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# OPTIMUM HEIGHT AND BORE OF ROTARY COMPRESSOR FOR OBTAINING HIGH EER

by

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## ABSTRACT

In order to minimize the tolerance of theoretical analysis, we conducted the test with many kinds of prototypes to obtain actual performance data. We made 19 different kinds of rolling piston type rotary compressors with identical piston displacement and obtained actual EER. Cylinder height H and bore D are thought to be dominant factors for determining the rotary compressor performance. We, therefore, conducted the test varying H and D, and adjusted the test data using multiple regression analysis to investigate what really determines the performance. The result showed that the smaller the product of H and D, the higher the efficiency. If the product of H and D is constant, large D results in a small increase of eccentricity and the reliability increases. However, large D results in a large diameter compressor.

## INTRODUCTION

Recently in Japan, small size scroll compressors (approx. 1/2 to 1.5KW) have made their appearance in the field of residential air conditioners. However, owing to their advantages and the development of improvements, rotary compressors are still in use. In addition, the recent restriction on SEER has led the research into a higher EER compressor.

The capacity of a compressor follows its suction volume which is determined by some of the major dimensions such as eccentricity  $\epsilon$ , cylinder height H and cylinder bore D. Therefore, a compressor of same suction volume can be designed with various combinations of these dimensions. The power required for gas compression and the friction force on the sliding face vary by these combinations and accordingly the mechanical efficiency also varies.

Therefore, the determination of these dimensions is essential for obtaining higher efficiency. It is well known that the simulation based on kinematic equations, the equations of motion of the moving element, using the repetition method enables us to predict the performance and the efficiency over a wide range of dimensional variation. Though there are some investigations on optimum combinations, they are mainly based on only mechanical friction. (\*1)

In addition, some of the recent investigations, in order to be more practical, deal with performance in relation not only to mechanical friction but also to the overall factors of leakage, overheat, pressure losses and motor loss. Thus the simulation accuracy has become higher. (\*2)

However, we found that these investigations are not yet sufficient for performance prediction with higher accuracy. Therefore, we investigated how these dimensions influence the performance by testing 19 different kinds of prototypes. We conducted the test with these same suction volume compressors and confirmed the

total efficiency and its tendency. In order to obtain only the influences of these dimensions, we minimized the tolerance of machining component and the error of measurement during the test. For the evaluation of performance, we also used several other ways than EER for expressing efficiency. For processing data with some errors, we used the multiple regression analysis for investigating how these dimensions affect performance.

### DETERMINATION OF DIMENSIONS FOR PROTOTYPE

For our experiment we made totally 19 compressors with same suction volume. ( $V_{suc}=51.3cc/rev$ ) Sixteen of them have different combinations of dimensions, and another 3 of them have same combination of dimensions of No.7 but different shaft diameters. The specification of these prototypes are shown in Table 1. Unless the relation ( $R_{in} - \varepsilon > dr_{shaft}/2$ ) is satisfied, a shaft and a roller cannot be assembled.

Where  $R_{in}$  : Inner radius of roller,  $dr_{shaft}$  ; diameter of rear shaft

As a result, there were some prototypes with small rear shaft diameter and crank pin diameter (roller inner diameter). The purpose of prototype No.18, No.19 and No.20 which have different shaft diameters is for investigating the influence of rear shafts and pins.

With regards to the Table 1, the prototypes shown in horizontal lines have same cylinder Bore D, those shown in vertical lines have same cylinder height H, and those shown in diagonal lines have same eccentricity  $\varepsilon$ . For simplifying the fabrication of prototypes, the following component dimensions are made the same:

The thickness of brade (4.7mm)	, Top radius of the brade
Brade spring	, Motor (including rotor weight balancer)
Casig (shell height, radius)	, Discharge valve, valve stopper
Front shaft diameter ( $\phi 28$ )	

A crank pin and roller were used to adjust the centrifugal force. A spacing piece was inserted to adjust the spring load. Oil was charged to the upper level of cylinder. The compressor components were machined with high accuracy to maintain every clearance within a small tolerance (actual result was within  $\pm 5\mu$ ).

