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# Exergy analysis for thermoenergetic blocks adaptation with a combined gas cycle

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**Abstract:** In this paper, an exergy analysis is given as part of a comprehensive analysis that considers the proposed solution for adaptation of the conventional steam cycle in TPP Bitola to a combined gas cycle. The importance and significance of exergy analysis is defined. The parameters and components of the proposed plant are presented and put into an exergy analysis in appropriate mathematical model. The obtained results for the exergy losses in the system are presented.

**Keywords:** Exergy analysis, Combined gas cycle, Exergy losses.

## 1. Introduction

Energy analysis is not a sufficient approach for the evaluation of energy systems because the first law of thermodynamics does not recognize the true losses of useful energy. Exergy analysis predicts the thermodynamic performance and efficiency of components in energy systems and relies on the principles of the second law of thermodynamics through entropy change [1]. Exergy is defined as the maximum theoretically useful work obtained from the thermodynamic equilibrium between the system and the environment [2]. This analysis enables the detection of parameters with the possibility for improvement. For example, the efficiency of combined cycle gas plants reaches over 60% [3]. Many studies have been done that explain the change in system efficiency depending on water temperature, steam pressure, etc. [4]. Therefore, the "positive" energy losses from the proposed combined cycle gas plant are calculated here [5].

## 2. Brief description and parameters of the proposed CHP

The proposed solution includes a combined cycle in the block of TPP Bitola [5], where it is envisaged to have a gas cycle with two gas turbines (Table 1), two HRSGs (Table 2) and a steam cycle with one steam turbine (K-210- 130) which already exists in TPP Bitola (Table 3). A simplified scheme of the combined cycle is shown in Figure 1, [5].

Table 1. Input and output parameters of the gas cycle [5]

Parameter		Compressor		Combuster		Gas turbine			
		1		2		3		4	
		input	output	input	output	input	output		
Temperature	[°C]	t <sub>1</sub> (air)	20	t <sub>2</sub> (air)	478	t <sub>3</sub>	1297	t <sub>4</sub>	625
Pressure	[bar]	p <sub>1</sub>	1.013	p <sub>2</sub>	17.73	p <sub>3</sub>	17.73	p <sub>4</sub>	1.013
Mass flow	[kg/s]	m <sub>a</sub>	538.44	m <sub>a</sub>	538.44	m <sub>g</sub>	550.44	m <sub>g</sub>	550.44
Enthalpy	[kJ/kg]	i <sub>1</sub>	294.4	i <sub>2</sub>	759.1	i <sub>3</sub>	1724	i <sub>4</sub>	930.8
Entropy	[kJ/kg K]	s <sub>1</sub>	5.771	s <sub>2</sub>	5.827	s <sub>3</sub>	6.678	s <sub>4</sub>	6.845

Table 2. HRSG parameters [5]

Parameter	Gases		Steam	
	Input (4)	Output (5)	Input (g)	Output (a)
Temperature [°C]	625	183	158	540
Pressure [bar]	1.013	1.013	6.8	130
Mass flow [kg/s]	$m_g$	550.44	$m_s$	194.4
Enthalpy [kJ/kg]	930.8	506.1	666.9	3445
Entropy [kJ/kgK]	6.845	6.125	1.923	6.577

Table 3. Parameters of the segments from a steam cycle in TPP Bitola [5]

Parameters	HP		IP		LP		Condenser		Deaerator	
	input (a)	output (b)	input (c)	output (d)	input (d)	output (e)	input (e)	output (f)	input (f)	output (g)
Temperature [°C]	540	340	540	180	180	38.8	38.8	38	38	158
Pressure [bar]	130	30.3	26.8	1.37	1.37	0.069	0.069	0.25	0.25	6.8
Mass flow [kg/s]	194.4	169.4	166.7	137.5	137.5	132.2	132.2	139.7	139.7	139.7
Enthalpy [kJ/kg]	3445	3094	3548	2834	2834	2458	2458	160	160	667

