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Powders have been studied extensively because they arise in a wide variety of fields, ranging from soil mechanics to manufacture of pharmaceuticals. Only recently, however, with the deepening understanding of fractals, chaos,  $1/f$  noise, and self-organization, has it been useful to study the mechanical properties of powders from a fundamental physical perspective. This book collects articles by some of the foremost researchers in the field, including chapters on: the role of entropy in the specification of a powder, by S.F. Edwards (Cambridge); discrete mechanics, by P.K. Haff (Duke); computer simulations of granular materials, by G.C. Barker (Norwich); pattern formation and complexity in granular flow, by R.P. Behringer and G.W. Baxter (Duke); avalanches in real sand piles, by A. Mehta (Birmingham); micromechanical models of failure, by M.J. Adams (Unilever) and B.J. Briscoe (Imperial College); mixing and segregation in particle flows, by J. Bridgwater (Birmingham); and hard-sphere colloidal suspensions, by P. Bartlett (Bristol) and W. van Meegen (Melbourne).

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