

SRP Fluids Analysis: Agua Fria Flow Measurement



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ME486C – SEC. 5 - Team 33

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Project Description

- Salt River Project (SRP)
- Fuel Measurement System
- 2% Error
- Collaborate with SRP technicians



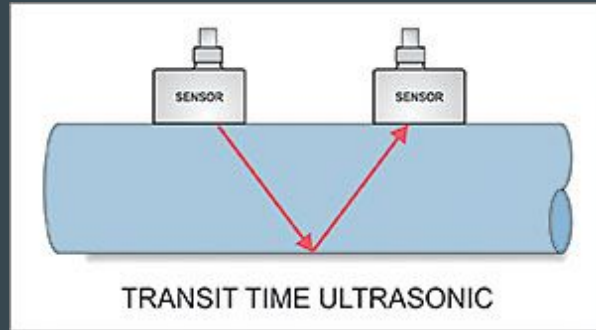
[1] Orifice Plate



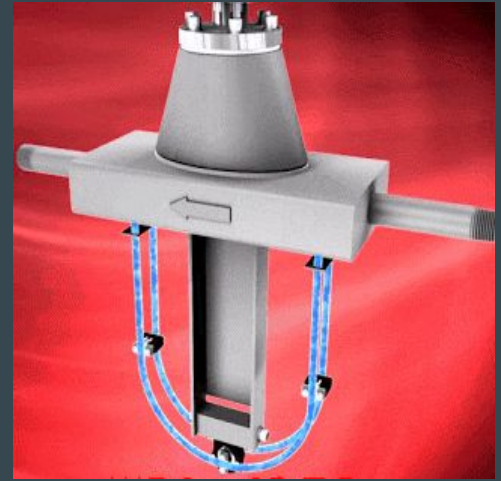
[2] FloBoss

Process Overview - Research

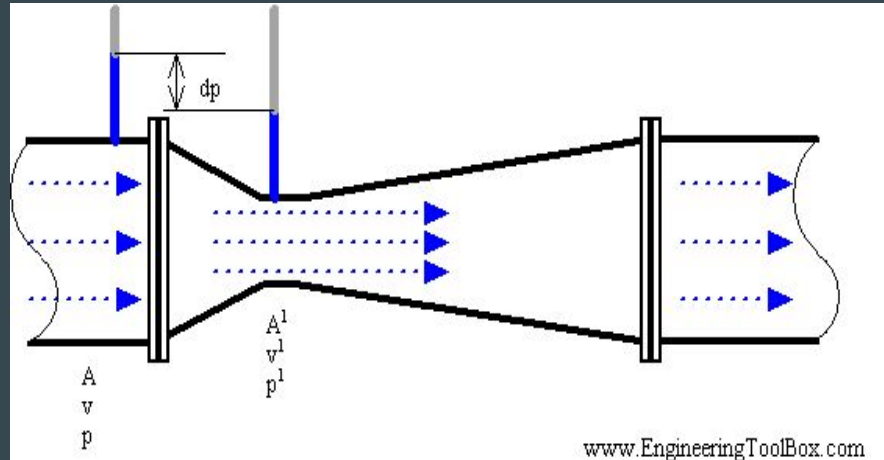
- Analyzed various flow meters
- Common sources of error
- Used Decision Matrix selection



