

Hydrostatic drives as safe and energy saving machines

The drive investigation method compatible with the diagram of power increase opposite to the direction of power flow

Zygmunt Paszota, Prof.
Gdansk University of Technology

ABSTRACT



Designers and manufacturers of hydrostatic drives have not a tool for precise determination of their energy efficiency, changing in a wide range in the driven device operating field, i.e. in the full range of the hydraulic motor speed and load and the working medium viscosity. This applies both to determining of losses and energy efficiency of displacement machines (pump and hydraulic motor) used in the drive system, and to losses and energy efficiency of the motor control system structure. A method is proposed compatible with the diagram of power increase opposite to the direction of power flow. That diagram replaces the Sankey diagram of power decrease in the direction of power flow.

Key words: hydrostatic drive and control; evaluation of energy losses; method of the energy efficiency investigation; search for the energy saving solutions

INTRODUCTION

Hydrostatic drive and control system have been in use for decades in ships and ocean technology objects, mainly because they are safe.

For instance, in tankers, because of the danger of explosion, the deck equipment – anchor windlass, automatic mooring winches etc. – are equipped with the hydrostatic drive. Cargo valves along the ship have hydrostatic remote control from the central console. The transport (impeller) pump system for oil unloading is often driven by displacement hydraulic motors submerged in the tanks.

In bulk carriers the hydrostatic drive is used for large hatch covers, deck cranes and other deck equipment.

Tankers and bulk carriers (and also other ships) have the hydrostatic drive and control systems for steering gear, bilge, ballast and fuel valves, cranes, hull opening covers and also the hydrostatic control of controllable pitch propellers in the ship main propulsion system.

In tankers and bulk carriers the central hydrostatic systems are used of simultaneous drive and control of many devices with total power of several megawatts.

A specific feature of the roll on – roll off ships are hydrostatically driven transport devices. A typical example is the stern ramp, 50 m long and 22 m wide close to the hull, and also internal ramps between decks.

In the container carriers a typical example are deck cranes with 450kN lift capacity and 30 m or more outreach, with separate hydrostatic drive in three independent closed circuits of hoisting, turning and change of outreach.

Fishing ships of up to 30 m in length are equipped with hydrostatically driven trawl, net and auxiliary winches. Multitask trawlers of up to 50 m in length, seiners up to 80 m long for catching fish in shoals in the ocean depth have hydrostatically driven winches; the hydrostatic drive is also used in cranes, auxiliary winches, hatch covers and other centrally controlled devices.

On the platforms, drilling, production and auxiliary ships, e.g. ocean tugs, the deck and technological equipment has most often the hydrostatic drive and control because of the danger of explosion.

However, the above given examples of the use of hydrostatic drive in floating units do not suggest that the hydrostatically driven ship and ocean object equipment will be dominating also in the future.

In 2006, the MacGREGOR company introduced, apart from deck cranes with hydrostatic drive, the first deck crane with electric drive [1]. In 2010 that company equipped only with 30t electric cranes 8 bulk carriers of 16 900 DWT capacity ordered in China by the Polish Polsteam owner [2]. The advantages, pointed out by the manufacturer, compared with hydrostatically driven cranes, are the following:

- faster and more precise positioning of the hook, reducing the loading time by 20% and shortening the port time,
- the drive power smaller by 30 ÷ 35%.

Also proposed is the use of electric drive and control of hatch covers in bulk carriers as well as full electric control of the ro – ro ship equipment.

The manufacturers of electrically driven ship equipment consider the energy efficiency of electric drive definitely higher than the hydrostatic drive efficiency.

The above quoted comparison of the installed power and energy efficiency of electric and hydrostatic drive is made in the situation when **designer of a hydrostatically driven device has no tool for precise determination of the drive energy efficiency** changing in a wide range in the driven device operating field. Therefore, there is no possibility of precise determining of the required power and in consequence of a reliable comparison of the two drives. This applies to the losses and energy efficiency of displacement machines (pump and hydraulic motor) used in the drive system and also to the energy efficiency of the whole system as a consequence of the used motor speed control structure.

In a hydrostatic drive system the mechanical energy is converted in the displacement pump into pressure energy of viscous fluid and the fluid pressure energy is converted into mechanical energy in the hydraulic motor. These two energy conversions in the displacement machines are connected with energy losses; the losses occur also in the conduits and in the motor speed throttling control assembly with a determined structure.

