

Magnetic based current turbine

João Victor Padilha de Lima^{1,2}, Antonio Carlos Fernandes¹, Moustafa Abdel-Maksoud²

¹Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

²Institute for Fluid Dynamics and Ship Theory, Hamburg University of Technology, Hamburg, Germany

ABSTRACT

This paper presents the concept of an innovative current turbine based on magnetic restoration and optimizes its design. The evaluation of the turbine's geometries and power take-off mechanism is carried out based on the numerical solution of a non-linear mathematical model already experimentally validated for the proposed system and considers a realistic operational condition. The parameter to be optimized is the turbine operating efficiency. The parameters are optimized within smaller ranges to reach a local optimum within the design space. The reduction of parameter ranges is based on the results of the best turbine configurations.

Keywords

Turbine optimization, Current turbine, Magnetic restoration, Parametric model, Non-linear system

1 INTRODUCTION

Recent international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement (ONU 2015), the European Green Deal (EU 2019), and the Kyoto Protocol (ONU 1998), reflect global efforts to reduce dependence on fossil fuels. The commitment to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030, as outlined in the Kyoto Protocol, underscores the urgency to address the challenges associated with fossil fuel consumption. These challenges include supply constraints and environmental concerns, prompting the exploration of cleaner and renewable energy sources (Rahman et al. 2022). Notably, solar incidence, wind, and water movement (including rivers, tides, and ocean currents) are the focal points of numerous initiatives in the quest for sustainable energy (Elavarasan 2019).

This article specifically delves into various methods of harnessing energy from moving water, focusing on the limitations of conventional water turbines like Francis (Yasuyuki et al. 2004), Propeller (Hood 1910), Kaplan (Sproule 1961), and Pelton (Erlach 1889) turbines, commonly employed in large-scale hydroelectric power plants. The primary drawback of these turbines lies in their reliance on substantial waterfalls, often necessitating the construction of dams and reservoirs, which are both costly and environmentally problematic (Bagher et al. 2015), (Zhou et al. 2013)) and (Loney 1995).

Recognizing the drawbacks associated with dam construction, this study advocates for harnessing hydroelectric power from minor waterfalls without the need for dams.

This approach not only presents a renewable solution but also minimizes environmental impact, avoiding issues like wildlife disruption and sediment accumulation (Dametew 2016).

The Axial Flow Rotor (Noel 1967), Open Center Fan (Williams 2006), and Helical turbines (Naskali et al. 2005) emerge as the frequently employed hydroelectric turbines for minor waterfalls. However, structural flaws induced by centrifugal stress in these designs necessitate high-performance materials, prompting a search for alternative turbine movements with reduced stress (Peng and Zhu 2009).

This article proposes a novel method centered on oscillation rather than rotation, leveraging flux-induced oscillation for energy absorption. Although oscillation is typically considered detrimental to structures (Xu et al. 2019), it holds potential for energy extraction when thoroughly researched. Demonstrating practicality through scale models and prototypes (Bernitsas et al. 2008)), this oscillation-based approach minimizes environmental impact, especially in utilizing small waterfalls.

Introducing a turbine based on the torsional galloping effect with magnetic restoration (Padilha de Lima 2019) (Padilha de Lima 2021), this research pioneers the application of flow-induced oscillation for hydroelectric energy extraction from sources with minor heads. The study aims to conduct theoretical and numerical analyses to determine the most efficient turbine arrangement, advancing the understanding and implementation of sustainable energy solutions.

2 BIBLIOGRAPHIC REVIEW

2.1 Flow Induced Oscillation Rating

Based on where they come from, resonance or instability, flux-induced oscillations can be categorized into one of two groups (van Oudheusden 1992). If the frequency of the oscillatory forces matches the inherent frequency of the elastic structure, resonance oscillations occur. The oscillatory force that causes oscillations through resonance may result from the oscillation of the input flow, in which case the phenomena is referred to as buffeting, or from the shedding of vortex, in which case the phenomena is referred to as VIV. The oscillatory force that causes oscillations through instability may have two or more degrees of freedom, in which case the phenomena is known as flutter, or simply one de-

gree of freedom, in which case it is known as galloping (Fernandes et al. 2014). There are two variations of the galloping oscillation action. The torsional, which occurs when the body oscillates just while it is rotating, and the translational, which occurs when the body oscillates both spinning and translating.

