

Evaluation of Integration of Flue Gas Scrubbing Configurations with MEA for CO₂ Separation in a Coal-Fired Power Plant

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Overview

1. Boundary conditions for study
2. Power plant
3. CO₂ capture unit with compressor
4. Definitions
5. Results
6. Conclusions

Boundary conditions for study

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Power plant (EBSILON®Professional)

- Advanced coal-fired power plant (anthracite)
- 600 MW_{el}
- 45.9 % efficiency (LHV)

Scrubbing unit (Aspen Plus 2006.5)

- 90 % CO₂ capture
- 30 % MEA solution

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Compression (Aspen Plus 2006.5)

- 5 stages
- 100 bar

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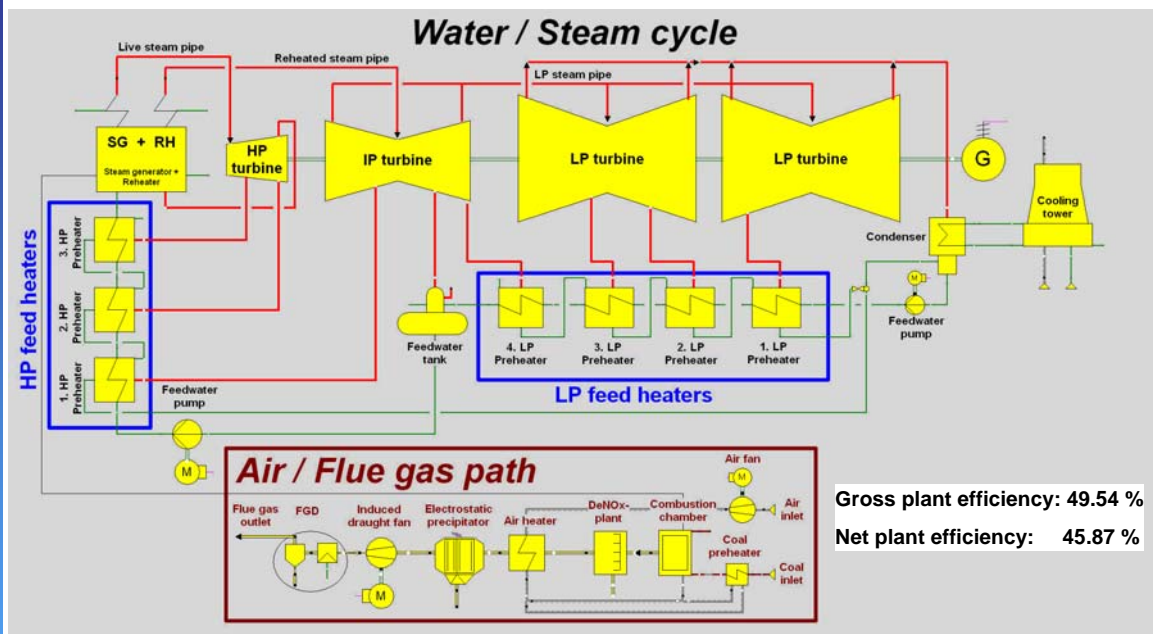
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Power plant: Reference power plant North Rhine-Westphalia (RPP-NRW)

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Gross power output: 600.0 MW

Net power output: 555.6 MW

Live steam flow: 432 kg/s

Live steam parameter: 600°C / 285 bar

Reheated steam parameter: 620°C / 66 bar

Condenser pressure: 45 mbar

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CO₂ capture unit with compressor

