

Experimental Investigations of Inconel 718 Superalloy Machinability During High-Speed Dry Machining

S.Nagarani^{1,a)}, T. Venkata Deepthi², M. Geeta Rani³,
Shaik Bajan⁴, Subramanyam Pavuluri⁵

^{1, 2 & 5} Department of Mechanical Engineering, Malla Reddy Engineering College (Autonomous),
Maisammaguda, Secunderabad, Telangana-500100, India

³ Department of Mechanical Engineering, Andhra Loyola Institute of Engineering and Technology,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh- 520008, India

⁴ Department of Mechanical Engineering, Narasaraopeta Engineering College (Autonomous),
Narasaraopeta, Andhra Pradesh - 522601, India

^{a)} Corresponding author: samudrala.nagarani@gmail.com¹, venkatadeepthi.t@gmail.com²,
subramanyampavuluri@gmail.com⁵

Abstract: At high temperatures and pressures, super alloys maintain a high level of strength. Aerospace, marine, and nuclear power plant industries all use these materials. As a result of their ability to maintain their qualities at temperatures above 700 degrees Celsius, they are in high demand in the nuclear and aerospace industries. Nickel-based super-alloy machining is exceedingly difficult owing to the materials' high dynamic cutting pressures, limited thermal conductivity, and buildup of edges and self-hardening. Their high shear strength, work hardening and precipitation hardening make it difficult to manufacture. Microstructure with high abrasive particles makes it difficult to process, as does propensity of chip formation to weld to tool and formation of Built Up Edge (BUE). Base metals include Nickel [Ni], Chromium [Cr], Ferrous [Fe], and Cobalt [Co]. Al, Ti, Nb and Ta are added to these alloys in small amounts so that they can withstand high temperatures. Hot corrosion resistance can only be achieved by using chromium in an alloy. Increasing tool life by a few minutes is a huge accomplishment because of these variables. Inconel 718 machining materials have been developed to address this issue. Inconel 718 has been machined using ceramic tools, silicon carbide whiskers, reinforced alumina tools, and carbide tools, but no tool has produced a satisfactory surface, improved accuracy, or minimised tool wear. Surface roughness improvement, reduced tool wear, and improved machining parameters are the goals of this research. Analysis of the cutting parameters and the determination of improved response parameters for the machining characteristics of Inconel 718 is done using Taguchi technique, Grey Relational Analysis (GRA), and Response Surface Methodology (RSM). The machinability of Inconel 718 is improved by using Tungsten Carbide and Ceramics tools, both of which are determined to be appropriate. Tungsten Carbide Tool Coating (AlTiCrN) has been developed to improve tool life and machining capabilities on Inconel 718. The suitability of the Coated tool for machining Inconel 718 is evaluated in comparison to that of the Cryogenic treated tool and the Ceramic tool.

Keywords: Inconel 718, High Speed Machining, PVD & CVD Coated Tools, Taguchi, Anova.

INTRODUCTION

Machining hard metals like titanium, superalloys, and monel is called "hard machining" in the manufacturing industry. Since these metals are all strong against corrosion and fatigue, are shock resistant, and have low heat conductivity, machining them is a difficult process. Adhesion, dispersion, and wear are all caused by the milling tools. Shaft fittings in the energy production business, turbine blades and sheets in a aviation engines, prosthetic limbs and ignition equipment in the automobile industry are just a few of the many applications for Inconel 718 superalloy. Researchers have worked hard to enhance the machinability of Inconel 718, which has resulted in a significant increase in the superalloy's machining capability.

Researchers have found that the tool wear circumstances and the superalloy roughness provide a significant problem, and their results are helping to improve the tool's lifespan. It has been found that Tungsten Carbide and Ceramic tools had greater tool life and lessened the influence of roughness on the Inconel 718 workpiece.

