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Tema: Surface Engineering

INFLUENCE OF MICROMILLING ON THE SURFACE INTEGRITY OF SUPER DUPLEX STAINLESS STEEL *

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Anna Carla Araujo²

Abstract

Super duplex stainless steel presents a biphasic structure composed by ferrite and austenite with different characteristics and properties. In the micromilling process the cutting edge radius has similar dimensions to the grain size. The biphasic structure found in this material could influence on the cutting tool life and the surface integrity of the workpiece. Due to its low machinability, caused by high hardening level and low thermal conductivity, the process can produce built-up edge and high surface roughness (R_a). In this work it is performed an experimental study of the micromilling of super duplex UNS 32750 and the influence of the cutting speed (V_c) and feed per tooth (f_z) on the surface integrity and tool wear. The design of experiments considered two levels and three replicates. Results indicate the increase of roughness for bigger feed per tooth, small influence of the cutting parameters on the burr formation. The tool presented flank wear after the experiments.

Keywords: Micromilling; Super duplex; Surface integrity; Tool wear.

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1 INTRODUCTION

One of the main concerns related to the increase the quality of microcomponents is reducing the costs simultaneously. The part dimensions, which are constantly getting smaller, and geometric complexities play an important role on micromanufacturing. Among the different manufacturing processes, micromilling is a priority research theme as it presents high material removal rate, great surface quality and it enables the manufacturing of a big quantity of parts using different kinds of materials as shown by Schmidt and Tritchler [1]. Arai [2] asserts that the most problematical aspects of the product fabricated by micromilling are burrs and surface roughness, because post processing of microcomponents is very complex and would represent high costs. Therefore, it is recommended that the process used for micro manufacturing deliver a finished workpiece.

The mechanism of cutting in micromilling should consider “size effect”, as claimed by Aramcharoen and Mativenga [3]. Bao and Tansel [4] showed that feed per tooth to tool radius ratio has to be higher than in conventional milling to keep productivity at a reasonable level. Due to the small size of the micro tools, which have a diameter smaller than 2 mm, it is very difficult to notice the damage in the cutting edges. Besides, an inappropriate selection of the cutting conditions can cause unexpectedly tool breakage and affect the surface integrity of the workpiece. In the conventional cutting process, the cutting edge passes by volumes composed by several grains, so the isolate contact with specific hardened particles or phases does not occur. But during cutting in micro scale, shown in Figure 1, the cutting edge encounter isolate and different grains which are a lot of times hardened by two-dimensional crystalline defects.

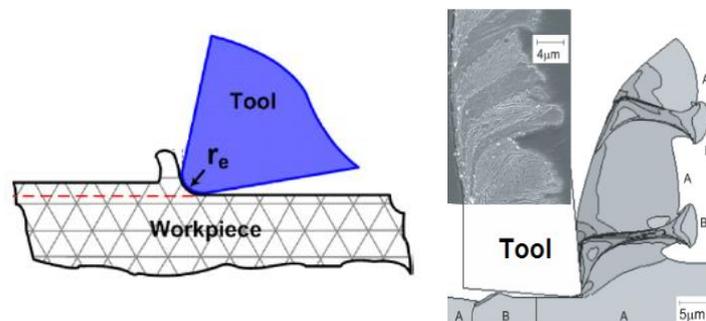


Figure 1. Cutting edge in micro-scale cutting and microchip formation from the heterogeneous material, adapted from Aramcharoen and Mativenga [3]; Simoneau and Elbestawi [5].

Weule et al. [6] observed that roughness increases at low cutting speed for soft materials and hardly changes for hard materials. Takács et al. [7], studying the micromilling for different metallic materials, observed that low feed per tooth causes higher roughness. Likewise, Jin et al. [8] studied the effect of cutting parameters on the micromilling of AISI D2 steel and the results showed that feed per tooth presented higher influence on the surface topography. Aramcharoen and Mativenga [3] studied the influence of size effect on the micromilling of tool steel H13. The results showed that the size of the burr decreased with the raise of the feed per tooth values and that the cutting tool wear influenced negatively the surface finishing and the burr size. Biermann and Steiner [9] studied the formation of microburrs on the micromilling of X5CrNi18-10 steel, varying the cutting speed and the feed per

tooth. Results showed that the increase of cutting speed and feed per tooth produces higher top burr height. This is because of the increase on the stain rate and the failure of higher material removal rate.

