

Analysis of Gottingen 428 Airfoil Turbine Propeller Design with CFD Method on Gravitational Water Vortex Power Plant

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Abstract—along with technological development and the increase in human population, the electricity needs are increasing every year. However, 94% of a power plant in Indonesia still using fossil fuels that are a pollutant and non-renewable. In addition, NASA said that the earth's temperature had risen by 1°C since 1880 and the current carbon dioxide level was the highest in the last 650,000 years. Therefore, Indonesia needs to improve, in fact, Indonesia is one of the highest emission contributors in the world. Indonesia is not yet 100% electrified, there are still 2,519 villages without electricity. Gravitational Water Vortex Power Plant (GWVPP) is a micro hydro-power plant may answer the problem because it is easy renewable energy to be made and utilized in the NIZ (not interconnected zones) region. This study will examine the changes in the number and shape of the blade, as well as the length of the chord, to know the effect on turbine power so that it can produce higher efficiency at GWVPP. Propeller turbine with a Gottingen 428 airfoil analyzed using Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) method. The results show that the number of blades and the length of the chord is inversely proportional to the efficiency of the turbine, and the shape of the blade is more efficient when it's twisted.

Keywords—CFD, GWVPP, Micro Hydro, Renewable Energy, Turbine.

I. INTRODUCTION

Electricity needs are increasing every year, but the availability of energy sources such as oil, gas, and coal is depleting. In addition, the condition of the earth faced with climate change has worsened. This encourages people to immediately switch to using renewable energy by utilizing natural resources such as solar power, wind power, water flow, geothermal energy, and biological processes. In Indonesia itself, electricity distribution is being increased so that all regions to remote areas can experience the benefits of electricity so that it can increase the productivity of local residents and the economic growth of the country. To solve all those problems, Gravitational Water Vortex Power Plant (GWVPP) can be a solution because it is easy renewable energy to be made and utilized in the NIZ area.

GWVPP is a new type of low head turbine system where basin structures are used to form vortex flow, then kinetic energy can be generated from turbine rotation [1-4]. GWVPP can be used in river flows by constructing power plants in watersheds. River water will flow through the ditch to the basin which contains a turbine and returns to the river, so that the turbine will rotating to produce kinetic energy and converted into electrical energy. Based on data from the Turbulent company from Belgium, they claim that the turbine is safe to pass by fish and can produce power of 5 to 100 kW depending on the flow rate of the river and the head used [5-10]. This type of plant is very suitable for use in remote areas that have rivers, so that the area can be energy independent with a decentralized system.

II. METHOD

In this research, turbine was designed by using CAS Software and the computational fluid dynamic (CFD) simulated by CFD Tools. The output from simulation is to know the torque and how the water flow in the basin.

A. Preliminary

According to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, 94% of power plants in Indonesia still using pollutant and non-renewable natural resources. While the reserves of fossil fuels are projected to run out in the next few decades and the condition of the earth is getting worse towards global climate change due to global warming. The need for clean renewable energy is undeniable. For renewable energy potential in Indonesia, according to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources are in Table 1.

B. Turbine

Hydroelectric power plants are not separated from the turbine. Water turbines are devices for converting potential water energy into mechanical energy. This mechanical energy then converted into electrical energy by a generator.

Judging from the reaction, turbines can be divided into impulse turbines and reaction turbines. The selection of the type of turbine is strongly influenced by the head and flow rate at the plant location. In addition, efficiency and cost factors are often considered [11-20].

1) Impulse Turbine

The impulse turbine generally uses the speed of the water to move the runner and is released at atmospheric pressure. The flow of water sprayed each

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dish on the runner. Impulse turbines are generally suitable for those with high head and low water volume e.g. Pelton turbine (200-2000 meter; 4-15 m³/s) and cross flow turbine (<200 m; >15m³/s).

2) Reaction Turbine

The reaction turbine produces power from a combination of pressure and water movement. The runner is placed directly on the current flow. The reaction turbine is usually used for Hydroelectric Power Plant or Micro Hydro Power Plant which has a lower head and a larger flow rate than an impulse turbine e.g. Francis turbine, kinetic turbine, and propeller turbine.

Propeller turbines has been used as research objects. This turbine was chosen because it is capable

of working on a low head, high flow rate, and suitable for use on rivers. The propeller turbine generally has runners with 3 to 6 blades where the water hits all the blades constantly. The pitch of the blade can be designed to fix or adjustable.

