

Effects of Nano-fluids Assisted MQL in Machining Processes: A Review

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ABSTRACT

Nano-fluids are liquid colloidal suspensions of nanoparticles or nanotubes or Nano fibers of metals or nonmetals, metallic oxides or ceramics having Nano scale dimension 1~100nm in a base fluid such as low viscous water and refrigerant or high viscous oils or ethylene glycol or a mixture of various fluids. In recent decades researchers are highly motivated to use Nano-fluids as a novel cutting fluids due to its some attractive properties such as high thermal conductivity, better wetting and spreading ability, suitable rheological properties with changing nanoparticles size, shape and mixing contribution. It has already been reported by many researchers that the main challenge of applying Minimum quantity lubrication (MQL) in machining processes is its lower cooling effect which has already been reduced remarkably by using nanoparticles as additives in base oils and this paper is an effort of authors to represent the successful implications of Nano-fluids assisted MQL in different machining processes in terms of cutting temperature, surface roughness, tool wear, cutting forces, power consumption and productivity. It is tried to point out the benefits of Nano-fluids assisted MQL in various machining processes such as turning, milling, drilling and grinding in a systematic organized way. Moreover recent challenges of using Nano-fluids are also pointed out with specific research gaps as a direction of future researchers.

Keywords: Cutting fluids, Nanoparticles, Nano-fluids, Minimum quantity lubrication, Machining.

1. Introduction

Machining plays a vital role in manufacturing process for reforming any work material into its required shape and size. Turning, milling, drilling and grinding are very common conventional machining processes and are highly adapted by any production or manufacturing industry. In conventional machining processes, cutting tools or inserts come in direct contact with work specimen to remove excess metals or chips which flow over the rake face of cutting tools. Excess heat generation in machining processes deteriorates the surface quality, reduces tool life and increases tool wear especially at higher speed with higher feed rate [1]. This problem becomes more critical for difficult to cut metals (Ni-based alloy, titanium, tool steels, hardened and forged steels etc.). But, in modern manufacturing industry such type of tough to cut metals and alloys are highly used for producing gears, bearing, shafts, automobiles and aerospace parts. Not only is that higher productivity with better surface quality and lower cost another prerequisite. For achieving those goals different techniques, such as textured and coated tools, cooling and lubrication are tried to adapt. In flood cooling, excessive use of cutting fluids increases the cost of manufacturing as well as this technique has a detrimental effect on personnel health and environment. Researchers have already published that almost 17% cost of manufacturing is related to cutting fluid use and disposal [2]. So it is a great concern of manufacturing world to reduce the use of cutting fluids. Many researchers have already reported minimum quantity lubrication (MQL) as an alternative which uses almost 10,000 times less volume cutting fluids[3] than flood cooling but provides promising machining performances [4]. The selection of proper

cutting fluid in MQL is another concern because sometimes MQL cannot fulfill the requirements of proper cooling. A minute amount of cutting fluids is sprayed as mist in MQL which easily evaporates at higher temperature before cooling [5]. In that case an alternative novel class of cutting fluids is synthesized by mixing nanoparticles into conventional fluids. The another reason of choosing nanoparticles as additives or performance enhancement agents is its higher thermal conductivity, better physio-thermal and rheological properties than micro or mili –sized particles[6]. The main aim of this review is to summarize the characteristics, challenges and preparation principle of nanofluids with its recent applications in different machining operations for researchers' to acquire knowledge about the benefits of nanofluids in a short time and easier way.

2. Nanofluids, its characteristics and preparation

Nanofluids can be defined as homogeneous colloidal suspensions of nanoparticles such as metals (Al, Cu, Ag, Fe, Zn, Au), nonmetals (graphite, GnP, CNT, carbon onion, ND, MWCNT) metallic/nonmetallic oxides (Al_2O_3 , CuO, SiO_2 , Fe_3O_4 , Fe_2O_3 , TiO_2 , ZnO, ZrO_2 , GO) or ceramic (SiC) and some others (hBn, MoS_2) in a base fluid [7]. In comparison to other bulk materials nanoparticles have some salient features such as-

- High thermal conductivity and higher heat transfer capability.
- Brownian movement of nanoparticles due to thermal effects.
- High viscosity and surface tension.
- High specific surface area.
- Higher tendency to agglomerate.

