

# The Consumer Guide to Vortex Shedding and Fluidic Flowmeters

*Seminar Presented by  
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Spitzer and Boyes, LLC  
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## Seminar Outline

- **Introduction**
- *Fluid Flow Fundamentals*
- *Flowmeter Technology*
- *Flowmeter Performance*
- *Consumer Guide*

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## Introduction

- *Working Definition of a Process*
- *Why Measure Flow?*

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## Working Definition of a Process

- *A process is anything that changes*

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## Why Measure Flow?

- *Flow measurements provide information about the process*
- *The information that is needed depends on the process*

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## Why Measure Flow?

- *Custody transfer*
  - *Measurements are often required to determine the total quantity of fluid that passed through the flowmeter for billing purposes*

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## Why Measure Flow?

- *Monitor the process*
  - *Flow measurements can be used to ensure that the process is operating satisfactorily*

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## Why Measure Flow?

- *Improve the process*
  - *Flow measurements can be used for heat and material balance calculations that can be used to improve the process*

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## Why Measure Flow?

- *Monitor a safety parameter*
  - *Flow measurements can be used to ensure that critical portions of the process operate safely*

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## Seminar Outline

- *Introduction*
- ***Fluid Flow Fundamentals***
- *Flowmeter Technology*
- *Flowmeter Performance*
- *Consumer Guide*



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## Fluid Flow Fundamentals

- ***Temperature***
- *Pressure*
- *Density and Fluid Expansion*
- *Types of Flow*
- *Inside Pipe Diameter*
- *Viscosity*
- *Reynolds Number and Velocity Profile*
- *Hydraulic Phenomena*



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## Temperature

- *Measure of relative hotness/coldness*
  - *Water freezes at 0°C (32°F)*
  - *Water boils at 100°C (212°F)*



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## Temperature

- *Removing heat from fluid lowers temperature*
  - *If all heat is removed, absolute zero temperature is reached at approximately  $-273^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-460^{\circ}\text{F}$ )*

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## Temperature

- *Absolute temperature scales are relative to absolute zero temperature*
  - *Absolute zero temperature =  $0\text{ K}$  ( $0^{\circ}\text{R}$ )*
    - *Kelvin =  $^{\circ}\text{C} + 273$*
    - *Rankin =  $^{\circ}\text{F} + 460$*

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## Temperature

- *Absolute temperature is important for flow measurement*

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## Temperature

373 K = 100°C      672°R = 212°F  
 273 K = 0°C      460°R = 0°F  
 0 K = -273°C      0°R = -460°F

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## Temperature

**Problem**

- *The temperature of a process increases from 20°C to 60°C. For the purposes of flow measurement, by what percentage has the temperature increased?*

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## Temperature

- *It is tempting to answer that the temperature tripled (60/20), but the ratio of the absolute temperatures is important for flow measurement*
  - $(60+273)/(20+273) = 1.137$
  - 13.7% increase

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## Fluid Flow Fundamentals

- *Temperature*
- **Pressure**
- *Density and Fluid Expansion*
- *Types of Flow*
- *Inside Pipe Diameter*
- *Viscosity*
- *Reynolds Number and Velocity Profile*
- *Hydraulic Phenomena*

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## Pressure

- *Pressure is defined as the ratio of a force divided by the area over which it is exerted ( $P=F/A$ )*

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## Pressure

### **Problem**

- *What is the pressure exerted on a table by a 2 inch cube weighing 5 pounds?*
  - $(5 \text{ lb}) / (4 \text{ inch}^2) = 1.25 \text{ lb/in}^2$
  - *If the cube were balanced on a 0.1 inch diameter rod, the pressure on the table would be 636 lb/in<sup>2</sup>*

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## Pressure

- *Atmospheric pressure is caused by the force exerted by the atmosphere on the surface of the earth*
  - *2.31 feet WC / psi*
  - *10.2 meters WC / bar*

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## Pressure

- *Removing gas from a container lowers the pressure in the container*
  - *If all gas is removed, absolute zero pressure (full vacuum) is reached at approximately -1.01325 bar (-14.696 psig)*

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## Pressure

- *Absolute pressure scales are relative to absolute zero pressure*
  - *Absolute zero pressure*
    - *Full vacuum = 0 bar abs (0 psia)*
    - *bar abs = bar + 1.01325*
    - *psia = psig + 14.696*

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## Pressure

The diagram illustrates the relationship between different pressure measurement scales. A solid horizontal line at the bottom is labeled 'Absolute Zero'. Above it, a dashed horizontal line is labeled 'Atmosphere'. A vertical arrow points upwards from 'Absolute Zero' to 'Absolute'. Another vertical arrow points upwards from 'Atmosphere' to 'Gauge'. A vertical double-headed arrow between 'Absolute' and 'Gauge' is labeled 'Differential'. A vertical arrow points downwards from 'Atmosphere' to 'Vacuum'.

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## Pressure

- *Absolute pressure is important for flow measurement*

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## Pressure

**Problem**

- *The pressure of a process increases from 1 bar to 3 bar. For the purposes of flow measurement, by what percentage has the pressure increased?*

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## Pressure

- *It is tempting to answer that the pressure tripled (3/1), but the ratio of the absolute pressures is important for flow measurement*
  - $(3+1.01325)/(1+1.01325) = 1.993$
  - 99.3% increase

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## Fluid Flow Fundamentals

- *Temperature*
- *Pressure*
- ***Density and Fluid Expansion***
- *Types of Flow*
- *Inside Pipe Diameter*
- *Viscosity*
- *Reynolds Number and Velocity Profile*
- *Hydraulic Phenomena*

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

- *Density is defined as the ratio of the mass of a fluid divided its volume*  
( $\rho = m/V$ )

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

- *Specific Gravity of a liquid is the ratio of its operating density to that of water at standard conditions*
  - $SG = \rho_{\text{liquid}} / \rho_{\text{water at standard conditions}}$

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

### Problem

- *What is the density of air in a 3.2 ft<sup>3</sup> filled cylinder that has a weight of 28.2 and 32.4 pounds before and after filling respectively?*

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

- *The weight of the air in the empty cylinder is taken into account*
  - $Mass = (32.4 - 28.2) + (3.2 \cdot 0.075)$   
 $= 4.44 \text{ lb}$
  - $Volume = 3.2 \text{ ft}^3$
  - $Density = 4.44 / 3.2 = 1.39 \text{ lb/ft}^3$

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

- *The density of most liquids is nearly unaffected by pressure*
- *Expansion of liquids*
  - $V = V_0 (1 + \beta \cdot \Delta T)$
  - $V$  = new volume
  - $V_0$  = old volume
  - $\beta$  = cubical coefficient of expansion
  - $\Delta T$  = temperature change

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

### Problem

- *What is the change in density of a liquid caused by a 10°C temperature rise where  $\beta$  is 0.0009 per °C ?*

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

- *Calculate the new volume*
  - $V = V_0 (1 + 0.0009 \cdot 10) = 1.009 V_0$
  - *The volume of the liquid increased to 1.009 times the old volume, so the new density is (1/1.009) or 0.991 times the old density*

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

- *Expansion of solids*
  - $V = V_0 (1 + \beta \cdot \Delta T)$ 
    - where  $\beta = 3 \cdot \alpha$
    - $\alpha$  = linear coefficient of expansion
- *Temperature coefficient*
  - *Stainless steel temperature coefficient is approximately 0.5% per 100°C*

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

### Problem

- *What is the increase in size of metal caused by a 50°C temperature rise where the metal has a temperature coefficient of 0.5% per 100°C ?*

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

- *Calculate the change in size*
  - $(0.5 \cdot 50) = 0.25\%$
  - *Metals (such as stainless steel) can exhibit significant expansion*

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

- Boyle's Law states the the volume of an ideal gas at constant temperature varies inversely with absolute pressure
  - $V = K / P$

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

- New volume can be calculated
  - $V = K / P$
  - $V_0 = K / P_0$
- Dividing one equation by the other yields
  - $V/V_0 = P_0 / P$

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

### Problem

- How is the volume of an ideal gas at constant temperature and a pressure of 28 psig affected by a 5 psig pressure increase?

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

- Calculate the new volume

- $V/V_0 = (28+14.7) / (28+5+14.7) = 0.895$

- $V = 0.895 V_0$

- Volume decreased by 10.5%

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

- Charles' Law states the the volume of an ideal gas at constant pressure varies directly with absolute temperature

- $V = K \cdot T$

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

- New volume can be calculated

- $V = K \cdot T$

- $V_0 = K \cdot T_0$

- Dividing one equation by the other yields

- $V/V_0 = T/T_0$

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

### Problem

- How is the volume of an ideal gas at constant pressure and a temperature of  $15^{\circ}\text{C}$  affected by a  $10^{\circ}\text{C}$  decrease in temperature?

