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Design of Experiments Applied to Industrial Process

Neelesh Kumar Sahu and Atul Andhare

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Abstract

Response optimization and exploration are the challenging task in front of experimenter. The cause and effect of input variables on the responses can be found out after doing experiments in proper sequence. Generally relationship between response of interest y and predictor variables x_1, x_2, x_3, … x_k is formed after carefully designing of experimentation. For examples y might be biodiesel production from crude 'Mahua' and x_1, x_2 and x_3 might be reaction temperature, reaction time and the catalyst feed rate in the process. In the present book chapter, design of experiment is discussed based on predictor variables for conducting experiments with the aim of building relationship between response and variables. Subsequently a case study is also discussed for demonstration of design of experiments for predicting surface roughness in the machining of titanium alloys based on response surface methodology.

Keywords: design of experiments, response surface methodology, optimization, ANOVA

1. Introduction

Researchers found the unknown solutions by conducting experiments with the help of varying two or more inputs factors [1]. Typical solutions are obtained from experiments are:

- Effect of input variables over the solutions or responses

- Which combination of input variables will give best solution?

- What are ranges of variables suitable for experiments?

- Under what condition should we operate our plant?

Experiments help us to direct compare among treatments of interest. Design of experiments minimizes bias in the comparison which helps in reducing error [2]. One of the advantages in design of experiments that we can control the experiments which allows us to make decision

about influence of input variables over the response. Explicitly, one can make conclusion about causation.

An experiment consists of treatments, experimental unit, responses and a method to assign treatments to unit. Mosteller and Tukey [3] describes three concepts for the development of relationship between variables and responses namely consistency responsiveness and mechanisms. Proper design of experiments should avoid systematic error, should be precise, allows estimation of errors and have broad validity.

Some important terms and concepts used in design of experiments are listed below

1.1. Treatment

It defines as are the diverse actions for equate. Amount of fertilizers in agronomy, different long distance rate structure in marketing or different temperatures in reactor vessel in chemical engineering are examples of treatments.

1.2. Experimental units

These are units in which treatments are applied. Graph are plotted for to see variation of these units over response.

1.3. Responses

These are the outputs we measures during experiments. These responses define the mechanism of the process during experiments. Responses for examples might be fatty acid ethyl ester nitrogen content in biodiesel production or combustion performance biodiesel biomass of corn plants, profit by production, or yield and quality of the product per ton of raw material.

1.4. Randomization

It is distribution of variables within the range with recognized, defined probabilistic mechanism for the assignment of treatments to units.

1.5. Experimental error

It is defined as variation present in all experimentally measured responses. Experiments runs on different range of variables will give different results for responses. Moreover conducting experiments at the same range of variables over and over again will give different results in different trials. It should be noted that experimental errors within acceptable range does not indicate conducting wrong experiments.

1.6. Measurement units

It is the unit of measured responses for example combustion pressure in different % blend of biodiesel. These may differ from the experimental units. For example Fertilizer is applied to a plot of land containing corn plants, some of which will be harvested and measured. The plot is the experimental unit and the plants are the measurement units. Ingots of steel are given

different heat treatments, and each ingot is punched in four locations to measure its hardness. Ingots are the experimental units and locations on the ingot are measurement units.

2. Design of experiments

An experiment can be defined as a test or series of runs in which purposeful changes are made to the input variables of a system or process so that changes in the output response variable may be observed and the reasons for the same may be identified [4–6]. Some process variables $x_1, x_2, \ldots x_p$ are controllable, whereas other variables $z_1, z_2, \ldots z_q$ may be uncontrollable. An experiment serves the following purposes:

a. Determine which variables $x_1, x_2, \ldots x_p$ are most influential on response y.

b. Determine where to set the influential x's so that y is always near to the desired nominal value.

c. Determine where to set the influential x's so that variability in y is minimized.

d. Determine where to set the influential x's so that effects of uncontrolled variables are minimized.

Design of Experiments refers to the process of planning, designing and analyzing the experiment so that valid and objective conclusions can be drawn effectively and efficiently [7]. In order to draw statistically sound conclusions from the experiment, it is necessary to integrate simple and powerful statistical methods into the experimental design methodology [8]. The success of any industrially designed experiment depends on sound planning, appropriate choice of design and statistical analysis of data and teamwork skills.

