

NOTICE WARNING CONCERNING COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS:

The copyright law of the United States (title 17, U.S. Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Any copying of this document without permission of its author may be prohibited by law.

Acquiring Manufacturing Process Knowledge for Design

Prakash Padmanabhan, Susan Finger

EDRC 24-113-94

Acquiring Manufacturing Processes Knowledge for Design

Praluuh PMnwnahhui and Suau Finger

ppad@edrc.cmu.edu, sfinger@cmu.edu
Engineering Design Center
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh PA 15213

Abstract

Much of the work done in component design assumes that manufacturing process knowledge has been codified and that manufacturing process models exist. However, for new solid freeform manufacturing processes, such as the MD* process being developed at Carnegie Mellon, these assumptions are not valid. In the MD* fabrication process, a part is built by successively depositing materials in thin layers. Each layer can contain several materials and creating each layer requires several manufacturing subprocesses which include micro-casting, thermal spraying, shot peening, and machining. Some of these manufacturing subprocesses are only partially understood; their use in combination to form a single multi-material layer is not well understood, and the process of creating a mechanical part or assembly from thin multi-material layers is also not well understood.

One of the salient features of MD*, as well as most solid freeform manufacturing processes, is that it requires minimal fixturing and setup. Once the geometry and materials (for a part) have been specified, the part can be run through an automated planner and sent directly to the manufacturing system. This allows the designer to work more closely with the manufacturing process than is possible in traditional manufacturing systems.

This paper describes our preliminary work to create a link between design and manufacturing to enable designers to acquire knowledge about the manufacturing process and to develop models of the

to manufacture parts to refine and adapt the process so that new parts can be designed.

1 Introduction

In our previous work on concurrent design, see for example [5], we have assumed that models of the manufacturing process exist and that the features which govern the manufacturability of a design are known. Under these conditions, the primary (and not inconsequential) problem is to provide manufacturing knowledge to the designer in a useful form. However, for the new MD* process [8] being developed at Carnegie Mellon, these assumptions do not hold. We do not have enough experience with the manufacturing process to know what features affect the quality of the final design artifact nor do we have fundamental models of the manufacturing process itself.

The MD* shape deposition process is described in more detail in Section 2 below; however, one of its primary attributes from a design point of view is that it removes traditional manufacturing constraints thereby significantly increasing the space of possible products. It allows multi-material layers.



Figure 1: Manufacturing a Sphere Embedded in a Cube

allows assemblies to be sprayed in place, and allows electronics to be embedded in structures. Using a layered deposition process provides access to the interior of a pan. So for example, one can build a solid sphere of one material surrounded by a dose of another material (closed except for a small weep hole to let the support material drain out). Figure 1 shows this pan half way through its manufacture. The white area is the support material which will be removed after the part is complete.

Another important attribute of the MD* process, as well as other solid freeform manufacturing processes* is that it requires minimal fixturing and setup. As Figure 1 illustrates, the support material corresponds to the fixturing in traditional manufacturing processes. For MD⁴¹, process planning consists of filling the voids with support material, slicing the part into layers, and computing the tool paths to deposit the different materials in each layer. Because the part can be generated automatically from the CAD model [8], it is possible to go directly from the design system to the manufacturing system. Thus the designer can work more closely with the manufacturing process than is possible in traditional manufacturing systems. Once a part has been verified, it can be downloaded directly to the manufacturing cell.

Because the MD* process is under development the manufacturing subprocesses are mutually evolving. We need to design and manufacture to discover the capabilities of the system, but we need to know the capabilities of the process to enter to design and manufacture parts. The designer does not know how to set design parameters to achieve requirements and doesn't know the connection between design and manufacturing. The goal of the work described in this paper is to allow the designer to acquire knowledge about and to develop models of the manufacturing process as part of the design process.

2. The MD* Manufacturing Process

MD* also known as shape deposition manufacturing (SDM), is a layered manufacturing process in which parts and assemblies are manufactured by successively spraying cross-sectional areas. Starting from a geometric model, the part is discretized into thin layers based on geometric as well as material criteria. The part is built by a vertical concatenation of two and half dimensional layers. Each layer undergoes a series of processes including material addition, stress relief, selective material removal, and surface preparation. The MD⁴¹ process allows encapsulation of prefabricated parts, such as computer chips, by placing them in sockets and building the structure around them. Salient features of the process are its ability to handle any geometry, to vary shape and material composition continuously with the part, to embed electronic components, and to make electronic packaging an integral part of the mechanical structure.

The basic sequence of operations in the MD* process is shown in Figure 2. Not all operations need to be performed for each layer. Additional processes, like embedding prefabricated parts, can occur between repetitions of this loop.

The primary process for depositing material is referred to as weld-based spray or micro-casting. The process is similar to conventional welding in which the deposition material is originally in the form of a

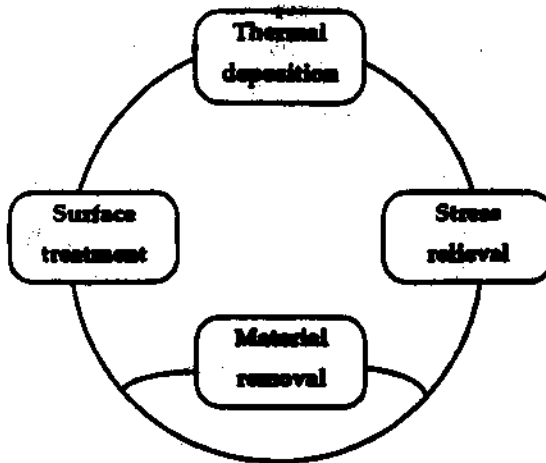


Figure 2: MD» Subprocesses to Form a Single Layer in MD»

wire. The wire is melted in an inert atmosphere and droplets of metal are deposited below each other to form a layer on the substrate. In contrast to **thermal welding, the wire is elevated from the substrate to protect the existing layer from the heat during the melting process.** The droplet size is large so that the temperature is **higher than the melting point while they are in contact with the substrate.** This results in better metallurgical bonding between the successive deposition layers [1].

Thermal spraying (plasma or electric arc) can also be used to deposit material. Thermal spraying starts with a metal powder which is melted to create a fine stream of hot particles. To form a layer, the particles are deposited on to the substrate under an inert atmosphere. The particles are an order of magnitude smaller than the droplets used in welding deposition.

