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Optimization of Grinding Wheel for Improving Productivity and Life

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Abstract: The life of a grinding wheel is a critical factor influencing the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of grinding operations. Premature wheel wear leads to increased downtime for wheel replacement and dressing, reduced machining accuracy, and higher production costs. The key aspects of optimizing grinding wheel life through a comprehensive approach that considers various process parameters, wheel characteristics, and advanced optimization techniques. The optimization process involves a detailed analysis of the grinding process, identifying the dominant factors that contribute to wheel wear. These factors include, but are not limited to, the grinding parameters (e.g., depth of cut, feed rate, wheel speed), the workpiece material properties (e.g., hardness, toughness).

The grinding wheels are mostly used in fabrication industries as well as in metal foundry industries and in construction sides also. The life of grinding wheel is depending on the RPM of grinder and the material where the grinding wheels use to perform the grinding function and raw material used to manufacture a grinding wheel.

From last few months out customer facing breaking issue specially in 9" DCD (Depressed Center Disc) wheels. To resolve this issue and improve the life of 9" DCD wheel a case study is conducted to find out the possible causes of wheel braking by using a Fish Bone Diagram and 5Why and 1H methodology.

The outcomes of this optimization study are expected to provide practical guidelines and parameter recommendations for industrial grinding operations to significantly enhance grinding wheel life, reduce operational costs, improve machining quality, and contribute to more sustainable manufacturing practices. The findings will offer valuable insights into the complex interplay of factors affecting grinding wheel wear and pave the way for more efficient and predictable grinding processes.

Keywords: Grinding wheel, Material Properties, Wear, Grinding Wheel Life, Operational Costs,

I. INTRODUCTION

Grinding wheels are wheels that contain abrasive compounds for grinding and abrasive machining operations. Such wheels are also used in grinding machines. The wheels are generally made with composite material. This consists of coarse particle aggregate pressed and bonded together by a cementing matrix (called the *bond* in grinding wheel terminology) to form a solid, circular shape. Various profiles and cross sections are available depending on the intended usage for the Wheel. They may also be made from a solid steel or aluminum disc with particles bonded to the surface. Today most grinding wheels are artificial composites made with artificial aggregates, but the history of grinding wheels began with natural composite stones, such as those used for millstones. The manufacture of these wheels is a precise and tightly controlled process, due not only to the inherent safety risks of a spinning disc, but also the composition and uniformity required to prevent that disc from exploding due to the high stresses produced on rotation .Grinding wheels are consumables, although the life span can vary widely depending on the use case, from less than a day to many years. As the wheel cuts, it periodically releases.

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Grinding wheels are consumables, although the life span can vary widely depending on the use case, from less than a day to many years. As the wheel cuts, it periodically releases individual grains of abrasive, typically because they grow dull, and the increased drag pulls them out of the bond. Fresh grains are exposed in this wear process, which begin the next cycle. The rate of wear in this process is usually very predictable for a given application and is necessary for good performance.



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II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. A comprehensive review on the grinding process: Advancements, applications and challenges

Kamal Kishore 1, Manoj K Sinha 1, Amarjit Singh 2, Archana 3, Manish K Gupta 4, and Mehmet Erdi Korkmaz Grinding is a manufacturing process which significantly contributes in producing high precision and durable components required in numerous applications such as aerospace, defense and automobiles. This review article is focused to uncover history, witness the present and predict the future of the grinding process. While going through the literature, it has been observed that minimal work has been done in explaining the history, present status and future scopes of the grinding process. In this era of information and environmental awareness, sustainability aspects have become a primary concern of almost every research field. In the grinding ecological process research work includes elements such as reducing of cutting fluids through minimum quantity lubrication, utilizing cryogenics, hybrid lubrication and cooling techniques that are still required to be explored critically. Further, some significant findings of the prevailing research in grinding include modification in grinding wheel surface, merging different grinding principles such as usages of the textured grinding wheel, ultrasonic grinding, 3D printing of grinding wheel and artificial intelligence in grinding are also presented. Another un- ascertained problem is the management of grinding swarf, which is being attended to by recycling it to fabricate composites which is expected to be another prominent domain of research. Further, the advancements taking place exhibit the potential of the grinding process, suggesting that its future is bright and ever-growing.

