



Geothermal Reservoir and Production Engineering  
Knowledge And Skills

# FLOW MEASUREMENTS & PRODUCTION TESTING

This course was developed within WP 1.04 of the GEOCAP program



Figures captured from CalEnergy's video

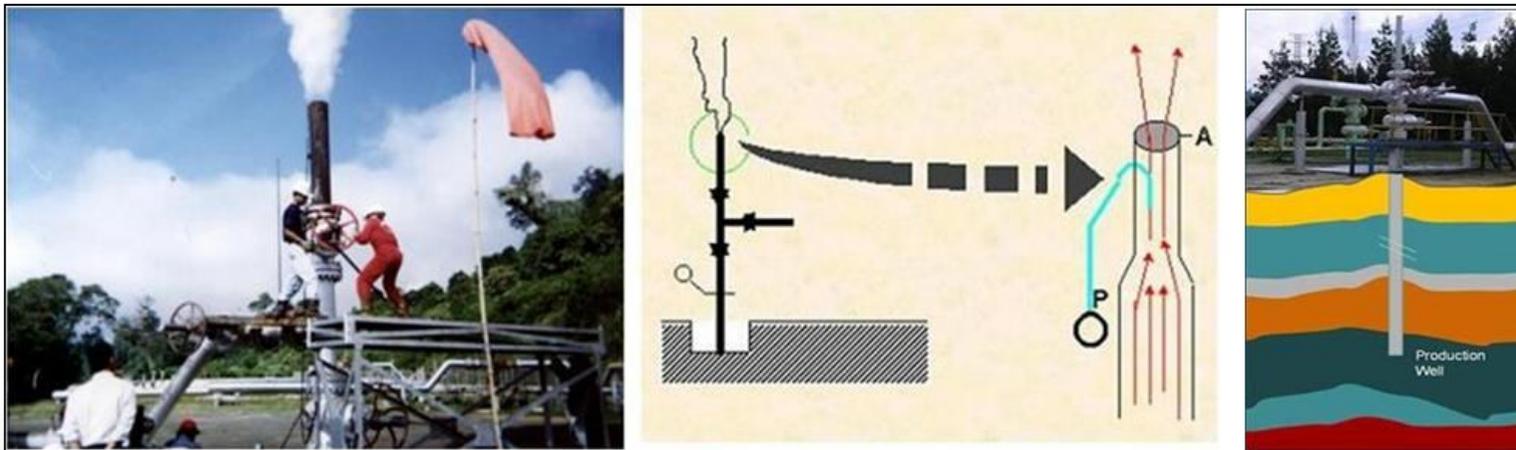
# TOPICS

- **Introduction**
- **Steam wells**
  - Vertical discharge using Lip pressure method
  - Measurement of steam using orifice plates
- **Two-phase wells**
  - Horizontal discharge using Lip pressure method
  - Separator method
- **Exercise**



# FLOW MEASUREMENTS & PRODUCTION TESTING

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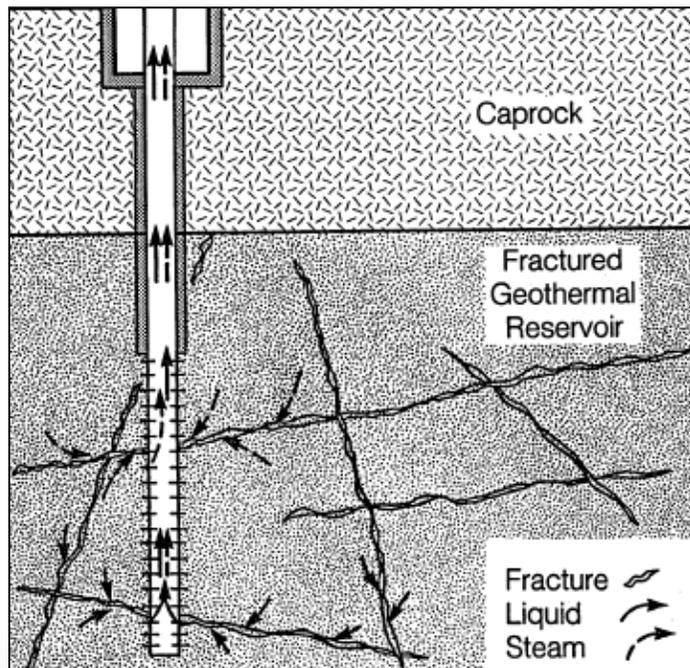
# INTRODUCTION

## Geothermal Wells

Well Drilling

Well Completion

Well Testing

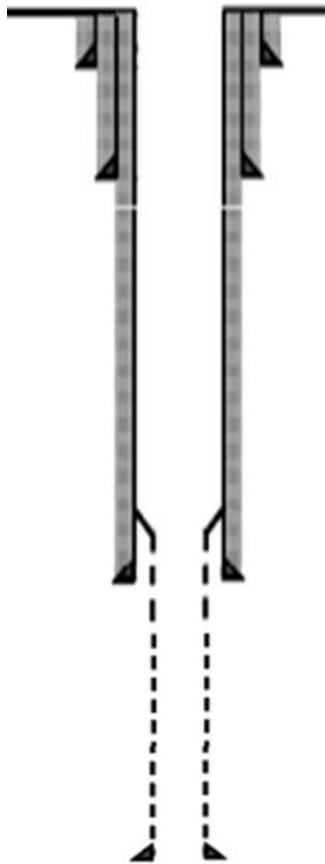


- Geothermal Wells:
  - Standard Well
  - Big Hole Well
- Wells have multiple feed-zones

**Well Drilling**

**Well Completion**

**Well Testing**



- **Downhole Logging**
- **Waterloss Test &**
- **Gross Permeability Test**
- **Fall off Test**
- **PT Survey**
- **PTS Injection**

To determine:

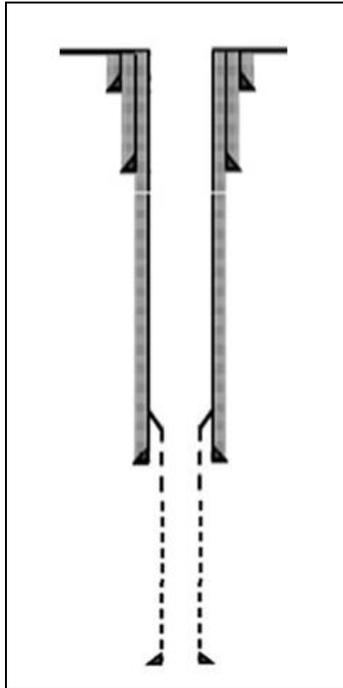
- Casing condition
- Maximum depth of the well
- Obstruction or clogging
- Pressure and Temperature
- The depth of feed zone
- Productivity index (PI) & injectivity index (II) from feed zone
- Flow contribution from each feed zone

# Geothermal Wells

Well Drilling

Well Completion

Well Testing



Heating Up Test

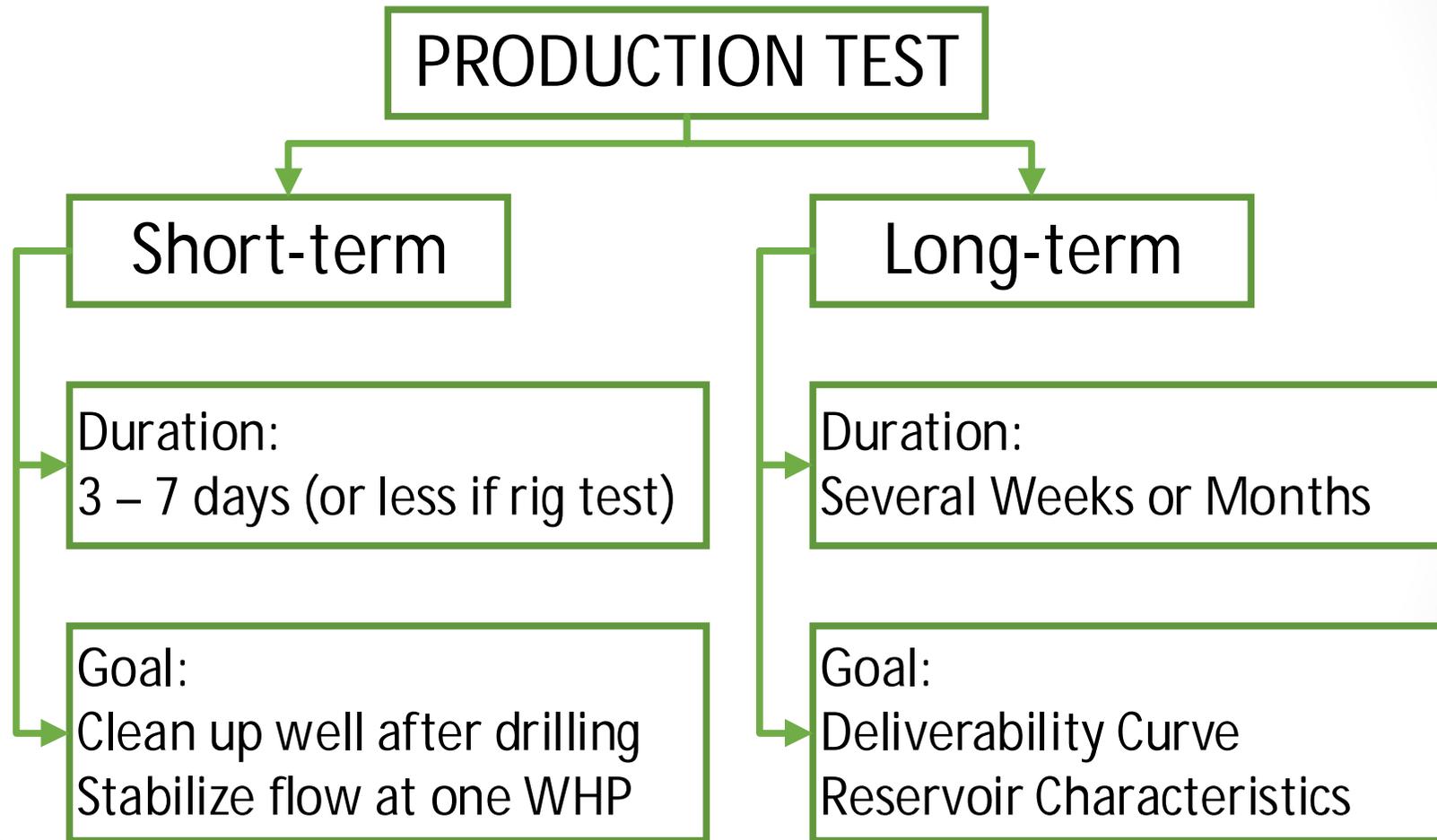
Production Test

PTS Flowing Test

Pressure Transient Test

Tracer Test

# Geothermal Production Test



# STEAM WELLS

## PRODUCTION TEST

Short-term

Long-term

**Lip Pressure Method  
Vertical Discharge**

**Orifice Method**

Duration:  
3 – 7 days (or less if rig test)

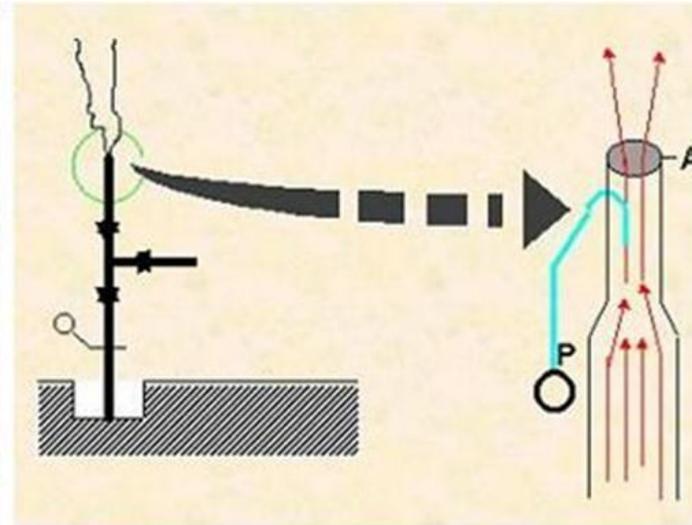
Duration:  
Several Weeks or Months

Goal:  
Clean up well after drilling  
Stabilize flow at one WHP

Goal:  
Deliverability Curve  
Reservoir Characteristics

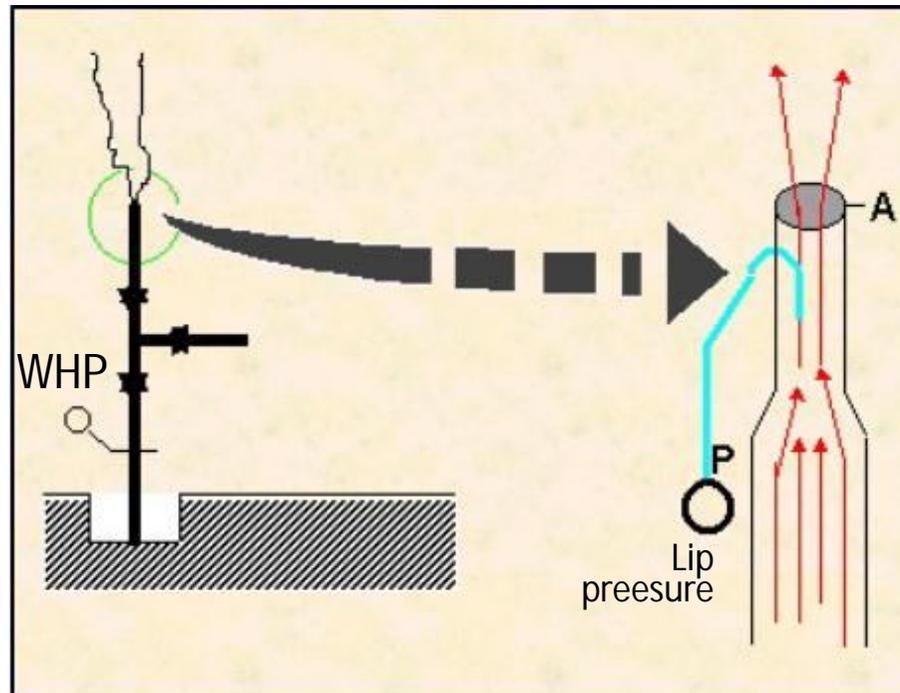
# Lip Pressure Method - Vertical Discharge

- This method is based on empirical formula by Russel James (1966).
- The well was fully opened and the fluid discharged to atmosphere over several hours depending on local regulations.
- Vertical discharge is useful for giving an initial estimate of well potential and to determine what test equipment will be necessary to carry out a longer-term test