### DEFINITIONS OF EACH EFFICIENCY

$$EER = Q / W_0 \quad \text{-----} \quad (1)$$

$$= G_0 \cdot \Delta i_e / W_0 \quad \text{-----} \quad (2)$$

$$= \frac{W_1}{W_0} \cdot \frac{W_2}{W_1} \cdot \frac{WG_{max}}{W_2} \cdot \frac{G_0 \cdot \Delta i_e}{WG_{max}} \quad \text{-----} \quad (3)$$

in addition,

$w_3$  : minimum work per unit flow rate (1 Kg/h)  
 $W_3 = G_0 \cdot w_3$  : minimum work of actual flow rate

$$w_3 = WG_{max} / G_{max} \quad \text{-----} \quad (4)$$

$$\therefore WG_{max} = G_{max} \cdot w_3 \quad \text{-----} \quad (5)$$

where:

- Q : actual capacity (Kcal/h)
- G0 : actual mass flow rate (Kg/h)
- $\Delta i e$  : specific enthalpy increase during evaporation process (Kcal/Kg)
- W0 : motor input (Watts)
- W1 : motor shaft output (Watts)
- W2 : P-v gas compression work per cycle  
= area (1' 2' 3' 4')  $\cdot N / 60 \cdot g$  (Watts) (Fig.1)
- N : RPM of the motor (rpm)
- P : cylinder inner pressure (Kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- Vc : cylinder volume (m<sup>3</sup>)
- g = 9.8 (m/s<sup>2</sup>)
- WGmax : minimum power of P-V diagram required to compress the maximum cylinder volume gas  
= area (1 2 3 4) N  $\cdot g / 60$   
=  $(n/n-1) \cdot P_s V_c \{ (P_d/P_s)^{1/n} - 1 \} N \cdot g / 60$
- n : average polytropic index which is to be applied to above equation n = 1.115 (for R22)

$$\therefore EER = \frac{W1}{W0} \cdot \frac{W2}{W1} \cdot \frac{WGmax}{W2} \cdot \frac{G0 \cdot \Delta ie}{WGmax} \dots\dots (6)$$

$$= \frac{W1}{W0} \cdot \frac{W2}{W1} \cdot \frac{WGmax}{WGmax} \cdot \frac{G0 \cdot \Delta ie}{WGmax} \dots\dots (7)$$

$$= \frac{W1}{W0} \cdot \frac{W2}{W1} \cdot \frac{WGmax}{Gmax \cdot w3} \dots\dots (8)$$

Where the definition of each efficiency is as follows

- $\eta_{mot} = W1/W0$  ; motor efficiency
- $\eta_{mec} = W2/W1$  ; mechanical efficiency
- $\eta_{cid} = WGmax/W2$  ; P-V indicator efficiency
- $\eta_v = G0/Gmax$  ; volumetric efficiency

$\Delta ie/w3$  : represents max EER  
at the condition  $t_{e5}/t_{c5} 5^\circ C, R22, \text{max EER} = 3.73$   
(in ASHRAE cond. max EER = 4.14)

We further define another efficiencies as follows:

- $\eta_c = \eta_{mec} \cdot \eta_{cid} \cdot \eta_v$  ; compressor mechanical efficiency
- $\eta_t = \eta_{mot} \cdot \eta_{mec} \cdot \eta_{cid} \cdot \eta_v$  ; total compressor efficiency
- $\eta_d = \eta_{mec} \cdot \eta_{cid}$  ; indicator mechanical efficiency

$$EER = 3.73 \cdot \eta_{mot} \cdot \eta_{mec} \cdot \eta_{cid} \cdot \eta_v \dots\dots (9)$$

