

## ROLL WEAR MODELING USING GENETIC PROGRAMMING – INDUSTRY CASE STUDY

### MODELIRANJE OBRABE VALJEV Z GENETSKIM PROGRAMIRANJEM – PRIMER IZ INDUSTRIJE

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Štore Steel Ltd. is one of the largest flat spring steel producers in Europe. Using the continuous rolling line (10 stands – 6 horizontal, 4 vertical), all the rolled dimensions, including round (more than 80 nominal diameters), flat (more than 650 shapes and dimensions) and square bars (13 different sizes), can be rolled each month. The purpose of the research was to identify the parameters affecting the working roll wear in the hot-rolling process. For this purpose, we collected data during the 2013 annual production on the first stand of the continuous roll mill for rolling of diameters from  $\phi 20$  mm to  $\phi 58$  mm for which data of the groove shape and surface, roll diameter, contact time, carbon equivalent, rolling temperature and quantity of the rolled material are available. After roll wear-out they are machined using a turning operation. The root cause “why the rolls were machined” was not collected. To evaluate the roll wear-out, the quantity of rolled material before the machining of rolls was used. Prediction of the quantity of rolled material before the machining of rolls was conducted using linear regression and genetic programming. The developed models were validated using the data from 2014. The validation showed that in the case of excluding the fatigue cracks from collected data the prediction could be improved drastically. The results of the research can be used in practice for predicting roll wear and consequently roll maintenance on the basis of rolling schedule quantities.

Keywords: roll wear, hot rolling, prediction, linear regression, genetic programming

Štore Steel d.o.o. je ena izmed največjih proizvajalcev ploščatega, vzmetnega jekla v Evropi. S pomočjo kontinuirane valjarske proge (10 ogrodij – 6 horizontalnih, 4 vertikalne) lahko mesečno izvaljajo vse dimenzije, vključujoč okrogle (80 premerov), kvadratne (13 stranic) in ploščate (več kot 650 oblik in dimenzij) palice. Namen raziskave je bil prepoznati parametre, ki vplivajo na obrabo valjev med vročim valjanjem. V te namene so se v letu 2013 zbirali podatki pri prvem horizontalnem ogrodju kontinuirane valjarske proge pri valjanju okroglih palic premerov od  $\phi 20$  mm do  $\phi 58$  mm: oblika in površina kalibra, premer valjev, kontaktni čas, ogljikov ekvivalent, temperatura valjanja in količina izvaljanega materiala. Po obrabi valjev se le-ti mehansko obdelajo – postružijo. Pravi razlog za mehansko obdelavo valjev se ni navajal. Za ovrednotenje obrabe valjev smo uporabili količino materiala, ki se je valjal pred mehansko obdelavo valjev. Za napovedovanje količine materiala, ki se je valjal pred mehansko obdelavo valjev, smo uporabili linearno regresijo in genetsko programiranje. Oba razvita modela smo ovrednotili z uporabo podatkov iz leta 2014. Analiza je pokazala, da se zmožnost napovedovanja pri neupoštevanju utrujenostnih napak drastično izboljša. Rezultati so praktično uporabni pri napovedovanju obrabe valjev ter posledično vzdrževanju valjev v skladu s plani valjanja.

Ključne besede: obraba valjev, vroče valjanje, napovedovanje, linearna regresija, genetsko programiranje

## 1 INTRODUCTION

During the hot rolling of long bars the roll with the grooves allows for dimensional changes to the rolled bars. Due to the constant contact between the hot-rolled material and the cooled roll, the surface of the latter gradually wears out. Also, surface cracks can occur due to temperature gradients influenced by thermo-mechanical-tribological rolling conditions (e.g., roll and rolled material, coolant temperature, rolling speed). Consequently, one must determine influences that the rolls have on the surface defects of rolled material.<sup>1-5</sup> Accordingly, knowing about roll wear is essential.

Practical approaches for roll wear reduction during hot rolling can be classified as:

- changing existing roll material,<sup>6</sup>
- using roll surface coatings,<sup>1,3</sup>
- using lubricants,<sup>2,4,7,8</sup>
- changing roll geometry (i.e. grooves)<sup>9-12</sup>
- using different rolling regimes.<sup>2,13-16</sup>

Though there are several well-known mathematical models for roll wear (i.e., Archard, Yasada, Lim and Ashby, Sibakin, Oike, Somers, Tong and Chakko),<sup>1,3</sup> but none of them can be used practically in an industrial environment, where the specifics of several different steel grades and where different rolling regimes are produced and bound to delivery dates, come into play.

