

CIVIL-408

Multiscale Modeling in Mechanics

Prof. Kostas Karapiperis

Week 7

General DEM algorithm

Update particle positions

Forces and moments on particles (contact check):

$$\mathbf{f}_i^c = f_i^n \mathbf{n}^c + f_i^t \mathbf{t}^c$$

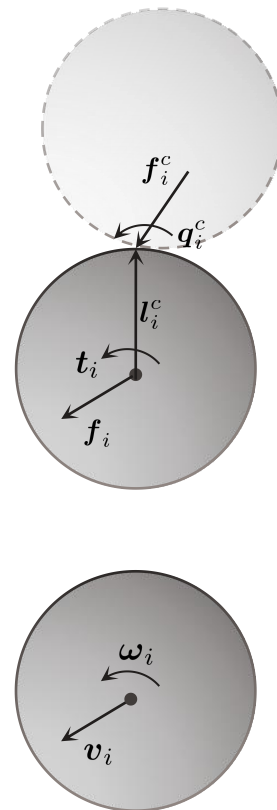
$$\mathbf{f}_i = \sum_c \mathbf{f}_i^c \quad : \text{Total force acting on particle } i$$

$$\mathbf{t}_i = \sum_c (\mathbf{l}_i^c \times \mathbf{f}_i^c + \mathbf{q}_i^c) \quad : \text{Total torque acting on particle } i$$

Equations of motion:

$$m_i \frac{d\mathbf{v}_i}{dt} = \mathbf{f}_i \quad : \text{Linear momentum balance}$$

$$I_i \frac{d\boldsymbol{\omega}_i}{dt} = \mathbf{t}_i \quad : \text{Angular momentum balance}$$



The critical time step for a DEM simulation:

- a. increases with contact stiffness
- b. increases with particle density
- c. is a function of the number of contacts
- d. is not a function of damping

Note: One or more answers might be correct.

The critical time step for a DEM simulation:

- a. increases with contact stiffness
- b. increases with particle density
- c. is a function of the number of contacts
- d. is not a function of damping

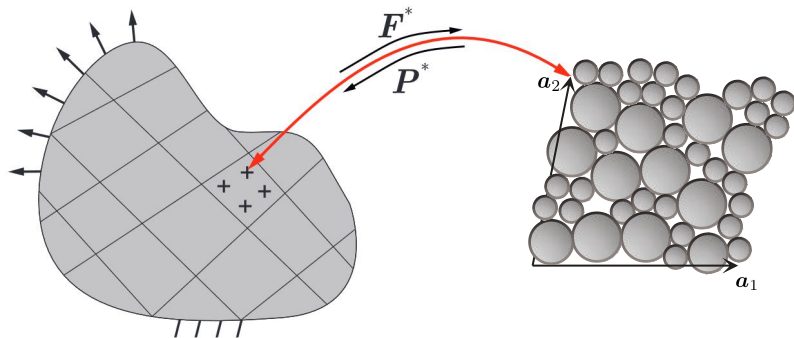
Note: One or more answers might be correct.

Multiscale modeling in granular systems

Does scale separation hold (approximately)?

✓

Hierarchical

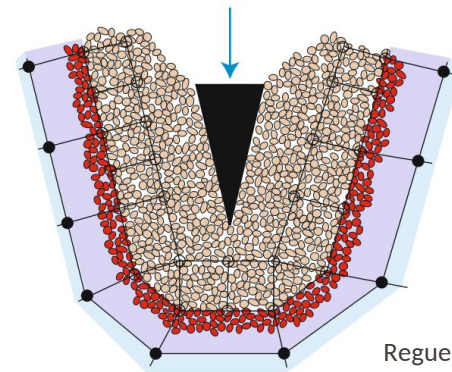


Macroscale FE
problem

Microscale DEM
problem
(periodic RVE)

