



Optimization of CNC Milling Parameters Using Surface Roughness as a Response Variable

Khaled Saleh Mohammed Alwaer, Ebraheem Ahmed Altome, Omer Kalaf
Higher Institute for Science and Technology – Al Garaboulli

Correspondence: omer1983kalaf@gmail.com

Received: 2-08-2025; Revised: 08-09-2025; Accepted: 13-09-2025; Published 22 -09-2025

ABSTRACT

The present study focused on the effect of the main milling parameters such as rating feed ,speed and depth of cutting , and other factors were constant such as cooling condition were air cooling and milling tool type were four cutting edge tool with carbide coated insert and the study was carried out by machining C60 .Also in the presents study of the Taguchi method were applied to optimize surface quality in a CNC milling machine .An orthogonal array of L9 and MINTTAB16 were applied .The surface roughness values were obtained from the regression model are very close to the true values.

1. Introduction

The surface roughness is the criterion for the irregularity in the smooth surface. The surface roughness is determined as an arithmetic mean deviation of the surface depressions and peaks, which are expressed in the form of micro inches or micrometers, and the international measurement system (ISO) Center Line Average (CLA) is used[1-3]. The ability of manufacturing processes to produce a certain roughness on the surface depends on many factors such as rotational speed, feed rate depth of cut, cutting speed, and the mechanical properties of the specimen such as microstructure, cutting tool geometry and the rigidity of the machine, when the parameters study were not selected properly, the tool wears quickly and broken and directly effect on the economic losses of the specimen [4-6]. Any change in these factors may have a significant impact on the surface produced[7]. Computer numerical control milling machines have become one of the most effective manufacturing machines and are widely used in the field of industrial operations and are used in many diverse industries, including the aerospace industry[8]. Surface quality affects the wear resulting from surface friction, and therefore the surface to be finished is usually determined[9]. And choosing the appropriate processes to achieve the required quality level. In the case of cutting with a milling machine, the final surface depends on the rotational speed, feed rate, depth of cut, cutting speed, and mechanical properties of the work piece, and any change to these factors affects the produced surface[10-13].

2. Research Methodology:

Medium carbon steel was chosen for its versatility in many industrial products the samples with 50mm length,50mm width and 25mm height, milling tool consist four insert carbide was using , and air cooling , the MINITAB 16 program was used and using the Taguchi methodology as showing in fig.(1) , then the number of experiments used was determined, and the main variable and fixed factors

that were also determined at three levels with fixed type of tool milling and cooling for all experiments.

3. Equipment and material.

3.1 Specimen material

Cutting test were performed on medium carbon steel (C60)[14]. The application of this metal could be applied on automotive and heavy equipment machines. In this study the die mention of specimen were 50mm in length, 50mm width and 25mm as height.

Table 1: Chemical composition

Elements	Fe	C	Si	Mn	P	S	Cr	Mo
Percent	98.8	0.58	0.211	0.694	0.0007	0.0030	0.0306	0.0051
Elements	Ni	Al	Co	Cu	Nb	Ti	V	W
Percent	0.0665	0.0153	0.0078	0.125	0.0024	0.0009	0.0032	0.01

Table 2: Mechanical properties

Tensile Strength (MPa)	Yield point (MPa)
700–850	400–600

3.2Milling machine

In this study (Bridge port CNC) were applied, and for the cutting tool was carbides insert type quadrant and in this case (PCE-RT 2000) device were used for surface roughness measure.

4. Design of experiments.

The cutting speed, feed rate and depth of cut have a very important effect on the surface roughness in milling operations, then choose these three main factors as variable factors, provided that they are at three levels as shown in table (3). And then constant the milling tool type and cooling method in all experiments[15, 16]. One of the steps included in Taguchi design is to choose the known orthogonal array (OA) according to the factors, as there were three factors, according to the following equation (1). And each of them was at three levels, then choose nine columns and each column has three levels as shown in table (4).

$$L_N(3^k).....(1)$$

Where:

L_N : the total number of runs

3: number of level per factor

K: number of factors

Table (3) Levels and parameters.

