# Correlative Synchrotron X-ray Imaging and Diffraction of Directed Energy Deposition Additive Manufacturing

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### Abstract

The governing mechanistic behaviour of Directed Energy Deposition Additive Manufacturing (DED-AM) is revealed by a combined *in situ* and *operando* synchrotron X-ray imaging and diffraction study of a nickel-base superalloy, IN718. Using a unique DAE-AM process replicator, real-space imaging enables quantification of the melt-pool boundary and flow dynamics during solidification. This imaging knowledge was also used to informed precise diffraction measurements of temporally resolved microstructural phases during transformation and stress development with a spatial resolution of 100  $\mu$ m. The diffraction quantified thermal

gradient enabled a dendritic solidification microstructure to be predicted and coupled to the stress orientation and magnitude. The fast cooling rate entirely suppressed the formation of secondary phases or recrystallisation in the solid-state. Upon solidification, the stresses rapidly increase to the yield strength during cooling. This insight, combined with the large solidification range of IN718 suggests that the accumulated plasticity exhausts the ductility of the alloy, causing liquation cracking. This study has revealed additional fundamental mechanisms governing the formation of highly non-equilibrium microstructures during DED-AM.

**Keywords**: Directed Energy Deposition Additive Manufacturing; Synchrotron X-ray diffraction; Synchrotron X-ray imaging; Laser Additive Manufacturing; IN718

### 1. Introduction

Laser Additive Manufacturing (LAM)[1] is a highly versatile and flexible manufacturing technology, enabling layer-by-layer fabrication of complex geometries. It is now transforming modern manufacturing[2], especially in metallurgical sectors[3]. Directed Energy Deposition Additive Manufacturing (DED-AM)[4], which deposits powder or wire feedstock through a nozzle and melts it with a laser, is one of the most cost-effective and versatile LAM methods due to its capability for producing large near-net-shape freeform components. DED-AM is also being used for the repair of high-value components in aerospace[5], biomedical[6] and automotive industries[7]. However, rapid solidification during the DED-AM process results in several technical challenges including the creation of significant residual stresses[8] and the formation of undesirable microstructural features such as pores, cracks or large epitaxial grains[9]; this presently restricts the widespread industrial application of DED-AM for producing safety-critical components. To overcome these limitations, an increased understanding of the underlying transient physics during the manufacturing process is required. Trial-and-error methods have been used to establish the relationship between

unsatisfactory if we are to understand and optimise the competing transient mechanisms that govern the build quality and subsequent material and component performance.

In situ and operando high-speed X-ray investigations of LAM have proved enormously successful for revealing previously unseen transient laser-induced phenomena including melt pool dynamics[10,11], microstructural feature formation[12] and phase evolution[13–15]. Synchrotron X-ray imaging has been shown to effectively capture the laser-matter interactions[16] and the underlying physics in laser powder bed fusion (LPBF)[17-20]. However, much less attention has been given to synchrotron imaging of DED-AM. The larger length scales of industrial DED-AM deposits gives rise to low X-ray transmission, making Xray studies challenging. Despite this, it remains highly desirable to quantify and understand optically opaque metallic samples with high spatial and temporal resolution. Such insights have become possible with high-flux, high energy third-generation synchrotron radiation sources[21] that enable fast (millisecond to microsecond) X-ray imaging and diffraction of the laser-matter interactions. Wolff et al [21] simulated some aspects of the blown powder process by using a piezo-driven vibration-assisted powder delivery system to induce a gravitational flow of powders from a syringe-needle. Chen et al[22-23] performed in situ X-ray imaging on an industrial scale DED-AM build and revealed solidification behaviour differences between titanium alloys and stainless steel. However, the use of X-ray diffraction analysis of DED-AM remains unexplored.

Recently, fast synchrotron X-ray diffraction methods were used to reveal the microstructural evolution and thermal gradients during an LPBF process, providing new information that cannot be obtained from X-ray imaging[15]. Zhao *et al.*[14] demonstrated synchrotron diffraction could be used to capture phase transformations in LPBF. Thampy *et al.*[22] further estimated the subsurface cooling rate during LPBF using diffraction peak position shifts. Hocine *et al.*[13,23] implemented an ultra-fast diffraction detector to estimate phase transformations, cooling rates and residual stresses using peak intensity changes in different printing parameters in LPBF. Although the temperature and phase transformation were

monitored from the diffraction patterns with a high temporal resolution but low spatial resolution, quantitative analysis of phase fraction, stress and liquid fraction were not determined. Further, none of these studies examined DED-AM.

The material investigated in this study was a nickel-based superalloy, IN718. It has excellent high-temperature performance and corrosion resistance, and is widely applied for safety-critical components such as turbine discs [24] in aerospace, marine and power generation gas turbines. IN718 is also a commonly used superalloy for LAM. However, LAM introduces high thermal stresses which originate from the high elastic modulus and thermal expansion coefficients of IN718[25]. The formation of eutectic compounds and elemental segregation at the grain boundaries and/or interdendritic regions from the addition of Ti or Nb increases hot cracking susceptibility[26]. As a result, it can be difficult to generate crack free components using LAM.

The high-temperature strength of IN718 is attributable to a fine dispersion of stable L1<sub>2</sub> structure  $\gamma$ ' precipitates and metastable D0<sub>22</sub> structure  $\gamma$ '' precipitates. As the formation of these desirable phases are solid-state diffusion controlled, the high thermal gradient and rapid cooling rates may suppress their formation during the LAM process. Further secondary phases including carbides, Laves and  $\delta$  phases are often found in IN718 during LAM[27–30], which are known to deplete the elements needed to form the strengthening phases during post-processing. Significant research has been conducted to control the microstructure and remove undesirable features by post-heat treatments[31] and hot isostatic pressing. Understanding the as deposited microstructure and the formation of any detrimental features during AM is critical for the development of *in situ* and post build heat-treatment regimes.

In this work, we have performed combined temporally and spatially resolved X-ray imaging and diffraction of a DED-AM process using a unique AM process replicator with capabilities that directly scales to replicate industrial process parameters. The combination of X-ray imaging and diffraction provides a holistic, in-depth understanding of DED-AM including the melt pool dynamics, solidification sequence and undesirable microstructural feature formation

captured *in situ* and operando. This investigation has enabled quantification of key features via X-ray imaging, guiding diffraction quantification of temperature, strain and phases, each spatially mapped across the weld pool and the surrounding heat-affected region.

### 2. Material and Methods

### 2.1 Materials

The material used was a PREP IN718 powder (Timet, USA) with a size distribution of 45 - 90  $\mu$ m and with median particle diameter, D<sub>50</sub>, of 70  $\mu$ m. The chemical compositions of IN718

Ni	Cr	Fe	Nb	Мо	Ti	AI	Co
50.0-55.0	17.0-21.0	Bal	4.75-5.5	2.8-3.3	0.65-1.15	0.2-0.8	<1.0
С	Mn	Si	Р	S	В	Cu	O, N
<0.08	<0.35	<0.35	<0.015	<0.015	<0.006	<0.3	<250 ppm

powder used in this study are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Chemical composition of IN718 powder used (wt %)

### 2.2 In situ and operando synchrotron X-ray imaging and diffraction of DED-AM

We performed *in situ* and *operando* X-ray imaging and diffraction on the I12: Joint Engineering, Environmental, and Processing (JEEP) beamline[21] at the Diamond Light Source to capture the transient phenomena and the underlying physics during the DED-AM of IN718. The Blown Powder Additive Manufacturing Process Replicator (BAMPR) has been developed to faithfully replicate a commercial DED-AM system with an industrial laser power density (up to 6366 W mm<sup>-2</sup>). that can be integrated into synchrotron beamlines (see **Supplementary Video 1**)[32]. The traverse speed of the sample stage in both cases was controllable in the range 1 - 5 mm s<sup>-1</sup> to enable continuous track formation. Further details can be found in Methods and Supplementary Information and in ref. [23]. The resulting radiograph time-series and Debye-Scherrer diffraction patterns were subsequently analysed to quantify the mechanisms and dynamics of the DED-AM process.

#### 2.3 Marangoni flow tracing using W tracer

Tungsten (W) particles (D<sub>50</sub> of 50 µm) were selected to match the spatical resolution of the imaging detector and were employed as tracers to visualise the flow in the melt pool by observing their spatiotemporal distribution on the separate set of imaging experiments. 4 wt% of W particles were pre-mixed in the IN718 powder feedstock. During the DED-AM process, the particles were seeded into the melt pool and used as fiducial markers to track the melt flow. As the diameter of W particles used are similar to IN718 powder feedstock, their influence to the flow dynamics is minimised. However, the much higher density of the W particles can result in a slower flow. Due to the high melting point of W (3,422 °C) compared to IN718 (1,340 °C), the particles remained solid before being engulfed by the solidification front and were encapsulated in the melt track. W has a significantly higher X-ray attenuation compared to IN718, thus they appeared darker than the surrounding liquid metal in the acquired radiographs. A maximum temporal resolution (0.2 ms) was exploited to capture the fast dynamics in the melt pool. The ImageJ Plugin TrackMate[33] was used to trace the trajectories of the W particles to analyse the dynamic flow directions and velocities.

### 2.4 Image processing and quantification

All acquired radiographs were processed using ImageJ[34] and Matlab<sup>®</sup>. The acquired images were corrected to form a flat-field corrected (FFC) image by dividing by the mean average of 100 flat field images[11]. To increase the image contrast and signal-to-noise ratio, a local-temporal background subtraction was applied to reveal low-intensity features in the X-ray images following equation:

$$LTBS = \frac{FFC}{I_{lavg}}$$
(1)

where LTBS is the local-temporal background-subtracted image, *FFC* is the flat field corrected image, and  $I_{lavg}$  is a local average of 50 of the nearest neighbour images (25 before and 25 after).

