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Cutting Forces Modeling in Finish Turning
of Inconel 718 Alloy with Round Inserts

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Abstract. In turning, the applied forces have to be known as accurately as possible, especially in the case of difficult-to-cut materials for aircraft workpieces finishing operations.

Traditionally, edge discretisation methodology based on local cutting laws is used to determine the cutting forces and results are usually considered suitable. Nevertheless, only the rake face is considered in most of studies and the cutting relations are determined by direct identification with a straight edge.

This study deals with finishing operations of Inconel 718 alloy with one type of round insert. The main objective is to formulate a novel cutting forces model, taking into account the clearance face. First, a generic model based on a geometrical description using homogeneous matrix transformation is presented. Then, cutting coefficients are identified by inverse identification from experimental measurements distributed with an orthogonal design experiment including tool wear.

Finally, modeling and experimental values of the cutting forces are compared and the identified model is analysed.

Introduction

In the context of aircraft engine manufacturing, calculation of cutting forces enters a global approach of simulation, which should ensure the workpiece performances.

Profiling operations with round inserts cannot be modeled by classical cutting forces models, due to the important variation of cutting conditions along the active cutting edge. Edge discretisation principle is often used for modeling milling operations [1-5], but it can be also applied to turning. Then, local cutting conditions - as the uncut chip thickness h - are taken into account in the cutting relations used to calculate the local cutting forces.

Local forces can be expressed as tangential, radial and axial in relation with the tool axis [1-2] or as normal and tangential to the rake face [3]. A local basis linked to the cutting edge and the rake face is proposed by Bissey-Breton et al. [4]; it allows a physical explanation to the local forces (normal pressure and tangent friction forces applied on the rake face) to be given.

However, in this latest case, only the rake face is considered since only roughing operations are studied. Yücesan and Altintas [5] introduced a local basis linked to the clearance face and took into account the flank forces.

Generally, orthogonal and/or oblique cutting operations are used to determine cutting relations [2,4]; but the development of numerical simulations has induced progress in inverse identification in order to determine local laws [6] or coefficients [7]. So, identifications from complex cutting measurements become possible.

The aim of this study is to identify a cutting model by using only round inserts. Since the uncut chip thickness varied along the active cutting edge, the discretisation principle has been chosen. The methodology has consisted in: first, describing discretised cutting geometry and then, calculating global forces by summation of local forces applied on each segment of the discretisation. Coefficients of the local model have been identified by comparison between measured and calculated global forces (inverse identification). The particularities of the model used are that the clearance face and the scaling effect [3,8] are taken into account.

Geometrical modeling of turning operations with round inserts

The aim of this section is to describe cutting geometry in a coordinate system parallel to the machine axis [9] (the considered machine is a rear turret lathe). Indeed, cutting forces are experimentally measured in the machine axis reference and it is also the reference for primary and feed motions, which are used for the calculation of working cutting angles [10-11].

In this study, coordinate systems, taking into account an origin, are preferred to classical vector basis. *The cutting edge is assumed to be circular* with a radius r_ϵ.

Parameterisation and coordinate systems definition. Let n_s be the number of segments of the discretisation and M the current point on the cutting edge localized by its angular coordinate θ. Then, the cutting edge is characterized by n_s points $M(\theta)$ and $2 \cdot n_s$ coordinate systems $\mathcal{R}_\gamma = (M(\theta), \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{n}_\gamma, \mathbf{g}_\gamma)$ and $\mathcal{R}_\alpha = (M(\theta), \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{n}_\alpha, \mathbf{g}_\alpha)$, respectively linked to the rake face $\mathcal{A}_\gamma$ and the clearance face $\mathcal{A}_\alpha$. The vector $\mathbf{a}$ is tangential to the edge and $\mathbf{n}$ is normal to the considered surface [4]. Let O be the center of the circle.

Angles γ^{TH} and λ^{TH} (Fig. 1) define the positioning of the insert on the tool holder. These angles are not normalised [10]; however, they are commonly used for inserts with negative basic shape [12-13].