Duplex and super duplex steels are between the most studied materials in machining and micromachining process. Bordinassi et al. [10] analyzed the surface integrity of duplex stainless steel ASTM A890-Gr6A after turning with different tools, materials, feed, depth and cutting speed. The best results for the surface integrity were found with lower feed, lower cutting speed and bigger depth of cut. Fonseca et al. [11] verified that in milling of super duplex stainless steel UNS S 32750, low cutting speed and high speed steel tool improve surface integrity.

Super duplex steels have a two-phase structure containing ferrite and austenite in almost equal proportion and the most common problem of this material is the cold hardening process experienced by the metal structure after plastic deformation, which can occur during the machining process. The increase in the surface hardness can cause an increase on the shearing forces necessary to remove the chip in micromachining process, influencing the quality of the workpiece and the tool wear.

So, this work has the objective to present an experimental study of the micromilling of super duplex stainless steel UNS S 32750 and to verify the influence of the cutting speed and feed per tooth on the average roughness, on the burr formation and tool wear.

2 EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

The materials and methods used to analyze the influence of the micromilling on the surface integrity of super duplex stainless steel are detailed in this section.

2.1 Material and Experimental Apparatus

The super duplex stainless steel UNS S 32750 workpiece has been prepared for flatness before the channels machining. The dimension of the flat surface is 40mm x 20mm, as presented in Figure 2 (a). The heterogeneous microstructure can be seen in Figure 2 (b). For the preparation of this sample, sandpapers of 220 to 600 mesh were used to polish the surface with diamond paste of 3 μm and 1 μm , respectively, and it was performed an electrolytic attack, with reagent composed of 20 g of NaOH and 100 ml of distilled water, by the immersion method during approximately 2 min.

After the metallographic preparation, the images were analyzed in the Image-Pro Plus software in order to quantify the volumetric fraction of the ferrite, dark grains in Figure 1b, (52%) and austenite (48%) phases.



(a) Workpiece material (b) Microstructure
Figure 2. Super duplex stainless steel (UNS S 32750)

A Tungsten Carbide-Cobalt micromilling tool with 0.8mm diameter and two flutes was used, as shown in Figure 3. The cutting length is coated with Titanium aluminum nitride (TiAlN-F) with thin particles, as noted in EDS analysis (Figure 4). This tool is recommended for machining steels harder than 48 HRC.

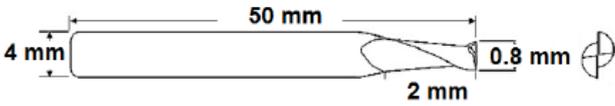


Figure 3. Dimensions of the micro milling tool.

A micro hardness test on the workpiece surface, as new, was developed applying 1 Kg load for approximately 30 s. The micro hardness average found was 346 HV, that is, 35 HRC, according to the conversion table.

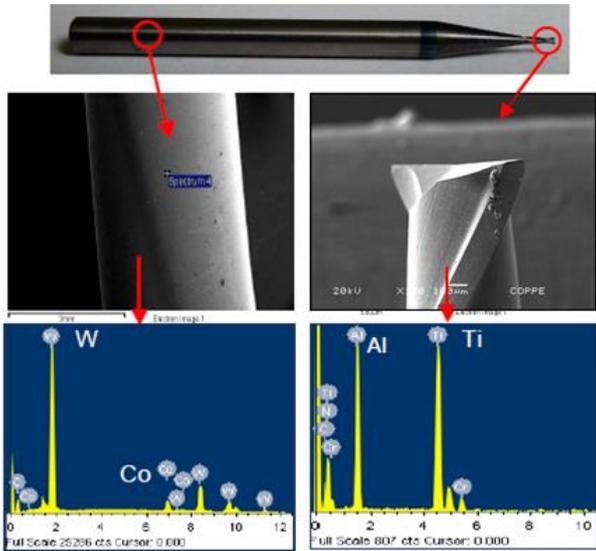


Figure 4. SEM Microscopy and EDS of Micro milling tool.

