

Analysis and Optimization of parameters for casting ductile iron pipes

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Abstract—Ductile iron Pipes are casted by Horizontal centrifugal process in which liquid iron is filled through an open channel into a fast rotating mould that is slightly tilted. The mould is water cooled from outside. In order to distribute the metal, the spinning mould including its cooling system is shifted axially in a controlled movement. The quality of ductile iron pipe largely depends on microstructure as well as mechanical properties like Ferrite %, Carbide %, Elongation % and Hardness. These can be improved by analyze and optimize the process parameters during the casting process. In this research paper, Design of Experiment (DOE) based Taguchi Method is used to analyze and optimize the parameters like Pouring molten metal Temperature, Inoculation Quantity and inlet cooling water flow rate. By using Taguchi Method L16 orthogonal array is generated in MINITAB 17 and responses are analyzed by experimental work at different levels of factors. From S/N ratio the best combination of parameters are analyzed by which the predicted Taguchi result is generated. The confirmation experimental test is done and predicted result is compared with actual results. Also the Significance of factors and interactions of parameters are analyzed by Analysis of variance (ANOVA). By performing all this an attempt has made to analyze and optimize the parameters to improve the pipe quality and its life by supplying optimized resources.

Keywords— Ductile iron pipes, Centrifugal casting , Mechanical properties, Microstructure, analysis and optimization of processing parameters, Design of Experiments(DOE), Taguchi Method, Analysis of Variance(ANOVA).

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Ductile iron

Ductile Iron also referred to as “**Nodular Iron**” or Spheroid graphite iron was patented in 1948. After a decade of intensive development work in the 1950’s, ductile iron had a Phenomenal increase in the use as an engineering material during the 1960’s, and the rapid Increase in commercial application continues today. The word ductile comes from the Latin “ducere” which means pliable and that means malleable. In static calculations, pipes in ductile iron are therefore considered as having pliable properties or being flexible pipes. An unusual combination of properties is obtained in ductile iron because the graphite occurs as spheroids rather than as graphite flakes as in grey iron. This mode of solidification is obtained by adding a very small, but specific amount of Mg & Ce or both to molten iron of proper composition are added Mg reacts with S or O in the melt or molten iron and the way the graphite is formed. Control procedures have been developed to make the processing of ductile iron dependable.

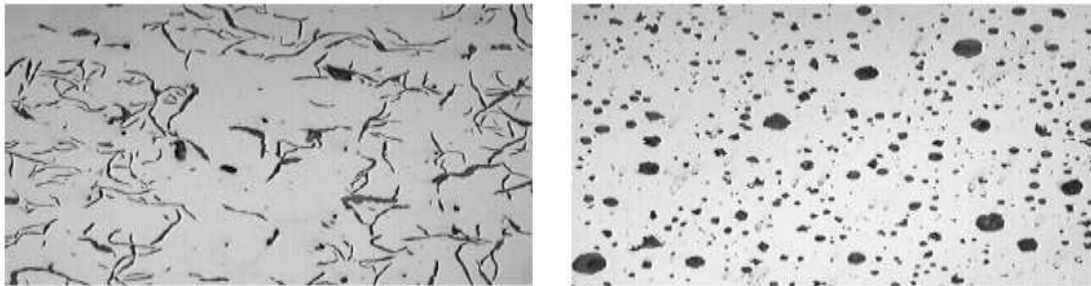


Figure 1.1: Comparison of microstructure of gray cast iron pipes and ductile iron pipes

Engineering applications of cast iron have been traditionally based upon gray (Flake graphite) irons providing a range of tensile strengths between about 150 N/mm^2 and 400 N/mm^2 with recommended design stresses in tensile applications of $0.25 \times$ tensile strength. Despite their limited strength gray irons provided very useful combinations of properties, which have ensured their wide continuing use. In fact gray irons still account for nearly 70 % of all iron castings produced. In contrast ductile irons have tensile strengths ranging from 350 to 1500 N/mm^2 with good elongation and high toughness.

1.2 Evolution of ductile iron pipes

In 1918 centrifugal casting process which revolutionised pipe production is introduced. The use of centrifugal force of rotating mould eliminated need for centre core and water-cooled metal mould permitted repetitively casting at high production rate.

With the advances in metallurgy, melting controls, chemical composition and spectrometer laboratories gray iron pipe progressively improved and its strength increased when discovery of ductile iron was announced. Some pipe producers suggest no need for it, since gray iron had served well and was stronger than other competitive pipe materials. At the start some companies experimented with ductile iron and some trial orders were produced for special applications and evaluations. The experiments were very much favourable.

After successful trials, number of experiments was done on ductile iron pipes for various improvements regarding the properties, thickness, pressure analysis, weights etc. These tests verify the superior quality of ductile iron pipe which permitted reduction in thickness, reduction in cost etc. Thus ductile iron pipe replace the grey cast iron pipes and its demand progressively increased.

1.3 Ductile iron pipes

Ductile iron pipe have been produced since 1951. It is spheroidal graphite formation which makes extreme malleability and stretching ability possible with ductile iron pipes. With the improvement in metallurgy of cast iron, the condition is met for the use of ductile iron pipe systems in nearly all areas of urban piping infrastructure.

Ductile iron pipes are made of ductile iron commonly used for water transmission and distribution. Ductile iron pipes are the direct development of cast iron pipes which were used in earlier years for water transmission. The Ductile iron used to manufacture the ductile iron pipe is characterized by spheroidal or nodular nature of graphite within it. Chemically Ductile iron pipe is same as gray cast iron pipe but the main difference between both of them is in gray cast iron pipe the graphite is present in the form of graphite flakes while in ductile iron pipe the graphite is present in the form of nodules which give it the tensile strength 350 N/mm^2 to 1500 N/mm^2 rather than 150 N/mm^2 to 400 N/mm^2 of the gray cast iron pipe with good elongation and High Toughness. Also the cast iron or gray cast iron pipes are brittle because of the lack of Ductility. ^[4]

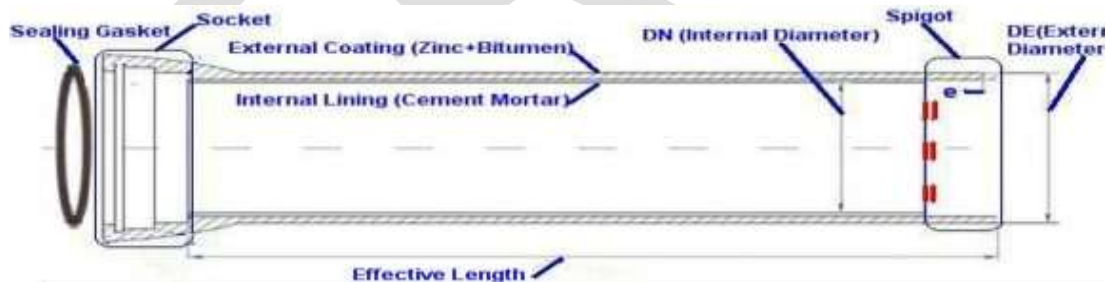


Figure 1.2: Cross section of ductile iron pipe ^[2]

Ductile iron pipe with its elements is shown in Figure 1.5. There are mainly three sections of ductile iron pipe:

1. Socket

Socket is the one of the end of ductile iron pipe. It is generally known as the front portion of the pipe. It is thicker portion of the pipe which is casted by providing sand-core. Core is made of silica. The core is arranged at the front portion of the centrifugal casting machine and the socket is casted during the centrifugal casting. Sand Core is made as per the dimensions requirement of the socket. Generally the time for solidification of socket is more compare to other sections of pipe.

2. Barrel

It is the main body-section of the ductile iron pipe. It is comparatively thin section compare to socket and spigot. During casting process solidification of this section occur speedily. It the long section and covers majority of the portion of the ductile iron pipe. The thickness of the as well as the diameter of the pipe is described by this section of the pipe.

3. Spigot

Spigot is the second end of ductile iron pipe which is casted lastly during the casting process. It is the smaller section of the pipe which solidifies lastly during the centrifugal casting process. During the installation process of ductile iron pipe network for application each Spigot is jointed with socket section.