Gambar oleh Dudi Duardi, 1997

# Russel James Formula



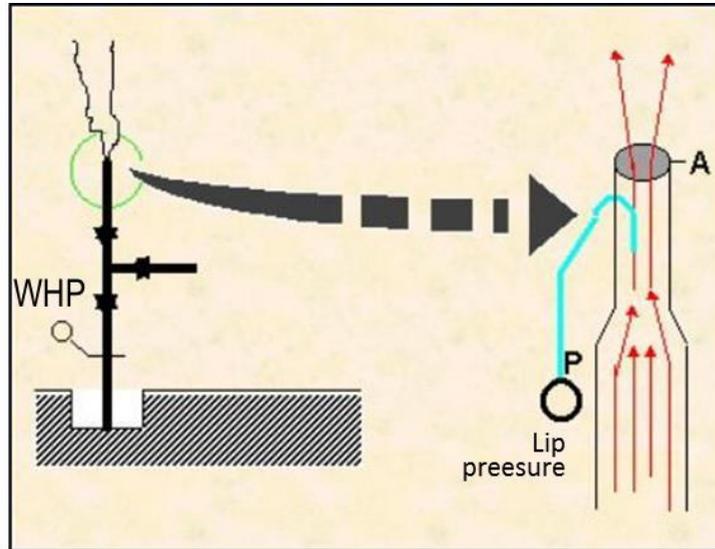
Gambar dari Dudi Duardi, 1997

$$\frac{G \times H^{1.102}}{P_c^{0.96}} = 0.184$$

where

$$G = \frac{M}{3600 \times A}$$

# Russel James Formula



Gambar dari Dudi Duardi, 1997

$$\frac{M \times H^{1.102}}{3600 \times A \times p^{0.96}} = 0.184$$

$$M = \frac{0.184 \times 3600 \times A \times p^{0.96}}{H^{1.102}}$$

Where:

$P_c$  "lip pressure" [bar absolute]

H flowing enthalpy [kJ/kg]

G Mass flow rate through one unit area [tonnes/cm<sup>2</sup>.sec]

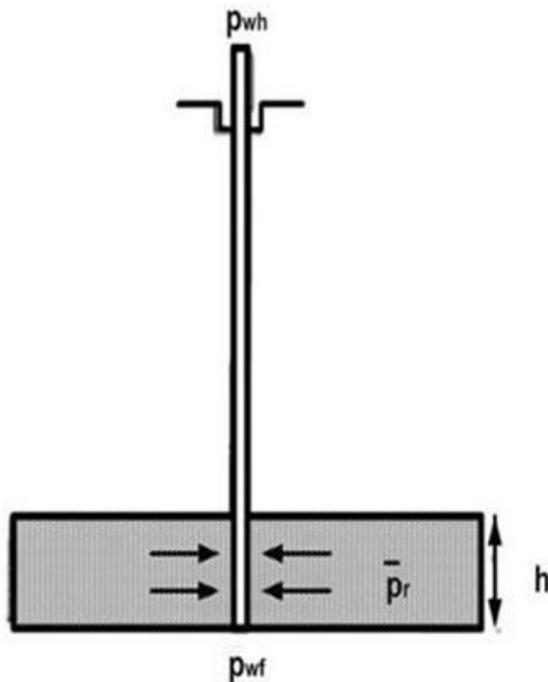
A Lip pressure pipe cross sectional area [cm<sup>2</sup>]

M Mass flow rate [tonnes/hour]

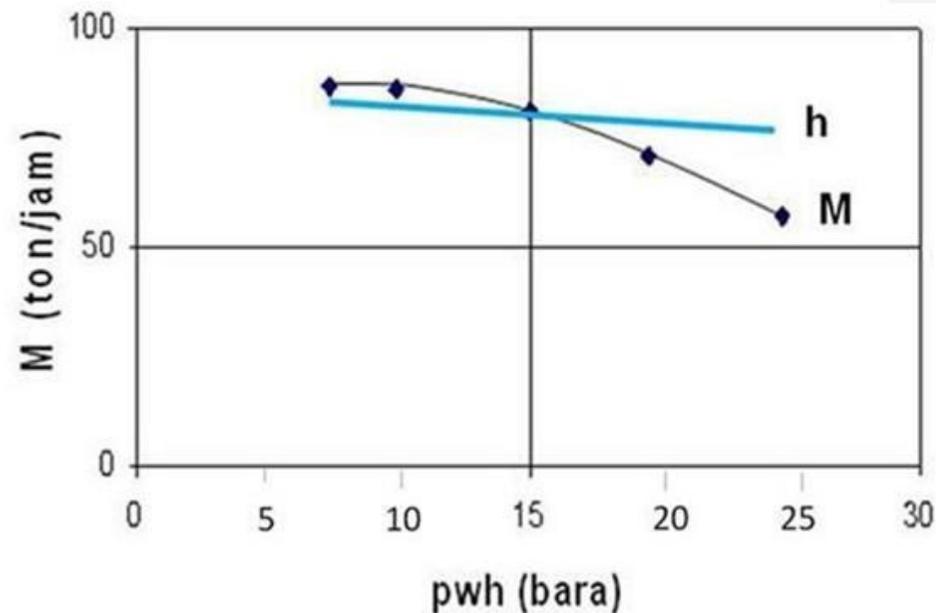
# Long-term Production Test

Objective:

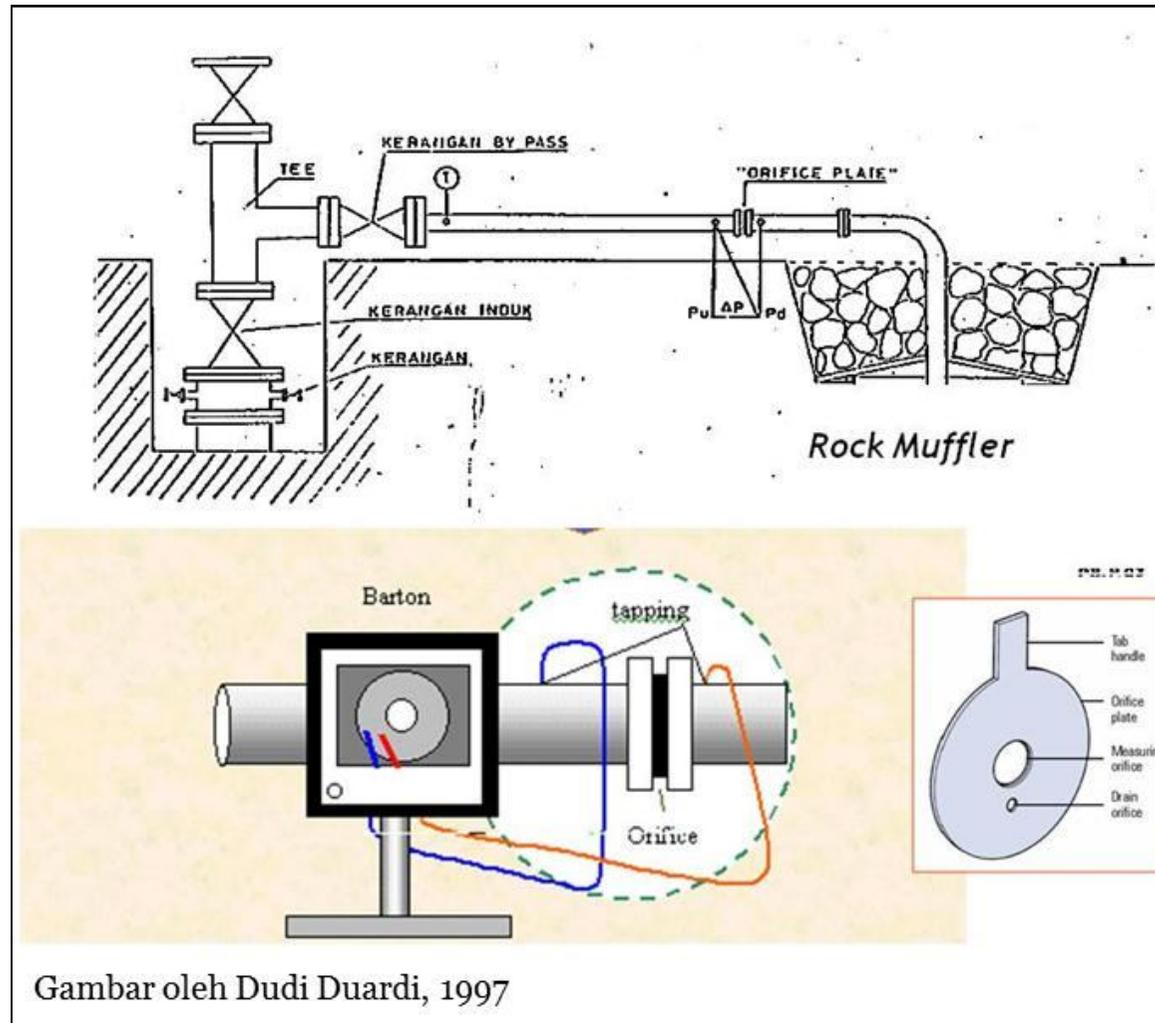
- To get data of production rate and fluid enthalpy at various wellhead pressure.
- To know the type and properties of production fluid.



Goal: Deliverability Curve

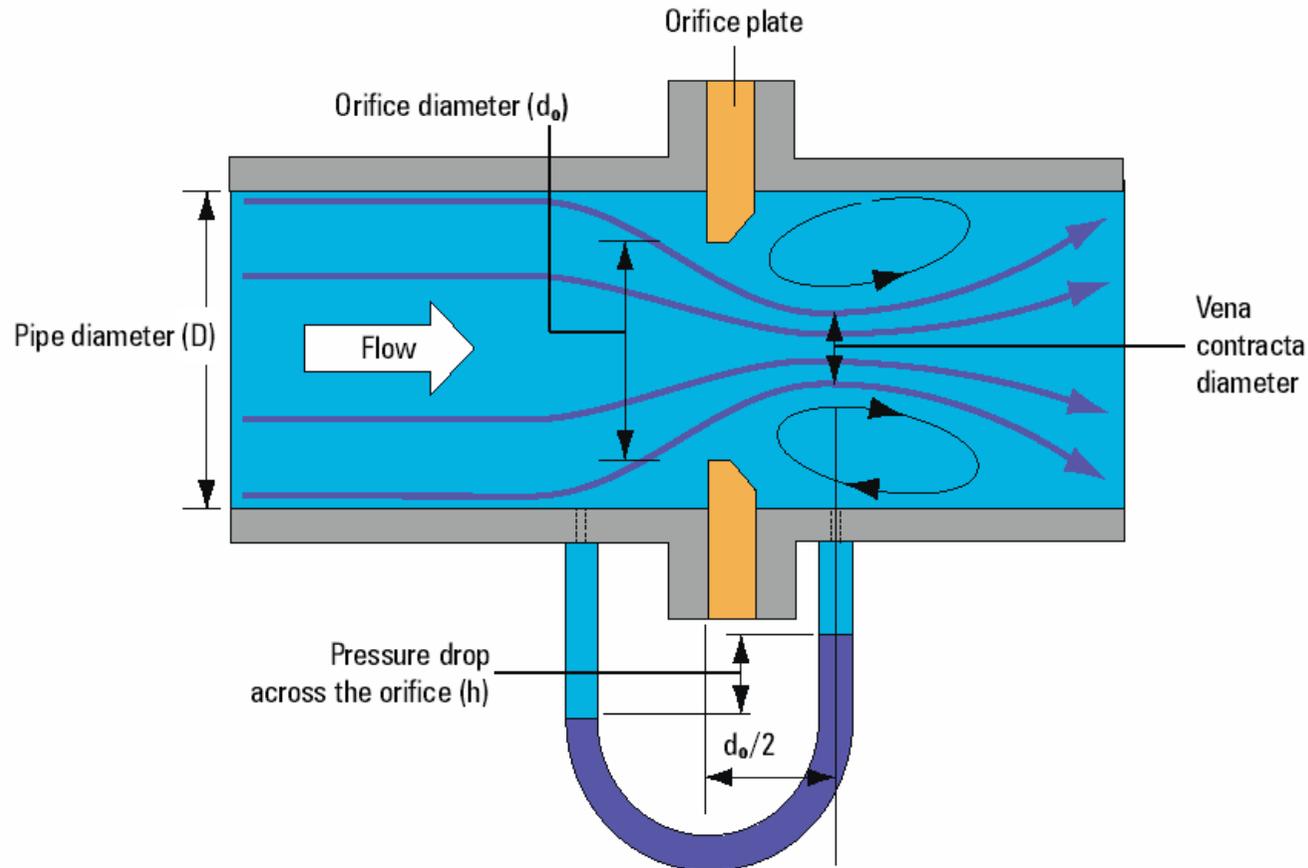


Orifice flow meter is installed between the flange on the connection of two pipes



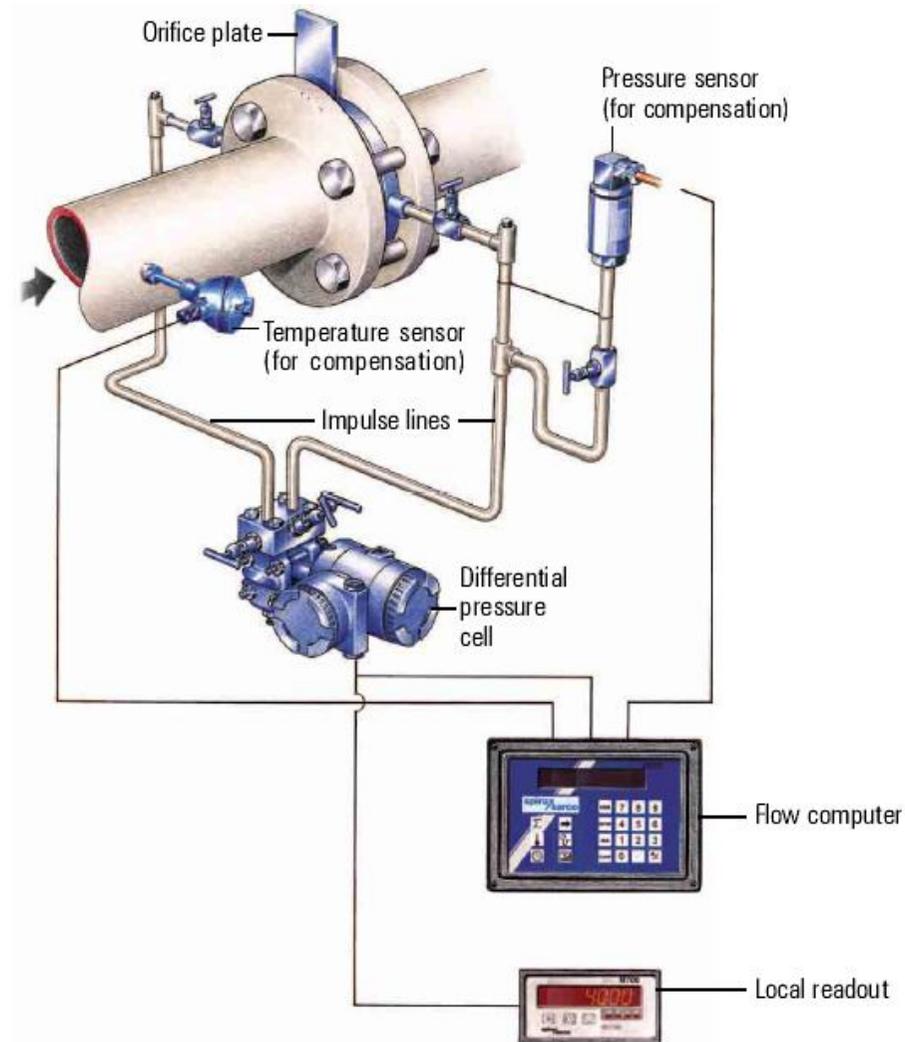
The well is opened and the fluid is discharged horizontally to a rock muffler

- The principle of measurement using orifice meter is measuring flow frictional losses (head loss) or pressure difference ( $P_1 - P_2$ ) which pass through orifice plate.

