

Optimizing Hydraulic Jet Pump Using Empirical Volumetric Efficiency Equation and Approaching Nozzle-Throat Combination Ratio in Sembakung Area, Indonesia

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Abstract. Sembakung Area is mature structure which discovered in 1975. It is situated in North Kalimantan, around 50 miles from Tarakan island and currently undertaken by PT Pertamina EP since 2013. During 30 years of operation, many types of artificial lift trial have been used, such as ESP, rod pump, and hydraulic jet pump. Considering the structure has a massive sand problem, and moreover, the area itself is located in a remote and swampy area, rig mobilization and operations are very costly and hard to operate. As a result, a rig-less well service is needed and HJP is one of the obvious choice.

Earlier, in the design of HJP in Sembakung, the size of nozzle and throat used is not common and not following the general rule, causing the general HJP design software commonly used cannot predict accurately the actual condition and find the optimal design for optimal production. The study presented herein describes how to find the problem that led to inaccuratibility of software used.

In the design process, it was found that Volumetric Efficiency equation (from M.B. Standings) that commonly used in designing HJP cannot be applied to Sembakung structure. Thus, an empirical Volumetric Efficiency equation should be made to design HJP specifically used for use in this structure. The uncommon nozzle and throat combination itself can be approached from the method which will be discussed herein. This method is proved to be able to find the ratio of the HJP nozzle-throat combination in Sembakung with the highest efficiency and relatively faster.

Keyword: Hydraulic Jet Pump, Artificial Lift, Production Engineering

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1 Introduction

The structure of Sembakung, located in North Kalimantan Province, Indonesia, is an oil and gas field currently operated by PT. Pertamina EP Field Tarakan since 2013. With an area of 23.37 km^2 , there are 70 production wells with 38 active wells. Sembakung area reached its peak production in 1978 with production of 11,500 BOPD but along with the natural production decline, the current average production of Sembakung structure is around 1400 BOPD.

The artificial lift method used in the Sembakung structure is the Hydraulic Jet Pump. Hydraulic Jet Pump is an artificial lift which is rarely used in oil and gas fields in Indonesia. This is because the efficiency of

the Hydraulic Jet Pump is relatively low compared to other artificial lifts. However, the location of the Sembakung Structure in remote areas and its swampy conditions is an obstacle to workover and well service activities using rigs. Therefore, the use of a Hydraulic Jet Pump whose maintenance can be done Rig Less (without using a rig) is very profitable. Besides, the condition of the production fluid of the Sembakung Structure which is sandy and the well profile can be overcome by the use of a Hydraulic Jet Pump.

Hydraulic Jet Pump is an artificial lift that does not have moving parts inside the subsurface but instead, uses momentum transfer between the power fluid and the production fluid. The power fluid will enter the pump through the tubing and will pass through the pump nozzle where all the discharge pressure applied will be converted to velocity head. The jet from the nozzle will cause the production fluid from the formation to be carried away and mix with the power fluid into the throat. Then from the throat, the mixed fluid will pass through the diffuser where the velocity head is converted back into pressure. This pressure will bring the mixed fluid to the surface through the return tubing.

Currently, there are lots of software available to design various artificial lifts, one of which is for the Hydraulic Jet Pump. However, not all fields can use the software to get suitable designs for them. One of them happened in Sembakung Structure. Various Hydraulic Jet Pump design software has been tried but it is not suitable for real conditions in the field.

The results of the Hydraulic Jet Pump combination design using the software in Sembakung are often different from actual results in the well. Based on several design trials that uses software, with the desired combination of nozzle-throat and production rate target, there is a gap between the design and the actual condition in the well. The differences from these designs are re-designed and overlooked in these methods:

- Developing Empirical Volumetric Efficiency for Sembakung Area
- Determining the method, so that the nozzle-throat combination will matches the Sembakung condition

Table 1. Differences in Hydraulic Jet Pump Design Using Software and Actual Condition

2 Methodology

2.1 Well Requirement for Research Study

To select a well to be objected for this research study, this is the main criteria: wells are produced using HJP with a data from single production well (in Sembakung area normally 2 or 3 wells were operated from the same surface pump then the output production gathered in one flowline), this is to make sure the data is accurate enough for a subject of research

Furthermore, when designing the HJP pump for each well some input data is required as follows:

- 1. Surface pump type
- 2. Existing nozzle combination ratio
- 3. Surface pump pressure
- 4. Power fluid water cut
- 5. Oil produced specific gravity
- 6. Water produced specific gravity
- 7. Pump intake depth
- 8. Tubing pressure or vessel pressure
- 9. Casing pressure
- 10. Pump submergence (fluid level from sonolog data can be analysed)
- 11. Power fluid rate
- 12. Production rate
- 13. Producing water cut
- 14. Producing gas rate

From the requirement above, there are 9 wells from Sembakung Area that meet the requirement. This 9 well then selected to be object for this research, there are SBK-02, SBK-05, SBK-08, SBK-09, SBK-18, SBK-40, SBK-74, SBB-02, SBT-01.