2.1. Approaches for experimentation

The approach to planning and conducting the experiment is called the strategy of experimentation [9]. The best guess approach is the most common and uses guesswork to arbitrarily select a combination of input factors for testing. However, this is unscientific and one cannot confirm whether a better response obtained is indeed the best solution.

Another approach is the 'one factor at a time' (OFAT) in which one factor is sequentially varied at a time by different levels and all other factors are kept constant. The levels may be quantitative (such as temperature or voltage) or qualitative (such as presence of coolant). The main effect of the factor is the change in response produced by a change in the level of the factor. However, OFAT approach can show only one causal effect and many a times, the causal effect of multiple factors is not additive, meaning there is interaction between them. An interaction is the failure of one factor to produce the same effect on the response at different levels of another factor. OFAT approach cannot give interaction effects as all other factors are kept constant when a factor is varied.

The scientific approach therefore is to vary several factors together at a time so that both main effects as well as interaction effects of factors on the response variable may be identified and studied. This is called factorial experimental design and this is the only way to discover

interactions between variables. In factorial experiments, factors contain discrete values (levels), and the number of factor levels influences design of experimental runs. When all possible combinations of the levels of the factors are investigated, then it is called a full factorial experiment. In contrast, a fractional factorial experiment is a variation of the full factorial design in which only a subset of the runs is used.

Various other kinds of experimental designs are in place such as Plackett-Burman design, Taguchi method, response surface methodology, mixed response design and Latin hypercube design [10]. Each of these designs uses different techniques to generate experimental runs. Of these, response surface methodology is of particular interest as it takes three levels of factors to generate an experimental design sequence and uses a quadratic polynomial model for conducting analysis.

The three principles of experimental design such as randomization, replication and blocking are used in industrial experiments in order to improve the efficiency of experimentation. Randomization is the random ordering of experiments to ensure all levels of a factor have equal chance of being affected by noise factors (unwanted sources of variability) such as temperature or power fluctuation. Replication is the process of repeating all or a part of experiment runs in a random sequence to allow more precise estimation of experimental error as well as main and interaction effects. Blocking is the process of arranging similar experimental runs into blocks (or groups) to distribute the effect of change in blocking factors such as batch, machine, time of day, etc. across the experiments and avoid confounding (confusion whether the output change is due to change in block or change in factor level).

For statistical analysis under design of experiments (DOE), the factor level numbers are considered instead of the actual value of the factor at that level. In other words, the factors are represented by coded variables instead of natural or uncoded variables. In case of categorical variables, the levels are represented in natural numbers as 1, 2, … l. Quantitative variables can also expressed in this manner in many experimental design methods.

Let x_i and w_i be the coded and uncoded values respectively for a level i of a control variable having l_i levels. Then w_{low} and w_{high} refer to the uncoded values of the factor at the lowermost and uppermost levels respectively. For categorical variables, x_i and w_i are expressed as Eqs. (1) and (2).

$$x_i = \frac{w_i}{(w_{high} - w_{low})/(l_i - 1)} \tag{1}$$

and

$$w_i = x_i \frac{(w_{high} - w_{low})}{2} \tag{2}$$

In case of response surface methodology, the number of levels for all quantitative variables is odd, and the middle level is given the value 0. Thus the remaining levels get equally distributed on both sides of the middle level, for example, −2, −1, 0, +1, +2. Then, x_i and w_i would be expressed as Eqs. (3) and (4).

$$x_i = \frac{w_i - (w_{high} + w_{low})/2}{(w_{high} - w_{low})/2} \tag{3}$$

and

$$w_i = \frac{(w_{high} + w_{low})}{2} + x_i \frac{(w_{high} - w_{low})}{2} \tag{4}$$

3. Response surface methodology

Response surface methodology or RSM is a collection of mathematical and statistical techniques used for the modeling and analysis of problems in which a response of interest is influenced by several variables and the objective is to optimize the response. The method was introduced by G. E. P. Box and K. B. Wilson in 1951. It uses a sequence of designed experiments to obtain an optimal response and uses a second-degree polynomial model to achieve this.