Symbol	Control factor	Unit	Level I	Level II	Level III
A	Feed rate	mm/min	50	100	150
B	Cutting speed	rpm	500	750	1000
C	Depth of cut	mm	0.2	0.4	0.6

Session

Taguchi Orthogonal Array Design

L9(3**3)

Factors: 3

Runs: 9

Columns of L9(3**4) Array

1 2 3

Worksheet1 ***

	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	C8	C9	C10	C11	C12	C13	C14	C15	C16	C17	C18	C19	C20
1	1	1	1																	
2	1	2	2																	
3	1	3	3																	
4	2	1	2																	
5	2	2	3																	
6	2	3	1																	
7	3	1	3																	
8	3	2	1																	
9	3	3	2																	
10																				

Fig.(1) MINITAB 16 program

Table (4) Experimental layout of an L9 orthogonal array

No.	Control factor		
	Feed rate	Cutting speed	Depth of cut
	A	B	C
1	1	1	1

2	1	2	2
3	1	3	3
4	2	1	2
5	2	2	3
6	2	3	1
7	3	1	3
8	3	2	1
9	3	3	2

5. Conducting the Experiments:

In this step, practical experiments are performed on all samples according to the data provided the MINITAB 16 software as showing in table (5).

Table (5) Experimental layout of an L₉ orthogonal array

No.	Control factor		
	Feed rate A	Cutting speed B	Depth of cut C
1	50	500	0.2
2	50	750	0.4
3	50	1000	0.6
4	100	500	0.4
5	100	750	0.6
6	100	1000	0.2
7	150	500	0.6
8	150	750	0.2
9	150	1000	0.4

Table (6) experimental result of the (Ra).

EXP.NO	Feed rate mm/min	Cutting speed RPM	Depth of cut mm	Ra1 μm	Ra2 μm	Ra3 μm
1	50	500	0.2	3.103	3.279	4.327
2	50	750	0.4	3.199	2.896	2.827
3	50	1000	0.6	0.153	0.320	0.185
4	100	500	0.4	2.649	2.840	2.485
5	100	750	0.6	2.422	2.927	2.909
6	100	1000	0.2	0.157	0.600	0.515
7	150	500	0.6	0.705	0.790	0.703
8	150	750	0.2	3.659	2.983	2.810
9	150	1000	0.4	1.402	1.801	0.279

5. Signal-to-noise ratio

The optimization product and processes performance to get the goals of the results analysis, the Taguchi design were needed. Also for the optimal noise ratio in this study, the maximize the mean performance were needed[17, 18]. To find deviation between the required and experimental values for loss function by Taguchi. In signal to noise ratio, to obtain the performance character analysis, we have different ways such as lower and higher the nominal the better. To calculate performance machining in the optimal, the formation below are need to get values[19].

$$S/N = -10 \log MSD \dots \dots \dots (2)$$

MSD : Mean square deviation

$$MSD = \left| \frac{y_1^2 + \dots + Y_n^2}{n} \right| \dots \dots \dots (3)$$

$$S/N = -10 \log \left| \frac{y_1^2 + \dots + Y_n^2}{n} \right| \dots \dots \dots (4)$$

n= Number of measurement

Table 8: Single ratio and averages S/N

No. Of Exp.	Response value			Average Ra μm	Sum of squares	MSD	S/N Signal- to-noise Ratio
	Ra1 μm	Ra2 μm	Ra3 μm				

1	3.103	3.279	4.327	3.596	39.1034	13.03446	-11.1509
2	3.199	2.896	2.827	2.974	26.6123	8.87077	-9.4796
3	0.153	0.320	0.185	0.219	0.1600	0.05333	12.7302
4	2.649	2.840	2.485	2.658	21.2580	7.086	-8.5040
5	2.422	2.927	2.909	2.752	22.8957	7.6319	-8.8263
6	0.157	0.600	0.515	0.423	0.6499	0.21667	6.6420
7	0.705	0.790	0.703	0.732	1.6153	0.53843	2.6887
8	3.659	2.983	2.810	3.150	30.1827	10.0609	-10.0263
9	1.402	1.801	0.279	1.160	5.2870	1.76233	-2.4608
Averages				1.96			-3.1541