The CNC Mini Mill/GX micro machine tool was used on the experiments. The machine uses NSK 60k RPM precision spindle with 3-axis controller. Its standard resolution is 0.78125 μm using dual linear ball bearing slides on each axis, sealed for the table mechanism (THK linear slides - RSR15 series, cagedball technology). The drive mechanism THK Ball Screw actuator - preloaded and sealed, achieves low torque fluctuation and no backlash.

2.2 Experimental Procedure

Before the actual micromilling experiments started, a surface of 33 x 20 mm, the work area, was faced on the workpiece using a 3 mm milling tool and the perpendicularity of the milling axis regarding the milling surface was checked with a dial indicator. It was used 50 m/min as cutting velocity, feed rate of 100 mm/min and 0.1 mm depth of cut. The face milling operation is important because it ensures that the micromilling experiments would be performed on a flat surface. If the surface to be machined was not flat, the axial depth of cut could vary during the cutting process and the results would not be valid.

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The experiments were planned in order to analyze the influence of two factors, with two levels each, on the roughness, burr formation and tool wear. The factors chosen were the feed per tooth and the cutting velocity with three replicates for each experiment. It was used clockwise spindle speed and cutting fluid (Microcut 510F Quaker Chemical). Table 1 resumes the cutting parameters used on the experiments.

Table 1. Cutting Data

Data	Values
Spindle speed (n)	12000 rpm and 2000 rpm
Feed per tooth	7 $\mu\text{m}/\text{tooth}$ and 10 $\mu\text{m}/\text{tooth}$
Depth of cut	100 μm
Tool	Tungsten carbide ($a_e=d=0.8 \text{ mm}$)
Workpiece	Super duplex UNS S 32750

The Table 2 presents the cutting parameters used in each experiment and 3 replicates were executed for each of them. The order of the tests was planned in a way to ensure the randomization. This way, 12 channels were milled with approximately 5 mm length and spaced out of 1.5 mm, as Figure 5 shows. The force components presented (F_x and F_y) represent the components on the plane normal to the spindle axis.

Table 2. Cutting Data

Exp.	Tests	fz (mm/tooth)	n (rpm)
1	5, 6 and 11	0.007	20000
2	1, 3 and 8	0.007	12000
3	4,7 and 9	0.01	2000
4	2, 10 and 12	0.01	12000

In order to measure the roughness and the burr height, it was used the Form Talysurf Intra, from Taylor Hobson, series 0120, capable of high precision measures of roughness, waves, shapes and profiles. It has transversal length of 0.1 mm – 50 mm and maximum speed of 10 mm/s. Standard Inductive Gauge, stylus code 112/2009, stylus type 2 μm Standard 60 mm with 90° conisphere diamond was used, as presented in Figure 6(a). For the surface analysis it was used the Software Ultra Surface Finish V5.

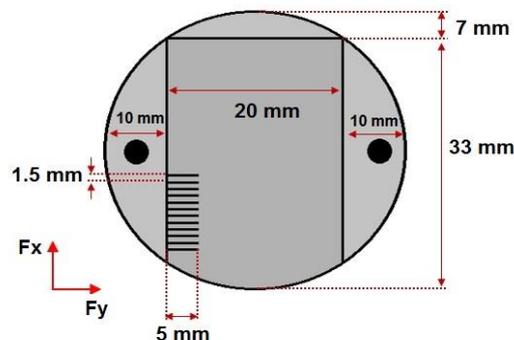
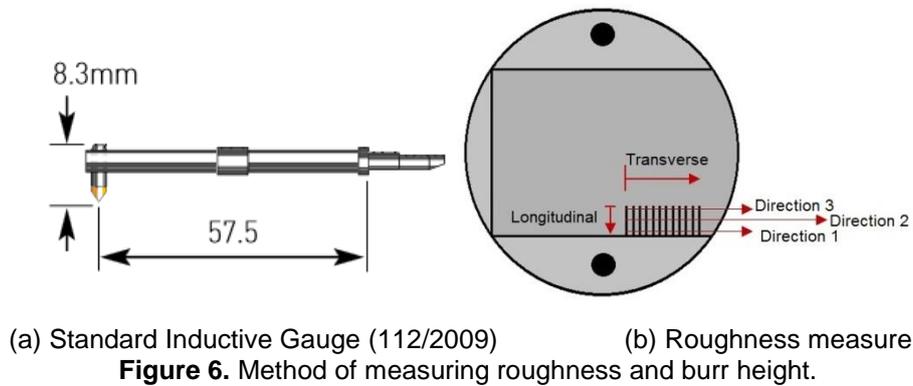


Figure 5. Workpiece, channel dimensions and force components.