This article explains the research topic and the difficulties encountered over the course of the investigation. To better understand the issue and the reason for doing this study, a review of the literature by various writers is classified into three main categories. There are three basic categories in which the substantial literature research on tooling and parametric conditions has been divided: Coated tools, Cryogenic treatment, and cooling approaches. The literature study is carried out the topic, identify research gaps, and solve research hurdles that are recognized as necessary for the project's completion.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Using Taguchi's Design of Experiments (DOE) and RSM, [1] developed a viable solution to the challenge of determining optimum cutting conditions by varying cutting periods (RSM). Process parameters and variances are heavily influenced by cutting time. In order to get a machined surface polish, evaluations of ideal and non-optimal circumstances are validated and experiments are carried out. Different cutting periods are necessary for optimum working conditions, as shown by the results. For a broad variety of cutting times and operating circumstances, surface roughness levels might vary significantly. Improved parameters for Inconel 718 dry turning were developed by [2]. According to Anova, the responses were most strongly influenced by cut depth and feed rate. Experiments involving the optimization of cutting circumstances have shown the effectiveness of Taguchi's approach to cutting conditions.

The surface integrity qualities of NiTi alloys are affected differently by dry and cryogenic machining processes, as was found by [3]. Microstructured results reveal that during machining, the surface integrity qualities of NiTi alloys are affected by changes in cutting and cooling conditions. The surface quality and phase transition behaviour of machined specimens may also be improved by cryogenic machining, compared to dry milling. It is stated [4] evaluates the performance and cost of these commonly used turbine component manufacturing equipment. At this point, a number of tools with different coatings and materials are tested to see how they operate over a period of time. Solid ceramic tools' real-world performance in gas turbine component manufacture will be examined in future studies.

Laser aided milling (LAM) and conventional processing of Inconel 718 are tested by [5]. DoE analysis techniques are used to investigate how laser and processing factors affect the crossover process. Estimates of tool wear and deflection as well as dynamic machining power and passive force are used to arrive at these conclusions. Using the SEM and EDX, [6] examined the machined surface of Inconel 718 following end milling (EDX). Nickel alloy flaws may be explained by carbide particle cracking as well as the form and genesis regime of four types of typically occurring defects. There are further suggested measures of severity for various types of surface defects. Because of their poor heat conductivity, high strength, work hardening, and high hardness, the machining of nickel-based superalloys is very challenging. [7] explored this. This research explores the idea of altering the cutting settings and cutting environment in order to alleviate these tool-related issues. Even cutting tool wear and the cutting process are taken into account in the evaluation. A high-pressure system extends the useful life of tools. High pressure cooling improves tool life even when cutting speed is increased.

The temperature during machining of nickel-based superalloys is described by [8]. The temperature sensor is based on a pyrometer used for temperature measurement, and has showed strong performance in sensing temperature in harsh situations where emissivity may play a key role. With Inconel 718 [9] examined the thermal loads and layer depth during milling to determine which is worse. To begin, experimental studies examined the impact of cutting settings on the average temperature of the machined surface. As a consequence, a 3D numerical model is employed to verify the outcomes of the trials. Calibration energy is used to determine the heat transfer coefficient at the chip-tool contact, and it is shown to be dependent on cutting circumstances.

Using a CNC milling machine to manufacture P20 form steel, [10] investigates Cutting speeds, feed rates, depths of cut, and end processing slicing instruments subjected to varying soaking times are all choice variables that affect cutting powers and force usage. Cutting powers and power consumption are estimated by using ANOVA to identify the most important variables in determining the rate commitment. Cryogenic soaking, followed by cutting speed, feed rate, and depth of cut, had the greatest influence on cutting power and force usage, according to the study. Procedure parameters and execution measurements are correlated using regression analysis.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

Workpiece Material

For aerospace, energy production, automotive, and biomedical applications, high-load and high-pressure components must be able to withstand tremendous pressure and stress. High thermal and mechanical loading conditions are necessary for several applications in these sectors. Conventional metals like aluminum

and steel may not be suitable for certain applications, and reliability and durability concerns may develop. Using more modern materials may benefit you in the long term and be less expensive as well in some situations [2]. Due to their properties after prolonged exposure to severe thermomechanical stresses, nickel-based superalloys make up a large component of these materials. However, the high cost of this excellent material makes it difficult to machine.

