OPTIMIZATION OF PROCESS PARAMETER IN ABRASIVE WATER JET MACHINING(AWJM).

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ABSTRACT

Abrasive Water Jet Machining (AWJM) is the non-conventional material removal process. It is an effective machining process for processing a variety of hard and brittle material. It has various advantages over the other non-conventional cutting process like high machining versatility, minimum stresses on the work piece, high flexibility no thermal distortion, and small cutting forces. Abrasive Water Jet Machining (AWJM) removes material through the action of focused beam of abrasive jet directed at the work piece the resulting erosion can be used for cutting, drilling etc. For this experimental work type of abrasive particles commonly used is Al Oxide, Garrnet. Here the machining parameters will Traverse Speed, Abrasive Flow Rate and Stand of Distance. This work includes that creation and analyzing of response surface. From this paper the overall performance of parameters on metal removal rate (MRR) & surface roughness (SR) of work piece with statistically investigate by Taguchi Design.GRA will use for Optimize the Values.

Keyword: - *AWJM, MRR, SR, GRA, Abrasive, Taguchi*

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1. INTRODUCTION

Abrasive water jet machining (AWJM) is a well-established non-traditional and versatile process which is extensively used in many industrial process & applications.

In this cutting process, a thin, high velocity water jet accelerates abrasive particles that are directed through an abrasive water jet nozzle at the material to be cut. Advantages of abrasive water jet cutting machine include the ability to cut all types of materials, no thermal distortion, small cutting forces, high flexibility and being environmentally friendly. Because of these capabilities, this cutting process is more cost-effective than traditional and some non-traditional machining processes the cut geometry depends on the type of abrasive grit and cutting parameters. Different types of abrasives are used in AWJM like garnet, olivine, Aluminium oxide (Al_2O_3), silica-sand, glass bead, silicon carbide (SIC), zirconium, etc. But a survey shows that 90% of the AWJM is done using garnet as an abrasive. The hardness of the abrasive particles is an important characteristic which strongly influences the cut geometry and that the depth of jet penetration depends strongly on the ratio of the hardness of the target material to the hardness of the abrasive. AWJM involves quite a few parameters that can affect the cutting performance like cutting parameters stand of distance, traverse speed, impact angle and number of passes. Hydraulic parameters like water pressure, orifice diameter, water jet velocity. The catcher collecting the water, as well as it serves the function of dissipating the residual energy of jet.

2. WORKING PRINCIPLE OF AWJM

The working principle of AWJM is shown in Fig. 2.1. The high pressure pump may comprise of an intensifier, prime mover, controller, and an accumulator. Pure water is pressurized to about 200-400MPa (2000-4000bar) and fed to the module called cutting head through high pressure tube. The high pressure water is then passed through a small orifice, to form a very high velocity WJ. This WJ then enters in to the mixing chamber to get mixed with abrasives particles. Though abrasive supplying system and after mixing the abrasives with water, high velocity mixers are strike to the work piece and cut the material. The position and motion of the cutting head is controlled by computerized numerical control (CNC) system.Fig.2.1 Schematic of an abrasive water jet cutting system.

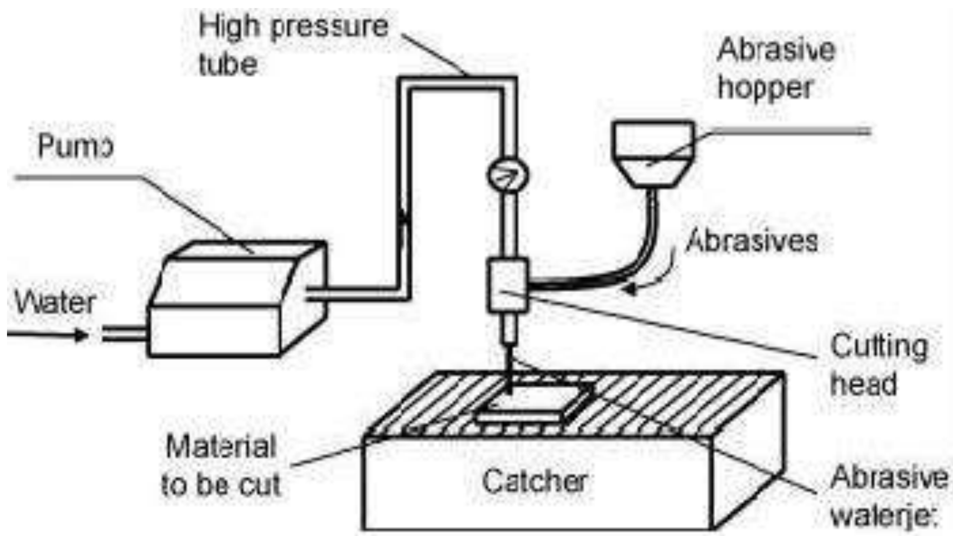

Fig. 2.1 Schematic of an Abrasive Water Jet Cutting System

3. LITERATURE REVIEW

Various authors performed experimental work based on different parameters & analyze material removal rate and surface roughness. Here specific literature are reported to draw objective of our research.

