Regression Examination Technique: Correlation between Nozzle Velocity and Vibration Level of Hydro-Turbine in SHP Run-off-River Scheme

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Abstract: Regression Examination is one of the most popular statistical analysis method used to determine the correlation between examined variables. It can also be used to predict the value of a dependent variable based on the value of at least one independent variable and this will allow explaining the impact of changes in an independent variable on the dependent variable. With the measured data of flow rate, output power and efficiency of turbine system, the nozzle velocity can be calculated using an appropriate mathematical equation. Along with vibration level data at every measurement axes, they are tabulated and imported into MATLAB program for the correlation determination. Three different set of data are used in this analysis which is based on the variation of water level at different month (low, typical and high) due to rainfall distribution within one year period. The objective of this study was to examine two questions: first is the effect of water level to the measured flow rate and generated output as well the calculated nozzle velocity. Second, with these variation of nozzle velocity, how significance their correlation with the vibration level at multiple axes of the turbine and generator? From the results, it has been discovered that there are significant correlation between nozzle velocity and vibration level, particularly during low level of water (lower rainfall distribution).

Index Terms: Regression Examination, Nozzle Velocity, Vibration Velocity, Correlation

1. INTRODUCTION

The typical run-off-the-river scheme consists of fundamental elements such as the weir, the settling tank, penstock and small canal [1][2]. Before entering the turbine, the particulate matter is removed by passing water through a settling tank. In order to ensure the unwanted particulate matter is not flowing together with the water source, they will be settling out at the settling tank. As to prevent damage from big sizes of materials such as stones, timber, leaves and man-made litter, the trash rack is located close to the fore-bay. The water is then transported from the fore-bay to the turbine via penstock [3]. The concept of run-off-river scheme as illustrated in Fig. 1.0.

Regression examination is a reliable method of identifying which variables have impact on a topic of interest. The process of performing a regression allows to confidently determining which factors matter most, which factors can be ignored, and how these factors influence each other. The essential components related to this analysis are: i) Dependent Variable: This is the main factor to understand or predict. ii) Independent Variables: These are the factors that are hypothesized to have an impact on the dependent variable. In order to show the relationships between two variables, the scatter plot/scatter diagram is used [4]. The correlation analysis is used to measure strength of the association (linear relationship) between two variables. This analysis is only concerned with strength of the relationship and no causal effect is implied [5].

Since there is only one independent variable in this analysis, which is nozzle velocity, the model will be a simple linear regression model. The equation of this linear regression model is given in (1),

\[ y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x + \epsilon \]  

Whereby \( y \) is dependent or study variable, \( x \) is independent or explanatory variable, \( \beta_0 \) is known as intercept term and \( \beta_1 \) is the slope parameter and they are regression coefficients. The unobservable error component \( \epsilon \) accounts for the failure of data to lie on the straight line and represents the difference between the true and observed realization of \( y \). It is assumed that this component as independent and identically distributed random variable with mean zero and constant variance [6][7].

At Sg Perting Small Hydro Plant, the Turgo turbines are utilized. These are an impulse type of turbine, capable of handling much higher of flow rates as compared to a Pelton turbine.
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Because of this feature, the Turgo turbine is much more preferred to be used in hydroelectric plants that require medium hydraulic heads [8]. Fig. 2.0 shows the internal structure of the Turgo turbine.

![Fig. 2.0 Internal structure of Turgo Turbine](image)

There are nozzles that are properly located for the waterjet to smash the turbine buckets on one side at the angle of about 20°. This waterjet will generate the high speed of water that is appeared surrounding the turbine.[3] This shallow angle allows the water stream to exit on the other side instead of being diverted backwards [3]. Fig. 3.0 illustrates how the nozzle injects the water to the turbine vane.

![Fig. 3.0 (a) Nozzle sprays water to the vane](image)

The condition of running turbine’s blade operated in the month of March 2017 is shown in Fig. 3.0 (b) below:

![Fig. 3.0 (b) Turbine’s blade before replacement](image)

During the plant shutdown and maintenance in June 2017, the new turbine has been replaced as shown in Fig. 3.0 (c).

