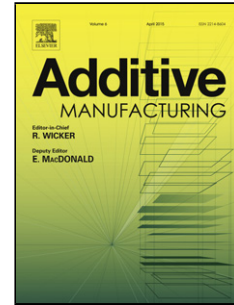


Accepted Manuscript

Title: Thermomechanical model development and in situ experimental validation of the Laser Powder-Bed Fusion Process

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PII: S2214-8604(17)30044-1
DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.addma.2017.05.001>
Reference: ADDMA 169

To appear in:

Received date: 1-2-2017
Revised date: 11-4-2017
Accepted date: 2-5-2017

Please cite this article as: Erik R. Denlinger, Michael Gouge, Jeff Irwin, Pan Michaleris, Thermomechanical model development and in situ experimental validation of the Laser Powder-Bed Fusion Process, *Additive Manufacturing* (2017), <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.addma.2017.05.001>

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Thermomechanical model development and in situ experimental validation of the Laser Powder-Bed Fusion Process

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April 11, 2017

Abstract

A three-dimensional finite element model is developed to allow for the prediction of temperature, residual stress, and distortion in multi-layer Laser Powder-Bed Fusion builds. Undesirable residual stress and distortion caused by thermal gradients are a common source of failure in AM builds. A non-linear thermoelastoplastic model is combined with an element coarsening strategy in order to simulate the thermal and mechanical response of a significant volume of deposited material (38 layers and 91 mm³). It is found that newly deposited layers experience the greatest amount of tensile stress, while layers beneath are forced into compressive stress. The residual stress evolution drives the mechanical response of the workpiece. The model is validated by comparing the predicted in situ and post process distortion to experimental measurements taken on the same geometry. The model accurately predicts the distortion of the workpiece (5 % error).

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