



Faculty of Manufacturing Engineering



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**OPTIMIZATION OF CUSTOMIZED DRILL REAMER GEOMETRICAL
FEATURES FOR AEROSPACE COMPOSITE PANEL**

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A thesis submitted
in fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy
in Manufacturing Engineering



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2021

DECLARATION

I declare that this thesis entitled "Optimization of Customized Drill Reamer Geometrical Features for Aerospace Composite Panel" is the result of my own research except as cited in the references. The thesis has not been accepted for any degree and is not concurrently submitted in candidature of any other degree.



APPROVAL

I hereby declare that I have read this thesis and in my opinion this thesis is sufficient in terms of scope and quality for the award of Doctor of Philosophy in Manufacturing Engineering.

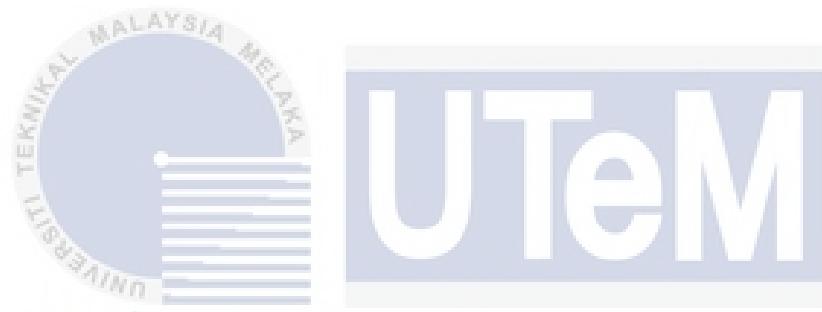
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DEDICATION

My beloved father, mother, family, supervisor, and supportive friends accompany me
along the problematic pathway in my university life.



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ABSTRACT

Recently, carbon fibre reinforced plastic (CFRP) materials are used widely to manufacture lightweight structures. It is tailored to material properties such as high specific strength, high specific stiffness, high modulus, low weight, and high corrosion resistance and a primary option for aerospace structures. Drilling CFRP is very challenging compared to metal due to its inherent homogenous and anisotropic mechanical properties. During drilling, the typical damages that occur during drilling are delamination, pull-out fibres, fuzzing, and burrs, affecting the CFRP structure's load-carrying capacity, reducing assemblies' lifespan. Currently, multistep drilling is implemented in aircraft manufacturing to reduce delamination, which is regarded as the most critical damage that reduces mechanical parts' stiffness. However, multistep drilling required many drill types and a large number of holes in aircraft manufacturing and increased the total drilling cost per hole. The tremendous amount of holes required in aircraft manufacturing may lead to hole perpendicularity error due to lethargy and loss of concentration drilling operators. Therefore, this research aims to determine and optimize cutting tool geometrical features for drill reamer, for one-shot drilling of CFRP in various penetration angles. The machining and geometry feature performances are investigated and fabricated with a new design to obtain desired quality specifications, namely, delamination, hole wall surface roughness, hole size, and drilling thrust force in a one-shot drilling process. The multistep drilling process needs to repudiate for economical production. The parameter optimization consideration begins with parameter screening. The parameters inclusive of machining parameters and drill reamer geometrical features are investigated in various penetration angle drilling. Taguchi orthogonal array is applied for the screening phase. From eight parameters consisting of drilling angle conditions, machining parameters, and tool geometry features, only three parameters have been selected to perform optimization by response surface methodology (RSM): drilling penetration angle, second primary clearance, and helix angle. The other parameters are fixed at the best level to produce the best hole quality identified by radar chart analysis towards quality responses through the statistical analysis. In RSM, the relationship for each mentioned response was successfully developed using mathematical regression model analysis. The optimum tool geometrical features (helix angle; 4.405° , and second primary clearance; 10°) considering the maximum drilling penetration angle (5°) assigned are chosen based on the highest desirability score. The new customized drill reamer was fabricated and followed by validating experimental works that obtained less than 10% relative error compared to the prediction, which confirmed its validity. The customized tool is further investigated to reduce the drilling penetration inclination, which affirms that the quality of the hole is improved and fulfills aircraft manufacturer specifications. The hole quality in terms of delamination, hole surface roughness, hole size, and thrust force improves by about 10% from the validation trial conducted with drilling angles decreased. Undeniably, the perfect perpendicular drilling to the CFRP panel is feasible and highly recommended.

