**ORIGINAL PAPER - EXPLORATION ENGINEERING** 



# A robust method for estimating the two-phase flow rate of oil and gas using wellhead data

Ehsan Khamehchi<sup>1</sup> · Mohammad Zolfagharroshan<sup>1</sup> · Mohammad Reza Mahdiani<sup>1</sup>

Received: 25 January 2020 / Accepted: 28 April 2020 / Published online: 6 May 2020 © The Author(s) 2020

#### Abstract

Flow rate prediction of multiphase flow in the oil and gas wellbores is more complicated than single-phase flow avoiding direct measurements such as using flowmeters or well logging. This study offers an approach to find the accurate two-phase flow rates, applicable in extensive cases of two-phase wells/pipelines. When in a production well, the wellhead data are accessible except for flow rate, and bottom hole conditions, computing the pressure and temperature profiles through the wellbore can be brought about by replacing different values for flow rates, and lead us to probable accurate answers. This aim can be achieved by hiring a heuristic solver to find the most accurate answers as quickly as possible. This approach is flexible and practical depending on the statement of the problem. So, in this study, it has been applied to some vertical twophase flow wells, which their well survey data was available to avoid future loggings, the wells modeled. Two models were developed, where each one predicted the flow rate by an error of less than 2%. Considering the final results for vertical wells, in this study, the model in which a mechanistic method for predicting pressure gradient applied in proposed compared with experiment-based methods.

Keywords Two-phase flow · Pressure gradient · Temperature gradient

l ict	٥f	svm	ho	lc
LISU	UI.	Sylli	DU	IS.

<i>P</i> , <i>p</i>	Pressure
L	Length
$\frac{\partial P}{\partial L}$	Pressure gradient
$\overset{\scriptscriptstyle \partial L}{H}$	Enthalpy
J, j	Mechanical energy coefficient due to the heat
	balance of the system
$v_{\rm m}, v_{\rm sg}$	Mixture velocity and superficial gas velocity
Т	Temperature
T <sub>s</sub>	Surrounding temperature
D	Diameter
U	Overall heat transfer coefficient
'n	Mass flow rate
$r_{\rm ci}, r_{\rm co}, r_{\rm wb}$	The inner radius of the casing, the outer
	radius of casing and wellbore radius
	respectively
K <sub>B</sub>	Boltzmann constant
K <sub>c</sub>	The conductivity of casing material
K <sub>cem</sub>	Conductivity of cement

🖂 Ehsan Khamehchi Khamehchi@aut.ac.ir

1 Department of Petroleum Engineering, Amirkabir University of Technology, Hafez Ave, Tehran, Iran

$K_{\rm sp}$	Solubility product
$K_{\rm st}^{\rm r}$	Mass-action stability constant
K <sub>t</sub>	Mass transfer coefficient
h <sub>c</sub>	Convective heat transfer coefficient of fluid
<i>g</i> , <i>g</i> <sub>c</sub>	Gravitational acceleration
и	Internal energy
<i>V</i> , <i>v</i>	Velocity
q	Heat
$\phi,  heta$	Angle
ρ	Density

#### Abbreviations

AI	Artificial intelligence
ANN	Artificial neural network
GA	Genetic algorithm

## Introduction

Accurate rate estimation of two-phase flow wells is one of the crucial concerns of petroleum engineers. Mostly, direct rate measurement of every single well is not possible because the fluid content of several wells is often mixed at the manifolds or even well survey in this purpose is costly and time-consuming (Mahdiani and Khamehchi 2016).



Therefore, several approaches are developed to avoid well surveys to estimate wellbore conditions precisely. Some of them are rule-based like the study Kabir et al. (2008) and Izgec et al. (2010), which used wellhead pressure and wellhead temperature data, and Hasan and Kabir (2010) or Zolfagharroshan and Khamehchi (2020), which provided methods to model two-phase flow wells. In contrast, some developed models need special tools like Ouyang and Belanger (2004), which are out the scope of this study.

