

Article

The Influence of Heat Treatment on Low Cycle Fatigue Properties of Selectively Laser Melted 316L Steel

Janusz Kluczyński ^{1,*}^(D), Lucjan Śnieżek ¹^(D), Krzysztof Grzelak ¹^(D), Janusz Torzewski ¹^(D), Ireneusz Szachogłuchowicz ¹^(D), Artur Oziębło ², Krzysztof Perkowski ², Marcin Wachowski ¹^(D) and Marcin Małek ³^(D)

- ¹ Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Institute of Robots & Machine Design, Military University of Technology, 2 Gen. S. Kaliskiego St., 00-908 Warsaw, Poland; lucjan.sniezek@wat.edu.pl (L.Ś.); krzysztof.grzelak@wat.edu.pl (K.G.); janusz.torzewski@wat.edu.pl (J.T.); ireneusz.szachogluchowicz@wat.edu.pl (I.S.); marcin.wachowski@wat.edu.pl (M.W.)
- ² Department of Ceramics and Composites, Institute of Ceramics and Building Materials, 9 Postepu St., 02-676 Warsaw, Poland; artur.ozieblo@icimb.pl (A.O.); k.perkowski@icimb.pl (K.P.)
- ³ Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geodesy, Military University of Technology, 2 Gen. S. Kaliskiego St., 00-908 Warsaw, Poland; marcin.malek@wat.edu.pl
- * Correspondence: janusz.kluczynski@wat.edu.pl

Received: 25 November 2020; Accepted: 15 December 2020; Published: 16 December 2020



Abstract: The paper is a project continuation of the examination of the additive-manufactured 316L steel obtained using different process parameters and subjected to different types of heat treatment. This work contains a significant part of the research results connected with material analysis after low-cycle fatigue testing, including fatigue calculations for plastic metals based on the Morrow equation and fractures analysis. The main aim of this research was to point out the main differences in material fracture directly after the process and analyze how heat treatment affects material behavior during low-cycle fatigue testing. The mentioned tests were run under conditions of constant total strain amplitudes equal to 0.30%, 0.35%, 0.40%, 0.45%, and 0.50%. The conducted research showed different material behaviors after heat treatment (more similar to conventionally made material) and a negative influence of precipitation heat treatment of more porous additive manufactured materials during low-cycle fatigue testing.

Keywords: additive manufacturing; selective laser melting; mechanical properties; fatigue properties; heat treatment; hot isostatic pressing; 316L austenitic steel

1. Introduction

Additively manufactured (AM) parts are characterized by very distinctive properties, despite the fact that many different AM technologies where different types of materials are used exist. One of the most important features of parts obtained using AM is a layered structure of the manufactured parts, which significantly affects the anisotropy of mechanical properties during comparison of different building directions [1,2]. This phenomenon is also present in parts processed using laser-powder bed fusion (L-PBF) technologies. Good mechanical properties, a possibility of obtaining geometrically complex parts, and a large spectrum of available alloys allow for the dynamic growth of L-PBF technologies. Use of the AM is seen in aircraft [3,4], automotive [5], armament [6,7], and other solutions that require lightweight structures [8–11]. The development of new additively manufactured parts that are characterized by their special application needs to be supplied by a proper amount of knowledge about AM material properties and their behavior under different loading conditions. This kind of research project is in the scope of research of many scientific facilities [12–16].



One of the most common materials available for additive manufacturing is 316L steel, which in conventional-manufactured form, is dedicated for applications vulnerable to the adverse effects of chemical and biological factors because of its very good anti-corrosive properties. From a technological point of view, 316L steel belongs to the hard-to-cut materials group—mostly because of its austenitic structure. Additionally, the usage of this steel in medical applications often requires very complex geometry for exact parts. These two factors: applications in a corrosive environment and geometrical complexity, significantly affects material properties that are changing during operation for some specified time.

Despite that there are many available research results connected with mechanical properties of AM parts made of 316L steel, there is still a significant gap in the fatigue properties analysis.

The most significant group of available fatigue test results is connected with high-cycle testing (mostly Wohler's charts) [17–20], some works are connected with crack growth analysis of AM parts [21–23], but the smallest number of available research results concerns low-cycle fatigue properties, especially with some postprocessing connected with heat treatment or hot isostatic pressing (HIP).

Analysis of the Blinn et al. [24] research work revealed high anisotropy of AM material during fatigue testing, where test parts were manufactured in three different orientations. In samples manufactured vertically to the building plate, it was registered a higher defect tolerance on material damages, which led to higher endurance at lower stress amplitudes.

Mustafa et al. [25] analyzed an AM aluminum alloy, also considering low-fatigue cycle properties, in which the domination of extensive plastic damage beyond grain boundaries was discovered. Similar observations were registered by Romano et al. [26], where authors stated that defect size is the principal cause of variability in the fatigue resistance of the material, even in low cycle fatigue (LCF). Additionally, the authors obtained results where plasticity played an important role in the determination of the fatigue resistance of AM parts.

