With tolerances in production constantly reducing it is necessary to know the capabilities of machine tools. A major source of inaccuracy in machine tools is down to spindle errors.

It is therefore the aim of this project to assess the effect of these errors on part production depending on machine and operation, with a view to enabling easier spindle checks and therefore predictive maintenance.

**INTRODUCTION**

**TECHNOLOGIES**

**Sources of Error**

- **Thermal Expansion** due to heat generated in the spindle bearings at high speeds is the most common source of error in machine tools.
- **Bearing Vibration** due to bearing wear / damage can cause a poor quality surface finish. The figure to the left shows spikes in noise at certain frequencies.
- **Spindle Position** in relation to the machine tool, including axial and radial errors. The figure to the left shows an out of roundness plot.

**RESEARCH**

**PROJECT AIM: TO INCREASE SPINDLE ANALYSIS EFFICIENCY AND ACCURACY**

**CONCLUSIONS**

The successful completion of this project will result in:

- A better knowledge of the capabilities of non-contact measurement technologies including measurement uncertainty in different environments, cost etc
- A clearer understanding of the cause / effect of spindle bearing vibration
- The ability to analyse machine tool spindles in industry in order to assess capability and predict maintenance requirements

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