**PENGOPTIMUMAN CIRI-CIRI GEOMETRI GERUDI PELULAS TERSUAI UNTUK
PANEL KOMPOSIT AERO ANGKASA**

ABSTRAK

Kebelakangan ini, bahan polimer yang diperkuat dengan serat karbon (CFRP) digunakan secara meluas untuk menghasilkan struktur ringan. Ia disesuaikan dengan sifat bahan seperti kekuatan, kekerasan dan nilai modulus yang tinggi disamping ketahanan kepada karat yang tinggi menjadikannya sebagai pilihan utama untuk struktur aeroangkasa. Penggerudian CFRP amat mencabar jika dibandingkan dengan logam kerana sifat mekaniknya yang homogen dan anisotrop. Kerosakan yang lazim terjadi semasa proses penggerudian adalah pelekangan, serat tertarik keluar, kecaburan, dan pepusar yang mempengaruhi keupayaan struktur untuk membawa beban seterusnya mengurangkan jangka hayat pemasangan. Pada masa ini, penggerudian pelbagai langkah digunakan dalam pembuatan pesawat untuk mengurangkan pelekangan daripada berlaku, dianggap sebagai kerosakan paling kritikal yang dapat mengurangkan kekakuan bahagian mekanikal pesawat. Walaubagaimanapun, penggerudian pelbagai langkah memerlukan pelbagai jenis gerudi dan jumlah lubang yang terlalu banyak dalam pembuatan pesawat akan meningkatkan kos penggerudian untuk setiap lubang yang dihasilkan. Jumlah lubang yang tinggi untuk penghasilan sesebuah pesawat menjadikan pengendali penggerudian lesu dan hilang tumpuan seterusnya mengakibatkan penggerudian condong. Oleh itu, penyelidikan ini bertujuan untuk menentu dan mengoptimumkan ciri-ciri geometri gerudi pelulas untuk satu syot penggerudian dalam pelbagai sudut penembusan. Parameter pemesinan dan ciri-ciri geometri mata alat dikaji dan difabrikasi dengan rekabentuk yang baru demi mendapatkan spesifikasi kualiti lubang yang diinginkan iaitu pelekangan, kekasaran permukaan dinding lubang, ukuran lubang dan daya tujah penggerudian. Pengoptimuman parameter dimulakan dengan penyaringan parameter yang ditetapkan. Parameter pemesinan dan ciri-ciri geometri mata alat dikaji dalam pelbagai sudut tembus penggerudian. Teknik Taguchi diaplisasikan untuk proses penyaringan. Daripada lapan parameter yang dikaji, hanya tiga parameter yang dipilih untuk dioptimumkan menggunakan kaedah gerak balas permukaan (RSM) iaitu sudut kelegaan utama yang kedua dan sudut heliks. Menerusi kaedah analisis statistik, parameter lain ditetapkan pada tahap terbaik untuk menghasilkan kualiti lubang yang diperlukan yang dikenalpasti menerusi analisis carta radar. Menerusi RSM, perkaitan antara setiap tindak balas berjaya dibangunkan menerusi analisis model regresi matematik. Ciri-ciri geometri mata alat yang optimum (sudut heliks; 4.405° , dan sudut kelegaan utama yang kedua; 10°) dengan penetapan sudut penembusan penggerudian maksimum (5°) dipilih berdasarkan skor kebolehinginan tertinggi. Fabrikasi gerudi pelulas tersuai dilaksanakan seterusnya dijalankan eksperimen pengesahan dan disahkan setelah memperoleh ralat relatif kurang daripada 10% berbanding ramalan. Mata alat tersuai seterusnya diselidiki dengan mengurangkan sudut kecondongan penembusan penggerudian dan didapati kualiti lubang yang dihasilkan bertambah baik dan memenuhi piawaian spesifikasi pengeluar pesawat. Daripada eksperimen pengesahan dengan pengurangan sudut penggerudian, penggerudian sudut tegak dapat meningkatkan 10% kualiti penggerudian dalam aspek perlekangan, kekasaran permukaan lubang, saiz lubang dan daya tujah penggerudian. Tidak dinafikan, penggerudian sudut tegak tepat boleh dilaksanakan dan amat digalakkan.

