Comparison on various machinability aspects between mixed and reinforced ceramics when machining hardened steels

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Abstract. The hard turning process has an attracting interest in different industrial sectors for finishing operations of hard materials. However, it still presents disadvantages with respect to process capability and reliability. This paper describes a comparison of surface roughness, specific cutting force and flank wear between mixed ceramic CC650 (Al2O3 (70%) + TiC (30%)) and reinforced ceramic CC670 (Al2O3 (75%) + SiC (25%)) cutting tools when machining in dry hard turning of AISI 4140, treated at 52 HRC using the response surface methodology (RSM). A mathematical prediction model of the machining responses has been developed in terms of cutting speed, feed rate and cutting time parameters. Experimental observations show that the surface roughness obtained with the mixed ceramic insert significantly improved when compared with reinforced ceramic insert with a ratio of 1.44. In the same way, insert CC650 has better performance compared to reinforced ceramic inserts CC670, in terms of the specific cutting force and flank wear.

Keywords: Hard turning / AISI 4140 steel / ceramic / cutting parameters / ANOVA / RSM

1 Introduction

The response surface methodology (RSM) is a family of statistical techniques for the design, empirical modeling and optimization of processes where the responses of interest are influenced by several process variables (termed factors). RSM comprises the following three major components: (i) experimental design to determine the process factors’ values based on how the experiments are conducted and data are collected; (ii) empirical modeling to approximate the relationship (i.e. the response surface) between responses and factors; (iii) optimization to find the best response value based on the empirical model. These models can be used in optimization, simulation or prediction of turning process behavior, mainly within the experimental range [1–5].

Many researchers have applied the RSM to investigate the effect of cutting parameters on output responses in hard turning. For example, Jenn-Tsong et al. [6] developed RSM model using CCD in the hard turning using uncoated Al2O3/TiC-mixed ceramic tools for flank wear and surface roughness. Flank wear was influenced principally by the cutting speed and the interaction effect of feed rate with nose radius of tool. The cutting speed and the tool corner radius affected surface roughness significantly. Besides, Benga and Abrão [7] have studied tool life and the surface finishing of hardened 100Cr6 bearing steel obtained with PCBN and ceramic inserts using RSM. Dureja et al. [8] applied the RSM to investigate the effect of cutting parameters on flank wear and surface roughness in hard turning of AISI H11 steel with a coated-mixed ceramic tool. The study indicated that the flank wear is influenced principally by feed rate, depth of cut and workpiece hardness. Neseli et al. [9] applied RSM to optimize the effect of tool geometry parameters on surface roughness in hard turning of AISI 1040 with P25 tool. Moreover, Elbah et al. [10] applied RSM and analysis of variance (ANOVA) to investigate the machinability of hardened AISI 4140 cold work tool steel using a range of cutting tools. The results indicated that surface roughness of 4140 steel was improved as cutting speed was elevated and deteriorated with feed rate. However, the surface quality obtained with the wiper ceramic insert allowed a surface finish as good when compared with conventional ceramic insert with a

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ratio of 2.5. Lalwani et al. [11] studied the effect of cutting parameters in turning on cutting forces and surface roughness. To this end, a number of experiments based on RSM have been carried out and linear and quadratic models have been formed to explain the relation between the parameters. Recently, Aouici et al. [12] applied RSM and ANOVA to investigate the machinability of hardened AISI 4140 cold work tool steel using a range of ceramic cutting tools. From the parametric analysis, it is revealed that the uncoated ceramics (CC650WG wiper and CC650 conventional) perform better than the coated ceramics (CC6050WH wiper and CC650 conventional) with reference to machining forces. On the contrary, wiper ceramic cutting tools (CC6050WH and CC650WG) have better performance compared with conventional ceramic cutting tools (CC6050 and CC650), in particular for the flank wear.

In another study, Aouici et al. [13] investigated the effects of cutting speed, feed rate, workpiece hardness and depth of cut on surface roughness, and cutting force components in hard turning AISI H11 steel, hardened to 40, 45 and 50 HRC, respectively, machined using cubic boron nitride tools. Mathematical models were developed for surface roughness and cutting force components using the RSM. Results showed that the cutting force components were influenced principally by depth of cut and workpiece hardness; however, both feed rate and workpiece hardness had statistical significance on surface roughness.

The aim of the study is to evaluate and compare the performance of the two ceramic cutting tools, namely, mixed ceramic CC650 and reinforced ceramic CC670 tools for hard turning of AISI 4140. The ANOVA study involves the effects of cutting parameters (cutting speed and feed rate) coupled with cutting time. The following aspects of the process are addressed: the machining variables of surface roughness, specific cutting force and flank wear.

2 Experimental procedure

Turning experiments were performed in dry conditions using an universal lathe-type SN 40 C with 6.6 kW spindle power. The workpiece material AISI 4140 steel with an initial grain size of about 120 μm was used as sample for hot compression; torsion test and ability for possible polishing to answer the most severe requests in spindles, logging parts and pump shafts. Its chemical composition (in wt.%) is given as follows: C 0.43; Cr 1.10; Mo 0.19; V 0.005; Si 0.24; Mn 0.79; S 0.024; Ni 0.022; Fe 96.315 and other components 0.884. Type inserts ceramic tools reference CC650 (mixed ceramic), SNGA120408T01020, reference CC670 (reinforced ceramic) and SNGN120408T01020 were used to machine the AISI 4140 steel with geometry as follows: rake angle −6°, 6° clearance angle and 75° approach edge as shown in Figure 1.

