



EXPERIMENTAL ANALYSIS OF IMPROVING MRR ON μ EDM UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD

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Abstract-This paper presents a study of the influential effect of machining parameters like type of material, voltage, feed rate, and spindle speed on machining characteristics like MRR (material removal rate) in magnetic field assisted μ EDM-drilling process. Two workpieces titanium alloy (Ti-6Al-4V) and AISI D2-Steel has been studied simultaneously under same orthogonal array to better understand the effect of electromagnetic field (EMF) on magnetic and non-magnetic materials. Wedge shaped electromagnets has been used to produce pulsed magnetic field and continuous magnetic field. The workpiece materials used were 1 mm thick while the tool was a 400 μ m diameter tungsten carbide electrode. L_{18} Orthogonal array was used for carrying out experiment where one factor is taken at two levels and other factors are taken at three levels. Taguchi Methodology is used to establish a relationship between type of material, voltage, feed rate, magnetic field and spindle speed on output characteristics MRR. Furthermore, the optimal settings of process parameters in terms of mean response characteristic are established by analyzing response curves and the ANOVA Tables. In the last stage of work, estimation of optimum performance characteristics is validated by performing confirmation experiments. The proposed models could be realized as significant tools for mass production using magnetic field.

Keywords: μ EDM, MRR, L_{18} Orthogonal array, pulsed magnetic field.

1. INTRODUCTION

μ EDM is capable process in the field of miniaturization. The unique capability of μ EDM process is it can also be associated with different processes for producing the minuscule parts (Yu, Masuzawa and Fujino, 1998; Takahata and Gianchandani, 2002; Prakash et al., 2017). The μ EDM is a process which uses thermo-electric energy to erode the material from a conductive workpiece and a conductive electrode in presence of a good dielectric fluid (Kumar and Satsangi, 2014). In this process, both the electrodes are aligned together for some selected gap voltage. Electrode material erodes due to spark generation (Alting et al., 2003). There are two categories of μ EDM: die-sinking and wire-cut. Die-sinking reproduces shape of the tool is used whereas in wire-cut μ EDM, a metal wire is used for cutting a work-piece. In recent years, tremendous developments in μ EDM have emphasized on the mass production of micro-designs.

Wansheng et al (2002) performed μ EDM on Ti-alloy and reported slow condensation results in long sized debris. Opposite effect is also reported on use of steel plates, so it's easier to machine steel. Yan and Lai (2007) machined Ti-alloy with WEDM and reported about thermal oxidation due to high heat. Due to this machining of Ti-alloy is difficult. Kuriakose and Shunmugam (2004) also reported formation of oxides with WEDM and hence burning effect on cutting surface is seen. Bhattacharya, Batish and Bhatt, (2015) studied a hybrid EDM process on various die steels. In case of D2 steel, they used tungsten powder along with magnetic field and found WC powder improved micro-hardness by 2 times and magnetic field quickens the MRR. Siva, Parivallal and Kumar, (2014) studied machining of d2 steel on μ EDM. They concluded that MRR is directly proportional to current. Overcut and taper does go incremental with increment in voltage. Jafferson et al. (2014) compared magnetic assistance with hybrid vibro-magneto assistance and found that μ EDM-milling of titanium with 230G permanent magnets resulted in improved MRR and reduced TWR while with hybrid system, MRR reduced and TWR increased. Chu et al. (2015) applied 0.3T magnets on μ EDM. They reported improvement in MRR due to less machining time and better debris removal.

Although many researches has been carried out using many difficult-to-machine materials as a centre of the study. Still many scopes have been found to enhance the MRR and to make micro EDM process industry viable. In the present work, an effort is reported regarding enhancement in production of micro-parts. Magnetic field assisted μ EDM-drilling process is used to study the effect of input parameters on MRR. Electromagnets are used to produce pulsed magnetic field (0-0.4T) and continuous magnetic field of 0.4 T. All the experiments are performed on highly accurate DT-110 μ EDM. Taguchi methodology is used to investigate the effect of magnetic field on performance measures of μ EDM. An effort is also made to compare the magnetic and non-magnetic materials at the same platform i.e. under the influence of induced magnetic field; hence two materials titanium alloy (Ti-6Al-4V) and AISI D2-Steel are also taken as one of the input variable.

