Early Performance Evaluation of 3D Printed Concrete Walls Using Scaled Prototypes Simulation

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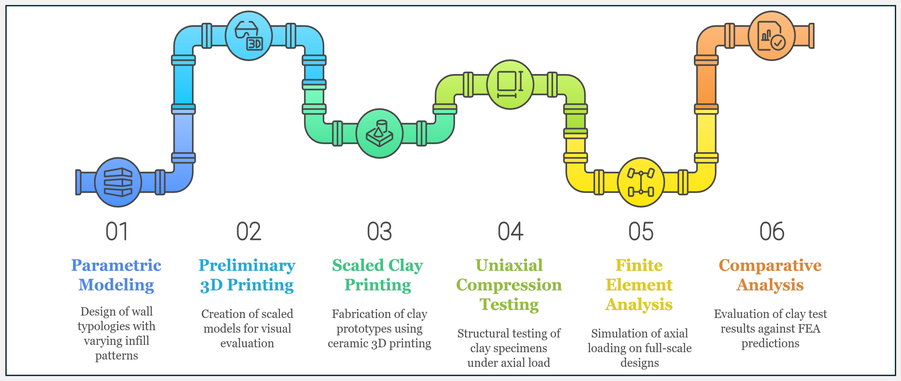
Introduction

- Parametric design and additive manufacturing enable precise control over wall geometry and material distribution
- Extrusion-based printing allows internal infill to be tailored for improved structural efficiency
- Exploring many design variations at full scale is costly and impractical
- This study combines parametric modeling, scaled ceramic printing, and finite element analysis
- Experimental testing and simulation are used to evaluate structural behavior
- Key geometric features influencing load transfer, failure, and efficiency are identified
- Findings provide insight into geometry-driven design for additively manufactured wall systems

Research Application

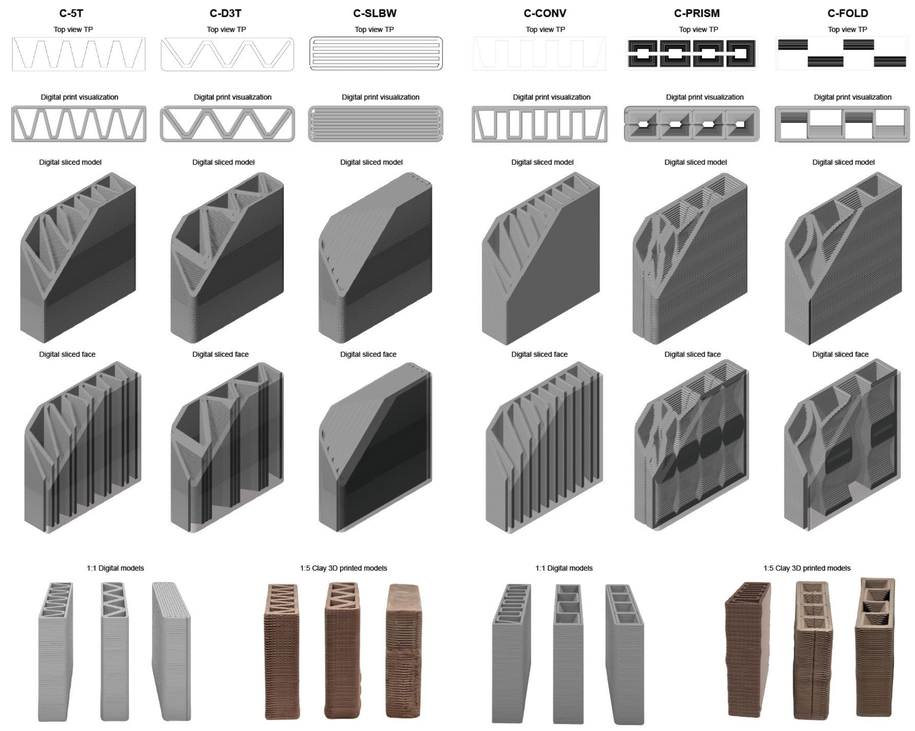
- Reduce material costs in additively manufactured walls through optimized internal geometries
- Improve structural safety by identifying geometries with more gradual, predictable failure behavior
- Support development of design guidelines for next-generation 3D printed housing systems

Six-phase workflow Methodology



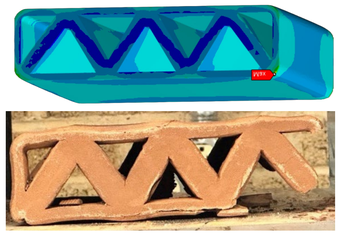
Results

Digital wall models and corresponding 1:5 clay printed specimens.