The flank wear (VB) is measured using a HUND optical microscope (W-AD) equipped with CCD camera. Instantaneous roughness criteria measurements (Ra), for each cutting condition, are obtained by means of a Mitutoyo Surftest 201 roughness meter. The length examined is 2.4 mm with a basic span of 3. The measured values of Ra.
are within the range of 0.05–40 μm. Absolute roughness is directly measured on the same turned part, without disassembling, in order to reduce uncertainties due to resumption operations. The measurements are repeated three times at three reference lines equally positioned at 120° and the result is an average of these values for a given machining pass (Fig. 1).

The setup used to measure the three components of the cutting force – feed force (Fa) – thrust force (Fr) and tangential force (Ft) – is schematically shown in Figure 1. The tool holder is mounted on a three-component piezoelectric dynamometer (Kistler 9257B). The measurement chain also included a charge amplifier (Kistler 5019B130), data acquisition hardware (A = D 2855A3) and graphical programming environment (DynoWare 2825A1-1) for data analysis and visualization. The whole measurement chain has been statically and dynamically calibrated. The static calibration of the dynamometer was made in each force direction. The outputs are voltage signals that are averaged for each direction. The loads up to 3000 N by 25 N intervals were applied, and the deflection values were recorded for each load interval. Thus, calibration curves were obtained to convert the output readings into cutting force values. In order to verify the consistency, the measurements were repeated three times. The effect of loading in a given dynamometer direction on the other force components was also examined and minor fluctuations were found. These effects were small enough to be ignored. The cross-sensitivity was estimated in the range of 0.14–0.81%. For the dynamic calibration, it can be said that natural frequencies of the dynamometer in the three directions are approximately 3 kHz. The recorded forces are not influenced by the dynamic response of the dynamometer because these natural frequencies are higher than the frequency of exciting vibration. So, this dynamometer can be considered as a reliable device for the measurement of cutting forces. In this paper, we used the following conditions to measure the cutting forces: sampling frequency is 100 Hz, time of acquisition is 3 min and the Gaussian filter is 0.8 mm.

Since there are a large number of variables controlling the cutting process, some mathematical models are required to represent this process. However, these models have to be developed using only the significant parameters influencing the process rather than including all the parameters. Two levels were defined for each cutting variable, as given in Table 1. The variable levels were chosen within the intervals recommended by the cutting tool manufacturer. Three cutting variables (cutting speed, feed rate and cutting time or machining time) at two levels led to a total of eight tests. The factors to be studied and the attribution of the respective levels are indicated in Table 2. The combined effects of the cutting parameters on performance characteristics are investigated while employing the ANOVA. The relationship between process parameters and performance characteristics through the RSM is modeled. The composite desirability optimization technique associated with the multiple linear models of RSM is used as multi-objective optimization approach to find optimum values of process parameters that optimize simultaneously the performance characteristics.

### 3 Results and discussion

The AISI 4140 steel hard turning experiments with mixed and reinforced Al2O3 ceramic inserts were carried out by way of a previously defined experimental procedure. More than 16 turning operations were conducted with the aim of evaluating the cutting process (surface roughness, specific cutting force and flank wear). A data variance analysis of surface roughness (arithmetic mean roughness Ra), specific cutting force Ks and tool wear (flank wear VB) was carried out. The main purpose was to analyze the influence of the cutting speed 

| Symbol | Control factor | Unit | Level 1 | Level 2 |
|--------|----------------|------|---------|---------|
| $V_c$  | Cutting speed  | m/min| 90      | 180     |
| $f$    | Feed rate      | mm/rev| 0.08   | 0.16    |
| $t$    | Cutting time   | min  | 5       | 10      |

Table 2. Experimental results for response factors (Ra, Ks and VB).

| Test No. | Machining parameters | Response factors |
|----------|----------------------|------------------|
|          | $V_c$ (m/min) | $f$ (mm/rev) | $t$ (min) | CC650 Ra (μm) | Ks (MPa) | VB (mm) | CC670 Ra (μm) | Ks (MPa) | VB (mm) |
| 1        | 90         | 0.08        | 5         | 0.27      | 5987.97      | 0.078 | 0.35       | 7760.52       | 0.101 |
| 2        | 180        | 0.08        | 5         | 0.16      | 7082.53      | 0.093 | 0.22       | 9407.38       | 0.107 |
| 3        | 90         | 0.16        | 5         | 0.40      | 5768.75      | 0.091 | 0.85       | 7117.68       | 0.103 |
| 4        | 180        | 0.16        | 5         | 0.55      | 5938.39      | 0.096 | 0.80       | 7591.85       | 0.115 |
| 5        | 90         | 0.08        | 10        | 0.17      | 13343.46     | 0.091 | 0.40       | 17040.21      | 0.125 |
| 6        | 180        | 0.08        | 10        | 0.13      | 8717.28      | 0.115 | 0.75       | 13320.43      | 0.135 |
| 7        | 90         | 0.16        | 10        | 0.62      | 14214.19     | 0.105 | 0.47       | 12816.98      | 0.128 |
| 8        | 180        | 0.16        | 10        | 0.73      | 10963.03     | 0.123 | 0.51       | 14579.41      | 0.145 |
3.1 Surface roughness

The first part of the comparison consists of a study of the workpiece roughness. The objective is to express the roughness, which is a criterion for surface quality, in terms of machining parameters (cutting speed, feed rate and depth of cut) during production control.

Figure 2a shows the effect of cutting speed on surface roughness (Ra) at constant feed rate of 0.08 mm/rev and depth of cut of 0.25 mm. As it can be seen from this figure, the surface roughness (Ra) tends to decrease, considerably with increase in cutting speed ($V_c$). This figure also displays that the surface roughness is characterized by two distinct zones according to the cutting speed evolution for CC650 and CC670 tools.

