
Contents

LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF TABLES	xv
PREFACE	xvii
INTRODUCTION	xxi
CHAPTER 1. STATE OF THE ART: DISCRETE ELEMENT MODELING	1
1.1. Introduction	1
1.2. Classification of discrete methods	3
1.2.1. Quantum mechanical methods	4
1.2.2. Atomistic methods	5
1.2.3. Mesoscopic discrete methods	8
1.3. Discrete element method for continuous materials	16
1.4. Discrete-continuum transition: macroscopic variables	17
1.4.1. Stress tensor for discrete systems	18
1.4.2. Strain tensor for discrete systems	21
1.5. Conclusion	31

CHAPTER 2. DISCRETE ELEMENT MODELING OF MECHANICAL BEHAVIOR OF CONTINUOUS MATERIALS	33
2.1. Introduction	33
2.2. Explicit dynamic algorithm	35
2.3. Construction of the discrete domain	37
2.3.1. The cooker compaction algorithm	39
2.3.2. Geometrical characterization of the discrete domain	44
2.4. Mechanical behavior modeling	56
2.4.1. Cohesive beam model	58
2.4.2. Calibration of the cohesive beam static parameters	64
2.4.3. Calibration of the cohesive beam dynamic parameters	79
2.5. Conclusion	87
CHAPTER 3. DISCRETE ELEMENT MODELING OF THERMAL BEHAVIOR OF CONTINUOUS MATERIALS	93
3.1. Introduction	93
3.2. General description of the method	95
3.2.1. Characterization of field variable variation in discrete domain	95
3.2.2. Application to heat conduction	96
3.3. Thermal conduction in 3D ordered discrete domains	97
3.4. Thermal conduction in 3D disordered discrete domains	100
3.4.1. Determination of local parameters for each discrete element	102
3.4.2. Calculation of discrete element transmission surface	103
3.4.3. Calculation of local volume fraction	104
3.4.4. Interactions between each discrete element and its neighbors	105

3.5. Validation	106
3.5.1. Cylindrical beam in contact with a hot plane	106
3.5.2. Dynamically heated sheet	107
3.6. Conclusion	113
CHAPTER 4. DISCRETE ELEMENT MODELING OF BRITTLE FRACTURE	115
4.1. Introduction	115
4.2. Fracture model based on the cohesive beam bonds	118
4.2.1. Fracture criterion	118
4.2.2. Calibration	120
4.2.3. Convergence study	123
4.2.4. Validation	125
4.3. Fracture model based on the virial stress	132
4.3.1. Fracture criterion	132
4.3.2. Calibration	134
4.3.3. Convergence study	134
4.3.4. Validation	136
4.4. Conclusion	137
CONCLUSION	141
BIBLIOGRAPHY	145
INDEX	161