

Material Instabilities in Thermo-Mechanical Processes

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Strain localization and the development of material instabilities are investigated to highlight the roles of thermal effects and thermomechanical couplings. During a loading process, it is shown that two conditions play the essential roles and correspond to the singularity of the isothermal and the adiabatic acoustic tensors. Under quasi-static conditions, strain localization (in a classical sense) may occur when either of these two conditions is met. It involves a jump in temperature rate in the latter case, whereas temperature rate remains continuous in the former, but a discontinuity in the spatial derivatives of the heat flux must occur. This is consistent with the condition of stationarity of acceleration waves, which are shown to be homothermal and propagate with a velocity related to the eigenvalues of the isothermal acoustic tensor. A linear perturbation analysis further clarifies the above findings.

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