

## Investigation of Process Parameters of Drilling Operation for Torque

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### Abstract

In this study, drilling tests of high speed steel were carried out with three different types of drills under dry cutting conditions. The effects of the machining parameters such as cutting speed, feed rate, varying diameter of drill on the thrust force were determined with the Taguchi experimental design. Drilling parameters were optimized in terms of torque. This study included dry drilling with carbide twist drills. The settings of the drilling parameters were determined by using Taguchi's experimental design method. Orthogonal arrays of Taguchi, the signal-to-noise (S/N) ratio, the analysis of variance (ANOVA), and regression analyses are employed to find the optimal levels and to analyze the effect of the drilling parameters on torque. Confirmation tests with the optimal levels of machining parameters are carried out in order to illustrate the effectiveness of the Taguchi optimization method. The validity of Taguchi's approach to process optimization is well established.

**Keywords:** : Taguchi, ANOVA, Drilling, Force

### 1. Introduction

Metal cutting operations such as turning, milling and drilling are widely used in manufacturing to produce a variety of mechanical components [1]. Drilling processes are widely used in the aerospace, aircraft, and automotive industries. Although modern metal-cutting methods have improved in the manufacturing industry, including electron beam machining, ultrasonic machining, electrolytic machining, and abrasive jet machining, conventional drilling still remains one of the most common machining processes. Drilling is especially important because it accounts for a large portion of overall machining operations. In addition, drilling problems may result in costly production waste because many drilling operations are usually among the final steps in fabricating a part. Even though the machine tool industry in India has made tremendous progress, the metal cutting industries continue to suffer from a major drawback of not utilizing the machines at their full potential. A major cause of such a situation is thought to be the failure to run the machine tools at their optimum operating conditions. This problem has attracted the attention of researchers and engineers for a very long time [2-3]. Unfortunately, however, the impact of research in this area does not seem to have reached a large majority of manufacturing engineers in India with the result that the process parameters continue to be set solely on the basis

of handbook values and /or manufacturer's recommendations and /or worker's experience. Numerous researchers have been carried out research in this area. Some of researchers are briefly explained such as: ogawa et al. (1997) conducted experimental work which involved drilling of a glass fiber reinforced plastic (GFRP) with a cemented carbide drill. The authors concluded that the thrust force is drastically reduced when the hole is predrilled to 0.4 mm or above. Mathew et al. (1999) studied the influence of using a trepanning tool on thrust force and torque when drilling GFRP. The investigation showed that the performance of the trepanning tool was superior to the conventional twist drill. Kilicap (2010) investigated the influence of the cutting parameters such as cutting speed, feed rate, and point angle on delamination produced while drilling a GFRP composite. The analysis of experimental results is carried out using Taguchi's orthogonal array and analysis of variance. The various levels of cutting parameters and point angles are determined by using ANOVA. The experiments revealed that feed rate and cutting speed were the most influential factors on the delamination. In this present study an attempt has been made to determine the effect of process parameters on thrust force. The principle of drilling process as shown in figure 1. Drilling process consists of producing holes in solid work pieces by rotary and axial movement of the drill or the work piece. It allows a cylindrical hole to be created in a block of material using a drill, which is subjected to a rotational movement around the axis and a feed motion along the axis.

The drill is subjected to a twisting couple or torque when in operation. (Fig. 1)

