

펌프섬프 모델 불안정유동 억제를 위한 벨마우스 형상 최적화 연구

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Bellmouth Shape Optimization for the Suppression of Flow Instability in a Pump Sump Model

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Key Words : Bellmouth (벨마우스), Shape Optimization (형상 최적화), Pump Sump (펌프 흡수정), Swirl Flow (선회 유동), Vorticity (와도)

ABSTRACT

The pump sump is usually used in the agricultural and industrial sectors to provide a uniform flow inlet for the pumping system. A suitable bellmouth (*BM*) design is necessary for the suppression of vorticity. The radius, elliptical, and spline design methods were selected to design the proper *BM* shape. Moreover, the parametric design of the *BM* shape was achieved with each design method. The optimization process was collaborated with the *BM* design methods to suppress flow instability in the pump sump. In this study, multi-objective optimization was used to minimize vorticity and maximize flow uniformity at the *BM* inlet. The optimal *BM* shape from the radius design method is preferable to other methods. The comparative study showed that optimal *BM* is effective in the suppression of vorticity than the initial one.

1. Introduction

The pump sump is widely used in the industrial and agricultural sectors because it is an integral component of the pumping system. The performance of the pumping system is directly related to the flow behavior in the pump sump. Hence, the stable flow should be maintained in the pump sump to reduce efficiency drop, cavitation, swirl flow, vorticity, noise, and vibration.^(1,2) The proper design of the pump sump is a necessity for the stable operation of the pumping system. The poor intake design of the pump sump causes swirl flow in the pumping system.⁽³⁾

The pump sump design consists of a suction pipe and a sump.⁽⁴⁾ The standards and guidelines for pump sump design are published by American National Standards

Institution (*ANSI*),⁽⁵⁾ the British Standards Institution (*BSI*),⁽⁶⁾ the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers (*JMSE*).⁽⁷⁾ Generally, *BM* is the most common intake structure for the pump sump.⁽⁸⁾ *BMs* are used to reduce the flow instabilities before entering into the pumping system.⁽⁹⁾ However, many vortices exist in the pump sump, which causes swirl flow, cavitation, noise, and vibration.⁽¹⁰⁾ The uneven flow distribution and large-scale turbulence are occurred in the pump sump.⁽¹¹⁾ The air-entraining vortices occur at the intake of the pump sump.⁽¹²⁾

Rajendran *et al.*⁽¹³⁾ made a 3D turbulent flow analysis in the pump sump and compared it with the experimental results. Li *et al.*⁽¹⁴⁾ observed velocity streamlines in the pump sump intake using Reynolds-Averaged Navier Stokes (*RANS*) equation. They concluded that the steady-

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state is unable to elaborate the flow in the pump intake. Nagahara conducted a *PIV* experiment and *CFD* analysis to visualize flow streamlines in the pump sump intake.⁽¹⁵⁾ Tokyay and Constantinescu compared the flow structure in the pump sump by large eddy simulation (*LES*) and *RANS* models with *PIV* measurement.⁽¹⁶⁾ They concluded that the *LES* model provides better predictions of the velocity, vorticity, streamline than the Shear Stress Transport model.⁽¹⁶⁾ The *LES* approach is suitable for the unsteady flow prediction in the pump sump.⁽¹⁷⁾ Bayeul *et al.*⁽¹⁸⁾ also used a *CFD* commercial code to predict the flow behavior in the pump sump and study the flow characteristic of air entertainment by comparing multi-phase numerical study results with experimental investigations.

The proper intake design provides uniform swirl-free flow to the pumping system.⁽¹⁹⁾ The anti-vortex device (*AVD*) is used to suppress vortex instability in the pump sump.⁽²⁰⁾ Kim *et al.*⁽²¹⁾ showed the effectiveness of *AVD* for the suppression of vorticity and turbulence kinetic energy. In this study, various design approaches were adopted for the proper parametric design of *BM*. The basic design process is incorporated with optimization to generate an optimized *BM* shape. Therefore, this study is aimed to suppress the flow instabilities like vorticities and swirl flow at the intake.

2. Design and Numerical Methodology

2.1 Design of bellmouth shape

The *BM* shape is essential for the proper operation of the pump sump. The *BM* shape can be designed by

using various techniques. This study adopted three design methods: a) radius method,⁽²²⁾ b) elliptical method,⁽²²⁾ and c) spline method.⁽²³⁾ Fig. 1 shows the design methods of *BM* using radius, elliptical, and spline methods. D_1 and D_2 are 50 mm and 100 mm, respectively.