C. Gravitational Water Vortex Power Plant (GWVPP)

Gravitational Water Vortex Power Plant is a type of green technology that falls in the category of the micro hydropower plant. It is currently being categorized as micro-hydropower because the maximum reported power generation had not exceeded 100kW. The main advantage of this power plant is the ultra-low hydraulic head requirement as well as environmentally friendly. In this plant, the water passes through a large, straight inlet,

TABLE 1.
RENEWABLE ENERGY POTENTIAL IN INDONESIA

Renewable Energy	Resources	Installed
Hydro	75.000 MW	5.250 MW
Geothermal	29.475 MW	1.403,50 MW
Biomass	32.000 MW	1.740,40 MW
Solar	4,80 kWh/m ² /day	71,02 MW
Wind and Hybrid	3-6 m/s	3,07 MW
Ocean	61 GW ***)	0,01 MW ****)
Uranium	3.000 MW *)	30,00 MW **)

*) Only in Kalan, West Kalimantan

**) As research center, non-energy

***) Source: Badan Litbang ESDM 2014

****) BPPT's Prototype

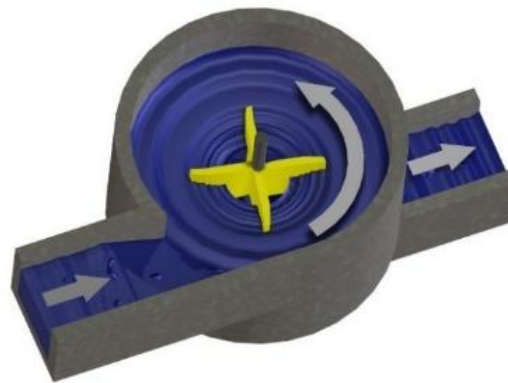


Figure 1. Gravitational water vortex power plant

TABLE 2.
PRICE/WATT COMPARISON FOR EACH POWER PLANT

Power Plant	Capacity Factor	Price/Watt
Hydro	52	1\$
Solar	25	1\$
Wind	34	2\$
Coal	85	2\$
Nuclear	90	2,1\$
Gas	87	Varies
GWVPP	>95	1\$

which then passes tangentially into a round basin. The water will then form a powerful vortex, which exits the outlet at the center bottom of the shallow basin as can be seen in figure 1. Due to its ultra-low hydraulic head requirement, the plant does not work on the pressure difference but on the dynamic force generated by vortex. Hence, the development and power generation costs are very low in the GWVPP compared to other hydropower technologies.

According to the turbulent company from Belgium, they are capable of producing 3 to 20 MW of power when combined. The design and installation are very easy and flexible with regard to the river conditions. With a decentralized system, the risk of damage that appears will decrease and the operating costs has been low. In addition, there is a monitoring system that makes it easier for us to carry out maintenance.

Based on research conducted by Anjali Mohanan M, a student of Government Engineering College, Barton Hill India. GWVPP has the highest Capacity Factor with the lowest price per watt compared to other types of plants, both with fossil fuels and renewable energy. Following is the comparison as in Table 2.

D. Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)

Computational Fluid Dynamic is a branch of fluid mechanics that uses numerical methods and algorithms to solve and analyze problems that involve the flow of fluid [10]. The principle is that space contains fluid to be calculated by divide it into several parts, this is often called a cell and the process is called meshing. The divided parts are a calculation control that has been carried out by the application or software. Later, at each calculation control point, the application has been calculated with the boundary domain and boundary conditions specified.

The results obtained at the closest control point of calculating the equations involved has been continued to the other closest control points continuously until the entire domain is fulfilled. Finally, the results obtained has been presented in the form of colors, vectors, and values that are easy to see with the range configuration taken from the largest and smallest values. In general, the CFD calculation process consists of 3 main parts:

1) Pre-processor

The stage where data is inputted starting from defining the domain and defining boundary condition. In this stage, an object has been divided by a certain number of grids or often referred to as meshing.

2) Solver

At this stage, the process of calculating input data is carried out with equations that are involved iteratively. This means that the calculation is done until the results lead to the smallest error or to reach a convergent value. The calculation is carried out thoroughly on the volume control with the discrete equation integration process.

3) Post-processing

The last stage where the results of calculations are interpreted into images, graphics and even animation with certain color patterns. Post-processors are increasingly developing with the advancement of engineering workstations that have considerable graphics and visualization capabilities.