$$= 3.73 \cdot \eta_{mot} \cdot \eta_c \dots\dots (10)$$

$$= 3.73 \cdot \eta_t \dots\dots (11)$$

While, for the mass flow rate

WG0 : minimum work per actual flow rate G0 (Kg/h) (=W3)

$$WG0 = w3 \cdot G0 \dots\dots (12)$$

$$= \frac{WGmax}{Gmax} \cdot G0 = WGmax \cdot \frac{G0}{Gmax} \dots\dots (13)$$

$$= WGmax \cdot \eta_v \dots\dots (14)$$

$$\therefore WGmax = WG0 / \eta_v = w3 / \eta_v \dots\dots (15)$$

Each loss of work is defined as follows

$$\left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{Motor loss} = W_0 - W_1 = (1 - \eta_{\text{mot}}) \cdot W_0 = \Delta W_{\text{mot}} \quad \dots (16) \\ \text{Friction loss} = W_1 - W_2 = \Delta W_{\text{mec}} \quad \dots (17) \\ \text{Compression loss} = W_2 - W_3 = \Delta W_c \quad \dots (18) \\ \text{Leakage loss} = W_{\text{Gmax}} - W_0 = \Delta W_L \quad \dots (19) \end{array} \right.$$

Above definition is similar to that of shown in reference(\*4)

From reference (\*5) we assume that EER is defined as follows

$$EER = \frac{W_1}{W_0} \cdot \frac{W_2}{W_1} \cdot \frac{W_3}{W_2} \cdot \frac{G \cdot \Delta i e}{W_3} \quad \dots (20)$$

$$= \eta_{\text{mot}} \cdot \eta_{\text{mec}} \cdot \eta_{\text{comp}} \cdot 3.73 \quad \dots (21)$$

and then  $\eta_{\text{comp}} = W_3 / W_2 =$  Compression efficiency

$$\text{in our definition } \eta_{\text{comp}} = \eta_{\text{cid}} \cdot \eta_v \quad \dots (22)$$

In reference (\*5),  $\eta_{\text{comp}}$  is defined without separating  $\eta_{\text{cid}}$  and  $\eta_v$ .

However we divided  $\eta_{\text{comp}}$  into two terms  $\eta_{\text{cid}}$  and  $\eta_v$ . And then, in reference (\*5),

(total) compressor efficiency is defined as follows

$$\eta_t = \eta_{\text{mot}} \cdot \eta_{\text{mec}} \cdot \eta_{\text{comp}} \quad \dots (23)$$

Both of two (\*4,\*5) didn't explain clearly the relation between EER and above efficiencies. And equation (8) is slightly different from eq.(26) of reference(\*3).

## TEST RESULTS

### 1. Factors which affect EER

We investigated the various variables (see note) affect the capacity Q, input W and EER by using multiple regression analysis. (\*6,\*7) The tendency of the data of No.4 and No.12 are different from the others. We assumed that something were wrong and eliminated them from our evaluation. The data of No.18, No.19 and No.20 show no big difference between that of No.7. This is because the major dimensions of No.18, No.19 and No.20 are exactly the same with those of No.7 except for the shaft diameters. Therefore, we used 14 datas for the analysis.

Note :  $H \cdot D, H \cdot (D + 2R_o), D, H, \varepsilon, D^2, D^3, H/D, (H/D)^2, D^2 \cdot H$

We found that the underlined variables are the most influential.

In order to accurately measure the influence of major dimensions, motor efficiency was measured separately as a motor itself. As a result,

(1) The variable  $(H \cdot D)$  and the force to pressurize gas ( $F_p$ ) affect the EER and  $\eta_d$  much more than any other variables ( $D, H, \varepsilon, D^2, D^3, H/D, (H/D)^2, (H/D)^3$  or  $D^2 \cdot H$ ). We obtained the following experimental equations values.

$$EER = 1.208 - 1.953 \cdot H \cdot D \quad \text{correlation factor } r = -0.74 \quad \dots (24)$$

$$\eta_d = 1.07 - 0.00011 \cdot F_p \quad \dots \dots \dots r = -0.85 \quad \dots (25)$$

(Fig.4 and Fig.5)

From the above equations, we find that the smaller the  $(H \cdot D)$ , the higher the EER.

