

Understanding of Ultrasonic Assisted Machining with Diamond Grinding Tool

Kyung-Hee Park¹, Yun-Hyuck Hong², Kyeong-Tae Kim³, Seok-Woo Lee³,
Hon-Zong Choi², Young-Jae Choi²

¹Korea Institute on Industrial Technology, Future Manufacturing System R&D Group,
Manufacturing System R&D Department, Cheonan-si, South Korea

²Korea Institute on Industrial Technology, IT Converged Process R&D Group,
Convergent Technology R&D Department, Ansan-si, South Korea

³Korea Institute on Industrial Technology, Chungcheong Regional Division, Cheonan-si, South Korea
Email: kpark@kitech.re.kr, secar@kitech.re.kr, kimkt@kitech.re.kr, swlee@kitech.re.kr,
choihz@kitech.re.kr, youngjae@kitech.re.kr

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ABSTRACT

In this work, machining test was carried out in various machining conditions using ultrasonic vibration capable CNC machine. For work material, alumina ceramic (Al_2O_3) was used while for tool material diamond electroplated grinding wheel was used. To evaluate ultrasonic vibration effect, grinding test was performed with and without ultrasonic vibration in same machining condition. In ultrasonic mode, ultrasonic vibration of 20 kHz was generated by HSK 63 ultrasonic actuator. On the other hand, grinding forces were measured by KISTLER dynamometer. And an optimal sampling rate for grinding force measurement was obtained by a signal processing and frequency analysis. The surface roughness of the ceramic was also measured by using stylus type surface roughness instrument and atomic force microscope (AFM). Besides, the scanning electron microscope (SEM) was used for observation of surface integrality.

KEYWORDS

Ultrasonic Vibration; Grinding; Alumina Ceramic; Grinding Forces; Surface Roughness

1. Introduction

Ceramics have been considered as one of the important materials in engineering application due to its outstanding physical and mechanical properties such as high melting temperature, high wear resistant, etc. [1-3]. However, there are some difficulties in machining of the ceramic materials owing to its hard and brittle nature on top of bad uniformity and low reliability, so the ceramics are classified into hard-to-cut materials [4,5]. For this reason, ultrasonic assisted machining, which is a hybrid process that combines the material removal mechanism and ultrasonic vibration, has been considered. This process can be useful for ceramic machining because an additional axial ultrasonic vibration can lead to reduction in cutting temperature and tool wear while maintaining high sur-

face quality, which cannot be obtained from conventional machining [6-10]. Therefore, ultrasonic assisted machining has been applied for machining of the ceramics as an alternative method to traditional machining [9]. Several studies have been performed for machining of hard and brittle materials using ultrasonic vibration, which applied to either work material or a cutting spindle [2,6,7]. From the literature, it was found that better surface roughness and fracture strength were obtained. In addition, the cutting forces and tool wear were also reduced with applying ultrasonic vibration. On the other hand, in ultra-precision micromachining of brittle materials, elliptical vibration was capable of ductile machining without a brittle mode [11]. And Zhao *et al.* discussed theoretical critical grinding depth based on the ductile removal mechanisms of ultrasonic vibration grinding for the ceram-

ics [5,12,13].

This paper studied the ultrasonic vibration effect of diamond grinding tool on the ceramic machining. To evaluate the ultrasonic vibration effect, machining test was performed with and without the ultrasonic vibration. Finally, machining performance, such as grinding forces and surface roughness, was compared. Before the machining experiment, an optimal sampling rate of grinding force measurement was identified. The grinding forces were measured by KISTLER dynamometer while the surface roughness was measured by stylus type surface roughness instrument and atomic force microscope (AFM). In addition, the surface image of the ceramic was obtained by using scanning electron microscope (SEM).

