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High temperature oxidation of IN 718 manufactured by laser beam melting and electron beam melting: Effect of surface topography

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ABSTRACT

The oxidation behaviour of IN 718 alloys produced by laser beam melting and electron beam melting was compared to that of the wrought alloy at 850 °C in laboratory air. Oxide scales of all alloys were similar in nature and morphology with small differences due to powder particles sintered on the surface of additive manufacturing parts. Nevertheless, major differences in surface topography were noticed, these could affect surface area estimations and consequently mass gain estimations. A quantitative correlation was determined between apparent parabolic rate constant and surface area.

1. Introduction

Recent progress in the field of additive manufacturing (AM) has led to the development of “3D printed” metallic alloys and ceramics parts. The microstructure of materials produced using these new manufacturing methods is different from those made using traditional methods. The aerospace industry and aircraft manufacturers seek to control AM processes in order to optimize the “buy-to-fly” ratio by lowering production costs and material loss during manufacturing while improving component functional design [1,2]. The Powder Bed Fusion (PBF) process is the AM method mainly used for metals. It consists in melting a powder bed and fusing it layer by layer, using either a laser beam – Laser Beam Melting (LBM) otherwise known as Selective Laser Melting (SLM) – or an electron beam – Electron Beam Melting (EBM). The microstructure of materials produced in this way is oriented following their build direction. As a result AM materials have anisotropic properties [3,4].

There have been recent attempts to produce parts of aircraft gas turbines by AM. But real gas turbine environment involves complex and aggressive mixed reactants that can lead to high temperature corrosion [5,6]. Before studying high temperature corrosion of AM parts, it is essential to characterize their high temperature oxidation behaviour in air since the first protection of the alloy from hot corrosion is the oxide scale formed onto its surface.

1.1. Microstructure of IN 718 alloys produced by additive manufacturing

The 718 alloy or IN 718¹ (NiCr19Fe19Nb5Mo3 – UNS N07718) is a solution annealed and precipitation hardened Ni-base superalloy [7]. This material is extensively used in aeronautical applications for its mechanical properties and structural stability at temperatures as high as 650 °C [8]. It was developed to resist creep, fatigue and, to a lesser extent high temperature oxidation [9]. This Ni-base superalloy is composed of austenitic matrix γ (Ni) phase, a disordered face-centered cubic crystal structure (A1, $a = 0.3616$ nm) [10], which gives to this alloy good mechanical strength. The solid solution strengthening of the matrix is induced by insertion of chromium and molybdenum. Composed of around 19 wt.% of chromium, the 718 alloy is a chromia scale former and therefore presents good oxidation resistance [11]. Furthermore, homogeneous precipitation hardening mechanisms are induced by the addition of alloy elements such as aluminium, titanium and niobium [12]. These elements lead to the precipitation of two metastable intermetallic strengthening phases, composed of a large amount of niobium. Their precipitation occurs between 600 °C and 900 °C. The phase mainly responsible for the alloy’s strengthening is γ'' (Ni₃Nb) [10], which has a fine oblate spheroid form [13,14]. The second one, is the metastable γ' (Ni₃(Al, Ti, Nb)) phase [10], which has a cuboidal or spherical form. After optimal heat treatment, the volume fraction of these two phases is 15–17 vol.% [15], the volume fraction of γ'' being three to four times larger than that of γ' [16]. After an ageing or a heat treatment, between 650 °C and 950 °C, δ -Ni₃Nb phases, the

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¹ IN 718 stands for INCONEL 718, designated alloy trademark of Special Metal Corporation.

stable state of γ'' (Ni_3Nb) phases, nucleate non-uniformly [17]. These δ -phases have a globular form when located at austenite grain boundaries or twin boundaries at temperatures below 930 °C; or an acicular form within the grain at temperatures above 1010 °C [18,19]. The precipitation of this phase is known to increase IN 718 ductility by affecting grain size [20]. As grain size decreases, the volume fraction of δ -phases increases, thus reaching a maximum value of 13% after being aged at 900 °C for 20 h [19]. During the ageing treatment between at temperatures 700 °C and 900 °C, co-precipitation of niobium rich MC carbides [10] and δ -phases occurs at grain boundaries and increases with ageing time, this favours intergranular crack propagation [21]. Last but not least, the Laves phase (Ni,Fe,Cr)₂ (Nb,Mo,Ti) [10], an hexagonal close-packed phase, is also present in the interdendritic regions of 718 welds due to niobium segregation during the solidification process with fast cooling rate [22]. This intermetallic phase, which contains large amounts of Nb (19–26 wt.%), is strongly affected by cooling rate and is known to be a preferred crack propagation site. This tends to reduce the material's tensile properties, ductility, and fatigue crack growth resistance [23].

Recent studies on microstructure showed small differences between AM-produced IN 718 and the wrought (WRG) alloy, partially due to the layer-by-layer melting process and the thermal gradient induced by beam melting. Thus, AM materials present columnar grains parallel to the build direction in LBM [24,25] and EBM processes both [26,27]. The thermal gradient induces epitaxial solidification leading to fine columnar grain architecture and dendrite epitaxial growth inside those grains, both structures are found parallel to the beam direction [28,29]. The formation of dendrites causes the segregation of alloy elements, such as niobium or titanium along interdendritic regions [30]. Besides, Helmer *et al.* [31] demonstrated that the grain structure of IN 718 alloys made by EBM process depends on scanning velocity and hatching space. They also showed that it is possible to have equiaxed grain structure even in the plane parallel to the build direction. Moreover, Strondl *et al.* [32] showed that the IN 718 alloy made by EBM process is a textured material oriented following the $\{200\}_\gamma$ plane. This was further confirmed by Idell *et al.* [33] in a 718Plus alloy made by LBM. Phases present in the AM material are similar to those present in the wrought material but differ depending on the thermal cycle and build parameters. Amato *et al.* [34] found an ellipsoid γ'' (Ni_3Nb) ($D = 100$ nm and $d = 25$ nm) phase platelet coincident with the $\{001\}_\gamma$ matrix in the as-built LBM material. This γ'' phase was also observed by Strondl *et al.* on the as-built EBM material [26]. They also found 5–10 nm long precipitates in the matrix and 50–100 nm long in the grain boundaries as compared to the 500 nm long precipitates found by Unocic *et al.* [35]. They also observed γ' precipitates (2–5 nm [26], 30–100 nm [35]) in the as-built EBM sample. Acicular δ (Ni_3Nb) phases (10 μm long) were found in the interdendritic region above the matrix due to niobium segregation in the as-built EBM sample. And precipitates that were found coarser at the upper side/part near the last solidified layer, than at the lower side/part [35]. Contrary to what was observed in the as-built EBM material, Kuo *et al.* [36] found that δ phases were present in LBM materials only after the AMS 5662 heat treatment. Besides, during LBM process solidification, high cooling rate results in Nb segregation [37,38], and therefore the formation of long brittle Laves phases. However, no Laves phase was reported in 718 alloys produced by EBM process [26].

Furthermore, the nature of the phases in the microstructure depends on manufacturing parameters such as beam power, beam velocity and building chamber temperature. It also depends on the cooling conditions and the heat treatment they undergo. Usually, the AM-produced IN 718 parts present high anisotropic grain orientation and porosities impacting the material's mechanical properties and density of the material [39]. Therefore, the as-built material needs to be hot isotactic pressed (HIP) followed either by an AMS 5662 or AMS 5664 heat treatment (HT), in order to close pores, dissolve weakening precipitate phases, homogenize the material and approach wrought microstructure

[28,30,35]. Rao *et al.* [40] found that HIP followed by AMS 5662 HT had a beneficial effect on the mechanical properties of AM-produced 718 alloys. This method results in significant grain growth, dissolves δ - Ni_3Nb precipitates and increases the material's ductility and yield strength.

1.2. High temperature oxidation of the IN 718 alloy

The IN 718 superalloy was designed for its mechanical strength at high temperature but also to form a protective chromia scale (Cr_2O_3) by selective oxidation of chromium (around 19 wt.%) when exposed to air at high temperature. The oxide layer growth is then controlled by slow diffusion of chromium cation through the oxide scale reaching the oxide/gas interface and/or by inward diffusion oxygen anions thereby reacting with chromium at the metal/oxide interface or with aluminium or titanium deeper in the alloy [6]. The formation of this chromia layer offers a good protection up to 950 °C under 10^5 Pa of air pressure. At higher temperatures, its growth rate becomes to be quite high and metal consumption is accelerated by the effect of sublimation of $\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_3(\text{s})$ into $\text{CrO}_3(\text{g})$ or Cr-hydroxides $\text{CrO}_2(\text{OH})_2(\text{g})$ [41]. Sublimation kinetics increases with temperature but also with the oxygen and water pressure present in the gas. In the case of turbine engines may be enhanced, thereby leading to early degradation. In aircraft applications, this material is commonly employed at operating temperatures below 650 °C [8]. During air oxidation between 700 °C and 950 °C [42,43], transient oxidation occurred during the first 24 h of the experiment, followed by slow oxidation kinetic during steady state. Between 900 °C and 1300 °C [42], oxidation kinetics have been shown to follow a parabolic rate dependence, ranging from $6.3 \times 10^{-6} \text{ mg}^2 \cdot \text{cm}^{-4} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ to $2.4 \times 10^{-3} \text{ mg}^2 \cdot \text{cm}^{-4} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$. Above 1270 °C, the oxidation became catastrophic, the oxide layer can be spalled easily. At temperature above 1300 °C, the material was rapidly consumed [42]. Furthermore, looking at oxidation layer composition, small amounts of TiO_2 , MnCr_2O_4 spinel [43], and CrNbO_4 [44] were found during the early stages of the 900 °C air oxidation test. Those elements appeared before the establishment of a continuous chromia scale due to rapid diffusion of Ti, Mn, and Nb in the matrix. After the transient stage, a continuous intermetallic Ni_3Nb -rich scale was found under the chromia scale that might act as a chromium diffusion barrier slowing down the oxidation rate [43,44]. Moreover, Al_2O_3 intergranular oxidation was found in the 718 alloy [43].

In the literature, there are as yet few studies on the characterization of high temperature oxidation of the AM-produced IN 718 alloys, namely by Unocic *et al.* [35] and Jia and Gu [45]. Jia and Gu studied the oxidation behaviour of an as-built IN 718 alloy made by LBM, and oxidized at 850 °C for 100 h. They showed oxidation kinetics close to a parabolic growth. The oxide layer was composed of two different oxides: mainly Cr_2O_3 and small quantities of spinel NiCr_2O_4 and NiFe_2O_4 . Moreover, intergranular oxidation was found in the material. The penetration depth of the intergranular oxidation reached 50 μm and decreased with higher material density [45]. However, by comparing AM oxidation kinetics to that of the heat-treated wrought 718 alloy [42], results show that the oxidation kinetics of the as-built LBM 718 alloy studied by these authors is much higher, even for the densest samples. If this happens to be a general finding, the use of these materials. In the second work, performed at Oak Ridge National Laboratory [35], experiences were conducted in wet air at 650 °C, 700 °C and 750 °C on the EBM-produced 718 alloys, so as to compare oxidation rates based on several microstructures: wrought, EBM as-built, EBM HIP and EBM HIP + HT. Results showed that, at 650 °C and 700 °C, all samples had similar oxidation kinetics, and presented spallation. At 750 °C however, the EBM sample without HIP or HT, showed a mass gain without spallation while the wrought one had oxide scale spallation. This higher mass gain was explained by the formation of Fe-rich oxide nodules in the EBM sample, whereas the wrought sample showed mass loss with no Fe-rich nodules, similar to the tests performed at

lower temperatures [35].

1.3. Effect of surface topography on high temperature oxidation

AM materials present irregular surface topographies along their construction planes; their roughness depends on surface defects, which are linked to process parameters [46,47]. Four kinds of defects are found on the surface of PBF samples. The first type of defect was defined by Tolochko *et al.* [48] as “balling” defects which are undesirable droplets from the melt pool that spread out above the surface due to the high flow rate of the metal fluid in the melt pool during laser melting. The second defect, was defined by Aboulkhair *et al.* [49] as “satellites”. They designate unmelted or partially melted powder particles sticking to the extreme surface due to insufficient energy for proper powder melting or to accumulation of heat at the surface, which sinters powder particles. “Satellites” are the major surface defects found on EBM samples [50,51]. Indeed, during the EBM process, a high quantity of electrons are concentrated in the powder bed which leads to electrostatic charging and mutual repulsion of powder particles called “smoke”. In order to avoid, this effect the entire powder bed has to be pre-heated, leading to the “satellite effect” defined as unmelted powder particles sintered at the surface of EBM samples due to heat accumulation. And consequently, it is difficult to avoid powder particles to sinter the surface [52]. The third defect is due to the inclination angle of the construction part, which generates two different surfaces, the “up-skin” and the “down-skin” surfaces. The heat diffuses through the previous layer for the “up-skin”, whereas it diffuses through the unmelted powder for the “down-skin”. Hence, the surface roughness depends on the heat transfer phenomenon. “Down-skin” surfaces have a higher roughness due to “satellite” defects [47,53]. The last defect is called the “staircase” effect and can be found in all AM-produced materials. This defect is due to the layer-by-layer construction creating “stairs” or gaps between each layer on the side surfaces, which is coarser for curved surfaces [54]. Moreover, Tian *et al.* [47] studied the impact of LBM parameters on the surface roughness of the Hastelloy X material. The highest roughness (45 μm Ra) was measured on the “down-skin” of a 45° angle built surface. Moreover, they found that the use of a contour or skywriting scan improves surface roughness. Thus, the complexity of the surface morphology of AM samples, is governed by powder particle diameter, layer thickness, beam parameters, scanning patterns used and the inclination angle of the building part. Compared to traditionally manufactured parts, AM materials present rougher surfaces that have to be taken into consideration to determine oxidation kinetics. It is very important to recognise the correlation between surface topography and oxidation rate. Armanet [55] showed that residual stresses and oxygen content present in the surface were directly linked to the surface preparation method and had an impact on oxidation kinetics. He found that a SiC-ground surface induced more oxygen penetration through the surface than an alumina or diamond paste polished surface. In a second study, the oxidation of directionally solidified Ni-based alumina-former superalloy was tested at 1100 °C for 100 h in air, to compare various surface roughnesses. Surface with a 0.05- μm roughness surface presented the best oxidation resistance those with a 0.83- μm roughness presented better oxidation resistance than those with a 0.14- μm roughness, probably due to higher surface hardening leading to a faster formation of Al_2O_3 [56]. Studies conducted on Fe-5Cr-10Al alloys, revealed that cold-worked surfaces increased Fe diffusion towards the surface during the early stages of oxidation and led to the nucleation of iron oxide [57]. Using the same approach, more hematite during the transient stage was found for rougher surfaces. Indeed, rougher surfaces favour iron nucleation over aluminium oxide nucleation [58].