The first zone where the cutting speed varies from 60 to 180 m/min corresponds to a decrease in roughness for both ceramic tools. This surface state improvement is due to high cutting speeds characterized by the absence of built-up edge. Similar results were reported by Bouchelaghem et al. [15] during hard turning of AISI D3 steel with CBN tool. In the present investigation, the effect of cutting speed on surface roughness is as follows: the increase in the cutting speed from 60 to 180 m/min, decreases the surface roughness (Ra$_{CC650}$ and Ra$_{CC670}$) to 35.71 and 29.54%, respectively.

The second zone when the cutting speed is between 180 and 320 m/min, surface roughness is stabilized slightly because of the reduction in cutting forces stabilizing the machining system [16]. In the high cutting speed (second zone), the CC650 tool produces a better surface finish than CC670, which expresses the mixed ceramic (CC650) into the most powerful tool in terms of wear resistance and lifespan (Fig. 5).

Figure 2b presents the effect of feed rate on surface roughness (Ra) at constant cutting speed $V_c$ = 120 m/min and depth of cut ap = 0.25 mm for both ceramic tools CC650 and CC670. It is observed from this figure that the surface roughness increases with increased feed rates, because its increase generates helicoids furrows as a result of tool shape and helicoids movement tool–workpiece. These furrows are deeper and broader as the feed rate increases [17]. For this reason, a weak feed rate has to be employed during turning operation. Similar results were reported by Khelaf et al. [18] when turning AISI H11 steel (50 HRC) using ceramic cutting tools. The insert CC650 provides lower values than the CC670 ceramic tool, which expresses the mixed ceramic (CC650) into the most powerful tool in terms of wear resistance and lifespan (Fig. 5). In general, the CC650 tool produces a better surface finish than CC670.

Figure 2c illustrates the influence of depth of cut on surface roughness (Ra) at constant cutting speed of $V_c$ = 120 m/min and feed rate of $f$ = 0.08 mm/rev for both ceramic tools CC650 and CC670. The effect of the depth of cut on the roughness is very slight. This is due to the increased length of contact between the tool and the workpiece, which in turn improves the conditions of heat flow from the cutting zone and consequently slows down the process wear [16]. This work leads to the recommendation that it is always preferable to increase the depth of cut instead of the feed rate when...
attempting to increase the chip output while maintaining almost the same value of roughness. Finally, it is well proven that the feed rate drastically influences surface roughness.

The representative examples of 3D images of hard-turned surfaces are visualized by four isometric views, and contour maps are shown in Figure 3. It must be noted that both the 3D profiles have represented pure roughness.
values, i.e. the turned surface topography in Figures 3a and 3b shows well-defined peaks and valleys. This is mainly because when the turning operation process uses a single cutting edge, it generates helicoids furrows as a result of tool shape and helicoids movement tool-workpiece.

### 3.2 Specific cutting force

The second part of the comparison consists of a study of the specific cutting force in terms of machining parameters (cutting speed, feed rate and depth of cut) during production control. The value of specific cutting force $K_s$ was calculated by the following equation:

$$K_s = \frac{F_R}{S} = \frac{F_R}{f \times a_p},$$

where $F_R$ is the resulting cutting force and $S$ is the chip section.

Figure 4a presents the effect of cutting speed on specific cutting force ($K_s$) at constant feed rate of 0.08 mm/rev and depth of cut of 0.25 mm. As it can be seen from this figure, the increase in cutting speed resulted in decrease of specific cutting force for both cutting tools; CC650 and CC670. This trend is mainly due to increase in temperature at shear plane region, resulting in the plastic softening of this primary deformation zone and hence reduced shear strength of the material. In turn this will reduce the force required to deform the material to be machined [19].

Figure 4b presents the effect of feed rate on specific cutting force ($K_s$) at constant cutting speed $V_c = 120$ m/min and depth of cut $a_p = 0.25$ mm for both ceramic tools CC650 and CC670. As it can be seen from this figure, the specific cutting force ($K_s$) tends to decrease, considerably with increase in feed rate ($f$). This figure also displays that the specific cutting force ($K_s$) is characterized by two distinct zones according to the feed rate evolution for CC650 and CC670 tools.

The first zone where the feed rate varies from 0.12 to 0.16 mm/rev corresponds to a decrease in specific cutting force for both ceramic tools. It is noticed that with the increase in feed rate, the specific cutting force decreases. For weak feed rates, we record extremely high specific cutting force. With the feed rate of 0.08 mm/rev, the specific cutting forces $K_{sCC650}$ and $K_{sCC670}$ are about 8442.1 and 9666.67 MPa. For the feed rate of 0.16 mm/rev, the specific cutting forces decrease successively on 16.5 and 21.4% for both ceramic tools CC650 and CC670, respectively.

The second zone is characterized by an interval where the specific cutting force is stabilized according to the drop in the cutting forces that expresses a relative of machining system [17]. In general, the insert CC650 provides lower values than the CC670 ceramic tool, which expresses the mixed ceramic (CC650) into the most powerful tool in terms of wear resistance and lifespan (Fig. 5). Similar results were reported by Fnides et al. [19] during hard turning of AISI H11 steel with mixed ceramic tool.

Figure 4c illustrates the evolution of the specific cutting force ($K_s$) according to the depth of cut at constant cutting speed $V_c = 120$ m/min and feed rate $f = 0.08$ mm/rev for both ceramic tools CC650 and CC670. It is noticed that the increase in cutting depth leads to a fall of the specific cutting force and for two different periods of evolution. The
first decreasing zone corresponds to an enormous loading of the cutting edge. The recorded pressures are very high in this zone, for example for a depth of 0.1 mm, we record pressures $K_{\text{SC650}}$ and $K_{\text{SC670}}$ to be about 20679.10 and 26431.81 MPa. With the increase in cutting depth to 0.6 mm, the specific cutting forces fall successively from 32 and 10% for both. In general, the insert CC650 provides lower values than the CC670 ceramic tool.

