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Optimizing end milling parameters for custom 450 stainless steel using ant lion optimization and TOPSIS analysis

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The current research examines the effectiveness of cryogenically treated (CT) tungsten carbide cutting inserts on Custom450 stainless steel using multiobjective soft computing approaches. The Taguchi-based L27 orthogonal array was employed in the experiments. During milling operations, cutting force, surface roughness, and cutting temperature were measured at different spindle speeds (rpm), feed rates (mm/min), and constant depths of cut (mm). The surface roughness and chip morphology of the Custom 450 stainless steel machined by cryo-treated (CT) and untreated (UT) cutting tool inserts were compared across various responses to cutting temperature and force. This paper also carried out multi-objective optimization, employing algorithm techniques such as Grasshopper Optimization Algorithm (GHO), Grey Wolf Optimization(GWO), Harmony Search Algorithm(HAS), and Ant line Optimization (ALO). The Multi-objective Taguchi approach and TOPSIS were first used to optimize the machining process parameters (spindle speed, feed rate, and cryogenic treatment) with different performance characteristics. Second, to relate the machining process parameters with the performance characteristics (cutting force, cutting temperature, and surface roughness), a mathematical model was developed using response surface analysis. The created mathematical response model was validated using ANOVA. The results showed that in IGD values of GHO, GWO, HSA and ALO module had 2.5765, 2.4706, 2.3647 and 2.5882 respectively, ALO has the best performance indicator. A Friedman's test was also conducted, revealing higher resolution with the ALO method than with the HSA, GWO, and GHO methods. The results of the scanning test show that the ALO approach is workable.

KEYWORDS

end milling optimization, custom 450 stainless steel, ant lion optimization, multiobjective TOPSIS, parametric analysis

Introduction

Stainless steels are widely used in springs, nuts, bolts, screws, and other fasteners, as well as in the health, maritime, defence, and nuclear power plants industries. This is because of their exceptional strength and robust resistance to oxidation and corrosion. Their superior mechanical characteristics, low heat conduction coefficient, and remarkable resistance to corrosion are the reasons behind this. Nevertheless, stainless steel alloys are usually used

because of their many beneficial properties, such as their high flexibility, high tensile strength, high fracture toughness, and high work hardening rate. Aviation fittings, aerospace parts such as bushings, shafts, valves, and certain screws, fuel tanks, exhaust components, high-temperature engine parts, structural elements and cabin components, landing gears, and other items are among the many applications for custom 450 stainless steel. In the past work, using a cryo-treated cutting tool, custom 450 stainless steel is cut in different ways depending on temperature, and cutting force. Additionally, it aims to examine the workpiece's surface morphology, chip anatomy, surface abrasion, and tool morphology. Now the work is extended, the objective of this study is to investigate how process parameters influence the performance of a cryo-treated cutting tool during the milling of Custom 450 stainless steel. This investigation employs soft computing techniques, including the GHO, GWO, HSA, and ALO algorithms. Additionally, the study evaluates the effectiveness of these algorithms using TOPSIS multicriteria decision analysis methods.

CNC milling processes are widely used than the conventional machining in the manufacturing sector due to the accuracy. They are frequently employed to create complex shapes like pockets and slots. In industrial settings, hard materials are often milled using tungsten carbide end mill cutting tools, which are characterized by their higher hardness and wear resistance. This high hardness enables the processing of materials with high strength-to-weight ratios. During machining, cutting tools are subjected to high heat and variable loads.



FIGURE 1 (A) Experimental setup (B) Cryogenic treatment setup.

The cutting tools used for machining should not deform or wear excessively due to these conditions. Excessive softening of the cutting tool material, caused by high heat production during machining, leads to increased tool wear and cutting forces. This is problematic as tool failure is a common constraint, driving up component costs due to the need for tool replacement. Numerous efforts have been made in the past to enhance tool life and reduce surface roughness. However, optimizing cutting forces and cutting temperature with cryogenically treated tools in end milling of Custom450 stainless steel has not received significant attention in the literature to date.

Cryogenic treatment of metal leads to the transformation of the austenite phase into the martensite phase, characterized by a wellstructured grain structure and a body-centred tetragonal crystal structure (Sert and Celik, 2019). The superior, tougher structure of martensite provides high wear resistance. Cryo-treatment of cutting tools has been identified as an effective method for reducing cutting force, extending tool life, and improving wear resistance (Reddy et al., 2009; Ozbek et al., 2016). (Korade et al., 2017) observed that combining various types of cryogenic treatment with increasing tempering temperatures and levels led to decreased hardness and increased wear volume. Literature reviews indicate that cryogenically treated coated carbide inserts have enhanced machining capabilities and tool wear resistance (Kumar and Singh, 2015; Singla et al., 2018; Panchagnula et al., 2023a; Panchagnula et al., 2023b). High spindle speed operations benefit from increased tool life with cryo-treated tungsten carbide inserts. Tool life and surface finishing are significant factors in the machining process. Coatings and cryogenic treatment have been shown to improve surface polishing and increase wear resistance (Gill et al., 2012; Sahoo et al., 2020). (Jadhav et al., 2020) performed turning operations on P20 tool steel using cryo-treated cutting inserts, with experiments conducted using Taguchi's L27 orthogonal array and results analysed using MATLAB surface plots and ANNs. Mukkoti et al. (Mukkoti et al., 2018) conducted end milling on P20 steel using cryo-treated tungsten carbide cutting inserts, with a focus on optimizing parameters affecting cutting forces and power consumption, using regression analysis to relate process factors to these outcomes.