Let a process contain n input variables x_1, x_2..., x_n. Then the response y is given by Eq. (5)

$$y = f(x_1, x_2, ..., x_n) + \varepsilon \tag{5}$$

Where, ε is the error or noise observed in the response. If the expected response is denoted by $E(y) = f(x_1, x_2, ..., x_n) = \eta$, then the response surface is represented by Eq. (6)

$$\eta = f(x_1, x_2, ..., x_n) \tag{6}$$

The response can be represented graphically, either in the three-dimensional space or as contour plots that help visualize the shape of the response surface. Contours are curves of constant response drawn in the x_i, x_j plane keeping all other variables fixed. Each contour corresponds to a particular height of the response surface. RSM also explores relationships the response variables and several input variables. If the response is modeled by a linear function of the independent variables, then the approximating function is the following linear model shown by Eq. (7).

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + ... + \beta_n x_n + \varepsilon \tag{7}$$

If there is curvature in the system, then a polynomial of higher degree must be used. Most of the industrial problems can be modeled with sufficient accuracy by using a second-degree polynomial, which yields the following second order model shown by Eq. (8)

$$y = \beta_0 + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \beta_i x_i + \sum_{i=1}^{n} \beta_{ii} x_i^2 + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \sum_{j=i+1}^{n} \beta_{ij} x_i x_j + \varepsilon \tag{8}$$

The method of least square chooses β's in Eq. (8) so that the sum of the squares of the errors ε, are minimized. The least squares function is shown by Eq. (9)

$$L = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \varepsilon_i^2 \tag{9}$$

By putting value of ε_i from above equation and differentiating equation with respect to coefficient β, regression coefficient can be obtained.

3.1. Response surface designs

Response surface designs are those experimental designs which are used for fitting response surfaces and generally contain three factor levels [11]. Two types of response surface designs are used namely, central composite design and Box-Behnken design.
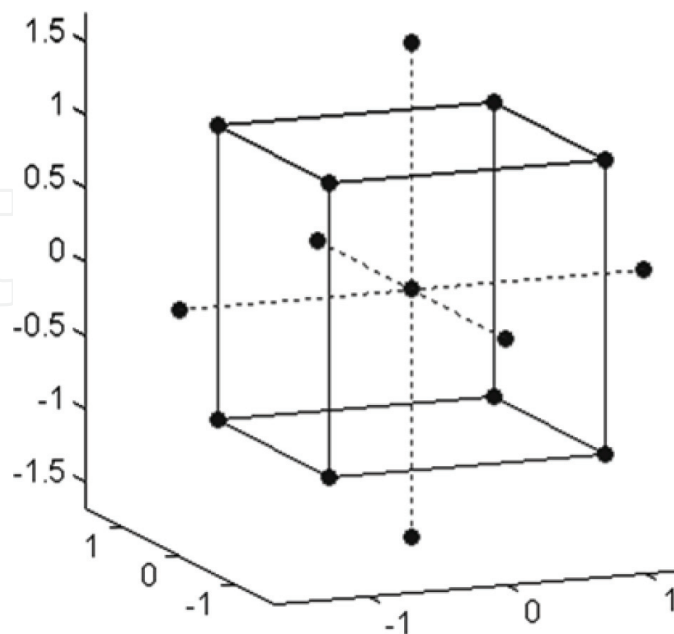
3.1.1. Central composite design

This consists of a factorial design (the corners of a cube), center and axial (or star) points that allow for estimation of second-order effects [12]. The addition of axial points practically increases the number of levels to five as shown in **Figure 1**. This may create problems if the axial points cannot be run due to technical or safety reasons. For a design having k factors, the distance of the axial point from the design center is $\alpha = 2^{k/4}$.

A central composite design containing axial points with the calculated value α is called circumscribed central composite design. If it is not possible to use this value of α, then a provision exists in which α can be taken equal to 1 in order to obtain what is called as face centered central composite design.

