Influence of Toolpath Design on the Structural Performance of 3D Printed Concrete Gyroid Walls

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- Background
- Gyroid Design
- Toolpath Comparison
- Mix & Printing
- Structural Testing
- Material Testing
- Performance Analysis









3DPC Background









Examples of printed structures, Bos 2016



Diamond Wall, Daungwilailuk 2021



Carp Scale Wall, Tanapornaweekit 2022

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Gap: Creation of complex wall shapes that have beneficial structural forms



Gyroid Background

Triply Periodic Minimal Surface (TPMS)





Trabecular bone CT scan, Plessis 2021



Gyroids in Concrete



Plastic gyroid reinforced concrete beam, Skoratko 2022



Plastic mold for cement paste gyroid, Nguyen-Van 2021



3DPC gyroid with material support, Conrad

Can a 3DPC gyroid wall be directly printed with no supports? What does an efficient toolpath look like? How do material properties impact wall performance?



Design of Geometry



Toolpath Selection

Closed Toolpath

900 mm x 210 mm x 1800 mm envelope

+ Constant Interlayer Delay

- Requires More Material

Open Toolpath

900 mm x 210 mm x 1800 mm envelope

+ Uses less material for same footprint

- Interlayer delay variable across toolpath

Which is Stronger? More Efficient?







Mixture Parameters

- w/cm = 0.35
- Cement Paste Volume = 52%
- SCM Content by Weight = 30%
- Maximum Aggregate Size = 2 mm
- Flow Diameter = 17 cm
- Open time = 30 min



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Printing Setup & Procedure

- 7 Axis ABB robot arm
- XtreeE printhead and feed
- 2-part system, accelerator added at nozzle
- 50-70 Liter batches for continual throughput
- 1 hr 45 min printing time





Wall Compression Testing

- 2 walls printed
- 28-day strength
- Uniaxial compression test
- Displacement controlled 1.27 mm/min



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Closed Toolpath Testing & Failure

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Open Toolpath Testing & Failure

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Gyroid Toolpath Mechanical Strength ¹²



Small-Scale Compression Testing







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Perpendicular (I)

Parallel (III) Lateral (II)

- 50 mm cubes
- Six cubes per orientation
- Open & closed toolpaths, and cast

Small-Scale Compression Results



THE WORLD'S GATHERING PLACE FOR ADVANCING CONCRETE

Perpendicular (I)

Lateral (II)

Parallel (III)

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Weakness in O-II Samples

- No confinement during printing lets mortar spread out laterally
- Literature shows orientation II can be weak due to mortar spreading
- Can be impacted by interlayer delay









Failure Mode, Properties, and Performance ¹⁶



Possible relation between failure of open toolpath wall and weakness of samples under lateral loading





Conclusions and Next Steps

- Successful printing of gyroid shape with 3DPC
- Overhang design and cutoff of gyroid can limit maximum strength
- Toolpath impacts performance, Open toolpath weaker
- Finite Element Model under construction
- Testing of third wall and fresh state underway



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Thank You



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