

# Preliminary Design Method For Small Scale Centrifugal ORC Turbines

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# Outline

- 1 0. Introduction
- 2 1. ORC Turbine
- 3 2. The *zTurbo* code
- 4 3. Preliminary design of a 10 kW<sub>el</sub> ROT

# Introduction

- ORC systems  $\Rightarrow$  important for decentralized power generation.
  - Future development of micro-ORC turbogenerator (10-100 kW<sub>el</sub>)
  - WHR from truck engines, concentrated solar, domestic CHP, ...

The turbine represents the most critical component in terms of **efficiency, compactness, cost**.

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# ORC Turbine (1/2)

Use of ORC fluids:

- simple layout, compact and reliable turbine  $N_{\text{stg}} \downarrow, U \downarrow$
- complex aerodynamic design  $M \uparrow, (\dot{V}_{\text{out}}/\dot{V}_{\text{in}}) \uparrow$
- Large compressibility effect  $\rightarrow$  No similarity rules ( $D_s, \omega_s$ )

$\Rightarrow$  non-conventional turbine architectures

$\Rightarrow$  reliable preliminary design 1D tool for ORC turbines

# ORC Turbine (2/2)

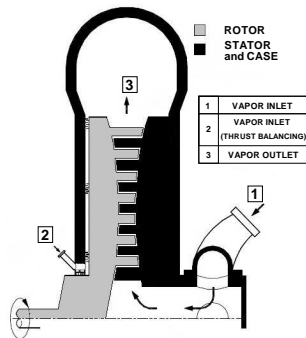
## Centrifugal Architecture

- $D \uparrow \Rightarrow A_{\text{flow}} \uparrow$
- “Easy” and compact multi-stage solutions
- centrifugal term!!

$$L_{\text{eu}} = \frac{V_1^2 - V_2^2}{2} + \frac{W_2^2 - W_1^2}{2} + \frac{U_1^2 - U_2^2}{2}$$

## ORC application Macchi (1977); Casci (1979):

- stator-rotor solution, not counter-rotating (1 generator)



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- *zTurbo*: 1D design-analysis code (`fortran 90`)
- Turbine preliminary design:
  - ▶ selecting basic design parameters  $\Rightarrow$  necessary condition for a good turbine [Macchi \(1977, 1985\)](#)
  - ▶ “rigorous” approach  $\Rightarrow$  multi-variable optimization
- Main features:
  - ▶ proper treatment of real gases (LUT)
  - ▶ multiple turbine architectures
  - ▶ different loss models

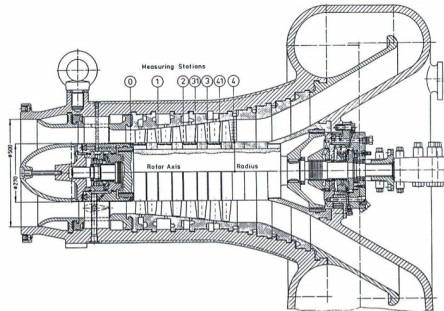


# Code Validation (1/3)

- *zTurbo* vs test-case TG 4 stages Fottner (1990)

$n_0$	7500 rpm
$\dot{m}_{\text{flow}}$	7.8 kg/s
$T_{t,\text{in}}$	413 K
$p_{t,\text{in}}$	2.6 bar
$p_{\text{out}}$	1.022 bar
$\beta_{\text{stg}}$	1.255
$r_{\text{is}}$	0.5

Operative conditions



Cross section test-case

	$\alpha_{\text{out}} [^\circ]$	$S/b_{\text{ax}}$	$cl/b_{\text{ax}}$	$b_{\text{ax}} [\text{mm}]$	$\text{tip} [\text{mm}]$	$D_{\text{out}}/D_{\text{in}}$
Stator	68	0.81	0.15	49.4	0	1.01
Rotor	69.1	1.07	0.6	36.9	0.4	1.01

# Code Validation (2/3)

- Measured data and *zTurbo* results:

	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>st</sup>	3 <sup>st</sup>	4 <sup>st</sup>
<b><math>p_t</math> [bar]</b>				
Data (meas.)	2.11	1.68	1.335	1.046
zTurbo	2.1	1.66	1.32	1.04
err. [%]	0.47	1.19	1.12	0.57
<b><math>T_t</math> [K]</b>				
Data (meas.)	386.2	363.1	340.1	320.2
zTurbo	391.1	366.0	343.2	323.1
err. [%]	1.28	0.82	0.87	0.62
<b><math>V_{out}</math> [m/s]</b>				
Data (meas.)	66.1	66.3	62.5	59.5
zTurbo	65.48	65.47	61.62	58.55
err. [%]	0.93	1.25	1.408	1.59
<b><math>h_{bld}</math> [m]</b>				
Data	67.5	77.5	89.2	103
zTurbo	65.7	75	88.5	0,104
err. [%]	2,67	3,23	0,78	0,97

	Data	zTurbo	err. [%]
$\eta_{ts}$	0.913	0.894	2.08

- the overall relative error is within the ranges of uncertainty of all the statistics correlations used.
- 3-D turbine  $\Rightarrow$  1-D tool

$\Rightarrow$  reliable procedure.