Angles $\gamma_{\mathrm{n}}^{\mathrm{E}}$ and $\alpha_{\mathrm{n}}^{\mathrm{E}}$ (Fig. 2) define the local cutting angles given by sintering or grinding; these angles could be variable along the edge.
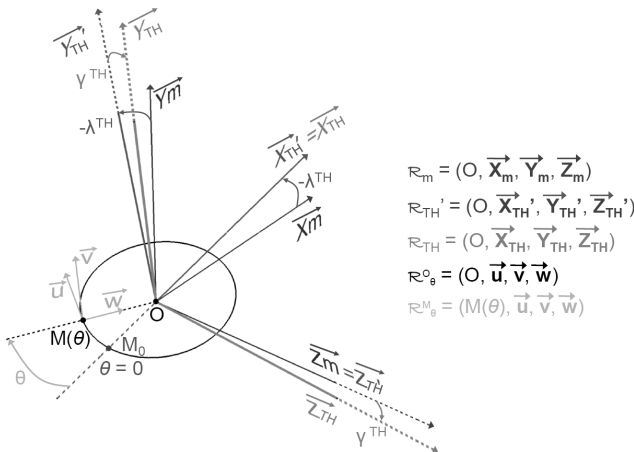

Fig. 1: Global coordinate systems: Tool holder positioning and circular edge.
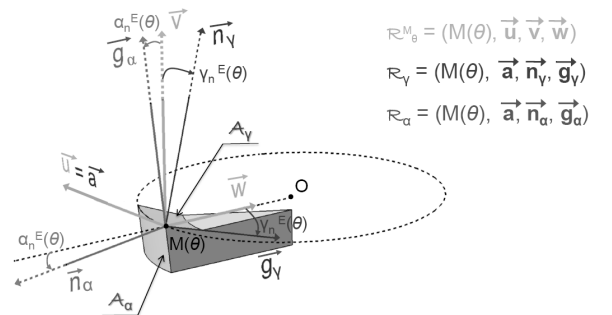
Fig. 2: Local coordinate systems: Cutting angles of the insert.

Homogeneous matrix transformation. The use of homogeneous matrices allows describing global and local cutting geometries and edge shape with the same model, avoiding a stand-alone parametric representation [2,14]. The change of coordinate system matrix from $\mathcal{R}_1$ to $\mathcal{R}_2$ is denoted $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{R}_1/\mathcal{R}_2}$.

Positioning of the insert on the tool holder (Fig. 1).

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{R}_m/\mathcal{R}'_{TH}} = \begin{pmatrix} cos(-\lambda^{TH}) & -sin(-\lambda^{TH}) & 0 & 0 \\ sin(-\lambda^{TH}) & cos(-\lambda^{TH}) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{1}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{R}'_{TH}/\mathcal{R}_{TH}} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & cos(\gamma^{TH}) & -sin(\gamma^{TH}) & 0 \\ 0 & sin(\gamma^{TH}) & cos(\gamma^{TH}) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{2}$$

Global shape of the cutting edge (Fig. 1).

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{R}_{TH}/\mathcal{R}^O_\theta}(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} cos(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta) & 0 & sin(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -sin(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta) & 0 & cos(\frac{\pi}{2} - \theta) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{3}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{R}^O_\theta/\mathcal{R}^M_\theta} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -r_\epsilon \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{4}$$

Local cutting geometry - may depend on θ (Fig. 2) -.

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{R}^M_\theta/\mathcal{R}_\gamma} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & cos(\gamma^E_n) & -sin(\gamma^E_n) & 0 \\ 0 & sin(\gamma^E_n) & cos(\gamma^E_n) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{5}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{R}^M_\theta/\mathcal{R}_\alpha} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & cos(-\frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha^E_n) & -sin(-\frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha^E_n) & 0 \\ 0 & sin(-\frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha^E_n) & cos(-\frac{\pi}{2} - \alpha^E_n) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{6}$$

