

**DETERMINATION OF PROCESSING CHARACTERISTICS OF WOOD  
MATERIALS DENSIFIED BY COMPRESSING**

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**ABSTRACT**

The main objective of this study is to determine optimum cutting parameters in order to specify the effect of densification by compressing on the processing properties of solid wood material and to achieve the best surface quality in materials densified at different rates. In line with this goal, the widely grown and low-density black poplar (*Populus nigra*) tree species were selected as the experimental material. Samples, which were compressed and densified by Thermo-Mechanical method at 0 %, 20 % and 40 % ratios, were processed at 1000 mm/min, 1500 mm/min and 2000 mm/min feed speeds and in 12000 rpm, 15000 rpm, 18000 rpm rotation speed on a computer numerical control machine by using two different cutters. Surface roughness values ( $R_a$  and  $R_z$ ) were measured in order to evaluate surfaces obtained. Smoother surfaces were obtained in computer numerical control machining of densified samples. The lowest surface roughness values occurred in 40 % densified samples, which were the densest. The lowest surface roughness was obtained when 40 % densified samples were processed with cutter no.1, at 1000 mm/min feed speed and at 18000 rpm.

**Keywords:** Densification, machining, *Populus nigra*, roughness, thermo-mechanics, wood material.

34 From past to present, different “Wood Modification Methods” have been developed as a result  
35 of all scientific studies and research to eliminate some of the negativities of massive wood  
36 material. Modification of wood is applied to change or improve negative properties of wood  
37 material (Senol 2018, Senol and Budakçı 2016).

38 Wood material is often considered too soft or too weak for use in structures requiring high  
39 strength, hardness and durability. However, wood material with increased density can be used  
40 as an alternative to other materials (Blomberg and Persson 2004, Homan *et al.* 2000, Kutnar  
41 and Šernek 2007, Pelit *et al.* 2014). Density of wood material significantly affects its  
42 mechanical (Blomberg and Persson 2004, Kamke 2006, Kutnar and Šernek 2007, Pelit *et al.*  
43 2014, Rautkari 2012) and machining properties (Blomberg and Persson 2004, Kamke 2006,  
44 Kutnar and Šernek 2007, Pelit *et al.* 2014, Rautkari 2012).

45 A lot of research has been done to improve densification process since increasing density of  
46 wood material increases its mechanical properties and hardness (Blomberg and Persson 2004).  
47 Density of low-density wood materials can be increased by densification process and their  
48 commercial value can be increased. Tree species with high density can be increased in density  
49 even more, and their properties can be improved by making them more resistant (Blomberg *et*  
50 *al.* 2005, Kutnar and Sernek 2007, Pelit *et al.* 2014).

51 Many types of densified wood materials have been produced around the world until today. Also,  
52 in recent years, there have been restrictions in the use of protective impregnate materials that is  
53 harmful to humans and the environment with the increase of environmental priority perspective,  
54 this has led the development of new environmentally compatible methods that protect wood  
55 material against biological degradation and increase its dimensional stability (Korkut and

56 Kocaefe 2009, Senol and Budakci 2016). Deformations occur in cell wall of compressed wood  
57 material under normal atmospheric conditions.

58 In densified wood materials; There are studies in the literature on density analysis and various  
59 mechanical properties (Ábrahám *et al.* 2010, Ábrahám and Németh 2012, Arruda and Del  
60 Menezzi 2013, Fang *et al.* 2012, Gong *et al.* 2010, Hajihassani *et al.* 2018, Kamke 2006, Kariz  
61 *et al.* 2017, Laine *et al.* 2013, Laskowska 2017, Pelit 2014, Pelit and Sonmez 2015, Lauri  
62 Rautkari *et al.* 2009, Senol *et al.* 2017, Skyba *et al.* 2009, Ulker *et al.* 2012, Cruz *et al.* 2018,  
63 Gao *et al.* 2019, Laskowska 2020, Pertuzzatti *et al.* 2018), determination of changes in surface  
64 hardness (Laine *et al.* 2013, Laskowska 2017 Pelit *et al.* 2015b, Rautkari *et al.* 2009, Rautkari  
65 *et al.* 2013, Senol and Budakci 2019, Skyba *et al.* 2009, Ulker *et al.* 2012), microscopic analysis  
66 (Blomberg and Persson 2004; Budakci *et al.* 2016; Rautkari *et al.* 2010), wettability (Arruda  
67 and Del Menezzi 2013, Bekhta and Krystofiak 2016), determination of spring-back amounts  
68 (Kariz *et al.* 2017, Laine *et al.* 2013, Pelit and Sonmez 2015), determination of surface  
69 properties by applying upper surface processes to surfaces obtained (Pelit 2014, Pelit *et al.*  
70 2015a), resistance to fungi and termites (Esteves *et al.* 2017, Wehsener *et al.* 2018), color or  
71 gloss changes (Ábrahám *et al.* 2010, Cruz *et al.* 2018, Laskowska 2020, Pelit *et al.* 2015,  
72 Tenorio *et al.* 2021). In addition, analysis on densification was made using finite element  
73 method (Fleischhauer *et al.* 2019). Many of these studies are related to densified *Populus* tree  
74 species (Ábrahám *et al.* 2010, Ábrahám and Németh 2012, Ahmed *et al.* 2013, Budakci *et al.*  
75 2016, Diouf *et al.* 2011, Fang *et al.* 2012, Gaff and Gašparík 2013, Gao *et al.* 2019, Gong *et al.*  
76 2010, Hajihassani *et al.* 2018, Bami and Mohebbi 2011, Lamason and Gong 2007, Lykidis *et*  
77 *al.* 2020, Mania *et al.* 2020, Ozdemir 2020, Pelit *et al.* 2018, Senol 2018, Senol *et al.* 2017,  
78 Wehsener *et al.* 2018). In general, physical and mechanical properties improve, surface  
79 roughness and wettability decrease, hardness increases, and spring-back may occur as a  
80 negative situation in wood species that are compressed and densified depending on density

81 increase. However, there have been no studies on the change in the processing properties of  
82 massive wood materials whose structure and density are changed by increasing density with  
83 compressing and the optimum processing properties of obtained materials.