E. Equation

There is a formula for use in this research consists of:

Specific hydraulic energy

$$E = g H_n \quad (1)$$

Where: E = specific hydraulic energy (J/kg)

g = gravitation (m/s²)

H_n = net head (m)

Specific speed of propeller turbine

$$n_{QE} = 2.716 / H_n^{0.5} \quad (2)$$

Where: n_{QE} = specific speed of propeller turbine

H_n = net head (m)

RPS of the turbine (n)

$$n = \frac{n_{QE} E^{\frac{3}{4}}}{\sqrt{Q}} \quad (3)$$

Where: n = RPS of the turbine

n_{QE} = specific speed of propeller turbine

E = specific hydraulic energy (J/kg)

Q = flow rate (m³/s)

Outside diameter (De) and inside diameter (Di) of turbine

$$De = 84.5 (0.79 + 1.602 n_{QE}) \frac{\sqrt{H_n}}{60 n} \quad (4)$$

$$Di = \left(0.25 + \frac{0.0951}{n_{QE}}\right) De \quad (5)$$

Where: De = outside diameter (m)

Di = inside diameter (m)

n_{QE} = specific speed of propeller turbine

H_n = net head (m)

n = RPS of turbine

Inlet surface area (A)

$$A = p l \quad (6)$$

Where: A = inlet surface area (m²)

p = inlet length (m)

l = inlet width (m)

Flow rate (Q)

$$v = Q/A \quad (7)$$

Where: v = water velocity (m/s)

Q = flow rate (m³/s)

A = inlet surface area (m²)

Mass flow (m)

$$m = \rho Q \quad (8)$$

Where: m = mass flow (kg/s)

ρ = density (kg/m³)

Q = flow rate (m³/s)

The potential power of the river (Pin)

$$Pin = \rho g H Q \quad (9)$$

Where: Pin = potential power of the river (watt)

ρ = density (kg/m³)

Q = flow rate (m³/s)

g = gravitation (m/s²)

H = Head of vortex (m)

Torque (T)

$$T = F R \quad (10)$$

Where: T = Torque (Nm)

F = Force (N)

R = Radius (m)

Angular speed (ω)

$$\omega = \frac{2 \pi n}{60} \quad (11)$$

$$v = \omega r \quad (12)$$

Where: ω = angular speed (rad/s)
 n = rotation per minute (rpm)
 v = water velocity (m/s)
 r = radius (m)

Power of turbine (P_{out})

$$P_{out} = T \omega \quad (13)$$

Where: P_{out} = power of turbine (watt)
 T = torque (Nm)
 ω = angular speed (rad/s)

Turbine efficiency (η_t)

$$\eta_t = \frac{P_{out}}{P_{in}} 100\% \quad (14)$$

Where: η_t = turbine efficiency (%)
 P_{in} = potential power of the river (watt)
 P_{out} = power of turbine (watt)

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Airfoil Gottingen 428

The airfoil selection referring to the paper *application of CFD to the design of the runner of a propeller turbine for small hydroelectric power plants* by Edwin Lenin, et al. The Gottingen 428 airfoil turbine propeller was recommended to be used for axial turbine.

B. Gravitational Water Vortex Power Plant (GWVPP)

The data in this research refer to data provided by Turbulent which is a Belgian Gravitational Water Vortex Power Plant Company. There are several data adjustments due to the limited information that can be provided. Some of the data is obtained from the results of other studies. The aim of this research only to obtain the turbine configuration with the highest efficiency, so that calculations are not carried out until the power generated by the generator.

The dimensions in Table 5 can be used to draw a basin by observing Figure 2. The author does not determine the river to be analyzed, therefore the river flow is assumed by referring to Turbulent data. From the river flow rate range in Table 5, three variations has been simulated on CFD Analysis tool, which is 2.8 m³ / h, 4.2 m³ / h, and 5.6 m³ / h. While the head using 2 m, taken from the minimum head value according to the ESHA (European Small Hydropower Association) in the book *Guide on How to Develop a Small Hydropower Plant* as in Table 6.

C. Turbine and Basin Design

Turbines and basin are modeled using CAD Software. Some configuration is carried out by several assumptions to get a streamlined model result.

- Angle of attack chord 0.49 = 29°
- Angle of attack chord 0.65 = 25°
- Twisted angle = 40°

The main dimensions of the basin follow the detailed specifications provided by Turbulent. Figure 3 is the basin structure planned for this research. The model is only made in parts that have vortex, because if it starts from the river it will produce a large simulation and requires a high end computer to run the simulation. Figure 4 is the turbine

model with variation as in Table 8. The turbine and basin model need to become one model before running the simulation.