K.S. Jai Aultrin, M. Dev Anand [1] carried out study on copper iron alloy material in abrasive water jet machine, the paper presented on the effects of abrasive flow rate, orifice diameter and stand off distance on surface roughness and material removal rate during abrasive water jet machining. 80 mesh size garnet was used as an abrasive material. Authors use cu-fe alloy has 150mm*50mm*50mm dimension. abrasive flow rate was 0.4-0.7 kg/m^3, water pressure varies between 3400-3800 bar, Stand off distance was 1-3 mm. MRR was increased with increasing water pressure and abrasive flow rate. Also MRR tends to increase as pressure increase and stand off distance is low. Surface roughness is better when pressure and abrasive flow rate increases. Pressure increase and stand off distance decrease obtain good surface roughness.

M. Marcos [2] carried out experiment on CFRP in abrasive water jet machining, the paper presented on the effect of feed rate, stand off distance and abrasive flow rate on the delaminations of CFRP. Delamination was observed as one of the most critical defects for carbon fiber reinforced plastic. Feed rate varies from 300-2100 m/min and abrasive flow rate was kept in range of 300-600 g/min and the 80 mesh size garnet was used. The process of forming the delamination begins with the generation of internal cracks. In a first observation, it is showed that higher flow rate reported lower formation of gaps.

Hajdarevic et. al. [3] carried out study on aluminum material in abrasive water jet cutting machine, the paper presented on the effects of traverse speed, thickness of material and abrasive mass flow rate on surface roughness during abrasive water jet cutting machine.80 mesh size of GMT Garnet was used as an abrasive material. Cutting of aluminum plate have thickness of 15 mm and 30 mm. For cutting of 15 mm plate traversespeed was 77-350 mm/min and abrasive flow rate was 100-320 g/min. And for 30 mm plate traverse speed and abrasive flow rate were 37-130 mm/min and 240-390 g/min respectively. Cutting was occurred at a pressure of 350Mpa. Surface roughness testing was carried out by surf-test Mitutoyo stylus instrument. They found that the first texture was located at the top of the cut having smooth surface. The second texture was located at bottom of the cut having rough surface and also concluded that when the thickness was increased the surface roughness was increased. When the traverse speed increased the surface become rougher, And while the depth of cut increases, the surface roughness also increased. Surface roughness slightly changes by increasing the abrasive mass flow rate. The higher productivity with nominal surface roughness can achieve by minimum traverse speed. By increases in abrasive mass flow rate, smooth surface can be achieved.

Adnan & Akkurt [4] Selected pure aluminum and Al 6061 aluminum alloy as a target material. Adnan Akkurt uses the conventional and various nontraditional machining processes to investigate Microstructures and hardness variations of cut surfaces of the material. Target material had been cut with saw, milling, submerged plasma, plasma, laser, wire electric discharge machining, oxy-fuel and Abrasive water jet. Adnan Akkurt uses GMT Garnet (80mesh) as an abrasive material having hardness 7.5-8 mohs in AWJM. The aluminum alloy plate having thickness of 20 mm. The abrasive mass flow rate 250 g/min was taken. The study shows that the hardness and surface quality of the cut surface is affected from the kind of cutting process. Microstructure of cut surfaces is affected from the kind of cutting process. Adnan Akkurt concluded that Abrasive Water Jet process is a unique process. And there is no adverse affect on microstructure of cut surface. There is cold deformation in mechanical processes and heat affected structure changes with heat based cutting processes but there is no changes in the structure of AWJ cut surfaces.