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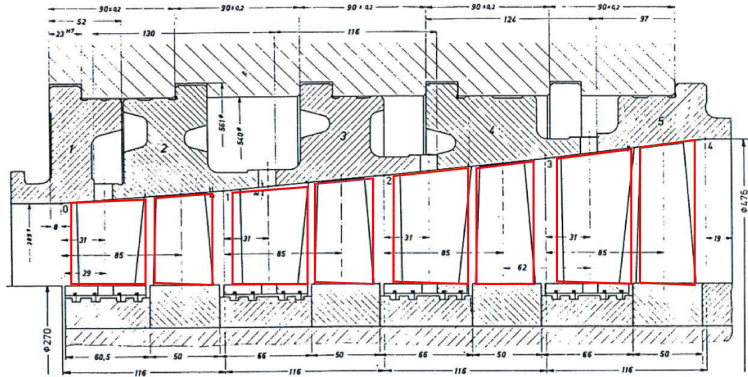
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# Code Validation (3/3)

- Overlap of real and resulted meridional channel.



# Optimization (1/2)

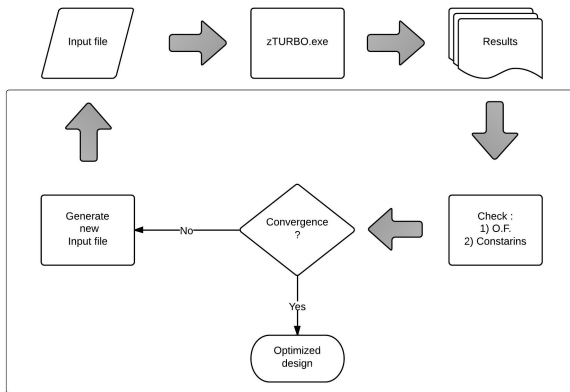
- *zTurbo* doesn't solve an optimization problem



$$\eta = f(\psi, r_{is}, \beta_{stg}, b_{ax}, \left(\frac{s}{b_{ax}}\right), \alpha_{geo}, \dots)$$

# Optimization (1/2)

- *zTurbo* + optimization tool.



# Optimization (2/2)

- zTurbo coupled to an external optimization software [Sandia](#)

[National Laboratories \(2012\)](#)

- Flexibility:
  - 1 objective function(s)
  - 2 independent variables
  - 3 constraints
  - 4 search algorithms

⇒ different optimization strategies

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# Thermodynamic cycle

- Application  $\Rightarrow$  waste heat recovery from a Diesel engine.

- thermodynamic cycle (input) from literature [Lang et al. \(2013\)](#)

- Requirements: efficiency and compactness

$\Rightarrow$  choice: centrifugal transonic multi-stage turbine

Parameter	Unit	Value
Fluid	-	D <sub>4</sub>
$\dot{m}_{\text{flow}}$	kg/s	0.266
$T_{\text{t,in}}$	°C	242.5
$p_{\text{t,in}}$	bar	4.4
$p_{\text{out}}$	bar	0.087
$\Delta h_{\text{turb,is}}$	kJ/kg	48.120
$\beta_{\text{tot}}$	-	50.57
$\dot{V}_{\text{out}} / \dot{V}_{\text{in}}$	-	53

# Design strategy (1/3)

- First approach  $\Rightarrow$  “repeating-stage” procedure [Coomes et al. \(1986\)](#);

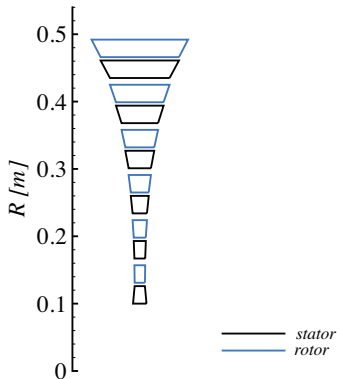
[Cerri et al. \(2003\)](#); [Pini et al. \(2013\)](#)

- \* independent variables:

- 1 Radial chord  $\Rightarrow b_{\text{rad},s} = b_{\text{rad},r}$
- 2 Outlet geometric angle  $\Rightarrow \alpha_{\text{geo}} = -\beta_{\text{geo}}$
- 3 Reaction degree  $\Rightarrow r_{\text{is}}$