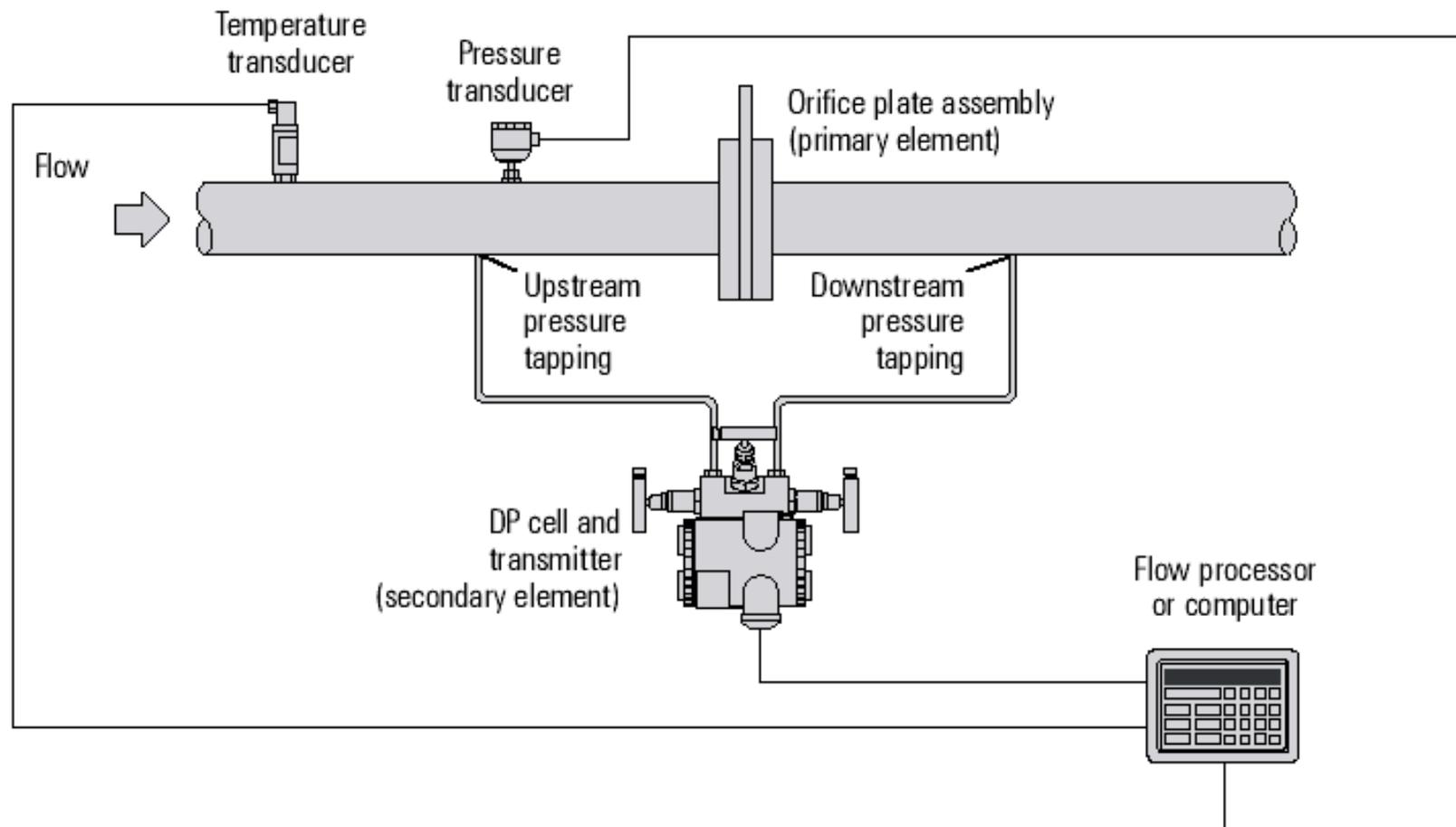


$$P_1 + \frac{\rho \cdot u_1^2}{2} + \rho \cdot g \cdot h_1 = P_2 + \frac{\rho \cdot u_2^2}{2} + \rho \cdot g \cdot h_2$$

The proper installation of orifice plate has regulated by ISO 5167 standard (Source: Ali Ashat, 2000 )

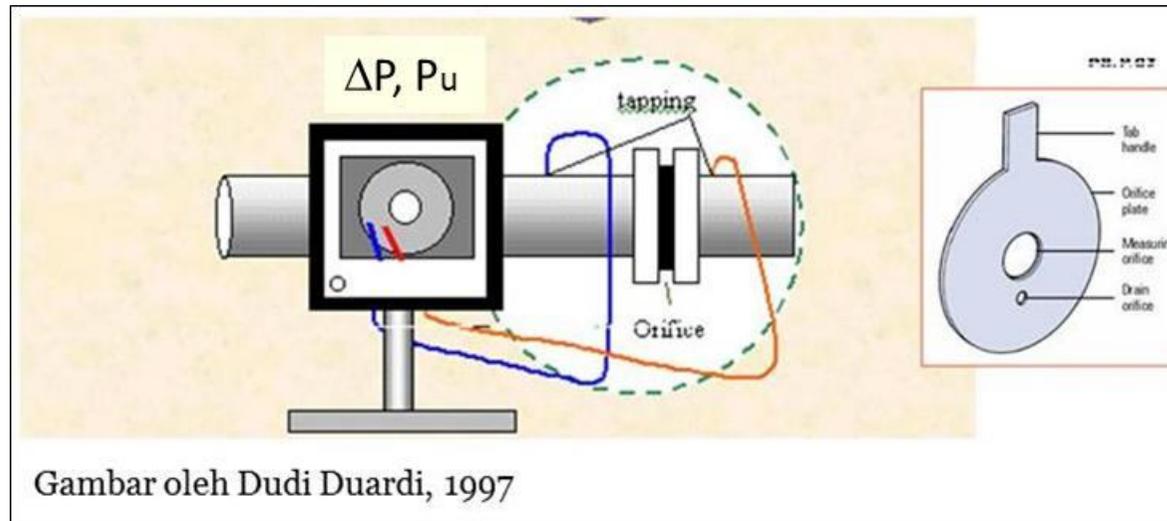


# Schematic Installation of Orifice Meter (Sumber: Ali Ashat, 2000)



# Measurement using orifice plate

- Parameters to be measured: differential pressure ( $\Delta P$ ), upstream pressure ( $P_u$ ) and temperature ( $T_u$ ) at various well head pressure.



Mass flow rate is calculated using equation:

$$M = 0.03959172 \times c \times Z \times e \times E \times d^2 \sqrt{\frac{\Delta p}{\rho_g}}$$

## Calculation of mass flow rate:

$$M = 0.03959172 \times c \times Z \times e \times E \times d^2 \sqrt{\frac{\Delta p}{v_g}}$$

M : Mass flow rate (ton/hour)

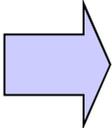
$\Delta p$  : differential pressure (bar)

$v_g$  : spesific volume of steam (m<sup>3</sup>/kg)

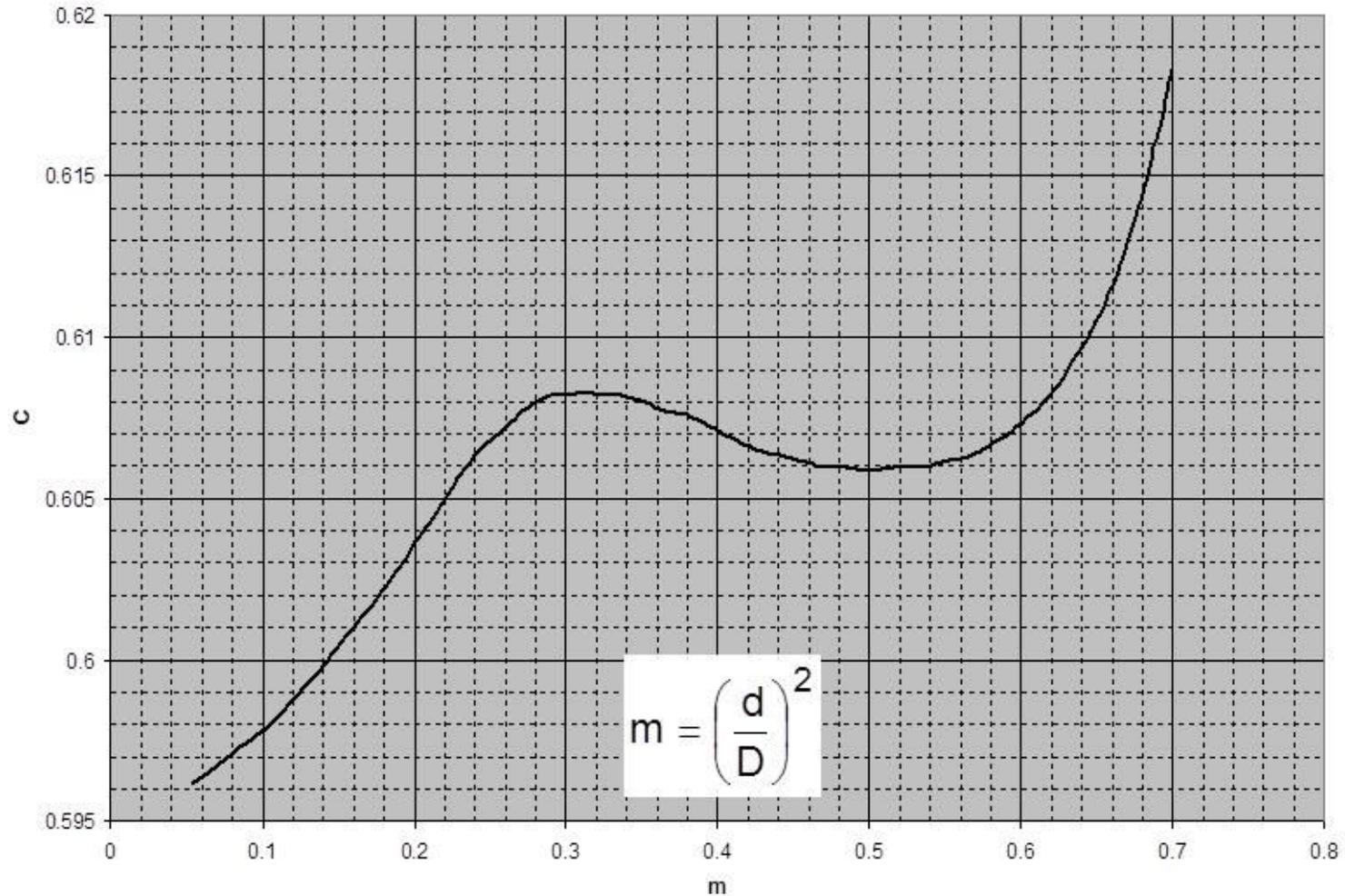
$$e = 1 - (0.41 - 0.35m^2) \times \frac{1}{k} \times \frac{\Delta p}{P_u}$$

k : adibatic index (1.33 for saturated steam  
dan 1.3 for superheated steam)

$P_u$  : Upstream pressure

$m = \left(\frac{d}{D}\right)^2$   d: Inside diameter of orifice plate  
D: Inside diameter of the pipe

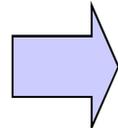
$C = f(m)$  and it is determined using the following correlation



$$E = \left(1 - m^2\right)^{-0.5}$$

## Formula:

$$M = 0.03959172 \times c \times Z \times e \times E \times d^2 \sqrt{\frac{\Delta p}{v_g}}$$


$$M = C \sqrt{\frac{\Delta p}{v_g}}$$

Where:

M : Mass flow rate (ton/hour)

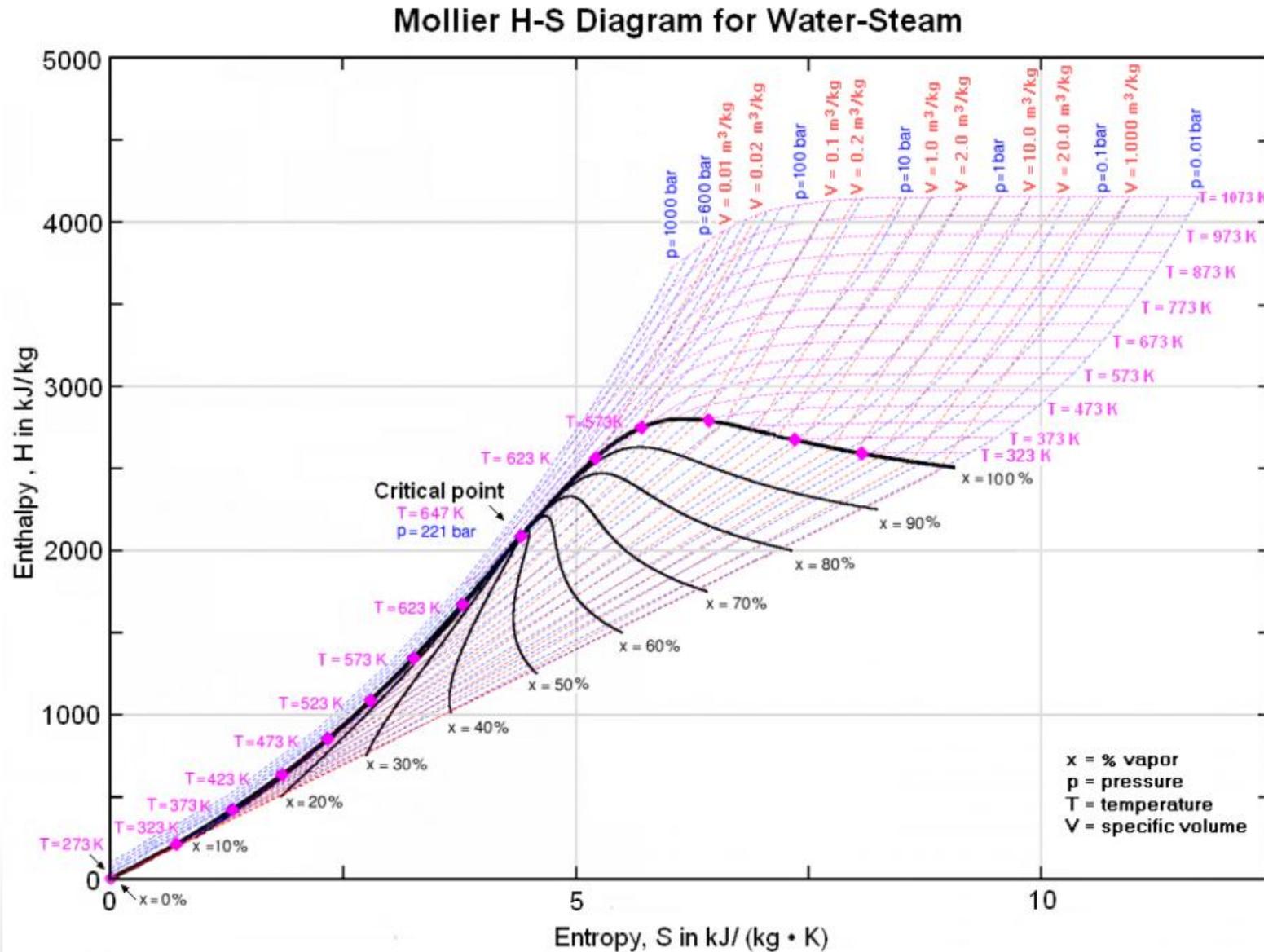
$\Delta p$  : Differential pressure (bar)

