



Lecture Notes in Mechanical Engineering

M. S. Shunmugam  
Biswanath Doloi  
R. Ramesh  
A. S. Prasanth *Editors*

# Advances in Modern Machining Processes

Proceedings of AIMTDR 2021

 Springer

# Lecture Notes in Mechanical Engineering


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Editors

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*Editors*

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# Preface

All India Manufacturing Technology, Design and Research (AIMTDR) is a reputed international conference series focused on the domain of manufacturing. The first All India Machine Tool Design and Research conference, also abbreviated as AIMTDR, was organized by Jadavpur University, Kolkata, in the year 1967. Those were the days when the main focus of manufacturing was toward efficient design and utilization of machine tools. PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore, organized the 7th and 15th AIMTDR conferences in 1976 and 1992, respectively. Other institutes that organized this conference before the 15th AIMTDR conference are Central Machine Tool Institute (CMTI), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, IIT Madras, University of Roorkee, IIT Kanpur, Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute and IIT Delhi, some of them multiple times. After the 15th AIMTDR conference, the necessity of widening the scope of the conference arose. It was decided to encompass entire manufacturing technologies in its fold, rather than just focusing on the technologies related to machine tools. Accordingly, the phrase “machine tool design” was replaced by “manufacturing technology, design”. Thus, the conference series was rechristened as All India Manufacturing Technology, Design and Research, without making any alteration to the acronym AIMTDR. Thus, the 16th AIMTDR conference with a new unabridged title was organized at CMTI, Bangalore, in 1994. It is interesting to note that CMTI renamed itself from Central Machine Tool Institute to Central Manufacturing Technology Institute in 1992, adapting to the current trends in manufacturing.

AIMTDR received its international status in the year 2006, when the first International and 22nd National AIMTDR was organized at IIT Roorkee. Subsequent conferences were held at IIT Madras, Andhra University, Jadavpur University, IIT Guwahati, College of Engineering Pune and Anna University. The recent edition of the conference, viz., the 8th international and 29th national conference, was jointly organized by the Departments of Mechanical Engineering of PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore, and PSG Institute of Technology and Applied Research, Coimbatore, during 9–11 December 2021 in virtual mode. The theme of AIMTDR 2021 was “*Transformational Changes in Manufacturing*”.

After a rigorous review process, about 250 technical papers from academia and industry were accepted for presentation at the conference. In addition, eight keynote talks on advanced technologies such as the development of high-precision machine tools, simulation of material flow, nanostructured surfaces, additively controlled material mechanics, product development platforms, next-generation milling, diamond turning and hybrid machining were delivered by experts. Further, two case studies from the industry highlighting the innovation practices and challenges in machine tool structure design were presented.

Select papers from the conference are being published by Springer in the series—*Lecture Notes in Mechanical Engineering*, in five volumes—Volume 1: Advances in Modern Machining Processes; Volume 2: Advances in Additive Manufacturing and Metal Joining; Volume 3: Advances in Simulation, Product Design and Development; Volume 4: Advances in Forming, Machining and Automation; Volume 5: Advances in Micro and Nano Manufacturing and Surface Engineering.

Volume 1 entitled “Advances in Modern Machining Processes” covers neoteric advances in the realms of Electro-Physical and Chemical Machining, Machining Optimization, Surface Morphology and Sustainable Machining. We hope that this book will evoke interest among academicians, researchers and practicing engineers who aspire to comprehend advances pertaining to the domain of modern machining processes.

We sincerely thank National Advisory Committee members of AIMTDR, organizers, reviewers, authors and participants. Special thanks to Springer for publishing the select papers of AIMTDR since AIMTDR 2014. Readers are requested to send us their feedback about this volume.

Chennai, India  
Kolkata, India  
Coimbatore, India  
Coimbatore, India

M. S. Shunmugam  
Biswanath Doloi  
R. Ramesh  
A. S. Prasanth

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# **Electro-Physical and Chemical Machining**

# A Sustainable Die-Sinking Electrical Discharge Machining of Ti6Al4V Using Jatropha Bio-Dielectric



Shirsendu Das, Swarup Paul, and Biswanath Doloi

**Abstract** The feasibility of jatropha bio-oil is already judged technically as a green and sustainable dielectric of EDM in terms of material removal, surface roughness and surface hardness. However, it cannot be appreciated as a reliable alternative to conventional paraffin oils. The present study is an attempt to identify some of those hurdles for which jatropha can't be prioritized for industrial practices. Here, the performances of jatropha and kerosene are experimented with under various ranges of flushing conditions, and their impacts on morphological features have been examined. It is observed that jatropha can offer 20% more MRR and 10% less roughness than kerosene, but causes more thermal defects. Therefore, a suitable range of flushing pressure and velocity have been recommended to ensure desirable surface characteristics and responses with jatropha, so that the issues of sustainability can be entertained.

