



Article Experimental Investigation of Tribology-Related Topography Parameters of Hard-Turned and Ground 16MnCr5 Surfaces

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Abstract: Several surface topography parameters are available for the quantification of tribological properties of machined surfaces. Although these parameters and their influences are widely studied, there are contradictory findings due to the nature of the topography parameters, i.e., the behavior of different materials and cutting tool interactions lead to relatively varying numerical results. A comprehensive study of these interactions can contribute to more exact industrial machining applications. In this study, tribology-related 3D topography parameters of hard-machined (hard-turned and ground) surfaces were analyzed. The machining experiments were carried out based on a detailed design of the experiment; the analyzed material was case-hardened low-carbon content steel, which is widely used for automotive, industrial components such as bearings or gears. From the topography data, response function, correlation, and relative deviation analyses were carried out for the analyzed topography parameters, and tribology maps were created to support the selection of optimal cutting parameter values.

Keywords: surface topography; wear resistance; lubricant retention; hard machining

1. Introduction

Friction, wear, and the role of lubricants in contacting surfaces are widely studied areas because of their significant roles in the functionality of contacting surfaces [1]. As a result of the development of high-reliability and high-accuracy sensors and imaging technologies [2], novel tools and IT solutions [3] are available to study these tribological phenomena.

In this study, hard turning and grinding are compared. Hard turning is an alternative technology to grinding if random surface topography is not needed because the same accuracy and surface quality can be achieved [4]. At the same time, hard turning requires no coolant or lubricant, which results in a lower environmental load compared to grinding [5]. However, minimum quantity lubrication might be satisfactory from the accuracy point of view in grinding [6]. Due to the relatively large depth of cut, hard turning is more effective than grinding; the material removal rate of the former is significantly higher [7]. With the appearance and development of high-hardness cubic boron nitride inserts, the application and research of hard turning became a focal point of investigation [8,9]. It was found that white layer formation is a problem of this technology, similar to grinding. Several studies have analyzed this problem and provided solutions for avoiding it [10].

Machined surfaces consist of peaks and valleys; the shape and quantity of these topographical elements and the distribution of the height points of a surface determine several tribological properties. If a surface is characterized by relatively few and not high peaks, i.e., if it is filled in its upper zone, then the load-bearing capacity is high. The initial wear-in phase of such a surface is relatively short, and during wear, the surface reaches a large bearing area, and therefore a more wear-resistant surface is quickly formed. The number and height of the valleys provide information about the lubricant retention ability. If the total volume of the valleys is high, more lubricant can remain in them. At the same time, a narrow valley supports the capillary phenomenon, which allows lubricant retention.



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Copyright: © 2023 by the author. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). If peaks dominate on a surface, the wear resistance is lower, but the volume of valleys is high. If a surface is filled (which can typically be done by honing), the wear resistance is favorable, but the lubricant is present only in the thin valleys. The topography parameters connected to the peak zone of the surface provide information about the wear resistance, and those connected to the valley zone about the lubricant retention ability.

In this study, peak height (Sp) and valley depth (Sv) height, reduced peak height (Spk)and reduced valley depth (Svk), peak material volume (Vmp) and valley void volume (Vvv), and skewness (Ssk) and kurtosis (Sku) parameters are analyzed (in Section 2.2). A center area is a plane that divides the surface points into two equal parts. The *Sp* is the height of the highest surface point measured from this plane, and the Sv is that of the lowest point [11]. By analyzing these simple parameters, initial information about the analyzed tribological properties can be obtained, which can be made more exact by the use of more suitable parameters, such as those of the *Sk* parameter group. In surface topography, a surface consists of material and void. At the highest points of a surface, the material ratio is the least, and at the lowest points, the largest. The areal material ratio curve demonstrates these ratios at different heights. From the lowest to the highest point of a surface (maximum height), three zones are defined: valley, core, and peak zones. Based on the material ratio curve, these zones can be designated numerically. The equivalent line that fits the best on the flattest 40% (measured in the direction of the material ratio axis) designates the border between the core and peak zones and between the valley and core zones at 0% and 100% material ratio, respectively [12]. These points of the height designate the core height (Sk), the reduced peak height (Spk), and the reduced valley depth (Svk), and the division of the surface into three zones provides more detailed information about the tribological behavior of a surface than the Sp and Sv parameters. The result of the latest topography development is the group of volume parameters that consist of the peak material volume (Vmp), core material volume (*Vmc*), core void volume (*Vvc*), and valley void volume (*Vvv*). These are also calculated from the areal material ratio curve but provide more exact information than the parameters of the *Sk* group. *Vmp* is the volume of the material between 0 and 10% of the material ratio, while *Vvv* is between 80 and 100%. A relatively low *Sp*, *Spk*, and *Vmp* indicate favorable wear resistance, and a high Sv, Svk, and Vvv indicate favorable lubricant retention ability [13,14].