Note : Correlation factor indicates how much it affects EER.

- $r = \pm 1$  : It has perfect relation.
- $\pm 0.8$  : It has considerable relation.
- $\pm 0.6$  : It has some relation.
- $\pm 0.5$  : It may have some relation.

(2) The smaller the (H\* $\theta$ ), the larger the capacity Q.

We obtained the following experimental equation.

$$Q = 1.10 - 0.0829 * H * (D + 2 R \theta) \quad r = -0.52 \quad \text{---} \quad (26)$$

(Fig.6)

## 2. Influence of clearance on EER.

We conducted the test of prototype No.7 with 44 different clearances to investigate its influence on EER. (\*10) The test results show that though the clearance is maintained within the tolerance of  $\pm 5 \mu$ , this tolerance affects EER. By using the regression analysis we obtain the following equation (27) and (28).

$$Q (\text{Kcal/h}) = B_0 + B_1 (CR) + B_2 (CR)^2 + B_3 (CR)^3 + B_4 (CB) + B_5 (CB)^2 + B_6 (CB)^3 \quad \text{---} \quad (27)$$

$$W (\text{watts}) = C_0 + C_1 (CR) + C_2 (CR)^2 + C_3 (CR)^3 + C_4 (CB) + C_5 (CB)^2 + C_6 (CB)^3 \quad \text{---} \quad (28)$$

where

- Bn, Cn ; coefficient of regression.
- CR ; clearance between roller and cylinder height ceiling
- CB ; clearance between vane and cylinder height ceiling

To evaluate the data on the same clearance, we compensated the EER of each compressor using these equations. In addition, the all values of EER was divided by those of the prototype No.7 so that they can be evaluated on the dimensionless level. The test result of the relation of (H\* $\theta$ ) and EER are shown in Fig.2 and the simulation results in Fig.3.

The tendency of the simulation results corresponds with that of the test results. However, there are some differences in absolute values. Therefore, it is not yet allowable to predict the performance only with simulation.

## 3. Relation between volumetric efficiency and indicator mechanical efficiency.

The larger the volumetric efficiency  $\eta_v$ , the larger the indicator mechanical efficiency  $\eta_d$ . We obtained the following experimental equation.

$$\eta_d = 0.5 + 0.48 \eta_v \quad r = 0.55 \quad \text{-----} \quad (29)$$

## FUNDAMENTALS FOR DESIGNING COMPRESSOR WITH HIGHER EFFICIENCY

1) Under the condition of same (H\* $\theta$ ), it is favorable to enlarge D, because the reliability improves due to the small increase of eccentricity  $\epsilon$  and less blade friction.

However, the large D results in the large diameter of a compressor casing. Therefore, within the allowable limit of casing diameter, it is favorable to increase D. Fig.8 is a chart prepared for the compressor design. The chart is based on an experimental equation which gives the influence of (H\* $\theta$ ) on EER.

2) In order to improve EER, it is necessary to improve either each efficiency (see note) or the product of these efficiencies. (Fig.9) (\*8, \*9)

- Note:  $\eta_{mot}$  ; motor efficiency,  $\eta_{mec}$  ; mechanical efficiency  
 $\eta_{cid}$  ; P-V indicator efficiency,  $\eta_v$  ; volumetric efficiency

In Fig.9, the compressor under study is fixed in a bolted shell and it has the same dimensions as the No7. And from the P-V diagram the indicator efficiencies  $\eta_{cid}$  and the mechanical efficiency  $\eta_{mec}$  are calculated. At this time we use the motor efficiency  $\eta_{mot}$  which is gained separately in hot condition.

