



GLOBAL JOURNAL OF RESEARCHES IN ENGINEERING: A  
MECHANICAL AND MECHANICS ENGINEERING  
Volume 23 Issue 2 Version 1.0 Year 2023  
Type: Double Blind Peer Reviewed International Research Journal  
Publisher: Global Journals  
Online ISSN: 2249-4596 & Print ISSN: 0975-5861

# Tilt & Swivel Vertical Axis Wind Turbine for High Speed Regions on or Off Shore. Model Rotor(s) Experiments Lead as Instructive Scaffold to the Prototype

By V. Githaguru

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**GJRE-A Classification:** LCC: TJ 828.T55



*Strictly as per the compliance and regulations of:*



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Heralding of this new design and the realization of its prototype is the outcome of this experimental study presented herewith. In the offshore installation, if the generator and counter weight assembly is to operate under water, then the buoyancy and fluid damping effects merit consideration. In essence, let the tons of steel, wood and all that, harness the high wind in such ease and grace; appearing as if the daffodils toss and turn in the breeze!

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Horizontal Axis wind Turbines (HAWT) have been popular for large scale power generation right from the beginning. Favourable turbulence intensity and higher wind velocities over the sea, encourages offshore wind farms as well [1], [4]. However, several practical issues such as wing production of airfoil blade type, logistic and assembling difficulties should also be addressed along with the impact on environment and economy [1]. Since the


stiffness is not increased proportionately, as the wind turbines grow in size, the big structures become severely dynamical sensitive. Nonlinear systems may experience almost periodic and even chaotic response[1]. The cantilevered blades with its considerable tip displacements, sometimes fouling against the tower and the nearly solid disc-like high speed rotors taking head on the high wind as thrust load on tower, are the major vulnerabilities of the HAWT. Particularly the blade hitting the tower is the notorious self destruction. And due to the heavy wake rotation issues, the spacing between the turbines has to be more, resulting in larger farm area for the same power capacity[1].

In the aforesaid (HAWT) uncomfortable background, the vertical Axis Wind Turbine (VAWT) is considered as an alternate candidate especially in the highwind conditions, of course with crucial design changes. It will not certainly be as fast and fiercely efficient as the HAWT; it need not! But with its moderate speed, medium efficiency and rigidly closed shell-like rotor geometry, it can maneuver through the torrential wind currents, safely and easily!. Also the present design strategy can lend the rotor to rock and roll in the turbulent wind and find its own stable rhythm, to sustain and operate continuously[2]. With minimal effort of installation and maintenance, also by working in the high wind for a long duration, Tilt & Swivel type turbine can become a winner in its own right. As for its safety beyond the cut-out wind speed, the rotor may degenerate into either an idle spinner saving the blades by centrifugal stiffening, or can get stopped by brake and become just a drag chute in the wind current. Cantilever blades accidently dashing against the tower just does not exist here at all! Also the blades of the present turbine is of symmetric airfoil; hence economical in the case of any replacement, if it arises.

### a) Physical Experiments, An Overview: Exp (1) Mini Rotor(s) Spin, Tilt and Oscillate

Mini model rotors of Savonius, Darrieus and Gyromill types, of average 0.23m<sup>2</sup> size and about 3 kg mass are chosen for the trials. They are cantilever axle supported, with pivot and collar bearing rotors, freely

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 Publishing of this research (a decade old) due to its growing relevance globally and hence terming it as "Rubric report 2023" is explained as an attachment.

spinning and orbitally oscillating “top-alikes” in the horizontal air flow. The vertical axis of the rotor (12mm dia steel rod of 1.5m length) with its free top-end, is able to rock over the horizontal fulcrum-bar, located at the lower end. The tilt angle of the rotor is proportional to the wind velocity; apart from the tilt, it also oscillates orbitally with a cone angle. Model rotor is kept upright with suitable counter weight at the opposite end of the axle, it also governs the tilt angle along with the wind velocity. The counter weight is about 5 kg dead weight. The turnnion rolls in two simple caller bearings mounted on the high pedestal structure. An electric fan blower is the source of wind flow, locating the models at desired wind flow potential depends directly proportional to its distance from the fan. For each rotor, after it has been self-started or kick-started and reached a steady state, the following data are noted down. The tilt angle of the axle from the vertical, rotors spin rate in r.p.m and the concomitant orbital oscillation rate in c.p.m. The oscillation is just an artifact of projecting the three dimensional trajectory onto the two dimensional visual plane. This experiment was repeated for different orientation of the fulcrum-bar. That is 0, 90 and 45 degrees w.r.t. the horizontal wind direction. As expected, the 90 degree position allows the rotors to gain maximum tilt angle and settle in there, for smooth operations with minimum vibration. The twin needs of the axle's tilt as well as swivel freedom became evident.