Among nickel-based super alloys, Inconel 718 stands out for its high strength, high temperature resistance to oxidation, fatigue, and creep. These characteristics are highly sought after in a variety of fields, but they also make machining more complex. Because of its great tensile strength, inclination to harden, and limited heat conductivity, it necessitates high-force and high-temperature cutting procedures. These materials are difficult to machine because of the high cost of manufacture, poor surface polish, excessive tool wear, and other factors [8]. Milling is the most popular form of machining today, despite the fact that other methods exist. Because of varying cutting forces, multitooth interrupted chips, and non-uniform loading, the milling process remains an unexplored area of study. With this in mind, it is essential that an investigation be conducted to determine what factors need to be taken into consideration while machining Inconel 718. Hence, the coated tool to be utilised needs to be examined particularly for dealing with the hard to cut material Inconel 718 which can only perform superior machinability under lubrication circumstances.

Inconel 718 is used as a test specimen for machinability evaluation. It was decided to use 38 mm cylindrical bar material to make the test specimens. The specimens were each 38mm in diameter and 75mm long, and they were turned by hand. The tensile strength and elongation of smaller diameter rods are statistically greater than those of larger diameter rods. Their cheap cost and simplicity of storage and handling are the primary advantages of tiny diameter rods. Table 1 shows the chemical composition of Inconel 718 on a weight basis, whereas Table 2 shows the material's mechanical qualities.

Table 1. Chemical composition of Inconel 718 Wt%

Chemical Elements	C	Mn	Ti	Si	Al	Co	Mb	Cb	Fe	Cr	Ni
% Composition	0.08	0.35	0.6	0.35	0.8	1	3	5	17	19	52.82

Table 2. Inconel 718 Mechanical Properties

Properties	Units	Value
Yield Point	(MPa)	1041-1160
Hardness	(HRC)	40-45
Percentage of Elongation	(%)	14-19
Ultimate Strength	(MPa)	1260-1390

Ceramic Cutting Tool

Due to the material's excellent qualities, high-speed cutting tools are made of ceramic. They have outstanding hardness and wear resistance as a class of materials because of their higher melting temperatures. Each one of them has a high level of hardness, toughness and thermal conductivity. Ceramic tools can endure far higher temperatures than carbide or high-speed steel tools, which is one of the main benefits of employing ceramic materials in production. Generally speaking, ceramic tools can withstand temperatures up to 2204°C, but carbide tools can only withstand temperatures up to 871°C. Ceramics, on the other hand, are inert to most metals. Both in the aerospace and medical device industries, where hardened metals such as Inconel, Inspalloy, and Hastelloy (as well as biocompatible metals) are employed in aircraft components, ceramic tools are making a significant effect.

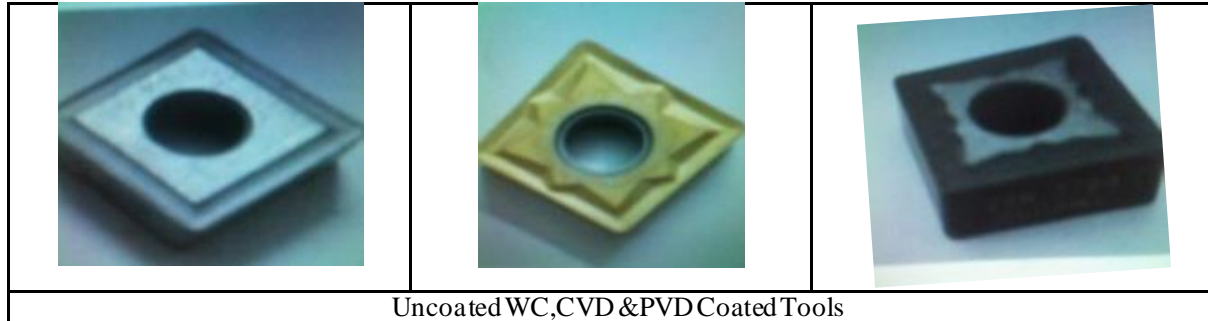
Tungsten and carbon atoms make up the chemical composition that makes up this tool. In terms of Young's modulus, it is between 530 and 700 GPa. A 1400–2000°C reaction between tungsten metal and carbon produces it. WC has a melting point of 2870°C, a boiling point of 6000°C, a thermal conductivity of 110 degrees per metre per degree Kelvin, and a thermal expansion coefficient of 5.5 degrees per metre per degree