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2. EXPERIMENTAL SET UP

A highly accurate DT-110 μ EDM (available in Punjab Engineering College, Chandigarh) is used for performing the experimental work. It works on RC-type pulse generator and has 6 capacitance setting values, along with variable voltage (80V – 130V). Both capacitance and voltage are responsible for producing the discharge energy. A solid cylindrical special tool made of tungsten carbide with 400 micron diameter is used. The drilling operation was performed on rectangular shaped (1mm thick) workpieces. The workpieces are made of titanium alloy (Ti-6Al-4V) and AISI D2-Steel. Both materials are investigated under influence of no electromagnetic field (NEMF), pulsed electromagnetic field (PEMF) and continuous electromagnetic field (CEMF) using L18 array. The chemical-composition of workpiece materials along with magnetic nature is shown in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively.

Table 1 Chemical-Composition of AISI D2 Steel

Element	C	Si	Mn	Cr	Ni	Mo	V	Fe	Nature
(in Wt %)	1.49	0.30	0.207	11.64	0.228	0.794	1.0	Balanced	Magnetic

Table 2 Chemical-Composition of Titanium Alloy (Ti-6Al-4V)

Element	Al	V	C	Fe	Ti	Nature
(in wt %)	5.600	4.500	0.020	0.012	Balanced	Non-Magnetic

While performing the pilot experimentation, it is learnt that if same small diameter (0.4 mm diameter) tool are more and errors cannot be nullified the chances of wobbling of tool. This problem commonly occurs in electrodes with diameters $\leq 500 \mu\text{m}$. To avoid this problem, specially designed non-fluted WC tool with large shank diameter (as shown in fig. 1) is used. The removal of debris is achieved by the side flushing of dielectric (EDMM oil). After preliminary investigations, the input parameters are selected as per table 3.

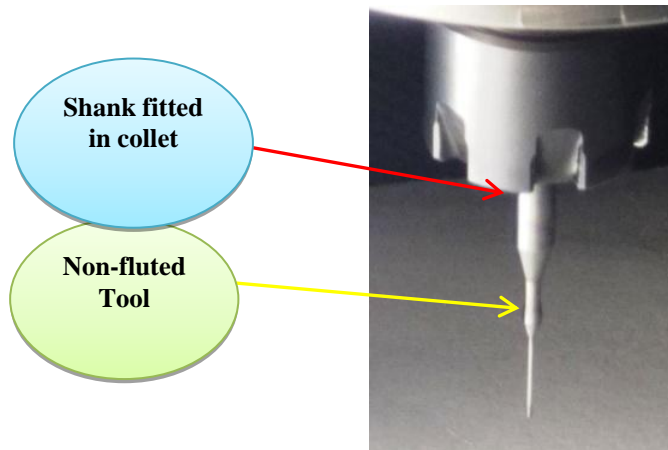


Fig. 1 Easy holding of Actual tool in collet (due to large shank diameter)

Table 3 input parameters selected for L₁₈ orthogonal array

Inputs	Measurement	L(1)	L(2)	L(3)
Materials	-	Titanium	D2 Steel	-
Voltage	V	110	120	130
Feed Rate	$\mu\text{m/s}$	4	6	8
Magnetic field	Tesla	No Magnetic Field	Pulsed Magnetic Field	Continuous Magnetic Field
RPM of tool	Rev/Min.	250	500	750
Capacitance = 0.4 μF is taken as Constant				

Most of the researches have used the permanent magnet based magnetic field (Kumar and Satsangi, 2016); only a few has reported about importance of electromagnetic field at macro level machining (Chattopadhyay et al., 2008); and almost no research is available at μ EDM level. An actual application of electromagnetic field setup is shown in fig. 2. The advantage of

using electromagnets is these are fully controllable which is impossible in case of permanent magnets. The setup formed is not a simple electromagnetic field setup; it is capable of producing pulsed magnetic field and continuous magnetic field as per requirement of the user.