In our extremely flexible industrial environment, the following were analyzed during a one-year period: the influences of groove geometry, its area, roll diameter, contact time, carbon equivalent of rolled material (more than 200 serially produced different steel grades), rolling

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**Table 1:** Rolls working layer chemical composition

C	Si	Mn	P	S	Cr	Ni	Mo
3.0 %–3.8 %	1.0 %–1.8 %	0.3 %–0.8 %	<0.060 %	<0.020 %	0.5 %–1.2 %	1.0 %–3.0 %	0.1 %–0.5 %

temperature and quantity of the rolled material on the wear of roll of the first stand of the continuous roll mill for long round bars (diameters from  $\phi 20$  mm to  $\phi 58$  mm).

In the paper the experimental setup, including the industrial environment and the monitored parameter descriptions, is presented after the introduction. Afterwards, we present the roll wear prediction, represented as a quantity of the rolled material before the machining of rolls, using genetic programming and linear regression. Also, the results and the validation thereof are commented on. Finally, conclusions are drawn and directions for future work are outlined.

## 2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

Štore Steel Ltd. is a small, flexible steel mill where more than 200 steel grades with varying chemical compositions are produced. The scrap is melted in the electric arc furnace. After tapping, the melt is ladle-treated and finally cast using a two-strand continuous caster. The cooled cast billets (180 mm x 180 mm) are reheated up to 1250 °C and rolled. After exiting the reheating furnace, the material goes through the descaling device and duo reversible rolling stand with 800-mm-diameter rolls. The rolled material makes 7 passes. The final rolling diameters achieved using the same rolling stand range from  $\phi 95$  mm to  $\phi 110$  mm.

Before it enters the continuous rolling line with 460 mm diameter rolls (700 mm length), the material is rolled using a duo reversible rolling stand with 650-mm-diameter rolls. After exiting the duo reversible

stand, after 5 passes (the last is a by-pass), the material cools down while the rolling temperature is achieved. The temperature is measured using infrared pyrometer. Note that the rolling is conducted without lubrication.

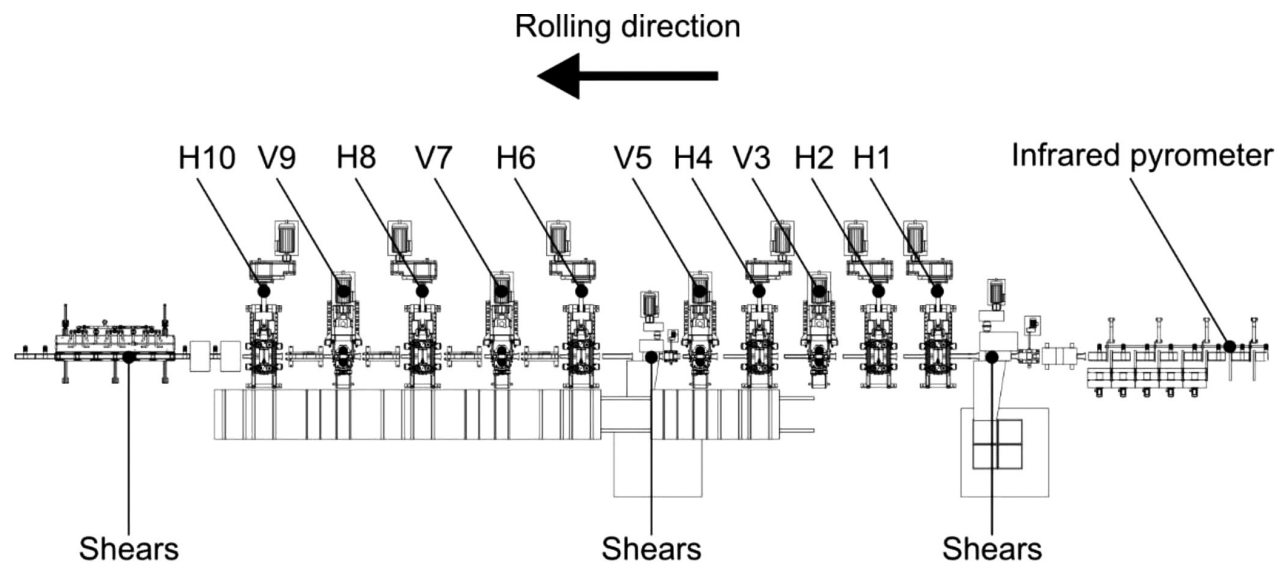
The number of passes using the continuous rolling line:

- $\phi 20$ –36 mm: 9 passes,
- $\phi 37$ –48 mm: 7 passes,
- $\phi 50$ –58 mm: 5 passes.