Skewness (Ssk) and kurtosis (Sku) are the third and fourth-order standardized moments of the height distribution [15,16], respectively. The former provides information about the asymmetry of a surface; its negative value indicates a more wear-resistant surface [17,18]. The latter is related to the peaky feature of a surface. A value above three indicates more sharp peaks on a surface [19]. Negative Ssk (skewed surface) indicates a higher load-bearing capacity and increased load-bearing area [20,21], and at the same time, the number of peaks is relatively low, which results in a shorter wear-in phase [22]. On the other hand, if the value of *Ssk* is high, the probability of crack nucleation increases [23]. Concerning the *Sku* parameter, if its value is higher than three, the lubricant retention ability of a surface increases [24] because the narrow valleys act as lubricant reservoirs [25,26]. It is difficult to describe the role of the *Ssk* and *Sku* parameters generally because there are contradictory findings in the research; however, they are widely studied parameters [27,28]. Contrary to the above characteristics of these, it was found in other studies that the lubricant retention ability is not influenced by the *Sku* significantly, and the *Ssk* has a higher impact on it [29] because the Ssk is more sensitive for peaks [30,31]. It was also found that skewness is not strongly correlated with the machining parameters, meaning that surface engineering based on this parameter incorporates challenges [32].

Several surface engineering-related studies focus on the effects of machining process parameters [33], the peak zone analysis and its effects on surface functionality, and the characteristics of the valley zone from the aspect of lubricant retention ability [34,35]. Various technologies that are suitable to create tribologically favorable surfaces are studied widely, including shot peening [36], milling [37,38], ball burnishing [39], ultrasonic assisted griding [40], turning [41,42], rotational turning [43,44], and grinding [45]. Velázquez Corral et al.

found that vibration-assisted ball burnishing technology increases the wear resistance of Ti6Al4V components [46]. Beyond technological diversity, the range of studied topics is also wide. For example, Szlachetka et al. studied the connections between the mechanical and physical properties of the material and the topography characteristics [47]. Bingley et al. analyzed the effects of machining procedures on the behavior of lubricants [48]. Korkmaz et al. analyzed cryo-MQL to improve tribological properties [49]. Grzesik et al. obtained findings in the field of the functionality of hard-machined surfaces [30,50]. Flack et al. studied the connections between surface texture and friction characteristics [51].

Functionality and tribology-related analysis of surface texture and roughness is challenging; it is recommended to analyze several parameters parallelly to obtain the most exact and generalizable information about the important surface characteristics [52,53]. This was confirmed by Szala et al., who compared the wear resistance of several types of material grades [54]. It is recommended to use 3D topography analysis techniques in research and development due to their high accuracy [55]. This was confirmed by Krolczyk et al., who studied tribological characteristics of difficult-to-cut steels [56].

As highlighted, functionality, tribological properties, and their connections to surface topography are widely studied. The steel grade 16MnCr5 is also a focus of research. Ghera et al. found correlations among roughness parameters by analyzing the resistance to cavitation erosion based on different thermomechanical and heat treatment states of this steel [57]. Bartels et al. compared conventionally and additively manufactured (AM) 16MnCr5 steel and found that higher case-hardened depth can be reached in the latter case [58]. Saelzer et al. studied simulation possibilities and provided novel aspects for supporting decisions among experimental methods [59]. Dhar et al. analyzed the grinding process and found that minimal-quantity lubrication improves the grindability characteristics [60]. Agarwal et al. carried out turning experiments, applied analysis of variance, and determined optimum cutting parameters for minimization of surface roughness and maximization of material removal rate; however, they only analyzed the average roughness [61]. Knyazeva et al. analyzed the wear progress of gear wheels made of 16MnCr5 by different material-characterization techniques [62]. Several research directions and areas can be identified, but the detailed characterization of tribological properties of 16MnCr5 based on 3D surface topography parameters can be considered a research gap.

In this study, the results of hard turning and grinding experiments and 3D topography measurements are reported. The hard turning was carried out dry, and the grinding was carried out by using coolant fluid to improve the surface quality and decrease friction and cutting temperature. Eight topography parameters were analyzed from wear resistance and lubrication aspects. These parameters provide similar information about the mentioned tribological properties; however, their calculation methods and reliability are different.

The purpose of this study is to analyze surface topography parameters that describe the same tribological properties (wear resistance and lubricant retention ability) and compare them based on their reliability. For the comparison, statistical methods were applied. The results will contribute to industrial and academic applications and provide numerical information about the differences among the analyzed topography parameters and their reliabilities. The experiment was carried out on 16MnCr5 case-hardened steel, widely used in the automotive industry, but even so, there is a lack of up-to-date studies that are based on detailed machining experiments and apply the latest surface analyzing techniques, which can be considered another research gap. The obtained measurement data are discussed in the following order: summarization of the measured topography data; response functions; correlation analyses; study of the relative deviations; and topography maps for selecting the most favorable cutting data.

2. Material and Methods

2.1. Machining and Measurement

In the experiment, 60 mm diameter and 13 mm length external cylindrical surfaces were machined by hard turning and grinding. The same machining center was used for

both procedures. The material grade was 16MnCr5, which is a low-carbon content steel and suitable for case hardening. Hard turning was carried out dry; for grinding, water-oil emulsion was used as a coolant fluid. The process parameters are summarized in Table 1, and the process of the research is demonstrated in Figure 1.

Table 1. Process parameters of the experiment.