![Fig. 3.0 (c) Turbine blade after replacement](image)

II. METHODOLOGY

A. Measurement of Water Flow (Flow rate)

The measurement of water flow is carried out at the intake of hydropower system. Two ultrasonic sensors are installed at each section of settling basin at this intake. This TIENET 310 Ultrasonic Level Sensor [9] is connected to the Signature Flow Meter [10] that is specifically designed for open channel flow monitoring application. The data captured from the level sensor represents the numerical values of flow rates which to be processed by this Signature flow meter [11]. Fig. 4.0 and Fig. 5.0 show the sensor and signature flow meter respectively.

![Fig. 4.0 TIENET Ultrasonic Sensor](image)

![Fig. 5.0 Signature Flow Meter](image)
B. Measurement of Output Power (KW)

The generated output power for each generator is recorded and displayed by the power management meter. This meter is located in the Control Room at the powerhouse of hydropower station. Fig. 6.0 shows the Power Management meter.

C. Measurement of Vibration Velocity

For the purpose of statistical analysis, the data of vibration is collected for the duration of fifteen days in three different months with three conditions; one month with average rainfall distribution (March), one month with the lowest rainfall distribution (June) and one month with the highest rainfall distribution (October). The measurement axes at the turbine and generator are as in the Fig. 7.0(a)-(b) respectively.

D. Applied mathematical equation

The relationship between generated output power and flow rate in hydropower system is indicated by (2), in which \( \rho \) (kg/m\(^3\)) represents a density 1000 kg/m\(^3\), \( g \) (m/s\(^2\)) represents the acceleration due to gravity 9.81 m/s\(^2\), \( Q \) (m\(^3\)/s) denotes the flow rate, and \( H \) (m) will be the net head available at the inlet to the turbine, and \( \eta \) is the overall energy conversion efficiency.

\[
P = \rho gHQ\eta \tag{2}
\]

The kinetic energy \( \frac{1}{2}mv^2 \) of the water impacting on the blades is the maximum power output from a turbine that is used in a run of river application. Taking into consideration the efficiency \( \eta \) of the turbine and its installation, the maximum output power \( P_{\text{max}} \) can be calculated as in (3) in which \( v \) will be the velocity of the water flow and \( Q \) represents the volume of water flowing through the turbine per second. Because of there is generator losses in the transformer, the general efficiency for small hydropower system electricity generation is lower (< 80%) than for mechanical power supply system [10],

\[
P_{\text{max}} = \frac{1}{2} \eta \rho Qv^2 \tag{3}
\]

By manipulating (3), the velocity of water flow into the spear valve (nozzle velocity) can be determined as in (4)
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\[ v = \sqrt{\frac{2P_{max}}{\eta p Q}} \]  \hspace{1cm} (4)

E. The characteristic of vibration velocity data distribution.

A box plot or boxplot is a method for graphically depicting groups of numerical data through their quartiles. This will enable to study the distributional characteristics of a group data set as well as the level of the data. Prior to the development of box plot, the statistic parameters such as mean, median, min and max as well as standard deviation are determined [13]

III. RESULTS

A. The sample of data measurement

Table 1.0 (a) – (d) shows the sample result of flow rate, generated output, vibration velocity measurement and calculated nozzle velocity respectively.

Table 1.0 Sample of data measurement

| Label | Flow Rate | Flow Rate |
|-------|-----------|-----------|
| Units | m3/d for | m3/s for |
| 3/1/2017 9:00 | 186.220337 | 3.103672283 |
| 3/1/2017 10:00 | 186.66832 | 3.111138667 |
| 3/1/2017 11:00 | 191.036133 | 3.1839555 |
| 3/1/2017 12:00 | 203.558533 | 3.392642217 |
| 3/1/2017 13:00 | 195.240448 | 3.25407467 |
| 3/1/2017 14:00 | 187.264755 | 3.12107925 |
| 3/1/2017 15:00 | 187.249524 | 3.119323733 |