The continuous rolling line (**Figure 1**) itself consists of a descaling device, 6 horizontal and 4 vertical stands, three hot shears – of which two are used for cutting the first and the last end of the rolled bar, while the third is used for cutting the final dimensions before the material enters the cooling bed.

The continuous rolling line rolls are double-layered rolls made of steel (outer working layer) and nodular cast iron (the core). The working layer chemical composition is presented in **Table 1**. The same layer consists of pearlite and bainite, depending on the required hardness. The working layer thickness depends on the groove dimensions. In general, 30 mm is added, on the basis of the grooves' geometry. The core consists basically of pearlite, but within this free cementite and spherical pearlite could be found.

After rolls of the continuous roll mill wear-out, or fatigue cracks occur, they are additionally machined using a turning operation. The machining is conducted in Štore Steel Ltd. After several machining operations, reaching the core layer, the rolls should be replaced by new ones.



**Figure 1:** Continuous rolling line

During 2013 the life of rolls of the first stand (**Figure 2**) of the continuous roll mill for long round bars (diameters from  $\phi 20$  mm to  $\phi 58$  mm) was analyzed. The following parameters were monitored:

- area of the individual groove after machining operation in  $\text{mm}^2$  (*AG*),
- diameter of rolls after machining operation in mm (*DR*),
- average contact time in s (*TC*),
- average carbon equivalent in % (*CE*),
- average rolling temperature before entering the first rolling stand in  $^{\circ}\text{C}$  (*TR*),
- quantity of rolled material before using machining operation in kg (*Q'*).

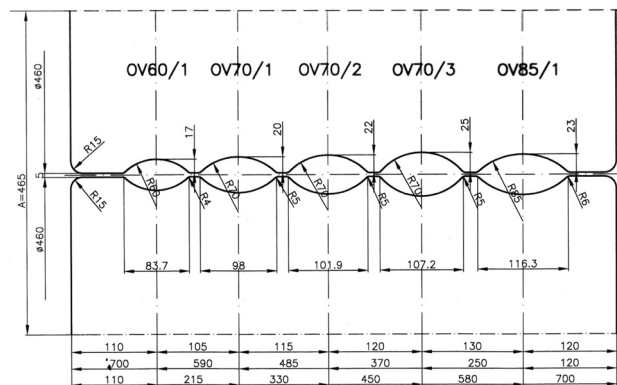
After the rolls wear out, the removal of the affected area is conducted using a machining process. The removal depth depends on the severity of the affected area. It must be emphasized that detailed information about the root cause for the machining of rolls was not available.

**Table 2** shows the reduction of roll diameter (*DR*) and the area of the grooves on the first stand of the continuous rolling line (*AG*) during the roll life cycle (before replacement).

**Table 2:** The area of the individual groove after the machining operation (practical example of roll life cycle)

Roll diameter	OV60/1 (mm <sup>2</sup> )	OV70/1 (mm <sup>2</sup> )	OV70/2 (mm <sup>2</sup> )	OV70/3 (mm <sup>2</sup> )	OV85/1 (mm <sup>2</sup> )
$\phi 460$	122859	142267	148647	157561	166376
$\phi 419$	111327	128786	134473	142394	150459
$\phi 418$	111046	128457	134127	142024	150071
$\phi 416$	110484	127800	133436	141284	149295
$\phi 413.8$	109865	127076	132675	140470	148441
$\phi 412.3$	109443	126583	132156	139916	147859
$\phi 410$	108796	125827	131361	139065	146966
$\phi 407.3$	108037	124939	130428	138066	145918
$\phi 405.2$	107446	124249	129702	137289	145102
$\phi 403$	106827	123525	128941	136475	144248
$\phi 400.5$	106124	122703	128077	135550	143278

The contact time is the time between the workpiece entering and exiting the deformation zone. This time is calculated using the following equation:



**Figure 2:** Grooves on the first stand of the continuous rolling line

$$t_c = \frac{l}{v}, \text{ where } l \text{ is contact length} \quad (1)$$

$$l = \sqrt{R \cdot \Delta h}, \text{ where } R \text{ is roll radius,} \quad (2)$$

$$\Delta h = h_0 - h_1, \text{ where } h_0 \text{ and } h_1 \text{ are the effective heights of the ingoing and outgoing workpiece,} \quad (3)$$

$$v = \frac{v_r}{\prod_{i=1}^n R_{-} f_i}, \text{ where} \quad (4)$$

$v$  is the roll circumferential speed,  $v_r$  is the rolling speed and  $R_{-} f_i$  are the reduction factors for a calculation of the rolling speed at the  $i-1$  stand. For instance, the reduction factors for rolling of round bar  $\phi 21$  mm using continuous rolling line in Štore for stands H1, H2, V3, H4, V5, H6, V7, H8 and V9 are 1.189, 1.144, 1.286, 1.191, 1.148, 1, 1, 1 and 1, respectively.

The following equation for carbon equivalent (*CE*), a single-number value which covers several influential alloying chemical elements, was used:<sup>17</sup>

$$CE = \%C + \frac{\%Mn + \%Si}{6} + \frac{\%Cr + \%Mo + \%V}{5} + \frac{\%Cu + \%Ni}{15} \quad (5)$$

Selected parameters, collected during the 2013 annual production, are presented in **Table 3**.

**Table 3:** Selected parameters, collected during the 2013 annual production

Area of the individual groove after machining operation in $\text{mm}^2$ ( <i>AG</i> )	Diameter of rolls after machining operation in mm ( <i>DR</i> )	Average contact time in s ( <i>TC</i> )	Average carbon equivalent in % ( <i>CE</i> )	Average rolling temperature before entering the first rolling stand in $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ( <i>TR</i> )	Quantity of rolled material before using machining operation in kg ( <i>Q'</i> )
111327	419.0	0.0506	0.699	930	776725
134473	419.0	0.0596	0.739	930	1199800
128786	419.0	0.0591	0.825	930	2325295
142394	419.0	0.0699	0.763	930	738240
134473	419.0	0.0561	0.789	930	356043
150459	419.0	0.0626	0.715	930	535983
111046	418.0	0.0482	0.681	930	1153125
134127	418.0	0.0600	0.698	930	2145300
128457	418.0	0.0577	0.830	930	1514790
142024	418.0	0.0664	0.853	930	678110
150071	418.0	0.0605	0.705	930	456370
109865	413.8	0.0505	0.666	930	1369770
132675	413.8	0.0588	0.752	930	2210725
148441	413.8	0.0564	0.709	930	143935
139989	412.5	0.0699	0.813	930	745308
126649	412.5	0.0582	0.818	930	2497160
139989	412.5	0.0579	0.672	930	232620
132225	412.5	0.0590	0.825	930	744396
147936	412.5	0.0643	0.762	930	619500
109499	412.5	0.0497	0.674	930	1209050
132225	412.5	0.0602	0.738	930	1217867
108796	410.0	0.0580	0.778	930	1366531
139065	410.0	0.0671	0.797	930	716430
131361	410.0	0.0608	0.838	930	645393

146966	410.0	0.0557	0.632	930	159770
108796	410.0	0.0492	0.683	930	1136585
131361	410.0	0.0597	0.735	930	3848941
124939	407.3	0.0580	0.781	930	1134305
138066	407.3	0.0697	0.822	930	594478
130428	407.3	0.0610	0.771	930	363901
145918	407.3	0.0685	0.638	930	103334
108037	407.3	0.0494	0.634	930	1420125
130428	407.3	0.0587	0.724	930	2005551
124249	405.2	0.0568	0.798	890	1333585
137289	405.2	0.0675	0.843	890	804196
129702	405.2	0.0582	0.765	890	544345
145102	405.2	0.0616	0.693	890	603295
107446	405.2	0.0511	0.654	890	1127800
129702	405.2	0.0591	0.728	890	1956695
123525	403.0	0.0575	0.858	930	1637455
136475	403.0	0.0640	0.856	930	370090
128941	403.0	0.0546	0.798	930	253489
144248	403.0	0.0597	0.741	930	179320

**3 RESULTS**

On the basis of the collected data (Table 4), the prediction of the quantity of rolled material before the machining of the rolls was conducted using linear regression and genetic programming. For the fitness function  $\Delta$  average relative deviation between predicted and experimental data was selected. It is defined as:

$$\Delta = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{(Q_i - Q'_i)}{Q_i}}{n} \tag{6}$$

where  $n$  is the size of monitored data and  $Q'_i$  and  $Q_i$  are the actual and the predicted quantities of the rolled material before the machining of rolls, respectively.