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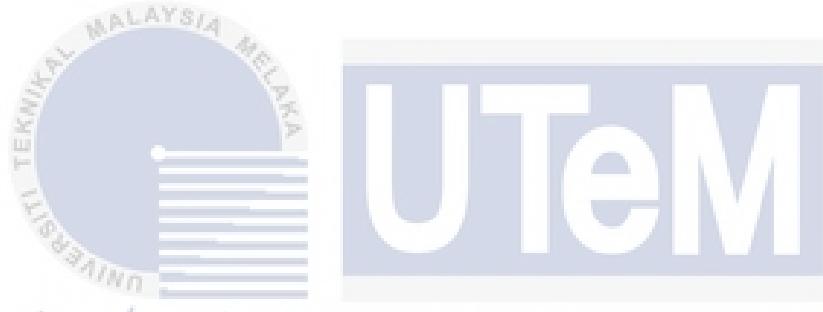
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Mohd Fairuz Bin Jaafar

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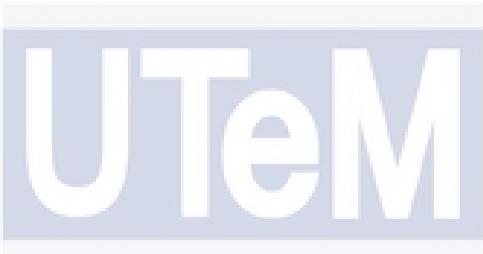
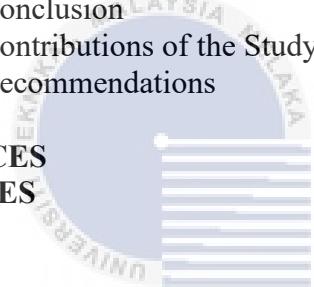
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
DECLARATION	i
APPROVAL	ii
DEDICATION	iii
ABSTRACT	viii
ABSTRAK	xii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	xxii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	xxiii
LIST OF TABLES	xxv
LIST OF FIGURES	xxvi
LIST OF APPENDICES	
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	
LIST OF SYMBOLS	
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	
 CHAPTER	
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Research background	1
1.1.1 Current Drilling Process Method	2
1.1.2 One-Shot Drilling Process	3
1.2 Problem Statement	4
1.3 Research Objective	7
1.4 Scope of Research	8
1.5 Significance of Studies	9
1.6 Thesis Organization	9
 2. LITERATURE REVIEW	11
2.1 Composites Overview	11
2.1.1 Composite Materials Types	13
2.1 Overview of CFRP Application in Aircraft	15
2.3 Recent Drilling of CFRP Issues	20
2.4 Drill Tool Material	23
2.4.1 High-Speed Steel (HSS)	24
2.4.2 Tungsten Carbide (WC)	25
2.4.3 Cemented Tungsten Carbide	26
2.4.4 Ceramic	27
2.4.5 Polycrystalline Cubic Boron Nitride	29
2.4.6 Diamond Coated Carbides	29
2.5 Cutting Tool Technologies for Drilling CFRP	30
2.5.1 Drilling CFRP composites	31
2.5.2 Drill Geometry Customization and Coating Application	34
2.5.3 Drill Geometry Customization Terminology	37
2.6 Drilling Mechanics	40
2.7 Thrust Force in Drilling Carbon Fibre Reinforced Plastics (CFRP)	45
2.8 Hole Quality in Drilling Carbon Fibre Reinforced Plastics (CFRP)	47
2.7.1 Delamination and Flaking	48
2.7.2 Hole Diameter Error	57