Generally, Standard length of ductile iron pipe should be kept from 4.0 meter to 6.0 meters. When the installation of ductile iron pipe is done, they are placed in series. So that number of pipes can be easily arranged and maintenance of pipe, in case, can be done easily. The diameter of pipe also varies from 80mm to 1000mm. Also the weight of the pipes varies as per the diameter and class. Now a day's also the pipe with 1200mm diameter can be made as the requirement arises. In India as per the requirement of customers for different purposes, ductile iron pipe is mainly classified into two categories. This classification is on the based on thickness and weight of the pipe. It is classified as K7 and K9 type of pipes. Between them K7 is thinner than K9. K7 type of pipe is used for generally low pressurised fluid where K9 is used for High pressurised fluid for transportation purpose.

1.4 Centrifugal casting

Centrifugal casting is one of the largest casting branches in the casting industry, accounting for 15% of the total casting output of the world in terms of tonnage. The technique uses the centrifugal force generated by a rotating cylindrical mould to throw molten metal against a mould wall to form the desired shape. Therefore, a centrifugal casting machine must be able to spin a mould, receive molten metal, and let the metal solidify and cool in the mould in a carefully controlled manner. All metals that can be cast by static casting can be cast by the centrifugal casting process, including carbon and alloy steels, high-alloy corrosion- and heat-resistant steels, gray iron, ductile and nodular iron, high-alloy irons, stainless steels, nickel steels, aluminium alloys, copper alloys, magnesium alloys, nickel- and cobalt-base alloys, and titanium alloys. Non-metals can also be cast by centrifugal casting, including ceramics, glasses, plastics, and virtually any material that can be made into liquid or pourable slurries. The centrifugal technique is used primarily for the production of hollow components, but centrifugal casting is used to create solid parts. The centrifugal casting process is generally preferred for producing a superior-quality tubular or cylindrical casting, because the process is economical with regard to casting yield, cleaning room cost, and mould cost. The centrifugal force causes high pressures to develop in the metal, and it contributes to the feeding of the metal, with separation from non-metallic inclusions and evolved gases. Centrifugal casting machines are categorized into three basic types based on the direction of the spinning axis: horizontal, vertical, or inclined. Centrifugal casting processes also have three types:

1. True centrifugal casting (horizontal, vertical, or inclined)
2. Semi-centrifugal (centrifugal mould) casting
3. Centrifuge mould (centrifugal die) casting

Horizontal centrifugal casting is mainly used to cast pieces with a high length-to-diameter ratio or with a uniform internal diameter. Products include pipe, tubes, bushings, cylinder sleeves (liners), and cylindrical or tubular castings that are simple in shape. When metal is poured into the horizontally rotating mould, considerable slip occurs between the metal and the mould such that the metal does not move as fast as the rotating mould. To overcome this inertia, the metal must be accelerated to reach the mould rotation speed. When metal is poured into the horizontally rotating mould, considerable slip occurs between the metal and the mould such that the metal does not move as fast as the rotating mould. To overcome this inertia, the metal must be accelerated to reach the mould rotation speed. ^[6]

1.5 Manufacturing process of ductile iron pipe

Ductile iron foundries usually melt their iron in cupola or blast furnace from recycled material pig iron. Coke, oil or natural gas is the fuel used here for melting the iron ore which is the solid raw material for casting process. Crystallisation of the carbon dissolved in liquid iron in the form of graphite nodules is achieved by the addition of magnesium into the molten metal. These days ductile iron pipes are manufactured exclusively by means of centrifugal casting process, where the centrifugal forces produce the pipe wall. The rapid cooling applied in ductile iron pipe production by the means of heat treatment of pipes is necessary in order to give them a ductile microstructure. Also the lining and protective coating is the part of

production process. Throughout the entire production process there is defined control system of controls and tests to guarantee the specified properties of the product. [2]

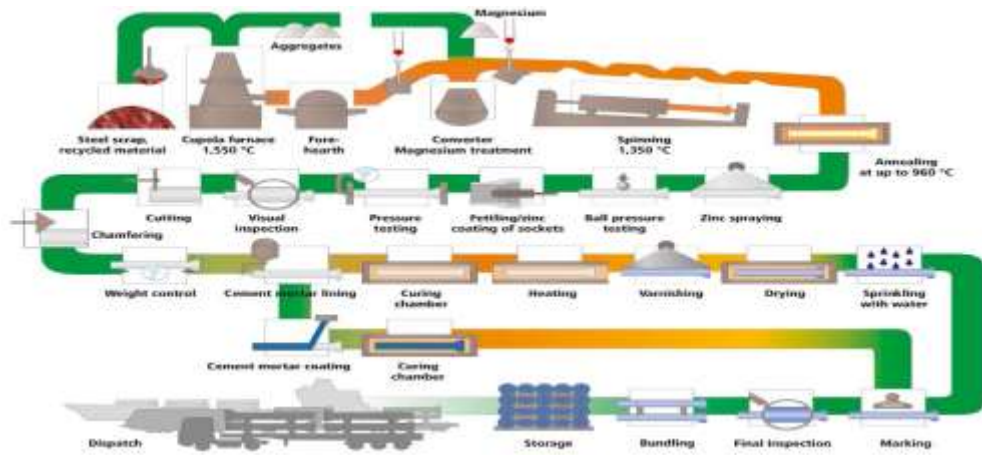


Figure 1.3: Process of manufacturing the ductile iron pipes

1.6 Effect of inlet cooling water flow rate

In ductile pipe casting machines, a measured amount of molten metal is poured into an elongated generally cylindrical metal mould progressively from one end to the other while the mould is being rotated about its longitudinal axis at a rate to evenly distribute and retain the molten metal over the interior wall of the mould.

During pouring of the molten iron and for a predetermined time thereafter, the external wall of the mould is cooled to prevent damage to the mould and to extract heat of fusion from the molten metal. This cooling is accomplished either by directing a spray or multiple streams of water onto the external surface of the mould or by submerging the mould in a cooling water bath. In either case, the mould must be cooled uniformly to avoid damage to the pipe being cast and to prevent excessive distortion of the mould.

Centrifugal castings should be cooled unidirectional from outside to inside. Any two-way solidification will increase the chance of shrinkage porosity and machining allowance, which should be avoided or minimized in thick-wall castings. Cooling rate can affect the microstructure, casting hardness, circumferential and axial cracks, machine productivity, as well as mould life. In most cases, the early cooling rate of the castings is mainly controlled by the coating thickness, coating texture, coating materials, as well as mould thickness and mould materials; however, the later cooling rate is mainly controlled by water cooling (unless the mould is not cooled by water). Water-cooling methods include water submerge, water-jet spray, and water sleeve. Ductile iron pipe production uses all three water-cooling methods. For example the middle section of a long tube mould usually needs more water for cooling.

1.7 Effect of metal pouring temperature

Before casting process of ductile iron pipe, liquid metal is poured into the Hopper from the ladle. This liquid metal should be at the required higher temperature that the fluidity of the metal can be maintained during the casting process. During the pouring process metal temperature should be high enough that can dissolve the inoculation and thoroughly mixed. The overall response to inoculation is dependent on melt condition- the pouring temperature.

The grain size of inoculation varies from 0.2 to 6.0 mm depends on quantity and temperature of metal. The grain structure of centrifugal castings is concerned; the pour temperature or the variable spinning speed plays a much more important role in obtaining the equated grains than the water-cooling rate or mould temperature.

1.8 Effect of Inoculation

Inoculation is small amount of material which is added into the molten metal stream during the pouring process. Inoculation mainly contains silica of about 45-75 % and some amount of calcium and aluminium as per the application required. There are various types of inoculants which are used in casting process. Among them Zircobar is used for casting ductile iron pipes.

Zircobar is used for following purposes:

- Increases nodule counts and hence better mechanical properties.
- Consistent microstructure and mechanical properties.
- Uniform properties in varying section thickness
- Chill removal

Zircobar contains 60-70 % silica and 3-5 % Mn and Zr. This inoculation provides the better microstructure and mechanical properties in ductile iron pipes. As the result, tensile strength, elongation hardness and machine-ability become more uniform from one section to another section in the same casting

1.9 Effect of carbide in structure

Ductile iron castings are more prone to contain carbides than flake-graphite castings of similar section and size and carbon and silicon contents. This occurs partly because the spheroidizing process generally involves the addition of magnesium and/or cerium, which are both elements to promote the formation of eutectic carbide; and partly because the sequence of solidification produced by the growth of nodular graphite tend to promote under-cooling during solidification to temperatures at which white iron structure as likely to form. Carbides in ductile irons can occur in three forms:

Eutectic carbide (or chill) results mainly from the rapid solidification and is most prevalent in corners and thin sections. Inadequate inoculation, low carbon and in particular low silicon and the presence of carbide promoting elements increases the likelihood of carbides being present in the structure. Inverse chill, which has fine acicular form, occurs at or near the heat centre of a casting section. The geometry of the casting and method of running the casting are important variables and the problem is often only solved by re-positioning or altering the size of in gates to change the pattern of solidification of casting.