A different approach was suggested by Bressan et al. [27], in which the authors analyzed an influence of stress-relieving heat treatment on LCF properties of titanium alloys. During their tests, it was observed early sudden material's weakening, which was correlated with the formation of cracks in internal voids.

Based on two previously-mentioned research works [26,27], a significant influence of porosity in the material volume was stated. It is necessary to understand the reasons for porosity generation in AM parts [28,29]. It is possible to point to two characteristic parts of the AM material structure—porosity in the core of the material and near the outline borders. Regarding voids' presence in the material volume, an influence of layered structure and connection between fused layers of the material on mechanical properties was also analyzed. Shifeng et al. [30] determined how molten pool boundaries present in the material structure after AM processing affect the mechanical properties of manufactured parts. In the mentioned research, the authors indicated that molten pool boundaries have a significant impact on:

- microstructural slipping during loading;
- macroscopic plastic behavior;
- properties anisotropy;
- low ductility of SLM-processed parts,

On the other hand, Elangeswaran et al. [31] analyzed an influence of surface roughness on the fatigue properties, which indicated a high, negative effect of as-built samples (without surface machining). The main issue was related to unfused powder particles on the samples' surface, which were a kind of stress raisers.

Microfractographic analysis of the fracture surfaces of the samples allows for the description of the cracking mechanisms. Qualitative fractography plays a special role in explaining the cracking phenomena. It is possible to determine the origin of the crack, the nature of the cracking process. It is often possible to identify defects in material or manufacturing processes.

In this respect, fractal fractography works perfectly well, which deals with the complex aspects of fractures in materials.

Fractal microfractography allows for accurately determining the multidimensional course of the cracking process and is an indispensable element of product quality control [32,33].

During the literature review, it was difficult to find information about the LCF of 316L stainless steel processed using selective laser melting technology with additional analysis, including heat treatment and HIP. Moreover, an LCF analysis mentioned in cited literature included a low portion of microfracture analysis, which is very helpful to understand the damage mechanism of AM metallic parts.

Based on the authors' own previous research [14,15,34], it was a natural continuation of material analysis connected with the LCF of heat-treated and HIPped parts obtained using the selective laser melting technology (SLM). The main aim of the included research results was to determine the possibility of a void reduction in material volume and describe how it affects LCF properties.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Material

316L steel powder was used for the specimens manufacturing. The material was supplied by Carpenter Additive Company (Carpenter Additive, Widness, UK). It was gas-atomized in the argon atmosphere. Powder particles were characterized by a spherical shape in a diameter of 15–63 μ m. Material's chemical composition is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. 316L steel chemical composition.

С	Cu	Mn	Si	0	Р	S	Ν	Cr	Мо	Ni	
Weight (%)											
0.027	0.02	0.98	0.72	0.02	0.011	0.004	0.09	17.8	2.31	12.8	

2.2. Additive Manufacturing Process Description

The shape of the samples (Figure 1) for fatigue testing was determined based on the recommendations of the ASTM E466 96 standard with considering the dimensions of the building volume of the AM system. For the research, the SLM 125HL system was used (SLM Solutions AG, Lubeck, Germany).



Figure 1. ASTM E466 96 samples shape.

Based on our previous research of the AM process [14,15,34], three-parameter groups were selected, as shown in Table 2. To be consistent with previously published papers—each sample group was named the same as before (Samples: S_01, S_17, S_30).

The S_01 samples were manufactured using producer's default settings, S_17 samples were manufactured with parameters which gave an increased porosity in [14], S_30 samples were made using almost three times the higher energy density than in default settings and based on

Table 2. Parameter groups used for sample manufacturing.										
Parameters Set	Laser Power L _P (W)	Exposure Velocity e _v (mm/s)	Hatching Distanc eh _d (mm)	Layer Thickness (mm)	Energy Density ρ _E (J/mm ³)					
S_01	190	900	0.12	0.03	58.64					
S_17	180	990	0.13	0.03	46.62					
S_30	120	300	0.08	0.03	166.67					

Di Wang et al.'s research [35] in which the authors reach good material properties with using mentioned process parameters.

After SLM-processing, the samples were cut out from the build plate, and a sidewall of each sample was milled. The sharp edges of the sidewalls after milling were subjected to a roll-burnishing process to minimize the possibility of stresses arising in that area.

2.3. Heat Treatment

Each sample group was subjected to different heat treatment processes to reach different results, which allowed obtaining a higher amount of results and knowledge about the material. Hot isostatic pressing (HIP) was performed on a high-temperature press with furnace Nabertherm VHT 822—GR (Nabertherm, Lilienthal, Germany). Precipitation heat treatment (PHT) was done using the Nabertherm P300 furnace (Nabertherm, Lilienthal, Germany). Each heat treatment process is shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2. The course of heat treatment processes.