So, there are numerous studies on the ways to model pressure and temperature traverse in two-phase flow wells. Computer-based models have been extensively used over the past few years. For example, applying artificial intelligence tools like genetic programming, artificial neural network, etc., on big data sets led to strong models, which simulate production conditions like Wang et al. (2016), Pouryoussefi and Zhang (2015) or Alizadehdakhel et al. (2009).

There are also earlier methods which are usually the base of the recent studies, such as all the methods provided for pressure gradient calculations and flow pattern recognition in previous two-phase flow research. Duns and Ros (1963), Beggs and Brill (1973), Mukherjee and Brill (1985), Ansari et al. (1994), Petalas and Aziz (2000) introduced a variety of models in the description of different two-phase using different assumptions and based on experimental and mechanistic approaches. As an example, especially for temperature, Hasan et al. (2002) extensively explained temperature changes in two-phase flow in petroleum wellbores by solving the general equation of energy conservation. In the latter approaches, mostly the pressure or temperature was assumed to be available to compute another parameter; so, they may do not work when both pressure and temperature are unknown or in the two-phase flow cases. Another hypothesis or challenge in this study is the unknown oil and gas flow rates flowing in the wellbore.

In the present paper, the primary purpose is introducing a general model to forecast two-phase, oil and gas, flow rates in wells where the bottom hole conditions are unknown. In this way, an algorithm which is applicable in two-phase flow modeling in pipeline/wellbore proposed by Beggs and Brill (Shoham 2005) is combined with one of the most powerful artificial intelligence methods to solve the problem.

The novel proposed approach does not rely on just AI methods such as a major part of previous studies, and in the introduced methodology, a procedure is considered in which the flow parameters are considered such as flow pattern and liquid holdup, which probably were poorly discussed in the case of the simulations just based on the data points where the AI methods are used solely. Another feature of the proposed method is that the user will be needless to do a well survey, which is not desirable as the well has to shut in, so there will not be a need for specific tools or even experts to run wire-line tools. The validity of the model is examined by



carrying out several analyses and using different data from other wells, except the presented case study, in which all the producing wells had established survey reports, previously. The proposed algorithm is flexible, and most parts of it can be replaced with other correlations, and equations or another AI solver, regarding the statement of the problem, which is explained in the following.

#### Two-phase flow and heat transfer in well/ pipeline

When two-phase flow exists in a pipeline, due to the differences in density and shear stresses, the phases tend to move separately. Generally, as the pressure decreases, the flowing fluid expands, and light components are extracted from the liquid phase, and the flow velocity increases. This issue makes analyzing two-phase flow more complex.

Several factors appear in various flow patterns in wells like buoyancy force, inertia, interfacial tension, rate of fluids, diameter, and angle of the pipe and fluid properties.

Solving the mass and momentum conservation equations for a control volume provides the equation of pressure gradient of single-phase flow. The equation for two-phase flow is the same, and the total pressure gradient of twophase streams is the summation of hydrostatic, frictional and kinetic terms as given in the following equation (Shoham 2005).

$$\left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial L}\right)_{t} = \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial L}\right)_{f} + \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial L}\right)_{el} + \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial L}\right)_{acc}$$
(1)

where the kinetic term is usually small and is ignored (Watson 2016), and the hydrostatic term is proportional to the average mixture density; it is the dominated term in vertical flow.

There are lots of models to describe the pressure gradient of two-phase flow, as mentioned in the introduction. These models are usually classified into three groups; earlier methods such as Poettman and Carpenter (1952), Baxendell and Thomas (1961), and Fancher and Brown (1962); they used more straightforward assumptions as their models did not consider flow pattern and slippage. Second group considers just slippage, like Hagedorn and Brown (1965), and the last group regards both and usually are more complicated than first two groups, which nowadays have more applications due to more strong simulations. They are numerous, like the ones presented in the introduction.

As the third group acts more precisely, some more common methods in the petroleum industry are selected from this category depending on the assumptions. Finally, Mukherjee and Brill (1985) and Ansari et al.'s (1994) models are picked. The first one is highly used in deviated pipes, and the second one is a comprehensive model to determine the pressure gradient of vertical upward two-phase flow. The methods are mainly different in liquid holdup calculation and flow pattern determination (Shoham 2005).