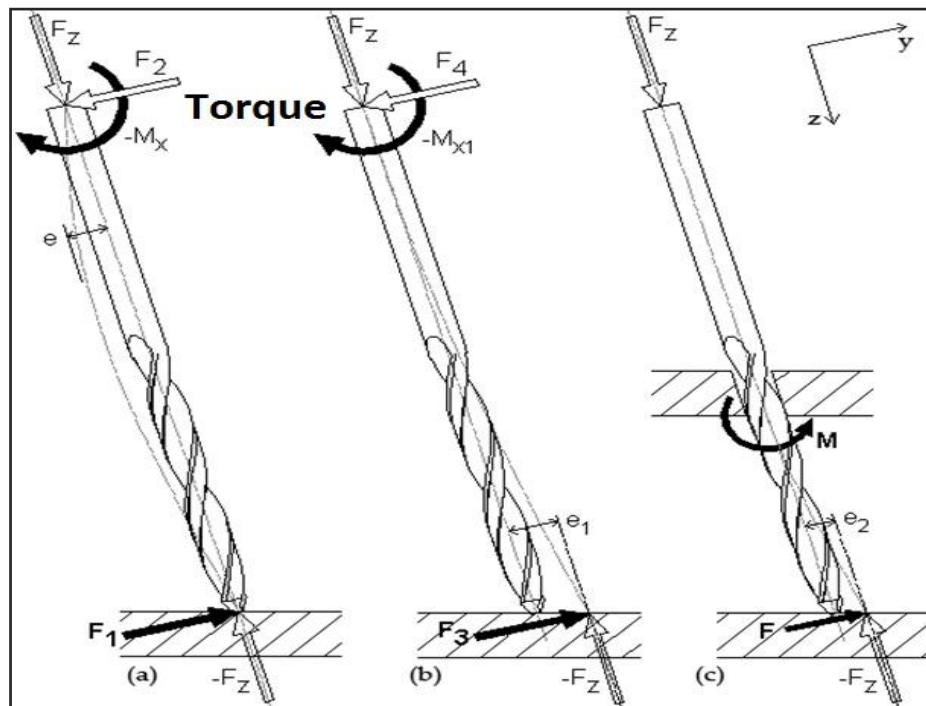
The torque in kg-f can be estimated with following formula:

$$M = C_1 d^{1.9} f^{0.8}$$

Where,

$C_1$  = a constant, whose value is governed by the cutting conditions.

$C_1$  = 33.8 for carbon steel and 23.3 for cast iron



**Figure 1: Torque on a drill**

## 2. Material and Procedure

In this work, BM-35 steel (including mass fractions: C (0.85-0.95), Si ( $\leq 0.40$ ) Mn ( $\leq 0.40$ ) Cr (3.75-4.50) Ni ( $\leq 0.40$ ) Mo (4.75-5.25)) is used for drilling operation. Three different diameter drill bits made up of carbide are used for conduction the experiments. A scientific approach for planning of experiments was used in order to conduct the experiment most effectively. Design of Experiments using Taguchi technique was taken as the basis for carrying out experiment so that the appropriate data is collected which may be analyzed to obtain valid conclusions. The design of experiments was employed in order to fulfill the following requirements:

- To get the data uniformly distributed over the whole range of controllable factors to be investigated
- To reduce the total number of experiments
- To establish a relationship between different input variables and the output accurately in the selected range of experimentation.

### 2.1 Taguchi Methods

Essentially, traditional experimental design procedures are too complicated and not easy to use. A large number of experimental works have to be carried out when the number of process parameters increases. To solve this problem, the Taguchi method uses a special design of orthogonal arrays to study the entire parameter space with only a small number of experiments [15]. Taguchi is the developer of the Taguchi method [16]. Taguchi methods (orthogonal array) have been widely utilized in engineering analysis and consist of a plan of experiments with the objective of acquiring data in a controlled way, in order to obtain information about the behavior of a given process. The greatest advantage of this method is the saving of effort in conducting experiments; saving experimental time, reducing the cost, and discovering significant factors quickly. Taguchi's robust design method is a powerful tool for the design of a high-quality system. He considered three steps in a process and product development: system design, parameter design, and tolerance design. In system design, the engineer uses scientific and engineering principles to determine the fundamental configuration. In the parameter design step, specific values for the system parameters are determined. Tolerance design is used to determine the best tolerances for the parameters [17]. In addition to the S/N ratio, a statistical analysis of variance (ANOVA) can be employed to indicate the impact of process parameters on surface finish values. In this way, the optimal levels of process parameters can be estimated. The analysis results of related subjects discussed above are given in the following sections.

