

Optimization of the USM process of PTFE using Grey Relational Analysis

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Abstract - Ultrasonic drilling is effective method compared to conventional drilling as in conventional process too much energy wasted to produce unwanted chips. It is a non thermal process so PTFE material not thermally damage with USM. The objective of this study is to check the feasibility of polytetrafluoroethelene for a ultrasonic machining. The effect of Pressure, Amplitude & Thickness of PTFE sheets on MRR, Taper & Overcut can be studied and determined. The effect of parameters on the process can be studied that can be useful for various analysis. The factors affecting Ultrasonic Machining performance are found from literature review & the effect of same is to be experimentally investigated. Full factorial Design for 3 input parameter at 3 level with 2 replication chosen for analysis. Thickness is found most significant parameter for MRR. The results of grey optimization shows that for both rough finishing as well semi-finishing hole, higher GRG achieved at medium thickness & amplitude and for maximum pressure.

IndexTerms - PTFE, USM, Ultrasonic Machining, MRR, Taper, Overcut, Pressure, Amplitude, Ultrasonic Drilling

I. INTRODUCTION :

Ultrasonic machining (USM) is the removal of material by the abrading action of grit – loaded liquid slurry circulating between the work-piece & tool vibrating perpendicular to the workface at a frequency above the audible range. In USM abrasive slurry freely flows between the work-piece & vibrating tool. The tool never contacts the work-piece and as a result the grinding pressure is rarely more, which makes this operation perfect for machining extremely hard and brittle materials, such as glass, sapphire, ruby, diamond, and ceramics.

The working process of an ultrasonic machine is performed when its tool interacts with the Work-piece or the medium to be treated. The tool is subjected to vibration in a specific direction, frequency and intensity. The vibration is produced by a transducer and is transmitted to the tool using a vibration system.

II. MECHANISM OF MATERIAL REMOVAL FOR USM:

As the tool vibrates abrasive particle indents the work material. During indentation, due to hertzian contact stresses cracks would develop just below the contact site and as the indentation goes on, cracks would propagate due to increase in hertzian stresses thus leading to brittle fracture of work material under each interaction between abrasive grit and work piece.

In ultrasonic machining, tool of desired shape vibrates at ultrasonic frequency (19-25 kHz) with amplitude of 15-50 Microns over work-piece. In Ultrasonic machining material removal is due to crack initiation, propagation and brittle fracture of material. USM is used for machining hard and brittle materials, which are poor conductors of electricity and thus cannot be processed by (ECM) or (EDM).

III. LITERATURE REVIEW :

Various researchers are working on laser cutting process to cut various materials. They are working on various parameters.

T.B.Thoe et. al. [1] highlighted that the Ultrasonic machining is of particular interest for the cutting of non-conductive, brittle work piece materials such as ceramics. Unlike other non-traditional process such as laser beam and electrical discharge machining, etc., ultrasonic machining does not thermally damage the work piece or appear to introduce significant levels of residual stress, which is important for the survival of brittle materials service. The fundamental principles of ultrasonic machining, the material removal mechanisms involved and the effect of operating parameters on material removal rate, tool wear rate and work piece accuracy were reviewed, with particular emphasis on the machining of engineering ceramics. The problems of producing complex 3-D shapes in ceramics were outlined.

Wang et al. [2] discussed fundamental principles of ultrasonic machining, the material removal mechanism and important factors are calculated. They concluded that the average cutting forces in ultrasonic vibration cutting are smaller than those in conventional cutting. They also concluded that Decrease in the cutting speed of the work piece and/or increase in the vibration frequency will result in better surface quality.