MRR (Material Removal Rate) in μ EDM is the volumetric change per unit time. It is one of the substantial characteristic to measure and achieve. MRR is designated by $\text{mm}^3/\text{Minute}$. Basic equation of MRR is (Yan et al., 2002; Puertas, Luis and Álvarez, 2004; S and D, 2010):

$$\text{MRR} = \frac{\text{Volume removed from work-material (mm}^3\text{)}}{\text{Time of machining (in Minute)}}$$

1

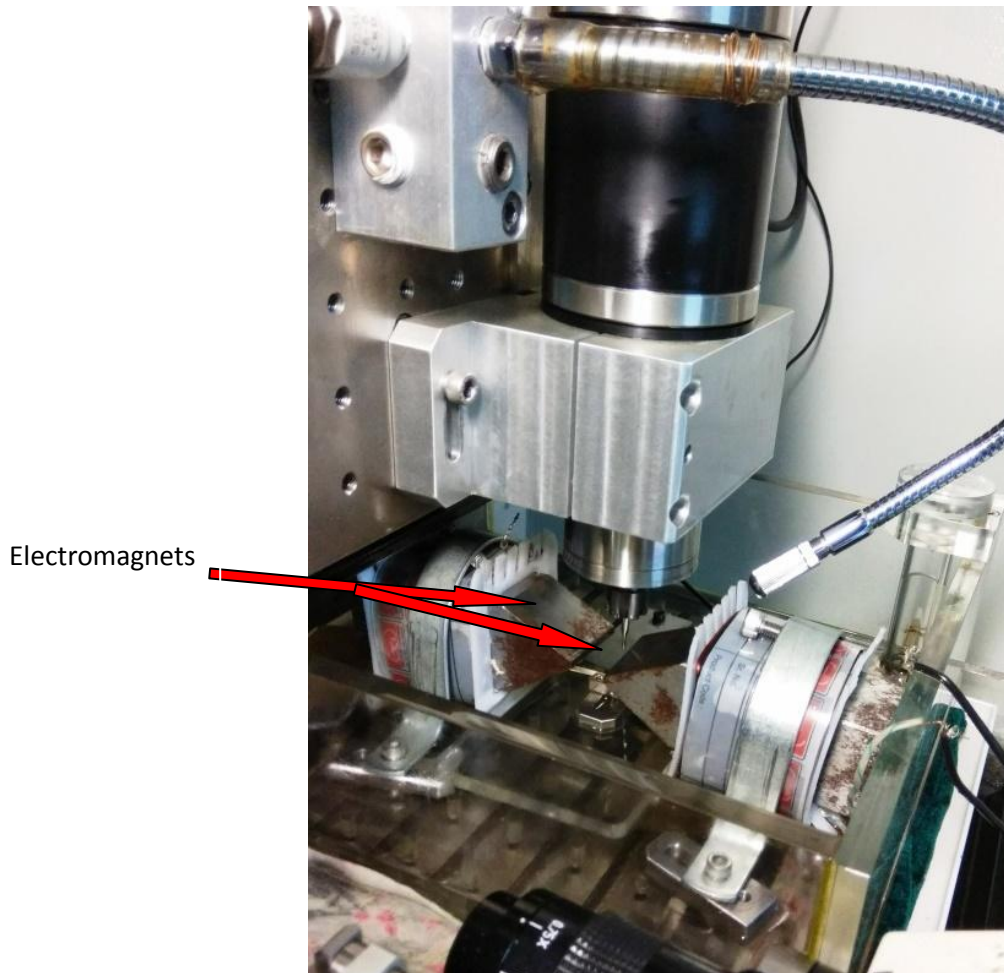


fig. 2 Actual setup of Electromagnets used

3. ANALYSIS BASED ON TAGUCHI METHOD FOR MRR

The experiments were planned by using the parametric approach of the Taguchi's L_{18} Orthogonal Array (OA). The response characteristics data are provided in Table 4. The analysis of the data is done by using the standard procedure. The average values and S/N ratio of the response characteristics for each parameter at different levels are calculated from experimental data. The main effects of process parameters for raw data and S/N data are plotted. Moreover, effect of each process parameter on output characteristics are examined by analyzing the response curves. The significant process parameters are identified by using analysis of variance (ANOVA). The ANOVA for raw data and S/N data is performed to analyze the effect of process parameters on performance measures. The optimal settings of process parameters in terms of mean response characteristic are established by analyzing response curves and the ANOVA Table.