#### 2.5 Diffraction processing and quantification

Images of the Debye-Scherrer diffraction patterns were radially integrated using DAWN[35] into 36 azimuthal sectors. All subsequent peak fitting and data analysis were performed using in-house written scripts in Matlab<sup>®</sup> and python. To monitor the phase transformations during DED-AM, a pseudo-Voigt function was fitted to individual reflections, recording d-spacing and integrated peak intensity as well as their associated fitting error. A Fourier smoothing technique was implemented to fit the integrated diffraction patterns in order to overcome their spotty intensity. The results from this were subsequently used to determine the strains. The fitted peaks and their fitting errors were used to assist phase identification, secondary phase volume fraction, temperature and stress analysis. **Full details of the methodology are described in the Supplementary Methods (2.1-2.4).** 

### 3. Results

### 3.1 In situ and Operando X-ray imaging and diffraction

Synchrotron X-ray imaging and diffraction on the nickel-based superalloy was performed at the I12:JEEP beamline[21] to capture the transient phenomena *in situ* and *operando* during DED-AM. The imaging experiments were used to determine the detector positions for the diffraction measurements.

During the *in situ* imaging experiments, the X-ray beam was attenuated by the substrate, powder and the deposited melt track and a PCO.edge sCMOS camera (PCO, Germany) enables the acquisition of the resulting radiographic video, as shown in Figure 1b. These radiographs record the time-resolved evolution of the multi-layer melt track morphology of a DED-AM build using IN718 (Figure 1b and Supplementary Video 1). The framerate and exposure time used in the high-resolution imaging experiment were 200 fps and 0.0049 s, respectively. The frame rate was selected to optimise the signal to noise ratio whilst having a sufficiently fast temporal resolution to capture key phenomena in the large melt pool from the DED-AM process (10x bigger than LPBF in each direction)[10], requiring a large field of view

(FoV) and a high penetration through the thick nickel superalloy track. These values were changed to a 5000 fps framerate and 0.00019 s exposure time in the separate experiments used to capture the fast Marangoni convection in the melt pool using a MIRO 310M camera (Vision Research Inc., USA). The synchrotron imaging conditions were carefully tailored to optimise the trade-off between signal to noise, spatial and temporal resolution. **Further details of the acquisition conditions can be found in the Supplementary Information(1.3)**.



Figure 1. In situ X-ray imaging quantification of DED-AM IN718: (a) the Blown Powder Additive Manufacturing Process Replicator (BAMPR) designed to reproduce the operation of a commercial DED-AM system. The system is encapsulated within a Class I laser enclosure and comprises an inert environmental chamber, a high precision 3-axis platform, an industrial coaxial DED nozzle, and a laser system (see Suppl. video 1). (b) Schematic of the in situ X-ray imaging of DED-AM process. The synchrotron X-rays are attenuated by the deposited materials and then are converted to visible light with a scintillator to capture as a radiographic video on a fast CCD camera (not shown). The resulting videos (Supplementary Video 2) reveal the underlying mechanism and dynamics of the process. (c) Time-series radiographs acquired during DED-AM of a multilayer thin wall melt track of IN718 under P = 200 W, v = 1 mm s<sup>-1</sup> captured at 200 fps. Scale bar = 500  $\mu$ m. Four filtered radiographs were selected and as representative of the multilayer thin wall building process of (i) layer 1, (ii) layer 3, (iii) layer 5 and (iv) layer 7, respectively.

The single hatch thin-wall melt tracks were deposited in an alternating bi-directional strategy

up to 10 layers in height. Figure 1c shows a filtered time-series of radiographs taken during a

multilayer deposition process. The substrate was traversing from the right to the left in the

figure shown for odd layer builds (see **Supplementary Video 2**). The laser beam is shown to melt the substrate plate surface and consolidate the powder particles into a melt pool which forms a continuous deposited track. The melt pool area was identified by the solid-liquid boundaries. The molten pool surface is observed to oscillate during the building process, which can be attributed, in part, to the recoil of the molten surface as powder particles impact with it. An additional cause for this oscillation is the presence of a thermal gradient across the melt pool which induces the Marangoni flow. The thermal gradient across the molten pool is further complicated by the quenching effect of cooler powder particles being incorporated into the melt pool. Thus, the dynamics of flow in the molten pool result from the complex interplay between the Marangoni flow and the particle incorporation. A smooth surface finish and some un-melted powder particles can be seen on the newly formed IN718 melt track in all layers of the build. In the subsequent layers of the build, the laser beam partially re-melts the previous build layers and a new layer is formed on top. The surface finish and the melt pool geometries are seen to be consistent in all layers of the build with no undesirable microstructural features apparent, such as porosity or cracking, were observed in the radiographs.

*In situ* diffraction data were acquired using a Pilatus 2M CdTe 2D area detector (Dectris Ltd., Switzerland), enabling full Debye-Scherrer diffraction patterns to be collected in transmission. An X-ray energy of 70 keV was used and calibrated with a CeO<sub>2</sub> standard. The experimental set-up is shown in Figure 2a. Our study enabled the acquisition of the diffraction evolution during a thin wall build (up to 5 layers) by systematically moving the area detector in directions orthogonal to the laser beam, mapping the melt pool and melt track area. The wall roughness is small, and the X-ray transmission through the thickness of the melt track (~1.5 mm) is uniform, which is evidence by Figure 2(b) & (c). Two mapping regions were selected; the first being a high spatial accuracy map of the melt pool region to capture the solidification phenomena. This strategy consisted of a map of 6×7 (row x columns) data points with a 100  $\mu$ m step size both horizontally and vertically, perpendicular to the build and laser directions.

the pool was mapped to measure the stress evolution in the newly formed melt track. This strategy contains a map of 3 × 20 (row x columns) data points with a 100  $\mu$ m step size horizontally and a 200  $\mu$ m step size vertically. The beam size was 100 × 100  $\mu$ m<sup>2</sup> in all experiments.

As the laser beam and the resulting melt pool were stationary with respect to the detector during the substrate traverse, one diffraction pattern was recorded at each mapping point with an exposure time of 6.67 s, effectively capturing the averaged signal from a volume of 100  $\mu$ m × 6.67 mm × wall thickness. The melt track was built with a 50 mm length, of which the central 40 mm of this length was probed. Multiple repeats of the same layer were carried out to map all of the data points. The repeatability was ensured from X-ray imaging results. Figure 2d shows the diffraction intensity as a function of detection distance for the 1<sup>st</sup> layer of the DED-AM build. The data collection procedure for the other layers was similar. It is noted that the data collected gives information integrated through the wall thickness. The diffraction of the  $\{111\}$ ,  $\{200\}$ ,  $\{220\}$ ,  $\{311\}$  and  $\{222\}$  reflections of the  $\gamma$  phase,  $\{111\}$ ,  $\{200\}$ ,  $\{220\}$ ,  $\{311\}$  reflections of the MC carbide phase, TiC. The (110), (310), (211), (120), (400), (410), (510), (030), (321), (230), (520) and (022) reflections of a Layes phase, were observed at the end of the DED-AM process.

Prior to the material deposition, at melt track length D = 0 mm, only the  $\gamma$  phase reflections can be seen from the substrate. The initiation of laser melting is indicated by the formation of liquid. Once the laser moved past the melt pool, at  $D = \sim 1.2$  mm, the molten material started to solidify, indicated by the emergence of sharp reflections associated with a crystal phase. The line profiles of the  $\gamma$  phase gradually appeared and the intensity increased during the solidification process. Reflections of the secondary phases including Laves and carbides appeared soon after, revealing the solidification sequence during the cooling process of DED-AM. The full sequence was identified to be: Liquid  $\rightarrow$  Liquid +  $\gamma \rightarrow$  Liquid +  $\gamma +$  MC  $\rightarrow$  Liquid +  $\gamma +$  MC + Laves  $\rightarrow \gamma +$  MC + Laves. The thermal field in the region of the weld pool was also inferred from the diffraction measured d-spacing changes observed in Figure 2d. In the volume probed, the temperature firstly increased before the melting process, indicated by a unit cell size expansion (all peaks gradually shift towards higher d-spacing value), and decrease during solidification (all peaks gradually shift towards a lower d-spacing value), indicated by a unit cell contraction.



Figure 2. In situ X-ray diffraction of DED-AM IN718: (a) Schematic of the in situ and operando X-ray diffraction of DED AM process. The synchrotron X-rays are attenuated by the deposited materials and the diffracted X-rays are recorded by a large 2D area diffraction detector. (b) Melt pool mapping strategy used in this study, consisting of 6×7 mapping matrix. (c) Melt track mapping strategy used in this study, consisting of 6×7 mapping matrix. (c) Melt track mapping strategy used in this study, consisting of 3×21 mapping matrix for the melt track area. The arrow labelled 'd' represents a measure of distance for a separately acquired line scan of 30 discrete diffraction patterns. This line scan obtained data from the front of the melt pool into the melt and then into the melt track; the total scanning distance was 3 mm. The intensity of these individual patterns are plotted as a function of d-

spacing and scanning distance in (d), with the major phases labelled against their respective reflections. The indexing of the identified peaks can be found in Supplementary Results(3.2). Scale bar = 1 mm.

### 3.2 Flow dynamics during DED-AM

The observed flow dynamics in the molten pool are a complex interplay between the fluid flow coupled with the damping effect of powder particle incorporation. The laser-induces a high thermal gradient across the melt pool which induces a Marangoni flow; this is further complicated by the quenching effect of cooler powder particles melting as they are incorporated into the melt pool. Tungsten tracers were added to quantify the melt pool flow patterns in the multi-layer DED-AM build and the flow pattern observed, showing that the melt pool shape is largely determined by the flow characteristics (Figure 3 and **Supplementary** Video 3). The trajectories of flowing W tracer particles indicate radial (outward) flow paths from the centre of the melt pool in the upper part and an inward flow path at the bottom, as shown in the schematic (Figure 3a). The melt pool is divided into three regions: 1. Region A, where a clockwise flow is seen at the right side of the melt pool (Figure 3b); 2. Region B, an anti-clockwise flow is observed at the left side of the melt pool (Figure 3c); 3. Region C, parallel to the X-ray beam direction flow (in-and-out of page direction in Figure 3a) in the centre of the melt pool, which exhibits an up-and-down flow behaviour when observed in a 2D projection. The coloured lines indicate the trajectory and direction of the tracer particles. Radiographs recorded during the experiments are the 2D projection of the 3D flow, and the schematic of the actual 3D flow is shown in Figure 3d. The projected average speed of the tracers flowing in the melt pool was measured to be ~ 2 mm s<sup>-1</sup> in all layers of the build (see **Supplementary Results(3.1)** for instantaneous tracer velocities).



