

MULTI RESPONSE OPTIMIZATION OF PROCESS PARAMETERS FOR EDM OF COPPER AND HIGH SPEED STEEL

B Suneel Kumar*¹, P satish kumar² and Ch v s parameswra rao³

^{1,2,3}PBR Visvodaya Institute of Technology and Science, Kavali, AP, India

Abstract- Electrical Discharge Machine (EDM) is the one nonconventional machining process which is used very widely. In EDM, it is necessary to optimize the process parameters like pulse on-time, pulse off-time, discharge current, voltage, for maximization of Material Removal Rate (MRR) for Copper and high speed steel (HSS). As per Taguchi L16, sixteen experiments have been conducted at different levels of current, Ton, Toff and Voltage on the two metals. Experimental results of surface roughness, tool wear rate and metal removal rate were analysed with responses surface methodology. Interaction effect of process parameters on the responses has been discussed. A multi responses optimization technique was used to optimize process parameters for minimum surface roughness and tool wear rate and maximum metal removal rate.

Keywords- EDM, ANOVA, Multi response optimization, MRR and Machinability

**Corresponding author: B suneel Kumar¹*

I. INTRODUCTION

Electrical Discharge Machine (EDM) is now become the most important accepted technologies in manufacturing industries since many complex 3D shapes can be machined using a simple shaped tool electrode. EDM is an important 'non-tradition manufacturing method', developed in the late 1940s and has been accepted worldwide as a standard processing manufacture of forming tools to produce plastics moldings, die castings, forging dies and etc. EDM technology is increasingly being used in tool; die and mould making industries, for machining of heat treated tool steels and advanced materials (super alloys, ceramics, and metal matrix composites) requiring high precision, complex shapes and high surface finish. Traditional machining technique is often based on the material removal using tool material harder than the work material and is unable to machine them economically. An EDM is based on the eroding effect of an electric spark on both the electrodes used. EDM actually is a process of utilizing the removal phenomenon of electrical-discharge in dielectric. Therefore, the electrode plays an important role, which affects the material removal rate and the tool wear rate.

A considerable amount of work has been reported by the researchers on the measurement of EDM performance on the basis of MRR, TWR, RWR, and SR for various types of steels. Rao et al. [1] studied the influence of process parameters on EDM of MDN 250 steel. They have considered discharge current, pulse on time, and duty factor as performance measures whereas process parameters are MRR and SR. However, in their study, parametric optimization was not done. TWR and RWR ratios were not considered. Furthermore, they extended their studies and developed a hybrid model for SR is to predict the behavior of the MDN 250 steel [2]. In EDM, for optimum machining performance measures, it is an important task to select proper combination of machining parameters [3].

Inconel 718 is a high strength, temperature resistant (HSTR) nickel-based super alloy. It is extensively used in aerospace applications, such as gas turbines, rocket motors, and spacecraft as well as in nuclear reactors, pumps and tooling. Inconel 718 is difficult to machine, because of its poor thermal properties, high toughness, high hardness, high work hardening rate, presence of highly abrasive carbide particles and strong tendency to weld to the tool to form build up edge [4]. Hole making has long been

recognized as one of the most important machining processes. Approximately 50 to 70% of production time is spent in making holes [5]. The term 'deep hole' refers to a depth to diameter equal to five or greater. As the depth-to-diameter ratio increases, it becomes extremely difficult to produce such holes, especially, in super alloys like Inconel 718. The earlier studies on machinability of Inconel 718 were mainly on turning and milling operations. Only very little published information is available on drilling studies of Inconel [6].

Kao and Hocheng [11] obtained grey relational grade using grey relational analysis while electrochemical polishing of the stainless steel. Optimal machining parameters were determined by the grey relational grade as the performance index. They observed that the performance characteristics such as surface roughness and passivation strength are improved. Singh et al. [12] suggested that orthogonal array (OA) with grey relational analysis is useful for optimisation of multiple response characteristics which is more complex compared to optimization of single-performance characteristics. They obtained optimal EDM parameters setting of metal removal rate, tool wear rate, taper, radial overcut and surface roughness while EDM of Al-10%SiCP as-cast metal matrix composites

In the present work, experiments have been conducted on EDM machine to identify effect of process parameters in machining of HSS and Copper. Response surface methodology was used to analyse the experimental results of surface roughness, MRR and tool wear rate. Multi response optimization technique is also used to optimize the process parameters.