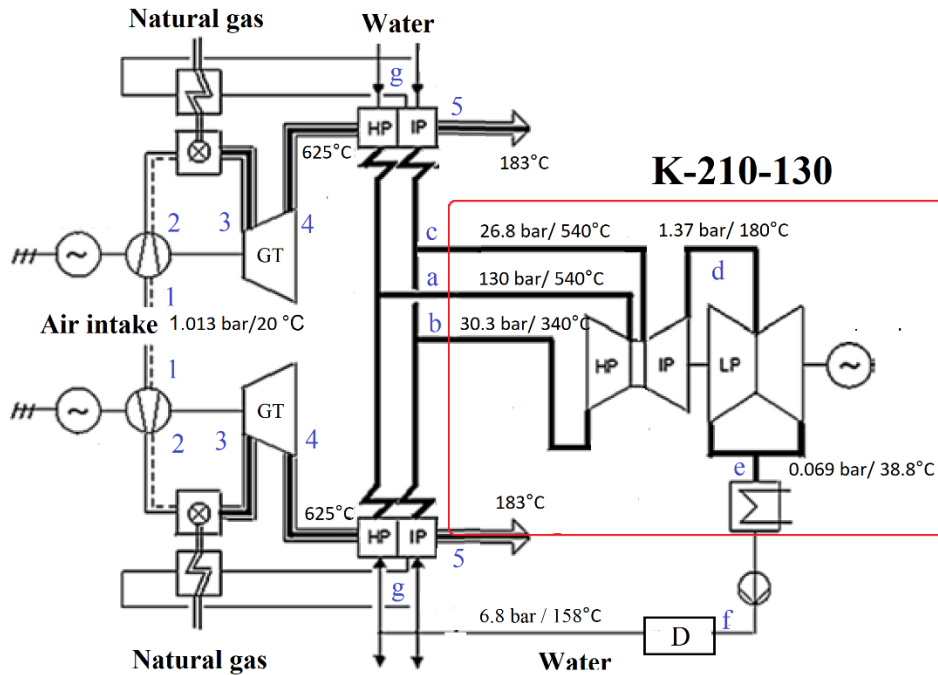


Figure 1. Conceptual solution for the combined cycle in TPP Bitola [5]

### 3. Exergetic analysis of the components

#### 3.1. Compressor

Exergy of the air used in the compressor ( $E_c$ ) is calculated as follows:

$$E_c = \dot{m}_a \cdot ((i_2 - i_1) - T_1 \cdot (s_2 - s_1)) \quad (1)$$

where:

$T_1$  is an ambient temperature [K];

Exergy losses in the compressor are equal to:

$$I_c = W_c - E_c \quad (2)$$

where:

$W_c$  is a power of the compressor [MW];

The exergy efficiency of the compressor is:

$$\varepsilon_c = \frac{E_c}{W_c} \quad (3)$$

The results for the compressor are shown in table 4.

Table 4. Exergy analysis of the compressor

Compressor	
$W_c$	251.47 MW
$E_c$	241.38 MW
$I_c$	10.09 MW
$\varepsilon_c$	0.96 /

### 3.2. Combustion chamber

Exergy balance in combustion chamber is:

$$E_f = E_3 - E_2 + I_{cc} \quad (4)$$

where:

$E_f$  is the exergy of the fuel [MW];

$E_2$  is an exergy of inlet compressed air [MW];

$E_3$  is an exergy at the exhaust gases outle [MW];

$I_{cc}$  are exeryc losses in the combustion chamber [MW].

Exergy of the incoming fuel ( $E_f$ ) is expressed as:

$$E_f = m_f \cdot H_g \quad (5)$$

$H_g$  is a high heating value of the fuel (natural gas), ( $H_g = 55.53$  MJ/kg);

$m_f$  is mass flow of the fuel, ( $m_f = 12$  kg/s); [5]

$E_3 - E_2$  is calculated as follows:

$$E_3 - E_2 = m_g \cdot ((i_3 - i_2) - T_1 \cdot (s_3 - s_2)) \quad (6)$$

It follows that the exergy losses and the efficiency of the combustion chamber are:

$$I_{cc} = E_f - (E_3 - E_2) \quad (7)$$

$$\varepsilon_{cc} = \frac{E_3 - E_2}{E_f} \quad (8)$$

Table 5 shows the results for combustion chamber.

Table 5. Exergy analysis of the combustion chamber

Combustion chamber	
$E_f$	666.36 MW
$E_3 - E_2$	393.87 MW
$I_{cc}$	272.5 MW

$\epsilon_{cc}$	0.591
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### 3.3. Gas turbine

Exergy balance of the gas cycle is:

$$E_1 + E_f = E_4 + W_{GT} + I_{GT} \quad (9)$$

where:

$E_1$  is the exergy of the inlet air [MW];

$E_4$  is an exergy of the exhaust gases from the gas turbine [MW];

$I_{GT}$  are the exergy losses from the gas cycle [MW];

$W_{GT}$  is power of the gas turbine [MW].