Other methods are rejected in the first evaluation stage of this study, as some were suitable in horizontal flow modeling like Beggs and Brill (1973) and some developed for downward flows. Among the rest of the methods, by calculating pressure assuming constant temperature, the Mukherjee and Brill (1985) and Ansari et al.'s (1994) models had the closest results to the previous well survey, comparing relative errors. The first evaluation results are presented here. As it is said, if the case changed, for example, the flow is horizontal, the user can apply all the models in the algorithm, and also, there might not be a previous well survey data available.

Another process occurring during production in a well is the heat loss, which affects the fluid properties and phases ratios. The reasons for this issue are heat transfer between the fluid and surroundings, phase alteration, and changes in the acceleration of the flowing fluid. Flowing heat passes through the shown elements, as in Fig. 1 (Hasan et al. 2002).

Beggs and Brill presented an approach in which pressure and temperature profiles through a pipe segment can be computed. This approach is shown in Fig. 2 (Mokhatab and Vatani 2005).

Pressure gradient model, flash calculations, and the changes in enthalpy are particular items. The selection of pressure drop methods is explained previously and the fluid properties used methods presented in Table 1. There are several developed equations for fluid properties, but selected methods are valid in the ranges of API, gas gravity, and temperature ranges. They may vary for different oils and gases with different properties.

By using the general equation of energy, changes in enthalpy are calculated as Eq. 2. The derivation of this equation is presented in "Appendix 1."

$$\Delta H = \left(\frac{-v_{\rm m} \cdot v_{\rm sg}}{j}\right) \frac{\Delta P}{P} - \left(\frac{g}{j}\right) \Delta z - \frac{U(\pi D)L}{\dot{m}} \left(\overline{T} - \overline{T_{\rm s}}\right)$$
(2)

where  $V_{\rm m}$  and  $V_{\rm sg}$  in (m/s) are mixture velocity and superficial gas velocity, *j* in (Nm/J) is the mechanical energy coefficient due to heat balance of the system,  $\Delta P$  in (Pa) the pressure changes for the length of *L*,  $\Delta z$  in (m) the elevation, *U* in (W/m<sup>2</sup> K) the overall heat transfer coefficient, *D* in (m) the diameter,  $\dot{m}$  in (kg/s) the mass flow rate and  $\overline{T}$ ,  $\overline{T_{\rm s}}$  in (K) are temperatures of the fluid and surrounding (Mokhatab and Vatani 2005).

Based on steady-state heat transfer, Hassan and Kabir derived the below expression for the overall heat transfer coefficient corresponding to Fig. 1:

$$\frac{1}{U} = \frac{r_{\rm co}}{r_{\rm ci}h_{\rm c}} + \frac{r_{\rm co}\ln\left(\frac{r_{\rm co}}{r_{\rm ci}}\right)}{k_{\rm c}} + \frac{r_{\rm to}\ln\left(\frac{r_{\rm wb}}{r_{\rm co}}\right)}{k_{\rm cem}}$$
(3)

Thus, to achieve the best description of the two-phase flow behavior in a well/pipeline, there have to be some exact predictions of thermodynamic characteristics of the flowing fluid. In this manner, lots of studies provided the models to determine pressure and temperature in some cases separately, and in others when they are simultaneously unknown (Hasan et al. 2002).



مدينة الملك عبدالعزيز 🖄 مدينة الملك عبدالعزيز KACST للعلوم والتقنية





Fig. 2 Beggs and Brill flowchart in the pipeline for predicting thermodynamic properties of fluid flow (Mokhatab and Vatani 2005)

 Table 1
 Physical properties correlations used in both models, suitable for producing oil and gas regarding operational conditions

Parameter	Correlation
R <sub>s</sub>	Standing
FVF	Standing and Vasquez-Beggs
Oil density	Standing
Oil viscosity	Beggs-Robinson and Vasquez-Beggs
Gas viscosity	Lee–Gonzalez–Eakin
Pseudo critical properties	Standing

#### Genetic algorithm (GA)

The genetic algorithm (GA) is developed by John Holland (1970) and based on biological evolution. The main application of this approach is in discrete optimization. One of the most important benefits of this approach compared with others like artificial neural networks is that GA models are meaningful and can be interpreted (Weise 2009).