### 2.2 Selection of Process Parameters

Based on review of literature and some preliminary experiments (now reported here), the following process parameters were selected for the present work:

- Spindle RPM - A
- Feed Rate - B
- Drill Diameter - C

The following parameters were kept fixed during experimentation:

- Work material: BM-35
- Tool material: Carbide

The range of the process parameters and their levels (Table 1) were ascertained based on preliminary experiments and the literature survey.

**Table 1: Levels of various process parameters**

Designation	Process Parameter	Unit	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
A	Spindle Speed	rpm	60	96	132
B	Feed rate	mm/rev	0.10	0.20	0.30
C	Drilling diameter	mm	8	10	12

A drill tool dynamometer is used for measuring the forces during the process. The process parameters are shown in table 1.

### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1 Selection of Orthogonal Array

Each three level parameter has 2 degrees of freedom (DOF= no. of levels - 1); the total DOF required for three parameters, each at three levels is 6 [ $3*(3-1)$ ][6-7].

As per Taguchi's method, the total DOF of selected OA must be greater than or equal to the total DOF required for the experiment. So an L9 OA (a standard three level OA) having 8 DOF was selected for the analysis as give in Table 2.

Thus for three levels and three factors, nine experiments are to be performed.

Based on L9 OA, the control log for the experimentation has been designed as given in Table 2. All process parameters have three levels and hence, column 1 was assigned to the spindle RPM, column 2 to the feed rate and column 3 to the drill diameter. The nine rows of the L9 orthogonal array represent the nine experiments to be conducted during experimentation. Since the L9 orthogonal array has four columns, one column elide array is left empty for the error estimate of experiments.

**Table 2: Orthogonal Array L9**

<b>Table 2. Control Log for experimentation</b>			
Experiments	Spindle Speed	Feed rate	Drilling Diameter
1	60	0.10	8
2	60	0.20	10
3	60	0.30	12
4	96	0.10	10
5	96	0.20	12
6	96	0.30	8
7	132	0.10	12
8	132	0.20	8
9	132	0.30	10

The level of each process parameter during each trial is more conveniently expressed by means of experimenter's log sheet. In the present investigation, the response variables have been selected as torque. The details of these response variables are given in Table 3. It is observed that both the variables are of continuous type.

The experimentation for the study undertaken consisted of nine trials, with each trial having three replications. The experiments were conducted in completely randomized order. The experimental data are reported in table 4.

**Table 3: Experimental results for Torque (raw data)**

S. No	Spindle Speed (RPM)	Feed (mm/rev)	Drilling Dia (mm)	Torque (Kgf-m)
1	60	0.1	8	0.21833
2	60	0.2	10	0.31833
3	60	0.3	12	0.55166
4	96	0.1	10	0.31833
5	96	0.2	12	0.35166
6	96	0.3	8	0.71833
7	132	0.1	12	0.41833
8	132	0.2	8	0.31833
9	132	0.3	10	0.85166

### 3.2 Evaluation of S/N Ratio

The S/N ratio is obtained using Taguchi methodology. Here the term 'signal' represents the desirable value (Mean) and the 'noise' represents the undesirable value (standard deviation.) Thus, the S/N ratio represents the amount of variation present in the performance characteristic. Here the desirable objective is to optimize the response variable (torque). Hence, S/N ratio equation for smaller the better type of quality characteristic was applied for transforming the raw data for cutting forces as smaller value of cutting force is desirable. For torque, the value of SM ratio (smaller-the-better) and mean values corresponding to different experimental runs have been tabulated in Table 3.

The percentage contribution of various process parameters on selected performance characteristic can be estimated by performing ANOVA test. The ANOVA (general linear model) for mean and S/N data has been performed to identify the significant parameters to quantify their effects on the performance characteristics. The most favorable condition or optimal levels of process parameters have been established by analyzing response curves of S/N ratio associated with raw data. The AVOVAs for both raw and S/N data are given in Table 6.