Kelvin. Compared to high-speed steel, it is more resistant to abrasion and can endure greater temperatures.

Tungsten Carbide Cutting Tool

In this research heat treated Inconel 718, uncoated cemented carbide, coated cemented carbide, ceramic, cermet tool inserts material WC, TiN/TiAlN/PVD, and TiN/Al₂O₃/Ti(CN) CVD coated as per ISO standard SNMG 120408 are utilised in this study. The inserts are firmly fastened to a PSBNR 2020 K12 tool holder. The FN suffix denotes the presence of a chip breaker for finishing with a negative, steady cutting edge style.

Table 3. Various Cutting Tool Tips for Experiments



Uncoated WC, CVD & PVD Coated Tools

Table 4. Cutting Tools Specifications

Tool	Insert	Grade	Tool holder
WC	SNMG 120408	H13A	PSBNR 2020 K12
TiN/TiAlN/PVD coated		TS 2000	
TiN/Al ₂ O ₃ /Ti(CN)CVD coated		TM 4000	

Experimental Set-Up

Experiments are carried out in order to determine the maximum cutting speed for various cutting tool materials based on the information available for machining Inconel 718 from handbooks and other literature sources. As a consequence of these testing, the cutting conditions for the different instruments given in the table have been refined and optimised. The turning test on the superalloy Inconel 718 in dry conditions is shown in Figure 1.

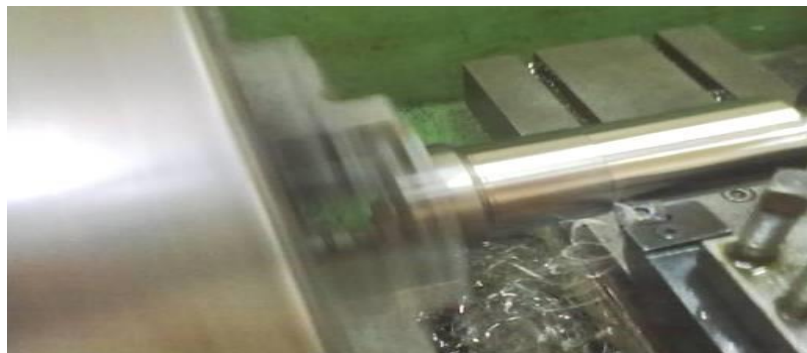


FIGURE 1. Turning under Dry machining

Table 5. Experimental Cutting Conditions

Tool Material	Cutting Speed (m/min)	Feed (mm/rev)	DOC (mm)	Cutting Medium
Uncoated WC	40,50,60	0.103,0.137,0.164	0.5,0.75,0.1	Dry
TiN/TiAlN PVD coated	50,60,70	0.103,0.137,0.164	0.5,0.75,0.1	Dry
TiN/Al ₂ O ₃ /Ti(CN) CVD coated	60,70,80	0.103,0.137,0.164	0.5,0.75,0.1	Dry

The whole experiment involving the turning of Inconel 718 graded steel was conducted using an orthogonal array based on Taguchi's orthogonal array theory. The Taguchi optimization approach is used to analyse the outputs of nine experimental runs in the L₉ orthogonal array. The above-mentioned equipment are used to quantify tool wear and surface roughness, which are then used in the Taguchi optimization process. There are three tiers of parameters in the L₉ orthogonal array: 1, 2, and 3, respectively.

