



Recent Progress in Remanufacturing Technologies using Metal Additive Manufacturing Processes and Surface Treatment

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Abstract

Remanufacturing has emerged as an effective strategy to promote sustainability, reduce waste, and enhance resource efficiency in modern manufacturing processes. However, traditional remanufacturing methods have limitations in producing complex geometries and restoring parts to their original condition, leading to reduced performance and durability. Metal additive manufacturing (AM) methods have shown significant potential in overcoming these limitations and enhancing the quality and reliability of remanufactured parts. Metal AM enables the production of replacement parts with high geometrical complexity and tight tolerances. On the other hand, surface treatment techniques, such as polishing and coating, can improve the surface properties of additively manufactured parts. Recent advancements in metal AM have led to significant progress in manufacturing technologies, including the development of hybrid methods combining metal AM with a surface treatment to achieve superior surface finish and accuracy while reducing production time and cost. Despite progress, challenges such as the need for cost-effective and scalable processing methods, the development of new materials, and the optimization of process parameters for specific applications still need to be addressed. Moreover, although surface modification techniques suitable for metal components fabricated through additive manufacturing can be employed for remanufactured parts, their adoption needs to be improved and necessitates additional advancement. This paper provides an overview of recent progress in manufacturing and remanufacturing technologies using metal additive manufacturing processes and surface treatments, highlighting their potential to significantly improve the quality and reliability of remanufactured parts. The paper concludes with a discussion of the future prospects of this field and the need for continued research and development to fully realize the potential of remanufacturing technologies.

Keywords Additive manufacturing · Remanufacturing · Post-treatment · Surface treatment

1 Introduction

Remanufacturing has become a popular approach to promote sustainability, reduce waste, and increase resource efficiency in modern manufacturing processes. In addition, by recovering materials and parts from finished products and extending their useful life, remanufacturing helps reduce the environmental impact of producing new products.

In recent years, metal additive manufacturing (AM) techniques have shown significant potential in remanufacturing due to their ability to produce complex geometries, optimize material usage, and enhance mechanical properties. Metal AM has enabled the production of replacement parts with high geometrical complexity and tight tolerances, allowing remanufacturers to restore components that may have been discarded. Additionally, surface treatment methods, such as polishing and coating, have emerged as effective ways to

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improve the surface properties of remanufactured parts and restore them to their original condition.

Recent advancements in metal AM and surface treatment methods have significantly progressed in manufacturing technologies. Researchers have developed hybrid methods combining metal AM with a surface treatment to achieve superior surface finish and accuracy while reducing production time and cost. Metal AM technologies such as powder bed fusion and directed energy deposition have been investigated in remanufacturing various parts, including aerospace components and automotive parts. These technologies offer significant advantages, such as the ability to produce complex geometries and increase the mechanical properties of the reconstructed parts. Surface treatment techniques, such as thermal spray coating and electroplating, have also been explored in manufacturing.

Overall, metal AM methods and surface treatment methods have the potential to improve the quality and reliability of remanufactured parts significantly. However, there are still challenges, such as the need for cost-effective and scalable processing methods, the development of new materials, and the optimization of process parameters for specific applications.

This paper is divided into several sections to provide an overview of recent progress in remanufacturing technologies using metal additive manufacturing processes and surface treatments. Section 2 introduces the concept of remanufacturing, including its steps and technologies. Section 3 delves into the metal additive manufacturing process, explaining its basic principles and applications, with a specific focus on remanufacturing. Section 4 discusses surface treatment techniques, their features, and recent studies, all of which are crucial in improving the properties and performance of remanufactured parts. Section 5 provides a summary of surface treatment in metal additive manufacturing, addressing the challenges in remanufacturing using this process. It explores a range of surface modification methods, encompassing mechanical, chemical, thermal, and coating techniques, along with hybrid approaches. Section 6 is the paper's main focus, providing an overview of recent advances in remanufacturing technologies using metal additive manufacturing processes and surface treatment. Finally, Sect. 7, the conclusion, summarizes the paper's key findings and offers insights into the future prospects of this field.

2 What is the Remanufacturing Process?

Remanufacturing is repairing, refurbishing, and restoring a product to its original operating specifications. This process typically involves disassembling a used or worn-out product, cleaning and repairing its parts, and then reassembling it to work and new. Remanufacturing aims to extend a

product's life, reduce waste, and conserve natural resources while providing a cost-effective alternative to purchasing a brand-new product [1]. Product reuse is not a new concept and has been an increasingly common industrial practice since World War II, reflecting its potential to reduce waste and promote sustainable production [2–4]. Steinhilper and Hudelmaier coined the term “remanufacturing” in 1988 to describe an industrial process aimed at restoring used components to a state that is “as good as new” [5]. In 2015, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation demonstrated that repaired parts could sometimes perform superior to newly manufactured ones. They defined “refurbishment” as a process that involves repairing or replacing major components to restore products to their original condition [6].

Remanufacturing processes can be applied to various products, including electronics, automobiles, machinery, and many other industrial goods, such as:

- **Gas-turbine blades:** Gas turbines are used in power generation, aviation, and other applications where high-power, high-efficiency engines are needed. Remanufacturing gas turbine blades involves repairing cracks, restoring worn surfaces, and applying protective coatings to extend their lifespan [7, 8].
- **Metal parts:** Metal parts, such as engine blocks, crankshafts, and transmission cases, can also be remanufactured. In many cases, remanufactured metal parts are just as good as new parts but cost less and use fewer resources to produce [9, 10].
- **Printing equipment:** Remanufactured printing equipment, such as toner cartridges, drums, and fusers, can be just as reliable and
- **high-quality as new equipment.** Remanufacturing these components also reduces waste and saves resources [11, 12].
- **Electronic components:** Remanufactured electronic components, such as circuit boards and power supplies, are often used in industrial applications where reliability is critical. By remanufacturing these components, companies can save money and reduce their environmental impact [13, 14].
- **Heavy equipment:** Remanufactured heavy equipment, such as bulldozers, excavators, and loaders, can be just as reliable and effective as new equipment but cost significantly less. Remanufactured equipment also uses fewer resources to produce, which can help companies reduce their carbon footprint [15, 16].

The process often involves strict quality control procedures to ensure the remanufactured product meets or exceeds the original specifications and standards. In Fig. 1, the three processes of repair, reconditioning, and remanufacturing

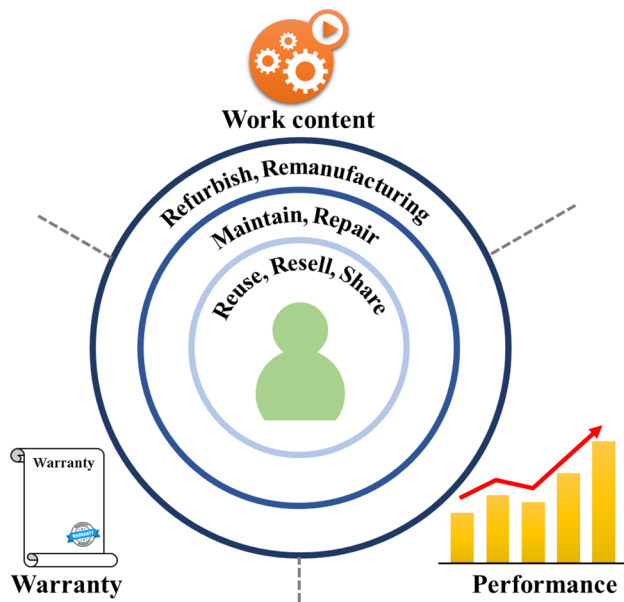


Fig. 1 A hierarchy of product recovery processes

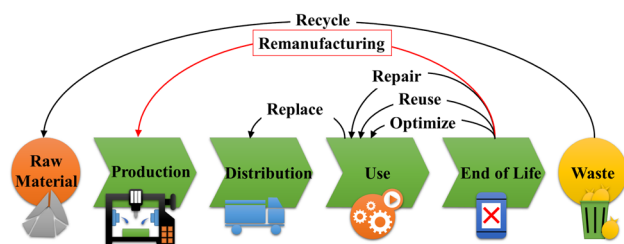


Fig. 2 Role of remanufacturing in the circular economy context

are presented hierarchically based on the amount of work content they typically require, the level of performance that should be achieved, and the value of the warranty they generally offer [17].

The emergence of academic interest in remanufacturing as a research topic can be traced back to the late 1970s and early 1980s when Robert Lund conducted innovative studies of the remanufacturing industry [18]. Before Lund's work, remanufacturing had received relatively little attention from academic researchers. However, interest in remanufacturing is rapidly increasing as its benefits become better understood, and it is increasingly recognized as having a potentially important role in our changing human life [19]. In the United States, an estimated 70,000 remanufacturing businesses generate approximately \$53 billion in revenue annually [20, 21]. Figure 2 shows the role of manufacturing in the circular economy [22].

Remanufacturing can offer various benefits to both businesses and the environment. First, it can be a profitable business venture, as material and energy savings can lead to cost savings compared to newly manufactured equivalents [23].

Furthermore, by extending a product's lifecycle through remanufacturing, companies can create an additional profit when the remanufactured product is subsequently sold [24].

Also, Remanufacturing can play a vital role in waste reduction and environmental protection by utilizing fewer materials and energy than manufacturing new goods and by diverting used components from landfills [18, 25, 26]. Studies have demonstrated that remanufacturing

can result in considerable environmental advantages, such as decreased greenhouse gas emissions, energy usage, and waste production [27, 28]. However, disposing of products after their services have been fulfilled contributes to the growing problem of waste in landfills. Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) is a major and challenging waste stream due to its quantity and toxicity. In Europe alone, approximately 7 million tons of WEEE have generated annually [29], while China generates 1.1 million tons per year [30]. The rapid pace of technological innovation and shorter usage lifecycles of EEE mean that WEEE is growing faster than any other municipal waste stream [31]. To address this issue and keep the Earth cleaner, End-of-Life (EoL) recovery strategies are critical, and remanufacturing is seen as a "hidden green giant" and gaining increasing attention from researchers and practitioners [32–35].

Moreover, remanufacturing can help businesses meet increasingly stringent environmental legislation, particularly in Europe, as end-of-life directives such as WEEE (Waste electrical and electronic equipment) and ELV (End of Life Vehicle) become more widespread [36, 37]. Furthermore, remanufacturing can be considered superior to other end-of-life strategies, such as repair and reconditioning; as a result, it is a higher quality product with a longer extended life, making it more commercially viable [38]. In addition to the benefits mentioned above, remanufacturing can provide many economic benefits, such as creating jobs, reducing the cost of goods, and boosting local economies.

2.1 Remanufacturing Steps

Remanufacturing is the process of restoring used or end-of-life products to their original condition, or even better, through a series of steps. The specific steps involved in remanufacturing can vary depending on the type of remanufactured product and the degree of complexity involved. However, some key steps in the remanufacturing process include (Fig. 3) [39–41]:

- Collection and Inspection of Used Products: The first step in the remanufacturing process is to collect used products suitable for
- Remanufacturing. This may involve collecting products from various sources, such as recycling centers or end-of-life product disposal facilities. Once the products are



Fig. 3 Key steps of remanufacturing in a whole process

collected, they are inspected to determine if they are suitable for remanufacturing.

