

Article

# Coupled Engine-Propeller Selection Procedure to Minimize Fuel Consumption at a Specified Speed

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**Abstract:** This study presents a practical optimization procedure that couples the NavCad power prediction tool and a nonlinear optimizer integrated into the Matlab environment. This developed model aims at selecting a propeller at the engine operating point with minimum fuel consumption for different ship speeds in calm water condition. The procedure takes into account both the efficiency of the propeller and the specific fuel consumption of the engine. It is focused on reducing fuel consumption for the expected operational profile of the ship, contributing to energy efficiency in a complementary way as ship routing does. This model assists the ship and propeller designers in selecting the main parameters of the geometry, the operating point of a fixed-pitch propeller from Wageningen B-series and to define the gearbox ratio by minimizing the fuel consumption of a container ship, rather than only maximizing the propeller efficiency. Optimized results of the performance of several marine propellers with different number of blades working at different cruising speeds are also presented for comparison, while verifying the strength, cavitation and noise issues for each simulated case.



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**Keywords:** propeller; main engine; optimization procedures; minimum fuel consumption; NavCad

## 1. Introduction

Many actions are being taken towards climate change mitigation to reduce the amount of fuel consumption and exhaust emissions from ships. As mentioned by Lloyd's Register [1] the different parts of the ships must be optimized in order to increase the energy efficiency of the ship by minimizing the total resistance [2,3] and thus reducing the required power and the fuel consumption along the ship trip [4–7].

Shipping companies are striving every day for improving their competitiveness, in some cases setting dedicated workings groups to continuously monitor the performance of their ships and to provide recommendations to improve navigation efficiency, reducing year by year the fleets operational costs [8,9], as well as the carbon footprint under the increasing pressure of the international community [10,11].

The objective of improving efficiency must be tackled from different perspectives: from the design stage, e.g., with the optimal design of the hull [12] and the selection of the propeller to match hull requirements and engine performance [13]; to the operational life, with an adequate trade-off between environmental and economic considerations [14], enhanced logistic [15] and optimal route selection and speed profile [16–18]. The impact of fuel consumption on operational ship costs follows the aleatory nature of oil market prices, however, as shown in Ronen [19], for large ships it may reach up to 75% of it. Consequently, a relatively small improvement in the efficiency can lead to tremendous effects on the budget of the company, justifying the continuous research of innovative solution in all aspects of ship design and operation.

A correct match between the engine and the propeller is an essential pre-requisite to achieve efficiency in ship operations, thus one cannot refrain from a holistic optimisation of the propulsion system. Moreover, the capability of accurately modelling the engine performance plays a fundamental role in routing problems, enabling to define the operating point of the engine and to realistically estimate fuel consumption, with a direct effect on the decision to be taken among different alternatives.

Regarding the propeller, which is the focus of this work, optimization procedures are applied in several research papers to maximize its performance. The efficiency of B-screw propeller is maximized by Benini [20], and the cavitation limits are verified using multi-objective optimization method. By modifying the expanded area ratio of the propeller blades, Lee et al. [21] increased the propeller efficiency by 2%. Vesting and Benschow [22] used a genetic algorithm (GA) to maximize the propeller efficiency and to minimize the pressure pulses. Xie [23] applied an adapted non-dominated sorting genetic algorithm (NSGA II) to generate the Pareto frontier in order to find the best solution corresponding to the maximum value of both thrust coefficient and propeller efficiency. The multi-objective particle swarm optimization (MOPSO) is also used to find the optimal propeller shape by maximizing efficiency while minimizing the cavitation [24]. Lee et al. [25] coupled optimization procedures and a lifting surface method in a three-dimensional mode to find the propeller shape of a complex propeller by determining the optimum circulation distribution. Gaggero et al. [26] combined a boundary elements method (BEM) and a GA to improve propulsive efficiency. This model helps to reduce the effect of cavitation and increase ship speed. This model helps to find a reliable propeller geometry for a high-speed craft. Nouri et al. [27] coupled a computational fluid dynamics (CFD) model, a genetic algorithm and a kriging method to find the optimal geometry of a contra-rotating propeller. The model shows an excellent ability to perform the simulation in a short period. The propeller geometry of a container ship is also optimized by Tadros et al. [28] to maximize the propeller efficiency and to verify the cavitation limits by coupling OpenProp software [29], that is based on lifting line theory, and implemented in Matlab environment. The OpenProp software is also coupled to the particle swarm optimization algorithm by Bacciaglia et al. [30] to optimize the efficiency of a controllable pitch propeller in terms of engine fuel consumption. At the same time, Tadros et al. [13] selected the most favourable propeller in terms of propeller efficiency to work at the minimum brake specific fuel consumption (BSFC) along the engine load diagram. In order to compare the performance of a propeller of a trawler vessel based on propeller efficiency and fuel consumption, Tadros et al. [31] developed an optimization procedure to easily select the optimum characteristics of the propeller. The computed results show a significant reduction in the fuel consumption when the propeller is optimized at the minimum fuel consumption in comparison with maximizing the efficiency of propeller or minimizing the BSFC along the engine load diagram.