The presence of carbide in ductile iron is undesirable for a number of reasons:

- It increases the tendency to form shrinkage porosity and thus increases the feeding requirements during casting.
- It increases the risk of cracking during knockout and fettling.
- It decreases the ductility of the iron.
- It drastically reduces the impact resistance.
- It increases hardness and reduces machinability.
- It requires heat treatment to 900-920°C to remove the carbide.

1.10 Effect of Elongation

Elongation is defined as the permanent increase in length, expressed as a percentage of a specified gage length marked in a tensile test bar, which is produced when the bar is tested to failure. Elongation is used widely as the primary indication of tensile ductility and is included in many Ductile Iron specifications. Although shown as the uniform elongation in figure 4.4, elongation also includes the localized deformation that occurs prior to fracture. However, because the localized deformation occurs in a very limited part of the gage length, its contribution to the total elongation of a correctly proportioned bar is very small. Brittle materials such as Gray Iron can fail in tension without any significant elongation, but ferrite Ductile Irons can exhibit elongation of over 10 %

1.11 Effect of Hardness

The hardness of Ductile Iron is usually and best measured by the Brinell test, in which a 10 mm diameter hardened steel or tungsten carbide ball is pressed into a flat surface of the work piece. Hardness is expressed as a Brinell Indentation Diameter (BID) or a Brinell Hardness Number (BHN). Hardness may also be described as BHN/3000 to indicate the force applied to the ball is 3000 kg, the normal value for ferrous materials. The sizes of the Brinell indentation, and its related volume of plastic deformation, are large relative to the scale of the microstructure and as a result an average hardness is obtained which exhibits good reproducibility for similar microstructures. Brinell hardness is included in many Ductile Iron specifications. Brinell hardness should be used for production control and as an auxiliary property test.

1.12 Literature review

Study about the defects, their causes and remedies in casting process showed the root causes of casting defects which helped to quality department of different industries for finding roots and remedies of different defects. Different research papers were studied and casting defects, causes and their remedies were listed. ^[7]

Variation in tensile properties and fracture properties for ductile cast iron by experiments and numerical analysis was studied. By fractographic analysis it was possible to establish a relation between elongation at fracture and size of slag defects. Relative contribution to the loss of ductility, size of slag defects, perlite contents, nodularity and changing graphite were demonstrated by deterministic models. ^[8]

Solidification rate greatly affect on the microstructure, quality and mechanical property. The rotational speed effect the solidification of liquid metal during the centrifugal casting process. It was found that setting 800 RPM. Of die in centrifugal casting machine the metal poured was directly lifted and rapid solidification took place and finer grain size can be achieved compare to 400 and 600 RPM of the die which improved the microstructure of casting. This helped to achieve the best quality pipe. ^[9]

The design of easy locking and un-locking arrangement by using electromagnet lock plate to avoid the excess metal fly-out was found. The productivity also increased by using the electromagnetic plate which minimizes dwell time. ^[10]

Investigation about the effect of electromagnetic force on the centrifugal force in centrifugal casting was done. It was found that under 0.15T electromagnetic field intensity both absolute pressure of metal flow to mould wall and metal flow velocity on same location had some differences between electromagnetic centrifugal casting and centrifugal casting. ^[11]

This paper talks about the Using the Taguchi method in centrifugal casting of 5500 alloys which specifies that number of experiments can be minimized by using orthogonal array and optimum set of parameters can be analyzed. Also the significance of the parameters on the result can be checked ^[14]

Also the discussion about the effect of mould wall thickness on the rate of solidification of centrifugal casting was investigated. Result of this paper was as mould thickness increases, due to chilling effect solidification time decreased. Rapid solidification showed well distributed fine grains and slow solidification showed coarse grains. ^[18]

This paper talks about the Taguchi method in the optimization of injection moulding parameters for manufacturing products. Parameters can be analyzed and optimized by Taguchi method also the predicted results can be verified by confirmation test.^[20]

Discussion about modes and causes of gray cast iron pipes failures was investigated. Various failure causes were found. Also the causes of remedies were predicted as per the failure modes. Also it was observed that failure was always unexpected and produces emergencies which were mostly shown in medium and large diameter pipes.^[24]

1.13 Problem Definition

Ductile iron pipes are most widely used for transportation of drinking and sewerage water. So it is the prime responsibility of the Industries to make the defect-less ductile iron pipe for smooth and continuous transportation of water. If the quality of pipe is not maintained properly it will affect the service and life of the pipe. Also the rejections level increases due to poor control of parameters which can affect the quality of the pipe. Quality of the ductile iron pipe largely depends on the microstructure as well as the mechanical properties of the pipe. During the casting process of ductile iron pipe if the parameters like pouring metal temperature, inoculation quantity and inlet water flow rate are analyzed and optimized properly, a better quality pipe can be manufactured.

Analysis and optimization of parameters for casting ductile iron pipe is the study about the analysis and optimization of parameters like pouring metal temperature, inoculation quantity and inlet cooling water flow rate by which a better quality pipe with improved microstructure and enhanced mechanical properties can be produced. In this study how the grouping of different parameters like temperature range, inoculation quantity and inlet water flow rate will affect on the microstructure (ferrite % and carbide %) and mechanical properties (Elongation %, and Hardness) are analyzed and optimized by Design of Experiment Method. Taguchi based L16 orthogonal array was used for experimental purpose and analysis was carried out by using Minitab 17 software. Also the ANOVA method is used to analyze the variance, significance of factors and interactions on microstructure and mechanical properties.

This method will be beneficial because it will reduce many shop-floor trials. Also the result can be achieved within minimum time period. Resources can be effectively saved by using this method and optimized parameters can be implemented.

Experimental Set-up

2.1 Introduction

Research on the centrifugal casting can be done for various sizes (DN 100 to 1000 mm) and classes (K9 & K7) of ductile iron pipe but here ductile iron pipes of **DN 450 K9** are considered for experimental analysis. The **DISP** plant of **JINDAL SAW LTD.** was producing casting of these pipes during the time of dissertation work hence this size and class of the pipe was selected for convenience.

2.2 Experimental Set-up





Figure 2.1: Experimental Set-up

As shown in figure 2.1, centrifugal casting machine is casting ductile iron pipe of DN 450 K9. The mould of DN 450 pipe is inserted inside the CCM. Surrounding that mould rollers at 120° are employed to provide the rotation motion of the mould during the casting process. Runners are aligned properly before casting the pipe. Hopper is filled with liquid metal by pouring ladle and the pyrometer is used to measure the pouring metal temperature. The rail-track is provided to move casting machine the casting machine longitudinally. Inlet and outlet cooling water pipes are provided to cool the mould and solidify the pipe on the casing of the centrifugal casting. By using PLC (programmable logic control) most of the parameters can be adjusted as per the requirement from operator's Desk.

Table 2.1 Specification of parameters of centrifugal casting machine

Pipe Size (in mm)	Traverse Down Time (in Seconds)		Hopper Up-time (in Seconds)		Motor RPM (Reference)		Minimum Mould RPM
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	
100	14	18	45	75	800	950	700
150	15	20	45	75	800	900	650
200	16	20	45	75	800	850	525
250	17	21	45	75	800	925	425
300	17	21	45	75	750	900	375
350	18	22	45	75	700	850	300
400	18	22	45	75	700	850	300
450	19	25	35	65	550	750	225
500	20	26	35	65	500	700	200
600	22	28	50	80	500	700	200
700	23	29	30	50	500	700	175
750	24	30	30	50	550	750	150
800	25	31	30	50	550	750	140
900	26	32	30	50	700	900	125
1000	27	33	35	55	700	900	125

2.3 Experimental procedure

In the experimental procedure, first the diameter and class of the pipe is selected by using PLC from Operator's Desk. All the other fixed parameters are set which would not vary during the experiments. Liquid metal as per the required quantity which depends on the size and class of the pipe was filled into the hopper. The temperature of the Poring liquid metal is measured by pyrometer.



