

Use of the finite element method in geomechanics.

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The finite element method is a powerful numerical method useful in solving a wide spectrum of problems in geomechanics. Its use, in fact, is not limited to geomechanics only. It has also been used extensively in structural analysis, groundwater flow, heat flow problems, etc.

The principle of the method, its limitations and potentials are briefly discussed and illustrated by several practical applications.