One of the prominent phenomena that occur during material deposition is the generation of stored residual stresses which results from the differential thermal contraction. Even when the substrate is heated and both the sprayed material and the substrate are cooled together, a degree of differential thermal contraction is inevitable. In practice, large stresses are generated which cause spallation, distortion, or generation of cracks. Stress relief is achieved by shot peening. During shot peening, metallic balls or shots strike the object under pressure. Varying the shot material, shot size, pressure, and length of time results in different process outputs. Excess material is removed to shape the geometry of the layer and to make recesses for inserting prefabricated or electronic parts. Material removal is achieved by precise machining using a high-precision, five axis CNC machine. The surface of each layer is prepared before spraying the next layer. Cleaning followed by grit blasting ensures better bonding between layers. Grit blasting, which consists of striking the cleaned surface with abrasive particles, increases the surface roughness. Grit blasting also removes the oxidized film on a welded layer.

3. Characterizing the Manufacturing Process

Characterizing the manufacturing process for design requires an understanding of the influence and interactions of design and process variables on the final quality of the artifact. Variables are often properties of the material (or combinations of materials) selected, of the geometry of the part, of the equipment settings, and of the manufacturing environmental conditions. Characterization also involves the establishment of the working limits of these variables. In other words, characterization is equivalent to establishing an accurate model of the process and the range of its applicability.

A process model can be used to answer questions about the capabilities of a process as well as to control the process. Manufacturing processes can be modelled at different levels of detail. The level of detail desired, the available resources, and the available knowledge about the phenomena involved dictate the

type of modelling technique. To study the microscopic effects or detailed structural effects requires rigorous models based on the science of the phenomena occurring in the process. Coarser models based on approximations are sufficient for providing a first estimate or for studying the general behavior of the process. For many new manufacturing processes, models based on science have not been developed. In such cases, empirical models based on experimental data are widely used in industry.

Statistical models obtained from input/output data provide a polynomial relationship between the process variables and the outputs of the process. If input/output data are not available in sufficient quantity, models are developed using a combination of regression techniques and a set of systematically designed experiments. The main advantage of statistical modeling is that any process can be modeled; however, the correctness of the model depends on the experiment design, the interpretation of the results* and the range of its application. Even though statistical models are not based on fundamental principles, they can provide insight and serve as the first step in developing more detailed models.

In this paper, we develop a method that can be used by a designer to develop models of a manufacturing process that is repetition of a sequence of related subprocesses. Each subprocess is represented in terms of its input properties, control parameters, and output characteristics. A statistical model of each subprocess is developed using design of experiments. The intermediate outputs of the subprocesses form the input properties and control parameters of the model that combines the models of the subprocesses. Subprocess interactions are incorporated as crossed factors in the combined, comprehensive statistical model. The absence of a fundamental understanding of the overall process as well as the subprocesses, the lack of sufficient data, and the novelty of the process make statistical modeling most suitable for initial modeling of this process.

3.1. Design of Experiments

Box [3] presents some of the earliest work in experimental design. Later developments leading to classification of experimental design can be found in Steinberg [12]. A different perspective on experimental design, often called off-line quality control, can be found in Taguchi [14]. Many references to the use of these methods to model, understand, and improve, manufacturing processes are available in literature.

Examples of modeling individual processes involving many control variables are available in literature. Gioia [6] describes the development of a quadratic model using a Box-Behnken design for a one micron CMOS process. Donnelly [4] and Hanrahan [7] demonstrate the use of response-surface experimental design in predicting the feasibility of a manufacturing process for a certain yield. Developments have also been made using neural networks in modeling manufacturing processes. Yerramreddy [8] and Mahajan [9] describes the development of empirical models using artificial neural networks for a machining process from experimental data and a silicon deposition process from analytical data respectively. Nadi [10] describes modeling a process that has many effects using a combination of two types of networks*. Anderson [2] reports on the use of learning models for processes using connectionist neural networks starting from a basic parameterized model developed using available knowledge about the process. Neural networks like polynomial regression techniques are universal approximation; however, they require a substantial amount of data before a model can be obtained. Strojwas [13] describes the use of response surfaces and multi-layer non-linear regression analysis for modeling chemical vapor deposition process and plasma etching for VLSI manufacture.

The common procedure for statistical design of experiments consists of recognizing the goal of experimentation, choosing the variables in the process and their levels, choosing the response or dependent variable, choosing the set of experiments, planning data collection, and planning the analyses of the collected data to draw conclusions. For more detail on each of the steps or setting up orthogonal arrays for experiments involving fewer trials see Box [3] and Taguchi [14]. The basic steps are listed

NOTICE WARNING CONCERNING COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS:

The copyright law of the United States (title 17, U.S. Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Any copying of this document without permission of its author may be prohibited by law.

Acquiring Manufacturing Process Knowledge for Design

Prakash Padmanabhan, Susan Finger

EDRC 24-113-94

Acquiring Manufacturing Processes Knowledge for Design

Praluuh PMnwnahhui and Suau Finger

ppad@edrc.cmu.edu, sfinger@cmu.edu
Engineering Design Center
Carnegie Mellon
Pittsburgh PA 15213

Abstract

Much of the work done in component design assumes that manufacturing process knowledge has been codified and that manufacturing process models exist. However, for new solid freeform manufacturing processes, such as the MD* process being developed at Carnegie Mellon, these assumptions are not valid. In the MD* fabrication process, a part is built by successively depositing materials in thin layers. Each layer can contain several materials and creating each layer requires several manufacturing subprocesses which include micro-casting, thermal spraying, shot peening, and machining. Some of these manufacturing subprocesses are only partially understood; their use in combination to form a single multi-material layer is not well understood, and the process of creating a mechanical part or assembly from thin multi-material layers is also not well understood.

One of the salient features of MD*, as well as most solid freeform manufacturing processes, is that it requires minimal fixturing and setup. Once the geometry and materials (for a part) have been specified, the part can be run through an automated planner and sent directly to the manufacturing system. This allows the designer to work more closely with the manufacturing process than is possible in traditional manufacturing systems.

