Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S1359-8368(17)31538-X

DOI: 10.1016/j.compositesb.2017.09.067

Reference: JCOMB 5314

To appear in: Composites Part B

Received Date: 3 May 2017

Revised Date: 27 September 2017

Accepted Date: 28 September 2017

Please cite this article as: Gundrati NB, Chakraborty P, Zhou C, Chung DDL, Effects of printing conditions on the molecular alignment of three-dimensionally printed polymer, *Composites Part B* (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.compositesb.2017.09.067.

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Effects of printing conditions on the molecular alignment of

three-dimensionally printed polymer

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Abstract

Three-dimensional polymer printing involves layer-by-layer deposition, so preferred in-plane molecular alignment occurs. Bottom-up stereolithography is used with an ultraviolet-curable acrylate ester resin. The out-of-plane relative electric permittivity (4.1-4.3) increases slightly with decreasing layer thickness (50-25 μ m), due to the increased molecular alignment. All values are above the value (3.5) for the bulk polymer. The permittivity decreases with increasing curing time, due to molecular networking. It decreases with increasing light intensity, due to enhanced curing. Increase in the resin age increases the permittivity, due to the hindrance to curing. The permittivity decreases with increasing aging time after printing, due to post-curing.

Keywords: A. layered structures; B. microstructures; D. non-destructive testing; D. process monitoring; three-dimensional printing.

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