Printing Multi-Functionality with Multi-Technology Additive Manufacturing

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W.M. KECK CENTER































- 13,000 sq. ft. (~1200 sq. m.), state-of-the-art facility
- More than 40 Additive Manufacturing (AM) machines (polymers, metals, ceramics, composites, electronics, biomedical)
- More than 50 currently involved faculty and students
- 6 full-time staff
- ITAR compliant, UTEP SCIF in late 2013
- Everything we do uses additive manufacturing technologies





























Directed Energy Deposition









Forged or Cast

Machined for Weight Savings Fabricated with Optimized 3D Structuring of Materials





Rapid manufacturing of functional devices using integrated technologies









Wicker, MacDonald, "Multi-Material, Multi-Technology Stereolithography," Virtual and Physical Prototyping, 2012. Choi, Kim, Wicker, "Multi-Material Stereolithography," J. of Materials Processing Technology, 2011.







Arcaute, Mann, Wicker, "Stereolithography of Spatially-Controlled Multi-Material Bioactive Poly(ethylene glycol) Scaffolds," Acta Biomaterialia, 2010.

Micro-SL System with Multi-Material Capabilities





Choi, MacDonald, Wicker, "Multi-Material Microstereolithography," IJAMT, 2010.





Lopes, MacDonald, Wicker, "Integrating Stereolithography and Direct Print Technologies for 3D Structural Electronics Fabrication," Rapid Prototyping J., 2012.

Advantages of 3D Structural Electronics

- Intricately-Detailed Unit-Level Customized 3D Form
 - Potential to accommodate and incorporate micro-systems
 - Embedded in structural components
 - Conformal (human anatomy specific)
- Multiple materials
 - Bio-compatible
 - Strong, lightweight
 - Flexible substrates
- Tight 3D Integration
- Integrated Thermal Management
- Reverse Engineering / Tamper Resistant
- Rugged and Potential for Remote Fabrication















EE CAD - Schematic Design ME CAD - Shape and Constraints ME CAD - Components Cavities



EE to ME CAD - Interconnects



ME CAD - Finalize Design

Society Structural Electronics Demonstration: Gaming Die







- Microprocessor and accelerometer identify top surface and display LEDs
- Electronics on all six sides with two-piece assembly design
- Advanced induction wireless charging
- Challenges:
 - CAD (mechanical structures, electronics, integration in 3D)
 - Ink electrical performance
 - Overall reliability





Developing ASIM sensor system to provide volumetric efficiency for CubeSat launch (Trailblazer) in August 2013







Multi-Material, Multi-Technology FDM





Variable Build Strategies





Choi, Medina, Kim, Espalin, Rodriguez, Stucker, Wicker, "Development of a Mobile Fused Deposition Modeling System with Enhanced Manufacturing Flexibility," J. of Materials Processing Technology, 2011.







Espalin, Ramirez, Medina, Wicker, "Multi-Material, Multi-Technology FDM: Exploring Build Process Variations," Rapid Prototyping J., to appear, 2013.

FDM and 3D Structural Electronics



Microelectronics – resolution requirements





Conductive inks – dispensing and curing



Final Performance

































Roberson, Wicker, MacDonald, "Ohmic Curing of Printed Silver Conductive Traces," J. of Elect. Mtls., 2012.

TP Are conductive inks adequate?



- Low conductivity = low current carrying capacity
- High resistance is undesirable
 - Self heating
 - Voltage drop
 - Reduced reliability
 - Reduced performance



The standard

		Resistance
Case	Geometry	(ohms)
one-ounce copper PCB with 4		
mil width	37 μ thick, 100 μ wide, conductor 10 cm long	0.45
Dupont Ink CB028 Silver	25 μ thick, 100 μ wide, conductor 10 cm long	4.73
Dupont Ink CB500 Copper	25 μ thick, 100 μ wide, conductor 10 cm long	20.27
Extruded Solder	25 μ thick, 100 μ wide, conductor 10 cm long	2.86
40 gauge wire 10 cm long	80 μ diameter, conductor 10 cm long	0.33
36 gauge wire 10 cm long	120 μ diameter, conductor 10 cm long	0.15
32 gauge wire 10 cm long	200 μ diameter, conductor 10 cm long	0.05







Mireles, Kim, Lee, Espalin, Medina, MacDonald, Wicker, "Development of a Fused Deposition Modeling System for Low Melting Temperature Metal Alloys," J. Electronics Packaging, 2013.











Multi-Material, Multi-Technology AM



Key Technologies – Research and Integration









Laser Micro-Welding



Wire Embedding



Integration in MM, MT FDM

















Mechanical: FDM + Mesh = Functional Composite



Electronics: Ground Planes, EMI Shielding, or Non-mechanical Switches





















Bearing (1)



Bearing (4)





Magnets (2)



Speed Controller (5)



Electro-Magnets (3)

- er (5) 📕 Finished Motor (6)
- Single build sequence built all in a uPrint (break off support and motor works)
- Embedded components (2 bearings, 6 magnets, 9 electro magnets, electronic speed controller rated at 10 amps)
- Complete fabrication process requires ~7 hours





















Electron Beam Melting (Powder Bed) Arcam A2 with IR Camera and S12 High Temp



Closed-Loop Process Control



Mini-Vat (Materials Parameter Development)





Materials: Ti64, TiAI, TiNb, Inconel 625, Inconel 718, Rene, CoCr, Haynes, Copper, Tantalum, Niobium, Fe, and others (some proprietary)

Murr et al., "Metal Fabrication by Additive Manufacturing Using Laser and Electron Beam Melting Technologies," J. of Materials Science and Technology, 2012.