This paper describes our preliminary work to create a link between design and manufacturing to enable designers to acquire knowledge about the manufacturing process and to develop models of the

to manufacture parts to refine and adapt the process so that new parts can be designed.

1 Introduction

In our previous work on concurrent design, see for example [5], we have assumed that models of the manufacturing process exist and that the features which govern the manufacturability of a design are known. Under these conditions, the primary (and not inconsequential) problem is to provide manufacturing knowledge to the designer in a useful form. However, for the new MD* process [8] being developed at Carnegie Mellon, these assumptions do not hold. We do not have enough experience with the manufacturing process to know what features affect the quality of the final design artifact nor do we have fundamental models of the manufacturing process itself.

The MD* shape deposition process is described in more detail in Section 2 below; however, one of its primary attributes from a design point of view is that it removes traditional manufacturing constraints thereby significantly increasing the space of possible products. It allows multi-material layers.



Figure 1: Manufacturing a Sphere Embedded in a Cube

allows assemblies to be sprayed in place, and allows electronics to be embedded in structures. Using a layered deposition process provides access to the interior of a pan. So for example, one can build a solid sphere of one material surrounded by a dose of another material (closed except for a small weep hole to let the support material drain out). Figure 1 shows this pan half way through its manufacture. The white area is the support material which will be removed after the part is complete.

Another important attribute of the MD* process, as well as other solid freeform manufacturing processes* is that it requires minimal fixturing and setup. As Figure 1 illustrates, the support material corresponds to the fixturing in traditional manufacturing processes. For MD⁴¹, process planning consists of filling the voids with support material, slicing the part into layers, and computing the tool paths to deposit the different materials in each layer. Because the part can be generated automatically from the CAD model [8], it is possible to go directly from the design system to the manufacturing system. Thus the designer can work more closely with the manufacturing process than is possible in traditional manufacturing systems. Once a part has been verified, it can be downloaded directly to the manufacturing cell.

Because the MD* process is under development the manufacturing subprocesses are mutually evolving. We need to design and manufacture to discover the capabilities of the system, but we need to know the capabilities of the process to enter to design and manufacture parts. The designer does not know how to set design parameters to achieve requirements and doesn't know the connection between design and manufacturing. The goal of the work described in this paper is to allow the designer to acquire knowledge about and to develop models of the manufacturing process as part of the design process.

2. The MD* Manufacturing Process

MD* also known as shape deposition manufacturing (SDM), is a layered manufacturing process in which parts and assemblies are manufactured by successively spraying cross-sectional areas. Starting from a geometric model, the part is discretized into thin layers based on geometric as well as material criteria. The part is built by a vertical concatenation of two and half dimensional layers. Each layer undergoes a series of processes including material addition, stress relief, selective material removal, and surface preparation. The MD⁴¹ process allows encapsulation of prefabricated parts, such as computer chips, by placing them in sockets and building the structure around them. Salient features of the process are its ability to handle any geometry, to vary shape and material composition continuously with the part, to embed electronic components, and to make electronic packaging an integral part of the mechanical structure.

The basic sequence of operations in the MD* process is shown in Figure 2. Not all operations need to be performed for each layer. Additional processes, like embedding prefabricated parts, can occur between repetitions of this loop.

The primary process for depositing material is referred to as weld-based spray or micro-casting. The process is similar to conventional welding in which the deposition material is originally in the form of a

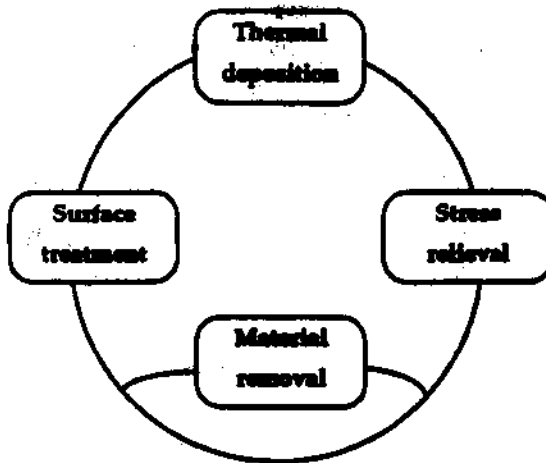


Figure 2: MD» Subprocesses to Form a Single Layer in MD»

wire. The wire is melted in an inert atmosphere and droplets of metal are deposited below each other to form a layer on the substrate. In contrast to **thermal welding, the wire is elevated from the substrate to protect the existing layer from the heat during the melting process.** The droplet size is large so that the temperature is **higher than the melting point while they are in contact with the substrate.** This results in better metallurgical bonding between the successive deposition layers [1].

Thermal spraying (plasma or electric arc) can also be used to deposit material. Thermal spraying starts with a metal powder which is melted to create a fine stream of hot particles. To form a layer, the particles are deposited on to the substrate under an inert atmosphere. The particles are an order of magnitude smaller than the droplets used in welding deposition.

One of the prominent phenomena that occur during material deposition is the generation of stored residual stresses which results from the differential thermal contraction. Even when the substrate is heated and both the sprayed material and the substrate are cooled together, a degree of differential thermal contraction is inevitable. In practice, large stresses are generated which cause spallation, distortion, or generation of cracks. Stress relief is achieved by shot peening. During shot peening, metallic balls or shots strike the object under pressure. Varying the shot material, shot size, pressure, and length of time results in different process outputs. Excess material is removed to shape the geometry of the layer and to make recesses for inserting prefabricated or electronic parts. Material removal is achieved by precise machining using a high-precision, five axis CNC machine. The surface of each layer is prepared before spraying the next layer. Cleaning followed by grit blasting ensures better bonding between layers. Grit blasting, which consists of striking the cleaned surface with abrasive particles, increases the surface roughness. Grit blasting also removes the oxidized film on a welded layer.

3. Characterizing the Manufacturing Process

Characterizing the manufacturing process for design requires an understanding of the influence and interactions of design and process variables on the final quality of the artifact. Variables are often properties of the material (or combinations of materials) selected, of the geometry of the part, of the equipment settings, and of the manufacturing environmental conditions. Characterization also involves the establishment of the working limits of these variables. In other words, characterization is equivalent to establishing an accurate model of the process and the range of its applicability.