2.7.3	Hole Surface Roughness	57
2.9	Review of Statistical Analysis of Drilling	59
2.10	Statistical Experimental Design	61
2.10.1	Taguchi Orthogonal Array (OAs)	63
2.9.1.1	S/N Ratio	65
2.9.1.2	Analysis of Variance (ANOVA)	67
2.10.2	Response Surface Methodology (RSM)	68
2.9.2.1	Design of Experiments (DoE)	71
2.9.2.2	Central Composite Design (CCD)	71
2.11	Summary	75
3.	METHODOLOGY	77
3.1	Introduction	77
3.2	Materials	79
3.3	Cutting Tools	82
3.3.1	Materials	82
3.3.2	Fabrication	83
3.4	Experimental Setup for One-Shot Drilling Process	87
3.5	Drilled Hole Characterization	89
3.5.1	Delamination	89
3.5.2	Hole Surface Roughness	92
3.5.3	Hole Diameter Accuracy	95
3.6	Drilling Thrust Force	97
3.7	Drilling Penetration Angle	102
3.8	Initial Study of One-Shot Drilling	103
3.9	Selection of Screening Parameters	106
3.9.1	Parameter Range Selection	106
3.9.2	Design of Experiments (Taguchi Design Scheme, L ₁₈)	108
3.10	Optimization of Drill Geometry	117
3.10.1	Faced-Centred Central Composite Design Scheme (RSM)	117
3.10.2	Model Validation	112
3.10.3	Optimization of Cutting Tool's Geometry	123
3.10.4	The standard error of the estimate (SEE)	125
3.11	Summary	126
4.	RESULT AND DISCUSSION	127
4.1	Introduction	127
4.2	Initial Experimental Study	128
4.2.1	Statistical Analysis of Initial Study	130
4.2.2	Initial Study Delamination Analysis	131
4.2.3	Initial Study Drilling Thrust Force Analysis	135
4.2.4	Findings of Initial Study	138
4.2.5	Initial Study Concluding Remarks	144
4.3	Experimental Statistical Screening Approach for Optimization	145
4.3.1	Initial Geometrical Features and Machining Parameter Screening Using Taguchi Orthogonal Array	145
4.3.1.1	Delamination	146
4.3.1.2	Hole Wall Surface Roughness (Ra)	158
4.3.1.3	Hole Diameter	165
4.3.1.4	Drilling Thrust Force	170

4.3.2	Screening Analysis Summary	177
4.3.2.1	Drilling Penetration Angle	178
4.3.2.2	Machining Parameters	179
4.3.2.3	Cutting Tool Geometric Features	185
4.4	Face-centred Central Composite Design (FCCD) For Parameter Optimization	191
4.4.1	Statistical Analysis for Geometric Features in Various Penetration Angle Drilling Assessment	191
4.3.1.1	Delamination Statistical Analysis	191
4.3.1.2	Surface Roughness Statistical Analysis	204
4.3.1.3	Hole Diameter Statistical Analysis	217
4.3.1.4	Drilling Thrust Force Statistical Analysis	227
4.4.2	Model Validation Test of Regression for All Responses	239
4.4.3	Parameter Optimization for Multiple Responses Target	240
4.4.4	Various Penetration Angle Drilling Using Optimized Drill Reamer	243
4.5	Summary	248
5.	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	250
5.1	Conclusion	250
5.2	Contributions of the Study	252
5.3	Recommendations	253
REFERENCES		254
APPENDICES		286