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

- Calculate the new volume
  - $V/V_0 = (273+15-10) / (273+15) = 0.965$
  - $V = 0.965 V_0$
  - Volume decreased by 3.5%

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

- Ideal Gas Law combines Boyle's and Charles' Laws
  - $PV = nRT$

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

- *New volume can be calculated*
  - $P \cdot V = n \cdot R \cdot T$
  - $P_0 \cdot V_0 = n \cdot R \cdot T_0$
- *Dividing one equation by the other yields*
  - $V/V_0 = (P_0/P) \cdot (T/T_0)$

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

### Problem

- *How is the volume of an ideal gas at affected by a 10.5% decrease in volume due to temperature and a 3.5% decrease in volume due to pressure?*

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

- *Calculate the new volume*
  - $V/V_0 = 0.895 \cdot 0.965 = 0.864$
  - $V = 0.864 V_0$
  - *Volume decreased by 13.6%*

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

- *Non-Ideal Gas Law takes into account non-ideal behavior*
  - $PV = nRTZ$

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## Density and Fluid Expansion

- *New volume can be calculated*
  - $P \cdot V = n \cdot R \cdot T \cdot Z$
  - $P_0 \cdot V_0 = n \cdot R \cdot T_0 \cdot Z_0$
- *Dividing one equation by the other yields*
  - $V/V_0 = (P_0/P) \cdot (T/T_0) \cdot (Z/Z_0)$

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## Fluid Flow Fundamentals

- *Temperature*
- *Pressure*
- *Density and Fluid Expansion*
- **Types of Flow**
- *Inside Pipe Diameter*
- *Viscosity*
- *Reynolds Number and Velocity Profile*
- *Hydraulic Phenomena*

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## Types of Flow

- $Q = A \cdot v$ 
  - $Q$  is the volumetric flow rate
  - $A$  is the cross-sectional area of the pipe
  - $v$  is the average velocity of the fluid in the pipe

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## Types of Flow

- *Typical Volumetric Flow Units ( $Q = A \cdot v$ )*
  - $ft^2 \cdot ft/sec = ft^3/sec$
  - $m^2 \cdot m/sec = m^3/sec$
  - gallons per minute (gpm)
  - liters per minute (lpm)
  - cubic centimeters per minute (ccm)

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## Types of Flow

- $W = \rho \cdot Q$ 
  - $W$  is the mass flow rate
  - $\rho$  is the fluid density
  - $Q$  is the volumetric flow rate

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## Types of Flow

- *Typical Mass Flow Units ( $W = \rho \cdot Q$ )*
  - $lb/ft^3 \cdot ft^3/sec = lb/sec$
  - $kg/m^3 \cdot m^3/sec = kg/sec$
  - *standard cubic feet per minute (scfm)*
  - *standard liters per minute (slpm)*
  - *standard cubic centimeters per minute (sccm)*

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## Types of Flow

- $Q = A \cdot v$
- $W = \rho \cdot Q$
  
- $Q$      *volumetric flow rate*
- $W$      *mass flow rate*
- $v$      *fluid velocity*
- $\frac{1}{2} \rho v^2$      *inferential flow rate*

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## Fluid Flow Fundamentals

- *Temperature*
- *Pressure*
- *Density and Fluid Expansion*
- *Types of Flow*
- ***Inside Pipe Diameter***
- *Viscosity*
- *Reynolds Number and Velocity Profile*
- *Hydraulic Phenomena*

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## Inside Pipe Diameter

- The *inside pipe diameter (ID)* is important for flow measurement
  - Pipes of the same size have the same outside diameter (OD)
    - Welding considerations
  - Pipe wall thickness, and hence its ID, is determined by its schedule

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## Inside Pipe Diameter

- Pipe wall thickness increases with increasing pipe schedule
  - Schedule 40 pipes are considered “standard” wall thickness
  - Schedule 5 pipes have thin walls
  - Schedule 160 pipes have thick walls

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## Inside Pipe Diameter

- Nominal pipe size
  - For pipe sizes 12-inch and smaller, the nominal pipe size is the approximate ID of a Schedule 40 pipe
  - For pipe sizes 14-inch and larger, the nominal pipe size is the OD of the pipe

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## Fluid Flow Fundamentals

- *Temperature*
- *Pressure*
- *Density and Fluid Expansion*
- *Types of Flow*
- *Inside Pipe Diameter*
- **Viscosity**
- *Reynolds Number and Velocity Profile*
- *Hydraulic Phenomena*

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## Viscosity

- *Viscosity is the ability of the fluid to flow over itself*
- *Units*
  - *cP, cSt*
  - *Saybolt Universal (at 100°F, 210 °F)*
  - *Saybolt Furol (at 122°F, 210 °F)*

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## Viscosity

- *Viscosity can be highly temperature dependent*
  - *Water*
  - *Honey at 40°F, 80°F, and 120°F*
  - *Peanut butter*

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## Fluid Flow Fundamentals

- *Temperature*
- *Pressure*
- *Density and Fluid Expansion*
- *Types of Flow*
- *Inside Pipe Diameter*
- *Viscosity*
- **Reynolds Number and Velocity Profile**
- *Hydraulic Phenomena*

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## Velocity Profile and Reynolds Number

- *Reynolds number is the ratio of inertial forces to viscous forces in the flowing stream*
- $R_D = 3160 \cdot Q_{gpm} \cdot SG / (\mu_{cP} \cdot D_{in})$

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## Velocity Profile and Reynolds Number

- *Reynolds number can be used as an indication of how the fluid is flowing in the pipe*
- *Flow regimes based on  $R_D$* 
  - *Laminar* < 2000
  - *Transitional* 2000 - 4000
  - *Turbulent* > 4000

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## Velocity Profile and Reynolds Number

- *Not all molecules in the pipe flow at the same velocity*
- *Molecules near the pipe wall move slower; molecules in the center of the pipe move faster*

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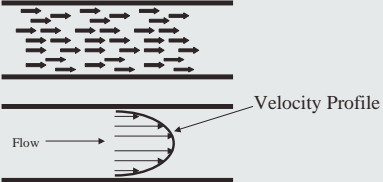
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## Velocity Profile and Reynolds Number

- *Laminar Flow Regime*
  - *Molecules move straight down pipe*



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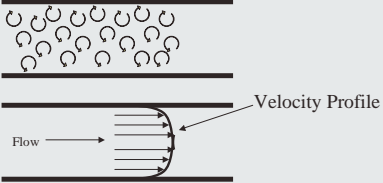
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## Velocity Profile and Reynolds Number

- *Turbulent Flow Regime*
  - *Molecules migrate throughout pipe*



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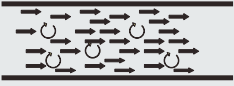
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## Velocity Profile and Reynolds Number

- *Transitional Flow Regime*
  - *Molecules exhibit both laminar and turbulent behavior*



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## Velocity Profile and Reynolds Number

- *Many flowmeters require a good velocity profile to operate accurately*
- *Obstructions in the piping system can distort the velocity profile*
  - *Elbows, tees, fittings, valves*



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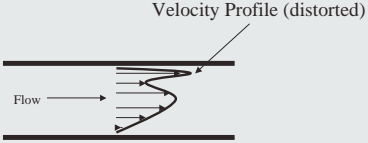
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## Velocity Profile and Reynolds Number

- *A distorted velocity profile can introduce significant errors into the measurement of most flowmeters*



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## Velocity Profile and Reynolds Number

- *Good velocity profiles can be developed*
  - *Straight run upstream and downstream*
    - *No fittings or valves*
    - *Upstream is usually longer and more important*
  - *Flow conditioner*
  - *Locate control valve downstream of flowmeter*

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## Fluid Flow Fundamentals

- *Temperature*
- *Pressure*
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- *Types of Flow*
- *Inside Pipe Diameter*
- *Viscosity*
- *Reynolds Number and Velocity Profile*
- ***Hydraulic Phenomena***

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## Hydraulic Phenomena

- *Vapor pressure is defined as the pressure at which a liquid and its vapor can exist in equilibrium*
  - *The vapor pressure of water at 100°C is atmospheric pressure (1.01325 bar abs) because water and steam can coexist*

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## Hydraulic Phenomena

- *A saturated vapor is in equilibrium with its liquid at its vapor pressure*
  - *Saturated steam at atmospheric pressure is at a temperature of 100°C*

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## Hydraulic Phenomena

- *A superheated vapor is a saturated vapor that is at a higher temperature than its saturation temperature*
  - *Steam at atmospheric pressure that is at 150°C is a superheated vapor with 50°C of superheat*

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## Hydraulic Phenomena

- *Flashing is the formation of gas (bubbles) in a liquid after the pressure of the liquid falls below its vapor pressure*
  - *Reducing the pressure of water at 100°C below atmospheric pressure (say 0.7 bar abs) will cause the water to boil*

