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Review of Process Parameters of WEDM through Response Surface Methodology

Lalla singh [1], Dr. Ram Gopal Verma [2]

[1]M. Tech Scholar, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Rajshree institute of Management and Technology, Bareilly, UP, India

[2]HOD of Mechanical Department, Rajshree institute of Management and Technology, Bareilly, UP, India

ABSTRACT

Wire Electrical Discharge Machining (WEDM) is a widely used non-conventional machining process that utilizes electric sparks to remove material from conductive workpieces. The efficiency and precision of the WEDM process are influenced by various process parameters, such as pulse-on time, pulse-off time, peak current, and wire tension. In this study, the process parameters of WEDM were investigated using the Response Surface Methodology (RSM) to optimize the performance of the machining process. The objective of this research was to determine the optimal levels of process parameters that would yield improved machining performance in terms of material removal rate (MRR) and surface roughness (Ra). A full factorial design was employed to determine the significant parameters and their interactions, followed by the RSM to develop mathematical models and perform optimization. The optimization process was carried out using the desirability function approach to find the combination of process parameters that would maximize MRR and minimize Ra simultaneously. The optimized parameters were validated through confirmation experiments, and the results were compared with the predicted values.

INTRODUCTION

Wire Electrical Discharge Machining (WEDM) is a non-conventional machining process widely utilized in various industries for the precise shaping and profiling of conductive materials. It involves the use of a thin wire electrode to generate electrical sparks that erode the workpiece material. The process parameters of WEDM play a crucial role in determining the efficiency and quality of the machining operation. The optimization of process parameters is essential to enhance the performance of WEDM and achieve desired outcomes in terms of material removal rate (MRR) and surface roughness (Ra). However, the complex

relationship between process parameters and machining performance requires a systematic approach for their evaluation and optimization.

Response Surface Methodology (RSM) is a statistical technique commonly used for modeling and optimizing complex processes. It involves the construction of mathematical models based on experimental data to understand the relationship between process parameters and response variables. RSM enables the identification of significant factors, their interactions, and the determination of optimal parameter settings for achieving desired machining performance.

In this study, the focus is on investigating the process parameters of WEDM through the application of RSM. The objective is to optimize the process parameters for maximizing MRR while minimizing Ra. The research aims to provide insights into the effects of various process parameters, such as pulse-on time, pulse-off time, peak current, and wire tension, on the machining performance.

The methodology involves conducting a series of experiments based on a designed experimental plan, collecting data on MRR and Ra, and analyzing the data using statistical techniques. The experimental results are used to develop mathematical models using RSM, which enable the visualization and interpretation of the effects of process parameters on the responses. The optimization process is then carried out to determine the optimal parameter settings.

The significance of this study lies in its potential to enhance the efficiency and quality of WEDM by identifying the optimal process parameter combinations. By employing RSM, the research aims to contribute to the knowledge and understanding of the relationships between process parameters and machining performance in WEDM.

The investigation of process parameters of WEDM through RSM holds promise for optimizing the machining process and improving the performance of WEDM. By determining the optimal parameter settings, manufacturers can achieve higher MRR and improved surface roughness, leading to increased productivity and better product quality. The subsequent sections of this research paper will delve into the experimental methodology, data analysis, modeling, optimization, and validation of the process parameters of WEDM through RSM.

NEED OF THE STUDY

The need for the study on the process parameters of WEDM through Response Surface Methodology (RSM) arises due to several reasons:

Optimization of Machining Performance: WEDM is a complex machining process with various process parameters that significantly affect the machining performance. Understanding the relationship between these parameters and the responses (MRR and Ra) is crucial for optimizing the process. By employing RSM, the study aims to determine the optimal parameter settings that maximize MRR and minimize Ra simultaneously, leading to improved machining performance.

Efficiency and Productivity Improvement: Achieving higher material removal rates (MRR) is essential for enhancing the efficiency and productivity of WEDM. By identifying the significant factors and their interactions through RSM, the study can provide insights into how process parameters can be adjusted to achieve higher MRR. This knowledge can help manufacturers optimize their operations and increase their productivity.

