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Parameters Optimization of Tube Type, Pressure, and Mass Fraction on Vortex Tube Performance Using the Taguchi Method

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ABSTRACT

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Keywords:

could temperature, coefficient of performance refrigeration (COP), cooling machine, natural cooling, forced cooling, parameter design, efficient experimental and reliable statistics The purpose of this study is to analyze the parameters of cold temperature and coefficient of performance refrigeration (COP_{ref}) of the vortex tube cooling machine and how much the contribution of each parameter to the performance. This analysis also aims to predict the optimal value of cold temperature and COP_{ref} of the vortex tube as well as to predict the condition of how the optimal value is obtained. To find out whether the analysis is suitable for optimizing the performance, then the confirmation data verification is done to know the error level. The parameters considered in the experiment were the tube type consisting of natural cooling and forced cooling, the pressures are 0.5bar, 1.0bar, and 1.5bar, and fractions are 30 %, 40 %, 50 %, 60 %, and 70 %. The results of the experimental test optimized using the Taguchi method where data is reduced by selecting the three optimal fractions in each response. Obtained that tube type, pressure, and fraction are factors that influence performance with the level of error for predicting the optimal value at cold temperatures is <5 %. This study provides an analysis of the contribution of improved design of vortex tube performance parameters that are efficient experimental and reliable statistics.

1. INTRODUCTION

Current cooling machine needs cannot be separated from daily life. One of the cooling devices used in the industrial world is vortex tube. This tool can only be used with compressible air that is sprayed, so this tool is very environmentally friendly because it does not produce dangerous freon emissions. Vortex tube in a works system has no moving parts therefore it does not require maintenance costs for wear components due to friction, which makes it more economical in maintenance [1].

Many research efforts to improve the performance of this tool have been carried out. It was found that forced cooling by flowing water on the tube surface with conductor material can reduce the cold temperature of the vortex tube and increase its thermal efficiency [2]. Changes in temperature and coefficient of performance refrigeration (COP_{ref}) are also influenced by mass fractions [3-6]. Other vortex tube performance parameters are pressure, whereas the higher pressure results in lower temperature [4-5, 7].

For the purposes of optimization, parameters that have been found are not yet known for the contribution to the performance of vortex tubes simultaneously. To solve the case requires effort, cost and time are expensive if tested in a thorough experiment. Based on these problems an efficient design of experiments is needed. Considering this reason system testing and modeling using numerical analysis, or optimizing the test numbers based on the Taguchi method is more appropriate and very popular today [8].

Experimental Design by optimizing control parameters to get the best results is achieved by the Taguchi Method. The Taguchi method is an effective technique for completing instrument test processes that work reliably and ideally solve various conditions [9]. "Orthogonal Array" (OA) provides a series of experiments that are balanced (minimum) well and the ratio Taguchi [S/N], which is a log function of the desired output, serves as an objective function for optimization, helps in data analysis and optimum prediction results [10].

In this study, data parameters were obtained by taking data using experiments and mathematical analysis. Cold air temperature is obtained from taking experimental data and COP_{ref} is obtained from experimental data which is then processed with mathematical analysis. Taguchi analysis is used to estimate the parameters that contribute to factor response of cold temperature and COP_{ref} vortex tube. This analysis is also used to predict the optimal cold value of temperature and COP_{ref} of vortex tube, also to predict the condition of how the optimal value is obtained. To find out whether the Taguchi analysis is suitable for optimizing the performance of vortex tube, verification of the data is carried out to find out the error.