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## Hydraulic Phenomena

- *Cavitation is the formation and subsequent collapse of gas (bubbles) in a liquid after the pressure of the liquid falls below and then rises above its vapor pressure*
  - *Can cause severe damage in pumps and valves*

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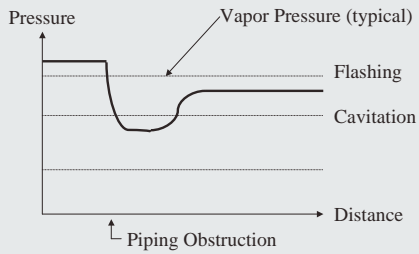
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## Hydraulic Phenomena



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## Hydraulic Phenomena

- *Energy Considerations*
  - *Claims are sometimes made that flowmeters with a lower pressure drop will save energy*

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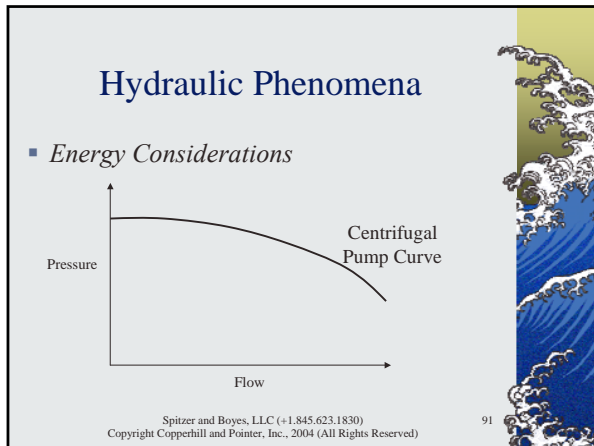
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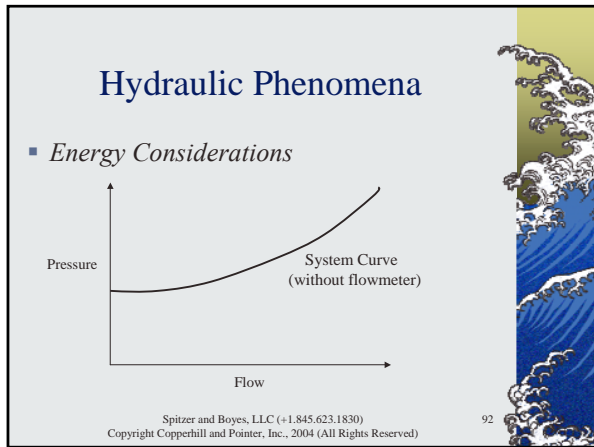
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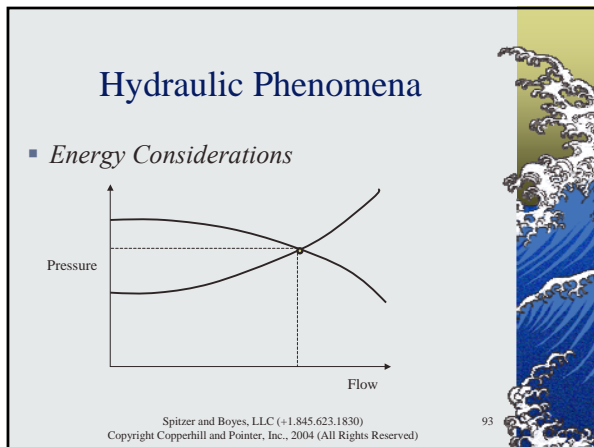
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## Hydraulic Phenomena

- *Energy Considerations*

System and Flowmeter  
System, Flowmeter and Control Valve  
System  
Flowmeter and Control Valve Pressure Drop

P  
Pressure  
Q  
Flow

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## Hydraulic Phenomena

- *Energy Considerations*

System and Flowmeter (Low Pressure Drop)  
System, Flowmeter and Control Valve  
System  
Flowmeter and Control Valve Pressure Drop

P  
Pressure  
Q  
Flow

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## Hydraulic Phenomena

- *Energy Considerations*
  - *The pump operates at the same flow and pressure, so no energy savings are achieved by installing a flowmeter with a lower pressure drop*

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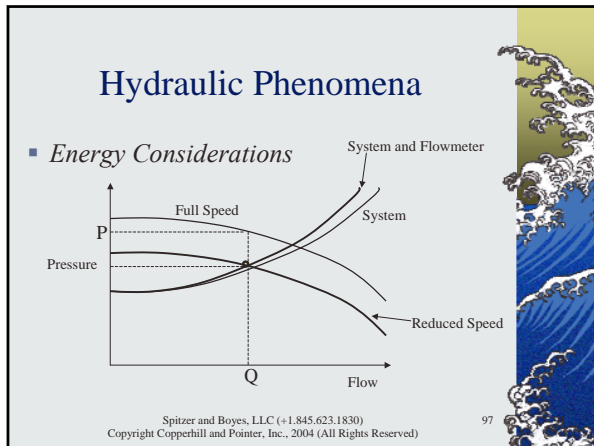
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- ## Hydraulic Phenomena
- *Energy Considerations*
- *Operating the pump at a reduced speed generates the same flow but requires a lower pump discharge pressure*
    - *Hydraulic energy generated by the pump better matches the load*
    - *Energy savings are proportional to the cube of the speed*
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- ## Seminar Outline
- *Introduction*
  - *Fluid Flow Fundamentals*
  - ***Flowmeter Technology***
  - *Flowmeter Performance*
  - *Consumer Guide*
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## Vortex Shedding and Fluidic Flowmeter Technology

- **Principle of Operation**
- *Vortex Shedder Sensing Systems*
- *Flowmeter Designs*
- *Transmitter Designs*
- *Installation*
- *Accessories*
- *Other Flowmeter Technologies*

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## Principle of Operation

- *Fluidic flowmeters are flowmeters that generate oscillations as a result of flow*
  - *The number of oscillations can be related to the flow rate*

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## Principle of Operation

- *Examples of fluidic phenomena*
  - *Wind whistling through branches of trees*
  - *Swirls downstream of a rock in a flowing stream*
  - *Flag waving in breeze*

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## Principle of Operation

- *Fluidic flowmeters*
  - *Fluidic flowmeter (Coanda effect)*
  - *Vortex precession flowmeter (swirl)*
  - *Vortex shedding flowmeter*

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## Coanda Effect Fluidic Flowmeter

- *Coanda Effect*
  - *Flow tends to attach itself to flat surface*
- *Fluidic oscillator*
  - *Passages allow portion of flow to feed back and impinge on incoming stream*
  - *Alternating attachment*

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## Coanda Effect Fluidic Flowmeter

- *Frequency of alternating attachments is proportional to flow*
  - *Doubling the flow doubles the number of attachments*

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## Coanda Effect Fluidic Flowmeter

- *Reynolds number constraints*
  - *Over 500*

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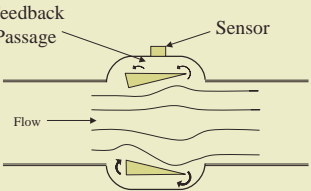
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## Coanda Effect Fluidic Flowmeter



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## Coanda Effect Fluidic Flowmeter

- *Sensors*
  - *Deflection*
  - *Thermal*

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## Vortex Precession Flowmeter

- Often called a “swirlmeter”
- Inlet vanes cause the flow to spin and form a cyclone
- The tip of the cyclone moves around the inside pipe wall (precession)
- Outlet vanes remove swirl from the flow

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## Vortex Precession Flowmeter

- Speed that vortex rotates around the pipe is proportional to flow
  - Doubling the flow doubles the precession

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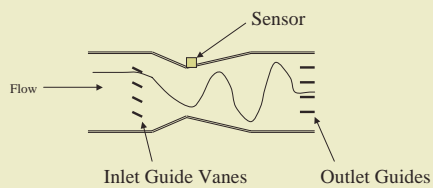
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## Vortex Precession Flowmeter



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## Vortex Precession Flowmeter

- *Sensors*
  - *Piezoelectric*

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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter

- *An obstruction (bluff body or strut) is located in the flow stream*
  - *Low flow - fluid flows around obstruction*
  - *High flow - alternating vortices are formed*
    - *Number of vortices formed is proportional to fluid velocity*

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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter

- *The sensing system detects the vortices created*
- *The frequency of the vortices passing the sensing system is proportional to fluid velocity*

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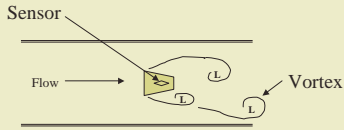
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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter



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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter

- Bluff body is typically approximately 20% of the pipe ID
  - Pressure drop across similar vortex shedders in the same service is similar
    - For liquids: 5 psid at 15 ft/sec  
400 mbar at 5 m/s

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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter

### Problem

- What is the approximate pressure drop across a vortex shedder at 7.5 ft/sec?