In the radius method, the circular arc is used to make the *BM* shape. The *BM* shape is prepared by an ellipse in the elliptical. In the spline method, a spline curve is used to design the *BM* shape.

In the radius method, the radius of curvature is considered as the design parameter. Fig. 1 a) indicates the arc radius r is used to embody the *BM* shape. Similarly, in the elliptical design method, an ellipse is used to make the *BM* shape, whose design parameters are major and minor radii. Fig. 1 b) indicates that a and b are major and minor radii of the ellipse, respectively. In the spline method, the three spline points are used to make the *BM* shape. Thus, the horizontal and vertical coordinates are considered as the design parameters. Fig. 1 c) shows that points P_1 , P_2 and P_3 are used to create the spline curve. The coordinate of these spline points was used as design parameters for *BM* from the spline method.

The initial design of *BM* was adopted from the previous studies.⁽²⁴⁻²⁶⁾ The initial *BM* shape design is based on the radius method. Fig. 2 indicates the 2D view of the pump sump model and measurement location. The same *BM* position and diameters are used for the optimization.

The initial *BM* shape is prone to the vortex core and swirl flow. In this study, the *BM* shape optimization was performed to suppress the vortex core.

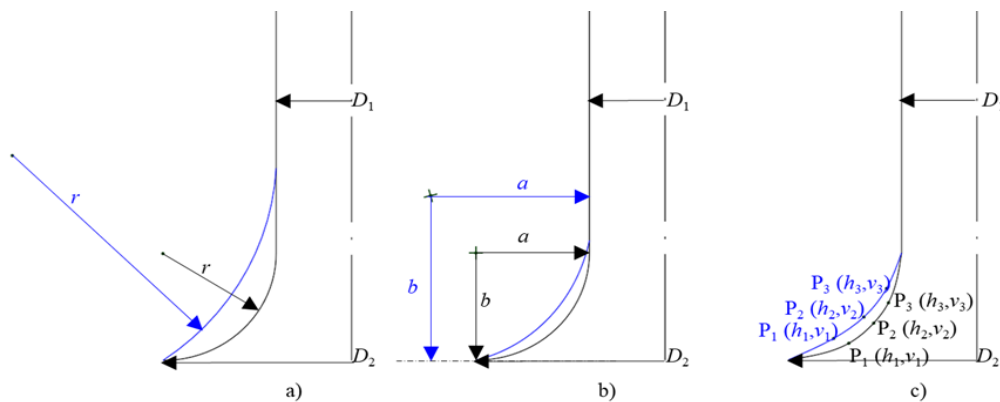


Fig. 1 Design methods for *BM* a) radius method b) elliptical method and c) spline method

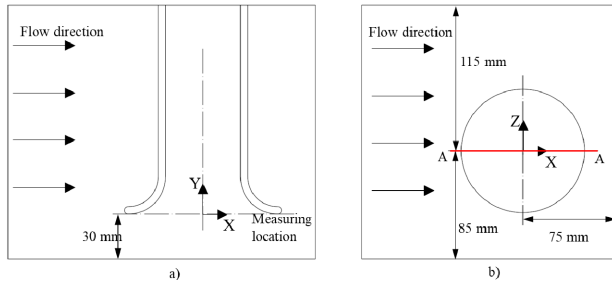


Fig. 2 a) Cross section view and b) top view of *BM* in pump sump

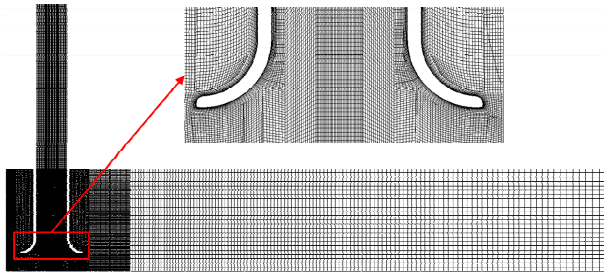


Fig. 3 Numerical grid of pump sump with initial *BM* shape

2.2 Numerical Methodology

CFD analysis is used to investigate the flow behavior in the pump sump. *ANSYS CFX 19.2*⁽²⁷⁾ was used to conduct *CFD* analysis. The structured grids were generated using *ANSYS ICEM 19.2*⁽²⁷⁾ and shown in Fig. 3. Fig. 4 illustrates the boundary conditions for pump sump analysis. The red and blue colors represent the water and air, respectively. The upper section of the pump sump is subject to atmospheric pressure. The unsteady internal flow in the pump sump is changing according to the *CFD* methods. The various models were selected to illustrate the internal flow behavior in the pump sump. The average y^+ value for the *BM* is less than 5. Therefore, the numerical grids are suitable for the *CFD* analysis. Boundary conditions were adopted from previous studies,^(23,26) which is illustrated in Table 1. The instantaneous results at 10 sec were used to observe the vortex at the *BM* inlet.

