NUMERICAL ANALYSIS ON BLAST FURNACE LOW CO₂ EMISSION OPERATION WITH COKE OVEN GAS INJECTION¹

Chu Man-sheng² Guo Tong-lai² Liu Zheng-gen² Xue Xiang-xin² Yagi Jun-ichiro³

Abstract

In recent years, the iron and steel industry has been faced with more and more pressure in saving energy, reducing CO_2 emission and environmental burden. The process of injecting coke oven gas (COG) into blast furnace is one of the effective measures for the iron and steel industry to achieve low-carbon ironmaking, energy saving and emission reduction. Numerical simulations on the injection of COG into blast furnace through tuyere are performed in this study by means of raceway mathematical model, multi-fluid blast furnace model and exergy analytical model. With the increase of COG injection, the simulation results are shown as follows: (1) The bosh gas flow rate is increased, while raceway temperature is decreased. Through reducing blast flow rate and enhancing oxygen enrichment to do thermal compensation for raceway, the conditions of raceway can be sustained stable. Meanwhile the volume of raceway is decreased. (2) The in-furnace concentrations of CO and H_2 show increasing; the utilization rate of CO is enhanced, while the utilization rate of H₂ tends to decrease. But the proportion of H₂ in indirect reduction gives a raised tendency, and the reduction rate of burden is accelerated. Due to the location of cohesive zone moving down, the thickness getting thinner and the pressure drop reducing obviously, the permeability of blast furnace gets better. The productivity shows a remarkable increase, for 152.34 m³/tHM COG injection, improves by 26.36%. The silicon content of the hot metal decreases, and the guality of the hot metal improves, for 152.34 m³/tHM COG injection, the silicon content decreases from 0.26% to 0.05%. Coke rate, total reducing agent rate and carbon emission rate show a considerable decrease, for 152.34 m³/tHM COG injection, decreases by 13.49%, 4.12% and 17.54%, respectively. (3) The internal and external exergy loss of furnace both are decreased. The thermodynamic perfection degree and exergy efficiency are increased, compared with no COG injection, which are increased from 90.23% to 92.65% and from 53.39% to 54.25% respectively. The chemical exergy of blast furnace top gas is increased, compared with no COG injection, which is increased from 4.60 GJ/tHM to 4.97 GJ/tHM. So, it is important to strengthen the recycling of top gas.

Key words: Blast furnace; Low carbon ironmaking; Coke oven gas injection; Raceway mathematical model; Multi-fluid blast furnace model.

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² School of Materials & Metallurgy, Northeastern University, Shenyang, China.

³ Institute of Multidisciplinary Research for Advanced Materials, Tohoku University, Sendai, Japan.

1 INTRODUCTION

At present, the CO_2 emission and energy consumption of blast furnace are the largest in iron and steel enterprise, which accounts for about 76% and 59.26% respectively^[1,2]. Therefore ironmaking with blast furnace is the core of energy saving and emission reduction in iron and steel enterprise. And the energy conservation and emission reduction of blast furnace are the main development direction of ironmaking industry. However, taking carbon metallurgy as essence, the technologies of blast furnace tends stable^[3]. In order to reduce energy consumption furthermore, to reduce CO_2 emissions, to realize low carbon ironmaking, ironmaking workers need to actively strengthen relevant theoretical researches on hydrogen metallurgy to achieve hydrogen enrichment medium used in blast furnace injection. As quality resource with high hydrogen content, COG is injected into blast furnace through tuyere, which has been researched by some scholars. The preliminary research results show that the injection of COG into blast furnace is conductive to accelerate the reduction of burdens, to reduce CO_2 emissions, and it is also one of the means for blast furnace to realize low carbon and ultrahigh efficiency ^[4-8].

