Modeling and optimization of EDM machined AZ-91 Mg alloy using ANFIS-VIKOR method

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, machining of AZ-91 magnesium alloy was performed in EDM using different tool electrode (Cu, CuW and graphite). To perform experiments, Taguchi L_{18} design of experiments was used to reduce experimental runs. EDM process parameters viz. polarity, current (I_p), pulse-on-time (T_{on}), pulse-off-time (T_{off}), and tool electrode material were considered in experimental design to measure the responses (MRR, R_a). Multi-input-singleoutput adaptive neuro fuzzy inference system (ANFIS) model was developed to predict responses, and predicted results were found in good agreement with the experimental results. Maximum MRR (0.089 g/min) was found at positive polarity, I_p -5 A, T_{on} -50 µs, T_{off} -30 µs, and Cu tool, and minimum R_a (0.08 µm) was at parameters positive polarity, I_p -4 A, T_{on} -30 µs, T_{off} -20 µs, and Cu tool. Relative errors between experiential results and ANFIS predicted results were 1.17 % for MRR, and 2.20 % for R_a . Multi response optimization ANFIS-VIKOR method was successfully developed and gave compromise solution for MRR and R_a corresponding to minimum ANFIS-VIKOR index (Q_i). A factor level analysis was performed to evaluate optimal factor combination for ANFIS-VIKOR index, and it shows that current (I_p) have a significant effect.

Keywords: ANFIS-VIKOR; AZ-91 magnesium alloy; EDM; MRR; Ra.

INTRODUCTION

Electric discharge machine (EDM) is a non-conventional material elimination machine used to machine electrically conductive material submerged in dielectric fluid. EDM produced complex shapes and structures that cannot be easily machined by conventional machining (Li et al., 2003; Li et al., 2002; Amorim et al., 2005). In EDM, a chain of continuous sparks were produced when two electrodes comes closer to each other (DiBitonto et al., 1989). During machining, controlled process parameters resulted higher surface roughness (R_a), good precision, accuracy, small electrode wear, high material removal etc. (Lee et al., 2001; Ho et al., 2003). The parameters that affect the machining efficiency and performance are applied voltage (V), on-time (T_{on}), off-time (T_{off}), duty cycle (τ), peak current (I_p), dielectric pressure, tool material, interelectrode-gap, machining-time, polarity etc.

Magnesium alloys are lightweight alloys so it is extensibility used in the aircraft industries. It has outstanding physical properties i.e. low density, bio-compatibility, good damping and strength to weight ratio, thus this alloy is favourable in the field of aerospace, transport, electronics, and biomedical industries (Song et al., 2020; Luo et al., 2019). Application areas of Mg alloys give the motivation to work with EDM for high precision and accuracy (Ali et al., 2015; Yeganeh et al., 2015). Razak et al. (2016) has been machined AZ-31 Mg alloy using EDM. Four processing parameters viz. voltage, T_{on} , T_{off} and I_p have been used to measure surface roughness (R_a) and concluded that T_{on} has greatest impact on R_a .

In EDM, tool electrode properties and geometry enhanced the machinability of the work material (Bhaumik and Maity, 2018; Zhang et al., 2016). Since large number of parameters are associated in EDM, thus to reduce flaws in experiments a specific design and analysis (DOE) are needed. Taguchi method gives a systematics procedure with minimum number of experiments, and also used to optimize the characteristics of single response (Khan et al., 2020; Ramaswamy et al., 2020). Multi-response optimization techniques viz. RSM, grey

