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## Simultaneous improvement of surface quality and productivity using grey relational analysis based Taguchi design for turning couple (AISI D3 steel/ mixed ceramic tool ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{TiC}$ ))

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### ABSTRACT

Current optimization strategies are based on the increase the productivity and the quality with lower cost in short time. Grey relational analysis “GRA” based on Taguchi design was proposed in this paper for simultaneous improvement of surface quality and productivity. The turning trials based on mixed Taguchi L18 factorial plan were conducted under dry cutting conditions for the machining couple: AISI D3 steel/mixed ceramic inserts (CC650). The machining parameters taken into account during this study are as follow: major cutting edge angle ( $\chi_r$ ), cutting insert nose radius ( $r$ ), cutting speed ( $V_c$ ), feed rate ( $f$ ), and depth of cut ( $ap$ ). Significant effects of machining parameters and their interactions were evaluated by the analysis of variance. Through this analysis, it have been found clearly that feed rate and cutting insert nose radius had a big significant effects on surface quality while depth of cut, feed rate followed by cutting speed had a major effect on productivity. The mathematical relationship between the machining parameters and the performance characteristics was formulated by using a linear regression model with interactions. Optimal levels of parametric combination for achieving the higher surface quality with maximum productivity were selected by grey relational analysis which is based on the high value of grey relational grade. Confirmation experiments were carried out to prove the powerful improvement of experimental results and to validate the effectiveness of the multi-optimization technique applied in this paper.

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### Nomenclature

ANOVA	Analysis of variance	OA	Orthogonal array
$ap$	Depth of cut (mm)	$Ra$	Arithmetic mean roughness ( $\mu\text{m}$ )
Cont %	Contribution ratio (%)	$r$	Nose radius of cutting insert (mm)
DF	Degrees of freedom	RSM	Response surface methodology
$f$	Feed rate (mm/rev)	SS	Sum of squares
GRA	Grey relational analysis	S/N	Signal-to-noise ratio
GRC	Grey relational coefficient	$V_c$	Cutting speed (m/min)
GRG	Grey relational grade	$\alpha$	Clearance angle (degree)
MS	Mean squares	$\gamma$	Rake angle (degree)
$MRR$	Material removal rate ( $\text{mm}^3/\text{min}$ )	$\lambda$	Inclination angle (degree)
$\chi_r$	Major cutting edge angle (degree)		

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## 1. Introduction

Surface roughness represents an evaluation criterion of quality products and it plays an important role to estimate the manufacturing cost (Asiltürk & Akkus, 2011; Zerti et al., 2017a,b). On the other hand, the productivity is considered as a very important technological aspect that causes great effect on both product cost and series production rate (Hassan et al., 2012). For this reason, manufacturers are always committed by the good quality and high productivity in short time with low cost, because ensuring those conditions represent an index of manufacturer's qualification. Consequently, the desired surface quality with the maximum productivity is a major constraint for the choice of the optimum machining parameters in the production process. In order to achieve the desired conditions required by customers, the use of grey relational analysis as a multi-objective optimization technique based on Taguchi design is found as an efficient solution for this optimization problem. This technique has been used in different applications in because of its ease of application and reliability.

There are a number of researchers in different fields who have used grey relational analysis based on Taguchi design for a simultaneous improvement of multi-performance characteristics in order to achieve at the desired objective.

Bouزيد et al. (2014) optimized cutting parameters for determining the minimum surface roughness (Ra) which corresponds to the maximum material removal rate (MRR) in turning of X20Cr13 steel with mono and multi-objective optimizations based on the L16 OA of Taguchi. Taguchi's signal-to-noise ratio was used to accomplish the objective function. Wang and Lan (2008) selected the optimum cutting conditions through the application of grey relational analysis based on Taguchi design (L<sub>9</sub> OA) with introducing of signal to noise ratio (S/N) to get the lowest surface roughness and tool wear that correspond to the maximum of material removal rate in precision turning.

Lin (2004) reported an improvement of tool life, cutting force, and surface roughness by using Taguchi method with grey relational analysis for optimizing cutting speed, feed rate, and depth of cut during turning operations of S45C steel bars using a P20 tungsten carbide. They found that optimization of complicated multiple performance characteristics could be greatly simplified through this approach. Balasubramanian and Ganapathy (2011) solved the problem of simultaneous optimization for wire electro discharge machining (WEDM) to obtain higher material removal rate (MRR) and lower surface roughness (SR) by the use of grey relational analysis.

Hanafi et al. (2012) applied the method of grey relational analysis based on the Taguchi method for multi-objective optimization of power consumption and surface roughness when dry turning of the PEEK reinforced with 30% carbon fibers. The same technique was proposed in other several cutting process, for example: in the drilling process Noorul Haq et al. (2008) identified optimal drilling parameters namely: cutting speed, feed rate and point angle for multiple response characteristics such as surface roughness, cutting force and torque in the case of machining couple: Al/SiC metal matrix composite/TiN coated HSS twist drills under dry condition. The authors found that this technique is so reliable for improving the drilling process.

For another type of cutting process, Kuram and Ozcelik (2013) performed an experimental investigation based on the L<sub>9</sub> OA of Taguchi method for Micro-milling of aluminium material with ball nose end mill. The authors applied Taguchi method and grey relational analysis to achieve at mono and multi-objective optimization. The works accomplished by Jailani et al. (2009) aimed to use grey relational analysis in order to optimize the sintering process parameters of Al-Si (12%) alloy/fly ash composite. The modelling of the cutting process has attracted the attention of many researchers for its great interest in the industry because it allows predicting the technological parameters without carrying out the experimental tests. An attempt was made by Gaitonde et al. (2009) to determine the link between cutting condition such as cutting speed, feed rate, and machining time and machinability aspects via response surface methodology. These considered aspects were machining force, power, specific cutting force, surface

roughness, and tool wear. The study was carried out for the case of turning of high chromium AISI D2 cold work tool steel using CC650WG wiper ceramic inserts. Authors found through the response surface analysis that the surface roughness could be minimized at small values of feed rate and machining time with elevated values of cutting speed, whereas the maximum tool wear appear at  $V_c = 150$  m/min for all values of feed rate.

Al-Ahmari (2007) formulated mathematical equations of surface roughness and cutting forces during turning of austenitic AISI 302 steel. The process parameters considered in this study were cutting speed, feed rate, depth of cut and nose radius in order to develop a machinability model. Additionally, response surface methodology (RSM) and neural networks (NN) were employed to assess the model. Zahia et al. (2015) exploited the RSM methodology that helps to formulate a reliable statistical model for monitoring the evolution of surface roughness and cutting forces according to cutting parameters such as: cutting speed, feed rate and depth of cut during the hard turning (AISI 4140) (56 HRC) with using PVD – coated ceramic insert. Zahia et al. (2013) developed a mathematical model of surface roughness that vary in function of cutting parameters, tool-nose displacements, spindle and machine tool frame. The study of Neseli et al. (2011) presented an application of response surface methodology (RSM) for modeling the average surface roughness ( $R_a$ ) obtained during the turning of AISI 1040 steel, to assess the effect of tool geometry parameters on the latter. They found that the tool nose radius was the most influencing factor on the measured surface roughness.

Ceramic cutting tool is a big utilization in the machining of high alloy steel, Davim and Figueira (2007a) made a comparison between the wiper and conventional ceramics inserts to determine the influences of cutting parameters on the obtained machinability parameters (cutting forces, surface roughness, and tool wear). They found after that the use of wiper ceramics inserts allow to reach at surface roughness values less than  $0.8 \mu\text{m}$  with possibility of dimensional accuracy in a work-piece,  $IT < 7$ .

Davim and Figueira (2007b) used ceramic inserts for surface finishing phase on the same material (cold work tool steel AISI D2). They revealed that obtaining surface roughness of less than  $0.8 \mu\text{m}$  is feasible if the choice of cutting parameters is suitable and which also permit to eliminate cylindrical grinding operations. Aouici et al. (2014) examined the machinability behavior of cold work hard tool steel AISI D3 heat-treated (60 HRC) with a TiN doped ceramic cutting tool (SNGA120408) containing approximately 30% of TiC. The responses were estimated based on a ( $3^3$ ) full factorial experimental design, where the quadratic effects were also determined. The desired optimum was set for minimum levels of surface roughness, cutting force, specific cutting force and consumed power via the statistical method (RSM) and the desirability function approach.

Singh and Dureja (2014) compared Taguchi method and RSM with a view for optimizing flank wear of tool and surface roughness during the finish operation of AISI D3 steel in hard turning. The results indicated that optimal levels of cutting parameters selected by both RSM and Taguchi method were nearly the same. Zerti et al. (2017) proposed a study with the application of Taguchi method to minimize some technological parameters (such as surface roughness, tangential force, specific cutting force, and cutting power) characterizing material machinability. They carried out 18 tests based on Taguchi design experiments during the turning of AISI D3 steel using mixed ceramic inserts (CC650) under dry cutting conditions. Bouchelaghem et al. (2010) examined the machinability behavior of AISI D3 hardened steel with CBN cutting tool for the evolution of surface roughness, cutting forces and tool wear in function of variation of cutting parameters. Bensouilah et al. (2016) conducted a comparative study to evaluate the performance of coated and uncoated mixed ceramic tools during hard turning of AISI D3 cold work tool steel. They determined the effects of cutting parameters on the machining performance through the use of ANOVA analysis of S/N ratio of the responses. The authors modeled the machining performance by linear regression for both ceramic tools CC6050 and CC650. Yallese et al. (2005) evaluated the effect of cutting parameters during the hard turning of AISI D3 steel with ceramic and CBN tool wear. They estimated the surface roughness by a power model deduced from experimental data and compared it with

a theoretical model. Meddour et al. (2015) performed a statistical study to determine the significant effect of cutting speed, depth of cut, feed rate and tool nose radius on surface roughness and components of cutting force during hard turning of AISI 52100 steel by mixed ceramic cutting tool. They developed mathematical models in order to estimate those two responses. Also, they recommended that the use of big nose radius and little feed rates could improve surface quality.