3.1.2. Box-Behnken design

This design overcomes some loopholes of central composite design by avoiding axial points and corner points of the design space (or bypassing extreme factor combinations) and by taking only


Figure 1. Central composite design for three factors.

three factor levels as shown in **Figure 2**. The design ensures that all factors are never set to high levels simultaneously and thus ensures design points within safe operating limits.

Also, this design is fully rotatable, meaning that it provides the desirable property of constant prediction variance at all points that are equidistant from the design center. Compared to central composite design, this design gives lesser number of experiment runs for the same number of factors. Hence, it can be seen that Box-Behnken designs have several advantages over central composite designs.

3.2. Analysis of variance (ANOVA)

The analysis of variance (ANOVA) established by Ronald Fisher in 1918, is a statistical tool used to analyze variation among and between groups. ANOVA is used to see the significant and insignificant parameters of the predicted model. This procedure involves checking individually variability of variable over the response [13]. It is based on the concept of two hypotheses namely H_0 (means all the regressions coefficients are zero) and H_1 (mean at least one of the regression coefficient is non-zero). If H_0 is false then it suggests that one or more of the variable contribute significantly to the developed model for response [14]. In this test procedure, sums of square of regression and errors are calculated. To verify hypothesis F value is calculated as ratio of mean of square (regression) to mean of square (error) is calculated. Larger values of F suggest that model is significant. Alternatively, p value is the probability of the predicted model shows its significance in terms of statistics. If p value is less than 0.05 model terms are significant and p value greater than 0.05 indicates that model terms are not significant. Similarly the value of R^2 (correlation coefficient) is calculated as ratio of sum of square of regression to the total sum of square. The correlation coefficient (R^2) value suggests a satisfactory representation of process by model and good correlation between experimental and theoretical values provided by the model equation. For goodness of fit of the model, R^2 (correlation coefficient) should be at least 0.80. However, a large value of R^2 does not necessarily imply that the regression model is good one. Adding a variable to the model will always
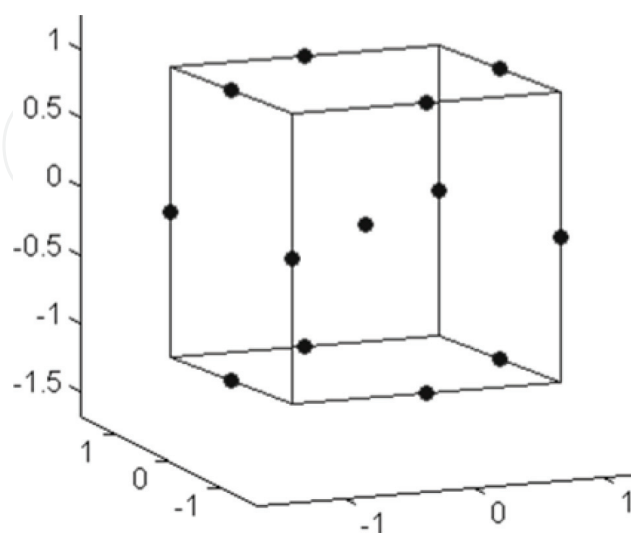
Figure 2. Box-Behnken design for three factors.

increase R^2, regardless of whether the additional variable is statistically significant or not. Thus it is possible for models that have large values of R^2 to yield poor predictions of new observations or estimates of the mean response. Therefore sometimes it is beneficial to calculate adjusted correlation coefficient (R^2_{adj}) which is calculated as $(1 -$ sum of square (error)/sum of square (total)). Once R^2 and R^2_{adj} are different affectedly, there is a decent probability that non-significant terms have been included in the model.

3.3. Backward elimination approach for developed model evaluation

After developing a model, its adequacy is checked by F test and p value [15]. For a model term to be significant it should have high F value and low p value. Insignificant model terms do not affect the response therefore can be removed from the model. In order to avoid insignificant terms in the model such that modified model clarifies the response, the backward regression elimination method (also known as stepwise deletion) is used. In the stepwise deletion method, t test or F test for significance of design variable is performed with sequence begin with full model. Insignificant variables with the highest p value (e.g. $p > 0.05$) are removed from the full model. Stepwise regression procedure details are as follow:

Step 1:

Initially the model can be written as shown in Eq. (10)

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \ldots\ldots + \beta_{n-1} x_{n-1} + \varepsilon. \tag{10}$$

Then, the following n−1 tests are carried out, for null hypothesis H_{oj}: $\beta_j = 0$. The lowest partial F-test value F_l corresponding to H_{oj}: $\beta_j = 0$ or t-test value t_l is compared with the preselected significance values F_0 and t_0. One of two possible steps (step 2a and step 2b) can be taken.

