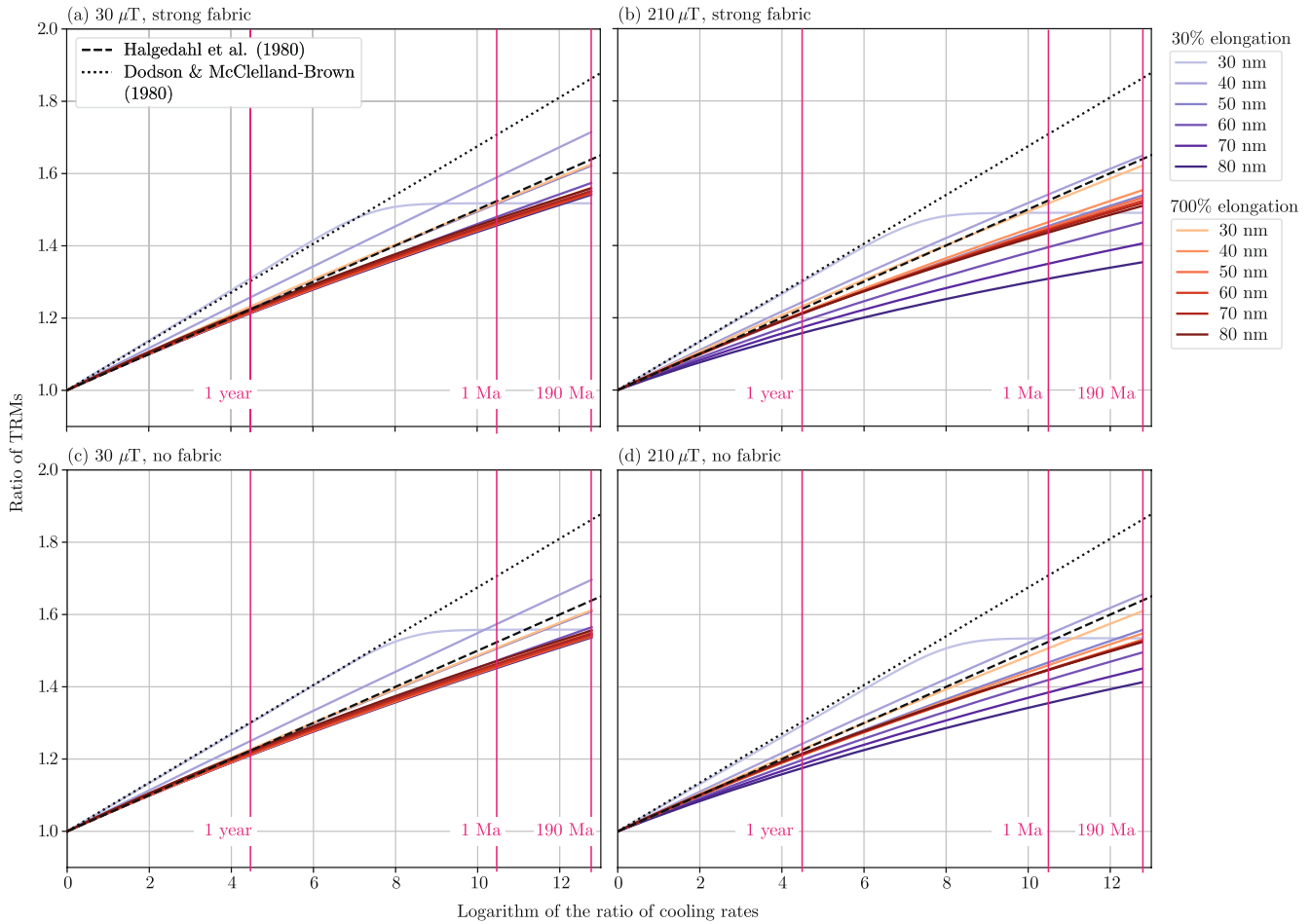
and  $\exp(D)$  is just the simple exponential of all the entries of  $D$  on the diagonal and zero everywhere else.

