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Obtaining the head characteristic of a Low Flow Centrifugal Pump by numerical methods

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Abstract. During the study of various problems related with centrifugal pumps, it would be extremely convenient to have a head characteristic (head-capacity curve) approximated by any mathematical function. In so doing, in the field of small pump output flow experiments show that its characteristic is linear. In order to verify that this characteristic is truly linear, a mathematical experiment was carried out using the methods of hydrodynamic modeling and its approximation was carried out using the least square method and the maximum deviation from it was calculated.

1. Introduction

To solve a number of scientific and technical problems [1-5], it is interesting to obtain a head-capacity curve of a low flow centrifugal pump as an analytical function. It is supposed [6-12] that in the field of small pump output flow the head-capacity curve is linear as friction losses are proportional to the square of the head and in the field of small pump output flow the square of the head can be neglected.

It should be emphasized that the problems related to the study of head-capacity curve of centrifugal pumps are highlighted in the literature [13-18], but the problem of the approximation of the head-capacity curves by the analytical function has not been adequately debated.

2. Mathematical model

For a solving this problem was developed a 3D model of a low flow centrifugal pump and a number of points of the head-capacity curve of this pump were calculated by numerical methods using the STAR-CCM + software package. The results of this calculation are presented in table 1:

Table 1. Estimated points of head-capacity curve of experimental low flow centrifugal pump.

No	H , m	Q , l/min
1	5.1	0
2	5.02	0.25
3	4.94	0.5
4	4.8	1.0
5	4.75	1.5
6	4.66	1.75
7	4.59	2.0



Therefore, we have the following estimated head-capacity curve characteristic of a low flow centrifugal pump. Figure 1 illustrates that the characteristics of a low flow centrifugal pump are approximately linear, which accords well enough with practice.

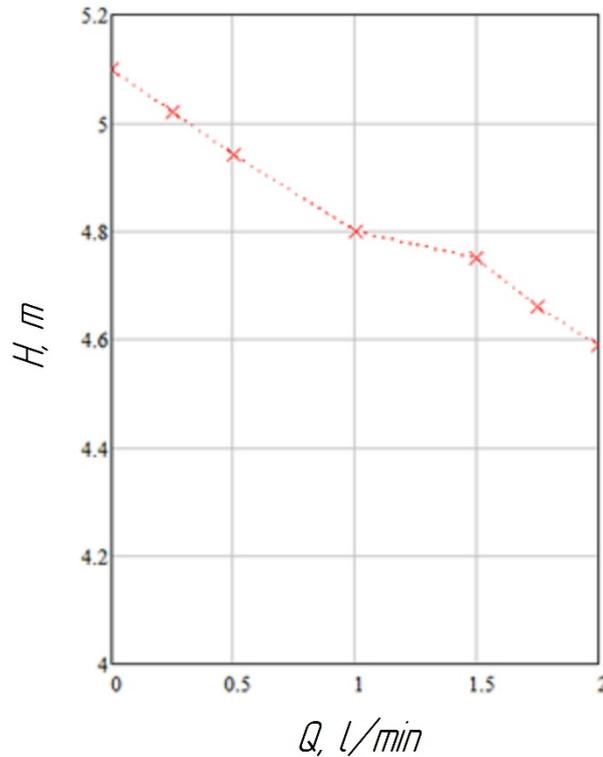


Figure 1. Estimated head-capacity curve characteristic of a low flow centrifugal pump.

However, it is interesting to check how linear the characteristic of a low flow centrifugal pump is. For this purpose, the method of least squares is used. We will carry out the approximation of the estimated head-capacity curve of the following function:

$$y = a + b \cdot x \quad (1)$$

As is known [18], in the case of a function form (1), the method of least squares for finding the coefficients a and b gives the following formulas:

$$b = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^n x_t \cdot y_t - \sum_{t=1}^n \frac{x_t}{n} \cdot \sum_{t=1}^n \frac{y_t}{n}}{\sum_{t=1}^n \frac{x_t^2}{n} - \left(\sum_{t=1}^n \frac{x_t}{n} \right)^2} \quad (2)$$

$$a = \sum_{t=1}^n \frac{y_t}{n} - b \cdot \sum_{t=1}^n \frac{x_t}{n} \quad (3)$$

where

x_t – is the t -th (current) value of pump output flow in table 1;

y_t – is the t -th (current) value of head in table 1;

n – is the number of points, in our case $n = 7$.

Substituting the values from table 1 into the system of equations (2)-(3), for our particular case we have

$$\begin{cases} b = -0,241(m \cdot min)/l \\ a = 5,079 m \end{cases}$$

Substitute the coefficients a and b into formula (1) and obtain the following approximation function:

$$H(Q) = 5,079 - 0,241 \cdot Q \quad (4)$$

Therefore, obtain following head-capacity curves (estimated curve is shown by dots, approximation curve is shown by line). Figure 2 illustrates that the maximum discrepancy between the approximation curve and the target points is observed at the point (4.8 m; 1 l/min) and is 0.037 m.

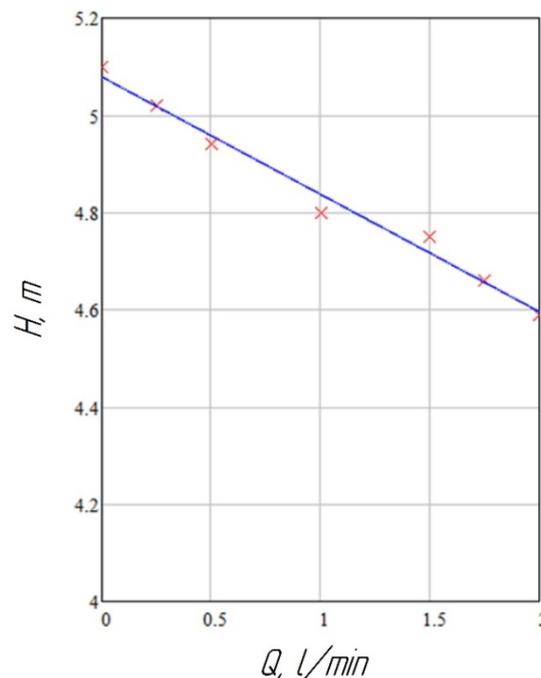


Figure 2. Estimated head-capacity curve of a low flow centrifugal pump.

Define the maximum admissible error of this discrepancy:

$$\sigma = \frac{4,837 - 4,8}{4,837} = 0,76\%$$

3. Conclusions

Therefore, it can be concluded that in the field of small pump output flow, the head-capacity curve of the low flow centrifugal pump is linear with an accuracy of less than 1%. This result can be used in scientific and practical activities for the mathematical modeling of low flow centrifugal pumps.

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