The only way is correct assessment of the level and proportion of energy losses, allowing also to search for energy saving solutions of the pump and motor as well as the whole hydrostatic drive system.

DETERMINING OF THE ENERGY LOSSES WITH THE ROTATIONAL HYDRAULIC MOTOR INVESTIGATION AS AN EXAMPLE

The excerpts of the reference [19] will be quoted and supplemented in chapter 3 with significant findings.

Correct evaluation of the energy behaviour of a hydraulic motor is an evaluation of its overall efficiency $\eta_M = f(n_M, M_M, \nu)$, i.e. evaluation of the overall efficiency η_M as a function of the motor shaft speed n_M and load M_M and of the working fluid viscosity ν . This is also assessment of the value and proportions of the motor mechanical, volumetric and pressure losses deciding of the motor mechanical η_{Mm} , volumetric η_{Mv} and pressure η_{Mp} efficiency, where the product $\eta_M = \eta_{Mm} \eta_{Mv} \eta_{Mp}$ determines the motor overall efficiency η_M . The energy losses and the corresponding efficiencies η_{Mm} , η_{Mv} , and η_{Mp} should be determined as a function of parameters having a direct impact on the particular losses and efficiencies.

However, designers and makers of rotational hydraulic motors and hydrostatic systems have not had so far a tool to determine their energy behaviour in the $(0 \leq \bar{\omega}_M / \bar{\omega}_{Mmax}, 0 \leq \bar{M}_M / \bar{M}_{Mmax})$ field of change of the hydraulic motor shaft speed and load coefficients and in the $v_{min} \leq \nu \leq v_{max}$ field of change of the hydraulic oil viscosity.

The rotational motor producers make erroneous routine evaluations of the following energy efficiencies and work parameters:

- the motor overall efficiency η_M as a function of the shaft speed n_M and motor pressure decrease Δp_M (e.g. [11 ÷ 14]),

- the motor overall efficiency η_M as a product of the volumetric efficiency η_{Mv} and the so called motor „mechanical – hydraulic efficiency” η_{Mmh} , all the three determined as a function of the same parameters (e.g. [11, 12]),
- motor shaft speed n_M as a function of the motor capacity Q_M and volumetric efficiency η_{Mv} , determined in turn as a function of the motor pressure decrease Δp_M (e.g. [11, 13]),
- motor shaft torque M_M as a function of pressure decrease Δp_M and the so called „mechanical – hydraulic efficiency” η_{Mmh} of the motor (e.g. [11 ÷ 14]),
- motor capacity Q_M as a function of the shaft speed n_M and volumetric efficiency η_{Mv} , determined in turn as a function of the motor pressure decrease Δp_M (e.g. [11 ÷ 13]),
- motor shaft useful power P_{Mu} as a function of the motor capacity Q_M and pressure decrease Δp_M and as a function of the motor overall efficiency η_M determined in turn as a function of the motor shaft speed n_M and pressure decrease Δp_M (e.g. [11 ÷ 13]).

The hydraulic motor researchers evaluate in a wrong way the losses arising in the motor:

- the motor torque M_{Mm} of mechanical losses as a function of the motor pressure decrease Δp_M and shaft speed n_M ,
- a sum of torque M_{Mm} of mechanical losses and the so called „torque of pressure losses” (resulting from the pressure losses Δp_{Mp} in the motor) – as a function of motor pressure decrease Δp_M and the shaft speed n_M ,
- the intensity Q_{Mv} of volumetric losses in the motor as a function of the motor pressure decrease Δp_M (or as a function of the motor shaft torque M_M) and as a function of the motor shaft speed n_M .

The evaluation methods of the energy losses and efficiency of the rotational hydraulic motors, used so far in the scientific research and in the industrial practice, give wrong results because the parameters that the losses and efficiencies are a function of are themselves dependent of those losses.

There is very little information of the motor makers presenting properly the motor overall efficiency $\eta_M = f(n_M, M_M)$ as a function of the motor shaft speed n_M and torque M_M at a specified fluid viscosity ν and presenting the impact of viscosity ν on the overall efficiency η_M (e.g. [10]).

It is a common deficiency that no information is given about the dependence of the motor mechanical, volumetric and pressure losses on the kinematic viscosity ν of the working fluid used in the hydrostatic drive system.

