

# Design of Impeller for Centrifugal Compressor

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**Abstract:** This compressor is a dynamic compress which depends on a rotating impeller to compress the air. Impeller is the most important part of the centrifugal compressor components. Detail design calculation of centrifugal compressor impeller is described in this research. This study contains a complete set of detail drawing for blade profile of impeller. It can be used at sites which flow rate is  $0.1275 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$  and 45561 rpm. The required data are collected from Ahlone Power Station which is located in Yangon. For the given capacity, the inlet and outlet diameter are 0.054 m and 0.17 m and the number of blade is 19.

**Keywords:** Impeller, Pressure, velocity, centrifugal compressor

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Centrifugal compressor is one of the oldest turbo machinery, widely used in various industries like, aviation, oil and gas, refrigeration, etc. Centrifugal compressor is a radial turbomachine, which compresses air or gas with the action of centrifugal force. During the Second World War, the centrifugal compressors were used by British and American fighter aircrafts, as a part of early development of gas turbine engines. Later, during the 1950s, a large number of turboprop, turbofan, turbo-shafts and auxiliary power units started using the centrifugal compressors for air compression due to their high pressure raising capability in a single stage and their robustness in case of foreign object damage.

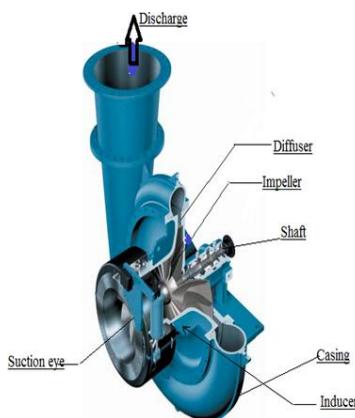


Figure 1. Basic Component of centrifugal compressor

Centrifugal compressors are a key piece of equipment for modern production. Among the components of the centrifugal compressor, the impeller is a pivotal part as it is used to transform kinetic energy into pressure energy. Impeller is an active part that adds energy to the fluid, its geometry plays a major role in the centrifugal compressors performance. An impeller is a wheel or rotor which is provided with a series of

backward curved blades or vanes. It is mounted on a shaft which is couple to an external source of energy which imparts the required energy to the impeller thereby making it to rotate. The impellers may be classified as;

- Shrouded or closed impeller,
- Semi-open impeller and
- Open impeller.

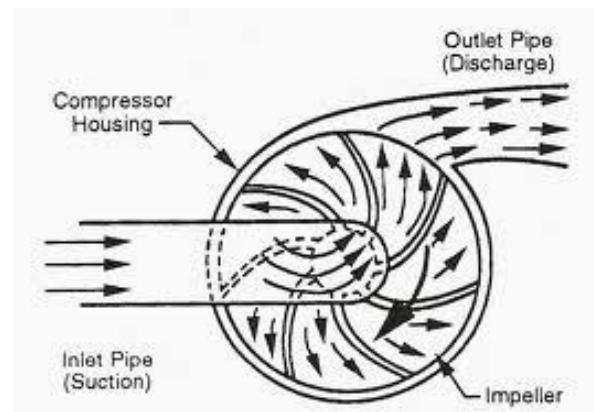


Figure 2. Working Principle of centrifugal compressor

## 2. SPECIFICATION DATA

Inlet pressure , $P_1$	= 1030.765 kPa
Inlet temperature , $T_1$	= 380 K
Rated speed , $N$	= 45561 rpm
Outlet pressure , $P_2$	= 1799.6 kPa
Outlet temperature , $T_2$	= 448 K
Capacity , $Q$	= $0.1275 \text{ m}^3/\text{s}$
Air mass flow rate , $\dot{m}$	= $1.5907 \text{ kg/s}$

Centrifugal compressor with this specifications has been installed on Ahlone Power Station at Ahlone Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

### 3. METHODOLOGY

The understanding of compressor operation is the ideal gas law, which is expressed in equation from the follows;

$$Pv = ZRT \quad (1)$$

The general form of the thermodynamic head equation for a polytropic process is

$$H_p = ZRT_1 \frac{n}{n-1} \left[ \left( r_p \right)^{\frac{n-1}{n}} - 1 \right] \quad (2)$$

This equation drives from integrating the steady-state, steady flow work equation given by:

$$H_p = \int v dp \quad (3)$$

The polytropic process is of form:

$$Pv^n = \text{constant} \quad (4)$$

#### 3.1 Impeller Inlet Dimension

$$D_s = \sqrt[3]{\frac{16T}{\pi S_s}} \quad (5)$$

The eye diameter  $D_o$  may be found from the continuity equation:

$$\frac{\pi}{4} D_o^2 - \frac{\pi}{4} D_h^2 = \frac{Q}{V_o}$$

$$D_o = \sqrt{\frac{4 \times Q}{\pi \times V_o} + D_h^2} \quad (6)$$

The mean diameter of the vane inlet is made slightly greater than the impeller eye diameter.