Therefore, the matrix transformations from $\mathcal{R}_m$ to $\mathcal{R}_\gamma$ and $\mathcal{R}_\alpha$ can be calculated as following:

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{R}_m/\mathcal{R}_i} = \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{R}_m/\mathcal{R}'_{TH}} \, \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{R}'_{TH}/\mathcal{R}_{TH}} \, \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{R}_{TH}/\mathcal{R}^O_\theta}(\theta) \, \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{R}^O_\theta/\mathcal{R}^M_\theta} \, \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{R}^M_\theta/\mathcal{R}_i} \quad with \quad i = \alpha, \gamma. \tag{7}$$

Coordinates of the current points and the local systems $\mathcal{R}_i$ $(i = \alpha, \gamma)$ in the machine-tool system $\mathcal{R}_m$ can be determined:

$$M(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} x(\theta) \\ y(\theta) \\ z(\theta) \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}_{\mathcal{R}_m} = \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{R}_m/\mathcal{R}_i} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}_{\mathcal{R}_i}. \tag{8}$$

$$\mathbf{a}(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} x_a(\theta) \\ y_a(\theta) \\ z_a(\theta) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}_{\mathcal{R}_m} = \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{R}_m/\mathcal{R}_i} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}_{\mathcal{R}_i}. \tag{9}$$

$$\mathbf{n_i}(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} x_n(\theta) \\ y_n(\theta) \\ z_n(\theta) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}_{\mathcal{R}_m} = \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{R}_m/\mathcal{R}_i} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}_{\mathcal{R}_i}. \tag{10}$$

$$\mathbf{g_i}(\theta) = \begin{pmatrix} x_g(\theta) \\ y_g(\theta) \\ z_g(\theta) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}_{\mathcal{R}_m} = \mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{R}_m/\mathcal{R}_i} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}_{\mathcal{R}_i}. \tag{11}$$

Results of the geometrical modeling. According to the paragraph on matrix transformation, the cutting geometry is defined in the machine coordinate system, in which tool/workpiece relative motions are given. So, the working cutting geometry - planes and angles of the tool-in-use system [10] - can be known at each point M of the discretisation. Let $\mathbf{v_c}, \mathbf{v_f}, \mathbf{v_e}$ be respectively the local cutting, feed and effective cutting speeds.

Planes of the tool-in-use system.

$$P_{re} \perp \mathbf{v_e}. \tag{12} \qquad P_{se} = (\mathbf{v_e}, \mathbf{a}). \tag{14}$$

$$P_{fe} = (\mathbf{v_c}, \mathbf{v_f}). \tag{13} \qquad P_{ne} = (\mathbf{n}_\gamma, \mathbf{g}_\gamma) = P_n. \tag{15}$$

Angles of the tool-in-use system.

$$\gamma_{ne} = (A_\gamma, P_{re})_{P_n} = (\mathbf{v_e}^{\perp P_n}, \mathbf{n}_\gamma). \tag{16} \qquad \lambda_{se} = (P_{re}, \mathbf{a})_{P_{se}} = (\mathbf{v_e}, \mathbf{a}) - \frac{\pi}{2}. \tag{18}$$

$$\alpha_{ne} = (A_\alpha, P_{se})_{P_n} = (\mathbf{v_e}^{\perp P_n}, \mathbf{g}_\alpha). \tag{17} \qquad \kappa_{re} = (P_{se}, P_{fe})_{P_{re}} = (\mathbf{v_f}^{\perp P_{re}}, \mathbf{a}^{\perp P_{re}}). \tag{19}$$

The notation $\mathbf{v_i}^{\perp P_j}$ means the orthogonal projection of the vector $\mathbf{v_i}$ on the plane P_j.

Let us consider two examples of configurations:

- Example (a): a RNGN09 round insert with a CRSN tool holder:
  $\lambda^{TH} = -6°$, $\gamma^{TH} = -6°$, $\gamma_n^E = 0°$, $\alpha_n^E = 0°$.

- Example (b): a RCGX10-AL [12] insert with a SRDCN tool holder:
  $\lambda^{TH} = 0°$, $\gamma^{TH} = 0°$, $\gamma_n^E = 20°$, $\alpha_n^E = 7°$.

