

Optimization of surface integrity in dry hard turning using RSM

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Abstract. This paper investigates the effect of different cutting parameters (cutting speed, feed rate, and depth of cut) on surface integrity defined in terms of surface roughness and microhardness in dry hard turning process. The workpiece material used was hardened alloy steel AISI 52100 and it was machined on a CNC lathe with coated carbide tool under different settings of cutting parameters. Three cutting parameters each at three levels were considered in the study. Central composite design (CCD) of experiment was used to collect experimental data for surface roughness and microhardness. Statistical analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed to determine significance of the cutting parameters. The results were analysed using an effective procedure of response surface methodology (RSM) to determine optimal values of cutting parameters. Several diagnostic tests were also performed to check the validity of assumptions. The results indicated that feed rate is the dominant factor affecting the surface roughness whereas the cutting speed is found to be the dominant factor affecting the microhardness. Results also revealed that within the range investigated, good surface integrity is achieved when feed rate and depth of cut are near their low levels and cutting speed is at high level. Finally, the optimal cutting parameters and model equations to predict the surface roughness and microhardness are proposed.

Keywords. Hard turning; surface roughness; microhardness; RSM.

1. Introduction

Machining of hardened steels (>45 HRC) using single point turning, commonly referred to as hard turning, is of considerable interest to manufacturers of ball bearings, and other mechanical

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power transmission components. Bearing steels (e.g., AISI 52100) are the most common examples of these materials, which are conventionally finished by grinding (Diniz *et al* 2003; Ramesh *et al* 2005; Umbrello *et al* 2008; Paiva *et al* 2009; Thiele & Melkote 1999). Hard turning is generally used as a substitute to grinding for performing finishing operations for hardened steel. Turning of hard steel using advanced tool materials like coated carbide, mixed ceramic and cubic boron nitride has advantages such as short cycle time, process flexibility, compatible surface roughness, higher material removal rate, ability to machine thin wall sections, and less environment problems without the use of cutting fluid as compared to grinding or polishing (Benga & Abrao 2003; Suresh *et al* 2012; Khan *et al* 2009; Gaitonde *et al* 2009; Aslan *et al* 2007; Davim & Figueira 2007; Diniz & Oliveira 2004; Kumar & Durai 2003). The hard turning can offer a reasonably high accuracy for the hardened components, but the major problems occur with surface quality. The surface integrity is often of great concern due to its impact on the product quality. It is well-known that the machined surface characteristics are important in determining the functional performance such as fatigue strength, corrosion resistance and tribological properties of machined components. Often, the major indication of surface integrity is surface roughness. However, the material microhardness also changes in machined-hardened steels, and it must be taken into account for improving product performance. Therefore, several researchers experimentally investigated relationships between machining parameters and the surface integrity (surface roughness, hardness) during hard turning (Krishna *et al* 2010; Thakur *et al* 2009; Tzeng *et al* 2009; Sahin & Motorcu 2008; Sharma *et al* 2008; Manna & Salodkar 2008; Kumar & Ramamoorthy 2007; Morea *et al* 2006; Grzesik & Wanat 2006; Ezugwu *et al* 2005; Risbood *et al* 2003; Dhar *et al* 2002; Isik 2007; Khan *et al* 2009).

2. Experimental details

Hard turning of AISI 52100 hardened alloy steel without using coolant (dry condition) was carried out on CNC lathe machine. The chemical composition of AISI 52100 is shown in table 1. The cutting parameters and their levels used in hard turning are shown in table 2. CNMG 120408-TN7105 coated carbide insert (TiN-TiCN-AL₂O₃-TiN) having nose radius of 0.8 mm was used as cutting tool. The surface roughness tester (model: SURFTEST, SV-2100; make: Mitutoyo,

Table 1. Chemical composition (wt%) of work material AISI 52100 Alloy steel.

C	Si	Mn	S	P	Ni	Cr	Mo	Cu	Fe
0.98	0.28	0.39	0.024	0.023	0.141	1.302	0.081	0.042	Balance

Table 2. Cutting parameters and their levels.

Factor	Symbol	Unit	Level-1	Level-2	Level-3
Cutting speed	A	m/min	100	175	250
Feed rate	B	mm/rev	0.1	0.16	0.22
Depth of cut	C	mm	0.2	0.6	1

Table 3. Experimental results of surface roughness and microhardness.

Run	A m/min	B mm/rev	C mm	R _a /μm	HV kgf/mm ²
1.	175.00	0.16	1.00	1.083	316.8
2.	250.00	0.22	0.20	1.952	359.067
3.	175.00	0.16	0.60	1.083	322.533
4.	250.00	0.22	1.00	2.25	309.9
5.	175.00	0.16	0.60	1.026	321.833
6.	250.00	0.16	0.60	0.927	342.867
7.	250.00	0.10	0.20	0.583	332.367
8.	100.00	0.16	0.60	0.998	312.433
9.	250.00	0.10	1.00	0.474	331.767
10.	100.00	0.10	1.00	0.835	304.467
11.	175.00	0.16	0.60	1.068	314.567
12.	175.00	0.10	0.60	0.565	314.667
13.	100.00	0.22	1.00	2.244	286.833
14.	175.00	0.16	0.60	1.105	322.133
15.	175.00	0.16	0.60	1.081	305.6
16.	100.00	0.10	0.20	1.347	297.8
17.	100.00	0.22	0.20	1.768	325.367
18.	175.00	0.22	0.60	2.116	329.5
19.	175.00	0.16	0.60	1.104	315.133
20.	175.00	0.16	0.20	1.417	335.5

Table 4. Results of ANOVA of surface roughness (R_a).