II. MATERIALS AND EXPERIMENTATION

In the experiments to obtain fine surface finish, die-sinking and milling micro-EDM was conducted using 500 μm W electrodes on the surface under different machining conditions. In the EDM, positive electrode polarity resulted in extensive electrode wear compared with material removal rate from the workpiece. On the contrary, negative electrode polarity gives much better surface finish with comparatively higher material removal rate, lower electrode wear and controlled performance. Hence, the experiments were carried out with the electrode as negative polarity. In the process the spark always occurs at the closest point between the electrode and the workpiece. Thus if the surface of the electrode facing the workpiece is rough then the machining depth may not be equal to the anticipated depth. As shown in the Figure 1, Experiments were carried out at different levels of current, Ton, Toff and voltages. Workpieces used in this work are shown in the Figure 2. Experimental results of surface roughness, tool wear and MRR are given in the Table 1 and 3 for copper and High speed steel respectively.



Figure 1. Experimental set up of EDM



Figure 2. (a)Copper work pieces (b) High speed steel work pieces

Table 1. Design of experiments and responses for copper

| s.no | I | T _{on} | T _{off} | V | T | MRR | TWR | R _a |
|------|----|-----------------|------------------|----|----------|--------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | 15 | 7 | 7 | 40 | 23.8333 | 5.3907 | 0.0314 | 1.800 |
| 2 | 15 | 8 | 8 | 60 | 73.64 | 1.7445 | 0.0110 | 1.330 |
| 3 | 15 | 9 | 9 | 70 | 69.5411 | 1.8475 | 9.9221x10 ⁻³ | 6.200 |
| 4 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 80 | 126.7721 | 1.0134 | 4.4962x10 ⁻³ | 5.760 |
| 5 | 20 | 7 | 8 | 70 | 63.2053 | 2.0327 | 0.0204 | 4.960 |
| 6 | 20 | 8 | 7 | 80 | 61.1606 | 2.1007 | 0.0135 | 2.640 |
| 7 | 20 | 9 | 10 | 40 | 45.4691 | 2.8256 | 0.0164 | 2.119 |
| 8 | 20 | 10 | 9 | 60 | 41 | 3.1336 | 0.0129 | 2.389 |
| 9 | 25 | 7 | 7 | 80 | 24.1426 | 5.3217 | 0.0339 | 4.099 |
| 10 | 25 | 8 | 9 | 70 | 26.412 | 4.8644 | 0.0295 | 4.839 |
| 11 | 25 | 9 | 7 | 60 | 26.4483 | 4.8577 | 0.0268 | 3.340 |
| 12 | 25 | 10 | 8 | 40 | 19.5603 | 6.5684 | 0.0338 | 3.899 |
| 13 | 30 | 7 | 9 | 60 | 29.028 | 4.4260 | 0.0268 | 2.279 |
| 14 | 30 | 8 | 9 | 40 | 18.6031 | 6.9063 | 0.0413 | 2.820 |
| 15 | 30 | 9 | 8 | 80 | 40.2013 | 3.1959 | 0.0129 | 3.100 |
| 16 | 30 | 10 | 7 | 70 | 20.5981 | 6.2374 | 0.0217 | 3.760 |

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1 Analysis of responses for copper

ANOVA was carried out to identify significant parameter on the surface roughness, tool wear rate and material removal rate. The ANOVA for the surface roughness was carried out at confidence level of 95%. Then the responses which are having p value less than the 0.05 are said to be significant.

From the Table 2, it was observed that the current and voltage have significant effect on MRR, current has significant effect tool wear rate and voltage has significant effect on the surface roughness.