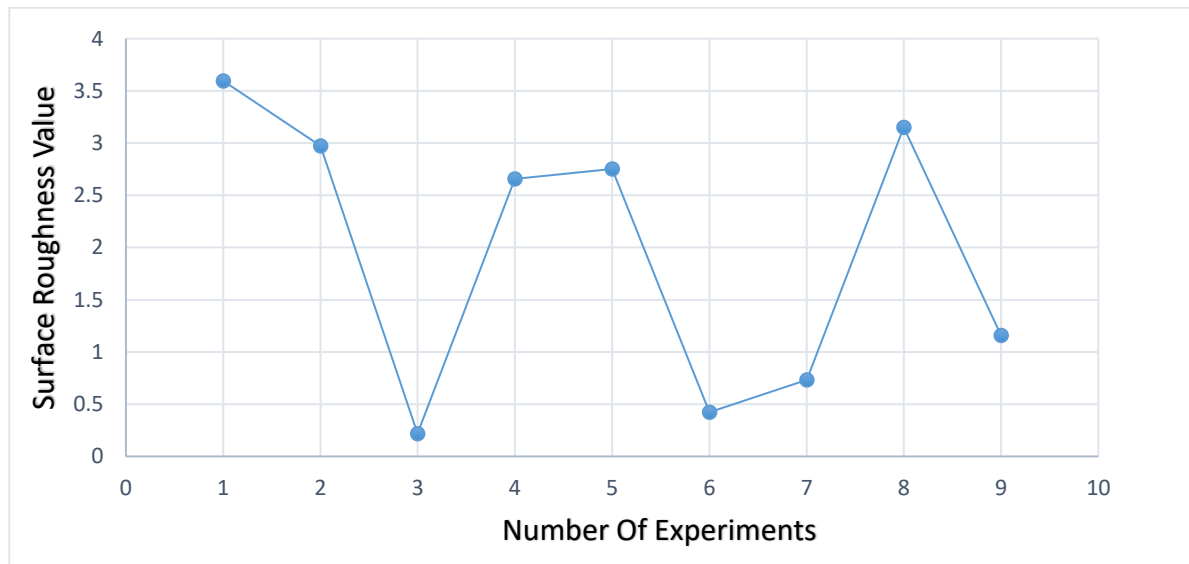


Fig (2) average surface roughness values

From fig. (2) The minimum surface roughness value was $0.219\mu\text{m}$ at Experiment No. three is the best, the cutting variable was 50mm the feed rat, 1000rpm cutting speed and 0.6mm depth of cut.

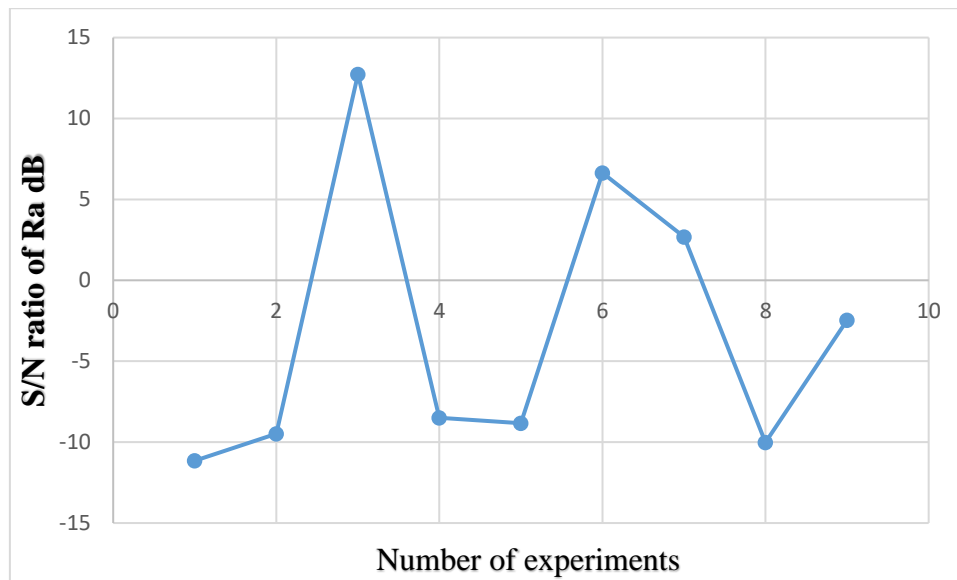


Fig. (3) S/N ration graph for (Ra)