$E_{4-1}$  is calculated as:

$$E_{4-1} = \dot{m}_g \cdot ((i_4 - i_1) - T_1 \cdot (s_4 - s_1)) \quad (10)$$

Exergy losses from gas cycle where  $W_{GT} = 184.27$  MW are:

$$I_{GT} = E_f - (E_4 - E_1) - W_{GT} \quad (11)$$

The difference of the exergies corresponding to the net power of the gas cycle ( $W_{GT} = W_t - W_c$ ) for each gas turbine is calculated by the expression:

$$(E_3 - E_4) - (E_2 - E_1) = [\dot{m}_g((i_3 - i_4) - T_1(s_3 - s_4))] - [\dot{m}_a((i_2 - i_1) - T_1(s_2 - s_1))] \quad (12)$$

The efficiency of the gas turbine,  $\epsilon_{GT}$ , (without losses from the combustion chamber) is:

$$\epsilon_{GT} = \frac{W_{GT}}{E_{(3-4)} - E_{(2-1)}} \quad (13)$$

Friction losses in the gas turbine and compressor are:

$$I_{tr} = E_{(3-4)} - E_{(2-1)} - W_{GT} \quad (14)$$

The coefficient of net work of the whole gas cycle is:

$$\epsilon = \frac{W_{GT}}{E_f} \quad (15)$$

Table 6 shows the results of the gas turbine and gas cycle.

Table 6 Exergy analysis of the gas turbine and gas cycle

Gas turbine and gas cycle	
$W_{GT}$	184.27 MW
$E_f$	666.36 MW
$E_{4-1}$	177.09 MW
$I_{GT}$	305 MW
$E_{3-4}-E_{2-1}$	222.16 MW
$\epsilon_{GT}$	0.82 /
$I_{tr}$	37.89 MW
$\epsilon_{GT}$	0.542 /

The calculated exergy losses are  $I_{GT} = 305$  MW, a value that includes the losses in the combustion chamber is  $I_{cc} = 272.5$  MW, which means that the difference ( $I_{GT} - I_{cc} = 32.5$  MW) represents the exergy losses of the other components of the cycle where do not include combustion chamber losses.

### 3.4. HRSG

In a HRSG, the heat from the exhaust gases leaving the gas turbine is used to increase the temperature of the supply water in the economizer, evaporator, and steam superheater. The exergy balance in HRSG is calculated by the expression:

$$\Delta E_g = \Delta E_w + I_{HRSG} \quad (16)$$

where:

$\Delta E_g$  is an exergy loss from the exhaust gases [MW];

$\Delta E_w$  is an exergy loss from the water [MW];

$I_{HRSG}$  are exergy losses in HRSG [MW].

$$\Delta E_g = \dot{m}_g \cdot [c_p \cdot (T_4 - T_5) - T_1 \cdot (s_4 - s_5)] \quad (17)$$

$$\Delta E_w = \dot{m}_w \cdot [(i_s - i_f) - T_e \cdot (s_s - s_f)] \quad (18)$$

Therefore, HRSG losses and efficiency are calculated using the expressions:

$$I_{HRSG} = \Delta E_g - \Delta E_w \quad (19)$$

$$\varepsilon_{HRSG} = \frac{\Delta E_w}{\Delta E_g} \quad (20)$$

Results of the HRSG's analysis are shown in table 7.

Table 7. Exergy analysis of the HRSG

HRSG	
$\Delta E_g$	154.46 MW
$\Delta E_w$	137.5 MW
$I_{HRSG}$	16.94 MW
$\varepsilon_{HRSG}$	0.89

### 3.5. Steam turbine

The exergy balance for the steam turbine in TPP Bitola with its cylinders (HP, IP, LP) and steam extractions is generalized and calculated for each cylinder separately, including the losses (regeneration system, transport etc.) usually amounts to 8% [6], while the other losses (condenser, generator, etc.) are included in lower calculations by the expression:

$$\Delta E_{ST} = W_{ST} + I_{ST} \quad (21)$$

$$\Delta E_{ST} = 0.92 \cdot \{ \dot{m}_{s,HP} \cdot [(i_a - i_b) - T_1 \cdot (s_a - s_b)] + \dot{m}_{s,IP} \cdot [(i_c - i_d) - T_1 \cdot (s_c - s_d)] + \dot{m}_{s,LP} \cdot [(i_d - i_e) - T_1 \cdot (s_d - s_e)] \} \quad (22)$$

Exergy losses in the steam turbine are:

$$I_{ST} = \Delta E_{ST} - W_{ST} \quad (23)$$

Efficiency of the steam turbine is:

$$\varepsilon_{ST} = \frac{\Delta E_{ST}}{W_{ST}} \quad (24)$$

Table 8 shows the results of the steam turbine.