### 3.3 Flank wear

The tests of long duration of straight turning on AISI 4140 steel treated at 52 HRC were carried out. The purpose of these operations was to determine the wear curves as a function of machining time and therefore the tool life for both cutting materials used (CC650 and CC670). Figure 5 shows the evolution of the flank wear VB versus machining time at $f = 0.08$ mm/rev, $ap = 0.15$ mm and $V_c = 120$ m/min. The horizontal line in Figure 3 illustrates the allowable flank wear identified as $[VB]$. This figure indicates that the tool wear for both cutting tools increases with machining time; this is due to wear evolution on the rake and clearance surfaces of the tool. As a consequence, the workpiece–tool contact surface increases together with the friction forces, generating higher resulting force. These results are similar to those mentioned by Gaitonde [1].

The micrographs of flank wear of CC650 insert at the cutting regime $V_c = 120$ m/min, $ap = 0.15$ mm and $f = 0.08$ mm/rev are presented in Figure 7. For the considered regime, flank wear VB of the mixed ceramic CC650 spreads regularly. Figure 8 shows the micrographs of flank wear of CC670 insert at the cutting regime $V_c = 120$ m/min, $ap = 0.15$ mm and $f = 0.08$ mm/rev. For these values, flank wear VB of the mixed ceramic CC670 spreads irregularly.

### 4 Response surface methodology

RSM is a type of modeling to find out the relation between various factors with the response. It is useful for developing, improving and optimizing the process which provides an understanding of the process within the area of interest. For using RSM, a proper design of experiments is essentially required where parameter along with its range selection is important. In the present investigation, cutting speed, feed rate and cutting time are identified as process parameters. In RSM design, there should be at least two levels for each factor. In this way, the factor values that are not actually tested using fewer experimental combinations and the combinations themselves can be estimated [20,21].

Table 2 presents experimental results of surface roughness, specific cutting force and flank wear for various combinations of cutting regime parameters (cutting speed, feed rate and cutting time) according to $2^3 (8)$ full factorial design for both ceramic tools.
The results of ANOVA for surface roughness, specific cutting force and flank wear are shown in Tables 3–5. These tables also show the degrees of freedom (DF), sum of squares (SS), mean square (MS), F-values (F-value) and probability (Prob.) of each factor and different interactions. A low P-value (Prob.) indicates statistical significance for the source on the corresponding response.

Table 3 shows the results of ANOVA for surface roughness of CC650 and CC670 tools. This analysis was carried out for a 5% significance level, i.e. for a 95%
confidence level. The last column of the table shows the percentage of each factor contribution (Cont.%) on the total variation, thus indicating the degree of influence on the result. From Table 3, it can be seen that the feed rate factor (82.17 and 29.36%) and the interaction feed rate/cutting time (9.36 and 55.39%) have the major statistical significance as regard surface roughness of CC650 and CC670, respectively. The cutting speed and cutting time do not present a statistically significant effect on Ra.

The other important coefficient $R^2$ in the resulting ANOVA table is defined as the ratio of the explained variation to the total variation and is a measure of the degree of fit. When $R^2$ approaches to unity, the better response model fits the actual data. The values of $R^2$ calculated in Table 3 for these models are over 0.90 and reasonably close to unity, which are acceptable. It denotes that about 95% of the variability in the data is explained by these models, and it also confirms that these models provide an excellent explanation of the relationship between the independent factors and the response.

Table 4 presents ANOVA results for Ks. It can be seen that the cutting time is the most important factor affecting specific cutting force. Its contribution is 82.42 and 91.167%, respectively; (CC650 and CC670) for these models. The cutting speed and feed rate factors show little statistical significance with respect to Ks. Similarly, the interactions ($V_c \times f$), ($V_c \times t$) and ($f \times t$) are not significant.

The $R^2$ value is high, close to 1, which is desirable. The “R-Squared” of (0.9268 and 0.9431) are in reasonable agreement with the “Adj R-Squared” (0.4877 and 0.6020) for CC650 and CC670 tools, respectively. The adjusted $R^2$ value is particularly useful when comparing models with different number of terms. “Adequate Precision” measures the signal-to-noise ratio. A ratio greater than 4 is desirable. Our ratio of (3.599 and 4.508) for CC650 and CC670 tools, respectively, indicates an adequate signal. So, these models can be used to navigate the design space.

Finally, from the Table 5, it can be apparently seen that the cutting time is the most important factor affecting VB. Its contribution is 48.784 and 80.276% for CC650 and CC670 tools, respectively. The next largest factor influencing on VB is cutting speed, with 32.466 and 14.199% contribution. The feed rate with 12.196 and 3.709% contribution has a very weak significance effect.

The $R^2$ value is high, close to 1, which is desirable. The “R-Squared” of (0.9987 and 0.9999) are in reasonable

### Table 3. Analysis of variance for Ra.

| Source | SS    | DF | MS         | F-value  | Prob. | Cont.% |
|--------|-------|----|------------|----------|-------|--------|
| (a) CC650 |       |    |            |          |       |        |
| Model  | 0.3749750 | 6  | 0.06249583 | 41.3195592 | 0.1185 |
| $V_c$  | 0.0015125 | 1  | 0.0015125 | 1 | 0.5000 | 0.40 |
| $f$    | 0.3081125 | 1  | 0.3081125 | 203.710744 | 0.0445 | 82.17 |
| $t$    | 0.0091125 | 1  | 0.0091125 | 6.02479339 | 0.2463 | 2.43 |
| $V_c \times f$ | 0.0210125 | 1  | 0.0210125 | 13.892562 | 0.1669 | 5.60 |
| $V_c \times t$ | 0.0001125 | 1  | 0.0001125 | 0.07438017 | 0.8305 | 0.03 |
| $f \times t$ | 0.0351125 | 1  | 0.0351125 | 23.214876 | 0.1303 | 9.36 |
| Residual | 0.0015125 | 1  | 0.0015125 |            |       |        |
| Total   | 0.3764875 | 7  |            | 0.3764875 | 100   |        |

