

Article

Modelling and Optimization of Machining of Ti-6Al-4V Titanium Alloy Using Machine Learning and Design of Experiments Methods

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Abstract: Ti-6Al-4V titanium is considered a difficult-to-cut material used in critical applications in the aerospace industry requiring high reliability levels. An appropriate selection of cutting conditions can improve the machinability of this alloy and the surface integrity of the machined surface, including the generation of compressive residual stresses. In this paper, orthogonal cutting tests of Ti-6Al-4V titanium were performed using coated and uncoated tungsten carbide tools. Suitable design of experiments (DOE) was used to investigate the influence of the cutting conditions (cutting speed V_c , uncut chip thickness h , tool rake angle γ_n , and the cutting edge radius r_n) on the forces, chip compression ratio, and residual stresses. Due to the time consumed and the high cost of the residual stress measurements, they were only measured for selected cutting conditions of the DOE. Then, the machine learning method based on mathematical regression analysis was applied to predict the residual stresses for other cutting conditions of the DOE. Finally, the optimal cutting conditions that minimize the machining outcomes were determined. The results showed that when increasing the compressive residual stresses at the machined surface by 40%, the rake angle should be increased from negative (-6°) to positive (5°), the cutting edge radius should be doubled (from 16 μm to 30 μm), and the cutting speed should be reduced by 67% (from 60 to 20 m/min).

Keywords: machining; modelling; optimization; machine learning; Ti-6Al-4V; residual stresses



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1. Introduction

Recently, the use of titanium and its alloys has increased, owing to its outstanding properties. It has been applied in many practical applications, such as those related to the aerospace, energy, and biomechanical sectors [1]. However, machining such alloys is always a big challenge, since their outstanding properties weaken the machining ability. The development of the additive manufacturing (AM) processes could be an alternative way to fabricate these difficult-to-machine materials into near-net shape parts. Nonetheless, finish machining is still required on the additive manufactured alloys to meet the dimensional and surface requirements of the application [2]. High cutting forces, high temperatures, high tool wear, machining vibrations, and poor machined surface integrity can be generated if the cutting conditions are not selected properly [3]. Therefore, researchers aimed to find the optimal cutting conditions (including the rake angle, clearance angle, cutting speed, uncut chip thickness, etc.) that minimise such machining outcomes.

Many experimental studies and numerical simulations of Ti-6Al-4V titanium alloy machining have been performed to investigate the influence of the cutting conditions on the major outcomes. Wyen and Wegener [4] investigated the influence of the cutting edge

radius and cutting speed on the forces in orthogonal cutting of Ti-6Al-4V titanium alloy. For the range of cutting conditions that were investigated, they showed that both cutting and thrust forces increased with the cutting edge radius. They also showed that the cutting force decreased with the cutting speed, while the influence of the cutting speed on thrust force was non-linear and dependent on the cutting edge radius. Further analysis needs to be conducted to investigate this interaction between edge radius and cutting speed. Yen et al. [5] also found that both cutting and thrust forces increased as the cutting edge radius increased in the orthogonal cutting of AISI 1020 with uncoated cemented carbide. Fang and Wu [6] found that both cutting and thrust forces decreased with the cutting speed in the high-speed orthogonal cutting of Ti-6Al-4V titanium alloy using coated carbide tools.

The chip formation process of Ti-6Al-4V titanium alloy, which is affected by the mechanical behaviour (plasticity and fracture) of the work material [7], cutting regime parameters [8], tool geometry/material [8], and metalworking fluid [9], has been extensively studied. Li et al. [10] studied the serrated chip formation in orthogonal cutting of Ti-6Al-4V titanium alloy for different tool rake angles and cutting speeds using numerical simulation. The segmentation degree G_s was proposed to quantitatively characterize the chip geometry, which increased with the cutting speed and decreased with the tool rake angle. Hua and Shivpuri [11] used numerical simulation to investigate the crack initiation and propagation inside the FDZ in the orthogonal cutting of Ti-6Al-4V titanium alloy. The discontinuous chip was obtained at low cutting speed (1.2 m/min), and the serrated chip at high cutting speed (600 m/min). They observed that crack propagation changed from the chip root to the free surface of the deformed chip in FDZ when the cutting speed increased from 1.2 m/min to 600 m/min. Cotterell and Byrne [12] examined the chip geometry using a high speed camera, and deduced that chip segmentation frequency increased when the cutting speed increased from 4 to 140 m/min.

Machining changes the mechanical, microstructural, and topographical states of the machined surface and subsurface, also known as surface integrity [13]. It includes the residual stress, microhardness, surface roughness, grain size, phase transformation, and all possible surface defects induced by machining (microchip debris, material plucking, tearing, dragging, and smearing). Residual stress distribution of the machined surface and subsurface is considered one of the surface integrity parameters most influent in the functional performance and life of the components, including in fatigue life and corrosion resistance [14,15].

Zlatin and Field [16] demonstrated that depending on the aggressivity of the cutting conditions, tensile or compressive residual stresses can be produced in the milling of Ti-6Al-4V alloy. In particular, gentle milling conditions generated compressive residual stresses, while aggressive conditions generated tensile stresses. Norihiko et al. [17] showed that residual stresses at the machined surface in the turning of Ti-6Al-4V alloy were compressive in both cutting and feed directions when using both uncoated cemented carbide and natural diamond tools. These stresses were slightly less compressive when a natural diamond tool was used, compared to the cemented carbide. Wet cutting conditions (soluble oil in water) also induced slightly less compressive stresses when compared to dry cutting. Sun and Guo [18] also showed that the residual stresses in both cutting and feed directions were compressive in the down milling of Ti-6Al-4V alloy, for a range of cutting speeds and feeds of 50 m/min to 110 m/min and 0.06 to 0.14 mm/tooth, respectively. They also showed that residual stresses become more compressive as the cutting speed increases up to 80 m/min. Beyond this speed, the residual stresses slightly decrease in compression, due to the thermal effects. An opposite trend was observed with the feed, where the residual stresses are less compressive when the feed increases. Madyira et al. [19] have experimentally investigated the residual stresses in the dry longitudinal turning of Ti-6Al-4V alloy. They found that residual stresses at the machined surface changed from compressive to tensile when the cutting speed increased from 50 m/min to 175 m/min. The critical cutting speed was 150 m/min, above which the residual stresses were tensile. Yang et al. [20] proposed a hybrid modelling approach, combining 2D finite element simulations of the milling of

Ti-6Al-4V alloy and a statistical model to predict the residual stress on the machined surface. They also found that residual stress changed from compressive to tensile by increasing the cutting speed, but also by increasing the feed. Chen et al. [21] investigated the influence of cutting edge radius (less than 5 μm , 28 μm , and 50 μm) and cooling/lubricating conditions (dry, MQL, LN2, hybrid with LN2 and MQL) on residual stress in the cutting direction in the orthogonal cutting of Ti-6Al-4V alloy. They observed that machining with larger cutting edge radii and hybrid cooling (LN2 + MQL) significantly increased the magnitude and depth of the compressive residual stress. The increases of the residual stress with the cutting edge radius can be attributed to the strong increase in the thrust force.

According to the previous review, researchers tend to investigate the effects of a limited number of cutting process parameters on the machining process outcomes. The reason is that the experimental tests become very expensive in terms of time and resources when a large number of cutting parameters needs to be investigated. Design of experiments (DOE) methodology can be an alternative method for investigating the influence of multiple cutting parameters on the machining outcomes. These methods can significantly reduce the number of experimental tests, thus reducing the costs and ensuring valid and unbiased conclusions. As a statistical methodology, it allows the researchers to establish a statistical correlation between a set of input factors and output responses. In the machining process, the input factors include the cutting regime parameters (cutting speed, feed, depth of cut), tool geometry, etc., while the output response are the machining outcomes, such as forces, temperature, tool life, surface integrity parameters, etc. [22]. Depending on the number of factors and the experimental objective, different DOE methods can be applied, including the response surface methodology, factorial design, and Taguchi methods. The response surface methodology (RSM) was used by Mia et al. [23] to investigate the effects of cutting speed, feed, and tool geometry on the cutting forces in turning of Ti-6Al-4V titanium alloy. It was found that a lower-to-medium cutting speed (~ 110 m/min) could achieve the balance between low cutting force and feed force with productivity. Kandr  c et al. [24] combined the Taguchi method and numerical simulation to investigate the influence of the cutting regime parameters on the forces in orthogonal cutting of Ti-6Al-4V titanium alloy. According to them, cutting edge radius is the main influencing factor on the forces, followed by the feed and tool rake angle. Using analysis of variance (ANOVA), Khanna and Davim [25] showed that the feed was the most influencing factor in both cutting and feed forces when orthogonally cutting three titanium alloys (Ti-6Al-4V, Ti54M, and Ti10.2.3).

