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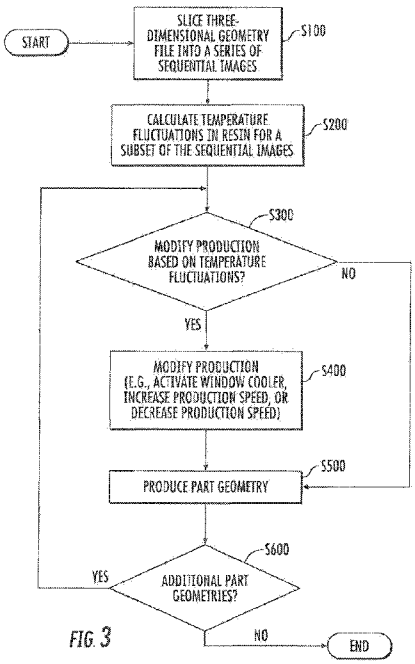


FIG. 3

(57) Abstract: Various embodiments described herein provide a method of making an object from a three-dimensional geometry file and a light polymerizable resin on a light-transmissive window by projection of light through the window in a bottom-up stereolithography process. The method may comprise: slicing the file into a series of sequential images. Temperature fluctuations in the resin may be calculated for at least some of the sequential images upon light polymerization thereof based on sequential exposure of the resin to light, the light corresponding to the series of sequential images. During producing of the object, the production may be modified based on the calculated temperature fluctuations by: *(i)* reducing production speed during at least a portion of the production; *(ii)* activating a window cooler during at least a portion of the production; or *(iii)* increasing production speed during at least a portion of the production.

WO 2020/005706 A1

ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING METHOD INCLUDING THERMAL MODELING AND CONTROL

RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims the benefit of United States Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 62/690,542, filed June 27, 2018, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention concerns additive manufacturing, and particularly concerns methods, apparatus, and systems for controlling thermal effects created by an additive manufacturing process.

BACKGROUND

A group of additive manufacturing techniques sometimes referred to as "stereolithography" create a three-dimensional object by the sequential polymerization of a light polymerizable resin. Such techniques may be "bottom-up" techniques, where light is projected into the resin onto the bottom of the growing object through a light transmissive window, or "top down" techniques, where light is projected onto the resin on top of the growing object, which is then immersed downward into the pool of resin.

The recent introduction of a more rapid stereolithography technique known as continuous liquid interface production (CLIP), coupled with the introduction of "dual cure" resins for additive manufacturing, has expanded the usefulness of stereolithography from prototyping to manufacturing

CLIP is described in, among other sources, J. Tumbleston, D. Shirvanyants, N. Ermoshkin et al., *Continuous liquid interface production of 3D Objects,* Science **347,** 1349-1352 (published online 16 March 2015), and in US Patent Nos. 9,211,678; 9,205,601; and 9,216,546 to DeSimone et al.

Dual cure resins for additive manufacturing are described in, among other sources, J. Peolma and J. Rolland, *Rethinking digital manufacturing with Polymers,* Science **358,** 1384—1385 (15 Dec. 2017) and in US Patent Nos. 9,676,963, 9,453,142 and 9,598,606 to Rolland et al.

Polymers for additive manufacturing are described in, among other sources, S.C. Ligon, et al., *Polymers for 3D Printing and Customized Additive Manufacturing*, Chemical Reviews **2017** 117 (15), 10212-10290.

SUMMARY

One artifact of increasing speed of production in additive manufacturing is that an excessive exothermic reaction may occur during the polymerization process. Significant exothermic reactions may create potential "hot-spots" in an object created using the thermosetting polymer reins, which may result in heat-induced shrinkage. The present application provides methods, devices, and systems for minimizing the effect of such potential hot-spots by modeling the thermal characteristics of an additive manufacturing session, and for controlling devices and systems to combat unwanted thermal excesses.

Various embodiments described herein provide a method of making an object from a three-dimensional geometry file (*e.g.,* an .stl file) and a light polymerizable resin on a light-transmissive window by projection of light through the window in a bottom-up stereolithography process. The method may comprise: *(a)* slicing the file into a series of sequential images (e.g., .png images), where each sequential image corresponds to a part geometry; and *(b)* calculating temperature fluctuations in the resin for at least a subset of the sequential images upon light polymerization thereof based on sequential exposure of the resin to light, the light corresponding to the series of sequential images. The calculating may carried out based on resin properties and object geometry. The method may further include producing the object from the light polymerizable resin and the series of sequential images by bottom-up stereolithography. While producing the object from the light polymerizable resin, *(d)* the production may be modified based on the calculated temperature fluctuations by: *(i)* reducing production speed during at least a portion of the production that corresponds to at least one of the subset of the sequential images to avoid exceeding a predetermined temperature limit for the window or the resin (*e.g.,* to avoid damaging the window); *(ii)* activating a window cooler to during at least a portion of the production that corresponds to at least one of the subset of the sequential images to cool the window and avoid exceeding a predetermined temperature limit for the window (*e.g.,* to at least partially maintain, or increase, production speed while avoiding damaging the window); or *(iii)* increasing production speed during at least a portion of the production that corresponds to at least one of the subset of the sequential images based on a change in resin properties (*e.g.,* reduced viscosity) caused by local temperature fluctuations.

In some embodiments, the subset of images includes images corresponding to portions of the object spaced apart from each other in a Z-direction in fixed increments.

In some embodiments, the calculating step is based on a solution of a partial differential equation (*e.g.,* a Gaussian heat kernel).