As rotational speed increase,  $\eta_{mec}$  decrease rapidly and  $\eta_v, \eta_{cid}$  , indicate a quadratic curve. Compressor mechanical efficiency;  $\eta_c$  is gained from power of all those three efficiencies. Fig.9 shows compressor mechanical efficiency;  $\eta_c$  has a maximum value at 60 Hz. If we wish to change the maximum point to another higher Hz , We must design the compressor which has another different each efficiencies. Of course, in the case of higher rotational speed , some especial efforts must be made. We should pay attention to valve, clearance , amount of oil, motor, so on. (\*11.\*12)

In order to improve EER for an inverter controlled compressor, it is essential to design a compressor to give the highest EER at the frequency most often used throughout the whole year.

3) The smaller the  $(H^*D)$  , the higher the total efficiency. If  $(H^*D)$  is maintained small, the force to pressurize gas (FP) becomes small and accordingly the journal loss becomes small.

Fig.10 shows the tendency of the other manufacturers' compressors. With the years, the compressor technology innovated. It shows that their tendency of the  $(H^*D)$  is becoming smaller and the efficiency has increased. We assume that this is affected by the small  $(H^*D)$ .

4) As a result , we improve the efficiency of a 3/4 Hp size dual cylinder rotary compressor by reducing 20 % of H and achieved 2 % of EER increase. In addition to this, we added other improvement and increased EER. This compressor is now in production.

## CONCLUSION

1. In order to obtain high efficiency, it is essential to reduce the product of H and D.
2. However , small  $(H^*D)$  results in large eccentricity  $\epsilon$  and lowers the reliability. The allowable reliability limit needs to be investigated.
3. The total compressor efficiency  $\eta_t$  can be divided into motor efficiency;  $\eta_{mot}$ , mechanical efficiency;  $\eta_{mec}$ , indicator efficiency;  $\eta_{cid}$  and volumetric efficiency;  $\eta_v$ .

In order to improve EER , it is necessary to either improve each efficiency or improve the product of these efficiencies.

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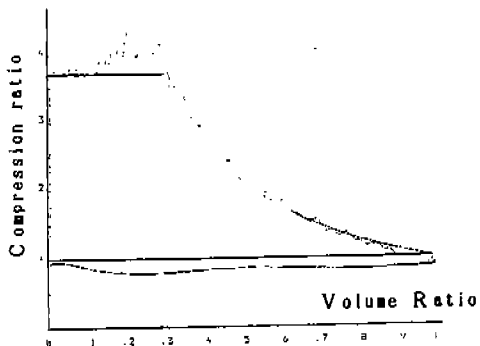


Fig. 1 P-V Diagram

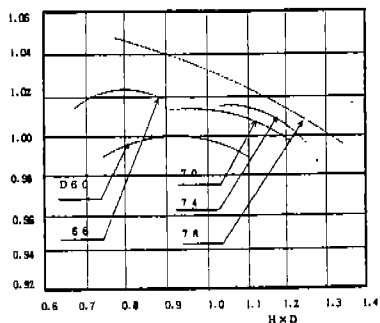


Fig. 3 Analytical Result

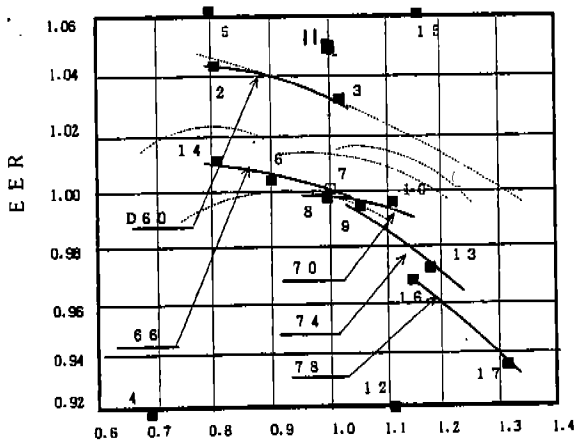


Fig. 2 TEST Result HxD

TABLE 1. SPECIFICATION OF TEST COMPRESSOR  
Main Front shaft dia  $\phi 28$ , Crank pin dia  $\phi 40$