Table 8. Exergy analysis of the steam turbine

Steam turbine	
$W_{ST}$	224 MW
$\Delta E_{ST}$	247.06 MW
$I_{ST}$	23.06 MW

#### 4. Exergy balance of the combined cycle

The exergy from the fuel (natural gas) obtained from the two gas turbines is:

$$E_f = 2 \cdot \dot{m}_f \cdot H_g \quad (25)$$

The exergy used for the net power of the two gas turbines is  $2 \cdot W_{GT}$ , while the total exergy losses of the gas cycle are:

$$\Delta E_{GT} = 2 \cdot I_{GT} \quad (26)$$

Exerget losses in both steam generators (HRSGs) are:

$$\Delta E_{HRSG} = 2 \cdot I_{HRSG} \quad (27)$$

The exergy used for the net power of the steam turbine is  $W_{ST}$ , while the total exergy losses from the steam cycle are  $I_{ST}$ .

The exergy losses of the exhaust gases from the two HRSGs are:

$$\Delta E_{iz} = 2 \cdot \dot{m}_g \cdot [(i_5 - i_1) - T_1 \cdot (s_5 - s_1)] \quad (28)$$

There are losses that are not included in the previous calculations, which refer to another system elements and the mathematical approximations:

$$E_{zag} = E_f - W_{GT} - \Delta E_{GT} - \Delta E_{HRSG} - W_{ST} - I_{ST} - \Delta E_{iz} \quad (29)$$

Overall review of the combined cycle is shown in Table 9 and Figure 2.

Table 9. Overall review of the exergy analysis in CC

	[MW]	[%]
exergy used to produced GT output power (x2)	368.54	27.67
exergy destruction in GT cycle (x2)	610	45.77
exergy destruction in HRSG (x2)	33.88	2.54
exergy used to produced ST output power (x1)	224	16.8
exergy destruction in ST cycle (x1)	23.06	1.73
exergy loss to the environment	66.03	4.95
unaccounted losses	7.26	0.54
fuel exergy ( $\Sigma$ )	1332.77	100

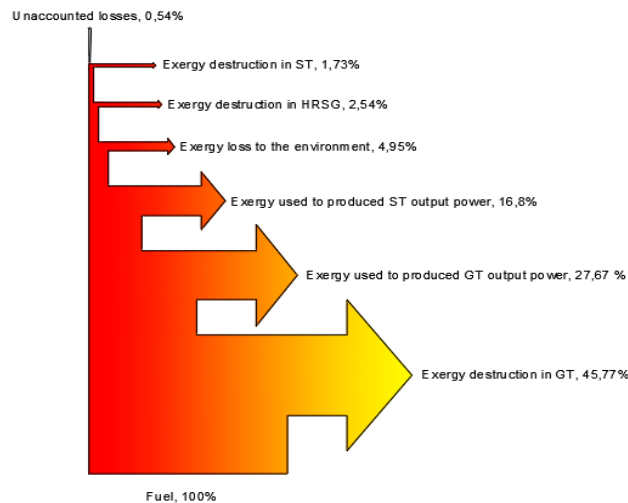


Figure 2 Exergy diagram in the GTCC

## 5. Conclusion

The analysis shows that exergetic efficiency (44.47%) is lower compared to energy efficiency (51.6%). The retention of the current steam cycle plant has a negative impact on the efficiency of the combined cycle compared to modern combined cycle plants because this solution excludes changes in the elements and parameters of the steam cycle, stacks, cooling towers etc. The proposed solution will contribute to the using of natural gas as a substitute for coal and will use the maximum potential of the existing steam turbine. The results are obtained according to the ambient temperature of 20°C and the pressure of 1 bar. The higher degree of adaptation supported by more investments will further improve the efficiency of the combined cycle.

## Nomenclature

- HP – High pressure.
- IP – Intermediate pressure.
- LP – Low pressure.
- CHP – Combined heat and power.
- TPP – Thermal power plant.
- HRSG – Heat recovery steam generator.
- GTCC – Gas turbine combined cycle.

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