The present research paper shows an experimental investigation related to the simultaneous improvement of surface quality (Ra) and productivity (MRR) using the application of grey relational analysis (GRA) based on Taguchi design (L18 OA) during the dry turning of (AISI D3 steel/ mixed ceramic inserts). Response Surface Methodology (RSM) was exploited to obtain an empiric mathematical models by regression analysis for the surface roughness and material removal rate. The ANOVA analysis of S/N ratio described the degree of influence of each of the control machining parameters and their interactions on each response. Also Pareto chart and 3D plots with their contours based on S/N ratios of responses were used to confirm the results found by ANOVA analysis. 3D surface roughness profile was made to view visualizing its topography. Confirmation tests were carried out to ensure the effectiveness of the grey relational analysis based on Taguchi design in the simultaneous improvement of the performance characteristics considered in this study.

## 2. Taguchi design / Grey Relational Analysis (GRA)

### 2.1 Taguchi design

Taguchi design is a helpful technique that has a big contribution for the improvement of the performance of systems and solving complex optimization problems (settings) during production of the product by the implementation of the design experiments that is based on the use of the orthogonal arrays which are proposed by Taguchi for minimizing the number of trials and focusing just on the essential experiments for analyzing, which lead to win the time and reducing the cost Taguchi (1986). Also this method allows controlling simultaneously controllable and uncontrollable factors by converting the responses into signal-to-noise (S/N) for identifying industrial performance of the system Zhang et al. (2007). S/N ratio is the essential criterion in the Taguchi method, it allows defining the degree of influence of the unwanted noise on the wanted signal Günay et al. (2011). Whenever the characteristic is continuous, the S/N ratios are usually divided into 3 categories given by the following equations Nalbant et al. (2007):

$$\text{For (Nominal is the best): } S/N = 10 \log \left( \frac{\bar{y}}{S_y^2} \right) \quad (1)$$

$$\text{For maximization (Larger-is-the better): } S/N = -10 \log \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{1}{y_i^2} \right) \quad (2)$$

$$\text{For minimization (Smaller-is-the better): } S/N = -10 \log \left( \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n y_i^2 \right) \quad (3)$$

where  $\bar{y}$  is the average of results obtained,  $S_y^2$  is the variance of  $y$ ,  $n$  is the number of repeat trials and  $y_i$  is the result obtained.

### 2.2 Grey Relational Analysis (GRA)

Grey relational analysis is a technique proposed for solving the problem of complex optimization by converting the multi-objective to a single-objective to achieve at optimal combination of parameters levels for simultaneous improvement of multiple machining characteristics Dabade (2013). The use of this method contains the steps as follow:

### Step 1: Grey relational generation

According to the intended objective optimization to minimize or maximize experimental results, normalization of S/N ratio for the experimental results in the range between zero and one is necessary for grey relational generation. Depending on the objective function optimization, the normalization can be performed for two cases. If the smaller-the-better is the characteristic selected in the original sequence for minimization, then it should be normalized as given by Eq. (4).

$$x_i^*(k) = \frac{\max(x_i^0(k)) - x_i^0(k)}{\max(x_i^0(k)) - \min(x_i^0(k))} \quad (4)$$

If the larger-the-better is the characteristic selected in the original sequence for maximization, then it should be normalized as given by Eq. (5).

$$x_i^*(k) = \frac{x_i^0(k) - \min(x_i^0(k))}{\max(x_i^0(k)) - \min(x_i^0(k))} \quad (5)$$

where  $x_i^*(k)$  is the value after grey relational generation (normalized value), and  $\max(x_i^0(k))$  and  $\min(x_i^0(k))$  are the largest and smallest values of  $x_i^0(k)$  for the  $k^{\text{th}}$  response. The larger value of normalized results indicates the better performance characteristic and the best-normalized results will be equal to one.

### Step 2: Grey Relational Coefficient (GRC)

Grey relational coefficient describes the correlation between the ideal and the obtained experimental results. Mathematical formula of grey relational coefficient ( $\xi_i(k)$ ) is given as following:

$$\xi_i(k) = \frac{\Delta_{\min} + \psi\Delta_{\max}}{\Delta_{0i}(k) + \psi\Delta_{\max}} \quad (6)$$

$$0 < \xi_i(k) \leq 1$$

$\Delta_{0i}(k)$  is the absolute difference between the reference sequence  $x_0^k(k)$  and the S/N ratio of measured sequence  $x_i^k(k)$ .

$$\Delta_{0i}(k) = \|x_0(k) - x_i(k)\| \quad (7)$$

$$\Delta_{\min} = \min_{\forall j \in i} \min_{\forall k} \|x_0(k) - x_i(k)\| \quad (8)$$

$$\Delta_{\max} = \max_{\forall j \in i} \max_{\forall k} \|x_0(k) - x_i(k)\| \quad (9)$$

$\psi$  is the distinguishing coefficient ( $\psi \in [0, 1]$ ). In this study the value of  $\psi$  is 0.5.

### Step 3: Grey Relational Grade (GRG)

Grey relational grade represents the correlation among the series, it is given by the following formula:

$$\alpha_i = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{k=1}^n \xi_i(k) \quad (10)$$

where  $n$  is the number of responses.

Step 4: Determination of optimal machining parameters

Once grey relational grade is computed, the selection of the optimal levels combination is made based on the main effects plot for (GRG). The largest value of grey relational grade that is found close to the ideal normalized value corresponds to the optimal combination. Therefore, the optimal level of the process parameters is the level with the greatest GRG value.

Step 5: Confirmation tests

Once the optimal levels are selected, the validation test occupied the final step in the optimization procedure to confirm the reliability of the optimal levels is proposed by grey relational analysis to improve system performance. This test is done by comparing the value of the S/N ratio of GRG obtained from the optimal test with that predicted  $\hat{\eta}$  by the following formula with the use of optimal levels (Nalbant et al., 2007):

$$\hat{\eta} = \eta_m + \sum_{i=1}^q (\bar{\eta}_i - \eta_m), \tag{11}$$

where  $\eta_m$  is the total average of S/N ratio,  $\bar{\eta}_i$  is the average of S/N ratio at the optimal level, and  $q$  is the number of the main input factors that have a significant effect on the output responses.

2.3 Grey Relational Analysis optimization based Taguchi design

Based on the above discussion, the use of the grey relational analysis coupled with Taguchi design in order to optimize the turning operations with multiple machining characteristics includes the following steps as shown in Fig. 1.

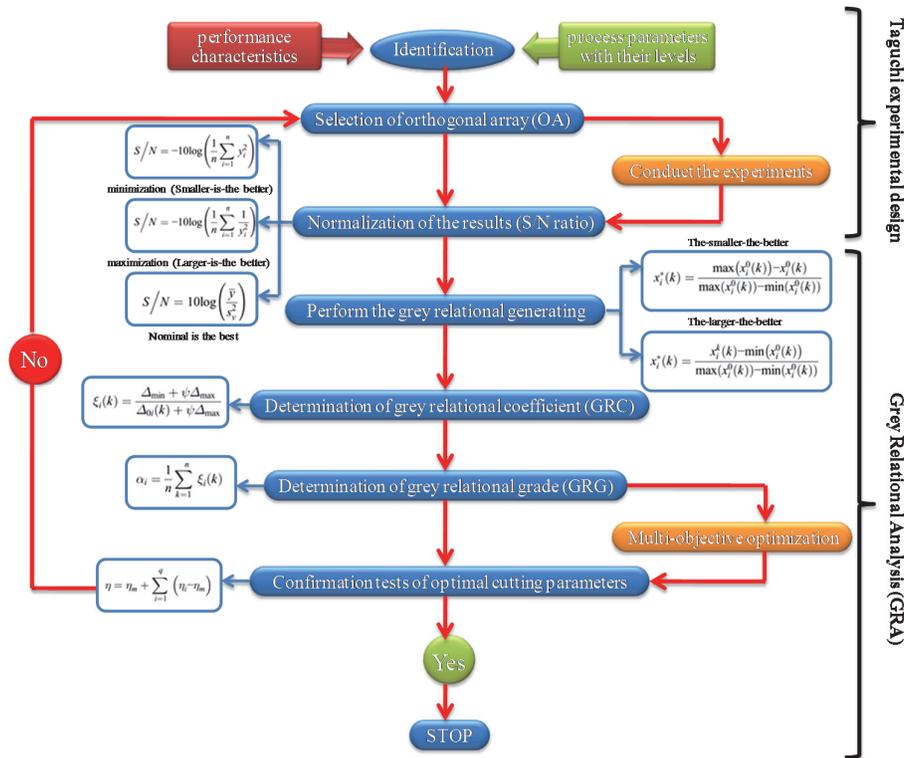


Fig. 1. Loop of multi-objective optimization of grey relational analysis (GRA) based on Taguchi experimental design.