Fig. (3) presented the optimal signal ratio results and the specimen 3 have (12.7302) dB, the cutting variable was 50mm the feed rat, 1000rpm cutting speed and 0.6mm depth of cut.

Table 9 : Mean values of surface roughness (Ra).

Level	Feed rat (mm/min)	Cutting speed(rpm)	Depth of cut (mm)
1	6.789	6.986	7.169
2	5.833	8.876	6.792
3	5.042	1.802	3.3703
Large- Small	1.747	7.074	3.7987
Rank.	3	1	2

Table 10 : Mean values of signal –to- noise ratio (S/N).

Level	Feed rat (mm/min)	Cutting speed(rpm)	Depth of cut (mm)
1	-2.464*	6.458*	-4.536
2	-3.270	-5.633	-6.416
3	-2.849	-9.409	2.369*
Large- Small	0.806	15.861	8.785
Rank.	3	1	2

* Best level of parameter

Mean values of surface roughness (Ra).

Table 10 : Mean values of signal –to- noise ratio (S/N).

Level	Feed rat (mm/min)	Cutting speed(rpm)	Depth of cut (mm)
1	6.789	6.986	7.169
2	5.833	8.876	6.792
3	5.042	1.802	3.3703
Large- Small	1.747	7.074	3.7987
Rank.	3	1	2

* Best level of parameter

6. Results and discussion:

The results shown three values were used from table 10 and from use MINITAB 16program we noted from the table that the values of S/N ratio the large values for each level are the best for each of the factors from three levels. Therefore, the first level of feed rate is the best (50mm/min), the first level of cutting speed is the best and its value is (100 rpm), and the Thirt level of depth of cut was the best and its value is (0.6mm) as showing in fig.(4) .The three values of the factors were the best to obtain the best surface roughness with respect to the values given in the experimental design table.