#### b) Exp(2) Tilting Vertical Axis Rotors on Load Test

Next, two bigger rotors of cantilevered-sleeve types: one Gyromill type and the other modified Darrius type were fabricated and tested in the open air flow field. Electric fan blower is the source of flow, small dynamo meant for bicycle was the token load on the rotor. Both the rotors demonstrated satisfactorily; they are fully tiltable vertical axis types, sans swivel freedom.

#### c) Exp(3) Swivel Plus Tilting Rotor on Load Test

Finally, the turbine-to-be was provided with the swivel bearing as well. The fulcrum-bar swivels with support-wheels which were directly mounted and guided on a circular rail, integral with the pedestal structure. Modified Durries type of medium size rotor was preferred of all the three rotor types. This specially fabricated rotor had its vertical axle changed into a rotating shaft, to check the rotor's behavior. During performance, the tilt rotor aligning automatically to the changing wind direction was witnessed; hence the need for swiveling stands vindicated. In this experiment also, the electric fan blower is the flow source and the bicycle dynamo acted as the token load on the rotor.

## II. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

#### a) Tilting Mini Rotors on Spinning Spree!

Figures 2.5/pp12, 2.7/pp14 and 2.9/pp16 of the guided project [3] are the photos of the tilt type vertical

axis mini rotors. These three model rotors were tested one at a time, positioned at 200 cms from the fan blower, in an open air flow of 10 m/s velocity. Figures 2.10/pp 17, and 2.27 & 2.28/pp 32, of the project [3] show the experimental set-up and the tilting angle of rotor axle ( $\psi$ ) for various fulcrum positions ( $\theta$ ) in degrees. Figures 4.2 and 4.3/pp 40 give ( $\psi$  Vs  $\theta$ ) and ( $\psi$  Vs  $\lambda$ ) T.SR –Tip speed ratio relations graphically, for all the rotors [3]. Due to no load, the rotors were on the spinning spree.

Taking as an example for Darrieus rotor: as the fulcrum orientation ' $\theta$ ' changes from 0 to 90 degrees, the tilt angle of the axis from the vertical increases from 10 to 39 degrees. Spin rate of rotor drops from 265 rpm to 218 rpm – down by 20% but the axle orbital oscillation goes up from 50 cpm to 99 cpm – up by 200%. Spin rate and orbital oscillation rate are universally related. This trend continued for all the three rotors. Rotational and orbital kinetic energy share is such that the whirling axle trajectory is comfortable with least action.

A point to note is that, the ( $\psi$ ) minimum of 10 degree is actually not the tilt of the axle; rather it is the cone angle of its whirling nutation. All the rotors prefer to gain maximum tilt possible, hence yearn for swiveling also. Orbital oscillation seemed either forward whirl or backward whirl, and also either periodic or chaotic. The Savonius rotor showed the least tip-speed ratio, of all the types of rotors tested.

#### b) Tilt only type Regular Rotor(s) on Load

**Bigger Rotors:** Darrieus (170cm x 100cm) with wooden core with FRP skin symmetric airfoil blades and Giromill (170 cm x 86cm) with symmetric airfoil blades of mild sheet, were fabricated. Both are cantilever supported, with pivot bearing and sleeve type rotors. The sleeve acts as the torque-tube and the blades are attached directly to it. Bicycle dynamo was to be the token load on the rotor. Photos in page 55 and page 56 of the guided project [5] show both the rotors, the square shaped pedestal structure of steel, dynamo, the gear wheel, and the fan blower in the far behind. Fulcrum round bar is positioned snugly and diagonally on to the square top of the pedestal structure. When the spinning rotor tended to tilt due to the wind thrust, as a gyroscopic reaction, the fulcrum-bar was thumping down one end and lifting up the other end alternatively. Flip-flopping the heavy rotor as if tossing a doll, was a wonderful phenomenon to watch and consolidate the learning of gyroscope in practical application. It reminded rotors for high wind up to 50 m/s [4] and their complex dynamics.

Graphs in page 44 and page 45 of the guided project [5] indicate the rotor(s) spin rate for three flow potentials with and without load. Darrieus rotor being bigger, both by size and inertia, its no-load steady state spin rate shows greater values of 100 to 80 rpm, whereas the Giromill shows values of 90 to 40 rpm.

Upon applying the load, spin rates of both rotors precipitously decline to nearly one fourth of their no-load values. During operation, both the rotors maintained upright position; with the axle oscillating cone angle was about 15 degrees. Graphs in page 47 and page 49 of the report [5] show the output voltage as the quality marker of the rotor performance; (that of the future turbine-to-be) which was satisfactory with about 12 to 16 volt.