جامعة تكنولوجيا ملاكا

UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL MALAYSIA MELAKA

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	TITLE	PAGE
1.1	Fatigue initiation area observed in aircraft (Findlay and Harrison, 2002)	7
2.1	Percentage breakdown according to materials used for aircraft structures	20
2.2	A review of different drilling tools applied by researchers for drilling CFRPs	43
2.3	The variation of evaluation methods for drilling-induced delamination in composite materials	53
2.4	Summary of research conducted based on cutting tool types	56
2.5	Summary of optimization techniques approach for process parameters	60
3.1	Mechanical properties of CFRP	82
3.2	Drill bit geometrical features for a designed experiment	104
3.3	Assigned factors for drills level	105
3.4	Taguchi's orthogonal array design scheme	105
3.5	Example of drilling and reaming machining parameter specification in the industry (DOT/FAA/AR-96/75, 1997)	107
3.6	The comparison of design of experiment strategies	108
3.7	Taguchi L ₁₈ orthogonal array for eight factors mixed levels (2 ¹ and 3 ⁷)	110
3.8	Taguchi L ₁₈ orthogonal array assigned design variables	111
3.9	Drill design geometry for screening using Taguchi L ₁₈	112

3.10	Drill design geometry for response surface optimization using FCCD	119
4.1	Commercial drill bit geometry for one-shot drilling	129
4.2	Machining parameters assigned for drills level	130
4.3	Delamination results of the commercial drill bit	132
4.4	ANOVA analysis of the linear model for delamination	133
4.5	Drilling thrust force (FT_{max}) results of the commercial drill bit	135
4.6	ANOVA analysis of the linear model for drilling thrust force	137
4.7	Example of processed image for entry and exit delamination (20X)	146
4.8	Measurement results and S/N ratio for entry area delamination factor (F_d)	148
4.9	Measurement results and S/N ratio for exit area delamination factor (F_d)	149
4.10	S/N ratio ANOVA and percentage of contribution for entry delamination	150
4.11	S/N ratio ANOVA and percentage of contribution for exit delamination	151
4.12	Response table for Signal to Noise Ratios (Smaller is better) for entry delamination	155
4.13	Response table for Signal to Noise Ratios (Smaller is better) for exit delamination	156
4.14	Measurement results and S/N ratio for surface roughness (R_a)	159
4.15	S/N ratio ANOVA and percentage of contribution for surface roughness	160
4.16	Response table for Signal to Noise Ratios (Smaller is better)	162
4.17	Measurement results and S/N ratio for hole diameter	166
4.18	S/N ratio ANOVA and percentage of contribution for hole diameter	168
4.19	Response table for Signal to Noise Ratios (Smaller is better)	169
4.20	Measurement results and thrust force ratio, F_N	171
4.21	Measurement results and S/N ratio for thrust force ratio	172

4.22	S/N ratio ANOVA and percentage of contribution for thrust force	174
4.23	Response table for Signal to Noise Ratios (Smaller is better)	175
4.24	Parameters for optimization by RSM selection based on the best level	178
4.25	Measurement results for maximum thrust force for stage I and stage III	182
4.26	Delamination factor results	192
4.27	Sequential model sum of squares analysis for delamination model	193
4.28	Lack of fit test for delamination model	193
4.29	Model summary statistics for delamination model	193
4.30	ANOVA for the response of delamination	195
4.31	R-squared analysis for response surface reduced cubic model of delamination factor	195
4.32	Example of image processing for delamination (20X)	203
4.33	Surface roughness results	205
4.34	Sequential model sum of squares analysis for surface roughness model	207
4.35	Lack of fit test for surface roughness model	207
4.36	Model summary statistics for surface roughness model	207
4.37	ANOVA for the response of surface roughness	208
4.38	R-squared analysis for response surface reduced cubic model of surface roughness	208
4.39	Hole diameter measurement results	218
4.40	Sequential model sum of squares analysis for hole diameter model	219
4.41	Lack of fit test for hole diameter model	220
4.42	Model summary statistics for hole diameter model	220
4.43	ANOVA for the response of hole diameter	221