Figure: 2.2 Temperature measurements by pyrometer

Now the CCM was moved longitudinally to the hopper end by operating. Mould was rotated at full RPM before starting throe casting process. Hopper is tilted as per the require amount from where the liquid metal gets inside the open section of runner and from runner to the socket end of the rotating mould. Inoculation is added by inoculants pipe on the metal stream by controlling the flow rate of inoculation from operator's desk. Cooling water is continuously supplied from inlet cooling water pipe to the surrounding of the rotating.



Figure: 2.3 casting of pipe

After casting the pipe it was passing through the annealing furnace for heat treatment process. In this section the speed of annealing is maintained constant that it will not affect the quality of the pipe. After heat treatment a part of the pipe is analyzed from different equipments like microscope, Brinell hardness machine for examine the microstructure as well as the mechanical properties of the pipe.

2.4 Experimental Results

Table 2.2: Analysis of Microstructure from orthogonal array

Exp. No.	Pouring Temp. (°C)	Inoculation quantity (%)	Inlet water flow rate (m ³ /Hr)	Ferrite (%)	Carbide (%)
1	1280-1310	0.15	100	85	13
2	1280-1310	0.20	120	90	10
3	1280-1310	0.25	140	92	8
4	1280-1310	0.30	160	94	6
5	1310-1340	0.15	120	89	11
6	1310-1340	0.20	100	92	8
7	1310-1340	0.25	160	94	6
8	1310-1340	0.30	140	96	4
9	1340-1370	0.15	140	90	10
10	1340-1370	0.20	160	94	6
11	1340-1370	0.25	100	96	4
12	1340-1370	0.30	120	98	2
13	1370-1400	0.15	160	85	13
14	1370-1400	0.20	140	90	10
15	1370-1400	0.25	120	94	6
16	1370-1400	0.30	100	96	4

Table 2.3 Analysis of Mechanical Properties from orthogonal array

Exp. No.	Pouring Temp. (°C)	Inoculation quantity (%)	Inlet water flow rate (m ³ /Hr)	Elongation (%)	Hardness (BHN)
1	1280-1310	0.15	100	7	205
2	1280-1310	0.20	120	10	195
3	1280-1310	0.25	140	11	197
4	1280-1310	0.30	160	12	194
5	1310-1340	0.15	120	8	200
6	1310-1340	0.20	100	11	197
7	1310-1340	0.25	160	14	190
8	1310-1340	0.30	140	10	195
9	1340-1370	0.15	140	12	195
10	1340-1370	0.20	160	14	190
11	1340-1370	0.25	100	16	180
12	1340-1370	0.30	120	7	185
13	1370-1400	0.15	160	10	205
14	1370-1400	0.20	140	14	195
15	1370-1400	0.25	120	12	190
16	1370-1400	0.30	100	14	180

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Analysis of Performance for Microstructure

3.1.1 Analysis of Ferrite %

Table 3.1: Response Table for Means of Ferrite %

Level	Poring Temperature	Inoculation Quantity	Inlet water flow rate
1	90.25	87.25	92.25
2	92.75	91.05	92.75
3	94.50	94.0	92.00
4	91.25	96.0	91.75
Delta	4.25	8.75	1.00
Rank	2	1	3

Table 3.1 represents that the mean value is maximum (94.50) for 1340-1370 Pouring temperature and Minimum (90.25) for 1280-1310 Pouring temperature. The mean value is maximum (96.0) for 0.30 % inoculation quantity of pipe weight and minimum (87.25) for 0.15 %. The Mean value is maximum (92.75) for 120 m³/Hr water flow rate while Minimum (91.75) for 160 m³/Hr. It also represents Delta value by Maximum and minimum mean differences and rank them. So it can be said that the effect of inoculation quantity is Maximum and effect of inlet water flow rate is minimum on the Ferrite %. Figure 7.1 represents the Main effects plot for means of ferrite % by Taguchi method

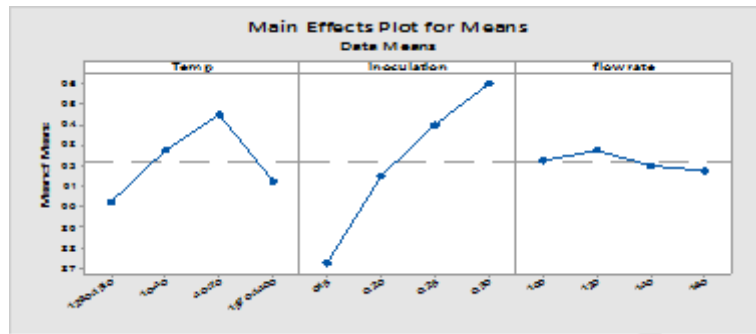


Figure 3.1 Main Effect plots for Means of Ferrite %

Table 3.2: Means of Responses Table for S/N ratio of Ferrite %

Level	Poring Temperature	Inoculation Quantity	Inlet water flow rate
1	39.09	38.80	39.28
2	39.33	39.22	39.33
3	39.05	39.45	39.26
4	39.44	39.64	39.24
Delta	0.39	0.84	0.09
Rank	2	1	3

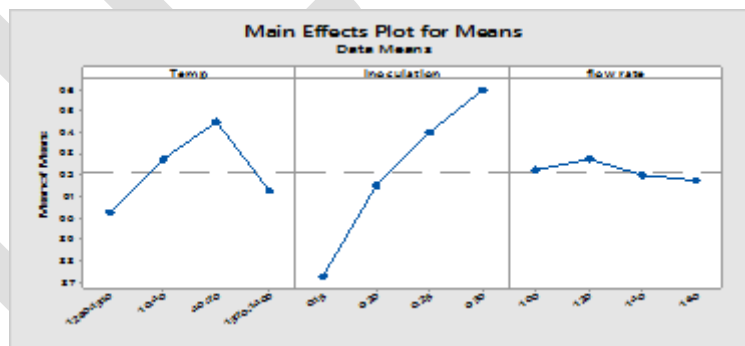


Figure 3.2 Main Effect plots for S/N ratio of Ferrite %

Response curve analysis is aimed at determining influential parameter and their optimum set of control parameters. Figure 3.2 shows the response at each factor level. The S/N ration for different performance were calculated at each factor level and the average effect were determine by taking total

of each factor level and divided by the number of data points in the total. The greater difference between S/N ratios, the parametric influence will be much. The parameter level having the highest S/N ratio corresponds to the sets of parameters indicates highest performance.

The term optimum setting is reflects only optimum combination of parameters defined by this experiment. Optimum setting is determined by choosing the level with highest S/N ratio. The response curve for S/N ratio, the highest S/N ratio was observed at **1340-1370 °C** Pouring temperature, **0.30%** of pipe weight inoculation quantity and **120 m³/Hr** water flow rate, which optimum parameters is setting for highest ferrite %.

Table 3.3 Factor levels for predicted ferrite %

Pouring Temperature (0C)	Inoculation Quantity (%)	Water flow rate (m3/Hr)
1340-1370	0.30	120

Table 3.4 Predicted result for Ferrite %

Ferrite %	S/N Ratio
98.87	39.91

Using optimum set of parameters, which was achieved by Minitab software for Taguchi method, the result was obtained by experiment is compared with predicated value of software for highest ferrite %

Table 3.5 Experimental result for Ferrite %

Pouring Temperature (°C)	Inoculation Quantity (%)	Water flow rate (m ³ /Hr)	Ferrite %
1340-1370	0.30	120	98

Experiment has done for above set of parameters, which gives performance given in table 7.7 Ferrite is **98%** and experimental results is nearer to our predicted value **98.87 %**. From Taguchi method and experimental investigation it has been concluded that **1340-1370 °C** pouring temperature, **0.30 %** inoculation quantity and **120 m³/Hr** inlet water flow rate gives highest Ferrite %

3.1.2 Analysis of Carbide %

Table 3.6: Response Table for Means of Carbide %

Level	Poring Temperature	Inoculation Quantity	Inlet water flow rate
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1	9.25	11.75	7.30
2	7.25	8.5	7.25
3	5.50	6	8.00
4	8.25	4	7.75
Delta	3.75	7.75	0.75
Rank	2	1	3

Table 3.6 represents that the mean value is maximum (9.25) for 1280-1310 Pouring temperature and Minimum (5.50) for 1340-1370 Pouring temperature. The mean value is maximum (11.75) for 0.15 % inoculation quantity of pipe weight and minimum (4) for 0.30 %. The Mean value is maximum (8.00) for 140 m³/Hr water flow rate while Minimum (7.25) for 120 m³/Hr. It also represents Delta value by Maximum and minimum mean differences and rank them. So it can be said that the effect of inoculation quantity is Maximum and effect of inlet water flow rate is minimum on the carbide%. Figure 7.3 represents the Main effects plot for means of carbide % by Taguchi method.