In this study, the research work is extended to develop a pioneer propeller optimization model that couples NavCad [32] and a nonlinear optimizer in the Matlab environment. This model assists in the selection of an efficient fixed pitch propeller (FPP) from Wageningen B-series [33,34] in terms of fuel consumption by optimizing the propeller geometry and the gearbox ratio at the cruising speed to be used during the preliminary stage of ship design. Due to the increase in fuel costs, the ship is designed to move with a certain speed (design speed), but in practice, she does not exceed a speed (cruising speed) which is much lower than the design speed according to the opinion of experts working onboard, who ensure that this speed is practised most of the sailing time. Therefore, the propeller is optimized at the cruising speed instead of the design speed.

The model helps to compare between various marine propellers with different blades to thrust the ship at the cruising speed, at the operating point, with minimum fuel consumption of the installed engine, instead of only maximizing the propeller efficiency or minimizing the BSFC. In addition, the developed model verifies the different cavitation criteria, blade strength and noise issues.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 gives a general presentation of the selected ship and the installed engine; Section 3 describes the optimization model, the equations used in simulation and provides an overview of the main methods considered to compute the cavitation, strength and noise; the results are discussed in Section 4, and finally, some conclusions are presented in Section 5.

## 2. Ship and Engine Specifications

The numerical simulation is performed based on the collected data of a 111.18 m long containership, as shown in Table 1. The ship is equipped with one engine coupled with one propeller through a gearbox, which reduction ratio is to be optimized. Although containerships are generally employed on strict schedule voyages, a certain flexibility in the sailing speed can be attained by improving the logistic chain and the efficiency in port operations. As shown in Section 4, a minor reduction in operating speed can have a considerable impact on the travel costs, especially when the propeller is selected, taking into account such a reduced speed.

**Table 1.** Container ship data.

Item	Unit	Value
Waterline Length	m	111.18
Breadth	m	19.50
Draft	m	7.239
Displacement	tonne	11166
Deadweight	tonne	7650
Block coefficient	-	0.694
Design speed at 85% MCR	knots	18.3
Number of propellers	-	1

A MAN 18V32/44CR medium-speed 4-stroke marine diesel engine [35] is considered in this study. The engine has a rated power of 9180 kW at 750 rpm and is fuelled with marine diesel oil (MDO). Table 2 shows the main engine specifications.

**Table 2.** Main engine specifications.

Parameter	Unit	Value
Bore	mm	320
Stroke	mm	440
No. of cylinders	-	18
Displacement	liter	640
Number of valves per cylinder	-	4
Compression ratio	-	17.3:1
BMEP	bar	23.06
Piston speed	m/s	11
Engine speed	rpm	750
BSFC	g/kW/h	179
Power-to-weight ratio	kW/kg	0.095

## 3. Numerical Model

### 3.1. General Overview

A propeller optimization model is developed coupling NavCad, a software tool used to predict the power requirements of a given vessel, and a nonlinear optimizer integrated into Matlab, as shown in Figure 1. The model helps to find the optimal values of the propeller geometry presented by the propeller diameter,  $D$ , the expanded area ratio, EAR, and the pitch diameter ratio,  $P/D$ , and the gearbox ratio, GBR, for a given vessel speed, vs. and number of propeller blades,  $Z$ , by minimizing the fuel consumption, FC, of the ship based on the computed engine load diagram. Also, the model helps to verify the

cavitation limits, the strength issues and the propeller tip speed to avoid noise problems. In this optimization model, the objective, the boundary limits, and the constraints are well defined.