The GA can be used for solving problems that require significant investigations or ones with complicated assumptions. It can also be hired when the components suffer ambiguous effects. Other applications of GA include optimization, automatic programming, machine learning, economics, operations research, and ecology, studies of evolution and learning, and social systems (Stoisits et al. 2001; Khamehchi and Mahdiani 2017).



As we needed a tool to couple with the algorithm shown in Fig. 2, we used GA to substitute different flow rates as possible answers and minimize the error, which is introduced in Sect. 4. The characteristics of GA is attained by analyzing several runs of the program, which satisfied the condition of minimum error and also the less run-time.

#### Theory/calculation

The algorithm presented in Fig. 2 is applicable even in the case pressure, and temperatures are unknowns. Other parameters are given like flow rates and pipe geometry by a trial and error approach. As explained before, the flow rates in this study are considered unknown, which can take place in the production phases, so the GA is added to the algorithm to estimate them by working on oil and gas rates, which follows a smart and trainable trend toward the answers. In this way, it uses the wellhead pressure and temperature to validate the accuracy of the flow rates.

After finding the probable answers with the least value of error, pressure, and temperature profiles computed from bottom hole to surface, and compared to recorded wellhead data plotted. The main algorithm, combining all explanations and Eq. 4, presented in Fig. 3.

This error is defined by Eq. 4:

$$\operatorname{Error} = \frac{\left|P_{\operatorname{est}} - P_{\operatorname{wh}}\right|}{P_{\operatorname{wh}}} + \frac{\left|T_{\operatorname{est}} - T_{\operatorname{wh}}\right|}{T_{\operatorname{wh}}}$$
(4)



In the above formula, "wh" and "est" indices refer to the wellhead and estimated values of pressure and temperature, respectively. GA tests a wide range of answers for flow rates; then, the calculations will improve in the entire well, until the error minimized. There has to be the first approximate



pressure and temperature gradients to start the whole calculations. The properties of simulated well, well DQ11, and producing reservoir characteristics are listed in Tables 2 and 3.

The downhole equipment and completion data of this well is presented in Tables 4 and 5, and lastly, Table 6 expresses the properties of GA required for training a model.

 Table 2
 Properties of producing fluids of the well DQ11, recorded in the wellhead

Parameters	Quantity		
Producing gas oil ratio	306.5 Standard cubic meter/standard cubic meter		
Oil gravity (API)	33.71		
Gas specific gravity	0.83		
Water salinity	99,113 PPM		
Percent of CO <sub>2</sub>	3.61		
Percent of N <sub>2</sub>	0.02		
Percent of H <sub>2</sub> S	0.67		
Well type	Vertical		
The inner diameter of the tubing	0.0972 m		
Oil C <sub>p</sub>	2219.003 J/(kg C)		
Gas $C_{\rm p}$	2135.267 J/(kg C)		
Water C <sub>p</sub>	4186.798 J/(kg C)		

 Table 3
 Reservoir data of the well DQ11

Parameter	Values
Formation PI (m <sup>3</sup> /(kPa day))	0.7193
Absolute open flow (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	0.1211
Reservoir pressure (MPa)	59.2260
Reservoir temperature (°C)	146.111
Water cut	5%
Total GOR (standard cubic meter/standard cubic meter)	1721

Table 4 Downhole equipment of well DQ11

Type Measured depth (m)		Inside diameter (m)	Roughness (m)	
Xmas tree	7.64	_		
Tubing	45.62	0.1143	1.5240e-05	
SSSV	_	0.1095	-	
Tubing	3797.1	0.0972	1.5240e-05	
Restriction	_	0.0937	-	
Tubing	4114	0.0972	1.5240e-05	
Casing	4355	0.0972	1.5240e-05	



#### **Results and discussion**

Firstly, fluids and well geometry properties and two approximations of pressure and temperature gradient are read by program as inputs, and the program starts searching flow rates. Pressure–temperature calculations to surface starts, and when the value of error becomes minimized, the program will stop.

