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1 **Integrated approach to stainless steel 316L parts repair for pitting**

2 **corrosion using Laser Metal Deposition**

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13 **Abstract**

14 With the development of additive manufacturing (AM) and in particular laser metal
15 deposition (LMD), new possibilities for the repair of damaged metal components are
16 developing. In this context, the use of AM offers an efficient way to restore functionality to a
17 defective part, especially for high value parts. In this study, a numerical chain is proposed to
18 automate the repair process of stainless steel naval parts affected by pitting corrosion. An
19 ellipsoidal repair volume is generated at each iteration by intersecting the nominal surface and
20 the ellipsoid surface, which initial dimensions are those of the pitting corrosion defect. This
21 optimization considers dimensional and technical constraints, which results in minimizing the
22 repair volume in order to reduce manufacturing time and costs. Finally, repair tests are
23 performed on ellipsoidal pre-machining, in order to observe the influence of the surface
24 conditions and the pattern deposition on the final quality of the repair (porosity,
25 microstructure and microhardness). The repaired parts highlight a heterogeneous
26 microstructure and microhardness. The surface condition of the pre-machining has no
27 influence on the repair. However, the deposition pattern influences the presence of porosities
28 and the microhardness value in the deposit.

29

30 **Highlights**

- 31 - LMD was used to repair ellipsoidal pre-machining with optimized parameters from
32 SS316L powder.
- 33 - Numerical optimization minimizes the repair volume to eliminate pit, while respecting
34 dimensional and technical constraints.
- 35 - The heterogeneous microstructure of the repair results in heterogeneous mechanical
36 properties
- 37 - No influence of the surface condition of the pre-machining on the final quality of the
38 repair

39

40 **Keywords:** Additive manufacturing, laser metal deposition, repair, pitting corrosion, SS316L

41

42 **1. Introduction**

43 **1.1. Context**

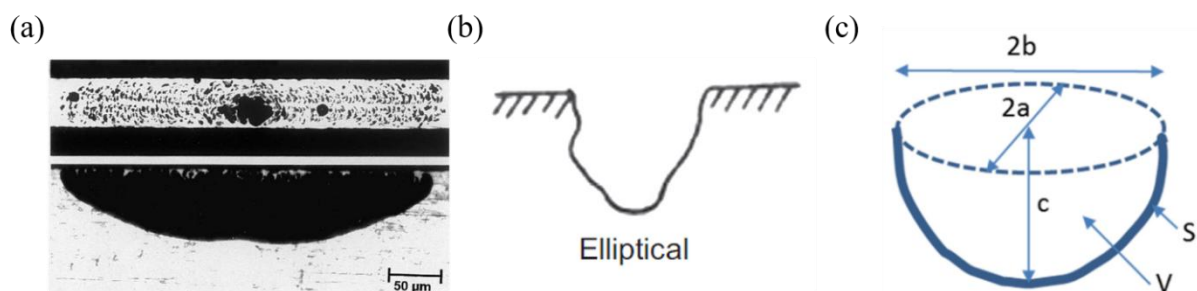
44 The service life of mechanical parts depends on various factors. In the context of use in
45 an aggressive environment, corrosion can be a penalizing element [1]. In fact, a localized area
46 with corrosion can lead to the rejection of the part. Corrosion can occur within several forms,
47 depending on the factors surrounding the part or the part itself [2]. The form of corrosion is
48 related to the homogeneity of the environment and/or of the part. Here are some types that
49 corrosion can take: general corrosion, pitting corrosion, intergranular corrosion, and galvanic
50 corrosion [2].

51 Pitting corrosion is frequent for stainless steels immersed in seawater [3]. This type of
52 localized corrosion can lead to perforation of the part. It occurs when there is a break in the
53 passive film of the part which can be due to an external mechanical action. The exposed part
54 acts as an anode that will transmit electrons to the rest of the material, which functions as a
55 cathode through an electrolytic solution. It also results in a deep degradation of the material,
56 often invisible to the human eye, which can cause severe damage to a functional component.

57 *Brijder et al. [4] show that pitting corrosion occurs on all critical parts in air or under*

58 water. Similarly, the state of the art established by Bhandari *et al.* [5] highlights that the
59 pitting phenomenon is usually very localized and deep in stainless steel parts and is difficult
60 to detect.

61 According to several articles that deal with pitting corrosion in stainless steels (SS), the
62 shape can be considered as a semi-ellipsoid. In fact, The work of Ernst *et al.* [6] to understand
63 the growth of corrosion pits on SS304 reveals the ellipsoidal shape of the pits (Figure 1 (a)).
64 More recently, this shape for corrosion pits has been supported by research on corrosion in the
65 oil and gas industry [7] (Figure 1 (b)). On the other hand, Eguchi, *et al.* [8] propose a semi-
66 ellipsoidal shape to characterize this type of corrosion with parameters a , b and c define the
67 dimensions of the pitting, as can be seen in Figure 1 (c).



68
69 **Figure 1.** Pitting corrosion shape highlighted by (a) Ernst *et al.* [6], (b) Obeyesekere *et al.* [7],
70 (c) Eguchia *et al.* [8].
71

72 1.2. Repair works and results

73 Repair operations are of considerable economic interest, especially for high added-value
74 parts. In fact, the time, energy and material used in a repair is much lower than in the
75 replacement case [9]. Nevertheless, the control of these operations is necessary (structure of
76 the repaired material, heat affected zone (HAZ), etc.), in order to guarantee a good
77 performance of the repaired part [10].

78 Additive manufacturing (AM) is a technology that is rapidly developing. It allows the
79 creation of complex parts by adding successive layers of material [11]. The Laser Metal
80 Deposition (LMD) process with powder is particularly adapted to the repair process in
81 comparison with the welding process [12]. Indeed, the range of available powders is large.

82 Similarly, the process brings limited heat input to the substrate [13], and has excellent
83 metallurgical continuity [14] and low dilution rates [15]. The use of various integrated
84 equipment such as the computer numerical control (CNC) machine and a three-dimensional
85 (3D) scanner makes it possible to have a high precision and to automate the repair process
86 [16].

87 Zhang *et al.* [17] worked on volume optimization of the repair of a multitude of conical
88 holes. But the optimization is performed on cross sections of the defects using a U-shaped
89 profile. Furthermore, no repair trials have been performed and do not provide any evidence of
90 the viability of this volume optimization for repair.

91 On the other hand, practical repair tests have been carried out with the LMD process.
92 For example, Yu *et al.* [12] show the feasibility of this process for the repair of grooves in
93 cast iron compared to welding, which is more damaging for the repaired parts. The studies on
94 groove repair are extensive and do not attempt to optimize the repair volume [18–21] .
95 Another study by Liu *et al.* [22] develops new deposition pattern for hole-type defect repair,
96 but still using a unique geometry. Less academic works present the repair of high value-added
97 parts such as the work of Koehler *et al.* [23] on the repair of damaged crankshafts of marine
98 diesel engines, or the work of Wilson *et al.* [24] on the repair of turbine blades. Other studies
99 are also working on the repair/recharging of railroad rails with the LMD process, such as the
100 study by Lai *et al.* [25].

101 The studies cited above focus on adding material to flat and open surfaces or simple
102 geometries of confined pre-machining such as grooves. Consequently, these solutions do not
103 optimize the repair volume and repair of fine and deep defects such as corrosion pits. In
104 addition, in the previous mentioned works, they do not take into account the influence of the
105 deposition pattern and the surface condition of the substrate, which could have an impact on
106 the quality of the repair.

107

108 **1.3. Objectives**

109 The objective of this paper is to present a strategy to repair damaged metal parts by
110 pitting corrosion. The first step of the process is to identify the surface defect and to pre-
111 machine the damaged surface in the form of an ellipsoid. The pre-machining in ellipsoidal
112 shape will allow removing the defect and surface contaminants by machining the least
113 material possible and to give a good accessibility to the projection nozzle. This step is
114 essential in the study and requires a numeric optimization section. In fact, it consists in
115 minimizing the volume to be repaired for fine and deep defects, while making the bottom of
116 the pre-machining accessible. Thereafter, the deposition step by AM refills the previously
117 machined material. Existing deposition pattern will be adapted to this pre-machining
118 geometry, not previously studied in the literature. In addition, two surface states will be used
119 to observe their influence on the repair. The characterizations carried out at the end of the
120 process will make it possible to indicate the final quality of the repairs. The difficulty of the
121 work is both on the theoretical and experimental part.