[4] Ultrasonic Flow Meter



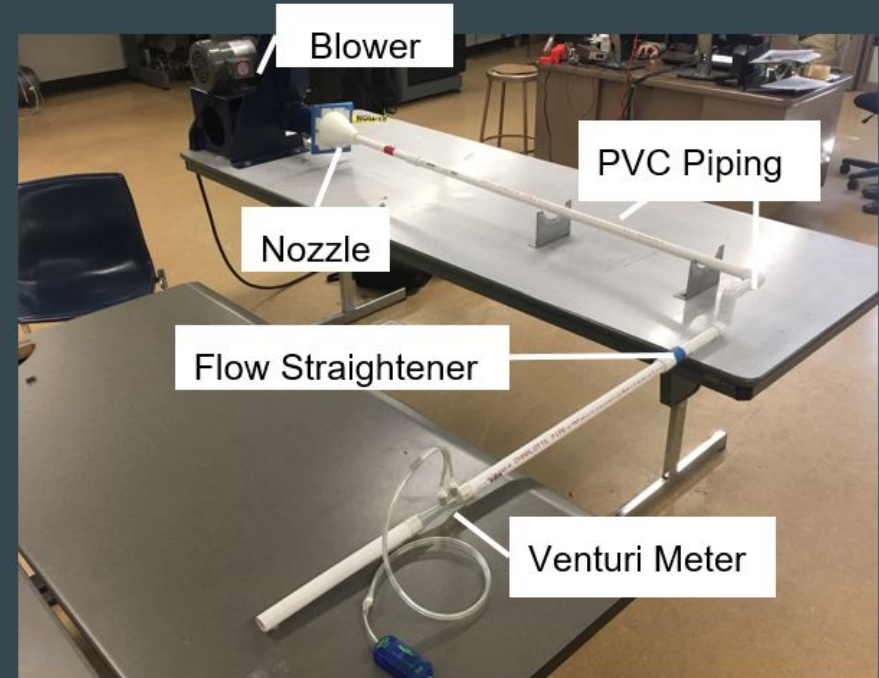
[5] Coriolis Flow Meter



[3] Venturi Tube

Process Overview - Experiment

- Replicated scaled Agua Fria geometry
- Replicated Reynold's number from Agua Fria
- Used air instead of natural gas for the medium



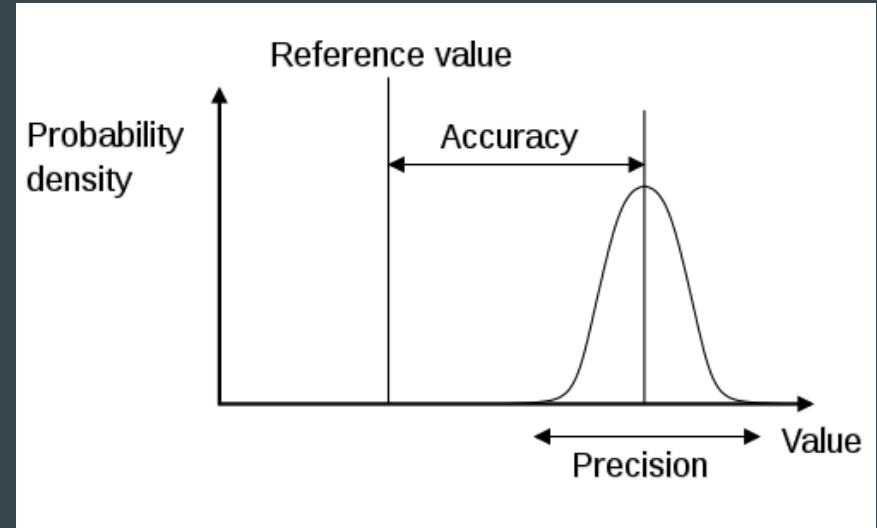
Proposed Solutions

- Change flow meter from orifice to Venturi tube
- Insert flow straightener after pipe bends
- Decrease beta coefficient of the orifice plate
- Increase upstream straight pipe length



Statistical Methods

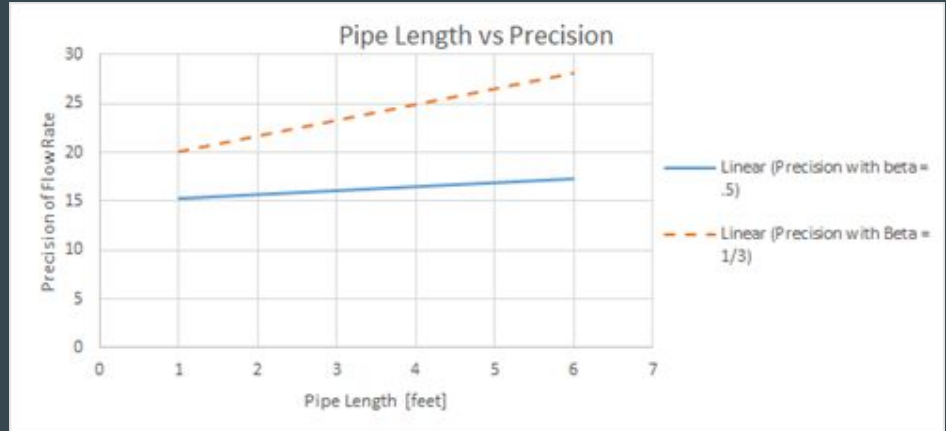
- Analyzed how clustered the data are
- Calculated precision of data
- Higher precision correlates with higher measurement accuracy