Table 6. Experimental Plan

Ex. No	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Cutting Speed	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
Feed Rate	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Depth of Cut	1	2	3	2	3	1	3	1	2

The cutting speed, feed rate, and cut depth are all three process variables in this case. The input parameters for the Taguchi optimization are as follows. This orthogonal array is used to run nine tests, with the output data from each of the tests being recorded serially. On the workpiece's surface, three measurements of roughness were taken, and the mean of these three values was determined. The whole framework of the studies is shown in Table 6 according to the L₉ orthogonal array method.



FIGURE 2. GEDEEWEILERLZ350 Conventional Lathe Machine



FIGURE 3. Photographic View Of Stylus During Surface Roughness Measurement

OPTIMIZATION METHODS

A) Grey Relation Analysis (GRA)

GRA, also known as deng's grey incidence analysis model, is created by a professor at huazhong university of science and technology in china, julong deng. a multi-objective optimization approach, it determines the distance between experimental runs by correlating several sets of cutting parameters. Machine settings have an impact on response variables, and this tool may assist determine the best value for an experiment run.

B) Response Surface Methodology (RSM)

Genichi Taguchi devised this statistical approach in 1950 to enhance the quality of produced items. Almost all experimental and case study sectors use his approach to create data that may be used to identify solutions. Among the many experimental designs that may be used to generate data and discover parameters and variables is the orthogonal array. In this study, the machining parameters are determined using a L_9 orthogonal array, and the response variables are also discovered using the same array. It is easier to create the end result when utilising the L_9 array to organise the method to determining the parameters. In addition to reducing the number of experiments that must be carried out, this method also results in time savings and a more effective outcome. This array has a significant impact on the selection of parameters and variables for the experimental trial in a robust setting.

Table 7. Surface Roughness (R_a) with Type of Cutting Tools (μm)

Exp No.	Uncoated Tool (μm)			PVD coated tool (μm)			CVD Coated Tool		
	Run-1	Run-2	Avg	Run-1	Run-2	Avg	Run-1	Run-2	Avg
1	0.7120	0.7240	0.7180	0.6250	0.9250	0.7750	0.6100	0.6500	0.6325
2	1.1250	1.0900	1.1075	1.0750	1.1100	1.0925	0.8100	0.8750	0.8425
3	1.4600	1.4100	1.4350	1.2900	1.3250	1.3075	1.1600	1.0500	1.1050
4	0.8300	0.8100	0.8200	0.7500	0.9300	0.8400	0.6000	0.7050	0.6525
5	0.8050	0.7950	0.8000	0.7400	0.8250	0.7825	0.6700	0.8100	0.7425
6	0.8600	0.8400	0.8500	0.7700	0.9400	0.8550	0.6200	0.7500	0.6850
7	0.9200	0.9510	0.9355	0.8200	0.8900	0.8550	0.7900	0.8750	0.8325
8	0.8650	0.8450	0.8550	0.7600	0.7200	0.7400	0.7600	0.7050	0.7325
9	1.5100	1.5800	1.5450	1.3750	1.4050	1.3900	1.0200	0.9900	1.0075
Best Avg. 1.0073			Best Avg. 0.9597			Best Avg. 0.8036			

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)

It is a parametric statistical approach used to compare datasets, the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA). Fisher's ANOVA is another name for this statistical method, which is developed by R.A. Fisher and is generally referred to as such. The cutting parameters are shown to have a significant impact on the response variables using this approach. It establishes the relevance of determining the response variables in relation to the machining parameters. In order to demonstrate the parameter's ability to accurately represent changes in response variables, it is best to use an F-value of less than 0.5 and a p-value less than 0.5. Seq SS (sequence sums of squares) are influenced by the order in which the model's elements are in putted.