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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter

- $(5 \cdot 7.5/15) = 2.5$  psig might be tempting, but in the turbulent flow regime, the pressure drop across a restriction varies as the square of the flow
  - Double the flow, four times the differential
  - The pressure drop will be  $5 \cdot (7.5/15)^2 = 1.25$  psig approximately

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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter

- Strut design is like a “piano wire”
  - Gas flow measurement
  - Low pressure drop

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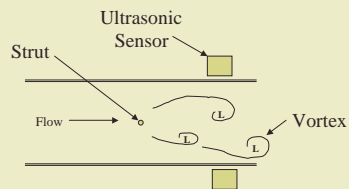
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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter



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## Vortex Shedding and Fluidic Flowmeter Technology

- *Principle of Operation*
- ***Vortex Shedder Sensing Systems***
- *Flowmeter Designs*
- *Transmitter Designs*
- *Installation*
- *Accessories*
- *Other Flowmeter Technologies*

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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter Sensing Systems

- *Shedder and sensing system tradeoffs are made in the design process to:*
  - *operate linearly*
  - *operate at low velocity*
  - *operate at low Reynolds numbers*

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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter Sensing Systems

- *Shedder and sensing system tradeoffs are made in the design process to:*
  - *reduce the effect of short straight run*
  - *reduce the effects of misalignment*
  - *reduce the effects of vibration*

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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter Sensing Systems

- *Shedder and sensing system tradeoffs are made in the design process to:*
  - *reduce the possibility of leaks*
    - *All-welded body designs*

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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter Sensing Systems

- *Hydraulic energy to operate the sensing system is usually provided by the fluid*
  - *Flowmeter turns off at low velocity*

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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter Sensing Systems

- *Velocity constraint is a function of density*
  - *Lower density increases low velocity limit*
  - *Higher density decreases low velocity limit*

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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter Sensing Systems

- *Typical Velocity Constraints*
  - *Water*      0.35 m/s      1 ft/sec
  - *Free air*    6.5 m/s      21 ft/sec
  - *Air (8 bar)*   3.5 m/s      11.5 ft/sec

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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter Sensing Systems

- *Reynolds Number Constraint*
- *Sufficient Reynolds number is needed to generate oscillations*
  - *Flowmeter turns off at low Reynolds numbers*

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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter Sensing Systems

- *Reynolds number constraints*
  - *Linear operation*    over 10-30,000
  - *Turn off*            3-10,000
  - *Nonlinear*          between turn off / linear
  - *Small sizes*
    - *Lower Reynolds number limits*

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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter Sensing Systems

- Both Reynolds number and velocity constraints must be satisfied for vortex shedding flowmeters to operate

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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter Sensing Systems

### Problem

- Will a vortex shedding flowmeter measure the flow of a liquid operating at a Reynolds number of 1,000,000 at a velocity of 0.1 m/s?
  - No --- the velocity is below the minimum velocity constraint

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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter Sensing Systems

### Problem

- Will a vortex shedding flowmeter measure the flow of a liquid operating at a Reynolds number of 100 at a velocity of 10 m/s?
  - No --- the velocity is below the minimum Reynolds number constraint

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## Vortex Shedding Sensor Deflection

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## Vortex Shedding Sensor Deflection

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## Vortex Shedding Sensor Differential Pressure

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## Vortex Shedding Sensor Differential Pressure

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## Vortex Shedding Sensor Shedder Twist

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## Vortex Shedding Sensor Thermal

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## Vortex Shedding Sensor Torque Tube

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## Vortex Shedding Sensor Ultrasonic

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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter Sensing Systems

- *Vibration effects*
- *Acceleration compensation*
  - *Fishtail design with embedded sensor*
  - *Fishtail design with counterbalancing*
  - *Torque tube design*
  - *Shedder twist design*

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## Vortex Shedding Sensor Fishtail Design

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## Vortex Shedding Sensor Fishtail Design

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## Vortex Shedding Sensor Torque Tube

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## Vortex Shedding Sensor Shedder Twist

Center of Rotation  
(offset for clarity)

Flow →      Vortex

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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter Sensing Systems

- *Early designs were not balanced*
- *Subsequent designs were balanced*
- *No mass designs (such as thermal and ultrasonic) do not have to be acceleration compensated*

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## Vortex Shedding Sensor Multivariable

- *Embedded temperature sensors*
- *Embedded flow computer*
  - *Pressure and temperature compensation*
  - *Reynolds number compensation*

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## Vortex Shedding and Fluidic Flowmeter Technology

- *Principle of Operation*
- *Vortex Shedder Sensing Systems*
- ***Flowmeter Designs***
- *Transmitter Designs*
- *Installation*
- *Accessories*
- *Other Flowmeter Technologies*

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## Vortex Shedding and Fluidic Flowmeter Designs

- *Liquid*                      *Plastic/Polymer*
- *Gas*                              *Sanitary*
- *Steam*                          *Two-wire*
- *All-welded*
- *Low Flow*
- *High Flow*
- *Metal (other than CS / SS)*

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## Vortex Shedding and Fluidic Flowmeter Technology

- *Principle of Operation*
- *Vortex Shedder Sensing Systems*
- *Flowmeter Designs*
- ***Transmitter Designs***
- *Installation*
- *Accessories*
- *Other Flowmeter Technologies*

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## Vortex Shedding Transmitter Designs

- *Analog*
  - *Electrical components subject to drift*
  - *Analog filtering and damping*
    - *Mathematical algorithms difficult to implement*
  - *Two-wire design*

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## Vortex Shedding Transmitter Designs

- *Digital*
  - *Microprocessor is less susceptible to drift*
  - *Digital filtering*
    - *Sophisticated mathematical algorithms*
  - *Two-wire design*
  - *Remote communication (with HART)*

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## Vortex Shedding Transmitter Designs

- *Fieldbus*
  - *Microprocessor is less susceptible to drift*
  - *Digital filtering*
    - *Sophisticated mathematical algorithms*
  - *Multi-drop wiring*
  - *Remote communication*
  - *Issues with multiple protocols*

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## Vortex Shedding and Fluidic Flowmeter Technology

- *Principle of Operation*
- *Vortex Shedder Sensing Systems*
- *Flowmeter Designs*
- *Transmitter Designs*
- **Installation**
- *Accessories*
- *Other Flowmeter Technologies*

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## Installation

- *Fluid Characteristics*
- *Piping and Hydraulics*
- *Electrical*
- *Ambient Conditions*
- *Setup Information*

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## Fluid Characteristics

- *Single phase*
  - *Liquid*
  - *Gas*
  - *Vapor*
- *Relatively clean*

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## Fluid Characteristics

- *No gas in liquid stream*
- *Small amounts of liquid in gas/vapor stream*
- *Immiscible fluids*

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## Fluid Characteristics

- *Within accurate flow range*
- *Corrosion and erosion*
  - *Wetted parts compatible with fluid*
- *Slug flow can damage flowmeter*

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## Fluid Characteristics

- *Gas/vapor applications without compensation*
  - *Relatively constant temperature*
  - *Relatively constant pressure*
  - *Relatively constant composition*

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## Piping and Hydraulics

- *Pipe quality*
  - *Use smooth round pipe*
  - *Use correct schedule pipe for flowmeter*
    - *Compensate K-factor for schedule*

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## Piping and Hydraulics

- *Maintain good velocity profile*
  - *Locate control valve downstream of flowmeter*
  - *Provide adequate straight run*
    - *Locate most straight run upstream*
    - *Install flow conditioner*
  - *Use full face gaskets*

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## Piping and Hydraulics

- *For liquid applications, keep the flowmeter full of liquid*
  - *Hydraulic design*
    - *Orient to self-fill and self-drain*
    - *Vertical riser preferred*
    - *Avoid inverted U-tube*

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## Piping and Hydraulics

- *For liquid applications, keep the flowmeter full of liquid*
  - *Hydraulic design*
    - *Do not flow downwards*
    - *Be careful when flowing by gravity*

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## Piping and Hydraulics

- *For gas/vapor applications, keep the flowmeter full of gas/vapor*
  - *Hydraulic design*
    - *Vertical riser preferred*
    - *Avoid U-tube*

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## Piping and Hydraulics

- *Liquids and condensable gas (vapor)*
  - *Do not locate transmitter below pipe*
- *Condensable gas (vapor)*
  - *In horizontal piping, orient shedder in horizontal plane*

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## Piping and Hydraulics

- *High temperature fluids*
  - *Insulate per supplier instructions*
    - *Too much insulation can damage equipment*
  - *Locate transmitter on side of pipe*

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## Piping and Hydraulics

- *Sanitary applications*
  - *Orient to self-fill and self-drain*
  - *Compatible with cleaning solutions*

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## Piping and Hydraulics

- *Mount the flowmeter between flanges that are parallel, axially aligned, and proper spacing*