The fundamental reason of the erroneous evaluations are commonly accepted views on the research methodology and on the method of determining the energy losses in pumps and in hydraulic motors. That method is based, among others, on the traditional reading of the energy balance of a hydrostatic drive system from the Sankey diagram [3 ÷ 9]. The present unsatisfactory state is also an effect of using simplified evaluations of the relations of particular losses to the motor or pump working parameters and to the working fluid viscosity.

In reference [19] the work parameters, power, losses and energy efficiencies in a rotational hydraulic motor are defined and described by means of 46 expressions and also their complex interrelations are shown.

The end formula (46) presents the motor efficiency η_M as a product of efficiencies described by means of losses and parameters deciding about those efficiencies, and the pressure decrease Δp_{Mi} indicated in the motor working chambers and capacity Q_M in the motor chambers are also functions of the losses:

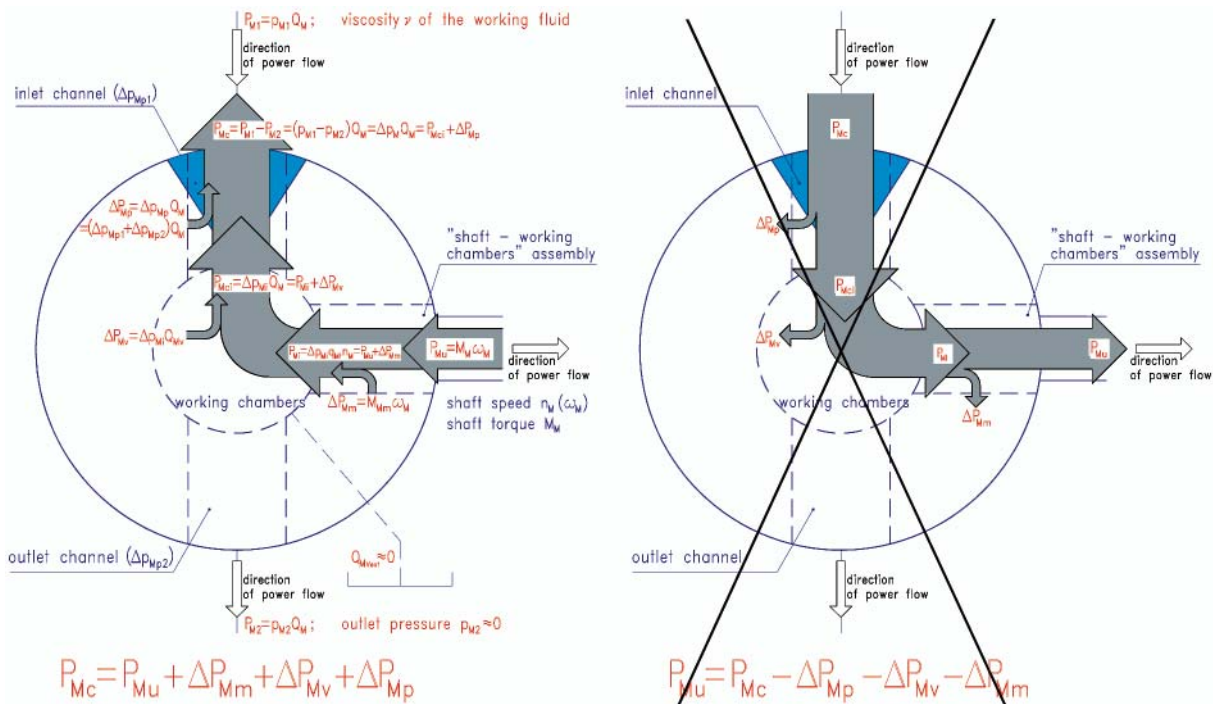


Fig. 1. Diagram of power increase in a hydraulic motor opposite to the direction of power flow, replacing the Sankey diagram of power decrease in the direction of power flow

$$\eta_M = f(M_M, n_M, v) = \eta_{Mm} \eta_{Mv} \eta_{Mp} = \frac{M_M}{M_M + M_{Mm}} \frac{q_{Mt} n_M}{q_{Mt} n_M + Q_{Mv}} \frac{\Delta p_{Mi}}{\Delta p_{Mi} + \Delta p_{Mp}} \quad (46)$$

where:

$$\begin{aligned} M_{Mm} &= f(M_M, n_M, v) \quad [\text{equation (2)}], \\ Q_{Mv} &= f(\Delta p_{Mi}, n_M, v) \quad [\text{equation (14)}], \\ \Delta p_{Mp} &= f(Q_M, v) \quad [\text{equation (25)}], \end{aligned}$$