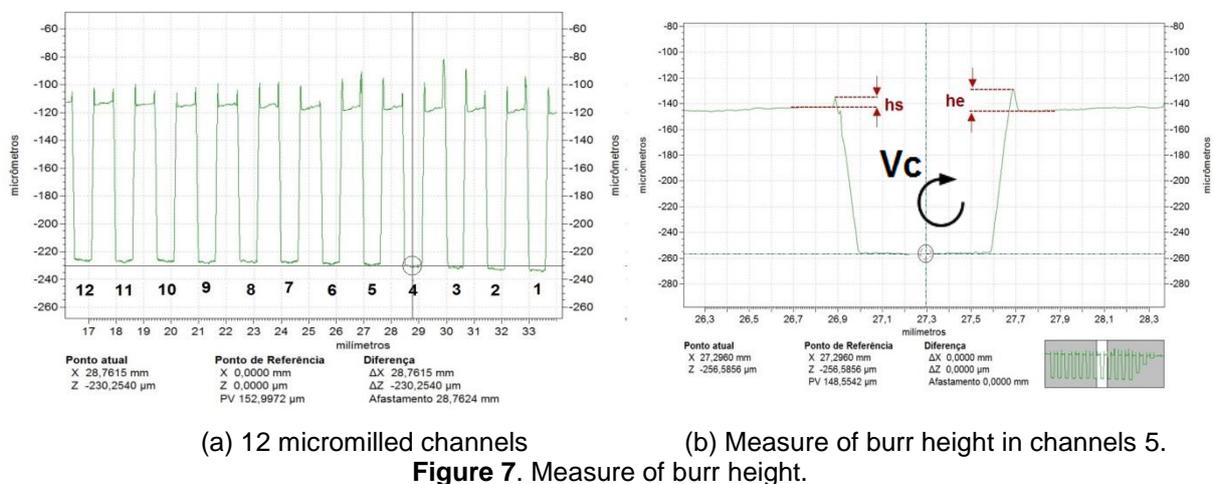
The measure of roughness was performed in two stages: first on the transversal direction of the channels, where the directions 1, 2 and 3 correspond respectively to

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the start, middle and end of the cutting process; then on the longitudinal direction of the channels, that is, in the same direction of the feed of the tool, as shown in the Figure 6(b).



Measures in transversal direction allowed also the acquisition of the dimension of the channels and burr height on the start (h_s) and end (h_e) of the cutting process, as shown in Figure 7. So, it was possible to compute the average of the h_s and h_e values for the three replicates of all four experiments and to verify a possible influence of the cutting parameters on burr formation. The roughness and burr height values obtained from the measure on the transversal direction will be always presented as the average of the three replicates.



3 RESULTS ANS DISCUSSIONS

In this section, the roughness results in both directions are presented, as well as the top burr height values for all experiments. Tool wear is also presented.

3.1 Surface Roughness

Figure 8 presents an example of the longitudinal direction of measure, indicating the displacement of 3 mm along the channel and of the roughness profile obtained. It was performed only one measure for each channel and, then, the mean of the replicates were computed.