2.2 Pattern Evaluation of Nozzle-Throat Ratio

The ratio of Nozzle-Throat Combination is a ratio of Nozzle Area (A_i) divided by Throat Area (A_t) . For design purposes, the size of each Nozzle and Throat Area was made in various numbers but in the same pattern for each ratio (R). In order of that, there will be a ratio that works at high head and low rate and at the other hand, there will be a ratio that works at low head but in high rate. Commonly there are around 5 ratios for each HJP Nozzle-Throat manufacturer. For example, nozzle-throat from Brown using 5 ratios.

"A" Ratio, is a ratio between nozzle and throat, which have a same number (example: nozzle number 1) divided by throat number 1 will have the same ratio with nozzle number 3 divided by throat number 3, etc). And "B" ratio, is a ratio between nozzle and throat, which have 1 different number (example: nozzle number 1 divided by throat number 2 will have the same ratio with nozzle number 4 divided by throat number 5). "C" ratio, is a ratio between nozzle and throat, which have 2 different numbers (example: nozzle number 1 divided by throat number 3 will have the same ratio with nozzle number 2 divided by throat number 4, etc). And it has the same pattern for "D" ratio, which have 3 different numbers and "E" ratio which have 4 different numbers.

The explanation above is a common pattern of ratio for designing Hydraulic Jet Pump. Unfortunately, Guiberson HJP does not have the same pattern, Guiberson HJP is a Hydraulic Jet Pump manufacturer that PT Pertamina EP Sembakung Area has been using until now. The ratio of each nozzle-throat combination has a different value, as a result of that there will be a lot of ratio for specific nozzle and throat size in Guiberson.

Table 2. Brown Nozzle-Throat Combination

At Brown Nozzle-Throat table, a ratio for each pattern have the same values (marked with the same color). Otherwise at Guiberson Nozzle-Throat table, a ratio for each pattern have a different value. With that information the common HJP design step will not work to get optimum design. In order to get the optimum design for Guiberson HJP, it needs to add steps and modification to get the most efficient Nozzle-Throat combination, power fluid rate, and discharge pressure of surface pump.

2.3 Approaching Method for Guiberson Nozzle-Throat Optimum Design

Illustration below shows the part of common step design for optimum HJP operation

Previous design step from the illustration above is a step from inputting data until getting values of H. From the illustration above, first select the ratio that contains a highest efficiency, calculated nozzle area design, then select a nozzle with the minimum difference between nozzle area design and actual nozzle area. Since the ratio have been selected before, therefore it must be a specific Throat for each Nozzle. This step does not applicable for Guiberson HJP type that have specific ratio for each nozzle-throat combination. See illustration below for Guiberson HJP type condition.

Fig 2. Part of general HJP design using Guiberson nozzle-throat combination

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For Guiberson HJP type, after selecting a ratio which have highest efficiency, same as before, then compare the result of nozzle area from design and the actual nozzle area. If the difference is too far, then design process cannot be continued because for each specific ratio only have one pair of nozzle and throat. This condition makes Guiberson HJP type relatively hard to find the optimum design of HJP.

To solve this problem, it needs to change the step of design. Since Guiberson HJP type only have 1 pair of nozzle and throat for each ratio (it means the amount of ratio must be so high, in line with the total amount of nozzle-throat combination), then adding these 2 terms is a good step after choosing a ratio with highest efficiency. Selecting new ratio from all of the nozzle-throat combination which matches these 2 terms:

> $|R_{\text{max}}_{eff} - R_{\text{new}}| \leq 0.015$ $A_{i\,actual} - A_{i\,design} \approx minimum$

Note that R_{new} is a function of $A_{j\,actual}$: $f(R_{new}) \rightarrow A_{i\,actual}$

To make it brief, see illustration below that reflects the explanation above:

Fig 3. Part of general HJP design using approximate ratio and nozzle area calculation

The chosen ratio with highest efficiency will be a target ratio, as well the actual nozzle area for that ratio. Next step, find the closest ratio that also have nozzle area close with the target nozzle area. By adding this step, it can overcome the Guiberson HJP type weakness to find optimum HJP design.

2.4 Volumetric Efficiency Equation Evaluation

The present of gas in producing fluid makes the HJP design for single phase liquid need to be corrected. In Brown's book (see HJP design flowchart for multiphase flow), the values of M, which is the ratio of production liquid rate divided by power fluid rate, should be corrected by volumetric efficiency constant so that the design matches the actual condition. The parameter that affected Volumetric efficiency is GOR, production water cut, and pump intake pressure. Commonly the volumetric efficiency equation that

used around the world was made by M.B Standings. Unfortunately, M.B Standings volumetric efficiency equation did not meet Sembakung area condition. When using this equation, design of HJP did not match the actual condition (see table 4 below).