with:

$$\Delta p_{Mi} = \frac{2\Pi(M_M + M_{Mm})}{q_{Mt}} \quad [\text{equation (6)}]$$

and

$$Q_M = q_{Mt} n_M + Q_{Mv} \quad [\text{equation (16)}].$$

Decrease Δp_{Mi} of pressure indicated in the working chambers (equation (6)) is a function of the loading torque M_M and torque M_{Mm} of mechanical losses in the „shaft – working chambers” assembly. Capacity Q_M in the motor channels (equation (16)) is a function of the motor shaft speed n_M and the intensity Q_{Mv} of volumetric losses in the working chambers.

POWER IN THE DRIVE SYSTEM, LOSSES AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY, SYSTEM OPERATING FIELD

Diagram of power increase in a power transmission system opposite to the direction of power flow replaces the Sankey diagram of power decrease in the direction of power flow.

The Sankey diagram is the fundamental cause of incorrect evaluation of losses in a drive system.

The Sankey diagram connected with a drive system suggests an evaluation defining the output power of the system as

a difference between the system input power and sum of the powers of losses occurring in the system. Therefore the energy losses in the system are evaluated as a function of parameters describing the input power.

In accordance with the proposed diagram of power increase in a power transmission system opposite to the direction of power flow, **the system input power is a sum of the system output power and powers of losses occurring in the system. The energy losses in the system are evaluated as a function of parameters describing the system output power.**

Fig. 1 illustrates this principle by an example of power flow in a hydraulic motor.

The power P_{Mc} consumed by the hydraulic motor is a sum of motor shaft useful power P_{Mu} and powers of three different energy losses in the motor. The losses occur in series increasing power in the opposite direction to the direction of power flow. In effect, the power in the motor increases from the shaft useful power P_{Mu} to the working fluid power P_{Mc} consumed by the motor:

$$P_{Mc} = P_{Mu} + \Delta P_{Mm} + \Delta P_{Mv} + \Delta P_{Mp}$$

Mechanical losses (and power ΔP_{Mm} of mechanical losses) occur in the „shaft – working chambers” assembly.

Volumetric losses (and power ΔP_{Mv} of volumetric losses) occur in the working chambers.

Pressure losses (and power ΔP_{Mp} of pressure losses) occur in the motor channels.

Formula (46) (equation (2)) shows a direct dependence of the torque M_{Mm} of mechanical losses in the „shaft – working chambers” assembly on the torque M_M and on the motor shaft rotational speed n_M as well as on the working fluid viscosity v .

Formula (46) (equations (14), (6)) presents a complex dependence of the intensity Q_{Mv} of volumetric losses in the working chambers on the shaft loading torque M_M and on the torque M_{Mm} of mechanical losses in the „shaft – working chambers” assembly (decrease Δp_{Mi} of pressure indicated in the working chambers depends on M_M and M_{Mm} and has direct impact on Q_{Mv}) and also on the shaft speed n_M (influencing in a diversified way the torque M_{Mm} of mechanical losses (2) and

intensity Q_{Mv} of volumetric losses (14)). The intensity Q_{Mv} of volumetric losses depends on a diversified impact of the working fluid viscosity v : indirectly by impact of v on the torque M_{Mm} of mechanical losses in the „shaft – working chambers” assembly (2) and directly by impact of v on the intensity Q_{Mv} of losses in the working chambers (14).

Formula (46) (equations (25, 16, 14, 6)) presents also a complex dependence of losses Δp_{Mp} of pressure in the motor channels on the motor shaft rotational speed n_M and on intensity Q_{Mv} of volumetric losses in the motor working chambers. The intensity Q_{Mv} of volumetric losses influences the motor capacity Q_M (equation (16)) and at the same time Q_{Mv} depends in a complex way on the shaft loading torque M_M and on the torque M_{Mm} of mechanical losses in the motor „shaft – working chambers” assembly. Pressure losses Δp_{Mp} in the motor channels are also dependent on the diversified impact of the working fluid viscosity v : indirectly by impact of v on the torque M_{Mm} of mechanical losses in the „shaft – working chambers” assembly (2) and by impact of v on the intensity Q_{Mv} of volumetric losses in the working chambers (14) and directly by impact of v on the losses Δp_{Mp} of pressure in the channels (25).