When operating, the propeller turbine will work effectively if the head and river discharge tend to be stable. Therefore, in selecting the river location to be installed by GWVPP we need to make a periodic survey or looking for data on the river flow –if available– to determine the average flow rate and head. It needs to be done so that we know if there is an extreme change in flow rate which can significantly reduce the turbine efficiency. However, it is not impossible to apply the GWVPP to the areas with extreme rainfall changes. To anticipate flow rate which varies greatly over time, a retention pool might be needed to regulate the flow of water flowing into the basin. From Table 7 we can see each turbine tolerance to the head and flow rates variations.

D. Simulation

1) Input geometry

Models are made in CAD Software, so the author needs to import models from CAD Software with Parasolid file formats, e.g. .xmt, .stl, .stp, .igs, etc. which the author uses .igs because it is commonly used. The turbine model and basin model are made into one model, where the basin became the domain of simulation. The basin model is not the same as the model in figure 3, because the domain requires only one layer of the boundary, so there is no thickness on the model to be simulated. The simulated model consists of a basin model that is subtracted by a turbine model using boolean functions.

2) Meshing

In the meshing stage, as can be seen in figure 5, errors often occur due to incorrect models. Before generating meshing, the model needs to be defined as an inlet, outlet, and wall. After defining, face sizing and inflation are added to focus meshing on several cells that require higher accuracy too. Mesh used in this research is a type of unstructured mesh, where the cell shape is not structured. The number of meshing cells in this research only ranges from 450,000 to 512,000 cells.

3) Setup boundary

Problem type	: Single phase
Fluid	: Water
Analysis type	: Steady state
Reference pressure	: 1 atm
Heat transfer	: Thermal energy
Turbulence	: K-epsilon
Wall influence on flow	: No slip wall
Inlet	
Flow specification	: Normal speed
Normal speed	: 2.745 m/s; 4.118 m/s; 5.49 m/s
Temp. specification	: 27.6 °C
Outlet	
Flow specification	: Mass flow rate
Mass flow rate	: 2800 kg/s ; 4200 kg/s ; 5600 kg/s
Iteration number	: 500
Turbine material	: Aluminium
Basin material	: Concrete

TABLE 3.
 TURBINE CONFIGURATIONS

Turbine Shape	Number of Blade	Chord Length	Turbine Code
Curved	3	0,49 m	C-3-490
Curved	3	0,65 m	C-3-650
Curved	6	0,49 m	C-6-490
Curved	6	0,65 m	C-6-650
Twisted	3	0,49 m	T-3-490
Twisted	3	0,65 m	T-3-650
Twisted	6	0,49 m	T-6-490
Twisted	6	0,65 m	T-6-650

