

Optimization of Process Parameters for CNC Turning using Taguchi Methods for EN8 Alloy Steel with Coated/Uncoated Tool Inserts

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Abstract—Coated and uncoated tool inserts offers certain degrees of control on desired rate of Tool Wear and surface roughness to an extent. Significant input parameters are selected in order to get influence on the response variables. Experiments were conducted on specimens of EN8 alloy steel material with the help of PVD coated TiAlN insert and uncoated carbide insert. The experimental analysis is based on Taguchi method. Taguchi method has become increasingly popular in recent years. It involves both experimental design and analysis aspects. Taguchi methods employ special fractional experiment design called orthogonal array. Notation of orthogonal array is L_a where “L” is symbol for orthogonal array, “a” stands for the number of experiments required for this array. Taguchi methods (For the data analysis, Statistical Techniques of ANOVA was used) are performed find out significant parameters. Optimization of process parameters is carried out by Grey Relational Analysis method. GRA method is powerful and most versatile tool which can manipulate the input data as per requirement and comes with results that can be used to have best multi performance in response concerns.

Keywords—Coated and uncoated tool inserts, Surface roughness, Material removal rate, ANOVA, Grey relational analysis.

1. INTRODUCTION

Optimization is one of the effective techniques used in manufacturing sectors to arrive at the best manufacturing conditions, which is an essential need for industries towards manufacturing of quality products at lower cost.

The Taguchi method involves reducing the variation in a process through robust design of experiments. The overall objective of the method is to produce high quality of product at low cost to the manufacturer. The Taguchi method was developed by Genichi Taguchi. He developed method for designing experiments to investigate how different parameters affect the mean and variance of a process performance characteristic that defines how well the process is functioning. The experimental design proposed by Taguchi involves using orthogonal arrays to

organize the parameters affecting the process and the levels at which they should be varied.

Surface roughness is an indicator of surface quality and is one of the most specified customer requirements in a machining process. For efficient use of machine tools, optimum cutting parameters (speed, feed, depth of cut) are required. So it is necessary to find a suitable optimization method which can find optimum values of cutting parameters for minimizing surface roughness. In modern industry, the goal is to manufacture low – cost high quality products with maximum productivity in a short time. Turning is the most common method for cutting and especially for the finishing of machined parts. Furthermore, in order to produce with desired quality and maximum productivity of machining, cutting parameters selected properly. In turning process, parameters such as materials, tools geometry and cutting conditions (depth of cut, feed rate, cutting speed) have impact on material removal rate and the machining qualities like surface roughness.

Analysis of variance is a hypothesis – testing technique used to test the equality of two or more population means by examining the variances of samples that are taken. ANOVA allows one to determine whether the differences between the samples are simply due to random error or whether there are systematic treatment effects that causes the mean in one group to differ from the mean in another. ANOVA is based on comparing the variance between the data samples to variation within each particular sample. If the between variation is much larger than the within variation, the means of difference samples will not be equal. If the between and within variation are approximately the same size, then there will be no significant difference between samples means.

J. S. Senthilkumaar et al [1] heat-resistant super alloy material like Inconel 718 machining is challenging task even in modern manufacturing processes. Therefore the genetic algorithm coupled with artificial neural network (ANN) as an intelligent optimization technique for

machining parameters optimization of Inconel 718. The combined effects of cutting speed, feed, and depth of cut on the performance measures of surface roughness and flank wear were investigated by the analysis of variance.

Radhakrishnan Ramanujam et al [2] investigation of turning on Aluminium Silicon Carbide particulate metal matrix composite (Al-SiC-MMC) using polycrystalline diamond (PCD) 1600 grade insert. Analysis of variance is used to investigate the machining characteristics of metal matrix composite (A356/10/SiCP). The objective was to establish a correlation between cutting speed, feed and depth of cut to the specific power and surface finish on the work piece. Analysis of Variance is a method of apportioning variability of an output to various inputs. The purpose of the analysis of variance is to investigate which machining parameters significantly affect the performance characteristic.