- **Disassembly of Products:** After the products have been inspected, they are disassembled into their parts. This may involve using specialized tools and equipment to carefully remove each part from the product without damaging it.
- **Cleansing and Surface Processing of Subparts:** Once the parts have been removed, they are cleaned and processed to remove any contaminants or surface damage. This may involve various cleaning and surface treatment techniques, such as sandblasting, shot peening, or chemical treatments.
- **Inspection and Sorting:** After the parts have been cleaned and processed, they are inspected again to determine if they are suitable for remanufacturing. Parts that cannot be remanufactured are sorted and disposed of properly.
- **Component Remanufacture and Replenishment by New Components:** Parts that can be remanufactured are repaired or remanufactured to like-new condition using specialized equipment and techniques. In some cases, new components may replace parts that cannot be remanufactured.
- **Product Reassembly:** Once all the parts have been repaired, remanufactured, or replaced, they are reassembled to form a complete product. This may involve using specialized tools and equipment to ensure all the parts are properly aligned and fitted.
- **Final Testing:** The remanufactured product is then subjected to rigorous testing to ensure that it meets or exceeds the original performance and quality standards. This may involve various types of testing, such as functional testing, stress testing, and quality control inspections.

The remanufacturing process is highly technical and requires specialized equipment, knowledge, and expertise. However, it can result in high-quality, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly products when done correctly.

2.2 Remanufacturing Technologies

The remanufacturing process involves using various techniques such as welding, electroplating, grinding, High-Velocity Oxygen Fuel (HVOF) thermal spraying, and cladding to perform repairs. These methods are commonly utilized to restore damaged parts to their original condition and ensure the successful remanufacturing of products.

- **Welding:** Welding is a common method used in industries that employ large castings or in shipbuilding, especially when it is challenging to manufacture new parts. The repair process involves various welding techniques such as the Friction Stir Welding (FSW) process [42], Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) process [43], electro-spark deposition (ESD) [44], and arc welding process [45, 46]. These methods are widely used and applied to repair damaged products effectively.
- **Electroplating:** Electroplating is the most used technique for corrosion-resistant structural steel surfaces, machinery, jewellery, and other applications, particularly for the repair of steam generator tubes [47–49]. It is an efficient method for increasing the corrosion resistance of surfaces.
- **Grinding:** Grinding has a long history of usage in industries such as shipbuilding, mold-making, and rail transportation. It is frequently employed to address issues arising from wear and tear on products like rails and wheels used in the railroad industry. Grinding is generally effective in restoring such products' distorted shape or rough surface [50–52]. Although it is primarily used to regulate roughness, grinding also tends to reduce the size of the products.
- **HVOF thermal spraying:** HVOF (High-Velocity Oxygen Fuel) thermal spraying is a popular technique used in remanufacturing processes. It involves spraying a coating material onto the surface of a worn-out component using a high-velocity stream of oxygen and fuel gas mixture [53]. This creates a very high-temperature flame that melts the coating material and propels it onto the component's surface at high speeds. The result is a dense, uniform coating that provides excellent resistance to wear, corrosion, and erosion. HVOF thermal spraying can be used to restore the surface of a wide range of components, including engine parts, pumps, valves, and hydraulic cylinders [54, 55].
- **Cladding:** Industries that manufacture high-value goods, such as shipbuilding, aerospace, and mold production, often employ cladding techniques. These processes typically involve the use of a heat source, such as laser cladding [56–58], E-beam cladding [59], Directed Energy Deposition (DED) [58], and arc cladding [60]. These methods are the latest and most extensively researched processes for repair.

3 Metal Additive Manufacturing Process

Metal additive manufacturing, also called metal 3D printing, is a burgeoning industry with diverse applications in fields such as aerospace, automotive, healthcare, and consumer goods. This process involves creating metal components, layer by layer, from a digital model utilizing a range of techniques [61–66]. These techniques include powder bed fusion (PBF), directed energy deposition (DED), binder jetting, material extrusion, cold spray, and sheet lamination.

- **Powder Bed Fusion (PBF):** PBF is a metal additive manufacturing process that uses a laser or an electron beam to selectively melt and fuse the metal powder, layer by layer, to form a part [67]. The most common types of PBF are selective laser melting (SLM) and electron beam melting (EBM). SLM uses a high-power laser to selectively melt the metal powder [68], while EBM uses an electron beam to melt the metal powder, which is performed in a vacuum to prevent oxidation [69]. PBF is known for its high accuracy, complex geometries, and

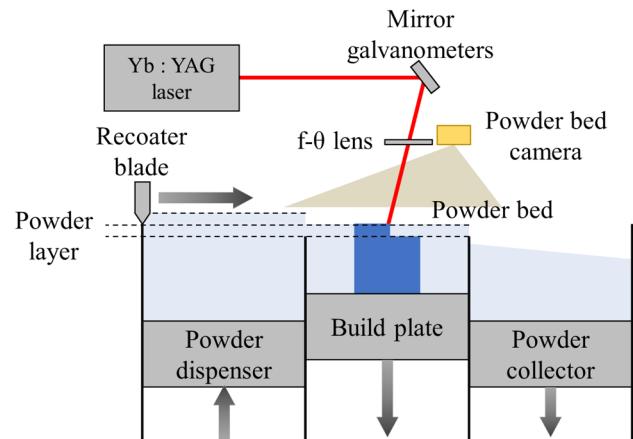


Fig. 4 Schematic representation of the PBF system and process

ability to produce fully dense parts, making it a popular choice for aerospace and medical applications [70, 71]. Figure 4 shows a schematic representation of PBF [72]. The basic information and advantages and disadvantages of each process are shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Overview of basic principles, advantages, and disadvantages of common metal AM techniques and their applications

Metal AM technique	Basic principles	Advantages	Disadvantages	References
Powder Bed Fusion (PBF)	The powder is selectively melted by laser or electron beam, layer by layer	High resolution and accuracy Good surface finish Ability to produce complex geometries Low porosity	Expensive equipment Limited material selection Slow printing speed High tensile residual stresses Poor surface roughness	[67–72]
Directed Energy Deposition (DED)	Material is added using a focused energy source, such as a laser, to melt the material as it is deposited	High deposition rates Ability to produce large components	Lower resolution and accuracy compared to PBF May require post-processing High tensile residual stresses Moderate surface roughness Moderate porosity	[73–76]
Binder Jetting	The powder is selectively deposited and held together using a binding agent, layer by layer	Low-cost solution High printing speed Ability to produce large components	Poor surface finish Limited material selection May require post-processing High porosity	[77, 78]
Material Extrusion	Material is extruded through a nozzle, layer by layer	Relatively inexpensive Good for low-volume production	Limited resolution and accuracy Not suitable for complex geometries High porosity	[79–81]
Cold Spray	High-velocity solid particles are accelerated and impact a substrate, creating a dense coating	High deposition efficiency Ability to produce dense coatings with good mechanical properties Good surface roughness Low tensile residual stresses Low to moderate porosity	Limited material selection Limited ability to produce complex geometries	[82, 83]
Sheet Lamination	Sheets of material are bonded together and then cut to shape, layer by layer	Low-cost solution Wide range of material selection	Limited resolution and accuracy May require post-processing High porosity	[84–86]

- **Directed Energy Deposition (DED):** DED is a metal additive manufacturing process that involves depositing metal powder or wire onto a substrate using a focused energy source, such as a laser or an electron beam, which melts the material as it is deposited (Fig. 5) [73]. The most common types of DED are laser metal deposition (LMD) and electron beam freeform fabrication (EBF3). LMD uses a laser to melt metal powder or wire as it is deposited on a substrate [74], while EBF3 uses an electron beam to melt and fuse metal wire [75]. DED is known for its ability to repair and modify existing parts, as well as its ability to produce large parts, making it a popular choice for aerospace and defense applications [76].
- **Binder Jetting:** Binder jetting is a metal additive manufacturing process that involves selectively depositing a liquid binder onto a bed of metal powder, layer by layer, to form a part [77]. The part is then sintered in an oven to fuse the metal particles (Fig. 6). Binder jetting is known for its fast speed, low cost, and ability to produce large parts, making it a popular choice for automotive and consumer goods applications [78].
- **Material Extrusion:** Material extrusion additive manufacturing of metal, also known as metal MEX, is an additive manufacturing process that has gained attention for its simplicity and economic viability. It is similar to the conventional metal injection molding (MIM) process, involving feedstock preparation of metal powder and polymer binders, layer-by-layer additive manufacturing to create green parts, followed by debinding and sintering to produce consolidated metallic parts. Metal MEX offers potential advantages in terms of cost-effectiveness and ease of use, making it a promising technology for various applications in metal manufacturing [79, 80]. Overall, metal MEX is an additive manufacturing process that simplifies the production of metal parts by utilizing feedstock preparation, layer-by-layer printing, debinding, and sintering, and it holds promise for a wide range of applications [81]. Figure 7 shows that the metal MEX process

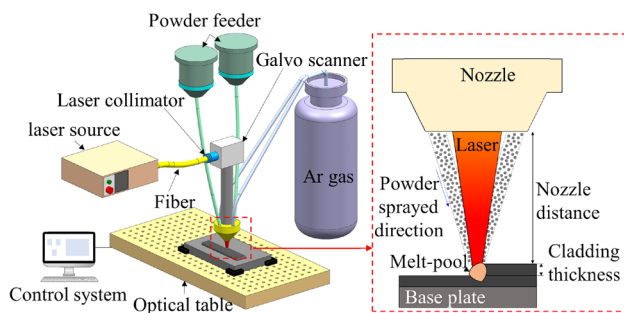


Fig. 5 Schematic of the printing process of Directed Energy Deposition

- can be categorized into three different types based on the feeding system of the printer [79, 81].
- **Cold Spray:** Cold spray metal additive manufacturing, also known as cold spray additive manufacturing (CSAM), is a solid-state coating deposition technology recently applied to fabricate individual components and repair damaged components [82]. Unlike fusion-based high-temperature additive manufacturing processes, CSAM retains the original properties of the feedstock, produces oxide-free deposits, and does not adversely influence underlying substrate materials during manufacture. In CSAM, metal particles are accelerated to high speeds using a high-pressure gas and deposited onto a substrate, allowing for the build-up of solid metal objects. CSAM has gained popularity in the last decade as a promising solid-state coating technique for the mass production of high-quality metals, alloys, and metal matrix composite coatings [83]. The schematic representation of both high-pressure and low-pressure cold spray systems is depicted in Fig. 8 [82].
- **Sheet Lamination:** Sheet lamination is a metal additive manufacturing process that involves bonding metal sheets together to form a part. The most common type of sheet lamination is ultrasonic additive manufacturing (UAM), in which ultrasonic vibrations are used to bond the sheets of metal together (Fig. 9) [84, 85]. Sheet lamination is known for its ability to produce large parts with low material waste, making it a popular choice for aerospace and defense applications [86].