SD = 0.039
Mean = 0.38
Coefficient of variation = 10.27
Predicted residual error of sum of squares (PRESS) = 0.097

(b) CC670

| Source | SS    | DF | MS         | F-value  | Prob. | Cont.% |
|--------|-------|----|------------|----------|-------|--------|
| Model  | 0.3525750 | 6  | 0.0587625 | 3.09072978 | 0.4099 |
| $V_c$  | 0.0055125 | 1  | 0.0055125 | 0.28994083 | 0.6855 | 1.56 |
| $f$    | 0.1035125 | 1  | 0.1035125 | 5.44444444 | 0.2578 | 29.36 |
| $t$    | 0.0010125 | 1  | 0.0010125 | 0.05325444 | 0.8556 | 0.29 |
| $V_c \times f$ | 0.0066125 | 1  | 0.0066125 | 0.3477975 | 0.6608 | 1.87 |
| $V_c \times t$ | 0.0406125 | 1  | 0.0406125 | 2.1309467 | 0.3820 | 11.52 |
| $f \times t$ | 0.1953125 | 1  | 0.1953125 | 10.2728468 | 0.1925 | 55.39 |
| Residual | 0.0190125 | 1  | 0.0190125 |            |       |        |
| Total   | 0.3715875 | 7  |            | 0.3715875 | 100   |        |

SD = 0.14
Mean = 054
Coefficient of variation = 25.36
Predicted residual error of sum of squares (PRESS) = 1.22

R² = 0.9488
R² Adjusted = 0.6418
R² Predicted = 2.2746

Adequate precision = 4.884
Table 4. Analysis of variance for Ks.

| Source   | SS           | DF | MS           | F-value | Prob. | Cont.% |
|----------|--------------|----|--------------|---------|-------|--------|
| (a) CC650 |              |    |              |         |       |        |
| Model    | 76508239.4   | 6  | 12751373.2   | 2.1104494 | 0.4831 |        |
| \( V_c \) | 870685.276   | 1  | 870685.276   | 0.1441050 | 0.7690 | 1.138  |
| \( f \) | 384178.717   | 1  | 384178.717   | 0.0635845 | 0.8427 | 0.502  |
| \( t \) | 63058246.8   | 1  | 63058246.8   | 10.436202 | 0.1911 | 82.420 |
| \( V_c \times f \) | 9684972.64   | 1  | 9684972.64   | 1.6029367 | 0.4256 | 12.659 |
| \( V_c \times t \) | 1535.13405   | 1  | 1535.13405   | 0.0002540 | 0.9899 | 0.002  |
| \( f \times t \) | 2508620.8    | 1  | 2508620.8    | 0.4151958 | 0.6356 | 3.279  |
| Residual | 6042017.98   | 1  | 6042017.98   |         |       |        |
| Total    | 82550257.4   | 7  |              |         |       | 100    |

SD = 2458.05
Mean = 9001.95
Coefficient of variation = 27.31
Predicted residual error of sum of squares (PRESS) = 3.86E+7 Adequate precision = 3.599

(b) CC670

| Source   | SS           | DF | MS           | F-value | Prob. | Cont.% |
|----------|--------------|----|--------------|---------|-------|--------|
| Model    | 91830794.4   | 6  | 15305132.4   | 2.7647452 | 0.4304 |        |
| \( V_c \) | 3348.8928    | 1  | 3348.8928    | 0.0006049 | 0.9843 | 0.004  |
| \( f \) | 3675600.96   | 1  | 3675600.96   | 0.6639485 | 0.5647 | 4.003  |
| \( t \) | 83719212     | 1  | 83719212     | 15.122794 | 0.1602 | 91.167 |
| \( V_c \times f \) | 2321495.33   | 1  | 2321495.33   | 0.4193481 | 0.6342 | 2.528  |
| \( V_c \times t \) | 2079147.93   | 1  | 2079147.93   | 0.3757122 | 0.6500 | 2.264  |
| \( f \times t \) | 31989.3218   | 1  | 31989.3218   | 0.0057784 | 0.9517 | 0.035  |
| Residual | 5535961.75   | 1  | 5535961.75   |         |       |        |
| Total    | 97366756.2   | 7  |              |         |       | 100    |

SD = 2352.86
Mean = 11204.31
Coefficient of variation = 21
Predicted residual error of sum of squares (PRESS) = 3.543E+8 Adequate precision = 4.508

agreement with the “Adj R-Squared” of (0.9906 and 0.9995) for CC650 and CC670 tools, respectively. The adjusted \( R^2 \) value is particularly useful when comparing models with different number of terms. “Adequate Precision” measures the signal to noise ratio. A ratio greater than 4 is desirable. Our ratio of (33.261 and 123.288) for CC650 and CC670 tools, respectively, indicates an adequate signal. So, these models can be used to navigate the design space.