relation analysis (GRA), VIKOR, TOPSIS facilitates multiple response optimizations. GRA has found a broad application to determine optimal parameters for machining response (Kumar et al., 2010; Kumar et al., 2018). The problems that cannot be solved by classical methods, are solved by artificial intelligence (AI) tool. AI is a popular tool in science and technology. The adaptive neuro fuzzy inference system (ANFIS) is an integration of artificial neural network (ANN) and fuzzy inference system (FIS). ANFIS reduced relative error by improving membership function of FIS (Rodic et al., 2020; Singh et al., 2020; Maher et al., 2015). Manikandan et al. (2019) developed grey based ANFIS model to predict grey relation grade for machined LM6/SiC/Dunite. The developed grey-ANFIS model had 0.117% relative error with experiment results. To predict recast layer thickness, Dhaker et al. (2019) developed ANFIS model for laser drilled Inconel 718 and reported relative error of 5%. ANFIS is a multi-input single output predictor model, thus to optimize multi-response, a multi-criteria-decision-making (MCDM) VIKOR (Vlse Kriterijumska Optimizacija Kompromisno Resenje) method was integrated with ANFIS. VIKOR gives compromise solution to the response in maximum group utility with minimum regret measure (Tong et al., 2007; Singaravel et al., 2020)

It was observed from the literature that significant amount of work on machining of different materials using EDM are available, but there is scarcity of literature on machining of AZ-91 Mg alloy. Thus, it is necessary to perform systematic study of machining AZ-91 Mg alloy using different processing parameters in EDM. In this work, AZ-91 magnesium alloy was machined with ZNC-EDM, to explore the effect of different EDM process parameters (tool material, current, pulse-on-time, pulse-off-time, polarity) on different aspects of performance characteristics such as MRR and R_a . Also, to predict responses using ANFIS model, followed by integration of VIKOR method to find the optimal response parameters (MRR and R_a).

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METHODOLOGY

Measurement of responses

MRR is a desire response in machining and mathematically represented by Equation (1).

$$MRR = \frac{Wf - Wi}{\rho \times \text{Tm}}, (g/min)$$
(1)

Where W_{i} , and W_{f} , are the weight of specimen before, and after machining respectively, and T_{m} is machining time.

Surface roughness measures the smoothness and highly affected by process parameters during machining in EDM. The value of R_a is determined by Equation (2).

$$Ra = \frac{1}{M} \int_0^M Zx(dx) \,(\mu m) \tag{2}$$

where, *M* is evaluation length, and Z_x is the height between peaks and valleys.

ANFIS modeling and optimization using ANFIS-VIKOR method

Adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system (ANFIS) was introduced by Jang (Jang, 1993). First order Sugeno model was developed to define the process parameters and hybrid learning rule was applied to enhance the fuzzy system constraints. Sugano fuzzy model (also called Tsukamoto fuzzy model) was familiarized with a systematic strategy for constructing the fuzzy instructions for input-output pair. The construction of two inputs, single output first-order ANFIS Sugeno system is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1 ANFIS architecture of two inputs and single output (Jang, 1997).

Primary layer of ANFIS model includes versatile nodes these nodes have its own functions and is represented by Equation (3).

$$Q_{1,i} = \mu_A(x_1), \text{ for } i = 1,2 \text{ or } Q_{1,i} = \mu_B(x_2), \text{ for } i = 3,4$$
 (3)

In this x_1 , x_2 are process parameters, and A_i and B_i are membership functions for the node. Q_{1i} is the membership grade of a fuzzy set $A (= A_1, A_2, B_1 \text{ or } B_2)$ to define the applied degree of input. Second layer of ANFIS architecture have a fixed node shows the strength of the output. Output of the second layer is represented by Equation (4).

 $Q_{2,i} = w_i = \mu_A(x_1) \times \mu_B(x_2), i = 1, 2$ (4) Firing power of rules are calculated in third layer, it is a fixed node. Its ith node computed as a ratio of the ith rule firing strength to the sum of all rules firing strengths and is given by Equation (5).

$$Q_{3,1} = \overrightarrow{w_i} = \frac{w_i}{w_1 + w_2}, \ i = 1, 2$$
 (5)

The layer four has its own function and is represented by Equation (6).