The development of machining or cutting models to predict the process outcomes also contributes for the reduction of the cost and time of such experimental tests. However, practical machining operation, such as turning, milling, and drilling, require the development of three-dimensional (3D) cutting models. Though numerical simulation can be a cost-effective method compared to the experimental tests, the calculation time to solve such 3D cutting models is extremely high. Moreover, these models are too complex to be solved analytically. Therefore, predictive models based on artificial intelligence (AI), can significantly contribute for the reduction of the calculation time. Moreover, these AI-based predictive cutting models open new perspectives for the real-time control of the machining process using a digital twin approach [26,27]. Outeiro [28] has developed and applied a modelling and optimisation procedure based on artificial neural network (ANN), RSM, and genetic algorithm (GA) methods to predict the surface integrity and identify the optimum combination of cutting parameters, leading to the best surface integrity for the turning of AIS H13 tool steel using coated cemented carbide and PCBN cutting tools. An ANN was developed and trained using experimental surface integrity data, in particular the residual stresses and the surface roughness. Then, the ANN was used to simulate both residual stresses and surface roughness for different combinations of machining parameters. Next, an RSM was applied to evaluate the influence of each cutting parameter on the residual stresses and surface roughness. In order to decrease the magnitude of the tensile residual stresses and surface roughness, both the feed and depth of cut must be reduced, while the cutting edge angle must be increased. Finally, the optimal cutting conditions induc-

ing low tensile residual stresses and low surface roughness were determined using the GA. Umbrello et al. [29] proposed a hybrid approach, combining numerical simulation using finite element method (FEM) and ANN for predicting the residual stresses and to determine the optimal cutting conditions in the turning of AISI 52,100 bearing steel using chamfered and honed cemented carbide tools. Even if Outeiro [28] and Umbrello et al. [29] used similar approaches, the nature of the data used to train the ANN is different. Outeiro [28] used exclusively experimental surface integrity data, while Umbrello et al. [29] used residual stress data obtained from numerical simulations of the machining. In the case of machining of Ti-6Al-4V titanium alloy, very few research works have proposed cutting models based on the ANN for predicting the surface roughness in high speed turning [30], the machinability [31], the surface roughness in turning based on vibration signals [32], and the material removal rate [33]. Moreover, an adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system (ANFIS) [31] was also used for predicting machinability.

The objectives of the present research work were: (1) to investigate the influence of the cutting parameters (cutting speed V_c , uncut chip thickness h , tool rake angle γ_n , and the cutting edge radius r_n) on the forces (cutting F_c and thrust F_t forces), chip compression ratio (CCR), and residual stresses at the machined surface (SRS), in the orthogonal cutting of Ti-6Al-4V titanium alloy; (2) to determine the optimal cutting conditions that minimize the forces CCR and SRS. To achieve these objectives, a full factorial DOE composed of four factors (the cutting parameters) and two levels per factor was designed and used to analyse the forces and CCR. However, since the residual stress measurements were time consuming and very expensive, they were only determined for selected cutting conditions. To obtain (predict) the residual stresses for other cutting conditions, a data-driven model based on the machine learning (ML) algorithm, in particular on the least squares versus stochastic regression method, was developed. The data was obtained from experimental machining tests using several techniques and types of equipment. All the tests were performed under dry cutting conditions, which are very useful for sustainable manufacturing [34]. Finally, the optimal cutting conditions that minimized the forces, CCR and SRS individually, were determined because they reduced the energy required to separate (cut) the material, thus enhanced the surface integrity of the machine parts.

2. Experimental Setup and Cutting Conditions

In this study, the Ti-6Al-4V titanium alloy obtained by rolling and annealing was used, since it is still one of the most used titanium alloys in several industries, including the aerospace, energy, and medical industries. This alloy is composed of a two-phase structure ($\alpha + \beta$). The chemical composition of this alloy is presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Chemical composition of Ti-6Al-4V.

Element	Al	V	Fe	O	C	N	Ti
Composition (wt. %)	6.30	4.07	0.16	0.18	0.010	0.005	Remain

Vickers microhardness of the workpiece was measured in five locations using a loading of 300 gf with 10 s loading time, while the grain sizes were measured based on standard ASTM E112-12. The average microhardness and grain size of this alloy were 330 ± 18 HV and 15.5 ± 1.8 μm , respectively.

Orthogonal cutting tests in a planing configuration (Figure 1) were conducted using uncoated cemented carbide cutting tools (inserts' references TNMA160408 and TPUN160308; tool holders' references DTFNR2020K16 and CTFPR2020-16). The geometry of the workpiece in Ti-6Al-4V titanium was parallelepiped with the dimensions $40 \times 20 \times 4$ mm. The cutting direction was along the 40 mm length, which corresponded to the X-direction in Figure 1. Tool geometry in the tool-in-hand system (ISO standard 3002:1982) was carefully measured using an Alicona InfiniteFocusSL microscope. This geometry was represented in Table 2, together with the corresponding values of the cutting regime parameters (cutting

speed V_c , uncut chip thickness h , and width of cut w). Two levels of cutting speed, uncut chip thickness, tool rake angle, and tool cutting edge radius were used. The values of the tool geometry and cutting parameters were selected based on the recommendations of the toolmaker for machining Ti-6Al-4V alloy. Only two levels per parameter were used to reduce the number of experimental tests. A new cutting edge was used for each test to eliminate the effect of tool wear on the results. Moreover, since the cutting length was just 40 mm, no evidence of tool wear was detected after each test. All the tests were conducted without any metal working fluid.

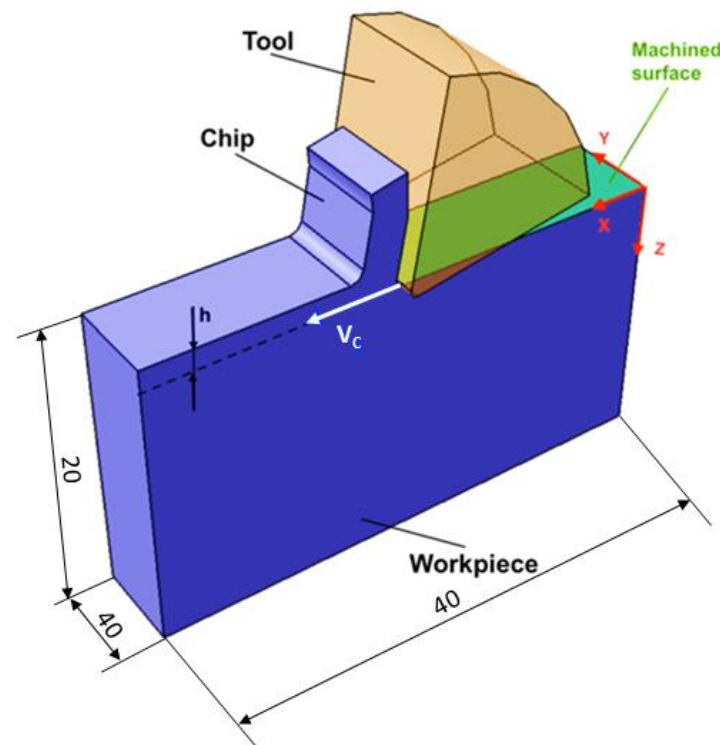


Figure 1. Schematic representation of the orthogonal cutting tests.

Table 2. Tool geometry and cutting regime parameters used in orthogonal cutting tests.

Parameter	Value
Cutting speed, V_c (m/min)	20; 60
Uncut chip thickness, h (mm)	0.15; 0.2
Tool cutting edge radius, r_n (μ m)	16 ± 1.1 ; 30 ± 1.9
Tool rake angle, γ_n ($^\circ$)	5 ± 0.13 ; -6 ± 0.25
Tool clearance angle, α_n ($^\circ$)	6 ± 0.23
Width of cut, w (mm)	4
Metalworking fluid	No

During the tests, cutting force F_c (along the X-direction) and thrust force F_T (along the Z-direction) were measured by a piezoelectric dynamometer, Kistler model 9119AA2, together with a charge amplifier, Kistler model 5019B. Moreover, the chips and machined workpieces were collected for further analysis. Chips were prepared for the metallographic analysis as described in the standard ASTM E3-11 [35]. They were mounted in the cylindrical moulds of thermoplastic polymers, and underwent heat and pressure during the moulding cycle. Then, they were ground and polished until a scratch free surface was obtained. Finally, they were etched using Kroll chemical solution to reveal the microstructure. After polishing and etching, the samples were observed in the optical microscope to measure the chip geometry. Figure 2 shows the serrated chip morphology typical of machining Ti-6Al-4V titanium alloy. This figure shows the chip parameters: peak, valley

and pitch. Peak is the maximum chip thickness, valley is the minimum chip thickness, and the pitch is the distance between two adjacent peaks. To ensure a good repeatability, each chip geometry parameter was measured 5 times for each cutting condition in a single chip sample, representative of such condition.

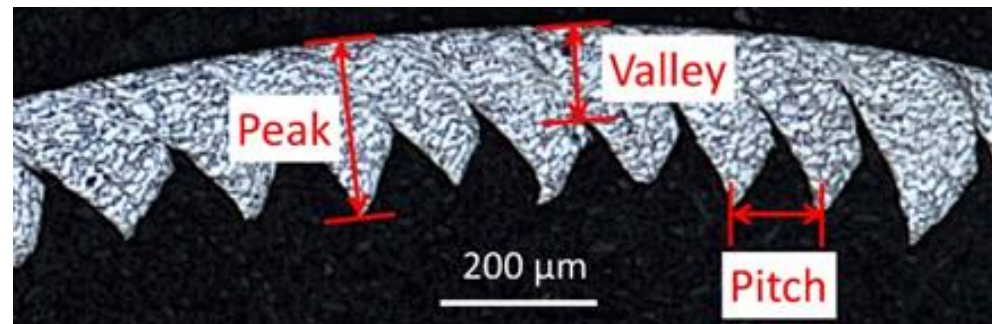


Figure 2. Parameters of the chip geometry measured by optical microscope.