2.2 Turbine Description

The turbine is composed of a flat plate or hydrodynamic profile, exposed to a steady current that induces torsional oscillations around its vertical axis. The proposed design incorporates four magnets, with two attached to the trailing edge of the turbine and the other two affixed to permanent supports, limiting rotor movement. Strategic magnet placement ensures mutual resistance between any two magnets on the same side of the turbine. Consequently, the turbine undergoes a magnetic restoration force when moved in either of its two potential orientations. This interplay between magnet configuration and magnetic restoration defines the turbine's functionality. The profile, featuring connected magnets, is depicted in the top view in Figure 1 a), highlighting the turbine's length parameters. The schematic top view of the system is presented in Figure 1 b), with a focus on the turbine configuration details.

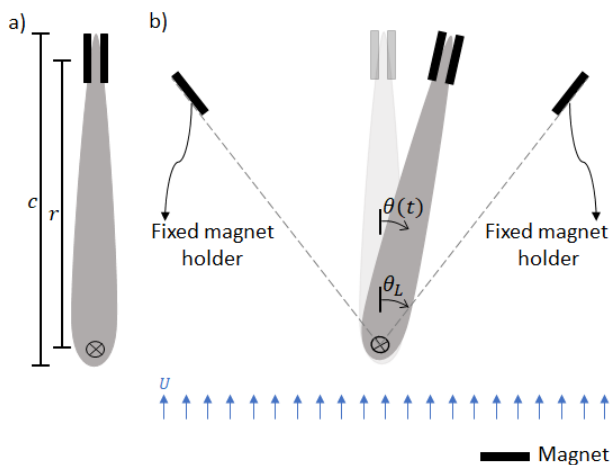


Figure 1: Schematic top view of the turbine, with parameters definition.

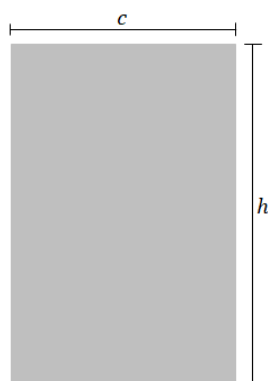


Figure 2: Schematic front view of the turbine, with parameters definition.

Figure 2 shows a schematic side view of the turbine, where we can see the definition of the chord (c) and height (h) parameters.

2.3 Scientific Gap

The low efficiency of a turbine relying on the torsional galloping effect, with restoration from linear and torsional springs, prompted the initiation of the study. The significant amplitudes of turbine movement were identified as a key factor contributing to the observed inefficiencies. The generation of substantial vortices at both the leading and trailing edges of the turbine led to considerable energy dissipation. This loss of energy, which is not absorbed, results in diminished effectiveness (Fernandes et al. 2014). To address this issue and restrict the turbine's range of motion, thereby enhancing its efficiency, one proposed solution is the implementation of magnetic restoration.

In preparation for submitting a patent application for the devised technique, an exhaustive analysis of analogous turbines was conducted. This examination unveiled innovations outlined in patents such as (Villarreal 2015), (Lynch 2012), (Carney 2006), (KIOST 2017), and (Yoshihiko 2017). These patents detail oscillatory systems designed to harness energy from fluid flow, where the oscillation is induced by vortex phenomena (Vortex-Induced Vibration or VIV). Notably, these systems incorporate mechanical controls capable of adjusting damping, restoring force, and moment of inertia associated with the oscillatory motion. The method outlined in (Villarreal 2015) employs permanent magnets as part of this mechanical control mechanism.