Source	Sum of squares	DF	Mean square	F Value	Prob > F
Model	5.45	9	0.61	40.19	<0.0001
A	0.10	1	0.10	6.71	0.0269
B	4.26	1	4.26	282.54	<0.0001
C	3.276E-003	1	3.276E-003	0.22	0.6511
A ²	0.029	1	0.029	1.93	0.1949
B ²	0.21	1	0.21	13.81	0.0040
C ²	0.094	1	0.094	6.22	0.0318
AB	0.22	1	0.22	14.34	0.0036
AC	6.328E-003	1	6.328E-003	0.42	0.5316
BC	0.24	1	0.24	16.14	0.0024
Residual	0.15	10	0.015		
Lack of Fit	0.15	5	0.029	34.53	0.0007
Pure Error	4.243E-003	5	8.486E-004		
Cor Total	5.60	19			

Std. Dev. = 0.12
Mean = 1.25
C.V. = 9.81
PRESS = 1.80

R-Squared = 0.9731
Adj R-Square = 0.9489
Pred R-Squared = 0.8788
Adeq Precision = 22.838

Japan) was used to get surface roughness values. The microhardness tester (model: MitroWizard; make: Mitutoyo, Japan) was used to get microhardness values.

3. Design of experiments

In this study, in order to investigate the influence of cutting parameters on the response variables (surface roughness and microhardness) during dry hard turning, a sequential set of experimental runs was established using a Central Composite Design (CCD) of experiment as shown in table 3. Table 3 also shows the measured values of surface roughness (Ra) and microhardness (HV). Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed to identify factors which significantly affect the response variables. The parameter symbols typically used in ANOVA are described in (Montgomery 2010; Panneerselvam 2012; Krishnaiah 2012). For manufacturers to maximize their gains from utilizing finish hard turning, accurate predictive models for surface integrity must be constructed. In this study, response surface methodology (RSM) based experimental design was used since it offers more advantages than other design methods. RSM provides a systematic procedure to determine a relationship between independent input process parameters and output (process response). Many researchers have used RSM in their research pertaining to hard turning (Khamel *et al* 2012; Saini *et al* 2012; Suresh *et al* 2012; Aouici *et al* 2011; Bouacha *et al*

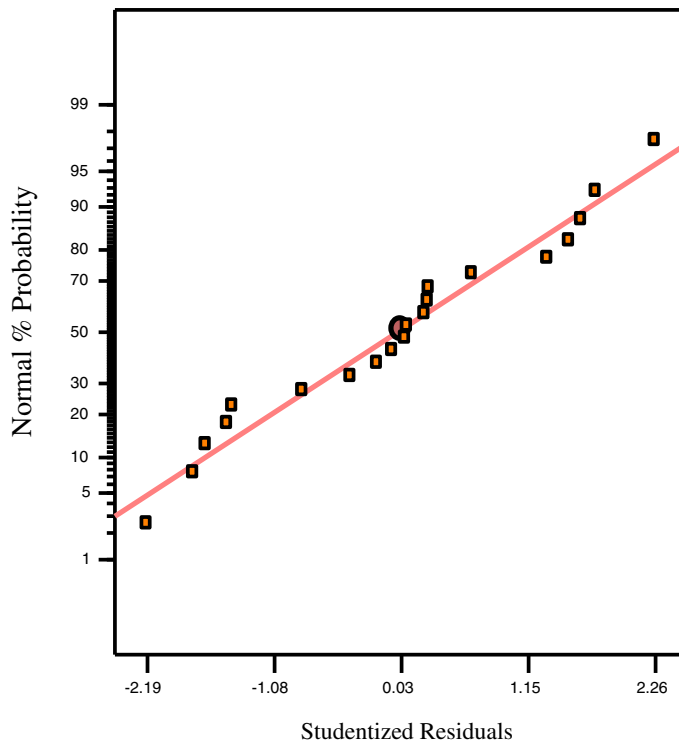


Figure 1. Normal plot of residual response.

2010). The effect of various design parameters and the analysis with consideration of correlation between factors were studied through this design.

4. Results and discussion

The results of the present study are discussed in the following sections.

4.1 Analysis of surface roughness

Surface finish, by definition, is the allowable deviation from a perfectly flat surface that is made by some manufacturing process. Surface roughness (R_a) is the most important variable of the surface finish, which is the arithmetic average of the absolute values of the roughness profile ordinates. The experimental data were analysed through Design-Expert software. The results of analysis of variance (ANOVA) of surface roughness (R_a) in hard turning during dry condition are shown in table 4 which shows the degrees of freedom (DF), sum of squares (SS), mean squares (MS), F-values (F-VAL.) and probability (P-VAL.). It is clear from table 4 that feed rate (B) has the most significant effect; while the cutting speed (A), the quadratic value of feed rate (B^2), the quadratic value of depth of cut (C^2), the interaction between cutting speed and feed rate (AB), and the interaction between feed rate and depth of cut (BC) all have less significant effect, but the depth of cut (C), the quadratic value of cutting speed (A^2), and the interaction between

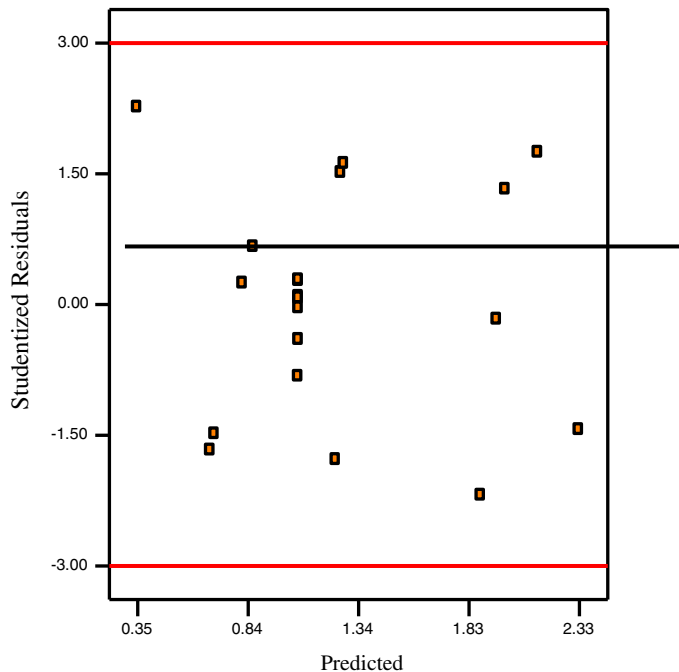


Figure 2. Plot of residuals vs. predicted response.