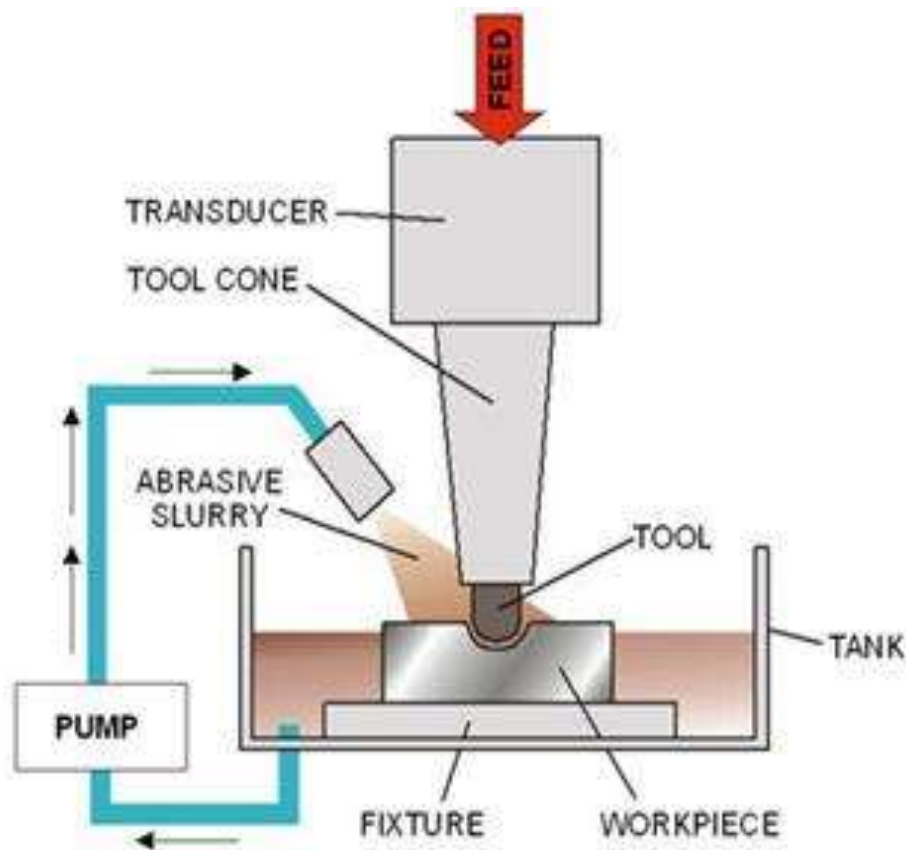


Fig. 1.1 Principle of USM [21]

Zarepour and Yeo [3] developed a model to predict material removal modes in ductile and brittle material when the brittle material is impacted by single sharp abrasive particle in micro ultrasonic machining process. They predicted the material removal modes for silicon <100> and fused quartz. They studied morphology of the crater formed and observed three modes of material removal namely pure ductile, partially ductile (transition mode) and pure brittle.

Basem M. A. Abdo et al. [4] investigated that difficult-to-machine materials such as Ti-6Al-4V are very hard, tough, and possessed high impact resistance, their machinability is low and sometimes impossible with traditional machining processes. The results of this work identify that the cutting forces increase significantly with increase in coolant pressure, vibration amplitude, depth of cut and feed rate while decrease with increase in spindle speed.

M. Wiercigroch et al. [5] conducted an experiment and showed that an introduction of high-frequency axial vibration significantly enhances drilling rates compared to the traditional rotary type method. It has been found out that the material removal rate (MRR) as a function of static load has at least one maximum. It is postulated that the main mechanism of the MRR enhancement is associated with high amplitudes of forces generated by impacts. Novel procedures for calculating MRR are proposed, explaining an experimentally observed fall of MRR at higher static loads.

Kang et al. [6] investigated the material removal rate and surface quality of the alumina (Al_2O_3) which was ultrasonically machined using SiC abrasive under various machining conditions. They investigated that material removal rate increases as the static pressure and slurry concentration increases. They concluded higher material removal rate in case of rectangular sectional profile of the tool as compared to square sectional profile of the tool when tool of same cross-section area are used. They resulted an improved surface roughness of about $0.76 \mu m$ when machining was done by using abrasive of mesh number 600.

