Modeling and Prediction of Thrust Force and Torque in Drilling Operations of Al7075 Using ANN and RSM Methodologies

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There are many developed approaches for the improvement of sustainability during machining operations. One of them is the optimized utilization of cutting tools. Increasing the efficient use of cutting tool equals better product quality and longer tool life. Drilling is one of the most popular manufacturing processes in metal cutting industry. It is usually carried out at the final steps of the complete production process. In this study, the effects of cutting parameters (cutting velocity, feed rate) and tool diameter on thrust force (Fz) and torque (Mz) are investigated in the drilling of an Al7075 workpiece using solid carbide tools. Full factorial experimental design is implemented in order to increase the confidence limit and reliability of the experimental data. Artificial neural networks (ANN) and response surface methodology (RSM) approaches are used in order to acquire mathematical models for both the thrust force (Fz) and torque (Mz) related to the drilling process. RSM and ANN based models are compared and it is clearly defined that the proposed models are capable of predicting the thrust force (Fz) and torque (Mz) to a great extent. Nevertheless the ANN models estimate in a more accurate way the outputs used when compared to the RSM models.

Keywords: sustainable manufacturing, Al7075, Artificial neural networks, response surface methodology, thrust force, torque

Highlights:

- Investigation of the effects of cutting parameters (cutting velocity, feed rate) and tool diameter on thrust force (Fz) and torque (Mz) in the drilling of an Al7075 workpiece using solid carbide tools are performed.
- Artificial neural networks (ANN) and response surface methodology (RSM) approaches are used in order to acquire mathematical models.
- RSM and ANN models are capable of predicting the thrust force (Fz) and torque (Mz) to a great extent.
- ANN models estimate in a more accurate way the outputs used when compared to the RSM models.

0 INTRODUCTION

Drilling is a basic part of manufacturing processes used in subtractive manufacturing for achieving the desired products. Its massive usage recommends that any parameter optimization in the process promotes the efficiency and the greener machining. Cutting tool technology is considered as one of the most significant impact factors on the sustainability of machining processes and systems. Therefore, the best choice of cutting tools and parameters for the quality of the products and the tool life criterion are both

important for the sustainability metrics of a drilling process. The right usage of cutting tool can affect the reduction of needed resources and energy for the production of a new one. Aluminum alloy 7075 (Al7075) is suitable for a variety of specific applications in aerospace and chemical industries because of its excellent mechanical properties. Its strength, which is comparable to many steels and its excellent corrosion resistance are the main reasons that researchers focus on it [1] to [3]. The chemical composition of Al7075 is given in the Table 1.

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Table 1. Chemical composition of Al7075

Elements	Zn	Mg	Cu	Cr	Fe	Si	Mn	Ti	Al
Percentage	6	3	2	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3	Balance

The development of appropriate cutting factors analytical model is challenging. Nevertheless, there is a lot of research developed about the suitability of different empirical models to predict different factors during several cutting processes. A number of methods such as artificial neural networks (ANN) and response surface methodology (RSM) have been developed for modelling many manufacturing parameters. The successful application of ANN for prediction and modeling purposes in several science and engineering domains is substantial. ANN is utilized for modeling and prediction purposes due to their advantages in non-linear response and when time variability occurs. It covers the difficulty in inferring input/output mapping [4] and [5] and the search algorithms for optimization, based on genetic and evolution principles [6] to [8]. RSM is a reliable statistical tool for mathematical modeling of engineering systems and for optimization of different manufacturing process. It has been considered convenient with minimum knowledge about the process under consideration, while at the same time it reduces the resources needed for experiments. It is an appropriate methodology, when many factors and interactions affect the desired responses for a given process, and an effective technique for evaluating the process parameters with the least number of experiments [9] to [12].