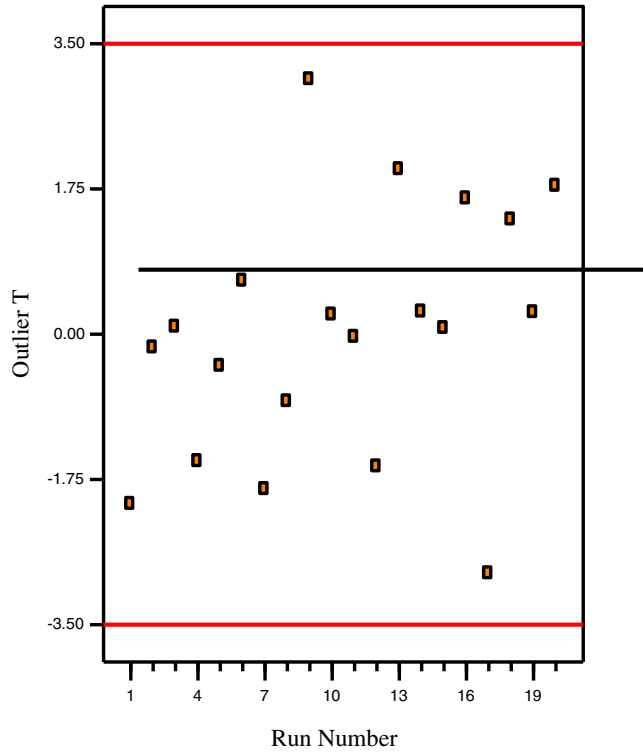


Figure 3. Plot of outlier T for R_a .

cutting speed and depth of cut (AC) have no significant effect. It is clear from table 4 that the ‘Pred R-Squared’ of 0.8788 is in reasonable agreement with the ‘Adj R-Squared’ of 0.9489. ‘Adeq Precision’ measures the signal to noise ratio. A ratio greater than 4 is desirable and the

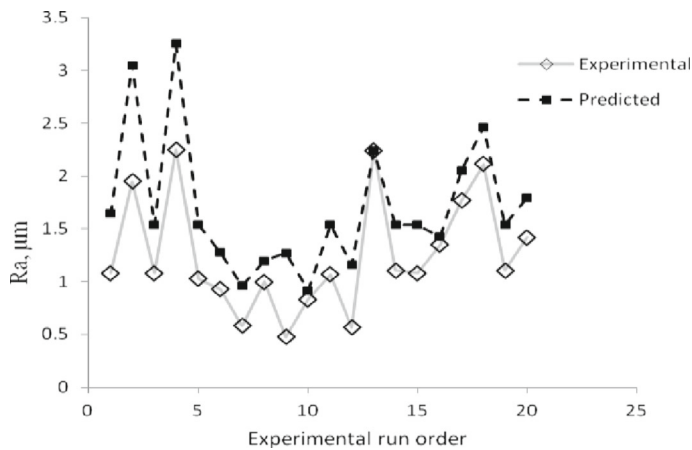


Figure 4. Comparison between measured and predicted values for surface roughness.

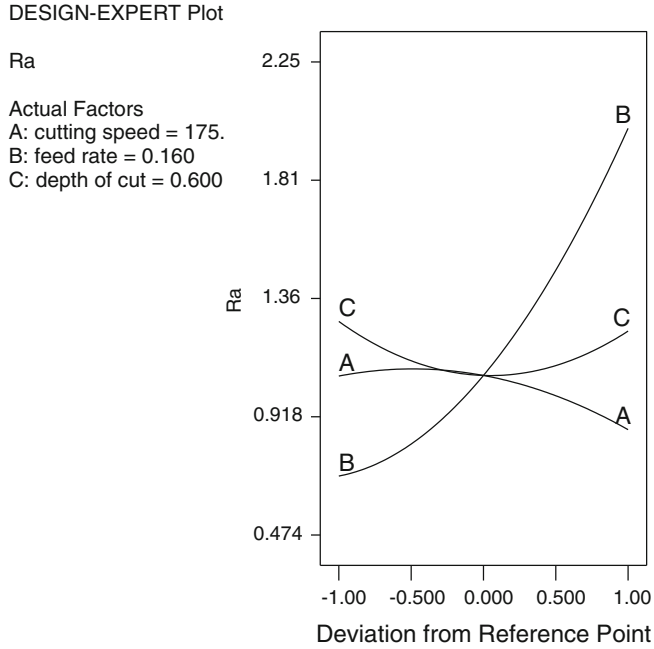


Figure 5. Perturbation plot for surface roughness.

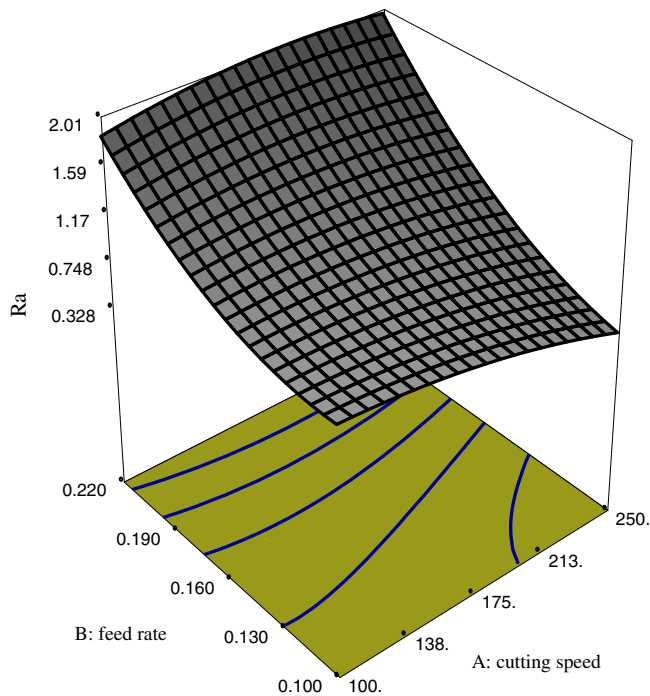


Figure 6. Effect of cutting speed and feed on R_a .