Table 2. ANOVA for copper

| ANOVA for metal removal rate | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------|----|-------|----------|---------|
| Source | SS | DF | M S | F- Value | p-value |
| Model | 42.31 | 4 | 10.58 | 9.84 | 0.0012 |
| A-I | 19.47 | 1 | 19.47 | 18.11 | 0.0014 |
| B-T on | 0.086 | 1 | 0.086 | 0.080 | 0.7828 |
| C-T off | 5.84 | 1 | 5.84 | 5.43 | 0.0398 |
| D-V | 15.00 | 1 | 15.00 | 13.95 | 0.0033 |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|----|-------|-------|--------|
| Residual | 11.83 | 11 | 1.08 | | |
| Cor Total | 54.14 | 15 | | | |
| ANOVA for tool wear rate | | | | | |
| Model | 44.38 | 4 | 11.10 | 2.01 | 0.0124 |
| A-I | 18.10 | 1 | 18.10 | 3.28 | 0.0374 |
| B-T on | 2.93 | 1 | 2.93 | 0.53 | 0.4817 |
| C-T off | 7.93 | 1 | 7.93 | 1.44 | 0.2559 |
| D-V | 9.08 | 1 | 9.08 | 1.65 | 0.2260 |
| Residual | 60.69 | 11 | 5.52 | | |
| Cor Total | 105.07 | 15 | | | |
| ANOVA for surface roughness | | | | | |
| Model | 10.65 | 4 | 2.66 | 1.48 | 0.0248 |
| A-I | 0.14 | 1 | 0.14 | 0.076 | 0.7873 |
| B-T on | 0.72 | 1 | 0.72 | 0.40 | 0.5414 |
| C-T off | 1.57 | 1 | 1.57 | 0.87 | 0.3705 |
| D-V | 8.15 | 1 | 8.15 | 4.52 | 0.0470 |
| Residual | 19.84 | 11 | 1.80 | | |
| Cor Total | 30.50 | 15 | | | |

3.2 Interaction effect of process parameters on responses (Copper)

Figures 3, 4, and 5 show the interaction effect of process parameters on the responses such as MRR, TWR and surface roughness respectively. From the Figure 3, it was observed that the current has significant effect on the MRR at all voltages, T_{on} and T_{off} . Remain parameter not so significant. From the Figure 4, it was observed that the current and T_{off} are having significant effect on the TWR. At low T_{off} and low currents, the TWR was found to be very less. From the Figure 5, it can be observed that the current and T_{on} are found to be significant on the surface roughness. At high T_{on} and low currents, the surface roughness is observed as very less.