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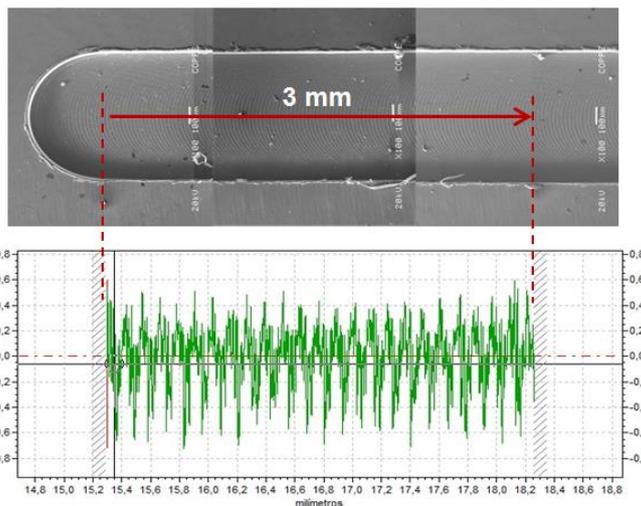
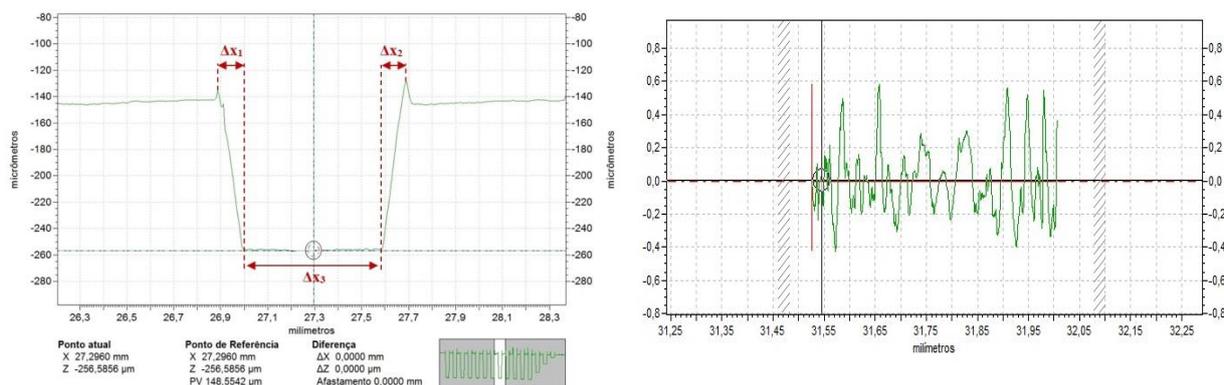


Figure 8. Longitudinal roughness measure.

Figure 9 presents the profile of the micromilled channel, where Δx_1 and Δx_2 correspond to the width which was not measured because of the limitation of the standard inductive gauge which has an angle of 90° , and Δx_3 corresponds to the useful width of the channel. The sum of Δx_1 , Δx_2 and Δx_3 is, approximately, equal to the cutting tool diameter ($d = 0.8$ mm). Therefore, the useful width for the measure of R_a values is approximately 0.6 mm.



(a) Channels transversal dimension

(b) Roughness profile in Δx_3

Figure 9. Transversal roughness measure.

Three measures were performed in transversal direction (see Figure 6) and the values obtained were used to compute the averaged roughness of each channel. Table 3 and Figure 10 present the longitudinal and transversal average roughness for the replicates of all four experiments.

Table 3. Longitudinal and transverse roughness.

Ra (μm)					
Experiment	Tests	fz (mm/tooth)	n (rpm)	Longitudinal	Transverse
1	5, 6 and 11	0.007	20000	0.1730	0.1527
2	1, 3 and 8	0.007	12000	0.2001	0.1289
3	4, 7 and 9	0.01	2000	0.2757	0.2074
4	2, 10 and 12	0.01	12000	0.2705	0.1901