Further, the effect of μ EDM process parameters i.e. type of work-material, voltage, feed rate, electro-magnetic field and spindle speed on the selected output parameter (MRR) has been discussed. The type of work-material is varied at two levels, whereas voltage, feed rate, electro-magnetic field and spindle speed are varied at level one, two and three. Each experiment is replicated for three times to observe the exact effect of individual parameter on output response characteristic.

Table 4 Observed Values of MRR and S/N ratio

INPUT PARAMETERS						RESPONSES			
Experi ment No.	A Materia ls	B Volta ge (V)	C Feed Rate (μ m/se c)	D Electro- magnetic field	E Spind le Speed (R.P. M.)	RAW DATA			S/N Ratio
						MRR (mm ³ /min)			
						R1	R2	R3	
1	Ti- alloy	110V	4	No Magnetic Field	250	0.0052456 5	0.0060049 87	0.005370 334	- 45.1740048 7
2	Ti- alloy	110V	6	Pulsed Magnetic Field	500	0.0058039 03	0.0060480 44	0.005836 028	- 44.5931905 1
3	Ti- alloy	110V	8	Continuou s Magnetic Field	750	0.0054349 26	0.0055010 9	0.005658 546	- 45.1468179 1
4	Ti- alloy	120V	4	No Magnetic Field	500	0.0063982 34	0.0063421 09	0.006211 344	- 43.9914839 9
5	Ti- alloy	120V	6	Pulsed Magnetic Field	750	0.0072300 05	0.0072012	0.006951 927	- 42.9450611 3
6	Ti- alloy	120V	8	Continuou s Magnetic Field	250	0.0067570 14	0.0070194 22	0.006885 719	- 43.2420649 3
7	Ti- alloy	130V	4	Pulsed Magnetic Field	250	0.0085867 04	0.0082723 16	0.008141 897	- 41.5897592 3
8	Ti- alloy	130V	6	Continuou s Magnetic Field	500	0.0081418 97	0.0078587 01	0.007893 018	- 41.9800130 3
9	Ti- alloy	130V	8	No Magnetic Field	750	0.0068336 53	0.0060250 04	0.006694 449	-43.7581695
10	D2- steel	110V	4	Continuou s Magnetic Field	750	0.0054849 5	0.0059212 16	0.005695 139	-44.8945533
11	D2- steel	110V	6	No Magnetic Field	250	0.0050337 68	0.0049460 16	0.005358 184	- 45.8423306 6
12	D2- steel	110V	8	Pulsed Magnetic Field	500	0.0058193 02	0.0055486 5	0.005172 251	- 45.2022351 2
13	D2- steel	120V	4	Pulsed Magnetic Field	750	0.0066931 84	0.0064646 55	0.006922 229	- 43.4972772 5
14	D2- steel	120V	6	Continuou s Magnetic Field	250	0.0061361 42	0.0064903 61	0.006272 754	- 44.0204606 9
15	D2- steel	120V	8	No Magnetic Field	500	0.0058800 25	0.0057305 33	0.005663 341	- 44.7978130 3
16	D2- steel	130V	4	Continuou s Magnetic Field	500	0.0074005 94	0.0078303 06	0.007554 133	- 42.3965011 1

17	D2-steel	130V	6	No Magnetic Field	750	0.0060267 63	0.0061029 14	0.006620 168	- 44.1048275 1
18	D2-steel	130V	8	Pulsed Magnetic Field	250	0.0075229 18	0.0081274 38	0.007881 152	- 42.1226104 8

Effect on Work-material Removal Rate (MRR):

The raw data for average values of MRR and S/N ratio for each parameter was analyzed for type of work-material at two levels (L1 and L2) and voltage, feed rate, electro-magnetic field and spindle speed at three levels (L1, L2 and L3). The results so obtained are presented in Table 5 in form of raw data calculations for MRR at various levels. From the means table and observing fig. 3, Highest MRR is seen on Ti-alloy (L1) at settings gap-voltage 130 V (L3), feed rate 4µm/s (L1), pulsed electro-magnetic field (L2) and low spindle speed 250 R.P.M. (L1) i.e. A₁B₃C₁D₂E₁.

