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Modeling and Optimization of Copper Tube Drawing Process Parameters Based on Neuro-Regression and Stochastic Search Techniques

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Abstract –This study is dedicated to optimizing two critical responses within the tube drawing process: drawing force and linear thickness distribution. The process is influenced by four design factors: die angle, bearing length, friction coefficient, and drawing velocity.

To mathematically define the tube drawing process, 13 functional forms were utilized, encompassing linear, quadratic, trigonometric, and logarithmic expressions and their rational and hybrid combinations. The dataset for model development was taken from the literature. The candidate models were assessed using multiple performance metrics, including R^2 training, R^2 testing, and R^2 validation, along with boundedness checks and adherence to predefined constraints.

After identifying a suitable model, modified version of stochastic search optimization methods; Differential Evolution and Simulated Annealing were applied to minimize drawing force while maximizing thickness distribution. The results revealed a minimum drawing force of 2107.75 kN and a maximum linear thickness distribution of 0.911 mm.

These findings underscore the robustness and versatility of the neuro-regression modeling and stochastic optimization processes proposed in this study. In comparison to previous methodologies—such as response surface and artificial bee optimization techniques referenced in the literature—this approach has yielded an improvement of 3.5 % in drawing force and an enhancement of 18% in thickness distribution.

Keywords – Tube drawing process, neuro-regression modeling, stochastic optimization, copper tube

I. INTRODUCTION

The tube drawing process is a widely utilized metal forming technique for producing tubes with precise dimensions, improved surface quality, and enhanced mechanical properties. Due to the complex interactions between process parameters, developing accurate mathematical models to predict critical responses such as drawing force and thickness distribution is essential for optimizing the process and ensuring product quality [1]. Mathematical modeling serves as a fundamental tool in understanding these relationships and forms the basis for optimization techniques aimed at improving process efficiency and outcomes.

Recent advancements in computational methods have facilitated the development of sophisticated models that incorporate linear, nonlinear, and hybrid mathematical functions. These models are invaluable for capturing the nonlinearities inherent in the tube drawing process, as highlighted in studies such as those by Pater et al. [2] and Tiesler et al. [3]. Factors such as die angle, bearing length, friction coefficient, and drawing velocity significantly influence process responses, necessitating the use of advanced modeling techniques to accurately represent their effects [4].

Response Surface Methodology (RSM), Artificial Neural Networks (ANNs), Taguchi, Central Composite Design (CCD), and Genetic Algorithms (GAs) have been extensively applied in this domain to optimize process parameters. For instance, Kumar and Chauhan [5] employed RSM to optimize drawing velocity, die angle, and friction coefficient, achieving a reduction in drawing force by 15%. Similarly, ANNs have been utilized to model the nonlinear behavior of process parameters with high accuracy, as demonstrated by Rajput and Nimbalkar [6], where the model predicted thickness distribution with an error margin below 2%.

The Taguchi method, often integrated with ANOVA, has proven effective in identifying significant factors influencing process responses. Patel et al. [7] used the Taguchi approach to optimize die design and process velocity, resulting in a 12% improvement in thickness uniformity. CCD, a design of experiments approach, has also been widely used to explore the interactive effects of process variables. Yadav et al. [8] utilized CCD to develop second-order regression models for drawing force and achieved a significant reduction in force requirements.

In addition, heuristic algorithms have been employed to identify global optima for complex, multiobjective problems in the tube drawing process. Sun et al. [9] demonstrated the application of GAs for optimizing die geometry and bearing length, achieving a 10% increase in production efficiency while maintaining product quality.

This study aims to develop mathematical models for the copper tube drawing process using a diverse set of functional forms, including linear, quadratic, trigonometric, and logarithmic expressions, as well as their rational and hybrid variants. The models are evaluated based on performance metrics such as R^2 training, R^2 testing, and R^2 validation along with boundedness checks and compliance with predefined constraints. Following model selection, optimization techniques are employed to minimize drawing force and maximize thickness distribution. By bridging neuro regression mathematical modeling and stochastic optimization, this study seeks to contribute to the field of process design and control in metal forming operations.