The existing body of knowledge includes oscillatory systems designed to harness energy from fluid flow, with oscillations generated by flutter-type instabilities. Examples of such systems are the Stingray prototypes (Padilha de Lima 2019) (Padilha de Lima 2021) developed by Engineering Business Ltd. and the Pulse-Stream 100 (Padilha de Lima 2019) (Padilha de Lima 2021) by Pulse Tidal Ltd. These prototypes underwent field testing, revealing energy generation figures that were economically unfeasible. Moreover, the systems exhibited a complex mechanical structure necessary to sustain the oscillating profile and overall system integrity.

Notably, within the current state of the art, there are no instances of oscillatory systems utilizing fluid flow for energy generation and relying on permanent magnets to restore oscillation induced by instability of the galloping type. Hence, the subject of investigation in this article represents a novel contribution to the field.

Table 1: Description of variables used.

Nomenclature			
$\theta(t)$	Turbine instantaneous position angle [rad]	ν	Kinematic viscosity [$m^2.s^{-1}$]
$\dot{\theta}(t)$	Turbine instantaneous angular velocity [$rad.s^{-1}$]	ω	Response frequency [$rad.s^{-1}$]
$\ddot{\theta}(t)$	Turbine instantaneous angular acceleration [$rad.s^{-2}$]	U	Uniform current speed [$m.s^{-1}$]
K	Reduced frequency [-]	θ_L	Positioning angle of fixed magnets [rad]
$C(K)$	Lift reduction factor [-]	$k_M(t)$	Magnetic restoration coefficient [$kg.m^2.s^{-1}$]
$H_n^{(2)}(K)$	Henkel function of the second kind [-]	k_H	Hydrodynamic restoration coefficient [$kg.m^2.s^{-1}$]
$J_n(K)$	Bassel function of the first kind [-]	b_H	Hydrodynamic damping coefficient [$kg.m^2.s^{-2}$]
$Y_n(K)$	Bassel function of the second kind [-]	ρ	Water density [$kg.m^3$]
I	Total moment of inertia [$kg.m^2$]	C_M	Magnetic proportionality constant [$kg.m^2.s^{-2}$]
I_S	Structural moment of inertia [$kg.m^2$]	J	Magnetic constant of magnets [$kg.m^3.s^{-2}$]
I_{66}	Added moment of inertia [$kg.m^2$]	r	Distance of the magnets to the turbine shaft [m]
C_b	Damping proportionality constant [$kg.m^2$]	h	Turbine height [m]
ζ	Total damping factor [-]	c	Turbine total length (Turbine chord) [m]
ζ_M	Mechanical damping factor (structural+hydrodynamic) [-]	Re	Reynolds number [-]
ζ_{PTO}	Damping factor due to power take-off [-]	TSR	Tip Speed Ratio [-]
m	Turbine mass [kg]		

3 METHOD

3.1 Mathematical Model

In Figure 3 we see the schematic top view of the turbine with the representation of the moments that act on it when it moves.

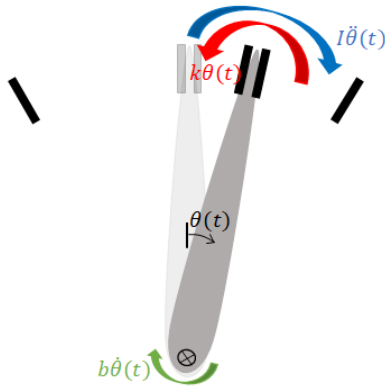


Figure 3: Schematic front view of the turbine, with the moments acting on the turbine when it moves.

The problem's selected mathematical model system is displayed in Equation 1 and Equation 2.

$$I\ddot{\theta}(t) + b\dot{\theta}(t) + k\theta(t) \quad (1)$$

Or:

$$I\ddot{\theta}(t) + \left(C_b \sqrt{(k_M(t) - k_H) \frac{1}{I} + b_H} \right) \dot{\theta}(t) + (k_M(t) - k_H) \theta(t) = 0 \quad (2)$$

The hydrodynamic restoring coefficient, k_H , and the hydrodynamic damping coefficient, b_H , solely result from the potential component of the flow around a flat plate and are derived through Theodorsen's potential theory (Theodorsen 1949). The computations for these coefficients are outlined in Equation 3 and Equation 4, respectively.