**3.1 Linear regression prediction**

On the basis of the linear regression results, it is possible to conclude that the model does not predict in a significant manner the quantity of rolled material before

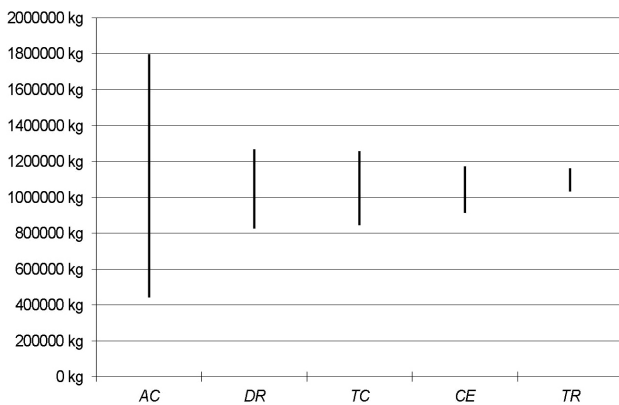


Figure 3: Calculated influences of individual parameters on the quantity of rolled material before the machining of rolls using a linear-regression model [kg]

the machining of the rolls ( $p > 0.05$ , ANOVA) and that only 19.43 % of the total variances can be explained by the independent variables' variances (R-square). The only significantly influential parameter ( $p < 0.05$ ) is the area of the individual groove after machining (AG). The linear-regression model is:

$$Q = -31.45 \cdot AG + 27377 \cdot DR + 18891118 \cdot TC + 1140389 \cdot CE - 3227 \cdot TR + 5072217 \tag{7}$$

Its relative deviation from the experimental data is 71.10 %. The calculated influences of the individual parameters (individual variables) on the quantity of rolled material before the machining of the rolls are presented in Figure 3. It is possible, on the basis of the same figure, to conclude that the area of the individual groove after machining is most influential.

**3.2 Genetic programming prediction**

Genetic programming is probably the most general evolutionary optimization method.<sup>18–20</sup> Evolutionary optimization methods mimic the natural evolution of living things and can be used for solving different problems (see, for example<sup>21–24</sup>). The organisms in genetic programming that undergo adaptation are in fact mathematical expressions (models) for predicting the quantity of the rolled material before the machining of rolls. The models – that is, computer programs – consist of the selected function (i.e., basic arithmetical functions) and terminal genes (i.e., independent input parameters, and random floating-point constants). Typical function genes are: addition (+), subtraction (−), multiplication (\*), and division (/), and terminal genes (e.g.  $x, y, z$ ).

Random computer programs for calculating the various forms and lengths are generated by means of the selected genes at the beginning of the simulated evolution. The varying of the computer programs is conducted

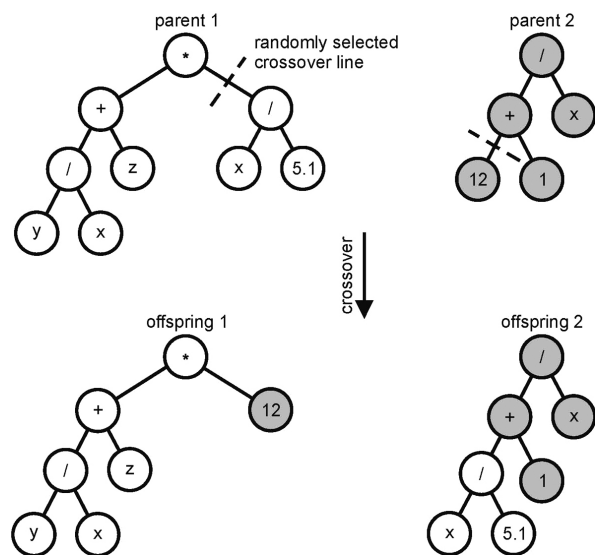
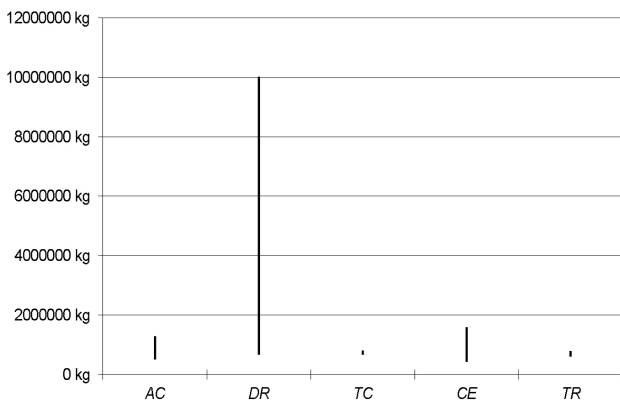