Workpiece Clamping	I	Process Parameters
	 Hard turning Machining center: E GmbH, Salach, Gen Tool holder: PCLNE 120408 TA4. Cutting parameters: Depth of cut: <i>a</i> Cutting speed: Feed rate: <i>f</i> = 0 	EMAG VSC 400 DDS (EGAM Salach many). & 2020-K12; CBN Insert: NP-CNGA : $v_p = 0.05-0.35 \text{ mm};$ $v_c = 120-240 \text{ m/min};$ 0.04-0.2 mm/rev.
	Grinding Machining center: E GmbH, Salach, Gerr Grinding wheel: No (Abrasive: aluminum medium; bond type experiment: 120 mm Cutting parameters: • Workpiece rpm • Grinding whee • Feed rate: $f = 2$	EMAG VSC 400 DDS (EGAM Salach many). brton 3AS80J8VET; 01_180 × 12 × 50.8 m oxide, grit size: 80—fine; grade: t vitrified). Wheel diameter during the n. then $n_{\rm W} = 100-200$ rev/min; el rpm: $n_{\rm T} = 3000-6000$ rev/min; 2-8 mm/min.
	Topography measu Equipment: AltiSur France). Sensor: confocal chr direction: 0.012 μm; Evaluated area: 2 × mm (according to IS	rement f 520 (Altimet, Thonon-les-Bains, romatic, type CL2. Resolution in z resolution in x and y directions: 1 μ m. 2 mm. Cut-off lengths: 0.08; 0.25; 0.8 SO 25178).
	Surface topography ficrostructure Hardness	Data processing: Altimet Premium Analyis: Origin Lab

Figure 1. The process of the research.

The workpieces were heat treated (case hardening) in three steps:

- Carburization at 920 °C for 14 h, then slow cooling on air.
- Quenching from 860 °C in oil.
- Tempering at 19 °C for 2 h, then slow cooling on air.

After heat treatment, a ~0.2 mm decarburized surface layer was removed, and the obtained hardness of the resulting surface varied between 60 and 63 HRC. The microstructure of the hardened layer is martensitic (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Microstructure of the (a) bulk material, (b) and the hardened layer.

The three machining parameters of both the hard turning and grinding were varied at three levels. This resulted in 27 setups. The parameter values (low, medium, and high) were selected from the ranges recommended by the tool manufacturers. The design of the experiment is presented in Table 2 for the two machining procedures.

Table 2. Design of experiment.

		Ha	rd Turning			Grinding						
1	a_{p1}, v_{c1}, f_1	10	a_{p2}, v_{c1}, f_1	19	a_{p3}, v_{c1}, f_1	1	n_{W1}, n_{T1}, f_1	10	n_{W2}, n_{T1}, f_1	19	$n_{\rm W3}, n_{\rm T1}, f_1$	
2	a_{p1}, v_{c1}, f_2	11	a_{p2}, v_{c1}, f_2	20	a_{p3}, v_{c1}, f_2	2	$n_{\rm W1}, n_{\rm T1}, f_2$	11	n_{W2}, n_{T1}, f_2	20	$n_{\rm W3}, n_{\rm T1}, f_2$	
3	a_{p1}, v_{c1}, f_3	12	a_{p2}, v_{c1}, f_3	21	a_{p3}, v_{c1}, f_3	3	n_{W1}, n_{T1}, f_3	12	n_{W2}, n_{T1}, f_3	21	$n_{\rm W3}, n_{\rm T1}, f_3$	
4	a_{p1}, v_{c2}, f_1	13	a_{p2}, v_{c2}, f_1	22	a_{p3}, v_{c2}, f_1	4	n_{W1}, n_{T2}, f_1	13	n_{W2}, n_{T2}, f_1	22	$n_{\rm W3}, n_{\rm T2}, f_1$	
5	a_{p1}, v_{c2}, f_2	14	a_{p2}, v_{c2}, f_2	23	a_{p3}, v_{c2}, f_2	5	$n_{\rm W1}, n_{\rm T2}, f_2$	14	n_{W2}, n_{T2}, f_2	23	$n_{\rm W3}, n_{\rm T2}, f_2$	
6	a_{p1}, v_{c2}, f_3	15	a_{p2}, v_{c2}, f_3	24	a_{p3}, v_{c2}, f_3	6	$n_{\rm W1}, n_{\rm T2}, f_3$	15	n_{W2}, n_{T2}, f_3	24	$n_{\rm W3}, n_{\rm T2}, f_3$	
7	a_{p1}, v_{c3}, f_1	16	a_{p2}, v_{c3}, f_1	25	a_{p3}, v_{c3}, f_1	7	n_{W1}, n_{T3}, f_1	16	n_{W2}, n_{T3}, f_1	25	$n_{\rm W3}, n_{\rm T3}, f_1$	
8	a_{p1}, v_{c3}, f_2	17	a_{p2}, v_{c3}, f_2	26	a_{p3}, v_{c3}, f_1	8	n_{W1}, n_{T3}, f_2	17	n_{W2}, n_{T3}, f_2	26	$n_{\rm W3}, n_{\rm T3}, f_2$	
9	a_{p1}, v_{c3}, f_3	18	a_{p2}, v_{c3}, f_3	27	a_{p3}, v_{c3}, f_3	9	$n_{\rm W1}, n_{\rm T3}, f_3$	18	n_{W2}, n_{T3}, f_3	27	$n_{\rm W3}, n_{\rm T3}, f_3$	
	$a_{p1} = 0.05 \text{ mm}, a_{p2} = 0.2 \text{ mm}, a_{p3} = 0.35 \text{ mm}$					n_{W1} , = 100 rev/min, n_{W2} , = 150 rev/min, n_{W3} , = 200 rev/min						
	$v_{c1} = 120 \text{ m/mi}$	n, v_{c2} =	= 180 m/min, v	$_{c3} = 240$) m/min	<i>n</i> _{T1} ,	= 3000 rev/min	, n _{T2} , =	4500 rev/min,	$n_{T3}, =$	6000 rev/min	
	$f_1 = 0.04 \text{ mm/re}$	$ev, f_2 =$	0.12 mm/rev, f	$f_3 = 0.2$	mm/rev	$f_1 = 2 \text{ mm/min}, f_2 = 5 \text{ mm/min}, f_3 = 8 \text{ mm/min}$						

