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Article

# Technical-Economical Study on the Optimization of FDM Parameters for the Manufacture of PETG and ASA Parts

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**Abstract:** The article presents the results of the technical-economical study regarding the optimization of the FDM parameters ( $L_h$  – the height of the layer deposited in one pass and  $I_d$  – the filling percentage) for the manufacture of PETG and ASA parts. To carry out the technical-economical study, we used the fundamental principle of value analysis, which consists in maximizing the ratio between  $V_i/C_p$ , where  $V_i$  - represents the mechanical characteristic, and  $C_p$  - represents the production cost. The results of the study show that for the tensile specimens made of PETG, the parameter that significantly influences the results of the  $V_i/C_p$  ratios is  $L_h$ , and in the case of the compression specimens made of PETG, the parameter that significantly influences the results of the  $V_i/C_p$  ratios is  $I_d$ . In the case of specimens manufactured by FDM from ASA, the parameter that decisively influences the results of the  $V_i/C_p$  ratios of the tensile and compression specimens is  $I_d$  – the filling percentage. By performing optimization of the process parameters with multiple responses, we identified the optimal parameters for FDM manufacturing of parts from PETG and ASA:  $L_h = 0.20$  mm and  $I_d = 100\%$ .

**Keywords:** 3D printing; FDM; value analysis; printing parameters; optimization; PETG; ASA; tensile; compressive

## 1. Introduction

Additive manufacturing consists of making components by successively adding material layer by layer, according to the instructions specified by the G-Code file, [1–3]. Additive manufacturing technologies have experienced continuous evolution since their inception, and due to their significant advantages over formative and subtractive technologies, these technologies are now widely used in many industrial sectors, [8–20]. The major advantages of additive manufacturing technologies are represented by the efficiency of the use of materials (the amount of technological residues is negligible), manufacturing of complex geometries without basing and fixing elements, low consumption of electricity, [21–41].

The additive manufacturing process represents a major innovation in the field of manufacturing, enabling the transformation of digital concepts into physical objects, [42–50]. This process encompasses several essential steps to ensure the transition from digital design to the final physical product:

- CAD conceptualization;
- saving the CAD model and converting it to STL format;
- generation of the G-Code file;
- equipment preparation, construction, extraction and use of parts.

In [4] innovative strategies are presented for the technical-economical optimization of the parameters of 3D printing by FDM, ( $L_h$  – the height of the deposited layer in one pass and  $I_d$  – the filling percentage). To optimize the parameters, the value analysis method was used, which consists in maximizing the ratio between the use value ( $V_i$ ) and the production cost ( $C_p$ ). The use value is

represented by the mechanical characteristics. The results of the study show that of the two parameters considered ( $L_h$  and  $I_d$ ), the height of the layer deposited at one pass decisively influences the bending resistance, and  $I_d$  categorically influences the resistance to breaking and compression, but also the hardness. The optimal parameters for printing PLA by FDM are:  $L_h$  0.15 mm and  $I_d$  100%, heat treated PLA: 0.20 mm and  $I_d$  100% and ABS:  $L_h$  0.15 mm and  $I_d$  100%.

In [5] the authors present the study on the optimization of FDM parameters ( $I_d$  – filling percentage;  $L_h$  – height of the deposited layer in one pass;  $W_n$  – number of walls;  $E_t$  – extruder temperature;  $P_s$  – printing speed;  $B_t$  – platform temperature;  $N_l$  – the number of lower and upper layers;  $I_p$  – the filling pattern) to minimize energy consumption, but without affecting the traction characteristics. The conclusions show that the parameters that categorically influence the energy consumption, but also the traction characteristics are:  $I_d$ ,  $L_h$ ,  $W_n$ ,  $B_t$ , and their optimal values are:  $I_d$  – 90%;  $L_h$  – 0.30 mm;  $W_n$  – 4;  $B_t$  – 60 °C.

In [6] a study is presented on the optimization of FDM parameters ( $N_d$  – extrusion nozzle diameter;  $W_n$  – number of walls;  $E_t$  – extruder temperature;  $I_d$  – filling percentage;  $I_p$  – filling pattern) to reduce the printing time, but without affecting the mechanical properties of the parts. The results of the study show that the parameters that decisively influence the printing time are:  $N_d$ ,  $I_d$ ,  $W_n$ . Research suggests that a larger nozzle diameter ( $N_d = 0.60$  mm), four outer shells ( $W_n = 4$ ) and a 10% infill ( $I_d = 10\%$ ) can reduce print time without compromising mechanical characteristics.

In [7], the impact of FDM parameters ( $L_h$  – height of the deposited layer in one pass;  $E_t$  – extruder temperature;  $P_s$  – printing speed;  $B_t$  – platform temperature) on the compression behavior of the samples made of PLA filament and used in applications is investigated biomedical and clinical. The considered FDM parameters significantly influence the mechanical properties, and statistical simulations and SEM (scanning electron microscopy) analyzes can improve the mechanical properties. The conclusions of the study show that the highest value of the compressive strength ( $C_s$ ) was obtained for the samples made with the parameters:  $L_h = 0.10$  mm;  $T_e = 205$  °C,  $B_t = 60$  and  $P_s = 50$  mm/min. The ANOVA analysis certifies that the parameter that decisively influences the compressive strength ( $C_s$ ) is the height of the layer deposited at one pass ( $L_h$ ).

In [12] a study is presented on the influence of the filling pattern ( $I_p$ ) on the compressive strength of parts manufactured by FDM from PLA. In this context, 28 samples were manufactured on the Anycubic 4 Max Pro 2.0 3D printer using 7 filling patterns (Grid, Tri-hexagon, Octet, Triangles, Cubic subdivision, Gyroid, Cross 3D). The dimensions of the specimens were measured before and after the compression test using a DeMeet 3D coordinate measuring machine. The results show a minimum printing accuracy of 98.98% and a maximum deformation value of 57.70% for the specimens with the Triangles fill pattern. The highest values of compressive strengths were obtained for the specimens with the Triangles filling pattern. To establish the optimal option from a technical-economical point of view, the maximization of the ratio between the use value ( $V_i$ ) and the production cost ( $C_p$ ) was used, this ratio being one of the fundamental technical-economical principles of the value analysis. Cubic subdivision fill pattern is the most efficient method for FDM fabrication of PLA compression specimens using lattice structures.