84 Before densified materials are turned into final product, they must be processed with machines  
85 used in machining of classical wood and wood-based materials, as well as with modern  
86 computer numerical control (CNC). In this context, with this work parameters will be  
87 determined to obtain lowest surface quality, productivity will increase and next processes such  
88 as sanding etc. will be reduced or unnecessary.

89 Black poplar (*Populus nigra*) that are produced and used frequently in the world by using CNC,  
90 with various machining parameters that will affect surface quality in different values. Therefore,  
91 the scopes of this study were organized as the following:

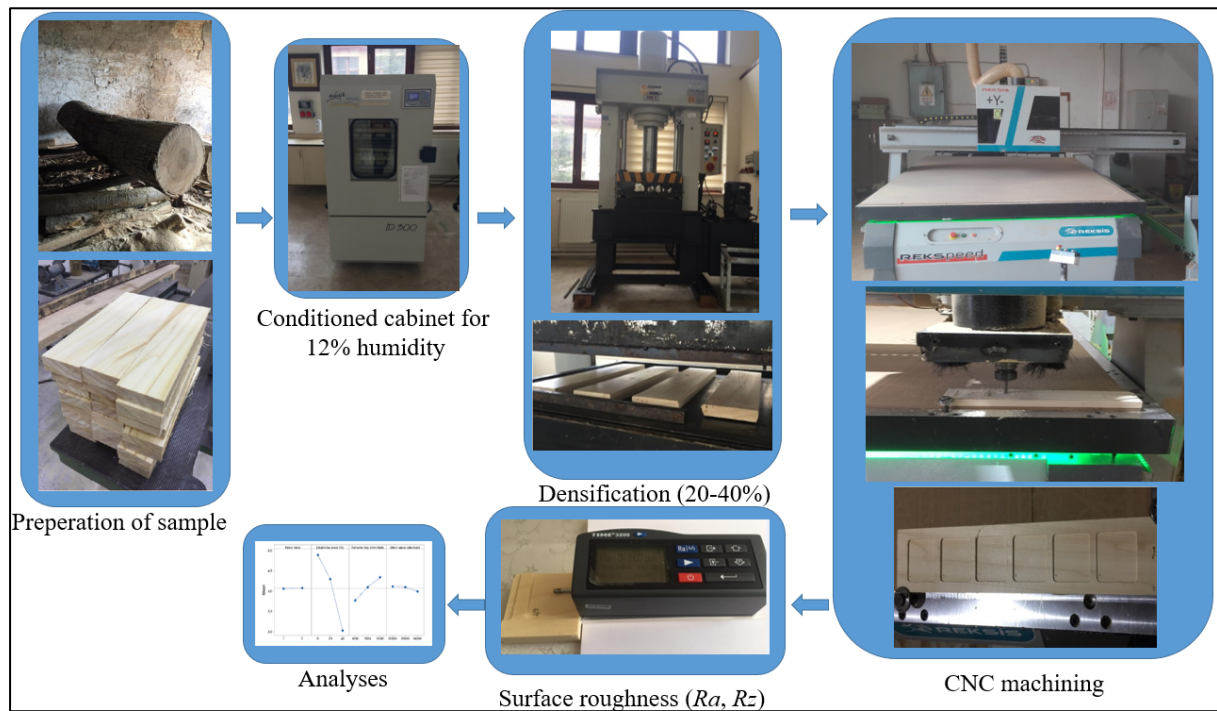
- 92 - to determine the effect of densification on machining properties and to investigate  
93 optimum processing parameters to obtain the smoothest surface for black poplar,
- 94 - for the machined surface, stylus tracing surface roughness profilometer was used to  
95 measure surface roughness ( $Ra$  and  $Rz$ ) values, and statistical software was used to  
96 analyze the results.

## 97 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

98 Black poplar (*Populus nigra* L.), which is one of the broad-leaved tree species with a wide  
99 usage area, low density and widely grown, was chosen as the experimental material in the study.  
100 Samples were all randomly selected from Afyonkarahisar, Turkey. The test specimens were cut  
101 from the parts of air-dried (approximately 15 % MC) sapwood. They were conditioned at  
102 temperatures of  $20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $65\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 5\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ , with a relative humidity to moisture content  
103 (MC) of about 12 %. The density of poplar tree species at 12 % humidity was determined as

104 0,85 g/cm<sup>3</sup> according to ISO 3130 (ISO 1975) and ISO 13064 (ISO 2014) standards.

105 Experimental process of the study is given in Figure 1.



106

107

**Figure 1:** Schematic representation of experimental design.

108 Samples in the dimensions given in Table 1 were densified by compressing with thermo-  
109 mechanical (TM) method in open system (Total time = Heating time + 15 min). With a specially  
110 designed hydraulic press (Gazi University, Ankara/Turkey) with table dimensions of 60 cm x  
111 60 cm, which can control temperature and pressure (100 t-250 atm), compression process in  
112 radial direction was carried out with automatic control at 60 mm/min loading speed. Densified  
113 test samples were kept under the press for 15 minutes and at the end of this period, samples  
114 were taken from the press, and they were allowed to cool down to room temperature under 5  
115 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> pressure in order to minimize spring-back effect.

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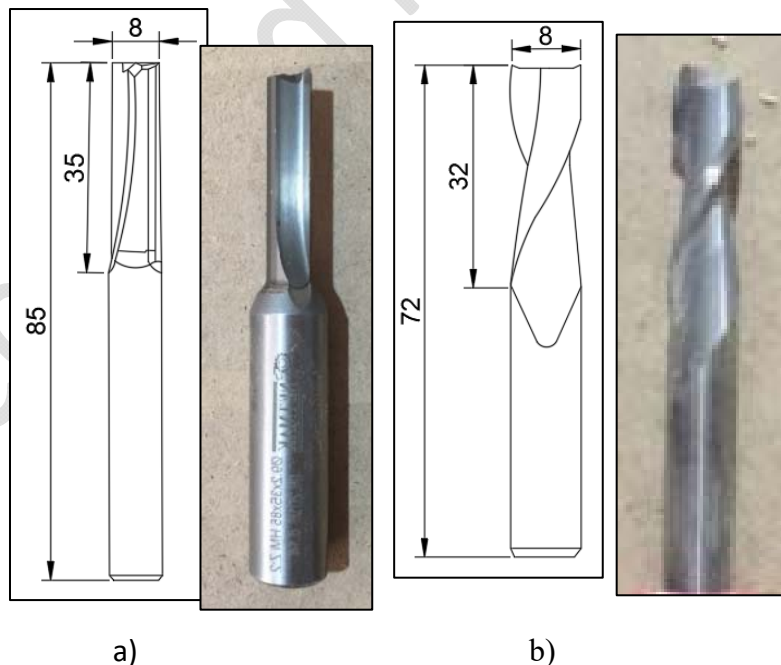
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**Table 1:** Pre-compression dimensions of test samples.