- B. Novel Experimental Method to Determine the Cutting, Effectiveness of Grinding Grits
- D. Anderson & A. Warkentin & R. Bauer Published online: 20 February 2011 #Society for Experimental Mechanics 2011

This work presents a novel experimental apparatus to determine the cutting effectiveness of grinding grits. The apparatus consists of a custom high-speed scratch tester, a force measurement system, and an offline 3D optical profilometer. Preliminary results based on a spherical tool are presented to demonstrate the usefulness of the system. Experiments were performed at depths of cut ranging from 0.3 μ m to 7.5 μ m at cutting speeds of 5 m/s to 30 m/s in 5 m/s increments. High resolution scans of the scratch profiles provided insight into the change in the cutting mechanics as the depth of cut and cutting speed were increased. In general, lower cutting speeds produced higher pile-up heights while higher cutting speeds produced lower pile-up heights. The force measurements indicated that the normal forces increased with cutting speed due to strain rate hardening of the workpiece material while the tangential forces decreased with cutting speed due to a reduction in the coefficient of friction and a change in the cutting mechanics. The force ratio data and the specific energy data both demonstrated high slopes at low depths of cut due to asperity contact between the tool and the workpiece. The modular nature of the developed system allows different grit geometries to be investigated.

Keywords Grinding, Scratch testing, abrasive grits, Optical profilometer. Cutting mechanics. Grinding is a machining operation where cutting edges consisting of small abrasive particles, or grits, remove material at high velocities that, as a whole, spans two length scales. At the macro-scale, overall effects are readily observable and measurable, such as the forces exerted on the workpiece, the power consumed during a grinding pass, the temperature build-up in the workpiece, and the resultant surface finish of the workpiece. However, it is at the microscale where the foundation of material removal is laid. The motivation of this work stems from the need and desire to better comprehend the grinding process. Historically, much of the research devoted to grinding has focused on experimental observations and modeling of the overall process and macroscopic effects, such as: workpiece temperatures, global forces, and power consumption;

however, these effects should be the summation of the effects of individual abrasive grits. The key to the characterization of the at the macro-scale requires better understanding of grinding process phenomena at the micro-scale; specifically, at the interface of the abrasive grits and the workpiece. This task requires robust and innovative experimental procedures and, therefore, the present work will focus solely on the novel experimental apparatus that was developed and some preliminary results. The experimental apparatus was developed as a high-speed scratch testing system. For the present work a spherical tool was used to approximate an abrasive grit. Due to the nature of the developed apparatus, other geometries can be easily inserted. In this paper, scratch test results for cutting speeds ranging from 5 m/s to 30 m/s in 5 m/s increments and depths of cut in the range of 0.3 µm to 8 µm are presented and analyzed for the spherical tool. These parameters were chosen to reflect actual grinding conditions.



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C. Theoretical considerations of machining with grinding wheels

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March 2013 International Journal of Engineering & Technology 2

Abrasive machining is a grinding process for removing material from a workpiece by using expendable abrasive mineral materials in a wheel, stone, belt, paste, sheet, compound, slurry, or other abrasive products. Abrasives are mineral materials from a selected group of very hard materials used to shape, finish, or polish other materials, while a wheel is a circular device that is capable of rotating on its axis thereby facilitating movement. Thus, a grinding wheel is an expendable wheel which carries abrasive particles on its periphery used for grinding a workpiece. They are composed of thousands of small sharp and very hard natural or synthetic abrasive grains bonded together in a matrix to form a wheel. Each abrasive grain is a cutting edge and as the grain passes over the workpiece, it cuts a small chip, leaving a smooth, geometrical/dimensional accurate surface. As the abrasive grain becomes dull, it breaks away from the bonding material exposing new sharp grains [1]. The grinding of crankshaft and other precision components is only made possible by using the grinding wheels and without grinding wheel the achievement of high precision surface finish to very high tolerance would not have been possible. The shaping and dressing of hard cutting tools such as high-speed steel, carbide, diamond cutting, and cubic boron nitride (CBN) are only possible with application of grinding using grinding wheels.

Grinding is one of the most versatile methods of removing material from machine parts by the cutting action of the countless hard and sharp abrasive particles of a revolving grinding wheel. It works by forcing the abrasive grains into the surface of the workpiece so that each grain cuts away a small bit of material in the form of chips. Abrasive grinding wheel is an expendable wheel that carries an abrasive compound on its periphery. They are made of small, sharp and very hard natural or synthetic abrasive minerals, bonded together in a matrix to form a wheel. The paper presents a review of some of the characteristics as well as theoretical considerations of operations of abrasive grinding wheel. The relationships among the various grinding parameters; the radial force f, the force on individual grit of grinding wheel F, velocity of grinding wheel (Vg), velocity of work piece (Vw), the wheel diameter (Dg), and the diameter of the work piece (Dw) were established for given grinding operations.