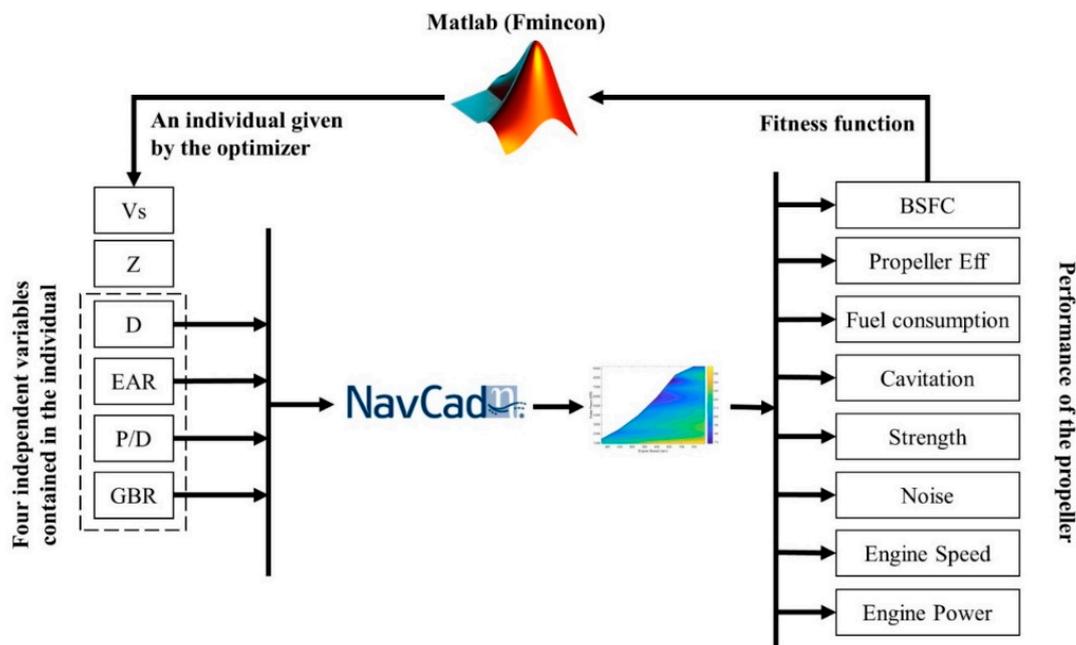


Figure 1. Propeller optimization model.

The model helps to find the optimal values of the propeller geometry presented by the propeller diameter,  $D$ , the expanded area ratio,  $EAR$ , and the pitch diameter ratio,  $P/D$ , and the gearbox ratio,  $GBR$ , for a given vessel speed,  $v_s$ , and number of propeller blades,  $Z$ , by minimizing the fuel consumption,  $FC$ , of the ship based on the computed engine load diagram. Also, the model helps to verify the cavitation limits, the strength issues and the propeller tip speed to avoid noise problems. In this optimization model, the objective, the boundary limits, and the constraints are well defined.

For this nonlinear problem, it is necessary to convert the optimization with constraints to another one without constraints. So, the fitness function, including the objective of this study and the constraints, will be the objective function of the optimization model. There are different ways to implement a fitness function for the constrained optimization problems [36]. It can be based on the death penalty, static penalties, dynamic penalties, annealing penalties, adaptive penalties. These methods are prepared for genetic algorithm method; however, it can be applied for the nonlinear optimization method used in this study. In previous research, the simple penalty function method shows effectiveness for many optimization projects [37].