Step 2a:

For eliminating any variable say x_l, it should satisfy the following case $F_l < F_0$ or $t_l < t_0$. Now the modified model can be written as equation

$$y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \cdots + \beta_{l-1} X_{l-1} + \beta_{l+1} X_{l+1} + \cdots + \beta_{n-1} X_{n-1} + \varepsilon \tag{11}$$

Step 2b:

If $F_l > F_0$ or $t_l > t_0$, the original model is the model we should choose.

The procedure will automatically stop when no variable in the new original model can be removed and all the next best candidate cannot be retained in the new original model. Then, the new original model is our selected model.

In the present thesis, measured responses after machining are analyzed using responses surface methodology with cutting parameters as input variables. Initially RSM models are developed for each response. Significance of each variable is confirmed through ANOVA analysis then insignificant terms are removed using backward elimination approach. Analysis of machining responses is discussed in above sections.

4. Case study for using design of experiments in machining operation

Surface roughness is most widely used indicator to quantify surface integrity of machined part [16, 17]. It directly gives quality of surface finish and has been used by many researchers. Surface roughness is influenced by several factors such as - cutting speed, feed, depth of cut, tool geometry, tool wear, etc. [17–20]. Therefore in the present work surface roughness is taken as response.

In the present case study, design of experiments with central composite design was performed based on response surface methodology. This is constructed as factorial design (the corners of a cube), center and axial (or star) points that allow for estimation of second-order effects [21]. The addition of axial points practically increases the number of levels to five. This may create problems if the axial points cannot be run due to technical or safety reasons. For a design having k factors, the distance of the axial point from the design center is $\alpha = 2^{k/4}$ as shown in **Figure 3**. If it is not possible to use this value of α, then a provision exists in which α can be taken equal to 1 in order to obtain what is called as face cantered central composite design. In the present case study, based on input factors and their levels as shown in, 20 set of experiments were performed, each for turning and milling operations. The design of experiments
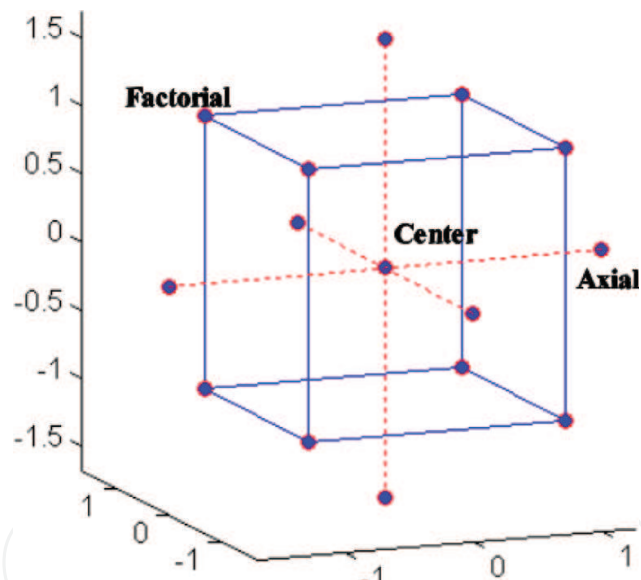
Figure 3. Design of experiment using central composite design.