Figure 3. In situ and operando X-ray imaging quantification of Marangoni flow during DED-AM IN718 using W tracers. The synchrotron X-rays attenuation differences between IN718 and W create imaging contrast used to measure the speed and direction of the Marangoni convection in the DED-AM melt pool. A video showing the W tracers following the Marangoni flow can be found in Supplementary Video 3. (a) Schematic showing the Marangoni convection in DED-AM. The melt pool is divided into three regions in 2D projections recorded by synchrotron X-ray radiography. (b) A time-series radiograph revealing the trajectory of a W tracer in region A in the melt pool following Marangoni convection during first-layer of build under P = 200 W, v = 1 mm s<sup>-1</sup> captured at 5000 fps. Scale bar = 500  $\mu$ m. (c) Time series radiographs revealing the trajectory of a W tracer of the build. (d) Schematic of the 3D Marangoni convection in DED-AM.



Figure 4. In situ synchrotron X-ray imaging melt pool quantification of DED-AM IN718. Melt pool volumes and morphologies for varying powder feedrate, laser power and traverse speed with representative radiographs acquired during DED-AM of a multilayer thin wall melt track of IN718 under P = 200 W,  $v = 1 \text{ mm s}^{-1}$ , (i)  $f = 1 \text{ g min}^{-1}$ , (ii)  $f = 2 \text{ g min}^{-1}$ , (iii)  $f = 3 \text{ g min}^{-1}$ , captured at 200 fps. Scale bar  $= 500 \mu \text{m}$ .

The melt pool geometries across operating parameters were quantified from the synchrotron X-ray radiography (Figure 4). Radiographs of the typical pool profiles with a powder feedrate of 1 g min<sup>-1</sup>, 2 g min<sup>-1</sup> and 3 g min<sup>-1</sup> are shown in Figure 4a i-iii, respectively. The melt pool volume increases with increasing powder feedrate and laser power density. With decreasing area and the laser power density or with increasing the traverse speed, the melt pool volume decreases, as expected. Increasing the traverse speed also decreases the amount of powder deposited into the melt pool, further decreasing the melt pool volume. The profile of the deposited track was seen to be strongly dependent on the powder mass flow rate as it affects the thermal gradient in the melt pool. Possible columnar dendrites appear from the phase constrast at the rim of the melt pool at powder feedrate of 2 g min<sup>-1</sup>, as marked in Figure 4a(ii), indicating an excessive flow of powder and the decrease of the melt pool surface temperature. Further increasing the powder feedrate to 3 g min<sup>-1</sup> results in a distortion of the melt pool geometry as well as excessive un-melted powder on top of the melt track. Based on X-ray imaging observation of the melt pool geometries in different process conditions, 200W, 1 g min<sup>-1</sup> and 1 mm s<sup>-1</sup> were selected as the operating parameters for the diffraction experiment. These parameters were selected as they minimised undesirable features such as porosity and created a stable melt pool.

#### 3.3 Phase transformations during cooling

Figure 5 shows the spatially resolved phase volume fractions, calculated from diffraction datasets, from the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> layer of the thin wall built using the selected parameters. Figure 5a shows the average temperature in the X-ray beam direction in the mapped area, determined from the lattice spacing expansion and contraction during laser heating and the subsequent cooling process. The melt pool temperature is set to 1360 °C due to the limitations on detecting peak intensities when solid phases could no longer be seen. As shown in Figure 5a, the temperature drops from the melting temperature to below 1200 °C within 1 mm of travel (1 s for the time duration) and the cooling rate decreases significantly within this regime. The average cooling rate in the mapped regime is ~150 to 500 K s<sup>-1</sup>.

The molten liquid volume fraction, in the same area, was mapped to reveal the liquid-solid phase transformation, as shown in Figure 5b. Here, we assume that the integrated intensity of a peak associated with the liquid phase scales linearly with its volume fraction[36], interpolated between the intensities measured at 100% liquid and 100% solid. The limitation of this method is from the influence of complex chemical composition change on the intensity over temperature, which was not possible to quantify in the present study. This aspect will be investigated explored in a future study. Due to the limitation of the method, the liquid phase fraction is an estimate, thus error propagation was not carried out. The thermal field was mapped with the liquid volume fraction evolution to understand the mushy zone and  $\gamma$  phase development. Previously, such values could only be estimated using the dendrite arm spacing through metallographic examination [4,37]. The liquid volume fraction is estimated decrease to near zero at an indicated temperature of 1250°C, matching the reported solidus temperature (1260 °C) of IN718[37]. The region where a semi-solid phase composition is recorded is estimated to be around 500 µm along the build direction. The reasons for this semi-solid region are twofold; firstly, a mushy zone exists in the temperature range between the solidus and the liquidus temperatures. Secondly, due to the 3-dimensional curvature of the melt-pool which is integrated through-thickness in the X-ray radiography and diffraction experiments. Therefore, this measurement represents an overestimation of the extent of the mushy zone.

The formation of the MC carbide phase and Laves phase during the solidification process is also mapped. The volume fraction of each phase is calculated in Figure 5d and 5e, respectively. We did not observe reflection intensity variations association with texture, thus, we did not require its inclusion when calculating the phase volume fractions. It is the first time the solidification sequence has been measured, *in situ*, along with the corresponding temperature and volume fraction information during DED-AM processing. The solidification process during the DED-AM melt track formation follows the sequence of the  $\gamma$  phase, MC-type carbide and Laves phase, which validates predictions from prior modelling studies [38]. We observed that, compared to the first layer, the solid phase at the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 5<sup>th</sup> layer had a higher value of volume fraction close to the melt pool. We hypothesised that with a taller build over the layers, the heat dissipation changes the solidification rate.

#### 3.4 Stress evolution

Diffraction data were collected in the melt track area, *in situ*, during the third layer of build, as shown in Figure 6. This data was used to quantify the stress evolution in contrast to the phase fraction during the DED-AM in a multi-layer build condition and can be used for cracking susceptibility prediction. The {200}  $\gamma$  reflection was selected to calculate the stress; whilst any reflection could have been used from this phase, using the highest intensity of the peak (with the highest signal to noise ratio) was deemed to provide the best accuracy. The reference lattice paramer, d<sub>0</sub>, when stress is assumed to be regligible were obtained from the diffraction peaks of the substrate plate. The stresses measured in our experiments arise from a combination of thermal effects and solid-state phase transformation (volumetric effects)[39–41]. The temperature distribution of the region of interest is shown in Figure 6a and the liquid fraction of the same region is shown as Figure 6b. The out of plane stress,  $\sigma_{zz}$ , is not asscessible, however, we assume it is negligible as the wall is thin. Furthermore, the in-plane stress is domimant due to the parallel direction to the laser, which corresponds to the direction

with the highest thermal gradient. Thus, the in-plane stress components ( $\sigma_{xx}$ ,  $\sigma_{xy}$ , and  $\sigma_{yy}$ ) were calculated, as shown in Figure 6c. **The methodology to obtain these values can be found in the Supplementary Methods(2.2.1)**. The results show that the stress during the liquid-solid phase transformation is negligible (green region) and the stress starts to accumulate during solid-state phase transformation process (blue region), as shown in Figure 6b.  $\sigma_{yy}$ , parallel to the laser, appears to be the dominant stress component, fluctuating between  $\pm$  5 MPa before it increases gradually to 100 MPa as the temperature decreases to 1000 °C. The stress distribution in the three lines follows the trend of the temperature gradient. We hypothesise that  $\sigma_{yy}$  is the dominant component due to the steep thermal gradient along the direction of the laser-induced rapid cooling. The stress component,  $\sigma_{xx}$ , parallel to the build direction, decreases to – 70 MPa after a sudden increase to 35 MPa at 1000 °C during the cooling process in line 1 and line 2. In line 3,  $\sigma_{xx}$  gradually decreases to -100 MPa.

The residual stresses in the post-build sample were measured at layer by layer intervals, including one row measured in the substrate. The results for the  $\sigma_{xx}$ ,  $\sigma_{xy}$  and  $\sigma_{yy}$  components are shown in Figure 7, with respect to the axes shown. The in-plane stress components are measured to be approximately zero in the substrate (at position 22.5 mm), as expected. The normal stress components  $\sigma_{xx}$  and  $\sigma_{yy}$  within the build were measured to be compressive and of similar magnitude within each single layer, with the  $\sigma_{xy}$  measured to be approximately zero. The measured compressive stresses of  $\sigma_{xx}$  and  $\sigma_{yy}$  were in the range -45 MPa to -125 MPa, suggesting layer to layer stress variation; however, further analysis is needed to substantiate this as the errors are of similar magnitude.



Figure 5. Melt pool mapping results derived from diffraction patterns showing (a) Temperature, (b) liquid volume fraction, (c)  $\gamma$  phase volume fraction, (d) MC carbide volume fraction, (e) laves volume fraction in multi-layer melt pool region. The liquid volume fractions mapping results match the radiography of the melt pool boundary, the results can be found in Supplementary Information.



