

2nd Annual Conference on

3D PRINTING & ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING

May 22-23, 2019 | Dubai, UAE

PLA and PETG applied to extrusion-based 3D printed snap-fit connections for product assembly

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The goal of this work is to investigate the capabilities of low-cost extrusion-based 3D printing on building snap-fit connections to develop products for assembly. At first, we have conducted studies to recognize user-printing system relations, and to identify challenges when building parts with such connections and the influence factors in the quality of the printed components. The following step was planning the snap fit printing by selecting building materials, and analyzing de friction between surfaces, and the assembly force behavior after successive insertion/removal cycles. We have

studied two polymers: Poly acid lactic (PLA) and Polyethyletherphthalate Glycol (PETG). Preliminary results show that the PETG elements, due to its flexibility, present better answers to cyclic loads, with long stages of assembly force stabilization, while the PLA parts, due to the greater stiffness and low deformation capacity of the material, present permanent damage in its structure. In product development, PETG offers advantages for applications where assembly and disassembly are required, and PLA, which has a higher mechanical strength, can be used in single assembly designs.

Biography

Leonardo santana is attending University of Porto (UP)'s School of Mechanical engineering doctorate program with CNPq scholarship. He has completed masters from the Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC)'s School of mechanical engineering graduation program. He has six years of experience in open source 3D printing research.

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