2. ANALYTICAL METHOD

2.1 Mathematical analysis method of COP_{ref}

COP_{ref} is a dimensionless number to express the value of the cooling effect that can be done by a cooler or a heat pump. To calculate the coefficient value of vortex tube cooling performance as follows [3]:

$$COP_{ref} = \dot{Q}_C / \dot{W} \tag{1}$$

The value of heat flow in cold air on the vortex tube is [7]:

$$\dot{Q}_c = \dot{m}_{outc} C p (T_c - T_{in}) \tag{2}$$

By using mass flow equilibrium the equations become [7]:

$$\dot{m}_{in} = \dot{m}_{outc} + \dot{m}_{outh} \tag{3}$$

The value of incoming mass flow on the vortex tube is [13]:

$$\dot{m}_{in} = \rho \dot{V}_{in} \tag{4}$$

The nature of the air is that it can be compressed, while the value of ρ changes according to the conditions of pressure, temperature and dew point. In the vortex tube inlet channel, the thermodynamic system is isochoric and isothermal. The equation in this condition has been developed by Herman Wobus as follows [11]:

$$\rho = \frac{Pd}{287.0531(T_{in} + 273.15)} + \frac{Pv}{461.4964(T_{in} + 273.15)}$$
(5)

$$Pd = P - Pv \tag{6}$$

$$Pv = Es(Td) \tag{7}$$

$$Es = eso / P^8 \tag{8}$$

The total energy entering the vortex tube can be shown as follows [3, 12]:

$$\dot{W} = \dot{m}_{in} R T_{in} \ln(P_{in} / P_{atm})$$
(9)

To get the R-value, it employed the following equation [13]:

$$R = P_{in} / \rho T_{in} \tag{10}$$

The equation for taking the valve opening ratio data variable is [3, 12]:

$$\varepsilon_c = \dot{m}_{outc} / \dot{m}_{in} \tag{11}$$

$$\varepsilon_c = \vec{v}_{cn} / \vec{v}_{cmax} \tag{12}$$



Figure 1. Mathematical method analysis diagram

2.2 Taguchi method

Taguchi developed a special orthogonal array design to study all parameter spaces with only minimum experiments. The Taguchi method uses a measure of performance statistics called the [S/N] ratio [14]. This method is used to reduce the number of experiments needed to achieve the goal depending on various parameters [15].

The [S/N] ratio is used to measure the characteristic quality deviating from the desired value. There are three categories in the signal to ratio analysis, namely [14]:

larger is better,

$$\frac{S}{N}ratio(\eta) = -10 \times \log_{10} \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{y_{1}^{2}}$$
(13)

nominal is best,

$$\frac{S}{N}ratio(\eta) = -10 \times \log_{10} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{n} \frac{\mu^2}{\sigma^2}$$
(14)

smaller is better,

$$\frac{S}{N} ratio(\eta) = -10 \times \log_{10} \sum_{i=1}^{n} y_{1}^{2}$$
(15)

Techniques of Analysis of variance (ANOVA) is used to test the adequacy of the model. This method is very useful to reveal the level of significance of the influence of factors or factors of interaction on a particular response. This separates the total variability of responses into the contributions given by each parameter and error [16].

$$SS_{Tot} = SS_F + SS_e \tag{16}$$

where,

$$SS_{Tot} = \sum_{j=1}^{p} (\gamma_j - \gamma_m)$$
(17)

The mean square deviation in the ANOVA table is defined as [16]:

$$MS = \frac{SS}{DF} \tag{18}$$

The F-value of the Fisher ratio (variance ratio) is defined as:

$$F = \frac{MS_t}{MS_{et}} \tag{19}$$

The contribution of each factor is calculated by the following formula [14]:

$$C\% = \frac{S_A}{S_7} \tag{20}$$

where,

$$S_z = S_A + S_B + S_C \tag{21}$$

In the last step of Taguchi's analysis, a data confirmation is performed to verify the most optimal parameters [16].

3. EXPERIMENTAL CONDITIONS

This study uses a type 1 vortex tube which uses no forced cooling and a type 2 which uses forced cooling on the heat tube. The dimensions of this tool are as follows: D_{in} 5mm, D_{outc} 5mm D_{outh} 8.5mm, L_{tubec} 40mm, L_{tubeh} 105mm, α_{plug} 70 ±2°, and Ng 4. The size of the generator specifications is shown in Figure 4.



Figure 2. Dimension of vortex tube type 1

In Vortex tube type 1 forced cooling is developed by adding a tube that covers the hot tube. The material is made of PVC. Furthermore, in the tube flowed aquades (H₂O) with contraflow flow direction and flow velocity 7 liters/minute. The incoming water temperature is controlled at 27 °C.