Comparison of Test Result Against FEA

C-D3T

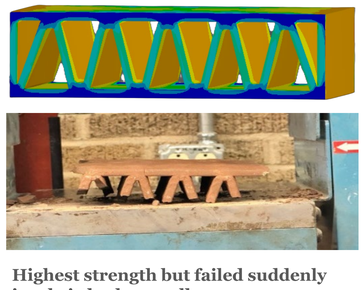


Lower strength but exhibited a gradual, controlled failure with load redistribution

C-CONV

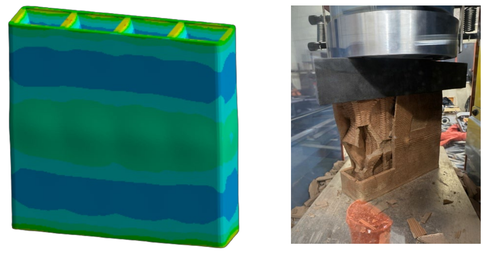
Failed abruptly due to delamination and loss of internal load paths.

C-5T



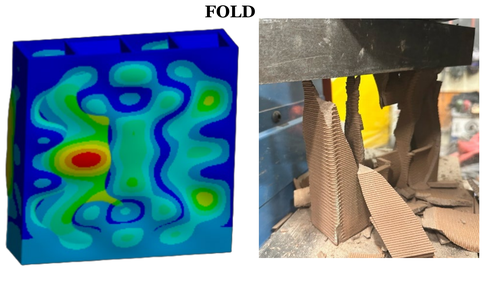
Highest strength but failed suddenly in a brittle shear collapse.

C-PRISM



Failed through longitudinal splitting followed by complete separation due to weak load paths.

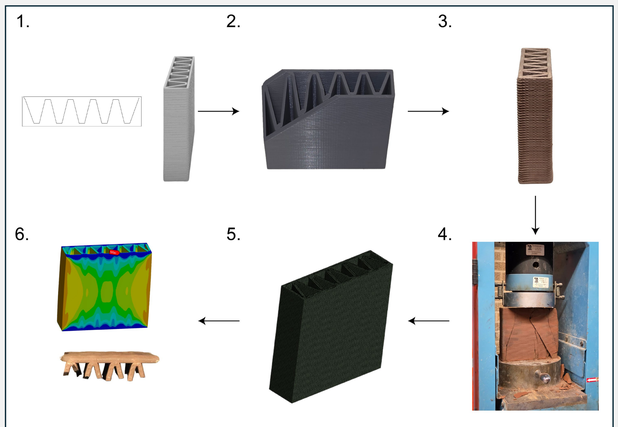
C-FOLD



Highest strength but failed suddenly in a brittle shear collapse.

Conclusion

Internal geometry controls structural behavior. Truss-based infill enables efficient load transfer and gradual failure, while disconnected patterns fail suddenly due to poor load paths. Maintaining geometric continuity is key to designing strong, material-efficient wall systems.



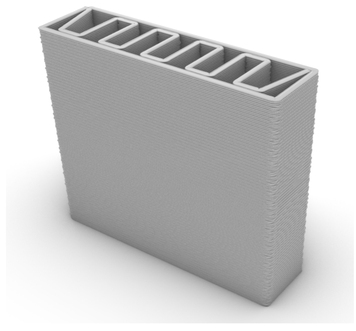
Summary process map: Design - Manufacturing - Testing - Analysis

Acknowledgement

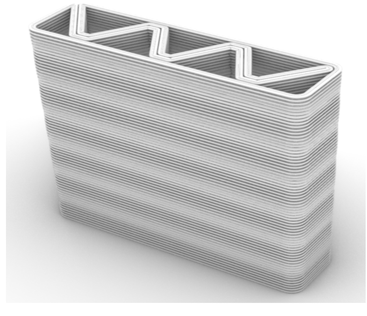
This research is partially supported by funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (Award Number H21749CA). The findings and conclusions are those of the authors and do not represent the official position or views of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Future Works

Full-Scale 3D Concrete Printing of Shortlisted Profiles



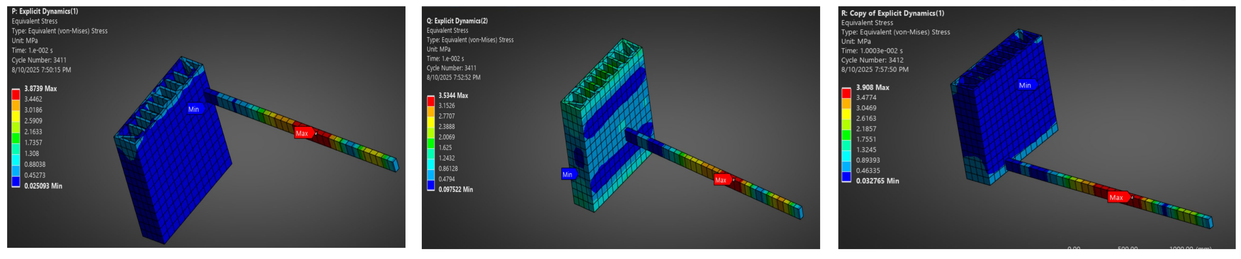
Full-Scale CONV



Full-Scale D3T

Debris Impact Analysis (National Wind Institute, Texas Tech University)

Full-Scale CONV



Full-Scale D3T