II. MATERIALS AND METHOD

Neuro-regression is a sophisticated mathematical modeling technique that combines artificial neural networks with regression analysis. The dataset is divided into training, testing, and validation subsets to facilitate this modeling process. In the training phase, 80% of the dataset is used to determine the model coefficients that yield the highest accuracy in predicting actual values.

The remaining 20% of the dataset is reserved for testing and validation, allowing for an evaluation of the model's predictive performance on unseen data. Tables 1 and 2 present the dataset and proposed mathematical models used to analyze the relationship between input and output parameters during the mathematical modeling phase using the neuro-regression approach.

Run Order	$x1$ (Deg)	$x2$ (mm)	$x3$ (-)	x4 (mm/min)	Drawing Force (kN)	Linear Thickness (mm)
$\mathbf{1}$	5	$\overline{4}$	0.2	7.5	4752	0.72757
$\sqrt{2}$	10	$\overline{4}$	0.2	$7.5\,$	3379	0.73827
\mathfrak{Z}	5	8	0.2	7.5	4763	0.72955
$\overline{4}$	10	$8\,$	0.2	7.5	3477	0.73741
5	7.5	6	0.1	5	2358	0.73511
$\sqrt{6}$	7.5	$6\,$	0.3	5	5277	0.73744
τ	7.5	6	0.1	10	2371	0.73515
$\,8\,$	7.5	6	0.3	$10\,$	5284	0.7358
$\overline{9}$	5	$6\,$	0.2	5	4748	0.72218
10	10	6	0.2	5	3415	0.74366
11	5	6	0.2	10	4760	0.72669
12	10	6	0.2	10	3433	0.74371
13	7.5	$\overline{4}$	0.1	7.5	2314	0.72837
14	7.5	$8\,$	0.1	7.5	2386	0.72181
15	7.5	$\overline{4}$	0.3	7.5	5183	0.72727
16	7.5	$8\,$	0.3	7.5	5442	0.72164
17	5	6	0.1	7.5	2743	0.72175
18	10	6	0.1	7.5	2180	0.73938
19	5	6	0.3	7.5	6864	0.72932
20	10	$6\,$	0.3	7.5	4675	0.74629
21	7.5	$\overline{4}$	0.2	$\sqrt{5}$	3744	0.7274
22	7.5	8	0.2	5	3927	0.72202
23	7.5	$\overline{4}$	0.2	10	3724	0.72781
24	7.5	$\,8\,$	0.2	10	3951	0.7218
25	7.5	6	0.2	7.5	3826	0.73529

Table 1. The data set formed using the Box–Behnken experimental design method [10]

The effectiveness of the model's predictions is assessed using the $R²$ criterion, where a score approaching 1 indicates outstanding performance. Furthermore, boundedness check criteria are applied to ensure that the model's outputs are realistic and viable from an engineering standpoint.

The optimal model is expected to achieve two fundamental objectives: (1) attain high predictive accuracy, with an R² value as close to 1 as possible, and (2) produce designs that are realistic and practical within an engineering context. The model that meets these criteria is chosen as the objective function for optimization, and its value is either maximized or minimized depending on the specific optimization goal.

Table 2. Mathematical model types including linear, quadratic, trigonometric, logarithmic, rational and their hybrid forms [11].

In the optimization process, the output parameters—drawing force and thickness—will be minimized and maximized, respectively. To achieve this, modified versions of the differential evolution and simulated annealing algorithms, available within the Mathematica software, will be employed.