Compression ratio	Lenght (longitudinal direction) (mm)	Width (tangential direction) (mm)	Thickness (radial direction) (mm)
Control	430	85	20
20 %	430	85	25
40 %	430	85	33,3

120

121 After that; experiments were carried out on a Reksis Rekspeed 2137 3 axis CNC milling  
122 machine (Cözüm ahsap, Afyonkarahisar, Turkey) with 9 kW spindle power, a maximum  
123 spindle speed of 24000 rpm and a maximum feed rate of 60 m/min. Experiments were carried  
124 out with two router cutters (Netmak, Double-edged straight end mill and Two-flutes helisel end  
125 mill that was 8 mm in diameter) (Fig.2). New and sharp cutters were used in each cutting test.  
126 Four parameters were used in the experiment and one of them had 2 levels, while others had  
127 three levels (Table 2).



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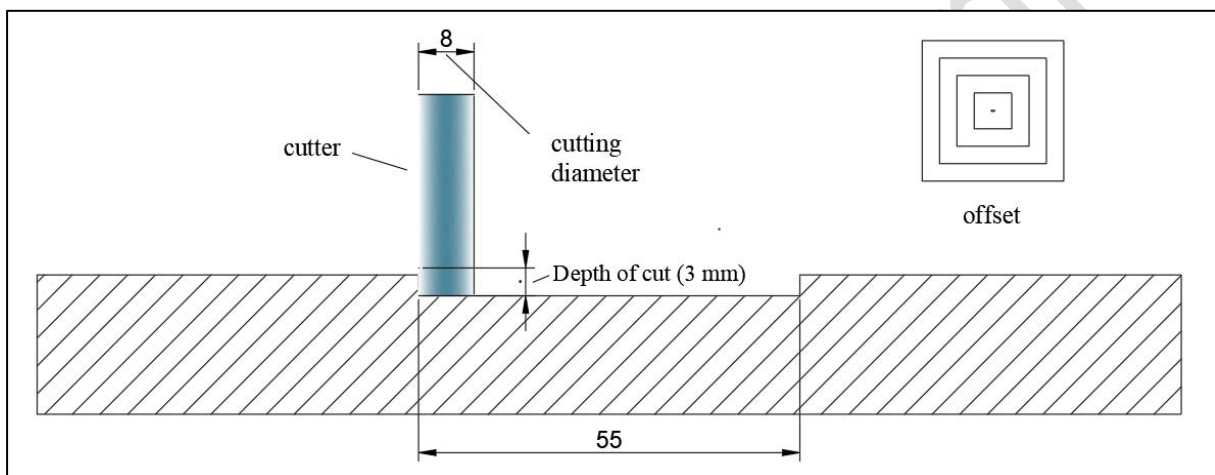
129 **Figure 2:** High speed steel end mills (mm) a) Two-flutes straight end mill (Netmak), b) Two-  
130 flutes helisel end mill (Knob).

131

132 **Table 2:** Assignment of levels to factors (parameters used in the face milling of black poplar).

Symbol	Parameter	Coded levels		
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
A	Cutter type	1	2	-
B	Compression ratio (%)	0	20	40
C	Feed rate (mm/min)	1000	1500	2000
D	Spindle speed (rpm)	12000	15000	18000

133



134

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**Figure 3:** CNC process parameters.

136 A total of 54 pieces with dimensions of 55 x 55 mm<sup>2</sup> were grooved on wood materials by a  
137 CNC router (Fig.3). Surface roughness measurements were performed on a radial surface  
138 parallel to grain at 3 separate points on each specimen. Measuring parameters (*R<sub>a</sub>* and *R<sub>z</sub>*) are  
139 described in ISO 468 (ISO 1982). Measurement of surface roughness was conducted according  
140 to the protocols in ISO 468 (ISO 1982), ISO 3274 (ISO 2017), and ISO 4287 (ISO 2015).  
141 Surface Roughness Tester Time TR200 (Time Group Inc., China) type surface roughness  
142 measurement equipment was used for the determination of surface roughness values via a  
143 contact stylus trace method. Sampling length was taken as 0,8 mm (*R<sub>a</sub>*: 0,32 μm - 2,50 μm).  
144 Surface roughness values were measured with an accuracy of ±0,01 μm. Stylus probe speed  
145 was chosen as 10 mm/min, diameter of measurement needle was 4 μm, and needle tip was 90°.

146 Care was taken to have a measurement environment around 18 °C - 22 °C, and without  
147 vibrations. Tool was calibrated prior to measurement, and calibration was checked at  
148 established intervals.

149 Analysis of variance (ANOVA) at a 95 % confidence level was applied using Minitab 19  
150 software on the data obtained from the study. Data were evaluated by obtaining normality, main  
151 effect, and interaction graphs.

## 152 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

153 Experiments were carried out by machining of surfaces with CNC in order to determine the  
154 effect of cutter type, compression ratio, feed rate and speed on roughness parameters (*Ra* and  
155 *Rz*) in the study. Roughness parameter values measured on machined surfaces are given in  
156 Table 3.

157 **Table 3:** Surface roughness values obtained according to machining conditions.