### Appendix A2. Conversion of a Magnetization Angle to a Vector

In order to convert LEM state solutions,  $\theta_{k,\min}$ , of the Stoner-Wohlfarth equations to three-dimensional vectors, we assume that the applied field  $\vec{H}$  and the grain axis  $\hat{u}$  in Figure 1 form a plane in which  $\hat{u}$  will rotate by  $\theta_{k,\min}$  to give the magnetization. The vector

$$\hat{r} = \frac{\vec{H} \times \hat{u}}{|\vec{H} \times \hat{u}|} \quad (\text{A2})$$





**Figure 5.** Acquired thermal remanent magnetization (TRM) versus cooling rate plotted against theoretical models of Halgedahl et al. (1980) (dashed black line) and Dodson and McClelland-Brown (1980) (dotted black line) for the complete time range in this study with (a) an assemblage in weak field with strong fabric, (b) an assemblage in a strong field with strong fabric, (c) an assemblage in weak field with no fabric, and (d) an assemblage in strong field with no fabric. The color scheme is the same as in Figure 4. Cooling rates are calculated with respect to a laboratory reference cooling time of 1,000 s. In order to apply a cooling rate correction, simply divide the sample age (in seconds) by the laboratory reference time and take the base 10 logarithm, after that the ratio of remaining TRM can be read off from the graph (depending on the grain characterization of the sample).

then forms the axis of rotation and

$$\vec{m}(\theta_{i,\min}) = \mathcal{R}(\hat{r}, \theta_{i,\min}) \hat{u}, \quad (\text{A3})$$

with  $\mathcal{R}(\hat{r}, \theta_{i,\min})$  the the  $3 \times 3$  rotation matrix given by

$$\mathcal{R}(\hat{r}, \theta)_{j,j} = \cos\theta + r_j^2 (1 - \cos\theta) \quad (\text{A4})$$

on the diagonal and

$$\mathcal{R}(\hat{r}, \theta)_{x,y} = r_x r_y (1 - \cos\theta) - r_z \sin\theta, \quad (\text{A5})$$

$$\mathcal{R}(\hat{r}, \theta)_{y,x} = r_x r_y (1 - \cos\theta) + r_z \sin\theta, \quad (\text{A6})$$

$$\mathcal{R}(\hat{r}, \theta)_{x,z} = r_x r_z (1 - \cos\theta) + r_y \sin\theta, \quad (\text{A7})$$

$$\mathcal{R}(\hat{r}, \theta)_{z,x} = r_z r_x (1 - \cos\theta) - r_y \sin\theta, \quad (\text{A8})$$

$$\mathcal{R}(\hat{r}, \theta)_{y,z} = r_y r_z (1 - \cos\theta) - r_x \sin\theta, \quad (\text{A9})$$

$$\mathcal{R}(\hat{r}, \theta)_{z,y} = r_z r_y (1 - \cos \theta) + r_x \sin \theta \quad (\text{A10})$$

for the off-diagonal components. For the special case where  $\vec{H}$  and  $\hat{u}$  are parallel, we assume that the magnetization is also parallel with  $\hat{u}$ .

## Data Availability Statement

Raw data used in this study are archived with <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5086636>. The specific version of the code used to produce the data in this study is archived with <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5085691> and updated at <https://www.github.com/Lesleis-Nagy/sd-cooling>.

## Acknowledgments

This work was supported by the Natural Environment Research Council (UK) (Grant No. NE/S001018 and NE/S01197) to W.W. and NSF-NERC (Grant No. EAR1827263) to W.W. and L.T.

