

Application of a Microstructured Brittle Damage Model to laboratory Tests on Rocks

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ABSTRACT

A multiscale brittle damage model is used to simulate the behavior of confined rock materials in laboratory tests. The material model is characterized by microstructures in the form of recursive equidistant parallel cohesive/frictional faults, and it is defined by a reduced number (seven) of material constants. Simulations show that the model is able to capture several important features observed in rocks, in particular the reduction of the overall stiffness for increasing deterioration of the material, fragile to ductile transition, strain localization, shear band formation, and more general size-effect. The model is applied to the simulation of the behavior of the rocks at the material point scale and at the laboratory scale as a boundary value problem. The model shows good predictive properties for a large number of geo-materials, in particular it is able to establish a correspondence between the actual microstructure and the macroscopic geometry of shear bands. Specifically, simulations at the full scale are able to model strain localization with the formation of single or multiple shear bands.

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