The results obtained for these examples, in the case of cylindrical turning with $f = 0.2$ mm/tr and $a_p = 1.5$ mm, are presented on Fig. 3 and Fig. 4. Differences between global angles γ^{TH}, λ^{TH} and local angles γ_n^E, α_n^E are clearly shown.
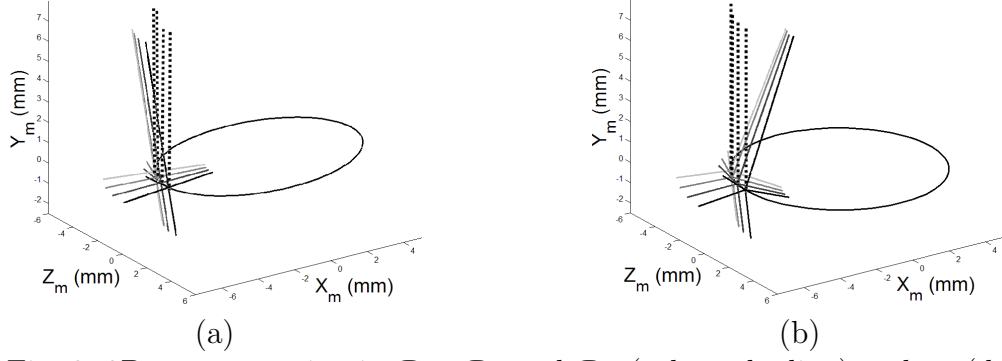
Fig. 3: 3D representation in $\mathcal{R}_m$: $\mathcal{R}_\gamma$ and $\mathcal{R}_\alpha$ (colour shading) and $\mathbf{v_e}$ (dotted-line).
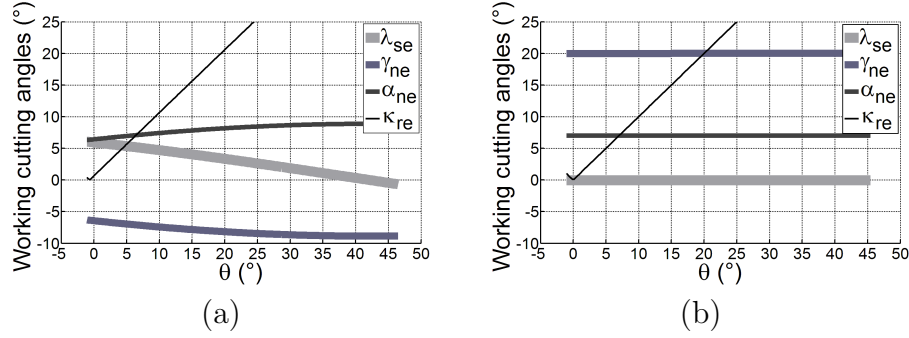

Fig. 4: Working cutting angles along the active cutting edge.

Since the working cutting geometry is known, it is possible to take it into account in the cutting forces relations [4]. Another interest of this model is the possibility of evaluating the moments easily.

Cutting model in the case of Inconel 718 cylindrical turning

The aim of this section is to build a local cutting model expressed in $\mathcal{R}_\gamma$ and $\mathcal{R}_\alpha$, which allows calculating the global cutting forces F_c (or F_Y), F_f (or F_Z) and F_p (or F_X) in $\mathcal{R}_m$ (in which measurements are made). The study is limited to the cylindrical turning of Inconel 718 (Specified characteristics: $R_m > 1275$ MPa, Hardness 346-450 HB, Grain size 7-9 ASTM) in finishing and semi-finishing conditions with only one type of insert (cutting geometry is fixed).
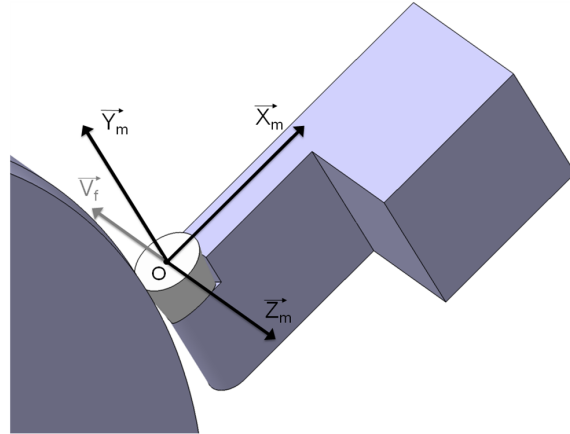

