International Journal of Research Publication and Reviews

Journal homepage: www.ijrpr.com

To Increase the Efficiency of Boiler through Various Techniques

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A B S T R A C T

It is needed to make ultimate analysis of coal when testing boiler efficiency by traditional method. However, it is so costly and so long that it is impossible to test boiler efficiency frequently. However, it is much easier to make proximate analysis of coal, and most enterprise may operate. The objective of the study was not only to check the announced performances, but mainly to investigate the influence of different parameter affecting the functioning of boiler also return water temperature and condenser temperature and many more parameters related with temperature issues. The aim of monitoring boiler performance is to control the heat rate of plant. This paper deals with determination of operating efficiency of Boiler and calculates major losses

Keywords:Boiler efficiency, Supercritical technology, Reduce fuel consumption, Usage of ESP

1. Introduction

Diesel engines are widely used for transportation and power generation applications because of their high fuel efficiency. However, diesel engines can cause environmental pollution owing to their high NOx and soot emissions. Considerable effort has thus been devoted toward reducing these pollutant emissions as these have adverse effects on the environment and human health. In an effort to reduce NOx and soot emissions in-cylinder, while maintaining high thermal efficiency, many new compression ignition combustion strategies have been proposed.

Boilers are considered to be as the key part in any generation station as it is the place where the fuel is used for producing the needed amount of heat. A boiler is an enclosed vessel that provides a means for combustion heat to be transferred to convert water into steam. A boiler is a complex integration of evaporator, reheater, super heater, economizer, air pre heater along with various auxiliaries such as pulveriser,fans, etc,[1]. The purpose of the performance test of boiler is to determine actual performance and efficiency of the boiler and compare it with design values. It is an indicator for tracking day to day and season to season variation in boiler efficiency and energy efficiency improvements to control unit heat rate. Basically Boiler efficiency can be tested by the following methods:

The direct method:

Where the energy gain of the working fluid (water and steam) is compared with the energy content of the fuel. This is also known as „input-output method" due to the fact that it needs only the useful output (steam) and the heat input (fuel) for evaluating the efficiency. This can be evaluated using the formula as follows :

Boiler Efficiency=Heat Input/Heat Output×100
Boiler Efficiency=Steam flow rate×(steam enthalpy-feed water enthalpy)

Until 2008, the total number of using industrial boilers has been amounted to 578200 units. The traditional method to test boiler efficiency is time consuming and expensive, and the test of boiler efficiency needs ultimate analysis of fuel. However, the test of the ultimate analysis of fuel is in need of long time, and its related equipment is also more expensive. Now taking coal-fired boiler for example, through the regression analysis, a new calculated

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model is proposed. Ultimate analysis is replaced by proximate analysis of coal in boiler efficiency testing. This method can simplify the experimental procedure greatly. Save time and cost in the experiment.

The formation and emission of NOx have been of particular interest . In the performance of central heating systems fired by biomass and particularly wood pellets has been studied. In their study of the emissions from a domestic/small-scale 50 kWth underfeed stoker biomass pellet boiler, Liu et al. concluded that an air staging (primary and secondary air) leads to considerable NOx reductions, particularly with biomass fuels containing relatively high fuel-N content (higher than 0.46 % on mass basis). On the other hand, they highlighted the fact that the height of the secondary air inlets above the bed plays an important role on the emissions, but a trade-off between NOx emission and CO emission has to be considered. Concerning especially the NOx emission, Glarborg et al. have studied the chemical and physical processes that govern formation and destruction of nitrogen oxides in combustion of solid fuels and concluded that, although the governing mechanisms for fuel nitrogen conversion are not completely understood, in most solid fuel fired systems, oxidation of fuel-bound nitrogen constitutes the dominating source of nitrogen oxides. After an experimental investigation of the ratios H/N and O/N content of the biomass and their relation to NO fuel formation for a lot of biomass data set, Vermeulen et al. have concluded that for weight ratio H/N above 25 and ratio O/N above 140, all fuel N converts to NO. The same conclusion has been drawn by Sartor et al. in their work aimed to develop a global simulation model of the CHP plant and the attached district heating network installed on the Sart-Tilman Campus of the University of Liège.