### 3.3 Main Effects due to Parameters

The main effects can be studied by the level average response analysis of mean data and S/N data. The analysis is done by averaging the mean and/or S/N data at each level of each parameter and plotting the values.

The level average response from the mean data helps in analyzing the trend of performance characteristics with respect to the variation of the factor under study. The level average response plots based on the S/N data helps in optimizing the objective function under consideration. The main effects of raw data and those of the S/N ratio for response variable have been reported in Tables 3-5 and plotted in Figures 2-5.

It is evident from the Figure 2 that torque is minimum at the first level of spindle RPM (60), first level of feed rate (0.10 mm/rev) and first level of drill diameter (8mm). Moreover the different input parameters used in the experimentation can be explained in order of increasing effect as feed rate, spindle RPM and drill did. The S/N plots in Figure 3 also reveal the same fact since these represent the highest points on the S/N response graphs. In order to quantify the influence

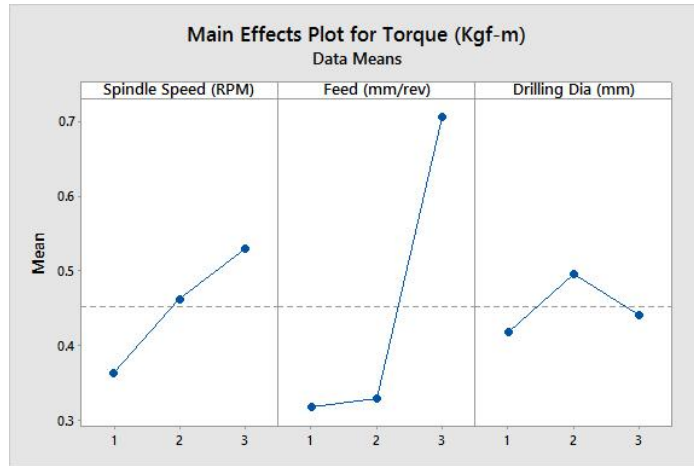
of each factor on the selected quality characteristic (torque), analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed. The ANOVA of the raw data (torque) is given in Table 6. The S/N ANOVA is given in Table 4. It is evident from the ANOVAs for the raw data and S/N data that feed rate is significant in both and thus affects the variation and average value of the torque. However, the spindle RPM and drill diameter are significant in raw data ANOVA only, and thus affect the average value of the response. The percent contribution of factors reveals that the influence of feed rate in affecting torque is significantly larger followed by that of spindle RPM and drill diameter.

**Table 4: Factor Effects on S/N data (Torque)**

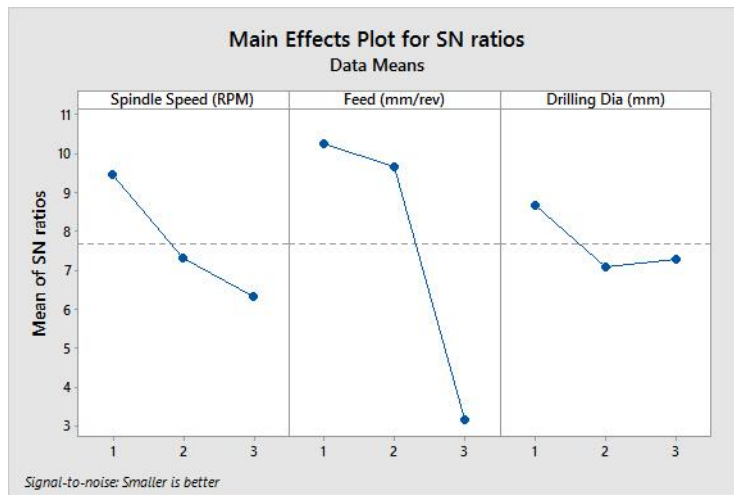
Spindle Speed (RPM)	Feed (mm/rev)	Drilling Dia (mm)	Thrust force (Kgf)	Torque S/N ratio
60	0.1	8	95.4	-0.536158
60	0.2	10	96.067	-0.865235
60	0.3	12	115.733	1.4013932
96	0.1	10	95.733	1.4013932
96	0.2	12	111.067	-0.536158
96	0.3	8	136.067	-0.865235
132	0.1	12	115.733	-0.865235
132	0.2	8	117.067	1.4013932
132	0.3	10	139.62	-0.536158