Fig. 5: The case study: cylindrical turning.

Experimental achievement. The insert used is a RCGX 09 0700F ($r_\epsilon = 4.7625$ mm) in Seco carbide grade CP200 (PVD coating (Ti, Al)N + TiN) assembled with a CRDCL 2025 P09-AJ3M. This configuration gives the following values of parameters: $\lambda^{TH} = 0^\circ$, $\gamma^{TH} = 0^\circ$, $\gamma_n^E = 0^\circ$, $\alpha_n^E = 7^\circ$.

The tests have been conducted on a 2-axis lathe SOMAB T400. A piezo-electric dynamometer Kistler type 9121 with a charge amplifier type 5019B were used to measure the cutting forces - with an acquisition frequency of 1 kHz. Static calibration [11] is given in Table 1; the signal-to-noise ratio is acceptable.

According to the Tool Material Pair methodology [4,15], the cutting speed has been fixed at 85 m/min. At this speed, the wear is extremely fast; for this reason, tests have been conducted with a particular attention to the cutting time.

Variables. Only the uncut chip thickness h is considered as a variable in the model; it is calculated numerically (Fig. 6) in the plane P_r which corresponds to the rake face and is close to P_{re}. No projections [14] have been done.

Working cutting geometry will be introduced in the cutting relations in future work. Therefore, in the present study, chip flow angle [16] is not taken into account ($\lambda_{se}(\theta) = 0° \ \forall\theta$).

Due to the edge shape, the value of h depends on both the feed f and the depth of cut a_p.

Table 1: Static calibration
of the dynamometer.

	F_p	F_f	F_c
Calibrated range [kN]	0-3	0-3	0-6
Sensitivity [pC/N]	-7.824	-7.736	-3.826
Linearity [$< \pm$ % FSO]	0.05	0.16	0.15
Cross Talk [%]	-0.7	2.2	-0.3

Table 2: Experimental parameters
and measurements.