2. Experimental Method

The experiment was performed on a CNC machine, which enables to generating ultrasonic vibration. **Figure 1** shows a schematic of the machining experiment. The machining started at one corner of ceramic block while measuring grinding forces by KISTLER dynamometer (Type 9256C). After the machining, surface roughness of the ceramic was measured using stylus type surface roughness instrument (CS 3100S4 by Mitutoyo Co.) and AFM.

Diamond grinding tools with a diameter of 8 mm, where the diamond grains were electroplated on the stainless tool with nickel matrix, was used. For the work material, alumina ceramic ($\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 \sim 96\%$) was used. To evaluate the ultrasonic vibration effect, conventional machining and ultrasonic assisted machining were performed. For the ultrasonic vibration in a longitudinal direction, a frequency of 20 kHz generated by the HSK 63 type of ultrasonic actuator was used. The machining conditions are summarized in **Table 1**.

In addition, amplitude of ultrasonic grinding tool was measured by laser vibrometer (Polytec OFV-3001) and oscilloscope (Tektronix TDS1000B). The average amplitude was $4.5 \mu\text{m}$ as shown in **Figure 2**.

3. Measurement

The grinding forces were measured by the dynamometer

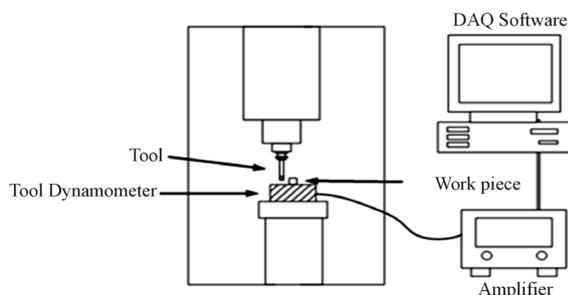


Figure 1. Schematic of experimental setup.

and then the raw force data obtained was processed through a simple signal processing using commercially available software such as MATLAB and DasyLab. First, to identify an optimal sampling frequency in grinding process, the signal processing and frequency analysis were carried out by testing the sampling frequencies of 1 kHz, 10 kHz and 20 kHz. **Figure 3** shows the grinding force measurement at the sampling frequencies at each time domain obtained by MATLAB software. **Figure 3(a)** represents the grinding force in y-axis at the sampling rate of 1 kHz. It was observed that the force signals at the sampling rate of 1 kHz were severely drifted and distorted compared to at those of 10 kHz and 20 kHz as seen in **Figures 3(b)** and **(c)**. Therefore, it can be said that the

Table 1. The machining conditions.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Workpiece material | Alumina (96%, $20 \times 10 \times 10 \text{ mm}$) |
| Cutter | $\varnothing 8$ |
| Machining speed (m/s) | 1.67, 3.35 |
| Coolant | Dry |
| Feedrate (mm/min) | 300, 500 |
| Depth of cut (mm) | 0.05 (radial), 2 (axial) |
| Diamond size (μm) | D76 (FEPA standard) |
| Ultrasonic Vibration frequency (kHz) | 20 |
| Amplitude (μm) | 4.5 |

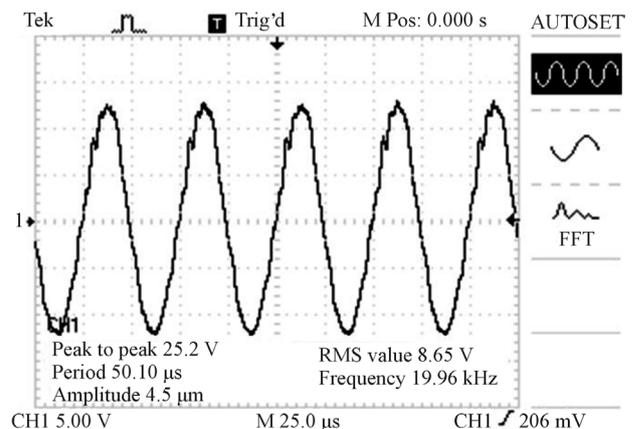


Figure 2. Amplitude of ultrasonic vibration.