Figure 6. Melt track mapping results derived from diffraction patterns. (a) Temperature distribution in multi-layer melt pool region including the newly formed melt track, the re-melt region between two layers and re-heat region (Heat Affected Zone, HAZ) of the previous layer during the third layer of build (b) Liquid phase volume fraction in the corresponding melt pool region. (c) Stress distribution including  $\sigma_{xx}$ ,  $\sigma_{yy}$ , and  $\sigma_{xy}$  in the melt track area. The errors of the stress calculations can be found in Supplementary Information.

In this mapped region (Figure 6), the  $\gamma$  phase steadily increases to ~98.5 vol% at an average temperature of 800 °C through projection, a very small amount of Laves phase (~0.05 vol%) and MC carbides phase (~1.5 vol%) gradually develop in this region till the detected area. This is likely to be occurring close to the centreline of the deposit where the temperature remains significantly higher than at the periphery. **Details of the volume fraction calculations can be found in Supplementary Methods(2.4)**. Although the evolution of secondary phases (MC carbides and Laves) are associated with transformation strains due to the volumetric mismatch and resultant deformation in the crystal structure, causing a reconstructive stress [37], we hypothesise that as the volume fraction of the secondary phases is very small in the mapped region, the thermal effects dominant the stress development.



Figure 7. Residual stress in the post-mortem multilayer build calculated from diffraction patterns. (a) Schematic showing line scan strategy. Substrate as build height 0 mm. (b) Residual stress measurements.

### 4. Discussion

### 4.1 Marangoni flow

The solidification process during DED-AM is governed by the heat transfer in the melt pool[4], while the melt pool flow in DED-AM is a critical parameter which determines the heat and mass transfer during the melt track development and microstructural feature formation. Tracing the Marangoni flow during a DED-AM process enables us to understand the melt pool evolution under constant laser radiation and powder incorporation. Although other factors such as the recoil pressure[10], buoyancy force[42], vapour pressure and shadowing effect[43] can also impact the melt flow, it is evident in our study that surface tension is the dominant driving force that governs the melt pool flow behaviour. We observed a radially outward flow in the melt pool that is both wide and shallow. Based on the Heiple–Roper theory[44], we confirm that the melt pool follows a negative surface tension gradient where the surface tension reduces with an increased temperature. The melt flow indicates the speed of heat transfer will define the temperature gradient based on Fourier's law. It is noted that our measured flow speed is lower than that indicated by prior modelling results[45]. This is attributed, in part, to

our measurements being 2D radiographic projections of the 3D flow (Figure 4a), and hence are considered as the lower bounds of the true flow behaviour. As W particles are the same size as IN718 powder particles in this study, the size effect of the tracer is negligible. We speculate that the turbulence in the melt flow reduces the maximum velocity due to the temperature dependence of thermal diffusivity[46], and this has normally been neglected in the modelling calculations. In our study, to accurately describe the melt pool flow, we carefully choose tracer trajectories that appear to move in the plane orthogonal to the X-ray beam,flowing towards/from the extremities of the melt pool. **The instantaneous tracer velocity measurements can be found in Supplementary Results(3.1)**, revealing the range of melt flow velocities in the melt pool.

Based on the quantitative analysis, the kinetic energy and heat transfer in the melt pool during the DED-AM process can be interpreted using the Weber number ( $W_e$ ) and the Péclet number (Pe). These values describe the laser melting process and is a valuable input for the LAM modelling process. The Weber number ( $W_e$ ) is calculated to be 43 near the melt pool centre and 0.19 near the melt pool tail (**details can be found in Supplementary Methods(2.7)**). It shows that compared to LPBF[20], the difference of the Weber number between the melt pool centre and the melt pool tail is not significant, resulting in a low surface roughness ( $R_a$ measured to be 14.55  $\mu$ m). To describe heat transfer in the melt pool, the Péclet number (Pe), which combines the Reynolds number ( $Re_L$ ) and Prandtl number (Pr)[20], was used. The Penumber is calculated to be 107 near the melt pool centre and 1.3 at the solidification front. **The details of the calculation can be found in Supplementary Results(3.1.3)**. The results indicate that heat convection dominates the centre of the melt pool while heat conduction dominates at the tail of the melt pool.

#### 4.2 Solidification process and cooling rate

Solidification of the melt pool is governed by the net heat transfer through the melt pool[4] and in this study, we focus on two major events: (1) the mushy-zone heat transfer and (2) the microstructural evolution. The mushy-zone contains the solid, together with interdendritic liquid enriched in alloying elements. The heat transfer at the solid/liquid boundary has been indicated in Section 4.1 by the  $P_e$  number. Here, the thermal gradient is derived from the melt pool temperature mapping results using diffraction patterns, enabling a more accurate characterisation of the melt pool solidification front behaviour. Previously, the thermal field could only be estimated by thermocouples, infrared thermography or modelling. Using  $\gamma$  reflections that are seen to increase in intensity during solidification, the temperature gradient of the solidification front was calculated to be ~ 2.5 to 5 × 10<sup>6</sup> K/mm, close to the predicted values via modelling[37], but different from welding and Laser Powder Bed Fusion process due to the powder input and scanning speed. Using this gradient, the lower velocity threshold for cellular-dendritic transition is calculated to be ~0.02 mm s<sup>-1</sup> (the calculation method can be found in Supplementary Methods(2.5)), well below the operating traverse speed (1 mm s<sup>-1</sup>) in our experiments, promoting epitaxial dendritic growth.

### 4.3 Final solidification phase evolution

The rapid laser-induced heating and cooling rates during DED-AM has previously meant that the phases developed during DED-AM can only be measured by post build metallographic analysis[47], inferring the kinetics only through simulations[38]. Zhao *et al.*[48] indicated the possibility of the solidification rate estimation using X-ray imaging. However, our study directly quantifies the solidification sequence, including estimates of the phase formation temperatures, kinetics and volume fractions. We quantitatively determine that the major phases during DED-AM of IN718 to be  $\gamma$ , MC-type carbides and Laves, for the process parameters used in this study.

We assume that during the cooling from the melt, the decrease of lattice spacing is solely due to thermal contraction[13]; therefore, the temperature evolution can be calculated from the lattice spacing using known thermal expansion coefficients. We also assume that the thermal contraction behaviour of the  $\gamma$  phase in IN718 is linear from the melt to room temperature. This behaviour replicates observations found in another study [49], which shows that thermal

expansion results in a linear increase of the stress-free lattice constant in the  $\gamma$  phase in IN625. The temperature evolution is then calculated from the lattice spacing using thermal expansion coefficients tabulated from the liquidus and room temperature. Other than the formation of MC carbides and the Laves phase, the IN718 samples do not exhibit further phase transformations during cooling in the mapped region as the rapid cooling rate is considered to be sufficient to suppress the formation of  $\gamma'$  phase and  $\gamma''$  phase. Without any further solid-state transformations, it is possible to separate the contribution of thermal effects from chemical and stress effects.

Based on our observations, the solidification path starts with the formation of epitaxial dendritic  $\gamma$  at 1275 -1300 °C. Secondary phases start to form in the interdendritic liquid when the solute elements (i.e. Nb, Ti and C) are likely to exceed their solubility limit. For IN718, the enrichment of Nb and Ti in the interdendritic liquid eventually leads to the formation of MC-type carbides (TiC) via a non-invariant eutectic type reaction. The temperature of this reaction in our experiments is observed to be 1250 °C in the first layer and 1250-1275 °C in the subsequent layers, which agrees well with the calculation performed by Knorovsky et al. [38] (exactly at 1250 °C). We suggest that the difference in the reaction temperature in the subsequent layers is due to the subtle changes in alloy composition from the remelting of previous layers. The formation of carbides depletes the carbon in the interdendritic liquid, enriching the remaining elements that advance the  $\gamma$ /Laves eutectic reaction at 1200 °C. Once carbides and Laves form, their volume fractions continue to increase (marked in Figure 6b). It is difficult to estimate their growth rate due to their low volume fraction. ~1.1 vol% of MC carbides and ~0.5 vol% of Laves are detected post-mortem using diffraction in this thin wall build, which is similar to the values reported in an industrial DED-AM process. Sui et al.[50] reported 1.55 vol% Laves phase using a LSF-IIIB LAM system at room temperature. The differences observed can be explained by the differences in process conditions, particularly cooling rate. In contrast to the reported complex constituents ( $\alpha$ -Cr +  $\delta$  + Laves +  $\gamma''$  + matrix) [47,51], no traces of  $\delta$  and  $\gamma''$ were detected in our study. We hypothesise that the high-temperature gradient and rapid solidification rate inhibits time-dependent diffusional processes including the formation of these strengthening phases during DED-AM. Furthermore, no  $\delta$  was detected in the post-mortem build, and we further hypothesise that it is because the  $\delta$  phase nucleation kinetics are too slow for the cooling rate [47] imposed by DED-AM in our study.

#### 4.4 Cracking criteria

Laser-induced rapid heating and cooling produce a steep thermal gradient, resulting in significant volumetric shrinkage and residual stresses. Meanwhile, the eutectic reaction and elemental segregation at the grain boundaries and interdendritic regions generated significant undercooling[52] from the solute enrichment during LAM of IN718. The combination of intergranular liquid thin films and high thermal stresses increases the susceptibility for hot cracking, especially liquation cracking in the Heat Affected Zone[26]. Fundamentally, two conditions must be satisfied for hot cracking to occur: (a) mechanically/thermally imposed restrain (strain) exhausts the ductility of the material; and (b) a crack-susceptible microstructure results from the persistence of liquid films along solidification boundaries[53]. To understand the cracking susceptibility of IN718 in DED-AM, the von Mises stresses in the melt track region were first calculated to estimate the yielding of IN718 during the rapid cooling process. The von Mises stresses were calculated for measured locations in the melt track, calculated from the stress tensor components evaluated in Section 3.4. The values are plotted as a function of temperature in Figure 8a. To compare the von Mises stress from this study, known yield stress values (at a strain rate of 0.001 s<sup>-1</sup>, estimated for this study) of IN718 [54] are also plotted in Figure 8a. Calculation of the appropriate strain rate in the region of interest can be found in the Supplementary Methods(2.3).