Contrary to the commonly used, both by manufacturers and researchers, methods of evaluation of the hydraulic motor losses, it is unacceptable to create a „sum” of the torque M_{Mm} of mechanical losses in the „shaft – working chambers” assembly and the „torque” of pressure losses Δp_{Mp} in the motor channels, and also such a „sum” must not be evaluated as directly dependent on the same chosen parameters, because those losses are of different character and depend on different parameters:

$$M_{Mm} = f(M_M, n_M, v)$$

$$\Delta p_{Mp} = f(Q_M, v)$$

The impact of hydraulic oil viscosity v on the energy losses in a hydraulic motor, i.e. on:

- torque M_{Mm} of mechanical losses in a „shaft – working chambers” assembly,
- intensity Q_{Mv} of volumetric losses in the working chambers,
- pressure losses Δp_{Mp} in the conduits, is diversified.

Dependence of the motor losses on the hydraulic oil viscosity v should be presented in expressions describing also the dependence of those losses on other parameters which influence them directly:

$$M_{Mm} = f(M_M, n_M, v)$$

$$Q_{Mv} = f(\Delta p_{Mi}, n_M, v)$$

$$\Delta p_{Mp} = f(Q_M, v)$$

The motor overall efficiency η_M , as a function of M_M , n_M and v , is a product of η_{Mm} , η_{Mv} and η_{Mp} efficiencies:

$$\eta_M = f(M_M, n_M, v) =$$

$$= \frac{P_{Mu}}{P_{Mc}} = \frac{M_M \omega_M}{\Delta p_M Q_M} = \frac{2\Pi M_M n_M}{\Delta p_M Q_M} = \eta_{Mm} \eta_{Mv} \eta_{Mp}$$

where:

- P_{Mu} – the motor useful power,
- P_{Mc} – the motor consumed power.

Each of the three efficiencies as a factor in the product describing the overall efficiency, is evaluated as a function

of parameters directly influencing the respective losses and a function of parameter to which the losses are „added”:

– **motor mechanical efficiency η_{Mm}** :

$$\eta_{Mm} = \frac{P_{Mu}}{P_{Mi}} = \frac{M_M \omega_M}{(M_M + M_{Mm}) \omega_M} =$$

$$= \frac{2\Pi M_M n_M}{2\Pi (M_M + M_{Mm}) n_M} = \frac{M_M}{M_M + M_{Mm}} = f(M_M, n_M, v)$$

where:

P_{Mi} – the power indicated in the motor working chambers:

$$P_{Mi} = \Delta p_{Mi} q_{Mt} n_{Mt} =$$

$$= (M_M + M_{Mm}) \omega_M = 2\Pi (M_M + M_{Mm}) n_M$$

– **motor volumetric efficiency η_{Mv}** :

$$\eta_{Mv} = \frac{P_{Mi}}{P_{Mci}} = \frac{\Delta p_{Mi} q_{Mt} n_M}{\Delta p_{Mi} (q_{Mt} n_M + Q_{Mv})} = \frac{\Delta p_{Mi} q_{Mt} n_M}{\Delta p_{Mi} Q_M} =$$

$$= \frac{q_{Mt} n_M}{q_{Mt} n_M + Q_{Mv}} = \frac{q_{Mt} n_M}{Q_M} = f(\Delta p_{Mi}, n_M, v)$$

where

P_{Mci} – the power consumed in the motor working chambers:

$$P_{Mci} = \Delta p_{Mi} (q_{Mt} n_M + Q_{Mv}) = \Delta p_{Mi} Q_M$$

– **motor pressure efficiency η_{Mp}** :

$$\eta_{Mp} = \frac{P_{Mci}}{P_{Mc}} = \frac{\Delta p_{Mi} (q_{Mt} n_M + Q_{Mv})}{(\Delta p_{Mi} + \Delta p_{Mp}) (q_{Mt} n_M + Q_{Mv})} = \frac{\Delta p_{Mi} Q_M}{\Delta p_M Q_M} =$$

$$= \frac{\Delta p_{Mi}}{\Delta p_{Mi} + \Delta p_{Mp}} = \frac{\Delta p_{Mi}}{\Delta p_M} = f(\Delta p_{Mi}, Q_M, v)$$

In order to present the motor volumetric efficiency η_{Mv} as a factor in the $\eta_{Mm} \eta_{Mv} \eta_{Mp}$ product describing η_M , i.e. to present η_{Mv} as a complex dependence on the (M_M, n_M, v) parameters describing η_M and dependent on the mechanical losses, the intensity $Q_{Mv} = f(\Delta p_{Mi}, n_M, v)$ of volumetric losses in the working chambers should be determined with:

$$\Delta p_{Mi} = \frac{2\Pi (M_M + M_{Mm})}{q_{Mt}}$$

and with torque M_{Mm} of mechanical losses in the „shaft – working chambers” assembly as an $M_{Mm} = f(M_M, n_M, v)$ function.