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Although some researches have been done on injecting COG into blast furnace, most of them confine to field test, which have some disadvantages such as high cost, long time test, and unstable operation, and lack of detailed mathematical simulation on internal reaction mechanisms of blast furnace. At the same time, no improvement measures were presented, and optimal operation failed to materialize. All these conditions restrict the popularization and application of injecting COG into blast furnace, numerical analysis on injecting COG into blast furnace through tuyere was performed in this study by means of raceway mathematical model, multi-fluid blast furnace model and exergy analytical model. Through study, the paper systemically analyzes the relationship between raceway characteristic indices, blast furnace process variables, blast furnace production indices, blast furnace energy utilization and COG injection volume, which provide the theory basis for deeply researching the injection of COG into blast furnace, and provide the references for the comprehensive evaluation feasibility on injecting COG into blast furnace.

2 EFFECTS OF COG INJECTION ON RACEWAY

2.1 Raceway Mathematical Model

A raceway mathematical model is set basing on mass and enthalpy balances. The model supposes some ideas as follows: (1) water gas reaction is taken place by water vapor and coke, (2) COG is mixed well with blasting in raceway zone, (3) the main ingredient CH₄ of COG transforms into CO and H₂, (4) coal combustion reaction, coke solution loss and combustion reaction occur simultaneously in raceway. Eventually, the gas exiting in raceway consists of only CO, H₂ and N₂^[9].

The variable of each index and responding improved measures in raceway are researched in this study by the raceway model developed through changing the injection rate of COG. Figure 1 gives the flow chart of raceway mathematical model, in which T^0_{RWY} and V^0_{Bosh} are theoretical flame temperature and bosh gas flow rate respectively without COG injection, T_{RWY} and V_{Bosh} are theoretical flame temperature and bosh gas flow rate and bosh gas flow rate with COG injection.



Figure 1. Computation Procedure of raceway mathematical model.



The correction Hatano Michiharu formula is used to calculate raceway shape in raceway model^[10,11]. As shown in Figure 2, depth, width, height and volume of raceway are obtained from this formula according to reaction force analysis on blast penetration, coke gravity and raceway wall.

2.2 Calculation Conditions

The calculation was performed for the blast furnace with diameter of 11.5 m, height of 29.4 m and inner volume of 2580 m³. The chemical compositions of COG are listed in Table 1, with hydrogen content is 60.70%, calorific value is 17.65 MJ/m³ and injection temperature is 25 . The conditions of tuyere and blast are listed in Table 2, with blast flow rate is 4119 m³/min and oxygen enrichment is 3.0%. The carbon content in coke is 85.83%, bulk density is 650 kg/m³ and tuyere coke size is 0.0155 m. The chemical compositions of pulverized coal are listed in Table 3, with carbon content is 81.54%, calorific value is 32.5 MJ/kg, and injection rate is 9.0 kg/s and injection temperature is 25°C.

H ₂	N ₂	CO	CO ₂	CH ₄			
60.70	3.77	6.67	2.23	26.63 [*]			

*: Small quantity of hydrocarbons in COG is converted into methane.

Table 2. Conditions of tuyere and blast							
Itomo	Tuyere	Tuyere	Blast	Blast	Blast flow	Oxygen	Blast
liems	mm	Number	°C	kPa	m ³ /min	<u>ennchment</u> %	g/Nm ³
Value	125	30	1150	334	4119	3.0	2.3
Table 3. Chemical compositions of pulverized coal (unit: %)							
	С	Н		Ν	0		Ash
8	81.54	4.22		1.61	3.72		8.91

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2.3 Results and Discussion

The model calculated four different cases, namely Base, COI3.96, COI7.93 and COI11.89, in which COG injection rate is 0, 3.76, 7.93, 11.89 m³/s, respectively. The base case corresponds to the conventional operation without COG injection. Throughout the calculations, the raceway temperature (2171.83 °C) and bosh gas flow rate (5409.95 m³/min) are maintained nearly constant.

Because that blast temperature, blast humidity and pulverized coal injection rate are kept the same as the Base case. In order to maintain constant raceway temperature and bosh gas flow rate, some thermal compensation measures should be applied. In the paper, blast flow rate and oxygen enrichment are adjusted to maintain constant raceway temperature and bosh gas flow rate.