#### c) *Tilt & Swivel Darrieus Rotor's Performance*

Figure 5/pp 10 of the guided project [6] shows the tilt plus swivel type vertical axis rotor set-up as a precursor to the new wind turbine. The fan blower, positioned in the far behind is visible. This medium sized, modified, Darrieus type is (67cm x 40cm) of two-bladed wooden rotor and with its steel vertical shaft weighing about 8 kg. It is kept up right by the counterbalanced dead weights of 20 kg, positioned below the fulcrum shaft. Figure 7/pp13 shows the details of swivel-base with circular-rail, and the guided support wheels of the fulcrum shaft. The rotor's token loading using the bicycle dynamo is also indicated. A brightly glowing 16 volt DC bulb is the indicator of performance. One crucial change is, the vertical axle has been changed to rotating shaft and fitted with two ball bearings to improve the spin rate of rotor. The top-end of the rotor continues with the pivot bearing, but the lower end is integrally fixed to the shaft by a base clamp plate.

The rotor is experimented for three flow potentials. Maximum r.p.m of 250 was reached on no-load. The data are presented as: (i) performance with load (ii) automatic tilt of axis in degrees (iii) swivel duration taken by the rotor for aligning with the changing wind direction. These have been shown respectively in graphs: (i) Figure 19/pp 32, (ii) Fig.21/pp 34 and (iii) Fig. 23/pp 36 of the guided project [6]. Despite the two-bladed, modified Darrieus rotor being used here for the simplification purpose, full scale design analysis for the prototype may favor a three-bladed rotor, also the one with troposkein shape. Upon pursuing, the geometrical solution of this dissipative nonlinear dynamical system would be a fascinating fractal composition in the phase-space with strange attractors amidst chaotic motions/trajectories.

#### i. *Instructive Scaffold to the Prototype*

This rudimentary experimental study, consisting of six primitive rotors, lasting for about sixty hours render certain qualitative insights about the tilt and swivel type vertical axis wind turbine, to harness high velocity winds, say up to 50 m/s [4].

Next is to go in for the prototype of the first generation: a virtual one leading to the optimally physical one, with the required design-life. Beyond the cut-out wind speed, the rotor's tilt angle may be large enough/say  $40^\circ$  causing the blade's stall condition,

leading to zero power output. Then the rotor either spins idly or by applying brakes, it just becomes a drag chute with zero spin. These options being configuration specific, have to be assessed using the virtual prototype with numerical modeling [7]. Probably, the results may favor a three-bladed Darrieus type rotor with its troposkein geometry, both from the structural and aerodynamic considerations. Avoidance of self-oscillation might be a crucial criterion for the overall stability aspects and control system for safe operation!

The cantilevered-sleeve type rotor, with the sleeve acting as a torque tube seems highly worthy of incorporating. Torque tube could be roomy enough to accommodate large bending deflection of the cantilever axle. The tilt plus swivel axle-turnnion-frame shall have the stability to maneuver the spin & whirl of the rotor and endure the fatigue load due to the turbulent wind. If needed, maximum tilt angle shall be constrained by tying the axle's lower tip, with a leash chain of fixed length anchored to the ground / zero point. The counter weight's bulk and leverage manipulation is one crucial aspect of the overall control system with feedback; its full potential may pave the way for the smoother and safe continuous turbine operation, as a dynamical navigation.

Mass and rotational inertia of the rotor, counter weight, fulcrum point of the vertical axis, maximum allowable tilt angle, elbow room for counter weight movement, within the pedestal structure, swivel bearing base circle diameter, its height from the ground level, and all such parameters are to be delicately balanced in the wind flow, to produce this turbine as a dynamic entity. Frustum of the cone-like shell frame is suitable for the pedestal support structure. The present swivel base may require a top retainer rail additionally and make a cage-type bearing. This helps to tackle gyroscopic reaction couples and extreme severe lift up the rotor, in the stormy and gusty winds up to 50 m/s; as if to pluck away the rotor!

As for safety, at the worst blades may buckle or break but never a towering inferno is waiting in the wing, as in the case of HAWT. Any newly designed turbine has to undergo meticulous laboratory and extensive field trials & fine tunings for its assessment. Taming this seemingly chaotic "spinning-top-alike" to deliver a regulated performance is both challenging and beautiful! Hence, these strategic observables, gleaned from the rudimentary experiments seem to render an instructive scaffold for realizing the successful prototype.

The artistic impression of this new version of turbine shown in the last page, kinematically resembles to fit in between the Lagrange-top and Kovalveskaya-top. This is just a coincidence and even if it is a pareidolia, to be in their rank is truly the windfall. May this device be blessed to identify its singularities and steer clear toward success.