CCR is a quantitative measure of plastic deformation in metal cutting [36], and it is the ratio between the chip thickness (h_1) and the uncut chip thickness (h), represented by the following equation,

$$CCR = \frac{h_1}{h} \quad (1)$$

Since the chip thickness varies from a minimum (equal to the valley) and a maximum value (equal to the peak), three CCR values can be calculated for each cutting condition: a minimum ($CCR_{\min}$), a maximum ($CCR_{\max}$), and an average (CCR_{aver}).

After machining, residual stresses were measured at the machined surface of the workpieces using the X-ray diffraction (XRD) technique, in the cutting direction (longitudinal or along the X-direction) and perpendicular to this direction (transversal or along the Y-direction) using Seifert XRD 3000 PTS equipment. Measurements were conducted using the copper K- α radiation from the {213} crystallographic plane of the Ti-6Al-4V alloy. Diffractograms were recorded for 29 tilt angles ψ varying between -45° and $+45^\circ$. To calculate the residual stress, the $\sin^2\psi$ method was used [37]. The X-ray elasticity constants $1/2 S_2$ and S_1 providing the proportionality between measured strains and calculated stresses was calculated using an elastic self-consistent model: $1/2 S_2 = 11.68 \times 10^{-6} \text{ MPa}^{-1}$, $S_1 = -2.83 \times 10^{-6} \text{ MPa}^{-1}$. Measurements were performed once in the middle of the machined surface. The irradiated zone had a 4 mm length and 2 mm width. The penetration depth of the X-ray radiation was about 5 μm .

The influence of four selected cutting parameters (cutting speed V_c , uncut chip thickness h , tool rake angle γ_n , and the cutting edge radius r_n) on the forces (cutting F_c and thrust F_t forces), chip compression ratio (CCR), and residual stresses (RS) were investigated. A 2^k factorial DOE was applied to investigate the influence of the four selected cutting parameters (factors) on both cutting force F_c , thrust force F_t , and CCR (responses). This DOE was composed of 4 factors and 2 levels per factor, so a total of 16 combinations of cutting conditions was proposed, as shown in Table 3. Since the residual stress measurements are time-consuming and very expensive, they were only determined by XRD for 7 cutting conditions, as shown in Table 3. To obtain (predict) the residual stresses for the other cutting conditions, an ML algorithm based on the least squares versus stochastic regression was used, described as follows.

Table 3. Design of experiments matrix and available results (x—data is available; NA—not available).

#Cutting Condition Number	γ_n (°)	r_n (μm)	V_c (m/min)	h (mm)	Forces	CCR	RS
1	5	16	20	0.15	x	x	x
2	5	30	20	0.15	x	x	NA
3	5	16	20	0.20	x	x	x
4	5	30	20	0.20	x	x	NA
5	5	16	60	0.15	x	x	x
6	5	30	60	0.15	x	x	x
7	5	16	60	0.20	x	x	x
8	5	30	60	0.20	x	x	NA
9	−6	16	20	0.15	x	x	NA
10	−6	30	20	0.15	x	x	NA
11	−6	16	20	0.20	x	x	NA
12	−6	30	20	0.20	x	x	NA
13	−6	16	60	0.15	x	x	x
14	−6	30	60	0.15	x	x	x
15	−6	16	60	0.20	x	x	NA
16	−6	30	60	0.20	x	x	NA

3. Machine Learning

Mathematical Regression Analysis: Least-Squares Versus Stochastic Regressions

Consider the variable y depending on the feature x , both assumed known at different data-points (x_i, y_i) , whose relation is assumed to be described by a linear regression $y_i = f(x_i) = ax_i + b$. For computing the regression coefficients (a and b), the least squares procedure proceeds by minimizing the cost function S ,

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (y_i - f(x_i))^2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i (y_i - (ax_i + b))^2 \quad (2)$$

with the index (i) covering the number of samples, $i = 1 \dots n$. When using the linear regression at each data-point, it results in the following equations,

$$\begin{aligned} b + ax_1 &= y_1 \\ b + ax_n &= y_n \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

whose compact matrix form is given by

$$\begin{pmatrix} x_1 & 1 \\ \dots & \dots \\ x_n & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ \dots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix} \quad (4)$$

or alternatively by

$$\mathbb{X} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \mathbb{Y} \quad (5)$$

The multiplication of this last equation by $\mathbb{X}^T$ results in the following linear system,

$$\mathbb{X}^T \mathbb{X} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \mathbb{X}^T \mathbb{Y} \quad (6)$$

which can be transformed into

$$\begin{pmatrix} \sum_i x_i^2 & \sum_i x_i \\ \sum_i x_i & n \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \sum_i x_i y_i \\ \sum_i y_i \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

The solution of this linear system is given by,

$$a = \frac{\text{Cov}(x, y)}{\text{Var}(x)} \quad (8)$$

$$b = \bar{y} - a\bar{x} \quad (9)$$

where $\bar{y}$ and $\bar{x}$ are the mean values of y and x , respectively.

If the output y follows at x_i , a normal distribution (also known as Gaussian, denoted by N_{σ_i}) with standard deviation σ_i and zero mean, the data should be distributed normally, with standard deviation σ_i and with the mean given by $ax_i + b$. Therefore, the cost function is now given by,

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i N_{\sigma_i}(y_i - f(x_i)) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i N_{\sigma_i}(y_i - (ax_i + b)) \quad (10)$$

which becomes equivalent to the maximum likelihood estimation. This procedure can be easily generalized to multi-parametric settings. The previous problem simplifies considerably if the standard deviation is considered constant.

To make a preliminary analysis, different data points were generated by considering $a = 0.5$, $b = 0$, and $\sigma = 0.1$. The above-described statistical approach is compared with the usual least-squares approximation, as shown in Figure 3. In order to show the procedure performance for three different situations, three different couples (a, b) have been randomly chosen, as represented in Figure 3a, Figure 3b, and Figure 3c, respectively. For each couple (a, b) , the reference solution consists of a linear model using considered parameters a and b . Then, a set of data points is distributed around that linear solution by using a random distribution with zero mean value and a standard deviation, represented by the bars in the figures. When constructing the regression, according to the procedure just described, the minimization procedure proceeds from the generated data, while ignoring its origin, computing two linear regressions (red and blue) based respectively on Gaussian and classical least square minimization. The just described procedure is easily generalized for addressing multi-parametric regressions with richer nonlinear regressions.

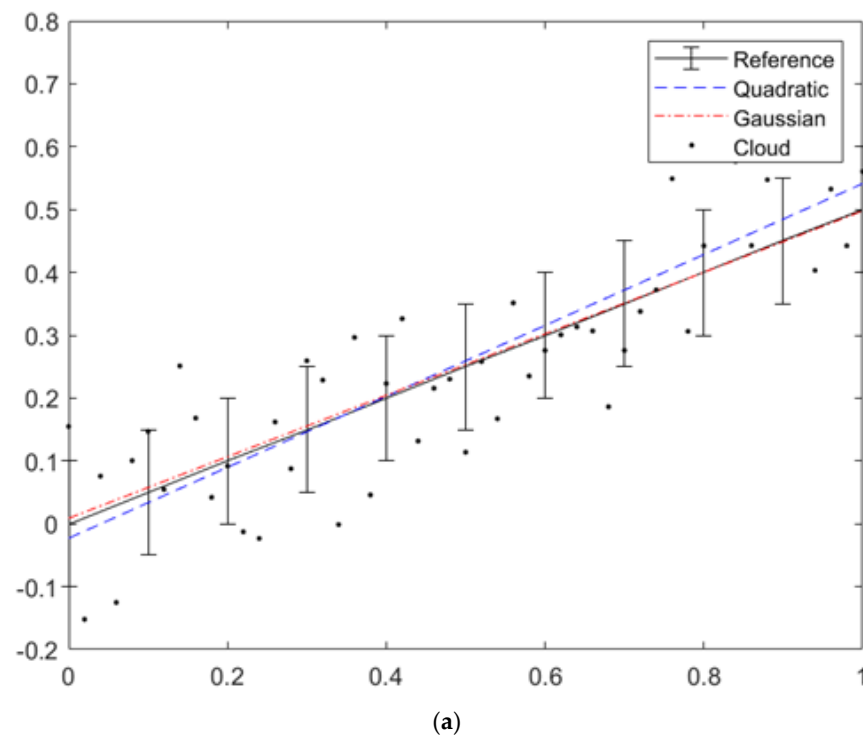


Figure 3. Cont.