Regarding chromia formers, the high density of dislocations induced by cold-worked surfaces is beneficial. Indeed, Cr diffusion towards the surface is accelerated but Fe diffusion is also accelerated [59]. Moreover, studies carried out metal by Huntz *et al.* [60] on pure Ni metal,

showed that oxide roughness was coarser at the grain boundaries of the metal and increased with the initial surface roughness of the metal. In the same way, the size of the oxide grains also increases with the initial roughness of the metal.

In other words, the effect of surface roughness on oxidation kinetics is complex because surface topography depends on surface treatment which may involve composition changes in surface composition, slight oxidation, internal stresses and hardening. On the one hand higher roughness, induced by a cold-work process, can be beneficial; it can increase the dislocation density below the surface which helps Cr diffusion in the alloy towards the surface and favours the chromia scale formation. On the other hand higher roughness, may lead to local defects that may hinder the growth of a continuous protective scale and may increase stresses in the oxide scale especially during thermal cycling, and thus lead to spallation. But at first, it appears necessary to correctly understand the oxidation kinetics of rough surfaces. Indeed, the higher the surface roughness, the higher the surface area, and therefore the higher the mass gain will be for a given oxide scale thickness. Before looking for correlations between roughness and oxidation kinetics, it appears necessary to study the effect of surface area.

None of the publications quoted above succeeded correlating roughness and oxidation kinetics quantitatively. In the present paper, the high temperature oxidation behaviour of 718 alloys made by two different AM processes – LBM and EBM – is compared to that of a commercial wrought 718 alloy at 850 °C for 48 h, 100 h, and 1000 h. First, differences in microstructure between the three 718 alloys will be presented. Then, oxidation kinetics measured by thermogravimetric analysis will be discussed based on various characterizations SEM-EDS, XRD and interferometric microscope. Finally, the influence of surface topography on oxidation kinetics will be discussed based on a numerical and analytical model, the results of which will be compared with experimental data.

2. Materials and experimental procedures

IN 718 samples used in this study were manufactured following three different processing routes. Two sets of samples were produced by SafranTech (Magny-Les-Hameaux, France) using AM processes, two different PBF methods, i.e. LBM and EBM. AM samples were studied in their as-built form without heat treatment. The third set of samples was machined from a commercial IN 718 wrought plate supplied by Aubert & Duval (Ancize, France). This latter alloy was AMS 5662 heat treated, with a solution annealing at 980 °C for 1 h, followed by air cooling and an 8-hour ageing treatment at 720 °C, followed by a 2-hour furnace cooling down to reach 620 °C, an 8-hour hold and finally cooled by air. The chemical composition of the three types of specimens were analysed by EDS. Quantification was obtained with a germanium detector calibrated on real standards. The composition of the alloys are indicated in Table 1. One can notice chromium concentration is 1 at.% higher in AM samples than in the wrought sample. This could improve the oxidation resistance of AM samples. However, they also have an iron concentration 1 at.% higher than that of the wrought one, this can have detrimental impacts. Besides, the percentage of aluminium in the EBM sample is slightly higher than that of the other samples.

In this work AM samples were produced with machine manufacturers’ standard settings on an IN 718 building platform. The as-built LBM plate was made using an EOS M290 machine with a 40- μm powder-layer thickness and a nominal powder particle size distribution ranging from 15 to 45 μm (particle distribution: D50 NMT 29 μm and D90 NMT 45 μm), extracted from a powder batch supplied by EOS that was reused more than 20 times. The laser scanning strategy that was used is a band strategy with a 60° shift plus contour pattern after each layer. On the other hand, the as-built EBM plate was made using an ARCAM A2X machine with a 75- μm powder-layer thickness and a nominal particle diameter ranging from 45 to 105 μm (particle distribution: D50 NMT 50 μm and D90 NMT 83 μm), extracted from a new

Table 1

Chemical compositions of 718 alloys tested, EDS analysis conducted with a germanium detector calibrated on real standards.

	Laser Beam Melting		Electron Beam Melting		Wrought AMS 5662		Powder EOS/ARCAM ASTM F3055
	wt.%	at.%	wt.%	at.%	wt.%	at.%	wt.%
Al	0.5	1.2	0.8	1.7	0.6	1.3	0.2 - 0.8
Ti	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.4	1.2	1.4	0.7 - 1.2
Cr	19.4	21.5	19.4	21.9	18.6	20.7	17 - 21
Mn	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0 - 0.4
Fe	18.9	19.5	18.5	19.5	18.1	18.8	17 - 21
Ni	52.4	51.3	50.4	50.5	53.1	52.5	50 - 55
Nb	5.3	3.3	4.9	3.1	5.5	3.5	4.8 - 5.5
Mo	3.0	1.8	3.1	1.9	2.9	1.8	2.8 - 3.3
Co	-	-	-	-	-	-	0 - 1.0
Cu	-	-	-	-	-	-	0 - 0.3
C	-	-	-	-	-	-	0 - 0.1
Si	-	-	-	-	-	-	0 - 0.4

The bold values are the main elements that could affect the oxidation behavior.

batch supplied by ARCAM. The electron beam scanning strategy that was used is a bidirectional parallel scanning plus contour pattern. The hatch spacing of the laser or electron beam, as well as the power and the velocity were set following machine manufacturers' standard settings.

Nevertheless, there are some differences between these two AM processes that have to be taken into consideration, namely chamber temperature, building plate pre-heating and gas environment. During the LBM process, the building plate was pre-heated at 80 °C, the temperature of the build chamber was about 30–40 °C and the system operated under an Ar gas flow oriented towards the powder layer. Thus the estimated oxygen content in the entire chamber was less than 0.1 vol.% (< 1000 ppm). Therefore, the maximum value for the oxygen partial pressure (P_{O_2}) in the chamber is estimated less than 1 mbar, but it is certainly lower at the beam/powder layer interface due to the Ar gas flow directed towards the powder bed. In contrast with the LBM process, the EBM building plate and powder bed were pre-heated at 1000 °C, which roughly corresponds to $0.8 \times T_m$ (T_m is the melting temperature of IN 718, that is about 1260–1340 °C, resp. solidus and liquidus). The system operated under primary air vacuum with a pressure of 2×10^{-3} mbar, therefore the P_{O_2} was estimated at 0.4×10^{-3} mbar. This latter value could decrease during the fabrication process due to the reaction of the residual oxygen with the metal. In addition, the EBM building chamber is equipped with a heat shield that makes it possible to perform the pre-heating at 1000 °C. These distinct heat cycles and scanning strategies entail dissimilarities in terms of material metallurgy and surface topography. These differences were observed and their impact on oxidation behaviour was studied.

Two sets of samples were prepared for comparison, those with raw surfaces and those ground with P600-SiC paper (26 µm grit size). Parallelepiped samples were cut from raw plates with different thicknesses depending on which manufacturing process was used, 1.15 mm thick for LBM samples, 4.85 mm for EBM samples, and 4 mm for wrought samples. For the first set of samples with raw surfaces, cut surfaces were ground with P600-SiC paper and the raw surface proportion was identified. Surface dimensions were measured using a digital caliper with an accuracy of ± 0.02 mm. Their dimensions roughly approached $15 \times 10 \times 1-5$ mm³ and their surface area was determined, using CAD software. Samples were ultrasonically cleaned in acetone and ethanol, and dried before oxidation testing.

Short time oxidation tests were conducted in a SETARAM TAG 24 S thermobalance with ± 0.1 µg sensitivity. The test temperature was set at 850 °C, which is higher than the usual operating temperature of IN 718 alloys, in order to increase oxidation kinetics and allow comparisons with previous literature results [45]. Heating and cooling rates were set to 60 °C/min. The oxidation tests in the thermobalance were

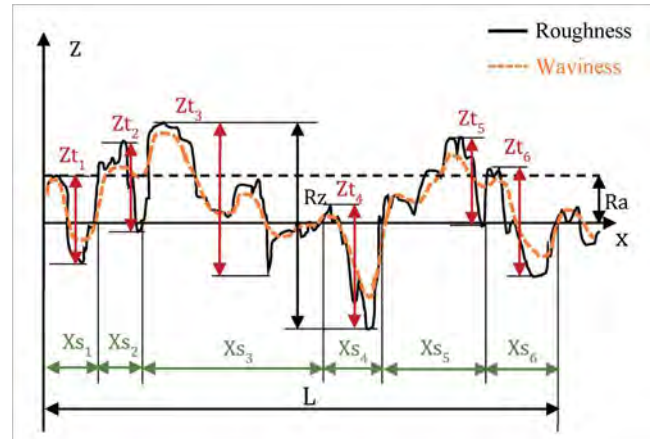


Fig. 1. Roughness and waviness profiles, description of parameters.

performed under a synthetic air flow set at 5 ml/min and high temperature was maintained during 48 h and 100 h. With regard to the interpretation of mass gain curves for isothermal tests, mass gain during heating was calculated using the mass gain variation during cooling in order to correct the buoyancy effect. Longer-time oxidation tests were carried out in a box furnace at 850 °C, calibrated with N-type thermocouple in laboratory air ($P_{O_2} = 0.21$ bar) for 1000 h. Samples were weighed on a Sartorius ME215 P balance with ± 0.02 mg sensitivity, an average of three weighings were performed.

Prior to the high-temperature oxidation tests, the initial microstructure of the three samples were observed with an optical microscope (OM) along the three main building planes. They were etched with Kalling's N^o2 solution (100 ml ethanol, 100 ml HCl 32%, 100 ml H₂O, 5 g CuCl₂) for 3 to 4 min after being scoured 3 s with 32% HCl. Surface topographies were analysed using Sensofar S neoX an interferometric (MAG 10X, ± 1 nm vertical resolution) and focus-variation microscope (MAG 10X, ± 1 µm vertical resolution). Furthermore, roughness parameters were measured based on the ISO 4287 standard (1998) and are calculated from the '3D measurement' (S), the 'roughness profile' (R) and the 'waviness profile' (W). As illustrated in Fig. 1, the W-profile, is a Gaussian filtered profile used in order to exclude spikes and isolate the overall shape of the profile.

The most commonly used parameter is the arithmetical average of the absolute values of profile variation S_a , which is equivalent to the R_a parameter but for a 3D surface and not to a 2D profile. This parameter is used as an overall evaluation of the amplitude of the profile. W_a is the waviness average calculated from the W-profile.

$$S_a, R_a, W_a = \frac{1}{L} \int_0^L |Z(x)| dx \quad (1)$$

The quadratic mean (S_q) provides the same information as S_a and corresponds to the standard deviation of the height distribution, it gives a greater weight to peaks and valleys with an equivalent S_a .

$$S_q, R_q, W_q = \sqrt{\frac{1}{L} \int_0^L Z^2(x) dx} \quad (2)$$

The maximum profile height (S_z) is defined as the sum of the highest peak (Z_p) and the deeper valley (Z_v). This parameter indicates extreme peaks but is distorted by the presence of spikes, hence a higher dispersion in S_z values. There is an ongoing confusion about this parameter. Indeed in the old ISO 4287 standard (1984), this parameter was defined as the height average calculated from 5 or 10 heights of the profile or surface assessed. Some characterization tools are still using the old version of S_z . The present paper uses a more recent definition of S_z ; the one in the ISO 4287 standard published in 1998.

$$(3) S_z, R_z, W_z = \max(Z_p) - \max(Z_v)$$

The Skewness parameter (Ssk) describes the asymmetry of the height distribution from the mean line. A positive value indicates a surface composed of mainly peaks and few valleys, whereas a negative value which indicates a surface mainly composed of deep stripes. If the surface is composed of as many peaks as valleys, the value of the parameter approaches zero.

$$Ssk, Rsk, Wsk = \frac{1}{Rq^3} \left(\frac{1}{l} \int_0^l Z^3(x) dx \right) \quad (4)$$

After the high-temperature exposure, the morphology, microstructure, and composition of the oxide scales were analysed following several steps. First, scanning electron microscopy (SEM LEO435VP), equipped with an energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy detector (EDS PGT IMIX-Ge), was used to characterize the external morphology and composition of the oxide scale. X-ray diffraction analysis was conducted using a low and constant incidence mode (XRD – Bruker D8, $k_{\alpha} = 1.5418 \text{ \AA}$). The angle of the X-ray source was set at different incidence angles (5° , 10° , and 15°) and the detector scanned the sample from 20° to 120° (2θ). Using this method made it possible to better identify the nature of both the oxide and the precipitates at the extreme surface by reducing the relative peak intensity of the γ matrix. It also enabled us to analyse a constant thickness throughout the scan. XRD diagrams were analysed with the crystallography software CaRIne. Furthermore, the cross-sections of oxidized samples were analysed by SEM and EDS.