Level ->	Lowest	Low	Center	High	Highest
Coded value (x)	−1.682	−1	0	1	1.682
Cutting speed V_c (m/min) turning	69.9	90.4	120	150	171.4
Feed rate f (mm/min) turning	55.6	72	96	120.6	136.6
Depth of cut a_p (mm) milling	1.83	2.0	2.5	2	2.67

Table 1. Level of cutting parameters used for central composite design.

was performed using MINITAB 17 statistical software. For the present work, based on number of input factor k, the value of α was taken as 1.682. The coded and natural levels of the independent variables for design of experiments are presented in **Table 1**. Five levels of cutting parameters were calculated in central composite design using Eq. (12) shown above. After defining levels of cutting parameters, sequence of experiments were generated using MINITAB 17 statistical software using central composite design for turning and milling operations. **Table 2** shows the 20 sets of experiment in terms of coded values of cutting parameters sequenced according to run order. The number of experiments was generated based on number of input factors and their levels.

$$x_1 = \frac{V_c - (V_{c\max} + V_{c\min})/2}{(V_{c\max} - V_{c\min})/2}; x_2 = \frac{f - (f_{\max} + f_{\min})/2}{(f_{\max} - f_{\min})/2}; x_3 = \frac{a_p - (a_{p\max} + a_{p\min})/2}{(a_{p\max} - a_{p\min})/2} \quad (12)$$

Where x is coded value of level of individual cutting parameter, V_c is cutting speed in m/min, f is feed rate in mm/rev, a_P = depth of cut in mm.

Std order	Run order	Pt type	Blocks	Cutting speed	Feed rate	Depth of cut
5	1	1	1	−1	−1	1
6	2	1	1	1	−1	1
4	3	1	1	1	1	−1
14	4	−1	1	0	0	1.681793
1	5	1	1	−1	−1	−1
2	6	1	1	1	−1	−1
19	7	0	1	0	0	0
20	8	0	1	0	0	0
7	9	1	1	−1	1	1
3	10	1	1	−1	1	−1
9	11	−1	1	−1.68179	0	0
10	12	−1	1	1.681793	0	0
8	13	1	1	1	1	1
17	14	0	1	0	0	0
11	15	−1	1	0	−1.68179	0
18	16	0	1	0	0	0
15	17	0	1	0	0	0
16	18	0	1	0	0	0
13	19	−1	1	0	0	−1.68179
12	20	−1	1	0	1.681793	0

Table 2. Sequence of experiments obtained using MINITAB.

In the present case study, minimization of surface roughness is done for turning and milling operations. Surface roughness was measured for each machining operation. In order to compensate measuring error, surface roughness was measured at three locations on the machined surface and average value is taken. **Table 3** show the list of experiments and corresponding surface roughness in turning operations.

Second order models are developed for surface roughness in turning using RSM. After developing models, ANOVA analysis is done to see significant and insignificant terms in the models as shown in **Table 4**. Insignificant terms are identified and eliminated using backward elimination procedure. In **Table 4**, the variable for which the value of 'p' is less than 0.05 indicates that the term in the model has a significant effect on the response.

The ANOVA results shown in **Table 4** demonstrate that the model is highly significant, and the lack of fit is non-significant. Model showed a correlation coefficient (R^2) of 93.13% for turning which means more than 90% of the data can be explained by these models. Furthermore, the significance of each coefficient in the full model was examined by the F-values and p-values. Larger values of "F" and smaller values of p ($p < 0.1$) indicate that the corresponding variable

Run type	Cutting speed V_c (m/min)	Feed rate f (mm/min)	Depth of cut a_p (mm)	Surface roughness R_a (μm)
Center	120.6	96	1.5	0.541
Center	120.6	96	1.5	0.559
Axial	69.9	96	1.5	0.819
Factorial	150.8	72	1	0.457
Axial	120.6	96	2.34	0.608
Factorial	90.4	120	1	0.766
Factorial	150.8	120	1	0.483
Center	120.6	96	1.5	0.592
Center	120.6	96	1.5	0.592
Factorial	150.8	72	1	0.404
Factorial	150.8	120	2	0.474
Axial	120.6	136.4	1.5	0.602
Center	120.6	96	1.5	0.583
Axial	120.6	96	0.66	0.533
Factorial	90.4	72	2	0.747
Factorial	90.4	120	2	0.844
Center	120.6	96	1.5	0.582
Axial	120.6	55.6	1.5	0.554
Axial	171.4	96	1.5	0.386
Factorial	90.4	72	1	0.747

Table 3. Surface roughness measurement after turning operation.