Chinnasamy Natarajan et al [3] surface roughness is an indicator of surface quality and is one of the most-specified customer requirements in a machining process. For efficient use of machine tools, optimum cutting parameters (speed, feed, and depth of cut) are required. So it is necessary to find a suitable optimization method which can find optimum values of cutting parameters for minimizing surface roughness. In this work, machining process has been carried out on brass C26000 material in dry cutting condition in a CNC turning machine and surface roughness has been measured using surface roughness tester. To predict the surface roughness, an ANN model has been designed through feed-forward back-propagation network using "Matlab" software for the data obtained. Comparison of the experimental data and ANN results show that there is no significant difference and ANN has been used confidently. The results obtained conclude that ANN is reliable and accurate for predicting the values.

S. Rajesh et al [4] presents the findings of an experimental investigation into the effects of cutting speed, feed rate, depth of cut, and nose radius in CNC turning operation performed on red mud-based aluminum metal matrix composites and investigates optimization design of a turning process performed on red mud-based aluminum metal matrix composites. The major performance characteristics selected to evaluate the process are surface roughness, power consumption, and vibration, and the corresponding turning parameters are cutting speed, feed, depth of cut, and nose radius.

Tian-Syung Lan et al [5] surface roughness, tool wear, and material removal rate are major intentions in the modern computer numerical controlled machining industry. Through the machining results of the CNC lathe, it was shows that both tool wear ratio and MRR from our optimum competitive parameters are greatly advanced with a minor decrease in the surface roughness in

comparison to those of benchmark parameters. Surface roughness, tool life, and cutting force are commonly considered as manufacturing goals for turning operations in many of the existing research studies. It is also recognized that lighter cutting force often results in better surface roughness and tool life.

Lakhdar Bouzid et al [6] in modern industry, the goal is to manufacture low-cost, high quality products with maximum productivity in a short time. Turning is the most common method for cutting and especially for the finishing of machined parts. Furthermore, in order to produce with desired quality and maximum productivity of machining, cutting parameters selected properly. In turning process, parameters such as materials, tool's geometry and cutting conditions (depth of cut, feed rate, cutting speed) have impact on the material removal rate and the machining qualities like the surface roughness. Usually, roughness is taken as a good criterion for a mechanical component performance and to appraise production cost, while material removal rate can be defined as the volume of material removed divided by the machining time. Another way to define MRR is to imagine an "instantaneous" material removal rate as the rate at which the cross-section area of material being removed moves through the workpiece.

P. Jayaraman et al [7] have used grey relational analysis to perform multi-objective optimization of surface roughness, roundness and MRR in turning of AA6063 T6 Aluminium Alloy and determined that cutting speed is the most influencing parameter affecting combined grey relational grade followed by depth of cut and feed rate. A grey relational grade is determined from the grey analysis. Optimum levels of parameters have been identified based on the values of grey relational grade and then the significant contribution of parameters is determined by ANOVA.

Shreemoy Kumar Nayak et al [8] was investigated the influence of different machining parameters such as cutting speed (V_c), feed (f) and depth of cut (t) on different performance measures during dry turning of AISI 304 austenitic stainless steel. ISO P30 grade uncoated cemented carbide inserts was used as a cutting tool for turning. Three important characteristics of machinability such as material removal rate, cutting force (F_c) and surface roughness was measured.

Anders Nordgren et al [9] the plastic deformation of tools is one of the most important wear modes in metal cutting. Such deformation changes the geometry of the cutting edge, which often results in accelerated tool wear, increased cutting forces, risk of tool failure, vibrations and poor dimensional accuracy and surface finishes.

S.J. Raykar et al [10] the high-speed turning is emerging as a key manufacturing technology in aerospace industry. High-speed turning is generally performed on the order of five to ten times the conventional cutting speed. It has several advantages such as reduction in cutting forces and temperature, low power consumption, improvement in surface finish, low stress components, burr-free surfaces, better dimensional accuracy, and better part quality.