3. Results and discussions

3.1. Microstructures and roughness comparison

Fig. 2 shows the optical views of the microstructure of 718 alloys made by the three different processes after being polished and etched by Kalling's reagent. The as-built LBM sample presents melt pools in the (ZX) and (ZY) planes with a Gaussian shape due to the laser beam passes of each layer. Whereas in the (XY) plane, the band strategy (100- μm large band-width) with a 60° laser beam shift after each layer. The grain boundaries are not clearly visible but, with a closer look, elongated grains can be noticed. On the contrary, the grains are distinctly visible in the as-built EBM sample. Small equiaxed grains (10–20 μm diameter) are apparent along the surface as deep as 100 to 180 μm from the surface. This is due to the rapid cooling process which has an important impact on grain nucleation. In the bulk however, the driving force for nucleation decreases but the thermal gradient induced by the heat of the beam and the cooling process, leads to the formation of elongated grains (20–70 μm wide and a length ranging from 200 μm in the (XY) plane to 500 μm in the (ZX) plane). The last sample was

wrought and heat treated (AMS 5662: solution annealing and ageing treatment). These heat treatments give the sample a homogenous microstructure with small equiaxed grains (diameters ranging from 10 to 20 μm) on its entire surface.

The surface topography of the samples was characterized using an interferometric and confocal variation microscope. The highest roughnesses were found on the side surface, parallel to the build direction. As a reminder, the diameter of the particles used for EBM samples ranged from 45 to 105 μm with a 75- μm layer-thickness, whereas the diameter of those used for LBM samples ranged from 15 to 45 μm with a 40- μm layer-thickness. In addition, the scanning patterns used are different a bidirectional parallel scanning plus contour for EBM samples and a band strategy with 60° shift plus contour after each layer for LBM samples. Both sets of samples thus underwent a contouring beam scan of their extreme surface. Nevertheless, Figs. 3 and 4, where the side surface are represented. Indicate that the samples show dissimilarities in terms of surface topography. Table 2 shows that the roughness of the as-built EBM surface in its (XZ) plane ($50 \pm 2 \mu\text{m Sa}$) is much rougher than the one of the as-built LBM surface in its (XZ) plane ($7 \pm 1 \mu\text{m Sa}$), and over 1000 times as rough as than the P600-ground surface ($0.033 \pm 0.002 \mu\text{m Sa}$). The skewness parameter (Ssk) reveals that the as-built LBM surface presents an asymmetric profile certainly due to the fact that small quantities of isolated powder particles are present onto its surface. Whereas the skewness of the EBM rough surface, is close to zero, which suggests that the surface has a relatively symmetric profile regarding peaks and valleys. Here the value of Sz might be distorted by spikes. But profiles in Fig. 4 reveal that the EBM sample presents the highest peak-to-valley height, reaching an amplitude of about 300 μm whereas the amplitude of the LBM sample is about 40 μm . Additionally, the profile displays high peaks and deep valleys with a rounded roughness profile close to its waviness profile, which is certainly due to the fact that powder particles are distributed onto the entire surface of the EBM sample. On the other hand, the P600-ground surface presents a smaller Sa value but a significant number of peaks and valleys, which correspond to polishing scratches. Moreover, the roughness profile of the EBM sample seems to follow a periodic peak-to-valley pattern, which is about 200- μm long. This is less apparent in the LBM roughness profile. This periodic profile might be due to the layer-by-layer construction, as is the case for the “staircase” defects [54] and might be affected by layer-thickness, as explained by Safdar *et al.* [51]. The powder particles present on the surface of LBM and EBM samples are called “satellite” defects, which are linked to the process parameters and scanning strategy both of which affect heat conduction. Indeed, during the EBM process, all the powder bed was pre-heated at 1000 $^\circ\text{C}$. This may sinter the unmelted or partially-melted powder particles onto the surface, as showed by Ahmed *et al.* [61] on Ti-6Al-4 V. Therefore,

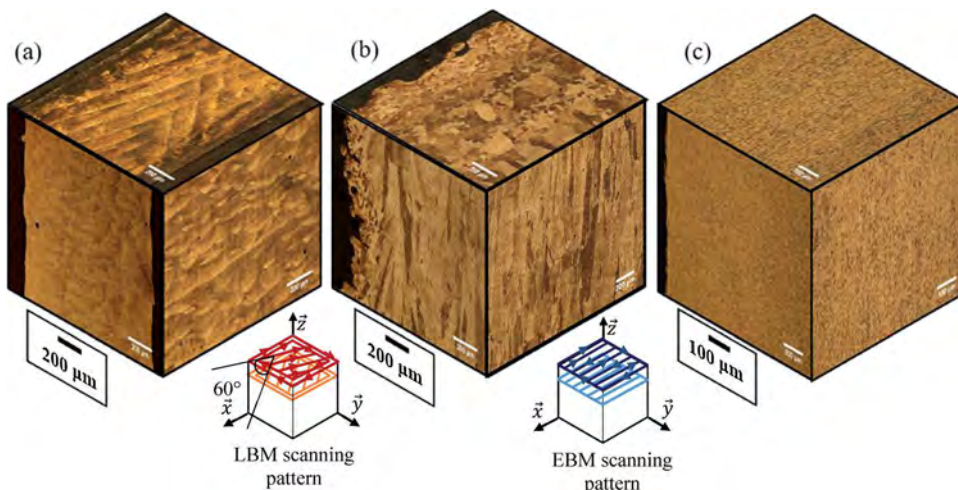


Fig. 2. OM combined views of initial microstructures of etched 718 alloys observed along the three building planes: (a) as-built LBM sample manufactured with a 40- μm powder-layer thickness and a 15–45 μm nominal particle diameter, (b) as-built EBM sample built with a 75- μm powder-layer thickness and 45–105 μm particle nominal diameter, and (c) wrought heat-treated sample (AMS 5662).

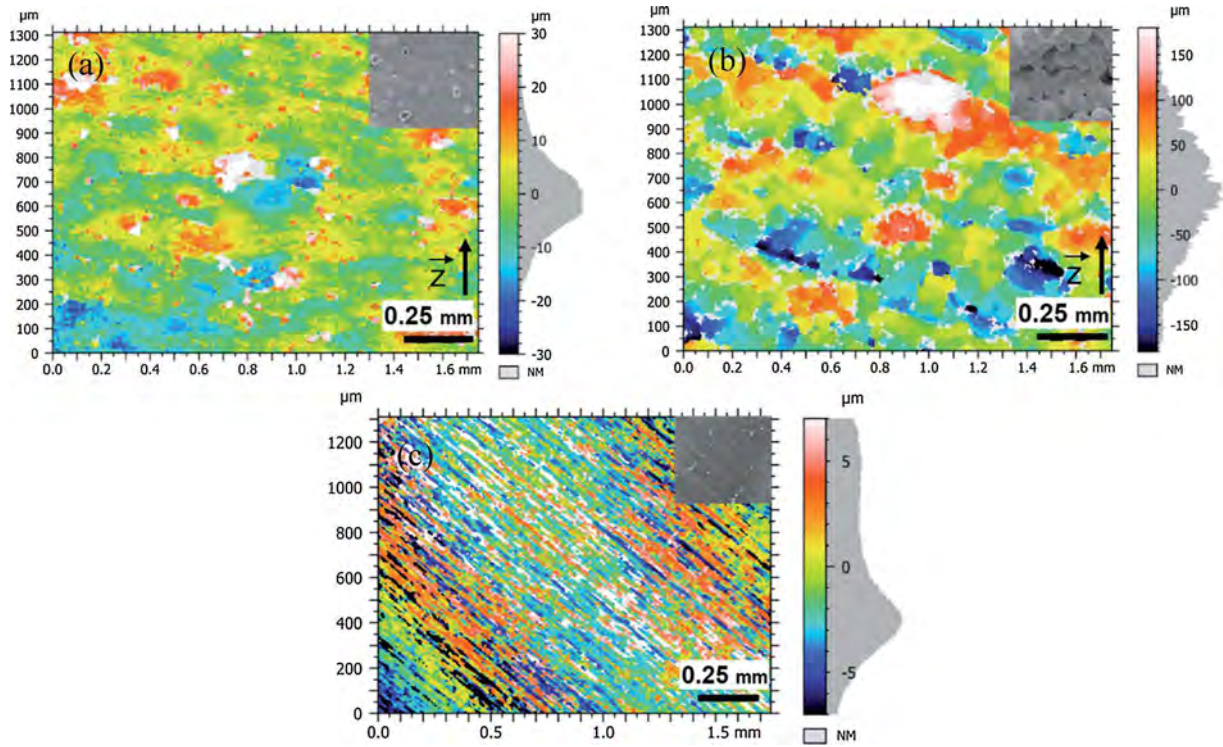


Fig. 3. Focus variation and interferometric microscope views of surface topography on the (XZ) plane: (a) as-built LBM surface, (b) as-built EBM surface, and (c) wrought P600-ground (similar to EBM and LBM samples 100% P600-ground).

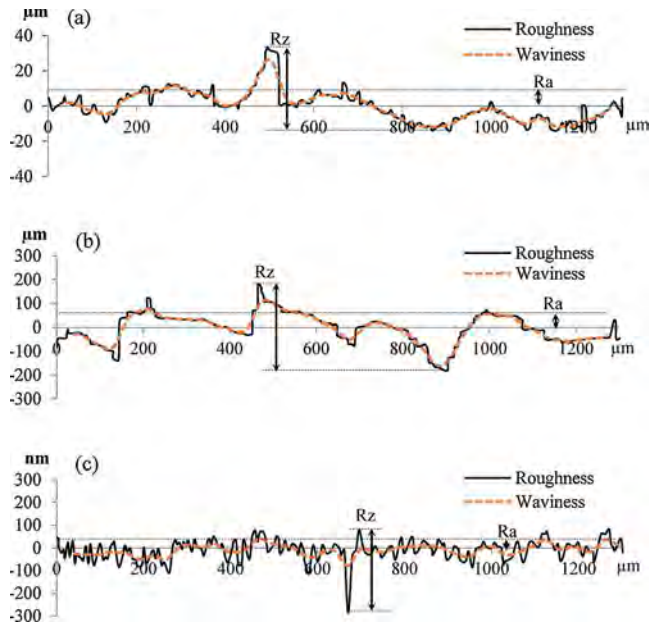


Fig. 4. Roughness and waviness profiles along the (XZ) plane parallel to the build direction, and determination of the arithmetical mean height (Ra); and the maximum height (Rz) of the profile: (a) as-built LBM surface, (b) as-built EBM surface, and (c) wrought P600-ground surface (similar to the EBM and LBM 100% P600-ground).

powder particles are clearly visible on the entire surface of the EBM sample. The side surface of the LBM sample however, has isolated particles spread on it. These, are mainly due to the “balling” effect [48].

Thus, the major difference between the raw surfaces of both AM samples relies on those powder particles sintered on the surface. The microstructure induced by these unmelted powder particles on the surface of the EBM sample could differ from the melted surface of the

Table 2

3D-roughness parameters comparison, ISO 4287 standard.

	Focus variation microscope ($\pm 1 \mu\text{m}$ vertical resolution)		Interferometric microscope ($\pm 1 \text{nm}$ vertical resolution)
	As-built LBM surface	As-built EBM surface	Wrought P600 grit surface
Sa (μm)	7 ± 1	50 ± 2	0.033 ± 0.002
Sq (μm)	10 ± 1	65 ± 2	0.042 ± 0.002
Sz (μm)	153 ± 24	525 ± 3	0.8 ± 0.1
Ssk	1.5 ± 0.4	0.2 ± 0.2	0.3 ± 0.1

LBM sample and may have an impact on oxidation behaviour.