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## Piping and Hydraulics

- *Locate the flowmeter so as to reduce vibration*
  - *Especially smaller pipe sizes*
- *When vibration problems occur, try rotating the flowmeter by 90 degrees*

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## Electrical

- *Integral sensors reduce wiring cost*
- *Wiring*
  - *Low voltage power supply can eliminate power conduit*
  - *Fieldbus reduces wiring*

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## Ambient Conditions

- *Outdoor applications (-20 to 60°C)*
  - *Many designs are for indoor locations*
- *Hazardous locations*
  - *Many designs are general purpose*

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## Setup Information

- *GIGO (garbage in – garbage out)*
- *Entering correct information correctly is critical*
  - *Dimensions*
  - *Fluid properties*

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## Setup Information

- *Failure to use correct information can cause significant error and startup problems*

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## Vortex Shedding and Fluidic Flowmeter Technology

- *Principle of Operation*
- *Vortex Shedder Sensing Systems*
- *Flowmeter Designs*
- *Transmitter Designs*
- *Installation*
- *Accessories*
- *Other Flowmeter Technologies*

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## Accessories

- *Body*
  - *NEMA 4X and IP67*
  - *Isolation valve*
  - *High pressure*
  - *High temperature*
  - *High temperature purge fitting*
  - *Dual sensor design*

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## Accessories

- *Transmitter*
  - *NEMA 4X and IP67*
  - *Analog output*
  - *Pulse output*
  - *Totalization and alarms*
  - *HART, Foundation Fieldbus, Profibus*

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## Accessories

- *Body and Transmitter*
  - *Dry calibration*
  - *Wet calibration*

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## Vortex Shedding and Fluidic Flowmeter Technology

- *Principle of Operation*
- *Vortex Shedder Sensing Systems*
- *Flowmeter Designs*
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- ***Other Flowmeter Technologies***

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## Other Flowmeter Technologies

- *Coriolis Mass*                      *Insertion*
- *Differential Pressure*
- *Magnetic*
- *Positive Displacement*
- *Target*
- *Thermal*
- *Turbine*
- *Ultrasonic*
- *Vortex Shedding*

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## Coriolis Mass Flowmeter

- *Coriolis mass flowmeters measure the force generated as the fluid moves towards/away from its center of rotation*

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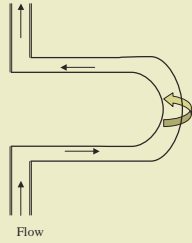
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## Coriolis Mass Flowmeter



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## Differential Pressure Flowmeter

- *A piping restriction is used to develop a pressure drop that is measured and used to infer fluid flow*
  - *Primary Flow Element*
  - *Transmitter (differential pressure)*

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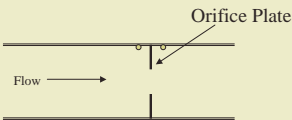
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## Orifice Plate Primary Flow Element



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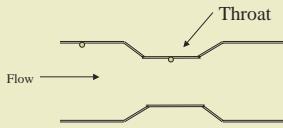
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## Venturi Primary Flow Element



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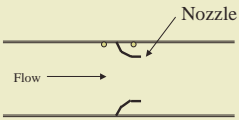
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## Flow Nozzle Primary Flow Element



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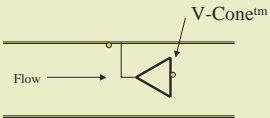
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## V-Cone™ Primary Flow Element



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## Differential Pressure Flowmeter

- *Pressure drop is proportional to the square of the fluid flow rate*
  - $\Delta p \propto Q^2$  or  $Q \propto \sqrt{\Delta p}$
  - *Double the flow... four times the differential*

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## Differential Pressure Flowmeter

- *Low flow measurement can be difficult*
  - *For example, only 1/4 of the differential pressure is generated at 50 percent of the full scale flow rate. At 10 percent flow, the signal is only 1 percent of the differential pressure at full scale.*

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## Magnetic Flowmeter

- *Fluid flow through a magnetic field generates a voltage at the electrodes that is proportional to fluid velocity*
  - *Primary Flow Element*
  - *Transmitter*

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## Magnetic Flowmeter

The diagram illustrates the components of a magnetic flowmeter. A magnet is positioned above a non-magnetic tube. Inside the tube, there is an insulating liner. An electrode is located at the bottom of the tube. An arrow indicates the direction of flow through the tube.

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## Magnetic Flowmeter

- *Traditional AC excitation was susceptible to noise and drift*
  - *A low voltage signal is generated that is susceptible to noise and cross-talk at the excitation frequency*

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## Magnetic Flowmeter

- *Pulsed DC excitation reduces drift by turning the magnet on and off*
  - *Noise (while the magnet is off) is subtracted from signal and noise (while the magnet is on) to reduce the effects of noise and cross-talk*
  - *Response time can be compromised*

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## Positive Displacement Flowmeter

- *Positive displacement flowmeters measure flow by repeatedly entrapping fluid within the flowmeter*
  - *Moving parts with tight tolerances*
  - *Bearings*
  - *Many shapes*

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## Target Flowmeter

- *Target flowmeters determine flow by measuring the force exerted on a body (target) suspended in the flow stream*

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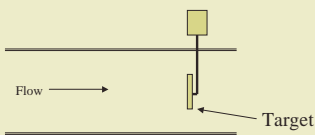
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## Target Flowmeter



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## Thermal Flowmeter

- *Thermal flowmeters use the thermal properties of the fluid to measure flow*
  - *Hot Wire Anemometer*
  - *Thermal Profile*

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## Thermal Flowmeter Hot Wire Anemometer

- *Hot wire anemometers determine flow by measuring the amount of energy needed to heat a probe whose heat loss changes with flow rate*

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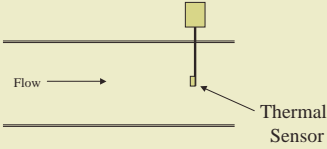
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## Thermal Flowmeter Hot Wire Anemometer



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## Thermal Flowmeter Thermal Profile

- *Thermal profile flowmeters determine flow by measuring the temperature difference that results in a heated tube when the fluid transfers heat from the upstream portion to the downstream portion of the flowmeter*

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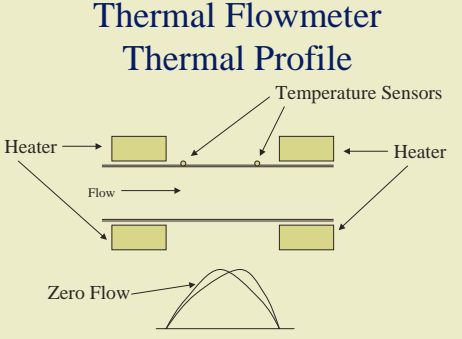
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## Thermal Flowmeter Thermal Profile



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## Turbine Flowmeter

- *Fluid flow causes a rotor to spin whereby the rotor speed is proportional to fluid velocity*
  - *Primary Flow Element*
  - *Transmitter*

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## Turbine Flowmeter

Sensor/Transmitter  
Rotor  
Flow →

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## Turbine Flowmeter

- *The sensor detects the rotor blades*
- *The frequency of the rotor blades passing the sensor is proportional to fluid velocity*

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## Ultrasonic - Doppler

- *Doppler ultrasonic flowmeters reflect ultrasonic energy from particles, bubbles and/or eddies flowing in the fluid*

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## Ultrasonic - Doppler

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## Ultrasonic - Doppler

- *Under no flow conditions, the frequencies of the ultrasonic beam and its reflection are the same*
- *With flow in the pipe, the difference between the frequency of the beam and its reflection increases proportional to fluid velocity*

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## Ultrasonic - Transit Time

- *Transit time (time-of-flight) ultrasonic flowmeters alternately transmit ultrasonic energy into the fluid in the direction and against the direction of flow*

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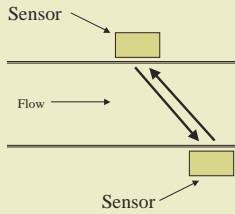
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## Ultrasonic - Transit Time



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## Ultrasonic - Transit Time

- *The time difference between ultrasonic energy moving upstream and downstream in the fluid is used to determine fluid velocity*

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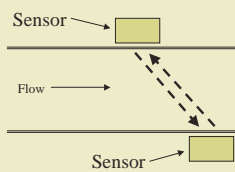
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## Ultrasonic - Transit Time

- *Under no flow conditions, the time for the ultrasonic energy to travel upstream and downstream are the same*



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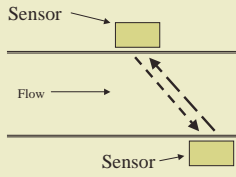
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## Ultrasonic - Transit Time

- *With flow in the pipe, the time for the ultrasonic energy to travel upstream will be greater than the downstream time*



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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter

- *A bluff body in the flow stream creates vortices whereby the number of vortices is proportional to the fluid velocity*
  - *Primary Flow Element*
  - *Transmitter*