V. Bushlya et al [11] presents results of superalloy machinability study with uncoated and coated PCBN tools aiming on increased speed and efficiency. Aspects of tool life, tool wear and surface integrity were studied. It was found that protective function of the coating, increasing tool life up to 20%, is limited to low cutting speed range.

Harsh Y Valera et al [12] study of power consumption and roughness characteristics of surface generated in turning operation of EN-31 alloy steel with TiN+Al₂O₃+TiCN coated tungsten carbide tool under different cutting parameters. The study shows the influences of three cutting parameters like spindle speed, depth of cut and feed rate affecting surface roughness as well as power consumption while turning operation of EN-31 alloy steel. Coating is also used on cutting tools to provide improved lubrication at the tool/chip and tool/work piece interfaces and to reduce friction, and to reduce the temperatures at the cutting edge. During machining, coated carbide tools ensure higher wear resistance, lower heat generation and lower cutting forces, thus enabling them to perform better at higher cutting conditions than their uncoated counterparts.

S. Jadhav et al [13] have used grey relational analysis to perform multi-objective optimization of surface roughness & MRR in turning of EN24 alloy steel with coated /uncoated tool inserts. From , it is concluded that spindle speed & depth of cut are prominent factors which affect the turning of EN24 alloy steel. Optimum level of parameters has been identified based on the values of grey relational grade & then the significant contribution of parameters is determined by ANOVA.

2. EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

EN8 is a medium-carbon low-alloy steel and finds its typical applications in the manufacturing of automobile and machine tool parts. Properties of EN8 steel, like low specific heat, and tendency to strain-harden and diffuse between tool and work material, give rise to certain problems in its machining such as large cutting forces, high cutting-tool temperatures, poor surface finish and built-up-edge formation. This material have wide range of applications such as General purpose axles, shafts, gears, bolts and studs, spindles, automotive and general engineering components etc.

For experimental study, EN 8 alloy steel material was taken of size 32 mm diameter and 60 mm length work piece as shown in figure 1.



Fig. 1: EN8 workpiece

The machining of EN 8 alloy steel was done under dry cutting condition with the help of coated and uncoated inserts. Selection of inserts was done with the help of manufacturing catalogue and finally selected inserts are PVD coated TiAlN insert and uncoated carbide insert for general turning having geometry WNMG 12 04 08 as shown in figure 2.

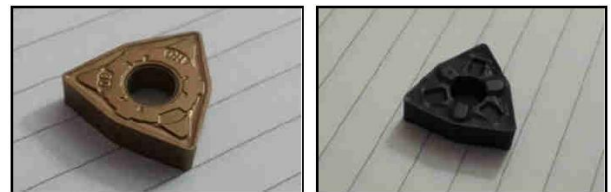


Fig. 2: PVD coated TiAlN and uncoated carbide insert

Spindle speed, feed and depth of cut are the three cutting parameters taken for consideration for investigating the effect on response variables i.e. surface roughness and material removal rate. Surface roughness was measured with the help of Handysurf E-35 B surface roughness tester and material removal rate calculated by mathematical equation;

$$MRR = 1000 \times V_c \times f \times d_{\text{cut}} \text{ mm}^3/\text{min}$$

Where, 'V_c' is cutting speed in m/min. 'f' is feed rate in mm/rev. and 'd_{cut}' depth of cut in mm.

Pilot experimentation was done to find out the levels of the cutting parameters. Precut of 0.5 mm depth of cut was performed on each workpiece before actual turning in order to remove the rust layer or hardened top layer from the outside surface. Final levels are shown in table 1.