3.2. Oxidation kinetics

Air oxidation tests were carried out at 850°C for 48 h, 100 h and 1000 h. The oxidation behaviour of the IN 718 alloys built from three different processes were compared: the as-built LBM sample, the as-built EBM sample and the heat-treated wrought sample. Usually, the 718 alloy is not used at this temperature but rather around 650°C [8]. Indeed, beyond this temperature, its yield strength drops. The experimental temperature (850°C) was chosen so as to accelerate oxidation phenomena but also to compare oxidation results on the LBM-produced IN 718 produced against those obtained by Jia and Gu [45]. Moreover, to respond to aeronautic applications, the oxidation behaviour of AM samples with raw surface was compared to that of samples with an entirely ground surface (P600 grit). Oxidation results presented in Fig. 5 show the mass gain per unit area $\Delta w/s$ (mg/cm^2) as a function of time by taking into account the mass gain during temperature elevation for TGA experiments also (with buoyancy correction). Experimental errors were estimated. The relative errors include uncertainties on mass and on the surface area measurements. The maximum overall error on mass gain per unit area reached 4%. Results show dissimilarities depending on the manufacturing process used, especially in terms of

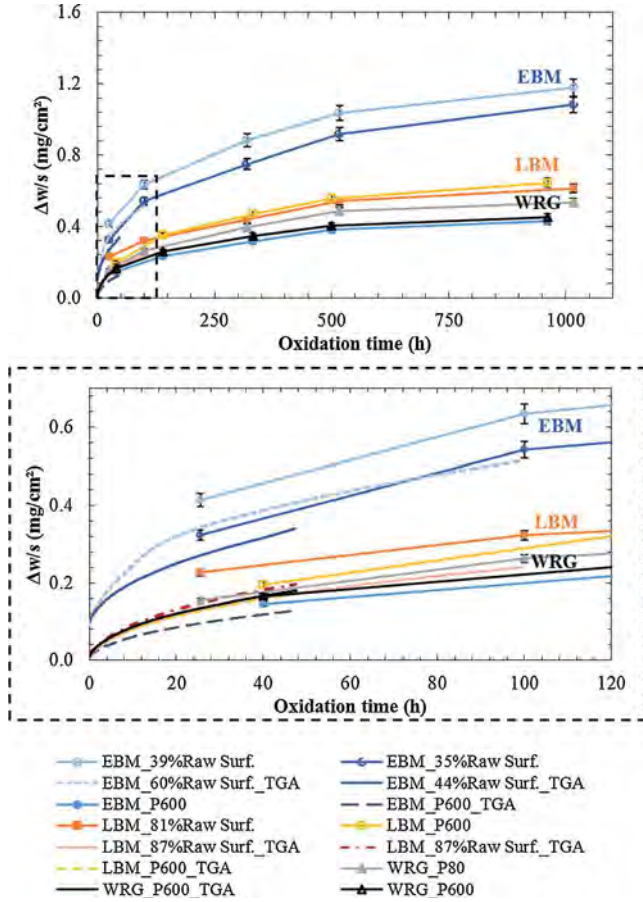


Fig. 5. Isothermal oxidation kinetics of the three 718 alloys (LBM, EBM and wrought) at 850 °C for 48 h, 100 h and 1000 h (the 48 h and 100 h experiments were conducted in TGA under synthetic air flow, others in static lab air).

oxidation rate during the transient stage. Looking at AM samples with raw surfaces, as-built LBM samples (7 $\mu\text{m Sa}$) exhibit oxidation kinetics that is similar to that of the heat-treated wrought samples; as-built EBM samples (50 $\mu\text{m Sa}$) present faster oxidation rate. Thus, the rougher the surface, the faster the oxidation rate. This is illustrated by a pronounced mass gain during the transient stage. Nevertheless, if all surfaces of the three different sets of samples are ground using P600-SiC paper, EBM samples show the best oxidation resistance compared to LBM and wrought samples. But throughout the steady stage, mass gain curves become similar and it seems that the three samples have similar oxidation behaviour for long term oxidation. As shown in Figs. 5 and 6 all oxidation kinetics approximately follow a parabolic rate law. This means that the three kinds of 718 alloys can be described by Wagner's theory. In which case, the oxidation rate is controlled by anionic and/or cationic diffusion in the oxide scale. Oxidation kinetics can be described by Tammann's parabolic law (5) [62]:

$$\left(\frac{\Delta w}{s}\right)^2 = k_p \times t \rightarrow \left(\frac{\Delta w}{s}\right)^2 = f(t) \quad (5)$$

where Δw (mg) is the mass gain, s (cm^2) represents the surface, t (s) corresponds to oxidation duration and k_p ($\text{mg}^2 \cdot \text{cm}^{-4} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$) is the apparent parabolic rate constant determined by a linear fitting in a parabolic plot (Fig. 6a). But to better take differences into account during the transient stage and steady stage, k_p should be determined by the Pieraggi method (6), in which case the parabolic rate constant is determined by plotting mass gain versus square root of time [63] (Fig. 6b):

$$\frac{\Delta w}{s} = \sqrt{k_p} \times \sqrt{t} + \text{Constant} \rightarrow \frac{\Delta w}{s} = f(\sqrt{t}) \quad (6)$$

Moreover, it has been shown by Monceau and Pieraggi [64] that the complete parabolic law (7) allows to better fit transient and steady stages. It allows to calculate the "true" k_p , i.e. the k_p which only depends on the diffusion, regardless of the kinetics of interfacial reactions and the occurrence of a transient stage of oxidation. This method can be used to perform a local k_p evaluation in a sliding window.

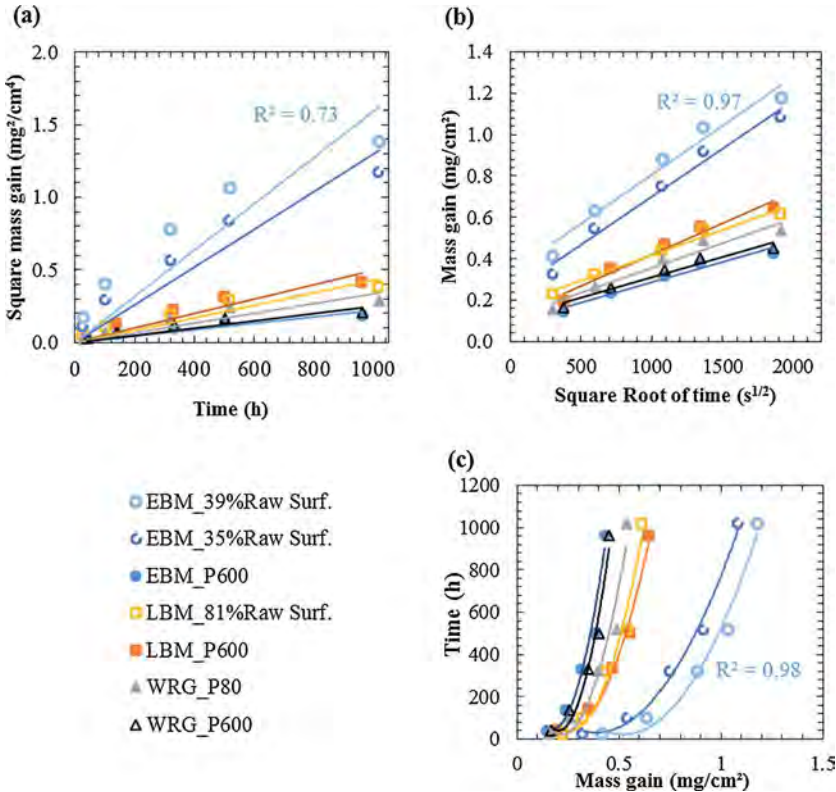


Fig. 6. Apparent and parabolic oxidation rate fitting of the three 718 alloys (LBM, EBM and wrought) at 850 °C for 1000 h: (a) Linear fitting $(\Delta w/s)^2 = f(t)$, (b) Linear fitting $\Delta w/s = f(t^{1/2})$ [68], (c) Complete parabolic fitting $t = f(\Delta w/s)$ [64].

Table 3

Parabolic rate constant (k_p) comparison for air oxidation tests carried out at 850 °C for 48 h, 100 h and 1000 h (synthetic air flow for TGA and static lab air for others).

Test conditions		Process	raw surface % or grit size	app k_p ($\text{mg}^2 \cdot \text{cm}^{-4} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$) Equation 5 ($\times 10^{-7}$)	k_p Pieraggi ($\text{mg}^2 \cdot \text{cm}^{-4} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$) Equation 6 ($\times 10^{-7}$)	'true' k_p ($\text{mg}^2 \cdot \text{cm}^{-4} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$) Equation 7 ($\times 10^{-7}$)	Measured oxide scale thickness (μm)
TGA or furnace	Time (h)						
TGA	48	LBM	87%	1.9	2.3	2.0	–
TGA	48	LBM	P600	1.6	1.7	1.6	1.0 ± 0.2
TGA	48	EBM	44%	3.2	3.8	3.8	0.9 ± 0.2
TGA	48	EBM	P600	0.84	0.95	0.89	0.7 ± 0.2
TGA	48	WRG	P600	1.7	1.8	1.7	0.6 ± 0.1
TGA	100	LBM	87%	1.5	1.6	1.3	0.8 ± 0.3
TGA	100	EBM	60%	5.3	4.7	3.3	0.9 ± 0.2
TGA	100	WRG	P80	0.43	0.39	0.36	–
Furnace	1000	LBM	81%	1.2	0.63	0.38	3.6 ± 0.5
Furnace	1000	LBM	P600	1.4	0.98	0.50	3.7 ± 0.1
Furnace	1000	EBM	35%	3.6	2.3	1.4	3.0 ± 0.5
Furnace	1000	EBM	39%	4.4	2.4	1.3	–
Furnace	1000	EBM	P600	0.62	0.41	0.21	2.6 ± 0.2
Furnace	1000	WRG	P600	0.70	0.42	0.20	3.4 ± 0.6
Furnace	1000	WRG	P80	0.93	0.66	0.31	–

The bold values are the highest and the lowest oxidation rate found respectively on a raw sample and on a P600-grit sample for the three different k_p .

$$t = A + B \frac{\Delta w}{s} + C \left(\frac{\Delta w}{s} \right)^2 \quad \text{where } k_p = \frac{1}{C} \rightarrow t = f \left(\frac{\Delta w}{s} \right) \quad (7)$$

In this last equation, the k_p is the “true” k_p which only depends on the diffusion at the time corresponding to the fitting window (Fig. 6c).

In Table 3 slight differences in k_p values can be noticed depending on the method used and the maximum estimated error on the evolution of k_p reached 8%. As found by examining mass gain curves, it appears that the as-built EBM sample with raw surface is the one with the fastest oxidation kinetics. Indeed, the as-built EBM sample with 60% raw surface presents the highest parabolic rate constant after 100 h oxidation ($\text{app } k_p = 5.3 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mg}^2 \cdot \text{cm}^{-4} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$), followed by the one with 39% raw surface with ($\text{app } k_p = 4.4 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mg}^2 \cdot \text{cm}^{-4} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$) after 48 h oxidation. The highest rate for LBM samples was found for the one with 87% raw surface ($\text{app } k_p = 1.9 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mg}^2 \cdot \text{cm}^{-4} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$). While the WRG sample ($\text{app } k_p = 7.0 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mg}^2 \cdot \text{cm}^{-4} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$) and the EBM sample ($\text{app } k_p = 6.2 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mg}^2 \cdot \text{cm}^{-4} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$) both with a P600-ground surface, have the lowest parabolic rate constants. Similar results are obtained by calculating and comparing ‘true’ k_p , which should better fit the oxidation kinetics. Both ground wrought and ground EBM samples have approximately the same parabolic rate constant, around $2.0 \times 10^{-8} \text{ mg}^2 \cdot \text{cm}^{-4} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ found for their ‘true’ k_p . Moreover, the as-built EBM composed of 44% raw surface (‘true’ $k_p = 3.8 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mg}^2 \cdot \text{cm}^{-4} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$) and of 60% raw surface (‘true’ $k_p = 3.3 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mg}^2 \cdot \text{cm}^{-4} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$), have the highest rates. LBM samples present similar oxidation kinetics whether their surfaces were ground or raw. Whereas the oxidation rates of EBM samples differ (up to 10 times) depending on the surface preparation method. At last, even though the ground EBM and ground wrought samples have approximately the same oxidation rate, the unground EBM sample presents the highest oxidation rate.

Calculated values of apparent k_p are compared to those found in the literature [65–67] as shown in Fig. 7 Compared to Greene [42] and Pieraggi’s results [42,68], all samples studied present a good oxidation resistance close to the commonly-used 718 cast or wrought alloy. These values of apparent k_p are on the lower limit of the “chromia forming alloys zone” as defined by Hindam and Whittle [66]. Moreover by comparing our results with those obtained by Jia and Gu [45] on an as-built IN 718 LBM sample at the same test temperature of 850 °C but produced with a different machine and different process parameters, it appears that samples tested here, produced by LBM or EBM processes and without heat treatment, show better oxidation resistance and have an oxidation behaviour in air that is similar to that of the wrought heat-treated 718 alloy. It is difficult to explain the important difference in oxidation kinetics as compared to Jia and Gu’s results [45] even if their samples were ground with 1000 grit SiC abrasive paper (P1500). These

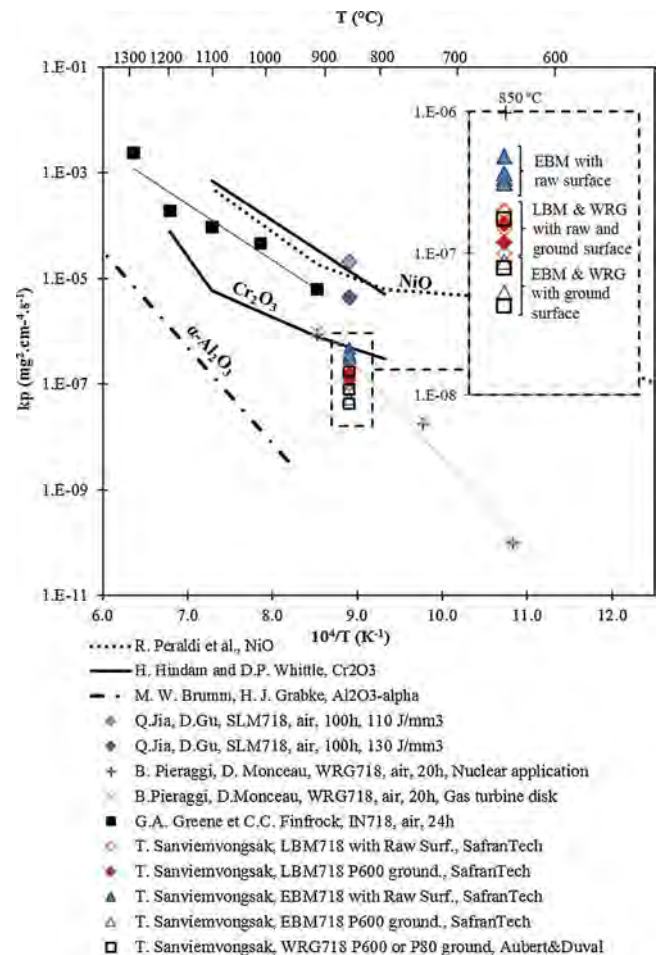


Fig. 7. Arrhenius diagram, apparent k_p comparison with literature results. Literature values from Greene and Finfrock [42], Jia and Gu [45], Peraldi et al. [65], H. Hindam and D. Whittle [66], M. Brumm and H. Grabke [67], Pieraggi and Monceau [68].