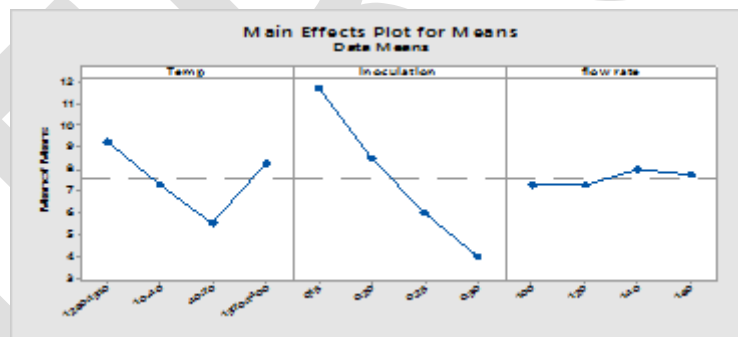


Figure 3.3 Main Effect plots for Means of Carbide %

Table 3.7: Response Table for S/N ratio of Carbide %

Level	Poring Temperature	Inoculation Quantity	Inlet water flow rate
1	-18.98	-21.35	-16.11
2	-16.62	-18.41	-15.60
3	-13.41	-15.31	-17.53

4	-17.47	-11.42	-17.24
Delta	5.57	9.93	1.92
Rank	2	1	3

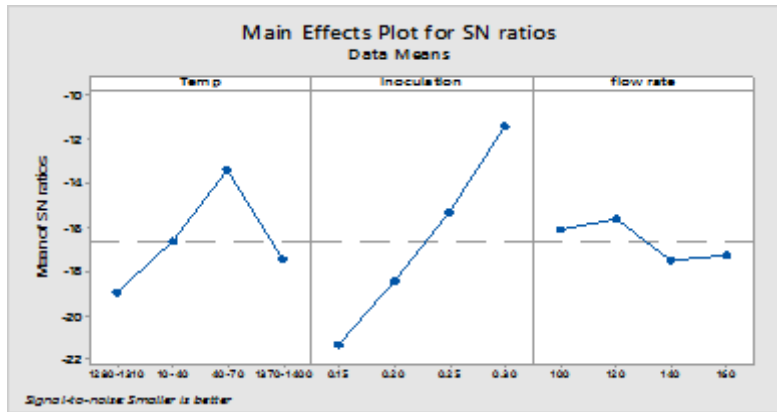


Figure 3.4 Main Effect plots for S/N ratio of carbide %

Response curve analysis is aimed at determining influential parameter and their optimum set of control parameters. Figure 3.4 shows the response at each factor level. The S/N ratio for different performance were calculated at each factor level and the average effect were determine by taking total of each factor level and divided by the number of data points in the total. The greater difference between S/N ratios, the parametric influence will be much. The parameter level having the highest S/N ratio corresponds to the sets of parameters indicates highest performance.

The term optimum setting is reflects only optimum combination of parameters defined by this experiment. Optimum setting is determined by choosing the level with highest S/N ratio. The response curve for S/N ratio, the highest S/N ratio was observed at 1340-1370 °C Pouring temperature, 0.30% of pipe weight inoculation quantity and 120 m³/Hr water flow rate, which optimum parameters is setting for highest Carbide %.

Table 3.8 Factor levels for predicted of Carbide %

Pouring Temperature (°C)	Inoculation Quantity (%)	Water flow rate (m³/Hr)
1340-1370	0.30	120

Table 3.9 Predicted result for Carbide %

Carbide %	S/N Ratio
1.65	-7.18

Using optimum set of parameters, which was achieved by Minitab software for Taguchi method, the result was obtained by experiment is compared with predicated value of software for Lowest Carbide %

Table 3.10 Experimental result for Carbide %

Pouring Temperature (°C)	Inoculation Quantity (%)	Water flow rate (m³/Hr)	Carbide %
1340-1370	0.30	120	2.0

Experiment has done for above set of parameters, which gives performance given in table 7.12 Carbide is **2.0 %** and experimental results is nearer to our predicted value **1.65 %**. From Taguchi method and experimental investigation it has been concluded that **1340-1370 °C** pouring temperature, **0.30 %** inoculation quantity and **120 m³/Hr** inlet water flow rate gives Lowest Carbide %

3.2 Analysis of Performance for Mechanical Properties

3.2.1 Analysis of Elongation %

Table 3.11: Response Table for Means of Elongation %

Level	Poring Temperature	Inoculation Quantity	Inlet water flow rate
1	10.00	9.25	12.0
2	10.75	12.25	9.25
3	12.25	13.25	11.75
4	12.50	10.75	12.50
Delta	2.5	4.0	3.25
Rank	3	1	2

Table 3.11 represents that the mean value is maximum (12.50) for 1370-1400 Pouring temperature and Minimum (10.00) for 1280-1310 Pouring temperature. The mean value is maximum (13.25) for 0.25 % inoculation quantity of pipe weight and minimum (9.25) for 0.15 %. The Mean value is maximum (12.50) for 160 m³/Hr water flow rate while Minimum (9.25) for 120 m³/Hr. It also represents Delta value by Maximum and minimum mean differences and rank them. So it can be said that the effect of inoculation quantity is Maximum and effect of pouring temperature is minimum on the Elongation %. Figure 7.5 represents the Main effects plot for means of Elongation % by Taguchi method.

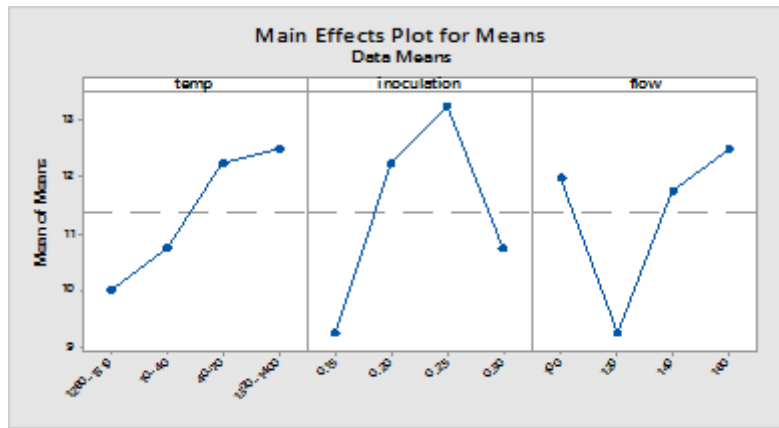


Figure 3.5 Main Effect plots for Means of Elongation %

Table 3.12: Response Table for S/N ratio of Elongation %

Level	Poring Temperature	Inoculation Quantity	Inlet water flow rate
1	19.83	19.14	21.18
2	20.45	21.67	19.14
3	21.37	22.35	21.33
4	21.86	20.35	21.86
Delta	2.03	3.22	2.72
Rank	2	1	3

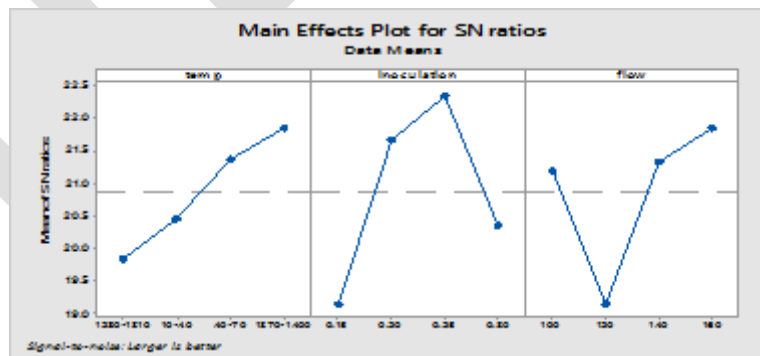


Figure 3.6 Main Effect plots for S/N ratio of Elongation %

Response curve analysis is aimed at determining influential parameter and their optimum set of control parameters. Figure 3.6 shows the response at each factor level. The S/N ration for different performance were calculated at each factor level and the average effect were determine by taking total

of each factor level and divided by the number of data points in the total. The greater difference between S/N ratios, the parametric influence will be much. The parameter level having the highest S/N ratio corresponds to the sets of parameters indicates highest performance.