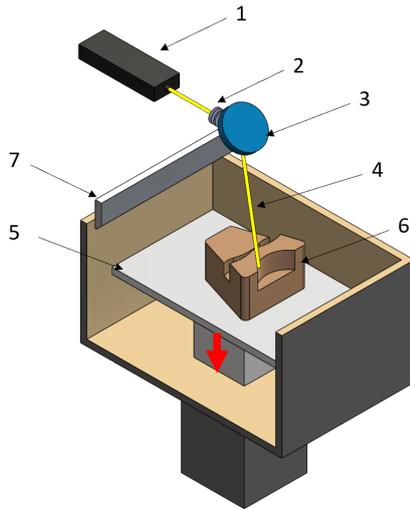
Additive manufacturing technologies have significant potential to contribute to sustainability in various industries, with the main benefits being: waste reduction, optimizing the use of materials, reducing energy consumption, the use of sustainable materials, integration of the production and consumption model based on circularity, [23–33].

Table 1 details the main additive manufacturing technologies, including the components, operating principles, materials used, and advantages and disadvantages of each technology.

**Table 1.** The main additive manufacturing technologies, [47].

Technology name	Draw	Components	Details
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Stereolithography,  
(SL).



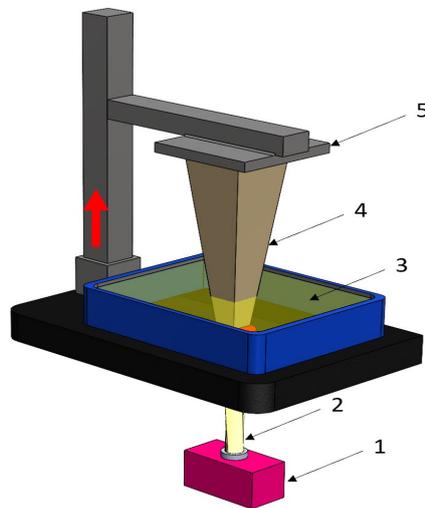
- 1 - laser generator;
- 2 - optic system;
- 3 - galvanometric mirror;
- 4 - laser beam;
- 5 - construction platform;
- 6 - piece;
- 7 - blade.

**Used materials:**  
photopolymers, ceramic materials.

**Advantages:**  
+ high accuracy of parts;  
+ high print speed.

**Disadvantages:**  
- laborious post-processing of printed parts;  
- the fragility of the parts.

Digital exposure of light,  
(DEL).



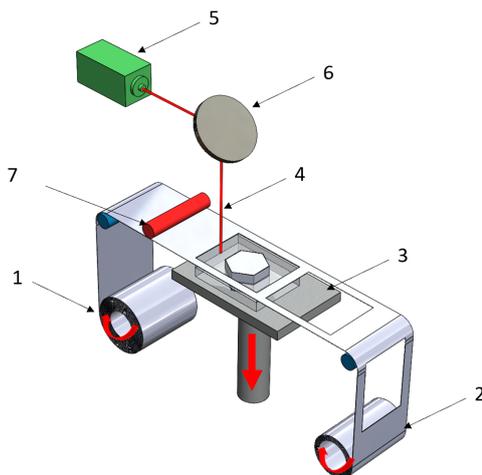
- 1 - digital projector;
- 2 - UV light;
- 3 - resin;
- 4 - piece;
- 5 - construction platform.

**Materials used:**  
resins, photopolymers, wax-based polymers.

**Advantages:**  
+ the high quality of the surfaces;  
+ high print speed.

**Disadvantages:**  
- high cost of materials;  
- the print volume is limited.

Layered manufacturing by laminating layers,  
(LMLL).



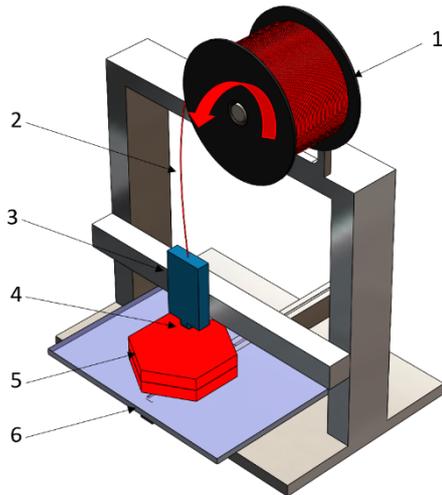
- 1 - driven roller;
- 2 - driving roller;
- 3 - construction platform;
- 4 - laser beam;
- 5 - laser generator;
- 6 - galvanometric mirror;
- 7 - heated roller.

**Materials used:**  
paper, metals.

**Advantages:**  
+ high accuracy of parts;  
+ high stability of the structures.

**Disadvantages:**  
- significant losses of material.  
- laborious post-processing of printed objects.

Thermoplastic  
extrusion,  
(TE).



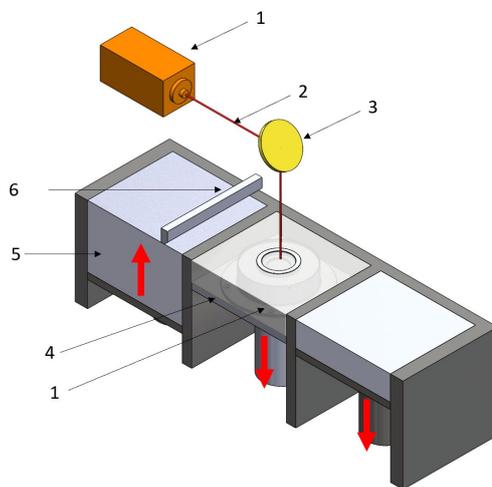
- 1 - winding with material;
- 2 - filament;
- 3 - extruder;
- 4 - extrusion nozzle;
- 5 - piece;
- 6 - construction platform.

**Materials used:**  
thermoplastic materials.

**Advantages:**  
+ simple technology;  
+ low cost of materials  
and equipment.

**Disadvantages:**  
- the poor quality of the  
surfaces of the parts;  
- the printing speed is  
low.

Selective laser  
sinterising,  
(SLS).



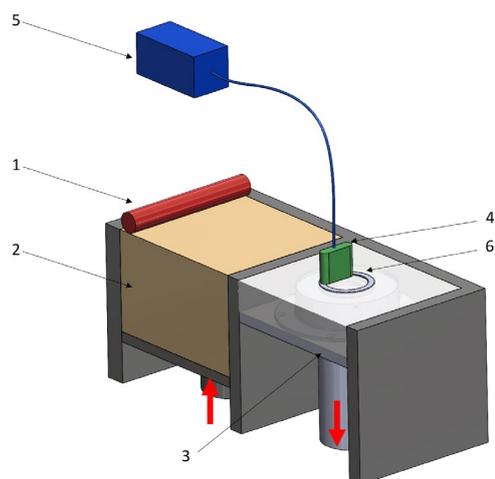
- 1 - laser generator;
- 2 - laser beam;
- 3 - galvanometer
- 4 - construction platform;
- 5 - raw material container;
- 6 - blade.