Evolutionary algorithms have been utilized to optimize the various machining processes (Kalita et al., 2020; Kalita et al., 2022; Kalita et al., 2023a; Kalita et al., 2023b). Adhesive wear on the studied surface was characterized by deformation lips, surface cracks, and fractured ridges, with Particle Swarm Optimization showing promising results for increased efficiency (Katoch et al., 2019). (Manjunath and kumar, 2017) demonstrated that face milling with cryo-treated tools can reduce surface roughness. The work in this paper was theoretically validated by creating a prototype using the BONN technique and real-time experimental data. The optimization was conducted using a MATLAB Genetic algorithm solver. The analysis of the direct and indirect effects of process parameters on temperature rise assisted in selecting parameters to minimize temperature increase, indicating the stability of the end milling process. The study's predictive models for temperature rise are expected to align within a 95% confidence interval of the experimental results (Kaushik et al., 2018). Drilling on polymer composite material varied three process constraints at four discrete levels: spindle speed, feed rate, and weight percentage of graphite. The Taguchi-Grey Theory-Based Harmony Search Algorithm (GR-HSA) was used for multi-

Ex. No.	Spindle speed (SS)	Feed rate (FR)	Cryogenic treatment (CT)	Cutting force (N)	Surface roughness (µ)	Temperature (°C)
1	1,500	0.1	0	356.5	0.4441	386
2	1,500	0.1	24	312.74	0.45322	352
3	1,500	0.1	36	283.7	0.6691	369
4	1,500	0.15	0	281.04	0.8201	346
5	1,500	0.15	24	275.2	0.7412	327
6	1,500	0.15	36	257.89	0.92333	344
7	1,500	0.2	0	205.67	1.4601	362
8	1,500	0.2	24	239.67	1.2891	337
9	1,500	0.2	36	252.4	1.4201	364
10	2,300	0.1	0	188.67	0.2912	405
11	2,300	0.1	24	149.68	0.2691	326
12	2,300	0.1	36	147.08	0.4719	341
13	2,300	0.15	0	157.1	0.72867	324
14	2,300	0.15	24	183.67	0.59	302
15	2,300	0.15	36	178.91	0.74851	320
16	2,300	0.2	0	152.4	1.371	328
17	2,300	0.2	24	204.92	1.1768	310
18	2,300	0.2	36	218.03	1.291	327
19	3,100	0.1	0	162.01	0.6141	421
20	3,100	0.1	24	168.95	0.567	378
21	3,100	0.1	36	153.4	0.756	390
22	3,100	0.15	0	197.62	1.06	358
23	3,100	0.15	24	238.93	0.921	335
24	3,100	0.15	36	245.97	1.0632	348
25	3,100	0.2	0	241.81	1.759	363
26	3,100	0.2	24	321.7	1.5381	343
27	3,100	0.2	36	342.21	1.6298	352

TABLE 1 Experimental design and output response.

TABLE 2 Tuning parameters and their values for each algorithm.

Algorithm	Parameter	Value		
GHO, GWO, HSA, ALO	Population Size	100		
	No. of iteration (<i>nitr</i>)	100		
	Achieve size	100		
GHO	C _{min} and C _{max}	0.00004 and 1		
GWO	Scale Factor (SF)	2		
HSA	Harmony Memory Considering Rate (HMCR)	0.7		
	Pitch Adjusting Rate (PAR)	0.3		
ALO	Surface Roughness (SR)	Vary with <i>nitr</i> and current iteration number (it)		

objective optimization and predictive modelling. The results showed that the machining interface temperature increased with GR-HSA spindle speed (2,500 rpm), softening the polymeric material in the machining zone (Kumar et al., 2021). In multipass face milling processes, parameters were optimized using HSA and compared against HA and GA algorithms (Zarei et al., 2009). The application of ant lion optimization in spacecraft attitude controllers demonstrated the ability of the suggested control action to prevent unnecessary long manoeuvring paths, enhancing resistance to unwinding (Amrr et al., 2019). The forms of two ship propellers were optimized using ALO, presenting superior optimal designs in 3-bar truss design, cantilever beam design, and gear train design. The ideal forms for ship propellers illustrate the potential application of the proposed approach to solve real-world problems with unpredictable search areas (Gao and Zhao, 2019). An enhanced grey wolf optimization technique was compared against algorithms like ALO, PSO, BA, regular GWO, and others, showing superior performance in highdimensional situations (Khalilpourazari and Khalilpourazary, 2018). (Khalilpourazari and Khalilpourazary, 2018) suggested the GWO for optimizing multi-pass milling process parameters, using the Taguchi technique to find optimal values for the algorithm's essential parameters (Shunmugesh and Panneerselvam, 2017). The results showed that the GWO outperforms other solutions by reducing total production time and offering the most workable solution for different cutting strategies (Niu et al., 2019).