Figure 8a shows that all stresses are zero at the liquidus temperature (1360 °C) in the region of interest and they increase during cooling. The von Mises stress of line 1 and 2 are close to the reported yield strength of IN718, while the re-melting of the previous build layer causes the stress increase. This results in the measured von Mises stress of line 3 being approximately equal to the yield strength. Therefore, during rapid cooling from the DED-AM of

IN718, the material reaches the yield stress immediately once solid forms. It can be inferred that as the material reaches near 100% solid, plastically must accumulate which prevails continuously as the temperature decreases. However, as no  $\gamma'$  precipitates nor other strengthening phases are detected, any heterogeneous nucleation mechanisms remain insufficient to overcome the kinetically inhibiting rapid cooling rate, as discussed in Section 4.3. Whilst significant plasticity is generated at high temperature, there was no evidence of recrystallisation, which we postulate is due to the same reasons as the lack of precipitation.

The solidification microstructure is another criterion for cracking-susceptibility. Many hot cracking models, e.g. the Rappaz, Drezet and Gremaud (RDG) [55], indicate that cracking is dominated by the final stage of the solidification process. The susceptibility for an alloy to crack is often interpreted from Scheil-Gulliver solidification models using the fraction of the solid. Alloys known to crack exhibit a large solidification range (the difference between the liquidus and solidus temperature) and have a sharp turnover in the solidification curves at high fractions of solid[56]. In our study, Thermo-Calc software was used to calculate the fraction of solid and the composition of solid-state phases during cooling, for phases known to form from the diffraction patterns. Details of the simulation can be found in the Supplementary **Methods**(2.4.2). Figure 8b shows the fraction of solid decreasing during the cooling process and following the simulated curve in the region of interest during the cooling process. A high solidification range and steep solid fraction gradients at high fractions of solids (greater than 0.8) were observed from the experimental results. Combining the two cracking criteria, we conclude that IN718 is highly susceptible to hot cracking during DED-AM. This conforms with the findings of Chauvet et al. [57] and Chen et al. [26]. Considering that plasticity prevails from re-melting, liquation cracking is most likely to occur in our study from the localised melting of the grain boundaries. Lippold et al. [53] explained that it is due to the addition of Ti or Nb, which forms MC-type carbides, in IN718. The cracking phenomenon is evidenced by the release of shear stress in the post-build residual stress measurements. Due to the intergranular nature of the cracks, the normal components of the residual stress are still detectable in the postbuild scans, which can be further released by heat-treatment.



Figure 8. Cracking susceptibility of IN718 during DED-AM. (a) Von Mises stresses in the melt track region calculated against IN718 yield strength at a strain rate of 0.001 s<sup>-1</sup>. Plasticity accumulates which prevails continuously as the temperature decreases. For error calculation, see Supplementary Methods(2.2.2). (b) The fraction of solids during the cooling process showing a large solidification range.

### 5. Conclusions

A unique *in situ* and *operando* process replicator has been successfully implemented that enabled fast time-resolved synchrotron real and reciprocal space X-ray imaging of the underlying physics occurring during multi-layer DED-AM. Significant new insights were obtained that relate the laser melting to the resultant microstructure and potentially detrimental features such as porosity and micro-cracks during the DED-AM of the nickel-based superalloy, IN718. The following key conclusions can be drawn:

- Using imaging to guide the analysis of temporally resolved diffraction data, it was
  possible to unambiguously separate the thermal gradient, phase transformations
  including their volume fraction development and macromechanical stress development
  during a multi-layer DED-AM build.
- By measuring the instantaneous cooling rate, it can be hypothesised that the solidification front in IN718 during DED-AM is dendritic. During cooling, the following phase transformation sequence is observed: Liquid → Liquid + γ → Liquid + γ + MC →

Liquid +  $\gamma$  + MC + Laves  $\rightarrow \gamma$  + MC + Laves. The as-built microstructure comprises mostly  $\gamma$ , but also contains low volume fraction phases including; MC carbides (~1.1 vol.%) Laves (~0.5 vol.%), demonstrating the high sensitivity of the technique.

- The heat transfer kinetics in the melt pool were quantified by tracing the speed and directions of the melt flow. Marangoni convection is the prevailing phenomenon that governs the melt pool flow, whereby heat convection controls the centre of the melt pool while in the mushy zone, heat conduction dominates.
- It was revealed that the accumulated stresses in the high-temperature region are dominated by thermal effects. The stress is sufficiently high to yield the material immediately after it solidifies and during further cooling. Instead of triggering the formation of secondary strengthening phases or recrystallization, the stresses exhaust the ductility of the material and likely lead to liquation cracking due to the large solidification range.

Through characterising the transient behaviour operative during the DED-AM process, it is possible to understand the as-built characteristics including the volume fractions of secondary phases and the mechanical behaviour of the material which could be used to instruct post-build heat treatment strategies. The application of such insight, both to nickel-base superalloys and other alloy systems, will deliver critical understanding in enhancing the quality and performance of additively manufactured parts.

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## In situ X-ray Investigation of Directed Energy Deposition Additive Manufacturing

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### **1** Supplementary Information

### 1.1 The Blown Powder Additive Manufacturing Process Replicator (BAMPR)

The system was encased within a Class I laser enclosure and comprises an inert environment chamber, a high precision 3-axis platform (Aerotech, US), a coaxial DED nozzle and a laser system (SPI Lasers Ltd, UK). An industrial powder feeder (Oerlikon Metco TWIN-10-C) delivers powder to the system in a stream of argon gas. The laser is a 1070 nm Ytterbium-doped fibre laser (continuous-wave mode) with controllable laser power (P) in the range of 0-200 W. The laser is coupled with tuneable optics (Optogama, Lithuania) to facilitate a controllable focused spot size of between 200-700 µm. This allows the BAMPR to operate at power density of 397 - 6366 W mm<sup>-2</sup>, replicating the range of an industrial DED AM machine. The laser is positioned to be concentric with the powder delivery stream blown from the nozzle and normal to the substrate plate under an Argon carrier gas. In this work the build platform was able to translate through 50 mm in width, 25 mm in length and 50 mm in height. The substrate plate is positioned inside the environmental build chamber with Kapton windows for X-ray transparency. The chamber is constantly refreshed with a combined flowing argon atmosphere of  $17 \text{ Lmin}^{-1}$ . The speed of the sample stages in both cases were controlled to be between 1 - 5 mm s<sup>-1</sup> to enable a continuous track to be formed, as proved successful in preliminary laboratory trials.

### 1.2 Materials

The morphology of the Plasma Rotate Electrode Process (PREP) IN718 powder was characterized by a JEOL JSM-6610LV SEM. The particle size distribution was measured from SEM micrographs which were analysed using the Image Processing Toolbox in MATLAB 2016a (The MathWorks Inc, USA). The chemical states of the virgin powder were examined by ICP-OES.

### 1.3 Synchrotron Imaging and Diffraction Acquisition Conditions

We performed *in situ* X-ray imaging on the I12-JEEP beamline at the Diamond Light Source to capture the transient phenomena of DED-AM in IN718. A monochromatic beam was selected to provide the best signal to noise level, and ensure linear attenuation. A mean X-ray energy of approximately 53 keV was

used for all experiments. The X-ray imaging system consisted of a 200  $\mu$ m thick LuAg:Ce scintillator and a 4× magnification using a long working distance objective lens (0.21 numerical aperture). The X-rays were attenuated by the powder and the deposit which were converted to visible light by a scintillator, lens-coupled to a high-resolution imaging camera (PCO.edge, PCO). This recorded images at 200 fps and a lower resolution high-speed camera (MIRO 310M, Vision Research Inc.), recording at up to 5,000 fps. Unlike for laser powder bed fusion, the melt pool in DED-AM is much larger and the translations are much slower (mm s<sup>-1</sup> compared to m s<sup>-1</sup>). Therefore, we optimised the number of frames per second for two situations. Firstly, to capture the pool phenomena we found 200 fps was sufficient to measure the key phenomena, while enabling a long exposure time of 0.0049 s and a very small off-load time (0.0001 s) provided an excellent signal to noise (S/N) ratio. We also used 5000 fps for experiments where faster phenomena were occurring, trading off S/N for speed. The optical configuration provided an imaging resolution of approximately 6.67  $\mu$ m per pixel at 5,000 fps and 3.24  $\mu$ m per pixel at 200 fps.

We performed *in situ* X-ray diffraction on the I12-JEEP beamline at Diamond Light Source to capture the transient phenomena of the DED-AM of IN718. A monochromatic beam with mean X-ray energy of approximately 70 *keV* was used and calibrated using a CeO<sub>2</sub> standard for all diffraction experiments. *In situ* diffraction data were acquired using a large Pilatus 2M CdTe 2D area detector, with an active area of  $253.7 \times 288.8 \text{ mm}^2$  (1475  $\times$  679 pixels<sup>2</sup>) and pixel size of  $172 \times 172 \text{ }\mu\text{m}^2$ , enabling full Debye-Scherrer diffraction patterns, obtained in transmission, to be collected with an exposure time of 6.67 s.

### 2 Supplementary Methods

### 2.1 Determination of differential strain

The normal method of determining strain from two dimensional XRD patterns is a multistep process that firstly bins the data into a set of one-dimensional diffraction patterns, each of equal azimuthal angle ( $\psi$ ). A second step fits the diffraction peaks in each azimuthal slice independently of the other azimuths. The variation in peak centroid ( $d_{\psi}^{hkl}$ ) with azimuth is fit with a  $\cos^2 \psi$  function that describes the differential strain. This method can be referred to in 2.2.1.