**Table 5: Factor Effects on average response (Mean) (Torque)**

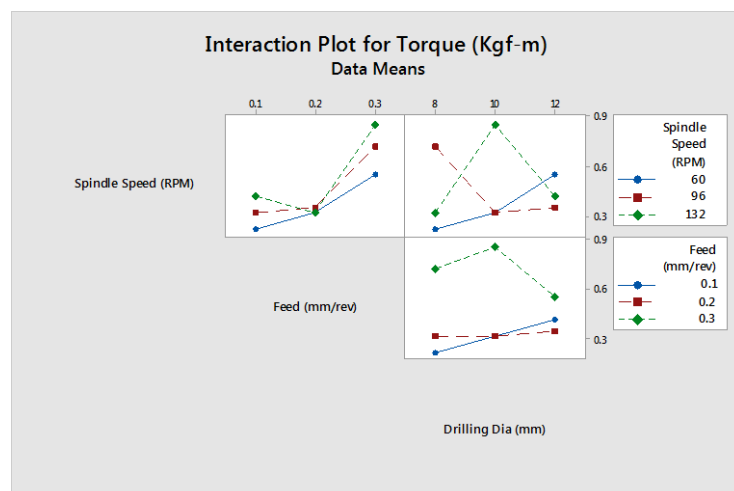
Level	Spindle Speed (RPM)	Feed (mm/rev)	Drilling Dia (mm)
1	9.442	10.243	8.678
2	7.298	9.654	7.093
3	6.302	3.145	7.271
Delta	3.14	7.098	1.585
Rank	2	1	3



**Figure 2: Effect of Process Parameters on Torque (main effect)**



**Figure 3: Effect of Process Parameters on Torque (S/N ratio)**



**Figure 4: Interaction plot for Torque**

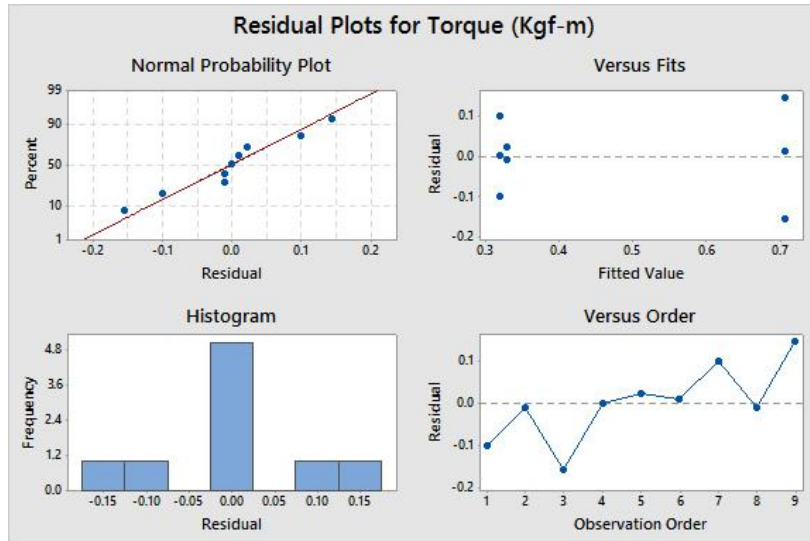


Figure 5: Residuals plot for Torque

Table 6: ANOVA result for torque (raw data)

Source	DF	Adj SS	Adj MS	F-Value	P-Value
Spindle Speed (RPM)	2	0.042222	0.021111	3	0.0415
Feed (mm/rev)	2	0.294071	0.147036	20.89	0.036
Drilling Dia (mm)	2	0.009629	0.004815	0.68	0.0483
Error	2	0.014074	0.007037		
Total	8	0.359997			