The vorticity illustrates the flow field in the *BM* inlet. It is defined as the curl of the flow velocity (u), and the definition can be expressed as in Eq. (1).

$$\omega^n = \nabla \times u \quad (1)$$

The mesh dependency test was conducted as shown in Fig. 5, and 1 million nodes are suitable for *DES*,

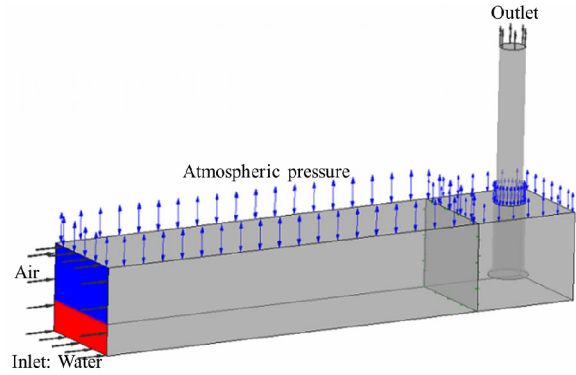


Fig. 4 Boundary conditions for *BM* *CFD* analysis

Table 1 Boundary conditions for the *CFD* analysis of pump sump

Parameter/Boundary	Value/Conditions		
Analysis type	Unsteady state		
Phase	Multi-phase (water and air)		
Inlet	Mass flow rate	Air	0
		Water	8.32 m ³ /h
Upper Section	Atmospheric pressure		
Outlet	Mass flow rate		
Water level	50 mm from bottom		
Turbulence model	SAS-SST/LES/DES		
Wall	No slip condition		
Buoyancy	Gravity (9.8 m/s ²)		
Time duration	10 sec		
Time steps	0.001 sec		

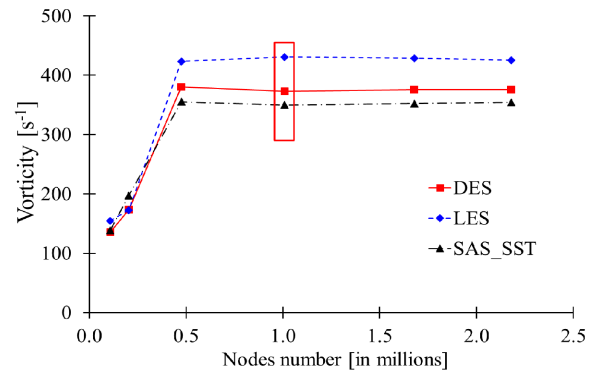


Fig. 5 Mesh dependency test

LES, and *SAS-SST* analysis method Fig. 6 shows vorticity distribution in the *BM* at line AA. The maximum vorticity in the *BM* inlet is 400 s.⁻¹ The swirling strength (λ) is the excellent vortex indicator in the wall turbulence.⁽²⁸⁾

Fig. 7 shows the swirling strength comparison among various methods. Finally, *LES* was selected to optimize and visualize the internal flow in *BM*.