Table 5 Main Effects of MRR (Raw Data) at various levels

Level	Type of Materials	Voltage (V)	Feed Rate (µm/sec)	Electro-magnetic field	Spindle Speed (R.P.M.)
L1	0.00668	0.005549	0.006697	0.005916	0.00667
L2	0.006307	0.006514	0.006442	0.006901	0.006507
L3		0.007417	0.006342	0.006663	0.006303
DELTA	0.000372	0.001868	0.000355	0.000985	0.000366
Rank	3	1	5	2	4

L1, L2 and L3 represent level of parameters 1, 2 and 3, where DELTA is the main effect of the corresponding parameter.

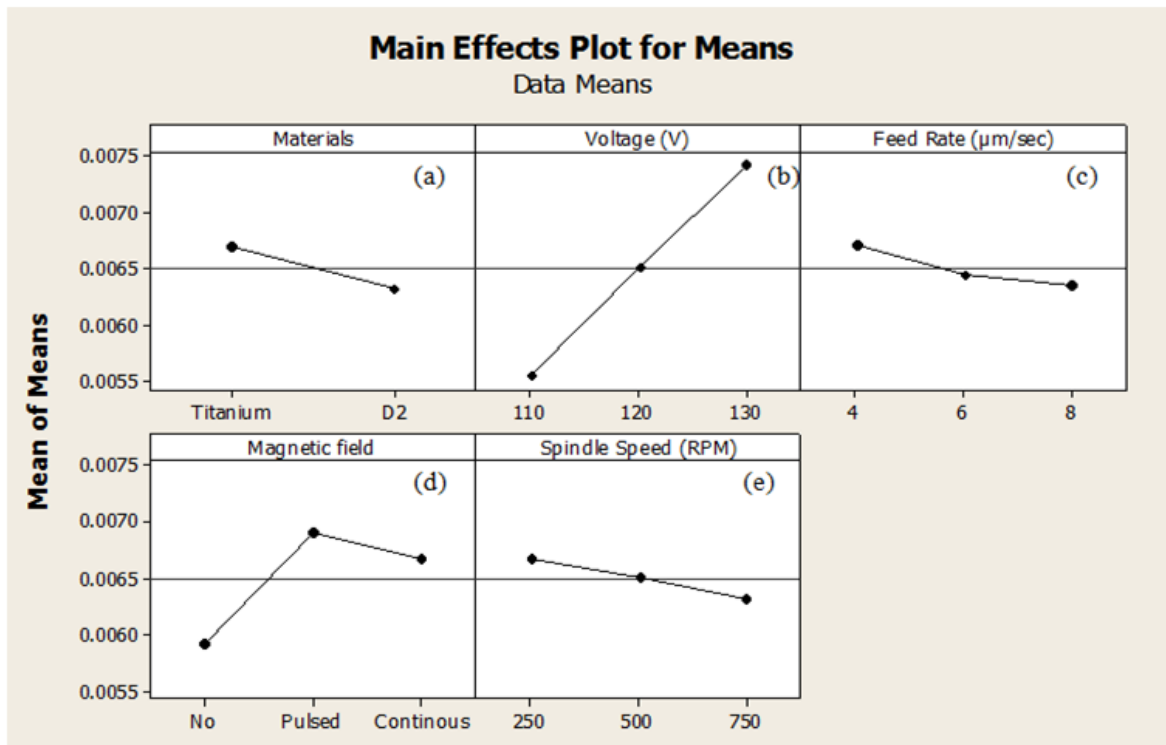


Fig. 3 (a) Effect of type of work-material on MRR (b) Effect of Voltage on MRR (c) Effect of type of Feed rate on MRR (d) Effect of Electro-magnetic field on MRR (e) Effect of Spindle Speed on MRR

Fig. 3 (a) shows that the MRR is higher in case of Ti-alloy as compared to D2-steel. This occurs mainly due to the fact that the Ti-alloy has lower value of hardness as compared to D2-steel.