### III. CONCLUSION

Harnessing through high winds up to large cut-out wind speed, with major safety and minimal maintenance, is the hallmark of the new Tilt & Swivel type vertical axis wind turbine T&S (VAWT). It is expected that loss of efficiency due to its tilting can be more than compensated by its prolonged working duration in high winds up to 50 m/s. Beyond the cut out speed for safety, the rotor can degenerate into a drag chute in the flow field, either with spin or no spin. At the worst, the blades may break or buckle, but can never cause self-destruction of the whole power plant, which is a strong plus point of this design.

Also, the Darrieus type three-bladed rotor with its troposkein geometry results in a light and strong shell structure, to freely spin, toss, and harness the high speed turbulent wind. For the offshore installation as mentioned earlier, the buoyancy and fluid damping effects have to be considered appropriately, with floating base option. This report is about qualitatively suggesting a pertinent design evolved experimentally, for a new turbine meant for high energy wind field. As touched upon in the introduction, there is no qualm in repeating that, this new device is visualized to perform more as a tossing and turning daffodil in the breeze, yet a flexible and tenacious prime mover generating power!

#### *Note on Author's Name*

Githaguru and Geethaguru both refer to the same author; phonetic identity triggers the variant spelling.

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## 2.3 TYPES OF ROTORS USED :

### 2.3.1 GIROMILL :



*Figure 2.5:* Experimental Setup With Giromill Rotor

### 3.2 SAVONIUS ROTOR:



*Figure 2.7:* Experimental Setup With Savonius Rotor

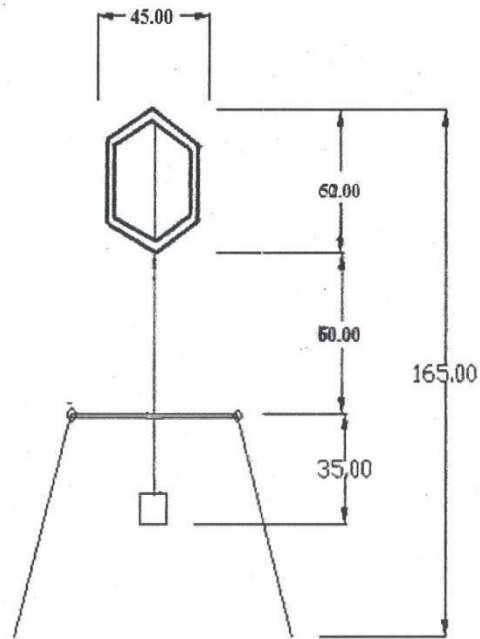
### .3 SIMPLIFIED DARRIEUS ROTOR:



*Figure 2.9:* Experimental Setup With Simplified Darrieus Rotor



### 2.3.3.1 SIMPLIFIED DARRIEUS ROTOR'S DIMENSIONS:



ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN cm

Figure 2.10: Rotor Dimensions (Simplified Darrieus)

**POSITION 2:**

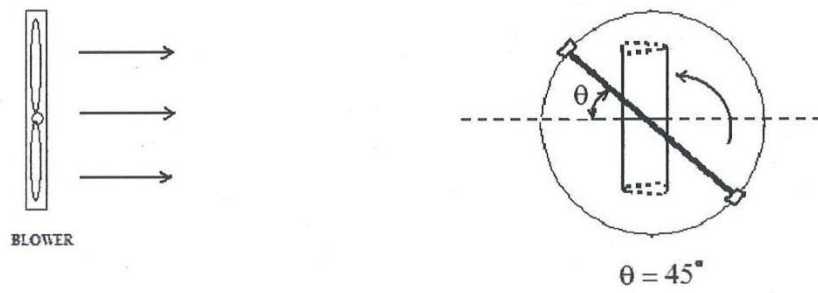


Figure 2.27: Position 2 Setup (Simplified Darrieus Rotor)

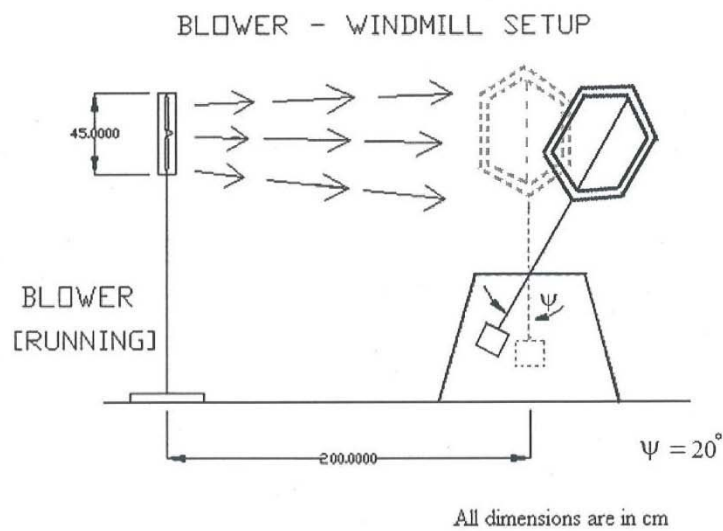


Figure 2.28: Angle Of Tilt For Position 2 Setup (Simplified Darrieus Rotor)

