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Intrinsic Mechanical Properties of Calcium Aluminate Crystals via the Linear Comparison Composite Method coupled with Nano-Indentation

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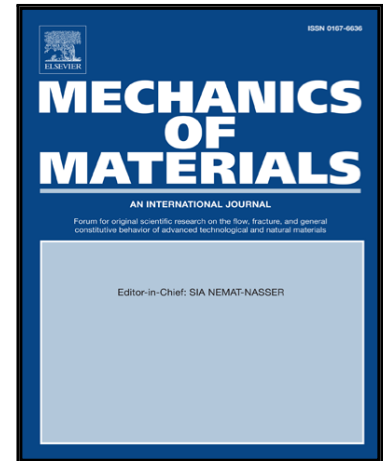
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**Highlights**

- The linear comparison composite method is extended to non-porous granular materials
- The effective strength of macro-defect-free cements is connected to the nano-constituents
- The elasto-plastic properties of anhydrous calcium aluminate crystals are measured
- MDF cements are exceptionally strong due to the high packing density of calcium aluminate crystals

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