In some embodiments, the calculating step (b) is carried out before the producing step (c) or concurrently with the producing step (c).

In some embodiments, the calculating step (b) is further based on planned or actual speed of the producing step (c).

In some embodiments, the window is heated, the calculating step is carried out based on window properties, and the window properties include a temperature profile for said heated window.

In some embodiments, the window cooler comprises a Peltier cooler.

In some embodiments, the window comprises a composite of at least two layers of different materials (*e.g.,* a polymer layer, such as a fluoropolymer layer, on an inorganic supporting layer, such as a silicate glass, sapphire, or ALON (aluminum oxynitride) layer), optionally but in some embodiments preferably joined with an adhesive layer.

Various embodiments described also provide an additive manufacturing system including an additive manufacturing apparatus configured to construct an object from a light polymerizable resin on a light-transmissive window by projection of light through the window in a bottom-up stereolithography process; a processor; and memory storing non-transitory computer readable instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to carry out the method embodiments described herein.

The foregoing and other objects and aspects of the present invention are explained in greater detail in the drawings herein and the specification set forth below. The disclosures of all United States patent references cited herein are to be incorporated herein by reference.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows an example for a part (e.g., a model of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France) that may be manufactured using an additive manufacturing technique.

Figures 2A, 2B, 2C, and **2D** illustrate, on the right side of the Figures, cross-sectional areas of the tower model at identified points in **Figure 1**, and on the left side of the Figures show simulated hot-spots that may result in unwanted or deleterious effects in the part when manufactured according to the additive manufacturing technique.

Figure 3 illustrates a flowchart of operations that may be used in methods of making an object from a three-dimensional geometry file and a light polymerizable resin on a light-transmissive window by projection of light through the window in a bottom-up stereolithography process.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE EMBODIMENTS

The present inventive concepts are now described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which embodiments of the inventive concepts are shown. The inventive concepts may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the embodiments set forth herein; rather these embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete and will fully convey the scope of the inventive concepts to those skilled in the art.

The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting of the inventive concepts. As used herein, the singular forms "a," "an" and "the" are intended to include plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. It will be further understood that the terms "comprises" or "comprising," when used in this specification, specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps, operations, elements components and/or groups or combinations thereof, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, elements, components and/or groups or combinations thereof.

As used herein, the term "and/or" includes any and all possible combinations or one or more of the associated listed items, as well as the lack of combinations when interpreted in the alternative ("or").

Unless otherwise defined, all terms (including technical and scientific terms) used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art to which this disclosure belongs. It will be further understood that terms, such as those defined in commonly-used dictionaries, should be interpreted as having a meaning that is consistent with their meaning in the context of the specification and claims and should not be interpreted in an idealized or overly formal sense unless expressly so defined herein. Well-known functions or constructions may not be described in detail for brevity and/or clarity.

It will be understood that when an element is referred to as being "on," "attached" to, "connected" to, "coupled" with, "contacting," etc., another element, it can be directly on, attached to, connected to, coupled with and/or contacting the other element or intervening elements can also be present. In contrast, when an element is referred to as being, for

example, "directly on," "directly attached" to, "directly connected" to, "directly coupled" with or "directly contacting" another element, there are no intervening elements present. It will also be appreciated by those of skill in the art that references to a structure or feature that is disposed "adjacent" another feature can have portions that overlap or underlie the adjacent feature.

Spatially relative terms, such as "under," "below," "lower," "over," "upper" and the like, may be used herein for ease of description to describe an element's or feature's relationship to another element(s) or feature(s) as illustrated in the figures. It will be understood that the spatially relative terms are intended to encompass different orientations of the device in use or operation in addition to the orientation depicted in the figures. For example, if the device in the figures is inverted, elements described as "under" or "beneath" other elements or features would then be oriented "over" the other elements or features. Thus the exemplary term "under" can encompass both an orientation of over and under. The device may otherwise be oriented (rotated 90 degrees or at other orientations) and the spatially relative descriptors used herein interpreted accordingly. Similarly, the terms "upwardly," "downwardly," "vertical," "horizontal" and the like are used herein for the purpose of explanation only, unless specifically indicated otherwise.

It will be understood that, although the terms first, second, etc., may be used herein to describe various elements, components, regions, layers and/or sections, these elements, components, regions, layers and/or sections should not be limited by these terms. Rather, these terms are only used to distinguish one element, component, region, layer and/or section, from another element, component, region, layer and/or section. Thus, a first element, component, region, layer or section discussed herein could be termed a second element, component, region, layer or section without departing from the teachings of the present disclosure. The sequence of operations (or steps) is not limited to the order presented in the claims or figures unless specifically indicated otherwise.

1. POLYMERIZABLE LIQUIDS (RESINS).

Numerous resins for use in additive manufacturing are known and can be used in carrying out the present invention. *See, e.g.,* US Patent No. 9,205,601 to DeSimone et al. In some embodiments, the resin is a dual cure resin. Such resins are described in, for example, Rolland et al., US Patent Nos. 9,676,963; 9,598,606; and 9,453,142, and in Wu et al., US Patent Application Pub. No. US2017/0260418, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Resins may be in any suitable form, including "one pot" resins and "dual precursor" resins (where cross-reactive constituents are packaged separately and mixed together before use, and which may be identified as an "A" precursor resin and a "B" precursor resin).

