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   Sommario/riassunto This text provides a complete introduction to the theory of variational
                       inequalities with emphasis on contact mechanics. It covers existence,
                       uniqueness and convergence results for variational inequalities,
                       including the modelling and variational analysis of specific frictional
                       contact problems with elastic, viscoelastic and viscoplastic materials.
                       New models of contact are presented, including contact of piezoelectric
                       materials. Particular attention is paid to the study of history-dependent
                       quasivariational inequalities and to their applications in the study of
                       contact problems with unilateral constraints. The book fully illustrates
                       the cross-fertilisation between modelling and applications on the one

hand and nonlinear mathematical analysis on the other. Indeed, the reader will gain an understanding of how new and nonstandard models in contact mechanics lead to new types of variational inequalities and, conversely, how abstract results concerning variational inequalities can be applied to prove the unique solvability of the corresponding contact problems.