Before running the model, two separate ranges for flow rates are considered as the searching areas of answers. The latest action is because of less time spent to find the results, and also to avoid inappropriate and false answers

 Table 5
 completion data of the well DQ11

Fluid	Oil, gas, and water		
Separator	Two-stage		
Emulsions and hydrates	No		
Flow type	Tubing		
Well type	Producer		
Artificial lift	None		
Completion	Open hole		
Sand control	None		
Gas conning	No		
Inflow type	One hole		

Table 6 Properties of the GA in MATLAB toolbox for the well DQ11

Parameters	Quantity/kind
Population type	Double vector
Population size	8
Creation function	Constraint dependent
Scaling function	Rank
Selection	Stochastic uniform
Elite count	Population size * 0.05
Crossover fraction	0.08
Mutation function	Constraint dependent
Crossover function	Constraint dependent
Direction	Forward
Migration fraction	0.2
Migration interval	20
Hybrid function	None
Nonlinear constraint algorithm	Augmented Lagrangian
Initial penalty	10
Penalty factor	100
Stopping criteria	Tolerance
Stall generations	50
Stall test	Average change
Function tolerance	1e-6
Constraint tolerance	1e-3

which satisfy the stopping criteria when you have a sense about the range of answers. At the end, when estimated flow rates are reported, all physical and thermodynamic properties of the flow are plotted.

There are two different pressure gradient methods applied in this study, and as pressure gradient calculation approaches are usually different in determining liquid holdup, they have different outputs. The validation of methods is carried out by comparing previous well surveys in this case. Still, as it is said before, the main aim of this study is to avoid a well survey, so this evaluation is for future applications of this model. There has to be emphasis that several analyses have been carried out on the introduced well in this study, to find the appropriate parameters of GA like population, and then, to ensure that the algorithm works properly, at least three series of runs is applied on the DQ11, and the profiles presented in Figs. 4 and 5 are plotted as the outputs of generations versus error. The trends in the two figures, as mentioned earlier, move toward the stopping criteria or accurate answers. This analysis is done also on two other wells in a different field. Still, almost the same fluids properties,

which their well surveys were also available, and the results reported briefly in "Appendix 2."

In the best fit on the well DQ11, for the first model in which Mukherjee and Brill pressure gradient method is used, the oil and gas rates were 713.0045 m<sup>3</sup>/day and 216,910 m<sup>3</sup>/day, respectively. The defined error as Eq. 4, for this model, was 1.5%. In the second model in which the Ansari et al.'s approach is used in predicting pressure, the results were 706.9661 m<sup>3</sup>/day for oil and 2,168,900 m<sup>3</sup>/day for gas, by the defined error term of 0.8%. The real recorded rates were 708.0785 m<sup>3</sup>/day and 217,030 m<sup>3</sup>/day for oil and gas, respectively. The stopping criteria is defined in Eq. 4. The above analysis is based on the more repetitive value of error attained form several programs run.

In an investigation, another analysis was done on some adjustable input parameters. The length of segments is changed in predicting flow rate to monitor the effect of segment length on the prediction of liquid holdup and was compared to the actual liquid holdup. As expected from the previous analysis, the second model had a more precise estimation, as it directly affects the pressure gradient, as most of

**Fig. 4** The number of generations versus error, based on the developed algorithm in Fig. 3, for the first model which uses Mukherjee and Brill models for pressure gradient calculations to find the flow rates for the well DQ11. The results of other runs are also plotted





مدينة الملك عبدالعزيز 🖄 KACST للعلوم والتقنية KACST

Second Model Generations

**Fig. 5** The number of generations versus error, based on the developed algorithm in Fig. 3, for the second model, which uses Ansari et al.'s models for pressure gradient calculations to find the flow rates for the well DQ11. The results of other runs are also plotted

the pressure drop is due to elevation and mixture density. So, the main origin of the difference in the predicted flow rates is the difference in predicting liquid holdups. By increasing segment length in calculations of PVT, more errors appear, as expected. The results are presented in Fig. 6.