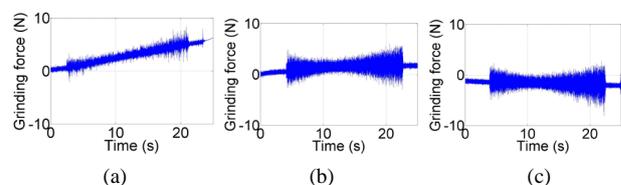


Figure 3. Grinding forces in y-axis at various sampling frequencies. (a) 1 kHz; (b) 10 kHz; (c) 20 kHz.

sampling frequency beyond 10 kHz should be used for reliable data in this work.

In addition, the force signals at sampling frequencies of 1 kHz and 10 kHz were compared by 3-D waterfall FFT analysis using MATLAB as in Figure 4. Figure 4(a) shows the FFT analysis for 1 kHz and the frequency peaks observed was not clearly identified due to noise and signal distortion. However, for the case of 10 kHz the peaks were distinguishable. For example, 133 Hz and 2.4 kHz were found to be the frequencies of machining spindle and machine jig. On the other hand, a maximum frequency band width was only up to 500 Hz for 1 kHz while it was up to 5 kHz for 10 kHz. In these regards, the sample frequency of 10 kHz was finally selected for the grinding force measurement.

Figure 5 shows the grinding forces measured at each direction. To obtain the grinding forces, there are several steps as depicted in Figure 6. Using DasyLab, first, drifts of the force signal in raw data was eliminated by a high-pass filtering and then the maximum values were calculated from absolute values of the filtered signals, which were considered as the grinding forces.

A stylus type surface roughness instrument (Model: CS 3100S4-Mitutoyo Co.) was used for surface rough-

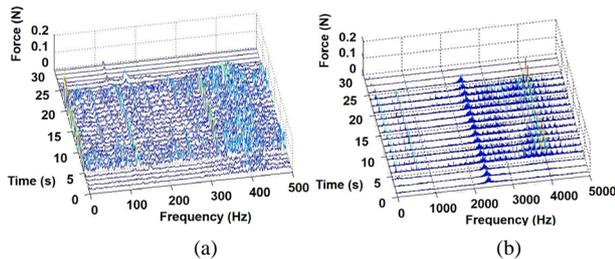


Figure 4. 3-D waterfall FFT at the sampling rate of 1 kHz and 10 kHz. (a) 1 kHz (X-axis); (b) 10 kHz (X-axis).

ness measurement. For evaluating the surface integrity of the work material, SEM equipment (Model: Hitachi S-4300) and AFM were used.

4. Results and Discussions

Figure 7 exhibits comparison of the grinding forces at various grinding conditions. Overall, the grinding forces in ultrasonic assisted grinding were slightly reduced compared to the conventional grinding. However, in some cases, the grinding forces in ultrasonic case showed higher forces, especially for y-axis components. This could be mainly because cutting depth in the ultrasonic grinding was deeper than that in the conventional grinding. As shown in Figure 8, groove depths generated by diamond grain in both the ultrasonic and conventional grinding were about 2.5 μm and 3.2 μm respectively. This difference might cause higher grinding forces in y

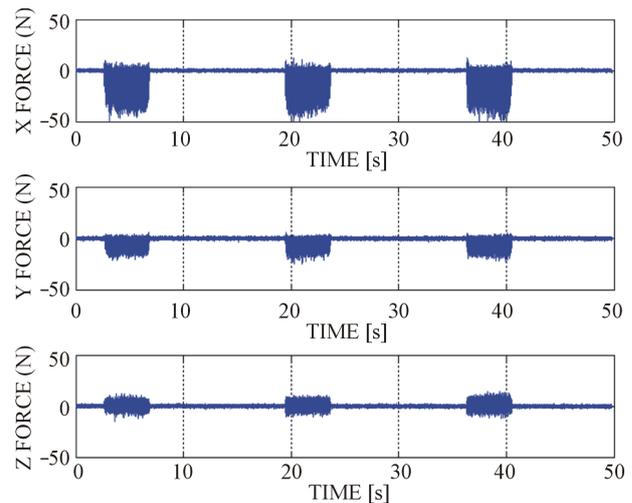


Figure 5. Grinding forces at each direction.