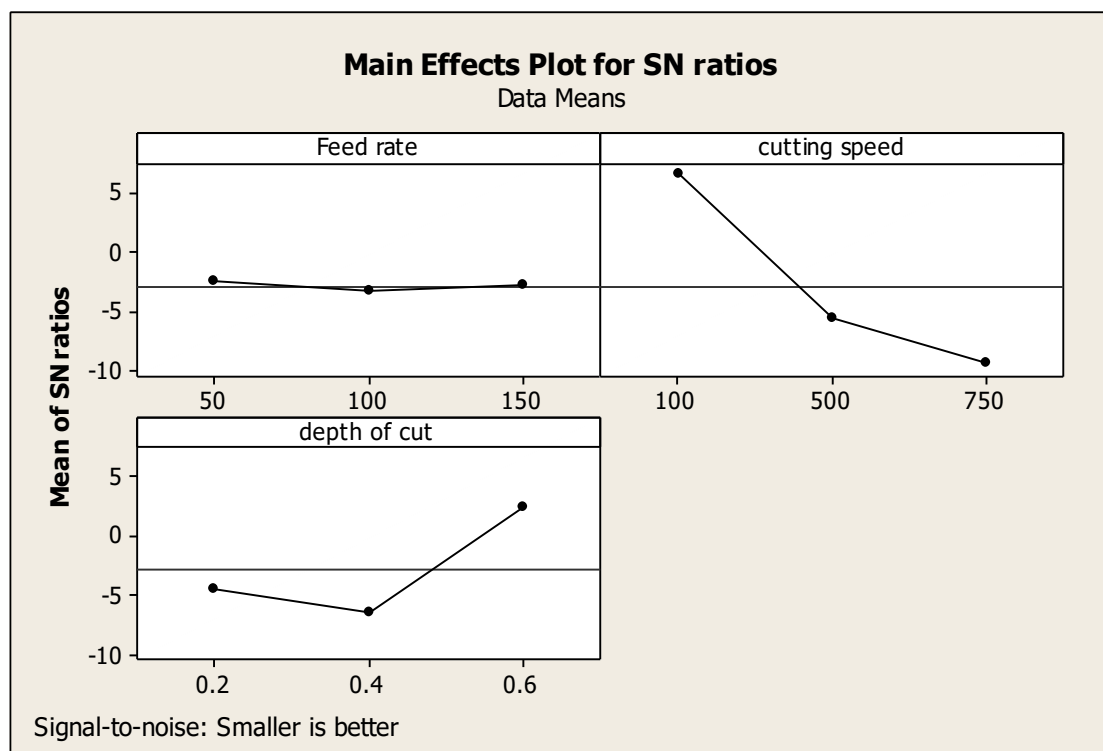


Fig.(4) showing effect of cutting parameters on S/N Ratio

8.Regression Analysis :

Predictor	Coef.	T	P	VIF	S	R-Sq	R-Sq(adj)
constant	6.292	3.15	0.025	-	1.16506	21.2%	50.7%
Feed rate	-0.005823	-0.61	0.567	1.000			
Cutting speed	-0.003456	-1.82	0.129	1.000			
Depth of cut	-2.888	-1.21	0.279	1.000			

9-Analysis of variance:

source	DF	SS	MS	F	P
Regression	3	6.990	2.330	1.72	0.278
Error	5	6.787	1.357		
Total	8	13.777			

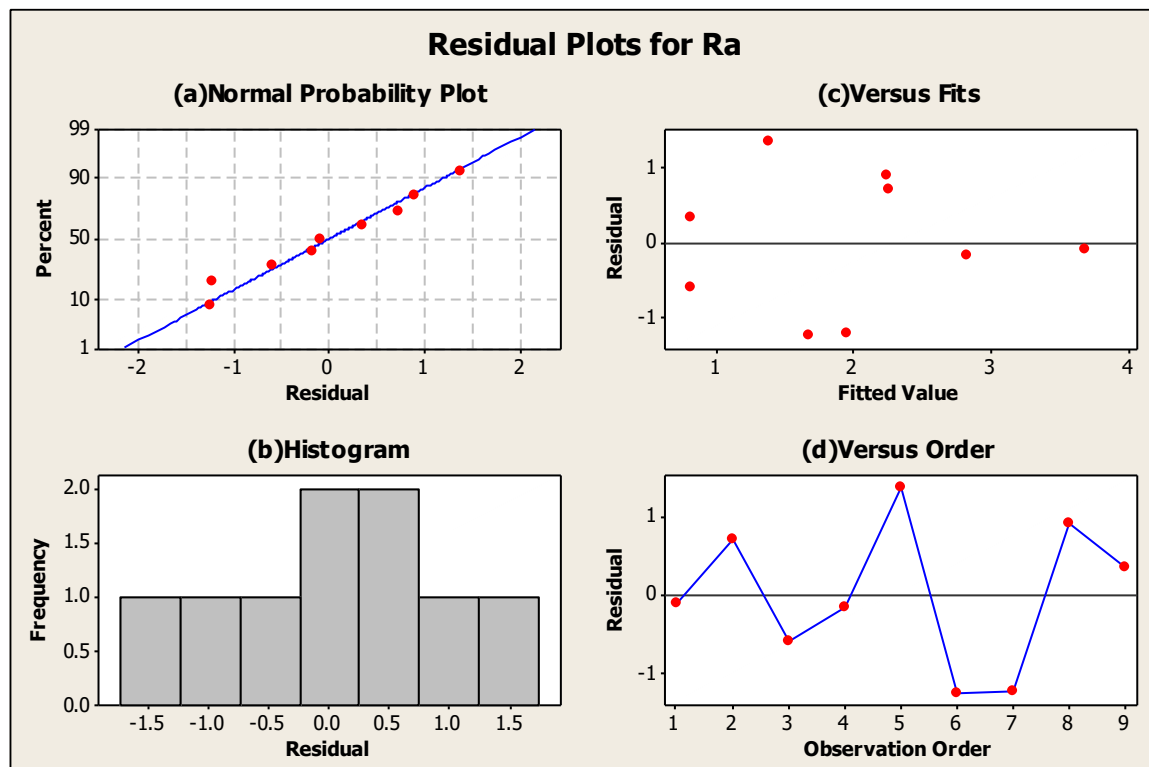


Fig.(5) testing the conditions upon which multiple linear regression analysis based