discrepancies may be due to various parameters: differences in the chemical composition of the powder or as-built material, degree of contamination, building and test environment, or the building strategy, in which case it has a consequence on the material’s microstructure and density. To sum up, all samples studied present good oxidation

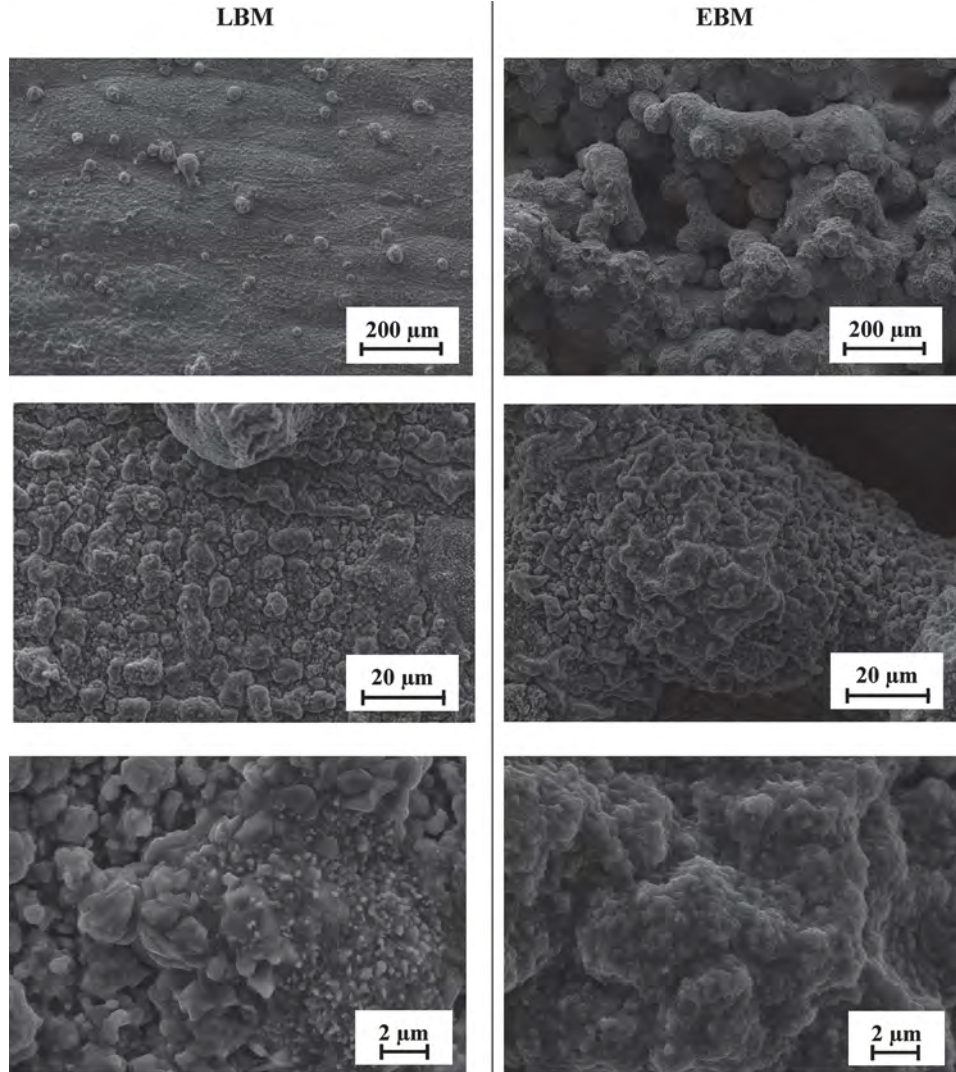


Fig. 8. SEM micrographs of external oxide layer morphology on raw surfaces, after air oxidation at 850 °C for 1000 h, on the (XZ) plane, LBM vs EBM.

resistance compared to the literature, all between 2.0×10^{-8} and $3.8 \times 10^{-7} \text{ mg}^2 \cdot \text{cm}^{-4} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$ ('true' k_p). Nevertheless, oxidation rates differ depending on manufacturing process employed and surface topography. There is no doubt that LBM samples (ground or raw surface) and wrought samples present a more stable oxidation behaviour compared to that of EBM samples. Indeed, oxidation rate of EBM samples are different whether ground or raw. To explain these results, two main hypotheses are formulated. The first one relates to surface topography and the second concerns differences in microstructure: grain size and phase composition. EBM samples present a much rougher surface than LBM samples. This difference might induce an inaccuracy as to the determination of the real surface of the sample, that which affects the determination of the parabolic rate constant. On the other hand, during the EBM process, the powder layer is preheated, and unmelted powder particles can easily sinter the extreme surface of the material. Therefore, the extreme surface of a raw EBM sample is essentially composed of unmelted powder particles which might be different from the bulk in terms of microstructure. Other assumptions can also be made regarding the impact of the texture of the elongated grains in AM materials, or the grain size and the proportion of delta phase present in the material.

The powders used for building LBM and EBM samples are different. Ardila *et al.* [69] studied reused 718 alloy powder for LBM application on a Realizer SLM 250 machine operated under argon gas with an oxygen content limited to 2000 ppm ($P_{\text{O}_2} < 2 \text{ mbar}$). Nandwana *et al.*

[70] studied reused powder for EBM application on an Arcam A² machine operated under secondary vacuum pressure lower than $1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ mbar}$ ($P_{\text{O}_2} < 0.2 \text{ mbar}$), they both found that 718 alloy powder is chemically and mechanically stable after a significant number of cycles: maximum 14 times for SLM processing [69] and 6 times for EBM processing [70]. In addition, it has been found that oxygen concentration in the AM-produced 718 part increased from 30 to 90 wt. ppm after 6 cycles of EBM processing [70]. Yet, this depends on the machine and how the powder is stored and handled. For the present work, EBM samples were produced from a new powder batch whereas LBM samples were produced from a powder batch that was reused 20 times.

3.2.1. Morphology and nature of the oxide scale

SEM micrographs of the surfaces oxidized at 850 °C in air for 1000 h are shown in Figs. 8 and 9. There is no obvious difference between the three processes. The external oxide scale is homogenous and adherent, it seems to be relatively thin. Indeed the initial surface topography of raw surfaces is still recognisable, and powder particles are still visible in Fig. 8. They all have faceted oxide grains, but the oxide layer formed on raw samples seems more compact on the EBM sample than on the LBM sample. On the raw surfaces, the oxide scale has nodules spread onto the entire surface. On the contrary, swelling ridges can be noticed on ground surfaces. They are elongated and oriented along the \vec{z} direction in both AM samples, whereas in the wrought sample they are not

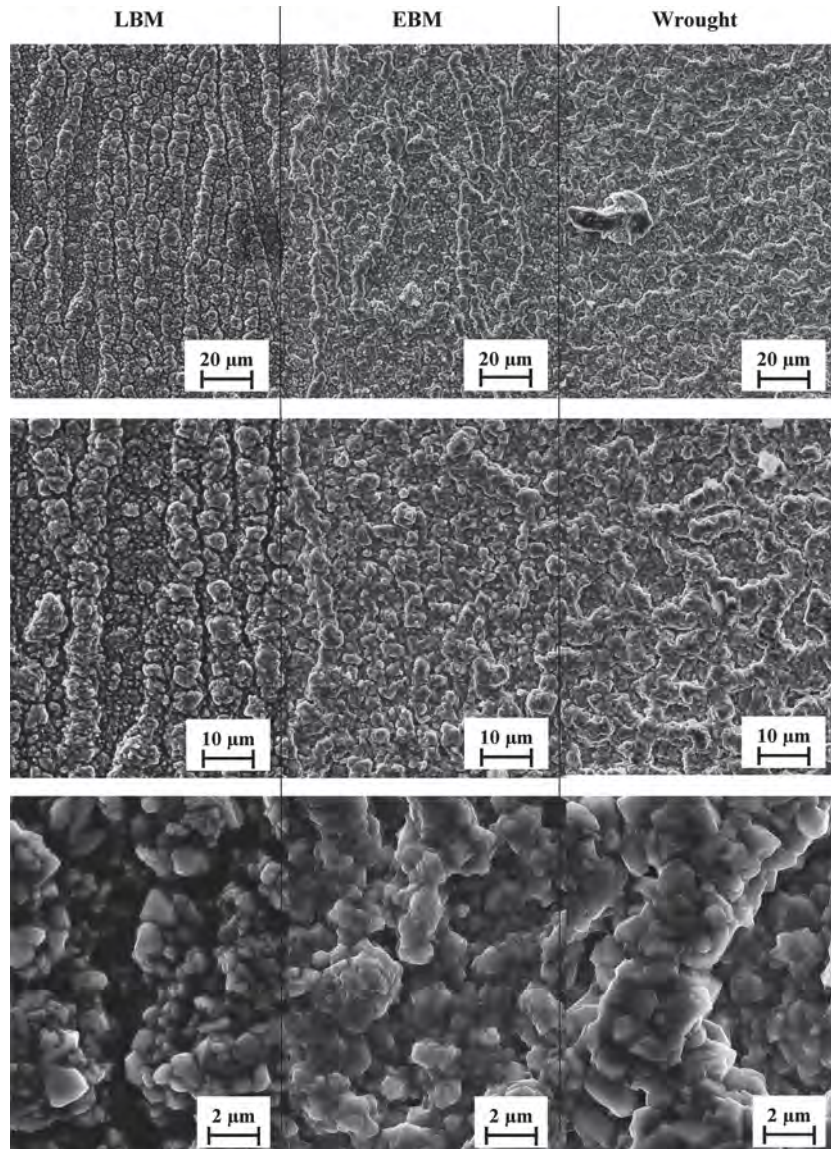


Fig. 9. SEM micrographs of external oxide layer morphology on ground surfaces after air oxidation at 850 °C for 1000 h, on (XZ) plane, LBM vs EBM vs wrought.

oriented. According to Al-hatab *et al.* [43], those swelling ridges are concentrated in the metal grain boundaries (GB) and show that the oxide scale grows faster in the GB.

SEM-BSE micrographs of the cross-section of samples oxidized at 850 °C in air for 48 h and 1000 h are shown in Fig. 10. Results regarding the chemical composition of the cross section of an oxidized EBM sample using an EDS detector are shown in Figs. 11 and 12. SEM-BSE micrographs show that the thickness of the oxide scale increases with oxidation time. Thickness ranges from 0.6 to 1.0 μm for a 48-h oxidation test, and from 3.0 to 4.0 μm for 1000 h oxidation test. But the ground EBM sample in Fig. 10 has the thinnest oxide scale. Moreover the penetration depth of the intergranular oxidation increases similarly. Penetration depth ranges from 1.5 to 4.0 μm for a 48-h oxidation test, and from 6.5 to 8.0 μm for a 1000-h oxidation test. Small differences can be noticed regarding intergranular oxidation. AM samples look the same whereas the wrought sample has thinner intergranular oxidation. At this temperature and for this oxidation time (followed by slow cooling), the precipitation of δ -phases occurred within the grains with an acicular oriented form and through the grain boundaries (GB) or twin boundaries (TB) with a globular form as seen in the micrographs [17]. EDS analysis results are identical for the three samples LBM, EBM and wrought. It can be noticed that all samples have an external

chromium-rich oxide scale due to chromium diffusion towards the alloy surface and intergranular oxidation growing preferentially along GB. This oxide located in the GB, is mainly composed of titanium oxide near the oxide scale/alloy interface and also alumina oxide, but deeper in the alloy. This intergranular oxidation is due to the diffusion of oxygen, which reacts with aluminium and titanium at a lower oxygen partial pressure. For a given temperature, the most stable oxides are found deeper in the scale, in agreement with thermodynamic theory; they are more stable when the oxygen partial pressure is lower, which is the case deeper in the alloy. Al-hatab *et al.* [43] and Delaunay *et al.* [44] found similar results for chromia scale and alumina intergranular oxidation on a wrought 718 alloy. EDS cartographies show that manganese is present in the oxide scale but this is not certain because the distinction between chromium (Cr $k\alpha_1$: 5.41 keV) and manganese (Mn $k\alpha_1$ = 5.89 keV) EDS peaks is not accurate enough. In addition, beneath the chromia scale, one can notice a thin niobium-rich layer, chromium depletion and slight δ -phase dissolution. Same results have been found by Delaunay *et al.* [44] in a 718 wrought alloy and by Chyrkin *et al.* [71] in a wrought 625 alloy. According to Delaunay *et al.*, this thin niobium-rich layer is an enriched δ -phase layer that has not been oxidized and might act as a diffusion barrier. As explained by Chyrkin *et al.* [71], the chromium depletion, due to the formation of the chromia scale, tends to reduce