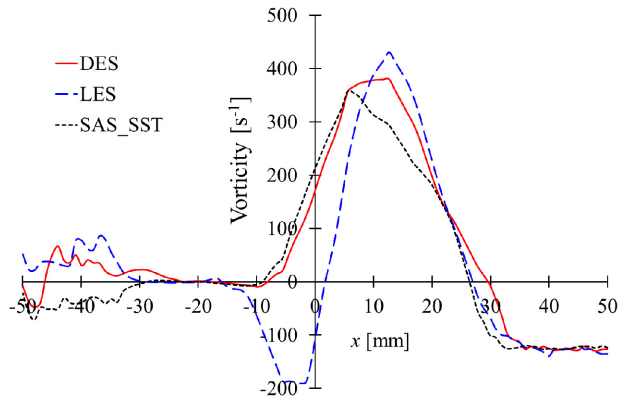


Fig. 6 Vorticity with various methods in initial *BM* shape

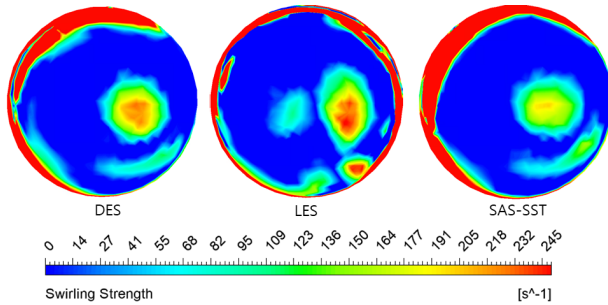


Fig. 7 Swirling strength contours with various turbulence model in initial *BM* shape

3. Optimization Methodology

Fig. 8 shows the flow chart for the *BM* shape optimization process. The optimization flow chart explains the process required to perform optimization. The parametric design of the *BM* shape was achieved by various design methods. The surrogate model was prepared, which predicts the objective functions with a change in design variables. The precise surrogate model was selected based on the goodness of fit.⁽²⁹⁾ The multi-objective genetic algorithm⁽²⁹⁾ was used to obtain the optimal shape for the *BM*. Finally, the optimal solution was verified by *CFD* analysis. Hence, the optimal *BM* shape will be achieved.

3.1 Parametric design of *BM*

The parametric design of *BM* is varied with design methodology. The parametric design of the *BM* shape with radius, elliptical, and spline methods was shown in Eqs. (2), (3), and (4), respectively.

$$d_{r,d} = [r]^T \quad (2)$$

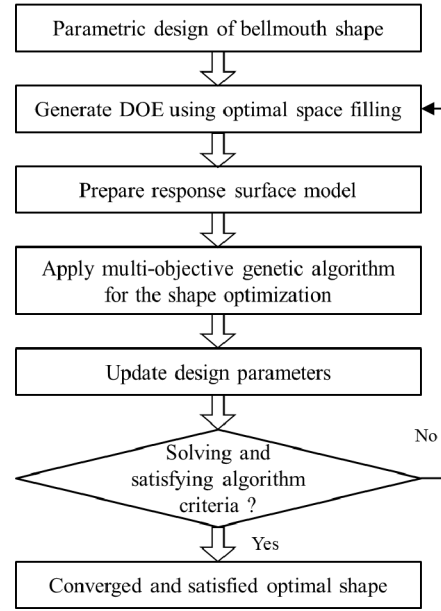


Fig. 8 Optimization methodology for *BM* shape optimization

Table 2 Bound values for the *BM* shape design

Parameter	Lower bound (d_i^L)	Upper bound (d_i^U)
r	20 mm	70 mm
a	20 mm	50 mm
b	20 mm	50 mm
h_1	35 mm	46 mm
h_2	30 mm	34 mm
h_3	26 mm	28 mm
v_1	1 mm	5 mm
v_2	8 mm	13 mm
v_3	16 mm	20 mm

Table 3 Setting criteria for Optimization

Parameter	Value
Sampling method	Optimal space filling
Number of initial designs	500
Maximum number of cycles	25
Crossover probability	0.95
Mutation probability	0.05
Allowable Pareto percentage	95
Convergence stability percentage	5

$$d_{ep} = [a, b]^T \quad (3)$$

$$d_{sp} = [h_i, v_i]^T \quad 1 \leq i \leq 3 \quad (4)$$

where r is the arc radius of *BM* curve, a is the major radius and b is the minor radius of the ellipse, h_i and v_i are horizontal and vertical coordinates for spline points at i^{th} location from the center axis, respectively.

3.2 Surrogate modeling

Surrogate modeling is an essential part of the optimization process. The surrogate model is the approximation model used to predict the objective function with a change in design parameter values. The preparation of the surrogate model is highly dependent on the design of experiments (DOE). Therefore, the optimal space-filling method⁽²⁹⁾ was selected to generate DOE within the design space. The bound values for design parameters are shown in Table 2. The design space is considered to satisfy the limitation of BM shape and pump sump design.