Source	Sum of square	DF	Mean of square	F value	p value Prob > F
Model	0.31	9	0.035	29.64	<0.0001
V_c	0.30	1	0.30	253.51	<0.0001
f	6.283e-3	1	6.283e-3	5.36	0.0432
a_p	4.499e-3	1	4.499e-3	3.84	0.0786
$V_c \times f$	4.572e-5	1	4.572e-5	0.039	0.8474
$V_c \times a_p$	1.591e-4	1	1.591e-4	0.14	0.7203
$a_p \times f$	2.841e-5	1	2.841e-5	0.024	0.8794
V_c^2	3.859e-3	1	3.859e-3	3.29	0.0998
f^2	8.258e-4	1	8.258e-4	0.70	0.4211
a_p^2	3.612e-4	1	3.612e-4	0.31	0.5912
Residual	0.012	10	1.173e-3		
Lack of fit	9.587e-3	5	1.917e-3	4.47	0.629
Pure error	2.143e-3	5	4.286e-4		
Core total	0.32	19			

Table 4. ANOVA analysis for surface roughness as response and cutting parameters as variables in turning operation.

is highly significant. Hence, the results given in **Table 4**, suggest that the influence of f^2 (square of feed rate), a_p^2 (square of depth of cut), $V_c \times f$ (cutting speed × feed rate), $V_c \times a_p$ (cutting speed × depth of cut), and $f \times a_p$ (feed rate × depth of cut) are non-significant and therefore, can be removed from the full model to further improve the mode as shown in Eq. (13).

$$R_a = 1.27686 - 0.000897964 \times V_c + 0.0008937 \times f + 0.036303 \times a_p + 1.69203e-7 \times V_c^2 \quad (13)$$

### 4.1. Validation of developed model for surface roughness in turning operation

In order to verify the adequacy of the model developed, five validation experiments were performed as depicted in **Table 5**. The conditions were those which have not been used previously but are within the range of the levels defined previously. The predicted values from

| Parameters	Exp. 1	Exp. 2	Exp. 3	Exp. 4	Exp. 5
Cutting speed (m/min)	72.5	95.0	110.0	130.0	160.0
Feed rate (mm/min)	60	80	100	125	140
Depth of cut (mm)	0.8	0.9	1.4	1.6	1.8
Predicted R_a (µm)	0.797	0.681	0.634	0.565	0.464
Actual R_a (µm)	0.772	0.748	0.721	0.6325	0.501
% Error	−3.18	9.96	13.69	11.95	8

Table 5. Confirmation experiments for validating surface roughness model for turning operation.

the equation developed for surface roughness and the actual experimental value were compared. The percentage errors were calculated. All these values are presented in **Table 5**. The percentage error range between the actual and predicted value is −3.18 to 13.69% which is acceptable. Residual from the least square fit is defined by $e_i = y_i - y^*$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots 20$ where y_i is the observed response (Surface roughness) and y^* is the predicted response. A check of the normality assumption may be made by constructing a normal probability plot of the residuals. If the residuals plot is approximately along a straight line, then the normality assumption is satisfied. **Figure 4** presents a plot of residuals e_i versus the predicted response y^* and it reveals no apparent problem with normality.