✗

Concurrent

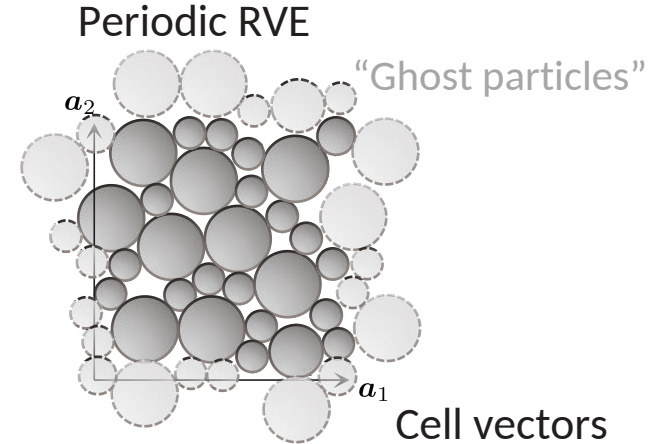
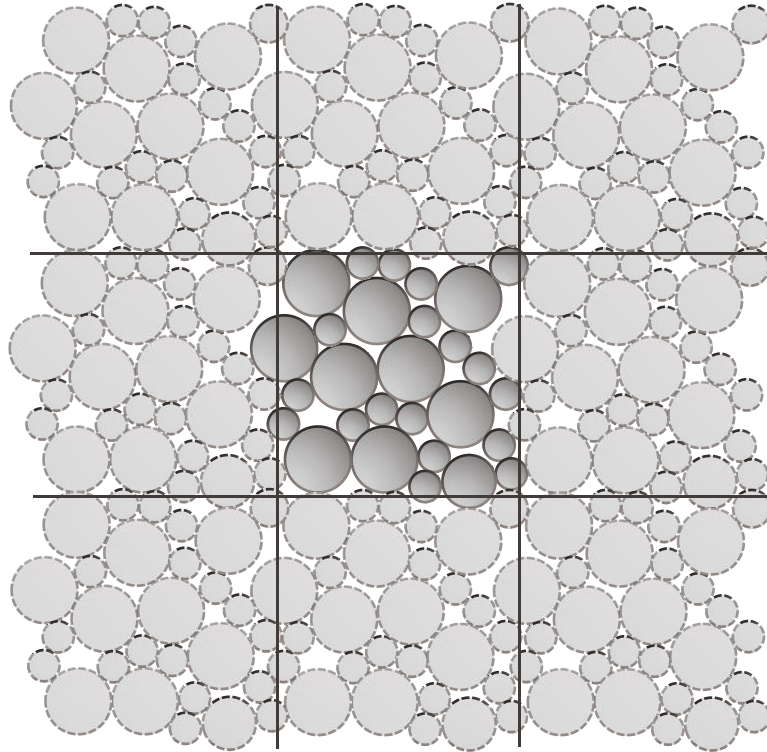


Regueiro et al., 2011

Passing of information from DEM domain
to continuum domain and vice-versa

Computational homogenization

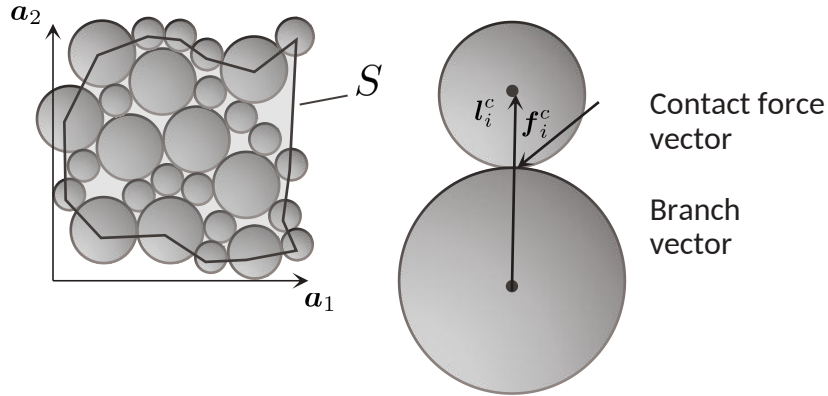
Similarly to the continuum problem, the most accurate way to compute the average (homogenized) behavior in a discrete problem is via **periodic boundary conditions**:



The determination of RVE size is subject to the conditions previously discussed.