Metal additive manufacturing is a game-changing technology for remanufacturing. With metal additive manufacturing, the process of restoring used products to their original specifications can be accomplished with unprecedented speed, efficiency, and precision. By leveraging digital models, metal additive manufacturing enables the creation of

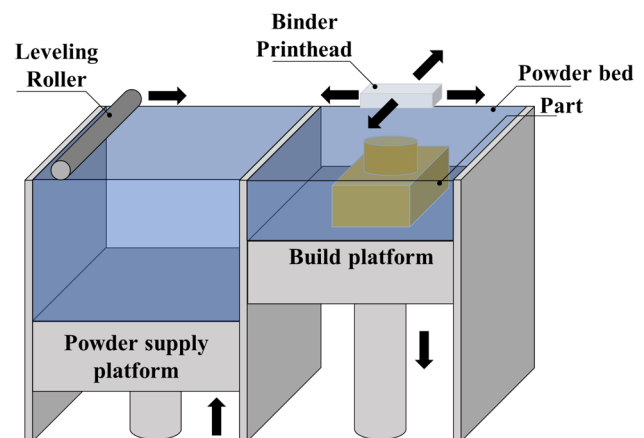


Fig. 6 Schematic of the printing process of binder jetting

Fig. 7 Types of material extrusion additive manufacturing classified by feeding system: **a** screw-based, **b** plunger-based, and **c** filament-based types [79]

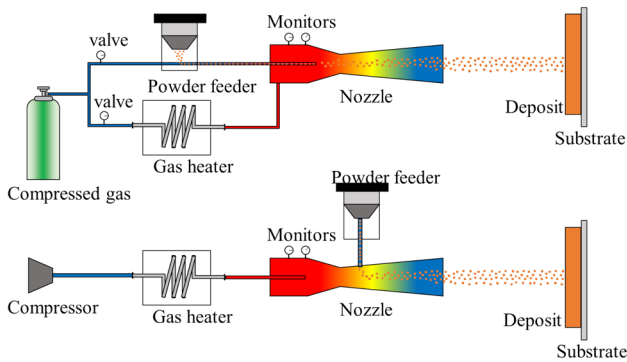
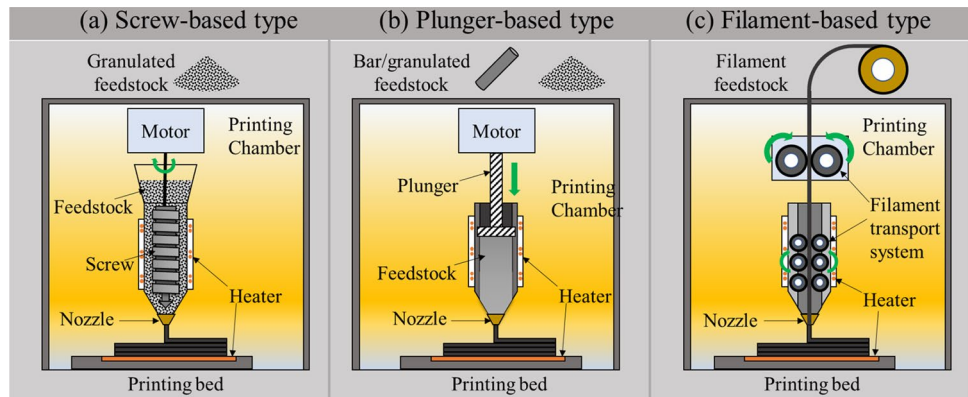


Fig. 8 Schematic of high-pressure and low-pressure cold spray systems [82]

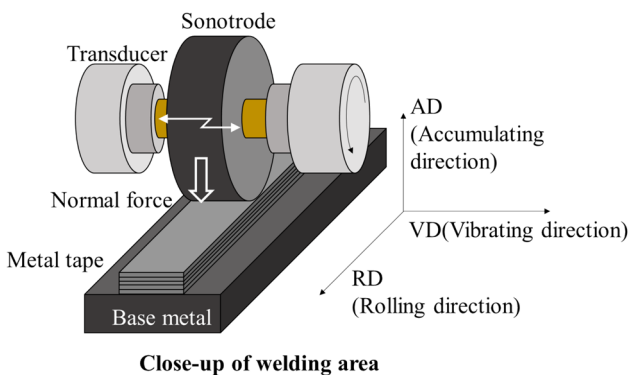


Fig. 9 Schematic of the UAM process

complex metal parts with custom geometries that are not achievable through traditional methods. Moreover, the technology allows for high-strength materials and production parts with superior mechanical properties, such as increased durability and wear resistance [70, 87].

3.1 Metal Additive Manufacturing for Remanufacturing

Metal additive manufacturing is becoming increasingly popular in the remanufacturing industry, as it offers new opportunities for extending the life of products and reducing waste. For example, reverse-engineering and digitally modeling a turbine engine part that is no longer in production can be produced using metal additive manufacturing. Additionally, metal additive manufacturing can be used to repair and remanufacture high-value components in industries such as aerospace and medical implants [70]. Additive manufacturing technology provides several advantages when it comes to remanufacturing:

- **Design flexibility:** AM allows for creating complex, customized designs that are impossible with traditional manufacturing methods. This means remanufactured parts can be optimized for specific applications and tailored to fit unique requirements.
- **Reduced lead times:** AM allows for faster production times than traditional manufacturing methods, reducing the time required for remanufacturing and getting parts back into service more quickly.
- **Reduced waste:** AM generates less waste than traditional manufacturing methods involving cutting or machining, making it a more sustainable option for remanufacturing.
- **Improved quality:** AM can produce high-quality parts with precise tolerances and surface finishes that meet original equipment manufacturer (OEM) standards, which is important for remanufacturing parts.
- **Cost-effectiveness:** Although the initial investment in AM equipment can be high, the cost per part can be lower than traditional manufacturing methods for small production runs, making it a cost-effective option for remanufacturing lower volume or specialized parts.
- In general, metal additive manufacturing is transforming the remanufacturing industry by reducing waste,

improving efficiency, and creating innovative products with enhanced performance and durability. However, the quality and safety of metal AM remanufactured parts must be evaluated before they can be used [88]. There are several evaluation technologies used to assess AM parts, including non-destructive testing, microstructure analysis, and mechanical testing.

- Non-destructive testing (NDT) methods are used to detect surface and subsurface defects in AM parts without damaging them. Examples of NDT methods include ultrasonic testing, X-ray inspection, and eddy current testing. These methods can detect defects such as cracks, voids, and porosity, affecting the part's structural integrity.
- Microstructure analysis involves examining the microscopic structure of the AM part to evaluate its quality. Techniques such as optical and scanning electron microscopy can be used to examine the part's microstructure and detect any defects or irregularities.
- Mechanical testing is used to evaluate the mechanical properties of the AM part, such as strength, toughness, and fatigue resistance. In addition, testing methods such as tensile, impact, and fatigue testing can be used to assess the part's performance under different conditions.

In addition to these evaluation technologies, some regulations and standards govern the production and evaluation of AM parts. For example, in the United States, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) have issued guidelines for the certification of AM parts for use in aircraft [89]. These guidelines include requirements for material properties, manufacturing processes, and testing and evaluation procedures. Other regulatory bodies, such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), have also developed standards for producing and evaluating AM parts.

Overall, additive manufacturing technology is a game-changer for the remanufacturing industry. It offers a wide range of advantages, including design flexibility, reduced lead times, reduced waste, improved quality, and cost-effectiveness. However, ensuring the quality and safety of remanufactured parts is crucial. This requires the use of evaluation technologies, such as non-destructive testing, microstructure analysis, and mechanical testing, as well as adherence to regulations and standards governing the production and evaluation of AM parts. By incorporating these measures, additive manufacturing can continue revolutionizing the remanufacturing industry and help create more sustainable and efficient products.

4 Surface Treatment for Improving Remanufactured Parts

Remanufacturing using metal additive manufacturing is a process that can result in surfaces and dimensional qualities that may not be suitable for some intended applications, requiring additional surface treatment post-processing steps [90]. Surface treatment refers to any process that modifies the surface of a material, such as metal, plastic, or composite, to improve its performance or alter its appearance.

4.1 Features of Surface Treatment

Surface treatment can involve a wide range of techniques, including physical, chemical, or mechanical methods, and it may be used to enhance the material's corrosion resistance, wear resistance, adhesion, or electrical conductivity, among other properties [91]. Some common surface treatment processes include coating [92, 93], plating [94, 95], anodizing [96], polishing [97], etching [98], blasting [99], and ultrasonic nanocrystal surface modification (UNSM) [100, 101]. Surface treatment is a crucial step in many industrial applications, such as aerospace [102], automotive [103], electronics [104], and medical devices [105–107]. Table 2 presents a detailed overview of the advantages and disadvantages of the different metal additive manufacturing techniques discussed in this study. While these techniques offer unique benefits and drawbacks, they can be evaluated based on factors such as resolution and accuracy, surface finish, material selection, printing speed, ability to produce complex geometries, cost of equipment, and post-processing requirements.

The selection of a surface treatment method depends on various factors, such as the material's composition, the desired properties, and the application requirements. For example, a coating or plating method may be preferred if the material needs to be protected from environmental damage or if a decorative finish is desired. On the other hand, mechanical methods such as polishing or blasting may be preferred if surface roughness or texture needs to be modified. In high-value remanufacturing, these technologies are particularly useful for restoring and enhancing the surface properties of worn or damaged components, which can extend their useful life.

For instance, surface treatments can add a layer of material that is more wear-resistant or corrosion-resistant than the original material, resulting in improved performance and longevity of the component. Moreover, surface treatments can also customize remanufactured components to meet specific performance

Table 2 Comparison of surface modification methods for additively manufactured metal components

Category	Method	Working principle	Advantages	Disadvantages	Reference(s)
Mechanical	Blasting	Uses high-pressure air or other abrasive media (such as sand or glass beads) to remove surface irregularities and improve surface finish	Can improve surface roughness and remove impurities Relatively low cost	Can alter part dimensions Can leave residual stresses or introduce new defects	[126–140]
	Grinding	Uses an abrasive product, usually a rotating wheel to shape and finish a workpiece by removing metal and generating a surface within a given tolerance	Can achieve tight tolerances and precise dimensional control Can improve surface finish and remove surface defects such as porosity or roughness Can remove excess material and reduce part weight Can be automated for high-volume production	Can introduce heat and stress into the part, leading to distortion or warping Can create microcracks or other defects in the material Can be time-consuming and labor-intensive Can generate large amounts of dust and debris, which can be a health hazard and require special handling and disposal	[131, 134, 141–146]
	Vibratory grinding	Parts and media are placed in a vibratory machine with abrasive grit. The machine vibrates rapidly, causing the media and grit to tumble and slide against the parts, grinding away imperfections	Can process multiple parts simultaneously Can improve surface finish and remove burrs and sharp edges Can be used for a variety of materials and shapes Relatively low cost compared to other post-processing methods	Limited control over surface features May not be effective for complex geometries or internal cavities May cause damage to delicate or thin-walled parts May require additional cleaning and inspection steps to ensure quality	[133]
	Abrasive flow machining	The abrasive fluid flows through the workpiece, effectively performing erosion	Can polish complex geometries and hard-to-reach areas Can produce uniform finishes on large surfaces Can improve surface roughness and reduce surface defects Can achieve precise tolerances and dimensions Can be automated for high-volume production	The process can be slow and time-consuming Equipment and materials can be expensive May require specialized training and expertise Limited control over surface features Environmental concerns with certain abrasive materials and chemicals May not be suitable for all materials and geometries	[130, 147–151]

Table 2 (continued)