122 The content of this paper is organized as follows: section 2 defines the numerical chain
123 allowing the automation of the repair process. Section 3 presents the optimization of the repair
124 volume geometry. Section 4 shows the experimental repair of an optimized pre-machined
125 geometry with LMD process. Section 5 discusses the experimental results and the main
126 highlights. Finally, section 6 proposes conclusions to this study.

127

128 **2. Overview of the numerical chain**

129 With AM, it is possible to completely automate the parts reparation. It can be
130 considered a numerical chain that allows, from a part that contains a pitting corrosion defect,

131 to acquire the shape of the defect, the construction and optimization of the repair volume, the
132 machining and repair of the defect, as explained Kanishka *et al.* [26] in their paper.

133

134 **2.1.Acquisition**

135 In the case of a corroded part, the first step is to remove the corrosion products using the
136 methods described in ASTM G01-03 [27]. Depending on the material and the degree of
137 corrosion, cleaning can be mechanical, chemical or electrolytic. The first step of this
138 numerical chain is the scan of the surface of the corroded part in order to have its dimensions,
139 using a surface topography, 3D scan or coordinate measuring machine [16]. In addition, it is
140 possible to reconstruct the surface of the part without the defect in order to have the repair
141 volume. After processing the point cloud obtained by the measurement, it is possible to make
142 the segmentation to isolate the defect [28]. In general, the acquisition allows having the upper
143 and lower surface of the repair volume.

144 Influential parameters during the acquisition of the part geometry can be the resolution
145 of the chosen measurement, the calibration of the measuring device, the accessibility of the
146 defect by the sensor, as well as the external environment such as temperature. The acquisition
147 process needs to be developed, as there is no automatic method to date.

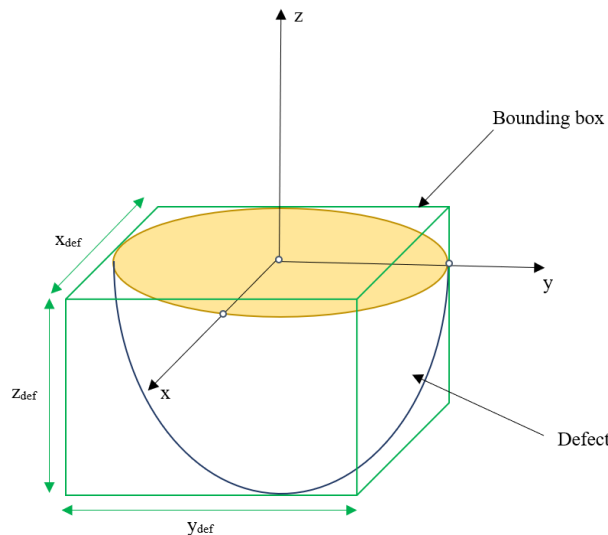
148

149 **2.2.Repair volume construction**

150 After acquiring the shape of the defect and its dimensions, the repair volume must be
151 digitally modeled in order to perform the machining and filling in a digital manner. This step
152 consists in building an envelope to represent the repair volume from an optimization of the
153 ellipsoid parameters. The envelope consists of two surfaces, an upper surface that represents
154 the surface of the part where the defect is located, and a lower surface that represents the
155 defect to be repaired. In this study, the optimization minimizes the repair volume from a

156 parallelepiped-shaped bounding box of the defect, as presented in Figure 2 and satisfies the
157 imposed constraints (*i.e.* geometrical and technical constraints). The section 3 details the
158 construction of this repair volume and its optimization.

159 The convergence of the optimization to the most optimal result depends on factors,
160 which are the size of the surfaces discretization in the program, and the numerical resolution.



161

162 **Figure 2.** Representation of the defect and its bounding box.
163

164 **2.3.Machining**

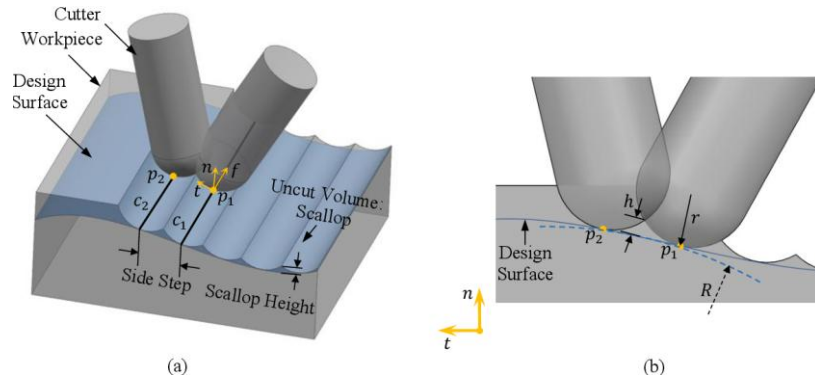
165 The purpose of machining is to remove the defect and to have a regular shape to make
166 the material deposition. It is possible to control the surface finish by choosing the parameters
167 of the machining (*e.g.*, feed rate, depth of cut ...) appropriate to the material and the
168 machining tool [29,30]. The defects studied in this work have ellipsoidal shape, and in this
169 case, milling is best suited to machine this geometry using a ball end mill.

170 In machining, the surface finish is dependent on the ridge height and the machining
171 tolerance, which can be determined from the tool radius, the radius of curvature of the
172 machined surface and the transverse and longitudinal step of the machining path. The scallop
173 height is influenced more by the transverse step, while the machining tolerance is influenced
174 by the longitudinal step [31], as illustrated in Figure 3.

$$h_c = f(r, R_t, P_t) \quad (1)$$

$$T_u = f(r, R_l, P_l) \quad (2)$$

175 Where h_c is the scallop height, T_u the tolerance machining, R_t the transverse curvature radius,
 176 R_l the longitudinal curvature radius, r the tool radius, P_l the longitudinal step and P_t the
 177 transversal step.



178 **Figure 3.** Illustration of scallop geometry and tool path parameters [31]
 179
 180

181 The authors Urbikain *et al.* [32] developed a model capable of predicting the surface
 182 roughness of a part machined with an end ball mill according to a combination of geometric
 183 and cutting parameters. In the same paper, they demonstrated that the angle between the part
 184 and the tool has a strong influence on the roughness of the machining and this must be taken
 185 into account in the repair volume optimization algorithm.

186 The pre-machined shape must respect the technical constraints of machining, among
 187 others, the minimum radius of curvature of the ellipsoid, which must be smaller than the
 188 radius of the tool used so that there is no interference (overcut) with the part. In addition, the
 189 shape of the pre-machining must also respect geometrical constraints such as the depth and
 190 the opening angle to allow the deposition by AM. These elements are detailed in the section 3.

191 192 **2.4.Filling**

193 The last step of this digital chain is the filling of the repair volume using AM to deposit
 194 the material in the pre-machined shape in the previous step. The quality of the deposition

195 depends on a large number of machine parameters, such as the power of the laser, the speed of
196 the deposition nozzle or the powder feed rate [33]. In addition, the quality of the raw materials
197 can influence the quality of the repair, depending on the particle size of the powder or the
198 surface condition of the substrate [34].

199 In a previous study [35], a parametric optimization of the main machine parameters
200 (laser power, nozzle speed, powder feed rate) resulted in a dense, crack-free deposit with
201 minimum porosity. These parameters were optimized in order to obtain a metallurgical
202 continuity between the substrate and the deposit, as well as between the layers for groove-type
203 defects. However, the ellipsoidal geometry of this study requires adapting the deposition
204 strategies, in order to avoid the formation of porosity, in particular lack of fusion with the
205 edges of the substrate, which can lead to a poor metallurgical bonding. **In fact, the literature**
206 **show the effect of the tilt angle between the surface and the projection nozzle, which can**
207 **affect the geometry of the melt pool [36].**

208 After depositing the material, a finishing post-machining is necessary to remove the
209 excess material. The curved shape of the beads requires the addition of an extra layer to
210 completely fill the pre-machining.

211

212 **3. Optimization of the repair volume geometry**

213 In order to carry out the repair operations (machining and filling) of a part, it is first
214 necessary to identify the repair volume. This volume is included between an upper surface,
215 which is the surface of the part without defect, and a lower surface, which represents the
216 shape of the defect to be repaired.

217 The optimization of the ellipsoid consists in finding the ideal dimensions and the
218 position of the center to minimize the repair volume, while respecting the various constraints
219 related to machining and filling.