In order to present the motor pressure efficiency η_{Mp} as a factor in the $\eta_{Mm} \eta_{Mv} \eta_{Mp}$ product describing η_M , i.e. to present η_{Mp} as a complex dependence on the (M_M, n_M, v) parameters describing η_M and dependent on the mechanical and volumetric losses in the motor, the pressure losses $\Delta p_{Mp} = f(Q_M, v)$ in the channels must be determined with:

$$Q_M = q_{Mt} n_M + Q_{Mv}$$

then intensity $Q_{Mv} = f(\Delta p_{Mi}, n_M, v)$ of volumetric losses in the working chambers must be determined with:

$$\Delta p_{Mi} = \frac{2\Pi (M_M + M_{Mm})}{q_{Mt}}$$

and the torque M_{Mm} of mechanical losses in the „shaft – working chambers” assembly must be determined as an $M_{Mm} = f(M_M, n_M, v)$ function.

The characteristic of the hydraulic motor overall efficiency $\eta_M = f(M_M, n_M, \nu)$ presents a complex picture as a product $\eta_{Mm} \eta_{Mv} \eta_{Mp}$ of three efficiencies correctly described by:

- mechanical efficiency $\eta_{Mm} = f(M_M, n_M, \nu)$,
- volumetric efficiency $\eta_{Mv} = f(\Delta p_{Mi}, n_M, \nu)$,
- and pressure efficiency $\eta_{Mp} = f(\Delta p_{Mi}, Q_M, \nu)$.

The picture of the hydraulic motor overall efficiency $\eta_M = f(M_M, n_M, \nu)$ must be supplemented by assessment of the **motor operating field** ($0 \leq \bar{\omega}_M < \bar{\omega}_{Mmax}$, $0 \leq \bar{M}_M < \bar{M}_{Mmax}$) in the **hydrostatic drive system**, i.e. assessment of the range of n_M and M_M ($\bar{\omega}_M$ and \bar{M}_M) parameters.

In the motor (and the drive system) ($0 \leq \bar{\omega}_M < \bar{\omega}_{Mmax}$, $0 \leq \bar{M}_M < \bar{M}_{Mmax}$) operating field its **current speed n_M ($\bar{\omega}_M$) and load M_M (\bar{M}_M)** are an effect of the demand of the motor (system) driven machine (device) **and are independent of the losses in the hydraulic motor and in the motor driving hydrostatic system**.

However, the hydraulic motor (system) operating field limit values n_{Mmax} ($\bar{\omega}_{Mmax}$) and M_{Mmax} (\bar{M}_{Mmax}) depend on the maximum capacity of the motor driving system. The values n_{Mmax} ($\bar{\omega}_{Mmax}$) and M_{Mmax} (\bar{M}_{Mmax}) determine simultaneously the corresponding motor energy efficiency η_M and the overall system efficiency η .

The limit parameters of the hydrostatic drive system operation result from the pump theoretical capacity Q_{pt} and the system nominal working pressure p_n as well as from the energy losses in the hydraulic motor, pump and conduits and also losses in the motor speed throttling control assembly (if it is installed). Therefore, the limit values n_{Mmax} ($\bar{\omega}_{Mmax}$) and M_{Mmax} (\bar{M}_{Mmax}) are also dependent on the working fluid viscosity ν changing in the $\nu_{min} \leq \nu \leq \nu_{max}$ range. The hydrostatically driven hydraulic motor operating field is also influenced by the $\eta_p = f(M_p)$ characteristic of the electric or combustion motor in the pump driving system.

Evaluation of the hydraulic motor overall efficiency $\eta_M = f(M_M, n_M, \nu)$ as a product $\eta_{Mm} \eta_{Mv} \eta_{Mp}$ of three motor efficiencies should be performed by means of the mathematical models of losses and efficiencies, where the defined coefficients k_i of energy losses in the motor and in the motor drive system are used.