b. Sample measurement of Output power

| Label | Nozzle |
|-------|--------|
| Units | Pmax |
| 3/1/2017 9:00 | 1111.00 |
| 3/1/2017 10:00 | 1111.00 |
| 3/1/2017 11:00 | 1111.00 |
| 3/1/2017 12:00 | 1111.00 |
| 3/1/2017 13:00 | 1111.00 |
| 3/1/2017 14:00 | 1111.00 |
| 3/1/2017 15:00 | 1167.00 |
| 3/1/2017 16:00 | 1167.00 |
| 3/1/2017 17:00 | 1167.00 |

c. Sample measurement of Vibration Velocity

| Velocity | Vibration |
|----------|-----------|
| B1X      | 4.05      |
| 16.35072 | 4.05      |
| 16.31691 | 4.02      |
| 15.99448 | 4.07      |
| 15.13692 | 4.02      |

d. Sample calculated of nozzle velocity

For the purpose of the Regression Analysis using MATLAB, data at each measurement axis of vibration velocity is arranged side-by-side with the calculated nozzle velocity. These arrays will be imported into the MATLAB environment for analysis purpose. The sample of this array arrangement is shown in Table 2.0.

Table 2.0 Sample of array arrangement

| Label | Flow Rate | Nozzle |
|-------|-----------|--------|
| Units | m3/s for | Pmax   |
| 3/1/2017 9:00 | 3.60 | 1111.00 | 16.35072 |
| 3/1/2017 10:00 | 3.61 | 1111.00 | 16.31691 |
| 3/1/2017 11:00 | 3.66 | 1111.00 | 15.99448 |
| 3/1/2017 12:00 | 3.89 | 1111.00 | 15.13692 |
| 3/1/2017 13:00 | 3.75 | 1111.00 | 15.69592 |
| 3/1/2017 14:00 | 3.62 | 1111.00 | 15.27212 |
| 3/1/2017 15:00 | 3.62 | 1157.00 | 15.68614 |
| 3/1/2017 16:00 | 3.57 | 1157.00 | 16.90675 |

B. The distributional characteristic of vibration velocity

i. For the month of March 2017

Table 3.0 (a) and (b) represent statistical parameter and the characteristic of box plot of data respectively. Fig. 9.0 shows the box plot.
Table 3.0 (a) Statistical parameter of data

|       | B1X   | B1Y   | B2X   | B2Y   |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Count | 164   | 164   | 164   | 164   |
| Mean  | 3.994614 | 8.712592 | 3.83628 | 8.675788 |
| SD    | 0.411899 | 1.673787 | 0.493751 | 1.778205 |
| Max   | 4.886934 | 12.90506 | 4.893453 | 12.1052 |
| Q3    | 4.337459 | 10.00385 | 4.227191 | 10.05926 |
| Median| 4.03139 | 9.004872 | 3.813816 | 8.792165 |
| Min   | 2.649259 | 4.825299 | 2.541964 | 4.013244 |

Table 3.0 (b) The characteristic of box plot

|       | B1X   | B1Y   | B2X   | B2Y   |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Bottom| 3.793473 | 7.21471 | 3.506069 | 7.665882 |
| 2 Q Box| 0.237916 | 1.790162 | 0.307747 | 1.126582 |
| 3 Q Box| 0.306069 | 0.998976 | 0.413375 | 1.267093 |
| Whisker -| -1.144215 | 2.389411 | 0.964105 | 3.652638 |
| Whisker +| 0.549475 | 2.901208 | 0.666261 | 2.045944 |

Fig. 9.0 The Box Plot

Table 4.0 (a) Statistical parameter of data

|       | B1X   | B1Y   | B2X   | B2Y   |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Count | 159   | 159   | 159   | 159   |
| Mean  | 2.890252 | 2.874675 | 2.747727 | 2.772727 |
| SD    | 0.362151 | 0.302292 | 0.263511 | 0.242977 |
| Max   | 3.971367 | 3.643184 | 3.433774 | 3.39679 |
| Q3    | 3.063866 | 3.098859 | 2.955558 | 2.943139 |
| Median| 2.81664 | 2.841363 | 2.759428 | 2.800946 |
| Min   | 2.22092 | 2.110645 | 2.211069 | 2.073192 |