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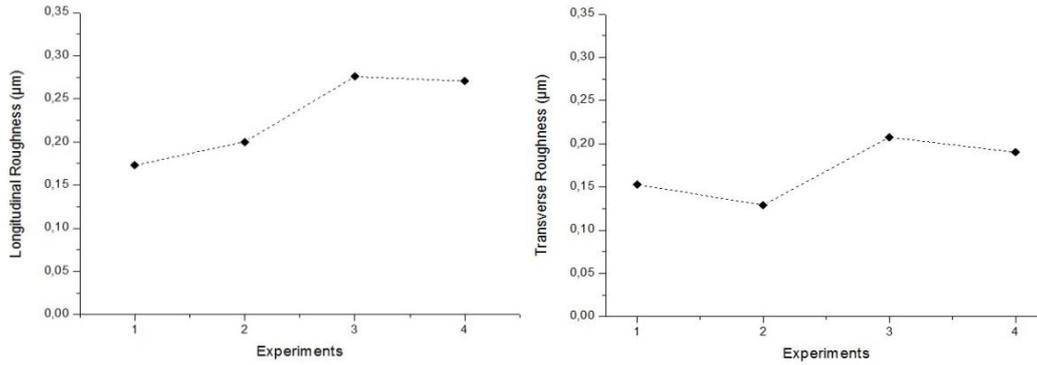
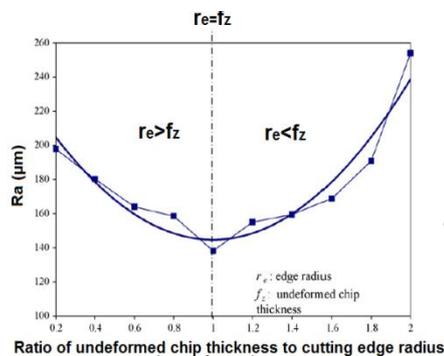


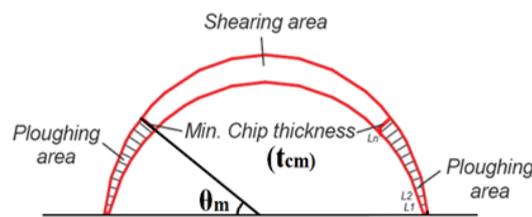
Figure 10. Longitudinal and transverse roughness.

Experiments 1 and 2 (Figure 10) with lower feed per tooth values, presented lower roughness values. This is not expected considering of what was shown in works by Takács et al. [7] and Jin et al. [8].

Aramcharoen and Mativenga [3] showed that the relation between the undeformed chip thickness and the cutting tool edge radius (r_e) is a parabolic function, as in Figure 11(a). When $r_e > f_z$, roughness decreases with the raise of feed per tooth. This is due to the reduced presence of the ploughing effect for higher feed per tooth, resulting in less elastic recovery of the workpiece material, Figure 11(b). When $r_e < f_z$, roughness increases with the raise of feed, because cutting mechanisms actuate similarly to conventional machining. Therefore, as $r_e = 2.5 \mu\text{m}$ and $f_z = 7$ and $10 \mu\text{m/tooth}$ ($r_e < f_z$), roughness tends to increase with the raise of feed per tooth.



(a) Surface Roughness, Aramcharoen and Mativenga [3].



(b) Shearing and ploughing areas when $ae=2R=D$, adapted from Bayesteh et al. [12]

Figure 11. Analysis of the variation of the roughness regarding of r_e and f_z .

In order to analyze the influence of the factors, feed per tooth and cutting speed, in the surface roughness in both directions, longitudinal and transversal, it was made a Two-Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). It was used the following data configuration:

	Parameter	-1	+1
P1	Cutting Speed	12000	20000
P2	Feed	0.07	0.1

First, an ANOVA for the longitudinal roughness was executed. The hypotheses tested for each parameter were:

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- H0 (Null Hypothesis) - the longitudinal roughness does not vary with the parameter;
- H1 (Alternative Hypothesis) – the longitudinal roughness varies with the parameter.

The results are shown in Table 5. Using a significance level α of 0.05, a critical value F of 5.32 is found. From Table 4, it can be seen that feed per tooth has a significant influence on longitudinal roughness values, as $F > F_{\text{critical}}$.

Table 4. ANOVA Longitudinal roughness.

Source	SS	Df	MS	F	Prob>F
Spindle speed	0.00037	1	0.00037	0.64	0.4455
Feed per tooth	0.02241	1	0.02241	38.8	0.0003
Interaction	0.0008	1	0.0008	1.38	0.2739
Error	0.00462	8	0.00058		
Total	0.0282	11			