The present paper deals with the study of the drilling process of Al7075 when using solid carbide tools. A series of different diameters were used, together with a number of different cutting speeds and feed rates. A complete set of experimental work was implemented and different mathematical models of the thrust force and torque developed were calculated. Both RSM and ANN methodologies were applied and although their results were highly accurate, the ANN model was more effective.

1 METHODS

As mentioned before, a number of researchers have focused on the development of empirical models to predict different factors during several cutting processes. Nouioua et al. [13] developed ANN and RSM models related to cutting force and surface roughness during turning process of X210Cr12 steel under dry, wet, and MQL machining. Multilayer-coated tungsten carbide insert with various nose radius used for the experiment. Measurements were taken combining cutting speed, feed rate, and cutting depth. The comparison between ANN and RSM models showed that ANN models are more accurately for the prediction of surface roughness and cutting force. Kumar and used RSM Chauhan [14] and **ANN** methodologies in turning, for the validation of the results obtained during experimentation and the prediction of the behavior of the system under any condition within the operating range. Al7075 hard ceramic composite and Al7075 hybrid composite were under investigation according to the effect of cutting parameters (cutting speed, feed rate and approach angle) on roughness using polycrystalline diamond tool (PCD).

Furthermore in turning operations were used [15] RSM, ANN and support vector regression (SVR) for the development of empirical models for predicting surface roughness, tool wear and power required. These response parameters were mainly dependent upon cutting velocity, feed and cutting time. The result was that ANN and SVR models are much better than RSM models for predicting the three response parameters. ANN and multiple regression approaches were also used for the measurement of the surface roughness of AISI 1040 steel during turning at different cutting parameters such as speed, feed, and depth of cut [16]. Full factorial experimental design was implemented to increase the confidence limit and reliability of the experimental data. Finally, it was proved that ANN model estimated the

surface roughness more accurately than the multiple regression model.

researchers have investigated appropriateness of different empirical models to predict burr size during drilling. Karnik et al. [17] described the comparison of the burr size predictive models based on ANN and RSM on AISI 316L stainless steel workpiece with cutting speed, feed and point angle as the critical parameters. The comparison showed that the ANN models provide more accurate prediction than to the RSM models. The result was the same for Cicek et al. [18] for the investigation of the effects of cutting parameters (i.e. cutting speed, feed rate) and deep cryogenic treatment on thrust force in the drilling of AISI 316 stainless steel. Using the same techniques Mayyas et al. [19] investigated the influence of cutting speed, feed and volume fraction of the reinforcement particles used on the thrust force and torque in the drilling processes of selflubricated hybrid composite materials. While Bajić et al. [20] examined the influence of three cutting parameters (cutting speed, feed per tooth and depth of cut) on surface roughness, tool wear and cutting force components in a face milling as part of the off-line process control. Alharthi et al. [21] developed ANN and regression analysis models for the prediction of surface roughness in a face milling of AZ61 magnesium alloy workpiece, for different spindle speed [rpm], depth of cut [mm], and table feed [mm/min]. The coefficient of determination was found to be accurate enough for the best neural network and regression analysis model, respectively, from comparison of the models with thirteen validation experimental tests.

Rooki et al. [22] described a simple and more reliable ANN method and multiple linear regressions (MLR) for the prediction of cuttings concentration during foam drilling operation. The results indicated the high ability in prediction of ANN methods. Kahraman [23] investigated the predictability of penetration rate for the diamond drilling from the operational variables and the rock properties such as the uniaxial compressive strength, the tensile strength and the relative abrasiveness. Finally, Chavoshi [24] using methods such as regression analysis (RA), ANN, and co-active neuro-fuzzy

inference system (CANFIS) tried to predict the surface roughness, material removal rate and over-cut of SAE-XEV-F valve-steel during electrochemical drilling in NaCl and NaNo3 electrolytic process.