The HIP process was performed to reduce the volume porosity and remove the layered structure of the material after the SLM process. Furnace cooling after the HIP process could cause sigma phase generation in austenitic steel [36]—to avoid this and extend the research range, half of the HIPped samples were also subjected to PHT with water cooling, which allowed a significant reduction of the sigma phase formation phenomenon (it generates mostly between 700 and 850 °C).

2.4. Low Cycle Fatigue Testing

The scope of fatigue tests of SLM-processed 316L steel included testing of three series of samples produced with the use of three parameters selected during previous tests: S_01, S_17, and S_30. Samples subjected to HIP treatment were named as (S_01H and S_17H), samples subjected to precipitation heat treatment were named as (S_01P, S_17P, and S_30P), samples subjected to both types of heat treatment

was named as (S_01HP and S_17HP). Samples geometry was made based on the recommendations of the standards [37–39]. The fatigue properties of the tested samples were determined based on the characteristic parameters of the hysteresis loops obtained at:

$$\frac{N}{N_f} = 0.5\tag{1}$$

where:

N—current number of cycles;

 N_f —number of cycles to failure.

During testing, the material fracture was assumed as the criterion of sample destruction. The value of the total strain amplitude ε_{ac} was changed sinusoidally with the strain ratio R = 0.1. Fatigue tests were performed with the frequency of load changes f = 0.8 Hz. The values of the total strain were determined based on the previously prepared static tension diagram, shown in [15]. The tests were carried out at five various levels of total strain amplitude: $\varepsilon_{ac} = 0.30\%$; 0.35%, 0.40%; 0.45% and 0.50%. For each level, three samples were examined.

Fatigue tests were run on the Instron 8802 servohydraulic testing system and an Instron 2620–603 dynamic extensioneter with a gauge length of 25 mm (Instron, Norwood, MA, USA).

2.5. Microscopical Analysis

For the fractography analysis, the fracture surfaces from failed specimens were first cut and mounted on an observation stage. The fracture surfaces low-cycle damaged samples were analyzed using the scanning electron microscope (SEM) Jeol JSM-6610 (Jeol, Tokyo, Japan).

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Low Cycle Fatigue Properties Analysis

There is significant importance in determining the behavior of material exposed to strain-controlled low-cycle fatigue tests. Mechanisms present in this kind of loading cause local defect formation and consequently lead to the initiation of fatigue cracking. Fatigue strength testing of the SLM-processed materials is particularly justified due to the high possibility of structural imperfections occurrence, most often difficult to avoid without the use of additional postprocessing. A common example of damage in additive manufactured parts is the occurrence of cracks in the zone of increased porosity in the material structure. Such defects locally lower the fatigue strength, especially in thin-walled elements, which are more prone to the formation of porosity due to faster heat dissipation from the melting zone.

Some sample fractures were characterized by non-normative behavior caused by the samples buckling registered during hysteresis loops analysis. The scale of this phenomenon was significantly greater in the case of heat-treated parts. This negative effect was caused by the reduced yield strength of heat-treated samples. Consequently, such cases were not taken into account when compiling the test results.

The variations of stress amplitude σ_a with the load loops number are shown in Figure 3, respectively, for each sample group. Additive manufactured samples (S_01, S_17 and S_30) were compared with AM heat-treated parts (S_01H, S_01P, S_01HP, S_17H, S_17P, S_17HP and S_30). All results were compared to the conventionally made material (made of cold-rolled metal sheets—described as P_0 samples).

Concerning the additive manufactured and heat-treated samples, the total strain amplitudes σ_{ac} , are characterized by significantly smaller changes in the stress amplitude over the entire range of the number of load cycles N than in the case of non-heat-treated samples. This suggests that the AM material is less prone to cyclic weakening after heat treatment. The mentioned phenomenon is most visible in the case of samples S_01H, S_01P, and S_01HP. In these samples, the stage of cyclic

weakening is transient. Additionally, in the range of 7–25% of N_f value ($\varepsilon_{ac} = 0.30, 0.35, 0.40$ and 0.45%) and 85–90% ($\varepsilon_{ac} = 0.50$ %). The further course of the curves proves the material's cyclical stabilization. The samples S_01HP and S_17H showed the highest fatigue life.

Research results registered at the lowest value of the total strain amplitude $\varepsilon_{ac} = 0.30\%$, shown total fatigue life at a level of 60% in comparison with conventionally manufactured 316L steel. The lowest fatigue life of the tested samples was achieved in samples S_17P (approx. 1550 cycles). It constitutes 16% of the P_0 sample's fatigue life.



Figure 3. Cont.



Figure 3. Variation of stress amplitude σ_a with the number of cycles for additively manufactured (AM), AM heat-treated parts and conventionally made material.