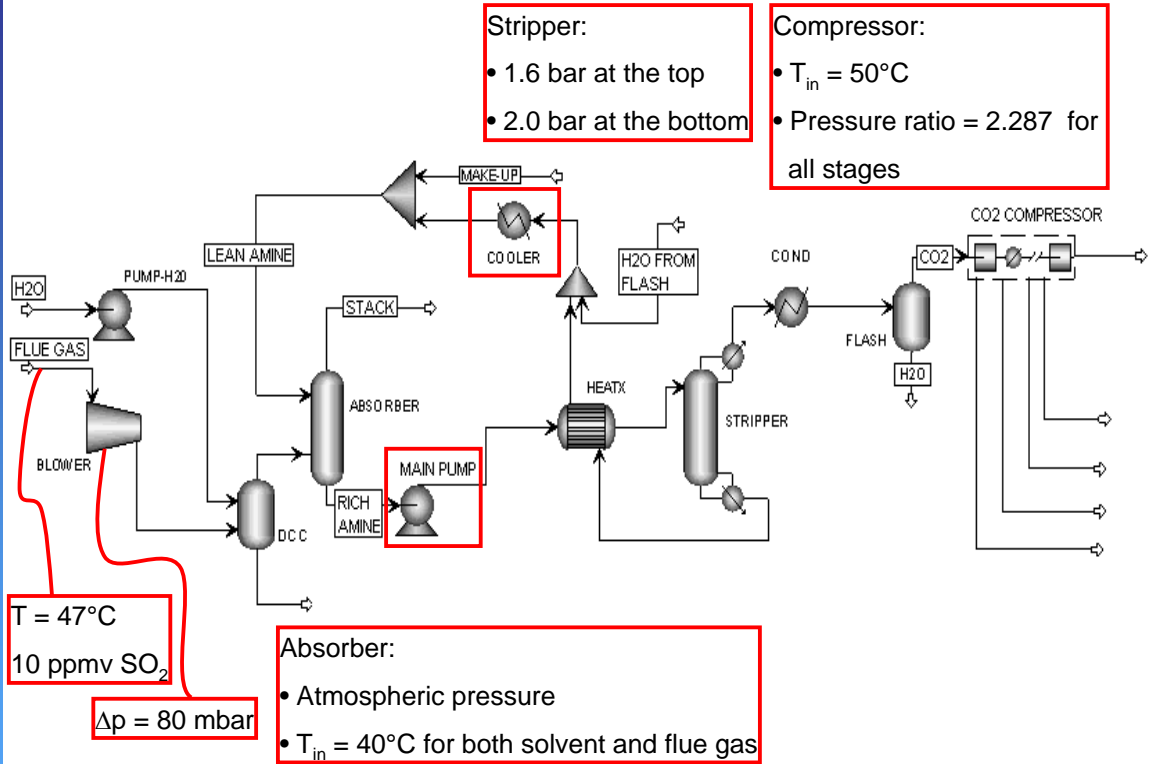
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Definitions: Solvent loading (α) and $\Delta\alpha$

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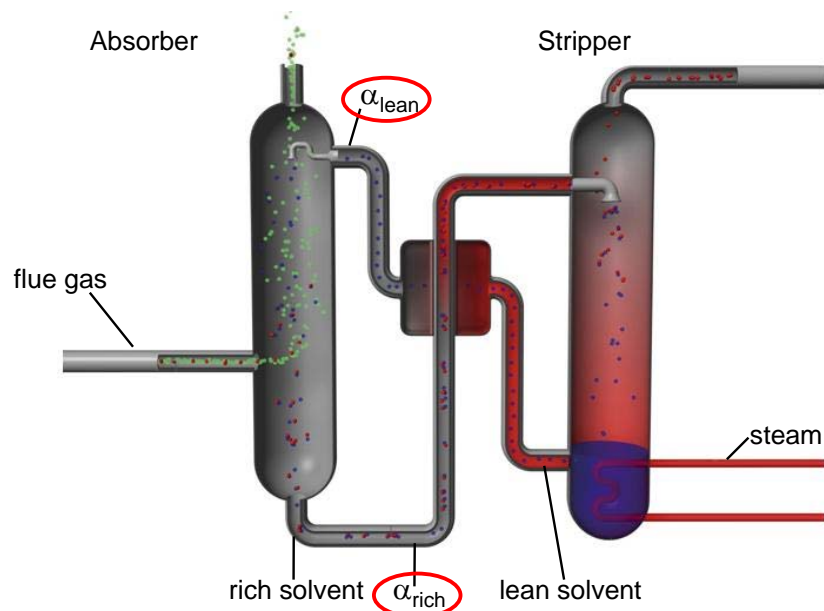
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Solvent loading (α)

$$\alpha = \frac{\text{mol}_{\text{CO}_2}}{\text{mol}_{\text{MEA}}}$$

$$\Delta\alpha = \alpha_{\text{rich}} - \alpha_{\text{lean}}$$



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Desired objectives

- Optimal range of values for α_{lean}
- High α_{rich} preferred
- High capture rate with low energy demand for regeneration