**Keywords** EDM · Green dielectric · Jatropha · Roughness · Morphology · Crack · Defects

## 1 Introduction

Electro-discharge machining is one of the commonly used unconventional approaches which has huge utilities in industrial domains. The easy availability and low cost make kerosene a reliable medium for industrial purposes, but it causes toxic involvements, which is unhygienic for the operators [1–3]. Moreover, the lengthy removal process requires more time and power than conventional processes [4] and the biodegradability of the developed waste is a challenging issue in the present socio-economic context [5, 6]. In this aspect, the ISO14000 mandate can be adopted to entertain the sustainability issues of manufacturing processes, including the safety

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and health issues of the operators along with cost, energy and material consumption, management of waste and environmental impact [7, 8]. Meanwhile because of higher breakdown capacity, viscosity, nontoxicity and easy degradability, vegetable oils like jatropha, neem, canola, palm, sunflower, etc. can be considered as an alternative as they have already exhibited impressive response experimentally. Valaki et al. [9] observed impressive outcomes with enhanced MRR, less SR and good hardness with jatropha. Moreover, ANOVA analysis was also performed for the assessment of the impacts of process parameters on the obtained responses. Ng et al. [10] compared the performances of canola, sunflower and kerosene and addressed the issues of partial burning and monoxide evolution along with their inimical impacts on operator's health. Moreover, experimentally, more than 100% MRR was observed with a considerable reduction in tool consumption during the machining of metallic glass and titanium.

Coconut oil, palm oils and waste vegetable oil (WVO) are also recommended as alternative dielectrics in some research. Outcomes claimed that WVO had shown better responses than kerosene. Moreover, the impacts of dielectric physio-chemical properties on EDM responses are also found to be conspicuous here [11]. Similarly, the performances of bio-dielectric blends (BDB) were compared with paraffin oils where BDB ensured a notable contribution in MRR (38 to 138% more) but entertained excess tool consumption (100 to 275% more) than kerosene. The ANOVA analysis claimed that the current has the most impact on responses (MRR and TW) [12].

These are some notable attempts in the domain of green dielectrics to emphasize the sustainability of EDM. However, to date these dielectrics are not accredited as suitable for industrial practices because of their higher viscosity, density and poor flowability. Moreover, no preferable ranges of flushing variables are mentioned for these bio-dielectrics in the available literature. Therefore, this study attempted to evaluate the impacts of flushing pressure and velocity on the responses, especially on surface properties. Experiments have been conducted with both jatropha and kerosene for the same sets of input parameters and flushing conditions, and both the affirmative and adverse impacts on surface properties have been judged, which are discussed here in subsequent stages.

## 2 Materials and Methods

The responses like SR, MRR and thermal defects have been examined for various flushing ranges. Here, Ti6Al4V alloy and cylindrical copper tool of 10 mm diameter have been chosen to make the observation more industrially viable. Because of its colossal use in aerospace industries and bio-medical instrumentation [13–15] and due to its 'hard to machine' behavior 'Ti6Al4V' has apprehended global attention. Literature claimed copper as the best tool to machine 'Ti6Al4V' because it assured less tool consumption with both polarities. However, the reverse polarity is preferred here, as it has been found convenient to machine 'Ti6Al4V' experimentally [16, 17]. The Sparkonix Die-Sinking (EDM) Machine has been used for experimentation which



is assisted by a Servomax servo stabilizer. In this approach, the flushing pressure and velocity are also considered as process parameters to make the observation more justified.

Kerosene is used as the conventional dielectrics and the transesterified bio-oil extracted from the seeds of *Jatropha curcas* is chosen as a green dielectric medium. The chemical properties of both these dielectrics are presented in Table 1. Experiments are conducted with 50 L of dielectrics (each) inside a confined domain of dimension 30 cm × 20 cm × 15 cm. A small pump is used to circulate the dielectrics from the ‘dielectric drum’ to the machining chamber. Here, a range of 15 kg/cm<sup>2</sup>–27 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> flushing pressure and 0.20–0.45 m/s of flushing velocity were used. Finally, the impacts of these process variables on MRR and SR have been observed. The MRR is measured using the weight subtraction method, as followed in Eq. 1:

$$MRR = \frac{W_i - W_f}{\rho t} \times 1000 \tag{1}$$

Here, ‘*W<sub>i</sub>*’ and ‘*W<sub>f</sub>*’ are the weights in gram (g), before and after the machining, ‘*ρ*’ is the sample density in g/cm<sup>3</sup> and ‘*t*’ stands for the time (min.). The SR is measured with a Digital profilometer in μm which is presented in Table 2.

Experiments are performed in a confined chamber (30 cm × 20 cm × 15 cm), with 50 L of each dielectric fluid. An extra pump and flushing arrangement are assigned to flush and circulate the dielectrics from the dielectric tank to the chamber. The scanning electron microscope having 10–1,000,000 x (approx.) magnification and 0.02–30 kV range of A.P is preferred to evaluate the final textures of the EDMed surfaces. The used machine (EDM) and SEM are shown in Fig. 1.