The regression equation is $Ra = 6.29 - 0.00582 \text{ feed rate} - 0.00346 \text{ cutting speed} - 2.89 \text{ depth of cut}$.

Table (14) average and predictive (Ra) for multiple linear regression module.

No.	Average Ra	Predicted Ra	Absolute Error	Error %
1	3.596	3.696	0.100	2.78%
2	2.974	2.254	0.720	24.21%
3	0.219	0.812	0.593	270.32%
4	2.658	2.827	0.169	6.36%
5	2.752	1.385	1.367	49.68%
6	0.423	1.676	1.253	296.22%
7	0.732	1.676	0.944	128.96%
8	3.150	2.249	0.901	28.60%
9	1.160	0.808	0.352	30.34%

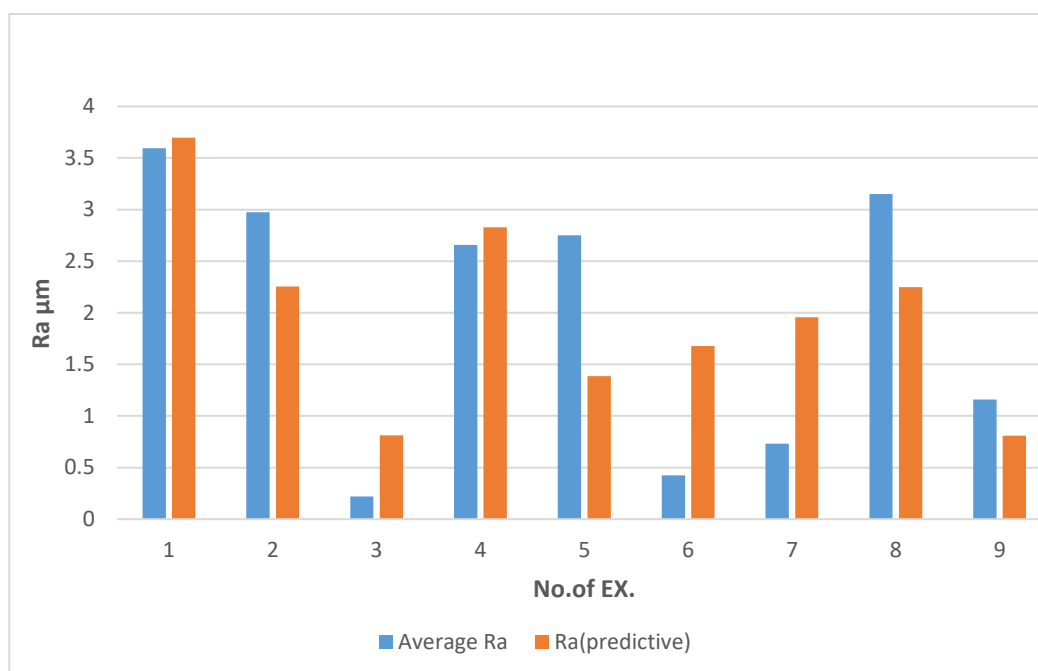


Fig.(6) comparison between the average Ra and predictive (Ra) of multiple regression model

Best Prediction (Lowest Error): Experiment 1 with only 2.78% error. The regression model is fairly accurate here. Worst Prediction (Highest Error): Experiment 6 with 296.22% error. This indicates a significant mismatch between the actual and predicted values — possibly due to model overfitting, underfitting, or insufficient training data for certain ranges. General Trend: Low Ra values (e.g., 0.2–0.7) tend to have higher percentage errors. Model predictions for higher Ra values (e.g., above 2.5) are generally more reliable.

