Precise roughness measurement
Surface texture parameters in practice

HOMMEL~ETAMIC

Selection of the cut-off (profile filter) according to ISO 4288:1998 and ISO 3274:1998

The cut-off is selected depending on the workpiece surface either according to the valley valuation length and the corresponding traverse length are defined according to standards.
Deviations are necessary if the workpiece does not allow the required traverse length. See drawing entries.

Periodical profiles
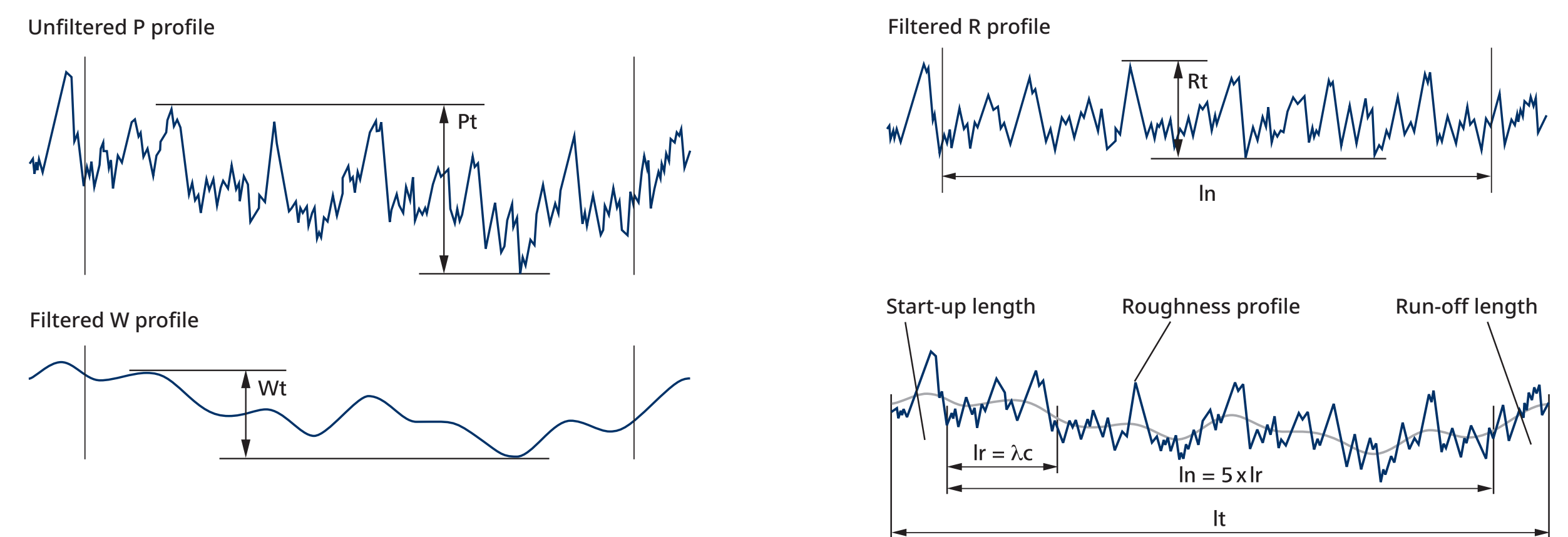e.g. turning, milling

Measurement conditions

lr	sampling length
ln	evaluation length
lt	traverse length
λc	cut-off
λs	shortwave profile filter
r_tip	stylus tip radius
ΔX	digitization distance [1]

[1] The digitization distance is also standardized. This is set automatically by most roughness measuring instruments.

Aperiodical profiles
e.g. grinding, eroding

Application example
In a periodic profile the mean width of the profile elements RSm is used. With an RSm between 0.4 and 1.3 mm the following measuring conditions result:
λc = 2.5 mm / ln = 12.5 mm / lt = 15 mm / rtip = 5 μm / λs = 8 μm.

* At Rz ≤ 2 μm the stylus tip radius is 2 μm, at Rz > 2 μm it is 5 μm. The distance between two measuring points is ≤ 0.5 μm.

RSm [mm]		λc = lr [mm]	ln [mm]	lt [mm]	r_tip [μm]	λs [μm]	Ra (μm)		Rz (μm)	
> 0.013	...0.04	0.08	0.4	0.48	2	2.5	> (0.006)	...0.02	> (0.025)	...0.1
> 0.04	...0.13	0.25	1.25	1.5	2	2.5	> 0.02	...0.1	> 0.1	...0.5
> 0.13	...0.4	0.8	4	4.8	2 or 5 *	2.5	> 0.1	...2	> 0.5	...10
> 0.4	...1.3	2.5	12.5	15	5	8	> 2	...10	> 10	...50
> 1.3	...4	8	40	48	10	25	> 10	...80	> 50	...200

Shortened standard evaluation length
If the actual possible traverse length on the workpiece surface is not enough for lt, the number of sampling lengths is reduced accordingly and specified in the drawing. If the actually available traverse length is less than a sampling length, the total height of profile Pt of the primary profile is evaluated instead of Rt or Rz.

