

# PREFACE

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*CMES Special Issue on Contact Mechanics in the Engineering Sciences II:  
Contact Modelling in Material Characterization*

This Special Issue of CMES is a continuation of the contributions devoted the theme of Contact Mechanics in the Engineering Sciences. The modelling of contact can be approached at various levels of physical detail and analytical rigour. The contributions to this issue deal with the use of higher order or gradient theories of mechanics for the modelling of frictional contact and wear, which are important stages in the refinement of contact modelling and its practical applications to load transfer at joints. The topics of contact problems for inhomogeneous media have important applications to functionally graded materials and their parameter identification. The modelling of contact between discrete particulate systems has been an important aspect of contact mechanics. The research reported in this issue covers the important issues concerning the role of material parameter uncertainty in the modelling of contact between particles and the influence of stress-displacement relationships at rough contacts on the behaviour of particulate assemblies.

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