Given other variables, this is the unique fraction of SS Regression that can be described by a single element. Factors may be added into a model in any sequence and yet provide the same adjusted sums of squares (Adj SS). Given all other variables in the model, regardless of the sequence they are included into the model, the unique fraction of SS Regression explained by a factor In order to assess the explanatory power of various regression models with varying numbers of variables, we use the adjusted R-squared (R-Sq (Adj)). Modifications have been made to the original R-squared formula.

A significance threshold of 0.05 is used for ANOVA findings, i.e., a 95 percent confidence level. Surface roughness, wear, tool life, cutting force, power, and material removal rate are all examined using ANOVA, as shown in Table.8. Each source's percentage contribution to the overall variance is shown in Tables Table.8, and it indicates how much of an impact it had on the outcome.

Table 8. Percent Contributions of Factors (ANOVA) For Uncoated WC

FACTOR	Sum of Squares	Degree of Freedom (df)	Mean Sum of Squares	F-RATIO (Calculated)	% of contribution
Cutting Speed (V)	0.306579	2	0.153290	73.65717	21.61080
Feed (f)	0.680704	2	0.340352	163.5427	48.34591
Depth of Cut (a)	0.389200	2	0.194601	93.50785	27.51509
ERROR	0.02289	11	0.002081	--	2.528199
St	1.399378	17	0.690324	--	100%
Mean	18.26497	1	--	--	--
Total	19.66435	18	--	--	--

Inconel 718's machinability may be evaluated in three distinct ways. Cutting speed 0.306 m/min, feed 0.68/rev and depth of cut 0.389 mm are the best parameters to use in the first case to achieve the lowest surface roughness is 1.0073.

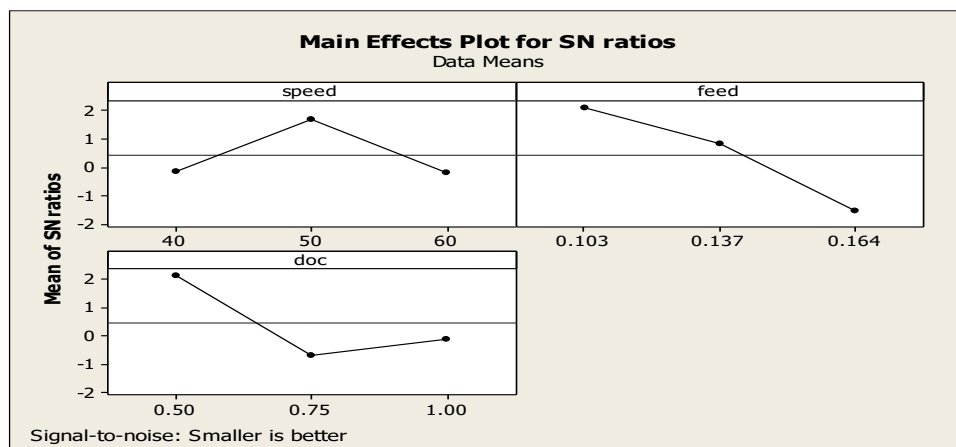


FIGURE 4. Main effects plot for S/N ratios for uncoated WC tool

Table 10. Percent Contributions of Factors (Anova) for PVD Coated Tool

FACTOR	S.S	D.O.F (df)	M.S.S	F-RATIO (Calculated)	P
Cutting Speed (V)	0.173369	2	0.086685	10.44792	15.19478
Feed (f)	0.460386	2	0.230193	27.74465	43.01258
Depth of Cut (a)	0.30675	2	0.153376	18.48611	28.12236
Error	0.09127	11	0.008297	--	13.67028
St	1.031774	17	0.478551	--	100
Mean	16.5792	1		--	--
ST	17.61098	18		--	--

At Cutting speed 0.306 m/min, feed 0.68/rev and depth of cut 0.389 mm are the best parameters to use in the first case to achieve the lowest surface roughness is 0.9597.