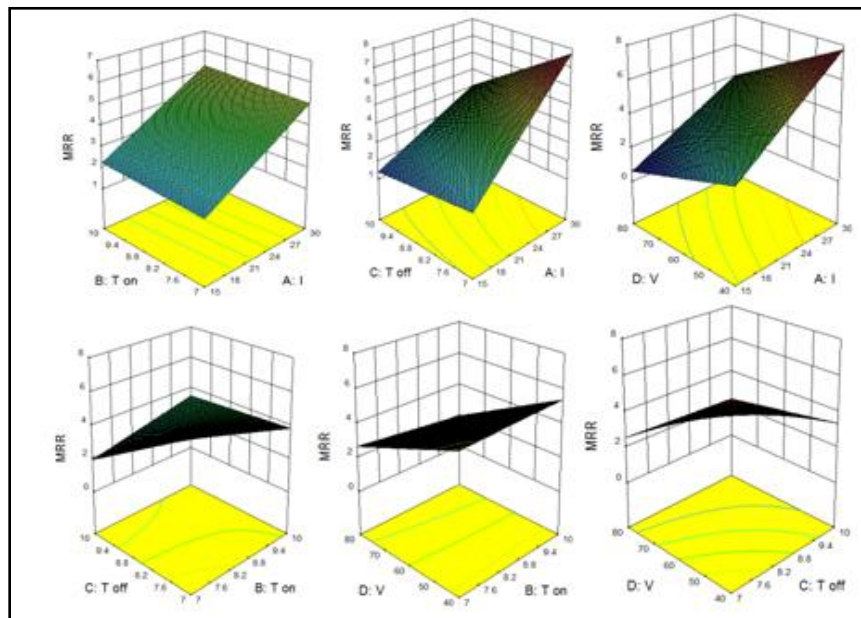


Figure 3 Interaction effects of parameters on the MRR

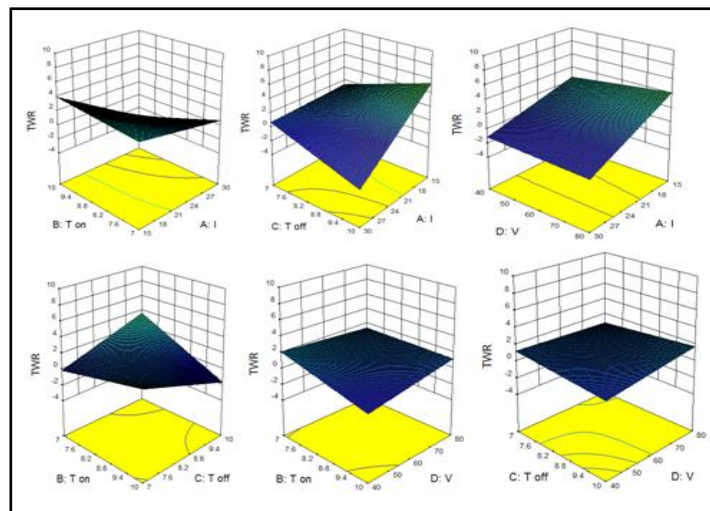


Figure 4 Interaction effects of parameters on the TWR

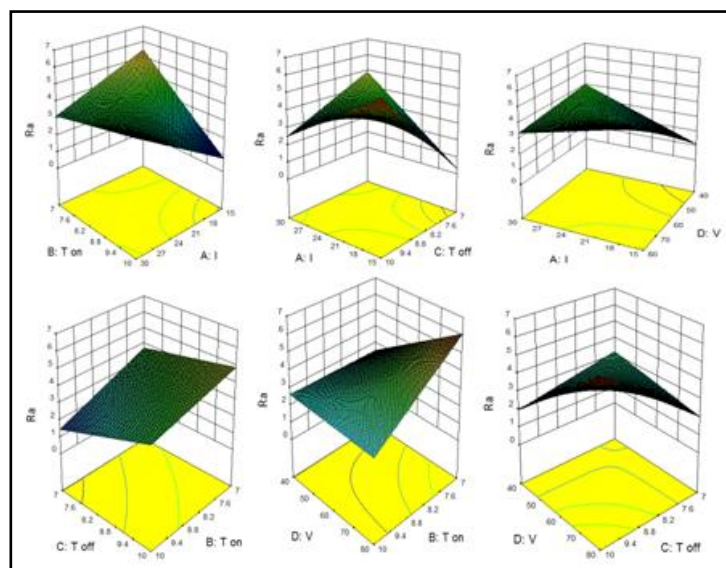


Figure 5 Interaction effects of parameters on the TWR

Table 3. Design of experiments and responses

| S.No. | I | T _{on} | T _{off} | V | T | MRR | TWR | R _a |
|-------|----|-----------------|------------------|----|----------|---------|------------|----------------|
| 1 | 15 | 7 | 7 | 40 | 8.5147 | 30.1786 | 0.0093956 | 8.959 |
| 2 | 15 | 8 | 8 | 60 | 12.0915 | 21.2513 | 0.00082702 | 9.360 |
| 3 | 15 | 9 | 9 | 70 | 14.0653 | 18.269 | 0.001421 | 8.039 |
| 4 | 15 | 10 | 10 | 80 | 31.291 | 8.2119 | 0 | 4.899 |
| 5 | 20 | 7 | 8 | 70 | 19.3088 | 13.3079 | 0.00984 | 9.279 |
| 6 | 20 | 8 | 7 | 80 | 10.95567 | 23.4546 | 0.005476 | 7.160 |
| 7 | 20 | 9 | 10 | 40 | 5.9753 | 43.0036 | 0.001673 | 9.079 |
| 8 | 20 | 10 | 9 | 60 | 7.796 | 32.9606 | 0 | 1.440 |
| 9 | 25 | 7 | 7 | 80 | 13.3588 | 19.2352 | 0.01871 | 7.200 |
| 10 | 25 | 8 | 9 | 70 | 8.5615 | 30.0135 | 0.014101 | 7.720 |
| 11 | 25 | 9 | 7 | 60 | 4.158 | 61.799 | 0.009624 | 6.480 |
| 12 | 25 | 10 | 8 | 40 | 3.4922 | 73.5834 | 0 | 1.790 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|---|----|--------|---------|------------|-------|
| 13 | 30 | 7 | 9 | 60 | 7.4155 | 34.6515 | 0.02994 | 3.979 |
| 14 | 30 | 8 | 9 | 40 | 2.6282 | 97.7743 | 0 | 6.320 |
| 15 | 30 | 9 | 8 | 80 | 7.9768 | 32.2135 | 0.2595 | 6.560 |
| 16 | 30 | 10 | 7 | 70 | 5.3843 | 47.7241 | 0.00185724 | 2.179 |