Speed of sound of gas, a

$$a = \sqrt{k \times g \times R \times T_1} \quad (7)$$

The impeller inlet hub Mach number is 0.2 to 1 for compressible fluid. The value of Mach number is 0.3 (assumed).

The impeller absolute velocity equation is

$$V_o = M \times a \quad (8)$$

The air enters the impeller eye to tip in the axial direction and prewhirl angle is zero, so that  $V_1 = V_{fl}$  and is made slightly greater than  $V_o$ .

Impeller inlet width,  $b_1$

$$b_1 = \frac{Q}{\pi \times V_1 \times D_1 \times \epsilon_1} \quad (9)$$

Impeller inlet velocity,  $U_1$

$$U_1 = \frac{\pi D_1 N}{60} \quad (10)$$

#### 3.2 Impeller Inlet Dimension

Impeller Outlet diameter,  $D_2$

$$D_2 = \frac{60 \times \sqrt{H_p \times g}}{\pi \times n \times \sqrt{K'}} \quad (11)$$

Therefore

$$V_{o2} = V_{fl} \quad (12)$$

The outlet width is expressed by the following equation,

$$b_2 = \frac{Q}{\pi \times V_2 \times D_2 \times \epsilon_2} \quad (13)$$

The outlet vane thickness factor  $\epsilon_2$  can be calculated with following equation;

$$\epsilon_2 = \frac{\pi \times D_2 - \frac{z \times t}{\sin \beta_2}}{\pi \times D_2} \quad (14)$$

#### 3.3 Enthalpy and Efficiency

The greater the number of vanes, the smaller the slip, i.e. the more nearly  $V_{o2}$  approaches  $U_2$ . It is necessary in design to assume a value for the slip factor  $\sigma$ ;

$$\sigma = \frac{V_{o2}}{U_2}$$

To find the number of number of blades, the following equation is used.

$$\sigma = 1 - \frac{0.63\pi}{z} \quad (15)$$

A relation between  $h$  and  $T$ , the most general form of  $h$  as  $h=h(p,T)$ , then

$$dh = \left( \frac{\partial h}{\partial T} \right)_p dT + \left( \frac{\partial h}{\partial p} \right)_T dp$$

Since the specific heat at constant pressure is defined as

$$c_p = \left( \frac{\partial h}{\partial T} \right)_p, \text{then}$$

$$dh = c_p dT + \left( \frac{\partial h}{\partial p} \right)_T dp$$

An ideal gas  $h$  is a function of  $T$  only.

$$\text{Consequently, } \left( \frac{\partial h}{\partial p} \right)_T = 0 \text{ and}$$

$$dh = c_p dT \quad (16)$$

The efficiency defined on the basic of this ideal work is the compressor efficiency.

$\eta_c$ =ideal work between the stagnation states/actual work

$$\eta_c = \frac{h_{02s} - h_{01}}{h_{02} - h_{01}} \quad (17)$$

Inlet blade angle,  $\beta_1$

$$\beta_1 = \tan^{-1} \frac{V_1}{U_1} \quad (18)$$

Outlet blade angle,  $\beta_2$

The compressor industry commonly uses a backward leading blade with angle,  $\beta_2$  of between about 55-75 deg.

The blade outlet angle of 75 deg is maximum power position.

Therefore, the maximum design condition the outlet blade angle,  $\beta_2 = 75$  deg.

$H_p$  : polytropic head, kNm/kg

$D_s$  : shaft diameter, m

$D_o$  : eye diameter, m

$D_1$  : inlet diameter, m

$D_2$  : outlet diameter, m

a : speed of sound, m/s

M : mach number

b : width, m

$\varepsilon_1$  : inlet vane thickness factor(0.8 to 0.9)

z : number of blades

$\sigma$  : slip factor

#### 4. VALUE OF MACH NUMBER

The analytical design of impeller inlet result data are expressed by graphs.

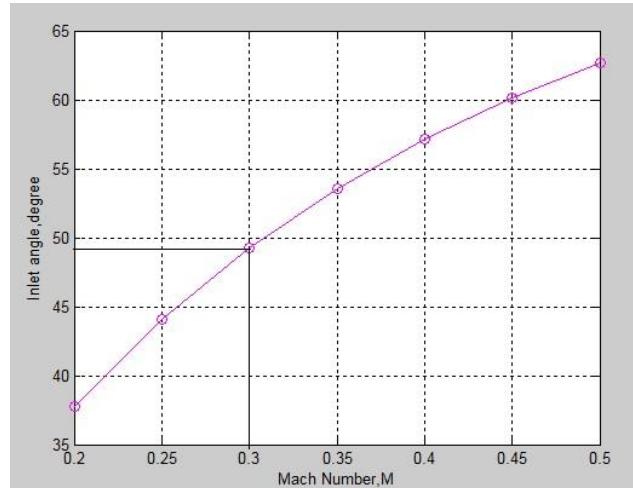


Figure 3. Mach number and Blade inlet angle

The relation between the blade inlet angle and Mach number are illustrated in Fig 2. This graph shows the larger the blade inlet angle, the higher the Mach number.