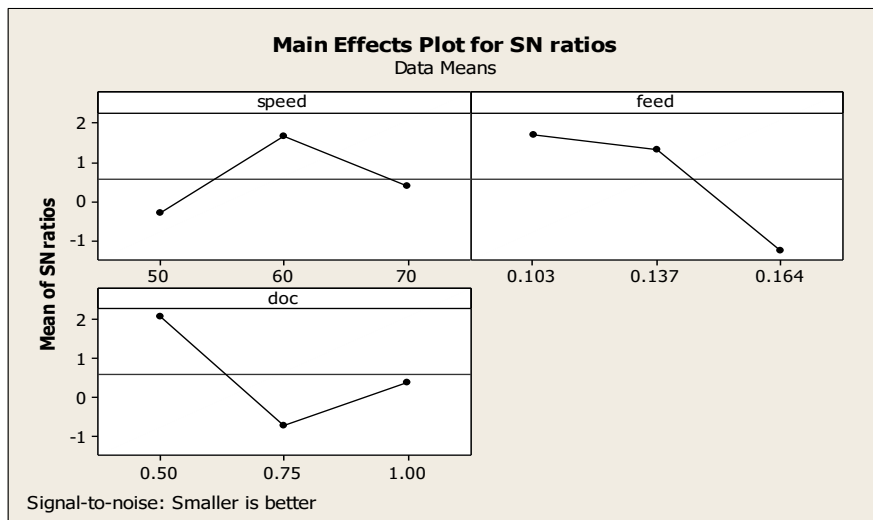


FIGURE 5. Main effects plot for S/N ratios for PVD coated tool

Table 11. Percent Contributions of Factors (Anova) For CVD Coated Tool

FACTOR	S.S	D.O.F (df)	M.S.S	F-RATIO (Calculated)	P
Cutting Speed (V)	0.109469	2	0.054735	13.5532	22.16517
Feed (f)	0.162844	2	0.081422	20.16145	33.83336
Depth of Cut (a)	0.140703	2	0.070351	17.42013	28.99302
Error	0.044424	11	0.004039	--	15.00844
ST	0.45744	17	0.21054	--	100
Mean	11.62423	1		--	--
ST	12.08168	18		--	--

At Cutting speed 0.306 m/min, feed 0.68/rev and depth of cut 0.389 mm are the best parameters to use in the first case to achieve the lowest surface roughness is 0.8036.

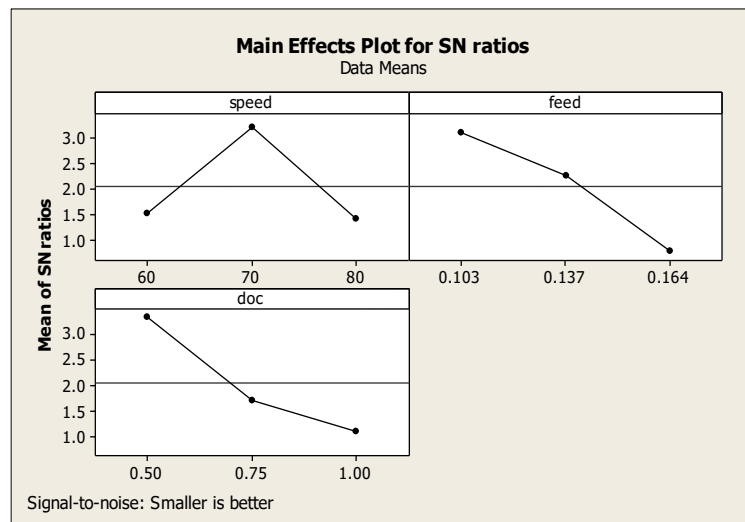


FIGURE 6. Main Effects Plot For S/N Ratios For CVD Coated Tool

Table 12. Comparative Analysis for various Surface Roughness Values

Type of Cutting Tip Material	Surface Roughness (Ra)
Uncoated WC	1.0073
TiN/TiAlN PVD coated	0.9597
TiN/Al ₂ O ₃ /Ti(CN) CVD coated	0.8036