Process No	Cutter type	Compression ratio (%)	Feed rate (mm/min)	Spindle speed (rpm)	<i>Ra</i> (µm)	<i>Rz</i> (µm)
1	1	0	1000	12000	4,61	24,37
2	1	0	1000	15000	4,41	23,48
3	1	0	1000	18000	3,94	21,82
4	1	0	1500	12000	4,26	23,06
5	1	0	1500	15000	4,61	22,76
6	1	0	1500	18000	4,91	26,40
7	1	0	2000	12000	4,93	24,86
8	1	0	2000	15000	4,74	24,27
9	1	0	2000	18000	5,25	29,06
10	1	20	1000	12000	4,05	22,44
11	1	20	1000	15000	3,94	20,39
12	1	20	1000	18000	3,35	17,40



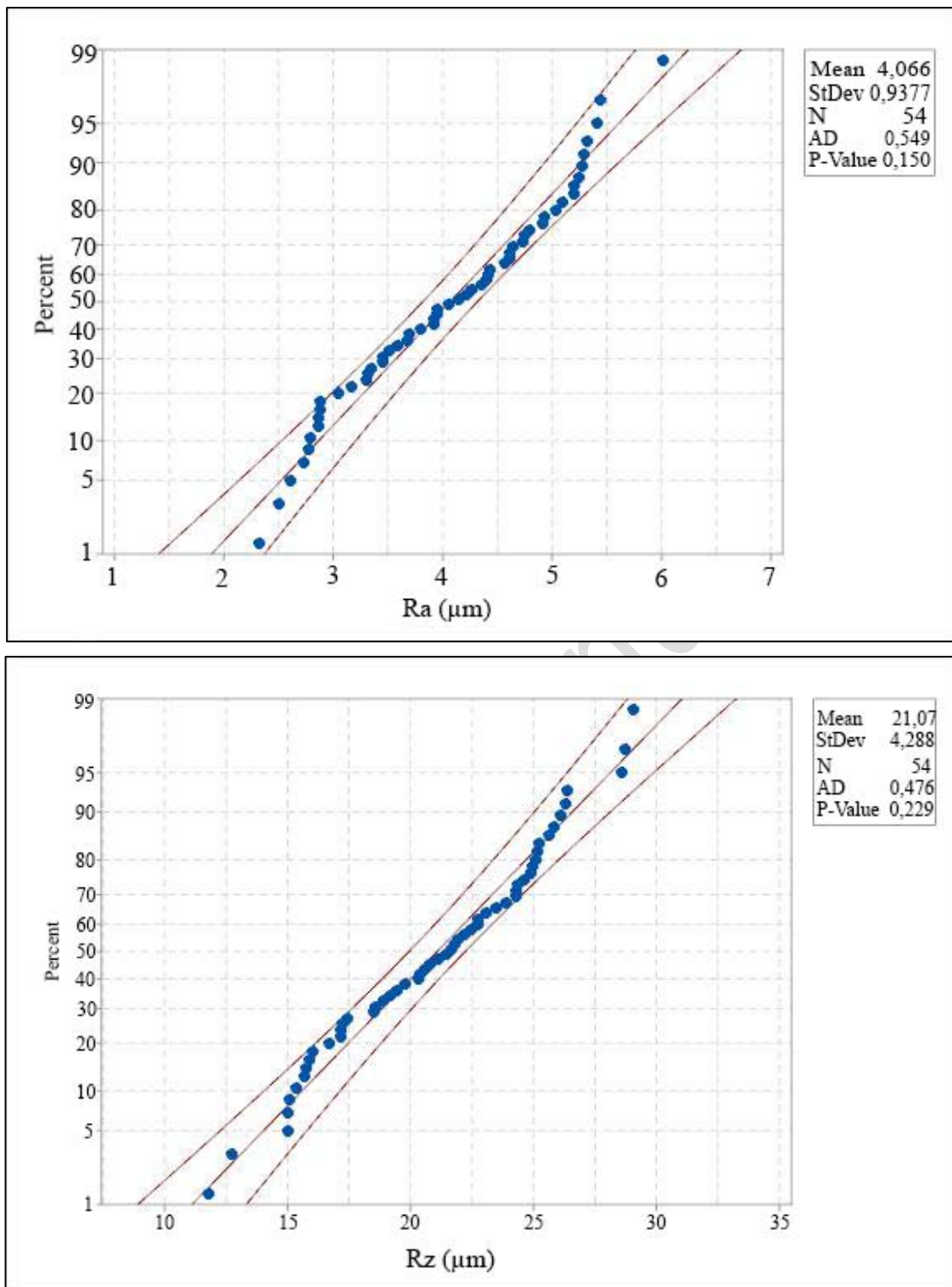
13	1	20	1500	12000	5,33	26,12
14	1	20	1500	15000	3,91	21,10
15	1	20	1500	18000	3,80	20,28
16	1	20	2000	12000	5,45	25,12
17	1	20	2000	15000	5,20	25,67
18	1	20	2000	18000	5,03	25,26
19	1	40	1000	12000	2,72	14,95
20	1	40	1000	15000	2,60	15,06
21	1	40	1000	18000	2,32	11,73
22	1	40	1500	12000	2,86	15,86
23	1	40	1500	15000	3,50	18,51
24	1	40	1500	18000	3,04	15,75
25	1	40	2000	12000	3,59	20,77
26	1	40	2000	15000	3,92	19,17
27	1	40	2000	18000	3,31	18,56
28	2	0	1000	12000	4,57	22,17
29	2	0	1000	15000	4,75	22,77
30	2	0	1000	18000	5,29	28,59
31	2	0	1500	12000	5,10	24,65
32	2	0	1500	15000	5,42	24,95
33	2	0	1500	18000	5,27	25,85
34	2	0	2000	12000	4,64	23,89
35	2	0	2000	15000	5,21	25,14
36	2	0	2000	18000	6,02	28,71
37	2	20	1000	12000	3,45	19,42
38	2	20	1000	15000	4,36	19,77
39	2	20	1000	18000	4,22	21,91
40	2	20	1500	12000	4,80	26,28
41	2	20	1500	15000	3,68	20,60
42	2	20	1500	18000	4,41	24,26
43	2	20	2000	12000	4,43	21,48
44	2	20	2000	15000	4,14	21,64
45	2	20	2000	18000	3,68	17,20

46	2	40	1000	12000	3,44	18,90
47	2	40	1000	15000	3,30	17,16
48	2	40	1000	18000	2,50	12,69
49	2	40	1500	12000	2,87	17,12
50	2	40	1500	15000	3,16	16,67
51	2	40	1500	18000	2,76	15,30
52	2	40	2000	12000	2,88	15,00
53	2	40	2000	15000	2,86	15,96
54	2	40	2000	18000	2,78	15,62

158

159 When Table 2 is examined, the lowest roughness values ( $Ra = 2,32 \mu\text{m}$  and  $Rz = 11,73 \mu\text{m}$ )  
160 were obtained in the cutter type no. 1 at 40 % compression ratio with 1000 mm/min feed speed  
161 and 18000 rpm. For  $Ra$ , the highest roughness value ( $Ra = 6,02 \mu\text{m}$ ) was measured at 0 %  
162 compression ratio, 2000 mm/min feed rate and 18000 rpm speed for cutter type 2, and for  $Rz$   
163 ( $Rz = 29,06 \mu\text{m}$ ), it was obtained at 0 % compression ratio for cutter type 1 with 2000 mm/min  
164 feed rate and 18000 rpm.