Average stress - Quasistatic

Average stress (quasistatic)



$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \frac{1}{V} \sum_{c \in \mathcal{S}} \mathbf{x}_c \otimes \mathbf{f}_c$$

RVE volume Contact location Contact force
 Set of contacts on the RVE boundary

or:

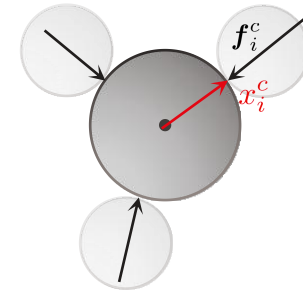
$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \frac{1}{V} \sum_{c \in \mathcal{I}} \mathbf{l}_c \otimes \mathbf{f}_c$$

Set of contacts inside the RVE Branch vector

Note:

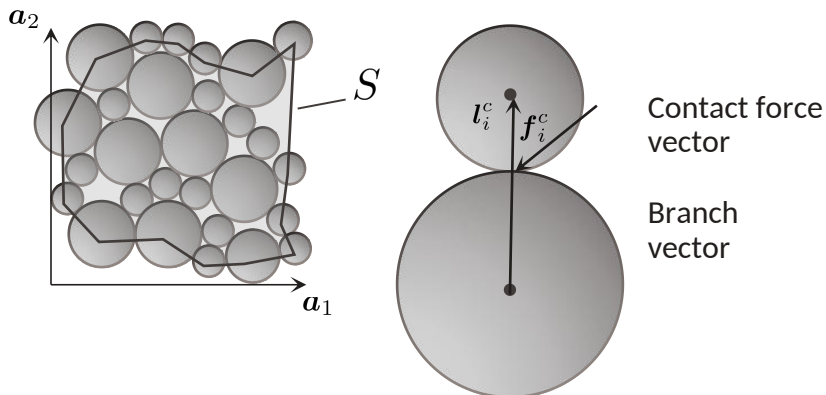
Not to be confused with the average stress in a particle:

$$\boldsymbol{\sigma}_p = \frac{1}{V_p} \sum_{c \in \mathcal{S}_p} \mathbf{x}_c \otimes \mathbf{f}_c$$



Average stress - Dynamic

Average stress (dynamic)



Note:

Care must be taken to ensure
**consistent direction of
forces and branch vectors.**

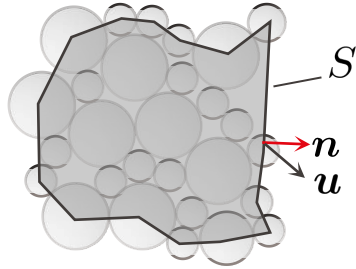
$$\boldsymbol{\sigma} = \frac{1}{V} \left(\sum_i m_i \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_i \otimes \tilde{\mathbf{v}}_i + \sum_c \mathbf{f}_c \otimes \mathbf{l}_c \right)$$

RVE Kinetic Contact (quasistatic)
volume contribution contribution

where: $\tilde{\mathbf{v}}_i = \mathbf{v}_i - \langle \mathbf{v} \rangle$ is the velocity fluctuation

Average strain

Based on a boundary integral:

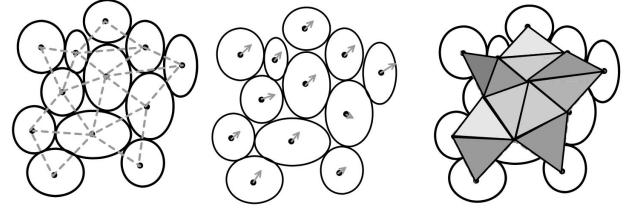


$$\boldsymbol{\varepsilon} = \frac{1}{V} \int_S \mathbf{u} \otimes \mathbf{n} dS$$

↑ ↑ ↑
 RVE boundary surface Displacement Boundary normal

Alternative definitions:

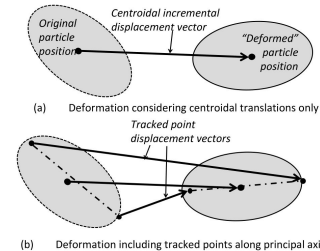
- Triangulation-based



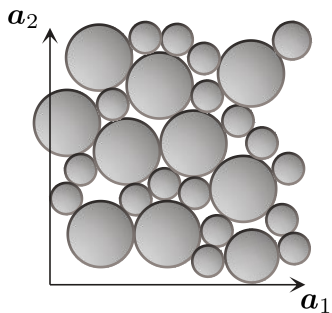
- Best-fit

$$\arg_{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}} \min \|\mathbf{u} - \boldsymbol{\varepsilon} \mathbf{x}\|$$

- Methods that account for rotations



Packing fraction



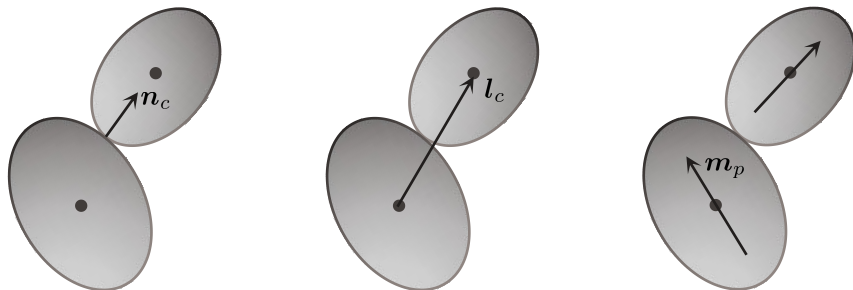
$$\phi = \frac{\sum_p V_p}{V}$$

Correlated with the coordination number

$$Z = \frac{2N_c}{N_p}$$

Fabric tensor

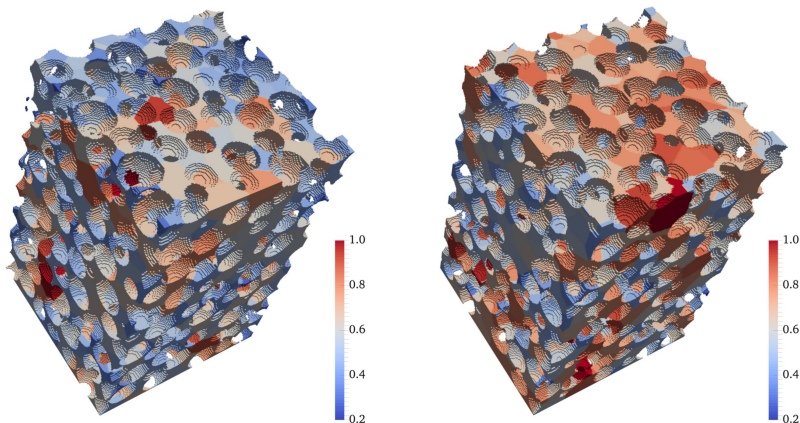
Can be defined on the basis of contact normals, branch vectors, major axis orientations



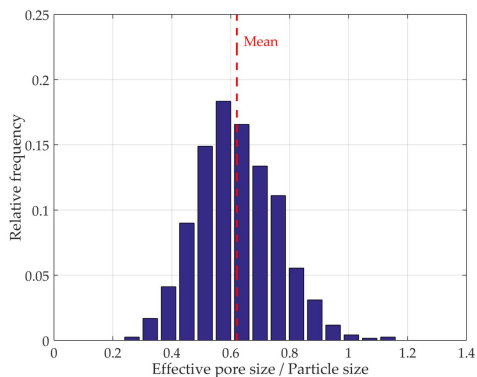
$$\mathbf{F} = \frac{1}{N_c} \sum_c \mathbf{n}_c \otimes \mathbf{n}_c \quad \mathbf{F} = \frac{1}{N_c} \sum_c \mathbf{l}_c \otimes \mathbf{l}_c \quad \mathbf{F} = \frac{1}{N_p} \sum_p \mathbf{m}_p \otimes \mathbf{m}_p$$