### 3 Experimental set-up

During this experimental investigation, turning operations were carried out on a conventional lathe of the check company "TOS TRENCIN" SN40 model, with 6.6 kW spindle power for the turning couple (AISI D3 steel/mixed ceramic inserts CC650) under dry conditions.

#### 3.1 Work piece material, cutting inserts and tool holders

The work piece material used was a round bar of AISI D3 steel having 70 mm in diameter and 400 mm in length. This lather is a high alloy steel that have several designation such as: DIN 1.2080, JIS SKD1, GB Cr12, AFNOR Z200Cr12. It is a tool steel with high chromium minimum risk of deformation and alteration of dimensions to thermal treatments and it has excellent wear resistance. Its chemical composition is given as follow: 2% of carbon (C), 0.30% of Manganese (Mn), 0.25% of silicon (Si), 12% of Chrome (Cr), 0.70% of Tungsten (W).

All turning operations were carried out by three mixed ceramic cutting tools CC650 were manufacturing by Sandvik Coromant and its chemical composition is as follow ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  (70%) + TiC (30%)). Each cutting tool is characterized by a nose radius  $r = 0.8\text{mm}$ ,  $0.12\text{mm}$ ,  $0.16\text{mm}$  and ISO geometric designation SNGA120408T01020, SNGA120412T01020, SNGA120416T01020 respectively.

Two tool holders are used in this investigation designated by ISO as PSDNN 2525 M12 and PSBNN 2525 M12, respectively. Their geometry of the active part; as shown in Fig. 2 is the same for the following angles: clearance angle ( $\alpha$ ) =  $6^\circ$ , rake angle ( $\gamma$ ) =  $-6^\circ$ , and cutting edge inclination angle ( $\lambda$ ) =  $-6^\circ$ , but it is different to the major cutting edge angle ( $\chi_r$ ) =  $45^\circ$  and  $75^\circ$ , respectively.

#### 3.2 Design Experiments and cutting conditions

Mixed factorial plan reduces of Taguchi  $L_{18}$  was selected as an experimental design to study the impact of different machining parameters ( $V_c, f, ap$ ) which varies at three levels ( $3^4$ ) and tool geometry ( $\chi_r, r$ ) which varies at two levels ( $2^1$ ) on the performance characteristics ( $Ra$  and  $MRR$ ). The levels of the parameters were selected in the range of intervals advisable by manufacturer of Sandvik Coromant. The cutting parameters chosen to study with their levels are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1**

Process parameters and their levels.

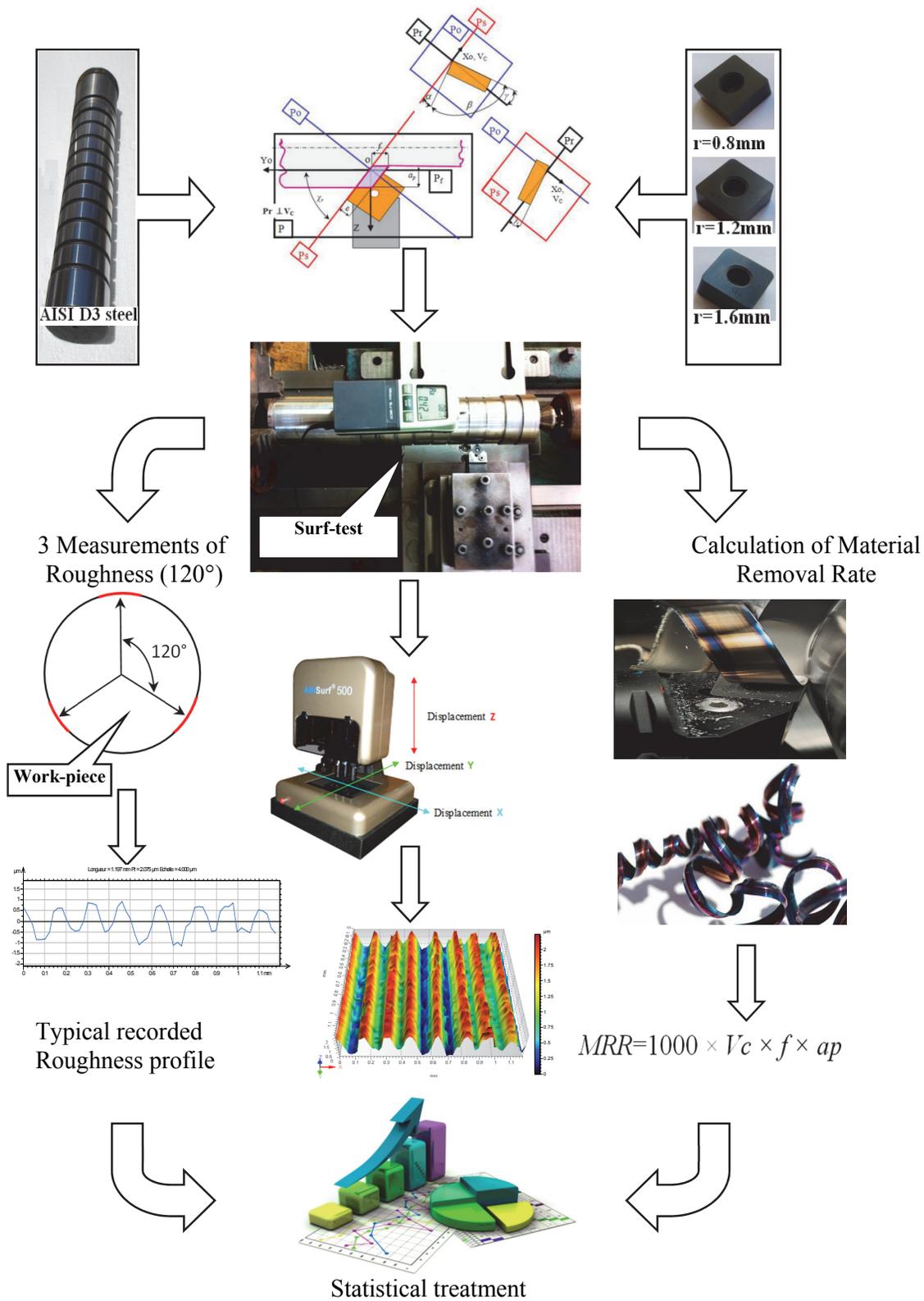
Factor	symbol	Unit	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Cutting speed	$V_c$	m/min	220	307	440
Feed rate	$f$	mm/tr	0.08	0.12	0.16
Depth of cut	$ap$	mm	0.15	0.3	0.45
Nose radius	$r$	mm	0.8	1.2	1.6
major cutting edge angle	$\chi_r$	Degree( $^\circ$ )	45	75	-

#### 3.3 Measuring equipment

##### 3.3.1 Surface roughness measure

The criterion measures of the surface roughness ( $Ra$ ) are obtained instantly after each pass roughing by means of a Mitutoyo SurfTest SJ-201 roughness meter. To prevent errors and recovery for more precision, roughness measurement was performed directly on the work-piece without dismounting it from the lathe. The measurements were repeated three times along three work-piece feed rate directions also placed at  $120^\circ$  (Fig. 2). The result is considered as the average of these values for each cutting condition. To

properly characterize the surface roughness of the work-piece, three-dimensional topographic maps were made using an optical platform of metrology modular Altisurf 500.



**Fig. 2.** Schematic diagram of the experimental set-up.

### 3.3.2 Formula of material removal rate

Material removal rate can be defined as the volume of material removed divided by the machining time. Another way,  $MRR$  is to imagine an "instantaneous" material removal rate as the rate at which the cross-section area of material being removed moves through the work-piece. This aspect of machinability is calculated using the following equation:

$$MRR=1000 \times Vc \times f \times ap, \quad (12)$$

where  $Vc$  is the cutting speed (m/min),  $f$  is the feed rate (mm/rev), and  $ap$  is the depth of cut (mm) and  $MRR$  is the material removal rate ( $\text{mm}^3/\text{min}$ ).

## 4. Data analysis and results

The measured values of surface roughness ( $Ra$ ) and the calculated values of material removal rate ( $MRR$ ) using Eq. (12) with their computed S/N ratio in this experimental study which was carried out based on various combinations of machining parameters levels proposed by Taguchi design ( $L_{18}$  OA) are shown in Table 2. "The larger is the better" and "The smaller is the better" characteristics are used to calculate the S/N ratio in order to maximizing ( $MRR$ ) and minimizing ( $Ra$ ); i.e. Maximizing surface quality; using equations 2 and 3, respectively.