2.2. Analyzed Topography Parameters

In the analysis, ten topography parameters were compared. The height of the peak zone is the peak height (*Sp*), and the height of the valley zone is the valley depth (*Sv*). The skewness (*Ssk*) and the kurtosis (*Sku*) of the height distribution provide information about how skewed the distribution is and about the peaky feature of a surface, respectively (Equations (3) and (4)). Four other parameters were analyzed from the *Sk* and the volume parameter groups: reduced peak height (*Spk*), reduced valley depth (*Svk*), peak material volume (*Vmp*), and valley void volume (*Vvv*). The latter two are volume parameters and indicate the material or the void volume (ml) for one mm² (Figure 3). The parameter definitions for *Sp* and *Sv* are demonstrated in Figure 3a, *Spk* and *Svk* are demonstrated in Figure 3b, and *Vmp* and *Vvv* are demonstrated in Figure 3c. The topographical features of the different *Ssk* and *Sku* values are demonstrated in Figure 3d.

$$Sp = \max_{A} Z(x, y) \tag{1}$$

$$Sv = \left| \min_{A} Z(x, y) \right|$$
(2)

$$Ssk = \frac{1}{Sq^3} \left[\frac{1}{A} \iint_A Z^3(x, y) dx \, dy \right]$$
(3)

$$Sku = \frac{1}{Sq^4} \left[\frac{1}{A} \iint_A Z^4(x, y) dx \, dy \right] \tag{4}$$



Figure 3. Explanation of the analyzed topography parameters: (**a**) *Sp* and *Sv*, (**b**) *Sk* parameter group, (**c**) volume parameter group, (**d**) *Ssk* and *Sku*.

In the analysis, the correlation coefficient (r) and its square, the coefficient of determination (r^2), are used. The formula of the former is expressed by Equation (5).

$$r \equiv r_{xy} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \overline{x})(y_i - \overline{y})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (x_i - \overline{x})^2} \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (y_i - \overline{y})^2}},$$
(5)

where x and y are random variables between which the correlation is calculated.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Topography Parameters

The mean values and ranges of the topography parameters are summarized in Figures 4–6 for the different feed rates ($f_1 = 0.04 \text{ mm/rev}$, $f_2 = 0.12 \text{ mm/rev}$, $f_3 = 0.2 \text{ mm/rev}$) and wheel revolutions ($n_{T1} = 3000 \text{ rev/min}$, $n_{T1} = 4500 \text{ rev/min}$, $n_{T1} = 6000 \text{ rev/min}$) of hard turning and grinding, respectively. The topography parameter value ranges on each feed rate and wheel revolution level incorporate the data points connected to all the analyzed cutting parameters and their levels. This means that a single value range consists of nine data points.



Figure 4. Means and value ranges of the parameters (a) *Vmp*, (b) *Sp*, and (c) *Spk*.



Figure 5. Means and value ranges of the parameters (a) Vvv, (b) Sv, and (c) Svk.



Figure 6. Means and value ranges of the parameters (a) Ssk and (b) Sku.

The means of the peak parameter values (*Vmp*, *Sp*, and *Spk*) of the hard-turned surfaces show significant increases with the feed rate. At the lowest feed rate (f_1), *Vmp* varies between 0.005 and 0.016 ml/m², at the middle value (f_2) between 0.016 and 0.027 ml/m², and at the highest (f_3) between 0.044 and 0.059 ml/m² (Figure 4a). These ranges for *Sp* are 0.319–0.894 µm, 1.197–1.361 µm, and 3.182–3.684 µm (Figure 4b), and for *Spk* are 0.085–0.324 µm, 0.727–1.055 µm, and 2.211–2.588 µm (Figure 4c). The deviations slightly increase with the feed rate. The mean values of the peak parameters for the ground surfaces show significant decreases with the rpm of the tool. At the lowest rpm (n_{T1}), *Vmp* varies between 0.035 and 0.186 ml/m², at the middle value (n_{T2}) between 0.024 and 0.116 ml/m², and at the highest (n_{T3}) between 0.021 and 0.050 ml/m² (Figure 4a). These ranges for *Sp* are 1.932–11.333 µm, 1.316–6.163 µm, and 1.202–2.706 µm (Figure 4b), and for *Spk* are 0.668–3.579 µm, 0.391–2.051 µm, and 0.351–0.928 µm (Figure 4c). The deviations slightly cantly decrease with the tool rpm.