It is the 2nd-order descriptor of the probability distribution of the orientation of those vectors

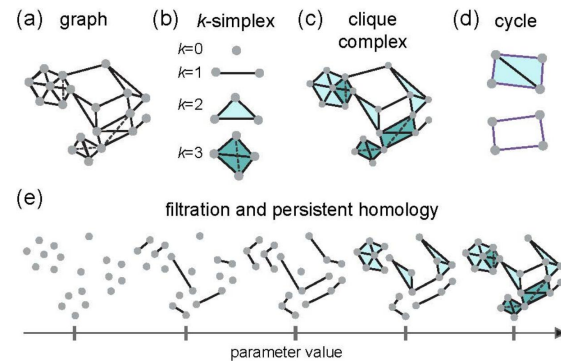
Void/pore space characterization



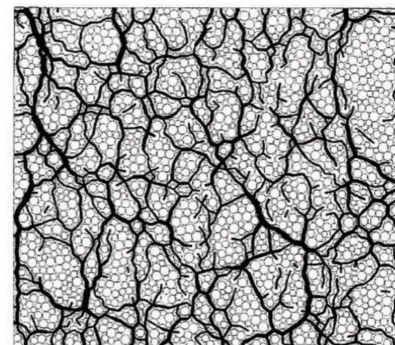
Roosbani et al, 2017



Topological/Network metrics



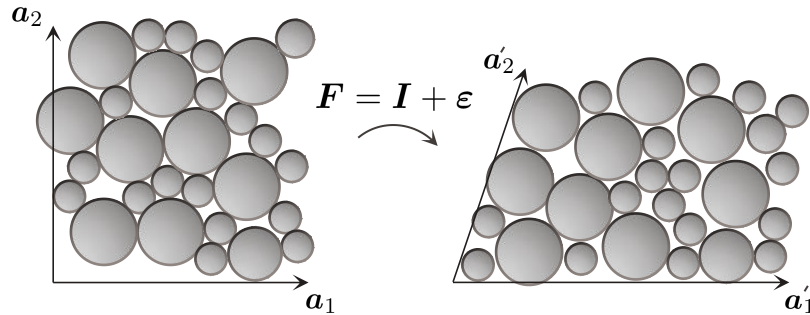
Papadopoulos et al, 2017



EPFL Strain and stress-control - Boundary motion

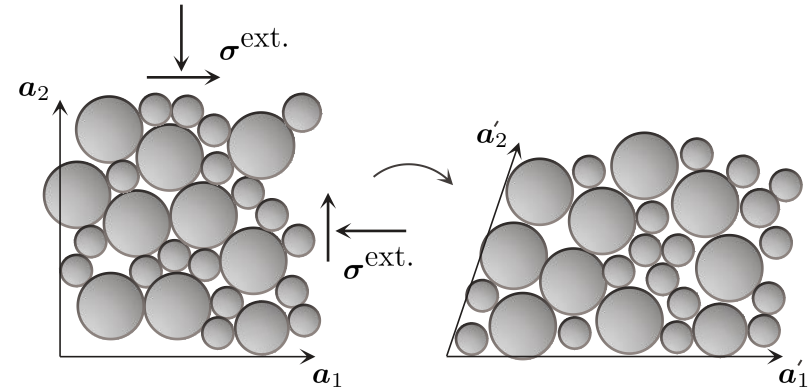
Strain-control

Stress-control



$$\mathbf{a}' = \mathbf{F} \mathbf{a} = (\mathbf{I} + \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}} dt) \mathbf{a}$$

Deformation of unit cell vectors



$$\dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}^{\text{serv.}} = \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}^{\text{serv.}} + \alpha(\boldsymbol{\sigma}^{\text{ext.}} - \boldsymbol{\sigma}^{\text{int.}})$$