Factors	Level 1	Level 2	Level 2
Spindle speed (rpm)	1400	1600	1800
Feed (mm/rev.)	0.10	0.15	0.20
Depth of cut (mm)	0.8	1.0	1.2

Table 1 – Final Levels

3. EXPERIMENTAL WORK

Three factors, three levels and nine experiments are taken in consideration according to Taguchi approach with the help of "MINITAB 17" software. Experimentation is carried out according to the L9 orthogonal array for each insert individually. Precut of 0.5 mm depth of cut was performed before actual trail on each work piece up to the length 35 mm in order to remove the rust layer. Table 2 shows the surface roughness values and material removal rate obtained during experimentation for coated and uncoated inserts. Figure 3 shows the samples after actual experimentation. The samples A, B, C...I stands for the Experiments 1, 2, 3...9 respectively as shown in figure3.



Fig. 3: Turned samples during final experimentation

Ex. No.	N (rpm)	F (m m/r ev.)	d _{cut} (mm)	Coated insert	Uncoated insert	MRR
				Ra	Ra	
1	1400	0.10	0.8	1.49	1.52	10907.98
2	1400	0.15	1.0	1.54	1.62	20452.46
3	1400	0.20	1.2	1.66	1.73	32723.94
4	1600	0.10	1.0	1.24	1.30	15582.83
5	1600	0.15	1.2	1.12	1.18	28049.09
6	1600	0.20	0.8	1.48	1.57	24932.53

7	1800	0.10	1.2	0.74	0.94	21036.82
8	1800	0.15	0.8	0.96	1.28	21036.82
9	1800	0.20	1.0	1.43	1.66	35061.32

Table.2: Experimental results for Ra and MRR for coated and uncoated inserts

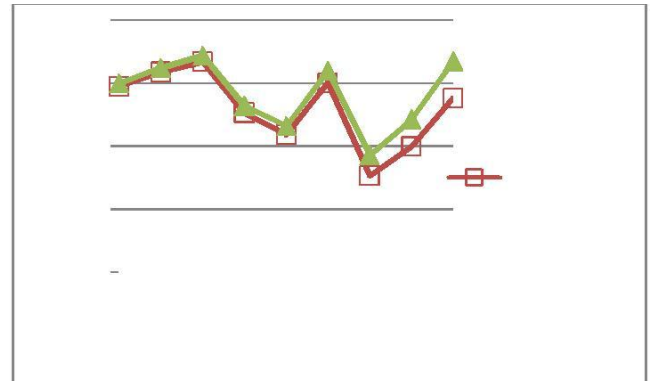


Fig. 4: Graphical representation of surface roughness with coated/uncoated inserts

Figure 4 shows the variation of surface roughness for coated and uncoated insert at different cutting conditions. General tendency is that coated and uncoated insert gives close to similar surface roughness values up to the speed 1600 rpm and after that the difference in surface roughness goes on increasing. Lower value of surface roughness is obtained at experiment no. 7 i.e. for coated insert it is 0.74 and for uncoated insert it is 0.94. Higher value of surface roughness is obtained at experiment no. 3 i.e. for coated insert it is 1.66 and for uncoated insert it is 1.73. At 1800 rpm speed the maximum difference occurred in surface roughness for coated and uncoated insert as shown in figure 4. From experimental study it is conclude that coated insert provides better results at dry cutting condition over the uncoated insert.

4. MULTI-OBJECTIVE OPTIMIZATION BY GREY RELATIONAL ANALYSIS (GRA)

Grey relational grade is employ to convert multi objective problem into a single objective. The scope of this study is to identify the optimal combination of process parameters that concurrently minimize the surface roughness and maximize the material removal rate. In grey relational analysis, the first step is data pre-processing. This avoids the problem of different scales, units and targets [13]. The following steps are in GRA:

- Experimental data will be normalized in the range between zero and one.
- Next, the grey relational coefficient is calculated from the normalized experimental data to express the relationship between the ideal (best) and the actual experimental data.
- Grey relational grade is then computed by averaging the weighted grey relational coefficients corresponding to each performance characteristic.
- Statistical analysis of variance is performed for the input parameters with the GRG and the parameters significantly affecting the process are found out.
- Optimal levels of process parameters are then chosen. A confirmatory test will be done to support the findings and an improvement in grey relational grade [13].