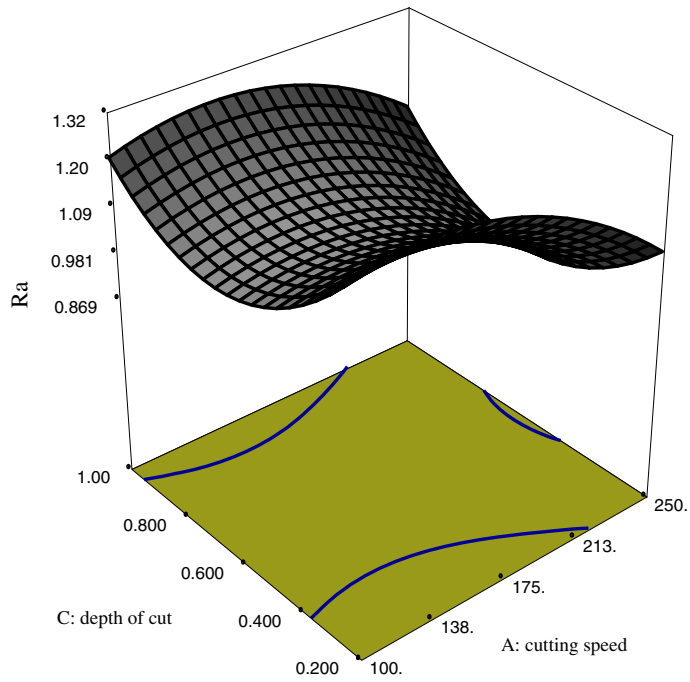


Figure 7. Effect of speed and depth of cut on R_a .

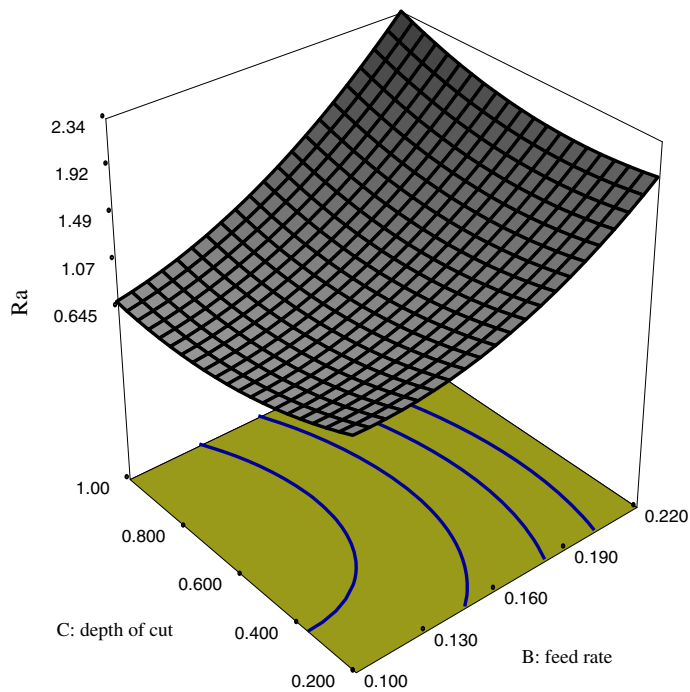


Figure 8. Effect of feed and depth of cut on R_a .

Table 5. Results of ANOVA of microhardness (HV).

Source	Sum of squares	DF	Mean square	F Value	Prob > F
Model	4458.79	6	743.13	17.63	<0.0001
A	2222.13	1	2222.13	52.72	<0.0001
B	87.61	1	87.61	2.08	0.1731
C	1006.69	1	1006.69	23.88	0.0003
AB	3.25	1	3.25	0.077	0.7856
AC	40.05	1	40.05	0.95	0.3475
BC	1099.05	1	1099.05	26.07	0.0002
Residual	548.00	13	42.15		
Lack of Fit	328.32	8	41.04	0.93	0.5575
Pure Error	219.68	5	43.94		
Cor Total	5006.78	19			

Std. Dev. = 6.49	R-Squared = 0.8905
Mean = 320.06	Adj R-Square = 0.8400
C.V. = 2.03	Pred R-Squared = 0.7872
PRESS = 1065.40	Adeq Precision = 18.757

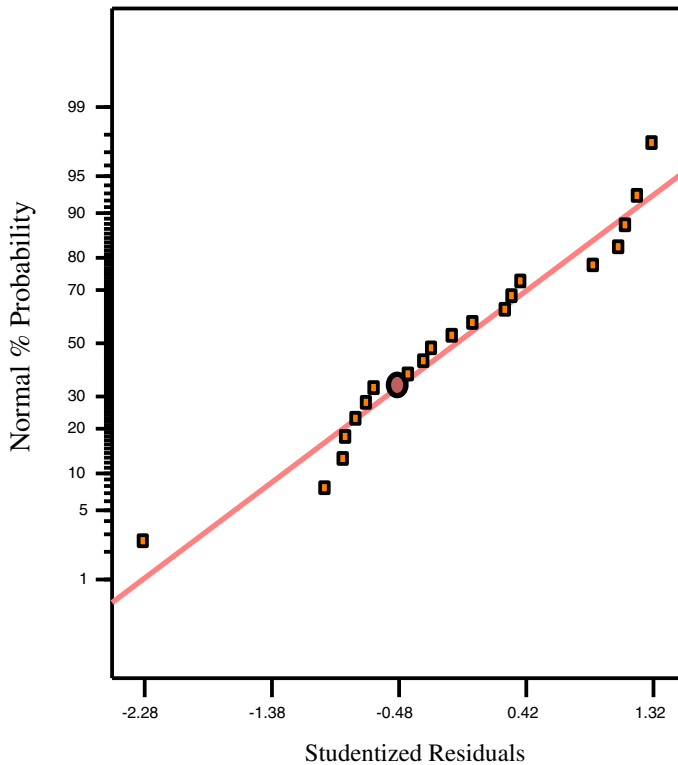


Figure 9. Normal plot of residual response.

resulted ratio is 22.838 which indicates an adequate signal. This model can be used to navigate the design space.