Chandra Nath and M. Rahman et al. [7] studied the effect of three important parameters: tool vibration frequency, tool vibration amplitude and work-piece cutting speed on ultrasonic vibration cutting (UVC). They concluded UVC method as a suitable technique to achieve high-quality finish surfaces for Inconel 718. They concluded that a minimum Ra value of 0.6 mm and 2.4 mm was achieved with the UVC method CT method respectively. They also concluded that value of TWCR should be kept as low as possible that is by increasing both the tool vibration frequency and amplitude, as well as by decreasing the work-piece cutting speed.

Shrikrushna B. Bhosale et al. [8] reported through experimental investigation and analysis of material removal rate, tool wear rate, and surface roughness in ultrasonic machining of alumina-zirconia ceramic composite ($Al_2O_3 + ZrO_2$). The experiments were conducted using full factorial DOE method with an orthogonal array. Analysis of results indicates that the amplitude has significant effect on the MRR and surface roughness. An increase in amplitude causes higher MRR and surface roughness. Pure SiC abrasives gave better surface finish, whereas the mixed abrasives produced higher tool wear and MRR.

Muhammad et al. [9] investigated the effect of vibration on cutting forces and temperature levels in a cutting region for various cutting conditions. They concluded that the cutting force increases with the increase in depth of cut. They also concluded an increase of Temperature in the cutting region increases due to increase in the depth of cut and cutting speed, both in CT and UAT.

Tamilselvan, Raguraj [10] presented Optimization of Process Parameters of Drilling in Ti-Tib Composites using Taguchi Technique. Results showed that The Taguchi's experimental design and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) techniques have been implemented to understand the effects, contribution, significance and optimal machine settings of process parameters, namely, spindle speed, feed rate, process, and drilling material. Conclusions were made -Thrust force decreased with the increase in spindle speed, increase in spindle speed plays a predominate role in the drastic reduction of overcut.

Jatinder Kumar et. al. [11] conducted experiments to assess the effect of three factors tool material, grit size of the abrasive slurry and power rating of ultrasonic machine on machining characteristics of titanium using full factorial approach for design and analysis of experiments. It has been concluded that titanium is fairly machinable with USM process. Moreover, the surface finish obtained is better than many of the other non-traditional processes. Surface roughness of the machined surface has been found to depend on grit size of the slurry used. Tool material and power rating have negligible effect on surface roughness. Optimum values for surface roughness were obtained with grit size 500 for alumina.

Yasuhiro Kakinuma et al. [12] investigated Ultrafast Feed Drilling of Carbon Fiber-Reinforced Thermoplastics. Demand for through-hole drilling of CFRTPs is increasing. In this study, the machinability in drilling of CFRTPs under various conditions was experimentally analyzed in terms of the material properties, and a feasibility study of ultrafast feed drilling was conducted. The results showed that delamination at the outlet surface can be significantly suppressed during high rotational drilling when the feed rate is set to more than 3000 mm/min. By providing appropriate drilling conditions to prevent polymers in CFRTPs from softening, ultra-fast drilling of CFRTPs was successfully achieved under dry conditions.

V. Baghlani et al. [13] investigated Ultrasonic assisted deep drilling of Inconel 738LC super alloy. Super alloys have a poor machinability and are often drilled using (EDM) methods. However EDM is a time-consuming process and has low surface integrity. Ultrasonic Assisted Drilling (UAD) technology is a modern method of drilling such materials. The effect of ultrasonic vibration amplitude, spindle speed and number of steps to drill each hole on machining force and surface roughness were investigated. The results show that increasing material removal rate makes drilling more difficult and increases forces and surface roughness. An average thrust force of 417N and surface roughness of 1.610 μ m was obtained.

Komaraiah and Reddy [14] investigated the influence of work material properties such as fracture toughness and hardness on material removal rate in ultrasonic machining of hard and brittle materials. The work-piece materials machined in this investigation were glass, ferrite, porcelain, alumina and tungsten carbide. MRR was reported to decrease with an increase in work material hardness and fracture toughness in almost linear fashion under controlled experimental conditions.