Particular examples of suitable resins include, but are not limited to, Carbon, Inc. rigid polyurethane resin (RPU), flexible polyurethane resin (FPU), elastomeric polyurethane resin (EPU), cyanate ester resin (CE), epoxy resin (EPX), or urethane methacrylate resin (UMA), all available from Carbon, Inc., 1089 Mills Way, Redwood City, California 94063 USA.

Note that, in some embodiments employing "dual cure" polymerizable resins, the part, following manufacturing, may be contacted with a penetrant liquid, with the penetrant liquid carrying a further constituent of the dual cure system, such as a reactive monomer, into the part for participation in a subsequent cure. Such "partial" resins are intended to be included herein.

2. PRODUCTION BY ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING.

Polymerizable liquids or resins as described herein may be used to make three-dimensional objects, in a "light" cure (typically by additive manufacturing) which in some embodiments generates a "green" intermediate object, followed in some embodiments by a second (typically heat) cure of that intermediate object.

Techniques for additive manufacturing are known. Suitable techniques include bottom-up additive manufacturing, or bottom-up stereolithography. Such methods and techniques are known and described in, for example, U.S. Patent No. 5,236,637 to Hull, US Patent Nos. 5,391,072 and 5,529,473 to Lawton, U.S. Patent No. 7,438,846 to John, US Patent No. 7,892,474 to Shkolnik, U.S. Patent No. 8,110,135 to El-Siblani, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2013/0292862 to Joyce, and US Patent Application Publication No. 2013/0295212 to Chen et al. The disclosures of these patents and applications are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

In some embodiments, the intermediate object is formed by continuous liquid interface production (CLIP). CLIP methods and apparatus are known and described in, for example, PCT Application Nos. PCT/US2014/015486 (published as US Patent No. 9,211,678 on December 15, 2015); PCT/US2014/015506 (also published as US Patent No. 9,205,601 on December 8, 2015), PCT/US2014/015497 (also published as US Patent No 9,216,546 on Dec. 22, 2015), and in J. Tumbleston, D. Shirvanyants, N. Ermoshkin et al., Continuous liquid interface production of 3D Objects, *Science* **347,** 1349-1352 (published online 16

March 2015). *See also* R. Janusziewcz et al., Layerless fabrication with continuous liquid interface production, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* **113**, 11703-11708 (October 18, 2016). In some embodiments, CLIP employs features of a bottom-up three-dimensional fabrication as described above, but the irradiating and/or said advancing steps are carried out while also concurrently maintaining a stable or persistent liquid interface between the growing object and the build surface or window, such as by: (i) continuously maintaining a dead zone of polymerizable liquid in contact with said build surface, and (ii) continuously maintaining a gradient of polymerization zone (such as an active surface) between the dead zone and the solid polymer and in contact with each thereof, the gradient of polymerization zone comprising the first component in partially cured form. In some embodiments of CLIP, the optically transparent member comprises a semipermeable member (*e.g.*, a fluoropolymer), and the continuously maintaining a dead zone is carried out by feeding an inhibitor of polymerization through the optically transparent member, thereby creating a gradient of inhibitor in the dead zone and optionally in at least a portion of the gradient of polymerization zone. Other approaches for carrying out CLIP that can be used in the present invention and potentially obviate the need for a semipermeable "window" or window structure include utilizing a liquid interface comprising an immiscible liquid (*see* L. Robeson et al., WO 2015/164234, published October 29, 2015), generating oxygen as an inhibitor by electrolysis (*see* I Craven et al., WO 2016/133759, published August 25, 2016), and incorporating magnetically positionable particles to which the photoactivator is coupled into the polymerizable liquid (*see* J. Rolland, WO 2016/145182, published September 15, 2016).

After the intermediate three-dimensional object is formed, it is optionally cleaned, optionally dried (*e.g.,* air dried) and/or rinsed (in any sequence). In some embodiments it is then further cured, preferably by heating (although further curing may in some embodiments be concurrent with the first cure, or may be by different mechanisms such as contacting to water, as described in US Patent No. 9,453,142 to Rolland et al.).

3. THERMAL MODELING.

Figure 1 shows an example for a part (e.g., a model of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France) that may be manufactured using an additive manufacturing technique. **Figures 2A, 2B, 2C,** and **2D** illustrate, on the right side of the Figures, cross-sectional areas of the tower model at identified points in **Figure 1**, and on the left side of the Figures show simulated hot-spots that may result in unwanted or deleterious effects in the part when manufactured according to the additive manufacturing technique. For example, such hot-spots may result in

heat-induced shrinkage at locations within the completed part. As disclosed herein, devices, systems, and methods may compensate for such deleterious effects without going through a trial and error process of generating ideal production part parameters, by modeling the temperature of the object during manufacturing, and by modifying production (e.g., modifying production parameters) during the production process.

By way of explanation of how to model the thermal or temperature properties of the additive manufacturing material (e.g., a thermosetting polymer resin), consider the function:

$$T(x,t) = (4\pi kt)^{-1/2}\exp(-\mathrm{x}^2/\,4kt)$$

In the equation above, *k* is the thermal diffusivity of the material (with example units of m^2/s), t is time (with example units of seconds), x is the distance from the center of the heat pulse, and T is the temperature response for a unit impulse, with arbitrary units. The impulse response for a temperature spike is a Gaussian distribution, modeled as:

$$\frac{1}{\sigma\sqrt{2\pi}}e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

The convolution of the function may look like:

$$Temp(x,t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} Temp(\xi, t_o) \cdot \sqrt{4\pi kt}e\frac{(x-\xi)^2}{4kt}d\xi$$

Where ξ is a spatial variable used for performing the convolution.