$$b_H = - \left(\frac{\pi \rho c^3 U h}{16} \right) (1 - 3C(K)) \quad (3)$$

$$k_H = \frac{3\pi \rho c^2 U^2 h C(K)}{4} \quad (4)$$

Here, K represents the reduced frequency, computed using Equation 5, and $C(K)$ denotes the lift reduction factor, determined by Equation 6. The lift reduction factor, proposed by Theodorsen, quantifies the reduction in the lift force of a flat plate in percentage terms, attributed to the oscillation frequency (ω).

$$K = \frac{\omega c}{2U} \quad (5)$$

$$C(K) = \left| \frac{H_1^{(2)}(K)}{H_2^{(2)}(K) + H_1^{(2)}(K)} \right| \quad (6)$$

Where $H_n^{(2)}(K)$ is the Hankel function of the second kind, calculated by Equation 7.

$$H_n^{(2)}(K) = J_n(K) - iY_n(K) \quad (7)$$

Where $J_n(K)$ is the Bassel function of the first kind, calculated by Equation 8, and $Y_n(K)$ is the Bassel function of the second kind, calculated by Equation 9.

$$J_n(K) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} e^{i(nr - K \sin(r))} dr \quad (8)$$

$$Y_n(K) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \sin(K \sin(r) - nr) dr - \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} (e^{nt} + (-1)^n e^{-nt}) e^{-K \sinh(t)} dt \quad (9)$$

The total moment of inertia, I , is calculated according to Equation 10.

$$I = I_S + I_{66} \quad (10)$$

Where the structural moment of inertia, I_S , is approximated as the moment of inertia of a flat plate. Equation 11 is used to calculate I_S .

$$I_S = \int_{Flatplate} x^2 dm = \frac{1}{12} mc^2 \quad (11)$$

And the added moment of inertia, I_{66} , is due to the potential portion of the flow around the flat plate and is calculated by Theodrosen (Theodorsen 1949) from Equation 12.

$$I_{66} = \frac{9\pi\rho c^4 h}{128} \quad (12)$$

The the damping proportionality constant, C_b , is calculated according to Equation 13.

$$C_b = 2I\zeta \quad (13)$$

The overall damping factor, ζ , results from the combination of the mechanical damping factor, ζ_M , and the power take-off damping factor, ζ_{PTO} , as illustrated in Equation 14. The mechanical damping factor, ζ_M , arises from the dissipation of energy by both the turbine structure and the fluid.

$$\zeta = \zeta_M + \zeta_{PTO} \quad (14)$$

The mathematical model delineated in Equation 1 exhibits non-linearity primarily attributed to the magnetic restoration segment. The magnetic restoration coefficient, k_M , undergoes non-linear variations contingent on the instantaneous turbine position, θ , demonstrating symmetry at $\theta = 0$ and singular points at $\theta = \theta_L$ and $\theta = -\theta_L$, where k_M tends toward positive infinity. This k_M behavior contributes to turbine instability, visually evident in the continuous blue curve depicted in Figure 4. These curves were generated under the conditions of the turbine prototype, with $r = 0.2 \text{ m}$ and $J = 0.006901 \text{ N.m}^2$ or $C_M = 0.0172525 \text{ N.m}$, and $\theta_L = 30^\circ$. The positions of the fixed magnets (θ_L) are also denoted by vertical black lines in Figure 4.

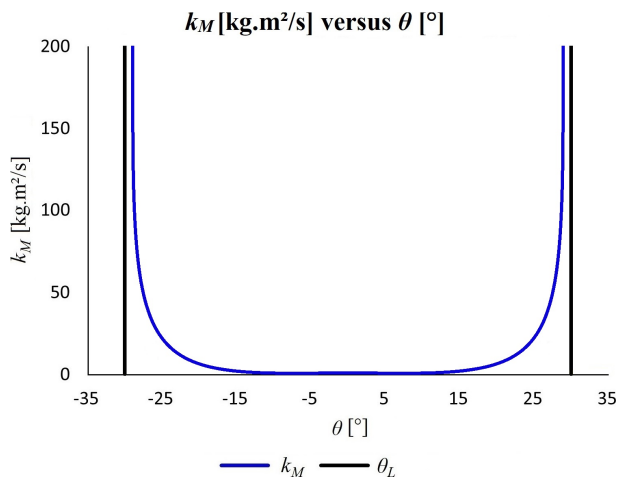


Figure 4: k_M curve as a function of θ .