The term optimum setting is reflects only optimum combination of parameters defined by this experiment. Optimum setting is determined by choosing the level with highest S/N ratio. The response curve for S/N ratio, the highest S/N ratio was observed at 1370-1400 °C Pouring temperature, 0.25% of pipe weight inoculation quantity and 160 m³/Hr water flow rate, which optimum parameters is setting for highest Elongation %.

Table 3.13 Factor levels for predicted of Elongation %

Pouring Temperature (°C)	Inoculation Quantity (%)	Water flow rate (m ³ /Hr)
1370-1400	0.25	160

Table 3.14 Predicted result for Elongation %

Elongation %	S/N Ratio
15.5	24.31

Using optimum set of parameters, which was achieved by Minitab software for Taguchi method, the result was obtained by experiment is compared with predicated value of software for highest Elongation %

Table 3.15 Experimental result for Elongation %

Pouring Temperature (°C)	Inoculation Quantity (%)	Water flow rate (m ³ /Hr)	Elongation %
1370-1400	0.25	160	15

Experiment has done for above set of parameters, which gives performance given in Table 3.15 Elongation is **15%** and experimental results is nearer to our predicted value **15.5 %**. From Taguchi method and experimental investigation it has been concluded that **1370-1400 °C** pouring temperature, **0.25 %** inoculation quantity and **160 m³/Hr** inlet water flow rate gives highest Elongation %

3.2.2 Analysis of Hardness (BHN)

Table 3.16: Response Table for Means of Hardness

Level	Poring Temperature	Inoculation Quantity	Inlet water flow rate
1	197.8	201.3	190.5

2	195.5	194.3	192.5
3	187.5	189.3	195.5
4	192.5	188.5	194.8
Delta	10.3	12.8	5.0
Rank	2	1	3

Table 3.16 represents that the mean value is maximum (197.8) for 1280-1310 Pouring temperature and Minimum (187.5) for 1340-1370 Pouring temperature. The mean value is maximum (201.3) for 0.15 % inoculation quantity of pipe weight and minimum (188.5) for 0.30 % inoculation. The Mean value is maximum (195.5) for 140 m³/Hr water flow rate while Minimum (190.5) for 100 m³/Hr. It also represents Delta value by Maximum and minimum mean differences and rank them. So it can be said that the effect of inoculation quantity is Maximum and effect of Water flow rate is minimum on the Hardness. Figure 7.11 represents the Main effects plot for means of Hardness by Taguchi method.

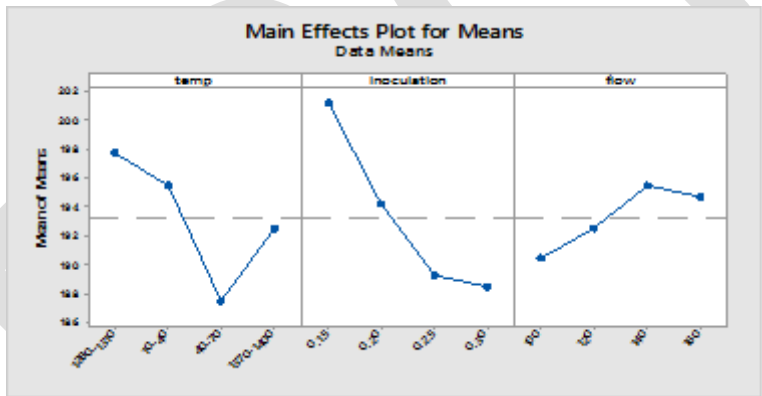


Figure 3.7 Main Effect plots for Means of Hardness

Table 3.17: Response Table for S/N ratio of Hardness

Level	Poring Temperature	Inoculation Quantity	Inlet water flow rate
1	-45.92	-46.07	-45.58
2	-45.82	-45.77	-45.68
3	-45.46	-45.54	-45.82
4	-46.68	-45.50	-45.79

Delta	0.46	0.57	0.24
Rank	2	1	3

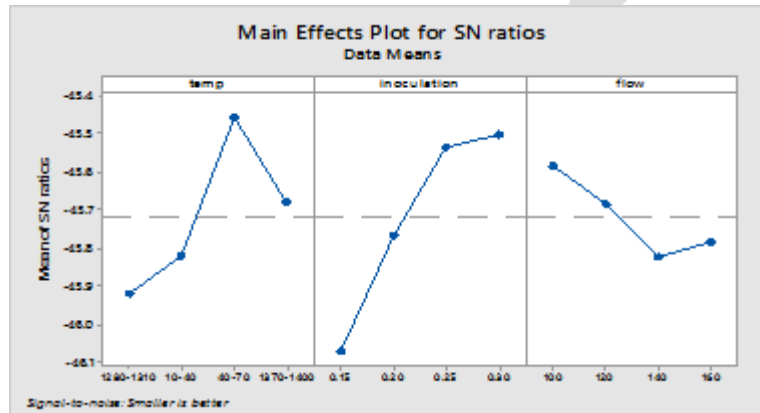


Figure 3.8 Main Effect plots for S/N ratio of Hardness

Response curve analysis is aimed at determining influential parameter and their optimum set of control parameters. Figure 3.8 shows the response at each factor level. The S/N ratios for different performance were calculated at each factor level and the average effect were determine by taking total of each factor level and divided by the number of data points in the total. The greater difference between S/N ratios, the parametric influence will be much. The parameter level having the highest S/N ratio corresponds to the sets of parameters indicates highest performance.

The term optimum setting is reflects only optimum combination of parameters defined by this experiment. Optimum setting is determined by choosing the level with highest S/N ratio. The response curve for S/N ratio, the highest S/N ratio was observed at **1340-1370°C** Pouring temperature, **0.30%** of pipe weight inoculation quantity and **100 m³/Hr** water flow rate, which optimum parameters is setting for Lowest Hardness.

Table 3.18 Factor levels for predicted of Hardness

Pouring Temperature (°C)	Inoculation Quantity (%)	Water flow rate (m ³ /Hr)
1340-1370	0.30	100

Table 3.19 Predicted result for Hardness

Hardness (BHN)	S/N Ratio

179.875	-45.10
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Using optimum set of parameters, which was achieved by Minitab software for Taguchi method, the result was obtained by experiment is compared with predicated value of software for Lowest Hardness

Table 3.20 Experimental result for Hardness

Pouring Temperature (°C)	Inoculation Quantity (%)	Water flow rate (m ³ /Hr)	Hardness (BHN)
1340-1370	0.30	100	180

Experiment has done for above set of parameters, which gives performance given in table 7.22 Hardness is **180 BHN** and experimental results is nearer to our predicted value **79.875** From Taguchi method and experimental investigation it has been concluded that **1340-1370 °C** pouring temperature, **0.30 %** inoculation quantity and **100 m³/Hr** inlet water flow rate gives Lowest Hardness

3.3 ANOVA Results for microstructure

Since as already stated ANOVA help us to identify which parameter is important for us after literature review following ANOVA table is obtained for Ferrite % and Carbide %. **Minitab 17** software is used for statistical calculation purpose

Table 3.21 ANOVA Results for Ferrite %

Parameters	DF	Adj SS	Adj MS	F Value	P Value
Regression	7	207.86	29.694	22.45	0.000
Pouring Temperature(°C)	1	10.64	10.635	8.04	0.022
Inoculation (%)	1	10.85	10.850	8.20	0.021
Water flow rate (m³/Hr)	1	12.98	12.979	9.81	0.014
Temperature*Inoculation	1	10.48	10.477	7.92	0.023
Temperature*Flow Rate	1	12.80	12.804	9.68	0.014
Inoculation*Flow Rate	1	12.022	12.217	9.24	0.016
Temp.*Inoculation*Flow rate	1	12.02	12.021	9.09	0.017
Error	8	10.58	1.323		
Total	15	218.44			

Table 3.21 shows the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) by Regression method for Ferrite % response. ANOVA table shows the amount of variation in response data. The important information can be obtained here is the P- value which shows the significance level of the individual as well as interactive parameters. P value less than 0.0500 indicate model terms are significant. P- Value for regression 0.000 indicating that regression model is significant. The co-efficient of determination indicates the goodness of the fit for the model, so the percentage value of this regression model is **95.15 %** which indicates the highly significance of the model.