Figure 4: Crossover operation (out of two parental organisms the offsprings with randomly distributed genetic material are evolved)



**Figure 5:** Calculated influences of individual parameters on the quantity of rolled material before the machining of the rolls using the genetic programming model [kg]

with genetic operations (e.g., crossover, mutation) during several iterations, called generations. The crossover operation is presented in **Figure 4**. After the completion of the variation of the computer programs a new generation is obtained. Each result obtained from an individual program from a generation is compared with the experimental data. The process of changing and evaluating the organisms is repeated until the termination criterion of the process is fulfilled.

In-house genetic programming system, programmed using AutoLISP, which is integrated in AutoCAD – commercial computer-aided design software, was used.<sup>25–27</sup> Its settings were:

- size of the population of organisms: 1000,
- maximum number of generations: 100,
- reproduction probability: 0.4,
- crossover probability: 0.6,
- maximum permissible depth in the creation of the population: 6,
- maximum permissible depth after the operation of crossover of two organisms: 10,
- smallest permissible depth of organisms in generating new organisms: 2.

The genetic operations of reproduction and crossover were used. For the selection of organisms the tournament method with tournament size 7 was used.

The AutoLISP based in-house genetic programming system was run 100 times in order to develop 100 independent civilizations. Each run lasted approximately 1 min on a I7 Intel processor and 8 GB of RAM.

The best mathematical model obtained from 100 runs of the genetic programming system is:

$$Q = \frac{1}{AG \cdot CE \left( -\frac{1}{CE} + \frac{TR}{DR} \right)} TR \left( DR + CT \cdot DR + (CT + DR + 2CT \cdot DR) + \frac{\left( -CE + \frac{TR}{CE^2 \cdot DR} \right) \left( -CT + \frac{TR}{CE \left( \frac{CE^2}{CT} + DR \right)} \right)}{CE \cdot \frac{2}{DR} + \frac{TR}{DR} - \frac{TR}{CE \cdot DR}} + CT \left( DR + CT \left( CT + DR + 2TR + \frac{-CE + \frac{TR}{CE \cdot DR}}{CT} \right) \right) \right) \left( -2AG - \right.$$

$$DR - TR + CE \cdot DR (CE \cdot DR + TR) + \frac{TR \left( -TR + \frac{TR}{DR} \right) \left( CT + 0.161 \left( -CE^2 + \frac{TR}{DR} \right) \right)}{CE + \frac{CE}{CT}} +$$

$$\left. \frac{\left( CE \cdot CT (DR + TR) + \frac{DR - CE}{-CE + \frac{TR}{DR}} \right) \left( CT \cdot DR + \frac{2.072 (2CT \cdot DR - CE + \frac{TR}{DR})}{-CE^2 + \frac{TR}{DR}} \right)}{-CE + \frac{TR}{DR}} + 2.072 \left( \frac{CE}{DR (DR - TR)} - 2TR \left( \frac{TR}{DR} - \frac{1}{CE} \right)^2 + \right. \right.$$

$$\left. \left. \frac{\left( \frac{CE}{DR} - TR \right) TR \left( CT + \frac{-CE + \frac{TR}{CE \cdot DR}}{TR} \right)}{CE + \frac{CE^2}{CT}} + \frac{DR \left( \frac{CE + 2CT \cdot DR}{-CE + \frac{1}{DR}} + \frac{CE + CT \cdot DR}{-CT + \frac{TR}{CE \cdot DR}} \right)}{-CE + \frac{1}{DR^2} + \frac{TR}{DR}} \right) \right)$$

Its relative deviation from the experimental data is 43.93 %, which is 1.62-times better than a linear regression model. The calculated influences of the individual parameters (individual variables) on the quantity of rolled material before the machining of the rolls are presented in **Figure 5**. Based on the same figure it is possible to conclude that the roll diameter after machining is the most influential parameter.