A process model can be used to answer questions about the capabilities of a process as well as to control the process. Manufacturing processes can be modelled at different levels of detail. The level of detail desired, the available resources, and the available knowledge about the phenomena involved dictate the

type of modelling technique. To study the microscopic effects or detailed structural effects requires rigorous models based on the science of the phenomena occurring in the process. Coarser models based on approximations are sufficient for providing a first estimate or for studying the general behavior of the process. For many new manufacturing processes, models based on science have not been developed. In such cases, empirical models based on experimental data are widely used in industry.

Statistical models obtained from input/output data provide a polynomial relationship between the process variables and the outputs of the process. If input/output data are not available in sufficient quantity, models are developed using a combination of regression techniques and a set of systematically designed experiments. The main advantage of statistical modeling is that any process can be modeled; however, the correctness of the model depends on the experiment design, the interpretation of the results* and the range of its application. Even though statistical models are not based on fundamental principles, they can provide insight and serve as the first step in developing more detailed models.

In this paper, we develop a method that can be used by a designer to develop models of a manufacturing process that is repetition of a sequence of related subprocesses. Each subprocess is represented in terms of its input properties, control parameters, and output characteristics. A statistical model of each subprocess is developed using design of experiments. The intermediate outputs of the subprocesses form the input properties and control parameters of the model that combines the models of the subprocesses. Subprocess interactions are incorporated as crossed factors in the combined, comprehensive statistical model. The absence of a fundamental understanding of the overall process as well as the subprocesses, the lack of sufficient data, and the novelty of the process make statistical modeling most suitable for initial modeling of this process.

3.1. Design of Experiments

Box [3] presents some of the earliest work in experimental design. Later developments leading to classification of experimental design can be found in Steinberg [12]. A different perspective on experimental design, often called off-line quality control, can be found in Taguchi [14]. Many references to the use of these methods to model, understand, and improve, manufacturing processes are available in literature.

Examples of modeling individual processes involving many control variables are available in literature. Gioia [6] describes the development of a quadratic model using a Box-Behnken design for a one micron CMOS process. Donnelly [4] and Hanrahan [7] demonstrate the use of response-surface experimental design in predicting the feasibility of a manufacturing process for a certain yield. Developments have also been made using neural networks in modeling manufacturing processes. Yerramreddy [8] and Mahajan [9] describes the development of empirical models using artificial neural networks for a machining process from experimental data and a silicon deposition process from analytical data respectively. Nadi [10] describes modeling a process that has many effects using a combination of two types of networks*. Anderson [2] reports on the use of learning models for processes using connectionist neural networks starting from a basic parameterized model developed using available knowledge about the process. Neural networks like polynomial regression techniques are universal approximation; however, they require a substantial amount of data before a model can be obtained. Strojwas [13] describes the use of response surfaces and multi-layer non-linear regression analysis for modeling chemical vapor deposition process and plasma etching for VLSI manufacture.

The common procedure for statistical design of experiments consists of recognizing the goal of experimentation, choosing the variables in the process and their levels, choosing the response or dependent variable, choosing the set of experiments, planning data collection, and planning the analyses of the collected data to draw conclusions. For more detail on each of the steps or setting up orthogonal arrays for experiments involving fewer trials see Box [3] and Taguchi [14]. The basic steps are listed

below.

1. **Recognizing the goal of the experiment:** This step is crucial for subsequent decisions like the type of experiment to be chosen or the number of replications required.
2. **Choosing the variables and their levels.** The independent variables, or factors, whose effects are to be studied must be selected. The nature or levels of the factors to be used in the experiment must be decided.
3. **Choosing the response variable:** The response variable is the effect of the independent variables on the dependent variable. The accuracy of the measurement of the response variable must be considered.
4. **Designing the experiment:** A single experiment or a set of experiments, each consisting of several variables, must be designed. The choice of experiments depends on the cost, the risk, and the accuracy of the measurements. The choice of experiments depends on the cost, the risk, and the accuracy of the measurements.
5. **Data collection:** Data must be collected on the different experimental conditions in a uniform experimental environment, and the measurement accuracy.
6. **Planning data analysis.** Although, analyses and conclusions come only after the experiments have been performed, considering the aspect while designing the experiment can result in different choices of experiments.

The cost of using design of experiments is related to the experiment itself and to the number of replicates (sample size) chosen. Risk is the chance taken to estimate a certain effect with a certain number of experimental runs. Different experimental designs allow different levels of compromise between cost and risk. Further, based on the type of effect to be studied (linear, additive, nonlinear, or interactive) different mathematical models and statistical methods are chosen. The mathematical model also affects the type of statistical analysis performed on the data.

Associated with the subprocesses are many variables and conditions whose effect on the subprocess and the entire process is unknown. Further, the interactions between these subprocesses are not clearly understood. This makes the problem of modelling such processes challenging.

Ideally, all the variables controlling the desired output must be understood and optimized for better yield; however, it is difficult to obtain a model that relates all the variables in all the subprocesses to the final output of the process. One way to model such a process is to model each subprocess individually and then combine the models. The combination procedure must incorporate interactions between the subprocesses and reduce the number of variables involved.

Each subprocess is represented in terms of its input properties, control variables and output parameters. We develop a statistical model of each subprocess using design of experiments. The intermediate outputs of the subprocesses from the input properties and control variables of the model that combines the models of the subprocesses. Subprocess interactions are incorporated as crossed factors in the combined comprehensive statistical model.

4. Modelling MD*

In novel manufacturing processes, data are scarce and there is no starting model. All the research surveyed above involves modeling a single manufacturing process. Modeling processes involving different subprocesses is not discussed in the literature. We are developing models such manufacturing processes, as they are being developed, for prediction and optimization. Design of experiments is used to obtain information from a restricted set of experiments to model the subprocesses. Because statistical models complement design of experiments, we use them to model individual subprocesses.

During its manufacture, a part undergoes many changes and passes through many manufacturing

subprocesses before it is complete. Ideally, these subprocesses are independent of each other and can be modeled individually. However, manufacturing process like MD* require an iterative sequence of dependent subprocesses that have a cumulative effect on the output.