Hence, in performing the convolution, the units may become temperature units (e.g., Celsius or Kelvin units). This may be seen in that the impulse response has example units of [1/m], temperature has units of [K], the convolution adds a distance, which cancels out the [1/m] units, leaving temperature.

Accordingly, when an image is split into small pieces, such as pixels, localized temperature spikes due to curing may be calculated, and convolved with a Gaussian distribution, thus "blurring" the spike, enabling an examination into how temperature appears in a two-dimensional plane. This term may be further refined by inclusion of additional terms, such a heat loss term based on e.g., Newton's law of cooling and/or an exponential decay term). For example, heat loss to an environment may be modeled as:

$$T(t_1, x) = T(t_0, x) * e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}$$

Heat addition may be modeled as:

$$T(t_1, x) = T(t_0, x) + \Delta T(x)$$

where ΔT is the expected temperature increase for curing a given slice thickness.

Lateral heat dissipation may be modeled as:

$$T(x,t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} Temp(\xi, t_o) \cdot \sqrt{4\pi kte}\, \frac{(x-\xi)^2}{4kt} d\xi$$

ξ is a spatial "dummy" variable for the convolution and k is thermal diffusivity in units of $\frac{L^2}{T}$ e.g.[$\frac{m^2}{s}$]or [$\frac{\mu m^2}{s}$], depending on what x and ξ are in.

4. THERMAL CONTROL.

The above modeling technique may be used to calculate a piece-by-piece (e.g., pixel-by-pixel) approximation of temperature in a two-dimensional image with significantly high fidelity, available to a device or system with relatively low computational requirements.

Figure 3 illustrates a flowchart that may be used in accordance with the present disclosure to use in the calculating of the thermal model. For example, the flowchart of **Figure 3** may be used in a method of making an object from a three-dimensional geometry file (*e.g.,* an .stl file) and a light polymerizable resin on a light-transmissive window by projection of light through the window in a bottom-up stereolithography process.

In a first operation, **S100**, the three-dimensional geometry file may be sliced into a series of sequential images (e.g., .png images). Each sequential image may correspond to a part geometry. In operation **S200**, temperature fluctuations in the resin may be calculated for at least a subset of said sequential images upon light polymerization thereof based on sequential exposure of the resin to light. The light may correspond to the series of sequential images. The calculating may be carried out based on resin properties and object geometry, using the thermal modeling technique discussed above. The series of sequential images may then be used to produce said object from said light polymerizable resin and said series of sequential images by bottom-up stereolithography, with each image used to generate a part geometry of the object (as seen in operation **S500**) until the series of images has been

processed (as seen in operation **S600**). However, based on the calculated temperature fluctuations, the producing of said object may be modified (as seen in operations **S300** and **S400**). For example, a production speed may be reduced during at least a portion of the producing operation that corresponds to at least one of the subset of said sequential images to avoid exceeding a predetermined temperature limit for said window (*e.g.,* to avoid damaging the window). As another example, a window cooler may be activated during at least a portion of said producing operation that corresponds to at least one of the subset of said sequential images to cool said window and avoid exceeding a predetermined temperature limit for said window (*e.g.,* to at least partially maintain, or increase, production speed while avoiding damaging the window). As a third example, production speed may be increased during at least a portion of the producing operation that corresponds to at least one of the subset of said sequential images based on a change in resin properties (*e.g.,* reduced viscosity) caused by local temperature fluctuations.

With respect to activating a window cooler to cool said window, any suitable cooler may be used to carry out the present invention. In some embodiments, the cooler can be simply a fan or blower positioned for blowing air that is cooler than the window (including air at ambient temperature) at the window bottom surface. In some embodiments, the cooler can comprise a compressor and a refrigerant system, or a heat exchanger, operatively associated with the window. In some embodiments, the cooler can comprise one or more thermoelectric devices (*e.g.*, Peltier coolers) operatively associated with the window, and optionally but preferably also operatively associated with a heat sink (which heat sink may be the deck or support structure for the window, a separate heat sink with cooling fins, etc., including combinations thereof). When one or more thermoelectric devices is employed as the window, the window is preferably comprised of a sapphire, ALON, or other thermally conductive supporting member (upon which a semipermeable layer such as a fluoropolymer may be supported) , and the thermoelectric devices are thermally coupled (directly or through one or more additional thermally conductive components) to peripheral edge portions of the window. Combinations of multiple different cooling systems, such as both blowers and thermoelectric devices, may also be used

5. ARCHITECTURE.

According to aspects of the present disclosure, one or more computing devices may be deployed to perform the thermal modeling of the additive manufacturing session and/or to control the thermal properties of the resin or window to avoid unwanted effects in the final

manufactured object. Nevertheless, it will be appreciated that any of a variety of different architectures can be employed. Controllers can be a general purpose computer dedicated to, or on board, a particular apparatus; a local general purpose computer operatively associated with a group of machines via a local area network (or metropolitan area network); a remote general purpose computer operatively associated with machines via a wide area network or internet connection; and combinations thereof (for example, organized in a client-server architecture and/or distributed architecture).

Peripheral devices for data entry and display can be implemented in any of a variety of ways known in the art, including typical keypad entry, video display, and printing apparatus, as well as graphical user interfaces such as touch-pads, touch-screens and the like, including smart-phone touch screens.

