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1.3. Discrete element method for continuous materials  
1.4. Discrete-continuum transition: macroscopic variables; 1.4.1. Stress tensor for discrete systems; 1.4.2. Strain tensor for discrete systems; 1.4.2.1. Equivalent continuum strains; 1.4.2.2. Best-fit strains; 1.4.2.3. Satake strain; 1.5. Conclusion; 2: Discrete Element Modeling of Mechanical Behavior of Continuous Materials; 2.1. Introduction; 2.2. Explicit dynamic algorithm; 2.3. Construction of the discrete domain; 2.3.1. The cooker compaction algorithm; 2.3.1.1. Stopping criterion of compaction process; 2.3.1.2. Filling process  
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3.3. Thermal conduction in 3D ordered discrete domains; 3.4. Thermal conduction in 3D disordered discrete domains; 3.4.1. Determination of local parameters for each discrete element; 3.4.2. Calculation of discrete element transmission surface; 3.4.3. Calculation of local volume fraction; 3.4.4. Interactions between each discrete element and its neighbors; 3.5. Validation; 3.5.1. Cylindrical beam in contact with a hot plane; 3.5.2. Dynamically heated sheet; 3.6. Conclusion; 4: Discrete Element Modeling of Brittle Fracture; 4.1. Introduction  
4.2. Fracture model based on the cohesive beam bonds

Sommario/riassunto

Complex behavior models (plasticity, cracks, visco elasticity) face some theoretical difficulties for the determination of the behavior law at the continuous scale. When homogenization fails to give the right behavior law, a solution is to simulate the material at a meso scale in order to simulate directly a set of discrete properties that are responsible of the macroscopic behavior. The discrete element model has been developed for granular material. The proposed set shows how this method is capable to solve the problem of complex behavior that are linked to discrete meso scale effects.