In order to construct the fitness function, the first part includes the objective of the model to be minimized, which is the fuel consumption per nautical mile, while the inequality constraints, as described in the following Sections 3.3 and 3.4, are combined and defined as a static penalty function in the second part of the fitness function. The inequality constraints are normalized, so their absolute values will be less than one. Then, the fitness function for the optimization model is written as in the following expression, and the penalty parameter ( $R$ ) is determined by 1000 after making many trials and as suggested by [38].

$$Fitness\ Function = FC + R \sum_{i=1}^j \max(g_i(x), 0) \tag{1}$$

where  $g(x)$  is the static penalty function,  $j$  is the number of constraints, and  $x$  is the number of variables of the optimization problem.

The single objective nonlinear optimizer (fmincon) integrated into Matlab is used to search the minimum optimal solution of the problem by evaluating the proposed fitness function. This optimizer is based on the interior-point algorithm [39], and can reach the optimal solution faster than other optimizers [40].

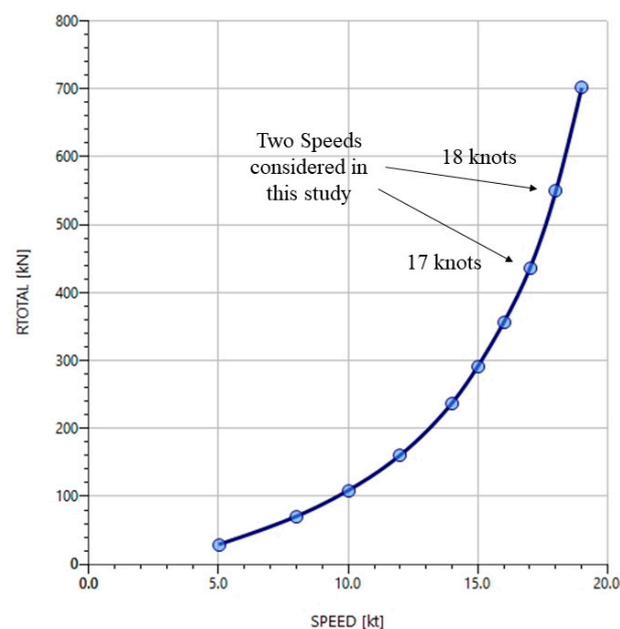
As this optimizer is designed to search for the local minimum of any numerical problem, multi-starts are performed to define the minimum value of the fitness function and to verify all the constraints.

### 3.2. NavCad Software

NavCad is a software tool used to predict and analyse the power requirements of any ship in a steady-state mode, for a given range of ship speeds and to select the components of the propulsion system, based on a very comprehensive library of algorithms.

Once the hull data has been defined, the resistance and the propulsion are predicted by selecting the suitable computational methods. Then, the overall performance of the ship can be analysed manually or based on optimization routines.

The data of the chosen container ship and the installed engine are specified in NavCad, in which the total resistance is computed based on the method suggested by Holtrop and Mennen [41] and Holtrop [42] for a given range of ship speeds, as shown in Figure 2. Two cruising speeds (17 and 18 knots) are selected to perform the simulation. Then the geometry of the propeller and the gearbox ratio are sized “by power” taking into account the wake fraction and thrust deduction fraction through the optimization routines.



**Figure 2.** Total resistance of the container ship at different speeds.

### 3.3. Engine Performance

The performance of the selected engine is computed based on another optimization model developed by Tadros et al. [38]. The model is built in 1D engine simulation software, by taking into account the considered technologies such as variable valve timing, miller cycle, high compression ratio and fuel injection system techniques, to optimize the performance of the engine and to ensure an actual diesel combustion process [43,44].

For more realistic simulation, the operational area of the engine load diagram is limited from 60% to 90% of the maximum engine load and from 85% to 100% of the maximum engine speed. In this engine operating area, the nonlinear optimizer searches for the optimal design of the propeller for the cruising ship speed instead of the whole engine operating range to ensure better combustion and engine safety according to the

recommendations of the engine manufacturer [35] and thus better engine performance. Otherwise, the engine cannot operate out of this range for more than 2 h.