The modeling computing devices and/or controlling computing devices may use hardware, software implemented with hardware, firmware, tangible computer-readable storage media having instructions stored thereon, and/or a combination thereof, and may be implemented in one or more computer systems or other processing systems. The modeling computing devices and/or controlling computing devices may also utilize a virtual instance of a computer. As such, the devices and methods described herein may be embodied in any combination of hardware and software that may all generally be referred to herein as a "circuit," "module," "component," and/or "system." Furthermore, aspects of the present invention may take the form of a computer program product embodied in one or more computer readable media having computer readable program code embodied thereon.

Any combination of one or more computer readable media may be utilized. The computer readable media may be a computer readable signal medium or a computer readable storage medium. A computer readable storage medium may be, for example, but not limited to, an electronic, magnetic, optical, electromagnetic, or semiconductor system, apparatus, or device, or any suitable combination of the foregoing. More specific examples (a non-exhaustive list) of the computer readable storage medium would include the following: a portable computer diskette, a hard disk, a random access memory (RAM), a read-only memory (ROM), an erasable programmable read-only memory (EPROM or Flash memory), an appropriate optical fiber with a repeater, a portable compact disc read-only memory (CD-ROM), an optical storage device, a magnetic storage device, or any suitable combination of the foregoing. In the context of this document, a computer readable storage medium may be any tangible medium that can contain, or store a program for use by or in connection with an instruction execution system, apparatus, or device.

A computer readable signal medium may include a propagated data signal with computer readable program code embodied therein, for example, in baseband or as part of a carrier wave. Such a propagated signal may take any of a variety of forms, including, but not limited to, electro-magnetic, optical, or any suitable combination thereof. A computer readable signal medium may be any computer readable medium that is not a computer readable storage medium and that can communicate, propagate, or transport a program for use by or in connection with an instruction execution system, apparatus, or device. Program code embodied on a computer readable signal medium may be transmitted using any appropriate medium, including but not limited to wireless, wireline, optical fiber cable, RF, etc., or any suitable combination of the foregoing.

In some embodiments, the modeling computing devices and/or controlling computing devices may include at least one processor. The at least one processor of the modeling computing devices and/or controlling computing devices may be configured to execute computer program code for carrying out operations for aspects of the present invention, which computer program code may be written in any combination of one or more programming languages, including an object oriented programming language such as Java, Scala, Smalltalk, Eiffel, JADE, Emerald, C++, C#, VB.NET, or the like, conventional procedural programming languages, such as the "C" programming language, Visual Basic, Fortran 2003, COBOL 2002, PHP, ABAP, dynamic programming languages such as Python, PERL, Ruby, and Groovy, or other programming languages.

The at least one processor may be, or may include, one or more programmable general purpose or special-purpose microprocessors, digital signal processors (DSPs), programmable controllers, application specific integrated circuits (ASICs), programmable logic devices (PLDs), field-programmable gate arrays (FPGAs), trusted platform modules (TPMs), or a combination of such or similar devices, which may be collocated or distributed across one or more data networks.

Data storage or memory of the modeling computing devices and/or controlling computing devices can be on separate (volatile and/or non-volatile) memory devices located locally or remotely, partitioned sections of a single memory device, etc., including combinations thereof (*e.g.,* a remote back-up memory in addition to a local memory). For example, the database referred to herein may be one or more databases stored locally to the modeling computing devices and/or controlling computing devices or remote. In some embodiments, the database may be remotely accessible by the modeling computing devices and/or controlling computing devices.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of making an object from a three-dimensional geometry file (*e.g.*, an .stl file) and a light polymerizable resin on a light-transmissive window by projection of light through the window in a bottom-up stereolithography process, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) slicing the file into a series of sequential images (*e.g.*, .png images), each sequential image corresponding to a part geometry;

(b) calculating temperature fluctuations in the resin for at least a subset of said sequential images upon light polymerization thereof based on sequential exposure of the resin to light, the light corresponding to the series of sequential images, with the calculating step carried out based on resin properties and object geometry; and

(c) producing said object from said light polymerizable resin and said series of sequential images by bottom-up stereolithography, while

(d) modifying said producing step based on said calculated temperature fluctuations by:

(i) reducing production speed during at least a portion of the producing step that corresponds to at least one of the subset of said sequential images to avoid exceeding a predetermined temperature limit for said window or said resin (*e.g.*, to avoid damaging the window);

(ii) activating a window cooler to during at least a portion of said producing step that corresponds to at least one of the subset of said sequential images to cool said window and avoid exceeding a predetermined temperature limit for said window (*e.g.*, to at least partially maintain, or increase, production speed while avoiding damaging the window); or

(iii) increasing production speed during at least a portion of the producing step that corresponds to at least one of the subset of said sequential images based on a change in resin properties (*e.g.*, reduced viscosity) caused by local temperature fluctuations.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said subset of images includes images corresponding to portions of the object spaced apart from each other in a Z-direction in fixed increments.

3. The method of any preceding claim, wherein said calculating step is based on a solution of a partial differential equation (*e.g.*, a Gaussian heat kernel).

4. The method of any preceding claim, wherein said calculating step (b) is carried out before said producing step (c) or concurrently with said producing step (c).

5. The method of any preceding claim, wherein said calculating step (b) is further based on planned or actual speed of said producing step (c).

6. The method of any preceding claim, wherein the window is heated, wherein the calculating step is carried out further based on window properties, and wherein the window properties include a temperature profile for said heated window.