Previous research has focused on identifying the ideal level of machining parameters for CNC milling operations, often employing artificial intelligence approaches like genetic algorithms (GA), artificial neural networks, and fuzzy logic. Commonly enhanced input parameters include feed rate, depth of cut, and spindle speed (Jia et al., 2012). However, limited research has been conducted on using the length of the cryogenic treatment soaking as a process parameter to achieve optimal machining parameters. Only a few studies briefly mention the use of deep cryogenic treatment (DCT) to enhance tool life, often focusing on single objectives like tool wear and flank wear. Additionally, little work has examined the impact of cryogenic treatment on the material of cutting tools. Thus, providing a robust technological model to enhance the process's productivity is crucial. To address this gap, experimental tests were conducted to investigate the impact of cryogenic treatment on end mill cutters on the cutting force and temperature of Custom 450 stainless steel using a CNC end milling process. These steels are particularly useful in industries such as medical, food, nuclear power, and chemicals, where precise machining into complex aeronautical fittings, aerospace components like shafts, valves, and specific screws, cabin components, and landing gears is essential (Kuntoğlu et al., 2020; Kuntoğlu and Sağlam, 2021; Korkmaz et al., 2023a; Binali et al., 2023; Korkmaz et al., 2023b). CNC end milling was carried out on a vertical milling machine. Various soaking times (between 24 and 36 h) of CT were applied to tungsten carbide end milling cutters. A scanning electron microscope (SEM) was used to investigate the chip and surface morphology of the cryo-treated and untreated tools. SEM (Vickram et al., 2021; Palanivelu et al., 2022; Raj Deena et al., 2022) imaging finds widespread utility in various fields.

Custom 450 is a martensitic stainless-steel grade that has good resistance to corrosion up to about 650 $^\circ C$ and may be heat-

treated to significantly enhance its mechanical properties. There are few articles regarding Custom 450 stainless steel in the literature, despite the fact that there are various studies on the machinability of stainless steels. Furthermore, publications do not contain information on end milling on Custom 450 stainless steel. The extensive use of Custom 450 stainless steel makes this experiment essential. Despite the established use of cryo-treated cutting tools in drilling, turning, and milling operations, the full potential of milling processes on Custom450 stainless steel has not been completely explored. While cryo-treated cutting tools are well-recognized in various machining operations, the specific application of end milling on Custom 450 stainless steel remains under-investigated. Furthermore, in-depth studies focusing on the end milling of Custom 450 stainless steel are still lacking. Consequently, the objective of this study is to investigate how process parameters influence the performance of a cryo-treated cutting tool during the milling of Custom 450 stainless steel. This investigation employs soft computing techniques, including the GHO, GWO, HSA, and ALO algorithms. Additionally, the study evaluates the effectiveness of these algorithms using TOPSIS multi-criteria decision analysis methods.

Materials and methods

Materials and experimental details

The experiment involved end milling Custom 450 stainless steel in a dry, room-temperature environment using cutting inserts that were either untreated (UT), cryo-treated with 24 h of soaking (CT 24 h), or cryo-treated with 36 h of soaking (CT 36 h). This was conducted on a CNC vertical machining centre as shown in Figure 1A. The dimensions of 160 mm \times 75 mm \times 20 mm (4 numbers) were prepared. The chemical composition and mechanical properties of Custom 450 stainless steel were determined (31). The tool holder used was a standard indexable type (Diameter: 16 mm, Length: 150 mm), and the cutting tool insert was a TiAlN-coated tungsten carbide insert (APMT1135PDR YBG205). The primary cutting parameters employed in this study were spindle speed, feed rate, and depth of cut. (31).

Cryogenic treatment

The tungsten carbide inserts underwent cryogenic treatment in a specially designed cryogenic chamber (KRYO 550-16), capable of cooling samples down to deep cryogenic temperatures (-196 °C). The chamber's temperature was gradually reduced from room temperature (RT) to the cryogenic temperature (CT, approximately -196 °C) at a rate of 2 °C/min as shown in Figure 1B. After being maintained at this temperature (-196 °C) for 24 and 36 h, the temperature was gradually raised back to room temperature (Devi and Mahalingam, 2023). Additionally, the current experiment was conducted to thoroughly examine the performance of cryotreated cutting tools on Custom 450 stainless steel. The objective was to determine the optimal parameters at various