**Table 2**

Experimental results for surface roughness and material removal rate with their computed S/N ratios

Trail no.	Machining parameters					Response parameters			
	$\chi r$ (°)	$r$ (mm)	$Vc$ (m/min)	$f$ (mm/rev)	$ap$ (mm)	$Ra$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	S/N (dB)	$MRR$ ( $\text{mm}^3/\text{min}$ )	S/N (dB)
1	45	0.8	220	0.08	0.15	0.47	6.56	2640	68.43
2	45	0.8	307	0.12	0.3	0.59	4.63	11052	80.87
3	45	0.8	440	0.16	0.45	0.63	3.97	31680	90.02
4	45	1.2	220	0.08	0.3	0.43	7.26	5280	74.45
5	45	1.2	307	0.12	0.45	0.55	5.14	16578	84.39
6	45	1.2	440	0.16	0.15	0.78	2.20	10560	80.47
7	45	1.6	220	0.12	0.15	0.39	8.10	3960	71.95
8	45	1.6	307	0.16	0.3	0.57	4.83	14736	83.37
9	45	1.6	440	0.08	0.45	0.40	8.03	15840	84.00
10	75	0.8	220	0.16	0.45	1.01	-0.09	15840	84.00
11	75	0.8	307	0.08	0.15	0.43	7.40	3684	71.33
12	75	0.8	440	0.12	0.3	0.65	3.70	15840	84.00
13	75	1.2	220	0.12	0.45	0.39	8.18	11880	81.50
14	75	1.2	307	0.16	0.15	0.54	5.35	7368	77.35
15	75	1.2	440	0.08	0.3	0.33	9.72	10560	80.47
16	75	1.6	220	0.16	0.3	0.51	5.79	10560	80.47
17	75	1.6	307	0.08	0.45	0.41	7.74	11052	80.87
18	75	1.6	440	0.12	0.15	0.43	7.33	7920	77.97

### 4.1 Analysis of variance (ANOVA)

ANOVA allows determining the significance of input parameters ( $\chi r, r, Vc, f, ap$ ) and their interactions in order of influence on the responses ( $Ra, MRR$ ). The model is based on the calculation of the sums of the squares of the (S/N) ratios of outputs. First we calculate the sum of squared deviations of the total (S/N) ratios of outputs. The sum of squared deviations  $SS_T$  represents the difference between each (S/N) ratio of a measured response  $\eta_i$  and the total mean S/N ratio  $\eta_m$ , which is given as follows Lindman (1992):

$$SS_T = \sum_{i=1}^n (\eta_i - \eta_m)^2 \quad (13)$$

where  $n$  represents the number of trials and  $\eta_i$  represents the mean S/N ratio for the  $i$ th trial. The total sum of squared deviations  $SS_T$  is the sum of two terms: variance explained by the regression model ( $SS_d$ ) and random residual variance ( $SS_e$ ) (not explained by the model) which is written as follows:

$$SS_T = SS_d + SS_e \quad (14)$$

Another statistical tool that allows determining the significant effect of each input parameter on each output response, named (F test) by Ross (1996).

The results of variance analysis (ANOVA) for S/N ( $Ra$ ) are shown in Table 3 and the contribution of significant terms on  $Ra$  are presented in Fig. 3 (a). It is seen that the feed rate occupies the first position of influencing on the quality of surface with a contribution of 50.21%, because during the feed rate of cutting tool of work-piece in turning process, the tool shape generates helicoids furrows on surface of work-piece. These furrows are deeper and broader as the feed rate increases, therefore the surface quality decreases. The second influential machining parameter is the nose radius of the tool with an impact of 20.27%. A popular established model presented by Yallese et al. (2004) to predict the surface roughness, with a cutting tool that have nose radius different of zero, is:

$$Ra = \frac{f^2}{32 \times r}, \quad (15)$$

where  $Ra$  is the arithmetic mean roughness ( $\mu\text{m}$ ),  $f$  is the feed rate (mm/rev),  $r$  is the cutting tool nose radius (mm). Based on the Eq. (15) the uses of the largest tool nose radius with little feed rate improves the quality of surface. Similarly, Singh and Rao (2007); Makadia and Nanavati (2013) found that the feed rate is the most significant factor followed by tool nose radius affecting the surface roughness. The interaction  $f \times ap$  comes in third position with an effect of 12.69% on quality of surface, the same interaction significance found by Aslan et al. (2007) when turning hardened AISI 4140 steel with  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{TiCN}$  mixed ceramic tool. The factors ( $\chi r$ ,  $Vc$ ,  $ap$ ) and the other interactions are having a slightly effect on quality of surface.

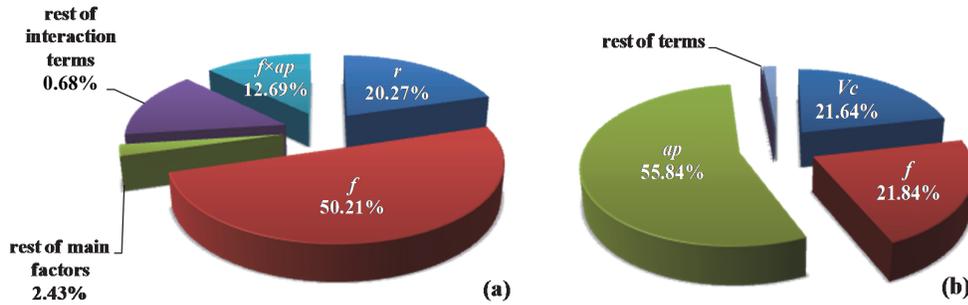
**Table 3**  
Analysis of Variance for S/N ( $Ra$ )

Source	SS	DF	MS	F-value	Cont. %	Remarks
$\chi r$	1.0755	1	1.0755	116.9	1.07	Significant
$r$	20.4583	1	20.4583	2223.73	20.27	Significant
$Vc$	0.0569	1	0.0569	6.18	0.06	Insignificant
$f$	50.6817	1	50.6817	5508.88	50.21	Significant
$ap$	1.3091	1	1.3091	142.29	1.3	Significant
$\chi r \times r$	1.3651	1	1.3651	148.38	1.34	Significant
$\chi r \times Vc$	0.0179	1	0.0179	1.95	0.02	Insignificant
$\chi r \times f$	1.1715	1	1.1715	127.34	1.16	Significant
$\chi r \times ap$	3.8569	1	3.8569	419.23	3.82	Significant
$r \times Vc$	2.7503	1	2.7503	298.95	2.72	Significant
$r \times f$	0.1536	1	0.1536	16.7	0.15	Insignificant
$r \times ap$	2.9522	1	2.9522	320.89	2.92	Significant
$Vc \times f$	0.3393	1	0.3393	36.88	0.34	Significant
$Vc \times ap$	1.9258	1	1.9258	209.33	1.91	Significant
$f \times ap$	12.8056	1	12.8056	1391.91	12.69	Significant
Error	0.0183	2	0.0092		0.02	
Total	100.938	17			100	

From the analysis of Table 4 and Fig. 3 (b), it can be apparent that  $Vc$ ,  $f$ , and  $ap$  have a significant effect on ( $MRR$ ). Nevertheless,  $ap$  is the most significant factor associated with  $MRR$  with 54.85%. The next largest factors influencing  $MRR$  is  $f$  followed by  $Vc$ . Their contributions are 21.84% and 21.64%, respectively. The rest of terms do not represent any significant effects on  $MRR$ . The same order of significant effect of machining parameters on the  $MRR$  was found by Bouzid et al. (2014) when turning of X20Cr13 stainless steel.

**Table 4**  
Analysis of Variance for S/N (*MRR*)

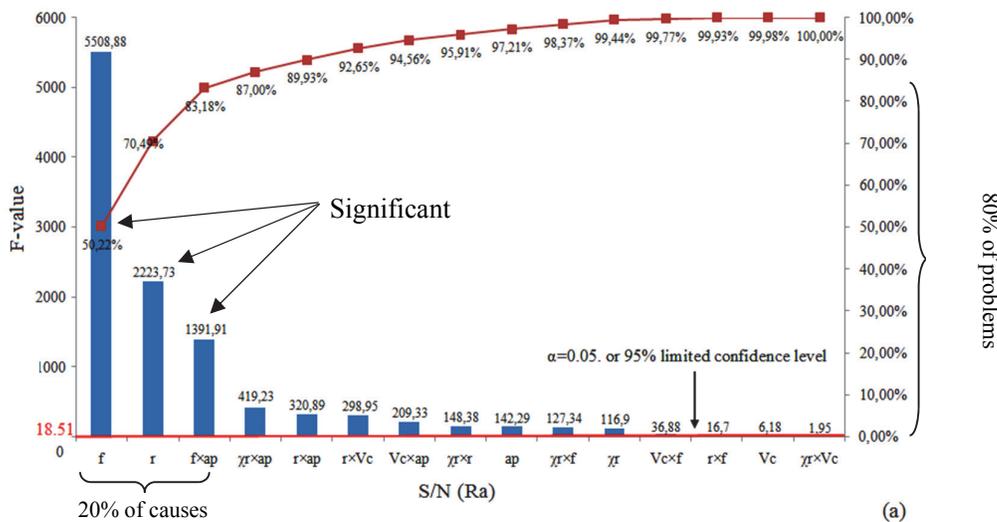
Source	SS	DF	MS	F-value	Cont. %	Remarks
<i>Vc</i>	107.757	1	7.253	10	21.64	Significant
<i>f</i>	108.743	1	8.151	11.24	21.84	Significant
<i>ap</i>	273.174	1	11.392	15.71	54.85	Significant
<i>Vc</i> × <i>f</i>	0.306	1	0.264	0.36	0.06	Insignificant
<i>Vc</i> × <i>ap</i>	0.034	1	0.027	0.04	0.01	Insignificant
<i>f</i> × <i>ap</i>	0.012	1	0.012	0.02	0	Insignificant
Error	7.978	11	0.725		1.60	
Total	498.004	17			100	