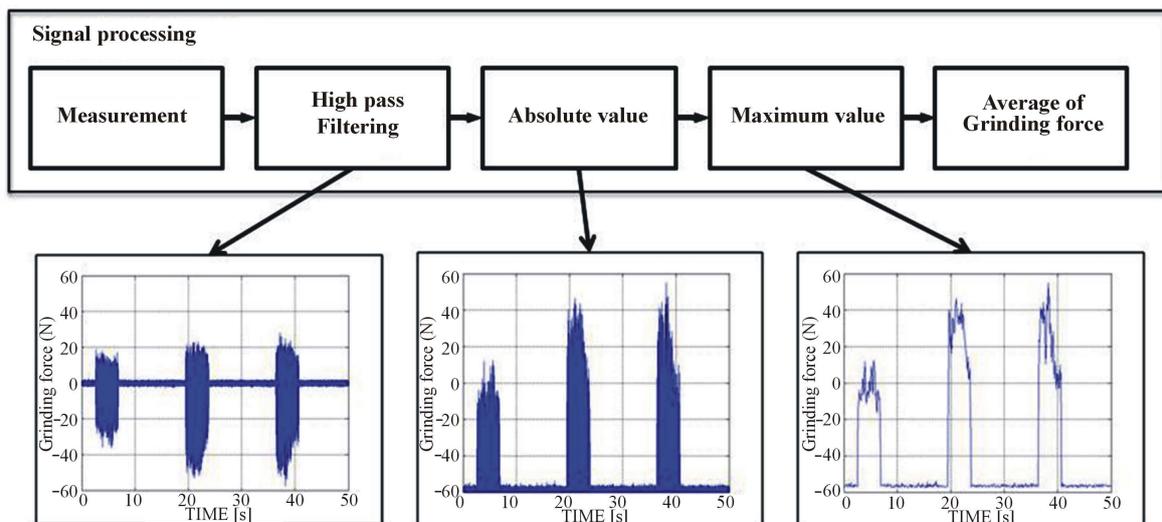


Figure 6. Grinding force signal processing procedures.