Figure 3. Dimension of vortex tube type 2



Figure 4. Size of generator specifications

Tests were carried out in T_r 27 °C conditions. The variables used are ε_{cn} 30 %, 40 %, 50 %, 60 %, and 70 % and pressure 0.5 bar, 1.0 bar, and 1.5 bar. In each of these variables, data was taken four times randomly with a duration interval of at least 5 seconds.

The series of experimental device for vortex tube type 1 is shown in Figure 5. The series of experimental tool for vortex tube type 2 shown in Figure 6.



Figure 5. Experiment series of vortex tube type 1



Figure 6. Experiment series of vortex tube type 2

Table 1. Information on Figures 5 and 6

No	Name	Function	Unit (Symbol)
1	Compressor	Pressurized air supply	-
2	Digital	Measuring the	°Celcius
	Thermometer	temperature of the air inlet	(T_{in})
3	Dew point	Measuring the inlet	°Celcius
	Meter	air dew point	(Td)
4	Flow meter	Measuring air flow	Liter/min
5	Pressure Gauge	Measuring inlet air	Bar
		pressure	(P)
6	Vortex tube	Test instrument	-
7	Thermocouple	Measuring hot and	°Celcius
		cold outlet air	(T_{C}) and
		temperature	(T_h)

8	Anemometer	Measuring the speed	meter/sec
		of cold outlet air	(v_{max})
			and
			(v_n)
9	Computer	Processing	-
		observation data from	
		each measuring	
		instrument	
10	Digital	Measuring water	°Celcious
	Thermometer	temperature	
11	Flow meter	Measuring water	Liter/min
	(water)	discharge	
12	Pump	pumping cooling	-
		water	
13	Vessel	Cooling water	-
		container	

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Presentation of experimental data

The experimental results of cold outlet temperature data and COP_{ref} of vortex tube are presented in the following diagram:



Figure 7. Cold temperature chart



Figure 8. COP_{ref} chart

Cold temperature data presented in Figure 7 shows the tendency for the 40 % fraction to be the best. Higher pressure results in lower temperature of the cold outlet. Hamdan which has performed an experiment with different dimensions and forms of vortex tube also found for the pressure at 2bar, 3bar, and 4bar [7]. However an anomaly was found at 5bar pressure. The forced cooling on the heat tube affects the decreasing of temperature produced. These results are in accordance with the results of Eimsa's research in which cooling the heat tube by flowing water on the surface can reduce the temperature of the cold tank [2].

Based on Figure 8, it is found that the increasing cold fraction (ε_c) produces a better COP_{ref}. These results are also in accordance with Aydın's research with vortex tube dimensions and different generator forms found that cold fractions (20 % to 80 %) the greater the yield of COP_{ref} the better [1]. In this experiment, higher pressure produces lower COP_{ref}. The forced cooling treatment produces a better COP_{ref}. Eimsa by measuring isotropic efficiency found that cooling the surface of a hot tube by flowing water can improve its efficiency value [2].

4.2 Data reduction

For processing data with the Taguchi method, data reduction is done on the fraction factor to three levels that produce the best value. The cold temperature data that is produced smaller is the best and the COP_{ref} data the larger is the best. The selected data reduction is as follows:

Table 2. Reduction of cold temperature average data

Tube Type (TT) Natural Cooling (1)						
Exaction (a)	Pressure (P) (bar)					
Fraction (\mathcal{E}_{c})	0.5 (1)	1.0 (2)	1.5 (3)			
30%(1)	21.65	18.05	15.525			
40%(2)	21.1	17.05	14.925			
50%(3)	21.9 18.35 16.1		16.125			
Tube	Type (TT) Fo	orc Cooling (2	2)			
Exaction (\mathbf{z}_{1})	Pressure (P) (bar)					
Fraction (\mathcal{E}_{c})	0.5 (1)	1.0 (2)	1.5 (3)			
30%(1)	20.600	16.375	13.950			
40%(2)	20.200 15.525 13.45		13.450			
50%(3)	20.400	16.125	13.625			