The mean of the volume parameter values (Vvv, Sv, and Svk) of the hard-turned surfaces show a slight increase with the feed rate. At the lowest feed rate (f_1), Vvv varies between 0.017 and 0.038 ml/m², at the middle value (f_2) between 0.019 and 0.031 ml/m², and at the highest (f_3) between 0.039 and 0.077 ml/m² (Figure 5a). These ranges for Sv are 0.411–0.975 μm, 0.762–0.981 μm, and 1.872–2.936 μm (Figure 5b), and for Svk are 0.111–0.285 μm, 0.121–0.251 μm, and 0.133–0.449 μm (Figure 5c). The means of the valley parameters for the ground surfaces show a significant decrease with the rpm of the tool. At the lowest rpm (n_{T1}) , Vvv varies between 0.077 and 0.726 ml/m², at the middle value (n_{T2}) between 0.059 and 0.263 ml/m², and at the highest (n_{T3}) between 0.059 and 0.107 ml/m² (Figure 5a). These ranges for Sv are 2.009–15.380 μm, 1.442–6.040 μm, and 1.382–2.728 μm (Figure 5b), and for Svk are 0.604–7.459 μm, 0.466–1.627 μm, and 0.440–0.814 μm (Figure 5c). The deviations significantly decrease with the tool rpm. The obtained results confirm that the surface height-related parameters are favorable at lower feed rates and higher tool rpm for hard turning and grinding, respectively. The significant differences in the deviations of the parameters of ground surfaces indicate that these parameters are also influenced by the feed rate.

In the case of the hard-turned surfaces, at the lowest feed rate (f_1), *Ssk* varies between -0.663 and 0.139, at the middle value (f_2) between 0.705 and 0.963, and at the highest (f_3) between 0.557 and 0.715 (Figure 6a). These ranges for *Sku* are 3.146–4.065, 2.478–3.120, and 2.095–2.352 (Figure 6b). In the case of the ground surfaces, at the lowest feed rate (f_1), *Ssk*

varies between -1.277 and 0.700, at the middle value (f_2) between -0.106 and 0.384, and at the highest (f_3) between -0.253 and 0.075 (Figure 6a). These ranges for *Sku* are 2.738–5.941, 2.921–3.276, and 2.960–3.232 (Figure 6b). No tendency (outlying mean in hard turning at f_2 feed rate) was obtained for the means of *Ssk* values, but the deviations show significant decreases with the considered cutting parameters in both technologies, which confirms the findings in [20,30] that this parameter is sensitive to texture deviations and contradicts the finding in [29]. Concerning *Sku*, both its means and deviations significantly decrease with the cutting parameters in both technologies.

3.2. Response Functions

It is not favorable to have a high deviation in a tribological property-related topography parameter that can be the basis of cutting parameter value selection. However, as shown by the results, the most favorable (minimum or maximum) parameter value can be found among values that show high deviation in some cases. At the same time, there are topography parameters where the means are close to each other, and the topography parameter value ranges are overlapped. Examples are demonstrated in Figures 7 and 8 for hard turning and grinding, respectively. It can be observed that there are topography parameters (Figures 7b and 8b) that are not influenced clearly by either the feed rate or the workpiece revolution, and therefore, the corresponding surfaces are overlapped.



Figure 7. Values of the (**a**) *Spk* and (**b**) *Svk* parameters of the hard-turned surfaces at different feed rates.



Figure 8. Values of the (**a**) *Vvv* and (**b**) *Sku* parameters of the ground surfaces at different grinding wheel revolutions.

Response functions that fit well to the measured data points can be a more suitable tool in cutting parameter selection. Quadratic three-factor response functions were created for the analyzed topography parameters, which incorporate the interactions of the cutting parameters, too. The general formulas of the functions are presented by Equations (6) and (7) for hard turning and grinding, respectively. The *c* parameters are collected in Tables A1 and A2.

$$Y = c_1 + c_2a_p + c_3v_c + c_4f + c_5a_p^2 + c_6v_c^2 + c_7f^2 + c_8a_pv_c + c_9a_pf + c_{10}v_cf$$
(6)

$$Y = c_1 + c_2 n_W + c_3 n_T + c_4 f + c_5 n_W^2 + c_6 n_T^2 + c_7 f^2 + c_8 n_W n_T + c_9 n_W f + c_{10} n_T f$$
(7)

The goodness of fit can be quantified by the coefficient of determination (r^2) . This value provides information about how the constructed response functions fit on the measured topography data points. If the r^2 value is at least 0.81, the fit is extremely strong, and when between 0.49 and 0.8, it indicates a strong relationship. The r^2 values are summarized in Table 3 for the analyzed parameters. In hard turning, only *Svk* has a strong relationship, and in the case of grinding, *Ssk* and *Sku*. The connections in the other parameters are extremely strong. These values confirm the results obtained in the analysis of means and value ranges: in hard turning, the data point ranges of *Svk* were relatively narrow and overlapped; in grinding, *Ssk* and *Sku* values were overlapped. It can be concluded that the cutting parameter selection in these topography parameters can be less reliable than in the others. However, the strong relationships indicate that the chosen type of response function is suitable for predicting the topography values. This confirms the findings in [63,64].