#### 4.2 $\Psi$ Vs $\theta$ :

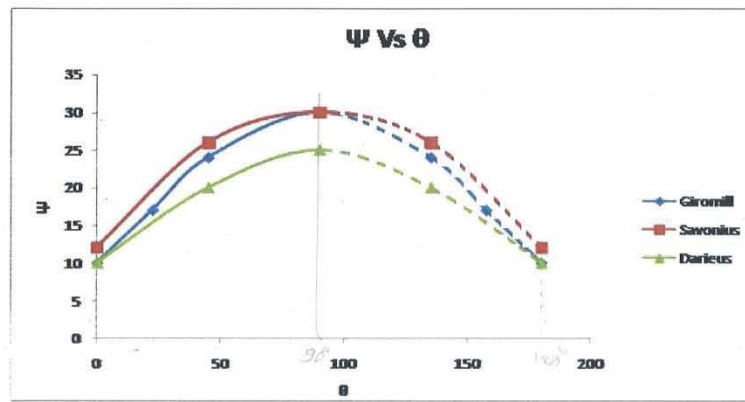


Figure 4.2:  $\psi$  Vs  $\theta$

#### 4.3 $\Psi$ Vs TSR ( $\lambda$ ) :

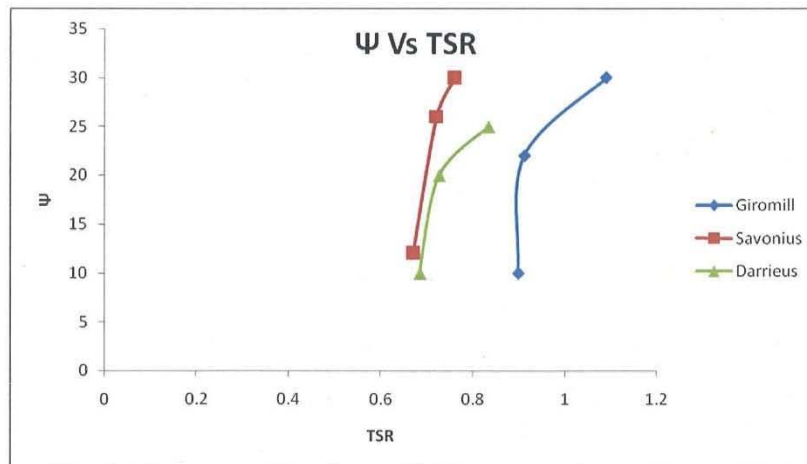
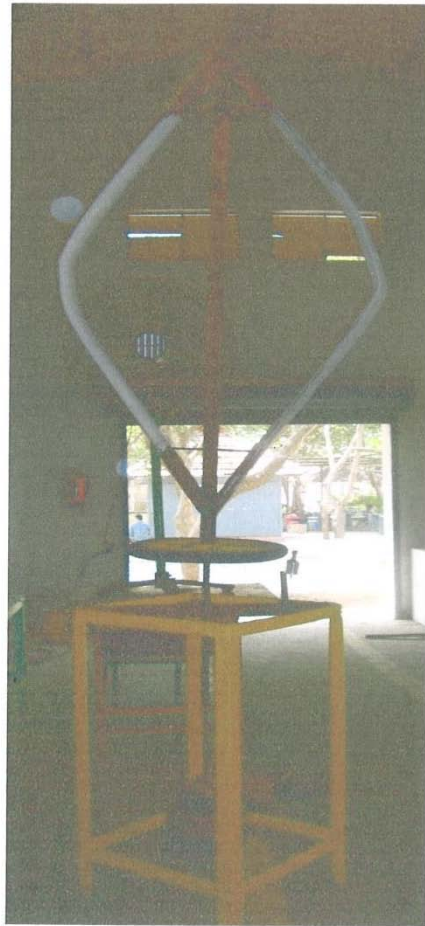


Figure 4.3:  $\psi$  Vs TSR ( $\lambda$ )