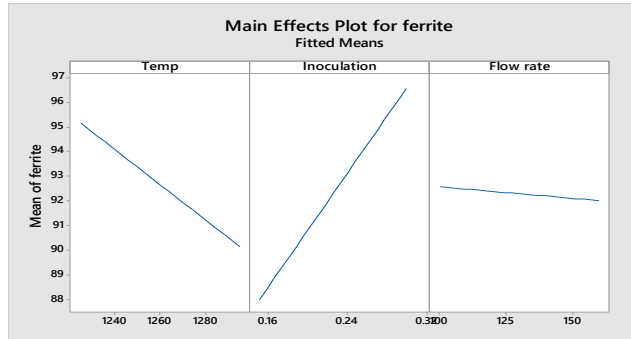


Figure 3.9: Analysis of Main Effect on Ferrite %

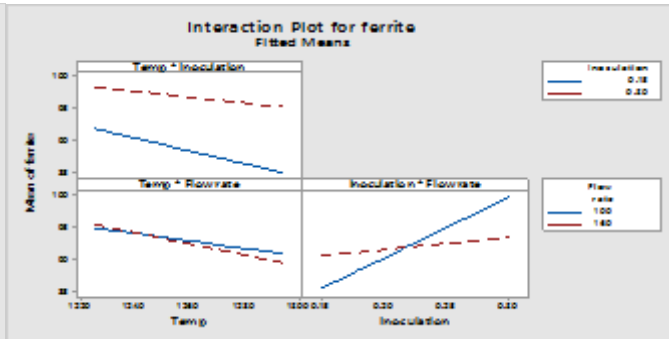


Figure 3.10: Analysis of Interaction Effect on Ferrite %

Main effect plot is most useful when we have select more variables. We can compare the change in level means to see which categorical variable influence the Response the most. A main effect is present when mean of the responses changes at different levels of variable. By comparing the graph shows that **Ferrite %** is higher at 1240° C Temperature, 0.30 % inoculation quantity and 100 m³/Hr water flow rate. The Magnitude of the main effect for **inoculation quantity** is higher than other variable.

In interaction effect if the lines are parallel than there is no interaction between factors. If the greater the lines depart from being parallel, the greater the strength of interaction. Factorial plots do not use the data from the worksheet instead Minitab estimates the fitted means based on a stored model. In the interaction graph the Temperature and inoculation, neither of both panels interact with each-other, while in Temperature and flow rate and inoculation and flow rate both of these interactions indicates that variables interact with each other.

Table 3.22 ANOVA Results for Carbide %

Parameters	DF	Adj SS	Adj MS	F Value	P Value
Regression	7	163.614	23.373	43.25	0.000
Pouring Temperature(°C)	1	10.604	10.604	19.62	0.002
Inoculation (%)	1	10.895	10.894	20.16	0.002
Water flow rate (m ³ /Hr)	1	11.862	11.8619	21.95	0.002
Temperature*Inoculation	1	10.555	10.5550	19.53	0.002
Temperature*Flow Rate	1	11.699	11.6991	21.65	0.002
Inoculation*Flow Rate	1	11.396	11.3958	21.09	0.002
Temp.*Inoculation*Flow rate	1	11.212	11.2125	20.75	0.002
Error	8	4.324	0.5404		
Total	15	167.938			

Table 3.22 shows the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) by Regression method for Carbide % response. The important information can be obtained here is the P- value which shows the significance level of the individual as well as interactive parameters. P value less than 0.0500 indicate model terms are significant. P- Value for regression 0.000 indicating that regression model is significant. The co-efficient of determination indicates the goodness of the fit for the model, so the percentage value of this regression model is **97.43 %** which indicates the highly significance of the model.

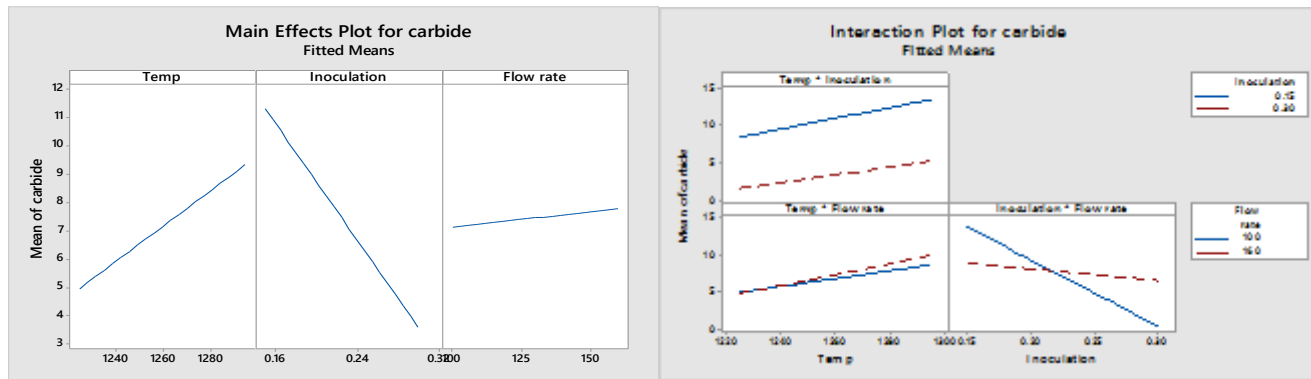


Figure 3.11: Analysis of Main Effect on Carbide % Figure 3.12: Analysis of Interaction Effect of on Carbide %

Main effect plot is most useful when we have select more variables. We can compare the change in level means to see which categorical variable influence the Response the most. A main effect is present when mean of the responses changes at different levels of variable. By comparing the graph shows that **Carbide %** is lower at 1240° C Temperature, 0.16 % inoculation quantity and 150 m³/Hr water flow rate. The Magnitude of the main effect for **inoculation quantity** is higher than other variable.

In interaction Effect if the lines are parallel than there is no interaction between factors. If the greater the lines depart from being parallel, the greater the strength of interaction. Factorial plots do not use the data from the worksheet instead Minitab estimates the fitted means based on a stored model. In the interaction graph the Temperature and inoculation, neither of both panels interact with each-other, while in Temperature and flow rate and inoculation and flow rate both of these interactions indicates that variables interact with each other.

3.4 ANOVA Results for Mechanical properties

ANOVA help us to identify which parameter is important for us after literature review following ANOVA table is obtained for Hardness and Carbide %. Minitab 17 software is used for statistical calculation purpose.

Table 3.23 ANOVA Results for Hardness

Parameters	DF	Adj SS	Adj MS	F Value	P Value
Regression	7	672.36	96.05	5.45	0.015
Pouring Temperature(°C)	1	52.96	52.96	3.00	0.121
Inoculation (%)	1	25.79	25.79	1.46	0.261
Water flow rate (m³/Hr)	1	74.44	74.44	4.22	0.049
Temperature*Inoculation	1	23.63	23.63	1.34	0.280
Temperature*Flow Rate	1	75.60	75.60	4.32	0.048

Inoculation*Flow Rate	1	40.87	40.87	2.32	0.166
Temp.*Inoculation*Flow rate	1	38.52	0.178	2.18	0.178
Error	8	141.08	17.63		
Total	15	813.44			

Table 3.23 shows the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) by Regression method for Hardness response. The important information can be obtained here is the P- value which shows the significance level of the individual as well as interactive parameters. P value less than 0.0500 indicate model terms are significant. P- Value for regression 0.015 indicating that regression model is significant. The co-efficient of determination indicates the goodness of the fit for the model, so the percentage value of this regression model is **82.65%** which indicates the highly significance of the model.