The Differential Evolution (DE) algorithm in Mathematica is an evolutionary optimization method designed for solving complex, nonlinear, and multidimensional optimization problems. It operates by generating an initial population of candidate solutions and iteratively refining them through mutation, crossover, and selection processes to minimize or maximize the target objective function. Mutation creates new solutions by combining existing ones using a weighted difference. Crossover blends the mutated solution with a current population member to introduce variability. Selection compares the new candidate with its counterpart in the population and retains the better solution. These processes drive the algorithm toward optimal solutions [12].

Simulated Annealing (SA) in Mathematica is a probabilistic optimization algorithm inspired by the annealing process in metallurgy. The algorithm explores the solution space by probabilistically accepting worse solutions to escape local optima, gradually reducing the probability as the process progresses. The algorithm has several adjustable options, enhancing its applicability. "BoltzmannExponent" controls temperature decay, and "InitialPoints" defines starting locations. "LevelIterations" sets the number of iterations per temperature level, while "PerturbationScale" adjusts step sizes for exploration. "RandomSeed" ensures reproducibility, and "SearchPoints" determines the number of points evaluated, balancing thoroughness and computational cost. These options enable tailored optimization for diverse applications [13].

The objective function, constraints, design variables, and related details for the single-objective optimization problem addressed in this study are as follows.

Single-Objective Problem

Find

{Die Angle (1)ϵ [5, 10] ∧ Bearing Length (x2)ϵ [4, 8] ∧ Friction Coefficient (3)ϵ [0.1, 0.3] ∧ Drawing Velocity $(x4) \in [5, 10]$

Minimize

Drawing Force (x1, x2, x3, x4)

Maximize

Linear Thickness (x1, x2, x3, x4)

Constraints

Scenario 1

 $5 \leq \{x1\} \leq 10, 4 \leq \{x2\} \leq 8, 0.1 \leq \{x3\} \leq 0.3, 5 \leq \{x4\} \leq 10$

Scenario 2

 $5 \leq \{x1\} \leq 10, 4 \leq \{x2\} \leq 8, 0.1 \leq \{x3\} \leq 0.3, 5 \leq \{x4\} \leq 10, \{x1, x2, x4\} \in \text{Integers}$

Scenario 3 ${x1} \in \{5, 7.5, 10\}, \{x2\} \in \{4, 6, 8\}, \{x3\} \in \{0.1, 0.2, 0.3\}, \{x4\} \in \{5, 7.5, 10\}$

Design variables

x1, x2, x3, x4

Mathematical modeling and optimization steps regarding tube drawing process are given in Figure 1. During the solution phase of the problem discussed in the study, the steps in the flow chart were followed to determine the best designs for different scenarios.

Figure 1. Flowchart of mathematical modelling and optimization process

III.RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Mathematical modeling and optimization were performed using neuro-regression and stochastic search methods, respectively. The prediction performance evaluation of the proposed models is given in Table 3 (drawing force) and Table 4 (linear thickness) to determine which one best describes the relationship between the design and output parameters.

The performance of the neuro-regression models for predicting drawing force varies significantly across metrics. The R² values for training indicate high accuracy for most models, such as LR (0.999821) and SON (0.999939), demonstrating effective training phases. However, models like SONR and SOTNR exhibit extremely poor testing and validation performance, with negative \mathbb{R}^2 values (e.g., -26.1326 and -29.6735, respectively), suggesting overfitting or inconsistent predictions. Notably, these models also produce extreme max and min values, such as 3.29289×10^6 and -3.28×10^{15} , indicating numerical instability.

Conversely, FOLNR and LR achieve robust results with \mathbb{R}^2 values near 1 for both testing (0.99) and validation (0.99), along with stable max and min values. This indicates their suitability for predictive modeling in this context. FOLNR was selected as the objective function for the optimization phase because its minimum value indicates a significant potential for reducing drawing force, ultimately enhancing our design efficiency.