Plotted pressure and temperature graphs in Figs. 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 are based on the estimated flow rates by the two models mentioned above by negligible differences regarding operational conditions. The variation is more obvious in estimated pressures, as formerly discussed, but the differences in predicted temperatures are less compared

with pressure; this can be because of the smaller values of a thermal gradient, which made the changes minor.

Overall, the first model overestimated the pressure points. In contrast, the second one underestimated it, but considering the error value, the second model is a more reliable model, which predicts a more exact flow rate. However, the trends show that the prediction becomes less accurate in the latest segments toward wellhead, which is most obvious in pressure curves. As an optimization operator is already hired in this algorithm, dedicating more time to run further might be near at hand solution, but giving too much time



**Fig. 6** Estimated liquid holdup by presented models and also, the holdup calculated based on real quantities of the oil and gas flow rate in well DQ11

**Fig. 7** The estimated and real pressure profiles of the well DQ1 during production condition, by the first model in bottom hole and toward the surface







**Fig. 9** The estimated and real pressure profiles of the well during production condition, by the first model in the upper part of the well

to the heuristic solvers usually does not return significantly better answers.

### Conclusions

In this paper, a novel manner is applicable in estimating the flow rate of each single vertical petroleum well producing two-phase oil and gas where the downhole conditions are unspecified, which is the most important feature of the recommended approach compared with previous studies.

Generally, most of the simulators require more operational parameters to run, which might not be available in operational conditions, so the introduced method works with the least available parameters, consisting wellhead pressure and temperature, well geometry, and specific gravities of fluids.

All the adjustable elements of the algorithm were selected for simulating a vertical two-phase flow well, and from two applied models on modeling the wellbore, the one in which pressure gradient method developed based on mechanistic approach predicted the flow rates and then the thermodynamic characteristics of the producing well better than the one whose approach in forecasting flow patterns and pressure gradient was by the experimental investigations. Regarding the statement of the problem, the user can develop







a variety of models, and after validating the aid of previously reported data or whether it were possible by experimental work, it would be reliable to use in operational cases.

**Open Access** This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License, which permits use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons licence, and indicate if changes were made. The images or other third party material in this article are included in the article's Creative Commons licence, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the article's Creative Commons licence and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder. To view a copy of this licence, visit http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/.



#### Appendices

#### Appendix 1: Derivation of enthalpy changes equation from conservation of energy in two-phase flow pipeline

Due to describing two-phase flow behavior, conservation equations have to be solved; so, to find out the quantity of energy loss or how temperature changes, the differential form of energy equation has to be considered for the fluid in the pipeline where the fluid does not do any work. Also, no work is done on the fluid, in the form of Eq. (5).





Estimated Temperature

$$du + d\left(\frac{p}{\rho}\right) + \frac{vdv}{g_c} + \left(\frac{g}{g_c}\right)dz + dq = 0$$
<sup>(5)</sup>

The above equation has to be written in terms of the thermal balance equation; hence, the definition of fluid specific enthalpy (per unit of mass) is used, which is expressed in Eq. (6).

$$h = u + \left(\frac{p}{\rho}\right) \tag{6}$$

Combining Eqs. (5), (6), and considering the mechanical constant of mechanical energy, j, the differential equation of the thermal balance of the system would be as Eq. (7).

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}h}{\mathrm{d}L} = -\frac{v\mathrm{d}v}{jg_{\mathrm{c}}\mathrm{d}L} - \left(\frac{g}{jg_{\mathrm{c}}}\right)\sin\theta - \frac{\mathrm{d}q}{\mathrm{d}L} \tag{7}$$

where L and  $\theta$  are length and angle of the pipe about the horizon, respectively.