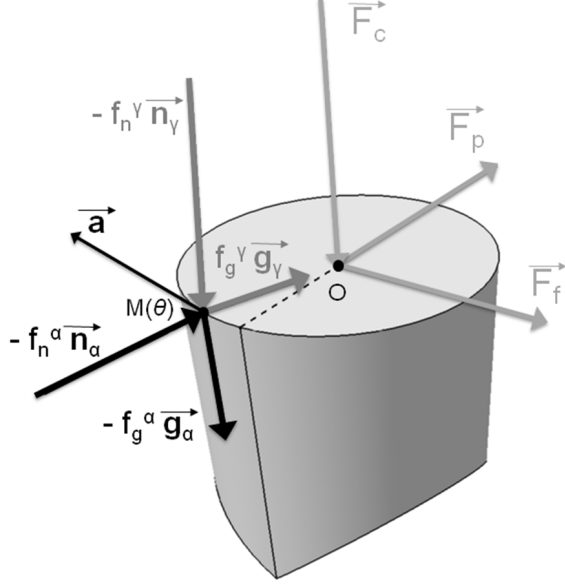| Test	Parameters			Measured forces		
	t_c	f	a_p	F_c	F_f	F_p
n_T	[s]	[mm/rv]	[mm]	[N]	[N]	[N]
1	10	0.1	0.1	90	20	163
2	20	0.1	0.85	397	174	513
3	30	0.15	0.55	430	156	515
4	40	0.15	0.7	455	158	523
5	50	0.1	0.4	237	76	352
6	60	0.15	0.25	215	50	306
7	10	0.2	0.85	619	212	637
8	20	0.2	0.1	119	20	190
9	30	0.25	0.7	603	178	613
10	40	0.2	0.55	428	132	517
11	50	0.25	0.25	261	55	337
12	60	0.25	0.4	373	91	443
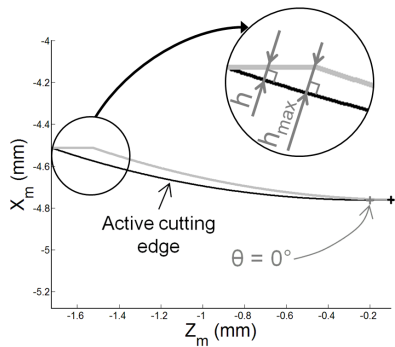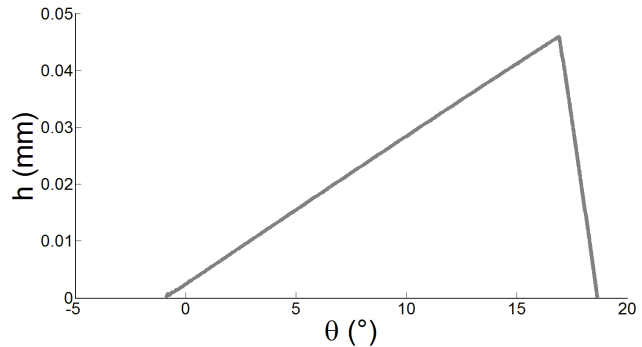
(a)   (b)

Fig. 6: $f = 0.2$ mm/tr and $a_p = 0.25$ mm: (a) Cross section of undeformed chip;
(b) Uncut chip thickness along the active cutting edge.

An orthogonal design of experiment, including cutting time t_c in addition to f and a_p [1], has been used (Table 2). So, the parameters f and a_p are distributed independently of each other, and there is no link between the variation of these parameters and the variation of wear.

Cutting model. The local cutting forces applied on a segment (Fig. 7) are assumed to follow the equations (20) to (23).

The hypothesis of independence of the segments can be done, because of the size of the insert and the shape of the rake face (a plane).

$$f_n^\gamma = K_n^\gamma \cdot h(\theta) \cdot [1 + e^{-\left(\frac{h(\theta)}{h_0}\right)^m}]. \qquad (20)$$

$$f_g^\gamma = C_f^\gamma \cdot |f_n^\gamma|. \qquad (21)$$

$$f_n^\alpha = k_n^\alpha. \qquad (22)$$

$$f_g^\alpha = C_f^\alpha \cdot |f_n^\alpha|. \qquad (23)$$

Fig. 7: Local linear forces (f_n^γ, f_g^γ, f_n^α, f_g^α) and global cutting forces (F_c, F_f, F_p).

At small uncut chip thickness (preponderant parameter), cutting forces are non-linear.

A size effect function based on a Weibull function, proposed by Ko and Cho [3], is prefered to the classical Kienzle-Victor model [8,13].

In a first approximation, the normal force on the clearance face f_n^α is kept constant (Eq. (22)). Tangential forces are calculated with Coulomb's friction law (Eq. (21) and (23)).

It can be noticed that Eq. (20) integrates only three coefficients and not four [3] in order to reduce the degrees of freedom of the model.

Inverse identification. Inverse identification consists in comparing calculated (by summation) global values with measured global values, in order to determine local coefficients.

In the present study, the 36 measured global forces (Table 2) are compared to the global forces given by the integration (calculated for the same set of parameters (f and a_p)).

In order to determine the best combination of the 6 coefficients (K_n^γ, h_0, m, C_f^γ, k_n^α, C_f^α), a criterion should be chosen and minimized. For example, it could be the sum of squared deviations or a weighted overall error [7]; absolute or relative errors could be considered.