**Table 1** Specification of the workpiece material [18]

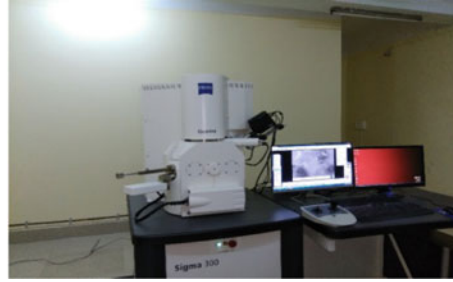
Elements	Ti	Al	V	C	Fe	O	H	N
Composition (%)	89.46	6.92	4.03	0.02	0.21	0.19	0.006	0.03

**Table 2** Properties of kerosene and jatropha dielectric [18]

S. no	Properties with units	Kerosene	Jatropha
1	Density (gm/ml)	0.805	0.868
2	Viscosity (cts)	1.21	6.60
3	Thermal Conductivity (W/mK)	0.128	0.146
4	Specific Heat (kJ/kgK)	2.06	1.93
5	Breakdown Voltage (kV)	48	26
6	Dielectric Constant	2.12	3.24
7	Flash Point (°C)	54	171



(a) Sparkonix EDM- Machine



(b) Zeiss Scanning Electron Microscope

**Fig. 1** Equipment used

### 3 Results and Discussion

The suitability of jatropa is already justified earlier in terms of MRR and SR where the impacts of current, voltage and pulse timing were evaluated on these said responses. High oxygen contamination of jatropa provides rapid melting and vaporizing, which helps in faster removal. The electrical conductivity of these bio-oils increases with the temperature which rises the field strength and attracts more charge particles inside the ionization zone which facilitates more thermal agitation due to inter-collisions of the molecules. Moreover, higher breakdown strength prolongs the period of dissociation and discharges enormous energy when the breakdown condition is attained. On the other hand, temperature-dependent conductivity incorporates more amount of discharge energy inside the spark zone at high temperatures. Besides these, the lower specific heat helps to control the temperature distributions and predominant heat flux. These are some probable reasons to have better MRR with jatropa than kerosene. Moreover, the higher viscosity and dielectric constant moderate the energy confinement and maintain the susceptibility. Therefore, the combined influences of these two phenomena provide impressive surface properties [19, 20]. Here, the responses are mainly appraised for various flushing ranges, maintaining a constant process condition.

Figure 2a represents the trends of MRR variations with flushing velocity ( $V_f$ ) while the other parameters are constant ( $I = 10$  A,  $T_{ON} = 200$   $\mu$ s,  $T_{OFF} = 20$   $\mu$ s and  $P_f = 21$  kg/cm<sup>2</sup>). It is observed that the MRR increases proportionally for both dielectrics up to a certain range of ' $V_f$ ' and then again it falls. The bio-dielectric assisted machining exhibits impressive MRR up to 0.38 m/s of flushing velocity but beyond this the removal rate falls down up to a certain limit. Regarding kerosene, the MRR rises with ' $V_f$ ' up to 0.40 m/s and then falls if the velocity is incremented further. The increment in MRR with ' $V_f$ ' may be due to effective flushing consequences where the velocity is potent enough to restrict the evacuation of debris and ensure suitable plight for sparking, melting and vaporization. The effectiveness of debris evacuation improves if the ' $V_f$ ' increases but beyond the said limit (0.38 m/s for bio-dielectrics and 0.40 m/s for kerosene), MRR decreases may be due to the presence

of an inadequate amount of micro particles in the inter-electrode gap which are not ample for effective discharge [21]. The variation of MRR with flushing pressure ( $P_f$ ) is represented in Fig. 1b where the ' $P_f$ ' is varied between 15–27 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> keeping other process parameters (including the ' $V_f$ ') constant. Almost similar types of trends are observed for both the dielectrics, and decrement in MRR is observed after 21 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> of ' $P_f$ ' for both dielectrics. Generally, the impact and thrust of flushing at inter-electrode space increases with ' $P_f$ ' which assures effective debris removal. So the MRR increases up to 21 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> of ' $P_f$ '.

But flushing pressure beyond the said limit may destroy the reinforcement of charge particles and may interrupt the discharge field present between the electrode