**Materials used:**  
thermoplastic, metallic,  
ceramic powders,.

**Advantages:**  
+ the resistance of the  
parts is high;  
+ good precision of parts.

**Disadvantages:**  
- the quality of the  
surfaces is poor;  
- the high cost of  
equipment and materials.

3D inkjet  
printing  
(3DP).

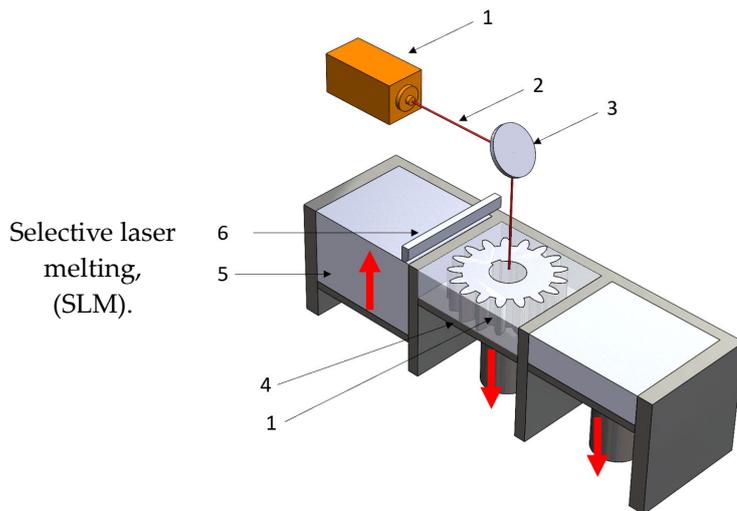


- 1 - scraper blade;
- 2 - enclosure with raw  
material;
- 3 - work platform;
- 4 - print  
head;
- 5 - binder tank;
- 6 - track.

**Materials used:**  
powders (starch,  
plaster, plastic powders).

**Advantages:**  
+ high printing speed;  
+ reduced costs for  
materials and equipment.

**Disadvantages:**  
- fragile parts;  
- the quality of the  
surfaces is poor.



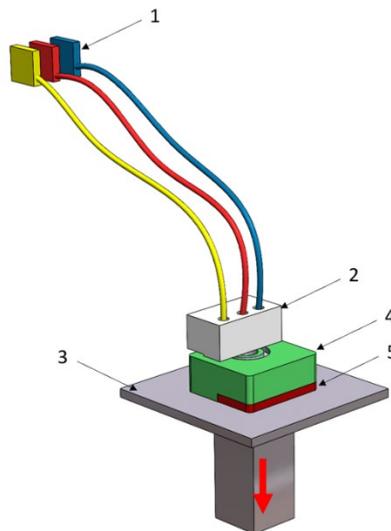
- 1 - laser generator;  
2 - laser beam;  
3 - galvanometer  
4 - construction platform;  
5 - raw material container;  
6 - blade.

**Materials used:**  
metal powders.

**Advantages:**  
+ the use of high-performance materials;  
+ the resistance of the parts is high.

**Disadvantages:**  
- the high cost of equipment and materials;  
- high time for cooling the parts.

Polyjet printing with photopolymers, (PJP).



- 1 - liquid polymer tanks;  
2 - print head;  
3 - construction platform;  
4 - piece;  
5 - piece support.

**Materials used:**  
photopolymers.

**Advantages:**  
+ good precision;  
+ simple post-processing operations.

**Disadvantages:**  
- weak resistance of the parts;  
- the high cost of materials.

In the following we will focus on additive manufacturing technology through thermoplastic extrusion, this is one of the most widespread additive manufacturing technologies due to its ease of use, but also the low costs of equipment and materials, (see table 1).

This paper presents a technical-economical study regarding the optimization of the FDM parameters ( $L_h$  – the height of the layer deposited in one pass and  $I_d$  – the filling percentage) for the manufacture of tensile and compression specimens from PETG and ASA. The novelty of the study consists in the application of the fundamental principle of value analysis (AV), which aims to maximize the ratio between the use value ( $V_i$ ) and the production cost ( $C_p$ ). Thus we will establish the optimal FDM parameters for the manufacture of tensile and compression specimens from PETG and ASA.

## 2. Materials and Methods

The variable parameters of FDM used in the manufacture of tensile and compression specimens from PETG and ASA are: the height of the deposited layer in one pass,  $L_h = (0.10/0.15/0.20)$  mm and the filling percentage  $I_d = (50/75/100)$  %. The mechanical properties of tensile and compression specimens were previously determined by the authors in works [43,44], respectively [41,42].

Using the parameters in table 2, 54 tensile specimens (27 of PETG and 27 of ASA) according to the ASTM D638-14 standard and 90 compression specimens (45 of PETG and 45 of ASA) were

manufactured on the Anycubic Pro Max 2.0 3D printer (fig. 1) according to ISO 604:2002. Tensile and compression specimens made from Everfil brand PETG and ASA filament on the Anycubic Pro Max 2.0 3D printer were tested on the Barrus White 20 kN universal testing machine.



**Figure 1.** The 3D printer - Anycubic 4 Max Pro 2.0, used to manufacture tensile and compressive specimens from PETG and ASA through FDM, [47,56].

**Table 2.** FDM printing parameters used to manufacture tensile and compressive samples from PETG and ASA, [41–44].

Printing parameters	PETG	ASA
Part orientation, $P_o$	X-Y	X-Y
Extruder temperature, $E_t$	250 °C	240 °C
Platform temperature, $P_t$	70 °C	90 °C
Printing speed, $P_s$	30 mm/s	30 mm/s
Infill pattern, $I_p$	Grid	Grid
Layer height, $L_h$	0.10/0.15/0.20 mm	0.10/0.15/0.20 mm
Infill density, $I_d$	50/75/100 %	50/75/100 %
Plate adhesion, $P_a$	Brim	Brim

Table 3 shows the technical specifications of the Everfil filament used in the manufacture of tensile and compression specimens from PETG and ASA.