Category	Method	Working principle	Advantages	Disadvantages	Reference(s)
Magnetic abrasive finishing		Uses a combination of magnetic and abrasive materials in a magnetic field to generate a fine abrading force on the surface of parts or objects	<p>High-precision finishing of complex shapes and contours</p> <p>Can achieve very low surface roughness and high surface quality</p> <p>Can be used on a wide range of materials, including hard and brittle materials</p> <p>Can achieve both deburring and polishing in a single process</p> <p>No tool wear or deformation, which can lead to consistent and repeatable results</p>	<p>Limited material removal rate compared to some other finishing methods</p> <p>May require specialized equipment and expertise</p> <p>Magnetization of the workpiece may cause issues with subsequent processes or applications</p> <p>Environmental concerns regarding the disposal of the abrasive media</p> <p>Can be relatively expensive compared to some other finishing methods</p>	[152–157]
Ultrasonic cavitation abrasive finishing		Uses ultrasonic vibrations to generate cavitation bubbles in a liquid medium containing abrasive particles. The bubbles collapse and generate localized high-pressure streams that impact the workpiece, removing material and producing a smoother surface finish	<p>Can achieve a very fine surface finishes with sub-micron roughness</p> <p>Can remove surface irregularities, such as burrs and sharp edges, without damaging the workpiece</p> <p>Can be used on a wide range of materials, including hard metals and ceramics</p> <p>The non-contact process reduces the risk of damage to delicate or complex parts</p> <p>Low operating cost, as the abrasive material is reusable, and the process is energy efficient</p>	<p>Limited to small and intricate parts due to the small size of the ultrasonic tool</p> <p>Relatively slow process, which may not be suitable for high-volume production</p> <p>Requires specialized equipment and skilled operators</p> <p>The abrasive material may become trapped in the small cavities of the workpiece, which can be difficult to remove</p> <p>May cause surface micro-cracking, which can reduce the fatigue life of the workpiece</p>	[158–160]
Ultrasonic abrasive polishing		Applies ultrasonic vibration to tools—such as diamond files, abrasive stones, or ceramic abrasive stones	<p>Provides a fine surface finish with high precision and uniformity</p> <p>Can achieve a mirror-like surface finish with minimal surface damage</p> <p>Can remove surface defects and roughness on complex geometries</p> <p>Can be used on a wide range of materials, including metals, ceramics, and composites</p> <p>Can be combined with other surface finishing methods for improved results</p>	<p>May not be suitable for removing large amounts of material</p> <p>Limited ability to control the geometry of the finished surface</p> <p>Can be time-consuming and may require multiple steps for optimal results</p> <p>May require specialized equipment and expertise for proper implementation</p> <p>High cost of equipment and maintenance</p>	[161–163]
Polishing		Uses an abrasive and a work wheel or a leather strop to smooth a workpiece surface	<p>Can improve surface finish</p> <p>Can remove surface defects and scratches</p> <p>Can increase the strength of metal parts by reducing the size and number of surface defects such as pores, cracks, and microstructural irregularities</p> <p>Can enhance the visual appeal of metal parts by giving them a more polished and professional appearance</p>	<p>May require significant post-processing time</p> <p>Can alter part dimensions</p> <p>May require skilled workers to ensure consistent and effective results</p> <p>Can be costly, especially for large or complex parts that require extensive polishing to achieve the desired finish</p>	[138]

Table 2 (continued)

Category	Method	Working principle	Advantages	Disadvantages	Reference(s)
	Machining	Gradually removes the excess material from the workpiece to the desired dimensions and surface finish with the help of the cutting tool	<p>Can achieve tight tolerances and fine surface finishes that may not be possible with other post-processing methods</p> <p>Can be used on a wide range of metal additive manufacturing materials and can be used to create complex shapes, holes, and other features</p> <p>Can enhance the mechanical properties of a metal part by removing surface defects, reducing residual stress, and improving surface finish</p> <p>Can produce consistent results from part to part, ensuring the quality and reliability of the final product</p>	<p>May require specialized equipment and skilled operators</p> <p>Can introduce new defects or alter part dimensions</p> <p>Can increase the lead time and cost</p> <p>Generates a significant amount of waste material, which can increase the overall cost and environmental impact of the process</p> <p>May not be a viable post-processing method for large-scale metal additive manufacturing projects due to its time-consuming nature and the need for specialized equipment and operators</p>	[132–134, 164–175]
	Micro machining	Small ('microscopic') bits of material are removed to achieve high geometrical accuracy	<p>Can achieve high precision and accuracy in creating complex geometries and features on the surface</p> <p>Can produce a smooth and high-quality finish</p> <p>Can be used on a variety of materials, including hard and brittle materials</p> <p>Can be automated and controlled by computer numerical control (CNC) machines</p> <p>Can be used for both subtractive and additive manufacturing processes</p>	<p>Can be a slow and time-consuming process, especially for large or complex parts</p> <p>Can be costly, especially for high-precision or high-volume production</p> <p>Can cause heat buildup and thermal stress, which can lead to distortion or damage to the part</p> <p>May require specialized equipment and trained personnel</p> <p>May generate small particulates and debris, which can be a health hazard if not properly handled</p>	[133, 135, 176–185]
	Mass finishing, tumbling, and vibratory tumbling	Use abrasive media and a medium to remove imperfections from workpiece surfaces, which relies on the agitation or rotation of a container (Mass Finishing), rotational motion (Tumbling), and employs vibrations (Vibratory Tumbling) to achieve the desired surface finish on the workpieces	<p>Can finish a large number of parts simultaneously, which can be time and cost-effective</p> <p>Can achieve a consistent finish across multiple parts</p> <p>Can improve surface smoothness, reduce roughness, and remove burrs or sharp edges</p> <p>Can improve the fatigue life and corrosion resistance of the finished parts</p> <p>Can be used for a variety of part geometries and sizes</p> <p>Can reduce the need for manual labor and save production costs</p>	<p>Can lead to limited control over material removal from workpiece surfaces</p> <p>Can result in a risk of part-on-part contact during the finishing process</p> <p>May present challenges in achieving a completely uniform finish on complex-shaped workpieces</p> <p>Can generate noise and vibration during the finishing process</p> <p>May require experimentation with proper selection of abrasive media to achieve desired results</p>	[134, 160, 164, 186–191]
	Shot peening	Strikes a surface with a shot (round metallic, glass, or ceramic particle) with enough force to generate plastic deformation	<p>Improves the fatigue strength of metal parts by inducing compressive residual stresses in the surface layer</p> <p>Can improve the wear resistance of metal parts by inducing a cold-working effect that refines the surface layer and increases the hardness and strength of the material</p> <p>Can enhance the surface finish of metal parts by removing burrs and other surface imperfections</p> <p>Can increase the resistance of metal parts to corrosion by inducing compressive residual stresses that prevent crack initiation and propagation</p>	<p>May require specialized equipment or controlled environments</p> <p>Less effective on complex geometries with intricate shapes or sharp corners, which the shot stream may not uniformly cover</p> <p>Can potentially cause surface damage or create unintended surface irregularities, if not carefully controlled</p> <p>Generally, not recommended for certain materials, such as brittle materials or those with a high risk of hydrogen embrittlement, which may be susceptible to surface cracking during the process</p>	[138, 140, 164, 174, 192–200]

Table 2 (continued)

Category	Method	Working principle	Advantages	Disadvantages	Reference(s)
	Burnishing	The material surface is subjected to force by hardened balls, and if the magnitude of the applied force exceeds the yield stress of the material, a thin layer on the surface undergoes distortion	<p>Can improve surface finish and reduce surface roughness</p> <p>Can improve fatigue life and resistance to corrosion and wear</p> <p>Can be applied to a wide range of materials and geometries</p> <p>Can work-harden the surface of the part, making it more wear-resistant</p> <p>Can reduce the coefficient of friction between the part and any other surfaces it contacts</p>	<p>May not be effective for removing certain surface defects</p> <p>Can alter part dimensions or introduce new defects</p> <p>May require specialized equipment or controlled environments</p> <p>Typically, only effective on parts with simple shapes and smooth surfaces</p> <p>Relatively slow process compared to some other post-processing methods</p> <p>The relatively imprecise process that can be difficult to control</p>	[201–204]
	UNSM (ultrasonic nanocrystal surface modification)	Induces severe plastic deformation by striking the component's surface with a ball tip at an extremely high rate	<p>Can significantly improve surface finish</p> <p>Reduce surface roughness</p> <p>Enhance material properties such as fatigue life, wear resistance, and corrosion resistance</p> <p>Does not alter part dimensions</p> <p>Can be applied to a wide range of materials and geometries</p>	<p>May require specialized equipment and skilled operators</p> <p>May not be effective for all materials</p> <p>May not provide precise control over surface features</p>	[114, 205–208]
Chemical	Electropolishing, anodizing	<p>Electropolishing: uses electric current to dissolve a thin layer of metal ions into an electrolyte solution</p> <p>Anodizing: grows a thick, protective oxide layer on the surface of a material rather than polish</p>	<p>Can improve the surface finish of the metal part, making it smoother and more aesthetically pleasing</p> <p>Can increase the corrosion resistance of the metal part</p> <p>Can be used on a variety of metals, including aluminum, titanium, and stainless steel</p> <p>Can be used to selectively treat certain areas of the part, allowing for greater control over the final finish</p>	<p>Can be relatively expensive compared to other post-processing techniques</p> <p>Require careful handling of the chemicals involved, which can be hazardous if not properly managed</p> <p>Electropolishing can cause changes to the dimensions of the part, which can be a concern for parts with tight tolerances</p> <p>Anodizing can result in a brittle surface layer that may crack under stress, so it may not be suitable for parts that will be subject to high loads or impact</p>	[130–132, 136, 137, 142, 144, 174, 209–242]
	Chemical polishing, etching	<p>Chemical Polishing: uses an abrasive and corrosive colloid slurry along with a polishing pad and retaining ring</p> <p>Etching: uses a potent acid or mordant to etch the unprotected areas of a metal surface, resulting in an intaglio or incised design on the metal</p>	<p>Can improve surface finish and remove surface defects, such as roughness, pores, and cracks</p> <p>Can be used on a variety of metal alloys and are effective at selectively removing material from the surface of the part</p> <p>Can improve the overall aesthetics of the part and make it more visually appealing</p> <p>Can be used to reveal microstructures and grain boundaries in the metal</p>	<p>Can be time-consuming and require careful handling of chemicals and waste disposal, which can increase the overall cost of production</p> <p>Can weaken the structural integrity of the part by removing too much material or creating stress concentrations, if not performed correctly</p> <p>The effectiveness can vary depending on the specific metal alloy and the desired finish, which can make it difficult to achieve consistent results</p> <p>Require specialized equipment and training to perform safely and effectively</p>	[136, 200, 211, 241, 243–247]

Table 2 (continued)

Category	Method	Working principle	Advantages	Disadvantages	Reference(s)
	Chemically accelerated vibratory finishing (CAVF)	Uses a mixture of abrasive particles, chemicals, and water that is vibrated in a container to abrade and polish the surface of a workpiece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can produce a smooth and uniform surface finish on parts, reducing roughness and eliminating surface defects Can provide consistent surface finishes across a large number of parts, ensuring uniformity in the manufacturing process Can be a relatively fast process, reducing the time required for post-processing and improving overall production efficiency Can be a cost-effective process for achieving a desired surface finish on parts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May not be suitable for all materials and may require different chemistries for different materials Can remove material from the part's surface, which may be undesirable in some cases May not provide the same level of control over the surface finish as other methods, such as electrochemical polishing 	[174, 248]
	Isotropic superfinishing (ISF)	Uses a rotating abrasive tool to remove material from a workpiece, resulting in a polished finish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produces a consistent and predictable surface finish across the entire surface of a part, regardless of its shape or geometry Can reduce the coefficient of friction and wear rate of the finished part, resulting in longer-lasting and more durable components Can improve the fatigue strength of a part by reducing the presence of microcracks and other surface imperfections Can be used on a wide range of materials, including metals, ceramics, and composites Can be used to remove burrs, sharp edges, and other surface defects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be a time-consuming process, especially for larger and more complex parts May require specialized equipment and skilled operators to achieve consistent and high-quality results May not be suitable for all types of parts or materials and may require custom tooling or fixtures for each part Can be expensive, especially for small production runs or one-off parts 	[249, 250]
	Electroless plating	Immerses the part in a solution with metal ions and a reducing agent, which triggers a chemical reaction depositing the metal ions onto the surface without an external power source	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can deposit a uniform layer of metal onto the surface of the additively manufactured part, ensuring consistent and predictable properties Can be applied to complex geometries, including internal surfaces, which is difficult or impossible to achieve with other surface treatment methods Can be a cost-effective process, especially for larger production runs, as it can be automated and performed on multiple parts simultaneously The deposited layer can improve the part's resistance to corrosion, which can be critical for parts used in harsh environments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typically deposits a very thin layer of metal, which may not be sufficient for some applications that require thicker coatings Can be performed with a limited range of materials, and not all metals can be plated using this process Can be time-consuming and require specialized equipment The used chemicals may be hazardous to handle and dispose of, requiring proper safety protocols and waste management 	[251–254]
Thermal	Heat treatment	Uses controlled heating and cooling to improve the properties of materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to improve the strength, toughness, and ductility of the material Can also improve the wear resistance of the material, making it more durable and long-lasting Can improve the corrosion resistance of the material, making it more resistant to damage from environmental factors Helps to achieve greater uniformity in the properties of the material, reducing the risk of defects and inconsistencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be a complex process that requires careful monitoring and control to achieve the desired results Can be expensive, especially for large or complex parts Can cause distortion or warping of the material, which can be a problem for parts that require precise dimensions May not be effective for all types of materials or all applications, so it is important to consider the specific requirements of each project 	[165, 174, 255–264]