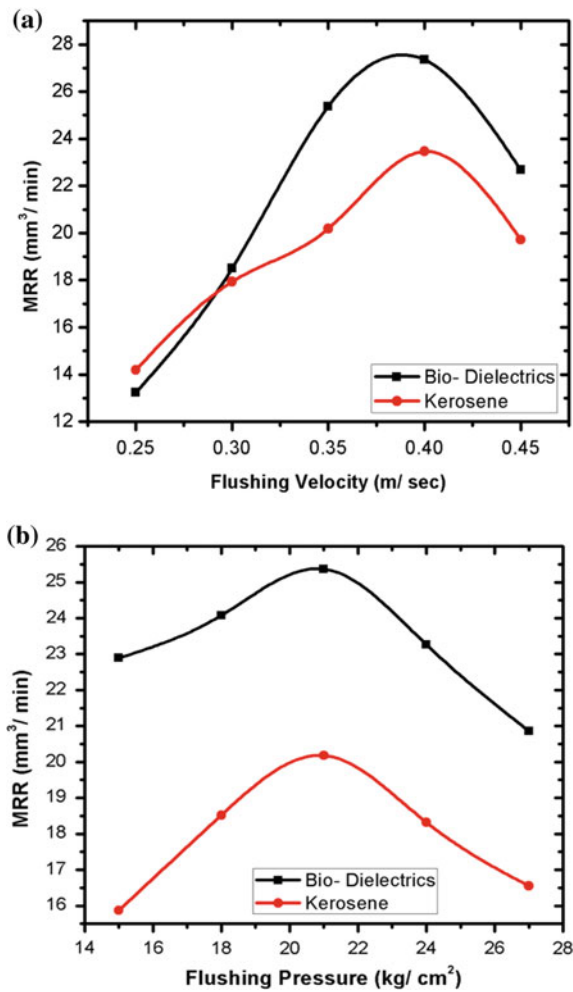


Fig. 2 MRR pattern for different a flushing velocities and b pressures

and workpiece. Therefore, the effective discharge is hampered which results in poor MRR. The SR decreases with ' $V_f$ ' and ' $P_f$ ' because they ensure effective debris evacuation which are shown in Fig. 3a and b. The presence of debris particles beyond a certain limit imparts a resistive impact on discharge propagation and may cause the burning of micro debris during the sparking. These may result in enormous heat generation which can cause surface defects and indentions. But ' $V_f$ ' and ' $P_f$ ' beyond 0.40 m/s and 18 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> escalate the SR because of the unwanted evacuation of loosely bonded particles from the EDMed surface due to the high impulse and thrust of the flushing jet at high pressure and high momentum. But in every respect, the tested bio-dielectric shows impressive responses than kerosene because of their favorable physio-chemical properties which are already discussed earlier. The present study performed a more in-depth analysis of the surface characterization using both dielectric mediums. The qualities of the EDMed surfaces have been judged in terms of surface cracks and thermal defects. Figure 4 represents the thermal defects and crack forms with both the dielectric fluids. It is observed that the EDMed surface developed with jatropa is much affected by thermal influences and the surface cracks are clearly visible. Regarding kerosene, the surface cracks are less and only a few fine lines of surface cracks are observed. These surface imperfections are mainly due to inadequate heat dissipation and poor heat transfer coefficient (h).

The 'h' is influenced by different physical properties mainly by viscosity ( $\mu$ ), density, specific heat ( $C_p$ ), etc. of the fluid medium. As the densities of both kerosene and jatropa do not differ much, so their impact on 'h' can be ignored. But the jatropa is 5.5 times (approx.) more viscous and has less specific heat than kerosene. Therefore, it exhibits less removal of heat than kerosene because the 'h' inversely varies with ' $\mu$ ' and directly varies with ' $C_p$ '.

The flushing interactions of EDM are very tough to appraise experimentally as it lasts for a few microseconds only. Engagement of Lagrangian fluidics can accomplish the concern issues as it is a dependable tool to assess the fluid flow interrupted by varying dynamic constraints:

$$\vec{S} = f(x, y, z, t) \quad (2)$$

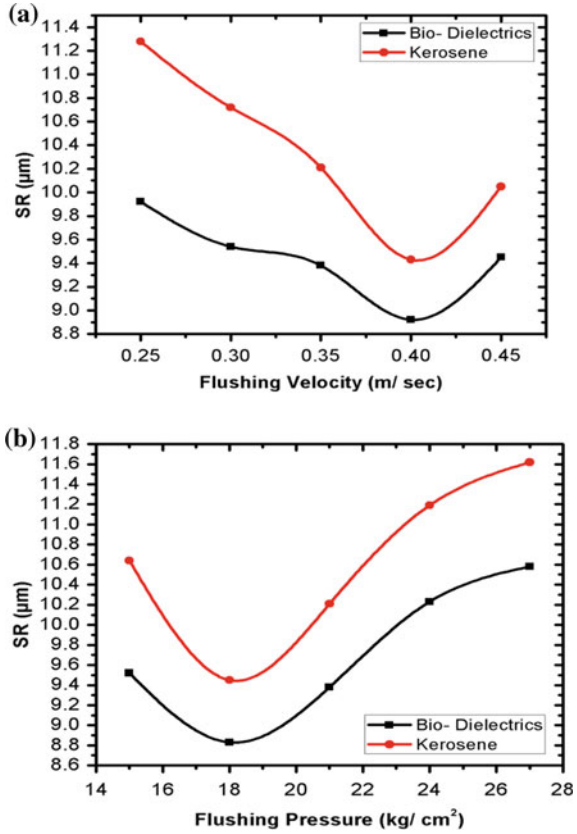
$$\vec{V} = \frac{d\vec{S}}{dt}_{(x,y,z)} \quad (3)$$