In the MD* process, each layer is formed using micro-casting, stress relief, machining, and surface preparation, then the layers are concatenated to create the part. The inter-layer effects are as important as the intra-layer effects in the MD* process, so we must model not only the sequence within a layer, but also the interactions between layers. The method presented here is based on the divide and conquer principle. The complex process is first divided into smaller subprocesses. The subprocesses are modeled individually in a common framework. The individual models are combined to form a model of the layer

layer in the *****

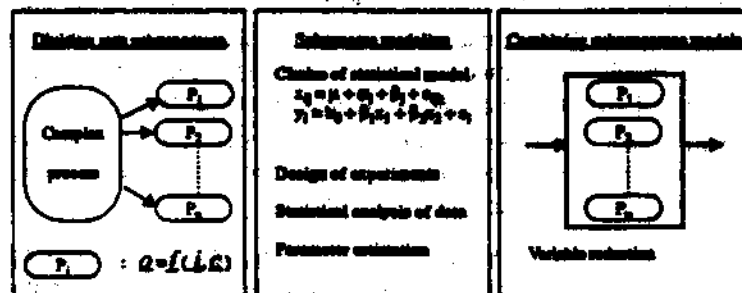


Figure 3: Model of the Subprocess to Create a Layer in MD*

In addition to modeling the layer creation process, we must also model the process of **concatenating** layers. Some of the most interesting issues in both design and manufacture arise in the layer concatenation process. For design, features such as unsupported overhangs arise from interaction between layers. For manufacturing, some of the most serious defects/such as delamination, occur between layers.

When spraying the first layer of a part, the effect of properties of the substrate material are not considered because bonding between the substrate and the first layer is not of interest. However, while spraying any subsequent layer the output properties (temperature, surface roughness, etc) of the previous layer affect the bonding between the two layers. The inter-layer effects are modeled by considering the output variables of the previous layer as input variables to the process of creating of the current layer. Interactions between the properties of the previous layer and the control variables for the current layer make it possible to compensate for the properties of the previous layers.

The division of the process into subprocesses must:

1. be conducive to studying the subprocess by itself* i.e* each subprocess should be a physically separable step in the manufacturing process. For example, in a silicon film deposition process, film thickness and stress development cannot be divided into two subprocesses even though a separate model maybe be required to describe film thickness and stress development
2. allow subprocesses to be combined with neighboring subprocesses. **The combination of the subprocesses into a larger model requires that neighboring subprocesses have a common property or variable which forms a link between them.** Ideally the output variable of a subprocess is the input variable or a control factor of the subsequent subprocess.
3. possess output variables that are measured and representative of the changes occurring in the subprocess. This will enable control of the subprocess as well as reduction of the number of variables involved in the model.

Every subprocess has inputs which are processed through some equipment to produce certain outputs.

This generality is used in a design process. The subprocesses are first defined in terms of input properties, process or control variables, and output properties. The input properties are relevant properties (geometry, finish, material, etc) of the input material. The control variables are the settings of the equipment (parameters used to control the environment) used in the subprocess. The output

modified input properties, such as surface finish, or a new property, such as stress in thermal spraying.

The subprocess is modeled as follows: Let i , c , and o be vectors representing the input properties, control variables, and output properties from the subprocess respectively. The relationship between the output properties and the input properties and control variables can be written as

$$o = f(i, c)$$

where f is a vector of unknown functions. Each function f_i is a function of some or all of the input properties and control variables and corresponds to one output property.

The unknown functions f_i are determined by design of experiments. First screening experiments are conducted to determine if the input and control variables affect the output or response variable in a statistically significant sense. Depending on the amount of prior knowledge about the effect of significant variables on the response, empirical or mechanistic models are developed for f_i based on further experimentation.

The effects of all the subprocesses that form the process when combined together produce a model of the entire process. If o_1, o_2, \dots, o_n are the output vectors of the n subprocesses, the process can be modeled as

$$y = g(i_1, o_1, o_2, \dots, o_n)$$

where y is the vector of output properties of the intra-layer process, g is the vector of unknown function that model the intra-layer process, and i_1 is the vector of input properties for the first subprocess. The vector g is determined using a process similar to the process in which f_i was determined earlier. The experimentation necessary to determine g is reduced significantly due to the availability of data from the experiments performed to model the subprocesses, assuming that most of the test specimens were processed completely.

The rationale behind the use of the outputs from the subprocesses to model the intra-layer process is the fact that input and control variables of each subprocess can be used to control the corresponding output. This is true because the intra-layer process was divided into subprocesses under a set of conditions, one of which required the output of the subprocess to represent the changes effected by the subprocess. We assume that the number of output variables in each subprocess will be less than the sum of the input and control variables. Hence there is a considerable reduction in the number of variables or factors involved in the model of the intra-layer process. Further, if some of the subprocess outputs are not statistically significant, the number of variables in overall model will be reduced further.

5. Example

This section describes a prototype system that has been developed at CMU. This section describes just the part of the system that allows the designer to design the experiment; and generate the geometric and material description of the sample specimen that can be transmitted to the manufacturing system.

As part of another project, we are designing and manufacturing wearable computers with embedded electronics [11]. Because the manufacturing process is under development, designers often do not know the capabilities of the system. For example, to create parts with embedded electronics, the components are dropped into milled pockets with their leads pointing up wards. Due to connectivity as well as thermal

problems, a designer has decided to try embedding the component in a nylon material. A layer of zinc is sprayed on top of the nylon forms the conducting layer which is used to make connections to the electronic component. The zinc layer is plane after spraying and the circuit is then cut. However, the zinc layer is brittle and machining causing breaks in electrical continuity. The designer wants to create an experiment with the objective of determining the machining parameters for spraying zinc. The designer has determined that the experimental factors are:

- Input properties: Zinc layer thickness
- Control variable: Cutter diameter
 - Depth of cut
 - Feed rate
 - Cutter speed
 - Coolant
 - Gap between cuts
- Response variable: Number of ped-off
 - Resistance between

The designer believes that cutting speed (a function of cutter diameter and cutter speed), feed rate, and depth of cut are the primary variables that affect the output. Using the design system, the designer creates an experiment to vary each of these variables at two levels and perform a two-level factorial experiment. The screen in which the designer sets up the experiment is shown in Figure 4. The system sets up a two-level factorial mixed run as shown in Table 1.