**Table 3.** Characteristics of Everfil PETG and ASA filament, [55].

Materials	Extruder temperature, (°C)	Platform temperature, (°C)	Density, (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	Tensile strength, (MPa)	Charpy impact strength, (kJ/m <sup>2</sup> )
PETG	220-250	70-90	1.27	50	179
ASA	230-245	85-100	1.08	50	33.5

Following the realization of the experimental determinations for the two types of mechanical tests (tension and compression), as well as the calculation of the production cost for each set of samples, the technical-economical study on the optimization of the FDM parameters was carried out. To establish the optimal variant, the fundamental principle of value analysis was used, presented in relation 1 and which consists in maximizing the ratio between the use value ( $V_i$ ) and the production cost ( $C_p$ ), [4,12,57–60].

$$\frac{V_i}{C_p} \rightarrow \max \quad (1)$$

Where,  $V_i$  represents the value in use (mechanical characteristic), and  $C_p$  represents the production cost expressed in monetary units.

Minitab 19 software was used to optimize the ratio between  $V_i$  and  $C_p$ . To calculate the production cost, the following relationships were used [4,12,57–60]:

$$C_p = C_{mat} + C_{en} \quad (2)$$

$$C_{mat} = Q_{mat} \times P_{mat} \quad (3)$$

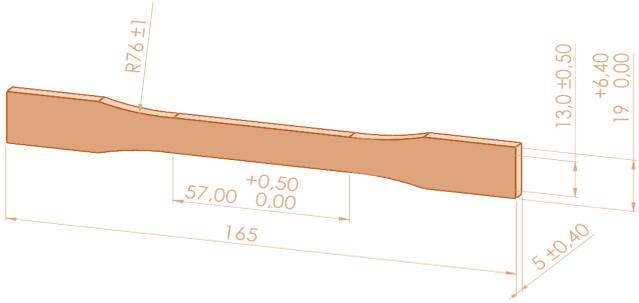
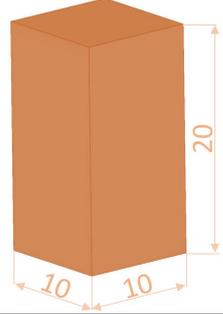
$$C_{en} = P_t \times E_c \times P_{en} \quad (4)$$

Where,  $C_p$  represent production cost (euro);  $C_{mat}$  – cost of material (euro);  $C_{en}$  – energy cost (euro);  $Q_{mat}$  – quantity of used material (g);  $P_{mat}$  – material price (euro/g);  $P_t$  – printing time (h);  $E_c$  – energy consumption (kW);  $P_{en}$  – price of electrical energy (euro/ kWh).

The following constant values were used to perform the economical calculations:  $P_m = 0.22$  Euro/g (for PETG);  $P_m = 0.23$  Euro/g (for ASA);  $P_{en} = 0.25$  kW/h;  $E_c = 0.23$  kW/h, [37,38]. The material consumption and print time values for each set of samples were generated by Cura Slicer.

The dimensions and test conditions of the tensile and compression specimens are shown in Table 4.

**Table 4.** Testing conditions and samples dimensions for experimental investigation, [51,52].

Mechanical test	Testing condition	Sample dimensions
Tensile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Barrus White 20 kN universal testing machine;</li> <li>- speed 5 mm/min;</li> <li>- ambient temperature 20 °C;</li> <li>- humidity 40%.</li> </ul>	
Compression	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Barrus White 20 kN universal testing machine;</li> <li>- speed 10 mm/min;</li> <li>- ambient temperature 20 °C</li> <li>- humidity 40%</li> </ul>	

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1. Applications of Value Analysis for Analyzing the Mechanical Behavior of PETG and ASA 3D Printed Samples

##### 3.1.1. Tensile Testing

Tables 5 and 6 show the results obtained from the application of relations (2 - 4) and the determination of the production cost for the tensile specimens manufactured by FDM from PETG and ASA.

**Table 5.** Cost calculation for PETG samples used for tensile testing.

Sample set	$L_h$ , (mm)	$I_d$ , (%)	$C_{mat}$ , (Euro)	$C_{en}$ , (Euro)	$C_p$ , (Euro)
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1	0.10	100%	0.99	1.01	2.00
2		75%	0.86	0.69	1.55
3		50%	0.73	0.60	1.33
4	0.15	100%	0.99	0.63	1.63
5		75%	0.86	0.48	1.34
6		50%	0.73	0.43	1.16
7	0.20	100%	0.99	0.51	1.51
8		75%	0.86	0.35	1.22
9		50%	0.73	0.31	1.04

**Table 6.** Cost calculation for ASA samples used for tensile testing.

Sample set	$L_h$ , (mm)	$I_d$ , (%)	$C_{mat}$ , (Euro)	$C_{en}$ , (Euro)	$C_{p'}$ , (Euro)
1	0.10	100%	1.04	1.01	2.05
2		75%	0.90	0.69	1.59
3		50%	0.76	0.60	1.36
4	0.15	100%	1.04	0.63	1.67
5		75%	0.90	0.48	1.38
6		50%	0.76	0.43	1.19
7	0.20	100%	1.04	0.51	1.55
8		75%	0.90	0.35	1.26
9		50%	0.76	0.31	1.07

FDM parameters impact the mechanical behavior of parts made of PETG and ASA, but also the consumption of electricity [5]. The results of the  $V_i/C_p$  ratio are shown in Tables 7 and 8.

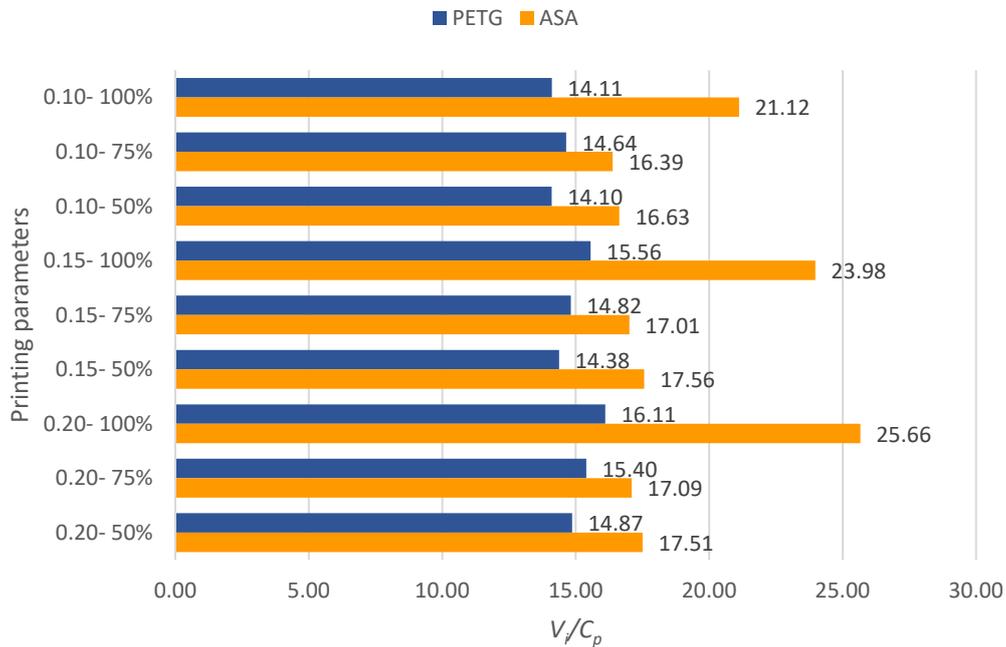
**Table 7.** Ratio determination  $V_i/C_p$  for tensile samples made from PETG.