165 Statistical analyses were performed by using MINITAB R19 software with a confidence level  
166 of 95 % (e.g., significance level of 0,05). The obtained data were subjected to normality test.  
167 As seen in Figure 4, average  $Ra$  and  $Rz$  values obtained in average roughness measurements  
168 show normal distribution at 95 % confidence level, since the  $P$  value is higher than 0,05 ( $P =$   
169 0,150 for  $Ra$ ;  $P = 0,229$  for  $Rz$ ).



170 **Figure 4:** Normality graphs obtained from  $Ra$  (up) and  $Rz$  (down) values using the Anderson-  
 171 Darling normality test (95 % confidence level).

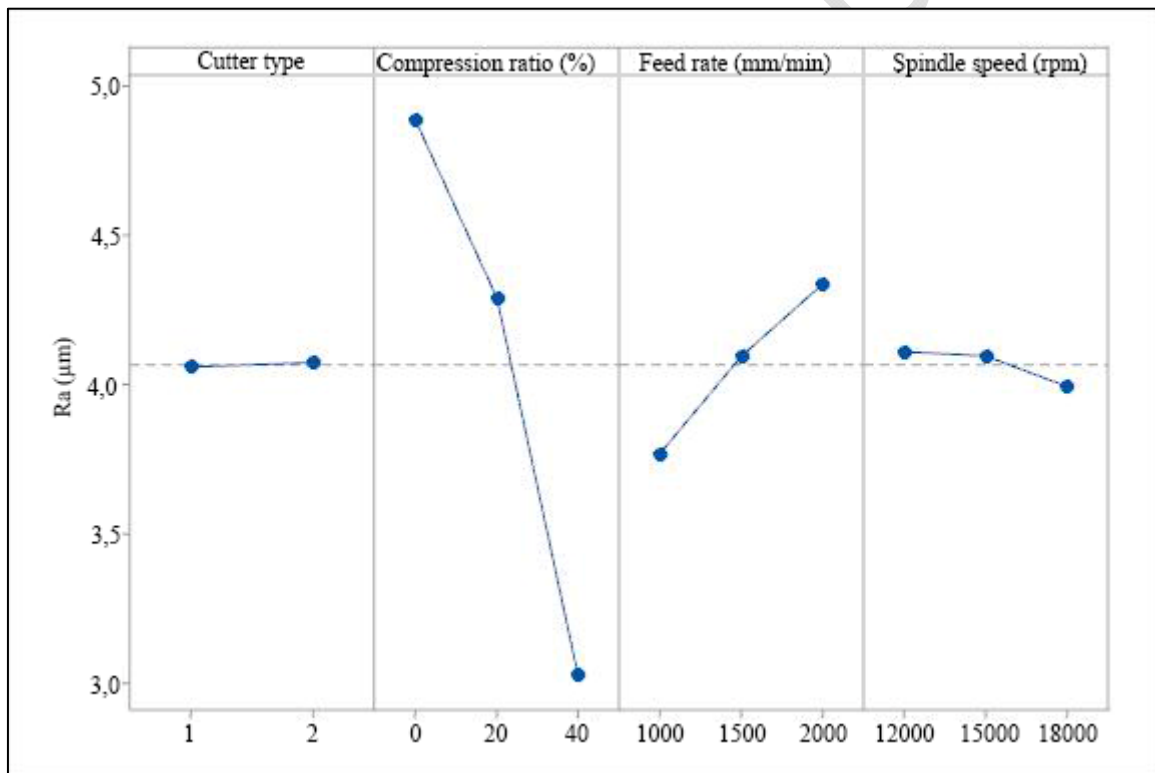
172 According to variance analysis results, for  $Ra$  at 95 % confidence level; it was seen that cutter  
 173 type ( $0,05 < P = 0,911$ ) and speed ( $0,05 < P = 0,738$ ) did not make a statistically significant

174 difference, and compression ratio ( $0,05 > P = 0,000$ ) and feed speed ( $0,05 > P = 0,004$ ) was  
 175 found to be a statistically significant difference (Table 4).

176 **Table 4:** Results of one-way analysis of variance for *Ra*.

Source	DF	Adj SS	Adj MS	F- Value	P Value
Cutter type	1	0,0030	0,0030	0,01	0,911
Compression ratio (%)	2	32,5740	16,2870	68,44	0,000
Feed rate (mm/min)	2	2,9299	1,4649	6,16	0,004
Spindle speed (rpm)	2	0,1456	0,0728	0,31	0,738
Error	46	10,9462	0,2380	-	-
Total	53	46,5987	-	-	-