3.3 Analysis of responses for HSS

ANOVA was carried out for the high speed steel also to identify significant parameter on the surface roughness, tool wear rate and material removal rate. The ANOVA for the surface roughness was carried out at confidence level of 95%. Then the responses which are having p value less than the 0.05 are said to be significant.

From the Table 4, it was observed that the current and voltage have significant effect on MRR, voltage has significant effect tool wear rate and current and T_{on} have significant effect on the surface roughness.

Table 4. ANOVA for high speed steel

| ANOVA for metal removal rate | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------|----|----------|----------|---------|
| Source | SS | DF | MS | F- Value | p-value |
| Model | 8046.753 | 10 | 804.675 | 10.642 | 0.0087 |
| A-I | 1232.334 | 1 | 1232.334 | 16.298 | 0.0099 |
| B- T_{on} | 228.297 | 1 | 228.297 | 3.019 | 0.1427 |
| C- T_{off} | 144.813 | 1 | 144.813 | 1.915 | 0.2249 |
| D-V | 1656.307 | 1 | 1656.307 | 21.906 | 0.0054 |
| Residual | 378.046 | 5 | 75.609 | | |
| Cor Total | 8424.8 | 15 | | | |
| ANOVA for tool wear rate | | | | | |
| Model | 0.039 | 10 | 3.90E-03 | 0.89 | 0.4906 |
| A-I | 0.01 | 1 | 0.01 | 2.34 | 0.1866 |
| B- T_{on} | 3.48E-03 | 1 | 3.48E-03 | 0.8 | 0.4129 |
| C- T_{off} | 3.87E-03 | 1 | 3.87E-03 | 0.89 | 0.3900 |
| D-V | 0.012 | 1 | 0.012 | 2.75 | 0.0158 |
| Residual | 0.022 | 5 | 4.37E-03 | | |
| Cor Total | 0.061 | 15 | | | |
| ANOVA for surface roughness | | | | | |
| Model | 62.64 | 4 | 15.66 | 3.80 | 0.0355 |
| A-I | 18.76 | 1 | 18.76 | 4.55 | 0.0563 |
| B- T_{on} | 40.90 | 1 | 40.90 | 9.92 | 0.0093 |
| C- T_{off} | 0.50 | 1 | 0.50 | 0.12 | 0.7351 |
| D-V | 0.13 | 1 | 0.13 | 0.032 | 0.8614 |
| Residual | 45.36 | 11 | 4.12 | | |
| Cor Total | 108.01 | 15 | | | |

3.4 Interaction effect of process parameters on responses (HSS)

Figures 6, 7, and 8 show the interaction effect of process parameters on the responses such as MRR, TWR and surface roughness respectively. From the Figure 6, it was observed that the current and voltage have significant effect on the MRR. At low voltage and high current, the MRR is found to be less. From the Figure 7, it was observed that the current, voltage and T_{off} are having significant effect on the TWR. The TWR was found to be less at three combinations of parameters such as combination of low voltage and high current, combination of low T_{off} and low current and another combination of low

voltage and low T_{off} . From the Figure 8, it can be observed that the current and T_{on} are found to be strong significant parameters on the surface roughness. The surface roughness was found to be less at four combinations of parameters such as combination of low T_{on} and low current, combination of low T_{off} and high current, combination of high T_{on} and low T_{off} and another combination of low voltage and low T_{on} .