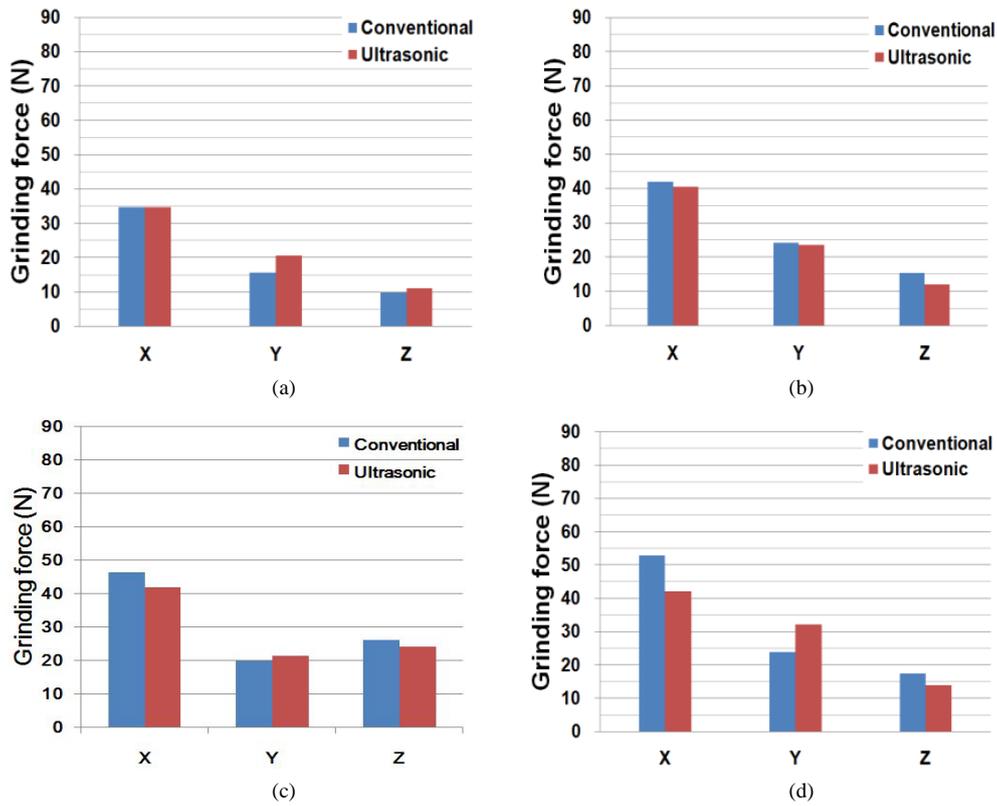


Figure 7. Analysis data of grinding forces. (a) $f = 300$ mm/min, $v = 1.67$ m/s; (b) $f = 300$ mm/min, $v = 3.35$ m/s; (c) $f = 500$ mm/min, $v = 1.67$ m/s; (d) $f = 500$ mm/min, $v = 3.35$ m/s.