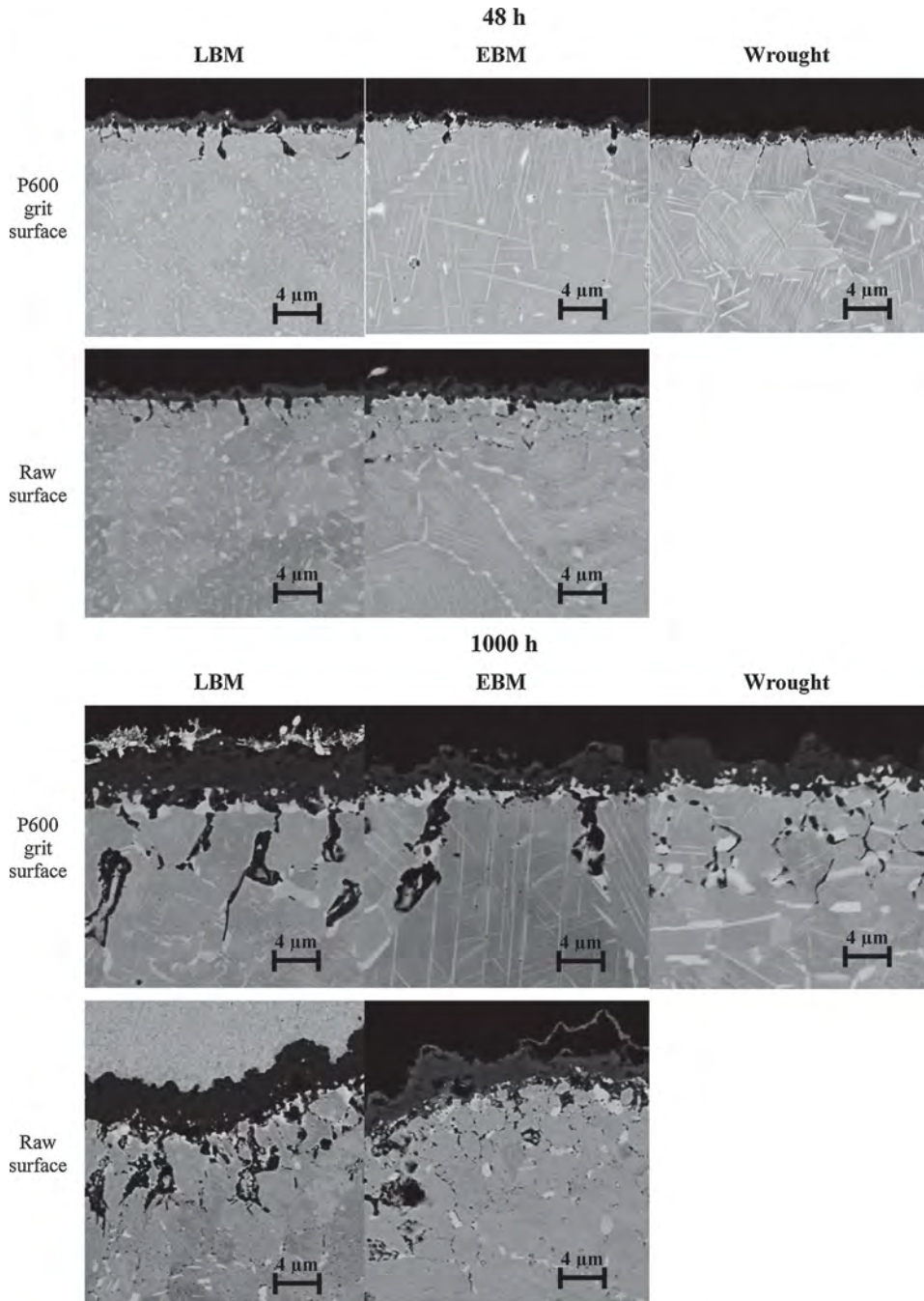


Fig. 10. SEM-BSE micrographs of the cross-section of oxidized LBM, EBM and wrought samples in the (XY) plane oxidized 48 h in synthetic air and 1000 h at 850 °C in static lab air.

niobium activity, that which acts as a driving force for the diffusion of niobium towards the scale/alloy interface. Hence, the diffusion coefficient of chromium is lower in this δ -phase rich layer than in the matrix. This may lower the growth rate of the chromia scale.

Moreover, as seen in Fig. 12, unmelted powder particles used during AM processes sintered the extreme surface of the material, this is especially true for the EBM process where the powder bed is pre-heated at 1000 °C and particles can easily sinter the melted surface or agglomerate. Thus, oxygen can quickly diffuse at the interfaces between particles or at the particle/bulk interfaces. In this location, chromium oxide (Cr_2O_3) and titanium oxide (TiO_2) are detected. Oxidation in this area can easily generate spallation, not only of the oxide scale but also of the sintered particle, that which can lead to a huge mass loss. TiO_2 is known to cause large compressive stresses due to its high Pilling and

Bedworth ratio, which can enhance oxide scale spallation [72].

In Figs. 10 and 11, δ -phase dissolution and niobium depletion are less visible in the ground EBM sample oxidized for 1000 h than the other samples, which have been oxidized under same conditions. This difference may be due to initial microstructure. Indeed, before oxidation tests, the as-built EBM sample had δ -phase onto its entire surface [35] whereas the as-built LBM sample, did not have δ -phase until it was heat-treated and aged [73,74]. The high concentration of this phase in the initial microstructure might slow down chromium diffusion towards the surface and can explain why the ground EBM sample had a slower oxidation rate compared to the two other samples.

The X-ray diffraction (XRD) analyses were performed at room temperature on the three different 718 alloy samples (LBM, EBM and WRG) oxidized at 850 °C in air for 1000 h. The results are the same for

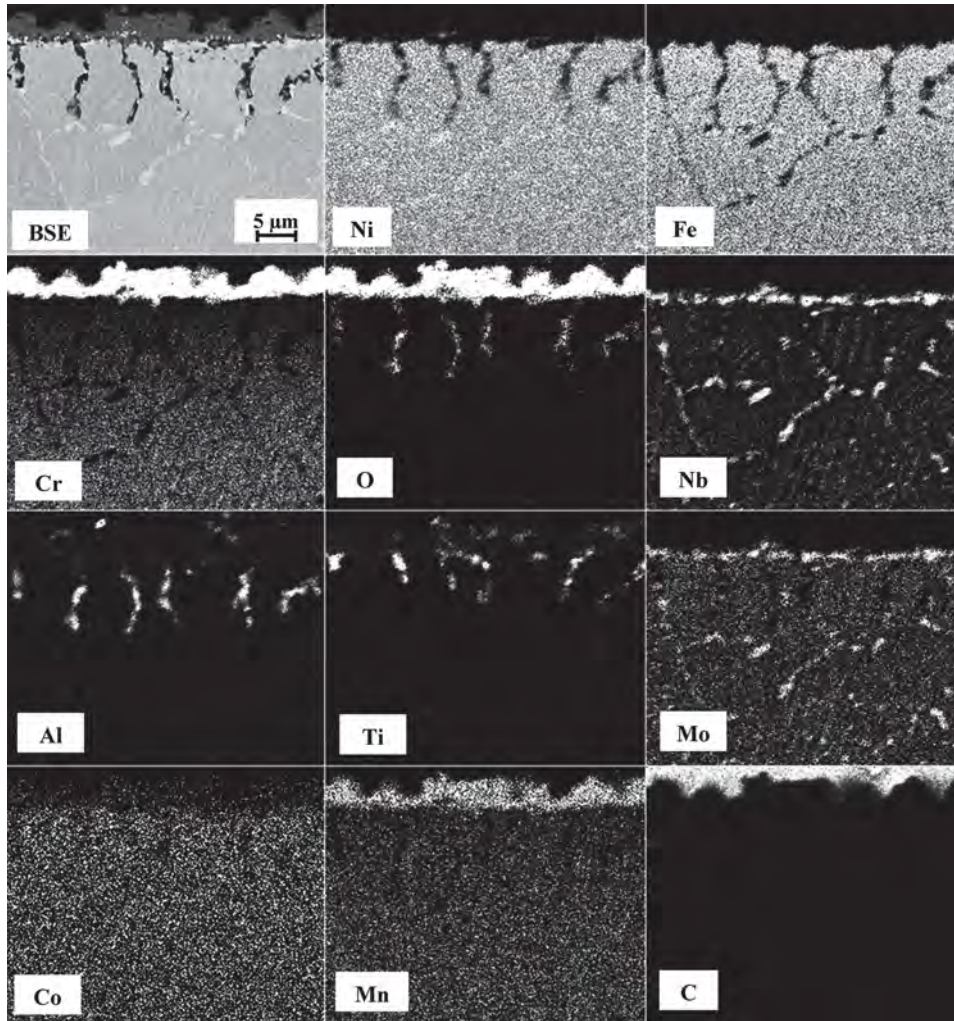


Fig. 11. EDS cartography analysis of a P600-ground EBM sample oxidized for 1000 h at 850 °C in static lab air.

the three types of samples but differences can be noticed between XRD analyses conducted on P600-ground and raw surface samples, they are compared in Fig. 13. The presence of peaks characteristic of γ matrix (fcc, A1, $Fm \bar{3} m$, $a = 0.592$ nm, adjusted with CaRline software) confirms that the X-ray penetrated the entire oxide layer (3–4 μm deep). From EDS cartographies in Fig. 11, and X-ray diffraction results in Fig. 12, the oxide scale of the 718 alloy at 850 °C is essentially composed of chromia (Cr_2O_3 , D5₁, $R \bar{3} cH$). This observation, i.e. the formation of a continuous chromia scale in all samples, is consistent with the parabolic rate constants, whose values were typical of chromia formers (Fig. 7). Moreover, in order to better highlight the X-ray peaks of the oxide scale's extreme surface, the X-ray source position was set to 5°. As a result, a small amount of rutile (TiO_2 , C4, $P42 \bar{m} nm$) and manganese spinel (MnCr_2O_4 , H1₁, $Fd \bar{3} mS$) or iron spinel (FeCr_2O_4 , H1₁, $Fd \bar{3} mS$) are detected in the outermost oxide layer, especially in the raw surface samples. As explained by Al-hatab *et al.* [43], the diffusion coefficients of titanium and manganese are higher than that of chromium in the chromia scale. So during the early stage of oxidation, titanium and manganese ions migrate rapidly towards the gas/oxide interface until those elements exhausts near the oxide/metal interface (1.4 at.% and 0.1 at.%) and let the cationic growth of chromia layer control the oxidation rate of 718 alloys. In addition, by increasing the X-ray incidence angle to 10° and 15°, small peaks of rutile (TiO_2) are detected deeper in the scale. This is in good agreement with EDS results. Titanium oxide is more stable than chromium oxide, it can nucleate and grow at lower P_{O_2} . Furthermore, the presence of δ -phases, deeper in the

scale, is highlighted and confirms that the niobium rich layer found with the EDS analysis is a non-oxidized δ -phase-rich layer. The intensity of its X-ray peaks decreased as the source angle was lowered. As a result, the illustration in Fig. 14 shows the oxidation of an AM 718 alloy.

3.2.2. Correlation between surface roughness and oxidation kinetics

At first sight, based on our results, the as-built EBM sample with raw surface seems to have lower resistance against air oxidation at 850 °C compared to the as-built LBM and the AMS 5662 wrought samples. But parabolic rate constants k_p ($\text{mg}^2 \cdot \text{cm}^{-4} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$) were determined using the “projected” flat surface area of the samples without taking surface roughness into account. None of the cited publications tried to quantitatively link roughness to the real surface area to calculate oxidation rates. Indeed, most of oxidation tests were done on ground surfaces (P600 grit) in order to simplify comparison with the literature, and because most surfaces of materials made with traditional shaping processes are smoother than the EBM sample. As shown in Fig. 15, considerable differences can be noticed in terms of surface topography. The roughness of a P600-ground surface is $0.033 \pm 0.002 \mu\text{m}$ (Sa). Such roughness value might not affect the estimation of the real surface area of the samples but this is not the case for the as-built LBM and EBM samples, $7 \pm 1 \mu\text{m}$ (Sa) and $50 \pm 2 \mu\text{m}$ (Sa) respectively. Hence, the roughness of AM samples distorts the determination of the real surface area and could have a direct impact on the determination of oxidation rates. Therefore, the ratio of raw surface to ground surface has to be determined to better estimate oxidation kinetics.

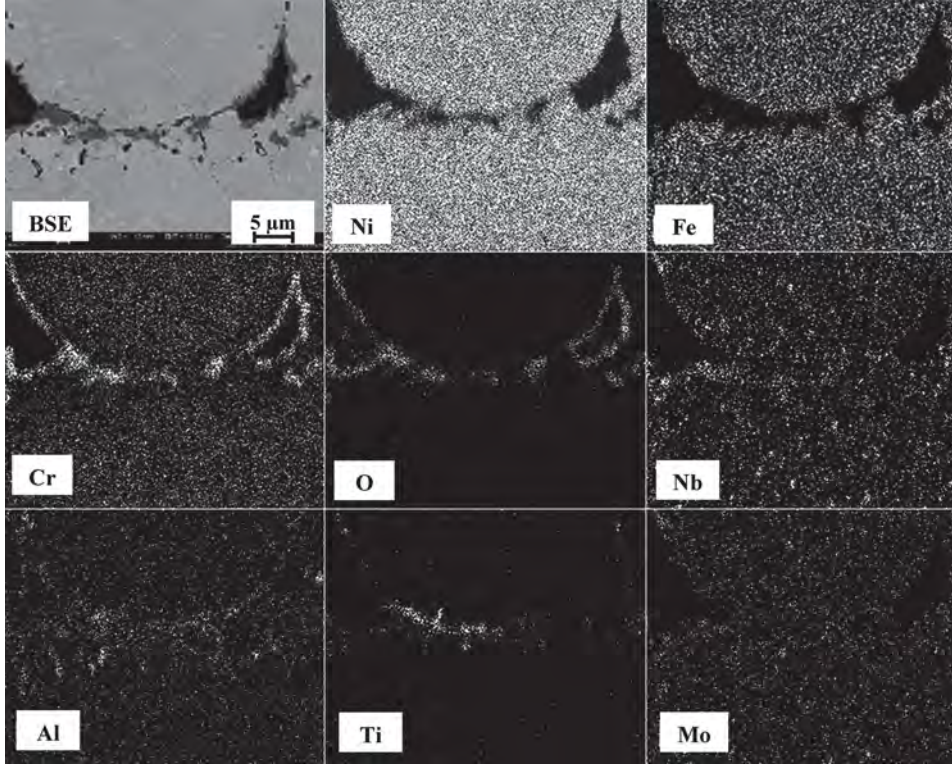


Fig. 12. EDS cartography analysis of an EBM sample with raw surface oxidized for 48 h at 850 °C in synthetic air, picture of the extreme surface at the unmelted powder particle/bulk interface.