Table 3. Coefficients of determination (r^2) of the response surfaces.

	Vmp	Sp	Spk	Vvv	Sv	Svk	Ssk	Sku
Hard-turned	0.97	0.99	0.99	0.84	0.94	0.66	0.93	0.88
Ground	0.84	0.89	0.84	0.92	0.95	0.84	0.69	0.52

3.3. Correlation Analysis

Correlations (*r*) were analyzed for the topography parameters to quantify the relationships among them. The strength of a correlation can be classified as extremely strong: 0.9 < r < 1, strong: 0.7 < r < 0.9, medium: 0.4 < r < 0.7, weak: 0.2 < r < 0.4, or extremely weak: 0 < r < 0.2. The correlograms in Figures 9 and 10 summarize the correlation coefficient values for hard turning and grinding, respectively. Concerning the three analyzed peak parameters, extremely strong correlations were obtained for all of them. This indicates that in the cutting parameters selection, *Vmp*, *Sp*, and *Spk* are equivalent. Extremely strong correlations were obtained for all turning and for all three volume parameters in grinding. The *Vvv*–*Svk* relationship (r = 0.71) is still strong, although this and the *Sv*–*Svk* relationship (r = 0.46) in hard turning cannot be considered as reliable as the other pairs. These results indicate that the parameter pair *Vvv*–*Sv* in hard turning and all three volume parameter pairs in grinding are equivalent.



Figure 9. Correlogram of the analyzed topography parameters of the hard-turned surfaces.



Figure 10. Correlogram of the analyzed topography parameters of the ground surfaces.

In hard turning, strong or extremely strong correlations were not obtained for the parameter pairs that include *Ssk*, and in grinding, only the pair *Ssk–Svk* showed a strong (near to the lower limit of the range) negative correlation. This indicates that *Ssk* is not strongly equivalent to the analyzed parameters. Concerning *Sku*, strong negative correlations were obtained by pairing it with *Vmp*, *Sp*, *Spk*, *Sv*, and *Ssk* in hard turning. It should be noted that in the case of the last one, the correlation coefficient is at the lowest part of the 'strong relationship' range. In grinding, strong positive correlations were obtained only by pairing with *Vmp* and *Vvv*. *Sku* can be considered equivalent with the *Vmp*, *Sp*, *Spk*, and *Sv* in hard turning and with *Vmp* and *Vvv* in grinding.

3.4. Analysis of the Relative Deviations

To confirm the obtained results, another analysis was carried out. The relative deviations of the topography parameters are demonstrated in Figures 11–14 for the different feed rate (hard turning) or tool rpm (grinding) levels. The total relative deviations are calculated by considering all the topography data points independently from the cutting parameter values. This analysis provides information about the similarity of tendencies in the means and deviations.



Figure 11. Relative deviations of the peak parameters of the hard-turned surfaces.

In the case of hard turning, the relative deviations of the peak parameters (Figure 11) at the f_1 feed rate differ from each other by 9.4%, at f_2 by 15.7%, and at f_3 by 5.2%. By involving all the data points, the relative deviations differ from each other by 18.2%. These findings indicate that the interchangeability of the peak parameters is the most reliable at the analyzed highest feed rate; however, a difference of around 10–15% can still be considered reliable. Concerning the equivalence of the parameters, the obtained correlation results can be confirmed by the relative deviation results.

The relative deviations of the valley parameters (Figure 12) at the f_1 feed rate differ from each other by 4%, at f_2 by 17.9%, and at f_3 by 29.5%. By involving all the data points, the relative deviations differ from each other by 21.8%. These findings indicate that the interchangeability of the peak parameters is most reliable at the analyzed lowest feed rate.



Figure 12. Relative deviations of the valley parameters of the hard-turned surfaces.



Figure 13. Relative deviations of the peak parameters of the ground surfaces.



Figure 14. Relative deviations of the valley parameters of the ground surfaces.

Analyzing the parameter pairs separately, the relative deviations for the parameter pair Vvv–Sv at the three feed rates differ from each other by less than 10%; for the pair Vvv–Svk, the differences vary between 4% and 21.8%, and for the pair Sv–Svk, between 0.6% and 29.5%. These results reflect the strength of correlations. Concerning the equivalence of the parameters, the obtained correlation results can be confirmed by the relative deviation results in the case of the parameter pair Vvv–Sv.

In the case of grinding, the relative deviations of the peak parameters (Figure 13) at n_{T1} tool rpm differ from each other by 3.7%, at n_{T2} by 3.2%, and at n_{T3} by 5.4%. By involving

all the data points, the relative deviations differ from each other by 1.7%. Concerning the equivalence of the parameters, the obtained correlation results can be confirmed by the relative deviation results.