III. PROBLEM DEFINATION

The premature and unexpected breakage of grinding wheels during machining operations poses a significant challenge to manufacturing efficiency, safety, and cost-effectiveness. This phenomenon disrupts production schedules due to unplanned downtime for wheel replacement, increases operational costs associated with damaged wheels and potential workpiece spoilage, and, most critically, presents a serious safety hazard to machine operators due to flying debris.

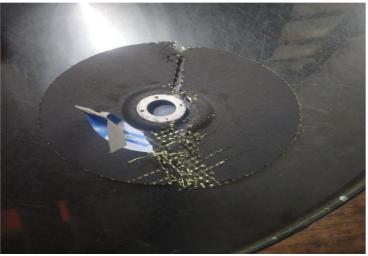


Fig Damage wheel while working

Specifically, the problem can be defined by the following key aspects: Unpredictability: Wheel breakages often occur without clear or immediate warning, making it difficult to implement preventative measures effectively.

Economic Impact: The costs associated with wheel breakage extend beyond the replacement cost of the wheel itself, encompassing lost production time, potential damage to the workpiece and grinding machine, and increased labor for cleanup and setup.



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Safety Concerns: The high rotational speeds of grinding wheels store significant kinetic energy. A sudden fracture can result in the violent ejection of wheel fragments, posing a severe risk of injury to personnel.

Variability in Occurrence: The frequency and severity of wheel breakages can vary significantly depending on a multitude of factors, including operating parameters, wheel condition, workpiece material, and machine characteristics, making it challenging to establish universal preventative strategies.

Difficulty in root cause analysis: Determining the precise cause of a wheel breakage after the event can be complex, hindering the implementation of effective corrective actions and increasing the likelihood of recurrence.

Therefore, the core problem is the need to understand, predict, and ultimately prevent the premature and catastrophic failure (breakage) of grinding wheels during machining operations to enhance safety, improve operational efficiency, and reduce manufacturing costs. This necessitates a comprehensive investigation into the underlying mechanisms of wheel breakage and the identification of critical factors that contribute to this failure mode. Addressing this problem requires the development of robust monitoring techniques, predictive models, and optimized operational practices to mitigate the risk of grinding wheel breakage.

IV. OBJECTIVE

The overarching objective is to maximize the operational lifespan of grinding wheels in machining processes while maintaining or improving machining performance, safety, and cost-effectiveness. This broad goal can be further broken down into the following specific and measurable objectives:

To increase the lifespan of grinding wheel: To achieve a measurable increase in the usable life of grinding wheels, quantified by metrics such as the total volume of material removed per wheel, the duration of uninterrupted operation, or the number of workpieces finished per wheel.

Wheel consumption to be reduced: To minimize the number of grinding wheels consumed for a given production output, thereby lowering direct material costs associated with wheel procurement.

Reduction in the downtime for wheel changes and dressing: To decrease the frequency and duration of machine downtime required for replacing worn-out wheels and performing necessary dressing operations.

Identification and quantification of key factors influencing wheel life: To systematically determine and measure the impact of various parameters (grinding parameters, workpiece material, grinding fluid, wheel specifications, dressing practices, machine condition) on grinding wheel wear rates and failure modes.

Development of Predictive Models for Wheel Wear and Failure: To create accurate models capable of predicting wheel wear progression and the likelihood of premature breakage under different operating conditions.

Optimization of grinding parameters: To identify and implement optimal combinations of cutting speed, feed rate, and depth of cut that minimize wheel wear while achieving desired material removal rates and surface finish.

Selection of appropriate grinding wheel specifications: To establish guidelines for choosing the most suitable abrasive type, grit size, bond material, and wheel hardness based on the workpiece material and grinding application to maximize wear resistance.

Establishment of optimal grinding strategies: To define the ideal frequency, depth, and feed rate of dressing operations to maintain wheel sharpness and cutting efficiency without excessive material removal from the wheel.

Development of real-time monitoring and control systems: To explore and implement technologies that can continuously monitor wheel condition and automatically adjust grinding parameters or trigger alerts to prevent premature wear or potential breakage.