5 Regression equations

The relationship between the factors and the performance measures were modeled by multiple linear regressions. The regression equations obtained were as follows:

Regression equation for surface roughness (Ra\(_{CC650}\)) obtained from the experimental data is given by equation (2). Its coefficient of determination \( (R^2) \) is 92.68%.

\[
Ra_{CC650} = 0.7387 - 3.3611 \times 10^{-3}V_c - 3.906f \\
- 0.0705f + 0.0284V_c \times f \\
+ 3.3334 \times 10^{-5}V_c \times t + 0.6625f \times t.
\]  

The surface roughness (Ra\(_{CC650}\)) model is given by the following equation (3) with a determination coefficient \( (R^2) \) of 94.88%.

\[
Ra_{CC650} = -0.8662 - 2.25 \times 10^{-3}V_c + 16.718f \\
+ 0.097t - 0.0159V_c \times f \\
+ 6.334 \times 10^{-4}V_c \times ap - 1.562f \times t.
\]  

Regression equation for specific cutting force (Ks\(_{CC650}\)) obtained from the experimental data is given by equation (4). Its coefficient of determination \( (R^2) \) is 99.20%.

\[
K_{sCC650} = -1168.091 + 27.029V_c - 20369.906f \\
+ 911.133t + 15.628V_c \times t \\
- 5.078V_c \times t + 2799.912f \times t.
\]  

The specific cutting force (Ks\(_{CC650}\)) model is given by equation (5) with a determination coefficient \( (R^2) \) of 94.31%.

\[
K_{sCC650} = 395.351 - 0.184V_c - 6575.843f \\
+ 247.7t + 37.410V_c \times f \\
- 0.566V_c \times t - 79.037f \times t.
\]  

The surface roughness (Ra\(_{CC650}\)) model is given by the following equation (3) with a determination coefficient \( (R^2) \) of 94.88%.

The specific cutting force (Ks\(_{CC650}\)) model is given by equation (4). Its coefficient of determination \( (R^2) \) is 99.20%.

The specific cutting force (Ks\(_{CC650}\)) model is given by equation (5) with a determination coefficient \( (R^2) \) of 94.31%.
Regression equation for flank wear (VB\textsubscript{CC650}) obtained from the experimental data is given by equation (6). Its coefficient of determination ($R^2$) is 99.87%.

\[
\text{VB}_{\text{CC650}} = 0.0465 + 1.222 \times 10^{-4}V_c + 0.2125f
\]
\[
- 4 \times 10^{-4}t - 1.111 \times 10^{-3}V_c \times f
\]
\[
+ 2.444V_c \times t + 7.5f \times t. \tag{6}
\]

The flank wear (VB\textsubscript{CC670}) is given by equation (7) with a determination coefficient ($R^2$) of 99.99%.

\[
\text{VB}_{\text{CC670}} = 0.082 - 5.833 \times 10^{-5}V_c - 0.0781f
\]
\[
+ 3.55 \times 10^{-3}t + 9.027 \times 10^{-4}V_c \times f
\]
\[
+ 10^{-5}V_c \times t + 3.75 \times 10^{-3}f \times t. \tag{7}
\]

The above models are established for predicting the surface roughness, specific cutting force, flank wear, cutting speed, feed rate and cutting time. The depth of cut is limited in this study. The comparisons of measured-predicted values from the mathematical models are depicted in Figure 9. Comparison results prove that predicted values for each response are close to experimentally measured values (Table 6). The absolute mean errors for surface roughness and flank wear are found to be 1.38 and 0.05% and 4.875 and 0.0125% for mixed and reinforced ceramic tools, respectively. Results from the mathematical models indicate that they can be successfully applicable for predicting the surface roughness, specific cutting force and flank wear.

Figure 9 shows the comparison between the values of the surface roughness, specific cutting force and flank wear for both ceramic tools CC650 and CC670. The insert CC650 provides lower values than the CC670 ceramic tool. For example, Ra\textsubscript{CC670} $\approx$ 1.44Ra\textsubscript{CC650}, Ks\textsubscript{CC670} $\approx$ 1.24Ks\textsubscript{CC650} and VB\textsubscript{CC670} $\approx$ 1.21VB\textsubscript{CC650}.

### Table 5. Analysis of variance for VB.

| Source      | SS     | DF  | MS         | $F$-value | Prob. | Cont. % |
|-------------|--------|-----|------------|-----------|-------|---------|
| (a) CC650   |        |     |            |           |       |         |
| Model       | 0.00148| 6   | 0.00024667 | 123.333333| 0.0688|         |
| $V_c$       | 0.0004805| 1   | 0.0004805  | 240.25    | 0.0410| 32.46   |
| $f$         | 0.0001805| 1   | 0.0001805  | 90.25     | 0.0668| 12.19   |
| $t$         | 0.000722 | 1   | 0.000722   | 361       | 0.0335| 48.78   |
| $V_c \times f$ | 0.000032 | 1   | 0.000032   | 16        | 0.1560| 2.16    |
| $V_c \times t$ | 0.0000605 | 1   | 0.0000605  | 30.25     | 0.1145| 4.09    |
| $f \times t$ | 4.5E-06  | 1   | 4.5E-06    | 2.25      | 0.3743| 0.30    |
| Residual    | 2E-06   | 1   | 2E-06      |           |       |         |
| Total       |        |     |            |           | 100   |         |
| SD          | 1.414E-3|     |            |           |       |         |
| Mean        | 0.099   |     |            |           |       |         |
| Coefficient of variation | 1.43 |     |            |           |       |         |
| Predicted residual error of sum of squares (PRESS) | 1.28E-04 |     |            |           |       | 33.261 |