 $Q_{4,i} = \overrightarrow{w_i} \times f_i = w_i(pi \times x_1 + qi \times x_2 + r)$ (6) where w_i is a generalized firing strength created by layer 3. pi, qi, r are the node parameters. The fifth layer has fixed node and reported overall output as summation of all signals. Mathematical representation of the output is represented by Equation (7).

Overall output =
$$Q_{5,i} = \sum_{i} \vec{w_i} \times f_i = \frac{\sum_{i} \vec{w_i} \times f_i}{\sum_{i} w_i \times f_i}$$
 (7)
In a complex decision-making situation, decision-makers use a tool MCDM to achieve
optimal response. In the case of conflicting criteria, VIKOR gives compromises solution to
find the optimal solution in the form of VIKOR index. Since, ANFIS is a multi-input single
output prediction model thus to optimize predicted response VIKOR method integrated with
ANFIS names as ANFIS-VIKOR method.

Data obtained from experiments used as input in ANFIS, and after that ANFIS predicted, values were used to form decision matrix. Decision matrix was normalized using linear normalization as suggested by Opricovic and Tzeng (2004). Linear normalization is more reliable than vector normalization. Normalize matrix (D) is given by the Equation (8). Weight of the criteria affects VIKOR index, in this study equal weight are given to both criteria (MRR and R_a). The basic steps to find VIKOR index is same as studied by the researcher (Opricovic et al., 2004; Kumar et al., 2021). The normalization of decision matrix is given by

D. The normalized matrix D is given by Equation (8). Where $R_i^*(k)$ is the normalized value for ith alternative and kth criteria.

$$D = [R_i^*(k)]m \times n \tag{8}$$

EXPERIMENTAL DETAILS

AZ-91 magnesium alloy was procured in the form of slab of dimensions 40mm x 40mm x 100mm and the chemical compositions were determined using spark-spectro analysis method as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Basic chemical composition of Mg-AZ91 Alloy.

Elements	Al	Mn	Zn	Si	Cu	Ni
Percentage	8.93%	0.21%	0.64%	0.017 %	0.009%	0.002%

Specimens ware cut from the slab in the dimensions of 15mm×15mm×8mm using wire-EDM (WEDM). To makes a proper contact between tool and work-piece and also to reduce error in machining, the work-piece surface was polished using polishing papers. Five controllable factors (process parameters) viz. polarity, peak current, pulse-on-time, pulse-off-time and tool electrodes are used to perform experiments (Table 2). All other parameters such as voltage, fluid pressure, EDM oil temperature etc. are considered as constant. In this work, Taguchi mixed design L_{18} design of experiments (DOE) was use to perform experiment runs. Experimental runs in the uncoded form are given in Table 3.

 Table 2 Independent process parameters matrix with their respective levels.

Process parameters	Unit	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Polarity		Negative (N)	Positive (P)	
Peak-Current (I_p)	А	4	5	6
Pulse-on-Time(<i>T</i> _{on})	μs	30	40	50
Pulse-off-time(T_{off})	μs	20	25	30
Tool material		Cu	Gr	CuW

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

MRR is a desired response and requires maximum in machining using EDM and is given in Table 3. To find the effect of process parameters on MRR, S/N ration was calculated using Equation (9). MRR follows "larger the batter" criteria and large value of S/N ratio gives optimum value of MRR (Kumar et al., 2020).

$$S/N = -10 \times log(\frac{1}{n}\sum_{Y^2})$$
(9)

Table 3 Response table for MRR and R_a with independent process parameters.