As listed in Table 4, with the increase in COG injection, blast flow rate can be decreased to ensure that bosh gas rate is consistent with Base case after thermal compensation, which decreases by $94.95m^3$ /min for increasing 1 m³/s COG injection rate. Simultaneity, oxygen enrichment can be increased to intensify combustion of raceway and to ensure that raceway temperature is consistent with Base case after thermal compensation, which increases by 1.36% for increasing 1 m³/s COG injection rate.

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Items	Base	COI3.96	COI7.93	COI11.89				
Blast flow rate/(m ³ /min)	4119.0	3742.7	3366.5	2990.1				
Oxygen enrichment/%	3.00	7.32	12.60	19.22				

Table 4. Blast flow and oxygen enrichment of blast after thermal compensation

Thermal compensation measures for the cases are taken to investigate the effects of COG injection rate on raceway conditions, and the concrete calculation results are shown in Table 5.

As listed in Table 5, the gas compositions in raceway after thermal compensation are changed obviously. The H₂ concentration gradually increases mainly due to a large amount of H₂, CH₄ and other hydrocarbons brought by COG. The CO concentration gradually increases mainly due to the fact that the increase in oxygen enrichment intensifies the combustion of the raceway, and a large number of coal and coke are involved in combustion reactions. In addition, a small amount of CO and CO₂ is in COG and the solution loss reaction of CO₂ is exited, which enhances the concentration of CO. CH₄ decomposition reaction in tuyere nose also increases the concentration of CO correspondingly. The concentration of N₂ in raceway gradually decreases owning to the fact that the increase of oxygen enrichment reduces N₂ proportion of blast. Also raceway shape is changed obviously after thermal compensation. Meanwhile the depth, width, height and volume of raceway decrease

in different degree with the increase in COG injection. With the increasing COG injection rate 1 m^3 /s, the volume of raceway is reduced by 1.98%, which results in the development of in-furnace edges gas flow, and further affects gas flow distribution in lower parts and equilibrium descent of burdens in upper parts, and some measures should be put to use.

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Table 5. Enects of 000 injection rate of raceway conditions after thermal compensation									
	Raceway	gas com	positions		Racew	ay shape		Theoretical	Bosh gas
Items	φ(CO)	φ(H ₂)	φ(N ₂)	<u>Depth</u>	<u>Width</u>	<u>Height</u>	Volume	temperature	flow rate m ³ /min
	%	%	%	m	m	m	m		
Base	37.36	4.90	57.74	1.25	0.71	1.08	0.51	2171.83	5409.95
COI3.96	40.45	9.89	49.66	1.19	0.69	1.06	0.47	2171.97	5409.71
COI7.93	43.54	14.88	41.58	1.13	0.68	1.03	0.42	2171.58	5410.19
COI11.89	46.63	19.87	33.50	1.08	0.67	1.01	0.39	2171.84	5409.95

Table 5. Effects of COG injection rate on raceway conditions after thermal compensation

3 SIMULATION ON BLAST FURNACE OPERATION WITH COG INJECTION BASED ON MULTI-FLUID BLAST FURNACE MODEL

3.1 Calculation Conditions

A previously presented multi-fluid blast furnace model^[12-16] is modified to simulate blast furnace operation with coke oven gas injection. The simulation was performed for the blast furnace with diameter of 11.5 m, height of 29.4 m and inner volume of 2580 m³. The major operating conditions of the simulated blast furnace are listed in Table 6.

Table 6.	The condition	ons of four ca	Iculation cases
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Items	Base	COI3.96	COI7.93	COI11.89
COG flow rate/(m ³ /tHM)	0	58.89	110.08	152.34
Blast temperature/°C	1150	1150	1150	1150
Blast flow rate /(m ³ /tHM)	1111.47	927.57	778.84	638.51
Oxygen enrichment /%	3.0	7.32	12.6	19.22
Pulverized coal rate/(kg/tHM)	145.7	133.8	124.9	115.3
Top gas flow rate /(m ³ /tHM)	1640.16	1495.5	1383.44	1270.04
Theoretical flame temperature /°C	2171.83	2171.85	2171.70	2171.84
Bosh gas flow rate/(m ³ /min)	5409.95	5409.97	5409.93	5409.95
Hot metal temperature /°C	1586.62	1583.51	1580.95	1584.75