Source	DF	Cu	tting force	force (CF) Surface roughness (SR)		Temperature (TT)				
		Adj SS	F-value	<i>p</i> -value	Adj SS	F-value	<i>p</i> -value	Adj SS	F-value	<i>p</i> -value
Model	9	100,269	471.41	0	4.70142	12244.8	0	19630.2	30.06	0
Linear	3	13,041	183.94	0	4.147	32402.47	0	6583.4	30.24	0
SS	1	9,831	415.96	0	0.16386	3841.02	0	616.6	8.5	0.01
FR	1	2,172	91.88	0	3.97312	93131.54	0	4908.8	67.65	0
СТ	1	1,039	43.97	0	0.01002	234.86	0	1,058	14.58	0.001
Square	3	35,445	499.93	0	0.5491	4290.35	0	11087.2	50.94	0
SS*SS	1	35,087	1484.65	0	0.33484	7848.71	0	4797.8	66.12	0
FR*FR	1	88	3.72	0.071	0.09616	2253.96	0	3683.6	50.77	0
CT*CT	1	270	11.42	0.004	0.1181	2768.39	0	2605.8	35.91	0
2-Way Interaction	3	51,340	724.11	0	0.07345	573.86	0	1713.7	7.87	0.002
SS*FR	1	38,144	1,614	0	0.01248	292.43	0	630.7	8.69	0.009
SS*CT	1	3,223	136.36	0	0.00626	146.63	0	86.9	1.2	0.289
FR*CT	1	9,972	421.96	0	0.05471	1282.53	0	996	13.73	0.002
Error	17	402			0.00073			1233.5		
Total	26	100,671			4.70215			20863.6		

TABLE 3 ANOVA tables for the responses.



spindle speeds (1,500 rpm, 2,300 rpm, 3,100 rpm), feed rates (0.1, 0.15, 0.2 mm/min), and a constant depth of cut (0.5 mm).

Design of experiments

The effectiveness of the system is evaluated using Design of Experiments (DOE), which considers several factors (Shanmugasundar et al., 2019a). DOE is an essential data collection and analysis methodology used across various experimental scenarios. It

involves a planned experiment analyzing three aspects: factors, levels of these factors, and responses. The primary goal of DOE is to compare multiple solutions and identify the necessary factors to yield the best output response. It facilitates the examination of the impact of various input factors on a desired response. DOE is capable of identifying significant interactions that might be overlooked when examining a component at a time or dealing with multiple inputs simultaneously.

The foundation of the experiment design is the Taguchi-based orthogonal array, which includes three parameters and corresponding levels. This array can be used to develop optimal parameters, minimize



treatments, reduce material costs, and determine the contributing factor of each process parameter in machining. The L27 orthogonal array consists of 13 columns, which can be assigned to test factors and their interactions. For a 3-factor 3-level configuration, the total number of tests required is given by $3^3 = 27$. Therefore, a total of 27 experiments are to be conducted in the L27 OA. Table 1 shows the experimental design.

Regression models

The Multiple Linear Regression Model (MLRM) can be employed in mathematics to calculate the response value (the output) in terms of several parameters (the inputs) (Shanmugasundar et al., 2021a). This study establishes three variants of the MLRM equations—linear, quadratic, and interaction—using experimental data and MATLAB's "regress" function. These three models are represented in their standard forms as Eq. 1, Eq. 2, and Eq. 3:

$$F_{ij} = c_{1j} + c_{2j}X_{1i} + c_{3j}X_{2i} + c_{4j}X_{3i}$$
(1)

$$F_{ij} = c_{1j} + c_{2j}X_{1i} + c_{3j}X_{2i} + c_{4j}X_{3i} + c_{5j}X_{1i}X_{2i} + c_{6j}X_{1i}X_{3i} + c_{7i}X_{2i}X_{3i}$$
(2)

$$F_{ij} = c_{1j} + c_{2j}X_{1i} + c_{3j}X_{2i} + c_{4j}X_{3i} + c_{5j}X_{1i}X_{2i} + c_{6j}X_{1i}X_{3i} + c_{7j}X_{2i}X_{3i} + c_{8j}X_{1i}^2 + c_{9j}X_{2i}^2 + c_{10j}X_{3i}^2$$
(3)

Here, F_{ij} represents the calculated values of the *i* th experiment for the *j* th response, *c* are the coefficients of variables, and *X* are the variables.

Optimization methods

Metaheuristics are a popular set of algorithms that have been used in diverse optimization applications (Shanmugasundar et al., 2019b; Shanmugasundar et al., 2021b; Shanmugasundar et al., 2022a; Shanmugasundar et al., 2023a; Shanmugasundar et al., 2023b). In this study, Grasshopper Optimization Algorithm (Meraihi et al., 2021), Grey Wolf Optimization (Mirjalili et al., 2014), Harmony Search Algorithm (Yang, 2009) and Ant Lion Optimization (Mirjalili, 2015) have been used.