Recently, numerous techniques are available for the generation of the surrogate model. The methods like genetic aggregation (GA),⁽³⁰⁾ Kriging (KG),⁽³¹⁾ radial basis function (RBF),⁽³²⁾ non-parametric regression (NPR),⁽³³⁾ neural network (NN)⁽³⁴⁾ are available to prepare the surrogate model. Among these methods, GA was selected to formulate the explicit surrogate model.⁽²⁹⁾ The surrogate model reduces the computational cost and time. It can interpolate numerous design points for the optimization process. Hence, an accurate surrogate model will provide a precise approximation between design variables and objective functions.

3.3 Optimization Algorithm

The optimization formulation for the BM shape optimization is shown in Eq. (5).

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{maximize } S_u(d_i) \\ & \text{minimize } \omega^p(d_i) \\ & \text{subject to } d_i^L \leq d_i \leq d_i^U \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

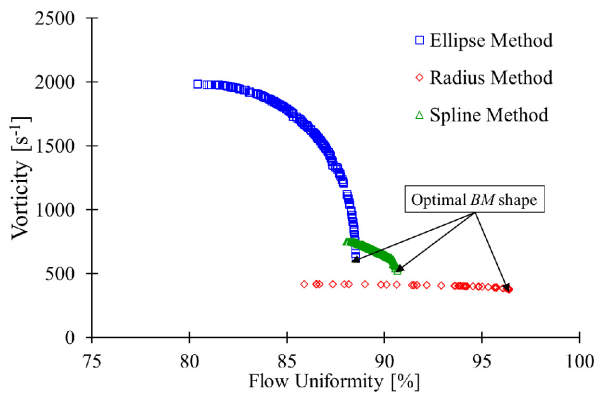


Fig. 9 Pareto front for the BM shape optimization

where S_u is the flow uniformity, ω^p is the vorticity, d_i is the design parameter varying according to the design method, superscript L and U are lower and upper bound of design parameters.

Flow uniformity is defined as the deviation between local and average flow velocity in the specified cross-section area. It is calculated by using Eq. (6).

$$S_u = \left[1 - \oint \frac{\sqrt{(u - \bar{u})}}{2A\bar{u}} \right] \times 100\% \quad (6)$$

where u is the local velocity, \bar{u} is the average flow velocity, A is the cross-sectional area.

The flow uniformity and vorticity are measured at the BM inlet. The multi-objective genetic algorithm (MOGA) was used to optimize the BM shape. The setting criteria for MOGA were adopted from the previous study,⁽²⁹⁾ which is indicated in Table 3.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 Optimal BM shape

The Pareto front is used to obtain the optimal design based on design criteria. The vorticity and flow uniformity were chosen to prepare the Pareto front. The vorticity and flow uniformity were measured on the line AA. The Pareto front indicates the trade-off between vorticity and flow uniformity in the BM. Pareto fronts from various design methods are compared in Fig. 9. The optimal BM shape from the radius method is preferable for the vortex suppression in the BM. Fig. 10 indicates optimal BM shape comparison generated by radius, elliptical, and spline design methods.

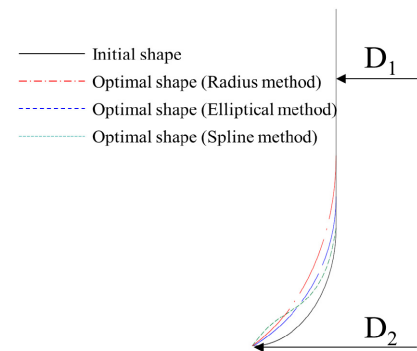


Fig. 10 Comparison between initial and optimal BM shapes

The optimal *BM*s were selected from various design methods. Fig. 11 shows a vorticity comparison between initial and optimal *BM* shapes from various design methods. The change of vorticity from negative to positive value indicates the direction change of vortex in the initial *BM* shape. Moreover, the magnitude of vorticity in the *BM*s with radius, elliptical, and spline methods are 315 s^{-1} , 610 s^{-1} , and 560 s^{-1} , respectively. The optimal *BM* shape from the radius method has minimum vorticity compared to other design methods.

Fig. 12 shows the circumferential velocity contours in the initial and optimal *BM* shape. The eccentric and negative velocity movement is visible in the initial *BM* shape. The negative circumferential velocity is the cause of negative vorticity in the initial *BM*, as shown in Fig. 11. The *BM* shape optimization successfully suppressed the negative velocity distribution at the *BM* inlet. The *BM* designed by the elliptical and spline method showed a larger negative velocity zone compare to the radius method. The difference in positive and negative velocity zone is the cause for the swirl flow and vortex formation in the *BM*. The circumferential velocity distribution is more uniform in the optimal *BM* by radius method than other *BM* shapes, which reduces the vorticity strength. The proper *BM* designed is required to suppress swirl flow and vortex instability in the pumping system. Therefore, the optimal *BM* shape from the radius method was selected.