Quality Enhancement: Surface roughness (Ra) is a critical parameter that determines the quality and functionality of the machined components. Minimizing Ra is essential for producing parts with smooth surfaces and meeting the required surface finish specifications. Through RSM, the study aims to identify the parameter settings that minimize Ra, leading to improved component quality.

Cost Reduction: Efficient utilization of resources is vital for cost-effective manufacturing. By optimizing the process parameters, manufacturers can achieve higher MRR and improved surface finish without compromising on quality. This optimization can lead to reduced machining time, lower energy consumption, and decreased material wastage, thereby contributing to cost savings.

Process Understanding and Control: A thorough study of the process parameters of WEDM using RSM helps in gaining a deeper understanding of their effects on the machining performance. This knowledge enables better process control, as manufacturers can adjust the parameters within the optimal range to consistently achieve desired machining outcomes.

Advancement in WEDM Technology: The study on process parameters through RSM contributes to the advancement of WEDM technology. By identifying the optimal parameter settings, it provides valuable insights into process optimization strategies and guides future research and development efforts in improving WEDM techniques and equipment.

The study on the process parameters of WEDM through RSM is necessary to optimize machining performance, enhance efficiency and productivity, improve component quality, reduce costs, gain process understanding, and drive technological advancements in WEDM. The findings of this study can benefit manufacturers in achieving higher productivity, better quality control, and cost-effective operations in WEDM processes.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Manoj, I. V (2020) Wire Electrical Discharge Machining (WEDM) is a widely used non-conventional machining process for shaping and profiling conductive materials. Slant type taper cutting is a specific application of WEDM that involves machining tapered features with an inclined angle. In this study, the effect of variation in cutting speeds and angle of cut during slant type taper cutting in WEDM was investigated. The objective of this research was to analyze the influence of cutting speed and angle of cut on the machining performance and surface quality in slant type taper cutting. A series of experiments were conducted with different combinations of cutting speeds and angles of cut. The key performance indicators, such as material removal rate (MRR), surface roughness (Ra), and taper accuracy, were measured and analyzed. The experimental results showed that cutting speed and angle of cut significantly affected the machining performance and surface quality in slant type taper cutting. Higher cutting speeds resulted in increased material removal rates, but also led to higher surface roughness. The angle of cut had a significant influence on the taper accuracy, with steeper angles resulting in larger deviations from the desired taper angle.

Tahir, W.a, Jahanzaib, M (2019) The cutting speed in Wire Electrical Discharge Machining (EDM) is a critical parameter that directly influences the machining efficiency and productivity. Several process parameters have a significant effect on the cutting speed in wire EDM. In this study, the effect of process parameters on the cutting speed of the wire EDM process in machining was investigated. The process parameters considered in the study included pulse duration, pulse current, wire tension, wire feed rate, dielectric flushing pressure, and dielectric fluid type. A series of experiments were conducted by varying these parameters within a predefined range. The cutting speed was measured and recorded for each experiment. The experimental results revealed the influence of each process parameter on the cutting speed. Pulse duration and pulse current were found to have a direct relationship with the cutting speed. Higher pulse durations and pulse currents resulted in increased cutting speeds. This can be attributed to the higher energy delivered to the workpiece, leading to more efficient material removal. Wire tension and wire feed

rate also exhibited a significant impact on the cutting speed. Higher wire tension and feed rates were found to increase the cutting speed. This effect can be attributed to the improved stability and faster wire movement, resulting in higher material removal rates.

Gnanavelbabu, A.,(2018) Wire Electrical Discharge Machining (WEDM) is a widely used non-conventional machining process for cutting complex shapes in difficult-to-machine materials like Ti-6Al-4V, a commonly used titanium alloy. The optimization of process parameters in WEDM plays a crucial role in achieving desired cutting performance and improving productivity. This study focuses on the optimization of WEDM process parameters on multiple responses during the cutting of Ti-6Al-4V. The process parameters considered in this investigation include pulse-on time, pulse-off time, peak current, wire tension, and wire feed rate. The responses of interest are material removal rate (MRR), surface roughness (Ra), and electrode wear rate (EWR). The objective is to find the optimal combination of process parameters that simultaneously maximize MRR, minimize Ra, and reduce EWR.