Sample set	Ultimate tensile strength, (MPa)	$C_{p'}$ , (Euro)	$V_i/C_p$
1	28.25	2.00	14.11
2	22.66	1.55	14.64
3	18.76	1.33	14.10
4	25.34	1.63	15.56
5	19.85	1.34	14.82
6	16.61	1.16	14.38
7	24.29	1.51	16.11
8	18.72	1.22	15.40
9	15.48	1.04	14.87

**Table 8.** Ratio determination  $V_i/C_p$  for tensile samples made from ASA.

Sample set	Ultimate tensile strength, (MPa)	$C_{p'}$ , (Euro)	$V_i/C_p$
1	43.24	2.05	21.12
2	26.01	1.59	16.39
3	22.69	1.36	16.63
4	40.13	1.67	23.98
5	23.46	1.38	17.01
6	20.87	1.19	17.56
7	39.87	1.55	25.66
8	21.46	1.26	17.09
9	18.82	1.07	17.51

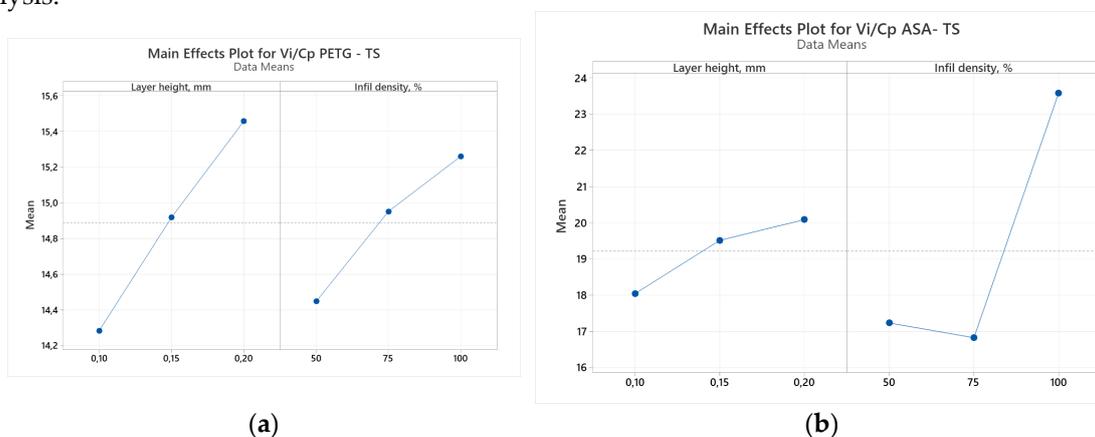
Figure 2 shows graphically the values of the ratios between  $V_i$  (ultimate tensile strength) and  $C_p$  (production cost) of the samples manufactured by FDM from PETG and ASA.



**Figure 2.** Ratio determination  $V_i/C_p$  for tensile samples made from PETG and ASA.

Analyzing figure 2 we notice that the highest value of the ratio between  $V_i$  (ultimate tensile strength) and  $C_p$  (production cost) was obtained for the set of specimens made of ASA with the layer height deposited at a pass  $L_h = 0.20$  mm and the percentage of filling  $I_d = 100\%$ . In the case of specimens made of PETG, the highest value of the ratio between  $V_i$  and  $C_p$  was obtained for the set of specimens with the layer height deposited at a pass  $L_h = 0.20$  mm and the filling percentage  $I_d = 100\%$ . Comparing the minimum and maximum results of the  $V_i/C_p$  ratios of the ASA samples with those obtained for the PETG samples, it is found that for the ASA samples the results are higher by (13.94 – 37.23) % compared to the results of the  $V_i/C_p$  ratios of the samples from PETG.

Using the Minitab 19 software, we performed the ANOVA analysis, through which we evaluated the relationship between the FDM parameters ( $L_h$  and  $I_d$ ) and the result of the ratio between  $V_i$  (ultimate tensile strength) and  $C_p$  (production cost), [36]. Figure 3 shows the result of the ANOVA analysis.



**Figure 3.** Main effects plots for tensile strength: a) PETG; b) ASA.

Analyzing figure 3 we observe how the two considered parameters ( $L_h$  and  $I_d$ ) affect the result of the  $V_i/C_p$  ratio of the tensile specimens made of PETG (fig. 3, a) and ASA (fig. 3, b). According to Figure 3 a, the layer height deposited in one pass ( $L_h$ ) is the parameter that significantly influences the result of the  $V_i/C_p$  ratio of the tensile specimens made of PETG. Analyzing figure 3 b, we notice that the filling percentage ( $I_d$ ) is the parameter that decisively influences the result of the  $V_i/C_p$  ratio of the tensile specimens in ASA. The same conclusions are suggested by the Pareto charts shown in figure 4.

