

# Sprinkler Irrigation – Pipeline Hydraulics

Sprinkler and Micro irrigation Systems

### Pressure and Head Relationship

- In an Irrigation system, the head consists of following components
  - *Static head:* simply the difference in elevation between the highest discharge point in the system and that point
  - *Pressure head:* pressure at that point divided by unit weight of water.
  - *Velocity head:* head required to accelerate the water from rest to the velocity at that point.
  - *Friction head:* energy required for water to flow between two points at same elevation.
  - *Elevation above datum:* distance of a given point in the system above some arbitrary datum.





# Calculation of Pipe Friction

#### **Darcy-Weisbach equation**

• 
$$h_f = F_f \frac{L}{D} \frac{V^2}{2g}$$

- $h_f$  = head loss due to pipe friction (m)
- $F_f$  = Darcy-Weisbach pipe friction factor
- V = velocity of flow in the pipe (m/s)
- g = acceleration due to gravity (m/s<sup>2</sup>)
- *D* = inside pipe diameter (m)

• 
$$F_f = \frac{64}{R_y} for R_y < 2000$$

• 
$$F_f = 0.32 R_y^{-0.25} for 2000 \le R_y \le 10,000$$

•  $R_y$  = Reynold's number



FRICTION FACTOR - F

**RELATIVE ROUGHNESS - e/D** 

## Calculation of Pipe Friction

#### Watters and Keller (1978)

- $J = \frac{100h_f}{L} = K \frac{Q^{1.75}}{D^{4.75}}$  for use with smooth pipes less than 125 mm Ø
  - K = conversion constant ( $7.89 \times 10^7$ , for metric units)
- $J = \frac{100h_f}{L} = K \frac{Q^{1.83}}{D^{4.83}}$  for use with smooth pipes more than 125 mm Ø
  - K = conversion constant ( $9.58 \times 10^7$ , for metric units)

### **Friction losses for pipes with outlets**

- More frictional loss in a closed pipeline of given length, than that with a pipe having equally spaced outlets.
- This is because the volume of flow decreases each time an outlet is passed

## Calculation of Pipe Friction

#### **Friction losses for pipes with outlets**

- A method developed by Christiansen (1942), for computing head or pressure loss in multiple outlet pipeline.
- Involves computing the friction loss in the line without outlet and then multiplying a factor *F*.
- Thus head loss becomes:  $h_f = J F \frac{L}{100}$

Number of outlets	F		Number of	F	
	(end) <sup>1</sup>	(mid) <sup>2</sup>	outlets	(end)	(mid)
1	1.00	1.00	8	0.42	0.38
2	0.64	0.52	9	0.41	0.37
3	0.54	0.44	10-11	0.40	0.37
4	0.49	0.41	12-15	0.39	0.37
5	0.46	0.40	16-20	0.38	0.36
6	0.44	0.39	21-30	0.37	0.36
7	0.43	0.38	≥31	0.36	0.36

Reduction coefficient, F, for multiple-outlet pipelines

<sup>1</sup>Where the first outlet is a full space from the pipe inlet, i.e., at the end of the first pipe.

<sup>2</sup>When the first outlet is one-half space from the pipe inlet, i.e., at the middle of the first pipe.

## Lateral Inlet Pressure

- The general equation for the lateral inlet pressure (pressure required at the mainline end) is:
- $P_l = P_a + \frac{3}{4}P_f + \frac{1}{2}\Delta P_e + P_r$ And
- $H_l = H_a + \frac{3}{4}h_f + \frac{1}{2}\Delta H_e + H_r$ 
  - $P_l$  = lateral inlet pressure (kPa)
  - $P_f$  = pressure loss due to pipe friction (kPa)
  - $P'_r$  = pressure required t lift the water up the riser (9.8kPa/m)
  - $H_l$  = lateral inlet pressure head (m)
  - $H_a$  = average sprinkler operating pressure head (m)
  - $h_f$  = head loss due to pipe friction (m)
  - $\Delta H_e$  = static pressure difference between the inlet and closed ends due to elevation difference
  - $H_r$  = height of riser (m)

### Lateral Inlet Pressure



(A) Lateral laid uphill · minimum pressure occurs at closed end.



(B) Lateral laid down hill - minimum pressure occurs when pipe friction gradient equals slope.



## Main Line Pipe Size

- The function of mainline and sub-mains is to convey the required quantity of water at desired pressure to all laterals under maximum pressure conditions.
- Friction loss of 3m for small system and 12m for large system may be allowed.



## Pumps and Power Units

- In selecting a suitable pump, it is necessary to determine the maximum total head against which the pump is working.
- This may be determined by:
- $H_t = H_n + H_m + H_j + H_s$ 
  - $H_t$  = total design head against which the pump is working
  - $H_n$  = maximum head required at the main to operate the sprinkler
  - H<sub>m</sub> = maximum friction loss in the main and in the suction line
  - $H_l$  = elevation difference between the pump and the junction of lateral and the main
  - $H_n$  = elevation difference between the pump and source of water after drawdown

M-Thank You-III