The similar fatigue life of heat-treated samples is noticeable in the samples tested directly after the additive manufacturing process. A significant difference was in the share of the cyclical weakening of the material, which in the case of heat-treated parts is significantly lower than in non-heat-treated samples. Analyzing Figure 3, it can be seen that achieving the same level of total strain amplitude for the conventionally made material (P_0) required a lower stress level than additively produced samples. This effect was due to increased fatigue-durability of conventionally manufactured samples, and at the same time, those samples did not exhibit greater strength at the same level of strain amplitudes as compared to AM samples.

As-built samples were characterized by increased stress levels in mid-life hysteresis loops. This phenomenon was strictly connected with the increased yield strength of as-built samples. In the case of all series of heat-treated samples, very similar courses of the mid-life hysteresis loops were observed during the tests carried out at the total strain amplitude of 0.30%. The coordinates of their peaks indicate the highest stress amplitude values occurrence in the S_30P samples. In the case of the remaining heat-treated samples, it was difficult to state a generalized regularity. The course and position of the peaks of the hysteresis loops (shown in Figure 4) obtained were very similar to the loop of the P_0 reference sample made of conventionally manufactured 316L steel.

To better understand differences between additive manufactured and conventionally made material, an example of the hysteresis loop for the P_0 samples in $\varepsilon_{ac} = 0.3\%$ strain condition for the peak/valley stressed of characteristic fatigue life cycles was shown in Figure 5. The course of the lower stress values did not change much, while the upper peaks with the number of cycles significantly decrease. The no. 1 cycle in the initial phase showed some irregularity, which may have been related to the compression of the sample in the testing machine holder. This cycle should not be analyzed. The shape of the hysteresis loops was fully regular during the cycles.



Figure 4. Mid-life hysteresis loops registered for total strain amplitudes $\varepsilon_{ac} = 0.30, 0.35, 0.40, 0.45,$ and 0.50%.

Based on Figure 5 observations, it could be stated that the cyclic stress response of investigated specimens can give a qualitative description of cyclic softening phenomena. Similar observations under symmetrical strain control (R = -1) were made by H.S. Ho et al. [40], as well as softening and a fast stabilization presented by S. Romano et al. [26].

The main differences between materials after SLM processing and conventional made are also visible in Figure 3, where additive manufactured material, without any heat treatment weakened in the whole in the entire cycle range. At the same time—conventionally made material (and also additively manufactured after heat treatment) had a visible stabilization at some cycles range. This phenomenon could be connected with the material condition after additive manufacturing—similar to structure and properties after welding (visible melting pools in the structure, increased tensile strength, and decreased elongation at break).

The hysteresis loop surface area is a parameter providing information about material fatigue life as well as the amount of energy necessary for its destruction. Microlevel strains are irreversible plastic deformations, which are related to energy dissipation. It is the main factor causing material damage and the formation of fatigue microcracks. To facilitate measured values of dissipated energy by each sample, hysteresis loop areas were calculated using AutoCAD software (version 2020). The calculated values are shown in the chart (Figure 6). In the case of samples subjected to additional heat treatment, the greatest differentiation of the mid-life hysteresis loops surface areas was observed during the tests at the highest value of the total strain amplitude $\varepsilon_{ac} = 0.50\%$.



Figure 5. Hysteresis loops for selected cycles for $\varepsilon_{ac} = 0.3\%$ for characteristic cycles during low cycle fatigue (LCF) testing.



Figure 6. Registered areas of mid-life hysteresis loops (in square units).

The biggest hysteresis loop area, higher by 18.5% than the P_0 samples loop area, was found during the S_30P samples tests. Other samples tested at $\varepsilon_{ac} = 0.50\%$ were characterized by area range from -8.9% to 1.3% compared to the results obtained for the reference P_0 sample. In the case of the remaining samples, the observed differences in the hysteresis loop areas differed by 10–12% from the results obtained for the reference P_0 sample.

Stabilized hysteresis loop analysis allowed to determine the amplitudes of stress and plastic strain. Stress amplitude versus plastic strain amplitude can be described by the following equation:

$$log\sigma_a = logK' + n'log\varepsilon_{ap} \tag{2}$$

where:

 σ_a —fatigue strength coefficient (MPa);

 ε_{ap} —fatigue ductility coefficient;

K′—cyclic strength coefficient; *n*′—cyclic strain hardening exponent.

Calculation results were presented in a chart with a log–log scale in Figure 7.

As it is depicted in Figure 7, almost all AM samples are characterized by higher cyclic stress response at a given strain level, except S_17P samples. The phenomenon of the increased value of this parameter is connected with a higher yield strength of as-built AM parts [15]. Registered higher values of cyclic stress response in AM parts are connected with the LCF testing characteristic, where the strain level was a constant value during the test. Significantly increased yield strength of AM samples gave an increase in cyclic stress response during LCF testing. Heat treatment of AM parts decreased cyclic stress response and made it similar to conventionally made material, and it S_17P this value is even smaller than in conventionally made samples. This phenomenon could be connected with an increased value of porosity in those samples after precipitation heat treatment. Further analysis of S_17P samples' fatigue behavior was taken into account in microfractures analysis.