### 11.1. DARRIEUS ROTOR

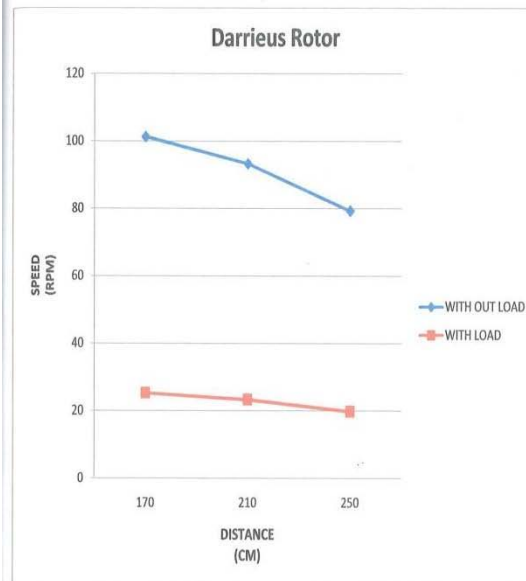




## 11.2. GIROMILL ROTOR



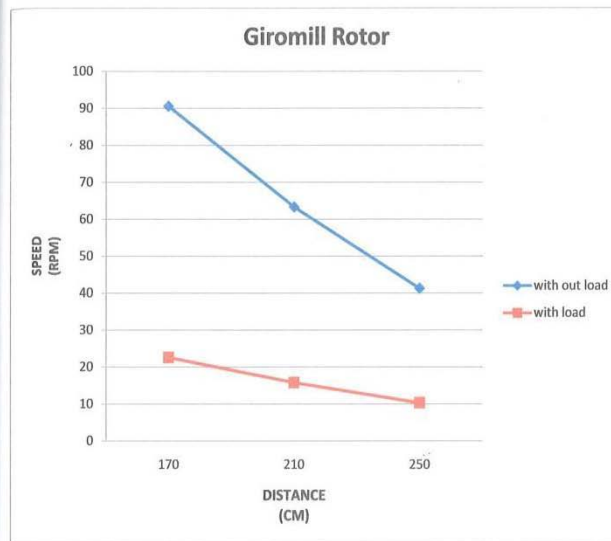
### 8.3.GRAPH : DARRIEUS ROTOR



X AXIS – DISTANCE (CM)

Y AXIS - SPEED (RPM)

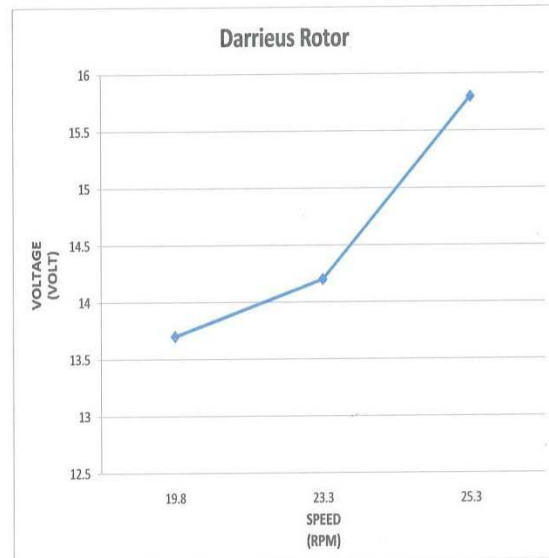
#### 8.4.GRAPH : GIROMILL



X AXIS - DISTANCE (CM )

Y AXIS -SPEED ( RPM)

### 8.5.2. GRAPH : SPEED VS VOLTAGE

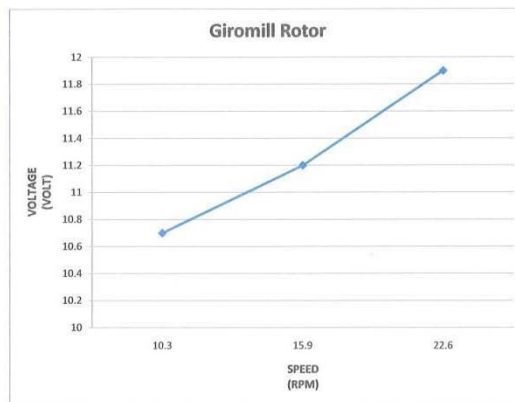


X AXIS – SPEED (RPM)

Y AXIS – VOLTAGE (VOLTS)



#### 8.5.4.GRAPH : SPEED VS VOLTGE



X AXIS – SPEED ( RPM )

Y AXIS – VOLTAGE ( VOLT )