220

221 3.1. Modeling of the different geometric elements

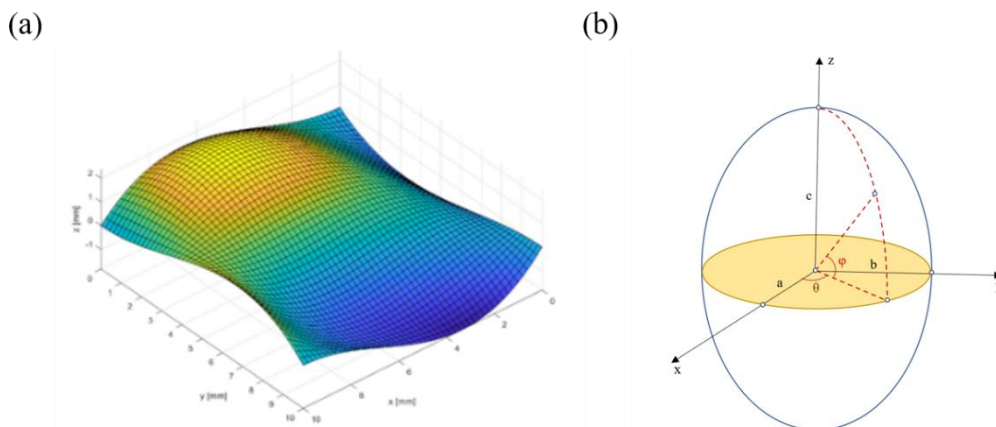
222 NURBS tiles model the upper surface of the part to be repaired. A STEP file created
223 with CATIA generates the surface, as presented Figure 4 (a). The NURBS surface is a
224 parametric model, which has the following form:

$$S_{up}(u, v) = \sum_{i=0}^n \sum_{j=0}^m B_i^n(u) B_j^m(v) P_{i,j} \quad (3)$$

225 where B_i is the basic function and $P_{i,j}$ the control point.

226 The lower surface represents the surface of the defect, which is an ellipsoidal surface
227 modelling with parametric equations. The ellipsoid is defined by its dimensions a, b and c, as
228 presented in Figure 4 (b), which represent the half axis lengths along the three directions of
229 space, as well as the position of its center in space. The equation of an ellipsoid can be
230 expressed in the following form:

$$\frac{x^2}{a^2} + \frac{y^2}{b^2} + \frac{z^2}{c^2} = 1 \quad (4)$$



231

232 **Figure 4.** (a) Matlab upper surface model and (b) parameters of an ellipsoid.

233

234 On the other hand, it is possible to parameterize an ellipsoidal surface using the

235 following equations:

$$S_{\text{ellipsoide}}(\theta, \varphi) = \begin{cases} x = a \cos(\theta) \cos(\varphi) \\ y = b \sin(\theta) \cos(\varphi) \\ z = c \sin(\varphi) \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

236 where $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$ and $\varphi \in \left[-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2}\right]$

237 In order to parameterize the ellipsoid in u and v , the following change of variables are
238 made:

$$\begin{cases} \theta = 2\pi u \\ \varphi = \pi \left(v - \frac{1}{2}\right) \end{cases} \quad (u, v) \in [0, 1]^2 \quad (6)$$

239 The following equations are obtained:

$$S_{\text{ellipsoide}} = \begin{cases} x = -a \cos(u) \sin(v) \\ y = -b \sin(u) \sin(v) \\ z = c \cos(v) \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

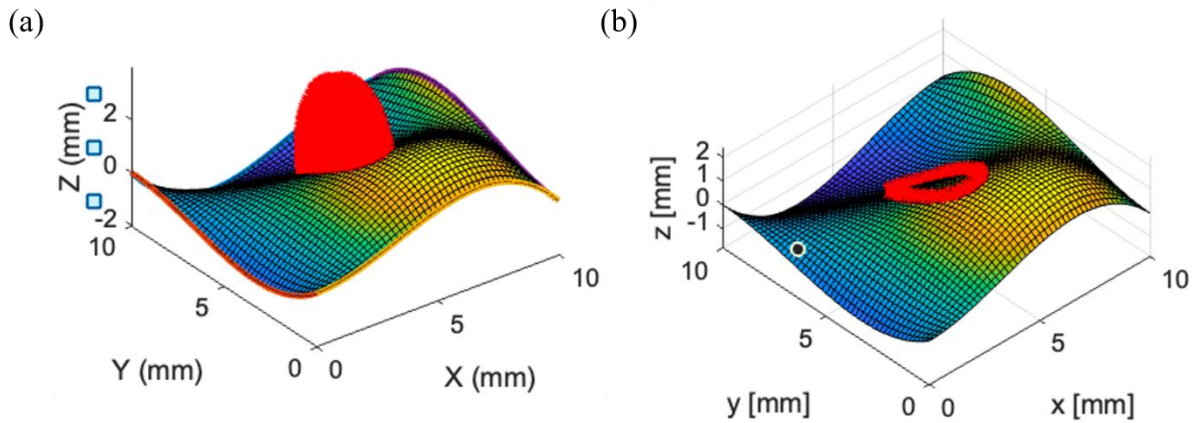
240 The position of the center of this ellipsoid is determined by the position of the defect on
241 the upper surface. It is assumed that the defect is in the middle of the upper surface. The
242 vector \vec{z} is noted as the position of the center of the ellipsoid with following a reference frame.

243 In order to determine the intersection between the upper surface and the ellipsoidal
244 surface such that $S_{\text{up}} \cap S_{\text{ellipsoid}} = C_{\text{intersection}}$, the parameters u and v must respect for each
245 surface the following equation:

$$S_{\text{up}}(u_{\text{up}}, v_{\text{up}}) = S_{\text{ellipsoide}}(u_{\text{elps}}, v_{\text{elps}}) \quad (8)$$

246 Where S_{up} is the upper surface, $S_{\text{ellipsoide}}$ the ellipsoid surface, u_{up} the radial unit vector and v_{up}
247 orthoradial unit vector of the upper surface and u_{elps} the radial unit vector and v_{elps} orthoradial
248 unit vector of the ellipsoidal surface.

249 A numerical resolution is chosen, in order to select all the points of the ellipsoid closest
250 to the upper surface. This part is realized by calculating the distance between the points of the
251 ellipsoid and the points of the upper surface. Then a reference distance is chosen to select the
252 points of the corresponding ellipsoid, which allows having the intersection points, as observed
253 Figure 5.



254

255 **Figure 5.** Intersection of surfaces (a) positioning of the ellipsoidal surface in the upper
 256 surface, (b) intersection points between the ellipsoidal surface and the upper surface.

257

258

The lower surface is the surface of the ellipsoid below the upper surface. Such as:

$$S_{low}(u, v) = S_{ellipsoide}(u_{low}, v_{low}) | S_{ellipsoide}(u_{low}, v_{low}) \cdot \mathbf{k} \leq S_{up}(u, v) \cdot \mathbf{k} \quad (9)$$

259 with $\mathbf{k} = \begin{cases} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{cases}$

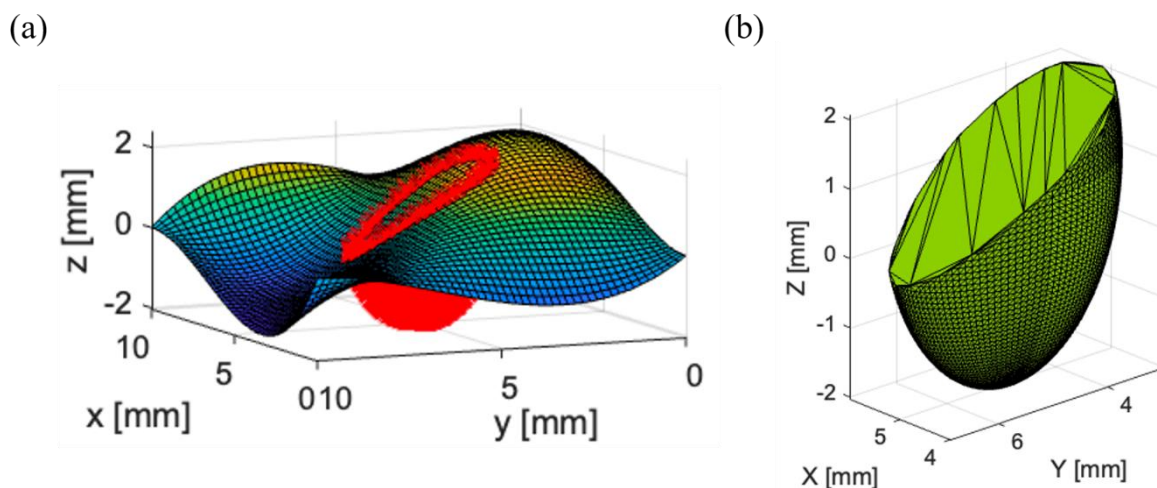
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262

263

In the numerical approach, it is possible to generate the bottom surface by deleting the points that are above the intersection points. Depending on how the ellipsoid is parameterized, the points above the intersection can be removed line by line. At the end of the processing, only the lower surface will remain, as highlighted in Figure 6.