- Better wettability.
- Reduced pumping power and reduced tendency of clogging.
- Adjustable properties such as: wettability, anti-friction ability, anti-wear mechanism, thermal conductivity, dynamic viscosity can be varied by changing nanoparticles size, shape, concentration on base fluid, stability time, sonication time, type of dispersants or surfactants, preparation techniques and so on.

Besides the positive characteristics of nanofluids, high agglomeration tendency of nanoparticles due to clamping for van der Waals force between particles and weak Brownian motion is one of the major challenges. For reducing this agglomeration tendency surfactants/dispersants (SDS, SDBS, CTAB, PVP, Tween 20, Polysorbate 80, lecithin) are commonly used. Surfactants act as coating material on the nanoparticle surface which reduces the attraction of intermolecular particles. But at higher temperature (>60°C) nanofluids start to sediment due to fracture of surfactants [8]. Moreover special attention must be provided to select the surfactant type and percent concentration. Higher concentration of surfactants increases the possibility of foam generation, reduces the thermal conductivity and fluid contamination. The basic components of nanofluids are graphically presented in Fig.1.

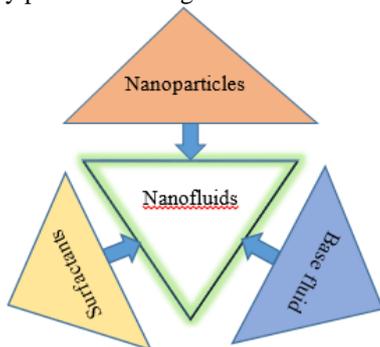


Fig.1 Basic components of Nanofluids.

In a broad sense synthesis/ preparation of nanofluids can be done in two ways-single/one step preparation and two step preparation. One step preparation method is generally tried to follow when high dispersion of nanoparticles with less sedimentation is the main concern. Generally two step preparation approach is followed due to its less complexity and higher flexibility. Moreover this approach is also economical than single step method. In two step method first nanoparticles are transferred into powder form and then they are dispersed into base fluids represented in Fig.2. But the main drawback of this approach is lower stability of nanofluids due to quick agglomeration tendency of nanoparticles. Many researchers have already tried to improve this drawback by different ways such as PH control, addition of surfactants/dispersants, surface modification, addition of ionic liquids, ultrasonic agitation, formation of carboxyl groups etc [8].

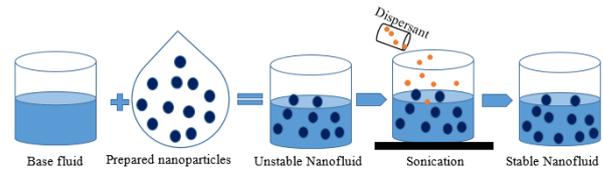


Fig. 2 Two-step preparation method of Nanofluids

3. Effects of nanofluids in machining processes

Many researchers have already published their research works on effective cooling and lubricating performances of nanofluids in different machining processes. Some review results are summarized in Table 1 to Table 4. The effects of nanofluids over dry and conventional cooling in milling are shown in Fig. 3.

Table 1 Effects of nanofluids assisted MQL in turning.

| Ref. | Work materials, nanoparticles (size), base fluids , surfactants | Effects on turning performances |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| [9] | W/P: AISI 420 steel NFs: GnP Size: 5nm BF: Ester based cutting oil Surfactants: not mentioned | GnP assisted MQL provided better surface quality. |
| [10,11] | W/P: Ti-6Al-4V NFs: GO Size: 50nm BF: Mineral oil (25%) + saponified oil (25%) +water (50%) Surfactants: not mentioned | 0.3 wt. % showed the best performance on tool wear and 0.5%wt. provided minimum cutting force. |
| [12] | W/P: Inconel 625 NFs: hBN Size: 65-75 nm BF: Plantocut 10 SR Ester based cutting oil Surfactants: not mentioned | Concentration of nanoparticles has a great impact on turning performances. 0.5 % hBN assisted nanofluid MQL provided less tool wear and roughness. |
| [13] | W/P: AA 7075-T6 NFs: Ag BF: Ethylene glycol Surfactants: Not mentioned | 34%, increased surface quality by 21% and reduced friction coefficient and temperature by 18% and 74%. |
| [14] | W/P: Ni based alloy Incoloy 800H, NFs: Al ₂ O ₃ Size: Not mentioned BF: Coconut oil Surfactants: Not mentioned | Provided better turning performances. |
| [15] | W/P: AISI 4340 steel NFs: CuO, ZnO Fe ₂ O ₃ Al ₂ O ₃ Size: 20-80, 30-50, 10-20, 30-70 nm | Among those four nanofluids CuO Nanofluid related MQL outperformed than others. Better |