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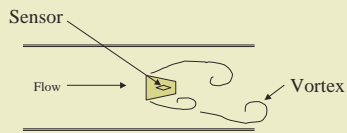
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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter



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## Vortex Shedding Flowmeter

- *The sensing system detects the vortices created*
- *The frequency of the vortices passing the sensing system is proportional to fluid velocity*

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## Insertion Flowmeter

- *Insertion flowmeter infer the flow in the entire pipe by measuring flow at one or more strategic locations in the pipe*
  - *Differential Pressure*
  - *Magnetic*
  - *Target*
  - *Thermal*
  - *Turbine*
  - *Vortex*

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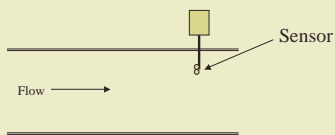
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## Insertion Flowmeter



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## Seminar Outline

- *Introduction*
- *Fluid Flow Fundamentals*
- *Flowmeter Technology*
- ***Flowmeter Performance***
- *Consumer Guide*

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## Flowmeter Performance

- ***Flowmeter Performance***
- *Performance Statements*
- *Reference Performance*
- *Pulse Output vs. Analog Output*
- *Actual Performance*
- *Supplier Claims*

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## Flowmeter Performance

- *Accuracy is the ability of the flowmeter to produce a measurement that corresponds to its characteristic curve*

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## Flowmeter Performance

- *Repeatability is the ability of the flowmeter to reproduce a measurement each time a set of conditions is repeated*

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## Flowmeter Performance

- *Linearity is the ability of the relationship between flow and flowmeter output (often called the characteristic curve or signature of the flowmeter) to approximate a linear relationship*

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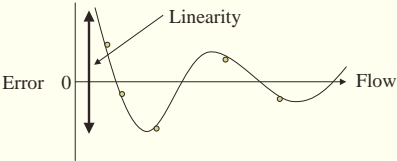
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## Flowmeter Performance



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## Flowmeter Performance

- *Flowmeter suppliers often specify the composite accuracy that represents the combined effects of repeatability, linearity and accuracy*

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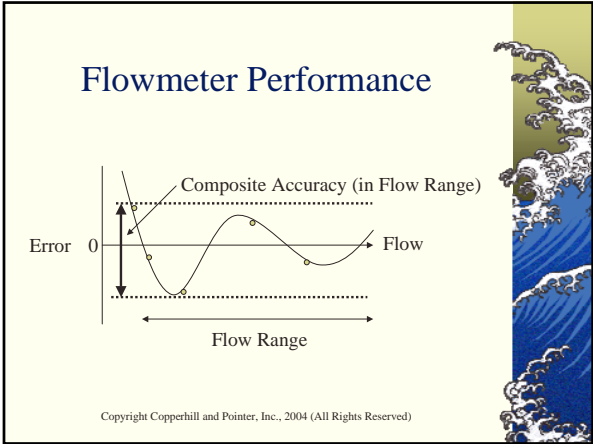
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- ## Flowmeter Performance
- *Flowmeter Performance*
  - **Performance Statements**
  - *Reference Performance*
  - *Pulse Output vs. Analog Output*
  - *Actual Performance*
  - *Supplier Claims*
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- ## Performance Statements
- *Percent of rate*
  - *Percent of full scale*
  - *Percent of meter capacity (upper range limit)*
  - *Percent of calibrated span*
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## Performance Statements

- *1% of rate performance at different flow rates with a 0-100 unit flow range*
  - *100% flow*  $\rightarrow 0.01 \cdot 100$  *1.00 unit*
  - *50% flow*  $\rightarrow 0.01 \cdot 50$  *0.50 unit*
  - *25% flow*  $\rightarrow 0.01 \cdot 25$  *0.25 unit*
  - *10% flow*  $\rightarrow 0.01 \cdot 10$  *0.10 unit*

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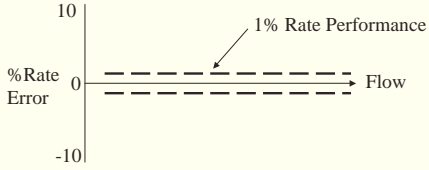
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## Performance Statements



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## Performance Statements

- *1% of full scale performance at different flow rates with a 0-100 unit flow range*
  - *100% flow*  $\rightarrow 0.01 \cdot 100$  *1 unit = 1% rate*
  - *50% flow*  $\rightarrow 0.01 \cdot 100$  *1 unit = 2% rate*
  - *25% flow*  $\rightarrow 0.01 \cdot 100$  *1 unit = 4% rate*
  - *10% flow*  $\rightarrow 0.01 \cdot 100$  *1 unit = 10% rate*

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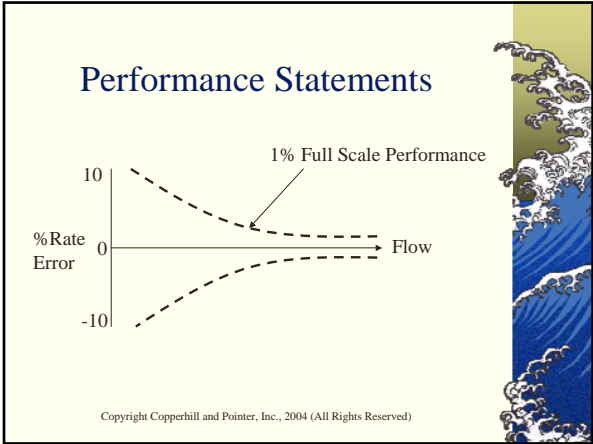
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- ### Performance Statements
- 1% of meter capacity (or upper range limit) performance at different flow rates with a 0-100 unit flow range (URL=400)
    - 100% flow  $\rightarrow 0.01 \cdot 400$  4 units = 4% rate
    - 50% flow  $\rightarrow 0.01 \cdot 400$  4 units = 8% rate
    - 25% flow  $\rightarrow 0.01 \cdot 400$  4 units = 16% rate
    - 10% flow  $\rightarrow 0.01 \cdot 400$  4 units = 40% rate
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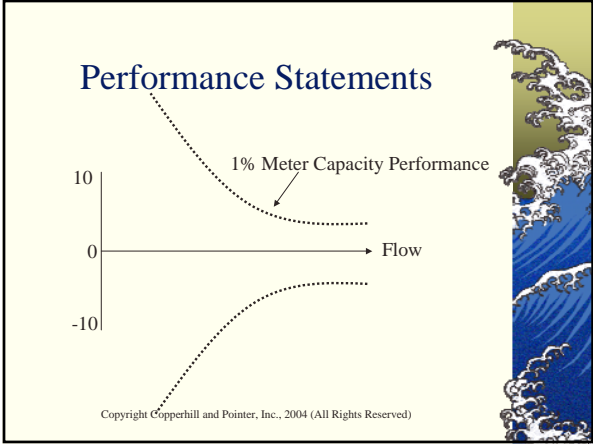
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## Performance Statements

- *Performance expressed as a percent of calibrated span is similar to full scale and meter capacity statements where the absolute error is a percentage of the calibrated span*

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## Performance Statements

- *1% of calibrated span performance at different flow rates with a 0-100 unit flow range (URL=400, calibrated span=200)*
  - *100% flow  $\rightarrow 0.01 \cdot 200$  2 units = 2% rate*
  - *50% flow  $\rightarrow 0.01 \cdot 200$  2 units = 4% rate*
  - *25% flow  $\rightarrow 0.01 \cdot 200$  2 units = 8% rate*
  - *10% flow  $\rightarrow 0.01 \cdot 200$  2 units = 20% rate*

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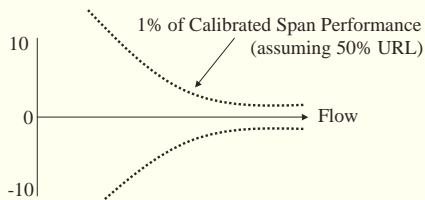
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## Performance Statements



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## Performance Statements

- *A calibrated span statement becomes a full scale statement when the instrument is calibrated to full scale*
- *A calibrated span statement becomes a meter capacity statement when the instrument is calibrated at URL*

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## Performance Statements

- *Performance specified as a percent of rate, percent of full scale, percent of meter capacity, and percent of calibrated span are different*

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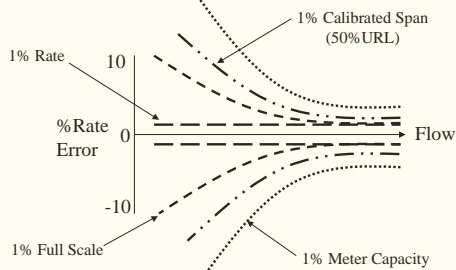
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## Performance Statements



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## Performance Statements

- *Different and multiple performance statements may apply*
  - *0.05% full scale typical transmitter*
  - *0.10% full scale low range transmitter*
  - *0.50% rate 50-100% full scale*
  - *0.25% full scale 10-50% full scale*

