

## Fire Protection Hydraulics and Water Supply Analysis

FPST 2483 Unit 06  
Analysis of Looped and  
Gridded systems

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## Module objective

- Upon completing this module, the student should be able to:
  - Use the try and error method for a simple loop;
  - Apply the split flow formula.
  - Use equivalent length in complex loops
  - Understand and use Hardy-cross method in loop calculations

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## Friction Loss in Loops and Grids

- Why loop is important?
  - Multiple supplies of water
  - Balance of forces
- Simple Loops
- Complex Loops
- Piping Systems

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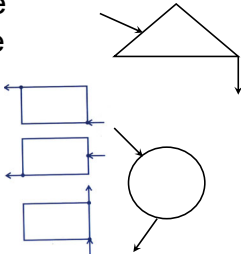
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## Simple Loops



- There is exactly one inflow point and one outflow point.
- Exactly two paths exist between the inflow and outflow points.



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## Simple Loops



Additional Concepts:

- Total flow** in must equal flow out
- Total flow must equal sum of two paths  
 $Q_t = Q_1 + Q_2$
- Friction loss** must be equal in each path
- The total friction loss equals one path, not sum of two paths  
 $P_{ft} = P_{f1} = P_{f2}$

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## What goes in comes out.



- The "total" friction loss across a loop is not the sum of losses in the two legs, but only the loss in either leg.
- In order to solve for friction loss in simple loops, the flow split must first be established.
  - Many methods are possible; all based upon energy balance across the loop.
  - Two methods will be presented

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## Trial and Error



- An estimate of the flow split is made and friction loss calculated for each leg.
- If the loss is equal in each leg, the solution has been reached.  
\*Pf within 0.5psi\*
- If the loss is not equal, the flows must be adjusted and tried again

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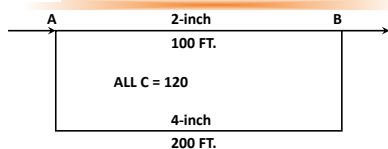
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## Example



**ALL SCHEDULE 40 STEEL**

**First Try**

$$Q_1 = 150 \rightarrow P_{f1} = \frac{4.52 \times 150^{1.85}}{120^{1.85} \cdot 2.067^{4.87}} = .199 \times 100 = 19.9 \text{ psi}$$

$$Q_2 = 350 \rightarrow P_{f2} = \frac{4.52 \times 350^{1.85}}{120^{1.85} \cdot 4.026^{4.87}} = .037 \times 200 = 7.4 \text{ psi}$$

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## Example 1 Continued



**Second Try**

$$Q_1 = 75 \rightarrow P_{f1} = .055 \times 100 = 5.5 \text{ psi}$$

$$Q_2 = 425 \rightarrow P_{f2} = .053 \times 200 = 10.6 \text{ psi}$$

**Third Try**

$$Q_1 = 100 \rightarrow P_{f1} = .093 \times 100 = 9.3 \text{ psi}$$

$$Q = 400 \rightarrow P = .048 \times 200 = 9.6 \text{ psi}$$

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**Method I: try and error**

- Educated guesses
- Multiple calculations
- 0.5 psi is close enough
- Slow & Tedious

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**Method II**

- Solution reached directly using the split flow formula

$$Q_1 = \frac{Q_t}{1 + \left(\frac{L_1}{L_2}\right)^{0.54}}$$

- No consideration for pipe size and roughness
- All pipe must be same size & roughness

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**Method II**

- If pipe does not have the same diameter and roughness, it must be converted to equal size & roughness by adjusting length of pipe.

$$P_T = \frac{4.52 Q^{1.85} L}{C^{1.85} D^{4.87}}$$

$$Q_1 = \frac{Q_t}{1 + \left(\frac{L_1}{L_2}\right)^{0.54}}$$

$$L_e = L_1 \cdot \frac{D_e^{4.87}}{D_1^{4.87}} \cdot \frac{C_e^{1.85}}{C_1^{1.85}}$$

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## Split flow formula



### Derivation

$$Q_1 = \frac{Q_T}{1 + \left(\frac{L_1}{L_2}\right)^{0.54}}$$

$$Q_1 + Q_1 \cdot \left(\frac{L_1}{L_2}\right)^{0.54} = Q_T$$

$$Q_1 \cdot \left(\frac{L_1}{L_2}\right)^{0.54} = Q_2$$

$$Q_1 \cdot L_1^{0.54} = Q_2 \cdot L_2^{0.54}$$

$$Q_1^{1.85} \cdot L_1 = Q_2^{1.85} \cdot L_2$$

$$P_T = \frac{4.52 Q^{1.85} L}{C^{1.85} D^{4.87}}$$

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## Notes about Method II



- Always use **actual** internal diameter (Appendix A) in calculations, so you need to know the material and/or schedule type.
- Change one branch to match another branch. Do not change both, you will get lost by doing so.
- Conservations of energy (pressure loss) and matter (mass) are fundamental rule in these manipulations.

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## Summary



- Loops and grids are composed of segments of simple pipes.
- Hand calculation is useful to understand the algorithm in computer software.
- Method I: try and error
- Method II: split-flow formulation with equivalent length
- Method III: Hardy-cross method (next lecture)

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