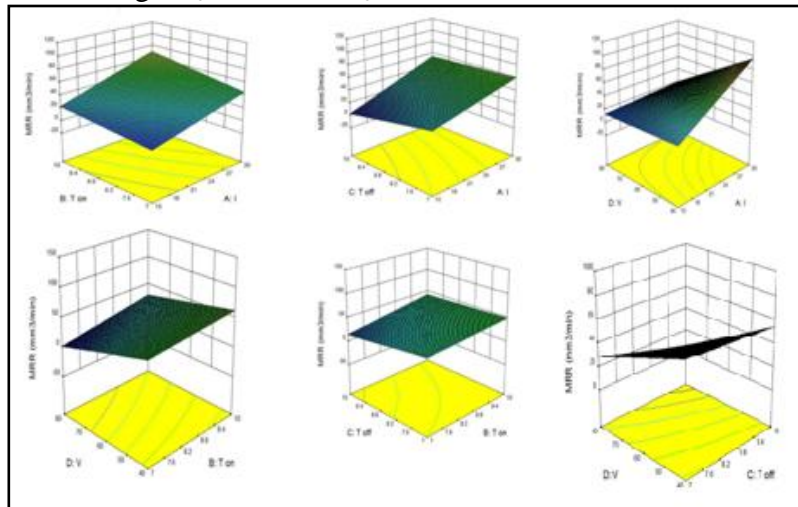


Figure 6 Interaction effects of parameters on the MRR

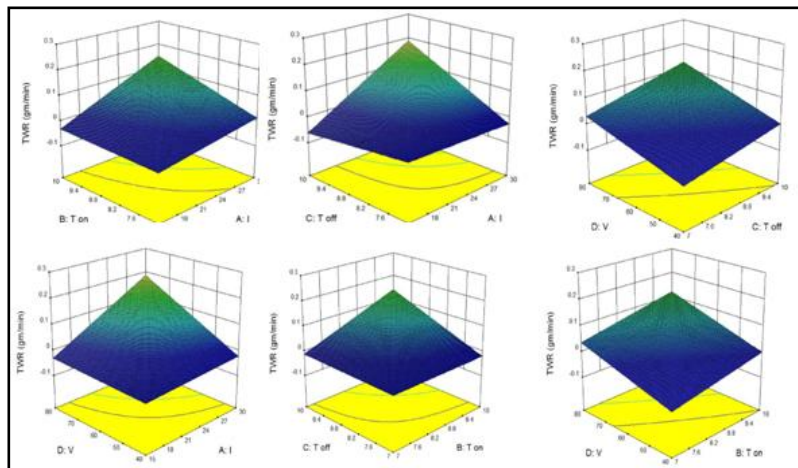


Figure 7 Interaction effects of parameters on the TWR

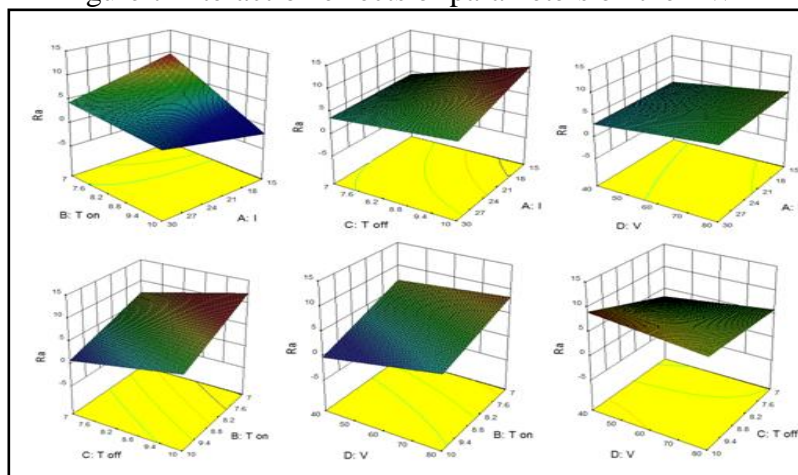


Figure 8 Interaction effects of parameters on the Ra

IV. MULTI RESPONSE OPTIMIZATION

In the present work, multi responses optimization was used to optimize process parameters for minimum surface roughness, tool wear rate and maximum metal removal rate. Figures 9 and 10 show the optimization of process parameters for the metals copper and high speed steel. Optimization of process parameters for the two metal was confirmed by desirability value. Composite desirability for the copper and HSS was found to be 0.8991 and 0.9839 respectively.