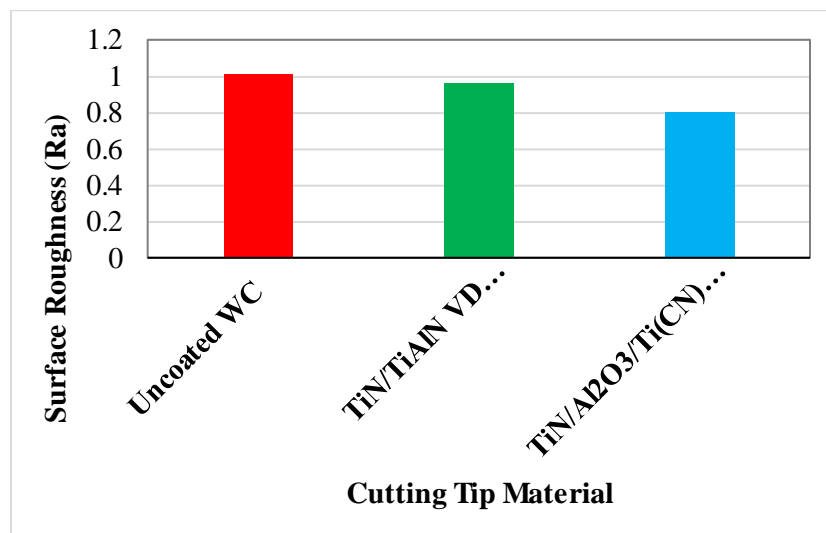


FIGURE 7. Comparative Analysis for various Surface Roughness Values

The Fig.7 exhibits the least surface rough value with TiN/Al₂O₃/Ti(CN) CVD coated than Uncoated WC and TiN/TiAlN PVD coated tip archive 0.8036 Cut at 0.306 m/min, feed at 0.68 rev/rev, and a depth of cut of 0.389 mm produced this surface roughness measurement.

CONCLUSIONS

In this Paper work, the impact of Inconel 718 with uncoated carbide tool inserts on dry turning microstructure, material quality, and machinability is fully researched and reported. According on the conditions and outcomes of the experiment, the following conclusions a re drawn: The machinability of Inconel 718 has been greatly boosted by supplying perfect control parameters-cutting speed, feed rate and depth of cut

which are the acceptable conditions for creating lowest surface roughness (0.103 μ m) and low tool wear (0.011 mm) (0.011 mm) (0.011 mm). The response variables-surface roughness and tool wear have a bigger influence owing to the optimal machining settings which is demonstrated by an analysis of variance for S/N ratio.

Finally, some more results are provided in below on kind of cutting tool like Uncoated Cutting Tool, PVD Coated Cutting Tool and CVD Coated Cutting Tool.

- Among Tungsten Carbide tool and Ceramic tool, Tungsten Carbide tool proved to be 6.23 % better than the other in improving the machining of Inconel 718.
- The Cryogenic treated tool inserts though increased the wear resistance of the inserts showed lower results of 2.18% than Tungsten Carbide tool insert.
- Taguchi methodology optimized the control parameters and helped to determine the influence parameters which had an effect on the response variables.
- Grey Relational Analysis optimized the control parameters and response variables to determine the suitable parameters required for machining Inconel 718 using the tool inserts.
- Response Surface Methodology envisaged the multiple objective function for determining the cutting parameters required for Coated Tungsten Carbide tool.
- Coated Tungsten Carbide tool proved to be a better cutting tool in improving the machinability of Inconel 718 to 6.13% than Cryogenic treated tools and to 15.21% than Ceramic tool.

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