Through an analytical examination of the issue, it becomes feasible to derive the equation for k_M in terms of θ as illustrated in Equation 15. This computation is detailed in

prior publications by the authors (Padilha de Lima 2019) (Padilha de Lima 2021).

$$k_M(\theta) = \frac{C_M}{\theta} \left(\frac{\cos\left(\frac{\theta_L - \theta}{2}\right)}{1 - \cos(\theta_L - \theta)} - \frac{\cos\left(\frac{\theta_L + \theta}{2}\right)}{1 - \cos(\theta_L + \theta)} \right) \quad (15)$$

The magnetic proportionality constant, C_M , is determined using Equation 16, where the magnetic constant of the magnets, J , is dependent on their composition and shapes, and the distance from the center of the magnets to the turbine axis, r .

$$C_M = \frac{J}{2r} \quad (16)$$

3.2 Numeric Solution

To derive the solutions $\theta(t)$ and $\dot{\theta}(t)$ for the nonlinear model, the 4th order Runge-Kutta method was employed on the nonlinear system described in Equation 1. The initial conditions for the Initial Value Problem (IVP) were set as $\theta(0) = \theta/2$ and $\dot{\theta}(0) = 0$. The method was executed over a time span of 120 seconds, discretized into 10000 points. Following the model solution and the acquisition of $\theta(t)$ and $\dot{\theta}(t)$, the available power (P_A) for the problem was computed using the relationship outlined in Equation 17 (Fernandes et al. 2014). This expression accounts for the energy of a flow with density ρ and speed U traversing through an area A .

$$P_A = \rho U^3 A \quad (17)$$

Since A is the projected area of the turbine perpendicular to the flow, the value of A is calculated from Equation 18.

$$A = hc \sin(\theta_0) \quad (18)$$

Where θ_0 is the amplitude of $\theta(t)$, obtained from the model solution. Therefore, P_A can be calculated with Equation 19.

$$P_A = \rho U^3 hc \sin(\theta_0) \quad (19)$$

The value of θ_0 is determined based on the final 30 seconds of the 120 seconds solution. This 90 seconds interval is sufficient for the solution to either converge to a cyclic limit solution or to a stationary solution. In the case of convergence to a stationary solution, the amplitude value (θ_0) becomes zero, resulting in a null available power (P_A). Following the model solution to obtain $\dot{\theta}(t)$, it becomes feasible to compute the power generated by the turbine, P_{PTO} , utilizing the relationship outlined in Equation 20.

$$P_{PTO} = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T M_{PTO}(t) \dot{\theta}(t) dt \quad (20)$$

Where M_{PTO} is the moment of energy absorption. As only the moment term, proportional to ζ_{PTO} , performs energy absorption work, we have that the moment M_{PTO} is given by Equation 21.

$$M_{PTO} = b_{PTO} \dot{\theta}(t) = 2\zeta_{PTO} \sqrt{Ik(t)} \dot{\theta}(t) \quad (21)$$

In this way, the power absorbed by the turbine, P_{TO} , is obtained by solving the Equation 22.

$$P_{TO} = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T 2\zeta_{PTO} \sqrt{Ik(t)} (\dot{\theta}(t))^2 dt \quad (22)$$

The integral to obtain the absorbed power P_{TO} , is performed numerically by the trapezoidal method, also being calculated only for the last 30 seconds, time in which convergence has already occurred.

From the calculated powers, it is also possible to calculate the theoretical efficiency of the turbine, which is the ratio between the absorbed power, P_{TO} , by the available power, P_A . A flowchart for solving the non-linear model is shown in Figure 5.