The model equation in terms of actual factors for predicting R_a is given by Eq. 1:

$$R_a = 3.225 - 0.00135A - 24.331B - 2.756C - 1.828E - 005A^2 + 76.426B^2 + 1.153C^2 + 0.0365AB + 9.375E - 005AC + 7.265BC \quad (1)$$

Figure 1 presents the normal probability plot of the residuals of R_a . This plot reveals that the residuals either fall on a straight line or are very close to the line implying that the errors are distributed normally. Figure 2 shows the standardized residuals with respect to the predicted values of surface roughness. The residuals do not show any obvious pattern and are distributed in both positive and negative directions. This implies that the model is adequate and there is no reason to suspect any violation of the independence or constant variance assumption. Figure 3 shows that all values of R_a are within reasonable limit. The predicted values of the response factor i.e., R_a from regression Eq. (1) corresponding to different machining parameters were obtained and subsequently compared with the corresponding experimental values. The comparison is depicted in figure 4. A perturbation plot was obtained to show and compare the effect of all machining parameters at the centre point on the surface roughness on a single plot. The perturbation plot is presented in figure 5 which reveals the following: (i) the surface roughness decreases with increase in the cutting speed (A), (ii) the surface roughness increases significantly with increase in the feed rate (B) and (iii) there is negligible effect of the depth of cut (C)

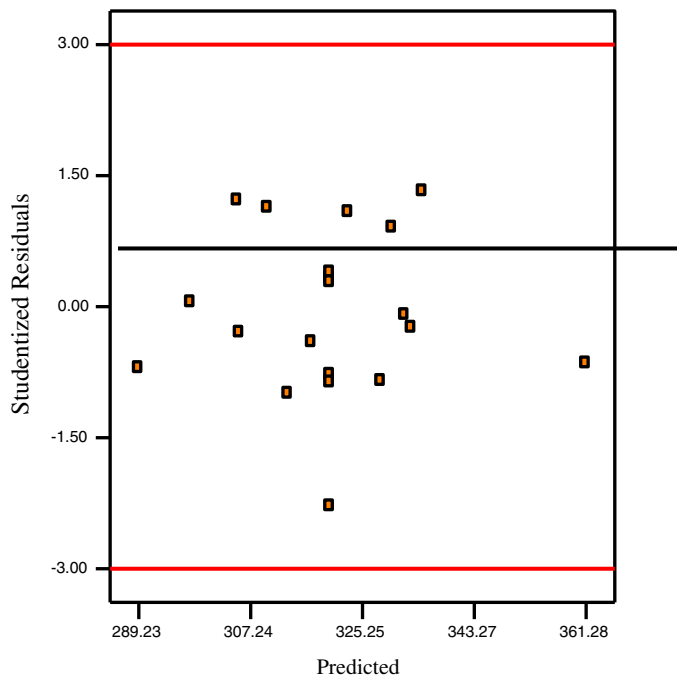


Figure 10. Plot of residuals vs. predicted response.

on surface roughness. These results relate very well with the theory of metal cutting (Trent & Wright 2000). At a particular value of the feed rate, an increase in the cutting speed reduces the advancement of the tool per unit time which consequently reduces the roughness. Similarly, an increase in the feed rate at a particular value of the cutting speed produces a contrary effect during turning and therefore roughness increases. The perturbation plot also reveals that the effect of the feed rate on surface roughness is less for small values of feed rate whereas it undergoes a steep rise for the larger values of the feed rate. This may be, apart from the reasons mentioned above, also due to the fact that at higher feed rates the material gets ploughed more than it undergoes shear. The depth of cut is indeed, representative of width of cut and it has less effect on surface roughness as suggested in the theory of metal machining (Trent & Wright 2000; Goel *et al* 2012).

Figure 6 is constructed to illustrate the main effects of varying the two factors cutting speed (A) and feed rate (B) parameters on R_a , and keeping the depth of cut at constant level i.e., 0.6 mm. It can be seen from figure 6 that higher cutting speed and lower feed rate results in lower R_a .