Division of a surface

Unfiltered P profile

Filtered R profile

Filtered W profile

Start-up length / Roughness profile / Run-off length

lr = λc
ln = 5 × lr
lt

Surface profiles – total height of the profile

Surface profile is measured two-dimensionally using the tracing system.

The unfiltered primary profile (P-profile) is the actual measured surface profile. Filtering it in accordance with ISO 11562/ISO 16610-21 produces the waviness profile (W-profile) and the roughness profile (R-profile). The variable for determining the limit between waviness and roughness is the cut-off λc.

According to ISO 4287, all parameter definitions are valid for both the roughness profile as well as for the primary and waviness profiles. The profile type is identified by the capital letters P, R or W.

The total height Pt, Wt or Rt of the respective profile type is the maximum height between the highest peak and the deepest valley of the evaluation length profile.

Evaluation lengths – cut-off

The traverse length (lt) is the total length of the probe movement during the scanning process. It must be greater than the evaluation length ln in order to be able to form the roughness profile with the profile filter.

With the exception of Rt, Rmr(c) and RPc, the roughness parameters are defined within an evaluation length ln, which is determined using an average of five sampling lengths lr.

The sampling length lr corrsponds to the cut-off λc.

Evaluation of measurement results

According to ISO 4288 the surface measurement sh e made where the highest values to be expected (visual ination).

Maximum value rule

The surface is considered good when the measured values of a parameter do not exceed the fixed maximum value. In this case, the parameter is identified by the suffix „max", e.g. Rz1max.

16 % rule

If the suffix „max" is not specified, the 16% rule applies, which states that the surface is considered "good" if not more than 16% of the measured parameter values exceed the fixed maximum value. You will find further information about this rule in the standard ISO 4288:1997.

Special rule VDA 2006

The 16 % rule is not used. VDA 2006 assumes that the dispersion of the parameters is taken into account in the definition of the limit values. The maximum value rule applies generally even without the „max" index in the designation. The use of the λs filter is prohibited.

At Rz ≤ 2 μm the stylus tip radius is 2 μm, at Rz > 2 μm it is 5 μm. The distance between two measuring points is ≤ 0.5 μm.

The cone angle is either 60° or 90°. If not otherwise specified, it is 90°.