| (b) CC670   |        |     |            |           |       |         |
| Model       | 0.00178275| 6   | 0.00029713 | 2377      | 0.0157|         |
| $V_c$       | 0.00025313| 1   | 0.00025313 | 2025      | 0.0141| 14.20   |
| $f$         | 6.6125E-05| 1   | 6.6125E-05 | 529       | 0.0277| 3.71    |
| $t$         | 0.00143113| 1   | 0.00143113 | 11449     | 0.0059| 80.27   |
| $V_c \times f$ | 2.1125E-05 | 1   | 2.1125E-05 | 169       | 0.0489| 1.18    |
| $V_c \times t$ | 1.0125E-05 | 1   | 1.0125E-05 | 81        | 0.0704| 0.57    |
| $f \times t$ | 1.125E-06 | 1   | 1.125E-06  | 9         | 0.2048| 0.06    |
| Residual    | 1.25E-07 | 1   | 1.25E-07   |           |       |         |
| Total       | 0.00178288| 7   |            |           | 100   |         |
| SD          | 3.536 $\times 10^{-4}$|     |            |           |       |         |
| Mean        | 0.12    |     |            |           |       |         |
| Coefficient of variation | 0.29 |     |            |           |       |         |
| Predicted residual error of sum of squares (PRESS) | 8E-06 |     |            |           |       | 123.288 |

### 6 Optimization of cutting conditions

Desirability function approach has been used for multiple response factors (Ra, Ks and VB) optimization. The optimization module searches for a combination of factor levels that simultaneously satisfy the requirements placed on each of the responses and factors in an attempt to establish the appropriate model. During the optimization
process, the aim was to find the optimal values of machining parameters in order to produce the lowest surface roughness with minimal specific cutting force and flank wear. To resolve this type of parameter design problem, an objective function, \( F(x) \), is defined as follows [22]:

\[
DF = \left( \prod_{i=1}^{n} d_i^{e_i} \right)^{\sum_{j=1}^{m} w_i},
\]

\[
F(x) = -DF,
\]

where \( d_i \) is the desirability defined for the \( i \)th targeted output and \( w_i \) is the weighting of \( d_i \). For various goals of each targeted output, the desirability, \( d_i \), is defined in different forms. If a goal is to reach a specific value of \( T_i \), the desirability \( d_i \) is as follows:

\[
di = 0, \quad \text{if } Y_i \leq \text{Low}_i,
\]

\[
di = \frac{Y_i - \text{Low}_i}{T_i - \text{Low}_i}, \quad \text{if } \text{Low}_i \leq Y_i \leq T_i.
\]

**Table 6.** Comparison of results obtained from experiment with model.

| N  | Machining parameters | CC650 | Response factors | CC670 | Error (%) | Error (%) | Error (%) | Error (%) |
|----|----------------------|-------|------------------|-------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|    | \( V \) m/min | \( f \) mm/rev | \( t \) min | Actual | Pred | Error (%) | Actual | Pred | Error (%) | Actual | Pred | Error (%) |
| 1  | 90  | 0.08  | 10   | 0.27 | 0.26 | -3.70 | 0.078 | 0.3012 | -13.94 | 0.101 | 0.00  |
| 2  | 180 | 0.16  | 10   | 0.16 | 0.17 | 6.25 | 0.092 | 0.26875 | 22.16 | 0.107 | 0.106 -0.93 |
| 3  | 90  | 0.08  | 5    | 0.4  | 0.41 | 2.50 | 0.09 | 0.89875 | 5.74 | 0.103 | 0.102 -0.97 |
| 4  | 90  | 0.16  | 5    | 0.55 | 0.54 | -1.82 | 0.096 | 0.75125 | -6.09 | 0.115 | 0.115 0.00 |
| 5  | 180 | 0.08  | 5    | 0.17 | 0.18 | 5.88 | 0.09 | 0.44875 | 12.19 | 0.125 | 0.124 -0.80 |
| 6  | 90  | 0.16  | 10   | 0.13 | 0.12 | -7.69 | 0.115 | 0.70125 | -6.50 | 0.135 | 0.135 0.00 |
| 7  | 180 | 0.08  | 10   | 0.62 | 0.61 | -1.61 | 0.105 | 0.42125 | -10.37 | 0.128 | 0.128 0.00 |
| 8  | 180 | 0.16  | 5    | 0.73 | 0.74 | 1.37 | 0.123 | 0.55875 | 9.56 | 0.145 | 0.144 -0.69 |

**Fig. 9.** Comparison between CC650 and CC670 for response factors.
Table 7. Constraints for optimization of cutting conditions.

| Condition                  | Goal           | Lower limit  | Upper limit |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|
| Cutting speed (m/min)      | Is in range    | 90           | 180         |
| Feed rate (mm/rev)        | Is in range    | 0.08         | 0.16        |
| Cutting time (min)        | Is in range    | 5            | 10          |
| Specific cutting force (Ks) | Minimize     | 5768.75      | 14214.2     |
| Flank wear (VB)           | Minimize      | 0.078        | 0.123       |

Table 8. Optimization results.

| Test No. | \( V_c \) (m/min) | \( f \) (mm/rev) | \( t \) (min) | Response factors | Desirability |
|----------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
|          | Ra (\( \mu \)m)  | Ks (MPa)         | VB (mm)      |                  |              |
| CC650    |                   |                  |              |                  |              |
| 1        | 90.15             | 0.08             | 5            | 0.256           | 3138.179     | 0.079        | 0.896        |
| 2        | 96.66             | 0.08             | 5            | 0.250           | 3156.969     | 0.080        | 0.892        |
| 3        | 104.84            | 0.08             | 5            | 0.243           | 3180.584     | 0.081        | 0.886        |
| 4        | 90                | 0.08             | 5.28         | 0.252           | 3325.133     | 0.079        | 0.884        |
| 5        | 90                | 0.09             | 5            | 0.275           | 3090.597     | 0.080        | 0.874        |
| CC670    |                   |                  |              |                  |              |
| 1        | 90                | 0.08             | 5            | 0.301           | 1074.045     | 0.101        | 0.913        |
| 2        | 94                | 0.08             | 5            | 0.300           | 1073.962     | 0.101        | 0.912        |
| 3        | 95.40             | 0.08             | 5            | 0.299           | 1073.931     | 0.101        | 0.911        |
| 4        | 96.46             | 0.08             | 5            | 0.299           | 1073.901     | 0.102        | 0.910        |
| 5        | 99.31             | 0.08             | 5            | 0.298           | 1073.837     | 0.102        | 0.910        |

\[
di = \frac{Y_i - \text{Low}_i}{\text{High}_i - \text{Low}_i}, \quad \text{if} \quad \text{Low}_i \leq Y_i \leq \text{High}_i \\
di = 0, \quad \text{if} \quad Y_i \geq \text{High}_i
\]