The relative deviations of the valley parameters (Figure 14) at n_{T1} tool rpm differ from each other by 13.3%, at n_{T2} by 8.8%, and at n_{T3} by 2.4%. By involving all the data points, the relative deviations differ from each other by 20.9%. Concerning the equivalence of the parameters, the obtained correlation results can be confirmed by the relative deviation results; however, the correlation coefficients are relatively low compared to those of the peak parameters, and this is reflected in the higher differences in relative deviations.

3.5. Tribology Map—Cutting Parameter Selection

For the cutting parameter selection, the actual values of topography parameters provide reliable information. The maximum or minimum values (depending on their tribological suitability) of the topography parameters and their cutting parameter value combinations are summarized in Table 4.

Table 4. The most favorable topography parameter values and the connecting cutting parameter combinations.

		Vmp	Sp	Spk	Vvv	Sv	Svk	Ssk	Sku
		min	min	min	max	max	max	min	max
		0.005	0.319	0.085	0.077	2.936	0.449	-0.663	4.065
Hard-turned surface	a_{p} [mm]	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.35
	v _c [m∕min]	120	120	120	240	240	240	180	180
	f [mm/rev]	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.04	0.04
		0.021	1.202	0.351	0.726	15.380	7.459	-1.277	5.941
Ground surface	$n_{\rm T}$ [rev/min]	6000	6000	6000	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000
	<i>n</i> _W [rev/min]	100	100	100	100	150	100	200	200
	f [mm/min]	2	2	2	8	8	8	8	8

In hard turning, except for *Sku*, the most favorable values were obtained at a 0.2 mm depth of cut, which is the middle of the parameter range recommended by the tool manufacturer. Although the most influencing cutting parameter is the feed rate, it can be observed that the minimum peak parameters were obtained at 120 m/min and the maximum valley parameters at 240 m/min. The most favorable *Ssk* and *Sku* values were obtained at the middle level of the range recommended by the tool manufacturer (180 m/min). Concerning the feed rates, the minimum peak parameter values and the most favorable *Ssk* and *Sku* values were obtained at 0.04 mm/rev, and the maximum valley parameter values were obtained at 0.2 mm/rev.

In grinding, the minimum peak parameter values were obtained at 6000 rev/min tool rpm, and for the maximum valley parameter values, the most favorable *Ssk* and *Sku* values were obtained at 3000 rev/min. Concerning the workpiece rpm, the minimum peak parameters were obtained at 100 rev/min and the most favorable *Ssk* and *Sku* at 200 rev/min. The maximum valley parameters (except for *Sv*) were obtained at 100 rev/min. However, at 100 rev/min, a similar *Sv* value (13.202 μ m) was obtained, which can also be considered extremely high. The peak parameters are the lowest at a 2 mm/min feed rate; the maximum valley parameters and the most favorable *Ssk* and *Sku* parameters were obtained at 8 mm/min.

The cutting parameter combinations of the most favorable values of each analyzed topography parameter are included in Figures 15 and 16. In the figures, the blue arrows indicate the directions of approaching the optimum value. The most favorable peak parameters and similarly favorable values of *Ssk* and *Sku* parameters can be obtained at 0.04 mm/rev feed rate, and the 0.2 mm/rev feed rate belongs to the most favorable valley parameter values in the case of hard turning. When a low feed rate is applied, both the peak and valley zones are small in both their heights and volumes. This is the reason why

the peak parameters are favored at low feed rates, and the valley parameters are favored at high rates. The theoretical topography is not influenced by the depth of cut and the cutting speed; however, in the case of a real surface, dynamic effects occur, which may be the reason why the low peak parameters were obtained at a low cutting speed and the high valley parameters at high speed. Most of the favorable parameter values were obtained at a middle depth of cut, which is the recommended value of the tool manufacturer.



Figure 15. Topography map for the hard-turned surfaces at different depths of cuts.



Figure 16. Topography map for the ground surfaces at different workpiece revolutions.

The most favorable peak parameters and a couple of similarly favorable values can be obtained at 6000 rev/min tool rpm, and 3000 rev/min tool rpm is associated with the most favorable valley parameter *Ssk* and *Sku* values in the case of grinding. Another significant influencing cutting parameter is the feed rate. The most favorable peak parameters were obtained at 2 mm/min, and the most favorable valley parameters, *Ssk* and *Sku* values were obtained at 8 mm/min. Many of the lowest peak parameter values and many of the lowest valley parameter values were found for 100 rev/min workpiece rpm; however, this is not a significantly influential cutting parameter. The most favorable *Ssk* and *Sku* values are for 200 rev/min workpiece rpm. These results confirm the findings in [65,66]. High tool revolution results in a smoother surface with lower peaks and valleys. This effect is strengthened by the low value of the feed rate. This explains that the favorable peak parameters were obtained at the highest tool revolution and highest feed rate. The effects of the wheel revolution are not considerable, although a more in-depth analysis is recommended for this cutting parameter.