S.No.	Polarity	$I_p(\mathbf{A})$	T_{on} (µs)	$T_{off}(\mu s)$	Tool	MRR (g/min)	R_a (µm)
1	Р	4	30	20	Cu	0.021	0.08
2	Р	4	40	25	CuW	0.023	4.7
3	Р	4	50	30	Gr	0.021	0.49
4	Р	5	30	20	CuW	0.025	4.6
5	Р	5	40	25	Gr	0.028	2.42
6	Р	5	50	30	Cu	0.089	0.39
7	Р	6	30	25	Cu	0.020	4.76
8	Р	6	40	30	CuW	0.022	4.64
9	Р	6	50	20	Gr	0.034	0.36
10	Ν	4	30	30	Gr	0.036	3.17
11	Ν	4	40	20	Cu	0.009	2.11
12	Ν	4	50	25	CuW	0.014	2.13
13	Ν	5	30	25	Gr	0.040	1.92
14	Ν	5	40	30	Cu	0.010	0.16
15	Ν	5	50	20	CuW	0.014	3.41
16	Ν	6	30	30	CuW	0.008	0.29
17	N	6	40	20	Gr	0.054	4.04
18	Ν	6	50	26	Cu	0.014	1.44

Surface roughness of EDMed surface was measured using surface roughness tester (Time 3100) and is given in Table 4. Smaller value of R_a is desirable in machining as it follows "lower the better" criteria, and is calculated using Equation (10).



Figure 2 Main effect plots with input parameters for (a) MRR, and (b) R_a .

S/N ratio is a single response optimization method and used to reduce noise in MRR and R_a measurement. Large value of S/N ratio (db) gives optimum value of machining response. Maximum value of MRR is 0.089 (g/min) corresponds to large value of S/N ratio -21.03db (Table 4). For, minimum value of R_a is 0.08 µm, corresponds to large value of S/N ratio 21.94db. To find the effect of process parameters on response, a main effect plot for MRR and R_a , were plotted as shown in Figure 2. MRR increased as the polarity changed negative to positive due to increase in available energy in the work-piece as shown in Fig. 2(a), similar results was also reported by DiBitonto et al. (1989). On increase in T_{on} , and T_{off} , MRR increased, but in case of I_p initially MRR increased and then decreased, it is because large number of electrons restricted the motion of ions in the medium. MRR found maximum among studied tool materials when the work-piece was machined using Graphite tool (Fig. 2a), this is due to sublimation characteristics of graphite as it does not solidified on the workmaterial and always gives fresh work-surface to erode. Surface deteriorates with increase in MRR and the mean value of R_a was found more (worst surface roughness) in case of positive polarity, and it increased with increase in I_p due to available large amount of discharge energy which resulted uneven surface. Cu tool generates smoother surface as compared to Gr and CuW tool as exhibit in Fig. 2(b).

Exp No.	Experiment al MRR (g/min)	Experi mental <i>R</i> a	S/N ratio MRR	S/N ratio SR	Predicted MRR (g/min)	Predicted R _a	% error MRR	% error <i>R</i> a
1	0.021	0.08	-33.63	21.94	0.021	0.0808	0.05	1.00
2	0.023	4.7	-32.63	-13.44	0.024	4.68	3.56	0.43
3	0.021	0.49	-33.65	6.20	0.021	0.497	0.36	1.43
4	0.025	4.6	-31.99	-13.26	0.025	4.65	0.26	1.09
5	0.028	2.42	-31.03	-7.68	0.029	2.41	3.20	0.41
6	0.089	0.39	-21.03	8.18	0.089	0.494	0.19	26.67
7	0.020	4.76	-33.91	-13.55	0.021	4.78	2.64	0.42
8	0.022	4.64	-32.99	-13.33	0.023	4.65	0.79	0.22

Table 4 Predicted results of MRR and R_a with S/N ratio using ANFIS model.

9	0.034	0.36	-29.38	8.87	0.034	0.365	0.16	1.39
10	0.036	3.17	-28.93	-10.02	0.036	3.21	0.07	1.26
11	0.009	2.11	-40.72	-6.49	0.009	2.11	0.68	0.00
12	0.013	2.13	-37.39	-6.57	0.014	2.15	2.23	0.94
13	0.040	1.92	-27.96	-5.67	0.041	1.93	2.54	0.52
14	0.010	0.16	-40.11	15.92	0.010	0.161	0.57	0.63
15	0.014	3.41	-37.24	-10.66	0.014	3.45	0.28	1.17
16	0.008	0.29	-42.12	10.75	0.008	0.294	0.13	1.38
17	0.054	4.04	-25.32	-12.13	0.055	4.04	0.76	0.00
18	0.014	1.44	-37.36	-3.17	0.014	1.45	2.56	0.69