From the confirmation experiments and normal probability plot of residual, it is observed that the developed model can predict the surface roughness in turning operation. **Figure 5** shows the
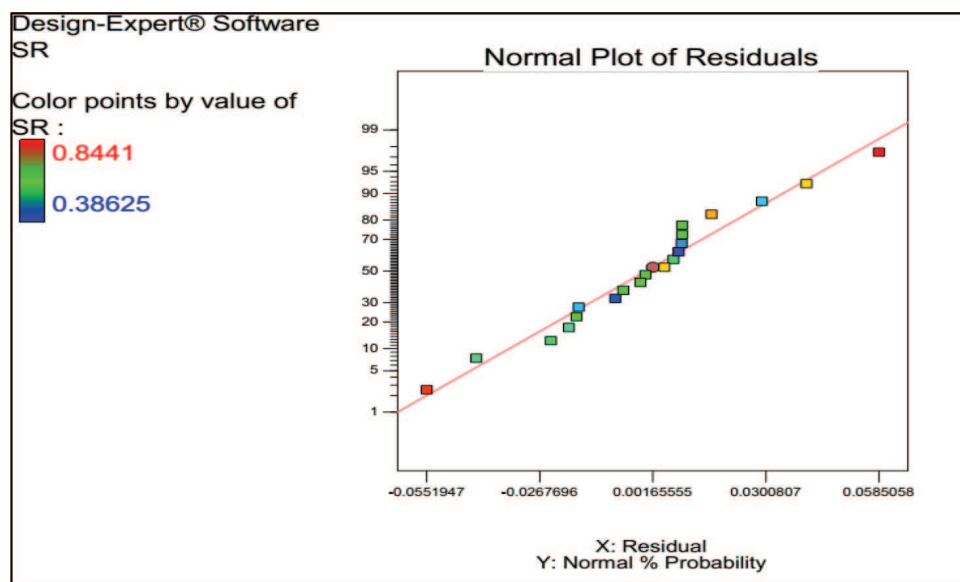
Figure 4. Normal probability plot of residual for surface roughness in turning operation.
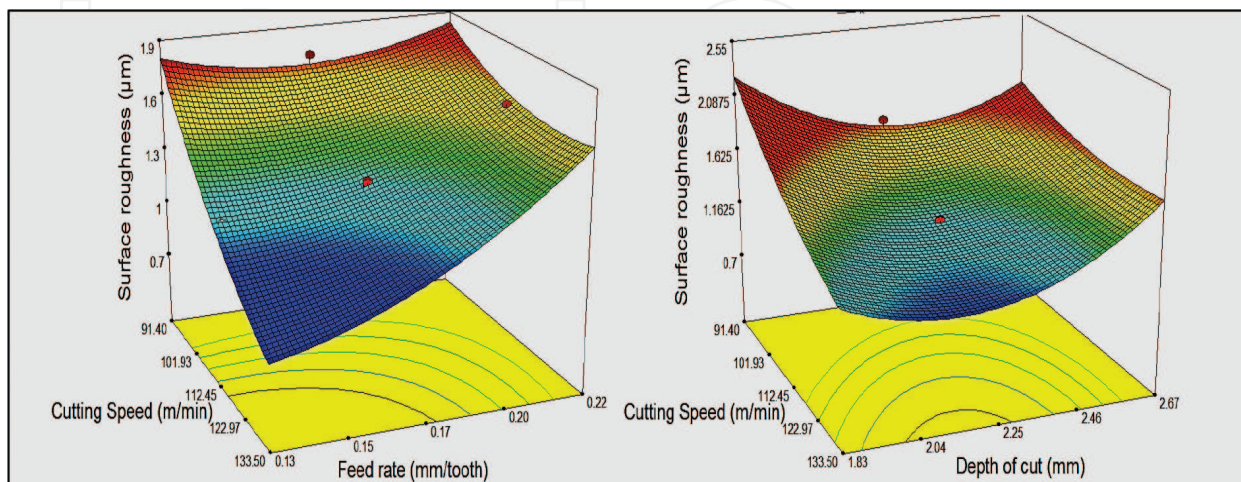
Figure 5. Response surface plots.

response surface plots give a graphical display of these quantities. Typically, the variance of the prediction is also of interest, because this is a direct measure of the likely error associated with the point estimate produced by the model.

From the response surface plots also, it is observed that interaction of cutting speed/feed rate is strongly affecting the surface roughness value whereas interaction of feed/ doc and cutting speed/doc has negligible effect over surface roughness [22, 23].

5. Summary

From the above study it can be concluded that experimenter can predict the response using proper design of experiment where proper underlying mechanism of the process is not fully understood. Proper fitting of response from experimental data can be done by design of experiment, regression modeling technique, statistical analysis and optimization. Following conclusions can be made based on the case study:

- Design of experiments is a very structured methodology for planning and designing a sequence of experiments.

- Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to identify significant input variables for particular response.

- Prediction model can be developed for a response with correlation coefficient more than 90% which confirm that the models properly explain the experimental data.

- The developed predictive model can help industries in achieving appropriate output for improving productivity.

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