4.44	R-squared analysis for response surface model of hole diameter	222
4.45	Drilling thrust force results	228
4.46	Sequential model sum of squares analysis for thrust force model	229
4.47	Lack of fit test for the thrust force model	229
4.48	Model summary statistics for the thrust force model	230
4.49	ANOVA for the response of the thrust force ratio	230
4.50	R-squared analysis for response surface quadratic model of the thrust force	231
4.51	Parameters for verification test experiments for estimated responses	239
4.52	Result for verification test experiments for estimated responses	240
4.53	Factors and responses goal and level limit constraints	241
4.54	Optimal combination of input factors for multi-response optimization	243
4.55	Average surface roughness (Ra) for various penetration angle drilling	247
4.56	Hole diameter measurement for various penetration angle drilling	248

جامعة ملاكا
UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL MALAYSIA MELAKA

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	TITLE	PAGE
1.1	Drilling process (multistep) to obtain the final hole size (6.35 mm)	3
1.2	Manual drilling process by operator	5
1.3	Hole perpendicularity specification (AIPS01-02-003, 2017)	5
1.4	Hole quality in CFRP by Ishikawa diagram (Geier and Szalay, 2017)	6
2.1	Various Material Characteristics Comparison (Umeco, 2012)	12
2.2	Reinforcement based composites classification (Cairns and Wood, 2009)	13
2.3	Aircraft balance of forces (Breuer, 2016)	15
2.4	Air traffic and CO ₂ emission growth comparison (Boeing, 2019)	16
2.5	Global traffic flows (Boeing, 2019)	17
2.6	Air travel resilient (Boeing, 2019)	17
2.7	CFRP application on Airbus aircraft overview (Breuer, 2016)	18
2.8	The significant increase of composite application in aircraft trends (Ahmad, 2009)	19
2.9	Cutting tool material selection based on hardness and toughness (Caggiano, 2018)	24

2.10	Typical microstructure of WC-Co material, (a) WC grains are shown appear as the dark phase, and the cobalt binder is shown with a <i>lighter colour</i> (b) Effect of WC grain size and Co content on hardness and use of cemented carbide cutting tools (Ahmad, 2009)	27
2.11	Example of ceramic (SiAlON) cutting tools (Çelik et al., 2015b)	28
2.12	The microstructure of CVD diamond film deposited on WC-Co substrate (Çelik et al., 2015b)	30
2.13	Drilling schematic drawing (Geier et al., 2019a)	32
2.14	CFRPs orthogonal cutting mechanism for (a) type I, (b) type II, (c) type III, and (d) type IV (Ahmad, 2009)	33
2.15	Nomenclature of reference drill (a) Twist drill and (b) Reamer (Kalpakjian and Schmid, 2014)	38
2.16	Drilling process parameters	41
2.17	Thrust force profile while drilling CFRP (diameter, $d = 12.68$ mm, spindle speed, $N = 2000$ rpm, feed speed, $V_f = 210$ mm/min) (Su et al., 2015)	47
2.18	Delamination classification on FRPs drilling (a) peel-up delamination, and (b) push-down delamination (Geier et al., 2019a)	49
2.19	Damage micrograph on the hole entry using double cone twist drill at 0.15 mm/rev and 120 m/min (Soo et al., 2017)	50
2.20	Drilling delamination damages of FRPs, (a) uniform damage (b) cracks, (c) uniform damage with cracks, and (d) uniform damage with fine cracks (Aamir et al., 2019)	51