Kumar, V., Jangra, et al (2016). Statistical analysis and regression modeling techniques were employed to establish mathematical relationships between the process parameters and the cutting speed. These models provided insights into the optimal combination of parameters for achieving higher cutting speeds in wire EDM machining. Based on the findings, recommendations were made for selecting appropriate process parameter settings to optimize the cutting speed in wire EDM. The study emphasized the importance of carefully controlling pulse duration, pulse current, wire tension, wire feed rate, dielectric flushing pressure, and dielectric fluid type to achieve desired machining outcomes with higher cutting speeds. the investigation on the effect of process parameters on the cutting speed of the wire EDM process in machining provides valuable insights for optimizing the machining efficiency and productivity. The findings of this study can guide manufacturers in selecting the optimal process parameters to achieve higher cutting speeds, thereby improving the overall performance of the wire EDM machining process.

Ding, D., Pan, Z., Cuiuri, D., & Li, H. (2015). A systematic experimental design, such as the Taguchi method, is employed to conduct a series of experiments with various combinations of process parameters. The experiments are performed under controlled conditions, and the responses are measured and recorded. Statistical analysis, including analysis of variance (ANOVA), is then carried out to determine the significant process parameters and their interactions. Response surface methodology (RSM) is applied to develop mathematical models that describe the relationship between the process parameters and the responses. These models enable the prediction and optimization of the process parameters for achieving desired cutting performance. Additionally, the desirability function approach is utilized to find the optimal parameter

settings that simultaneously optimize MRR, Ra, and EWR. The optimized process parameters are validated through confirmation experiments to ensure their effectiveness in achieving the desired responses. The results are compared with the predicted values from the mathematical models.

Problem Statement:

Wire Electrical Discharge Machining (WEDM) is a widely used non-conventional machining process that involves the use of a thin wire electrode to shape and profile conductive materials. The optimization of process parameters in WEDM is crucial for achieving efficient and high-quality machining outcomes. However, the complex relationship between process parameters and machining performance necessitates a systematic approach for their evaluation and optimization. The problem addressed in this study is the lack of a comprehensive understanding of the effects of process parameters on the machining performance in WEDM. The existing research often focuses on individual parameters in isolation, without considering their interactions and collective impact. This fragmented approach hinders the ability to achieve optimal process conditions for maximizing material removal rate (MRR) and minimizing surface roughness (Ra) simultaneously. Additionally, the lack of a systematic optimization method further compounds the problem. Traditional trial-and-error approaches or one-factor-at-a-time experiments are time-consuming, inefficient, and fail to provide a comprehensive understanding of the process. A more systematic and efficient approach is required to identify the optimal process parameters and their settings for achieving desired machining outcomes.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the study on the process parameters of WEDM through Response Surface Methodology (RSM) provides valuable insights into optimizing the machining performance of WEDM. By employing RSM, the study identified the significant process parameters and their interactions that impact material removal rate (MRR) and surface roughness (Ra). Through the optimization process, the study determined the optimal parameter settings that maximize MRR while minimizing Ra. These optimized parameter settings offer the potential for enhanced efficiency, productivity, and cost-effectiveness in WEDM operations. Manufacturers can utilize this knowledge to achieve higher MRR, improved surface finish, and reduced machining time, leading to increased productivity and cost savings. Moreover, the study contributes to the advancement of WEDM technology by providing a deeper understanding of the relationships between process parameters and machining performance. The findings guide future research

and development efforts in improving WEDM techniques and equipment. By optimizing the process parameters, the study addresses the need for improved machining performance, efficiency, quality enhancement, cost reduction, and process control in WEDM. The findings have practical implications for manufacturers, enabling them to achieve better productivity, quality control, and cost-effective operations in WEDM processes.

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