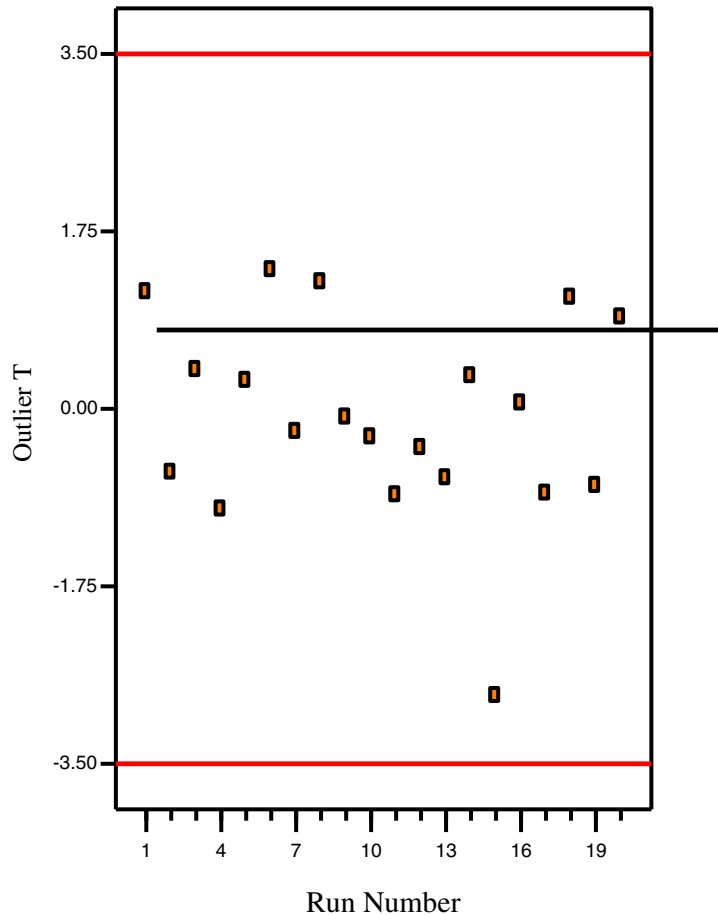


Figure 11. Plot of outlier T.

Figure 7 illustrates the main effects of varying the two factors cutting speed (A) and depth of cut (C) on R_a , keeping the feed rate at constant level i.e., 0.16 mm/rev. Figure 7 reveals that the best value of R_a is achieved at the middle level of cutting speed and depth of cut combinations, whereas high value of R_a is obtained at either the highest or the lowest values of cutting speed and depth of cut combinations. Figure 8 shows the effect of feed rate (B) and depth of cut (C) on R_a , keeping the cutting speed at constant level i.e., 175 m/min. It can be observed from figure 8 that a combination of lower feed rate and lower depth of cut results in lower R_a .

4.2 Analysis of microhardness

The results of analysis of variance (ANOVA) of microhardness (HV) are shown in table 5. It is clear from table 5 that cutting speed (A) has the most significant effect on HV; while factor C , interaction BC have less significant effect, but factor B , interaction AB , and interaction AC have no significant effect. It is also clear from table 5 that the 'Pred R-Squared' of 0.7872 is in reasonable agreement with the 'Adj R-Squared' of 0.8400. 'Adeq Precision' measures the signal to noise ratio. A ratio greater than 4 is desirable and the resulted ratio is 18.757 which indicates an adequate signal. This model can be used to navigate the design space.

The model equation in terms of actual factors for predicting HV is given by Eq. 2:

$$\text{HV} = +233.74928 + 0.26617A + 367.14833B + 66.10858C - 0.14167AB - 0.074583AC - 488.37500BC. \quad (2)$$

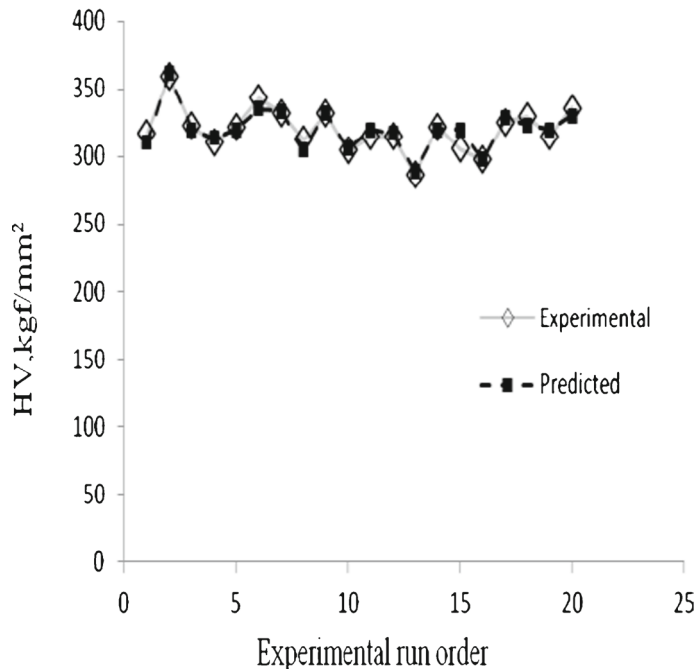


Figure 12. Comparison between measured and predicted values for microhardness.

Figure 9 presents the normal probability plot of the residuals of (HV). This plot reveals that the residuals either fall on a straight line or are very close to the line implying that the errors are distributed normally. Figure 10 shows that microhardness values are normally and independantly distributed. Figure 11 shows that all values of HV are within reasonable limit. Using regression Eq. (2), the predicted values of the response factor i.e., HV corresponding to different machining parameters were obtained and these values were compared with the corresponding experimental values. The comparison between the predicted and the corresponding experimental values is shown in figure 12. In order to comprehend the effect of all machining parameters on the microhardness, a perturbation plot was obtained as presented in figure 13 which exhibits: (i) significant increase in the microhardness with increase in the cutting speed (A), (ii) negligible effect of the feed rate (B) on the microhardness and (iii) significant reduction in the microhardness with increase in the depth of cut (C). These results agree well with the theory of metal cutting. An increase in the cutting speed significantly increases the rate of shear and a consequent increase in work-hardening of the machined surface. Apart from the work-hardening, the strain rate strengthening is also expected to have contributed to increase in surface hardening. The turning depth of cut would have resulted in high volume of material being sheared per unit time resulting in an increase in machining heat. The increased amount of heat would have relieved the residual stress consequently causing hardness to drop with