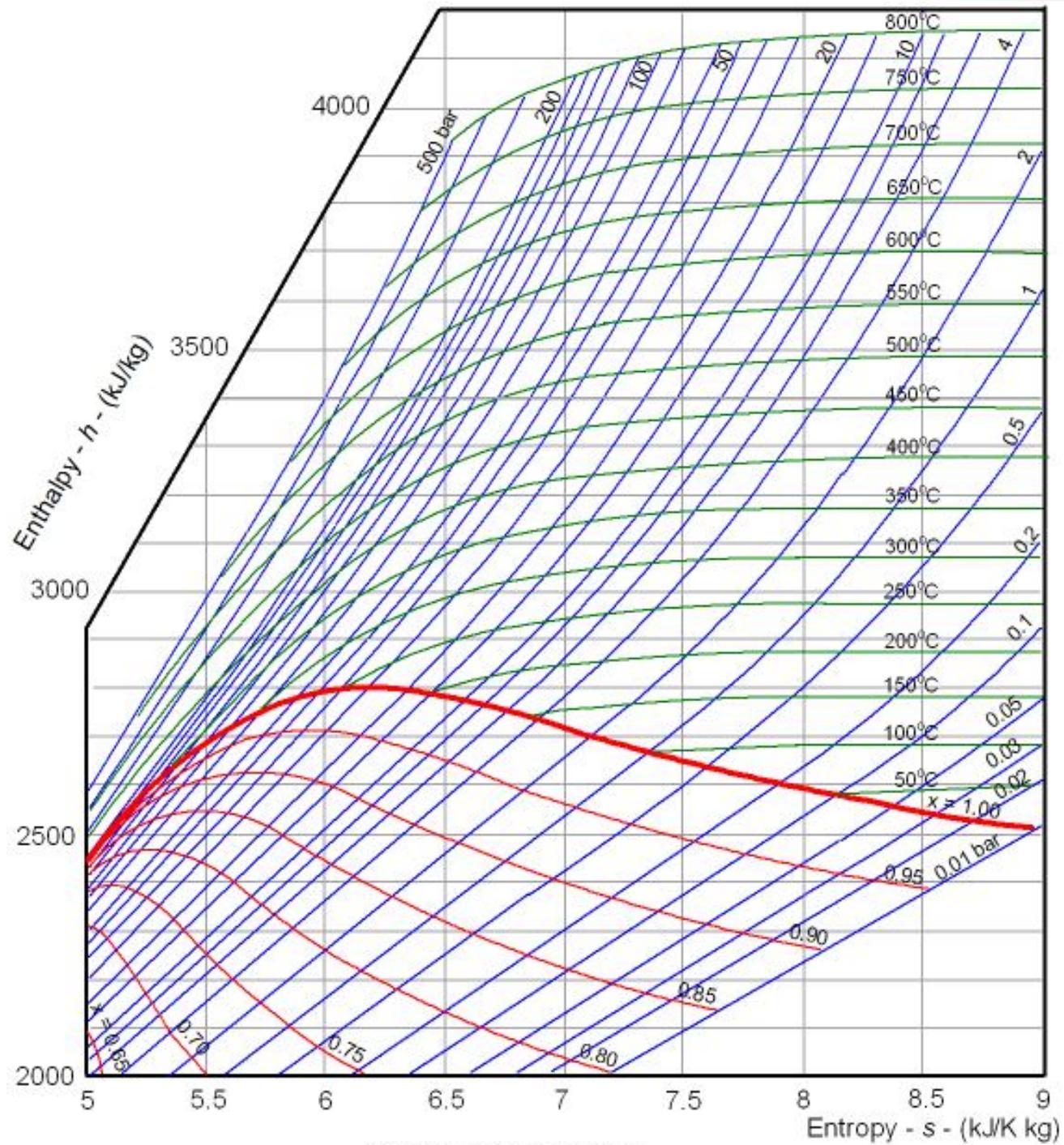
$v_g$  : Specific volume of steam ( $\text{m}^3/\text{kg}$ )

C : Orifice coefficient (dimensionless)

If orifice measured the water flow rate, therefore  $e = 1$

# Enthalpy and steam quality from Mollier Diagram



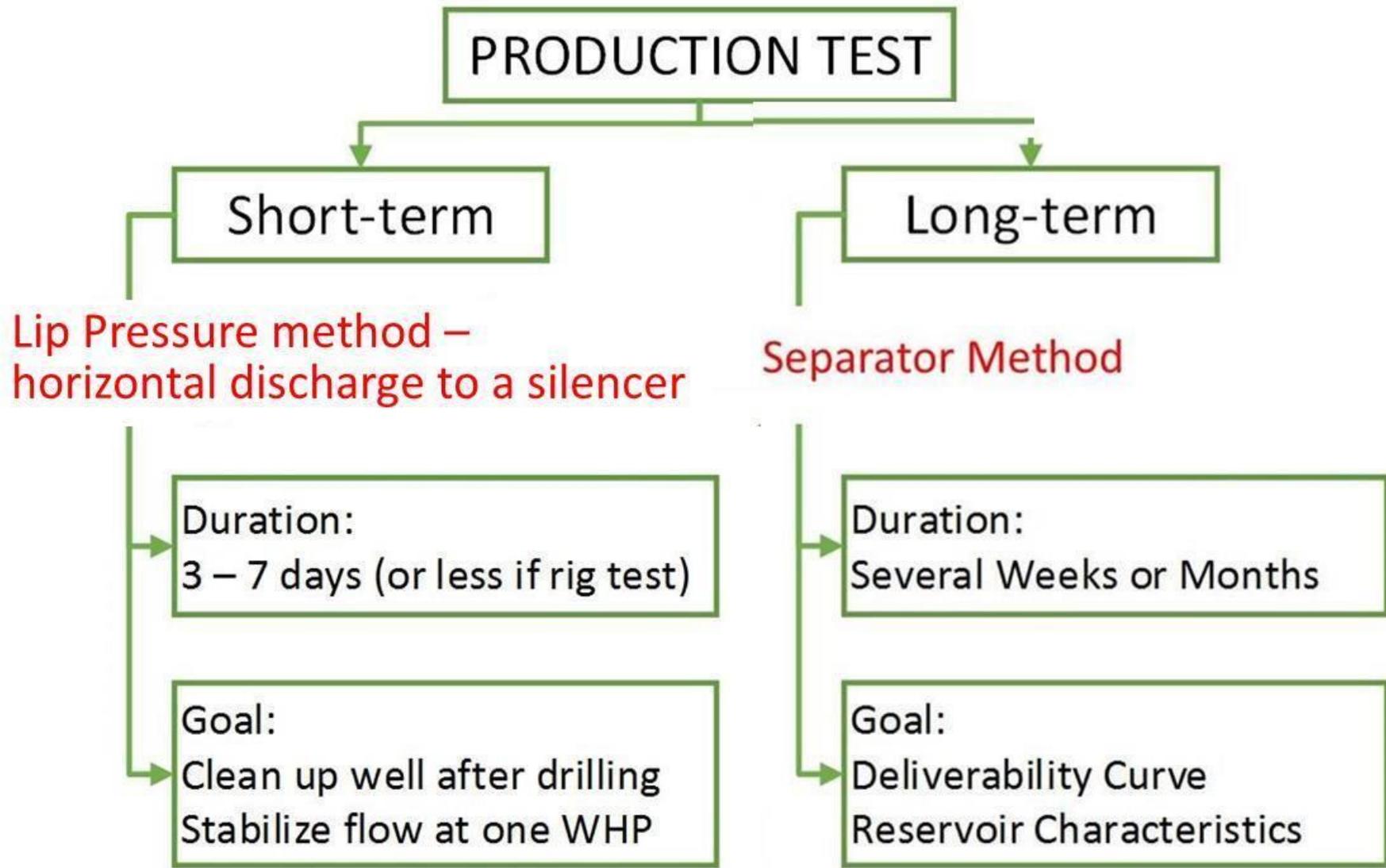


# Examples of Data

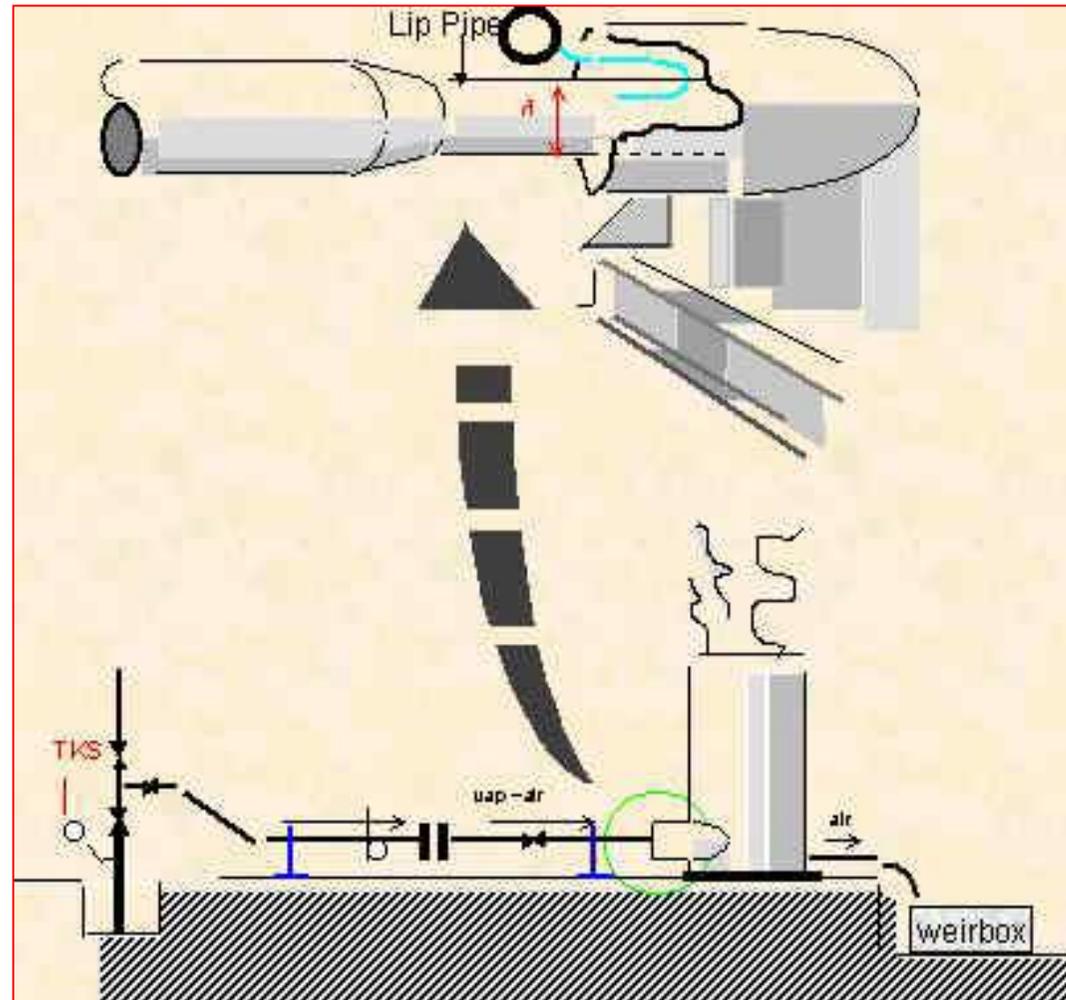
(Source: Ali Ashat)

TANGGAL	JAM	TKS ( KSC )	PU ( KSC )	DP ( KSC )	TU ( oC )	KETERANGAN
24-11-97	08.00	33.00	Dibleeding			Persiapan uji datar/tegak. Dibuka tegak pipa tegak 8" (195 mm).
25-11-97	09.45	6.20	P.Lips =	2,90	Ksc	
	10.00	5.80	P.Lips =	2,55	Ksc	
	10.45	5.80	P.Lips =	2,55	Ksc	
25-11-97	10.45	10.10	8.90	1.213	178.00	Jam 10.45 WIB mulai di uji datar dengan pipa datar 8" (198,4 mm) dan orifice 164,73 mm.
	14.00	10.10	8.90	1.213	178.00	
26-11-97	17.30	9.50	7.81	1.132	173.00	Jam 12.00 TKS diset ke 7.5 ksc.
	00.00	9.30	7.60	1.050	172.00	
	06.00	8.20	6.94	1.020	168.50	
	12.00	7.50	5.91	1.423	163.00	
27-11-97	18.00	7.50	6.33	1.035	164.50	
	00.00	7.50	6.56	1.035	166.00	
	06.00	7.50	6.33	1.019	164.50	
	12.00	7.50	6.33	0.995	164.50	
28-11-97	18.00	7.50	6.33	0.979	164.50	
	00.00	7.50	6.33	0.970	164.50	
	06.00	7.50	6.33	0.954	164.50	
	12.00	7.50	6.33	0.922	164.50	
28-11-97	18.00	7.50	6.33	0.906	164.00	
	00.00	7.50	6.33	0.898	164.00	

