

Contents

1. Introduction	15
1.1 Background and motivation	15
1.2 Modeling of sintering: state of the art review	18
1.3 Objectives and scope of the thesis	24
1.4 Outline of the thesis	26
2. Sintering	29
2.1 Driving forces of sintering	29
2.2 Mass transport mechanism of sintering	31
2.3 Stages of sintering	33
3. Experimental investigation of powder metallurgy process	37
3.1 Materials specification and characterization	38
3.2 Experimental procedure	40
3.3 Experimental results	47
3.3.1 Density evolution	47
3.3.2 Microstructure evolution	51
3.3.3 Elastic properties evolution	56
3.3.4 Tensile strength evolution	62
4. Numerical model of powder metallurgy process	67
4.1 Introduction to discrete element modeling	68
4.2 Basic assumptions of the numerical model of powder metallurgy process	69
4.3 Equations of motion	70
4.4 Contact interaction model for powder compaction	73
4.5 Contact interaction model for sintering	75
4.5.1 Viscous model of sintering	76
4.5.2 Thermo-viscoelastic model of sintering	77
4.6 Transition between Kelvin-Voigt and Maxwell models	80
4.7 Time integration scheme	81
4.8 Numerical stability	83
4.9 Scaling of discrete element model parameters	85
4.10 Determination of material parameters of sintering model	87

5. Numerical simulation of powder metallurgy process	95
5.1 Simulation of two particle sintering	95
5.1.1 Simulation of free sintering	95
5.1.2 Simulation of sintering under pressure	102
5.2 Generation of the geometrical model of powder specimen	104
5.3 Simulation of powder metallurgy process of one-phase powders	107
5.4 Simulation of powder metallurgy process of two-phase powder	115
5.5 Simulation of powder metallurgy process at different process parameters	120
6. Analysis of stresses during and after powder metallurgy process	129
6.1 Determination of stresses in the numerical model	130
6.1.1 Evaluation of microscopic stress	130
6.1.2 Evaluation of macroscopic stress	132
6.2 Stress analysis results	133
6.2.1 Evolution of the macroscopic stress	133
6.2.2 Microscopic stress in the cohesive bonds	136
6.2.3 Microscopic stress in the discrete element bodies	139
7. Concluding remarks	145
7.1 Summary	145
7.2 Original elements of the thesis	148
7.3 Recommendations for future work	149
A. Derivation of the two-particle model of sintering	151
B. Estimation of material parameters of sintering model	155
C. Algorithm of generation of geometrical model of powder specimen	159
Bibliography	165