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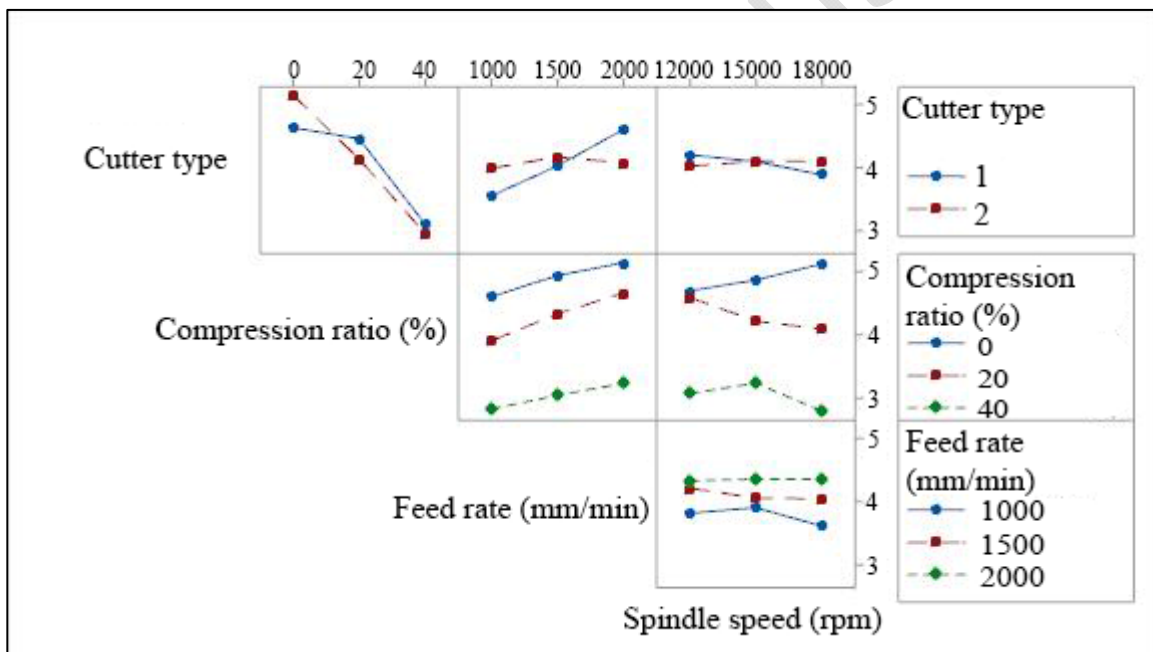


178 **Figure 5:** Main effects plot in terms of *Ra* of cutter type, compression ratio, feed rate and  
 179 number of revolutions.

180 In Figure 5, the interaction of cutter type, compression ratio, feed rate and speed in terms of  
 181 *Ra* is shown in the main effect plot. In terms of cutter type, it is seen that values close to each  
 182 other in terms of *Ra* were obtained in machining with the cutter number 1 and 2. Although there  
 183 is no significant difference between the groups, it is possible to say that generally lower *Ra*

184 values were obtained with the cutter number 1 and better results can be obtained. According to  
185 the results of the variance analysis, the factor with the highest effect in terms of  $Ra$  value ( $P =$   
186 0,00) is the compression ratio. It is seen that as the compression ratio increases,  $Ra$  value  
187 decreases linearly and it creates a statistically significant difference. It is also stated in the  
188 literature that smoother surfaces were obtained in massive wood and wood-based materials with  
189 high density (Hiziroglu 1996, Kilic *et al.* 2006, Lin *et al.* 2006, Malkocoglu 2007, Malkocoglu  
190 and Ozdemir 2006, Pinkowski *et al.* 2018, Zhong *et al.* 2013). According to Kminiak and Gaff  
191 (2015), hardwoods induce better surface quality than softwoods (Kminiak and Gaff 2015) and  
192 Budakci *et al.* (2011), diffuse porous wood species within hardwoods are typically associated  
193 with lower surface roughness than ring porous wood species (Nasir and Cool 2020). The reason  
194 for the decrease in  $Ra$  value can be interpreted as the decrease in gaps in the anatomical structure  
195 of the wood material with the increase in density and accordingly, smoother surfaces can be  
196 obtained when machined. It is seen that  $Ra$  value increases as the feed rate increases and it  
197 creates a statistically significant difference ( $P = 0,004$ ). In the literature, it was stated that  
198 roughness values increase as a general tendency as the feed rate increases in the processing of  
199 wood and wood-based materials (Aykac and Sofuoglu 2021, Bal 2018, Bal and Akçakaya 2018,  
200 Davim *et al.* 2009, Hazir *et al.* 2018, Ilter *et al.* 2002, İşleyen and Karamanoglu 2019, Karagoz  
201 2010, Koc *et al.* 2017, Pinkowski *et al.* 2018, Sutcu and Karagoz 2012, Sofuoglu *et al.* 2022).  
202 It seems that the data obtained in the study are compatible with the literature. With the increase  
203 in the speed, it is seen that  $Ra$  value decreases although it is not considered as significant at 95  
204 % confidence level ( $P = 0,738$ ). While there was a slight decrease in the  $Ra$  value with the  
205 increase of speed from 12000 rpm to 15000 rpm, the decrease was higher with the increase of  
206 the speed from 15000 rpm to 18000 rpm. With the increase in the speed in rotary cutting cutters,  
207 roughness values decrease and smoother surfaces can be obtained (Aykac and Sofuoglu 2021,  
208 Davim *et al.* 2009, Hazir *et al.* 2018, İşleyen and Karamanoglu 2019, Karagoz 2010, Koc *et al.*

209 2017, Sofuoglu 2015, Sutcu and Karagoz 2012, Sutcu and Karagoz 2013). It is seen that the  
 210 data obtained in the study show similar trends with the literature. The higher the number of  
 211 cutter marks per unit distance on the material surface of the cutters, the smoother surfaces can  
 212 be obtained (Malkocoglu and Ozdemir 2006, Sofuoglu 2008, Sofuoglu and Kurtoglu 2014).  
 213 Accordingly, the impact of spindle speed directly depends on the dynamic behavior of the cutter  
 214 when cutting at different spindle speeds. Higher or lower spindle speed results in getting close  
 215 to a blade's natural frequency and increasing the tool's vibration, then it will result in higher  
 216 roughness or waviness (Nasir and Cool 2019, Nasir *et al.* 2020). However, if the speed exceeds  
 217 a certain value, burning may occur on the material surface. In Figure 6, the interactions of cutter  
 218 type, compression ratio, feed rate and speed in terms of  $Ra$  are given graphically.



219 **Figure 6:** Interactions of cutter type, compression ratio, feed rate and 1 speed in terms of  $Ra$ .