The diffraction patterns in this study present difficulties for this method of XRD fitting. This is due to the small beam spot size (100  $\mu m \times 100 \mu m$ ), during the DED-AM process the samples results in a grain-size that is a significant fraction of the diffraction volume and the Debye-Scherer rings consist of ~50-100 very intense diffraction spots overlying a significantly weaker powder background (Figure 1a). The spottiness of the IN718 diffraction rings gives scattered peak-centers which appear to be cuased by the large variation in maximum intensity and so difference sensitivities to the background and noise in the diffraction pattern. This results in poor constraint in differential strain. The  $\gamma$  peaks are also discontinuous as well as being very weak due to the small phase fraction (the brightest peak has an intensity ~10 on top of a background of ~40 arbitrary units).

To overcome these problems we utilised continuous peak fit [1]. This is a new method for fitting diffraction peaks from 2D data, as a single step process without the need to integrate the diffraction data. It assumes that the parameters describing a simple Pseudo-Voigt diffraction peak (d-spacing, amplitude, width, peak-shape, etc.) vary smoothly as a function of azimuth and parameterise the variation in each as a Fourier series in azimuth. Thus, as an example, the d-spacing  $(d_{\psi}^{hkl})$  is a  $2^{nd}$  order Fourier series:

$$d_{\psi}^{hkl} = a_1^{hkl} + b_1^{hkl} + \sin\psi + b_2^{hkl}\cos\psi + c_1^{hkl}\sin^2\psi + c_2^{hkl}\cos^2\psi$$
(1)

Where  $a_1^{hkl}$  is the mean d-spacing, two  $1^{st}$  order terms  $(b_1 \text{ and } b_2)$  represent an offset of the diffraction volume relative to the calibration and are usually very small and the two  $2^nd$  order terms  $(c_1 \text{ and } c_2)$  represent the differential strain. The other peak parameters have more (amplitude) or less (width, peak-shape) terms depending on the requirements of the data.

The model is fit to the as-collected, unintegrated, 2-dimensional diffraction data at all azimuths within a narrow range around each peak by minimising the least squares residuals between the peak model and the data (Figure 1). Formal errors in each coefficient are returned by the fitting routine and are only as good as the assumptions made in the model. The new fitting algorithm has been validated and shown to be reliable; the details are beyond the scope of this paper and will be published with the description of the algorithm.

For the  $\gamma$  Debye-rings, this function is still leveraged towards the brightest spots in the diffraction rings but the continuity of the d-spacing function ensures that that no single diffraction spot dominates the solution. The fit of one peak using this method is illustrated in Figure S1. In the illustrated fit, the peak intensities in the model are smoothed by the Fourier series that describes the peak height and therefore are not a particularly good representation of the diffraction data. A better description of the peak intensity could be gained by utilisation of higher order Fourier series. Testing showed that the fitting of higher order Fourier series provide a better description of the peak intensity but take significantly longer while not significantly changing the differential strain estimate nor decreasing the differential strain's formal errors. The differential strains determined with the new algorithm are comparable in magnitude to those obtained by traditional processing but with significantly less scatter. The continuity inherent in the function also ensures that good fits can be gained for the MC carbides data which are otherwise swamped rendered unfittable due to the low signal to noise ratio by random noise in the separate azimuthal fits.



Figure 1: **Differential strain determination used in our study.** Example of a differential strain fitting. It shows that the original data is very spotty and difficult to fit with pseudo-Voigt function and acquire accurate peak position for strain analysis. While the new fitting methos enables to fit the spotty data and the residuals are extremely small

### 2.2 Diffraction Analysis Method

### 2.2.1 Determination of macromechanical stress

The following method for determining in-plane stresses is detailed more fully elsewhere [2], which is based on a generalised theory for X-ray determination of stresses from thin films [3]. The details given here apply

these methods to the crystallography of the  $\gamma$  phase and the sector-by-sector treatment of this dataset. The micromechanical strain can be obtained with knowledge of the lattice plane d-spacing,  $d_{\psi}^{hkl}$ , for a given hkl reflection and azimuthal angle  $\psi$  and a strain free lattice parameter,  $d_0^{hkl}$ . This is given by

$$\varepsilon_{\psi}^{hkl} = \frac{d_{\psi}^{hkl} - d_{0}^{hkl}}{d_{0}^{hkl}} \tag{2}$$

By neglecting small out of plane components, the micromechanical strain can be expressed as

$$\varepsilon_{\psi}^{hkl} = p_{xx,\psi}^{hkl} \sigma_{xx} + p_{xy,\psi}^{hkl} \sigma_{xy} + p_{yy,\psi}^{hkl} \sigma_{yy} \tag{3}$$

where  $p_{ij,\psi}^{hkl}$  are lattice plane dependent stress factors and  $\sigma_{ij}$  are the 2D components of the macromechnical stress tensor. The stress factors can be expressed in terms of X-ray elastic constants  $S_1^{hkl}$  &  $\frac{1}{2}S_2^{hkl}$ :

$$p_{xx,\psi}^{hkl} = S_1^{hkl} + \frac{1}{2} S_2^{hkl} \cos^2(\psi)$$
(4)

$$p_{xy,\psi}^{hkl} = \frac{1}{2} S_2^{hkl} \sin(2\psi)$$
 (5)

$$p_{yy,\psi}^{hkl} = S_1^{hkl} + \frac{1}{2} S_2^{hkl} \sin^2(\psi)$$
(6)

The X-ray elastic constants can be related to the elastic modulus,  $E_{hkl}$  and Poisson's ratio,  $\nu_{hkl}$ , for a given hkl, or in terms of single crystal elastic constant coefficients,  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\eta \& \varphi$ :

$$S_1^{hkl} = -\frac{\nu^{hkl}}{E^{hkl}} = \eta \Gamma^{hkl} + \varphi \tag{7}$$

$$\frac{1}{2}S_2^{hkl} = \frac{1+\nu^{hkl}}{E^{hkl}} = \Gamma^{hkl}(\alpha - \eta) + \beta - \varphi$$
(8)

where  $\Gamma^{hkl}$  is the crystallographic factor for a cubic system:

$$\Gamma^{hkl} = \frac{h^2k^2 + h^2l^2 + k^2l^2}{(h^2 + k^2 + l^2)^2} \tag{9}$$

The high energy diffraction measurements give rise to scattering vectors that lie approximately in a single plane. The collected 2D Debye-Scherrer diffraction data can therefore be used to calculate the in-plane components of stress. This method inhibits any out of plane stress components, however, neglecting these terms is reasonable as the measured sample was thin. Within a single probed sample location, the  $\sigma_{xx}$ ,  $\sigma_{xy} \& \sigma_{yy}$  terms can be calculated. These values were obtained from the micromechanical strains (Eq. 2) measured from the first 5  $\gamma_{hkl}$  reflections (111, 200, 220, 311 & 222), at 36 azimuths ( $\bar{\psi}_1 = 0^\circ$ ,  $\bar{\psi}_2 = 10^\circ$ ,  $\bar{\psi}_3 = 20^\circ, \dots, \bar{\psi}_{36} = 350^\circ$ ), totalling 180 measurements. For the calculation of the macromechanical stress tensor, the micromechanical strain, given in Eq. 3, is rewritten as follows:

$$\{oldsymbol{arepsilon}\} = \{oldsymbol{\sigma}\}[p]$$
 (10)

where

$$\{\boldsymbol{\varepsilon}\} = \{ \begin{array}{cccc} \varepsilon_{\bar{\psi}_1}^{111} & \varepsilon_{\bar{\psi}_1}^{200} & \varepsilon_{\bar{\psi}_1}^{220} & \varepsilon_{\bar{\psi}_1}^{311} & \varepsilon_{\bar{\psi}_2}^{222} & \varepsilon_{\bar{\psi}_1}^{111} & \cdots & \varepsilon_{\bar{\psi}_{36}}^{222} \\ \\ \{\boldsymbol{\sigma}\} = \{ \begin{array}{ccccc} \sigma_{xx} & \sigma_{xy} & \sigma_{yy} \end{array} \} \\ \\ \left[\boldsymbol{p}\right] = \begin{bmatrix} p_{xx,\bar{\psi}_1}^{111} & p_{xx,\bar{\psi}_1}^{200} & p_{xx,\bar{\psi}_1}^{220} & p_{xx,\bar{\psi}_1}^{311} & p_{xx,\bar{\psi}_1}^{222} & p_{xx,\bar{\psi}_2}^{111} \\ \\ p_{xy,\bar{\psi}_1}^{111} & p_{xy,\bar{\psi}_1}^{200} & p_{xy,\bar{\psi}_1}^{220} & p_{xy,\bar{\psi}_1}^{311} & p_{xy,\bar{\psi}_1}^{222} & p_{xy,\bar{\psi}_2}^{111} \\ \\ p_{yy,\bar{\psi}_1}^{111} & p_{yy,\bar{\psi}_1}^{200} & p_{yy,\bar{\psi}_1}^{220} & p_{yy,\bar{\psi}_1}^{311} & p_{yy,\bar{\psi}_1}^{222} & p_{yy,\bar{\psi}_2}^{111} \\ \end{array} \right\}$$

The values of  $p_{ij,\psi}^{hkl}$  given above were calculated from Eq. 4, 5 & 6, where the X-ray elastic constants were obtained using Eq. 7, 8 & 9. Here, experimentally determined single crystal elastic constant coefficients,

as a function of temperature, reported for Inconel 718 were used[4]. This single crystal elastic constant coefficients as a function of temperature were fitted with a second order polynomial and extrapolated for the temperature range required for this study. Finally, the macromehanical stresses were determined by rearranging Eq. 10:

$$\{\sigma\} = \{\varepsilon\}[p]^+$$
 (11)

where  $[p]^+$  is the Moore-Penrose pseudo inverse of [p].