Table 4.0 (b) The characteristic of box plot

|       | B1X   | B1Y   | B2X   | B2Y   |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Bottom| 2.643174 | 2.677846 | 2.55174 | 2.588005 |
| 2 Q Box| 0.173467 | 0.163517 | 0.207688 | 0.212941 |
| 3 Q Box| 0.247225 | 0.257496 | 0.19613 | 0.142193 |
| Whisker -| 0.421082 | 0.567201 | 0.340671 | 0.514813 |
| Whisker +| 0.907502 | 0.544325 | 0.478216 | 0.453651 |

Fig. 10.0 The Box Plot

Table 5.0 (a) Statistical parameter of data

|       | B1X   | B1Y   | B2X   | B2Y   |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Count | 154   | 154   | 154   | 154   |
| Mean  | 2.882143 | 2.874675 | 2.747727 | 2.772727 |
| SD    | 0.362151 | 0.302292 | 0.263511 | 0.242977 |
| Max   | 3.971367 | 3.643184 | 3.433774 | 3.39679 |
| Q3    | 3.063866 | 3.098859 | 2.955558 | 2.943139 |
| Median| 2.81664 | 2.841363 | 2.759428 | 2.800946 |
| Min   | 2.22092 | 2.110645 | 2.211069 | 2.073192 |

Table 5.0 (b) The characteristic of box plot

|       | B1X   | B1Y   | B2X   | B2Y   |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Bottom| 2.643174 | 2.677846 | 2.55174 | 2.588005 |
| 2 Q Box| 0.173467 | 0.163517 | 0.207688 | 0.212941 |
| 3 Q Box| 0.247225 | 0.257496 | 0.19613 | 0.142193 |
| Whisker -| 0.421082 | 0.567201 | 0.340671 | 0.514813 |
| Whisker +| 0.907502 | 0.544325 | 0.478216 | 0.453651 |

Fig. 11.0 The Box Plot
C. The results of Regression Analysis

The tabulated data of nozzle velocity and vibration velocity for all measurement axes in each month have been imported into MATLAB Curvefit Tools for regression analysis purpose. The scatter plots and regression parameters generated are presented as the following:

i. For the month of March 2017

Fig. 12.0 (a) to (h) represent scatter plot and regression analysis parameter for all axes of vibration measurement points.
Table 6.0 The overall summary of Regression Analysis parameter

| Key Features | Turbine | Generator |
|--------------|---------|-----------|
|              | B1X     | B1Y       |
|              | B2X     | B2Y       |

- **Correlation**: Positive
- **Null Hypotheses, H0**: β1 = 0
- **% Variation of DV by IV**: 48.11% 38.00% 48.92% 56.58%
- **p-value (larger or smaller than CI)**: smaller  smaller  smaller  smaller
- **Confidence interval for the slope**: not include 0 not include 0 not include not include 0

ii. For the month of June 2017

- **Fig. 13.0** (a) to (h) represent scatter plot and regression analysis parameter for all axes of vibration measurement points

(d) Regression analysis parameter

\[ f(x) = a \exp(b \cdot x) \]

Coefficients (with 95% confidence bounds):
\[ a = 2.083 (1.975, 2.19) \]
\[ b = 0.01758 (0.01506, 0.0201) \]

Goodness of fit:
- **SSE**: 12.57
- **R-square**: 0.9189
- **Adjusted R-square**: 0.9151
- **RMSE**: 0.2937

(e) Scatter plot for B2X

(f) Regression analysis parameter

\[ f(x) = a \exp(b \cdot x) \]

Coefficients (with 95% confidence bounds):
\[ a = 1.046 (1.045, 1.047) \]
\[ b = 0.01769 (0.01501, 0.02003) \]

Goodness of fit:
- **SSE**: 11.90
- **R-square**: 0.9832
- **Adjusted R-square**: 0.9831
- **RMSE**: 0.2634

(g) Scatter plot for B2Y
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**Results**

General model Exp1:
\[ f(x) = a \exp(bx) \]

Coefficients (with 95% confidence bounds):
\[ a = 5.615 (5.226, 5.994) \]
\[ b = -0.01779 (-0.02056, -0.01503) \]

Goodness of fit:
- SSE: 16.94
- R-square: 0.5903
- Adjusted R-square: 0.5474
- RMSE: 0.3279

(h) Regression analysis parameter

Fig. 13.0 Scatter plot and regression analysis parameter for all axes

The summary of overall Regression Analysis key features as in Table 7.0 below.