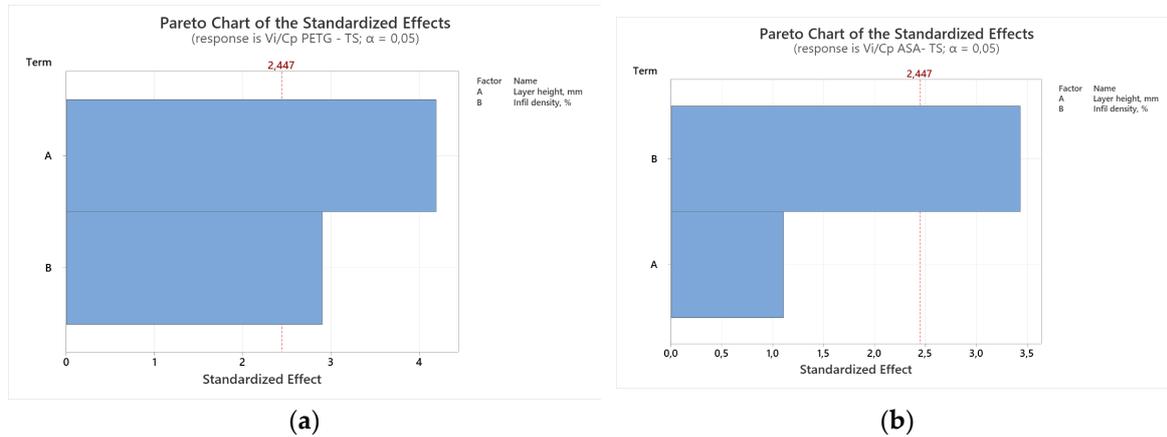


Figure 4. Pareto charts for tensile strength: a) PETG; b) ASA.

### 3.1.1. Compressive Testing

Tables 9 and 10 present the results obtained following the application of relations (2 - 4) and the determination of the production cost for the compression specimens manufactured by FDM from PETG and ASA.

Tables 11 and 12 show the  $V_i/C_p$  results for the compression specimens manufactured by FDM from PETG and ASA.

Table 9. Cost calculation for PETG samples used for compressive testing.

Sample set	$L_h$ , (mm)	$I_d$ , (%)	$C_{mat}$ , (Euro)	$C_{en}$ , (Euro)	$C_{p'}$ , (Euro)
1	0.10	100%	0.22	0.29	0.51
2		75%	0.22	0.19	0.41
3		50%	0.22	0.16	0.38
4	0.15	100%	0.22	0.20	0.42
5		75%	0.22	0.13	0.35
6		50%	0.22	0.11	0.33
7	0.20	100%	0.22	0.15	0.37
8		75%	0.22	0.10	0.32
9		50%	0.22	0.08	0.30

Table 10. Cost calculation for ASA samples used for compressive testing.

Sample set	$L_h$ , (mm)	$I_d$ , (%)	$C_{mat}$ , (Euro)	$C_{en}$ , (Euro)	$C_{p'}$ , (Euro)
1	0.10	100%	0.23	0.29	0.52
2		75%	0.23	0.19	0.42
3		50%	0.23	0.16	0.39
4	0.15	100%	0.23	0.20	0.43
5		75%	0.23	0.13	0.36
6		50%	0.23	0.11	0.34
7	0.20	100%	0.23	0.15	0.38

8	75%	0.23	0.10	0.33
9	50%	0.23	0.08	0.31

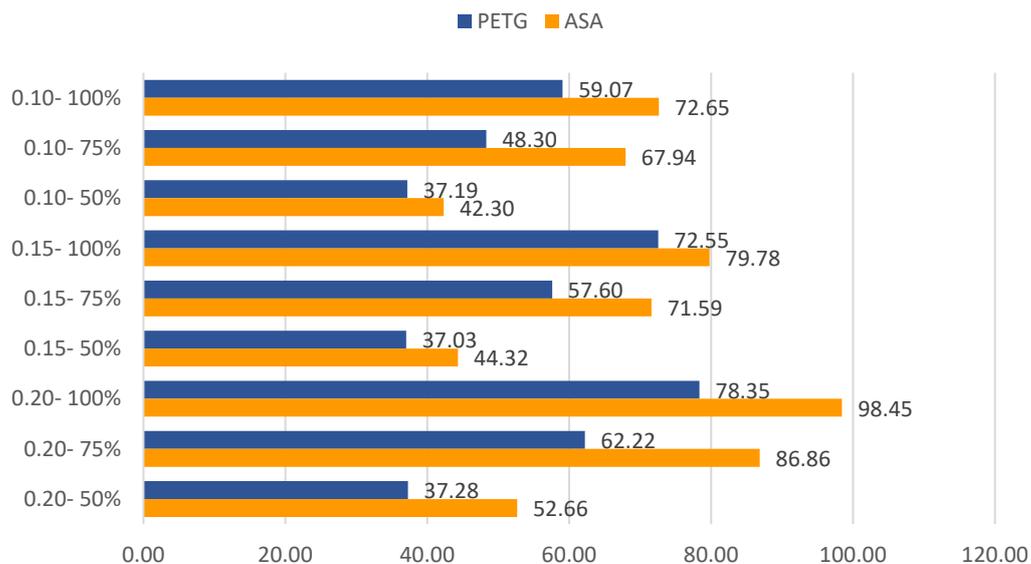
**Table 11.** Ratio determination  $V_i/C_p$  for compressive samples made from PETG.

Sample set	Compressive strength, (MPa)	$C_p$ , (Euro)	$V_i/C_p$
1	30.33	0.51	59.07
2	19.83	0.41	48.30
3	14.06	0.38	37.19
4	30.57	0.42	72.55
5	20.22	0.35	57.60
6	12.20	0.33	37.03
7	29.20	0.37	78.35
8	19.82	0.32	62.22
9	11.27	0.30	37.28

**Table 12.** Ratio determination  $V_i/C_p$  for compressive samples made from PETG.

Sample set	Compressive strength, (MPa)	$C_p$ , (Euro)	$V_i/C_p$
1	38.04	0.52	72.65
2	28.58	0.42	67.94
3	16.42	0.39	42.30
4	34.43	0.43	79.78
5	25.85	0.36	71.59
6	15.04	0.34	44.32
7	37.68	0.38	98.45
8	28.54	0.33	86.86
9	16.45	0.31	52.66

Figure 5 shows graphically the values of the ratios between  $V_i$  (compressive strength) and  $C_p$  (cost of production) of the samples manufactured by FDM from PETG and ASA.



**Figure 5.** Ratio determination  $V_i/C_p$  for compressive samples made from PETG and ASA.

Analyzing figure 5, we notice that the highest value of the ratio between  $V_i$  (compressive strength) and  $C_p$  (cost of production) was obtained for the set of samples made of ASA with the height

of the layer deposited at a pass  $L_h = 0.20$  mm and the filling percentage  $I_d = 100\%$ . In the case of specimens made of PETG, the highest value of the ratio between  $V_i$  and  $C_p$  was obtained for the set of specimens with the layer height deposited at a pass  $L_h = 0.20$  mm and the filling percentage  $I_d = 100\%$ . Comparing the minimum and maximum results of the  $V_i/C_p$  ratios of the ASA samples with those obtained for the PETG samples, it is found that for the ASA samples the results are higher by (12.47 - 20.42) % compared to the results of the  $V_i/C_p$  ratios of the samples from PETG.