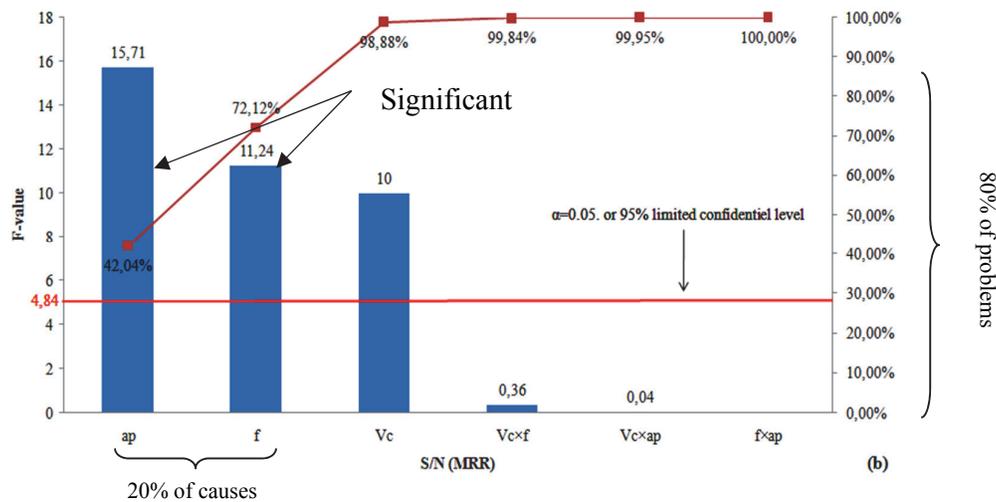
**Fig. 3.** Contribution of significant terms on: (a) Surface roughness (*Ra*), (b) Material removal rate (*MRR*)

4.2 Pareto analysis

Pareto analysis is a creative statistical technique which aims to identify the important causes for resolving the most problems. It is based on the Pareto principle also known as 80/20 rule which in general means that 80% of problems may be caused by as few as 20% of causes (Karuppusami & Gandhinathan, 2006). This technique was considered in this study to check and confirm the results obtained by ANOVA analysis (Fig. 4). This chart presents the ranking of the influencing machining parameters and their interactions in descending order on the *Ra* and *MRR*. The effects of factors and their interactions on the responses are standardized for a better comparison. The standardized values called (F-value) in this chart are obtained by dividing the mean squares of each factor by the error of mean squares. The more standardized the effect, the higher the factor considered influence. If the F-values which correspond to the machining parameters and their Interactions are greater than 18.51 and 4.84 for (*Ra*) and (*MRR*), respectively; the effects are significant. By against, if the values of F-values are less than 18.51 and 4.84 for (*Ra*) and (*MRR*), respectively; the effects are not significant. The confidence interval chosen is 95 % ( $\alpha=0.05$ ).



(a)



**Fig. 4.** Pareto analysis chart, for effect of machining parameters on: (a) surface roughness and (b) material removal rate.

#### 4.3 Main effect factors and their interactions on responses (3D plots and contours)

The main effect plots for S/N ratios of ( $Ra$ ) and ( $MRR$ ) are presented in Fig. 5 (a, b), respectively. Response graphs show the evolution of S/N ratio of responses in function of variation of levels for each machining parameters. The values of the plotted points in Fig. 5 (a, b) of the S/N ratio for surface roughness and material removal rate which correspond to each level of machinability parameters are given in Table 5 (a, b) respectively. The influence of cutting parameters on the responses can be easily determined through delta value that represents the difference between max and min of S/N ratios of responses as shown in Table 5 (a, b). The higher the value of the delta, the more influential is the cutting parameter. It can be seen in Table 5 (a, b) that the significance of all main factors is ranking in descending order of influence on the responses.

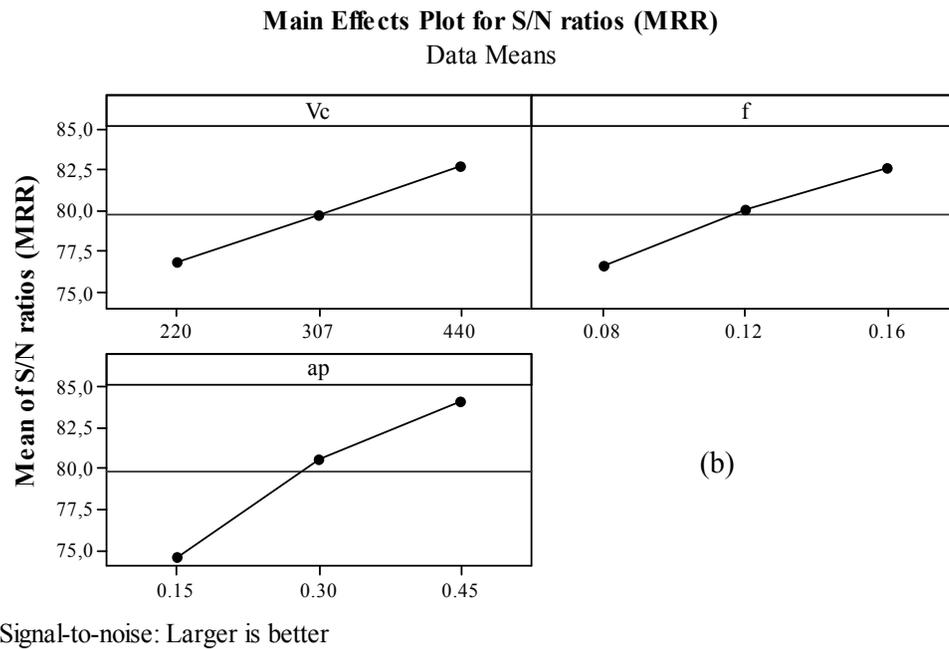
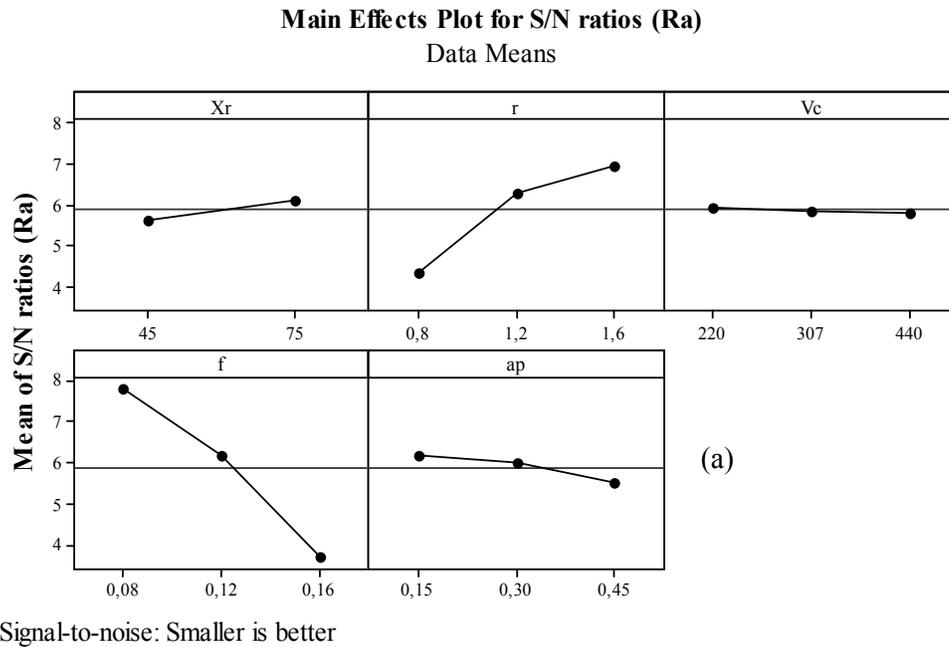
It is notable from Fig. 5 (a) and Table 5 (a) that the most machining parameter affecting surface quality is the feed rate ( $f$ ) followed by tool nose radius ( $r$ ). The others factors represent less effects on surface quality. Also, it is clear that the surface quality deteriorates by increasing feed rate. By contrast, the increasing of cutting insert nose radius improves the surface quality ( $Ra$ ).

From Fig. 5 (b) and Table 5 (b), it can be observed clearly that all main factors ( $Vc$ ,  $f$ ,  $ap$ ) have a significant effect on material removal rate. The descending order of influence of all main factors on responses is as follow: depth of cut, feed rate followed by cutting speed. By increasing all main factors ( $Vc$ ,  $f$ ,  $ap$ ) we can improve the productivity ( $MRR$ ). It can be observed that the same ranking in descending order of influence of all main factors on responses are obtained by ANOVA analysis and is also confirmed by Pareto chart.