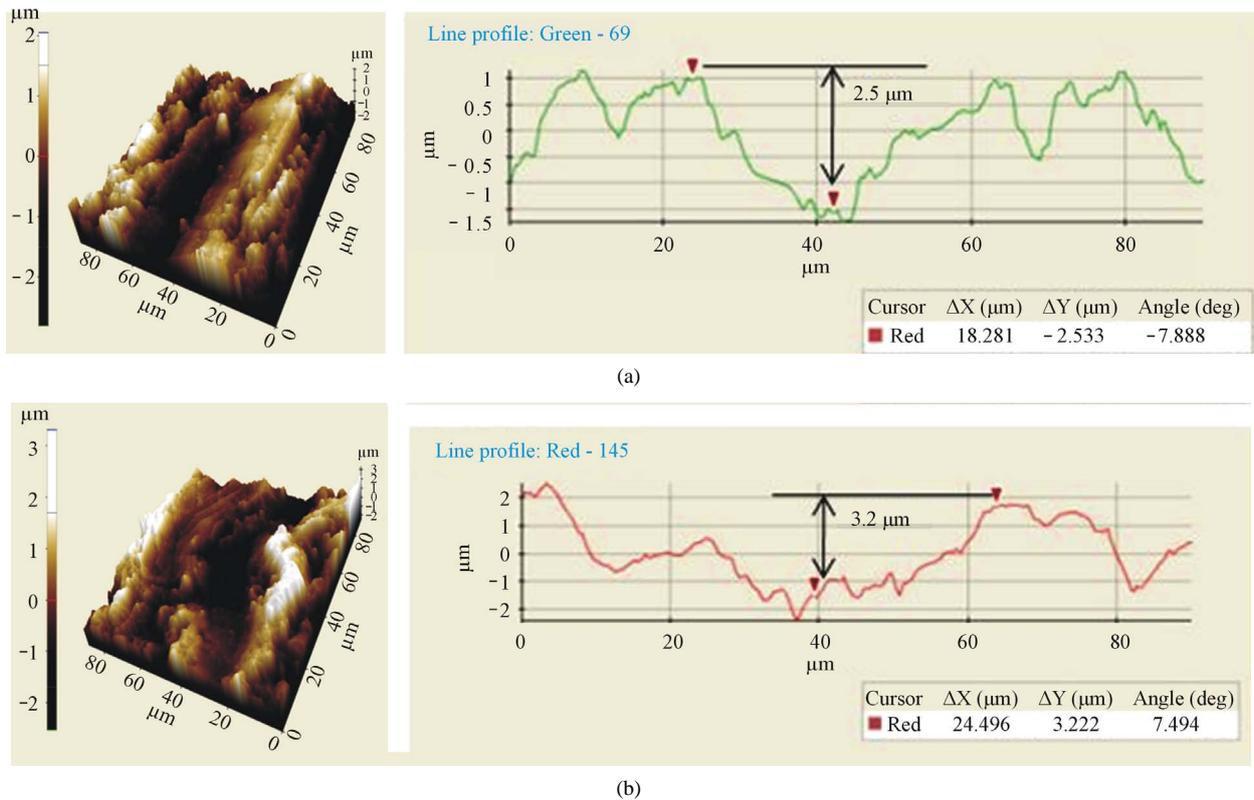


Figure 8. AFM images with 2D cross-sectional profiles. (a) Conventional grinding; (b) Ultrasonic grinding.

direction. Another possible scenario could be that a grinding length of the ultrasonic grinding for a single diamond grain at one contact time, Δt , is much larger than that of the conventional grinding as seen in Figure 9. This might increase the grinding force slightly. In addition, it was also found that the grinding force increased with grinding wheel speed and feed rate increased.

Surface roughness was measured by stylus type measurement equipment in terms of the grinding speed and the feed rate. As shown in Figure 10, the ultrasonic grinding shows better surface roughness about 4% - 15% than the conventional grinding. And also it was observed that surface roughness improved as the feed rate decreased and the grinding speed increased.

Figure 11 shows SEM images of machined surface of the ceramic at various grinding conditions. Figure 11(a)

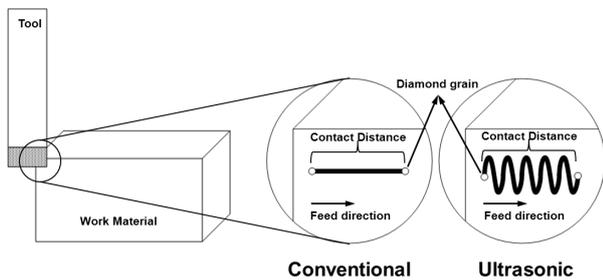


Figure 9. Kinematics of a diamond grain in conventional and ultrasonic grinding at a contact time, Δt .

and (b) depicts the surface images at low grinding speed ($v = 1.67$ m/s). In Figure 11(a), straight scoring marks of diamond grains were clearly observed in the conventional grinding while, in Figure 11(b), the sinusoidal paths of the grains were identified in the ultrasonic grinding. Actually the scoring marks showed 85 μm period of a sine wave (Figure 11(b)), which was about to be same as kinematic calculation (83.7 μm) as seen in Figure 12. In addition, width of the scoring marks was larger in ultrasonic grinding (30 μm) than in conventional grinding (21 μm) (See Figure 8). This means that one diamond can cover more surface area in the ultrasonic grinding, which shows that the ultrasonic vibration can grind the surface effectively. Figures 11(c) and (d) show the surface images at high grinding speed ($v = 3.35$ m/s). For both cases, the scoring marks were not clearly formed as that at low grinding speed. This might be because the more diamond grains were involved for grinding action at a unit grinding distance, Δd , due to high wheel speed. This is why the high wheel speed can enhance the surface integrity.