Table 7: Comparison of predicted and experimental results

Sr. No	Response	Predicted mean value	Experimental Value	CI
1	Thrust Force	87.94	85.32	64.53 < $\mu_{Th}$ < 111.55 kgf

### 3.4 Estimation of Optimum Value of Torque

The optimal setting of process parameters in affecting the torque as revealed from the plots is AI BI CI. The estimated mean of the response characteristic can be computed as (Ross, 1996):

$$\mu_{Tr} = \bar{T}_{Tr} + (\bar{A}_1 - \bar{T}_{Tr}) + (\bar{B}_1 - \bar{T}_{Tr}) + (\bar{C}_1 - \bar{T}_{Tr})$$

$$\mu_{Tr} = (\bar{A}_1 + \bar{B}_1 + \bar{C}_1) - 2\bar{T}_{Tr}$$

Where,

TTY - Overall mean of torque 0.46 kgf-m (Tab/e4.2)

The confidence interval for the predicted mean for the confirmation experiment can be calculated using Equation 3.12 reproduced below:



$$CI_{CE} = \sqrt{F_{\alpha}(1, f_e) v_e \left[ \frac{1}{\delta_{eff}} + \frac{1}{R} \right]}$$

Using the values  $V_e = 0.00511$  and  $f_e = 20$  from Table 4.7, the confidence interval was calculated. Total DOF associated with the estimation of mean ( $\mu_{TR}$ ) = 2+2+2 = 6, Total number of experiments (N) = 3×9 = 27.

Effective number of replications ( $\delta_{eff}$ ) is calculated using equation

Therefore,  $\delta_{eff} = 27/7 = 3.857$

Sample size for confirmation experiments  $R = 3$

Tabulated F-ratio at 95% confidence level ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ):  $F_{0.05;(1,20)} = 4.35$

So,  $CI_{CE} = \pm 0.115$  kgf-m

The predicted mean of torque is:  $\mu_{TR} = 0.196$  kgf-m

The 95% confidence interval of the predicted optimal torque is

$(\mu_{Th} - CI) < \mu_{Th} < (\mu_{Th} + CI)$

$-0.0122 < \mu_{Th} < 0.5144$  kgf

### 3.5 Range of Applicability

In the present study the process parameters setting (spindle speed, feed rate and drill diameter) in drilling operation has been accomplished for optimizing torque. The results obtained under the optimization process settings have been found to be within the 95% confidence interval of the predicted optimal value of the selected quality characteristics (torque). As per the concept of the Taguchi robust design methodology, the process or product development for one particular application should possess the design transferability to accommodate change from time to time and also to be applicable to the other applications. In the present study, the process has been applied to the drilling of BM-35 steel.

This process can also be applied for the other materials by making minor alteration in the optimized conditions, taking into account the change in values of response variable when the original process applied to the machining. Thus, a significant amount of effort and time can be saved in developing a new process for machining the other grades of stainless steels.

## 4. Conclusion

Based on the experiments conducted in the present investigation, the following conclusions can be made:

- Feed rate significantly affects the torque in drilling operation. With regard to the average response, feed rate has emerged out to be the most significant factor followed by spindle RPM and drill diameter. It is evident from the ANOVAs for the raw data and S/N data that feedrate is significant in both and thus affects the variation and average value of the torque. Therefore, feed rate is-classified as Class 1 factor. Whereas spindle RPM and drill diameter are significant in the raw data ANOVA only and therefore both are classified as Class 3 factors. Further, it can be concluded from the results that input parameters setting of RPM at 60, feed rate at 0.10 mm/rev and drill diameter at 8mm has given the optimum results for torque while drilling, The percentage contribution of RPM is 10%, feed rate is 75 % and drill diameter is 15 % -with regard to the torque.
- The 95% C.I. of the predicted optimal torque is:  $-0.0122 < \mu_{Th} < 0.5144$  kgf

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