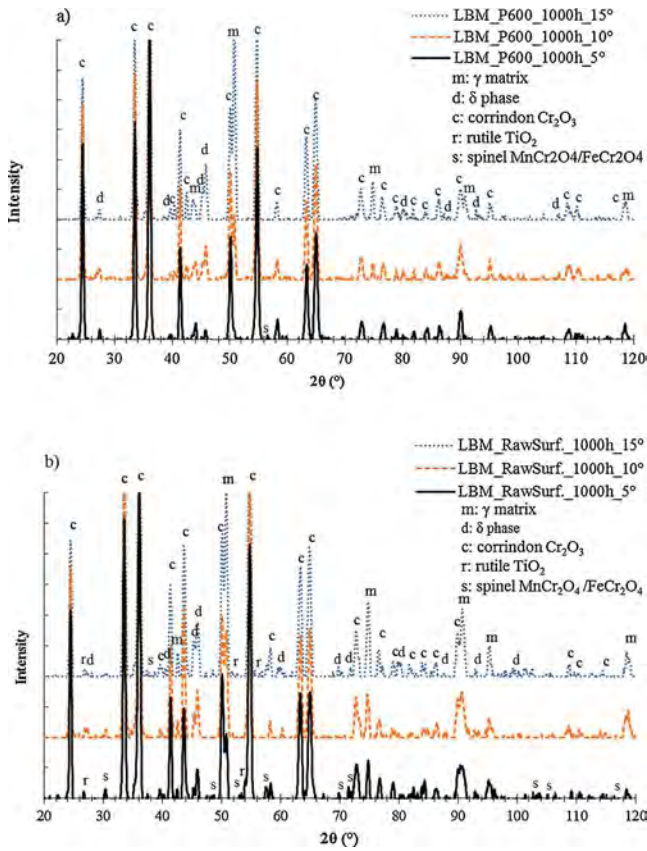


Fig. 13. Low incidence X-ray diffraction diagrams of LBM sample oxidized at 850 °C in air for 1000 h with (a) P600-ground surface and (b) raw surface.

As explained before, two sets of sample were prepared for oxidation tests, those with raw surfaces and those with surfaces ground with P600 grit size abrasive paper. The raw-surface samples were cut from a raw plate. Their cut surfaces were ground with P600-SiC abrasive paper and the proportion of raw surface has been calculated. First, from the mass gain decomposition, which is based on a mixing law and manipulation of parabolic rate constant, the oxidation rate constant of a sample with 100% raw surface (in theory) can be estimated. This estimation is based on our experimental results without taking into consideration the real area of a raw surface. The corresponding law is then given by:

$$\left(\frac{\Delta w}{s}\right)_{\%} = \alpha \times \left(\frac{\Delta w}{s}\right)_{raw} + (1-\alpha) \times \left(\frac{\Delta w}{s}\right)_{P600} \quad (8)$$

$$\sqrt{k_{p\%}} = \alpha \times \sqrt{k_{p\text{raw}}} + (1-\alpha) \times \sqrt{k_{p\text{P600}}} \quad (9)$$

$$k_{p\text{raw}} = \frac{(\sqrt{k_{p\%}} - (1-\alpha) \times \sqrt{k_{p\text{P600}}})^2}{\alpha^2} \quad (10)$$

where $\left(\frac{\Delta w}{s}\right)_{\%}$ is the experimental mass gain per unit area of a sample composed of raw surface and P600-ground surface, $\left(\frac{\Delta w}{s}\right)_{P600}$ is the experimental mass gain per unit area of a 100% P600-ground sample, $\left(\frac{\Delta w}{s}\right)_{raw}$ is the mass gain per unit area of the sample composed of 100% raw surface (in theory), k_{pi} is the corresponding parabolic rate constant, and α is the percentage of raw surface on the sample. Eq. (10) makes it possible to calculate parabolic rate constants for a raw surface. In the second step below, the real surface area is calculated by introducing a correction coefficient called Ψ , that has to be determined. Thus, this $k_{p\text{raw}}$ has to be corrected by taking into consideration the real area of the raw surface (s_{raw}) and can be expressed as:

$$\left(\frac{\Delta w}{s}\right)_{raw}^2 = k_{p\text{raw}} \times t \quad (11)$$

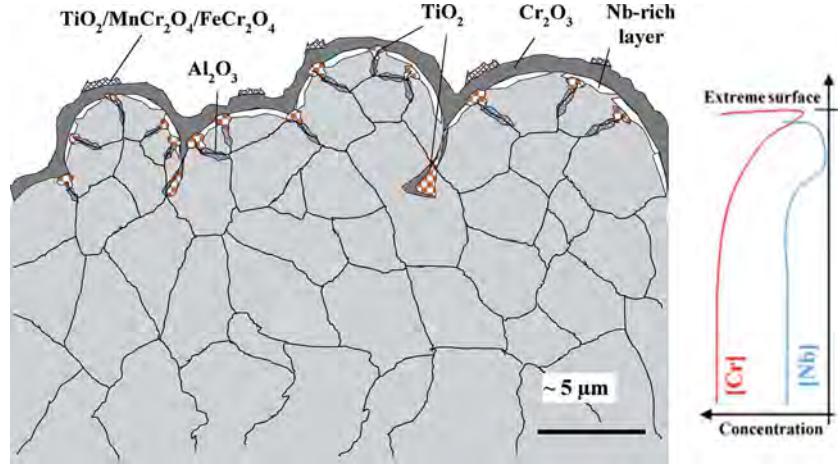


Fig. 14. Schematic diagram showing the cross-section of an AM-produced 718 alloy oxidized at 850 °C in air for 1000 h.

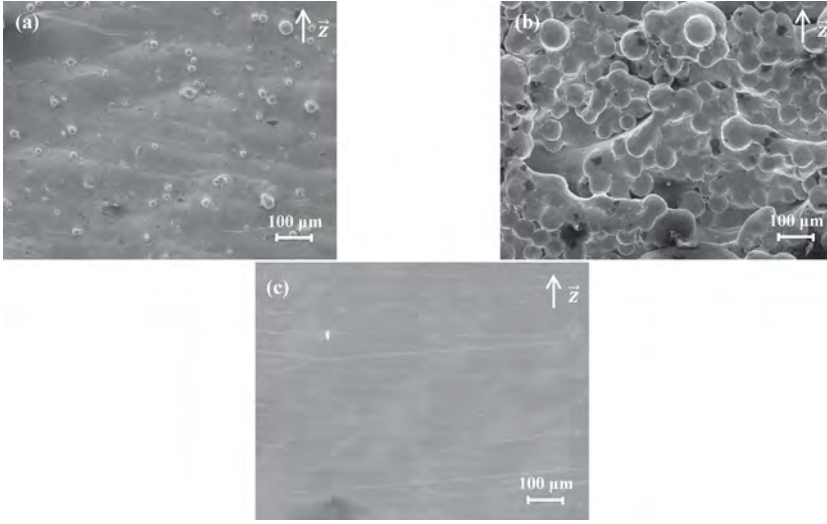


Fig. 15. SEM micrographs of the raw surfaces of (a) as-built LBM along the (XZ) plane built with a 40- μm powder-layer thickness and 15–45 μm nominal particle diameter, (b) as-built EBM raw surface along the (XZ) plane built with a 75- μm powder-layer thickness and 45–105 μm nominal particle diameter, (c) P600-ground surface.

$$\left(\frac{\Delta w}{s \times \Psi}\right)^2 = k_{praw,corr} \times t \quad \text{with } \Psi = \frac{s_{raw}}{s_{P600}} > 1 \quad (12)$$

$$k_{praw,corr} = k_{praw} \times \left(\frac{1}{\Psi}\right)^2 \quad (13)$$

where Ψ is the surface area ratio of a raw surface to ground surface. The issue here is the estimation of the real area of the raw surface (s_{raw}). Hence, to determine this area ratio, two methods are compared. The first one is based on our experimental results. If we assume that, for the same real surface area, the mass gain is identical on raw and ground surfaces, the correlation between the k_p ratio and the surface area ratio is as follows:

$$\frac{k_{praw,corr}}{k_{pP600}} = \frac{k_{praw}}{k_{pP600} \times \Psi^2} \quad \text{with } \Psi = \frac{s_{raw}}{s_{P600}} > 1 \quad (14)$$

If we assume that the surface area is the main parameter responsible for oxidation rate disparity, $k_{praw,correct}$ should approach k_{pP600} , we can then assume that:

$$k_{praw,corr} = k_{pP600} \quad (15)$$

$$\sqrt{\frac{k_{praw}}{k_{pP600}}} = \Psi \quad (16)$$

The surface area ratio of LBM and EBM samples determined from k_p calculations are compared in Table 4. $k_{p\%}$ is the experimental parabolic

rate constant found for samples composed of 81% raw surface (LBM) and 39% raw surface (EBM). The parabolic rate constant obtained on a 100% P600 ground sample is defined by k_{pP600} . k_{praw} is the parabolic rate constant determined from experimental data and Eq. (10). Then, the surface area ratio Ψ is determined by using Eq. (16). The fact that both k_{pP600} and k_{praw} decrease with time is due to the formation of transient oxides but may also be due to the growth of a δ -phase-rich layer below the oxide scale, as seen in Fig. 11 which slows down chromium diffusion towards the gas/oxide scale interface.

The surface area ratio of the raw LBM sample is close to 1 which means that the surface area ratio does not have a significant impact on the determination of its oxidation rate. On the contrary, the surface area ratio reaches 4 for the EBM raw surface. This is consistent with the fact that in terms of roughness (Ra), the EBM sample is 7 times rougher than the LBM sample. Results show that the area of the EBM raw surface might be underestimated up to 4 times against 1.4 times for the LBM raw surface. The determined values are much higher than the maximum relative error made on the determination of k_p (8%). Therefore, if surface area is the main factor responsible for the differences in oxidation kinetics, the ratio of its real surface area to its measured or projected surface area should approach values indicated in Table 4. This table also shows that the surface area ratio is higher during the transient stage (first 50 h of the oxidation test), and decreases slightly during the steady stage until reaching a constant value. Indeed, mass gain during the transient stage is more important than during the steady stage

Table 4
Surface area ratio calculated from experimental apparent k_p ratio.

LBM, 850 °C, 1000 h					
Time (h)	Exp $k_{p\%}$ $\alpha = 0.81$, $Sa = 7 \mu\text{m}$ ($\times 10^{-7}$)	Exp k_{pP600} ($\times 10^{-7}$)	Calc $k_{p\text{raw}}$ ($\times 10^{-7}$)	$\frac{k_{p\text{raw}}}{k_{pP600}}$	Ψ
25	5.6	2.7	5.2	1.9	1.4
100	3.0	2.5	2.5	1.0	1.0
320	1.8	1.9	1.4	0.8	0.9
500	1.6	1.8	1.3	0.7	0.8
1000	1.2	1.4	0.9	0.7	0.8
EBM, 850 °C, 1000 h					
Time (h)	Exp $k_{p\%}$ $\alpha = 0.39$, $Sa = 50 \mu\text{m}$ ($\times 10^{-7}$)	Exp k_{pP600} ($\times 10^{-7}$)	Calc $k_{p\text{raw}}$ ($\times 10^{-7}$)	$\frac{k_{p\text{raw}}}{k_{pP600}}$	Ψ
25	19	1.9	32	16.8	4.1
100	12	1.4	19	13.6	3.7
320	7.2	1.1	11	10	3.2
500	6.2	0.96	9	9.4	3.1
1000	4.4	0.70	7	9.2	3.2

Table 5
ISO 4287 Standard roughness (R) and waviness (W) parameters comparison of LBM and EBM samples for numerical modelling application.

		As-built LBM surface	As-built EBM surface
R	Sa (μm)	7 ± 1	50 ± 2
	Rc (μm)	17 ± 3	181 ± 32
	RSm (// built dir.) (μm)	54 ± 7	234 ± 21
	RSm (\perp built dir.) (μm)	93 ± 18	174 ± 12
W	Wc (μm)	17 ± 6	117 ± 38
	WSm (// built dir.) (μm)	629 ± 94	719 ± 311
	WSm (\perp built dir.) (μm)	378 ± 35	526 ± 51

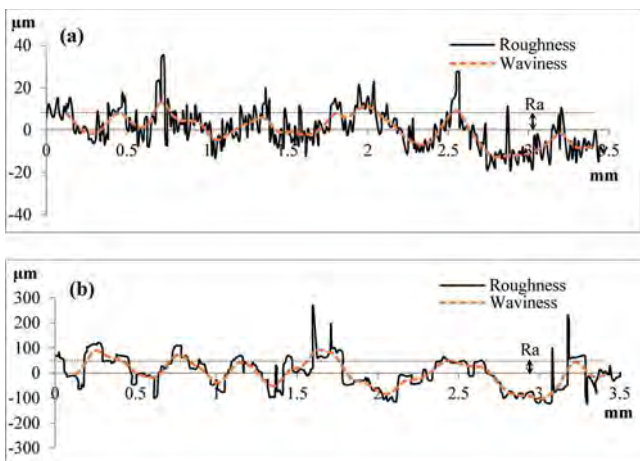


Fig. 16. Roughness and waviness profiles along the (XZ) plane parallel to the built direction, (a) as-built LBM surface, (b) as-built EBM surface.

because the initial surface favours high adsorption of oxygen atoms; the larger the surface area, the higher the mass gain. The mass gain then decreases throughout the steady stage. This can be due to the growth of a compact chromia scale which may smooth the surface by filling

external porosities and the smallest depressions, and by consuming the smallest hills. The effect of roughness on oxidation kinetics is expected to decrease with time. Indeed, as the oxide layer grows its thickness tends to be higher than surface undulations. The effective cross-section for diffusion through this layer becomes similar to that of an oxide layer formed on a flat surface.