The Indirect method:

Where the efficiency is the difference between the losses and the energy input. The efficiency can be measured easily by measuring all the losses occurring in the boilers using the principles to be described. The efficiency can be arrived at, by subtracting the various heat losses from 100. An important advantage of this method is that the errors in measurement do not make significant change in efficiency. [2] Efficiency=100-(L1+L2+L3+L4+L5+L6+L7+L8) Where, L1-Loss due to dry flue gas (sensible heat) L2- Loss due to hydrogen in fuel (H_2) L3- Loss due to moisture in fuel (H_2O) L4- Loss due to moisture in air (H_2O) L5- Loss due to carbon monoxide (CO) L6- Loss due to surface radiation, convection and unaccounted L7- Loss due to Unburnt in fly ash (Carbon) L8- Loss due to Unburnt in bottom ash (Carbon)

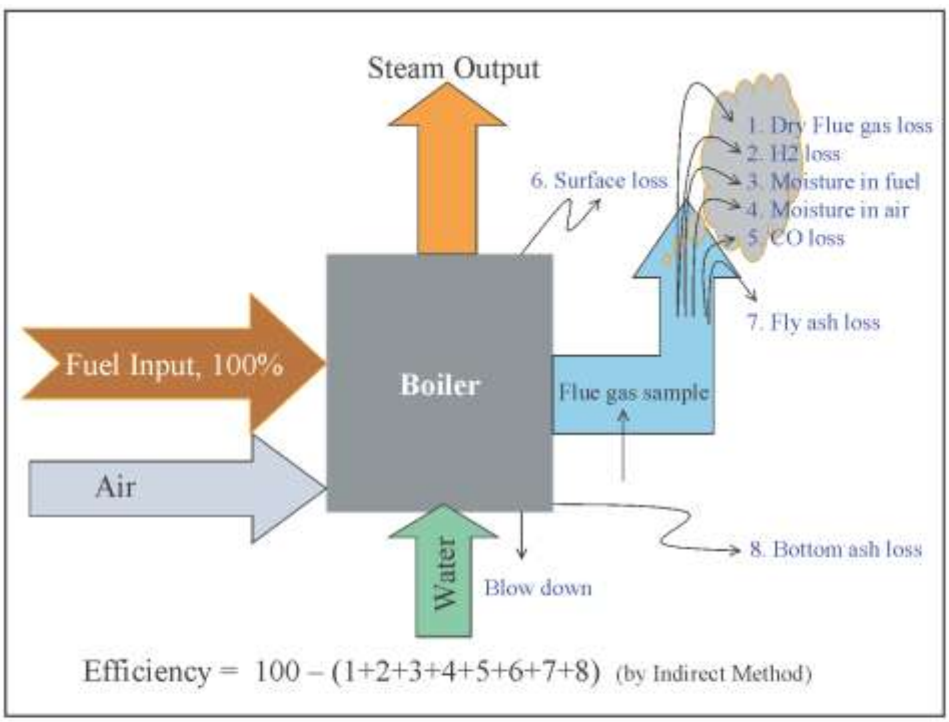

Fig.1 Fuel calculation after combustion of coal

2. Techniques to check the performance of Boiler

The following parameters need to be measured, as applicable for the computation of boiler efficiency and performance. [2, 3]

a) Flue gas analysis

- Percentage of CO_2 or O_2 in flue gas
- Percentage of CO in flue gas
- Flue gas temperature

b) Flow measurement

- Steam
- Fuel
- Feed water
- Condensate water
- Combustion Air

c) Temperature measurement

- Steam
- Feed water
- Condensate return
- Flue gas

d) Pressure measurement

- Steam
- Flue gas
- Combustion Air

e) Ultimate analysis for H2, O2, C, S, moisture and ash content

3. Heat loss due to Incomplete Combustion

If V is the volume of dry gas, and CO , 2 H , m n C H is CO content volume percentage of dry gas, H content volume percentage of dry gas, and m n C H content volume percentage of dry gas. As the content of 2 H and m n C H in dry gas is extremely low and in order to calculate easily, Assuming incomplete combustion gas is onlyCO.

the 1980s as a result of renewed interest in renewable energy sources for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and alleviating the depletion of fossil fuel reserves. Biodiesel is defined as mono-alkyl esters of long chain fatty acids derived from vegetable oils or animal fats and alcohol with or without a catalyst . Compared to diesel fuel, biodiesel produces no sulphur, no net carbon dioxide, less carbon monoxide, particulate matters, smoke and hydrocarbons emission and more oxygen. More free oxygen leads to the complete combustion and reduced emission

4. Effect of Combustion

Preliminary tests have been performed to investigate the effect of the cycling frequency of the burner and the burner load. For 3 different output powers of the boiler (around 8, 6 and 4 kW), those tests have shown that the levels of NOx and CO emission decrease if the OFF period of the burner is decreased. The lowest emissions where obtained with the OFF period being completely suppressed. That is why all the tests whose results are discussed hereafter have been performed the burner working in continuous regime thanks to the new electric motor installed on the boiler to drive the endless screw that push the wood pellets in the combustion chamber. The same mass flow rate of the wood pellets has been adjusted (4.9 10-4 kg/s) and thus the same heat input (8.68 kW on the lower heating value basis). Notice also that with the NO2 to NO converter, the NO2 measurements were of the same order of magnitude as the accuracy of the NO analyser (3 ppmv). Fig. 2 shows the evolutions of CO2, CO and NO during a test performed to investigate the effect of the excess air [8]. Despite the change made on the pellets feeding system to make it continuous (contrary to the original equipment), fluctuations on the measurements remain. That explains why a post-processing treatment of the measured data was required before calculating the mean values and their standard deviations on a stabilized period. That post-processing of all the measured variables has been performed by means of the Chauvenet criterion suggested in the Ashrae guideline and all the calculations have been performed in EES environment The great fluctuations observed on the CO emission with a continuous feeding of the pellets may be explained by the fact that the wood pellets combustion process is a complex one by nature.