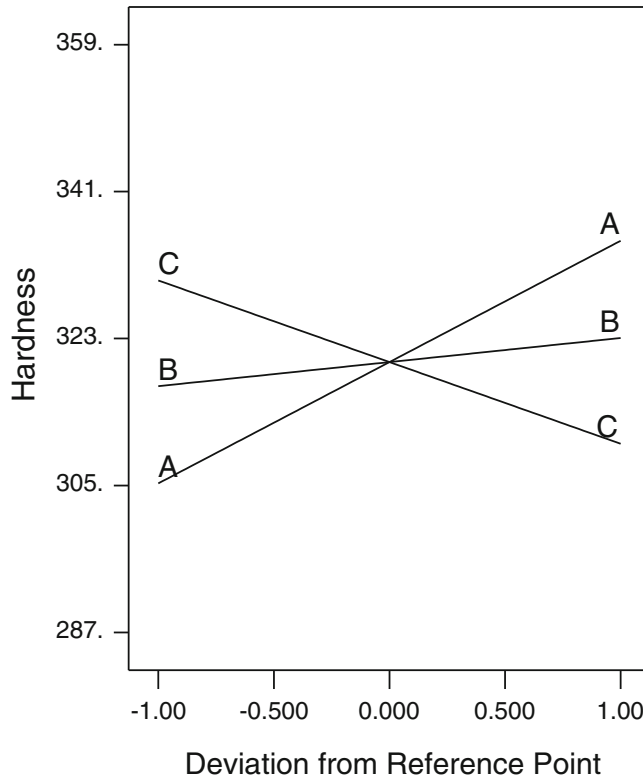


Figure 13. Perturbation plot for microhardness.

an increase in depth of cut (Trent & Wright 2000). Figure 14 illustrates the main effects of varying the two factors cutting speed (*A*) and feed rate (*B*) on microhardness (HV) while keeping the depth of cut (*C*) at constant level i.e., 0.6 mm. It can be seen from figure 14 that the lower cutting speed and lower feed rate results in lower hardness. Figure 15 reveals the effect of cutting speed and depth of cut on HV and keeping the feed rate (*B*) at constant level i.e., 0.16 mm/rev. It can be seen from Figure 15 that lower cutting speed and higher depth of cut results in lower hardness. Figure 16 illustrates the main effects of varying feed rate and depth of cut on microhardness while keeping the cutting speed at constant level i.e., 175. It can be seen from figure 16 that the best value of HV is achieved either at the highest levels of feed rate and depth of cut combinations or the lowest levels of feed rate and depth of cut combinations.

4.3 Response optimization

One of the main goals for the experiment is to help investigate optimal values of cutting parameters in order to obtain the desired value of the machined surface roughness and microhardness during the dry hard turning process. Figure 17 shows the ramp function graph for the optimum value of the cutting parameters to obtain minimum values of surface roughness and target values of microhardness for the machined surface. It may be mentioned that target value of hardness is

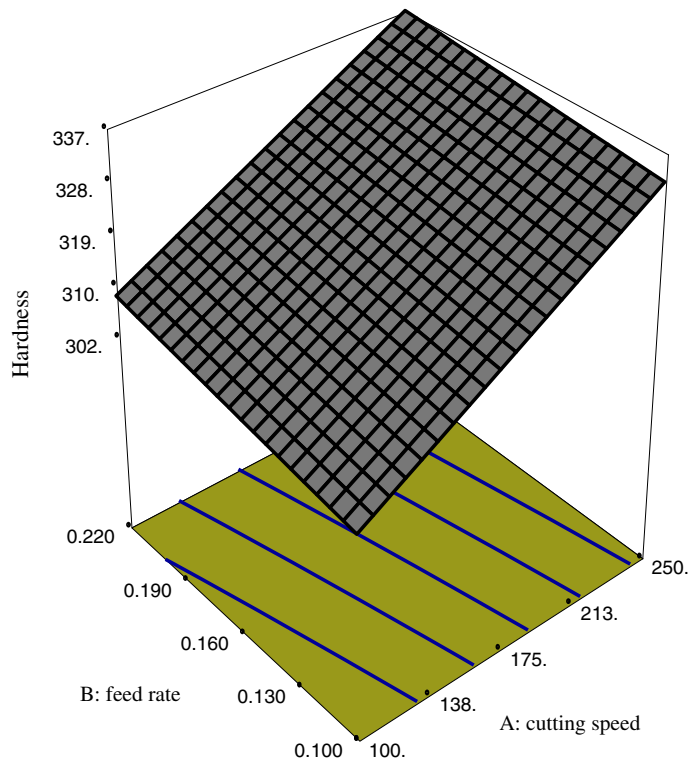


Figure 14. Effect of cutting speed and feed rate on HV.

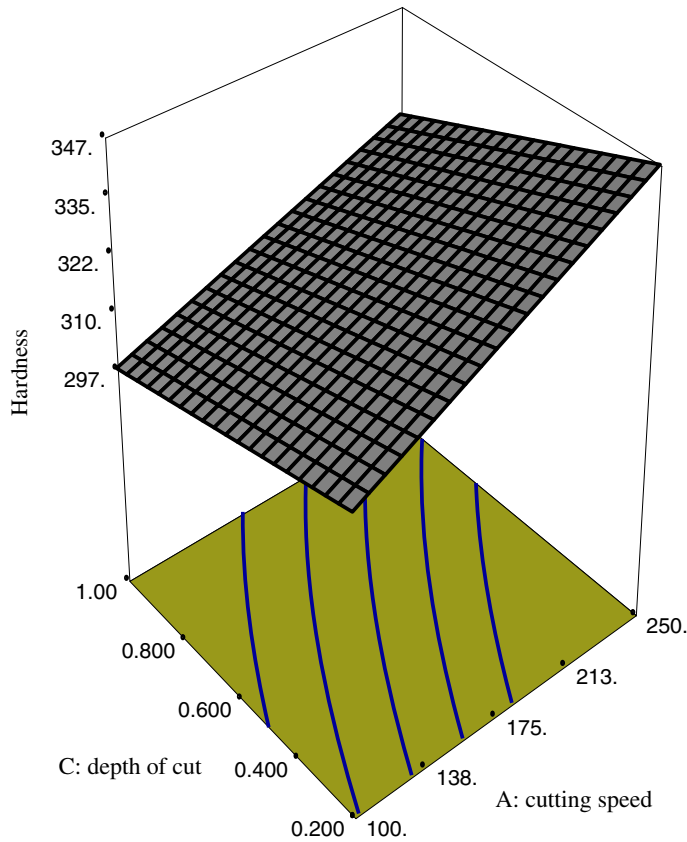


Figure 15. Effect of speed and depth of cut on HV.