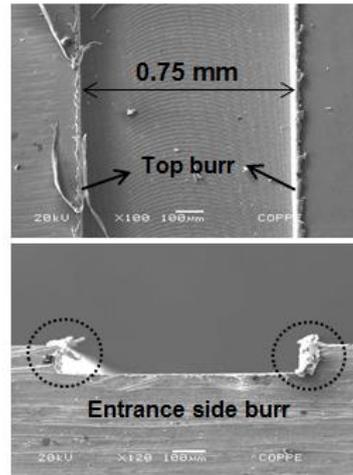
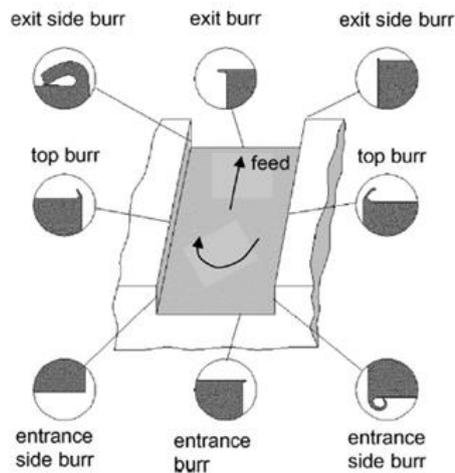
Table 5 shows the results for the ANOVA executed for the transversal roughness. It shows that both factors have influence in the transversal roughness values, considering a significance level of 0.05. Moreover, it can be seen that the influence of the feed per tooth is greater than of the cutting velocity.

Table 5. ANOVA Transverse roughness.

Source	SS	Df	MS	F	Prob>F
Spindle speed	0.00126	1	0.00126	6.55	0.0337
Feed per tooth	0.01008	1	0.01008	52.2	0.0001
Interaction	0.00003	1	0.00003	0.16	0.7004
Error	0.00154	8	0.00019		
Total	0.01292	11			

3.2 Burr Formation

The control of the burr formation through an adequate selection of the cutting parameters in micromachining shows high relevance, as they will influence on the tool wear and on the surface integrity of the workpiece. Its formation depends on the minimum chip thickness, the cutting tool edge radius and the part material, Moreira [13]. Figure 12 shows the types of burrs usually formed in micromilling process, Hashimura et al. [14] and the image of the top and side views of the replicate 1 of the first experiment.

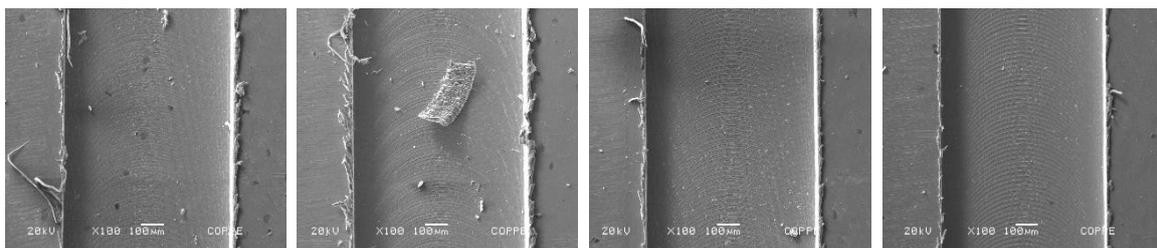


(a) Types of milling burr, Hashimura et al. [14] (b) Top and side view from SEM
Figure 12. Analysis of the types of the burr formed.

Table 6 shows the mean of the top burr height and Figure 13 presents the image from SEM for a replicate of each channel obtained in the direction 2 (see Figure 5b). So, it is possible to observe that for experiments 1 and 2, obtained with lower feed per tooth, the occurrence of top burr was higher. At lower feed per tooth, the rubbing and compression of the material take place instead of cutting and this generates more burrs, Aramcharoen and Mativenga [3].

Table 6. Top burr height.

Experiment	Tests	fz (mm/tooth)	n (rpm)	Average
1	5, 6 and 11	0.007	20000	16,2075
2	1, 3 and 8	0.007	12000	20,0292
3	4, 7 and 9	0.01	2000	14,9306
4	2, 10 and 12	0.01	12000	12,2839



(a) Exp. 1 (b) Exp. 2 (c) Exp. 3 (d) Exp. 4
Figure 13. SEM of the top view and of the start of the channel for a replicate of each experiment.