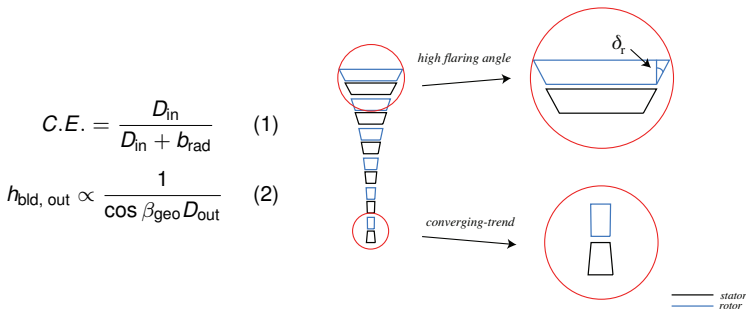
- \* Constraint:  $\delta \leq 30^\circ$

- \* Objective function:  $\eta_\phi$  ( $\phi = 0.5$ )



# Design Strategy (2/3)

- Assessing “repeating-stages” in the context of micro turbines.



⇒ the assumption of the repeating-stages can not be extended to micro-ROT

First stages ⇒  $b_{rad} \downarrow \alpha_{geo}, \beta_{geo} \uparrow$

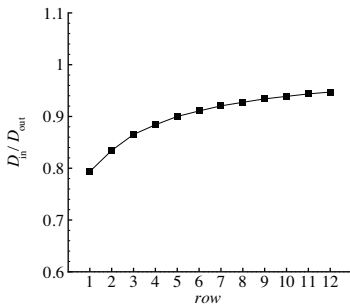
Last stages ⇒  $b_{rad} \uparrow \alpha_{geo}, \beta_{geo} \downarrow$

# Design Strategy (2/3)

- Assessing “repeating-stages” in the context of micro turbines.

$$C.E. = \frac{D_{in}}{D_{in} + b_{rad}} \quad (1)$$

$$h_{bld, out} \propto \frac{1}{\cos \beta_{geo} D_{out}} \quad (2)$$



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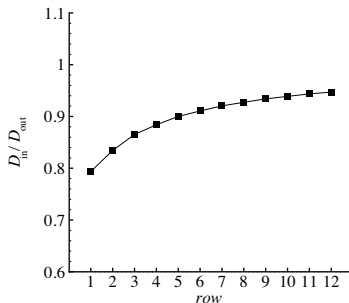
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Last stages ⇒  $b_{rad} \uparrow$ ,  $\alpha_{geo}, \beta_{geo} \downarrow$

# Design strategy (3/3)

## ● Novel procedure for micro ROT's

### \* Independent variables:

- ▶  $b_{\text{rad}}$  for each stage (x 5)
- ▶  $\alpha_{\text{geo}}$  for each blade row (x 10)
- ▶  $D_{\text{in}}$  and  $n$
- ▶  $h_{\text{bld,in}}$

### \* Fixed parameters:

geometric parameter	value
$t_{\text{cl}}$ [mm]	0.1
$t_{\text{e}}$ [mm]	0.1
$cl/b_{\text{rad}}$ [-]	0.1

### \* Assumptions for transonic machine ( $M < 1.1$ ):

- 1  $N_{\text{stg}} = 5$
- 2  $\beta_{\text{stg}} = \sqrt{\beta_{\text{tot}}}$
- 3  $r_{\text{is}} = 0.4$

### \* Constraints:

constraint	value
Flaring angle [ $^{\circ}$ ]	$\delta \leq +7.0$
outlet section [mm]	$\sigma \geq 1.0$
aspect-ratio [-]	$h_{\text{bld}}/b_{\text{rad}} \geq 0.30$

### \* Objective function: $\eta_{\phi}$ ( $\phi = 0.5$ )

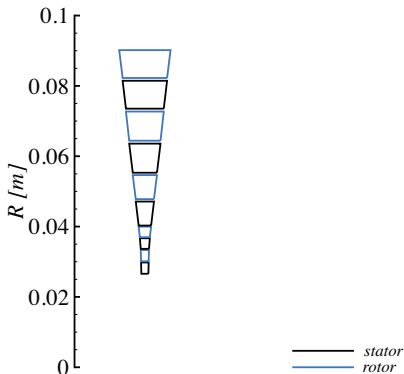
### \* Optimization parameters:

Keyword	choice
population size	100
mutation type	<i>replace_uniform</i>
convergence type	<i>best_fitness_tracker</i>
percent change	0.10
number of generations	200

# 5-stages turbine

- Optimization results.