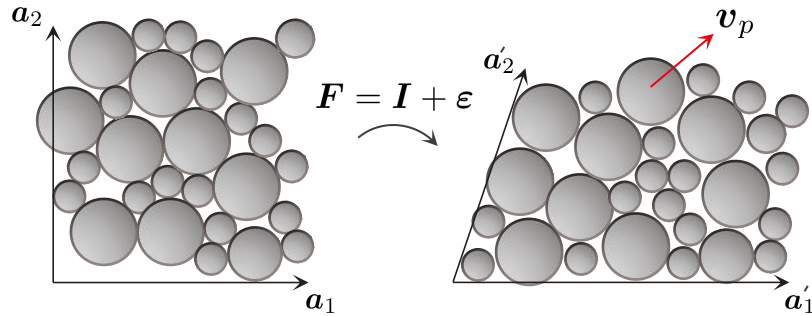
$$\mathbf{a}' = (\mathbf{I} + \dot{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}}^{\text{serv.}} dt) \mathbf{a}$$

Externally imposed stress: $\boldsymbol{\sigma}^{\text{ext.}}$

Measured internal stress: $\boldsymbol{\sigma}^{\text{int.}}$

(Servo-control)

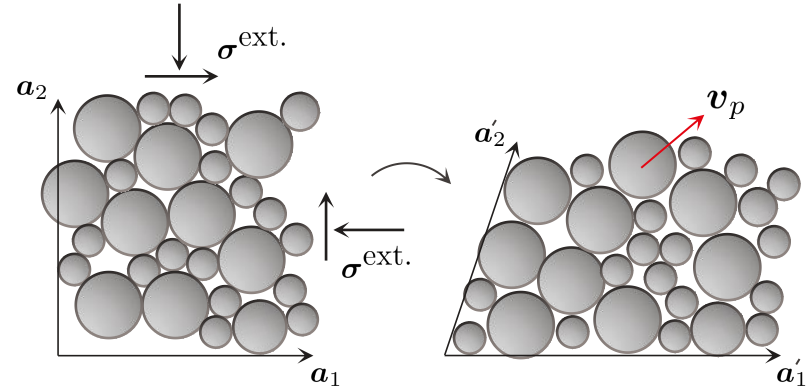
Strain-control



$$\mathbf{v}_p = \dot{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}} \cdot \mathbf{x}_p$$