3.2 Simulation Results and Discussions

3.2.1 Variations of In-furnace state

Figure 3 shows the variations of solid temperature distributions with coke oven gas injection. The calculation results reveal that isotherms are gradually shifted downward with increasing coke oven gas injection, and the region between 1200°C and 1400°C isotherms becomes narrower. The location of cohesive zone also tends to descend with the increase in coke oven gas injection. which are attributed to the strongly combustion of carbon in the raceway, which provides more space for the

decline of solid burdens and accelerates solid burdens charging rate. With remarkable increase in solid charging rate, bigger hear requirements are necessary for heating and reduction of solid burdens in shaft.

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Figure 4 shows the distributions of H_2 concentration for four evaluation cases. H_2 concentration increases significantly with COG injection. It is mainly due to the fact that COG contains large amounts of H_2 , CH_4 and other hydrocarbons, and the decomposition of these substances can produce hydrogen.

Figure 5 shows the effects of COG injection on reaction rate of H_2 reducing wustite, mainly due to increase of H_2 concentration, the wustite reduction by H_2 tends to carry out faster with the increase of COG injection.





(a) Base (b) COI3.96 (c) COI7.93 (d)COI11.89 **Figure 6**. Distribution of reduction degree of iron bearing burdens (-).

Figure 6 describes the distribution of reduction degree of iron bearing burdens along furnace height. With the increase of COG injection, the reducing atmosphere infurnace is strengthened, and the reducing rate of iron bearing burdens is accelerated. In Base case, the reduction degree of iron bearing burdens is about 75% before reaching the cohesive zone. And the reduction degree is more than 90%, nearly 99% of the partial area for COI11.89 case.

3.2.2 Variations of operational parameters

The above phenomena can be explained as follows. As listed in Table 7, with increase in COG injection, the involvement ratios of H_2 in the reductions of magnetite and wustite are evidently increased. Thus, the overall reaction of iron bearing burdens is accelerated and more efficient reduction is achieved before melting, which is remarkable in the case with high rate of COG injection.

Casaa	Hyo	Hydrogen reduction/%				
Cases	$Fe_2O_3 \rightarrow Fe_3O_4$	$Fe_3O_4 \rightarrow FeO$	FeO→Fe			
Base(0.00 kg/tHM)	1.0	23.0	47.6			
COI3.96(24.72 kg/tHM)	2.5	39.2	60.3			
COI7.93(46.20 kg/tHM)	4.5	51.2	66.6			
COI11.89(63.94 kg/tHM)	7.3	60.8	70.7			

Table 7. Ratios of hydrogen reduction to the entire indirect reduction

Figure 7 shows the effect of COG injection on productivity. The productivity shows obvious increase with increasing on COG injection. In case COI11.89, hot metal productivity is improved by 26.36%. The simulation show that the increase in COG injection contributes to the improvement of productivity.



Figure 7. Effects of COG injection on pig iron production.

Figure 8 shows the effect of COG injection on Si content in hot metal. The Si content in hot metal decrease from 0.262% of Base case to 0.053% of COI11.89 case, which is beneficial to decrease coke consumption and steelmaking cost.

Figure 9 shows the effect of COG injection on reducing agent consumption including coke, pulverized coal, solid reductants and total reducing agent. Corresponding to COG injection increasing from base case to COI11.89 case, coke rate decreases by 47.8 kg/tHM (13.5%), pulverized coal rate decreases by 30.4kg/tHM (20.9%), solid reductants consumption decreases by 78.2 kg/tHM (15.6%) and all reductant consumption decreases by 20.6 kg/tHM (4.1%).

Figure 10 shows the effect of COG injection on Net emissions of carbon dioxide. Comparing with Base case, net emission of CO_2 decreases by 6.83%, 12.08% and 17.54% respectively for the other three cases. The reason for the decrease is that the main components of COG are hydrogen, methane and other hydrocarbons, which generate H₂. More H₂ participate in indirect reduction, and the reducing product is H₂O.