To measure the impact of process parameters and factor level on response, a factor level analysis was performed using mean value. The large difference between factor levels shows high impact on machining response. The large value of delta means higher ranks. Process parameter ranks for MRR and R_a are represented in Table 5. MRR are highly influenced by tool material followed by I_p , polarity, T_{off} , and T_{on} . Optimal factor level for maximum MRR is the corresponding higher mean values i.e. polarity-2, I_p -2, T_{on} -3, T_{off} -3, and Tool-2. Tool materials have highest impact on R_a followed by T_{on} , T_{off} , I_p , and polarity. The optimal factor level for minimum value of R_a is their corresponding smaller mean value, i.e. polarity-1, I_p -1, T_{on} -3, T_{off} -3, and Tool-1.

Level	Polarity	$I_{p}\left(\mathbf{A} ight)$	T_{on} (µs)	T_{off} (µs)	Tool				
Response mean for MRR									
1	0.02196	0.02057	0.02495	0.02617	0.02706				
2	0.03150	0.03427	0.02453	0.02311	0.03546				
3		0.02535	0.03072	0.03091	0.01767				
Delta	0.00954	0.01370	0.00619	0.00780	0.01780				
Rank	3	2	5	4	1				
		Response 1	mean for R_a						
1	2.074	2.113	2.470	2.433	1.490				
2	2.493	2.150	3.012	2.895	2.067				
3		2.588	1.370	1.523	3.295				
Delta	0.419	0.475	1.642	1.372	1.805				
Rank	5	4	2	3	1				

Table 5 Impact of process parameters, and factor level on response measure.

ANFIS model results

Predicted value of MRR and R_a are shown in Table 4. To develop ANFIS model, MATLAB Neural Network Toolbox function was used and its architecture is represented in Figure 3. The ANFIS factors and modeling parameters are illustrated in Table 6. In ANFIS model, Gaussian function with two membership function for polarity and three membership function for I_p , T_{on} , T_{off} , and tool materials.

Parameters	Values	Parameters	Values
Number of input	5		
Membership function	Gaussmf	Size of training data	18x5
		set	
Error Tolerance	0.0	Number of output 2	2
Number of epochs	101	Optimisation Method	Hybrid

 Table 6 Factors for ANFIS modeling.



Figure 3 ANFIS model architecture with five inputs.

Relative percentage error (RE) between experimental and predicted results was calculated for MRR and R_a using Equation (11). Calculated REs using ANFIS model were 1.17%, and 2.20%, for MRR, and R_a , respectively. Figure 4 shows the graph between experimental and predicted results.

Relative error % =
$$\frac{\text{Experimental value} - \text{Model value}}{\text{Experimental value}} \times 100$$
 (11)



Figure 4 Graph between experimental and predicted results of (a) MRR, and (b) R_a .

The surface plot generated for MRR (Figure 5) and for R_a (Figure 6) through ANFIS models. Increase in MRR, reduces surface roughness of machined surface, which is clearly observed in Figure 5 and 6. Fig. 5(a, b) show that MRR increased on decrease in I_p and T_{on} at positive polarity, whereas R_a follows opposite pattern as shown in Fig.6 (a, b). Fig. 5(c) and 6(c) exhibit that increase in T_{off} reduced MRR, and increase in R_a , respectively, at positive polarity. Fig. 5(d) shows that MRR was maximum when machining is performed using graphite tool, which is also confirmed by main effect plot (Fig. 2a). Maximum surface roughness was observed when material machined with copper tool (Fig. 6d) which is also confirmed by Fig. 2(b).



Figure 6 Surface plots generated by ANFIS model for R_a .