H. Dam et.al. [15] presented that a general survey of the processes that govern the ultrasonic machining of ceramics. The results were based on the drilling of holes in seven different ceramics and the aspects considered were production rate, tool wear, precision and surface quality. For tough materials, a low production rate, a high tool wear, and a low surface roughness were observed. For brittle materials the relationships are reversed; high production rate, low tool wear and high surface roughness. However, it was found also that there were important qualitative differences in the machined surfaces. Tough materials generally give material removal based on plasticity, and there seems to be a greater tendency for dense and non-porous materials to produce surfaces with texture.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE :

The detailed procedure followed for ultrasonic drilling described as under:

1. Measure the weight of all the PTFE sample of 0.5 mm, 1 mm and 1.5 mm thickness.
2. Securely tighten horn by placing grease at mating face of booster and horn to prevent coupling losses. Tighten the horn using spanner carefully.
3. Open compressor air valve to supply compressed air.
4. Set the amplitude of vibrations and pressure as per the parameters of design of experiment table.
5. Start Ultrasonic Machine. Feed the PTFE samples against vibrating horn. Also record machining time using stopwatch.
6. Unload work piece and stop the Ultrasonic Machine.
7. Measure the weight of PTFE sample and top and bottom diameter of drilled hole.
8. Note down the data in the observation table and marked on the sample.
9. Repeat process (4) to (8) for all the samples.

Table 1 : Parameter Setting DOE Table

Amplitude	Pressure	Thickness of PTFE sheet
A1 = 80%	P1 = 3 bar	T1 = 0.5 mm
A2 = 90%	P2 = 4 bar	T2 = 1 mm
A3 = 100%	P3 = 5 bar	T3 = 1.5 mm

Table 2 : Parameter Setting DOE Table with 2 Replication

	P1			P2			P3		
	T1	T2	T3	T1	T2	T3	T1	T2	T3
A1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
A2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
A3	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
A1	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
A2	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
A3	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54

The **control variables** selected for the experiment therefore are,

1. Amplitude
2. Pressure
3. PTFE sheet thickness.

A full factorial experiment with three levels of each for three control parameters of these parameters will be selected to carry out experimentation in order to capture nonlinearity.