In order to analyze the influence of the factors, feed per tooth and cutting speed, in the top burr height, it was made an Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). It was used the same data configuration presented in 3.1. The hypotheses tested for each parameter were:

- H0 (Null Hypothesis) - the top burr height does not vary with the parameter;
- H1 (Alternative Hypothesis) – the top burr height varies with the parameter.

Using a significance level α of 0.05, a critical value F equal to 5.32 is found. From Table 7 it is possible to observe that the burr height is not influenced by spindle speed and feed per tooth, as $F < F_{critical}$.

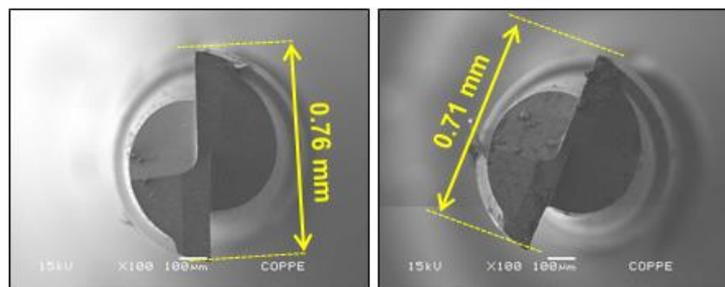
Table 7. ANOVA top burr height.

Source	SS	Df	MS	F	Prob>F
Spindle speed	0.881	1	0.8812	0.05	0.8242
Feed per tooth	67.09	1	670.899	4.01	0.0802
Interaction	44.184	1	441.842	2.64	0.1428
Error	133.841	8	167.302		
Total	245.997	11			

3.3 Tool Wear

The control of cutting parameters which influence on the tool life in micromilling processes is of very importance, as variations of the tool diameter and of the cutting edge wear influence on the accuracy, on the roughness and induce the formation of burrs, Takács et al. [7]; Biermann and Steiner [9]; Wu [15]. The increase of the cutting speed and feed per tooth in machining processes tends to lower the life of the cutting tool because of the higher wear.

Figure 14 shows the top view of the micromill as received ($d_s = 0.76$ mm) and after use ($d_e = 0.71$ mm). Figure 15 shows the raise of the roughness for all the first, second and third replicas of all experiments. It is possible to observe the increase of the tool wear by the increase of the R_a .



(a) Microtool as received (b) Microtool after use
Figure 14. Measure of the tool diameter before and after micromilling.

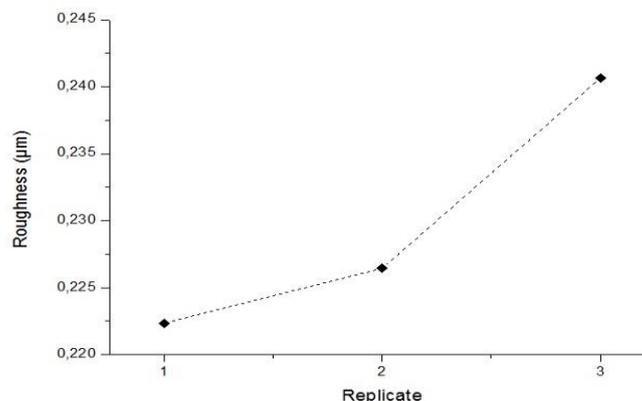


Figure 15. Variation of the roughness for the three replicates of all experiments.

4 CONCLUSION

This article presented an experimental study of the micromilling of super duplex stainless steel UNS S 32750 and the influence of the cutting parameters on the surface integrity and on the tool wear.

About the surface integrity, roughness results in transversal and longitudinal direction of the channels indicated the raise of the roughness for higher values of feed per tooth, showing little or no influence of spindle speed, as presented by the ANOVA. The analysis of variance also indicated that the top burr height did not suffer any influence of the cutting parameters. Despite this, images obtained with SEM showed that burr formation was higher for lower feed per tooth.

The surface roughness increased with the cutting time, as it can be seen comparing the three replicates of all four experiments, as consequence of tool wear confirmed in microscope images. The initial diameter of the micromilling tool reduced from 0.76 mm to 0.71 mm.

It is suggested for future work the use of lower feed per tooth, less than cutting edge radius, to verify the influence of the minimum chip thickness on the surface roughness, on the burr formation and on the elastic recovery of the micromilled channels.

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