220 According to the interaction graphics in terms of  $Ra$ ; It is seen that the cutter number 2 results  
 221 in lower roughness values by providing a linear relationship with the increase in density.  
 222 Although lower  $Ra$  values were obtained on machined surfaces by cutter number 1 with the  
 223 increase in density, this was not as linear and distinct as much as cutter number 2. There was  
 224 an increase in the  $Ra$  value linearly in machined with cutter no. 1, with the increase in the feed  
 225 rate. This was slightly different in cutter no. 2, with the increase in the feed rate from 1000

226 mm/min to 1500 mm/min, the  $Ra$  value slightly increased, but with the increase in the feed rate  
 227 to 2000 mm/min, the  $Ra$  value was slightly decreased. Again, when looking at cutters in terms  
 228 of the speed, different reactions occurred in terms of cutters even if difference was very small.  
 229 While there was a tendency to decrease in  $Ra$  values with the increase in the speed in machined  
 230 surfaces with cutter number 1, there was a tendency to increase for cutter number 2.  
 231 Approximately close  $Ra$  values were obtained for both cutters at 15000 rpm.

232 As the density increased in terms of compression ratio and feed rate, lower  $Ra$  values were  
 233 obtained. As the feed rate increases, a linear increase occurs in the  $Ra$  value for each density  
 234 value. While  $Ra$  values was close to each other in non-densified and 20 % densified samples at  
 235 at 12000 rpm, much lower  $Ra$  values were obtained at 40 % concentration. Considering  
 236 compression and speed relationship, the most obvious difference occurred at 18000 rpm. Nearly  
 237  $Ra$  values were obtained at each speed at a feed rate of 2000 mm/min. While very close  $Ra$   
 238 values were obtained at feed speeds of 1500 mm/min and 2000 mm/min at 12000 rpm, similar  
 239  $Ra$  values were obtained at 1000 mm/min and 1500 mm/min at 15000 rpm. The differences in  
 240 feed rates were more apparent at 18000 rpm.

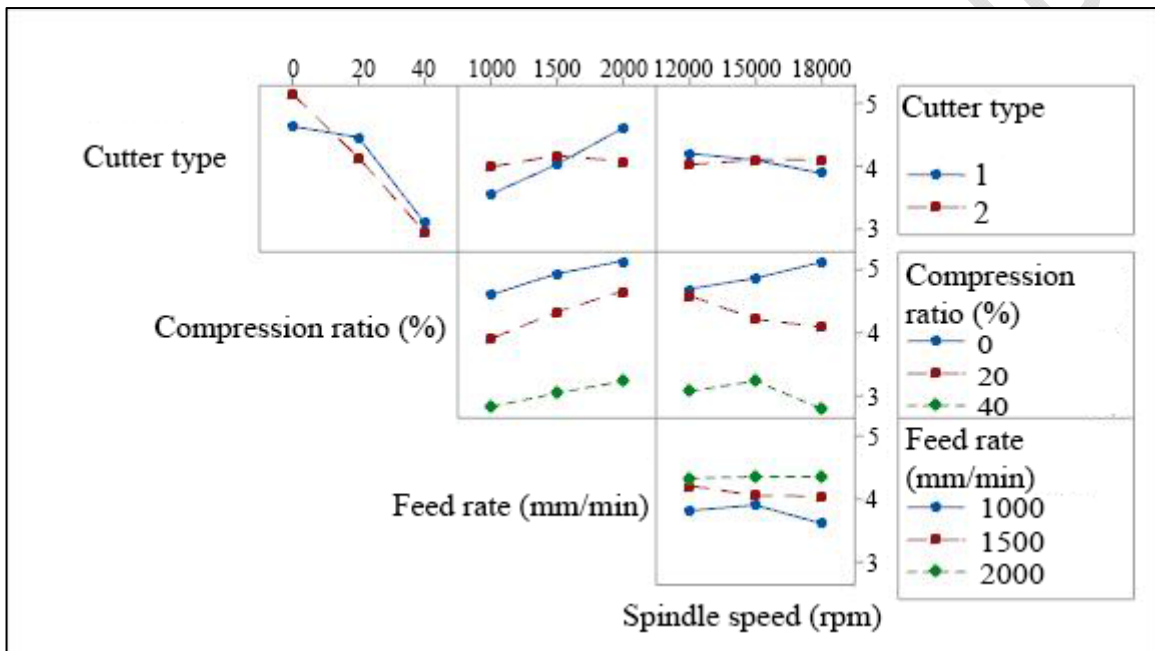
241 When examining the variance analysis table for  $Rz$  in Table 5, although different  $P$  values were  
 242 obtained according to  $Ra$  in terms of the significance of factors, it is seen that results are the  
 243 same in terms of whether they are meaningful or not.

244 **Table 5:** Results of one-way analysis of variance for  $Rz$ .

Source	DF	Adj SS	Adj MS	F- Value	P Value
Cutter type	1	2,038	2,038	0,38	0,542
Compression ratio (%)	2	666,087	333,043	61,58	0,000
Feed rate (mm/min)	2	53,137	26,569	4,91	0,012
Spindle speed (rpm)	2	4,297	2,149	0,40	0,674
Error	46	248,767	5,408	-	-
Total	53	974,326	-	-	-

245 According to the variance analysis results, for  $Rz$  at the 95 % confidence level; cutter type ( $0,05 < P = 0,542$ ) and speed ( $0,05 < P = 0,674$ ) did not make a statistically significant difference, while it was observed that compression ratio ( $0,05 > P = 0,000$ ) and feed speed ( $0,05 > P = 0,012$ ) made a statistically significant difference (Table 5). The factor with the highest effect for  $Ra$  and  $Rz$  values was the compression ratio, the second effective factor was the feed rate.

250 In Figure 7, the interactions of cutter type, compression ratio, feed rate and speed in terms of  $Rz$  are shown in the main effect plot.



