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PROCESS PARAMETER OPTIMIZATION IN ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE MACHINING(EDM) FOR MATERIAL REMOVAL RATE(MRR) AND SURFACE ROUGHNESS





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Short Profile

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ABSTRACT:

This paper postulates the analysis of an process parameter optimization in electrical discharge machining for material removal rate and surface roughness. I have considered AISI D3 material for experiment and parameters are discharge current, spark on time , spark off time and spark gap. The Taguchi method is used for Design of experiment. The analysis is done using Minitab software.

KEYWORDS

Material removal rate, surface roughness, Taguchi method.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Electric discharge machining is a thermo-electric non-traditional machining process. Material is removed from the work piece through localized melting and vaporization of material. Electric sparks are generated between two electrodes when the electrodes are held at a small distance from each other in a dielectric medium and a high potential difference is applied across them. Localized regions of high temperatures are formed due to the sparks occurring between the two electrode surfaces. Work piece material in this localized zone melts and vaporizes. Most of the molten and vaporized material is carried away from the inter-electrode gap by the dielectric flow in the form of debris particles. To prevent excessive heating, electric power is supplied in the form of short pulses. Spark occurs wherever the gap between the tool and the work piece surface is smallest. After material is removed due to a spark, this gap increases and the location of the next spark shifts to a different point on the work piece surface.

II. OBJECTIVE

The aim of this project is to optimize the machining parameters for MRR and surface roughness in EDM. The objective of this Dissertation is to maximize the material removal rate and minimize surface roughness of EDM. This will reduce the time required for machining the work piece and will improve the surface quality.

It is found that, much work has been done on MRR and SR for various materials like AISI 302, D2, EN but very little work has been done on MRR and SR for AISI D3 material. In this Dissertation work I have considered this material. Also, very few researchers have taken the process parameters as discharge current (Ip), spark on time (Ton), spark off time (Toff), and spark gap (SG). So I considered these parameters in this Dissertation work to maximize MRR and minimize surface roughness in EDM.

o Taguchi method is used for Design of experiment. The analysis is done using Minitab software. oMathematical models are developed for MRR and surface roughness (SR) using regression analysis. oOptimum values of process parameters are obtained using grey relational analysis method.

III. EXPERIMENTAL SET UP

For this experiment, the whole work is done by using Electric Discharge Machine, model ELECTRONICA- ELECTRAPULS PS 50ZNC (die-sinking type), having provision of programming in the Z-vertical axis and manually operated X and Y axes. The tool is made of cathode and the work piece as anode. Commercial grade EDM oil (specific gravity= 0.763 kg/ m3), freezing point= 94°C) was used as dielectric fluid with lateral flushing (pressure of 0.3 kgf/cm2) system for effective flushing of machining debris from working gap region. The pulsed discharge current was applied in various steps in positive mode. The EDM consists of following major parts -

- Dielectric reservoir, pump and circulation system.
- Power generator and control unit.
- Working tank with work holding device.

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- X-Y table accommodating the working table.
- •The tool holder.
- The servo system to feed the tool.



Fig. Experimental Set up

IV. EXPERIMENTAL ANALYSIS

The various levels of the selected parameters are listed in the table no.3.1. I have consulted to Simran Spark Industry, they told the range of the levels of the process parameters which is favorable to the selected work piece materials and dimensions.

Parameters	Notation	Units	Levels			
			1	2	3	4
Discharge current	Ip	Ampere	3	7	11	15
Pulse on time	Ton	μs	40	50	60	70
Pulse off time	Toff	μs	5	6	7	8
Spark gap	SG	mm	0.05	0.1	0.15	0.2

The number of selected parameters and their levels are fours so the number of experiments must be 256 (44), but according to Taguchi method the Orthogonal Array for this case is L16.Hence design of experiment provides us the minimum number of experiments required for experimentation purpose.

The material removal rate (MRR) is expressed as the ratio of the difference of weight of the work

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piece before and after machining to the machining time and density of the material.

$$MRR = \frac{Wjb - Wja}{t \times \rho}$$

Where,

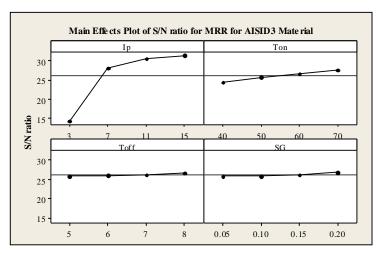
Wjb = Weight of work piece before machining.

Wja = Weight of work piece after machsining.

t = Machining time = 5 Minutes

ρ = Density of the tool steel material

From the experimental results, the effects of process parameters on MRR are plotted by using MINITAB software as shown below.



Optimal values of process parameters:

Process parameters	units	Optimum values
Discharge current (Ip)	A	15
Spark on time (Ton)	μs	70
Spark off time (Toff)	μs	8
Spark gap (SG)	mm	0.2

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V. CONCLUSION

In the present study , the effect of machining parameters on MRR and surface roughness (Ra) for material AISI D3 using the cylindrical shaped copper tool with side flushing system have investigated for EDM process.

The experiments were conducted under various parameters setting of Discharge Current (Ip), Pulse On time (Ton), Pulse Off time (Toff) and Spark gap (SG)

Design of experiment by Taguchi methodology was used for experimentation.

MINITAB software was used for DOE and analysis of the experimental result and the response was validated experimentally.

Discharge current and Spark on time are the most influencing factors.

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MRR increases with the increase in discharge current (Ip) and Spark on time.

The choice of the electrical parameters of the EDM process depends largely on the material combination of the electrode and the work piece and the EDM manufactures only supply these parameters for a limited amount of material combinations.

While machining the material AISI D3, the industrialist can directly use the optimum values so that the material removal rate will be maximum and Ra value will be minimum.

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