The aid of the equation below calculates heat loss of fluid (per length unit),

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}q}{\mathrm{d}L} = \frac{U(\pi D)}{\dot{m}} \left(\overline{T} - \overline{T}_{\mathrm{s}}\right) \tag{8}$$

Considering  $dz = dL \cdot Sin\theta$ , combining Eqs. (7), (8), and integrating, Eq. (9) is derived.

$$\Delta H = \left(\frac{-v^2}{2j \cdot g_{\rm c}}\right) - \left(\frac{g}{j \cdot g_{\rm c}}\right) \Delta z - \frac{U(\pi D)L}{\dot{m}} \left(\overline{T} - \overline{T_{\rm s}}\right) \tag{9}$$

The first term in the right-hand side of Eq. (9) is the changes in fluid energy due to kinetic energy and is more important in the cases where the fluid is compressible, and

it flows in low pressures. To add two-phase flow parameters in this equation, the general definition of acceleration term in the equation of mechanical energy balance, Eq. (9), can be used in the form of the following equation.

$$\frac{1}{\rho} \left( \frac{\mathrm{d}P}{\mathrm{d}L} \right)_{\mathrm{acc}} = \frac{v \mathrm{d}v}{g_{\mathrm{c}} \cdot \mathrm{d}L} \tag{10}$$

Beggs and Brill equation for pressure drop caused by the acceleration or the kinetic terms is as Eq. (11).

$$\frac{1}{\rho} \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}P}{\mathrm{d}L}\right)_{\mathrm{acc}} = \left(\frac{v_{\mathrm{m}}v_{\mathrm{sg}}}{g_{\mathrm{c}} \cdot P}\right) \frac{\mathrm{d}P}{\mathrm{d}L} \tag{11}$$

Considering Eqs. (10) and (11), gives Eq. (12).

$$\frac{v dv}{g_{\rm c} \cdot dL} = \left(\frac{v_{\rm m} v_{\rm sg}}{g_{\rm c} \cdot dL}\right) \frac{dP}{P}$$
(12)

Finally, by incorporating Eqs. (9) and (12), the integrated equation of fluid thermal balance can be written as Eq. (13) (Mokhatab and Vatani 2005).

 Table 7
 Reservoir properties of wells number 2 and 3

Parameter	Well No.2	Well No.3	
Formation PI (m <sup>3</sup> /(kPa day))	0.8244	0.8763	
Absolute open flow (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	0.1520	0.1407	
Reservoir pressure (MPa)	55.8820	53.9997	
Reservoir temperature (°C)	142.222	134.444	
Water cut	7%	3%	
Total GOR (standard cubic meter/ standard cubic meter)	1654	1687	



$$\Delta H = \left(\frac{-V_{\rm m} \cdot V_{\rm sg}}{j \cdot g_{\rm c}}\right) \frac{\Delta P}{P} - \left(\frac{g}{j \cdot g_{\rm c}}\right) \Delta z - \frac{U(\pi D)L}{\dot{m}} \left(\overline{T} - \overline{T_{\rm s}}\right)$$
(13)

# Appendix 2: The brief results of applying the algorithm on two other available wells

The properties of the productive reservoir of the wells listed in Table 7.

**Fig. 13** The number of generations versus error, based on the developed algorithm in Fig. 3, for the well No.2. The results are plotted for the first and second models presented in this study

Fig. 14 The number of genera-

tions versus error, based on the

developed algorithm in Fig. 3,

for the well No.3. The results are plotted for the first and

study

second models presented in this



Second Model First Model

 Table 8
 Results of the two models for wells No.2 and No.3

Model	First model	First model			Second model			
	Second well		Third well		Second well		Third well	
	Estimated	Real	Estimated	Real	Estimated	Real	Estimated	Real
Oil rate (m <sup>3</sup> /D)	778.6321	777.043	828.0513	826.3034	775.2951	777.043	824.8733	826.3034
Gas rate (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	228,846.3	22,8892.1	248,194.5	24,8258.9	228,946.6	22,8892.1	248,275.8	24,8258.9



The results of generations versus error plotted in Figs. 13 and 14 for wells No.2 and No.3, using both models presented in this essay. Both figures illustrate the number of generations which took to achieve the best answer with the least error for two other wells. Where there was not a negligible change in error values, the searching process for oil and gas flow rates stopped.

In the final results, the outputs of the program for flow rates versus real flow rates are summarized in Table 8.