Grasshopper optimization

Grasshopper Optimization Algorithm (GHO) is inspired by the nymph and adult stages of grasshopper life (Meraihi et al., 2021). The nymph stage involves short, leisurely steps, while the adult stage features long, rapid movements. These behaviors underlie GHO's intensification and diversification phases. In the exploration phase, GHO updates the position value of each grasshopper in the swarm and evaluates fitness, symbolizing the search for food sources. During the exploitation phase, it identifies the optimal solution among all options, akin to seeking better food sources.

In GHO, each grasshopper represents a solution, and its position (X_i) is modeled as follows:

$$X_i = O_i + B_i + R_i \tag{4}$$

where X_i represents the *i* th solution's position, O_i the interaction between the solution and other swarms, B_i the gravitational pull, and R_i the wind advection. The GHO algorithm is shown in Algorithm 1.

- 1. Initialize the grasshopper positions X_i (i = 1, 2, ..., n)
- 2. Initialize $\textit{C}_{max}, \textit{C}_{min}, \textit{ and } i_{\textit{temax}}$
- 3. Calculate the fitness f_i of each grasshopper
- 4. Store the best grasshopper T in a file
- 5. While (it < nitr)
 - Update C
 - For each search agent:
 - o Normalize the distance between grasshopperso Update the position of current grasshoppers
 - Return grasshoppers to boundaries if they go outside
 - End For
 - Update pareto optimal solutions
 - Update T if a better solution is found and store in file
 - Increment I
- 6. End While
- 7. Convert f_i into RCV_i using TOPSIS.
- Sort RCV_i in descending order; display first grasshopper's data as optimal value.

Algorithm 1 Pseudocode for Grasshopper Optimization Algorithm.

It should be noted that TOPSIS (Hwang and Yoon, 1981), a commonly used multi-criteria decision-making (Shanmugasundar et al., 2022b; Shanmugasundar et al., 2022c) tool is used to convert the f_i into RCV_i .

Grey wolf optimization

Grey Wolf Optimization (GWO) excels in unfamiliar, challenging search areas and demonstrates strong convergence and local optima avoidance (Mirjalili et al., 2014). It simulates the Grey wolf pack's predation process, which involves encircling, hunting, and attacking. GWO reflects the strict social hierarchy of grey wolves with alphas leading the pack, followed by betas, deltas, and omegas. In GWO, agents *a*, *b*, and *d* determine the best hunting

strategy, while other wolves adjust their positions around the prey. The GWO algorithm is shown in Algorithm 2.

- 1. Initialize the number of grey wolves and their positions X_{ij} (i = 1, 2, ..., nw) and j = 1, 2, ..., nd.
- 2. While (it < nitr)
 - Determine the fitness function $F_{ik}(k = 1, 2, ..., nf)$ of each wolf
 - Calculate Pareto optimal distance f_i
 - Sort f_i in descending order; set as sf_i and store the first wolf's data as X_{it} and F_{it}
 - Using sorted data, assign $X_a = X_1$, $X_b = X_2$, $X_c = X_3$
 - Compute $a = 2 it \times (2/nitr)$
 - For each wolf:
 - Update position using calculated values A1, C1, Da, X1; A2, C2, Db, X2; A3, C3, Dd, X3
 Check X_i within bounds
 - End For
- 3. End While
- 4. Convert f_i into RCV_i using TOPSIS.
- 5. Sort RCV_i in descending order; display first wolf's data as optimum value.

Algorithm 2 Pseudocode for Grey Wolf Optimization Algorithm.

Harmony search algorithm

Harmony Search Algorithm (HSA) (Yang, 2009) operates with minimal mathematical constraints and does not require a predefined dataset for parameter selection. It draws an analogy to artists seeking harmonious music, with engineers seeking global solutions determined by an objective function. The process involves adjusting pitch and considering evolutionary algorithm modifications to achieve optimal conditions. The main principles of Harmony Search Process are: choose initial information from search memory (memory-related concerns), select the closest value from the harmony search memory (pitch modifications) and randomly select values from the range of potential values. The HSA algorithm is shown in Algorithm 3.

- 1. Initialize the population of parameters/harmony.
- 2. While (it < nitr)
 - For each harmony (i = 1 to nh):
 o Calculate the fitness function (f_i)
 - End For
 - Update pareto optimal solutions
 - Store the best one with its parameters and fitness value
 - For each harmony (*i* = 1 *tonh*):
 - Improvise harmony based on *rhmcr* and *rpar* with pitch adjustment
 - o Ensure new harmony stays within bounds
 - End For
- 3. End While
- 4. Convert f_i into RCV_i using TOPSIS.
- 5. Sort RCV_i in descending order; show the first harmony as having the best value.

Algorithm 3 Pseudocode for Harmony Search Algorithm.

Ant lion optimization

Ant line Optimization (ALO) (Mirjalili, 2015), is another popular metaheuristic which models the hunting behavior of ant lions using traps. The algorithm represents an ant's walk as stochastic. The ALO algorithm is shown in Algorithm 4.