To approach an actual condition in Sembakung, it needs an empirical volumetric efficiency equation that satisfies Sembakung condition with its Guiberson HJP. With accurate volumetric equation, the result of design will be closer to actual condition so that production optimization will be easier to achieve.

2.5 Construction of Volumetric Efficiency Empirical Equation for Sembakung Area

It has been discussed above that volumetric efficiency equation from M. B Standings did not meet Sembakung condition, with this equation the comparison of the actual parameter versus the result of design parameter has a significant difference. To overcome this condition, we need to develop an empirical equation that matches Sembakung Area requirements.

First step to develop an empirical equation, we should know the parameters that affect the volumetric efficiency (see graphic below):

Fig 4. Graph of Volumetric Efficiency from M. B Standings

Fig. 4 is derived from M. B Standings equation to get volumetric efficiency without calculating. Actually, there are 4 parameters that affect volumetric efficiency: GOR, water cut, pump intake pressure, and API of oil. The last parameter can be neglected since Sembakung area only has one reservoir, thus have the same fluid parameter as well with an average API of oil around 40 API. To develop an empirical equation, we need the values of actual VE in each well condition as a targeted value for the constructed equation. By using the reverse calculation method, actual VE values can be obtained. Reverse calculation is a method which the calculation started from the last step of design by inputting the final output design (from actual data that measured or directly obtained, not calculating) then continues backward the calculation until the data that's missing to be found. See the illustration below:

Fig 5. Illustration of Forward Calculation

Illustration shown above is a forward calculation, which to obtain the value of C, A value should be multiplied by B value. If the value of C has measured or obtained from field data, then reverse calculation can be done to obtain the values of B. See illustration below:

Fig 6. Illustration of Reverse Calculation

To obtain B value, can be done by dividing C of A. A is illustrated as a result of HJP design partial step until get M_{graph} . B is illustrated as VE, and C illustrated as M_{VE} (result of M_{graph} multiply by VE). From field data, the values of power fluid rate and production rate can be measured, thus the values of M_{VE} or illustrated by C value can be obtained $\left(M_{VE} = \frac{q}{\mu_{PE}}\right)$ $\sqrt{q_1}$). The value of A can be obtained as well by following the step design (forward design) until M_{graph} obtained. Since $M_{VE} = M_{graph} x VE$, then the values of VE (illustrated by B) can be obtained by dividing M_{VE} with M_{graph} . Table 5. show the value of VE from 9 well represented along with PIP, GOR, WC data.

Well	Test Date	PIP	GOR	WC	Actual Ve	
		$\overline{DS1}$	scf/bbl	$\%$	$\%$	
$SBK-08$	23 -Dec-19	11	43	70	26	
$SBK-02$	11-May-20	124	91	85	31	
$SBK-05$	06 -Jun-20	57	40	70	31	
$SBK-09$	$25-Apr-20$	88	70	83	28	
SBK-18	11-May-20	11	108	76	12	
$SBK-40$	23-May-20	152	80	84	41	
$SBK-74$	23 -Apr-20	15	104	5	7	
$SBB-02$	16-Jul-20	$\overline{4}$	103	63	8	
SBT-01	24-Nov-19	26	47	65	23	

Table 5. Actual VE from Reverse Calculation Method

After the values of actual VE obtained, the next step is to develop empirical equations for VE. Multivariable regression method was chosen to develop the equation by targeting actual VE as dependent variable of parameter PIP, GOR, WC (independent variable). The result of multivariable regression was:

 $VE = 0.152 (PIP) - 0.206 (GOR) + 0.0728 (WC) + 25.642$

Regression Statistics						
Multiple R	0.985228					
R Square	0.970674					
Adjusted R Square	0.953078					
Standard Error	2.507725					
Observations						

The equation above is the empirical equation of VE for Sembakung Area. From the parameter R Square (0.97) the equation likely to have an accurate prediction of VE, which means that each parameter has a

strong relation to VE. To check the accuracy of the equation, data from 9 representative wells was calculated to obtain predicted VE by using the equation. The result is shown in Table 6.

From the table above, difference between actual VE and predicted VE was insignificant (less than 3%), and the average error only 9%. From the explanation above, it can be concluded that this empirical equation was acceptable for Sembakung area.

2.6 Software Development

After developing method to overcome weakness of Guiberson HJP type and also getting the accurate VE for Sembakung area, next step is developing a software so that design process and optimization can be done easier. For the purpose of piloting project, the software developed on Microsoft Excel that has been made (see fig. 7 screen capture of the software) and the result of design production matching will be discussed in the next chapter.