#### References

- Alizadehdakhel A, Rahimi M, Sanjari J, Alsairafi AA (2009) CFD and artificial neural network modeling of two-phase flow pressure drop. Int Commun Heat Mass Transf 36(8):850–856
- Ansari AM, Sylvester ND, Sarica C, Shoham O, Brill JP (1994) A comprehensive mechanistic model for upward two-phase flow in wellbores. In: SPE Prod
- Baxendell PB, Thomas R (1961) The calculation of pressure gradients in high-rate flowing wells. J Pet Technol 13(10):1–023
- Beggs DH, Brill JP (1973) A study of two-phase flow in inclined pipes. J Pet Technol 25(05):607–617
- Duns H Jr, Ros NCJ (1963) Vertical flow of gas and liquid mixtures in wells. In: The 6th world petroleum congress. World petroleum congress
- Fancher GH Jr, Brown KE (1962) Prediction of pressure gradients for multiphase flow in the tubing. In: Fall meeting of the society of petroleum engineers of AIME. Society of Petroleum Engineers
- Hagedorn AR, Brown KE (1965) Experimental study of pressure gradients occurring during continuous two-phase flow in smalldiameter vertical conduits. J Pet Technol 17(04):475–484
- Hasan AR, Kabir CS (2010) Modeling two-phase fluid and heat flow in geothermal wells. J Pet Sci Eng 71(1–2):77–86
- Hasan AR, Kabir CS, Sarica C (2002) Fluid flow and heat transfer in wellbores. Society of Petroleum Engineers, Richardson, TX, pp 23–46
- Izgec B, Hasan AR, Lin D, Kabir CS (2010) Flow-rate estimation from wellhead-pressure and-temperature data. SPE Prod Oper 25(01):31–39
- Kabir CS, Izgec B, Hasan AR, Wang X, Lee J (2008) Real-time estimation of total flow rate and flow profiling in dts-instrumented wells. In: The international petroleum technology conference
- Khamehchi E, Mahdiani MR (2017) Optimization algorithms. In: Khamehchi E, Mahdiani MR (eds) Gas allocation optimization methods in artificial gas lift. Springer, Cham, pp 35–46
- Mahdiani MR, Khamehchi E (2016) A modified neural network model for predicting the crude oil price. Intellect Econ 10(2):71–77

- Mokhatab S, Vatani A (2005) Principles of hydraulic design of twophase flow transmission pipelines. University of Tehran Publications, Tehran
- Mukherjee H, Brill JP (1985) Empirical equations to predict flow patterns in two-phase inclined flow. Int J Multiph Flow 11(3):299–315
- Ouyang LB, Belanger D (2004) Flow profiling via a distributed temperature sensor (DTS) system-expectation and reality. In: SPE annual technical conference and exhibition. Society of Petroleum Engineers
- Petalas N, Aziz K (2000) A mechanistic model for multiphase flow in pipes. J Can Pet Technol 39(06):43–55
- Poettman FH, Carpenter PG (1952) The multiphase flow of gas, oil, and water through vertical flow strings with application to the design of gas-lift installations. In: Drilling and production practice. American Petroleum Institute
- Pouryoussefi SM, Zhang Y (2015) Identification of two-phase waterairflow patterns in a vertical pipe using fuzzy logic and genetic algorithm. Appl Therm Eng 85:195–206
- Shoham O (2005) Mechanistic modeling of gas/liquid two-phase flow in pipes. SPE, Dallas, pp 240–250
- Stoisits RF, Crawford KD, MacAllister DJ, McCormack MD (2001) U.S. Patent No. 6,236,894. U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington
- Wang L, Liu J, Yan Y, Wang X, Wang T (2016) Gas-liquid two-phase flow measurement using Coriolis flow meters incorporating artificial neural network, support vector machine, and genetic programming algorithms. IEEE Trans Instrum Meas 66(5):852–868
- Watson A (2016) Geothermal engineering. Springer, New York
- Weise T (2009) Global optimization algorithms-theory and application. Self-Published Thomas Weise
- Zolfagharroshan M, Khamehchi E (2020) A rigorous approach to scale formation and deposition modeling in geothermal wellbores. Geothermics 87:101841

**Publisher's Note** Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