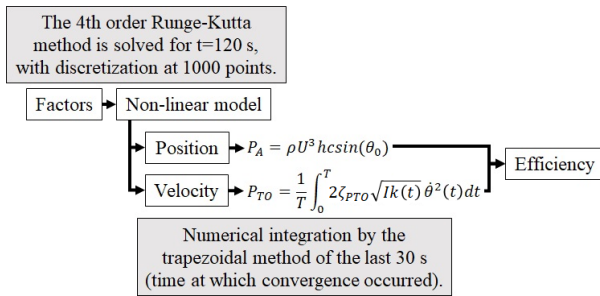


Figure 5: Flowchart for solving the non-linear model.

3.3 Analysis of Variance

To select the optimal variables for stability analysis, we performed a variance analysis. A dimensionless analysis was then conducted to obtain dimensionless variables that govern the problem, facilitating the variance analysis. The analytical variables selected for this purpose included J , θ , θ_L , U , h , c , m , ν , ω , and ζ_{PTO} .

Utilizing the stages of Buckingham's π Theorem (Buckingham 1915), we conducted a dimensional analysis of the turbine issue, leading to the generation of dimensionless quantities as outlined in Equation 23.

$$\theta = f \left(\frac{J}{mcU^2}, \theta_L, \frac{h}{c}, Re = \frac{Uc}{\nu}, TSR = \frac{\omega c}{U}, \zeta_{PTO} \right) \quad (23)$$

The comparison of means among two or more populations is examined through analysis of variance (ANOVA). These analyses assess the significance of one or more factors by contrasting means of response variables across different factor values. The null hypothesis posits that all population means (factor level means) are identical, while the alternative hypothesis suggests that at least one differs.

If the P-value, associated with the F-Value, is smaller than the alpha within its significance interval, it indicates that the factor's variance significantly influences the variable of interest, exerting a distinct effect on its mean compared to other means.

In this study, six out of the seven dimensionless components identified through dimensional analysis were chosen as factors. The dimensionless TSR was excluded due to its lack of frequency dependence (ω), a feature present in the model solution, disqualifying it as a factor.

A full factorial experiment was conducted with the six selected components, each with two levels, resulting in $2^5 = 64$ tests. Values resembling those found in the LOC were chosen for the factor levels. Table 2 presents the values of the selected levels.

Table 2: Chosen values for factor levels.

Factor	Type	Levels	Values
$J/(mcU^2)$	Fixed	2	0.04, 0.05
θ_L	Fixed	2	25, 35
a/c	Fixed	2	0.5, 2.5
Re	Fixed	2	100000, 200000
ζ_{PTO}	Fixed	2	0.2, 0.5

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Analysis of Variance

The solution to the nonlinear system was obtained, and the theoretical efficiency for each of the 64 planned trials was determined.

The outcomes of this analysis for each variable are presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Result of analysis of variance.

Factor	GL	SQ (Aj.)	QM (Aj.)	F-Value	P-Value
$J/(mcU^2)$	1	0.00000	0.00000	0.00	1.000
θ_L	1	0.23602	0.23602	6.63	0.013
h/c	1	0.06296	0.06296	1.77	0.019
Re	1	0.93481	0.93481	26.25	0.000
ζ_{PTO}	1	3.02183	3.02183	84.87	0.000
Error	57	2.02957	0.03561		
Total	63	6.33514			

With a confidence level of 95%, we can dismiss the impact of factors on the model when their P-Value exceeds 0.05. Consequently, at a 95% significance level, the factor $J/(mcU^2)$ does not influence efficiency. The impact of factors on efficiency is illustrated in Table 4.

Table 4: Influence of factors for efficiency.

Factor	Influence on efficiency [%]
ζ_{PTO}	70.1
Re	19.2
θ_L	5.1
h/c	4.8
$J/(mcU^2)$	0.2

As per the analysis of variance, the parameters exerting the most significant influence on efficiency are ζ_{PTO} (70.1%), Re (19.2%), θ/L (5.1%), and h/c (4.8%). The other components exhibit minimal impact on efficiency. A crucial implication of this observation is that, for scale tests, ensuring equality among the components with the greatest influence on the model (ζ_{PTO} , Re , θ/L , and a/c) is adequate.

