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Support structures and their removal improve performance of additively manufactured RF cavities

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The enormous potential of additive manufacturing (AM), in particular laser powder bed fusion (L-PBF), for the manufacturing of normal-conducting radio frequency cavities (cavities) has already been demonstrated. However, the required geometrical accuracy for GHz TM₀₁₀ cavities is currently only achieved using: a) co-printed support structures, which are however difficult to remove for small GHz cavities. b) Avoidance of downskin angles $\alpha < 40^\circ$, which in turn leads to a cavity geometry with reduced shunt impedance. We have developed an L-PBF-based manufacturing approach to overcome these limitations. To enable arbitrary geometries, co-printed support structures are used that are designed in such a way that they can be removed after printing by electrochemical post-processing. At the same time, the surface roughness is reduced, and thus the quality factor maximized. The fabrication approach is evaluated on a 3 GHz TM₀₁₀ single-cavity geometry printed entirely from high-purity copper.

Footnotes

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