Expt. No.	Ra (μm)	MRR (mm ³ /min)	Normalized	
			Ra	MRR
1.	1.49	10907.98	0.18478	0.00000
2.	1.54	20452.46	0.13043	0.39516
3.	1.66	32723.94	0.00000	0.90323
4.	1.24	15582.83	0.45652	0.19355
5.	1.12	28049.09	0.58696	0.70968
6.	1.48	24932.53	0.19565	0.58065
7.	0.74	21036.82	1.00000	0.41936
8.	0.96	21036.82	0.76087	0.41936
9.	1.43	35061.32	0.25000	1.00000

Table.3: Comparability sequence after normalization

4.1 GRA for coated insert

Step 1: Normalization:

The first step in grey relational analysis is normalization and which is performed to prepare raw data for the analysis where the original sequence is transferred to a comparable sequence. Normalization of response variables is done in the range between zero and one. The indication of better performance in turning process for surface roughness is “Lower the better” whereas it is “Higher the better” for material removal rate. In grey relation analysis, for “Lower is better” response normalizing done by equation (1) and when the response is “Higher the better”, normalizing done by equation (2).

Smaller is better i.e. for surface roughness

$$x_i^*(k) = \frac{\max x_i(k) - x_i(k)}{\max x_i(k) - \min_i(k)} \dots \dots \dots (1)$$

For Expt. 1;

$$x_i^*(k) = \frac{1.66 - 1.49}{1.66 - 0.74}$$

$$x_i^*(k) = 0.18478$$

Larger is better i.e. For material removal rate;

$$x_i^*(k) = \frac{x_i(k) - \min(k)}{\max x_i(k) - \min_i(k)} \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

$$x_i^*(k) = \frac{10907.98 - 10907.98}{35061.32 - 10907.98}$$

$$x_i^*(k) = 0$$

Where $x_i^*(k)$ and $x_i(k)$ are the normalized data and observed data respectively, for i^{th} experiment using k^{th} response. The smallest and largest values of $x_i(k)$ in the k^{th} response are $\min x_i(k)$ and $\max x_i(k)$ respectively. The normalized values are shown in table 3.

Step 2: Determination of deviation sequence:

The deviation sequence $\Delta_{0i}(k)$ is the absolute difference between the reference sequence $x_0^*(k)$ and the comparability sequence $x_i^*(k)$ after normalization.

Mathematically it is denoted by;

$$\Delta_{0i}(k) = |x_0^*(k) - x_i^*(k)| \dots \dots \dots (3)$$

$$\Delta_{0i}(k) = |1 - 0.18478|$$

$$= 0.81522$$

For MRR;

$$\Delta_{0i}(k) = |1 - 0.00000|$$

$$= 1$$

Step 3: Determination of grey relational coefficient:

The grey relation coefficient $\xi_i(k)$ for the k^{th} response characteristics in the i^{th} experiment can be expressed as;

$$\xi_i(k) = \frac{\Delta_{min} + \zeta \Delta_{max}}{\Delta_{0i}(k) + \zeta \Delta_{max}} \dots \dots \dots (4)$$

Where Δ_{min} is the smallest value of $\Delta_{0i}(k) = \min_i \min_k |x_0^*(k) - x_i^*(k)|$ and Δ_{max} is the largest value of $\Delta_{0i}(k) = \max_i \max_k |x_0^*(k) - x_i^*(k)|$, $x_0^*(k)$ denotes reference sequence and $x_i^*(k)$ denotes the comparability sequence and ζ is the distinguishing coefficient. The value of ζ can be adjusted with the systematic actual need and defined in the range between 0 and 1.

For Surface roughness;

$$\xi_i(k) = \frac{\Delta_{min} + \zeta \Delta_{max}}{\Delta_{0i}(k) + \zeta \Delta_{max}}$$