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
H	35	40	41.73	44.16	45	46.89	50	52.8	52.84	55.83
D										
1	56						( $\star 1$ )			
2	60				$\star 2$					$\star 3$
3	66	$\star 4$	$\star 5$		$\star 6$		$\star 7$			
4	70					$\star 8$	$\star 9$	$\star 10$		
5	74			$\star 11$			$\star 12$		$\star 13$	
6	78	$\star 14$		$\star 15$			$\star 16$			$\star 17$

- $\star 18$  R/a shaft dia  $\phi 22$ , Crank pin dia  $\phi 40$
- $\star 19$  R/a shaft dia  $\phi 20$ , Crank pin dia  $\phi 40$
- $\star 20$  R/a shaft dia  $\phi 20$ , Crank pin dia  $\phi 34$

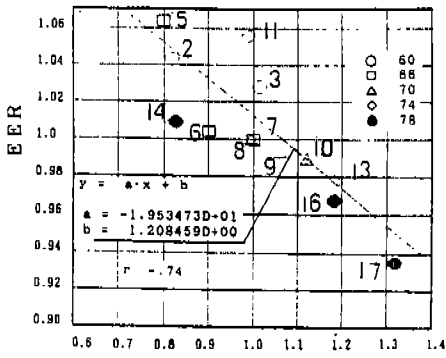


Fig. 4 Regulation EER v.s. H\*D

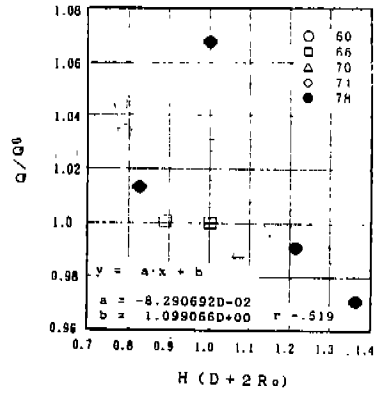


Fig. 6 Q vs. H(D+2Ro)