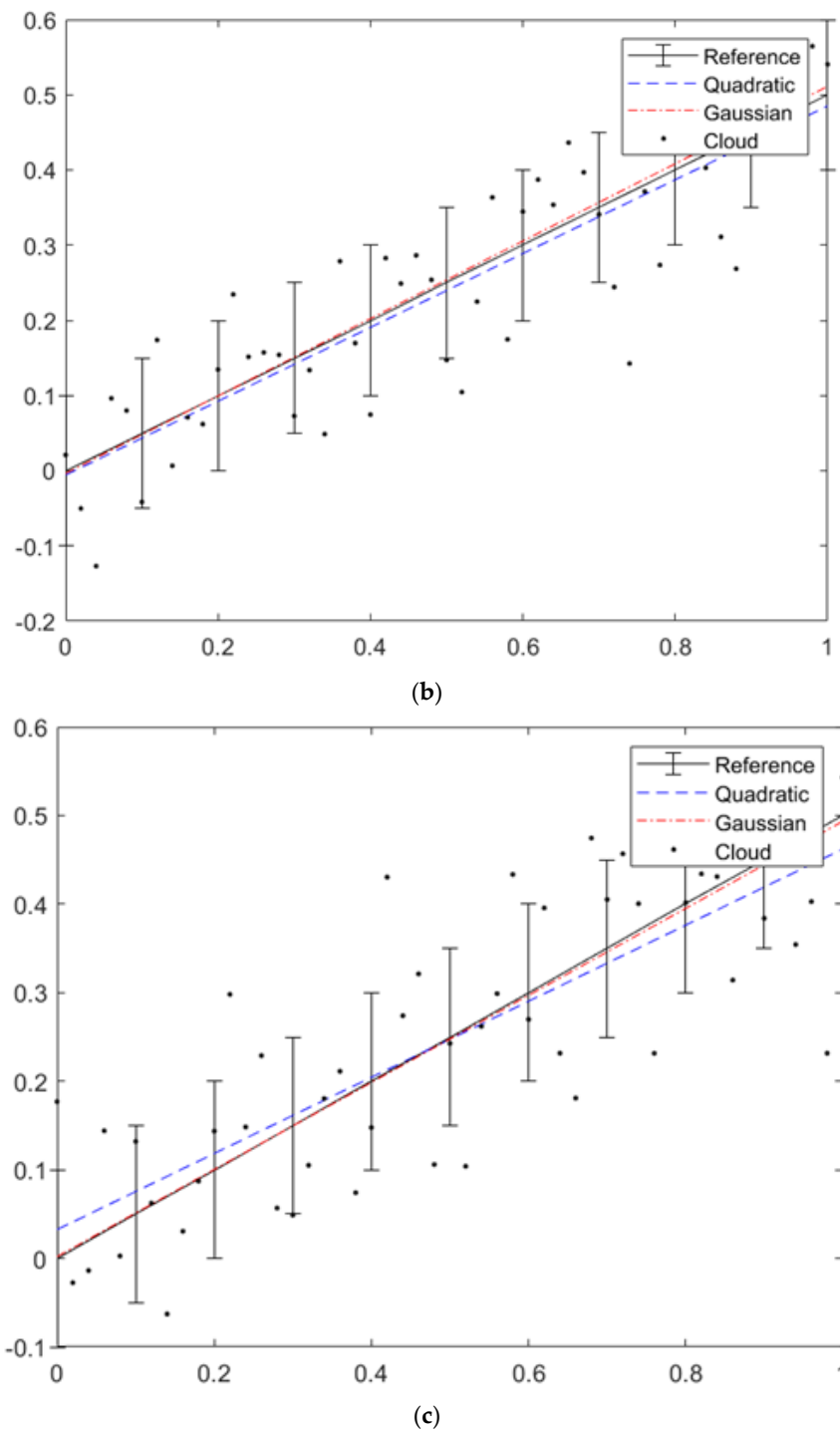


Figure 3. Comparing the least-squares (quadratic) and the stochastic (Gaussian) regressions for three different situations (a–c), and three different couples (a,b).

4. Experimental Results and Analysis

4.1. Cutting and Thrust Forces

It is important to study the forces in machining operations since they strongly affect tool wear, vibrations, part distortion, and surface integrity. Table 4 shows the experimental cutting and thrust forces (responses) of the 2^k factorial DOE. For the sake of simplicity, only the average and standard deviation are presented in this table, but all the responses from the three repetitions per test were used in the statistical analysis of the DOE. The same presentation of the results was also used for the CCR and residual stresses.

Table 4. Experimental results of cutting and thrust forces.

Cutting Condition Number	γ_n (°)	r_n (μm)	V_c (m/min)	h (mm)	F_c (N)	F_t (N)
1	5	16	20	0.15	1268 ± 10	479 ± 29
2	5	30	20	0.15	1284 ± 6	601 ± 12
3	5	16	20	0.20	1522 ± 47	517 ± 31
4	5	30	20	0.20	1549 ± 19	639 ± 8
5	5	16	60	0.15	1109 ± 28	394 ± 15
6	5	30	60	0.15	1157 ± 9	572 ± 24
7	5	16	60	0.20	1364 ± 32	463 ± 8
8	5	30	60	0.20	1436 ± 11	649 ± 27
9	−6	16	20	0.15	1354 ± 21	681 ± 8
10	−6	30	20	0.15	1443 ± 8	894 ± 25
11	−6	16	20	0.20	1673 ± 17	810 ± 18
12	−6	30	20	0.20	1709 ± 8	931 ± 0
13	−6	16	60	0.15	1209 ± 18	633 ± 9
14	−6	30	60	0.15	1370 ± 180	843 ± 53
15	−6	16	60	0.20	1536 ± 8	773 ± 12
16	−6	30	60	0.20	1587 ± 2	934 ± 20

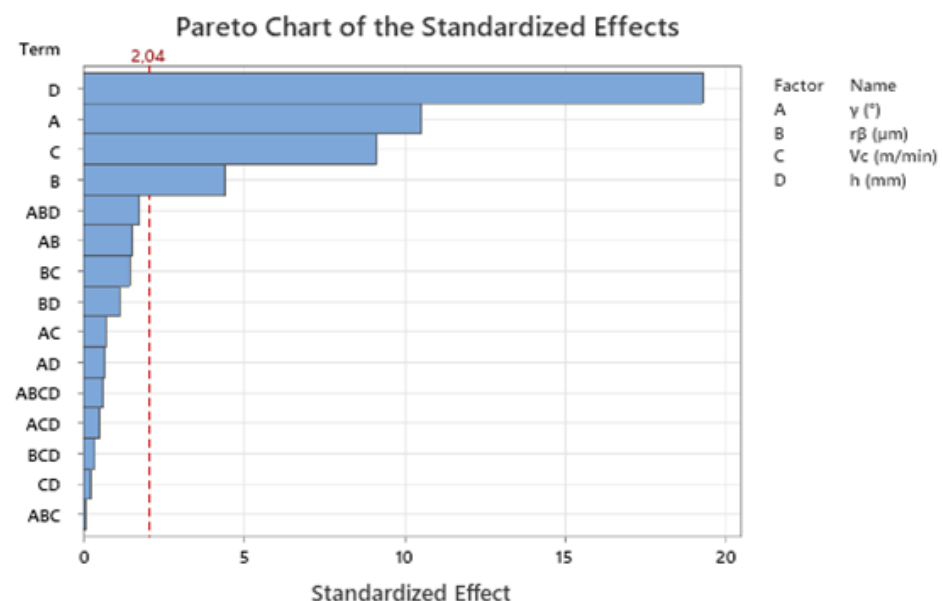
A DOE analysis is performed using the Minitab statistical software. The forces results are used to construct a mathematical (regression) model of the forces (F_c and F_t). To get a compact model equation, the significant factors (cutting parameters) and their interactions are identified using Pareto analysis, as shown in Figures 4 and 5. As shown in Figure 4, the significant factors affecting the cutting force F_c are γ_n , r_n , V_c and h . The interactions between these four cutting parameters do not show any influence on F_c . As shown in Figure 5, the thrust force F_t is also affected by the same parameters affecting F_c , as well as some of their interactions, including the two-way interactions: $\gamma_n \times h$, $V_c \times h$, $V_c \times r_n$, and $r_n \times h$, and the three-way interactions: $\gamma_n \times h \times r_n$. However, the influence of these interactions on F_t is very small compared to the main factors. Therefore, the regression models of the forces should exclude the interactions between the factors, without compromising the precision of the models. These models are represented by the following equations:

$$F_c \text{ (N)} = 475.4 - 13.54 \gamma_n (^\circ) + 4.47 r_n (\mu\text{m}) - 3.229 V_c \text{ (m/min)} + 5456 h \text{ (mm)} \quad (11)$$

(R-sq = 0.94)

$$F_t \text{ (N)} = 160.0 - 24.774 \gamma_n (^\circ) + 11.780 r_n (\mu\text{m}) - 0.886 V_c \text{ (m/min)} + 1533 h \text{ (mm)} \quad (12)$$

(R-sq = 0.97)

**Figure 4.** Pareto analysis of the factors affecting the cutting force (F_c) based on all cutting conditions.

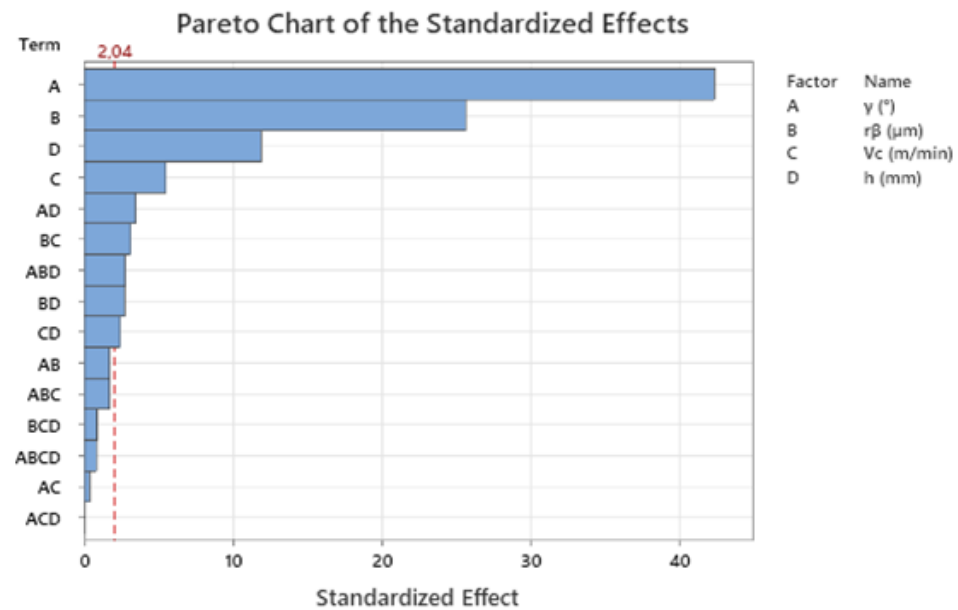


Figure 5. Pareto analysis of the factors affecting the thrust force (F_t) based on all cutting conditions.