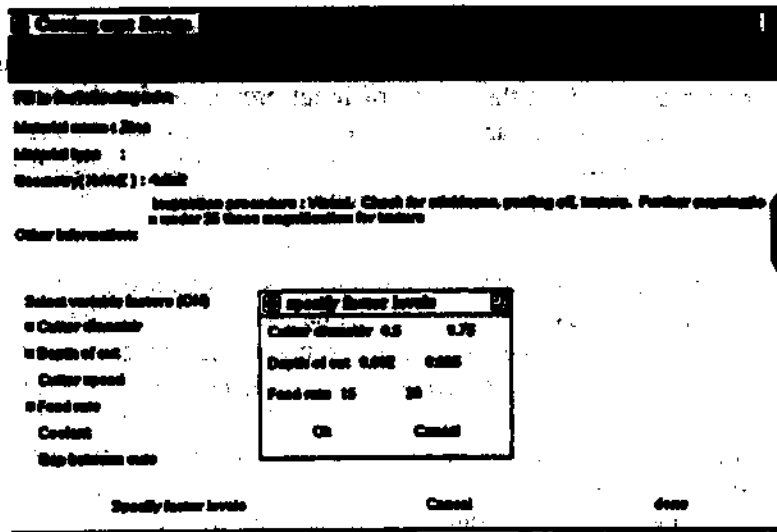


Figure 4: Screen to Design an Experiment for a Machining Process

The initial model is a linear model that assumes that the output variables are a linear function of the control variables. Depending on the outcome of the experiment the linear model may need to be refined or a more complicated model substituted

$$y_1 = \sum a_i x_i + \epsilon$$

$$y_2 = \sum b_i x_i + \epsilon$$

where

a_i and b_j are the unknown parameters (co-efficients) to be determined
 x_1 site the Variables (feed, speed, depth) in the experimental runs
 y_1 and y_2 are the outputs of the process (peel off, resistance)
 ϵ is the error

Run Number	Dimeter (in)	Depth of cut (in)	Feed me (in/tec)
1	0.5	0.002	15
2	0.75	0.002	15
3	0.75	0.005	30
4	0.75	0.005	15
5	0.5	0.005	30
6	0.5	0.005	15
7	0.75	0.002	30
8	0.5	0.002	30

Table 1: Experimental Design for Machining Zinc Layer

After the table is generated, the system will automatically generate the geometric model for a sample specimen with the appropriate process control variables to run the experiment on the manufacturing system.

6. Conclusions

We have presented a preliminary version of a system that allows design to acquire data about a process by designing and naming experiments on the manufacturing system. We have presented models of

Currently, because of the lack of data on the MD* processes, we are focussing on designing experiments to characterize the manufacturing subprocesses. As the models of the process improve, we will also begin to synthesize the knowledge so that design advisors can be built

7. References

1. Amon, G, Prinz, E B., Schmaltz, K., "Numerical Modelling of Thermal Spray Systems," Technical Report EDRC 24-106-93, Engineering Design Research Center, Carnegie Mellon University, 1993.
2. Anderson, C W., Franklin, J. A., Sutton, R. S., "learning a Neural Model of a Manufacturing Process using Multilayer Connectionist Networks," *Proceedings of the 5th IEEE International Symposium on Intelligent Control*, IEEE, Philadelphia, PA, 5-7 September 1990.
3. Box, G. E. P., Hunter, W. G. and Hunter, J. S., *Statistics for Experimenters*, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1978.
4. Donnelly, A. T., "Response-surface Experimental Design," *IEEE Potentials*. February 1992, pp. 19-21.
5. Finger, S., Fox, M. S., Prinz, F. B., and Rinderle, J. R., "Concurrent Design," *Applied Artificial*

Intelligence, Vol. 6, 1992. pp. 257-283.

6. Gioia, S., Miller, G. and Daughtoo, W., "Application of Statistical Experimental Design to the Development of a One Micron CMOS Process." *Proceedings of the IEEE 1989 National Aerospace and Electronics Conference*, IEEE, Dayton, OH, May 1989.
7. Hanrahan, J. J. and Baltus, T. A., "Efficient Engineering through Computer-Aided Design of Experiment," *IEEE Transactions on Industry Applications*, Vol. 28, No. 2, 1992. pp. 293-296.
8. Hartman, K., Krishnan, iU Merz. R., NepknUk, G., Prim F. B., Scäuttz, L^Teik, M. and Weiss. L. E., "Robot-Assisted Shape Deposition Manufacturing," *Proceedings of the 1994 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation*, IEEE, San Diego, May 1994.
9. Mahajan, R. L., Wang, X, A., Xie. H. and Lee, Y. C "Neural Network and Fuzzy Models for Real Time Control of a CVD Epitaxial Reactor;" *SPIE Science of Artificial Networks*, Vol. 1710, 1992, pp. 598-607.
10. Nadi, F., Agogino, A. M. and Hodges, D. A., "Use of Influence Diagrams and Neural Networks in Modelling Semiconductor Manufacturing Processes," *IEEE Transactions on Semiconductor Manufacturing*, Vol. 4, No. 1, 1991, pp. 52-58.
11. Sieworek, D. S., Smailagic, A., Lee, J.Y.C and Tabatabai, AJLA., "An Interdisciplinary Concurrent Design Methodology as Applied to the Navigator Wearable Computer System," EDRC Technical Report xxx, Carnegie Mellon, May 1993.
12. Steinberg M. S. and Hunter, G. H.. "Experimental Design: Review and Comment," *Technometrics*, Vol 26, No. 2, 1984. pp. 71-96.
13. Strojwas. A. J.. "Design for Manufacturability and Yield," *Microelectronics Journal*, Vol. 21, No. 2, 1990, pp. 53-66.
14. Taguchi, G., *System of Experimental Design*, vol. 1 and vol. 2, UNIPUB-Kraus International Publications, White Plains, 1987.
15. Yerramareddy. S., Lu, S. C-Y. and Arnold, K. L, "Developing Empirical Models from Observational Data using Artificial Neural Networks," *Journal of Intelligent Manufacturing*, Vol 4, No. 1, 1993, pp. 33-41.

subprocesses before it is complete. Ideally, these subprocesses are independent of each other and can be modeled individually. However, manufacturing process like MD* require an iterative sequence of dependent subprocesses that have a cumulative effect on the output.