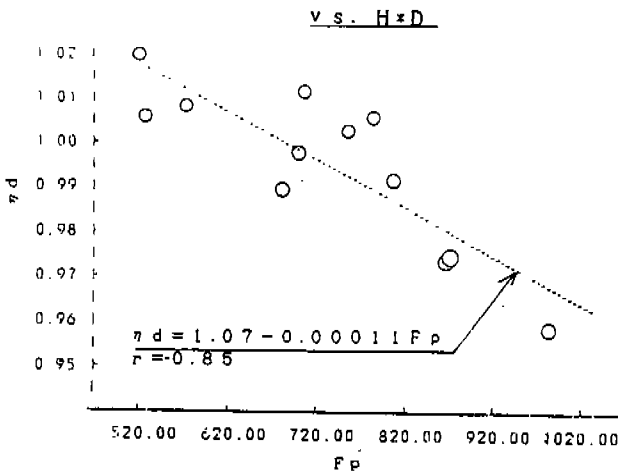


Fig. 5 Regulation ηd v.s. Fp Kg

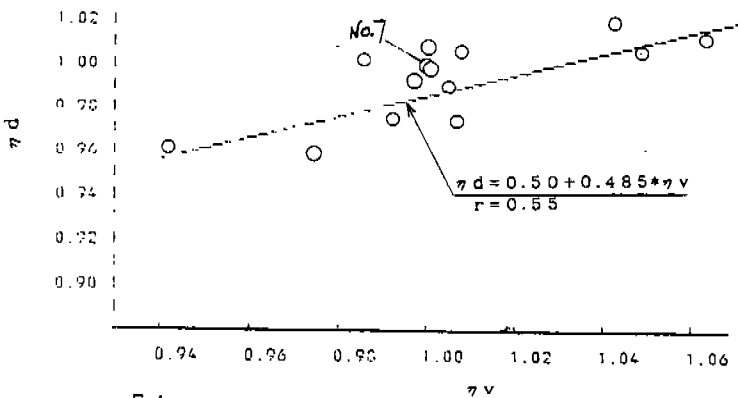


Fig. 7 ηd v.s. ηv

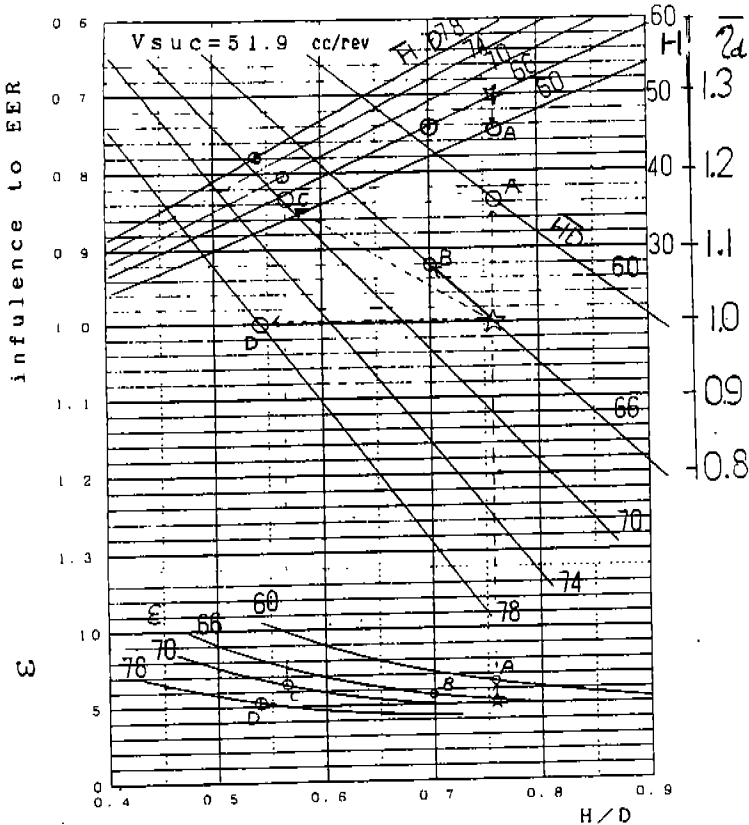


Fig. 8 Diagram for Design

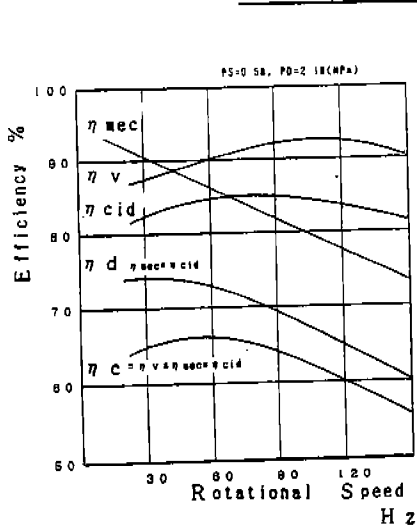


Fig. 9 Efficiency vs. Rotational Speed

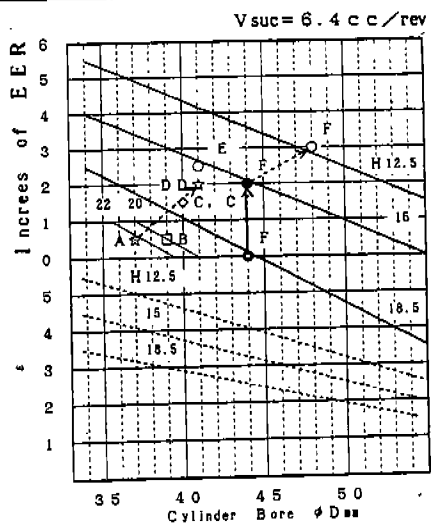


Fig. 10 Transition of factor