#### 4 DISCUSSION

Based on linear regression and genetic programming modeling we can conclude:

- both models' performances are relatively low,
- the most influential parameters (area of the individual groove after machining operation, diameter of the rolls after machining operation) depend on the machining of the rolls and, consequently, additional data and a precise description of the root cause for machining of rolls are needed.

Accordingly, additional data was gathered during the period of an additional year, 2014 (**Table 4**). In all 16 cases the rolls were machined only due to their having worn out. No fatigue cracks were noted during the year 2014.

**Table 4:** Selected parameters, collected during the 2014 annual production

Area of the individual groove after machining operation in mm <sup>2</sup> (AG)	Diameter of rolls after machining operation in mm (DR)	Average contact time in s (TC)	Average carbon equivalent in % (CE)	Average rolling temperature before entering the first rolling stand in °C (TR)	Quantity of rolled material before using machining operation in kg (Q')
142268	460.0	0.0612	0.812	930	946000
122859	460.0	0.0538	0.687	930	1196360
148647	460.0	0.0632	0.741	930	2146800
141347	457.2	0.0617	0.853	930	33195370
165290	457.2	0.0613	0.651	930	6043100
147679	457.2	0.0633	0.745	930	23035450
121341	454.6	0.0516	0.682	930	14102600
146781	454.6	0.0628	0.725	930	17868800
140492	454.6	0.0621	0.767	930	30325250
146781	454.6	0.0619	0.755	930	9038860
164280	454.6	0.0677	0.628	930	6610820
139637	452.0	0.0613	0.812	930	16725950
120609	452.0	0.0517	0.630	930	12177050
145882	452.0	0.0623	0.767	930	29562300
138749	449.3	0.0609	0.839	930	11691900
144948	449.3	0.0624	0.787	930	20959950

The relative deviations from the experimental data of the linear regression (Equation (7)) and genetically (Equation (8)) developed model are 55.72 % and 31.56 %, respectively. The improvement in performance of both models for the quantity of rolled material before the machining of rolls suggests that the previously gathered data (from the year 2013) should be filtered out

from instantaneous root causes (e.g., fatigue cracks) and only roll wear out should be taken into account.

#### 5 CONCLUSIONS

Štore Steel Ltd. is a small, flexible steel mill where more than 200 steel grades with varying chemical compositions are produced. The material is rolled using a continuous rolling line, which rolls are double layered and made of steel (outer working layer) and nodular cast iron (the core).

After roll wear-out – that is, after the rolls became worn out – they are machined using a turning operation.

In the research the life of rolls of the first stand (**Figure 2**) of the continuous roll mill for long round bars (diameters from  $\phi 20$  mm to  $\phi 58$  mm) was analyzed for 2013. The following parameters were monitored:

- area of the individual groove after machining operation in mm<sup>2</sup>,
- diameter of rolls after machining operation in mm,
- average contact time in s,
- average carbon equivalent in %,
- average rolling temperature before entering the first rolling stand in °C,
- quantity of rolled material before using machining operation in kg.

On the basis of the collected data (**Table 3**), the prediction of the quantity of rolled material before the machining of rolls was conducted using linear regression and genetic programming. For genetic programming, an in-house system, programmed using AutoLISP, was used. For the fitness function average relative deviation between predicted and experimental data was selected.

The relative deviations from experimental data of linear regression and genetically developed model are 71.10 % and 43.39 %, respectively. The genetically developed model outperformed the linear regression model by 1.62-times. Nevertheless, both models have relatively poor performance.

Additionally, both models were validated using additionally gathered data from 2014, but in this case the data without fatigue cracks were used.

The relative deviations from the experimental data of linear regression and genetically developed model are 55.72 % and 31.56 %, respectively. The drastically improved performance of both models can be attributed to filtering the data – the data regarding machining of the rolls due to fatigue cracks was removed, which also indicates that both models can be accordingly developed again.

In the future only data related to roll wear out will be gathered. Consequently, the relatively precise prediction of roll wear and roll maintenance, based on the rolling schedule quantities, will be possible. It must also be emphasized that the adjusted methodology can be used in various rolling mill environments.

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