Dependencies

- Reboiler duty = $f(\Delta\alpha)$
- Solvent mass flow
- Electricity demand
- Cooling duty

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- For 30 % MEA solution and conventional absorber-stripper configuration:
 - $p_{\text{steam}} = 3.6 \text{ bar}$ and $T_{\text{steam}} = 140^\circ\text{C}$
 - Required steam conditions between intermediate and low pressure turbine
 - Reinjection of steam between third and fourth water preheaters
- Retrofitting of conventional power plant at specific energy demand of 3 MJ/kgCO₂ or lower

Results:

Reboiler duty and rich solvent mass flow as a function of $\Delta\alpha$

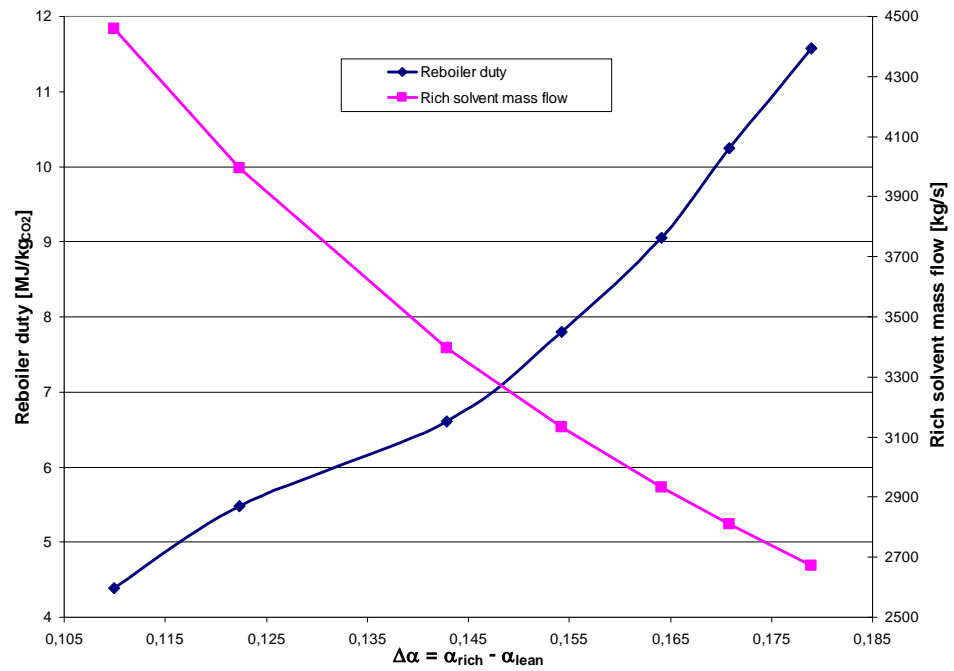
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Results:

Electrical energy demand of the main pump as a function of $\Delta\alpha$

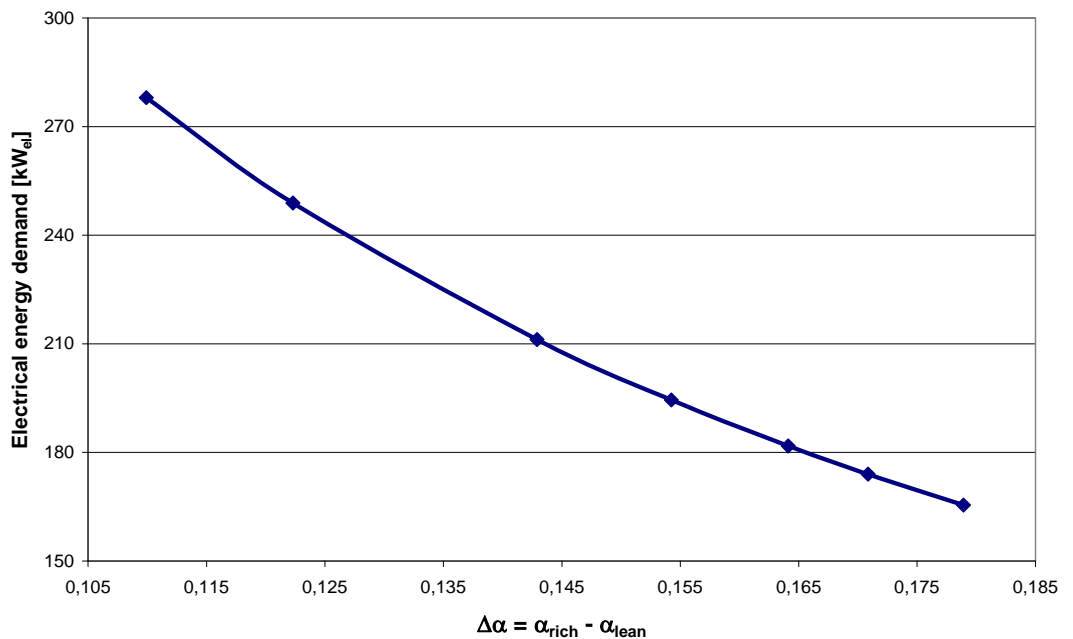
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Results: Cooling duty as a function of $\Delta\alpha$