7. The method of any preceding claim, wherein said window cooler comprises a Peltier cooler.

8. The method of any preceding claim, wherein said window comprises a composite of at least two layers of different materials (*e.g.*, a polymer layer, such as a fluoropolymer layer, on an inorganic supporting layer, such as a silicate glass, sapphire, or ALON (aluminum oxynitride) layer), optionally but in some embodiments preferably joined with an adhesive layer.

9. An additive manufacturing system comprising:

an additive manufacturing apparatus configured to construct an object from a light polymerizable resin on a light-transmissive window by projection of light through the window in a bottom-up stereolithography process;

a processor; and

memory storing non-transitory computer readable instructions that, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

(a) slicing a three-dimensional geometry file (*e.g.*, an .stl file) into a series of sequential images (*e.g.*, .png images), each sequential image corresponding to a part geometry;

(b) calculating temperature fluctuations in the resin for at least a subset of said sequential images upon light polymerization thereof based on sequential exposure of the resin

to light, the light corresponding to the series of sequential images, with the calculating carried out based on resin properties and object geometry; and

(c) producing said object from said light polymerizable resin and said series of sequential images by bottom-up stereolithography, while

(d) modifying said producing based on said calculated temperature fluctuations by:

(i) reducing production speed during at least a portion of the producing step that corresponds to at least one of the subset of said sequential images to avoid exceeding a predetermined temperature limit for said window or said resin (*e.g.,* to avoid damaging the window);

(ii) activating a window cooler to during at least a portion of said producing step that corresponds to at least one of the subset of said sequential images to cool said window and avoid exceeding a predetermined temperature limit for said window (*e.g.,* to at least partially maintain, or increase, production speed while avoiding damaging the window); or

(iii) increasing production speed during at least a portion of the producing step that corresponds to at least one of the subset of said sequential images based on a change in resin properties (*e.g.,* reduced viscosity) caused by local temperature fluctuations.

10. The additive manufacturing system of claim 9, wherein said subset of images includes images corresponding to portions of the object spaced apart from each other in a Z-direction in fixed increments.

11. The additive manufacturing system of claim 9 or claim 10, wherein said calculating is based on a solution of a partial differential equation (*e.g.,* a Gaussian heat kernel).

12. The additive manufacturing system of any of claims 9-11, wherein said calculating is carried out before said producing or concurrently with said producing.

13. The additive manufacturing system of any of claims 9-12, wherein said calculating is further based on planned or actual speed of said producing.

14. The additive manufacturing system of any of claims 9-13, wherein the window is heated, wherein the calculating is carried out further based on window properties, and wherein the window properties include a temperature profile for said heated window.

15. The additive manufacturing system of any of claims 9-14, wherein said window cooler comprises a Peltier cooler.

16. The additive manufacturing system of any of claims 9-15, wherein said window comprises a composite of at least two layers of different materials (*e.g.,* a polymer layer, such as a fluoropolymer layer, on an inorganic supporting layer, such as a silicate glass, sapphire, or ALON (aluminum oxynitride) layer), optionally but in some embodiments preferably joined with an adhesive layer.