The most important roughness parameters according to ISO 4287, ISO 13565 and EN 10049
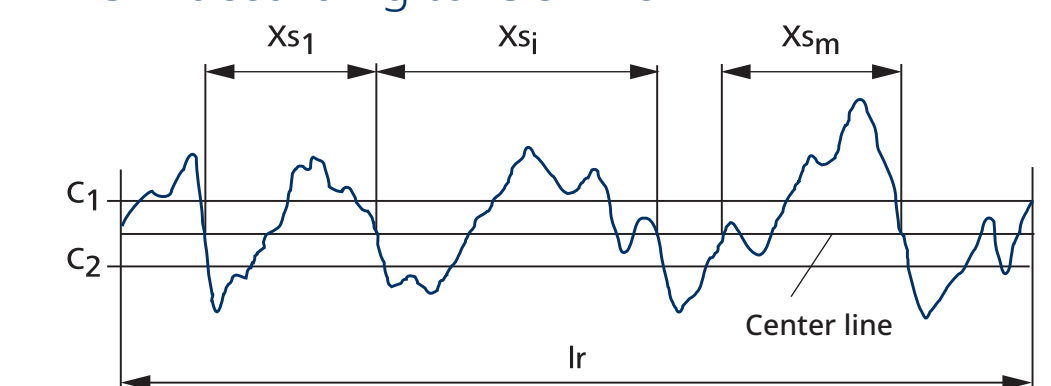
Ra according to ISO 4287
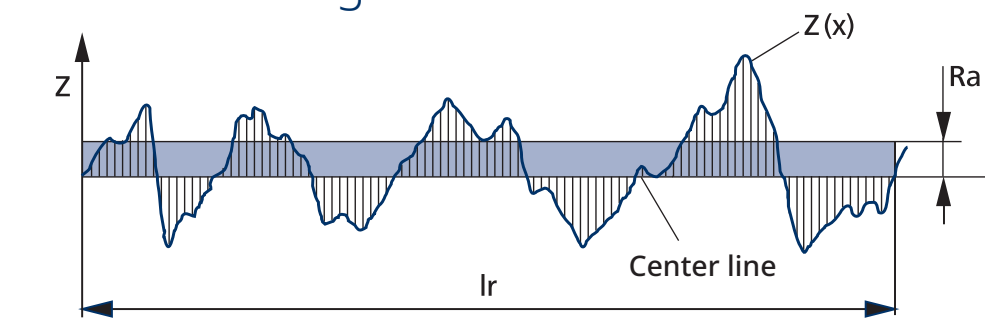
Ra – arithmetical mean deviation
Ra is the arithmetic mean roughness value from the amounts of all profile values. Ra does not differentiate between peaks and valleys and has therefore a relatively weak information character.
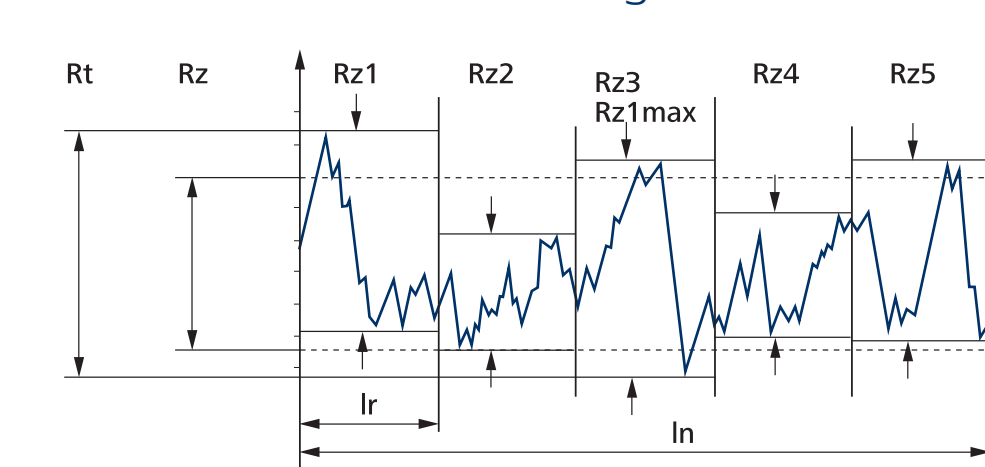
Rz, Rz1max, Rt according to ISO 4287

Rz – maximum height of profile
Mean value of the five Rz values from the five individual sampling lengths lr.

Rz1max – maximum height of profile (ISO 4287:1997)
Greatest Rz value from the five sampling lengths lr.

Rt – total height of profile
Rt is the distance between the highest peak and the deepest valley of the profile of the total evaluation length ln.

RSm according to ISO 4287

RSm – mean width of the profile elements
RSm is the arithmetic mean value of the width of the roughness profile elements within the sampling length and requires the definition of height discriminations (c1, c2) matching the function of the surface. If not specified otherwise, the sum of the height discriminations should add up to 10 % of Rz.

RPc according to EN 10049/ISO 4287
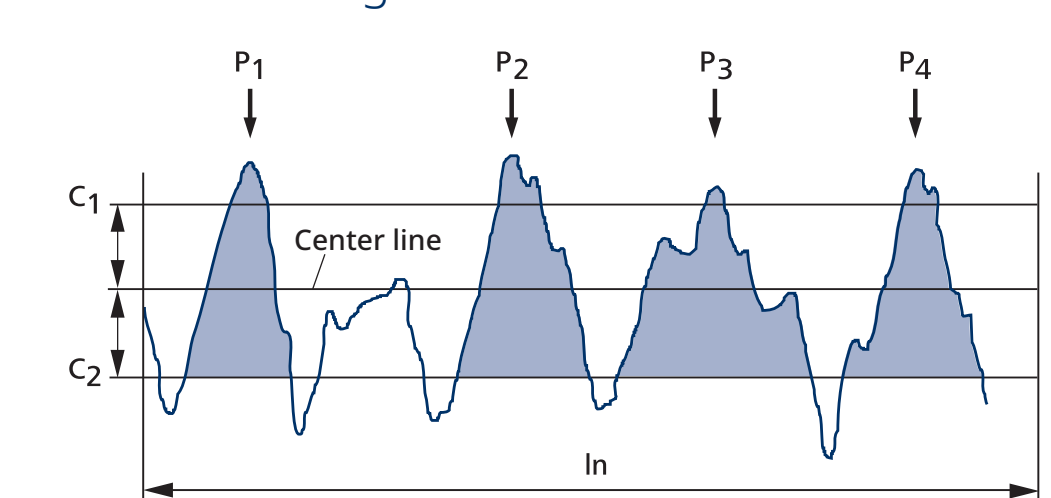
RPc – standardized number of peaks
RPc corresponds to the number of local peaks, which successively exceed an upper section line c1 and a lower section line c2. The number of peaks is related to a length of 10 mm irrespective of the evaluation length selected.