The graphical representations of the influence of the cutting parameters on the F_c and F_t forces are shown in Figures 6 and 7. These figures show that both F_c and F_t forces decrease when the tool rake angle (γ_n) and cutting speed (V_c) increase, and they increase with the tool edge radius (r_n) and uncut chip thickness (h).

To explain some of these results, as well as those of the CCR and residual stresses, the cutting process should be viewed as a forming process that takes place in the components of the cutting system, which are so arranged that the external energy applied to this system causes the separation of a layer of material from the bulk workpiece [38]. The process of physical separation of a solid body into two or more parts is known as fracture. Therefore, factors affecting the fracture strain, such as state of stress (stress triaxiality and Lode parameter), strain rate, and temperature, also affect metal cutting results (forces, temperatures, CCR, surface integrity, etc.) [39–41].

The decrease in the F_c and F_t forces with the increase of the cutting speed from 20 to 60 m/min can be attributed to the simultaneous action of the: (1) decreases in the strain at fracture due to the increases in the strain rate [42,43], and (2) increases in the material thermal softening due to the increases in the temperature at the first deformation zone in metal cutting [44]. The decrease in the F_c and F_t forces with the increase in the tool rake angle from negative (-6°) to positive ($+5^{\circ}$) is due to the increase in the stress triaxiality near the point of chip separation from the rest of the workpiece, which reduces the strain at the fracture of the work material, as explained by Abushawashi et al. [39]. In contrast, the F_c and F_t forces increase as the uncut chip thickness and the edge radius increase. It is evident that these parameters also affect the stress triaxiality near the point of chip separation from the rest of the workpiece, and thus, the forces [45]. However, the uncut cross-section (the product $h \times w$) and the tool-chip contact length increase with the uncut chip thickness, thus increasing the F_c and F_t forces. Wyen and Wegener [4] investigated the influence of the cutting edge radius on the cutting forces in machining Ti-6Al-4V alloy and concluded that the friction coefficient at the tool-chip interface increased with the cutting edge radius. Therefore, it is expected that the forces also increase, as shown in Figures 6 and 7.

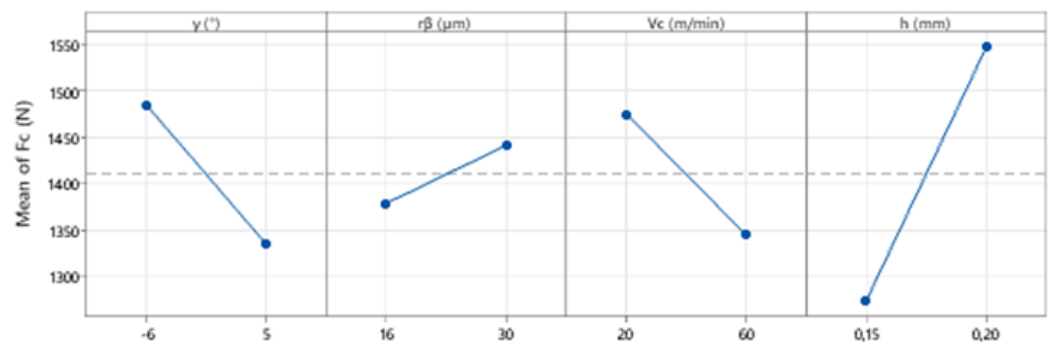


Figure 6. Influence of the cutting parameters on the cutting force (F_c) based on all cutting conditions.

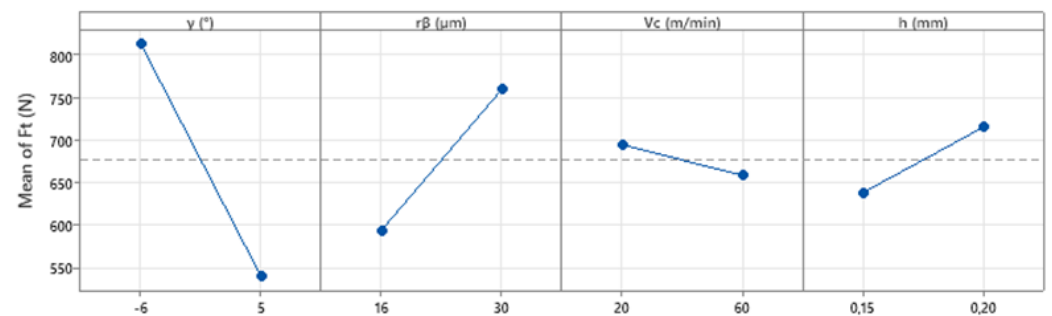


Figure 7. Influence of the cutting parameters on the thrust force (F_t) based on all cutting conditions.

Finally, the optimal cutting conditions that minimizes both forces can be determined, as shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Optimal cutting conditions for minimizing the forces.

γ_n (°)	r_n (μm)	V_c (m/min)	h (mm)	F_t (N)	F_c (N)
5	16	60	0.15	394.750	1103.88

4.2. Chip Compression Ratio (CCR)

After measuring the chip geometry for all the cutting conditions, the maximum chip compression ratio (CCR_{max}) was calculated because it represents the maximum plastic deformation in metal cutting. This CCR_{max} is shown in Table 6 (hereafter referred as CCR).

Similar DOE analysis was performed for the CCR. As shown in Figure 8, Pareto analysis permits the discovery that all the factors, and some interactions between them, are affecting the CCR.

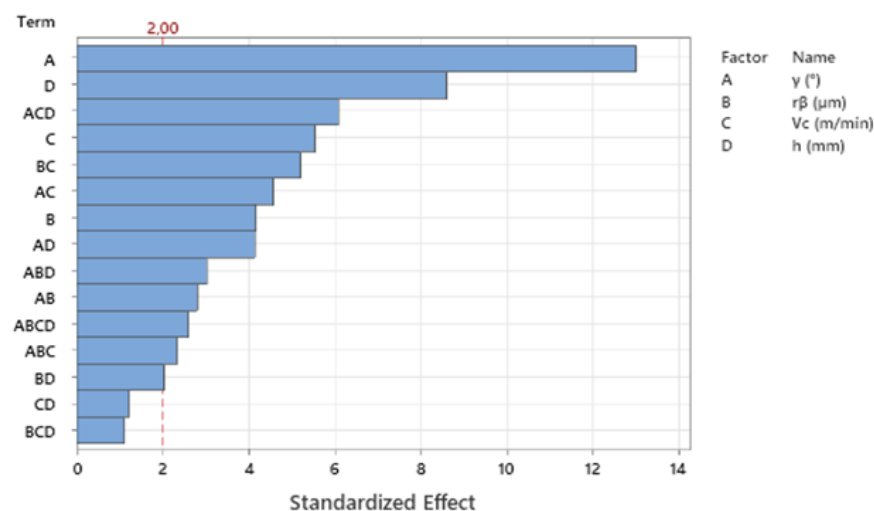
Then, the regression model of the CCR is obtained, as shown by the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned}
 CCR = & 1.58025 - 0.08808 \gamma_n (\text{°}) + 0.02825 r_n (\text{μm}) + 0.03754 V_c (\text{m/min}) - 0.05825 h (\text{mm}) \\
 & - 0.01900 \gamma_n (\text{°}) * r_n (\text{μm}) - 0.03096 \gamma_n (\text{°}) * V_c (\text{m/min}) + 0.02808 \gamma_n (\text{°}) * h (\text{mm}) \\
 & - 0.03529 r_n (\text{μm}) * V_c (\text{m/min}) - 0.01587 \gamma_n (\text{°}) * r_n (\text{μm}) * V_c (\text{m/min}) \\
 & + 0.02050 \gamma_n (\text{°}) * r_n (\text{μm}) * h (\text{mm}) + 0.04121 \gamma_n (\text{°}) * V_c (\text{m/min}) * h (\text{mm}) \\
 & + 0.01763 \gamma_n (\text{°}) * r_n (\text{μm}) * V_c (\text{m/min}) * h (\text{mm}) \\
 & (R\text{-sq} = 0.86)
 \end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

Since the R-sq is relatively low, almost all the interactions are included in the model.

Table 6. Calculated CCR based of the measurements to the chip geometry.