Figure 7. Cont.



Figure 7. Stress amplitude versus plastic strain amplitude of as-built, heat-treated AM parts compared to conventionally made material stabilized hysteresis loops in log–log coordinates.

Equation (2) for each sample's group has the following form:

$$log\sigma_{a} S_{01} = log754.4 + 0.101log(\varepsilon_{ap});$$

$$log\sigma_{a} S_{01H} = log459.0 + 0.06log(\varepsilon_{ap});$$

$$log\sigma_{a} S_{01P} = log410.8 + 0.05log(\varepsilon_{ap});$$

$$log\sigma_{a} S_{01HP} = log602.0 + 0.11log(\varepsilon_{ap});$$

$$log\sigma_{a} S_{17} = log631.7 + 0.09log(\varepsilon_{ap});$$

$$log\sigma_{a} S_{17H} = log631.7 + 0.09log(\varepsilon_{ap});$$

$$log\sigma_{a} S_{17HP} = log427.9 + 0.07log(\varepsilon_{ap});$$

$$log\sigma_{a} S_{17P} = log410.8 + 0.05log(\varepsilon_{ap});$$

$$log\sigma_{a} S_{30} = log562.1 + 0.07log(\varepsilon_{ap});$$

$$log\sigma_{a} S_{30P} = log511.9 + 0.07log(\varepsilon_{ap});$$

$$log\sigma_{a} P_{0} = log656.5 + 0.14log(\varepsilon_{ap});$$

Based on the recorded data, further fatigue analysis was followed on the Morrow equation:

$$\varepsilon_{ac} = \varepsilon_{ae} + \varepsilon_{ap} = \frac{\sigma'_f}{E} (2N_f)^b + \varepsilon'_f (2N_f)^c$$
(3)

where:

 ε_{ac} —total strain amplitude;

 ε_{ae} —elastic strain amplitude; ε_{ap} —plastic strain amplitude;

E—Young's modulus;

 σ'_{f} —fatigue strength coefficient;

 ε'_f —fatigue ductility coefficient;

- *b*—fatigue strength exponent;
- *c*—fatigue ductility exponent.

Obtained results (Figure 8) allow stating that heat-treated additive manufactured 316L steel had a significant share of the plastic component during the destruction process; however, in the case of most samples, this share was significantly lower than in the case of non-heat-treated samples. It was particularly visible in the graphs concerning the samples S_17H (Figure 8f), S_17P (Figure 8g) and S_17HP (Figure 8h), where the angles between the lines corresponding to the amplitude of the plastic component ε_{ap} and the amplitude of the elastic component ε_{ae} were much smaller than in the case of the as-built sample S_17 (Figure 8e).



Figure 8. Cont.



Figure 8. Number of half-cycle reversals vs. strain amplitude in log–log coordinates for as-built samples, heat-treated and conventionally made material ((**a**)—S_01, (**b**)—S_01H, (**c**)—S_01HP, (**d**)—S_01P, (**e**)—S_17, (**f**)—S_17HP, (**h**)—S_17P, (**i**)—S_30, (**j**)—S_30P, (**k**)—P_0).

Conventionally produced 316L steel (P_0 samples) was characterized by the lowest share of the plastic component in total deformation of tested samples in comparison to additively manufactured parts (Figure 8k).

3.2. Fatigue Fractures Analysis

To better understand material fatigue behavior after a different type of treatment– microstructures from the author's previous research [15] of samples in each condition (as-built, before and after heat treatment) are shown in Figure 9.





Figure 9. The microstructure of S_01, S_17 and S_30 samples heat-treated using different processes and their combinations [15].

Fractographic observations were made for all parameter groups (S_01, S_17, and S_30) and all heat-treated combinations of samples with additional analysis of conventionally made material. Fracture images of samples tested under two conditions: $\varepsilon_{ac} = 0.30\%$ and $\varepsilon_{ac} = 0.50\%$ are shown, respectively. The column "a" shows the entire fracture area and the crack propagation direction, marked using white arrows. In column "b", there are selected areas of the enlarged fractures.

Based on the fracture's observations (Figure 10), additively manufactured parts before and after heat treatment were characterized by plastic fractures with fatigue striations, as well as conventionally made P_0 samples. It is worth emphasizing that the morphology of the fracture surfaces of S_01H, S_17H, S_01HP, and S_17HP (all after heat treatment) samples was less complex, which also applied to the reference sample P_0. HIP and precipitation heat-treatment after the previous HIP eliminated the layered structure of additively manufactured parts, which significantly reduced the occurrence of multiplanar cracking. A noticeably greater number of multiplanar cracking was visible in samples subjected to precipitation heat treatment (S_01P, S_17P, S_30P). The significantly different cracking character of those samples may be related to the share of voids in the material structure. Fatigue fractures of the S_17P samples were characterized by a high number of voids and unmelted grains compared to other samples subjected to precipitation heat treatment (S_01P and S_30P). This phenomenon was strictly connected with the high initial porosity of as-built S_17 samples.