Fig. 7 Display of The Software

3 Result and Discussion

3.1 Design Evaluation with Existing Parameters

After developing the new software, an evaluation of the existing well parameters are conducted to see how the software performs in describing the actual condition. The result is shown on Table 7.

Table 7. Result Comparison between General Software vs Newly Developed Software

From the Table above, the software uses the same parameter such as Nozzle Throat Combination (N/C) and Inflow Performance Relationship (IPR) derived from Gross Production and Well Flowing Pressure to compare the actual and design data of Power Fluid Rate and Power Fluid Pressure. As the result, the new software could minimize the average error twice than the old one from 20% to 9.6%.

3.2 Determination of the Optimum Parameters for the Design HJP of Sembakung Well

For the next step, the software then used to find the optimum parameter to design the HJP Parameter in Sembakung Well. To optimize the HJP for Sembakung Wells, there are several surface parameter limitations to be considered below:

- 1. Maximum Discharge Pressure of Surface Pump
- 2. Range of Surface Pump Rate
- 3. Other Surface Limit Diagram

Well	Pump Type	Min Pump Rate	Max Pump Rate	Max Pump Press	Flowline Rating 2" Pipe Sch 160	Xtree Rating	Tubing Rating 2-7/8" 6.4 ppf J-55	
		blpd	blpd	psi	psi	psi	psi (for 1500 m wells)	
SBK-08	$J-130M(2")$	900	2300	3000	6500	5000	5100	
SBK-02	$J-60M(1.75")$	700	1500	3000	6500	5000	5100	
SBK-05	$J-130M(2")$	900	2300	3000	6500	5000	5100	
SBK-09	$J-130M(2")$	900	2300	3000	6500	5000	5100	
SBK-18	$J-100T4H(2")$	900	2300	3000	6500	5000	5100	
SBK-40	$J-130M(2")$	900	2300	3000	6500	5000	5100	
SBK-74	$J-100T4(1.75")$	700	1800	3000	6500	5000	5100	
SBB-02	$J-130M(1.75")$	700	1800	3000	6500	5000	5100	
SBT-01	$J-130M(2")$	900	2300	3000	6500	5000	5100	

Table 8. Surface and Subsurface Limitations Pressure

From the table above, using the maximum pump pressure 3000 psi as the limitation, the software then calculates the best Nozzle-Throat Combination and power fluid rate for all the Sembakung HJP Wells using existing DP for best comparison.

	Pump Type	Gross	Existing Parameters				Optimization Parameters				Low/Gain
Well		Actual	DP Actual	PF Actual	N/C	Power	DP Design	PF Design	N/C	Power	Power
		blpd	psi	blpd		HP	psi	blpd		HP	HP
SBK-08	$J-130M(2")$	168	2500	1381	D7	59	2500	1308	D7	56	-3
SBK-02	$J-60M(1.75")$	154	2800	1177	$C+7$	56	2800	815	$B+4$	39	-17
SBK-05	$J-130M(2")$	276	2800	1950	E9	93	2800	1364	D7	65	-28
SBK-09	$J-130M(2")$	278	2600	1980	E9	88	2600	1303	D7	58	-30
SBK-18	$J-100T4H(2")$	79	2500	1980	E9	84	2500	1790	E ₈	76	-8
SBK-40	$J-130M(2")$	259	2800	1502	D8	71	2800	1110	$C+6$	53	-19
SBK-74	$J-100T4(1.75")$	61	2700	1410	D7	65	2700	1101	$C+6$	51	-14
$SBB-02$	$J-130M(1.75")$	55	2700	1353	$C+6$	62	2700	935	C ₅	43	-19
SBT-01	$J-130M(2")$	126	2600	1197	$C+7$	53	2600	787	$B+4$	35	-18
								Total Low/Gain		-156	

Table 9. Best Combination of HJP Parameter for Each Well

From the table above, the new software shows the best combination of HJP parameter for each well. After optimization with new parameter from new software, the power consumption of HJP will be lower.

4 Conclusion

The following conclusions and observations are based on the data presented in this paper:

- 1. The general HJP software is not suitable for HJP in Sembakung Area
- 2. The problem of nozzle throat combination used in Sembakung can be solved by approximating nozzle throat ratio and nozzle area calculations.
- 3. Empirical equation has been made using multivariable regression could replace M.B Standings volumetric efficiency with lower error
- 4. New HJP Software is proven to be able to describe the existing conditions of Sembakung with an error of less than 10%
- 5. New HJP Software is proven to be able to provide recommendations for the most optimal combination of HJP parameters so that it can reduce power consumption in Sembakung

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