Enhancement of machining accuracy and surface finish: To achieve extended wheel life without compromising the dimensional accuracy and surface quality of the machined components.

Ensure operators safety: To minimize the risk of wheel breakage and associated hazards through optimized operating procedures, predictive maintenance, and the implementation of safety protocols.

Reduction of waste generation: To decrease the amount of discarded grinding wheel material and associated waste disposal costs, contributing to more sustainable manufacturing practices.

By achieving these objectives, manufacturers can realize significant improvements in the efficiency, economy, and safety of their grinding operations. The focus is on a data-driven and systematic approach to understanding and controlling the factors that influence grinding wheel life.

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V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The following methodology is used to carry out the research work.

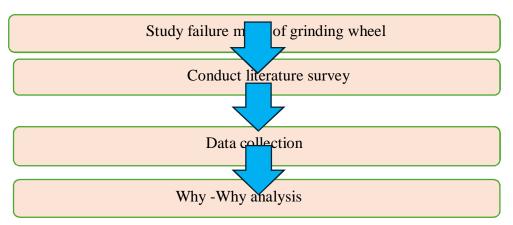


Figure of Research Methodology

A. Study Failure Mode of Grinding Wheel

A study of the failure modes of grinding wheels is crucial for enhancing safety, optimizing wheel life, and improving the overall efficiency of grinding operations. Grinding wheel failure can manifest in various forms, each with distinct causes and consequences. Understanding these failure modes allows for the implementation of preventative measures and the development of more robust grinding processes.

B. Fracture/Breakage

This is the most dangerous failure mode, where the wheel breaks into pieces, often violently.

Causes:

Excessive Speed: Operating the wheel beyond its maximum safe operating speed (MOS) as indicated by the manufacturer.

Improper Mounting: Incorrectly sized or damaged flanges, uneven tightening, or using wheels with damaged mounting holes.

Excessive Grinding Forces: Applying too much pressure or infeed rate, causing stresses beyond the wheel's strength.

Wheel Imbalance: An unbalanced wheel creates vibrations and uneven stress distribution.

Machine Defects: Spindle runout, worn bearings, or vibrations from the grinding machine itself.

Workpiece Issues: Workpiece instability or jamming can exert excessive force on the wheel.

DE-TR2054+			
ON- A 24 S-BF 27			
Minimum 50 minute to Maximum 8 Hrs.			
Minimum 756 gm to Maximum 783 gm			
Minimum 7.30 mm to Maximum 7.5 mm			
2.5 gm			
Minimum 180 Bar to Maximum 200 Bar			
2 sec			
*7.4*22.23-M363			
GC330L228*23BNYE5.5*4.3			
W-BLK-M363			
GC420L222*23NWYE5.5*4.3			
W-BLK-M363			
GC330L228*23BNYE5.5*4.3			
38*22.39*7.2 ACMS 4HV			
16Wheel/16Plate			
P2(Temp range 178 deg to 200 deg with 21 Hrs.			
5.1 to 77			
27 to 37			

Table 01 Manufacturing instruction of Product TR2054+

Elaborate: -GFD (Glass Fiber Disk), GR (Grinding Ratio), MRR (Material Removal Rate)



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C. Molding Data

Molding data generally refers to the information and measurements collected and utilized in various molding processes, such as injection molding, blow molding, compression molding, etc. This data is crucial for controlling, analyzing, and optimizing the molding process to produce parts with the desired quality, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness.

The specific types of molding data can vary depending on the molding process and the level of sophistication of the monitoring and control systems used. However, some common categories of molding data include:

Machine Parameters: Data related to the settings and performance of the molding machine itself. Examples include:

Sr. No.	Parameter	Data
1	Temperature	For Backing of grinding wheel
2	Pressure	To achieve thickness of grinding wheel, which is hydraulic pressure
3	Time	Backing cycle time and hole time for ram pressing
4	Speed	Speed of ram and feeder box
5	Force	Clamping force (peak value)
6	Machine Mode	Automatic, semi-automatic, manual
7	Volume/Weight	Shot volume, material consumption
8	Product Name/ID	Unique identifier for the mold
9	Specifications	Details about product
10	Moisture Content	Important for filler materials
11	Dimensions	Diameter, thickness, weight and imbalance
12	Batch Number	Identifier for the material batch
13	Tooling Data	Information related to the mold

D. How Molding Data is Used

- Process Control: Monitoring real-time data to ensure the molding process stays within defined parameters.
- Quality Control: Analyzing part quality data to identify and address defects.
- Process Optimization: Using historical data and analysis to identify opportunities for improving cycle times, reducing material waste, and enhancing part quality.
- Reporting and Analysis: Generating reports on production performance, quality metrics, and cost analysis.