Table 1 (continue.....)

| Ref. | Work materials, nanoparticles (size), base fluids , surfactants | Effects on turning performances |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | BF: Radiator coolant + Distilled water Surfactants: Not mentioned | machined surface, shorter chips with less tool chip contact length, less tool wear and minimum residual stress were observed in CuO nanofluid assisted MQL. |
| [16] | W/P: A286 super alloy NFs: SiO ₂ , CuO Size: 20, 40 nm BF: Deionized water Surfactants: SDS | The presence of surfactants into nanofluids increased stability. |
| [17,18] | W/P: AISI 1040 steel NFs: MoS ₂ Size: 45 nm BF: Coconut oil, sesame oil and canola oil Surfactants: not mentioned | Reduced cutting temperature, tool wear, cutting force and roughness more. |
| [19,20] | W/P: ASTM F 2063 NiTi, Inconel 718 NF: Al ₂ O ₃ Size: 50nm BF: Solcut oil Surfactants: SDBS | Reduced cutting force 6-10% and tool wear by 4.2-34.5% than dry turning. |
| [21] | W/P: AISI 316SS NFs: TiO ₂ Size: 20 nm BF: water Surfactants: mentioned | Both tool temperature and chip temperature were reduced highly at 0.03% concentration TiO ₂ assisted MQL. |

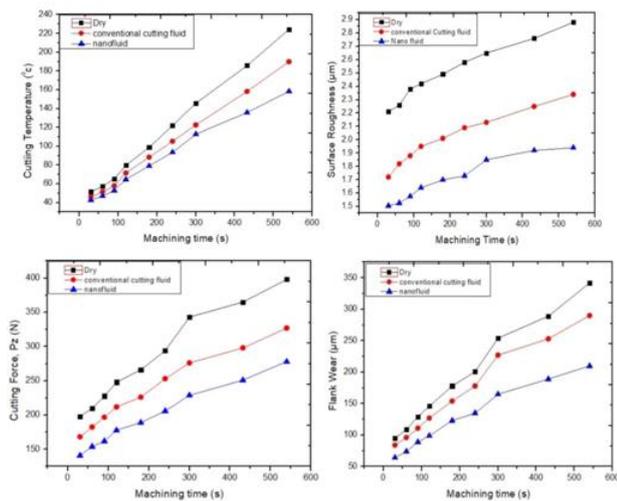


Fig. 3 Effects of nanofluids in turning for improving machinability over dry and conventional cooling [22].

Table 2 Effects of nanofluids assisted MQL in grinding

| Ref. | Work materials, nanoparticles (size), base fluids , surfactants | Effects on grinding performances |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| [23] | W/P: Ni based alloy GH 4169 NFs: Al ₂ O ₃ , ZrO ₂ , ND, CNT, MoS ₂ , SiO ₂ Size: 50nm BF: Palm oil Surfactants: Span 80 and polysorbate 80; SDS | Provided lowest sliding friction, grinding force, roughness but highest G ratio. NDs provided highest sliding friction but lower roughness. |
| [24] | W/P: Ni based alloy GH 4169 NFs: hybrid CNT/MoS ₂ Size: 30nm BF: Palm oil Surfactants: SDS | Pure MoS ₂ assisted MQL provided lower roughness and force ratio than CNT assisted MQL. |
| [25,26] | W/P: Ni based alloy GH 4169 NFs: Hybrid Al ₂ O ₃ /SiC Size: 30, 50, 70 nm BF: Bluebe LB 1 synthetic lipid Surfactants: SDS | Size ratio of nanoparticles has a great effect on grinding performance. At 30:70 size ratio of hybrid Al ₂ O ₃ /SiC provided better grinding effect and surface quality. |
| [27] | W/P: AISI 1045, Ni based alloy GH 4169 NFs: hybrid MoS ₂ /CNT, MoS ₂ Size: 50 nm BF: Liquid paraffin, palm oil, rapeseed oil and soybean oil Surfactants: SDS | 2% volume MoS ₂ nanofluid provided lower roughness and force ratio than CNT based nanofluid. 8% mass fraction of hybrid MoS ₂ /CNT nanofluids delivered the highest positive effects on grinding. |
| [28] | W/P: Ti-6Al-4V NFs: Al ₂ O ₃ Size: 30, 50, 70 nm BF: KS-1008 synthetic lipid Surfactants: SDS | Better lubricating performances with protective film layer was formed. |
| [29] | W/P: Ni based alloy GH 4169 NFs: MoS ₂ , Size: 50nm BF: Castor and soybean oil mix Surfactants: Tween 20, span 20 | MoS ₂ enhanced cooling property by proper mixing with base oil that accelerates the liquid film formation of outer layer of nanoparticles. |

