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# Use of steam jet booster as an integration strategy to operate a natural gas combined cycle with post-combustion CO<sub>2</sub> capture at part-load

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#### Abstract

This paper aims to evaluate the integration of the steam jet booster in a natural gas combined cycle with  $CO_2$  capture at low part-load operation. The steam ejector takes a high pressure motive steam flows in a supersonic nozzle while dragging a low pressure steam which comes from the crossover. Both flows mix into one at fixed pressure of 3.5 bar and sent to the reboiler. The results are compared with two integration alternatives: uncontrolled and controlled steam extraction control. Uncontrolled steam extraction provides better part-load performance than controlled. However, with sliding pressure, at 42.3% gas turbine load the low pressure steam turbine operates at 27% of its capacity compared with 66% when the energy plant operates without capture, this imposes a potential risk to the integrity of the turbine. When the steam ejector is integrated, there is no significant improvement in the efficiency compared with sliding pressure strategy. However, the used capacity of the low pressure steam turbine increases from 27% to 42.8%. Therefore, the use of the steam ejector represents a solution to avoid severe damage to the low pressure steam turbine, thus bringing more flexibility, and ensure that steam extraction will not impose any constraint to the energy plant with  $CO_2$  capture at part-load.

Keywords: steam ejector, part-load, natural combined cycle, CO<sub>2</sub> capture, steam extraction, control strategy

A1	Nozzle's throat cross-section area
A2	Injector's nozzle outlet cross-section area
A3	Diffuser's Throat cross-section area
DCC	Direct Contact Cooler
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GT	Gas Turbine
HP	High Pressure
HRSG	Heat Recovery Steam Generator
IGV	Inlet Guide Vanes
IP	Intermediate Pressure
LP	Low Pressure
NGCC	Natural Gas Combined Cycle
PMV	Pressure Maintaining Valve
ST	Steam Turbine
Р	Pressure
m	Mass flow rate
Т	Temperature
TET	Temperature at exhaust of the turbine
TIT	Temperature at inlet of the turbine
W	Entrainment ratio
γ	Heat capacity ratio
η	Efficiency
ν	viscosity
ρ	density
Subindex	

#### Nomenclature

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