For a goal to find a maximum, the desirability is shown as follows:

\[
di = 0, \quad \text{if} \quad Y_i \leq \text{Low}_i
\]

For a goal to find a minimum, the desirability can be defined by the following formulas:

\[
di = \frac{\text{High}_i - Y_i}{\text{High}_i - \text{Low}_i}, \quad \text{if} \quad \text{Low}_i \leq Y_i \leq \text{High}_i \\
di = 1, \quad \text{if} \quad Y_i \geq \text{High}_i
\]

\[
di = 1, \quad \text{if} \quad Y_i \leq \text{Low}_i
\]

\[
di = \frac{\text{High}_i - Y_i}{\text{High}_i - \text{Low}_i}, \quad \text{if} \quad \text{Low}_i \leq Y_i \leq \text{High}_i \\
di = 0, \quad \text{if} \quad Y_i \geq \text{High}_i
\]

where \( Y_i \) is the found value of the \( i \)th output during optimization processes; \( \text{Low}_i \) and \( \text{High}_i \) are, respectively, the minimum and the maximum values of the experimental data for the \( i \)th output. In equation (8), \( w_i \) is set to 1 since \( d_i \) is equally important in this study. \( \text{DF} \) is a combined desirability function, and the objective is to choose an optimal setting that maximizes a combined desirability function \( \text{DF} \), i.e., minimizes \( F(x) \).

The optimal manufacturing conditions for hard turning of AISI 4140 with the constraints of cutting parametric range is that corresponding to improve surface roughness and to lower values of specific cutting force and flank wear during the dry turning process. The constraints used during the optimization process are summarized in Table 7, whereas the optimal solutions are reported in Table 8 in a decreasing desirability level order. This same table shows the RSM optimization results for surface roughness, specific cutting force and flank wear. The optimum cutting parameters were obtained in Table 8 with cutting speed of 90–104.84 and 90–99.31 m/min, feed rate of 0.08–0.09 and 0.08 mm/rev and cutting time 5–5.28 and 5 mm for CC650 and CC670 tools, respectively.

7 Conclusions

The research work presents the application of RSM models, which influence the machining variables of surface roughness, specific cutting force and flank wear. The relationship between the factors and the performance measures were modeled by multiple linear regression.
Three process parameters (cutting speed, feed rate and cutting time) are considered for the development of the models. The developed RSM models are tested through ANOVA and found to be adequate at 95% confidence interval. The following conclusions are drawn from the present investigation:

1. According to presented results, it can also be observed that the surface roughness (Ra) for both cutting inserts greatly improves with the increase in cutting speed, while showing the negative effects on feed rate, but the depth of cut has a negligible influence.

2. The 3D visualization map of the machined surface is an important investigation tool. It confirmed some characteristic features of surfaces produced with both inserts tested, i.e. peaks and valleys.

3. During machinability study in dry hard turning, it is observed that the surface roughness is strongly influenced by the feed rate. Its contribution is 82.17 and 29.36%, for CC650 and CC670 tools, respectively. Also, the specific cutting pressures of CC650 and CC670 tools are strongly influenced by the cutting speed 82.42 and 91.17%. In addition, the flank wear of CC650 and CC670 tools is also influenced by cutting time 12.19 and 3.70%, respectively. In the second level by the cutting speed 32.46 and 14.20%, respectively. In general, this study confirms that in dry straight turning of this steel (AISI 4140) and for the cutting conditions tested, the mixed ceramic is better than reinforced ceramic in terms of surface roughness, specific cutting force and flank wear. The mean value ratios for $Ra_{CC670}/Ra_{CC650}$, $Ks_{CC670}/Ks_{CC650}$ and $VB_{CC670}/VB_{CC650}$ are 1.44, 1.24 and 1.21, respectively.

4. After the conduction of the experiments, it was found that the mixed ceramic insert (CC650) has better performance compared with reinforced ceramic insert (CC670) with reference in terms of surface roughness, specific cutting force and flank wear.

5. Using the point prediction method of optimization, the optimal setting of machining parameters of CC650 and CC670 tools are found to be cutting speeds of 90–104.84 and 90–99.31 m/min, feed rate of 0.08–0.09 and 0.08 mm/rev and cutting time 5–5.28 and 5 min, respectively. The desirability of this optimized condition also comes around 88.64 and 91.12%, respectively.

### Nomenclature

| Symbol | Description                           |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| $ap$   | Depth of cut, mm                      |
| $f$    | Feed rate, mm/rev                    |
| $Fa$   | Feed force, N                        |
| $Fr$   | Radial force, N                      |
| $Ft$   | Tangential force, N                  |
| $H$    | Workpiece hardness                   |
| $HRC$  | Rockwell hardness                    |
| $Ks$   | Specific cutting force, MPa          |
| $Ra$   | Surface roughness, μm                |
| $t$    | Cutting time, min                    |
| $VB$   | Flank wear, mm                       |
| $V_c$  | Cutting speed, m/min                 |

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