Table 2 (continued)

Category	Method	Working principle	Advantages	Disadvantages	Reference(s)
	Laser surface modification	Uses a high-energy laser to change the surface properties of a material through processes like ablation, melting, or alloying	<p>Can help to improve the surface finish of metal additive manufactured parts, reducing the need for additional machining or finishing processes</p> <p>Can improve the mechanical properties of the surface layer, such as hardness, wear resistance, and fatigue strength</p> <p>Can be used to add features or patterns to the surface of a part that would be difficult or impossible to achieve using traditional manufacturing methods</p> <p>Can reduce the amount of material waste generated during the manufacturing process by improving the surface quality of parts</p>	<p>Can be an expensive process, particularly for larger parts or complex geometries</p> <p>Can be time-consuming, particularly for large parts or complex modifications</p> <p>Typically only affects the surface layer of the material, which may not be sufficient for certain applications</p> <p>The high-energy laser used in the process can be hazardous if not properly controlled, posing a risk to workers and equipment</p>	[144, 151, 209, 210, 265–292]
	Hot isostatic pressing	Uses high pressure and temperature to reduce internal porosity and improve the properties of AM metal parts while also removing surface contaminants for a more uniform surface finish	<p>Can significantly improve the mechanical properties of additively manufactured metal parts, such as strength, ductility, and fatigue resistance</p> <p>Can reduce internal porosity and voids in part, resulting in increased density and improved material homogeneity</p> <p>Can help to remove surface contaminants and oxides, resulting in a more uniform surface finish and improved surface quality</p> <p>Suitable for a wide range of metal alloys, making it a versatile post-processing option for metal AM</p>	<p>An expensive and time-consuming process, requiring specialized equipment and skilled operators</p> <p>May limit its use for some metal alloys or complex geometries due to the required high temperature and pressure conditions</p> <p>May induce residual stress in the additively manufactured part, which could potentially affect its performance</p> <p>There may be some limitations on the size and shape of the part that can be processed using HIP, depending on the capacity of the equipment</p>	[248, 255, 293]
	Plasma electrolytic oxidation	Immerses the part in an electrolyte, and a high voltage is applied, causing sparks on the part's surface, resulting in the formation of a ceramic-like oxide layer that improves the surface properties of the metal part	<p>Improved surface hardness, wear resistance, and corrosion resistance of metal parts</p> <p>Can be used with a wide range of metal alloys, including aluminum, magnesium, titanium, and their alloys</p> <p>The environmentally friendly process that does not use hazardous chemicals or produce harmful waste products</p> <p>The low-cost process can be easily scaled up for mass production</p> <p>Tailorable properties of the oxide layer by adjusting the process parameters</p>	<p>Can be time-consuming, especially for thicker oxide layers</p> <p>The quality and reproducibility of the oxide layer can be affected by variations in the process parameters, such as voltage and electrolyte composition</p> <p>Can alter the dimensions of the metal part, requiring additional machining or finishing steps</p> <p>May not be suitable for parts with complex geometries or internal cavities that the electrolyte solution cannot reach</p>	[294–296]
	Spray coating, plasma spraying	The powder material is melted and accelerated towards a metal part to form a thin coating layer that improves its surface properties	<p>Can deposit a wide range of materials onto metal parts, including metals, ceramics, polymers, and composites</p> <p>Improves the surface properties of metal parts, including wear resistance, corrosion resistance, and thermal insulation</p> <p>Can be used to coat parts with complex geometries and internal cavities</p> <p>Can be used with a wide range of metal alloys, including aluminum, titanium, and their alloys</p> <p>High coating bond strength and density can be achieved</p> <p>Low porosity and high surface roughness can be obtained, allowing for improved adhesion of the coating material</p>	<p>Can be a slow process, especially for thicker coatings or larger parts</p> <p>The quality and reproducibility of the coating can be affected by variations in process parameters, such as powder composition, particle size, and spray distance</p> <p>High temperatures generated during the process can affect the properties of the metal part being coated, such as distortion or residual stresses</p> <p>Coatings may exhibit porosity or delamination if the process parameters are not optimized or if the surface of the metal part is not properly prepared</p>	[297–299]

Table 2 (continued)

Category	Method	Working principle	Advantages	Disadvantages	Reference(s)
Combination (Hybrid methods)	Sandblasting, abrasive polishing, and electropolishing	Sandblasting removes loose or partially molten powder particles, abrasive polishing removes excess material using an abrasive slurry, and electropolishing uses current to remove metal ions from positively charged lattice samples for a smooth and polished surface	Effective in removing loosely bound or partially molten powder particles from the surface of the lattice samples Helps remove excess material from the surface of the lattice using a slurry of abrasive particles Improves the surface quality of the final product by removing unwanted material and introducing smooth and polished surfaces through electropolishing Can potentially enhance corrosion resistance and wear characteristics of additively manufactured stainless steel 316L Successes of numerous groups in reducing surface roughness and surface porosity and improving wear and corrosion characteristics of additively manufactured stainless steel 316L through various means is encouraging	Post-processing with sandblasting, abrasive polishing, and electropolishing can introduce microcracks and leave foreign particles on the surface, leading to relatively high surface roughness The surface particles generated by these processes need to be handled appropriately to prevent adverse effects, particularly for biomedical applications where they may leach into the bloodstream and induce local or systemic reactions The current state of post-processing may not be cost- or time-effective, particularly if they each require human labor. A single-stage post-processing technique may be more desirable for large-scale additive manufacturing	[130]
	Grinding + Drag-finishing	Uses a grinding wheel to remove material and then uses a drag-finishing tool to hone and polish the surface, resulting in improved surface quality	Significantly improve the surface condition and fatigue performance of IN718 specimens	Reduces the diameter of the gage section of specimens	[134]
	Blasting and electropolishing	Part is first blasted with abrasive particles to remove any surface imperfections. It is then placed in an electrolyte solution, and an electric current is passed through it. This causes the surface to dissolve and smooth out, resulting in a bright, shiny finish	Blasting results in uniform surface roughness Electropolishing can create a smooth surface with low roughness Electropolishing can remove surface defects and contaminants	Electropolishing alone cannot achieve a rough surface suitable for osseointegration Electropolishing may reduce the mechanical interlocking of the implant with bone tissues	[137]
	Blasting and Chemical etching	Using abrasive particles and a chemical solution to remove material from the surface of a metal part. The abrasive particles physically remove the material, while the chemical solution helps to dissolve it, resulting in a smoother and cleaner surface	Low surface roughness value can be achieved Chemical etching reduces surface roughness and cleans the surface Rough surfaces with good osseointegration can be obtained	Increased roughness may lead to increased bacteria proliferation in areas with low blood flow Increased roughness may lead to increased ion release by the implant surface	[137]
	Machining Processes with non-Traditional Fine Abrasive Finishing (FAF)	The milling process removes material and creates a pre-finished surface, which is further refined using FAF techniques	Can produce high-quality surface finishes with reduced roughness and waviness As FAF is performed after milling, it can eliminate the need for additional finishing operations, thus reducing overall machining time By removing a small amount of material during FAF, the process can help to improve the dimensional accuracy of the machined parts	May require additional equipment and setup, which can increase the cost of production Can make the machining process more complex, requiring additional training and expertise May not be suitable for all types of parts or materials and may have limited application in certain industries or applications	[167]

Table 2 (continued)

Category	Method	Working principle	Advantages	Disadvantages	Reference(s)
	Chemical-abrasive flow polishing	Pumping a fluid of chemicals and abrasives through the interior of a cylindrical specimen to dissolve semi-welded particles and remove roughness and texture	<p>Can significantly improve the surface finish of AM-IN625 tubular components by removing semi-welded particles and reducing surface roughness</p> <p>Chemical flow polishing uses a chemical reaction to dissolve material, resulting in a smoother surface. The use of flow during this process can further improve surface quality</p> <p>Abrasive flow polishing uses an abrasive fluid to remove material through erosion, leading to a smoother surface. The impact angle and fluid velocity can be adjusted to achieve greater material removal and surface quality</p> <p>Combining the two techniques can increase the material removal rate and produce a higher surface finish quality. The chemical agent continuously removes the passive layer formed on the surface, while the abrasive agent of the fluid removes material through erosion, leading to a smoother surface</p>	<p>The rate of material removal with both techniques is relatively low</p> <p>The thickness of the passive layer formed during chemical polishing can hinder the material removal rate</p> <p>Abrasive flow polishing requires a high fluid velocity to efficiently polish the surface, which may be difficult to achieve</p> <p>The impact angle of the fluid flow on the specimen's surface may affect the polishing process results</p>	[147]
	Electrochemical-mechanical combined polishing (EMCP)	Using a tool component consisting of a coarse grinding wheel, a fine grinding wheel, and a cathode to improve the surface quality of metal parts. The tool rotates and reciprocates along the axis of the channel to ensure uniformity along both the circumferential and axial directions	<p>Combines electrochemical dissolution and mechanical grinding to achieve a smooth and uniform surface morphology, resulting in a high-quality surface finish</p> <p>Is effective in removing adhesive powders, passivation film, and products produced during electrochemical machining</p> <p>Can be used to polish interior channels with smaller diameters effectively</p> <p>The electrochemical effect is dominant in weight loss during the EMCP process</p> <p>Can improve surface quality while reducing processing time compared to traditional machining methods</p>	<p>Requires specialized equipment and tools, which can be costly to purchase and maintain</p> <p>May not be suitable for all types of materials or geometries</p> <p>The electrolyte concentration and temperature can affect the electrochemical dissolution process, which may require careful control and monitoring</p> <p>May produce waste products that require proper disposal, which can add to the cost and environmental impact of the process</p> <p>May require skilled operators with specific training and expertise in electrochemical machining and mechanical grinding</p>	[300]

requirements, giving them a competitive advantage over new components.