Table 5. Optimum process parameters

| | Copper | HSS |
|------------------|---------|--------|
| Current | 30 | 30 |
| T _{on} | 10 | 8.88 |
| T _{off} | 7.97 | 9.55 |
| Voltage | 74.74 | 40 |
| Desirability | 0.89991 | 0.9839 |

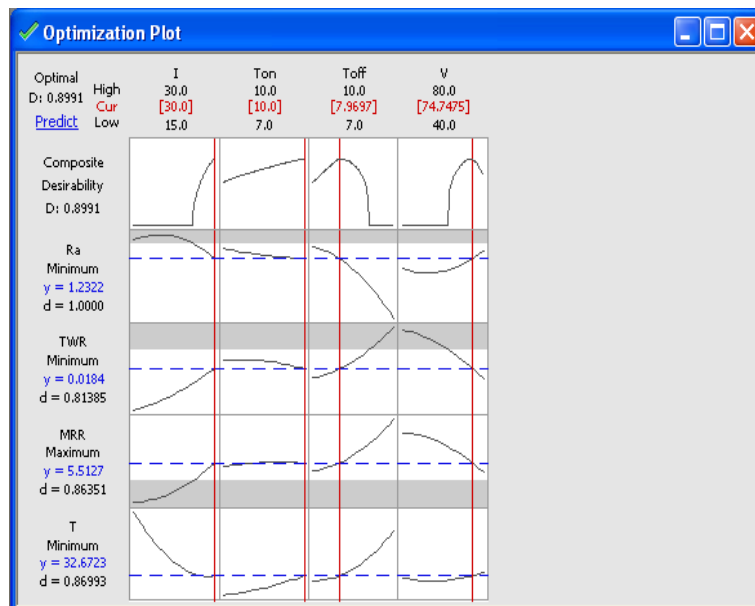


Figure 9. Multi response optimization parameters for Copper

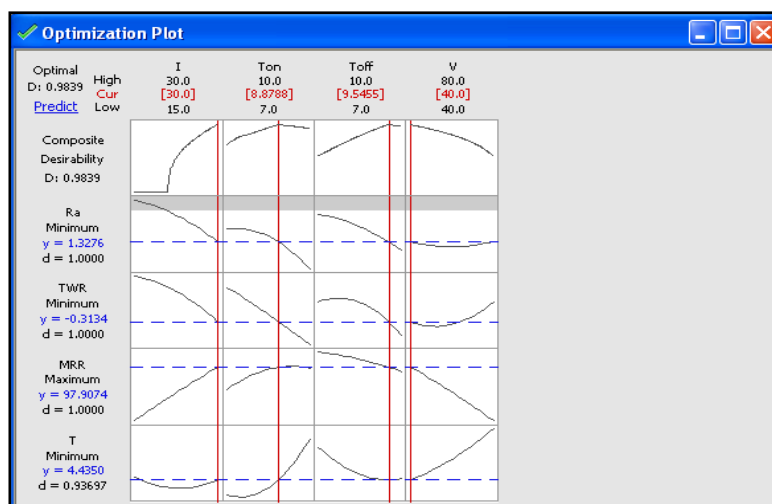


Figure 10. Multi response optimization parameters for HSS

V. CONCLUSIONS

In the present work, as per Taguchi L16, sixteen experiments have been conducted at different levels of current, Ton, Toff and Voltage on the two metals. Experimental results of surface roughness, tool wear rate and metal removal rate were analyzed with responses surface methodology. The following conclusions may be drawn from the work for the two metals:

A. Copper

- Current and voltage have significant effect on MRR, current has significant effect tool wear rate and voltage has significant effect on the surface roughness.
- 30Amp of current, 10 μ s of Ton, 7.97 μ s of Toff and 74.74 V of voltage were found to be optimum process parameter.

B. HSS

- Voltage has significant effect on MRR, voltage has significant effect tool wear rate and current and T_{on} have significant effect on the surface roughness.
- 30Amp of current, 8.88 μ s of Ton, 9.55 μ s of Toff and 40 V of voltage were found to be optimum process parameter.

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