Table 3. Reduction of COPref data

Tube Type (TT) Natural Cooling (1)					
Fraction (c)	Pressure (P) (bar)				
Fraction (ε_c)	0.5 (1)	1.0 (2)	1.5 (3)		
40%(1)	-0.074	-0.074	-0.070		
60%(2)	-0.081	-0.081	-0.079		
70%(3)	-0.085	-0.083	-0.083		
Tube 7	Гуре (ТТ) Гог	ce Cooling (2	2)		
Fraction (a)	Pressure (P) (bar)				
Fraction (ε_c)	0.5 (1)	1.0 (2)	1.5 (3)		
40%(1)	-0.096	-0.093	-0.087		
60%(2)	-0.112	-0.104	-0.097		
70%(3)	-0.123	-0.111	-0.100		

4.3 Determining the orthogonal matrix

The orthogonal matrix is determined using statistical software Minitab 18. The orthogonal matrices used are L36 (2^{1} 3^{2}), where:

- L : Latin square design,
- 36 : number of lines or experiments,
- 2^1 : one-factor column for two level, and
- 3^2 : two-factor column for three level.

4.4 Calculating the ratio of [S/N]

The data obtained from the experimental results are processed into the form of [S/N] ratio to determine the factors that influence the temperature of the vortex tube cold outlet. The [S/N] Signal-to-noise formula used for the cold temperature produced the smaller is better with equation (15), and for the COP_{ref} the larger is better with equation (13).

The most decisive parameter for vortex tube performance results for cold temperature show in Figure 9 and table 5. The most determining parameters for the least related are pressure, tube type, and fraction. The value of cold temperature based on the calculation of [S/N] ratio is reached on the factor of tube type 2 (forced cooling), pressure 3 (1.5 bar) and fraction 1 (30 %).

Table 4. [S/N] Rasio Ortogonal Matriks L36 (2¹×3²)

E	Colo	um Nui	nber	[S/N] Rasio		
Exsperiment	1	2	3	т	COD	
Number	(TT)	(P)	(ε_c)	I _c	COPref	
1	1	1	1	-26.709	-22.587	
2	1	2	2	-24.634	-21.814	
3	1	3	3	-24.150	-21.638	
4	1	1	1	-26.709	-22.587	
5	1	2	2	-24.634	-21.814	
6	1	3	3	-24.150	-21.638	
7	1	1	1	-26.709	-22.587	
8	1	2	2	-24.634	-21.814	
9	1	3	3	-24.150	-21.638	
10	1	1	1	-26.709	-22.587	
11	1	2	2	-24.634	-21.814	
12	1	3	3	-24.150	-21.638	
13	1	1	2	-26.486	-21.805	
14	1	2	3	-25.273	-21.612	
15	1	3	1	-23.821	-23.107	
16	1	1	2	-26.486	-21.805	
17	1	2	3	-25.273	-21.612	
18	1	3	1	-23.821	-23.107	
19	2	1	2	-26.107	-19.031	
20	2	2	3	-24.150	-19.628	
21	2	3	1	-22.891	-21.197	
22	2	1	2	-26.107	-19.031	
23	2	2	3	-24.150	-19.090	
24	2	3	1	-22.891	-21.197	
25	2	1	3	-26.193	-18.216	
26	2	2	1	-24.284	-20.677	
27	2	3	2	-22.574	-20.279	
28	2	1	3	-26.193	-18.216	
29	2	2	1	-24.284	-20.677	
30	2	3	2	-22.574	-20.279	
31	2	1	3	-26.193	-18.216	
32	2	2	1	-24.284	-20.677	
33	2	3	2	-22.574	-20.279	
34	2	1	3	-26.193	-18.216	
35	2	2	1	-24.284	-20.677	
36	2	3	2	-22.574	-20.279	



Figure 9. Main effects plot for [S/N] ratio for cold temperature

Table 5. Response table for signal to noise rate	atios for	cold
temperature		

Level	Tube Type (TT)	Pressure (P)	Fraction (ε_c)
1	-25.18	-26.37	-24.43
2	-24.37	-24.59	-24.95
3		-23.36	-24.94
Delta	0.81	3.01	0.52
Rank	2	1	3

The parameters that have the most influence on COPref are shown in Figure 10 and Table 6. The parameters that most influence COP_{ref} from the most influential are type of tube, fraction, and pressure. The optimum COP_{ref} is achieved in tube type 2 (force cooling), pressure 1 (0.5 bar) and fraction 3 (70 %).