Table 2 (continue.....)

| Ref. | Work materials, nanoparticles (size), base fluids, surfactants | Effects on grinding performances |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| [30] | W/P : Inconel 718 NFs : Ag, ZnO Size : 10nm and 25 nm NF : Deionized water Surfactants : SDS | Ag showed better cooling properties and ZnO showed better lubricating properties. |
| [31] | W/P : Ti6Al4V-ELI NFs : GO, graphite and MoS ₂ Size : 3-8nm BF : canon oil, olive oil and soybean oil Surfactants : SDS | Grapheme had shown superior tribological potential owing to its unique characteristics viz. highest thermal conductivity (5000 W/m.K), interlayer shear ability, chemical inertness and superoleophilic nature. 1.5% wt. of grapheme and graphite provided better results. |
| [32] | W/P : Silicon nitride ceramics NFs : Al ₂ O ₃ , ZnO, B ₄ C, WS ₂ , MoS ₂ , hBN Size : 50, 25, 50, 90, 70 nm BF : Distilled water Surfactants : SDBS, SDS | MoS ₂ , WS ₂ and hBN provided superior grinding performance than oxide (Al ₂ O ₃ , ZnO) and carbide (B ₄ C) due to their lamellar structure. Similarly hybrid MoS ₂ -WS ₂ /MoS ₂ -hBN provided better lubrication properties in grinding. |
| [33] | W/P : Ni based alloy Inconel NF : Al ₂ O ₃ Size : 30-50nm BF : Sunflower oil and ricebran oil Surfactants : Polysorbate 80 | Experimental results manifested the effect of base fluid type and nanoparticles concentration on nanofluid performances. In this manner Al ₂ O ₃ Nanoparticles with sunflower oil performed better than ricebran oil. 1% wt. NPS in base oil provided better results in terms of G-ratio, surface temperature, grinding force, specific energy except surface roughness. |
| [34] | W/P : Inconel 738 NFs : copper coated with silver Size : 7nm BF : Distilled water Surfactants : Tween 20 | Due to antibacterial property of copper and silver, this novel nanofluids was proven as environment friendly cutting fluid. Not only that copper nanofluids assisted MQL improved almost 60% both wheel loading and surface roughness than dry grinding. |

Table 3 Effects of nanofluids assisted MQL in milling

| Ref. | Work materials, nanoparticles (size), base fluids, surfactants | Effects on milling performances |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| [35] | W/P : Al 6061-T6 NFs : MoS ₂ Size : 20-60 nm BF : Ecocut HSG 905S Surfactants : not mentioned | MoS ₂ Nanofluid assisted MQL enhanced the surface quality by its rolling, sliding and polishing effects. |
| [36] | W/P : Al 6061-T6 NFs : SiO ₂ Size : 5-15 nm BF : Ecocut SSN 332 Surfactants : not mentioned | 0.2% concentration nanofluids raised up the growth of protective layer due to breaking billions of nanoparticles between tool-chip interfaces. Moreover this nanofluids assisted MQL to reduce cutting force and cutting temperature. |
| [37] | W/P : Mild steel NFs : TiO ₂ , SiO ₂ , Al ₂ O ₃ Size : 15, 14, 13nm BF : water Surfactants : not mentioned | 5 g/L water based nanofluids Al ₂ O ₃ was found as the best coolant for reducing milling temperature followed by SiO ₂ . Water based nanofluids form oxide coating while mineral based coolants form no coat. |
| [38] | W/P : Inconel 690 NFs : Al ₂ O ₃ Size : 50nm BF : palm oil Surfactants : Polysorbate 80 | 1% silica deposited nanofluid increased tool life, reduced chip curvature, minimized roughness and milling force simultaneously. |
| [39] | W/P : Al 7075- T6 NFs : Cu coated Al ₂ O ₃ Size : 20 nm BF : Vulcan Strub Futura 10-9402 NC coolant oil Surfactants : NH ₃ with PEG | Reduced roughness and workpiece temperature. |
| [40] | W/P : Inconel 750 NFs : graphite, hBN, MoS ₂ Size : 80 nm BF : Vegetable oil Surfactants : Not mentioned | 0.5% wt. hBN increased tool life, reduced roughness, too wear, cutting force and cutting temperature than nano MoS ₂ and nano graphite. |