Velocity imparted to the particles
due to global strain field

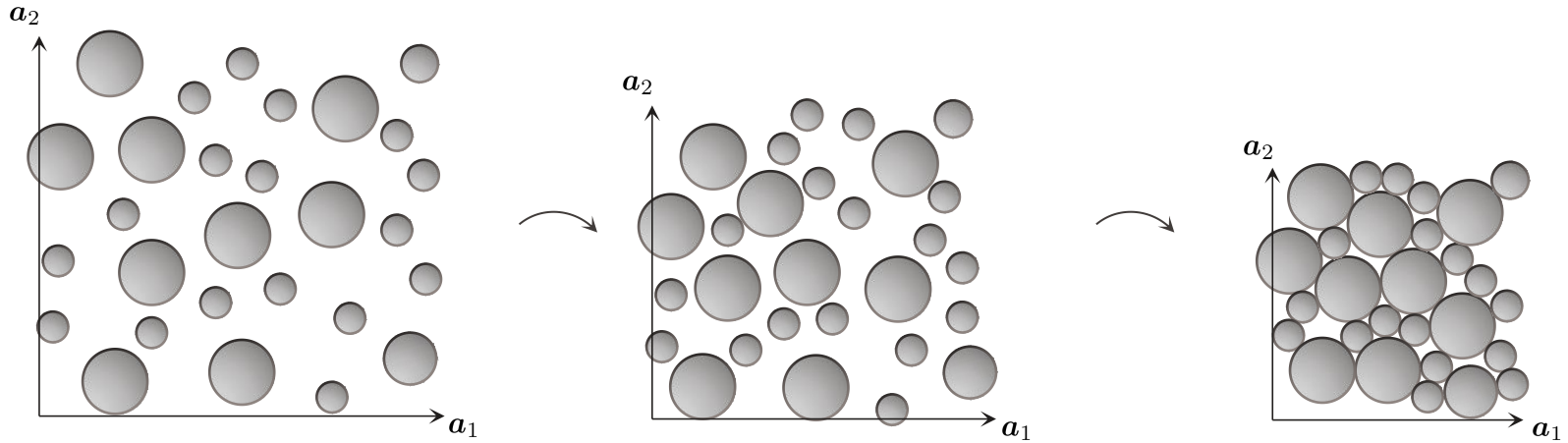
Stress-control



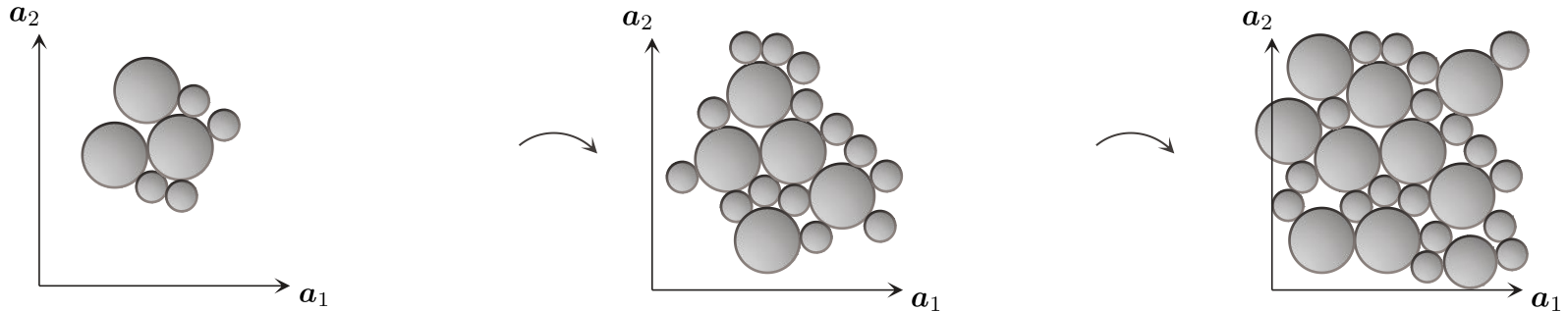
$$\mathbf{v}_p = \dot{\boldsymbol{\epsilon}}^{\text{serv}} \cdot \mathbf{x}_p$$

Velocity imparted to the particles
due to global strain field

Compression from gas state and relaxation

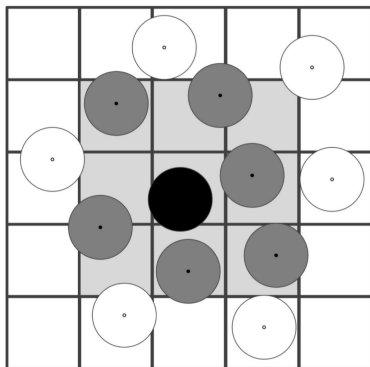


Random space-filling algorithms (hard for periodic boundary conditions)

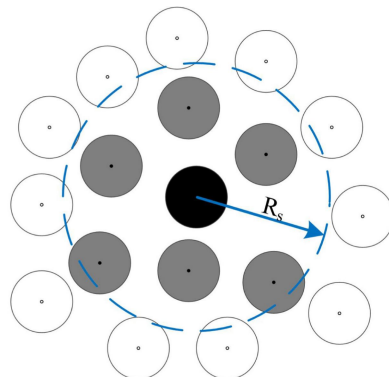


Contact detection typically takes 70-80% of the computational effort.

Standard methods: **Linked cell, Verlet**



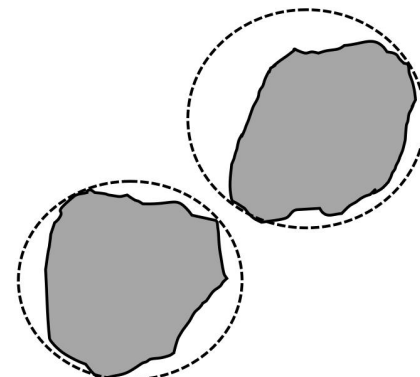
(a) Linked cell method



(b) Verlet table algorithm

Chen et al, Powder Technology (2024)