For comparison to yield stress values, the Von Mises stress,  $\sigma_{VM}$ , was calculated from the macromechancial stress tensor. For the in-plane stresses, where  $\sigma_{33} = \sigma_{13} = \sigma_{23} = 0$ , the Von Mises stress equation is:

$$\sigma_{\rm VM} = \sqrt{\sigma_{11}^2 + \sigma_{22}^2 + \sigma_{11}\sigma_{22} + 3\sigma_{12}^2} \tag{12}$$

#### 2.2.2 Stress uncertainty calculations

Errors associated with scatter in the data are associated with the spottiness of the collected diffraction patterns. To estimate the stress uncertainty from this contribution, we have used the property that stresses obtained from opposite azimuthal sectors. We obtained stresses deviations from azimuth angles,  $0^{\circ} < \varphi < 180^{\circ}$ , then  $180^{\circ} < \varphi < 360^{\circ}$ ,  $E(\varphi_{ij})$ , by the following magnitudes:  $E(\varphi_{xx}) = \pm 6MPa$ ,  $E(\varphi_{xy}) = \pm 23MPa$ , and  $E(\varphi_{yy}) = \pm 15MPa$ .

### 2.3 Normal strain and strain rate

In this study, the measured macromechanical stresses were compared to published values of yield strength for the tested material, IN718. However, yield strengths are extremely sensitive to strain rate, making direct comparison without knowledge of deformation rate dependency difficult. Estimations of the strain rate were achieved from the temporally measured stresses. The accumulation of elastic stresses was directly measured here as a function of time, necessitating them to be converted to strains. Specifically, these were calculated for the principal strains, obtained from the following elastic strain relationship from the calculated principal stresses:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \varepsilon_x \\ \varepsilon_y \\ \varepsilon_z \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{E} & -\frac{1}{E} & 0 \\ -\frac{v}{E} & \frac{1}{E} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{G} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_x \\ \sigma_y \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
(13)

where E is the Young's modulus, v is the Poisson's ratio, and the shear modulus of elasticity is given by G = E/2(1 + v). The principal strains  $\varepsilon_x$ ,  $\varepsilon_y \& \varepsilon_z$  were calculated from the principal stresses  $\sigma_x \& \sigma_y$ . The latter were obtained from eigenvalues determined from the stress matrix populated from Equation **??**. From this calculation, the strain rate was calculated to be  $\sim 0.001 \, \text{s}^{-1}$ . Yield stress values shown in Fig. 7 of the manuscript were obtained at this strain rate, as a function of temperature from values found elsewhere [4].

#### 2.4 Volume fraction determination

The following methodology is adapted from a volume fraction calculation performed elsewhere [5]. The volume fraction of a phase can be deduced from a general expression for the integrated intensity of a diffraction reflection [6]:

$$I_{hkl}^{\alpha} = \left[\frac{I_0\lambda^3}{32\pi r}\frac{e_c^4}{m_ec^4}\right] \left[\frac{p_{hkl}}{2V_{\alpha}^2} \cdot |F_{hkl}^2| \cdot \frac{1+\cos^2 2\theta \cos^2 2\theta_m}{\sin^2 \theta \cos \theta}\right] \left[\frac{W_{\alpha}}{\rho_{\alpha}\mu_m^*}\right]$$
(14)

where  $I_0$  is the incident X-ray beam intensity,  $\lambda$  is the wavelength, r is the distance between the detector and a scattering electron,  $e_c$  is the electron charge,  $m_e$  is the mass of an electron, c is the speed of light,  $p_{hkl}$  is the multiplicity of a reflection hkl,  $V_{\alpha}$  is the volume of the unit cell,  $F_{hkl}$  is the structure factor,  $\theta$ is the diffraction angle for reflection hkl and  $\theta_m$  is the monochromator angle.  $W_{\alpha}$  and  $\rho_{\alpha}$  are the weight fraction and density of phase  $\alpha$ , and  $\mu_m^*$  is the sample mass absorption coefficient. Many of these terms do not need to be known in order to ascertain a phase volume fraction, as they are simply scaling constants. Instead it can be deduced from the relative integrated intensity, denoted here as  $I_{(hkl)}^{R}$ :

$$I_{hkl}^{\rm R} = I_0 p_{hkl} |F_{hkl}^2| \frac{1 + \cos^2 2\theta}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{\sin \theta \sin 2\theta} A(\theta) e^{-2M_T}$$
(15)

where  $I_0$  is the incident X-ray beam intensity,  $(1 + \cos^2 2\theta)/2$  is a polarisation factor, equal to 1 for synchrotron radiation,  $1/(\sin \theta \sin 2\theta)$  is the Lorenz factor,  $A(\theta)$  is the diffraction angle dependent absorption constant, and  $e^{(-2M_T)}$  is the Debye-Waller temperature factor.

The term  $W_{\alpha}/\rho_{\alpha}$  from Eq 14 is equal to the volume fraction of this phase,  $\phi_{\alpha}$ . The polarisation factor is equal to 1 in synchrotron radiation. As the reflections assessed over a narrow  $2\theta$  range, the angle dependency of the absorption constant is small, so this term can be neglected. Combining these simplifications, Eq 14 and 15, for a hypothetical phase  $\alpha$  can be described as:

$$I^{\alpha} = I_s^{\alpha} \cdot p_{hkl} \cdot |F_{hkl}^2| \cdot \frac{1}{\sin\theta\sin2\theta} \cdot e^{(-2M_T)}\phi_{\alpha}$$
(16)

For a reflection, hkl in a phase, the intensity scales by a term  $I_{hkl}$ , where

$$I_{hkl} = p_{hkl} \cdot |F_{hkl}^2| \cdot \frac{1}{\sin\theta\sin 2\theta} \cdot e^{(-2M_T)}$$
(17)

Thus, it is possible to obtain the volume fraction contributions from each phase by combining Eq 16 and 17:

$$\phi_{\gamma} = \left(\frac{I^{\gamma}}{I_{hkl}}\right) \frac{1}{I_s} \tag{18}$$

$$\phi_{\text{Laves}} = \left(\frac{I^{\text{Laves}}}{I_{hkl}}\right) \frac{1}{I_s} \tag{19}$$

$$\phi_{\rm MC} = \left(\frac{I^{\rm MC}}{I_{hkl}}\right) \frac{1}{I_s} \tag{20}$$

The only remaining unknown in the above expression is no  $I_s$ . This can be simply calculated by summing each volume fraction expression:

$$\frac{I^{\gamma}}{I_{hkl}} + \frac{I^{\text{Laves}}}{I_{hkl}} + \frac{I^{\text{MC}}}{I_{hkl}} = I_s(\phi_{\gamma} + \phi_{\text{Laves}} + \phi_{\text{MC}})$$
(21)

as  $\phi_{\gamma} + \phi_{\text{Laves}} + \phi_{\text{MC}} = 1$ ,  $I_s$  is known and hence the individual volume fractions can be calculated.

### 2.4.1 Structure Factor

For each hkl reflection, and for each phase, a structure factor must be calculated. The structure factors here are strongly related to their phase compositions, and more specifically, their site occupancies. Expressions for the structure factors of each phase was determined to account for this. The disordered A1 structure  $\gamma$  phase has a single sublattice and is given by the following general solution:

$$F_{hkl}^{\gamma} = \sum c_j f_j e^{[-2\pi i (hx_j + ky_j + lz_j)]}$$
(22)

where  $c_j$  is the site occupancy for each element j, on the corresponding lattice coordinates  $x_j$ ,  $y_j$  and  $z_j$ , and  $f_j$  is the atomic scattering factor, for element j. For the MC carbides and Laves phases, they have two sublattices, denoted here as a & b. As each element, j may not reside on a single sublattice, the structure factors for each site can be treated independently as follows:

$$F_{hkl} = \sum_{a} c_{j_a} f_j e^{\left[-2\pi i (hx_{j_a} + ky_{j_a} + lz_{j_a})\right]} + \sum_{b} c_{j_b} f_j e^{\left[-2\pi i (hx_{j_b} + ky_{j_b} + lz_{j_b})\right]}$$
(23)

Phase	Space Group	Sublattice 1 Coordinates	Sublattice 2 Coordinates	Notes
$\gamma$	Fm3m	$[0 \ 0 \ 0], \ [0 \ \frac{1}{2} \ \frac{1}{2}], \ [0 \ \frac{1}{2} \ \frac{1}{2}], \ [\frac{1}{2}, \ 0, \frac{1}{2}]$	-	A1 crystal structure.
МС	Pm∃m	$[0 \ 0 \ 0], \ [0 \ \frac{1}{2} \ \frac{1}{2}], \ [0 \ \frac{1}{2} \ \frac{1}{2}], \ [\frac{1}{2}, \ 0, \ \frac{1}{2}]$	$[0 \ 0 \ \frac{1}{2}], [0 \ \frac{1}{2} \ 0], [\frac{1}{2} \ 0 \ 0], [\frac{1}{2} \ \frac{1}{2} \ \frac{1}{2}]$	$L1_2$ crystal structure. Based on TiC compound, where Ti is sublattice 1 and C is sublattice 2.
Laves	$P6_3/mmc$	$[0 \ 0 \ 0], [0 \ 0 \ \frac{1}{2}], [0.83 \ 0.17 \ \frac{1}{4}], [0.34 \ 0.17 \ \frac{1}{4}], [0.34 \ 0.17 \ \frac{1}{4}], [0.17 \ 0.34 \ \frac{3}{4}], [0.66 \ 0.83 \ \frac{3}{4}], [0.17 \ 0.83 \ \frac{3}{4}], [0.83 \ 0.66 \ \frac{1}{4}]$	$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & \frac{1}{4} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{3} & \frac{2}{3} & 0.437 \end{bmatrix}, \\ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & 0.563 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} \frac{2}{3} & \frac{1}{3} & 0.937 \end{bmatrix}$	C14 crystal structure. Based on $Fe_2Nb$ compound, where Fe is sublattice 1, and Nb is sublattice 2.