## References

- Biggin, A., Badejo, S., Hodgson, E., Muxworthy, A., Shaw, J., & Dekkers, M. (2013). The effect of cooling rate on the intensity of thermoremanent magnetization (TRM) acquired by assemblages of pseudo-single domain, multidomain and interacting single-domain grains. *Geophysical Journal International*, 193(3), 1239–1249. <https://doi.org/10.1093/gji/ggt078>
- Bono, R. K., Tarduno, J. A., Nimmo, F., & Cottrell, R. D. (2019). Young inner core inferred from Ediacaran ultra-low geomagnetic field intensity. *Nature Geoscience*, 12(2), 143–147. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41561-018-0288-0>
- Boost (2021). *Boost C++ libraries*. Retrieved from <http://www.boost.org/>
- Cullity, B. D., & Graham, C. D. (2011). *Introduction to magnetic materials*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Dodson, M. H., & McClelland-Brown, E. (1980). Magnetic blocking temperatures of single-domain grains during slow cooling. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, 85(B5), 2625–2637. <https://doi.org/10.1029/JB085iB05p02625>
- Driscoll, P. E. (2016). Simulating 2 Ga of geodynamo history. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 43, 5680–5687. <https://doi.org/10.1002/2016GL068858>
- Dunlop, D. J., & Özdemir, Ö. (2001). *Rock magnetism: Fundamentals and Frontiers* (Vol. 3). Cambridge University Press.
- Fabian, K., & Shcherbakov, V. P. (2018). Energy barriers in three-dimensional micromagnetic models and the physics of thermoviscous magnetization. *Geophysical Journal International*, 215(1), 314–324. <https://doi.org/10.1093/gji/ggy285>
- Ferk, A., Aulock, F. V., Leonhardt, R., Hess, K.-U., & Dingwell, D. (2010). A cooling rate bias in paleointensity determination from volcanic glass: An experimental demonstration. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, 115, B08102. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2009JB006964>
- Fox, J., & Aitken, M. (1980). Cooling-rate dependence of thermoremanent magnetisation. *Nature*, 283(5746), 462–463. <https://doi.org/10.1038/283462a0>
- Guennebaud, G., & Jacob, B. (2010). *Eigen v3*. Retrieved from <http://eigen.tuxfamily.org>
- Halgedahl, S., Day, R., & Fuller, M. (1980). The effect of cooling rate on the intensity of weak-field TRM in single-domain magnetite. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, 85(B7), 3690–3698. <https://doi.org/10.1029/JB085iB07p03690>
- Leonhardt, R., Matzka, J., Nichols, A. R., & Dingwell, D. B. (2006). Cooling rate correction of paleointensity determination for volcanic glasses by relaxation geospeedometry. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, 243(1–2), 282–292. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.epsl.2005.12.038>
- McClelland-Brown, E. (1984). Experiments on TRM intensity dependence on cooling rate. *Geophysical Research Letters*, 11(3), 205–208. <https://doi.org/10.1029/GL011i003p00205>
- Néel, L. (1949). Théorie du trainage magnétique des ferromagnétiques en grains fines avec applications aux terres cuites. *Annales Geophysicae*, 5, 99–136.
- Ó Conbhuí, P., Williams, W., Fabian, K., Ridley, P., Nagy, L., & Muxworthy, A. R. (2018). Merrill: Micromagnetic earth related robust interpreted language laboratory. *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*, 19, 1080–1106. <https://doi.org/10.1002/2017GC007279>
- Pozzo, M., Davies, C., Gubbins, D., & Alfè, D. (2012). Thermal and electrical conductivity of iron at Earth's core conditions. *Nature*, 485, 355–358. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature11031>
- Press, W. H., Teukolsky, S. A., Vetterling, W. T., & Flannery, B. P. (2007). *Numerical recipes: The art of scientific computing* (3rd ed.). Cambridge University Press.
- Santos, C. N., & Tauxe, L. (2019). Investigating the accuracy, precision, and cooling rate dependence of laboratory-acquired thermal remanences during paleointensity experiments. *Geochemistry, Geophysics, Geosystems*, 20, 383–397. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2018GC007946>
- Selkin, P., Gee, J., Tauxe, L., Meurer, W., & Newell, A. (2000). The effect of remanence anisotropy on paleointensity estimates: A case study from the archean stillwater complex. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, 182, 403–416. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0012-821X\(00\)00292-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0012-821X(00)00292-2)
- Stoner, E. C., & Wohlfarth, E. (1948). A mechanism of magnetic hysteresis in heterogeneous alloys. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, Series A*, 240(826), 599–642.
- Tarduno, J. A., Cottrell, R. D., Bono, R. K., Oda, H., Davis, W. J., Fayek, M., et al. (2020). Paleomagnetism indicates that primary magnetite in zircon records a strong Hadean geodynamo. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 117(5), 2309–2318. <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.1916553117>
- Tarduno, J. A., Cottrell, R. D., Watkeys, M. K., Hofmann, A., Doubrovine, P. V., Mamajek, E. E., et al. (2010). Geodynamo, solar wind, and magnetopause 3.4 to 3.45 billion years ago. *Science*, 327(5970), 1238–1240. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.1183445>
- Yu, Y. (2011). Importance of cooling rate dependence of thermoremanence in paleointensity determination. *Journal of Geophysical Research*, 116, B09101. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2011JB008388>