Figure 10. Main effects plot for [S/N] Ratio for COPref

Table 6. Response table for signal to noise ratios for COP_{ref}

Level	Tube Type (TT)	Pressure (P)	Fraction (ε_c)
1	-22.09	-20.41	-21.89
2	-19.79	-20.87	-20.73
3		-21.56	-20.21
Delta	2.30	1.15	1.68
Rank	1	3	2

The ANOVA results for the [S/N] ratio were obtained using Minitab 18 statistical software as shown in Table 7 for cold temperatures, and Table 8 for COP_{ref} . The p-value shown in the ANOVA table shows the significance of each variable in the results. Factors are said to have a significant effect if the pvalue is <0.05 [14-15]. In the table all p-values are 0, so all factors have a significant effect on cold temperature and COP_{ref} .

The F-test concept states that the higher the F-value, the more significant the factor is [15]. The results show that the order of influence for each factor for the ANOVA test whit the [S/N] ratio test is the same.

Table	7.	Anal	lysis	of	variance	cold	temperature	
			-					

Source	DF	Adj SS	Adj MS	F-Value	P-Value
Tube Type	1	21.468	21.468	401.48	0.000
Pressure	2	232.588	116.294	2174.85	0.000
Fraction	2	4.633	2.317	43.33	0.000
Error	30	1.604	0.053		
Lack-of-Fit	6	1.604	0.267	*	*
Pure Error	24	0.000	0.000		
Total	35	260.294			

Table 8. Analysis of variance COP_{ref}

Source	DF	Adj SS	Adj MS	F-value	P-value
Tube Type	1	0.005391	0.005391	522.59	0.000
Pressure	2	0.000876	0.000438	42.46	0.000
Fraction	2	0.002072	0.001036	100.42	0.000
Error	30	0.000309	0.000010		
Lack-of-Fit	6	0.000287	0.000048	51.52	0.000
Pure Error	24	0.000022	0.000001		
Total	35	0.008648			

Equations (20) and (21) are utilized to find out how much the contribution of each factor is used on. The magnitude of the contribution of each factor is shown in the following Table 9:

Table 9. Contributions of each factor

Factor	Response				
Factor	Cold Temperature	COPref			
Tube Tipe	8.25%	62.34%			
Pressure	89.36%	10.13%			
Fraction	1.78%	23.96%			
Error	0.62%	3.57%			
Lack-of-Fit	0.62%	3.32%			
Pure Error	0.00%	0.25%			
Total	100%	100%			

The contribution of a factor is an absolute value that illustrates how a test factor influence the responses. The greater the contribution value of the factor, the more influential the response factor will be. Based on Table 9, the contribution of each factor to the cold temperature of the most influential is tube type 8.25%, pressure 89.36%, and fraction 1.78%. The contribution of factors in COP_{ref} from the most influential is the tube type 62.34%, pressure 10.13%, and fraction 23.96%.

4.6 Regression analysis

The regression equation is used to determine the value of the predictive response of each factor tested. To get the regression equation, Minitab 18 statistical software is used. The regression equation for cold temperatures (T_c) and COP_{ref} is as follows:

$$RT_{C} = 17.5194 + 0.7722TT_{1} - 0.7722TT_{2} + 3.3806P_{1} - 0.6319P_{2} - 2.7486P_{3} + 0.0681F_{1} - 0.4694F_{2} + 0.4014F_{3}$$
(22)

$$RCOP_{ref} = 0.091198 - 0.012237TT_1 + 0.012237TT_2$$

$$0.006656P_1 - 0.001517P_2 - 0.005139P_3 - 0.009439F_1 + 0.000303F_2 + 0.009136F_2 \qquad (23)$$

where,

P = pressure factor

F = fraction factor

TT = tube type factor

The regression equation above does not apply to all factor variables on vortex tube. This equation applies only to the factors and levels specified in this analysis.

