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Design of Experiments with a Ranking Response: Analysis of the Result with the Mann-Whitney Statistic

Maurice PILLET¹, Emmanuel DUCLOS², Magali PRALUS¹

¹ University of Savoy – SYMME – Polytech'Savoie, Annecy, France; ² EDC Conseil Formation; maurice.pillet@univ-savoie.fr

Abstract

Product quality very often depends on organoleptic characters that are difficult to measure. As examples, let us look at the visual aspect of a vehicle dashboard, the flavour of a product, etc. During the process optimization, it's very difficult to use such responses to analyse an experimental design, because of the lack of information contained in this type of response and the problems of repeatability and reproducibility inherent in these characters. However, if it is not possible for an appraiser to provide a measure in a continuous scale, it is easier to compare various objects. In this article, we propose to use this classification to calculate a rank variable (Mann-Whitney statistic) which will be used as a numeric variable in order to exploit the results of an experimental design. Several strategies will be presented and illustrated with industrial examples

Keywords: Mann-Whitney statistic, sensory perception defects, sensory analysis, design of experiments.

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Some Mechanical and Metallurgical Aspects of the Degradation in Interconnects

Michel IGNAT

CNRS, INP Grenoble, LTPCM, 38402 Saint Martin d'Hères, France
michel.ignat@inpg.fr

Abstract

The mechanical and metallurgical characteristics of PbSn solder joints used as interconnects in Multi-Chip Modules (flip-chips) are examined through mechanical testing (in tension and in shear) and by thermal treatments. The influence of the solder pad metallurgies (Au and Ni) upon the behaviour of the solder joints is examined. Fatigue testing performed upon flipchip samples demonstrates the difference in mechanical comportment between Pb40Sn60 and Pb95Sn5 solders, as well as the influence of Au upon the fatigue life. A model for predicting fatigue life is put forward.

Keywords: Reliability, fatigue testing, degradation, metallurgical characteristics, of PbSn solder joints, Multi- Chip Modules.

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MEMS and Reliability

Titu-Marius I. BĂJENESCU

C. F. C., La Conversion, Switzerland
tmbajenesco@bluewin.ch

Abstract

MEMS technology could possibly enable in the next 10-15 years various space mission applications – a driver in future MEMS development; the microsystem is a „smart“ sensor, also able to actuate. The number of microscale sensors in our environment is set to increase. The fabrication techniques are essentially two dimensional while the third dimension is created by layering. MEMS components by their very nature have different and unique failure mechanisms than their macroscopic counterparts. In MEMS, there are several failure mechanisms that have been found to be the primary sources of failure within devices. In comparison to electronic circuits, these failure mechanisms are neither well understood nor easy to accelerate for life testing. This paper is intended to inform the non-MEMS technologists, researchers and decision makers about some not yet solved problems.

Keywords: MEMS, NEMS, reliability, failure modes and mechanisms, packaging, CNT-FETs, RF-MEMS.

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Application of Taguchi Method in Optimization of Centrifugal Finishing Process Parameters

Suraj S. RANE¹, A. SRIVIDYA², A.K. VERMA³

¹ Department of Mechanical Engineering, Padre Conceicao College of Engineering, Goa INDIA;

² Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai, INDIA;

³ Department of Electrical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai, INDIA
rsurajs@yahoo.com

Abstract

This study investigates the factors that optimize the surface finish of turbine blades on the centrifugal finishing machine. Taguchi method has been employed to determine the optimal levels of process parameters which affect surface finish. The factors identified in the brainstorming session are type of abrasive, water level and operation time. Orthogonal array decided by number of factors and their levels, was used to conduct the experiment. Signal-to-noise ratio and analysis of variance were then calculated to provide the statistical confidence of the experiment. The result of this study is that the surface finish of the blades improved considerably which led to scrap reduction. Also there was a reduction achieved in operation time per blade from 25 minutes to 3 minutes.

Keywords: Centrifugal finishing, Taguchi methods, surface finish, turbine blades.

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