*Figure 5:* Tilt rotor



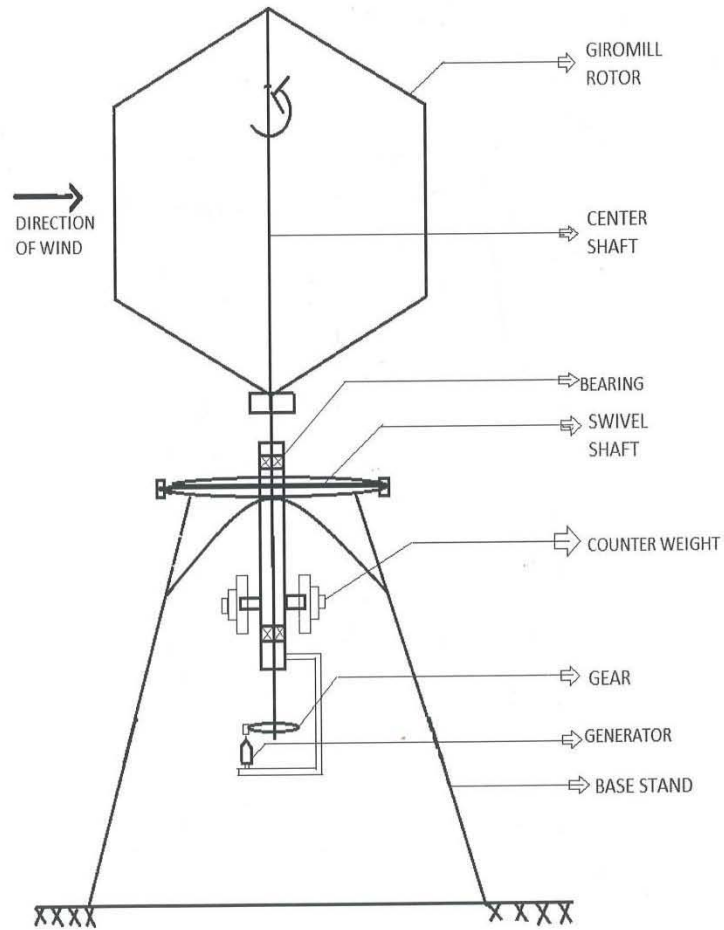


Figure 7: Parts of the tilt rotor

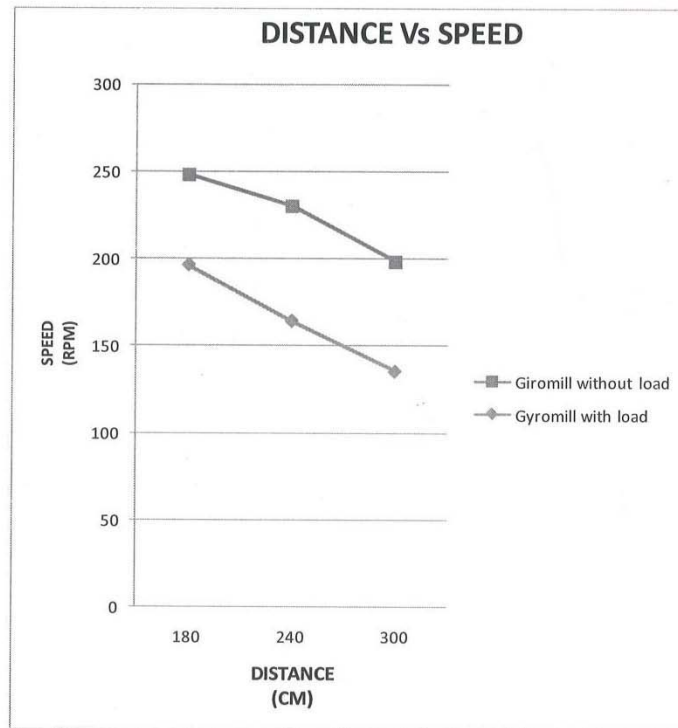


Figure 19: Graph of distance vs speed (with and without load)

X axis - DISTANCE (CM)

Y axis – SPEED (RPM)



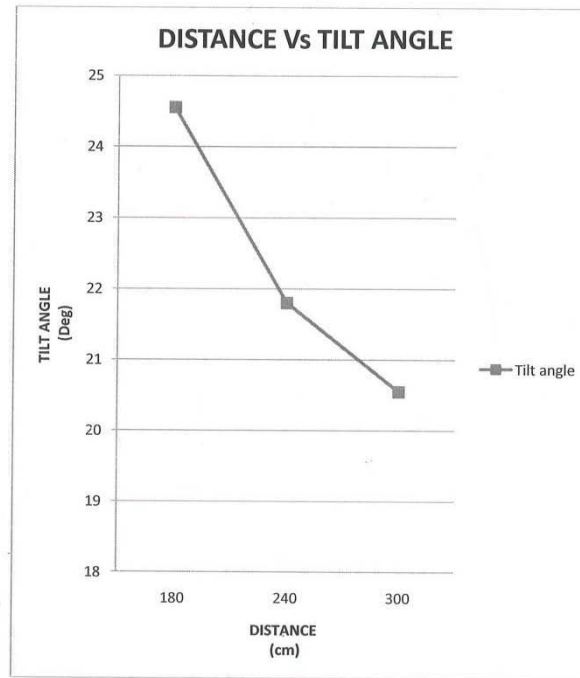


Figure 21: Graph of distance vs tilt angle

X axis - DISTANCE (CM)