4.2 Comparison between initial and optimal *BM* shapes

The optimal *BM* shape was prepared by the radius method. A detailed flow behavior comparison between initial and optimal *BM* shapes was accomplished. Fig. 11 shows the possibility of the vortex in the *BM*. The optimal *BM* reduces the vorticity from 423 s^{-1} to 315 s^{-1} . Therefore, the optimization of *BM* suppresses the vortex strength in the pump sump. Fig. 13 shows the comparison between circumferential velocity in the *BM* shape. The sharp circumferential velocity drop indicates the strong vortex in the proximity of the *BM* center. The magnitude of negative circumferential velocity is decreased from 1.51 m/s to 0.55 m/s with the optimal *BM* shape. Moreover, the optimal *BM* shape helps to recover the steep fall in the circumferential

velocity. Eventually, the vortex strength is suppressed by the optimal *BM* shape installation.

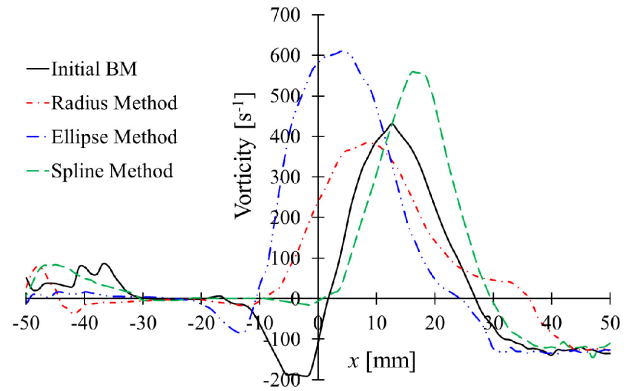


Fig. 11 Vorticity comparison between initial and optimal *BM* shapes with a) radius b) elliptical and c) spline methods

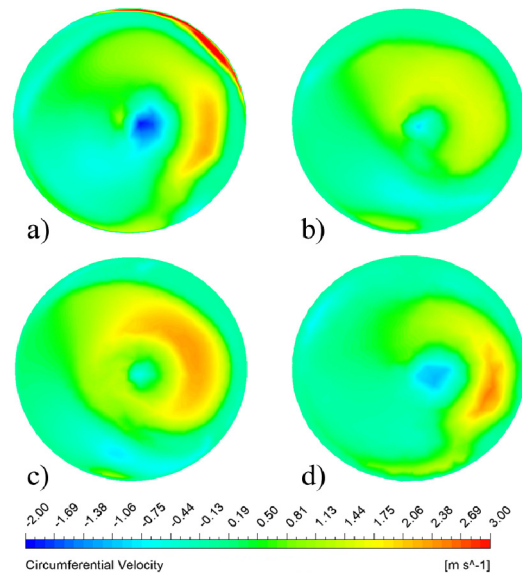


Fig. 12 Circumferential velocity contour comparison in a) initial and optimal *BM* shapes by b) radius c) elliptical d) spline methods

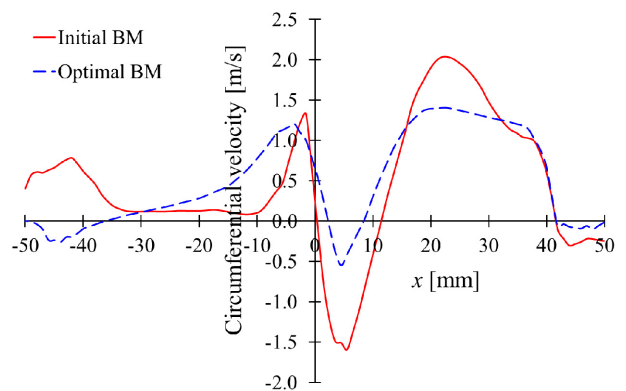


Fig. 13 Circumferential velocity comparison between initial and optimal *BM* shape