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## Performance Statements

- *Performance statements apply over a range of operation*
- *Turndown is the ratio of the maximum flow that the flowmeter will measure within the stated accuracy to the minimum flow that can be measured within the stated accuracy*

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## Performance Statements

- *Performance statements can be manipulated because their meaning may not be clearly understood*
- *Technical assistance may be needed to analyze the statements*

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## Flowmeter Performance

- *Flowmeter Performance*
- *Performance Statements*
- **Reference Performance**
- *Pulse Output vs. Analog Output*
- *Actual Performance*
- *Supplier Claims*

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## Reference Performance

- *Reference performance is the quality of measurement at a nominal set of operating conditions, such as:*
  - *Water at 20°C in ambient conditions of 20°C and 50 percent relative humidity*
  - *Long straight run*
  - *Pulse output*

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## Reference Performance

- *In the context of the industrial world, reference performance reflects performance under controlled laboratory conditions*

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## Reference Performance

- *Hypothetical flowmeter*
  - 1% rate 1-10 m/s
  - 2% rate 0.5-1 m/s
  - Turns off under 0.3 m/s

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## Reference Performance

### Example - Omission

- *Hypothetical flowmeter*
  - 1% rate 10-100% of flow
  - 2% rate 5-10% of flow
- *Percent of flow could be assumed to be percent of user's full scale*

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## Reference Performance

### Example - Omission

- *If full scale is not adjustable, the percent is a percent of meter capacity!*
  - 0-2 m/s range with URL=10 m/s
    - 1% rate 1-2 m/s
    - 2% rate 0.5-1 m/s
    - Undefined 0.3-0.5 m/s
    - Turns off under 0.3 m/s

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## Reference Performance

### Example - Omission

- Similarly, a percent of full scale statement could really be a percent of meter capacity statement
  - Especially raw pulse output

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## Reference Performance

### Problem

- If the full scale is not adjustable, what is the performance of a flowmeter with the following accuracy specifications?
  - 1% full scale 10-100% flow
  - 2% full scale 5-10% flow

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## Reference Performance

### Solution

- Vortex shedding flowmeters can operate upwards of 10 m/s
  - Assume meter capacity is 10 m/s
- In typical applications, fluid velocity is below 3 m/s
  - Assume a user range of 0-2 m/s

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## Reference Performance

### Solution

- *The calculated accuracy is:*
  - $0.01 * 10 \text{ m/s}$       *1-2 m/s*
    - *5% rate at 2 m/s*
    - *10% rate at 1 m/s*
  - $0.02 * 10 \text{ m/s}$       *0.5-1 m/s*
    - *40% rate at 0.5 m/s*
  - *Undefined*      *under 0.5 m/s*

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## Reference Performance

- *Rate statements at higher velocity are often discussed*
- *Degraded performance and turn off at lower velocities are often only mentioned with prompting*
  - *Progressive disclosure*

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## Flowmeter Performance

- *Flowmeter Performance*
- *Performance Statements*
- *Reference Performance*
- ***Pulse Output vs. Analog Output***
- *Actual Performance*
- *Supplier Claims*

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## Pulse Output vs. Analog Output

- *Most suppliers specify pulse output performance*
  - *Analog output performance is typically the pulse output performance plus an absolute error*

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## Pulse Output vs. Analog Output

### Problem

- *What is the error associated with a 4-20mA analog output that has an error of 0.010 mA?*

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## Pulse Output vs. Analog Output

### Solution

- *The conversion error is:*
  - $0.010/(20-4) = 0.06\%$  of full scale
- *Many flowmeters have analog output errors of 0.10% of full scale*

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## Pulse Output vs. Analog Output

### Solution

<u>Flow</u>	<u>0.06% Full Scale</u>
100 units	$0.06 * 100 / 100 = 0.06\%$ rate
50 “	$0.06 * 100 / 50 = 0.12$ “
25 “	$0.06 * 100 / 25 = 0.24$ “
10 “	$0.06 * 100 / 10 = 0.60$ “

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## Pulse Output vs. Analog Output

### Solution

<u>Flow</u>	<u>0.10% Full Scale</u>
100 units	$0.10 * 100 / 100 = 0.10\%$ rate
50 “	$0.10 * 100 / 50 = 0.20$ “
25 “	$0.10 * 100 / 25 = 0.40$ “
10 “	$0.10 * 100 / 10 = 1.00$ “

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## Pulse Output vs. Analog Output

- Some suppliers cannot provide an analog output accuracy specification, so the performance of the analog output may be **undefined**

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## Pulse Output vs. Analog Output

- *In some flowmeter designs, the analog output error can be **larger** than the flowmeter accuracy*
  - *Often applies to flowmeters with percent of rate accuracy*
  - *Rate error increases at low flow rates*
  - *Others often include the analog output error in their pulse accuracy statement*

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## Pulse Output vs. Analog Output

- *Flowmeters with percent of full scale, meter capacity, and calibrated span often include the analog output error in their pulse accuracy statement*

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## Pulse Output vs. Analog Output

### **Example**

- *An analog output error of 0.10% of full scale is usually neglected for a flowmeter that exhibits 1% of full scale performance.*

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## Flowmeter Performance

- *Flowmeter Performance*
- *Performance Statements*
- *Reference Performance*
- *Pulse Output vs. Analog Output*
- ***Actual Performance***
- *Supplier Claims*

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## Actual Performance

- *Operating Effects*
  - *Ambient conditions*
    - *Humidity*
    - *Precipitation*
    - *Temperature*
    - *Direct sunlight*

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## Actual Performance

- *Many flowmeters are rated to 10-90% relative humidity (non-condensing)*
  - *Outdoor locations are subject to 100% relative humidity and precipitation in various forms*

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## Actual Performance

- *Operating Effects*
  - *Can be significant, even though the numbers seem small*
  - *Not published by most suppliers*
    - *Information is not generally available to fairly evaluate actual performance*

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## Actual Performance

**Example**

- *The error (at 25 percent of scale and a 0°C ambient) associated with a temperature effect of 0.01% full scale per °C can be calculated as:*
  - $0.01 \cdot (20-0) / 25$ , or 0.80% rate

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## Actual Performance

- *Operating Effects*
  - *Process conditions*
    - *Pressure*
    - *Temperature*
      - *Fluid expansion*
      - *Flowmeter expansion*
  - *Composition*

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## Actual Performance

- *Velocity Profile*
  - *Distorted velocity profile can affect performance*
    - *Provide adequate straight run*
    - *Locate most of the straight run upstream of the flowmeter*
    - *Install a flow conditioner*

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## Actual Performance

- *Pipe Diameter and Area*
  - *Variations in the pipe diameter can affect the K-factor of the flowmeter*

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## Actual Performance

- *Fluid Properties*
  - *Reference accuracy is determined using a known fluid at known conditions*

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## Actual Performance

- *Fluid Properties*
  - *Variation from reference conditions may require calibration correlations that can affect flowmeter performance*
    - *Different fluid composition*
    - *Different fluid temperature*
    - *Different fluid pressure (gas/vapor)*

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## Flowmeter Performance

- *Flowmeter Performance*
- *Performance Statements*
- *Reference Performance*
- *Analog Output vs. Pulse Output*
- *Actual Performance*
- ***Supplier Claims***

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## Supplier Claims

- *High Turndown*
  - *Ratio of the maximum flow that can be measured within the stated accuracy to the minimum flow that can be measured within the stated accuracy*

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## Supplier Claims

- *High Turndown*
  - *Example - Hypothetical flowmeter*
    - *1% rate accuracy*
    - *20:1 turndown*
  - *Sounds fantastic!*

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## Supplier Claims

- *High Turndown*
  - *Further investigation reveals*

▪ <i>1% rate accuracy</i>	<i>0.5-10 m/s</i>
<i>Actual turndown</i>	<i>20:1</i>
▪ <i>Undefined</i>	<i>0.3-0.5 m/s</i>
<i>Operating turndown</i>	<i>33:1</i>

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## Supplier Claims

- *High Turndown*
  - *Claims could be made based upon the operating flow rates that have undefined accuracy at low flow rates*
    - *Would be 33:1 instead of 20:1*

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## Supplier Claims

- *High Turndown*
  - *Typical application (0-2 m/s)*
    - *1% rate accuracy*      *0.5-2 m/s*
    - *Actual turndown*      *4:1*
    - *Undefined*      *0.3-0.5 m/s*
    - *Operating turndown*      *7:1*

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## Supplier Claims

- *High Turndown*
  - *High turndown claims assume that Reynolds number is sufficiently high to not limit low flow operation*
    - *Low Reynolds numbers can cause*
      - *nonlinearity at low flow rates*
      - *turn off above minimum velocity limit*

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## Supplier Claims

- *High Turndown*
  - *High turndown claims assume pulse output*
    - *Use of the analog output degrades performance*