2.21	3D Surface roughness of CFRP's hole wall during 30° of drilling penetration angle (Pervaiz et al., 2020)	58
2.22	Surface roughness measurement techniques (Vorbuguer and Raja, 1990)	59
2.23	Region of interest versus region of operability (Anderson and Whitcomb, 2016)	62
2.24	Central Composite Design (CCD) for 2 design variables at 2 levels	72
2.25	Face-centred central composite design for k=3 (Voyer, 2003)	73
2.26	Desirability function for optimization individually, (a) larger is the better (b) smaller is the better (c) the target is the best. (Myers et al., 2016)	75
3.1	Methodology flow chart of research study	79
3.2	Workpiece dimension detail	80
3.3	Stacking sequence of CFRP panel	81
3.4	SEM/EDS analysis for cutting tool material composition	82
3.5	Micheal Deckel S20 Turbo CNC Tool Grinder Machining Center	83
3.6	Grinding wheel location for drill bit fabrication	84
3.7	Cutting tool geometry customization	85
3.8	Steps of drill reamer fabrication (a) Fluting, (b) Secondary primary clearance, (c) Web thickness and (d) First primary clearance	86
3.9	DMU60 monoBLOCK CNC machining center	87
3.10	Vise calibration on the CNC machine	88
3.11	Experimental setup illustration	89

3.12	Delamination assessment on CFRP laminate (a) Nikon MM-800 and (b) close up view of delamination (20X)	90
3.13	ImageJ digital image processing software by JAVA (20X)	91
3.14	Delamination classification for delamination factor, F_d calculation	91
3.15	Delamination and flaking damages acceptable limits (AITM06-4022, 2016)	92
3.16	Surface roughness tester Mitutoyo SJ-301	94
3.17	Surface roughness measurement (a) measurement setup (b) measurement location and (c) stylus direction path	94
3.18	Wenzel Quartis R2018-1 coordinate measuring machine	96
3.19	Hole size measurement setup (a) using CMM (b) measurement location and (c) measurement position	97
3.20	Drilling force measurement setup (a) Kistler setup on the CNC milling working table and (b) Kistler configuration mapping	98
3.21	Drilling stages for one-shot drill reamer	99
3.22	Signal of drilling force versus time curve on Kistler DynoWare software	101
3.23	Various penetration angle drilling of CFRP laminates (a) 0° and (b) 5° of drilling penetration angle	103
3.24	Drills types for a designed experiment (a) Twist drill, (b) Dagger drill and (c) Straight-flute drill	104
3.25	Process flowchart for parameter screening	109
3.26	Example of fabricated drill geometry for screening	116
3.27	The fixed dimension specification of drill reamer for fabrication	117

3.28	Face-Centred Central Composite Design (FCCD)	118
3.29	Example of fabricated drill geometry for response surface optimization	122
3.30	Example of a report from Design Expert for SEE analysis	126
4.1	Commercial drill bit geometry for CFRP application, (a) Twist drill (b) Dagger drill and (c) Straight flute drill reamer	130
4.2	Comparison of delamination measurement between commercial drills	132
4.3	Interaction of response surface for (a) Twist drill (b) Dagger drill and (c) Straight flute drill reamer on delamination	134
4.4	Comparison of drilling thrust force measurement between commercial drills	136
4.5	Interaction of response surface for (a) Twist drill (b) Dagger drill and (c) Straight flute drill reamer on drilling thrust force	138
4.6	Mechanism of drilling-induced delamination using a twist drill	139
4.7	Comparison of the first stage of drilling for the twist, dagger drill and straight flute drill reamer	141
4.8	Twist drill thrust force signature (F_z)	142
4.9	Dagger drill thrust force signature (F_z)	143
4.10	Straight-flute drill reamer thrust force signature (F_z)	143
4.11	Comparison of thrust force (F_z) between various drill geometry	144
4.12	Contribution of parameters to the entry delamination by employing Taguchi Orthogonal Array L_{18}	152
4.13	Contribution of parameters to the exit delamination by employing Taguchi Orthogonal Array L_{18}	153