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Figure 9. Effects of COG injection on reductants consumption.



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4 EXERGY ANALYSIS ON BLAST FURNACE OPERATION WITH COG INJECTION

Enthalpy analysis is a traditional energy analysis method, which is based on thermal equilibrium theory, and used to analyze and evaluate the effective status on energy utilization without considering the differences of energy. Compared with energy analysis, taking into energy quantity and energy quality comprehensively, exergy analysis can forecast the energy loss composition clearly, especially in the differentiating internal and external energy loss. Since Szargut^[17], exergy analysis was employed widely to evaluate energy conversation process of iron and steel

making system^[18-21]. The energy loss source of blast furnace operation with COG injection was indicated using exergy analysis method. Based on this, the energy saving effect was evaluated.

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To a determined system, exergy can be divided into physical and chemical component. Based on national standards of China^[22], the exergy items of blast furnace operation with COG injection for consideration and exergy equilibrium are shown in Figure 10.



Figure 10. Exergy analysis model diagram of blast furnace.

According to the simulation conditions and results from raceway mathematical model and multi-fluid blast furnace model, exergy analysis model is used to compute exergy analysis data and exergy evaluation indices of blast furnace operation with COG injection rate of 0, 3.96, 7.93 and 11.89 Nm³/s respectively, and the calculation results are listed in table 8.

As listed in table 8, with increase in COG injection, the changing trends of input exergy and output exergy of blast furnace are as follows. (1) Due to the decrease in temperature level in-furnace and the reduction of top gas volume, the amount of top gas physical exergy, exergy loss through furnace wall, physical exergy brought by cooling water and hot blast bustle pipe exergy loss all tend to decrease. (2) The physical exergy and chemical exergy of hot metal and hot slag are relatively stable in four operations. (3) The exergy losses in-blast furnace caused by irreversible reactions and heat transfer are significantly decreased. (4) The chemical exergy of top gas tends to increase because of the increase in hydrogen content. Therefore blast furnace operation with top gas recycling should be taken into account in the further research.

Table o.	Exergy balance under blast furnace operation		Injection		
	Items	Base	COI3.96	COI7.93	COI11.89
	Iron-bearing burdens chemical exergy	309.57	310.77	311.58	312.28
	Coke chemical exergy	10215.21	9678.94	9260.87	8837.04
	Pulverized coal chemical exergy	4648.88	4269.19	3985.21	3678.90
loout	Hot blast physical exergy	1262.69	1072.12	890.91	733.85
input	Hot blast chemical exergy	4.27	4.93	6.43	8.99
	COG physical exergy	0.00	6.46	11.93	16.52
	COG chemical exergy	0.00	968.37	1807.96	2503.57
	Total	16440.62	16310.78	16274.89	16091.15
	Hot metal physical exergy	965.90	963.70	961.88	964.53
	Hot metal chemical exergy	7956.42	7937.77	7923.68	7907.54
	Hot slag physical exergy	360.30	362.58	364.79	371.32
	Hot slag chemical exergy	281.83	282.34	280.45	282.82
	Top gas physical exergy	324.59	261.61	218.82	181.41
	Top gas chemical exergy	4600.67	4759.83	4905.84	4967.52
Output	Steam physical exergy	7.21	8.72	9.26	8.87
Output	Steam chemical exergy	13.08	18.19	21.33	22.60
	Cooling water physical exergy	2.41	2.09	1.85	1.53
	Blast furnace wall exergy loss	7.86	6.81	6.02	4.97
	Hot blast bustle pipe exergy loss	84.76	72.33	60.45	50.15
	Heat transfer exergy loss	228.75	198.25	175.37	144.87
	Internal exergy loss	1606.84	1436.56	1345.15	1183.02
	Total	16440.62	16310.78	16274.89	16091.15

Table 8. Exercy balance under blast furnace operation with COG injection (Unit)

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For the convenience of comparison, exergy evaluation indices on four cases are computed by exergy analysis model respectively to evaluate exergy use efficiency. This study takes hot metal exergy as objective exergy to give a comprehensive comparison and analysis among the four cases, and the calculation results are listed in Table 9.