Figure 6 shows the result of the ANOVA analysis, where the relationship between the FDM parameters ( $L_h$  and  $I_d$ ) and the result of the ratio between  $V_i$  (compressive strength) and  $C_p$  (production cost) is studied.

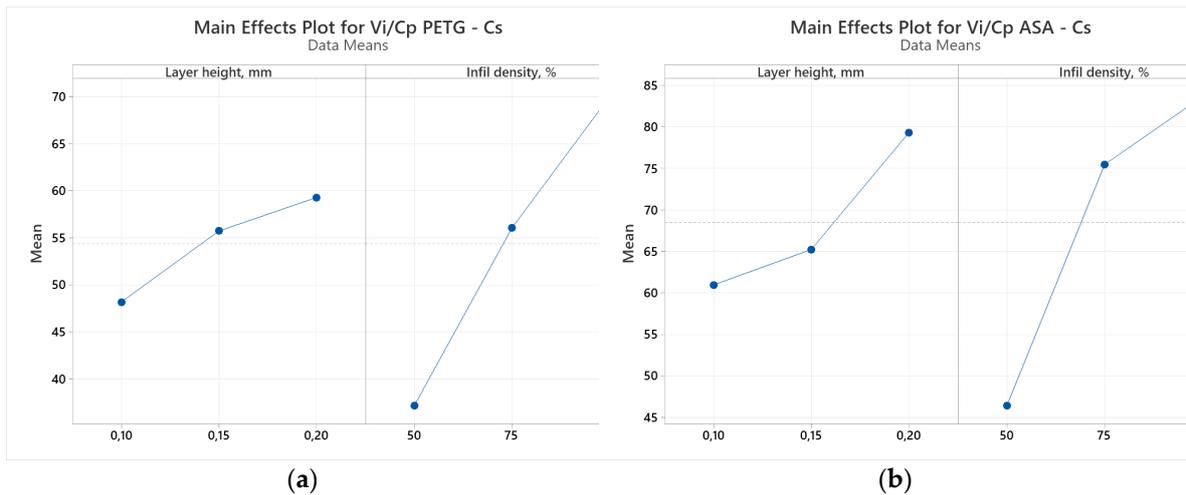


Figure 6. Main effects plots for compressive strength: a) PETG; b) ASA.

Analyzing figure 6, we observe how the two considered parameters of FDM ( $L_h$  and  $I_d$ ) affect the result of the  $V_i/C_p$  ratio of compression specimens made of PETG (fig. 6, a) and ASA (fig. 6, b). According to Figure 6 a, the filling percentage ( $I_d$ ) is the parameter that significantly influences the  $V_i/C_p$  ratio result of compression specimens made of PETG. Analyzing figure 3 b, we notice that the filling percentage ( $I_d$ ) is the parameter that decisively influences the result of the  $V_i/C_p$  ratio of the ASA compression specimens. The same conclusions are suggested by the Pareto charts shown in figure 7.

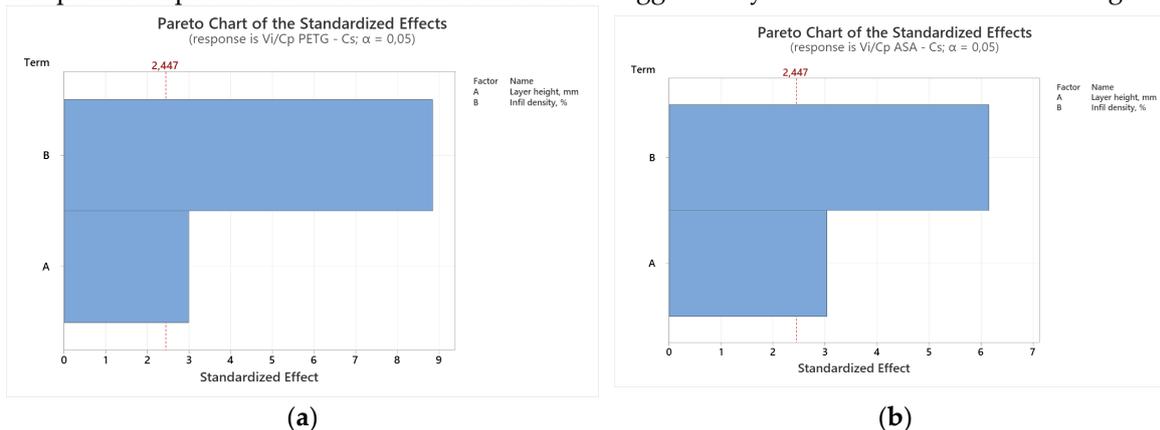


Figure 7. Pareto charts for compression strength: a) PETG; b) ASA.

### 3.2. Optimization of FDM parameters based of Value Analysis for improve the 3D printing efficiency for samples made by PETG and ASA

Using Minitab 19, the FDM parameters presented in table 2 and the results obtained by applying the fundamental principle of value analysis by maximizing the  $V_i/C_p$  ratio, we optimized the FDM parameters with the aim of achieving technical-economical efficiency.

To optimize the FDM parameters, we used the desirability method, where the goal was to maximize the values of the ratios between  $V_i/C_p$  for each type of mechanical test (tension and compression) and each type of material (PETG and ASA). Table 13 presents optimization objectives for each studied material.