Common surface treatment processes in high-value remanufacturing include electroplating, thermal spraying, and plasma spraying, all of which deposit a layer of material onto the component's surface, either through a chemical reaction or physical deposition. Here are some advantages and processes of surface treatment technologies for high-value remanufacturing:

- **Improved performance:** Surface treatment technologies can significantly improve the performance of remanufactured components. By enhancing the surface properties of worn or damaged components, surface treatments can improve their resistance to wear, corrosion, and hardness. This leads to better performance and longer service life, making them a viable alternative to new components.
- **Cost-effectiveness:** Remanufacturing components with surface treatments is often more cost-effective than manufacturing new components from scratch. Surface treatments can be applied to worn or damaged components, which can be restored to their original condition. This saves time and resources and reduces the cost of production.
- **Sustainability:** Remanufacturing with surface treatments is a sustainable approach as it reduces the need for new raw materials and decreases waste. Instead of throwing away worn or damaged components, surface treatments can restore them to their original condition. This approach helps to reduce the environmental impact of manufacturing and promotes the circular economy.
- **Improved aesthetics:** Surface treatments can be used to enhance the appearance of remanufactured components. For example, electroplating can be used to add a shiny, reflective surface to a worn metal component, improving its appearance and value. This can be particularly useful for components used in industries where aesthetics are important, such as the automotive or luxury goods industries.
- **Improved functionality:** Surface treatments can be used to add or enhance specific functionality to remanufactured components. For example, a component may be coated with a material that makes it resistant to extreme temperatures or chemicals, enabling it to perform better in certain applications. This can help improve the component's overall efficiency and suitability for a wider range of applications.
- **Reduced friction:** Surface treatments such as hard coatings or diamond-like carbon can be used to reduce friction in remanufactured components. This improves their efficiency and reduces wear and tear, extend-

ing their service life. This is particularly useful for components that experience a lot of friction during operation, such as engine parts or bearings.

- **Improved bonding:** Surface treatments such as plasma spraying or flame spraying can be used to improve the bonding between two components. This can be especially useful in remanufacturing applications where two components need to be joined together. Improving the bond strength makes the remanufactured component less likely to fail during use.

In summary, surface treatment is a crucial aspect of materials engineering that can significantly improve a material's performance and appearance. Furthermore, it is a versatile process that involves a wide range of techniques and is essential in various industrial applications.

4.2 Recently Study for Surface Treatment

Recently, a lot of research has been done on surface treatment processes based on heat treatment and UNSM processes. Research has been conducted to improve hardness and wear resistance through heat treatment processes. In addition, various studies have been conducted, such as studying crack propagation through localized laser-based heat treatment. First, the study of surface treatment processes based on heat treatment processes is as follows.

In their research, Shim et al. [108] explored surface hardening methods employing high-alloy tool steel powders, aiming to greatly enhance the performance of dies and molds regarding wear resistance and toughness. The study conducted a comparative analysis of the properties of surface hardening using AISI M4, high-alloy tool steel, and the conventional approach of quenching and tempering heat treatment.

Furthermore, a wide array of research studies has been conducted, including hybrid cladding investigations aimed at enhancing surface strength and improving the internal mechanical properties using the UNSM (Ultrasonic Nanocrystalline Surface Modification) process. Initially, Jo et al. conducted a study on the tilting characteristics of UNSM horns to regulate hardness through the UNSM process [109]. The horn was precisely tilted from 0° to 45°, and the subsequent analysis focused on assessing the impact on surface hardness and shape alterations. The proposed method facilitated the facile fabrication of angular increments in hardness ranging from 2 to 45% while achieving a gradual hardness gradient in the tested specimens as shown Fig. 10.

In another study, Kim et al. examined the metallurgical and mechanical property changes induced by UNSM treatment in DEDed M4 specimens [110]. The DEDed M4 material was observed to transform from austenite to martensite

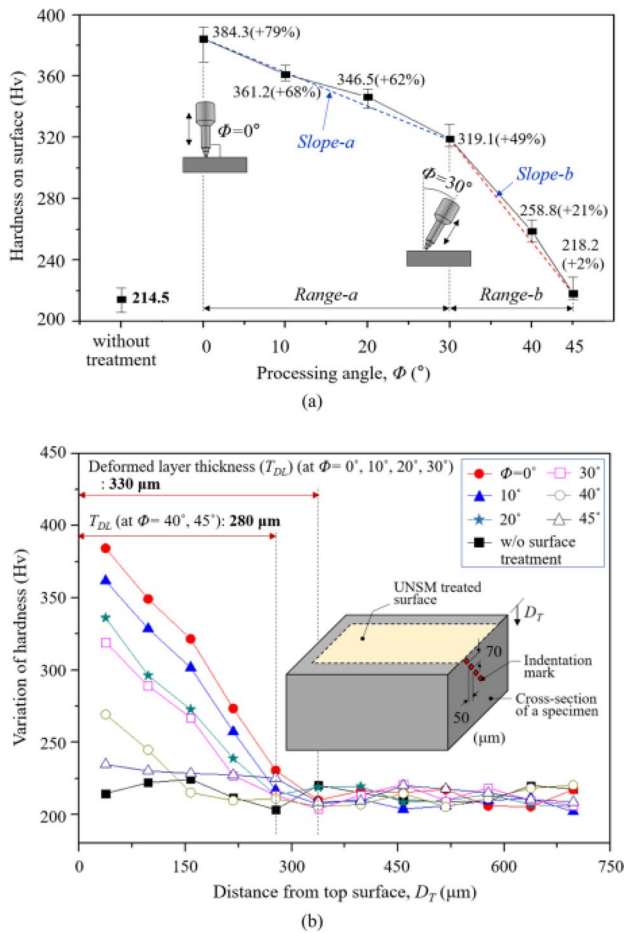


Fig. 10 Measurement data of hardness distribution: a hardness change on a surface by processing angle Φ [109]

after UNSM treatment, leading to grain size reduction and a remarkable 24.1% improvement in hardness. Moreover, the wear rate of the DEDed M4 material decreased by 85.7% compared to heat-treated D2 material. The UNSM treatment reduced surface roughness by up to 88.3% and the formation of fine dimples on the DEDed M4 surface (Fig. 11). Additionally, Kim et al. investigated the effect of UNSM treatment on DEDed AISI 316L [111, 112]. Following UNSM treatment, waveform and surface roughness decreased by up to 73.8% and 86.2%, respectively, with further reductions observed at smaller UNSM spacing. The microstructure exhibited grain refinement up to a depth of 92.13 mm from the surface, with significant influence from the treatment spacing. Hardness exhibited an improvement of up to 71.5% after UNSM treatment, gradually decreasing from the surface to the interior, with an improvement extending up to a depth of 400 μm (Fig. 12).

Yu et al. employed AISI-H13, a highly wear-resistant metal, for repairing gray cast iron, a challenging material to weld [113]. They applied the UNSM treatment to the

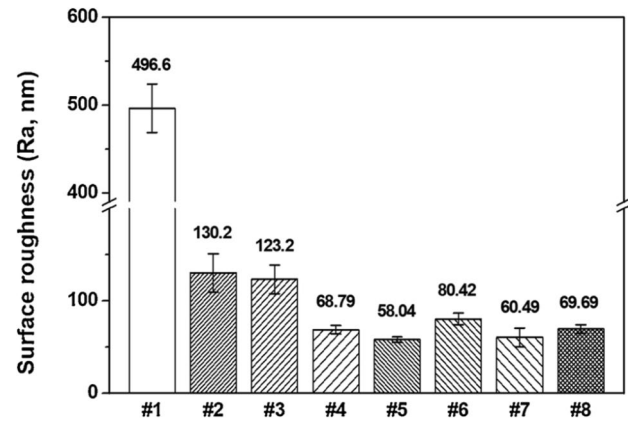


Fig. 11 Differences in surface roughness for DEDed M4 samples under different UNSM conditions [110]

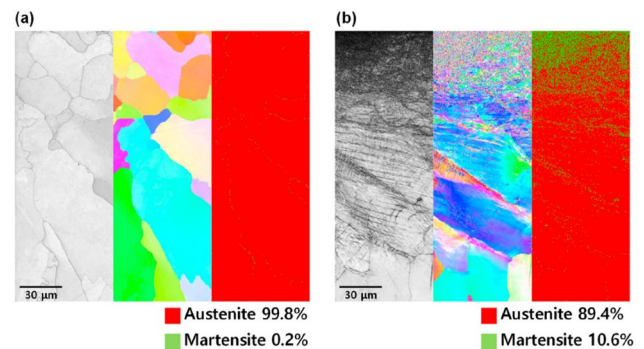


Fig. 12 Results of EBSD examination of the near-surface microstructures **a** before and **b** after UNSM treatment [112]

embedded region as a post-process to enhance its wear resistance properties and induce compressive residual stress. Experimental results revealed a reduction of up to 98.78% in wear rate compared to conventional gray cast iron after UNSM surface treatment, with the wear rate in the embedded region approaching 0% (Fig. 13).

Lastly, in a recent study, Jo et al. proposed and investigated a novel hybrid cladding process that combines direct energy deposition (DED) and ultrasonic nanocrystal surface modification (UNSM) to control the mechanical properties of the inner metal-clad layer [114]. The relationship between the direction of laminated beads and the direction of UNSM treatment was examined, indicating a 13.4% hardness improvement when both were aligned and a 15.3% improvement when they were perpendicular to each other. Furthermore, wear resistance tests of the hybrid cladding process were performed at elevated temperatures of 200 $^\circ\text{C}$ and 400 $^\circ\text{C}$, demonstrating an enhanced wear resistance of 25.4% and 14.4% for specimens with a perpendicular relationship, respectively (Fig. 14). The study also analyzed the wear resistance characteristics with and

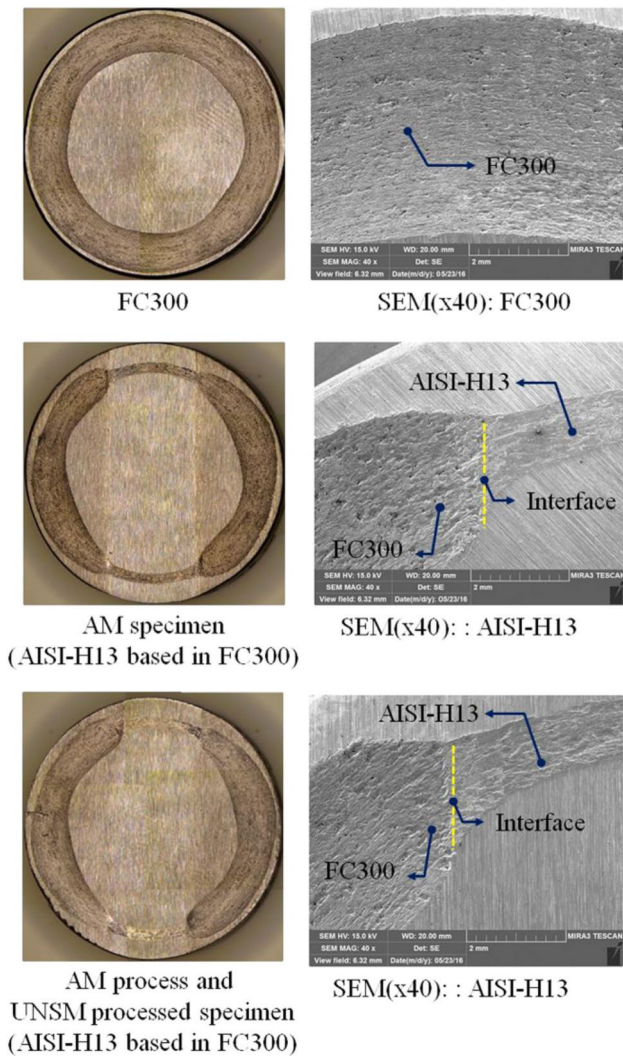


Fig. 13 The result after the friction wear test using the ball-on-disk equipment (FC300, AM specimen, AM and UNSM specimen) [113]

without UNSM treatment in the DED process, successfully enhancing the internal mechanical properties of the cladding layer with high controllability and repeatability.