[6]

Altering Orifice Geometry

- Relationship of orifice diameter ratio to accuracy
- Beta coefficient at Agua fria currently between 0.63 and 0.65
- Lower beta corresponds with shorter necessary upstream length

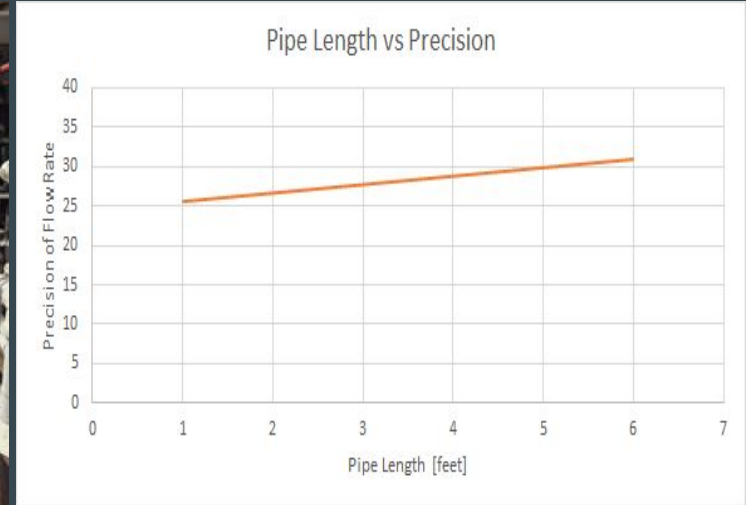
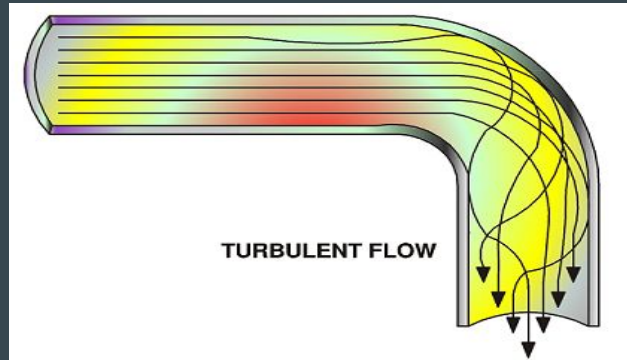


β	Upstream Straight Lengths				
	Single 90° Bend	Two 90° Bends in Perpendicular Planes	Reducer 2D to D Over 1.5D to 3D	Gate Valve Fully Open	Downstream
0.2	10(6)	34(17)	5	12(6)	4(2)
0.3	10(6)	34(17)	5	12(6)	5(2.5)
0.4	14(7)	36(18)	5	12(6)	6(3)
0.5	14(7)	40(20)	6(5)	12(6)	6(3)
0.6	18(9)	48(24)	9(5)	14(7)	7(3.5)
0.7	28(14)	62(31)	14(7)	20(10)	7(3.5)
0.75	36(18)	70(35)	22(11)	24(12)	8(4)

[7]

Pipe Length

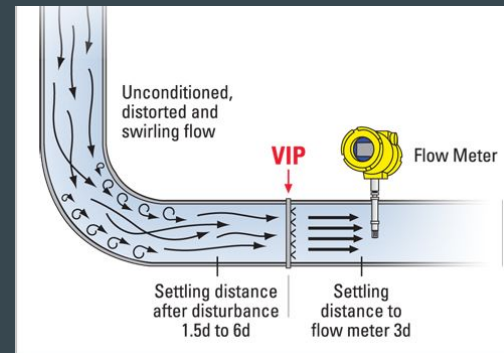
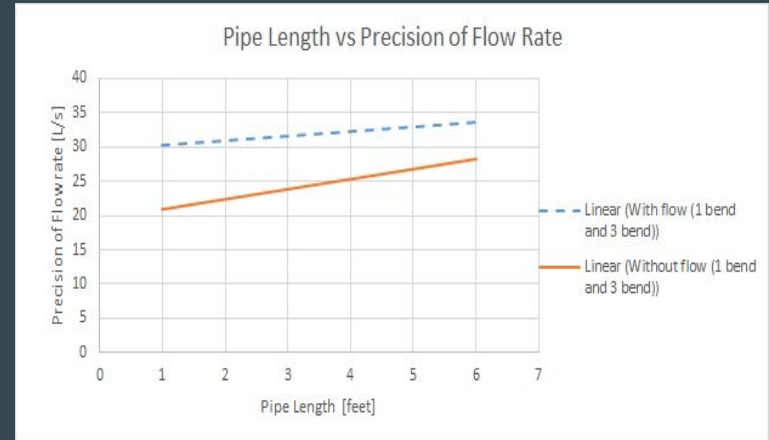
- Longer pipe length allows flow to fully develop
- Longer pipe length correlates with higher precision
- Upstream distance increases with number of bends