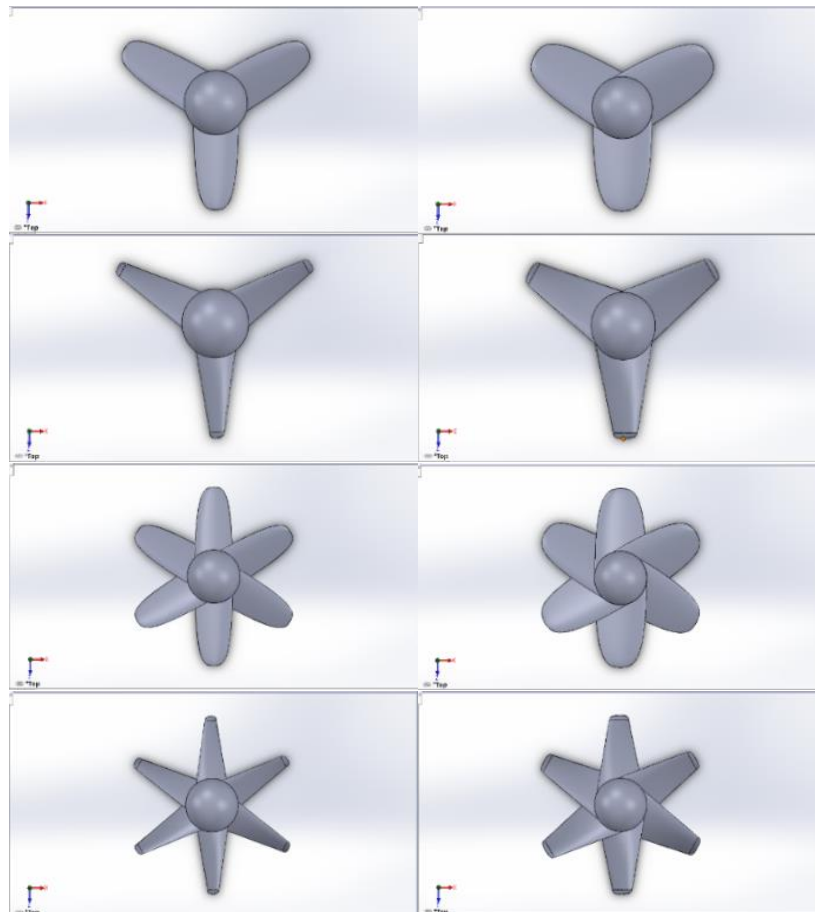


Figure 4. Turbine Model

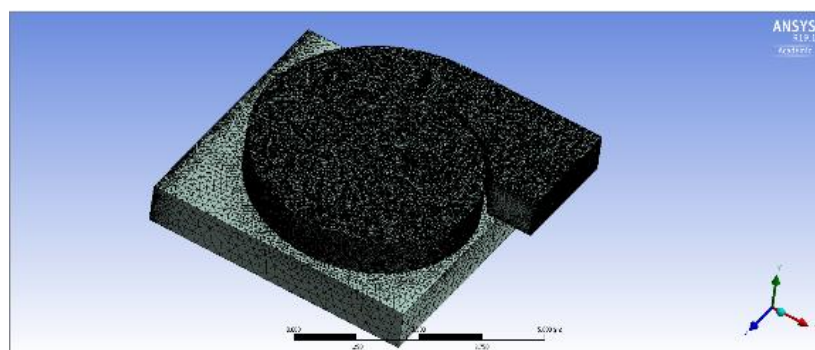


Figure 5. Meshing

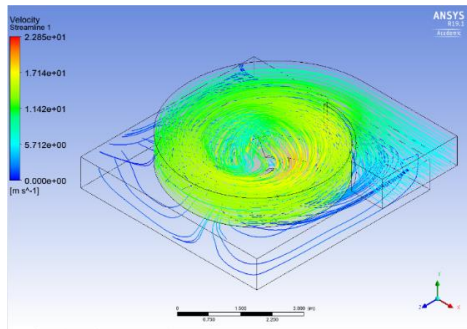


Figure 6(a). Turbine C-3-490 at speed 5.49 m/s

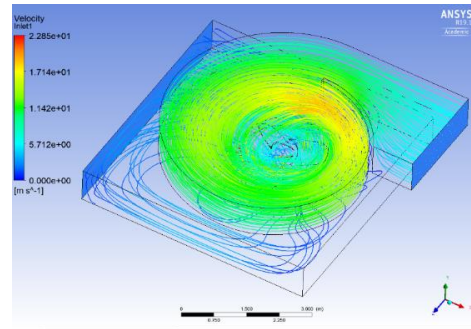


Figure 6(b). Turbine C-3-650 at speed 5.49 m/s

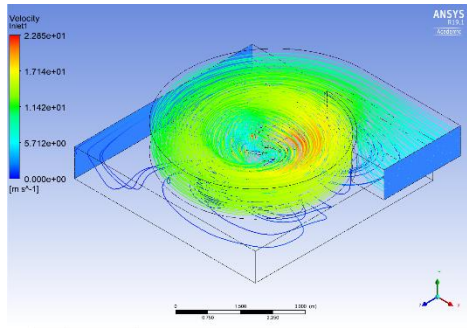


Figure 6(c). Turbine C-6-490 at speed 5.49 m/s

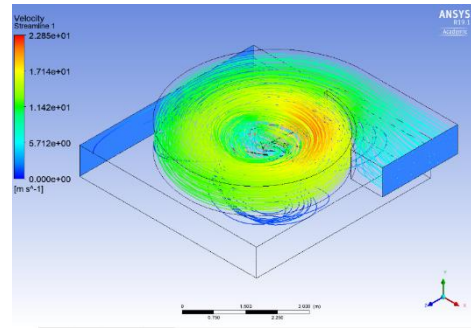


Figure 6(d). Turbine C-6-650 at speed 5.49 m/s

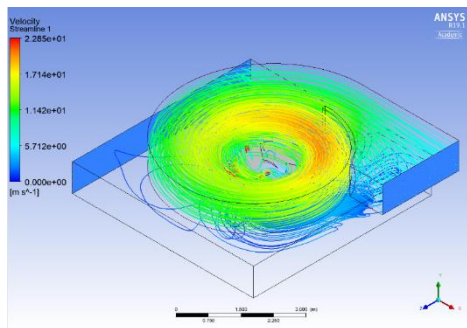


Figure 7(a). Turbine T-3-490 at speed 5.49 m/s

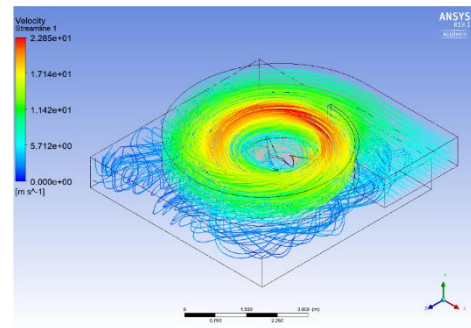


Figure 7(b). Turbine T-3-650 at speed 5.49 m/s

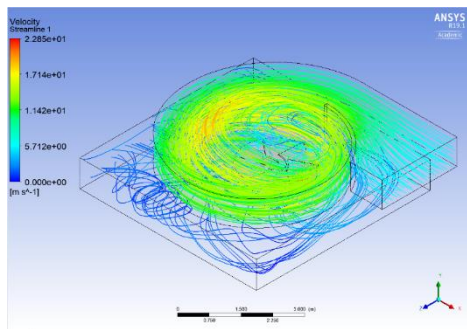


Figure 7(c). Turbine T-6-490 at speed 5.49 m/s

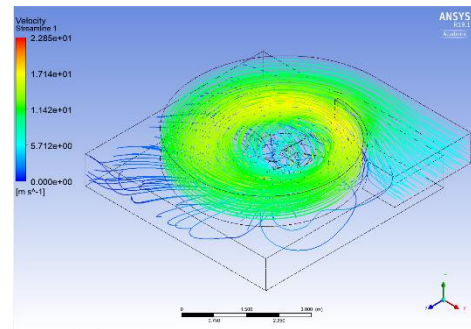


Figure 7(d). Turbine T-6-650 at speed 5.49 m/s

4) Iteration

At this stage, the process of calculating input data is carried out with equations that are involved iteratively. This means that the calculation is done until the results lead to the smallest error or to reach a convergent value. The calculation is carried out thoroughly on the volume control with the discrete equation integration process. This iteration takes a long time, ranges from 5-12 hours. The duration of iteration depends on the complexity of the model, the output to be obtained, the number of cells, and the type of accuracy used.

5) Post processing

In the visualization of each turbine, there are five main colors, light blue, green, yellow, orange, and dark blue. On the inlet side the flow velocity has been determined which is 2.745 m/s, 4.118 m/s, 5.49 m/s which is light blue, then moves towards the semi-circular basin there is a narrowing of the area so that the speed increases marked in green, then forms vortex so the flow speed increases with yellow and orange. When exiting the vortex area, because there is a large increase and pushing the turbine, the flow velocity drops with a dark blue color.

The color indicator next to the turbine is adjusted to the speed of each turbine. So, the color indication for each image has a different speed value even though it has the same color. In visualization 3 variations of speed can be seen clearly that the faster the water flows, the increase in speed when the water forms a very high vortex. This can be seen from the colors yellow and orange in the vortex.

The following visualizations can be seen in figure 6 and 7, shows that the T-3-650 turbine has orange color more intense. The orange color indicates that the velocity of the fluid is high. According to the results of previous studies, the speed is directly proportional to the efficiency of the turbine so that the T-3-650 may have the highest efficiency.

6) Validation

After getting the simulation results, inlets and outlets mass flow are compared. The mass flow value can be found in the function calculator by determining its function, mass flow, then select the location and fluid you want to find the value after that select calculate to find out the results. From the results calculated by the computer, the T-3-650 turbine simulation found that mass flow inlet 5583.2 kg/s and mass flow outlet 5341.6 kg/s, resulting in an error 4.33%.

E. Result Analysis

From the simulation results on the CFD Analysis tool, the torque data of each turbine is obtained in Table 9. Based on the data, when the number of blades is 6 with a chord length of 650 mm, the torque produced is greater.