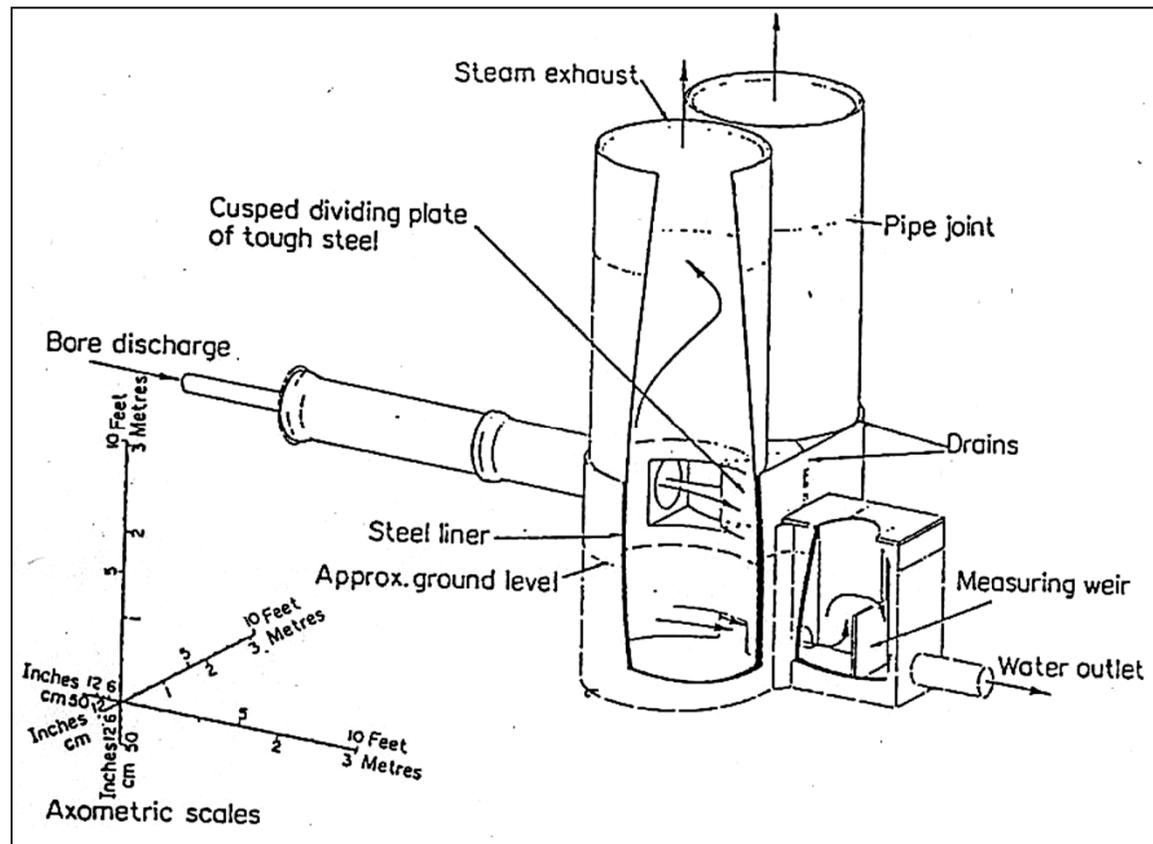
# Two-phase Wells



# Lip Pressure Method – Horizontal Discharge to a Silencer

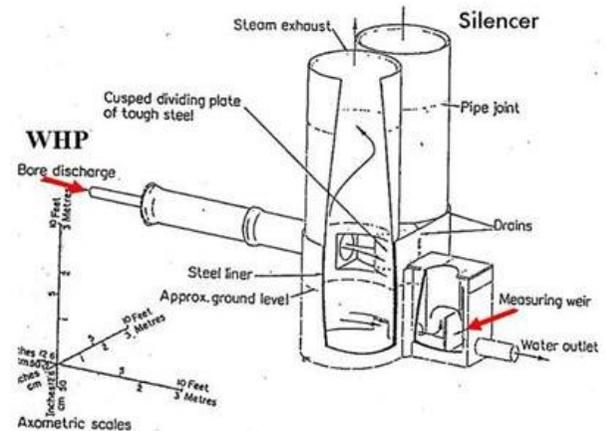
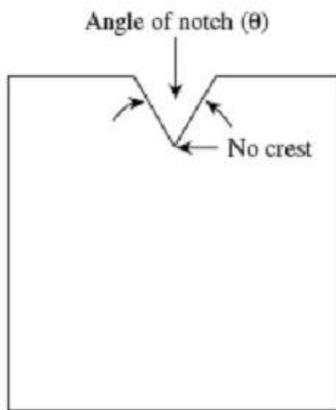


- The well is opened at a particular wellhead pressure and the fluid is flowed into the silencer (atmospheric separator).
- The height of water pass the weir box is measured, as well as temperature.

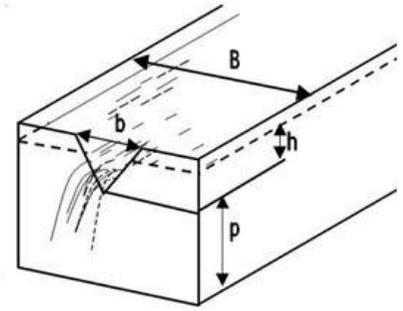


# Measurement of water from silencer using weir box

## Triangular Weirbox

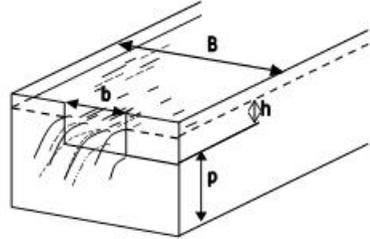
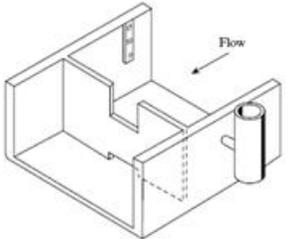


## 90° V Notches

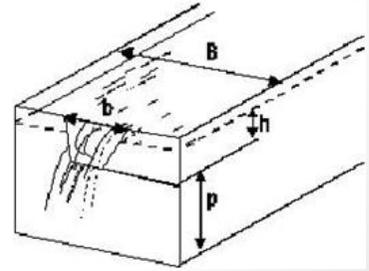
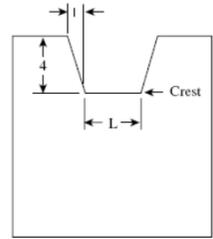


$h, p, b, B$  dalam meter  
Walm dalam t/h

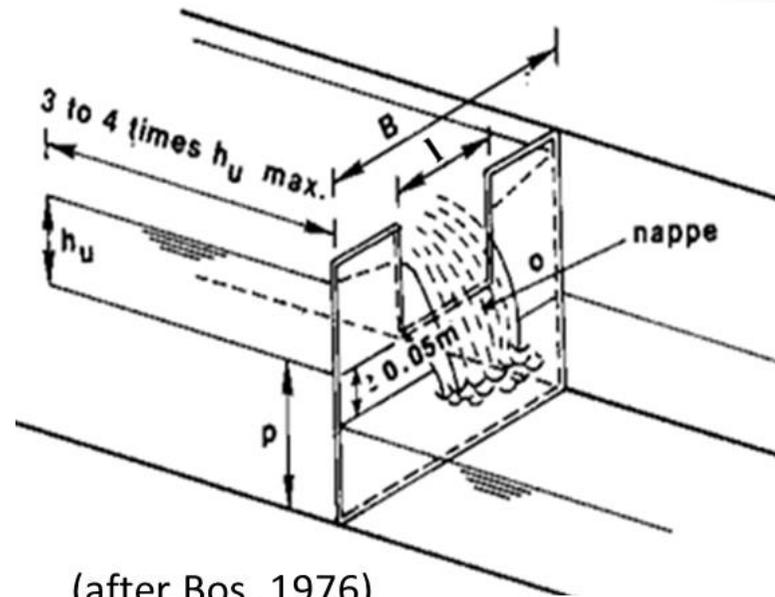
## Rectangular Weirbox



## Suppressed Weirbox



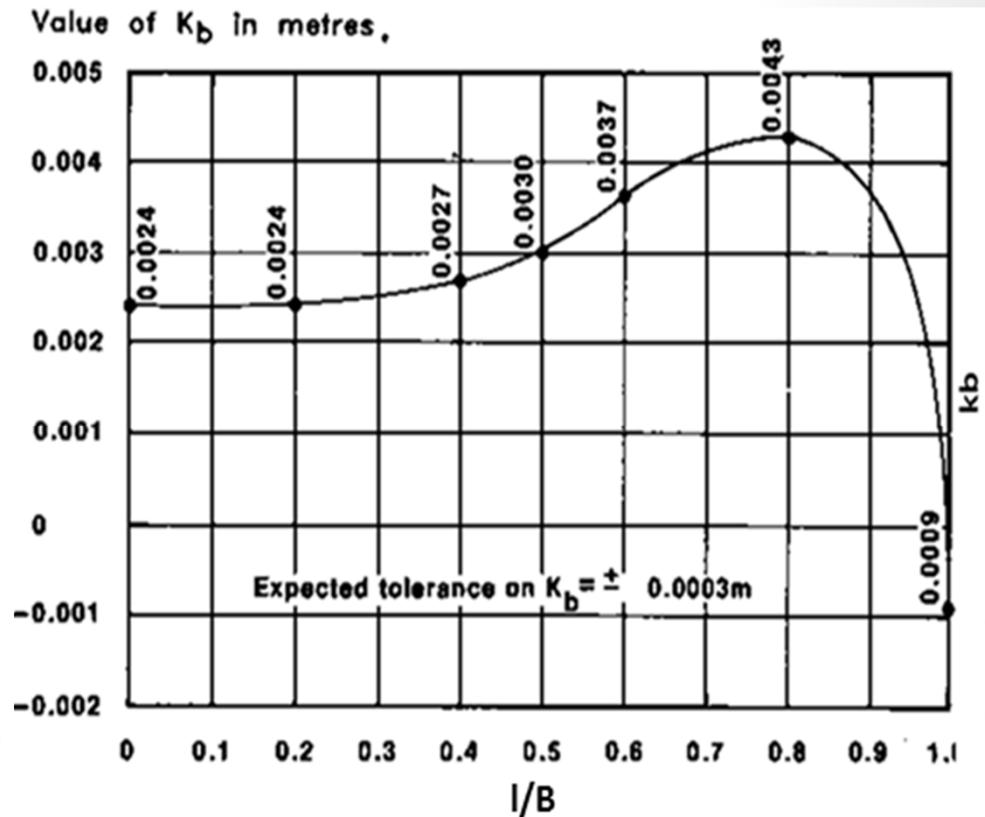
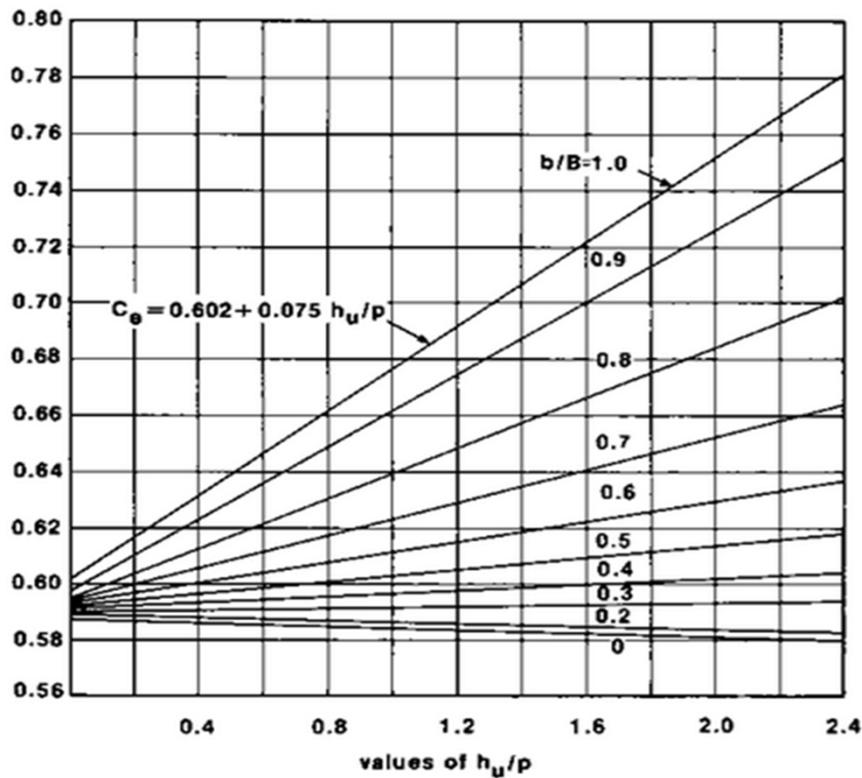
# Rectangular Weir Box



$$W_{atm} = \frac{2}{3} \sqrt{2g} * C_e * (k_b + l) * (h_u + 0.0001)^{1.5} * \rho$$

- $W_{atm}$  : Water Mass Rate (kg/s)
- $C_e$  : Effective Free Flow discharge coefficient ( $\text{m}^{0.5}$ )
- $l$  : Effective Width of Weir (m)
- $h_u$  : Head Water Measurement (m)
- $k_b$  : Width Correction (m)
- $g$  : Gravity Force ( $\text{m/s}^2$ )
- $\rho$  : Fluid Density ( $\text{kg/m}^3$ )
- $h_u$  : Max head water (m)

## The $C_e$ coefficient and width correction for rectangular weir



(Kindsvater and Carter, 1957)

## Simplified Formula for Rectangular Weir Box

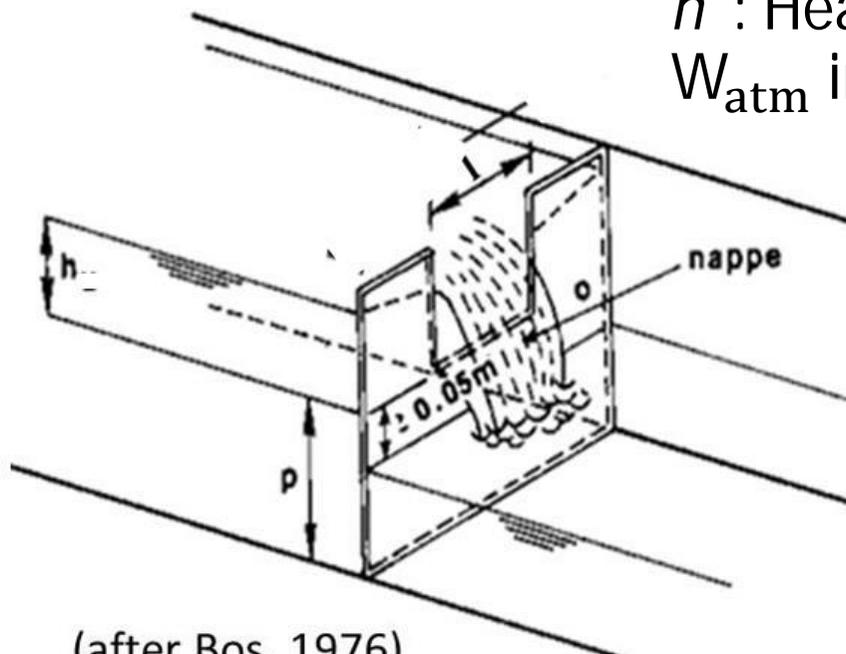
For field application, simplified equation of a rectangular weir is commonly used, by assuming  $C_e = 0.588 \text{ m}^{0.5}$  and water temperature  $98^\circ\text{C}$ , while  $k_b$  value is ignored.