**Table 7.0 The overall summary of Regression Analysis parameter**

| Key Features                        | Turbine | Generator |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Correlation                         | B1X     | B1Y       |
| B2X                                 | B2Y     |
| Null Hypotheses, H0: β1 = 0         | Reject  | Reject    |
| Null Hypotheses, H0: β2 = 0         | Reject  | Reject    |
| % Variation of DV by IV             | 51.89%  | 63.28%    |
| 49.32%                              | 55.03%  |
| p-value (larger or smaller than CI) | smaller | smaller   |
| Confidence interval for the slope   | not include 0 | not include 0 |
|                                     | not include 0 | not include 0 |
|                                     | not include 0 | not include 0 |
|                                     | not include 0 | not include 0 |

Turbine Generator

Table of Key Features

iii. For the month of October 2017

Fig. 14.0 (a) to (h) represent scatter plot and regression analysis parameter for all axes of vibration measurement points.

(a) Scatter plot for B1X

(b) Regression analysis parameter
IV. DISCUSSIONS

From the results of the box plot, it can be seen that in a month of March, given the much longer whiskers in B1Y and B2Y, they vary more widely in terms of vibration velocity measured at that two axes compared to B1X and B2X.

In the month of June, the similar characteristic obviously can be identified at the B2Y axis, but the other axes seem to have evenly length of whisker.

In contrast to the characteristic of box plot in October, all axes exhibit quite similar length of whisker.

With regards to the regression analysis results, particularly related to the coefficient of determination, $R^2$ it can be observed that in the month of March, the percentage of correlation between dependent variable (vibration velocity) and independent variable (nozzle velocity) lie in the range of 48% to 58%, with the highest occur at the B2Y axis.

In the month of June, the percentage variation of dependent variable and independent variable in the range of 50% to 63% with the highest recorded at B1Y and B2Y respectively.

Meanwhile, in the month of October, much smaller variation is notified, with the range from 29% to 38%, with the highest can be seen at B1Y axis.

In all cases, the 95% confidence interval does not include 0, which mean that there is significant relationship between vibration velocity and nozzle velocity.

V. CONCLUSION

a. Related to the distribution characteristics of measured vibration velocity data represented in box plot;

- The highest vibration velocity is recorded in the month of March 2017 affected by some broken blade on the turbine.
- The significantly reduced of vibration velocity measured in the month of June and October 2017 after the damaged turbine has been replaced with a new one.
- The percentage of spear valve opening has also influenced the level vibration velocity in order to maintain the rotational speed of turbine at 750 rpm. During the low level water operation (in June 2017), valve is opened up to 100% and the data recorded is slightly higher. At high level water operation (in October 2017), valve is adjusted not more than 50% opening, the vibration velocity data is slightly similar as in the case of June 2017.
- In March 2017, with some damages on the blade, the valve is kept opened not more than 50% (due to avoid high level noise developed) but still recorded high vibration velocity.

b. With regards to the regression analysis results presented in scatter plot and table goodness of fit:

- The most significant correlation between vibration velocity and nozzle velocity can be observed in the month of June. This is contributed by the large percentage of spear valve opening in order to allow sufficient volume of water to drive the turbine as to maintain the rotational speed of the turbine. Because of the volume is increased, the nozzle velocity is higher, initiated vibration velocity at driving end of turbine, propagated into other component in the system.
- Similar outcome can be seen in the month of October. However because the water level is high, spear valve is adjusted in a much lower percentage so that the volume of water is enough to drive and maintain the speed of turbine. Because of the nozzle velocity is significantly high, the vibration velocity is developed and distributed to other connected components in the system.

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