Table 1: Crystallographic details used for structure factor calculations.

where  $c_{j_a} \& c_{j_b}$  are the site occupancies of element j on sublattice a and b. The lattice coordinates  $x_{j_a}$ ,  $y_{j_a}$  and  $z_{j_a}$  are assigned per element j on sublattice a and lattice coordinates  $x_{j_b}$ ,  $y_{j_b}$  and  $z_{j_b}$  are assigned per element j on sublattice coordinates for the phases calculated are given in Table 1.

The general expression for the atomic scattering factors, f, of any element is defined as

$$f = f_0 + \Delta f' + i\Delta f'' \tag{24}$$

where  $f_0$  is the real atomic scatting factor, and the complex  $\Delta f' + i\Delta f''$  term is a dispersion correction. The real atomic scattering factor, valid for the range  $0 < \sin \theta / \lambda < 2.0$  Å is as follows:

$$f_0 = \sum_{i=1}^{4} a_i e^{(-b_i \sin^2 \theta / \lambda^2)} + c$$
(25)

where  $a_i$ ,  $b_i$  and c are element dependent coefficients that are tabulated elsewhere [7]. The dispersion correction terms can be found in Ref [8].

#### 2.4.2 Thermodynamic modelling

The structure factor calculation, Eq. 22 & 23, requires knowledge of the crystal structure site occupancies, as a function of temperature. These were predicted with Thermo-Calc [9] v2020a, using the TCNi8 (v8.2) database. In addition to the presence of liquid, from identification of the reflections from the diffraction patterns, the solid state phases were known to be present were  $\gamma$ , MC carbides and Laves. The simulations included these phases, and suspended all others. For crystalline phases that formed whilst solidification was talking place, a Scheil solidification simulation with back diffusion was used. This simulation incorporates the secondary dendrite arm spacing (SDAS), which is related empirically to the cooling rate, dT/dt (via  $SDAS = A(dT/dt)^{-n}$ , where A and n are constants. This function was fitted to published data on Alloy 718 [10], then the ThermoCalc simulation was run with  $dT/dt = 500 \text{ Ks}^{-1}$ . For predictions below the solidus temperature, the site occupancy predictions were based on equilibrium simulations.

#### 2.4.3 Temperature factor

The variation in intensity between each reflection for a given phase is governed by each term in Eq 17. The multiplicity, structure factor and Lorenz factor can be calculated, however, the Debye temperature factor  $e^{-2M_T}$  remains unknown, and must be calculated from the data. It is known that

$$2M_T = \frac{16\pi^2 \langle u_s^2 \rangle (\sin^2 \theta)}{\lambda^2}$$
(26)

where  $u_s$  is the atomic displacement normal to the diffracting plane. For a given phase, if one takes the integrated intensity of several hkl reflection and corrects them with the multiplicity, structure factor and Lorenz factor (this will be called  $I_{hkl}^*$ ), any difference between the different hkl intensities should differ only by their Deybe temperature factor. Using this property, the log of the  $I_{hkl}^*$  reflection intensities was plotted against  $\sin^2 \theta / \lambda$ . Fitting a linear equation to this data yields a gradient of  $16\pi^2 \langle u_s^2 \rangle$ , enabling the Debye temperature correction to be made. This method assumes  $\langle u_s^2 \rangle$  does not vary with hkl.

### 2.5 Solidification microstructure calculation

The microstructure of the solidification front can be determined using the following equations [11]:

$$V_c = \frac{GD}{\Delta T_0} \tag{27}$$

$$V_{c-d} = \frac{GD}{k\Delta T_0} \tag{28}$$

Where  $V_c$  is the lower velocity threshold for planar front solidification and  $V_{c-d}$  is the lower velocity threshold for the cellular-dendritic transition. G is the mean temperature gradient at the interface.D is the diffusion coefficient.  $\Delta T_0$  represents the equilibrium liquidus/solidus difference. k is the partition coefficient.

#### 2.6 Marangoni convection calculation

The Marangoni convection can be determined by a dimensionless number[12]:

$$M_a = \frac{d\gamma_s}{dT} \frac{dT}{dx} \frac{L^2}{\eta\alpha}$$
(29)

Where  $M_a$  is the dimensionless Marangoni number,  $\gamma_s$  is the surface tension,  $\frac{dT}{dx}$  is the temperature gradient,  $\alpha$  is the thermal diffusivity, L is the characteristic length and  $\eta$  is the viscosity of the melt pool.

### 2.7 Weber number and Péclet number calculation

To describe the kinetic energy in the melt pool, the Weber number  $(W_e)$  is adopted in our study. The Weber number is used to describe the flow damping on the surface [13],

$$W_e = \frac{\rho v^2 L}{\sigma} \tag{30}$$

where  $\rho$  is the liquid density, v is the flow speed, L is the characteristic length, and  $\sigma$  is the surface tension. To describe heat transfer in the melt pool, the Péclet number (*Pe*) which combines the Reynolds number (*Re*<sub>L</sub>) and Prandtl number (*Pr*)[13], was used as,

$$Pe = Re_L Pr = \frac{\rho v L}{\mu} \frac{c_p \mu}{k} = \frac{L v}{\alpha}$$
(31)

where L is the characteristic length, v is the local flow speed, and  $\alpha$  is the thermal diffusivity.

### 3 Supplementary Results

### 3.1 Marangoni convection

### 3.1.1 *In situ* tracer velocity measurements



Figure 2: Instantaneous tracer velocity measurements. The instant speed of W tracers in region A, B and C were carefully measured by calculating the displacement of W tracers over each frame of the radiography. The max speed of the W tracers in the melt pool is  $5.5 \text{ mm s}^{-1}$  and the average speed in all regions is  $2 \text{ mm s}^{-1}$ .



Figure 3: Instantaneous tracer velocity measurements against its instantaneous position. The instant speed of W tracers in region C were carefully measured by calculating the displacement of W tracers over each frame of the radiography. It is plotted against its instantaneous position on the radiograph, the unit is mm. The unit for the tracer velocity is  $cm s^{-1}$ .

#### 3.1.2 The projected average speed measurements

Melt pool	<b>1</b> mm s <sup>-1</sup>	<b>1</b> mm s <sup>-1</sup>	<b>1.5 mm s</b> <sup><math>-1</math></sup>	<b>1.5 mm s</b> <sup><math>-1</math></sup>
region	Layer 1	Layer 2	Layer 1	Layer 2
Α	2.05	1.94	1.86	1.92
В	2.34	2.21	2.57	1.61
С	1.72	2.23	2.04	1.77

Table 2: The projected average speed of W tracers in the melt pool. The instantaneous speed of W tracers layer 1 and layer 2 of build speed of  $1 \text{ mm s}^{-1}$  and  $2 \text{ mm s}^{-1}$  are measured respectively and the average speed was calculated.

#### **3.1.3** Weber number $(W_e)$ and Péclet number $(P_e)$

The characteristic length of the melt pool centre  $(L_c)$  is chosen as the melt pool depth, which is 2 mm, while the characteristic length of the solidification front  $(L_s)$  is chosen as the melt pool depth at the melt pool boundary, which is estimated to be ~50 µm.  $\rho_f$  is calculated to be 7529 kg m<sup>-3</sup> and  $\rho_c$  is estimated to be 7134 kg m<sup>-3</sup> [14].  $\nu_f$  is measured to be 1 mm s<sup>-1</sup> while  $\nu_c$  is 3 mm s<sup>-1</sup>. The surface tension at liquidus temperature is ~1970 mN m<sup>-1</sup>, while in the melt pool centre is 1487 nN m<sup>-1</sup> [15]. The liquidus temperature at the solidification front is set to be 1360 K in our calculation and the temperature at the melt pool center is set to be 2000 K. The thermal diffusivity,  $\alpha_s$  is 0.055903 cm<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> while  $\alpha_f$  is 0.0387638 cm<sup>2</sup> s<sup>-1</sup> [16] Based on these parameters, the Weber number is calculated to be 43 near the melt pool center and 0.19 near the melt pool tail. And the  $P_e$  number is calculated to be 107.3 near the melt pool center and 1.29 at the solidification front.

#### 3.2 Diffraction peaks index



Figure 4: **Peak index.**  $\gamma$ , MC carbides and Laves phases are identified in the diffraction pattern.

### 3.3 Melt pool mapping



Figure 5: Liquid volume fraction calculated from diffraction patterns matches the melt pool boundary captured using X-ray radiography. Liquid volume fraction results are interpolated and show perfect gradient matching the radiography results. Scale bar =  $1000 \ \mu m$ .

### 3.4 Melt track mapping



Figure 6: **SEM image of the post-build analysis.** It shows a crack with dendritic feature. It confirms that the diffraction prediction of a hot cracking event.



Figure 7: **SEM and EDS image of the post-build analysis.** The inter-granular region is Nb rich with some C rich spots. It indicates that the secondary phases are mainly laves and carbides. Those regions are around 5% in the image, indicating the laves and carbides phases are about 5% in volume fraction.

### 4 Supplementary Video

**Supplementary Video 1** The Blown Powder Additive Manufacturing Process Replicator (BAMPR) has been developed to faithfully replicate a commercial DED-AM system that can be integrated in synchrotron beamlines.

**Supplementary Video 2** Time-resolved radiographs acquired during DED-AM of a multilayer thin wall melt track using IN718. IN718 build is under  $P = 1.59 \times 10^3$  W mm<sup>-3</sup>, v = 1 mm s<sup>-1</sup>, powder feedrate 1 g min<sup>-1</sup>, captured at 200 fps.

**Supplementary Video 3** Time-series radiographs acquired showing W tracers revealing the melt pool flow patterns in the multi-layer DED-AM build and the flow pattern observed, showing that the melt pool shape is largely determined by the flow characteristics. IN718 build is under  $P = 1.59 \times 10^3$  W mm<sup>-3</sup>, v = 1 mm s<sup>-1</sup>, powder feedrate 1 g min<sup>-1</sup>., captured at 5,000 fps.

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