4. Conclusions

Hard turning and grinding experiments and topography measurements were carried out for the parameters of peak material volume (Vmp), peak height (Sp), reduced peak height (Spk), valley void volume (Vvv), valley depth (Sv), reduced valley depth (Svk), skewness (Ssk), and kurtosis (Sku). The cutting parameters were set in the ranges recommended by the tool manufacturers. The findings of the experiment and measurements are valid for the applied cutting parameter values:

- The means of *Vmp*, *Sp*, and *Spk* increase significantly and the deviations increase slightly in hard turning. The means and the deviations of *Vmp*, *Sp*, and *Spk* decrease significantly in grinding. The means of *Vvv*, *Sv*, and *Svk* increase slightly in hard turning. The means and deviations of *Vvv*, *Sv*, and *Svk* decrease significantly in grinding. No tendencies can be observed in the means and deviations of the *Ssk* values in the analyzed technologies. The means and deviations of *Sku* decrease significantly both in hard turning and grinding.
- Quadratic response functions were created for the analyzed topography parameter, and this type is suitable for predicting the topography values, which is indicated by the coefficients of determination that varied between 0.52 and 0.99.
- The correlation coefficients among *Vmp*, *Sp*, and *Spk* vary between 0.95 and 099 in the case of hard turning and grinding. The correlation coefficients among *Vvv*, *Sv*, and *Svk* vary between 0.92 and 1 in the case of grinding, and its value is 0.94 between *Vvv* and *Sv* in the case of hard turning. These findings indicate that these parameters are equivalent to each other. *Ssk* is not strongly equivalent to the analyzed parameters in hard turning and grinding (-0.71 < r < 0.58). *Sku* can be considered equivalent to *Vmp*, *Sp*, *Spk*, and *Sv* (-0.89 < r < -0.77) in hard turning and to *Vmp* and *Vvv* (0.72 < r < 0.85) in grinding. These results are confirmed by the analysis of the relative deviations carried out for the different feed rates and tool revolutions in the case of hard turning and grinding, respectively.
- Tribology maps were constructed to determine the cutting parameters of the most favorable topography parameters. The most favorable *Vmp*, *Sp*, *Spk*, *Ssk*, and *Sku* parameter values were obtained at 0.04 mm/rev feed rate, and the most favorable *Vvv*, *Sv*, and *Svk* parameter values at 0.2 mm/rev feed rate in hard turning. The most favorable *Vmp*, *Sp*, and *Spk* parameter values were obtained at 6000 rev/min tool rpm and 2 mm/min feed rate, and the most favorable *Vvv*, *Sv*, *Svk*, *Ssk*, and *Sku* at 3000 rev/min tool rpm and 8 mm/min feed rate in grinding.

The research can be extended to analyzing and comparing further material grades that have similar properties to 16MnCr5 and to analyzing further (rarely applied or special) topography parameters. Different edge geometries of turning inserts and different wheel properties (bonding material, grain size) influence surface topography; including such dependent variables in the experiment would be another important extension and is worth analysis.

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Appendix A

	c ₁	c ₂	c ₃	c_4	c ₅	c ₆	c ₇	c ₈	C9	c ₁₀
Vmp	0.013	-0.012	-0.0001	-0.088	0.082	0.00000	1.355	0.0000	-0.035	0.0001
Sp	0.543	1.149	-0.0013	-6.942	0.834	0.00000	105.610	-0.0014	-7.304	0.0018
Spk	-0.127	0.058	0.0013	1.332	2.142	0.00000	63.518	-0.0024	-6.925	-0.0077
Vvv	0.021	0.086	0.0001	-0.417	-0.138	0.00000	2.135	0.0001	-0.053	0.0004
Sv	0.699	3.247	-0.0011	-12.460	-4.716	0.00000	84.476	-0.0003	-5.307	0.0140
Svk	0.041	0.866	0.0012	-2.177	-1.277	0.00000	6.853	0.0005	-0.892	0.0046
Ssk	-0.863	-3.343	-0.0024	29.381	9.285	0.00001	-96.741	-0.0010	-1.728	-0.0036
Sku	1.859	1.580	0.0200	-8.381	-2.790	-0.00005	6.886	0.0004	-0.476	-0.0077

Table A1. Parameters of the quadratic response functions of the hard-turned surfaces.

Table A2. Parameters of the quadratic response functions of the ground surfaces.

	c ₁	c ₂	c ₃	c ₄	c ₅	c ₆	c ₇	c ₈	C9	c ₁₀
Vmp	0.290	-0.0007	-0.0001	0.019	0.00000	0.00000	0.0000	0.00000	0.0001	0.00000
Sp	11.575	0.0081	-0.0043	1.377	-0.00026	0.00000	0.0005	0.00001	0.0028	-0.00028
Spk	6.434	-0.0091	-0.0019	0.282	-0.00007	0.00000	-0.0097	0.00000	0.0017	-0.00007
Vvv	0.453	0.0022	-0.0003	0.122	-0.00001	0.00000	0.0049	0.00000	0.0001	-0.00003
Sv	8.408	0.0666	-0.0064	2.410	-0.00027	0.00000	0.0644	0.00000	0.0039	-0.00062
Svk	7.147	-0.0098	-0.0035	1.266	0.00000	0.00000	0.0272	0.00000	-0.0001	-0.00027
Ssk	1.674	-0.0139	0.0001	-0.220	-0.00001	0.00000	-0.0135	0.00000	0.0000	0.00007
Sku	8.404	-0.0257	-0.0011	-0.294	0.00006	0.00000	0.0253	0.00000	0.0020	-0.00005

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