4.2 Numeric Solution

In the numerical exploration, varying θ_L values of 15°, 20°, 25°, 30°, 35°, 40° and 45° and ζ_{PTO} values of 0.05 to 0.9 with an increment of 0.05 were selected. The corresponding Re , h/c and ζ_{PTO} values were adjusted for each angle, and the theoretical efficiency for each point was calculated. These efficiencies are then depicted on a graph.

The Re values span from 0 to 45×10^4 with an increment of 9000, resulting in a total of 51 values. For h/c , the values range from 0 to 3, with an increment of 0.06, totaling 51 values. Consequently, the model is evaluated for $51 \times 51 = 2601$ scenarios for each efficiency graph. To reduce computational time, the strategy involved a reduction in the number of points. The investigated Re values are constrained within the limits applicable in the LOC, defined by a turbine chord of 1.5 m and a maximum current velocity of 0.5 m/s. The efficiency diagrams for $\zeta_{PTO} = 0.40$, $\zeta_{PTO} = 0.45$ and $\zeta_{PTO} = 0.50$ are depicted in Figure 6. To streamline the presentation of data, only the most crucial graphs for θ_L values of 25° , 30° , and 35° will be showcased. This is the result for the first phase of project optimization.

In the second phase, the turbine configuration with the best efficiency is sought in a smaller range of parameters. For this, the ζ_{PTO} and θ_L values where the highest efficiencies were found are selected and the Re and h/c values are varied. By selecting the value of $\theta_L = 0.45$ and $\theta_L = 30^\circ$, the studied Re values will be from 20×10^4 to 25×10^4 with a step of 1000, resulting in a total of 51 values, and the values of h/c from 1.25 to 1.75 with a step of 0.01, resulting in a total of 51 values. This efficiency diagram is presented in Figure 7. This is the result for the second phase of project optimization.

The maximum efficiency found for the system is 57%, for the condition with $\theta_L = 30^\circ$, $\zeta_{PTO} = 0.45$, $h/c = 1.57$ and $Re = 23.6 \times 10^4$.

