

specifications. As an output, AM models are created containing all the information necessary to generate machine-readable code (CNC code). Table 3 and Table 4 present the information exchange requirements for process data and material specifications, where prerequisites are highlighted in gray.

4 Summary and conclusions

In this study, efforts towards standardizing AM data modeling have been presented, and information exchange requirements in AM have been analyzed in the context of concrete printing. The AM process for concrete printing has been defined, and information exchange requirements have been identified. Attributes within information exchange requirements for concrete printing have been collected and analyzed through a systematic review and discussion with experienced users. In conclusion, the information exchange requirements for concrete printing show synergies with the information exchange requirements of conventional AM methods. In particular for concrete printing, the hardening process of concrete has a non-negligible effect on the process parameters (e.g. manufacturing hardware settings, print strategy) and on planning and control of the manufacturing process. Therefore, the interdependencies of the concrete and the manufacturing process have to be considered along the digital thread when advancing reliability and interoperability of the concrete printing process. For illustration purposes, AM design and optimization and AM process planning have been analyzed in detail, identifying the material-related information exchange requirements necessary for concrete printing.

With the information exchange requirements clearly defined, the digital thread can be described as a formal data model. With the data model, collaboration between actors will be enhanced resulting in a smooth workflow to improve the quality of the manufacturing process and the printed components. There is still a need to develop data models that support the digital thread in concrete printing in compliance with current standards used to digitalize the AEC industry, such as open BIM standards. Through standardization, concrete printing may become a more accepted construction method in the AEC industry. Future research may therefore be conducted to further advance standardization in AM data modeling for concrete printing.

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