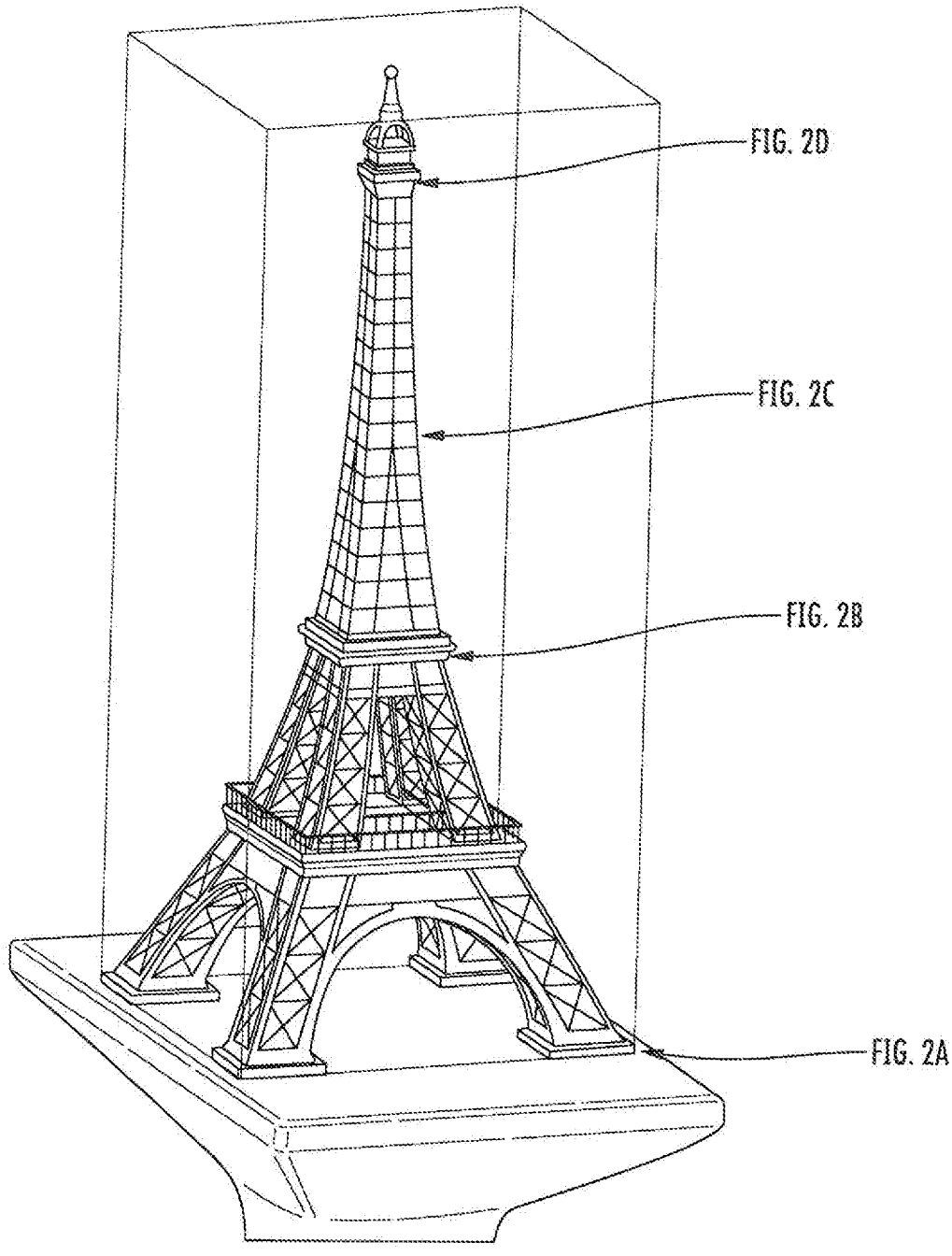


FIG. 1

FIG. 2D

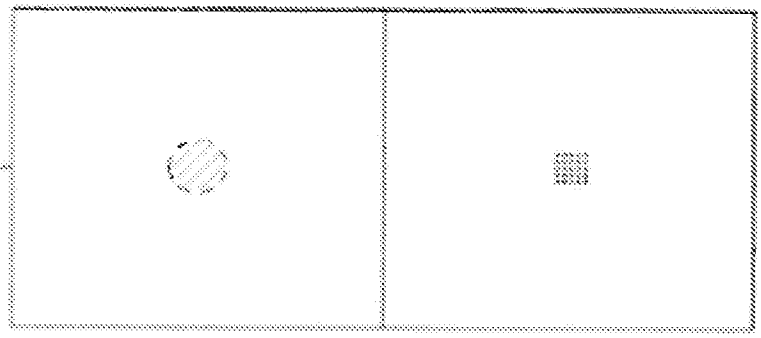


FIG. 2C

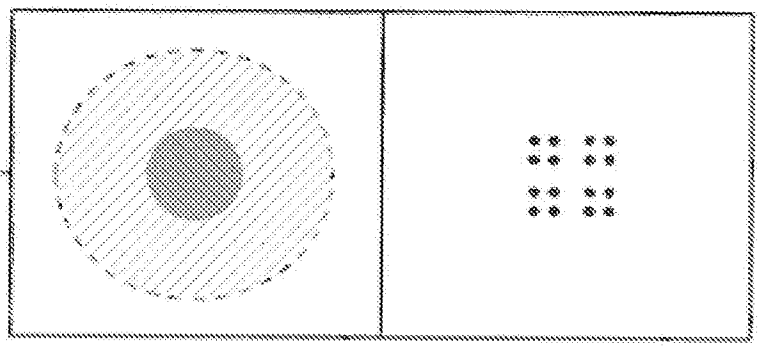


FIG. 2B

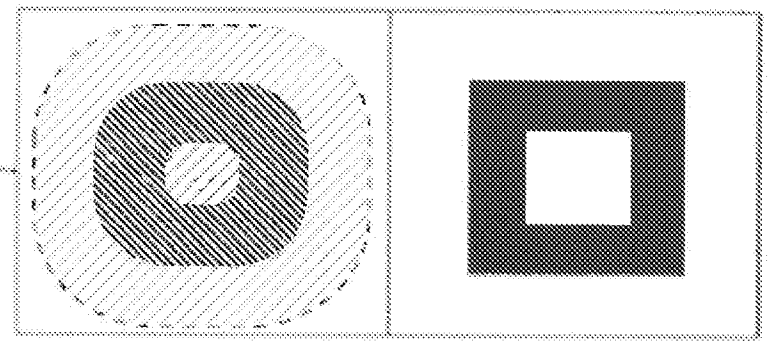
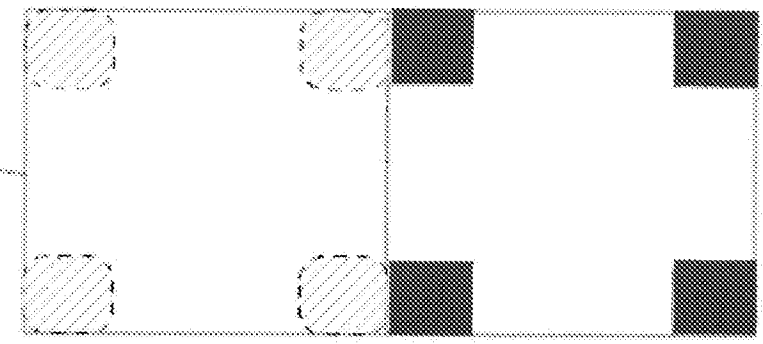