Table 4 Effects of nanofluids assisted MQL in drilling

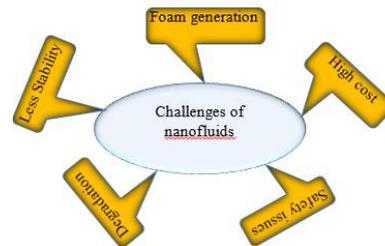
| Ref. | Work materials, nanoparticles (size), base fluids, surfactants | Effects on drilling performances |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| [41] | W/P: Heat treated AISI 4340 steel NFs: MoS ₂ , ND Size: 70-100 nm, 3-5 nm BF: Boeblube 70104 oil Surfactants: None | 4% wt. MoS ₂ reduced sdar wear, increased tool life and reduced force and BUE. Above 1% concentration ND reduced tool life |
| [42] | W/P: Forged steel NFs: CNO Size: 5-10 nm BF: Mineral oil Surfactants: None | Reduced cutting force, roughness and tool wear. |
| [43] | W/P: Al 6061 alloy NFs: ND Size: 30 nm BF: vegetable oil and paraffin oil Surfactants: None | Ball bearing effects of spherical shaped nanofluids reduced chips and burrs. ND also reduced thrust force, torque and wear. |
| [44] | W/P: Aluminum 6063 NFs: Al ₂ O ₃ Size: 20 nm BF: Soybean oil Surfactants: None | 1.5% wt. Al ₂ O ₃ with soybean oil possess better cooling and lubrication. |

4. Conclusions and future scope of work

After reviewing the above results some points are found out which are listed below:

- At higher temperature lubrication property of GnP is poorer than soluble oil.
- Anti-friction and anti-wear properties of nanofluids can be enhanced by increasing the concentration of NPs into base fluids.
- Symmetric shaped or spherical shaped NPs are better for higher surface quality due to its rolling/sliding mechanism.
- Lamellar structured (MoS₂) NPs provides better lubrication than spherical shaped (Al₂O₃) oxides.
- Nanofluids reduced the direct contact between tool and W/P by film or coating formation.
- Ball bearing effect of NPs reduces chips and burr formation.
- Heat transfer of Nano fluids depend on the dynamic viscosity, thermal conductivity, Brownian motion and specific surface area of NPs.
- Higher percentage saturated fatty acid containing vegetable oil provides better cooling effect with NPs.

- Size ratio of NPs is a crucial factor in hybrid nanofluids formation.
- Optimum level of surfactant concentration plays a vital role of changing nanofluids property. Some other challenging factors are shown in Fig. 4.
- More research works are needed to find out the optimum mix ratio of Nps into base oil, optimum size ratio and optimum surfactant concentration. Very limited research Hybrid nanofluids are found so it may be a vast area of research for future researchers.

**Fig. 4** Possible challenges of nanofluids

5. References

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NOMENCLATURE

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|------|------------------------------------|-----|------------------|
| SDS | :sodium dodecyl sulphate | ND | :nanodiamond |
| SDBS | :sodium dodecyl benzene sulphonate | CNT | :carbon nanotube |
| CTAB | :cetyl trimethyl ammonium bromide | NPs | :nanoparticles |
| PVP | :polyvinyl pyrrolidone | BF | :base fluid |
| PEG | :polyethylene glycol | W/P | :workpiece |