4.7 Prediction of optimal value

Based on the value of [S/N] ratio and regression equation 22 and 23, the optimal predictive value is obtained:

$$OP_{ref_op} = 0.091198 + 0.01223711_2 + 0.006656P_1 + 0.009136F_3$$
(25)

$$COP_{ref_op} = 0.091198 + 0.012237 + 0.006656 + 0.009136$$

 $COP_{ref_op} = \boxed{0.119227}$

4.8 Data confirmation

Data confirmation is performed by comparing the results of predictions with the experimental results presented in Table 10 below:

Table 10. Data Confirmation

Decrease	Experiment		Prediction		Error (%)
Kesponse	Level Factor	Value	Level Factor	Value	
Cold Temperature	$TT_2;P_3;F_2$	13.45	$TT_2;P_3;F_1$	14.07	4.61%
COPref	$TT_2;P_1;F_3$	0.123	$TT_2;P_1;F_3$	0.119	3.09%

Based on Table 10 the level of error using the Taguchi method to predict the optimum value is 4.61 % for predictions of cold temperatures and 3.09 % for prediction of COP_{ref} .

5. CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that the optimization of vortex tube performance on parameters of tube type, pressure, and mass fraction with the Taguchi method are:

- a. Tube type, pressure, and mass fraction are factors that influence cold temperatures and ${\rm COP}_{\rm ref}.$
- b. The contribution of the influence of each factor to the cold temperature are pressure 89.36 %, tube type 8.25 %, and fraction 1.78 %.
- c. The contribution of each factor to COP_{ref} are tube type 62.34 %, fraction 23.96 %, and pressure 10.13 %.
- d. The most optimal cold temperature is predicted at 14.07 $^{\circ}$ C which occurs in the type of tube with forced cooling, 1.5 bar pressure, and 30 % fraction.
- e. The optimal COP_{ref} is predicted to be 0.119227 for the type of forced cooling tube, 0.5bar pressure and 70 % fraction.
- f. The error rate of Taguchi method for predicting the optimal value at cold temperatures is 4.61 % and at COP_{ref} is 3.09 %.

Based on the conclusions, it is known how the influence of tube type, pressure and fraction, so that this research can be a reference for the next research about optimization of vortex tube performance. The Taguchi method will be more accurate if use more number of level on each factor. In this study, the number of levels on each factor is small so that for further research to obtain the optimization of vortex tube performance with increasingly accurate results is done by increasing the number of levels in the pressure factor and fraction. In order for testing experiments to continue with effort, cost and time that is cheap, the level of factor is determined by referring to the most optimal point in this study.

The testing of the Taguchi method to measure the influence of tube types to the performance of vortex tubes in this study has only differentiated which ones have the most optimal performance. The results showed that the vortex tube with the type of forced cooling tube produced the most optimal performance. Based on these findings, the potential for optimizing the performance of vortex tube for further research is the engineering of forced cooling on the surface of the heat tube and the engineering of the heat flow.

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NOMENCLATURE

Greek symbols

COP	coefficient of performance refrigeration heat flow	ρ	density
Ò		ε	fraction
€ Ŵ ṁ	total energy mass flow rate	Subscripts	
Cp	heat capacity	ref	refrigeration
T	Temperatur	c	cold
V	volume flow rate	outc	cold temperatures come out
Es	saturation vapor pressure	outh	hot temperatures come out
C	coefficient	in	inlet
eso	Herman Wobus constant (6.1078)	cn	cold outlet variable to n
P	air pressure	c max	cold outlet maximum conditions
Pv	pressure of water vapor	Tot	total number
Es	saturation vapor pressure	F	beacause of each other
Td	dew point temperature	E	due to error
Pv	water vapor pressure	i	for the i th experiment
R ν SS γ MS DF C% S	universal gas constan air velocity squared deviations number average response mean square deviation in the ANOVA table degre of fredom contribution of each factor each factor	m t et Z A, B, C op	for all experimental conditions MS for a term MS for the error term total Sum each vaktor to A, B, C, optimal predictive