## PREFACE

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CMES Special Issue on Contact Mechanics in the Engineering Sciences I: Micromechanical Processes and Modelling of Contact

The study of mechanics of contact has a rich history dating back to the observational approach of Leonardo da Vinci to the mechanics approach that commences with the work of C.A. Coulomb. Over the past two centuries the study of contact mechanics has evolved as a legitimate field in the engineering sciences, where advanced mathematical concepts in modelling are combined with innovative solution schemes that involve both analytical and computational approaches. The subject matter is also being applied to a variety of problem areas in the engineering sciences including, tribology, wear, mechanics of tactile sensors, biomechanics, geomechanics and earth sciences, material fragmentation, environmental sciences, micro-mechanics, materials engineering, smart sensors and the nano-sciences. This issue of CMES is devoted to topics of a fundamental nature arising in the areas of biomechanics, wear, fatigue, interface friction, indentation of elastic, poroelastic and rate sensitive materials with applications to parameter identification.

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