**Table 13.** Optimization Goals for analyzed materials, (PETG and ASA).

Response, $V_i/C_p$	Goal	Lower		Target		Weight	Importance
		PETG	ASA	PETG	ASA		
Tensile, [MPa/Euro]	Maximum	14.10	16.39	16.11	25.66	1	1
Compression, [MPa/Euro]		37.03	42.30	78.35	98.45		

For the desirability study, we used the following relationships, [3]:

$$D = (d_1 \cdot d_2 \cdot \dots \cdot d_n)^{1/n} \quad (5)$$

$$d_i = 0, \text{ if } y_i < L_i$$

$$d_i = \frac{(y_i - L_i) \cdot r_i}{(T_i - L_i)}, \text{ if } L_i \leq y_i \leq T_i \quad (6)$$

$$d_i = 1, \text{ if } y_i > T_i$$

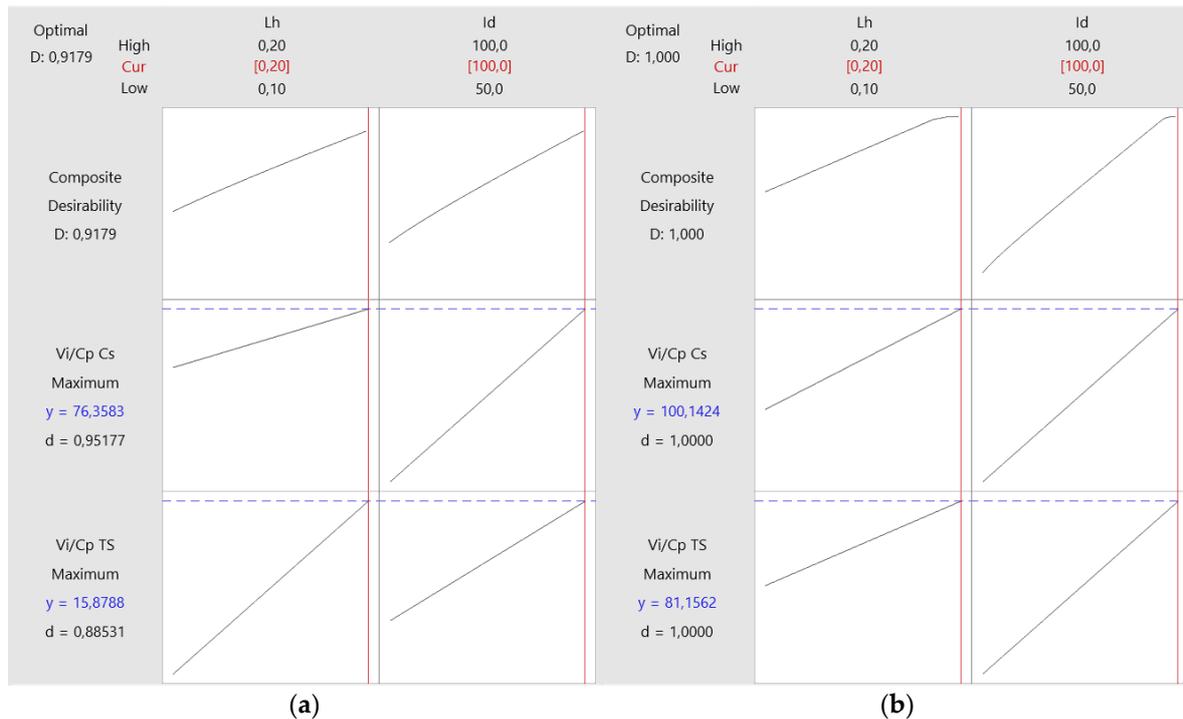
Where,  $D$  – is the composite desirability;  $n$  – number of responses;  $d_i$  – represent the desirability for each individual response,  $y_i, L_i, T_i$  – represent the predicted value, target value, and lowest value, respectively, of the analyzed response of response.

Table 14 shows the composite desirability for each printing parameters and each type of material.

**Table 14.** Composite desirability.

Printing parameters		Material	
Layer height, (mm)	Infill density, (%)	PETG	ASA
		Composite desirability	Composite desirability
0.10	100	0.453350	0.56643
	75	0.168040	0.29452
	50	0.000000	0.01430
0.15	100	0.696297	0.80768
	75	0.405383	0.44291
	50	0.066163	0.05602
0.20	100	0.917938	1.00000
	75	0.615557	0.59118
	50	0.275221	0.09752

Figure 8 shows the plots of FDM parameter optimizations for the manufacture of PETG and ASA samples.



**Figure 8.** Optimisation plots for 3D printed materials: a) PETG; b) ASA.

Analyzing figure 8 we observe how each factor (column) influences the composite desirability response (row). The vertical solid red lines indicate the current setting of the factors, and the red numbers on each column indicate the current level of the factors. The blue horizontal dashed lines indicate the responses corresponding to the current factor settings, and the blue numbers indicate the response corresponding to the current factor settings.

According to figure 8 a, following the optimization process of the FDM parameters for PETG, the following optimal settings resulted: layer height ( $L_h$ ) = 0.20 mm and infill density ( $I_d$ ) = 100%. Analyzing figure 8 b, we notice that following the optimization process of the FDM parameters for ASA, the following optimal settings resulted: layer height ( $L_h$ ) = 0.20 mm and infill density ( $I_d$ ) = 100%. Increasing the layer height per pass ( $L_h$ ) has a significant impact on print time, and this leads to lower power consumption, thus lower production costs. The decrease in the height of the layer deposited at a pass ( $L_h$ ) has a direct impact on production costs, but also on maintenance costs, which increase considerably.

#### 4. Conclusions

The paper presents the results of the technical-economical study regarding the optimization of FDM parameters for the manufacture of PETG and ASA parts. In this context, we have carried out a multi-objective optimization with the aim of finding the optimal FDM parameters ( $L_h$  - the height of the deposited layer in one pass and  $I_d$  - the filling percentage) for the manufacture of PETG and ASA parts. Following the determination of the mechanical characteristics (tensile and compression) of the specimens manufactured by FDM from PETG and ASA, but also the determination of the production cost for each set of specimens, using the fundamental principle of value analysis by maximizing the  $V_i/C_p$  ratio, we achieved the technical-economical optimization of the FDM parameters.

The results of the ANOVA analysis show that the two FDM parameters considered ( $L_h$  - the height of the layer deposited in one pass and  $I_d$  - the filling percentage) influence the results of the  $V_i/C_p$  ratios. For tensile specimens made of PETG, the parameter that significantly influences the results of the  $V_i/C_p$  ratios is  $L_h$  - the height of the layer deposited in one pass, and in the case of compression specimens made of PETG, the parameter that significantly influences the results of the  $V_i/C_p$  ratios is  $I_d$  - the filling percentage.

In the case of specimens manufactured by FDM from ASA, the parameter that decisively influences the results of the  $V_i/C_p$  ratios of the tensile and compression specimens is  $I_d$  – the filling percentage.

Using the results of the  $V_i/C_p$  ratios for the tensile and compression specimens made of PETG and ASA, we found the optimal FDM parameters:  $L_h = 0.20$  mm and  $I_d = 100\%$ .

The results of the study have applicability for the efficient exploitation of the 3D printer for the manufacture of PETG and ASA parts by FDM.

We propose to extrapolate the study to other types of materials, but also to other types of mechanical tests.

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