Akkurt et. al. [5] focused on the effects of feed rate and thickness of work piece on the surface roughness in AWJ cutting. The study also evaluates the deformation effect of AWJ on different work pieces. And that have the same composition but different thickness 5mm and 20mm. In this present work pure aluminum, Al-6061 aluminum alloy, brass-353, AISI 1030 and AISI 304 steel materials are cut using AWJM, and materials were cut at different feed rates. The most noticeable result is that the surface quality deteriorates when the depth of the cut gets deeper. It was observed that better surface characteristics achieved at upper region where the cutting wear mechanism was active, and surface characteristics deteriorates at the lower region because the cut was carried out by deformation wear mechanism. It was also observed that Better surface quality achieved from top to middle of thickness and surface deteriorates from middle to bottom. It is a known fact that studied brass and steel material have higher strength compare to aluminum. Higher cutting force will be generated between the cutting tool and material for higher strength of materials, as resulted the deformation effect of AWJ is higher for thinner materials and it deteriorates the quality of cut. They concluded that Al-6061 aluminum alloy has better surface smoothness than pure aluminum in AWJ cutting. Alloy element plays important factor in AWJ cutting application. Higher reduction in the feed rate for the same thickness specimen of aluminum-based material results in limited improvement in the surface quality. Results of studied material manifest that ―cutting wear‖ and ―deformation wear‖ mechanisms are effective in brittle and mild material with AWJM. Cutting wear mechanism results in better surface quality than deformation wear mechanism. Surface roughness results higher of 5mm thickness specimens than 20mm thickness specimens for brass and steel-based materials. Feed rate reduction in for 5 mm thickness resulted better surface smoothness and for 20 mm thickness the surface become rougher in AISI 304 stainless steel specimen.

Vasanth S, Murali G [6] focused on the effects of feed rate and stand off distance on target material titanium alloy in terms of surface roughness. Other selected input parameters are water pressure and abrasive flow rate. Water pressure was 2000-3000 bar and feed rate was 1000-1200 mm/min and stand off distance was 2-3 mm. results shows as pressure and feed rate increases surface roughness decreases and higher abrasive flow rate with higher stand off distance produces higher surface roughness.

Ahmet Hascalik et. al. [7] studied on Ti-6Al-4V alloy material, which was known as difficult-to-cut material using traditional machining process. Kerf geometries, the profiles of cut surfaces, and micro structural features of the machined surfaces in terms of traverse speed in AWJM. The machining process carried out under different traverse speed of 60, 80, 120,150, 200, 250 mm/min and fixed pressure of 150 Mpa with abrasive water jet machine. The target material has thickness of 4.87 mm. 80 mesh size Garnet was used, abrasive flow rate was 0.005 kg/s, and stand-off distance was 3 mm. The machined surfaces were examined using surface profilometry and scanning electron microscopy (SEM).they concluded that micro structural evaluation of the cutting surfaces of samples an initial damage region (IDR), which is occurred at shallow angles of attack, a smooth cutting region (SCR), which is carried out at large angles of attack, and a rough cutting region (RCR), which is jet upward deflection zone. It was generated from instantaneous penetration of Abrasive water jet. As the traverse speed increases, the number of particles impinging on target area decreases hence reduced the IDR width slightly. With increase in traverse speed, SCR also decreased. In past study cutting mechanism in IDR and SCR consider as a cutting wear and deformation wear.

D. K. Shanmugam et. al. [8] performed their investigation on two types of composites: epoxy pre-impregnated graphite woven fabric and glass epoxy. Taguchi experimental design used to construct Design of Experiments (DOE) for various process parameters like the traverse speed, abrasive flow rate, standoff distance and water pressure. Laminate composites have a thickness of 6 mm used. They adopting the energy conservation approach Using the dimensional technique. Garnet (80mesh) used as abrasive in this process. Kerf taper angle is the response variable of this research work. Effects of various parameters on kerf taper angle are as follows:

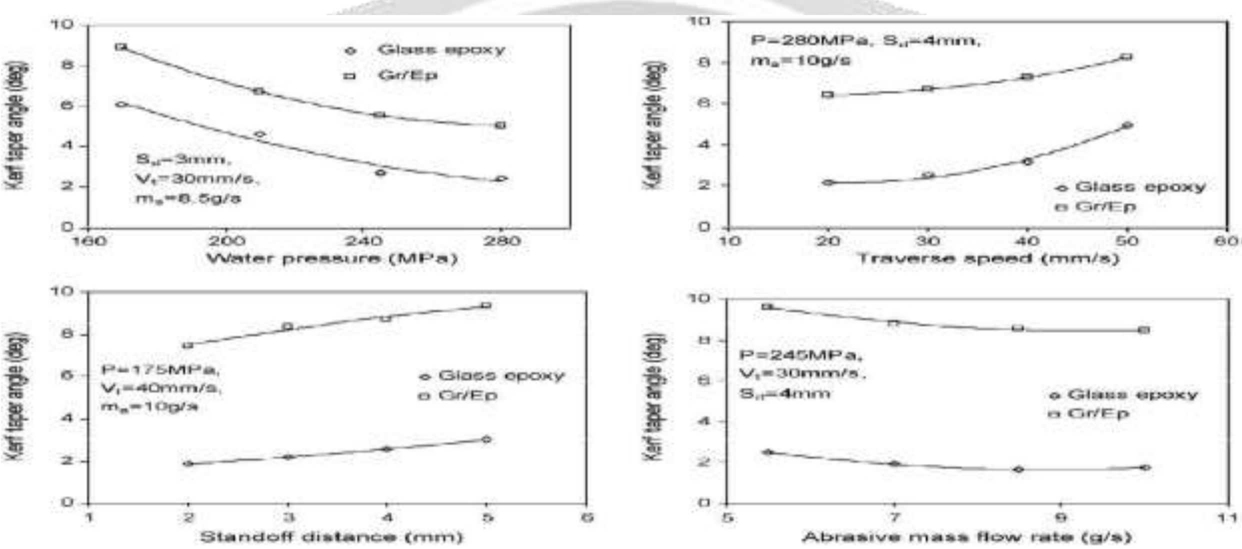

Fig. 3.1 Comparison of predicted and experimental kerf taper angles (symbols represent the experimental data and solid lines represent the predicted values) [8]

As shown in figures the water pressure increases, the kerf taper angle reduces. Kerf taper angle increases, with increase in stand-off distance and traverse rate increased. And abrasive flow rate increased, then kerf taper minimize. The figure resulted that there is no waste difference between predicted values and experimental data. Based on the test conditions they resulted that the combination of high water pressure, low traverse speed, and low standoff distance were used to minimize the kerf taper angle. Such a model has been built based on an energy conservation approach with the hypothesis that the velocity of the particles is the same as that of the jet with only the particle energy is the important factor for the removal of the material. Though the traverse speed influences the kerf angle, it could only be minimized and it cannot be completely eliminated.

Naser Haghbin et. al. [9] studied the comparison of submerged (inside water) and un submerged (outside of water) abrasive water jet micro-milling of channels in stainless steel 316L and 6061-T6 aluminum at different nozzle angles and stand-off distance. Target sample having 3mm thickness and Garnet (320mesh) was used as an abrasive material. The performance was carried out at constant pressure of 138 Mpa. The submerged depth was taken 20 mm. The effect of submergence on the diameter and effective footprint of AWJ erosion footprints was measured and compared. It was resulted that the centerline erosion rate decreased with channel depth because the spreading of the jet as the effective standoff distance increased.

The erosive jet spread over a larger effective footprint in air compared to water. Moreover, the instantaneous centerline erosion rate and volumetric erosion rates reduced with channel depth. The decrease in erosion rate due to the stagnation zone was shown to be only a function of channel geometry, and was independent of the standoff distance, jet angle, jet direction (forward or backward machining) and whether the jet was submerged or in air. Width of the channel machined in water was thin compared to the air. It is shown that submerged AWJM results in narrower features than those produced while machining in air, without a decrease in centerline etch rate Submerged AWJ micro machining also has the great benefits that it releasing less abrasive debris to the air and noise can be reduced.

M. Gent et. al. [10] tests were carried out with six mineral and one high density glass abrasives to identify the abrasive properties required for the optimum machining of ductile materials by abrasive water jet cutting. Rate of erosion, the abrasive mass flow rate, abrasive particle size, and abrasive particle density these are parameters were presented. They selected 12mm thick stainless steel 316 as a work material. And six different mineral used as an abrasives. Tests were perform with pressure 304 Mpa and stand-off distance 1.5 mm. The six different minerals are HDG, GMA 80, Zircon, TC-C1, TC-K1, TC- TU. They resulted that the impact or contact number of abrasive particles is not as significant as the mass (size and density) of the particles. It was observed that cutting of steel with silica and garnet resulted breakage of abrasive particles.

