Prediction of roughness of planar surfaces processed with toroidal milling through an artificial neural network

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Abstract. This paper is intended to create an artificial neural network capable of generating new values for the roughness on the basis of experimentally obtained databases. Experimentally you will measure the roughness of the flat surfaces processed with the toroidal milling, the process factors being the input neurons of the neural network, following the roughness values being the output neurons. It aims to modify the input neurons from the same neural network and generate new roughness values.

1. Introduction

In recent years, artificial neural networks (RNA) are offered in front of the largest model offerings that can be kept and are now successful in certain engineering fields for modeling complex relationships difficult to describe with physical models.

Artificial neural networks have been widely applied in modeling many cutting operations, such as turning, drilling and milling [1]. Several researchers have used artificial neural networks to predict the influence of cutting parameters on production rate, production cost [2] or to predict the influence of cutting parameters on surface roughness [3], [4], tool wear [5], [6] or the cutting force [1], [7].

Examples of optimization attempts can be found in the work of Mohana et al. [8] aimed at modeling surface roughness using neural networks. Genetic algorithms have been used in their research to optimize the weighting factors of the network. Ortiz-Rodrigues et al. [9] proposed the use of Taguchi methods (DOE technique) for robust RNA-driven design by the back propagation algorithm and develop a systematic and experimental strategy that emphasizes the simultaneous optimization of artificial neural network parameters under different conditions.

Several examples can be found in the works of Assarzadeh and Ghoreishi [11], meant to optimize the surface roughness using neural networks. The authors stated the effectiveness of using RNA to predict the removal rate of materials and Ra. In Hossain et al. [11], an RNA model was developed to investigate and predict the relationship between milling parameters and surface roughness during high-speed milling of Inconel 718 alloy. A very good predictive performance of the neural network was observed. Other approaches include the work of Panda and Mahapatra [12] in which the main components were used to model the drill wear. The main components of the drilling parameters were calculated and the networks were trained to predict them. The networks were able to classify low wear and high wear with an accuracy of 90% and to predict the wear of the main edge with an error of ± 6.5%.

MatLab® (MATrix LABoratory) is a high-performance, interactive software package for mathematical, scientific and engineering calculus. MatLab integrates calculation, programming and
visualization, in a friendly work environment, solving problems involving the use of classical mathematical notations.

With tools and functions for managing large data sets, MatLab offers different types of specialized tools with machine learning, neural networks, deep learning, computer vision and machine learning.

Improving the generalization of the network helps prevent overload, a common problem in neural network design. Overload occurs when a network has memorized the training set, but has not learned to generalize to new entries. Overload produces a relatively small error on the training set, but a much larger error when new data is obtained in the neural network.

2. Approximation of functions with the artificial neural network

RNA approximation can be solved in MatLab:
- From the command line, using specific functions Neural Network Toolbox;
- Using the Neural Network Fitting Tool (nftool) graphical interfaces.

Before starting to create an artificial neural network, it is necessary to create input and output data. This is where computer resources based on previous research come in [13], [14], [15].

To create the input data and the output data, we chose to debate the quality of the flat surfaces obtained with the toroidal milling cutter. Thus, the input data are the three process variables. These are the cutting speed, the feed on the tooth and the angle of inclination. As for the output data, the target information, they are represented by the average values of Ra, measured parallel and perpendicular as well as by the average values of Rt, measured parallel and perpendicular. Therefore, the input data and the output data are shown in Figure 1.

![Figure 1. Images with input data and target data of the neural network.](image-url)
To approximate the functions with artificial neural networks, using the graphical interfaces, the Neural Network Fitting Tool interface will be opened with the command "nftool".

This type of neural network is able to associate an input data set with a target data set for estimating certain values. This application has the function of helping to select data, to create and train a neural network, as well as to evaluate performance.

![Neural Fitting Tool](image1)

**Figure 2.** Neural Fitting Tool.

It has a power supply network with two layers of hidden neurons being trained with a back propagation algorithm as shown in Figure 2.

The next step in creating a neural network is to load the input and target data, as well as select the type of matrix, as shown in Figure 3.

![Selection of input and target data for RNA creation](image2)

**Figure 3.** Selection of input and target data for RNA creation.

The next step is illustrated in Figure 4 and represents the establishment of the data assigned to the neural network training, but also the establishment of the number of values assigned to the network validation and testing function.