In modern molding facilities, especially those utilizing scientific molding principles and Industry 4.0 technologies, there is an increasing emphasis on collecting and analyzing comprehensive molding data to achieve greater control, efficiency, and quality in the manufacturing process.

	Molding Data at Green Stage								
Weight	Thickness 1	Thickness 2	Thickness 3	Thickness variation	Imbalance				
772	7.74	7.73	7.8	0.07	1.5				
774	7.65	7.58	7.59	0.07	2				
770	7.71	7.73	7.75	0.04	1.5				
778	7.6	7.62	7.65	0.05	1.5				
784	7.9	7.79	7.78	0.12	2				
772	7.69	7.66	7.75	0.09	2				
774	7.79	7.75	7.86	0.11	2				
782	7.68	7.77	7.8	0.12	2				

Table 02 Molding Data



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E. Pre-inspection data

It is referred to the information gathered, reviewed, and prepared *before* a formal inspection takes place. The purpose of collecting and analyzing this data is to ensure that all necessary requirements, standards, and documentation are in order, and to identify any potential issues beforehand. This proactive approach aims to make the actual inspection process smoother, more efficient, and ultimately more successful.

The specific types of pre-inspection data will vary significantly depending on the industry, the type of inspection being conducted, and the objectives of the inspection. However, some common categories include:

Pre-Inspection Data											
Weight	LCL	UCL	T1	T2	Т3	AT	LSL	USL	TV	IMB	W/T
778	748	775	7.56	7.55	7.46	7.52	7.1	7.4	0.1	3.5	103.41
769.4	748	775	7.43	7.34	7.42	7.4	7.1	7.4	0.09	3.5	104.02
770.4	748	775	7.43	7.36	7.37	7.39	7.1	7.4	0.07	3.5	104.3
771.8	748	775	7.47	7.37	7.34	7.39	7.1	7.4	0.13	3	104.39
775	748	775	7.52	7.35	7.41	7.43	7.1	7.4	0.17	3.5	104.35
779.8	748	775	7.58	7.48	7.54	7.53	7.1	7.4	0.1	2.5	103.51
768.4	748	775	7.41	7.49	7.38	7.43	7.1	7.4	0.11	2.5	103.46
767.8	748	775	7.42	7.51	7.48	7.47	7.1	7.4	0.09	3	102.78

Table 03 Pre-Inspection Data

F. Visual Inspection Data

Visual inspection is a method of evaluating an object, material, system, or process using the human eye, often assisted by simple tools, to detect flaws, defects, deviations, or general condition. It's the most basic and often the first line of assessment in various industries and applications.

Key Aspects of Visual Inspection, can be done with help of human eye. They can use aids to enhance their vision by using magnifying glasses, Mirrors flashlight, simple measuring tools like rulers, gauges, Vernier calipers, micrometer, videos, camera etc.to identify surface defects, misalignments, corrosion, wear, damage, and other visible irregularities that may affect the functionality, safety, or quality of the item being inspected,

Visual inspection is a non-destructive testing (NDT) method as it does not alter or damage the item being inspected.

Visual Inspection Data of trial-1						
PO Quantity	32					
OK pcs	22					
Rejection	10					
% rejection	45.45					

Table 04 Visual Inspection Data of trial

Burst speed test result	Side load test result	Impact test result
Set Speed is 13400 RPM	Side load apply 290 N	Set Impact value 6.9 NM
Burst speed 14812 RPM	OK	OK





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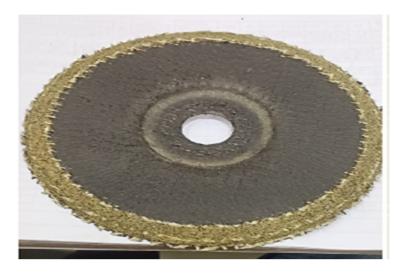


Figure of Test Result of Trial

G. Why-Why Analysis

Why-Why Analysis, also known as the 5 Whys, is a simple powerful problem-solving technique used to identify the root cause of a problem. It involves repeatedly asking the question "Why?" until the underlying cause is revealed.

The Process is use to define problem which we are trying to solve.

