
Ferdinando Auricchio
Computational Mechanics and Advanced Materials Group
Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture
University of Pavia, Pavia, Italy

Additive Manufacturing (AM) – also known as 3D printing – is taking off in many industrial processes. In particular, powder bed fusion for metal manufacturing has definitively changed the way of prototyping metal parts but also plastic 3D printing is changing modern engineering in many aspects.

However, AM is a complex physical process, involving different thermo-mechanical phenomena at very different scales; accordingly, simulation is fundamental to predict temperature and stress distributions during and after the printing process. Furthermore, AM allows for new unknown freedom in terms of complex shapes which can be manufactured, opening the door to a new set of design requirements.

After a short introduction to the technology and possible applications, the presentation will focus on immersed method to describe the complex physics as well as on solve topology optimization schemes to solve problems associated to the freedom which is possible now thanks to AM. The presentation will close with an excursus on our experience on the use of AM to support industrial developments and the design of innovative AM technologies under developments in our labs.

Email: auricchio@unipv.it

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www.3d4med.eu