



Networked Cutting Simulation Technology and Application

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關鍵詞(Keywords)

- ·切削模擬 Cutting Simulation
- ・工具機 Machine Tools
- ・聯網 Networked

摘要(Abstract)

電腦數值控制(CNC)工具機使用的數值控制 (numerical control, NC)程式通常是藉由使用 CAD/CAM軟體或由技術熟練人員產生,而該NC 程式之正確性驗證則是安全切削的重要一環。就 目前之技術現況而言,大多數CAD/CAM軟體均 能具備驗證其刀具路徑以及衍生之 NC 程式之切 削正確性,然而,當NC 程式上傳到 CNC 工具機 之控制器之後,若因故更改了 NC 程式,使用 CAD/CAM 軟體或商用 NC 程式驗證軟體(例如 Vericut)驗證變動過之 NC 程式的正確性,其流程 將變得不順暢,因此,直接驗證即將被使用於實際 加工之 CNC 控制器裡面的 NC 程式,變成逐漸被 重視的實務需求。

隨著資通訊(information and communication technology, ICT)技術環境以及 CNC 控制器之聯網 功能的普及,直接與 CNC 控制器透過網路連通不 再是遙不可及。例如 FANUC 控制器可以透過 FOCAS 2 聯網、海得漢控制器可以透過其 RemoTools SDK 聯網、三菱控制器可以透過其 CNC Communication 聯網而研華寶元控制器可以 透過其 ReconLib 聯網,因此,本文聚焦於探討整 合聯網技術以及切削模擬技術之可行性,並實作 聯網 NC 程式切削模擬技術,期能進一步瞭解此 整合技術應用之實務可行性。



The Numerical Control (NC) program used in a Computer Numerical Control Machine Tools is generally generated by off-the-shelf CAD/CAM software or created by a CNC operator manually. The correctness check of the NC code is a guarantee of machining accuracy. Most CAD/CAM software has been facilitated with the capability to check the correctness of its own generated NC code. However, if changes need to be conducted after the NC code has been uploaded to the CNC controller, verification of the revised NC code by the original CAD/CAM software is not convenient. Therefore, verification of the NC code in the CNC controller has been paid more attention practically.

The rise of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) makes the CNC controller no longer out of reach. For example, FANUC CNC can be networked through FOCAS 2 SDK, Heidenhain Programming Station can be connected based on RemoTools SDK, Mitsubishi CNC can communicate through CNC Communication Application Programming Interface, and A-LNC CNC is connected by ReconLib. In order to better understand the practicality of this technology, this article discusses the feasibility of cutting simulation and network implementation of cutting NC programs.

1. Introduction

With more and more focus on enhancing machine tools towards Industry 4.0 and/or intelligent machinery, precision and worry free machining has become one of the major issues in industrial machining application practices. This has resulted in the increasing demands on tackling workpiece complexity and toolpath verification via value-adding applications and high-level machine tool capabilities. Furthermore, with the facts that Taiwan has been one of the major Machine Tool exporters consecutively in these years, how to keep pace with the world machine tool advanced application and maintain a world-wide prosperous CNC machine tool industry is very important. However, traditional CNC machine tool has long learning curve and toolpath verification with 3D solid cutting simulation functions are not necessarily supported by either the machine tool builder (MTB) or its computer numerical control (CNC) controller maker partners. This has resulted in long demands of a toolpath verification system such as the VericutTM software system [1]. For example, VericutTM has been welcomed and adopted successfully by the CNC machine tool users for verifying toolpath in the format of either cutter location file or NC code program. The reasons were aiming for "Right the first time" and/or "Quick first part" based on "CNC Simulation". The popularity of toolpath verification software has therefore greatly encouraged toolpath simulation and verification system research and development resulted from its expensive cost and the pursuit of increasing global

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