2 EXPERIMENTAL

2.1 Experimental Settings

In this study, Al7075 plate was used as the workpiece material (150 mm × 150 mm × 15 mm). The drilling tests were performed using a HAAS VF1 CNC machining center with continuous speed and feed control within their boundaries. The cutting forces were measured by utilizing a Kistler four components dynamometer type 9123 with all the appropriate accessories. The dynamometer signals were processed via charge amplifiers and an A/D converter to a personal computer. The measured thrust force and torque were displayed and analyzed in order to implement an early error detection strategy.

Table 2. Cutting variables used in the experiments

Table 21 Catting Variables accaminate experiments				
Parameters	Values			
Cutting velocity [m/min] V	10, 40 ,70			
Feed rate [mm/rev] f	0.2, 0.4, 0.6			
Tool diameter [mm] D	8, 10, 12, 14			
Axial depth of cut [mm] a_p	15			
Workpiece dimension [mm]	$150 \times 150 \times$			
	15			

During the drilling tests, thrust force (Fz) and torque (Mz) values were measured within 36 experiments which were performed by using solid carbide drill tools (Kennametal multilayer TiAlN-PVD-coated universal finegrain grade). Fig. 1 shows cutting tool geometry details.

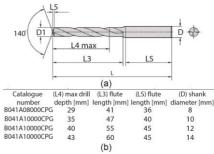


Fig. 1. Cutting tool; a) Geometry details and b) Dimensions

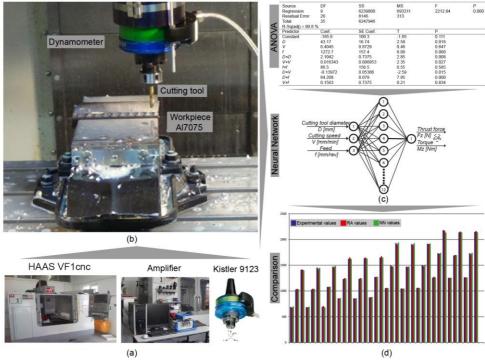


Fig. 2. Experimental workflow; a) The required hardware equipment, b) Drilling process, c) Development of mathematical models, d) Comparison between experimental and predicted values for thrust force and cutting torque.

The especially cutting tools are not belonging to the through coolant category tools, therefore coolant fluid (90 % water, 10 % KOOLRite 2270 coolant) was provided by the delivery system near to the cutting tool. The feed rates of 0.2 mm/rev, 0.4 mm/rev, and 0.6 mm/rev were used together with cutting velocity values of 10 m/min, 40 m/min and 70 m/min. The constant depth of the holes drilled was 15 mm. The full factorial set of tests was performed for all the combinations of cutting speeds, feed rates and tool diameters The workflow of the research is depicted in Fig. 2 and the cutting parameters, units and notations are listed in Table 2.

Fig. 3 expresses the evolution of thrust force and the cutting torque related to different feed rates and cutting speeds. According to the graph it can be seen that when the tool diameter increases, both the thrust force and the cutting torque values are increased as expected. The same happens in the case of feed rate. As feed rate values are increased then thrust force and the cutting torque are increased respectively. On

the other hand, the different values of cutting speed do not affect noticeably the experimental values. The importance of cutting tool diameter and feed rate is much greater than this one of cutting speed related to thrust force and cutting torque.

2.2 RSM-Based Predictive Models

The RSM is an accurate tool used in order to check the influence of a series of input variables on the response when studying a complex phenomenon. The models produced use the least square fitting in order to provide a reliable mathematical model. In this case, a full factorial strategy was followed, 36 drilling experiments were performed and both the thrust force and torque were modelled using polynomial mathematical models. The following form was selected for this case:

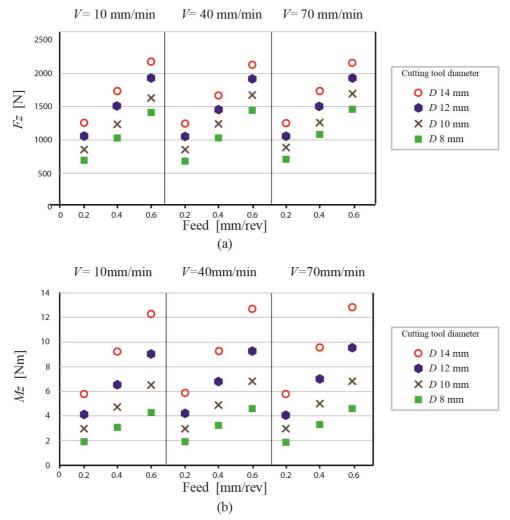


Fig. 3. Experimental values derived from Kistler 9123, a) Fz and b) Mz

 $Y=b_0+b_1X_1+b_2X_2+b_3X_3+b_4X_4+b_{11}X_1^2+b_{22}X_2^2+b_{13}X_3^2+b_{44}X_4^2+b_{12}X_1X_2+b_{13}X_1X_3+b_{14}X_1X_4+b_{23}X_2X_3\\+b_{24}X_2X_4+b_{34}X_3X_4,\qquad \qquad (1)$

where *Y* is the response, X_i stands for the coded values and $b_0,...,b_{34}$ stand for the models' regression coefficients.

Based on this mathematical model, the data acquired formed the following equations for the thrust forces in [N] and the torque in [Nm] respectively:

$$Fz = -166 + 43.2 D + 0.405 V + 1273 f + 2.10$$

$$D \times D + 0.0163 V^2 + 86 f^2 - 0.140 D \times V + 64.2$$

$$D \times f + 0.156 V \times f$$
(2)

and
$$Mz = 4.52 - 0.913 D - 0.00502 V - 7.31 f + 0.0548 D \times D - 0.000046 V^2 - 1.39 f^2 + 0.000405 D \times V + 1.73 D \times f + 0.0197 V \times f$$
 (3)

where D is the tool diameter [mm], f is the feed rate [mm/rev], and V is the cutting speed used [m/min] and Solid carbide tools and Al7075 workpiece.

Source	DF	SS	MS	F	P
Regression	9	6239800	693311	2212.84	0.000
Residual Error	26	8146	313		
Total	35	6247946			
R-Sq(adj) = 99.8 %	, o				
Predictor	Coef.	SE Coef.	T	P	
Constant	-165.6	100.3	-1.65	0.111	
D	43.17	16.74	2.58	0.016	j
V	0.4045	0.8729	0.46	0.647	
f	1272.7	157.4	8.09	0.000)
$D \times D$	2.1042	0.7375	2.85	0.008	}
$V \times V$	0.016343	0.006953	2.35	0.027	
$f \times f$	86.5	156.5	0.55	0.585	
$D \times V$	-0.13972	0.05386	-2.59	0.015	
$D \times f$	64.208	8.079	7.95	0.000)
$V \times f$	0.1563	0.7375	0.21	0.834	

Table 4 *ANOVA table for the Mz (torque)*

Source	DF	SS	MS	F	P
Regression	9	322.187	35.799	2908.77	0.000
Residual Error	26	0.320	0.012		
Total	35	322.507			

R-Sq(adj) = 99.9 %

Predictor	Coef.	SE Coef.	T	P
Constant	4.5188	0.6287	7.19	0.000
D	-0.9134	0.1049	-8.71	0.000
V	-0.005017	0.005471	-0.92	0.368
F	-7.3081	0.9862	-7.41	0.000
$D \times D$	0.054812	0.004622	11.86	0.000
$V{ imes}V$	-0.00004644	0.00004358	-1.07	0.296
$f \times f$	-1.3917	0.9806	-1.42	0.168
$D \times V$	0.0004053	0.0003376	1.20	0.241
$D \times f$	1.73142	0.05064	34.19	0.000
$V \times f$	0.019729	0.004622	4.27	0.000