- Initialize the population of ant and antlion positions.
- 2. Calculate the fitness value (f_i) of ants and antlions.
- 3. Save the best antlion and its position (elite antlion).
- 4. While (it < nitr)
 - For each ant:
 - Select an antlion using the roulette wheel method.
 - o Slide randomly walking ants into a trap.
 - o Generate ant's random walk route around the elite antlion and the selected antlion.
 - o Normalize random walks.
 - o Calculate the position of ant.
 - End For
 - Calculate the fitness values (f_i) of all ants.
 - Update pareto optimal solutions.
 - Combine ants and antlions.
 - Sort according to fitness values and take the first population size.
 - Update the elite antlion.
- 5. End While
- 6. Convert f_i into RCV_i using TOPSIS.
- Sort RCV_i in descending order; display the first antlion's data as the optimum value.

Algorithm 4 Pseudocode for Antlion Optimization Algorithm.

The various parameter and their values for GHO, GWO, HSA and ALO optimization are shown in Table 2.

Result and discussion

This section provides an analysis and comparison of results from several optimization approaches, including Grasshopper Optimization (GHO), Grey Wolf Optimization (GWO), Harmony Search Algorithm (HSA), and Ant Lion Optimization (ALO). The metaheuristic efficiency is assessed with an inertia weight of 100, archive size of 100, and population size of 100.

Effects of variables on cutting force, surface roughness and temperature

In mathematics, the response value (the output) can be determined in terms of many parameters (the inputs) by using the many Linear Regression Model (MLRM). This study uses experimental data and the "regress" tool in MATLAB to establish three variations of the MLRM equations: linear Equation of cutting force, surface roughness and cutting temperature (Eqs 5, 6, 7) respactively.

```
CF = 237.3 - 0.0272SS - 285FR - 0.463CT (5)
```


SR = -0.750 + 0.0001172SS + 9.333FR + 0.00046CT (6)

$$TT = 392.2 + 0.00701SS + 313FR - 0.552CT$$
(7)

In mathematics, the Multiple Linear Regression Model (MLRM) can be used to compute the response value (the output) in relation to multiple parameters (the inputs). Using experimental data and MATLAB's "regress" function, this study establishes three variations of the MLRM equations: interaction Equations 8, (9), and (10) respectively.

$$CF = 869 - 0.2610 SS - 3586 FR - 6.83 CT + 1.409SSFR$$
$$+ 0.001118SSCT + 31.5FRCT$$
(8)

$$SR = -0.765 + 0.000027SS + 8.95 FR + 0.0151CT + 0.00081SSFR$$
$$- 0.000002SSCT - 0.0737FRCT$$

$$TT = 351.1 + 0.0379SS - 95FR - 1.62CT - 0.181SSFR$$
$$- 0.000184SSCT + 9.94FRCT$$
(10)

Equations (11)–(13) depict mathematical models for cutting force, surface roughness, and temperature respectively. The developed mathematical models were verified using ANOVA shown in Table 3.

$$CF = 1480.9 - 0.8107SS - 4046FR - 6.013CT + 0.000119SS^{2}$$

+ 1531FR² - 0.02371CT² + 1.4095SSFR + 0.001118SSCT
+ 31.45FRCT (11)

Figure 2 illustrates the relationship between milling operation factors and cutting forces. Increased spindle speed and feed rate correlate with decreased cutting forces, indicating potential areas for parameter optimization. Feed rate significantly influences cutting forces, affecting tool life.

Surface roughness is impacted by feed rate, cryogenic treatment, and spindle speed. Eq. (12) mathematically represents surface roughness:

$SR = 2.1159 - 0.001670SS - 6.239FR - 0.001916CT + 0.000000SS^{2}$

$$+50.64FR^{2} + 0.000496CT^{2} + 0.000806SSFR$$

 $-0.000002SSCT - 0.07367FRCT$ (12)

Figure 3 shows that cryo-treated inserts exhibit better surface roughness than untreated inserts. Surface roughness decreases with increased spindle speed and increases with feed rate from 0.1 to 0.15 mm/min and further with 0.2 mm/min.

The mathematical model for temperature (Eq. (13)) includes spindle speed, feed rate, and cryogenic treatment as independent variables:

$$TT = 777.0 - 0.1654SS - 3069FR - 4.148CT + 0.000044SS^{2}$$

+ 9911FR² + 0.0737CT² - 0.1812SSFR - 0.000184SSCT
+ 9.94FRCT (13)

Figure 4 demonstrates that cryo-treated cutting tools outperform untreated inserts in terms of cutting temperature.

The MLRS Linear, Interaction, and Quadratic performance of CF, TT, and SR are shown in Figure 5. The CF and TT quadratic equations respond more favorably than the linear interaction. Compared to the linear interaction, Figure 5 illustrates how well the performs on the SR quadratic equation.