In this case, we chose to use 25 values for the training function, leaving only one for validation and testing.
Figure 4. Selection of percentages assigned to neural network training, validation and testing.

Regarding the network architecture, here are defined the number of hidden neurons of the neural network, in our case we decided to use 20 neurons for the network to function in optimal conditions, as shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5. Neural network architecture.

Once the input data are established, the percentage of training, validation, testing, as well as the number of hidden neurons can only be transmitted to the network to learn the working algorithm, as in Figure 6. Following the training of the neural network, it transmits a series of indices, these are shown in Figure 7.
Following the training of the network, it provides some information about the network, one of the information is supported by the number of interactions within the network, in this case it is about 9 interactions or 9 periods as shown in Figure 8.

In terms of network performance, the best performance was recorded during interaction number 3.

The training conditions of the neural network are dependent on the value of the gradient, which is a vector field whose vectors are directed in the direction of the highest growth rate of the scalar field. Thus, the mode is the highest rate of change, the maximum value being performed in the case of interaction number 9. The validation checks were 6, also at interaction 9, being presented in Figure 9.

Any system also has a series of errors, in the case of the neural network created, it has the most common type of error of 0.01469, as shown in Figure 10.
Regarding the linear regression, in the case of the artificial neural network studied and created on the surface quality, this is illustrated in figure 11, both in terms of training and validation and testing of the network.

For the implementation of the solutions in the next subchapter is presented the MatLab function as matrix support. The neural network diagram consists of 3 input neurons, 20 hidden neurons and 4 output neurons, as in Figure 12.

Once the whole process of creating and training the neural network is completed, all that remains is to put the target data face to face with the outputs that the network offers.

In the next chapter are highlighted the measured data of roughness, having as input the three variables, and in comparison are the approximate values obtained after training the neural network, with a column with network errors attached.
3. Comparison of approximations

According to the previous chapter, where a neural network was created and trained using MatLab software, this network is able to approximate the output values based on the input values. As established, the network was created on the flat surface processed with toroidal milling cutter to approximate the roughness values. As input data, the input neurons are the three variables, the cutting speed, the feedrate on the tooth and the angle of inclination of the tool axis. The target values, output neurons are represented by the measured values both parallel and perpendicular to the roughness Ra and Rt, so there are 4 output neurons.

Table 1. Approximate values of RNA for the Ra quality of the flat surface processed with the toroidal milling cutter.

| Surface type | Roughness Ra [µm] | The direction of measurement in relation to the direction of advance | Approximate RNA values | Parallel Ra approximation error | Perpendicular approximation error Ra |
|--------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|              | Real values      | Parallel                                                  | Perpendicular          |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-1  | 0.160            | 0.464                                                    | 0.241                   | 0.426                         | -0.081                           |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-2  | 0.289            | 0.403                                                    | 0.270                   | 0.397                         | 0.019                            |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-3  | 0.264            | 0.376                                                    | 0.279                   | 0.372                         | -0.015                           |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-4  | 0.194            | 0.494                                                    | 0.116                   | 0.505                         | 0.078                            |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-5  | 0.311            | 0.435                                                    | 0.566                   | 0.517                         | -0.255                           |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-6  | 0.288            | 0.425                                                    | 0.525                   | 0.552                         | -0.237                           |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-7  | 0.450            | 0.688                                                    | 0.462                   | 0.684                         | -0.012                           |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-8  | 0.727            | 0.632                                                    | 0.857                   | 0.578                         | -0.130                           |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-9  | 0.894            | 0.761                                                    | 0.975                   | 0.651                         | -0.081                           |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-10 | 0.689            | 0.672                                                    | 0.610                   | 0.802                         | 0.079                            |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-11 | 0.817            | 0.756                                                    | 0.822                   | 0.811                         | -0.005                           |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-12 | 0.876            | 0.851                                                    | 0.884                   | 0.947                         | -0.008                           |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-13 | 0.597            | 0.786                                                    | 0.499                   | 0.691                         | 0.098                            |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-14 | 0.693            | 0.805                                                    | 0.737                   | 0.622                         | -0.044                           |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-15 | 1.071            | 1.119                                                    | 1.016                   | 1.157                         | 0.055                            |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-16 | 0.457            | 0.535                                                    | 0.555                   | 0.463                         | -0.098                           |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-17 | 0.773            | 0.627                                                    | 0.859                   | 0.569                         | -0.086                           |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-18 | 1.131            | 0.812                                                    | 1.182                   | 0.848                         | -0.051                           |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-19 | 0.530            | 0.549                                                    | 0.540                   | 0.579                         | -0.010                           |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-20 | 0.859            | 0.757                                                    | 0.813                   | 0.731                         | 0.046                            |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-21 | 0.893            | 0.869                                                    | 0.840                   | 0.874                         | 0.053                            |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-22 | 0.568            | 0.543                                                    | 0.464                   | 0.548                         | 0.104                            |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-23 | 0.598            | 0.573                                                    | 0.517                   | 0.698                         | 0.081                            |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-24 | 0.513            | 0.618                                                    | 0.362                   | 0.745                         | 0.151                            |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-25 | 0.402            | 0.445                                                    | 0.423                   | 0.416                         | -0.021                           |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-26 | 0.402            | 0.475                                                    | 0.298                   | 0.452                         | 0.104                            |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
| SPLN -TR-27 | 0.423            | 0.596                                                    | 0.445                   | 0.640                         | -0.022                           |
|              |                  |                                                          |                         |                               |                                  |
Table 1 shows the roughness values Ra measured parallel and perpendicular to the direction of advance, as well as the approximate values using the neural network, also on the two measuring directions.