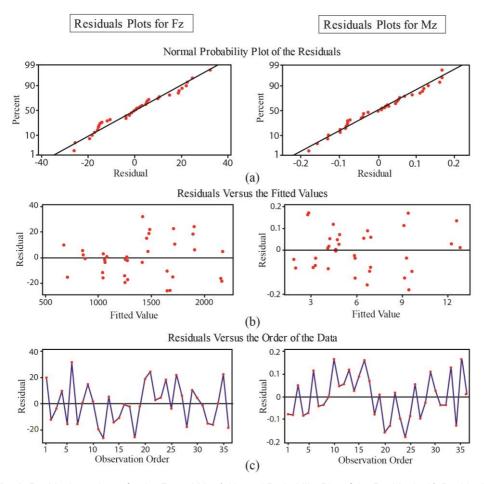


Fig. 4. Residuals analyses for the Fz and Mz a) Normal Probability Plot of the Residuals, b) Residuals Versus the Fitted Values, c) Residuals Versus the Order of the Data

The adequacy of the models is provided at a 5 % level of significance. ANOVA was used for establishing the validity of the developed models. The calculated values of the F-ratio of the developed models (Tables 3 and 4), are significantly increased compared to tabulated value of the F-table for 95 % confidence level (2212.84 for the Fz and 2908.77 for the Mz), while the P-values are 0.000, which proves the highest correlation between data and model in each case. validity of the models is also proved because the R-sq(adj) is very high in both cases (99.8 % for the Fz and 99.9 % for the Mz). In addition, the significant terms of the models, when a level of significance of 5 % is used, are those with a Pvalue less than 0.05. For the Fz these factors are: D (P = 0.016), f (P = 0.000), $D \times D$ (P = 0.008), $V \times V$ (P = 0.015) and $D \times f$ (P = 0.000), while for the Mz the significant terms are: D (P = 0.000), f (P = 0.000), D^2 (P = 0.000), $D \times f$ (P = 0.000), $D \times f$ (P = 0.000).

Residual analysis was performed in order to test the models accuracy and in both cases the residuals follow the normal distribution. They follow straight lines (almost linear patterns) proving that the errors follow the normal distribution. All the scatter diagrams of the Fz and Mz residuals versus the fitted values depict that the residuals are evenly distributed on both sides of the centerline.

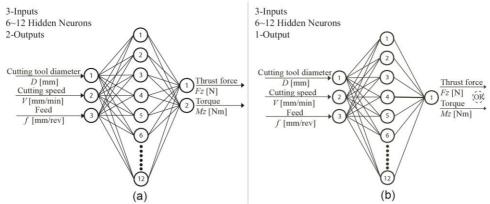


Fig. 5. Architecture of ANN with a) 3 inputs-6 to 12 hidden neurons -2 outputs, and b) 3 inputs-6 to 12 hidden neurons-1 output topology

The same is true for the residuals versus the order of the data (see Fig. 4). The accuracy achieved is very high when comparing the measured values and those calculated from the mathematical models (3 % and 5.6 % respectively). The derived mathematical models can be considered as very accurate and can be used directly for predicting both the thrust force and the cutting torque within the limits of the tool diameter, feed rate and cutting speed used.

2.3 ANN Modeling

Artificial Neural Network ability to learn complex non-linear and multivariable relationships between process parameters makes them very useful in many applications. An ANN consists of a number of neurons, which are divided into the three basic layers namely input, hidden and output. The neurons between the layers are linked having synaptic weights. One of the basic advantages of ANN is its ability to learn from the process. When the architecture of the network is defined, then, through a learning process, weights are calculated so as to present the desired output.

Current research used a series of neural network pieces of software available for the development of a multilayer feedforward neural network. An elementary neuron with R inputs is shown in Figure 6a. Each input is weighted with an appropriate value (w). The sum of the weighted inputs and the bias forms the input to the transfer function (f). Neurons can use any differentiable transfer function (f) in order to generate their output.