264

265

266

267

Figure 6. Lower surface (a) point removal and (b) repair volume.

3.2. Definition of the function and constraints

268 **3.2.1. Dimensional constraints**

269 The dimensions of the ellipsoid at the intersection and the depth must encompass the
270 defect. This constraint leads to writing the following inequalities:

$$\begin{cases} ix \geq x_{def} \\ iy \geq y_{def} \\ iz \geq z_{def} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

271 where ix , iy and iz are the dimensions of the repair volume.

272 For accessibility reasons of the nozzle during the filling process, it must be ensured that
273 the maximum depth of the bottom surface does not exceed a specific depth determined
274 according to the nozzle used.

$$iz \leq \max \text{depth} \quad (11)$$

275 The values of ix and iy are determined from the intersection points, iz can be calculated
276 from the following expression:

$$iz = c - dz \quad (12)$$

277

278 **3.2.2. Curvature constraints**

279 In order to machine the shape, it is necessary to ensure that the minimum curvature
280 radius of the bottom surface is greater than the radius of the machining tool (here a
281 hemispherical tool).

$$r_{min} \geq R_{outil} \quad (13)$$

282 To calculate the minimum radius of curvature, it is first necessary to calculate the
283 maximum curvature of the surface, which is calculated from the Gaussian curvature and the
284 mean curvature. According to the formula developed by Sebahattin Bektas [37], these
285 curvatures can be calculated from the dimensions of the ellipsoid and the Cartesian
286 coordinates of each point (Eq 14 and 15).

$$k_{Gauss} = \frac{1}{\left(a b c \left(\frac{x^2}{a^4} + \frac{y^2}{b^4} + \frac{z^2}{c^4} \right) \right)^2} \quad (14)$$

$$k_{moy} = \frac{x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - a^2 - b^2 - c^2}{2 (a b c)^2 \left(\frac{x^2}{a^4} + \frac{y^2}{b^4} + \frac{z^2}{c^4} \right)^{3/2}} \quad (15)$$

287 The maximum curvature is obtained using the following equation:

$$k_{max} = k_{moy} + \sqrt{k_{moy}^2 - k_{Gauss}} \quad (16)$$

288 And so, the minimum radius of curvature is calculated using the following formula:

$$r_{min} = \frac{1}{k_{max}} \quad (17)$$

289

290 3.2.3. Constraint on the opening angle

291 For a better metallurgical bonding between the substrate and the deposit, it is necessary
 292 to have an opening angle α greater than a certain angle. At the intersection, the opening angles
 293 are variable depending on the position of the ellipsoid. Thus, the smallest calculated value
 294 will be used. (Eq.18).

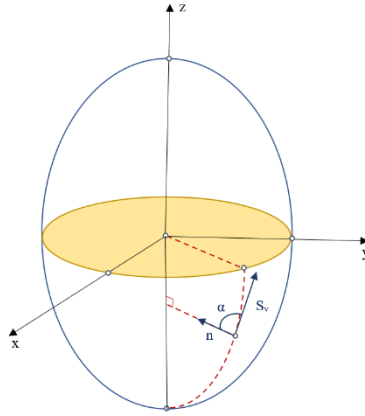
$$\alpha_{min} \geq \text{minimum opening angle} \quad (18)$$

295 This opening angle is calculated at the intersection between the upper and lower surface
 296 of the repair volume, by calculating the angle between the tangent vector along the v-direction
 297 (S_v) at the intersection points and the vector n ($\alpha = \widehat{S_v n}$), as described in Figure 7.

$$\alpha = \arccos \frac{S_v \cdot n}{\|S_v\| \|n\|} \quad (19)$$

298 With:

$$S_v = \frac{\partial S_{ellipsoide}(u, v)}{\partial v}$$



299

300 **Figure 7.** Opening angle represented at the intersection between the upper and lower surface

301

302 **3.2.4. Objective function**

303 The volume of repair aims to be minimized, in order to reduce the manufacturing time,
 304 as well as the material used. Analytically, it is difficult to calculate the repair volume,
 305 especially for complex upper surfaces (Eq. 20). However, it is possible to do it numerically by
 306 creating a mesh, which allows the calculation of the repair volume for any upper surface.

$$V = \int_0^a \int_0^p \int_0^q dx dy dz \quad (20)$$

307 With:

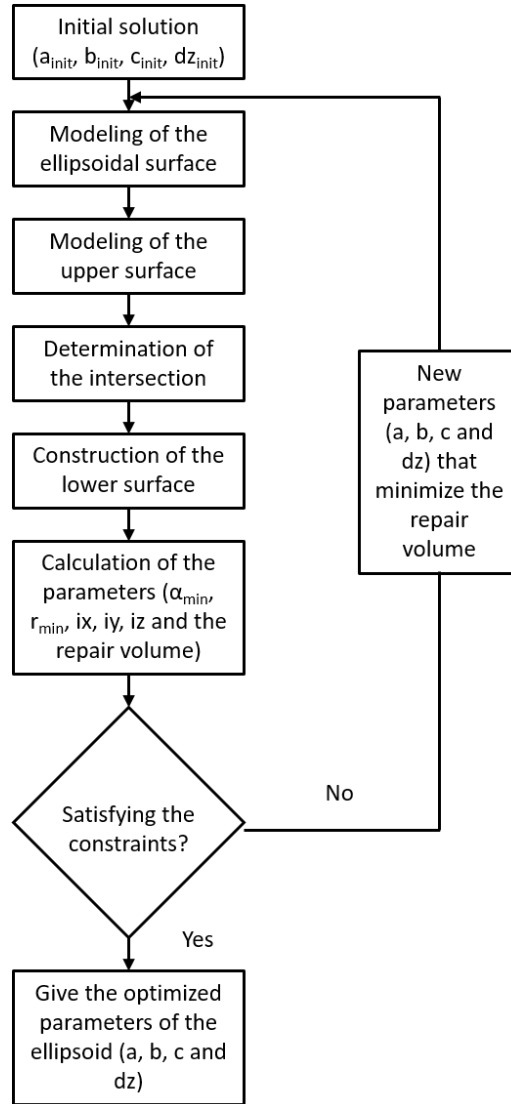
$$p = b \sqrt{1 - \frac{x^2}{a^2}} \text{ and } q = c \sqrt{1 - \frac{x^2}{a^2} - \frac{y^2}{b^2}}$$

308

309 **3.3. Implementation and optimization example**

310 The algorithm developed in this work and shown in Figure 8 generates the repair
 311 volume and optimizes it. Based on the dimensions and position of the center of the ellipsoidal
 312 defect and the STEP file representing the upper surface, the program generates the lower
 313 surface by deleting the points of the ellipsoid, which is located above the upper surface. The
 314 next step is to optimize the parameters of the ellipsoid from the initial solution by calculating
 315 at each iteration the optimization function, which is the repair volume. At any time, the
 316 algorithm respects the following constraints: the initial solution has dimensions greater than

317 those of the defect, the opening angle must be greater than a minimum, the minimum
 318 curvature must be greater than the curvature of the tool, and the final solution must lie within
 319 the bounding box of the repair volume.



320

321 **Figure 8.** Algorithm for the ellipsoid parameters optimization.

322

323 To validate the correct operation of the developed program, the case of a defect on a flat

324 surface is tested. The values of the chosen parameters are summarized in Table 1.

325 **Table 1.** Input parameters.

Parameters	Values
Defect dimensions	$x_{\text{def}} = 8 \text{ mm}$
	$y_{\text{def}} = 12 \text{ mm}$
	$z_{\text{def}} = 4 \text{ mm}$
	$dz = 0 \text{ mm}$
Initial solution	$a_{\text{init}} = 6 \text{ mm}$

	$b_{init} = 8 \text{ mm}$
	$c_{init} = 6 \text{ mm}$
	$dz = 0 \text{ mm}$
Milling tool radius	$R_{tool} = 3 \text{ mm}$
Opening angle	$\alpha = 120^\circ$

326
327 The calculation time is about 200 seconds. The optimization results in an ellipsoid that
328 respects all the imposed constraints. This ellipsoid of dimensions $10 \times 14 \times 25 \text{ mm}^3$ with
329 an offset of the center $dz = 20 \text{ mm}$, which allows to obtain a hole of dimensions $10.5 \times$
330 $15.75 \times 5 \text{ mm}^3$, as presented in Figure 9.