$$W_{atm} = 6000 * l * h^{1.5}$$

$l$  : Effective Width of Weir (m)

$h$  : Head Water Measurement (m)

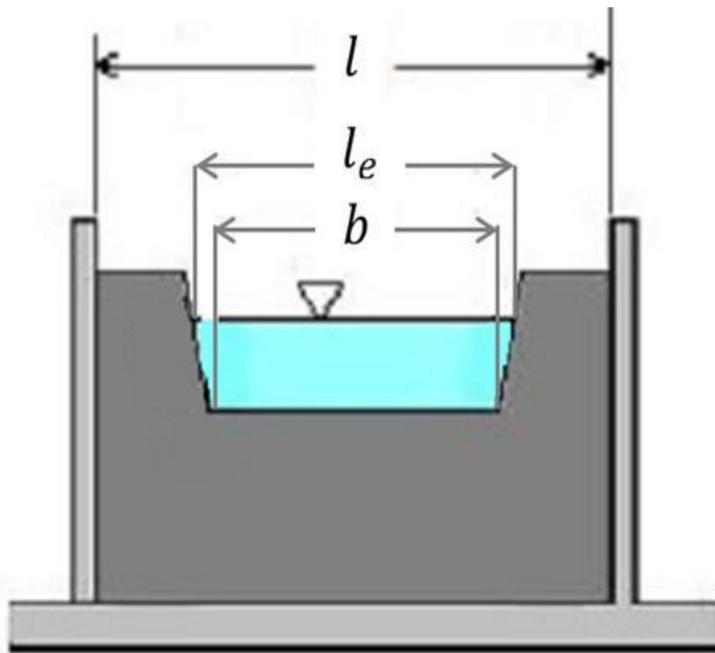
$W_{atm}$  in ton/hour



(after Bos, 1976)

# Trapezoidal (Cipolletti) Weir Box

The trapezoidal or cipolletti weir is similar to a rectangular weir except the sides of the weir opening are trapezoidal in shape. The design is good for measuring medium water flow rates.



(Shen, 1960)

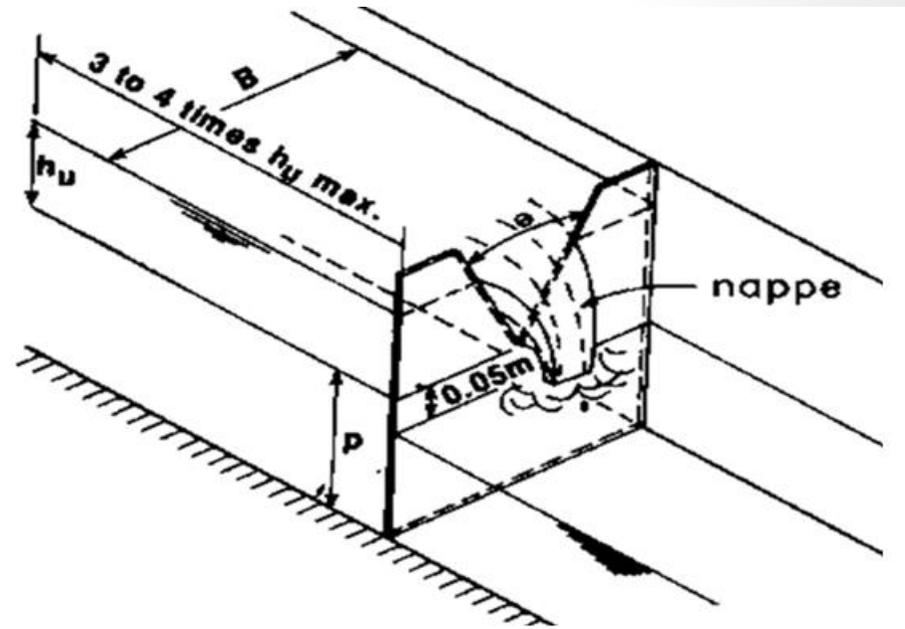
In field application, the simplified equation for trapezoidal weir nearly the same as for the rectangular weir.

$$W_{atm} = 6290 * l * h^{1.5}$$

It is obtained by assuming  $C_e = 0.616 \text{ m}^{0.5}$  and water temperature  $98^\circ\text{C}$ , while  $k_b$  value is ignored.

Where  $W_{atm}$  in ton/hour,  $l$  and  $h$  in meter

# V- notch Weir Box



(after Bos, 1976)

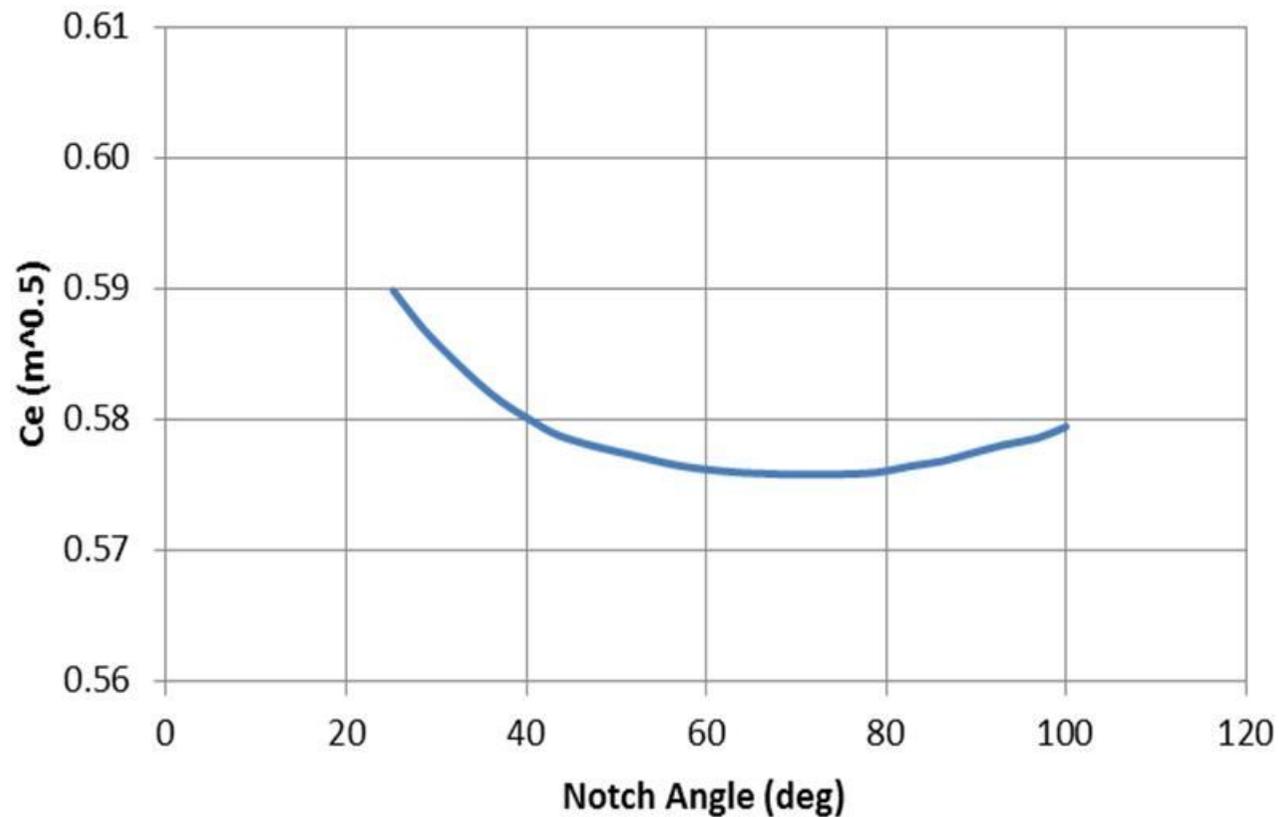
$$W_{atm} = \frac{8}{15} \sqrt{2g} * \frac{\theta}{2} * C_e * (h_u + k_h)^{2.5} * \rho$$

- $W_{atm}$  : Water mass rate (kg/s)
- $C_e$  : Effective free flow discharge coefficient ( $m^{0.5}$ )
- $h_u$  : Water head measurement (m)
- $k_h$  : Head correction (m)
- $\theta$  : Central angle of V-notch (m)
- $g$  : Gravity force ( $m/s^2$ )

## V-notch Weir Box

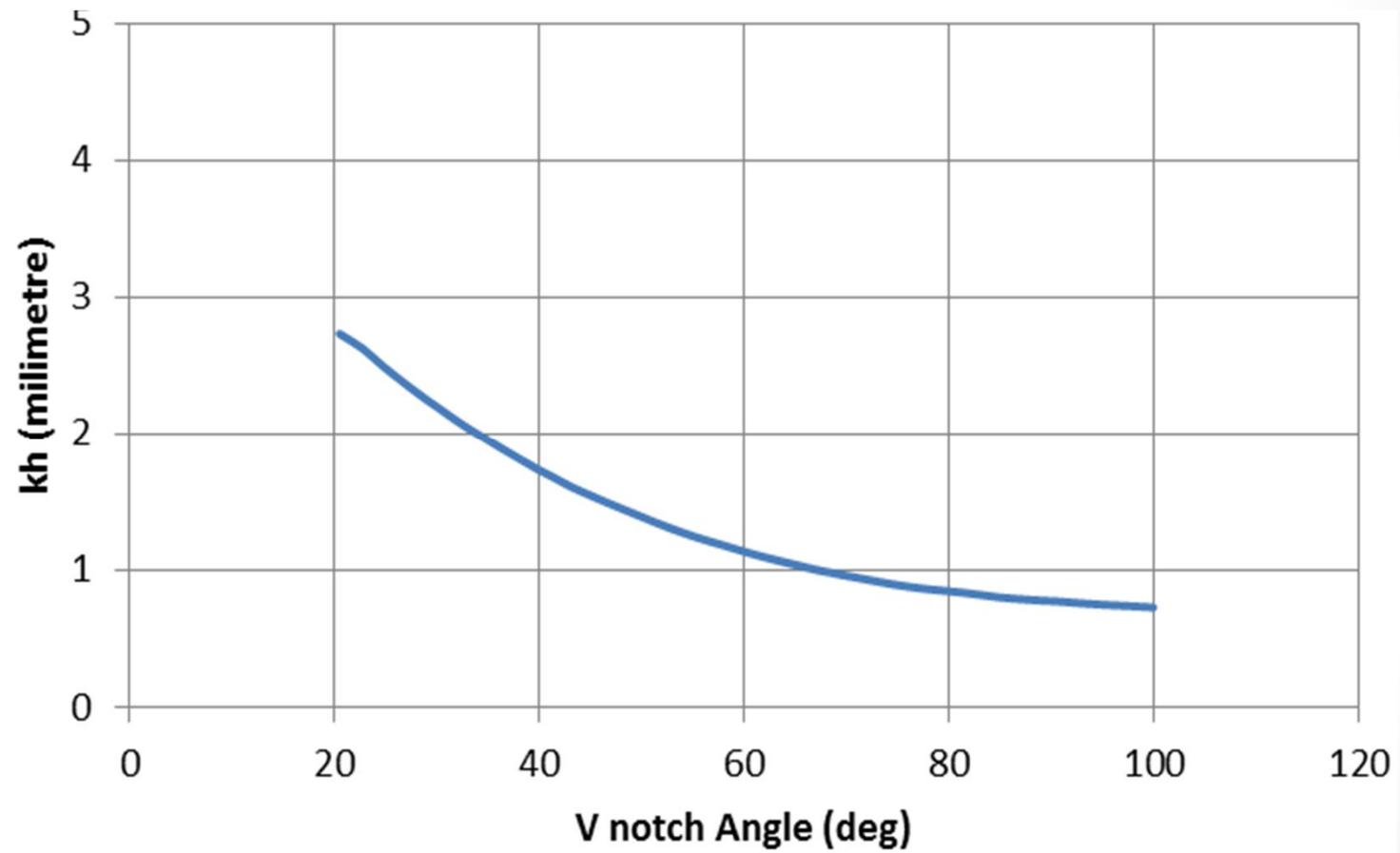
$$C_e = 1.543 \times 10^{-9} * \theta^4 - 4.535 \times 10^{-7} * \theta^3 + 5.294 \times 10^{-5} * \theta^2 - 2.855 \times 10^{-3} * \theta + 6.348 \times 10^{-1}$$

$$k_h = 0.0004 * \theta^2 - 0.071 * \theta + 3.984$$



Shen (1960)

## V-notch Weir Box



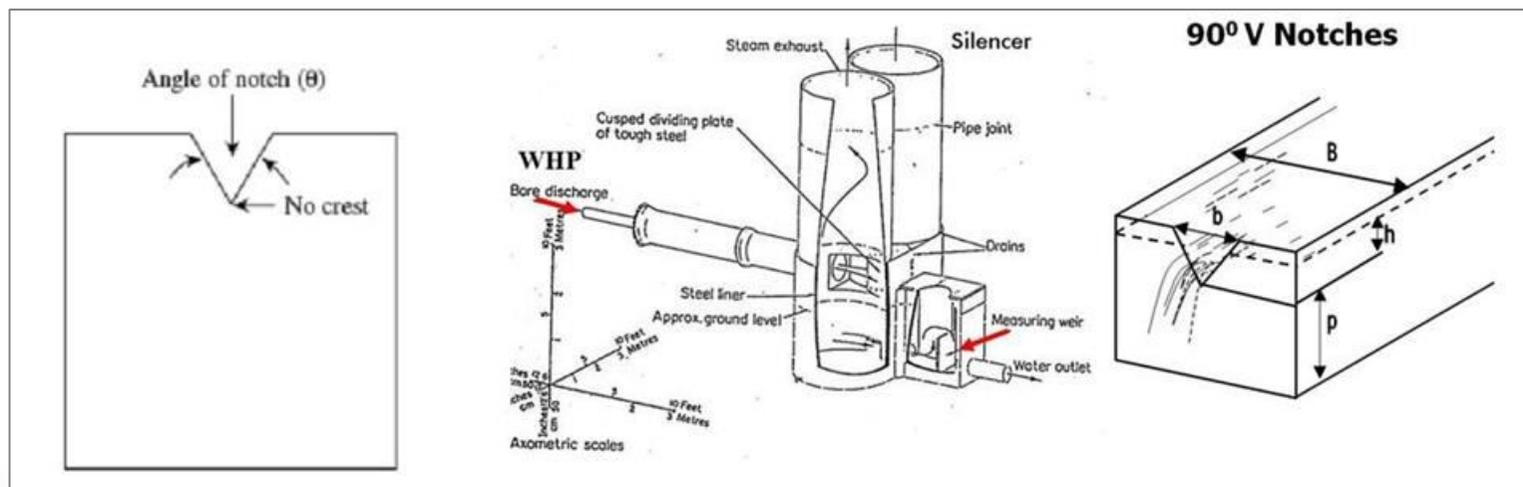
Shen (1960)