TABLE 4.
TORQUE DATA

Blade Shape	V _{river} (m/s)	Blade Number			
		3		6	
Curved	2.745	5455.14	4767.93	4361.99	4819.24
	4.118	8398.07	7591.88	8185.89	7862.78
	5.490	10668.55	9959.43	10264.54	10574.81
Twisted	2.745	5145.69	5749.68	4411.07	4561.18
	4.118	7121.24	8568.86	7363.50	7712.84
	5.490	10886.98	9748.85	9876.30	10117.06
Torque of Turbine Table (Nm)		490 mm	650 mm	490 mm	650 mm
Chord Length (mm)					

TABLE 5.
POWER OF TURBINE DATA

Blade Shape	V _{river} (m/s)	Blade Number			
		3		6	
Curved	2.745	14.97	13.09	11.97	13.23
	4.118	34.58	31.26	33.71	32.38
	5.490	58.57	54.68	56.35	58.06
Twisted	2.745	14.13	15.78	12.11	12.52
	4.118	29.32	35.28	30.32	31.76
	5.490	59.77	53.52	54.22	55.54
Power of Turbine Table (kW)		490 mm	650 mm	490 mm	650 mm
Chord Length (mm)					

TABLE 6.
EFFICIENCY DATA

Blade Shape	V _{river} (m/s)	Blade Number			
		3		6	
Curved	2.745	27.26%	23.82%	21.80%	24.08%
	4.118	41.96%	37.94%	40.90%	39.29%
	5.490	53.31%	49.77%	51.29%	52.84%
Twisted	2.745	25.71%	28.73%	22.04%	22.79%
	4.118	35.58%	42.82%	36.79%	38.54%
	5.490	54.40%	48.71%	49.35%	50.55%
Efficiency of Turbine Table (%)		490 mm	650 mm	490 mm	650 mm
Chord Length (mm)					

This is in line with the theory because basically torque gets bigger when the weight of the object gets bigger. However, there is an anomaly at the 490 mm chord length, where torque is higher when the number of blades is 3.

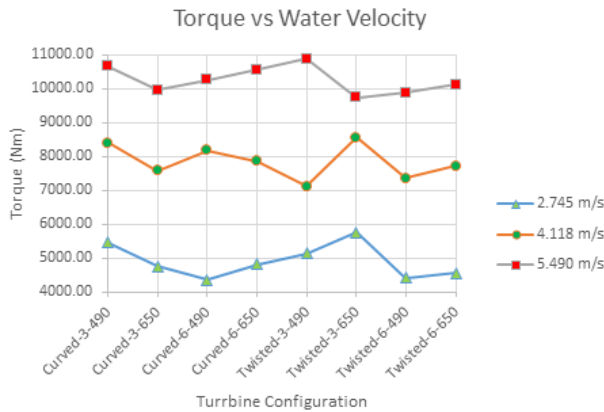


Figure 8(a). Torque vs Water Velocity

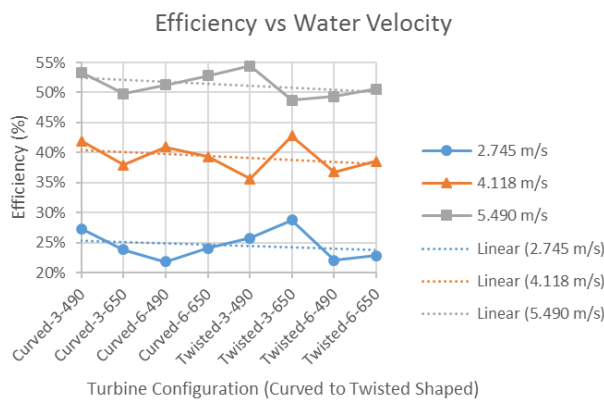


Figure 9(a). Efficiency vs Water Velocity (Comparison Between Curved and Twisted Blade)

As with the number of blades, the longer the chord will increase torque due to the greater weight of the object. This can be seen in the chord length 490 and 650 columns when the chord gets shorter the torque becomes bigger. According to the author's hypothesis, this might be due to the wider chord surface area resulting in the turbine more difficult to spin, so that the resulting torque is smaller on the longer chord.

In Table 10, it was found that the torque was slightly larger in curved form than twisted. Variations in river water speed also affect the torque that occurs in the turbine, where the faster the water flows, the greater the torque produced by the turbine. with the number of blades 6 in Table 10. However, the anomaly happens again, so it is quite confusing because

According to the torque data obtained from CFD Analysis tool, turbine power is obtained as in Table 10 and efficiencies data as in Table 11. Based on Table 11, the highest efficiency was obtained by the turbine with twisted-3 blade-490mm configuration at flow velocity 5.490 m/s and turbine with twisted-3 blade-650mm configuration at flow velocity 2.745 m/s and 4.118 m/s.