Here,  $\vec{S}$  and  $\vec{V}$  are the position and velocity vectors. Equation 4 presents the energy equation, which is suitable to estimate the heat removal:

$$u \frac{\delta t}{\delta x} + v \frac{\delta t}{\delta y} = \frac{K}{\rho C_p} \frac{\delta^2 t}{\delta x^2} + \frac{\mu}{\rho C_p} \left( \frac{\delta u}{\delta y} \right)^2 \quad (4)$$

Here,  $u$  and  $v$  are horizontal and vertical velocity components. Figure 5 shows the dissipation patterns for both the mediums, and it is clear that instantaneous temperatures of the developed crater and its surrounding areas are much lesser in the case

**Fig. 3** Variation of SR with flushing **a** velocity and **b** pressure



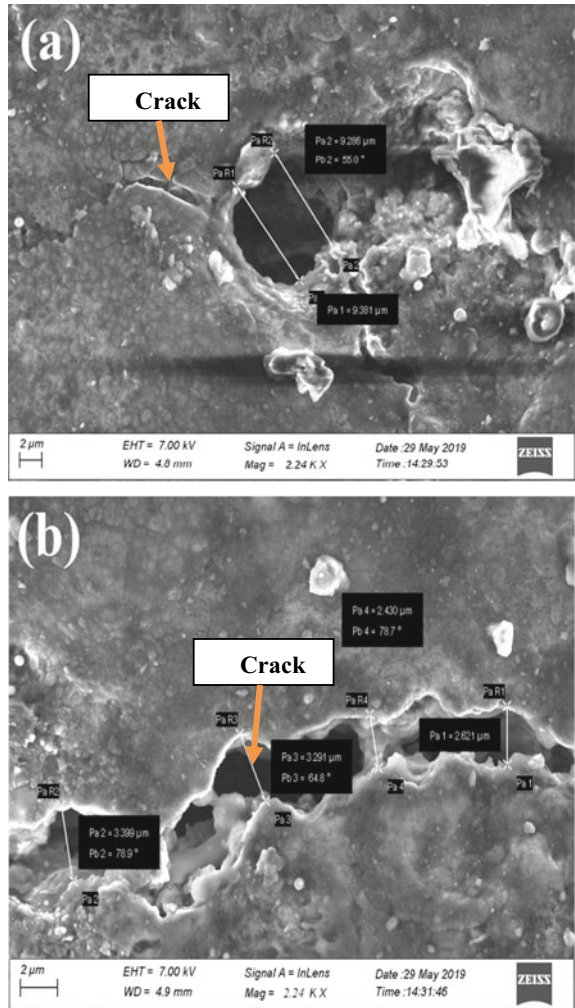
of kerosene than jatropa. Moreover, a significant fall in temperature is observed for kerosene if the ' $V_f$ ' is varied in the range 0.20–0.35 m/s, whereas for jatropa, it is not much significant. So the simulated outcomes distinctly back the issues of less heat dissipation by jatropa than kerosene which evinces more thermal deformity.

### 4 Conclusion

This article prioritized the issue of flushing and assessed its influences on the responses (especially MRR and SR). Moreover, a detailed analysis of the surface properties is also attempted to ensure a more justified feasibility assessment of jatropa. Therefore, the study elicits the following conclusions:

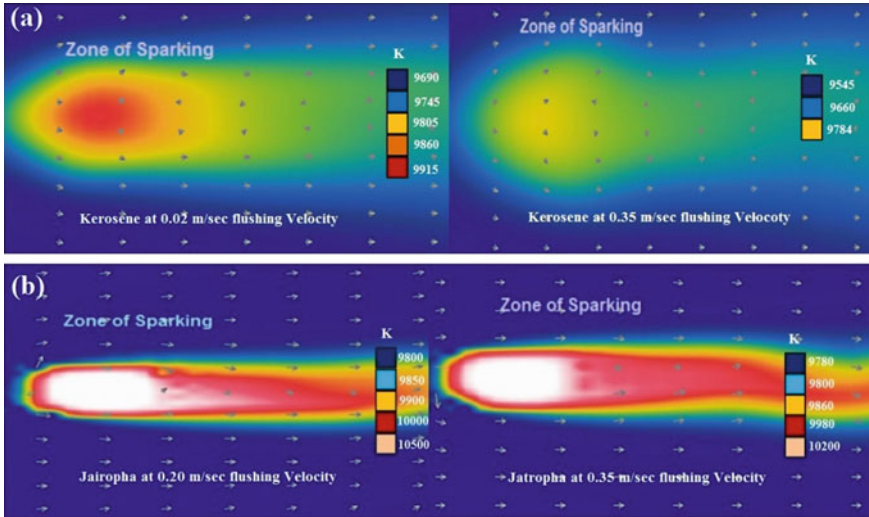
- (i) The flushing consequences have remarkable influences on responses and random selection of flushing conditions may cause unwanted surface irregularities and can hamper the effective removal rate. In this aspect, flushing

**Fig. 4** Surface cracks formed on surface using **a** kerosene and **b** jatropa



velocity and pressure should not exceed more than 0.40 m/s and 21 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> to avoid unwanted reduction of MRR due to the lack of effective discharge.

