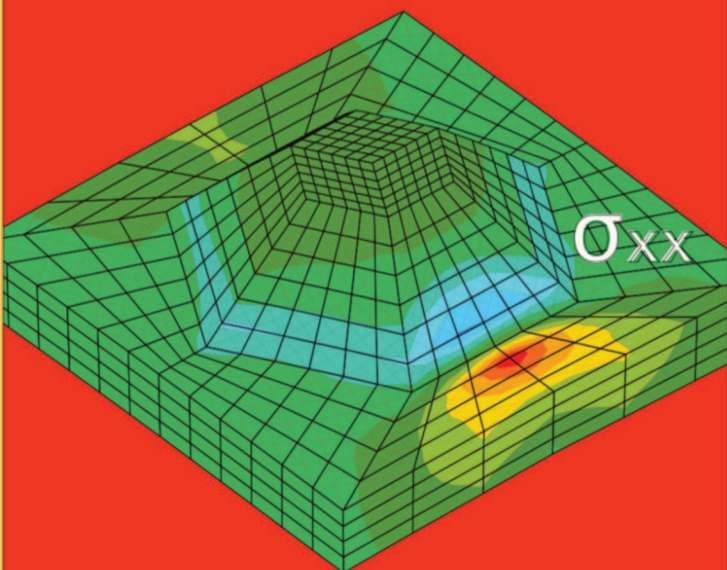
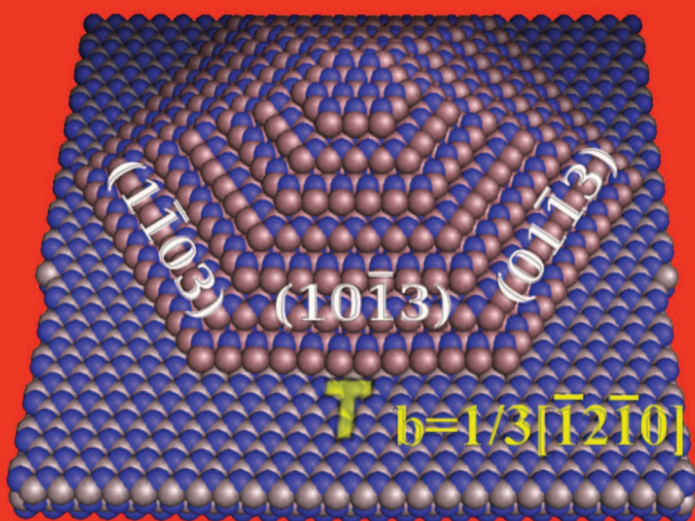


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Numerical modeling of stresses in composites manufactured by powder metallurgy

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Powder metallurgy technology is one of the main method of manufacture process of advanced composite materials. During the sintering process, which is the most important stage of the powder metallurgy, loose powder is converted into a solid material due to temperature (close to the melting point) and pressure (additional). In the case of sintered composite with minimal porosity in the cohesive bonds of powder grains occur concentration of residual microstresses, mainly induced by the difference in thermal expansion of the two interacting phases during the cooling stage. The complex state of tensile and compressive stresses leads to the formation of microcracks and the progressive degradation of the material.

One of the efficient and appropriate tool to determine the powder metallurgy stress of composite material is numerical modeling. The manufacture process of composite material can be efficiently modeled by the discrete element method, which is a natural approach of modeling of particulate and granular systems. Discrete element method allows to model the interactions of powder particles in places subject to the highest stresses concentration.

This paper presents numerical modeling of two-phase material stress during and after the powder metallurgy process. The original thermo-viscoelastic model of discrete elements have been performed to model the sintering and cooling stages presented in [1]. Numerical simulations were carried out on the example of the NiAl-Al₂O₃ composite. As part of this study microscopic stress generated both in cohesive connection between the powder particles and in the same particles was determined. The knowledge of the microscopic material parameters, such as the residual stress or the radius of particle contact area, provided the data of macroscopic stress by application of averaging methods based on the concept of the representative volume element (RVE). The obtained results confirmed correct and efficient performance of the proposed numerical model.

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