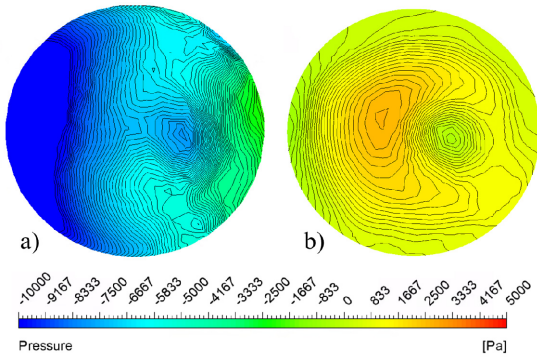


Fig. 14 Static pressure contour comparison between a) initial and b) optimal *BM* shapes

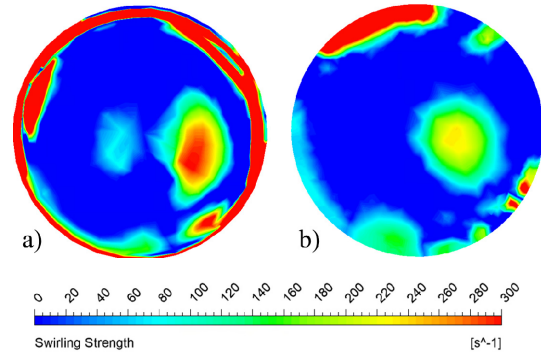


Fig. 15 Swirling strength comparison between a) initial and b) optimal *BM* shapes

Furthermore, qualitative analyses were used to visualize the swirl flow and vortex instability in the *BM*. Fig. 14 illustrates the pressure contours comparison in the initial and optimal *BM* shape. The pressure contours indicate a large negative static pressure zone in the initial *BM* shape, which leads to cavitation, noise, and vibration. The optimal *BM* shape recovers the negative pressure in the *BM* inlet, Fig. 15 represents the swirling strength in the *BM*. At the vortex center, the swirling strength is comparatively higher than in other locations. It implies that the suppression of swirling strength will reduce the vortex strength in the *BM*. Fig. 15 shows that the optimal *BM* shape reduces the swirling strength at the vortex core and in the inner edge of the optimal *BM* shape.

The comparison between initial and optimal *BM* shapes is shown in Table 4. The flow uniformity is increased from 62.85 % to 96.28 % in the optimal *BM* inlet. The installation of optimal *BM* reduced the swirling strength from 431 s^{-1} to 104 s^{-1} . The average static pressure changed to a positive value in optimal *BM* shape, compared to the initial *BM* shape. The higher flow uniformity indicates that the difference in the average and local flow velocity is minimum.

The optimal *BM* shape improved the flow uniformity and suppressed the swirling strength significantly at the *BM* inlet. Hence, the optimal *BM* is effective in the suppression of the vortex instability in the pump sump.

5. Conclusions

The vortex instability in the pump sump intake is dependent on the *BM* shape. The radius, elliptical, and

Table 4 Comparison between initial and optimal *BM* shape

Parameter	Initial <i>BM</i> shape	Optimal <i>BM</i> shape
Arc radius (<i>r</i>)	25 mm	45 mm
Flow uniformity (S_w)	62.85 %	96.28 %
Static pressure (p_{static})	-7434.49 Pa	723.96 Pa
Swirling strength (ω)	431 s^{-1}	104 s^{-1}

spline design techniques were selected to design the *BM* shape. The radius, elliptical, and spline design methods are one design variable, two design variables, and six design variables optimization problems, respectively. The *BM* shape design with the spline method is a high-dimensional problem compare to other design methods. The design of *BM* is highly complicated with the spline method.

The flow uniformity and vorticity were selected as the performance measures for the *BM* shape optimization. The optimal *BM* shape is obtained from each design approach. The Pareto front and *CFD* analyses showed that the radius method is suitable for the *BM* shape design. Therefore, the optimal *BM* shape was selected from the radius design method.

The comparison between initial and optimal *BM* shapes was carried out. The flow uniformity was increased from 62.85% to 96.28% with the installation of optimal *BM* shape. The vorticity was decreased from 4340 s^{-1} to 730 s^{-1} . The optimization of the *BM* shape reduced the vortex instability at the *BM* inlet. The static pressure was increased drastically in optimal *BM* shape compare to the initial one. Hence, the cavitation possibility was minimized with the installation of an optimal *BM* shape. Therefore, the effective suppression of cavitation, swirl flow, and vorticity is possible from the optimal *BM* shape installation.

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