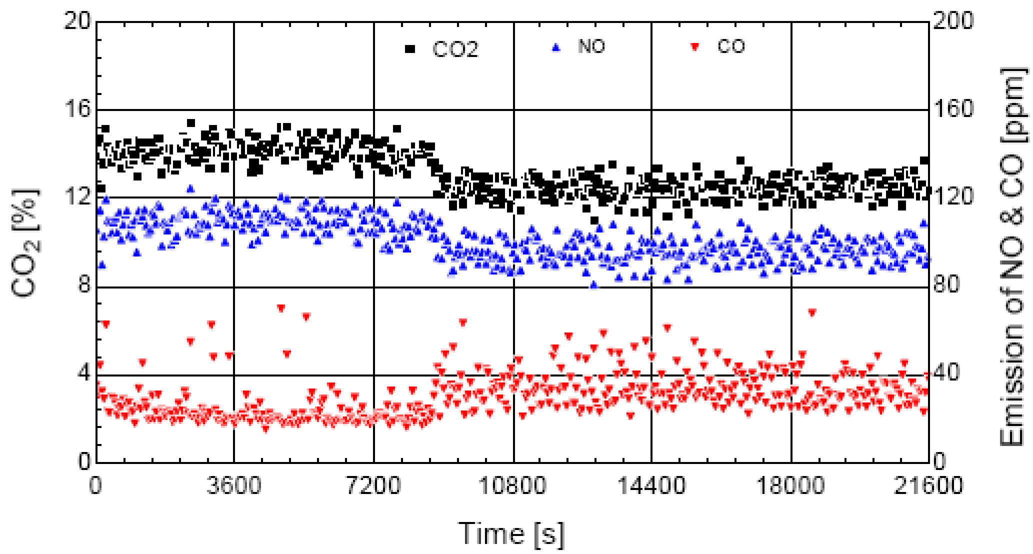

Figure 2. The flue gas dew point temperature versus the air-fuel equivalence ratio [8]

5. Outcome

The above calculation shows the various losses in boiler. The major heat losses in boiler occur due to dry heat gas loss (6.166), wet flue gas loss (10.603), and combustible loss (0.532). To find causes of above losses in boiler and recommendation to reduce the causes of degradation of boiler performance are given by fault tree analysis (FTA). The heat rate fault tree is used to identify areas in the plant where heat rate degradation may be occurring without conducting expensive tests. The fault tree is structured to provide a process by which decisions can be determined that narrow down the causes of the problem based on available information.

maximum condensation rate (33.7 %) was obtained for the test characterized by the lowest excess air (0.294) and a water return temperature of 39.6 °C. In Fig. 4, the emissions for that test were 113 and 64 mg/Nm3 for NOx and CO respectively. Except that test, the actual condensation rate lies below 10 % for all the tests performed. That is a value which is expected in practice. A condensation rate of 100 % will never occurs; it requires an infinite heat transfer area in the boiler (or an infinite residence time of the flue gas in the boiler).

6. Conclusion

As announced by the manufacturer, the tested boiler fulfils the requirements of the European standard and even better of the Blue Angel Label, but the recommended value for the adjustment of the excess air (1.2) can be reduced to a value of about 0.4 without excessive emission of CO. On the other hand, the boiler could perform better if the ON period of the cycle frequency of the burner is increased and even better if the OFF period is completely suppressed. For a functioning regime between 40 °C and 60 °C and an overall excess air of about 0.4, a thermal efficiency of about 95 % was recorded with NOx and CO emissions well below the Blue Angel Label, the more stringent standard in Europe.

Thermal power plant heat rate is directly affected by boiler efficiency. From calculation it is found that 1% decrease in boiler efficiency increases the heat rate by 1%. Heat rate is increases as boiler efficiency decreases so to achieve desired heat rate boiler performance required to be improved. Boiler efficiency is approved by reducing various losses and controlling stack temperature.

The comparison shows that the relative errors are no more than 5%, the difference of results between this method and the national standards is not obvious. Using the proximate analysis of coal to calculate can save mass test time and laboratory instruments cost. In order to adjust the combustion, the conclusion is feasible to calculate the boiler efficiency or to identify problems in boiler operation.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Mechanical Engineering department of LDRP-ITR and also Lab Technician of LDRP Engineering. Also a great thank to supportive Professors for giving their valuable guidance.

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