The criterion W used in this study is the sum of the maxima of the relative deviations on the whole tests for F_c and F_p (Eq. 24); F_f is neglected, so this criterion can be considered as weighted.

$$W = \max_{n_T}(\Delta F_c^R) + \max_{n_T}(\Delta F_p^R). \qquad (24)$$

The identification gives the following values of the coefficients (incertitudes correspond to numerical step):

$$K_n^\gamma = 2410 \text{ N/mm}^2 \pm 10 \qquad (25)$$

$$C_f^\gamma = 0.48 \pm 0.01. \qquad (28)$$

$$h_0 = 0.019 \text{ mm} \pm 0.001 \qquad (26)$$

$$k_n^\alpha = 148 \text{ N/mm} \pm 1. \qquad (29)$$

$$m = 0.61 \pm 0.01. \qquad (27)$$

$$C_f^\alpha = 0.52 \pm 0.01. \qquad (30)$$

A comparison between modeled and measured cutting forces for the 12 tests is given in the Table 3.

The average deviations are the following: 6.9 % for F_c, 4.8 % for F_f and 3.9 % for F_p.

For the two main components, the maximum relative deviation is close to 10%.

The chordal error is set arbitrarily equal to 1.10^{-5} mm for all the calculations; so, the length of the segments is 19.4 μm.

Table 3: Absolute and relative deviations between the model and the measurements.

Test	Absolute deviation			Relative deviation		
n_T	ΔF_c^A [N]	ΔF_f^A [N]	ΔF_p^A [N]	ΔF_c^R [%]	ΔF_f^R [%]	ΔF_p^R [%]
1	7	-2	14	7.4	-11.3	8.6
2	31	4	32	7.9	2.4	6.3
3	-45	-36	-44	-10.7	-22.9	-8.6
4	8	-0	14	1.7	-0.0	2.7
5	9	2	14	4.0	2.7	4.0
6	-0	0	-0	-0.1	0.3	-0.0
7	29	3	12	4.7	1.3	1.9
8	13	-1	10	10.7	-3.8	5.3
9	43	7	14	7.2	3.8	2.2
10	30	-2	-10	6.9	-1.7	-1.9
11	27	1	10	10.5	1.5	3.0
12	40	5	10	10.7	5.4	2.2

Analysis of the model and its results. The order of magnitude of the identified coefficient h_0 (Eq. 26) is the same as the one of the cutting edge radius r_β.

C_f^γ is smaller than C_f^α (Eq. 28 and 30), which can be explained by the higher temperature on the rake face; however, the difference is weak.

Then, two cases are considered:

- Case (a): finishing conditions: $f = 0.1$ mm/rv; $a_p = 0.25$ mm

- Case (b): semi-finishing conditions: $f = 0.25$ mm/rv; $a_p = 0.85$ mm

The evolutions of local cutting forces along the cutting edge, for these cases, are presented on Fig. 8. The evolution of local forces applied on the rake face f_n^γ and f_g^γ (Fig. 8) is near the evolution of h (Fig. 6 (b)).
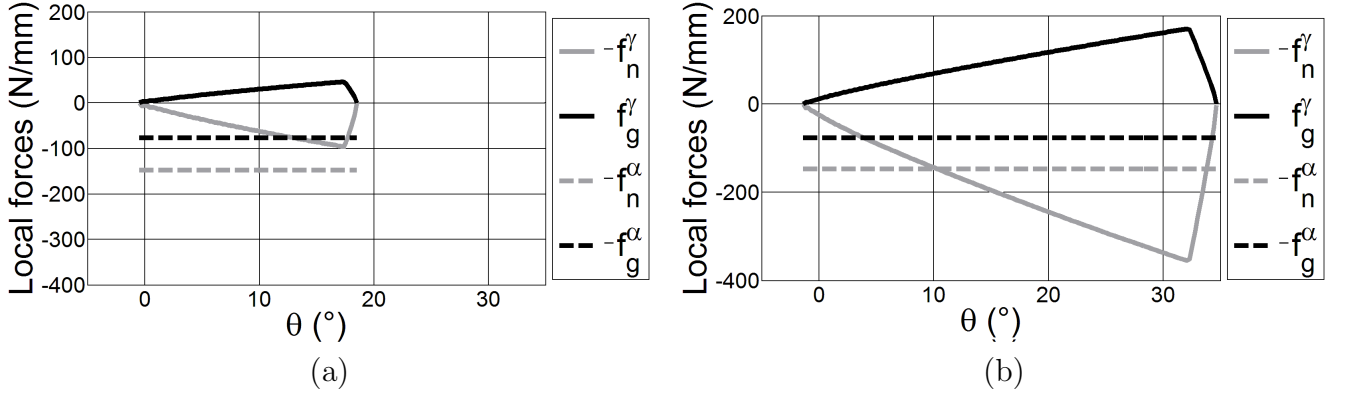
Fig. 8: Local cutting forces along the active cutting edge.