331

332 4. Application of the optimized repair volume in a case study

333 Repair tests of ellipsoids pre-machined in a SS316L substrate are carried out in order to
334 validate the previous numerical chain, as well as the feasibility of repairing pre-machined
335 parts of complex shape with the LMD process. The difficulty of this work lies in the
336 confinement of the defect, despite the constraints on the opening angle, as well as the
337 adaptation of the scanning strategies to this shape and the rounded surface, which tends to
338 destabilize the melt pool. Thus, two deposition pattern will be adapted, namely the zigzag and
339 contour strategies, and the influence of the surface condition between a sandblasted and non-
340 sandblasted surface will be observed.

341

342 4.1.Raw materials

343 The raw materials used in this study are a SS316L plate of dimensions $250 \times 100 \times 20$
344 mm^3 , as a support for the repairs and a SS316L powder (supplied by ERASTEEL, Sweden)
345 of granulometry $45\text{-}106 \mu\text{m}$, as filler metal. The compositions of the two elements are given
346 by the manufacturers in the Table 2 and comply with the ASTM A276 standard [38].

347 **Table 2.** Chemical composition of SS316L powder and substrate compared to ASTM
348 specifications (wt %).

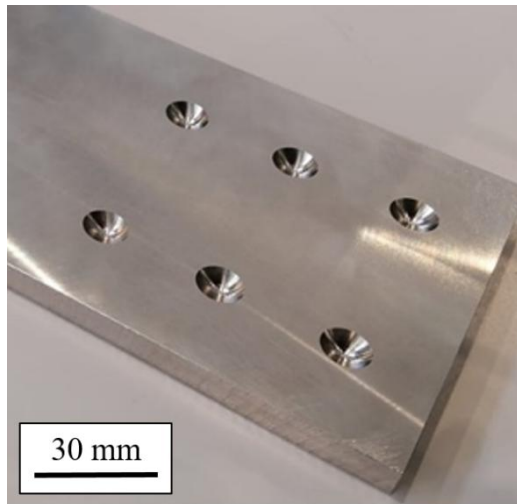
Element	Fe	Cr	Ni	Mn	Mo	C	P	Si	S
Powder	Bal.	17.6	13.6	1.67	2.69	<0.02	0.007	0.54	0.006

Substrate	Bal.	16.63	10.03	1.33	2.02	0.017	0.029	0.421	0.001
ASTM	Bal.	16-18	10-14	2.0	2-3	0.03	0.045	0.75	0.03
A276				Max		Max	Max	Max	Max

349
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351

4.2.Pre-machined ellipsoid

352 A 3-axis CNC milling machine (DMG HSC 75V) is used for the machining of
353 ellipsoids in the substrate, as presented Figure 9. The optimized dimensions of the ellipsoid
354 presented previously are used for the experimental repair. The machining paths were
355 generated by CATIA from a computer-aided design model of the plate to be realized. The
356 machining was done with a hemispherical tool in monobloc carbide with a diameter of 6 mm.
357 Concerning the cutting conditions, the chosen feed rate is 180 mm/min and the spindle speed
358 is 3700 rpm with a depth of cut of 0.5 mm.



359
360

Figure 9. Ellipsoidal holes machined in the SS316L substrate.

361 Naesstroem *et al.* [39] demonstrated that LMD deposition on different surface
362 conditions affect slightly the quality of the deposits. However, these tests were performed on
363 unconfined flat surfaces. It is interesting to observe whether two surface conditions can affect
364 the quality of the repair. Half of the pre-machines were sandblasted, in order to observe the
365 influence of sandblasting on the final quality of the repair. Table 3 shows the surface
366 condition of the machined and sandblasted holes obtained by surface topography. A
367 smoothing of the surface after the sandblast is noticed.

368 **Table 3.** Surface roughness of the ellipsoidal holes according to ISO 25178-2 [40].

	Sa (mm)	Sz (mm)	Ssk	Sku
Surface without sandblast	0.34	1.71	0.72	2.33
Sandblasted surface	0.3	1.68	0.3	2.28

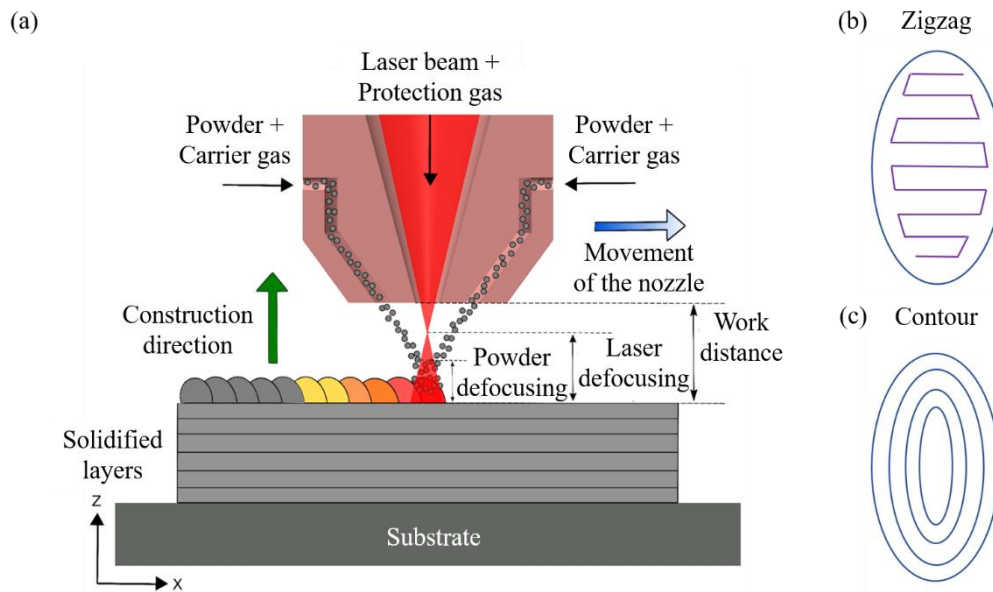
369

370

371 **4.3.Filling the missing material**

372 A 3-axis LENS MR-7 System machine (OPTOMECH, Inc. Albuquerque, NM, USA) is
373 used to represent the LMD process with powder, illustrated in Figure 10 (a). In order to limit
374 oxidation, the chamber is under a controlled environment with ultra-pure argon. A melt pool
375 is created with an YLS-3000-CT laser, and at the same time supplied with powder from a
376 coaxial nozzle. The movement of the projection head makes the cords in all directions of the
377 space. The deposition parameters used are a laser power of 650 W, a nozzle speed of 10
378 mm/s, a powder feed rate of 6.6 g/min and a hatching distance of 0.84 mm. This configuration
379 results in a bead of 1.2 mm wide by 0.5 mm effective height, with a dilution of 30% between
380 each layer.

381 The deposition pattern were automatically generated by ESPRIT software and converted
382 into G-code program. The first strategy is the zigzag filling, which consists of making a
383 zigzag path for each layer starting with a contour bead and the second is the contour filling
384 which starts with the outer contours and moves inwards, as highlighted Figure 10 (b) and (c).



385

386 **Figure 10.** Principle of (a) LMD process with powder, (b) zigzag strategy and (c) contour
 387 strategy.