4.14	S/N ratios of entry delamination results (main effects plot)	154
4.15	S/N ratios of exit delamination results (main effects plot)	155
4.16	Contribution of parameters to the surface roughness by employing Taguchi Orthogonal Array L ₁₈	161
4.17	S/N ratios of surface roughness results (main effects plot)	162
4.18	Surface damages observation at (a) run 7 and (b) run 10	164
4.19	Stretch mark observation at (a) run 16 and (b) run 13	164
4.20	Contribution of parameters to the hole diameter by employing Taguchi Orthogonal Array L ₁₈	167
4.21	S/N ratios of hole diameter results (main effects plot)	169
4.22	Contribution of parameters to the thrust force by employing Taguchi Orthogonal Array L ₁₈	173
4.23	S/N ratios of thrust force ratio results (main effects plot)	176
4.24	Radar chart on best parameter level by responses for drilling penetration angle (°)	179
4.25	Radar chart on best parameter level by responses for spindle speed (rpm)	180
4.26	Radar chart on best parameter level by responses for feed rate (mm/rev)	181
4.27	Measurement results for maximum thrust force for stage I	183
4.28	Measurement results for maximum thrust force for stage III	184
4.29	Point angle geometry concept during the drilling process	186
4.30	Radar chart on best parameter level by responses for point angle (°)	186

4.31	Radar chart on best parameter level by responses for web thickness (%)	188
4.32	Radar chart on best parameter level by responses for first primary clearance ($^{\circ}$)	188
4.33	Radar chart on best parameter level by responses for second primary clearance ($^{\circ}$)	189
4.34	Radar chart on best parameter level by responses for helix angle ($^{\circ}$)	190
4.35	Model validation plot for Normal % probability of internally studentized residuals	197
4.36	The relationship between (a) observed and predicted and (b) Residuals and predicted model validation plot	197
4.37	Perturbation plot on delamination	198
4.38	Interaction of response surface on delamination factor (a) drilling penetration angle and helix angle, and (b) drilling penetration angle and second primary clearance	199
4.39	Interactive effect of response surface on delamination (a) 0° drilling penetration angle and (b) 5° drilling penetration angle	200
4.40	Cutting force conditions (a) straight flute drill reamer and (b) right-hand flute drill reamer	201
4.41	Model validation plot for Normal % probability of internally studentized residuals (surface roughness)	209
4.42	The relationship between (a) observed and predicted and (b) residuals and predicted model of surface roughness validation plot	210
4.43	Perturbation plot on surface roughness	211

4.44	Response surface showing the interaction on surface roughness (a) drilling penetration angle and helix angle, and (b) drilling penetration angle and second primary clearance	212
4.45	Interactive effect of response surface on surface roughness (a) 0° of drilling penetration angle and (b) 5° of drilling penetration angle	213
4.46	Cutting mechanism of UD-CFRP comparison for 0° and 5° of drilling penetration angle for (a) type IV: $\Theta = 135^\circ$, (b) type III: $\Theta = 90^\circ$, (c) type II: $\Theta = 45^\circ$, and (d) type I: $\Theta = 0^\circ/180^\circ$	214
4.47	Drilled hole's surface quality comparison between (a) run 10 for 0° and (b) run 8 for 5° of penetration angle for UD-CFRP laminates	215
4.48	Fibre loss condition typically occurred at fibre orientation, $\Theta = 135^\circ$ (run 1) for 5° of drilling penetration angle	216
4.49	Damage area during drilling UD-CFRP typically at $\Theta = 135^\circ$ (type VI) (A-A cross-section)	217
4.50	Hole diameter error for all run on drilling CFRP panel	219
4.51	Model validation plot for Normal % probability of internally studentized residuals (hole diameter)	223
4.52	The relationship between (a) observed and predicted model of hole dimension validation plot (b) Predicted hole dimension residual plot	223
4.53	Perturbation plot on hole diameter	224
4.54	The interactive 3D response surface for hole diameter (a) drilling penetration angle (A) and the helix angle (B), and (b) drilling penetration angle (A) and the second primary clearance (C)	225