Fig. 3 (b) shows that the increase in MRR is observed at higher value of voltage i.e. at 130V. The general increase in MRR is explained by the fact that the higher the voltage, higher is the energy produced ($E_d = 0.5 CV^2$) causing to work-material to melt at a faster rate..

Fig. 3 (c) clearly depicts that lower setting of feed rate (4 μ m/s) gives higher MRR due to the fact that at lower feed rate, short circuit (discharge stop) does not occur so frequently.

The pulsed electro-magnetic field (PEMF) gives higher MRR as shown in fig. 3 (d). This type of behaviour is observed due to fast variation in electro-magnetic field (EMF) strength (upto 0.4T on work-material surface) with each quick change in pulse. This variation in EMF strength leads to high variation in pulling force. This variation in force observed by debris leads to unsettling/non-sticking on either work-material surface as well as on tool. This variation in force is possibly the another reason that more debris comes out from melt pool as compared to when debris feel a continuous equal force during continuous electro-magnetic field setting. These splashed debris now flushes away with di-electric and leads to higher MRR.

Fig. 3 (e) shows that the spindle speed of 250 R.P.M. gives higher value of MRR as compared to 500 R.P.M. and 750 R.P.M. This occurs because Ti-alloy/D2-Steel is considerably tough material to be holed-out and requires proper di-electric ionization during formation of crater on workpiece which is possible when dielectric moves at slow speed.

ANOVA: In subsequent step, ANOVA has been performed to determine the significant factors affecting the output characteristics. The ANOVA for average values of raw data as well as S/N data is given in Tables 7. This Table indicates that all the parameters significantly affect the average values. The percentage contribution of parameters as quantified under column P% in Tables 7 indicates that the voltage, Electro-magnetic field and type of work-materials are the most influential in controlling the average values as well as S/N ratio.

Table 7 ANOVA Of MRR (Means Or Raw Data)

Source	DF	Seq SS	Adj MS (V)	F	SS ²	P %
Type of Work-materials	1	0.0000019	0.0000019	23.56*	0.0000018	3.696098563
Voltage (V)	2	0.0000314	0.0000157	197.97*	0.0000314	64.47638604
Feed Rate (μ m/sec)	2	0.0000012	0.0000006	7.59*	0.0000012	2.464065708
Electro-magnetic field	2	0.0000095	0.0000048	59.94*	0.0000095	19.50718686
Spindle Speed (R.P.M.)	2	0.0000012	0.0000006	7.63*	0.0000012	2.464065708
Error	44	0.0000035	0.0000001		0.0000035	7.186858316
Total	53	0.0000487			0.0000487	100

*Indicates – Source is Significant at 95% confidence level,

SS = Sum of Squares,

DOF= Degree of Freedom,

SS²= Pure Sum of Squares,

F-ratio (1, 44) tabulated for MRR: 4.06,

F-ratio tabulated for other parameters: 3.21,

P%- Percentage contribution.

3.1 Estimation of optimum value of MRR

The optimum value of MRR (mm³/min.) is predicted at the selected levels of significant parameters A₁B₃C₁D₂E₁. The estimated mean of the response characteristic MRR is determined (Sundaram, Pavalarajan and Rajurkar, 2008; Kumar and Singh, 2014) as

$$\mu_{MRR} = \bar{A}_1 + \bar{B}_3 + \bar{C}_1 + \bar{D}_2 + \bar{E}_1 - 4 \times \bar{T}$$

2

Where T = Overall mean of MRR = 0.006493467, V_e = Error variance = 0.0000001

A₁ (Avg./mean MRR at the first level of Type of Work-material) = 0.00668,

B₃ (Avg./mean MRR at the third level of Voltage) = 0.007417,

C₁ (Avg./mean MRR at the first level of Feed Rate) = 0.006697,

D₂ (Avg./mean MRR at the second level of Electro-magnetic field i.e. Pulsed) = 0.006901,