Steps involved in Why-Why analysis is

- 1. Ask "Why did this problem occur?" and record the answer.
- 2. Repeat "Why?": Take the answer from the previous step and ask.
- 3. "Why did that happen?" Continue this process, typically asking "Why?" five or more times. To identify the root cause, the final answer is in the form chain of "Whys". We can find the reason why the issue occurred.

Once the root cause is identified, you can develop targeted solutions to prevent the problem from recurring.

Five Why Analysis											
Problem	Potential causes										
Description	Why(1)	Check	Why(2)	Check	Why(3)	Check	Why(4)	Check	Why(5)	Check	
9"DCD (TR2054)Wh eel Breakage	Burst speed O	Ok	Low GFD Tensile	Yes	Diff.	Yes					
			strength	res	glass type	168					
	Low side load	Ok	Low pressure	Yes	Ram oil leakage	Ok					
	Low impact load	Ok	Improper curing	Ok							
	Low GFD Tensile strength	Yes									

VI. CONCLUSION

It is observed that grinding will can be break due to low GSM of GFD and high RPM of grinders can cause damage of grinding wheel. Due to high stiffness of GFD may be result into grinding wheel breakage. There is a moisture in the atmosphere which can absorb by grinding wheel from the air can damage the grinding wheel. Improper Mounting of the Wheel may cause the damage of grinding wheel. Improper machine Conditions can damage the grinding wheel which can reduce the life of grinding wheel. Grinding wheel grade (Soft grade) against the hard grade material may cause damage of wheel. By taking all the above precautions we can avoid the breakages of thin wheel grinding wheel and improve the life of grinding wheel and productivity also. Aways select a thin



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wheel specifically designed for the material being cut. Using a wheel on harder materials than it's intended for will lead to rapid wear and potential breakage. Thin wheels are generally better suited for softer materials like aluminum and copper. Adhere to the manufacturer's recommended operating speed for the wheel and the material. Excessive speed generates more heat, causing faster wear. Employ a consistent and appropriate cutting technique, maintaining a steady cutting pressure and the correct angle. Avoid excessive force or twisting, which can damage thin wheels due to their inherent fragility. Invest in high-quality thin wheels from reputable manufacturers. The abrasive material and bonding agent quality significantly impact the wheel's longevity. Ensure the thin wheel's dimensions are compatible with the grinder and suitable for the specific task. Using an undersized or oversized wheel can reduce its lifespan and increase the risk of failure. Always prioritize safety by using appropriate guards and personal protective equipment. Misuse or excessive force on thin wheels can lead to breakage and potential injury.

By carefully considering these factors and implementing appropriate operating and maintenance practices, the lifespan and performance of thin wheel grinding wheels can be significantly improved.

VII. **FUTURE SCOPE**

- 1) To increase the life of grinding wheel we can used high tensile strength (GSM) GFD to increase life. Skilled worker can be used
- 2) By increasing grit size of abrasive grain, the life of grinding wheel can be increase
- 3) More pressure can apply during molding of wheel can make grinding wheel strong.
- 4) By using polybags for wheel packing to avoid the contact of grinding wheel with moisture in the atmosphere.
- 5) Using right grade grinding wheel for right material can increase life od grinding wheel and productivity
- 6) Using low RPM grinder for grinding can increase the life of grinding wheel
- 7) Research into new synthetic abrasive materials beyond traditional aluminum oxide and silicon carbide, such as advanced ceramics (zirconia alumina), cubic boron nitride (CBN), and even diamond composites, promises increased hardness, wear resistance, and thermal stability. These materials can maintain sharpness longer, extending wheel life
- 8) Innovations in bonding materials (vitrified, resin, metal, and hybrid bonds) are focusing on optimizing strength, elasticity, and thermal conductivity. Stronger bonds can hold abrasive grains more effectively, while improved thermal properties can dissipate heat more efficiently, reducing wear
- 9) Integrating sensors into grinding machines and wheels to monitor parameters like vibration, temperature, and wear can provide valuable data for optimizing grinding parameters and predicting wheel life.
- 10) Utilizing data from real-time monitoring, adaptive control systems can automatically adjust feed rates, cutting speeds, and coolant flow to minimize wheel wear and prevent damage.

The future of increasing the life of thin wheel grinding wheels lies in a synergistic approach combining advancements in materials science, wheel design, intelligent process control, and sustainable manufacturing practices. These innovations will lead to more durable, efficient, and environmentally friendly thin grinding wheels for a wider range of applications.

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