Table 3. Results of the Neuro-regression models for the drawing force

The full form of the models are given in Table 7

For linear thickness predictions, the models again exhibit a wide performance range (Table 4). While models like FOTN, SOTN, and SOLN maintain high R² values across training, testing, and validation phases (e.g., R^2 for testing in FOTN = 0.783396), others like H and FOLNR struggle with extreme negative testing R² values (-29.8284 and -7.67847, respectively). This reflects their inability to generalize effectively.

Notably, some models, such as SOTNR, produce extreme output ranges (e.g., max = 1.64689×10^6 , min = −82558.5), further emphasizing numerical or parameter instability. Stable models like FOTNR and SOLNR achieve consistent high R² values across metrics, with moderate max and min values, confirming their reliability.

SOTN has the same prediction performance as FOTN, SOLN models and performs better regarding maximum linear thickness. However, to examine whether the SOTN, FOTN, and SOLN models will produce similar results in terms of minimum linear thickness under different optimization scenarios, all three were selected as separate objective functions.

The full form of the models are given in Table 8

The FOLNR model's optimization results reveal consistent performance across all scenarios (Table 5). Regardless of the constraints or optimization algorithm employed (Differential Evolution (DE) or Simulated Annealing (SA)), the minimum drawing force achieved remains constant at 2107.15 kN. This outcome indicates an improvement of approximately 3.5% in drawing force compared to the results in the dataset. Furthermore, the recommended design from this model is same in the all optimization scenarios. This consistency highlights the FOLNR model's robustness in optimizing drawing force under varying conditions.

Table 6 illustrates how the linear thickness varies based on design parameters, considering different optimization scenarios, mathematical models, and optimization methods. The optimization outcomes for three selected models (SOTN, FOTN, and SOLN) for linear thickness vary significantly depending on the scenario and algorithm used. For Scenario 1, SOTN achieves the highest maximum linear thickness of 0.911 mm with both DE and SA algorithms, outperforming FOTN and SOLN, which achieve maximum values of 0.748 and 0.745, respectively.

In Scenario 2, SOTN again performs well, with maximum thickness values of 0.899 (DE) and 0.875 (SA). In contrast, FOTN and SOLN maintain values similar to those in Scenario 1. By Scenario 3, all models converge to the same maximum linear thickness of 0.744, regardless of the optimization algorithm applied. This indicates a potential convergence or limitation in further optimizing thickness beyond this point.

IV.CONCLUSION

This study successfully demonstrated the application of neuro-regression modeling and modified stochastic optimization techniques to optimize two critical parameters in the tube drawing process: drawing force and thickness distribution. By systematically analyzing the influences of die angle, bearing length, friction coefficient, and drawing velocity, the research provided a comprehensive framework for improving process performance.

The models that best describe the input-output relationships for the tube drawing process were determined using 13 different mathematical functional forms. Performance metric R^2 and a boundedness check ensured reliability and consistency. The FOLNR and SOTN models minimized drawing force to 2107.75 kN and achieved a maximum thickness distribution of 0.911 mm.

Moreover, adopting Differential Evolution and Simulated Annealing algorithms proved instrumental in surpassing prior methodologies. Compared to existing techniques, such as response surface modeling and artificial bee optimization, they yielded a 3.5% improvement in drawing force and an 18% enhancement in thickness distribution.

These outcomes highlight the robustness and adaptability of the proposed neuro-regression and optimization framework, offering a valuable contribution to the tube drawing process. The methodology establishes a foundation for future design and optimization applications in metal forming and other manufacturing processes.

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APPENDIX

Table 7. Full form mathematical models for drawing force (Related to Table 3)

$368.964 \text{ Cos} [x4] \text{Sin} [x2] + 459.576 \text{Sin} [x2]$ ² + 9244.6 Sin[x3] -143.196 $Cos[x4]$ $Sin[x3] + 456.96$ $Sin[x3]$ ² - 170.588 $Sin[x4] +$ 287.886 Sin[x4]^2

Table 8. Full form mathematical models for linear thickness (Related to Table 4)