388

389 **4.4.Characterizations**

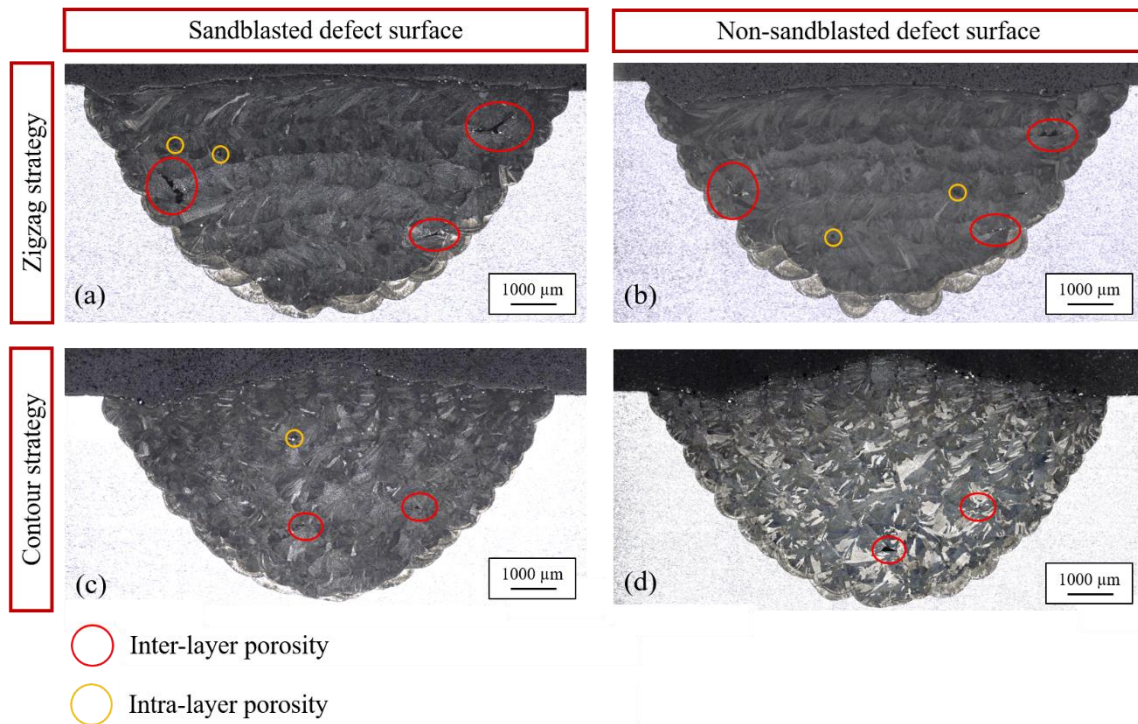
390 The density of the samples is observed by image analysis of the mirror polished cross
 391 section. The Archimedean method is not suitable for the case of repairs, as it essentially
 392 measures the density of the substrate, which is the major part of the sample.

393 An oxalic acid (10%wt) electropolishing highlights the two elements of our repair, as
 394 shown in Figure 11, with the deposit in the center in black and the substrate on the outside in
 395 white.

396 The presence of intra-layer porosities, especially spherical ones, is observed in the
 397 samples, as presented in Figure 11. They are the result of the vaporization of some elements
 398 of the melt pool, which lead to the imprisonment of gas in the solidified bead [41]. A minor
 399 optimization of the process parameters would reduce their number, but is not the purpose of
 400 this work.

401 Inter-layer porosities are also present in the repaired samples. In contrast to the intra-
 402 layer porosities, they have a constant position depending on the deposition pattern,
 403 independently of the surface condition of the material. They are recognizable by their

404 irregular shape and can be generated by wrong process parameters (*e.g.*, too low power),
405 wrong adaptation of the pattern deposition, or influenced by the chamber atmosphere [42].



406

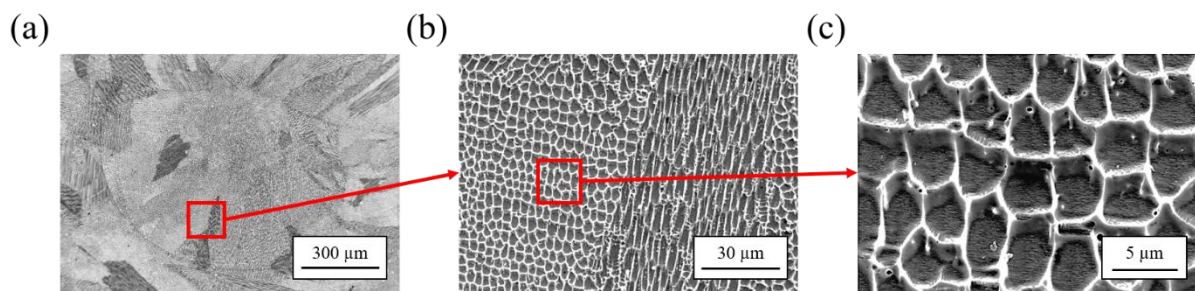
407 **Figure 11.** Cross-sections of the repaired samples: (a) blasted – zigzag, (b) non-blasted –
408 zigzag, (c) blasted – contour and (d) non-blasted – contour.

409

410 EBSD mapping was performed to determine the grains size and morphology. The
411 results highlight a heterogeneous microstructure of the repair, with the presence of three
412 distinct zones (*i.e.*, the deposit, the HAZ and the substrate).

413 The deposit is characterized by a coarse and columnar microstructure with preferential
414 growth axes and an austenite FCC structure, as characterized in the deposit of the repair in
415 Figure 12 and in Figure 13 (a). During the solidification of the bead, a strong thermal gradient
416 is present in the melt pool, generating a growth of the grains in the direction of the thermal
417 gradient, *i.e.* towards the middle of the melt pool and in the direction of displacement of the
418 projection nozzle, as observed in Figure 12 (a) [43]. Figure 12 (a) and (b) highlight the
419 cellular substructure, which is formed in the grains of the deposit due to the very fast cooling
420 of the melt pool of the order of 10^4 K/s and is characteristic of the LMD process. A high

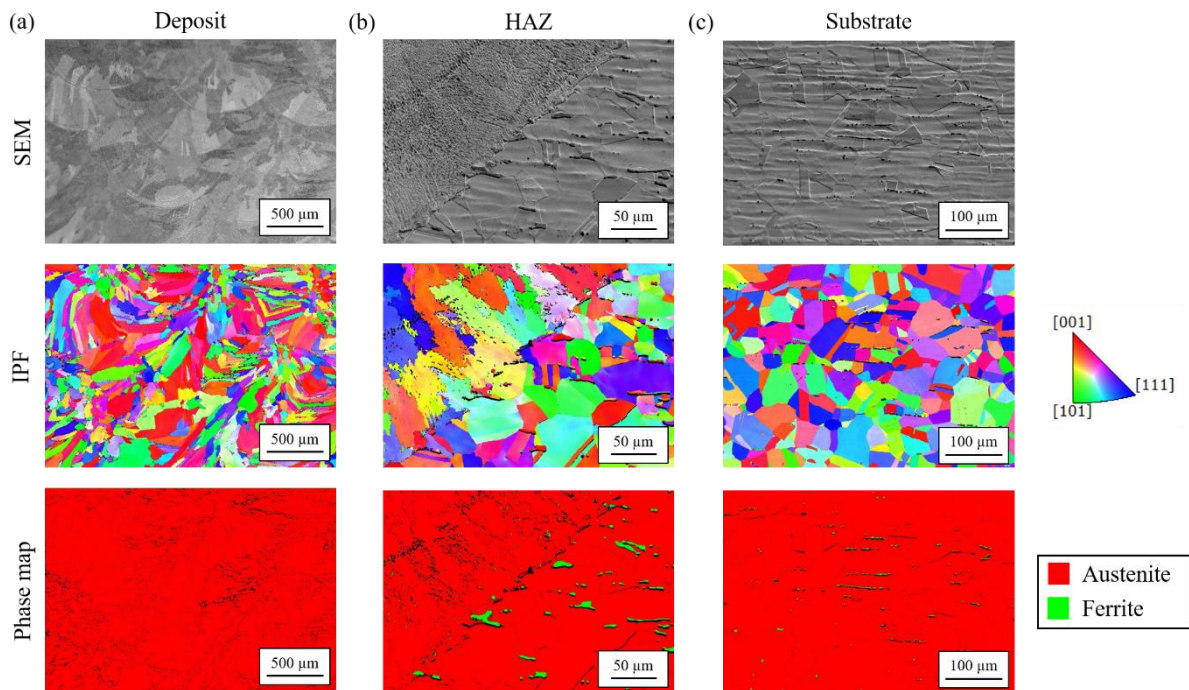
421 density of dislocations is formed as a result of solidification due to the heterogeneities of
422 heating and cooling during LMD process and assemble into cellular patterns at cell
423 boundaries [44]. This substructure is the segregation of the stainless steel elements. The center
424 of the cells is rich in iron, while the edges are rich in alloying elements such as Cr, Ni, Mn
425 and Mo [43,45]. Also, a remelting between the layers of 30% is performed, in order to allow
426 an epitaxial growth favoring the metallurgical continuity. **The Figure 13 (b) and (c) highlight**
427 **the epitaxial growth of grains between the substrate and the deposit and between the different**
428 **layers. This phenomenon contributes to a strong metallurgical bonding throughout the repair.**
429 **It should be noted that this epitaxial growth results in smaller grains in the beads in contact**
430 **with the substrate than in the rest of the deposit.**



431
432 **Figure 12.** SEM observations: (a) solidified melt pool, (b) columnar grains and (c) cellular
433 substructure

434
435 The HAZ and the substrate have a similar microstructure, which is fine and equiaxed as
436 presented in Figure 13. In fact, the substrate has a classical microstructure of a stainless steel
437 produced in steel mills, having been manufactured in continuous casting, hot rolled and with
438 the application of a post heat treatment at 1050°C. It is mainly composed of an austenite
439 phase, but presents some small grains of residual ferrite, which did not disappear during the
440 heat treatment. The proportion of ferrite in the substrate is about 0.5 %. On the other hand, the
441 HAZ presents slightly larger grains than in the substrate, while remaining equiaxed and with a
442 higher proportion of ferrite in the order of 2.4 %. The HAZ is the substrate closest to the

443 deposit that has not received enough energy from the laser to melt, but enough energy to
 444 undergo local recrystallization with phase changes, followed by a very rapid cooling [46].

