Mechanical Response and Micro-CT Characterization of

3D Printed Cement Paste Elements with Controlled Architecture



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Support: NSF CMMI 1562927 Joseph Biernacki, Tennessee Tech. University

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Direct Ink Writing (DIW) Is a Method of Patterning Materials

DIW:

- Layer-by-Layer Patterning Materials in 3 Dimensions
- Extrusion-based fabrication method using **computer-controlled** translation stage (gantry)
- > Used for polymer melts and **colloidal gels** & slurries such as cement paste
- > For Cement Paste: Re-configure **printer** assembly and processing parameters
- > Work with materials such as Silicone and Chocolate to **integrate** and **parameterize**.
- Ink Development, flow processes, rheology, extrudability, shape-holding



3D Printer

Stepper motor-driven extrusion system (Syringe and Plunger)



DIW Can do More:



Prop./Perf.

Processing

Weak Interface

F

(Micro-) Structure

Architecture

It allows to develop prototypes for :

- Evaluation of intertwined mechanisms between: Processing-Structure- Properties / Performance
- Achieving novel material-structural systems: "Architectured Materials"
- Combination of materials and space DIW comes at the cost of the "weak interface"
- Songithéegedetmageenbewegtropertiescontrol its property!
- Properties not offered by material or structure alone
 Architecture + Interface "weak" characteristics ->

Hypothesis: DIW can enhance the **mechanical response of brittle hcp materials via design**



Representative Designs of Architectures

















Bouligand (Helicoidal) Architecture



Design & Fabricate with a variety of γ and infill percentage :



Bouligand ($\gamma = 2^{\circ}$)



Bouligand $(\gamma = 45^{\circ})$ Cellular

Bouligand $(\gamma = 8^{\circ})$ Solid

80

Hydrated Cement Paste (HCP) can be made Compliant by Design

Scale bars: 3.0 mm



Role of the "Weak interface"



Scale bars: 1.5 mm



At 0° and 45° : Horizontal crack deflection > At 90° : Clear cleavage at Interface \geq Secondary micro-cracking advanced at interface

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No micro-Cracking

HCP with Bouligand architecture can increase toughness, when combined with "Weak interface"



Micro-CT of 8° pitch angle solid Bouligand architectures (post-fracture):



Small pitch angle Bouligand architecture promoted damage mechanism such as:

- Interfacial cracking and micro-cracking
- Crack twisting

Therefore it allows for:

- Controlled fracture and crack growth at interface
- Enhanced energy dissipation and toughness
- Enhanced damage and flaw tolerance

<u>We can Infer:</u> Bio-inspired Bouligand Architectures + "Weak Interfaces" promote interfacial damage and allow for enhance the mechanical response

Competing mechanisms between small and large pitch angles



> Larger r (e.g., 45°) allow crack growth in materials as opposed to

> smaller r (e.g., 8°) that promote interfacial damage mechanisms

> <u>Open question</u>: The role of <u>interfacial strength</u> in this trade-off?

Incorporation of the "weak interface" in favor of enhanced performance in architectured cement-based materials: <u>We have used DIW</u>:

• To combine several <u>architectures</u> (such as Honeycomb or Bouligand) in order to explore the processing-structure-property relationship in hcp.

Combined effects of architecture and interfacial porosity on mech. performance:

- Improvement of performance characteristic
- Promotion of unique **damage mechanisms**, such as spread of interfacial cracking and micro-cracking
- Promotion of **toughening mechanisms**
- Increase in **fracture resistance**, resulting in quasi-brittle and **flaw-tolerant** behaviors in brittle hcp elements; without sacrificing the strength.

This could be one approach in 3D-printing that allow new of designing materials and structures





<u>Characterization of the Interface</u> What are the characteristics of the Core vs. Interfaces?



A lab-based X-ray Micro-CT can be used to evaluate the processing-induced heterogeneities:



Microstructural Features (0.4X): <u>Pores / Re-arrangements / White Regions</u>

Side View



Top View



- ➢ <u>Macro-pores</u>
- ➢ <u>Micro-pores</u>
- ➢ <u>Re-arrangement</u>
- ➢ White regions
- Homog. Core vs.
 Porous Interfacial
 Regions (IRs)



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Microstructural Features: Micro-Channels and Re-arrangement – 4X Scan





Moini et. al., RILEM, ETH. 2018

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How about the cast specimen?

Cast:



XY (c) IR (at ID) Curved Straight White regions Core (at III)



<u>Randomly Distributed Pores</u>

in cast

(b)

VS.