Evaluation of the hydraulic motor energy efficiency is performed together with evaluation of the efficiency of a hydrostatic drive system where the motor is used [including also the energy efficiency of pump, conduits and the motor speed throttling control assembly (if it is used)].

In the proposed method, based on the mathematical models of losses, **each kind of energy losses is a function of parameters directly influencing the losses and independent of those losses.**

Evaluated are the values of the k_i coefficients of losses, relating the mechanical, volumetric and pressure losses in the hydraulic motor, pump and other system elements to the reference values of driving system nominal pressure p_n , theoretical capacity Q_{pt} of the system driving pump, theoretical speed n_{Mt} and theoretical torque M_{Mt} of the motor shaft as well as the theoretical speed n_{pt} and theoretical torque M_{pt} of the pump shaft. The k_i coefficients are determined at the hydraulic oil reference viscosity ν_n . At the same time the impact is determined of the viscosity ratio ν/ν_n in the $\nu_{min} \leq \nu \leq \nu_{max}$ range on the k_i coefficient values.

The method allows to evaluate the values and proportions of mechanical, volumetric and pressure losses in the motor, pump, conduits and in the throttling assembly (if installed), as well as the dependence on the hydraulic oil viscosity ν .

The energy investigations of a pump and hydraulic motor as independent machines are limited to determination of the k_i coefficients of losses in them. The energy efficiency characteristics of those machines are determined in parallel with efficiency evaluation of the system where they are used.

The knowledge of k_i coefficients of the mechanical, volumetric and pressure losses in the drive system elements allows to obtain, with the **numerical method**, the characteristics of the hydrostatic drive system overall efficiency, pump efficiency, hydraulic motor efficiency, conduit efficiency and the motor speed throttling control assembly (if it is used) efficiency in the motor (system) ($0 \leq \bar{\omega}_M < \bar{\omega}_{Mmax}$, $0 \leq \bar{M}_M < \bar{M}_{Mmax}$) operating field at a selected ratio ν/ν_n of the hydraulic oil viscosity and the reference viscosity.

Characteristics of energy efficiency of the pump and hydraulic motor with the determined constant coefficients k_i of losses and also of efficiency of the conduits are different in hydrostatic systems with different motor speed control structures.

Characteristics of the overall efficiency of elements used in a hydrostatic drive system: pump η_p , hydraulic motor η_M , conduits η_C and throttling control assembly (if it is used) structural efficiency η_{st} are defined as functions of the hydraulic motor (system) speed coefficient $\bar{\omega}_M$ and load coefficient \bar{M}_M and the hydraulic oil viscosity ratio ν/ν_n .

At the same time the hydraulic motor ($0 \leq \bar{\omega}_M < \bar{\omega}_{Mmax}$, $0 \leq \bar{M}_M < \bar{M}_{Mmax}$) operating field in the hydrostatic drive system is determined at the selected ratio ν/ν_n of the hydraulic oil viscosity to the reference viscosity.

The method is precise by definition and simple in use. It simplifies the laboratory investigation of pumps, hydraulic motors and hydrostatic drive systems. It allows to seek for energy saving solutions of pumps and hydraulic motors. It allows also to evaluate the overall energy efficiency of the drive and finding energy saving hydrostatic drive system structures.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The methods of investigating the rotational hydraulic motor losses and energy efficiency, used in scientific research and industrial practice, give incorrect evaluations, because:
 - the losses and efficiencies are evaluated as functions of parameters which depend on those losses or as functions of parameters, which have no direct impact on the losses,
 - the mechanical, volumetric and pressure losses and the corresponding energy efficiencies are presented as dependent on the same parameters, although in fact each of those losses is a function of different parameters and is a different function of the hydraulic oil viscosity ν .
2. The basic reason for the incorrect evaluation are common views on the methods of carrying out the investigations and on the method of defining the energy losses in pumps and hydraulic motors. The method is based on the traditional understanding of the hydrostatic drive system energy balance illustrated by the Sankey diagram of the power decrease in the system in the direction of power flow [3 ÷ 6, 15, 17, 19, 21, 22].
3. **Diagram of power increase in a power transmission system opposite to the direction of power flow replaces the Sankey diagram of power decrease in the direction of power flow.**
4. The characteristic of the hydraulic motor overall efficiency $\eta_M = f(M_M, n_M, \nu)$ as a product $\eta_{Mm} \eta_{Mv} \eta_{Mp}$ of three efficiencies correctly described by the characteristics of the mechanical