Figure 3 shows the variation of BSFC and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and sulphur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>) emissions along the engine load diagram. Then the computed engine data are converted into polynomial equations presented in [45,46] and used directly in this study.

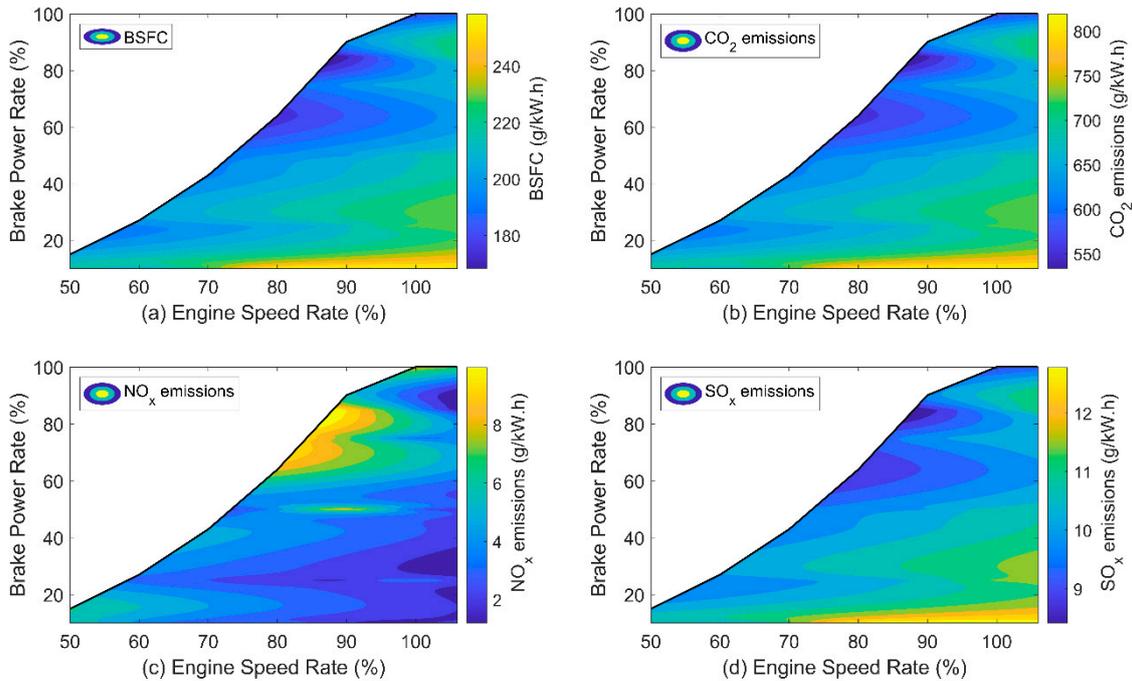


Figure 3. Load diagram of marine diesel engine. (a) BSFC (b) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (c) NO<sub>x</sub> emissions (d) SO<sub>x</sub> emissions [38,46].

### 3.4. Propeller Performance

The propeller performance is calculated using the regression equations from Wageningen B-series [33,34] integrated into NavCad to compute the thrust and torque coefficients and the propeller efficiency as presented in:

$$K_T = \sum_{n=1}^{39} C_n(J)^{S_n} \left(\frac{P}{D}\right)^{t_n} (EAR)^{u_n} (Z)^{v_n} \tag{2}$$

$$K_Q = \sum_{n=1}^{47} C_n(J)^{S_n} \left(\frac{P}{D}\right)^{t_n} (EAR)^{u_n} (Z)^{v_n} \tag{3}$$

$$\begin{Bmatrix} K_T(R_n) \\ K_Q(R_n) \end{Bmatrix} = \begin{Bmatrix} K_T(R_n = 2 \times 10^6) \\ K_Q(R_n = 2 \times 10^6) \end{Bmatrix} + \begin{Bmatrix} \Delta K_T(R_n) \\ \Delta K_Q(R_n) \end{Bmatrix} \tag{4}$$