- (ii) Due to less specific heat and high viscosity, the selected bio-dielectric exhibits poor thermal dissipations which affects the surfaces by forming unwanted cracks and indentations at higher values of process parameters. Therefore, high flushing velocity (>0.32 m/s) is recommended for this tested bio-oil, because high velocity increases Reynolds's number of the flow, which facilitates enhanced heat dissipation rate.
- (iii) The higher viscous influences of bio-dielectric also ensure better energy confinement and maintain the wettability of EDM surface due to stronger adhesive gripping. So the bio-dielectric facilitates better surface (less SR) if apt



**Fig. 5** Heat dissipation patterns and temperature distribution for **a** kerosene and **b** jatropa [18]

flushing conditions are assured. But the velocity and pressure of more than 0.40 m/s and 18 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> cause more SR due to unwanted restoration of loosely bonded particles at high flushing impact.

- (iv) It can be acclaimed that at 12 A current, 200 μs ON time, 20 μs OFF time, 0.35 m/s velocity and 21 kg/cm<sup>2</sup> pressure, both dielectrics exhibit maximum MRR and more notably bio-dielectric facilitates 20.50% more removal rate and 10% less SR than kerosene.

The findings which are addressed here are obtained with Ti6Al4V and copper (diameter 10 mm) as workpiece and tool with 50 L of dielectrics (each sample). Therefore, the figures may differ a little for other tool-workpiece sets and dielectrics. However, the present attempt is a collective approach to evaluate the all-round feasibility of jatropa bio-oil as an unconventional dielectric of EDM and obviously, it is found potent enough to ensure suitable responses. So based on the evaluations and referred studies, jatropa can be considered as a reliable and sustainable dielectric if the flushing velocity and pressure are maintained within the said range.

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# Comparative Evaluation of Machining Performance of Nimonic 263 in Powder Mixed EDM



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**Abstract** This paper aims at a comparative investigation into the machining performance of Nimonic 263 by graphite micro powder mixed Electrical Discharge Machining (PMEDM) process. Material removal rate (MRR), tool wear rate (TWR), and average surface roughness ( $R_a$ ) of the machined surface are the performance parameters used to evaluate the machining performance both with normal and reverse polarity. Pulse duration ( $T_{on}$ ), peak current (IP), and duty factor (DF) are the process variables used for both the polarity conditions. The optimum condition for each of the performance measures has been determined using the response surface method (RSM). Residual stress values have been compared for the machined surface obtained at parametric conditions for optimum surface roughness for both the polarity conditions. MRR obtained for normal polarity condition has been found to be higher than that for reverse polarity condition. Using reverse polarity has been found to increase the TWR as compared to normal polarity conditions. The machined surface obtained using reverse polarity has a better surface finish as compared to that obtained using the normal polarity condition. Using reverse polarity has been found to be helpful in reducing the residual stress by 73.52–88.50% as compared to the normal polarity condition.

**Keywords** EDM · Graphite powder mixed EDM · Polarity · Residual stress · Surface roughness · Tool wear rate · Material removal rate

## 1 Introduction

EDM is a non-conventional machining process governed by the mechanism of material removal by melting and vaporization. It can machine electrically conducting materials of any hardness [1, 2]. But low MRR and poor surface quality limit its capabilities [3]. PMEDM can overcome these limitations to a great extent by improving surface quality and producing high MRR [4, 5, 6, 7]. Nimonic 263 is a nickel-based

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superalloy having wide application in aerospace engines and gas turbines but is quite difficult to machine by conventional machining processes [8]. Previous researchers [4, 9] have found that the EDM principle can machine this superalloy. However, there is one drawback that can make components machined by EDM or PMEDM process unsuitable for some critical applications. That drawback is the tensile residual stress on the machined surface [3]. Tensile residual stress reduces the fatigue life of the components which restricts their use in applications, viz., aerospace components. In their previous work [4], the authors observed that the addition of graphite micro powder to the dielectric fluid significantly improved the surface quality of the machined surface. They observed that although graphite PMEDM reduced the residual stress on the machined surface as compared to the conventional EDM over the same range of machining parameters, still the value of tensile residual stress was high. In this regard, the authors have attempted to mitigate the tensile residual stress on the components machined by graphite PMEDM by reversing the polarity. Apart from residual stress, the authors also present a comparative study of the response parameters, viz., MRR, TWR, and  $R_a$  and their variation with respect to pulse duration, peak current, and duty factor in both normal and reverse polarity conditions. For comparison, the authors have taken the data for TWR and  $R_a$  in graphite PMEDM with normal polarity from their previous work [4].

## 2 Materials and Methods

### 2.1 Materials

Nimonic 263 plate with dimensions 100 mm  $\times$  50 mm  $\times$  5 mm has been taken as the workpiece material. Before conducting the machining operation the workpiece has been polished with sandpaper for producing a clean and finished surface. A copper rod with a cylindrical shape and diameter of 9 mm has been taken as the tool electrode. The bottom surface which participates in the machining process has been brought to a leveled flat surface by face turning operation before using it for the machining process. Graphite micro powder of Sigma Aldrich make has been added to EDM oil to be used as the dielectric fluid. For carrying out the flushing operation and circulating the powder mixed dielectric fluid, a separate container with a pump as shown in Fig. 1 has been used while performing the experiments.