**Table 5**

S/N response table for: (a) surface roughness (Smaller is better), (b) material removal rate (Larger is better)

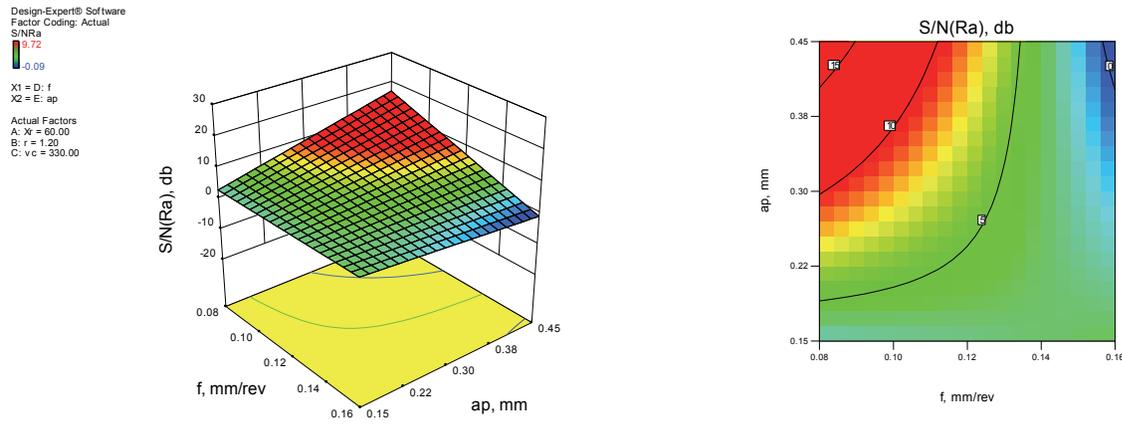
Table 5a						Table 5b			
Level	$\gamma r$	$r$	$Vc$	$f$	$ap$	Level	$Vc$	$f$	$ap$
1	5.636	4.361	5.968	7.786	6.157	1	76.8	76.59	74.58
2	6.125	6.308	5.85	6.181	5.989	2	79.69	80.11	80.61
3	-	6.973	5.823	3.675	5.496	3	82.82	82.61	84.13
Delta	0.489	2.611	0.145	4.11	0.661	Delta	6.02	6.02	9.54
Rank	4	2	5	1	3	Rank	3	2	1



**Fig. 5.** Main effect's plots of S/N for: (a) surface roughness, (b) material removal rate

In order to check the influence of interaction of the depth of cut and the feed rate on the surface quality (S/N ratio for Ra), 3D response surface for the effect of the interaction is drawn in Fig. 6 (a). Variables not represented in the figure are held constant at the middle level ( $\chi r = 60^\circ$ ,  $r = 1.2$  mm,  $Vc = 330$  m / min). This figure indicates that, for a given depth of cut, the surface quality is sensitive to the feed rate because the increase of this latter deteriorates quickly the surface quality. This is consistent with the conclusion of research work published by Bouzid et al. (2015) where they remarked that the surface roughness (Ra) rapidly increases by increasing feed rate. However, this decrease in surface quality becomes increasingly small with lower values of the depth of cut.

Fig. 6 (b) shows the response surface for S/N ( $R_a$ ) in the form of a contour. It is remarkable after this figure that for any given values of depth of cut and which belongs to the interval of this study, the best surface quality is found for small values of feed rate in the study interval. Also, at higher depths of cut, better quality of surface is obtainable from 0.3 mm to 0.45mm.



**Fig. 6.** 3D plot and contour for the response surface for: Effect of ( $f \times ap$ ) on the S/N ( $R_a$ )

#### 4.4 2D profile and 3D topography of turned surface

Fig. 7 shows a representative example of 2D profile and 3D image of turned surface envisioned by means of optical platform of metrology modular Altisurf 500 with isometric view. The aim of this investigation is to examine the effect of both feed rate and nose radius on surface roughness through a comparison between 2D profile and 3D topography of turned surfaces obtained as a result of various levels combinations of machining parameters. Turning operations were conducted by the same levels of machining parameters except the feed rate and tool nose radius; for the turned surface (a):  $\chi_r = 75^\circ$ ,  $r = 0.8$  mm,  $V_c = 220$  m/min,  $f = 0.08$  mm/rev,  $ap = 0.15$  mm, for the turned surface (b):  $\chi_r = 75^\circ$ ,  $r = 0.8$  mm,  $V_c = 220$  m/min,  $f = 0.16$  mm/rev,  $ap = 0.15$  mm; for the turned surface (c):  $\chi_r = 75^\circ$ ,  $r = 1.6$  mm,  $V_c = 220$  m/min,  $f = 0.16$  mm/rev,  $ap = 0.15$  mm. It clearly appears by a comparison in Fig. 7 (a, b) that the use of large feed rate yields a bad surface roughness. Because the distance between roughness asperities increases with the increase of feed rate. Whereas, by a comparison of turned surfaces (b and c) in Fig. 7 it is notable that that the use of large nose radius improves the surface roughness by the crushing of the asperities. When the nose radius of cutting tool increases, the contact languor between the beak of the tool and the machined surface is increased and this leads to crushing of the asperities and traces of advance of the tool as shown in Fig. 7 (c).

### 5. Regression equations

Regression analysis is a computational technique that enables to found the functional relationship between the machining parameters (control factors) and the performance characteristics. The predictive equations for the performance characteristics were formulated by linear regression model with interactions given by Eq. (16).

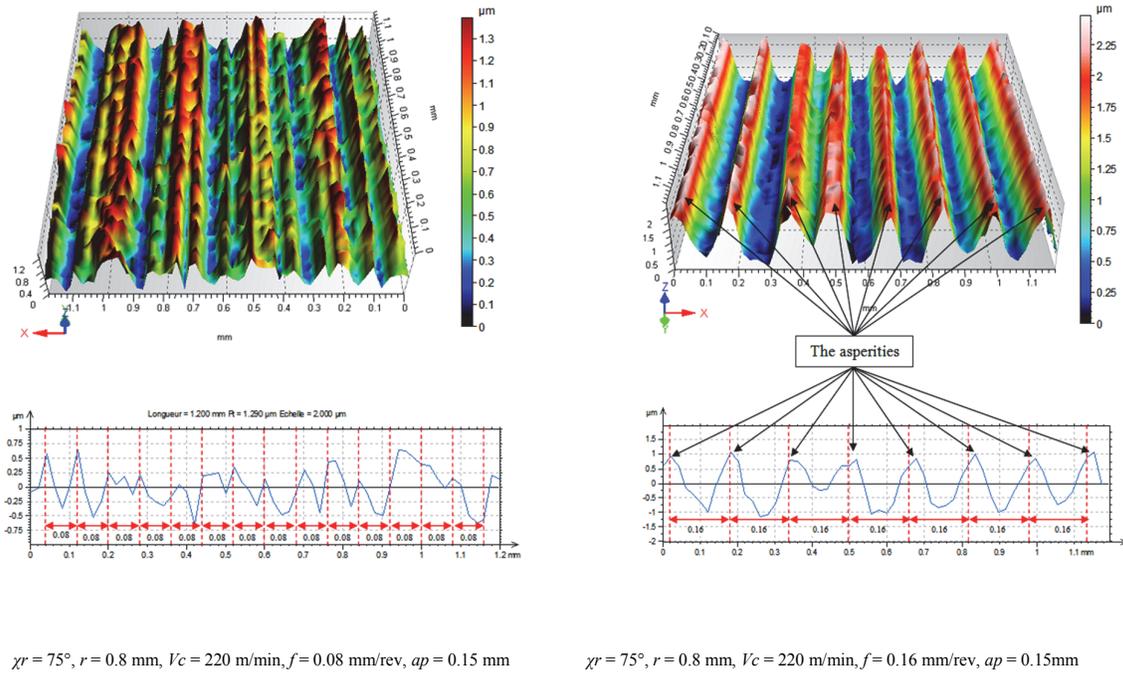
$$Y = b_0 + \sum_{i=1}^k b_i X_i + \sum_{ij} b_{ij} X_i X_j + \varepsilon_i \quad (16)$$

where  $b_0$  is the free term of the regression equation, the coefficients  $b_1, b_2 \dots b_k$  and  $b_{12}, b_{13}, b_{k-1}$  are the linear and interacting terms, respectively.  $X_i$  represents the input parameters; ( $\chi_r, r, V_c, f, ap$ ) for ( $R_a$ ) and ( $V_c, f, ap$ ) for ( $MRR$ ); and  $Y$  represents the outputs (surface roughness, material removal rate). Correlative mathematical models of  $R_a$  and  $MRR$  are given below by Eq. (17) and Eq. (18), respectively,

with respective coefficients of determination  $R^2$  of 99.72% and 99.77%. These mathematical equations are useful for the estimation of outputs parameters in the range of intervals selected in this study.