(+)1 3Gr

Optimization using ANFIS-VIKOR method

ANFIS model is used to predict the response whereas VIKOR method for optimization. In ANFIS-VIKOR method, response predicted from ANFIS model was used as an input in VIKOR method. Predicted responses were normalized to make uniformity in data. The response measure which required maximum was considered as utility measure whereas minimum as regret measure. Equal weight (w = 0.5) is given to both responses. Compromised solution for maximum MRR and minimum R_a were calculated using ANFIS-VIKOR index (Q_i) (Table 7).

Exp.	ANFIS Pr	edicted	Normalized		Utility	Regret	ANFIS-VIKOR
No.	resul	ts	va	lue	measure	measure	index
	MRR	R_a	MRR	R_a	S_i	R_{ei}	Q_i
	(g/min)	(µm)					
1	0.021	0.0808	0.148	0.007	0.920	0.420	0.869
2	0.024	4.68	0.173	0.385	0.409	0.489	0.575
3	0.021	0.497	0.148	0.041	0.876	0.420	0.838
4	0.025	4.65	0.180	0.382	0.406	0.486	0.570
5	0.029	2.41	0.207	0.198	0.621	0.369	0.597
6	0.089	0.494	0.632	0.041	0.456	0.044	0.121
7	0.021	4.78	0.148	0.393	0.420	0.500	0.595
8	0.023	4.65	0.161	0.382	0.422	0.486	0.581
9	0.034	0.365	0.242	0.030	0.808	0.339	0.700
10	0.036	3.21	0.256	0.264	0.494	0.333	0.465
11	0.009	2.11	0.066	0.173	0.775	0.491	0.843
12	0.014	2.15	0.099	0.177	0.743	0.463	0.789
13	0.041	1.93	0.293	0.159	0.598	0.295	0.499
14	0.010	0.161	0.071	0.013	0.979	0.487	0.986
15	0.014	3.45	0.098	0.284	0.605	0.464	0.689
16	0.008	0.294	0.056	0.024	0.977	0.500	0.999
17	0.055	4.04	0.390	0.332	0.289	0.421	0.414
18	0.014	1.45	0.099	0.119	0.817	0.145	0.842

 Table 7 Results obtained from ANFIS-VIKOR method.

In ANFIS-VIKOR index, experiment having Q_i value near to zero is highest rank, and represents best combination of result. In this study experiment number 6 is best ranked by Q_i . A confirmation test was performed on optimal factor level given by ANFIS-VIKOR method. Results of confirmation test are listed in Table 8.

Optimal process parameters				Experimental Result		
Polarity	I_p	T_{on}	T_{off}	Tool	MRR (g/min)	$R_a(\mu m)$
P (+)	5	50	25	CuW	0.072	0.160

Table 8 Confirmation test result on optimal factor level.

CONCLUSIONS

Five process parameters (polarity, I_p , T_{on} , T_{off} , and tool) were used for machining AZ 91 alloy using Taguchi mixed design L₁₈ DOE to evaluate response parameters MRR and R_a . ANFIS-VIKOR method was used to predict and optimize the responses. The following conclusion was drawn from this study.

- Maximum MRR (0.089 g/min) was found at positive polarity, *I_p*-5 A, *T_{on}*-50 μs, *T_{off}*-30 μs, and Cu tool and minimum *R_a* (0.08 μm) was at parameters positive polarity, *I_p*-4 A, *T_{on}*-30 μs, *T_{off}*-20 μs, and Cu tool. These results were also confirmed by the single response optimization tool S/N ratio. Factor level analysis showed that tool materials have highest impact on the MRR and *R_a*.
- The ANFIS model was successfully developed for MRR and R_a and developed model gives an accuracy of 98.83%, and 97.80%, for MRR, and R_a , respectively.
- The multi response optimization ANFIS-VIKOR method was successfully developed and gave compromise solution for MRR and R_a corresponding to minimum ANFIS-VIKOR index (Q_i). This method shows experiment number 6 has best rank.

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