Y axis – TILT ANGLE (Degree)

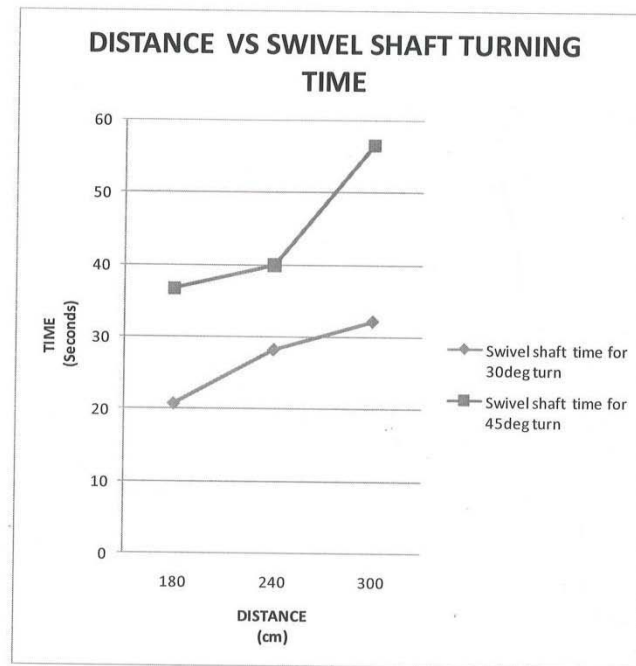
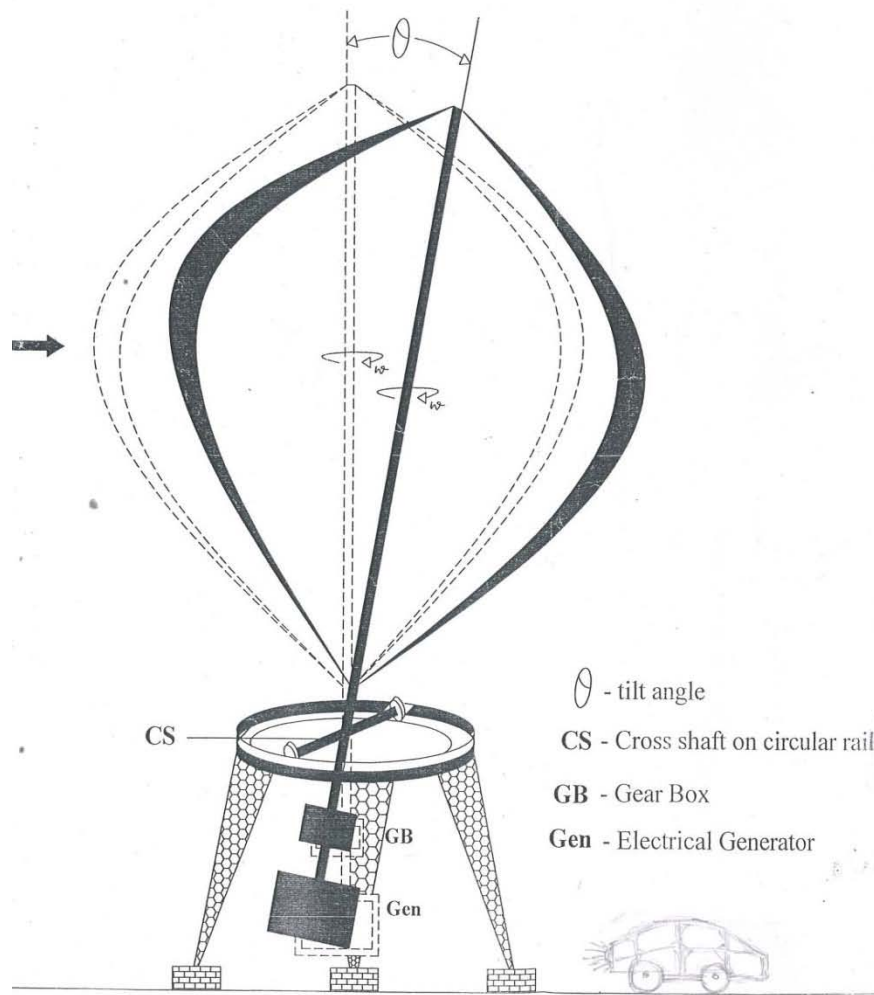


Figure 23: Graph of distance vs swivel shaft turning time

X axis - DISTANCE (CM)

Y axis - TIME (Seconds)



Tilt Rotor Wind Turbine