As listed in Table 9, with the increase in COG injection, the changing trends of exergy evaluation indices of blast furnace are as follows. (1) Internal exergy loss and total exergy loss all tend to decrease significantly mainly due to the enhancement of oxygen enrichment, which reduces exergy loss of irreversible processes caused by incomplete combustion. Compared with Base case, internal exergy loss and total exergy loss decrease by 26.38% and 39.80% respectively corresponding to COI11.89 operation. (2) Internal exergy loss rate tends to decrease, and external exergy loss rate tends to increase. Therefore the injection of COG is more effective in reducing internal exergy loss than external exergy loss, which can acquire the same results from internal exergy loss coefficient and external exergy loss coefficient. (3) Due to the decrease of irreversible exergy loss in-furnace, the thermodynamic perfection degree and exergy efficiency, compared with no COG injection, increase

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from 90.23% to 92.65%, from 53.39% to 54.25%, respectively, which enhance the utilization quality of energy.

Items	Base	COI3.96	COI7.93	COI11.89
Internal exergy loss /(MJ/tHM)	1606.84	1436.56	1345.15	1183.02
External exergy loss /(MJ/tHM)	5911.46	5972.75	6044.18	6036.06
Total exergy loss /(MJ/tHM)	7518.30	7409.31	7389.33	7219.08
Thermodynamic perfection degree /%	90.23	91.19	91.73	92.65
Exergy efficiency /%	53.39	53.69	53.71	54.25
Internal exergy loss rate /%	21.37	19.39	18.20	16.39
External exergy loss rate /%	78.63	80.61	81.80	83.61
Internal exergy loss coefficient /%	9.96	8.98	8.43	7.50
External exergy loss coefficient /%	36.65	37.33	37.86	38.25

Table 9. Exergy valuation under blast furnace operation with COG injection

5 CONCLUSIONS

In order to further reduce energy consumption and CO_2 emissions, to achieve lowcarbon ironmaking target, raceway mathematical model and multi-fluid blast furnace model are used to analyze the performance of blast furnace with COG injection, and exergy analysis model is used to evaluate the effective status of energy utilization. Through numerical simulation, the research results are shown as follows.

- Bosh gas flow rate increases, raceway temperature falls, in order to make thermal conditions of raceway zone consistent throughout the cases examined here, this study put forward the thermal compensation measures by reducing blast flow rate and enhancing oxygen enrichment. The volume of raceway decreases after thermal compensation.
- The concentrations of CO and H₂ enhance tremendously in-furnace, the utilization rate of CO increases while the utilization rate of H₂ decreases. The proportion of H₂ increases tremendously in indirect reduction, the reducing rate of iron bearing materials accelerates. The height of cohesive zone shifts downward, the thickness of cohesive zone gets thinner, the pressure drop reduces obviously, the permeability of blast furnace gets better. The productivity of the furnace shows a remarkable increase, for 152.34 m³/tHM COG injection, improves by 26.36%. The silicon content of the hot metal decreases, and the quality of the hot metal improves, for 152.34 m³/tHM COG injection, the silicon content decreases from 0.26% to 0.05%. Coke rate, total reducing agent rate and carbon emission rate show a considerable decrease, for 152.34 m³/tHM COG injection, decreases by 13.49%, 4.12% and 17.54%, respectively.
- The internal exergy loss and total exergy loss decrease in blast furnace. The thermodynamic perfection degree and exergy efficiency increase in blast furnace, compared with no COG injection, increase from 90.23% to 92.65%, from 53.39% to 54.25%, respectively. The chemical exergy of blast furnace top gas increases, compared with no COG injection, increases from 4.60 GJ/tHM to 4.97 GJ/tHM, so it is important to strengthen the chemical exergy recycling of top gas.

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