5. Conclusions

In this study, the conventional and ultrasonic assisted machining for the alumina ceramic was performed by using the diamond grinding wheel. The ultrasonic vibration effect was evaluated in terms of the grinding force and

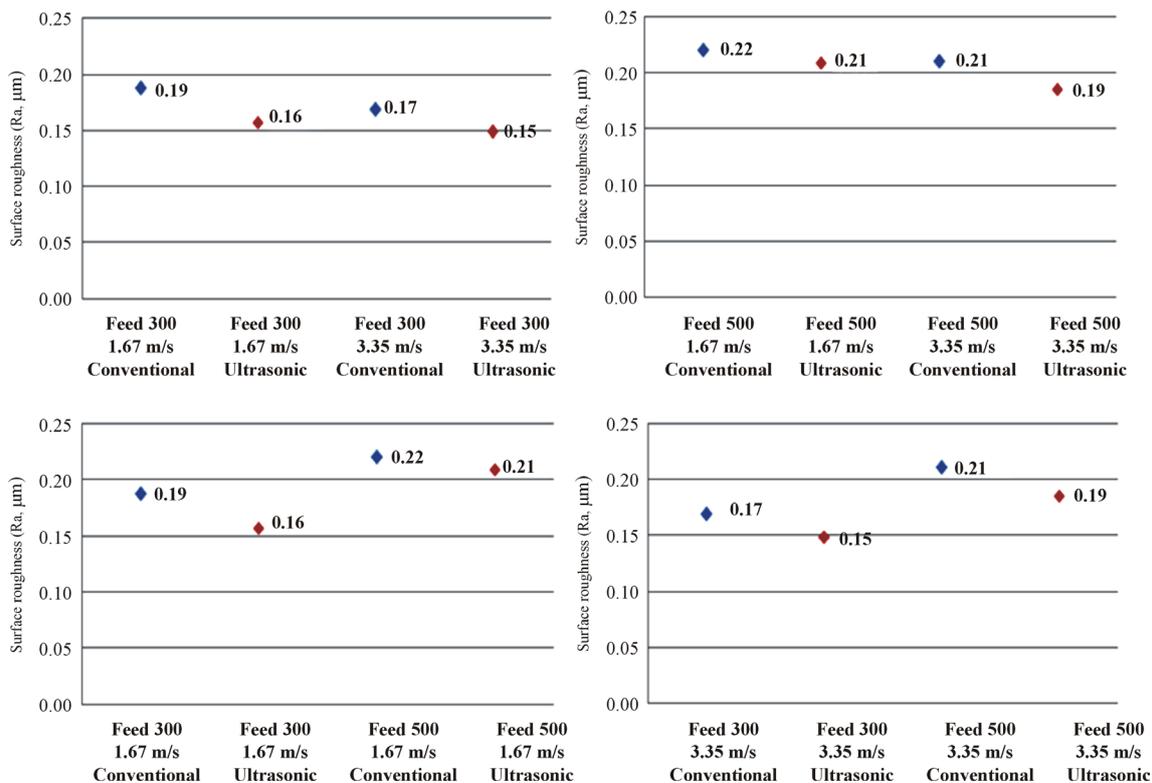


Figure 10. Surface roughness, Ra.

