Additive Manufacturing and its Viability :A Review

[1]Rohith S, [2]Mohan N, [3]Jayasheel I Harti, [4]Harikeerthana N, [5]Akshay prasad. M

[1]Research Scholar, Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Technology, Bangalore-560056, India

[2]Professor, Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Technology, Bangalore-560056, India

[3]Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering , East Point College of Engineering and Technology, Bangalore-560049, India

[4]Department of Mechanical Engineering, Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology, Bangalore-560064,India

[5]Department of Mechanical Engineering, RNS Institute of Technology, Bangalore-560098,India

ABSTRACT

Surprisingly, 3D printing has fascinated the aerospace community. This study provides track of prominent aerospace 3D printing processes. Motives for their success over conventional manufacturing methods are underpinned. Materials specifically designed for aerospace applications, alongside their attributes, are examined. The current activities related to 3D printing in major firms and companies around the globe are all being researched. Research work in the field of interstellar printing is also outlined. Whilst also 3D printing processes are functionally easy, they do have restrictions on the form, performance, and quantities of materials they can process. This paper illustrates such points while reviewing the drawbacks of the printed components. Processes begin with low gravity 3D printing are also addressed. Eventually, a peek into the potential appearance of the 3D printing aerospace industry.

Keywords: 3D Printing, Additive Manufacturing (AM), Selective Laser Melting (SLM).

1. INTRODUCTION

Additive Manufacturing (AM), otherwise known as 3D, is a category of production methods that manufacture components in an incremental stack or slide fashion capable of producing net form components. Essentially, AM can give a great deal of flexibility to design and produce geometrically complicated shapes, either impossible or considerably expensive by conventional processes, which rely on removing materials from monoliths. Given that, over the past decade, AM has attracted significant interest in manufacturing of critical metallic components with complex geometry in turbines and engines, as well as customized orthopedic implants [1-7]. The development of the AM industry has shifted the focus from rapid plastic prototyping to metallic ready-for-use components. Unlike the plastic material, to additively manufacture metallic components, the interaction of the material and the melting source is relatively complicated and has not been well-understood. On the other hand, the high-end applications of metallic AM components are rather defect-intolerant, which require an optimization of the process to get desired microstructures and mechanical properties [8-15].The future of AM is doubtlessly promising, but to fully realize its potential, the process-microstructure-properties relationship needs to be but not yet systematically studied. The benefits of AM over traditional or subtractive manufacturing are very clear, as additive manufacturing facilitates the development of close proximity parts with minimal raw materials and facilitates the production of intricate structures. In the last few decades, there have been major advances in the field of AM in terms of new and large variety of alloys, many of which have not been able to be developed through other means, often revealing enhanced mechanical properties [16-25]. However, a number of problems still need to be addressed before the metal AM can be fully realized, both in terms of standardization of printing and in terms of the consistent production of qualified components, requiring considerable further growth. While several studies have been conducted to understand the effect of AM on mechanical properties, the perception of the corrosion behaviour of AM-produced metals and alloys remains largely unexplored [26-33]. Inconel 718 and Inconel 625 are nickel-base superalloy and was developed by International Nickel Company in 1959 [26]. The term “superalloy” refers to the high-temperature metallic materials which are laboring in the extremely hot units of the turbines, beneath the heavy and complex of tons but still show superb defiance to mechanistic and organic dilapidation at heats near to their melt down points [7]. IN718 has high strength, good weldability and fabricability. The unique combination of the aforementioned attributes has made IN718 itself a natural candidate material for many high temperature applications. The early major applications were on military engines in 1960s, for example the welded diffuser case for JT11 engine on the SR-71 Blackbird surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft [34]. Given its good mechanical properties up to 650 ◦C and competitive price due to its low cobalt and high iron content, IN718 has been increasingly applied in commercial engines from the late 1960’s, specifically as the disc and rear frame material in gas turbines [35-36]. Beyond these original and still major high temperature applications,IN718 is also being used as a generic alloy in nuclear, oil and gas industries and cryogenic structures due to its excellent strength and aqueous corrosion resistance at ambient and low temperature [37-38]. As one of the nickel-base superalloys, Inconel 718 (IN718) was firstly designed and introduce to overcome the poor weldability of super alloys in 1960s. But now IN718 is being used intensively in gas turbines and aero engines for discs and frames. Due to IN718's excellent weldability and similarity of the AM and welding processes. Electron beam (EBM) and Selective Laser Melting (SLM) are two most frequently used AM processes for metallic components and have very different processing conditions which would result in quite different microstructures and mechanical properties [39-43].