Rmr(c) according to ISO 4287
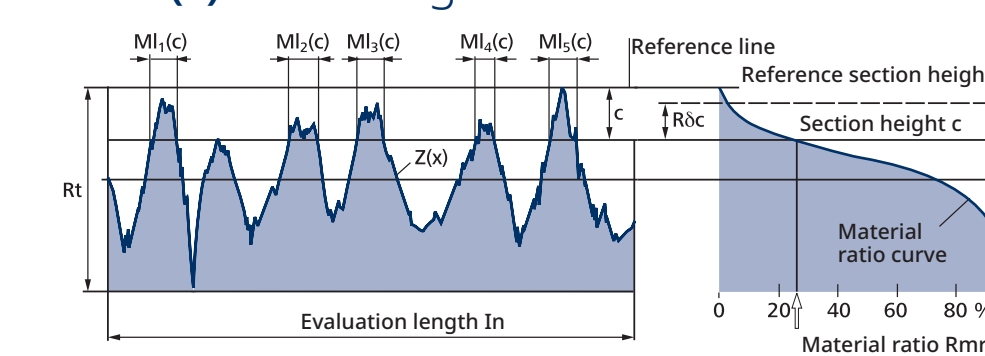
Rmr(c) – material ratio of the profile
Rmr indicates what ratio the totaled length in the material has assumed relative to the evaluation length (in %). The comparison is made in the specified section height c and the total evaluation length ln. The material ratio curve indicates the material ratio as a function of the section height.

Rk, Rpk, Rvk, Mr1, Mr2 according to ISO 13565-2
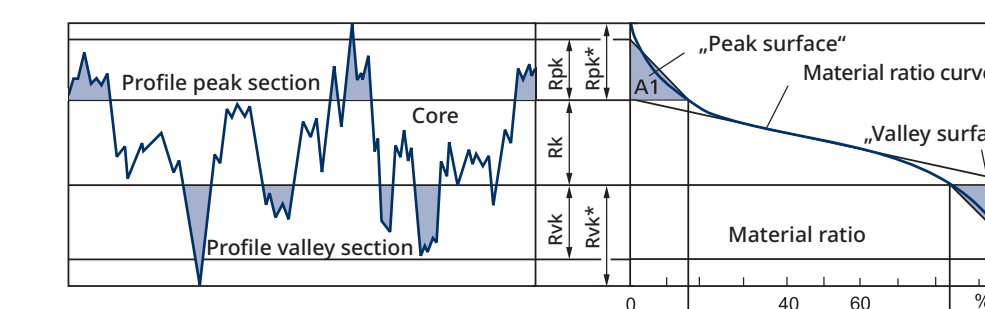
Rk – core roughness depth
Depth of the roughness core profile.

Rpk – reduced peak height
Mean height of the peaks protruding from the roughness profile.

Rpk* – highest profile peak height (not in this standard)

Rvk – reduced valley depth
Mean depth of the valleys reaching into the material from the core.

Rvk* – deepest profile valley depth (not in this standard)

Mr1, Mr2 – material ratio
Smallest (Mr1) and greatest (Mr2) material ratio (in %) at the limits of the roughness core area.

Drawing entries according to ISO 1302:2002

Specifications for requirements

a surface parameter with numeric value in μm
b second requirement (surface parameter in μm)
c production method
d specification of valley direction
e machining allowance in mm

Rz 4	L Rz 2.5	U Ra 4 / L Ra 1	Rzmax 4	2/Pt 4	0.008-2.5/Rz1
Material removing machining; Rz = max. 4 μm	Material removing machining; lower limit value for Rz demanded; Rz = min. 2.5 μm	Material removing machining; upper and lower limit value for Ra demanded; Ra = min. 1 μm and max. 4 μm	Material removing machining; Rz = max. 4 μm; the maximum value rule applies	Material removing machining; P-profile, traverse length = 2 mm; Pt = max. 4 μm	Material removing machining; transmission characteristic does not comply with standard case (cf. table) Rz = max. 1 μm; filter selection λs = 0.008 mm and λc = 2.5 m

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Drawing entries according to VDA 2007 – dominant waviness

WDc 0	2.5x5/WDt 2.5	0.8x16/Rz3 / 0.2x2.5x5/WDc1.5
Material removing machining; WDc 0 or WDt 0: no dominant waviness allowed	Material removing machining; in the period range up to 2.5 mm, WDt = max. 2.5 μm applies	Material removing machining; Rz: the evaluation length is 12.5 mm and λc = 0.8 mm, Rz = max. 3 μm; WDc: in the period range of 0.2 to 2.5 mm; WDc = max. 1.5 μm applies