Simul Banerjee[11] selected Borosilicate glass as a target material and uses the abrasive water jet cutting. The paper presented on the effect of traverse speed, stand off distance, and abrasive flow rate on the depth of cut and percentage error between experimental and estimated value of depth of cut. Abrasive flow rate was 18-54 g/min, traverse speed was 200-400 mm/min and stand off distance was 30-60 mm. cutting occurred at 1000 bar. They found from cut taken by scanning electron microscope that as the high velocity abrasives impinge on the work piece, brittle fracture takes place on the top surface. Tiny fractured particles are carried by water and in some cases trapped by the cut wall itself.

G.Srikar [12] carried out experiment on non metals like glass, ceramics and granites. Metals and alloy of hard material like silicon in AWJM. Paper presented on the input variables such as abrasive flow rate, pressure and stand of distance. Here abrasive flow rate vary between 27 to 30 lb/min. pressure vary between 30-50 psi, stand of distance is 3 to 5 mm. size of abrasive is around 20µ to 50µ. And abrasive is sic, al_2o_3.optimization was carried out using TGRA. Output parameters are MRR and kerf width. It is shown in process that performance characteristics are improved together by using TGRA. From ANOVA it is found that water pressure has more significant effect on kerf width and MRR rather than flow rate & stand of distance.

Zoran Jurkovic [13] focused on the effect of abrasive flow rate, stand of distance, water pressure, traverse rate and sample thickness on target material, which are stainless steel and aluminium. Two level are select for variables, abrasive flow rate is 220 & 350 g/min, stand of distance is 2 & 4 mm, pressure is 220 & 330 MPa, traverse rate vary between 100 & 300 mm/min, thickness is 2 & 4 mm. output parameters are surface roughness and S/N ratios. The modeling and optimization technique presented here has great potentiality to improve initial process parameters or in study case achieve desired surface roughness.

Jyoti Vimal [14] selected aluminium and abrasive used was garnet with mesh size of 80. Input variables are pressure, stand of distance, abrasive flow rate and traverse rate. Where pressure is between 155to 293 MPa, stand of distance is between 2.5 to 4.5 mm, abrasive flow rate is 4.5 to 8.5 g/s. traverse rate is 1.5 to 3.5 mm/s. output parameters are MRR & SR. pressure is the most significant factor on MRR during AWJM. In case of SR, abrasive flow rate is most significant control factor.

N. Mohana Raju [15] focused on the effect of water pressure, traverse speed, stand of distance, mass flow rate on the target material stainless steel grade 304. Abrasive used were 80 mesh size garnet particles. Output parameter is depth of cut (mm). traverse speed vary between 0.42-2.5 mm/s, stand of distance is between 1.75-5 mm, abrasive flow rate is 8-15 g/s, pressure is 270-400 MPa. From the experimental results an empirical model for the prediction of depth of cut in AWJC process of stainless steel has been developed using regression analysis.

S Paul [16] selected two material to carried out experiments steel c37 and aluminium 50ST. input parameters are stand of distance, which vary 2-10 mm. traverse speed vary between 100-8 mm/min and abrasive flow rate vary between 0.45-0.80 kg/min. garnet with mesh 60 & 90 used. The present model correlate quite nicely with experimental observation. Present analytical model takes into account the variation in width of kerf along the depth.

4. CONCLUSIONS OF LITERATURE REVIEW

Following conclusions are drawn based on various reported literatures.

- Working with target material cu-fe alloy and abrasive (garnet) with mesh size 80. material removal rate is increased with increasing of water pressure (3400-3800 bar) and abrasive flow rate (0.4-0.7 kg/m^3). Surface roughness found better with increase in abrasive flow rate.
- If aluminium is target material and input variables are traverse speed (37-130 mm/min), abrasive flow rate (240-390 g/min) then surface roughness increase with increase in depth of cut and surface roughness is reduced with increase in abrasive flow rate. Surface become rougher with increase in traverse speed.
- In order to check change in micro-structure & Hardness of cut surface of aluminium 6061, machining was done on AWJM and performed operation like saw, milling and plasma,WEDM. Which showed cold deformation in operation like milling and plasma but there was no change in micro-strucute and hardness while machining on AWJM.
- Surface roughness was decreased with increase in feed rate also surface roughness was increased with increase in stand of distance.
- For non metals & metal and alloy of hard material, pressure had significant effect on kerf width & material removal rate.
- Aluminum oxide had better surface characteristics compare to Garnet abrasives due to its higher hardness.

5. FUTURE SCOPE

- From literature we can see many different materials can be taken as target material and different abrasives can be used. Work can be extended in terms of micro-structure and hardness of materials. Also it can be work to identify suitable abrasives.

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