The observed structural heterogeneity was caused by the presence of random various voids sizes and share of unmelted grains, which have significantly different properties after heat treatment in comparison to the remaining volume of the material. This phenomenon affects the occurrence of local concentrations of residual stresses in the material structure. Mentioned imperfections significantly affect the development of microcracks inside the material in many parallel planes. Additionally, in S_17P samples, there were registered areas of cracks connection which cause occurring of the local breakage cracks. A significant increase in the share of voids in the S_17P samples completely changed the nature of fatigue cracking of this material. Most of the cracking sources occurred inside the material volume, especially at the most complex geometry of a specific void.



Figure 10. Cont.



Figure 10. Cont.



Figure 10. Fractures of low-cycle tested samples ((**a**)—macrostructure image, (**b**)—microfracture with visible fatigue striations).

4. Conclusions

The performed research of low cycle fatigue of SLM-processed and heat-treated parts allowed drawing the following conclusions:

- 1. Fatigue life charts created based on the Morrow equation exposed that the strain courses of additively manufactured parts were characterized by a significant share of the plastic component in the process of sample fractures above $\varepsilon_{ac} = 0.45\%$;
- 2. Conventionally made 316L steel (P0) required a lower stress level than additively produced samples, caused by the greater ductility of the conventionally produced material in comparison to AM samples;
- 3. Microfractures analysis showed that the additively manufactured samples were characterized by a more complex morphology than conventionally produced parts. The observed layered structure of as-built samples affected the occurrence of microcracks and multiplanar cracking;
- 4. Additively manufactured material, without any heat treatment, weakened throughout the entire load cycle range. At the same time—conventionally made material (and also additively

manufactured after heat treatment) were characterized by a visible stabilization at some cycles range;

- 5. The values of stress amplitude σ_a versus the number of load reversals showed much smaller changes of stress amplitude in the entire range of load cycle number N than in the case of non-heat-treated samples (less tendency to weakening of the material). In samples S_01H, S_01P, and S_01HP, the cyclic weakening stage is transient;
- 6. The obtained strain courses of additively manufactured parts, including samples subjected to additional heat treatment, indicated a significant share of a plastic component in the process of sample fractures.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization. L.Ś., K.G. and J.K.; methodology. K.G., A.O. and K.P.; software. J.T. and I.S.; formal analysis. L.Ś.; investigation. J.K., K.P. and I.S.; data curation. J.K. and M.W.; writing—original draft preparation. J.K. and M.M.; writing—review and editing. J.T. and M.M.; visualization. M.W. and J.K.; supervision. L.Ś.; project administration. L.Ś. and K.G.; funding acquisition. K.G. and A.O. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

Funding: The research was supported by the university research grant No. 22-758.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

References

- 1. Mooney, B.; Kourousis, K.I. A review of factors a ff ecting the mechanical a review of of maraging factors affecting properties of powder bed fusion. *Metals* **2020**, *10*, 1273. [CrossRef]
- 2. Gu, D.; Chen, H. Selective laser melting of high strength and toughness stainless steel parts: The roles of laser hatch style and part placement strategy. *Mater. Sci. Eng.* **2018**, 725, 419–427. [CrossRef]
- 3. Jia, D.; Li, F.; Zhang, Y. 3D-Printing process design of lattice compressor impeller based on residual stress and deformation. *Sci. Rep.* **2020**, *10*, 1–11. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
- 4. Rokicki, P.; Kozik, B.; Budzik, G.; Dziubek, T.; Bernaczek, J.; Przeszlowski, L.; Markowska, O.; Sobolewski, B.; Rzucidlo, A. Manufacturing of aircraft engine transmission gear with SLS (DMLS) method. *Aircr. Eng. Aerosp. Technol.* **2016**, *88*, 397–403. [CrossRef]
- Hopkinson, N.; Dickens, P. Rapid prototyping for direct manufacture. *Rapid Prototyp. J.* 2001, 7, 197–202. [CrossRef]
- 6. Malachowski, J.; Damaziak, K.; Platek, P.; Sarzynski, M.; Kupidura, P.; Wozniak, R.; Zahor, M. Numerical and experimental failure analysis of rifle extractor. *Eng. Fail. Anal.* **2016**, *62*, 112–127. [CrossRef]
- Platek, P.; Damaziak, K.; Malachowski, J.; Kupidura, P.; Wozniak, R.; Zahor, M. Numerical study of modular 5.56 mm standard assault rifle referring to dynamic characteristics. *Def. Sci. J.* 2015, 65, 431–437. [CrossRef]
- 8. Kucewicz, M.; Baranowski, P.; Małachowski, J.; Popławski, A.; Płatek, P. Modelling, and characterization of 3D printed cellular structures. *Mater. Des.* **2018**, *142*, 177–189. [CrossRef]
- Antolak-Dudka, A.; Płatek, P.; Durejko, T.; Baranowski, P.; Małachowski, J.; Sarzyński, M.; Czujko, T. Static and dynamic loading behavior of Ti6Al4V honeycomb structures manufactured by Laser Engineered Net Shaping (LENSTM) technology. *Materials* 2019, 12, 1225. [CrossRef]
- Kucewicz, M.; Baranowski, P.; Stankiewicz, M.; Konarzewski, M.; Płatek, P.; Małachowski, J. Modelling and testing of 3D printed cellular structures under quasi-static and dynamic conditions. *Thin Walled Struct.* 2019, 145, 106385. [CrossRef]
- 11. Sienkiewicz, J.; Płatek, P.; Jiang, F.; Sun, X.; Rusinek, A. Investigations on the mechanical response of gradient lattice structures manufactured via SLM. *Metals* **2020**, *10*, 213. [CrossRef]
- Śniezek, L.; Grzelak, K.; Torzewski, J.; Kluczyński, J. Study of the mechanical properties components made by SLM additive technology. In Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Intelligent Technologies in Logistics and Mechatronics Systems (ITELMS), Panevezys, Lithuania, 28–29 April 2016; pp. 145–153.
- 13. Kluczyński, J.; Śnieżek, L.; Kravcov, A.; Grzelak, K.; Svoboda, P.; Szachogłuchowicz, I.; Franek, O.; Morozov, N.; Torzewski, J.; Kubeček, P. The examination of restrained joints created in the process of multi-material FFF additive manufacturing technology. *Materials* **2020**, *13*, 903. [CrossRef] [PubMed]