E₁ (Avg./mean MRR at the first level of Spindle Speed) = 0.00667

Substituting the values of various terms in the above equation

$$\mu_{MRR} = 0.00668 + 0.007417 + 0.006697 + 0.006901 + 0.00667 - 4 \times 0.006493467 = 0.008391$$

The 95% confidence interval of confirmation experiments (CI_{CE}) and of population (CI_{pop}) is calculated by using the following equations:

$$CI_{CE} = \sqrt{F_{\alpha}(1, f_e) V_e \left[\frac{1}{n_{eff}} + \frac{1}{R} \right]} \quad 3$$

$$CI_{POP} = \sqrt{\frac{F_{\alpha}(1, f_e) V_e}{n_{eff}}} \quad 4$$

Where $F_{\alpha}(1, f_e)$: The F ratio at the confidence level of $(1-\alpha)$ against DOF 53 and error DOF $f_e=44$, N: Total number of results = 54 (Treatment=18, Repetition=3), R : Sample size for confirmation experiments =3 V_e : Error variance = 0.0000001(Ref. Anova Table), f_e error DOF = 44. DOF associated in the estimate of mean response = $1+2+2+2+2 = 9$

$$n_{eff} = \frac{N}{1+(\text{DOF associated in the estimate of mean response})} = \frac{54}{1+9} = 5.4 \quad 5$$

$F_{0.05}(1, 44) = 4.06$ (tabulated F value) , So

$$CI_{CE} = \sqrt{F_{\alpha}(1, f_e) V_e \left[\frac{1}{n_{eff}} + \frac{1}{R} \right]} = \sqrt{4.06 * 0.0000001 \left[\frac{1}{5.4} + \frac{1}{3} \right]} = \mathbf{0.000458823}$$

$$CI_{POP} = \sqrt{\frac{F_{\alpha}(1, f_e) V_e}{n_{eff}}} = \sqrt{\frac{4.06 * 0.0000001}{5.4}} = \mathbf{0.0002742}$$

So $CI_{CE} = \pm 0.000458823$, $CI_{POP} = \pm 0.0002742$; $\mu_{MRR} = 0.008391$

The predicted optimal range (for a confirmation runs of three experiments) is :

$$\mu_{MRR} - CI_{CE} < \mu_{MRR} < \mu_{MRR} + CI_{CE} \text{ is } 0.007932177 < \mu_{MRR} < 0.008849823 \quad 6$$

The 95% conformation interval of the predicted mean is as follows:

$$\mu_{MRR} - CI_{POP} < \mu_{MRR} < \mu_{MRR} + CI_{POP}; 0.0081168 < \mu_{MRR} < 0.0086652 \quad 7$$

3.2 Confirmation experiment

The confirmation test trials to maximize the MRR are conducted at optimal input factors i.e. Type of Work-materials = Ti-alloy (level 1), Voltage (B, level 3) = 130 V, Feed rate (C, level 1) = $4\mu\text{m/s}$, Electro-magnetic field (D, level 2) = Pulsed Electro-magnetic Field, Spindle Speed (E, level 1) = 250 R.P.M. The average MRR is found to be $0.008391234 \text{ mm}^3/\text{min}$, which fall within the 95% confidence interval of the predicted output factors.

4. CONCLUSIONS:

The present paper investigated the effect of various input parameters on MRR and also the effect of magnetic field in improving the MRR. The significant parameter for MRR is determined by using S/N ratio and ANOVA. The important conclusions are:

- The optimal value of process parameters for the predicted range of optimal MRR are as follows: Type of Work-materials (A, level 1), Voltage (B, level 3) = 130 V, Feed rate (C, level 1) = $4\mu\text{m/s}$, Electro-magnetic field (D, level 2) = Pulsed Electro-magnetic Field, Spindle Speed (E, level 1) = 250 R.P.M.
- MRR increases with increase in voltage, it also seen higher irrespective of magnetic properties of material.
- MRR increases when pulsed type EMF is employed. Pulsed EMF provides variable pulling force due to continually change in magnetic strength which results in more molten material removal in discharge column before settling back on surface.
- The feed and speed values must be low for hard materials like Titanium alloy and AISI D2-steel.

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