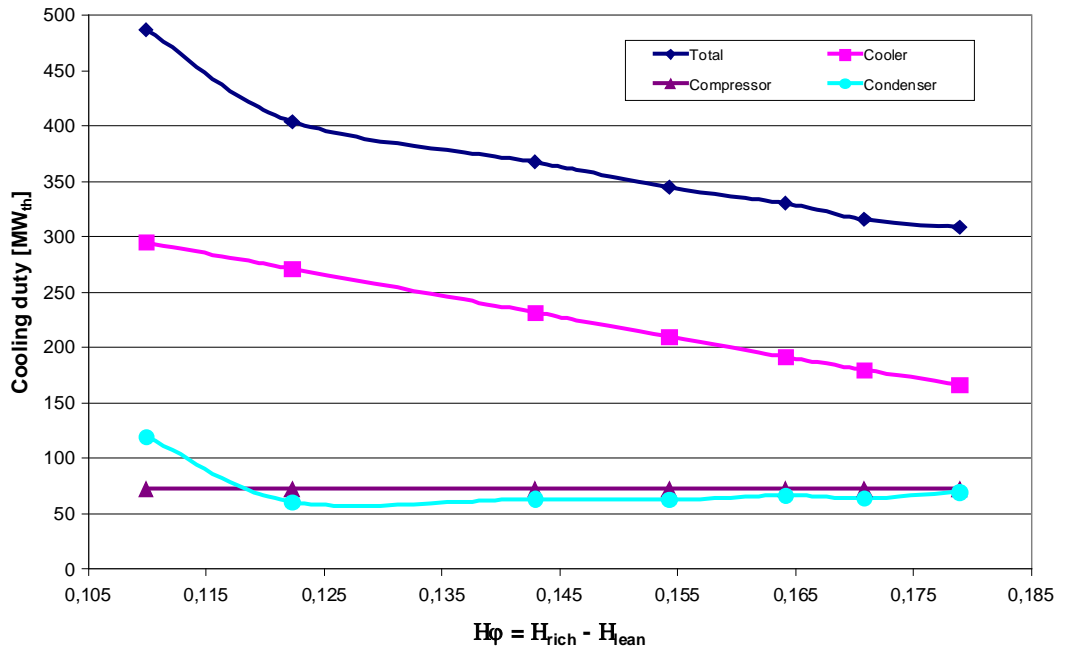
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Conclusions: Scrubbing unit

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- lean loading (α_{lean}) alone does not guarantee a reduction of thermal energy for regeneration of solvent
- small values of $\Delta\alpha$ increase demand of electricity, however the increase is considered small compared with blower and compressor
- for small values of $\Delta\alpha$ a higher cooling water demand is required
- minimum reboiler duty from simulation of 4.39 MJ/kg_{CO2} however presented trends show that an even lower reboiler duty could be reached. First simulation results delivered a reboiler duty of 3.25 MJ/kg_{CO2} but there seem to be some instabilities that have to be further studied. Implementation of latest software could contribute to solve this problem.
- testing of solvent(s) under real conditions required for its application in coal-fired power plants
- a reduction potential of approximate 1 MJ/kg_{CO2} could be achieved by optimising heat recovery within the scrubbing process

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- Three options for steam extraction from power cycle:
 - Build in a throttle, which would be essential to guarantee needed steam parameters from scrubbing unit, causing additional losses within the power cycle
 - Remodel of turbines
 - Not to modify the cycle and instead provide the steam from external source

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