In the first case, the sum of the forces applied on A_α is higher than that applied on A_γ, whereas it is the opposite in the second case. Fig. 9 shows the contribution of each local component on global forces.
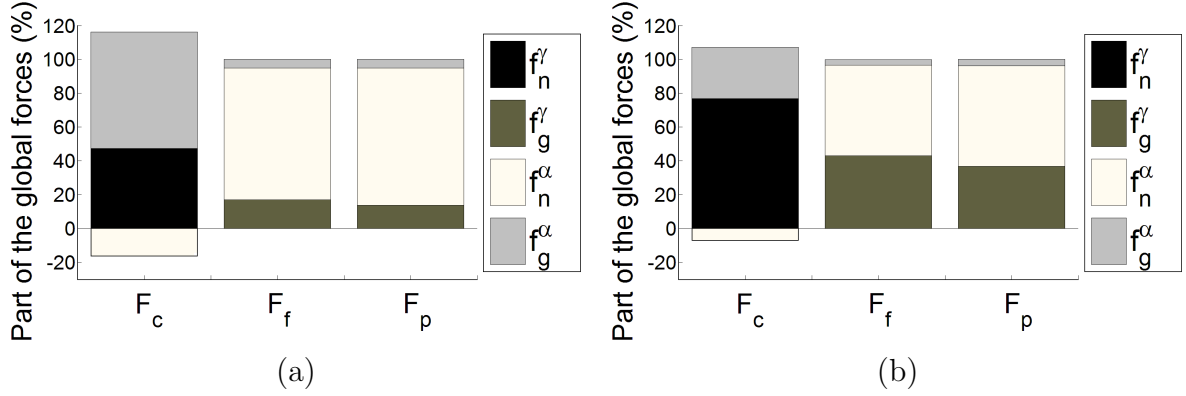

Fig. 9: Contribution of local forces to global calculated forces.

The identified coefficient K_n^γ (Eq. 25) is less than the order of magnitude of the specific cutting force K_c (higher than 4000 N/mm^2). It is due to the calculation of K_c which does not consider the flank effects. The contribution of these effects to F_c could be higher than 50% (Fig. 9). It seems that the validity domain of the formula $F_c = K_c \cdot A_D$ is only roughing operations.

Concerning F_f and F_p, the major part comes from the contact between the workpiece and the clearance face, which decreases in favor of the friction on A_γ when h increases.

Conclusion

In this paper, a geometrical model based on homogeneous matrix transformation is presented. It is available for turning operations with round inserts and allows taking into account the flank effects which are not negligible for these tools. This model will be generalized for other turning operations, and even for other processes.

Even if the principle of independence of the segments is an assumption in the case of round inserts, the proposed cutting model with 6 coefficients allows determining global cutting forces with a low error in a large domain of feed and depth of cut.

The experimental approach is helpful to identify cutting laws in the case of fast wear. The inverse identification does not permit to verify the form of the cutting model and the values of the coefficients, contrary to orthogonal or oblique cutting tests. However, the macroscopic

results are satisfactory and a physical interpretation could be given at the identified coefficients.

Future work will introduce working geometry [4] and material parameters in cutting relations when modeling profile turning. Then, other characteristics - as edge preparation - will be taken into account.

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