5 Remanufacturing technologies using the metal additive manufacturing process and surface treatment

Additive manufacturing has become popular for remanufacturing due to its ability to produce customized parts and complex geometries with less material waste than traditional methods. However, there are several drawbacks, as outlined in Table 1, that can impact the overall performance and durability of AM-produced parts. Common drawbacks include:

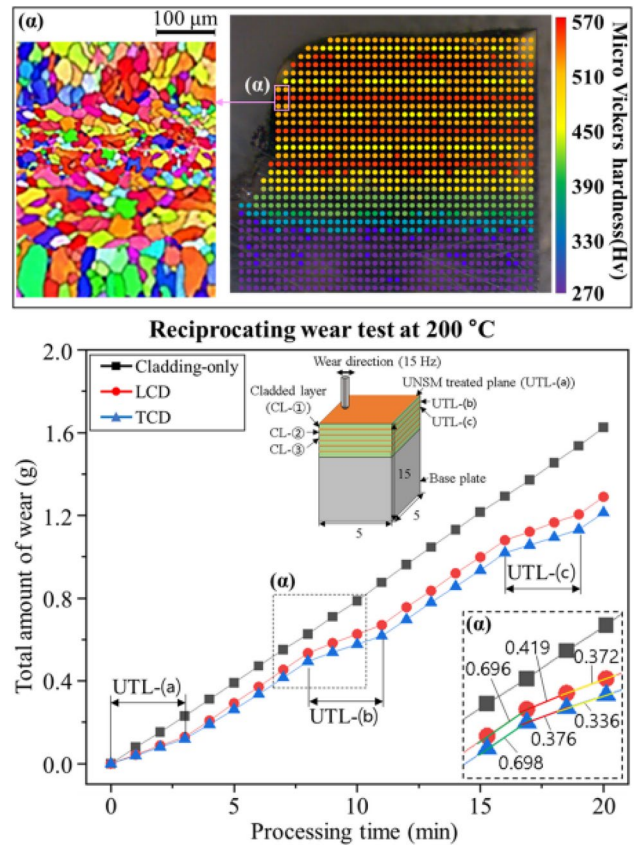


Fig. 14 Analysis of wear characteristics of the interface according to grain refinement [114]

- Tensile residual stresses: Additive manufacturing processes can generate tensile residual stresses on the surface of the manufactured part. These stresses can lead to premature failure of the part due to fatigue or stress corrosion cracking [115]. Tensile residual stresses can also reduce the part’s load-carrying capacity and fracture toughness [116].
- Surface roughness: The surface of additive-manufactured parts can be rough due to the layer-by-layer deposition process [117]. This roughness can increase friction, wear, and stress concentration points, negatively impacting the part’s performance and durability [118].
- Porosity: Additive manufacturing can produce parts with high porosity, which can decrease their mechanical strength and durability. Porosity can also affect the part’s ability to hold a vacuum or maintain a seal [119].

The existence of these defects, such as porosity and inhomogeneity, in the microstructure could also impact the component’s functionality [90, 120]. Poor surface quality and topography, which can lead to functional issues like crack initiation and corrosion, are among the key concerns [121, 122].

To overcome the challenges associated with poor surface quality, various surface modification methods have been developed and employed in metal AM [123–125]. These methods can be broadly categorized into mechanical, chemical, thermal, and coating methods. Each category has advantages and disadvantages, and the choice of method depends on the specific application requirements. Table 2 summarizes various surface modification methods for metal AM, including examples of their advantages and disadvantages.

Mechanical surface modification methods include a variety of techniques, such as blasting, grinding, polishing, machining, shot peening, tumbling, and vibratory finishing. These methods aim to improve surface roughness, remove impurities, and achieve precise surface features and tolerances. For instance, sandblasting effectively removes impurities from the surface, while shot peening can enhance the material's fatigue life by introducing compressive residual stresses. However, these methods can also alter part dimensions and introduce new defects or residual stresses, and some may not be effective for certain surface defects.

Chemical surface modification methods are another class of techniques, including electropolishing, anodizing, etching, passivation, electrochemical polishing, pickling, and chemical vapor deposition. These methods selectively modify surface properties, improve corrosion resistance, and achieve precise surface features. For instance, anodizing creates a hard, wear-resistant oxide layer on the surface, while electropolishing can produce a smooth and shiny surface finish. However, these methods may require toxic or hazardous chemicals, specialized equipment, or controlled environments, resulting in uneven or inconsistent surface modification.

Thermal surface modification methods include heat treatment, laser surface modification, plasma treatment, sintering, and annealing. These methods improve surface hardness and mechanical properties, remove surface defects, and improve adhesion. Heat treatment is commonly used to enhance the material's mechanical properties, while laser surface modification can selectively change the surface properties. However, these methods can introduce residual stresses, alter part dimensions, change material properties, and require specialized equipment or controlled environments.

Coating surface modification methods include physical vapor deposition, chemical vapor deposition, electroplating, and spray coating. These methods deposit a uniform and high-quality coating on complex geometries, provide wear resistance and corrosion protection, and deposit various materials and coatings. Physical vapor deposition is a popular technique for coating metals, while chemical vapor deposition is used for depositing ceramics and diamond-like coatings. However, these methods can be expensive, require

specialized equipment or controlled environments, alter part dimensions, or introduce new defects.

Finally, hybrid methods combine different surface modification techniques, such as sandblasting, abrasive polishing, and electropolishing. Other examples of hybrid methods include grinding with drag-finished, blasting and electropolishing, and chemical-abrasive flow polishing. These methods aim to combine the advantages of different techniques while minimizing their disadvantages, but they can also be complex and require specialized equipment.

In conclusion, post-processing methods are essential in metal additive manufacturing to achieve the desired surface properties, features, and tolerances. Mechanical, chemical, thermal, and coating surface modification techniques provide a range of options for surface treatment. However, each method has advantages and disadvantages, and the selection depends on the specific requirements and constraints of the application. Furthermore, hybrid approaches combining two or more surface modification methods can provide better results than a single method. Therefore, it is important to choose the appropriate method carefully and to control the process parameters to avoid introducing new defects or residual stresses and to ensure consistent and reliable surface modification.

6 Recent Progress in Remanufacturing Technologies Using Metal Additive Manufacturing Processes and Surface Treatment

Remanufacturing processes are expanding in various industries, including aerospace, shipbuilding, mold, and automotive. Recently, they have been applied to repair damage to various parts, such as high-temperature blades and impellers. In this case, AM-based repair processes are applied to restore damaged parts and remanufacture products with improved mechanical properties, and surface treatment processes can be utilized to secure and maximize mechanical properties. In particular, with the recent development of AM process technology, technical research on remanufacturing technology and surface treatment process using AM process is expanding.

While surface modification methods applicable to additively manufactured metal components can also be used for remanufactured components, their usage has yet to be widespread and requires further development. In their study, Zhang et al. developed a hybrid process incorporating reverse engineering, pretreatment, additive manufacturing, and material testing to remanufacture parts made of a cobalt–nickel alloy called Wallex 40 [126]. The process began with 3D scanning of the part to be remanufactured to determine the additive manufacturing process required. The

part was then pretreated to address defects such as surface impact damage, surface damage, and cracks. Subsequently, additive manufacturing process-based remanufacturing was carried out, and the mechanical properties of the remanufactured parts were analyzed. Specifically, the tensile properties of the Wallex 40 + H13 tool steel samples were compared, with a UTS of 943.5 MPa for Wallex 40 samples and 908 MPa for samples that fractured in the H13 tool steel region. The microstructural analysis and tensile testing demonstrated a strong bonding along the interface between the remanufactured part and the H13 tool steel (Fig. 15) [301].

Lu et al. proposed a hybrid process that integrates the laser-based DED process with the Laser Shock Peening (LSP) process, which was applied in layers [302]. Tensile tests were conducted to assess the effectiveness of this process (Fig. 16). The results indicated that the LDED-LSPed specimen exhibited superior strength and ductility compared to the LDED specimen, under the same conditions as the as-built state. The UTS, YS, and uniform EI of the LDED-LSPed specimens reached 1300 MPa, 1178 MPa, and 9.03%,

respectively, which were approximately 20.8%, 19.6%, and 67.2% higher than those of the LDED specimens (UTS-1076 MPa, YS-985 MPa, and uniform EI-5.4%). These findings suggest that interlaminar LSP can effectively address the drawbacks of LDED.

Zhu et al. investigated the remanufacturing of a broken 45 steel gear using H13 steel powder and laser cladding technology [303]. To ensure optimal parameters for the gear’s unique geometry, various parameter-based studies were conducted, such as the bead overlap rate, scanning strategy, and Z-axis increment. Post-processing involved machining to achieve a smooth surface finish for the remanufactured parts. The remanufactured area exhibited a hardness of 570 Hv, while the HAZ part showed a hardness of 195 Hv. Moreover, a wear test demonstrated an approximately 12.4% improvement in wear resistance. Thus, it can be concluded that the remanufacturing process resulted in improved wear resistance over the original material. Figure 17 shows the broken gear tooth repairing process.

Fig. 15 Hybrid Process **a** Damaged blade; **b** 3D model of the blade; **c** point cloud in damaged area; **d** convex hull of the point cloud; **e** optimized contour for machining; **f** blade after machining [126]

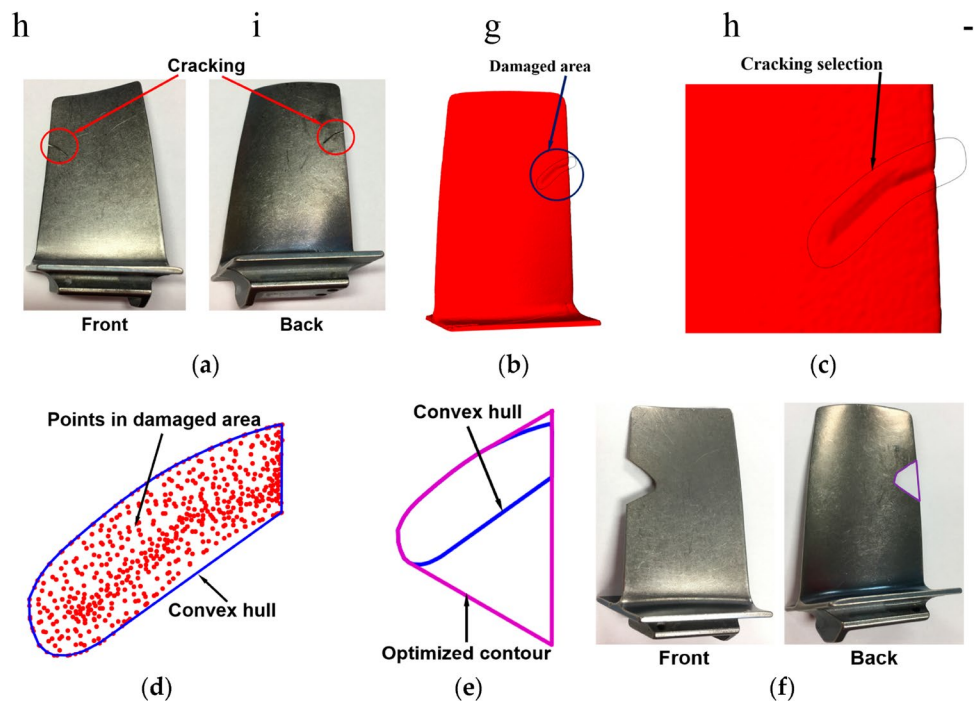
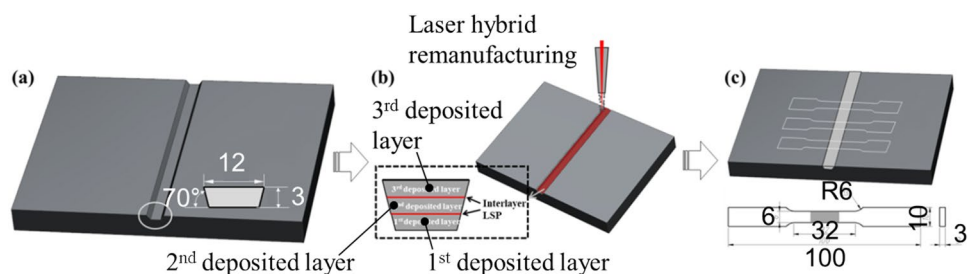