2. SLM PROCESS OUTLINE

Researchers concentrate on powder-built AM skills that can produce intrinsically hum components from guided lasers. Selective Laser Melting (SLM) is among the most popular powdered fields. Structures of metals. In SLM, the products are assembled by selective melting of the ensuing build platform with a focused spotlight. A complex 3d CAD design is cut into planar substrate piles. Each substrate has its own built by spraying an optical maser spot over the appropriate cross-section region, using a high-power Yttrium fibre laser to heat, and fusing the pellets collectively in lean strata to create shiny core elements in the laser. The pure oxygen state shown in Figure 1. Produced adhesive components are tested as per a number of variables, such as the machined surface and the quality of the surface [44]. Another key matter to be discussed with AM innovation is the cost - effective and while constraints for the production of AM technology. Engineering applicable only to small batch sizes of custom designs and small-scale components [45-48].

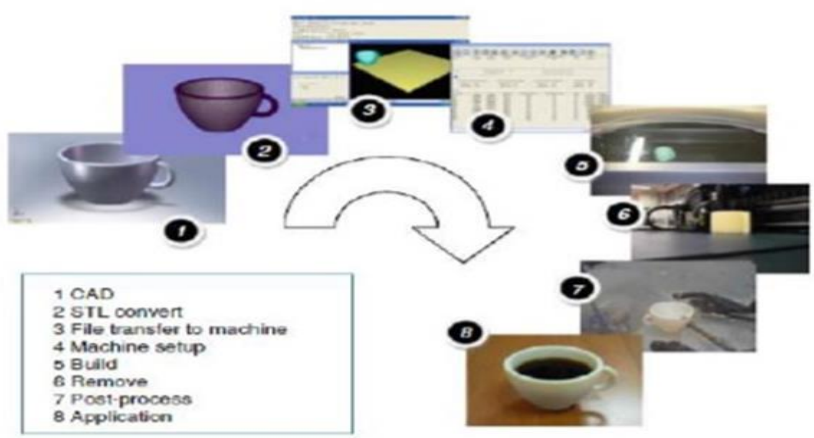

Figure 1: The eight stages of the AM process [7]

2.1 PHYSICAL METALLURGY

Superalloys has a rather complicated amalgam framework that habitually includes and over ten alloy adds. Superalloys, moreover, has be intensely studied and the influence of these several alloy facets come to be well known. Many superalloys include Cr, Co, Al and Ti, with a minor adjunct of Zr, S and C as shown in Figure 2.

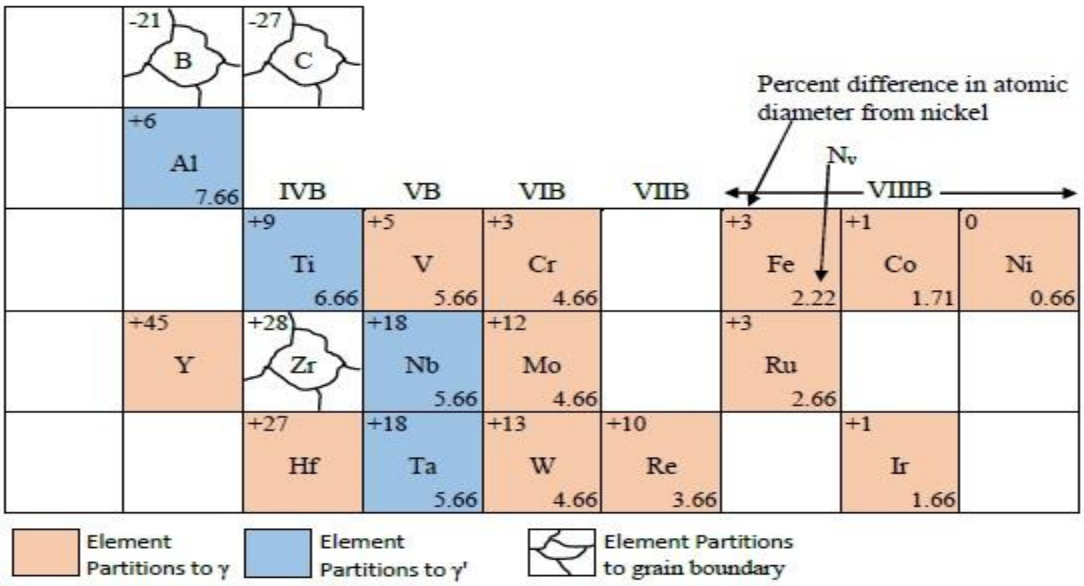

Figure 2: Part of the periodic table of elements displaying metals used in superalloys and their clustering properties [49]

2.2 CRYSTALLIZATION OF BOTH THE LASER PROCESSING AND WELDING

The thaw puddle configuration portrays an essential Part in the formation of local and global systems in the melting and warming cycle, as this affects the direction of the heat flux. Flow pattern in the stream influences the absorption of the weld as well the densification provisions; this in turn affects microstructures, isolation, and sponginess [50]. Microstructures created by methods such as fusing are complex and hard to analyze and have a huge effect on mechanical properties [51] and affects the modicum geomorphology as shown in Figure 3.