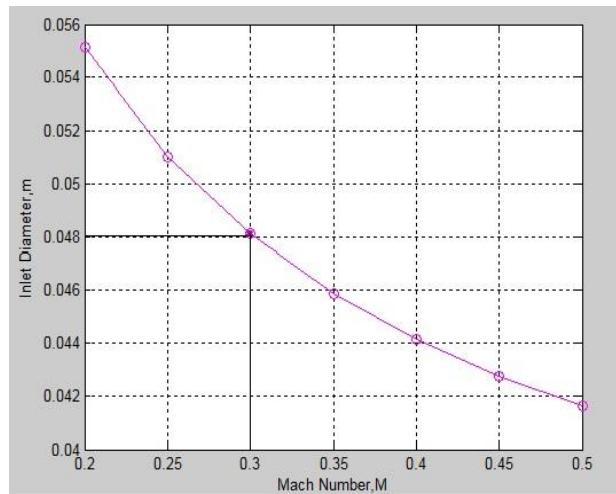


Figure 4. Mach number and Inlet diameter

The relation between the inlet diameter and Mach number are illustrated in Fig 3. This graph shows the smaller the inlet diameter, the higher the Mach number.

Based on these conditions Mach number, M is 0.3, at that point of data is nearly equal to the actual of the centrifugal compressor impeller inlet. Therefore, the design is satisfied for at that point of data.

#### 5. THEORETICAL RESULTS

TABLE I  
CALCULATED DATA OF IMPELLER

no	Design Parameter	Symbol	Values	Units
1	Polytropic head	$H_p$	67.411	kNm/kg
2	Torque	T	32.906	N-m
3	Speed of sound	a	390.221	m/s
4	Mach number	$M_1$	0.3	-
5	Inlet velocity	$U_1$	103.283	m/s
6	Absolute velocity at inlet	$V_1$	119.993	m/s
7	Relative velocity at inlet	$V_{r1}$	158.322	m/s
8	Inlet blade angle	$\beta_1$	49.5	deg
9	Outlet velocity	$U_2$	346.22	m/s
10	Absolute velocity at outlet	$V_2$	336.209	m/s
11	Relative velocity at outlet	$V_{r2}$	124.226	m/s
12	outlet blade angle	$\beta_2$	75	deg
13	Outlet Mach no;	$M_2$	0.8	-
14	efficiency	$\eta$	94	%

TABLE II  
 COMPARISON OF CALCULATED AND EXISTING DATA

	Design Parameter	Symbol	Unit	Calculated data	Actual data
1	Shaft diameter	$D_s$	m	0.02	0.0254
2	Hub diameter	$D_h$	m	0.0225	0.028
3	Eye diameter	$D_o$	m	0.047	0.053
4	Inlet diameter	$D_1$	m	0.048	0.054
5	Outlet diameter	$D_2$	m	0.161	0.17
6	Inlet width	$b_1$	m	0.009	0.0098
7	Outlet width	$b_2$	m	0.0021	0.0025
8	Number of vanes	$z$	-	19	19

The design of impeller in this paper is calculated inlet and outlet diameters and blade width and number of blades. The designed data of impeller inlet in this research are as well as the shaft diameter  $D_s$  is 0.02m, the hub diameter  $D_h$  is 0.0225m, Eye diameter  $D_o$  is 0.047m, Impeller inlet diameter  $D_1$  is 0.048m, Impeller outlet diameter  $D_2$  is 0.161m, Inlet width  $b_1$  is 0.009m, Outlet width  $b_2$  is 0.0021m. All of the calculated data are slightly smaller than the actual data. This calculated data can be accepted because this data are situated between 20% error. The number of impeller blade is same at these two data.

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

Centrifugal compressors are compressible flow machine. Centrifugal compressor from ‘Ahlon Power Station’ is designed in this paper. This paper is attempted to design a single stage centrifugal compressor from ‘Ahlon Power Station’. The design of impeller in this paper is inlet and outlet diameter and number of blades and blade width. This paper describes the inlet and outlet velocity triangle. And this research shows the pressure and velocity distribution by using COMSOL Multiphysics software.

Types of compressor are used in many services and power generation. Centrifugal compressors compress air to raise pressure at high speed. This compressor use also main component in aircraft gas turbine. In this paper, the centrifugal compressor is designed with data from ‘Ahlon Power Station’.

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