These surface area ratios extracted from experimental oxidation rates have to be strengthened by surface area ratios determined from roughness measurements. In this section, simple 3D-surface numerical models are used to estimate these surface ratios. The models used are built using roughness parameters, and are based on the assumption that surfaces present periodic peaks and valleys. Thus, sample surfaces were modelled as a periodic function. This rough assumption makes this modelling an approximation method to estimate surface area ratios.

The modelling is based on roughness (R) and waviness profiles (W). The waviness profile was obtained by filtering the roughness profile with a Gaussian filter, so as to better reproduce surface morphology by filtering high peaks and deep valleys. Two sets of parameters were retained in order to reproduce a periodic 3D surface, amplitude parameters (Rc, Wc) and spatial or periodic parameters (RSm, WSm). As explained in Fig. 1, mean height parameters, Rc and Wc indicate the amplitude average of a profile, they correspond to the average of all successive peak-to-valley heights (Z_{t_i}) of the profile elements.

$$Rc, Wc = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m Z_{t_i} \quad (17)$$




Mean width parameters, RSm and WSm are spatial parameters, indicating the average width of profile elements, where (XS_i) is the width of a single profile element formed by a successive peak and valley.

$$RSm, WSm = \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m XS_i \quad (18)$$

The parameters shown in Table 5 were calculated from the two profiles in Fig. 16. One can see that the roughness profile (R) of the as-built LBM has many peaks and valleys of low amplitude (Rc) and small width (RSm). This is due to its relatively smooth surface and a smaller scale on the \vec{z} axis. The roughness profile of the as-built EBM, however, is rounder with peaks and valleys of high amplitude (Wc) and large width (WSm), and closer to its waviness profile (W) which appears to be flatter. Additionally, due to the Gaussian filter, the peaks of the LBM roughness profile are filtered and its waviness profile presents a mean width (WSm) close to the one of the EBM profiles. The waviness profile

Table 6

Surface area ratio via numerical modelling of periodic functions, sinusoidal (“egg box”) and crenation, calculated with roughness and waviness parameters as compared to spherical surface area ratio (square network of spheres lying on a flat surface).

Ψ : Surface area ratio					
	Sinusoidal 		Crenation 		Spherical 
	Roughness profile Rc, RSm	Waviness profile Wc, WSm	Roughness profile Rc, RSm	Waviness profile Wc, WSm	$\Psi = \frac{\pi D^2 + D^2}{D^2}$ 4.1
LBM	1.3	1.0	2.0	1.1	
EBM	2.9	1.2	4.6	1.8	

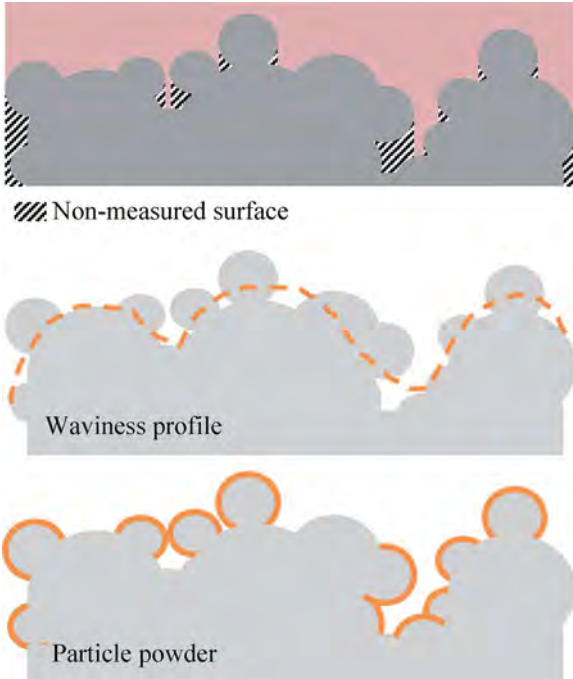


Fig. 17. Schematic diagram showing the non-measured surface area during focus variation microscopy analysis of EBM raw surface and schematic views of its surface decomposition.

of both surfaces seems to be periodic.

Knowing the amplitude (\vec{z}) and the periodicity of the signal along two directions (\vec{x} , \vec{y}), the developed area can be depicted either with a sinusoidal or a “egg box” model as shown in Table 6. The two models are compared below. The surface area of the sinusoidal model can be expressed by function (19).

$$f(x, y) = \frac{A}{2} \left(\sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{B} \cdot x\right) + \sin\left(\frac{2\pi}{C} \cdot y\right) \right); 0 \leq x \leq B; 0 \leq y \leq C \quad (19)$$

$$\text{Sinusoidal surface area ratio} = \frac{\int_0^B \int_0^C \sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{\partial f(x,y)}{\partial x}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\partial f(x,y)}{\partial y}\right)^2} dx \cdot dy}{B \times C} \quad (20)$$

$$\text{Crenation surface area ratio} = 1 + 2A\left(\frac{1}{B} + \frac{1}{C}\right) \quad (21)$$

where A is the amplitude (Rc or Wc); B and C are wavelength parameters associated with spatial parameters (RSm or WSm) following \vec{x} and \vec{y} directions. The surface area ratio of the sinusoidal modelling is defined with the double integral (20) and was numerically determined using Matlab software. The surface area ratio of the crenation model, as shown in the expression (21), can be easily determined. The most influential parameter is the ratio of mean height parameter (Rc , Wc) to mean width (RSm , WSm). The roughness profile of the EBM sample has a higher amplitude and thus a higher surface area ratio of 4.6 against 2.9 for the LBM surface area ratio. These ratios are close to those found with experimental k_p manipulation in Table 4. (4.1 and 1.4 for EBM and LBM respectively). The limitation of these models is the fact that the roughness parameters selected work best with a periodic roughness profile such as the one of a turning surface. This is why, the error on the determination of Rc or RSm is more important on a relatively rough surface with high and large peaks randomly present along the profile than on a smooth surface with a relatively low mean height parameter (Rc) and a high number of peaks.

As seen in Fig. 15, there are powder particles spread over the surface of AM samples. A small amount is found dispersed on the as-built LBM sample and a large quantity on the entire surface of the as-built EBM sample. The roughness profile does not take these particles into account but was established with an optical method (focus variation microscope). This technique does not account for the whole morphology of spherical particles nor for the hidden opensurfaces as shown in Fig. 17. Consequently, surface area ratio estimated could be more accurate. Therefore, a second estimation method for calculating the real surface area of the EBM raw surface was tested. A profile can be split into two elements. It can be seen as a superposition of the waviness profile, where high peaks and deep valleys have been filtered, and of powder particles added onto its profile, as explained in Fig. 17. By using these approximations, the surface area ratio can be calculated by multiplying the factor 1.2–1.8 (ratios from EBM waviness profiles) by the factor 4.1 (sphere surface ratio) indicated in Table 6. This results in a surface area ratio ranging from 5 to 7, which is slightly higher than the ratio found with experimental k_p manipulation (i.e. 4.1, Table 4). This is consistent with the fact that when the raw surface is described as a wavy surface with a maximum density of spherical particles on it, the surface area is maximized. In this way, it can be concluded that, for EBM samples, the roughness of their raw surface has a significant impact on the calculation of the real surface and therefore on the determination of its oxidation rate. Whereas this is not the case for raw-surface LBM samples and P600-ground surfaces. Hence, in terms of oxidation behaviour of rough surfaces, the EBM sample is not much different from the LBM sample. This is consistent with that the thickness of the oxide scales observed at the surface of the all samples was approximately the same. Roughness has significantly affects oxidation kinetics calculations but

microstructure might also have an impact, especially grain size, which is linked to intergranular oxidation. Furthermore, the good oxidation resistance of EBM samples after being P600-ground needs clarification.

In order to make sure the surface area ratio determined in this paper is correct, the real surface has to be measured experimentally. To do so, a method based on Brunauer–Emmett–Teller (BET) theory could be used to determine specific areas. The specific area can be determined by gas (nitrogen or krypton) adsorption and desorption. But, this method is well suited for powders and very porous materials with many open pores. Hopefully, the presence of sintered powder on the entire surface of the as-built EBM sample will result in enough surface area for it to be analysed using the BET method.

4. Conclusions

Differences were noticed in terms of microstructure and grain size in the three different IN 718 alloys. The main difference, however lies in surface topography. The raw surface of EBM samples presented unmelted powder particles sintered on the entire surface whereas the raw surface of LBM samples had a relatively smooth surface with isolated powder particles or “balling” particles. The combination of SEM-EDS and low incidence XRD results showed that at 850 °C in air for 1000 h, all oxidized samples presented a thin compact chromia scale without any spallation. Furthermore, they all presented rutile/alumina intergranular oxidation growing with oxidation time and some chromium-manganese or chromium-iron spinels were detected at the external surface. Moreover some titanium-rich oxide (TiO₂) was detected at the interfaces between powder particles and the bulk sample. In addition, a thin niobium-rich layer, which could act as a diffusion barrier, was detected beneath the chromia scale. Regarding oxidation kinetics, they all followed quasi-parabolic oxidation rate with parabolic constants ranging from 6.2×10^{-8} to 5.3×10^{-7} mg². cm⁻⁴.s⁻¹ (app k_p). The first tests conducted on samples with raw surfaces showed that LBM samples had a good oxidation resistance, close to that of wrought samples, whereas EBM samples presented higher oxidation rates especially during the transient stage. But a precise analysis of surface topography demonstrated that the roughness of the EBM raw surface must be taken

into account to estimate the surface area used for k_p calculation. Surface analysis showed that the oxidation behaviour of the EBM sample was not much different from that of the LBM sample. LBM and EBM 718 samples manufactured by Safran Tech laboratory are at least as good as the AMS 5662 heat-treated wrought 718 alloy in terms of resistance to high-temperature oxidation. The material with the best behaviour is the ground EBM alloy. When calculating oxidation kinetics with mass gain measurements on a raw unground material, the parabolic constants can be up to 16 times higher for EBM and 2 times higher for LBM as compared to ground samples. The present paper shows that this is merely due to the geometrical effect resulting in the under-estimation of the surface area. By comparing with calliper measurements real surface are about 1.4 times higher for LBM and about 4.1 times higher for EBM. After 1000 h at 850 °C, this effect disappears for the LBM sample whereas it is still significant for the EBM sample with a correction coefficient of 3. This is consistent with the fact that the effective cross-section for diffusion decreases when the thickness of the oxide scale grows higher than the small undulations on the surface. The parabolic rate constants, calculated from the real surface area of the samples, were typical of the best chromia-forming alloys. Nevertheless, there is a risk of early breakaway oxidation on raw EBM because of enhanced Cr depletion due to a high local surface/volume fraction. Longer experiments at higher temperatures are needed to test if this phenomenon occurs. Further tests could focus on quantifying the mass gain due to intergranular oxidation compared to that of the external oxide scale. The growth kinetics of intergranular oxides, which may be a site for crack initiation, is another point of interest.

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Appendix A. List of symbols

AM:	additive manufacturing
PBF:	powder bed fusion
LBM:	laser beam melting
SLM:	selective laser melting, LBM process designation from a trademark of SLM Solutions group
EBM:	electron beam melting
WRG:	wrought
HT:	heat-treated
HIP:	hot isostatic pressing
NMT:	must not be more than
S _a , R _a , W _a :	arithmetical mean height (μm), ‘S’ for 3D measurement, ‘R’ for roughness profile, ‘W’ for waviness profile
S _q , R _q , W _q :	quadratic mean (μm)
S _z , R _z , W _z :	maximum profile height (μm)
Z _p , Z _v :	respectively the highest peak and the deepest valley (μm)
S _{sk} , R _{sk} ,	skewness, asymmetry measurement
W _{sk} :	
Z _{t_i} :	successive peak to valley height (μm)
X _{S_i} :	successive peak and valley width (μm)
R _c , W _c :	mean height/amplitude average of profile elements (μm)
R _{Sm} , W _{Sm} :	mean width of a pattern formed by successive peak and valley (μm)
Ψ:	surface area ratio defined as the ratio of raw surface to ground surface
k_p :	parabolic rate constant (mg ² . cm ⁻⁴ .s ⁻¹)
$k_{p\%}$:	experimental parabolic rate constant of a sample with raw surface and P600-ground surface (mg ² . cm ⁻⁴ .s ⁻¹)
k_{pP600} :	experimental parabolic rate constant of a 100% P600-ground sample (mg ² . cm ⁻⁴ .s ⁻¹)

k_{praw} :	experimental parabolic rate constant of a sample composed of 100% raw surface (in theory) determined with Eq. (10) ($\text{mg}^2 \cdot \text{cm}^{-4} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$)
$k_{praw,corr}$:	parabolic rate constant using the surface area ratio calculated from Eq. (13) ($\text{mg}^2 \cdot \text{cm}^{-4} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$)
A:	amplitude parameter of the surface modelling corresponding to Rc or Wc (μm)
B, \vec{x} , C, \vec{y} :	wavelength parameter associated with RSm or WSm, following \vec{x} and \vec{y} directions (μm)

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