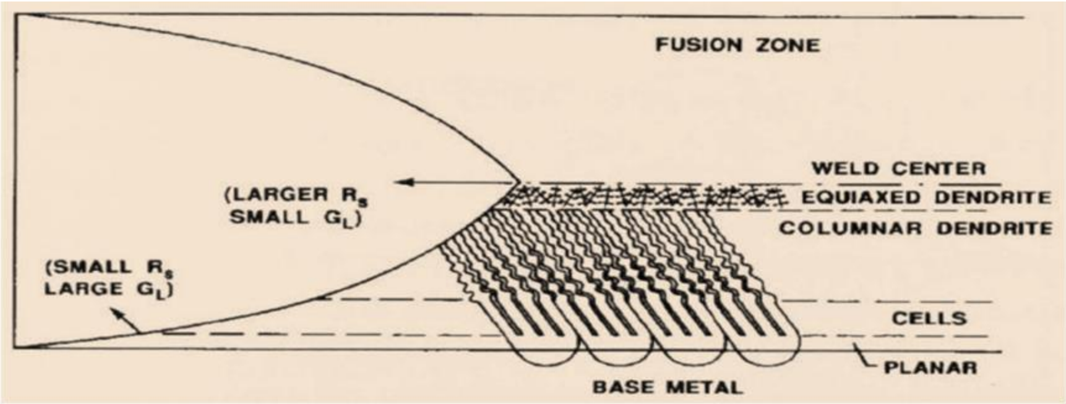

Figure 3: Visual figure illustrating changes in configuration throughout the fusion zone across welding-type processes. (Rs=grain growth rate, GL =thermal gradient in the liquid) [52]

2.2 CLASSIFICATION OF ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING PROCESS

Table 1: The Seven AM Process Categories by ASTM F42 [53]

Process Type	Materials	Brief Description	Related Technologies	Companies
Powder Bed Fusion	Metals, Polymers	Thermal energy selectively fuses regions of a powder bed	Electron beam melting (EBM), selective laser sintering (SLS), selective heat sintering (SHS), and direct metal laser sintering (DMLS)	EOS (Germany), 3D Systems (US), Arcam (Sweden)
Directed-Energy Deposition	Metals (Powder/ Wire)	Focused thermal energy is used to fuse materials by melting as the material is being deposited	Laser metal deposition (LMD)	Optomec (US), POM (US)
Material Extrusion	Polymers	Material is selectively dispensed through a nozzle or orifice	Fused deposition modeling (FDM)	Stratasys (Israel), Bits from Bytes (UK)
Vat Photo-polymerization	Photopolymers	Liquid photopolymer in a vat is selectively cured by light-activated polymerization	Stereolithography (SLA), digital light processing (DLP)	3D Systems (US), Envisiontec (Germany)
Binder Jetting	Polymers, Foundry Sand, Metals	A liquid bonding agent is selectively deposited to join powder materials	Powder bed and inkjet head (PBIH), plaster-based 3D printing (PP)	3D Systems (US), ExOne (US)
Material Jetting	Polymers, Waxes	Droplets of build material are selectively deposited	Multi-jet modeling (MJM)	Object (Israel), 3D Systems (US)
Sheet Lamination	Paper, Metals	Sheets of material are bonded to form an object	Laminated object manufacturing (LOM), ultrasonic consolidation (UC)	Fabrisonic (US), Mcor (Ireland)

Additive Manufacturing (AM) innovations has become vastly improved, re-innovated and expanded after the CAD prototype was first established in the 1970s [54,55]. There are 7 main classes of AM innovations in conjunction with the ASTM category as revealed in Table 1. [53]. The list also outlines the ingredients that numerous AM innovations are ready to handle, but also details from manufacturers who make AM devices globally. AM innovations are categorized mainly by fully accepted so each identification was already split into many other phases by material and/or energy source as seen in Table 1[53]. AM has been seen around the world, with the America and Europe as the major forerunners.

2.3 METAL-BUILT AM

Metal-built AM structures is widely classified as feed materials: I powder bed system, (ii) powder feed technologies and (iii) wire feed structures. A summary of the method for each group can be found in Table 1. The powdered bed AM process is costly but allows for the creation of snidely more accurate components. Pulsed laser powder bed AM is utilized for minor portions with high-ranking accuracy, while the EB residue bed AM is used for larger pieces & surfaces. Even so, Spark plus cable AM is an effective substitute tool that offers top ratios of deposit. This skill is limited to roomier different textures and is extra suited for large-level items .[56].