Fig. 16 The schematic diagram of laser processing and tensile specimen preparation. **a** Detailed dimensions of the groove, **b** the groove remanufactured by laser hybrid additive manufacturing, and **c** the preparation and dimensions of tensile specimen (unit: mm) [302]



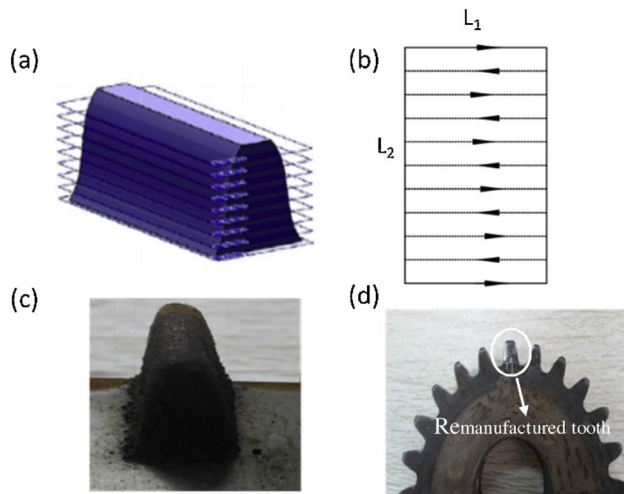


Fig. 17 Broken gear tooth repairing process: **a** slices of the broken tooth model, **b** the shape of the first layer of the broken tooth model slices, **c** remanufactured tooth using laser cladding, **d** remanufactured tooth after post-processing [303]

Barragan De Los Rios et al. proposed a hybrid manufacturing (HM) process that integrates DED and machining processes for remanufacturing purposes [118]. Injection molded parts made of AISI 1045 were remanufactured into AISI 316L stainless steel using laser-based DED and high-speed machining (HSM) to enhance the surface finish and dimensional accuracy. Surface roughness analysis using S_a demonstrated that when manufactured solely using the DED process, the roughness values of the side and top regions were heavily influenced by trajectory and semi-molten particles. However, the HSM process was able to reduce the S_a value by approximately 90% in a relatively short amount of time compared to

other surface finishing techniques. Figure 18 shows the workpiece after the remanufacturing process.

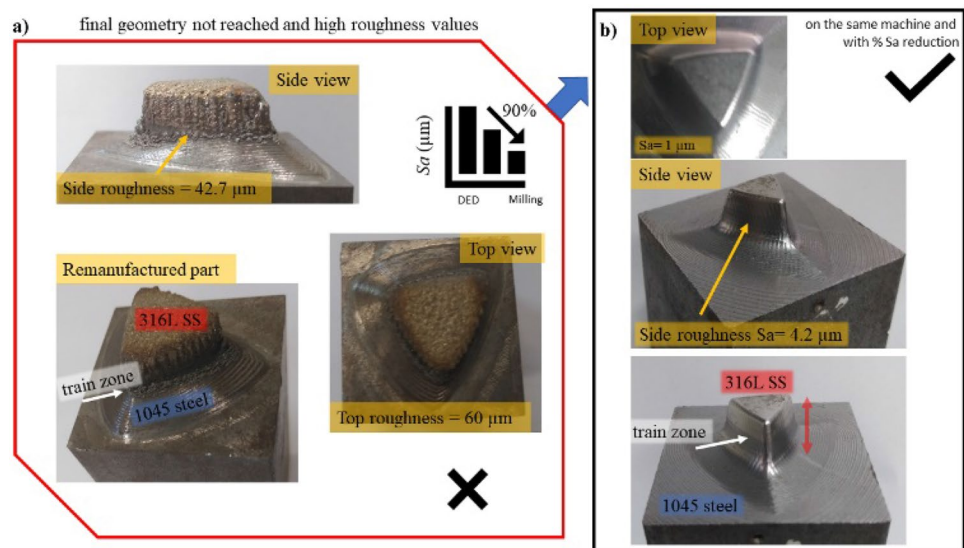
Shim et al. [303] studied repairing damaged SUS 630 parts using directed energy deposition (DED) and analyzing variations in mechanical properties caused by post-repair heat treatment. Substrates were first subjected to different treatments before being repaired with SUS 630 powder. The repaired region had lower hardness than the substrate, but post-repair heat treatment increased it. However, cracks at the interface caused a decrease in tensile strength and elongation. The study found that post-repair heat treatment improved tensile characteristics similar to the initial treatment. Figure 19 shows the fractured specimens after the tensile test with different treatments.

To further promote remanufacturing processes, continued research and development are needed to fully understand and optimize the potential of metal AM and surface treatment methods in improving the quality and reliability of remanufactured parts. In addition, cost-effective and scalable processing methods need to be developed, and new materials need to be explored to increase the range of applications of remanufacturing processes.

Another important aspect to consider is optimizing process parameters for specific applications. This requires a deep understanding of the relationships between material properties, processing parameters, and the resulting properties of the remanufactured parts. Developing reliable and repeatable surface modification processes that produce consistent results is also essential for achieving high-quality remanufactured parts.

Moreover, the potential of hybrid methods combining metal AM with surface treatment techniques must be explored further, as they can offer even better results

Fig. 18 Workpiece after remanufacturing process. **a** Visual and quantitative analysis of roughness for the top and side regions. **b** Results obtained from roughness after milling and final surface quality [118]



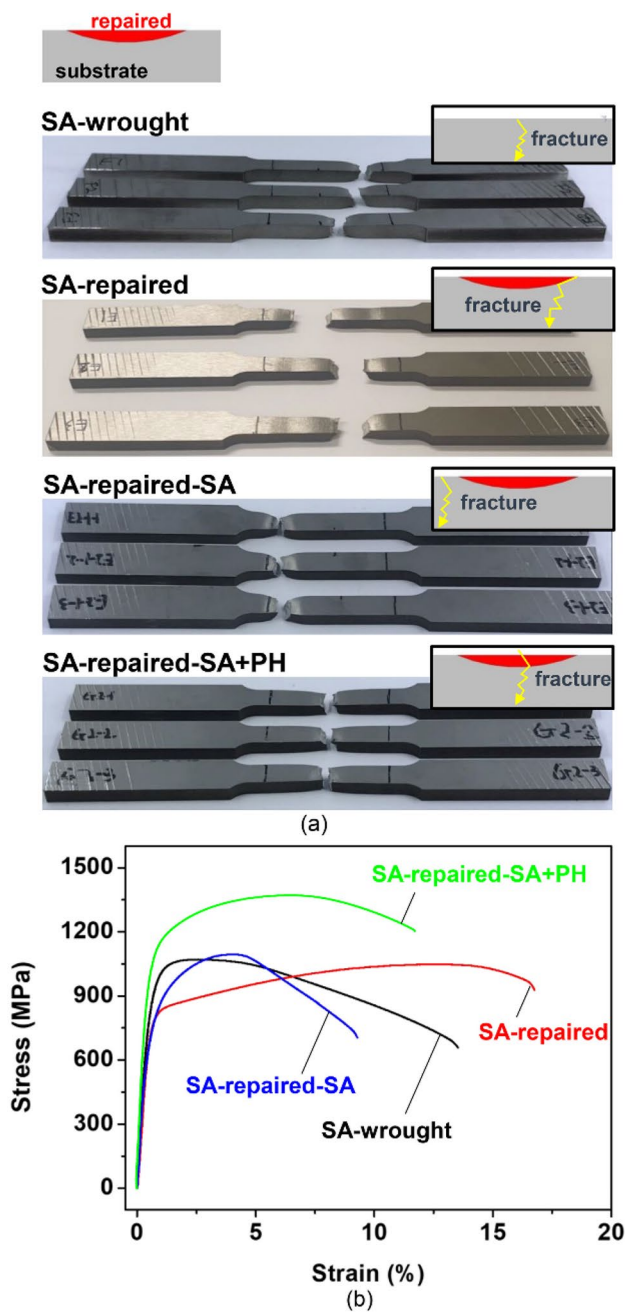


Fig. 19 a Fractured specimens after tensile test and (b) engineering stress–strain curve of solution annealing (SA-wrought), SA-repaired, SA-repaired-SA, and SA-repaired- treatment followed by precipitation hardening (SA + PH) [303]

for remanufactured parts. However, these hybrid methods may require specialized equipment and be complex, limiting their widespread adoption.

When employing AM as the sole method for remanufacturing, certain limitations in part quality may arise due to uneven finishes, increased porosity, compromised dimensional accuracy, and inherent defects from

layering. However, incorporating surface treatment with AM significantly enhances part quality. Surface treatments like machining, polishing, or chemical treatments improve surface finish by reducing roughness and porosity. Post-processing methods can remove residual stress and improve mechanical properties, resulting in higher-quality remanufactured parts.

In terms of cost implications, using AM alone in remanufacturing may be costly, especially for large-scale production, considering support structures, post-processing, and quality control measures. Conversely, remanufacturing methods that combine AM with surface treatment may initially incur some additional costs, but they prove more cost-effective in the long run. Surface treatments reduce the need for extensive post-processing, decrease material waste, improve part reusability, and lead to extended part lifespans, resulting in cost savings.

The ongoing expansion of remanufacturing processes, particularly in aerospace, shipbuilding, mold, and automotive industries, presents significant opportunities to advance sustainability, reduce waste, and enhance resource efficiency. However, fully unlocking this potential requires continuous research and development efforts to enhance the quality and reliability of remanufactured parts and broaden the scope of materials and applications used in remanufacturing processes.

In summary, remanufacturing methods combining AM with surface treatment offer notable benefits in terms of improved part quality and cost-effectiveness, making them a practical choice for sustainable manufacturing practices. The selection of the most suitable approach for each remanufacturing project hinges on a thorough evaluation of project requirements and economic factors. By leveraging these technologies effectively, industries can make strides towards a more sustainable and efficient future.

7 Conclusion

Additive manufacturing (AM) is increasingly used for remanufacturing due to its ability to create custom parts with complex geometries while minimizing material waste compared to traditional methods. However, AM-produced parts may have limitations affecting their performance and durability. Surface modification techniques, including mechanical, chemical, thermal, and coating methods, have been developed to overcome these challenges in metal AM. Hybrid approaches combining different surface modification techniques can yield better results, but they may require specialized equipment and be complex.

Selecting the appropriate surface modification method and controlling process parameters are essential for achieving consistent and reliable surface modification. In addition, the ongoing advancements in AM process technology are expanding the field of remanufacturing technology and surface treatment processes using AM, which promises a bright future for research and development.

The paper highlights the potential of metal AM and surface treatment methods in improving the quality and reliability of remanufactured parts. However, there are still challenges to overcome, including the need for cost-effective and scalable processing methods, the development of new materials, and the optimization of process parameters for specific applications. Therefore, continued research and development in this field are essential to exploit the potential of remanufacturing technologies fully.

Furthermore, remanufacturing technologies using metal additive manufacturing processes and surface treatment can promote sustainability, minimize waste, and enhance resource efficiency in modern manufacturing processes. Thus, the adoption of these technologies can have a significant impact on the environment and the economy. In conclusion, the future prospects of remanufacturing technologies using metal additive manufacturing processes and surface treatment are promising, with ample opportunities for research and development to advance this field and address its challenges.

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Declarations

Conflict of Interest The author declares that they have no competing interests.

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