### 2.2 Methodology

Sparkonix EDM machine with model number ZNC/EDM 35 as shown in Fig. 1 has been used for conducting the machining operation.  $T_{on}$ , IP, and DF are the parameters taken as process variables. Gap voltage, spark time, and sensitivity have been kept



**Fig. 1** Experimental setup

constant at 30 V, 3 s, and 50%, respectively. The powder concentration in EDM oil has been kept constant at 2 g/l. A total of 15 experiments with three center points and three levels for each of the process variables have been conducted following the Box-Behnken design of the Response surface method (RSM). The three levels of  $T_{on}$  are 20, 60, and 100  $\mu$ s; the three levels for IP are 6 A, 12 A, and 18 A; the three levels for DF are 42, 60, and 78%. In normal polarity, i.e., positive polarity condition, the tool electrode is connected to the positive terminal and the workpiece is connected to the negative terminal, whereas in reverse polarity condition, the tool electrode is connected to the negative terminal and the workpiece is connected to the positive terminal. With the above parametric condition, the experiments have been conducted with normal polarity as well as reverse polarity. MRR, TWR, and  $R_a$  have been studied as the performance parameters. MRR and TWR have been measured by dividing the difference between the weight of the workpiece and tool before and after machining, respectively, by the machining time. A precision weighing machine (make: Sartorius -BSA4202S-CW) has been used for measuring the weight.  $R_a$  has been measured by surface profilometer (Mitutoyo SJ210, sampling length = 2.4 mm, cut-off length = 0.8 mm). The analysis of variance has been conducted, regression equations have been developed, and optimum parametric conditions for the responses have been determined by the response surface method. Residual stress on the machined surface obtained at optimum  $R_a$  value has been measured using the X-ray diffraction technique (make: PANalytical EMPYREAN).

### 3 Results and Discussion

Table 1 presents the parametric condition and corresponding performance measures. Analysis of variance has been conducted and the relevant information has been presented in Table 2. The performance measures (TWR and  $R_a$ ) for normal polarity

condition have been taken from the previous work of the authors [4]. The comparative trends of the performance measures for both the polarity conditions have been presented in Figs. 1, 2, and 3.

The acceptability of the developed regression models are verified by analysis of variance using Minitab 17 statistical software with 95% confidence level. The information from ANOVA analysis is summarized in Table 2. The obtained p values are used to identify the significant factors.

For MRR, in both the polarity conditions, all the input variables have been found to be significant. For normal polarity, duty factor's contribution has been found to be maximum, whereas in reverse polarity, peak current's contribution has been found to be maximum. In case of TWR, duty factor has been found to be insignificant in both the polarity conditions with least contribution. For normal polarity, peak current has the maximum contribution, whereas for reverse polarity, pulse duration has the maximum contribution. For  $R_a$ , in normal polarity, all the factors are found to be significant, pulse duration being the highest contributing factor. In reverse polarity, the duty factor has been found to be insignificant, whereas pulse duration and peak current are found to be significant with peak current being the highest contributing factor.

P values for lack of fit for all the models are found to be greater than 0.05 showing acceptable fitness of all the models. The  $R^2$  values are also within acceptable ranges. Hence, the predicting capability of the models can be relied upon for the considered range of process parameters.

**Table 1** Input parameters and performance measures

Expt. No	Input parameters			Normal polarity			Reverse polarity		
	$T_{on}$ (coded)	IP (coded)	DF (coded)	MRR (mg/min)	TWR (mg/min)	$R_a$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )	MRR (mg/min)	TWR (mg/min)	$R_a$ ( $\mu\text{m}$ )
1	- 1	- 1	0	248.00	6.67	4.82	10.00	22.00	1.36
2	- 1	0	- 1	185.00	15.00	4.87	19.00	47.00	2.30
3	- 1	1	0	250.00	16.67	6.81	40.00	106.00	2.68
4	0	- 1	- 1	187.00	3.00	6.29	10.82	17.00	2.34
5	1	0	1	320.00	10.00	5.30	12.00	17.50	3.44
6	0	1	1	398.00	12.00	6.32	33.00	51.00	4.50
7	1	0	- 1	245.00	6.50	7.92	16.00	31.00	3.45
8	1	- 1	0	226.67	3.50	7.45	8.00	16.00	2.47
9	0	0	0	294.00	8.00	7.11	29.00	49.00	2.60
10	- 1	0	1	272.00	14.67	4.68	36.00	80.00	2.19
11	0	0	0	286.67	6.67	6.68	30.00	46.00	2.72
12	0	0	0	302.00	7.00	6.67	30.00	45.00	2.50
13	0	- 1	1	245.00	11.50	5.71	14.00	17.00	2.31
14	1	1	0	375.00	10.00	7.11	10.00	18.00	4.37
15	0	1	- 1	220.00	20.00	7.49	31.00	50.00	4.47