Cutting Condition Number	γ_n (°)	r_n (μm)	v_c (m/min)	h (mm)	CCR (-)
1	5	16	20	0.15	1.50 ± 0.06
2	5	30	20	0.15	1.60 ± 0.05
3	5	16	20	0.20	1.35 ± 0.03
4	5	30	20	0.20	1.49 ± 0.04
5	5	16	60	0.15	1.60 ± 0.07
6	5	30	60	0.15	1.39 ± 0.07
7	5	16	60	0.20	1.48 ± 0.03
8	5	30	60	0.20	1.52 ± 0.02
9	−6	16	20	0.15	1.57 ± 0.09
10	−6	30	20	0.15	1.70 ± 0.05
11	−6	16	20	0.20	1.49 ± 0.07
12	−6	30	20	0.20	1.63 ± 0.11
13	−6	16	60	0.15	1.83 ± 0.05
14	−6	30	60	0.15	1.92 ± 0.08
15	−6	16	60	0.20	1.59 ± 0.07
16	−6	30	60	0.20	1.61 ± 0.07

**Figure 8.** Pareto analysis of the factors affecting CCR based on all cutting conditions.

The graphical representation of the influence of the cutting parameters on the CCR is shown Figures 9 and 10. The empty slots in Figure 10 represent some interactions that are not relevant according to the Pareto analyses. These figures show that CCR decreases as the tool rake angle (γ_n) and uncut chip thickness (h) increase, and it increases with the tool edge radius (r_n) and cutting speed (V_c). Compared to the forces, the influence of the cutting parameters on the CCR is the same concerning the tool geometry (γ_n and r_n), but opposite concerning the cutting regime parameters (cutting speed and uncut chip thickness).

The decrease in CCR with the increase in the tool rake angle was also observed in the orthogonal cutting of Ti-1023 titanium alloy [46]. As for the forces, this can also be explained by the decrease in the strain at fracture due to the increase in the strain rate [42,43]. Moreover, the increase in the CCR with the cutting edge radius can also be explained by the increase in the friction coefficient at the tool-chip interface [4]. Concerning the effect of the cutting speed on CCR, several studies have shown that it depends on the cutting speed range [37,47]. Ren et.al. [48] have found that in the orthogonal cutting of Ti-6Al-4V alloy, the CCR decreases between 10 m/min and 70 m/min, then increases between 70 m/min and 120 m/min, and finally decreases until 160 m/min. In the present study, more levels of cutting speed would be required to verify this evolution of the CCR with the cutting speed.

The variation of the CCR with the uncut chip thickness revealed a decreasing trend, which is similar to what is found in the literature [48,49].

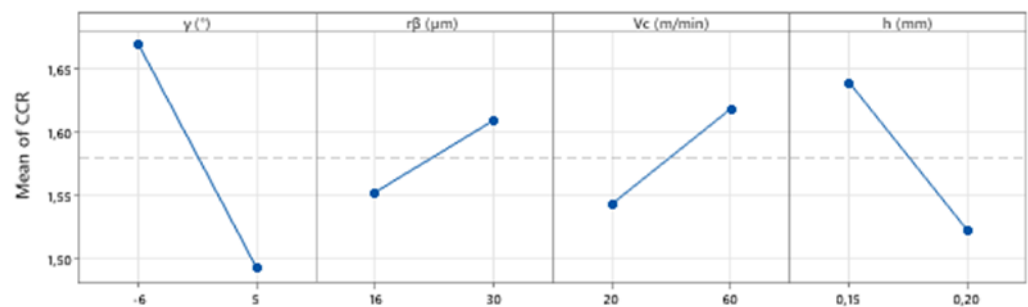


Figure 9. Influence of the cutting parameters on the CCR based on all cutting conditions.

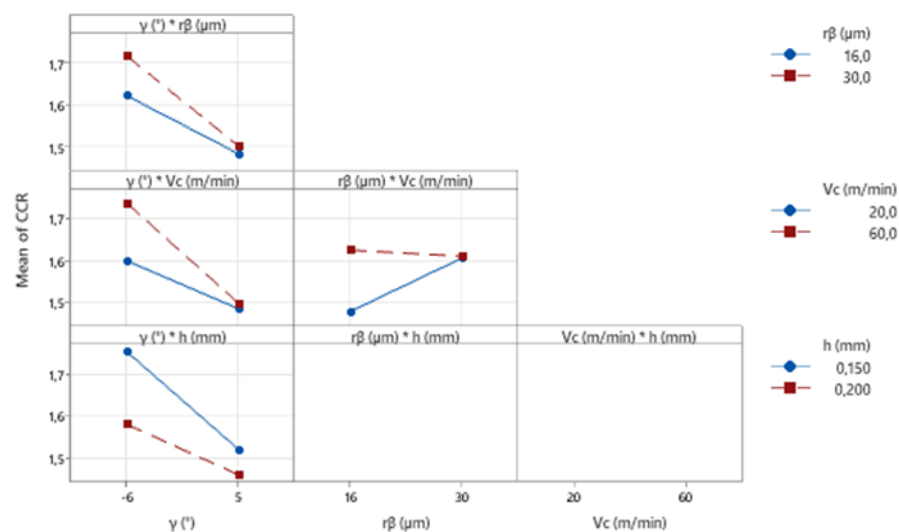


Figure 10. Influence of the interactions between cutting parameters on the CCR based on all cutting conditions.

Finally, the optimal cutting conditions that minimizes CCR can be determined, as shown in Table 7.

Table 7. Optimal cutting conditions for minimizing the CCR.

γ_n (°)	r_n (μm)	V_c (m/min)	h (mm)	CCR (-)
5	16	20	0.20	1.35

Compared to the forces, the optimal cutting conditions for minimizing the CCR are the same concerning the tool geometry, but opposite concerning the cutting speed and uncut chip thickness.

4.3. Residual Stresses at the Machined Surface

Table 8 show the results of the residual stress measurements at the machined surfaces (SRS) for 7 selected cutting conditions. They are always high compressive in the longitudinal direction (SRSL), reaching about -600 MPa, whereas in the transversal direction (SRST), they show low compressive and low tensile stresses.

Table 8. Experimental results of the residual stresses at the machined surface.

Cutting Condition Number	γ_n (°)	r_n (μm)	V_c (m/min)	h (mm)	SRSL (MPa)	SRST (MPa)
1	5	16	20	0.15	-454 ± 141	-73 ± 58
2	5	30	20	0.15	NA	NA
3	5	16	20	0.20	-387 ± 58	9 ± 60
4	5	30	20	0.20	NA	NA
5	5	16	60	0.15	-400 ± 72	52 ± 60
6	5	30	60	0.15	-619 ± 68	-51 ± 61
7	5	16	60	0.20	-423 ± 38	25 ± 85
8	5	30	60	0.20	NA	NA
9	−6	16	20	0.15	NA	NA
10	−6	30	20	0.15	NA	NA
11	−6	16	20	0.20	NA	NA
12	−6	30	20	0.20	NA	NA
13	−6	16	60	0.15	-273 ± 53	64 ± 71
14	−6	30	60	0.15	-479 ± 86	57 ± 69
15	−6	16	60	0.20	NA	NA
16	−6	30	60	0.20	NA	NA

To obtain the (predicted) residual stress at the machined surface for the remain cutting conditions, the ML algorithm based on the mathematical regression analysis presented in Section 3 is applied using the data shown in Table 8. It consists of a four-dimensional regression of low degree, because of the reduced number of data and the potential error that the data involve. As soon as the regression is obtained, by using the dataset (training set), as reported in Figure 11 with the accuracy indicators (RMSE et R2 indexes), and the standard deviation extracted from the distance from the data points to the regression prediction. The predictions are performed in the conditions where residual stresses were not measured, while indicating the corridor defined by plus and minus two times the standard deviation (Figure 12). The obtained regression equations are represented by:

$$SRSL \text{ (MPa)} = -202.623 - 13.188 \gamma_n (^\circ) - 14.352 r_n (\mu\text{m}) + 0.257 V_c \text{ (m/min)} + 414.667 h \text{ (mm)} \quad (14)$$

(R-sq = 0.97)

$$SRST \text{ (MPa)} = -108.671 - 6.485 \gamma_n (^\circ) - 3.119 r_n (\mu\text{m}) + 1.533 V_c \text{ (m/min)} + 733.333 h \text{ (mm)} \quad (15)$$

(R-sq = 0.76)

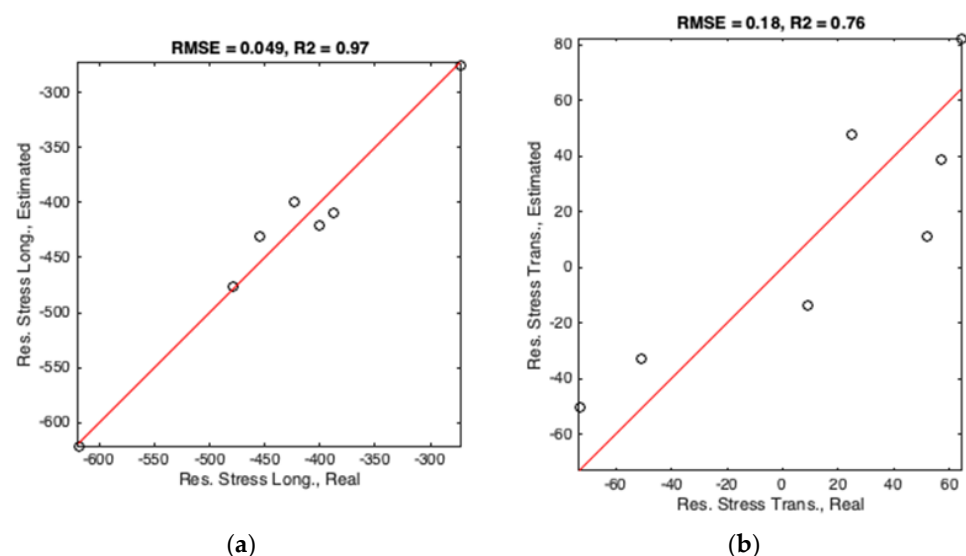


Figure 11. Accuracy indicators for the (a) longitudinal and (b) transversal residual stresses (cutting conditions 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 13, and 14).