# Simplified Formula for V- notch Weir Box

For field application, the simplified equation is commonly used by assuming  $C_e = 0.578 \text{ m}^{0.5}$  and water temperature  $98^\circ\text{C}$ , while  $k_h$  value is ignored. It should be noted that the simplified equation is only applied for notch angle  $(\theta) = 90^\circ$ .

$$W_{atm} = 4720 * h^{2.5}$$

Where  $W_{atm}$  in ton/hour and  $h$  in meter



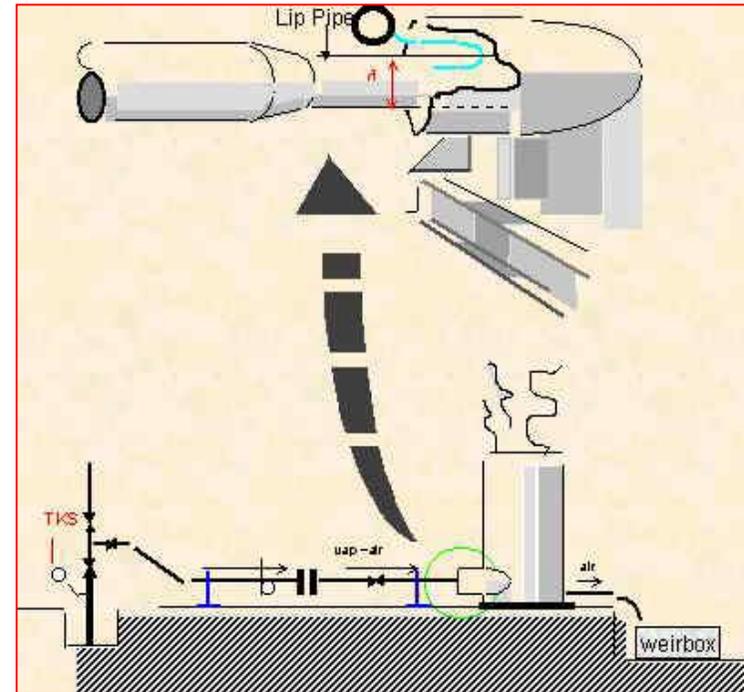
## Russel James formula for calculating mass flow rate and enthalpy

$$Y = \frac{W_{atm}}{A \times p^{0.96}}$$

$$H = \frac{2675 + 925 \times Y}{1 + 7.85 \times Y}$$

$$M = \frac{W_{atm} \times 2258}{2675 - H}$$

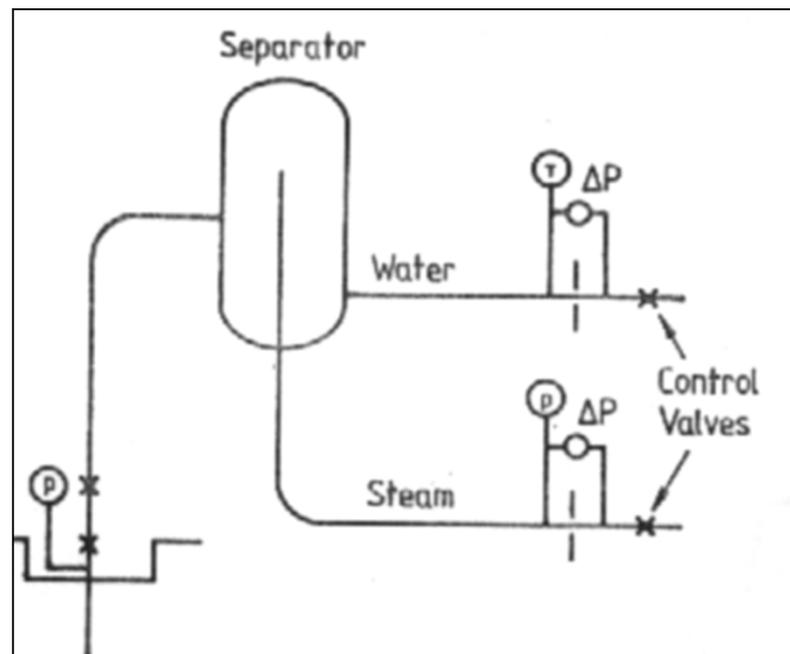
- M : Mass flow rate from the well (ton/Jam)  
 H : Fluid enthalpy (kJ/kg)  
 P : Lip pressure (bara)  
 W<sub>atm</sub> : Water mass flow rate measured in the weir box at atmospheric condition



# Separator Method

## Measurement using orifice plates

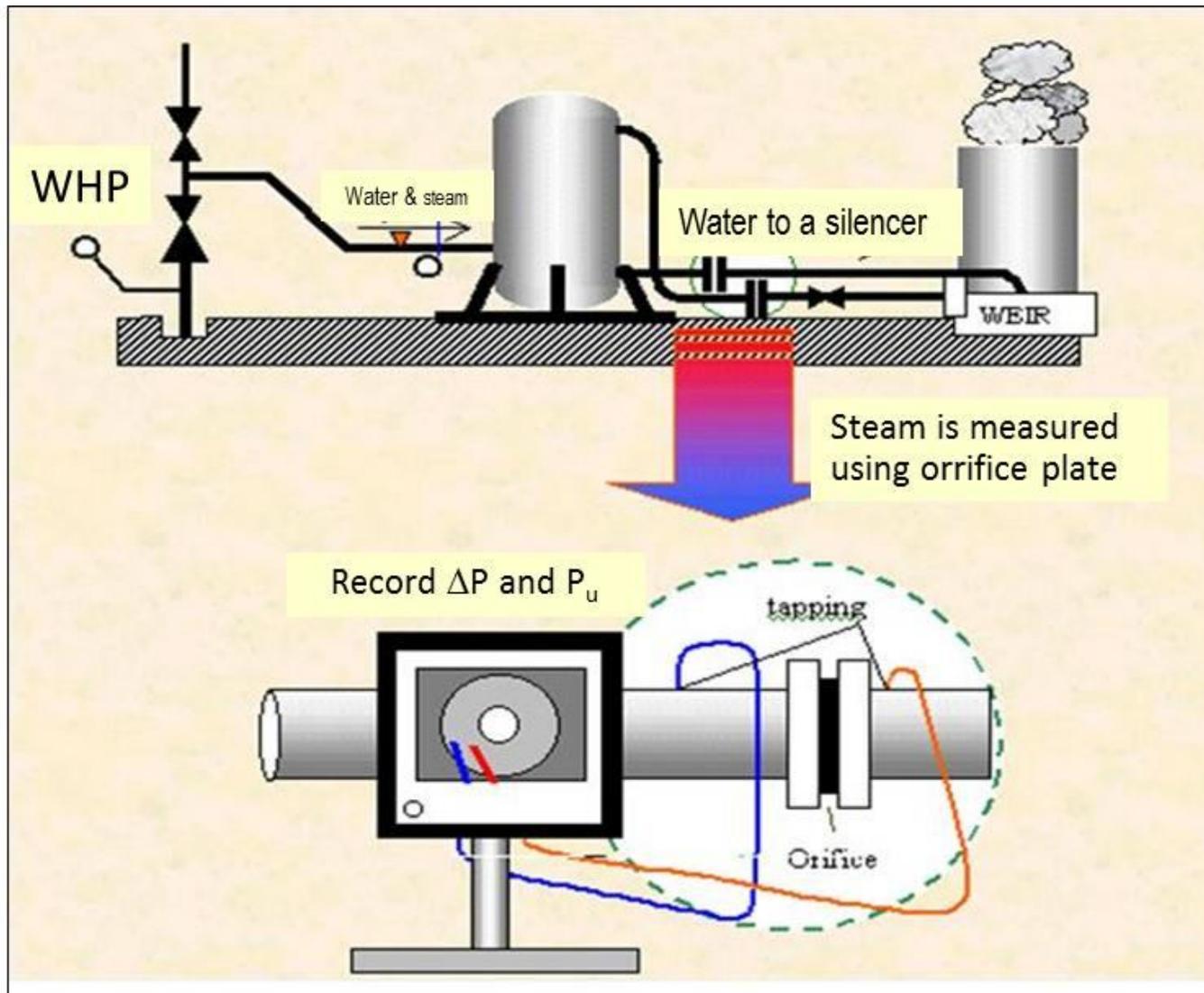
The most accurate method for measuring two-phase flows from geothermal wells is to use an efficient cyclone separator (Bangma, 1961).



The separator method separates the steam and water phases, allowing their individual measurement. Both phases measurement using orifice flow meter

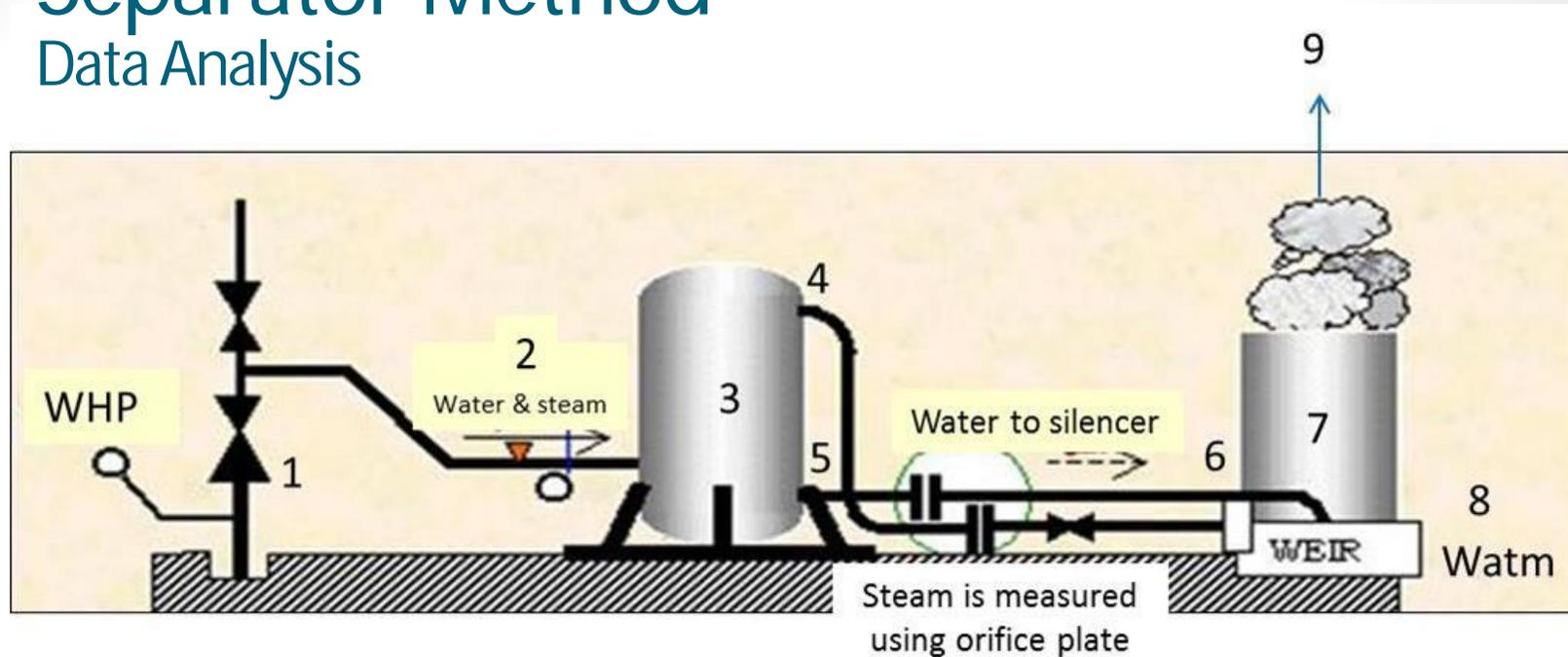
# Separator Method

Measurement of steam using orifice plate  
and water using weir box



# Separator Method

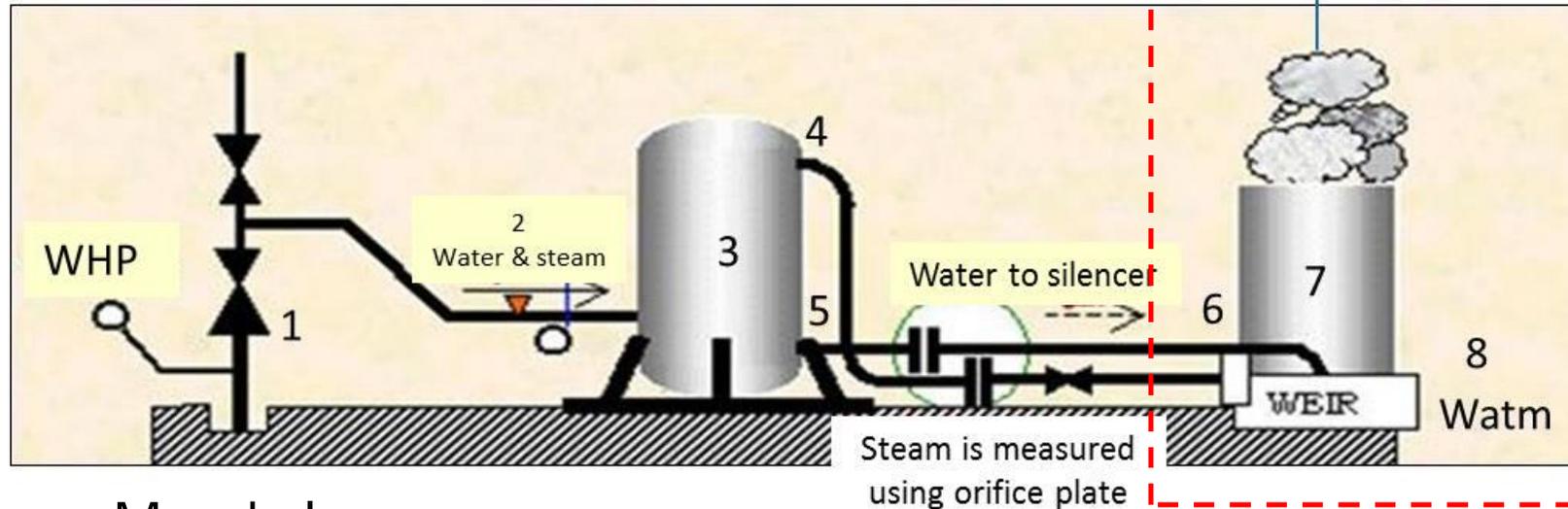
## Data Analysis



- Well Head Pressure (WHP) :  $P_1$
- Separator Pressure :  $P_3$
- Silencer Pressure :  $P_7$
- Fluid from wellhead:  $m_1, h_1$
- Fluid enter the separator:  $m_2, h_2$
- Steam from separator:  $m_4, h_4$
- Water from separator flow to a silencer:  $m_5, h_5$
- Water enter the silencer:  $m_6, h_6$