In the MD* process, each layer is formed using micro-casting, stress relief, machining, and surface preparation, then the layers are concatenated to create the part. The inter-layer effects are as important as the intra-layer effects in the MD* process, so we must model not only the sequence within a layer, but also the interactions between layers. The method presented here is based on the divide and conquer principle. The complex process is first divided into smaller subprocesses. The subprocesses are modeled individually in a common framework. The individual models are combined to form a model of the layer

layer in the *****

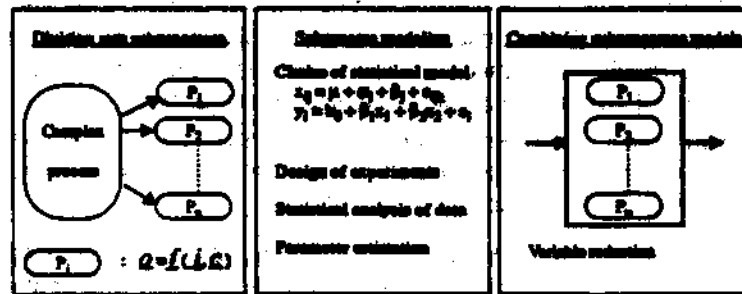


Figure 3: Model of the Subprocess to Create a Layer in MD*

In addition to modeling the layer creation process, we must also model the process of **concatenating** layers. Some of the most interesting issues in both design and manufacture arise in the layer concatenation process. For design, features such as unsupported overhangs arise from interaction between layers. For manufacturing, some of the most serious defects/such as delamination, occur between layers.

When spraying the first layer of a part, the effect of properties of the substrate material are not considered because bonding between the substrate and the first layer is not of interest. However, while spraying any subsequent layer the output properties (temperature, surface roughness, etc) of the previous layer affect the bonding between the two layers. The inter-layer effects are modeled by considering the output variables of the previous layer as input variables to the process of creating of the current layer. Interactions between the properties of the previous layer and the control variables for the current layer make it possible to compensate for the properties of the previous layers.

The division of the process into subprocesses must:

1. be conducive to studying the subprocess by itself* i.e* each subprocess should be a physically separable step in the manufacturing process. For example, in a silicon film deposition process, film thickness and stress development cannot be divided into two subprocesses even though a separate model maybe be required to describe film thickness and stress development
2. allow subprocesses to be combined with neighboring subprocesses. **The combination of the subprocesses into a larger model requires that neighboring subprocesses have a common property or variable which forms a link between them.** Ideally the output variable of a subprocess is the input variable or a control factor of the subsequent subprocess.
3. possess output variables that are measured and representative of the changes occurring in the subprocess. This will enable control of the subprocess as well as reduction of the number of variables involved in the model.

Every subprocess has inputs which are processed through some equipment to produce certain outputs.

This generality is used in a design process. The subprocesses are first defined in terms of input properties, process or control variables, and output properties. The input properties are relevant properties (geometry, finish, material, etc) of the input material. The control variables are the settings of the equipment (parameters used to control the environment) used in the subprocess. The output

modified input properties, such as surface finish, or a new property, such as stress in thermal spraying.

The subprocess is modeled as follows: Let i , c , and o be vectors representing the input properties, control variables, and output properties from the subprocess respectively. The relationship between the output properties and the input properties and control variables can be written as

$$o = f(i, c)$$

where f is a vector of unknown functions. Each function f_i is a function of some or all of the input properties and control variables and corresponds to one output property.

The unknown functions f_i are determined by design of experiments. First screening experiments are conducted to determine if the input and control variables affect the output or response variable in a statistically significant sense. Depending on the amount of prior knowledge about the effect of significant variables on the response, empirical or mechanistic models are developed for f_i based on further experimentation.

The effects of all the subprocesses that form the process when combined together produce a model of the entire process. If o_1, o_2, \dots, o_n are the output vectors of the n subprocesses, the process can be modeled as

$$y = g(i_1, o_1, o_2, \dots, o_n)$$

where y is the vector of output properties of the intra-layer process, g is the vector of unknown function that model the intra-layer process, and i_1 is the vector of input properties for the first subprocess. The vector g is determined using a process similar to the process in which f_i was determined earlier. The experimentation necessary to determine g is reduced significantly due to the availability of data from the experiments performed to model the subprocesses, assuming that most of the test specimens were processed completely.

The rationale behind the use of the outputs from the subprocesses to model the intra-layer process is the fact that input and control variables of each subprocess can be used to control the corresponding output. This is true because the intra-layer process was divided into subprocesses under a set of conditions, one of which required the output of the subprocess to represent the changes effected by the subprocess. We assume that the number of output variables in each subprocess will be less than the sum of the input and control variables. Hence there is a considerable reduction in the number of variables or factors involved in the model of the intra-layer process. Further, if some of the subprocess outputs are not statistically significant, the number of variables in overall model will be reduced further.

5. Example

This section describes a prototype system that has been developed at CMU. This section describes just the part of the system that allows the designer to design the experiment; and generate the geometric and material description of the sample specimen that can be transmitted to the manufacturing system.

As part of another project, we are designing and manufacturing wearable computers with embedded electronics [11]. Because the manufacturing process is under development, designers often do not know the capabilities of the system. For example, to create parts with embedded electronics, the components are dropped into milled pockets with their leads pointing up wards. Due to connectivity as well as thermal

problems, a designer has decided to try embedding the component in a nylon material. A layer of zinc is sprayed on top of the nylon forms the conducting layer which is used to make connections to the electronic component. The zinc layer is plane after spraying and the circuit is then cut. However, the zinc layer is brittle and machining causing breaks in electrical continuity. The designer wants to create an experiment with the objective of determining the machining parameters for spraying zinc. The designer has determined that the experimental factors are:

- Input properties: Zinc layer thickness
- Control variable: Cutter diameter
 - Depth of cut
 - Feed rate
 - Cutter speed
 - Coolant
 - Gap between cuts
- Response variable: Number of ped-off
 - Resistance between

The designer believes that cutting speed (a function of cutter diameter and cutter speed), feed rate, and depth of cut are the primary variables that affect the output. Using the design system, the designer creates an experiment to vary each of these variables at two levels and perform a two-level factorial experiment. The screen in which the designer sets up the experiment is shown in Figure 4. The system sets up a two-level factorial randomized run as shown in Table 1.