$$\eta_o = \frac{K_T J}{K_Q 2\pi} \tag{5}$$

by considering the corrections made due to the change in values of Reynolds numbers,  $R_n$ , and propeller-hull interaction coefficients as follows:

$$V_A = V_S(1 - w) \tag{6}$$

$$T = \frac{R_T}{1 - t} \tag{7}$$

$$R_n = \frac{V_A D}{\nu} \tag{8}$$

$$J = \frac{V_A}{nD} \tag{9}$$

$$K_T = \frac{T}{\rho n^2 D^4} \tag{10}$$

$$K_Q = \frac{Q}{\rho n^2 D^5} \tag{11}$$

where  $w$  is the wake fraction,  $t$  is the thrust deduction factor,  $V_A$  is the advance speed,  $R_T$  is the total ship resistance,  $n$  is the propeller speed,  $K_T$  is the thrust coefficient,  $K_Q$  is the torque coefficient,  $\eta_o$  is the propeller efficiency, and  $J$  is the advance coefficient.  $C_n, S_n, t_n, u_n$  and  $v_n$  are constants, and it is important to mention that even the parameters have the same symbols, they have different values for the  $K_T$  and  $K_Q$  [47].  $n$  is the propeller speed,  $\rho$  is the density,  $\nu$  is the kinematic viscosity of the water,  $T$  is the thrust and  $Q$  is the torque.

The propeller cavitation is a crucial issue to be considered during the design stage. It occurs when the water pressure surrounding the propeller has reached a level below the water's vapour pressure where the liquid states change into a vapor under a vacuum.

Three different methods can be used to assess the cavitation: Keller, average loading pressure and average predicted back cavitation percentage [47].

Based on the Keller method, the minimum blade area ratio,  $EAR_{min}$ , that avoids cavitation is calculated using Equation (12):

$$EAR_{min} = \frac{(1.3 + 0.3Z)T}{(P_{atm} + \gamma h - P_v)D^2} + k \tag{12}$$

where  $T$  is the propeller thrust,  $P_{atm}$  is the atmospheric pressure,  $P_v$  is the vapour pressure,  $\gamma$  is the specific weight,  $h$  is the propeller centerline immersion, and  $k$  is a constant obtained from Equation (13):

$$k = \begin{cases} 0.0 & \text{Twin screw} \\ 0.2 & \text{Single screw} \end{cases} \tag{13}$$

The average loading pressure is the second method to assess the cavitation limit. Based on the criteria considered in HydroComp [32] derived from the Burrill chart [48], the value of the average loading pressure must not exceed 65 kPa.

The back cavitation is the harmful type of cavitation which generated from the too much power through the propeller and the insufficient blades area to handle the developed thrust. Thus, the average predicted back cavitation percentage is the third method used to avoid cavitation. The percentage of this criteria must not exceed 15% [32] based on the established formula presented by Blount and Fox [49].

The velocity of the blade tip,  $V_{tip}$ , as in the following equation, does not significantly affect the propeller performance but contributes to noise, vibration and structural corrosion. Therefore, the value of the tip speed must not exceed 53 m/s for three or four blades and 46 m/s for five blades or more to decrease the level of noise and vibrations and to avoid tip cavitation from the marine propellers [32]:

$$V_{tip} = \frac{\pi DN}{60} \tag{14}$$

where  $N$  is the propeller speed in rpm.

The propeller strength is expressed by the blade thickness at 75% of the propeller radius,  $t_{0.75R}$ , and the minimum blade thickness is computed using the suggested formula presented in Equation (15) [34]. The propeller thickness computed from the Wageningen B-series must not be less than the minimum blade thickness:

$$t_{0.75R,min} = D \left[ 0.0028 + 0.21 \sqrt[3]{\frac{\left[ 2375 - 1125\left(\frac{P}{D}\right) \right] P_D}{4.123ND^3 \left( S_C + \frac{D^2 N^2}{12.788} \right)}} \right] \tag{15}$$

where  $P_D$  is the delivered power and  $S_C$  is the maximum allowable stress.