- 14. Kluczyński, J.; Śniezek, L.; Grzelak, K.; Mierzyński, J. The influence of exposure energy density on porosity and microhardness of the SLM additive manufactured elements. *Materials* **2018**, *11*, 2304. [CrossRef]
- Kluczyński, J.; Śniezek, L.; Grzelak, K.; Oziebło, A.; Perkowski, K.; Torzewski, J.; Szachogłuchowicz, I.; Gocman, K.; Wachowski, M.; Kania, B. Comparison of different heat treatment processes of selective laser melted 316L steel based on analysis of mechanical properties. *Materials* 2020, *13*, 3805. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
- Kluczyński, J.; Sniezek, L.; Grzelak, K.; Torzewski, J. The influence of layer re-melting on tensile and fatigue strength of selective laser melted 316L steel. In Proceedings of the 12th International Conference on Intelligent Technologies in Logistics and Mechatronics Systems (ITELMS), Panevezys, Lithuania, 26–27 April 2018; pp. 115–123.
- Yadollahi, A.; Shamsaei, N.; Thompson, S.M.; Elwany, A.; Bian, L. Effects of building orientation and heat treatment on fatigue behavior of selective laser melted 17-4 PH stainless steel. *Int. J. Fatigue* 2017, 94, 218–235. [CrossRef]
- Lewandowski, J.J.; Seifi, M. Metal additive manufacturing: A review of mechanical properties. *Annu. Rev. Mater. Res.* 2016, 46, 151–186. [CrossRef]
- 19. Leuders, S.; Lieneke, T.; Lammers, S.; Tröster, T.; Niendorf, T. On the fatigue properties of metals manufactured by selective laser melting—The role of ductility. *J. Mater. Res.* **2014**, *29*, 1911–1919. [CrossRef]
- Zhang, M.; Sun, C.N.; Zhang, X.; Wei, J.; Hardacre, D.; Li, H. High cycle fatigue and ratcheting interaction of laser powder bed fusion stainless steel 316L: Fracture behaviour and stress-based modelling. *Int. J. Fatigue* 2019, 121, 252–264. [CrossRef]
- 21. Riemer, A.; Richard, H.A. Crack propagation in additive manufactured materials and structures. *Procedia Struct. Integr.* **2016**, *2*, 1229–1236. [CrossRef]
- 22. Kluczyński, J.; Śniezek, L.; Grzelak, K.; Torzewski, J.; Szachogłuchowicz, I.; Wachowski, M.; Łuszczek, J. Crack growth behavior of additively manufactured 316L steel-influence of build orientation and heat treatment. *Materials* **2020**, *13*, 3259. [CrossRef]
- 23. Nezhadfar, P.D.; Burford, E.; Anderson-Wedge, K.; Zhang, B.; Shao, S.; Daniewicz, S.R.; Shamsaei, N. Fatigue crack growth behavior of additively manufactured 17-4 PH stainless steel: Effects of build orientation and microstructure. *Int. J. Fatigue* **2019**, *123*, 168–179. [CrossRef]
- 24. Blinn, B.; Ley, M.; Buschhorn, N.; Teutsch, R.; Beck, T. Investigation of the anisotropic fatigue behavior of additively manufactured structures made of AISI 316L with short-time procedures PhyBaL LIT and PhyBaL CHT. *Int. J. Fatigue* **2019**, *124*, 389–399. [CrossRef]
- 25. Awd, M.; Tenkamp, J.; Hirtler, M.; Siddique, S.; Bambach, M.; Walther, F. Comparison of microstructure and mechanical properties of Scalmalloy[®] produced by selective laser melting and laser metal deposition. *Materials* **2017**, *11*, 17. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
- 26. Romano, S.; Patriarca, L.; Foletti, S.; Beretta, S. LCF behaviour and a comprehensive life prediction model for AlSi10Mg obtained by SLM. *Int. J. Fatigue* **2018**, *117*, 47–62. [CrossRef]
- 27. Bressan, S.; Ogawa, F.; Itoh, T.; Berto, F. Low cycle fatigue behavior of additively manufactured Ti-6Al-4V under non-proportional and proportional loading. *Frat. Integrità Strutt.* **2019**, *13*, 18–25. [CrossRef]
- 28. Tucho, W.M.; Lysne, V.H.; Austbø, H.; Sjolyst-Kverneland, A.; Hansen, V. Investigation of effects of process parameters on microstructure and hardness of SLM manufactured SS316L. *J. Alloy. Compd.* **2018**, 740, 910–925. [CrossRef]
- 29. Andreau, O.; Pessard, E.; Koutiri, I.; Penot, J.D.; Dupuy, C.; Saintier, N.; Peyre, P. A competition between the contour and hatching zones on the high cycle fatigue behaviour of a 316L stainless steel: Analyzed using X-ray computed tomography. *Mater. Sci. Eng.* **2019**, *757*, 146–159. [CrossRef]
- Shifeng, W.; Shuai, L.; Qingsong, W.; Yan, C.; Sheng, Z.; Yusheng, S. Effect of molten pool boundaries on the mechanical properties of selective laser melting parts. *J. Mater. Process. Technol.* 2014, 214, 2660–2667. [CrossRef]
- 31. Elangeswaran, C.; Cutolo, A.; Muralidharan, G.K.; de Formanoir, C.; Berto, F.; Vanmeensel, K.; Van Hooreweder, B. Effect of post-treatments on the fatigue behaviour of 316L stainless steel manufactured by laser powder bed fusion. *Int. J. Fatigue* **2019**, *123*, 31–39. [CrossRef]
- 32. Horovistiz, A.L.; de Campos, K.A.; Shibata, S.; Prado, C.C.S.; Hein, L.R. de O. Fractal characterization of brittle fracture in ceramics under mode I stress loading. *Mater. Sci. Eng.* **2010**, *527*, 48474850. [CrossRef]