From a percentage point of view, the nearest value is in the case of the flat surface with number 11, processed with the toroidal milling cutter (SPLN-TR-11) with an approximation error of 0.61% with a difference of 0.005 µm for the value measured in parallel, and for the value measured perpendicularly, the nearest value is in the case of the flat surface number 7, processed with the toroidal milling cutter (SPLN-TR-7) with an error of 0.58%, with a difference of 0.004 µm. The graphical representation is shown in Figure 13.

The largest error identified is in the case of the SPLN-TR-5 surface, measured in parallel with an approximation error of 81.9% and a difference of 0.255 µm, and in the case of perpendicular measurement, the largest error obtained is 22.7 %, for the surface of SPLN-TR-14 with a difference of 0.183 µm.

![Graphical representation of the percentage error diagram for the approximate values Ra.](image-url)

**Figure 13.** Graphical representation of the percentage error diagram for the approximate values Ra.

Table 2 represents the values of the roughness Rt measured on the flat surface processed with the toroidal milling cutter, and in comparison the approximate values are passed with the help of the neural network, following in the columns on the right to represent the approximation errors of the neural network.

In terms of percentage, the lowest value was made on the flat surface with number 12, processed with toroidal milling cutter (SPLN-TR-12) with a percentage of 0.27% and a minimum difference of 0.003 µm, determined value on the measuring direction parallel to the feed direction.
The lowest percentage value recorded in the direction of perpendicular measurement shall be 0.86% over the flat surface number 13 (SPLN-TR-13) with a difference of 0.048 μm.

**Table 2.** Approximate values of RNA for the Rt quality of the flat surface processed with the toroidal milling cutter.