The **Response variables** selected for the experiment therefore are,

1. Material removal rate
2. Overcut
3. Taper.

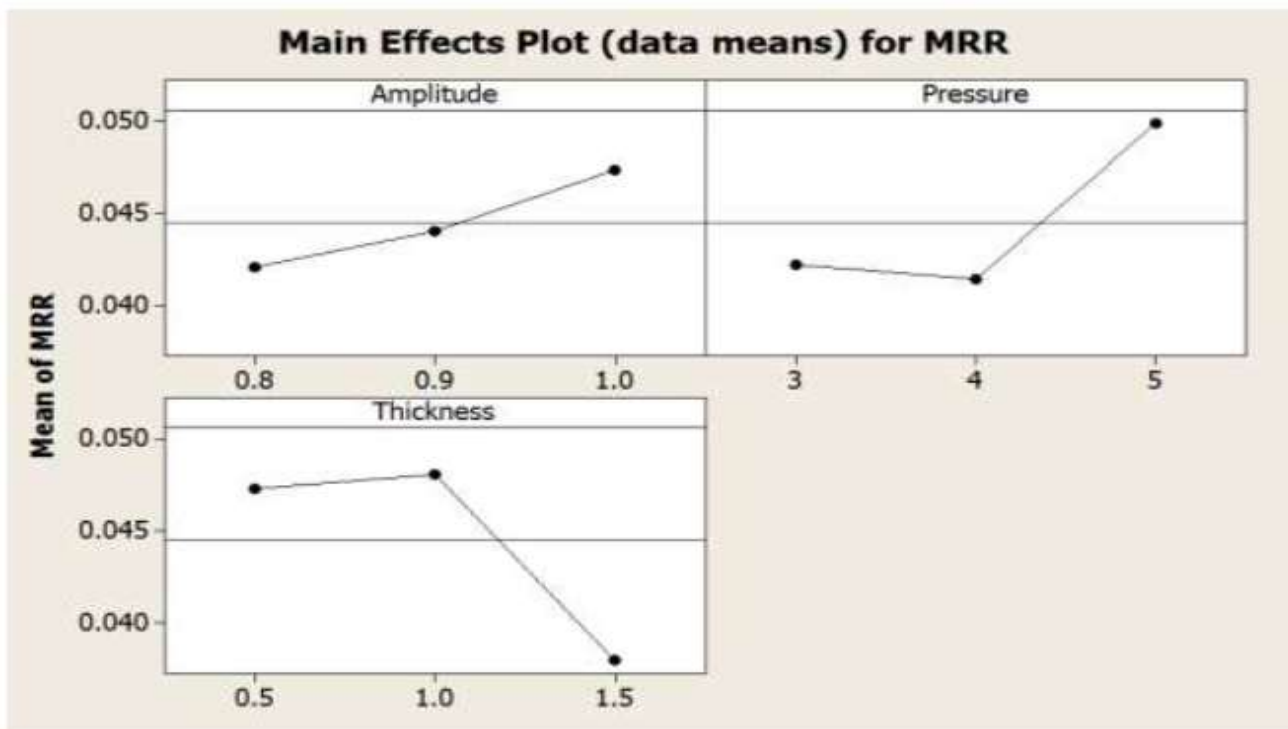
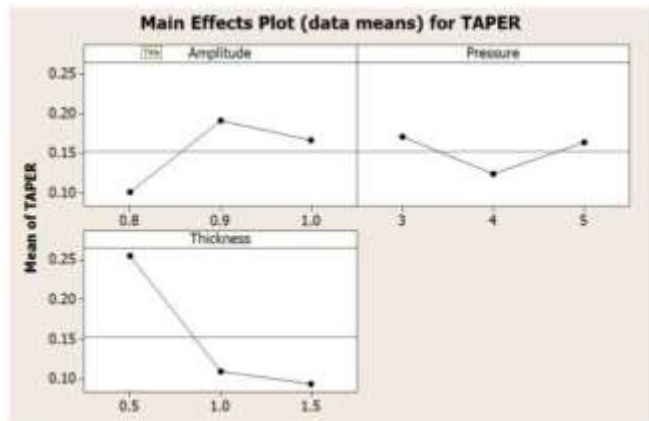
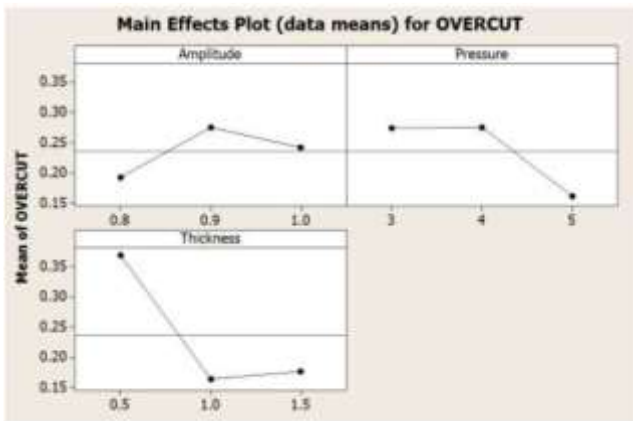
A full factorial design (FFD) only can help in estimating such interactions. Hence, FFD (three factors, each at three levels) was chosen for this study. A complete replicate of this design requires 27 experimental runs. Hence, a total of 54 trials, which includes two sets of 27 trials for full replication, are to be performed for drilling as indicated in Parameter Setting Table

OVERCUT (mm) = Actual diameter of hole – Diameter of hole

TAPER = (Top diameter of hole – Bottom diameter of hole) / Thickness

MRR (gm/min) = Weight difference before and after drilling / Time

V. ANOVA ANALYSIS :



VI. OPTIMIZATION USING GREY RELATIONAL ANALYSIS :

Grey analysis is a new technology - group of techniques for system analysis and modeling. It is also called grey logic / grey system theory. Grey analysis is useful in situations with incomplete and uncertain information. Grey analysis is particularly applicable in instances with very limited data and in cases with little system knowledge or understanding.