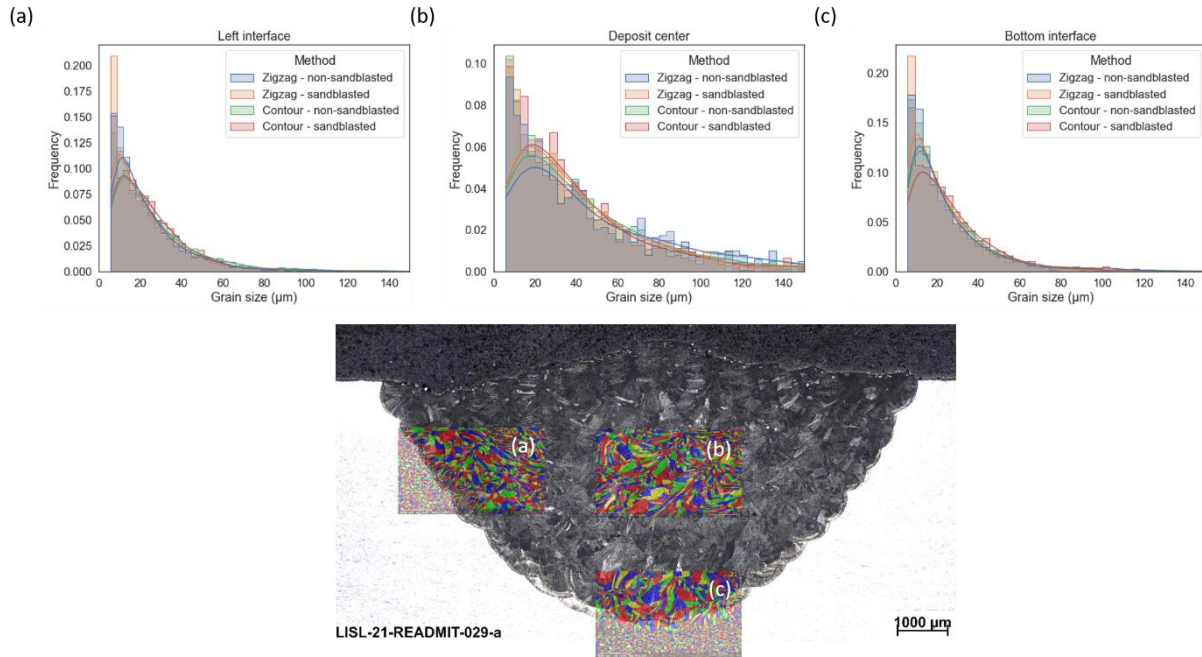


445
 446 **Figure 13.** SEM observations, IPF and phase map: (a) substrate, (b) HAZ and (c) deposit
 447

448 Figure 14, which results from EBSD mapping, highlights that the deposition pattern or
 449 the surface condition has no influence on the grain size in the three studied areas (*i.e.*, the low
 450 interface, the left interface and the center of the deposit). Indeed, the distribution curves
 451 generated from the histograms are similar. Their variations are due to the number of grains
 452 counted on each EBSD map, which depends on the area analyzed. Furthermore, as shown in
 453 Table 4, it is observed that regardless of the method used, the difference between the volume-
 454 weighted average grain sizes is insignificant, indicating invariability of grain size depending
 455 on the method used for pre-machining repair. On the other hand, it is observed the significant
 456 increase of the grain size between the substrate, the interface and the deposit. **In fact, the grain
 457 size is doubled or even tripled between the substrate and the interface, and quadrupled
 458 between the substrate and the deposit, with much higher standard deviations in the deposit.**

459 This means that in addition to a much larger grain size, the deposit has a more variable
 460 microstructure than in the substrate.

461 This observation highlights the heterogeneity of the microstructure due to processes with
 462 different kinetics.



463

464 **Figure 14.** Grain size distribution in three zone of the repair: (a) left interface, (b) deposit
 465 center and (c) bottom interface

466

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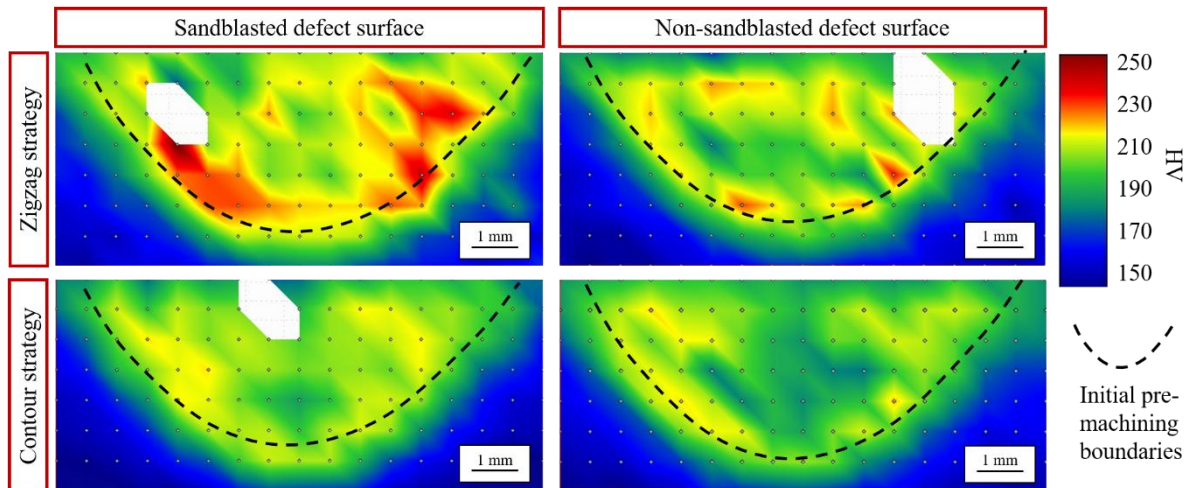
468 Table 4: Statistical values of the volume-weighted average grain size of each method for the
 469 areas studied

Method	Substrate (μm)		Left interface (μm)		Deposit center (μm)		Bottom interface (μm)	
	volume-weighted average	std	volume-weighted average	std	volume-weighted average	std	volume-weighted average	std
Contour - non-sandblasted	35.2	15.7	92.5	64.1	128.6	72.6	109.1	92.7
Contour - sandblasted			76.6	57.6	130.9	82.5	93.5	73.5
Zigzag - non-sandblasted			85.6	69.9	146.6	82.8	93.3	71.2
Zigzag - sandblasted			75.4	58.4	116.1	70.4	64.5	48.5

470

471 Microhardness tester (STRUERS Durascan70, Vickers) with a load of 5 kg was used to
 472 perform microhardness mapping on the cross sections to observe the influence of the
 473 parameters on the mechanical properties of the repaired parts, as presented in Figure 15. A
 474 hardness gradient can be observed in the repair, especially for the zigzag repair. Indeed, the

475 substrate has a hardness of ~160 HV and the HAZ and the near deposit a hardness of ~200
476 HV. The microhardness value in the deposit varies from 180 HV to 250 HV. The surface
477 condition of the pre-machining did not seem to have any influence on the hardness of the
478 samples. However, a difference in hardness is observed depending on the use of the
479 deposition pattern.