Bounding sphere

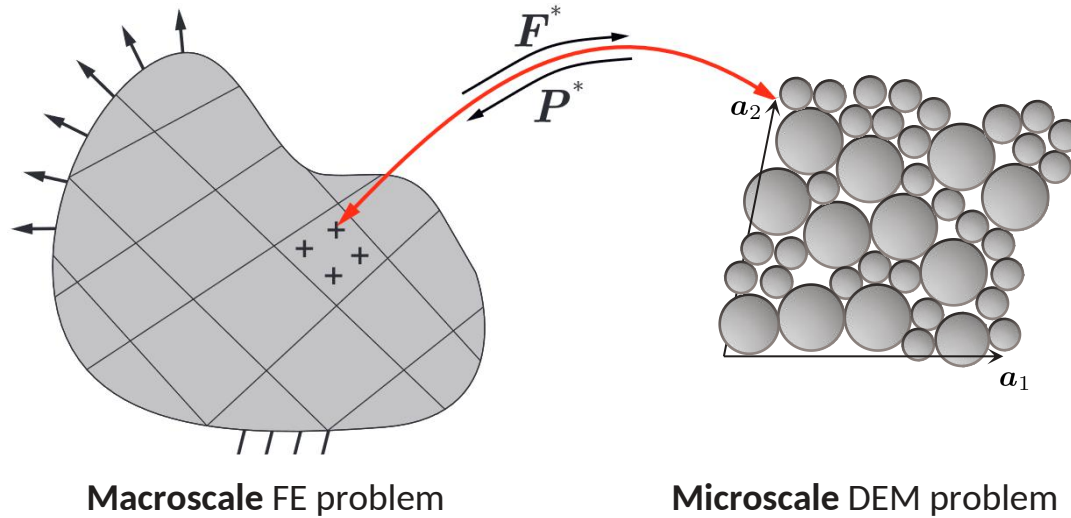


Useful for arbitrarily shaped particles

Parallelization:

OpenMP (shared memory), MPI (distributed memory), CUDA (GPU)

Similar to FE^2 but the microscale problem is replaced by DEM.



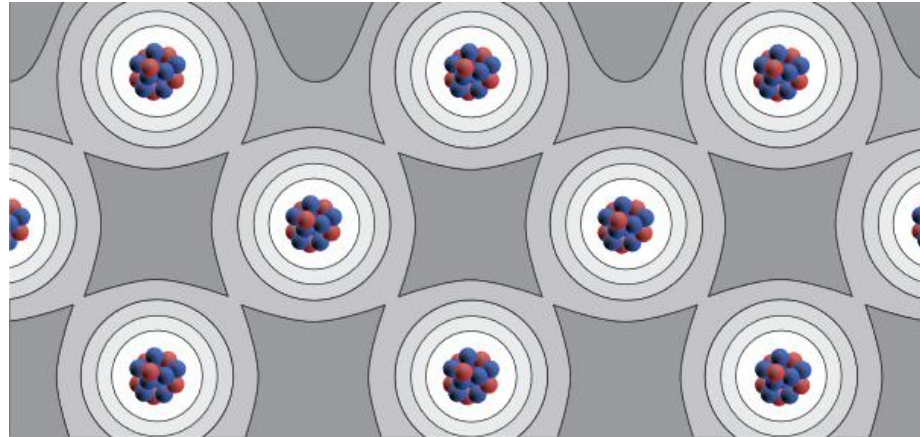
Further reading

- Original paper by Cundall and Strack (1979):
“A discrete numerical model for granular assemblies”

- Book by B. Andreotti, Y. Forterre, O. Pouliquen (2013):
“Granular Media Between Fluid and Solid”

- Remaining chapters of our textbook by C. O’Sullivan (2011):
“Particulate Discrete Element Modeling”

Atomistics and statistical mechanics



That's what I prepared for you today.

What would you like to discuss?

Reading for next class:

Multiscale Modeling, D. M. Kochmann

Chapters 12.5, 13, 15, 16