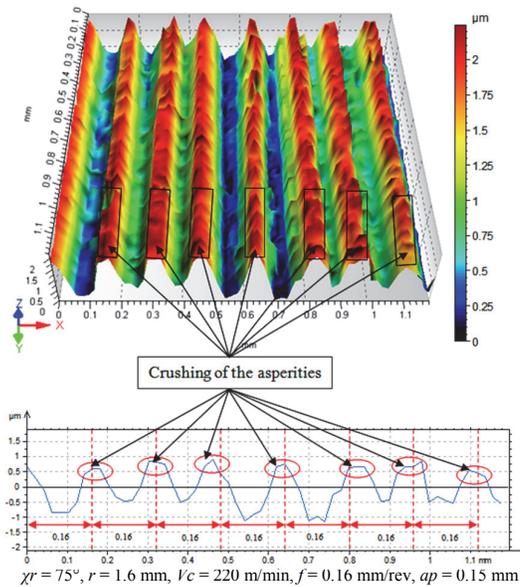
$$Ra = -0.751523 - 0.0390656 \chi r + 2.11283 r + 0.00839753 Vc + 20.5609 f - 9.98742 ap - 0.00225299 \chi r \times r + 5.98103e-005 \chi r \times Vc + 0.116648 \chi r \times f + 0.00051299 \chi r \times ap - 0.00318008 r \times Vc - 23.6922 r \times f + 6.56501 r \times ap - 0.0255462 Vc \times f - 0.0163664 Vc \times ap + 53.2321 f \times ap \quad (17)$$

$$MRR = 12835.2 - 40.4339 Vc - 105222 f - 41353.3 ap + 324.193 Vc \times f + 126.452 Vc \times ap + 332351 f \times ap \quad (18)$$



(a)

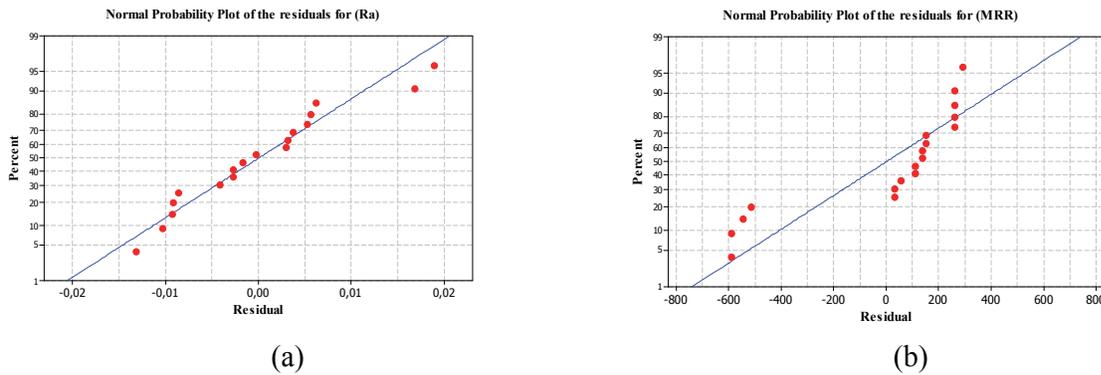
(b)



(c)

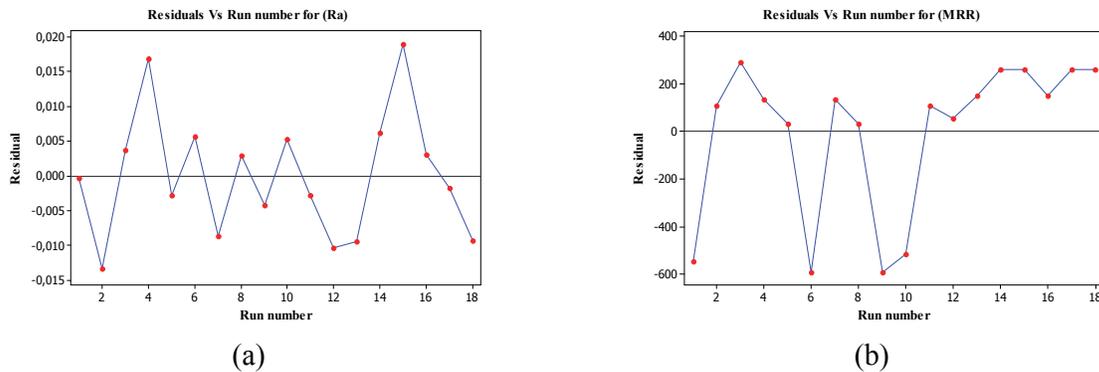
Fig. 7. Example of 2D profile and 3D topography of turned surface

To verify the reliability of correlative mathematical models of  $Ra$  and  $MRR$ , the normal probability plot vs. residuals were traced in Fig. 8 (a, b) respectively. It can be seen from Fig. 8 (a, b) that the cloud of residuals is reasonably distributed around to the straight line and there are no unusual data points in the data set. This implies that errors are distributed normally.

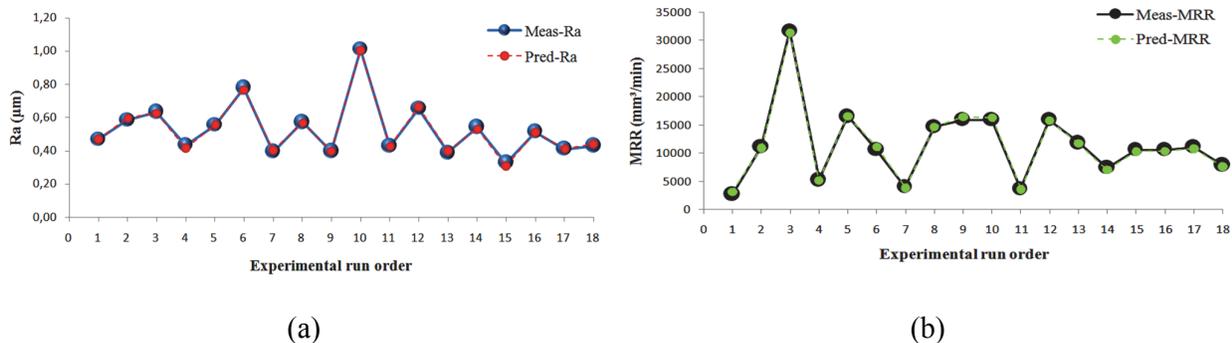


**Fig. 8.** Normal probability plot of residuals for: (a) surface roughness, (b) material removal rate

Fig. 9 (a, b) shows the residuals which are associated with the eighteen experimental runs of surface roughness and material removal rate, respectively. This residual is equal to the difference between the observed and predicted values of the output responses. The residuals of surface roughness belong to the interval of  $-0.015$  to  $0.020 \mu\text{m}$  versus the residuals of material removal rate, which belong at the interval of  $-600$  to  $400 \text{ mm}^3/\text{min}$ . The residuals do not represent any obvious pattern, this implies that the predictive equations are reliable for estimating the responses at any particular design points which belong at the range intervals selected in this study.



**Fig. 9.** Plot of residuals vs. run numbers for: (a) surface roughness, (b) removal material rate



**Fig. 10.** Measured vs. predicted values of performance characteristics: (a) surface roughness, (b) material removal rate.

Fig. 10 (a, b) also shows a comparison between the predicted values of  $Ra$  and  $MRR$ , respectively obtained from the linear regression equations and the observed ones. This comparison proves that the estimated output responses are very close to those measured (good agreement between predicted and observed values). These figures confirm that the linear regression models are suitable for estimating the responses without carrying out experimental runs with respect to the range intervals considered in this investigation.

## 6. Multi-objective optimization using GRA based Taguchi design

The identification of the optimal levels combination of machining parameters using multi-objective optimization (GRA) was carried out based on the S/N ratio of measured and calculates data of surface roughness ( $Ra$ ) and material removal rate ( $MRR$ ), respectively. They are obtained during the dry turning operations of AISI D3 steel with ceramic cutting insert (CC650) based on Taguchi design ( $L_{18}$  OA). The simultaneous improvement in term of maximization both surface quality and productivity are proposed as an objective function. The use of this technique optimization includes the following steps which is mentioned in the second part of this paper.

Step 1: The normalization of S/N ratios for  $Ra$  and  $MRR$  in the range between zero and one using Eq. 5 (The larger-the-better) were determined for grey relational generation. The normalized data are given in Table 6.

Step 2: Calculation of  $\Delta_{0i}(k)$  for normalized values of S/N ratio ( $Ra$ ,  $MRR$ ) using Eq. (7) is necessary for the computation of grey relational coefficients (GRC). Grey relational coefficients (GRC) were computed using Eq. 6 for the determination of grey relational grade (GRG).  $\Delta_{0i}(k)$  and GRC values are given in Table 6.

Step 3: Grey relational grade (GRG) was computed by Eq. (10). The calculated results of GRG are shown in Table 6. This implies that the multi-objective optimization is converted to a single equivalent objective optimization.