| Surface type  | Roughness R_0[μm] |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---------------|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|               | Real values       | Approximate RNA values | The direction of measurement in relation to the direction of advance | Parallel | Perpendicular | Parallel | Perpendicular | Parallel Rt approximation error | Perpendicular Rt approximation error |
| SPLN-TR-1     | 0.926             | 2.920                       | 1.235                       | 2.733                               | -0.309                           | 0.187                           |
| SPLN-TR-2     | 1.680             | 2.593                       | 1.715                       | 2.410                               | -0.035                           | 0.183                           |
| SPLN-TR-3     | 1.706             | 2.400                       | 1.776                       | 3.147                               | -0.070                           | -0.747                          |
| SPLN-TR-4     | 1.466             | 2.613                       | 1.311                       | 2.920                               | 0.155                            | -0.307                          |
| SPLN-TR-5     | 2.413             | 3.499                       | 2.406                       | 4.552                               | 0.007                            | -1.053                          |
| SPLN-TR-6     | 2.719             | 2.953                       | 2.704                       | 3.786                               | 0.015                            | -0.833                          |
| SPLN-TR-7     | 2.609             | 4.273                       | 2.786                       | 4.445                               | -0.177                           | -0.172                          |
| SPLN-TR-8     | 4.413             | 4.353                       | 4.303                       | 4.733                               | 0.110                            | -0.380                          |
| SPLN-TR-9     | 4.639             | 5.840                       | 4.723                       | 5.571                               | -0.084                           | 0.269                           |
| SPLN-TR-10    | 3.486             | 4.519                       | 3.361                       | 5.236                               | 0.125                            | -0.717                          |
| SPLN-TR-11    | 4.646             | 5.406                       | 4.372                       | 6.337                               | 0.274                            | -0.931                          |
| SPLN-TR-12    | 5.094             | 6.086                       | 5.097                       | 6.465                               | -0.003                           | -0.379                          |
| SPLN-TR-13    | 3.247             | 5.579                       | 2.563                       | 5.531                               | 0.684                            | 0.048                           |
| SPLN-TR-14    | 3.906             | 4.826                       | 4.788                       | 3.901                               | -0.882                           | 0.925                           |
| SPLN-TR-15    | 5.760             | 7.666                       | 5.722                       | 7.477                               | 0.038                            | 0.189                           |
| SPLN-TR-16    | 3.273             | 3.619                       | 2.961                       | 3.782                               | 0.312                            | -0.163                          |
| SPLN-TR-17    | 4.306             | 5.106                       | 4.716                       | 4.352                               | -0.410                           | 0.754                           |
| SPLN-TR-18    | 6.103             | 6.293                       | 5.785                       | 6.865                               | 0.318                            | -0.572                          |
| SPLN-TR-19    | 3.786             | 4.053                       | 3.523                       | 4.806                               | 0.263                            | -0.753                          |
| SPLN-TR-20    | 4.833             | 4.759                       | 4.820                       | 4.660                               | 0.013                            | 0.099                           |
| SPLN-TR-21    | 4.799             | 6.326                       | 5.262                       | 6.114                               | -0.463                           | 0.212                           |
| SPLN-TR-22    | 3.899             | 4.146                       | 3.127                       | 4.193                               | 0.772                            | -0.047                          |
| SPLN-TR-23    | 3.753             | 4.496                       | 3.920                       | 4.741                               | -0.167                           | -0.245                          |
| SPLN-TR-24    | 2.966             | 4.586                       | 2.880                       | 4.492                               | 0.086                            | 0.094                           |
| SPLN-TR-25    | 3.552             | 3.700                       | 2.871                       | 3.239                               | 0.681                            | 0.461                           |
| SPLN-TR-26    | 2.993             | 3.853                       | 2.892                       | 3.900                               | 0.101                            | -0.047                          |
| SPLN-TR-27    | 3.186             | 4.560                       | 3.206                       | 4.985                               | -0.020                           | -0.425                          |

The maximum approximate percentage value was obtained on the palmar surface number 1 (SPLN-TR-1) with an error rate of 33.37% and a difference of 0.309 μm on the parallel measuring
direction and on the perpendicular measuring direction, the maximum percentage value given is 30.09% with a difference of 1.053 µm.

![Graphical representation of the percentage error diagram for the approximate values Rt.](image)

Figure 14. Graphical representation of the percentage error diagram for the approximate values Rt.

Following the graphical illustration of the error percentages in figure 14, a constant can be observed in the approximation of values Rt measured perpendicularly, as well as in the approximate values Rt measured in parallel.

4. Conclusions

The research and data modeling plan starts from the measurements, 3 measurements for each surface performed parallel to the feed direction and 3 measurements on each surface performed perpendicular to the feed direction. These measurements deserve as output neurons of the artificial neural network.

Data processing using MatLab software made it possible to create an artificial neural network, capable of approximating roughness values, having as input neurons the process variables during processing, and as output parameters the measured roughness.

With the creation and training of the artificial neural network it is able to learn the connections between neurons so as to generate new values of roughness.

These new values generated by the neural network for both the arithmetic roughness Ra and the total roughness Rt were compared with the real values. The comparisons resulted in a series of errors, the smallest error being 0.27% with a difference of 0.003 µm. This result certifies the adaptability of the neural network in generating new values of roughness.
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