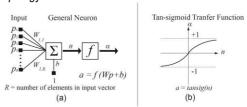


Fig. 6. Multilayer neuron network architecture, a) elementary neuron with R inputs, b) linear transfer function

The standard network that is used for function fitting is a two-layer feedforward network, with a tan-sigmoid transfer function in the hidden layer and a linear transfer function in the output layer (see Fig. 6b). Assuming that the activation function used in the hidden and the outer layer is sigmoidal, the outputs of the hidden and outer layer were calculated using the following equation:

$$f(net) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-net}} \tag{4}$$

All of the original (36) experimental data were randomly divided into three data sets including a training, validation and testing. The back-propagation training algorithms, the scaled conjugate gradient (SCG) and Levenberg-Marquardt (LM), were used for ANNs training. The training set used 70 % of the data to build the network, 15 % to measure network generalization and 15 % as a testing set of the neural network. Three layer network architectures were used to predict the thrust force and torque as shown in Fig. 5.

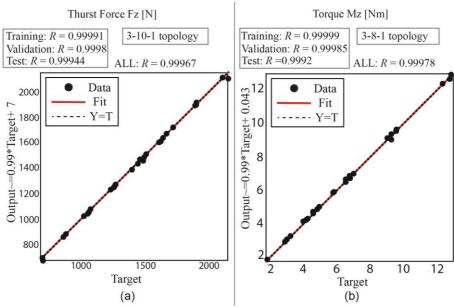


Fig. 7. Neural network plot linear regressions for a) Fz and b) Mz

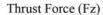
In the first case, a $3-(6\sim12)-2$ ANN topology was used, which consists of three input nodes (tool diameter, cutting speed, feed rate), one hidden layer (6 to 12 neurons) and two outputs (thrust force and torque). In the second case, two different $3-(6\sim12)-1$ ANN topologies were used as the output layer consists of one neuron corresponding to one output variable Fz and Mz, respectively.

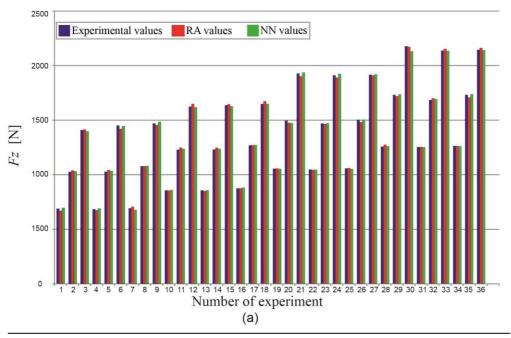
In consequence of trials, the best network architecture for the prediction of thrust force was the 3-10-1 topology. The comparison of predicted results from ANN model with experimental measurements shows that there is a very good correlation between them. It is obvious that the neural network is a very good tool for predicted values of Fz according to experimentally measured ones. The correlation coefficient (R value) between the outputs and targets is a measure of model accuracy. The R value for the entire dataset (training, validation and testing) is 0.99967 and it represents high correlation. In addition all the categorized Rvalues (training, validation and test) are very close to 1 (see Fig. 7). When comparing both

the measured and the predicted Fz values the highest discrepancy observed is 2.18 %. In the case of Mz the best network architecture for the prediction of the experimental values was the 3-8-1 topology. The R value for all the dataset (training, validation and testing) is 0.99978 and in each one of them separately is close to 1. As a result the network achieves high accuracy (see Fig. 7). When comparing the measured with the predicted Mz values the highest difference observed is 3.15 %. From the output of both cases, it is concluded that the training of the ANN with one output for each case offers greater accuracy than in the case of the network with two outputs.

3 COMPARISON BETWEEN RSM AND ANN MODELS

A full factorial experimentation design is implemented to search for the effects of the cutting parameters (i.e. cutting speed, feed rate, and tool diameter) on the thrust force and torque in the case of drilling.