- <u>Patterned Pore Network</u>
 in 3D-printed layered specimen
- Volumetric Segmentation

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Micro-CT characterization of 3DP hcp:

- QC
- Revealed **4 microstructural features** in lamellar architecture as follow:
 - I,II) Macropores, and micropores at (IRs)
 - III) Re-arrangement of filaments
 - IV) Accumulation of anhydrous cement grains near the macro-pores (white regions)
- A porous interface/network was characterized.
- **Pore network** (at both macro and micro scale) appeared to **align** with filaments orientation in the lamellar architecture → control of pore architecture
- These features are **processing-induced heterogeneities** & depend on processing and environmental conditions; They can result in **anisotropic** properties.
- Lab-based Micro-CT is a useful tool for non-destructive evaluation of mircostructure and porosity.

Acknowledgment

<u>Support:</u> NSF CMMI 1562927 Purdue School of Civil Engineering Purdue College of Engineering





Jeff Youngblood (Purdue), Joe Biernacki (Tenneesee Tech), Jan Olek (Purdue) M. Reza Moini (PhD student, Purdue), Florence Sanchez (Vanderbilt), Pablo Zavattieri (Purdue)





Thank you!

Questions?



Back-up slides

Microstructural Features (4X): <u>Pores/Re-arrangements/White regions</u>

Side View



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Microstructural Features: Micro- and Macro-Pores at IRs -0.4X Scan





YZ

➤ <u>Micro-Pores:</u>

at vertical and

horiz. Planes (IRs)



Macro-Pores: \succ

at vertical planes





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There is a huge need for advanced manufacturing in construction

United Nation Goals for Sustainable Development:

- Resilient infrastructure
- Safe and sustainable human settlement
- Sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystem

National Academy of Engineers Grand Challenges for Engineers:

Restore and improve urban infrastructure

<u>Productivity Improvement In Construction</u>:

Flat or declining

http://107.22.164.43/millennium/challeng.html http://engineeringchallenges.org/File.aspx?id=11574&v=34765dff

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 Manufacturing Construction



\$ thousand per worker



Source: Expert interviews; IHS Global Insight (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain,

United Kingdom, United States); World Input-Output Database



STATE OF THE FUTURE

Rudimentary 3D printing of cement is been done before

World wide efforts on 3D printing concrete:

- Universities (Delf, Dresden, ETH, IFFSTAR, ...)
- ➤ US Army, Private and public sector within US, China, UAE, ...



http://www.totalkustom.com/home.html



www.erdc.usace.army.mil



www.TUe.nl/3DConcretePrinting



www.genesisdimensions.com/



http://www.gizmag.com/china-winsun-3dprinted-house/31757/



http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/innovati ons/wp/2015/02/05/yes-that-3d-printedmansion-is-safe-to-live-in/

Direct Ink Writing (DIW) Is a Method of Patterning Materials



<u>**DIW**</u>:

- Patterning materials in 3 dimension
- Fabrication method with computer-controlled \succ translation stage
- > No need for tooling, dies, or lithography mask
- Capability for multi-material deposition of gels colloids and slurries



Printing Platform for DIW of Cement Paste

A Fused Filament Fabrication (FFF) Printer is merged with an extruder system and is modified to serve DIW of cement paste

- Ultimaker FFD printer to achieve high resolution at reasonable cost
- Integrated Discovery digital syringe pump and connected with a tube

Nozzle Dia.: 1.36 mm Layer Height: 1.00 mm

Worked with Silicone and Chocolate to integrate and parameterize.



Processing parameters were optimized for cement paste



Printing Parameters ?



- <u>Slicer (Interpreter)</u>: Converts a digital 3D model into printing instructions for 3D printer
- Input: STL file (Geometry of printed object) and several printing parameters,
 - Nozzle Size
 - Extrusion multiplier
 - Print speed (F)
 - ➤ Infill %
 - > Layer height
 - Extrusion width
 - Movement speed
 - ➢ Bed Temperature, Fan, etc.
 - ▶
- **Output: G-code** (machine-readable **toolpath** commands)

➤ 5-Axis commands: Coordinates (X, Y, Z), E, F



printing parameters:



Process Name:	ProcessI								
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1									
- 62	Layer . In	fill Support Temper	ature Cooling G-C	ode Scr	ipts Other	Advanced			
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		Extruder Toolhea	Extruder Toolhead Index Tool 1 1						
		Nozzle Diameter	Nozzle Diameter 0.35 : mm						
		Extrusion Multipl	Extrusion Multiplier 0.90						
		Extrusion Width	Extrusion Width Auto Manual 0,40 mm						
		Doze Cormai	Ouze Caenual						
		Retraction	Retraction Distance	0,50	1) mm				
			Extra Restart Distance	0.00	11 mm				
			Retraction Vertical Lift	0.00	1				
			Retraction Speed	1800.0	: mm/mis	10 C			
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Remove Extruder			mpt crossfee	1 sound	1.1				
-									

Cement formulation has a large effect on print quality

Ink Formulation:

Cement Paste(Not extrudable)



Challenges at small scale:

- Suitable viscosity for high shear
- Suitable yield stress upon extrusion (Shape holding)
- Segregation/bleeding
- Suitable printing parameters in Slicer

Cement Paste + HRWRA





Can Design via DIW allow control of the mechanical response?