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## Supplier Claims

- *High Accuracy*
  - *High accuracy claims often refer to high flow rates that may not be practical*
  - *Use of the analog output degrades performance*

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## Supplier Claims

- *Percent of Full Scale Accuracy*
  - *Example - Hypothetical flowmeter*
    - *1% FS accuracy*
    - *20:1 turndown*
  - *Sounds fantastic!*

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## Supplier Claims

- *Percent of Full Scale Accuracy*
  - *Further investigation reveals*
    - *1% FS accuracy 0.5-10 m/s*
  - *Typical application (0-2 m/s)*
    - *1% rate accuracy 2 m/s*
    - *2% “ “ 1 m/s*
    - *4% “ “ 0.5 m/s*

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## Supplier Claims

- *Percent of Full Scale Accuracy*
  - *Full scale is meter capacity when:*
    - *using an un-scaled pulse output*
    - *the analog output has no full scale adjustment*

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## Supplier Claims

- *Percent of Full Scale Accuracy*
  - *Further investigation reveals*
    - *1% MC accuracy      0.5-10 m/s*
  - *Typical application (0-2 m/s)*
    - *5% rate accuracy      2 m/s*
    - *10% “ “                  1 m/s*
    - *20% “ “                  0.5 m/s*

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## Supplier Claims

- *Inexpensive*
  - *Lower performance*
  - *Plastic available*
  - *Economic alternative to other technologies*

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## Seminar Outline

- *Introduction*
- *Fluid Flow Fundamentals*
- *Flowmeter Technology*
- *Flowmeter Performance*
- ***Consumer Guide***

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## Consumer Guide

### *User Equipment Selection Process*

- *Learn about the technology*
- *Find suitable vendors*
- *Obtain specifications*
- *Organize specifications*
- *Evaluate specifications*
- *Select equipment*

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## Consumer Guide

### *User Equipment Selection Process*

- *Performing this process takes time and therefore costs money*

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**Consumer Guide**

*User Equipment Selection Process*

- *Haphazard implementation with limited knowledge of alternatives does not necessarily lead to a good equipment selection*

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**Consumer Guide**

*Guide Provides First Four Items*

- *Learn about the technology*
- *Find suitable vendors*
- *Obtain specifications*
- *Organize specifications*
- *Evaluate specifications*
- *Select equipment*

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**Consumer Guide**

*Guide Provides First Four Items*

- *Information focused on technology*
- *Comprehensive lists of suppliers and equipment*

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**Consumer Guide**

*Guide Provides First Four Items*

- **Significant specifications**
- **Lists of equipment organized to facilitate evaluation**

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**Consumer Guide**

*User Equipment Selection Process*

- *By providing the first four items, the Consumer Guides:*
  - *make technical evaluation and equipment selection easier, more comprehensive, and more efficient*

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**Consumer Guide**

*User Equipment Selection Process*

- *By providing the first four items, the Consumer Guides:*
  - *allow selection from a larger number of suppliers*
  - *simplifies the overall selection process*

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**Consumer Guide**

- ***Supplier Data and Analysis***
- ***Attachments***
  - *Flowmeter categories*
  - *Availability of selected features*
  - *Models grouped by performance*

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**Supplier Data and Analysis**

- ***Body and Sensor Limits***
  - *Size*
    - *4-750 mm*
  - *Ambient temperature*
    - *-20 to 60°C typical*
    - *Some designs are for indoor use only*

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**Supplier Data and Analysis**

- ***Body and Sensor Limits***
  - *Wetted parts*
    - *316SS, Hastelloy C, plastic, PVC, PFA*
  - *NEMA 4X, IP65, 67*

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## Supplier Data and Analysis

- *Process Operating Limits*
  - *Pressure limit*
    - 10-50 bar typical
    - 400 bar
  - *Temperature limit*
    - 200°C typical; 400°C max
    - Many designs are limited to under 100°C

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## Supplier Data and Analysis

- *Vibration (acceleration compensation)*
  - *High mass*
    - Fishtail
  - *Low mass*
    - Small plate inside shedder
    - Differential pressure diaphragm
- *Properly support flowmeter body*

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## Supplier Data and Analysis

- *Vibration (acceleration compensation)*
  - *No mass*
    - Thermal
    - Ultrasonic

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## Supplier Data and Analysis

- *Sensor Installation/Maintenance*
  - *Velocity profile*
    - *10-40D/5-10D typical*
    - *Some designs show reduced sensitivity to velocity profile effects*

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## Supplier Data and Analysis

- *Sensor Installation/Maintenance*
  - *Sensor replacement*
    - *While flowing (all-welded)*
    - *Depressurize pipe*
    - *Remove flowmeter body*

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## Supplier Data and Analysis

- *Sensor Installation/Maintenance*
  - *Sensor coating*
    - *Sensor corrosion/coating*
    - *Sensor coating*

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## Supplier Data and Analysis

- *Sensor Installation/Maintenance*
  - *Damage relatively thin components*
    - *Corrosion*
    - *Overpressure*

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## Supplier Data and Analysis

- *Transmitter*
  - *Two-wire design*
  - *3-wire design*
  - *4-wire device (separate power/analog wires)*

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## Supplier Data and Analysis

- *Transmitter*
  - *Typically measure forward flow*
    - *Some reverse flow designs*
  - *Alarms*
    - *Do not use for alarms below minimum velocity constraint*

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## Supplier Data and Analysis

- *Transmitter*
  - *Totalization*
  - *Multivariable*
    - *Gas pressure/temperature compensation*
    - *Mass flow*

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## Supplier Data and Analysis

- *Transmitter*
  - *Sensor/transmitter mounting*
    - *Integral*
    - *Remote*
    - *Spacing (distance)*

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## Supplier Data and Analysis

- *Transmitter*
  - *Filtering is typically used*
    - *Low flow cutoff*
  - *Many models to not allow adjustment of full scale*

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## Supplier Data and Analysis

- *Transmitter*
  - *Range adjustment mechanism provide insight into age of design*
    - *Analog (potentiometer)*
    - *Dip switch*
    - *Digital*

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## Supplier Data and Analysis

- *Performance*
  - *Specifications are often not clear as to whether the stated accuracy is the*
    - *Reference accuracy*
    - *Typical installed accuracy*

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## Supplier Data and Analysis

- *Performance*
  - *Typically based on pulse output*
  - *Analog output accuracy*
    - *Add 0.03-0.10% full scale to flowmeters with % rate statements (typical)*
    - *No adder for flowmeters with % full scale statement (typical)*
    - *Some suppliers could not quantify*

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## Supplier Data and Analysis

- *Performance*
  - *Performance can vary and the flowmeter can turn off as viscosity increases and Reynolds number decreases below its constraint*

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## Supplier Data and Analysis

- *Performance*
  - *It can be difficult to compare the performance of different suppliers' equipment*

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## Supplier Data and Analysis

- *Operating Effects*
  - *Ambient*
    - *Temperature, humidity*
  - *Process conditions*
    - *Temperature, pressure, composition, viscosity, Reynolds number*
  - *Many suppliers do not quantify operating effects*

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## Supplier Data and Analysis

- *Operating Effects*
  - *It can be difficult to compare the operating effects of different suppliers' equipment*

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## Consumer Guide

- *Supplier Data and Analysis*
- **Attachments**
  - *Flowmeter categories*
  - *Availability of selected features*
  - *Models grouped by performance*

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## Flowmeter Categories

- *Summary of offerings*
  - *Categories*
  - *Manufacturing location/source*

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## Flowmeter Categories

- *Suppliers (53)*
- *Manufacturers (40)*
  - 15 *USA*
  - 9 *China*
  - 8 *Japan*
  - 6 *Germany*
  - 3 *India*

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## Availability of Selected Features

- *Sensor and measurement type*
- *Remove sensor under flowing conditions*
- *Hazardous location approvals*
- *High pressure (over 100 bar)*
- *High temperature (over 200°C)*
- *Pressure and temperature compensation*

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## Availability of Selected Features

- *Communications*
  - *HART*
  - *Foundation Fieldbus*
  - *Profibus*

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## Models Grouped by Performance

- *Types of magnetic flowmeters*
- *Outputs*
  - *Pulse/analog*

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## Models Grouped by Performance

- *Operating conditions*
  - *0-2 m/s calibration (water)*
  - *0-20 m/s calibration (free air)*
- *For each size, vortex shedding and fluidic flowmeters are grouped by their performance at 0.6 m/s (water) and 6 m/s (free air)*

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## Review and Questions

- *Introduction*
- *Fluid Flow Fundamentals*
- *Flowmeter Technology*
- *Flowmeter Performance*
- *Consumer Guide*

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# The Consumer Guide to Vortex Shedding and Fluidic Flowmeters

*Seminar Presented by  
David W. Spitzer  
Spitzer and Boyes, LLC*

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