Pumping Systems: Parallel and Series Configurations

For some piping system designs, it may be desirable to consider a multiple pump system to meet the design requirements. Two typical options include parallel and series configurations of pumps. Specific performance criteria must be met when considering these options.

Given a piping system which has a known design flow rate and head requirements, Q_{des} , h_{des} , the following pump selection criteria apply.



For example, if the design point for a given piping system were $Q_{des} = 600$ gpm, and $h_{sys} = 270$ ft, the following pump selection criteria would apply:

1. Single pump system	$Q(pump) = 600 \text{ gpm}, h_p = 270 \text{ ft}$
2. Parallel pump system	$Q(pump) = 300 \text{ gpm}, h_p = 270 \text{ ft}$ for each of the two pumps
3. Series pump system	$Q(pump) = 600 \text{ gpm}, h_p = 135 \text{ ft}$ for each of the two pumps

Example 11.6

It is desired to use the 32 in. pump of Fig. 11.7a at 1170 rpm to pump water at 60°C from one reservoir to another 120 ft higher through 1500 ft of 16 in. ID pipe with f = 0.030. Determine the operating point (hp & Q) and the pump power requirements and efficiency.



Fig. E11.6 Head and system curves vs Q

Neglecting minor losses, the energy equation can be written between the surfaces of the two reservoirs. Note that for these conditions the velocities at the reservoir surfaces is zero and kinetic energy change can be neglected.

$$H_s = z_2 - z_1 + \frac{V^2}{2g} \frac{fL}{D} = 120 \ ft + \frac{0.030 \cdot 1500 \ ft}{1.333 \ ft} \frac{V^2}{2g}$$

Since from continuity we know that $Q = V A = (\pi D^2/4) V$, the energy equation becomes

$$H_s = 120 \ ft + 0.269 \ Q^2$$
 with Q in ft³/s

Converting the flow rate Q to thousands of gal/min to be consistent with Fig. 11.7a we obtain

 $H_s = 120 \ ft + 1.335 \ Q^2$ with Q in 10³ gpm

Plotting the results for the system head and pump head vs. flow rate as shown in Fig. E11.6 we can graphically read a solution as

H = 430 ft and Q = 15,000 gpm

From Fig. 11.7a, the pump power and efficiency at the operating point are

BHP
$$\cong$$
 2000 hp and h \cong 80%

It is noted that a more common piping / pump system design and selection problem would proceed as follows:

- (1) The basic geometry, components and specifications of a piping system would be specified including a known design flow rate, Q_{des} .
- (2) Solve the energy equation for h_{sys} for a range of flow rates including Q_{des} .
- (3) Plot the system head curve vs flow rate and identify the design head requirements h_{des} at Q_{des}.
- (4) Review pump curves from various manufacturers to identify several pumps or pump systems capable of providing $h_p \cong h_{des}$ at Q_{des} .
- (5) Select final choice for pump or pump system to meet design based on additional factors such as (a) closeness of h_p to h_{des}, (b) pump efficiency and power requirements at design point, (c) pump costs.

Wind Turbines

Wind energy has been used to supply mechanical power for irrigation and electrical power for many years. Modern technology has led to the development of wind turbine systems that are beginning to see extensive use to supply electrical power for the power grid system in many countries. A simple streamtube model as shown in Fig. 11.30 will be used to develop a basic analysis for wind turbine performance.



Fig. 11.30 Streamtube model for flow through a wind turbine

Consider the control volume shown in Fig. 11.30, the momentum equation can be written between points 1 and 2 as

$$\sum F_x = -F = \dot{m}(V_2 - V_1)$$

Likewise, considering the control volume just before and after the disk, the momentum equation can be written as

$$\sum F_x = -F + (P_b - P_a)A = \dot{m}(V_a - V_b)$$

Equating these equations, we obtain for the propeller force

$$F = (P_b - P_a)A = \dot{m}(V_1 - V_2)$$

The incompressible Bernoulli equation can be written before and after the disk to obtain

From 1 to b

$$P_{\infty} + \frac{1}{2}\rho V_{1}^{2} = P_{b} + \frac{1}{2}\rho V^{2}$$
From a to 2

$$P_{a} + \frac{1}{2}\rho V^{2} = P_{\infty} + \frac{1}{2}\rho V_{2}^{2}$$

Note that we have defined the velocity V as the wind velocity at the disk swept area A. The mass flow rate is then given by $\dot{m} = \rho A V$.

Subtracting the last two equations gives

$$P_b - P_a = \frac{1}{2} \rho (V_1^2 - V_2^2) = \rho V (V_1 - V_2)$$
 with $V = \frac{1}{2} (V_1 + V_2)$

Thus, it is seen that an average velocity V at the disk face that is equal to the average of upstream wind and far wake speeds will satisfy both conservation of mass and momentum.

The power delivered by the disk is given by

$$P = FV = \rho AV^{2}(V_{1} - V_{2}) = \frac{1}{4}\rho A(V_{1}^{2} - V_{2}^{2})(V_{1} + V_{2})$$

The maximum possible power for a given wind speed V_1 is obtained by differentiating P with respect to V_2 and yields

$$P_{\text{max}} = \frac{8}{27} \rho A V_1^3$$
 and $V_2 = \frac{1}{3} V_1$

The maximum available power is the power associated with the kinetic energy of the approaching wind at the mass flow through the disk. This is given by

$$P_{avail} = \frac{1}{2} \dot{m} V_1^2 = \frac{1}{2} \dot{m} V_1^2$$

The maximum possible efficiency for an ideal frictionless wind turbine can then be expressed in terms of a *power coefficient* defined as

$$C_p = \frac{P}{\frac{1}{2}\rho A V_1^3}$$

The maximum power coefficient is then given by

$$C_p = \frac{16}{27} = 0.593$$

and is referred to as the Betz number. It provides an upper limit with which to compare the performance of actual wind turbines.

Figure 11.31 on the following page presents estimated performance curves of several wind turbine designs as a function of blade-tip speed ratio.



Fig. 11.31 Performance of various wind turbine designs