Based on Figure 8(b), turbines with twisted blade shapes have several turbines with higher efficiency. In theory, the blade is in the twisted shape to reduce drag force (attraction), so that more energy can be converted into power. But on the other hand, the shape of the twisted aims to get the optimal angle of attack at the tip of the blade (tip). However, efficiency tends to be lower in the form of a blade with a twisted shape, this is probably due

to the simulation results that are less accurate due to low-quality meshing.

Based on Figure 9(a), it is known that turbines with a low number of blades have higher efficiency. This is in

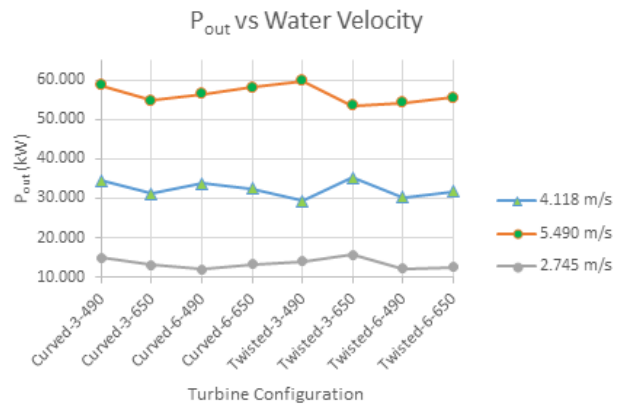


Figure 8(b). Power of Turbine vs Water Velocity

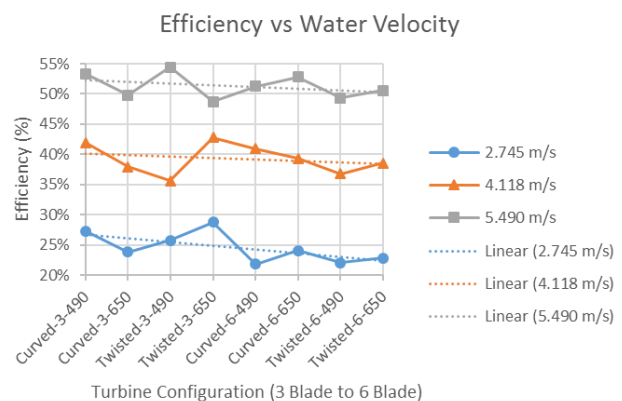


Figure 9(b). Efficiency vs Water Velocity (Comparison Between 3 Blade and 6 Blade)

accordance with the theory which says when the number of blades increases, it will increase the resistance in the water flow, the torque will increase and the RPM will decrease. So, the number of blades is inversely proportional to turbine efficiency.

Based on Figure 9(b), it is known that turbines with shorter chords tend to have higher efficiency, while longer chords tend to have lower efficiency. So, the chord length is inversely proportional to turbine efficiency. The lower length of the chord has high efficiency, probably due to its lighter weight, so that it can absorb greater thrust with smaller losses.

IV. CONCLUSION

The turbine efficiency is directly proportional to the flow velocity. This can be seen from each turbine configurations, their efficiency increases every time the river speed gets higher. The highest efficiency turbine is T-3-490 configuration with an efficiency of 25.71%, 35.58%, 54.40% at each speed. The variation in river speed analyzed is 2.745 m/s, 4.118 m/s, 5.490 m/s.

The efficiency of the turbine is inversely proportional to the number of blades. Turbines with 3 blades tend to have higher efficiency than turbines with 6 blades. Where the highest efficiency with 3 blades is T-3-490 turbine at 54.40% at the highest flow speed, while the highest efficiency with 6 blade turbine is C-6-650 at 52.84% at the highest flow rate.

Turbine efficiency is inversely proportional to the length of the chord. Turbines with 490 mm chord length

tend to have higher efficiency than turbines with 650 mm chord length. Where the highest efficiency with 490 mm chord length is T-3-490 turbine at 54.40% at the highest flow speed, when the chord length is 650 mm, the highest efficiency turbine is C-6-650 at 52.84% at the highest flow speed.

The efficiency of the turbine is greater when the turbine blade is twisted. Turbines with curved shaped blades tend to have higher efficiency than turbines with twisted shaped blades. Nevertheless, the blade with the twisted shape has the highest efficiency, where the highest efficiency of a twisted blade is the T-3-490 turbine at 54.40% at the highest flow speed, while the highest efficiency in the curved blade is C-3-490 at 53.31% at the highest flow speed.

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