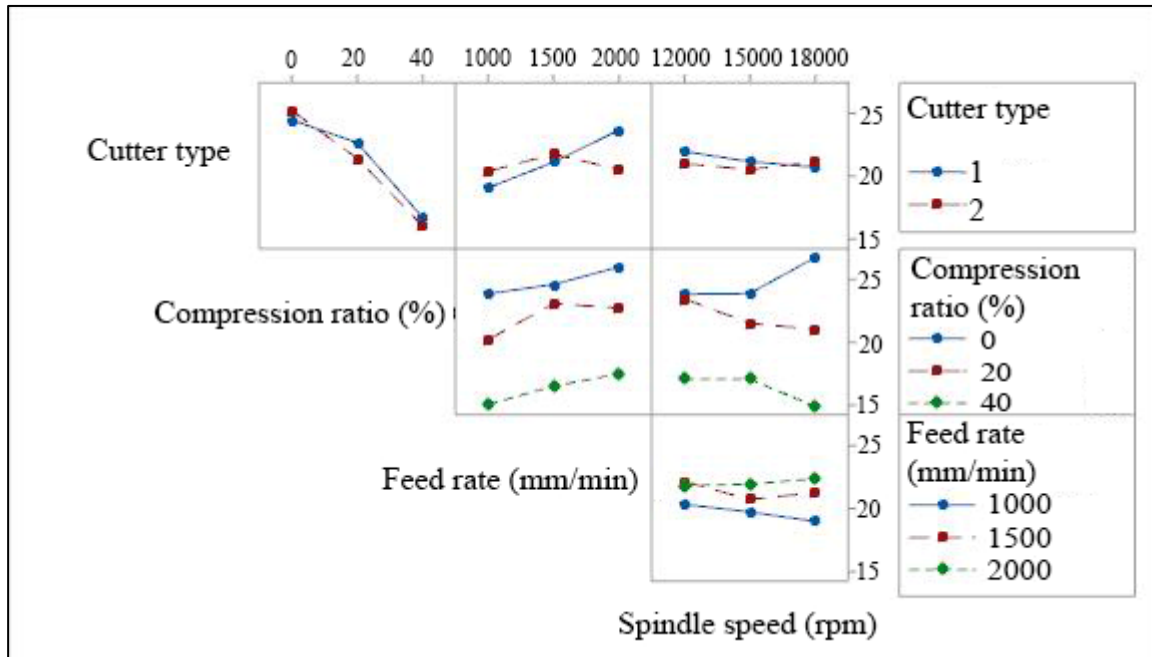
252 **Figure 7:** Main effect plot of cutter type, compression ratio, feed rate and speed in terms of  $Rz$ .

254 When the graph is examined in terms of the cutter type, it is seen that values close to each other in terms of  $Rz$  were obtained in the cutter number 1 and 2. However, although there is no statistically significant difference, it is possible to say that, unlike the  $Ra$  value, lower  $Rz$  values were obtained with the cutter number 2 and better results can be obtained.

258 An evaluation similar to  $Ra$  can be made for compression ratio and speed in terms of  $Rz$ . However, while the  $Rz$  value decreased with increasing the speed from 12000 rpm to 15000 rpm, there was a slight increase in the  $Rz$  value with increasing the speed from 15000 rpm to 18000 rpm, unlike the  $Ra$  value. The results obtained for  $Rz$  were similar to  $Ra$  in terms of feed



262 rate, speed and density as general tendency and gave similar values as tendency with the  
 263 literature.



264 **Figure 8:** Interactions of cutter type, compression ratio, feed rate and speed in terms of Rz.

265 In general, similar relationships occurred in the interaction graphs in  $R_a$  and  $R_z$ . However, when  
 266 the interaction graphs are evaluated in terms of  $R_z$ , while the cutter number 1 and 2 have close  
 267  $R_z$  values in non-densified samples and 40 % densified samples in terms of the compression  
 268 ratio with the cutter, this difference is slightly more in 20 % densified samples. In the relation  
 269 of 20 % compression ratio and feed rate, the graph did not show a linear relationship as in  $R_a$ .  
 270 While the roughness value of  $R_z$  increased when the feed rate was increased from 1000 mm/min  
 271 to 1500 mm/min, a slight decrease in the  $R_z$  value was observed when the feed rate was  
 272 increased to 2000 mm/min. However, this drop remained at a value between 1000 mm/min and  
 273 1500 mm/min (Figure 8).

## 274 CONCLUSIONS

275 In this study, black poplar (*Populus nigra*) tree species, which is an intensively and rapidly  
 276 growing tree species in our country, was preferred in order to determine the effect of thermo-  
 277 mechanical densification on machining properties of massive wood material. Its low density

278 and insufficient mechanical properties have limited the use of this material. With the thermo-  
279 mechanical densification method, it was aimed to improve properties of the test specimens,  
280 which were densified in various ratios, Machining was performed CNC machine in different  
281 parameters and the surface quality of the obtained areas was evaluated by considering surface  
282 roughness. When the obtained roughness values are examined:

- 283 - The surface roughness, both  $R_a$  and  $R_z$ , increased with increasing feed rate, but  
284 decreased with increasing spindle speed. From the ANOVA, it can be seen that  
285 compression ratio was the most dominating factor for surface roughness.
- 286 - Statistically, the difference of the cutters used in machining of massive wood materials  
287 did not affect the roughness of the machined surfaces.
- 288 - With the increase in the compression ratio (from 0 % to 40 %), roughness values  
289 decreased. Denser materials give smoother surfaces in machining.
- 290 -  $R_a$  and  $R_z$  roughness values decreased with the increase of the feed rate.
- 291 - With the increase in the speed, there was a decrease in surface roughness values in  
292 general.
- 293 - Keeping cutter feed rate low affects the surface quality positively. However, this  
294 situation causes an increase in machining time. In this case, the intersection should be  
295 ensured at the optimum point by evaluating intersection time and feed rate.
- 296 - Increasing speed over a certain value was not found to be statistically significant in  
297 surface roughness values. In order for the cutter to be used efficiently and for a long  
298 time, the cutter speed should be applied taking into account the values specified on the  
299 cutter.
- 300 - The lowest roughness value for  $R_a$  occurred in the cutter type number 1% at 40 %  
301 compression ratio, 1000 mm/min feed rate and 18000 rpm.

- 302 - The highest roughness value for  $R_a$  occurred at 0 % compression ratio, 2000 mm/min  
303 feed rate, 18000 rpm speed in cutter number 2.
- 304 - The lowest roughness value for  $R_z$  occurred in the cutter type number 1 % at 40 %  
305 compression ratio, 1000 mm/min feed rate and 18000 rpm.
- 306 - The highest roughness value for  $R_z$  occurred at 0 % compression ratio, 2000 mm/min  
307 feed rate and 18000 rpm in the cutter type number 1.
- 308 - Further investigations should be conducted to identify optimum machining parameters  
309 for different wood machining methods and densified wood species.

#### 310 **AUTHORSHIP CONTRIBUTIONS**

311 M. T.: Writing – original draft, Visualization, Writing – review & editing. S. D. S.: Supervision,  
312 Validation, Visualization, Writing – review & editing.

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