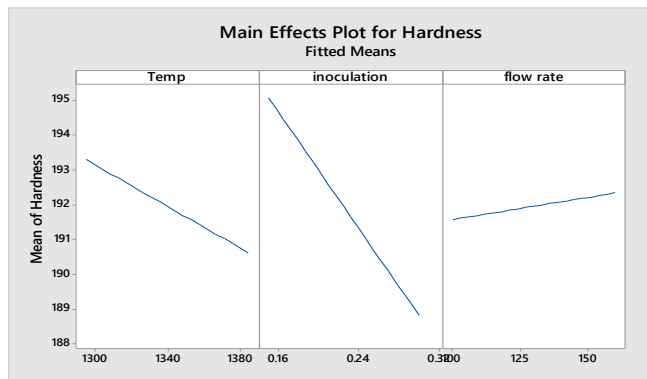


Figure 3.13: Analysis of Main Effect on Hardness

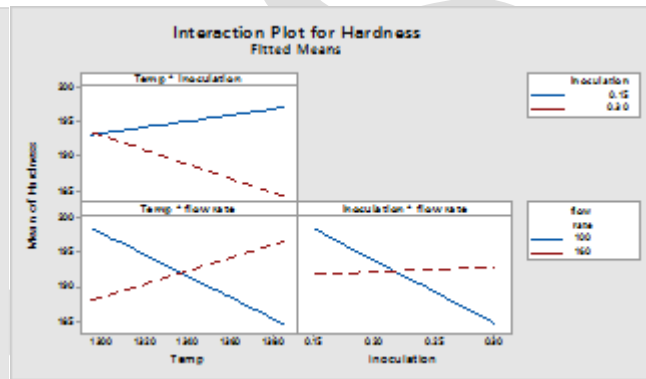


Figure 3.14: Analysis of Interaction Effect of on Hardness

Main effect plot is most useful when we have select more variables. We can compare the change in level means to see which categorical variable influence the Response the most. A main effect is present when mean of the responses changes at different levels of variable. By comparing the graph shows that **Hardness** is lower at 1300° C Temperature, 0.16 % inoculation quantity and 150 m³/Hr water flow rate. The Magnitude of the main effect for **inoculation quantity** is higher than other variable.

In interaction Effect if the lines are parallel than there is no interaction between factors. If the greater the lines depart from being parallel, the greater the strength of interaction. Factorial plots do not use the data from the worksheet instead Minitab estimates the fitted means based on a stored model. In the interaction graph the Temperature and inoculation, Temperature and flow rate and inoculation and flow rate all of these interactions indicate that variables interact with each other.

Table 3.24 ANOVA Results for Elongation %

Parameters	DF	Adj SS	Adj MS	F Value	P Value
Regression	7	46.538	6.648	0.90	0.550
Pouring Temperature(°C)	1	9.950	9.950	1.34	0.280
Inoculation (%)	1	2.675	2.675	0.36	0.564
Water flow rate (m³/Hr)	1	8.389	8.389	1.13	0.318

Temperature*Inoculation	1	2.687	2.687	0.36	0.563
Temperature*Flow Rate	1	8.328	8.318	1.13	0.320
Inoculation*Flow Rate	1	2.111	2.111	0.29	0.608
Temp.*Inoculation*Flow rate	1	2.083	2.083	0.28	0.310
Error	8	59.212	7.402		
Total	15	105.750			

Table 3.24 shows the Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) by Regression method for Hardness response. The important information can be obtained here is the P- value which shows the significance level of the individual as well as interactive parameters. P value less than 0.0500 indicate model terms are significant. P- Value for regression 0.550 indicating that regression model is insignificant. The co-efficient of determination indicates the goodness of the fit for the model, so the percentage value of this regression model is **44.00%** which indicates the insignificance of the model.

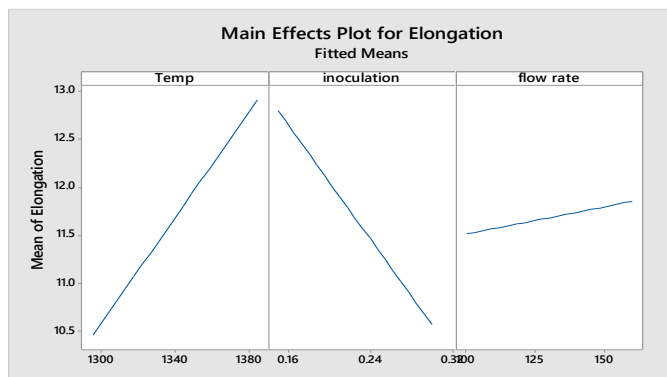


Figure 3.15: Analysis of Main Effect on Elongation %

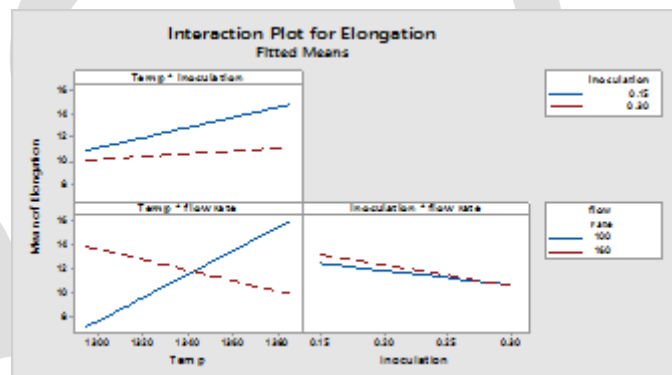


Figure 3.16: Analysis of Interaction Effect of on Elongation

Main effect plot is most useful when we have select more variables. We can compare the change in level means to see which categorical variable influence the Response the most. A main effect is present when mean of the responses changes at different levels of variable. By comparing the graph shows that **Elongation %** is higher at 1380° C Temperature, 0.16 % inoculation quantity and 150 m³/Hr water flow rate. The Magnitude of the main effect for **Pouring Temperature** is higher than other variable.

In interaction plots if the lines are parallel than there is no interaction between factors. If the greater the lines depart from being parallel, the greater the strength of interaction. Factorial plots do not use the data from the worksheet instead Minitab estimates the fitted means based on a stored model. In the interaction graph the Temperature and inoculation, neither of both variable clearly interact with each other while in Temperature and flow rate and inoculation and flow rate both of these interactions indicates that variables interact with each other.

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CONCLUSION

The aim of this Research is to investigate the effect of Process Parameters like Pouring Temperature, Inoculation quantity and Inlet water flow rate on the Quality (Microstructure and Mechanical properties) of the Ductile iron Pipe and to find the Optimum Combination of Parameters which give the Best Performance at that Condition. The Conclusions derived from the Experimental investigation, Taguchi Method and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) are:

- At 1340-1370 °C Pouring Temperature, 0.30 % Inoculation and 120 m³/Hr Cooling water flow rate the highest ferrite % (Which is the major Part of Microstructure properties in ductile iron pipe) can be obtained. At given set of parameters highest Taguchi Predicted ferrite % are 98.87 % which is very nearer to the experimental result of 98.00%
- At 1340-1370 °C Pouring Temperature, 0.30 % Inoculation and 120 m³/Hr Cooling water flow rate the Lowest Carbide % can be obtained. At given set of parameters the Lowest Taguchi Predicted Carbide % is 1.65 % which is very nearer to the experimental result of 2.0 %
- At 1370-1400 °C Pouring Temperature, 0.25 % Inoculation and 160 m³/Hr Cooling water flow rate the Highest Elongation % can be obtained. At given set of parameters the highest Taguchi Predicted Elongation % is 15.50 % which is very nearer to the experimental result of 15.0 %
- At 1340-1370 °C Pouring Temperature, 0.30 % Inoculation and 100 m³/Hr Cooling water flow rate the Lowest Hardness can be obtained. At given set of parameters the Lowest Taguchi Predicted Hardness is 179.87 BHN which is very nearer to the experimental result of 180.0 BHN
- By using Analysis of Variance in regression (As the Responses Vary Polynomially) the Significance of the Factors as well as the interactions of factors are analyzed and the most Significant parameter Or interaction can be find out.
- ANOVA Results for Ferrite % Shows that all the factors as well as interactions are largely significance as their P-values are less than α level.
- ANOVA Results for Carbide % Shows that all the factors as well as interactions are largely significance as their P-values are less than α level.
- ANOVA Results for Hardness(BHN) Shows that all the factors as well as interactions are largely significance as their P-values are less than α level.

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