References

- Adamčík, L., et al., *Optimization of technological parameters of CNC milling of plywood depending on surface roughness*. European Journal of Wood and Wood Products, 2025. **83**(3): p. 118.

2. Carta, M., et al., *Improving Surface Roughness of FDM-Printed Parts Through CNC Machining: A Brief Review*. Journal of Composites Science, 2025. **9**(6): p. 296.
3. Demir, A., A.U. Birinci, and H. Ozturk, *Determination of the surface characteristics of medium density fibreboard processed with CNC machine and optimisation of CNC process parameters by using artificial neural network*. CIRP Journal of Manufacturing Science and Technology, 2021. **35**: p. 929-942.
4. Zhang, C. and X. Liu, *Optimization of Cutting Parameters for Surface Roughness in Aluminium CNC Machining*. in *2025 9th International Symposium on Innovative Approaches in Smart Technologies (ISAS)*. 2025. IEEE.
5. Chakraborty, S., et al. *Measuring of Surface Roughness of Al-6061 Alloy by CNC Milling by using of Taguchi Method*. in *E3S Web of Conferences*. 2024. EDP Sciences.
6. Yaghoubi, S. and F. Rabiei, *A profound evaluation of different strategies to improve surface roughness of manufactured part in wood-CNC machining process*. Journal of Engineering Research, 2024.
7. Praveen, N., et al., *An experimental study on material removal rate and surface roughness of Cu-Al-Mn ternary shape memory alloys using CNC end milling*. Materials Research Express, 2024. **11**(9): p. 095702.
8. Patil, S., et al., *Optimization of surface roughness in milling of EN 24 steel with WC-Coated inserts using response surface methodology: analysis using surface integrity microstructural characterizations*. Frontiers in Materials, 2024. **11**: p. 1269608.
9. Seid Ahmed, Y., W. ElMaraghy, and H. ElMaraghy, *Adaptive digital twin for product surface quality: Supervisory controller for surface roughness control*. The International Journal of Advanced Manufacturing Technology, 2024. **135**(5): p. 2117-2130.
10. Yadav, D.K., et al., *Optimization of surface roughness by design of experiment techniques during CNC milling machining*. Materials Today: Proceedings, 2022. **52**: p. 1919-1923.
11. Mahbubah, N., et al., *Optimization of CNC turning parameters for cutting Al6061 to achieve good surface roughness based on Taguchi method*. Journal of Advanced Research in Applied Mechanics, 2022. **99**(1): p. 1-9.
12. Equbal, A., et al., *Evaluating CNC milling performance for machining AISI 316 stainless steel with carbide cutting tool insert*. Materials, 2022. **15**(22): p. 8051.
13. Liu, C., et al., *The effect of tool structure and milling parameters on the milling quality of CFRP based on 3D surface roughness*. International Journal of Precision Engineering and Manufacturing, 2023. **24**(6): p. 931-944.
14. Lis, K., *An Analysis of the Effect of Skew Rolling Parameters on the Surface Quality of C60 Steel Parts Using Classification Models*. Materials, 2024. **17**(21): p. 5362.
15. Moayyedean, M., et al., *Surface roughness analysis in milling machining using design of experiment*. SN Applied Sciences, 2020. **2**(10): p. 1698.
16. Lis, K., *Analysis of the Effect of Skew Rolling Parameters on the Surface Roughness of C60 Steel Products Using ML Methods*. Materials, 2023. **16**(22): p. 7136.
17. Vardhan, M.V., et al., *Optimization of Parameters in CNC milling of P20 steel using Response Surface methodology and Taguchi Method*. Materials Today: Proceedings, 2017. **4**(8): p. 9163-9169.
18. Choubey, A., V. Chaturvedi, and J. Vimal, *Optimization of process parameters of CNC Milling machine for mild steel using Taguchi design and Single to Noise ratio Analysis*. International Journal of Engineering Research and Technology, 2012. **1**: p. 1-12.
19. Swain, S., et al., *Effect of tool vibration on flank wear and surface roughness during high-speed machining of 1040 steel*. Journal of Failure Analysis and Prevention, 2020. **20**(3): p. 976-994.