The design factors that most affect the three quality attributes-manufacturing cost, tool life, and workpiece quality-are found using ANOVA. A high F-value indicates a high efficiency level for the parameter. Another important factor is the p-value, which allows statistical analysis to be completed within a 95% confidence interval. Consequently, the parameter affects the response if the computed value is less than 5%. According to Table 3. Cutting force, surface roughness, and temperature all had p values less than 0.05, indicating significant effects from each parameter on the output responses. Similarly, input parameters have a considerable impact on the output responses (square of FR, CT excluded), but no significant influence is seen on cutting force from square of FR, CT and no significant impact is seen on surface roughness from any of the interactions.

Cutting force analysis

The graphical representations of the association between response and cutting variables occur under specific cutting settings that were indicated in the experimental design table. Therefore, it is essential to comprehend how cutting conditions affect cutting variables in order to better clarify these interactions. Figure 6 displayed the combined effect of feed rate and cutting speed on CF fluctuations on three-dimensional graphs. The cutting force

reduced as the feed rate and cutting speed increased. The cutting force reduced as the SS increased in the surface plot of CT and SS. Pareto chart (Figure 7) indicates the least significant impact of feed rate repetition on force in the X-direction. The primary effect plot shows reduced cutting force with increased spindle speed. The statistical analysis confirms the significant impact of milling parameters on CF during titanium alloy milling. The response surface plots demonstrate these effects, highlighting improved thermal conductivity due to cryogenic treatment, influencing the heat transfer from the tool's tip and affecting cutting forces.

When attempting to determine the best pairings between two sets of data, it can be helpful. By drawing an analogy with a topographic map, the color and patterns in Surface Charts show the places that fall within the same range of values. Three variables are often used to generate a 3D Surface Plot: X, Y, and Z. Surface plot for CF.

Surface roughness analysis

The surface plot of SR vs FR, SS in Figure 8 illustrates the effect of process parameters on surface roughness. Initially, the surface roughness was higher, but as the cutting speed increased, it decreased and then increased again. Surface roughness rises in dependence on the FR. According to the Pareto chart in Figure 9, spindle speed and feed rate significantly influence surface roughness. The production of built-up edges (BUE) at specific spindle speeds reduces Ra. The SEM image in Figure 10 shows imperfections and micro-voids on machined surfaces caused by carbide particles and BUE. Cryo-treated inserts perform better, reducing heat generation and improving surface finishing. (39).

Temperature analysis

Effect of process parameters on temperature is shown in Figure 11. Cutting temperature not decreases much. The Pareto diagram (Figure 12) suggests a uniform impact of feed rate and spindle speed on temperature. Residual analysis confirms a consistent pattern across milling operations without specific residue patterns, indicating the reliability of the experimental setup. The results validate the model's suitability for analyzing cryo-treated cutting tool residues across various milling performance variables. The residual plots demonstrate the significant impact of input parameters on TT during machining.

Performance comparison of GHO, GWO, HSA and ALO algorithms

The efficiency of ALO is compared with GHO, GWO, and HSA. ALO shows superior performance in end milling

applications, achieving optimal parameter settings at a lower iteration, as illustrated in the convergence plot (Figure 13). The TOPSIS approach integrated the output responses from 22 runs into a single objective, confirming the normal distribution of output data from all algorithms. The *p*-value of > 0.05 further substantiates the reliability and consistency of the ALO results.

Figure 14 reveals the impact of high heat loads and cutting zone temperature on chip morphology, with thermal softening facilitating machining at high temperatures. Increasing the feed rate results in more serrated chip teeth, especially with cryo-treated cutting tool inserts at high spindle speeds and feed rates. (36,41).

Table 4 presents the optimal process parameters and response values obtained from 22 runs with a population size of 100 and 100 iterations for all algorithms. Table 5 shows the statistical significance of these algorithms.

Inverted generational distance (IGD)

The IGD metric is utilized to compare the effectiveness of Grasshopper Optimization (GHO), Grey Wolf Optimization (GWO), Harmony Search Algorithm (HSA), and Ant Lion Optimization (ALO) Algorithms. This measure indicates the computational complexity of the algorithms, as detailed in Khalilpourazari et al. (Khalilpourazari et al., 2020). The IGD is calculated using the Euclidean distance formula:

$$IGD = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} Ed_i^2}{n}}$$
(14)

where

$$Ed_{i} = \sqrt{\sum_{j=1}^{n_{0}} \left(R_{ij} - R_{bj}\right)^{2}}$$
(15)

In this formula, R_{ij} represents the *i* th run *j* th response value, R_{bj} is the best *j* th response value, and Ed_i is the Euclidean distance. The process involves calculating the Euclidean distance for each run and then computing the IGD as the sum of each Euclidean distance squared, divided by the number of runs (27 in this case).

Table 6 shows the IGD values for the selected algorithms. It is evident from the IGD values that the ALO algorithm outperforms GHO, GWO, and HSA.

Friedman test

The Friedman test, a non-parametric alternative to the parametric two-way analysis of variance, is used to identify significant differences in the behavior of the algorithms. This

TABLE 4 Optimum process parameters and responses.