480 **Figure 15.** Microhardness mapping of the repaired specimens: (a) blasted – zigzag, (b) non-
481 blasted – zigzag, (c) blasted – contour and (d) non-blasted – contour.
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5. Discussion of the results

486 The presence of porosities in the zigzag pattern is induced by an error in the calculation
487 of the number of beads per layer. Indeed, in each layer of this strategy, a contour bead is made
488 on the surface of the pre-machining, then a zigzag filling is made inside this contour bead.
489 The number of parallel beads is calculated by dividing the width to be filled by the hatching
490 distance. However, arriving at an integer number is rare and the number of beads to be
491 deposited is approximated to the nearest integer. Thus, in the case of the study, each layer is
492 missing a bead, which explains this porosity due to a lack of material.

493 For the contour deposition strategy, beads with the shape of ellipses are deposited
494 starting from the outside and ending with the centermost bead. Porosities are present on the
495 first layers. The most likely hypothesis explaining these porosities is that with a fixed

496 hatching distance, the space left for the last bead to be deposited is too small for it to penetrate
497 the material and form a lack of fusion.

498 For the two deposition pattern, the inter-layer porosity formation is due to the
499 confinement of the material deposition in a pre-machining. It is necessary that each bead has
500 its location in the pre-machining to avoid porosity formation. One solution would be to adapt
501 the hatching distance to each layer. Thus, each bead would have sufficient space to be
502 deposited without being disturbed by the other beads.

503 Deposition pattern and surface conditions do not affect grain size at the interface or
504 center of the deposit. All four conditions show comparable grain size distribution curves. The
505 only difference observed is between grains counted at the interfaces and at the center. The
506 average grain size of the interfaces is smaller than at the center. This is because at the
507 interfaces, the fine and equiaxed grains of the substrate are counted. Also, it is observed that
508 the grains of the beads in contact with the substrate are finer than those in the center. This
509 phenomenon is related to the epitaxial growth of the bead grains on the substrate grains during
510 solidification. Indeed, the grains of the substrate are fine compared to those of the deposit
511 made by LMD. But when the melt pool of the bead starts to solidify, its grains grow
512 epitaxially on the substrate grains in contact, creating a multitude of fine and columnar grains
513 at the interface. This effect disappears afterwards, because the grains solidifying last in the
514 melt pool have already grown enough that the grains of the next bead have only a few coarse
515 grains left on which to grow. *A similar observation is made in the work of Balit et al. [47],*
516 *who show two regimes of grain growth in the deposit, the first in the beads in contact with the*
517 *substrate, then in the rest of the deposit.*

518 As previously explained, the substrate has a microhardness of about 160 HV, which is
519 in accordance with the values given by the manufacturer. However, the HAZ has a higher
520 hardness than the substrate. This increase in hardness can be explained by the formation of

521 delta ferrite in the HAZ, which has a higher plasticity than austenite and causes an increase in
522 hardness [48,49]. Also, the successive deposition of the beads leads to heating and cooling
523 cycles which introduce residual compressive stresses and tend to increase the hardness value,
524 through the presence of a high density of dislocations [50]. Finally, the in-depth hardening of
525 an austenitic stainless steel by the passage of a laser beam at low speed is demonstrated in the
526 work of Martinez *et al.* [51]. In fact, this process is also used by other techniques for surface
527 hardening of a steel by the introduction of compressive residual stresses. In the case of the
528 study, the passage of the laser is done at low speed

529 The microhardness of the deposit is variable. In fact, it is observed that the
530 microhardness in the beads in contact with the substrate is higher than in the rest of the
531 deposit. This phenomenon is related to the fineness of the grains of the beads in contact with
532 the substrate, caused by the epitaxial growth of the grains from those of the substrate, as
533 explained previously. Thus, according to the Hall-Petch relation, the microhardness is higher
534 at the edges than in the center of the deposit. This result is observed regardless of the
535 deposition strategy and the surface condition of the pre-machining.

536 Moreover, the deposit has a higher hardness than the substrate. Nevertheless, the grains
537 have a larger size. According to the *Hall-Petch* relation, the microhardness should be lower.
538 However, the microstructure of the deposit is particular, since it is multi-scale and is
539 composed of solidified melt pool, grains and a cellular substructure. These elements are
540 obstacles to the diffusion of dislocations. Zhou *et al.* [52] demonstrated that the strengthening
541 mechanism of SS316L parts made in SLM is the combination of these elements. Thus, the
542 Hall-Petch relationship is strongly influenced by the cellular substructure, which has a high
543 dislocation density. This hinders the movement of dislocations and leads to a higher hardness.
544 This may explain the difference in intensity between the Zigzag and Contour strategies. In
545 fact, the Contour strategy deposits the bead next to the previous bead while it is still hot,

546 resulting in a coarser cell substructure and thus a lower microhardness. In contrast, the Zigzag
547 strategy starts laying down the beads on one side of the pre-machining and finishes on the
548 other, allowing more time for the contour bead to cool, resulting in thinner cells and thus
549 higher microhardness.

550 An unverified hypothesis in this paper is that the variation of the Vickers microhardness
551 in the deposit is due to the elastic return after indentation. It is characteristic of an anisotropic
552 material and is more or less pronounced depending on the orientation of the indented grains.
553 In addition, the state of the residual stresses present in the material can strongly vary this
554 measurement. Tsui *et al.* proved that the load applied to a part varies the measured
555 microhardness, especially the tensile stresses [53]. Thus, the variation of microhardness in the
556 deposit represents the residual stress state present. Unfortunately, without knowing the value
557 of microhardness without stresses, it is complicated to know if they are tensile or compressive
558 residual stresses and even less their values. However, it is noticed that the microhardness is
559 more homogeneous with the contour strategy. While the Zigzag strategy shows a large
560 variation of microhardness in the deposit, with peaks in the areas where the Zigzag path beads
561 and the contour bead meet. The abrupt change in direction between the beads appears to
562 concentrate residual stresses. Thus, the contour strategy with some optimizations appears to
563 be the most mechanically sound deposition pattern for ellipsoid repair.

564

565 **6. Conclusion**

566 In this work, elements of the numerical chain allowing the repair of elements damaged
567 by pitting corrosion was developed. A numerical optimization of the repair volume in the
568 shape of ellipsoids and experimental tests under different conditions were investigated. The
569 main conclusions are summarized below.

570 The numerical optimization tool minimizes the repair volume to remove only the
571 damaged material. The ellipsoidal surface, whose initial dimensions are taken from the
572 corrosion pit, is generated at each iteration of the optimization. A surface below the nominal
573 surface is generated, which creates the repair volume, while the geometric (i.e., initial defect
574 size and opening angle) and technical (i.e., tool radius) constraints are respected in the repair
575 volume optimization calculation.

576 Experimental tests demonstrate the feasibility of repairing ellipsoidal pre-machining
577 using LMD. Sandblasting does not affect the final quality of the repair. However, adjusting
578 the overlapping rate at each layer would avoid the formation of porosity in the deposit. The
579 microstructure of the repair is heterogeneous with fine and equiaxed substrate grains and
580 coarse and columnar deposit grains. An increase in microhardness in the HAZ and near the
581 deposit is caused by the formation of a delta ferrite phase and smaller grains than in the rest of
582 the deposit, respectively. Similarly, the variable microhardness intensity in the deposit is due
583 to the cellular substructure influenced by the deposition pattern. The contour strategy shows a
584 more homogeneous distribution of microhardness in the deposit.

585 In perspective, optimizing the repair volume in a different bounding box would result in
586 a smaller ellipsoid. Seawater immersion tests and electrochemical polarization tests would
587 allow to verify the corrosion resistance of the repair compared to the reference substrate.
588 Finally, residual stress measurements would be interesting to understand the effects of the
589 deposition pattern on the repair.

590

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595

596 **Declaration of Competing Interest**

597 The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal
598 relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

599

600 **Credit authorship contribution statement:**

601 **Bilel Si-Smail:** Methodology, Validation, Software, Investigation, Data curation, Formal
602 analysis, Writing – original draft. **Thomas Cailloux:** Methodology, Validation, Software,
603 Investigation, Data curation, Formal analysis, Writing – original draft, Writing – review &
604 editing, Visualization. **Yann Quinsat:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Supervision, Writing
605 - review & editing. **Wilfried Pacquentin:** Conceptualization, Supervision, Writing - review
606 & editing. **Srikanth Narasimalu:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Supervision. **Hicham**
607 **Maskrot:** Resources. **Fanny Balbaud-Celerier:** Conceptualization, Supervision, Writing -
608 review & editing.

609

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