same as the base hardness which is equal to 352.4 kgf/mm^2 . It can be seen from figure 17 that the optimal values of surface integrity variables (R_a , and HV) were $0.4740 \mu\text{m}$, and 334.4 kgf/mm^2 , respectively at cutting speed 250 m/min , feed rate 0.1164 mm/rev ($\approx 0.12 \text{ mm/rev}$), and depth of cut 0.4773 mm ($\approx 0.48 \text{ mm}$) as optimum value of cutting parameters. The numerical optimization found a point that maximizes the desirability value as 0.852 which corresponds to the minimum values of surface roughness and target values of microhardness.

In order to validate the optimal parameters, an experimental run was made in which cutting speed, feed rate and depth of cut were set at 250 m/min , 0.12 mm/rev and 0.48 mm , respectively. Subsequently, surface roughness and microhardness of the machined component were measured as per the procedure outlined in the above sections. The surface roughness and microhardness values were found to be $0.592 \mu\text{m}$ and 338.536 kgf/mm^2 , respectively. When the experimental values of surface roughness and microhardness are compared with those of optimum values, it is found that these values are close to each other. Thus, it verifies the optimum setting of machining parameters and optimum values of response variables as well.

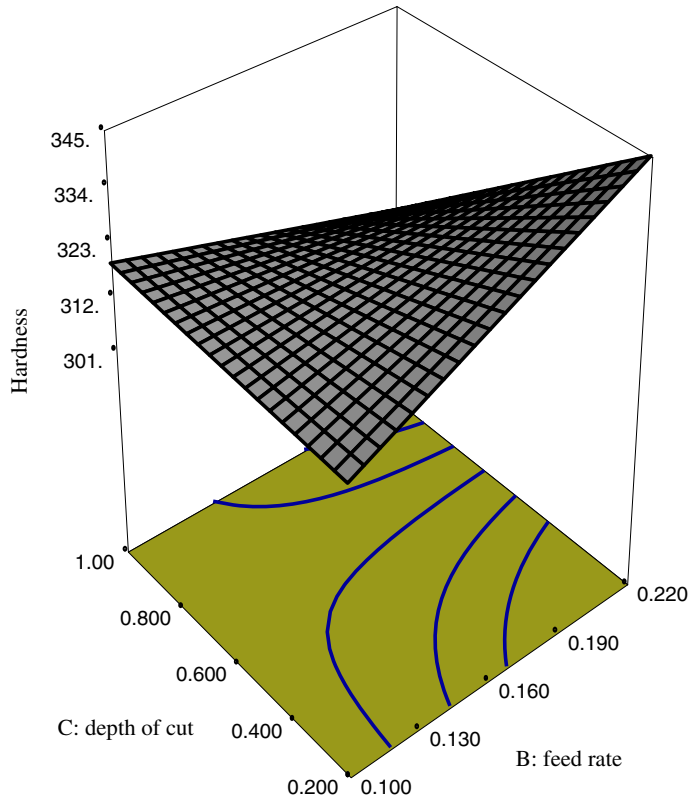


Figure 16. Effect of feed rate and depth of cut on HV.

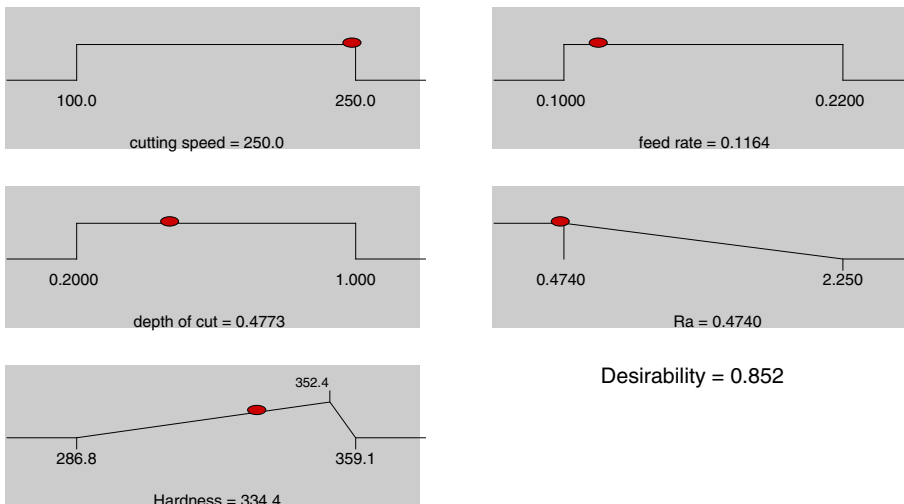


Figure 17. Rump function of cutting parameters for surface roughness and microhardness.

5. Conclusion

This paper presented the effect of the cutting parameters (cutting speed, feed rate, and depth of cut) on the surface roughness and microhardness during dry hard turning of AISI 52100 alloy steel using carbide coated insert. The feed rate is found to have statistically the most significant effect on surface roughness while the cutting speed and depth of cut have a very small effect on surface roughness. The cutting speed is observed to have the most significant effect on microhardness. The depth of cut has less significant effect and the feed rate has a very small effect on microhardness. Optimum values of machining parameters have been computed using RSM design. The results also indicated that RSM is very useful technique to model and to create equations for forecasting and optimizing with reasonably minimum possible experiments. The optimization results suggest that good surface integrity can be achieved when feed rate and depth of cut are set nearer to its low level of the experimental range (0.1 mm/rev and 0.2 mm) respectively, whereas cutting speed at high level of the experimental range (250 m/min).

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