#### 4. Results and Discussion

The selection method has been applied to two different operating speeds: 17 and 18 knots. The highest speed is close to the design speed at 85% MCR, while the lowest is chosen only one knot lower taking into account that containerships must typically respect a strict schedule; thus a significantly lower speed would not fulfill the operative requirements. Tables 3 and 4 show the characteristics of the selected propellers depending on the number of blades, the engine operating conditions, and the fuel consumption in kg over a nautical mile, which is the parameter minimized to drive the selection.

It can be noticed that in case the propulsion system is optimized for 17 knots, the five-blades propeller resulted in the most efficient in terms of fuel consumption. It is worth noticing that the procedure allowed to identify the condition corresponding to both the highest open water propeller efficiency  $\eta_o$ , and the lowest BSFC. For this case, a lower regular operational ship speed is not recommended, as the engine would be operating below 60% of the rated power.

Similar considerations can be made for the highest speed of 18 knots. In this case, the six blades propeller shows the least consumption per nautical mile, although it operates at a higher BSFC with respect to the alternatives. The reason can be found on the lower power rate required. Nevertheless, this propeller is not appropriate for the simulated engine characterised by 18 cylinders since the number of engine cylinders shall never coincide or be multiples of the number of propeller blades to avoid resonance problem [50]. Thus the five blades propeller has selected instead, highlighting how ship design considerations other than the optimisation of the consumption may often constrain the configuration of the propulsion system.

These examples clearly show how the aimed objective, a reduction in the fuel consumption at the operating speed, is the result of the combined effect of the open water characteristics of the propeller, the required brake power, and the BSFC, highlighting the benefits of a holistic approach that takes into account both the performance of the propeller and the engine.

Table 5 shows the projected fuel consumption along the main transatlantic routes [51], assuming that the voyage is covered at a constant speed. It can be noticed that a relatively low reduction in ship speed, leading to 5% longer voyages (about 10 h in the worst case), leads to a fuel saving of about 23%. In real operations, however, ship speeds and fuel consumption are also highly influenced by environmental loads and risk mitigation measures. Thus, a more accurate estimation of the benefits is expected when the optimization is made for typical operational conditions, also in terms of weather.

**Table 3.** Propellers optimized for a ship speed of 17 knots.

Propeller Characteristics							Gearbox Characteristics			Engine Operating Conditions				Fuel Consumption
n° of Blades	Thrust	Speed	Torque	D	EAR	Pitch	P/D	$\eta_o$	GBR	Speed	Brake Power	Loading Ratio	BSFC	
#	[kN]	[rpm]	[kN·m]	[m]	[-]	[m]	[-]	[-]	[-]	[rpm]	[kW]	[%]	[g/kW/h]	[kg/nm]
3	536	116	430	5.26	0.632	4.946	0.940	0.622	5.96	692	5509	60.0	191	62.0
4	536	96	511	5.39	0.811	6.017	1.116	0.629	7.15	687	5509	60.0	191	61.8
5	536	105	468	5.17	0.929	5.52	1.067	0.633	6.45	678	5509	60.0	190	61.5
6	536	108	460	5.07	0.636	5.322	1.050	0.627	6.41	693	5473	59.6	192	61.7

**Table 4.** Propellers optimized for a ship speed of 18 knots.

Propeller Characteristics							Gearbox Characteristics			Engine Operating Conditions				Fuel Consumption
n° of Blades	Thrust	Speed	Torque	D	EAR	Pitch	P/D	$\eta_o$	GBR	Speed	Brake Power	Loading Ratio	BSFC	
#	[kN]	[rpm]	[kN·m]	[m]	[-]	[m]	[-]	[-]	[-]	[rpm]	[kW]	[%]	[g/kW/h]	[kg/nm]
3	675	115	576	5.52	0.541	5.358	0.971	0.624	6.42	739	7298	79.5	198	80.3
4	675	111	595	5.47	0.685	5.515	1.008	0.627	6.60	733	7322	79.8	196	79.9
5	675	109	595	5.47	0.733	5.504	1.006	0.637	6.69	730	7226	78.7	198	79.3
6	675	98	654	5.63	0.733	6.04	1.074	0.644	7.43	728	7153	77.9	199	79.1