## Data Analysis

Assumptions: no mass and heat losses



- Mass balance:

$$m_6 = m_7 = W_{atm} + m_9$$

- Assumption: 5 → 6 no mass and heat losses.  $h_5 = h_6$
- Enthalpy of water into silencer ( $h_6$ ) =  $h_{f@separator}$  pressure
- $h_f, h_{fg}$  at silencer pressure:  $h_{f7}, h_{fg7}$  (From Steam Table)
- Steam fraction in the silencer  $X_7 = (h_6 - h_{f7})/h_{fg7}$
- Mass flow rate of steam out from silencer:

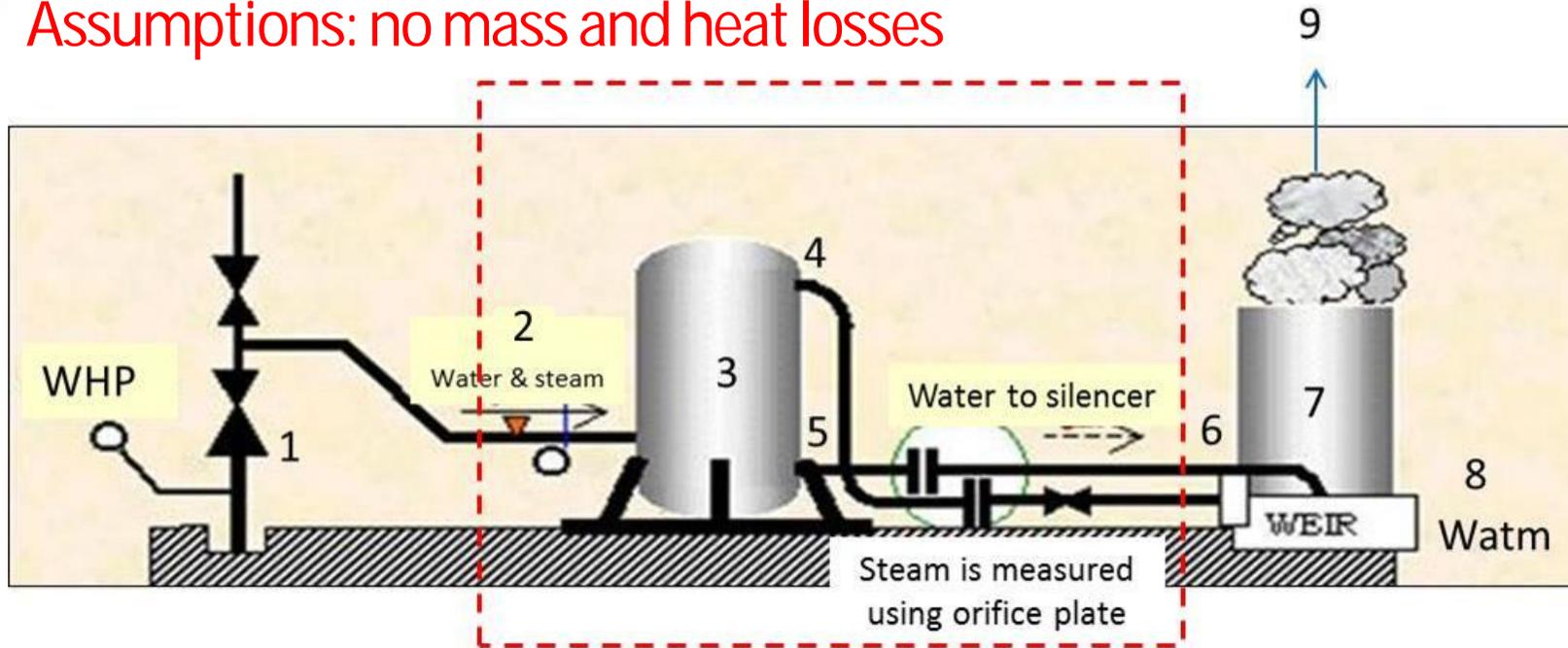
$$X_7 = m_9 / (m_9 + W_{atm}) \rightarrow m_9 = \dots$$

- Mass flow rate of water flow into the silencer ( $m_6$ )

$$m_6 = W_{atm} + m_9$$

## Data Analysis

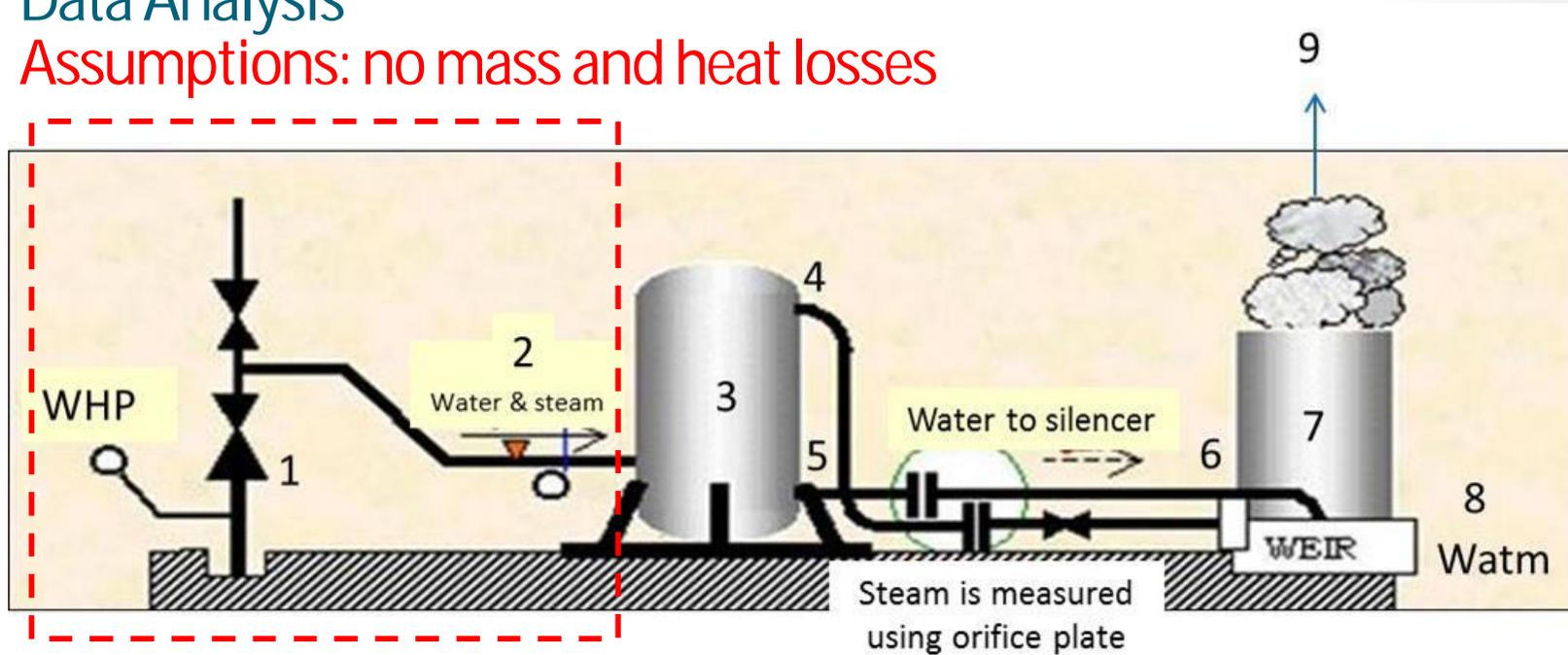
Assumptions: no mass and heat losses



- Mass flow rate of water flow into the silencer =  $m_5 = m_6$
- Mass flow rate of steam from separator is measured using orifice plate =  $m_4$
- Mass balance:  $m_3 = m_4 + m_5 = m_2$
- Steam fraction in the separator:  $x_3 = m_4 / (m_4 + m_5)$
- $h_f, h_{fg}$  at separator pressure:  $h_{f3}, h_{fg3}$
- Enthalpy of fluid at separator pressure  
$$h_2 = h_{f3} + x_3 h_{fg3}$$

## Data Analysis

Assumptions: no mass and heat losses



- Mass flow rate of water at the wellhead =  $m_1 = m_2$
- Assumption: 1  $\rightarrow$  2 no mass and heat losses.  $h_1 = h_2$
- $h_f$ ,  $h_{fg}$  at wellhead pressure:  $h_{f1}$ ,  $h_{fg1}$
- Enthalpy of fluid at wellhead pressure

$$h_1 = h_2 = h_{f1} + x_1 h_{fg1} \rightarrow x_1 = (h_1 - h_{f1}) / h_{fg1}$$

# Excercise

Flow Measurements & Production Testing



## Excercise - 2

### Well testing using Separator Method (orifice)

An output test is done on Well ITB 12 using separator (steam and water measurement using specific orifice), with the results shown in this table below. Calculate the discharge enthalpy and total mass flow. Plot the enthalpy and mass flow against the WHP (for deliverability curve).

The data are:

Orifice Radius

Inside diameter (ID) Pipe, P = 14" mild steel

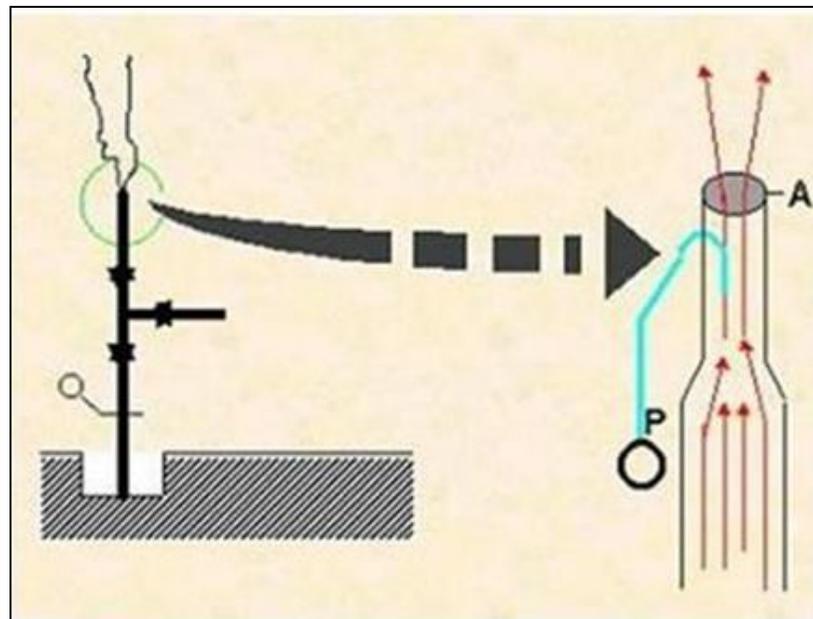
Orifice diameter, d = 6.625" mild steel

WHP [bara]	P. Separator [bara]	P. Steam [bara]	$\Delta$ P.steam [bar]	T.W [C]	$\Delta$ P.water [bar]
8	7.6	7	1.688	168	0.536
8.2	7.6	7.2	1.546	168	0.519
9.7	9.6	9.3	0.674	178	0.416
11.7	11.5	11.5	0.290	186	0.275
12.7	12.9	12.9	0.161	191	0.202
15.1	14.8	14.7	0.069	197	0.111
16.4	16.2	16.2	0.028	202	0.040

## Excercise - 3

### Well testing - Lip Pressure Method Vertical Discharge

Production testing is conducted using lip pressure vertical discharge for 3 hours using a 153 mm diameter lip pipe. Pressure gauge shows that the wellhead pressure is 25 barg while lip pressure is 3.25 barg. Completion of the test results is estimated the feed zones at depth of 1323 m and the temperature 230°C. If at feed zone depth consist of only one phase, saturated liquid, determine flowing enthalpy, total mass flow rate and potential electric well (if conversion factor is 0.1) !.



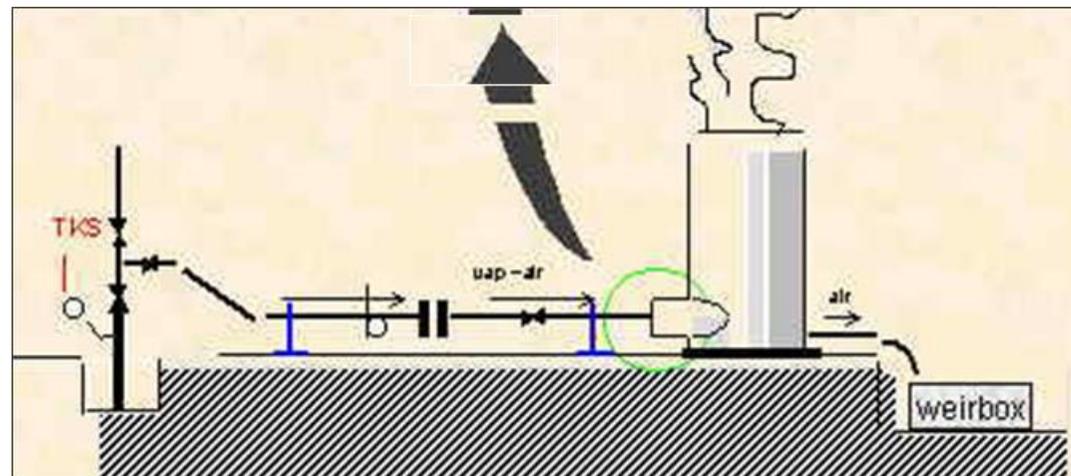
## Exercise – 4

### Well testing using lip pressure Method

### Horizontal discharge

Production testing for ITB 14 Well using Lip pressure. Fluid from the well discharged horizontal to silencer with lip pipe (diameter 203 mm). Water from silencer measured using V-notch 90° weir box. Data from the measurement results shown in this table below. Plot deliverability curve.

		Test 1	Test 2	Test 3	Test 4	Test 5
WHP	[bara]	16.5	19.6	24.2	26.6	29
Water level di weir box	[mm]	325	310	290	266	222
Lip Pressure	[bara]	5.2	4.65	3.75	2.93	1.79





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