Particulars	Parameters/Responses	Algorithms				
		GHO	GWO	HSA	ALO	
Optimum Parameters	SS	2417.8	2458.2	2437.7	2436.3	
	FR	0.1010	0.1004	0.1026	0.1000	
	СТ	18.20	16.87	17.94	15.76	
Optimum Responses	CF	160.29	158.71	159.62	161.08	
	SR	0.2435	0.2424	0.2535	0.2329	
	TT	341.42	344.76	340.08	345.97	

TABLE 5 Statistical analysis of relative closeness value.

Algorithms	GHO	GWO	HSA	ALO
Total	17	17	17	17
Mean	0.6121	0.5516	0.5055	0.6379
StDev	0.1951	0.1805	0.1336	0.129
Minimum	0.1485	0.2594	0.2405	0.2556
Q1	0.4575	0.3942	0.415	0.5561
Median	0.649	0.5197	0.5063	0.6884
Q3	0.7801	0.7198	0.6362	0.7377
Maximum	0.801	0.7878	0.6971	0.7437
Skewness	-1.12	-0.2	-0.34	-1.77
Kurtosis	0.57	-1.5	-0.57	3.79
<i>p</i> -value	0.027	0.079	0.553	0.005

test assumes the null hypothesis of equality of medians between the populations.

The test statistic value is calculated using the method described in (Derrac et al., 2011; Zhang et al., 2023). The Friedman statistic (F_f) is computed as:

$$F_f = \frac{12r}{a(a+1)} \left(\sum_j R_j^2 - \frac{a^2 (a+1)^2}{4} \right)$$
(16)

Here, *a* is the number of algorithms, *r* is the number of runs, and R_j represents the ultimate rank for each algorithm. The test statistic is compared against the F-distribution table value. If the computed F_f is higher than the table value, the result is considered significant.

The process for calculating the ranks involves:

- 1. Compiling the observed results for each algorithm/ problem pair.
- Sorting the values for each problem starting with 1 (best outcome) to *a*, with the ranks denoted as r^j_i.
- 3. Calculating the ultimate rank R_j for each algorithm by averaging the ranks obtained across all problems.

TABLE 6 Performance indicators.

Algorithms	IGD	Friedman mean rank	Probability
GHO	1.283	2.5765	0.039
GWO	1.873	2.4706	
HSA	1.17	2.3647	
ALO	1.133	2.5882	

The Friedman statistic F_f is then calculated under the null hypothesis that all algorithms perform similarly, and their ranks R_j should be equal. (36).

According to Table 6, the IGD value for ALO is lower than for the other algorithms, indicating superior performance. The convergence graphs for Cutting Force (CF), Surface Roughness (SR), and Temperature (TT) in Figure 12 further demonstrate the effectiveness of the ALO algorithm compared to GHO, GWO, and HSA. Therefore, it is concluded that ALO outperforms GHO, GWO, and HSA.

Conclusion

The study aimed to optimize milling parameters such as spindle speed and feed rate to minimize cutting force (CF) and surface roughness (SR) using Grasshopper Optimization (GHO), Grey Wolf Optimization (GWO), Harmony Search Algorithm (HSA), and Ant Lion Optimization (ALO) algorithms. Key findings, based on the Multi-Criteria Decision Making (MCDM) method, are summarized below:

- Analyses indicate that spindle speed, feed rate, and cryogenic treatment are critical in milling. Increases in these parameters correspond to higher CF and Temperature (TT).
- Utilizing cryo-treated (CT) inserts resulted in a 13% reduction in surface roughness compared to untreated (UT) inserts, particularly at high cutting parameters.
- Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) examination of surfaces milled with UT inserts at high speeds and feed rates revealed significant grooves and ridges.

- Comparisons of CF, TT, and SR across various algorithms showed that ALO achieved the most optimal parameter settings.
- TOPSIS, a multi-criteria decision analysis method, was used to evaluate the effectiveness of GHO, GWO, HSA, and ALO, with ALO demonstrating superior performance.
- The quadratic Multiple Linear Regression Model (MLRM) equation proved to be the most accurate for end milling, surpassing interaction and linear models.
- ALO showed higher efficiency in achieving closer-to-ideal values in end milling, with an overall performance index of 1.133. The optimal parameters included a spindle speed of 2436.3 rpm, feed rate of 0.1 mm/min, and a cryogenic treatment soaking period of approximately 15.76 h.
- ALO outperformed GHO, GWO, and HSA, as evidenced by the lowest IGD value. The Friedman Test further highlighted significant differences in the performance of these algorithms.

For future research, exploring various levels of process factors is planned. Implementing and comparing other well-known metaheuristic approaches like Particle Swarm Optimization (PSO), Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), Genetic Algorithms (GA), Differential Evolution (DE), Jaya, Cuckoo, and Stochastic Fractal Search with ALO will be considered. This comparative study aims to identify the most effective metaheuristic approach for optimizing end milling processes, thereby achieving precise parameter settings.

Data availability statement

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/Supplementary material, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

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Conflict of interest

ME was employed by Bond Marine Consultancy.

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