

1. Mechanical Processes

- Abrasive Jet Machining (AJM)
- Ultrasonic Machining (USM)
- Water Jet Machining (WJM)
- Abrasive Water Jet Machining (AWJM)

2. Electrochemical Processes

- Electrochemical Machining (ECM)
- Electro Chemical Grinding (ECG)
- Electro Jet Drilling (EJD)

3. Electro-Thermal Processes

- Electro-discharge machining (EDM)
- Laser Jet Machining (LJM)
- Electron Beam Machining (EBM)

4. Chemical Processes

- Chemical Milling (CHM)
- Photochemical Milling (PCM)

Electron Beam Machining :

Electron Beam Machining (EBM) and Laser Beam Machining (LBM) are thermal processes considering the mechanisms of material removal. However electrical energy is used to generate high-energy electrons in case of Electron Beam Machining (EBM) and high energy coherent photons in case of Laser Beam Machining (LBM). Thus these two processes are often classified as electro-optical-thermal processes.

Laser Beam Machining :

Laser Beam Machining or more broadly laser material processing deals with machining and material processing like heat treatment, alloying, cladding, sheet metal bending etc. Such processing is carried out utilizing the energy of coherent photons or laser beam, which is mostly converted into thermal energy upon interaction with most of the materials. Nowadays, laser is also finding application in regenerative machining or rapid prototyping as in processes like stereo-lithography, selective laser sintering etc. Laser

stands for light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation. The underlying working principle of laser was first put forward by Albert Einstein in 1917 though the first industrial laser for experimentation was developed around 1960s.

Laser beam can very easily be focused using optical lenses as their wavelength ranges from half micron to around 70 microns. Focused laser beam as indicated earlier can have power density in excess of 1 MW/mm². As laser interacts with the material, the energy of the photon is absorbed by the work material leading to rapid substantial rise in local temperature. This in turn results in melting and vaporisation of the work material and finally material removal.

Electrochemical Machining :

Electrochemical Machining (ECM) is a non-traditional machining (NTM) process belonging to Electrochemical category. ECM is opposite of electrochemical or galvanic coating or deposition process. Thus ECM can be thought of a controlled anodic dissolution at atomic level of the work piece that is electrically conductive by a shaped tool due to flow of high current at relatively low potential difference through an electrolyte which is quite often water based neutral salt solution.

Water jet cutting :

Water jet cutting can reduce the costs and speed up the processes by eliminating or reducing expensive secondary machining process. Since no heat is applied on the materials, cut edges are clean with minimal burr. Problems such as cracked edge defects, crystallisation, hardening, reduced weldability and machinability are reduced in this process. Water jet technology uses the principle of pressurizing water to extremely high pressures, and allowing the water to escape through a very small opening called “orifice” or “jewel”. Water jet cutting uses the beam of water exiting the orifice to cut soft materials. This method is not suitable for cutting hard materials.

Abrasive Jet Machining :

In Abrasive Jet Machining (AJM), abrasive particles are made to impinge on the work material at a high velocity. The high velocity abrasive particles remove the material by micro-cutting action as well as brittle fracture of the work material. In AJM, generally, the abrasive particles of around 50 µm grit size would impinge on the work material at velocity of 200 m/s from a nozzle of I.D. of 0.5 mm with a standoff distance of around 2 mm. The kinetic energy of the abrasive particles would be sufficient to provide material removal due to brittle fracture of the work piece or even micro cutting by the abrasives.

Ultrasonic Machining :

USM is mechanical material removal process or an abrasive process used to erode holes or cavities on hard or brittle work piece by using shaped tools, high frequency mechanical motion and an abrasive slurry. USM offers a solution to the expanding need