Hypothesis for Hardened Cement-Based Materials :

 Mechanical response of architectured 3D printed solid/cellular cement-based materials is influenced by their architecture.

Fundamental Behavior under Flexure and Tension:

■ Uni-axial flexural strength (**3PB/4PB**) → **Prisms**

Suitable for characterizing Interfacial properties

- Bi-axial flexural strength (Ball on 3 Balls) **B3B** → **Solid and Architectured Discs**

Suitable for characterizing architectured materials



Scale bars: 5.0 mm





Now we can 3D-print cement- What are we going to do with it?

"Architectured Materials":

- Combination of materials and space
- Materials engineered to have new properties
- Properties not offered by material or structure alone



Zheng, et al, Progress in Materials Science, 2015. HC.



http://vcg.isti.cnr.it/Publications/2015/PZMPCZ15/



Gladman et al. Nature materials, 2016, 4D-P



Berger et al. Nature Letter, 2017. , Mech. Metam.

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Further Info:

Mohamadreza Moini, Jan Olek, Jeffrey Youngblood, Bryan Magee, Pablo D. Zavattieri, "Additive Manufacturing and Performance of Architectured Cement-based Materials", Advanced Materials, 2018. https://doi.org/10.1002/adma.201802123.

Mohamadreza Moini, Jan Olek, Bryan Magee, Pablo Zavattieri, Jeffrey Youngblood, "Additive Manufacturing and Characteristics of Architectured Cement-based Materials via X-ray Micro-Computed Tomography", 1st RILEM International Conference on Concrete And Digital Fabrication, ETH, Zurich, Springer proceeding, 2018. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-99519-9 16





• Characteristics of a Microstructure of Patterned elements: Helicoidal Architecture



- (e)
- ➤ IR affect damage propagation and allow
- Damage delocalization and control of crack propagation path
- > That could cause **anisotropic** mech. prop.



Properties-Microstructural Architecture

• Layer-wised lamellar 3D-printed cement-based elements have anisotropic compressive strength properties









• Architecture can be used to significantly enhance WOF with incorporation of Bouligand architectures

	Cast	XY	YZ	XZ	Bouligand			
		Sp. WOF.						
Cast		Sig.	Sig.	Non Sig.	Sig.			
Lamellar - XY	Sig.		Sig.	Sig.	Sig.			
Lamellar - YZ	Sig.	Sig.		Sig.	Sig.			
Lamellar - XZ	Non Sig.	Sig.	Sig.		Sig.			
Bouligand - XY	Non Sig.	Non Sig.	Sig.	Non Sig.				
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Damage-microstructural Architecture Interaction:

- 3D printed cement-based elements present <u>interfacial</u> <u>cracking and damage mechanisms</u> that are different from the cast counterparts.
- These mechanisms can result in lower, higher, or similar compressive strength and WOF depending on the interaction between cracking and <u>architecture</u> (and <u>testing direction)</u>.
- A cracking-microstructure interaction exist through which interfacial damage (crack and micro-crack) is promoted.









Other Interesting Findings:

- Strength development of materials over time can result in significant different in mechanical properties of 3D-printed elements compared to cast counterparts.
- This may be due to the evolution of <u>Materials Strength/Interfacial Strength</u>.



Properties-Microstructural Architecture

- The interfacial porosity (4X) in 3D-printed layered (lamellar) cement paste (3%) can be higher than the porosity in randomly distributed pores in cast elements (1%).
- It is hyp. that <u>morphology of the architecture of the porosity</u> can be as critical as the <u>total</u> <u>amount of porosity</u> to the strength-property relationship.



Properties-Microstructural Architecture

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- Microstructural architecture (i.e., 4 adjacent filament in 2 layers) of a 3-day-old cement paste was found to have a 25-25-50% proportion
- for the three pores-hydrated-unhydrated phases
- This includes *interfacial* and *microstructural* porosity



• the interfacial porosity was found to be <u>interconnected</u>, forming a <u>continuous pore</u> <u>network.</u>



Microstructural Architecture

Microstructural architecture can be controlled via design and DIW to investigate intertwined mechanisms



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Interface is porous, but how weak is its strength?

Using 3PB:



- > Although the interfaces was identified <u>weak</u> and <u>porous</u>
- No significant difference was found between <u>interfacial strength</u> and <u>bulk materials</u> <u>strength</u> when structure was collectively tested in 3PB

...by controlling crack path during failure



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... by controlling crack path during failure



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Key Factors in 3D-printing cementitious materials