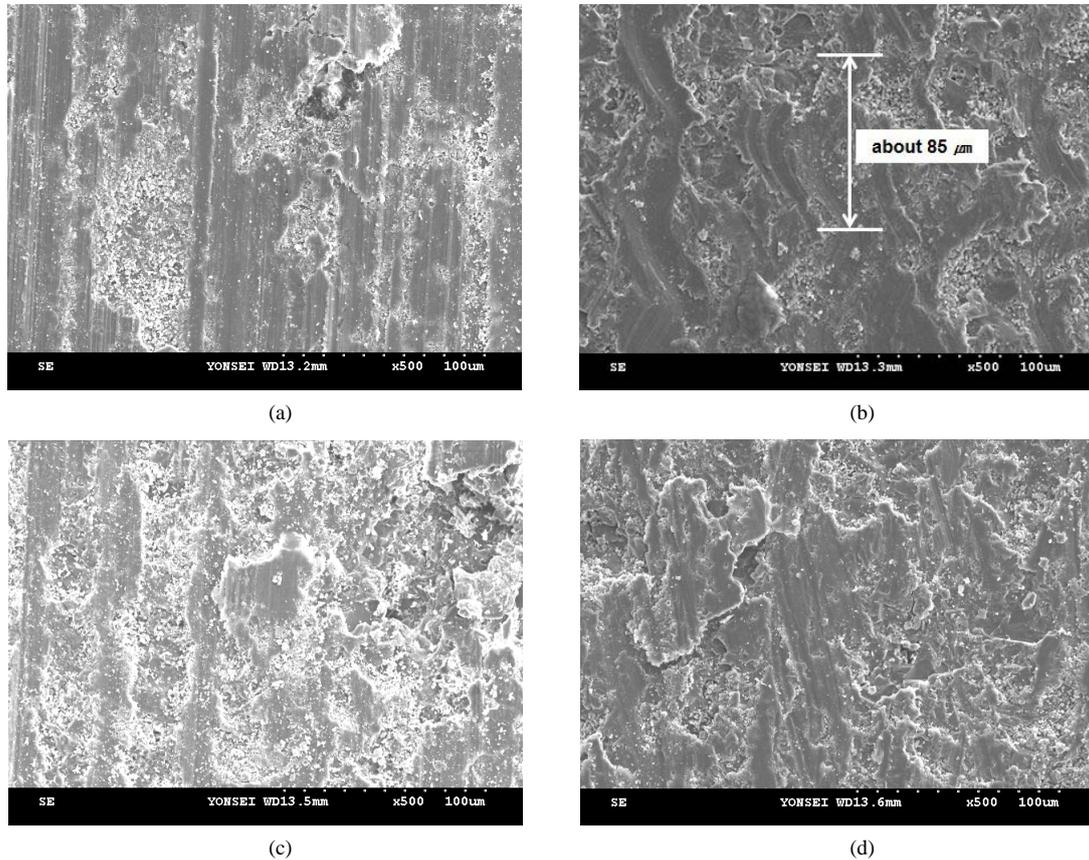


Figure 11. Surface image by SEM at $f = 500$ mm/min. (a) $v = 1.67$ m/s (Conventional); (b) $v = 1.67$ m/s (Ultrasonic); (c) $v = 3.35$ m/s (Conventional); (d) $v = 3.35$ m/s (Ultrasonic).

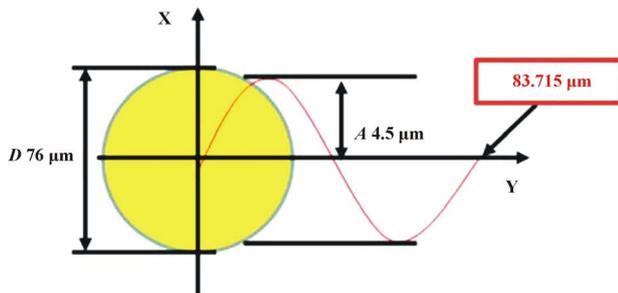


Figure 12. Kinematic of a diamond grain in ultrasonic grinding.

the surface roughness.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the present work:

The optimal sampling rate was selected based on the signal processing and waterfall FFT analysis. Besides, the signal processing method was considered as the grinding force analysis.

In the comparison of conventional and ultrasonic assisted grinding, the forces in ultrasonic assisted machining were lower about 20% - 30%. However, the forces in the ultrasonic grinding in y direction were higher than that in the conventional grinding possibly due to deeper depth

of cut in the ultrasonic grinding.

From the surface roughness measurement, it can be concluded that ultrasonic assisted machining could reduce the surface roughness by 5% - 15%. And also it was observed that the surface roughness was improved as the feed rate decreased and the grinding speed increased.

From SEM and AFM measurements, the sinusoidal scoring marks were clearly observed on the machined surface in ultrasonic grinding while the straight marks were observed in the conventional grinding. These sinusoidal waves generated by ultrasonic vibration in longitudinal direction can improve the surface integrity effectively.

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