2.4 SELECTIVE LASER MELTING (SLM)

As shown in Table 1, SLM is among the methods within PBF and is of primary purpose of study. SLM is a metallic-built PBF system & is identical to Selective Laser Sintering (SLS). Broad variety of metals are used in SLMs. In SLM, the CAD size system is split to sections of uniform width. The SLM device applies each surface to a residue crib where powder surfaces of the same depth are dispersed by a granules conduct device. The red laser device melts unique areas that are identical to the small segment of the pieces inside each section. Figure 4 displays the graphic illustration of the key elements of the phase of SLM or direct metal laser sintering (DMLS). From Figure 4 [57-58] the unit consists of an influence the project, an optic device by a Nd:YAG optical maser and a system processor. The substance is distributed on the detachable base and then raised consuming a residue wiper method.

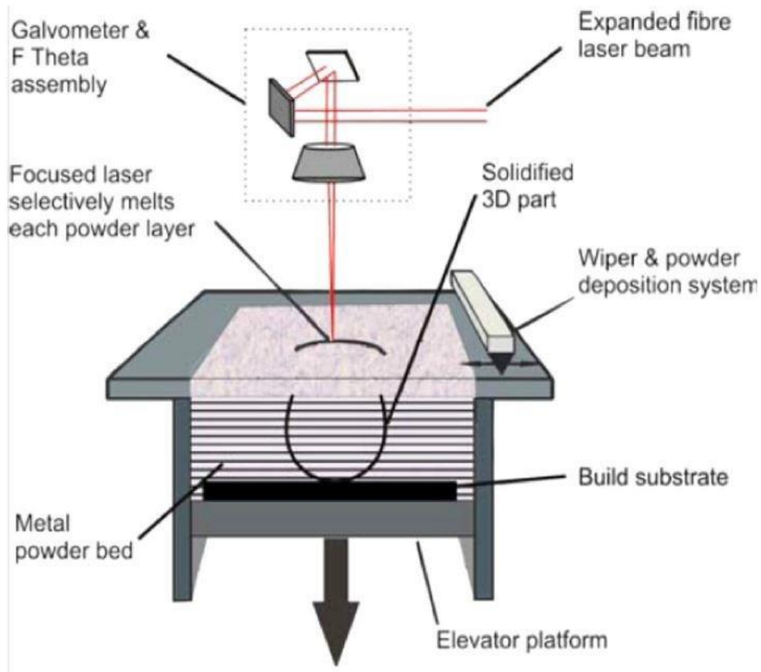

Figure 4: Representation illustration of archetypal powder bed SLM system [57-58].

The ocular device produces and places the optical maser ray directed by the lingering laser diode, the detector emulates, and the goal for the localized melting of the metal powder. In such very intricate geometry, 3D CAD data can be bent unswervingly, entirely instantly [59-63].

2.4.1 PROCESS PARAMETERS

There are several similar contractor specified process criteria in SLM operations, but these differ for different machines but need to be modified according to several distinct demands, e.g. the metals being dissolved may have various surface qualities and absorbing, the component being manufactured [64-67].

2.4.2 BUILD QUALITY

Owing to balkanized gas residue, porous structure is a primary flaw allied with AM. Lingering absorbency products also contain pilling throughout production. It is solved easily by managing process variables and does reflect limits in the production period when high purity sections are needed, but there are potential applications for synthetic medium including in frameworks were pores act as hydrating fluid reservoirs or in biological devices whereby bone incorporation with implants can be used [68-72].

2.4.3 MELT POOL DEPICTION

In SLM, the size weld zone is regulated by beam heat umph added. While the beam reacts with the powder roles, the flakes' skin absorbs umph and melts. Owing to superficial conflict of the melted factual, the molten occur in the early to consolidate [73-75]. The energy used ought to be needed to melt nearly portion of surface in creating a respectable link amongst smelted layer and substratum.

2.5 INFERENCE AND IMMINENT OPPORTUNITY

Depending on description, the major literatures in order to fully explain the relation. Among process variables, heat treatment, crystallization, microstructure, and mechanical possessions In general, SLM processed parts with super alloys. There are several possible areas that can be oriented in the potentials as referred below:

i. Material interpretation, awareness of the impact variables on SLM parts, powder attributes, updraft deposition, SLM Portion superficial qualities.

ii. Maintaining common design practices, creating guidance outlines to mechanical design, evaluating the description, mitigation of difficulties with mechanical properties and operating conditions.

iii. System simulation with updraft history, verification, and prophecy of process parameters built on the nature of the product and the construction of criteria and heat flux.

iv. Trying to develop micro conceptually sensitive patterns of depletion and creep behavior, with awareness of impact of heat treatments on enduring stresses and mechanical properties associating with absorbency impact.

v. Apertures and insertions, form and width, piece extent and alignment, etc to enhance the SLM operation and its constraints.

vi. Production of composites for specialized appliances with the SLM route.

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