**Table 5.** Projected fuel consumption on the main transatlantic routes.

Route	Length	% North Atlantic Trades	Fuel Consumption [t]	
	[nm]		17 kn	18 kn
English Channel–Gulf of Mexico (South)	3210	22.6	197	255
English Channel–Gulf of Mexico (North)	3253	13.9	200	258
English Channel–Virginia	2029	13.7	125	161
Strait of Gibraltar–Virginia (North)	1958	11.3	120	155
Strait of Gibraltar–Virginia (South)	2762	12.1	170	219
Strait of Gibraltar–Miami	3048	9.8	187	242

## 5. Conclusions

In this paper, an optimization model is developed to find the optimal values of the propeller geometry parameters and the gearbox ratio at the engine operating point, with minimum fuel consumption along the engine load diagram in calm water condition. The model verifies the cavitation limits, strength of the propeller and tip speed velocity to reduce the level of noise.

The model presented can readily select a marine propeller for a given ship speed and propeller blades and to assess its performance, during the preliminary stages of ship design.

Besides introducing a novel methodology for the selection of the propeller that aims at minimizing the fuel consumptions, this work wants to highlight the importance of a holistic approach in ship design and operations. From the design point of view, as shown, the optimization of the single propulsive components may lead to a sub-optimal solution, as it is the mutual relation between those components that determine the final output. From the operational point of view, more efficient logistic chain and time-effective port operations would result in the possibility to reduce the sailing speed, dramatically reducing the consumptions.

This model can be further used to select different propellers from other series and for other types of ships. In future work, the optimization procedure will be modified to take into account the effect of weather conditions on the efficiency of the propulsion system, aiming at selecting a propeller for the actual operating conditions of the ship.

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**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflict of interest.

## Abbreviations

1D	One-dimensional
BEM	Boundary elements method
BMEP	Brake mean effective pressure [bar]
BSFC	Brake specific fuel consumption [g/kW.h]
CFD	Computational fluid dynamics
$C_n$	Constant
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon dioxide [g/kW.h]
D	Propeller diameter [m]
EAR	Expanded area ratio
FC	Fuel consumption [kg/nm]
FPP	Fixed pitch propeller
$g(x)$	static penalty function
GA	Genetic algorithm
GBR	Gearbox ratio
h	Propeller centreline immersion [m]
J	Advance coefficient
j	Number of constraints
k	Constant

$K_Q$	Torque coefficient
$K_T$	Thrust coefficient
MCR	Maximum continuous rate
MDO	Marine diesel oil
MOPSO	Multi-objective particle swarm optimization
$n$	Propeller speed [rps]
$N$	Propeller speed [rpm]
$NO_x$	Nitrogen oxides [g/kW.h]
NSGA II	Non-dominated sorting genetic algorithm II
$P/D$	Pitch diameter ratio
$P_{atm}$	Atmospheric pressure [Pa]
$P_D$	Delivered power [W]
$P_v$	Vapour pressure [Pa]
$Q$	Torque [N]
$R_n$	Reynolds numbers
$R_T$	Total ship resistance [N]
$S_C$	Maximum allowable stress [N/m <sup>2</sup> ]
$S_n$	Constant
$SO_x$	Sulphur oxides [g/kW.h]
$t$	Thrust deduction factor
$t$	Blade thickness [m]
$T$	Thrust [N]
$t_n$	Constant
$u_n$	Constant
$V_A$	Advance speed [m/s]
$v_n$	Constant
$V_s$	Vessel speed [m/s]
$V_{tip}$	Propeller tip speed [m/s]
$w$	Wake fraction
$x$	Number of optimization variables
$Z$	Propeller blades
$\gamma$	Specific weight [N/m <sup>3</sup> ]
$\eta_o$	Propeller efficiency
$\nu$	Kinematic viscosity [m <sup>2</sup> /s]
$\rho$	Density [kg/m <sup>3</sup> ]

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