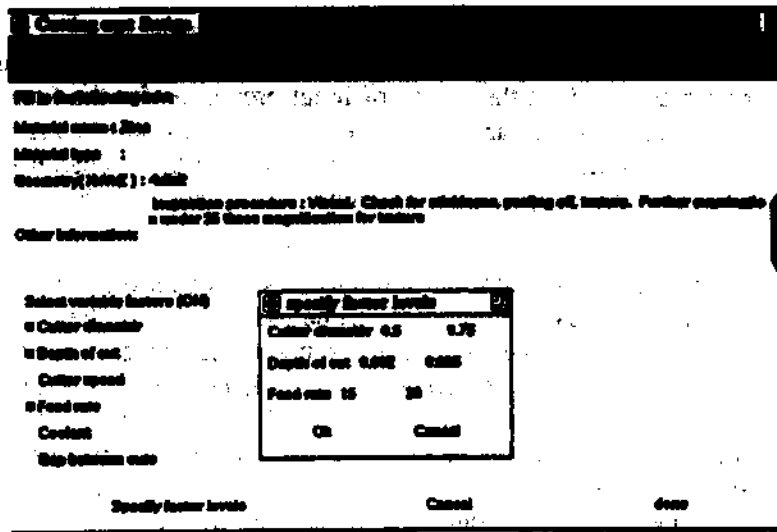


Figure 4: Screen to Design an Experiment for a Machining Process

The initial model is a linear model that assumes that the output variables are a linear function of the control variables. Depending on the outcome of the experiment the linear model may need to be refined or a more complicated model substituted

$$y_1 = \sum a_i x_i + \epsilon$$

$$y_2 = \sum b_i x_i + \epsilon$$

where

a_i and b_j are the unknown parameters (co-efficients) to be determined
 x_1 site the Variables (feed, speed, depth) in the experimental runs
 y_1 and y_2 are the outputs of the process (peel off, resistance)
 ϵ is the error

Run Number	Dimeter (in)	Depth of cut (in)	Feed rate (in/tec)
1	0.5	0.002	15
2	0.75	0.002	15
3	0.75	0.005	30
4	0.75	0.005	15
5	0.5	0.005	30
6	0.5	0.005	15
7	0.75	0.002	30
8	0.5	0.002	30

Table 1: Experimental Design for Machining Zinc Layer

After the table is generated, the system will automatically generate the geometric model for a sample specimen with the appropriate process control variables to run the experiment on the manufacturing system.

6. Conclusions

We have presented a preliminary version of a system that allows design to acquire data about a process by designing and naming experiments on the manufacturing system. We have presented models of

Currently, because of the lack of data on the MD* processes, we are focussing on designing experiments to characterize the manufacturing subprocesses. As the models of the process improve, we will also begin to synthesize the knowledge so that design advisors can be built

7. References

1. Amon, G, Prinz, E B., Schmaltz, K., "Numerical Modelling of Thermal Spray Systems," Technical Report EDRC 24-106-93, Engineering Design Research Center, Carnegie Mellon University, 1993.
2. Anderson, C W., Franklin, J. A., Sutton, R. S., "learning a Neural Model of a Manufacturing Process using Multilayer Connectionist Networks," *Proceedings of the 5th IEEE International Symposium on Intelligent Control*, IEEE, Philadelphia, PA, 5-7 September 1990.
3. Box, G. E. P., Hunter, W. G. and Hunter, J. S., *Statistics for Experimenters*, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1978.
4. Donnelly, A. T., "Response-surface Experimental Design," *IEEE Potentials*. February 1992, pp. 19-21.
5. Finger, S., Fox, M. S., Prinz, F. B., and Rinderle, J. R., "Concurrent Design," *Applied Artificial*

Intelligence, Vol. 6, 1992. pp. 257-283.

6. Gioia, S., Miller, G. and Daughtoo, W., "Application of Statistical Experimental Design to the Development of a One Micron CMOS Process." *Proceedings of the IEEE 1989 National Aerospace and Electronics Conference*, IEEE, Dayton, OH, May 1989.
7. Hanrahan, J. J. and Baltus, T. A., "Efficient Engineering through Computer-Aided Design of Experiment," *IEEE Transactions on Industry Applications*, Vol. 28, No. 2, 1992. pp. 293-296.
8. Hartman, K., Krishnan, iU Merz. R., NepknUk, G., Prim F. B., Scäuttz, L^Teik, M. and Weiss. L. E., "Robot-Assisted Shape Deposition Manufacturing," *Proceedings of the 1994 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation*, IEEE, San Diego, May 1994.
9. Mahajan, R. L., Wang, X, A., Xie. H. and Lee, Y. C "Neural Network and Fuzzy Models for Real Time Control of a CVD Epitaxial Reactor;" *SPIE Science of Artificial Networks*, Vol. 1710, 1992, pp. 598-607.
10. Nadi, F., Agogino, A. M. and Hodges, D. A., "Use of Influence Diagrams and Neural Networks in Modelling Semiconductor Manufacturing Processes," *IEEE Transactions on Semiconductor Manufacturing*, Vol. 4, No. 1, 1991, pp. 52-58.
11. Sieworek, D. S., Smailagic, A., Lee, J.Y.C and Tabatabai, AJLA., "An Interdisciplinary Concurrent Design Methodology as Applied to the Navigator Wearable Computer System," EDRC Technical Report xxx, Carnegie Mellon, May 1993.
12. Steinberg M. S. and Hunter, G. H.. "Experimental Design: Review and Comment," *Technometrics*, Vol 26, No. 2, 1984. pp. 71-96.
13. Strojwas. A. J.. "Design for Manufacturability and Yield," *Microelectronics Journal*, Vol. 21, No. 2, 1990, pp. 53-66.
14. Taguchi, G., *System of Experimental Design*, vol. 1 and vol. 2, UNIPUB-Kraus International Publications, White Plains, 1987.
15. Yerramareddy. S., Lu, S. C-Y. and Arnold, K. L, "Developing Empirical Models from Observational Data using Artificial Neural Networks," *Journal of Intelligent Manufacturing*, Vol 4, No. 1, 1993, pp. 33-41.