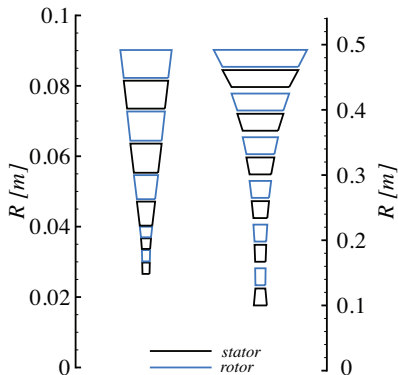
Main parameters	value
$P$ [kW]	11.19
$\eta_\phi$ [-]	0.835
$n$ [rpm]	12400
$D_{in}$ [m]	0.053
$D_{out}$ [m]	0.18
$h_{in}$ [m]	0.002
$\delta_{max}$ [°]	7.00
$M_{max}$ [-]	1.02
$(h_{bld}/b_{out})_{max}$ [-]	1.84



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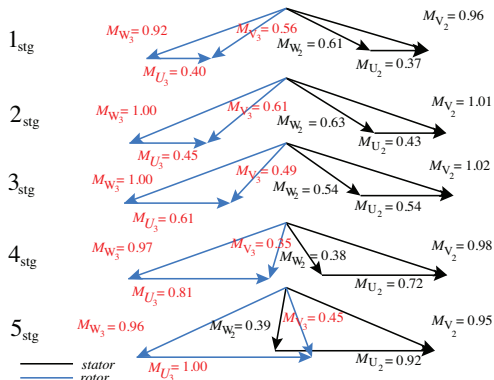




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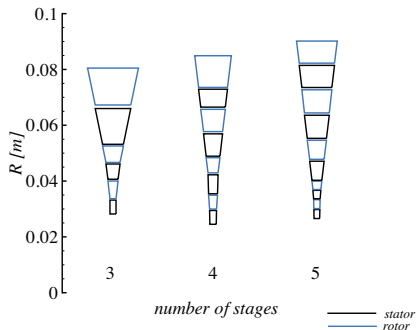
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# Summary

## • Comparing the 3 machines...

Results	5-stages	4-stages	3-stages
$P$ [kW]	11.19	10.9	10.51
$\eta_\phi$ [-]	0.835	0.818	0.799
$\eta_{ts}$ [-]	0.823	0.802	0.773
$\Delta\eta$ [%]	1.43	1.95	3.25
$M_{\max}$ [-]	1.02	1.2	1.33
$n$ [rpm]	12400	14300	15400
$D_{in}$ [m]	0.053	0.048	0.057
$D_{out}$ [m]	0.18	0.169	0.162
$h_{in}$ [m]	0.002	0.0023	0.0021
$\delta_{\max}$ [°]	7.05	7.15	11.75
$h_{out}$ [m]	0.0146	0.0131	0.0182
$(h_{bld}/b_{out})_{\max}$ [-]	1.84	1.67	1.38



$$D_{out} = \frac{1}{\pi h_{bld,out}} \left( \frac{\dot{V}_{out}}{\dot{V}_{in}} \right) \left( \frac{V_{rad,in} A_{in}}{V_{rad,out}} \right) \quad (3)$$

# ROTs vs RIT

- Comparison with a radial-inflow single-stage turbine.

- 1 higher efficiency
- 2 similar dimension
- 3 half rotational speed

	5-st	4-st	3-st	1-st (RIT)
$P$ [kW]	11.19	10.9	10.51	10.3
$\eta_{is}$ [-]	0.835	0.818	0.799	0.78 (?)
$M_{max}$ [-]	1.02	1.2	1.33	N.A.
$n$ [rpm]	12400	14300	15400	26000
$D_{out}$ [m]	0.18	0.169	0.162	0.16

- 4 lower disk friction losses ( $\sim \frac{1}{5}$ )

$$P_{loss,df} = \omega c_m \rho D_{out}^3 U_{out}^2 \quad (4)$$

	5-st	4-st	3-st	1-st (RIT)
$P_{loss,df}$ [W]	37.36	41.80	42.26	191.32
$P_{loss,df} / P$ [%]	0.33	0.38	0.40	1.86
$P_{loss,df} / P_{loss,RIT}$ [%]	19.0	21.8	22.1	-

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$P_{\text{loss,df}} / P$ [%]	0.33	0.38	0.40	1.86
$P_{\text{loss,df}} / P_{\text{loss,RIT}}$ [%]	19.0	21.8	22.1	-

# Conclusions

- *zTurbo* + optimizer  $\Rightarrow$  reliable and flexible design tool
- Novel design strategy for micro centrifugal turbines presented
- centrifugal architecture promising for (micro)ORC systems

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

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