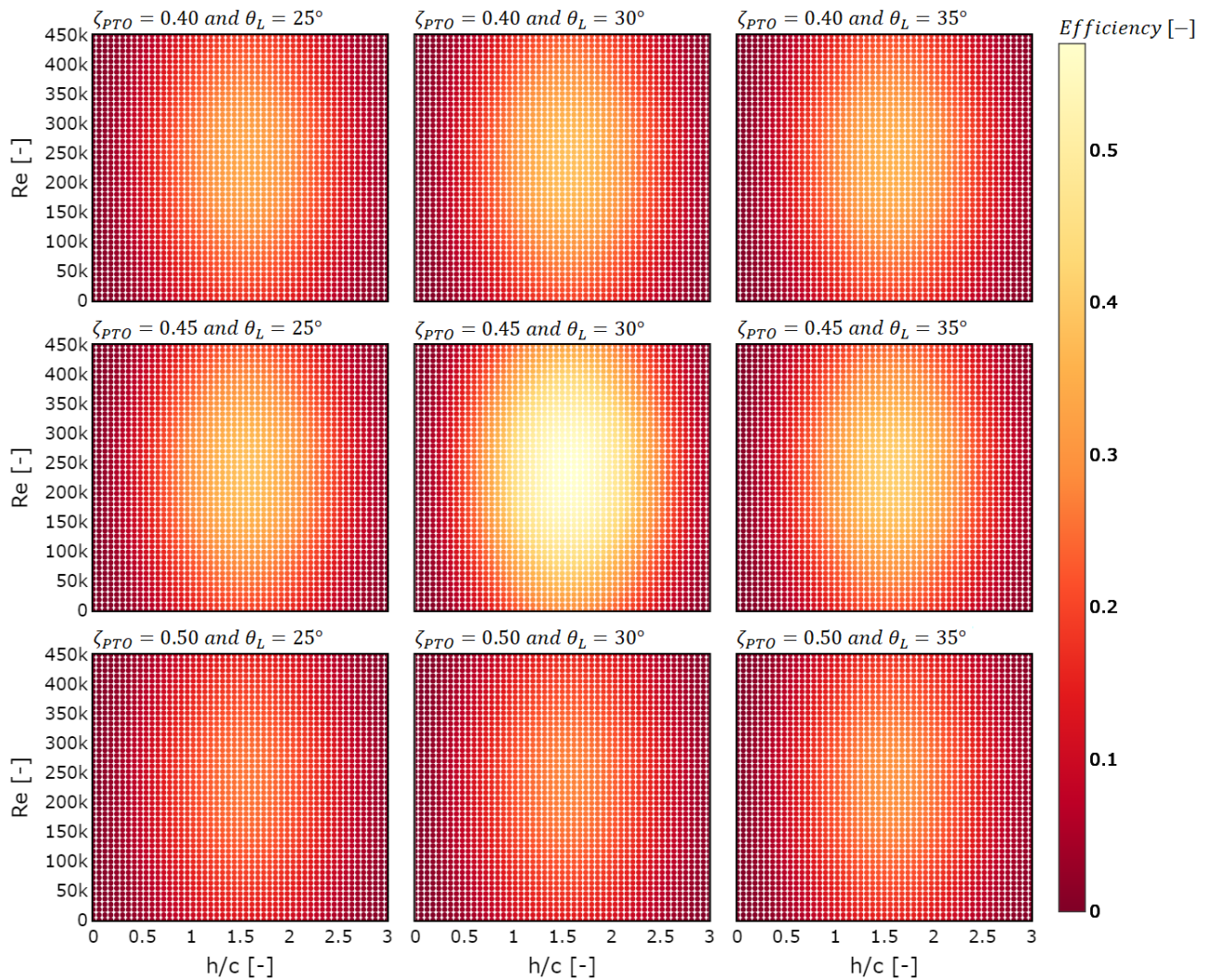


Figure 6: Efficiency diagrams for $\zeta_{PTO} = 0.40$, $\zeta_{PTO} = 0.45$ and $\zeta_{PTO} = 0.50$ with $\theta_L = 25^\circ$, 30° and 35° .

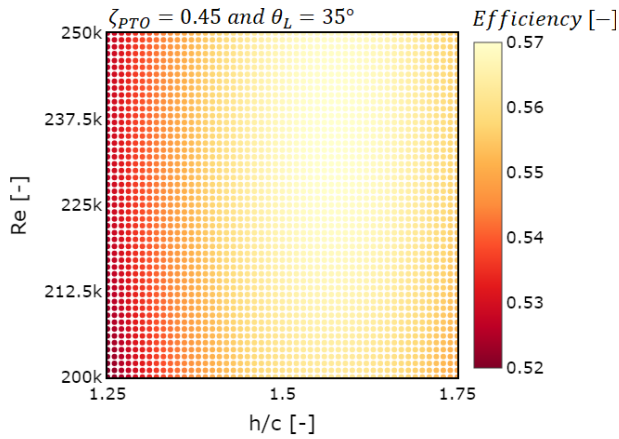


Figure 7: Efficiency diagram for $\zeta_{PTO} = 0.45$ and $\theta_L = 30^\circ$.

5 CONCLUSIONS

The identification of the optimal turbine efficiency condition was successfully accomplished. This involved considering the damping factor arising from the absorption of energy that the generator must fulfill. The system's maximum efficiency was determined to be 57%, observed under the condition with $\theta_L = 30^\circ$, $\zeta_{PTO} = 0.45$, $a/c = 0.25$, and $Re = 15 \times 10^4$. This efficiency corresponds to $57\%/59.3\% = 96.2\%$ of the maximum achievable value, as indicated by Betz (Betz 1966).

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