**Table 6**

Results of grey relational generation, calculation of  $\Delta_{0i}(k)$ , grey relational coefficient and grey relational grade

Trail no.	Grey relational generation		Calculation of $\Delta_{0i}(k)$		Grey relational coefficient		Grey relational grade
	S/N	S/N ( $MRR$ )	S/N	S/N ( $MRR$ )	S/N	S/N	GRG
	Larger-the-better						
Ideal sequence	1	1	1	1	1	1	
1	0,708	0,000	0,292	1,00	0,632	0,333	0,483
2	0,531	0,576	0,469	0,42	0,516	0,541	0,529
3	0,470	1,000	0,530	0,00	0,485	1,000	0,743
4	0,774	0,279	0,226	0,72	0,689	0,409	0,549
5	0,578	0,739	0,422	0,26	0,543	0,657	0,600
6	0,306	0,558	0,694	0,44	0,419	0,531	0,475
7	0,851	0,163	0,149	0,84	0,771	0,374	0,572
8	0,550	0,692	0,450	0,31	0,526	0,619	0,573
9	0,845	0,721	0,155	0,28	0,763	0,642	0,703
10	0,000	0,721	1,000	0,28	0,333	0,642	0,488
11	0,786	0,134	0,214	0,87	0,700	0,366	0,533
12	0,445	0,721	0,555	0,28	0,474	0,642	0,558
13	0,858	0,605	0,142	0,39	0,779	0,559	0,669
14	0,598	0,413	0,402	0,59	0,554	0,460	0,507
15	1,000	0,558	0,000	0,44	1,000	0,531	0,765
16	0,638	0,558	0,362	0,44	0,580	0,531	0,555
17	0,818	0,576	0,182	0,42	0,733	0,541	0,637
18	0,780	0,442	0,220	0,56	0,695	0,473	0,584

Step 4: Main effect plot for (GRG) was traced in order to select the optimal levels combination (Fig. 11). The mean of GRG ratio for each level of the machining parameters is presented in Table 7. In grey relational analysis the highest value of (GRG) corresponds to the best levels combination of machining parameters. Therefore, the optimal level of the machining parameters is the level with the greatest GRG value. So it can be concluded that the best level for each machining parameter was found as follow (Fig. 11):  $\chi r_2 r_3 Vc_3 f_1 ap_3$ , in other words, the optimal levels combination for  $Ra$  and  $MRR$  were obtained at a major cutting edge angle of  $75^\circ$ , insert radius of 1.6 mm, cutting speed of 440 m/min, feed of 0.08 mm/rev and depth of cut of 0.45 mm. The results of the use of this optimal levels combination are:  $Ra = 0.41\mu\text{m}$  and  $MRR = 15840 \text{ mm}^3/\text{min}$ .

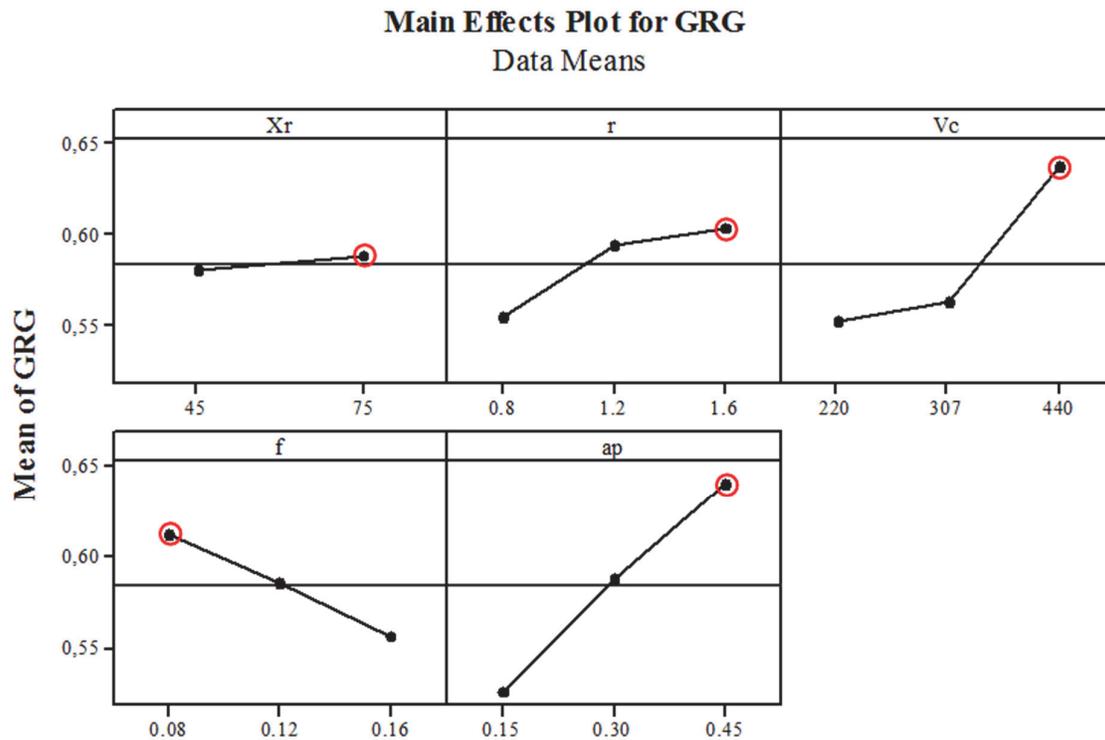


Fig. 11. Main effect's plots for GRG

Table 7

Mean of GRG ratio for each level of the machining parameters

Level	$\chi r$	$r$	$Vc$	$f$	$ap$
1	0.580	0.555	0.552	0.611	0.525
2	0.589	0.594	0.563	0.585	0.588
3	-	0.604	0.637	0.556	0.639
Delta	0.009	0.049	0.085	0.055	0.114
Rank	5	4	2	3	1

Step 5: In order to confirm the selected optimal levels combination of machining parameters through the use of GRA technique for the improvement of surface roughness and material removal rate, a comparison assessment was performed between the values of grey relational grade obtained from the optimal experiment with that predicted  $\hat{\eta}$  by using the Eq. (11). Based on the results in Table 8, a notable agreement was remarked between the value found experimentally (0.69) calculated by the estimation formula (0.74). While the grey relational grade was improved from initial levels combination ( $\chi r_2 r_2 Vc_2 f_2 ap_2$ ) to the optimal levels combination of machining parameters ( $\chi r_2 r_3 Vc_3 f_1 ap_3$ ) by 0.13. According

to confirmation runs, the surface roughness and material removal rate are ameliorating approximately 1.21, 0.69 times, respectively.

**Table 8**

Results of the confirmation experiment

Level	Initial machining parameters	Optimal machining parameters	
	$\chi r_2 r_3 V c_2 f_2 a p_2$	Prediction	Experiment
$Ra$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	0.50	-	0.41
$MRR$ ( $\text{mm}^3/\text{min}$ )	11052	-	15840
GRG	0.56	0.74	0.69
Improvement of GRG		0.13	

## 7. Conclusions

This investigation has detailed the procedure of applying the grey relational analysis based on Taguchi design for a simultaneous optimization in turning process. Through the results obtained in this study, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The mixed orthogonal array of Taguchi  $L_{18}$  is adopted in this investigation to get a small number of experiment runs for identifying the optimal levels of machining parameters using grey relational analysis.
2. Based on the ANOVA analyse of S/N ratio for ( $Ra$ ), it's found that the feed rate maintains a strong effective parameter affecting the surface roughness followed by nose radius and the interaction ( $f \times ap$ ) with contributions of 50.21%, 20.27%, and 12.69%, respectively.
3. The results given by ANOVA of S/N ratio for ( $MRR$ ) shows that depth of cut is the most significant with the respective contribution 54.85%. The feed rate followed by cutting speed presents a statistical significance with contribution of 21.84% and 21.64%, respectively.
4. The descending order of influencing machining parameters on performance characteristics which was found by ANOVA analysis were confirmed by Pareto analysis and main effects plots for S/N ratios of ( $Ra$ ) and ( $MRR$ ). Effect of the interaction ( $f \times ap$ ) was also confirmed by 3D plot and contour.
5. The analysis of 2D profile and 3D topographical maps of the turned surface captured by optical platform of metrology modular Altisurf 500 has presented a great importance in the examination the effect of feed rate and nose radius of cutting tool.
6. The correlative mathematical models of  $Ra$  and  $MRR$  are very efficient because of their higher coefficients of determination ( $R^2$ ) values of 99.72% and 99.77%, respectively. They have an important industrial interest, since they help to make estimations of responses without carrying out experimental runs with respect to the range intervals considered in this investigation.
7. The effectiveness of these models was verified by the normal probability plot vs. residuals and the Plot of residuals vs. run numbers. It is found that the residuals are reasonably distributed around to the straight line and do not represent any obvious pattern. The plot of estimated vs. observed values of responses are also found very close to each other.
8. The grey relational analysis was used to resolve the optimization complex problem by converting the multi-objective optimization into a single equivalent objective optimization.

9. The single equivalent objective optimization in this analysis called grey relational grade (GRG). The highest value of this latter corresponds to the optimal levels combination of machining parameters. Therefore, the optimal levels combination for a simultaneous improvement of  $Ra$  and  $MRR$  was obtained at; ( $\chi r_2 r_3 V c_3 f_1 a p_3$ ); major cutting edge angle of  $75^\circ$ , insert radius of 1.6 mm, cutting speed of 440 m/min, feed of 0.08 mm/rev and depth of cut of 0.45 mm. The optimized responses found by the use of optimal levels selected by grey relational analysis were ( $Ra=0.41\mu\text{m}$  and  $MRR=15840\text{ mm}^3/\text{min}$ ).
10. It is notable that there was a good agreement between the value found experimentally (0.69) and the one calculated by the estimation formula (0.74). While the grey relational grade was improved from initial levels combination ( $\chi r_2 r_2 V c_2 f_2 a p_2$ ) to the optimal levels combination ( $\chi r_2 r_3 V c_3 f_1 a p_3$ ) by 0.13. According to confirmation runs, the surface roughness and material removal rate were improved approximately 1.21, 0.69 times, respectively.

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