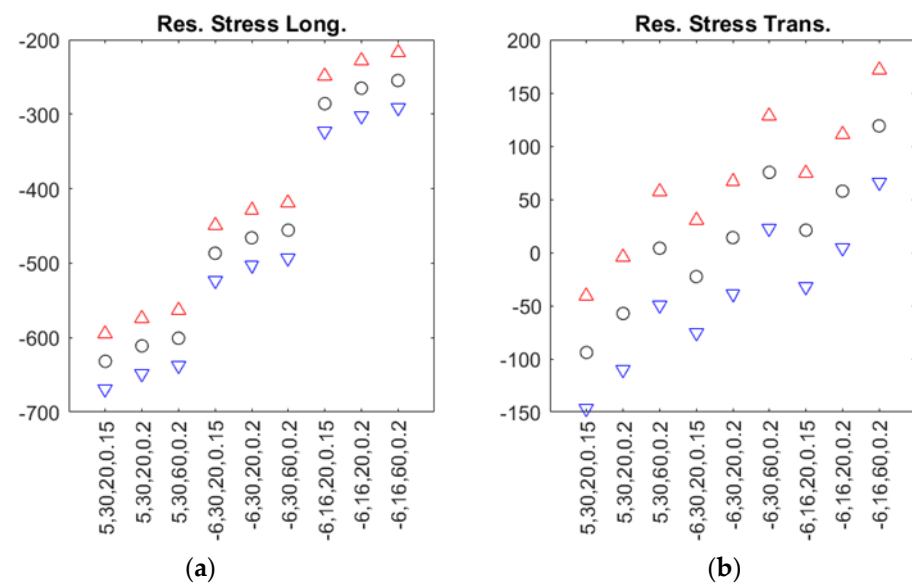


Figure 12. Residual stress predictions for the (a) longitudinal and (b) directions and corresponding corridor (cutting conditions 2, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, and 16).

As can be seen by the R-sq, the 7 tests are sufficient for predicting the residual stresses in the longitudinal (X) direction ($R\text{-sq} = 0.97$), but not adequate in the transversal (Y) direction ($R\text{-sq} = 0.76$). Additional experimental data is required to achieve a better regression using the same methodology, which will provide better predictions.

Table 9 summarizes both measured and predicted residual stresses in both longitudinal and transversal directions. In this table, it is important to note that the deviation intervals measured and predicted have a different meaning. In the case of the ones measured, the interval refers to the eventual error that the measurement could contain due to the method used to calculate the residual stresses and the instrumental error, and then it does not correspond to any statistics obtained from repeated measures. On the contrary, the intervals indicated as predicted refer to the statistics associated with the measurements themselves and provide the interval in which the value of the measurement is expected (3 times the calculated standard deviation).

Table 9. Experimental and predicted/estimated residual stress results at the machined surface.

Cutting Condition Number	γ_n (°)	r_n (μm)	V_c (m/min)	h (mm)	SRSL (MPa)	SRST (MPa)	SRS Measured or Predicted
1	5	16	20	0.15	-454 ± 141	73 ± 58	Measured
2	5	30	20	0.15	-631 ± 37	-94 ± 53	Predicted
3	5	16	20	0.20	-387 ± 58	9 ± 60	Measured
4	5	30	20	0.20	-611 ± 37	-57 ± 53	Predicted
5	5	16	60	0.15	-400 ± 72	52 ± 60	Measured
6	5	30	60	0.15	-619 ± 68	-51 ± 61	Measured
7	5	16	60	0.20	-423 ± 38	25 ± 85	Measured
8	5	30	60	0.20	-600 ± 37	4 ± 53	Predicted
9	-6	16	20	0.15	-285 ± 37	21 ± 53	Predicted
10	-6	30	20	0.15	-486 ± 37	-22 ± 53	Predicted
11	-6	16	20	0.20	-265 ± 37	57 ± 53	Predicted
12	-6	30	20	0.20	-466 ± 37	14 ± 53	Predicted
13	-6	16	60	0.15	-273 ± 53	64 ± 71	Measured
14	-6	30	60	0.15	-479 ± 86	57 ± 69	Measured
15	-6	16	60	0.20	-254 ± 37	119 ± 53	Predicted
16	-6	30	60	0.20	-455 ± 37	75 ± 53	Predicted

DOE analysis was performed considering the residual stresses data obtained experimentally and predicted by regression analysis. As shown in Figure 13, Pareto analysis revealed that the significant factors affecting the residual stress in transversal direction (SRST) are γ_n , r_n , V_c , and h . These factors are also significantly affecting the residual stress in the longitudinal direction (SRSL), as well as some of their interactions, as shown in Figure 14. Considering these significant factors and their integrations, the regression model of the residual stresses is obtained, as shown by the following equations:

$$SRSL \text{ (MPa)} = -192.4 - 13.205 \gamma_n (^{\circ}) - 14.339 r_n (\mu\text{m}) + 415 h \text{ (mm)} \quad (16)$$

(R-sq = 0.99)

$$SRST \text{ (MPa)} = -108.3 - 6.477 \gamma_n (^{\circ}) - 3.107 r_n (\mu\text{m}) + 1.531 V_c \text{ (m/min)} + 730 h \text{ (mm)} \quad (17)$$

(R-sq = 0.92)

The interactions between the factors were neglected without compromising the precision of the models.

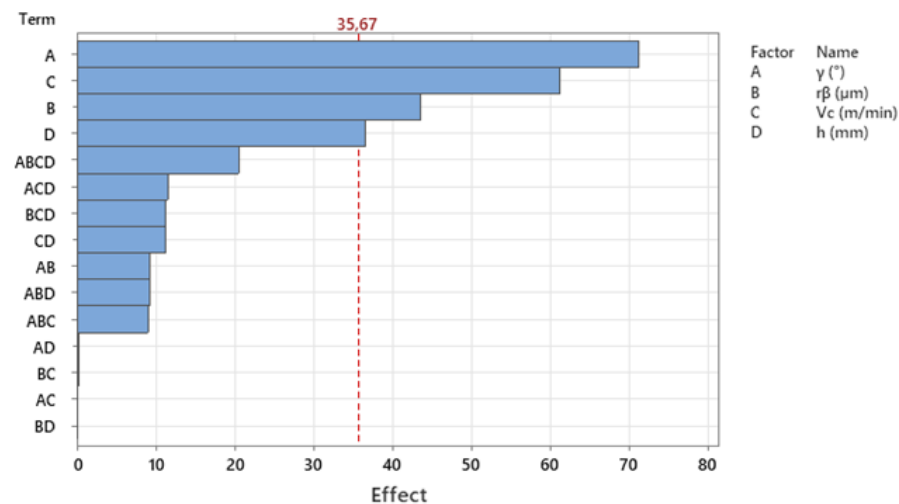


Figure 13. Pareto analysis of the factors affecting the residual stresses in the transversal direction (SRST) based on all cutting conditions.

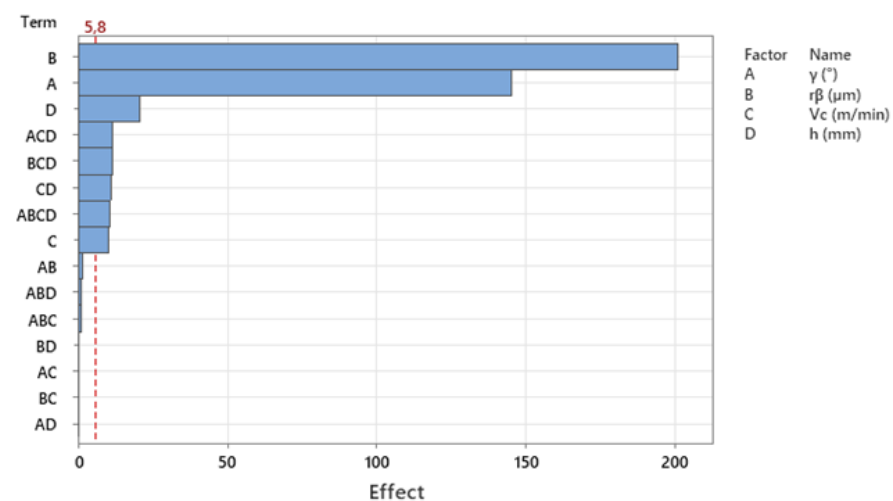


Figure 14. Pareto analysis of the factors affecting the residual stresses the longitudinal direction (SRSL) based on all cutting conditions.