From the listing of grey relational grades in Table 5.6 for drilling, it is observed that for both these machining operations and for roughing as well semi-finishing the best rank is attributed to DOE serial 8 which relates to maximum pressure and mid value of amplitude & thickness. This is matching with the experimental findings and subsequent analysis showing that MRR is higher for lower thickness values and higher pressure and amplitude values. In case of semi-finishing the effective contribution of MRR to the grade is greater as compared to the combined effect of ROC and taper which leads to the same combination being selected as the best for semi-finishing. In case of finishing cut, however, due to the significant importance given to reduction in ROC and taper. the lowest combination of all variables as in DOE serial 8 is found to be optimum for both ultrasonic drilling.

Table 3 : Grey Relational Gradient Rank for Roughing , Equal weight & Semi finishing hole

Exp. No.	Roughing		Equal – Weight		Finishing	
	Grade	Rank	Grade	Rank	Grade	Rank
1	0.4708	22	0.5222	24	0.5394	22
2	0.5666	6	0.6764	6	0.7144	6
3	0.4446	24	0.5821	19	0.6299	16
4	0.5249	14	0.6129	14	0.6456	15
5	0.5588	9	0.6876	4	0.7301	5
6	0.4832	20	0.6321	11	0.6821	9
7	0.4840	19	0.5906	17	0.6272	17
8	0.9325	1	0.8479	1	0.8199	1
9	0.4981	17	0.6780	5	0.7432	3
10	0.5256	13	0.4513	26	0.4245	26
11	0.5687	5	0.6760	7	0.7136	7
12	0.4824	21	0.5835	18	0.6185	18
13	0.3820	27	0.3875	27	0.3890	27
14	0.4693	23	0.6093	15	0.6594	12
15	0.4938	18	0.6195	12	0.6622	11
16	0.5619	7	0.5636	20	0.5673	20
17	0.5152	16	0.6162	13	0.6526	14
18	0.5700	3	0.6438	9	0.6689	10
19	0.4352	26	0.4794	25	0.4972	25
20	0.4433	25	0.5330	22	0.5643	21
21	0.5423	12	0.5921	16	0.6092	19
22	0.5172	15	0.5269	23	0.5279	23
23	0.6051	2	0.6419	10	0.6555	13
24	0.5507	10	0.6879	3	0.7368	4
25	0.5696	4	0.5350	21	0.5224	19
26	0.5440	11	0.6483	8	0.6850	8
27	0.5601	8	0.7117	2	0.7670	2

VII. CONCLUSION :

1. The MRR is found to increase with increase in amplitude & pressure and decrease with increase in thickness of PTFE sheet for drilling.
2. The overcut is found to increase with increase in amplitude & decrease with increase in pressure and thickness.
3. The taper is also found to decrease with increase in thickness and in case of pressure initially taper is decreased for lower pressure but for higher pressure taper is increased which shows opposite result as compared to amplitude.
4. Based on ANOVA results, pressure and thickness are found to be most significantly affecting parameters for MRR and overcut and thickness & amplitude is found most significant factor for the taper.
5. The reason for abrupt change in MRR, taper & overcut is because of sometimes plastic deformation take place in addition to cutting, which affect the geometry of the hole.
6. The results of grey optimization shows that for both rough finishing as well semifinishing holes the best rank is attributed to medium thickness & amplitude and for maximum pressure.

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