[8] Effect of Bends in Pipe

Flow Straightener

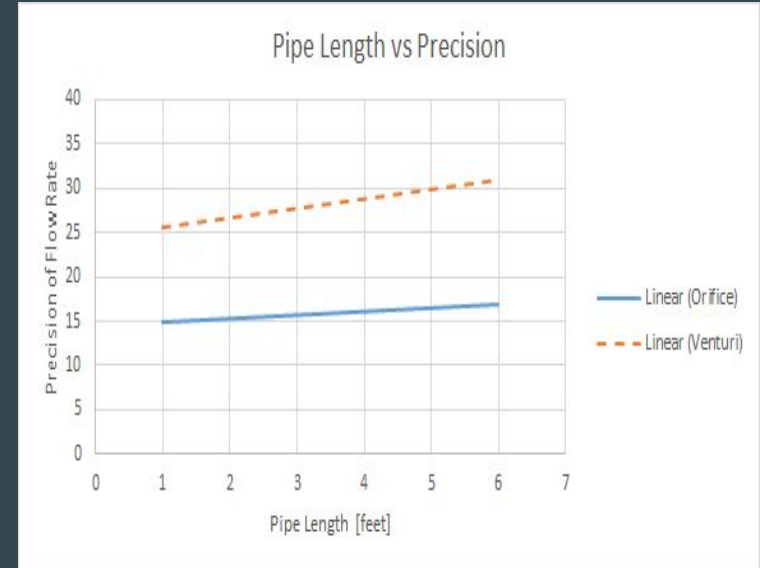
- Flow straightener allows flows to fully develop at a faster rate
- Adding flow straightener increases precision in flow rate measurement
- Flow straightener had the largest impact on precision in 3 bend scenario



[9] Effects of Flow Straightener

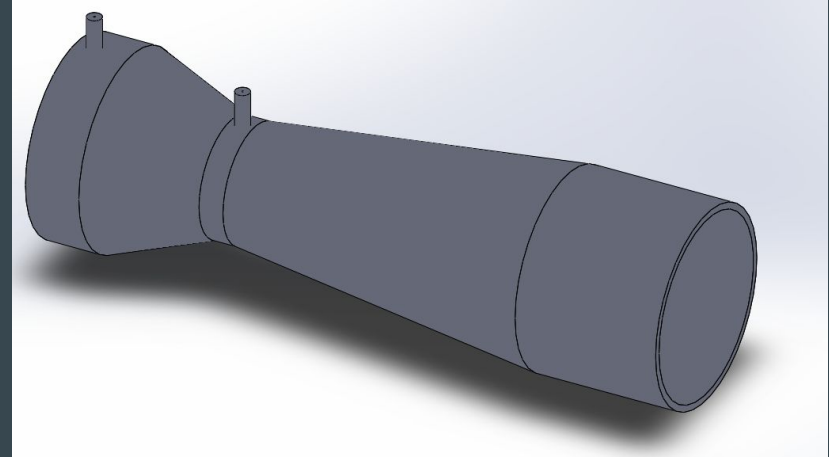
Flow Meter

- Compared the precision of orifice and Venturi
- Smooth transition with Venturi vs instantaneous transition with orifice
- Data showed that precision was greater for Venturi tube than orifice plate



Recommendations

- Either change from orifice to venturi, or change the orifice diameter
- Insert a flow straightener directly after the pipe bend before the measurement station
- Increase the upstream pipe length



Thank you

Acknowledgments

- Vy Kieu, SRP representative
- Sara McCoy, SRP plant manager
- Agua Fria operations staff
- Dr. David Trevas, NAU
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- Dr. Thomas Acker

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