FIG. 2A



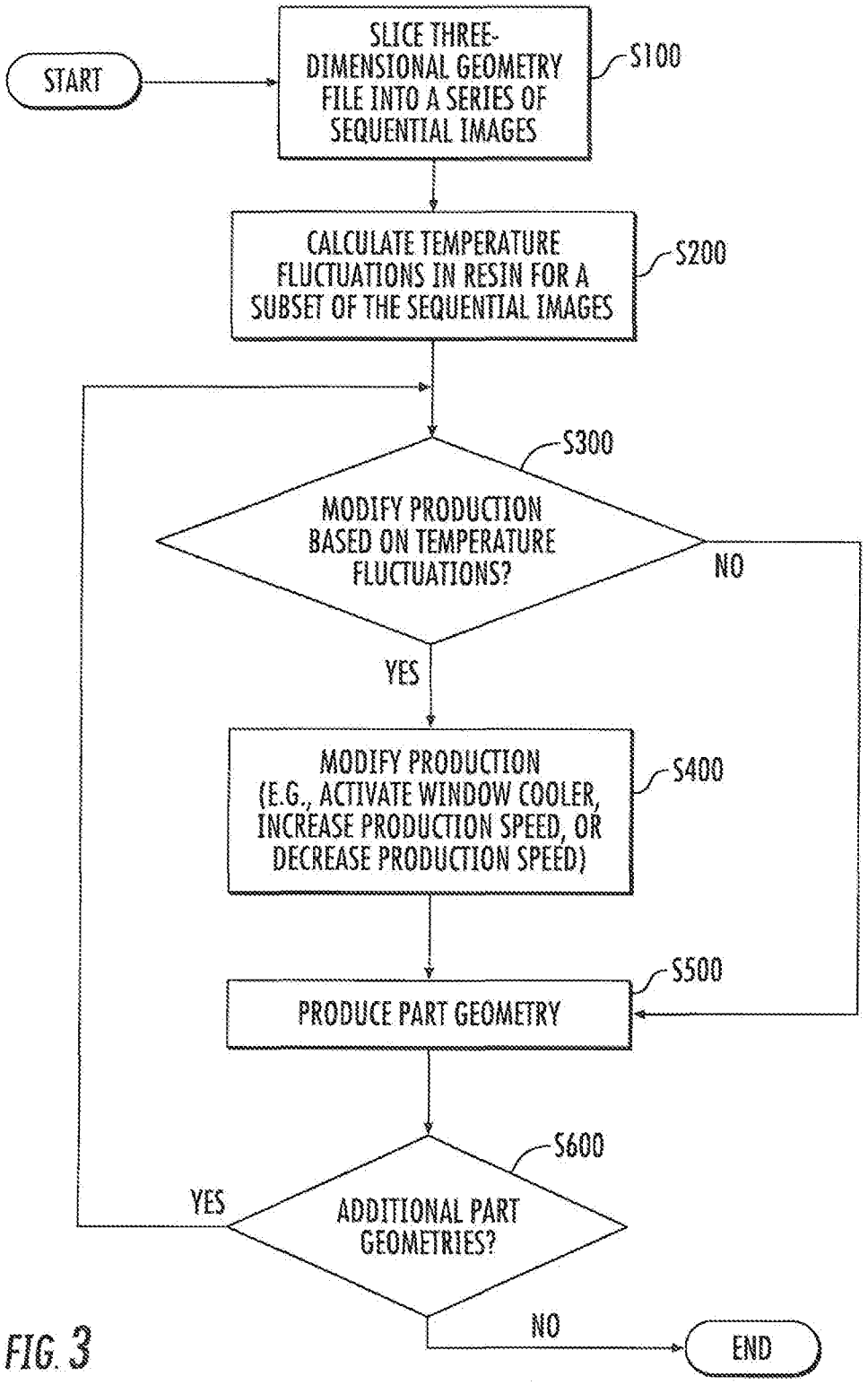

START
SLICE THREE-DIMENSIONAL GEOMETRY FILE INTO A SERIES OF SEQUENTIAL IMAGES
S100
CALCULATE TEMPERATURE FLUCTUATIONS IN RESIN FOR A SUBSET OF THE SEQUENTIAL IMAGES
S200
S300
MODIFY PRODUCTION BASED ON TEMPERATURE FLUCTUATIONS?
NO
YES
MODIFY PRODUCTION (E.G., ACTIVATE WINDOW COOLER, INCREASE PRODUCTION SPEED, OR DECREASE PRODUCTION SPEED)
S400
PRODUCE PART GEOMETRY
S500
S600
YES
ADDITIONAL PART GEOMETRIES?
NO
END

FIG. 3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2019/038211

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. B29C64/124 B29C64/393
ADD.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
B29C

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
EPO-Internal, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 2016/140886 A1 (CARBON3D INC [US]) 9 September 2016 (2016-09-09)	1,2,4,5, 7-10,12, 13,15,16
Y	claims	3,11
A	page 21, line 10 - page 22, line 14 page 43, line 26 - page 45, line 27	6,14

Y	Sager et al.: "Simulation Methods for Stereolithography" In: P J Bartolo: "Stereolithography, Materials, Processes and Applications", 2011, XP002794181, ISBN: 978-0-387-92903-3 pages 183-241, DOI: 10.1007/978-0-387-92904-0_8, the whole document	3,11

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[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

[X] See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
13 September 2019	18/10/2019

Name and mailing address of the ISA/	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Whelan, Natalie

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/US2019/038211

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	ESPOSITO CORCIONE C ET AL.: "Temperature evolution during stereolithography building with a commercial epoxy resin", POLYMER ENGINEERING AND SCIENCE, vol. 46, no. 4, April 2006 (2006-04), pages 493-502, XP002794182, DOI: 10.1002/pen.20488 the whole document -----	3,11

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No
PCT/US2019/038211

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 2016140886 A1	09-09-2016	US 2018022034 A1	25-01-2018
		WO 2016140886 A1	09-09-2016