**Table 2** Analysis of variance

Source	DOF	Adj. SS	Adj. MS	F	P	Contribution (%)
For MRR normal polarity						
T <sub>on</sub>	1	5600.4	5600.4	29.06	0.003	10.68
DF	1	19,800.5	19,800.5	102.75	0.000	37.78
IP	1	14,140.0	14,140.0	73.38	0.000	26.97
Square	3	2921.6	973.9	5.05	0.057	5.57
Interaction	3	8989.3	2996.4	15.55	0.006	17.15
Error	5	963.5	192.7			1.83
Lack of fit	3	845.9	282.0	4.79	0.177	1.61
Pure error	2	117.6	58.8			0.22
Total	14	52,415.3				
S = 13.8816; R <sup>2</sup> = 98.16%; R <sup>2</sup> (predicted) = 73.67%; R <sup>2</sup> (adjusted) = 94.85%						
For MRR reverse polarity						
T <sub>on</sub>	1	435.12	435.125	121.68	0.000	25.34
DF	1	41.31	41.314	11.55	0.019	2.41
IP	1	633.32	633.324	177.11	0.000	36.89
Square	3	282.66	94.220	26.35	0.002	16.46
Interaction	3	306.60	102.199	28.58	0.001	17.86
Error	5	17.88	3.576			1.04
Lack of fit	3	17.21	5.738	17.21	0.055	1.00
Pure error	2	0.67	0.333			0.04
Total	14	1716.90				
S = 1.89102; R <sup>2</sup> = 98.96%; R <sup>2</sup> (predicted) = 83.87%; R <sup>2</sup> (adjusted) = 97.08%						
Source	DOF	Adj. SS	Adj. MS	F	P	Contribution (%)
For TWR normal polarity						
T <sub>on</sub>	1	66.131	66.131	98.25	0.000	19.68
DF	1	1.681	1.681	2.50	0.175	0.50
IP	1	144.500	144.500	214.69	0.000	42.99
Square	3	45.632	15.211	22.60	0.002	13.58
Interaction	3	74.798	24.933	37.04	0.001	22.25
Error	5	3.365	0.673			1.00
Lack of fit	3	2.403	0.801	1.66	0.397	0.71
Pure error	2	0.963	0.481			0.29
Total	14	336.107				100.00
S = 0.820404; R <sup>2</sup> = 99.00%; R <sup>2</sup> (predicted) = 87.92%; R <sup>2</sup> (adjusted) = 97.20%						
For TWR reverse polarity						

(continued)

**Table 2** (continued)

Source	DOF	Adj. SS	Adj. MS	F	P	Contribution (%)
T <sub>on</sub>	1	3719.53	3719.53	146.90	0.000	39.62
DF	1	52.53	52.53	2.07	0.209	0.56
IP	1	2926.12	2926.12	115.56	0.000	31.17
Square	3	340.23	113.41	4.48	0.070	3.62
Interaction	3	2221.81	740.60	29.25	0.001	23.67
Error	5	126.60	25.32			1.35
Lack of fit	3	117.94	39.31	9.07	0.101	1.26
Pure error	2	8.67	4.33			0.09
Total	14	9386.83				100.00

$S = 5.03198$ ;  $R^2 = 98.65\%$ ;  $R^2$  (predicted) = 79.69%;  $R^2$  (adjusted) = 96.22%

Source	DOF	Adj. SS	Adj. MS	F	P	Contribution (%)
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For R<sub>a</sub> normal polarity

T <sub>on</sub>	1	5.4372	5.43725	81.92	0.000	35.37
DF	1	2.5837	2.58372	38.93	0.002	16.81
IP	1	1.5031	1.50312	22.65	0.005	9.78
Square	3	2.5907	0.86358	13.01	0.008	16.85
Interaction	3	2.9272	0.97572	14.70	0.006	19.04
Error	5	0.3319	0.06637			2.16
Lack of fit	3	0.2105	0.07016	1.16	0.495	1.37
Pure error	2	0.1214	0.06069			0.79
Total	14	15.3738				100.00

$S = 0.257627$ ;  $R^2 = 97.84\%$ ;  $R^2$  (predicted) = 76.32%;  $R^2$  (adjusted) = 93.96%

For R<sub>a</sub> reverse polarity

T <sub>on</sub>	1	3.3797	3.37974	86.17	0.000	27.73
DF	1	0.0020	0.00200	0.05	0.830	0.02
IP	1	7.1106	7.11060	181.30	0.000	58.34
Square	3	1.4118	0.47059	12.00	0.010	11.58
Interaction	3	0.0869	0.02898	0.74	0.573	0.71
Error	5	0.1961	0.03922			1.61
Lack of fit	3	0.1721	0.05736	4.78	0.178	1.41
Pure error	2	0.0240	0.01201			0.20
Total	14	12.1871				100

$S = 0.198039$ ;  $R^2 = 98.39\%$ ;  $R^2$  (predicted) = 76.97%;  $R^2$  (adjusted) = 95.49%