- Cabanettes, F.; Joubert, A.; Chardon, G.; Dumas, V.; Rech, J.; Grosjean, C.; Dimkovski, Z. Topography of as built surfaces generated in metal additive manufacturing: A multi scale analysis from form to roughness. *Precis. Eng.* 2018, 52, 249–265. [CrossRef]
- Kluczyński, J.; Śnieżek, L.; Grzelak, K.; Janiszewski, J.; Płatek, P.; Torzewski, J.; Szachogłuchowicz, I.; Gocman, K. Influence of selective laser melting technological parameters on the mechanical properties of additively manufactured elements using 316L austenitic steel. *Materials* 2020, 13, 1449. [CrossRef] [PubMed]
- 35. Wang, D.; Liu, Y.; Yang, Y.; Xiao, D. Theoretical and experimental study on surface roughness of 316L stainless steel metal parts obtained through selective laser melting. *Rapid Prototyp. J.* **2016**, *22*, 706–716. [CrossRef]
- 36. Lo, K.H.; Shek, C.H.; Lai, J.K.L. Recent developments in stainless steels. *Mater. Sci. Eng. Rep.* 2009, 65, 39–104. [CrossRef]
- 37. ASTM E466 96. Standard Practice for Conducting Force Controlled Constant Amplitude Axial Fatigue Tests of Metallic Materials; ASTM Headquarters: West Conshohocken, PA, USA.
- 38. *ASTM Description E 606-80. Standard Recommended Practice for Constant-Amplitude Low-Cycle Fatigue Testing;* ASTM Headquarters: West Conshohocken, PA, USA.
- 39. *PN-84/H-04334 Low Cycle Fatigue Testing of Metallic Materials;* Standards Committee of Poland (PKN): Warsaw, Poland.
- 40. Ho, H.S.; Zhou, W.L.; Li, Y.; Liu, K.K.; Zhang, E. Low-Cycle fatigue behavior of austenitic stainless steels with gradient structured surface layer. *Int. J. Fatigue* **2020**, *134*, 105481. [CrossRef]

Publisher's Note: MDPI stays neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.



© 2020 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).