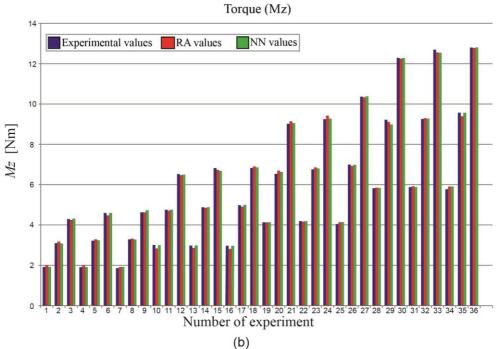


Fig. 8. Comparison of the experimental values with the predicted values for a) Fz and b) Mz

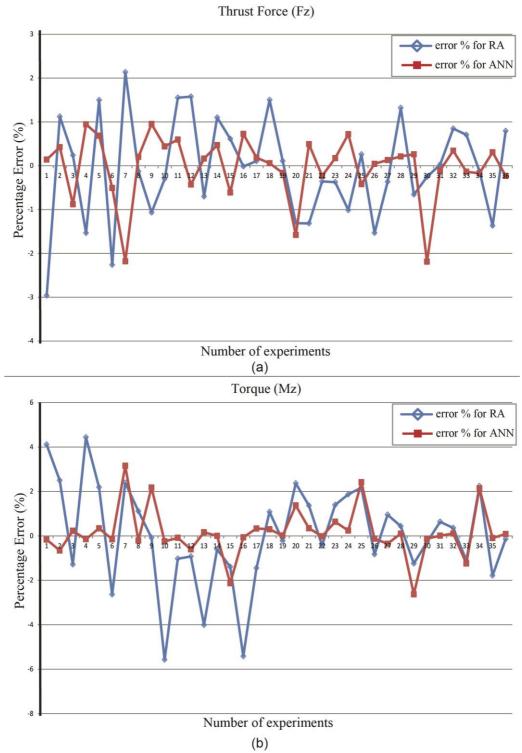


Fig. 9 Error between experimental and predicted values for a) Fz and b) Mz

After each hole making, the measurements of thrust force and torque were documented. Artificial neural network and response surface methodology models were developed to predict the thrust force and torque using the experimental data.

A comparison was established between the experimental values of Fz and Mz (see Fig. 8) and their values of ANN and RSM model respectively. It is obvious that the predicted values from both models approximate the experimental values. Nevertheless, the predicted values from the ANN predict in higher accuracy the experimental values than the regression analysis model. This can be also proved from the calculated percentage of error between experimental and predicted values of the models which are depicted in Fig. 9 for both the Fz and the Mz. In the case of the ANN models, the accuracy achieved was 2.18 % and 3.15 % for both the thrust force and torque, while in the case of the response surface methodology model the accuracy achieved was 3 % and 5.6 % respectively.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The optimization of a drilling process focused on cutting tools and parameters is a basic part of the whole machining process that influences sustainability. The aim of this study was the generation of mathematical models for the prediction of the thrust force (Fz) and torque (Mz) related to the cutting tools and other crucial cutting parameters as feed rate and cutting velocity during the drilling process. Two modeling techniques the RSM and ANN were used in order to predict the thrust force and torque in a series of drilling operations of Al7075. The developed models were considered as very accurate for the prediction of the Fz and Mz within the range of the manufacturing parameters used. A number of different ANN architectures $(3-(6\sim12)-2)$ and $(3-(6\sim12)-1)$ have been tested in order to obtain the best neural network configuration in each case. Finally, the best architecture was the (3-10-1) for the case of the thrust force and the (3-8-1) for the case of torque. The outcomes proved that when using the ANN models the accuracy achieved was 2.18 % and 3.15 % for both the thrust force and torque measured. In the case of

RSM model the accuracy achieved was 3 % and 5.6 % respectively. As a result, both strategies are suitable in modeling and predicting thrust force and torque when drilling is concerned, but the application of ANN is slightly more accurate than the RSM one.

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