- efficiency $\eta_{Mm} = f(M_M, n_M, v)$, volumetric efficiency $\eta_{Mv} = f(\Delta p_{Mi}, n_M, v)$ and pressure efficiency $\eta_{Mp} = f(\Delta p_{Mi}, Q_M, v)$, is very complex.
- Picture of the hydraulic motor overall efficiency $\eta_M = f(M_M, n_M, v)$ must be supplemented by evaluation of the motor ($0 \leq \bar{\omega}_M < \bar{\omega}_{Mmax}$, $0 \leq \bar{M}_M < \bar{M}_{Mmax}$) operating field in the hydrostatic drive system, i.e. of the n_M and M_M ($\bar{\omega}_M$ and \bar{M}_M) range. The hydraulic motor operating field limit values n_{Mmax} ($\bar{\omega}_{Mmax}$) and M_{Mmax} (\bar{M}_{Mmax}) depend on the maximum capacity of the motor driving hydrostatic system. That capacity is a result of the pump theoretical capacity Q_{pt} , system nominal pressure p_n and energy losses in all the system elements, which depend also on the used motor speed control structure.
 - Evaluation of the hydraulic motor overall efficiency $\eta_M = f(M_M, n_M, v)$ as a product $\eta_{Mm} \eta_{Mv} \eta_{Mp}$ of the three motor efficiency should be based on the mathematical models of losses and efficiencies where coefficients k_i of the energy losses in the motor and in the motor driving system are used. Proposed evaluation of the hydraulic motor efficiency is performed together with evaluation of the energy efficiency of pump, efficiency of conduits and efficiency of the throttling control assembly (if it is used) as well as the overall efficiency of the hydrostatic drive system, where the pump, motor, conduits and control system assembly are applied.
 - Evaluated are the values of k_i coefficients of losses relating the mechanical, volumetric and pressure losses in the hydraulic motor, pump and the whole system to the reference values: theoretical capacity Q_{pt} of the system driving pump, system nominal pressure p_n , motor shaft theoretical speed n_{Mt} and theoretical torque M_{Mt} as well as the theoretical speed n_{pt} and theoretical torque M_{pt} of the pump shaft. The k_i coefficients of losses are determined at the hydraulic oil reference viscosity. At the same time the impact of the oil viscosity ratio v/v_n (viscosity in the $v_{min} \leq v \leq v_{max}$ range) impact on the values of k_i coefficients of losses is determined.
 - The method allows to evaluate the values and proportions of the mechanical, volumetric and pressure losses in the hydraulic motor, pump and the system and also their dependence on the hydraulic oil viscosity v .
 - Energy investigations of the pump and hydraulic motor as independent machines are limited to determination of the k_i coefficients of losses. The energy efficiency characteristics of those machines are determined in parallel with evaluation of efficiency of a hydrostatic system where the machines are used.
 - Knowledge of the values of k_i coefficients of losses allows to obtain, by a numerical method, of the hydraulic motor efficiency $\eta_M = f(\bar{\omega}_M, \bar{M}_M, v/v_n)$, pump efficiency $\eta_p = f(\bar{\omega}_M, \bar{M}_M, v/v_n)$, conduit efficiency $\eta_c = f(\bar{\omega}_M, \bar{M}_M, v/v_n)$, throttling control assembly (if used) structural efficiency $\eta_{st} = f(\bar{\omega}_M, \bar{M}_M, v/v_n)$ and the hydrostatic drive system overall efficiency $\eta = f(\bar{\omega}_M, \bar{M}_M, v/v_n)$ in the hydraulic motor (system) ($0 \leq \bar{\omega}_M < \bar{\omega}_{Mmax}$, $0 \leq \bar{M}_M < \bar{M}_{Mmax}$) operating field and at the selected ratio v/v_n of hydraulic oil viscosity.
 - The method is precise by definition and simple in use. It simplifies the laboratory investigations of pumps, hydraulic motors and hydrostatic drive systems. It allows to evaluate the characteristics of the system overall energy efficiency as well as to seek for the energy saving hydrostatic drive structures.
 - The method is a proposition for the pump, hydraulic motor, hydrostatic drive and control system designers and manufacturers. It is in the process of development.

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CONTACT WITH THE AUTHOR

Prof. Zygmunt Paszota
Faculty of Ocean Engineering
and Ship Technology
Gdansk University of Technology
Narutowicza 11/12
80-233 Gdansk, POLAND
e-mail: zpaszota@pg.gda.pl