The graphical representation of the influence of the cutting parameters on the residual stresses is shown in Figures 15 and 16. As shown in Figure 15, SRSL increases in compres-

sion as the tool rake angle (γ_n) and tool edge radius (r_n) increase, while it is negligibly affected by the cutting speed (V_c) and uncut chip thickness (h). In the case of the SRST (Figure 16), it also increases in compression as the tool rake angle (γ_n) and tool edge radius (r_n) increase, while it decreases in compression and become tensile with the increase in the cutting speed (V_c) and uncut chip thickness (h).

To explain the residual stresses results, one should consider that they are generated by heterogeneous (gradient) plastic deformation induced in the workpiece (from the surface to the bulk) by the cutting process [40]. This gradient of plastic deformation is induced by the complex interaction between the thermal and mechanical phenomena developed during the cutting process [40]. The mechanical action of the cutting tool on the machined surface can induced tensile or compression residual stresses, depending on the magnitude of the mechanical loading and unloading to which a micro-volume of the work material is submitted, as described by Liu and Barash [50], and later by Wu and Matsumoto [51]. As far as the thermal (heat) phenomenon is concerned, it mainly contributes to the formation of tensile residual stresses, caused by heterogeneous plastic deformation due to the thermal expansion and contraction of the affected surface machined layers. However, this heat also influences the mechanical properties of the work material, and thus, indirectly, the residual stress formation in the machined part. Phase transformation, which is a consequence of both thermal and mechanical phenomena, can produce both tensile and compressive stresses, depending on the material volume variation [52].

The previous considerations permit the conclusion that to explain the results presented above, a complete analysis of the thermal and mechanical phenomena generated during the dry orthogonal cutting of Ti-6Al-4V titanium alloy is necessary. It should be mentioned that this analysis is out of the scope of current work. Moreover, the comparison of the residual stresses obtained in this work with those stresses found in the literature for the same work material reference, machining operation, and corresponding process parameters is rather difficult. In fact, small variations in the mechanical properties of the work material, metalworking fluid composition and delivery method, machine tool dynamics, etc., have a strong influence on the residual stresses [40]. Therefore, it is useless to find justifications for the influence of the cutting conditions on residual stresses without a proper analysis of the thermal and mechanical phenomena that generated such residual stresses.

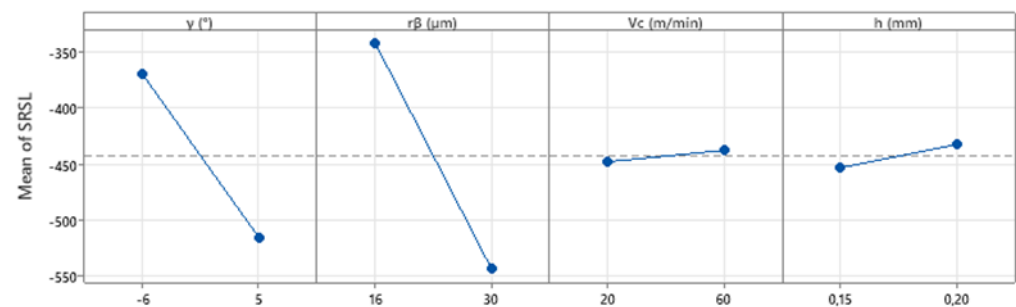


Figure 15. Influence of the cutting parameters on the SRSL based on all cutting conditions.

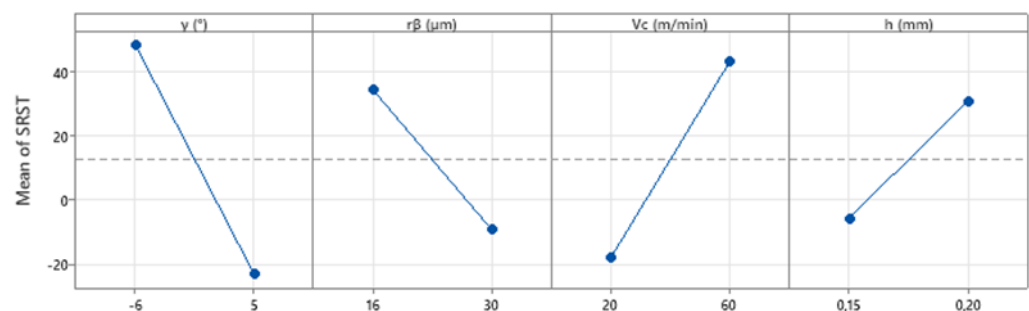


Figure 16. Influence of the cutting parameters on the SRST based on all cutting conditions.

Finally, the optimal cutting conditions that maximizes the compressive surface residual stresses in both directions can be determined, as shown in Table 10.

Table 10. Optimal cutting conditions for maximizing the compressive residual stresses.

γ_n (°)	r_n (μm)	V_c (m/min)	h (mm)	SRST (MPa)	SRSL (MPa)
5	30	20	0.15	−93.75	−631.75

5. Conclusions

The present research work uses full factorial DOE and ML to investigate the orthogonal cutting of Ti-6Al-4V titanium alloy. The DOE permitted the evaluation of the influence of the cutting conditions (cutting speed V_c , uncut chip thickness h , tool rake angle γ_n , and the cutting edge radius r_n) on the major machining outcomes (forces, chip compression ratio, and residual stresses at the machined surface) and the determination of the optimal cutting conditions. Several experimental techniques and types of equipment were used to obtain these machining outcomes. The cutting forces were measured using a piezoelectric dynamometer; chip geometry was investigated by optical microscopy, and then CCR was calculated. Residual stresses were determined using the XRD technique. Due to the time consumed and the cost of the residual stress measurements, they were only measured for selected cutting conditions of the DOE. Then, the ML method, based on the mathematical regression analysis, was applied to predict the residual stresses for other cutting conditions of the DOE. In comparison to the literature, a restricted amount of experimental data was used to test the accuracy of the data-driven model to predict the residual stresses. The results show that:

- Both forces decrease when the tool rake angle (γ_n) and cutting speed (V_c) increase, and they increase with the tool edge radius (r_n) and the uncut chip thickness (h).
- CCR decreases as the tool rake angle (γ_n) and uncut chip thickness (h) increase, and it increases with the tool edge radius (r_n) and cutting speed (V_c).
- Longitudinal residual stress (SRSL) decreases as the tool rake angle (γ_n) and tool edge radius (r_n) increase, while it is negligibly affected by the cutting speed (V_c) and the uncut chip thickness (h).
- Transversal residual stress (SRST) also decreases as the tool rake angle (γ_n) and tool edge radius (r_n) increase, while it increases with the cutting speed (V_c) and uncut chip thickness (h).

As far as the optimal cutting conditions are concerned, they are different depending on the machining outcome (they minimize the forces, minimize the plastic deformation, or maximizing the compressive residual stresses). From a practical perspective, if the objective is to improve the functional performance and life of the components, then the residual stresses are the most important outcome. In this case, the compressive residual stresses should be maximized by modifying the rake angle (γ_n), cutting edge radius (r_n), uncut chip thickness (h), and cutting speed (V_c). The results showed that when increasing the compressive residual stresses at the machined surface by 40%, the rake angle should be increased from negative (-6°) to positive (5°), the cutting edge radius should be doubled (from 16 μm to 30 μm), and the cutting speed should be reduced by 67% (from 60 to 20 m/min).

In the future, the accuracy of the data-driven model (ML) prediction will be improved by: (i) better statistical characterization of the measurement variability and its eventual dependence on the problem features; and (ii) a larger sampling to improve the regression and consequently, the prediction accuracy. Moreover, the approach used in this research work based on a suitable DOE and ML should be applied to practical machining operations, such as turning, milling, and drilling. The benefits of applying this approach for these operations are significant, due to the high number of process parameters involved and to the huge calculation time to conduct the numerical simulations of such operations.

Author Contributions: Conceptualization, J.O.; methodology, J.O. and F.C.; software, W.C. and A.A.; validation, W.C.; formal analysis, W.C., J.O. and A.A.; investigation, W.C.; resources, W.C.; data curation, W.C.; writing—original draft preparation, J.O. and W.C.; writing—review and editing, J.O., W.C., F.C. and A.A.; visualization, W.C.; supervision, J.O.; project administration, J.O.; funding acquisition, J.O. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

Abbreviations

The following abbreviations and nomenclature are used in this manuscript.

ML	Machine learning
RSM	Response surface methodology
ANN	Artificial neural network
GA	Genetic algorithms
FDZ	First deformation zone
SDZ	Second deformation zone
TDZ	Tertiary deformation zone
DOE	Design of experiments
FEM	Finite element method
PCBN	Polycrystalline cubic boron nitride
ANFIS	Adaptive neuro-fuzzy inference system
CCR	Chip compression ratio
CCR_{max}	Maximum chip compression ratio
SRS	Residual stresses at the machined surface
S_{RSL}	Residual stresses at the machined surface in the longitudinal direction
S_{RST}	Residual stresses at the machined surface in the transversal direction
RS	Residual stresses
XRD	X-ray diffraction
F_c	Cutting force (N)
F_t	Thrust force (N)
V_c	Cutting speed (m/min)
h	Uncut chip thickness (mm)
h_1	Chip thickness (mm)
α_n	Flank angle (°)
γ_n	Rake angle (°)
r_n	Cutting edge radius (μm)
w	Width of cut (mm)
x	Independent variable
y	Dependent variable
(x_i, y_i)	Data points
a, b	regression coefficients
S	Cost function
$\bar{y}$ and $\bar{x}$	Mean values of y and x
$N\sigma_i$	Normal distribution

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